

The **Healthy Workers, Healthy Wisconsin** (HWHW) project works to improve overall health and support long-term employment for low-income job seekers with unresolved trauma and other health needs.

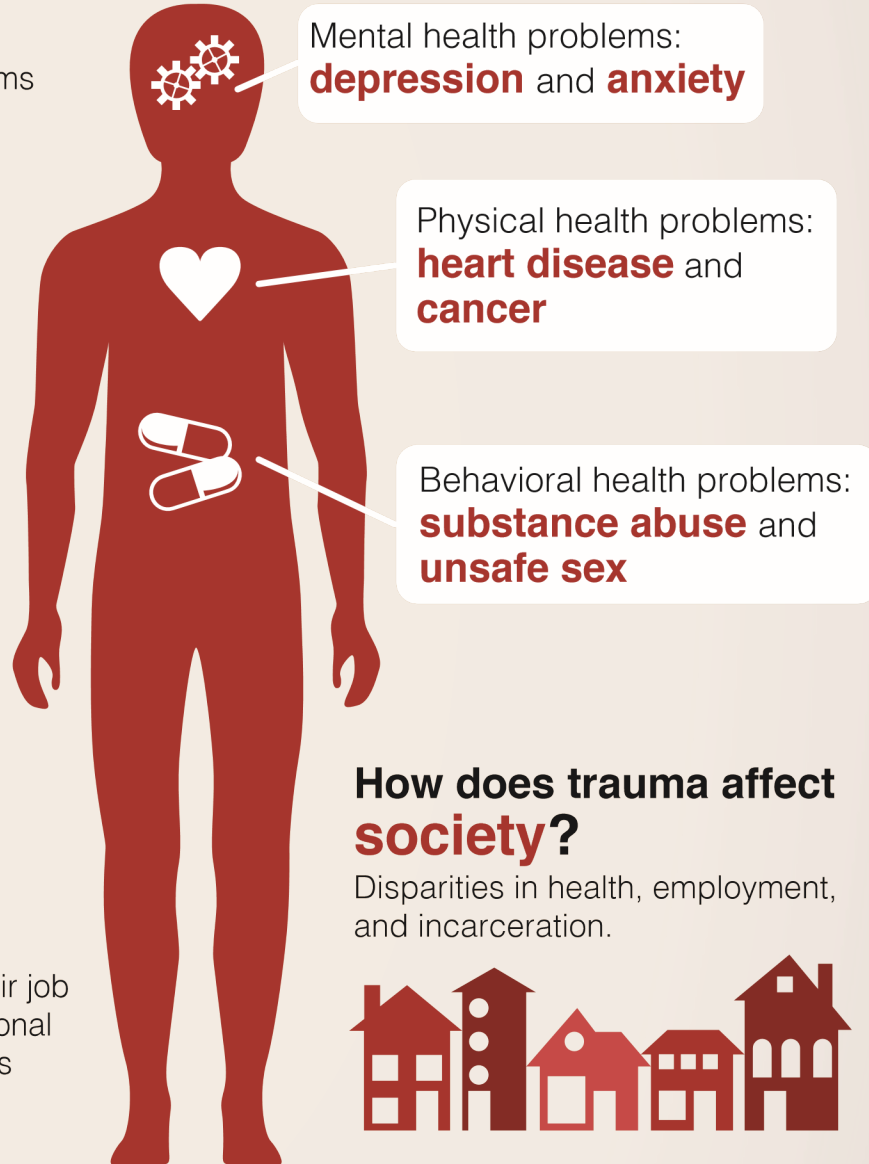
What is **trauma**?

An event or ongoing condition that is emotionally or physically harmful. People's nervous systems often become hyperactive and disrupted. Their bodies and minds go through post-trauma wear and tear.

What are the **effects**?

Physical, behavioral, and mental health problems may show up. This makes it hard for people to complete tasks necessary to keep a job.

Trauma



Why should **employment service programs** address trauma?

When programs address the health needs of their job seeking clients, they better meet their organizational mission and program goals. Job seekers are less frustrated and may find jobs more easily.

How does trauma affect **society**?

Disparities in health, employment, and incarceration.



What is the **solution**?

1. Implement trauma-informed practices in employment service programs

Use **T**rauma **S**creening, **B**rief **I**ntervention, and **R**eferral to **T**reatment (**T-SBIRT**) within employment service programs. Screening questions address trauma, stress, coping skills, and health care access.

2. Connect clients with health insurance, health care, and existing community supports

Refer clients to organizations that help with health insurance, medical care, and mental health care. Develop, foster, and strengthen relationships between job seekers and their natural support systems.

Healthy Workers, Healthy Wisconsin (HWHW)

Findings show low-income job seekers in Milwaukee face many barriers

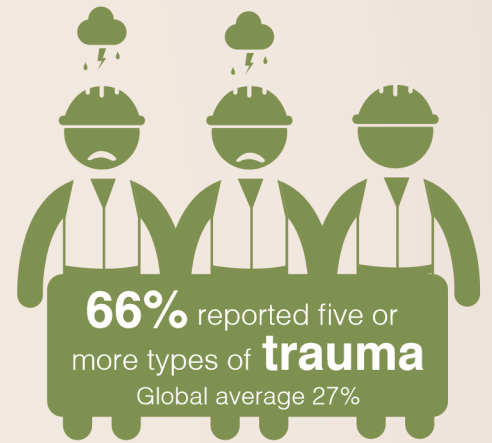
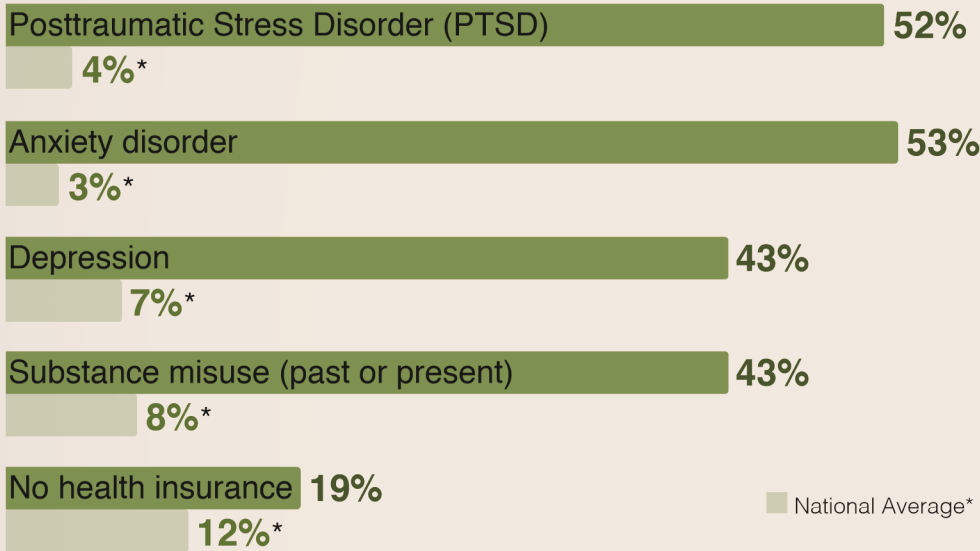
Screening Results of HWHW Job Seekers:

Nearly **2/3** reported an **annual income of less than \$5,000.**

Participants experience a great deal of stress, especially in the areas of:

- » Employment
- » Finances
- » Housing
- » Relationships
- » Parenting
- » Health

HWHW Job Seekers' Results Compared to National Averages:



How does HWHW help job seekers?

- » Connects people to mental health care
- » Increases access to health insurance and care
- » Supports positive coping strategies

59% accepted a mental health referral

Another **13%** were already seeing a mental health professional

Strategies job seekers are already using:

Social support (family and friends)



Artistic/creative hobbies



Physical activity



Spending time with children



Connection with religion/faith

