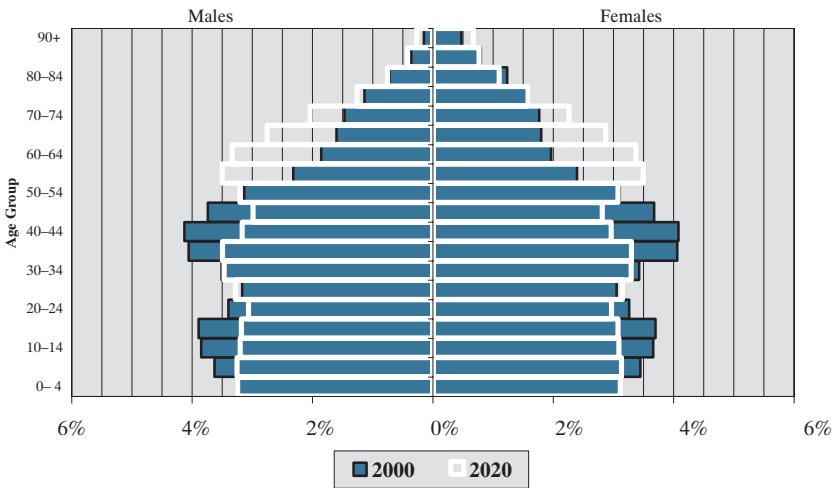


Figure 18 is one example of a population pyramid. Each horizontal bar shows the share of the population belonging to a particular age-sex group. For example, in the 2000 Census, young females ages 5 to 9 constituted approximately 3.4% of the state's population. The white outline shows the anticipated population pyramid (based on formal population forecasts) for Wisconsin's population in the year 2020. Twenty years from the most recent census, the relative share of the population between the ages of 5 and 24 and between 35 and 49 will decline. On the other hand, the share of the population in ages above age 55 will increase substantially as the baby boom generation moves into their retirement years. This "graying of the population" is a trend that speaks clearly regarding some of the challenges the state will face in coming years in the areas of social, health and housing policy.

Figure 18

Population by Age and Sex, Wisconsin: 2000 & 2020 (Projected)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000; Wisconsin Department of Administration, Population Projections 2002

Race and Ethnic Diversity


Since 1790, every population census in the United States has collected information on the racial and ethnic makeup of the population. Responding in part to changes in patterns of immigration (movement from abroad) and, in part, to evolving social or cultural views on race and ethnicity, the number of specific race and ethnic groups identified in the census has changed and generally increased over time. Presently there are clear rules at the federal level – defined by a statistical policy unit in, of all places, the Executive Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – which stipulate how race and ethnicity data are statistically (note, *not* culturally or anthropologically) defined. These regulations state how statistical data on race and ethnicity are to be gathered and tabulated by federal agencies. The decennial census must adhere to these rules. It is important to understand that, as

defined by the OMB, race and ethnicity are separate concepts. Since the 1980 Census, ethnicity in census data refers to whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not of Hispanic origin. So, people of a specific racial background (like White, Black or American Indian) can be Hispanic or not Hispanic. Likewise, Hispanics can be of any race.

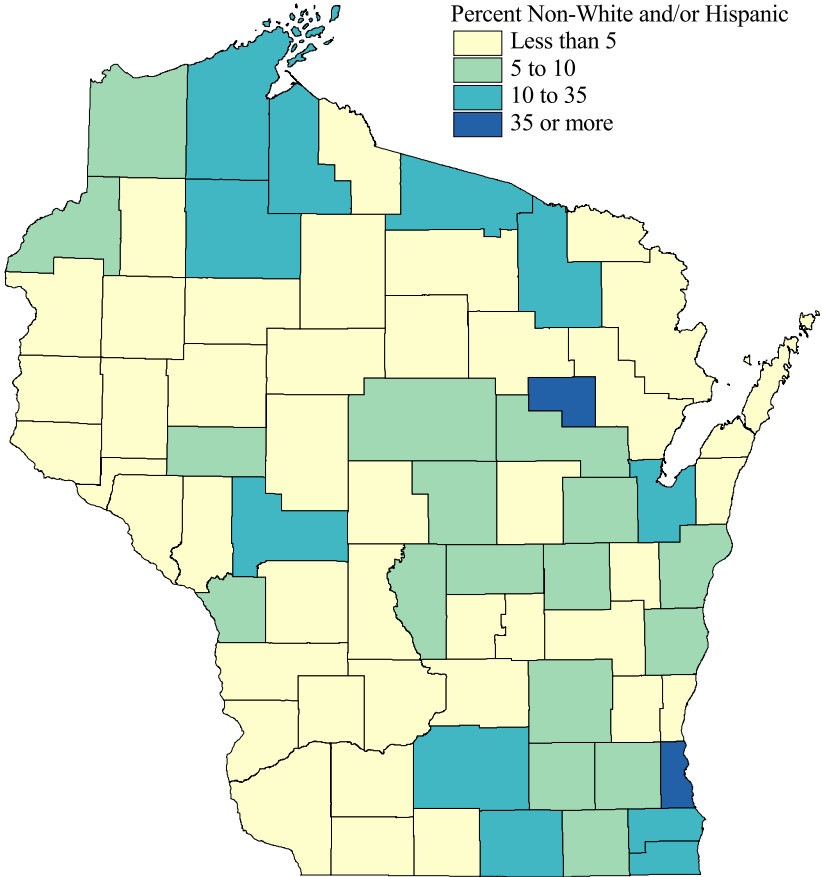
Between the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census, as a result of new OMB policy, there were two significant changes in racial categories and the way in which the questions were asked. First, the “Asian or Pacific Islander” category in 1990 was split into “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” in the 2000 Census. Second, and more profoundly, in 2000, for the first time, the census gave people the option of identifying themselves as being of two or more races (multiracial). The results from the 2000 Census show that, nationwide, 2.4% of the population identified themselves as multiracial, while, in Wisconsin, only 1.2% of the state’s population chose this option. To simplify discussion, the racial categories used in this report represent persons who identify themselves as being of a single race and the information presented on the Hispanic or Latino population encompasses Hispanics of all races. However, it appears that allowing people to identify as being of two or more races did have a significant effect on the data for Wisconsin’s American Indian population, a point which will be discussed in more detail shortly.

When the first data from Census 2000 began to be released in 2001, one of the most widely discussed and examined topics was the continuing racial and ethnic diversification of the population. For the United States as a whole, and for many states, the last few decades of the 20th century brought very rapid change and increase in racial and ethnic diversity. Much of this was fueled by large-scale immigration, primarily from Latin America and Asia. In general, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Hispanics represent increasing shares of the nation’s population and of many state populations.

Between 1990 and 2000, Wisconsin experienced relatively small, but nonetheless significant changes in the racial and ethnic makeup of its population. While persons of color (people who are non-White and/or Hispanic) still represent a small portion of Wisconsin’s total population, their share of the state’s total population rose from 7.8% in 1990 to 11.1% in 2000. In 1990, there were only five counties in which persons of color made up at least 10% of the total population. By 2000, 13 of the 72 counties had reached that level. In terms of numbers, Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians make up most of Wisconsin’s racial ethnic population. However, as seen in Figure 19, a number of counties with a large American Indian presence (reservations and/or tribal lands) are among those with the highest percentages of racial ethnic populations. (All of the maps in this section of the report use corrected census data resulting from the erroneous assignment of the Oxford Correctional Facility to Marquette County.) Figure 20 shows the race/ethnic mix for the state as a whole.

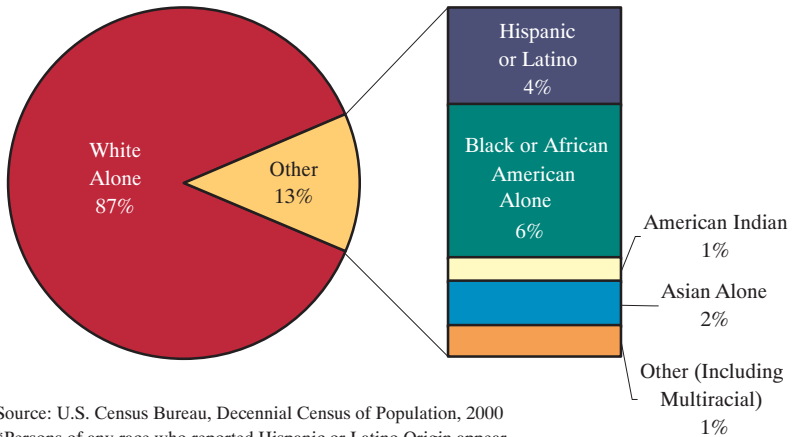
Figure 19 

Percent Minority, Wisconsin Counties: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 20
Race and Ethnic Makeup*: Wisconsin, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

*Persons of any race who reported Hispanic or Latino Origin appear only in the category of Hispanic or Latino.

Note: Rounding of percentages causes separate race/Hispanic totals to sum to 14%.

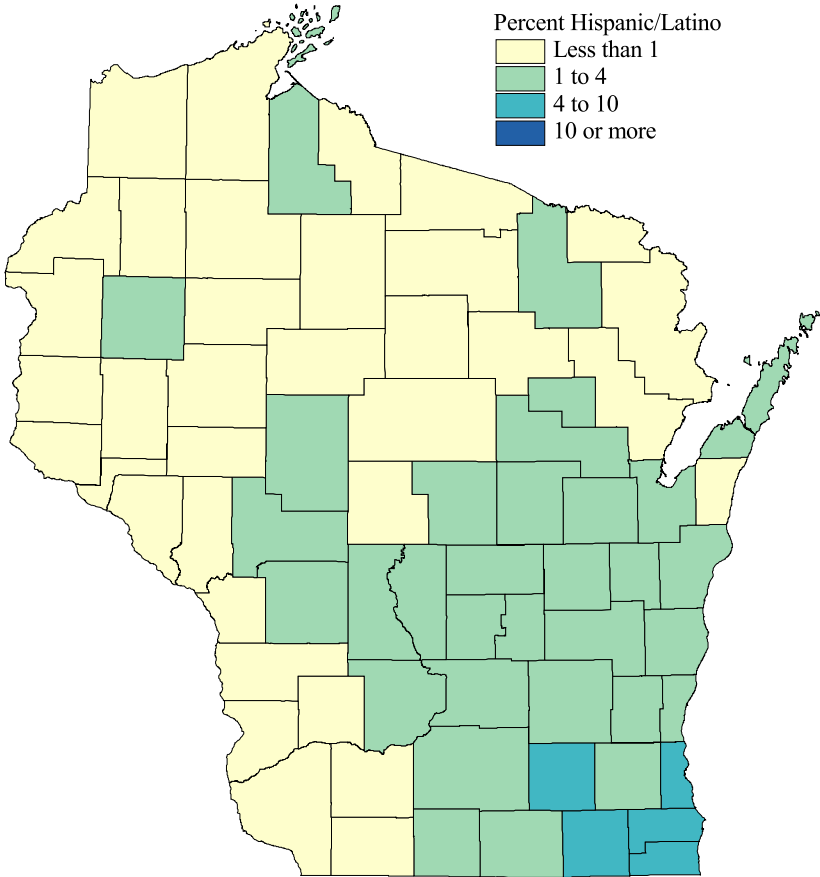
One of the most talked about notions surrounding changes in racial ethnic makeup was that of states, counties and cities that have recently become “majority minority” – that is, where the population of racial ethnic minorities outnumbers the population of White, non-Hispanics (sometimes referred to as Anglos). During the decade of the 90’s, California became a “majority minority” state. And, indeed, Milwaukee (55%), along with a handful of other large cities across the nation, transitioned into being a “majority minority” city between 1990 and 2000. A number of small towns (Menominee, Sanborn, Komensky, Russell, Bartelme, Lac du Flambeau, Couderay, & Red Springs), all either on or near American Indian reservations in Wisconsin, also were “majority minority” municipalities in 2000.

Hispanic or Latino Population. One of the most profound changes in Wisconsin’s racial/ethnic mix was the growth in the Hispanic/Latino population. Hispanics have had a long history in Wisconsin primarily as migrant agricultural workers who might spend a few months out of each year in Wisconsin before moving on to follow crops elsewhere. During the last few decades, and particularly in the 90’s, more Hispanics or Latinos settled into Wisconsin communities and were counted in the census. Between 1990 and 2000, Hispanics/Latinos were the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in Wisconsin. Overall, the population of Hispanics/Latinos more than doubled, increasing from 93,000 to 193,000. By 2000, the Hispanic/Latino population represented 3.6% of the total population of Wisconsin. A large proportion of the state’s Hispanic/Latino population is concentrated in the southeastern corner of Wisconsin (Fig. 21). Four counties have more than 10,000 Hispanic/

Figure 21



Percent Hispanic/Latino, Wisconsin Counties: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Latino residents: Milwaukee (82,000), Racine (15,000), Dane (14,000), and Kenosha (11,000).

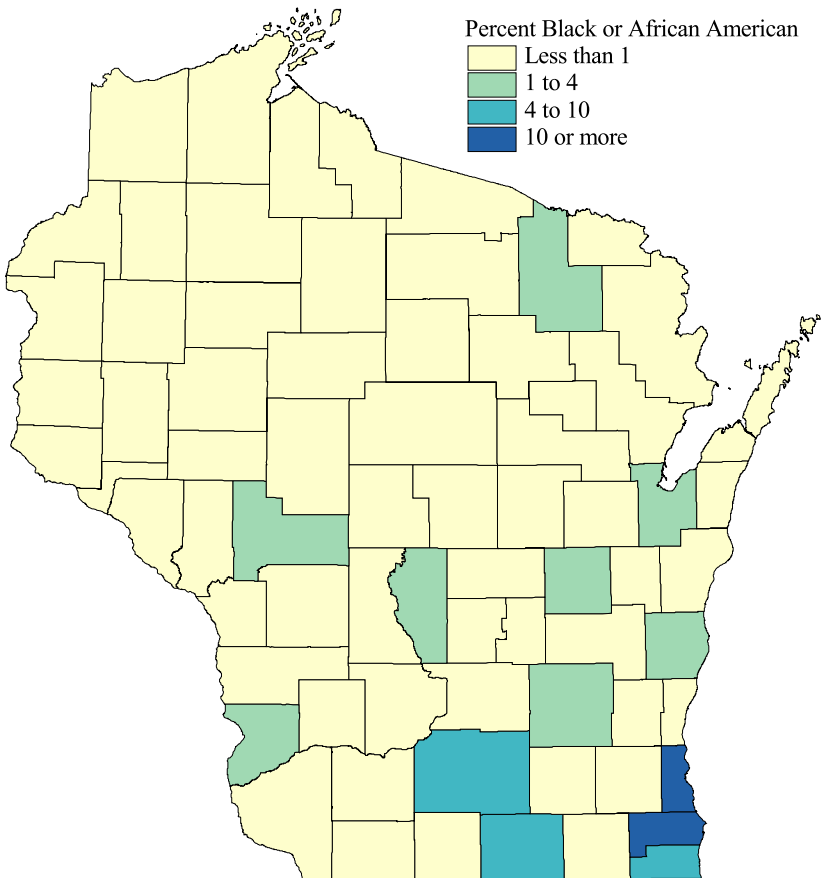
As seen in Figure 22, however, there was significant growth in the Hispanic/Latino population in most counties in Wisconsin. While the growth in small or rural counties represents relatively small numbers of people, the changes here are perhaps even more profound than in the large urban centers in southeastern Wisconsin where the numbers are higher. Attracted by jobs or perhaps making a decision to settle into communities after long periods of seasonal labor, people of Hispanic/Latino origin are coming to small Wisconsin communities, and bringing (often abruptly) new racial and ethnic diversification to these communities. It is clear that migration of Hispanic/Latinos to Wisconsin is tied, to a large degree, to the avail-

ulation is of Mexican heritage and a huge number of those who claim Mexican heritage moved to the U.S. and to Wisconsin between 1990 and 2000.

Black or African American Population. Over the last half century, Wisconsin's largest race/ethnic group has been Blacks or African Americans and, indeed, many of the largest cities have vibrant Black communities that have helped shape the culture and politics of urban Wisconsin. This remains true through the 2000 Census, and in 2000 Blacks or African Americans represented almost 6% of the state's total population. Between 1990 and 2000, the Black population in Wisconsin increased by 24%, growing from approximately 245,000 in 1990 to 300,000 in 2000.

Figure 23

**Percent Black or African American,
Wisconsin Counties: 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

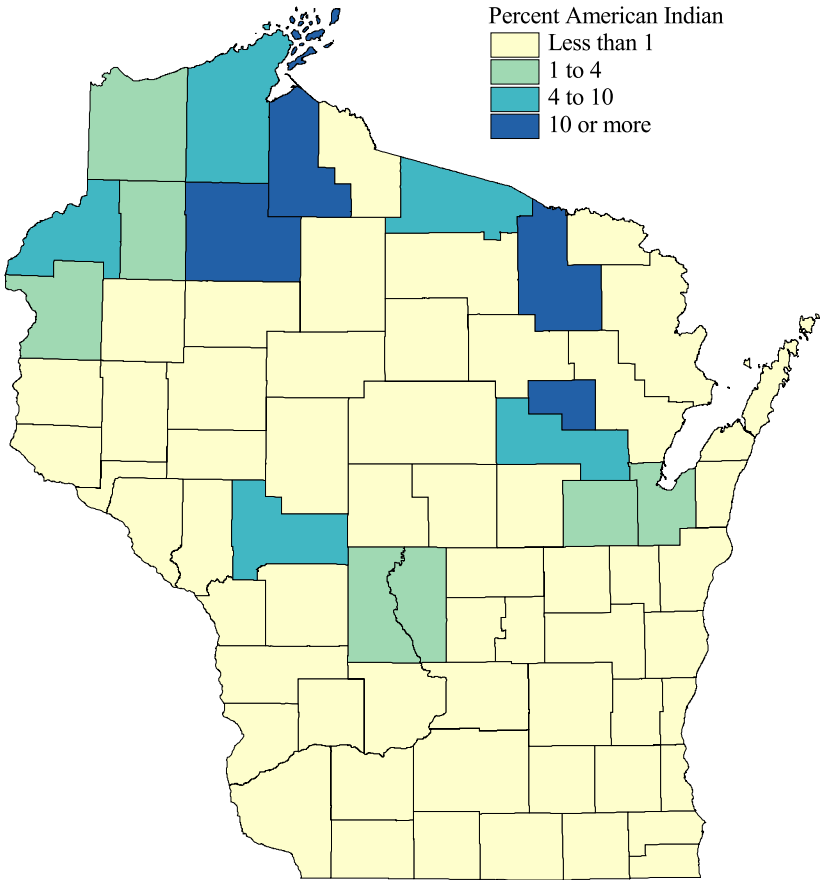
Most of the state's Black population resides in southeastern and south central Wisconsin (Fig. 23). The five counties with the largest Black populations are: Milwaukee (231,000), Racine (20,000), Dane (17,000), Kenosha (8,000), and Rock (7,000). Nearly 76% of Black or African American persons in Wisconsin reside in Milwaukee County alone. Two counties have Black populations that are more than 10% of the population: Milwaukee (24.6%) and Racine (10.5%).

African Americans in Wisconsin currently are, and have always been, a predominantly urban population. In 2000, just over 98% of the Black population lived in urban areas. Even more starkly, 87% of Wisconsin's Blacks live in just five cities: Milwaukee (223,000), Racine (17,000), Madison (12,000), Kenosha (7,000), and Beloit (5,000).

American Indian Population. American Indians have been a vital and significant population throughout Wisconsin's history and, certainly, for hundreds of years prior to statehood. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of American Indians increased by nearly 20% and now stands at just under 44,000. Geographically, American Indians have a strong presence not only in those counties that have reservations or tribal lands but also in a number of urban counties. In 2000, the largest populations of American Indians were in Milwaukee County (7,000), Brown County (5,000) and Menominee County (4,000).

When considered as a percentage of the total population, northern Wisconsin counties have the highest percentages of American Indian residents. Four counties have populations that are more than 10% American Indian: Menominee (87%), Sawyer (16%), Forest (11%), and Ashland (10%) (Fig. 24).

As earlier mentioned, there is some evidence that the new opportunity offered in the 2000 Census for people to identify themselves as multiracial had a large impact on the "count" of American Indians in Wisconsin – perhaps a larger impact than for any other race group. Because of this change, it is not possible to know exactly how many residents who identified themselves as American Indian in the 1990 Census might have identified themselves as being multiracial in the 2000 Census (or vice versa). However, taking just the number of Wisconsin residents (16,157) who identified themselves as being American Indian *and* White in the 2000 Census, it seems likely that the "count" of American Indians in Census 2000 would have been substantially higher without the new multirace option. There is no question that because of a long social history together and more opportunities for living in the same communities that there are many people in Wisconsin who have both American Indian and White heritage. The decision to identify as both in the census may be emblematic of a certain pride in acknowledging American Indian culture. It may also be driven by a desire to reclaim tribal identity or may be just a reflection of a richer, more diverse, multicultural population. Whatever the reasons, when thinking about population growth and change for American Indians in Wisconsin, it may be particularly useful to include both those who identified themselves as "American Indian alone" and those who included American Indian as part of a multirace response (Fig. 25).

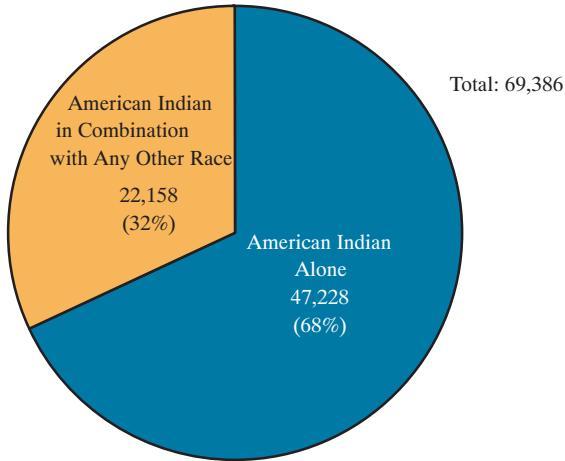
Figure 24 **Percent American Indian, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Asian Population. Along with Hispanics/Latinos, Asians are a relatively “recent” race/ethnic population in Wisconsin – one that has grown very rapidly over the last few decades through immigration from abroad or migration from elsewhere in the U.S. By 2000, Asians were the third largest racial group (89,000) in Wisconsin and represented just under 2% of the state’s total population.

Although the Asian population is concentrated in southeastern and south central Wisconsin, there also are large numbers of Asian residents in the central and east central regions of the state. The counties with the five largest Asian populations are: Milwaukee (24,000), Dane (15,000), Marathon (6,000), Waukesha (5,000), and Brown (5,000) (Fig. 26).

Figure 25

Persons Identifying as American Indian, Wisconsin: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

A large proportion of Wisconsin's Asian population lives in urban areas and, indeed, six cities have more than 2,500 Asian residents: Milwaukee (18,000); Madison (12,000); Wausau (4,000); Green Bay (4,000); Sheboygan (3,000); and Appleton (3,000). In addition, many of the smaller municipalities in close vicinity to these cities also have significant Asian populations.

The growth of the Asian population in Wisconsin is largely due to increases in the number of Hmong people in Wisconsin. In the 2000 Census, Hmong were by far the largest subgroup within the Asian race category. In the late 1970s, Hmong people started arriving in Wisconsin as refugees from war-weary Laos and Thailand. Often assisted by church-related social service agencies, Hmong refugees from the war in Southeast Asia were resettled in a handful of communities in Wisconsin. Not surprisingly, growth of the Hmong population in those communities has continued through the 2000 Census, and there is some evidence that the presence of Hmong clan leaders is a magnet for new migration. Although the Hmong population is still relatively small in Wisconsin (34,000), it has become a very visible and integral part of many Wisconsin cities.

In 2000, seven counties (Milwaukee, Marathon, Sheboygan, Outagamie, La Crosse, and Dane) had more than 2,000 Hmong persons. At the same time, there was a Hmong presence in many more counties in Wisconsin than in 1990. In 1990, 33 counties had no Hmong residents and by the 2000 Census, that number had dropped to 15.

The list of cities in Figure 27 corresponds very closely with the cities originally selected for resettlement of Hmong refugees in Wisconsin. It also is clear that smaller communities that are nearby are experiencing growth in Hmong residents.

This trend is likely to continue as the Hmong population continues to grow and is increasingly woven into the diverse fabric of Wisconsin communities.

Figure 27
**Hmong Population, Top 20 Wisconsin
 Municipalities: 2000**

Rank	Municipality	Hmong Population
1	Milwaukee city	7,682
2	Wausau city	3,504
3	Green Bay city	2,629
4	Sheboygan city	2,514
5	Appleton city	2,451
6	Madison city	1,842
7	La Crosse city	1,729
8	Eau Claire city	1,616
9	Oshkosh city	1,288
10	Manitowoc city	976
11	Stevens Point city	698
12	Weston village	486
13	Wisconsin Rapids city	470
14	Fond du Lac city	354
15	Menomonie city	274
16	Kaukauna city	245
17	Onalaska city	226
18	Menomonie town	192
19	Menasha city	175
20	Holmen village	159

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Ancestry

Ancestry is a complex cultural concept that variously refers to a person's ethnic origin or heritage. It may refer to their country of birth or birthplace of their parents (or other ancestors) prior to arrival in the United States. Ancestry in Wisconsin reflects the immigration, over the past many decades, of diverse population groups to America's urban and rural heartland. It particularly underscores the historical influx of German, Irish, Polish, and Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin. In 59 of 72 counties, these four ancestry groups dominated responses of Wisconsin residents in the 2000 Census (Fig. 28). German is by far the most common ancestry in Wisconsin, with 35% of ancestries reported by state residents as fully or partly German. This percentage is greater than for Irish (9%), Polish (8%), and Norwegian (7%) ancestries combined. In recent years, the substantial immigration of