



# MN Kids Database

[www.mnkidsdata.org](http://www.mnkidsdata.org)

## History of MN Kids Database

The MN Kids Database (MKD) is a collaborative project involving a number of school-based mental health providers in Minnesota. A web-based data tracking system has been developed to support partners, by reducing their need for individual data management systems. The partners were also motivated by a desire to use system-level data to better understand the potential benefits of school-based mental health services, identify strategies for enhancing programming, and build a case for program sustainability.

A handful of partners came together four years ago to develop MKD, including Hennepin County, Children's Home Society and Family Services (formerly Family Networks), Guadalupe Alternative School, Headway Emotional Health Services (formerly Storefront), Intermediate School District 287, Minneapolis School District, Washburn Center for Children, and Wilder Research. These agencies have been significant financial and/or in-kind contributors.

MKD is owned by the partners that financially contribute to its upkeep. It is not a government run website. MKD is managed by Wilder Research, who oversees the budget, work plan, and advisory group; conducts trainings; develops reports; and serves as a liaison between the advisory group and the web developer. Wilder Research also provides evaluation and research services to some of the agencies who use MKD.

## Who is using the database currently?

MKD was primarily designed for agencies that provide school-based mental health services to youth, although

it is also used by agencies that provide mental health services to children outside of the school.

MKD partner agencies are located throughout Minnesota, including 51 school districts and almost 300 schools. As of October 2012, 385 clinicians had used the database to document more than 241,000 services to over 7,600 students.

During the 2011-12 school year, a number of agencies are using MKD, including: Canvas Health; Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio; Guadalupe Alternative Programs; Headway Emotional Health; Intermediate School District 287; Northwest Youth and Family Services; Northwestern Mental Health Center; Nystrom & Associates, Ltd.; People, Incorporated; Thad Wilderson and Associates; Washburn Center for Children; Watercourse Counseling; and the Wilder Foundation. Each agency pays an annual fee for using the database.

## Overview of MN Kids data components

MKD is web-based, allowing users to enter data or run reports at any location with Internet access. It is an integrated data management system developed to assist clinicians and providers better track and report information, including (but not limited to):

- Demographic information
- Insurance status (billable/non billable information)
- Referral information, including the date referred to service and history of mental health service
- Description of services provided (session-specific), including date, type of service (individual therapy, family therapy, etc.), length of service, and location of service



- Student assessments, including the Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII), Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII), Psychological Screening Inventory (PSI), and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).
- Discharge information
- Documentation of school-wide services provided, including date, type, and length of service

### Features of the MN Kids Database

MKD is housed on a secure server with access limited to authorized users. Authorized users are able to run a over a dozen reports, depending on users' level of access. Reports can be prepared summarizing results by clinician, school, agency, or county. Users can also generate reports showing changes in SDQ and CASII scores over time. When agencies have more complex analysis/reporting needs, data can be downloaded into a spreadsheet format suitable for importing into other statistical analysis software.

The MKD has reporting features designed to help participating partners submit reports required by several funding sources, including the DHS school-based mental health grants and the Hennepin County school-based mental health grants.

### Advisory group of the MN Kids Database

An advisory group has been established and has convened many times over the past 4 years to oversee the MKD. The advisory group is charged with determining MKD components, reviewing MKD reports and other documents, providing feedback to the vendor, prioritizing potential database enhancements, revising user agreements, and approving new contracts.

### Confidentiality and privacy for partners

To use MKD, an agency must sign an agreement, which includes a Business Associate (BA) agreement. Under HIPAA, parent/client notification/consent is not

required for agencies that have a signed BA agreement with Wilder to enter information into the MKD. The BA agreement allows an agency to share information with other partners for the purposes of completing business operations (which includes evaluation).

Agencies may wish to notify parents about the MKD. Wilder Research can provide a template consent form if requested. It is important to note that if an agency uses an authorization form allowing parents to opt-out of having their information included in the MKD, Wilder Research will not be able to include their information in reports to the agency's funders or other stakeholders.

Wilder Research's role under the agreement is to ensure that all identifiable information is protected and treated in full accordance with all applicable laws (i.e., HIPAA, FERPA, MN Government Data Practices Act ). Agencies are responsible for ensuring that their use of the Database is consistent with their data privacy policies.

### How to become part of the MN Kids Database

If you are interested in learning more about the MKD, please contact Julie Atella at Wilder Research.



**For additional information about the MN Kids Database, user fees or user training contact:**  
Julie Atella, Research Associate, Wilder Research, 651.280.2658 (voice) or [info@mnkidsdata.org](mailto:info@mnkidsdata.org) (email)

MN Kids Database: A collaboratively developed and managed school-based mental health website