

October 2013

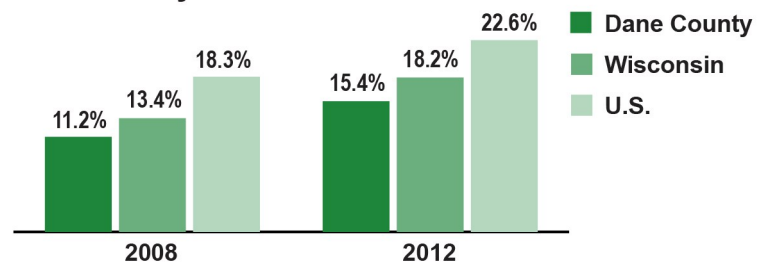
Economic Recovery Slow for Dane County Families

More People in Poverty, Fewer with Private Health Insurance

One out of Seven Children in Dane County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Dane County rose from 11.2% in 2008 to 15.4% in 2012. Dane County's child poverty rate is lower than the statewide average, which rose from 13.4% in 2008 to 18.2% in 2012. More than 4,600 additional children slipped into poverty in Dane County between 2008 and 2012.

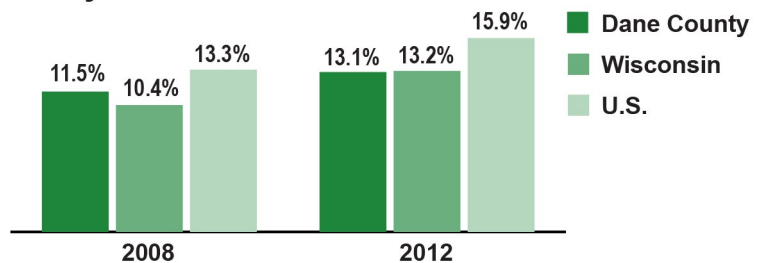
Child Poverty



Poverty in Dane County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Dane County increased from 11.5% in 2008 to 13.1% in 2012. Dane County's poverty rate was close to the Wisconsin average, which rose from 10.4% in 2008 to 13.2% in 2012. The statewide poverty level was lower than the national average.

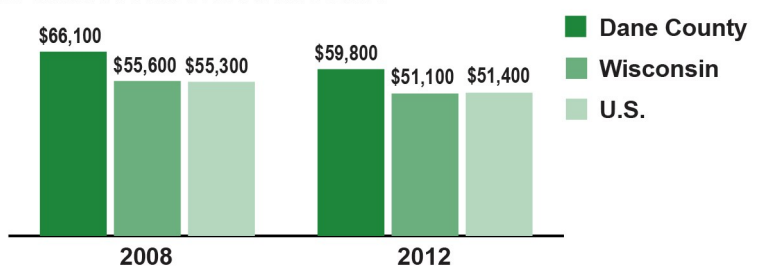
Poverty



Households in Dane County are Making Do with Less

The typical household in Dane County earned \$6,300 less in 2012 than in 2008. Median household income dropped to \$59,800 in 2012 from \$66,100 in 2008. A typical household in Dane County earns roughly 15% more than both the state and the national average.

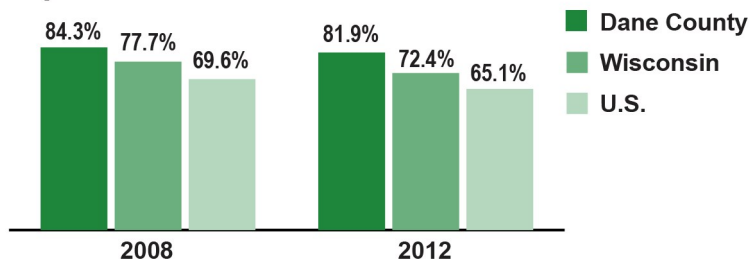
Median Household Income



Fewer People in Dane County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Dane County with private health insurance decreased from 84.3% in 2008 to 81.9% in 2012. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Dane County and Wisconsin in general still had significantly higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.

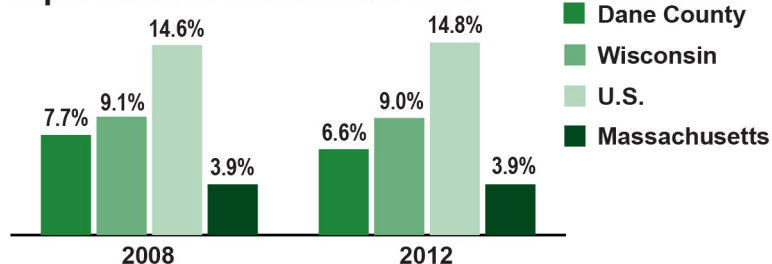
People with Private Health Insurance



Implementing Health Care Reform Could Significantly Improve Access to Insurance

The percent of Dane County residents lacking health insurance decreased to 6.6% in 2012 from 7.7% in 2008. Both Dane County and Wisconsin had a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average, but far above the 3.9% rate in Massachusetts. That state implemented health care reforms in 2007 that served as the model for the Affordable Care Act.

People with No Health Insurance



How to Help Dane County Families Affected by the Recession

Families in Dane County are still feeling the effects of the recession, when steep job loss pushed many residents into poverty and resulted in the loss of health care coverage. Dane County's economic situation is better than the national average, but far too many families are struggling to make ends meet or going without health insurance.

It is discouraging that three years into the recovery, poverty rates and income remain stubbornly low, and the uninsured rate remains high. But there are some basic steps we can take to help boost the local economy and help Dane County families pull themselves out of poverty, including:

- Increase the minimum wage and then adjust it each year for inflation.
- Give businesses access to a well-trained workforce by providing schools and colleges the resources they need to prepare students for employment. And provide students with the financial aid they need to succeed in their educational efforts.
- Adjust the Homestead tax credit for inflation each year, like the rest of the tax code.
- Create a strong public/private partnership to help Wisconsinites get insurance through the Affordable Care Act and to help reach the Governor's target of cutting the uninsured rate in half.
- Maintain funding for safety net programs such as food stamps and federal unemployment benefits that help lift families out of poverty and pump money into the still sluggish economy.
- Increase school readiness by improving children's early learning and development opportunities through high-quality child care, early education, home visiting, and parent engagement.