

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

The giving season: How we rank in charitable giving

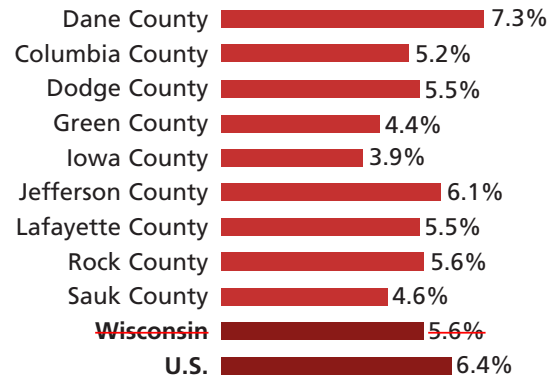
Wisconsin is an average state when it comes to the number of households and after-tax income. That is not the case when comparing charitable giving in Wisconsin to the rest of the nation. In a recent study by the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College, Wisconsin ranks 40th out of the 50 states in charitable contributions. The study considers the financial capacity of the population and is based on after-tax income adjusted for the local cost of living in each state.

In 2004, two percent of the U.S. households resided in Wisconsin and generated two percent of the after-tax income in the U.S. However, the state's share of charitable contributions in the U.S. in 2004 was only 1.5%. If Wisconsin had been average in charitable giving, there would have been an additional \$995 million to support charitable causes.

Within Wisconsin, Dane County is doing more than its share of charitable giving. Based on a 2003 (the latest available) study by the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Dane county residents donated 7.3% of discretionary income to charity. This compares to a national average of 6.4%. However, the other counties in the region did not fare as well and were all below the national average.

Giving in the capital region

Percentage of discretionary income given to charity in 2003:



SOURCES: Center on Wealth and Philanthropy Charitable giving Indices: Social Indicators of Philanthropy by State, Center on Wealth and Philanthropy, Boston College, November 3, 2006, <http://www.bc.edu/research/swr/features/givingindices/>, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, May 1, 2003, "How Americans Give". For more information on charitable giving in Wisconsin, see: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/Indicators_Links.htm#philanthropy

Part one of this month's series on non-profit organizations

Next week:
How many non-profits are there in the area?

Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin Extension.

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