

Resources for Research and Policy Projects in Wisconsin

Describe the Issue

Problem Trees: [How to create a problem tree](#) and [an example of a problem tree](#)

Concept maps: [How to create and use concept maps](#)

Build Your Knowledge

Research reports on Wisconsin

- From research and evaluation groups
 - [Wisconsin Policy Forum](#)
- From government agencies
 - [Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau](#)

Publicly available datasets on schools and education

- WISE Dash: Data on Wisconsin Schools collected by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
 - [Quick start video](#) and [guides](#)
 - [WISE Dash public data dashboard](#)
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
 - [Explanation from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [List of public data collections](#) by sector from UW Extension
- [County Health Rankings](#) from UW Population Health and RWJ Foundation
- [Education Data Explorer](#)
- [Civil Rights Data Collection](#)
- [EdBuild tool](#) to compare district funding and other data

Academic papers: Type your topic into [Google Scholar](#)

Collect your own data

- Overview and comparison of [different research and evaluation methods](#)
- Group discussions

- Focus groups: [Summary of what a focus group is](#) and a [guide for youth-led focus groups](#)
 - [People “Likert” Scale](#) activity
- [Individual interviews](#)
- Individual survey
 - [Overview of surveys](#)
 - [Using Google forms](#)
- [Fieldnotes from observations](#)
- Photo voice
 - [Overview of photovoice](#)
 - [Guide to photovoice with examples](#)

Analyze data

- Qualitative
 - [Analyzing Qualitative Data via Learning for Action](#)
 - [Qualitative Data Analysis: Step-by-Step Guide \(Manual vs. Automatic\)](#)
- Quantitative data
 - [Quantitative analysis via Scribbr](#)

Finding policies that relate to your issue

- Proposed state laws: [Search bills being proposed in the state legislature](#) via Open States
- Actual state laws: [Search and read state laws in Wisconsin](#)
- [Actual state administrative rules](#) from Department of Public Instruction
- District: Search [your district] + “school board” + policy” to find the actual policies

Share Knowledge and Recommendations

Creating visuals

- [Guidelines for infographics and data visualization](#) via UW-Madison Design Lab
- Using Canva
 - Making an [infographic](#)
 - Making a [poster](#)
 - [Sample data “snapshot”](#)

Having “Data Parties”: [Guide for having a data party](#) via California 4H

Giving presentations

- [Overview of guidelines](#) with examples and links to software via UW-Madison Design Lab
- [Short video](#) on great presentations
- Research posters
 - [Overview from UW-Madison Design Lab](#)
 - Examples of templates in Canva (can search for “research poster”): [template 1](#), [template 2](#), [template 3](#), [template 4](#)

Writing Op-Eds: [Tips for writing and pitching an op-ed](#)

Policy briefs: [Guide for writing a policy brief](#)

Communicating with policymakers

- School Boards
 - [Guide to engaging with school boards](#)
 - [Guide to testifying at school board meetings](#)
- State legislators: [How to find and contact your state legislators](#)
- Community: [Five Steps for Action Guide for Youth Advocates](#)

Ongoing development of this resource has been in partnership between the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Succeeds, Urban Underground, and the Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment. Please contact wcerclinics@wcer.wisc.edu with questions.