Indicators of Poverty - Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, & Waukesha

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Prepared by Data You Can Use

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Purpose

The information in this presentation was originally compiled to provide an overview of population demographics and other indicators related to poverty in the Siebert Lutheran Foundation (SLF) service area. With support from SLF, Data You Can Use shares this information with other organizations to guide their work and decision-making.

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Data Notes

Unless otherwise noted, data are at the county level.

Data sources include the American Community Survey (ACS) one and five year estimates, the US Census QuickFacts (2019), Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Vera Institute, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 500 Cities Project, the Annie E Casey Foundation, and Feeding America.

How to read the slides

Each of the subsequent slides contains some or all of the following:

- A title depicting the focus of the slide's content
- A graph illustrating relevant data
- A description of the data with key findings highlighted
- The source of the data
- Additional context about the selected indicator located in the speaker notes section

Poverty Over Time

Since the War on Poverty began in the 1960s, the percent of people living in poverty has declined in the US and in Wisconsin. In contrast, the trend lines in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha have gone in the other direction. Waukesha has one of the lowest rates in the country.
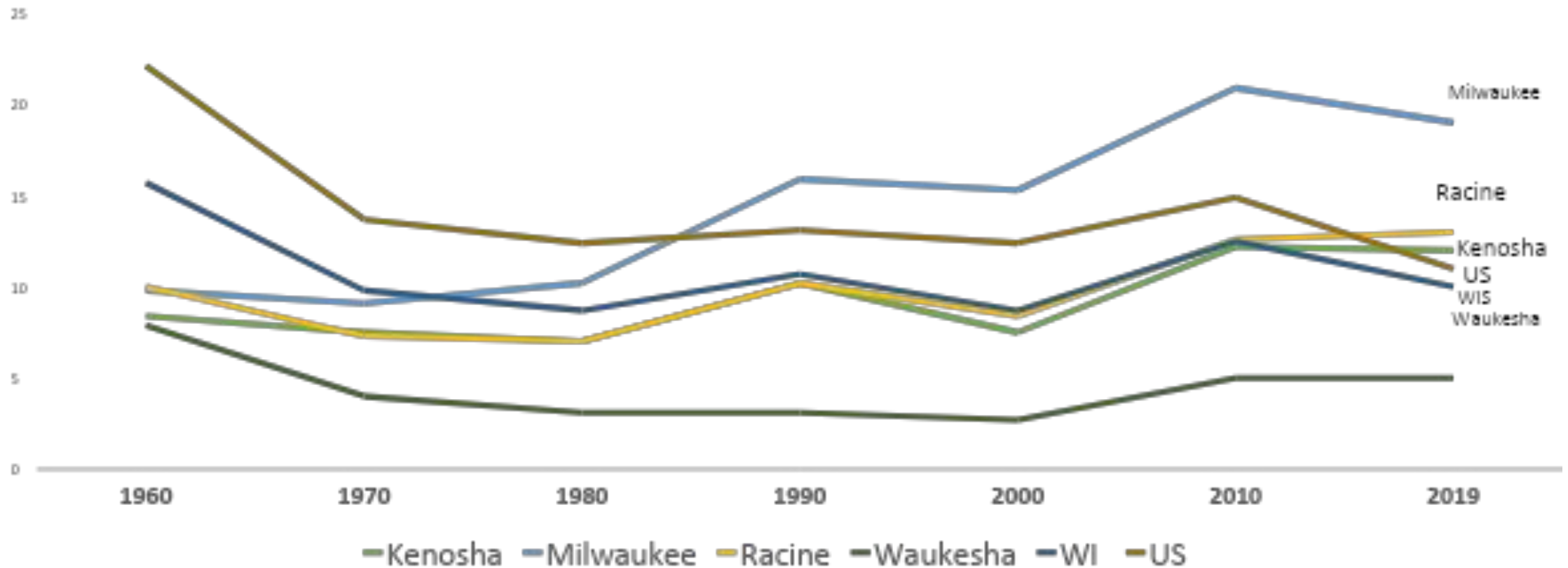
Historic county level poverty estimates, https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/time-series/demo/census-poverty-tool.html county-level poverty rates from the 1960-2000 Decennial Census as well as estimates from 2010 based on 5-year data from the ACS and 2019 from *US Census 2019 QuickFacts*

2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	Gross Annual Income	Gross Monthly Income	Approximate Hourly Wage
1	$12,490	$1,041	$6.00
2	$16,910	$1,409	$8.13
3	$21,330	$1,778	$10.25
4	$25,750	$2,146	$12.38
5	$30,170	$2,514	$14.50
6	$34,590	$2,883	$16.63
7	$39,010	$3,251	$18.75
8	$43,430	$3,619	$20.88
Over 8 add per person:	$4,420	$368.33	$2.13

Current Wisconsin Minimum Wage is $7.25

Poverty Rate

The percent of the population in poverty in Milwaukee is nearly twice the state rate. The rate in Waukesha is half the state rate.

US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Percent of persons in poverty

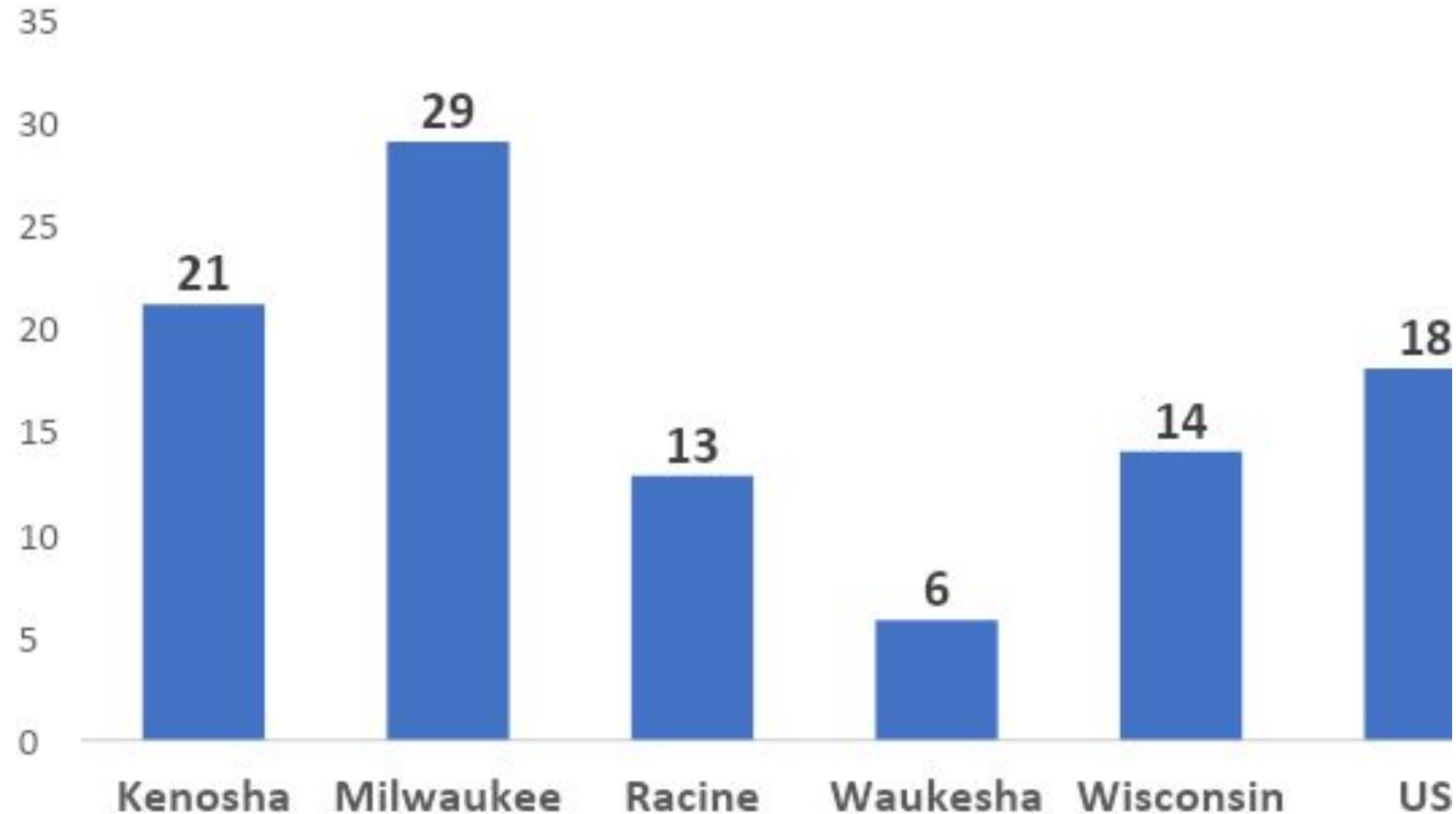| Location	Percent
Kenosha	12%
Milwaukee	19%
Racine	13%
Waukesha	5%
Wisconsin	10%
United States	11%
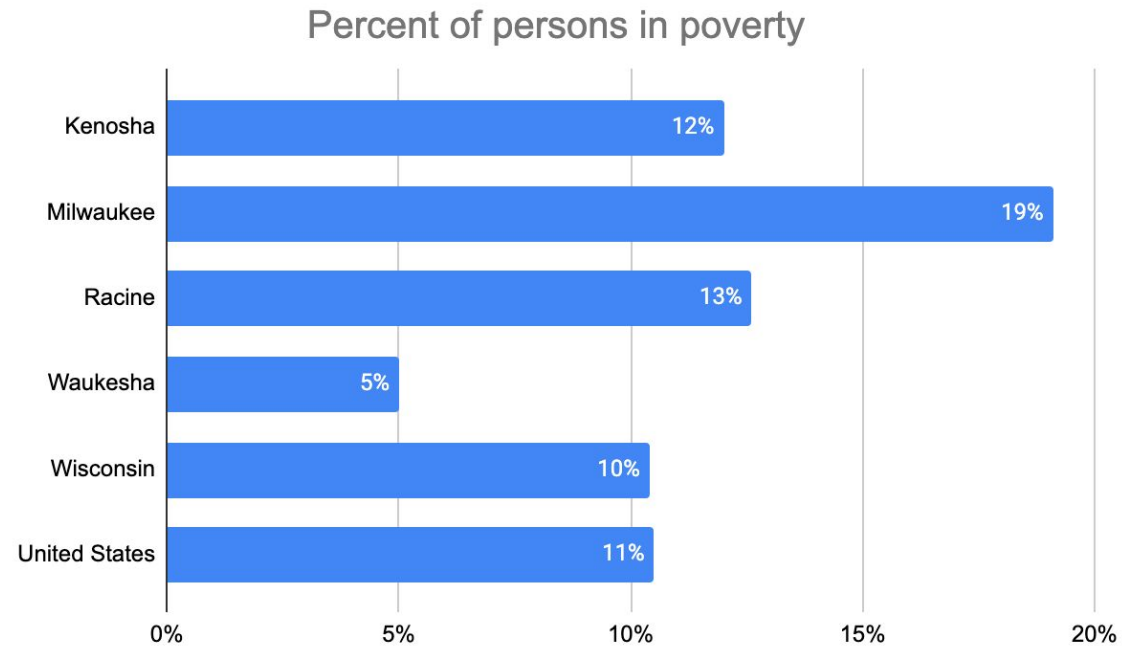
Median Household Income

The median household income in the US is **$60,300**. This is similar in Kenosha, Racine, and the State of Wisconsin. In Milwaukee, it is more than $11,000 less while in Waukesha it is $24,000 more.
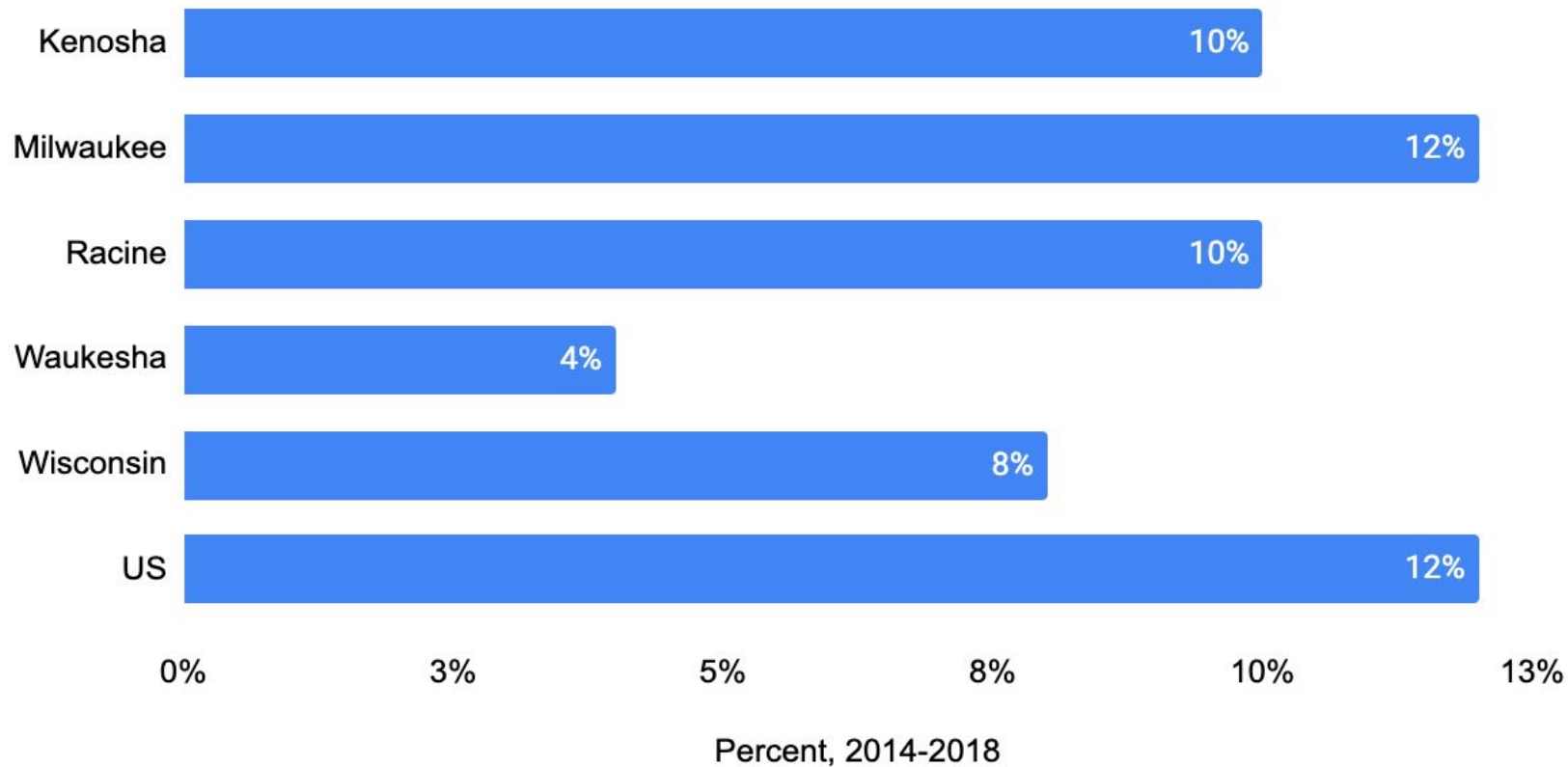
US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Children Living in Poverty

Nearly 1 in 5 children are living in poverty in the US. Kenosha is higher than the nation and in Milwaukee, it's nearly 1 in 3.

Percent of Children Living in Poverty

Location	Percent
Kenosha	21
Milwaukee	29
Racine	13
Waukesha	6
Wisconsin	14
US	18

Percent of persons age 25 or over without high school diploma

Kenosha	10%
Milwaukee	12%
Racine	10%
Waukesha	4%
Wisconsin	8%
US	12%

0%   3%   5%   8%   10%   13%

Percent, 2014-2018

No High School Diploma

Nationally and in Milwaukee County, 12% of those over age 25 do not have a high school diploma or GED. One out of ten in Racine and Kenosha Counties are in this category.

US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Travel Time to Work

The national commute time is 27 minutes - greater than the state or the four counties. Residents of Kenosha spend the most time traveling to work while those in Milwaukee spend the least.
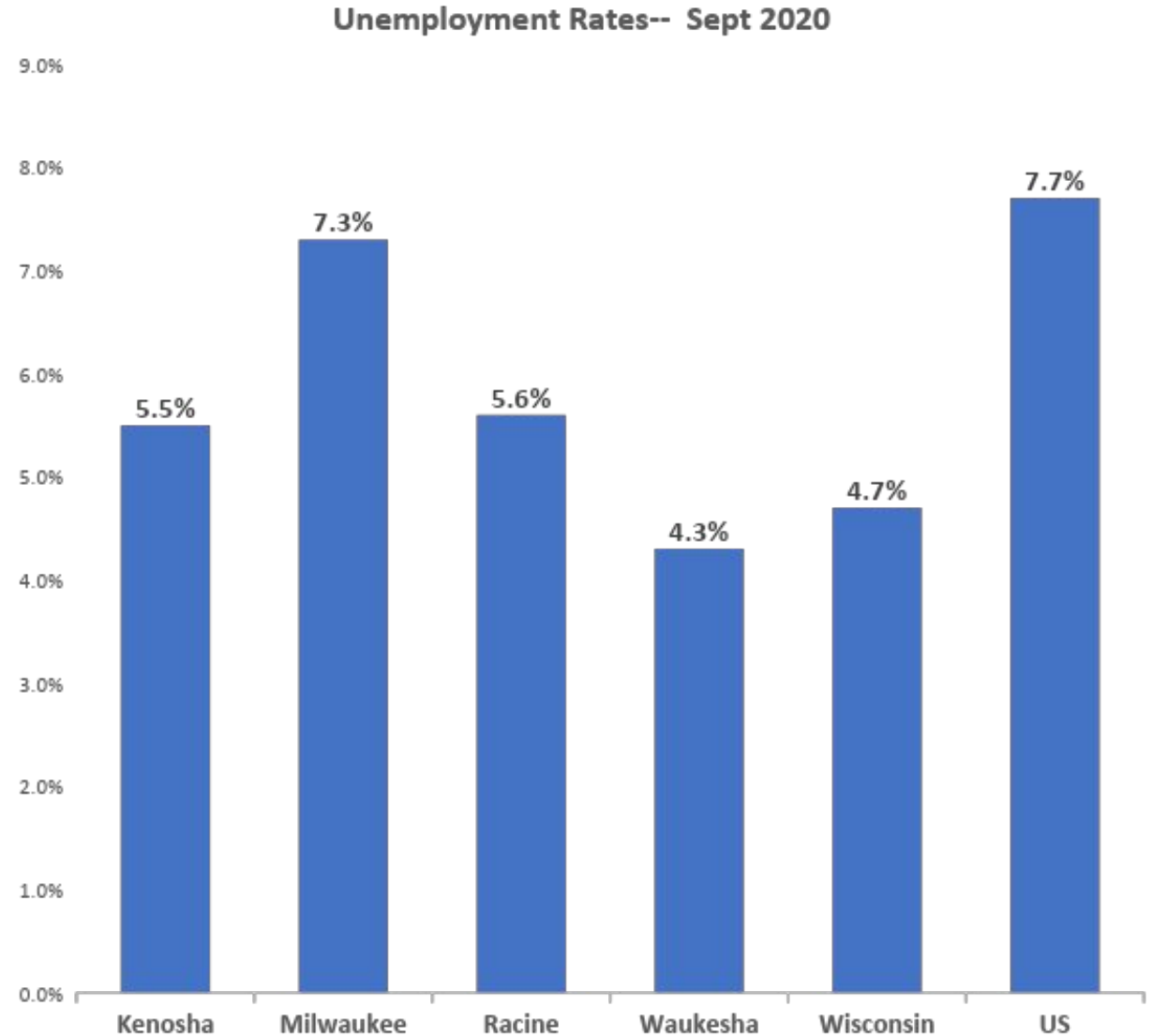
US Census 2019 QuickFacts
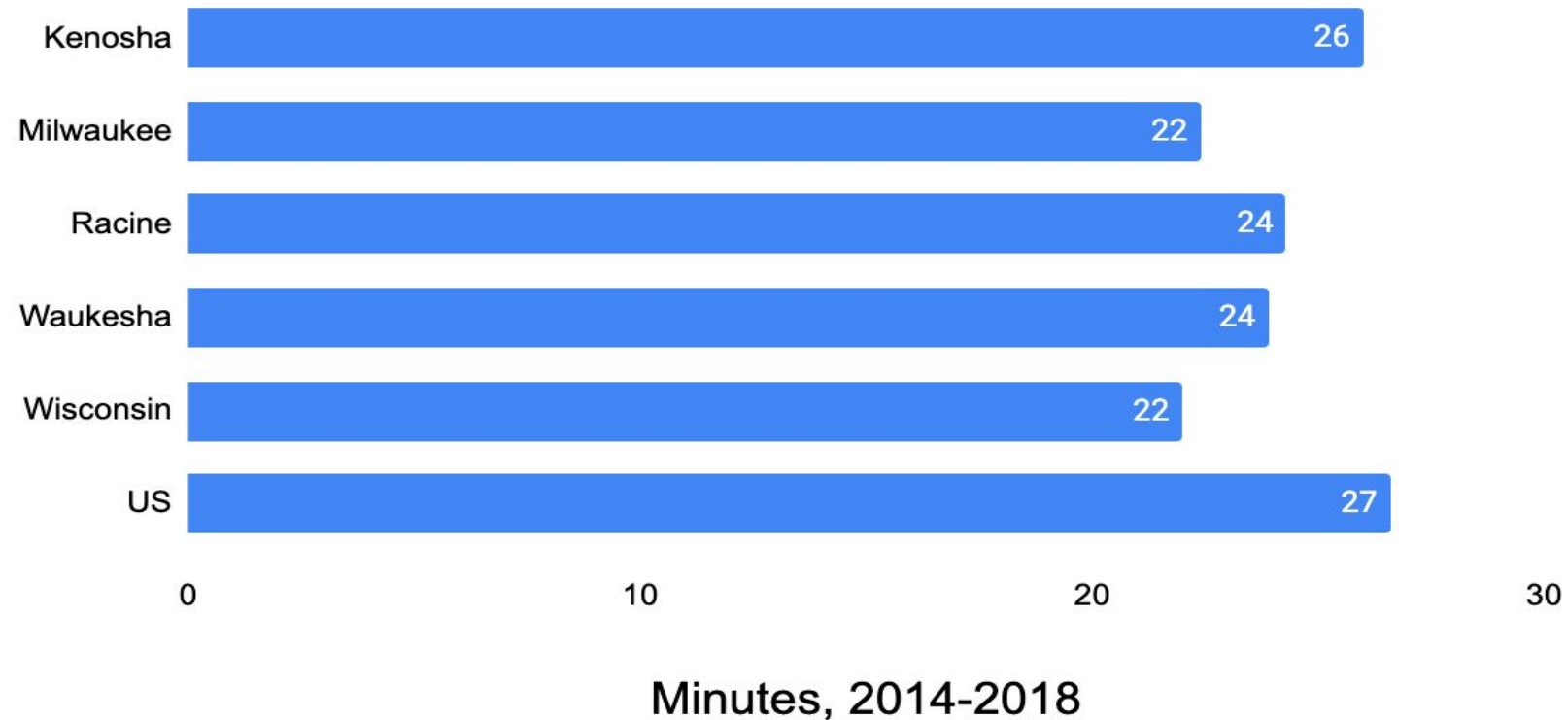
Unemployment Rates

Wisconsin and all four counties fare better than the nation. Milwaukee is 3 percentage points higher than Waukesha.

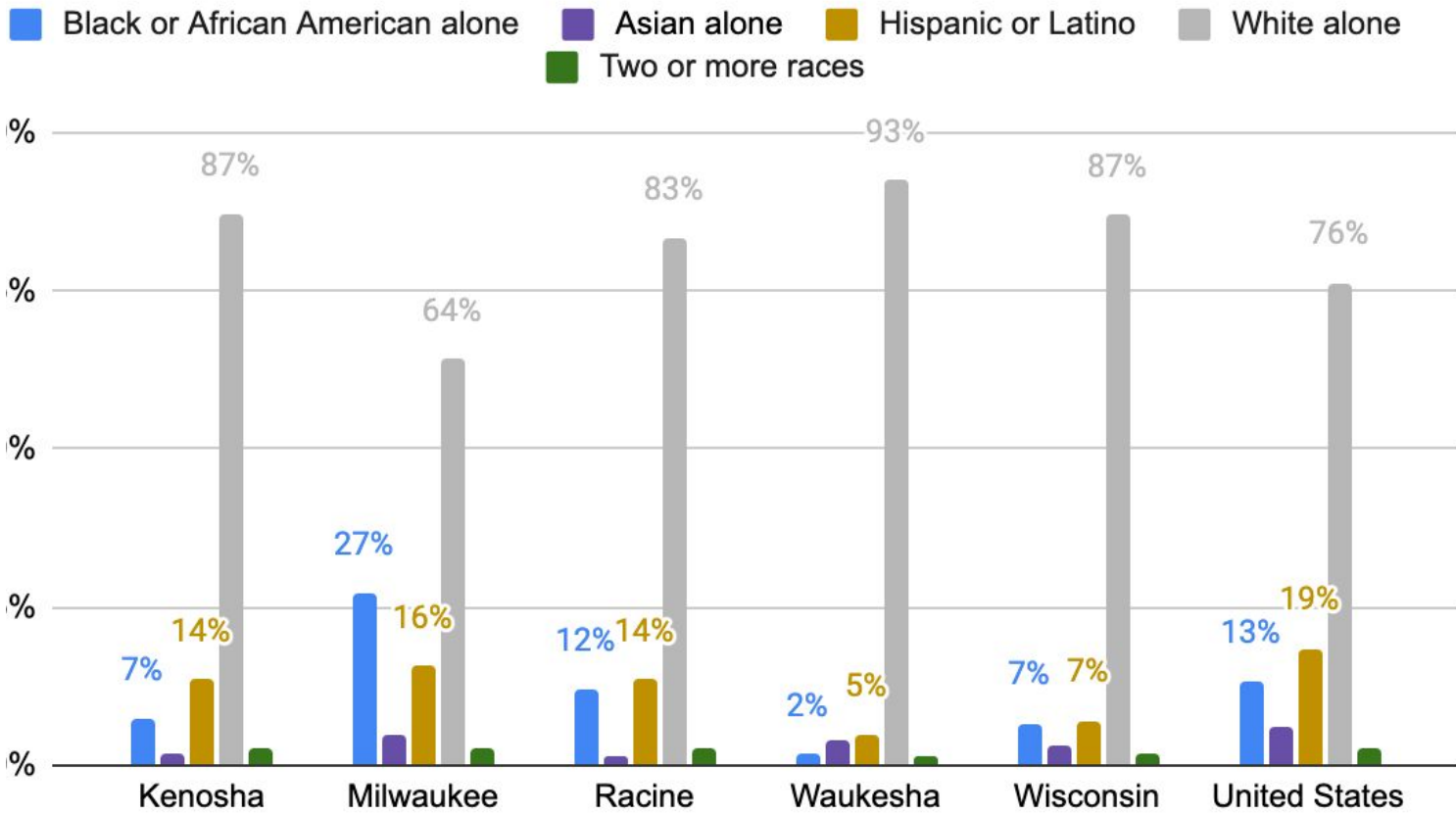*WI Dept. of Workforce Development, Labor market information 10/22/2020 (Not seasonally adjusted)*

Unemployment Rates-- Sept 2020

County/Region	Rate
Kenosha	5.5%
Milwaukee	7.3%
Racine	5.6%
Waukesha	4.3%
Wisconsin	4.7%
US	7.7%

Race and ethnicity population characteristics

Legend: Black or African American alone · Asian alone · Hispanic or Latino · White alone · Two or more races

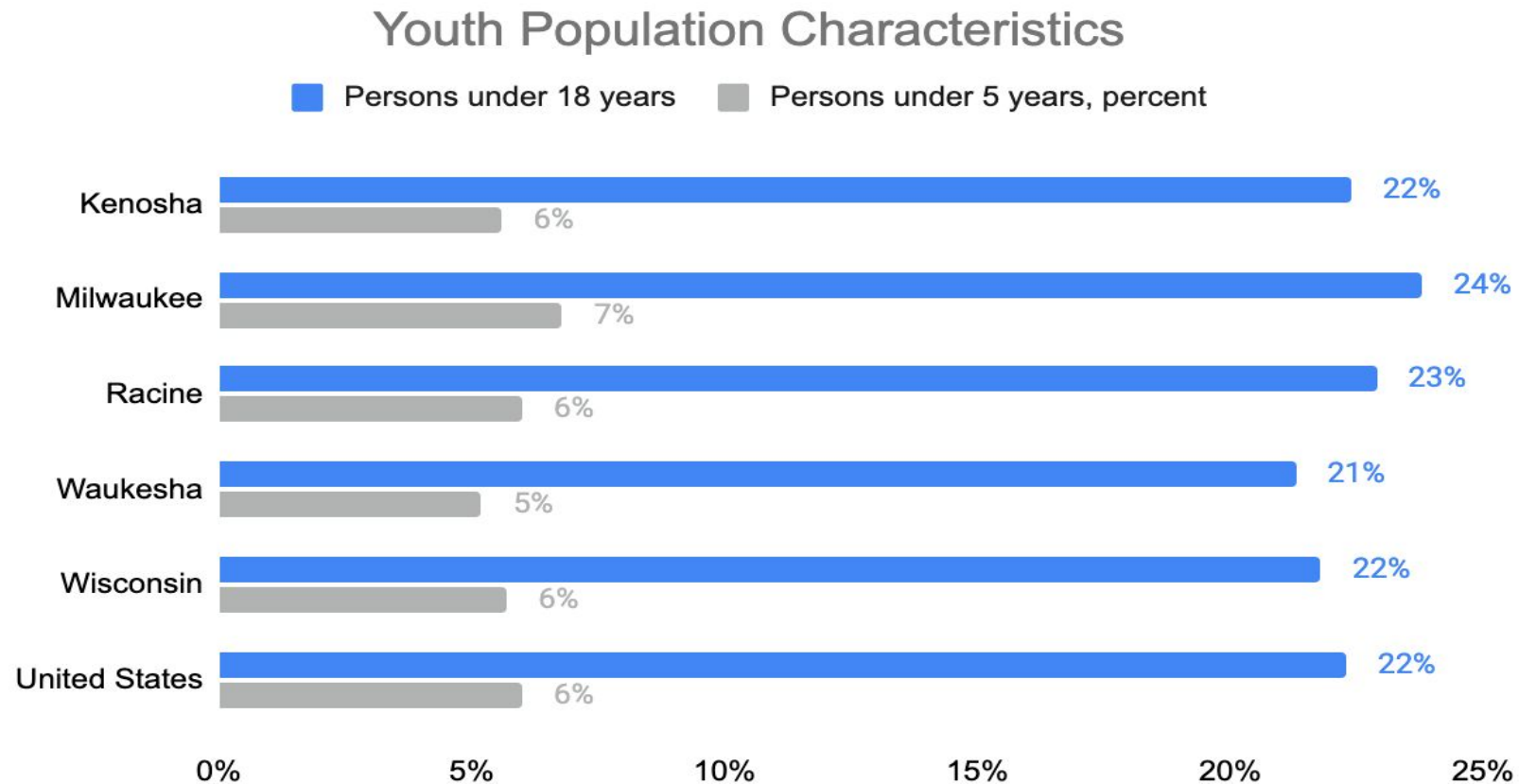| County	Black or African American alone	Hispanic or Latino	White alone
Kenosha	7%	14%	87%
Milwaukee	27%	16%	64%
Racine	12%	14%	83%
Waukesha	2%	5%	93%
Wisconsin	7%	7%	87%
United States	13%	19%	76%

Race and ethnicity

White non-Hispanic people make up the largest groups nationally, across the state, and in each of the four counties. Hispanics or Latinos make up the second largest group in all other areas except Milwaukee County where 26% of the population is Black or African American.
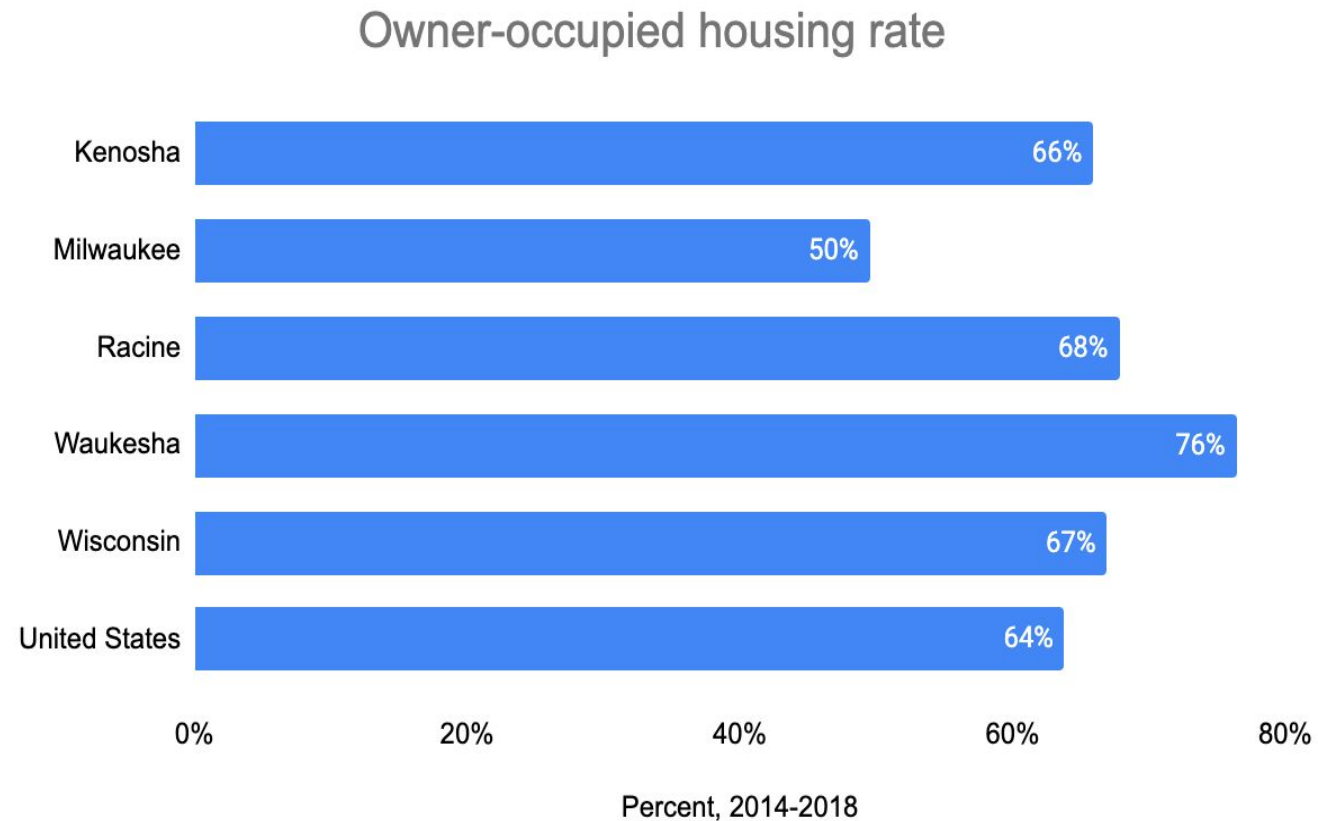
US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Children and Youth

Nationally, 22% of the population is under the age of 18 years. That percentage is slightly higher in Racine and Milwaukee Counties. The percent of children under 5 years is slightly higher than the national average in Milwaukee.

Youth Population Characteristics

■ Persons under 18 years ■ Persons under 5 years, percent

County	Persons under 18 years	Persons under 5 years, percent
Kenosha	22%	6%
Milwaukee	24%	7%
Racine	23%	6%
Waukesha	21%	5%
Wisconsin	22%	6%
United States	22%	6%

US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Homeownership

Nationally, nearly two-thirds of the homes are owner-occupied. These rates are even higher in Wisconsin and each of the counties except Milwaukee. In Waukesha County, more than three-quarters of the homes are owner-occupied.
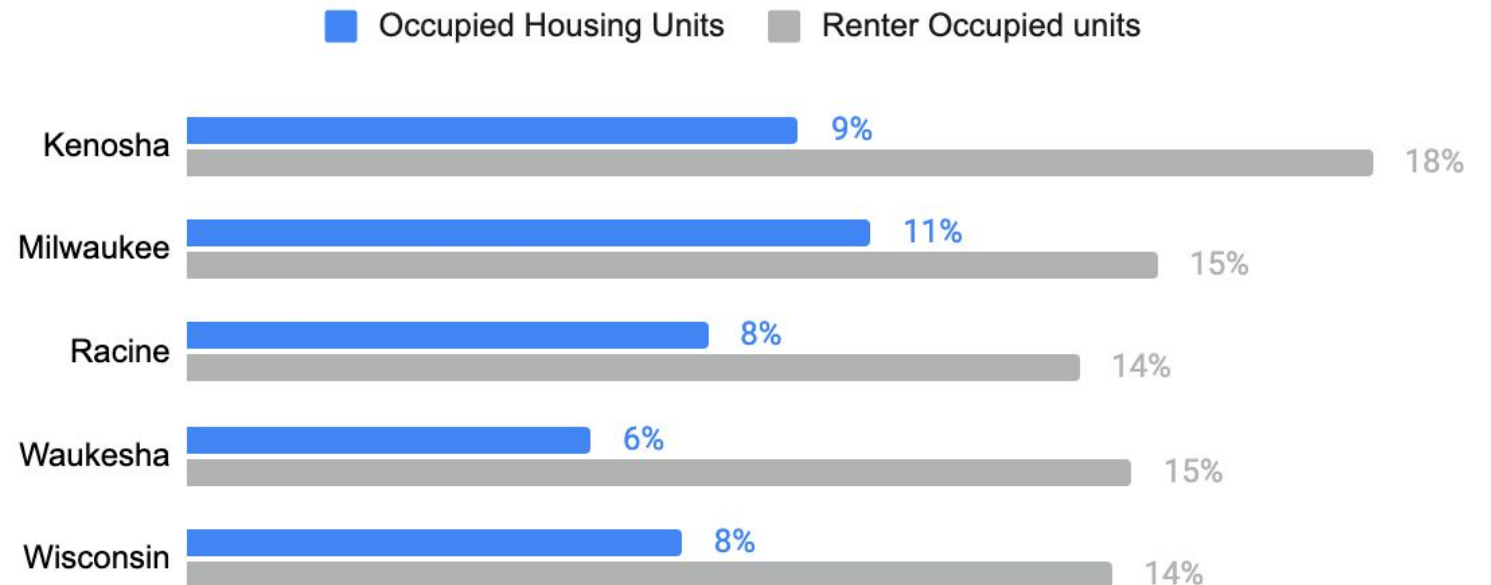
Owner-occupied housing rate

County	Rate
Kenosha	66%
Milwaukee	50%
Racine	68%
Waukesha	76%
Wisconsin	67%
United States	64%

Percent, 2014-2018
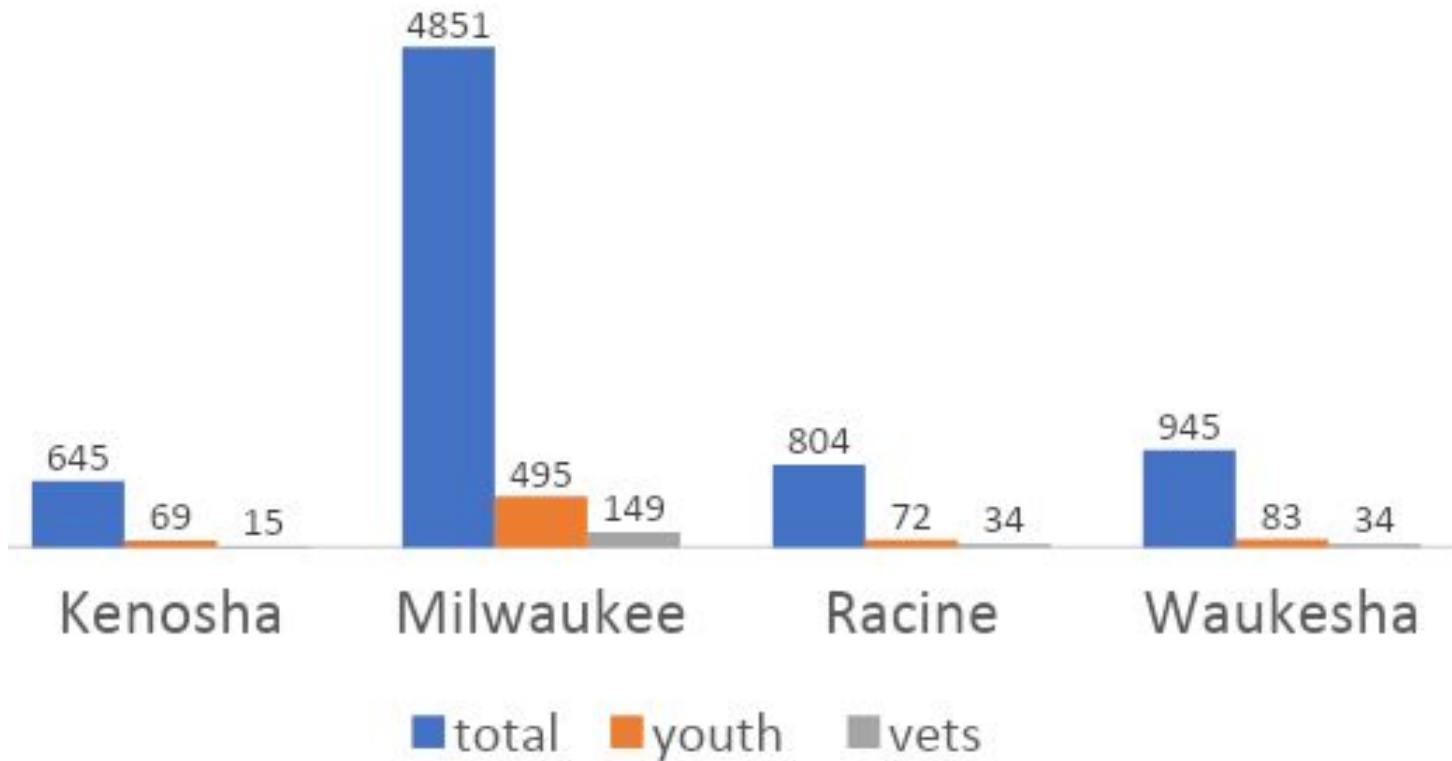
US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Housing Burden

Renters are more likely than homeowners to pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Renters in Kenosha are hardest hit.

ACS 2019 one-year estimates

Households considered Housing Cost Burdened in the past 12 months

■ Occupied Housing Units   ■ Renter Occupied units

	Occupied Housing Units	Renter Occupied units
Kenosha	9%	18%
Milwaukee	11%	15%
Racine	8%	14%
Waukesha	6%	15%
Wisconsin	8%	14%

Homelessness

may be a consequence of extreme poverty. More than **7,240** people from the four counties were in emergency shelter in 2019.

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

Food Insecurity Screening

In the last 12 months, did any of the **children ever not eat for a whole day** because there wasn't enough money for food?

- **Least severe:**
  worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.

- **Somewhat more severe:**
  couldn't afford to eat balanced meals

- **Midrange severity:**
  Cut the size of meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

- **Most severe:**
  Not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

Food Insecurity

Nationally, 12% of the population is considered food insecure while Milwaukee is slightly higher at 13%. Racine is similar to the state and higher than Kenosha or Waukesha.

Feeding America Map the Meal (2018)
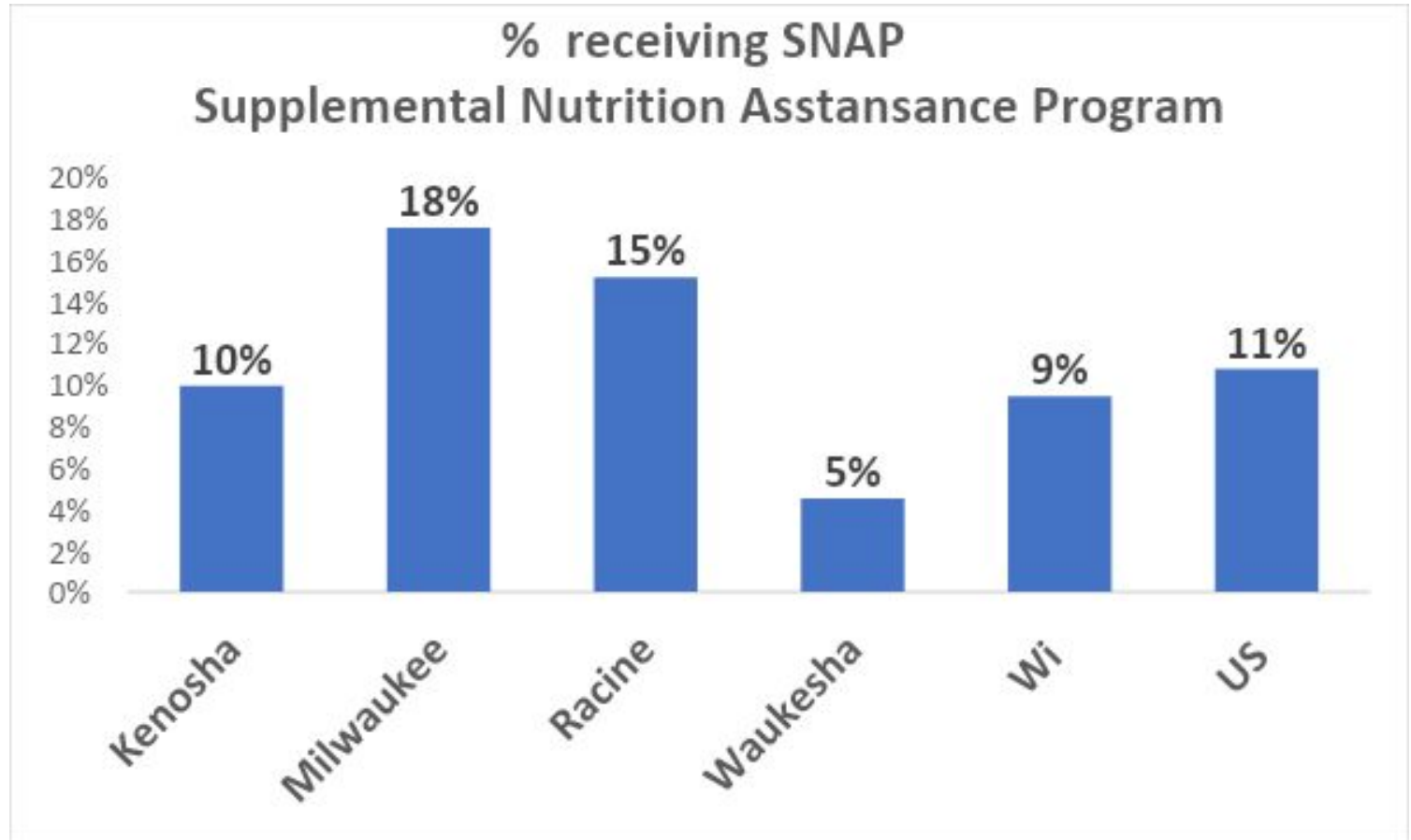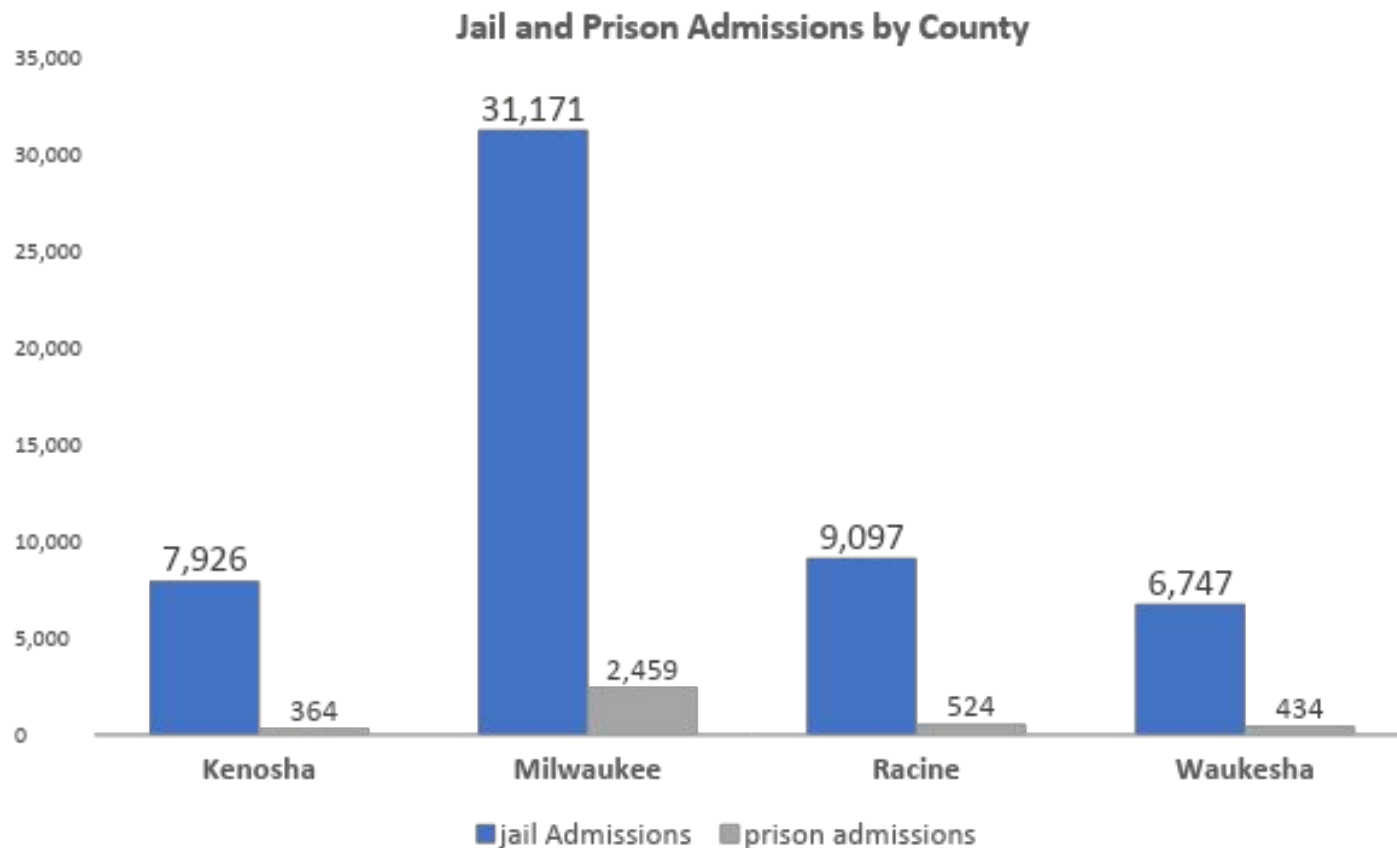

Percent of population that is food insecure
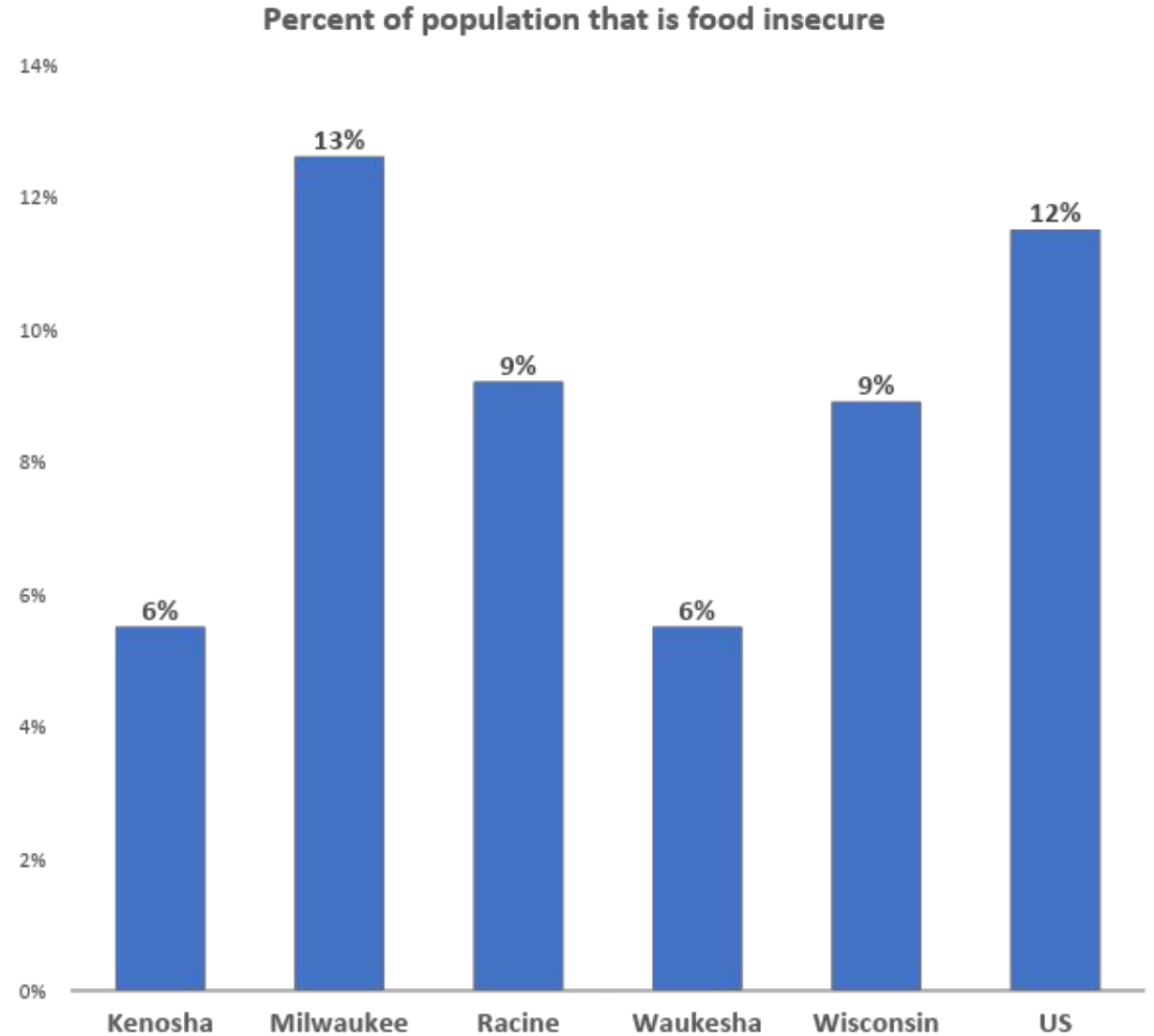
Use of SNAP

Nationally, 11% of the population receive food stamps.
In Milwaukee, the percentage is twice the statewide rate. Both Racine and Kenosha are above the state average.

ACS 2019 one-year estimates

% receiving SNAP
Supplemental Nutrition Asstansance Program

Incarceration may also be a consequence of poverty. The number of people **jailed** in the 4 counties in 2018 was nearly **55,000** while the total number in **prison** was almost **3,800.**
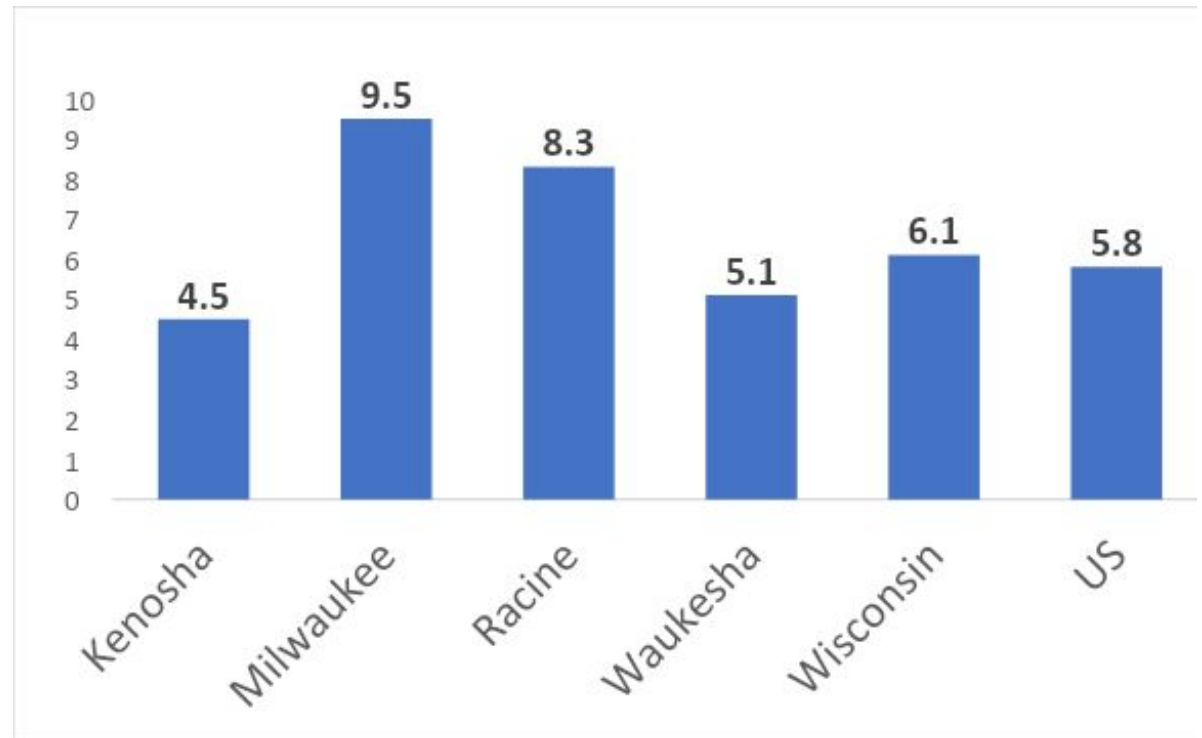
Vera Institute, Incarceration Trends in Wisconsin (2019)

Infant mortality

In both Milwaukee and Racine Counties, babies die at a higher rate before their first birthday than in the state or nation. There are significant racial disparities.

WISH, Infant Mortality Module (Wisconsin, 2018)

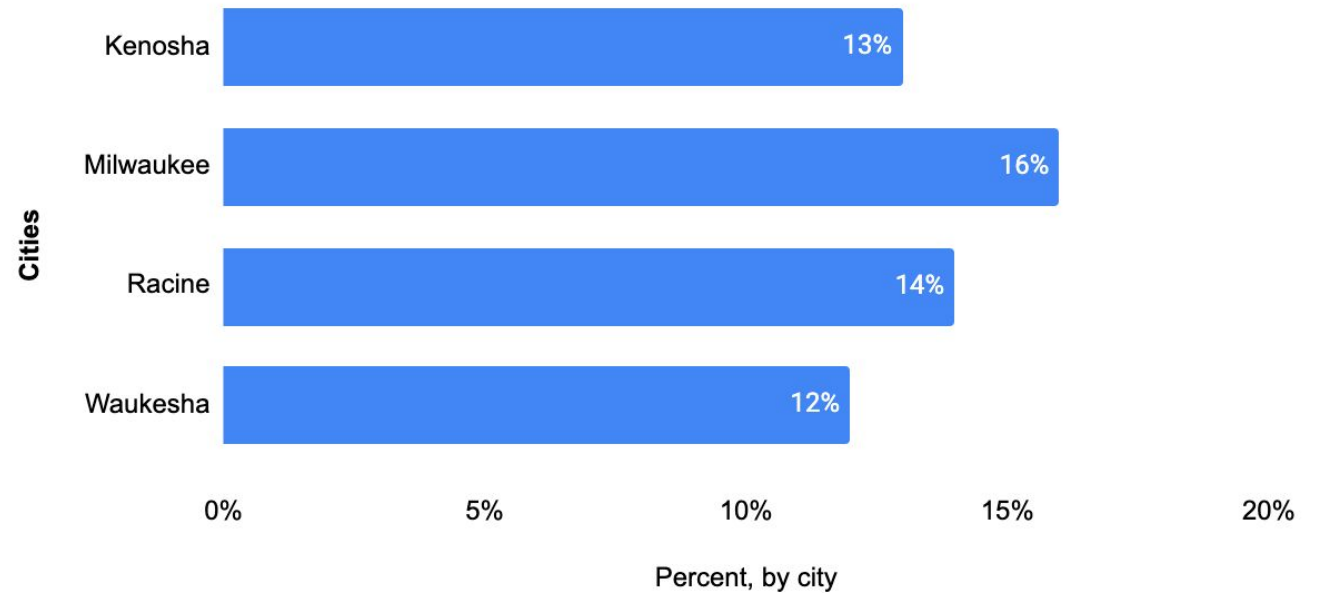**Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births in four-county area**
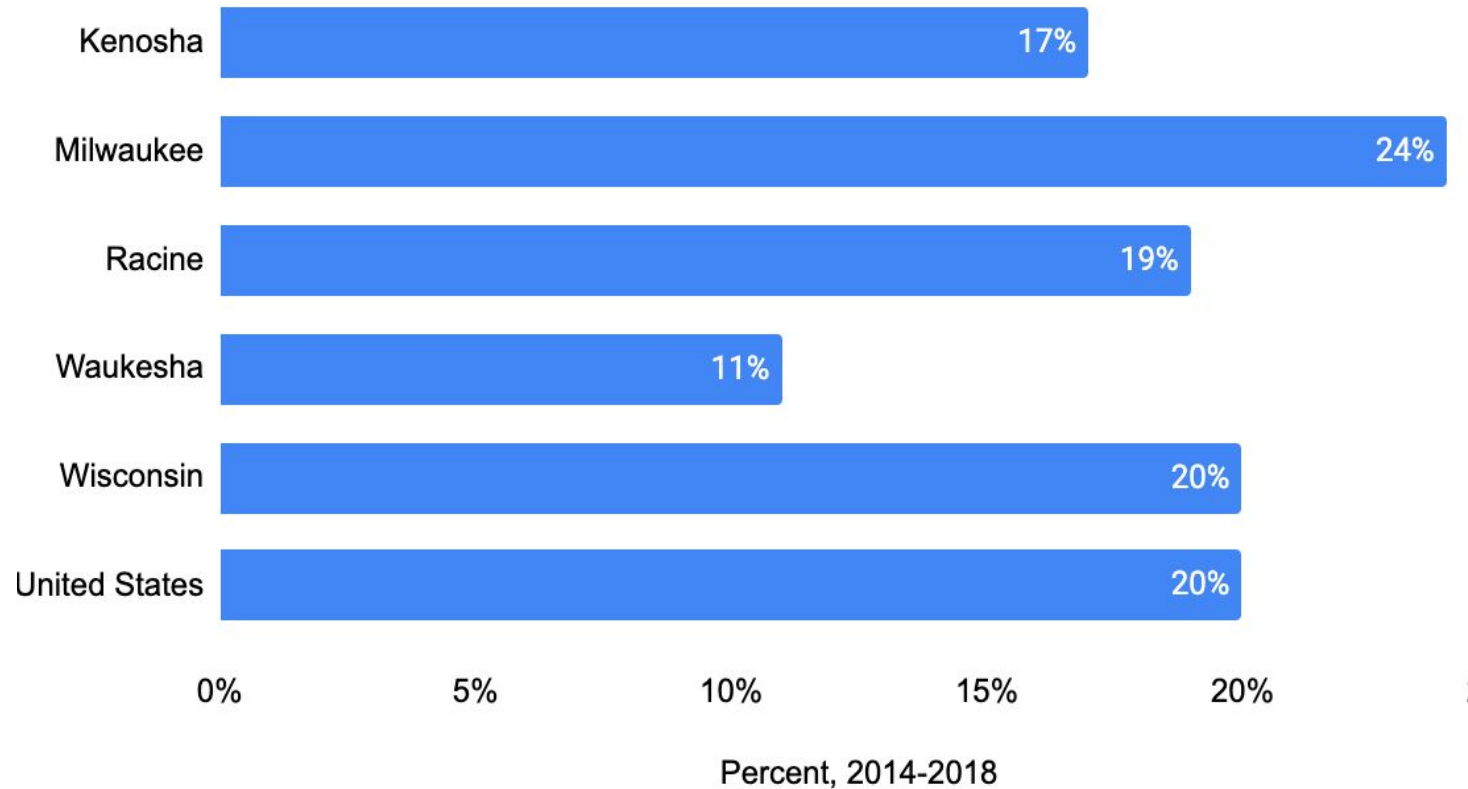
Mental Health

Nationally, and across the state, 12% of the population rate their own mental health as "Not Good" for 14 days or more. Greater percentages of people in the Cities of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine respond this way.

CDC, 500 Cities, 2017

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

Cities

Kenosha — 13%
Milwaukee — 16%
Racine — 14%
Waukesha — 12%

0%   5%   10%   15%   20%

Percent, by city

Digital Divide

Nationally, one in five households do not have access to the internet. In Milwaukee County, this number is 24%.

US Census 2019 QuickFacts

Conclusion

The data show some areas where **the four counties are faring either similarly or better than the state and national levels**, though it should be noted that Wisconsin generally shows more positive outcomes than the United States as a whole. **Milwaukee stands out markedly in terms of consistently falling behind or otherwise showing worrisome trends**. Disparities will continue to **amplify the racial inequities** apparent across the country unless **a thoughtful intervention is implemented**.

Content and presentation prepared by
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