

The Status of Women in Rock County

2007

Women's Fund

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report was developed as a companion to the Status of Women in Wisconsin Report (2004), this report provides information about women in Rock County relative to women statewide in Wisconsin and compared to each other by major racial and ethnic groups. This report is designed to serve as a resource to the public, elected representatives and other community advocates to better understand and develop policy solutions to advance the status of women locally. It also offers a new baseline for measuring and continuing to monitor women's progress in Rock County.

The Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin was established in 2003 to be a perpetual source of local support for women and girls. The Women's Fund Advisory Committee is charged with the tasks of raising endowment dollars and awarding meaningful grants to nonprofit organizations offering programming essential to the changing needs of women and girls.

A committed Task Force of the Women's Fund completed the research for this report with the assistance of Christine Lidbury, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Women's Council. The Final Report is written with the assistance of Professor Andrea Lukowiak of UW-Rock County.

The Women's Council is Wisconsin's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. With a bi-partisan governing board appointed by the Governor and Legislative Leaders, the Women's Council works to identify barriers that prevent women in Wisconsin from participating fully and equally in all aspects of life, and works closely with public, private and not-for-profit groups to develop long term solutions to those inequities. The Women's Council is an independent state government agency. www.womenscouncil.wi.gov

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Overview

Status of Women in Rock County

Basic Demographics

	White	African American	Hispanic any race	Native American	Asian American
Women in the Population, 2000	91%	4.5%	1.9%	0.4%	0.9%
Female Median Age, 2000	38.4	27	20.5	34.8	37.1
Percent of Women with a Disability, 2000	14.4%	34.6%	26.8%	32.4%	18.5%

Employment & Earnings

Median Annual Earnings (full-time, year-round), 1999	\$25,814	\$24,828	\$20,691	\$23,571	\$ 21,307
Earnings Ratio (Wage Gap) for Full-time Full-year Work in 1999	65.5%	63.0%	52.5%	59.8%	54.1%
Percent of Women in the Labor Force	64.1%	57.0%	62.1%	71.9%	62.5%
Percent of Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations	30.3%	15.1%	16.0%	31.8%	28.4%

Social & Economic Autonomy

Percent of Women, age 25 and older, with a College Education (four-year degree or higher), 2000	17.2%	4.6%	4.0%	15.7%	37.9%
Percent of Women, age 25 and older, with Less Than a High School Diploma, 2000	8.2%	26.5%	59.4%	20.6%	16.7%
Percent of Women, age 16 and older, at or above Poverty Level, 1999	93.3%	76.5%	79.6%	97.1%	92.6%
Percent of Single-Mother Families Living Below the Poverty Line, 1999	17%	37%	39%	0.0%	25%

Health & Well-Being

Female Heart Disease Mortality, rate per 100,000 (2000-2002)	178.3	191.4	na	na	na
Female Lung Cancer Mortality, rate per 100,000 (2000-2002)	52.5	67.1	na	na	na
Female Breast Cancer Mortality, rate per 100,000 (2000-2002)	32.1	na	na	na	na
Percent of Mothers Beginning Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy (2001-2005)	89%	82%	79%	81%	86%
Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies (Less than 5 lbs 8 oz) (2001-2005)	7.10%	14.60%	4.60%	na	na
Infant Mortality (deaths of infants un the age of one year per 1,000 live births) (2001-2005)	4.7	17.6	5.6	na	na

	Rock County	Wisconsin
Percent School Board Seats held by Women	32%	37%
Percent Village Trustees held by Women	19%	21%
Percent City Council Seats held by Women	11%	20%
Percent Constitutional Offices held by Women	29%	56%
Percent County Board Seats held by Women	32%	19%

Notes: n/a = not available

Hispanics may be of any race or two races or more races. Other racial categories (White, African American, Asian American, Native American) do not include Hispanics.

For most topics covered in this report, Census 2000 data based on years 1999 and 2000 are the most current data available.

Compiled by a Task Force of the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.

Introduction

“There is now overwhelming evidence that women’s empowerment through schooling, employment opportunities and economic development has the most far-reaching effect in improving the lives of all... men, women and children.”

Amartya Sen

Nobel Laureate and Economist

Publication of the 2002 and 2004 Status of Women in Wisconsin reports and the grade of "C" for Wisconsin's women opened our eyes and motivated women across the state to take action toward a better future for women and girls. Although few of the individual facts came as a surprise, brought together, the report told a disappointing story about the status of Wisconsin women and the persistent disparities endured by women of color. As a result, the Status reports have become a focal point for action and the framework for benchmarking women's progress and advancing the status of women in Wisconsin.

The purpose of a Rock County report is to provide a similar framework for analyzing and responding to issues on a local and regional level. The report presents statistical data from existing sources, such as the 2000 Census and other public databases, to establish clear benchmarks and a better picture of barriers and concerns for Rock County women and families.

In closing, it is our hope that readers will make the connection between the well-being of women and community prosperity. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, emphasizes this message – the same message noted above by Nobel Prize winning economist Amartya Sen – saying that: “When women are fully involved, the benefits can be seen immediately; families are healthier; they are better fed; their income, savings, and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is true of communities, and eventually, of whole countries.” It is time to apply the lessons learned internationally here at home in our own communities. Our women and girls are a good investment.

Credits And Acknowledgements

The Status of Women in Rock County report is based on original research and reports developed by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) through the Status of Women in the States Project (<http://www.iwpr.org/States2004>). This Rock County report is designed to complement the Status of Women in Wisconsin report (2004) published by IWPR and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin Women's Council developed a research blueprint to help each county in the state conduct the research necessary to produce a comprehensive county-wide report on the status of women. The blueprint is available at <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=6118&locid=2>. We appreciated the technical assistance received from Christine Lidbury.

The Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, established a Task Force to complete the research necessary for this report. This is the first grass roots movement to produce such a report and the Women's Fund is grateful to the hard work and dedication of the Task Force members:

Judy Adler (Basic Demographics)
Carolyn Brandeen (Women's Fund Advisor)
Sue Conley (Social & Economic Autonomy)
Dr. Marian Fast (Health & Well-being)
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Angela Moore (Health & Well-being)
Janine Peterson (Rock County Needs Assessment Appendix)
Ruth Ann Potts (Health & Well-being)
Coral Swanson (Political Participation)

Once the data was compiled, we needed a skilled statistician to help make sense of all the numbers. Professor Andrea Lukowiak, UW-Rock County, provided the expertise necessary to pull it all together to create a readable, meaningful document. We greatly appreciate the time and energy she gave to the project.

The final report was compiled by the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Women's Council; final responsibility for this report, including errors or omissions, is ours.

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1. Basic Demographics

This section provides some basic demographic data on women in Rock County based on the 2000 U.S. Census. Demographic information is important because it presents a profile of the state's female population and can be used to provide insight on the other issues related to the status of women. Basic demographic data include: Percentage of the population that is female, racial/ethnic makeup of the female population, age of the female population, percent of women with a disability, marital status of women, and types of family households that comprise the community.

Women in the Population

Females of all ages make up 51% of the total population of the U.S. and Wisconsin, as well as Rock County. See Table 1.

Female Population by Race

Only about 8.7% of women in Rock County are from racial and ethnic minority groups, compared to 12.4% and 30.7% in Wisconsin and the U.S., respectively. Thus, Rock County's racial profile is much closer to the statewide profile than the national profile.

White females account for more than 91% of the female population in Rock County, which is slightly above the statewide rate of 87.6% but much higher than the national rate of 69.3%.

African American females account for about 4.5% of the female population in Rock County. This is slightly lower than the statewide rate of 5.7% and much lower than the national rate of 12.4%

Hispanic (any race) females make up 1.9% of the female population in Rock County which is lower than the statewide rate of 3.2% and much lower than the national rate of 12.0%.

American Indian/Alaskan Native (referred to throughout this report as Native American) females make up 0.43% of the female population in Rock County which is slightly lower than both the statewide (0.9%) and the national (0.7%) rates.

Asian American females account for 0.94% of the female population of Rock County, lower than both the statewide and national rates (1.6% and 3.6%, respectively).

Table 1 Women in the Population, Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S. by Race and Ethnicity (2000)				
	Rock County		Wisconsin	United States
	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Females as a Share of the Total Population				
Females, All Ages	50.9%	77,537	50.6%	51.0%
Females, Age 18-64	50.2%	46,414	51.3%	51.8%
Females, Age 65+	58.3%	11,334	58.5%	58.9%
Females by Race and Ethnicity (all ages)				
White	70,789	91.3%	87.6%	69.3%
African American	3,474	4.5%	5.7%	12.4%
Hispanic (any race)	1,497	1.9%	3.2%	12.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	337	0.4%	0.9%	0.7%
Asian American	729	0.9%	1.6%	3.6%
Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT3: Sex by Age.				

Table 2 Share of Wisconsin's Female Population Located in Rock County, By Race and Ethnicity, All Ages, 2000			
	Wisconsin	Rock County	Percent of State Population in Rock County
All Women	2,715,312	77,515	2.8%
White	2,378,775	70,789	3.0%
Racial & Ethnic Minority Women	336,537	6,037	1.8%
African American	153,750	3,474	2.2%
Hispanic	86,295	1,497	1.7%
Native American	23,444	337	1.4%
Asian American	42,405	729	1.7%
Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT3, Sex by Age			

Women's Median Age

The median age for females in Rock County is 37.1 years, identical to the statewide median age and slightly higher than the national median age of 36.6. See Table 3.

This average however, masks a large difference in the age distribution between white females and females from ethnic and racial minority populations. Hispanic females

have the youngest among the groups reported at 20.5 years. That is an 18 year difference in median age between white and Hispanic women of Rock County, a larger differential than seen across the state (16.1 years) and nation (13.2 years).

Table 3 Female Median Age Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S. By Race and Ethnicity (2000)			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
All females	37.1	37.1	36.6
White	38.4	38.8	39.8
African American	27.0	27.2	32.1
Hispanic	20.5	22.7	26.6
Native American	34.8	28.7	30.3
Asian American (all)	37.1	24.3	34.2

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT4: Median Age by Sex

Women and Disabilities

Table 4 Percent of women (ages 21-64) with a Disability Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S. (2000 Census)			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
All Women	15.8%	14.1%	18.2%
White	14.4%	12.6%	15.7%
African American	34.6%	25.3%	27.7%
Native American	32.4%	25.3%	27.7%
Asian	18.5%	6.9%	11.4%
Hispanic	26.8%	22.0%	23.4%

Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT69: Sex by Age by Types of Disability for the Civilian No institutionalized population 5 years and over.

Nationwide, over 18% of women, age 21-64, are reported to have one or more disabilities, compared to 15.8% in Rock County and 14.1% in Wisconsin as a whole.

Marital Status

Women of Rock County (age 15 and over), overall, are slightly more likely to be married with a spouse absent (3.9%) than women in Wisconsin overall (3.7%), but less

likely when compared to the nationwide rate (5.3%). See Table 5.

Table 5 Marital Status for Women age 15 and over, Rock County, Wisconsin (2000)				
	Numbers Rock County	Percent Rock County	Percent Wisconsin	Percent United States
Total (15+)	61,204			
Never married	13,249	21.7%	20.0%	20.2%
Now Married	34,518			
Married, spouse present	32,128	52.4%	55.3%	52.1%
Married, spouse absent	2,390	3.9%	3.7%	5.3%
Separated	937		N/A	N/A
Other	1,453		N/A	N/A
Widowed	6,205	10.1%	10.7%	11.0%
Divorced	7,232	11.8%	10.2%	11.4%
Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT35: Sex by Marital Status by Age for Population 15 Years and over				

The percent of women that are divorced in Rock County (11.8%) is on par with the national average, but above that of women statewide (10.2%). Rock County is slightly more likely to have residents in family households (with or without children) and married couple households than is found statewide or in the U.S. as whole. That said, women in racial and ethnic minority groups in Rock County are much more likely than white women to have never been married. This may be due to the much younger average age of African American and Hispanic women, for example. About 9% of African American and Asian American women are categorized as married with spouse absent – more than twice the rate for white and Hispanic women.

Table 6 Marital Status for Women age 15 and over, Rock County, Wisconsin (2000)					
Rock County	Never Married	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent	Widowed	Divorced
All Women	21.6%	52.5%	3.9%	10.1%	11.8%
Non Hispanic					
White	20.1%	54.1%	3.4%	10.4%	12.0%
African American	45.9%	23.1%	9.1%	10.8%	11.2%
Native American	32.2%	45.0%	6.2%	4.1%	12.4%
Asian	31.5%	48.1%	8.8%	8.8%	2.8%
Hispanic, any race	27.1%	52.5%	3.9%	10.1%	11.8%
Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT35: Sex by Marital Status by Age for Population 15 Years and over					

Household Types

The overall distribution of household types is reported as family-households, one-person households, and non-family households across the population.

Table 7 Distribution of Households by Type as a percent of all Households, Rock County, Wisconsin and United States 2000			
TOTAL POPULATION	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
Family Households (with and without own children)	69.3%	66.9%	68.5%
Married Couple	55.1%	54.0%	52.5%
Male Householder	4.1%	3.6%	4.1%
Female Householder	10.1%	9.2%	11.8%
Non-Family: 1 person Households	25.1%	26.7%	25.8%
Male Householder	10.3%	11.5%	11.0%
Female Householder	14.8%	15.2%	14.8%
Non-Family: Other Households	5.6%	6.4%	5.8%
Male Householder	3.7%	3.8%	3.4%
Female Householder	1.9%	2.6%	2.4%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT10: Household Size by Household Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years

2. Political Participation

This section presents data on several aspects of women’s involvement in the political process in Rock County and in Wisconsin. By voting, running for office and taking advantage of other avenues of participation, women can make their concerns, experiences and priorities visible in policy decisions

Voting Behavior

Nationally, Wisconsin ranks 8th for women’s voter registration and 5th for the percent of women who voted in 1998 and 2000.

County-level information on voter registration and turnout by gender is not currently available in Wisconsin or through Census data.

Elected Officials

Wisconsin ranks 19th among all states for the share of women in state and national elected office.

Generally in Rock County, the number of seats held by women in elected positions is comparable to or above the statewide averages. Overall, 26% of offices are held by women, including 25% of leadership positions, both well above the statewide averages (see Table 8).

Two notable exceptions occur in School Board membership and in overall Constitutional Offices. Women make up 32% of the school board in Rock County compared to 37% statewide. Perhaps more notable is that women make up only 29% of Constitutional Offices compared to 56% statewide.

Rock County only has one female municipal court judge and zero circuit court judges. Statewide 47 (19%) of the 248 municipal court judges are female and 32 (13.3%) of the 241 circuit court judges are female.

Table 8 Women in Public Office: Rock County (2006)				
	Percent of Seats Held by Women	Seats Held by Women	Total Seats	Statewide Average (2005)
State and Local Governing Bodies and Constitutional Offices				
School Board Members	32%	19	60	37%
Village Trustees	19%	4	21	21%
City Council Members	11%	4	36	20%
Mayors	33%	1	3	10%
County Board Supervisors	32%	9	29*	19%
Constitutional Offices:	29%	2	7	56%
Clerk of the Courts	0%	0	1	89%
County Clerk	100%	1	1	74%
County Executive	0%	0	1	20%
District Attorney	0%	0	1	18%
Register of Deeds	0%	0	1	74%
Sheriff	0%	0	1	3%
Treasurer	100%	1	1	82%
State Assembly	25%	3	11	25%
State Senate	50%	1	2	24%
U.S. House	50%	1	2	25%
TOTAL	26%	46	176	20%
Local Government Leadership				
School Board President	25%	2	8	30%
Village Board President	33%	1	3	9%
City Mayor	33%	1	3	10%
County Board Chair	0%	0	1	11%
County Executive	0%	0	1	20%
TOTAL	25%	4	16	10%
*One seat is vacant Sources: WI Women’s Council, 2006. Gender for local elected officials was determined from the information posted on the official local government website: http://womenscouncil.wi.gov .				

3. Employment and Earnings

Because earnings are the largest component of income for most families, earnings and economic well-being are closely linked. Ensuring women's economic rights includes improving access to employment, eliminating occupational segregation and employment discrimination, and helping men and women balance work and family responsibilities. This section explores several aspects of women's economic status: women's earnings, the female/male earnings ratio, women's labor force participation, and the percent of women who are employed in professional or managerial occupations.

Table 9 Women's Median Annual Earnings for Full-time, Full-year Work in 1999, Rock County, Wisconsin, and United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
All Women	\$25,646	\$25,865	\$27,194
White	\$25,814	\$26,062	\$28,265
African American	\$24,828	\$24,412	\$25,601
Hispanic	\$20,691	\$22,154	\$21,634
Native American	\$23,571	\$22,598	\$23,051
Asian	\$21,307	\$23,994	\$31,069

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT139: Median Earnings In 1999 (Dollars) By Work Experience In 1999 By Sex For The Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In 1999.

Note: Median earnings divide the earnings distribution into two equal groups, half having wages above the median, and other having wages below the median.

Rock County's median wage of \$25,646 is on par with the Wisconsin median wage for women working full-time. Only Hispanic and Asian women in the county fall well below both state and national median wages for women in their racial/ethnic groups. Rock County's Hispanic women at \$20,691 are about 7% below the state median and Asian women are 9% below the state median.

Rock County women working full-time earn about 65 cents compared to every dollar earned by a white male in the county, working full-time, year-round. This is larger than the statewide wage gap for women. Women in Rock County, across racial and ethnic groups, larger wage gaps compared to men, than women statewide (with the exception of Native American women).

Table 10 Earnings Ratio (Wage Gap) for Full-time, Full-year Work in 1999, Rock County and Wisconsin, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999		
	Rock County	Wisconsin
All Women	65.1%	68.6%
White	65.5%	69.1%
African American	63.0%	64.7%
Hispanic	52.5%	58.7%
Native American	59.8%	59.9%
Asian (All)	54.1%	63.6%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT139: Median Earnings in 1999 (dollars) by Work Experience in 1999 for the Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings.

Note: The "wage gap" refers to the difference between median annual earnings for women in each racial/ethnic group compared to those of white men.

There is a large disparity in median family income between married-couple families with children and single mothers with children. Single-mother families across racial and ethnic groups have median annual family incomes at about one-third or less of the median incomes for married-couple families with minor children. These low median income levels set the stage

for high levels of poverty among single-mother families.

Single mothers in Rock County have median wages slightly above their counterparts in Wisconsin and the US as a whole. There is significant disparity, however, between racial and ethnic groups with Hispanic and Asian single mother families having median wages as much as 30% lower than white single mother families. There is also a large wage disparity among married couple families with Hispanic married couple families having a median wage only about 70% that of white married couple families.

Table 11						
Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars) for Married-Couple and Single Mother Families with Own Children Under 18 Years						
	Rock County		Wisconsin		United States	
	Married Couple	Single Mother	Married Couple	Single Mother	Married Couple	Single Mother
Total Population	\$60,800	\$ 23,900	\$61,800	\$22,100	\$59,500	\$20,300
White	\$61,700	\$ 24,500	\$63,100	\$24,800	\$63,800	\$23,500
African American	\$53,900	\$ 21,200	\$50,100	\$15,800	\$51,900	\$17,100
Hispanic	\$42,300	\$ 17,100	\$41,700	\$16,800	\$39,300	\$16,400
Native American	\$67,700	\$ 30,900	\$49,900	\$18,600	\$42,700	\$15,800
Asian American	\$68,500	\$ 16,800	\$47,400	\$16,300	\$63,800	\$25,400

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT123: Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars) by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years. (Figures are rounded to nearest hundred dollars.)

Wisconsin women's labor force participation rates are higher than the rates for women in the U.S. as a whole—ranking Wisconsin 5th in the nation for the percent of women in the labor force. Nationally, 58% of women age 16 and over are in the labor force, compared to 64% for Wisconsin women statewide and for women in Rock County. The higher percentage for Wisconsin and Rock County women extends across racial and ethnic groups, except for African American women in Rock County where the rate of labor force participation rate is slightly below the average for Wisconsin and the US as a whole.

Women with children, even young children, participate in the labor force at high rates. This is particularly the case in Wisconsin where about 79% of women with children under age 18 and 72% of women with children under age 6 are in the labor force.

Table 12			
Labor Force Participation Rates Among Women Age 16 and Over, Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S., by Race and Ethnicity, 2000			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
All women	63.8%	64.1%	57.5%
White	64.1%	64.5%	57.9%
African American	57.0%	60.6%	59.7%
Hispanic	62.1%	60.4%	53.0%
Native American	71.9%	66.4%	57.1%
Asian (Other)	62.5%	60.4%	56.5%

Source: 2000 Census, PCT 79: Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over.

In Rock County, over 80% of women with children under age 18 are in the labor force, including 75% of women with children under age 6. These figures are higher even than the Wisconsin's statewide rate. Moreover, these higher rates of labor force participation for women with children extend across racial and ethnic groups in the county.

Table 13						
Labor Force Participation of Women with Children, Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S., 2000						
	Rock County		Wisconsin		United States	
	Number of Women in Labor Force	Percent in Labor Force	Number of Women in Labor Force	Percent in Labor Force	Number of Women in Labor Force	Percent in Labor Force
With Children ...						
Under Age 18	15,213	80.4%	513,182	78.8%	24,150,847	69.1%
Under Age 6	6,235	75.1%	200,992	72.1%	9,651,610	61.9%
Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 80: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Age of Own Children by Employment Status for Females 16 Years and Over.						
Note: Labor force participation includes women age 16 and over. Children under age 6 are also included in the totals for children under age 18.						

Women in Wisconsin are less likely to work in managerial and professional specialty occupations than are women in the U.S. (34% versus 36%). Wisconsin ranks 43rd among all states for the percent of women employed in managerial and professional occupations.

Table 14						
Labor Force Participation of Women with Children, Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S., by Race and Ethnicity, 2000						
	Women with Children Under Age 18			Women with Children Under Age 6		
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
All women	75.1%	78.8%	69.1%	77.0%	72.1%	61.9%
White	76.7%	80.6%	71.7%	78.5%	73.7%	63.6%
African American	77.1%	71.9%	73.6%	74.2%	69.6%	71.5%
Hispanic	57.9%	61.0%	56.2%	56.4%	55.0%	50.2%
Asian American	60.4%	62.1%	62.4%	89.3%	58.5%	55.3%
Native American	33.3%	76.0%	66.1%	100.0%*	74.9%	61.3%
Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT79: Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over; SF4, PCT80: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Age of Own Children by Employment Status for Females 16 Years and Over.						
Notes: Women age 16 and over. Children under age 6 are also included in the totals for those under age 18. *It should be noted that the small sample size of only 2 individuals for Native American women with children under age 6 indicates that this figure should be viewed with caution.						

Rock County women are less likely even than are women statewide to hold these occupations. This holds true for all racial and ethnic groups except Native American women (note that the sample size for this group is quite small). African American women, for example, are only about half as likely as their counterparts nationally to hold a professional or managerial occupation. The low levels of participation in managerial and professional occupations may also account for part of the explanation for the high wage gaps for Rock County women.

Table 15			
Percent of Women Employed in Managerial and Professional Occupations, Rock County, Wisconsin, and U.S.			
by Race and Ethnicity, 2000			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
All women	29.5%	33.8%	36.2%
White	30.3%	34.5%	38.7%
African American	15.1%	26.1%	29.7%
Hispanic	16.0%	22.8%	22.9%
Native American	31.8%	26.4%	30.0%
Asian	28.4%	33.5%	41.4%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 86: Sex by Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over.

4. Social and Economic Autonomy

While labor force participation and earnings are critical to women's financial security, many additional resources and opportunities affect women's ability to act independently, exercise choice, and control their lives (IWPR, 2004). This section highlights several topics important to women's social and economic autonomy: poverty, health insurance coverage, educational attainment, and business ownership.

Women and Poverty

Wisconsin ranks 6th among all states for the proportion of women statewide living below the poverty line. By racial and ethnic group, Wisconsin ranks only 38th for African American women, 37th for Asian American women, 22nd for Hispanic women and 16th for Native American women living below the poverty line.

In Rock County, 92.1% of women live above the federal poverty line, compared to 91% statewide. As in Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole, however, women of color of all races and ethnicities are more likely to live in poverty than white women. See Table 16.

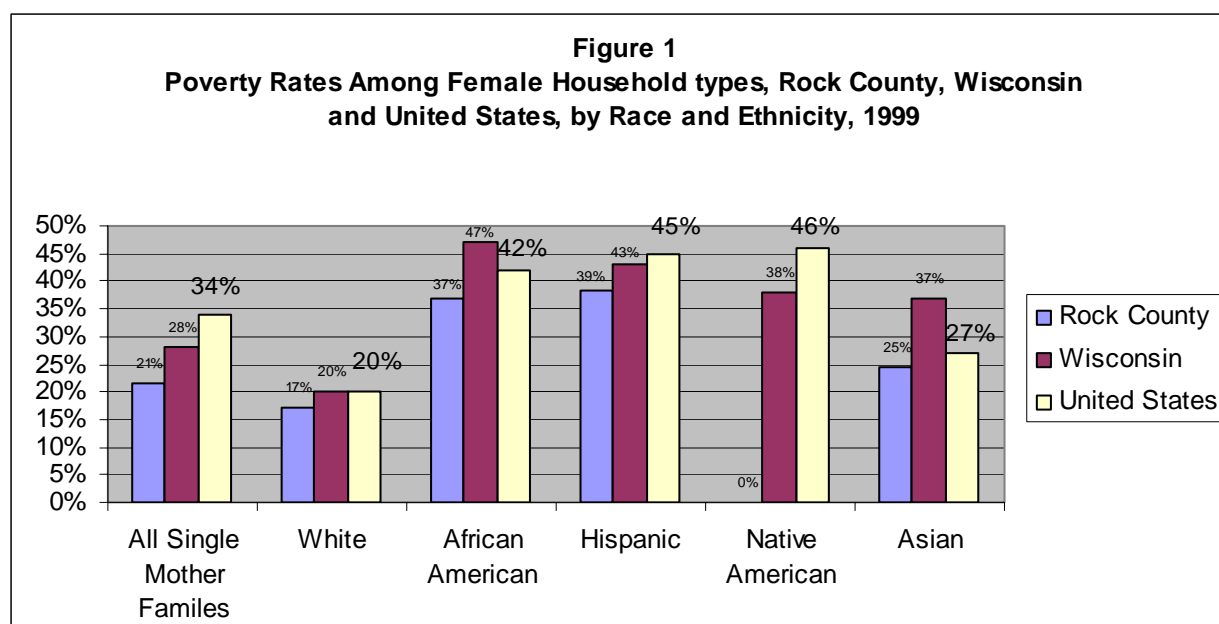
Table 16 Percent of Women Age 16 & Older Living above the Poverty Line Rock County, Wisconsin and US, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999				
	Rock County		Wisconsin	United States
All Women	53,976	92.1%	90.9%	87.4%
White	50,006	93.3%	92.7%	91.0%
African American	1,734	76.5%	70.3%	75.9%
Hispanic	1,220	79.6%	78.1%	77.6%
Native American	235	97.1%	79.6%	74.8%
Asian	490	92.6%	82.3%	87.6%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT142: Poverty Status in 1999 by Sex by Age.

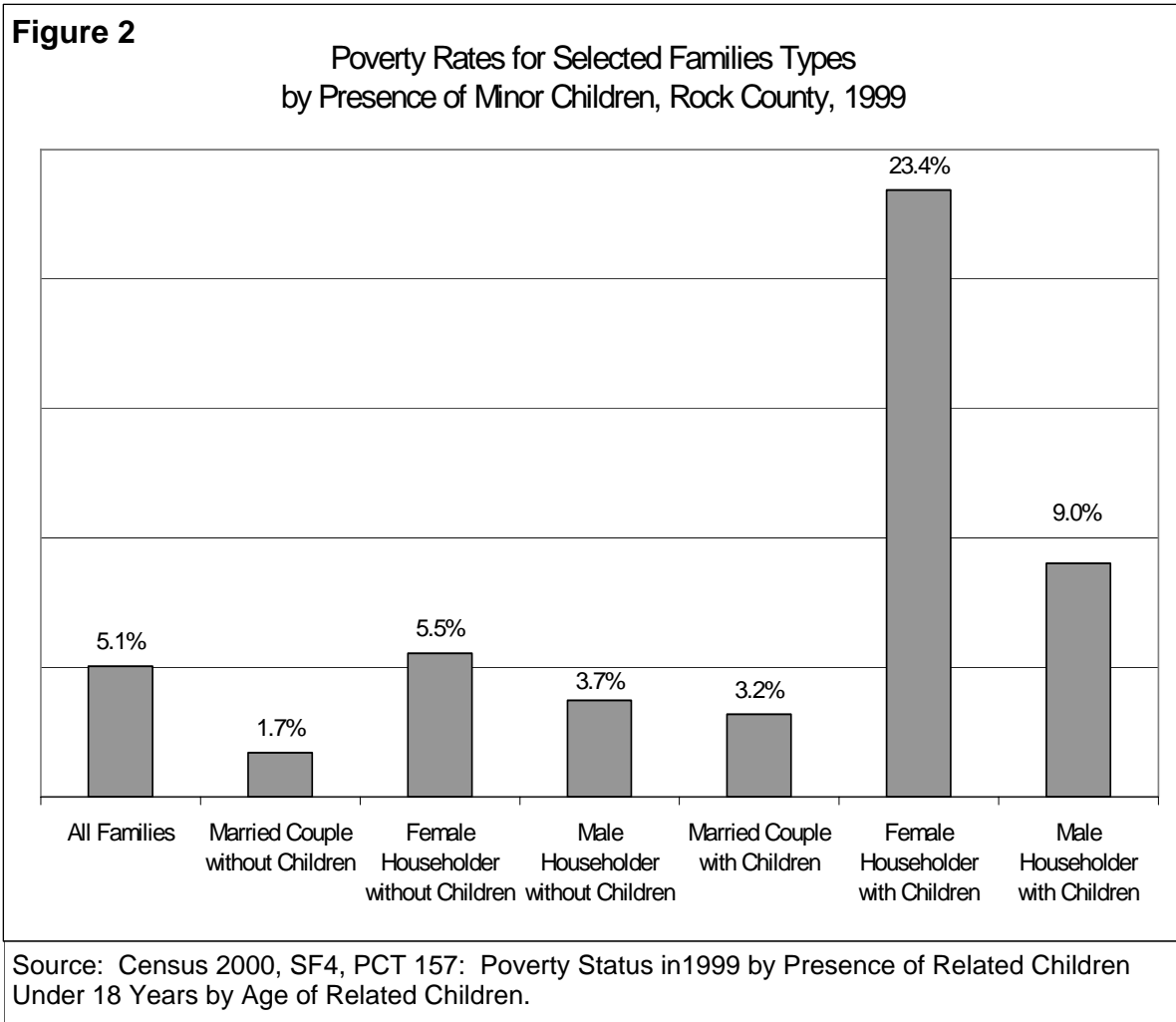
In Rock County, 93% of white women live above the poverty line, compared to 77% of African American women, about 80% of Hispanic and 97% Native American women and 92% of Asian women (all above Wisconsin rates). In addition, the proportion of African American, Hispanic and Asian women living above the poverty line is above the national rates for these racial and ethnic groups.

Poverty & Single-Mother Families

Single-mother families in Rock County are less likely to live below the federal poverty line than their counterparts statewide or nationally. Nevertheless, Single-mother families have the highest poverty rates of any household type. Poverty rates are high among all single-mother families, but they are much higher statewide and in Rock County for African American and Hispanic single mothers where nearly 40% of all single-mother families live below the federal poverty line. See Figure 1.



Of the more than 17,000 single-mother families with related minor children in Rock County, more than 70% are White, 15% are African American and 5% are Hispanic.



Single-father families have poverty rates of just 9% while those of single mothers are 23%.

Among married-couple families, about 3% are below the poverty line for the population as a whole in Rock County. This is comparable to the statewide rate of 3% for married-couple families in Wisconsin, but lower than the national rate of 7%.

Rates vary by race with African American (6%), Hispanic (14%) and Asian (4%) married-couple families with children much more likely than white (3%) or Native American (0%) families to be below the poverty line.

Access to Health Insurance

In the 2004 Status report, Wisconsin ranked 2nd in the nation for the proportion of

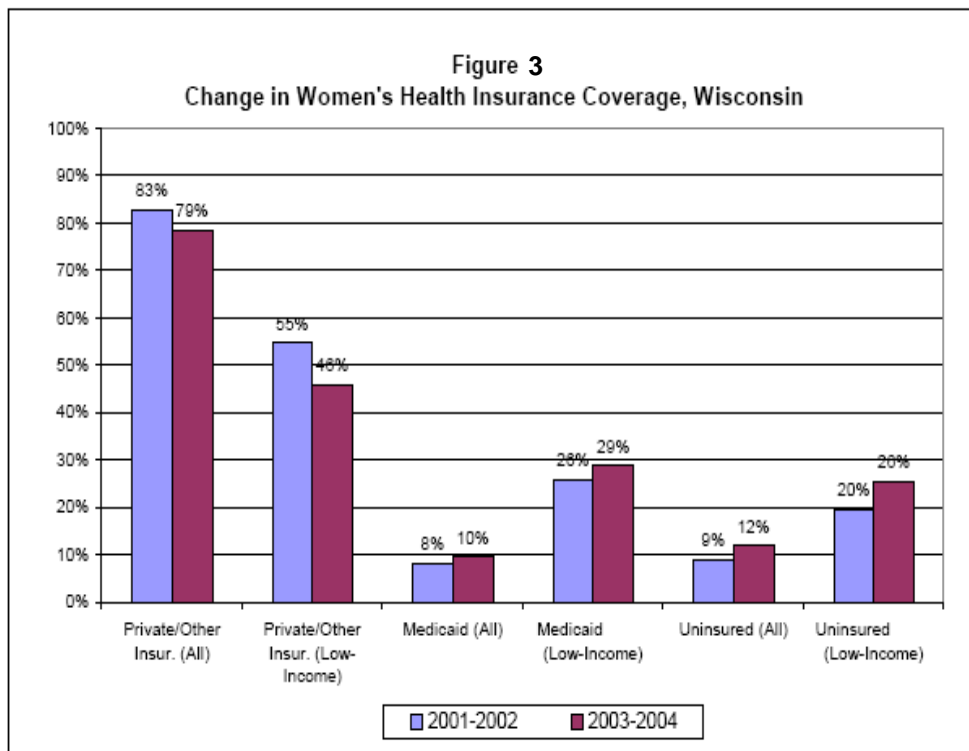
women with health insurance.

A new report from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicates that, statewide, Wisconsin is losing ground on women's health insurance coverage. County-level data are not available. (Research by the Kaiser Family Foundation was the source for health insurance data in the 2004 Status report.)

All Women: In 2001-2002, among women age 18 to 64, 83% of Wisconsin women had private or other (non-Medicaid) insurance, 8% had Medicaid, and 9% were uninsured (compared to 18% uninsured nationally).

In 2003-2004, the number of women with private/other health insurance declined to 79%, with 10% receiving Medicaid and 12% uninsured (compared to 19% uninsured nationally).

While Wisconsin remains below the national average for insured women, the decrease in women with private health insurance was offset primarily by an increase in uninsured women.



Source: Kaiser, 2006, Women's Health Insurance Coverage Fact Sheet.

Low Income Women: In 2001-2002, among low-income (<200% federal poverty level) women age 18 to 64, 55% had private or other (non-Medicaid) insurance, 26% received Medicaid, and 20% were uninsured (compared to a national uninsured rate of 35%).

In 2003-2004, the share of low-income women with private or other health insurance

declined to 46%, with 29% receiving Medicaid and 26% uninsured (compared to 36% uninsured nationally).

While Wisconsin is still below the national rates for uninsured low-income women, the 9% reduction in the share of women with private/other insurance translated into only a 3% increase in women insured through Medicaid compared to a 6% increase uninsured women.

Table 17 Percent of women who have completed 4 or more years of college, Aged 25 and over			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
Total Population	16.6%	21.7%	22.8%
Hispanic	4.0%	12.5%	10.7%
White	17.2%	22.4%	24.8%
African American	4.6%	10.8%	15.2%
Native American	15.7%	11.6%	12.0%
Asian	37.9%	38.5%	40.5%

Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT 65: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the population 18 years and over.

Table 18 Percent of women aged 25 to 44 who do not have a high school diploma/equivalency			
	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
Total Population	11.1%	14.4%	19.3%
Hispanic	59.4%	42.7%	46.0%
White	8.2%	12.6%	14.5%
African American	26.5%	31.2%	26.5%
Native American	20.6%	21.7%	26.2%
Asian	16.7%	31.8%	22.1%

Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT 65: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the population 18 years and over.

Education

Wisconsin ranks 29th among all states for the proportion of the female population with four or more years of college in year 2000 (the most current year for which U.S. Census data area available).

Statewide in 2000, 22% of women in Wisconsin had completed a four-year college education or beyond—slightly below the rate for the U.S. as a whole. The proportion of women 25 and older in Wisconsin without a high school diploma is 14%, below the nationwide average of 19%.

In Rock County, 17% of all women, aged 25 and older, had completed a four-year degree or beyond, lower than the nationwide rate. However, only 11% were without a high school diploma, marginally lower than the state rate and significantly lower than the U.S. rate. These figures, however, mask considerable variation in educational attainment between racial and ethnic groups.

College Education

Among the other racial/ethnic groups the shares of women with a 4-year college degree or more are: white (17%), Native American (16%), African American (5%) and Hispanic (4%) women.

In Rock County, African American and Hispanic women are less than half as likely as white women to have a four-year college education. All groups are significantly less likely than Asian American women to have a college degree.

African American and Hispanic women in Rock County are less likely than their counterparts in the U.S. as a whole to have a four-year degree. Hispanic, African American, and Native American women (age 25 and over) in Rock County are also much less likely to hold a graduate or professional degree (1.5%, 1.7%, 2.3% respectively), compared to white and Asian women (5.3% and 16%, respectively).

High School Diploma

In Rock County, among women aged 25 and older, about 25% have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. This share is relatively consistent across racial and ethnic groups, with the exception of Asian American women where only 15% top out at a high school education.

Less than High School

Perhaps most striking in the comparative data on educational attainment are the percentages of women with less than a high school education.

Hispanic. Among Hispanic women in Rock County, a stunning 63% have less than a high school education—a figure much higher than national rate of 46%. Narrowing the focus to women aged 25 to 44 the figure falls to 59%. See Table 19.

Hispanic women with less than a high school diploma, by age:

Age	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	67.1%	44.5%	40.0%
25-34	65.4%	38.3%	39.5%
35-44	50.2%	39.2%	40.9%
45-64	63.6%	64.3%	69.7%

African American. Slightly more than one quarter (27%) of African American women in Rock County have less than a high school education, equal to the rate of 27% for African American women in the United States as a whole.

African American women in Rock County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	49.1%	36.5%	26.7%
25-34	28.7%	22.8%	16.6%
35-44	24.7%	28.7%	17.8%
45-64	29.8%	59.8%	57.1%

Asian. Of the 46 Asian women between the ages of 25-34 in Rock County during the 2000 Census, all had completed high school. Yet 40% of Asian women age 18-24 in Rock County have less than a high school education; which is double the Wisconsin rate and nearly four times higher than the national rate.

Age	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	40.2%	20.2%	13.3%
25-34	0	20.8%	10.4%
35-44	22.1%	29.5%	16.7%
45-64	34.1%	40%	26.1%

Asian American women in Rock County with less than a high school education, by age:

Native American. One-fifth of Native American women in Rock County have less than a high school education, slightly lower than the rate of 22% statewide and lower than the rate of 26% for the U.S. as a whole.

Native American women in Rock County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	68.4%	32.9%	30.2%
25-34	29.6%	18.6%	18.7%
35-44	7.3%	17.0%	20.2%
45-64	25.4%	45.7%	57.1%

White. White women are among the least likely of groups to have less than a high school education. The Rock County rate of 8% is lower than the statewide rate of 13% for white women and lower than the rate of 15% for white women in the U.S. as a whole.

White women in Rock County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	22.9%	15.3%	16.4%
25-34	7.6%	5.3%	7.7%
35-44	8.6%	5.6%	7.8%
45-64	10.9%	31.1%	30.3%

Table 19 Educational Attainment for Women Age 25-44, Rock County, 2000						
	All	White	Hispanic	African American	Native American	Asian
Less than High School	11.1%	8.2%	59.4%	26.5%	20.6%	16.7%
High School or Equivalency	32.3%	32.9%	22.0%	33.5%	30.2%	21.0%
Some College, no degree	26.8%	27.3%	11.3%	28.4%	30.9%	21.0%
Associate Degree	10.7%	11.4%	2.2%	7.1%	1.5%	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	14.5%	15.6%	3.2%	2.9%	16.9%	14.5%
Graduate/Professional Degree	4.5%	4.6%	1.9%	1.5%	0.0%	19.4%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 65, Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population Age 18 Years and older.

Some College

Another striking figure in the data on educational attainment is the relatively high percentage of women across racial and ethnic groups with some college experience, but no college degree.

In Rock County, 27% of all women aged 25 to 44, have some college that did not result in a degree. See Table 19.

These figures are particularly notable among the African American and Native American populations that otherwise have comparatively low levels of college attainment.

Among African American women, 28% have some college, compared to about 10% with either a two- or four-year college degree.

Among Native American women, 31% have some college, compared to 19% with either a two- or four-year college degree.

Among Hispanic women, 11% have some college, compared to 5% with either a two- or four-year college degrees.

While this analysis does not attempt to address causality, these figures raise questions about the large numbers of women that go on to attempt college and do not complete a degree relative to the number that do complete a degree and the potential barriers that may derail college efforts (e.g., preparedness, support, work/family issues, and cost/financing).

Women Business Owners

Wisconsin ranks 33rd in the country for the proportion of businesses owned by women.

According to a recently released report by the U.S. Census, in Rock County, women owned 2,272 businesses in 2002, about 2% of Wisconsin's 104,000 women-owned businesses counted in the study (see Table 20). Not surprisingly, Milwaukee County leads the state in the number of women-owned businesses, followed by Dane County with 11,000 businesses.

Table 20 Women-Owned Businesses in Wisconsin, Statewide and by County, 2002		
County	Number of Women-Owned Firms	Percent of All Firms Women-Owned
Wisconsin (All Counties)	104,170	26.5%
Rock	2,272	23.4%

Sources: U.S. Census, Survey of Business Owners (SBO): Company Statistics Series: Statistics for Selected Counties With 100 or More Women-Owned Firms: 2002 (released Aug. 2006) and Survey of Business Owners (SBO): Company Statistics Series: Statistics for All U.S. Firms by County: 2002 (released Sept. 2006)

Statewide, these Census data show that women's business ownership has increased from 24% of businesses in 1997 to 26% in 2002. (Census has not yet published the county-level data needed to calculate the percentage of women's businesses as a share of all businesses.)

Table 21 Women-Owned Employer Businesses in Wisconsin, Statewide and by County, 2002			
Rank	County	Number of Women-Owned Employer Firms	Percent of Em- ployer Firms Women-Owned
	Wisconsin (All Counties)	16,882	15.0%
35	Rock	320	10.9%

Sources: U.S. Census, Survey of Business Owners (SBO): Company Statistics Series: Statistics for Selected Counties With 100 or More Women-Owned Firms: 2002 (released Aug. 2006) and Survey of Business Owners (SBO): Company Statistics Series: Statistics for All U.S. Firms by County: 2002 (released Sept. 2006)

Note: Rank based on 44 counties for which Census data are available in this category. Designation of "na" represents data that was not published by the Census because either the estimate did not meet publication standards or was withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual companies. These data are generally included in the higher level (statewide) totals, but not broken out at the county level.

In 2002, Rock County ranked 35 for the number of women-owned employer firms out of the 44 counties for which Census data was available.

5. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health is a crucial factor in women's overall status. Health problems can seriously impair women's quality of life, as well as their ability to care for themselves and their families. Women's overall health status is closely connected to many of the other indicators in this report, including women's poverty status, access to health insurance, and reproductive health (IWPR, 2004).

Women's health and well-being is reviewed in this section by a variety of indicators, including mortality from heart disease, lung cancer and breast cancer, and issue of reproductive health including access to prenatal care and related issues of low-birth-weight infants and infant mortality.

Mortality and Incidence of Diseases

Heart disease, lung disease and breast cancer are the leading causes of death for women in Wisconsin. Statewide in Wisconsin, African American women have the highest mortality rates from all these diseases, followed by white women. This is also true in Rock County where African American women have the highest rates for heart disease and lung disease; while data are not available for African American breast cancer rates.

In Rock County, women are, on average, nearly twice as likely to die from lung cancer as from breast cancer. Of note, however, are higher lung cancer and breast cancer mortality rates for women in Rock County, compared to their counterparts nationally, statewide or in Milwaukee County (WI Women's Council, 2006). Indeed, Rock County's lung cancer mortality rate for women is 40 percent higher than the comparable statewide rate. At the same time, heart disease mortality rates for women are somewhat lower than for women nationally, statewide or in Milwaukee County, particularly among African American women.

Statistics on disease and mortality rates are presented as a rate per 100,000 people in the population, unless otherwise noted. For statistics on infants, rates are often presented as a rate per 1,000 live births. Statistics in this section are measured based on a three-year average for the period 2000-2002, the most recent dates for which data were available at the time of this study, unless otherwise noted.

Limits on data for Native American, Asian American and Hispanic women: Comparison of mortality and incidence of diseases by racial and ethnic group is limited by the comparatively small population sizes of these groups in Rock County and small number of events that may occur on an annual basis. As a result, reliable county-level rates are not available for women in these racial and ethnic groups for the time period measured for mortality from heart disease, lung cancer, breast cancer and suicide.

Heart Disease

Nationally and statewide, mortality rates from heart disease are higher among African American women than among white women. This pattern holds true in Rock County; however, among African American women, rates in Rock County are lower than for African American women statewide (191 compared to 228 per 100,000), while for white women the rate is slightly higher than for their counterparts statewide (178 compared to 175 per 100,000). See Table 22.

Table 22 Average Annual Mortality Among Women from Heart Disease, Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer and Suicide (Rate per 100,000 of the Population), Rock County, Wisconsin and United States, 2000-2002 (3-year average)						
	All Women	White	African American	Native American	Asian American	Hispanic
Heart Disease						
Rock County	178.5	178.3	191.4	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	176.7	174.7	228.1	171.4	89.3	57.7
United States	203.4	198.3	269.6	130.5	110.9	156.2
Lung Cancer						
Rock County	53.0	52.5	67.1	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	37.7	37.2	52.2	50.2	16.1	9.0
United States	41.3	42.3	39.5	26.7	18.5	14.5
Breast Cancer						
Rock County	32.1	32.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	25.2	25.0	30.0	14.8	11.3	8.5
United States	26.1	25.6	34.2	13.1	12.6	16.2
Suicide						
Rock County	2.8	2.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	4.2	4.3	2.8	3.2	5.6	1.5
United States	4.1	4.5	1.7	4.0	2.9	1.7
Sources: National Women's Health Indicators Database (US HHS).						
*Notes: 1. Data are age-adjusted, three-year averages. 2. These data are not directly comparable to the rates calculated in the 2004 Status report which are based on different source data that are not available at the county level. 4. NA = Not available. Where data are not available, it may be because there are not enough incidences over the period to create statistically valid figure.						

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for Wisconsin women. In Rock County, lung cancer mortality rates for women are higher than for their counterparts nationally and statewide. Overall in Rock County, lung cancer mortality rates for women are 30 percent higher than the national rate for women and 40 percent higher than the comparable statewide lung cancer rates.

In Rock County, African American women have a lung cancer mortality rate of 67 per 100,000 compared to 39.5 per 100,000 for African American women nationally and 52 per 100,000 statewide. Rock County's mortality rate for African American women is

also much higher than the rate for African American women in Milwaukee County of 51 per 100,000.

Among white women in Rock County, the lung cancer mortality rate of 52.5 per 100,000 is also higher than the state and national counterparts. This is also true when comparing white women in Rock County to their counterparts in Milwaukee County where the Rock County rate is nearly 25 percent higher than the comparable lung cancer mortality rate for white women in Milwaukee County (42 per 100,000).

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the mostly commonly diagnosed cancer for Wisconsin women, but ranks second for cancer mortality, following lung cancer. Nationally and statewide, mortality rates from breast cancer are higher among African American women than among white women. Unfortunately, reliable county-level data are not available for African American women in Rock County for the time period measured.

For women overall in Rock County and among white women alone, the breast cancer mortality rate of 32 per 100,000 is about 25 percent higher than the state (25 per 100,000) and national (26 per 100,000) rates. See Table 1. These rates for women in Rock County are also about 25 percent higher than those for women in Milwaukee County (27 per 100,000 for all women in Milwaukee County and 26 per 100,000 for white women).

A report by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DHFS, 2005b) indicates that, statewide, white women had higher breast cancer incidence rates compared to African American women during the period 1998-2002. However, African American women had higher breast cancer mortality rates.

Suicide

In Rock County, the suicide rate for women (about 3 per 100,000) is lower than the respective rates for Wisconsin or the U.S. as whole (about 4 per 100,000) and for Milwaukee County (5 per 100,000). The rate of 3 per 100,000 for white women in Rock County is about half that of white women in Milwaukee County where the rate is nearly 6 per 100,000. See Table 1. Reliable county-level data are not available for other racial and ethnic groups.

Depression and Mental Health

County-specific data are not available for mental health issues such as depression and other psychological disorders. For information about women and depression in Wisconsin, see: Lieutenant Governor's Task Force on Women and Depression in Wisconsin Report, May 2006, at: <http://www.ltgov.state.wi.us/>

HIV/AIDS

Wisconsin has historically had low rates of HIV/AIDS infection compared to other

states. While HIV occurs among all racial groups in Wisconsin, there is a very high degree of racial disparity – with the racial disparity even greater among females than males. HIV infection is reported in all 72 Wisconsin counties. See DHFS, 2006.

Rock County accounts for about 2.7 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases reported during 2000-2006, compared to 14 percent for Dane County and 48 percent for Milwaukee County (DHFS, 2006).

In 2005, statewide, about three-quarters of all females reported with HIV infection were from racial and ethnic minority groups. African American females had reported cases at 36 times the rates of white females and Hispanic females had rates 16 times higher than white females.

While the median age for cases reported statewide in Wisconsin in 2005 was 36 years old, it is estimated that most people are infected at much younger ages. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that at least half of those infected with HIV in the U.S. acquired the disease before age 25.

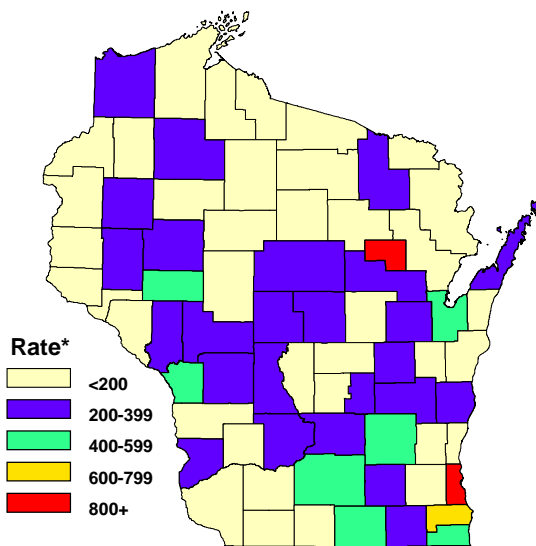
Table 23 Sexually Transmitted Infections in Rock County, 2005	
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Reported STD Cases in 2005 (Rock County Health Department jurisdiction, not including Beloit)
Chlamydia	289
Gonorrhea	65
Syphilis	1
Herpes	53
HIV/AIDS	7

Source: Rock County Health Department 2005 Annual Report, <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/Dept/Health/Health.htm>. Rates per 100,000 are not provided. [Can we get rates?]

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Figure 4. Source: DHFS, 2004.

Reported STD case rates*, by county, reportable STDs**, Wisconsin, 2004



Ten counties with rates* >400

County	Cases	Percent	Rate
Milwaukee	13,830	49.7%	1,479
Menominee	65	0.2%	1,412
Racine	1,229	4.4%	637
Dodge	444	1.6%	502
La Crosse	550	2.0%	502
Kenosha	789	2.8%	501
Dane	2,194	7.9%	484
Brown	1,146	4.1%	480
Eau Claire	457	1.6%	478
Rock	744	2.7%	476
Subtotal	21,448	77.1%	882
Other counties	6,359	22.9%	205
State total***	27,807	100.0%	502

* Cases per 100,000 population.

** Chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and genital HSV infection.

***Excludes 30 cases among out of state residents and 29 cases without county specified.

Wisconsin STD Control Section



In 2004, Rock County, with a reported 744 sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases and STD rate of 476 per 100,000, ranked 6th among ten Wisconsin counties with rates above 400 per 100,000. See Figure 4.

According to the Rock County Health Department, the incidence of gonorrhea, syphilis, and Chlamydia in the Health Department jurisdiction (i.e. not including the area covered by the Beloit Health Department), Rock County is below state and national rates for reported sexually transmitted infections. However, they report that Rock County is mirroring state and national trends for increased STD reporting. An example of STD levels for Rock County (not including Beloit) is provided in Table 23.

Data for incidence rates by STDs by gender are not publicly available at the county-level. Statewide, for 2004, DHFS reported that two-thirds of men and women with reportable STDs were in the age group 15 to 24. (See DHFS, 2004)

Diabetes

An estimated 7.4 percent of the adult population in Rock County has diabetes, which is slightly below the statewide rate of 8 percent for all adults (DHFS, 2005a).

Nonetheless, the cost of diabetes in Rock County is staggering. In 2002, direct costs for Rock County were estimated at \$82.5 million and indirect costs at \$35.7 million, for a total of \$118.2 million. In addition, while diabetes is found in just over 7 percent of the adult population, in 2002, the disease accounted for over 13 percent of hospitalizations in the county and nearly 17% of all hospitalization-related costs. See Table 24.

Gender-specific data on diabetes are not reported. DHFS reports that there are large racial disparities in the incidence of diabetes. Native Americans, in particular, are reported to have a staggering 46 percent of the adult population with the disease (male and female).

According to the 2004 Status of Women Report, statewide in Wisconsin, women face

Table 24 Total Hospitalizations and Diabetes-Related Costs, Rock County, 2002				
	Total Hospitalizations	Diabetes-related Hospitalizations	Cost for Total Hospitalizations	Diabetes-related charges (% of total charges)
All Ages	18,108	2,409 (13.3%)	\$237.3 M	\$39.7 M (16.8%)
Source: DHFS, 2005a				

diabetes at a rate of 5 percent, which is below the national average of 6 percent. African American and Hispanic women are about twice as likely as white women to have non-pregnancy related diabetes (IWPR, 2004).

Pregnancy and Infant Health

Note on the data: Statistics in this section are provided for year 2001 to provide comparability to other status of women reports, as well as using a five-year average (2001-2005) in order to provide a large enough sample to provide county-wide rates for Asian American, Native American and Hispanic women for some data.

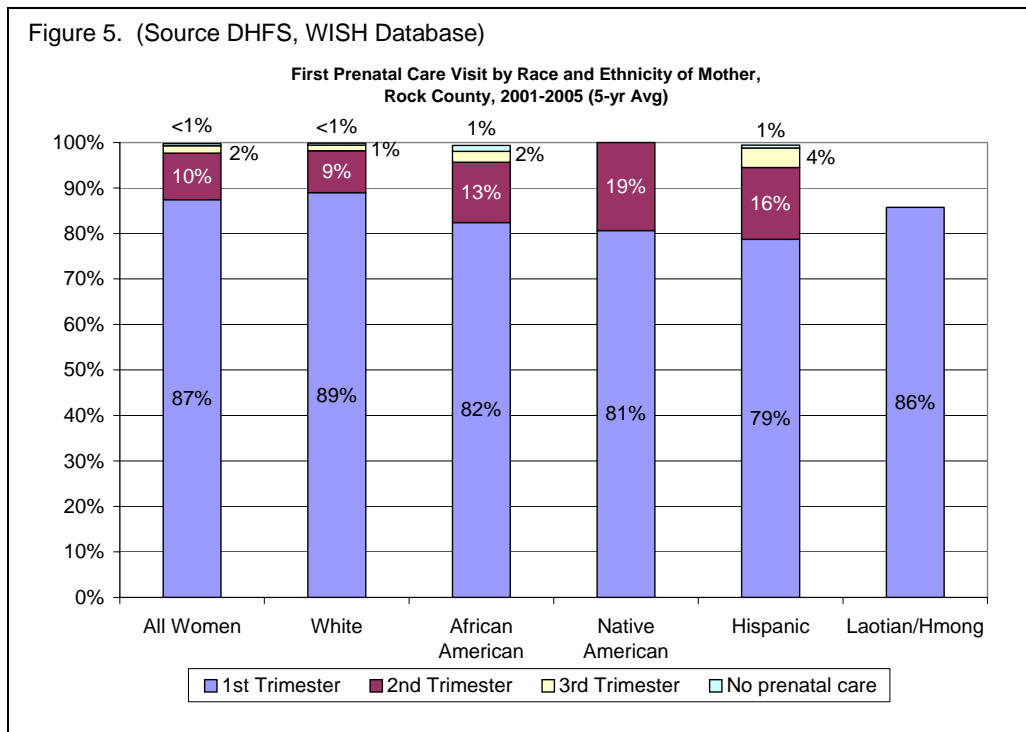
Prenatal Care

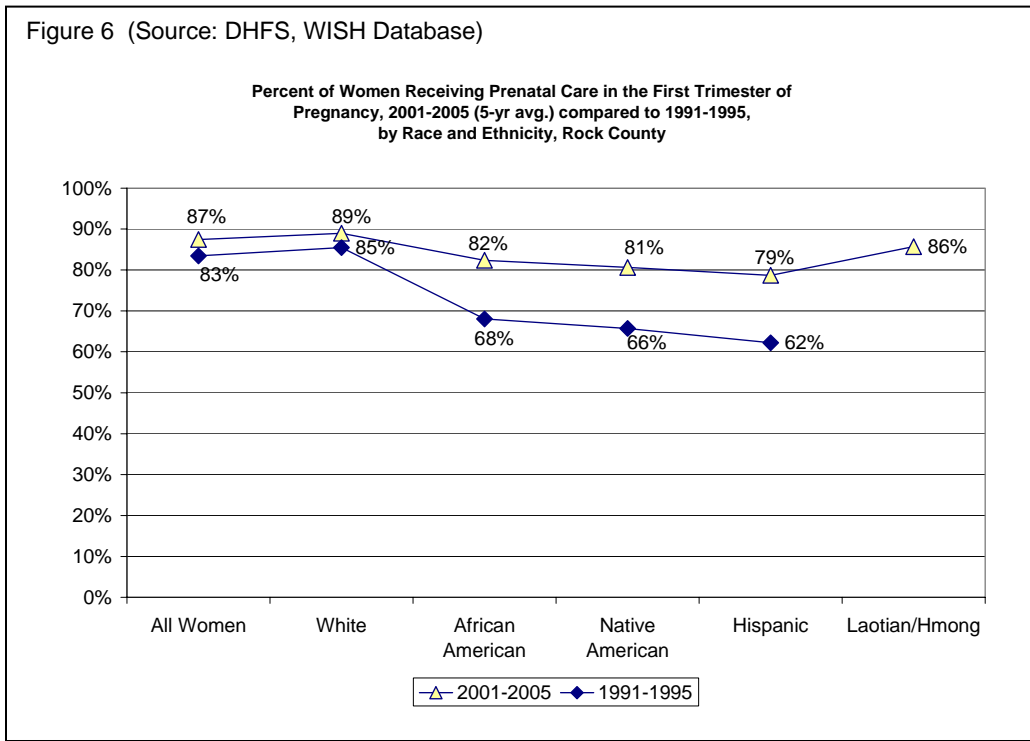
Public health assessment of “adequate prenatal care” is determined in part by prenatal care beginning within the first trimester of pregnancy.

In Rock County, over the period 2001-2005, about 87 percent of all women began prenatal care in the first trimester. By racial and ethnic group, these rates varied from 89 percent for white women to 79 percent for Hispanic women. See Table 4 and Figure B.

Rock County’s rates for prenatal care in the first trimester are above or on par with comparable state and national rates. Rates for African American, Native American, Asian American/Hmong, and Hispanic women are consistently above the state rates for the 2001-2005 period and the 2001 national rates. In Rock County over the period 2001-2005:

Among African American women, 82 percent began prenatal care in the first trimester, 13 percent in the second trimester, 3 percent in the third trimester or not at all, and 2 percent unknown.





Among Hispanic women, 79 percent began care in the first trimester (compared to 71 percent statewide), 16 percent in the second trimester, and 5 percent in the third trimester or not at all.

Among Native American women, 81 percent began care in the first trimester (compared to 72 percent statewide) and 19 percent begin care in the second trimester.

Among Laotian/Hmong women, 86 percent began care in the first trimester (compared to 53 percent statewide), with the other 14 percent of the data unreported or missing.

Among white women, 89 percent began care in the first trimester, on par with the statewide rate of 88 percent, 9 percent in the second trimester and 1 percent in the third trimester or not at all.

Since 1990, the percentages of African American, Native American, and Hispanic women receiving first trimester prenatal care have increased markedly (comparative data are not available for Laotian/Hmong women). For example, in the period 1991-1995, only 62 percent of Hispanic women in Rock County began prenatal care in the first trimester, compared to 79 percent in the period 2001-2005. See Figure C.

Low Birth Weight

In Rock County, about one in thirteen infants (7.4 percent) is low birth weight, which is above the statewide rate of 6.8 percent for the period 2001-2005. African American

women have the highest percentage of low birth weight infants at nearly 15 percent, compared to 7 percent for white women and about 5 percent for Hispanic women. Based on these figures, during the period 2001-2005, African American women were twice as likely as white women and three times more likely than Hispanic women in Rock County to have a low birth weight baby. Data for Native American and Asian/Hmong women were not available at the county level. See Table 25.

Table 25					
Prenatal Care, Low Birth Weight and Infant Mortality, by Race and Ethnicity, Rock County, Wisconsin and United States, 2001-2005 and 2001 only					
	Rock County	Wisconsin	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
	2001-2005*		2001 Only		
Percent of Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester					
All Women	87%	85%	86%	84%	83%
White	89%	88%	87%	88%	89%
African American	82%	73%	86%	69%	74%
Hispanic	79%	71%	75%	70%	76%
Native American	81%	72%	83%	72%	69%
Asian (Hmong)	86%	53%	NA	49%*	84%
Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies (less than 5 lbs, 8 oz.)					
All Women	7.4%	6.8%	7.6%	6.6%	7.7%
White	7.1%	6.1%	7.6%	5.9%	6.8%
African American	14.6%	13.5%		13.3%	13.1%
Hispanic	4.6%	6.3%	3.9%	6.2%	6.5%
Native American	NA	6.0%	NA	6.6%	7.3%
Asian (Hmong)	NA	7.0%	NA	5.7%	7.5%
Infant Mortality (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births)					
All Women	5.6	6.6	6.4	7.1	6.8
White	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.7
African American	17.6	17.3	NA	18.7	13.5
Hispanic	5.6	6.4	NA	7.0	5.4
Native American	NA	10.3	NA	17.5	9.7
Asian (Hmong)*	NA	7.5	NA	6.7	4.7
Sources: Rock County and Wisconsin: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), DHFS. United States: IWPR (2004).					
*Note: Asian American data for Rock County and Wisconsin are for Laotian/Hmong women only. Data for 2001-2005 are based on a 5-year average providing a large enough sample to provide local rates for minority populations, in some cases.					

Infant Mortality

While the percentage of low birth weight infants is slightly above the statewide figures, infant mortality rates are below the statewide rates for all groups except African American women. See Table 25.

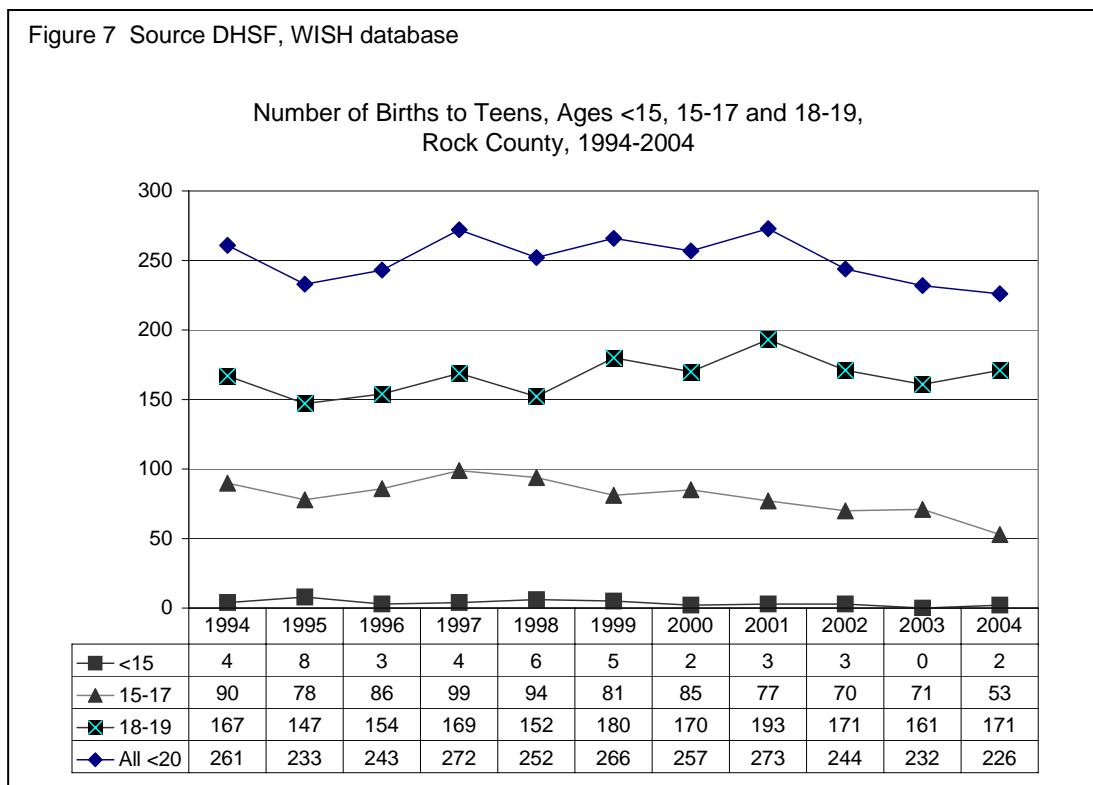
Rock County's infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000 live births is below the statewide figure of 6.6 per 1,000 live births, and nearly half the rate of 10 per 1,000 in Milwaukee

County. Similarly, the infant mortality rates for white women (4.7 per 1,000) and Hispanic women (5.6 per 1,000) are below the comparable statewide figures (5.3 and 6.4 per 1,000, respectively). The infant mortality rate of 17.6 per 1,000 for African American is on par, however, with the comparable statewide rate of 17.3 per 1,000. Nonetheless, it is significant that African American women in Rock County are three times as likely as Hispanic women and four times as likely as white women to experience the death of a child less than one year of age. (County-level infant mortality data for Native American and Asian/Hmong women for this period are not available.)

Teen Pregnancy

Births to Teens under Age 20

The good news is that, overall, births to teens (under age 20) in Rock County have declined over the past decade. The most dramatic decline is among teens age 15-17, where the number of births each year has declined by nearly half – from 90 in 1994 to a low of 53 in 2004. Similarly, among very young teens age 15 and below the number of births has remained between 0 and 3 since year 2000.



Births to teens age 18-19, however, have shown little overall change over the past decade. Since 1995, births to teens age 18-19 increased from a low of 147 in 1995 to a high of 193 in 2001. The number of births to teens ages 18-19 increase steadily from 1995 to 2001, and has settling in at around 170 births for the past several years. See Figure 7.

Research tells us teen pregnancy has serious consequences for the teen mother, child and the community in general. Children of teen mothers are more likely to die in infancy, experience child abuse/neglect; score lower academically, become incarcerated and become teen parents themselves. Teen mothers are less likely to finish school, be more dependent on public assistance and more likely to suffer from depression. In Milwaukee, for example, the high child poverty rate is associated with its high teen pregnancy rate. See United Way , 2006.

Teen pregnancy also carries with it tremendous financial cost to the community and local businesses. A recent United Way study on teen pregnancy in Milwaukee estimated the long-term cost of a single teen birth at \$79,320. The national cost of lost human capital as a result of teen childbearing has been estimated at \$29 billion each year (United Way, 2006).

Milwaukee has become famous (or infamous) for having the second highest percentage of total births to mothers less than 20 years old among the 50 largest cities in the United States. It is interesting to note that for the City of Beloit, the percent of all births to teens under age 20 at 18.6% is now above the City of Milwaukee rate of 16.8%. The percentage for the City of Beloit is more than twice that for Janesville and the statewide and regional percentages. Comparable data are not available for other municipalities in the county. See Table 26.

Table 26 Percent of All Births to Teens Under Age 20, Cities of Beloit, Janesville and Milwaukee, 2001-2005 (5-year average)						
Year of Birth	All	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Statewide	9.2%	9.9	9.5	9.0	8.7	8.6
Southern Region*	7.6%	8.5	8.1	7.2	7.3	7.0
Rock County	11.9%	13.3	12.3	11.3	11.2	11.3
City of Beloit	17.2%	19.2	17.1	16.4	14.9	18.6
City of Janesville	10.6%	12.4	11.3	9.6	11.1	8.8
City of Milwaukee	17.8%	19.3	18.7	17.3	17.0	16.8
Source: DHFS, WISH database.						
*For public health reporting purposes, the Southern Region includes the counties of Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Juneau, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, and Vernon.						

Another way to assess pregnancy among teens is the pregnancy rate, which is the number of teen births per 1,000 teens under age 20. Rock County's pregnancy rate is 44.4 births per 1,000 females age 15-19, which is above the rate for neighboring

counties and for all Wisconsin counties as a whole, but well below the Milwaukee County rate of 62.4 per 1,000 females age 15-19. See Table 27.

Births to Younger Teens (under age 18)

Statistics on pregnancy often separate out younger teens – those under age 18. Among this group, the percent of all births attributable to younger teens is 6 percent in Beloit and just under 3 percent in Janesville, compared to nearly 8% in Milwaukee. The approximately 3 percent figure for Janesville is on par with the statewide average, but above the average for the Southern Region. See Table 28.

At the county level, about 3.5 percent of total births are attributable to teens under age 18 – a total of about 350 births during the period 2001-2005, or about 70 births a year to young teens. This percentage is higher than for Rock County’s neighbors in Dane, Green and Walworth Counties and higher than the average percentage for all Wisconsin counties. See Table 29.

For a comprehensive report on the economic and social impact of teen pregnancy, see: *If Truth Be Told: Teen Pregnancy, Public Health and the Cycle of Poverty*, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, 2006. The report is available online at: <http://www.unitedwaymilwaukee.org>.

Table 27 Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 female) Rock County and Surrounding Counties			
County of Residence	Number of Births to Females Age <20	Number of Females Ages 15-19	Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females)
Rock	1,208	27,180	44.4
Walworth	511	16,927	30.2
Green	150	5,867	25.6
Dane	1,663	82,375	20.2
Milwaukee	2,034	32,584	62.4
All Wisconsin	31,879	998,621	31.9

Source: DHFS, WISH database.

Table 28 Percent of All Births to Teens Under Age 18, Rock County Cities, Southern Region and Statewide, 2001-2005 (5-year average)						
Year of Birth	All	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Statewide	2.8%	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6
Southern Region	2.1%	2.5	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.8
Rock County	3.5%	--	--	--	--	--
Beloit	5.7%	6.4	6.3	5.4	4.3	6.0
Janesville	2.8%	3.4	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.7
Milwaukee	7.0%	7.9	7.3	6.8	6.4	7.9

Source: DHFS, WISH database.

Table 29 Percent of Total Birth to Younger Teens (under age 18), Rock County and Surrounding Counties			
County of Residence	Number of Births to Females Age <18	Total Number of Births	Percent of Births to Younger Teens Age <18
Rock	351	10,103	3.5%
Walworth	154	5,813	2.7%
Green	48	2,022	2.4%
Dane	503	28,856	1.7%
Milwaukee	4,071	73,393	5.6%
All WI Counties	9,917	348,585	2.8%

Source: DHFS WISH Database

Appendix 1

Rock County Needs by Gender % combines "very serious" and serious" on a five point scale

	Male	Female	Difference
Lack of dental care	28%	49%	21%
Homelessness	20%	41%	21%
Unemployment	51%	68%	17%
Help for rent assistance	29%	46%	17%
Affordable Rental Housing	41%	58%	17%
Cost of child care	49%	65%	16%
Lack of youth recreation	29%	45%	16%
Lack of interpreters	20%	36%	16%
Support for single parents	30%	45%	15%
Living wage	59%	73%	14%
Affordable legal assistance	40%	53%	13%
Help with paying utilities	38%	51%	13%
Child abuse	32%	45%	13%
Quality of child care	31%	44%	13%
Lack of after school programs	29%	42%	13%
Lack of health insurance	65%	77%	12%
Language Barrier	40%	52%	12%
Availability of Child Care	28%	40%	12%
Services for disabled persons	31%	42%	11%
Sexual assault	30%	40%	10%
Services for seniors	34%	44%	10%
Elder abuse	20%	30%	10%
Mental health, youth	30%	39%	9%
Gangs	48%	57%	9%
Credit & Budget	39%	48%	9%
Unplanned pregnancies	41%	49%	8%
Violent crime	37%	45%	8%
Job training	37%	45%	8%
Personal Safety	26%	34%	8%
Lack of food assistance	26%	34%	8%
Quality of public schools	24%	32%	8%
Transit	29%	36%	7%
Transport for Elders	29%	36%	7%
Treatment for substance abuse	25%	32%	7%
Homeless children	25%	32%	7%
Substance abuse	56%	62%	6%
Non-violent crime	44%	50%	6%
Domestic violence	44%	50%	6%
Access to counseling services	23%	29%	6%
Funding public schools	41%	46%	5%
HIV/AIDS	26%	30%	4%
Cost of prescriptions	73%	76%	3%
Mental Health	36%	39%	3%
Information on social services	39%	42%	3%
More diverse businesses	57%	59%	2%

Ranking of needs identified in the Community Survey by women and men.

The survey asked them to rate need on a 1-5 scale, 1 being not at all serious and 5 being very serious. As indicated, the percentage combines serious and very serious on the 5 point scale.

The Difference column means the difference between Female and Male rating of need.

Source: 2006 Rock County Community Needs Assessment
Data sorted by gender

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