

October 2013

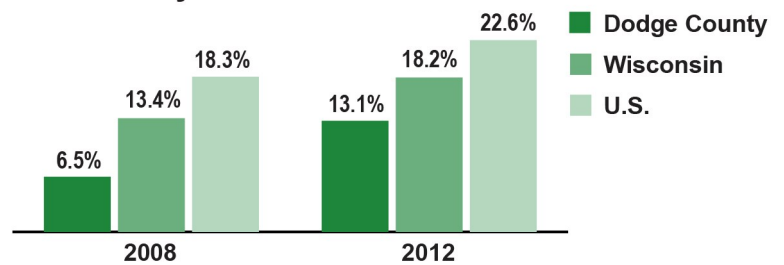
Economic Recovery Slow for Dodge County Families

More People in Poverty, Median Income Down almost 10 Percent

One out of Eight Children in Dodge County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Dodge County rose from 6.5% in 2008 to 13.1% in 2012. Dodge 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 415 additional children slipped into poverty in Dodge County between 2008 and 2012.

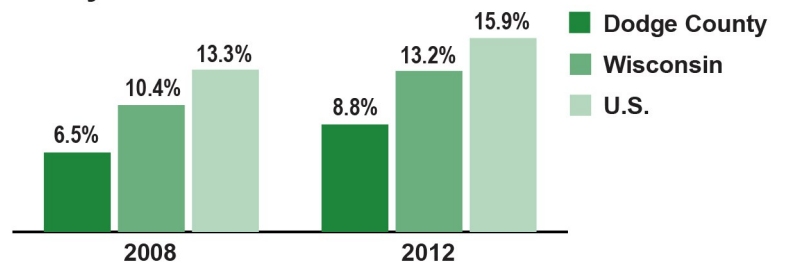
Child Poverty



Poverty in Dodge County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Dodge County increased from 6.5% in 2008 to 8.8% in 2012. Dodge County's poverty rate was lower than 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.

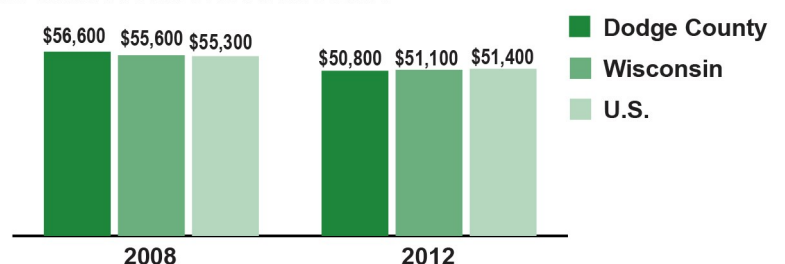
Poverty



Households in Dodge County are Making Do with Less

The typical household in Dodge County earned \$5,800 less in 2012 than in 2008. Median household income dropped to \$50,800 in 2012 from \$56,800 in 2008. A typical household in Dodge County earns slightly less than the state and national average.

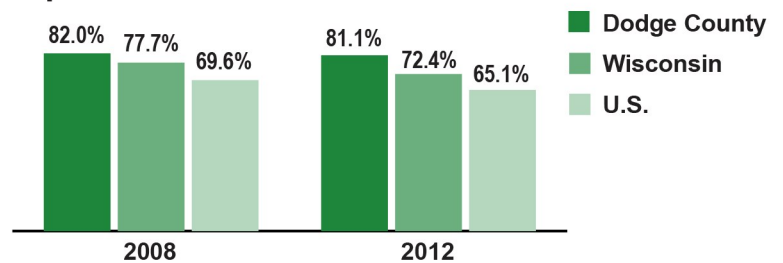
Median Household Income



Fewer People in Dodge County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Dodge County with private health insurance decreased slightly between 2008 and 2012. At the state level, an increase in the unemployment rate restricted access to health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Dodge County and Wisconsin in general still had significantly higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.

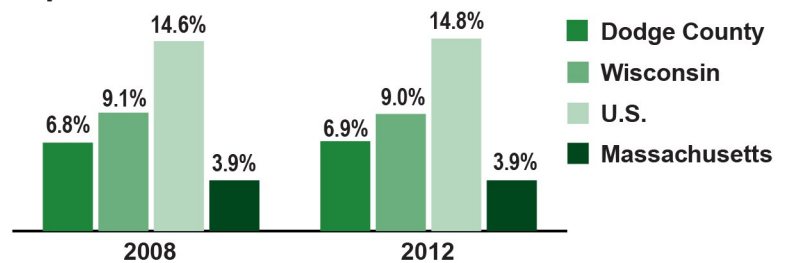
People with Private Health Insurance



Implementing Health Care Reform Could Significantly Improve Access to Insurance

The percent of Dodge County residents lacking health insurance was essentially unchanged between 2008 and 2012. Both Dodge 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 Dodge County Families Affected by the Recession

Families in Dodge 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. Dodge County's economic situation is better in some respects 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 Dodge 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.