



# *Setting Priorities and Fighting Poverty In Wisconsin*

Emory University Conference on  
“Reducing Poverty: Assessing  
Recent State Policy Innovation  
and Strategies”

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# Wisconsin Idea

- The boundaries of the University of Wisconsin should be the boundaries of the state.
- Research conducted at the University should be applied to solve problems and improve all aspects of human life.

## Reducing Poverty & Enhancing Economic Opportunity: Three Key Strategies

- Planning and implementation of statewide strategic plan development.
- Identification and provision of key information needed to implement strategic plan.
- Compilation and analysis of poverty trends.

# Strategy: Statewide Strategic Plan Development

- Opportunity
  - Creation of Department of Children and Families
  - Support from the National Governors Association
- Ownership
  - Office of the Governor
  - Department of Children and Families
  - Core Team
- Centerpiece
  - Governor’s Summit: “Building Bridges to Family Economic Success”

# Poverty Reduction Goals

- A statewide poverty reduction goal was not adopted.
- Focus shifted to:
  - Assessing the current status of family social and economic well-being.
  - Identifying actions that could be taken improve family economic security.
  - Prioritizing identified actions.
  - Assigning clear roles for taking these actions.

# Governor's Summit: "Building Bridges to Family Economic Success"

- Provided an overview of current family economic challenges throughout Wisconsin.
- Illustrated evidence-based, best practices in improving family economic security.
- Highlighted local and state innovations in improving family economic security.
- Identified clear roles and priority strategies of diverse partners involved in the Summit.
- ***Launched a Call to Action to develop a shared vision for a set of Wisconsin priorities to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity.***

# Creation of Six Workgroups

- Job Creation
- Adult Education
- Building Family Income and Access to Support
- Family Support
- Housing
- Birth to Grade 12 Education

# Current Status

- Each Work Group has developed and submitted recommended strategies to the Core Team.
- Core Team final report and recommendations to be presented in December 2009.

# Strategy: Provision of Key Information

- Topical areas developed in consultation with the public officials.
- Focused on current knowledge regarding the efficacy of programs and policies.
- Draw on practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.
- Example: “State Innovations in Policies Supporting Healthy Families.”

# Strategy: Development of Wisconsin Poverty Report

- Driven by Core Group interest in better understanding where and who was affected by poverty.
- Supplements ACS data with SNAP enrollment data.
- Initial report employed Federal poverty definition.
- Subsequent reports will employ a modified definition based on the NAS approach.

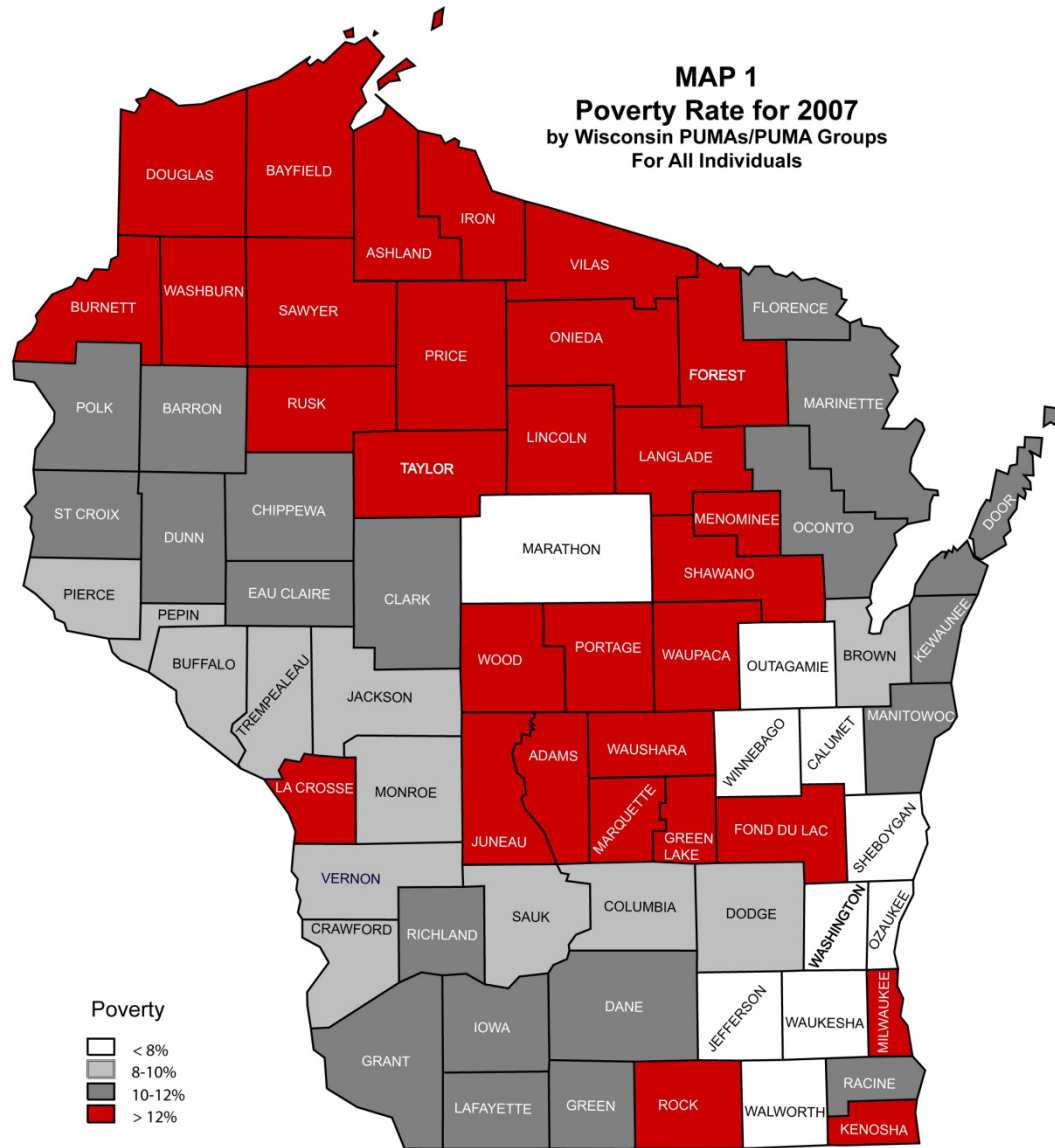
# Poverty in Wisconsin

	Overall	Children
2006	10.1%	14.9%
2007	10.8	14.4
2008	10.4	13.3

# Enhanced Understanding of Poverty *within Wisconsin*

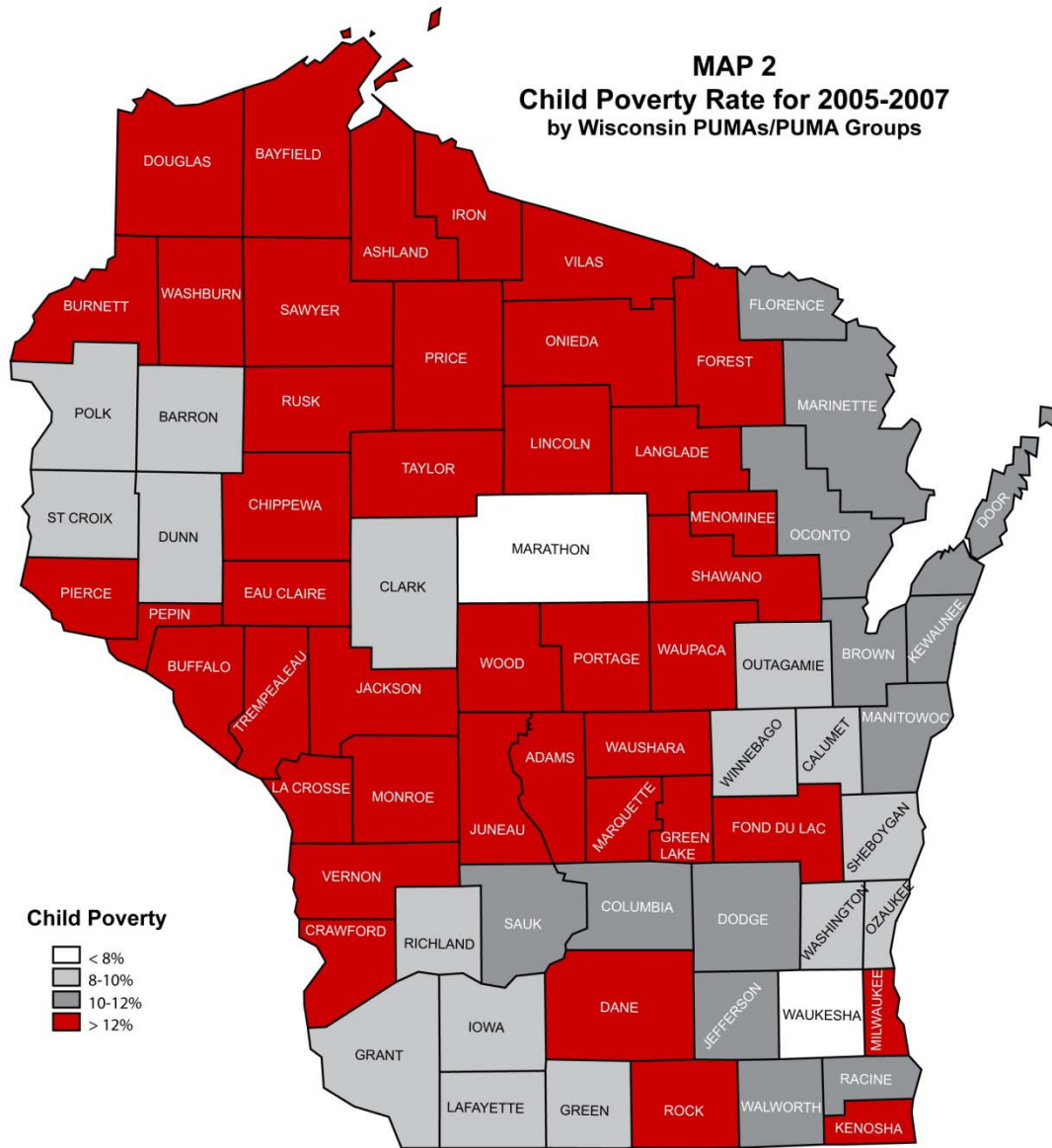
- Data from 2007 ACS.
- Analysis focuses on counties, multi-county areas, and six areas within Milwaukee County.
- Poverty and income cuts for all persons and for children.
- Information presented in several formats, including “poverty maps”: Red (highest); Dark Grey (above average); Light Grey (below average); White (lowest).

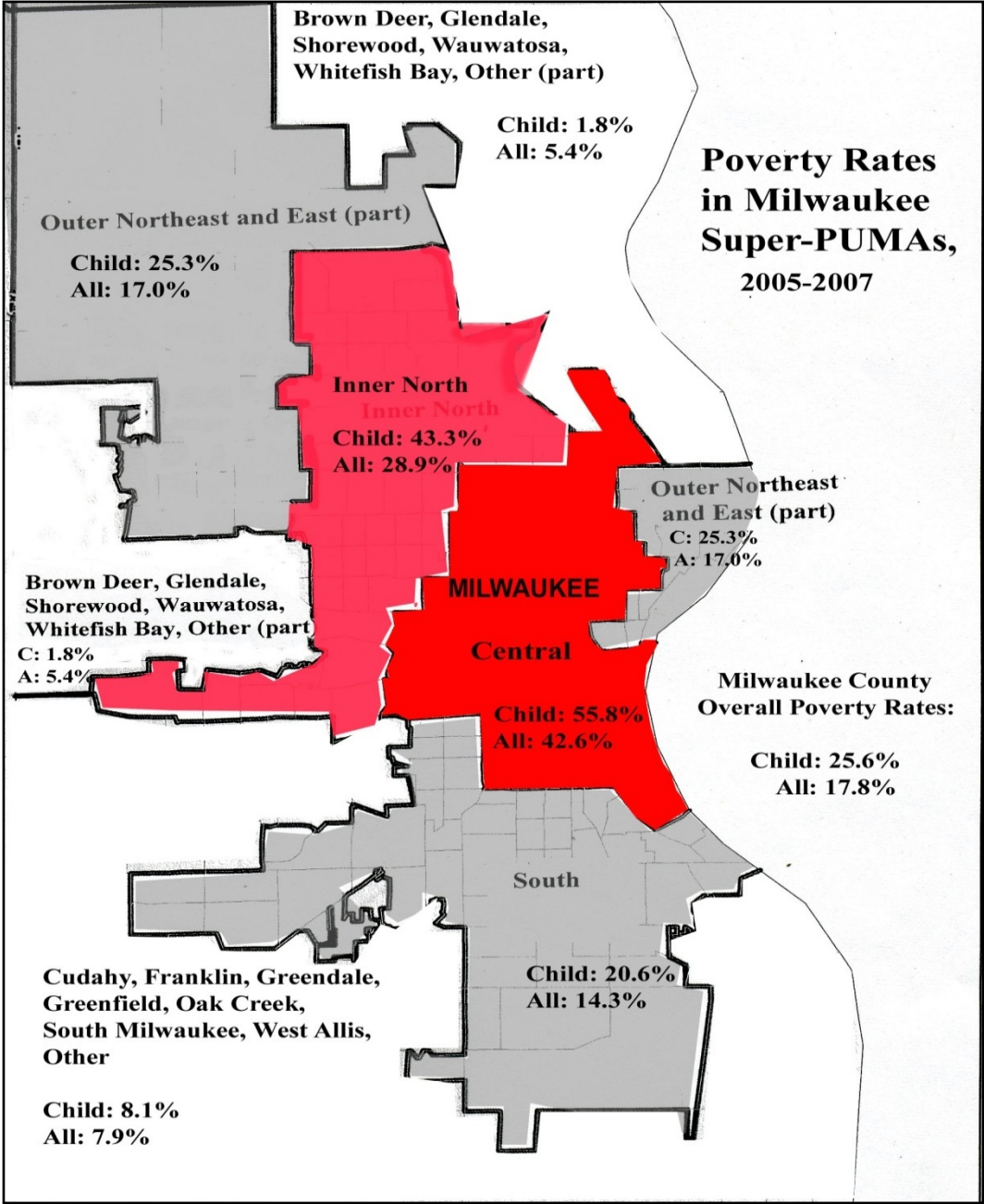
# Overall Poverty



# Child Poverty

**MAP 2**  
**Child Poverty Rate for 2005-2007**  
by Wisconsin PUMAs/PUMA Groups





# Moving Forward: Key Challenges/Opportunities

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in plan leadership</li><li>• Change in executive leadership</li><li>• Continued economic challenges</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empathy</li><li>• Availability of federal funds</li><li>• Other initiatives</li></ul>

Wisconsin Idea

# Additional Information

- Governor's Summit: "Building Bridges to Family Economic Success":  
[dcf.wisconsin.gov/building\\_bridges\\_summit/conference.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/building_bridges_summit/conference.htm)
- IRP Working Conference: "State Innovations in Policies Supporting Healthy Families":  
[www.irp.wisc.edu/newsevents/conferences.htm](http://www.irp.wisc.edu/newsevents/conferences.htm)
- Wisconsin Poverty Report:  
[www.irp.wisc.edu/research/wipoverty.htm#wipovreport](http://www.irp.wisc.edu/research/wipoverty.htm#wipovreport)