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**Gov. Evers Confirmed to Speak at WHA's Virtual Advocacy Day**

*Hospital teams encouraged to register for April 14 event*

Gov. Tony Evers is confirmed as a speaker at the Wisconsin Hospital Association's (WHA's) 2021 Advocacy Day on April 14. The event is perfectly timed as legislative action is taking place on the state budget, offering hospital representatives and supporters an excellent opportunity to engage on important health care issues with their elected representatives.



Gov. Tony Evers

[Online registration](#) is still open for hospitals to register groups to attend the state's premier health care advocacy event, drawing approximately 1,000 virtual attendees.

Advocacy Day 2021 will take place virtually on April 14. The keynote speaker, Frank Sesno, is an internationally recognized journalist with more than 30 years of experience reporting around the world. Well known as an anchor, White House correspondent and talk show host with CNN, Sesno is also a nationally renowned moderator who has engaged some of the world's leading personalities. Following Sesno's address will be the always-popular bipartisan legislative leadership panel discussion.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Registration Open for 2021 Wisconsin Rural Health Conference**

The Wisconsin Hospital Association's (WHA's) 2021 [Wisconsin Rural Health Conference](#) will take place virtually on June 3.



Registration is now open for this premier event designed to highlight the many nuances of rural health care. This year, the conference will focus on public policy issues affecting rural populations; coping strategies and resiliency skills of health care staff; and overcoming unconscious biases to provide better patient experiences and outcomes.

The virtual conference will leverage professional learning platform LeaderPass to maximize the attendee experience. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

**EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

**April 14**  
Advocacy Day  
Virtual

**April 28**  
AP Automation for the modern hospital  
Webinar Series

**June 3**  
Wisconsin Rural Health Conference  
Virtual

*(Gov. Evers Confirmed to Speak at WHA's Virtual Advocacy Day . . . continued from page 1)*

Advocacy Day attendees will also have an opportunity to attend legislative visits on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. A full schedule of these meetings can be found [here](#). WHA strongly believes the legislative meetings are the most important part of Advocacy Day. With the state budget process in full swing, these visits allow hospitals to make their voices heard on priority issues, including ongoing pandemic response challenges and Medicaid funding. To prepare attendees for their meetings, WHA schedules all meetings and provides an issue briefing at Advocacy Day.

Register for WHA's 2021 Advocacy Day [here](#). For Advocacy Day questions, contact [Kari Hofer](#) at 608-274-1820.

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## **WHA Offers Webinar on Fighting Opioid Abuse**

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) will host a webinar on May 3 focused on combatting the opioid epidemic.

The webinar will be presented by WHA's Physician Improvement Advisor Bobby Redwood, M.D. Dr. Redwood is an emergency and preventive medicine physician and chief of emergency medicine at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Mass.

### **Reducing the Risk of Opioid Use Disorder, Overdose and Death**

May 3, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topics addressed will include decreased opioid prescribing, alternatives to opioids, harm reduction (use of naloxone) and medication assisted treatment. The content stems from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines addressing person-centered practices and reducing the risk of opioid use disorder, overdose and death.

For more information on this webinar and to register, click [here](#).

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## **Wisconsin ACHE Chapter Offers Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training**

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) is offering a virtual face-to-face educational opportunity aimed at exploring organizational and community implications, barriers and opportunities to diversity equity and inclusion. This event open to ACHE Wisconsin members qualifies attendees for 1.5 hours of face-to-face instruction.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

April 15, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15

The session will compare organizational diversity models and plans; evaluate organizational culture and cultural competency; and analyze quality practices for diverse populations.

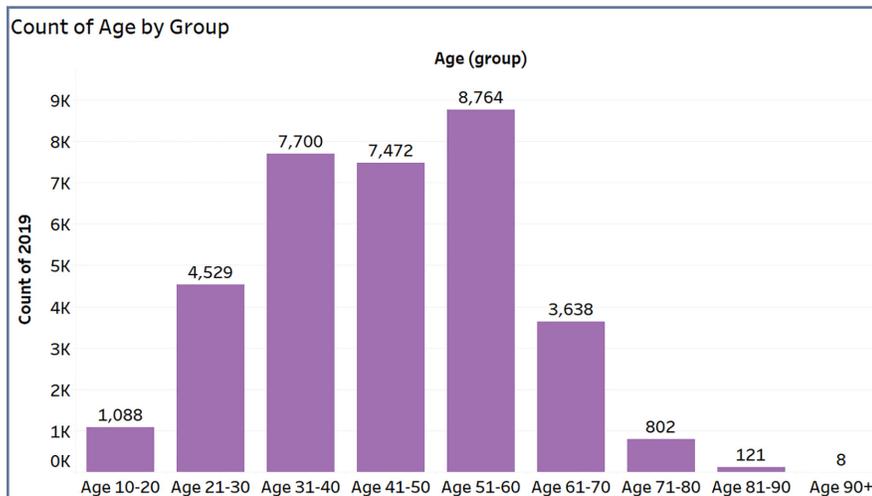
Presenters will include:

- Nusheen Ameenuddin, MD, MPH, MPA, Pediatrician, Mayo Clinic
- Erickajoy Daniels, Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Advocate Aurora Health
- William Johnson, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Milwaukee V.A. Medical Center
- David Loaiza-Funk, MHS, CLSSBB, CMI, President & CEO, Diversidad LLC

To learn more and register, click [here](#).

# Fast Facts from the WHA Information Center: April is Alcohol Awareness Month

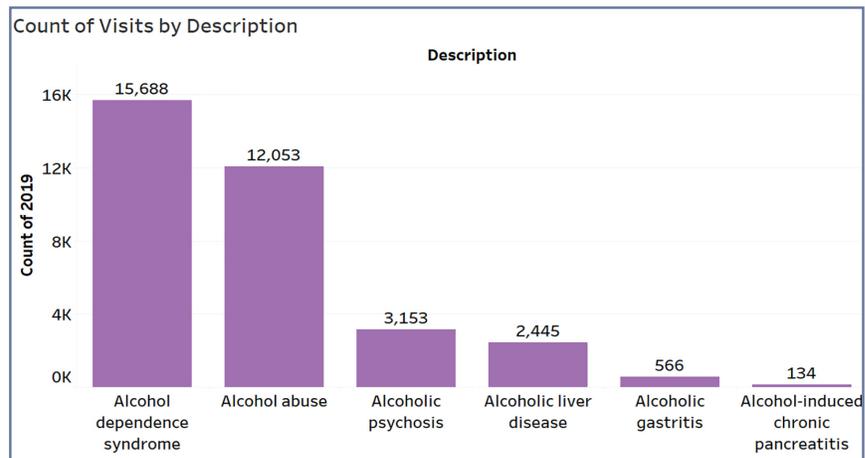
Alcohol consumption is associated with many treasured Wisconsin pastimes—from tailgating to a visit to the local microbrewery. These traditions, of course, can be taken too far: Wisconsin’s alcohol use rates are among the highest in the nation. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), alcohol is the most used addictive substance in the state. DHS data show that 65% of adults aged 18 and older reported consuming alcohol in the previous month in 2019. Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports an average of six people die of alcohol poisoning in the U.S. each day.



Data from the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC) reveals that in 2019 alone, there were roughly 34,000 inpatient and emergency department alcohol-related visits. The average age of the patients who visited hospitals for alcohol-related treatment was 45. The highest count of visits per age group occurred in the 51-to-60-year-old group. The CDC states that 76% of alcohol poisoning deaths are among adults aged 35 to 64. According to WHAIC data, men account for twice as many visits as women, following with the national trend. Non-Hispanic or Latino patients accounted for 92% of all visits.

The Wisconsin Population Health Institute notes that binge drinking costs the state roughly \$4 billion dollars each year—over two-thirds of the cost attributed to lost productivity. Excessive drinking has both significant economic impacts and severe health consequences. Long-term use of excessive alcohol can lead to chronic diseases and other health problems such as high blood pressure, certain cancers and memory loss.

Alcohol Awareness Month aims to focus attention on the negative economic and health impacts of alcohol consumption. Excessive alcohol consumption kills about 88,000 people per year—4,300 of those deaths occurred in people under the age of 21. This April, WHA joins health organizations nationwide in sharing information and resources designed to encourage healthy and responsible alcohol consumption.



The following resources are available for further exploration or help:

### Alcohol Research Organizations

- [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#)
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

### Alcohol Support Groups

- [Alcoholics Anonymous](#)
- [SMART Recovery](#)
- [Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#)
- [Women for Sobriety](#)
- [AI-Anon](#)