



WISCONSIN DENTAL PAIN PROTOCOL

The Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol (WDPP): Reducing emergency department opioids for non-traumatic dental pain (NTDP)

Dental Pain Improvement Strategy

ED PROVIDER

Assesses
Urgency

Controls pain
thru local
Anesthetic
injection or
non-opioid
medicine

Connects
Patients to
Community
Dental Care
Provider

Goals

- Reduce opioid prescriptions for NTDP
- Improves patient outcomes
- Prevent ED overuse and unnecessary bounce backs for NTDP

WDPP Training

The WDPP hands-on trainings teach emergency providers dental anesthesia techniques.

PROVIDERS TRAINED

2021 - 2025

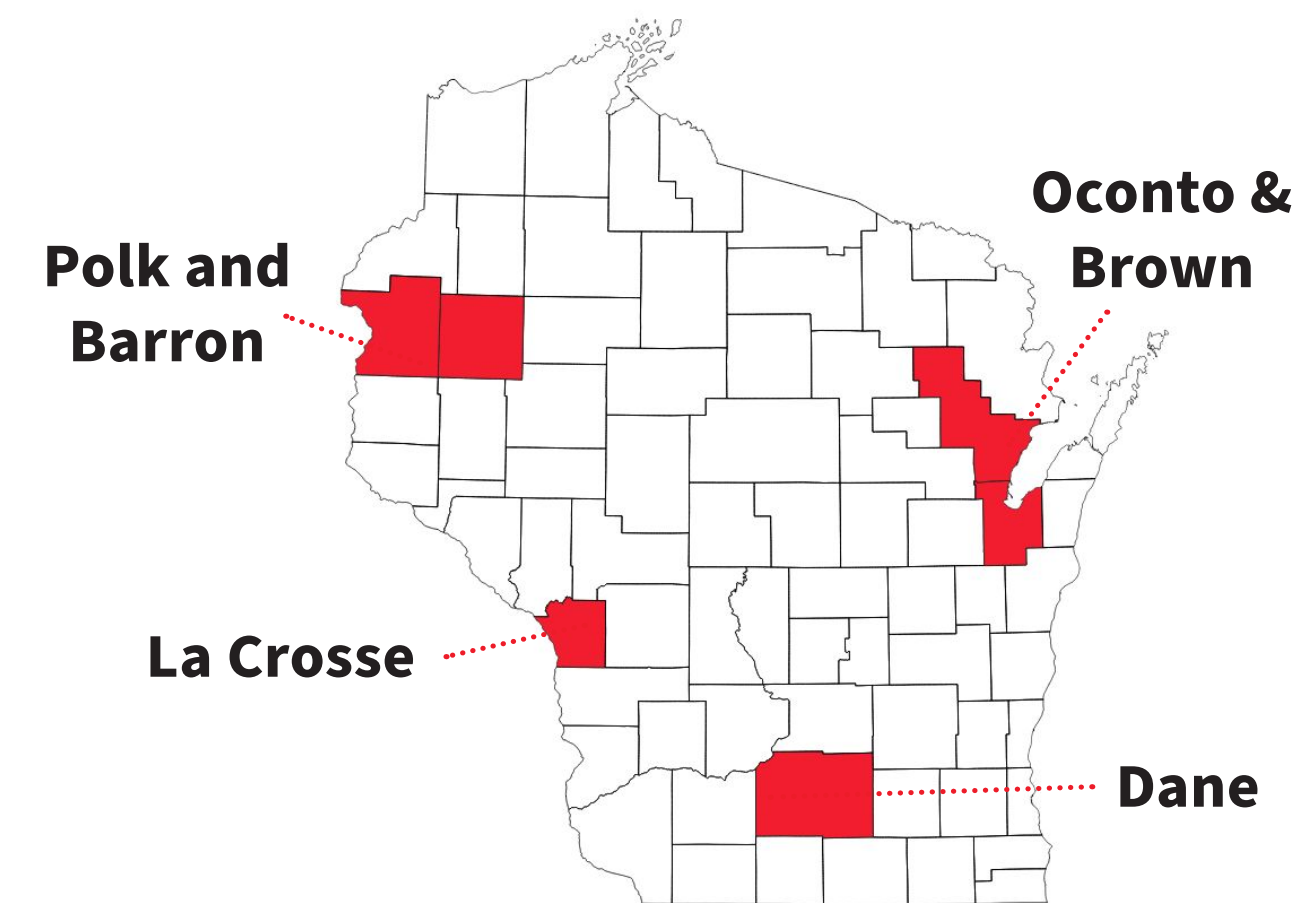
270



30,487

ED visits for non-traumatic dental pain across the state (2024)

PROJECT SITE COUNTIES



PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS

DANE COUNTY:

- UnityPoint Health-Meriter
- UW Hospital & Clinics
- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital
- Stoughton Health

LA CROSSE COUNTY:

- Emplify Health Gundersen
- Mayo Clinic Health System-La Crosse Co

POLK AND BARRON COUNTIES:

- Cumberland Healthcare
- Amery Hospital & Clinics
- Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake

BROWN AND OCONTO COUNTIES:

- Emplify by Bellin
- Bellin Health Oconto Hospital
- HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center
- HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
- HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital
- Aurora BayCare Medical Center
- Aurora Medical Center - Bay Area

Poster development was funded by Cooperative Agreement NU17CE010219 from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Its content do not necessarily reflect the official views of the CDC or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Results

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025:

- About **13%** of ED visits for NTDP were prescribed an opioid, in comparison to **22%** at baseline
- About **19%** of ED visits were given a local anesthetic for dental pain, in comparison to about **12%** at baseline
- **51%** of program-referred patients received definitive dental care.
- Percent of repeat visits to the ED for NTDP begins to decline over time.

Online Resources

The website provides a range of different resources and guidance for the systematic implementation of the WDPP, in addition to on-shift clinical tools.

www.widentalpain.org

