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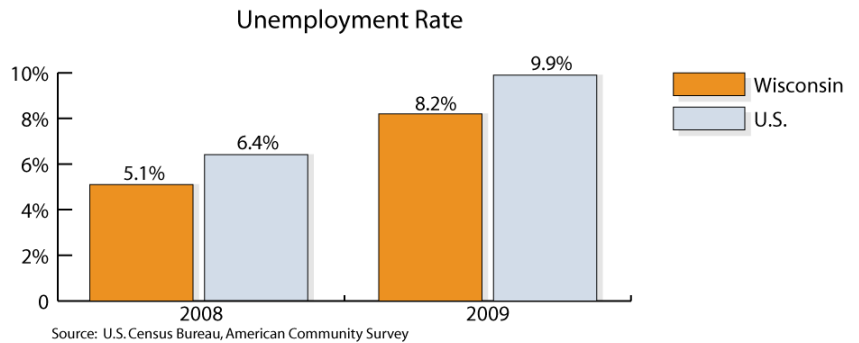
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## The Recession's Impact on Wisconsin

Unemployment and Poverty Rates Are Up, Health Insurance is Down in 2009

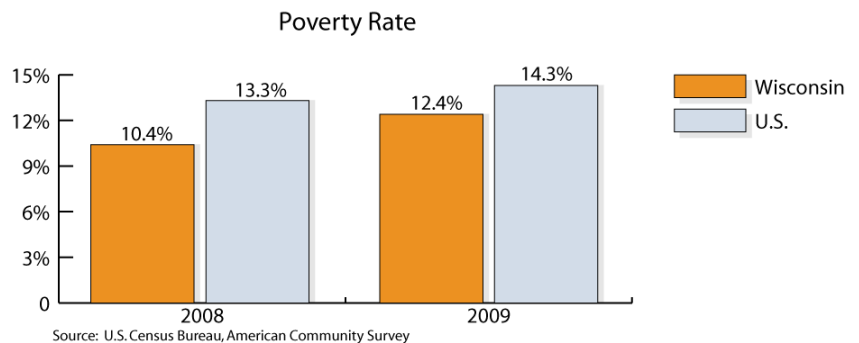
### Unemployment Rate in Wisconsin Has Risen

The unemployment rate in Wisconsin rose from 5.1 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009. The increase in Wisconsin's unemployment rate means that nearly 96,400 more people were out of work in the state in 2009 compared to 2008, a population larger than Jefferson County. The Wisconsin unemployment rate remains lower than the national average.



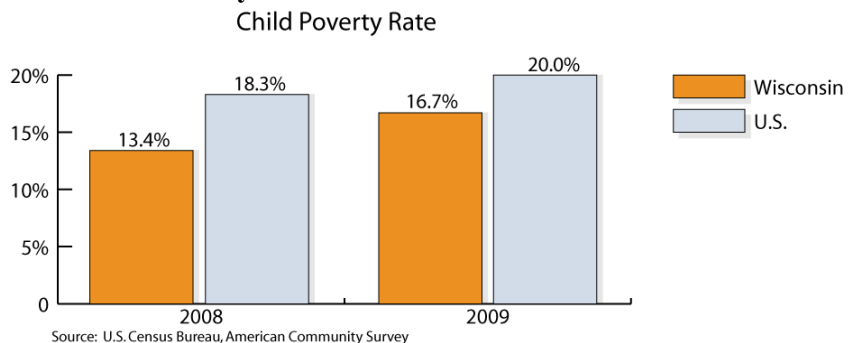
### Poverty in Wisconsin Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Wisconsin increased from 10.4 percent in 2008 to 12.4 percent in 2009. This change means that nearly 116,000 additional people fell into poverty between 2008 and 2009, a population larger than the city of Green Bay. The statewide poverty level was lower than the national average in both years.



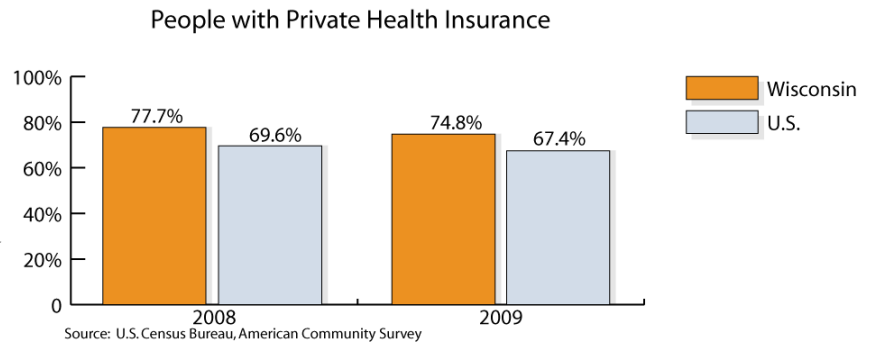
### One out of Six Children in Wisconsin Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Wisconsin rose from 13.4 percent in 2008 to 16.7 percent in 2009. Nearly 42,400 additional children slipped into poverty in Wisconsin between 2008 and 2009, which represents a population greater than the city of Beloit. The Wisconsin child poverty rate is lower than the national average.



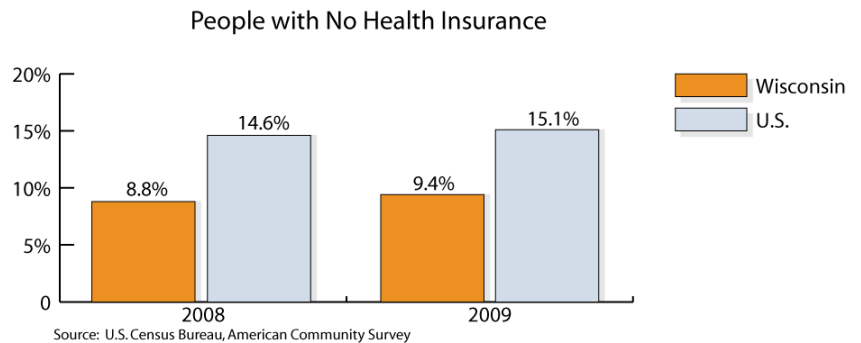
## Fewer People in Wisconsin Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Wisconsin with private health insurance decreased from 77.7 percent in 2008 to 74.8 percent in 2009. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Wisconsin still had significantly higher rates of private health insurance coverage than the nation as a whole.



## BadgerCare Plus Cushions Increase in the Uninsured

The percent of Wisconsin residents that have no health insurance increased from 8.8 percent in 2008 to 9.4 percent in 2009. BadgerCare Plus enrollment grew by more than 109,000 people (19.5 percent) in 2009, which kept the drop in employer coverage from resulting in a much larger increase in the uninsured. Wisconsin continues to have a far smaller share of its population without health insurance than the national average.



## Addressing the Impact of the Recession

Wisconsin is feeling the impact of the national recession, as steep job loss has pushed many residents into poverty and resulted in 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, Wisconsin'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 Wisconsin. 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.

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