

## Health Care Determinants

### Access to Care

Health Determinant: Access to Care

Health Care Component: No Health Insurance

Percent and Rank: 2007 - 13% (61)

2008 - 12.6 (61)

Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Priority: Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services

No Health Insurance is the percentage of the population, under 65 years of age (including children), reporting that they do not have health insurance coverage of any kind, including prepaid plans, HMOs or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid. A lack of health insurance is a strong barrier to health care access. Not only is a lack of insurance a barrier to healthcare, but also a lack of sufficient insurance to meet health care needs. The underinsured are growing and it's sometimes difficult to identify populations.

Of the 15 common occupations in Waupaca County, cited in the 2007 Waupaca County Workforce Profile, 12 listed the education/training required for the job as 1 month or less training or 1-12 months plus on-the-job training. Only 3 required postsecondary, vocational or higher educational training.

Manufacturing dominates Waupaca County's employment at 25.4% of total jobs but recent economic conditions have seen reductions in hours, layoffs and plant closures which affect the availability of company insurance coverage to workers. The leisure and hospital sector of jobs in Waupaca County constitutes 11.1% of the total job base but pays only 3.2% of the total payroll. These jobs are usually in the hospitality industry i.e. hotel employees, waiters/waitresses and are often part-time and seasonal. No health insurance benefits are generally available through these employers and wages/tips may bring earnings to just over the level where the employee qualifies for any county assistance. Table 4 depicts common occupations in Waupaca County.

The Working on Wellness Program (WOW) seeks to assist those who may fall into uninsured, underinsured or self-insured categories. WOW is a 3-year rural health initiative which provides health-risk assessment, some screening and education on healthy lifestyle changes to individuals and some self-insured businesses. One focus of WOW has been farmers. As a self-employed group, farmers often seek only acute care when injury occurs and have no foundation in wellness or prevention. Targeting the group for services could dramatically improve health outcomes in our rural county.

There is also a grassroots movement underway to lay the foundation for a community clinic in Waupaca County. A group of private citizens has been meeting to discuss funding sources, possible locations, and staffing liability issues should this clinic one day become a reality. The services of the clinic would target the uninsured or underinsured in the county.

## Occupations, Education and Wages

Table 4

### Common Occupations in Waupaca County

Occupation	Education/training
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Auditing Clerks	1-12 mos. on-the-job trng.
Carpenters	12-mos. plus on-the-job trng.
Cashiers	1 month or less training
Comb. Food Prep.-Servers, Incl. Fast Fd.	1 month or less training
Cooks, Fast Food	1 month or less training
Elem. School Teachers, not Spec. Ed.	Bachelor's degree
Janitors/Cleaners, not Maids-Hskpg.	1 month or less training
Freight/Stock/Mat. Movers/Laborer, Hand	1 month or less training
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	12-mos. plus on-the-job trng.
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	Postsecondary voc. trng
Office Clerks, General	1 month or less training
Registered Nurses	Associate or Bachelor's degr.
Tellers	1 month or less training
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	1-12 mos. on-the-job trng.
Waiters & Waitresses	1 month or less training

Source: DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, special request, July 2007

Health Determinant: Access to Care

Health Care Component: Did Not Receive Needed Health Care

Percent and Rank: 2007 - 2.6% (55)  
2008 - 2.6% (54)

Health Care Component: No Dentist Visit in Past Year

Percent and Rank: 2007 - 30.6% (50)  
2008 - 32% (48)

Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Priority: Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services

These measures illustrate the percentage of individuals who did not receive the health care they thought they should have received in the previous year or the care that was recommended. These measures include surgical interventions. Not receiving needed medical care can lead to chronic problems yielding poor future health outcomes. Dental hygiene is directly linked to overall health and may contribute to cardiovascular issues.

Waupaca County has maintained a ranking in the lower middle quartile for both of these health care components. The lack of medical and dental care is directly related to a lack of insurance or a lack of sufficient insurance.

Some county residents may be forced to leave one clinic group when their unpaid balances get too high. Many are able to work out payment plans with clinic groups. Others must find somewhere else to go.

Access to physicians and nurse practitioners in their own communities is an issue for many Waupaca County clients. When enrolled in a Medical Assistance HMO, clients can only see health care providers in one clinic in their community. In 2008, several pregnant Waupaca County clients were assigned to care in the Fox Valley when the only clinic they could attend in their community lost its only obstetric care (OB) provider. Intervention by a public health nurse with a Medical

Assistance Program representative in Madison got the clients reassigned to another HMO. Thus, their OB care could be provided at home. Many people do not have this kind of advocacy. Our current system of health care provision instigates numerous such barriers to care.

The pool of dentists agreeing to provide care to Medical Assistant recipients increased slightly in 2008. However, some providers will see only Medical Assistance children, not adults, and many of the clinics and practitioners are in communities outside the county. Medical Assistance clients are able to arrange transportation to medical/dental appointments through the Transportation Division of the Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services. However, clients who are ineligible for Medical Assistance, and work minimum wage jobs or jobs without medical leave or sick time, often find it very difficult to seek care outside their communities.