

RACINE COUNTY: ONE SHARED COMMUNITY



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AND WHAT WE DO NEXT

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Presented by

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ABOUT THE STUDY

- ◉ The Planning Council for Health and Human Services conducted the study in partnership with Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency
- ◉ The report identifies both needs and assets based on both quantitative and qualitative data (secondary data, key informant interviews and focus groups)
- ◉ Time Frame - April - November, 2010

WHAT DO WE WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS?

- ◉ Review of basic findings in four key areas
- ◉ Recognition of interaction and connection
- ◉ Introduction to ongoing opportunities for dialogue and partnership
- ◉ Eye toward root causes and sustainable solutions



FOCUS TODAY ON A FEW KEY AREAS

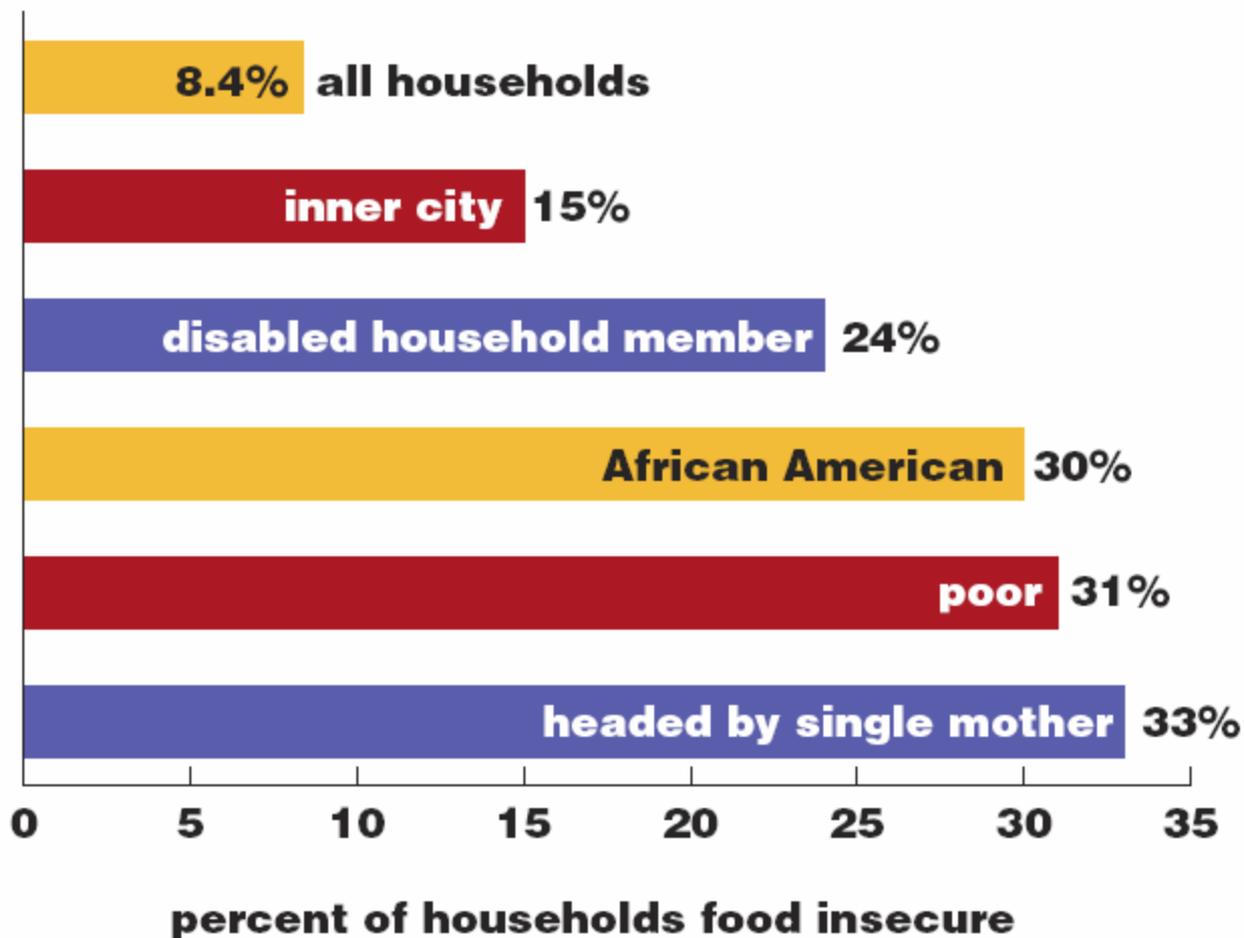
○ Racine County

- Food Security
- Economic Security
- Education
- Changing Demographics

Full reports for both Racine and Kenosha Counties available at www.planningcouncil.org or www.rkcaa.org



FOOD INSECURITY IN WISCONSIN



FOOD SECURITY

- ◉ Approximately 3,200 households in the City receive **Food Stamps**, 4,500 in the County
- ◉ Nearly 7% of households with **children** in the City of Racine receive food stamps
- ◉ Food Share reports a 25-30% increase from 2009-2010
- ◉ Participation in **WIC** is up 8% in Racine Co from 2009-2010 about (5,700 participants)
- ◉ Access to **supermarkets** and large grocery stores is limited for low-income families in the central city
- ◉ Some schools do not participate in the **school breakfast** program
- ◉ Need outreach to the **Latino** community

FOOD SECURITY

- ◉ “ Accessing **emergency food** and meal programs can be challenging. If you are directed to a pantry that happens to be open and it’s on the south side and you live on the north side, you will be **traversing all over on the bus**. It would be an all day project for a couple of bags of groceries. Also, it’s just a two to three day supply of food. It is not a week’s worth of groceries-- it is for emergencies. The community meal program is scattered so transit is an issue.”
- ◉ “I still see **seniors** making the choice between taking their **meds or eating** good meals.”
- ◉ “Our emergency food network of providers is very good. Sure there are problems because its not enough. They need more than an emergency food allotments: they need **access to meals on a daily basis**. But the network of food providers is very good.”



FOOD SECURITY

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

RKCAA:

- ◉ Provides meals and snacks to over 650 three, four and five year olds at Head Start
- ◉ Distributes over 1.4 million pounds of food to households through food pantries, meal sites and shelters
- ◉ In 2010, began to operate the Commodity Food Supplement Program, providing food to 1,000 elderly households

FOOD SECURITY

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

- ◉ Support the development of Sustainable, Edible, Economic Development (SEED)
 - Building local food markets for local farmers
 - Establishing distribution strategies for products to consumers
 - Creating incubator for local food business
 - Liaison with Wild Root grocery co-op effort

FOOD SECURITY

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

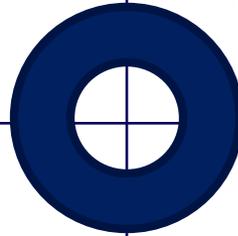
- Racine Urban Garden Network

- Fiscal Sponsorship
- Expanded gardens and initiatives including children and youth

- Opportunities

- Summer food program for children
- Nutrition cooking sessions

Partnership



Single



Immediate

Long Term

ECONOMIC SECURITY

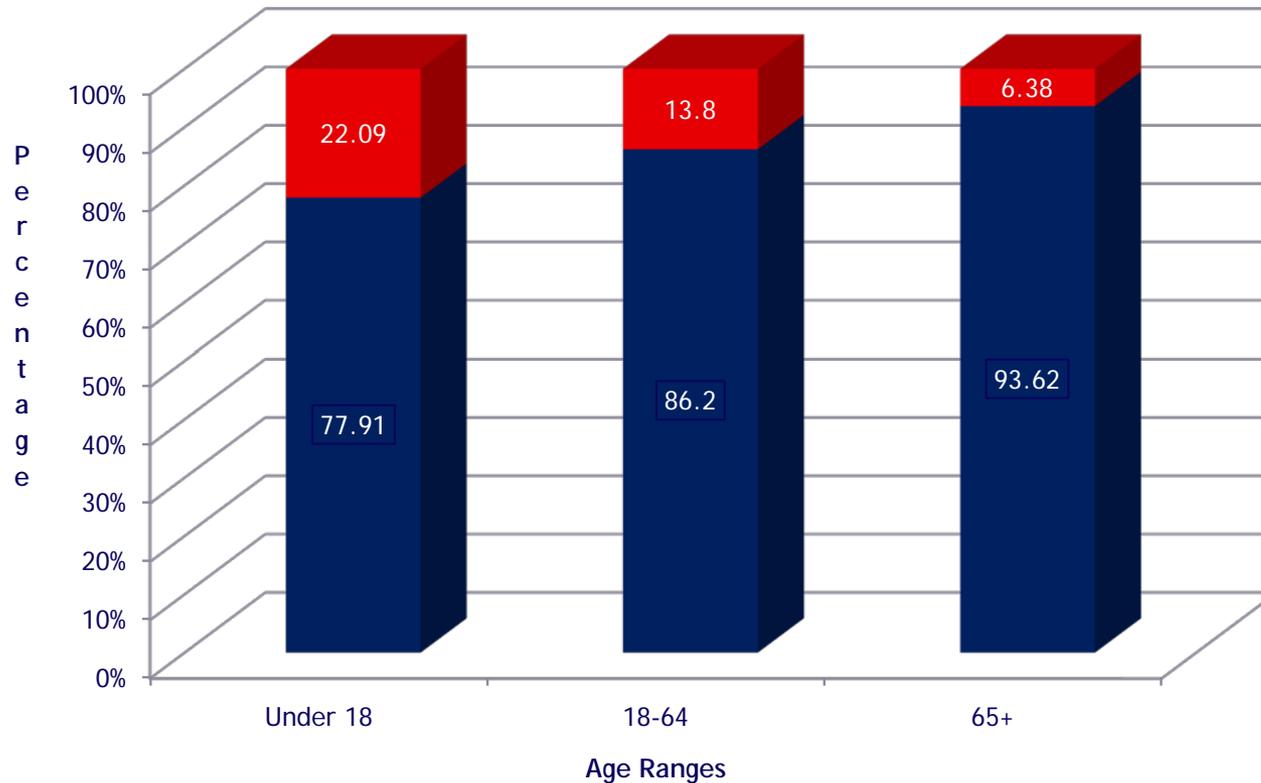
- ◉ More than 15% of the population of the City of Racine lives in **poverty**
- ◉ 22% of the **children** living in the City are living in poverty
- ◉ The County poverty rate for **senior adults** age 65 and older (12.22) is double the city rate (6.38).
- ◉ The majority of those living in poverty are **white**.
- ◉ Families with a single **female head of household** are most likely to be living in poverty.
- ◉ Median household **income** for the County was a little above \$54,000 annually and **below \$41,000** for the city.
- ◉ Nearly 26% of Racine county residents receive **Social Security**.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Racine has experienced increased **unemployment**, job losses, bankruptcies and **foreclosures**
- People identified the need to
 - link **education** and future job opportunities
 - increase outreach to the **Latino** community
 - address **intergenerational** poverty

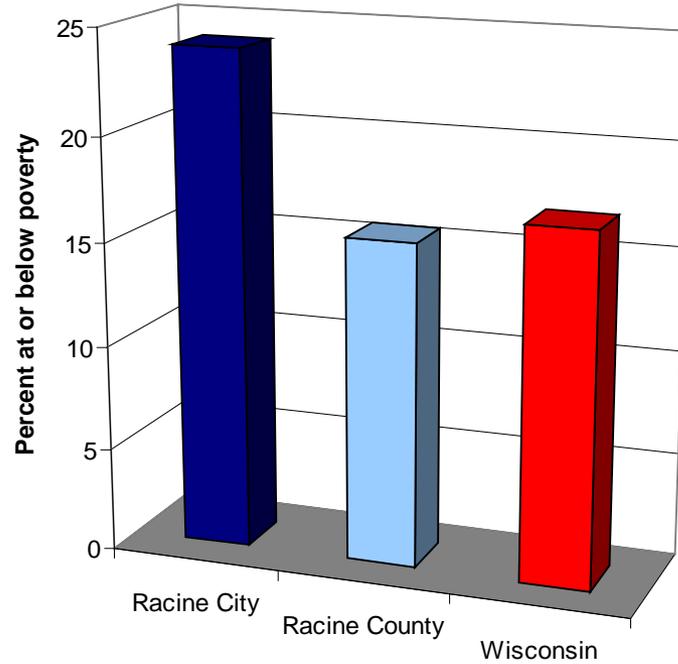
ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

City of Racine
Percent of Population in Poverty by Age



* Red = Percentage below FPL

POVERTY RATES FOR RACINE CHILDREN UNDER 5 WHOM POVERTY STATUS HAS BEEN DETERMINED



ECONOMIC SECURITY

- ⦿ “There is a desperate misunderstanding and it is really important... These are **not simple things to deal with**. Its not like you can give me a job and let me earn money. There is a lot more underlying the issue...”
- ⦿ “Employment barriers include lack of education, lack of a **driver’s license** or **transit** and **child care**... After a while, you start to **feel hopeless**.”
- ⦿ “A lot who are poor don’t have **phones**. It is hard to get a **job** because a lot of employers like to leave messages about coming in for interviews... and now you almost need a **computer** to get jobs. If you don’t have one, you need to find time to go to the library... going to the library with kids is a challenge...”
- ⦿ “ Some people are **working** two to three jobs just to get by.”



ECONOMIC SECURITY

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- Energy assistance
 - Over 9,000 households received some help in paying energy bills

- Weatherization
 - Energy saving measures taken to reduce the cost of energy in the dwelling
 - Nearly 790 homes receive weatherization service and over 150 furnace replacements or repairs

- Skills Enhancement
 - 43 persons received a diploma or certificate
 - 10 received an increase of \$2.50 per hour on average



ECONOMIC SECURITY

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- ◉ Rent Assistance and Homeless Prevention and Re-housing Program
 - Over 300 served in the county preventing eviction and homelessness
- ◉ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 - Funds Supported Driver's license restoration in partnership with Legal Action of Wisconsin and Workforce Development
 - Transitional Jobs in partnership with Racine Vocational Ministries
 - Summer Youth employment
 - VITA - EITC



ECONOMIC SECURITY

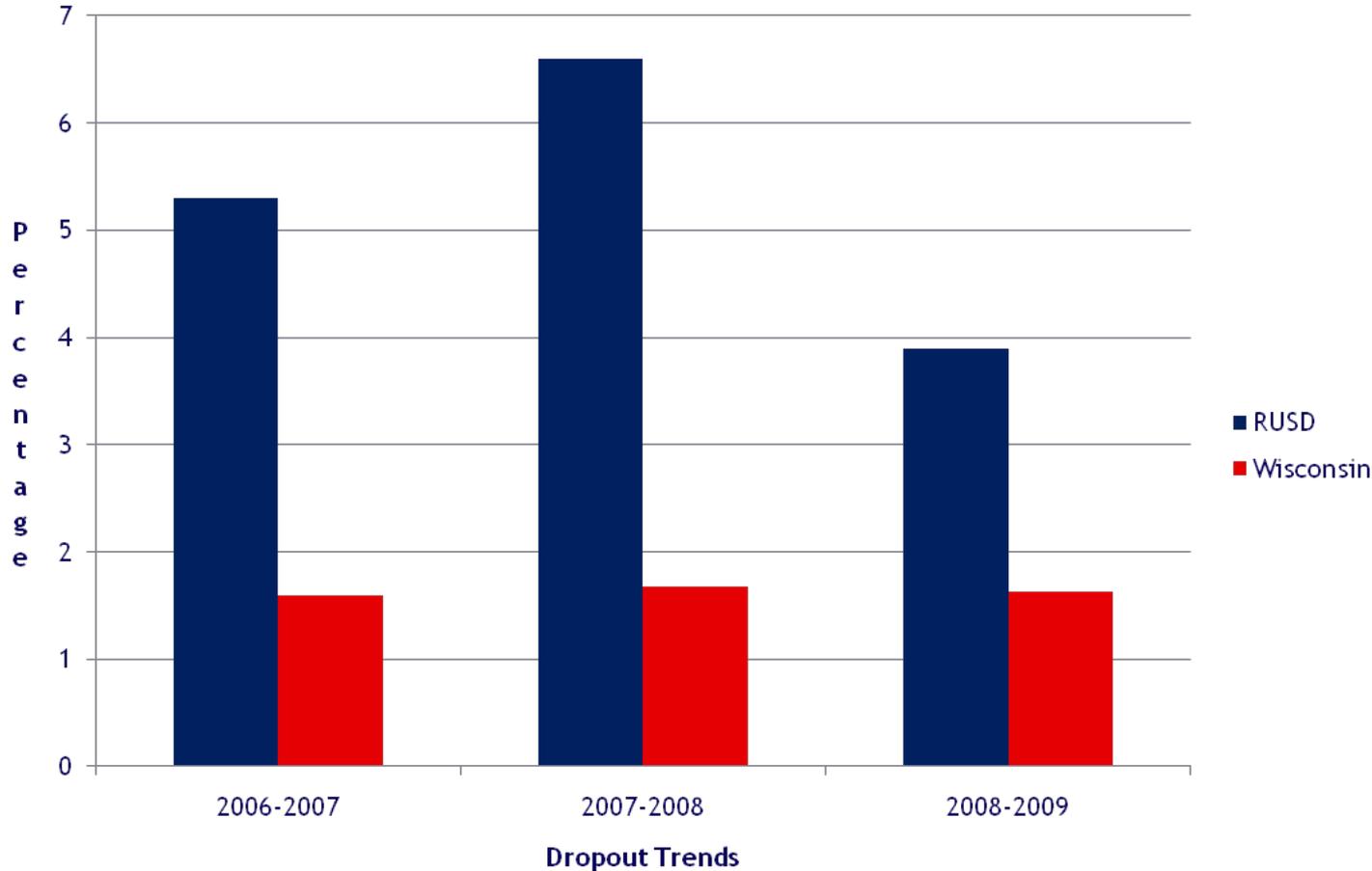
WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

- ◉ Analysis of data related to Transitional Jobs to more fully develop this as a part of an ongoing employment effort
- ◉ Support the continuation of Driver's License Restoration as part of a workforce development strategy
- ◉ Continue the development of SEED as model of economic development

EDUCATION

- ◉ Racine County has approximately 36,000 **children** between the ages of 5 and 18 with nearly 15,000 of those living within the City of Racine.
- ◉ More than one in five of the school-age children in the City are below the **poverty** rates with those in the 5-11 age range having the greatest percentage in poverty
- ◉ The actual high school **graduation** rate is estimated at around 60% with variation between 36% and 81%
- ◉ RUSD experienced an overall **enrollment decline** accompanied by a steady increase in minority students.

THREE-YEAR TRENDS IN DROPOUT RATES, 2006-2007 TO 2008-2009



EDUCATION

- 2009-10 scores in the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) showed **improvement** at nearly all age levels in reading and many levels in math
- There is a persistent and significant **gap** of more than 20 percentage points between WKCE scores achieved by African American students and their white peers

EDUCATION

- ⦿ “It’s tough to focus on school when you **have to focus** on whether or not you are going to have a roof over your head, or **where you are going to stay** tonight, or if you are going to **get a meal.**”



EDUCATION

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- ◉ Head Start - Quality Early Childhood programs have the ability to improve outcomes for children
- ◉ Economists find this investment has the best return of government dollars
 - Art Rolnick (Minnesota Federal Reserve) describes this as economic development
 - James Heckman, a Nobel laureate, makes the economic case for early education. He argues that investing in programs for prekindergarten children will yield dramatic returns for individuals and for society.
 - ◉ *“Early education offers the most cost-effective path to a whole range of social benefits: not just higher future incomes for participants, but a more productive workforce, greater economic growth, lower crime rates, smaller prison populations, and substantial savings for taxpayers.”* (2007 University of Chicago Annual Report)

EDUCATION

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

- School Readiness Coalition
 - Piloting use of Ages and Stages measurement tool for four year olds (RUSD, RKCAA Head Start, NGN and 21st Century Preparatory School, United Way of Racine County, Johnson Foundation)
 - Build stronger transitions to kindergarten
 - Track outcomes to build stronger programming

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

- ◉ Racine County has the 5th largest population in the state (198,870), and continues to experience **growth overall and particularly among seniors** (12.3%) alongside a slight decrease in the number of children under the age of 5 (6.5%)
- ◉ The racial makeup is 82% white, 10% black. Approximately 10% of the population identify as Hispanic/Latino.
- ◉ The City's population is **eroding** and accounts for approximately 40% of the county.
- ◉ More than **one third** of the population in the city are **people of color**
- ◉ In the city of Racine, the rate of **infant deaths** among African-American infants is 28 per 1000, which is higher than the city of Milwaukee
- ◉ The number of **residents 65 and older** is projected to increase by 86% by the year 2035
- ◉ More than 12% of the **elderly population** is living at or below the **poverty level**.

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

- Healthy Birth Outcomes for Greater Racine:
Lifecourse model
 - Community model for change being developed by a broad-based collaborative
 - Reducing African American infant mortality
 - Improving healthy birth outcomes, reducing the high cost of babies born too soon, leading to expensive supportive cost

- Access and support for seniors
 - Elderly food program
 - Altering service deliver to meet the needs of aging

COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES

Community Attributes





ASSETS TO BUILD UPON

- ◉ Value of parks and libraries to all families, more important in tough economic times
- ◉ Access to Lake Michigan
- ◉ Afterschool programs for children and youth
- ◉ Gateway Technical College
- ◉ Supportive programs for elderly and low income

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

- ◉ Community strengthening is the process of community conversations and cooperative efforts
- ◉ Including non-traditional partners
- ◉ Developing partnerships and collaborations are critical to the process of determining initiatives, models, programming
- ◉ Moving beyond the emergent needs to long-term solutions for a more prosperous Racine