

This trend is likely to continue as the Hmong population continues to grow and is increasingly woven into the diverse fabric of Wisconsin communities.

Figure 27  
**Hmong Population, Top 20 Wisconsin  
 Municipalities: 2000**

Rank	Municipality	Hmong Population
1	Milwaukee city	7,682
2	Wausau city	3,504
3	Green Bay city	2,629
4	Sheboygan city	2,514
5	Appleton city	2,451
6	Madison city	1,842
7	La Crosse city	1,729
8	Eau Claire city	1,616
9	Oshkosh city	1,288
10	Manitowoc city	976
11	Stevens Point city	698
12	Weston village	486
13	Wisconsin Rapids city	470
14	Fond du Lac city	354
15	Menomonie city	274
16	Kaukauna city	245
17	Onalaska city	226
18	Menomonie town	192
19	Menasha city	175
20	Holmen village	159

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

## Ancestry

Ancestry is a complex cultural concept that variously refers to a person's ethnic origin or heritage. It may refer to their country of birth or birthplace of their parents (or other ancestors) prior to arrival in the United States. Ancestry in Wisconsin reflects the immigration, over the past many decades, of diverse population groups to America's urban and rural heartland. It particularly underscores the historical influx of German, Irish, Polish, and Norwegian immigrants to Wisconsin. In 59 of 72 counties, these four ancestry groups dominated responses of Wisconsin residents in the 2000 Census (Fig. 28). German is by far the most common ancestry in Wisconsin, with 35% of ancestries reported by state residents as fully or partly German. This percentage is greater than for Irish (9%), Polish (8%), and Norwegian (7%) ancestries combined. In recent years, the substantial immigration of

people of Mexican origin to Wisconsin has catapulted its percentage of total ancestry to 2%. For residents of Wisconsin, about 3% of responses to the census ancestry question reveal a weakening of ties to some ancestral home (or mix of homes) abroad. For these persons, a response of “U.S.” or “American” sufficed.

Figure 28

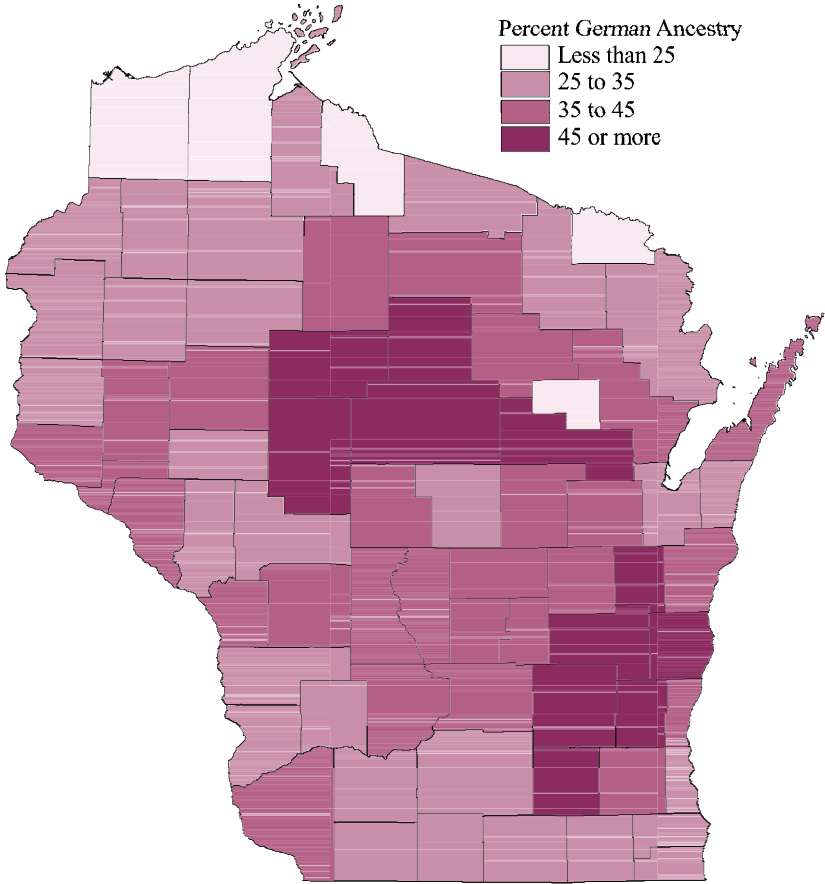
**Top 15 Ancestry Groups, Wisconsin: 2000**

Rank	Ancestry	Population
1	German	2,289,585
2	Irish	582,316
3	Polish	497,726
4	Norwegian	454,831
5	English	347,854
6	Black or African American	323,442
7	French (except Basque)	205,975
8	Italian	172,567
9	Swedish	149,977
10	Dutch	149,777
11	Mexican	126,719
12	Czech	97,220
13	Native American	66,651
14	Swiss	59,090
15	Belgian	57,808

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

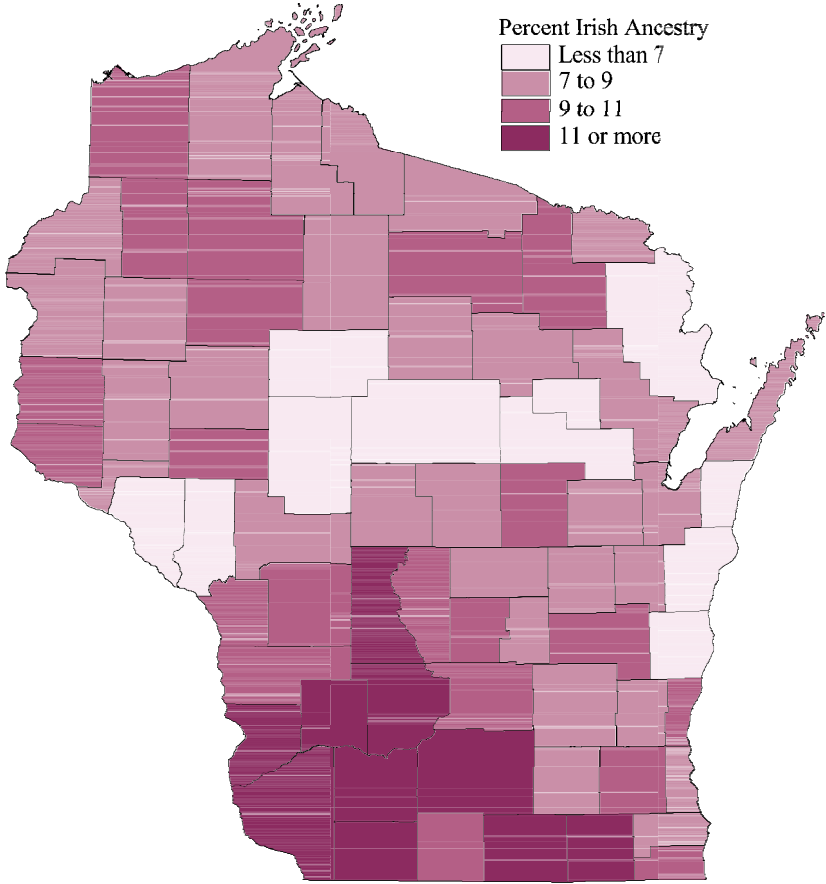
German is the most common ancestry in every Wisconsin county with the exceptions of Menominee (American Indian), Trempealeau and Vernon (both Norwegian). German ancestry is particularly high in counties clustered north and west of Milwaukee County, as well as in Marathon and several of its surrounding counties. Irish ancestry is most concentrated in the southwest corner of Wisconsin, and Norwegian ancestry is most common on the western side of the state. Polish ancestry is distributed across the central, northeast and southeast regions of the state (see Figs. 29-32).

Figure 29  
**German Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**



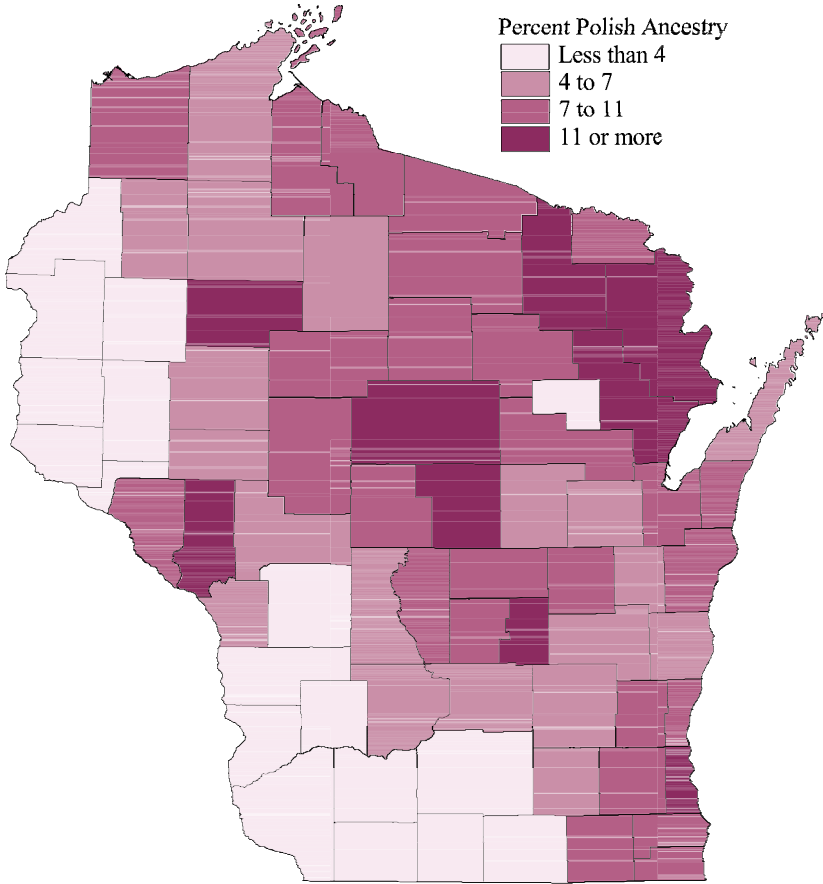
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 30  
**Irish Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**



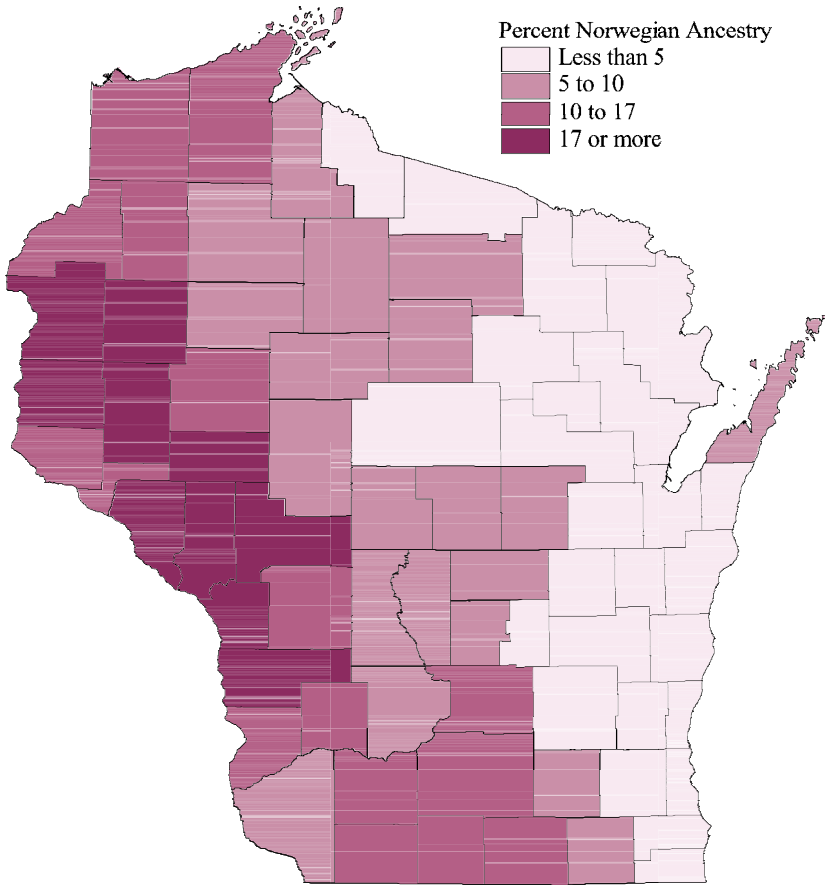
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 31  
**Polish Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Figure 32  
**Norwegian Ancestry, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

A number of smaller ancestry groups have populations concentrated in certain parts of the state, making them large enough to rank in the top three reported ancestry groups for individual counties. These ancestries are shown in Figure 33.

Figure 33

**Smaller Ancestry Groups, Wisconsin: 2000**

<b>Ancestry</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Ancestry (cont.)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>English</b>		<b>Dutch</b>	
Fond du Lac	5	Calumet	5
Grant	11	Outagamie	11
Iowa	14	<b>Czech</b>	
Menominee	2	Kewaunee	12
Sauk	8	Manitowoc	8
Walworth	8	<b>American Indian</b>	
<b>African American or Black</b>		Ashland	9
Milwaukee	22	Menominee	88
Racine	9	Sawyer	14
<b>French</b>		Shawano	6
Marinette	8	<b>Swiss</b>	
Oconto	7	Green	18
<b>Italian</b>		<b>Belgian</b>	
Iron	15	Brown	9
Kenosha	9	Door	10
<b>Swedish</b>		Kewaunee	21
Bayfield	9	<b>Finnish</b>	
Burnett	15	Iron	14
Douglas	12		
Florence	11		
Polk	12		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

**Wisconsin's Foreign-Born Population**

Recent immigration to the United States has substantially increased the presence in our communities of persons who were not native born – that is, persons who were not U.S. citizens at birth. In the 2000 Census, 194,000 residents of Wisconsin (4% of the total population) were foreign born. Of these, 76,000 were naturalized citizens; 118,000 were not citizens. Nationally, the foreign born population accounted for 11% of the population in 2000, the highest percentage recorded in a census since 1940. While these percentages may seem high relative to those recorded in recent censuses, it is instructive to look back in time just a bit further. One hundred years ago, the census of 1900 recorded 14% of the national population as being foreign born. For Wisconsin the figure was 25%, a clue perhaps as to why