

Units in Structure Estimates

It is important to note that the data provided in Table 2-11, Units in Structure, are based on STF-3, the long form of the census distributed to 1 in 6 households. Although not every household is surveyed for this information, the data collected are used as a sample which is then statistically extrapolated to provide an estimate for the entire population. As a result, the data in Table 2-11 should be viewed only as an estimate. Figure 2-6, Units in Structure, is helpful for interpreting these data, as it displays the structure types only as a proportion of the entire housing stock.

The potential for estimation error increases as the size of the population in question decreases. For example, the total number of housing units in Burnett County based on Table 2-11 is 22,508, the same as the total number of housing units shown in Table 2-9, Housing Units, which is based on the STF-1 census form. There is no apparent estimation error for the larger county population. In contrast, the total number of housing units for the Village of Webster is estimated to be 345 based on the units in structure data. Table 2-9 indicates a total housing unit count of 327. Table 2-9 is the more accurate number in this case.

Age of Housing Units

The age of housing units is one measurable indicator that can be used to determine the condition of a community housing supply, but it certainly should not be used as the only indicator. If there is a significant amount of older housing units in a community, then they may need to be replaced or rehabilitated within the planning period. However, this is not always the case. Depending on the quality of the original construction, soil and drainage conditions, and the level of ongoing maintenance that has been applied, many older homes will continue to be maintained successfully. The *Housing* element focus group identified that many of Burnett County's older homes are in good condition. Most communities will need to consider a blend of both encouraging maintenance of the existing housing stock and allowing for new housing construction. Allowing for new units to be added to a community housing supply requires planning for infrastructure, land availability, community services, utilities, transportation routes, and a variety of other needs that are impacted by new development.

Table 2-11 describes the year that structures were built in Burnett County, its municipalities, and the State of Wisconsin based on the 2000 Census.