

# Indicators related to Poverty in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha

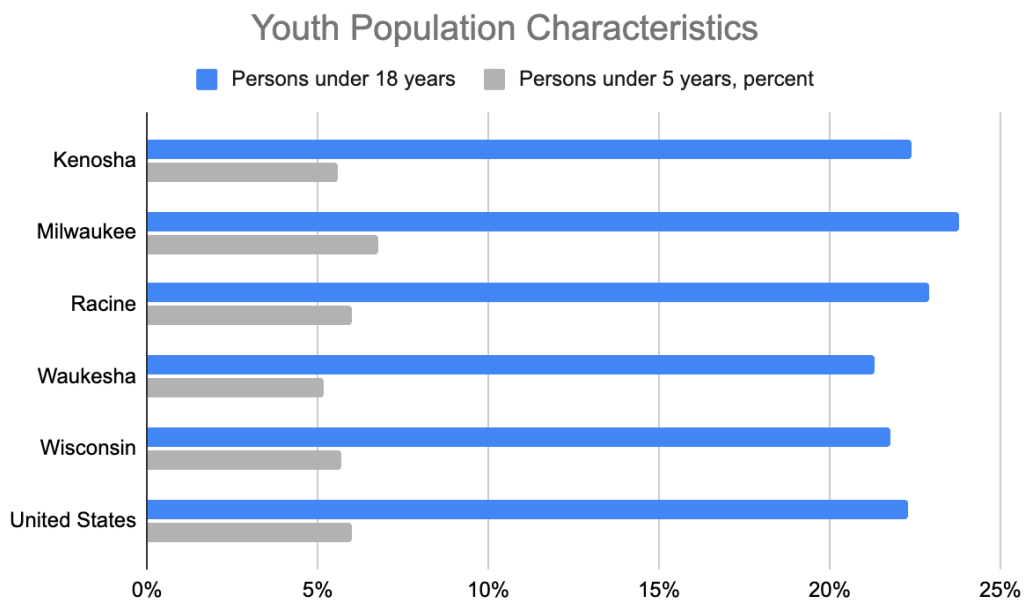
Prepared for Siebert Lutheran Foundation by Data You Can Use November 2020

**Introduction:** This report has been compiled to provide a basic overview of population demographics and other indicators relating to poverty in the Siebert Lutheran Foundation service area. These indicators were selected for their relevance to the foundation’s expressed interest around poverty in the four counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha. Data at the national and state level have been provided for comparison.

**Data notes:** *Unless otherwise noted, data are at the county level.* Data sources include the American Community Survey (ACS) one and five year estimates, the US Census QuickFacts (2019), Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Vera Institute, the Center for Disease Control and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 500 Cities Project, the Annie E Casey Foundation, and Feeding America. The margin of error may vary.

## Population characteristics in the four county area

Populations of children and youth are important in planning for services, schools, and business. Decisions about where to raise children are informed by many factors, including school quality and public safety. The extent to which an area’s population consists of households with children can be an indicator of how basic services are managed and delivered. Age distribution of a population provides clues about an area’s future.



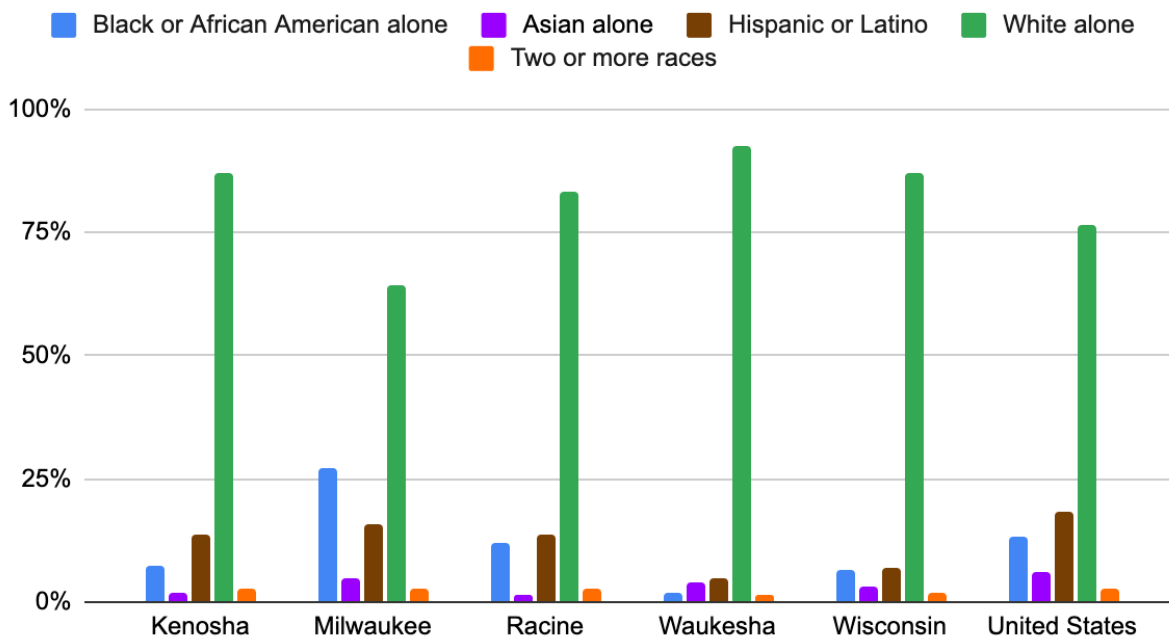
US Census 2019 QuickFacts

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The collection of data by race and ethnicity is important for programming, policy and planning. Without valid knowledge of race and ethnicity, analysts and planners lack critical information about the populations they aim to serve. This information is also needed to help identify, monitor and address the existence of disparities.

### Race and ethnicity population characteristics



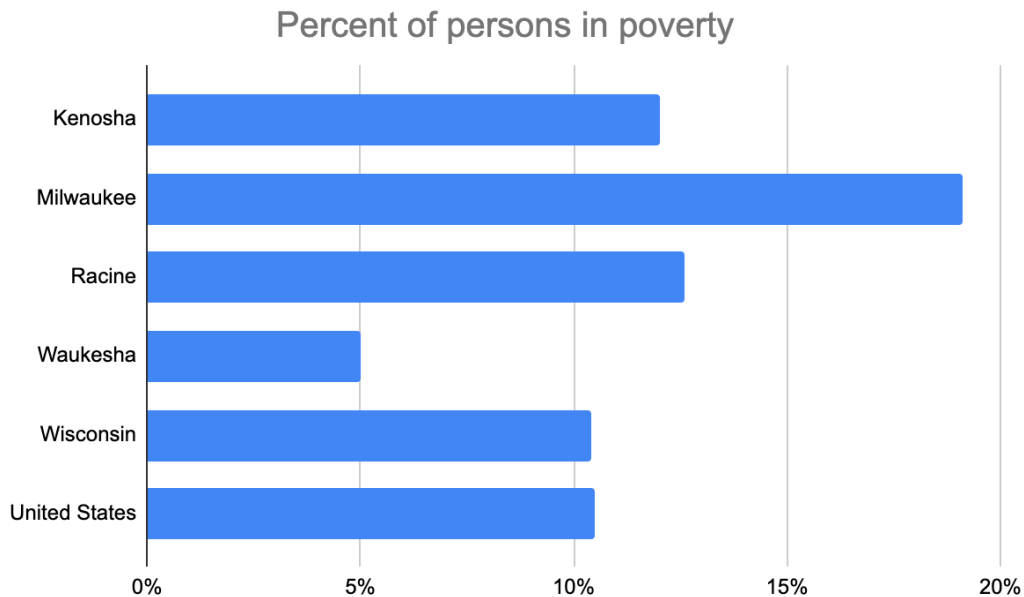
*US Census 2019 QuickFacts*

### Poverty in the four county area

Poverty is measured in the United States by comparing income and family size to a threshold determined by the ability to meet basic needs. The Official Poverty Measure is calculated by the US Census Bureau. Because there are a host of other considerations associated with poverty-- the cost of housing, food, clothing, child care, for example-- it is not adequate to consider income alone. Living in poverty has particularly negative implications for children, whose health and educational opportunities begin at a disadvantage. Although the data are at the county level in the chart, it is worth noting that in the City of Milwaukee, over one in four individuals live in poverty.

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*US Census 2019 QuickFacts*

### Children Living in Poverty

This indicator is included in the KIDS COUNT Index. Read the [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) to learn more about child poverty levels. According to the report, children growing up in poverty run a greater risk of being exposed to factors that can impair their brain development and lead to poor academic, cognitive and health outcomes. Growing up poor has wide-ranging and long-lasting repercussions. Poverty elevates a child's risk of experiencing behavioral, social and emotional and health challenges. Child poverty also reduces skill-building opportunities and academic outcomes, undercutting a young student's capacity to learn, graduate high school and more.

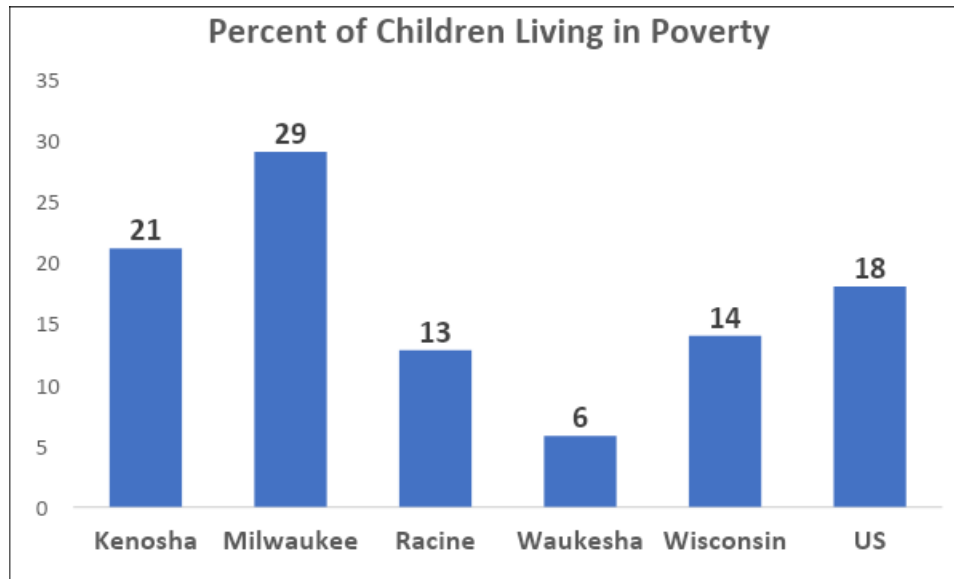
Each year the Annie E Casey Foundation publishes KIDS COUNT comparing states on key indicators that impact children. Wisconsin is ranked 11 in overall child well-being which includes economic well-being, education, health, family and community. Overall, Wisconsin rates better than the US as a whole on the percent of children in poverty, children whose parents lack secure employment, children living in households with a high housing cost burden, and teens not in school and not working.

Currently, 17% of all children in the United States — nearly 12 million kids total — are living in poverty. A **family of four with annual earnings below \$25,926 is considered poor**. In the last decade, this rate the percentage of U.S. children in poverty has risen from 18% in 2007 and 2008, peaked at 23% in 2011 and 2012, and fell to 17% 2019.

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The chart below shows that in Milwaukee and Kenosha Counties, the percent of children living in poverty is worse than the state or national numbers.



Derived from Annie E Casey 2020 kids count profile, 2018 data

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7440-children-living-in-poverty?loc=51&loct=5#detailed/5/7041-7112/false/1770,1234,1068,971,876/any/14800,14528>

### Homelessness in the four county area

The Institute for Community Alliances has compiled a report on 2019 homelessness in Wisconsin. It provides an overview of homelessness in Wisconsin. The report can be accessed at <https://icalliances.org/wisconsin-data-and-reports>

Statewide, there were **21,632 people who received homeless services last year**. Of these, **61% are single adults and 37% are families with children**. The data come from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The following chart shows the total numbers of homeless clients served in emergency shelter in each of the four counties. It also shows the numbers of homeless youth and homeless vets in emergency shelter.

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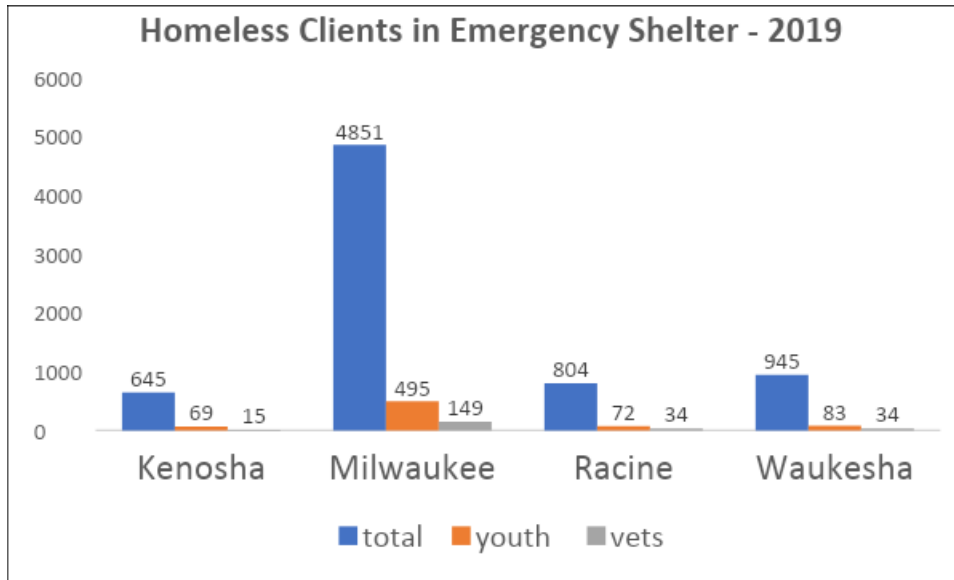
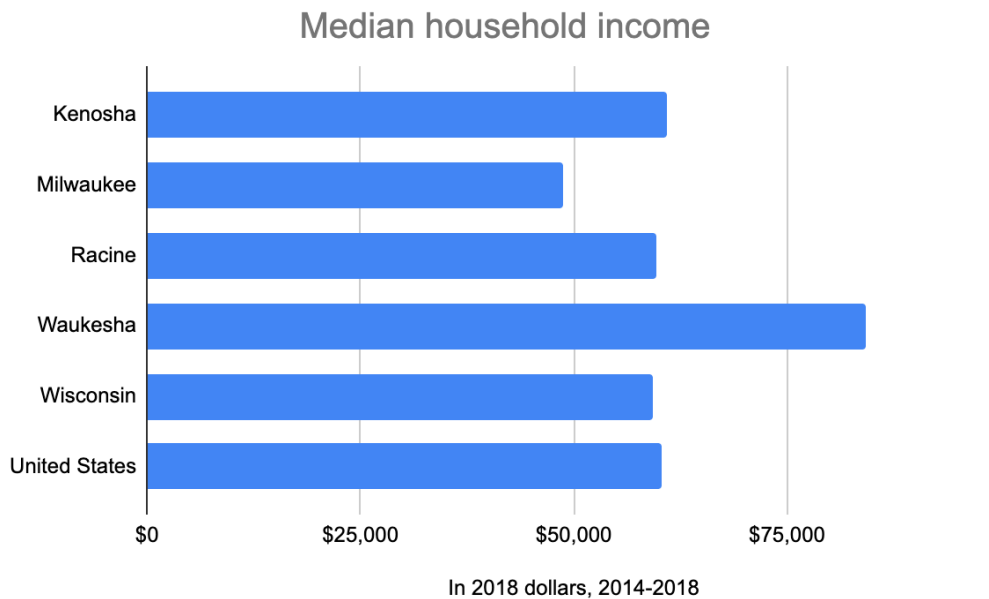


Chart derived from the Wisconsin dashboard <https://icalliances.org/wisconsin-annual-report-dashboard>

## Median Household Income in the four county area

The median household income provides an overview of the prosperity and affluence of a geographic area.



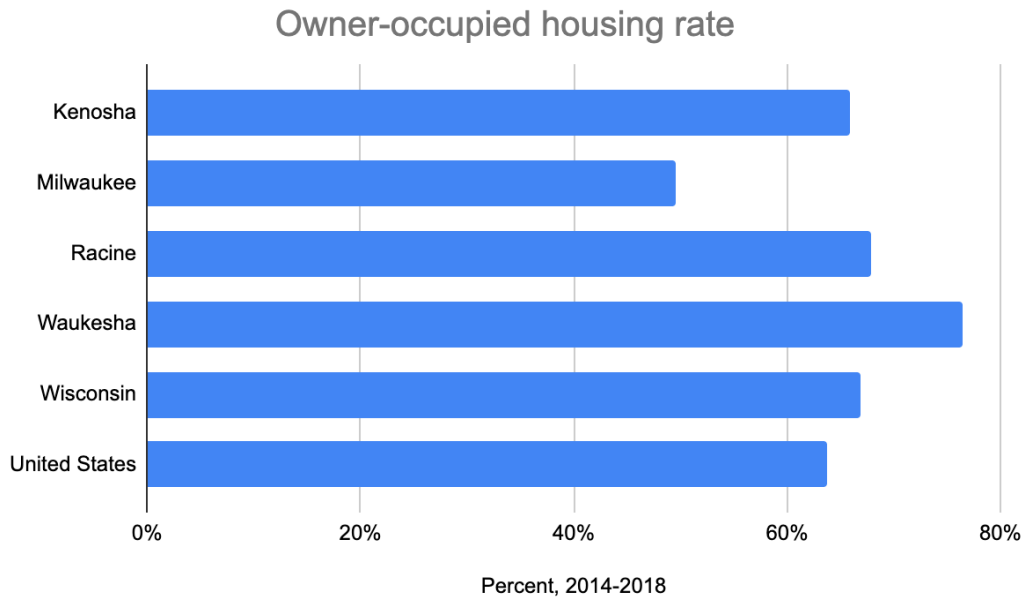
*US Census 2019 QuickFacts*

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### Housing characteristics in the four county area

High rates of homeownership can be an indicator of neighborhood stability as homeowners are likely to stay and invest in the places where they own homes. Low homeownership rates combined with high percentages of rent burden can indicate a community that is struggling to provide opportunities for residents.



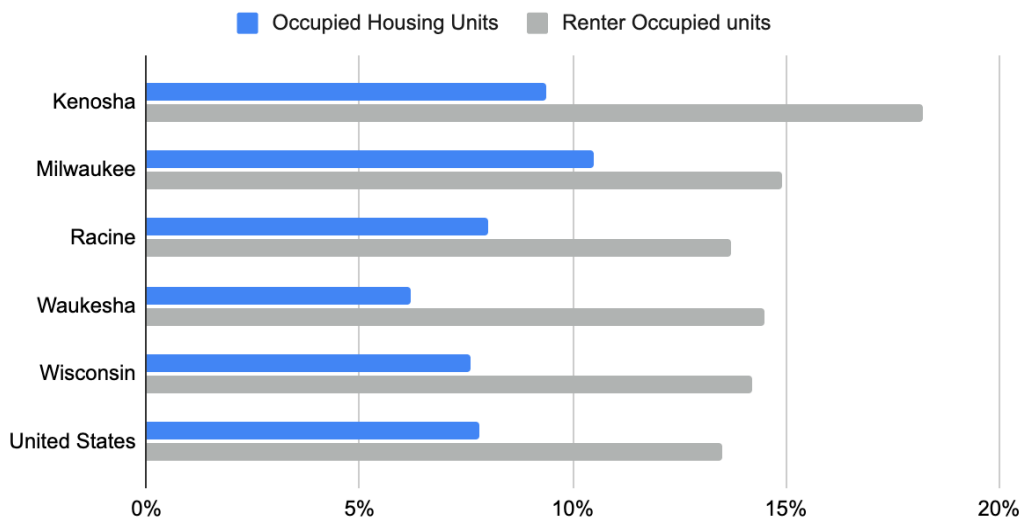
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Households are considered 'Housing Cost Burdened' when 30% or more of their income is spent on housing. This measurement indicates that households may be struggling to meet other basic needs. Although renters are generally more likely to be housing cost burdened, the data show that 6% of owner occupants in Milwaukee County are burdened by expenses such as their mortgage and property taxes.

### Households considered Housing Cost Burdened in the past 12 months



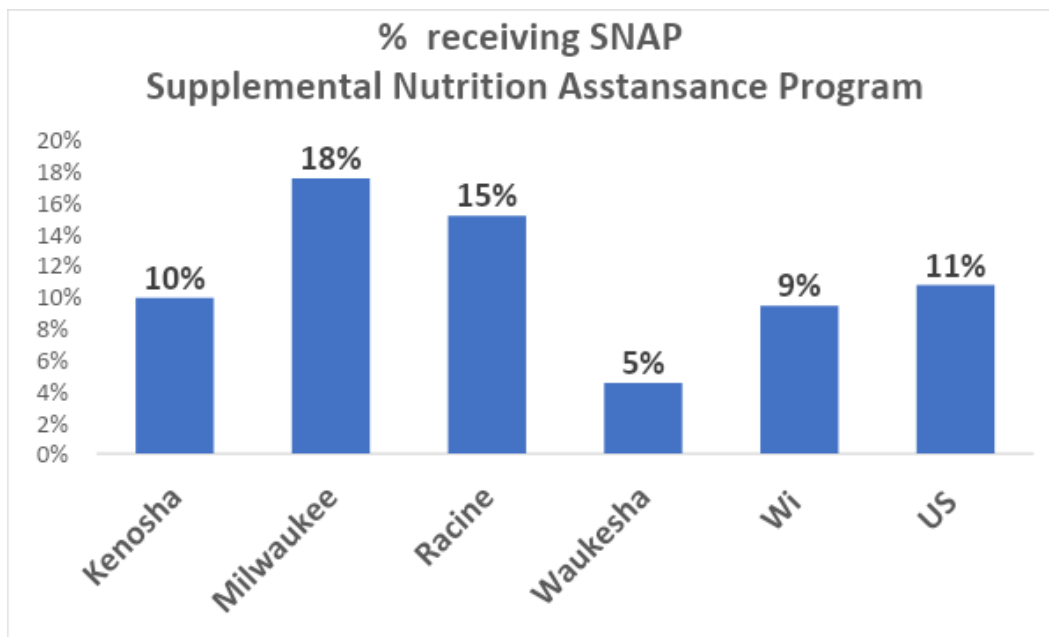
ACS 2019 one-year estimates

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### USE of SNAP (Food Stamps) and Food Insecurity in the four county area

SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly referred to as “Food Stamps” supplements needy households and is used by more than 92,600 people in the four county area. The percentage of the population that uses SNAP is highest in Milwaukee followed by Racine County. Both are above the state and national averages. SNAP is a means-tested entitlement program, and participation rates are closely related to the number of individuals living in poverty in a given period.



ACS 2019 one-year estimates



## **Indicators related to Poverty in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha**

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### **What is Food Insecurity?**

Food insecurity describes a household's inability to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is one way we can measure and assess the risk of hunger. In the United States currently, 1 in 9 people struggle with hunger.

### **What are the effects of Food Insecurity?**

Food insecurity can have a wide impact, depending on each individual's circumstances. Some of the most common, yet complex, effects of food insecurity include:

- serious health complications, especially when people facing hunger are forced to choose between spending money on food and medicine or medical care;
- damage to a child's ability to learn and grow; and
- difficult decisions for seniors — often living on fixed incomes — such as choosing between paying for food and critical Healthcare.

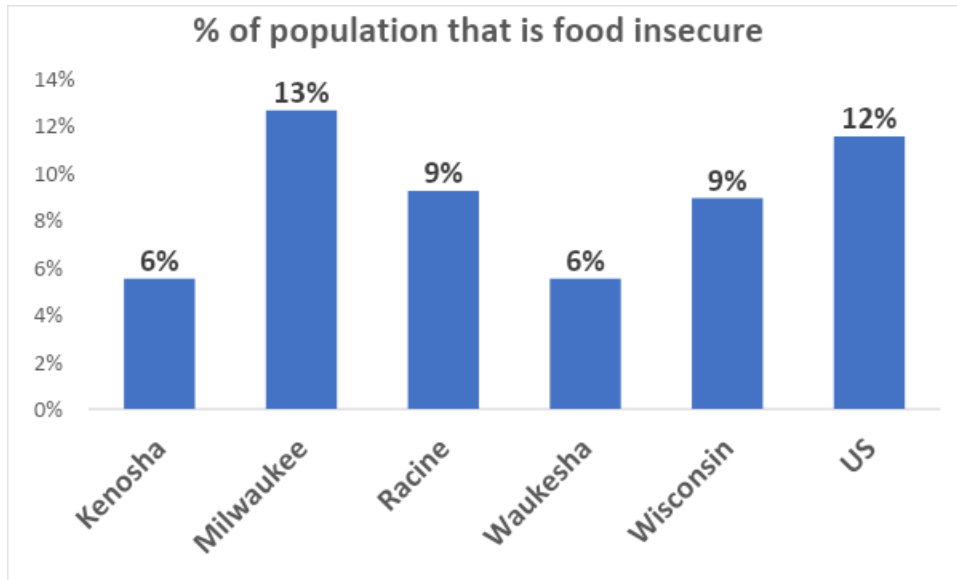
### **What causes food insecurity?**

One "bad month" can be enough to plunge a household into food insecurity. Lay-offs at work, unexpected car maintenance or an accident on the job can suddenly force a family to choose between buying food and paying bills. Working families across America face countless situations that can result in food insecurity and hunger.

That's why many working families, including thousands of households who don't qualify ...depend on food banks. \*

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*\*Feeding America Map the Meal (2018)*

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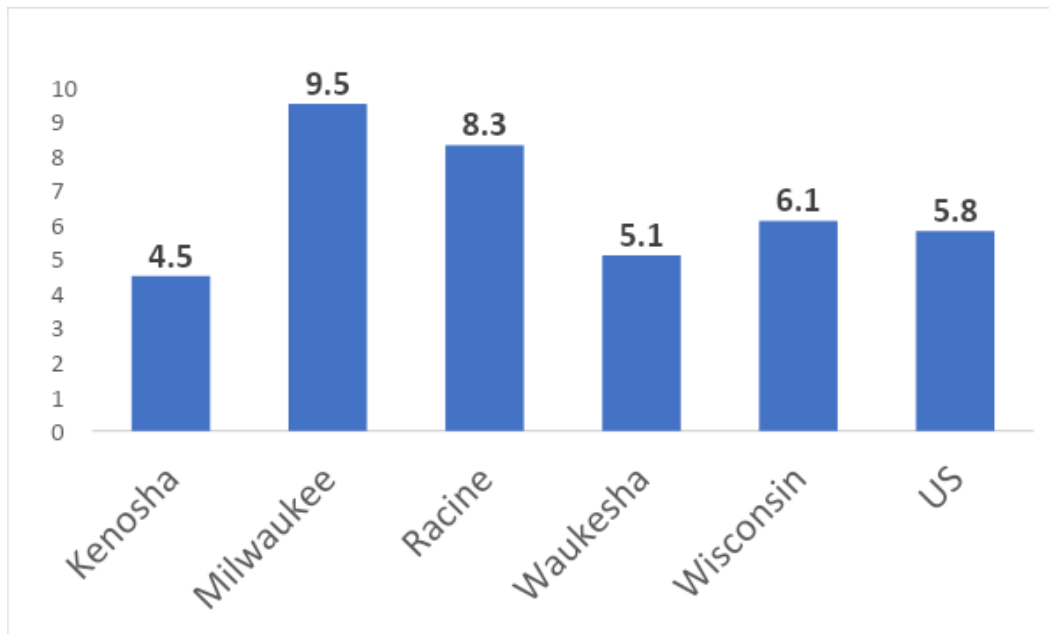
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### Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality is a rate that measures the number of deaths among children less than one year of age per 1,000 live births. It is considered an overall indicator of population health. It is important because it represents the health of the most vulnerable age group. Infant mortality is also commonly used to examine global health differences, as well as to understand historic racial inequities in the US.

The infant mortality rates in Milwaukee and Racine are the highest and both are above the state and national rates meaning more babies die before their first birthday in these areas.

Infant mortality in the four county area



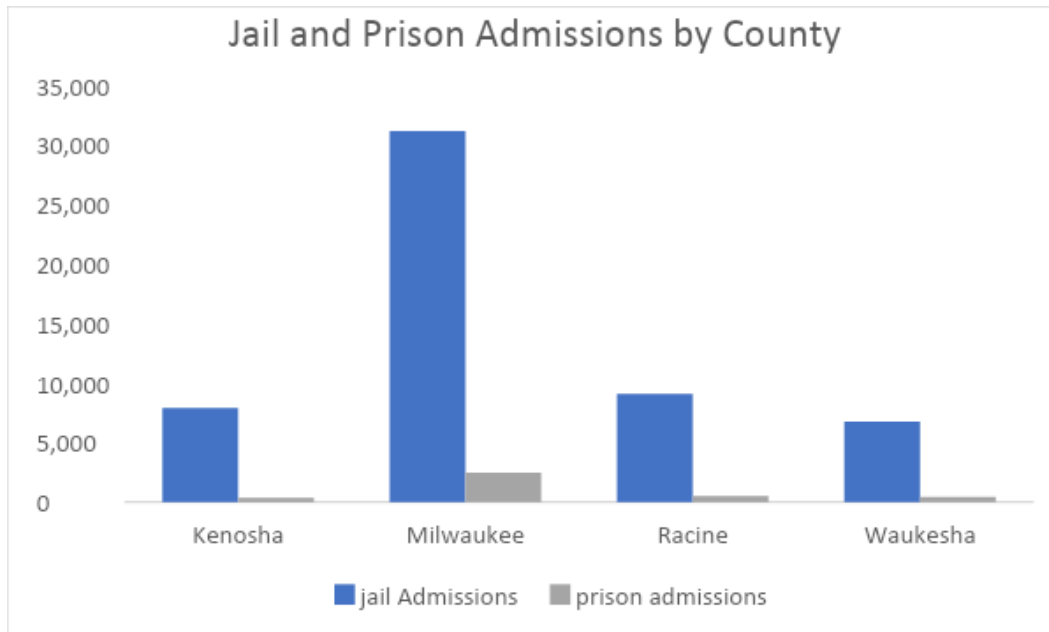
WISH, Infant Mortality Module (Wisconsin, - 2018)

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### Incarceration Rates

Wisconsin ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of prison admissions, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the number of jail admissions. Between 2000 and 2018 the prison population in our state increased by 20% and the jail population increased by 1%. Incarceration is not only an urban phenomenon. On a per capita basis the most rural places in the state often lock up the most people in jail and send the most people to prison. 41% of the prison population and 29% of the jail population is African American despite the fact that Blacks comprise just 7% of the state population. In 2018 in Wisconsin, Black people were incarcerated at 11 times the rate of white people and Native American people were incarcerated at 7 times the rate of white people.



*Vera Institute, Incarceration Trends in Wisconsin (2016)*

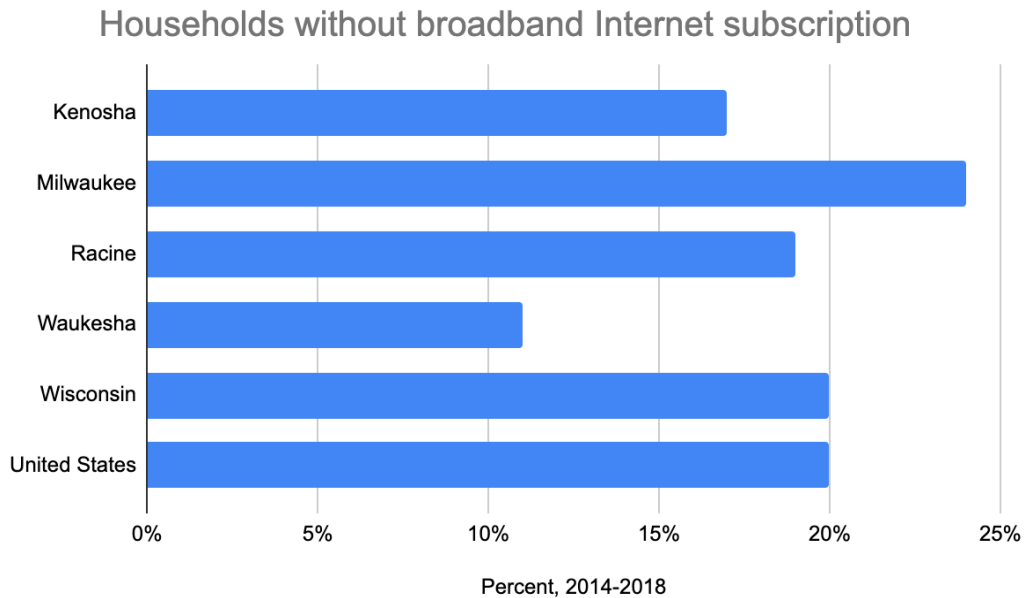
The number of women incarcerated in Wisconsin is on the increase with more than 1700 women in jails and more than 1500 in prison. In 2017 according to the Vera Institute of Justice.

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### Internet subscription for the four county area

Access to a reliable Internet connection has become increasingly essential in 2020 with the advent of the pandemic. Many critical tasks, such as applying for unemployment benefits or health insurance, have largely moved online. Limited access to public facilities such as libraries has exacerbated the issue. Families with school aged children are especially in need, as classrooms shift to virtual learning environments and parents struggle to work from home.



*US Census 2019 QuickFacts*

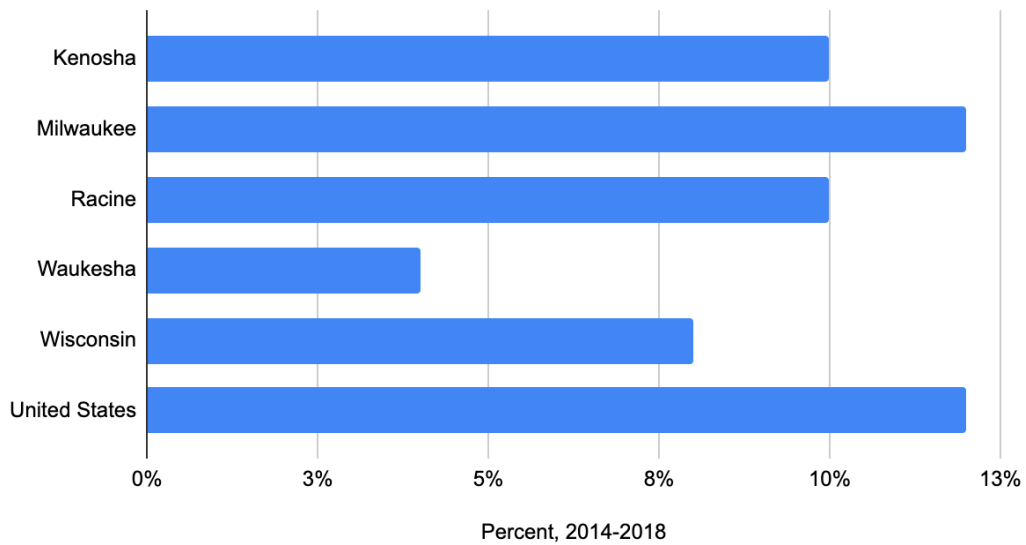
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### Educational attainment in the four county area

Completing high school is fundamental to obtaining a higher-paying job later in life and paves the way for future successes.

Percent of persons age 25 or over without high school diploma



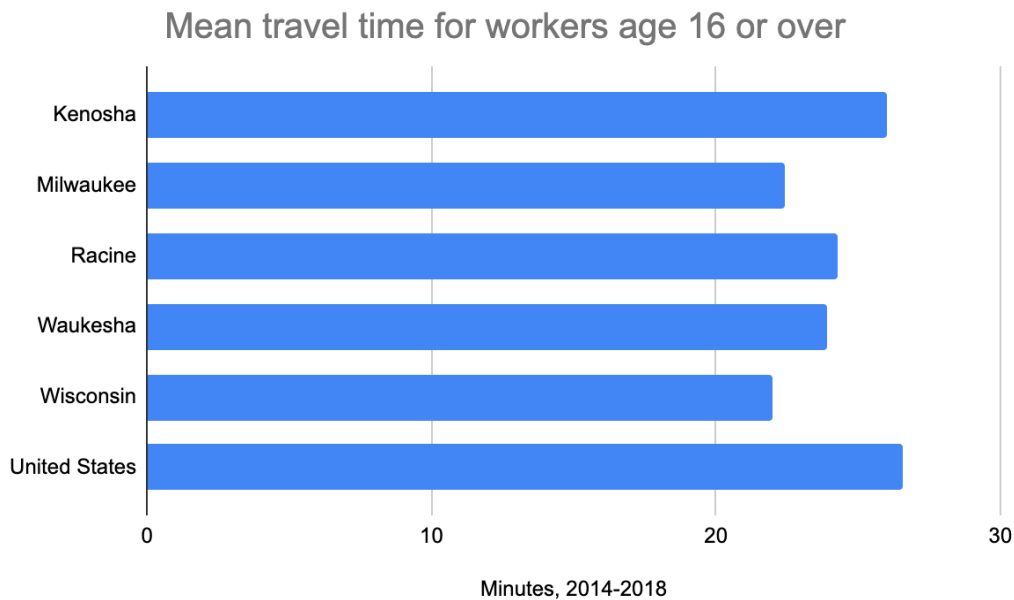
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### Travel time to work

Good public transportation generally costs less than driving but most people drive to work and most prefer a shorter commute which means less time sitting in the car, less money spent on gas and maintenance, and more time with family and friends. Areas where the commute is long can indicate the lack of basic services.



*US Census 2019 QuickFacts*

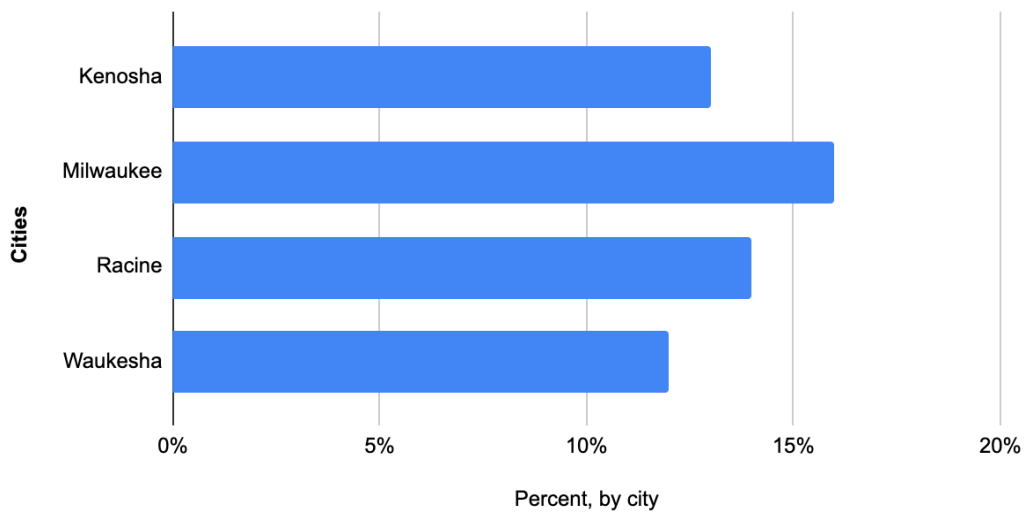
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### Mental Health in the four city area

Mental health is an important indicator for stress levels and functional ability. High rates of poor mental health may result in lower productivity in an area, as well as human suffering. Low rates of poor mental health tend to yield lower rates of stress and higher productivity.

Mental health not good for 14 days or more for age 18 or over by city



*CDC, 500 Cities, 2017*



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### COVID-19

#### Cases and Projected Consequences

Confirmed Positive Covid Cases In the four-county area (11/24/20)

	Kenosha	Milwaukee	Racine	Waukesha	Wisconsin	US
<b>Covid cases</b>	8,761	66,507	13,371	21,748	354,676	12,246,909

[data.dhsgis.wi.gov/.../covid-19-data-by-county/data](https://data.dhsgis.wi.gov/.../covid-19-data-by-county/data)

This data set contains Wisconsin COVID-19 data by county boundary. Data is updated at 2:00PM CDT daily.

The US Census Bureau is one of the few sources collecting real time data on the impact of Corona Virus on individuals and small businesses. The information below is based on national data from late October through mid- November and provides a glimpse of the extent of the effect.

### U.S. Census Bureau Weekly Pulse Newsletter

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/bulletins/2ad8e26>

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### Household Pulse Survey Updates

Based on responses collected **October 28 through November 9**, the Household Pulse Survey estimates that:

- **25.9%** of American adults expect someone in their household to experience a loss in employment income in the next 4 weeks
- **37.3%** of adults live in households where at least one adult substituted some or all in-person work for telework because of the coronavirus pandemic
- **12.0%** of American adults lived in households where there was either sometimes or often not enough to eat in the previous 7 days
- **8.5%** of adults are either not current on their rent or mortgage payment, or have slight or no confidence in making their next payment on time
- Of adults living in households not current on rent or mortgage, **32.9%** report eviction or foreclosure in the

### Small Business Pulse Survey Updates

Based on responses collected **November 9 through November 15**, the Small Business Pulse Survey estimates that:

- **46.7%** of U.S. small businesses believe more than 6 months of time will pass before their business returns to its normal level of operations
- **74.1%** of U.S. small businesses have requested financial assistance from the Paycheck Protection Program since March 13, 2020
- **26.4%** of U.S. small businesses have experienced domestic supplier delays in the last week
- **63.2%** of U.S. educational services businesses have experienced an increase in the use of online platforms to offer goods or services
- **48.5%** of U.S. retail trade businesses have experienced domestic supplier delays in the last week
- **37.3%** of small businesses in the Jacksonville, FL

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next two months is somewhat or very likely

- **33.7%** of adults live in households where it has been somewhat or very difficult to pay usual household expenses during the coronavirus pandemic
- **84.1%** of adults in households with post-secondary educational plans had those plans cancelled or changed significantly this fall

Metropolitan Statistical Area have experienced little or no effect from the coronavirus pandemic

- **60.3%** of U.S. small businesses have experienced no change in operating revenues in the last week
- **74.1%** of U.S. small businesses have experienced a large or moderate negative effect from the COVID-19 pandemic