



1 DEMOGRAPHICS AND ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

Overview

Taylor County's Comprehensive Plan begins with an overview of the county based on demographic, household, and employment information from the past and projections of the future covering a 20-year planning horizon. This overview is necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding of the changes taking place in the county. While each is important, collectively they assist in achieving the overall goal and objective to guide the future development and policy of the county over the next 20 years.

1.2 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Population Trends

Taylor County has experienced moderate population growth over the past 50 years. Table 1-1 shows the County's population from 1950 to 2000 as well as the January 1, 2006 population estimate by the Department of Administration. Overall, there was a decrease between 1950 and 1970, but since 1970 the county has seen moderate but steady growth, gaining 2,722 people.



Table 1-1: Historical Population 1950-2000, 2006 Estimate

Area	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Numeric Change 1950-2000	Jan 1, 2006 Estimate
T. Aurora	564	563	466	461	473	386	-178	375
T. Browning	630	630	644	702	740	850	220	889
T. Chelsea	603	566	554	677	731	719	116	754
T. Cleveland	458	358	250	286	235	262	-196	272
T. Deer Creek	780	810	764	747	738	733	-47	750
T. Ford	334	306	248	274	254	276	-58	271
T. Goodrich	460	414	373	408	454	487	27	497
T. Greenwood	758	653	635	705	634	642	-116	672
T. Grover	266	232	210	229	214	233	-33	239
T. Hammel	516	526	509	562	633	735	219	749
T. Holway	834	859	837	903	779	854	20	879
T. Jump River	448	391	355	365	330	311	-137	317
T. Little Black	1,216	1,182	1,133	1,169	1,195	1,148	-68	1,187
T. McKinley	570	491	461	416	403	418	-152	440
T. Maplehurst	462	405	348	345	300	359	-103	364
T. Medford	1,661	1,622	1,546	1,834	1,962	2,216	555	2,253
T. Molitor	200	168	199	212	183	263	63	269
T. Pershing	418	358	295	276	217	180	-238	181
T. Rib Lake	769	657	615	682	746	768	-1	775
T. Roosevelt	678	602	518	491	429	444	-234	446
T. Taft	499	418	355	347	367	361	-138	380
T. Westboro	783	720	631	706	663	660	-123	699
V. Gilman	402	379	328	436	412	474	72	460
V. Lublin	161	160	143	142	129	110	-51	100
V. Rib Lake	853	794	782	945	887	878	25	878
V. Stetsonville	334	319	305	487	511	563	229	563
C. Medford	2,799	3,260	3,454	4,010	4,282	4,350	1,551	4,260
Taylor County	18,456	17,843	16,958	18,817	18,901	19,680	1,224	19,917
Wisconsin	3,434,575	3,951,777	4,417,731	4,705,767	4,891,769	5,363,675	1,929,100	5,617,000

Source: U.S Census Bureau SF1 and Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

Population Projections

Population projections provide a look to the future. Significant variances in future population can result due to future economic changes, increases or decreases in land prices, conversion of seasonal homes into permanent residences, and the number of jobs available in the area.



Table 1-2 represents population projections for the units of government in the county through 2025 and for Taylor County and Wisconsin through 2030. These projections are based on population, birth and death rates, in and out migration statistics and other data collected and analyzed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center. While Taylor County is projected to gain population over the 20-year planning period, several municipalities are projected to decline in total population.

Table1-2: Population Projections 2010-2030

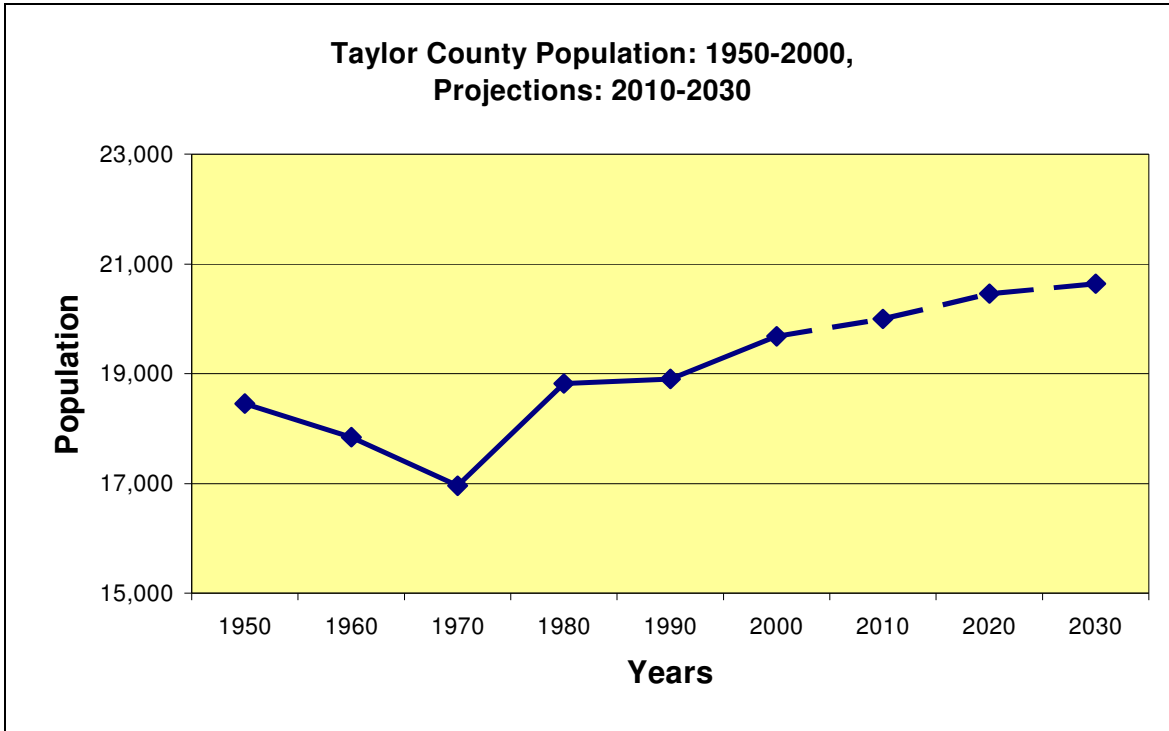
Area	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
T. Aurora	352	337	321	304	NA
T. Browning	930	974	1,016	1,055	NA
T. Chelsea	737	751	763	771	776
T. Cleveland	280	291	301	309	NA
T. Deer Creek	738	745	749	752	NA
T. Ford	294	305	315	324	NA
T. Goodrich	502	513	521	529	NA
T. Greenwood	649	655	660	663	NA
T. Grover	251	262	271	280	NA
T. Hammel	794	827	858	887	NA
T. Holway	868	880	889	896	NA
T. Jump River	291	282	272	262	NA
T. Little Black	1,142	1,145	1,145	1,142	NA
T. McKinley	431	440	447	454	NA
T. Maplehurst	366	371	375	379	NA
T. Medford	2,362	2,447	2,525	2,596	NA
T. Molitor	271	277	283	286	288
T. Pershing	163	155	147	139	NA
T. Rib Lake	784	796	806	813	NA
T. Roosevelt	436	433	430	426	NA
T. Taft	366	370	373	375	NA
T. Westboro	666	672	677	680	NA
V. Gilman	498	513	526	538	NA
V. Lublin	100	95	90	85	NA
V. Rib Lake	861	857	851	842	NA
V. Stetsonville	575	584	592	597	NA
C. Medford	4,280	4,262	4,238	4,200	NA
Taylor County	19,987	20,239	20,441	20,584	20,637
Wisconsin	5,751,470	5,931,386	6,110,878	6,274,867	6,415,923

Source: Demographics Services Center (DSC), Wisconsin Department of Administration NA - Not Available (DSC only prepares population projections for WI municipalities to 2025)
 Chelsea and Molitor estimates prepared by NWRPC

Figure 1-1 charts both historical population as well as projected population change through 2030. While population had been declining up to 1970, population levels have rebounded with continued population gain out to 2030.



Figure 1-1



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Demographics Service Center, WI Department of Administration

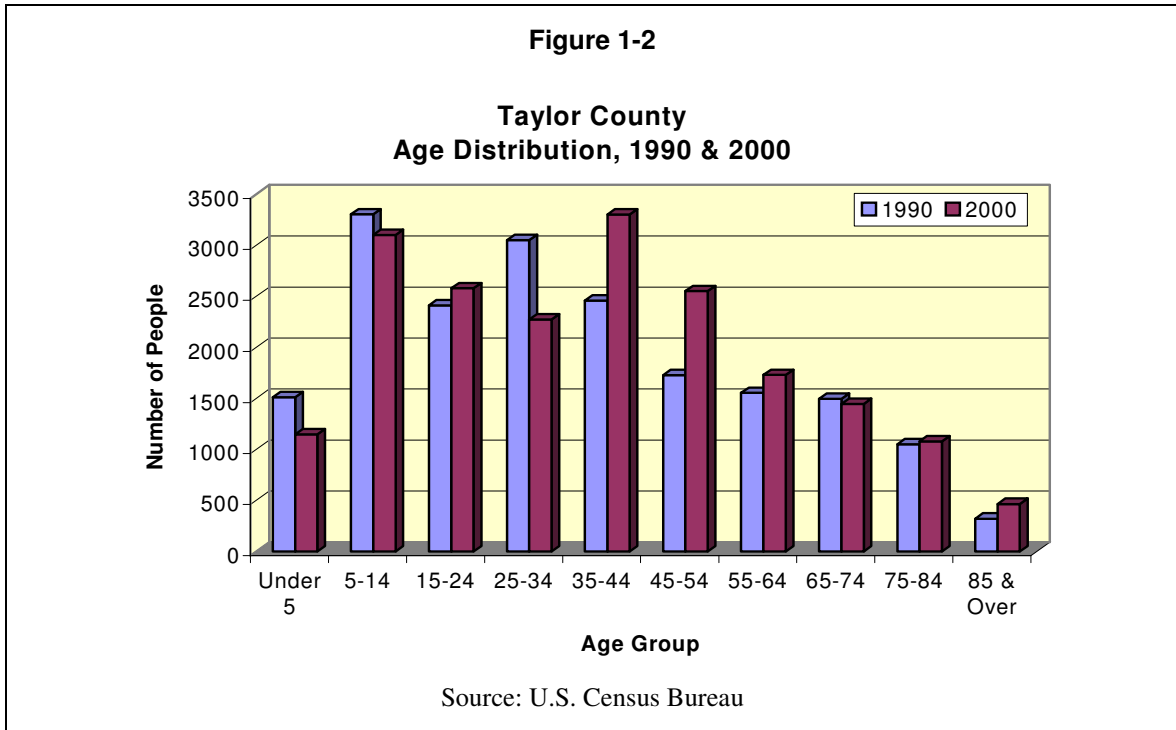
Age Characteristics

Shifts in the age structure of the population can affect a variety of services and needs within the county including schools, housing, and elderly care. State and national trends point to an aging population that will require more services. Table 1-3 and Figure 1-2 provide a comparison of the age distribution of population in Taylor County in 1990 and 2000. Significant changes occurred in the 25 to 34, 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 age groups between the decades.

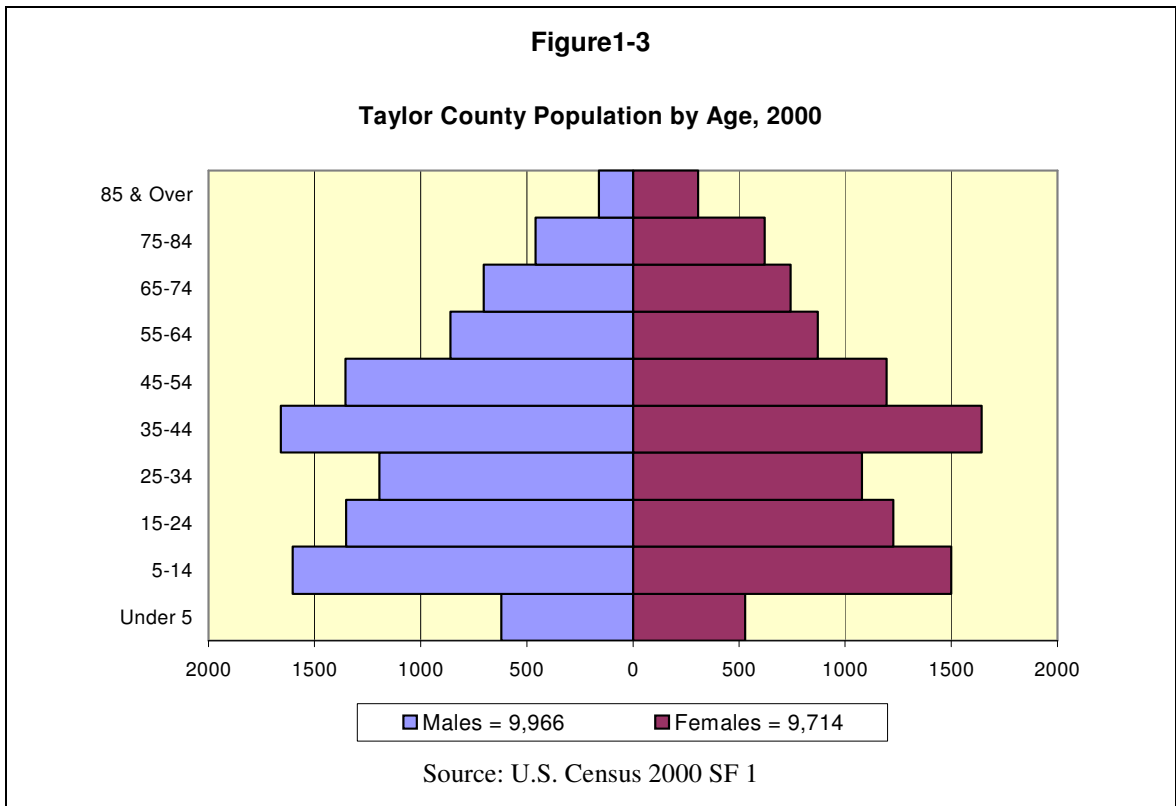
Table 1-3: Population by Age, 1990 & 2000

Taylor County					
Population by Age, 1990 & 2000					
Age	1990		2000		% Change
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	1990-2000
Under 5	1,514	8.0%	1,148	5.8%	-2.2%
5 - 9	1,712	9.1%	1,427	7.3%	-1.8%
10 - 14	1,592	8.4%	1,675	8.5%	0.1%
15 - 19	1,352	7.2%	1,591	8.1%	0.9%
20 - 24	1,062	5.6%	988	5.0%	-0.6%
25 - 34	3,054	16.2%	2,276	11.6%	-4.6%
35 - 44	2,460	13.0%	3,302	16.8%	3.8%
45 - 54	1,728	9.1%	2,551	13.0%	3.8%
55 - 59	754	4.0%	866	4.4%	0.4%
60 - 64	801	4.2%	864	4.4%	0.2%
65 - 74	1,497	7.9%	1,445	7.3%	-0.6%
75 to 84	1,053	5.6%	1,080	5.5%	-0.1%
85 and over	322	1.7%	467	2.4%	0.7%
Total	18,901		19,680		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Although there were more males than females living in Taylor County in 2000, the longevity of females is evident in the 75-84 and 85 and over categories where females outnumber males almost two to one (Figure 1-3). All other age groups were fairly evenly distributed.





1.3 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Household Trends

The number of households for each community, and totals for county and state are listed in Table 1-4 for the years 1970 through 2000. Only two communities, the Town of Pershing and Village of Lublin had a total net decline in households since 1970.

Table 1-4: Households 1970-2000

Area	1970	1980	1990	2000	Numeric Change 1970-2000
T. Aurora	122	135	135	134	12
T. Browning	157	216	253	298	141
T. Chelsea	157	216	243	274	117
T. Cleveland	75	91	85	98	23
T. Deer Creek	174	203	224	241	67
T. Ford	70	81	84	96	26
T. Goodrich	97	120	143	164	67
T. Greenwood	155	198	221	234	79
T. Grover	69	80	88	93	24
T. Hammel	134	171	196	265	131
T. Holway	182	218	213	263	81
T. Jump River	99	120	109	118	19
T. Little Black	271	343	382	403	132
T. McKinley	121	124	130	139	18
T. Maplehurst	93	106	108	133	40
T. Medford	407	535	648	821	414
T. Molitor	57	62	69	100	43
T. Pershing	74	90	79	70	-4
T. Rib Lake	169	231	251	278	109
T. Roosevelt	136	162	151	149	13
T. Taft	95	111	115	120	25
T. Westboro	196	241	245	261	65
V. Gilman	109	160	174	185	76
V. Lublin	64	59	58	59	-5
V. Rib Lake	238	330	334	356	118
V. Stetsonville	111	192	204	230	119
C. Medford	1,139	1,572	1,750	1,947	808
Taylor County	4,771	6,167	6,692	7,529	2,758
Wisconsin	1,328,804	1,652,261	1,822,118	2,084,544	755,740

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 1-5 shows the number and types of households in Taylor County in 1990 and 2000. Sixty percent (508 of 837) of the gain in the number of households in Taylor County between 1990 and 2000 was in non-family¹ households. During those 10 years, the percent of family households decreased from 75 to 71 percent and non-family households increased from 25 to 29

¹ Householder living alone or with non-family relatives.



percent of the total. Figure 1-4 depicts the percent each household type makes up of the total in Taylor County in 2000.

Taylor County, like both national and state trends have moved toward an increase in the number of households, along with a decrease in persons per household. This decrease in persons per household may be attributed to a decrease in birth rates, people waiting longer to get married, high divorce rates, and an increase in the average life span resulting in more elderly people living alone. Since 1970, persons per household have decreased from 3.58 to 2.58 in 2000.

	Persons Per HH
1970	3.58
1980	3.05
1990	2.82
2000	2.58

Source: U.S. Census

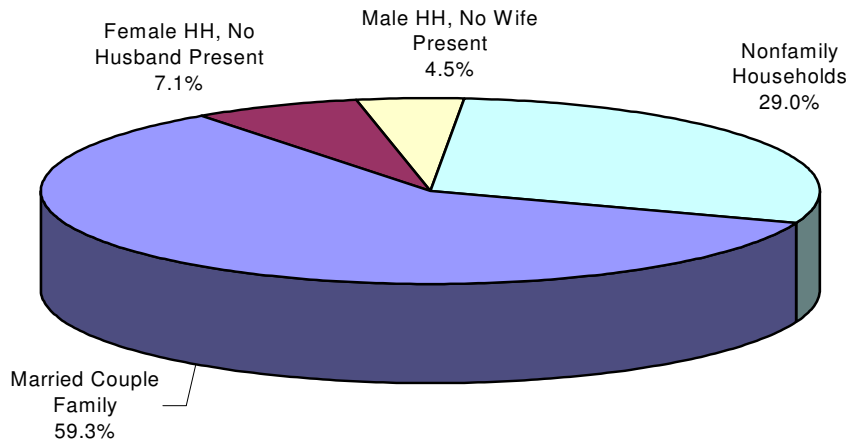
Table 1-5: Household by Type

Households by Type	Taylor County		Change
	1990	2000	
Married Couple Family	4,421	4,468	47
Female HH, No Husband Present	380	533	153
Male HH, No Wife Present	213	342	129
Total Number of Families	5,014	5,343	329
Nonfamily Households	1,678	2,186	508
Total Households	6,692	7,529	837
Percent Family Households	74.9%	71.0%	
Percent Nonfamily Households	25.1%	29.0%	

Source: U.S. Census 2000 SF1

Figure 1-4

Taylor County Household Types 2000



Source: U.S. Census 2000 SF 1



Household Projections

Projections for household growth are shown in Table 1-6 for Wisconsin, Taylor County, and all communities within the county. Although household projections for Taylor County show an increase, four communities are projected to lose households.

Table 1-6: Household Projections 2005-2030

Area	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
T. Aurora	130	128	125	121	117	NA
T. Browning	318	342	365	387	408	NA
T. Chelsea	280	290	299	305	312	*319
T. Cleveland	103	110	116	122	128	NA
T. Deer Creek	246	254	262	267	272	NA
T. Ford	101	107	113	118	125	NA
T. Goodrich	170	177	185	191	196	NA
T. Greenwood	240	248	256	261	266	NA
T. Grover	99	105	112	117	124	NA
T. Hammel	281	301	319	336	353	NA
T. Holway	270	281	290	297	305	NA
T. Jump River	116	116	114	112	110	NA
T. Little Black	410	420	430	437	442	NA
T. McKinley	144	150	157	162	167	NA
T. Maplehurst	137	142	147	151	155	NA
T. Medford	865	918	970	1,016	1,060	NA
T. Molitor	108	117	126	135	143	*151
T. Pershing	68	66	64	62	59	NA
T. Rib Lake	285	297	307	315	321	NA
T. Roosevelt	150	153	156	157	158	NA
T. Taft	123	127	131	135	138	NA
T. Westboro	267	277	284	291	297	NA
V. Gilman	192	201	211	218	223	NA
V. Lublin	57	56	54	52	50	NA
V. Rib Lake	359	363	368	369	369	NA
V. Stetsonville	237	246	255	263	268	NA
C. Medford	1,969	2,005	2,036	2,053	2,054	NA
Taylor County	7,725	7,997	8,252	8,450	8,620	8,779
Wisconsin	2,190,210	2,303,238	2,406,798	2,506,932	2,592,462	2,667,688

Source: Demographics Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration *NWRPC Projections



1.4 INCOME CHARACTERISTICS

Household Income

Census 2000 figures for median household income (MHI) and their percent of the state MHI for Taylor County and its communities are listed in Table 1-7. Several communities have a median household income that is above the State MHI, but most are below. Taylor County as a whole has an MHI that is 88 percent of the State MHI.

Table1-7: Median Household Income 1999

Area	MHI	Percent of State
T. Aurora	\$30,417	69.5%
T. Browning	\$45,917	104.9%
T. Chelsea	\$44,659	102.0%
T. Cleveland	\$35,625	81.4%
T. Deer Creek	\$49,688	113.5%
T. Ford	\$37,813	86.3%
T. Goodrich	\$42,500	97.1%
T. Greenwood	\$34,000	77.6%
T. Grover	\$38,125	87.1%
T. Hammel	\$51,250	117.0%
T. Holway	\$37,500	85.6%
T. Jump River	\$29,167	66.6%
T. Little Black	\$45,000	102.8%
T. McKinley	\$36,528	83.4%
T. Maplehurst	\$29,375	67.1%
T. Medford	\$46,912	107.1%
T. Molitor	\$37,500	85.6%
T. Pershing	\$27,083	61.8%
T. Rib Lake	\$38,393	87.7%
T. Roosevelt	\$32,000	73.1%
T. Taft	\$37,500	85.6%
T. Westboro	\$33,021	75.4%
V. Gilman	\$32,708	74.7%
V. Lublin	\$20,938	47.8%
V. Rib Lake	\$32,222	73.6%
V. Stetsonville	\$32,045	73.2%
C. Medford	\$35,278	80.6%
Taylor County	\$38,502	87.9%
Wisconsin	\$43,791	

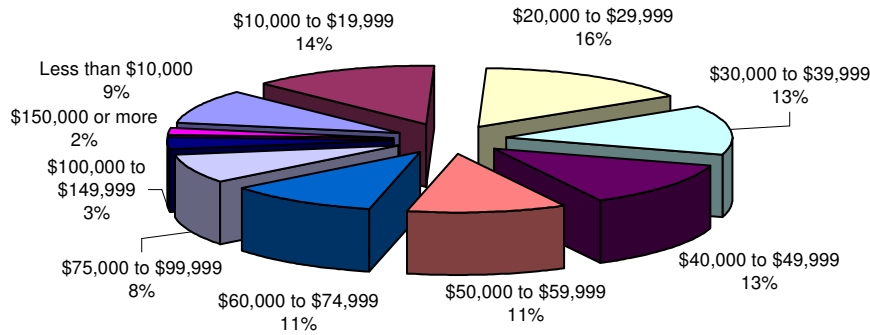
Source U.S. Census 2000 SF3

Annual household income by percent of total and reported by Census 2000 is depicted in Figure 1-5 for Taylor County. The category, \$20,000 to \$29,999 has the greatest number of households at 16 percent.



Figure 1-5

Taylor County
Annual Household Income 1999



Source: U.S. Census 2000 SF3

Table1-8: Per Capita Income 1999

Area	PCI	Percent of State
T. Aurora	\$14,374	67.6%
T. Browning	\$18,687	87.9%
T. Chelsea	\$19,798	93.1%
T. Cleveland	\$16,452	77.3%
T. Deer Creek	\$18,503	87.0%
T. Ford	\$15,624	73.5%
T. Goodrich	\$16,724	78.6%
T. Greenwood	\$14,120	66.4%
T. Grover	\$18,031	84.8%
T. Hammel	\$17,425	81.9%
T. Holway	\$13,718	64.5%
T. Jump River	\$18,286	86.0%
T. Little Black	\$17,633	82.9%
T. McKinley	\$16,276	76.5%
T. Maplehurst	\$13,062	61.4%
T. Medford	\$20,261	95.3%
T. Molitor	\$18,805	88.4%
T. Pershing	\$14,607	68.7%
T. Rib Lake	\$15,641	73.5%
T. Roosevelt	\$15,477	72.8%
T. Taft	\$14,447	67.9%
T. Westboro	\$14,018	65.9%
V. Gilman	\$18,075	85.0%
V. Lublin	\$15,823	74.4%
V. Rib Lake	\$14,571	68.5%
V. Stetsonville	\$15,531	73.0%
C. Medford	\$19,962	93.8%
Taylor County	\$17,570	82.6%
Wisconsin	\$21,271	100.0%

Source U.S. Census 2000 SF3

Per Capita Income

Per capita income (PCI) is derived by taking all the resident income of a municipality divided by the population. It is gathered from traceable income from wages, interest, dividends, welfare program payments, etc. Table 1-8 shows the PCI for all municipalities in Taylor County as well as for the State. The Town of Medford has the highest PCI in the County with 95.3 percent of the State, while the Town of Maplehurst has the lowest PCI at 64.1 percent. Per capita personal income (PCPI) is the same as PCI except that it takes into account money received from refunds, gifts, and insurance payments. Therefore, PCPI figures are always higher than PCI. Table 1-9 shows the PCPI for Taylor County and the adjoining counties and their state rank.

Table1-9: Per Capita Personal Income by County & Rank

Area	2003	Rank in State
Taylor County	\$23,020	56
Price County	\$24,361	45
Lincoln County	\$24,725	43
Marathon County	\$29,992	16
Clark County	\$22,227	66
Chippewa County	\$25,999	36
Rusk County	\$20,461	71
Wisconsin	\$30,685	
WI Metropolitan Portion	\$32,574	
WI Nonmetropolitan Portion	\$25,764	

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, RI



Poverty

Total poverty status in Taylor County exceeds that of Wisconsin. Table 1-10 represents individuals or families below the poverty level for Taylor County and municipalities. Poverty rates are based on income, family size, and persons 18 years of age or younger.

Table 1-10: Poverty Status 1999

Area	Percent Below Poverty Level		
	Individuals	Families	Families with female HH, no husband present
T. Aurora	22.6%	17.5%	30.8%
T. Browning	5.9%	4.6%	0.0%
T. Chelsea	3.5%	0.9%	0.0%
T. Cleveland	10.9%	8.2%	0.0%
T. Deer Creek	7.7%	6.0%	0.0%
T. Ford	19.5%	14.1%	0.0%
T. Goodrich	10.3%	8.8%	0.0%
T. Greenwood	12.7%	10.2%	0.0%
T. Grover	2.5%	2.9%	0.0%
T. Hammel	7.6%	3.7%	0.0%
T. Holway	20.8%	14.9%	10.0%
T. Jump River	8.5%	4.9%	0.0%
T. Little Black	8.1%	5.2%	11.1%
T. McKinley	13.3%	6.7%	0.0%
T. Maplehurst	19.2%	11.7%	42.9%
T. Medford	4.3%	3.4%	25.5%
T. Molitor	13.4%	13.4%	50.0%
T. Pershing	14.2%	8.8%	0.0%
T. Rib Lake	9.7%	4.8%	15.8%
T. Roosevelt	9.0%	10.4%	23.1%
T. Taft	8.7%	5.6%	0.0%
T. Westboro	11.7%	6.3%	25.0%
V. Gilman	14.0%	7.8%	20.0%
V. Lublin	27.2%	24.1%	50.0%
V. Rib Lake	12.1%	7.7%	36.0%
V. Stetsonville	4.4%	3.2%	19.2%
C. Medford	9.1%	4.3%	13.3%
Taylor County	9.8%	6.2%	15.9%
Wisconsin	8.7%	5.6%	21.7%

Source U.S. Census 2000 SF3

1.5 EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Educational attainment is the highest degree or level of school completed, and is a variable used when assessing a community’s labor force potential. According to 2000 Census data of Taylor County’s population age 25 and older, 78.3 percent attained a high school level education or higher, compared to the Statewide percentage of 85.1. Table 1-11 details educational attainment for Taylor County and the State of Wisconsin.



Table 1-11: Educational Attainment 2000

	Taylor County	Wisconsin
Less than 9th Grade	1,308	186,125
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	1,484	332,292
High School Graduate	5,713	1,201,813
Some College, No Degree	2,097	715,664
Associate Degree	852	260,711
Bachelor's Degree	1,007	530,268
Graduate or Professional Degree	411	249,005
Total	12,872	3,475,878

Source: U.S. Census 2000 SF3

1.6 OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT

Each of the following chapters of the Taylor County Comprehensive Plan includes a set of goals, objectives, and actions which provide the overall vision and direction that the Land Use Advisory Committee, County Board, county residents, and other interested groups and individuals will use to guide the future development and preservation of Taylor County. The overall goal is to maintain and improve upon the current quality of life in Taylor County over the 20-year planning horizon. In order to accomplish this overall goal, Taylor County will strive to

- 1) Work cooperatively with town, village and city governments to promote an economically efficient, environmentally sustainable and compatible development pattern that also respects private property rights;
- 2) Encourage and promote new and existing avenues of intergovernmental cooperation both within and outside Taylor County;
- 3) Promote, attract and maintain the expansion and development of the economic base in Taylor County;
- 4) Protect, preserve, and efficiently utilize natural resources in Taylor County, while still providing employment and recreational opportunities;
- 5) Protect and promote the preservation of productive agricultural lands in Taylor County;
- 6) Identify, promote and preserve the ethnic, rural and historic character of Taylor County;
- 7) Promote the development of area utilities and community facilities that serve residents of Taylor County;
- 8) Promote a safe and adequate transportation system for multiple users that advances and supports the economy of the County;
- and 8) Promote a range of safe and affordable housing units to meet the diverse needs of existing and future County residents, while maintaining a predominately rural/agricultural atmosphere.

1.7 COUNTYWIDE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) and citizens participating in three regional public information sessions developed a list of issues and opportunities facing Taylor County. This list is important to the context of this plan as it helps to identify potential direction towards which Taylor County and local units of government can begin to address priorities of their choosing.

The list of issues and opportunities was also a major source of reference by the LUAC in the development of county goals, objectives, and actions, as was the Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Survey. Survey results are found in the appendix to this plan. A full listing of the issues and opportunities developed during the planning process is provided below.



Housing

Issues

- Housing development in pristine farm/natural areas.
- Shortage of low cost housing.
- Affordability of housing.
- Affordability of land.
- Rural Subdivisions.
- UDC is important to enforce building standards.
- Not enough rental units/high demand.
- Higher priced homes on market longer.
- Lack of starter homes.
- Storm runoff from building sites during and after construction.
- Older and possibly failing septic systems.
- Naturally occurring arsenic in local private wells particularly in Western Taylor County.
- Outdoor wood burning stoves not functioning due to chimney draft/height.
- County subdivision is lacking.
- Limited land to develop where sewer and water is available (where municipal or sanitary districts exist).
- Junky yards (residential homes).
- Too many permits and inspectors.
- Lack of mobile home parks.
- Lack of available land for mobile home parks around incorporated communities.
- Village/City infrastructure costs.

Opportunities

- Build medium priced multi-family dwelling to take advantage of less land usage and lower square foot costs.
- Sanitary districts have “capacity” for new development.
- Land is available at reasonable costs.
- Housing costs per square foot are less in Taylor County than surrounding counties.
- Available homes for sale throughout the county and local governments.
- Development of single-family and other affordable housing.
- Assisted living units in communities with medical/social services.

Transportation

Issues

- Highway congestion on Hwy 13 in Medford and the likely need for a Highway By-Pass and its potential impact to rural lands/properties.
- Insufficient “public transportation” – particularly for elderly. Once a week service is not adequate.
- Costs associated with public transit are high.
- Limited ATV trails for summer use.
- Lack of cooperation with Forest Service on motorized trails through land.
- Unreliable rail service and costs high
- Lack of use of railroad.



- Inadequate walking trails.
- Not enough money to maintain local/county roads and bridges.
- Potential – future “connector” roads to CTH status.
- Future land acquisition for airport expansion
- Heavy loads – increased weight limits.

Opportunities

- Development of a “plan” on how to develop the national forest for all transportation uses – quiet and motorized.
- Seek grant dollars for development of walkways/pedestrian trails/bike lanes that could also take people off walking on highways.
- Alternative chemicals to de-ice local roads.
- Development of passing lanes along highways.
- Long-term examination of corridors around Medford.
- Highways to 4-lanes (example Medford to Abbotsford).
- Expand public transit services, thus creating jobs also.
- Building roads to design specifications.
- Development of a car pool program and a park and ride lot in outlying areas of county.
- Incorporation of bike lanes on future transportation corridors.

Utilities and Community Facilities

Issues

- With declining enrollment, how to deal with school districts needing money and students.
- Watershed level, landscape and future developments impacting quality of water and resources (runoff, etc.).
- Elderly not being able to afford some utility costs.
- Facilities not being handicap accessible.
- Costs to operate sewer and water facilities creating burden on people in jurisdictions.
- Arrowhead-Western Transmission Line Project.
- Town Halls not up to code.
- Land without electric service (costly).
- Lack of licensed childcare services.
- All governmental taxes on utilities.
- County boat landings in need of repair.
- Need better telecommunication.
- Safe potable water supply.
- Cost to dispose of waste.

Opportunities

- Development of alternative energies (wind, bio, ethanol).
- Consolidation of police services, to share coverage.
- Units of governments working well together on sharing services.
- Grants to segmented population (elderly) to sustain public services.
- Continue cooperation of fire districts.



Natural, Agricultural, and Cultural Resources

Issues

- A lot of federal land can't be accessed.
- Timber not being harvested appropriately, less stumpage revenue.
- PILT – (fed) and MFL lands being enrolled.
- More protection of Ag lands.
- Developing of non-farming homes on productive ag land.
- Farmers are declining while land is not declining.
- Need to protect lakes, rivers, and shorelands from pollution, degradation, and over-development.
- Wolves chasing of livestock.
- Water resources leaving County – with the ability to develop a water reservoir on own property.
- Large factory farms/livestock operations.
- Manure handling.
- Late night operations (noise, dust, large machinery).
- ORW – ERW restrictions.
- Forest fragmentation.
- Interpretation of wetlands.
- Mining issues – metallic and non-metallic.
- Floodplains (dam failures).
- Exploitation of the forest.
- Ground water quality.
- Old/closed dumps and/or landfills.
- Amish community.
- Ice Age Trail

Opportunities

- Ability to preserve, clean up, and protect rivers, streams and special areas, (example - 20 acre tract that's underdeveloped along lake).
- Federal government to go back to “managing” forest production, equals, jobs, salaries, payments to towns, county.
- Development of special-prestine areas for recreational purposes.
- Future open wolf season.
- Development of wind resource/energy, ethanol and soy diesel.
- Indicate/designate prime agricultural lands in County.
- ORW – ERW will require programs to maintain levels.
- Lots of land for use (federal, county) as recreation.
- Establish and continuing ongoing efforts by groups to preserve and maintain natural areas.
- Ground water protection policies/actions.
- Indicate/designate prime agricultural lands in county.
- Maintain open space/rural character.
- Agricultural diversity.
- Identifying Indian burial grounds.
- Identify old log dams, campsites, and rail lines.



Economic Development

Issues

- Distance to markets imperils development.
- Need for more diversified manufacturing jobs.
- Difficult for entrepreneur's to "invest" in business due to economic climate.
- Some infrastructure and population, need strategy to redevelop buildings – industry and commercial.
- Need training programs for jobs that are in the county.
- Need downtown "attention" to find niche.
- Need more manufacturing where infrastructure is available.
- Lack of unity across the County.
- Wages are too low to keep up with the costs of goods, need living wage jobs.
- Lack of marketing of outlying villages and towns, those beyond the City of Medford.
- Students leaving area for other jobs elsewhere.
- Future impact to small local businesses resulting from big box development.
- Local taxes
- Lack of high speed Internet around the County.
- Recognition of Industrial parks.
- More high-paying skilled jobs.
- More tourism development.
- Not enough revenue from Federal and State lands.

Opportunities

- Communities with sewer and water available for businesses.
- Vacant buildings.
- Educated labor force available.
- Available land along the railroad for development.
- Encouragement/marketing at County level to target City and Villages.
- Development of Economic Development initiatives.
- Marketing at County level and to target City and Villages.
- Tourism opportunities throughout the County.
- New development of big boxes and potential spin off of other development.
- Downtown redevelopment.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Issues

- Getting more public input into government and more informed about whats going on at the local and county level.
- Getting state and federal to fund mandates.
- Too much governmental control.
- School consolidation in the future.
- Facilitation of agreements with townships.
- Towns providing services in close proximity to one another. Example, several town hall close together where voting could occur at one hall versus two halls.



- Government agencies are not buying goods and services locally.
- Different subdivision sizes between communities.
- Duplication of services.
- Lack of cooperation from forest service – not receptive to local input.

Opportunities

- Form service districts. Potential for towns and other governments to contract services, such as road maintenance (town to town contracts). Some are doing already.
- Expand consolidation of services – fire, EMT, parks, voting, cemetery's, etc.

Land Use

Issues

- Need for preservation of Ag lands.
- Need to protect private and public lands from forest fragmentation.
- Concern over large-farm (corp) operations with large feed lots and manure implications.
- Farms are able to farm with no additional restrictions.
- Perception that “land use” will take away rights of property.
- Future land acquisition for airport expansion.
- Property rights, no one can tell me how to use my land.
- Placement of commercial development (conflicts with adjoining uses).
- Impact of development (change of use) on existing land and impacts to transportation, resources, etc.
- Design, size, and layout of subdivisions not apples to apples across the County, no consistency.
- Cluster development is negative.
- Local comments on use of federal and state land is not being heard.
- No trailer house ordinance with development requirements.
- Junky yards (residential).
- Subdivision of small lots – selling land locked parcels having no access.
- Development of non-developable out-lots.
- Agricultural designation.
- Zoning.
- Lakes classification system.
- BMP's on forest and agricultural lands.
- Mining issues – metallic vs. non-metallic.

Opportunities

- Identify areas where large scale farms would be encouraged.
- Available Ag land for production
- Availability of land for residential development.
- Ample land for hunting and recreational purposes.
- Expanding walking and biking opportunities.
- Development of metallic and non-metallic resources.