

**FOCUSING THE EVIDENCE
AN EARLY CHILDHOOD BRIEF**

NONPROFIT CENTER OF MILWAUKEE

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

SEPTEMBER 2008

Prepared by

Michael Barndt

Jeri Rose

Jeff Arp

Todd Clausen

OVERVIEW

A comprehensive examination of Early Childhood issues requires good data. Local policy needs to work within an understanding of the scope of problems. Local planning needs to understand how problems link together, how early childhood issues fit within a larger context and where priorities should be. Local programs need to understand how the needs are distributed across neighborhoods and how challenges, trends and assets vary from one neighborhood to another.

There are gaps in our capacity to organize data in a comprehensive, detailed way. This paper explores the dimensions of the Early Childhood challenge, but in an uneven way. Gaps in knowledge are acknowledged. When quality data is available, the data is used to demonstrate how a clearer focus on place, time and inter-relationships can inform policy and program planning.

The first section – Population and Trends Overview – addresses the two most important scope issues – the demographic trends for young children and the specific trends for child poverty. Relatively current trends are only available using city-wide census data.

The second section – A Neighborhood Demographic perspective – explores a range of demographic data as patterns across the city. Neighborhood differences are the focus. Two neighborhoods on the North and South side of the city are frequently highlighted to contrast how different communities are affected in different ways by the mix of challenges and trends. Most detailed demographic information about neighborhoods is limited to the Decennial Census. (Future releases of annual Census data available in limited ways at a neighborhood level will allow more current examination of these patterns, although with limited “certainty.”)

The third section – Why Is Investment in Early Childhood Important to Milwaukee? – explores data from administrative sources that address specific challenges to early childhood policy. This section is structured within the context of a comprehensive framework for assessing and guiding early childhood policy. In some cases, only city wide data is available. In other cases, challenges can be identified at a neighborhood level. In a few instances, the allocation of resources and the impact of programs can be measured. Ideally, program specific data should be timely, place specific, outcome focused, linked to program investment and associated with broad impact as well. Although specific program outcomes are important, evidence of basic changes in the extent of child success is even more important.

The third section begins to model how data can be used in an effective way. The many gaps in sufficient data suggest a need to build and sustain routine access and use of data to guide community policy and programs.

POPULATION AND POVERTY TRENDS OVERVIEW

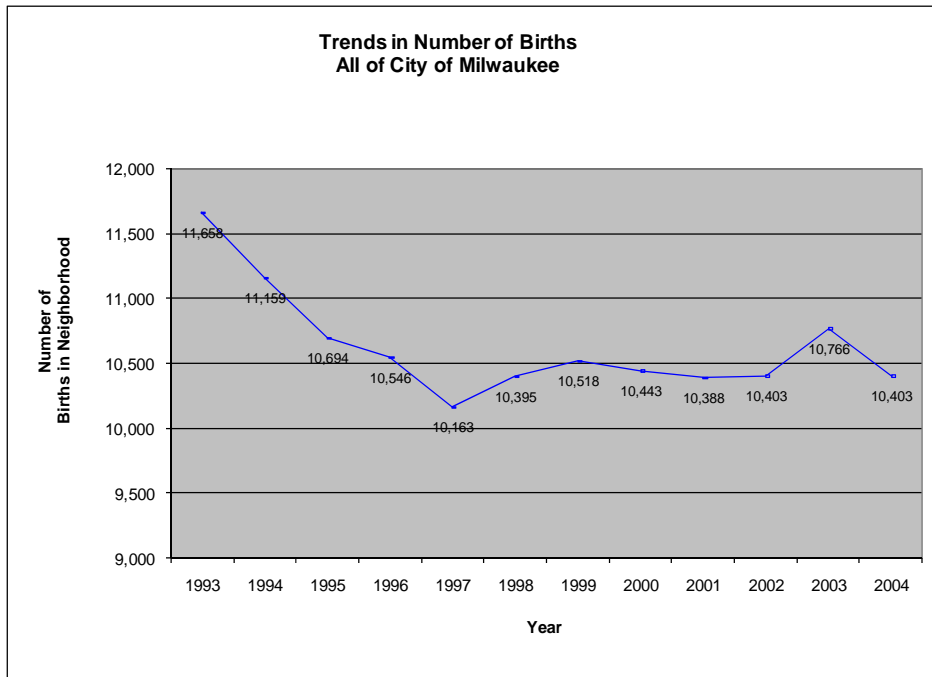
Population Trends

The American Community Survey (ACS) by the U.S. Census Bureau estimated 48,135 children ages 0-4 in Milwaukee in 2005. Commercial firms preparing their own estimates within Milwaukee align their data with this “official” ACS number (Appendix I explores the limitations of this source and suggests alternative ways to estimate the number of young children) .

The Nonprofit Center estimate is that the number of children ages 0-4 in 2007 in Milwaukee is likely be to between 55,000 and 65,000. An increasing number of these children are Hispanic. The number is likely to increase slowly for many years, despite other forecasts that the city of Milwaukee is losing population.

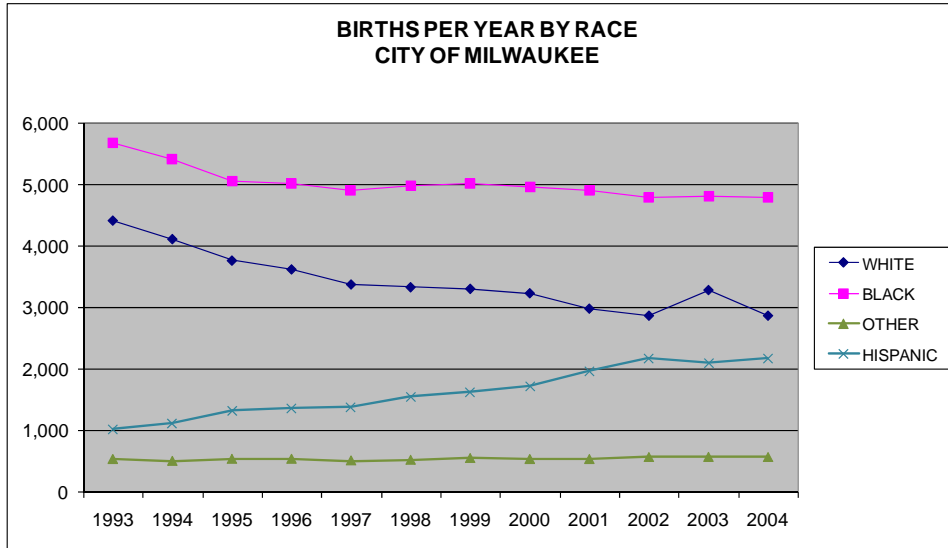
The distribution across neighborhoods will continue current trends. That is, densities of children will remain high across much of the south side from the Menomonee Valley to Lincoln Avenue. And densities within the north side will continue to re-distribute. That is, there are likely to be fewer young children south of Capitol Drive and more young children between Capitol Drive and Mill Road

For very young children, birth data appears to be a very useful resource. The chart below tracks birth trends in Milwaukee over 12 years. The trend over this time is not linear. A steep drop in the 1990’s has been replaced by a more stable pattern since.

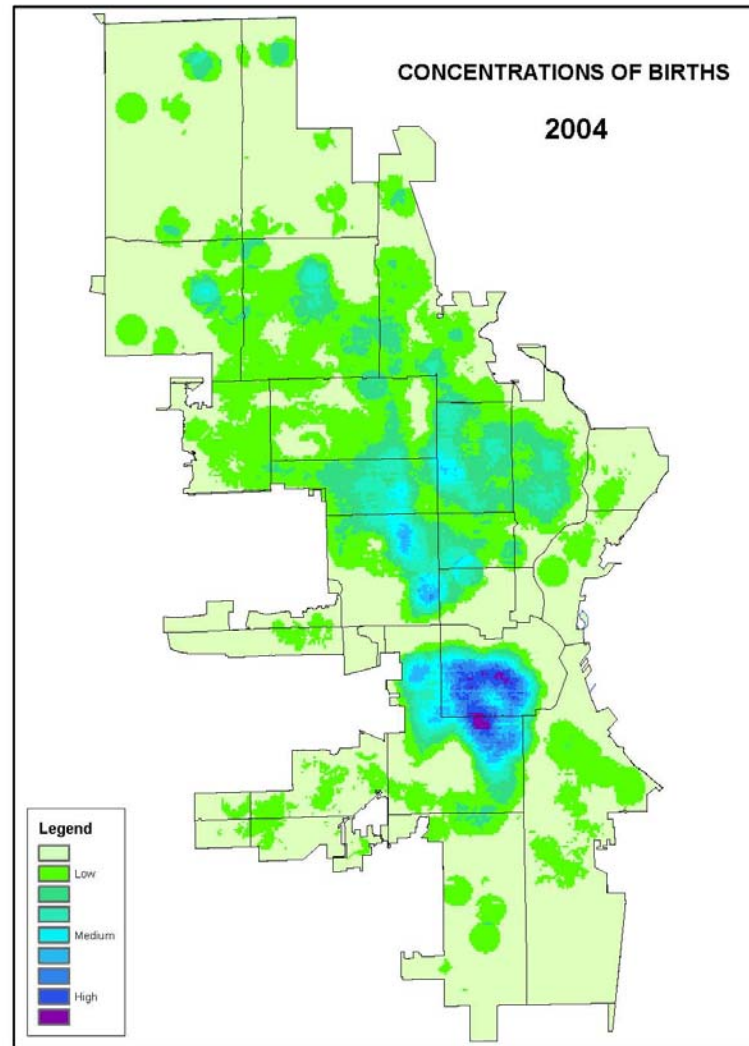
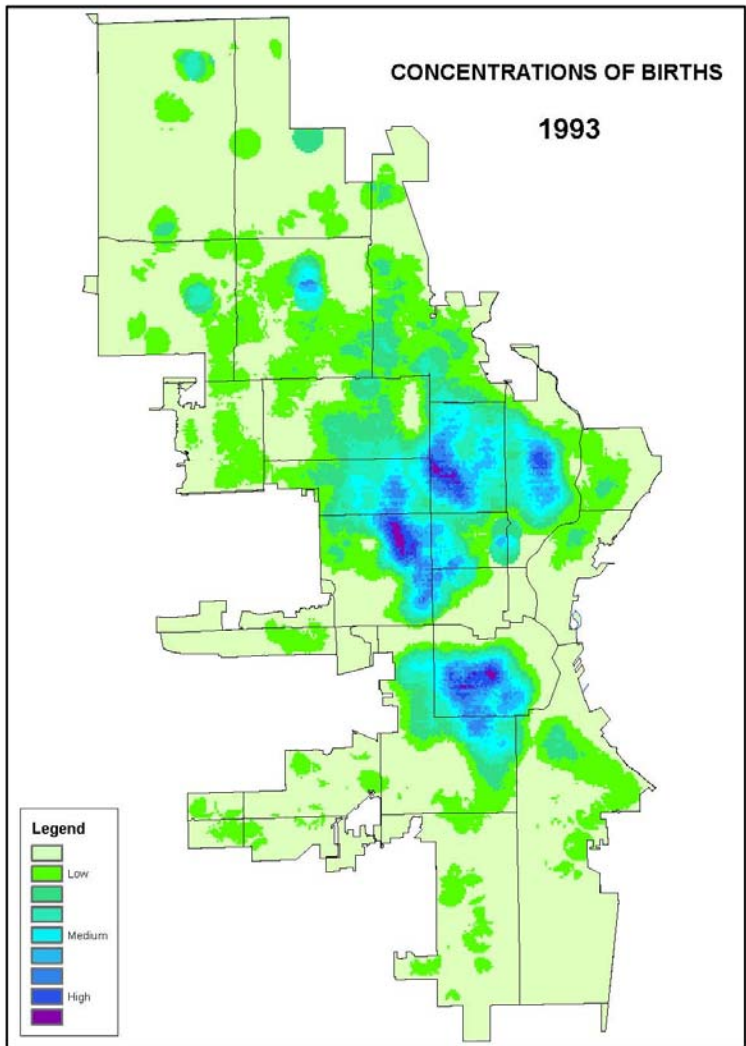


This non-linear pattern is better understood by examining birth patterns by race. The influence of sharp declines in the number of births in the White population have been replaced by an increasing influence of the pattern of Hispanic births. However, both of these patterns result from strong migration effects. Many young white adults have left Milwaukee and many young Hispanic adults have moved into Milwaukee.

In addition, the decrease in white births appears to be slowing. Other evidence of an increasing Hispanic population will likely begin to lead to increases in the over all pattern, rather than just a stable pattern of births.



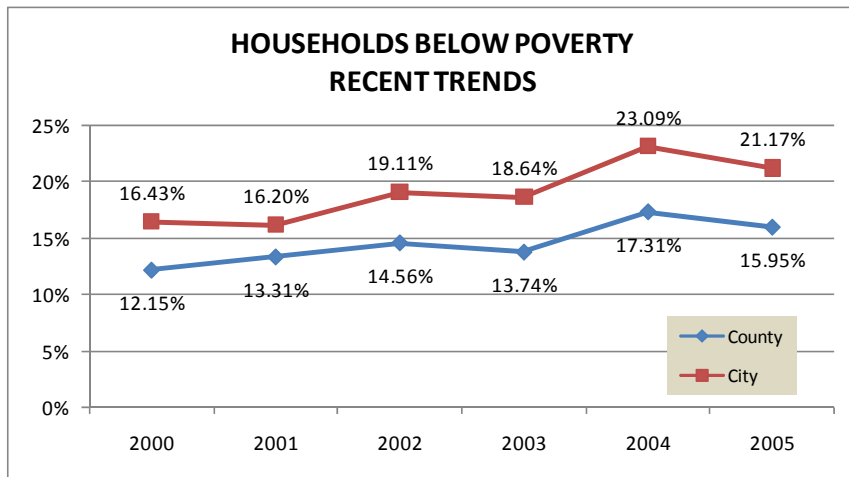
The spatial distribution of birth concentrations changed dramatically between 1993 and 2004. The pattern observed on the map reflects the change in birth rates by race above. Decreases in White and African American births can be seen as lower concentration of births on the north side, and the increase in Hispanic births can be seen on the south side.



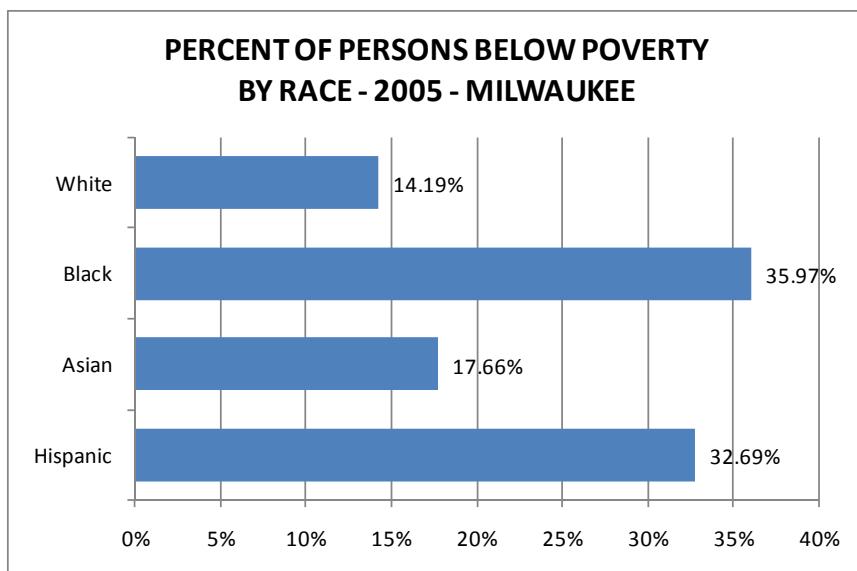
Poverty Trends

The City of Milwaukee is the heart of the South Eastern Wisconsin region. Within that region (the Consolidated Metropolitan Area of 5 counties), Milwaukee occupies 5.7 % of the land, has 32.6 % of the population, but in 2005 had 74.6 % of the poverty. Poverty is further concentrated within minorities within the region -

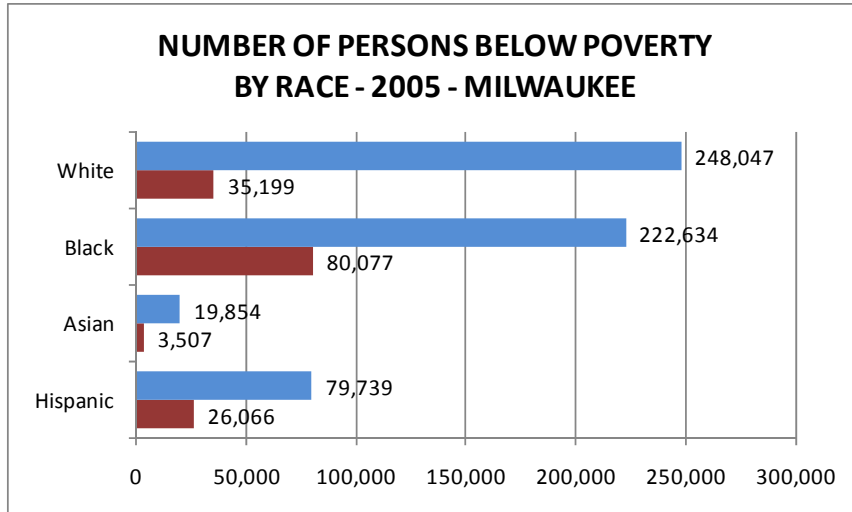
After improving somewhat between 1990 and 2000, the level of poverty has been increasing in Milwaukee since then.



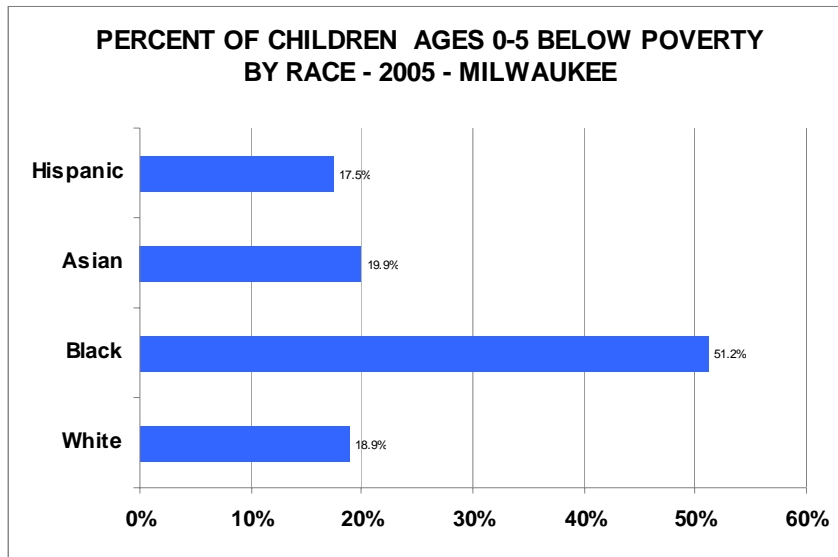
Black residents are most affected by poverty - 36% of all Black residents in 2005. One third of Hispanic residents are also live in poverty households. Asian households have improved their status more dramatically since 1990. Many of those who below poverty who are white are older adults.



Numerically, the largest poverty group is Black.



But most dramatically, poverty is concentrated among young families and substantially affects young children. In 2005, 40.5 % of children ages 0-5 lived in poverty households in Milwaukee. (By contrast, 16.9 % of children ages 0-5 in all of Wisconsin lived in poverty households.)



Poverty in the city of Milwaukee is most often found in specific neighborhoods within the city. Neighborhoods of 40% or more poverty households are considered areas of concentrated poverty. From 1980 to 1990, neighborhoods of concentrated poverty grew beyond the traditional urban core and spread to adjacent neighborhoods. Severe recession in the early 1980's led to a restructuring of the manufacturing sector and the permanent loss of many jobs that could be filled by those with less

education. The area of the city covered by concentrated poverty grew faster in Milwaukee than in any other large city in the United States.

The 1990's were better economically in Milwaukee and across the United States. Concentrations of poverty declined. But in the early years of the 21st Century, the continued disadvantage of Milwaukee central city neighborhoods has been manifest in increases in the poverty rate. [The city of Milwaukee has experienced one of the highest increases in poverty levels among all large cities over the last several years.](#)

Although poverty rates improved to some extent since 1990, a critical number of households remained in intense poverty – well below the poverty rate. [By 2005, 13.3 % of households in Milwaukee earned less than \\$10,000. At that point, the poverty level for a family of four was \\$19,806.](#)

It is also important to understand that although many working class households in Milwaukee moved beyond the official poverty line in the 1990's, for other households poverty deepened. Fifteen percent of households earned \$7,912 or below in 1990. By 2000, this had risen to \$10,582 and by 2005 to \$10,982. But adjusted for cost of living the change was from \$6,814 in 1990 to \$6,973 in 2005. [That is, the lowest 15% of low income households saw their effective income decrease from \\$7,912 in 1990 to an adjusted number of \\$ 6,973 in 2005.](#)

Milwaukee is a city with several large racial and ethnic groups. The level of poverty and changes in the state of poverty differ within each group. Milwaukee is a highly segregated city. The degree of segregation also varies by group. But the effect is that Milwaukee neighborhoods vary substantially from one another. The differences are a mix of race and class and history. Programs addressing the most challenged households and children also need to adapt to the unique characteristics of different neighborhoods.

A NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

Introduction

Many indicators of child well-being are available only at a scale encompassing only Milwaukee City or Milwaukee County, but it is more appropriate to report and to analyze the numbers at a neighborhood scales. The exhibits below demonstrate how a number of indicators vary at scales ranging from as small as a census block, to block group, to neighborhoods of various sizes, and areas as large as Milwaukee's City Planning Areas (for all bar charts, and shown on maps in black outline).

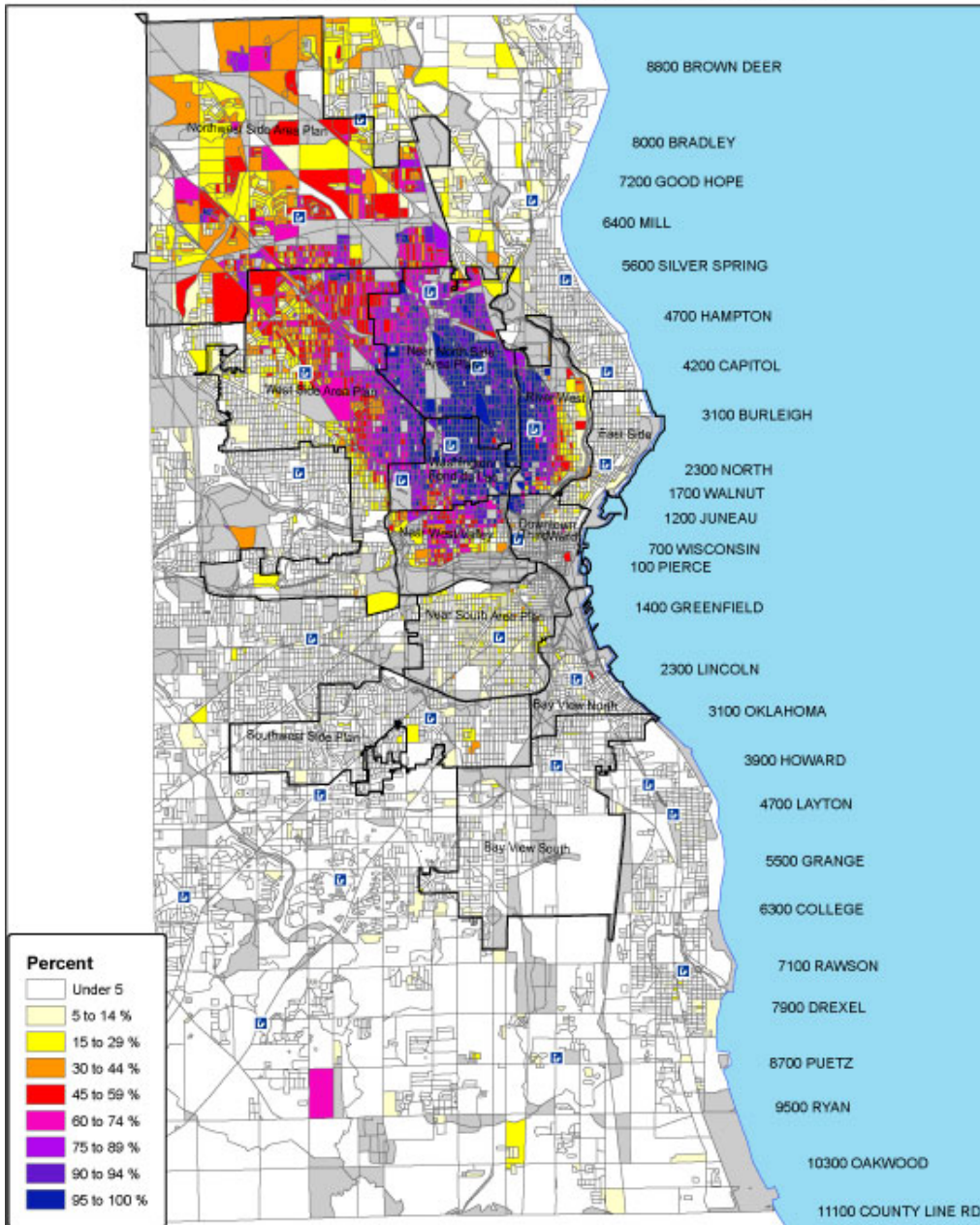
In general social and economic indicators show similar spatial distributions in Milwaukee. An analysis of risk indicators show that children are at greatest risk in central city neighborhoods with a tendency for north side neighborhoods to be more vulnerable than south side areas. For the most part, patterns of racial and ethnic segregation frame the social and economic differences affecting children in Milwaukee.

Patterns of social and economic indicators apparent at the planning area level reveal some important themes; however an analysis of smaller neighborhoods provides a more realistic view of the environment in which young children live. Two Milwaukee neighborhoods, one on the north side and the other on the south side, illustrate this point.

The Making Connections Milwaukee neighborhood—located between west of 24th to 47th street and between Highland Blvd. and Center St. and contributing to portions of the Near West Side, Washington Park/ Fond du Lac and West Side planning areas—is predominately populated by African Americans who began moving west central city neighborhoods beginning in the 1970s. This area has been the focus of an extensive initiative by the Casey Foundation. Within the Making Connections area, many indicators differ along a gradient from east to west.

An area of similar size situated to the north and south of Lincoln Avenue, making up portions of the Near South and Southwest planning areas, on Milwaukee's south side provides insights that are very different than factors influencing the Making Connections neighborhood. The south side neighborhood has experienced a recent movement of Latino residents from the near south side that is somewhat similar to the movement of African Americans into the Making connections neighborhood. Within the South Side Neighborhood many indicators vary along a gradient from North to South and some also vary from east to west.

African American Population - Milwaukee County

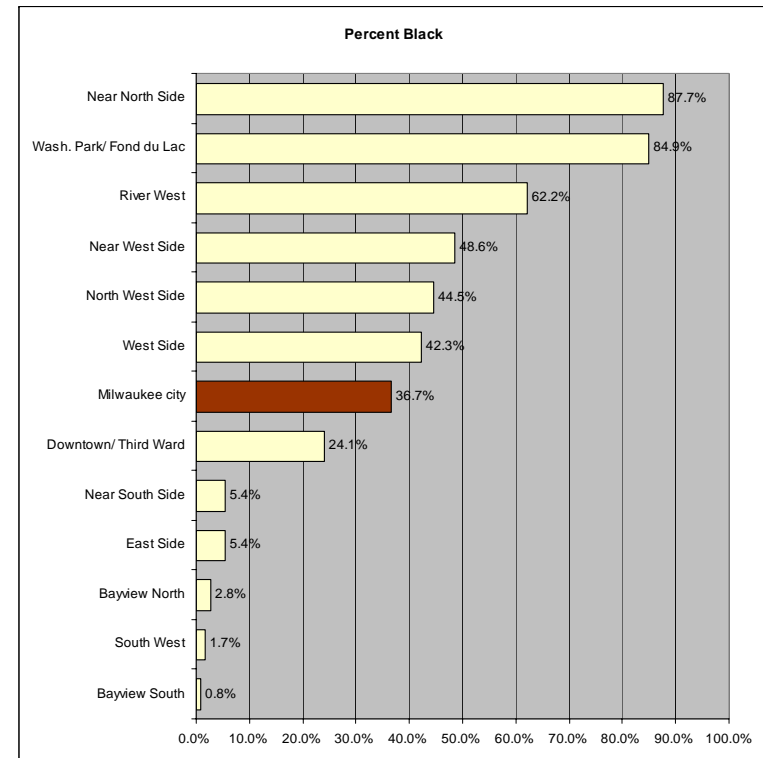


Source: U.S. Census 2000

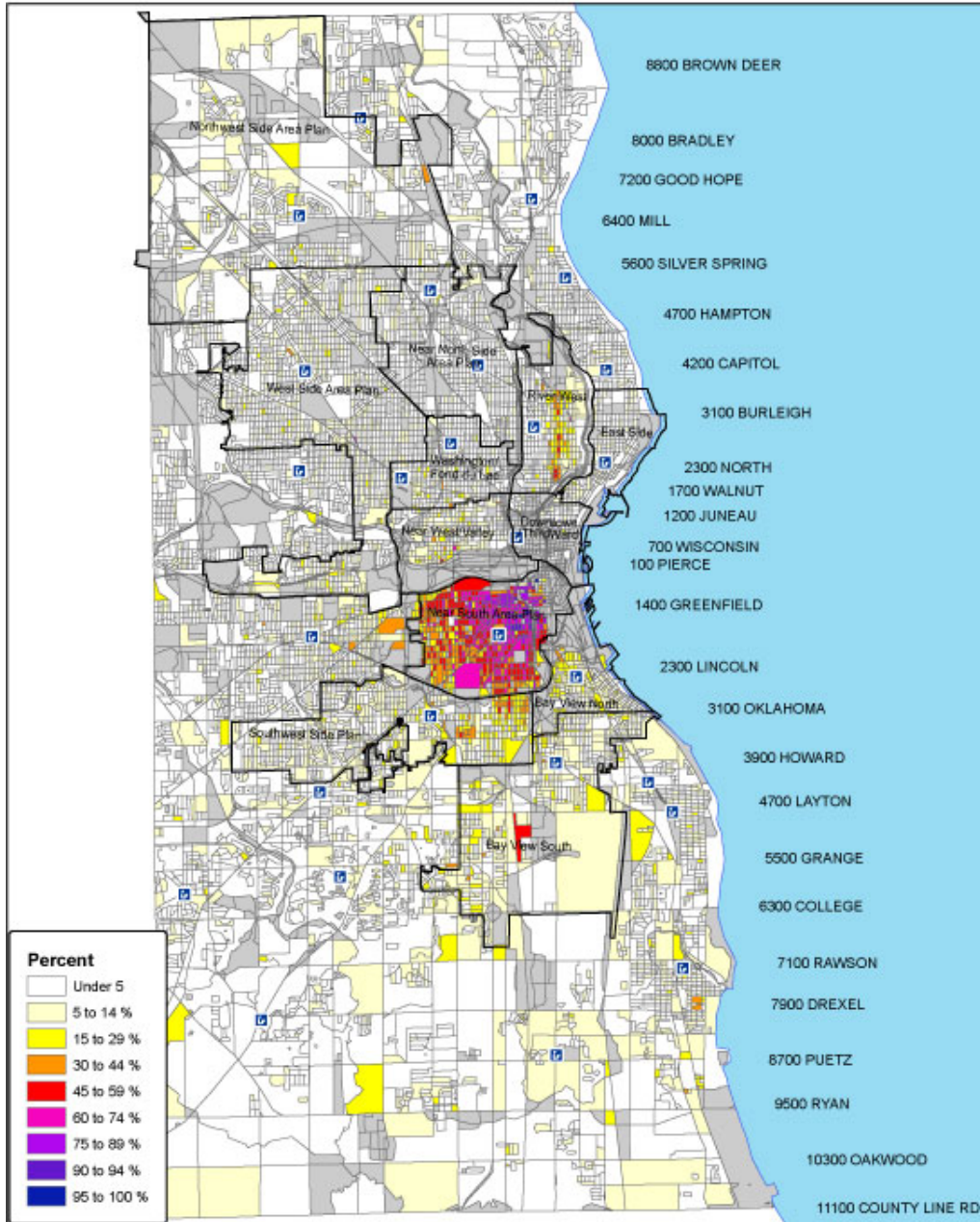
Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee - 2007

Race

In general, neighborhoods with high proportions of African American residents are concentrated on the North side. The Near North Side and Washington Park/ Fond du Lac planning areas are especially segregated. This is even more pronounced for young children. For example, the Making Connections area is 75% African American but children under 5 are an even higher 81% African American.

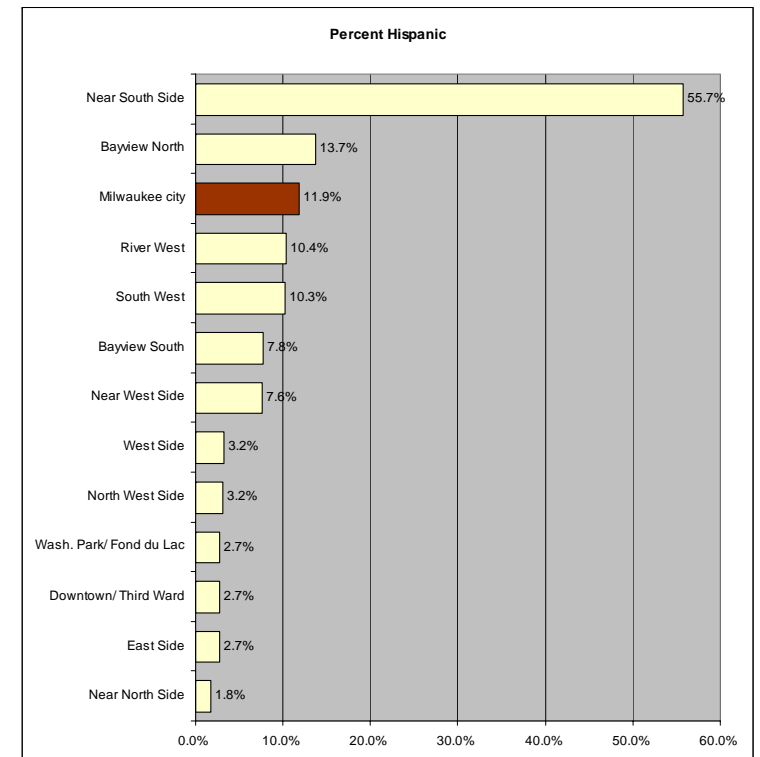


Hispanic Population - Milwaukee County

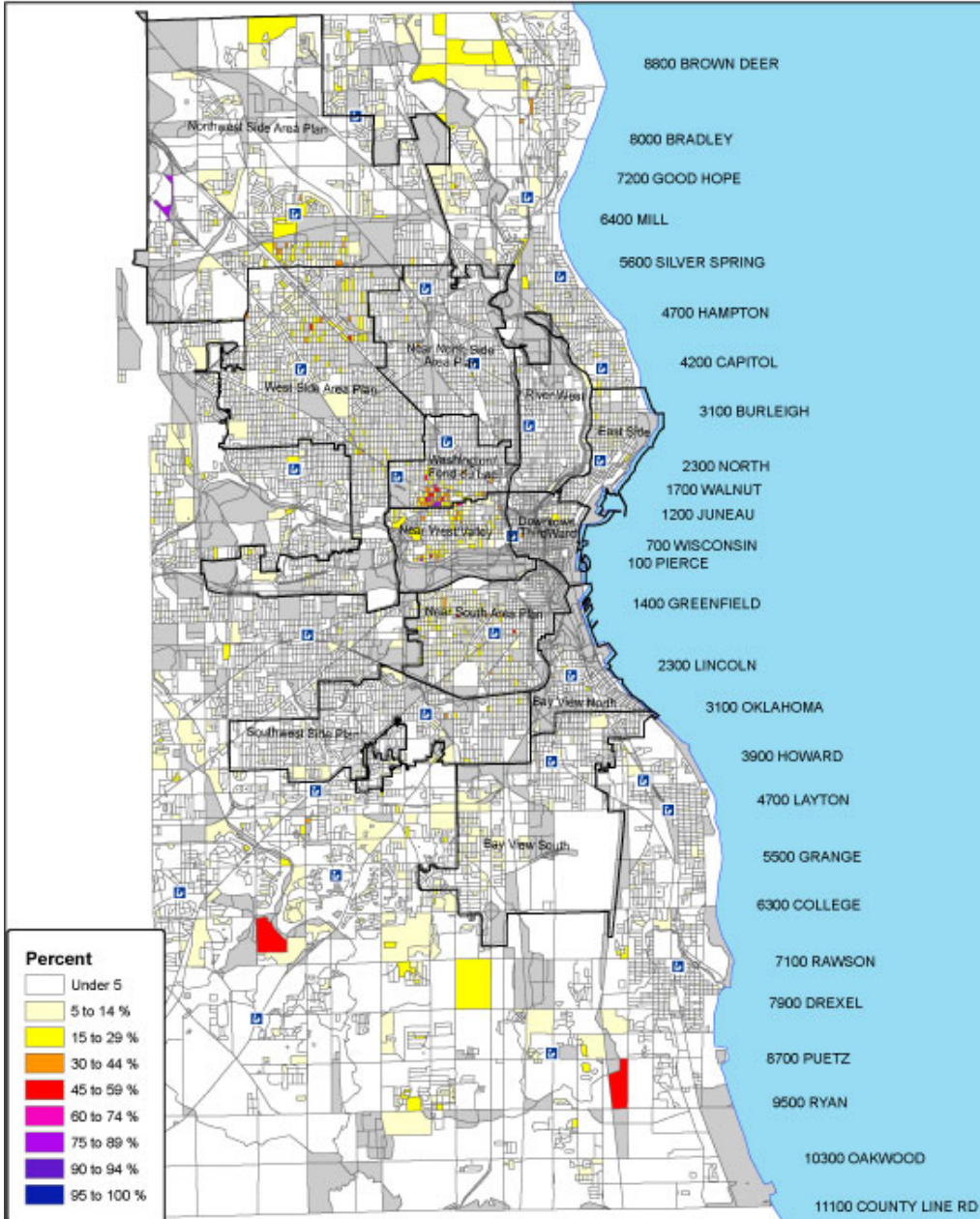


Hispanic or Latino neighborhoods are both less segregated and cover less area than African American neighborhoods. The neighborhoods with the most concentrated Latino population are found in the Near South Side planning area, but a corridor along Holton Avenue in the River West planning area also has a high proportion of Latino residents.

Again, like the African American population of the North Side neighborhoods, the pattern intensifies when looking at young children. An even more dramatic affect can be seen in the selected South side neighborhood where children 0-5 are 65% Hispanic while the total population is only 48% Hispanic.



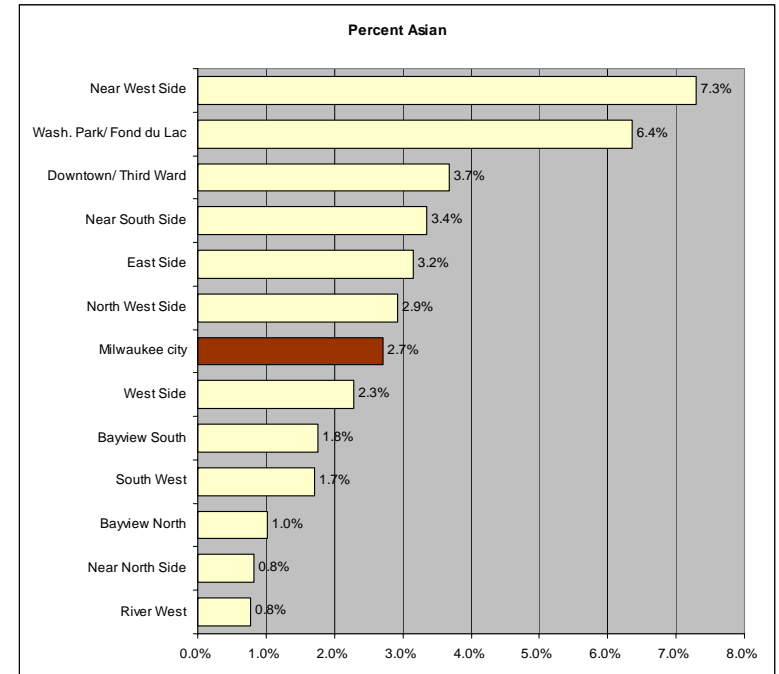
Asian Population - Milwaukee County



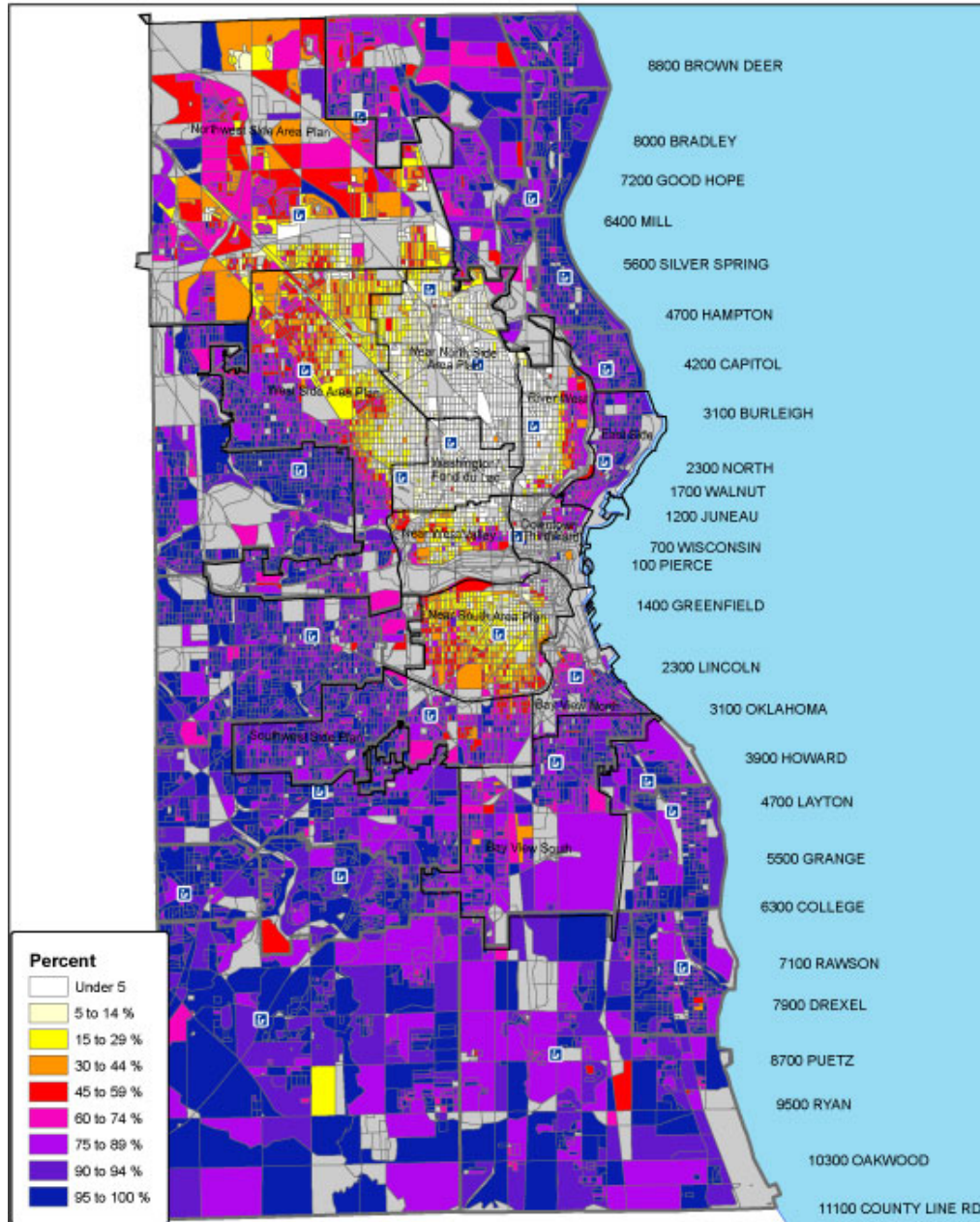
Source: U.S. Census 2000

Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee - 2007

Asian residents are found in a few enclaves on the North and South sides.



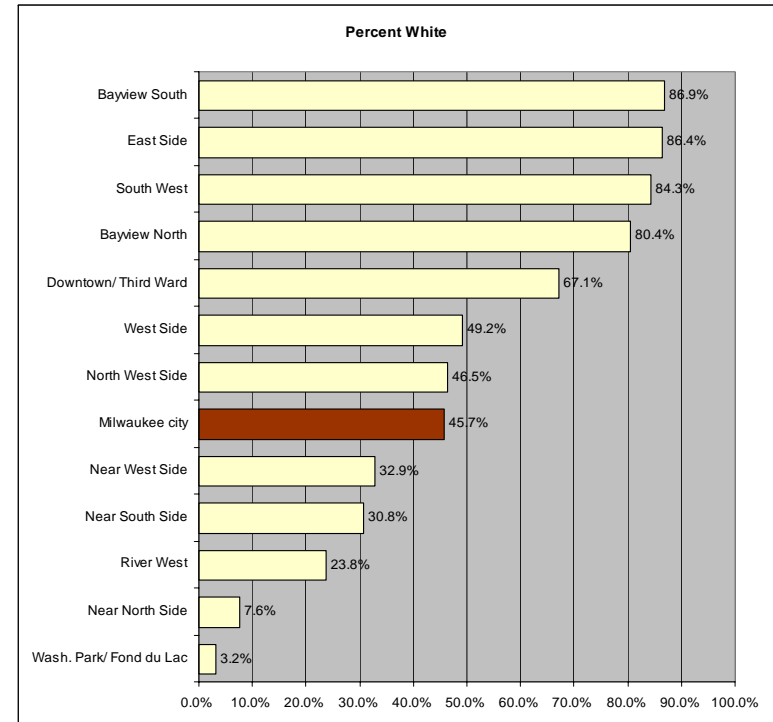
Non-Hispanic White Population - Milwaukee County



Source: U.S. Census 2000

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Non-Hispanic White residents live on the periphery of Milwaukee and in the many Milwaukee County suburbs surrounding the city.



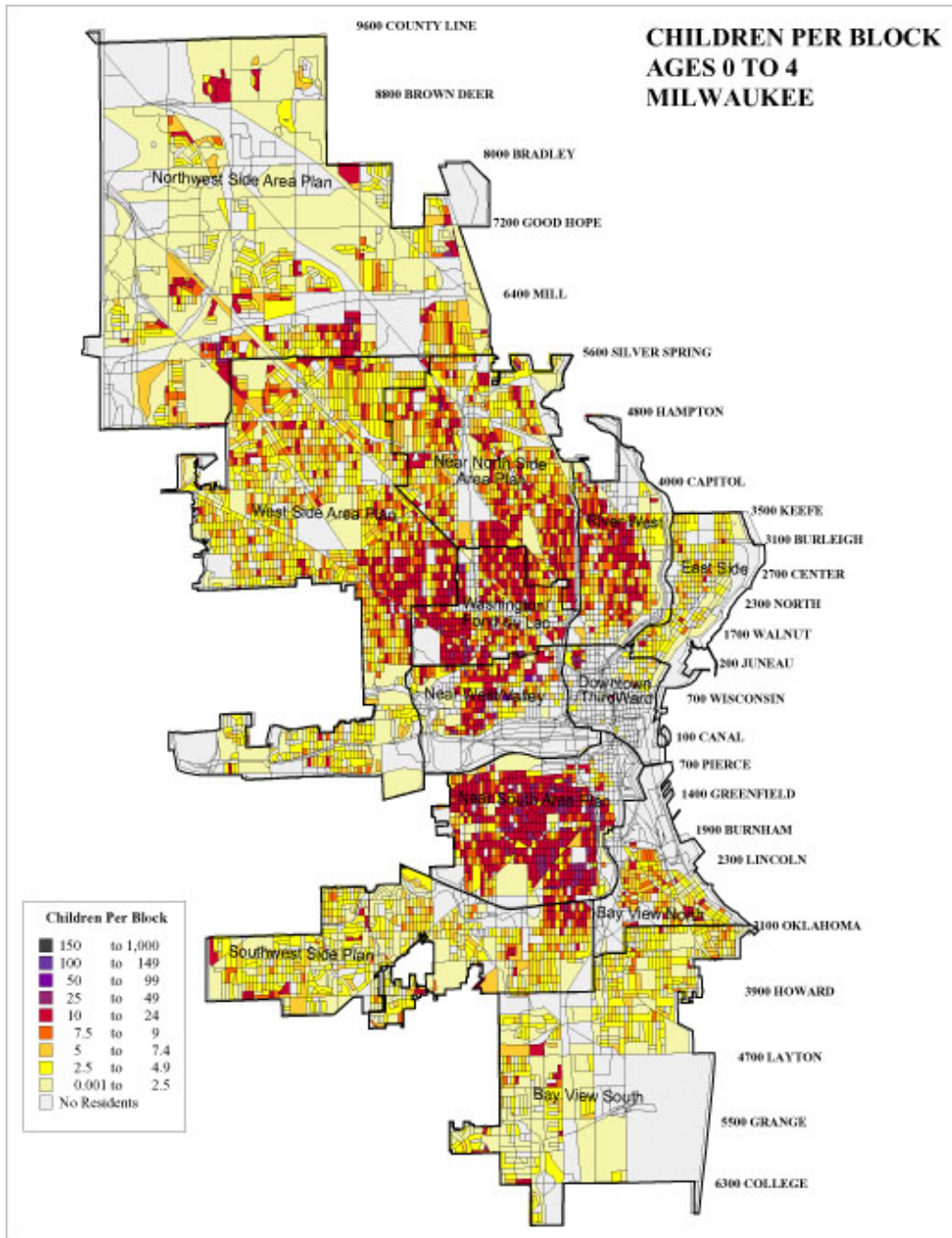
Age

Milwaukee shows similar patterns in age distribution as for race and ethnicity. The near north side, near south side, and Washington Park/Fond du Lac areas have populations that are significantly younger than the rest of the city. In comparison, the 34-65 age group contributes the greatest proportion to Milwaukee's population as a whole.

The density of children 0-4 is high in the Near North Side, Washington Park/Fond du Lac, and River West planning areas, and is greatest in some blocks of the Near South Side planning area. The Downtown, East Side, Bay View South and Southwest planning areas have very low densities of young children.

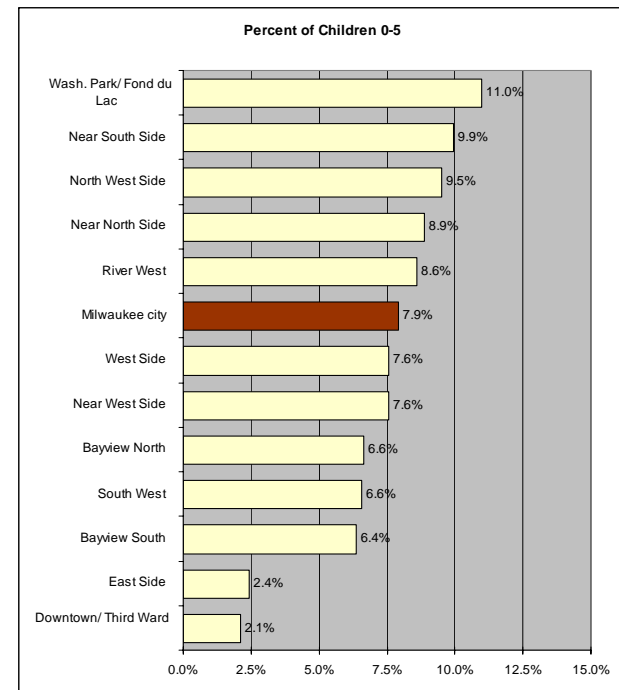
Both the Making Connections neighborhood and the selected south side neighborhood have a high percentage of children 0-17 making up respectively 44% and 34% of total population, but the pattern is more extreme on the north side. Over fifty percent of residents are under 18 in parts of the Making Connections neighborhood, but some parts of the selected south side neighborhood have high numbers of residents who are 65 and older.

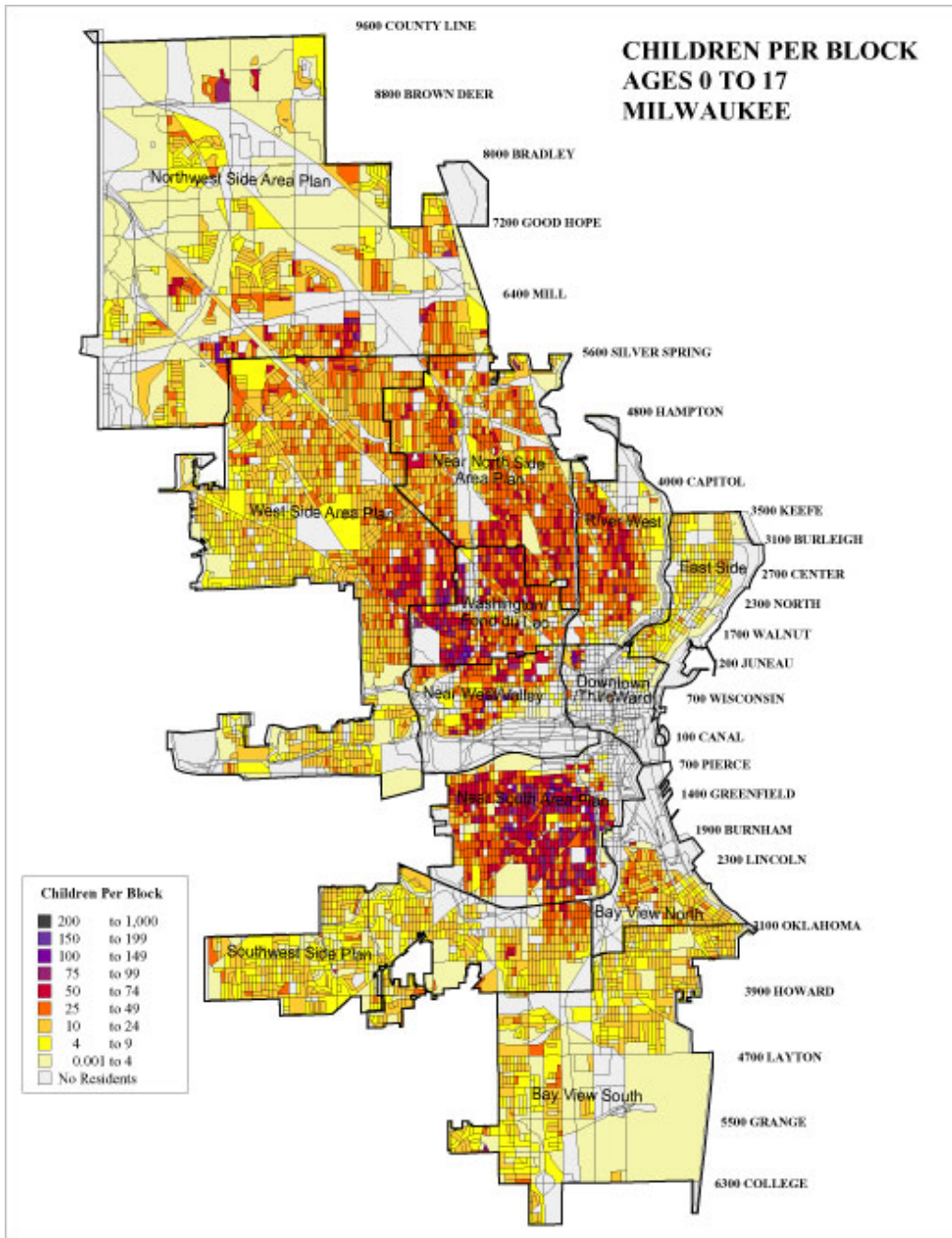
Finally, the Making Connections neighborhood show much more variation within the 0-17 age group when compared to the selected south side neighborhood. In some parts of the Making Connections neighborhood, children ages 0-4 are a smaller proportion of youth than older children. In contrast, the 0-4 and 5-9 age groups are uniformly the most populous for children across the entirety the selected south side neighborhood.



U.S. Census 2000

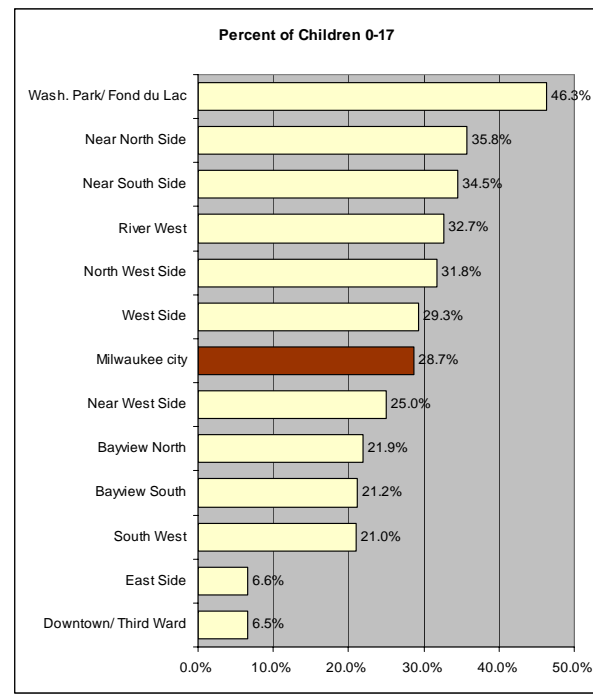
Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee - 2007





U.S. Census 2000

Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee - 2007

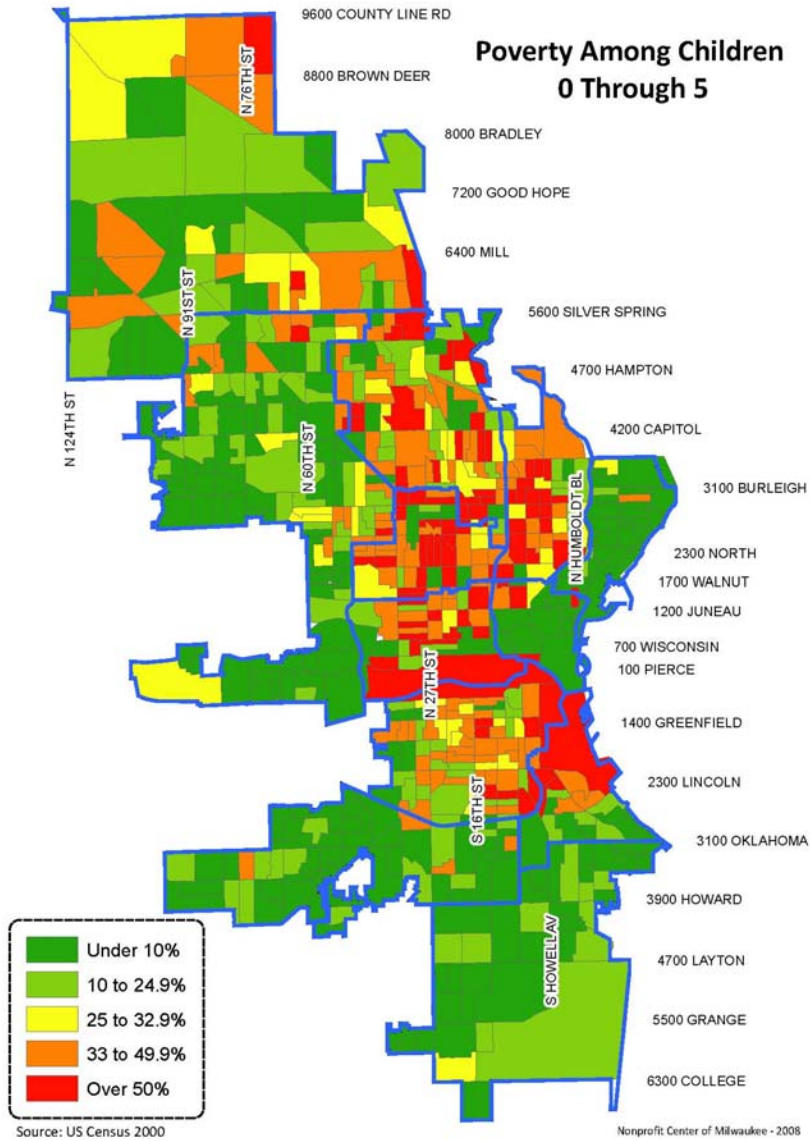


Poverty

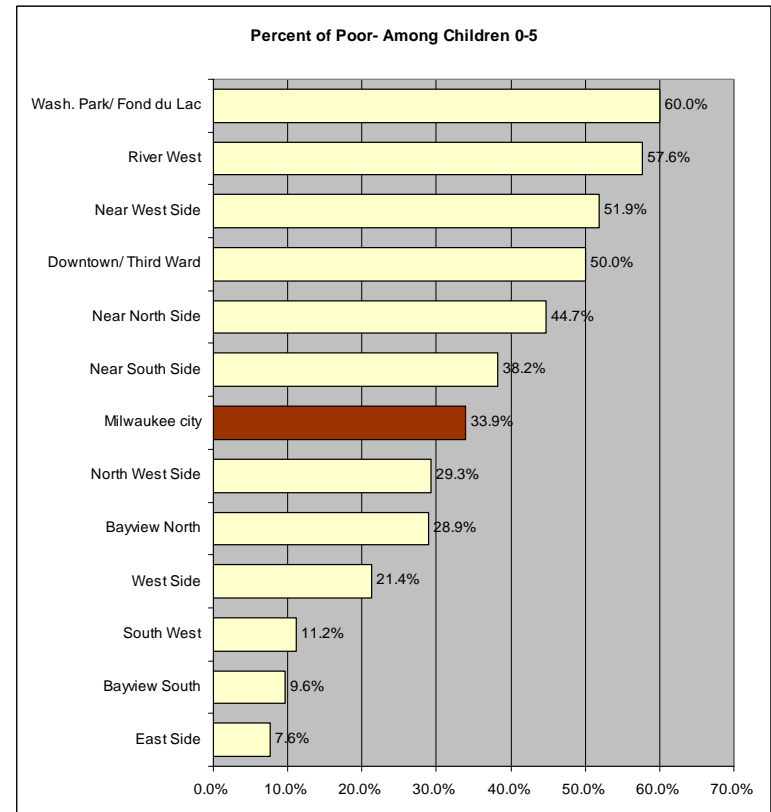
Median household income and poverty status patterns are generally similar to race and age patterns. The areas with the lowest median incomes are Near West Side, Washington Park/Fond du Lac, River West, Near North Side and Near South Side.

Poverty is much more intense in the Making Connections neighborhood with 42% of families below poverty level compared to the selected south side neighborhood where only 25% of families are below poverty level. In an extreme case, one portion of the Making Connections neighborhood has 68% of the population below poverty level. In contrast, the area with the highest poverty rate in the selected south side neighborhood has rate of 34% below poverty level. Poverty among children 0-5 is generally most extreme on the north side.

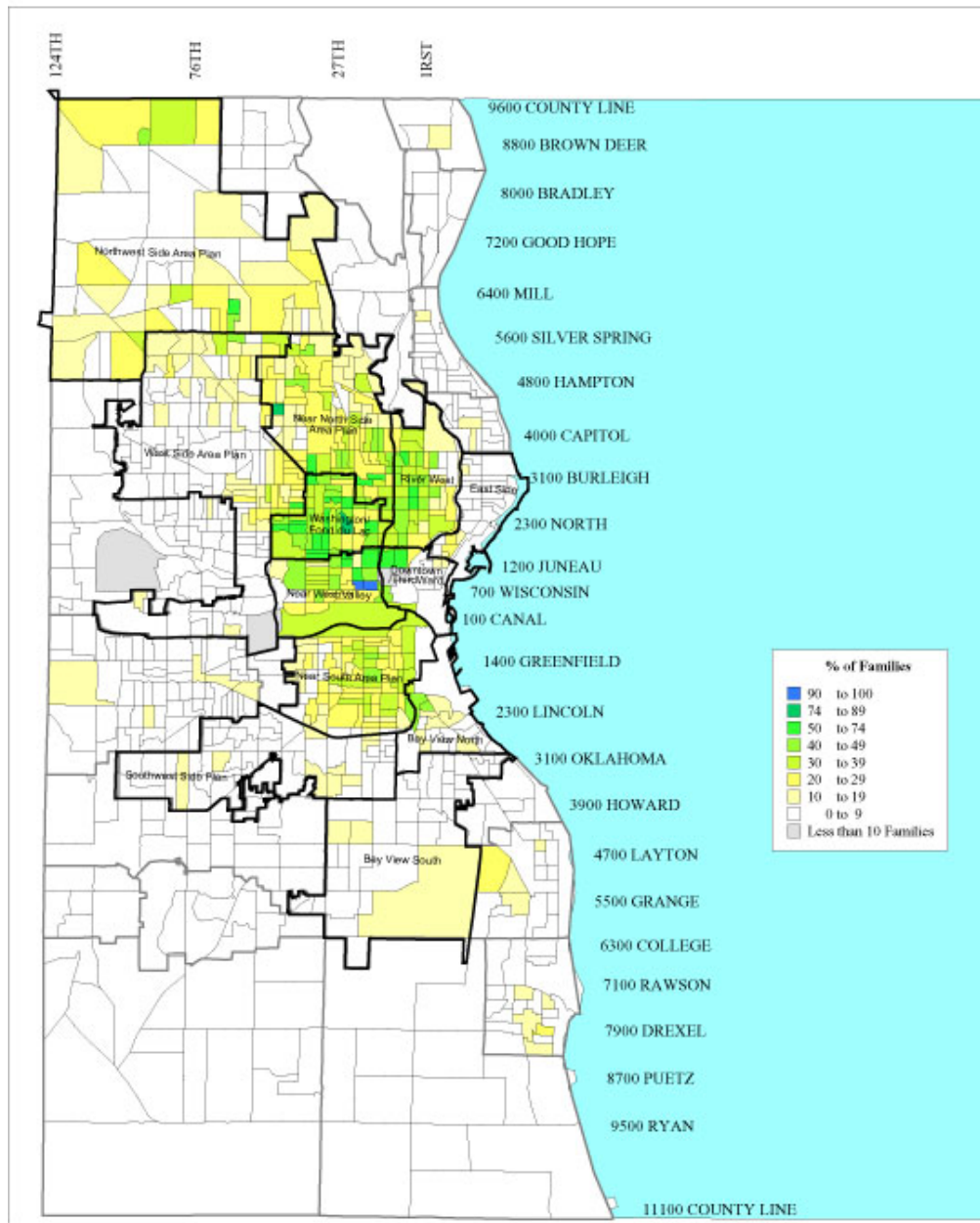
	UNDER 10,000		UNDER 25,000		UNDER 50,000		MEDIAN INCOME	
Near West Side	32.0%	12	46.9%	12	89.1%	12	\$ 17,012	1
Wash. Park/ Fond du Lac	29.9%	11	46.7%	11	86.5%	11	\$ 18,595	2
River West	23.2%	10	45.0%	9	83.2%	10	\$ 23,106	3
Near North Side	19.6%	9	43.8%	8	78.7%	8	\$ 26,509	4
Near South Side	17.0%	8	45.9%	10	79.2%	9	\$ 27,433	5
Downtown/ Third Ward	16.7%	7	39.2%	7	71.1%	7	\$ 30,386	6
East Side	12.6%	5	38.0%	6	67.6%	5	\$ 34,592	7
Bayview North	12.8%	6	36.1%	4	68.7%	6	\$ 35,705	8
West Side	9.2%	3	37.3%	5	66.6%	4	\$ 37,262	9
North West Side	10.1%	4	34.3%	2	63.5%	3	\$ 39,070	10
South West	6.7%	2	35.7%	3	63.4%	2	\$ 40,303	11
Bayview South	5.3%	1	32.7%	1	58.1%	1	\$ 43,569	12



North and South sides both contain high levels of child poverty. Often families with young children are struggling while other households are doing well. This contrast of circumstance is most common on the northwest side.



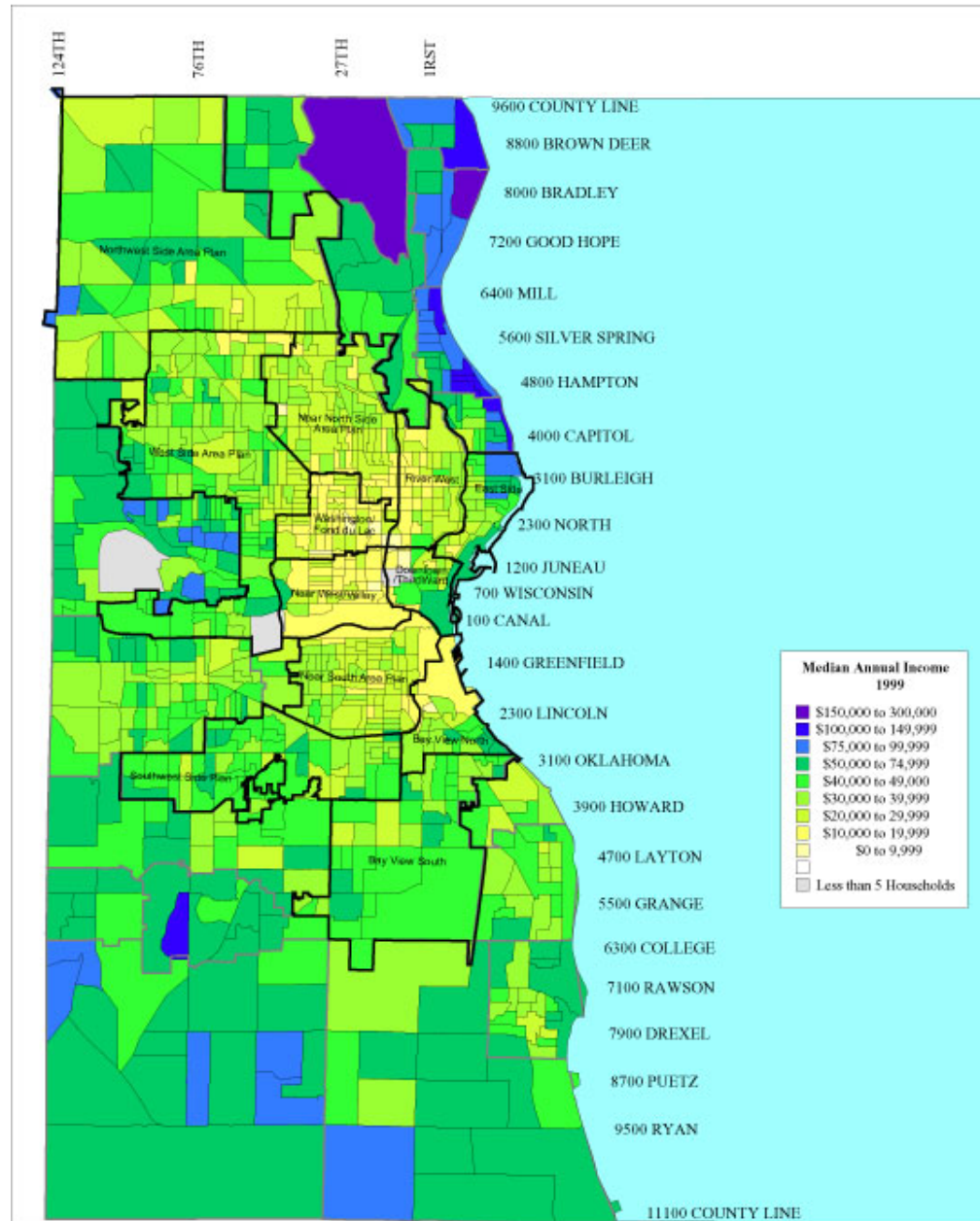
PERCENT OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL MILWAUKEE COUNTY



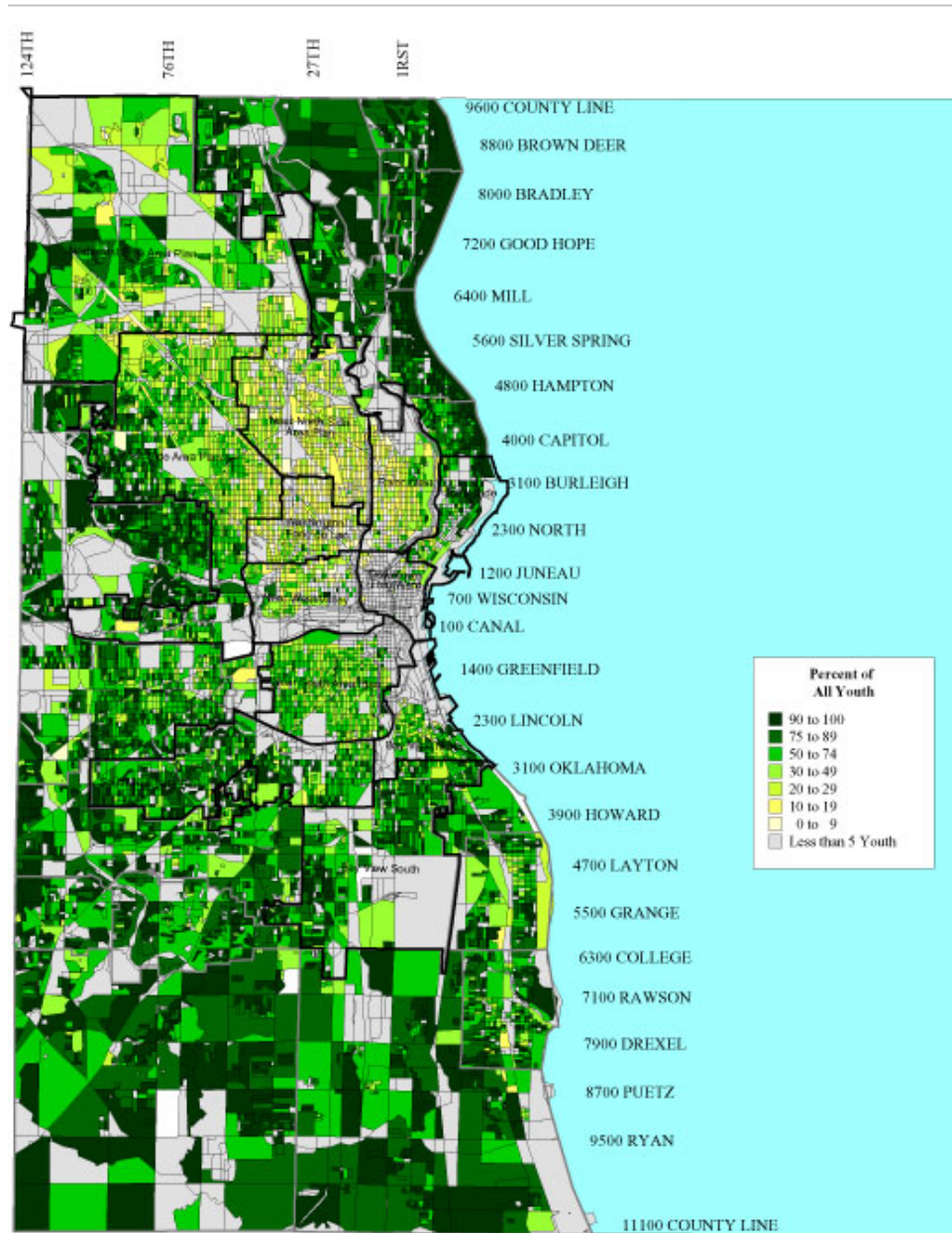
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME MILWAUKEE COUNTY

In part in response to low household income patterns in central city Milwaukee, many businesses and services have left these neighborhoods.

Contrasting data demonstrates that, although often low income, the aggregate income in these neighborhoods is higher than in many suburban areas. Basic businesses are beginning to return to tap this potential.



PERCENT OF YOUTH IN MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES



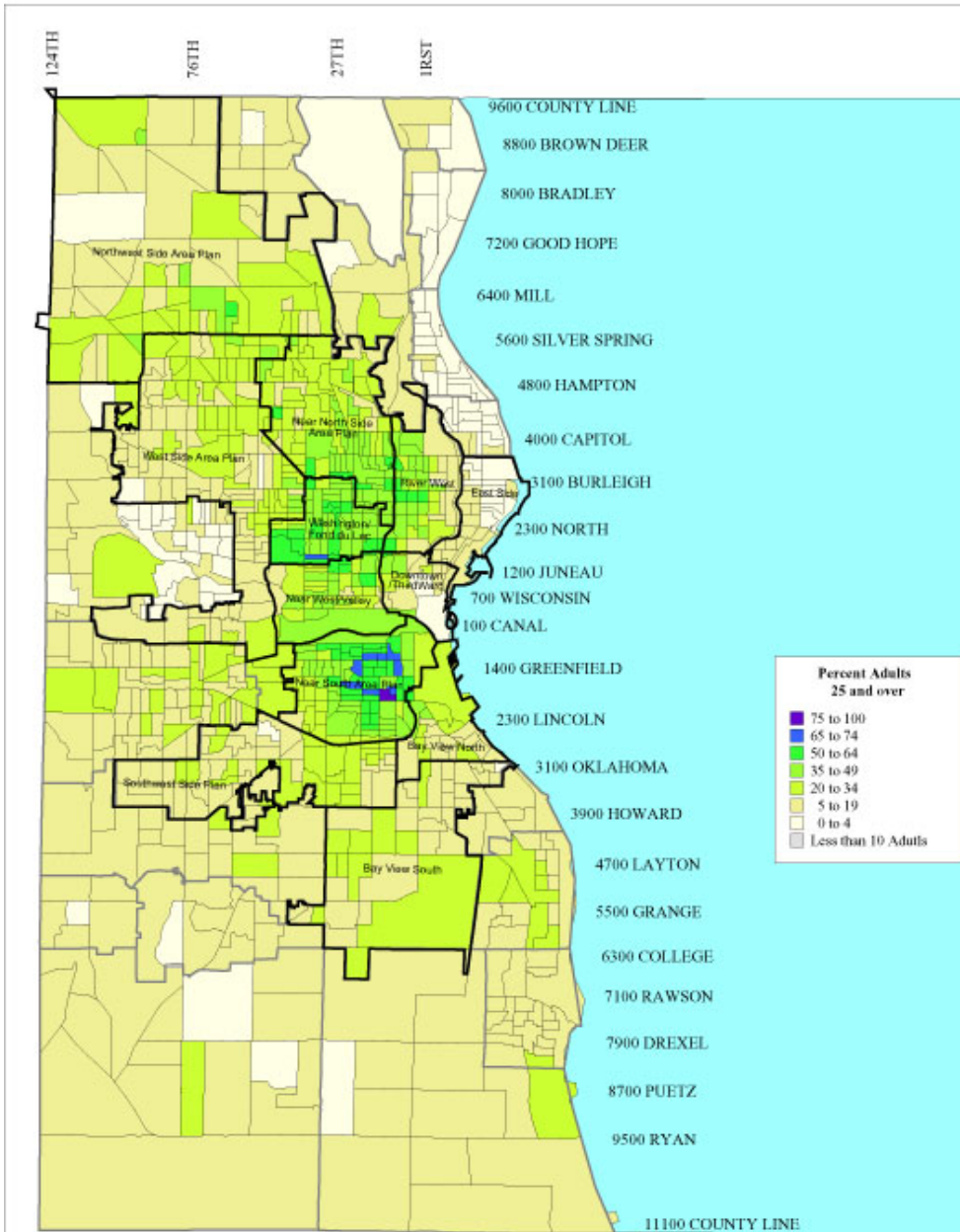
Household Characteristics

The percentage of children living in two parent households is lowest in the same areas where child density is highest. In this case, the south side is exceptional by having a higher proportion of children living in two parent households than both the city of Milwaukee (40%) and Milwaukee County (51%). Grandparents are often responsible for raising children in many Milwaukee families.

PERCENT OF ADULTS - LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE

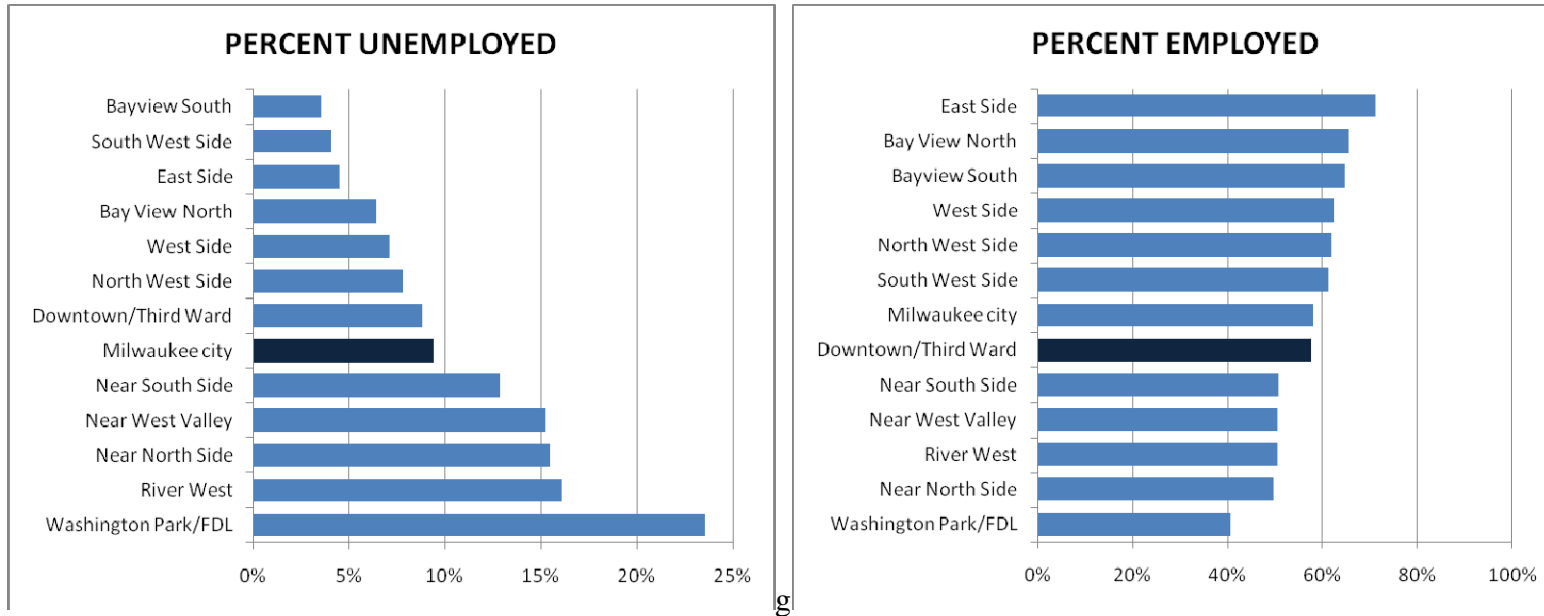
Education

The percentage of adults 25 and older without a high school diploma is less than 50% for most of Milwaukee County. In some parts of the Near South Side and Washington Park/Fond du Lac planning areas over 65% of adults have no high school diploma.

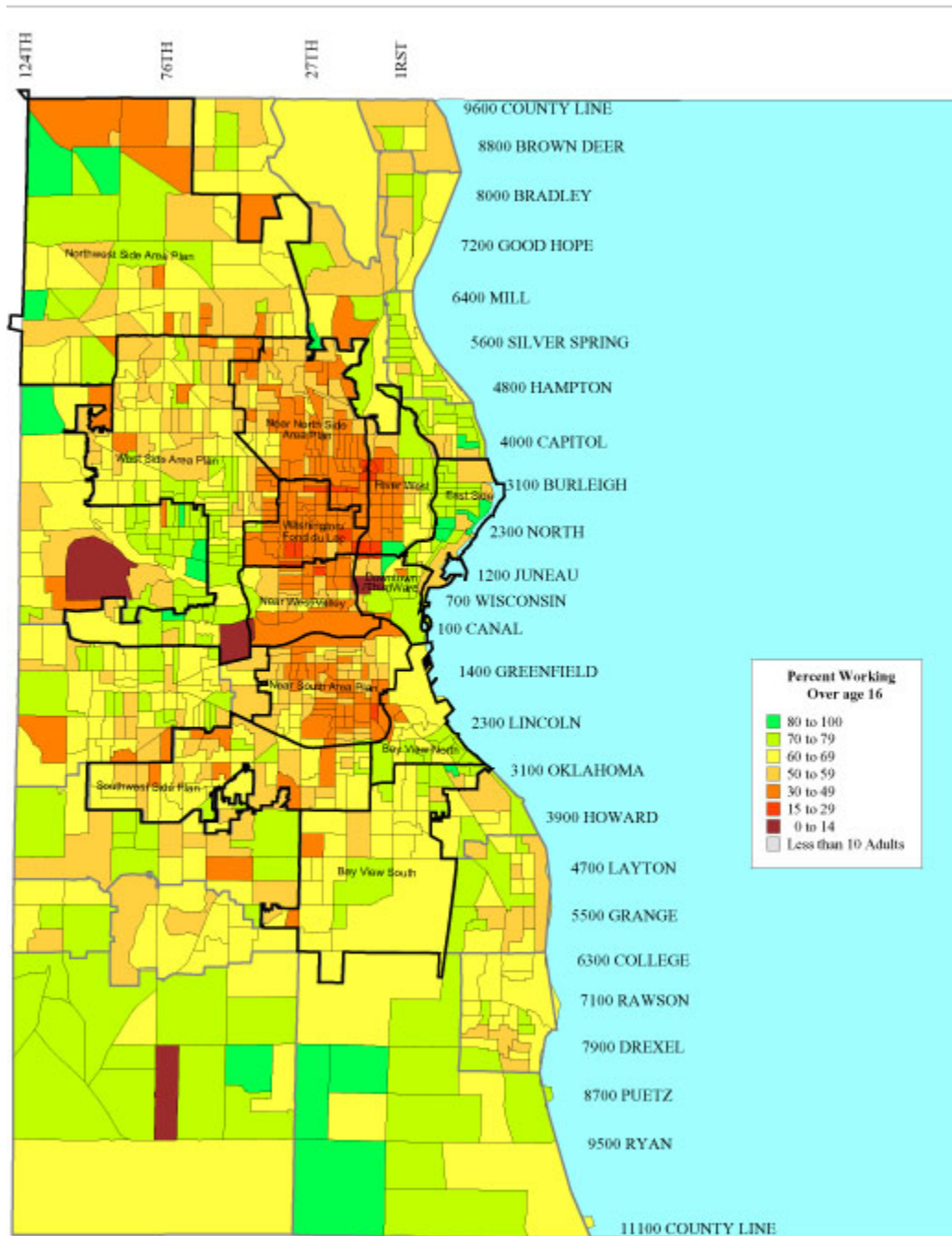


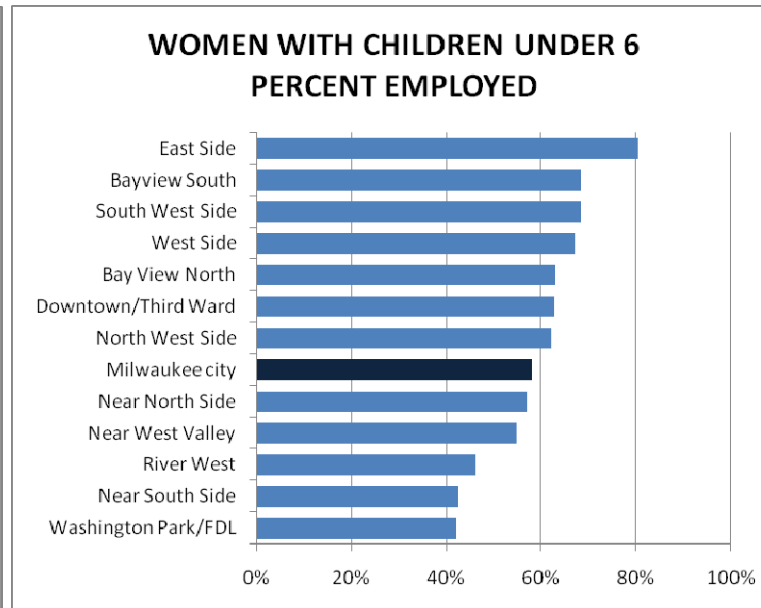
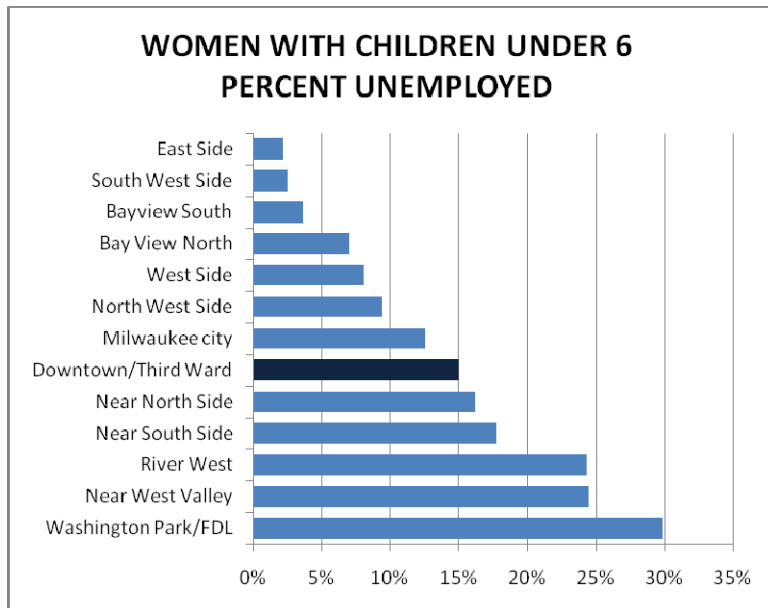
Work

The percent of persons 16 and older who are working is less than half in the Washington Park/ Fond du Lac and Near North Side areas, and just over 50% for the Near South Side, Near West Valley and River West neighborhoods. The rate of unemployment as a percentage of the civilian labor force is higher in the Making Connections neighborhood (20%) than in the selected south side neighborhood (12%). Unemployment rates in the selected areas are more than double, and four times greater in some portions, the state unemployment rate of 4.7%.



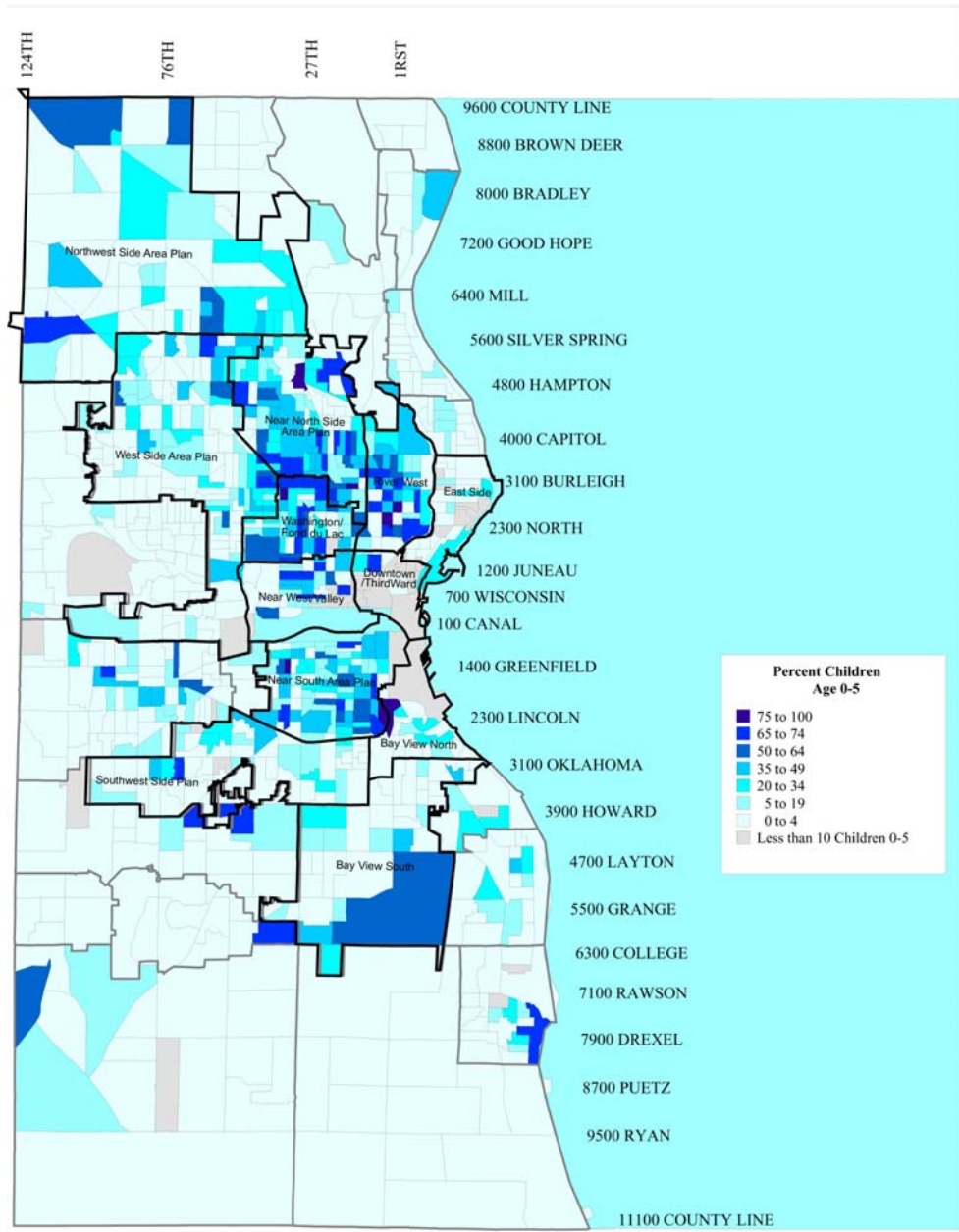
PERCENT WORKING - 2000 MILWAUKEE COUNTY





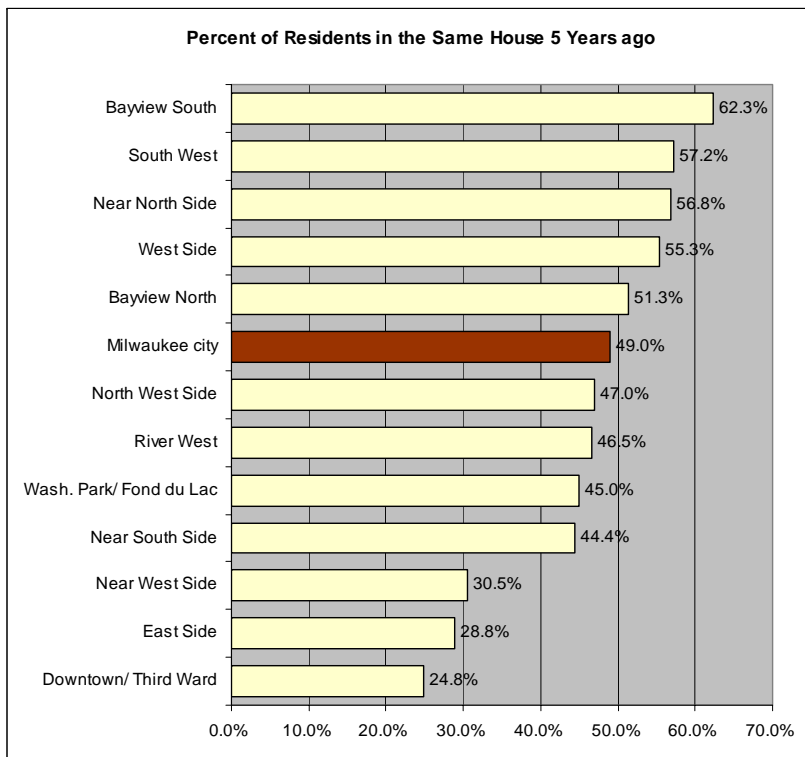
Often the percentage children with no parents working and the percent with two parents working is a better gage of how labor statistics influence children. In Milwaukee county, the areas with no parents working are the same as those with the lowest percentage of persons over 16 working, namely the Near North Side, River West and Washington Park Fond du Lac Areas. Areas with 2 parents working roughly coincides with areas that have a high percent of persons working indicating that the need to find child care while parents are working is widespread.

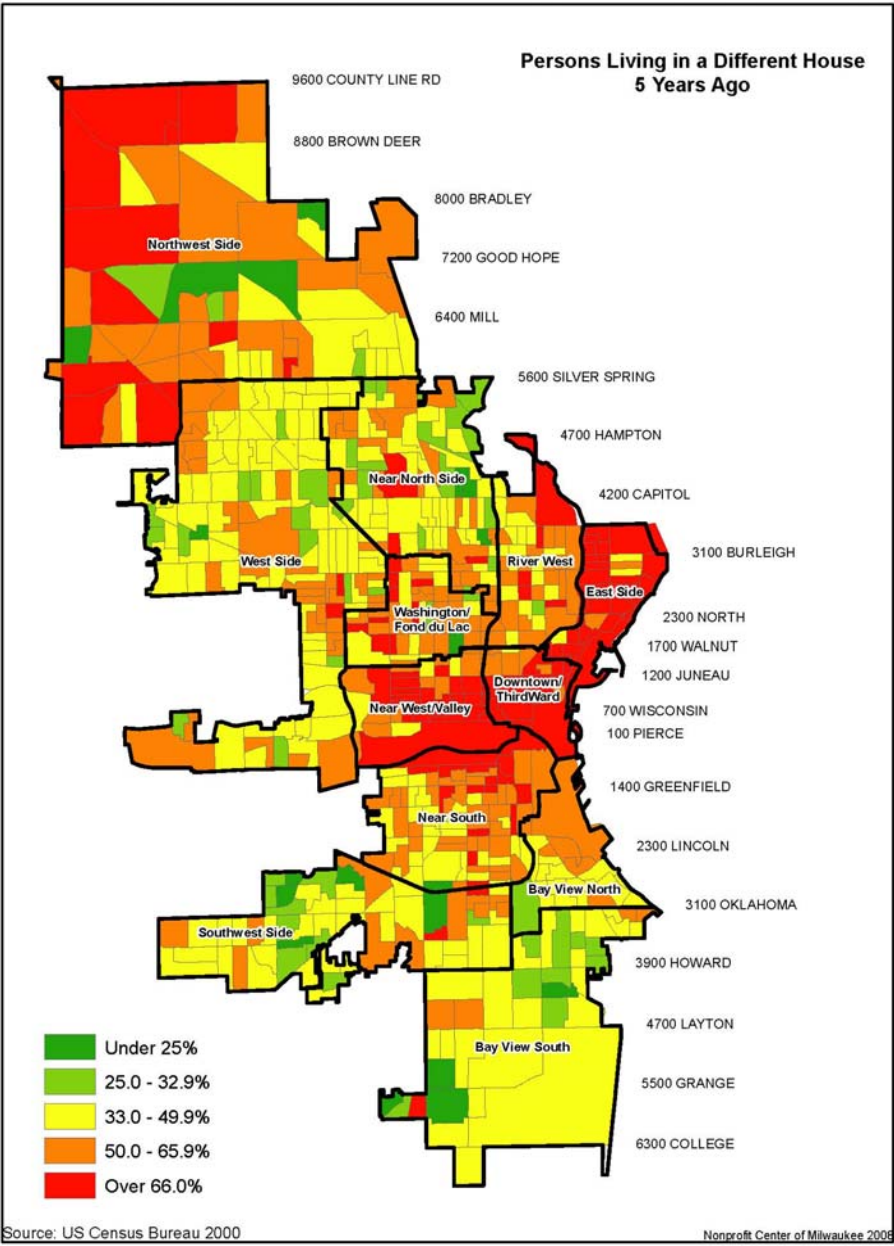
PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 6 LIVING WITH NO PARENTS WORKING

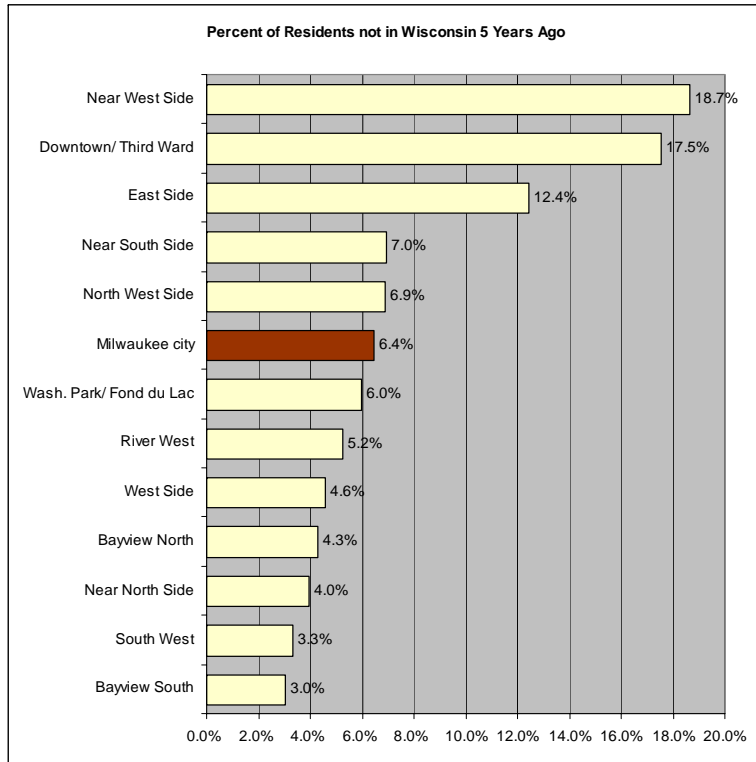


Mobility

The percentage of residents who live in the same house as they lived in five years before is an indicator of neighborhood stability. The Downtown/Third Ward, East Side and Near West side planning areas have the lowest percentage of 5 year residents in the city. The same three planning areas also have the greatest percentage of out of state migrants. Parts of the Making Connections neighborhood have high rates of residents that lived elsewhere in Milwaukee County. In general, south side neighborhoods are more stable than Milwaukee as a whole.

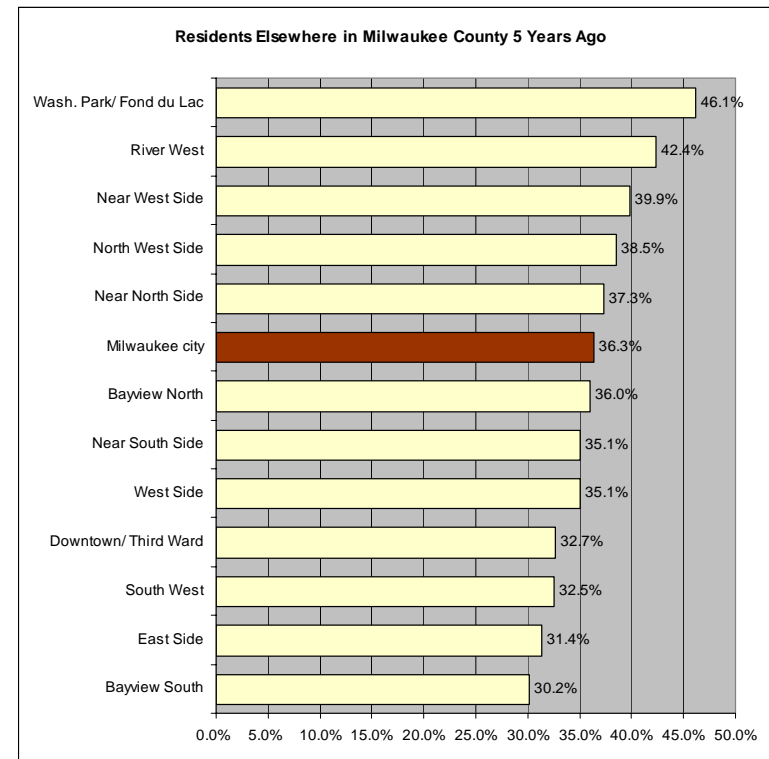






The neighborhoods with the highest migration from outside Wisconsin are distinguished by student and professional groups – universities and downtown condo markets. The next two neighborhoods – Near South Side and North West Side are more likely to be entry level areas that are entry points for poor and working class residents. (Housing costs are generally lower in these locations.)

Households in different homes, but moves within Milwaukee County are often the result of “churning” – residents unable to sustain a stable residence or who move when able to a somewhat better choice of residence. The central city neighborhoods at the top of this chart are also distinguished by lower incomes, low housing value and more problem housing. Frequent moves can be destabilizing for families and neighborhoods.



WHY IS INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD IMPORTANT TO MILWAUKEE?

A workforce Perspective

Anxiety about Milwaukee's future economic success is palpable. Much of the manufacturing base that has been the economic engine in past decades is now gone, and the industries that remain are having difficulty finding a skilled, qualified workforce and worry about the next generation. At the same time the current generation of workers is leaving the workforce through retirement in increasing numbers while younger workers often lack the skills necessary to take their place. Falling graduation rates indicate that the new generation of workers in Milwaukee is not meeting this need and trends indicate that without significant investment the problem will persist and the Milwaukee will languish. The solution to these problems doesn't lie in elaborate schemes to lure industries back to Milwaukee through tax breaks or subsidies. The answer is a long term investment in human capital aimed at providing young children with the environment they need to develop cognitively, socially and behaviorally.

While it is tempting to focus investment on secondary education, research increasingly indicates that money is best spent on early childhood programs, preferably in the years from birth through third grade. This period is critical to cognitive, emotional and social development and research shows that intervention at this time results in the most improvement for the least cost. By the time children reach third grade, however, the majority of the developmental groundwork has been laid and returns on human capital investment are minimal in comparison. Reading scores for third graders are highly predictive of high school graduation and later successes in the work force. In turn, the same third grade reading scores are largely predicated on development that occurs before elementary school. Investments in child well being during the period between birth and the beginning of school have been successful at eliminating disparities in school readiness.

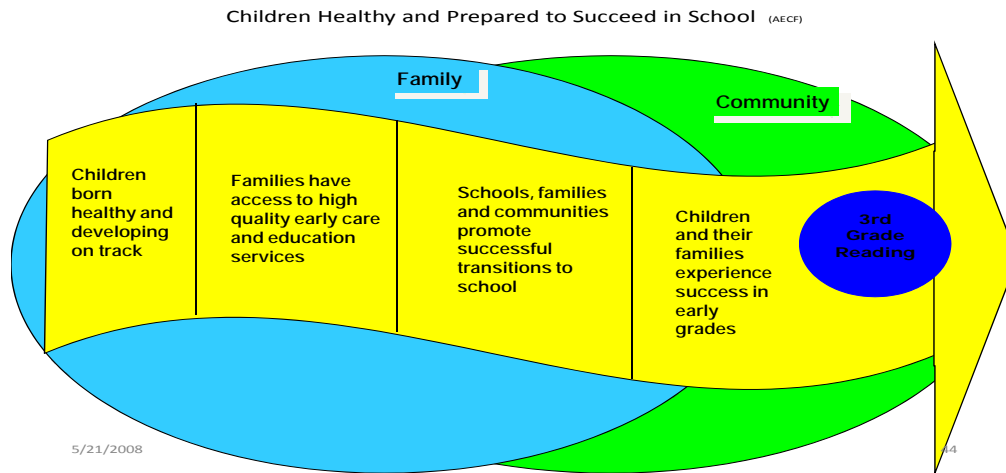
Milwaukee's workforce crisis is a problem affecting multiple generations. High school graduates with inadequate skills upon joining the work force almost certainly performed poorly on third grade reading tests. Third graders taking the tests today rely on skills only acquired if conditions were conducive to healthy development before they ever entered school. An inability to provide these conditions results in failures in the current workforce, in the next generation of workers in secondary schools that will replace them and in the next generation after that who are at risk of continuing the cycle. It is vital that we spend our efforts on early childhood, where they translate to real results, before another generation is left behind.

Who will be responsible for Milwaukee’s future economic success? The second generation of workers identified above, who now are young children, are very different than the current workforce. They are more diverse, mostly African American and Hispanic. One in three lives in poverty, and few have access to quality early education options.

Current approaches to social problems identify employment, health, education and family support policies as means to the desired ends of strengthened economies, safer neighborhoods and improved social conditions. For this model to succeed, the well-being of children and families must be considered.

The Pathways Model

The well being of children in the early years has a profound impact on their success in school and later. Children that are considered healthy and ready to succeed are those born healthy and developing on track, live in safe secure households, have access to high quality early learning and child care services, and have positive experiences in the early grades. The process has been modeled by the Pathways Mapping Initiative and adapted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a part of its CHAPSS initiative.



When conditions that foster child and family well being are in place, successful outcomes are seen in third grade reading scores. Third grade reading is important for three reasons. First, the third grade is an important time in learning because it is often the point when children stop learning to read and begin reading to learn. In the fourth grade and beyond, the ability to read and write is a prerequisite to acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating understanding. Second, third grade reading achievement reflects what has occurred in the child's life since birth. Half of the disparities found in third grade achievement can be attributed to skills attained in the years before schooling. Third, reading achievement is predictive of future academic, economic and social success. Poor readers at third grade rarely acquire average reading skills by the end of elementary school. (Other predictions related to third grade reading)

Investments made in early childhood programs have a greater effect on outcomes than investments made later in a child's academic career. The unusual plasticity in the developing brain means that intervention and investment before kindergarten and third grade can be highly effective. National economists have estimated a 16% annualized rate of return on investments in early learning programs. At the same time, early childhood investments minimize costs with reduced need for special education, and fewer children repeating a grade. Children also benefit through better health, development that is on track and a success in the future.

An adequate investment in early childhood programs is not the only concern. This investment must respond in an integrated way across programs and offer high performing quality programs. Indicators of progress need to include measures of need, measures of quality and measures that demonstrate effective outcomes of investments.

Here we report on the status of early childhood in Milwaukee via a number of indicators in five domains – health at birth, supportive households, early learning, pre-school and elementary education. The purpose of this report is two-fold. First, to start a conversation about Milwaukee's need for and barriers to investment in early childhood, and second to highlight what we know and what we need to know to inform investment decisions. The availability of data at the proper geographic scale is a crucial component of this work and it is our intent to create momentum for increased coordination in this regard. A final goal of this report is to increase awareness of the importance of early childhood investment to the development of a stable and capable workforce.

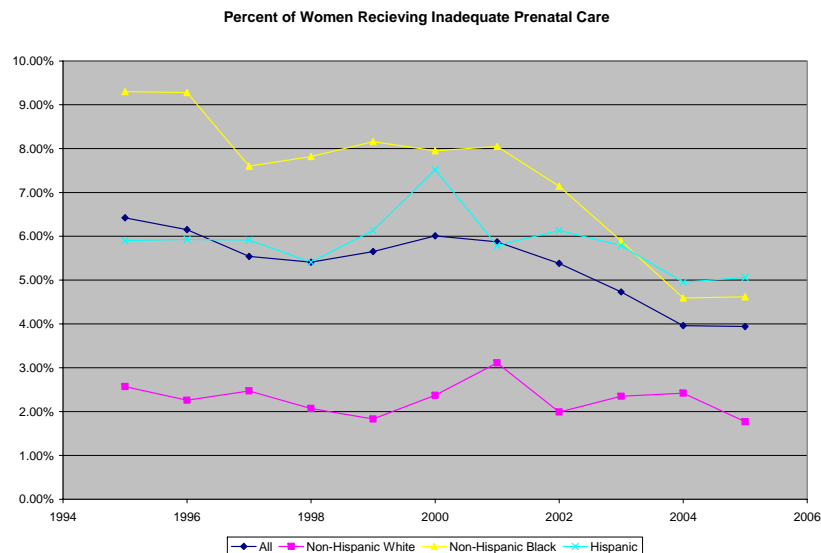
HEALTH AT BIRTH

The pathway to success begins at birth.

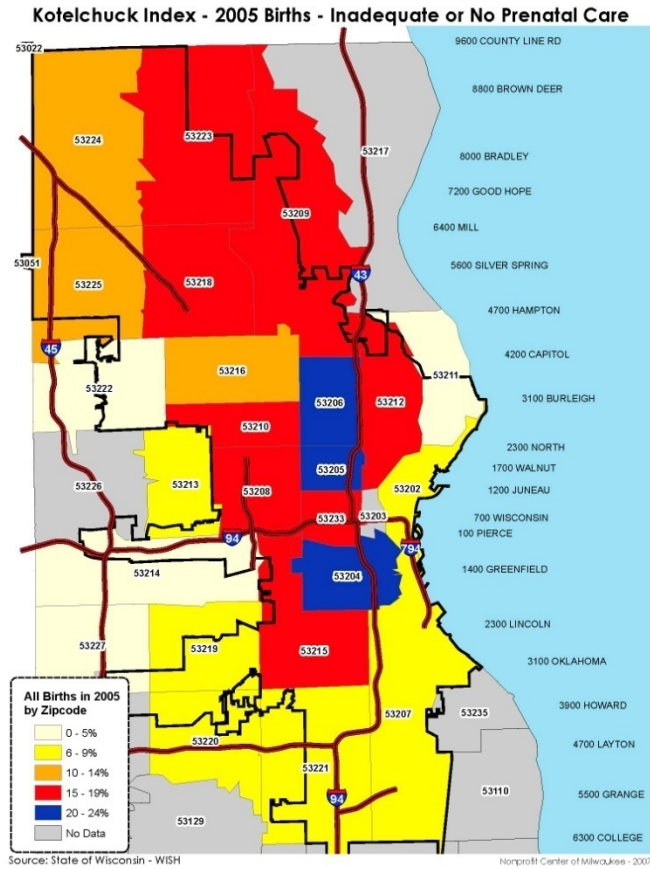
Prenatal Care – Women with access to high quality, prompt prenatal care have healthier babies with fewer physical limitations that affect school readiness. Prenatal care in the first trimester results in healthier babies because pre-existing medical conditions can be identified and treated before impacting the child. Drug, alcohol and tobacco use is also decreased in women with prompt prenatal care resulting in fewer babies with developmental problems.

In Milwaukee, 76.7% of births in 2006 were preceded by prenatal care than began in the first trimester. This is an improvement from 74.5% in 1996, but well below the state value of 83.8%

A more comprehensive perspective is offered by the Kotelchuk Index which incorporates information on the extent of prenatal care visits during the term of pregnancy. Access to prenatal care is supported by full state subsidy for those who require it, but the level of care remains uneven. Although “adequate” care – as defined by the Kotelchuck index has improved in Milwaukee, Black and Hispanic mothers have more than twice the level of “inadequate” care.

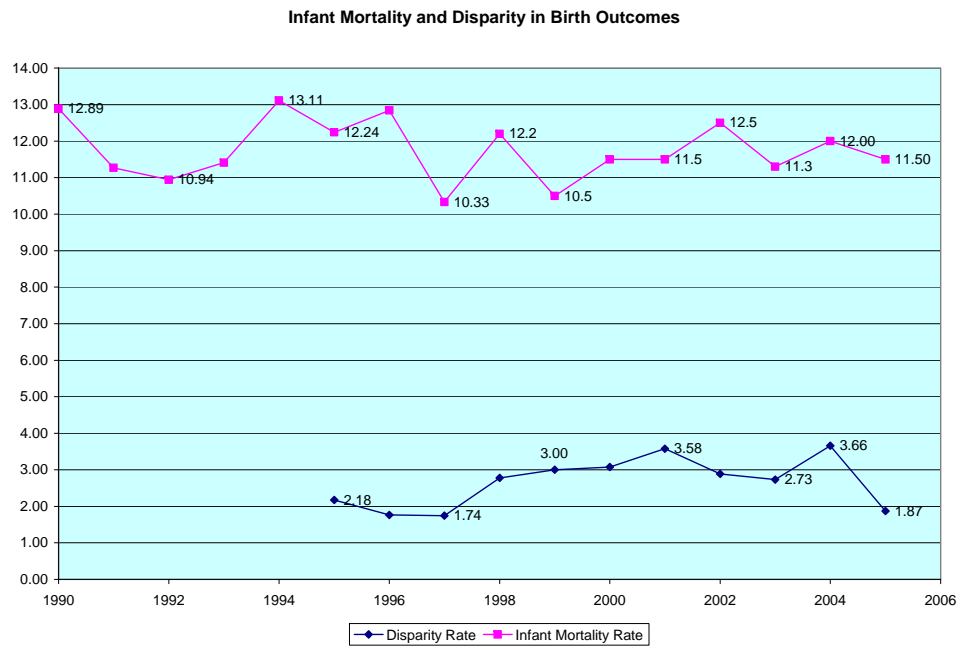


The map shows the % of “inadequate” or no prenatal care in 2005 using the Kotelchuck index. Areas where 20% of the births received “inadequate” care contrasts sharply with a statewide value of 9% and 14% for all of Milwaukee.



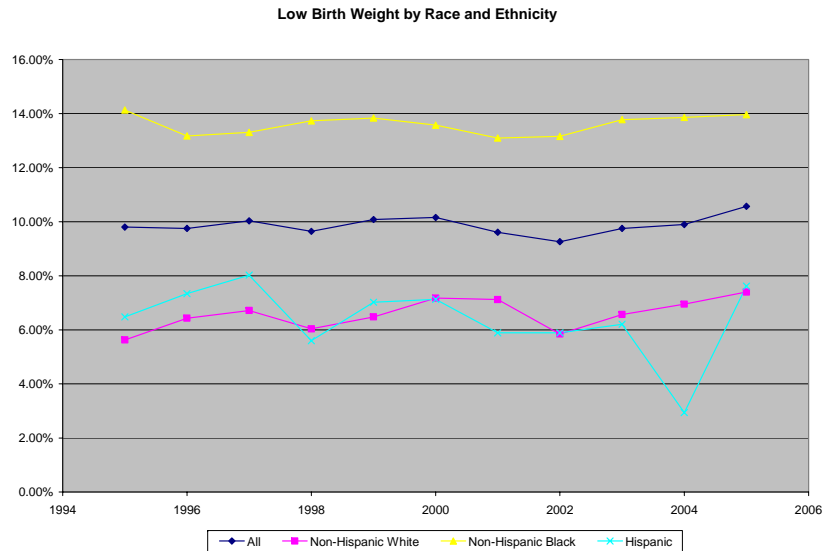
Infant Death

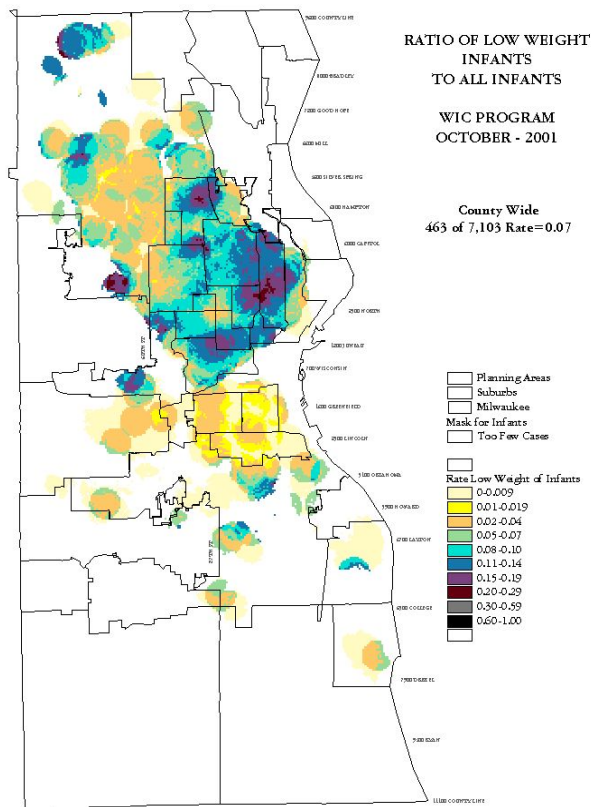
In 2005, 11.5 of every thousand children born in Milwaukee died in the first year of life. The infant mortality rate among Black children was 1.87 times that of white children. This disparity rate has been consistently high.



Birth to Three

Low Birth weight – Birth weight is reliable index of fetal growth and an indicator of future health. It has been determined by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development that the impacts of fetal development may account for much of the racial disparities in adult diseases like hypertension, diabetes, coronary artery disease, and obesity (from Milwaukee Community Health Assessment). The rates of low and very low birth weight births are significantly higher for non-Hispanic blacks than for others. Children born at low birth weights are more likely to have developmental problems, to be enrolled in special needs classes, to repeat a grade, or to fail in school. FN SCHORR





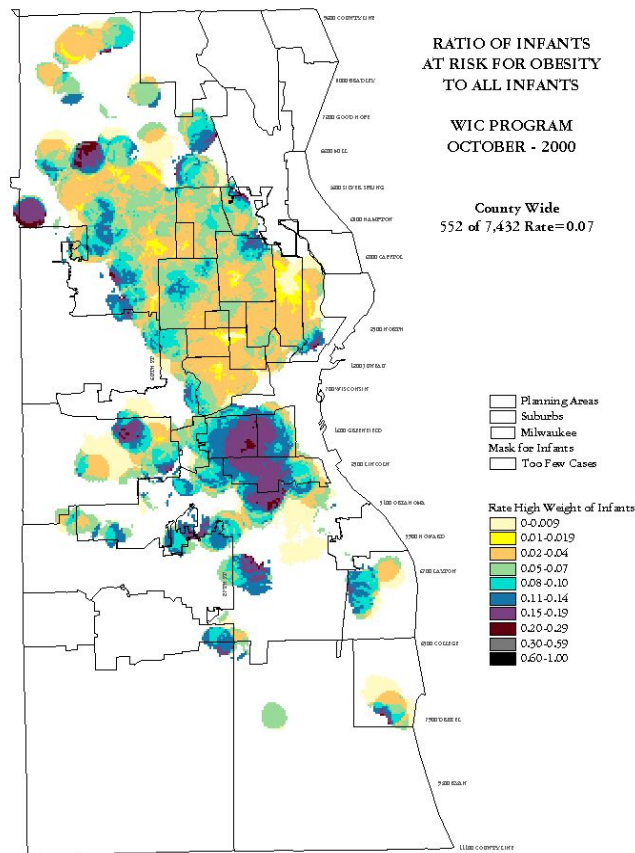
Source: WIC Program 2001

Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee 2002

Low birth weight patterns are highest for Black births in Milwaukee – nearly twice the % for non-Hispanic white or Hispanic births. There have been no improvements in this statistic over the last 12 years. Data from the WIC nutrition program shows that among low income families, low birth weight is more concentrated in the near North Side.

Early Childhood Obesity – Children who are overweight as toddlers or as preschoolers are more likely to be obese as adolescents (NIH News).

Patterns of obesity in infants is more concentrated on Milwaukee's South Side – generally Hispanic children.



Source: WIC Programs 2000

Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee 2002

Brain Development – The importance of brain development in the early years can't be understated. Researchers conclude that “virtually every aspect of early human development, from the brain's evolving circuitry to the child's capacity for empathy, is affected by the environments and experiences that are encountered in a cumulative fashion, beginning in the prenatal period and extending throughout the early childhood years.” Early childhood experiences shape brain architecture during this sensitive period, when neurons is most able to make new connections necessary to acquire a variety of skills required later in life.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSEHOLDS

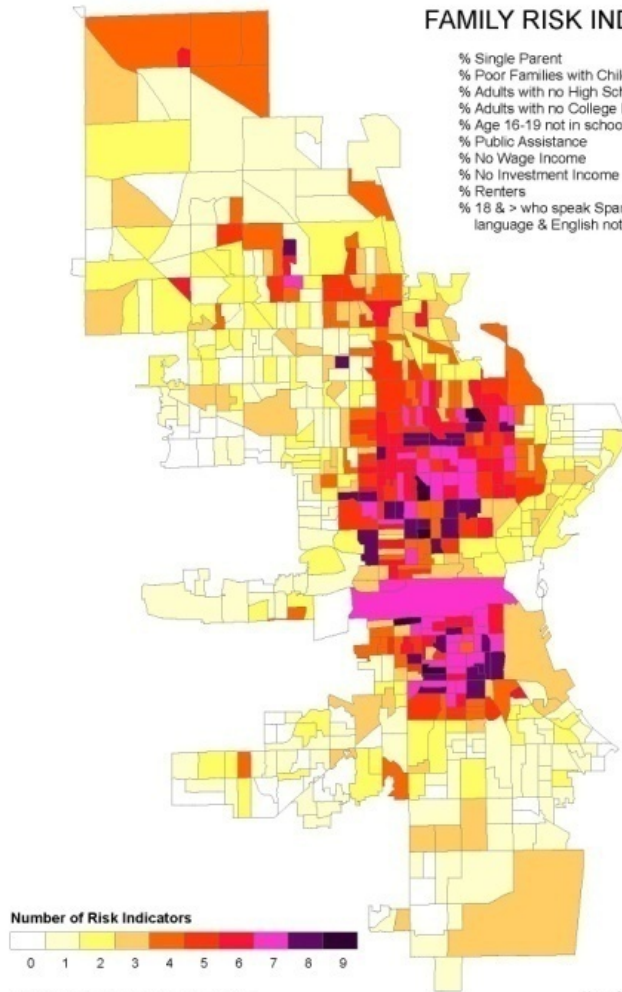
A secure, stable and nurturing home environment with adequate attention from at least one competent and caring adult is critical to a young child's well being. When parents act as first teachers by reading to children and including children in rich conversation, the impact can be seen in increased vocabulary, a predisposition to reading and better emotional development.

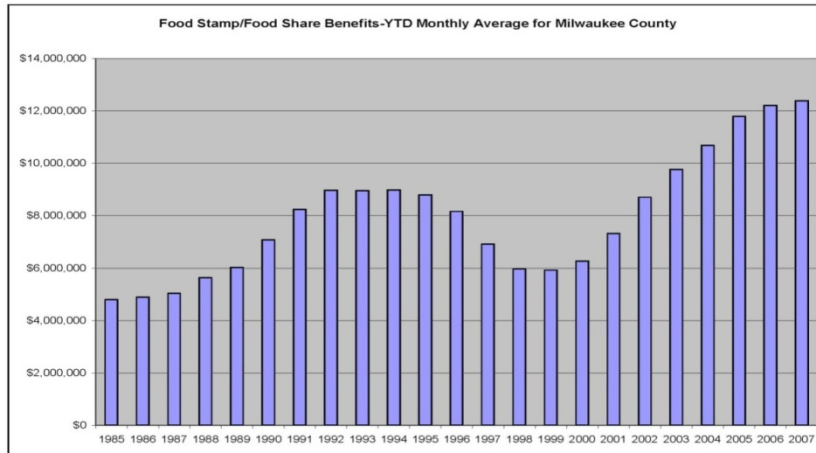
Children at Risk – The most influential indicators of risk are poverty and racial segregation. Children living in poverty before age five, when compared to other children, have lower cognitive abilities, more health and emotional problems, and score lower on standardized tests. Parents experiencing poverty are also more likely to have mental health issues that affect the emotional development of their children. In contrast, when parents are employed the social development of their children is improved.

The extended demographic chapter breaks out patterns in greater detail.

FAMILY RISK INDICATORS

- % Single Parent
- % Poor Families with Children
- % Adults with no High School Degree
- % Adults with no College Degree
- % Age 16-19 not in school & not working
- % Public Assistance
- % No Wage Income
- % No Investment Income
- % Renters
- % 18 & > who speak Spanish, Asian, or other language & English not well or not at all

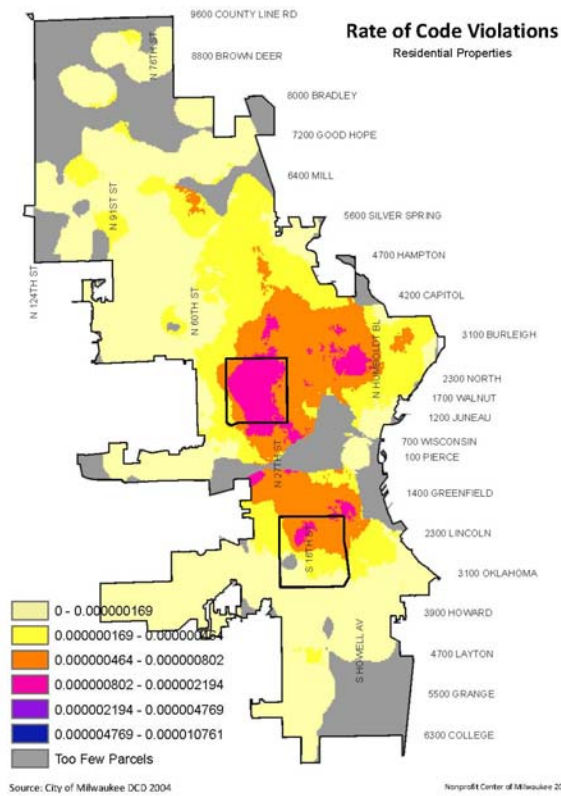




Food stamp use has been high in Milwaukee and increasing each year. (The dip in Food Stamp use was an effect of the efforts by the State of Wisconsin to reduce the welfare rolls in the late 1990's.) Zip code level food stamp patterns are available for a limited number of zip codes.

Neighborhoods at risk – Safe and stable neighborhoods reduce exposure to anxiety caused by crime and violence. When neighborhoods are safe parents are more likely to take advantage of resources like parks, libraries and children’s programs. Children also develop more interactions with family members and neighborhoods in safer neighborhoods. If the perception of danger in a neighborhood is high, parents often respond by restricting their child’s movement and thereby limiting opportunities for cognitive stimulation, physical fitness and self reliance.

City of Milwaukee housing stock is general older single and duplex wood frame homes. 52 % of housing units in the city were built before 1925. In much of the central city, housing stock is in poor condition. The next map identifies the rate of open orders for code violations – concentrated substantially in the near north and south sides.

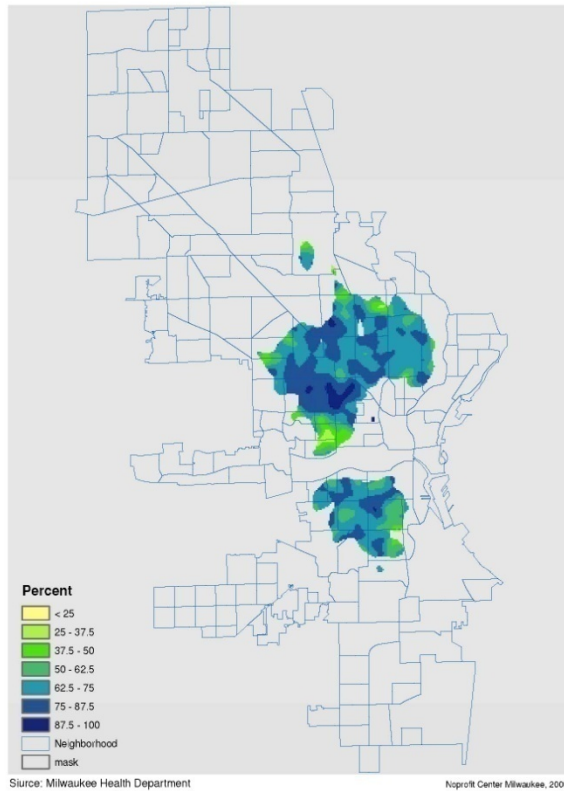


Housing condition can be a critical health risk to young children, primarily through lead poisoning and asthmatic conditions. Both are serious risks in Milwaukee.

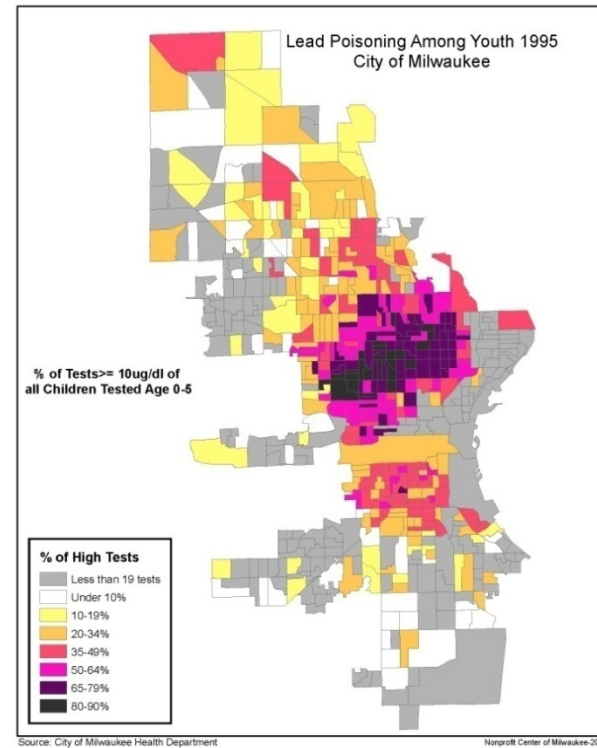
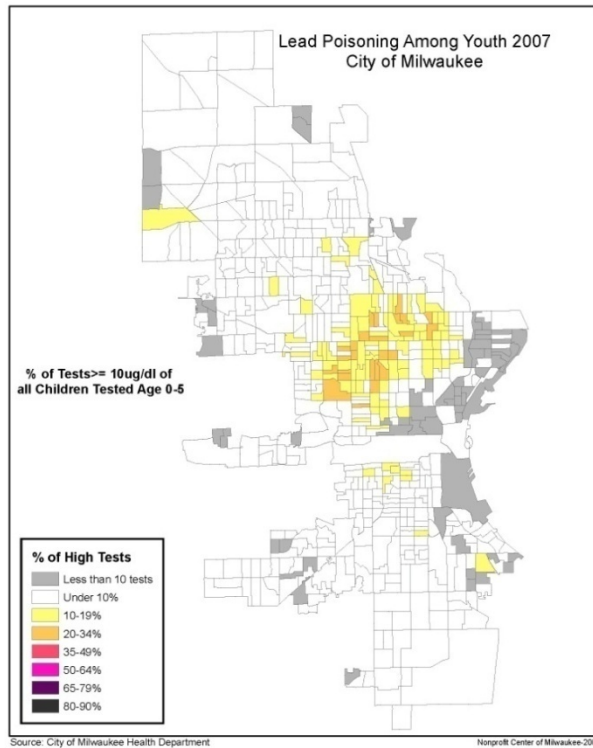
Lead Poisoning

Although lead poisoning rates have declined dramatically over the last decade, in 2007 20-35 percent of children who are tested some neighborhoods were found to have serious levels of lead in their systems – primarily from dust or chunks of lead paint coming loose from paint applied before 1950.

Rate of Remediation at Lead Poisoned Properties
Milwaukee 1995-2007

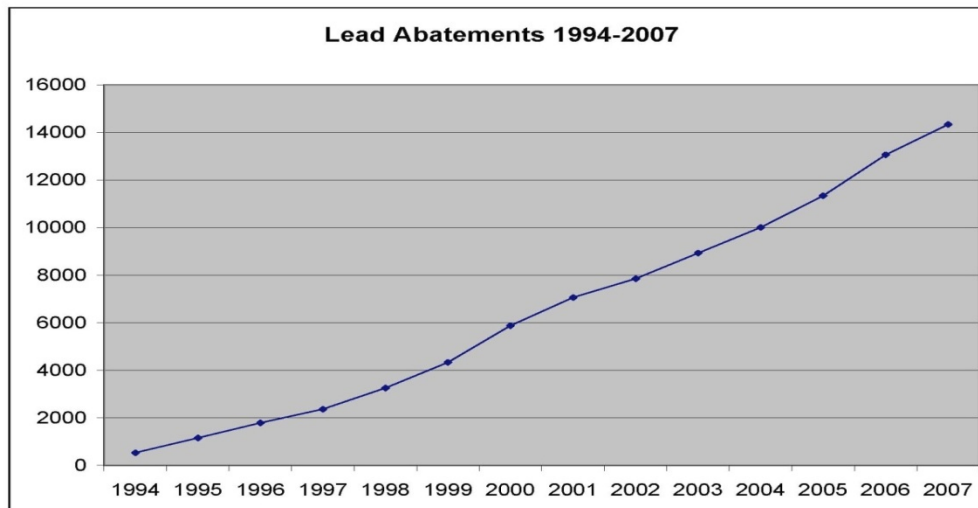


The two maps on the this page demonstrate the dramatic decrease in the rate of lead poisoning from 1995 to 2007. But neighborhoods with rates above 20% are still found in the central city.



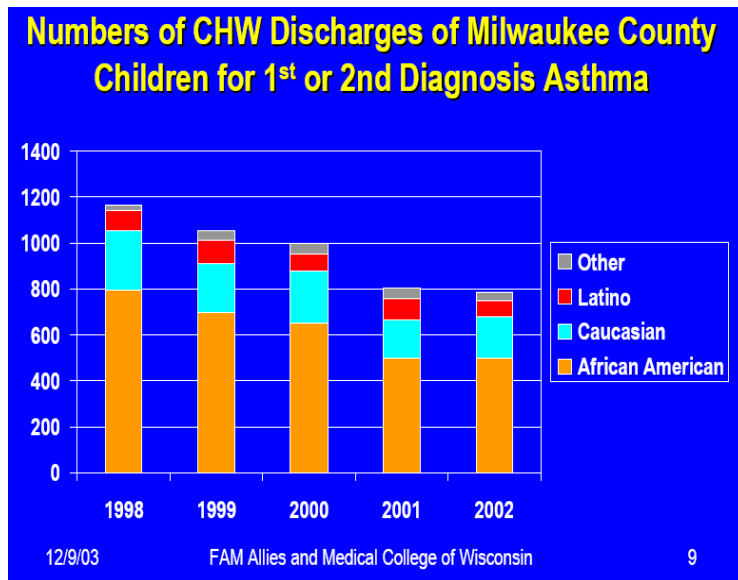
The city has invested more than \$1,000,000 each year over the last decade in home remediation, with dramatic effect. In the most severe areas, well over 60% of all properties where poisoned children lived were either remediated or torn down.

Since 1994, over 14,000 properties have been remediated.



Asthma

In 2005, as many as 23% of all Milwaukee students were reported as having asthma. The condition has been greater among Black students. But more importantly, large numbers of children are hospitalized for asthma, a condition that should be rare – as asthma can generally be controlled with appropriate treatment and medication.

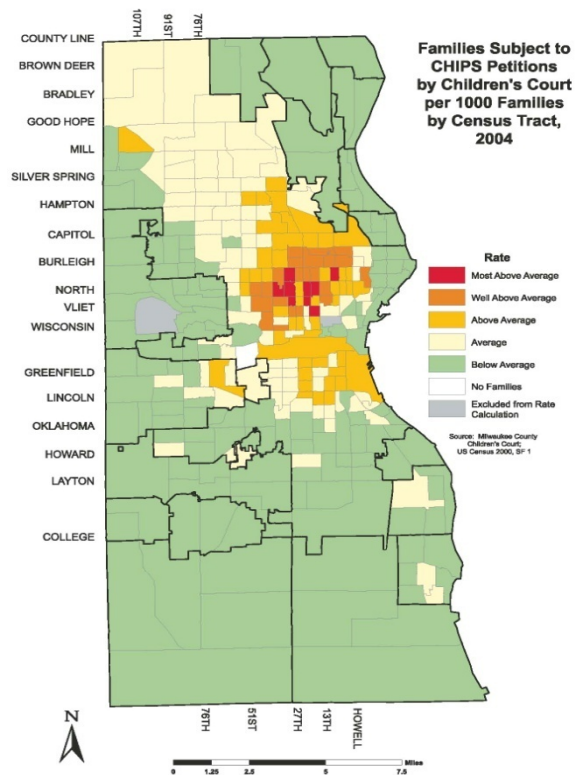


Asthma data is not currently available except at a summary level.

High Risk Households –

In households with the greatest stress, children are at risk. Child welfare programs have been under stress themselves. As a result of a lawsuit, the Milwaukee county program was closed and the state took control of programs. The number of at risk households and the inadequate performance measures of government services are all relevant to improving conditions.

Child abuse and neglect have documented negative impacts on language abilities, cognitive function, and social and behavioral development.



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

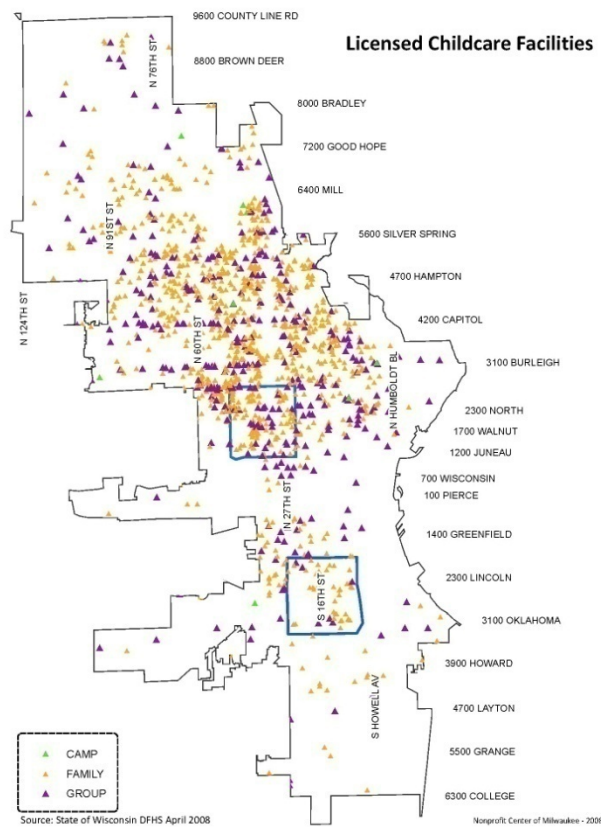
High quality childcare and early learning programs directly influence a child's future academic, social and economic success. Studies show that disadvantaged children enrolled in a high quality child care with rich learning environments are less likely to need special education, more likely to succeed in school and graduate from high school on time, more likely to attend 4 year college, more likely to be financially independent and own their own home.

Child Care Programs

Licensed Child Care Positions – 2008 City of Milwaukee

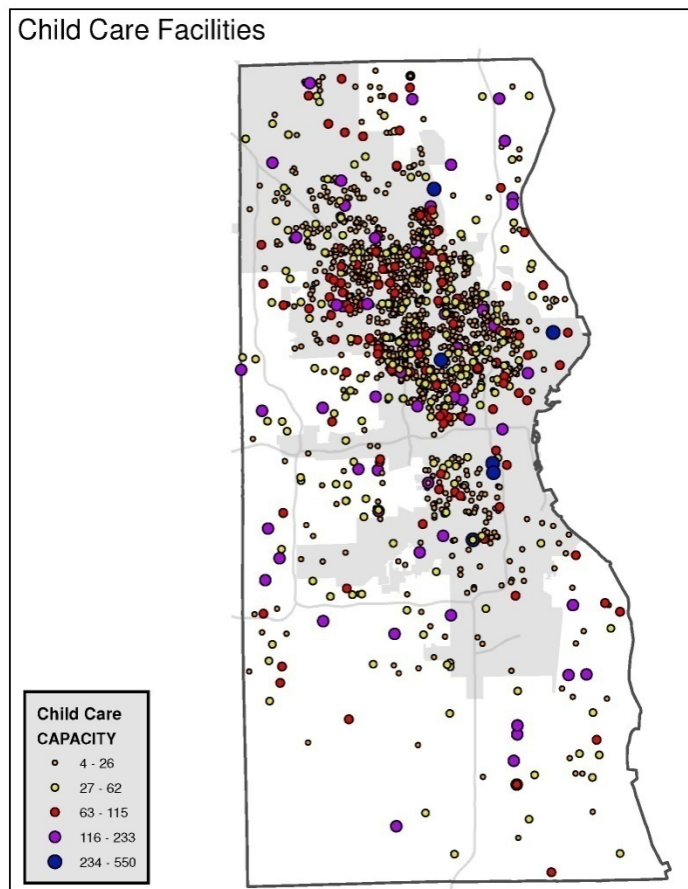
	Sites	Seats	Sites	Seats
Family	961	7,668	71.4%	24.3%
Group	373	23,166	27.7%	73.3%
Camp	11	762	0.8%	2.4%
Total	1,345	31,596	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Wisconsin DHFS, 2008



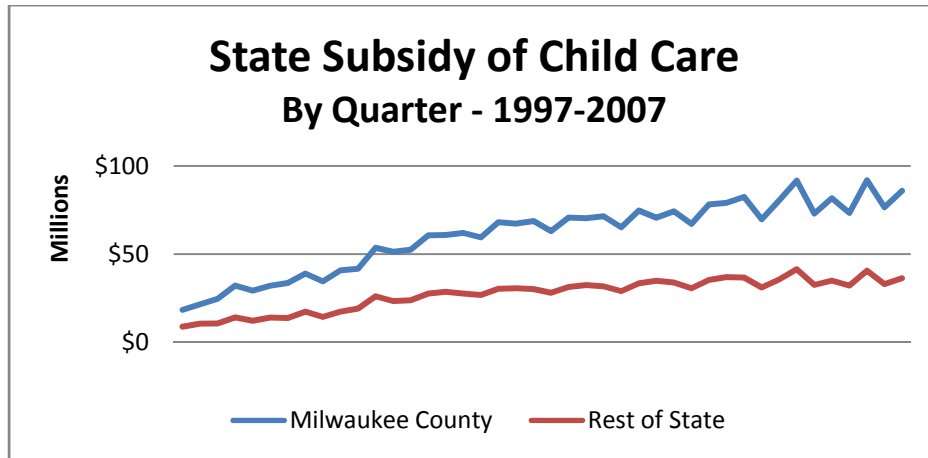
Given the large number of small child care programs, there are many programs scattered throughout the city. Larger "Centers" are less common and not found in all neighborhoods.

The map in this page shows a larger capacity exists on the north side than on the south side.



Access to Child Care – Funding

Funding has risen steadily since 1997. Access to child care subsidy does not appear to be a critical issue.



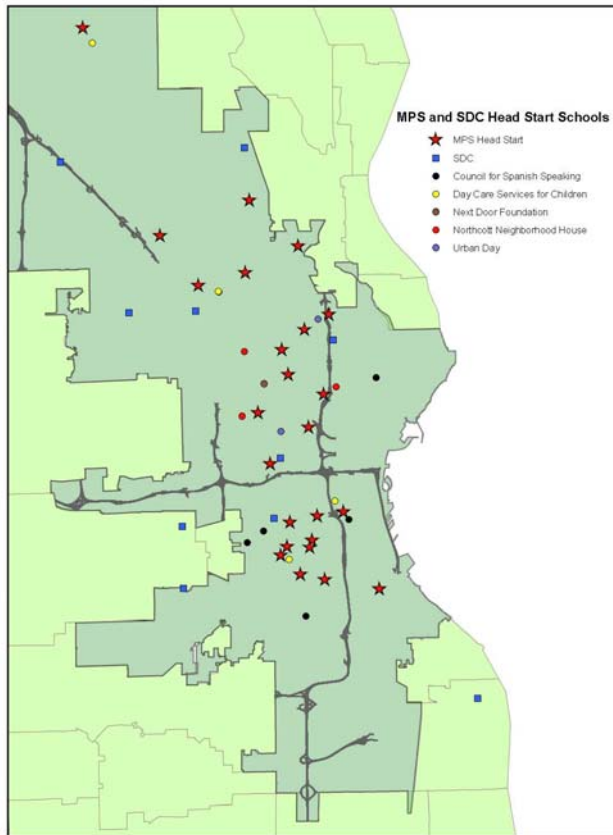
Child care quality – A high quality pre-school environment translates to future success in school. Children across income levels who participate in high quality early learning programs enter kindergarten with better cognitive and emotional skills than their peers (Trust for Early Education). Long-term studies have shown the lasting impacts of high quality pre-school. Low income participants in one study were 31 percent more likely to graduate from high school and 56 percent less likely to require special education.

Basic indicators of quality pre-kindergarten programs include college educated teachers, low class size and child to teacher ratios, age appropriate curricula, and monitoring and evaluation.

Head Start

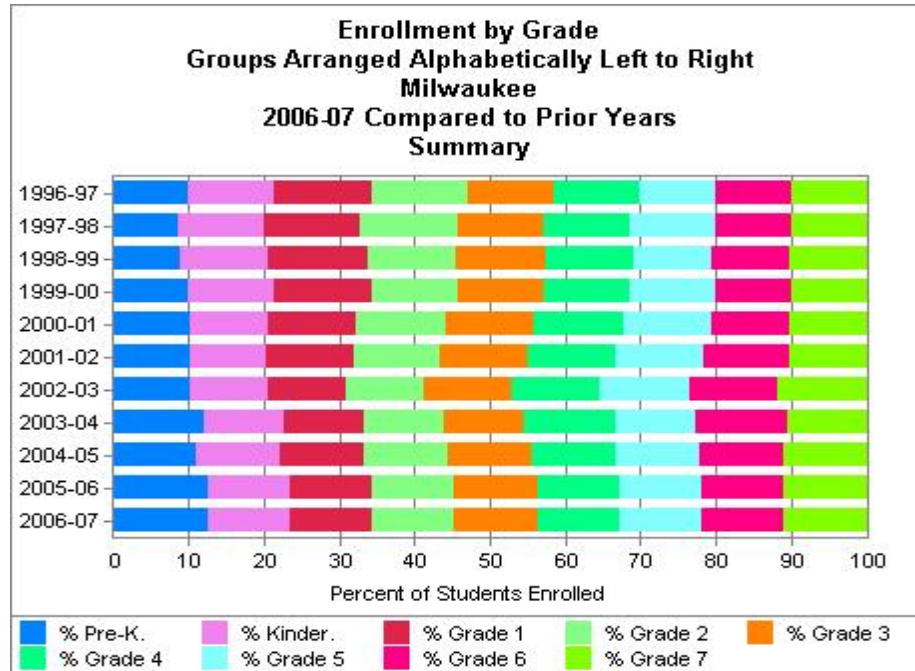
Head start programs are well distributed across the city. A primary limitation has been the low proportion of full day slots.

Very little data is shared at a neighborhood level by either of the two Head Start administrations – the school system and the local CAP agency.



Pre-School Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrollment.

The state of Wisconsin has committed funds to half day Pre-K programs.



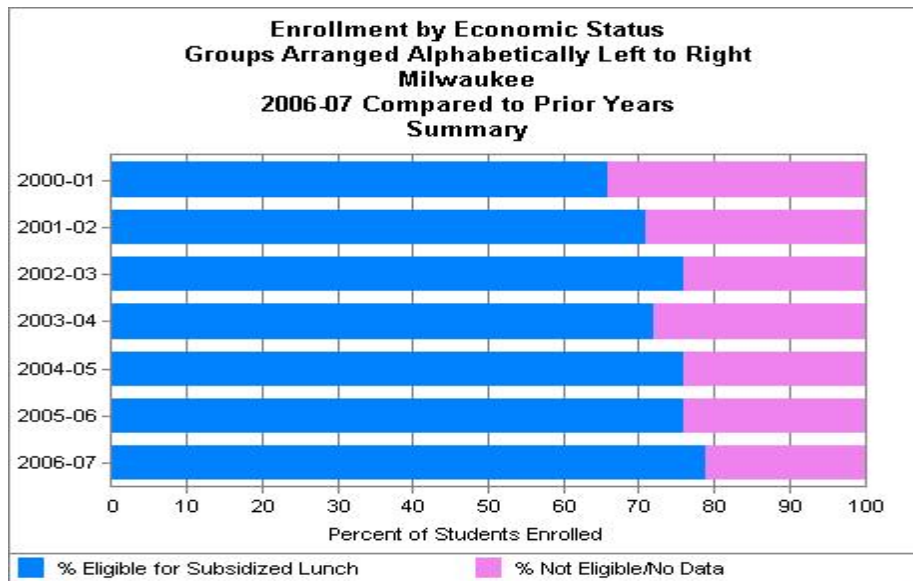
Enrollment in Pre-K programs has increased in Milwaukee, but enrollment in Kindergarten programs has been more level since 1996.

School Readiness

Milwaukee has not established procedures to assess school readiness as students enter kindergarten.

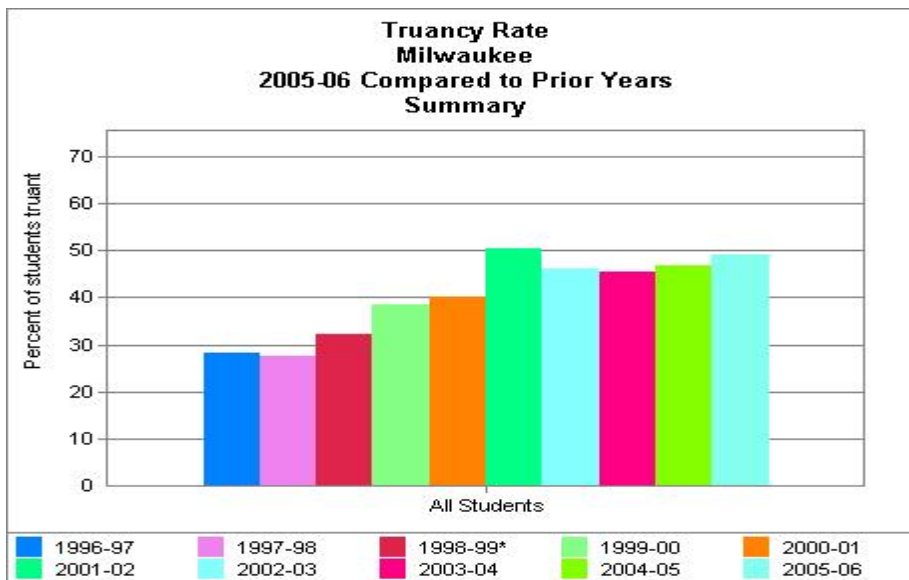
Elementary School

The large population of children in poverty households has been increasing each year when measured by the growth of the Free Lunch program. The proportion of children who are eligible is so high in many neighborhoods, limiting the value of mapping the distribution of children with this statistic.

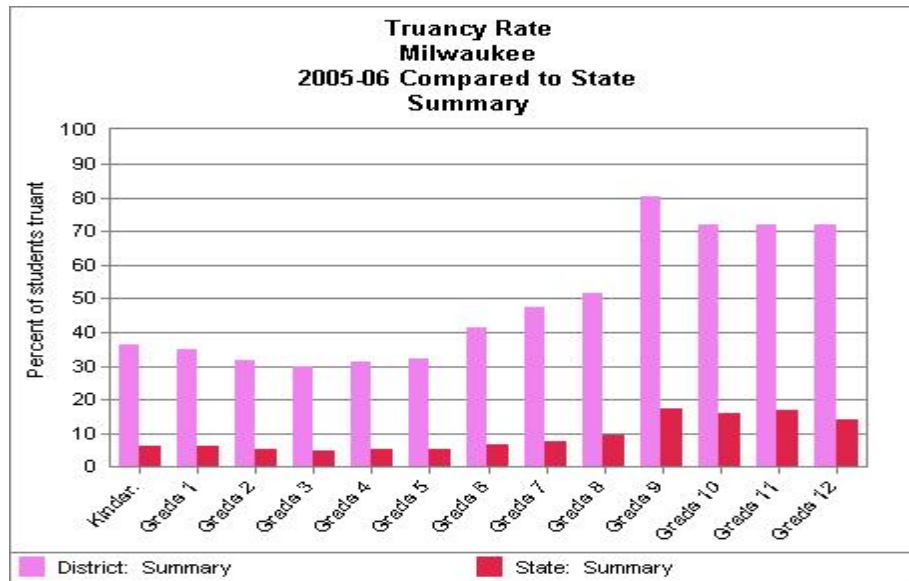


Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism has long been recognized as a contributor to poor academic achievement and lowered employability later in life. For early childhood, however, it is just now becoming apparent that repeated absence in kindergarten and the early grades is a problem with long-term consequences. Children who are chronically absent are more likely to continue the trend in later grades. In a recent study, achievement scores in reading, math and general knowledge lagged for children habitually absent in kindergarten scoring on average 5 points lower than others when tested after first grade.

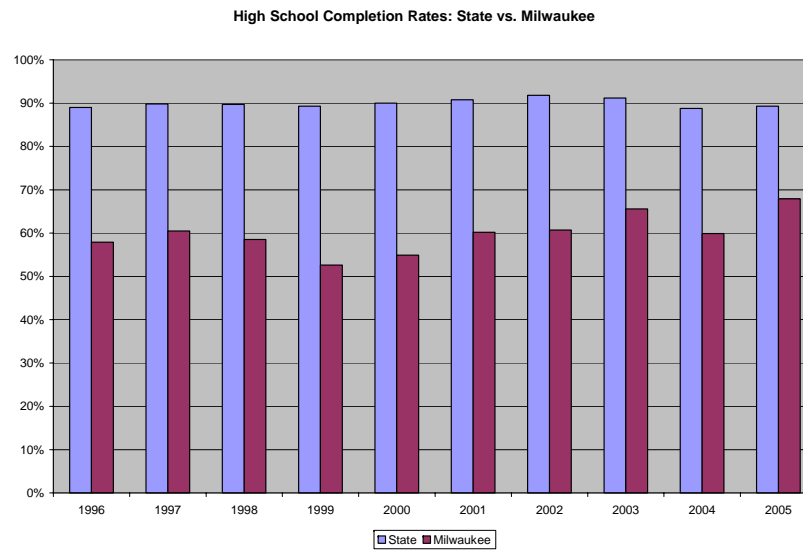


Absenteeism is high in the early grades, tappers for a few grades than is increasingly high for advanced years.

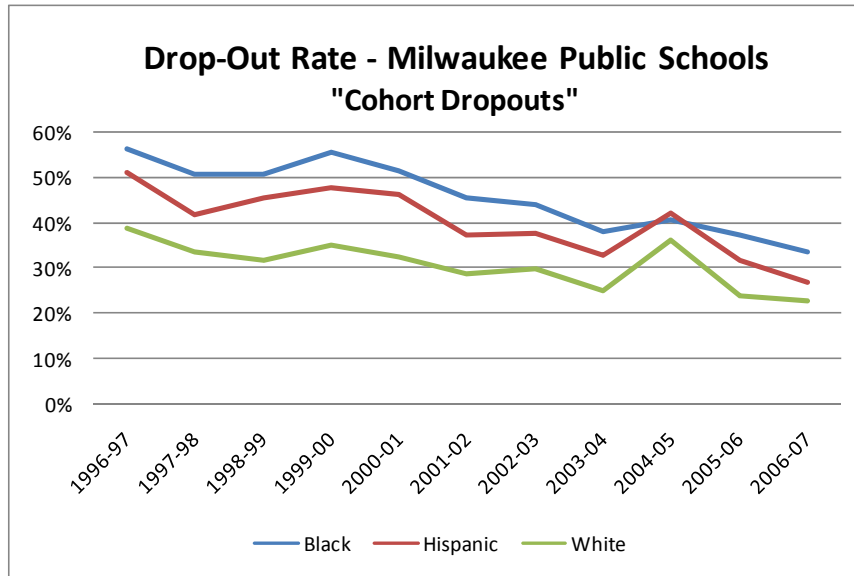


Beyond Elementary School

High school graduations rates remain very high, with little sign of change over time.



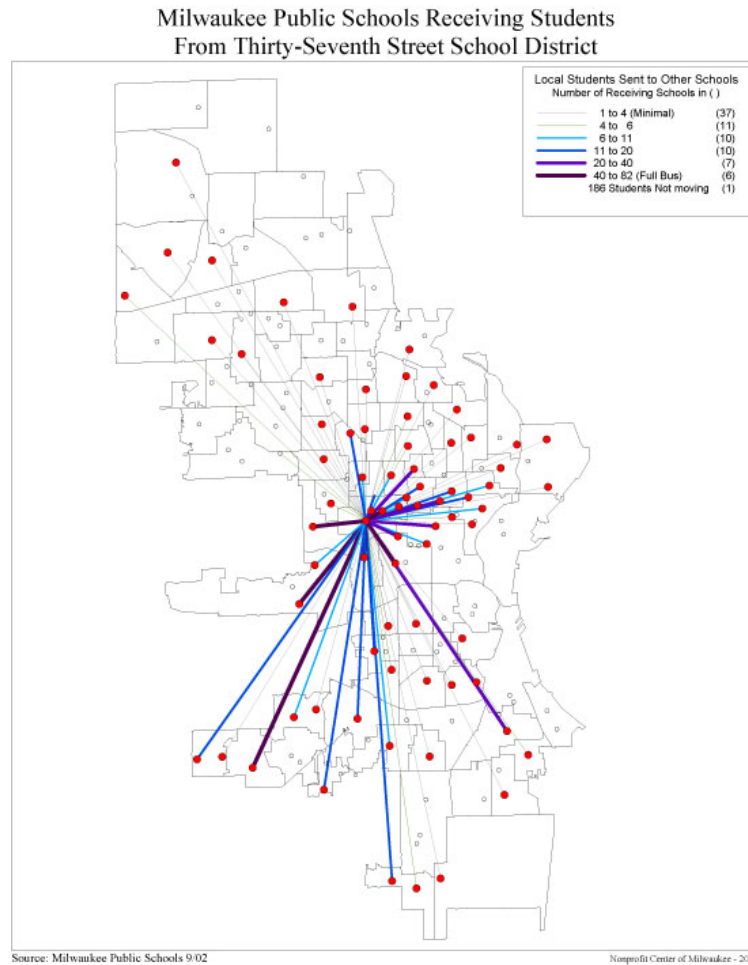
Minority patterns are particularly high.



Refining School Data

School data is only available for school buildings. In most elementary districts, less than half of the students who live in the district attend the local neighborhood school. A set of “city-wide” schools attract students from across the city. This makes it impossible to talk about student issues at a neighborhood level. Restructuring the data remains a high priority.

The map on this page demonstrates the broad distribution of students from a single central city school district.



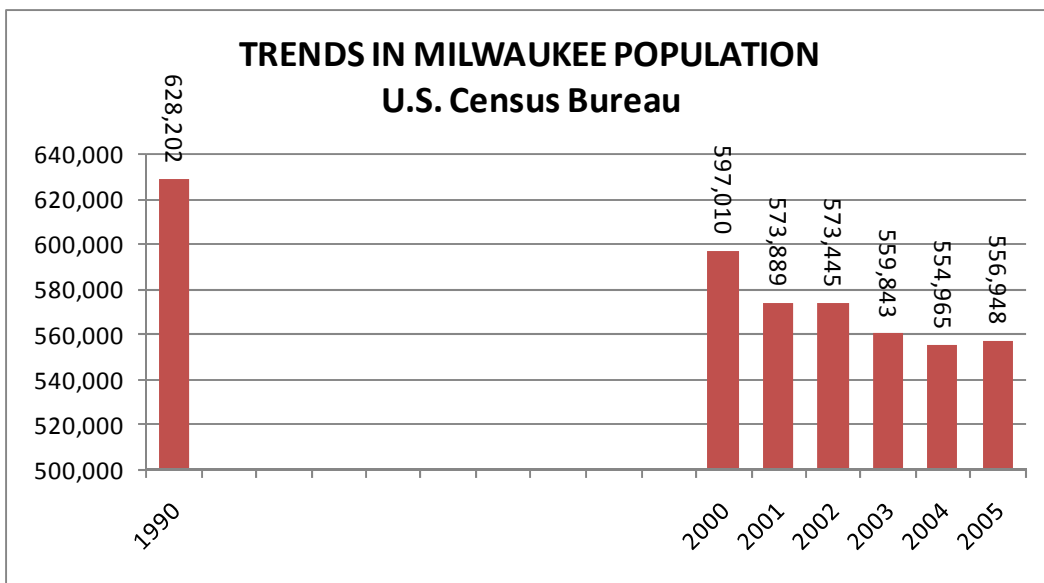
APPENDIX

Extended Discussion of Population Estimates and Trends

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a thorough census of the population. Basic statistics are gathered from every households. More detailed questions – about socio-economic status – are asked of one of six households in Milwaukee. Much of this report relies on the 2000 U.S. Census because this is the last time that enough households were surveyed to be able to describe neighborhood level patterns. This opportunity will not be available until 2010 U.S. Census information is reported – in 2011 and 2012.

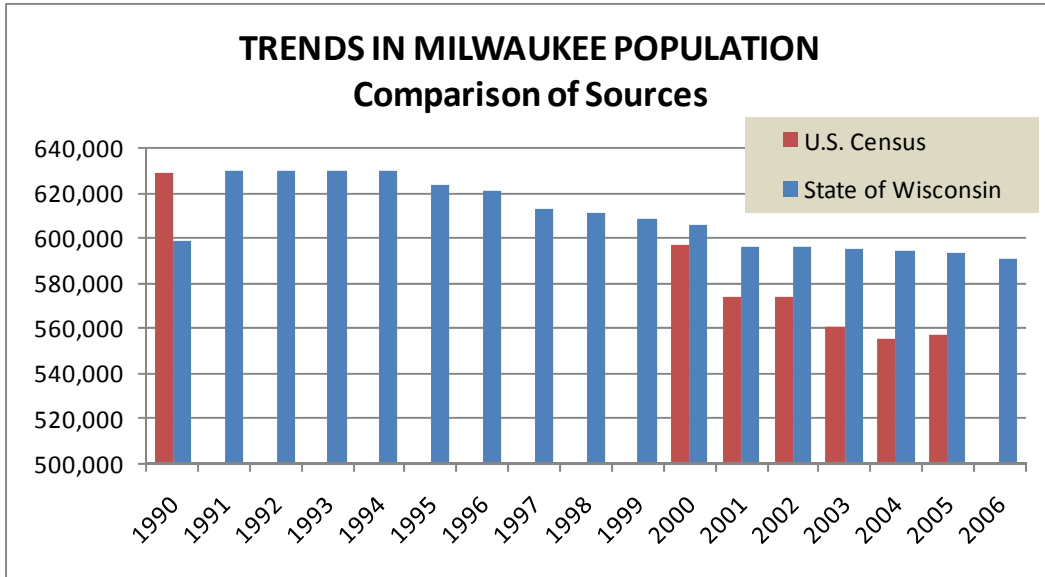
However, for the first time the U.S. Census began an annual census – starting in Milwaukee in 2001. The sample is small enough that it can only be used to describe city of Milwaukee trends, not neighborhoods.

This annual census – the American Community Survey (ACS) – has shown a steady decline in population in Milwaukee since 2000.

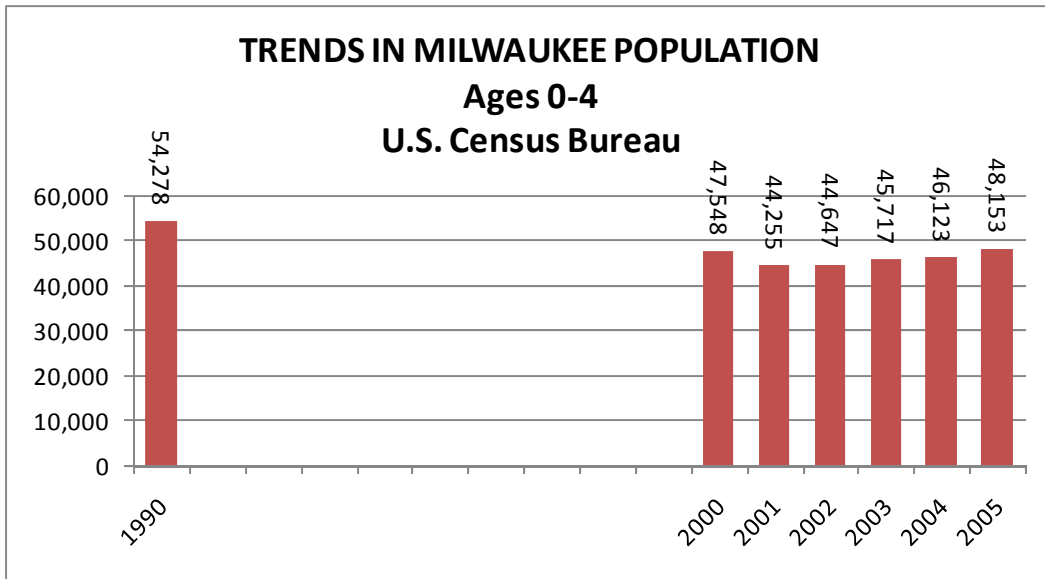


All commercial population projection services reconcile their data to these totals.

However, there is reason to doubt the accuracy of these numbers. The State of Wisconsin estimates the Milwaukee population each year using administrative data. These estimates incorporate driver's licenses and car registrations, as well as birth, death and migration models. The state estimates are consistently higher than the American Community survey.



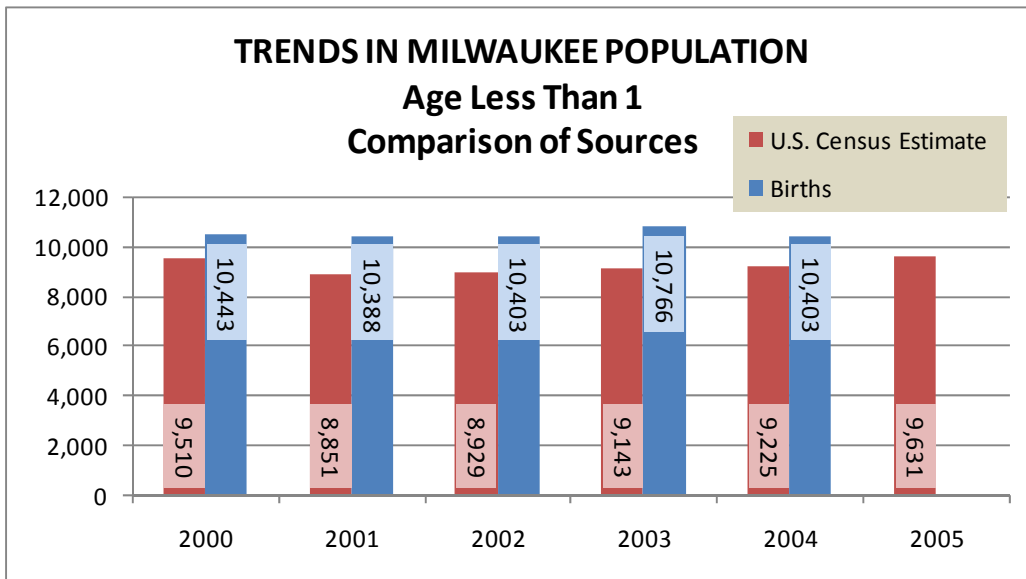
The American Community Survey also estimates the number of young children. (The state does not.) The ACS has estimated a slowly growing population of young children. This runs counter to the estimate for the total population.



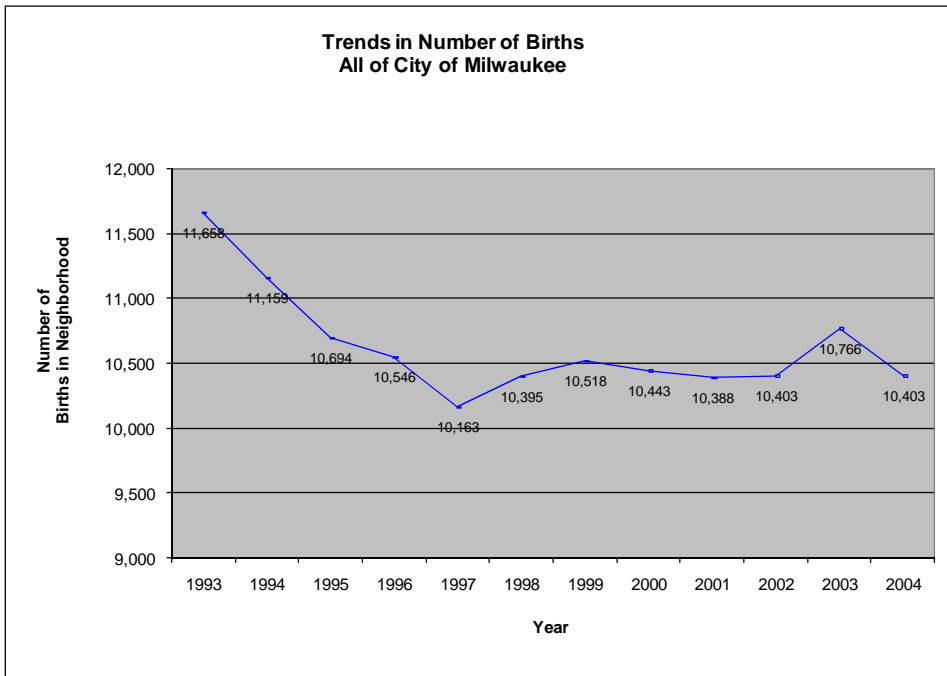
Birth certificate data allows a very accurate way to understand the number of children less than one in any given year. The table below correlates the birth data from a series of years with the ages of children in the 2000 U.S. Census. Even the more thorough 2000 U.S. Census appears to under count young children 12% or more.

U.S. Census 2000		Births		Census
Age	Number	Year	Number	Undercount
0	9,741	2000	10,899	11.9%
1	9,690	1999	10,994	13.5%
2	9,411	1998	10,743	14.2%
3	9,238	1997	10,507	13.7%
4	9,468	1996	11,087	17.1%
5	9,848	1995	11,127	13.0%
6	9,912	1994	11,701	18.0%

More recent birth data can also be compared to the American Community Survey data by estimating the number of children in the ACS from the count of children ages 0-4. (That is by dividing that number by 5.) The comparison demonstrates that the ACS continues to underestimate the number of young children.

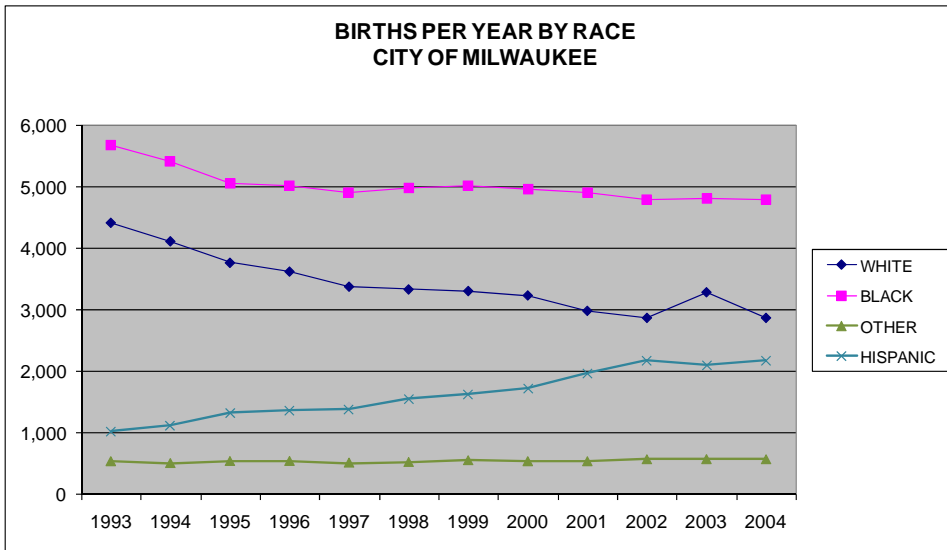


For very young children, birth data appears to be a very useful resource. The chart below tracks birth trends in Milwaukee over 12 years. The trend over this time is not linear. A steep drop in the 1990's has been replaced by a more stable pattern since.



This non-linear pattern is better understood by examining birth patterns by race. The influence of sharp declines in the number of births in the White population have been replaced by an increasing influence of the pattern of Hispanic births. However, both of these patterns result from strong migration effects. Many young white adults have left Milwaukee and many young Hispanic adults have moved into Milwaukee.

In addition, the decrease in white births appears to be slowing. Other evidence of an increasing Hispanic population will likely begin to lead to increases in the over all pattern, rather than just a stable pattern of births.



POPULATION BY AGE AND RACE – PAST TRENDS

The age pyramids on the next two pages allow examining households and age trends by race between 1990 and 2000. Details are found in the two pages of figures that follow the graphics.

Among the total population there were more young adults and fewer teens by 2000. There was a decrease of 12.4% in the number of young children ages 0-4.

But the patterns are stronger for racial and ethnic groups. The white population decreased 25.0%. Many white young adults have left Milwaukee, along with young children. The number of white children ages 0-4 had decreased by 39.4%.

The Black population was 16.6% larger in 2000 than in 1990, but the number of very young children ages 0-4 had decreased by 4.3%. The number of Hispanics increased 81.8% in that period and the number of very young children increased 65.0%. Although the number of Asians is smaller, the population increased 48.7% but the number of very young children only increased 13.9%.

Hispanic children are an increasing part of the population – 6.3% of all in 1990 and 12.0% of all in 2000. Among very young children ages 0-4, the percent of Hispanics rose from 10.0% to 18.9%. The number of white persons dropped from 63.4% to 50.0%. The number of white very young children dropped much faster – from 46.1% to 31.9%. (This number would be larger if those Hispanics who identify their race as “white” were removed from the statistic.)

Summary

An appropriate estimate of young children ages 0-4 in 2005 would be the ACS number of 48,135 plus another 12% for basic undercount observed in the 2000 U.S. Census and additional corrections for the additional observed limitations of the American Community survey. While the ACS is counting fewer households in Milwaukee each year, the State of Wisconsin has transactional evidence of more stable populations. Applying a 12% correction for the basic undercount followed by a 15% correction for the differences between state and ACS numbers, the estimate grows from 48,135 to 62,000. When the increasing effect of additional Hispanic young adults is factored in, the number may be much higher.