

2017 Report On
The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin

Women & Poverty

KEY FINDINGS

More than half of all households in poverty in Northeast WI are headed by women (59%).

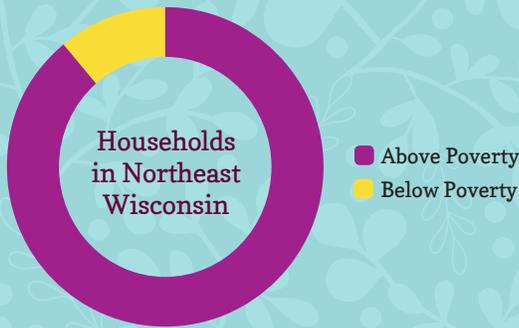
Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the households with minor children in poverty in the region are headed by single mothers.

Change in the Percent of Female-Headed Households Below the Federal Poverty Line, 2009 versus 2014:

Among Households with Minor Children: ↔ No Change
Among All Households: ↑ 2% Increase



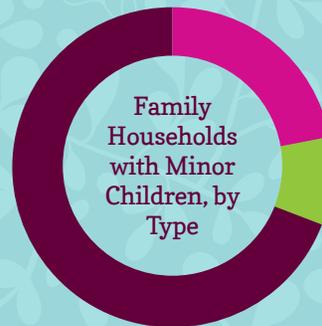
In Northeast WI, 11% of all households (30,000 out of 280,000 total households) have earnings below the Federal Poverty Line, compared to 12% statewide.



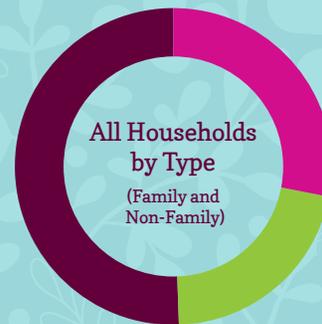
In Northeast WI, female-headed households account for about one-quarter (28%) of all households (family and non-family) in the region, but over half (59%) of all households below the poverty level—largely unchanged from 2009. This 2:1 ratio of female-headed households in poverty versus as a share of all households in the region holds true for each of the four counties and is consistent with the statewide rates.

Looking at only households with minor children, single mothers make up 22% of households, but they make up about two-thirds (64%) of all the households with children in the region living below the Federal Poverty Line—a 3:1 ratio.

With Minor Children



All Households



■ Married Couple ■ Female-Headed Family ■ Male-Headed Family

Officially, the last recession began in 2007 and ended in 2009. Why aren't we seeing improvements in the poverty status of women since 2009—years of economic recovery and growth?



KEY FINDINGS

“Office and Administrative Support,” with median annual wage of \$33,300, is the most common occupation for women in the Northeast WI working full-time, year-round.

The BEST Index estimates that child care costs become a family’s greatest expense once a family includes two young children.

For workers without employer benefits who add a second child to their family, BEST expenses for health care increase up to 25%, taxes increase by about 10%, and emergency and retirement savings nearly double.

Achieving economic security for families in Northeast WI

The Federal Poverty Level provides one assessment of the level of income needed by families to meet basic economic needs. The measure is used by Federal and State Government programs to determine eligibility for programs such as FoodShare and Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies.

The BEST Index was developed to better understand the true costs of living for families in our communities, including what resources are needed to prepare for the future.

The BEST Index presents local expenses, savings requirements, and what incomes are needed to achieve economic security by family type, and at the local level. The BEST Index addresses several pieces of the larger basic economic security picture—basic needs, savings, and employment-based benefits—and allows a broad and complete view of worker needs and families’ prospects for achieving the economic security so critical to their futures and to their communities.

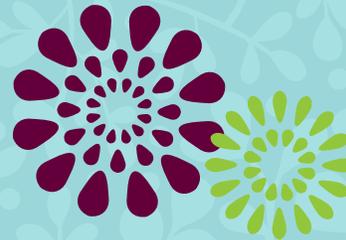
Single Mother Example: Federal Poverty Level vs. BEST Index for a 3-Person Family Household with 1 worker (employed with benefits), 1 preschooler, and 1 school-age child

2017 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a 3-Person Family/Household

\$20,420 (48 Contiguous States)
(\$9.67/hr based on BEST methodology) = 100% FPL

| | Brown | Fond du Lac | Outagamie | Winnebago |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Minimum Income Required for Economic Security (BEST Index), by County, as a percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) | \$54,900 (\$26/hr) or 269% FPL | \$52,800 (\$25/hr) or 259% FPL | \$57,200 (\$27/hr) or 280% FPL | \$57,800 (\$27/hr) or 283% FPL |

Sources: See Appendix



This research is a collaboration of the Women’s Funds of Northeast Wisconsin.