

The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Women's Business Ownership

Women-owned businesses make up 24% of all businesses in the region (2007)—a percentage unchanged from 2002.

Women-Owned Businesses (2007)

	Wisconsin	Northeast WI	Brown County	Fond du Lac County	Outagamie County	Winnebago County
Number of women-owned businesses	112,402	11,151	4,106	1,482	3,050	2,508
Women-owned businesses as a percent of all businesses	26%	24%	24%	22%	24%	23%
Annual payroll of women-owned businesses with paid employees	\$4 B	\$447M	\$203 M	\$68 M	\$93 M	\$83 M
Average number of employees of women-owned businesses with paid employees	10	10	10	10	9	11
Sales/receipts of women-owned businesses	\$21 B	\$2.1B	\$835 M	\$319 M	\$473 M	\$424 M

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners, released in 2010.

Across the four counties, the percent of businesses majority-owned by women (see table above) are slightly below the statewide average of 26%. Nonetheless, the positive economic impact of women-owned businesses in the community is evident:

Women-owned businesses, with paid employees, employed about **17,600 workers**, with annual payrolls totaling \$447 million.

The average women-owned employer business employed **10 people**.

16% of women-owned businesses are employer businesses (versus sole proprietor businesses), above the statewide average of 13%.

Women-owned businesses in the region generated over **\$2 billion (annually)** in sales and receipts.

Women's Leadership in Public Companies

Another measure of business leadership is women's representation as board members and executive officers in large companies. Across Wisconsin's 50 largest public companies (WI 50), women make up only 13.2% of directors and 12.7% of executive officers.

Board Members:

59 of the 448 (13.2%) Board of Director seats in the WI 50 are held by women; however, 11 of those 50 leading companies (22%) have no women directors.



Executive Officers:

51 of the 401 (12.7%) executive officer seats in the WI 50 are held by women; however, 20 of those 50 leading companies (40%) have no women executives.



Women's business ownership has many benefits for local communities.

Business ownership boosts women's economic independence, creates employment, leverages their creative abilities, and cultivates leadership and involvement in the local community. And, as with most local businesses, these businesses often generate commercial and financial resources that remain in the local community. Women-owned businesses have also grown at rates that exceed those of other business types over the past decade, bringing jobs for themselves and others that contribute to economic security for their families and to the economic vitality of the local community. While women have a long history of business ownership in Wisconsin, they have traditionally been underrepresented in business ownership and have lacked access to financing and other key elements of business development.

Supporting women's business ownership is a sound investment!

Sources: US Census Bureau, Survey of Business Owners, 2007; and Gender Diversity at Wisconsin's 50 Largest Public Companies (WI 50)—March 2011, Milwaukee Women, Inc. (see www.milwaukeewomeninc.org.) *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

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Women, Work & Wages

Women and Work

Statewide and across the region, about half of all women workers (working full-time, year-round) can be found in four occupational groups: 1) office and administrative support (about one-quarter of all women workers); 2) management; 3) sales (including retail); and 4) production (manufacturing). Similarly, about half of all male workers are found in four occupational groups: 1) production (manufacturing); 2) construction; 3) management; and 4) transportation and materials moving.

There are three occupations that appear in the “Top 5 Occupations” list for both women and men (see table): production, management, and sales. In each case, when comparing women’s median annual incomes to men’s, women’s wages are less for each occupation — often considerably less. These lower overall earnings for women have significant consequences for household income, in both female-headed households and dual-earner family households.

Where Women and Men Work



	Wisconsin		Brown		Fond du Lac		Outagamie		Winnebago	
	Median Income	% of Workers								
Women’s Top 5 Occupations										
1. Office & administrative support	\$31,195	25%	\$30,595	26%	\$30,830	26%	\$30,928	29%	\$30,492	22%
2. Management	\$48,096	10%	\$43,517	10%	\$42,683	6%	\$49,637	8%	\$43,486	10%
3. Sales & related	\$30,267	10%	\$34,633	10%	\$24,076	9%	\$31,406	11%	\$28,337	10%
4. Production	\$27,549	8%	\$26,276	5%	\$31,090	11%	\$33,010	8%	\$31,320	7%
5. Business & financial operations	\$44,106	7%	\$42,413	8%	\$38,981	5%	\$41,642	7%	\$43,678	7%
Men’s Top 5 Occupations										
1. Production	\$39,319	16%	\$40,419	15%	\$39,596	22%	\$45,080	19%	\$41,681	18%
2. Construction, maintenance & repair	\$42,452	15%	\$42,427	15%	\$42,050	18%	\$45,423	16%	\$41,548	13%
3. Management	\$65,711	13%	\$64,720	13%	\$62,196	13%	\$68,723	12%	\$71,002	11%
4. Transportation & material moving	\$37,069	10%	\$37,671	11%	\$39,412	11%	\$38,122	10%	\$34,904	11%
5. Sales & related	\$48,830	10%	\$46,620	12%	\$41,352	7%	\$56,235	11%	\$50,000	11%

Top 5 Occupations with the Highest Percentages of Women or Men, respectively, working in each Occupation and Annual Median Income, for the Full-Time, Year-Round, Civilian Employed Population Age 16 Years and Older, 2007-2009 (3-year average)

Gender Wage Gap

The Wage Gap is a result of overall lower median earnings for women compared to men, for full-time, year-round workers.

- * Regionally, **Outagamie County has the widest Gender Wage Gap** at 68 cents on the dollar for every dollar earned by men, compared to 74 cents in Brown County and 75 cents statewide.
- * In general, women in **racial/ethnic minority groups face higher gender wage gaps**. Statewide, these gaps range from a low of 52 cents on the dollar for Hispanic women to 67 cents for Asian women. Regionally, wage gap and median annual wage data are not available in most counties for women in racial/ethnic minority populations.
- * Women's median annual wage (for full-time, year-round workers) in each of the four counties is **below women's statewide median wage of \$33,611**.

Gender Wage Gap Full-time, Year-round Workers, 16 Years and Older, 5-Year Average, 2005-2009

	WOMEN'S MEDIAN WAGE	WAGE GAP					
		All Women	White (non-Hispanic)	African American	Native American	Asian	Hispanic (any race)
Wisconsin	\$33,611	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.52
Brown	\$32,986	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.72	na	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.60
Fond du Lac	\$29,817	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.72	na	na	na	\$ 0.43
Outagamie	\$32,567	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.68	na	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.68	na
Winnebago	\$31,994	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.71	na	na	na	na

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 3-yr average, 2007-2009, C24020 Sex by Occupation for the Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over and B24022 Sex by Occupation and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

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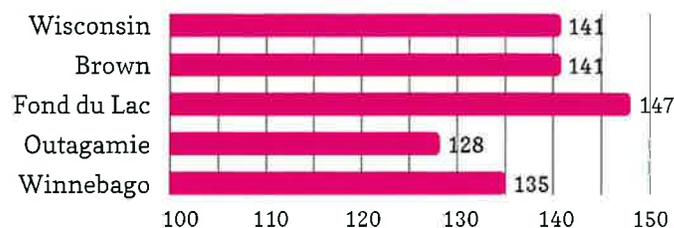
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Health & Well-Being

Leading Causes of Death

Heart disease and cancer remain the leading causes of death for women and men. Mortality (death) rates are generally similar across counties and near the statewide averages. Winnebago County shows higher rates for women's lung and colorectal cancer deaths, while Brown County has higher mortality rates for ovarian cancer (see chart). It may come as a surprise to many women that colorectal cancer is a leading cause of female cancer deaths—higher than for ovarian, uterine or cervical cancers.

Average Annual Mortality (Deaths) Rate Among Women for Heart Disease
Rate per 100,000, 3-yr avg (age adj) 2005-2007



Average Annual Mortality (Deaths) Among Women, Selected Cancers
Rate per 100,000 in the Population, 3-yr avg (age adj), 2005-2007

	Least Common ← → Most Common					
	Cervical	Uterine	Ovarian	Colorectal	Breast	Lung
Wisconsin	2	5	10	14	22	39
Brown	2	6	13	12	21	33
Fond du Lac	na	2	7	15	23	36
Outagamie	na	7	8	11	24	31
Winnebago	na	4	9	17	20	46

Smoking & Binge Drinking

Statewide, about 1-in-6 women (17%) smoke cigarettes versus 1-in-4 (25%) in the region. Similarly, 1-in-6 women, statewide and in the region, reports engaging in binge drinking.



1-in-4 women smoke

Disease Prevention & Risk Factors

Regionally, about 80% of women over age 40 report having had a mammogram in the last two years, while about 85% to 90% of women age 18 and over report having had a Pap test within the last three years. Statewide, about two-thirds (67%) of women over age 50 report having had a colorectal cancer screening, above the national average of 62% (county data not available).

Source: StateHealthFacts.org, Kaiser Family Foundation, 2008.

Obesity

Since 1990, the obesity rate for Wisconsin adults has more than doubled. Among women, obesity rates have increased from 10.7% of women in 1990 to about 27% in 2009. In 2009, 1-in-2 Wisconsin women (57%) were obese or overweight (30% overweight and 27% obese; county data not available). In 2006, about half of women participating in Wisconsin's Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) were overweight or obese prior to pregnancy. (Overweight, BMI 25-29; Obese, BMI 30+)

Sources: WI Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS), WI Dept of Health Services; WISH database; Obesity and Physical Activity Data web site; and The Epidemic of Chronic Disease in WI, 2011. UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, WI Prevention of Obesity and Diabetes website.

Sources: US DHHS, Office of Women's Health, Quick Health Data Online (www.healthstatus2010.com/owh); WI Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS), 2004-2006, WI Dept. of Health Services, WISH database. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

Preventative Health Screenings by Women, by County

	Women 40+ who had a Mammogram in the Last 2 Years	Women 18+ who had a Pap Test in the Last 3 Years
Brown	80%	80%
Fond du Lac	na	na
Outagamie	81%	91%
Winnebago	76%	87%

Mental Health

Based on women's self-reported evaluations, women in Northeast Wisconsin experienced an average of 3.0 days, in the past 30 days, when their mental health was "not good," versus 3.5 days for women statewide. The average numbers of days are roughly equivalent across the region.

Nationally, one in four women are likely to experience clinical (severe) depression. However, nearly two-thirds of those experiencing depression do not get the treatment they need. Women are affected twice as often as men by most forms of depression and anxiety disorders, and nine times as often by eating disorders.

(Source: WI United for Mental Health, see: www.wimentalhealth.org.)

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The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Child & Maternal Health Sexual Health

Prenatal Care

On average, women in the region are slightly more likely to begin prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (86%), than women statewide (83%).

However, women in the region from most racial/ethnic minority groups are less likely than their counterparts statewide to begin prenatal care in the first trimester. Laotian/Hmong women have the lowest percentages, with about half (52%) receiving such care.

Percent of Women Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester, 5-yr avg, 2005-2009

	WI	Northeast WI
All Women	83%	86%
White	87%	90%
African American	73%	62%
Native American	73%	73%
Hispanic	72%	68%
Laotian/Hmong	58%	52%

Infant Mortality

Over the recent 10-year period, there were a reported 86,260 live births in the region and 521 infant deaths (death at less than 365 days)—or about 1 death for every 166 live births.

Infant mortality rates are reported by public health agencies at a rate per 1,000 live births. The Northeast Wisconsin region's rate of 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births is below the statewide average of 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate of Deaths per 1,000 Live Births, 10-yr avg, 2000-2009*

	Northeast WI		WI Rate
	Number of Deaths	Rate	
All Women	515	5.9	6.6
White	411	5.6	5.3
African American	24	18.8	16.3
Native American	17	7.5	9.5
Hispanic	36	5.6	6.2
Laotian/Hmong	17	7.1	7.3

Teen Pregnancy

Over the 5-year period 2005-2009, there were more than 950 births to younger teens (age 15-17), or about 2% of all births in the region. On average, about 1-in-76 younger teens gave birth during this period — ranging from 1-in-57 teens in Brown County, to 1-in-105 in Winnebago County.

Births to Younger Teens (age 15-17) by County, 5-yr avg, 2005-2009

	Number of Births	Ratio**	Percent of all Births
Wisconsin	9,276	1 : 63	2.6%
Northeast WI	952	1 : 76	2.2%
Brown	453	1 : 57	2.6%
Fond du Lac	114	1 : 88	1.9%
Outagamie	213	1 : 86	1.9%
Winnebago	172	1 : 105	1.8%

*Rates for racial/ethnic minority populations should be viewed with caution.

**Ratio is the number of births to young teens divided by the number of young teens in the county, for the period (DHS WISH database).

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

STDs can have significant health consequences for women. They can cause cervical and other cancers, infertility, and other diseases and complications. Many STDs in women are without signs or symptoms. STD infection rates vary considerably by county (see table below), with most counties' rates below the statewide averages. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that young people 15 to 19 years of age account for about half of all new STD cases, followed closely by young women 20 to 24 years of age. In 2008, the CDC reported that, nationwide, an estimated 1-in-4 teen girls has an STD.

In Wisconsin, young adults in these age groups have significantly higher infection rates—meaning that they are more likely than other adults to have a reported STD (young adult STD rates are not available broken out by gender). This issue has important implications particularly for young adults of child-bearing age. (Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United States, 2008", 2009.)

Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases among Females, 2009, Rate per 1,000

	Chlamydia		Gonorrhea	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Wisconsin		531		110
Brown	657	525	176	143
Fond du Lac	180	355	28	55
Outagamie	242	277	30	34
Winnebago	315	391	33	41

* Note on county-level child and maternal health data: The data for specific racial/ethnic minority populations should be viewed with caution. Sample sizes underlying the findings are often very small, even over a 10-year period. While each birth or death is significant, from a statistical perspective, the small population sample sizes can mean that findings may fluctuate dramatically from one year to the next or that summary data may have a high margin of error. Current rates and trends may also be checked through local public health authorities.

Source: WI Dept. of Health Services, WISH database, www.wish.wisconsin.gov. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. **Note that figures for minority racial and ethnic populations should be viewed with caution due to higher margins of error that result from small sample sizes for some populations in some counties, and the lack of published data for some counties.

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The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Women & Poverty

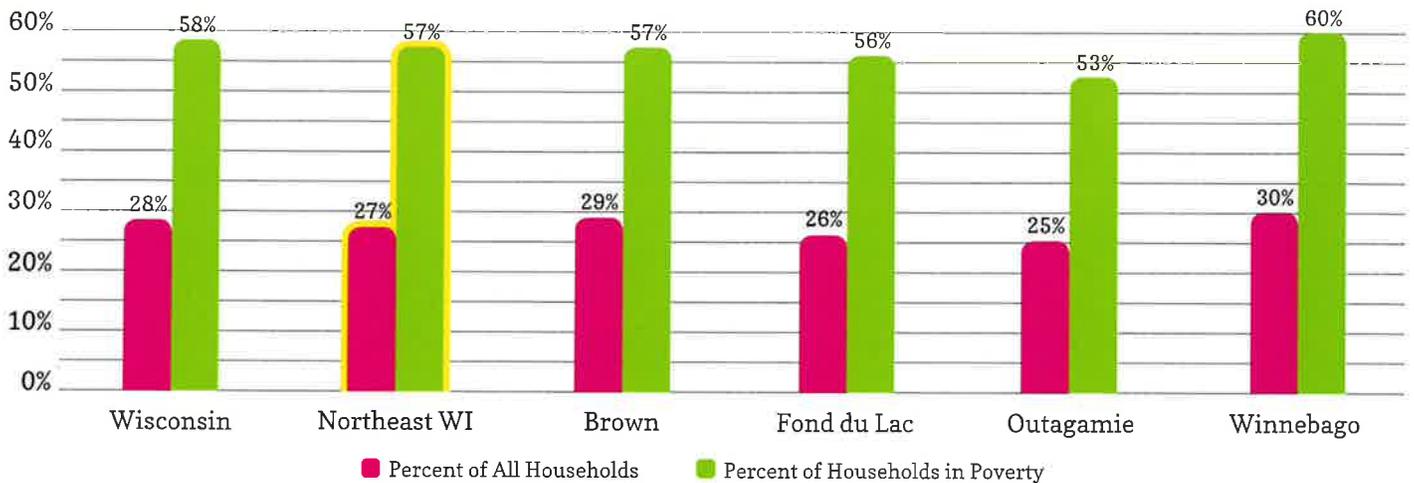
Female-headed households disproportionately live in poverty compared to other household types across Wisconsin.

In Northeast Wisconsin, female-headed households account for about a one-quarter (27%) of all households (family and non-family**), but about half (57%) of all households in poverty. This two-to-one ratio of female-headed households to households in poverty holds true across the region and for each of the counties.

* **9% of all households** are female-headed “family” households** — often referred to as single-mother households. These households account for one-quarter (25%) of the region’s households in poverty.

* **18% of all households** are female-headed “non-family” households.** This is the most numerous household type among female-headed households. These non-family households account for one-third (32%) of the region’s households in poverty.

Female-headed Households



Overall, 1-in-4 female-headed family households lives in poverty — growing to about 1-in-2 families among racial/ethnic minority households.

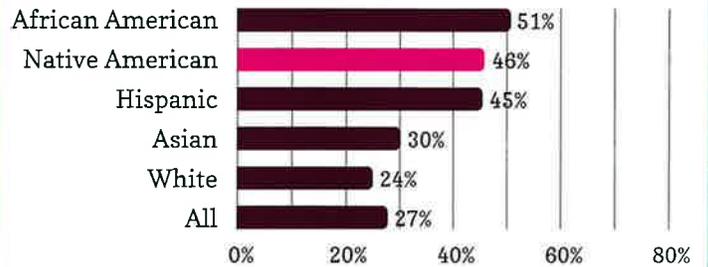
Poverty by Race/Ethnicity

Proportionally, female-headed family households are the most likely, among like household types, to live below the poverty line. In Northeast Wisconsin, 1-in-4 female-headed family households (27%) live below the poverty line, compared to 1-in-6 female-headed non-family households (17%) and 1-in-40 married-couple (family) households (2.5%).

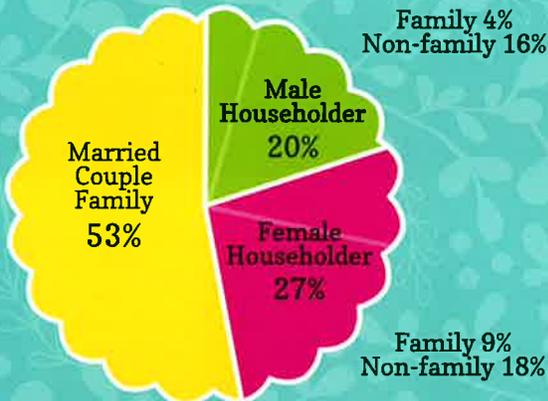
These figures are on par with rates statewide.

Women of color heading family households face even higher rates of poverty. In the region, 1-in-2 African American, Native American and Hispanic female-headed families live below the poverty line—twice as many as white female-headed family households.

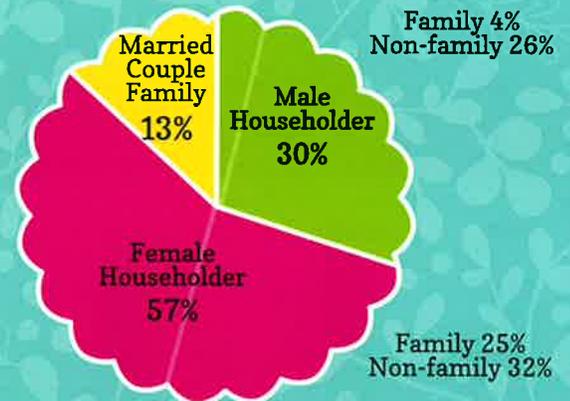
Percent of Female Households Living Below the Poverty Line by Racial/Ethnic Group in Northeast WI



Percent of All Households by Type



Poverty Population by Household Type



NOTE: The US Census Bureau reports on two types of householders: family and non-family. A family householder is a head of household living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all people in the household related to him or her are family members. A non-family householder is a head of household living alone or with non-relatives only.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-2009 5-yr average, B11001, Household Type; and B17017 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Household Type. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

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The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin Benefit Program Enrollment

In the Northeast Wisconsin region, about 26,300 households (10% of all households) have incomes below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

W-2

There were about 1,190 Wisconsin Works (W-2) participants (unduplicated, 2009). The W-2 program is available to parents of minor children whose family income is below 115% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

WI Food Shares (food stamps)

About 14,300 households (5% of all households) received food stamps in 2009. Households receiving FoodShares are twice as likely as all households to include children under age 18. Fifty-six percent of households receiving FoodShares were below the FPL, compared to 10% of all households.

Wisconsin Shares (child care subsidy)

About 2,733 families per month, on average, received Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies in 2009.

Badger Care

About 77,200 persons were covered by Badger Care in 2010 including 45,800 children; 25,600 adult caretakers; 2,300 pregnant women; and 3,600 Core Plan adults (12/2010).

2009 Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Persons in Family	Annual Income Threshold
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050

For families with more than 4 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.

Food Share Recipients, Northeast WI (all household types)

	Total Households	Households Receiving Food Stamps
Households	269,800	14,300 (5%)
Percent with children <18 years	33%	62%
Percent below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	10%	56%

Benefit Data Sources: WI Dept. of Health Services, Badger Care Plus Enrollment Data (dhs.wisconsin.gov); WI Dept. of Children & Families, Wisconsin Shares Monthly Statistics and Wisconsin Works, Research & Statistics, Unduplicated Participants (dcf.wisconsin.gov); US Census, American Community Survey 5-yr average, 2005-2009, S2201 Food Stamps/SNAP and S1101 Households and Families.

Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

In the 2010-2011 school year, 35% of students in Northeast Wisconsin were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, which was below the statewide average of 39% of students. The percentages of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals programs were: Outagamie County, 29%; Fond du Lac, 37%; Brown, 39%; and Winnebago, 36%.

The percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals has increased markedly over the past decade both statewide and in the region. **In Northeast Wisconsin, more than 1-in-3 students is eligible for the program in 2011, up from 1-in-5 in 2003.**

Program eligibility is based on annual household income. Children in households with incomes at or below 130% of the FPL are eligible for free meals; while those in households with incomes above 130% but below 185% of FPL are eligible for reduced-price meals. For a family of four, income would be between \$28,655 and \$40,793. Families that receive benefits such as FoodShare (food stamps) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) are eligible for free meals. (WI Dept. of Public Instruction website)

Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

	Total Enrollment (2011)	Free/Reduced Meal Eligibility (2011)	Percent Free/Reduced Meals		
			2011	2007	2003
Brown	41,915	16,139	39%	30%	25%
Fond du Lac	15,061	5,580	37%	25%	20%
Outagamie	33,218	9,478	29%	20%	16%
Winnebago	22,924	8,338	36%	27%	20%
Northeast Wisconsin	113,118	39,535	35%	26%	21%
Wisconsin	854,750	335,251	39%	31%	28%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin School Free/Reduced Eligibility Data, FY 2003, 2007 and 2011; <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/fns/progstat.html>; FPL rates: US Dept of Health & Human Services, website (aspe.hhs.gov/poverty); and as noted above. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

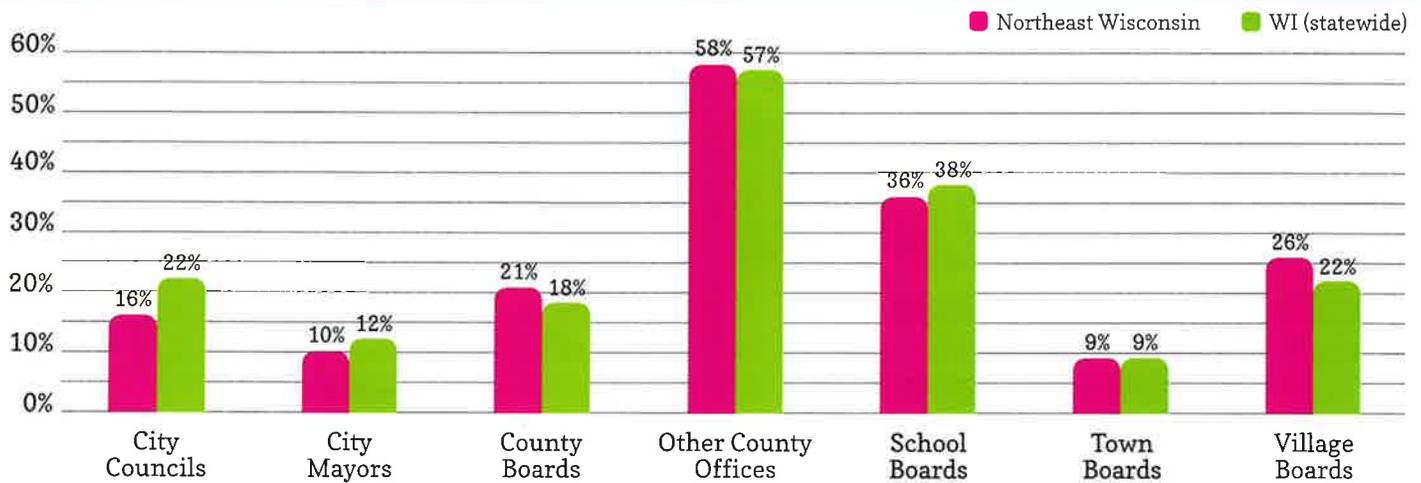
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The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Political Participation

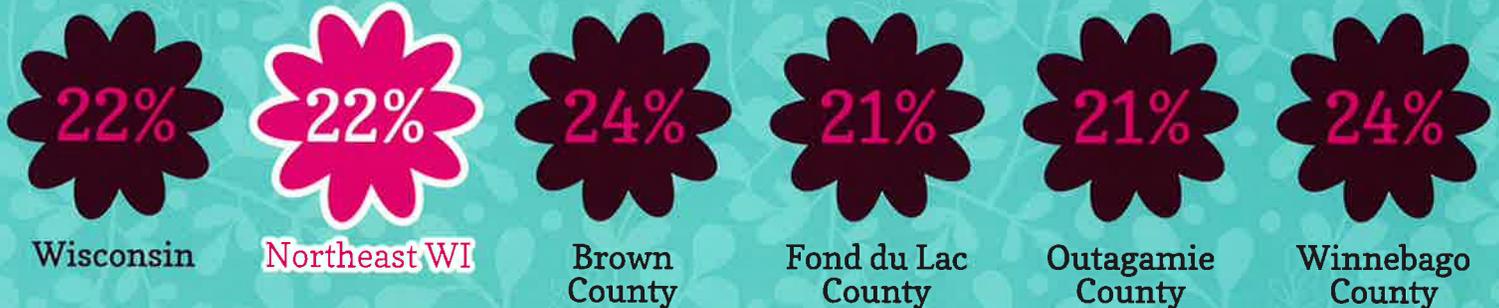
* Among the different levels of local government, the region exceeds the statewide averages for women serving on county and village boards, as well as for women serving in county constitutional offices. It lags the statewide averages for women in city government (city councils and mayors) and for women on school boards.

Percentage of Local Government Elected Offices Held by Women (2010)



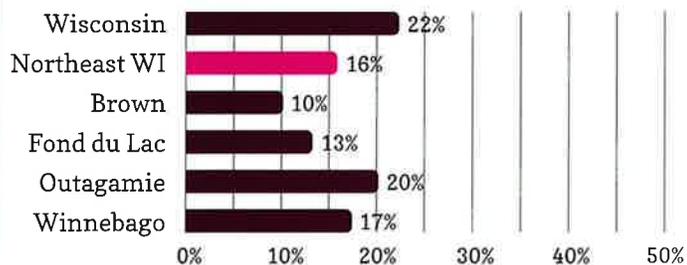
In 2010, 194 out of the region's 864 elected offices in local government (22%) were held by women.

Percentage of Local Elected Offices Held by Women

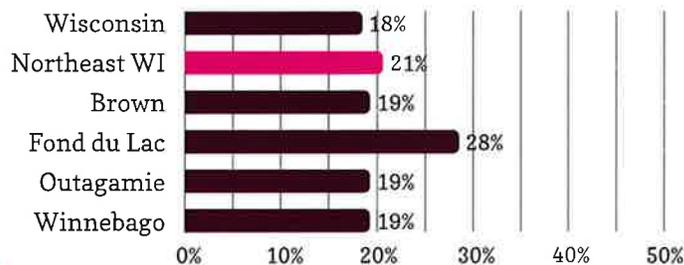


* While the overall regional average (22%) is the same as the statewide average, there is much variation among the counties for the share of women holding local elected offices, particularly, for example, for city councils, and town and village boards. See charts below.

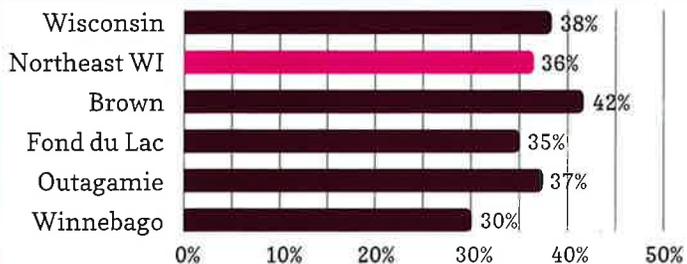
Percent of City Council Seats Held by Women (2010)



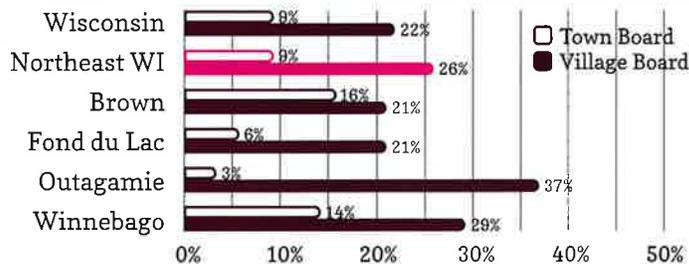
Percent of County Board Seats Held by Women (2010)



Percent of School Board Seats Held by Women



Percent of Town and Village Board Seats Held by Women (2010)



Source: WI Women's Council, Moving Wisconsin Forward, an Analysis of Wisconsin Women in elected Office (2010). *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

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The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Educational Attainment

Women's Educational Attainment (all races/ethnicities), 5-yr avg, 2005-2009

	Wisconsin	Northeast WI	Brown	Fond du Lac	Outagamie	Winnebago
Less than a High School Degree	10%	9%	9%	11%	7%	9%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	34%	36%	34%	40%	37%	35%
Some College or Associate Degree	30%	30%	30%	31%	30%	30%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	26%	25%	26%	18%	25%	26%

Patterns of educational attainment (for women ages 25 and older) vary considerably across racial/ethnic groups in the region. There are large differences in highest levels of education between white (non-Hispanic) women and women from racial/ethnic minority groups, particularly for the percentages of women who have less than a high school education and for those that have a bachelor's degree or higher.** The economic results of the educational gap for many women of color is seen in other sections of this report with respect to women and poverty, average wages and higher gender wage gaps.

* **About 1-in-3** Asian women have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 1-in-4 white, 1-in-7 Native American, 1-in-8 Hispanic and 1-in-25 African-American women.**

* **About 1-in-3** African American, Hispanic and Asian women in the region have less than a high school education as their highest level of education, compared to about 1-in-12 white women.**



Percent of Women by Race/Ethnicity with Less Than High School Diploma as their Highest Level of Education

	Northeast WI	Statewide
White	8%	8%
Native American	14%	15%
African American	30%	22%
Asian	32%	23%
Hispanic	38%	37%

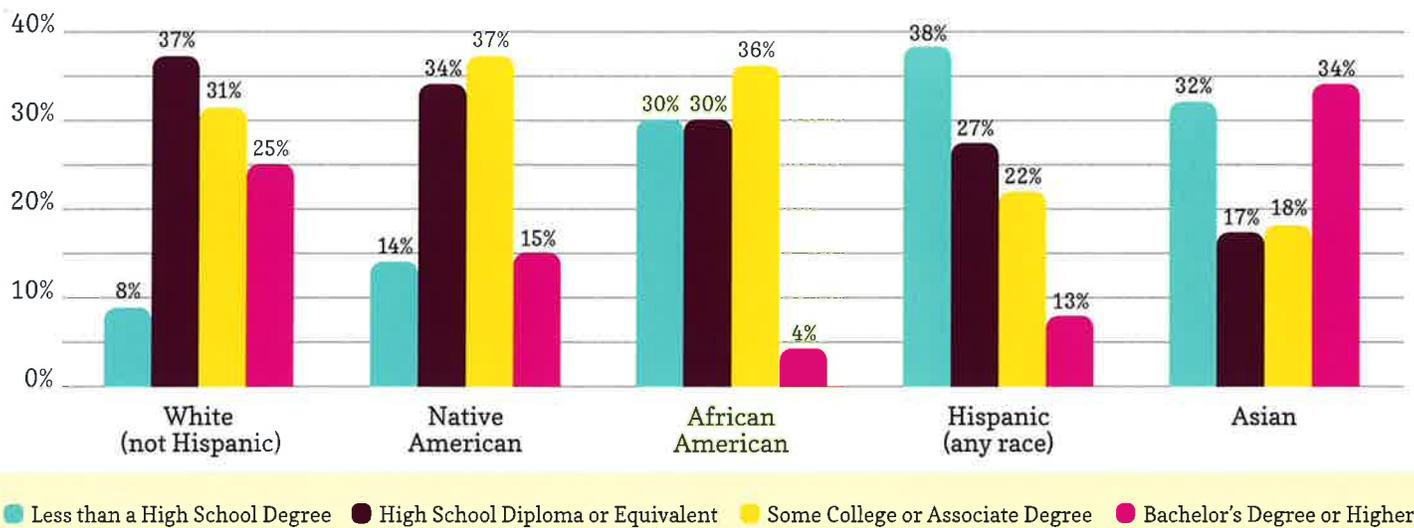
Regionally:

* **Educational attainment levels are generally similar across the four counties.** Fond du Lac County, however, has a slightly higher percentage of women with a high school diploma or no high school as their highest level of education and a lower percentage of women with a bachelor's degree, compared to the other counties in the region.

* **Hispanic women** are the most likely to have less than high school diploma (38%) and are half as likely as white women to have a bachelor's degree.

* **Among Native American and African American women,** the most common level of education is some college (no degree) or an associate degree.

Highest Level of Educational Attainment, by Race/Ethnicity, Northeast Wisconsin



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, B15002, Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over, 5-year Estimates 2005-2009. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. **Note that figures for minority racial and ethnic populations should be viewed with caution due to higher margins of error that result from small sample sizes for some populations in some counties, and the lack of published data for some counties.

This research is funded by the Power of 10 Women of the NEW North group, an initiative of the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Violence Against Women

Criminal Justice Issues

Domestic Violence

- * In 2008, there were more than 3,200 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement in the region — a ratio of 475 assaults per 100,000 residents. The rate varies by county from 339 incidents per 100,000 in Fond du Lac County to 530 incidents per 100,000 in Winnebago.
- * In 2009, there were 67 domestic violence-related homicide deaths, statewide, with 5 in the region: Brown (2); Fond du Lac (2) and Outagamie (1) Counties.

Sexual Assault

- * In 2009, there were 806 sexual assaults in the region reported to law enforcement — for a ratio of 118 assaults per 100,000 residents, which is above the statewide ratio of 82 assaults per 100,000 residents in the population.
- * Statewide, females accounted for about 84% of sexual assault victims; while more than 90% of assailants were male (8% unknown and 1% female).
- * Statewide, a 5-year trend shows that juveniles are the most victimized population, with juveniles aged 15 and under representing more than two-thirds of all victims in 2009.

Domestic Abuse Incidents

County	Incidents (2008)	Rate per 100,000
Northeast WI	3,239	475
Brown	1,230	502
Fond du Lac	337	339
Outagamie	814	465
Winnebago	858	530

Sexual Assault Incidents

County	Incidents (2009)	Rate per 100,000
Northeast WI	806	118
Brown	314	127
Fond du Lac	143	143
Outagamie	215	121
Winnebago	134	82

Women & Girls in Correctional Facilities

Women account for about 6% of the adult incarcerated population in Wisconsin state correctional facilities, while girls account for about 13% of those committed to juvenile detention facilities.

Adult Women Over the period 2005 to 2008, about 5,800 women, statewide, were committed to a state correctional facility. Of these, 542 women (7%) had Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie or Winnebago County listed as their county of conviction. By comparison, adult women in Northeast Wisconsin make up about 12% of all adult women in the general population statewide.

Women are more likely than men to be placed into the Wisconsin Correctional Center System (WCCS)—a network of minimum security (versus medium and maximum security) facilities. Programming at WCCS facilities is geared toward release and living in the community, and facilities generally serve a specific need or population, such as drug or alcohol treatment or have a primary focus of work participation (WI DOC web site).

Over the period 2005 to 2008, 44% of incarcerated females and 7% of males, statewide, were committed to WCCS facilities. Among women whose county of conviction was in Northeast Wisconsin, 40% were committed to WCCS facilities.

Juvenile Girls are much less likely than boys to be committed to juvenile detention facilities, both statewide and in Northeast Wisconsin. On average, females from Northeast Wisconsin account for 16% (1-in-6) juveniles committed to detention facilities, compared to 13% (1-in-7.5) statewide.

Adults Committed to Correctional Facilities, by County of Conviction (2005-08)

County of Conviction	Female	Male	Total	Percent Female
Wisconsin	5,757	87,865	93,622	6%
Northeast WI	542	7,136	7,678	7%
Brown	219	2,843	3,062	7%
Fond du Lac	94	1,028	1,122	8%
Outagamie	105	1,662	1,767	6%
Winnebago	124	1,603	1,727	7%

Juveniles Committed to Correctional Facilities, by County of Commitment (2006-09)

County of Conviction	Female	Male	Total	Percent Female
Wisconsin	60	1,811	2,071	13%
Northeast WI	34	180	214	16%
Brown	11	58	69	16%
Fond du Lac	6	33	39	15%
Outagamie	4	39	43	9%
Winnebago	13	50	63	21%

Sources: WI Dept. of Justice, Domestic Abuse Incident Report for 2008; WI Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2009 Homicide Report; and WI Office of Justice Assistance, Sexual Assaults in WI 2009; WI Department of Corrections, unpublished data. *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

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Research conducted by:



The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Basic Demographics

Women in the Population

This region is home to more than 345,000 women, accounting for half (50.1%) of the area's population. By race/ethnicity, women in the region are 90% white (non-Hispanic), compared to 85% white (non-Hispanic) statewide. Notably, the population of girls (under age 18) is more than twice as racially/ethnically diverse as the population of adult women (age 18 and over). In the region, 18% of girls belong to racial/ethnic minorities, compared to 8% of adult women. This mirrors the statewide trend toward a more diverse population among children and young adults.

Women in the Population (2009)



	Wisconsin	Northeast WI	Brown County	Fond du Lac County	Outagamie County	Winnebago County
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Women in the Population (2009)

Number of Women	2.8 M	345,000	124,400	50,600	88,400	81,600
Percent Women	50.3%	50.1%	50.3%	50.5%	49.9%	50.0%

Percent Women by Race/Ethnicity

White	85%	90%	86%	93%	91%	92%
African American	6%	1%	2%	na	na	1%
Asian	5%	4%	6%	3%	3%	3%
Native American	2%	2%	3%	na	3%	2%
Hispanic	1%	1%	2%	na	2%	na

Percent of Females in Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups, by Age (2009)

Under Age 18	24%	18%	26%	11%	14%	15%
Age 18 & Over	13%	8%	10%	5%	7%	6%

Notes: *Figures provided may underestimate actual percentages by population because data for some groups are not available/published for some counties, as denoted by "na" (not available).

The population of younger females (under age 18) is more than twice as racially / ethnically diverse as the population of adult women.

Women Veterans

The Northeast Wisconsin region is home to about 52,500 Wisconsin veterans—including an estimated 3,200 women veterans. (In general, women account for about 6% of Wisconsin’s veteran population.) The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs reports that increasingly women veterans are seeking health care and other services. “The new and complex needs of today’s women veterans, particularly those who served in Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, required that VA assess the effectiveness of its existing gender-specific programs and initiate new ones that strategically address the needs of this cohort.” (Source: <http://dva.state.wi.us/womenvets.asp>)

Women’s Median Age

- * Statewide and in Northeast Wisconsin, white women have a higher median age—they are older—than women in most other racial/ethnic groups.
- * The median age for white (non-Hispanic) women ranges from 36 years old in Brown County to 41 years old in Fond du Lac County, similar to the statewide median age of 42 years old.
- * Similarly, statewide and in the region, the median ages for women in most racial/ethnic minority groups are generally in their 20s or early 30s. For example, Hispanic women in the region have a median age of about 20 years old—about half the median age of white women.

Women’s Median Age

	Wisconsin	Brown County	Fond du Lac County	Outagamie County	Winnebago County
Women’s Median Age (in years)					
All Women	39	36	41	38	38
Women’s Age by Race/Ethnicity					
White	42	39	42	39	39
African American	29	21	33	21	26
Asian	32	27	41	34	32
Native American	26	22	35	24	22
Hispanic	23	20	20	22	23

Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, B01001, Sex by Age, 2009; and B01002, Median Age by Sex, 5-year Estimates 2005-2009; and Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (unpublished data). *Northeast Wisconsin refers to the four-county area that includes Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

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