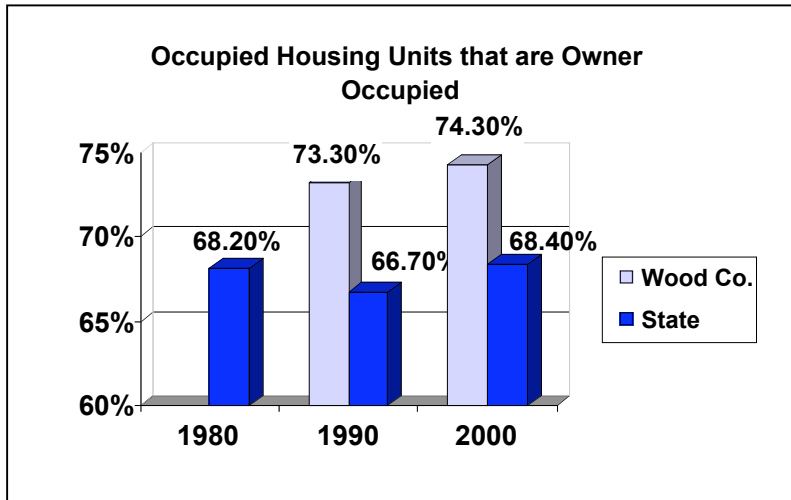


**Trends in
Housing Units:
Home Owners
Versus
Renters**



Key Facts

- The Census Bureau defines a housing unit as a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is intended for separate living quarters.
- Countywide, the most recent data available comes from the 2000 Census and shows 74.3% of Wood County housing units were occupied by owners and 25.7% by renters. This represents a 1.0% increase in home ownership since 1990.

Why is this Information Important?

A community with a significant number of renters may indicate a shortage of available and affordable housing. The quality of life is negatively impacted when renters cannot make the transition from renting to owning.

Owning Versus Renting

Owning a home is very desirable for most people. Buying a home is an economic investment and a part of the American Dream.

Since 1980, home ownership in Wood County has been above the average for the state of Wisconsin. The 2000 Census shows a national average of 69.8% home ownership. Wood County at 74.3% owner occupied housing was 4.5% more than the national percentage and 5.9% more than the statewide percentage.

Home ownership is not possible for everyone, so it is essential that a community also provide rental housing. Rental housing meets the needs of many people, including young adults who are just starting out, older adults who find home ownership inconvenient, and those who move frequently. In addition, it is possible that an increase in the number of renters in a community may be a sign that there is a shortage of housing to purchase, or that housing is too expensive.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau