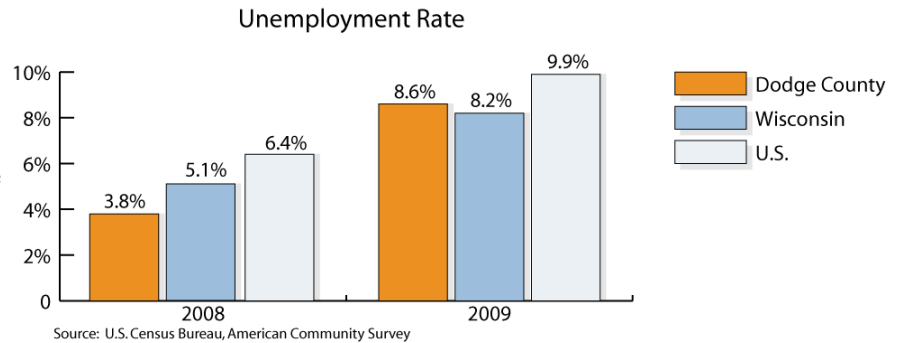


The Recession's Impact on Dodge County

Unemployment and Poverty Rates Are Up

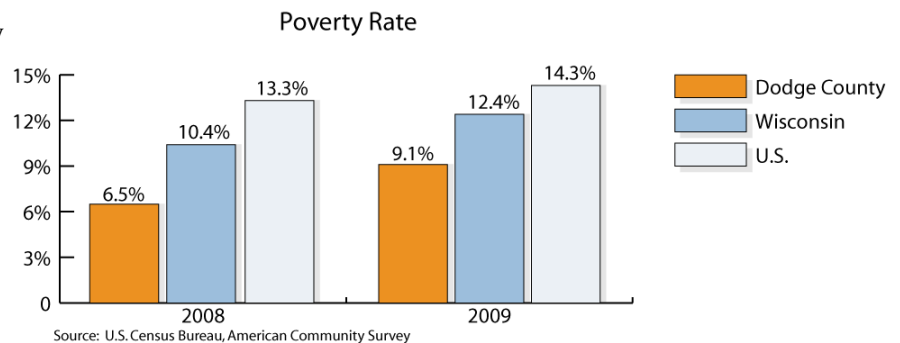
Unemployment Rate in Dodge County More Than Doubled

The unemployment rate in Dodge County rose from 3.8 percent in 2008 to 8.6 percent in 2009. With this increase, the unemployment rate in Dodge County outpaced the Wisconsin average, which rose from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009. The increase in Dodge County's unemployment rate means that about 2,030 more people in the county were out of work in 2009 than in 2008.



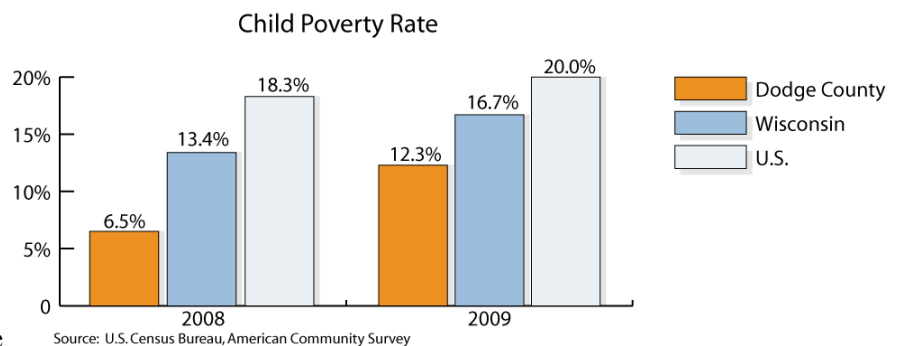
Poverty in Dodge County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Brown County increased from 6.5 percent in 2008 to 9.1 percent in 2009. Dodge County's poverty rate is better than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 10.4 percent in 2008 to 12.4 percent in 2009. Both Dodge County and Wisconsin have poverty rates that are better than the national average.



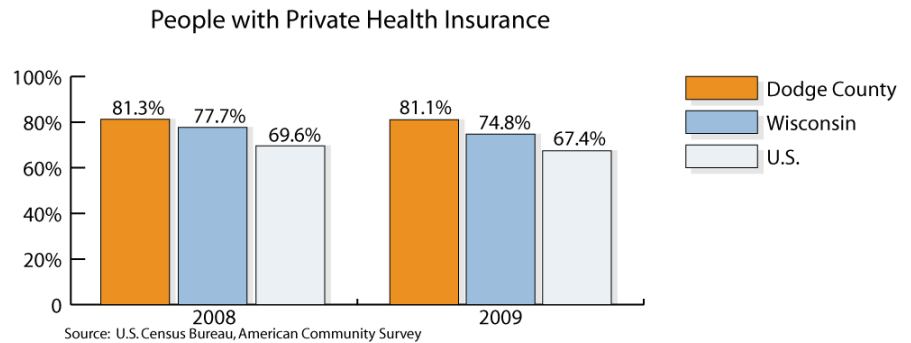
One out of Eight Children in Dodge County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Dodge County rose from 6.5 percent in 2008 to 12.3 percent in 2009. This increase was far larger than the increase in the statewide child poverty level, which rose from 13.4 percent in 2008 to 16.7 percent in 2009. More than 1,000 additional children slipped into poverty in Dodge County between 2008 and 2009, which represents a population about the same size as the village of Iron Ridge.



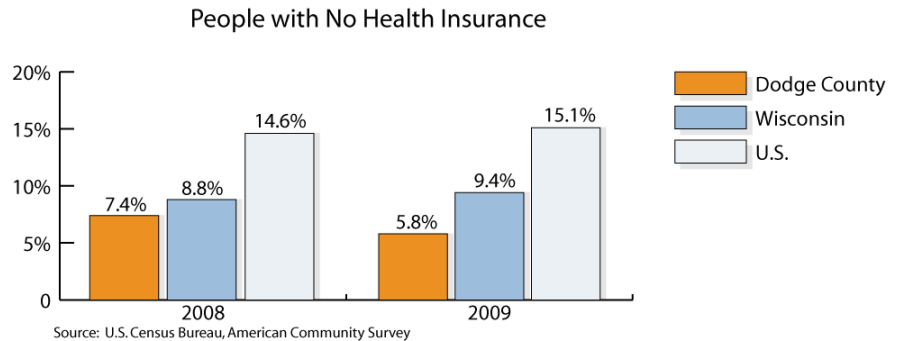
Private Health Insurance Rates in Dodge County Stay Constant

The percent of people in Dodge County with private health insurance held fairly steady in 2009. That was in contrast to a sharp drop at the state level, as rising unemployment impacted health insurance coverage since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Dodge County and Wisconsin in general still have significantly higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.



BadgerCare Plus Cushions Increase in the Uninsured

The percent of Dodge County residents that have no health insurance decreased from 7.4 percent in 2008 to 5.8 percent in 2009. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, BadgerCare enrollment in the county grew by almost 25 percent in 2009, which probably accounts for the drop in the percentage uninsured. Both Dodge County and Wisconsin have a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average.



Addressing the Impact of the Recession

Dodge County is feeling the impact of the national recession, as steep job loss has pushed many residents into poverty. This change is particularly alarming considering it happened over a time period of just one year. Still, by many measures, Dodge County's economic situation is better than the national average.

Fortunately, the Recovery Act contained several changes in tax credits for low income families that softened the blow of the recession a little. However, those credits are scheduled to end at the close of the year and Congress will have to vote soon on whether to extend them.

Low-income households were also assisted by increased Medicaid funding in the Recovery Act, which enabled Wisconsin to preserve eligibility for BadgerCare Plus. If that

enhanced federal aid is not extended beyond the current July 1, 2011 expiration date, the state will be hard pressed to avoid sharp reductions in the low-income families served by BadgerCare Plus.

It will take a concerted effort to meet the needs of struggling families in Dodge County. Public services like health care, education, and economic support are especially important in times of economic crisis. To help Wisconsin families and communities back on the road to economic recovery, state and federal policymakers will need to employ a balanced approach to closing the budget deficit, while avoiding significant cuts to programs that help families hit hard by the national recession.

October 2010