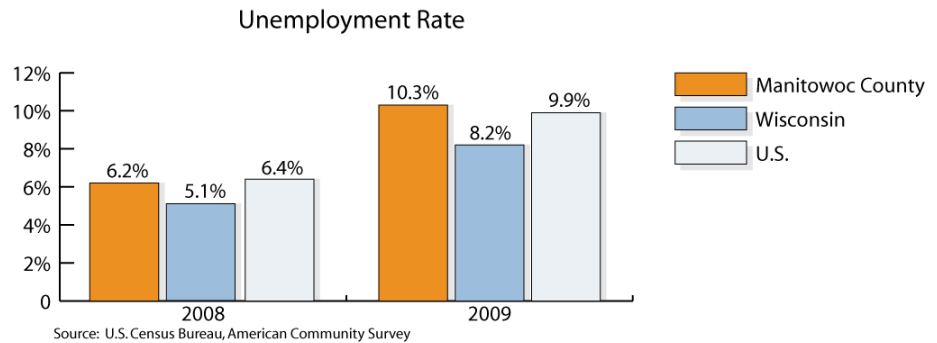


## The Recession's Impact on Manitowoc County

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

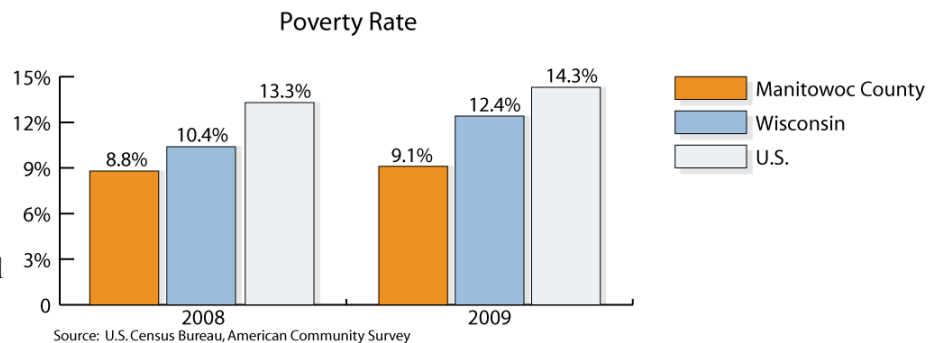
### Unemployment Rate in Manitowoc County Has Risen

The unemployment rate in Manitowoc County rose from 6.2 percent in 2008 to 10.3 percent in 2009. The unemployment rate in Manitowoc County is higher than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009. The increase in the Manitowoc County's unemployment rate means that about 2,000 more people in the county were out of work in 2009 compared to 2008.



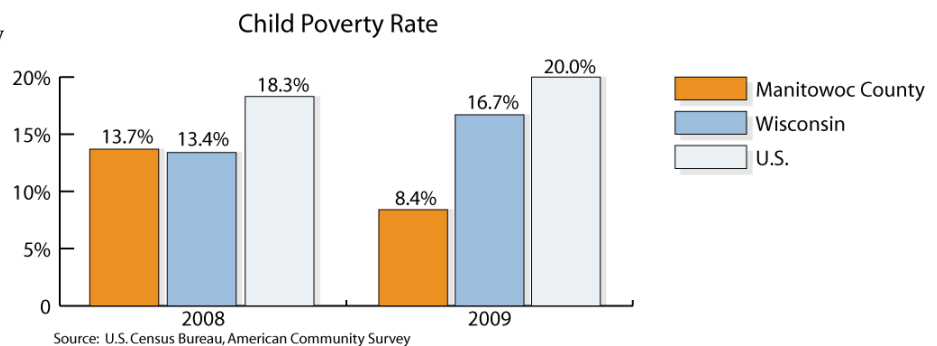
### Poverty in Manitowoc County Has Stayed About the Same

The total poverty rate in Manitowoc County slightly increased from 8.8 percent in 2008 to 9.1 percent in 2009. Manitowoc County's poverty rate is well below the Wisconsin average, which rose from 10.4 percent in 2008 to 12.4 percent in 2009. Both Manitowoc County and Wisconsin have poverty rates that are lower than the national average.



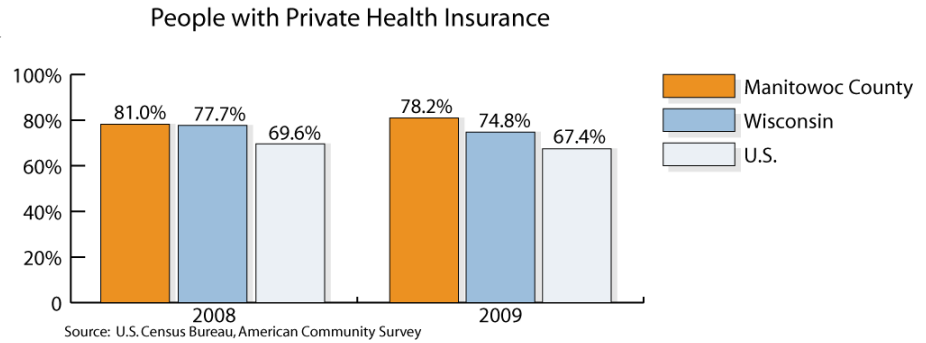
### One out of Twelve Children in Manitowoc County Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Manitowoc County decreased from 13.7 percent in 2008 to 8.4 percent in 2009. In 2009, Manitowoc County's child poverty rate was lower than the statewide level, which rose from 13.4 percent in 2008 to 16.7 percent in 2009. Statewide, one in six children lives in poverty.



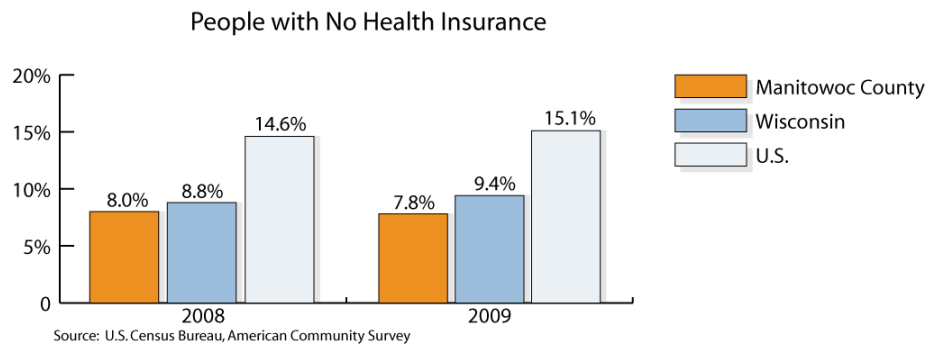
## Fewer People in Manitowoc County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Manitowoc County with private health insurance decreased, from 81.0 percent in 2008 to 78.2 percent in 2009. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Manitowoc County and Wisconsin in general still have much higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.



## BadgerCare Plus Prevents Increase in the Uninsured

The percent of Manitowoc County residents that have no health insurance stayed about the same, with a slight decrease from 8.0 percent in 2008 to 7.8 percent in 2009. BadgerCare Plus enrollment in the county grew by more than 20 percent in 2009, which kept the drop in employer coverage from resulting in an increase in the uninsured. Both Manitowoc County and Wisconsin have a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average.



## Addressing the Impact of the Recession

Manitowoc 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, Manitowoc 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 Manitowoc 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.