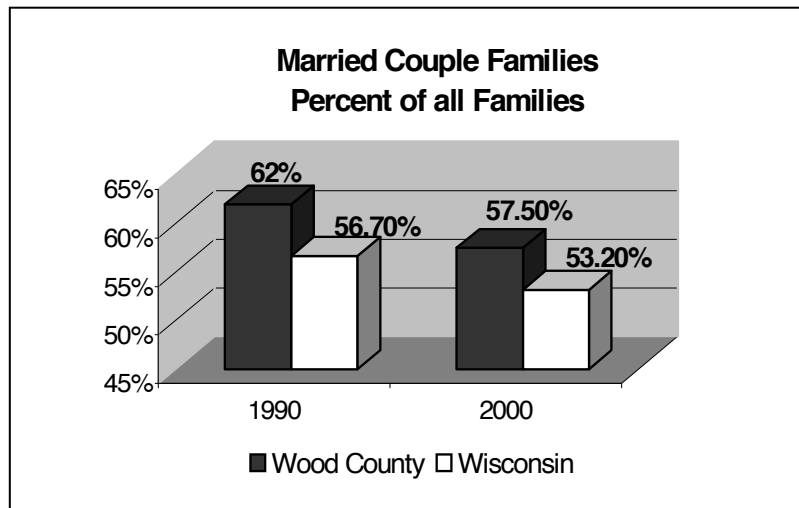


Married Couple Families Offer Support and Resources for their Children



Key Facts

- In 1999, the median household income for a married couple with children under 18 was \$58,944.
- The median income in 1999 for a female head of household with minor children was \$21,306.
- In 2000, Wood County had 639 grandparents living with at least one grandchild. Of those households, 53% were the primary caregivers.

Why is this Information Important?

Many changes have occurred in family structure over the past few decades. Formerly, it was common for a child to be born to married parents and live with them throughout childhood and adolescence. Today's child is more likely to live apart from at least one parent before reaching adulthood. The increase in the divorce rate and the increased number of children born out of wedlock are responsible for the changes in family structure.

Changing Family Trends

According to 1999 research from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, more than a quarter of American children do not live with their fathers. Girls without a father in their lives are 2.5 times more likely to become pregnant as teens and 53% more likely to commit suicide. Boys without a father are 63% more likely to run away from home and 37% more likely to use drugs. Both sexes are twice as likely to end up in jail and nearly four times more likely to experience behavioral or emotional problems.

Half of all children will witness the break-up of their parents' marriage. Of those, close to half will also see the break-up of a parent's second marriage.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2000; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services