

# The Wisconsin RISE Target Population

Developed by the **Center on Wisconsin Strategy**<sup>1</sup> for RISE

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WI Population: <sup>2</sup>	<b>5,654,800</b>
WI Adult Labor Force (ages 25-54): <sup>3</sup>	<b>2,027,300</b>
WI Median Wage: <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$15.68</b>

Wisconsin
RISE Target Population as percentage of WI adult labor force:
<b>35.0%</b>

WI Workers Who Need Better Skills and Wages	Number
WI adults (ages 25-54) with no college credential <sup>5</sup> and/or poor English skills <sup>6</sup>	1,433,200
Number of those who worked last year <sup>7</sup>	1,220,100
Number of those who earned poverty level wages <sup>8</sup>	<b>304,200</b>
Number of those working above the poverty wage, but below the state median wage	+ <b>369,500</b>
WI adults with no college degree and/or poor English who are unemployed <sup>9</sup>	+ <b>35,200</b>
<b>WI RISE Target Population</b>	= <b>708,900</b>

WI Target Population Demographics			
<i>Race/Ethnicity:</i>			
549,000	white non-Hispanic	→	30.0 % of white adults in the labor force
60,300	black non-Hispanic	→	53.1 % of black adults in the labor force
69,600	Hispanic	→	64.5 % of Hispanic adults in the labor force
30,000	other non-Hispanic	→	38.3 % of other adults in the labor force
<i>Gender:</i>			
341,800	men	→	30.0 % of adult men in the labor force
367,100	women	→	36.7 % of adult women in the labor force
<i>Age:</i>			
250,700	25 to 34 years old	→	38.7 % of 25 - 34 year olds in the labor force
458,200	35 to 54 years old	→	30.8 % of 35 - 54 year olds in the labor force
<i>Education:</i> <sup>10, 11</sup>			
112,400	No HS degree	→	75.6 % of adults in the labor force with no HS degree
356,600	HS or GED degree	→	56.5 % of adults in the labor force with only HS/GED
236,700	Some College, no degree	→	49.2 % of adults in the labor force with some college and no degree
<i>Geography:</i>			
15,100	in Madison	→	16.3 % of adult labor force in Madison
108,100	in Milwaukee	→	47.2 % of adult labor force in Milwaukee
585,600	in the rest of state	→	32.2 % of adult labor force in rest of the state

Source: COWS calculations based on American Community Survey 2010, U.S. Census Bureau.

## NOTES

1. <http://www.cows.org>

2. State population is calculated from the ACS 2010 data set, by using the weights provided by the Census Bureau. Thus, the figures can differ slightly from the state population as reported by the Census Bureau in estimations based on Census data.

3. The number of adults in the labor force is calculated from the ACS dataset, by excluding individuals whose employment status is re-coded by the Census Bureau as "not in labor force", and who are between 25 and 54 years old.

4. Hourly wages are calculated by using the number of weeks worked during the past 12 months (*wkw* variable in ACS data set). The figure is originally provided in six discrete intervals (less than 14 weeks worked; 14 to 26; 27 to 39; 40 to 47; 48 to 49; and 50 to 52). The number of weeks worked by an individual are imputed by using the median of the given interval. Hourly wages are then calculated by dividing the total wages received during the last 12 months (*wagp*), divided by the product of the (imputed) number of weeks worked and the average number of hours worked per week, as reported by the interviewee. The resulting average hourly wage is adjusted using the inflation adjustment variable provided by the Census Bureau (*adjink*), and by adjusting these hourly wages from its value in dollars of July 2010 to average dollars for 2010, using the CPI deflator provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpiait.txt>

5. The "No college credential" group is composed by individuals who have completed (only) grades 1 to 11 (or less); or have attended 12th grade without getting a diploma; or have only a regular high school diploma; or have only GED or alternative credential; or have attended less than one year of college; or have attended one or more years of college credit, but have obtained no degree. i.e. the definition excludes Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees; and professional degrees beyond a bachelor's degree. Further decomposition of the population in this group is provided at the bottom of the page.

6. The "poor English skills" group is composed by individuals who are reported as having an "Ability to speak English" which is coded as "Not well" or "Not at all".

7. A person is counted as having worked last year if the number of "Weeks worked during past 12 months" is bigger than zero.

8. We define the poverty-level wage threshold in such a way that, if a worker earn less than that amount per hour, she cannot make enough money to keep a family of four out of poverty, even if she works full time during the whole year. In practice, we calculate the current poverty threshold for a family of four individuals in which two of them are children under 18 years of age (\$22,113 in 2010), divided by (40 hours of work, times 52 weeks a year) (full time employment). Following this definition, the poverty-level wage in 2010 was \$10.63 per hour. The poverty threshold is taken from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/>

9. This group is composed by adults who have not worked in the last 12 months (and thus have not been counted in previous rows), and whose employment status is coded as "unemployed" (note that these individuals are technically in the labor force). By including them in our target population, we are most likely capturing individuals in the relevant age-education population who have been unemployed for more than twelve months; and individuals returning to the labor force in recent months, who have not yet been able to find work. Both groups are likely to benefit from additional skills and wages.

10. Note that the sum of the three educational categories do not exactly add-up to the Target population. The reason is that there are a few cases of individuals in the population who have a College degree, but who have poor English skills. These individuals appear in the Target Population but are not counted in any of the educational groups detailed at the bottom of the page.

11. The percentages in this section are all bigger than the percentage presented in the upper-right part of the sheet because –unlike the case of the Race, Gender, and Age variables– the three educational groups do not account for the whole labor force. For the two categories missing (college graduates, and post graduates) the percentage of individuals in the Target Population are, by definition, negligible.