

Wisconsin's European Ancestry

Wisconsin has a rich history of European immigration. It goes far beyond the dominant influence of the waves of German immigration in the middle to late 1800 time periods. Sociologists and demographers have made maps depicting the trends in immigration since the early 1900's. However these single state view maps have always been dominated by the population of German ancestry in Wisconsin, masking the rich history and distribution of other immigrants to Wisconsin. To tell this story with more detail, these maps depict the ancestry of Wisconsin's population by showing the dominant group (as a percent of total population) in each Minor Civil Division (MCD) and also by showing individual ancestry groups and their distribution throughout the state. The map to the right shows the dominant ancestry group for each MCD as calculated by its "share" of the total population. The maps below show each nationality individually.

The data depicted in these maps is derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's Census 2000 Summary File 3. The data is organized by Minor Civil Division (in Wisconsin these are Cities, Villages and Towns). Each group is represented as a percent of the total population in each locality.

The individual nationality maps are all represented using a mean-standard deviation classification. The color schemes are consistent, but they only represent standard deviations away from the mean, not totals or percentages. This allows you to determine where there are clusters of each ancestry in Wisconsin.

The black line shows the mean percent of the population of the ancestry group. The standard deviation is also reported as a percent so it is possible to gauge what percent of the population is shown within each standard deviation range.

The key below explains the individual ancestry map layout.

