



Portage County Health Status

Portage County Health Strengths and Challenges





See next page for "Key Terms"

	Portage County	Wisconsin	Rank
Strengths			
Mortality (years of potential life lost/100,000 population)	4664	6086	5
Physical Activity (%)	33.8%	46.8%	1
Motor Vehicle Crash-Related ER visits-non-traffic (per 100,000 population)	46.1	90.7	3
Challenges			
Less Than 5 a Day (% < 5 fruit/veg a day)	82.5%	77.9%	58
Binge Drinking (%)	27.6%	24.0%	58
Nitrate Levels in Water (% population exposed)	90.5%	29.3%	73
Cancer Risk (# of cases per 1,000,000 population)	20.1	28.4	52

Source: UW Population Health Institute's 2007 Wisconsin County Health Rankings Report

Note: Although there are only 72 counties in Wisconsin, Portage County received a 73 ranking for Nitrate levels because the city of Milwaukee is counted separately from all other counties within the Health Institute's Report.

Points of Interest

-  According to the 2007 Wisconsin County Health Rankings conducted by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Portage County ranks #6 out of 72 counties in the state for overall health.
-  Health care issues were prominent in the LIFE Report Community Survey. Health care costs received a 6.1 rating on a seven-point scale for all community issues. This rating held true both for rural and urban residents.
-  Female respondents (6.3) considered health costs more important than male respondents (5.8).
-  According to the same UW Health Institute report, 8% of those surveyed under age 65 indicated that they did not have health insurance coverage of any kind, including prepaid plans, HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid, at the time of the survey.

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Portage County Health Status



Key Terms

Mortality is measured as the years of potential life lost (YPLL) prior to age 75. For example, persons who die at age 65 are considered to have lost 10 "potential" years of life.

Regular physical activity

UW Population Health Institute defines regular physical activity as 30 minutes/day of moderate activity for 5 or more days each week OR 20 minutes/day of vigorous activity for three or more days each week.

139 telephone survey participants and 33.8% reported being inactive; the lowest percentage of inactivity.

Motor Vehicle Crash-Related ER visits--

non-traffic is a measure of the annual average of residents who visit an emergency room due to injuries sustained in boating or non-traffic motor vehicle (including ATVs and snowmobile) accidents. *Because alcohol use is a factor in many non-traffic motor vehicle crashes, this measure is a proxy for alcohol use while operating a non-traffic vehicle.*

Less Than 5 a Day is a measure of the percentage of the population that consumes less than 5 servings of fruits and/or vegetables per day.

Binge Drinking is a measure of the percentage of the population that drinks more than five alcoholic beverages in one day, at least once per month.

See page 29 for more information about alcohol abuse in Portage County.

Nitrate Levels in Water measures the presence of nitrates in the private and municipal water supply above the Preventative Action Level of 2 mg/L. *Among other negative health effects, nitrates in drinking water are responsible for blue baby syndrome and can cause birth defects.*

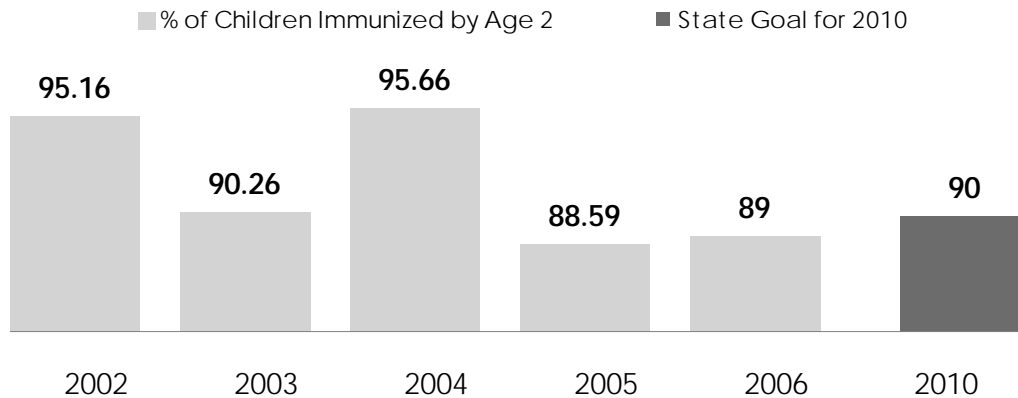
See pages 45, 46 & 49 of "Environment" for information on nitrates in Portage County.

Cancer Risk is a measure of the lifetime cancer risk attributable to inhalation of air pollutants. This risk is based on EPA modeling of emissions converted to the median percentile distribution of risk across census tracts and reported as the incidence of cancer per 1,000,000 people.



Child Immunizations

Two year old immunization rate



Sources: Regional Early Childhood Immunization Network, Portage County Health & Human Services

Points of Interest

☞ The immunization data shown above represents the number of children who have completed recommended vaccinations by the age of two. While the Portage county immunization rates historically have been high, they have seen a decline in the past two years. According to Portage County Health & Human Services, the decline is primarily related to the following:

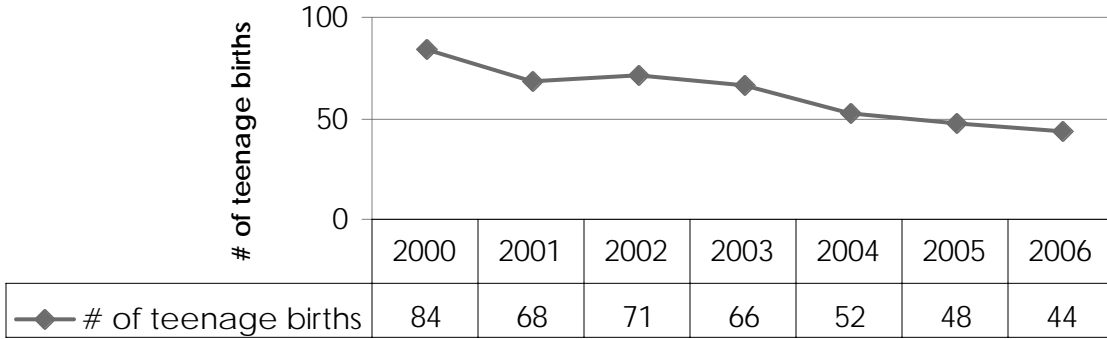
- an increase in the number of vaccinations recommended for children under the age of two. Some parents choose to complete the recommended series in more than two years.
- a decrease in "overdue letters" and follow-up efforts by private clinics. Portage County Public Health continues to do community-wide recall letters to parents to advise them that a child is overdue for a recommended vaccination.
- an increase in the transient population within Portage County - some children start their vaccinations within our county but leave before completing the two year series

☞ Ongoing, consistent community effort is necessary to reach and maintain the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90% of children fully immunized by age two.



Teen Birth Rate

Teenage Births



Number of Births to Teens in Portage County

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Age 18-19	60	48	47	52	40	36	31
Age 15-17	24	20	23	13	12	12	13
Under Age 15	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Total	84	68	71	66	52	48	44

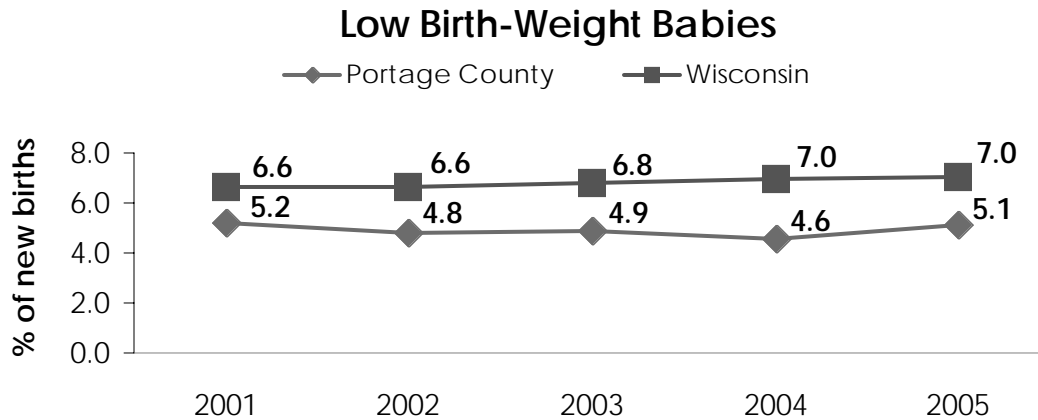
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

Point of Interest

The teen birth rate in Portage County has declined 48% from 2000 to 2006.



Low Birth-Weight Babies



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

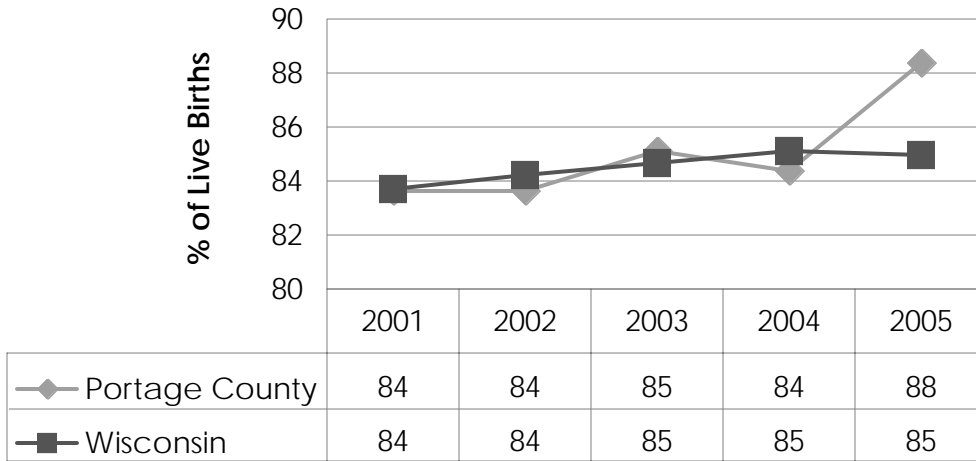
Point of Interest

👉 According to the Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services, Low Birth Weight (LBW) is defined as birth weight under 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). It is the second leading cause of infant death, and the leading cause of infant death among African Americans. Risk factors include short interpregnancy interval, low pre-pregnancy weight, inadequate weight gain during pregnancy, history of LBW or preterm birth, cigarette smoking, and socioeconomic factors.





Prenatal Care

**Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care
in First Trimester**



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

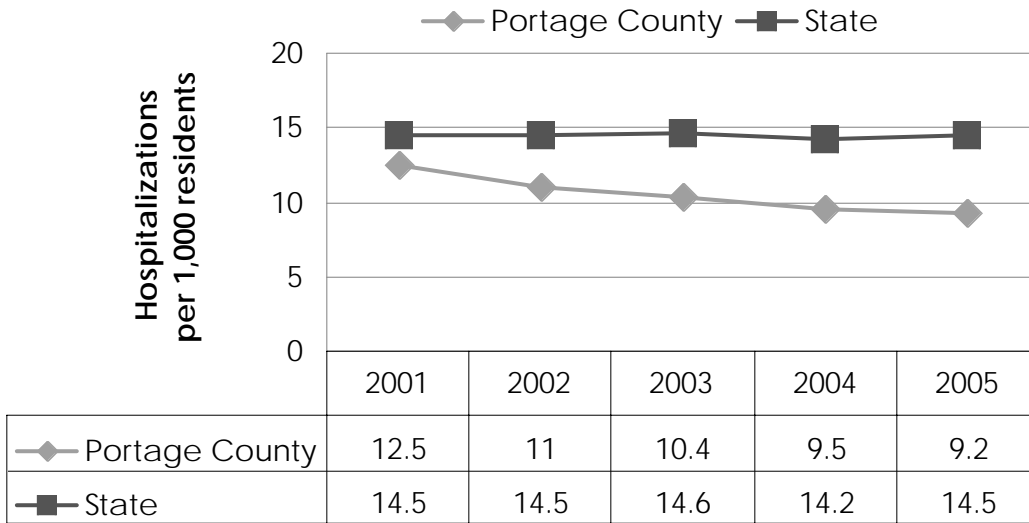
Points of Interest

-  Prenatal care that begins in the first trimester of pregnancy increases the chances of a healthy birth and a healthy baby. When care is delayed, or not received at all, the quality of life for the mother and child is put at risk.
-  In 2005, 75% of mothers between ages 15 and 17 received prenatal care during the first trimester. This is a dramatic improvement since the year 2000 when only 54.2% of mothers aged 15-17 received care during the first trimester.




Preventable Hospitalizations

Preventable Hospitalization Rate



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

Point of Interest

 The Wisconsin Hospital Association provides a service called CheckPoint, www.wicheckpoint.org, that gives a snapshot of Wisconsin hospital's performance in key areas. With this information, the public can see how often each hospital provides recommended care for patients with certain conditions or the progress hospitals have made towards national patient safety goals. This information may be used to compare how different hospitals perform and to promote quality improvement efforts within hospitals. 128 Wisconsin hospitals voluntarily collect and report standardized data on CheckPoint.

Key Term

Preventable Hospitalization

defined by the Wisconsin Department of Health as a hospitalization for a condition where timely and effective ambulatory care can reduce the likelihood of hospitalization by:

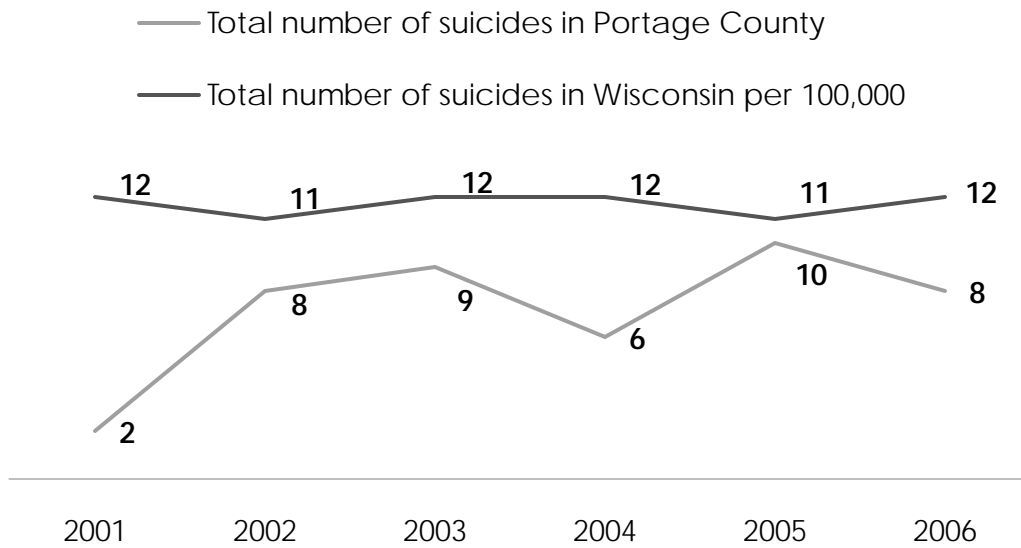
- preventing the onset of an illness or condition
- controlling an acute episodic illness or condition
- managing a chronic disease or condition





Suicide

Suicide



Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

Point of Interest

 Males committed six out of the eight Portage County suicides in 2006.



Alcohol & Substance Abuse

Points of Interest

- ☞ According to the LIFE Report Community Survey, alcohol/drug abuse issues were rated 5.6 on a seven-point scale. This rating held true both for rural and urban respondents.
- ☞ Female respondents (5.7) considered alcohol/drug abuse issues as more important than male respondents (5.3).
- ☞ **Along with binge drinking, a 2006 survey by the Portage County Coalition for Alcohol/Drug Abuse of Human Resource Directors and CEO's in Portage County found:**
 - 86% of respondents felt that substance abuse affects employees.
 - 46% of respondents have seen productivity suffer because of substance abuse.
- ☞ **According to a 2004 Search Institute survey of Portage County teens:**
 - 60% of teens reported using alcohol one or more times in the last 12 months.
 - 24% of teens reported having five drinks in a row one more times in the last two weeks.
 - 14% of teens reported driving a car one or more times after drinking in the last 12 months.
 - 47% of teens reported they had been at a party in the last 12 months where kids their age were drinking.
- ☞ **According to the Stevens Point Police Department:**

As of May, 2007, the average blood alcohol rate for those arrested in 2007 was more than twice the legal limit.
- ☞ **According to the UW Population Health Institute Report:**

In 2006, of 331 telephone survey participants, 27.6% reported binge drinking. Portage County ranked #58 out of 69 surveyed counties--the 11th highest rate of binge drinking in the state.
- ☞ Binge drinking is a measure of the percentage of the population that drinks more than five alcoholic beverages in one day, at least once per month. From 2000-2005, this measure was based on answers to the question, "Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have five or more drinks on an occasion?" In 2006, binge drinking was defined as five or more drinks on an occasion for men, and four or more drinks for women.
- ☞ Alcohol abuse can have lasting effects on organs such as the liver, heart, brain and stomach, and can also cause short-term psychological problems, including violence and drunk driving.



Tobacco Use

Smokers in Portage County

Smokers in Portage County	Number of Smokers	Percent
Adults over age 18	9,710	91%
High School Youth	760	7.10%
Middle School Youth	200	1.90%
Total	10,670	

Source: The Burden of Tobacco Report, 2004





Portage County Deaths Directly Related to Smoking

Cause of Death	Average Annual Deaths	% Due to Smoking
Lung Cancer	26	78%
Other Smoking-Related Cancers	21	28%
Cardiovascular Disease	164	13%
Respiratory Disease	31	52%
Other Causes (not associated with smoking)	196	0%
All Causes	438	14%

Note: Portage County Deaths Directly Related to Smoking are based on 2000-2004 mortality data.
Source: The Burden of Tobacco Report, 2000-2004

Points of Interest

According to the 2004 Burden of Tobacco report, a collaboration of the University of Wisconsin Tobacco Surveillance and Evaluation Program, the American Cancer Society and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program:

-  In Portage County, approximately 63 people die annually of illnesses directly related to smoking.
-  In 2003, an estimated \$2.2 billion in health care costs were paid in Wisconsin as a result of diseases caused by smoking, with \$26.4 million paid in Portage County.
-  In 2003, estimated health care costs of cigarette smoking were approximately \$390 for every man, woman and child in Portage County.
-  In 2004, there were over 384 million packs of cigarettes sold in Wisconsin. Residents of Portage County spent approximately \$14.4 million on 3,780,000 packs of cigarettes in 2004.





Communicable Diseases

Portage County Communicable Disease Cases

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Chlamydia	90	94	106	128	153
Genital Herpes	29	32	45	40	63
Gonorrhea	5	8	9	14	6
AIDS/HIV	1	2	3	3	3
Total STDs	125	136	163	185	225
Lyme Disease	38	56	42	52	88
Hepatitis C	16	17	18	38	22
Giardiasis	8	10	12	39	22
Overall Total	187	219	235	314	357

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

Points of Interest

-  While the number of cases fluctuates, the recent trend for communicable disease has recently been on the rise.
-  Portage County ranks #53 in the state for sexually transmitted disease cases.