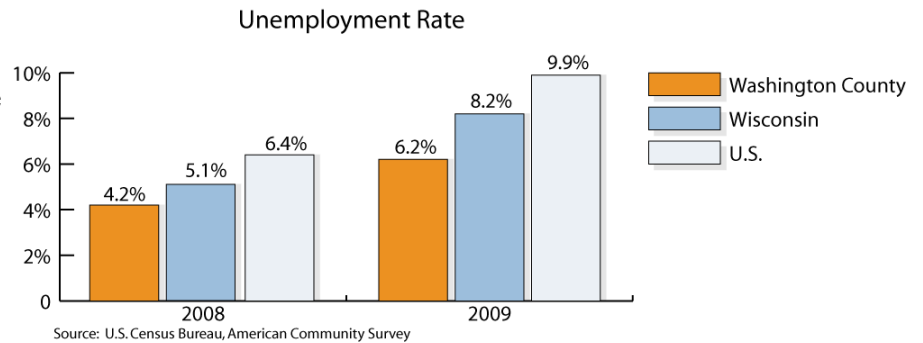


## The Recession's Impact on Washington County

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

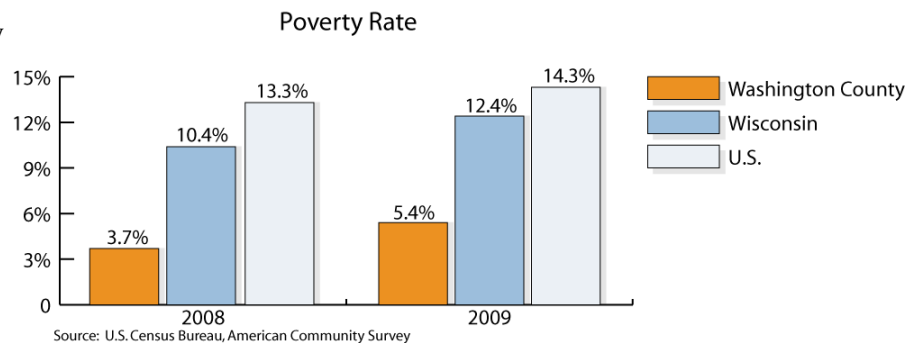
### Unemployment Rate in Washington County Has Risen

The unemployment rate in Washington County rose from 4.2 percent in 2008 to 6.2 percent in 2009. The unemployment rate in Washington County was lower than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009. The increase in Washington County's unemployment rate means that nearly 1,500 more people were out of work in the county in 2009 than in 2008.



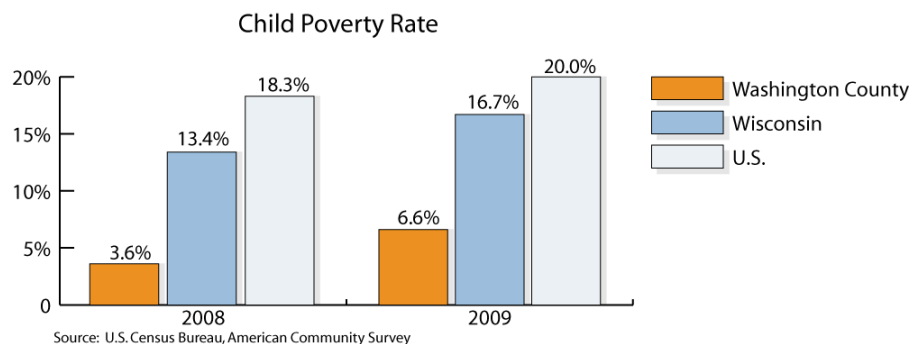
### Poverty in Washington County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Washington County increased from 3.7 percent in 2008 to 5.4 percent in 2009. Washington County's poverty rate was much lower than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 10.4 percent in 2008 to 12.4 percent in 2009. Both Washington County and Wisconsin have poverty rates that are lower than the national average.



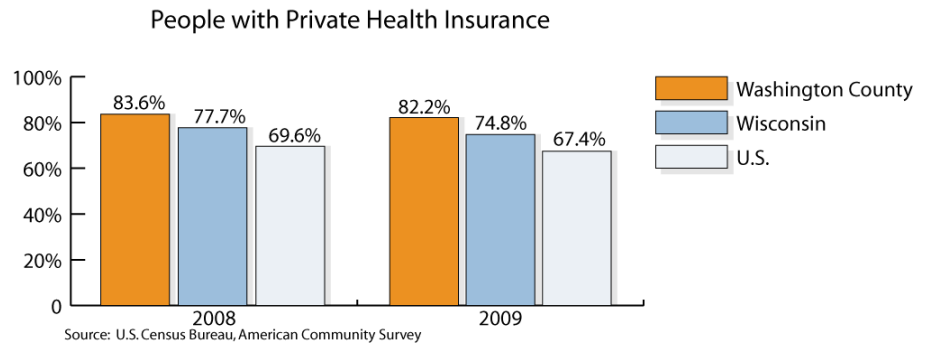
### More than One out of Twenty Children in Washington County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Washington County rose from 3.6 percent in 2008 to 6.6 percent in 2009. Washington County's child poverty rate was much lower than the statewide average, which rose from 13.4 percent in 2008 to 16.7 percent in 2009. More than 1,000 additional children slipped into poverty in Washington County between 2008 and 2009 a population about the size of the town of Kewaskum.



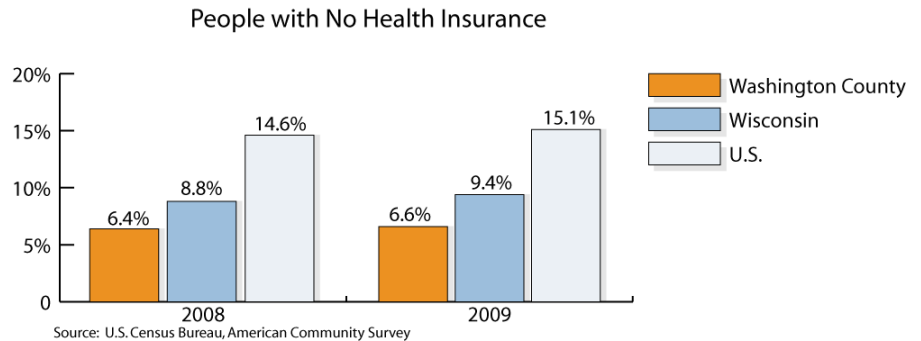
## Fewer People in Washington County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Washington County with private health insurance decreased, from 83.6 percent in 2008 to 82.2 percent in 2009. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Washington County and Wisconsin in general still have significantly higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.



## BadgerCare Plus Minimizes Increase in the Uninsured

The percent of Washington County residents that have no health insurance increased slightly, from 6.4 percent in 2008 to 6.6 percent in 2009. BadgerCare Plus enrollment in the county grew by nearly 1,800 people (26 percent) in 2009, which kept the drop in employer coverage from resulting in a larger increase in the uninsured. Both Washington County and Wisconsin have a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average.



## Addressing the Impact of the Recession

Washington 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, Washington 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 Washington 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.