Aging in Wisconsin

- Wisconsin is the 20th oldest state in U.S. as of Census 2000
- In 2007, the median age of the Wisconsin population was 39.1 years, up from 37.1 years in 2000.
- Between 1980 and 2000 the population age 65 and over in the state of Wisconsin increased from 12.0% to 13.1%
- Between 2000 and 2020, the population age 65 and over is projected to increase to 17.1%
- In rural areas of the state, the population tends to be older
- Non-Hispanic white residents are aging more dramatically, while minority residents tend to have much younger populations

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total resident population (thousands)</th>
<th>Population age 65+ (thousands)</th>
<th>Percent of population age 65+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>15,982</td>
<td>2,808</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Percent of Wisconsin Population by Age: 1980-2030

- **1980**
  - Age 20-39: 31.3%
  - Age 40-59: 19.4%
  - Age 60-79: 13.7%
  - Under 20: 33.0%

- **1990**
  - Age 20-39: 32.2%
  - Age 40-59: 20.8%
  - Age 60-79: 14.3%
  - Under 20: 29.4%

- **2000**
  - Age 20-39: 27.9%
  - Age 40-59: 26.6%
  - Age 60-79: 13.2%
  - Under 20: 28.6%

- **2010**
  - Age 20-39: 26.4%
  - Age 40-59: 28.7%
  - Age 60-79: 14.9%
  - Under 20: 25.8%

- **2020**
  - Age 20-39: 26.0%
  - Age 40-59: 25.2%
  - Age 60-79: 19.7%
  - Under 20: 25.0%

- **2030**
  - Age 20-39: 23.8%
  - Age 40-59: 24.3%
  - Age 60-79: 21.6%
  - Under 20: 24.7%
State of Wisconsin Age Structure, 2007

2007 US Census Estimate

Males

Females

Number of People

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- 1990 Census Count
- 2007 US Census Estimate

Number of People

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Extent of Aging Varies by Population Group

- The non-Hispanic white population is aging dramatically, while minority populations tend to be quite young.
  - Hispanic population is youngest of any race/ethnic group
- Rural populations tend to be older than urban populations
- The northern part of the state (and particularly the northeast) is older than the southern part of the state.
- There are significant differences across counties
  - Median ages for counties range from a low of 28.0 years in Menominee County to a high of 47.6 years in Iron County.
Wisconsin Median Age by Race/Ethnicity, 2007

- Black or African American
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- White Alone, Not Hispanic

Median Age
State of Wisconsin Age Structure by Race/Ethnicity, 2007

- Minority Population
- Non-Hispanic White Population

Percent of the Total Population at each Age

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State of Wisconsin Age Structure by Metro/Nonmetro, 2007

Percent of People at each Age

Nonmetro Counties
Metro Counties

0-4
5-9
10-14
15-19
20-24
25-29
30-34
35-39
40-44
45-49
50-54
55-59
60-64
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-85
85 plus

Males
Females

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Oldest Counties:
Iron County-- 47.6 years
Vilas County-- 46.9 years
Door County-- 46.1 years
Florence County-- 45.7 years
Price County-- 45.6 years

Youngest Counties:
Menominee County-- 28.0 years
Dunn County-- 31.9 years
Eau Claire County-- 33.8 years
Pierce County-- 34.1 years
Portage County-- 34.7 years

Median Age (2007)
- 27.70 - 29.90
- 31.90 - 34.90
- 34.90 - 39.90
- 39.90 - 44.90
- 45.00 or more
Fastest Aging Counties between 2000-2007
Price County: 41.7 – 45.6
Wood County: 38.0 – 41.9
Florence County: 41.9 – 45.7
Ozaukee County: 38.9 – 42.4
Manitowoc County: 38.3 – 41.6
How Can Aging be Explained?

- Populations change in 3 ways: birth, death, and migration
- Total Wisconsin population is aging because...
  - Birth numbers and rates declined dramatically after 1965
  - Death rates have also been declining with medical and public health improvements (i.e. People live longer today than ever before)
  - Migration does not play much of a role in changing the age structure of the total state population, because net migration numbers are quite small
    - If anything migration in the 1990s led to a younger Wisconsin population
    - Migration is important for race/ethnic changes and in some geographic areas
Total Wisconsin Births, 1940-2007

[Graph showing the number of Wisconsin births from 1940 to 2007, with a peak around 1960 and a general decline thereafter.]

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Wisconsin Total Fertility Rate, 1940-2007

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Wisconsin Age-adjusted Death Rates, by Sex

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
How Can Race/Ethnic Differences be Explained?

- Non-Hispanic white population differs from minority population because...
  - NH white birth rates are lower than minority birth rates
  - Minority death rates also tend to be higher than NH whites
  - Impacts of migration vary by race/ethnicity
Total Fertility Rate by Race/Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic White
- Non-Hispanic Black
- Non-Hispanic American Indian
- Non-Hispanic Asian
- Hispanic

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Age Adjusted Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2007

- NH White
- NH Black
- NH American Indian
- Asian
- Hispanic

Deaths per 100,000 Population

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Net Migration by Age and Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2000

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How Can Geographic Differences be Explained?

- Rural population differs from urban population because...
  - Nonmetropolitan birth rates lower than Metro birth rates
  - Death rates are similar between Metro and Nonmetro areas
  - Migration patterns by age are different in Nonmetro areas compared to Metro
    - Migration is a big factor for geographic differences within the state

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Metropolitan Counties: 54,759

Nonmetropolitan Counties: 17,998

Number of Births in Metro and Nonmetro Counties, 1985-2007

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Net Migration by Age, 1990-2000

Nonmetropolitan Wisconsin

- Nonmet Counties
- Total

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Summary of Aging in Wisconsin

- Wisconsin population is relatively old and getting older
- Non-Hispanic white population is older than minority population
- Rural population is older than urban population
- There is significant variation across geography with some counties becoming quite old, while others remain relatively young.
- Aging is impacted by birth, death, and migration rates
  - The way these things interact with one another determines the age structure of the population