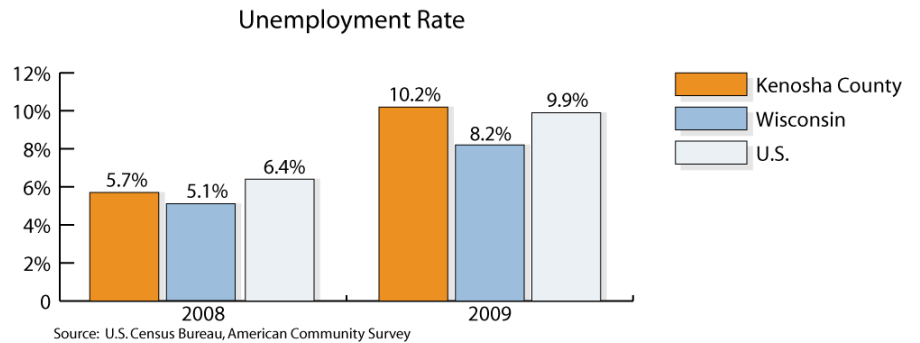


## The Recession's Impact on Kenosha County

### Unemployment and Poverty Rates Are Up, Health Insurance Coverage is Down

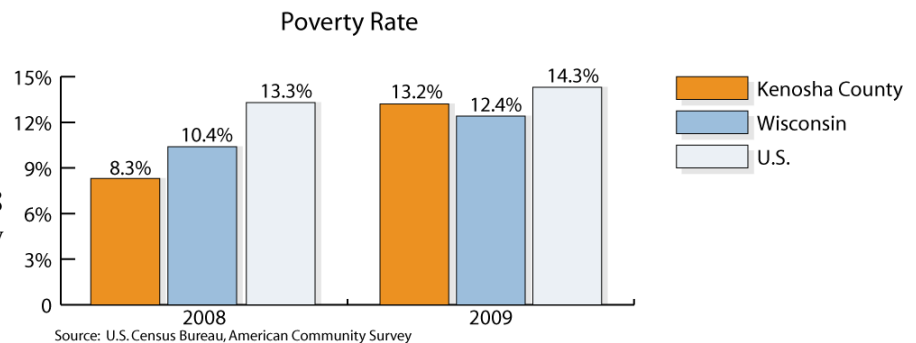
#### Unemployment Rate in Kenosha County Has Risen

The unemployment rate in Kenosha County rose from 5.7 percent in 2008 to 10.2 percent in 2009. The unemployment rate in Kenosha County was higher than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009. The increase in Kenosha County's unemployment rate means that nearly 4,000 more people in the county were out of work in 2009 than in 2008.



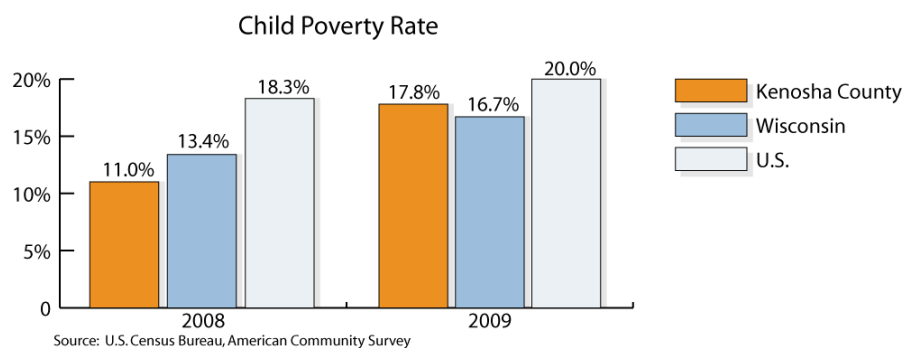
#### Poverty in Kenosha County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Kenosha County increased from 8.3 percent in 2008 to 13.2 percent in 2009. After the increase, Kenosha County's poverty rate was slightly higher than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 10.4 percent in 2008 to 12.4 percent in 2009. Both Kenosha County and Wisconsin have poverty rates that are lower than the national average.



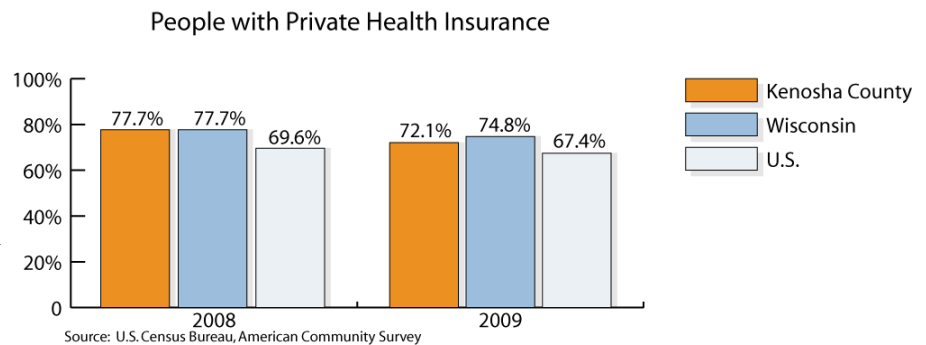
#### More than One out of Six Children in Kenosha County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Kenosha County rose from 11.0 percent in 2008 to 17.8 percent in 2009. After the increase, Kenosha County's child poverty rate was higher than the statewide level, which rose from 13.4 percent in 2008 to 16.7 percent in 2009. Nearly 2,800 additional children slipped into poverty in Kenosha County between 2008 and 2009, which represents a population greater than the village of Silver Lake.



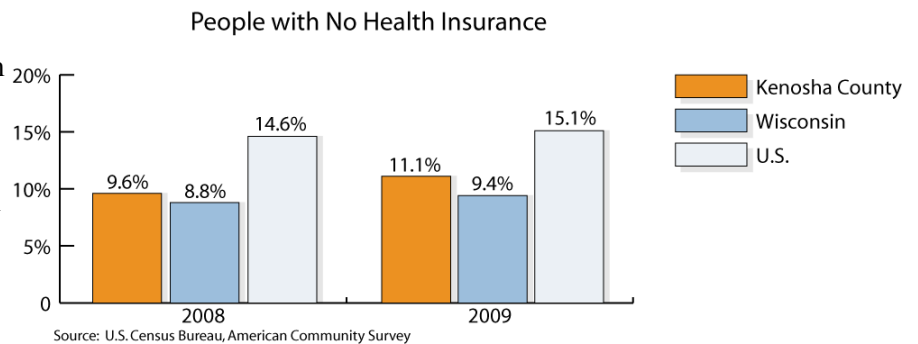
## Fewer People in Kenosha County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Kenosha County with private health insurance decreased, from 77.7 percent in 2008 to 72.1 percent in 2009. The increases unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Kenosha 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 Kenosha County residents that have no health insurance increased from 9.6 percent in 2008 to 11.1 percent in 2009. A 17 percent increase in BadgerCare Plus enrollment in the county kept the drop in employer coverage from resulting in a much larger increase in the uninsured. Both Kenosha County and Wisconsin have a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average.



## Addressing the Impact of the Recession

Kenosha County is feeling the impact of the national recession, as steep job loss has pushed many residents into poverty and forced the loss of health insurance coverage. These changes are particularly alarming considering they happened over a time period of just one year. Still, by many measures, Kenosha 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. Without an extension of federal aid for states and continuation of the state's hospital assessment initiated in 2009, Wisconsin 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 Kenosha 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.