



For Immediate Release: March 25, 2021

Contacts:

Lisa Pugh, pugh@thearc.org; (608) 422-4250
 Beth Swedeon, beth.swedeon@wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-1166
 Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, kitk@drwi.org; (608) 267-0214

Update March 23: COVID Cases and Deaths Among People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Wisconsin

(Madison) – The Survival Coalition of more than 30 disability organizations supports the work of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Governor Evers’ administration to share regularly updated data regarding the impacts of COVID-19 in Wisconsin’s Medicaid Adult Home and Community-Based Services system. People with disabilities and older adults, particularly those who live in congregate or group settings are particularly vulnerable to the virus. Wisconsin’s long-term care program enrollment is 77,432 or approximately 1.4% of the WI population but accounts for more than 1/6 of all state COVID-19 deaths.

Survival Coalition is sharing the Department’s updated data weekly.

The following data was published on March 23, 2021 and can be accessed in detail here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hcbs/data.htm#cases>

Medicaid Adult Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Program COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

Updated 3/23/2021

Total cases by adult Medicaid HCBS waiver program type

Program enrollment data is point-in-time from most recent published month for each program type (currently January 1 for managed LTC and March 1 for IRIS).

Program Type	Cases with Positive Test	Program Enrollment	Cases as Percent Enrollment
IRIS	1,453	22,495	6.5%
Managed Long Term Care (LTC): Family Care, Family Care - Partnership, PACE	8,480	54,688	15.5%
Total	9,933	77,183	12.9%

Comparison to statewide totals

All adult Medicaid HCBS waiver program types

Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 positive cases as percent of statewide total COVID-19 positive cases	1.7%
Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 hospitalizations as percent of statewide total COVID-19 hospitalizations	9.5%
Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 deaths as percent of statewide total COVID-19 deaths	16.7%

Participants in Wisconsin’s waiver programs, typically referred to as Family Care and IRIS, comprise 16.7% of the state’s total deaths.

According to DHS data, 26% of cases in the waiver system result in hospitalization and 11.1% result in death, compared to 4.7% and 1.1% in the general state population, respectively.

Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 20 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.