



# Milwaukee Promise Zones

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Prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau

**Preliminary Report**

**October, 2014**

Report by the Legislative Reference Bureau defining the Milwaukee Promise Zones and identifying socioeconomic demographics relating to education, economic and workforce development, healthcare and housing.

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**MILWAUKEE PROMISE ZONES  
PRELIMINARY REPORT**

City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
October 2014

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## I. PROMISE ZONES

In 2013, the City of Milwaukee applied for the federal Promise Zone designation. The concept for the federal Promise Zone initiative began in 2010 with President Barack Obama's call to create "Promise Neighborhoods" across the United States. This U.S. Department of Education program was aimed at improving the educational outcomes of students in distressed urban and rural neighborhoods through "cradle-to-career" services. Funding for the initiative increased from \$10 million in 2010 to \$30 million in 2011 and \$60 million in 2012.

No new grants were awarded in 2013, but on January 9, 2014, the president extended this idea by announcing 5 additional "Promise Zones" in San Antonio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, southeastern Kentucky and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Fifteen additional Promise Zones will be announced by the end of Obama's term, with the goal of addressing poverty and income inequality by providing local governments, businesses and agencies "aid in cutting through red tape to get access to existing resources."

Although no new federal funding will be available for Promise Zones, federal agencies will engage directly with local leaders to coordinate resources and expertise for job creation, economic activity, violence reduction, increased educational opportunities and developing private investment.

Only communities previously selected to participate in one of a related set of programs were eligible to apply for the first round of Promise Zone designations. As a recent recipient of the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant, the City of Milwaukee was eligible to apply and did. Of the 31 applicants for a Promise Zone designation, 12 were selected as finalists.

Although Milwaukee was not a finalist for this round, the City is currently drafting its application for subsequent cycles of Promise Zone designation (the deadline for the second round is November 21, 2014). To apply to be a Promise Zone, applicants must be a local government or nonprofit organization. Potential Promise Zones must also:

- Encompass one or more census tracts across a contiguous geography.
- Have an overall poverty rate over 33 percent.
- Encompass a population of at least 10,000 but no more than 200,000 residents.
- Have the demonstrated commitment of local leadership, including mayors.

This report is not a part of the City of Milwaukee's Promise Zone application, but is based on a similar premise: the premise that area revitalization can be realized more fully through the systematic and cooperative provision of services and the development of a community-wide culture of success.

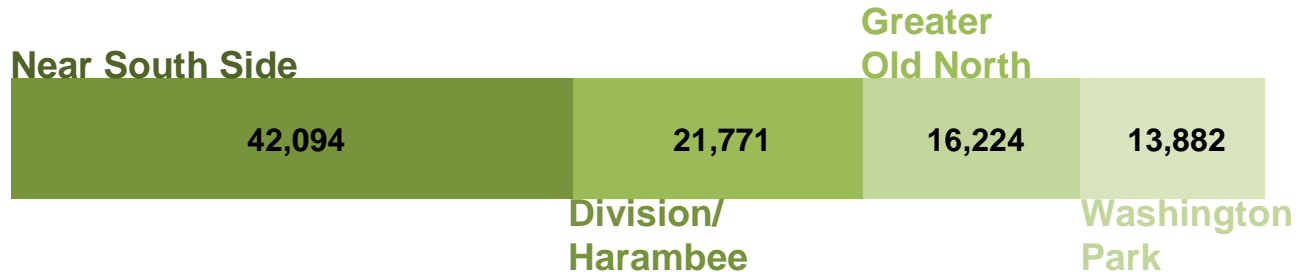
According to a 2014 press release on President Obama's Promise Zone initiative:

A child's zip code should never determine her destiny; but today, the neighborhood she grows up in impacts her odds of graduating high school, her health outcomes, and her lifetime economic opportunities...It will take a collaborative effort — between private business and federal, state, and local officials; faith-based and non-profit organizations; and striving kids and parents—to ensure that hard work leads to a decent living for every American in every community.

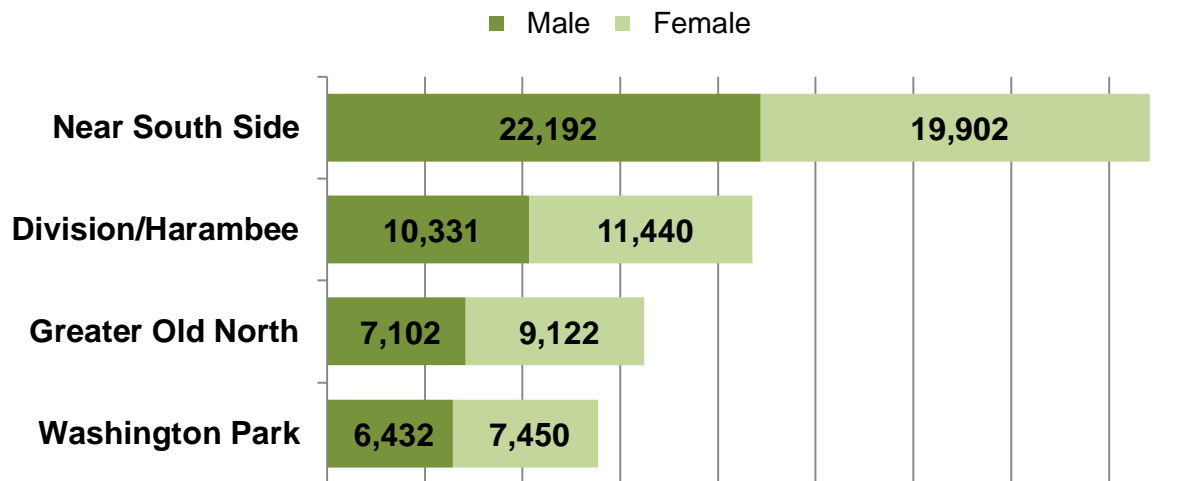
Through the designation of local promise zones, Common Council of the City of Milwaukee hopes to further support this premise and establish a pathway for community revitalization and success.

## II. GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

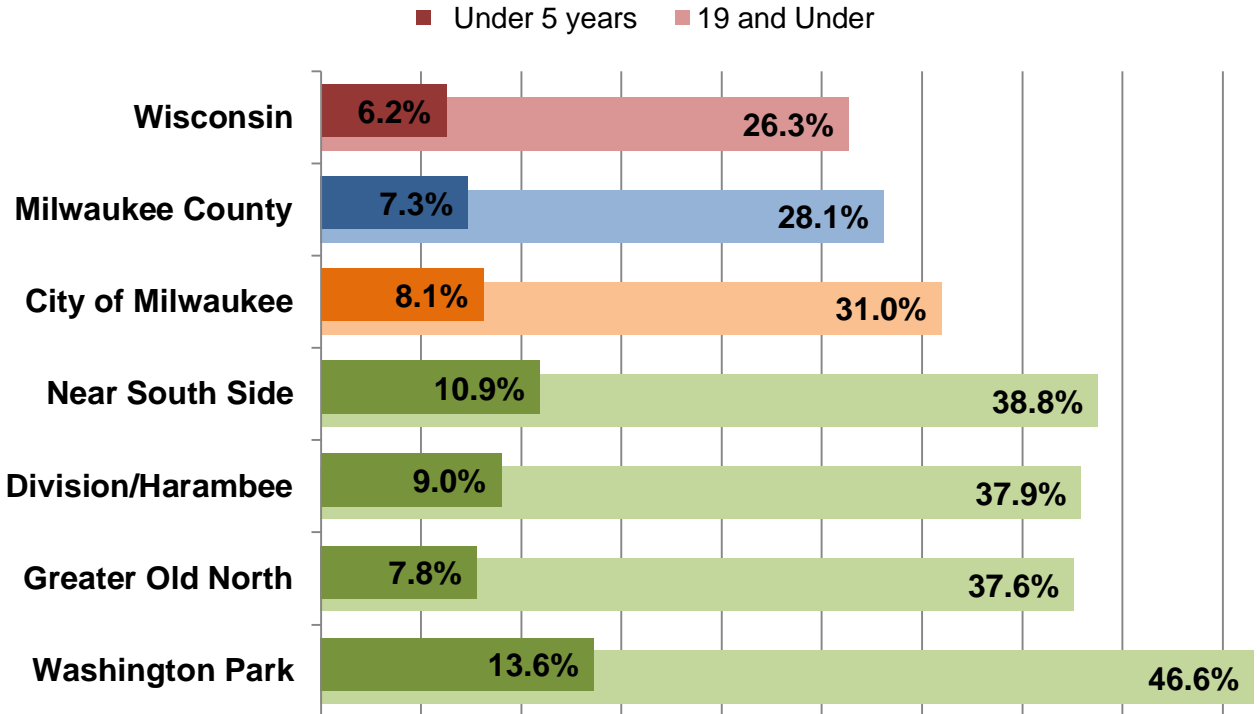
Combined, the Milwaukee Promise Zones have a population of 93,971 residents, with 42,094 (44.8%) of these residing in the Near South Side zone, 21,771 (23.2%) residing in the Division/Harambee zone, 16,224 (17.3%) residing in the Greater Old North Milwaukee zone and 13,882 (14.8%) residing in the Washington Park zone. Maps detailing area boundaries are provided in the appendix.



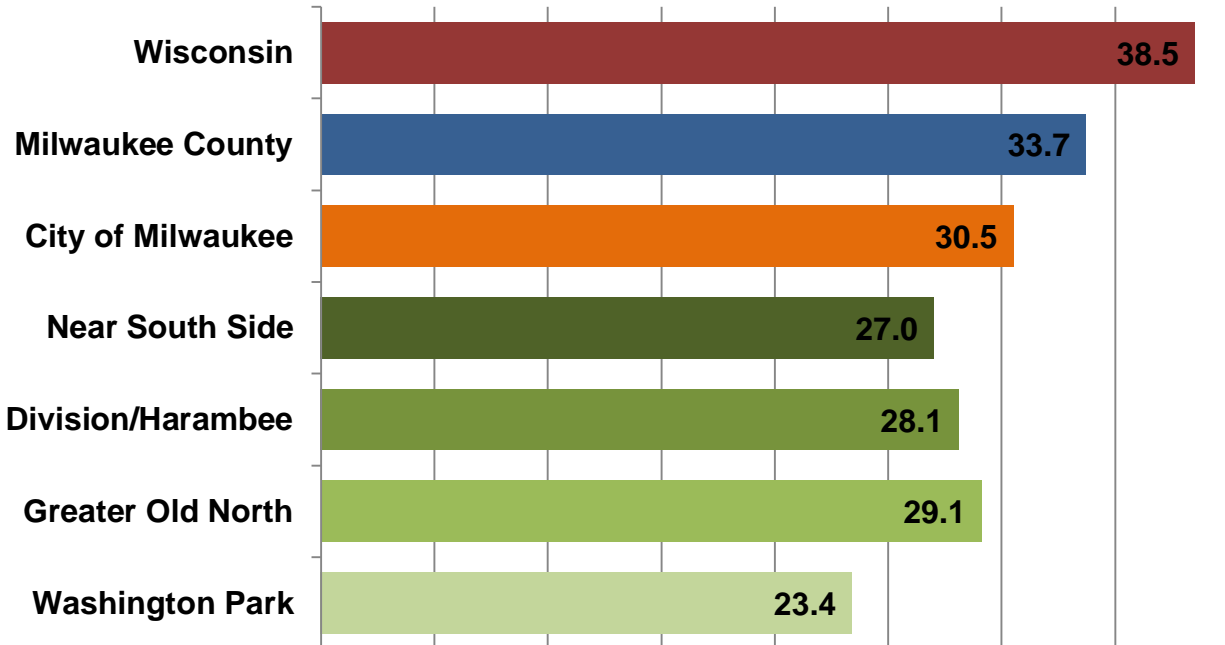
### Total Population



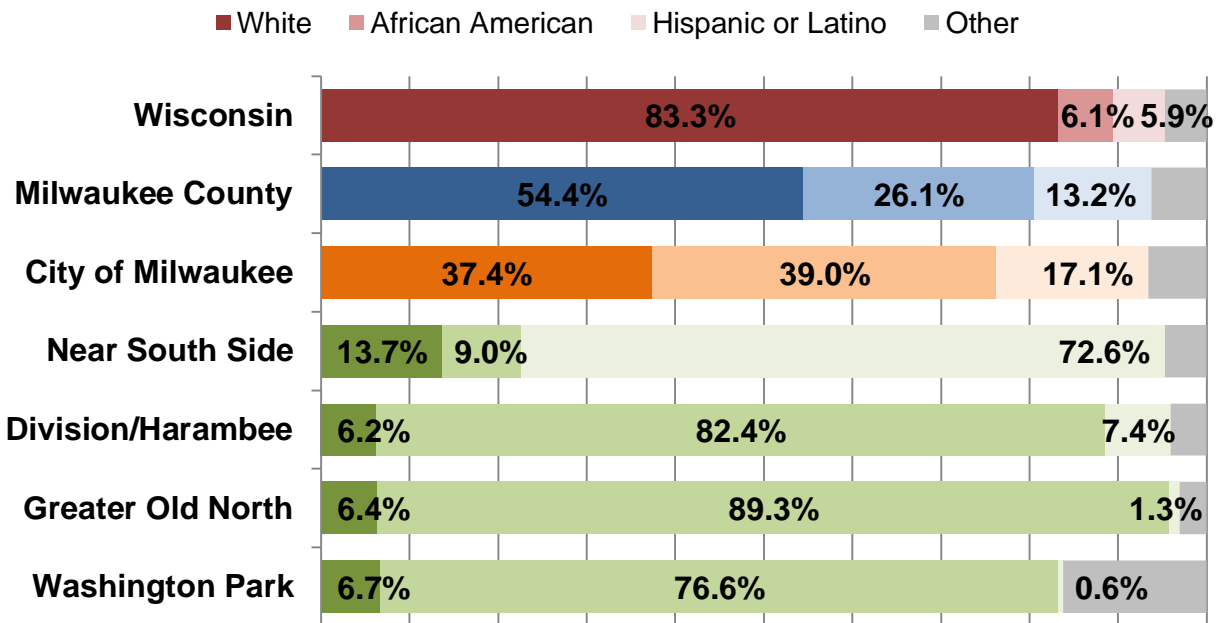
## Population Age



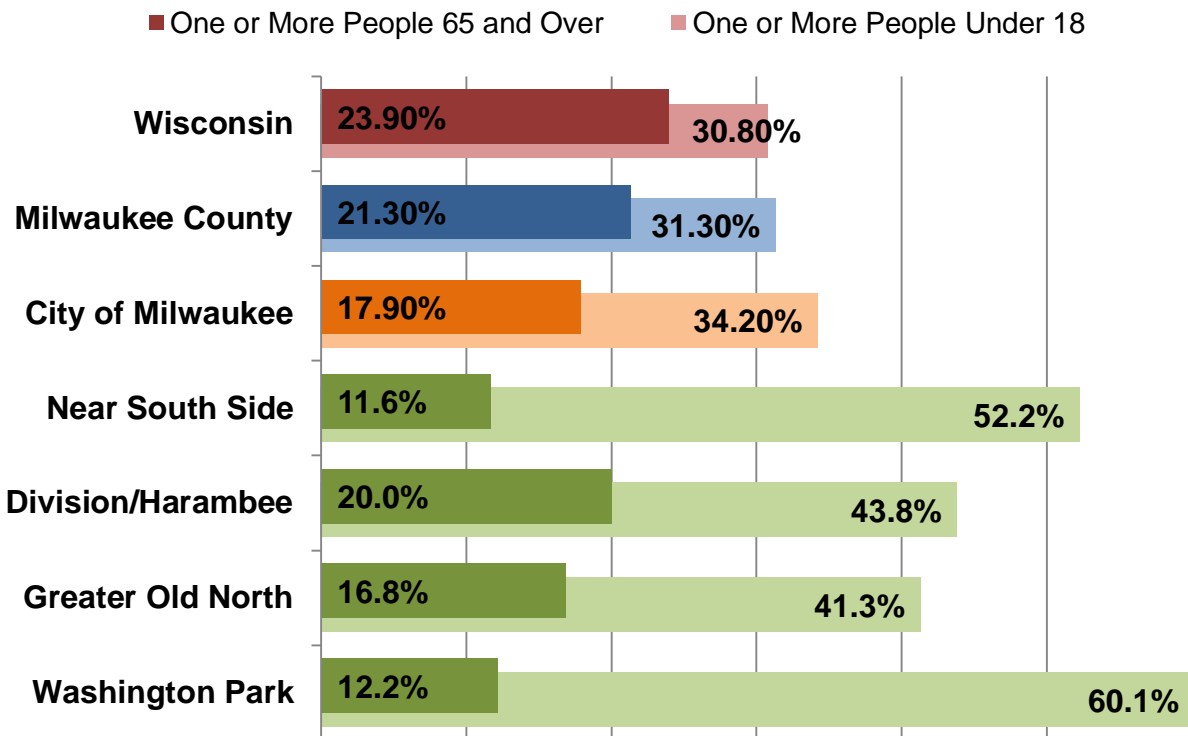
## Median Age



## Population by Ethnicity



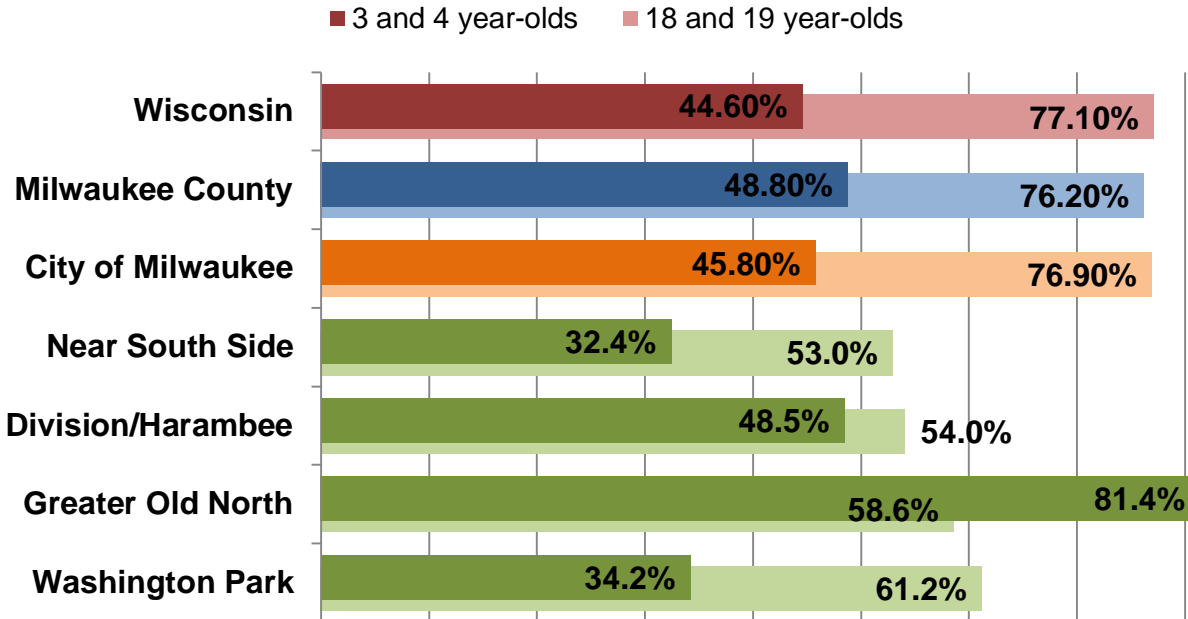
## Household Composition



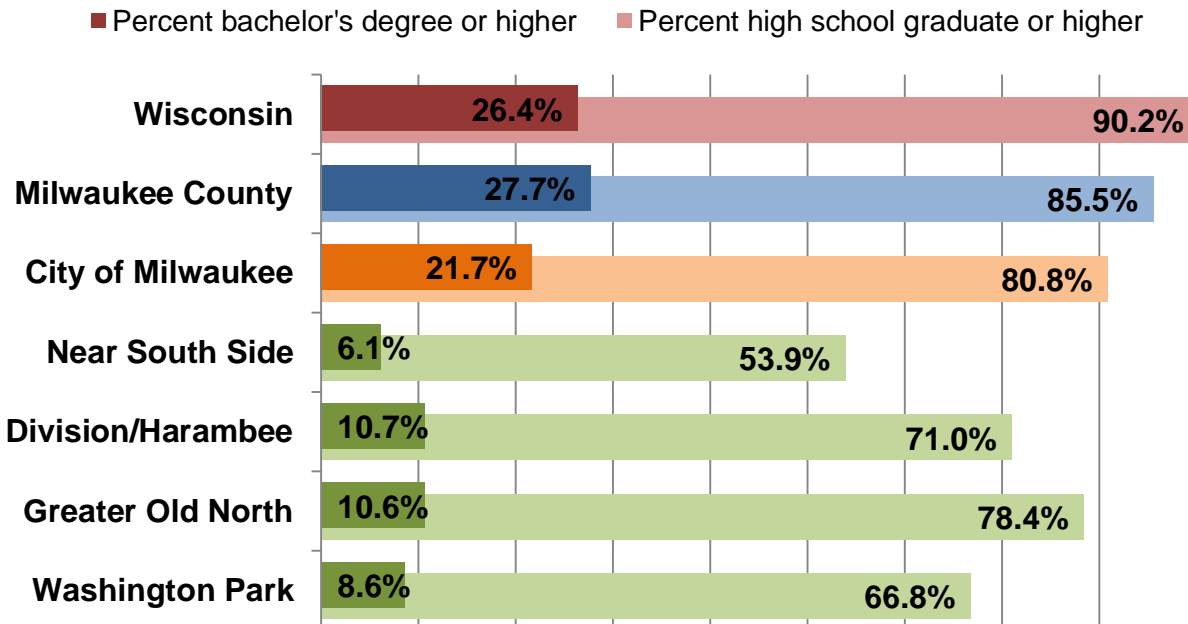


### III. EDUCATION

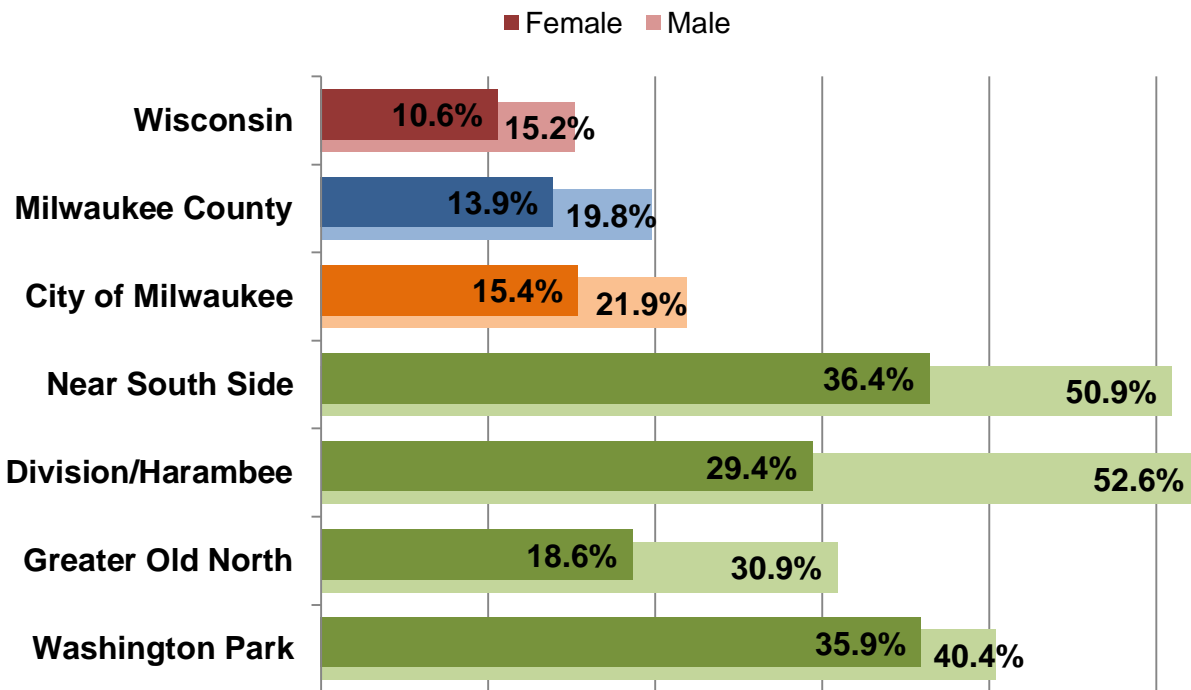
#### % Enrolled in School



#### Educational Attainment, Age 25 and Over

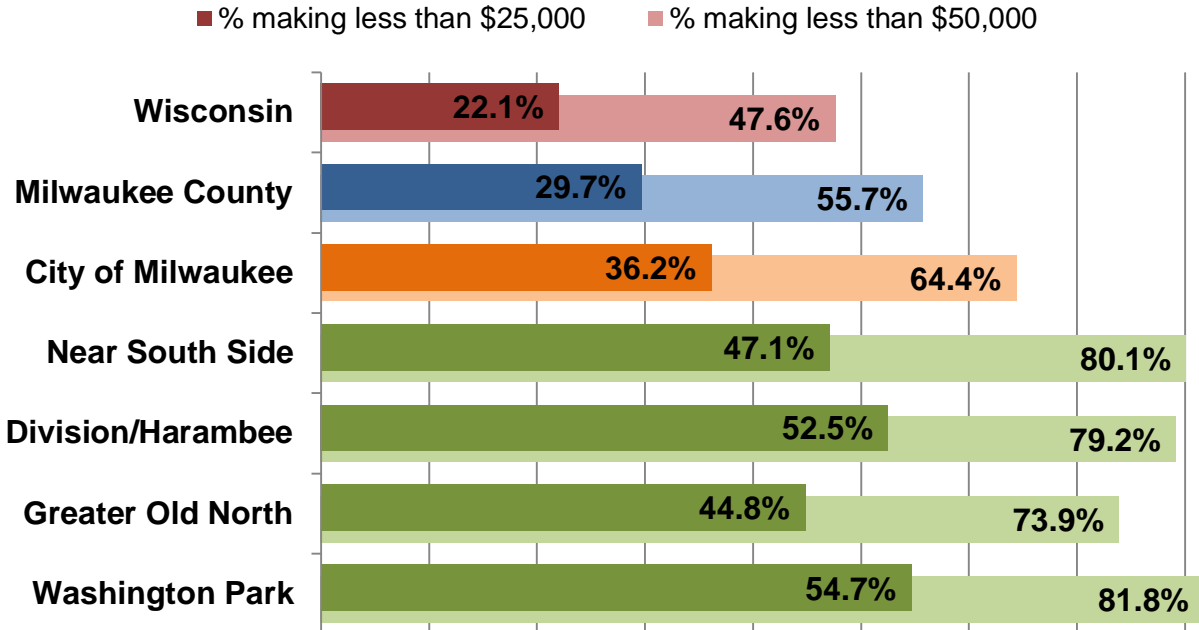


## % of 18 to 24-Year-Olds with Less Than a High School Degree

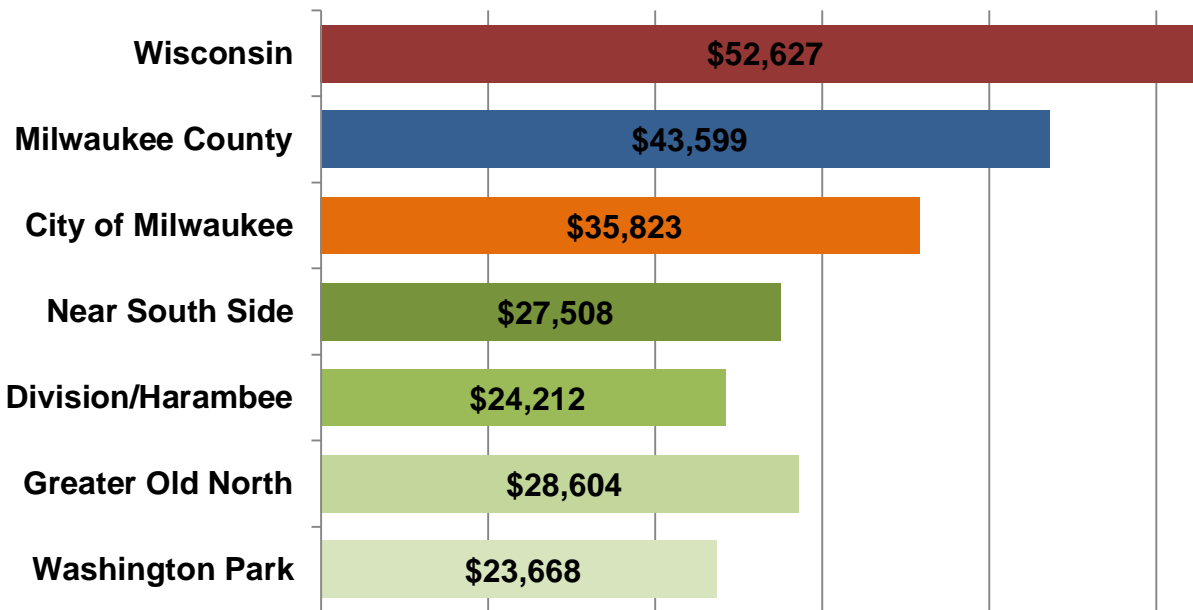


## IV. ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

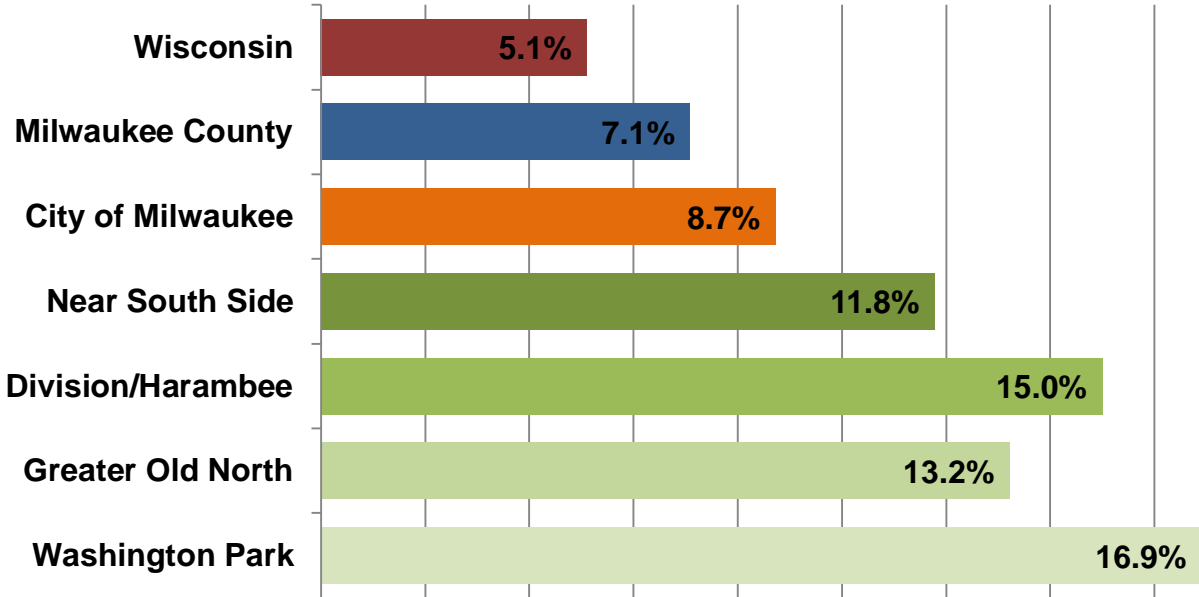
### Household Income



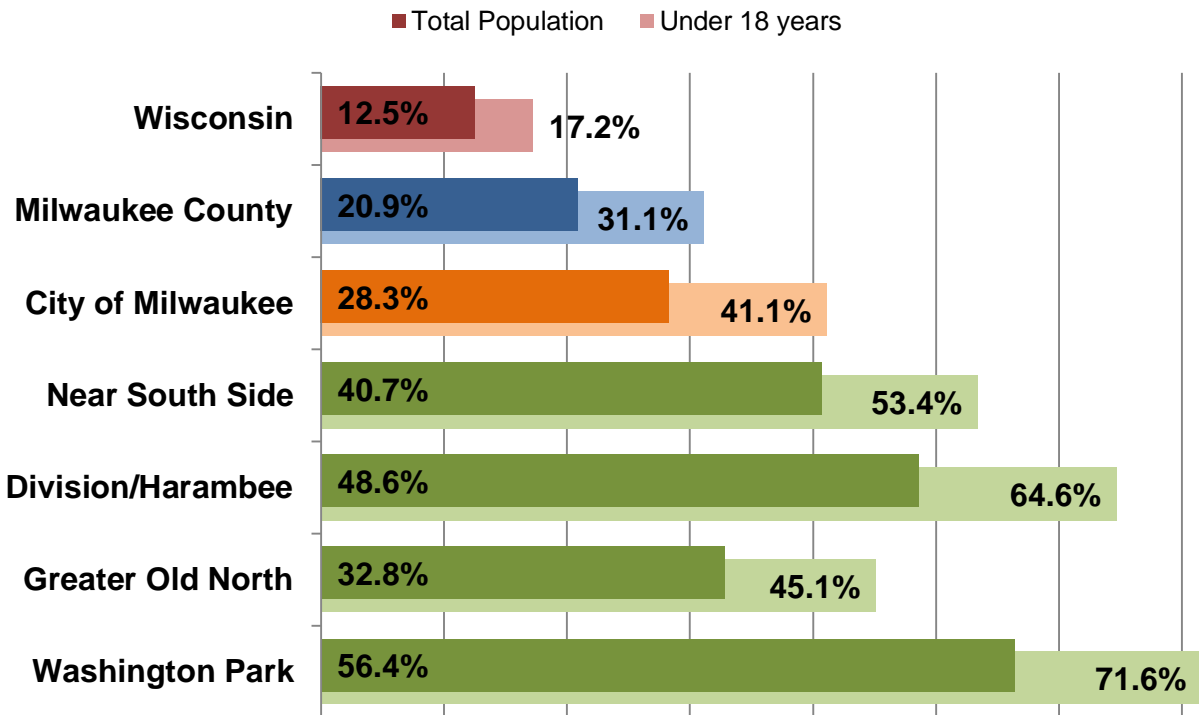
### Median Household Income



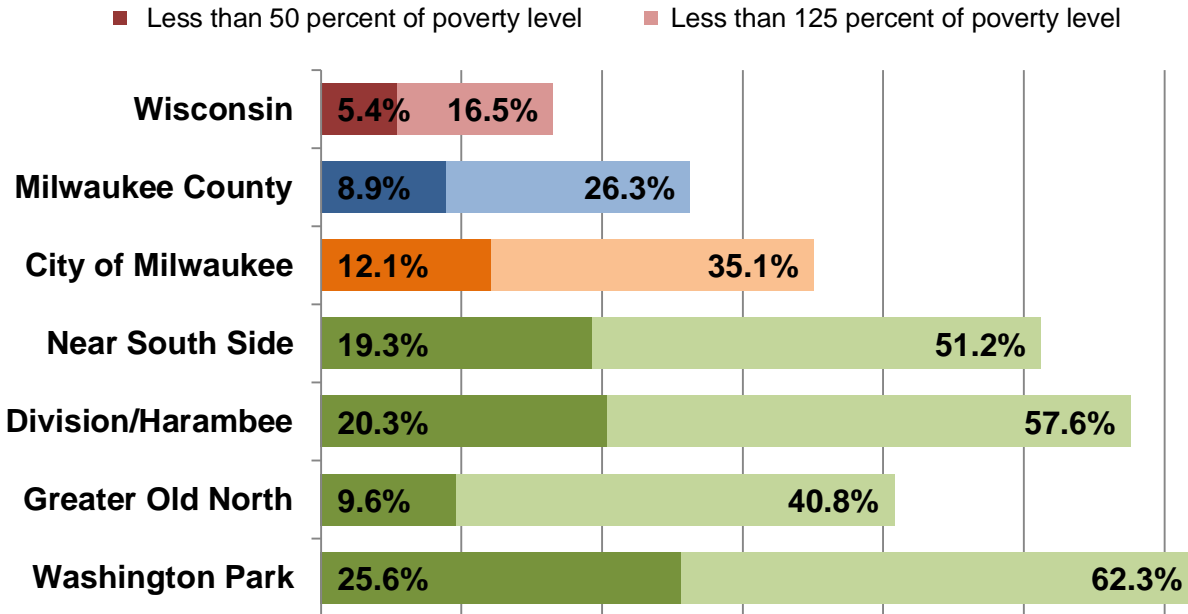
## % Unemployed, Civilian Labor Force 16 Years and Older



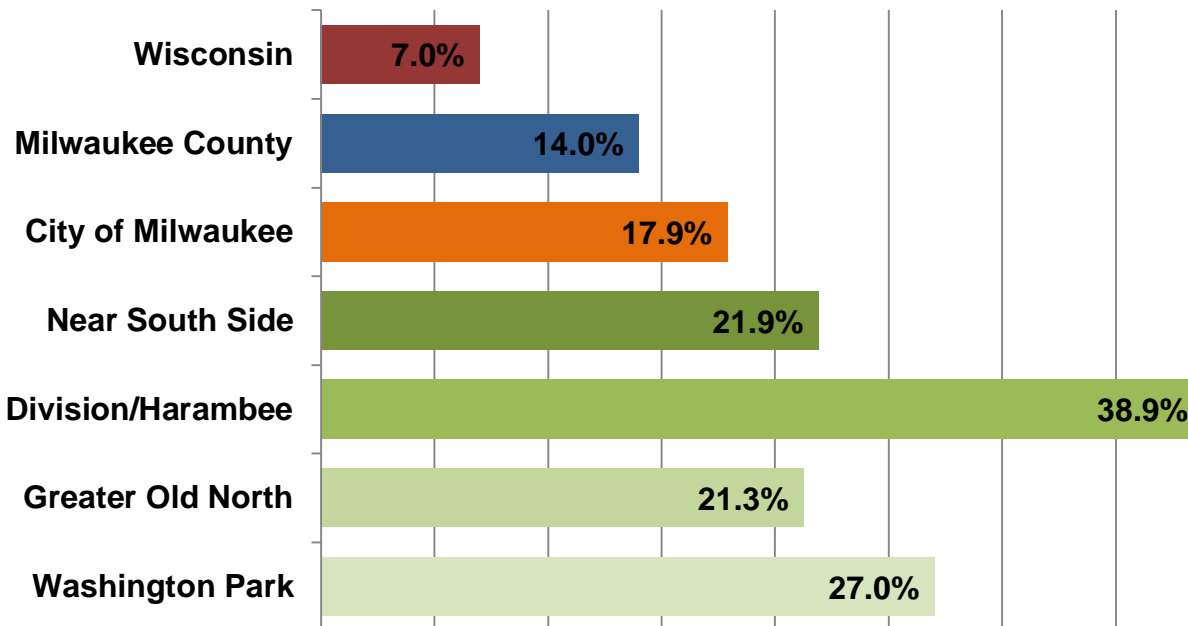
## % Below Poverty Level



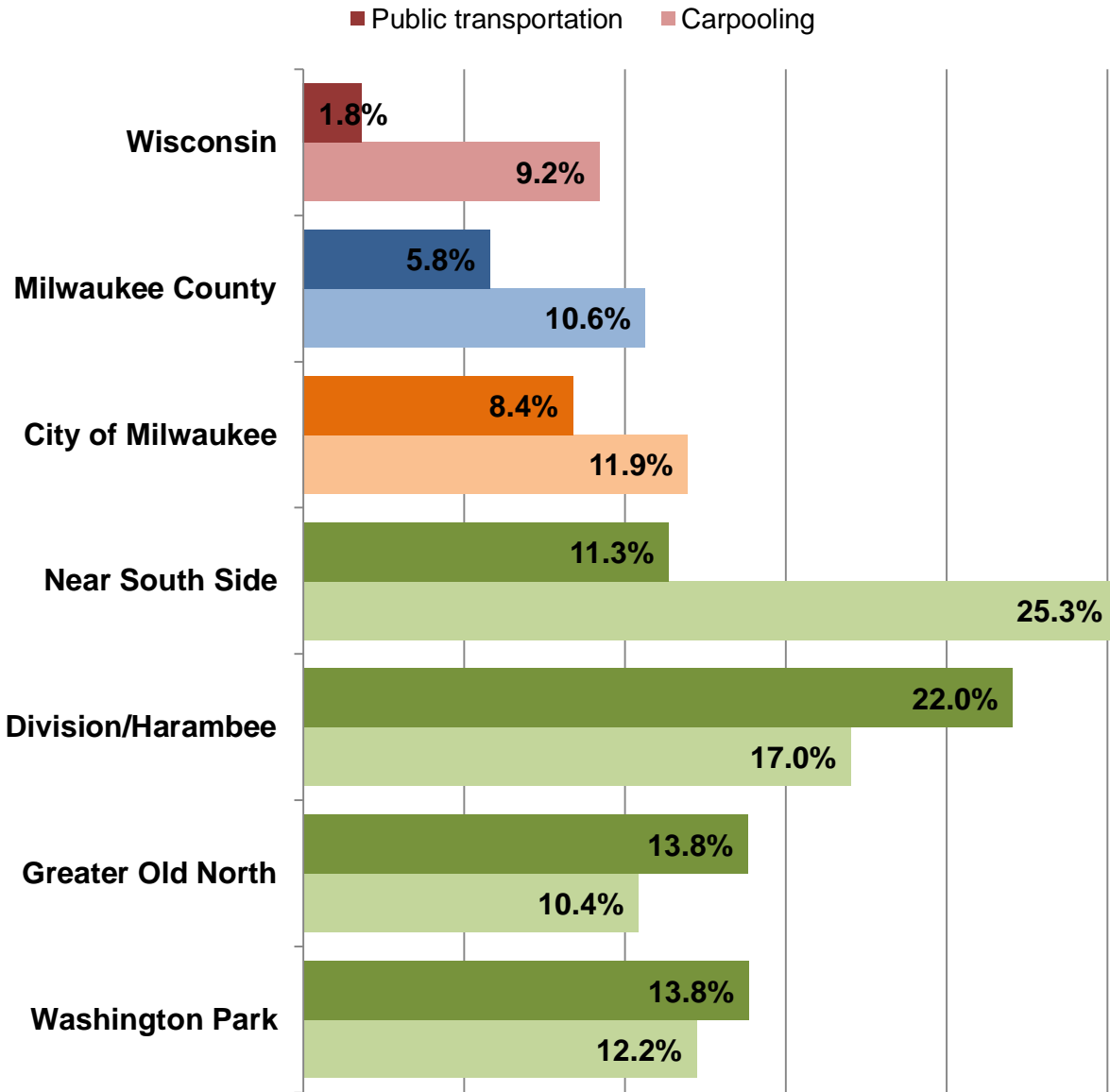
## Per Capita Income



## % of Occupied Housing Units With No Vehicles Available

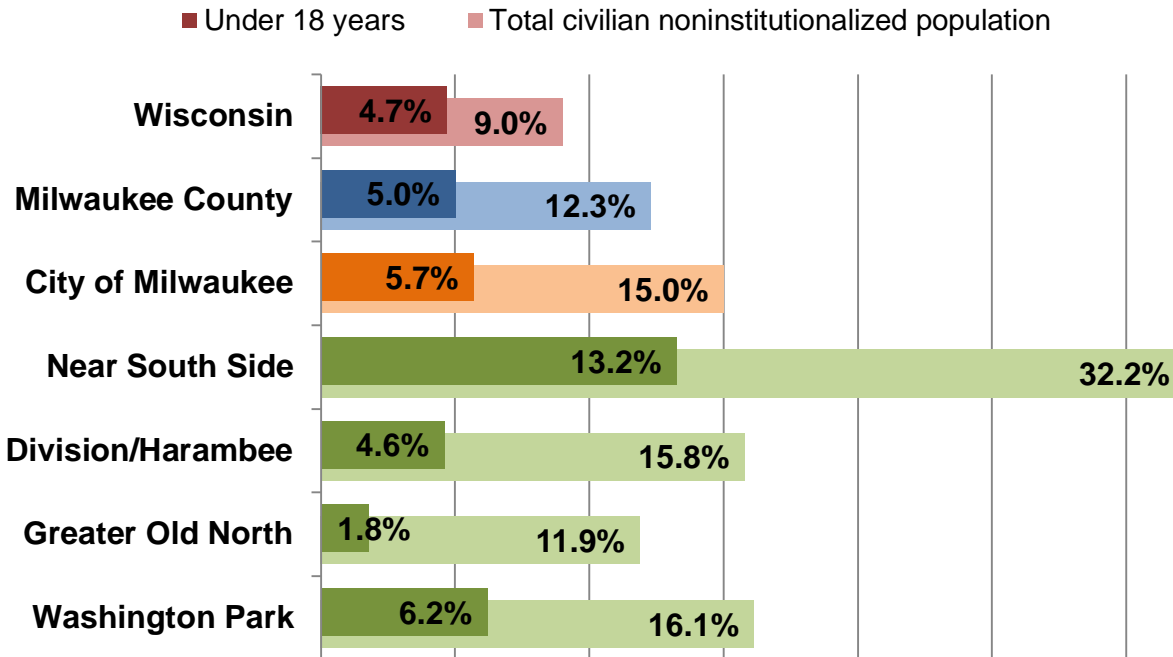


## Commute to Work

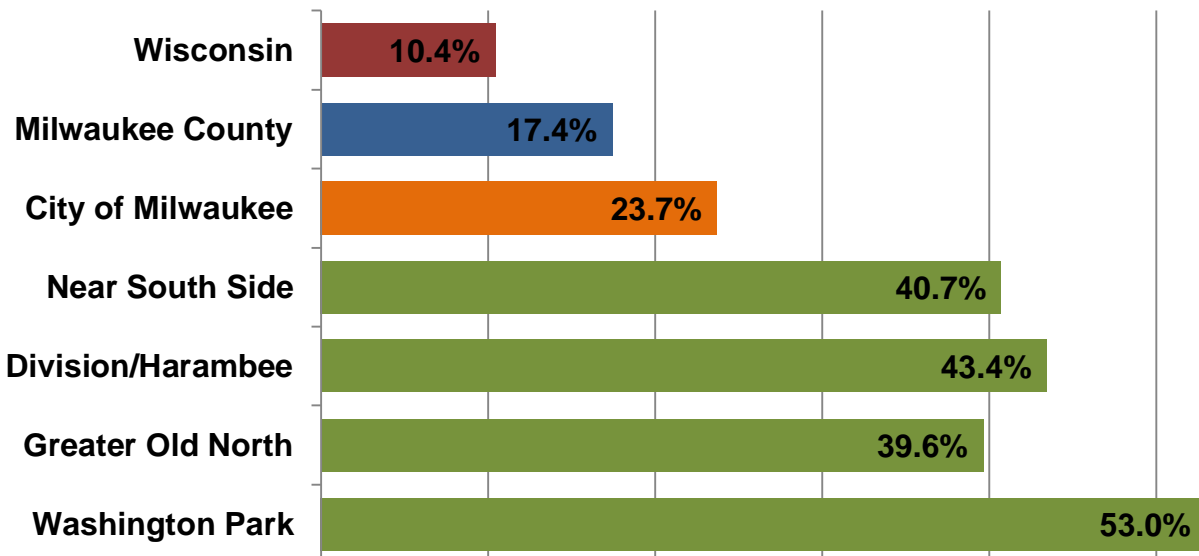


## V. HEALTH CARE

### % Uninsured

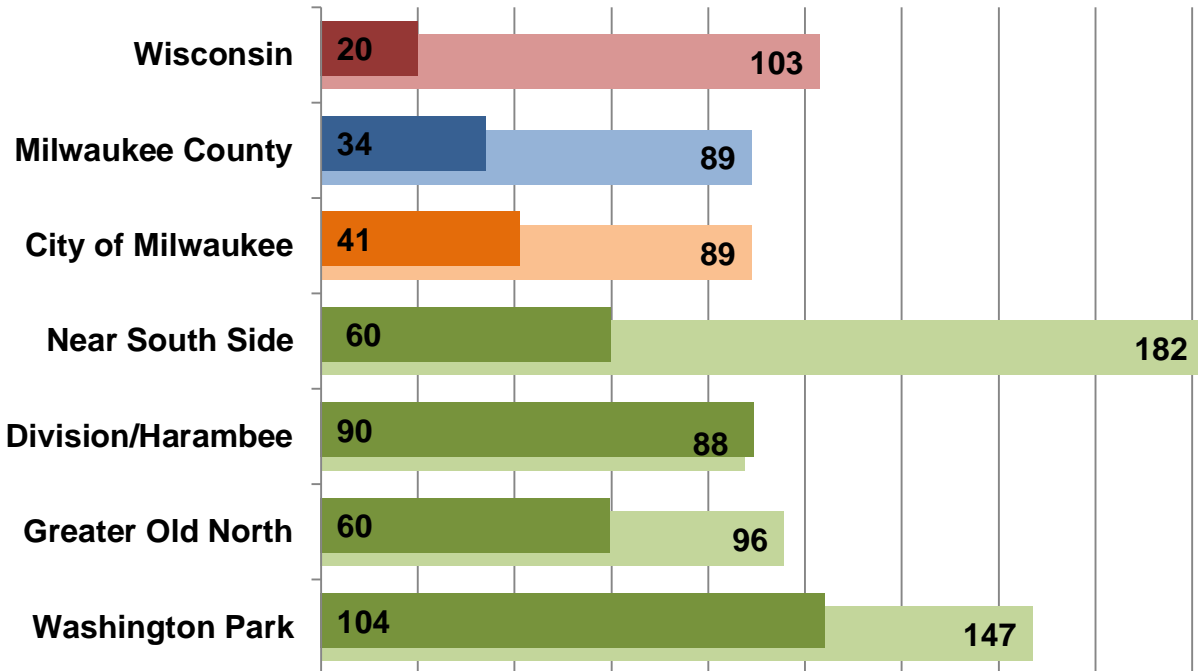


### % Households With Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits in the Past 12 Months



## Births Per 1,000 Women

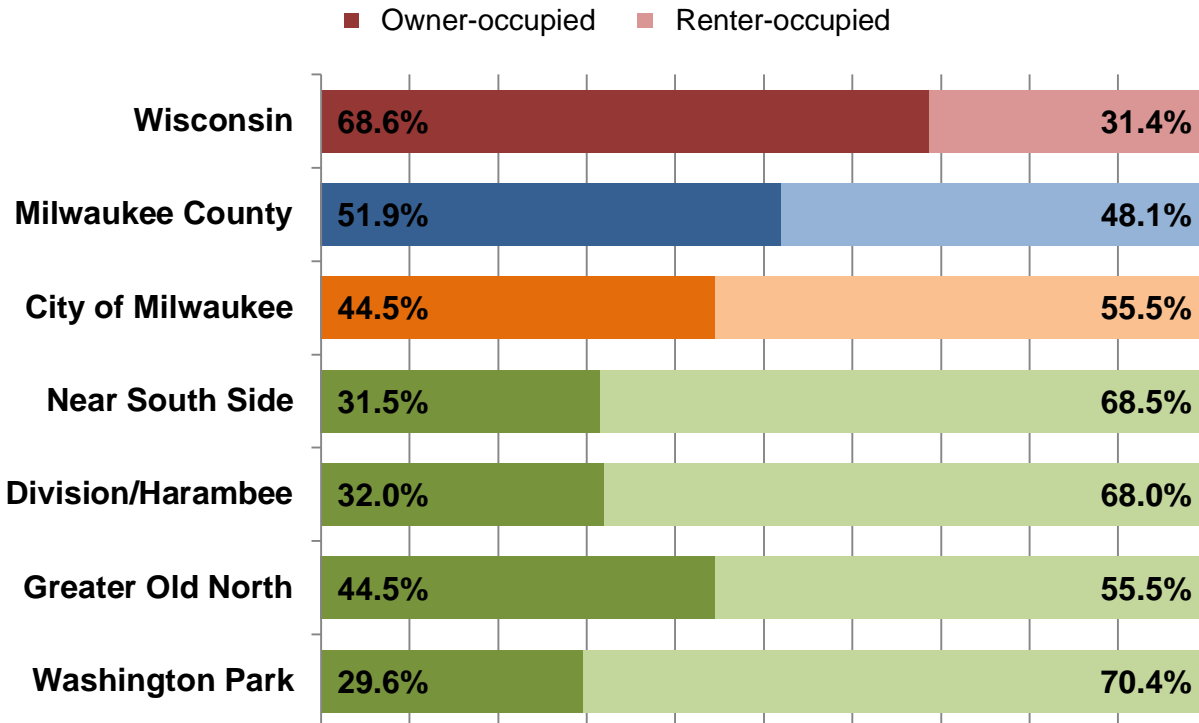
■ Women 15 to 19 years old   ■ Women 20 to 34 years old



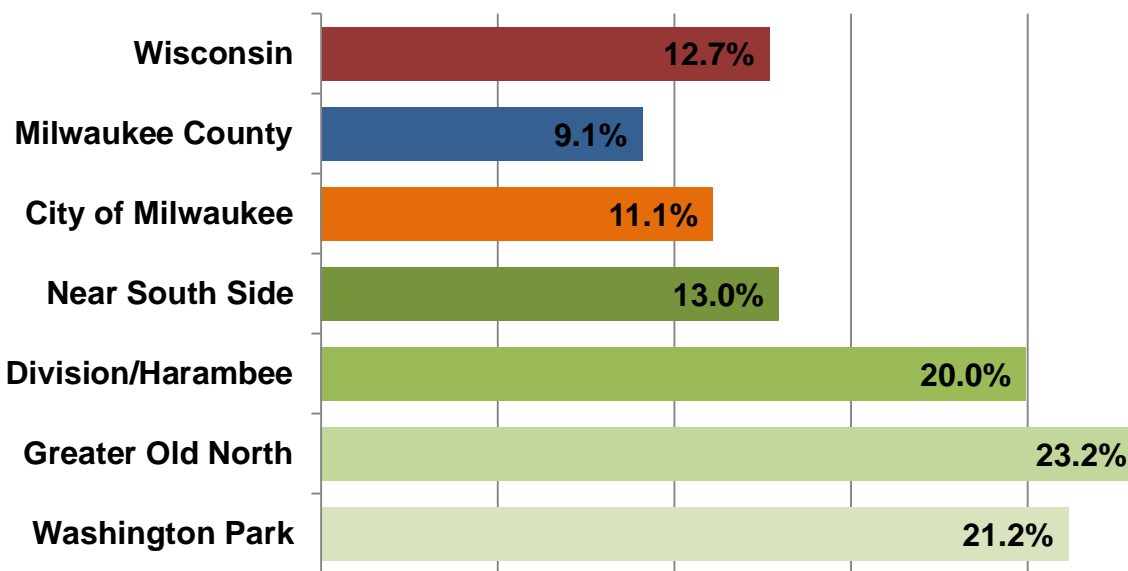


## VI. HOUSING

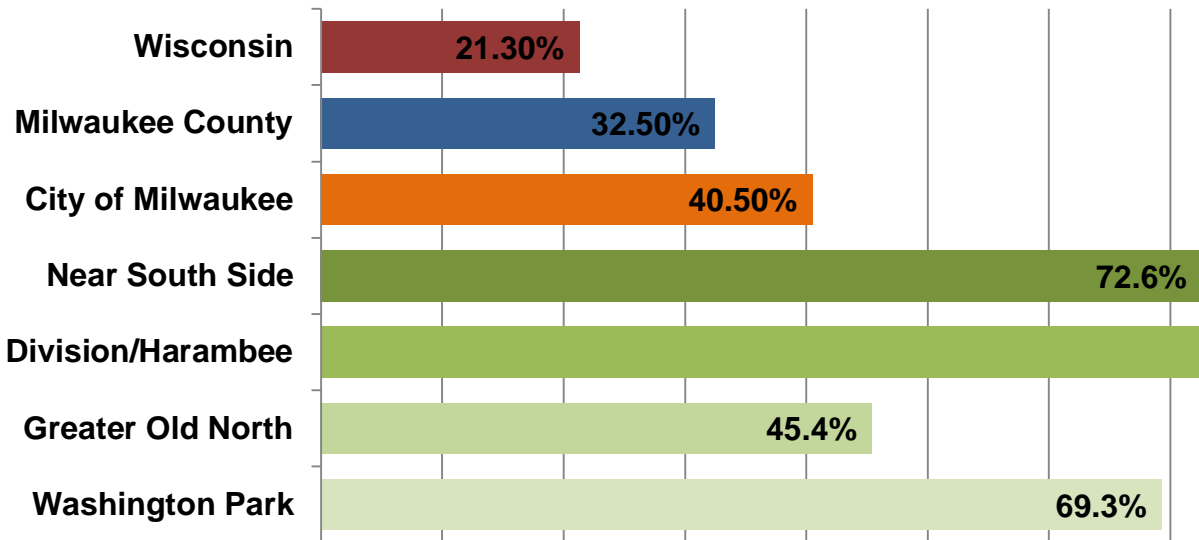
### Housing Status



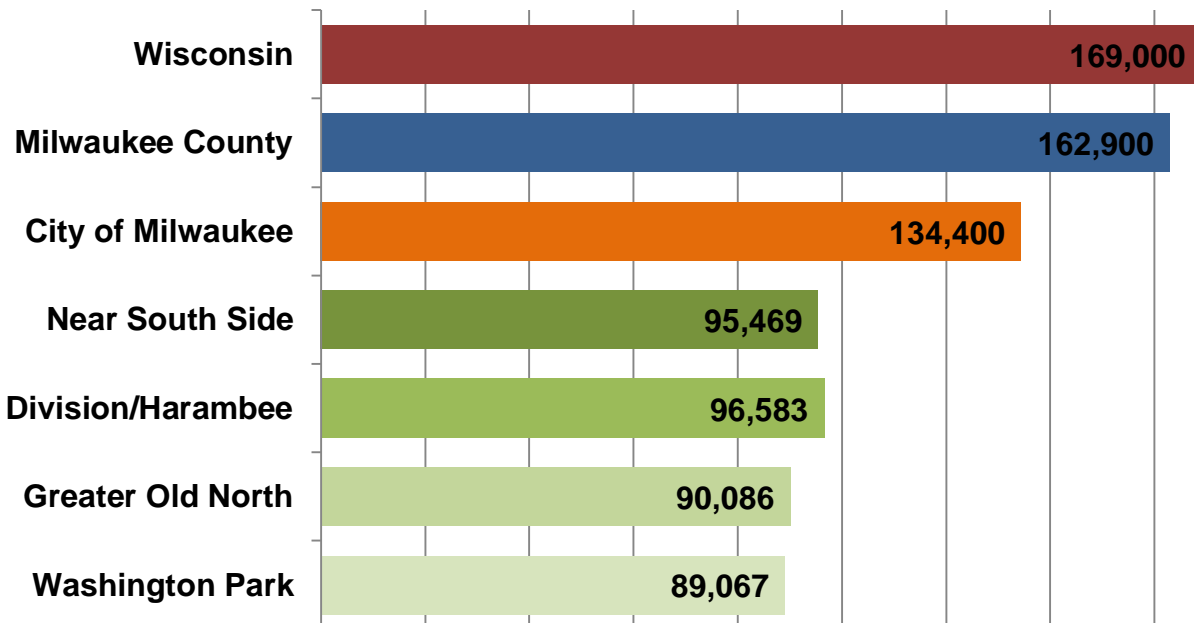
### Vacant Housing Units



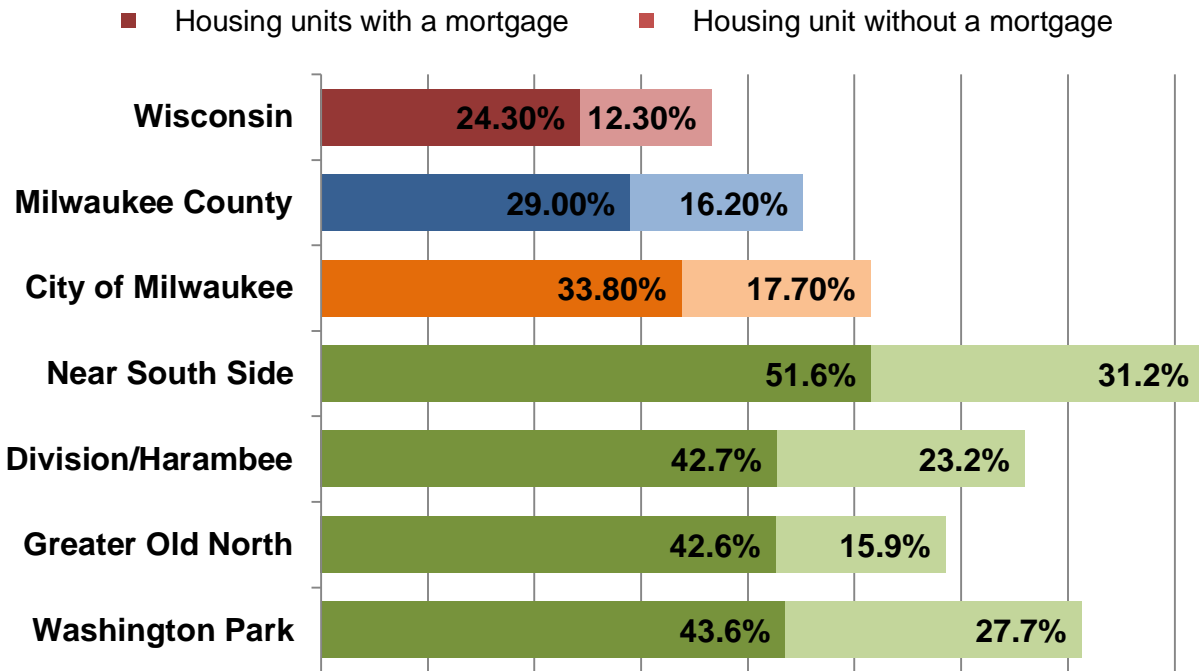
### % of Housing Units Built 1939 or Earlier



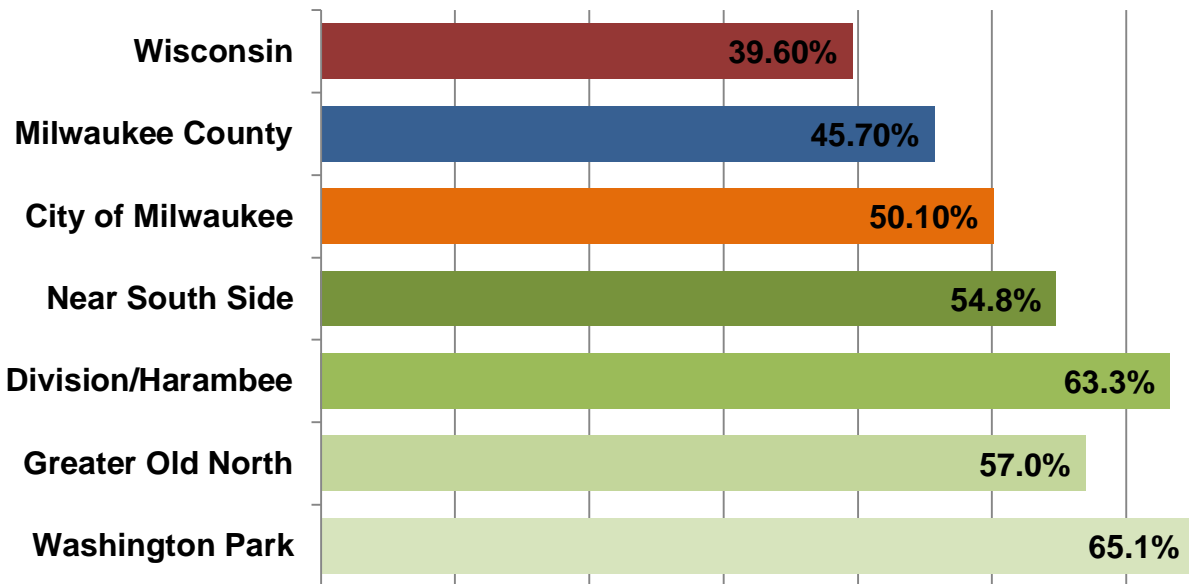
### Median Home Value, Owner-Occupied Housing Units



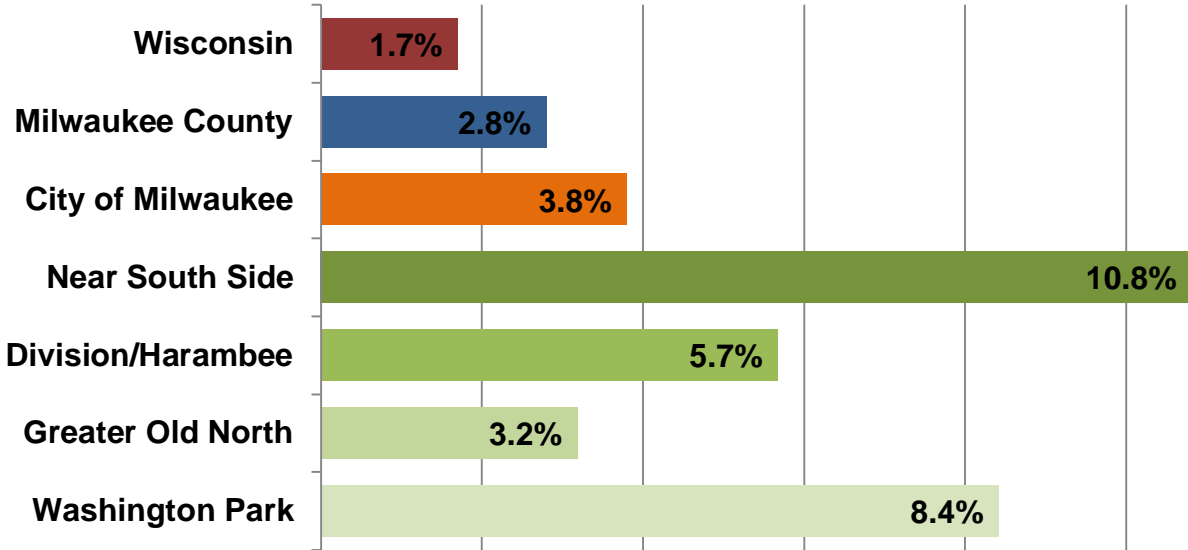
## Housing Units Paying 35% or More of Household Income on Ownership Costs



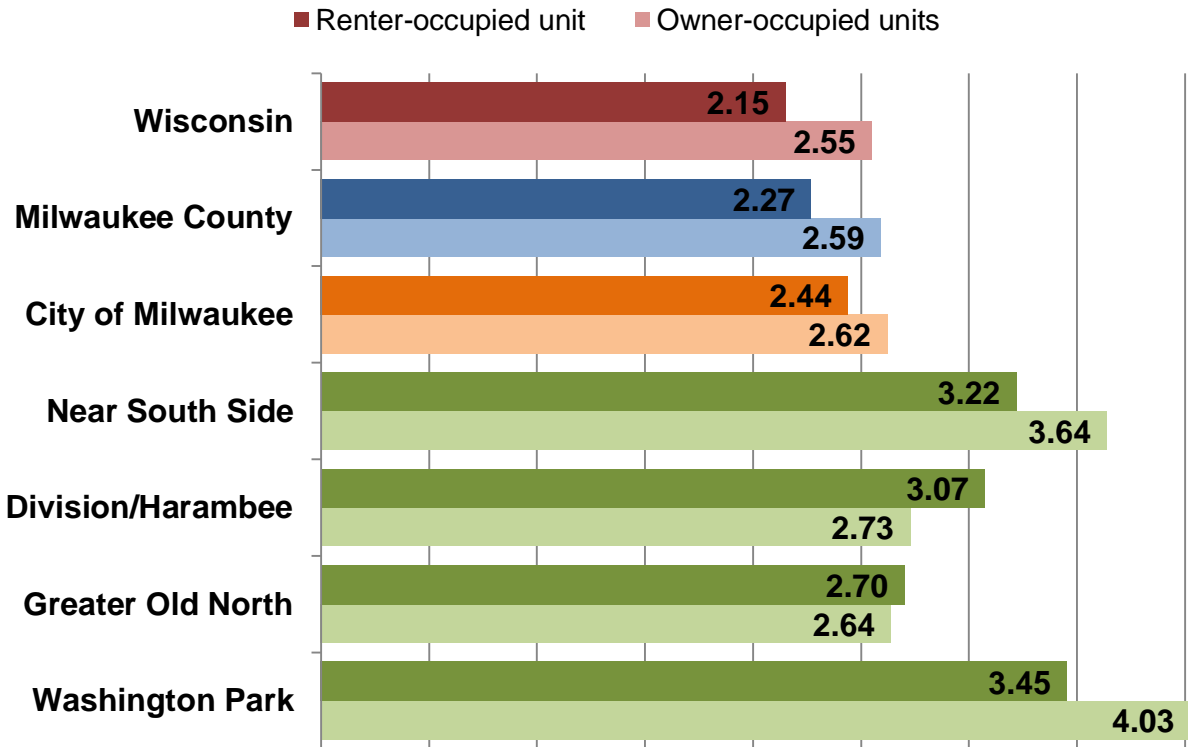
## Rental Units Paying 35% or More of Household Income on Rent



## % of Occupied Housing Units With More Than 1 Occupant Per Room

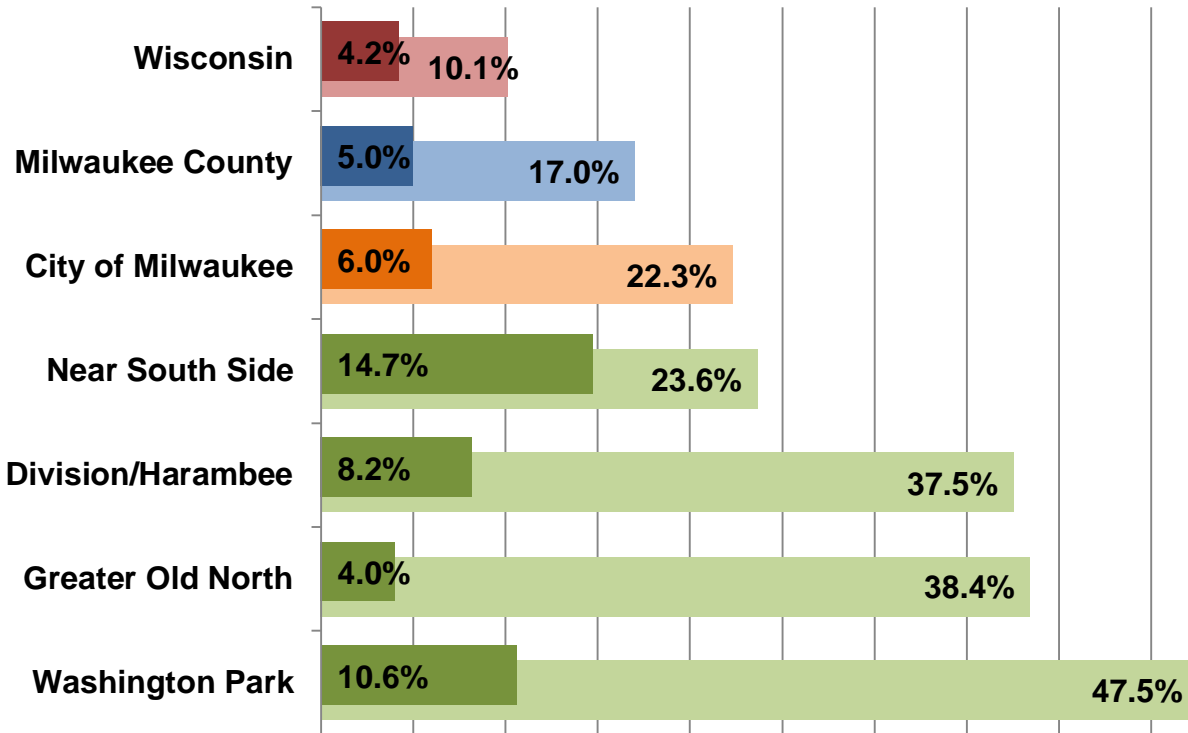


## Average Household Size



## Household Composition

■ Male householder, no wife present ■ Female householder, no husband present



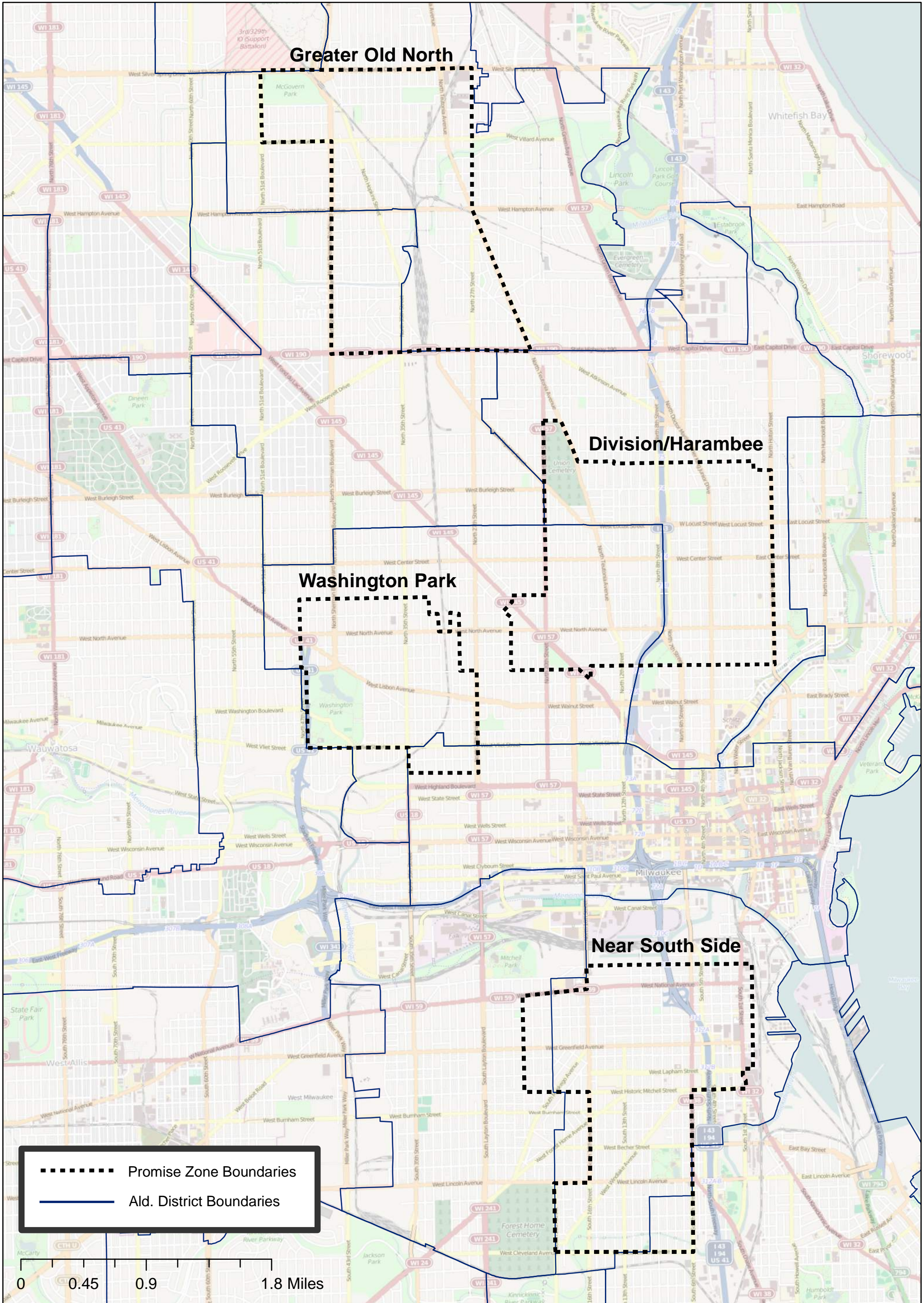
Prepared by: Andrew VanNatta, Legislative Fiscal Analyst - Lead

LRB155605

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## APPENDIX

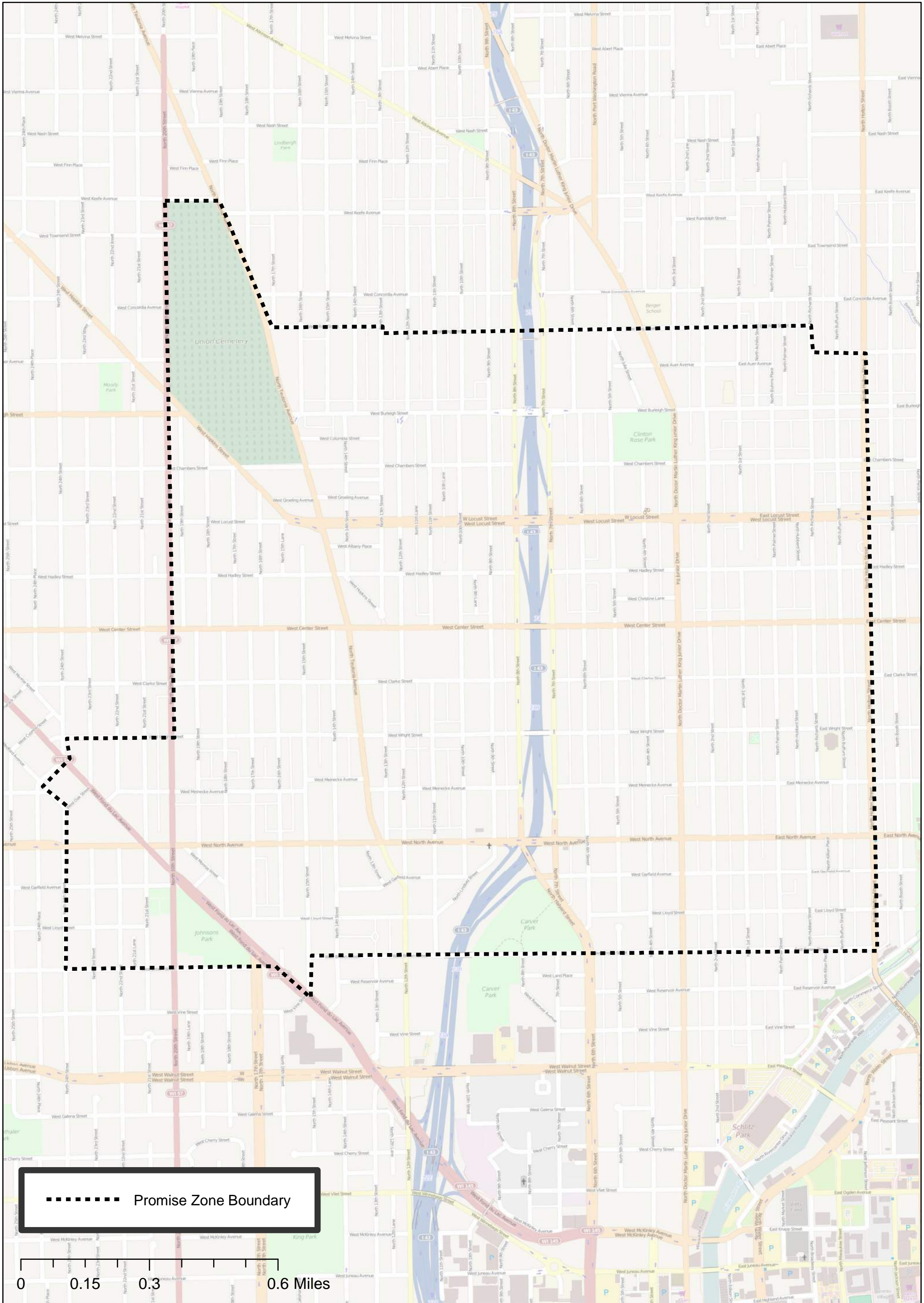
# MILWAUKEE PROMISE ZONES





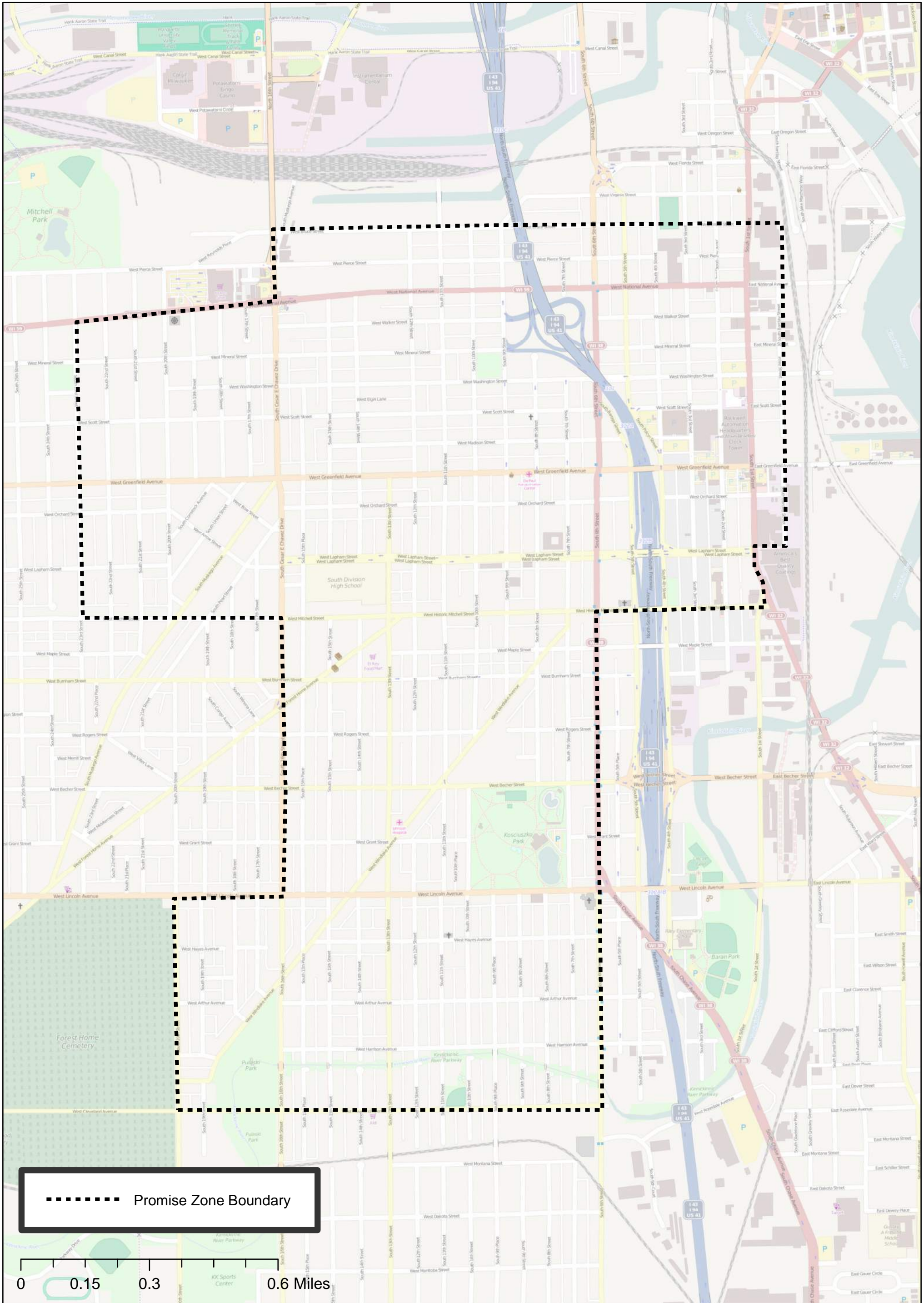
# MILWAUKEE PROMISE ZONES

## Division/Harambee





# MILWAUKEE PROMISE ZONES Near South Side



# MILWAUKEE PROMISE ZONES

## Washington Park

