

October 2013

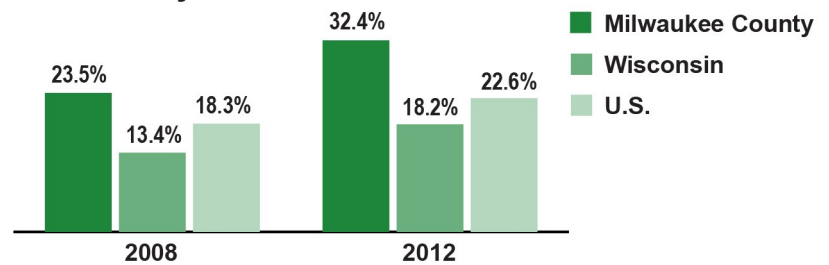
Economic Recovery Slow for Milwaukee County Families

More People in Poverty, Fewer with Private Health Insurance

One out of Three Children in Milwaukee County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Milwaukee County rose to 32.4% in 2012 from 23.5% in 2008. Milwaukee County's child poverty rate is higher than the statewide average, which rose to 18.2% in 2012 from 13.4% in 2008. More than 20,000 additional children slipped into poverty in Milwaukee County between 2008 and 2012, which represents a population greater than the city of Cudahy.

Child Poverty



Poverty in Milwaukee County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Milwaukee County increased to 22.3% in 2012 from 17.1% in 2008. In 2012, Milwaukee County's poverty rate was far above the Wisconsin average, which rose to 13.2% in 2012 from 10.4% in 2008. The statewide poverty level was lower than the national average.

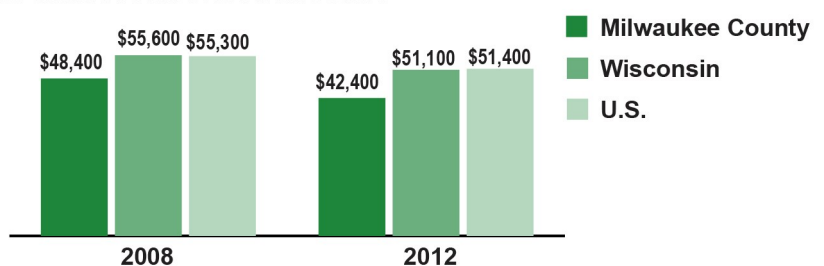
Poverty



Households in Milwaukee County are Making Do with Less

The typical household in Milwaukee County earned \$6,000 less in 2012 than in 2008. Median household income dropped to \$42,400 in 2012 from \$48,400 in 2008. A typical household in Milwaukee County earns roughly 17% less than the state and national average.

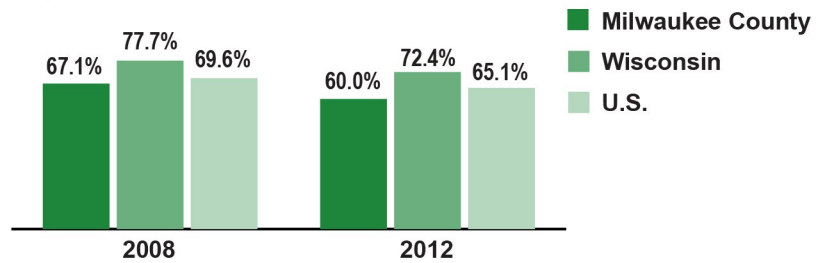
Median Household Income



Fewer People in Milwaukee County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Milwaukee County with private health insurance decreased to 60.0% in 2012 from 67.1% in 2008. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers.

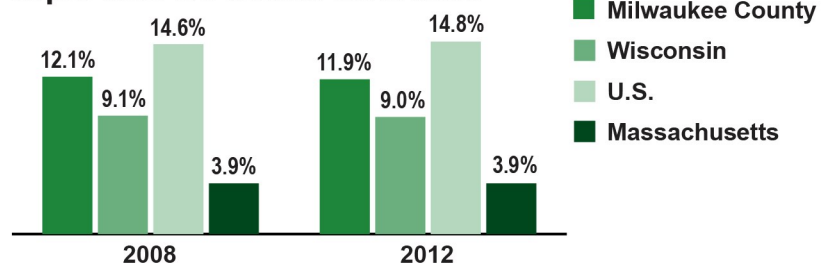
People with Private Health Insurance



Implementing Health Care Reform Could Significantly Improve Access to Insurance

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

Families in Milwaukee 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. Milwaukee County's economic situation is worse than the national average in many respects, and 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 Milwaukee 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.

