

2011 Report Series

The Status of Women in Wisconsin Counties



Beloit & Rock County, WI

Highlights

- The City of Beloit is home to more than **19,400 women and girls**, accounting for **53% of the population**.
- The population of females in Beloit is much more racially and ethnically diverse than is found, on average, statewide. Moreover, nearly half the population of girls under age 18 in Beloit is a member of racial/ethnic minority group.
- Female-headed households account for more than one-third of all households, and more than two-third of the city's households in poverty.
- About 1-in-3 family households headed by women lives below the poverty line, growing to about 1-in-2 African American single-mother families.
- Women in Beloit are less likely to graduate from high school or to pursue or attain a bachelor's degree, than women, on average, statewide.
- Women make up half of the workforce in Beloit. The majority of women are employed in the private sector workforce; however, women make up the majority of workers in the non-profit and government sectors.
- Rock County has a high rate of sexual assaults compared to other Wisconsin counties, with only 10 (of 72) Wisconsin counties posting higher rates.

Prepared for Representative Loudenbeck, March 2011



Selected Statistics on Women Beloit & Rock County, WI

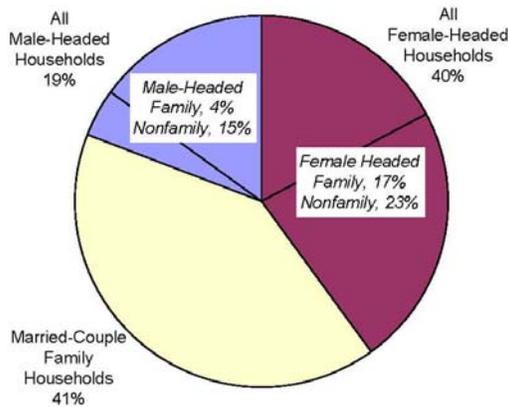
Female-Headed Households & Poverty (Beloit)

- Statewide, female-headed households are disproportionately living in **poverty** compared to other household types. In the City of Beloit:
 - Among all single-mother (family*) households, more than 1-in-3 (38%) live below the poverty line, making them the most likely type of household to be in poverty, compared to 1-in-4 female-headed non-family* (25%) and 1-in-14 married-couple households (7%).
 - Family households headed by women of color generally face even higher poverty rates. In Beloit, nearly 1-in-2 African American single-mother families (43%) are in poverty, compared to about 1-in-3 White and Hispanic families (both 35%). Data by race not available for Native American and Asian households.

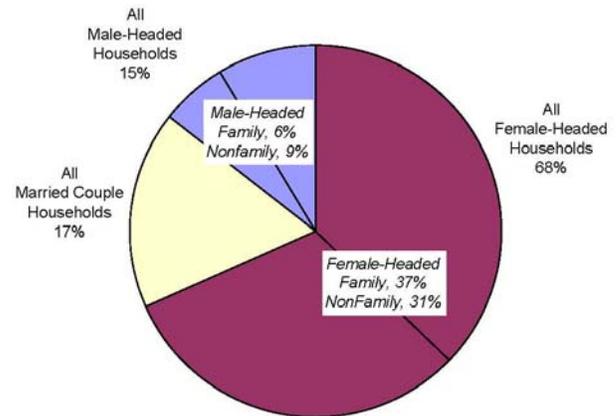
Among all households in Beloit (see charts below):

- Female-headed households account for 40% of all households (family and non-family*), and nearly 70% of the city's households in poverty.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of all households are female-headed "non-family" households* — the most numerous household type among female-headed households. These non-family households account for about one-third (31%) of the county's households in poverty.
- 17% of all households are female-headed "family" households*—often referred to as single-mother households. These households account for more than one-third (37%)—the largest share—of the city's households in poverty.

Percent of Households in Beloit, by Type



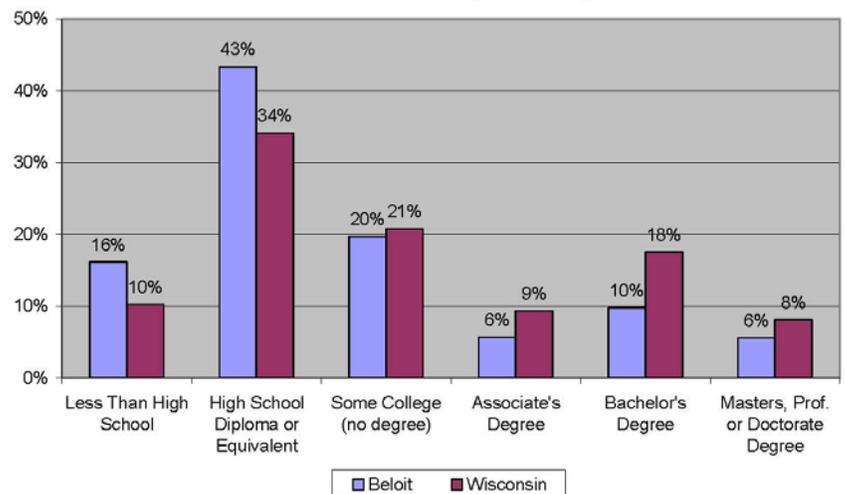
Beloit's Poverty Population by Household Type



Educational Attainment (Beloit)

- Women in Beloit are less likely to graduate from high school, or pursue or complete college programs, than are women statewide.
- About 60% of women age 25 and over have a high school diploma or less than high school as their **highest level of education**.
- An additional 20% of women have some college experience, but did not continue to earn a degree.
- In Beloit, 16% of women have an Associate's or Bachelor's degree, below the statewide average of 25%.

Highest Level of Education, Women Age 25 & Over
Beloit & Wisconsin (statewide)



*Notes: All data in this report are compiled from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2005-2009, unless otherwise noted. 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 nonfamily householder is a head of household living alone or with non-relatives only. na=data not available or unpublished, generally due to small sample sizes among the population being measured.

Selected Statistics on Women Beloit & Rock County, WI



Basic Demographics (Beloit)

Race & Ethnicity

- City of Beloit is home to about **19,400 women**, accounting for 53% of the population.
- Overall, the city's female population is 69% white, compared to 85% statewide and 87% in Rock County.
- Consistent with the statewide trend, the population of girls under age 18 is about twice as **racially/ethnically diverse** as among adult women—25% of adult women in Beloit belong to racial/ethnic minority groups, compared to nearly half girls under age 18.
- In Beloit County, 47% of girls under age 18 belong to racial/ethnic minority groups, compared to 24% statewide and 21% countywide (Rock County).

Age

- The **median age** of 41 years for white women is twice the median age for Hispanic women and well above the median age for African American women. With median ages at 20 and 29, respectively, women of color in Beloit are more likely than white women to be in their childbearing years, engaged in post-secondary education or training and/or new to or early entrants in the workforce.

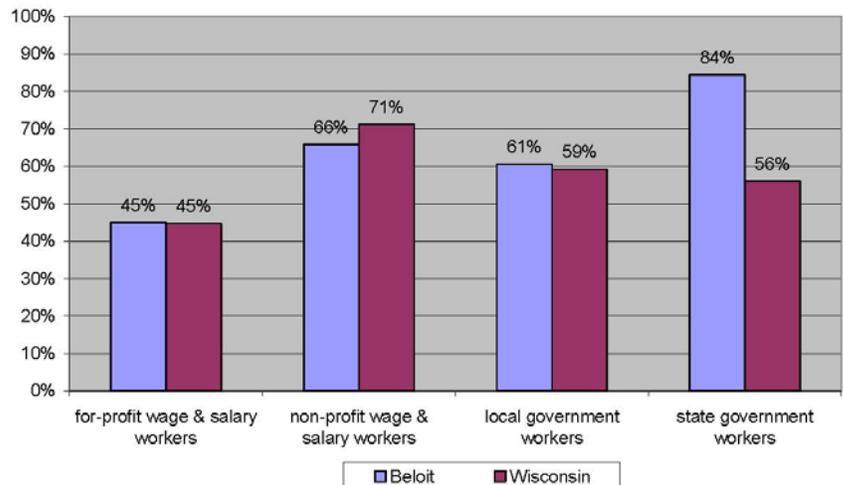
Race/Ethnicity	Beloit	Wisconsin
White (non-Hispanic)	69%	85%
African American	16%	6%
Native American	<1%	1%
Asian	1%	2%
Hispanic (any race)	12%	5%

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Women by Race/Ethnicity		Women's Median Age
	Under age 18	Age 18 and over	
White (non-Hispanic)	53%	75%	41
African American	22%	14%	29
Native American	1%	<1%	na
Asian	2%	1%	na
Hispanic (any race)	21%	9%	20

Workforce Participation (Beloit)

- Women account for half (49%) of the city's **workforce**, slightly above the statewide rate of 48%.
- The majority of women (about 68%) are employed by for-profit companies (including as business owners), where they make up slightly less than half (45%) of all private sector workers in Beloit.
- Women are the majority of workers in several industry sectors, including the non-profit (66%), state government (84%) and local government (61%) sectors.

Where Women Work: Percentage of Workers in each Sector that are Women by Employment Sector, Beloit and Wisconsin



	Number	Percent
Women	7,742	49%
Men	8,120	51%

Women's Business Ownership (Rock County)

- In 2007, 28% of businesses in Rock County were majority women-owned, up from 23% in 2002, and above the statewide average.
- Women-owned firms**, with paid employees, employed over 4,200 workers, with annual payrolls totaling \$86 million. The average woman-owned employer firm employed 10 people.
- 13% of women-owned businesses are employer firms (versus sole proprietor firms), on par with the statewide average.
- Women-owned firms in Rock County generated about \$500 million in sales and receipts.

Women-Owned Businesses (2007)	Rock County	WI
Number of women-owned businesses	3,125	112,400
Women-owned businesses as a percent of all businesses	28%	26%
Annual payroll of women-owned businesses with paid employees	\$86 M	\$4 B
Average number of employees of women-owned businesses with paid employees	10	10
Sales/receipts of woman owned businesses	\$500 M	\$21 B

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



Selected Statistics on Women Beloit & Rock County, WI

Violence Against Women (Rock County)

Ratio of Domestic Abuse Incidents to the Total Population, for Counties with a Population of 100,000 or more (excluding Milwaukee)			
County	Population	Incidents	Ratio
LaCrosse	112,627	950	1 : 119
Rock	160,213	1,199	1 : 134
Dane	482,705	3,260	1 : 148
Winnebago	162,111	858	1 : 189
Marathon	130,962	676	1 : 194
Brown	245,018	1,230	1 : 199
Outagamie	174,993	814	1 : 215
Kenosha	164,465	732	1 : 225
Sheboygan	114,561	496	1 : 231
Washington	129,477	446	1 : 290
Waukesha	380,629	952	1 : 400

Domestic Violence

- In 2008, in Rock County, there were about 1,200 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement. This equates to a ratio of 1 domestic abuse incident for about every 134 people in the county's population.
- Arrests were made 90% of the time, compared to 77% statewide (excluding Milwaukee).
- Statewide, women account for 74% of domestic abuse victims; while males account for 77% of offenders.
- In 2009, there were 67 domestic violence-related homicide deaths, statewide, of which 2 were in Rock County (one in Beloit).

Sexual Assault

- In 2009, there were 195 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement—for a rate of 122 assaults per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the statewide rate of 82 assaults per 100,000 residents in the population. Only 10 (of 72) Wisconsin counties had a higher sexual assault rate than Rock County in 2009.
- 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 group, with juveniles aged 15 and under representing over two-thirds of all victims in 2009.

Sources: 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.

Benefit Programs Enrollment (Beloit & Rock County)

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The average household size of female-headed family households in City of Beloit.

Federal Poverty Level, 2009

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.
Source: US Department of Health & Human Services

In Beloit, about 2,500 households (17% of all households) have incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL).

Food Stamps: about 2,200 households (15% of all households) in the City of Beloit received food stamps.

In Rock County (countywide):

W2: there were 445 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).

Child Care Subsidy: about 740 families per month, on average, received WisconsinShares child care subsidies (2009).

Badger Care: about 15,800 persons were covered by Badger Care, including 8,900 children, 3,600 adult caretakers, 550 pregnant women, and 1,200 Core Plan adults (12/10).

Food Stamp Recipients (all household types) City of Beloit		
	Total Households	Households receiving food stamps
Households	14, 290	2,200 15%
Percent with children < 18 years	35%	72%
Median Annual Income (in 2009 adj. dollars)	\$36,900	\$16,300
Percent below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	17%	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.

The **Wisconsin Women's Council** is a state agency and Wisconsin's statutory commission on the status of women and girls.

The Council operates with a 15-member board appointed by the Governor and Legislative leaders.

For additional information, contact the Council at: (608) 266-2219 or Christine.Lidbury@wisconsin.gov.

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