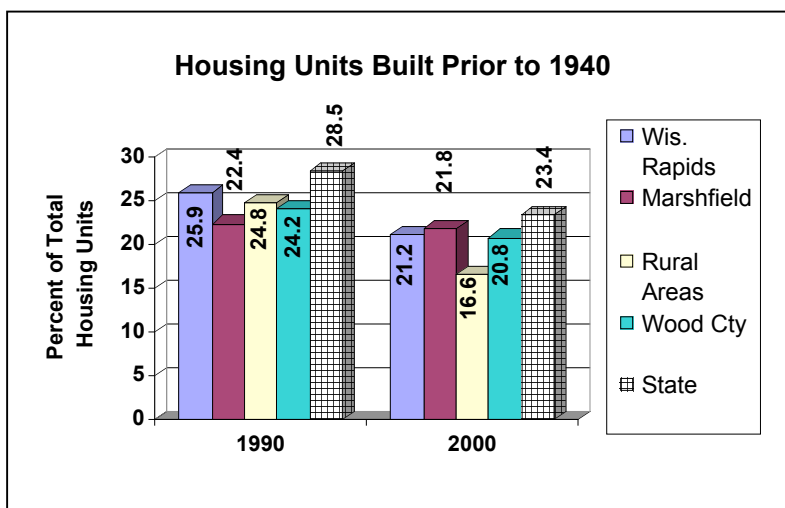


**Living
Conditions
Affect
Community
Pride
and
Safety**



Key Facts

- The 2000 Census reported that 23.4% of the housing units in Wisconsin were built prior to 1940. Nationwide the figure was 15%.
- Wood County has increased the number of housing units 52% from 1980 to 1990; 10% from 1990 to 2000.

Why is this Information Important?

The age of a community’s housing stock is closely related to the condition of housing. A community with a large percentage of older homes that are in need of repairs will have an inferior housing stock, which negatively impacts quality of life for those who live in or near these homes.

Housing Stock Age

Generally, the older the home the more work that is needed to maintain a good condition. Many older homes may be in need of major repairs, such as a new roof, new plumbing and electrical, or new siding and windows.

Homeowners in Wood County spend millions of dollars each year on housing renovations. While this indicates that improvements are made, many homes built before 1940 are still inferior to new homes from a health and safety standpoint. While new siding, roofs, windows and doors do improve the appearance of older homes, many still have poor ventilation systems, lead pipes, lead paint, and other components, which have proven to be harmful to residents.

Because of the amount of money and time needed to keep a home in good condition, many older homes are not repaired. This results in a reduction in the quality of the county’s housing stock.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau