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How are Outagamie County and Wisconsin Faring in the Recession?

Outagamie County and the rest of Wisconsin have not been isolated from the effects of the recession. In this year’s KidsCount initiative, we look at the impact of the recession, drawing on key indicators to show how families in Outagamie County and across the state have been affected.

Unemployment

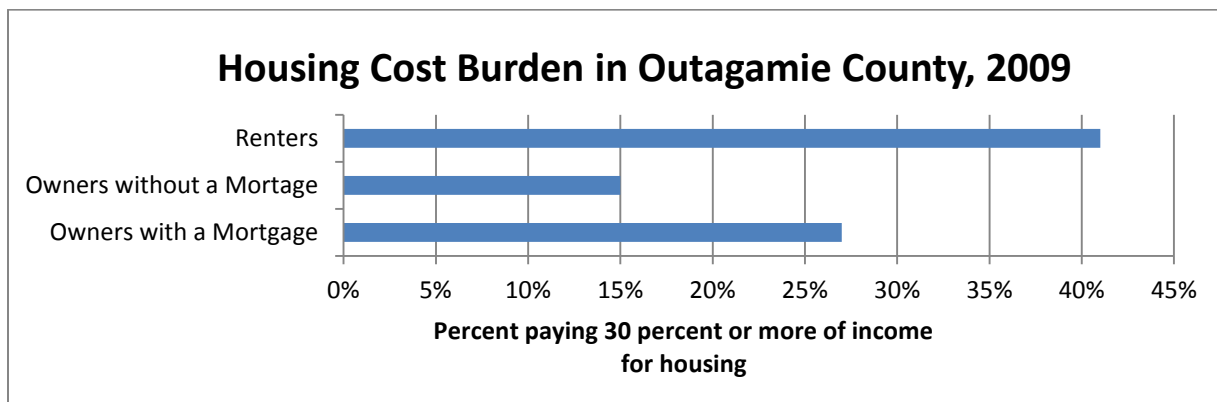
In Wisconsin, unemployment reached a recent high of 9.2% in 2009, and is currently at 7.8%. In Outagamie County, unemployment reached a recent high 9.5% in 2009, and is currently at 7.2%ⁱ. This significant loss of jobs has led to hardship for many Wisconsin families, especially those who were already living in or near poverty. In 2010, 10% of children in Wisconsin, 129,000 in total, had at least one unemployed parent.

Housing

The recession, along with unscrupulous mortgage lending practices, drove many out of their homes due to foreclosure. Since 2007, more than 5 million children nationwide have been impacted by foreclosure. In Wisconsin alone, an estimated 59,000 children have seen their family’s home go into foreclosure over that time period.

From 2000 to 2010, foreclosures in Wisconsin increased by 363%, while foreclosures in Outagamie County increased by 425%. From 2009 to 2010, there was a 2.3% increase in home foreclosures in Outagamie County, while statewide home foreclosures increased 3% over the same period. 788 Outagamie County homes went into foreclosure in 2010, representing 3% of all foreclosures statewide.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.”ⁱⁱ The graph below shows that many Outagamie residents, including more than 40 percent of renters, spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.



Source: American Community Survey, 2009. The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,300, nonmortgaged owners \$462, and renters \$675. Twenty-seven percent of owners with mortgages, 15 percent of owners without mortgages, and 41 percent of renters in Outagamie County spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.

Child Poverty

Children in Poverty are less likely to finish high school and more likely to have developmental delays and poor health. Often, the effects of child poverty are long lasting if not permanentⁱⁱⁱ. Unfortunately, child poverty rates in Wisconsin and Outagamie County have increased as a result of the recession.

In 2009, 10% of children in Outagamie County were living in poverty, while 12% were in poverty in 2008. Statewide, 17% of children were living in poverty in 2009, an increase from 13% in 2008.

The table below contains key indicators that show how Wisconsin and Outagamie County residents have been affected by the recession.

KidsCount Indicators	Outagamie County			Wisconsin		
	2000	2009	Change 2000-09	2000	2009	Change 2000-09
Children living in Poverty	6%	12%	100%	12%	17%	42%
Single Parent Families	4,138	5767 (2010)	39%	171,709	204,076 (2010)	19%
Unemployment	2.9%	7.4% (2011 avg)	155%	4%	9%	125%
Low Birth weight	5.5%	7.4%	35%	6.5%	7.1%	9%
Births to Teens (per 1000 females 15-19)	27.2	23.9	-12%	35.7	29.6	-17%
Student Dropouts (1999-2000 & 2009-10 school years; Appleton Area School District only)	47	94	100%	6,916	6,434	-7%
Student Dropouts as Percent of All Students (1999-2000 & 2009-10 school years; Appleton Area School District only)	0.67%	1.33%	99%	1.70%	1.60%	-6%
Infant Mortality (per 1000)	3.93	5.81	48%	6.6	6.01	-9%
Participation in Free and Reduced Lunch	14%	25%	79%	26%	34%	31%
FoodShare Participation (per 1000)	11	72 (2010)	555%	37	131 (2010)	254%
MA/BadgerCare Recipients (per 1000)	71.1	194 (2008)	172.9%	180.7	315 (2008)	74.3%
Tax Filers Receiving Federal EITC	6%	10% (2008)	67%	9.30%	12.5% (2008)	34%
Average Federal EITC Return	\$1,438	\$1,696 (2008)	18%	\$1,848	\$2,407 (2008)	30%
Birth to Mothers without HS Degree	9.7%	8.9%	-8%	16%	14%	-13%
Births to Single Mothers	19.7%	29.1%	48%	30%	38%	27%
Births to Mothers with First Trimester Prenatal Care	85.9%	88.4%	3%	83.9%	83.4%	-1%
Child Mental Health Hospitalizations (per 1000 children)	4.7	6.6 (2008)	40%	5	5.6 (2008)	12%
Child Preventable Hospitalizations (per 1000 children)	3.1	3.3 (2008)	6%	6.2	4.5 (2008)	-27%

ⁱ http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2011/unemployment/110824_july_local.pdf

ⁱⁱ <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/>

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/pdfs/poverty/2004_poverty_report.pdf