

October 2013

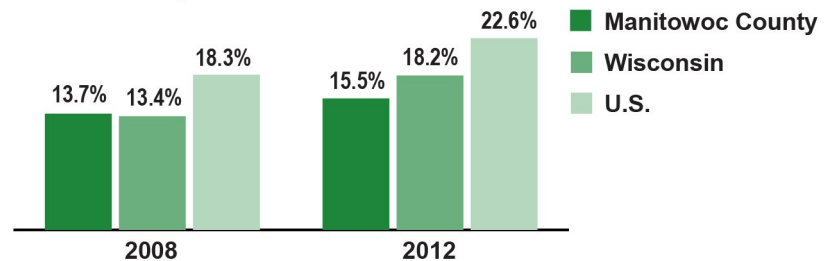
Economic Recovery Slow for Manitowoc County Families

More People in Poverty, Fewer with Private Health Insurance

Nearly One out of Six Children in Manitowoc County Now Lives in Poverty

The child poverty rate in Manitowoc County rose to 15.5% in 2012 from 13.7% in 2008. Manitowoc County's child poverty rate is lower than the statewide average, which rose to 18.2% in 2012 from 13.4% in 2008. Both Manitowoc County and the state have child poverty rates lower than the national average.

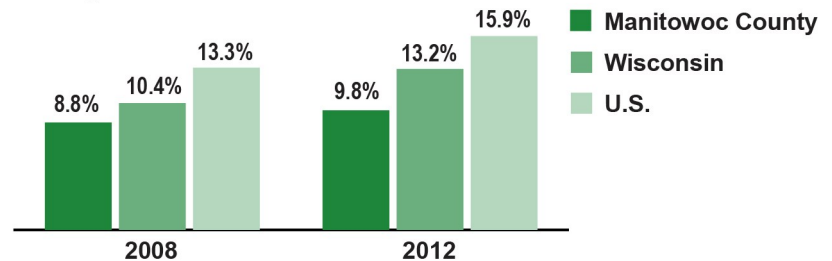
Child Poverty



Poverty in Manitowoc County Has Increased

As a result of the recession, the total poverty rate in Manitowoc County increased to 9.8% in 2012 from 8.8% in 2008. In 2012, Manitowoc County's poverty rate was below the Wisconsin average, which rose to 13.2% in 2012 from 10.4% in 2008. The statewide poverty level was lower than the national average.

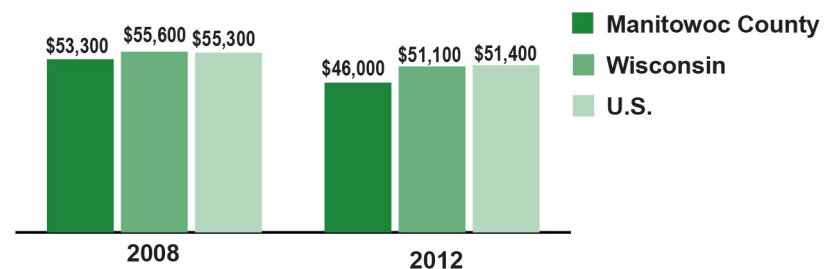
Poverty



Households in Manitowoc County are Making Do with Less

The typical household in Manitowoc County earned \$7,300 less in 2012 than in 2008. Median household income dropped to \$46,000 in 2012 from \$53,300 in 2008. A typical household in Manitowoc County earns roughly 10% less than the state and national average.

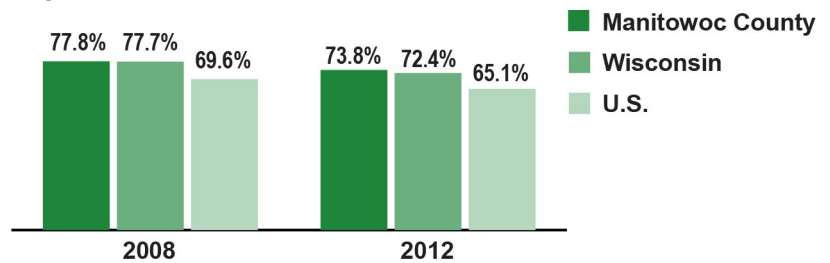
Median Household Income



Fewer People in Manitowoc County Have Private Health Insurance

The percent of people in Manitowoc County with private health insurance decreased to 73.8% in 2012 from 77.8% in 2008. The increase in the unemployment rate impacted health insurance coverage, since most families obtain insurance through their employers. Manitowoc County had higher rates of private health insurance coverage than both the statewide and national averages.

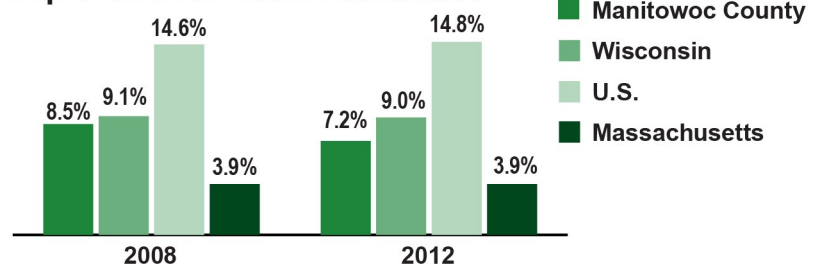
People with Private Health Insurance



Implementing Health Care Reform Could Significantly Improve Access to Insurance

The percent of Manitowoc County residents lacking health insurance dropped to 7.2% in 2012 from 8.5% in 2008. Both Manitowoc County and Wisconsin had a much smaller share of their population without health insurance than the national average, but far above the 3.9% rate in Massachusetts. That state implemented health care reforms in 2007 that served as the model for the Affordable Care Act.

People with No Health Insurance



How to Help Manitowoc County Families Affected by the Recession

Families in Manitowoc County are still feeling the effects of the recession, when steep job loss pushed many residents into poverty and resulted in the loss of health care coverage. Manitowoc County's economic situation is better in some respects than the national average, but far too many families are struggling to make ends meet or are going without health insurance.

It is discouraging that three years into the recovery, poverty rates and income remain stubbornly low, and the uninsured rate remains high. But there are some basic steps we can take to help boost the local economy and help Manitowoc County families pull themselves out of poverty, including:

- Increase the minimum wage and then adjust it each year for inflation.
- Give businesses access to a well-trained workforce by providing schools and colleges the resources they need to prepare

students for employment. And provide students with the financial aid they need to succeed in their educational efforts.

- Adjust the Homestead tax credit for inflation each year, like the rest of the tax code.
- Create a strong public/private partnership to help Wisconsinites get insurance through the Affordable Care Act and to help reach the Governor's target of cutting the uninsured rate in half.
- Maintain funding for safety net programs such as food stamps and federal unemployment benefits that help lift families out of poverty and pump money into the still sluggish economy.
- Increase school readiness by improving children's early learning and development opportunities through high-quality child care, early education, home visiting, and parent engagement.