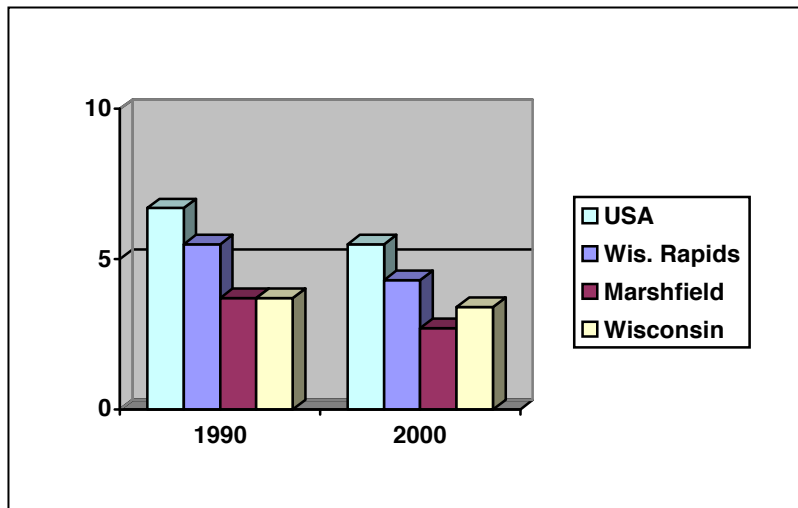


Unemployment Rate Higher for Teens Leaving High School Before Graduating



Key Facts

- Data in chart above represents the percent of Wood County 16 to 19 year olds who are not enrolled in school, are not high school graduates, and are neither employed nor seeking work—(excludes those in military service).
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, full-time workers age 25 and over with less than a high school diploma earned 30% less in 1999 than high school graduates.

Why is this Information Important?

Young adults who are not attending school and are not building skills in the workforce are likely to face a number of challenges that will reduce their quality of life in the future. Often such youth are a concern to the community, rather than a significant contributor to society.

High School Completion Status Improving

In 1990, 5.5% of 16 to 19 year olds in Wisconsin Rapids and 3.7% of 16 to 19 year olds in Marshfield were not enrolled in school, not high school graduates, not looking for work, and were unemployed. By the 2000 census, these figures had dropped to 4.3% and 2.7% respectively, showing some improvement in the employment or school enrollment status of young adults. Wood County’s percentages have been in line with the state percentages, but significantly below the US averages for these statistics.

Programs including Partners in Education, School to Work, Youth Apprenticeship, Charter Schools and other programs funded through special grants are focused on improving these statistics within Wood County. The goal of these programs is to provide the necessary training and support to encourage teens to stay in school and/or the workforce.

Source: State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development