

## Socioeconomic Health Determinants

### Education

Health Determinant: Education

Socioeconomic Component: High School Non-Completion

Percent and Rank: 2007 – 8% (39)  
2008 – 7.7% (43)

Socioeconomic Component: No High School Diploma

Percent and Rank: 2007 – 17.3% (46)  
2008 – 17.3% (46)

Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Priority: Social and Economic Factors that Influence Health

High School Non-Completion is a measure of the cohort of students who did not graduate from high school with a regular diploma. It is calculated as the number of students who do not receive a regular diploma divided by the total number of students expected to complete high school. The total number of students expected to complete high school includes all of the cohort dropouts, students who reached the maximum age without completing high school and those who completed high school with a regular diploma or other credential. This data is important to consider in assessing the health of a county. “There is compelling evidence that people who graduate from high school have longer, healthier lives than those who do not attain a high school degree. High school graduates typically have significantly higher incomes, which strongly correlates with health over time”, (2008 Wisconsin County Health Rankings, Full Report, p. 50).

Though Waupaca County does better than the state average of 10% in high school non-completion, it has maintained a consistent ranking in the lower middle quartile. This indicates that at least half of other counties in the state are doing better at seeing students through to high school completion than Waupaca County. On a positive note, though Waupaca County’s ranking declined in this component from 39<sup>th</sup> to 43<sup>rd</sup>, its overall percentage of student non-completion actually improved

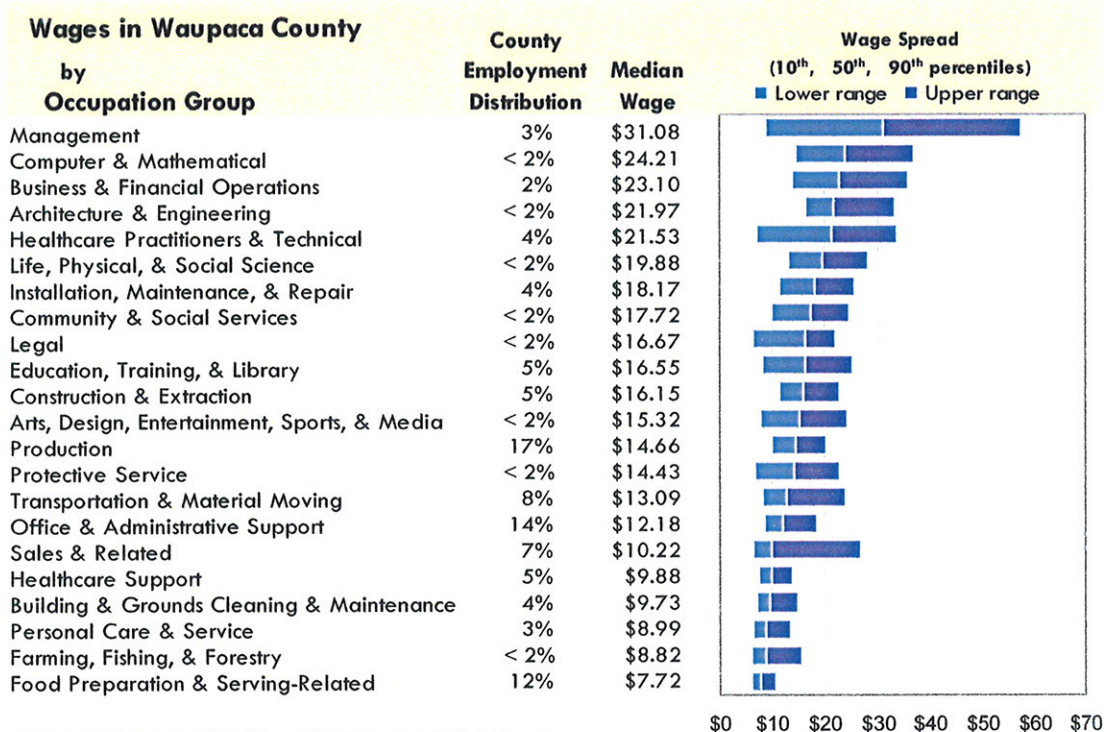
from 8% to 7.7%. The lower wages and poorer health outcomes seen in Waupaca County are directly related to this socioeconomic component.

No High School Diploma is a measure of the percentage of the population, over age 25, that has not graduated from high school. Once again, better health outcomes are seen among persons who have a high school education. In this area also, Waupaca County has maintained a ranking placing it in the lower middle quartile.

According to the 2007 Waupaca County Workforce Profile, the jobs which pay the highest wages in Waupaca County employ the fewest people and require advanced training and education. These jobs include: management, computer and mathematical positions, business and financial operations, architecture and engineering. Those which employ the greatest number of workers in Waupaca County, generally pay the least in wages. These include: production, office and administrative support and food preparation/serving-related jobs. Table 12 illustrates Wage Distribution by Occupation Group in Waupaca County. The relationship between non-high school completion/lack of a high school diploma and the available job market becomes more apparent with the illustration. The relationship to the health of the county population, though compelling in our health outcomes, is not as obvious.

## Occupations, Education and Wages

Table 12



Source: DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, special tabulation of  
2006 Occupational Employment Statistics using North Carolina's Electronic Delivery System (EDS)