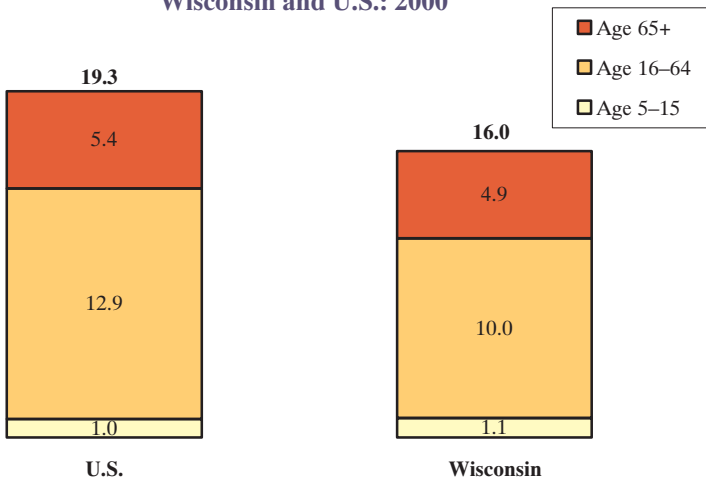


Persons with Disabilities

Because the decennial census provides information for small communities and neighborhoods – information especially useful for local planning and needs assessments – the U.S. Census Bureau has long been under pressure to include questions specifically about persons with disabilities. Consequently, laws which mandate certain forms of accessibility and statutes that protect disabled persons from discrimination have required that the Census Bureau add disability questions to the census. According to the 2000 Census, Wisconsin has 791,000 noninstitutionalized residents (age 5 or older) with disabilities, which comprises roughly 16% of its non-institutionalized population (Fig. 70). The census does not measure disabilities among those persons who live in institutions which means the count of 791,000 noninstitutionalized disabled persons greatly underestimates the full extent of disabilities in the state.

Figure 70

Disabled Persons as a Percent of the Total Population*, Wisconsin and U.S.: 2000

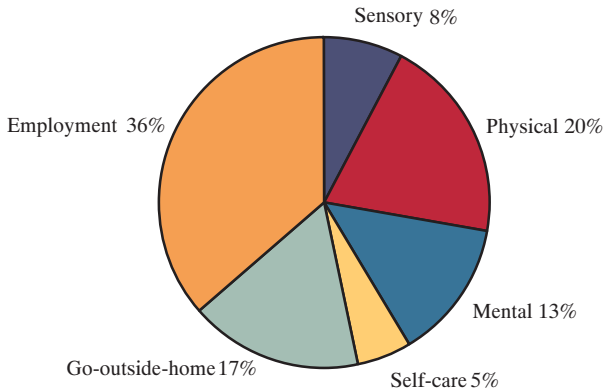


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

*Shown only for the Civilian, Non-Institutional Population 5 Years and Older

At both the state and national levels, about 6 out of every 10 (noninstitutionalized) disabled individuals are between the ages of 16 and 64 years. In Wisconsin, more than one-third of the disabilities in this age group are ones that make it difficult to work (“employment disability”) (Fig. 71).

Figure 71

Types of Disabilities Among Persons Ages 16 to 64, Wisconsin: 2000

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

*Shown only for the Civilian, Non-Institutional Population 5 Years and Older

Housing in Wisconsin

Understanding how people live, the characteristics of their homes, ownership rates, cost of housing, size of households, all help us to better understand the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin. Some of these issues were addressed in the section on households and families. In this final substantive section we look at Wisconsin's housing stock.

The total number of housing units in Wisconsin in 2000 was 2.3 million, of which almost 90% were occupied at the time of the census (Fig. 72). This is similar to the national average of about 91%. Of the occupied housing units in Wisconsin, about 70% were in urban areas and 30% rural. This split is very close to that of the population itself (68% vs. 32%) (recall Fig. 10).

Among the 237,000 vacant housing units in 2000, the majority (62%) are categorized for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use (Fig. 73). Burnett and Vilas Counties had the greatest proportion of seasonal or recreational housing (over 95% of their vacant housing units are classified as such), while only 6% of Milwaukee County's vacant housing units are considered seasonal (Fig. 74). Wisconsin has a much higher than average percent of vacant homes categorized as seasonal or recreational, with the U.S. average at only 37%.

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