

Wisconsin Health Facts: Poverty and Health, 2010

Results from the Wisconsin Family Health Survey

August 2012

Poverty status is a way of determining which people do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, such as food, housing, clothing and transportation.

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is based on the number of people in a household and their annual money income in the previous year. A household is considered poor if their income is less than the FPL, and “near-poor” if income is greater than the poverty level but less than twice the level. For example, a household of four was considered poor in 2010 if income for 2009 was less than \$22,050, and near-poor if income was between \$22,050 and \$44,100.

Some government programs, such as FoodShare and BadgerCare Plus, use a percentage of the FPL for eligibility determination.

Household Size	Federal Poverty Level
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530

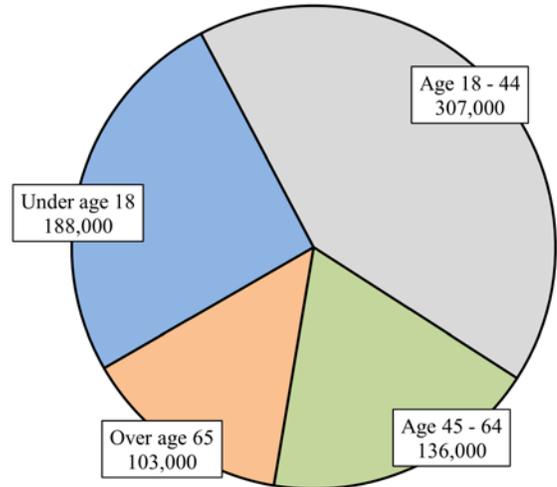
Source: *Federal Register*, Vol. 70, No. 33, January 23, 2009.

Poverty in Wisconsin

In 2010, about 13% of Wisconsin residents lived in households with annual incomes below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This was a total of 733,000 poor people in Wisconsin, including 188,000 children (Figure 1). Another 983,000 residents (18%) were near-poor, with annual incomes between 100% and 199% of the FPL. The lowest rate of poverty across age groups was 9% among adults age 45 to 64, and the poverty rate for the other age groups ranged from 14% to 15%.

In the City of Milwaukee, 39% of all residents were poor in 2010. An estimated 47% of children in Milwaukee were poor, and 22% were near-poor. More than one-third of all poor children in Wisconsin lived in the City of Milwaukee.

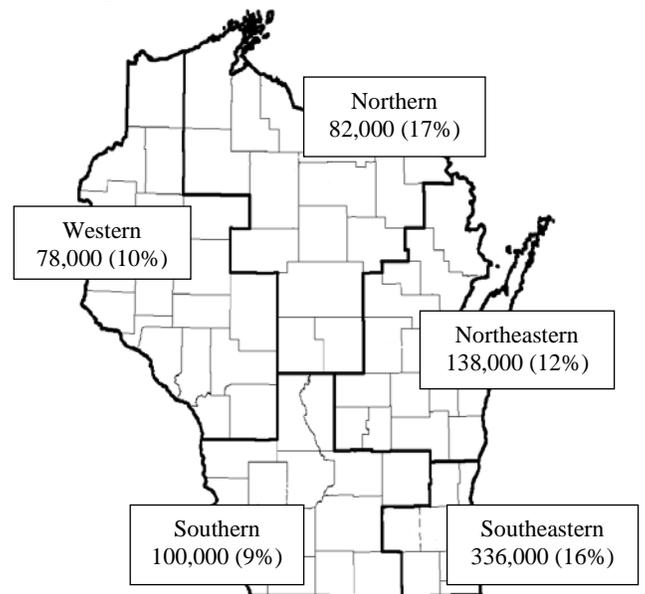
Figure 1. Wisconsin Residents Living in Poverty, by Age Group, 2010



Source: Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics.

The Northern and Southeastern regions had higher percentages of poor people than other regions (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number (and Percent) in Poverty in the DHS Regions, 2010



Source: Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics.



Employment and Education

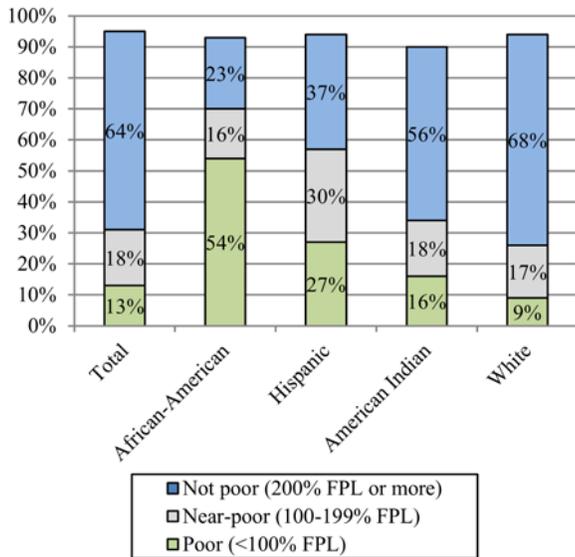
Adults in the labor force have lower poverty rates than those not in the labor force. Overall, 6% of employed or self-employed adults age 18-64 were poor in 2010, versus 27% of those who were not employed or self-employed. About 11% of children living with at least one working adult were poor, and 59% of children living in a household with no working adults were poor.

People with less education tend to have higher poverty rates. Among adults 25 years and older who had not completed high school, 36% were poor. Only 2% of adults who had completed a college degree were poor.

Race and Ethnicity

Wisconsin's minority race and ethnic groups have higher poverty rates than the majority white non-Hispanic population. For example, 54% of non-Hispanic African Americans were living in poverty, as were 27% of Hispanics, and 9% of whites (Figure 3.)

Figure 3. Poverty Status by Race and Ethnicity, Wisconsin 2010



Source: Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics.

Poverty and Health

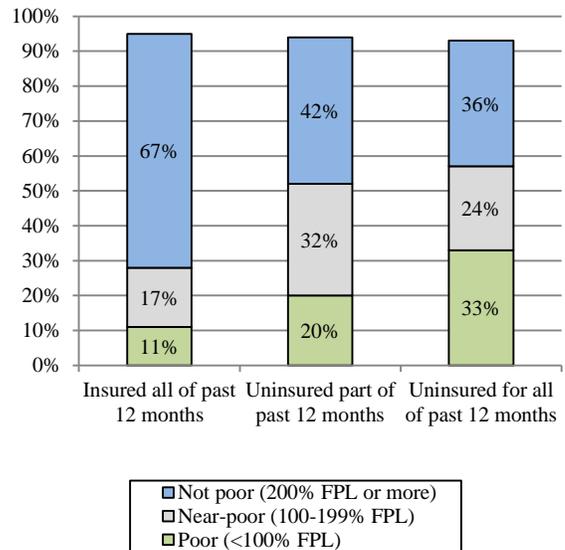
Poor health and less access to health care are both more common among poor and near-poor people than among

higher-income people. About 12% of Wisconsin residents were in fair or poor health in 2010. Among poor residents, however, 23% were in fair or poor health, compared to 8% among higher-income people.

Health Insurance

Poverty rates were much higher among people without health insurance. Among people insured for all of the past 12 months, 11% were poor; among those who were uninsured during part of the past 12 months, 20% were poor; and among those uninsured for all of the past 12 months, 33% were poor (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Poverty Status by Health Insurance Coverage, Wisconsin 2010



Source: Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics.

Several Wisconsin programs target health care for poor people, for example, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, Family Care, the Wisconsin Immunization Program, the WIC Program, and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Note: Numbers in figures may not add to 100% due to rounding and nonresponse.

Prepared in the Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, August 2012. The Family Health Survey is a statewide random-sample telephone survey. More information is available on the Department of Health Services web site: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/familyhealthsurvey.htm>

