Immigration Research Initiative

KIDS FORWARD

Immigrants Help Keep Wisconsin Healthy

A look at the healthcare workforce in Wisconsin and why immigrants matter for every community

Wisconsin Faces Healthcare Shortages

Wisconsin's health care system is struggling. Strains are being felt in all parts of the state, from rising costs, consolidation and hospital closures, people being underinsured or with no coverage at all, and the largest cut to Medicaid in history.

44 of 72

counties are designated health care professional shortage areas, affecting about 1.7 million residents, particularly in rural and lower-income communities.

Wisconsin's healthcare depends on a diverse and growing workforce to meet the needs of patients across the state.

17,500

HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN WISCONSIN ARE IMMIGRANTS

12% of Wisconsin doctors are immigrants

9% of doctors in rural Wisconsin are immigrants

8% of personal care workers in Wisconsin are immigrants

Immigrants Work at Every Level of the Health Care Industry

4,200 doctors are immigrants

3,300 care and treatment workers are immigrants
(e.g. Nurses, Acupuncturists, Nurse Practitioners)

3,600 health care support workers are immigrants
(e.g. Orderlies, Massage Therapists, Medical Assistants)

2,300 health care technicians and assistants are immigrants

3,400 personal care workers are immigrants

600 therapists are immigrants
(e.g. Occupational, Physical)

What the Data Shows

Immigrant workers help care for patients, support hospitals and clinics, and meet growing caregiving needs.

Policies that help recruit, retain and support healthcare workers can strengthen access to care across Wisconsin.