

Physical Environment Health Determinants
Built Environment

Health Determinant: Built Environment

Physical Environment Component: Housing with Increased Lead Risk

Percent and Rank: 2007 - 38% (53)
2008 - 38% (53)

Physical Environment Component: Lead-Poisoned Children

Percent and Rank: 2007 - 1.5% (55)
2008 - 1% (33)

Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Priority: Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards

Waupaca County has made great strides in reducing the number of children poisoned by high levels of lead. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program continues to administer and coordinate the Lead Screening Program. In the past year, 239 children received appropriate blood lead screening. Children with blood lead levels of 10-20 mcg/dl received followup services by a public health nurse with additional followup including lead samples taken from the home by the Chief Lead Investigator should high levels of lead in a child's blood persist. There was one such case in 2008.

Waupaca County ranks in the lower middle quartile for housing with increased lead risk. According to the 2000 Census, 29.6% (6,655) of Waupaca County homes were built before 1939. This increases the risk of families experiencing lead contamination through exposure to lead pipes and lead-based paint. Though the risk in the county will likely remain high for some years to come, with WIC's continued efforts and continued public education by public health nurses and healthcare providers, the prevalence of lead-poisoned children in Waupaca County may continue to decline. Table 16 illustrates key factors associated with increased risk for lead exposure.

Scorecard

THE POLLUTION INFORMATION SITE

**Investigate
Pollution Topics****TOXICS**

- ▶ Toxic Chemical Releases
- ▶ **Lead Hazards**
- ▶ Superfund

AIR

- ▶ Smog and Particulates
- ▶ Hazardous Air Pollutants

WATER

- ▶ Clean Water Act
- ▶ Watershed Indicators

AGRICULTURE

- ▶ Animal Waste

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- ▶ Community Center
- ▶ En Español

HEALTH HAZARDS

- ▶ Chemical Profiles
- ▶ Health Effects
- ▶ Regulations

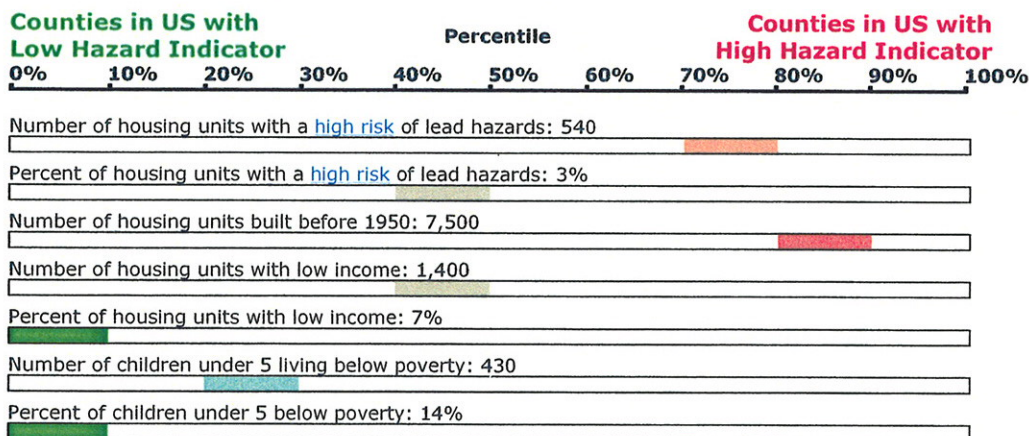
ZIP TO YOUR COMMUNITY **GO ▶****SEARCH SCORECARD** **GO ▶****POLLUTION LOCATOR | Lead Hazards | County Report**A joint project of the [Alliance for Healthy Homes](#) and Environmental Defense**Lead Hazard Report: WAUPACA County, WI**

- [Map Locating Lead Hazards](#)
- [Lead Hazard Indicators and Comparative Rankings](#)
- [Hot Spots of Lead Air Quality Hazards](#)
- **TAKE ACTION** 
- [Links](#)

- [Map Locating Lead Hazards](#)

Table 16[WAUPACA County](#)[\[top \]](#)

- [Lead Hazard Indicators and Comparative Rankings](#)

See rankings [within just this state](#).Rank [states](#), [counties](#), or [census tracts](#) by housing with high risk of lead hazards.

Note: For comparative purposes, percent may be a more appropriate indicator than number.

Health Determinant: Built Environment

Physical Environment Component: Radon Risk

Percent Elevated Radon Levels and Rank: 2007 - 20% (72)
2008 - 20% (72)

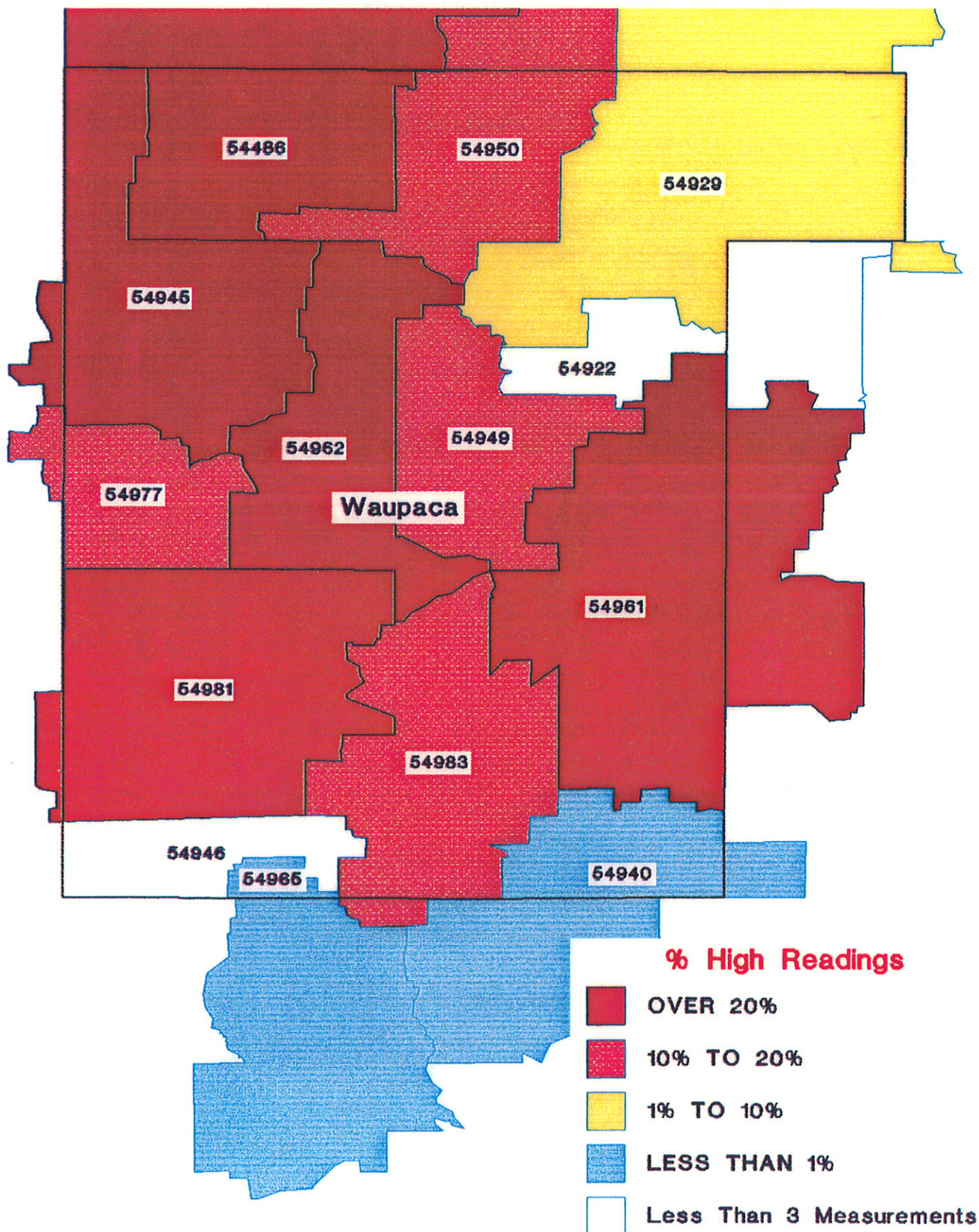
Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Priority: Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards

Radon Risk is the percentage of homes tested that report radon levels greater than 10pCi/L at the basement level where radon is most concentrated. This is equivalent to 4pCi/L at ground level. Radon is a colorless odorless radioactive gas that is the result of normal decay of radium in the ground. It is known to be present in high quantities in certain areas of Waupaca County and is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Illustration F summarizes radon readings around Waupaca County. Indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Radon can enter homes through cracks in the basement or foundation. It is recommended that all homes be tested for radon.

Early in 2008, in an effort to spur radon testing, the Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services, Health Services Division, through the county sanitarian, offered two radon test kits for the price of one. 81 radon tests were performed in 2008, 16 had readings over recommended safe levels.

Waupaca County's risk for radon will likely change very little, but identifying high radon readings and taking appropriate action can make the effects of radon negligible. More intensified education of the public regarding the hazards of radon and increasing the numbers of households testing for radon are essential to reduce the potential effects of this significant health risk.

Likelihood of High Radon Levels Waupaca County



Health Determinant: Built Environment

Physical Environment Component: Method of Commuting - Driving Alone

Percent and Rank: 2007 - 80.6% (52)

2008 - 80.6% (52)

Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 Health Priority: Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards

This measure represents the percentage of the workforce, age 16 and older, that drives to work. This measure captures whether community design facilitates alternative methods of travel such as walking, biking, mass transit, or car pooling. There can be beneficial health effects in communities that are not automobile dependent.

As a rural area without public transportation, Waupaca County residents are likely to continue to use personal cars to drive to work and do so alone keeping the county in the lower middle quartile for this health determinant. Higher wages motivate many to drive to work in other communities. The 2007 Waupaca County Workforce Profile indicated, "The large concentration of employment in low-paying jobs, (waiters and waitresses, retail salespersons, cashiers, etc.) in the county contributes to the low countywide wage in comparison to the state. The disparity also helps explain why residents commute to the metro neighboring counties of Outagamie and Winnebago in search of higher wages", (p. 4).