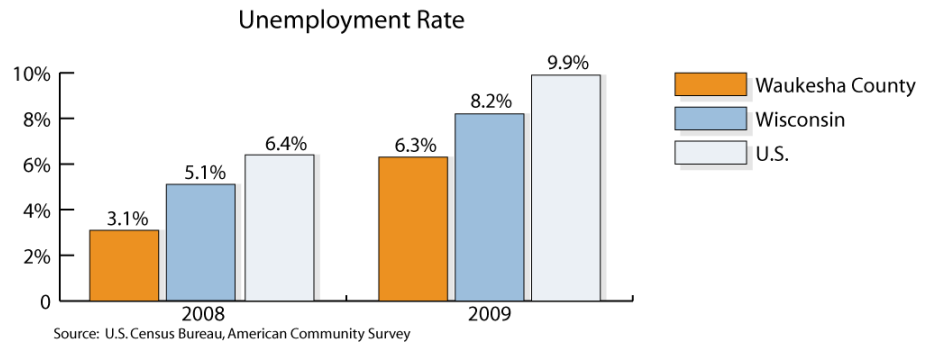


## The Recession's Impact on Waukesha County

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

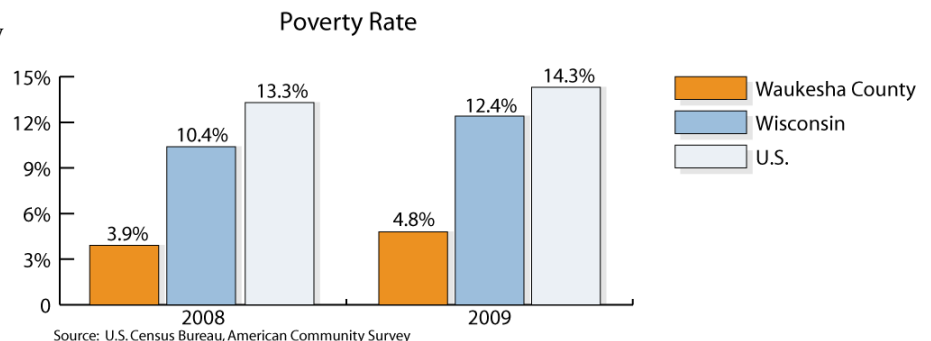
#### Unemployment Rate in Waukesha County Has Doubled

The unemployment rate in Waukesha County has more than doubled, rising from 3.1 percent in 2008 to 6.3 percent in 2009. Even after the increase, the unemployment rate in Waukesha County was lower than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009. The increase in Waukesha County's unemployment rate means that about 6,600 more people were out of work in the county in 2009 than in 2008.



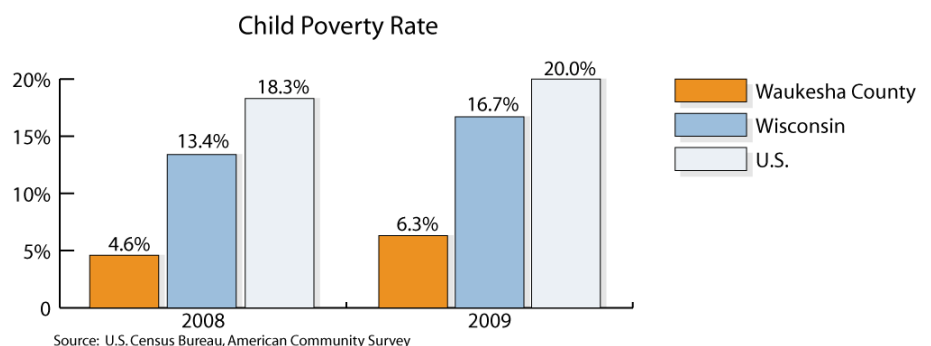
#### Poverty in Waukesha County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Waukesha County increased from 3.9 percent in 2008 to 4.8 percent in 2009. Waukesha County's poverty rate was significantly lower than the Wisconsin average, which rose from 10.4 percent in 2008 to 12.4 percent in 2009. The statewide poverty rate in Wisconsin was lower than the national average.



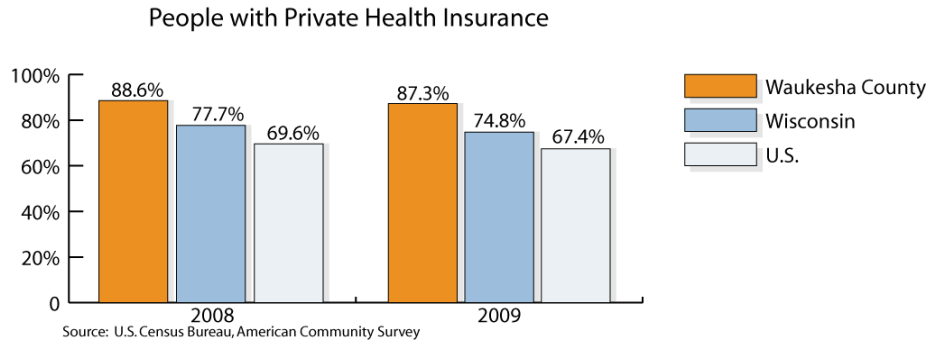
#### More than One out of Twenty Children in Waukesha County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Waukesha County rose from 4.6 percent in 2008 to 6.3 percent in 2009. Waukesha County's child poverty rate was less than half of the statewide average, which rose from 13.4 percent in 2008 to 16.7 percent in 2009. Still, nearly 1,700 additional children slipped into poverty in Waukesha County between 2008 and 2009, a population similar to the village of Butler.



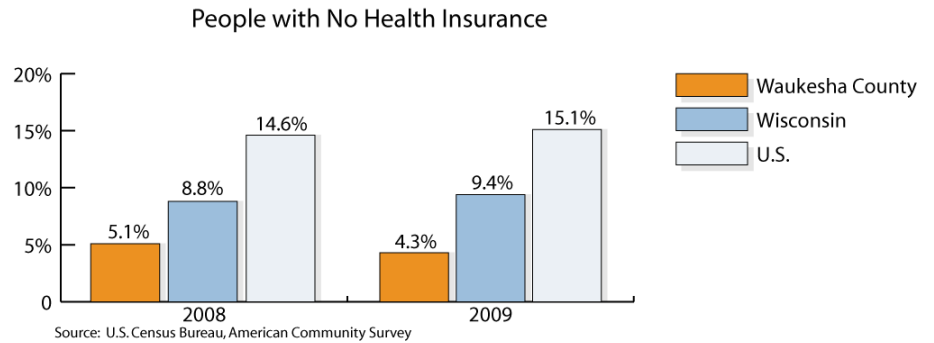
## Fewer People in Waukesha County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Waukesha County with private health insurance decreased, from 88.6 percent in 2008 to 87.3 percent in 2009. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Waukesha County and Wisconsin in general still have significantly higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.



## BadgerCare Plus Helps Yield Decrease in the Uninsured

The percent of Waukesha County residents that have no health insurance decreased from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 4.3 percent in 2009. BadgerCare Plus enrollment in the county grew by almost 3,800 people (30 percent) in 2009, which kept the drop in employer coverage from resulting in an increase in the uninsured. Both Waukesha County and Wisconsin have a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average.



## Addressing the Impact of the Recession

Waukesha County is feeling the impact of the national recession, as steep job loss has pushed many residents into poverty and forced the loss of private health insurance coverage. These changes are particularly alarming considering they happened over a time period of just one year. Still, by many measures, Waukesha 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 Waukesha 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.