

**2021**

*Community Needs Assessment  
Annual Update*



*Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and  
Richland Counties, Wisconsin*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP) conducts a comprehensive Community Assessment during each five-year period, and annually reviews and updates the Assessment to reflect significant changes in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties in Wisconsin. A comprehensive *Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment* was conducted in 2016; this 2021 Annual Update, compiled by Spiridis Consulting LLC, serves as an addendum. Quantitative data includes local, state, and federal data resources, including the 2015-2019 American Community Survey estimates.

Key findings of the Community Assessment and Annual Updates are used for program planning to build on community strengths and resources, and to assist in reducing identified barriers to self-sufficiency for families living in poverty. SWCAP utilizes such findings to make informed decisions regarding:

- ◆ Determination of long- and short-range program goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ◆ Types of services most in need for families living in poverty;
- ◆ Recruitment areas that will be served by the program, if limitations in the amount of resources makes it impossible to serve the entire service area;
- ◆ Location of Head Start and Early Head Start locations, as well as EHS Child Care Partners; and
- ◆ Criteria that defines the special populations of children who will be given priority for recruitment and selection for program services.

Per HSPPS Standard 1302.11, updates to the following information have been included:

- The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak.
- Children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to children by community agencies;
- The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- Other child development, child care centers, and family child care (FCC) programs that serve typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- Child development, child care centers, and FCC programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state/ local preschools, and approximate number of eligible children served;
- Community resources available to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and
- Strengths of the community.

## DATA SUMMARY

Below is a summary of updated demographic information and data trends that most impact those living in poverty in the service area. For detailed information regarding any statistic, refer to the full text later in the document. Note: The majority of available data is pre-COVID-19. As available, data reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been included.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

- Changes in population within the four-county service area since 2010 have remained relatively consistent: Grant County (51,733/1% increase); Iowa County (23,678/negligible decrease); Lafayette County (16,665/-1% decrease); and Richland County (17,459/-3.1% decrease), compared to Wisconsin (1.8% increase) and the United States (5.2% increase).
- The racial composition of the four-county area is predominately White (95.4 – 97.3 percent). The African-American population is highest in Grant County at 1.5 percent. All other races constitute less than 1.5 percent of the population in all counties. The estimated Hispanic population is as follows: Grant County (1.7 percent); Iowa County (1.8 percent); Lafayette County (3.9 percent); and Richland County (2.3 percent), compared to Wisconsin at 6.8 percent.
- Between 92.3 and 97 percent of the population ages 5 years and older speak English in the service area. The Spanish-speaking population ranges between 1.1 percent and 3.1 percent (Lafayette County). The Indo-European language is spoken by 4 percent of the population in Lafayette County.
- Following are the percentages of single-parent households: Grant County (18 percent); Iowa County (16 percent); Lafayette County (18 percent); and Richland County (20 percent), compared to Wisconsin (23 percent) and the United States (33 percent).

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and temporary closures of businesses and restaurants, unemployment claims in the four-county area rose to rates between 9 percent (Lafayette County) and 16.3 percent (Iowa County), compared to 13.6 percent in the state of Wisconsin. As of December 2020, unemployment rates had dropped to rates between 3.4 percent (Lafayette County) and 4.6 percent (Richland County), compared to 5.3 percent in Wisconsin and 6.5 percent across the U.S.
- The median household income across the 4-county area varies: Grant County (\$69,698), Iowa County (\$81,430), Lafayette County (\$70,313), and Richland County (\$63,861). Grant, Lafayette, and Richland counties have a lower median income than the state of Wisconsin (\$78,679).
- Wisconsin's 2021 state minimum wage rate is \$7.25 per hour. A full-time minimum wage worker in Wisconsin working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year will earn \$58.00 per day, \$290 per week, and \$15,080 per year. The 2021 federal poverty line for a family of two is \$17,420 per year and \$26,500 per year for a family of four.

- Estimated poverty rates for the general population are as follows: Grant County (15.2 percent); Iowa County (8.8 percent); Lafayette County (11.2 percent); and Richland County (14.1 percent). Poverty rates of children under the age of five are significantly higher: Grant County (16.7 percent); Iowa County (12.4 percent); Lafayette County (20.6 percent); and Richland County (16.1 percent). Lafayette County has a higher poverty rate for children under age 5 than Wisconsin (16.9 percent).

**Estimated Children under Five in Poverty by Age Group**

	Children Under 5	Estimated Population Under 5 in Poverty		Infants and Toddlers*	Infants and Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds*	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
<b>Grant County</b>	2,724	16.7%	454	1,634	272	1,090	182
<b>Iowa County</b>	1,322	12.4%	164	793	98	529	66
<b>Lafayette County</b>	1,053	20.6%	217	632	130	421	87
<b>Richland County</b>	864	16.1%	139	518	83	346	56

\*Based on estimated breakdown by age in 0-4 age group: infants/toddlers = 60%; 3- and 4-Year-olds = 40% of total children under 5

- Of the Hispanic/Latino population, 32.8 percent in Grant County; 16 percent in Iowa County; 19.2 percent in Lafayette County; and 42.6 percent in Richland County are living in poverty, compared to 21.3 percent in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin Works (W-2) is the state’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. W-2 participants have declined significantly between 2016 and 2020 to an average of 20 monthly cases in Grant County; 8 cases in Iowa County; 2 cases in Lafayette County; and 11 cases in Richland County.

**HOUSING**

- A cost burdened household has housing costs that exceed 30 percent of total household income. The rates of cost burdened households are: Grant County (23.1 percent); Iowa County (22.9 percent); Lafayette County (23 percent); and Richland County (25.1 percent). Cost burdened *rental* households are significantly higher: Grant County (36 percent); Iowa County (30.1 percent); Lafayette County (31 percent); and Richland County (34.2 percent).
- Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a modest two-bedroom apartment in the four-county service area is lower in Grant, Lafayette, and Richland counties (average of \$721) and is highest in Iowa County (\$863). To afford a two-bedroom apartment without assistance in Grant, Lafayette, and Richland counties a family needs to earn \$13.75/hour (\$28,600 annually) or work 76 hours at minimum wage. To afford a two-bedroom apartment without assistance in Iowa County a family needs to earn \$16.60/hour (\$34,520 annually) or work 92 hours at minimum wage.

## HOMELESSNESS

- Public school data reported to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction showed that 17,179 students in the state were homeless per the McKinney Vento Act during 2019-2020. Of these students, 124 children experiencing homelessness were preschoolers. Of homeless preschool students, 66 percent were doubled up with other families due to financial constraints.

## EDUCATION

- Rates of adults age 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher are as follows: Grant County (92.2 percent); Iowa County (95.2 percent); Lafayette County (91.8 percent); and Richland County (90.1 percent), compared to WI (92.2 percent).

## DISABILITIES

- Sixty-one children participated in Early Intervention in 2020, including 25 children in Grant County; 9 children in Iowa County; 7 children in Lafayette County; and 20 in Richland County.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD BIRTH TO FIVE

- During 2019-2020, K4 child enrollment was as follows: Grant County (465); Iowa County (201); Lafayette County (190); and Richland County (97). *There is no updated data available for 2020-2021.*
- Currently, there are 42 child care providers in Grant County; 15 in Iowa County; 13 in Lafayette County; and just 7 in Richland County. All counties have experienced decreases in the numbers of child care providers since spring of 2020. Of child care home providers, only 29.9 percent have a quality rating of three stars or more (based on five stars). Of child care centers, 16 centers in Grant County, 4 centers in Iowa County, 2 centers in Lafayette County, and no centers in Richland County offer infant/toddler care.
- Following are the licensed family child care and center-based child care slots by county, as of December 2020: Grant County (1,099); Iowa County (340); Lafayette County (177); and Richland County (56). Grant County (-6.5 percent), Lafayette County (-11.9 percent), and Richland County (-34.1 percent) experienced decreases in licensed child care slots between 2018 and 2020.
- *Wisconsin Shares* is the child care subsidy program available to low-income working families. The average numbers of children receiving subsidies in each month of 2020 are as follows: Grant County (88); Iowa County (31); Lafayette County (18); and Richland County (3).

## CHILD WELFARE

- In 2019, substantiated child abuse and neglect cases were as follows: Grant County (47); Iowa County (12); Lafayette County (24); and Richland County (15). The rates of child victims per 1,000 were 4.4 in Grant County; 2.3 in Iowa County; 6 in Lafayette County; and 4 in Richland County.

- The 2019 numbers of children in foster care under age five were as follows: 12 in Grant County; 1 in Iowa County; 3 in Lafayette County; and 6 in Richland County. The following percentages of children were under the age of five: Grant County (42.9 percent); Iowa County (25 percent); Lafayette County (15.8 percent); and Richland County (27.2 percent). “Caretaker drug use” was listed as a removal reason for 15.8 percent of Wisconsin children, down from 28.6 percent in 2018.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- As of March 31, 2021, the following deaths have been reported in the service area due to COVID-19: Grant County (88 deaths or 170.7 per 100,000 people); Iowa County (12 deaths or 50.5 per 100,000 people); Lafayette County (7 deaths or 42 per 100,000 people); and Richland County (15 deaths or 86.3 per 100,000 people), compared to Wisconsin with a rate of 125.4 per 100,000 people and the U.S. with a rate of 165.7 per 100,000 people.
- The following were enrolled in BadgerCare in February 2020: Grant County (3,109 children/189 expectant women); Iowa County (1,362 children/71 expectant women); Lafayette County (1,257 children/79 expectant women); and Richland County (4,384 children/262 expectant women). Numbers of expectant women/children utilizing BadgerCare rose in all 4 counties from February 2020.

## BIRTH OUTCOMES

- In 2018, 556 children were born in Grant County; 262 in Iowa County; 221 in Lafayette County; and 165 in Richland County. A total of 1,204 babies were born in the four-county service area, representing the approximate number of expectant mothers in 2018. Of those births, 291 births were paid for by Badger Care. *There is no updated data available.*
- 2018 rates of babies born with a low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs.) are as follows: Grant County (4 percent); Iowa County (4.6 percent); Lafayette County (5 percent); and Richland County (9.1 percent). The goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Healthy People 2020) is to have low birth weight rates to 7.8 percent or less by 2020. *There is no updated data available.*
- It is the goal of Healthy People 2020 to have the infant mortality rate to 6 or fewer deaths for every 1000 live births. Infant mortality rates per every 1000 live births in 2018 were as follows: Grant County (5.4); Iowa County (N/A); Lafayette County (13.6); and Richland County (N/A). *There is no updated data available.*
- Live births per 1000 females to girls ages 15-19 in 2018 were as follows: Grant County (6.8 per 1000 births); Iowa County (7.3 per 1000 births); Lafayette County (9.0 per 1000 births); and Richland County (10.8 per 1000 births).

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

- According to a special report, *The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity*, 2020 child food insecurity rates were projected (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) as follows: Grant County (20.6 percent); Iowa County (19.1 percent); Lafayette County (19.2 percent); and Richland County (22.4 percent), compared to Wisconsin at 21 percent. Therefore, between 2018 and 2020, child food



insecurity rates were projected to rise by 40 percent in Grant County; 58 percent in Iowa County; 35 percent in Lafayette County; and 34 percent in Richland County.

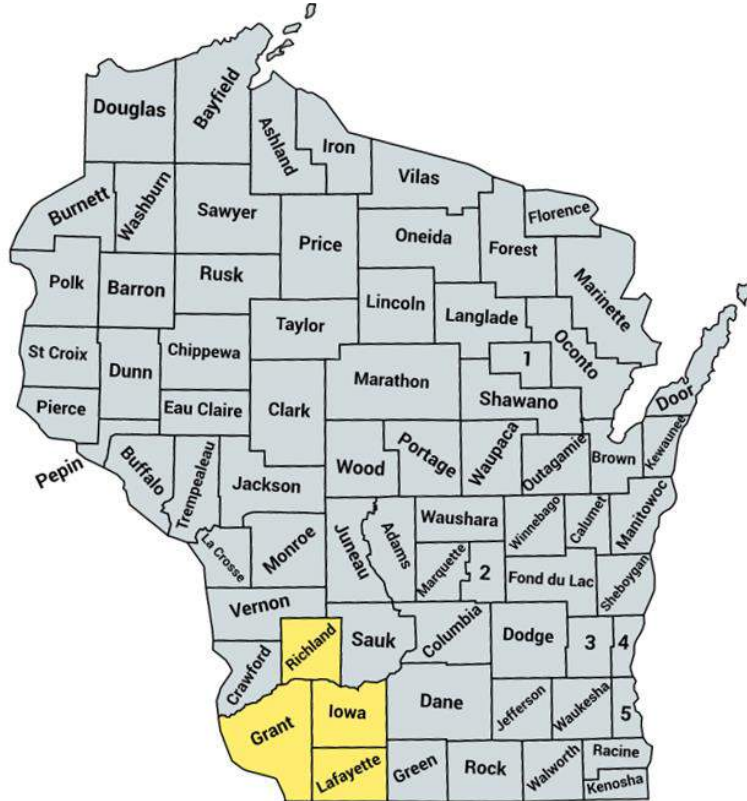
- The monthly average number of *FoodShare* recipients in the four-county service area increased between 2018 and 2020 as follows: Grant County (10.3 percent); Iowa County (.8 percent); Lafayette County (5.2 percent); and Richland County (6.9 percent).
- The percent of children receiving WIC decreased between 2018 and 2020 as follows: -13.9 percent in Grant County; -19.7 percent in Iowa County; -3.7 percent in Lafayette County; and -13.1 percent in Richland County. In 2020, the numbers of children ages 0-4 receiving WIC were: 677 in Grant County; 220 in Iowa County; 210 in Lafayette County; and 233 in Richland County.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- The estimated percentages of households with no vehicle are as follows: 5.9 percent in Grant County; 3.1 percent in Iowa County; 5.1 percent in Lafayette County; and 6.8 percent in Richland County. Richland County (6.8 percent) has a slightly higher rate of households with no vehicle than the state of Wisconsin (6.7 percent).

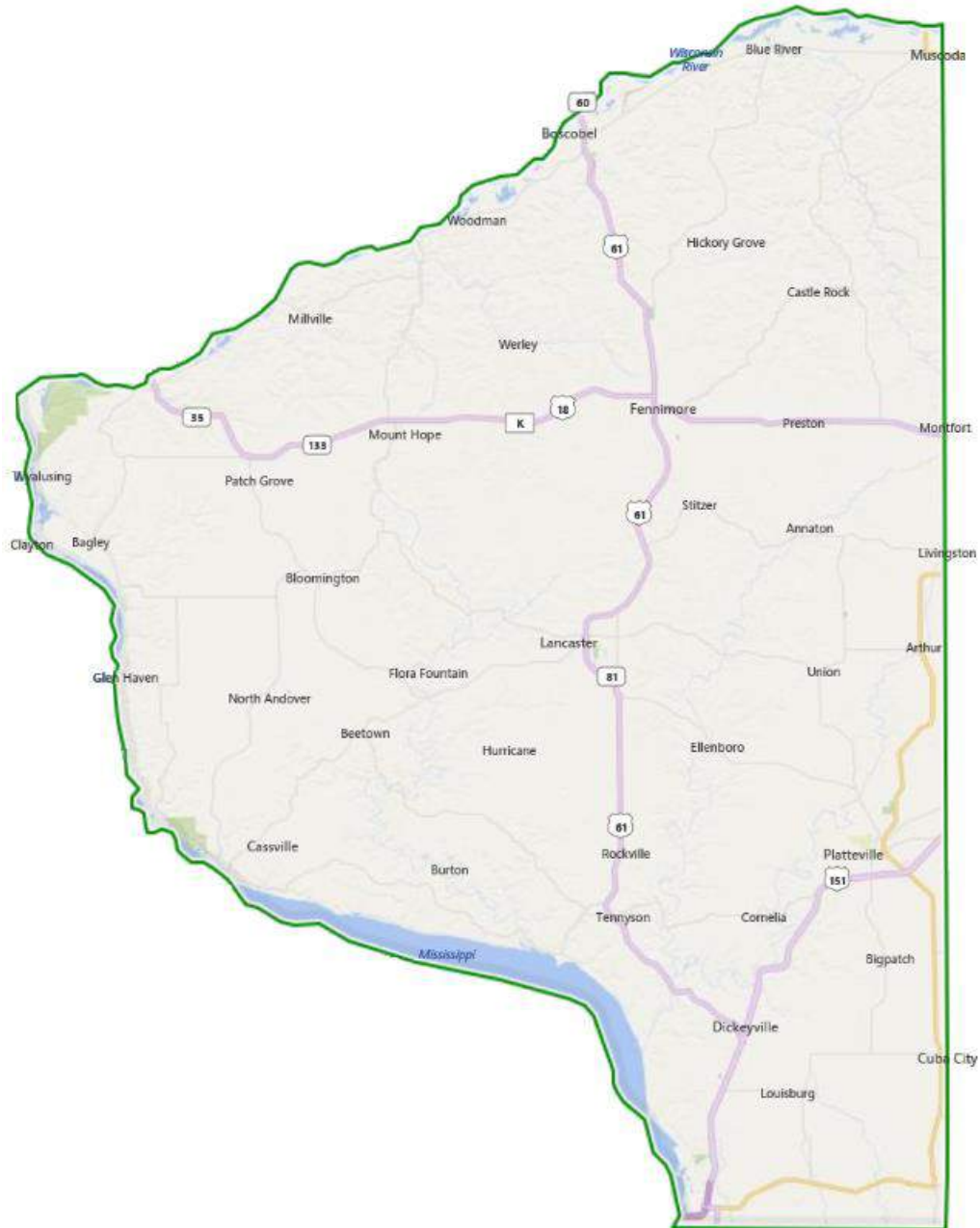
## GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION

Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP) receives federal funding to operate the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs within four of the state's 72 counties, including Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is in the upper mid-west region of the United States. The state is bordered by Lake Superior and Michigan to the north; by Lake Michigan to the east; by Illinois to the south; and by Iowa and Minnesota to the west. Wisconsin covers 54,375 square miles and is home to nearly 5.8 million residents.



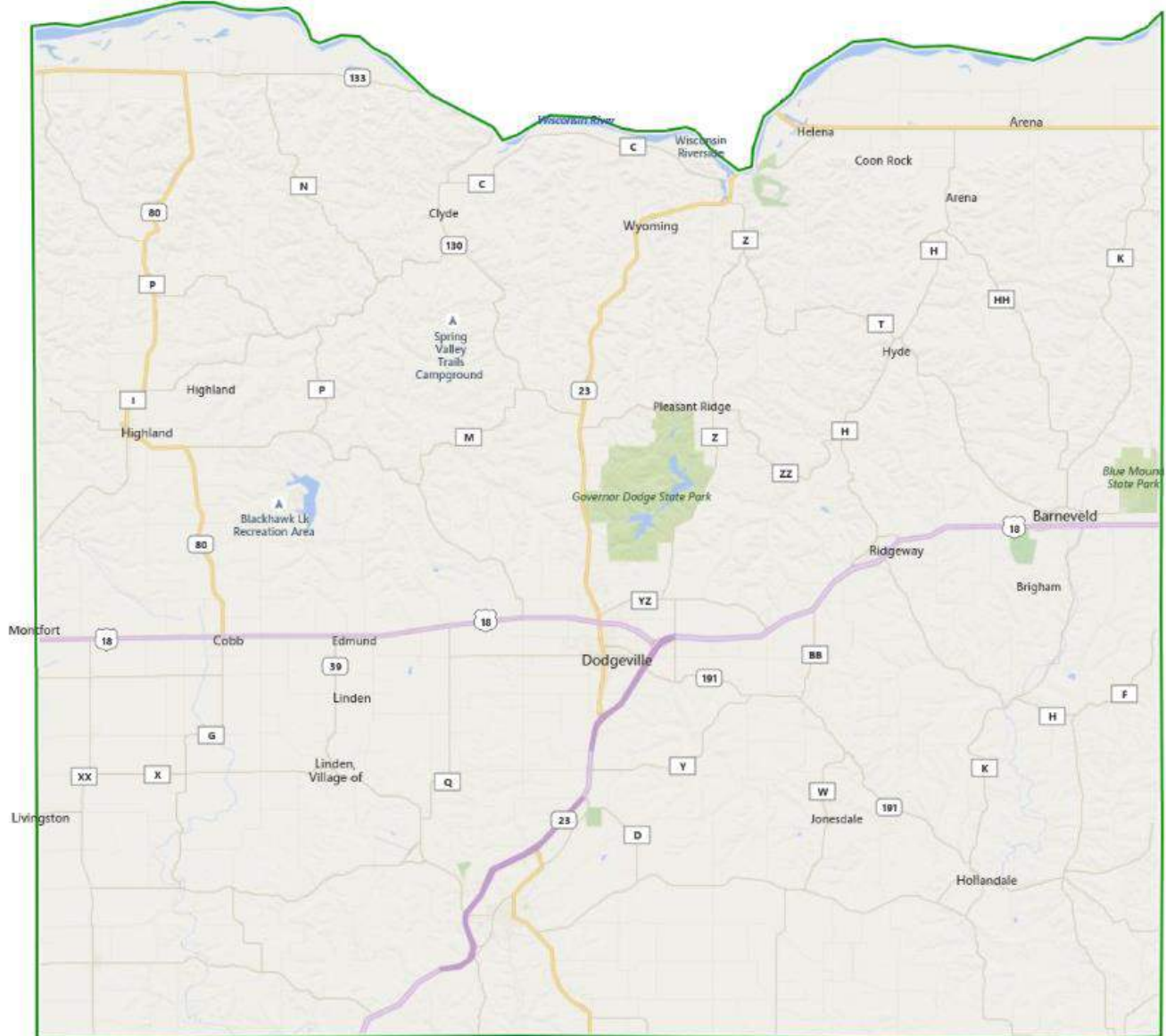
**GRANT COUNTY** is located in the southwest corner of Wisconsin. The county is bordered to the north by Crawford County; to the northeast by Richland County; to the east by Iowa and Lafayette counties; to the southeast by Jo Daviess County, Illinois; to the south by Dubuque County, Iowa; and to the west by Clayton County, Iowa.

Grant County covers 1,183 square miles, of which just 36 square miles are water. The county seat is Lancaster and the most populous city is Platteville, Wisconsin. Grant County's most recent population estimate is 51,439.



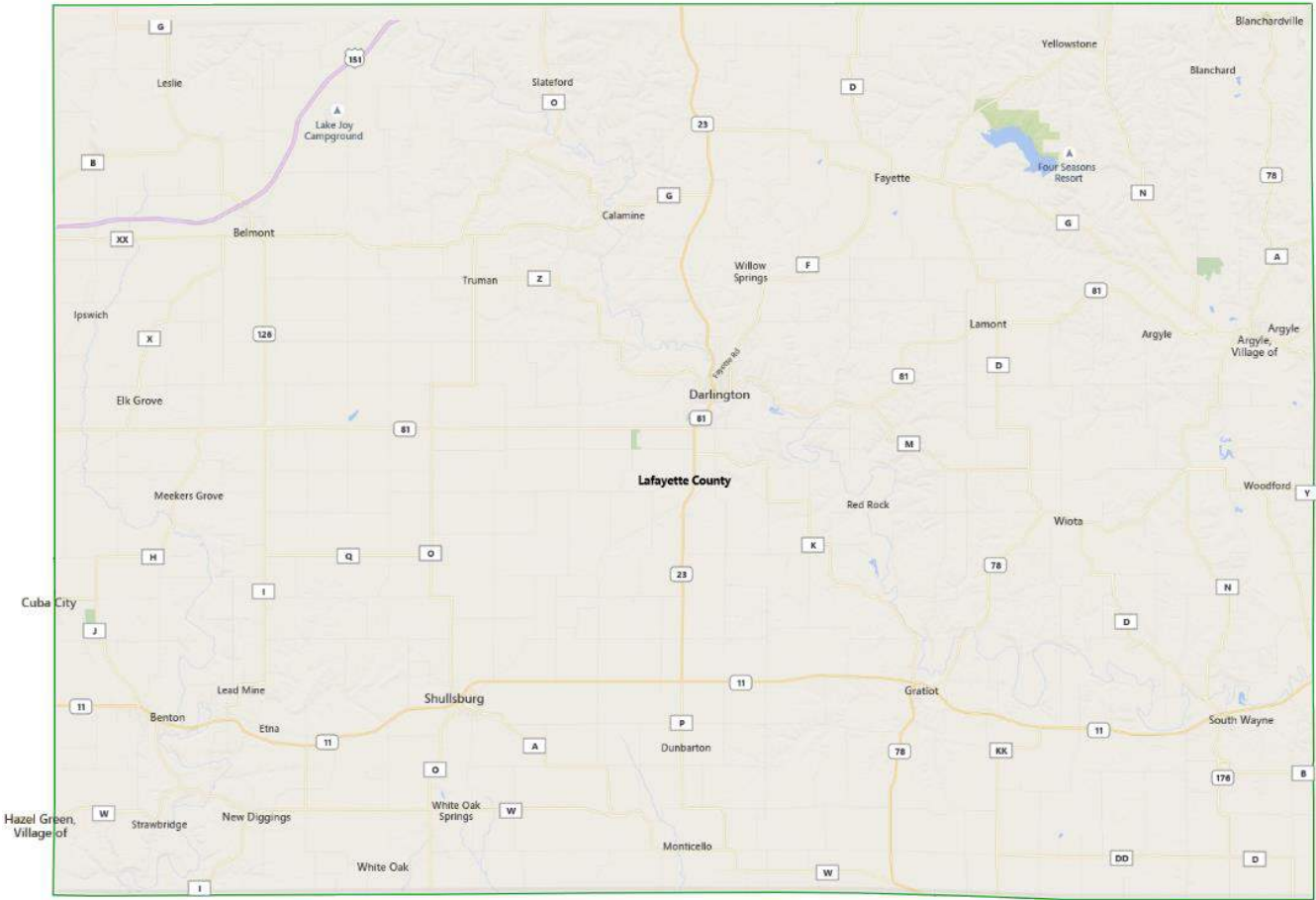
**IOWA COUNTY** is located in southwest Wisconsin. The county is bordered to the northeast by Sauk County; to the east by Dane County; to the southeast by Green County; to the south by Lafayette County; and to the west by Grant County.

Iowa County covers 768 square miles, of which just 5.4 square miles are water. The county seat and most populous city is Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Iowa County's most recent population estimate is 23,678.



**LAFAYETTE COUNTY** is located in southwest Wisconsin. The county is bordered to the north by Iowa County; to the east by Green County; to the southeast by Stephenson County, Illinois; to the south by Jo Daviess County, Illinois, and to the west by Grant County.

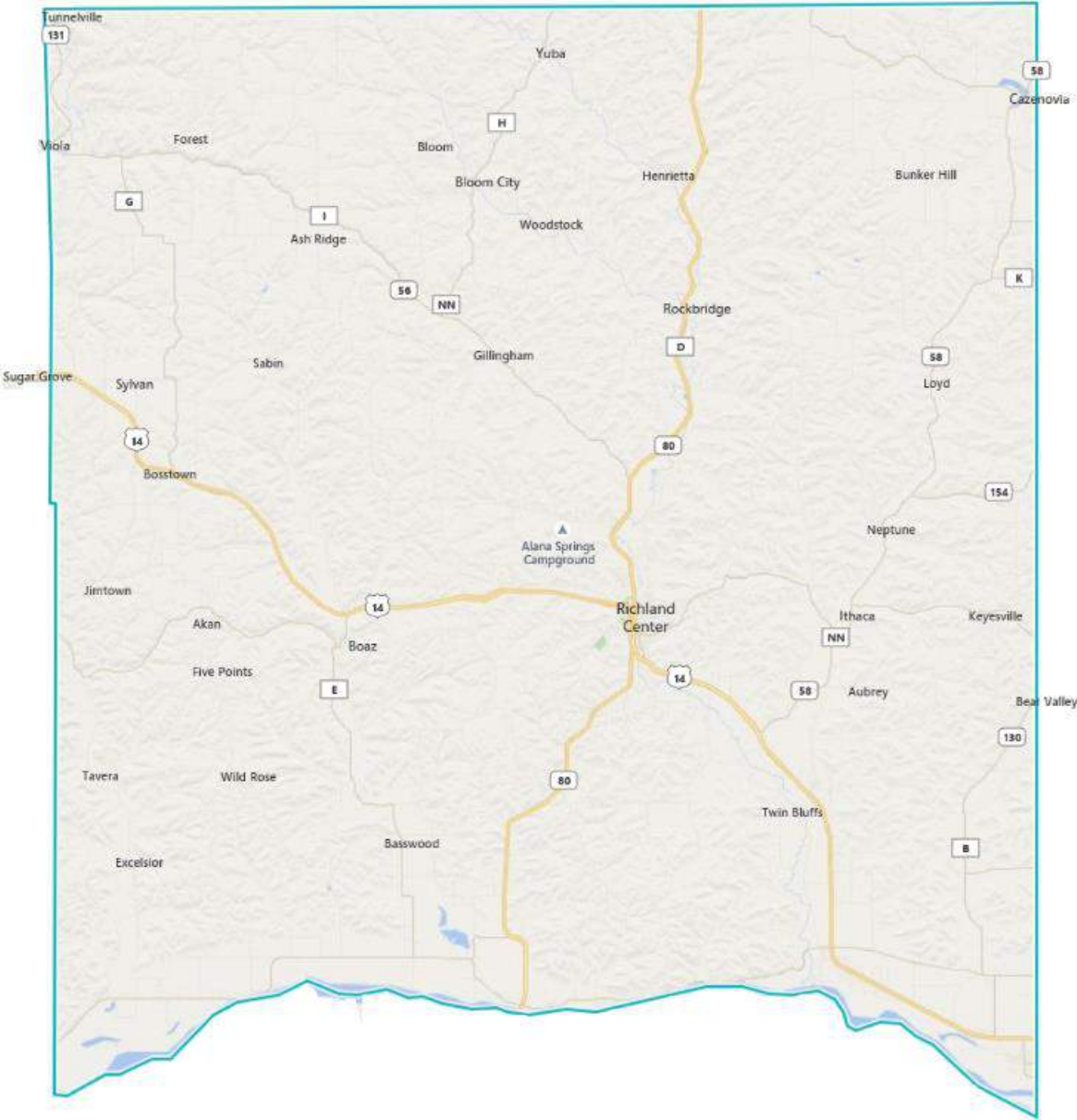
Lafayette County covers 635 square miles, of which just one square mile is water. The county seat is Darlington and the most populous city is Shullsburg, Wisconsin. Lafayette County’s most recent population estimate is 16,665.





**RICHLAND COUNTY** is located in southwest Wisconsin. The county is bordered to the north by Vernon County; to the east by Sauk County; to the southeast by Iowa County; to the southwest by Grant County; and to the west by Crawford County.

Richland County covers 589 square miles, of which just 3.1 square miles are water. The county seat and most populous is Richland Center, Wisconsin. Richland County’s most recent population estimate is 17,459.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

### POPULATION AND GROWTH

Changes in population within the four-county service area since 2010 have remained relatively consistent: Grant County (51,733/1% increase); Iowa County (23,678/negligible decrease); Lafayette County (16,665/-1% decrease); and Richland County (17,459/-3.1% decrease), compared to Wisconsin (1.8% increase) and the United States (5.2% increase).<sup>1</sup>

#### Estimated Change in Population

	2010 Decennial Population	Estimated Population	Population Change
<b>Grant County</b>	51,208	51,733	1.0%
<b>Iowa County</b>	23,687	23,678	*
<b>Lafayette County</b>	16,836	16,665	-1.0%
<b>Richland County</b>	18,021	17,459	-3.1%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	5,686,986	5,790,716	1.8%
<b>United States</b>	308,745,538	324,697,795	5.2%

\*negligible change

### PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Between 92.3 and 97 percent of the population ages 5 years and older speak English in the four-county service area. The Spanish-speaking population ranges between 1.1 percent and 3.1 percent (Lafayette County). The Indo-European language is spoken by 4 percent of the population in Lafayette County.<sup>2</sup>

#### Population by Primary Language

	English	Spanish	Indo-European languages	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other
<b>Grant County</b>	95.2%	1.5%	2.8%	.4%	.1%
<b>Iowa County</b>	97.0%	1.1%	1.4%	.3%	.2%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	92.3%	3.5%	4.0%	0.0%	.2%
<b>Richland County</b>	94.9%	1.9%	2.4%	.8%	0.0%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	91.3%	4.6%	1.9%	1.8%	.4%
<b>United States</b>	78.4%	13.4%	3.6%	3.5%	1.1%

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

The racial composition of the four-county area is predominately White (95.4 – 97.3 percent). The African-American population is highest in Grant County at 1.5 percent. All other races constitute less than 1.5 percent of the population in all counties. The estimated Hispanic population is as follows: Grant County (1.7 percent); Iowa County (1.8 percent); Lafayette County (3.9 percent); and Richland County (2.3 percent), compared to Wisconsin at 6.8 percent.<sup>3</sup>

Population by Race

	White	Black African-American	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other	Multiple Races
<b>Grant County</b>	96.4%	1.5%	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.7%
<b>Iowa County</b>	96.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	1.0%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	97.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.7%
<b>Richland County</b>	95.4%	.9%	.7%	.4%	0.1%	1.6%	.9%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	85.4%	6.4%	2.8%	0.9%	0.1%	2.0%	2.4%
<b>United States</b>	72.5%	12.7%	5.5%	0.9%	0.2%	4.9%	3.3%

Population by Ethnicity

	Hispanic or Latino Population (Absolute)	Population Hispanic or Latino (Percent)	Non-Hispanic Population (Absolute)	Population Non-Hispanic (Percent)
<b>Grant County</b>	868	1.7%	50,865	98.3%
<b>Iowa County</b>	424	1.8%	23,194	98.2%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	652	3.9%	16,063	96.1%
<b>Richland County</b>	405	2.3%	17,054	97.7%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	394,392	6.8%	5,392,615	93.3%
<b>United States</b>	58,479,370	18.0%	265,385,095	82.2%



## FAMILY STRUCTURE

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, a family household is any unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. Following are the percentages of single-parent households: Grant (18 percent); Iowa (16 percent); Lafayette (18 percent); and Richland (20 percent), compared to Wisconsin (23 percent) and the United States (33 percent).<sup>4</sup>

### Estimated Children in Single-Parent Households

	Total Households
<b>Grant County</b>	18%
<b>Iowa County</b>	16%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	18%
<b>Richland County</b>	20%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	23%
<b>United States</b>	33%

## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

### LABOR AND UNEMPLOYMENT

“Unemployment” refers to people in the labor force who are not working. According to the Department of Labor’s official definition, people may be available for work but would not be considered in the labor force if they do not have a job and have not actively looked for a job in the last 4 weeks.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and temporary closures of businesses and restaurants, unemployment claims in the four-county area rose to rates between 9 percent (Lafayette County) and 16.3 percent (Iowa County), compared to 13.6 percent in the state of Wisconsin.
- As of December 2020, unemployment rates across the 4-county area had dropped to rates between 3.4 percent (Lafayette County) and 4.6 percent (Richland County), compared to 5.3 percent in Wisconsin and 6.5 percent across the United States.<sup>5</sup>

### Monthly Unemployment<sup>6</sup>

	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
<b>Grant Co.</b>	4.4%	3.4%	11.1%	10.9%	7.2%	5.2%	4.7%	3.6%	4.3%	3.6%	3.9%
<b>Iowa Co.</b>	4.3%	3.6%	16.3%	12.8%	7.6%	5.8%	5.1%	3.8%	4.2%	3.9%	4.5%
<b>Lafayette Co.</b>	3.6%	3.0%	9.0%	8.3%	5.9%	4.2%	3.6%	2.7%	3.4%	3.0%	3.4%
<b>Richland Co.</b>	4.2%	3.5%	12.0%	9.2%	6.4%	5.0%	4.3%	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%	4.6%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	4.0%	3.4%	13.6%	11.9%	8.9%	7.1%	6.1%	4.6%	5.2%	4.7%	5.3%
<b>U.S.</b>	3.8%	4.5%	14.4%	13.0%	11.2%	10.4%	8.5%	7.7%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%

## MINIMUM WAGE AND LIVING WAGE

Wisconsin's 2021 state minimum wage rate is \$7.25 per hour, the same as the current Federal Minimum Wage rate. The Wisconsin minimum wage was last changed in 2008, when it was raised \$0.75 from \$6.50 to \$7.25. A full-time minimum wage worker in Wisconsin working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year will earn \$58.00 per day, \$290 per week, and \$15,080 per year. The 2021 federal poverty line for a family of two is \$17,420 per year and \$26,500 per year for a family of four.<sup>7</sup>

The living wage is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover day-to-day expenses if the person is the sole provider and is working full-time (2080 hours per year). The living wage per hour needed to support a single adult and one child in the four-county service area averages \$27.82. A single adult with one child who is earning minimum wage makes only 26.1 percent of the living wage.<sup>8</sup>

### Living Wage Calculation

	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	2 Adults (1 Working) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 Working) 2 Children	2 Adults (Both Working) 2 Children
<b>Grant County</b>	\$27.45	\$34.19	\$26.23	\$29.94	\$19.03
<b>Iowa County</b>	\$29.02	\$36.26	\$27.30	\$31.01	\$20.07
<b>Lafayette County</b>	\$27.24	\$33.78	\$26.22	\$29.94	\$18.82
<b>Richland County</b>	\$27.57	\$34.30	\$26.37	\$30.08	\$19.08

## INCOME

The median household income across the 4-county area varies: Grant County (\$69,698), Iowa County (\$81,430), Lafayette County (\$70,313), and Richland County (\$63,861). Grant, Lafayette, and Richland counties have a lower median income than the state of Wisconsin (\$78,679).<sup>9</sup>

### Mean/Median Household Income

	Total Households	Average (Mean) Income	Median Income
<b>Grant County</b>	12,039	\$80,498	\$69,698
<b>Iowa County</b>	6,485	\$98,261	\$81,430
<b>Lafayette County</b>	4,549	\$80,367	\$70,313
<b>Richland County</b>	4,807	\$76,323	\$63,861
<b>Wisconsin</b>	1,482,213	\$97,431	\$78,679
<b>United States</b>	79,114,031	\$103,863	\$77,263

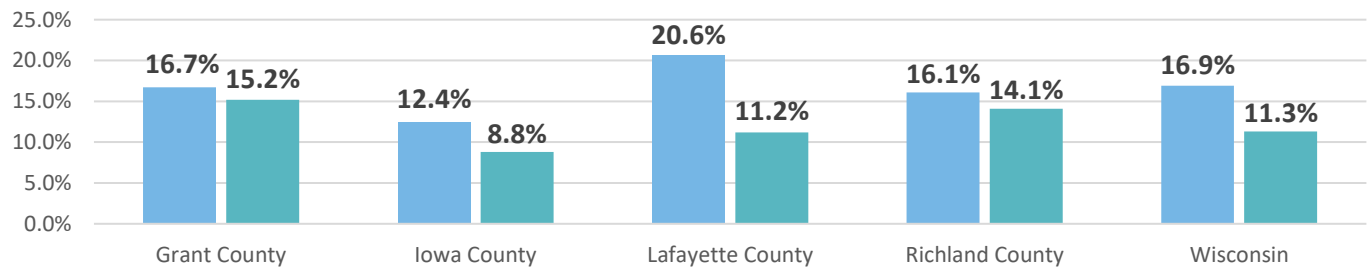
## POVERTY

Estimated poverty rates for the general population are as follows: Grant County (15.2 percent); Iowa County (8.8 percent); Lafayette County (11.2 percent); and Richland County (14.1 percent). Poverty rates of children under the age of five are significantly higher: Grant County (16.7 percent); Iowa County (12.4 percent); Lafayette County (20.6 percent); and Richland County (16.1 percent). Lafayette County (20.6 percent) has a higher poverty rate for children under age 5 than Wisconsin (16.9 percent).<sup>10</sup>

### Poverty by County

Source: American Community Survey, 2015-2019

■ Under Age 5 ■ General Population



### Percent of Race in Poverty

	White	Black African-American	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races
<b>Grant County</b>	14.5%	80.5%	4.5%	6.9%	No data	22.8%	23.7%
<b>Iowa County</b>	8.6%	14.2%	8.1%	4.0%	100.0%	0.0%	22.9%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	11.0%	21.7%	11.2%	0.0%	No data	22.1%	25.4%
<b>Richland County</b>	12.7%	48.5%	64.7%	35.8%	0.0%	46.6%	25.7%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	9.0%	31.3%	15.5%	26.1%	26.2%	23.6%	20.4%
<b>United States</b>	11.2%	23.0%	11.0%	24.9%	17.5%	21.0%	16.7%

### Race and Poverty (Absolutes)

	White	Black African-American	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other	Multiple Races
<b>Grant County</b>	6,771	379	21	4	0	21	82
<b>Iowa County</b>	1,946	28	13	2	21	0	51
<b>Lafayette County</b>	1,779	23	10	0	0	19	29
<b>Richland County</b>	2,080	65	77	24	0	125	39

Of the Hispanic/Latino population, 32.8 percent in Grant County; 16 percent in Iowa County; 19.2 percent in Lafayette County; and 42.6 percent in Richland County are living in poverty, compared to 21.3 percent in Wisconsin.<sup>11</sup>

**Population in Poverty by Ethnicity**

	Hispanic/Latino in Poverty (Absolute)	Hispanic/Latino in Poverty (Percent)	Non-Hispanic/Latino in Poverty (Absolute)	Non-Hispanic/Latino in Poverty (Percent)
<b>Grant County</b>	242	32.8%	7,036	14.9%
<b>Iowa County</b>	68	16.0%	1,993	8.7%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	122	19.2%	1,738	10.9%
<b>Richland County</b>	164	42.6%	2,246	13.4%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	81,792	21.3%	557,368	10.6%
<b>United States</b>	11,256,244	19.6%	31,254,599	12.1%

An estimated 5,963 children under age 5 reside within the 4-county area, with 974 (16.3 percent) of these children experiencing poverty. An estimated 583 (60 percent of children under age 5) of these children are infants/toddlers and approximately 391 preschoolers are experiencing poverty.<sup>12</sup>

**Estimated Children under Five in Poverty by Age Group**

	Children Under 5	Estimated Population Under 5 in Poverty		Infants and Toddlers*	Infants and Toddlers in Poverty	3 and 4 Year Olds*	3 and 4 Year Olds in Poverty
<b>Grant County</b>	2,724	16.7%	454	1,634	272	1,090	182
<b>Iowa County</b>	1,322	12.4%	164	793	98	529	66
<b>Lafayette County</b>	1,053	20.6%	217	632	130	421	87
<b>Richland County</b>	864	16.1%	139	518	83	346	56

\*Based on estimated breakdown by age in 0-4 age group: infants/toddlers = 60%; 3- and 4-Year-olds = 40% of total children under 5

**Grant County: Estimated Children under Five in Poverty**

	<b>Children Under 5</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Percentage)</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Count)</b>
Bagley	14	29.4%	5
Bloomington	39	17.9%	7
Blue River	24	20.8%	5
Boscobel	147	4.8%	7
Cassville	64	60.9%	39
Cuba City	112	4.5%	5
Dickeyville	109	7.3%	8
Fennimore	162	2.5%	4
Hazel Green (2 counties)	86	26.7%	23
Lancaster	233	6.0%	14
Livingston	28	25.0%	7
Montfort	71	31.0%	22
Muscoda	98	4.1%	4
Patch Grove	7	28.6%	2
Platteville	469	18.6%	87
<b>Grant County Total</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>454</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

**Iowa County: Estimated Children under Five in Poverty**

	<b>Children Under 5</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Percentage)</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Count)</b>
Arena	54	11.1%	6
Avoca	43	35.7%	15
Barneveld	95	0.0%	0
Blanchardville (2 counties)	40	5.3%	2
Cobb	20	10.0%	2
Dodgeville	243	10.1%	25
Highland	57	24.6%	14
Hollandale	7	8.5%	1
Linden	48	16.7%	8
Livingston	28	25.0%	7
Mineral Point	174	13.8%	24
Rewey	31	45.2%	14
Ridgeway	29	13.8%	4
<b>Iowa County Total</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>164</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

**Lafayette County: Estimated Children under Five in Poverty**

	<b>Children Under 5</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Percentage)</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Count)</b>
Argyle	54	22.2%	12
Belmont	80	23.8%	19
Benton	4	25.0%	1
Blanchardville (2 counties)	40	5.3%	2
Darlington	218	14.7%	32
Elk Grove	36	5.6%	2
Gratiot	10	25.5%	3
Hazel Green (2 counties)	86	26.7%	23
Shullsburg	28	14.3%	4
South Wayne	20	20.0%	4
Wiota	34	20.6%	7
<b>Lafayette County Total</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>217</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

**Richland County: Estimated Children under Five in Poverty**

	<b>Children Under 5</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Percentage)</b>	<b>Under 5 in Poverty (Count)</b>
Boaz	18	88.9%	16
Cazenovia	24	16.7%	4
Gotham	22	0.0%	0
Ithaca	32	4.7%	2
Lone Rock	24	24.6%	6
Richland Center	291	14.1%	41
Rockbridge	41	19.5%	8
Sextonville	16	22.3%	4
Viola	12	21.0%	3
Willow	15	21.0%	3
<b>Richland County Total</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>139</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.

## FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

### TANF

Wisconsin Works (W-2) is Wisconsin's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. W-2 is a time-limited program that provides temporary cash assistance and case management services to low-income parents and pregnant women. W-2 participants have declined significantly between 2016 and 2020 to an average of just 20 monthly cases in Grant County; 8 cases in Iowa County; 2 cases in Lafayette County; and 11 cases in Richland County.<sup>13</sup>

**W-2 Average Monthly Participants**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Grant County</b>	52	31	21	24	20
<b>Iowa County</b>	10	6	7	10	8
<b>Lafayette County</b>	3	5	2	2	2
<b>Richland County</b>	19	11	6	6	11

### EITC

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax benefit for working people with low to moderate income. As of December 2020, there were 349,000 EITC claims in Wisconsin; the average EITC amount per family was \$2254.<sup>14</sup>

### SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources, including those who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Children who are disabled may also get SSI. Effective January 1, 2021, the federal benefit rate is \$794 for an individual and \$1,191 for a couple; this is a 1.3 percent increase from 2020.<sup>15</sup>

## HOUSING

A cost burdened household has housing costs that exceed 30 percent of total household income. The rates of cost burdened households are as follows: Grant County (23.1 percent); Iowa County (22.9 percent); Lafayette County (23 percent); and Richland County (25.1 percent). However, cost burdened *rental* households are significantly higher: Grant County (36 percent); Iowa County (30.1 percent); Lafayette County (31 percent); and Richland County (34.2 percent).<sup>16</sup>

### Cost Burdened Households

	Cost Burdened Households	Cost Burdened Rental Households	Cost Burdened Households with Mortgages	Cost Burdened Households with No Mortgages
<b>Grant County</b>	23.1%	36.0%	23.1%	10.9%
<b>Iowa County</b>	22.9%	30.1%	23.6%	14.8%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	23.0%	31.0%	24.4%	15.5%
<b>Richland County</b>	25.1%	34.2%	28.8%	13.7%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	26.6%	41.4%	22.8%	13.2%
<b>United States</b>	30.9%	46.0%	27.7%	13.3%

Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a modest two-bedroom apartment in the four-county service area is lower in Grant, Lafayette, and Richland counties (average of \$721) and is highest in Iowa County (\$863). To afford a two-bedroom apartment without assistance in Grant, Lafayette, and Richland counties a family needs to earn \$13.75/hour (\$28,600 annually) or work 76 hours at minimum wage. To afford a two-bedroom apartment without assistance in Iowa County a family needs to earn \$16.60/hour (\$34,520 annually) or work 92 hours at minimum wage.<sup>17</sup>

### Fair Market Rent

	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
<b>Grant County</b>	\$562	\$566	\$715	\$939	\$1,255
<b>Iowa County</b>	\$637	\$655	\$863	\$1083	\$1,424
<b>Lafayette County</b>	\$465	\$555	\$714	\$890	\$984
<b>Richland County</b>	\$478	\$571	\$734	\$959	\$994



## HOMELESSNESS

As of January 2019, Wisconsin had an estimated 4,538 experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of that total, 592 were family households, 359 were Veterans, 200 were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and 533 were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.<sup>18</sup> Approximately 8 people per 10,000 people were experiencing homelessness.

Public school data reported to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction showed that 17,179 students in the state were homeless per the McKinney Vento Act during 2019-2020. Of these students, 124 children experiencing homelessness were preschoolers. Of homeless preschool students, 66 percent were doubled up with other families due to financial constraints.<sup>19</sup>

## EDUCATION

Rates of adults age 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher are as follows: Grant County (92.2 percent); Iowa County (95.2 percent); Lafayette County (91.8 percent); and Richland County (90.1 percent), compared to WI (92.2 percent).<sup>20</sup>

Education Levels

	Population Age 25+	No High School Diploma (Absolute)	No High School Diploma (Percent)	High School Diploma or Higher	Bachelors/Advanced Degree
<b>Grant County</b>	31,797	2,463	7.8%	92.2%	23.9%
<b>Iowa County</b>	16,597	4,078	4.8%	95.2%	24.6%
<b>Lafayette County</b>	11,407	1,050	9.2%	91.8%	18.8%
<b>Richland County</b>	12,295	1,212	9.9%	90.1%	19.0%
<b>Wisconsin</b>			7.8%	92.2%	30.1%
<b>United States</b>			12.0%	88.0%	32.2%

## DISABILITIES

The Birth to 3 Program is Wisconsin's early intervention (EI) program for infants and toddlers (birth-36 months) with developmental delays or disabilities; this is the Part C system of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sixty-one children participated in EI in 2020, including 25 children in Grant County; 9 children in Iowa County; 7 children in Lafayette County; and 20 in Richland County.<sup>21</sup>

*IDEA data is unavailable for 2019-2020 program year due to COVID-pandemic.*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD: BIRTH – FIVE

### FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

#### Pre-K Enrollment, 2019-2020

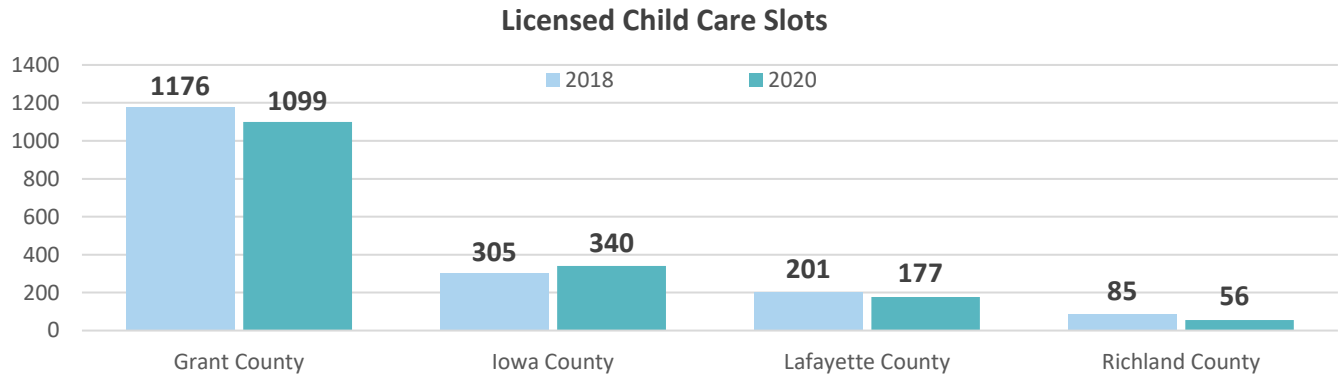
(as of Sept. 2019)

County	School District	4K Enrollment	Program Description	Setting
Grant	Boscobel Area	56	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Grant	Cassville	16	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Grant	Cuba City	29	Half day: 4 days/week	Public School
Grant	Fennimore Community	47	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Grant	Lancaster Community	64	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Grant	Platteville	102	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Grant	Potosi	19	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School
Grant	River Ridge	29	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School, HS, Child Care
Grant	Riverdale	58	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School
Grant	Southwestern WI	45	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
<b>Grant County Total</b>		<b>465</b>		
Iowa	Barneveld	29	Half day: 4 days/week	Public School
Iowa	Dodgeville	64	Half day: 4 days/week	Public School
Iowa	Highland	18	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School
Iowa	Iowa-Grant	50	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Iowa	Mineral Point Unified	40	Half day: 4 days/week	Public School
<b>Iowa County Total</b>		<b>201</b>		
Lafayette	Argyle	27	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Lafayette	Belmont Community	25	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School
Lafayette	Benton	13	Half day: 4 days/week	Public School
Lafayette	Black Hawk	29	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
Lafayette	Darlington Community	64	Half day: 4 days/week	Private School/Public School
Lafayette	Pecatonica Area	23	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School
Lafayette	Shullsburg	9	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
<b>Lafayette County Total</b>		<b>190</b>		
Richland	Ithaca	21	Full day: 5 days/week	Public School
Richland	Richland	76	Full day: 2 or 3 days/week	Public School
<b>Richland County Total</b>		<b>97</b>		

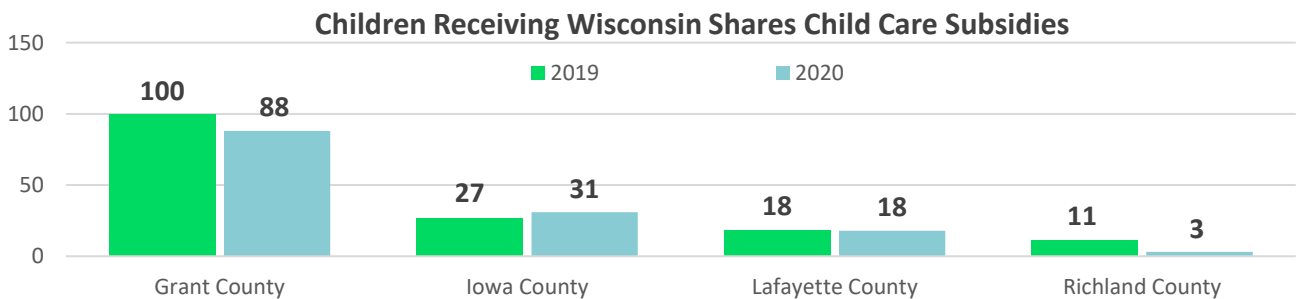
During 2019-2020, K4 child enrollment was as follows: Grant County (465); Iowa County (201); Lafayette County (190); and Richland County (97). *There is no updated data available for 2020-2021.*

## CHILD CARE

Following are the licensed family child care and center-based child care slots by county, as of December 2020: Grant County (1,099); Iowa County (340); Lafayette County (177); and Richland County (56). Grant County (-6.5 percent), Lafayette County (-11.9 percent), and Richland County (-34.1 percent) experienced decreases in licensed child care slots between 2018 and 2020.<sup>22</sup>



Wisconsin Shares is the child care subsidy program available to low-income working families. The numbers below represent the average number of children receiving subsidies in each month of 2020: Grant County (88); Iowa County (31); Lafayette County (18); and Richland County (3).<sup>23</sup>



Currently, there are 42 child care providers in Grant County; 15 in Iowa County; 13 in Lafayette County; and just 7 in Richland County. All counties have experienced decreases in the number of child care providers since spring of 2020. Of child care providers in the service area, only 29.9 percent have a quality rating of three stars or more (based on five stars).

Of child care centers:

- 16 centers in Grant County have infant/toddler care;
- 4 centers in Iowa County have infant/toddler care;
- 2 centers in Lafayette County have infant/toddler care; and
- 0 centers in Richland County have infant/toddler care.<sup>24</sup>

### Child Care Centers/Family Child Care Homes Star Ratings

(includes Head Start)

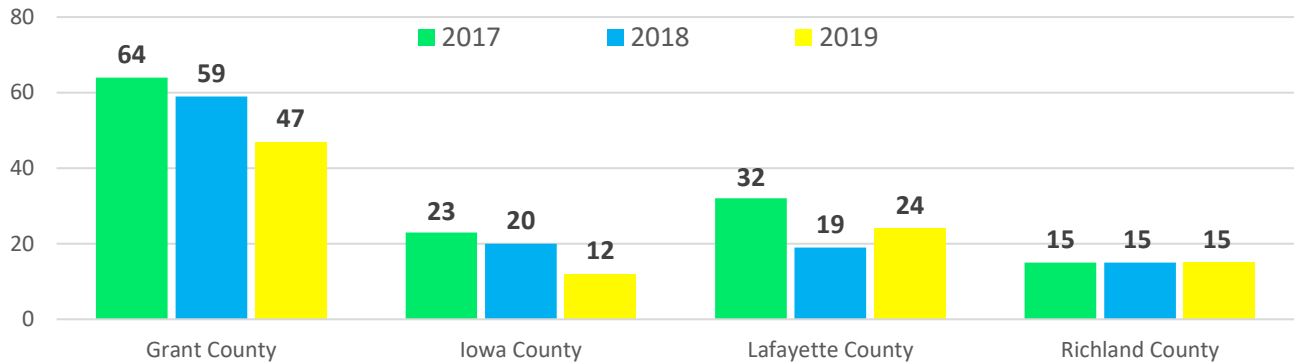
County	Family Child Care Homes	Child Care Centers	Not Participating in Stars	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars
<b>Grant</b>	19	23	11	0	16	7	1	7
<b>Iowa</b>	8	7	6	0	6	0	1	2
<b>Lafayette</b>	7	6	5	0	5	2	0	1
<b>Richland</b>	4	3	3	0	2	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

## CHILD WELFARE

### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In 2019, substantiated child abuse and neglect cases were as follows: Grant County (47); Iowa County (12); Lafayette County (24); and Richland County (15). The rates of child victims per 1,000 were 4.4 in Grant County; 2.3 in Iowa County; 6 in Lafayette County; and 4 in Richland County.<sup>25</sup>

Substantiated Child Abuse and Neglect



## OUT-OF-HOME CARE PLACEMENT

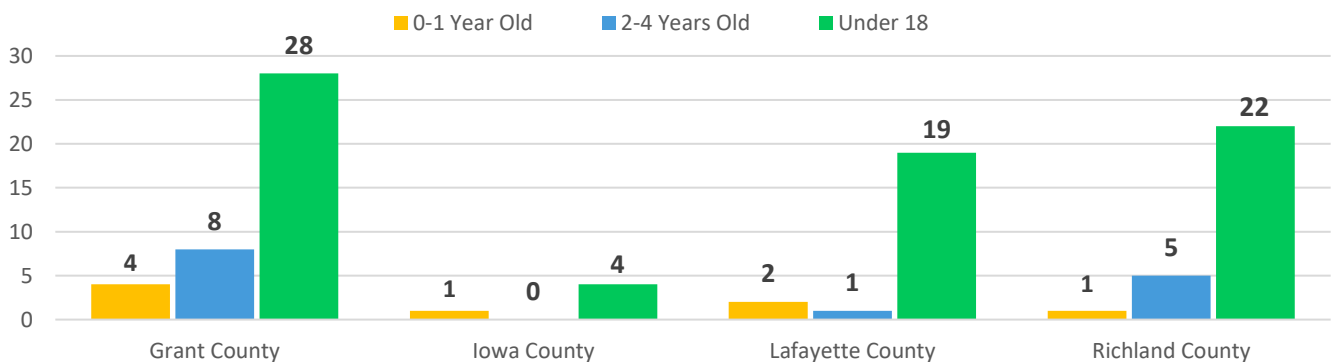
Out-of-home care (OHC) placement is the temporary removal of children from their homes due to abuse, neglect or dependency and can include foster care, home-of-relative care, group home or institution.

The 2019 numbers of children in foster care under age five were as follows: 12 in Grant County; 1 in Iowa County; 3 in Lafayette County; and 6 in Richland County. The following percentages of children in OHC placement were under the age of five: Grant County (42.9 percent); Iowa County (25 percent); Lafayette County (15.8 percent); and Richland County (27.2 percent).

In 2019, caretaker drug use was listed as a removal reason for 15.8 percent of Wisconsin children, down from 28.6 percent in 2018.<sup>26</sup>

### Children in Out-of-Home Placement

Source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, 2018 Annual Report



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As of March 31, 2021, the following deaths have been reported in the service area due to COVID-19: Grant County (88 deaths or 170.7 per 100,000 people); Iowa County (12 deaths or 50.5 per 100,000 people); Lafayette County (7 deaths or 42 per 100,000 people); and Richland County (15 deaths or 86.3 per 100,000 people), compared to Wisconsin with a rate of 125.4 per 100,000 people and the U.S. with a rate of 165.7 per 100,000 people.<sup>27</sup>

#### COVID-19 Pandemic

	Population	Confirmed Cases	Confirmed Cases Per 100,000 Population	Reported Deaths	Reported Deaths Per 100,000 Population
<b>Grant County</b>	51,554	5,449	10,569.5	88	170.7
<b>Iowa County</b>	23,771	2,039	8,577.7	12	50.5
<b>Lafayette County</b>	16,665	1,652	9,913.0	7	42.0
<b>Richland County</b>	17,377	1,339	7,705.6	15	86.3
Wisconsin			10,928.1	7,292	125.4
United States			9,115.80	540,691	165.7

### HEALTH INSURANCE

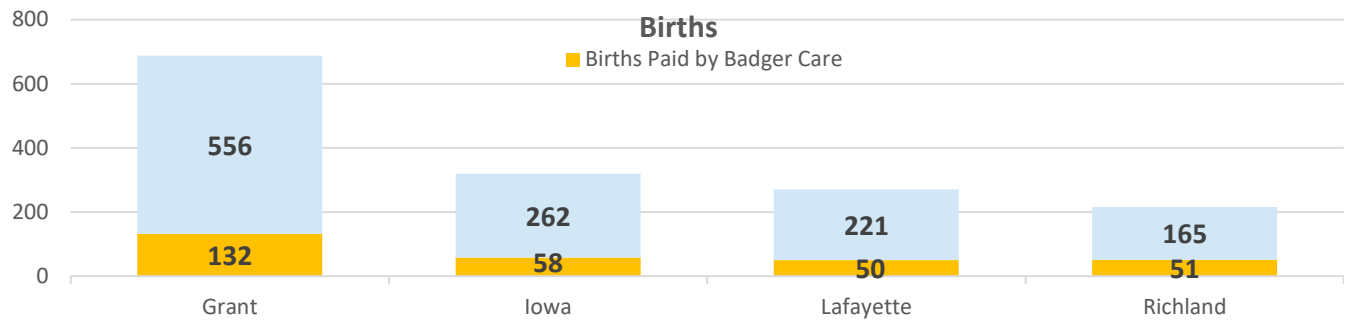
Wisconsin's Children's Health Insurance Program, known as *BadgerCare* provides health care coverage for uninsured infants, children, and pregnant women in Wisconsin. Children are eligible for *BadgerCare* if a family's income meets federal guidelines. Uninsured children who meet Medicaid eligibility standards must be enrolled in Medicaid, not *BadgerCare*.

In February 2021, the following were enrolled in *BadgerCare*: 3,109 children and 189 expectant women in Grant County; 1,362 children and 71 expectant women in Iowa County; 1,257 children and 79 expectant women in Lafayette County; and 4,384 children and 262 expectant women in Richland County.<sup>28</sup>

## BIRTH OUTCOMES

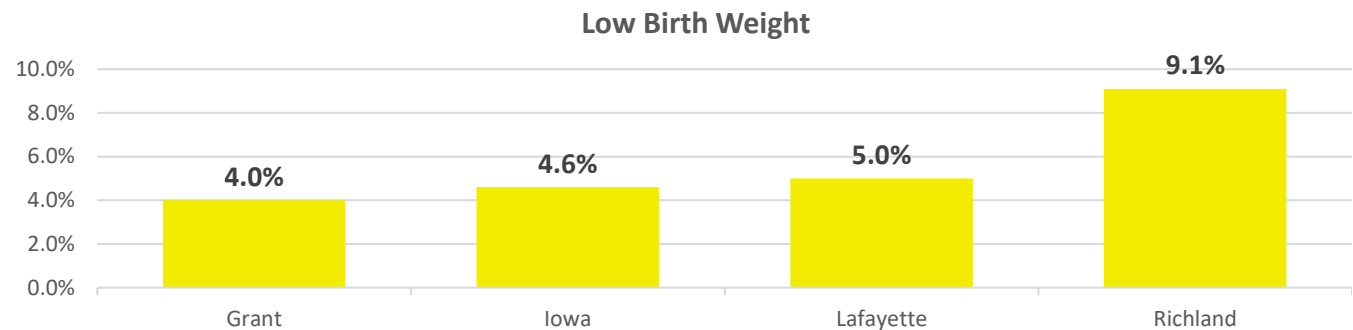
### BIRTHS (EXPECTANT MOTHERS)

In 2018, 556 children were born in Grant County; 262 in Iowa County, 221 in Lafayette County; and 165 in Richland County. A total of 1,204 babies were born in the four-county service area, representing the approximate number of expectant mothers in 2018. Of those births, 291 births were paid for by Badger Care. *There is no updated information to report for this CA Update.*<sup>29</sup>



### LOW BIRTH WEIGHTS

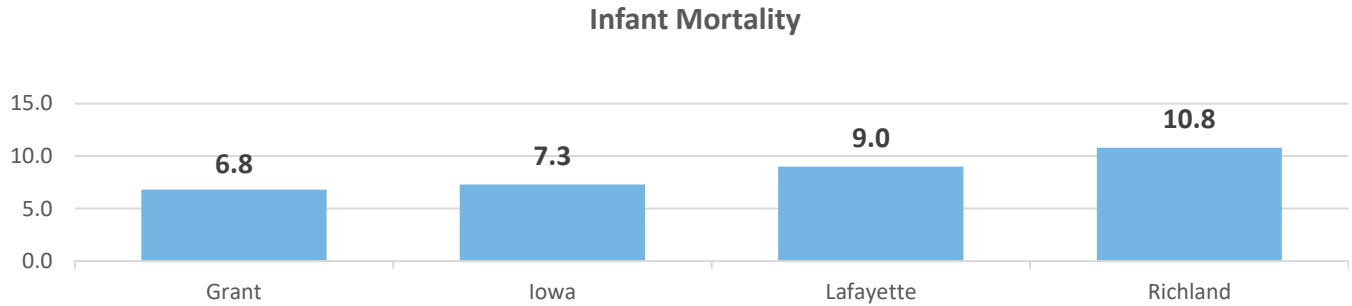
2018 rates of babies born with a low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs.) are as follows: Grant County (4 percent); Iowa County (4.6 percent); Lafayette County (5 percent); and Richland County (9.1 percent).<sup>30</sup> The goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Healthy People 2020) was to have low birth weight rates to 7.8 percent or less by 2020. *There is no updated information to report for this CA Update.*





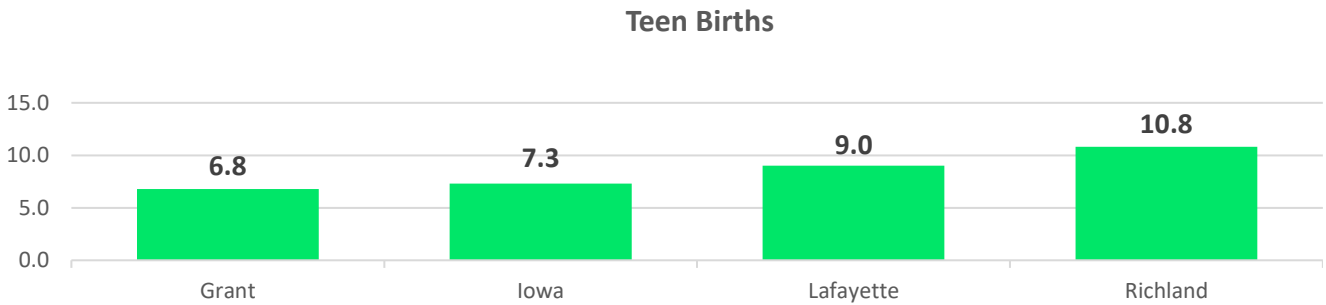
### INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality rates per every 1000 live births in 2018 were as follows: Grant County (5.4); Iowa County (N/A); Lafayette County (13.6); and Richland County (N/A).<sup>31</sup> It was the goal of Healthy People 2020 to have the infant mortality rate to 6 or fewer deaths for every 1000 live births by 2020. *There is no updated information to report for this CA Update.*



### TEEN BIRTHS

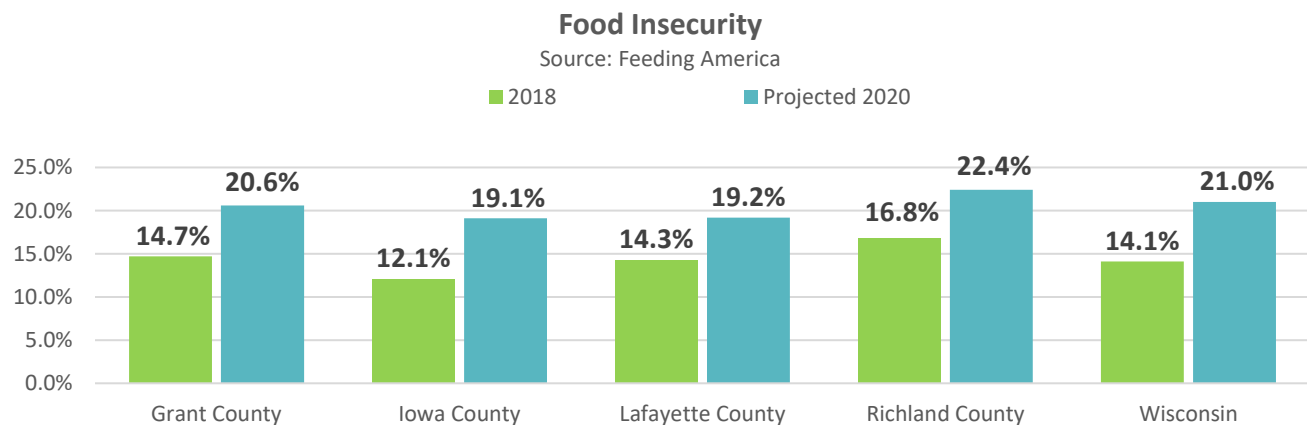
Live births per 1000 females to girls ages 15-19 in 2018 were as follows: Grant County (6.8 per 1000 births); Iowa County (7.3 per 1000 births); Lafayette County (9.0 per 1000 births); and Richland County (10.8 per 1000 births).<sup>32</sup>



## FOOD AND NUTRITION

### FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access to a sufficient amount of food for an active, healthy life for all household members, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

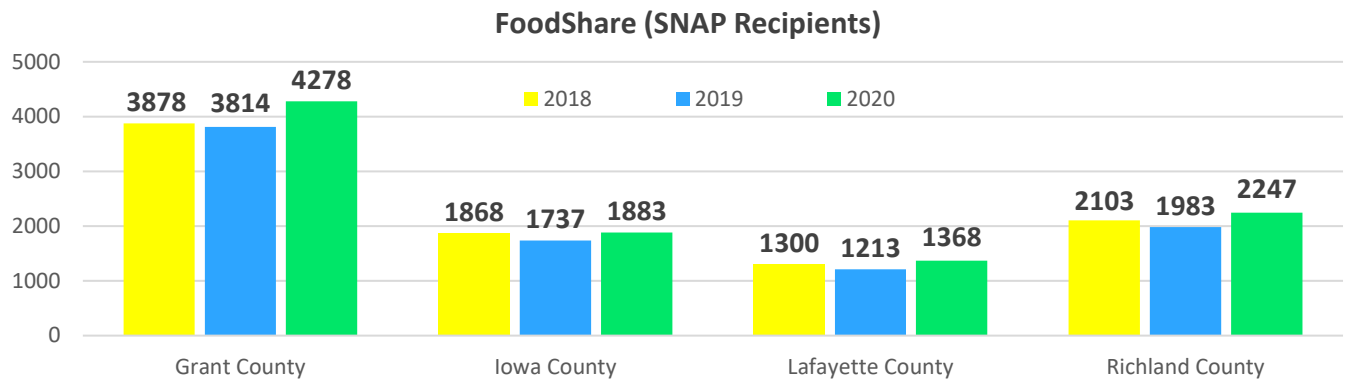


- As of 2018, child food insecurity rates were 14.7 percent in Grant County, 12.1 percent in Iowa County, 14.3 percent in Lafayette County, and 16.8 percent in Richland County, compared to 14.1 percent for the state of Wisconsin and the U.S. at 15.2 percent.
- According to a special report from Feeding America, *The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity*, the 2020 child food insecurity rates were projected (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) as follows: Grant County (20.6 percent); Iowa County (19.1 percent); Lafayette County (19.2 percent); and Richland County (22.4 percent), compared to Wisconsin at 21 percent.
- Between 2018 and 2020, child food insecurity rates were projected to rise by 40 percent in Grant County; 58 percent in Iowa County; 35 percent in Lafayette County; and 34 percent in Richland County.<sup>33</sup>

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

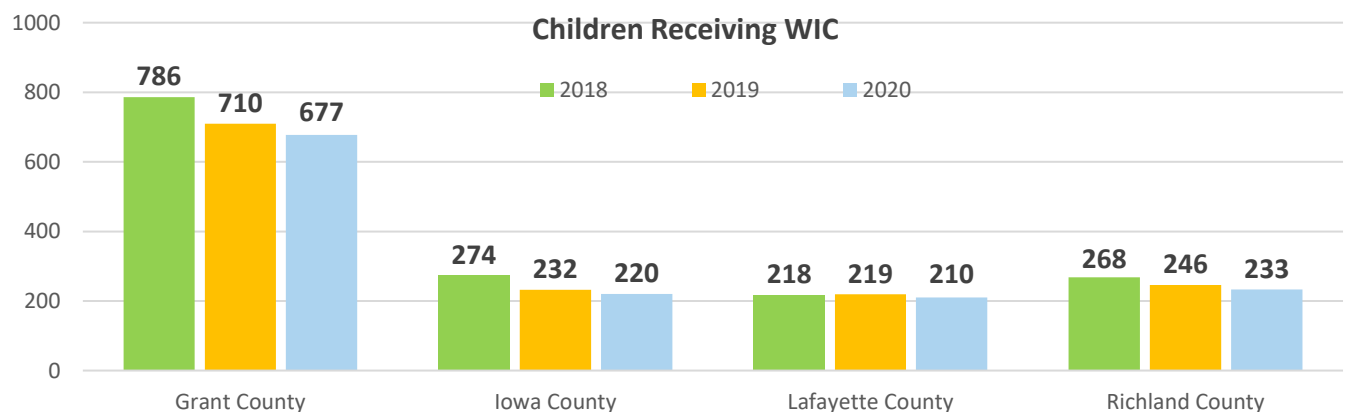
*FoodShare Wisconsin* (SNAP) is intended to supplement the monthly food budgets of eligible, low income households and raise nutritional levels, causing an improvement in general health. The 2019 average monthly SNAP benefit in Wisconsin was \$113 per person and \$349 per household with children.<sup>34</sup>

The monthly average number of *FoodShare* recipients in the four-county service area increased between 2018 and 2020 as follows: Grant County (10.3 percent); Iowa County (.8 percent); Lafayette County (5.2 percent); and Richland County (6.9 percent).



## WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

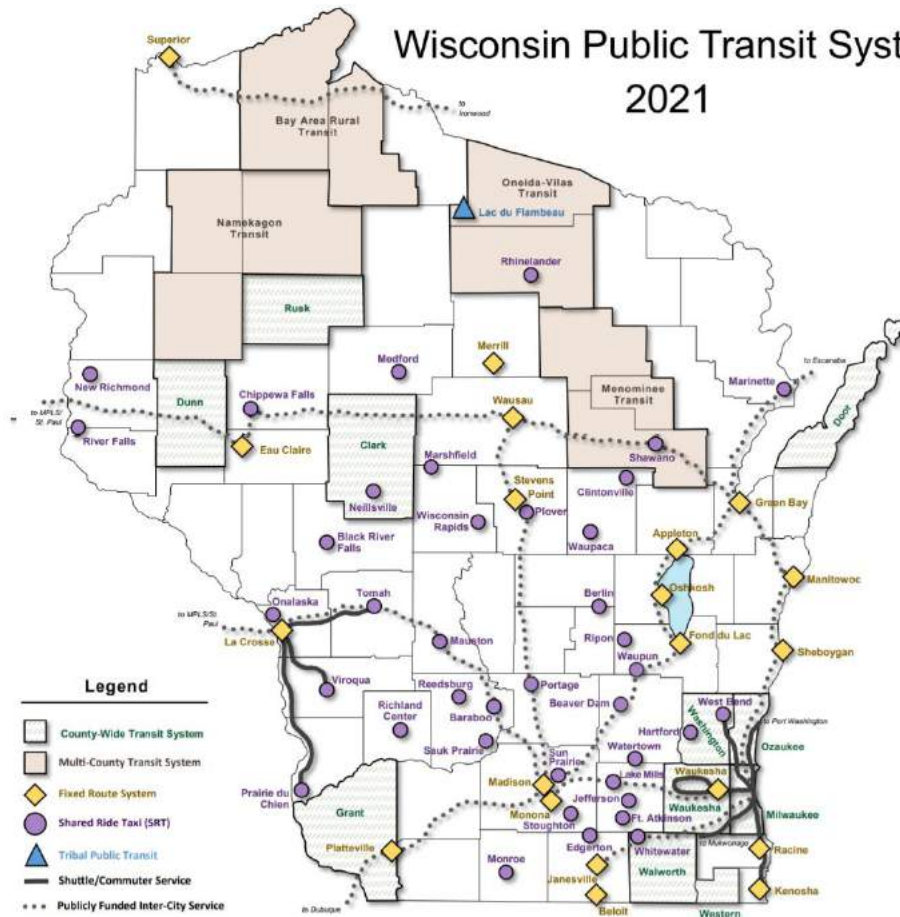
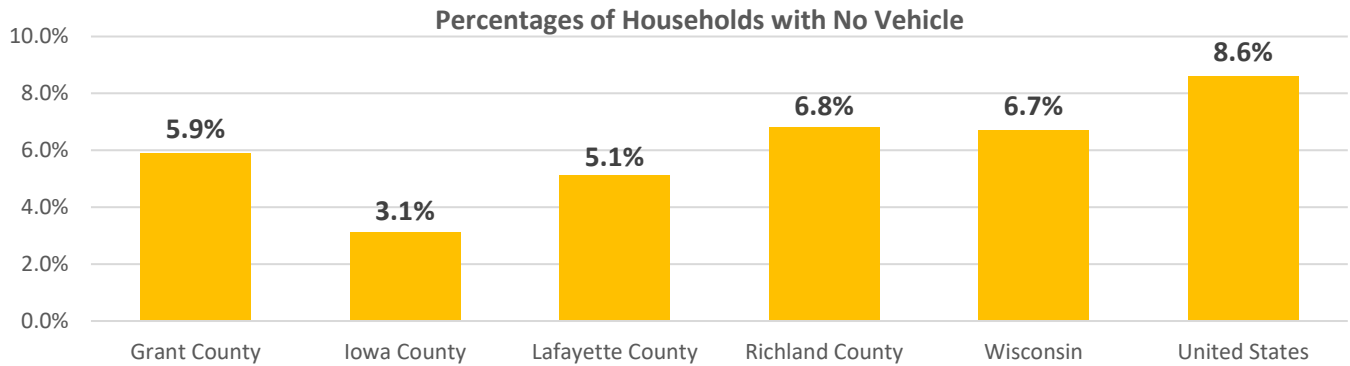
WIC is a supplemental nutrition program serving infants to children 5 years of age, pregnant women, breastfeeding women who had a baby in the past 12 months, and women who have had a baby in the last 6 months. The average benefit per person in WI decreased from \$36.28 in 2019 to \$35.98 in 2020.<sup>35</sup>



The percent of children receiving WIC decreased between 2018 and 2020 as follows: -13.9 percent in Grant County; -19.7 percent in Iowa County; -3.7 percent in Lafayette County; and -13.1 percent in Richland County. In 2020, the numbers of children ages 0-4 receiving WIC were: 677 in Grant County; 220 in Iowa County; 210 in Lafayette County; and 233 in Richland County.<sup>36</sup>

## TRANSPORTATION

The estimated percentages of households with no vehicle are as follows: 5.9 percent in Grant County; 3.1 percent in Iowa County; 5.1 percent in Lafayette County; and 6.8 percent in Richland County. Richland County (6.8 percent) has a slightly higher rate of households with no vehicle than the state of Wisconsin (6.7 percent). Public transportation in the four-county service area is limited, as evident below.<sup>37</sup>



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