



Government Performance and Voter Participation

Points of Interest

National and statewide elections draw more votes than local elections. Often, local elections are not contested races.

- 👉 In the 2004 election for US President, 38,915 people voted.
- 👉 In 2006, 28,818 people voted for Governor, up from the 2002 total of 23,931.
- 👉 In 2007, 4,780 people came out to vote for the Stevens Point Mayor.

Sources: Portage County Clerk and Stevens Point Clerk

According to the LIFE Report Community Survey, on a seven-point scale:

- 👉 The overall job being done by local city, village, and town governments was rated 5.1.
- 👉 The overall job being done by county government was rated 4.9.
- 👉 The importance of effective government spending as a community issue was rated 5.6.
- 👉 36% of respondents have contacted a locally elected official.



Volunteerism

Points of Interest

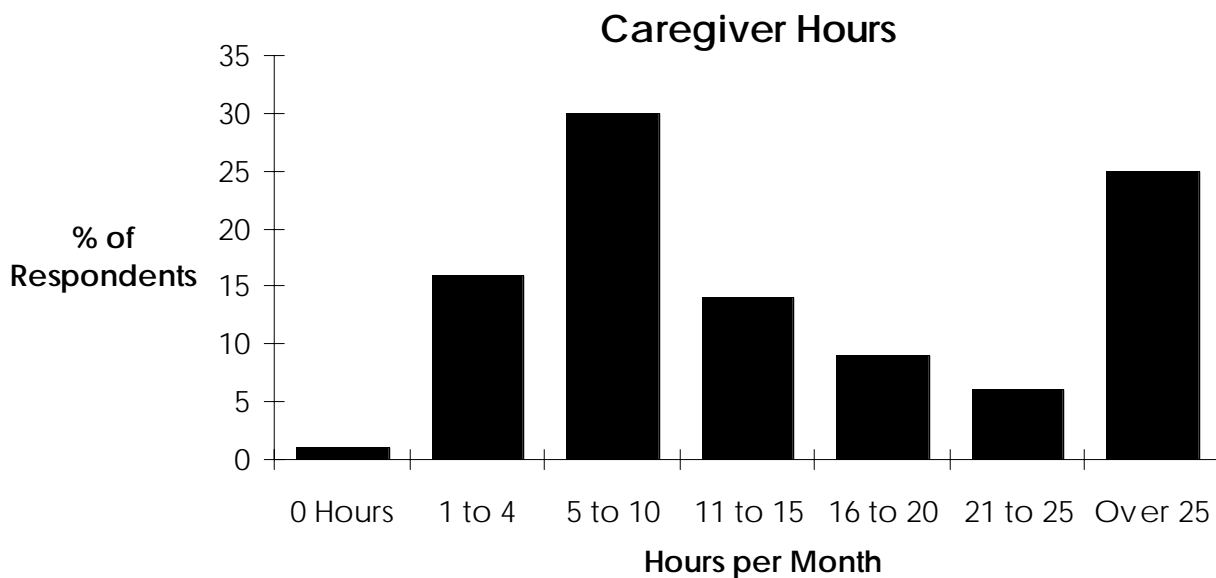
- Individuals and groups are offered diverse opportunities to make a difference in Portage County. Many agencies and organizations throughout the county depend upon volunteers to perform a wide variety of tasks.
- Volunteers are people who give their time without payment to worthwhile causes in their communities. They help at schools, churches, hospitals, social service agencies and may perform other needed activities.

According to the LIFE Report Community Survey, when asked, “Have you volunteered in the past 12 months to help individuals outside your immediate family?”:

- 78% of respondents say they have volunteered in the last year
- 76% of females surveyed have volunteered in the last year
- 81% of males surveyed have volunteered in the last year
- 80% of the rural respondents and 76% of the urban respondents have volunteered in the last year

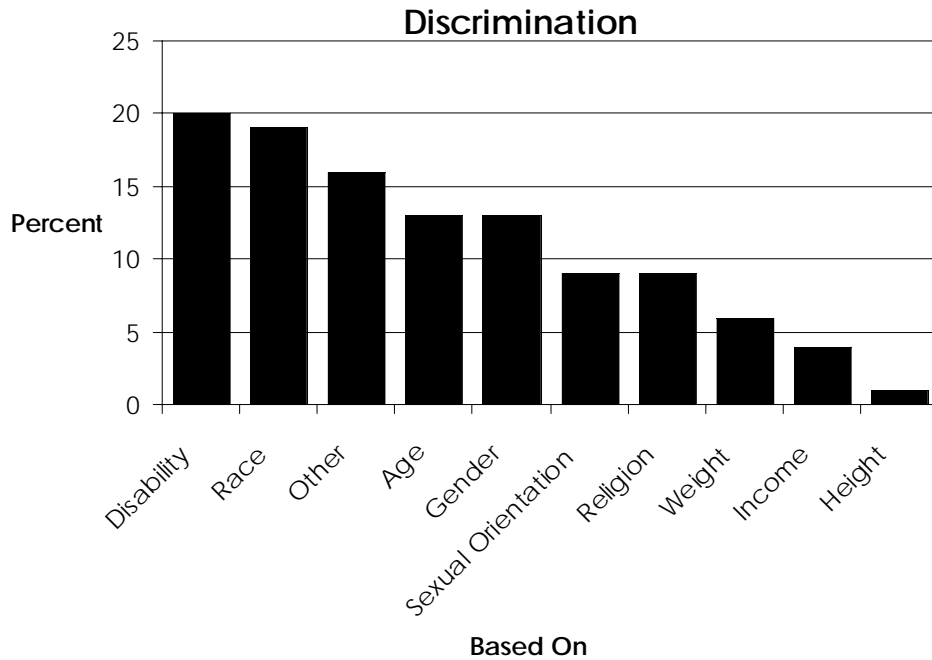
When asked, “Do you spend time caring for an elderly person?”:

- 32% of respondents said yes. Of those, 30% cared for someone from 5 to 10 hours per month.





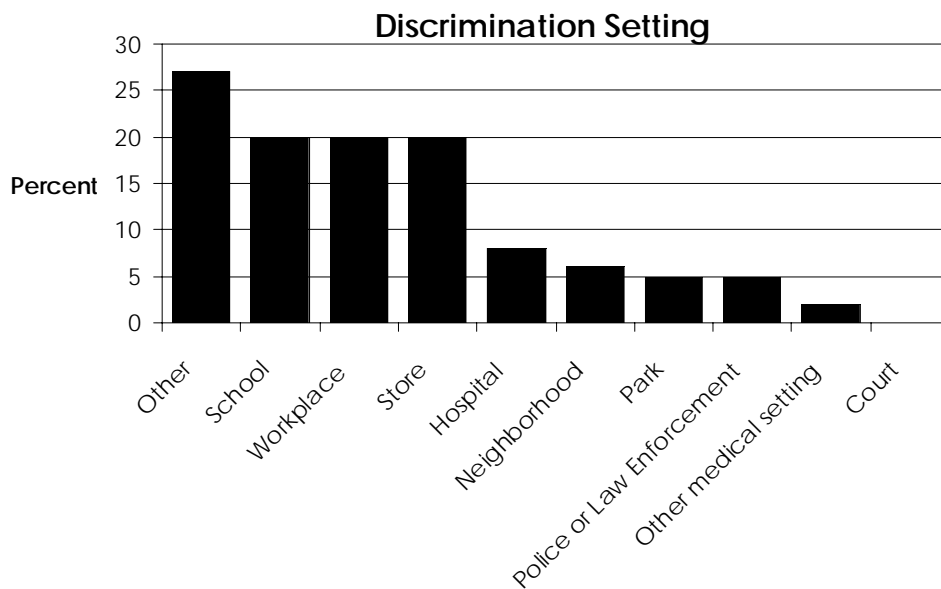
Discrimination



Points of Interest

The LIFE Report Community Survey asked each respondent the following question: "In the past year, have you or someone in your family experienced discrimination in Portage County?"

- 68 out of 488 or 14% of respondents report that they or someone in their families have been discriminated against in the last year.
- Of those, 20% reported discrimination based on disability and 19% based on race.
- 13% of females and 15% of males in Portage County have been discriminated against in the past year.
- 14% of respondents were rural residents, with an equal 14% from urban areas.
- Residents rate diversity a 5.5 on a seven-point scale as important for the community.





Community Demographics

Points of Interest

- ☞ Over 50% of the county population resides in the Stevens Point/Plover urban area. The five largest municipalities are the City of Stevens Point, the Village of Plover and the Towns of Hull, Stockton, and Plover.
- ☞ According to the WI Department of Administration, population projections for the year 2025 predict a 13% increase for Portage County, a rate comparable to the state average growth rate. Stevens Point is projected to grow by 16% by 2025.
- ☞ Projections by the WI Department of Administration also indicate that like most counties in Wisconsin, Portage County can expect an "aging" of the population. While the increase in average age is less severe than in many Wisconsin Counties, the trend for Portage County is undeniable. Part of the reason Portage County will see less of an aging effect is the location of a University of Wisconsin campus in Stevens Point and its ability to attract an unusually large younger cohort into the county. The median age of residents in 2006 was 35.

	2000	2006
Total Population	67,182	67,484
Gender		
Male	49.8%	49.8%
Female	50.2%	50.2%
Age		
Median Age	33.0 yrs	35.1 yrs
Under 5 years	5.9%	5.6%
18 years and over	75.9%	78.5%
65 years and over	10.9%	11.2%
Race		
White	95.7%	95.1%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.5%
Asian	2.2%	2.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	<0.1%	0.1%
Some other race	0.4%	0.7%
Two or more races	0.9%	1.0%
Households		
Average household size	2.54	2.44
Average family size	3.07	2.87
Families in Poverty	4.4%	4.8%
Median Household Income	\$43,487	\$52,354

Source: US Census Bureau