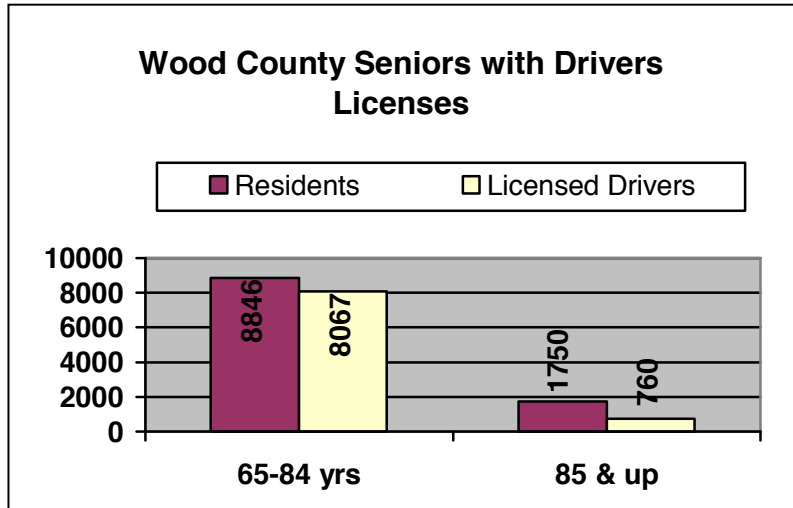


Senior Driving Assessment



Key Facts

- 23.6% of all Wood County seniors are unlicensed to drive.
- 56.6% of county residents 85 years of age and older do not have a driver's license.
- 157 Wood County residents 90-97 years of age are still licensed to drive.
- Defensive driving classes for seniors are available through Lowell Center and Saint Joseph's Hospital.

Why is this Information Important?

There are 8,827 licensed drivers age 65 and older in Wood County, and 1,769 seniors are unable to drive. For older and disabled adults who do not or cannot drive, there are options available.

Senior Transportation Options

The Aging Resource Center of Wood County operates a countywide bus system for shopping and medical appointments. The Aging Resource Center also provides volunteer drivers for medical appointments and administers a taxi fare assistance program with the cab companies in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. These programs provided 51,917 one-way rides in 2005.

Wheels of Independence, a non-profit agency, provides handicapped accessible transportation. Other privately owned businesses provide assisted, though not subsidized, transportation and they do accept Medical Assistance riders.

There continues to be a need for accessible, affordable transportation services to connect the cities of Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. Limited funding prevents extending hours of service throughout Wood County.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles, Aging Resource Center of Wood County