

# Iowa County Health Needs Assessment



2009

*prepared by Starfish Consulting, Inc.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Healthy Iowa County 2009

### Introduction

- ❖ Iowa County Health Coalition
- ❖ Purpose / Methodology
- ❖ Wisconsin County Health Rankings

### Executive Summary

### The Path Ahead

### Description of Iowa County

- ❖ Demographic Profile
- ❖ Health Outcomes
- ❖ Health Determinants
  - Health Care
  - Health Behaviors
  - Economic Trends
  - Physical Environment

### Additional Data

- ❖ County Surveys
- ❖ School Surveys
- ❖ Key Informant Interviews / Focus Groups

### Appendix

- ❖ Iowa County Health Resources
- ❖ Task Force Progress Reports
- ❖ References
- ❖ Iowa County Maps
- ❖ Wisconsin County Health Rankings Snapshot – Iowa County (2008)

## HEALTHY IOWA COUNTY 2009

The Iowa County Health Coalition started in 1992. A community health needs assessment was initiated which resulted in task forces and community groups made up of public health staff, local professionals, and private citizens. They worked to improve healthy life styles and promote positive changes in behaviors. Community Health Needs Assessments were also conducted in 1996 and 2001. Task forces met and worked on issues that were identified as priorities. There are some concerns that have not changed. Smoking has decreased in the general population and in pregnant women in our county. Obesity and binge drinking continues to be a problem. Iowa County residents, however, do rate themselves as healthy overall. We have medical clinics in four communities and a hospital that is centrally located. However, dental care access continues to be a concern especially for those who have medical assistance or no health insurance. Iowa County has also had a decline in the number of dentists who are actively practicing in the county.

There are other factors also involved with improving healthy lifestyles in our county. Upland Hills Health has its new name, new building and many positive program additions to provide quality health care in Iowa County. These include a wellness center, cardiac rehabilitation center, dialysis unit, and health education. Iowa County can boast of having other activity centers, as well as alternative health care measures like acupuncture and massage therapy.

In 2005, the Health Coalition came together to focus on barriers to health care for the uninsured and underinsured. The result was to establish a Free Medical Clinic staffed by volunteers. Since its inception, over 1000 people have utilized this clinic.

In 2008 and 2009, the Iowa County Health Department planned and conducted a community health needs assessment with the help of a consultant. Existing data and statistics were reviewed, surveys were done and interviews conducted throughout the county. This booklet was produced to illustrate the Iowa County data, help identify concerns and needs, and identify resources.

We always need new and more people to become involved with the Iowa County Health Coalition. Please consider helping out as we implement our 2009 plans.

Sincerely,

June E Meudt  
Director, Iowa County Health Department

## Introduction

### Iowa County Health Coalition

This Community Health Needs Assessment was developed through the generous support of the members of the Iowa County Health Coalition who contributed their time, talent, and other resources. Sincere appreciation is expressed to the individuals who served as members of the coalition for their personal commitment to a healthier Iowa County and for their invaluable insight and expertise in carrying out the health assessments, identifying health priorities, and suggesting strategies for reaching goals.

- June Meudt, Director, Iowa County Health Department
- Paula Dail, Community Member;
- Kim Horst, Health Educator, Iowa County Health Department;
- Deb Ivey, UW-Extension – Iowa County, 4-H Youth Agent;
- Donna Peterson, UW-Extension – Iowa County, Nutrition Coordinator;
- Linda K. Pittz, BS, NREMT - Senior Outreach Specialist, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Charlie Price, President, United Fund of Iowa County/Dodgeville Kiwanis
- Ruth Schriefer, UW-Extension – Iowa County, Family Living Agent;
- Randy Terronez, County Administrator, Iowa County;
- Jenny Ullsvik, Epidemiologist, Wisconsin Division of Public Health;
- Carol Roth, Starfish Consulting, Inc.

### Purpose

There are several purposes for doing a community health needs assessment:

- (1) To fulfill State Statute HFS 140.04(c) responsibility that requires each local health department to identify chronic diseases or injuries through a community needs assessment OR by the regular and systematic collection of information on the health of the community
- (2) To provide updated information on the population health status which provides the basis for the identification and prioritization of local health-related issues and the development of a local health implementation plan.
- (3) To create a process to encourage public and community input into the population health needs and the use of available resources

### Wisconsin County Health Rankings

The Wisconsin County Health Rankings Report from UW Population Health Institute, School of Medicine and Public Health was the foundation for the data collection and analysis for the Iowa County Community Health Needs Assessment. (A copy of the “Wisconsin County Health Rankings – Iowa County 2008” is included in the Appendix.)



## Executive Summary

Iowa County has done a good job of addressing many of the health-related issues that local residents face. This is evident by the county's high ranking in the Wisconsin County Health Rankings Report. Some examples of success within Iowa County include: low teen birth rates, high rate of pregnant women receive prenatal care, high immunization rates, many residents report that they are in very good and/or good health, high graduation rates, and good air and water quality.

At the same time Iowa County continues to face many challenges.

Faced with a county population that is aging and an increased exodus of elderly residents from the workforce, local employers will be faced with the burden of being able to secure an adequate labor force. The reduction in the number of younger workers entering the workforce will add to this problem. This population shift also affects the types of services that will be necessary to meet the needs of a growing elderly population.

Given the current status of the economy, socioeconomic conditions are possibly the greatest challenge for local communities. Unemployment rates, food stamp participation rates, and food insecurity are increasing and contributing factors to this challenge.

Other health-related issues that surfaced through the Iowa County Community Health Needs Assessment include: chronic illness (especially related to heart disease and cancer), suicide and other mental health issues, diabetes, proper nutrition, motor vehicle related hospitalizations and deaths, alcohol use and abuse (adult and youth); and sexually transmitted diseases.

A highlight and most notable asset of Iowa County is the physical environment. Low air and water quality risks, as well as, few cases of lead poisoning make Iowa County a safer and healthier place for local residents.

## The Path Ahead

By definition, the CHIP (Community Health Improvement Process) is a cyclical progression toward community health improvement. With the completion of the Community Health Needs Assessment, participants will move to the Implementation Phase. This part of the cycle consists of planning, implementing, and evaluating initiatives and interventions to reach measurable objectives.

The level of achievement will result from the commitment of the taskforce and/or /workgroup members. All residents and community and civic organizations are invited to join the effort. To become involved or for more information, please contact:

Iowa County Health Department  
June Muedt, Director  
207 W. Parry Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
Phone: 608-935-2810  
Email: [june.meudt@iowacounty.org](mailto:june.meudt@iowacounty.org)

For more information about community needs assessments and grant writing contact:

Starfish Consulting, Inc.  
102 Pine Street  
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655  
Phone: 608-624-3883  
Email: [starfishconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:starfishconsulting@yahoo.com)

# Description of Iowa County

## Demographic Profile

### Population Characteristics

The population of Iowa County increased (5.9%) between 2000 and 2007. This increase is slightly higher than the growth rate for Wisconsin (5.3%) during the same time period. The population growth rate in Iowa County can be attributed to natural changes (births minus deaths) and net migration, with more people moving into the county than are moving out (Iowa County Workforce Profile, 2007).

Population	1990	2000	2007	Percent Change 2000 - 2007
Iowa County	20,150	22,780	24,130	+ 5.9%
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,647,000	+5.3%

Source: Workforce Development Profile (2008); WI Department of Workforce Development (DWD)

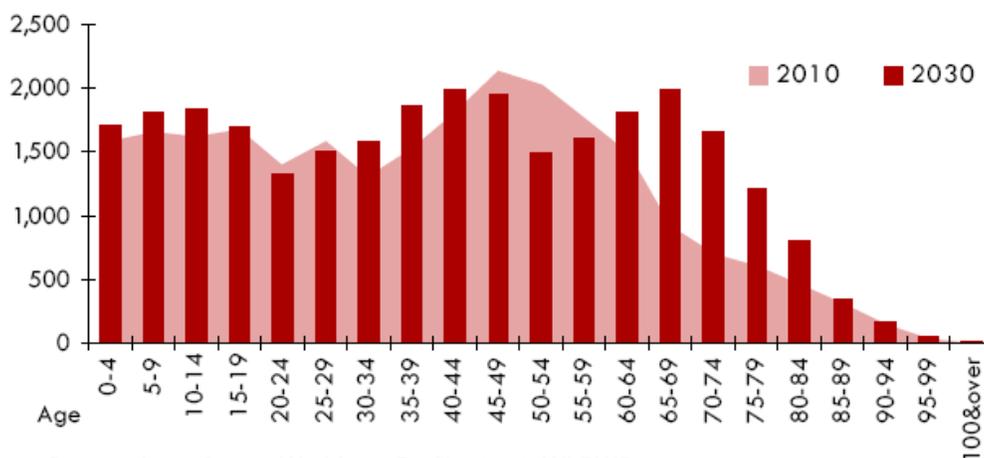
### Age

In Iowa County and elsewhere throughout the state, there is the declining number of young adults (age 18-24) and a growing number of elderly residents. Between 2005 and 2030, the 40-54 age groups in Iowa County will shrink from 25% of the population to 20% of the population. At the same time, the 65-79 age groups will grow from 9% of the population to 17% of the population.

Between 2000 and 2006, the average age of the county increased from 37.1 years to 39.1 years. It is estimated that by 2030, the average age of Iowa County residents will be 41.4 years. According to the Census Bureau, a two year shift in less than a decade is significant and indicates further changes (U.S. Census Bureau).

Between now and 2025, the number of 18 years old residents in Iowa County will decline slightly, while the number of residents over 65 will double. This trend will affect the number of available labor force participants, as well as the types of services required to meet the needs of this changing population.

**Population by Age Cohorts in Iowa County**



Source: Iowa County Workforce Profile, 2008; WI DWD

## Race

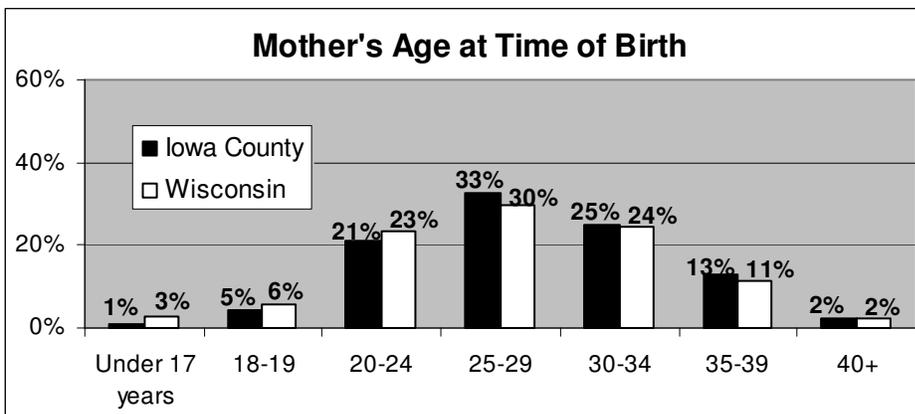
In Iowa County white, non-Hispanic persons, represent 98% of the population. Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian and Hispanic (Latino) persons make up the remaining 2%.

Race (2006)	Iowa County	Wisconsin	U.S.
White persons	98.4%	90.0%	80.2%
Black persons	0.3%	6.0%	12.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons	0.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Asian persons	0.4%	2.0%	4.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin	0.7%	4.7%	14.4%
White persons non-Hispanic	97.7%	86.0%	66.9%

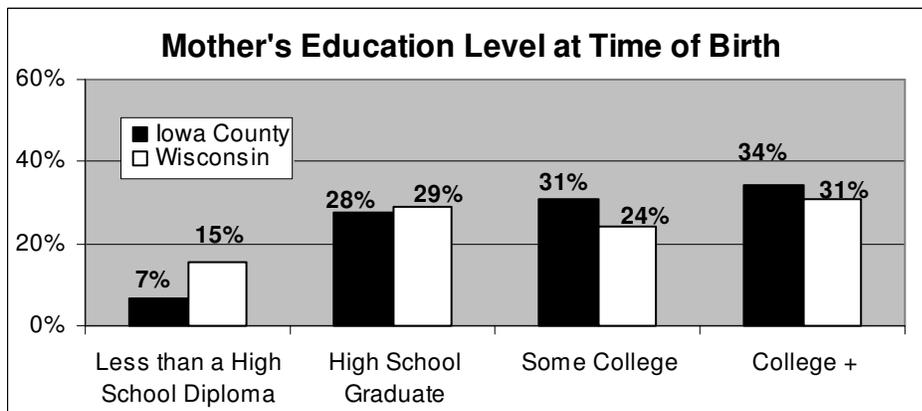
Source: U. S. Census

## Births

In 2007, there were 308 births to Iowa County residents. Almost 3 out of 4 (73%) women who live in Iowa County and gave birth in 2007 were married which is considerably higher than the state rate of 64% for the same time period. 90% of pregnant women in Iowa County receive prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy.



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

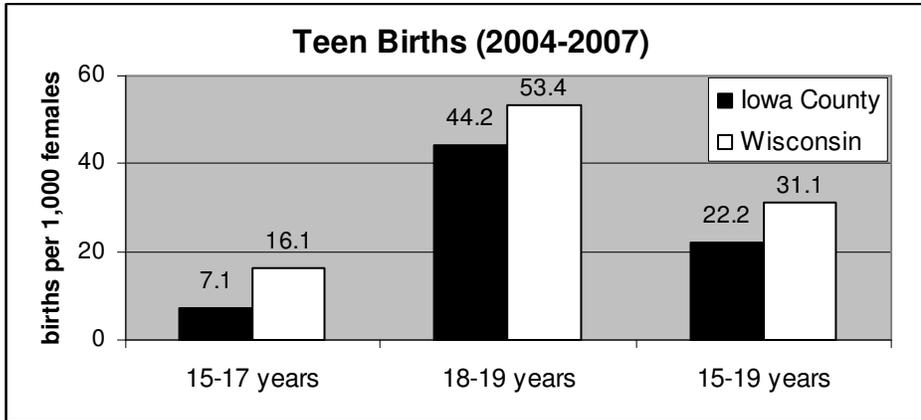


Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

In Iowa County, women having children are older and have higher levels of education when compared to other women in the state who are having children.

## Teen Birth Rates

Iowa County ranks 26 out of 72 counties in the teen birth rate per 1,000 births (2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings). As shown below, the teen birth rate in Iowa County between the years of 2004-2007 was lower than the state birth rate for female youth between the ages of 15 to 19.



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

## Household Characteristics

In 2008, there were 9,828 households in Iowa County. About three-fourths of Iowa County residents owned their homes and slightly more than 1 out of 4 rent their homes (EDIS, North Carolina Department of Commerce).

### Summary for Iowa County (Demographic Profile):

- Iowa County has experienced a population growth similar to the state between 2000 and 2007.
- The median age of Iowa County residents is increasing.
- Between now and 2025, the number of those entering the workforce (age 18) in Iowa County will decline slightly, while the number of those leaving the workforce (age 65) will double.
- About three-fourths of Iowa County residents own their homes and slightly more than 1 out of 4 rent their homes.
- In Iowa County, women having children are older and have higher levels of education when compared to other women in the state.
- The majority (90%) of pregnant women in Iowa County receive pre-natal care in the first trimester of their pregnancy.
- The teen birth rate in Iowa County for females age 15 to 19 is lower than the state teen birth rate (2004-2007).

## Health Outcomes

The health outcomes ranking in the Wisconsin County Health Profiles is based on two components:

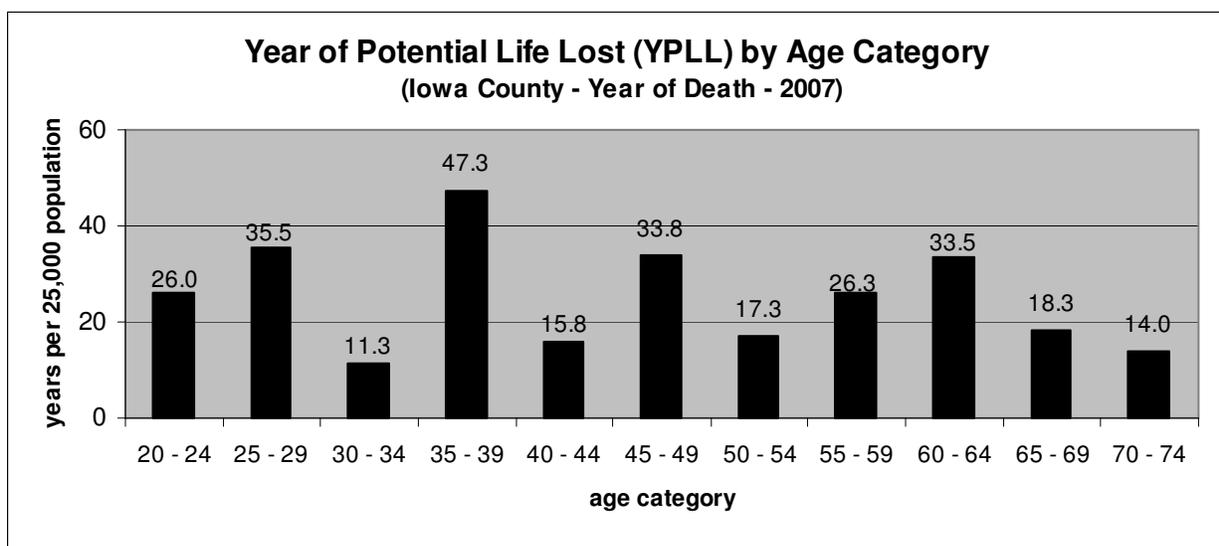
1. **Premature Mortality** is a measurement of premature death. It is measured in years of potential life lost (YPLL) prior to age 75. YPLL accounts for the age at which a person dies. The younger a person dies, the more potential years of life are lost. This measure is age-adjusted and calculated as a rate per 100,000 populations. Charts in this report were adjusted to represent 25,000 populations which more accurately reflect the population in Iowa County.
2. **General Health Status** is a measure of self-reported health. The measure that is reported in the Wisconsin Health Rankings is the percent of a population surveyed that report fair or poor health.

### Premature Mortality

Years of potential life lost (YPLL) is calculated to show the impact of premature deaths in a population. In Iowa County, the years of potential life lost (YPLL) is not just due to aging. If YPLL were due only to aging, the average years of life lost would be the highest for the older age categories. As shown below, this is not the case in Iowa County.

The three leading age categories for years of potential life lost (YPLL) in Iowa County are 25 to 29, 35 to 39 and 45 to 49. The chart below indicates that the 25 to 29 age category lost an average of 35.5 years of life before age 75 for every 25,000 population. The number of years of potential life lost in Iowa County per 25,000 population for the 35 to 39 age category and the 45 to 49 category were 47.3 years and 33.8 years, respectively.

In 2008, the years of potential life lost (YPLL) for all age categories was 1,474 years per 25,000 people in Iowa County. This is only slightly lower than the state rate of 1,495 years per 25,000 populations. Iowa County ranks 40 out of 72 counties in the state for mortality (2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings).



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

## Infant Mortality

Infant mortality for Iowa County has decreased over the decade. In Iowa County, from 1993-1997, the rate was 7.4 deaths per 1,000 babies born. This means that in Iowa County there was about 1 infant death (per 1,000 babies born) each year between 1993 and 1997. From 2003-2007, the infant mortality rate decreased to 5.1 deaths per 1,000 babies born. This is still slightly lower than the state rate of 6.4 deaths per 1,000 babies born for that same time period.

## Causes of Death

In 2007, there were 185 deaths in Iowa County. Heart attack (acute myocardial infarction) is the leading cause of death in Iowa County between 2003 and 2007.

### 10 Most Common Causes of Deaths in Iowa County (2003-2007)

1. Acute Myocardial Infarction (heart attack)
2. All Other Diseases (Residual)
3. Cerebrovascular Diseases (e.g. stroke, aneurysm)
4. All Other Forms of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease
5. Malignant Neoplasms of Trachea, Bronchus and Lung (Cancer)
6. Other Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
7. All Other Forms of Heart Disease
8. Motor Vehicle Accidents
9. Diabetes Mellitus
10. Heart Failure

Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

In Iowa County, injury-related and coronary heart diseases are the causes of death with the highest cost per capita for hospitalizations. The charge per capita for all cancers ranks third in Iowa County and the incidence rate is similar to the state.

Iowa County	
Cause of Death	Charge per capita for hospitalizations
Injury Related	\$172
Coronary Heart Disease	\$169
Cancer (All)	\$74
Psychiatric	\$53
Pneumonia & Influenza	\$55
Diabetes	\$14

Source: 2006 Profile for Iowa County; DHFS

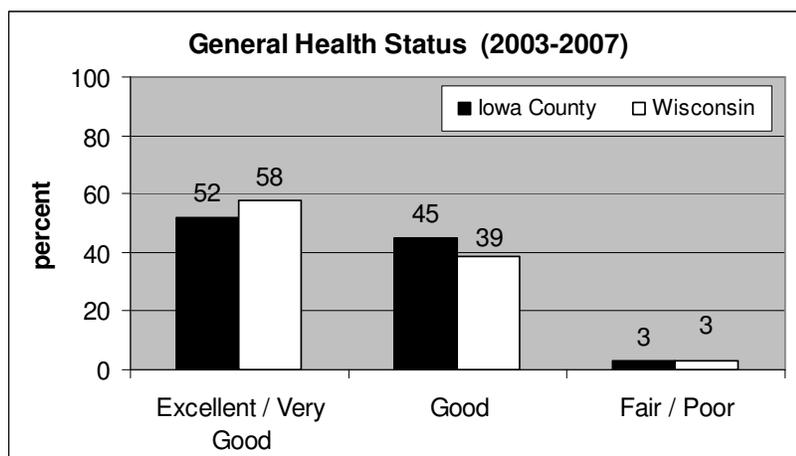
Iowa County has a higher death rate from influenza and pneumonia than the state. Between 2003 and 2007, about 2 people died each year due to these causes. The vaccination rate for pneumonia in Iowa County is 69% for pneumonia and 61% for influenza. The state rate is 69% for pneumonia and 74% for influenza.

Deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia Iowa County (2003-2007)	
Number of Deaths (Iowa County)	31
Death rate per 25,000 population (Iowa County)	7.4
Death rate per 25,000 population (Wisconsin)	5.2

Source: Profile for Iowa County (Dec 2008) DHFS

## General Health Status

In 2008, Iowa County ranked the best in the state with only 6.6% of county residents reporting that their physical health is fair / poor. As shown below, a large percentage of Iowa County residents (97%) reported that they are in excellent / very good / good health between 2003 and 2007. According to the Community Health Status Report (2008), the median percentage of adults in the U.S. that reported that their health was fair or poor was 17.9%, compared to 7.9% of Iowa County adults. (Community Health Status Indicators, U.S. Health and Human Services)



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

Between 2003 and 2007, two out of five Iowa County residents (~40%) report that they have been told by a medical professional that they have high blood pressure (compared to one out of four in the state). Of those with high blood pressure, 85% were currently taking medicine.

## Mental Health

The need for mental health services is clearly identified in Iowa County; since, more than one out of four county residents (27%) report that their mental health was not good on one or more days in the past month.

The number of child abuse and neglect reports (per 1,000 children) has decreased in Iowa County since 2001, and now is more closely aligned with the current state rate.

The suicide death rate is almost double the state rate. For Iowa County, the suicide death rate is approximately 6 per 25,000 populations (calculated from the 100,000 population rate).

Mental health was identified as an important health-related issue by many Iowa County residents (Iowa County Survey – 2008) (Full survey results in Appendix)

Indicator	Iowa County			Wisconsin
	2001	2003	2005	2005
Suicide death rate (per 25,000 population)	N/A	N/A	5.88 (2004)	2.92 (2004)
Mental health Hospitalizations (per 1,000 children)		6	4	6
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports (per 1,000 Children)	36	48	30	30

Source: Kids Count [www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org)

### **Summary for Iowa County (Health Outcomes):**

- **YPLL (years of potential life lost) is not just a result of aging for residents of Iowa County.**
- **Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in Iowa County.**
- **Injury related deaths have the highest cost per capita for hospitalizations in Iowa County.**
- **Almost all residents in Iowa County (97%) report that they are in “excellent / very good” or “good” physical health.**
- **Mental health was reported as NOT GOOD by more than 1 out of 4 (27%) of Iowa County residents.**
- **Child abuse and neglect reports have remained constant in Iowa County and are now similar to the state rate.**
- **In Iowa County, pneumonia immunization rates are similar to the state; influenza immunization rates are lower than the state.**
- **The suicide death rate in Iowa County is double the state rate.**

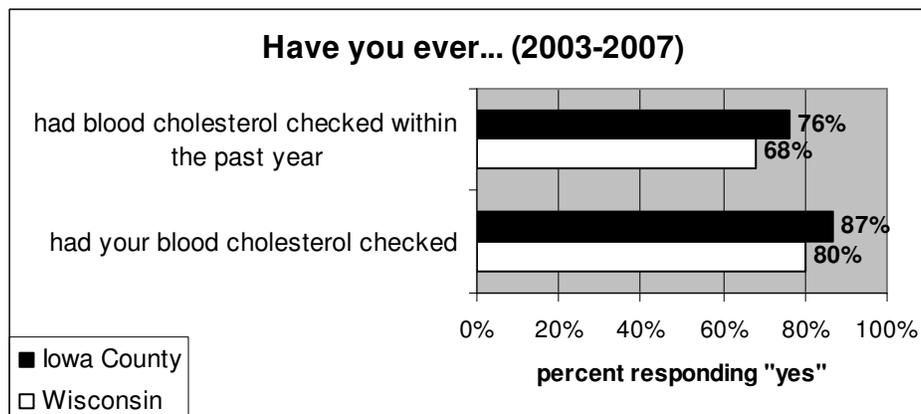
## Health Determinants

The health determinants in the Wisconsin County Health Rankings are based on four major components:

1. **Health Care** is a measure of access and whether people are receiving recommended services.
2. **Health Behaviors** refer to healthy lifestyles and personal health decisions such as tobacco use, smoking during pregnancy, physical inactivity, obesity, nutrition, alcohol use, motor-vehicle crashes, intentional /unintentional injuries, STDs, and violent crime.
3. **Socioeconomic Factors** (SES) impact health and health behaviors. These factors include unemployment, household income, self-sufficiency wages, labor force participation, education, divorce, and poverty. SES is a strong indicator of health and impacts health behavior risk factors such as smoking, drinking alcohol, physical inactivity, and obesity.
4. **Physical Environment** measures air and water quality and other environmental factors.

### Health Care

An important part of health care is the ability to access available services. As shown in the chart below, almost 9 out of 10 (87%) of Iowa County adult residents access services regularly for cholesterol screenings. In fact, almost three-fourths (76%) of residents report that they have had their cholesterol checked within the last year. On both measures, Iowa County residents perform better than the state residents.



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

To increase health care access, there are several barriers that need to be addressed (increase number with health insurance, increase system capacity for prevention; increase access to oral health care services). As shown below, the percent of Iowa County residents with health care coverage is above the state average.

Health Care Coverage (2008)	
Wisconsin	92.6%
Iowa County	94.1%

Source: Wisconsin County Health Rankings (2008)

Other issues that impact health care coverage in the county are: ever increasing costs of health care coverage for employers; high cost of coverage for farmers and other self-employed; co-pays; uninsured versus underinsured; and the effect of BadgerCare. In Iowa County, some residents meet their health care needs through on-site clinics at their place of employment. Local schools also provide very limited health care through their school nurses. Community Connections Free Clinic is an additional resource for health care.

In addition to these considerations, hospitals are faced with the burden of “uncompensated care” which continues to rise. BadgerCare Plus may improve access to hospital care and reduce the costs of uncompensated care for local medical facilities.

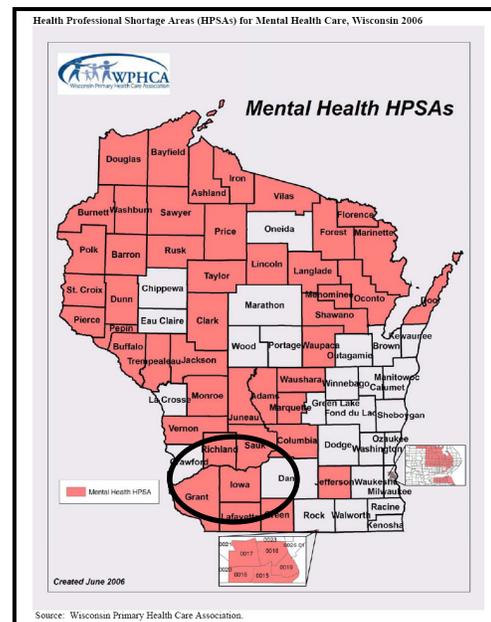
Teaching youth the importance of preventive health care is crucial. About seven out of ten youth in middle and high school in Iowa County report that they have been to a doctor for a checkup or physical exam when they were not sick. (Search Survey 2005, 2006)

### Health Services

Iowa County is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for Mental Health. With adequate hospitals and clinical services available, the county is not designated as a HPSA for primary care.

There are several reasons why residents might not access the health services that they need:

- (1) Lack of transportation;
- (2) No health insurance;
- (3) Not familiar with the health services available;
- (4) Stigma (mental health); and
- (5) Needed services not available in local area.



Source: <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>

## Preventable Hospitalizations

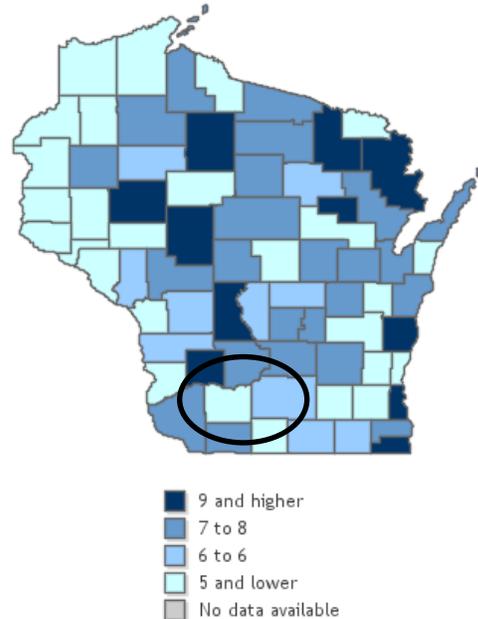
Preventable Hospitalizations are hospitalizations for conditions where timely and effective ambulatory care can reduce the likelihood of hospitalization.

(<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/>)

Iowa County's preventable hospitalization rate is 5 per 1,000 children and ranks 17 out of 72 counties in the state.

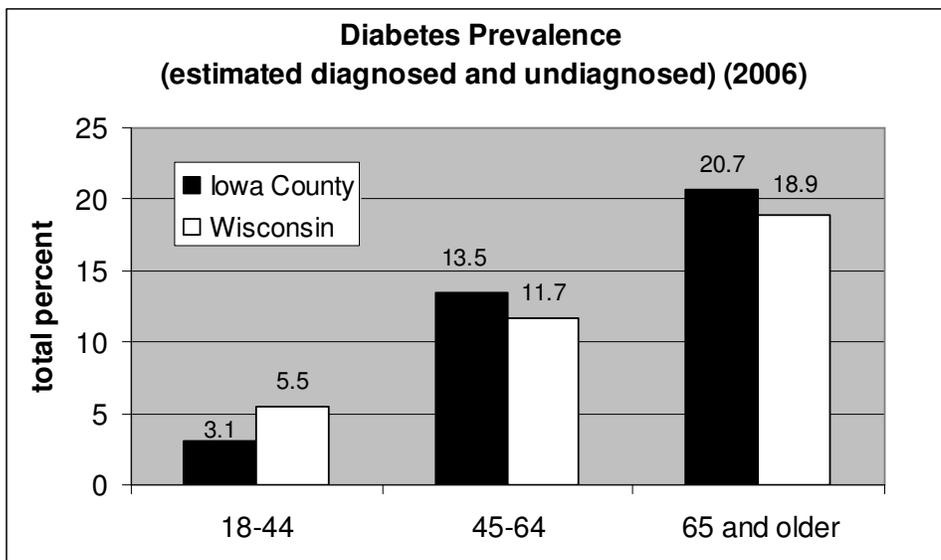
The cost of preventable hospitalizations in Iowa County is \$132 per capita.

Wisconsin Counties  
Preventable Hospitalizations, 2005



## Diabetic Care

In the 2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings, Iowa County ranked 57 out of 72 counties on the "poor diabetic care score" which is based on the percent of diabetics without recommended care. The prevalence of diabetes in Iowa County (2006) which includes the estimated diagnosed and undiagnosed is higher than the state for residents age 45 and older. Diabetes-related hospitalizations are 14.3 % in Iowa County compared to a similar rate (14.6%) for the state.



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

## **Summary for Iowa County (Health Care)**

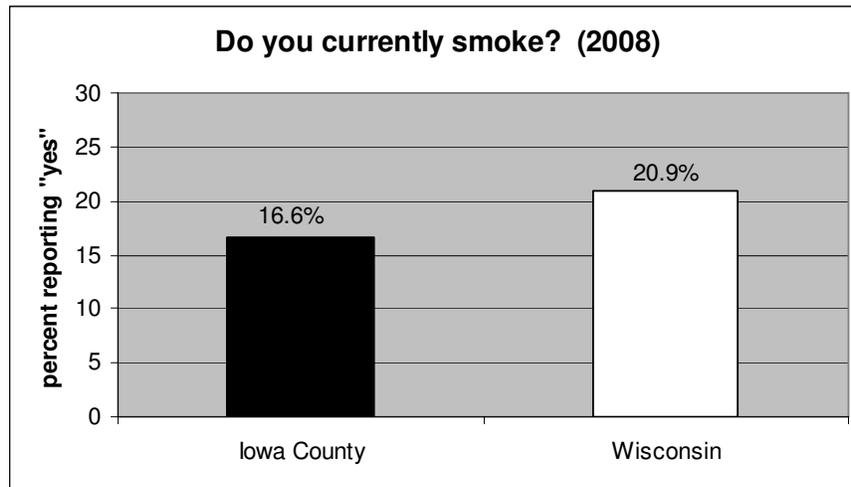
- **Health facilities in Iowa County are well dispersed throughout the county.**
- **The uncompensated care cost for Iowa County hospitals continues to increase.**
- **Preventable hospitalization rates in Iowa County are in the top quartile of the state.**
- **The percent of residents with health care coverage in Iowa County is higher than the state or the region.**
- **Iowa County is a designated HPSA for Mental Health, NOT for Primary Care or Dental.**
- **Diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed) is higher in Iowa County than in the state for adults 45 years of age and older.**

## Health Behaviors

There are several health behaviors that are used to examine the health behaviors of a county. These behaviors include: tobacco use, smoking during pregnancy, physical inactivity, obesity, nutrition, alcohol use, motor-vehicle crashes, intentional / unintentional injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, and violent crime.

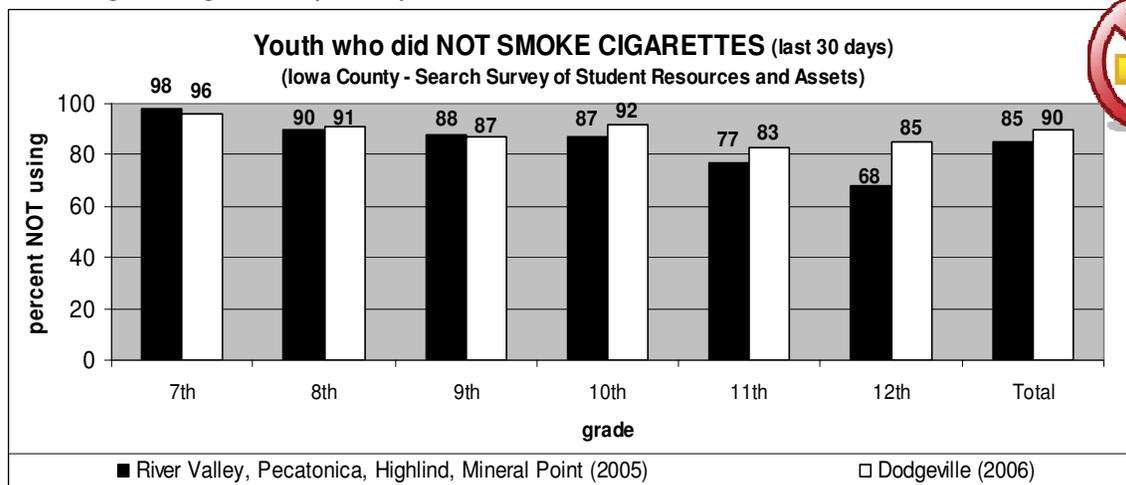
### Tobacco Use / Smoking During Pregnancy

The 2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings report that almost 1 out of 7 Iowa County residents (17%) indicated that they currently smoke. According to the 2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings, Iowa County ranks 17 out of 72 counties on the health behavior – smoking during pregnancy. The rankings report that 13.3% of pregnant mothers in Iowa County smoke. This is slightly lower than the state average of 14.1%.



Source: Wisconsin County Health Rankings (2008)

According to the Search Institute Survey, youth smoking rates in this region of the state are similar to the state youth smoking rates. According to the Wisconsin Youth Tobacco Survey (2008), 21% of high school youth and 4.3% of middle school youth smoke (self-reported). Overall, about 86% of both males and female youth in grades 7-12 in Iowa County report that they have not tried smoking. However, half of teens surveyed associate moderate to great risk with smoking 1-2 cigarettes per day.



## Second Hand Smoke

Many youth in Iowa County are exposed to second hand smoke (Exposure to Second Hand Smoke in Wisconsin Homes"; UW-Center for Tobacco Research):

- 2 out of 5 middle and high school students in Wisconsin live with someone who smokes.
- Youth can develop asthma and other allergies when exposed to second hand smoke.
- Many cases of sudden infant death are also attributed to second hand smoke.

## Smoking Related Deaths

Smoking related deaths were slightly lower in Iowa County (15%) than in the state (16%) (2000-2004). Years of potential life lost (YPLL) for all causes of death related to smoking was 390 years. During that same time period, the direct health care cost of smoking in Iowa County was \$9.1 million (Burden of Tobacco - Wisconsin). These health care costs include hospital care, prescription drugs, personal care, nursing home care, etc.

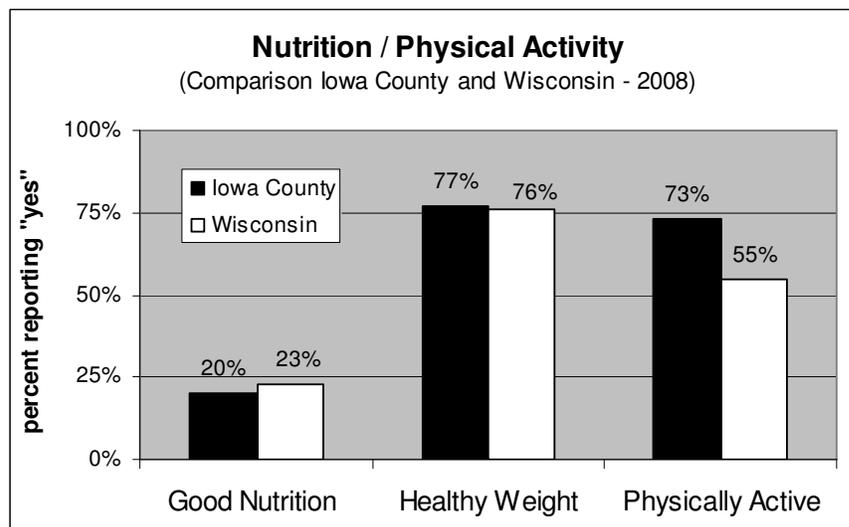
## Asthma

In 2003-2007, slightly more than 1 in 10 (12%) Iowa County residents reported that they had been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that they had asthma.

## Nutrition / Physical Activity

Iowa County ranks in the top one-half of the state on several measurements of nutrition-related health determinants: (2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings). In Iowa County:

- Almost three out of four (77%) adults in Iowa County are at a healthy weight.
- Three out of four (73%) adults in Iowa County report that they are physically active.
- Only one out of five residents (20%) report that they have good nutrition (eat 5 or more fruits and vegetables each day).



Source: Wisconsin County Health Rankings (2008)

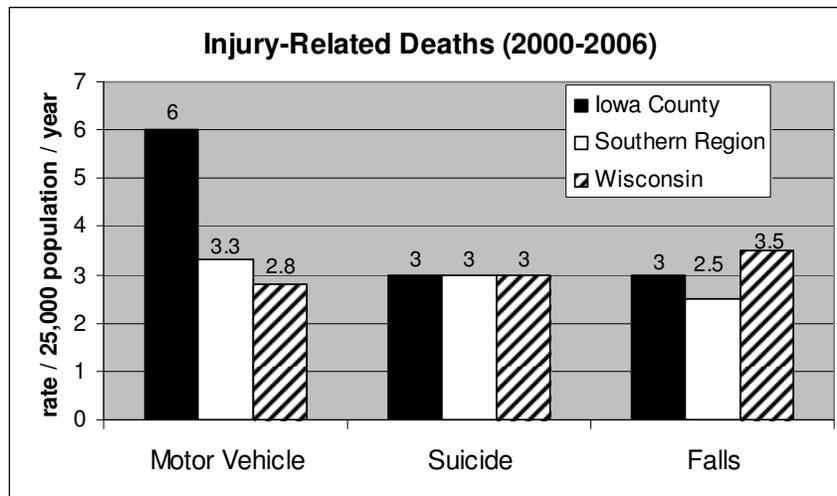
About three out of five middle and high school students in Iowa County report that “people who know me would say that I take good care of my body” (such as eating foods that are good for me, exercising regularly, and eating three good meals a day). (Search Survey - 2005, 2006)



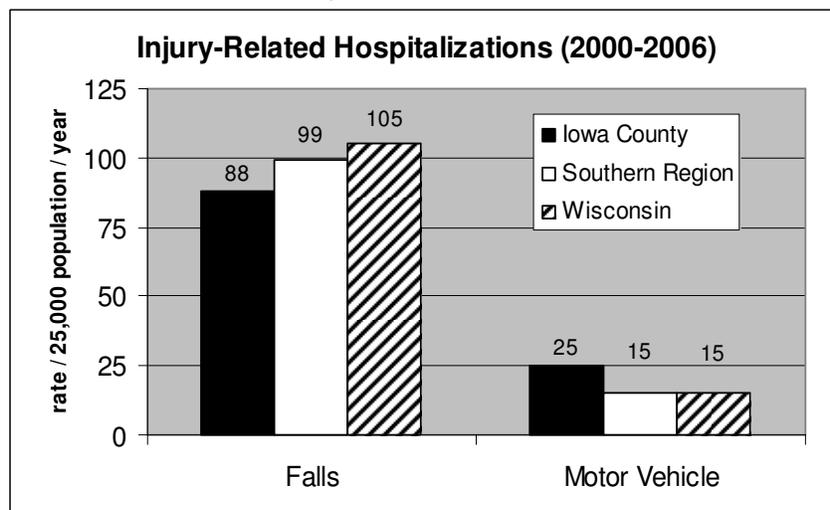
**Intentional / Unintentional Injuries**

Motor vehicle-related deaths in Iowa County are double the rate in the Southern Region or the state. Injury-related deaths attributable to suicide and falls in Iowa County are similar to the Southern Region and the state. In Wisconsin, the rate of suicide was the highest it has been since 1990; and more than one-half of this increase occurred in the 15 to 24 year old age group (Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting Systems, April 2009).

In Iowa County, motor vehicle-related hospitalizations are higher than the Southern Region or the state. Injury-related hospitalizations attributable to falls are slightly lower than the region or the state.



Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

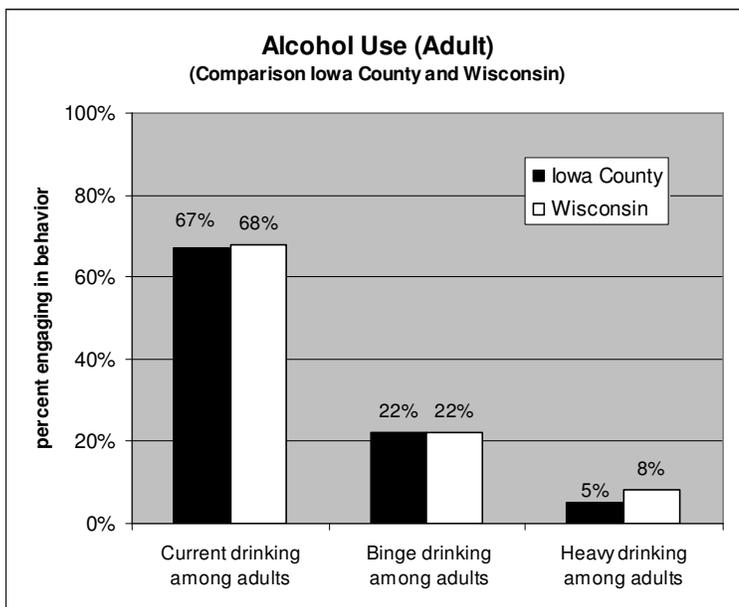


Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)

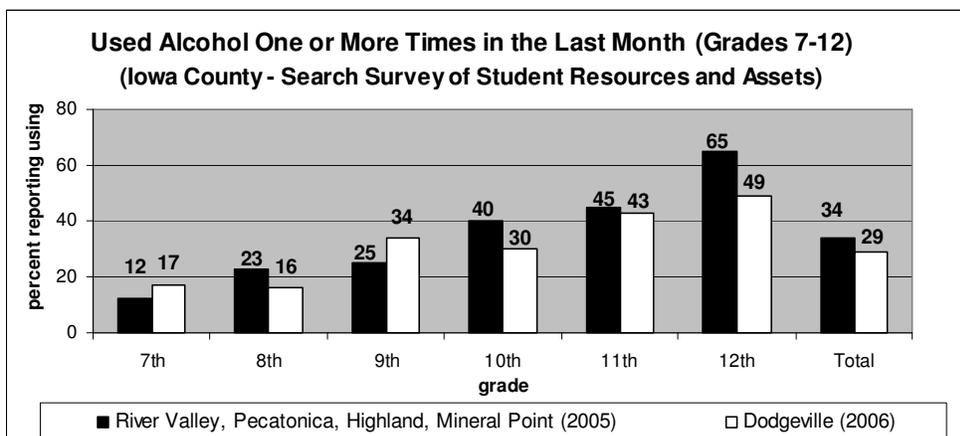
## Alcohol Use

Wisconsin leads the country in alcohol use among adults, binge drinking, and heavy drinking and Iowa County adult alcohol use is similar to the state. From 2003 to 2007, two out of five (43%) adults in Iowa County reported that they binge drank at least one time in the last month. (WI Behavioral Risk Factor System)

In the Search Survey, Iowa County youth in middle and high school were asked if they had used alcohol one or more times in the last month. About one-third of the youth surveyed in grades 7 through 12 said that they had. As shown below, alcohol use increases consistently through middle school and high school.

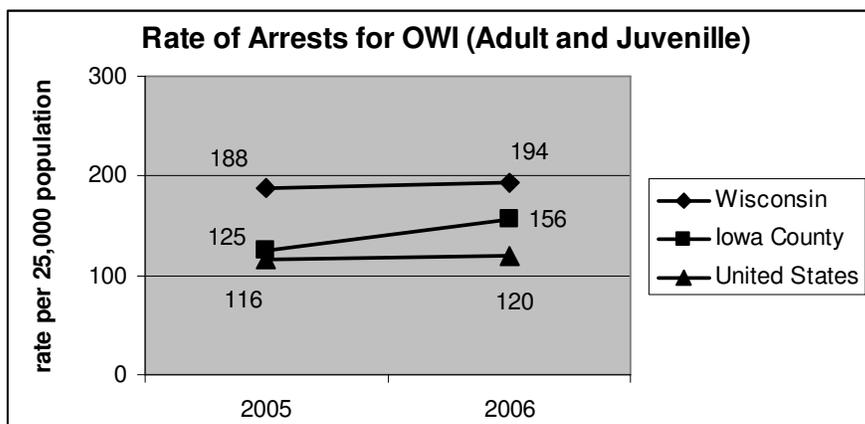


Source: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish)



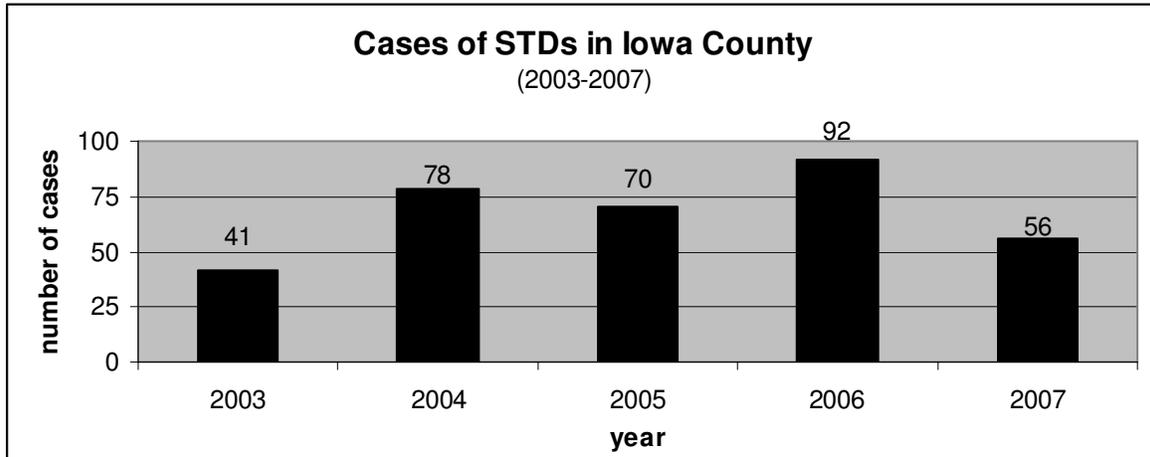
**Almost 2 out of 3 youth in grades 7-12 in Iowa County reported that they had NOT used alcohol in the past month.**

Arrest rates for OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) in Iowa County are higher than the nation and increasing toward the high rates of the state. In 2007, there were 40 persons injured and two fatalities from alcohol-related crashes within the county (Iowa County Sheriff's Department). More than one out of four (26%) current drivers in Wisconsin drove under the influence of alcohol in the past year. This was considerably higher than the national rate (15%). (Wisconsin Epidemiological Profile on Alcohol and Other Drug Use, 2008)



### **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)**

In Iowa County., the STD rate per 25,000 populations was 43 (2008), which is about one-third the state rate of 125 (per 25,000). Iowa County ranks 28 out of 72 counties on the sexually transmitted disease rate (Wisconsin County Health Rankings). Chlamydia is the most prevalent STD in Iowa County (Wisconsin Surveillance Report 2007), followed by Genital HSV and Gonorrhea.



Source: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/std/Statistics.htm>

### **Summary for Iowa County (Health Behaviors):**

- **Percentage of smoking mothers in Iowa County is lower than the state average.**
- **Asthma rates in Iowa County are lower than the state.**
- **Smoking-related death rate in Iowa County is similar to the state rate.**
- **Daily fruit and vegetable intake by Iowa County adults is poor.**
- **Overweight / obesity rates are similar to the state.**
- **Injury-related death rate due to motor vehicle accidents in Iowa County is double the state rate.**
- **Iowa County adult alcohol-use rates and OWI arrest rates are high in comparison to the nation.**
- **About one out of three youth in middle and high school in Iowa County report that they have used alcohol within the last month.**
- **The number of STD cases in Iowa County increased 37% between 2003 and 2007.**

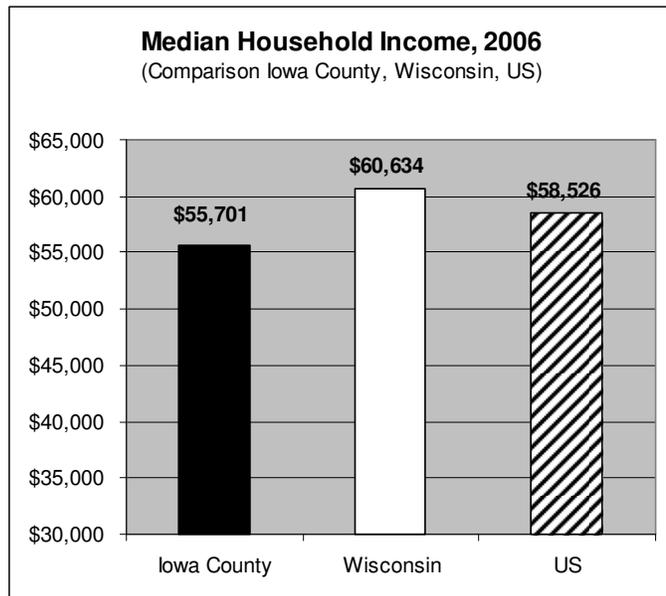
## Economic Trends

### Median Income

As shown in the chart, the median household income for residents of Iowa County is slightly lower than the state and national averages.

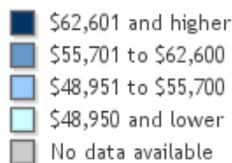
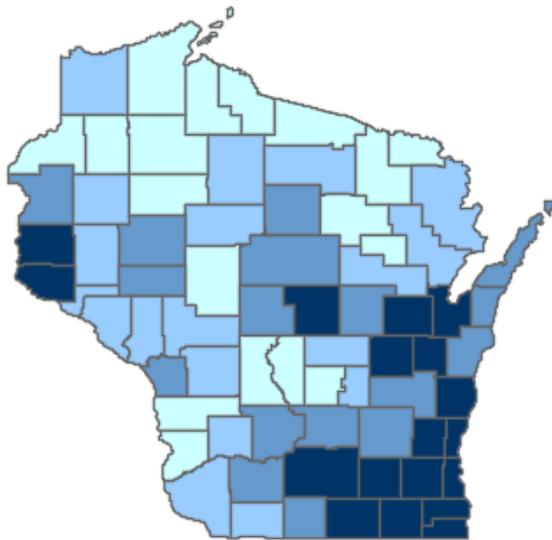
Likewise, the per capita personal income (PCPI) (\$30,685) in Iowa County is slightly lower than the state (\$34,405) and the nation (\$36,714). This is not uncommon for rural counties, such as Iowa County, that do not have urban/suburban areas.

(U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2008)



Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Wisconsin Counties  
Median Family Income, 2006



The median household income in Iowa County is slightly lower than the urban counties in the state.

## Poverty

The percent of persons living in poverty in Iowa County is 6.4%. This is lower than the state rate (10.8%) for the same time period. (American Family Survey, 2005-2007) (A map of the "Percent of Population in Poverty Status in Iowa County" can be found in the Appendix.)

In Iowa County, about one in 15 families with children under 18 years of age (6.1%) was living in poverty. This percentage more than doubles (13.2%) in Iowa County when the household is headed by a single, female adult. The state poverty rate for families with children under 18 years of age is 7.4% and 28.1% when the household is headed by a single, female adult.

According to the U.S. Census (2005), 10% of Iowa County individuals aged 65 or older live in poverty and women are almost twice as likely to live in poverty in their senior years as men. Iowa County was the second highest county for senior citizens living in poverty (2000 Census).

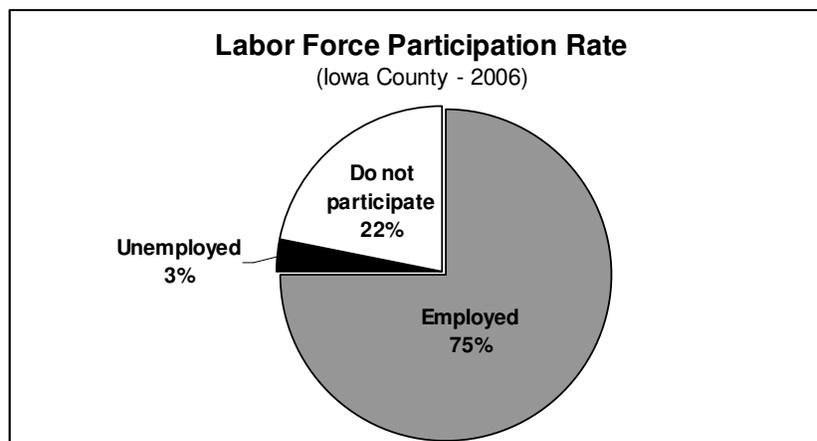
Iowa County ranks 42 out of 72 for self-sufficiency wage. The Iowa County self-sufficiency wage of \$13.10 equates to an annual income of \$27,668. The self-sufficiency wage is the hourly wage needed by a single parent with two children (one preschooler and one school-age), in order to have sufficient after-tax income to meet basic needs without public or private assistance.

Iowa County Self-Sufficiency Wage (2004)			
Iowa County	Wisconsin	Wisconsin County Rank	Range
\$13.10	\$14.14	42	\$9.70-\$21.72

Source: University of WI - Extension -- <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs/>

## Labor Force Participation

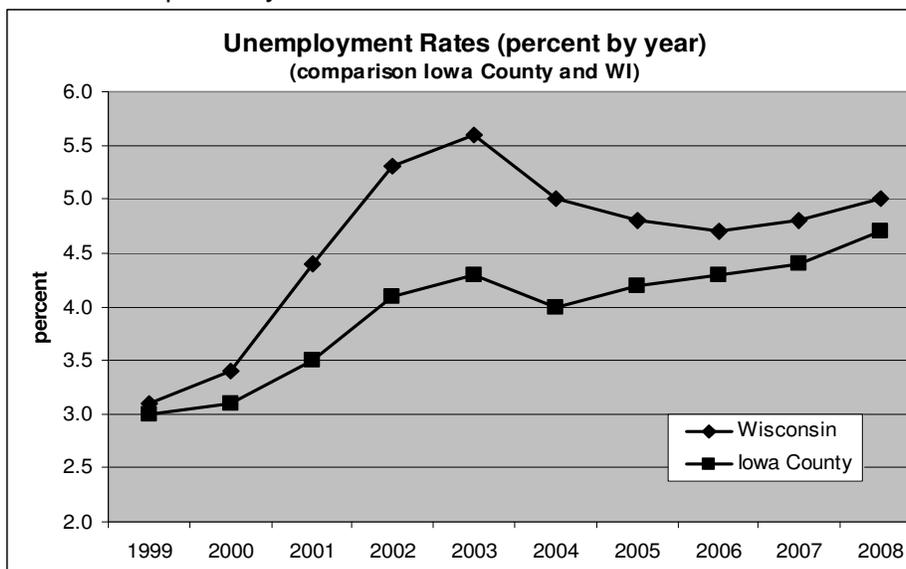
In Iowa County (2006), three-fourths (75%) of the labor force (civilian, non-institutionalized workers over the age of 16) is employed with few unemployed (3%), and one-fifth of the available workers do not participate in the labor force. The percent of the labor force that is employed in Iowa County exceeds the state rate (70%). Reasons why Iowa County residents may choose not to work include: (1) retired; (2) in-school; (3) encounter employment barriers; (4) seasonally employed; and (4) simply choose not to work. As the population in Iowa County ages, fewer workers will be available to participate in the labor force.



Source: DWD, Office of Economic Advisors, July 2006

## Unemployment

In Iowa County, unemployment rates have consistently been lower than the state. The downturn in the economy over the last two years is reflected in the increase in unemployment locally and throughout the state. As reported by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Iowa County unemployment rates for January, February, and March in 2009 were 8.3%, 9.4% and 10% respectively.

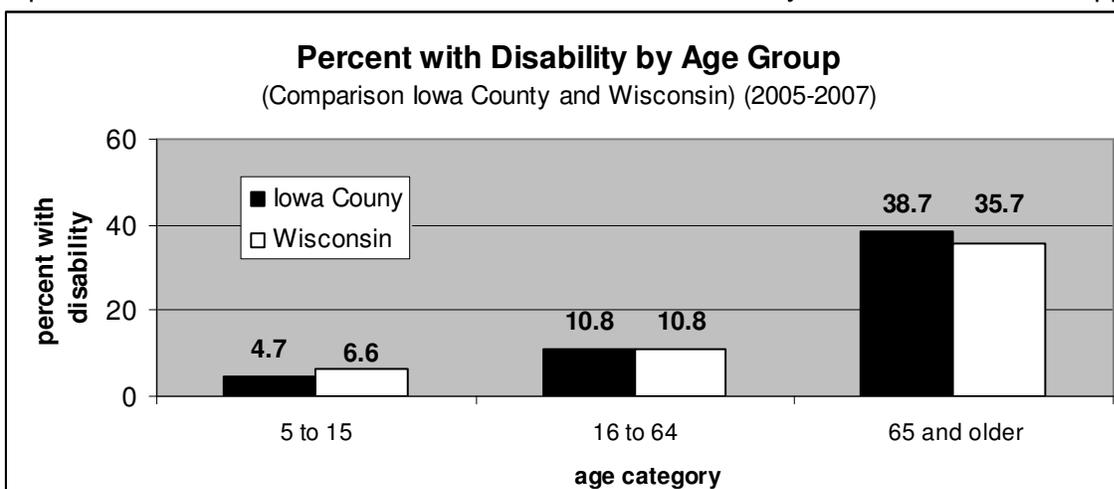


Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov>

## Persons with Disabilities

Disabilities can impact daily living, participation in the workforce, and social activities. From 2005 to 2007, about one out of 10 Iowa County residents age 16 to 64 were reported having specific disabilities (e.g. sensory, physical, mental, self-care).

In the 65 and older age category, slightly more than one out of three Iowa County residents (38.7%) were reported having a disability. This rate is slightly higher than the state (35.7%) (A map of the "Percent of Persons with Disabilities in Iowa County" can be found in the Appendix.)



Source: American Family Survey (U.S. Census) (2005-2007)

### Free and Reduced School Meals

The participation rate in the free and reduced school meal programs in Iowa County are considerably lower than the state. The percent of eligible participants in these programs is an indicator of the percent of low-income families that live in each school district. To be eligible, the family income must be at or below 185% of poverty. In the past, the percent of free and reduced school meal participation may have underestimated the low-income population, as everyone eligible did not apply for the programs. Currently, there is a new process that automatically enters those receiving aid.

### Free and Reduced School Meal Participation Rate

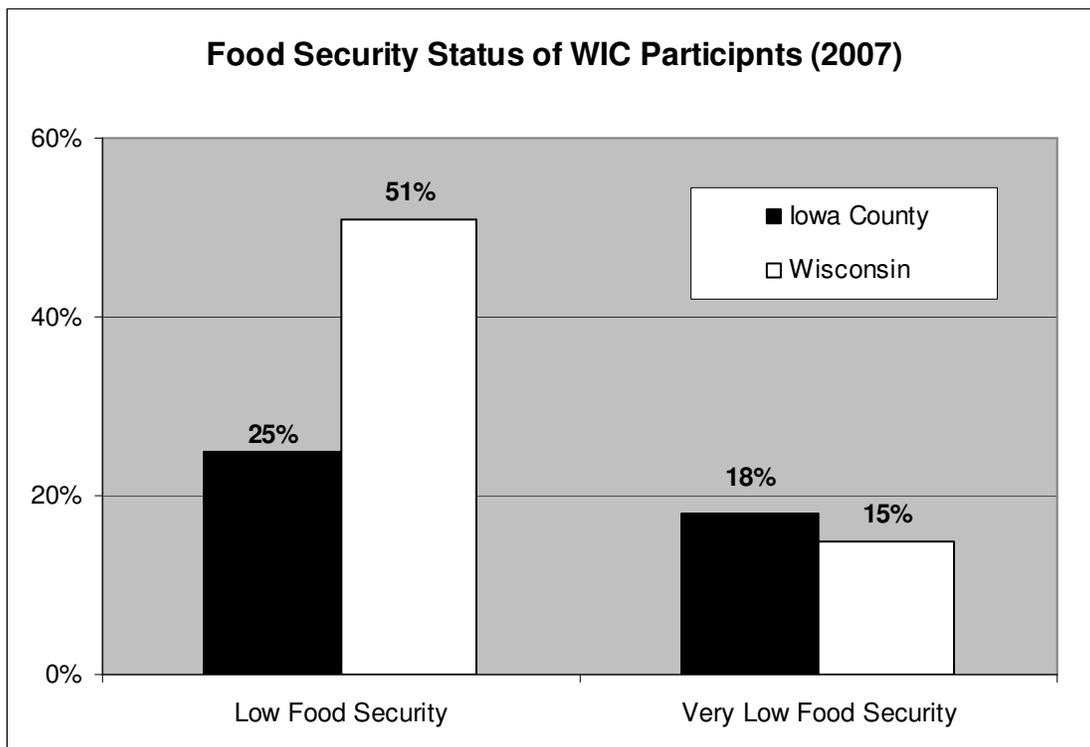
Iowa County = 20.3%

Wisconsin = 30.9%

Source: <http://www.kidscount.org>;

### Food Insecurity

In Iowa County, many households are food insecure. The rate is better (lower) than the state average for low food security, but higher for very low food security. One out of four WIC households in Iowa County has low food security which means they have reduced quality, variety and desirability of their food. About two out of 10 WIC households in Iowa County have very low food security, which means that their eating patterns have been disrupted and their food intake reduced.



Source: UW-Extension; [www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs)

Food insecurity, poverty, and unemployment can affect participation in the food stamp program. As show here, food stamp participation rate in Iowa County is lower than the state rate. However, in recent years, the food stamp participation rate is increasing at a faster pace than the state. From 2002 to 2006, the food stamp participation in Iowa County increased 82% compared to the 33% increase for the state. Suggested reasons for the percent change from 2002-2006 include increased: nutrition education programs within the county; poverty; and increased success at locating and enrolling eligible program participants.

Food Stamp Participation (per 1,000)					
Year	2002	2003	2005	2006	Percent Change (2002-2006)
Iowa County	23	27	37	42	+82%
Wisconsin	49	56	64	67	+33%

Source: Kids Count <http://www.kidscount.org>

### Education

In the 2008, the percentage of people in Iowa County 25 years and over with at least a high school diploma was 88.5%. This means that a small minority of residents (11.5%) did not graduate from high school. This rate is lower than the state average (14.9%). About 1 out of 20 (6.5%) high school students in Iowa County do not graduate as expected.



### Summary for Iowa County (Economic Trends):

- **Median household income in Iowa County is slightly lower than the state or nation.**
- **Free and reduced school meal participation rates in Iowa County are lower than the state participation rates.**
- **Unemployment rates in Iowa County are slightly lower than the state, but are beginning to increase.**
- **Many eligible workers do not participate in the workforce.**
- **Self-sufficiency wages in Iowa County are slightly lower than the state.**
- **The aging population in Iowa County contributes to the decline in labor force participation.**
- **High school completion rates are higher in Iowa County than in the state.**
- **Many WIC households in Iowa County have very low food security.**
- **Food Stamp participation rates in Iowa County are lower than the state but increasing at a faster pace.**

## Physical Environment

The physical environment is one of Iowa County's strongest and most notable assets. Both the air quality risk and the estimated percent of the population exposed to excess nitrate levels are lower than the state levels.

Natural water is abundant in the county. Even so, water samples collected from almost 900 private wells between 1999 and 2007 had high levels of nitrates and chlorides, showing that the water has been influenced by humans on the surface. Fourteen percent (111 wells) exceeded the drinking water standard of 10 mg/l. Water with nitrate at this level should not be consumed by pregnant women or infants under 6 months old. (Iowa County, UW-Extension)

Atrazine was found in some wells. Throughout Wisconsin traceable amounts of atrazine are found in 40% of all rural wells. Iowa County is similar to the state percentage of wells with traceable amounts of atrazine. Safe drinking water standards for atrazine are 3 parts per billion. (Iowa County, UW-Extension)

The percent of homes screened in Iowa County with elevated radon levels (12.2%) is similar to the state rate (12%). (Wisconsin County Health Rankings, 2008)

In Iowa County, the housing with an increased lead risk is higher (44.3%) than the state rate (31.1%). Risk is determined by the percent of pre-1950s housing within the county. On this measurement of the physical environment, Iowa County ranks 68 out of 72 counties on the Wisconsin County Health Rankings (2008). For counties with a large percentage of older homes, increased lead risk is more common. Even with an increased risk of lead poisoning, the percent of children in Iowa County screened that tested positive for lead poisoning (2.0%) is slightly lower than the state rate (2.2%).

### Summary for Iowa County (Physical Environment):

- **Iowa County has a low exposure to radon risk.**
- **Air quality risks and water nitrate levels in Iowa County residents are lower than the state levels. Nevertheless, about 1 out of 7 wells (14%) exceeded the drinking water standard.**
- **The percentage of wells in Iowa County with traceable amounts of atrazine levels is similar to the state percent.**
- **The risk of lead poisoning within Iowa County homes is higher than the state rate, but the percent of children testing positive for lead poisoning is lower than the state.**

## Additional Data

### Iowa County Health Needs Survey (Adults) 2008

How much of a problem are the following health-related issues for Iowa County? (Rating Scale: 1= Not at all, 2= Slight, 3 = Moderate, 4 = Serious, 5 = Very Serious)				
Health Issues	County Employee Survey (N = 110)	School Staff (N = 130)	General Population (N = 173)	Youth (N = 21)
1. Cost of Health Care	4.00	3.70	2.71	
2. Cost of Prescription Drugs	3.86	3.70	2.57	
3. Access to Health Services	2.89	2.95	1.82	
4. Violence (i.e. abuse)	2.80	2.81	1.11	2.00
5. Tobacco Use or Exposure	3.21	3.52	1.36	2.55
6. Alcohol or Other Drug Use	3.79	3.69	1.31	3.14 (Alcohol) 2.19 (Other Drugs)
7. Enough Nutritious Food	2.73	3.24	1.58	3.14
8. Mental Illness / Depression	3.29	2.81	1.49	
9. A person with a Disability	2.76	2.65	1.28	
10. Overweight / Obesity	3.63	3.35	2.02	3.38
11. Lack of Physical Activity	3.50	3.35	1.84	2.57
12. Unintentional Injuries (falls or burns)	2.48	2.06	1.30	
13. Dental Care	3.79	3.15	2.13	
14. Divorce	3.25	3.52	1.16	
15. Single Parent Households	3.45	3.56	1.36	
16. Unemployment	3.20	3.12	1.39	
17. Non-medical prescription drug use	3.17	2.69	1.31	1.71
18. Depression / Suicide	3.15	2.49	1.19	1.52 (Suicide) 2.38 (Depression)
19. STDs	2.66	2.18	1.05	

- County Employee respondents were asked to respond “for families in Iowa County”;
- School staff were asked to respond “for families that you work with”;
- General Population was asked to respond “for your family”;
- Youth were asked to respond “for people your age”

<b>How well does Iowa County address the following health-related issues?</b> (Respondents were asked to rate each health issue from 1 to 4 with 1 being “Nothing in Place” to 4 being “What is in place fully meets our needs” )		
<b>Health Issues</b>	<b>School Staff (N = 130)</b>	<b>General Population (N = 173)</b>
Alcohol Use/Abuse	3.05	3.72
Other Drug Use / Abuse	3.07	3.78
Wellness	3.47	3.64
Nutrition	3.27	3.58
Obesity	2.78	3.61
Mental Health	2.65	3.72

- School respondents were asked “How well does your school address these health-related issues?”
- General Population respondents were asked “How well does Iowa County address these health-related issues?”
- The average percent of adult respondents that said they “don’t know” or “not sure”
  - School – 5%
  - General Population – 45%

<b>Are there resources in Iowa County to address the following issues?</b> (Respondents were asked to rate each health issue from 1 to 4 with 1 being “Not At All” to 4 being “More than Enough” )				
<b>Health-related Issues</b>	<b>County Employee Survey (N = 110)</b>	<b>School Staff (N = 130)</b>	<b>General Population (N = 173)</b>	
			<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>Percent Responding (Don’t Know)</b>
Alcohol Use/Abuse	2.53	2.29	3.36	42.4%
Other Drug Use / Abuse	2.43	2.26	3.42	45.3%
Smoking Cessation	2.65	2.22	3.38	42.4%
Obesity Prevention	2.42	2.04	3.48	47.7%
Mental Health	2.31	2.22	3.28	38.4%

- The average percent of adult respondents that said they “don’t know” or “not sure”
  - County Survey – 10%
  - School – 20%
  - General Population – 43%

## Key Informant Interview Summary

### Iowa County Health Needs Assessment

(March 2009)

*Following is a summary of the key informant interviews conducted with a cross-section of Iowa County workers and community members in reference to the health needs of local residents.*

#### Key informants were asked to think about and respond to:

- What are the health-related issues that you see affecting Iowa County individuals and/or families?
- What specifically are those individuals and/or families having problems with?
- How do you think we can best address (solve) those problems?

#### General Responses

- Hospitals are doing great job communicating what programs are available. For the most part, there are programs in place to help people and they are easy to access. Recommendation: ***Continue to keep communicating with community members so that services are better utilized.***
- The elderly population is putting a strain on the work force because people are retiring and need more care. Recommendation: ***Have facilities and resources in place to meet the needs of this growing population.***
- We are very lucky to live where we do. There are a lot of activities for individuals and families to do to improve their health and/or stay healthy. Recommendation: ***Continue to provide healthy choice activities for families or individuals to participate in. It is important to keep these activities low cost or free...for example, walking paths, etc.***
- The EMS responds to a lot of stroke and cardiac events in ages 50-75. Calls are more males than females and common symptoms include breathing problems. Recommendation: ***Need programs in place, perhaps at the hospital, to inform and educate this age group about the risks for these health-related issues. The EMS volunteers could then provide or suggest this information to those who need it.***
- There is a large elderly population that does not necessarily have a family or support group. Recommendation: ***This elderly population does not always know the resources available and where to get help. Need to find ways to communicate with this segment of the population.***

#### Key Informant interviews included:

- EMS volunteers
- Rescue Squad members
- Veteran Service providers
- Medical workers
- Job Service providers
- County workers
- Attorneys
- Community Members

- Prescription drugs are too expensive.  
Recommendation: ***Not sure how to help this problem.***
- Patients need to travel too far to get mental health services.  
Recommendation: ***Mental health services need to be available locally.***
- There are a lot of local residents that suffer from heart or chest pains that are stress related. Perhaps this is another effect of the troubled economy?  
Recommendation: ***Programs and information available on how to manage stress and relieve stress.***
- Diabetes is becoming more common and people are uninformed.  
Recommendation: ***Programs and information readily available.***
- The EMS respond to many calls related to falls with the elderly, especially in the winter.  
Recommendation: ***None suggested.***
- The school nurse is good with school-age immunizations.  
Recommendation: ***Continue to have an accurate record of school-age immunizations Provide more opportunities for parents to get their child's immunizations at low or no cost.***
- Affordable and available health care for veterans. Not all veterans are admitted. For example, if their income is too high, they are turned away.  
Recommendation: ***Veterans need better coverage or different coverage.***
- We need dental coverage for ALL AGES.  
Recommendation: ***The new dental clinic will help with this need – we need one!***
- Transportation for local residents, especially elderly, to be able to access services.  
Recommendation: ***Design a program for getting people to the services they need. For the elderly, this will decrease the use of emergency services to get to the hospital.***

Common themes that surfaced in the key informant interviews:

- Need for health-related information. Topics include: heart disease (heart/chest pain), diabetes, child immunization schedules (for parents), stress management, how-to reduce the risk of falls (elderly).
- Many programs and services are underutilized.
- Need better way to communicate information about services and resources available to address health-related issues.
- Lack of available transportation to services (for all ages and economic levels).
- Need for dental services for those who do not have health coverage (residents on medical assistance).
- Need for services for under-served populations (e.g. veterans).

# Appendix

## Iowa County Health Resources

The following is a partial list of community committees and/or places that help address the major issues identified in the Iowa County Community Health Needs Assessment. For a more complete list of resources available in Iowa County, consult the Community Connections Resource Binder available from UW-Extension or the Iowa County Health Department.

### **ISSUE: Healthy Eating / Nutrition**

- Dieticians at Upland Hills Health
- Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program/UW-Extension
- School Lunch Program and Free and Reduced Lunches
- Seniors United for Nutrition (SUN)
- Day Care Centers that participate in the Food Program
- Head Start
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Food Share
- Food Pantries in Dodgeville, Spring Green, Highland, Avoca, Barneveld, Blanchardville, Livingston, Muscoda
- School Wellness Committees and Policies

### **ISSUE: Physical Activity / Obesity**

- Cardiac Health at Upland Hills Health
- Activity Centers/Memberships at UHH, Lands' End,
- Fitness Centers in Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Rewey, Platteville
- Yoga Classes
- Fit Mom Classes at UHH
- Community Recreation Programs for youth and adults
- Dieticians at Upland Hills Health
- Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program/UW-Extension
- 4-H Initiative on Healthy Lifestyles
- Iowa County Wellness, Alcohol and Tobacco Coalition for Healthy Youth (IWATCH)
- School Wellness Committees and Policies

### **ISSUE: Physical Health**

- Upland Hills Health (Cardiac Rehab Center, Dietitians, Dialysis)
- 7 Medical Clinics in Iowa County
- Chiropractors
- Other Alternative Medicine – acupuncture and massage therapy
- Community Connections Free Clinic (Dodgeville)
- Birth-3 Program
- Reproductive Health Care
- Wisconsin Well Woman's Program
- Badger Care Plus
- Upland Hills Health Compassionate Care Program

**ISSUE: Family and Children**

- Family Resource Center
- Birth to Three Program (Unified Community Services)
- Community Health and Safety Programs (Bike Safety Fairs, Rural Youth Safety Day, Car Seat, Tractor Safety)
- Child Care Resource and Referral Center (Family Connections of SW WI)
- Family Advocates (Domestic Violence)
- Youth Organizations (4-H, Scouts, etc.)
- Community Recreation Programs
- Teen Court (Truancy, ATOD, etc.)
- Head Start
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)

**ISSUE: Mental Health**

- Unified Counseling Services
- Lutheran Social Services
- Uplands Counseling
- Mental Health Services at Community Connections Free Clinic ( new for 2009)

**ISSUE: Dental Health**

- Federal dental clinics opening in Darlington (May, 2009) and Dodgeville (September, 2009)
- 9 Dental Clinics in Iowa County
- Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (Dodgeville)
- Preventative Activities through the Iowa County Health Department and Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Program (SW CAP): dental hygienist, fluoride prescriptions, fluoride varnish
- 5 of 11 municipalities have Fluoridated Water

**ISSUE: Transportation**

- Southwest Wisconsin Transit Team
  - Iowa County Taxi
  - Commission on Aging Van
  - Leadership in Innovative Flexible Transportation (LIFT)

**ISSUE: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs**

- Iowa County Wellness, Alcohol and Tobacco Coalition for Healthy Youth (IWATCH)
- Tobacco Free Iowa County
- Member of the Southern Regional Alliance for Wisconsin Youth
- DPI Alcohol and Tobacco Grant for the River Valley School District
- School SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) groups
- TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use)
- 2005 Search Survey Data and Reports (4 Iowa County Schools)
- 2006 Dodgeville SEARCH Survey
- Plans for a 2009 Southwest Wisconsin Youth Survey (SWYS) (5 Iowa County schools)
- OWI Intensive Supervision Program
- D.A.R.E.
- Road Crew

## **Iowa County Task Force Progress Reports**

The information on the following pages focuses on the task forces and resources that have been active in Iowa County. Many good things have been done through the leadership of those who have been active on these health-related issues. The updates are exciting.

### **Alcohol Prevention**

IWATCH includes a focus on alcohol and drug abuse and prevention. School staff, UW-Extension staff, Iowa County Health Department, CESA #3 staff, and other community representatives work together to become informed about AODA issues, current research, and best practices for prevention.

Information about post-prom activities, family communication, enforcement of school activity codes and best practices in parenting were distributed and promoted annually through newsletters, school and community presentations, and news releases. Coalition members also assisted in the development of a Teen Maze decision making activity that has been presented in several Iowa County schools.

In September of 2005, 1,264 students participated in the Iowa County Survey of Student Resources and Assets developed by the Search Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders in four schools in Iowa County including Mineral Point, River Valley, Highland and Pecos. The survey identified youth issues, behaviors, and concerns, youth supports and opportunities, as well as resources and assets that have been found to contribute to important life experiences that children and adolescents need to thrive.

Following the survey, a newsletter series, "Parents Are the Foundation" was written and distributed by UW-Extension staff in Iowa County from 2005 to 2008. These monthly newsletters were prepared and distributed to schools and communities to share the information that was uncovered in this survey. These newsletters also included suggestions for parents, teens, and schools to use to address some of the issues.

In the fall of 2009, several Iowa County schools will participate in the Southwest Wisconsin Youth Survey (SWYS) to provide updated information and data about Iowa County youth.

In 2008, a survey was conducted with County municipalities asking about their beer tent ordinances or guidelines. Only one municipality said they had written guidelines. Letters were sent out with the results as well as samples of ordinances they could adopt to make beer tents more restrictive and to discourage underage drinking.

In the spring of 2009, River Valley and Dodgeville Schools participated in a state and county initiative called, "Parents Who Host Lose the Most." This campaign combines the efforts of schools and local police departments to provide parents with accurate information about the health risks of underage drinking and the legal consequences of providing alcohol to youth. The campaign encourages parents and other responsible adults to clearly and directly remind family members and close friends that allowing teenage alcohol consumption is illegal and unacceptable. This follows the message that was shared at a Town Hall meeting on Underage Drinking that was held in Dodgeville in 2007.

In 2008, IWATCH joined the Southern Region Alliance for Wisconsin Youth. This new partnership will provide opportunities for increased funds, activities, and ideas for AODA programs in Iowa County.

### **Dental Task Force**

Dental problems including lack of access to services have been a major concern in Iowa County for decades. In 2008 only 4% of people enrolled in the Wisconsin Medical Assistance Program have had a covered visit to the dentist. In addition, persons and families who are low income, have no dental

insurance and can't afford dental care privately also lack access. This problem is compounded in that Iowa County has also experienced a decrease in dental providers over the past few years.

Along with problems with dental access only 5 of 11 municipalities with water systems put fluoride into their systems. Iowa County does not have fluoride naturally present in its groundwater. In addition the county is primarily rural with many households that rely on their own well systems. To provide fluoride to their family members households must add a fluoride supplement to their daily activities which is not commonly done.

To resolve the lack of access to dental services problem the Iowa County Health Department, the Community Connections Free Clinic and the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program have collaborated in starting a dental clinic in Dodgeville. As a result of the joint efforts two separate Federally Qualified Health Care Centers will be establishing dental satellite clinics in both Lafayette County (Darlington) and in Iowa County (Dodgeville) that will serve patients from the region including Iowa County. These clinics starting in 2009 will serve Medical Assistance patients as well as those without insurance using a sliding fee scale. In addition a group of seven county organizations from southwestern Wisconsin have formed a regional dental initiative with the purpose of resolving all the dental issues over time. That group has had several meetings and will continue to meet at least twice each year to work on programs to improve the quality of dental health throughout the region.

The Ronald McDonald (dental) Care Mobile has been coming to Iowa County for several years with the purpose of serving children who do not have a dental home and have no dental insurance other than Medical Assistance. This bus is a project of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and the McDonald Corporation that is supported with funds from local communities and is available for approximately 8 weeks every year. Over 100 children in Iowa County received all the services they needed to eliminate dental problems as well as provide education for good prevention. However, children are allowed only one course of treatment are not allowed to come back for preventative services; thus these children in 2009 will be able to go to the new Federally Qualified Health Center dental clinics for their dental home and preventive care.

The Iowa County Health Department continues to provide fluoride supplements at no cost to families who drink well water throughout the county. Eligible families need to sign up at the Iowa County Health Department and then can pick up the supplements. About 200 supplement prescriptions are provided each year. The Iowa County Health Department and the Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program have also partnered on starting a Dental Hygienist in the schools and are also working in the community to provide dental varnish and oral exams to students in school settings. The intent is to provide prevention and education within the school setting and thereby avoiding or delaying much more serious dental problems later in life.

## **Emergency Management**

The purpose of Emergency Management has always been to provide plans and updates, as necessary, which are developed in cooperation with all government agencies, emergency responders and interested citizens. The intent is to have the best possible policy recommendations in place for appropriate procedures and assistance to assure an adequate response and recovery for any emergency situation that might occur because of a man-made or natural disaster. Following September 11, 2001 and the added threat and/or concern for possible terrorist related activities a new emphasis has been placed on homeland security issues. The entire country has been encouraged to be aware of and even vigilant in issues related to the protection of persons and property. Emergency Management efforts have been assisted by the past availability of aid from the Department of Homeland Security providing for the acquisition of equipment for personnel protection and communications enhancements. Mutual aid and interoperable communications are common practices in our coverage area and an accelerated working relationship has been developed with both the emergency and routine health service providers. Throughout the county, our primary emergency responders are volunteers and a consistent effort remains in place to assist their response capability. Providers take part in continuing education and exercises.

Drills are routinely conducted by single and multiple agencies to assure that policies and procedures are practiced and commonly understood.

### **Public Health Preparedness and Response Consortia #9**

The Consortia # 9 is an organization of six county health departments who meet monthly and provide education, planning and exercises to their communities. The Iowa County Health Department participated in numerous in-services to local agencies, organizations, and community members in regards to Avian Flu in animals and humans, blood borne pathogens, pandemic flu plans and emergency plans. Meetings were also held between the Iowa County Health Department, the hospital, medical clinics and medical providers in regards to a new state-initiated program "Anti Viral Distribution Centers." This concept is to help provide consistent and coordinated viral medication to people with symptoms during a flu pandemic. The Public Health Emergency Plan including mass clinic plans were reviewed and revised this past year.

### **Tobacco Prevention**

The Tobacco Free Iowa County or TFIC mission is to reduce use and exposure to tobacco products in Iowa County. Since 1996, TFIC has collaborated with many community partners to work towards this goal.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Poster/Billboard Contest in the fall of 2008 involved 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Pecatonica and Highland School Districts. The two winning billboards will be on display for three months. In 2008 we also conducted a clean air Poster Contest with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Mineral Point School District. The top five winners of the poster contest will receive prizes and have their posters displayed in the downtown businesses in Mineral Point.

TFIC contacted the Iowa County municipalities that had no written smoke free public building resolutions to encourage them to adopt a written resolution. Previously in 2004, only 17 of 29 municipalities (57%) had signed resolutions in place. In 2008, that number has risen to 24 out of 29 Iowa County municipalities (83%) that have written smoke free public building resolutions.

TFIC together with the Iowa County Health Department Prenatal Care Coordination Program offer First Breath, a Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation Program offering incentives to pregnant women to quit smoking. Since beginning the program in July of 2003, 28 women have been enrolled and have decreased smoking and/or quit.

The WI Wins Program is a state and local partnership dedicated to protecting children from the health hazards of tobacco, by conducting random tobacco compliance checks. To date, Iowa County Sheriff and Dodgeville Police Department Officers have conducted 85 compliance checks using underage youth to attempt to buy tobacco products from local retailers. Out of the 85 compliance checks, 14 tobacco retailers were non-compliant.

In 2009, the Tobacco Program for Iowa County will be restructured. The Iowa County Tobacco Control Program will be working with a multi-jurisdictional coalition that will include both Lafayette and Grant Counties.

### **Transportation Task Force**

Some exciting things have happened over the past six years in the area of transportation. The Federal Government required states to develop coordinated transportation plans in order to apply for certain federal transportation funding. The Federal Government also made available some new funds that could be used to expand transportation services in rural areas. Representatives from Iowa, Green, LaFayette, Richland and Grant counties formed a coalition. They made a trip to Washington DC and participated in an Easter Seal sponsored workshop that produced the first coordinated plan involving the five counties.

Since that time this five county coalition, joined forces with SW Opportunity Center, Hodan Center, SW Community Action and Southwest Regional Planning to write the "Southwestern Wisconsin Transit Services Plan". They formed a group known as the Southwest Wisconsin Transit Team, SWTT and wrote a grant to fund conducting a five county survey. They then used information gathered from the survey to apply for some additional federal money in the form of STRAP (?) and New Freedom program grants. They used these grant dollars to hire a mobility manager who works with the five counties to develop coordinated transportation options.

What that means for Iowa County is that a taxi service is now available on Wednesday and Friday for Dodgeville residents. This happened because of a coordinated effort between Grant County, the Iowa County Commission on Aging, and the City of Dodgeville. The Iowa County Commission on Aging also joined forces with Green County Human Services, Grant County Center on Aging, Grant County Orchard Manor and Hodan Center successfully writing a capital purchase grant, 5310, that will bring over \$600,000 worth of new buses and vans. Some of these vehicles will be used to replace older equipment and some will be used to provide new transportation options. The first of the new vehicles will start arriving during the fall of 2009. Another product of the SWTT coordination activities has been the formation of LIFT, Leadership in Innovative Flexible Transportation. LIFT is an office that is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. They have a toll free number, 1-877-SWT-LIFT. They offer ride referrals, set up transportation for events as well as coordinate transportation resources for SWTT. They also have a website, [WWW.SWT-LIFT.ORG](http://WWW.SWT-LIFT.ORG). This website includes additional information about transportation in an eight-county area.

## References

**American Community Survey (2005-2007)** (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)

*Official estimates of social, economic, housing, and demographic information by county, state, nation.*

**Burden of Diabetes in Wisconsin (2008): Wisconsin Diabetes Prevention and Control Board, Wisconsin Department of Health Services – Division of Public Health**

(<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/diabetes/PDFs/Burden08.pdf>)

**Burden of Tobacco Report (2006). Wisconsin Tobacco and Prevention Control Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services - Division of Public Health.**

(<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobacco>)

**Center for Disease Control** ([www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss))

*Contains data on local, state and national behavioral risk factors.*

**Community Health Status Report - Iowa County (2008) -** (<http://communityhealth.hhs.gov>)

*Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) by state /county.*

**Food Security Status of WIC Participants: University of Wisconsin-Extension**

[www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs)

**Iowa County Data Package (December 2008). Wisconsin Division of Public Health-Southern Region. Compiled by Jennifer Ullsvik, epidemiologist.**

**Iowa County Maps – Demographics - Age, Population with Disability, Available Health Services, Poverty Level. All data reported by townships and municipalities. Iowa County Health Department.**

**Search Institute Survey of Student Resources and Assets.** River Valley, Pecatonica, Highland, Mineral Point School Districts (2005) and Dodgeville School District (2006).

**U.S. Census Bureau** ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

**University of Wisconsin – Population Health Institute** ([www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/](http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/))

*Contains data on the Wisconsin County Health Rankings, Population Health, Health Policy, Healthy Wisconsin Initiatives, Alcohol and Other Drug Use*

**Wisconsin Alcohol Traffic Facts Book (2003): Wisconsin Department of Transportation.**

(<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/motorist/crashfacts/docs/archive/alcoholfacts2003.pdf>)

**Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor System, 2003-2007, Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy**

**Wisconsin Council on Children and Families** ([http://www.wccf.org/kidcount\\_data.php](http://www.wccf.org/kidcount_data.php))

*WisKids State and County Data*

**Wisconsin Department of Administration** ([www.doa.state.wi.us](http://www.doa.state.wi.us))

*Contains data on demographics, employment.*

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Health Information and Policy,  
Division of Public Health** ([www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats))

**Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development** ([www.dwd.state.wi.us](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us))

*Contains data on population, unemployment, labor force, employers, wages, and income.*

**Wisconsin Epidemiological Profile on Alcohol and Other Drug Use, 2008.**

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/pdf/intro2008.pdf>

**Wisconsin Food Security Project** (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs/>)

*A partnership between the University of Wisconsin –Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.*

**Wisconsin Healthy People 2010: Wisconsin State Health Plan**

(<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/index.htm>)

**WISH (Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.** ([www.dhfs.state.wi.us/wish](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/wish))

*Contains data on infant mortality, Teen Births, All Births, Prenatal Care, Population Demographics , all mortality.*

**Wisconsin Surveillance Report: Wisconsin Department of Health Services.**

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/std/2007Data/CoMap07.htm>

*Provides STD profiles by year for Wisconsin counties and combined regions of the state.*

**Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts (2006): Wisconsin Department of Transportation.**

(<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/motorist/crashfacts/docs/archive/crashfacts2006.pdf>)

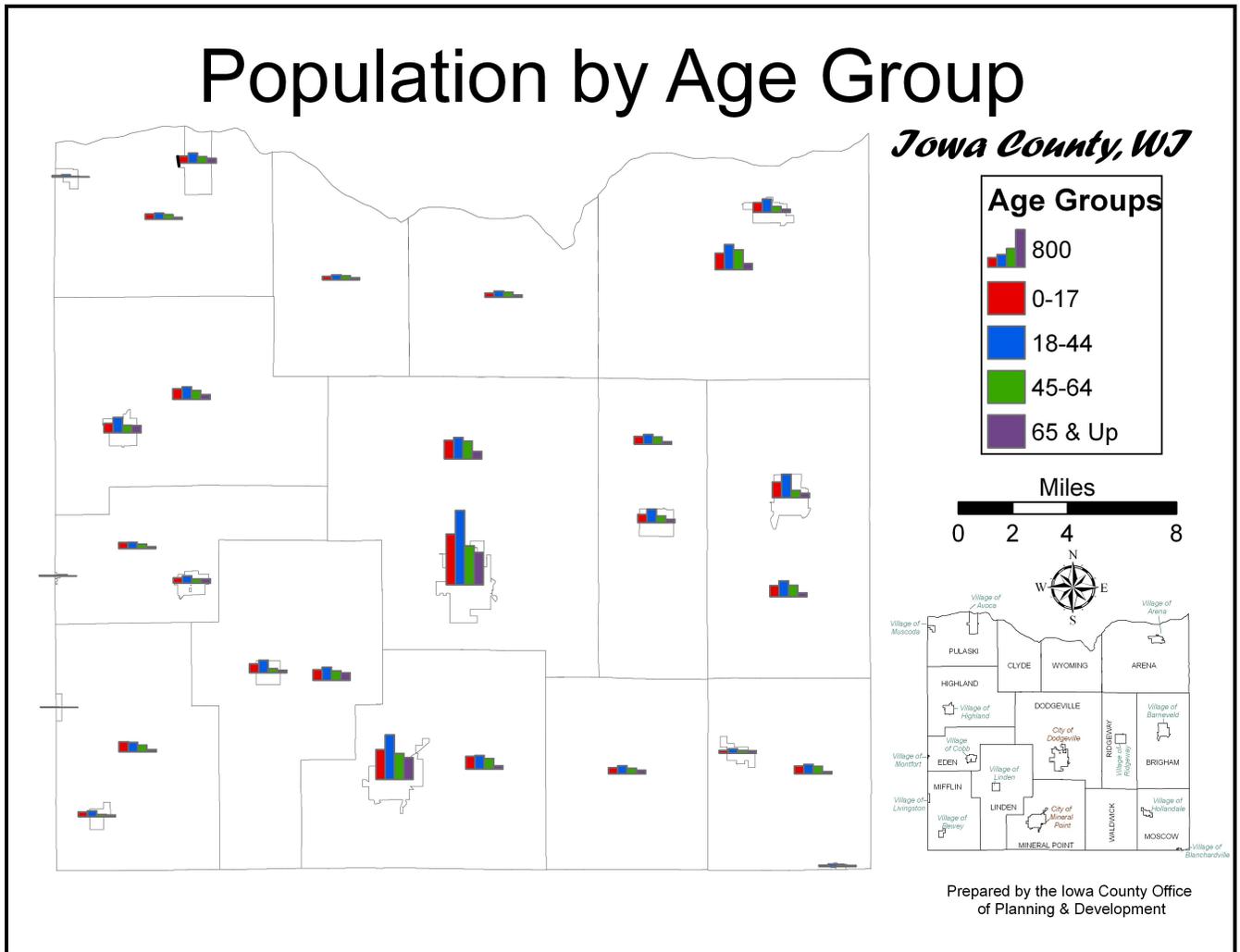
**Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting Systems (April, 2009). Wisconsin Department of Health Services.**

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/injuryprevention/pdf/ViolentDeathreport.pdf>

---

# Iowa County Maps

(Note: All maps are based on 2000 Census data.)





# Wisconsin County Health Rankings Snapshot – Iowa County (2008)

2008 County Health Snapshot

**Iowa**

Wisconsin County Health Rankings  
UW POPULATION HEALTH INSTITUTE



TRENDS IN RANKINGS	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Health Outcomes	12	9	13	4	4
Health Determinants	10	10	13	6	6

	Iowa County	Error margin	Best county in WI	Wisconsin value	Rank
<b>HEALTH OUTCOMES</b>					<b>4</b>
Mortality: Years of potential life lost (YPLL)/100,000 population	5,896	± 179	4,020	5,979	40
General health status: % of people reporting fair/poor health	6.6%	± 2.3	6.6%	13.2%	1
<b>HEALTH DETERMINANTS</b>					<b>6</b>
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>					<b>49</b>
No health insurance (%)	5.9%	± 3.5	2.8%	7.4%	19
Did not receive needed health care (%)	1.0%	± 1.2	0.0%	2.2%	13
No dentist visit in past year (%)	19.0%	± 5.5	17.1%	25.4%	7
Poor diabetic care: Score based on % of diabetics without recommended care	56		36	50	57
No biennial mammography (%)	41.3%		18.9%	29.0%	72
Poor inpatient care: Score based on % of patients without recommended care	61		36	50	64
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS</b>					<b>6</b>
Cigarette smoking (%)	16.6%	± 4.2	12.3%	20.9%	8
Smoking during pregnancy (%)	13.3%		6.5%	14.1%	17
Physical inactivity (%)	26.7%	± 8	23.5%	44.5%	2
Obesity (%)	22.7%	± 4.8	17.0%	24.1%	23
Insufficient fruit and vegetable intake (%)	80.0%	± 5.9	64.0%	77.2%	47
Binge drinking (%)	22.2%	± 4.7	10.3%	23.2%	29
Motor vehicle crash rate: No. of people involved in a crash/1,000 population	38.4		20.6	41.4	26
Motor vehicle crash-related ER visits (onroad)/100,000 population	580	± 56	110	712	33
Motor vehicle crash-related ER visits (offroad)/100,000 population	125	± 26	38	91	36
Teen birth rate/1,000 births	20.9	± 4.8	8.8	30.9	26
Sexually transmitted disease rate/100,000 population	171	± 59	52	498	28
Violent crime rate/100,000 population	90.9		21.5	240.3	28
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS</b>					<b>14</b>
High school noncompletion: % of students not graduating as expected	6.3%		0.0%	10.4%	27
No high school diploma: % of people age 25+ without a high school diploma	11.5%	± 1.1	7.8%	14.9%	9
Unemployment (%)	4.4%		3.5%	4.9%	12
Children in poverty (%)	7.9%	± 1.8	3.0%	12.4%	14
Divorce (%)	8.9%	± 0.9	6.7%	9.0%	34
Single parent households (%)	6.8%	± 1.2	5.3%	8.2%	28
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>					<b>25</b>
Air quality risk: Score based on measures from EPA and DNR	44		39	60	14
Nitrates in water: Estimated % of population exposed to excess nitrate levels	34.7%		0.0%	40.7%	30
Housing with increased lead risk: % of pre-1950s housing stock	44.3%	± 2.2	8.2%	31.1%	68
Lead poisoned children: % screened testing positive for lead poisoning	2.0%	± 2.1	0.0%	2.2%	63
Radon risk: % of homes screened with elevated radon levels	12.2%		1.9%	12.0%	51
Method of commuting: % of workforce that drives alone to work	74.6%		68.7%	79.5%	20

\*NR = Not Ranked