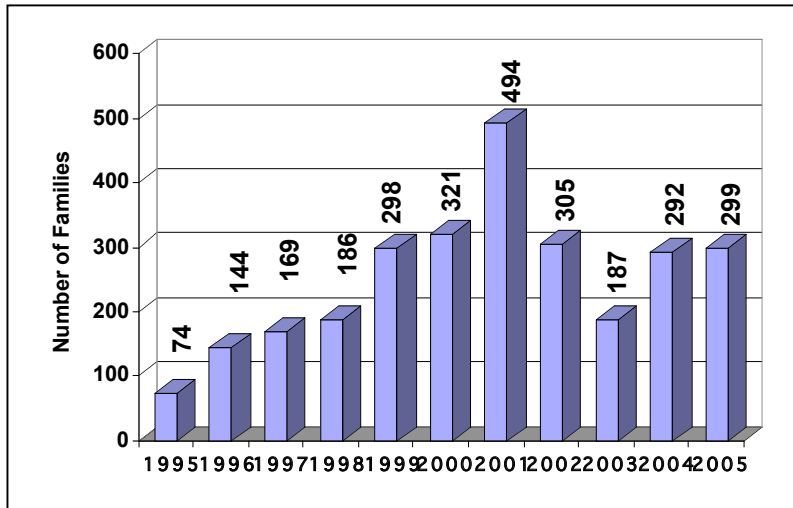


**Wood  
County  
Housing  
Assistance  
Trends**



**Key Facts**

- The average number of families seeking rental assistance has been on the rise since 1995.
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 32 % of all renters in Wisconsin paid 30 % or more of their income for rent and 14.5% paid more than 50% of their income on rent.
- Funding availability dictates the number of households that can receive assistance in any given year:

2000	\$132,269
2001	\$214,420
2002	\$131,165
2003	\$ 62,825
2004	\$107,268
2005	\$123,546

**Why is this Information Important?**

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition reports that an hourly wage of \$12.22 is needed in Wisconsin to afford rent and utilities on a typical two-bedroom apartment. The report also noted that the key portion of housing expenses – rent or house payment – should cost no more than 30% of gross household income.

In 2005, 299 Wood County households received financial aid thus avoiding eviction. Rent on the average was \$435, 57.5% of their income (\$757). Nearly 51% (151 of 299) were employed, earning an average of \$8.18 per hour. Besides working poor, those most vulnerable to the lack of *affordable* housing are single parents (38% of those were assisted locally in 2005) and the disabled (19%).

**Section 8 Rental Assistance Program**

The Section 8 Rental Assistance Program is administered locally. Income eligible participants receive a subsidy that limits their liability for rent and utilities to 30% of their adjusted income. The Wisconsin Rapids Housing Authority has about 220 vouchers available and typically an applicant spends one year on a waiting list. The Marshfield Housing Authority has approximately 95 vouchers available and a two-month waiting list.

*Sources: North Central CAP; City of Wisconsin Rapids CDA; City of Marshfield CDA*