

# Wisconsin's Hispanic Population: A Demographic Summary

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Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Division of Public Health  
Office of Health Informatics

# Foreword

The Department of Health Services provides reports on vital statistics as a service to the people of Wisconsin and others interested in public health in Wisconsin. *Wisconsin's Hispanic Population: A Demographic Summary* is one of these reports. This report will be published occasionally as new findings about Wisconsin's Hispanic population become available.

Additional health-related information for Wisconsin is available on the DHS website, at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/index.htm>. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) is an online data query system, located at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>, which includes population data that can be looked at using several variables, including race/ethnicity.

This publication was prepared by the Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services. The findings in this report were compiled by Karl Pearson in the Office of Health Informatics. Milda Aksamitauskas and Stephanie Hartwig in the Office of Health Informatics edited the report, and Stephanie Hartwig assisted with the graphic design. The report was prepared under the supervision of Oskar Anderson, Director of the Office of Health Informatics, and Milda Aksamitauskas, Section Chief, Health Analytics Section.

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## Key Findings

Wisconsin's Hispanic population nearly doubled in size from 2000 to 2015, with an increase of 95 percent. Hispanics grew from 3.6 percent of Wisconsin's total population in 2000 to 6.6 percent in 2015.

In 2015 the median age of the Hispanic population was more than 16 years younger than the non-Hispanic population.

Birth rates are higher for Hispanics compared to non-Hispanics – by 54 percent in the most recent time period – but since 2000 they have declined more than non-Hispanic birth rates.

Death rates are lower for Hispanics. In the most recent time period, the age-adjusted death rate for Hispanics was 38 percent lower than the non-Hispanic rate.

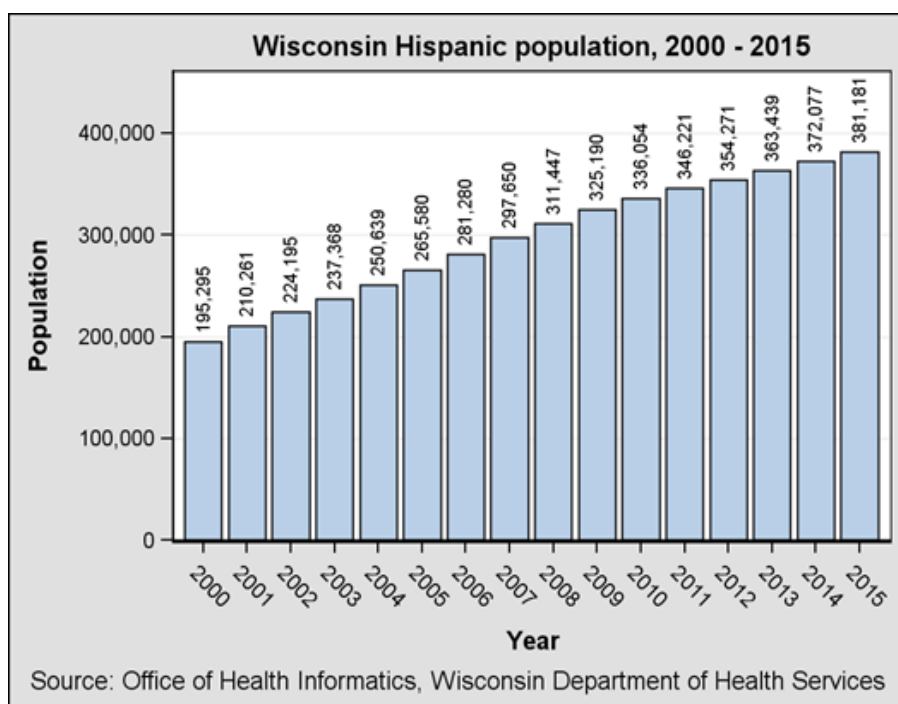
Age-specific death rates during the most recent three-year time period were lower for Hispanics compared to non-Hispanics.

## Hispanic Population Growth

In 2015, there were approximately 381,000 Hispanics in Wisconsin (Figure 1). The Hispanic population grew 95 percent during the 15-year period from 2000 to 2015, going from 3.6 percent of Wisconsin's total population in 2000 to 6.6 percent in 2015. This was the most rapid population increase among the major racial/ethnic groups (White, Black/African American, American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic) in Wisconsin. The non-Hispanic population grew by 5.1 percent during this time.

Wisconsin's total population increased by 403,000 people from 2000 to 2015. Hispanics accounted for 46 percent of this growth, with an increase of 186,000 people during this time.

Figure 1. Wisconsin Hispanic population, 2000-2015



## Natural Increase and Net Migration

Natural increase in a population is defined as the number of births minus deaths over a specified period of time. This number is divided by the starting population to yield a rate. Based on that calculation, Wisconsin had a rate of natural increase of 6.6 percent during 2000-2015, or 352,789 people (1,109,772 births - 756,983 deaths). The rate of natural increase among Hispanics was 47 percent, based on 99,373 births, 7,356 deaths, and a 2000 population of 195,295. For non-Hispanics the 5 percent rate of natural increase was based on 1,010,399 births, 749,447 deaths, and a 2000 population of 5,168,380.



In other words, although Hispanics constituted 3.6 percent of Wisconsin's population in 2000, they accounted for more than one quarter of the natural increase in the state's population during 2000-2015 (91,837/352,789=0.260, or 26 percent).

Net migration is another component of population change. It is equal to the sum of in-migration minus out-migration to an area over a specific period of time, and it can be estimated via the equation:

$$NM = Population^{2015} - Population^{2000} - (B - D)$$

where B equals the sum of births and D equals the sum of deaths during 2000-2015. Based on this formula, total net migration in Wisconsin resulted in a gain of 50,110 people during 2000-2015, for a total net migration rate of 0.9 percent. When examined by Hispanic ethnicity, the story is different. Hispanic net migration added 94,049 people to Wisconsin's population during 2000-2015, while non-Hispanic net migration resulted in a net loss of 43,939 people to the state's total population. The difference in net migration rates is correspondingly large. For Hispanics the net migration rate during 2000-2015 was 46 percent, while for non-Hispanics the net migration rate was -0.9 percent.

The details of natural increase and net migration during 2000-2015 in Wisconsin are summarized in Table A1 in the Appendix.

## Estimating Net Migration

$$NM = Population^{(last\ year)} - Population^{(first\ year)} - (B - D)$$

NM=net migration  
Last year=last year in timeframe  
First year=first year in timeframe  
B=sum of births  
D=sum of deaths

## Geographic Distribution

The majority (60 percent) of Hispanics live in the southeastern region of Wisconsin, with 16 percent living in each of the northeastern and southern regions (see Map A1 in the Appendix). Although just 5 percent of Hispanics live in the western region, of the five Department of Health Services regions, the Hispanic population in this area has grown the fastest (66 percent) since 2000. Thirty-five percent of non-Hispanics live in the southeastern region, with nearly 22 percent in the northeastern region, and just under 20 percent living in the southern region. For more details, see Table A2 in the Appendix.

Milwaukee and Dane counties are home to the largest Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations. More than 36 percent of Wisconsin Hispanics live in Milwaukee County and 8.5 percent live in Dane County. The non-Hispanic population in Milwaukee County is 15.1 percent and 9 percent in Dane County<sup>1</sup>.

The counties that have grown the most in Hispanic population from 2000-2015 differ depending on whether one examines growth in absolute versus percentage terms. Table 1 shows that Milwaukee County's Hispanic population increased by more than 59,000 during this time. In contrast, Lafayette County in southern Wisconsin increased its Hispanic population by 1,543 percent, but the absolute numbers were relatively small, with an increase of 617 Hispanics from 2000 to 2015.

**Table 1. Top 5 Hispanic growth counties, 2000-2015**

Population Increase	
Milwaukee	59,053
Dane	19,433
Brown	14,034
Kenosha	11,906
Racine	10,526
Percent Increase	
Lafayette	1,543%
Trempealeau	1,169%
Iron	1,017%
Florence	875%
Iowa	780%

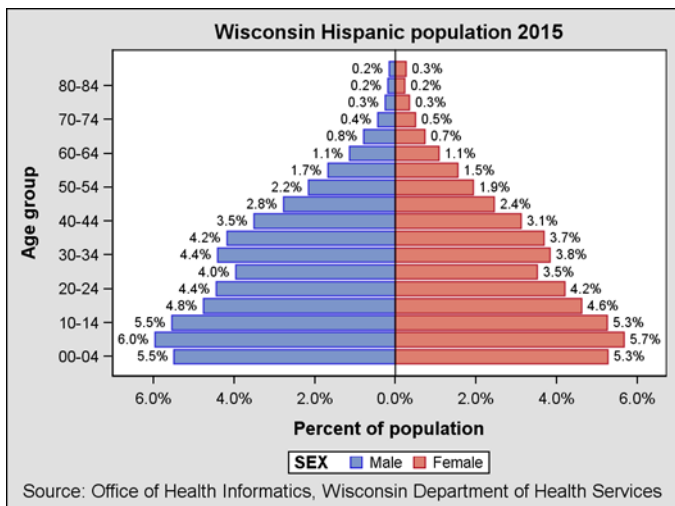
Source: Office of Health Informatics, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

# Age

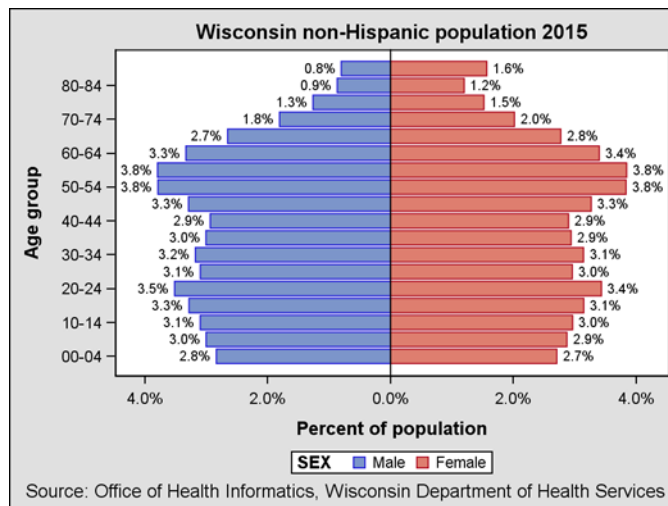
The Hispanic population is considerably younger than the non-Hispanic population. The median age of the Hispanic population was 24.3 years, more than 16 years younger than the age of 40.7 for non-Hispanics<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 2 shows an age pyramid for Hispanics in Wisconsin in 2015. The largest population segment was in the 5-9 year age group, and more than half (51.3 percent) of the population was younger than age 25. For non-Hispanics the age distribution shows a picture of an older population (Figure 3), with the largest population segment being ages 50-54, and more than half (54.9 percent) being under age 45.

**Figure 2. Wisconsin Hispanic age pyramid, 2015**



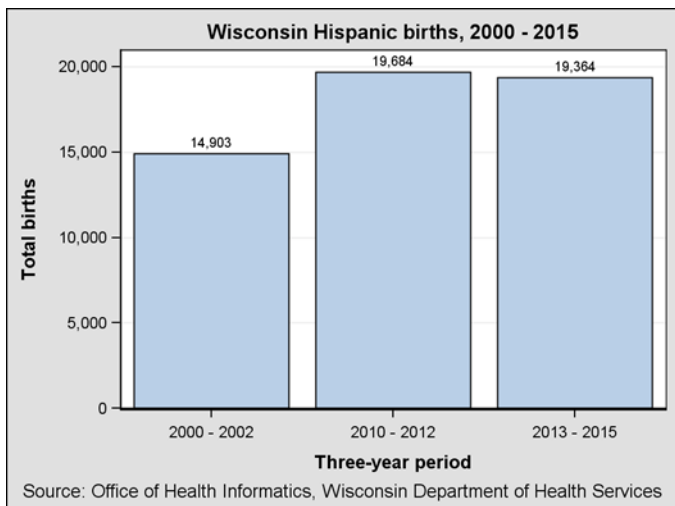
**Figure 3. Wisconsin non-Hispanic age pyramid, 2015**



# Births

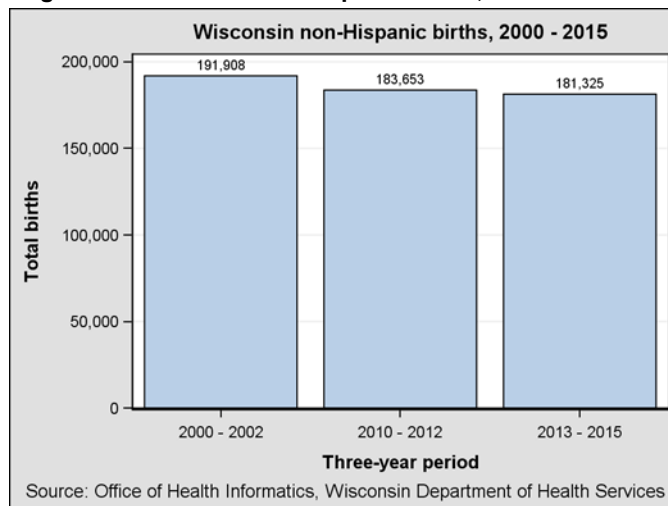
The number of Hispanic births grew by 32 percent from 2000-2002 to 2010-2012, before declining 1.6 percent during 2013-2015 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Wisconsin Hispanic births, 2000-2015**



The number of non-Hispanic births trended downward during these time periods, declining 4.3 percent from 2000-2002 to 2010-2012, and another 1.3 percent from 2010-2012 to 2013-2015 (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Wisconsin non-Hispanic births, 2000-2015**



While Hispanic births were 7.2 percent of total births during 2000-2002, in 2013-2015 they had increased to 9.6 percent of the total.

Birth rates for both Hispanics and non-Hispanics have declined since 2000-2002, but the rate for Hispanics has declined more since then. For Hispanics in Wisconsin the proportional decline was 6.4 percentage points, or 27 percent, compared to a decline of 1.2 percentage points, or 9.7 percent, for Wisconsin's non-Hispanic population (Table 2).

Table 2. Births/1,000 population by 3-year period

Wisconsin birth rates by 3-year period	
	2000-2002
Hispanic	23.7
Non-Hispanic	12.4
	2010-2012
Hispanic	19.0
Non-Hispanic	11.4
	2013-2015
Hispanic	17.3
Non-Hispanic	11.2

Source: Office of Health Informatics, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

## Deaths

The number of Hispanic deaths increased 101 percent from 2000-2002 to 2010-2012, and another 31 percent in 2013-2015 (Figure 6). Hispanic deaths as a percentage of all deaths increased from 0.6 percent during 2000-2002 to 1.4 percent in the 2013-2015 time span.

These increases are roughly consistent with Hispanic population growth during this time period.

Non-Hispanic deaths increased 2.1 percent from 2000-2002 to 2010-2012, followed by another increase of 5.1 percent during 2013-2015 (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Wisconsin Hispanic deaths, 2000-2015

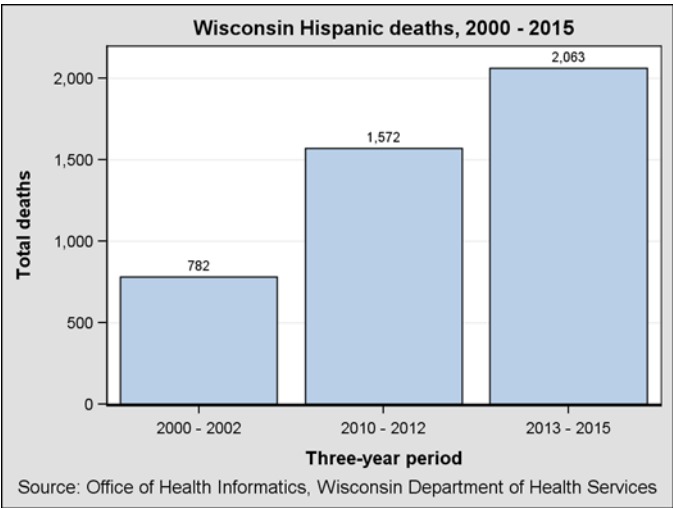
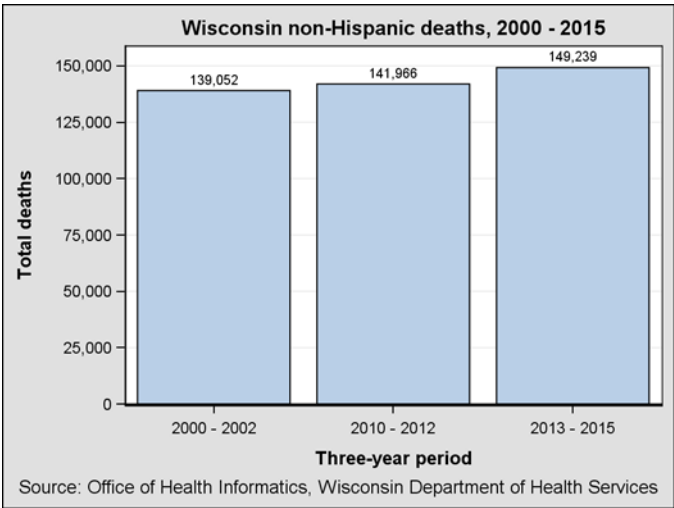


Figure 7. Wisconsin non-Hispanic deaths, 2000-2015

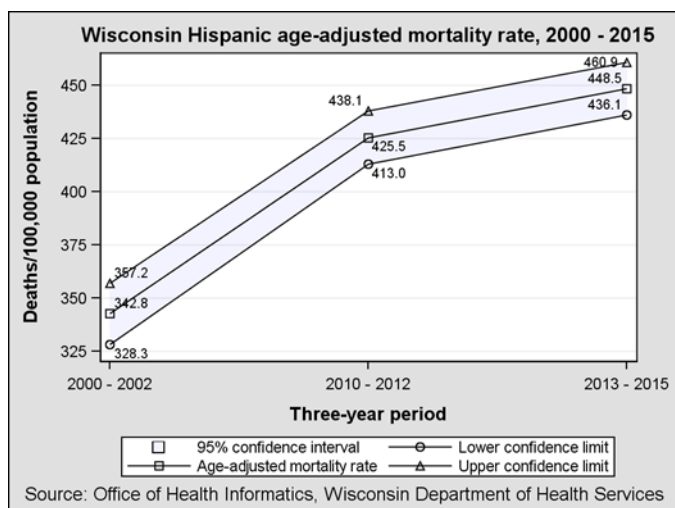


The pattern of age-adjusted death rates varied between Hispanics and non-Hispanics (Figure 8 and Figure 9). While the rate for Hispanics increased by 30.8 percent from 2000-2002 to 2013-2015, the rate for non-Hispanics declined by 11 percent during this time period.

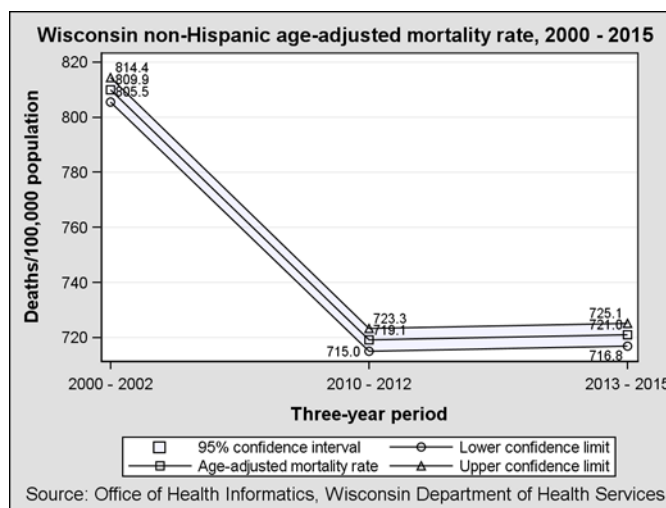
Age-adjusted death rates for Hispanics were below rates for non-Hispanics during all three time periods. During 2000-2002 the Hispanic rate was 58 percent lower, while it was 41 percent lower during 2010-2012, and 38 percent below the non-Hispanic rate during 2013-2015.

Table 3 illustrates that during 2013-2015, age-specific death rates for all age groups were also lower for Hispanics compared to non-Hispanics.

**Figure 8. Wisconsin Hispanic age-adjusted death rate, 2000-2015**



**Figure 9. Wisconsin non-Hispanic age-adjusted death rate, 2000-2015**



**Table 3. Wisconsin age-specific death rates by Hispanic ethnicity, 2013-2015**

Wisconsin age-specific death rates per 100,000 population, 2013-2015		
Age Group	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
0	609.1	431.4
1-4	21.6	20.7
5-9	10.0	9.1
5-14	14.0	13.4
15 - 24	61.3	53.9
25 - 34	108.5	78.0
35 - 44	158.5	103.0
45 - 54	352.2	238.5
55 - 64	751.7	534.3
65 - 74	1,695.4	1,236.6
75 - 84	4,632.1	3,134.6
85+	14,673.2	6,723.2

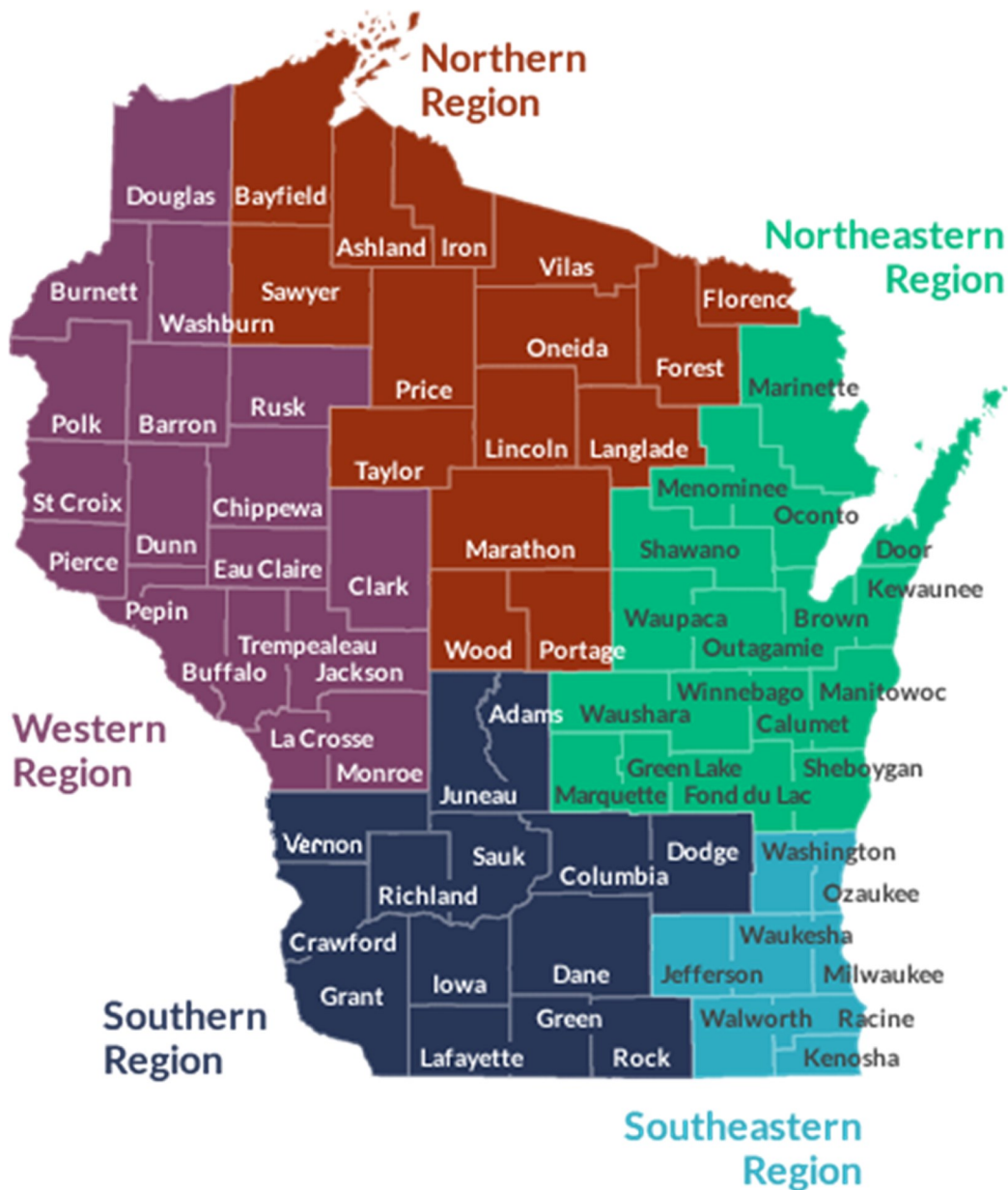
Source: Office of Health Informatics, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

## Notes

1. Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data query system, <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/>. Population Module, accessed 10/12/2016.
2. Ibid.

# Appendix

Map A1. Wisconsin Department of Health Services Regions





**Table A1. Summary of natural increase and net migration for Wisconsin during 2000-2015**

<b>Natural Increase</b>	<b>2000 Population</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Hispanic	195,295	99,373	7,536	91,837	47.0%
Non-Hispanic	5,168,380	1,010,399	749,447	260,952	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,363,675</b>	<b>1,109,772</b>	<b>756,983</b>	<b>352,789</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>Net Migration</b>	<b>2000 Population</b>	<b>Number</b>		<b>Rate</b>	
Hispanic	195,295	94,049		48.2%	
Non-Hispanic	5,168,380	-43,939		-0.9%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,363,675</b>	<b>50,110</b>		<b>0.9%</b>	

Source: Office of Health Informatics, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

**Table A2. Summary of Hispanic population geographic distribution and change by DHS Region during 2000-2015**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>2000</b>		<b>2015</b>		<b>2000-2015</b>	
	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Southern	26,706	13.7%	60,827	16.0%	34,121	127.8%
Southeastern	131,120	67.1%	227,682	59.7%	96,563	73.6%
Northeastern	26,475	13.6%	61,676	16.2%	35,201	133.0%
Western	6,637	3.4%	19,253	5.1%	12,617	190.1%
Northern	4,357	2.2%	11,742	3.1%	7,385	169.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>195,295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>381,181</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>185,886</b>	<b>95.2%</b>

Source: Office of Health Informatics, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

