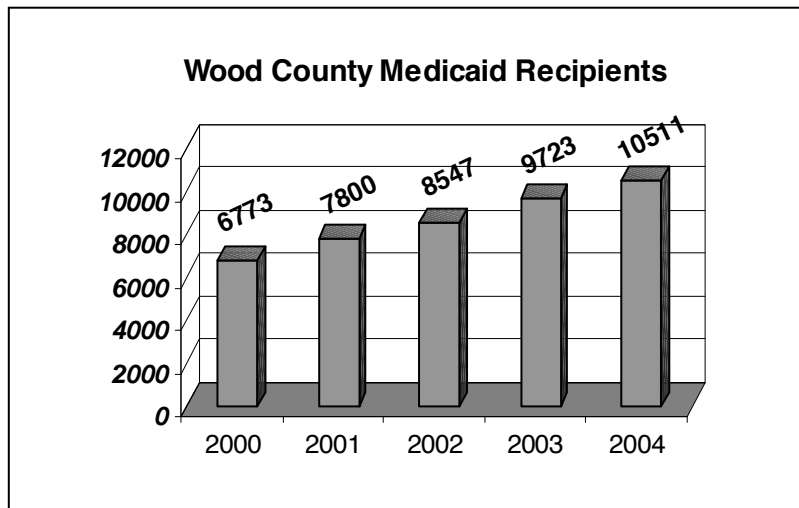


Percentage of Wood County Residents Living in Poverty



Key Facts

- The United States Census Bureau estimates that in 1999, 4851 individuals, or 6.5% of Wood County's population were living in poverty.
- In 1999, 904 families in Wood County, or 7.4% of all families were living in poverty. 700 of those families included children less than 18 years of age.
- Wood County's poverty rate has been consistently lower than the Wisconsin state rate. In 1999, the individual rate in Wood County was 6.5%, whereas the state rate was 8.7%.

Why is this Information Important?

Living in poverty negatively affects the quality of life. People who live in poverty do not have adequate income to meet housing, nutritional, health, and other basic needs.

People in poverty

The official definition of poverty is set forth each year by the federal government. The poverty line is defined to be three times the income needed to purchase the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan. For 2005, the U.S. poverty level was set at \$19,350 for a family of four.

Women are most likely to be victims of poverty. Across Wisconsin, 21.7 % of female households, with no husband present in 1999, were living below the poverty line compared with 5.6% of married couple households. Gender, age, and race all play a role in poverty. Education level, unemployment, and teen pregnancy have proven to be direct correlations to poverty.

Sources: US Census Bureau; Wood County Department of Social Services