

Women's Fund of the Stateline Community Foundation: *When women thrive ... communities prosper.*



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STATUS REPORT

Of Women and Girls In Beloit, Wisconsin

October 2015



Foreword

The Women's Fund was established at the Stateline Community Foundation in 2012 to inspire, empower, and support women and girls through active philanthropy and pooled resources. We believe that all women regardless of age, income, background, and ethnicity can grow and achieve their full potential.

The idea of producing a status report was born shortly after the Women's Fund was launched, and the assembly of a team and development of this inaugural status report began in February of 2014. The development of this report has been a long process with many roadblocks and detours, but it is our hope that the end result justifies the many months of hard work by filling a need within the community.

The purpose of this document is to provide an objective, fact-driven report card of the current status of women in Beloit. It is to provide a picture of women's largest struggles as they compare to their male counterparts and also as they compare to the state as a whole. This report is provided as a tool for area organizations, institutions, and businesses to understand the needs of our female citizens, pinpoint where services may be needed, and also see where their efforts are succeeding.

We hope this report serves its purpose in our community and that we can revise this document on a regular basis in the years to come — tracking progress and positive change.

Women's Fund of the Stateline Community Foundation
When women thrive ... communities prosper.

Summary of Findings

RACE & ETHNICITY: Beloit is **much more racially and ethnically diverse** than Wisconsin as a whole – looking more like a reflection of the U.S.

AGE & STAGE IN LIFE: Women in Beloit fall into **distinct age profiles** that represent what might be considered different stages in women's lives.

EDUCATION: Women in Beloit are **less likely than women statewide to have any post-secondary degree** (22% versus 37%).

EDUCATION: Racial differences persist in educational attainment, most notably in the completion of high school and a bachelor's degree, where a **substantial gap exists between African American (not Hispanic) and Hispanic women in Beloit** and their white (non-Hispanic) counterparts.

GENDER WAGE GAP: In Beloit, women earn on average **\$0.70 for every \$1.00** earned by men.

LABOR FORCE: Women in Beloit make up 45% of full-time, year-round civilian workers, **slightly above the statewide average**.

UNEMPLOYMENT: Women (and men) in Beloit have faced **twice the unemployment rate** as their statewide counterparts — 16% versus 8.5% — on average during the 2010-2012 period.

POVERTY: Nearly **half (44%) of all female-headed households in Beloit live below the poverty line**, compared to 1 in 4 single father families and 1 in 12 married couple families.

FOOD STAMPS: In Beloit, **two-thirds (66%) of all single mothers receive food stamps** — the equivalent of 2 out of 3 single mother households — which is above the statewide rate of 45% for single mothers.

TEEN PREGNANCY: Data indicates a **higher rate of teen pregnancy present in the City of Beloit** — not only in comparison to Wisconsin rates, but also in comparison to neighboring cities including the City of Milwaukee.

STIs: Regardless of age, **women in Beloit consistently report more than double the cases** of chlamydia and gonorrhea than men with **women aged 18-24 reporting the highest number** of cases for the period.

INFANT MORTALITY: The infant mortality rate for the City of Beloit was **significantly higher than in Wisconsin and the U.S.** with a combined rate for the years 2006-2010 of 8.7, compared to 6.3 and 6.1, respectively. By race and ethnicity, **the African American infant mortality was 13.8**, the white rate was 8.8, and the Hispanic rate was 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

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BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Important Notes on the Data:

* = denotes data with **larger “margins of error,”** generally due to small sample sizes among the population being measured. Data should be viewed with caution.

na = **not available or unpublished**, for the same reasons as noted above.

Data by race **will not add up to 100%** due to the overlap between Hispanic and other races and because data of other races are not counted on the list.

Basic Demographics of Women

The first step in addressing the range of issues and needs of the women of Beloit is developing a demographic knowledge of women locally, including population size, age, race and ethnicity. The three latter demographic characteristics are important as predictors of a range of social outcomes and needs regarding employment, educational attainment, poverty, and infant and maternal mortality.

These characteristics are important as predictors of a range of social outcomes and needs in areas such as educational attainment, employment, poverty, attainment and child and maternal health.

There are two significant story lines throughout this report:

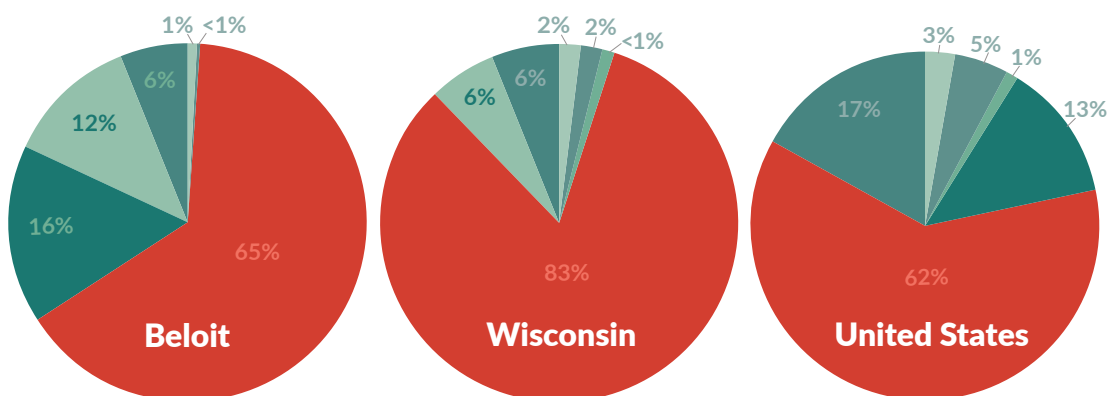
1. Race and Ethnicity: **Beloit is much more racially and ethnically diverse than Wisconsin as a whole** – looking more like the U.S. than the State of Wisconsin.
2. Age & Stage in Life: **Women in Beloit (and statewide) fall into distinct age profiles** that represent what might be considered different stages in women’s lives: women over 40 years of age (white women) and women in their 20s (most women of color).

Table 1. Share of Women in the Population by Race and Ethnicity

(2009-13, 5-year average)

	Beloit		Wisconsin	United States
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Women	19,600			
White (non-Hispanic)	12,800	65%	83%	62%
African American	2,300	12%	6%	13%
Native American*	na	<1%	1%	1%
Asian*	270	1%	2%	5%
Two or More Races	1,200	6%	2%	3%
Hispanic	3,200	16%	6%	17%

Source: WI and Beloit: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, B01001 (series): Sex by Age, 2009-2013 5-yr avg.; US: US Census Bureau, United States Quick Facts (Beta), Table PST045214/00, July 1, 2014.



In the City of Beloit women make-up:

- 53% of the estimates 37,000 residents;
- 65% of white (non-Hispanic) women, compared to 83% statewide;
- 16% of Hispanic women, compared to 6% statewide;
- 12% of African American women, compared to 6% statewide.

Table 2. Women's Median Age by Race and Ethnicity
(2009-13, 5-year average)

	Wisconsin	Beloit
All Women	40	35
White (non-Hispanic)	43	43
African American	29	29
Asian*	28*	37
2 or More Races	16	18
Hispanic (any race)	23	22

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B01001(series) Sex by Age.

- In terms of median age, the women of Beloit look very similar to women for Wisconsin as a whole.
- The median age for Hispanic women, at 22 in Beloit, is nearly half the median age for white women (43) and seven years lower than African American women.

Implications of Age and Race

As examined in the rest of this report, women in Beloit face a host of challenges and disparities in health and other areas. A few implications of Beloit's demographic profile may include:

- Higher infant and maternal mortality rates, given the strong association between these outcomes and African American race.
- Pressing need in the future to address societal aging policy, including nursing care and assisted living options, for white women in Beloit, who will typically reach elderly age ranges first.
- Greater need to address language barriers and cultural competency issues in health care and other social arenas due to higher numbers of Hispanic and African American women in Beloit compared to the rest of Wisconsin.
- The ability of Beloit to emerge as a leader in addressing demographic changes in age, race, and ethnicity happening across the state and nationwide.
- The opportunity to target age and race groups for different interventions based on the population of interest.



Educational Attainment

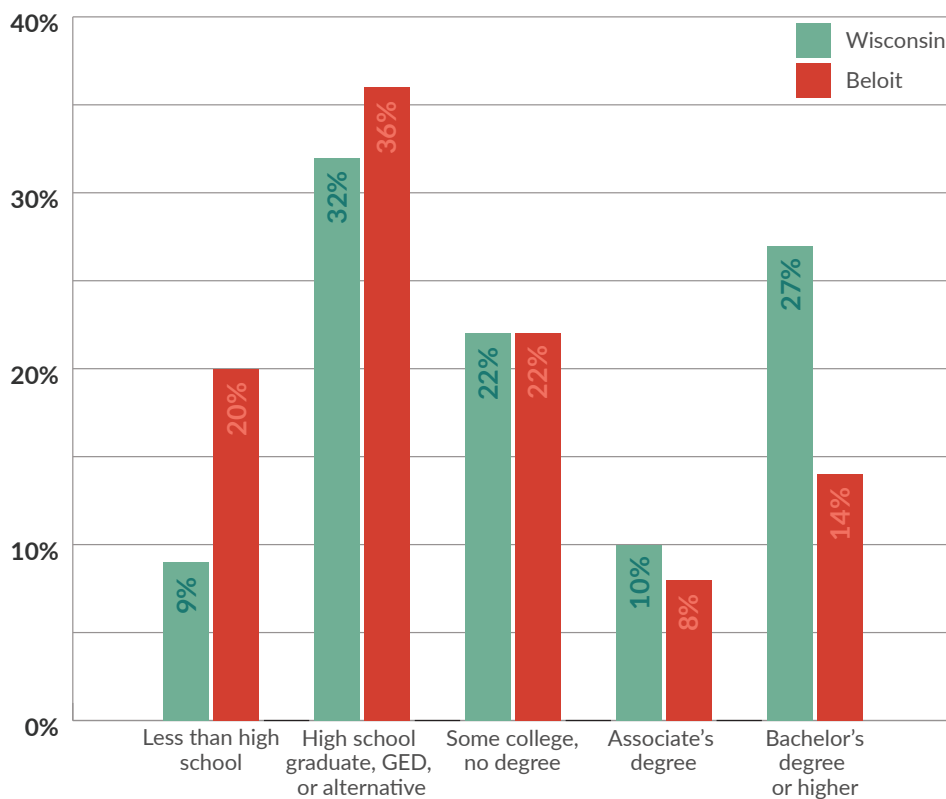
Educational attainment is widely understood worldwide as an essential component of socioeconomic mobility and social equality. Female educational attainment has been linked globally to a host of social positives including lower maternal and infant mortality, lower fertility rates, and increased economic growth. Below are data specific to the status of educational attainment for women in Beloit, compared against the state of Wisconsin as a whole.

Educational Attainment (All Women)

As seen in the chart below,

- Women in Beloit are half as likely as women statewide to have a Bachelor's degree or higher (14% versus 27%).
- Women in Beloit are twice as likely as women statewide to have less than a high school education as their highest level of educational attainment (20% versus 9%).
- **Women in Beloit are less likely than women statewide to have any post-secondary degree**, including Associates, Bachelors, or advanced/professional degrees (22% versus 37%).

Chart 1. Highest Level of Education Attainment for Women Age 25 and Older
(2010-2012, 3-year average)



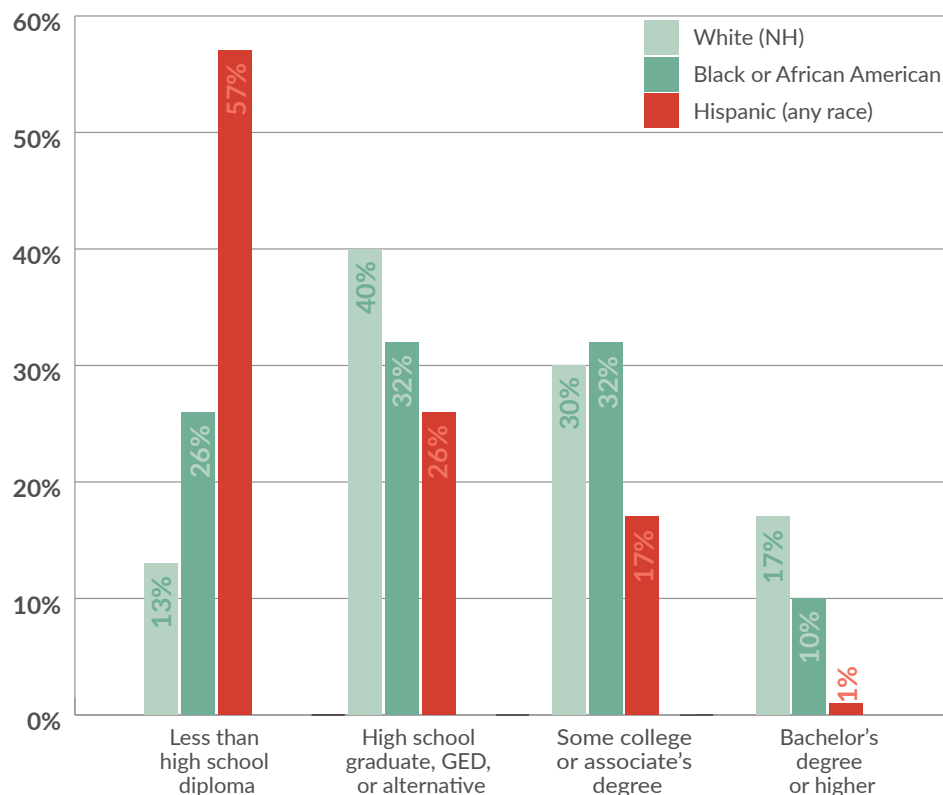
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Service, Table C15002(series): Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over, 2010-2012 3-year average.

Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity*

Racial differences persist in educational attainment, most notably in the completion of high school and a bachelor's degree, where a substantial gap exists between African American (not Hispanic) and Hispanic women in Beloit and their white (not-Hispanic) counterparts.

- Across racial/ethnic groups, women in Beloit are more likely than their counterparts statewide to **not have a high school diploma**.
- More than half of Hispanic women age 25 years and over in Beloit do **not have a high school diploma** – twice the rate for African American women and four times the rate for white (not Hispanic) women.
- Across racial/ethnic groups, women in Beloit are less likely than their counterparts statewide to have a **four-year degree or higher**.
- About 1 in 4 women statewide and in Beloit fall into the category some college, no degree – referring to women who have some college credits but did not receive either an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree. The concern being that such women may have debt from pursuing post-secondary education, but do not reap the anticipated wage benefits of a college degree.

Chart 2. Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Women Age 25 and Older by Race/Ethnicity, Beloit
(2010-2012, 3-year average)



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Service, Table C15002(series): Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over, 2010-2012 3-year average. *Data for Native American and Asian women were not available for Beloit due to small population/sample size resulting in high margins of error for these data.

Women in the Labor Force

Beloit has about 9,300 full-time, year-round civilian workers. Of these, 4,175 (45%) are female, slightly above the statewide average of 43%.

Table 3. Workers in Wisconsin and Beloit

(2008-12, 5-year average)

Civilian Employed Population 16 Years & Older	Wisconsin				Beloit			
	Full-Time, Year-Round*		With Earnings in the Past 12 Months		Full-Time, Year-Round*		With Earnings in the Past 12 Months	
	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent
Women	814,600	43%	1,385,300	49%	4,200	45%	7,700	50%
Men	1,084,200	57%	1,471,000	51%	5,100	55%	7,600	50%

*Full-time, year-round workers include only those who in the past 12 months usually worked 35 or more hours per week, for 50 to 52 weeks. The statistics for workers “with earnings in the past 12 months” also includes part-time, part-year, and seasonal workers. The occupational statistics and analyses are based on statistics for full-time, year-round workers for more consistency in comparing the number of workers and wages without needing to account for differences in hours worked and part-time schedules.

Office and Administrative Support is the most common occupation for women in Beloit, as well as statewide. In Beloit, about 1-in-5 women (21%) work in these positions, compared to 1-in-4 statewide. More than three-quarters of all workers in this occupation are women.

In Beloit, women make up a larger share of the area’s **Education** occupations (largely teachers) than women statewide — 90% vs 68%.

Management ranks as the fourth most common occupation for women in Beloit, versus second most common (on average) statewide. However, in Beloit, women make up a larger share of the area’s managerial occupations than women statewide — 50% vs 36%. Similarly, in Beloit, women make up a larger share of the area’s combined total for managerial and professional occupations than women statewide — 56% vs 49%.

In Beloit, women account for the large majority of workers in **Health Care** occupations listed — the same trend as for women nationally — including health care support (100% vs 91%), health diagnosing and treating practitioners (64% vs 72%), and health technologists (85% vs 81%). In total, women in Beloit working in these three occupations account for 14% of all women workers — the same as for women nationally.

In **Engineering**, Beloit women account for about 9% of engineers, versus 14% nationally. [The occupation is included in the “Other Misc” category due to its small sample size.]

Beloit women are nearly twice as likely to work in **Production** occupations (manufacturing, including food processing) than women statewide (13% vs 7%).

Gender Wage Gap

In Beloit, **women earn on average \$0.70 for every \$1.00 earned by men**. This is wider than Wisconsin’s statewide gender wage gap of \$0.77. Beloit women’s median wage of \$30,310 is more than \$6,000 (20%) below the median wage for women statewide. The wage gap can be attributed, in large part, to women clustering in lower-wage occupations.

Table 4. Five Most Common Occupations of Women in Wisconsin and Beloit
(2008-12, 5-year average)

Wisconsin				
Occupation	Number of Workers	Percent of Workforce	Median Wage	Gender Wage Gap
Women — All FT/YR Workers 16+	814,587	43%	\$36,381	\$0.76
1 Office & Administrative Support	196,293	75%	\$33,421	
2 Management	81,522	36%	\$52,234	
3 Sales & Related (including Retail)	71,065	40%	\$31,602	
4 Education, Training, & Library	60,081	68%	\$45,062	
5 Business & Financial	59,045	57%	\$47,505	
Beloit				
Women — All FT/YR Workers 16+	4,175	45%	\$30,310	\$0.70
1 Office & Administrative Support	868	78%	\$29,387	
2 Production	532	26%	\$31,639*ME	
3 Education, Training, & Library	416	90%	\$29,821*ME	
4 Management	371	50%	\$45,451*ME	
5 Sales & Related (including Retail)	298	50%	\$26,855	

Unemployment

In recent years, Beloit consistently has held one of the top spots in the state for high unemployment. In some cases, the rate was nearly twice that of the statewide rate. As can be expected, the highest rates were seen during the Great Recession when Beloit's unemployment climbed to 17.5% compared to the state's 8.6%. Recent rates are the lowest Beloit has seen since 2000, yet still high compared to the statewide rate.

Table 5. Unemployment Rate* for Wisconsin and Beloit

(2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008-15)

	Wisconsin	Beloit
July '15	4.5%	6.7%
2014	5.5%	7.6%
2013	6.7%	11.1%
2012	6.9%	11.2%
2011	7.5%	12.8%
2010	8.5%	16.4%
2009	8.6%	17.5%
2008	4.9%	8.6%
2006	4.7%	7.3%
2004	5.0%	7.9%
2002	5.4%	9.2%
2000	3.5%	6.1%

Women (and men) in Beloit have faced **twice the unemployment rate as their statewide counterparts** — 16% versus 8.5% — on average during the 2010-2012 period.

Table 6. Unemployment* by Gender for Beloit and Wisconsin

(2010-2012, 3-year average)

	Number	Beloit	Wisconsin
Women	1,460	16%	8.5%
Men	1,750	14.4%	6.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, S2301 Employment Status

*Not seasonally adjusted. Notes: 2010-2012 are the most recent data available broken out by gender. Although data for Beloit provide a higher unemployment for women than men, the difference is not statistically significant due to comparatively high margins of error in the data.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, WORKnet (online) <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet>



Single-Mother Households and Poverty

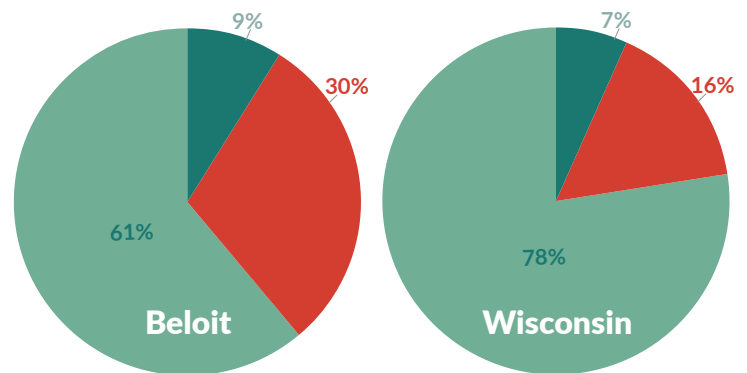
Today, there remains a strong association between female-headed households and poverty. In addition to the disproportionate burden for childrearing placed on women, this association is partially explained by gender inequality in pay between women and men for the same or comparable work.

In Beloit, **nearly half (44%) of all female-headed households** (no husband present) — commonly referred to as single mother families — **live below the poverty line**, compared to 1 in 4 single father families and 1 in 12 married couple families.

Single mother families are disproportionately in poverty, compared to married couple and single father families, making up nearly one-third of all family households but two-thirds of families in poverty.

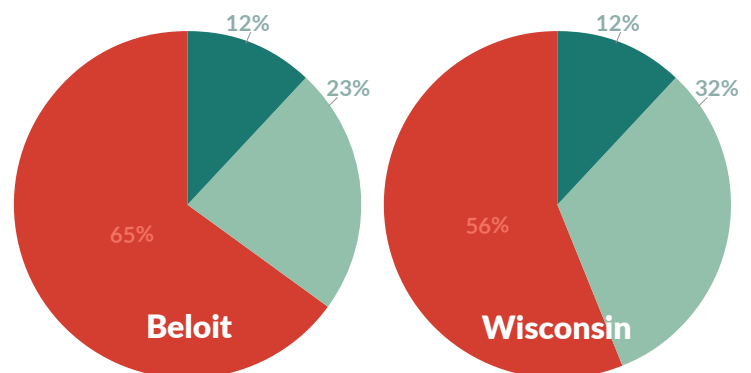
- Beloit has **twice the share of single mother households**, among all households, **than is found statewide** — 30% versus 16%.
- Family households headed by women of color generally face higher poverty rates. In Beloit, **43% of households are headed by single African-American mothers. Of those, more than half (54%) are in poverty**, compared to about 39% of comparable white and 41% of comparable Hispanic households. Due to small numbers, data by race not available for Native American and Asian households.
- With a **median annual income of \$16,100**, Beloit's single mother households have the lowest median annual income of all household types in Beloit and compared to their counterparts statewide.

Chart 3. Families by Household Type
(2009-13, 5-year average)



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, Table B17010, poverty status in the past 12 months of families by household type by number of own children under 18 years.

Chart 4. Families in Poverty by Household Type
(2009-13, 5-year average)



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, Table B17010, poverty status in the past 12 months of families by household type by number of own children under 18 years.

Table 7. Median Family Income for Families with Minor Children
(2009-13, 5-year average)

	Beloit	Wisconsin
Married Couple	\$54,000	\$84,200
Single-Father Household	\$28,800	\$36,600
Single-Mother Household	\$16,100	\$23,800

US Census Bureau, ACS, Table B19126: Median Family Income In The Past 12 Months (In 2013 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) By Family Type By Presence Of Own Children Under 18 Years.

FoodShare & Low-Income Families

A large number of households in Beloit are classified as living in poverty. One of the defining characteristics of household poverty is the usage of the FoodShare program — also known as the federal Food and Nutrition Service Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Of these households, a disproportionate number of them involve children and single mothers who find themselves needing to rely on food assistance.

Table 8. Families that Received Food Stamps in Wisconsin and Beloit
(2008-12, 5-year average)

	Beloit		Wisconsin	
	Families Receiving FoodShare	Percent of Population	Families Receiving FoodShare	Percent of Population
With Children Under 18	2,100	42%	133,500	19%
Married Couple	500	20%	41,100	9%
Male Householder, No Wife Present	300	53%	15,300	26%
Female Householder, No Husband Present	1,300	66%	74,300	45%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2012, 5-yr Estimates (average), Table B22002: Receipt of Food Stamps/Snap in the Past 12 Months by Presence of Children Under 18 Years by Household Type for Households.

- In Beloit, **two-thirds (66%) of all female-headed families with minor children (single mothers) received food stamps** — the equivalent of 2 out of 3 single mother households — which is above the statewide rate of 45% for single mothers.
- Overall, Beloit families with minor children are twice as likely as such households statewide to receive food stamps (42% vs. 19%).
- In Beloit, married-couple and male-headed (single father) families with minor children are twice as likely as their counterparts statewide to receive food stamps — 20% vs. 9% for married couples and 53% vs. 26% for single fathers.
- Overall, 25% of Beloit households — 1-in-4 households — received Food Stamps, compared to 10% of households (1-in-10) statewide.

Federal Poverty Level

PERSONS in Family/ Household	INCOME Poverty Threshold
1	\$11,490
2	\$15,510
3	\$19,530
4	\$23,550
5	\$27,570
6	\$31,590
7	\$35,610
8	\$39,630

For households/ families with more than 8 persons, add \$4,020 for each additional person.

Source: US Dept. of Health & Human Services, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/2013-poverty-guidelines#thresholds>.

Income = Gross income (before taxes)

Federal poverty income thresholds at different levels (100%, 133%, 150%) are used for determining financial eligibility for certain federal low-income assistance programs, including Food Stamps, Energy Assistance, ACA subsidies.



Teen Pregnancy

Teen pregnancy, defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as births to women aged 15 to 19, has had a long and potentially cyclical association with socioeconomic disadvantage in the United States. Numerous studies over the years have found that children of teen mothers are more likely to have or father children as teens, and that teen pregnancy rates are higher in neighborhoods with less wealth, educational attainment and job opportunity.¹ And while US teen pregnancy rates as of 2012 are at a historical low,² the clear racial and ethnic disparities in who becomes a pregnant teen, both nationally and locally, suggest that more large-scale policy efforts to address socioeconomic inequality are needed to eliminate the racial and ethnic gap in this indicator of social well-being.

¹ Office of Adolescent Health (US Dept. of Health and Human Services)

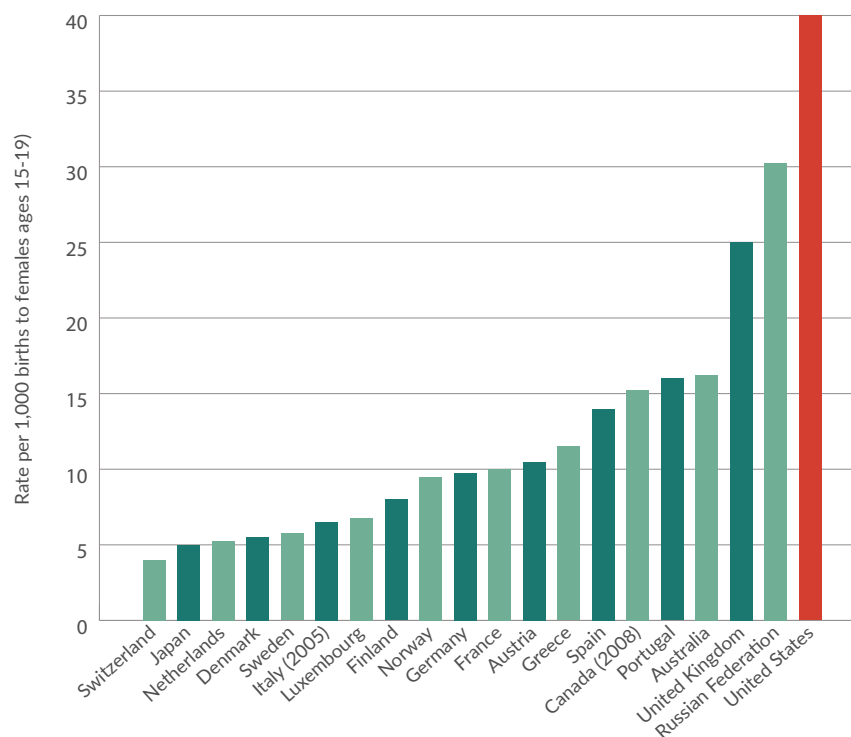
² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

International and National Data

- Live birth rate indicates the number of live births occurring during the year per 1,000 population.
- In 2012 in the United States, a total number of 305,388 were born to women aged 15-19, for a live birth rate of 29.4 per 1,000, resulting in a record low for US teens in this age group (down 6% from previous year). Precise reasons for this decline are unknown, but are thought to include less sexual activity among teens and greater use of contraceptives during sexual encounters.

Chart 5. Teen Birth Rates in Select Countries

(2009-2010)



Source: Office of Adolescent Health, US Department of Health and Human Services

- Non-Hispanic black youth, Hispanic/Latino youth, American Indian/Alaska Native youth, and socioeconomically disadvantaged youth of any race or ethnicity experience the highest rates of teen pregnancy and childbirth. Together, black and Hispanic teens comprised 57% of U.S. teen births in 2012; this proportion remained unchanged from 2011.
- In an international context — specifically among high income countries — the United States stands out with vastly higher rates of pregnancy in its teen demographic.

Beloit and Wisconsin

In contrast to the national and international teen birth rate data, the data below are the percentage of births to teens less than 18 years of age, since arguably some of the most serious consequences of teen pregnancy (e.g., interference with high school completion, burden of pregnancy on adolescent physical and emotional development, etc.) are mitigated somewhat in the upper teen age range (ages 18-19).

- From 2009-2013, Wisconsin recorded 340,727 live births statewide — 6,466 of those were teen births, accounting for 1.9% of the total live births in the state.
- Compared to other states, Wisconsin ranked 41st out of 51 (51 being the lowest in 2011 final teen birth rates among the 15- to 19-year-olds).
- During the 2009-2013 period, the City of Beloit recorded 2,900 live births — 136 of those births were to teens (less than 18 years of age), accounting for 4.7% of the total live births.
- During that same period (2009-2013), the adjacent City of Janesville recorded a total of 4,046 live births — 95 (2.3%) of which were teen pregnancies — while Milwaukee recorded 51,768 live births, of which 2,232 (4.3%) were to teens.
- The data indicates a **higher rate of teen pregnancy present in the City of Beloit** — not only in comparison to Wisconsin rates, but also to neighboring cities including the city of Milwaukee.

Table 9. Births to Teens Less than 18 Years of Age
(2009-2013)

	Beloit	Janesville	Milwaukee	Wisconsin
Total number of births	2,900	4,046	51,768	340,727
Number of births to teens age<18	136	95	2,232	6,466
Percentage	4.70%	2.30%	4.30%	1.90%

Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health



Women and Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a serious social problem nationwide, with an estimated 110 million Americans (roughly one-third of the population) thought to have an STI, and an estimated 20 million new infections each year. STIs are also costly, resulting in approximately \$16 billion in direct medical costs each year.¹

And while STIs affect both males and females, women typically face greater health concerns, including higher susceptibility to STI due to the vaginal environment, greater difficulty in detecting symptoms of infection, and reproductive damage, including infertility.² Following is a comparison of data for Wisconsin and Beloit for two common STIs—chlamydia and gonorrhea. If left untreated, both can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility in women.

Chlamydia in Wisconsin and Beloit³

- In 2013, Wisconsin ranked 23rd lowest among the 50 states for reported cases of chlamydia.
- In Beloit, **women aged 18-24 consistently reported the highest number of cases of chlamydia** for the period of 2009-2013, with a total of 618 cases, accounting for nearly 57% of all cases reported by women.
- In 2013, women between the ages of 18-24 reported 116 total cases of chlamydia, accounting for nearly 76% of the total number of cases among women.
- After peaking with 248 cases of chlamydia reported among all women in 2011, the number of cases declined for two consecutive years (217 in 2012 and 212 in 2013).
- Regardless of age, **women in Beloit consistently report more than double the cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea than men.** This difference may partially reflect the general tendency of women to visit physicians more frequently than men.

Gonorrhea in Wisconsin and Beloit

- Gonorrhea cases, compared to chlamydia, are far less common, with Wisconsin reporting a rate of 80.3 per 100,000 population, ranking the state the 22nd lowest in the nation.
- As with chlamydia, **most cases of gonorrhea are typically reported among women aged 18-24** — statewide and citywide.
- For 2009-2013, women age 18-24 accounted for roughly 35% of all gonorrhea cases in Beloit.
- Despite a smaller gap than with chlamydia, Beloit women still report gonorrhea at roughly twice the rate of their male counterparts.

Table 10. Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Cases in Beloit by Age and Gender
(2009-13)

	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
13 & Under	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	2	5	3	0	3	2	0	2
14-17	39	6	45	56	12	68	50	7	57	56	14	70	51	14	65
18-24	139	50	189	141	60	201	166	77	243	143	62	205	135	44	179
25-29	31	15	46	46	17	63	31	22	53	33	26	59	36	16	52
30-49	12	12	24	15	18	33	31	16	47	21	22	43	25	23	48
50+	2	0	2	3	0	3	0	1	1	2	2	4	5	2	7

Source: Rock County Public Health Department

Racial Disparities in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in Beloit

- As in most metrics, **racial and ethnic differences exist in reported chlamydia and gonorrhea cases.**
- In contrast to most trends, for 2012-2013, white women (non-Hispanic) accounted for roughly 33% of the 602 chlamydia cases reported in Beloit, with black (non-Hispanic) women and Hispanic women accounting for around 22% and 8% of all cases.
- For gonorrhea, black women (non-Hispanic) accounted for 34% of the 135 reported cases for the period, with white, non-Hispanic women, accounting for around 19% of cases.
- Asian and Hispanic women accounted for less than 1% of gonorrhea cases over the two-year span covered.

Table 11. Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Cases in Beloit by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender
(2012-13)

	Chlamydia						Gonorrhea					
	2012			2013			2012			2013		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
Asian	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Black, Non-Hispanic	62	50	112	70	43	113	19	21	40	27	18	45
Hispanic	25	13	38	22	6	28	0	0	0	1	0	1
White, Non-Hispanic	95	23	118	106	22	128	16	3	19	9	6	15

Source: Rock County Public Health Department

¹ "CDC Fact Sheet: Incidence, Prevalence, and Cost of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States" (February 2013, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

² "CDC Fact Sheet: 10 Ways STDs Impact Women Differently from Men" (April 2011, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

³ Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Rock County Public Health Department

Infant Mortality

International and National

The infant mortality rate (or IMR) is a globally recognized health indicator, measured as the number of deaths per 1,000 live births for infants under 365 days old. The infant mortality rate “is related to the underlying health of the mother, public health practices, socioeconomic conditions, and availability and use of appropriate health care for infants and pregnant women.”

Wisconsin and Beloit

Below are data showing how Wisconsin and Beloit perform under this important measure of societal health.

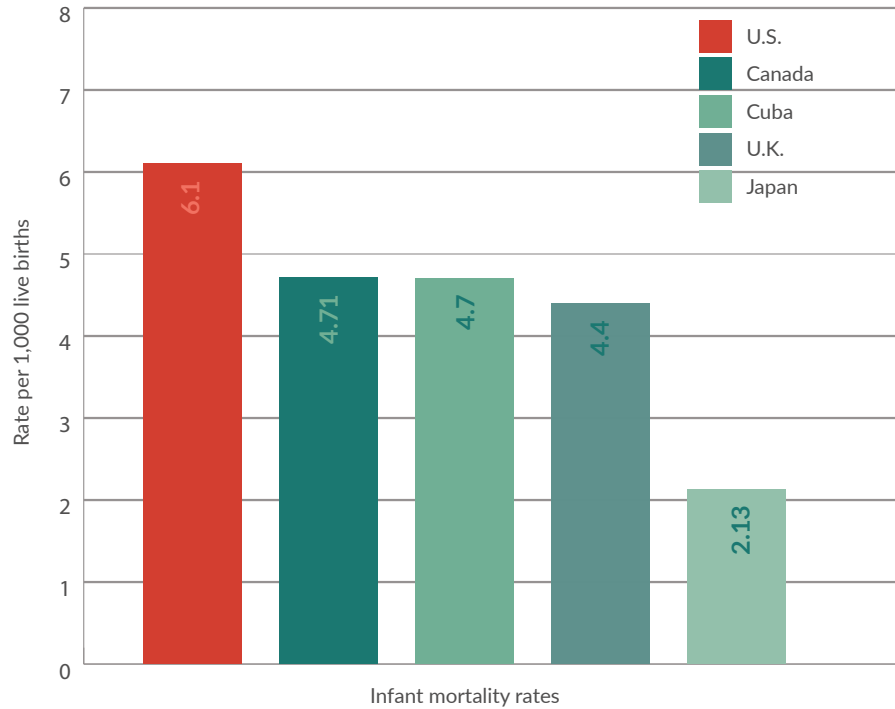
- For the period 2008-2010, Wisconsin had a combined infant mortality rate of 6.3, slightly higher than the national rate.
- Mirroring national trends, the infant mortality rate for infants born to African American mothers in Wisconsin was 14.0 per 1,000 live births, compared to 5.2 for whites and 5.7 for Hispanics.
- The infant mortality rate for the City of Beloit was **significantly higher than in Wisconsin and the U.S.** with a combined rate for the years 2006-2010 of 8.7, compared to 6.3 and 6.1, respectively.
- Mirroring trends for the State of Wisconsin, infant mortality rates for African American infants in Beloit is considerably higher than that of the population as a whole. The infant mortality rate for African American infants in Wisconsin during the period of 2008-2010 was 14, while the rate for African American infants in Beloit was 13.8 during the period of 2006-2010.
- By race and ethnicity, **the African American infant mortality was 13.8**, the white rate was 8.8, and the Hispanic rate was 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of Infant Mortality

In Wisconsin, the three leading causes of infant mortality are

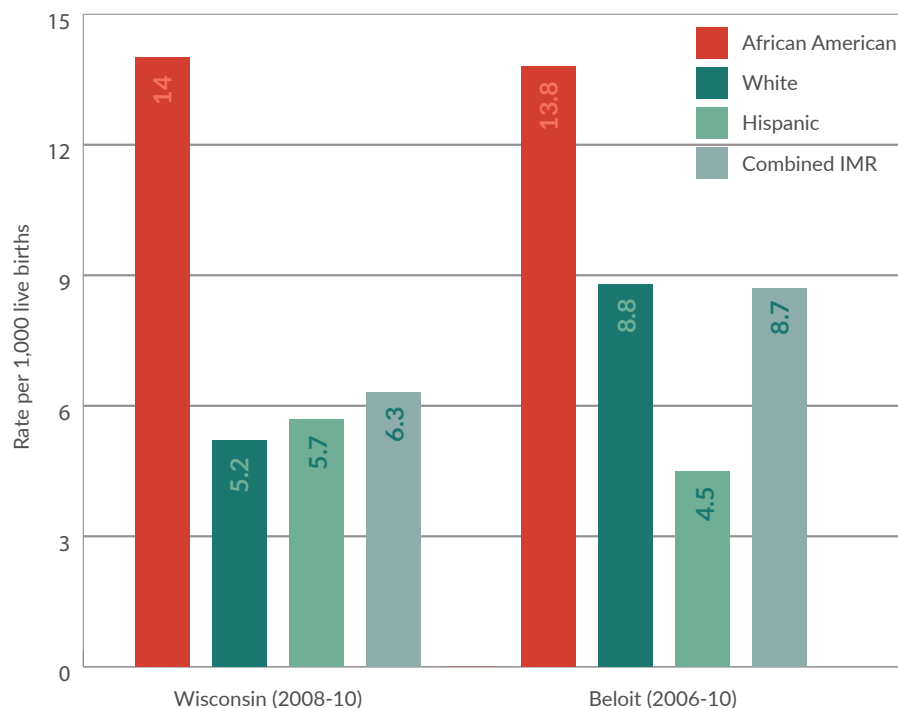
- (1) disorders related to pre-term birth and low birth weight,
- (2) congenital malformations (i.e., birth defects), and
- (3) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Chart 6. Infant Mortality Rates for Select Countries
(2014)



Source: CIA World Factbook, 2014 estimates

Chart 7. Infant Mortality in Wisconsin and Beloit
(2008-10, 2006-10)[†]



Sources: Based on Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Rock County Public Health Department data

[†] Note that the sampling dates are different for Wisconsin and Beloit. Wisconsin was measured from 2008-10, and Beloit was from 2006-10.



Lessons for Future Reports

For this first Report on the Status of Women in Beloit, we attempted to survey a wide range of areas connected to the health and wellbeing of women in Beloit. In doing so, we learned a number of lessons to bear in mind for future editions of what will hopefully become an important window into the lives and life chances of local women.

Scarcity of Local-Level Data

Given the health focus of this inaugural report and the prominence of certain chronic illnesses today, we initially sought to provide data on several important metrics, including the incidence of diabetes by age and race/ethnicity among women in Beloit, as well as the top ten causes of morbidity and mortality for local women. Finding these data points, however, proved far more elusive and time-consuming than we could have imagined. Identifying sources for these important and relevant health metrics will be important for the production of future reports. Due to the local nature of this data, as well as an actual lack of data in some cases, this work may require the development of a funded task force dedicated to collecting this information specifically for Beloit. Important data might include, but are not limited to:

- Detailed morbidity and mortality data for Beloit women by age and race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation
- Information on local businesses owned by women by race and ethnicity
- Data on health and other issues confronted by women based on sexual orientation
- More information concerning language barriers and other issues faced by Beloit's growing population of Hispanic women

Data for other categories also were difficult to find. One entire category — domestic violence and sexual assaults — never made the publication due to the lack of any Beloit-specific data. While much of this information is available on a county level, the data is not separated by city. To be able to include this information in future reports, agencies would need to begin collecting and reporting data in new, more specific ways, which would include collecting data specific to Beloit, as well as specific to gender, race, and ethnicity.

Future Publication of Reports on Specific Issue Areas

Related to the previous point, it may be useful to produce a broad survey report every few years, with intervening years used to produce shorter but more detailed mini-reports on specific issue areas. These mini-reports could cover the areas described above and many others, including issues related to women's education, pregnancy and childrearing, aging, and socioeconomic opportunity.

Providing Information Beloit Women Find Relevant

Finally, one way to enhance awareness and expectations regarding future reports is to formally poll local residents on the types of data they would like to see in future reports. The results of this advance poll could then guide data collection efforts and may encourage more community investment in the report itself and the information it contains.



Conclusion

In closing, we would like to sincerely thank everyone for your patience and assistance in the production of this first Status Report of Women and Girls in Beloit, Wisconsin. As you have read, Beloit women clearly face many challenges, particularly with respect to poverty and health. Rather than a point solely for concern, the information in this report shows us that there are many angles that can be taken in the drive to make Beloit a healthier place for women. To this end, we look forward to devising ways to make future reports more informative, provocative and indispensable to understanding and improving the lives of women in this beautiful city along the Rock River.



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