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## CHAPTER 3: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Town of Oakfield lost population between 1980 and 2010, decreasing by 130 people over this time frame.
- It is projected that the Town will continue to decrease in population between 2010 and 2040, losing about 88 people or declining in population by 12.5 percent.
- The Town of Oakfield is aging faster and is older than Fond du Lac County and Wisconsin. Between 2000 and 2010, the median age in the Town increased by 7.1 years from 35.6 years in 2000 to 42.7 years in 2010. In comparison, in 2010, the median age in the county increased by 3.3 years from 36.9 years in 2000 to 40.2 years in 2010, while the median age in the state increased by 2.5 years from 36.0 in 2000 to 38.5 years in 2010.
- About a third of Town of Oakfield residents are employed in the manufacturing sector according to the 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates.
- Residents in the Town of Oakfield traveled on average 26.5 minutes to work; this was further than county (20.3 minutes) and state (22.0 minutes) residents according to the 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates. This is a reflection of the employment opportunities in the Town.

### SWOT Results

#### Add SWOT Results

### United States Census Data

Some data in the following chapter was obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing statistical survey by the U.S. Census Bureau representing a sample of the population over a period of time, differing from the Decennial U.S. Census where figures are based on actual counts during a point in time. ACS estimates are controlled to decennial population estimates and become less accurate over the decade, meaning estimates are only as accurate as the census count on which they are based.

ACS data can be used to draw conclusions, however, due to the limitations of these estimates, patterns can only be inferred through the data and consequently there is a larger margin of error (MOE). Small sample size increases the MOE, indicating inaccuracy and rendering the data unreliable. As a result, annual fluctuations in the ACS estimates are not meant to be interpreted as long-term trends and caution should be taken when drawing conclusions about small differences between two estimates because they may not be statistically different. It should also be noted when comparing ACS multi-year estimates with decennial census estimates, some areas and subjects must be compared with caution or not compared at all.

The following Findings and Recommendations are based on an analysis of the data contained in Tables A-1 through A-19. These tables are found in Appendix A.

## **Population Characteristics**

### ***Population Change*** (Table A-1)

- The Town of Oakfield's population declined by 130 people (15.6%) between 1980 and 2010.
- According to 2018 WDOA population estimates, all jurisdictions, including the Town of Oakfield gained population between 2010 and 2018.

### ***Population Race*** (Table A-2)

- While the Town of Oakfield became more diverse between 2000 and 2010, whites still comprised 98 percent of the population in 2010.
- In comparison, in 2010, whites comprised 94.1 percent of the population in Fond du Lac County and 86.2 percent of the population in the state.
- The share and number of Hispanics or Latino's increased in the Town of Oakfield from 1 to 8 persons (0.1% to 1.1%) between 2000 and 2010. In comparison, the share of Hispanic population in Fond du Lac County and the state in 2010 was 4.3 percent and 5.9 percent respectively.

### ***Population Age and Median Age*** (Table A-3)

- The Town of Oakfield is aging faster and is older than Fond du Lac County and Wisconsin. Between 2000 and 2010, the median age in the Town increased by 7.1 years from 35.6 years in 2000 to 42.7 years in 2010. In comparison, in 2010, the median age in the county increased by 3.3 years from 36.9 years in 2000 to 40.2 years in 2010, while the median age in the state increased by 2.5 years from 36.0 in 2000 to 38.5 years in 2010.
- Generally, the share pre-school and school age populations decreased in all jurisdictions, while the share of those 45 years and older increased between the 2000 and 2010.
- In 2000, the 25 to 44 age cohort garnered the largest share of the population (in all jurisdictions), by 2010; the 45 to 64 age cohort had the largest share of the population (in all jurisdictions).

## **Income Characteristics**

### ***Comparative Income Characteristics*** (Table A-4)

- The median household income was significantly higher in the Town of Oakfield (\$51,917 and \$73,417) than in the county (\$45,578 and \$57,798) and state (\$43,791 and \$56,759) in both 1999 and 2017.
- The median family income was higher in the Town of Oakfield (\$53,558 and \$76,250) than in the county (\$53,325 and \$71,680) and the state (\$52,911 and \$72,542) in both 1999 and 2017.

- The per capita income was significantly higher in the Town of Oakfield (\$18,615 and \$32,653) than in the county (\$20,022 and \$29,431) and the state (\$21,272 and \$30,557) in both 1999 and 2017.
- The median household, median family and per capita income increased between 1999 and 2017 for all jurisdictions, but the increase was higher in the Town than at the county and state level.

#### **Household Income** (Table A-5)

- The household income category with the highest share, for all three jurisdictions in both 1999 and 2017, was the \$50,000 to \$74,999. Approximately a quarter (26.8%) of all households fell within this category for the Town of Oakfield in 2017, compared with 21.6 percent of county households and 19.3 percent of state households. Another quarter of the households in the Town fell within the \$100,000 to \$149,999 category.
- About 50 percent of households in the Town had incomes under \$75,000 compared with over 60 percent of the households in the county (64%) and state (63.4%).

#### **Poverty Status** (Table A-6 and A-7)

- The share of persons living below the poverty level increased in all jurisdictions between 1999 and 2013-2017. According to the 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 4.1 percent of all persons lived below the poverty level in the Town of Oakfield, compared with 8.5 percent of residents in the county and 12.3 percent of residents in the state.
- Between 1999 and 2013-2017, the share of families living below the poverty level increased in all jurisdictions. In 2013-2017, 1.2 percent of families in the Town of Oakfield, 6.0 percent of families in the county and 8.1 percent of families in the state were living below the poverty level.

#### **Employment Characteristics**

##### **Labor Force** (Table A-8, A-9 and A-10)

- In 2000, approximately 98 percent (97.6%) of the civilian labor force was employed in the Town of Oakfield compared with 95.7 percent in the county and 95.3% in the state.
- According to the 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the share of employed persons fell slightly in the Town to 96.4 percent, rose in the county to 96.0 percent, and remained constant in the state at 95.3 percent.
- According to the WI Department of Workforce Development, average annual unemployment rates hit a high in 2009 and 2010 as a result of the great recession.
- Since 2009/2010, average annual unemployment rates have continued to fall. In 2017, the average annual unemployment rate in the Fond du Lac County was 2.8 percent compared with 3.3 percent in the state.
- Since 2010, the average annual unemployment rates have been lower in Fond du Lac County than at the state level.

### ***Employment of Residents by Type of Industry*** (Table A-11)

- The top industry sector for Town and county residents in both 2000 and 2013-2017 was manufacturing.
- Manufacturing employed about 31 percent of workers in the Town in both time periods.
- In comparison, while the manufacturing sector continued to employ the largest share of workers in both time frames at the county level, its share is falling. In 2000, about 27 percent of workers were employed in the manufacturing sector, by 2013-2017; this share had fallen to about 22 percent.
- In 2000, the top industry sector in the state was manufacturing (22.2%) followed by educational, health and social services (20%). By 2017-2018, the largest industrial sector at the state level was educational, health and social services (23.2%).

### ***Employment of Residents by Type of Occupation*** (Table A-12 and A-13)

- In 2000, the top employment occupation for Town residents was production, transportation, and material moving occupations (26.6%), while the top employment occupation at the county (26.3%) and state (31.3%) level was management, professional, and related occupations.
- By 2013-2017, the top employment occupation in all three jurisdictions was management, professional, and related occupations.
- Other top employment occupations in Oakfield in 2013-2017 were production, transportation, and material moving occupations (25.7%) and sales and office occupations (22.0%).

### ***Travel Time to Work*** (Table A-14)

- Town of Oakfield residents traveled further to work in both 2000 and 2013-2017 when compared with Fond du Lac County and Wisconsin residents. In 2000, the mean travel time for Oakfield residents was 23 minutes compared with 18.7 minutes for county residents and 20.8 minutes for state residents.
- Between 2000 and 2013-2017, the mean travel increased in all jurisdictions. In 2013-2017 mean travel times increased to 26.5 minutes in the Town of Oakfield, 20.3 minutes in Fond du Lac and 22.0 minutes in Wisconsin.

### ***Average Weekly Wages*** (Table A-15)

- Generally, Fond du Lac County employees received lower average weekly wages than state employees for most industry super-sectors for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2010 and 2018.
- Industry super-sectors in Fond du Lac County with the highest average weekly wage in 2018 were manufacturing (\$1,184/week), construction (\$1,130/week) and financial activities (\$1,111).
- In comparison, the industry super-sectors with the highest average weekly wage in 2018 for Wisconsin was financial activities (\$1,687), information (\$1,492) and unclassified (\$1,403).

## Education Characteristics

### **Educational Attainment** (Table A-16 and A-17)

- In 2000 and 2013-2017, a larger share of Oakfield residents have a high school diploma or higher when compared to the county and the state. In 2000, 93.4 percent of Town residents earned a high school diploma compared with 84.2 percent in the county and 85.1 percent in the state.
- Between 2000 and 2013-2017, the share of high school graduates or higher increased in all three jurisdictions. By 2013-2017, 95.3 percent of Town residents, 91.8 percent of county and 91.7 percent of state residents had a high school diploma or higher.
- Town residents were less likely to have earned higher post-secondary degrees when compared with county and state residents in both time periods. Though the share of resident with bachelor's degrees or higher increased for all jurisdictions between both time periods.
- In 2000, 11.7 percent of Town residents had a bachelor's degree or higher compared with 16.9 percent in the county and 22.4 percent in the state. By 2013-2017, the share of residents with a bachelor degree or higher had increased to 17.4 percent in Oakfield, 22.9 percent in Fond du Lac County and 29.0 percent in Wisconsin.

## Population Projections

### **Population Projections** (Table A-18)

- The Town of Oakfield is the only jurisdiction that is projected to lose population in every decade between 2010 and 2040. During this timeframe the Town is expected to lose 88 people or 12.5 percent of its population.
- The population in the county, Village of Oakfield and the towns of Byron, Eden, Lamartine and Waupun are expected to peak around 2030 to 2035 before decreasing to the year 2040.
- The Village of Eden is expected to have the largest increase in population between 2010 and 2040; 31.4 percent or 275 people.

### **Household Projections** (Table A-19)

- Persons per household is expected to decrease in all jurisdictions (towns of Oakfield, Byron, Eden, Lamartine and Waupun and in the villages of Eden and Oakfield) between 2010 and 2040. All jurisdictions are expected to see a decrease of about 0.23 or 0.24 persons per household over this time period.
- Even though the population is expected to decrease in every decade in the Town of Oakfield between 2010 and 2040, the number of households is still expected to increase between 2010 and 2020. During this time period, the number of households is expected to increase from 259 in 2010 to 266 in 2020.
- The Village of Eden is expected to see the largest increase in households; 43.9 percent.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

The following goals and objectives were identified in the Town of Oakfield Comprehensive Plan, 2008 – 2028.

### Goal

Preserve the farming, natural areas, and unique geographic features for existing and future generations that live in the Town of Oakfield.

Please note that the following objectives are not the only ones that relate to land use in the Town of Oakfield. There are objectives and policies in the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan that also relate to land use.

### Objectives

1. Maintain and build upon the strong recreational land base in the town.
2. Continue to support the Niagara Escarpment buffer that limits the kind of land uses that can occur below and above this geological feature.
3. Maintain the strong cooperative relationship with the Village of Oakfield **and Fond du Lac County**.
4. Discourage land development that may impact environmentally sensitive areas of the town

## IMPLEMENTATION

The following programs or action are from the Town of Oakfield Comprehensive Plan 2008-2028 and will be listed in the Implementation Chapter.

Program or Action	Responsibility	Year
<i>From Issues and Opportunities Element</i>		
Continue to support the Niagara Escarpment buffer that limits the kind of land uses that can occur below and above this geological feature.	Plan Commission and Town Board	Ongoing
Maintain the strong cooperative relationship with the Village of Oakfield <b>and Fond du Lac County</b> .	Town Board	Ongoing

Source: Town of Oakfield Comprehensive Plan 2008-2028