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# Neighborhood Indicators of Employment and Economic Family Well-Being for Zipcode 53233

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# MILWAUKEE ZIPCODE 53233

## EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES



**PREPARED BY**

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GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION  
AND THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PROGRAM.

**M**ilwaukee Neighborhood Indicators Reports, which the Greater Milwaukee Foundation helped initiate in 1998, provide valuable information on trends and needs of central city Milwaukee. The studies are designed to provide an independent, timely and ongoing assessment tool to measure short-term and long-term progress toward improving economic and employment well-being of families in central city Milwaukee neighborhoods. Community agencies assisted in identifying key areas of concern. City, county and state agencies cooperate in securing databases needed for the analysis. The data are currently used to:

- Determine the impact that the sustained economic downturn is having on income earnings by Milwaukee neighborhood.
- Assess corollary effects emerging in changes in welfare caseloads, usage of subsidized child care, food stamps, and medical assistance.
- Measure the extent to which eligible neighborhood residents are receiving federal and state benefits for lower-income families.
- Identify both positive and negative neighborhood-level trends that can be addressed by changes in public policies and outreach programs.

**T**his report assesses employment, economic and welfare changes in ZIP code 53233 based on eleven years of institutional data. The 2002 income tax data (based on state tax returns filed by April 2003) provides income data that is three years more current than the 1999 incomes reported by the 2000 Census. Funding for this year's reports was provided by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the City of Milwaukee Community Development Block Grant Program.

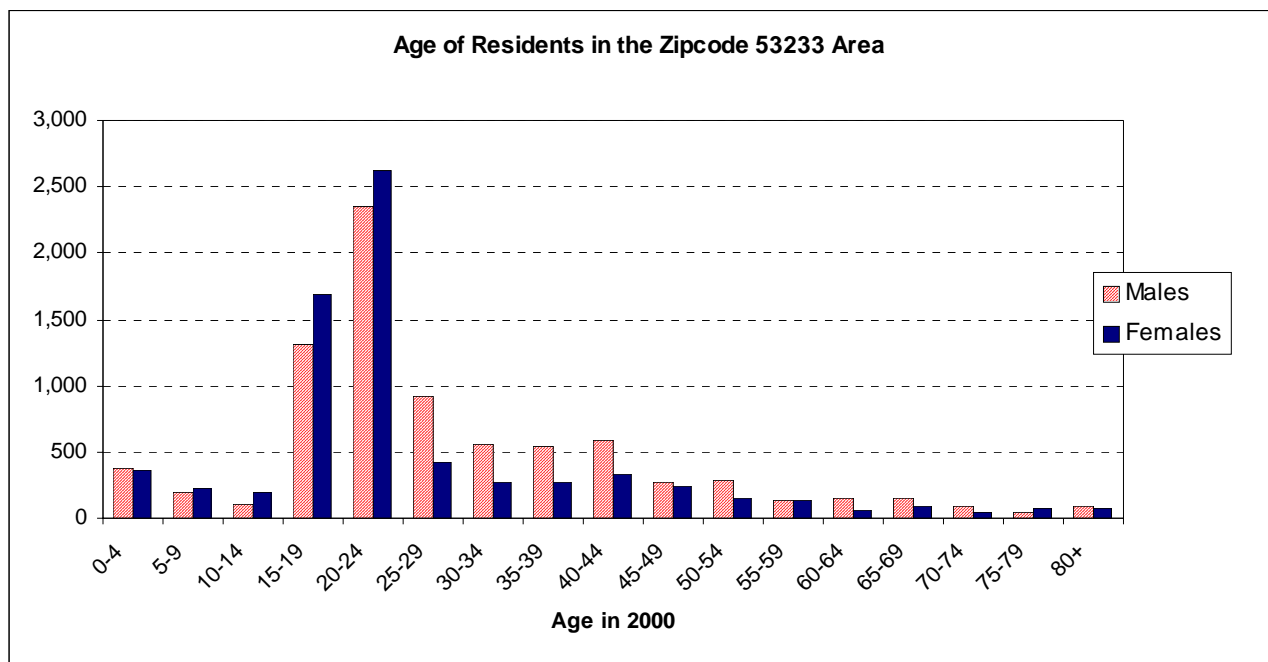
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## Age of the Population

The U.S. Census Bureau reported a total population of 15,460 residents in the 53233 ZIP Code tabulation area in 2000.

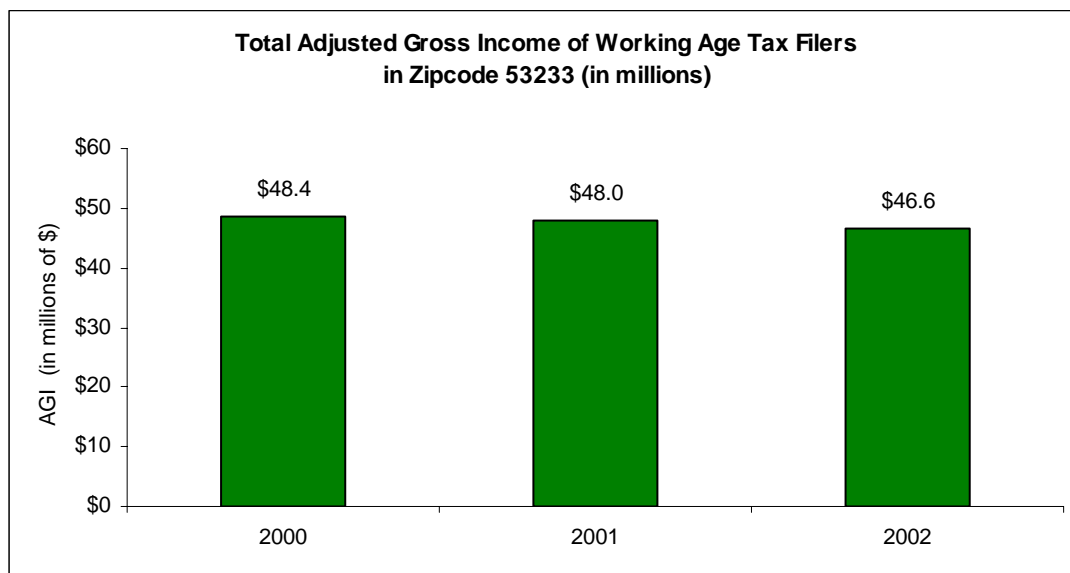
- The population includes a large number of college-age students. In 2000, half of the population was ages 18 through 24.



## Family Income and Workforce Growth 1993-2002

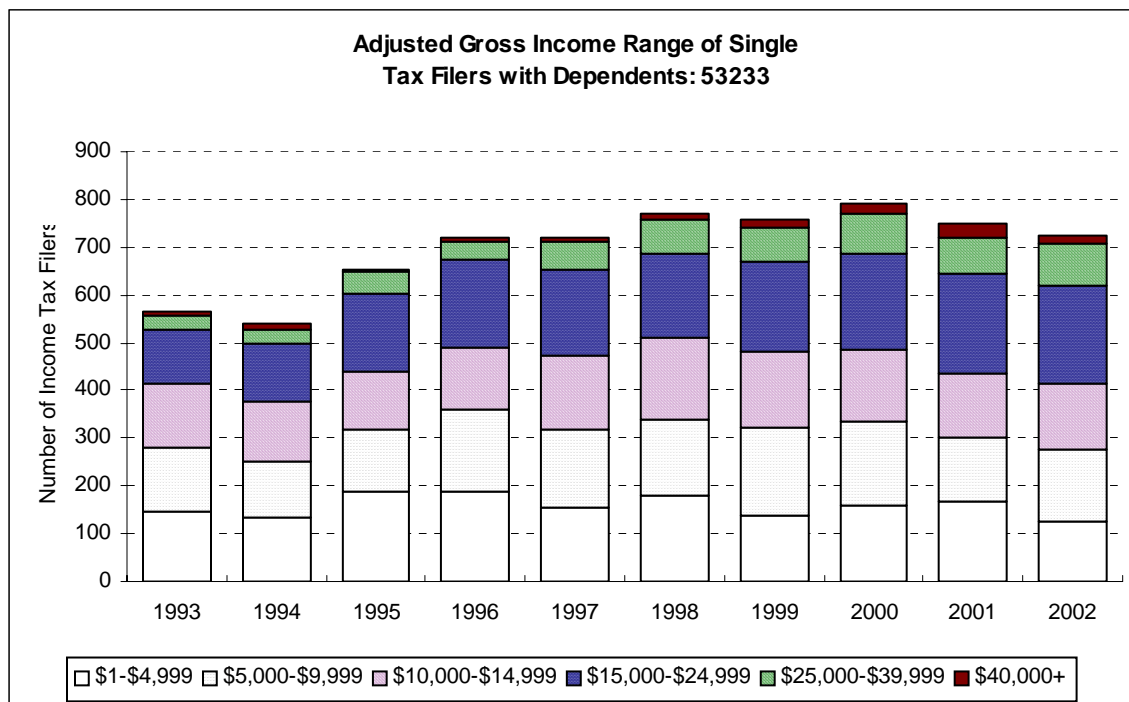
Wisconsin Department of Revenue income tax data were used to determine the total adjusted gross income (AGI) and number of married and single income tax filers by ranges of income. This analysis describes changes in income of working age (i.e., non-elderly) tax filers over the past three years and trends in income earnings of single and married filers with dependents since 1993. See the “Background Notes” for a description of data sources, definitions, and limitations of the tax data used.

- The economic downturn showed different impacts by neighborhood. In zipcode 53233, the total adjusted gross income of working age tax filers decreased by 3.9 percent between 2000 and 2002, going from \$48.4 million to \$46.6 million. During this same time period, the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the Milwaukee-Racine area, increased by 3.2 percent.



- The total number of **working age tax filers** (single and married) also decreased -- by 7.7 percent, from 2,663 in 2000 to 2,459 in 2002.

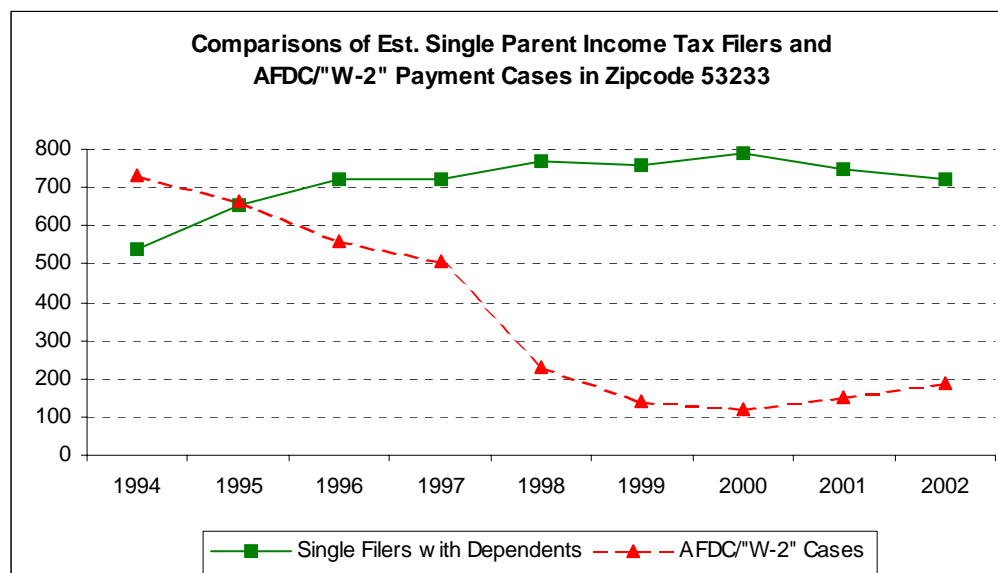
- The total number of **single tax filers with dependents**, which had increased 39 percent from 1993 to 2000, showed declines in 2001 and again in 2002.
- Analysis of tax filers by income category suggested that a number of single parents in zipcode 53233 remain only marginally employed. In 2002, 127 single filers with dependents (17 percent of the total) reported AGI below \$5,000, and another 148 filers (20 percent) reported income below \$10,000. Only 14 percent of single parent filers earned \$25,000 or more.



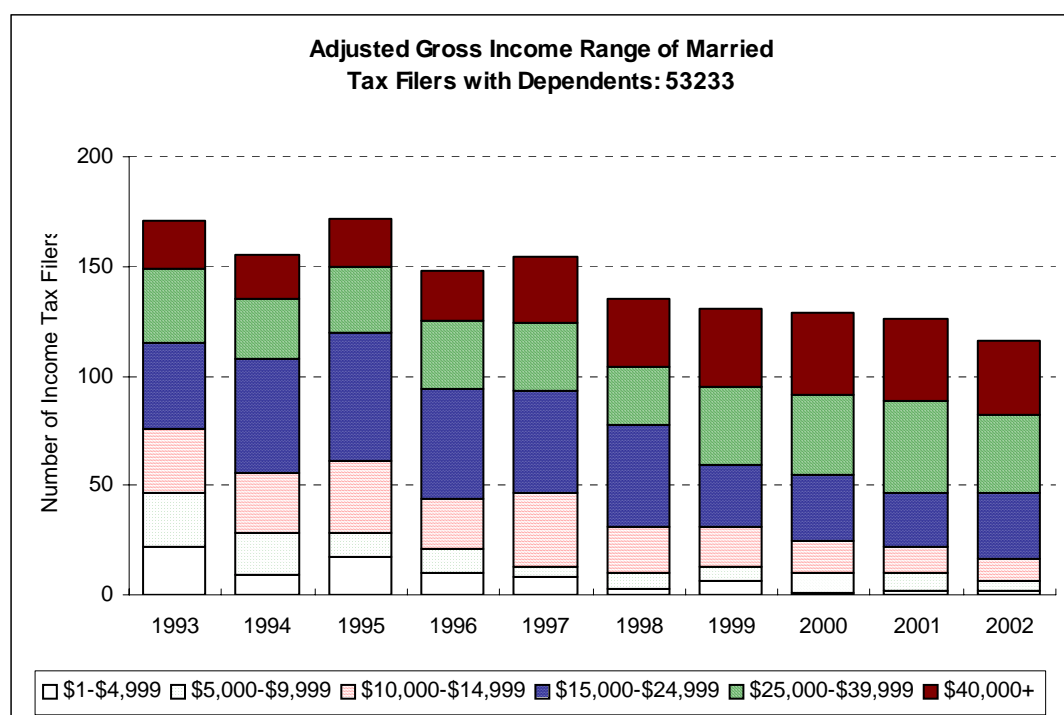
Note: Income earnings are not adjusted for inflation. During the period from 1993 to 2002, the cost of living increased by 22.4 percent.

The growth in single tax filers with dependents was compared to AFDC and “W-2” welfare caseload trends in zipcode 53233 to help gauge whether employment had replaced welfare for single parents in the neighborhood and to determine the effect of the economy on both employment and welfare receipt.

- The increase in single parent filers began prior to the imposition of state welfare work requirements, as Milwaukee benefited from a thriving national and local economy and increased demand for workers. Single parents continued to enter the labor force when “Pay for Performance” and “W-2” welfare requirements were implemented in the county.
- Welfare records showed a net decrease of 545 AFDC/“W-2” payment cases from 1994 to 2002, compared to only a 183 increase in single income tax filers with dependents.
- As noted in prior indicators reports, some parents may have left the neighborhood, not filed tax returns, or their children have grown up, but the data suggest that a number of families formerly on welfare have not moved into the mainstream economy and other parents have subsistence total earnings.



- Since 1993 the number of **married income tax filers with dependents** in zipcode 53233 – small to begin with – has seen a 32 percent decline. That decline may be resulting from families with grown children no longer qualifying for IRS dependency status, married families leaving the neighborhood, a decline in marriages, dissolution of marriages by death or divorce, or a combination of factors.
- Married couples with dependents – although far fewer in number – were more likely to have family-supporting incomes than the single heads of households. Over half (59 percent) had income at or above \$25,000, and 29 percent had income of \$40,000 or more.





2002 Earned Income Credit (EIC) Table—Continued													(Caution. This is not a tax table.)					
If the amount you are looking up from the worksheet is—		And your filing status is—						If the amount you are looking up from the worksheet is—		And your filing status is—								
		Single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) and you have—			Married filing jointly and you have—					Single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) and you have—			Married filing jointly and you have—					
		No children	One child	Two children	No children	One child	Two children			No children	One child	Two children	No children	One child	Two children			
At least	But less than	Your credit is—			Your credit is—			At least	But less than	Your credit is—			Your credit is—					
4,800	4,850	369	1,641	1,930	369	1,641	1,930	7,600	7,650	263	2,506	3,050	339	2,506	3,050			
4,850	4,900	373	1,658	1,950	373	1,658	1,950	7,650	7,700	259	2,506	3,070	335	2,506	3,070			
4,900	4,950	376	1,675	1,970	376	1,675	1,970	7,700	7,750	255	2,506	3,090	332	2,506	3,090			

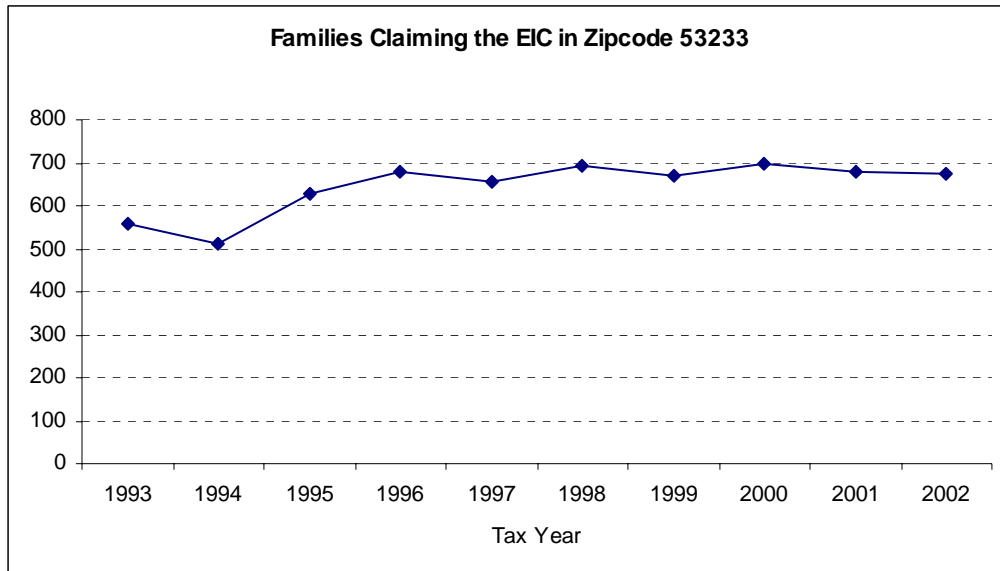
The table above shows federal earned income credits for individuals and families. In the 2002 tax year, Wisconsin families were eligible for up to \$4,140 in federal credits and \$1,780 in state credits, depending on their income and family size.

## Earned Income Tax Credits 1993-2002

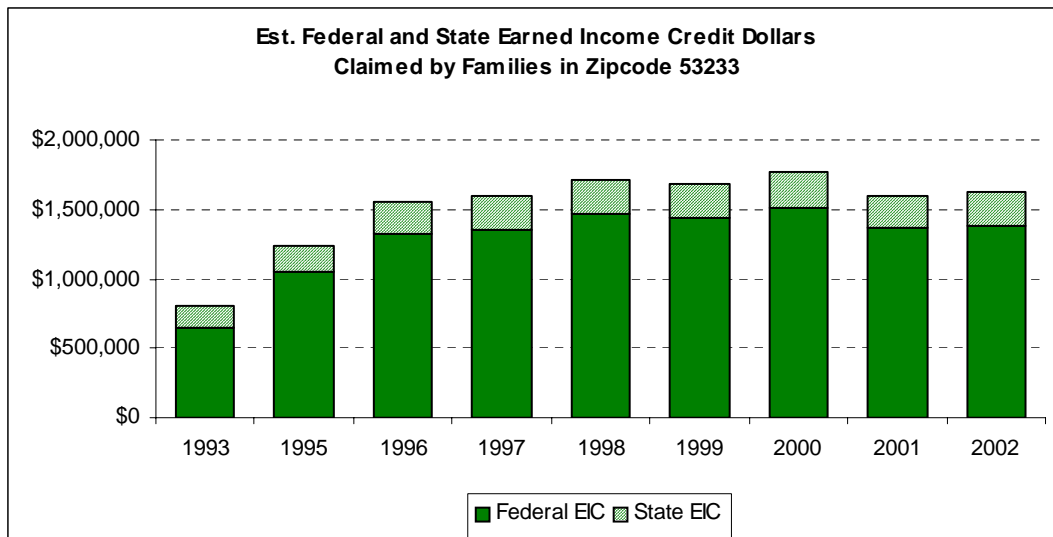
State and federal earned income tax credits offer a substantial boost to working families at the lower end of the wage scale. The earned income tax credit (EIC) offers a tax benefit to help reduce the payroll and social security tax burdens and to supplement wages for low and moderate income working families and single persons. Wisconsin has been a leader in providing a state credit in addition to the federal credit. For those working family tax filers who claim the state credit, Wisconsin adds 4 percent to the federal credit for families with one qualifying child, 14 percent to the federal credit for families with two qualifying children, and 43 percent to the federal credit for families with three or more qualifying children.

An analysis of earned income tax credits received by families in the 53233 zipcode showed the importance of the credits to working families at lower income levels. Wisconsin Department of Revenue data was analyzed for tax filers with dependent children who received the Wisconsin earned income tax credit. Federal EIC payments were estimated based on Wisconsin usage ratios.

- The number of families receiving earned income tax credits rose 21 percent from 557 in 1993 to 674 in the 2002 tax year (i.e., taxes filed in 2003 based on earnings in 2002).



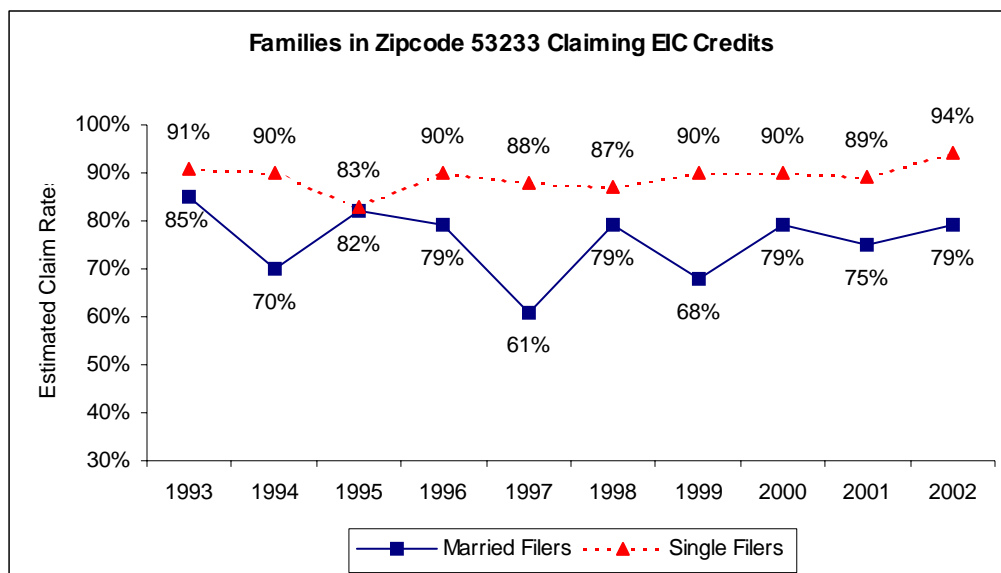
- The amount of the combined federal and state earned income tax credits doubled from \$802,000 in 1993 to \$1.6 million in the 2002 tax year. The total credits reached a peak in 2000 at \$1.8 million.



- In 2002, single parents received 90 percent of the credits claimed in zipcode 53233. Single parents comprised 86 percent of tax filers with dependents.

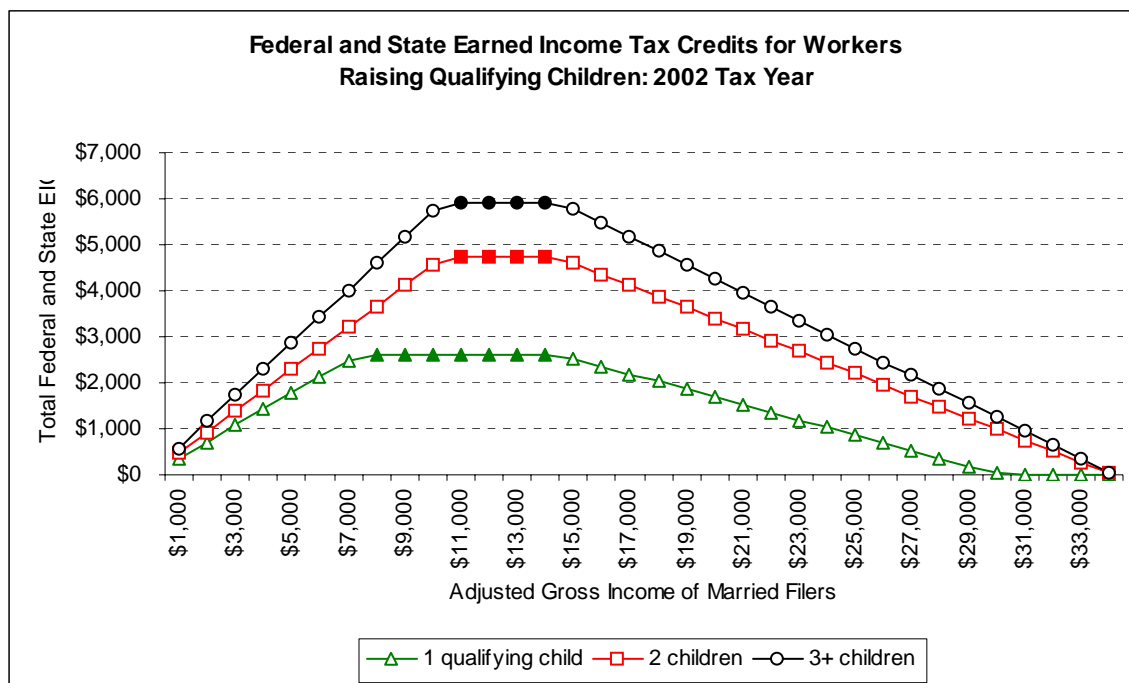
The Employment and Training Institute estimated claim rates for the EIC based on the number of claims for filers with dependents and with adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$5,000 and \$14,999. With a few exceptions, nearly all of these families may be eligible for the EIC if their dependents are living at home and are relatives.

- Single parent tax filers showed higher claim rates than married filers. For filers with dependents, 94 percent of single filers with \$5,000 to \$14,999 in adjusted gross income – the range with the highest potential EIC claims – claimed the credit in 2002, compared to 79 percent of married filers in that income range.
- Zipcode 53233 showed claim rates for the EIC for single parents that are among the highest in the county.
- The claim rates show wide variation by years for married filers, in part due to the small number of tax filers in this income category.



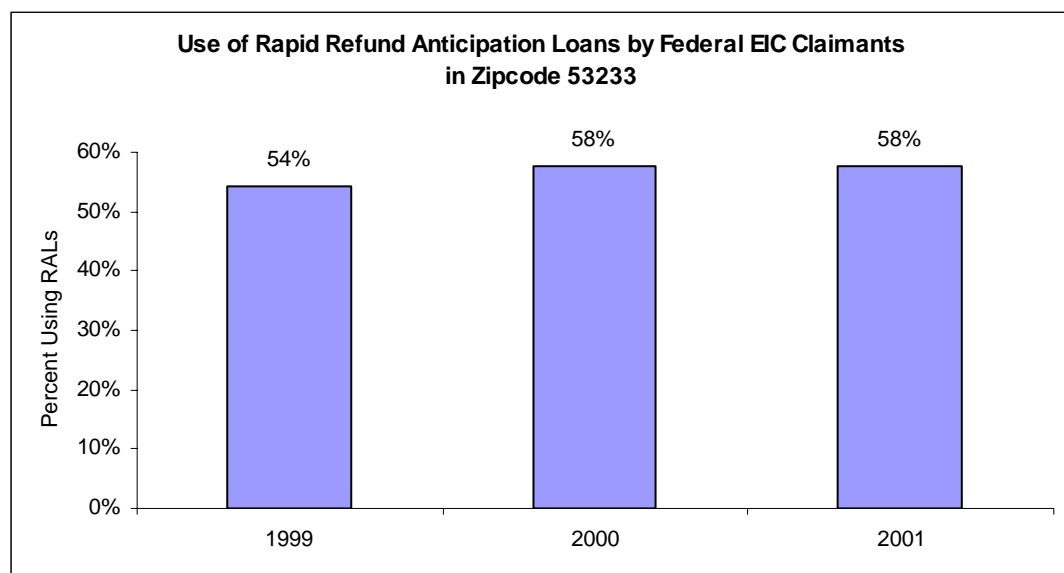
The formula for calculating the federal earned income tax credit in 2002 provided the highest payments to families with 1 child when their income was \$7,350 to \$13,500 (\$14,500 for married filers) and to families with 2 or more children when their income was \$10,350 to \$13,500 (\$14,500 for married filers). Given that entry-level jobs in the Milwaukee area in October 2002 averaged over \$8.00 an hour, this formula tends to provide higher support for families in part-time or part-year work rather than full-time, year-round employment.

Families with one qualifying dependent are eligible for the earned income credit if their income is below \$29,201 (for an unmarried filer) or \$30,201 for married filers in the 2002 tax year. Families with two or more qualifying dependents are eligible for the credit if their income was below \$33,178 for unmarried filers or \$34,178 for married filers in 2002. Federal earned income credits, but not Wisconsin credits, are also available for workers without dependent children if aged 25-64 and earning less than \$11,060 (if single) or \$12,060 (if married) in 2002.



A recent phenomenon affecting tax credits for lower income workers is the promotion of “rapid refund loans,” or refund anticipation loans (RALs). These loans are similar to “payday loans.” Companies advance money based on the worker’s anticipated income tax refund, and the loan is repaid once the IRS issues the refund payment. According to national research, over half of all U.S. tax filers use commercial tax preparers, but the marketing of refund anticipation loans is aimed primarily at lower income families eligible for the federal earned income tax credit and without personal bank accounts in which to receive a direct deposit tax refund.

- In zipcode 53233, 515 single and married tax filers claiming the federal earned income tax credit in 2001 used tax preparers and borrowed on their credits through RALs prior to receiving them from the Internal Revenue Service, according to tables published by The Brookings Institution.
- Over half of the filers in zipcode 53233 with earned income tax credits borrowed against their tax returns using RALs.

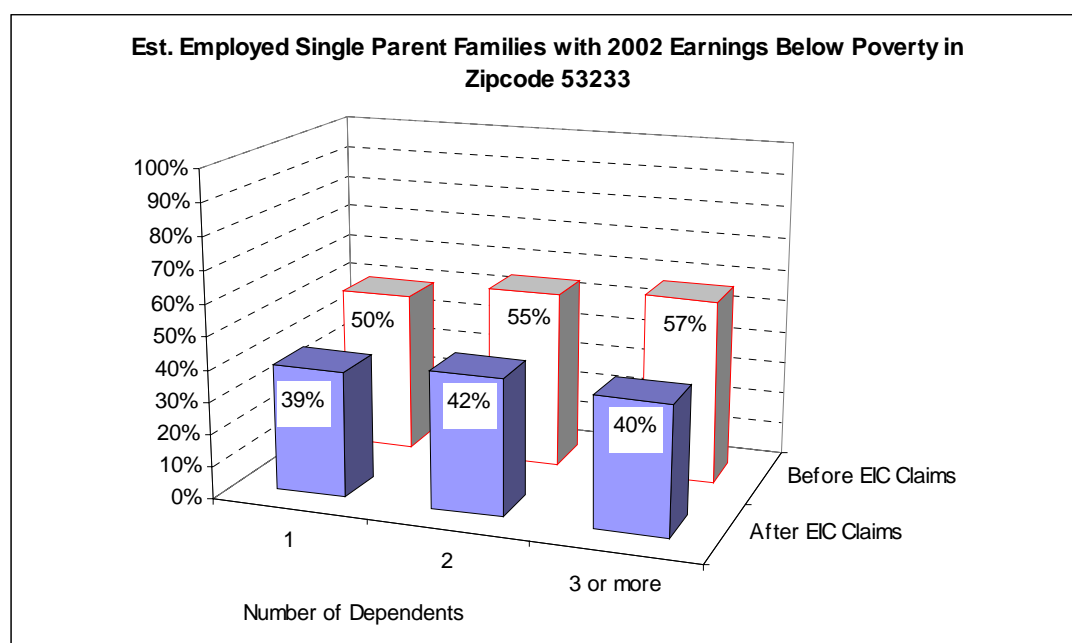


- Tax filers obtaining RALs usually pay steep charges to receive their tax refunds a few days or weeks early – with interest rates often as high as 250 percent. By contrast, the Internal Revenue Service trains VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteers who provide free tax preparation assistance at many area libraries and community agency sites.

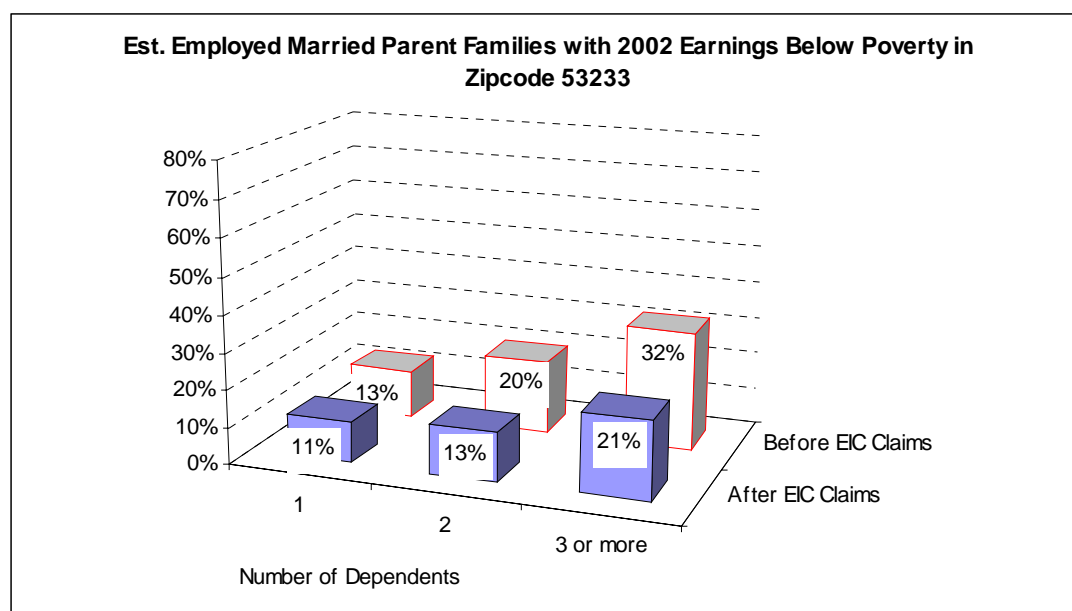
## Working Families with Income Below Poverty 1994-2002

Federal poverty guidelines, along with adjusted gross income ranges for single and married tax filers with dependents (along with EIC credit claims) were used to estimate the number of employed families with AGI below the poverty level. These guidelines provide the federal government's estimate of the bare minimum required by families to meet their basic needs and are used to determine eligibility for federal support programs. In 2002, the federal government set these guidelines at \$11,940 for a two-person family, \$15,020 for three persons, and \$3,080 for each additional person in the family.

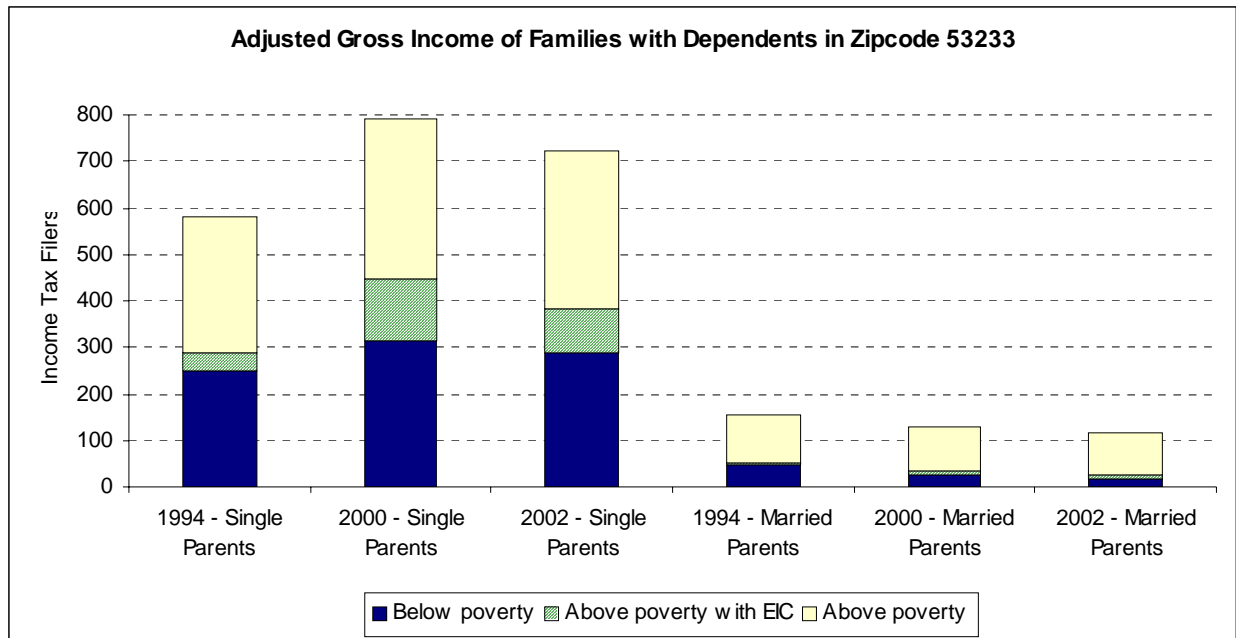
- For **single parent families with dependents**, in zipcode 53233 in tax year 2002 about half of single tax filers with one dependent showed adjusted gross income (AGI) below the poverty level (\$15,020 for two persons). About 54 percent of single filers with 2 dependents showed AGI below (\$18,100 for three persons) and 57 percent (or more) of filers with three or more dependents had income below poverty.
- When the number of filers claiming the state and federal earned income credit (EIC) was considered, the percentage of single parent families living in poverty was reduced to about 39 percent of filers with one dependent and 40 percent (or more) of filers with three or more dependents.



- State Department of Revenue data showed only 116 **married tax filers with dependents** out of the 840 income tax filers with dependents in 2002. More employed parents showed adjusted gross incomes above the poverty level.
- About 13 percent of married tax filers with one dependent showed adjusted gross income below the poverty level. About 20 percent of married filers with two dependents reported AGI below the poverty level, as did 32 percent (or more) of married filers with 3 or more dependents.
- Federal and state EIC claims brought the poverty rates for married filers down to 11 percent for filers with one dependent and 13 percent for filers with two dependents.
- In zipcode 53233, married filers with three or more dependents showed 21 percent (or more) of families still living in poverty even with EIC claims.



- The earned income tax credit (EIC) helped lift the income of about 94 single parent families above the poverty level, leaving an estimated 290 single tax filers with dependents (40 percent of the single parent total) still below the poverty level based on their adjusted gross income and family size.



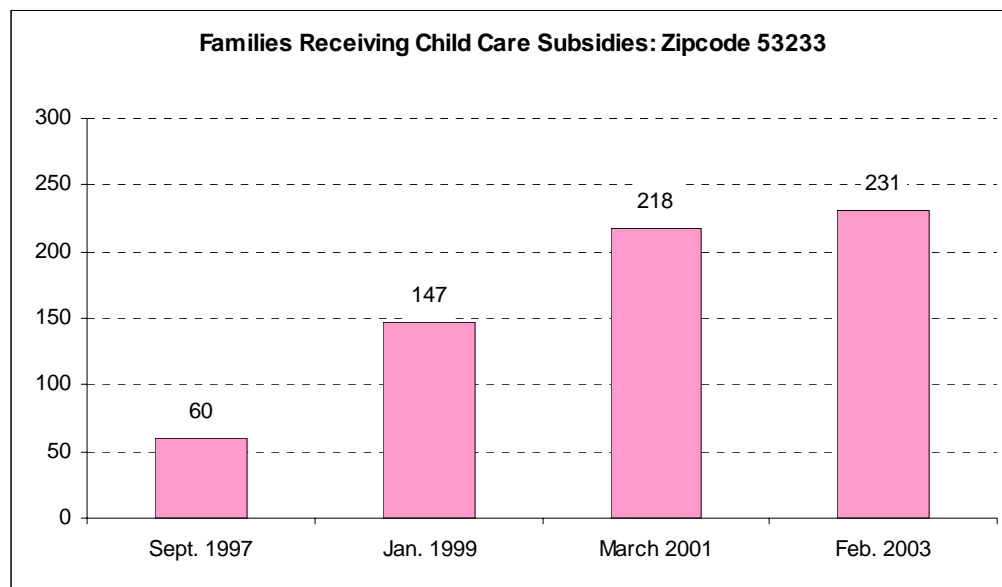
- The challenges of securing and maintaining full-time, year-round employment are particularly difficult for lower-income single parents. Over two-thirds (72 percent) of single income tax filers (with dependents) with income estimated to be below the poverty level for their family size appeared to be employed less than 70 percent time (based on minimum wage rates of \$5.15 an hour for the year), and a third appeared to be have employment less than half time or less than half-year.



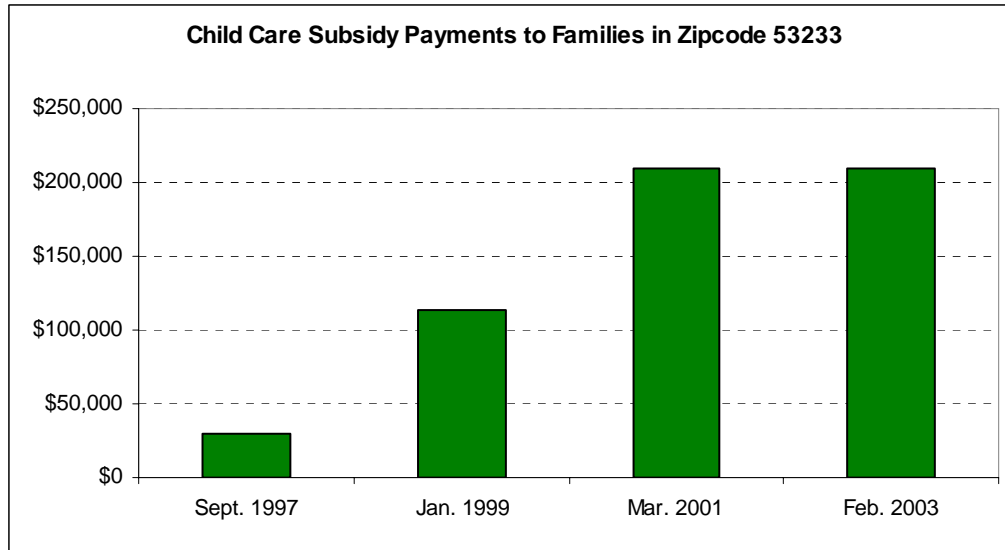
## Child Care Availability and Subsidies 1993-2003

Subsidized child care payments were tracked for the Wisconsin Shares Program, that offers federal and state child care support under TANF (the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and CCDBG (Child Care Development Block Grant) monies. The program subsidizes qualified day care for children and W-2 participants and for children in “working poor” families. Families with income up to 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies, and families may continue to receive assistance until their income exceeds 200 percent of poverty.

- The child care subsidy program offers a more generous financial benefit to working families than the earned income tax credit although the number of families receiving child care subsidies was considerably lower than the number claiming the EIC.
- The number of families in zipcode 53233 receiving child care support rose from 60 in September 1997 to 231 in February 2003.



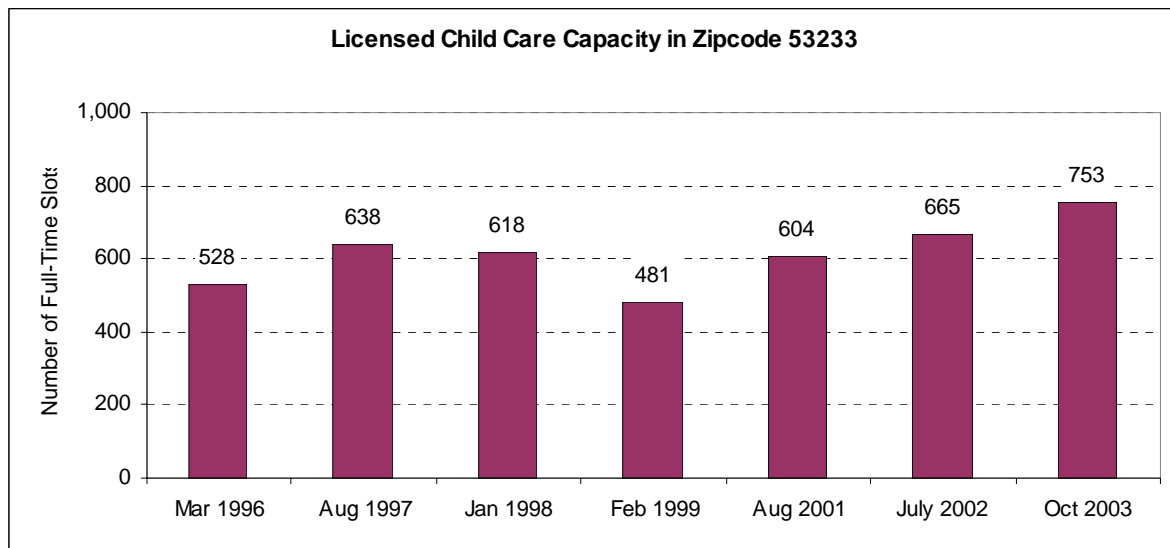
- Total four-week payments for families rose from \$29,961 in September 1997 (or \$499 per family) to \$209,784 in February 2003 (or \$908 per family).



- Most of the Wisconsin Shares subsidies for care of children in zipcode 53233 went to licensed providers. In February 2003, 64 percent of total payments went to state licensed group centers, and another 25 percent to licensed family centers.

The state Department of Health and Family Services licenses child care facilities. Capacity of licensed child care was examined for family and group centers operating full-time, year-round.

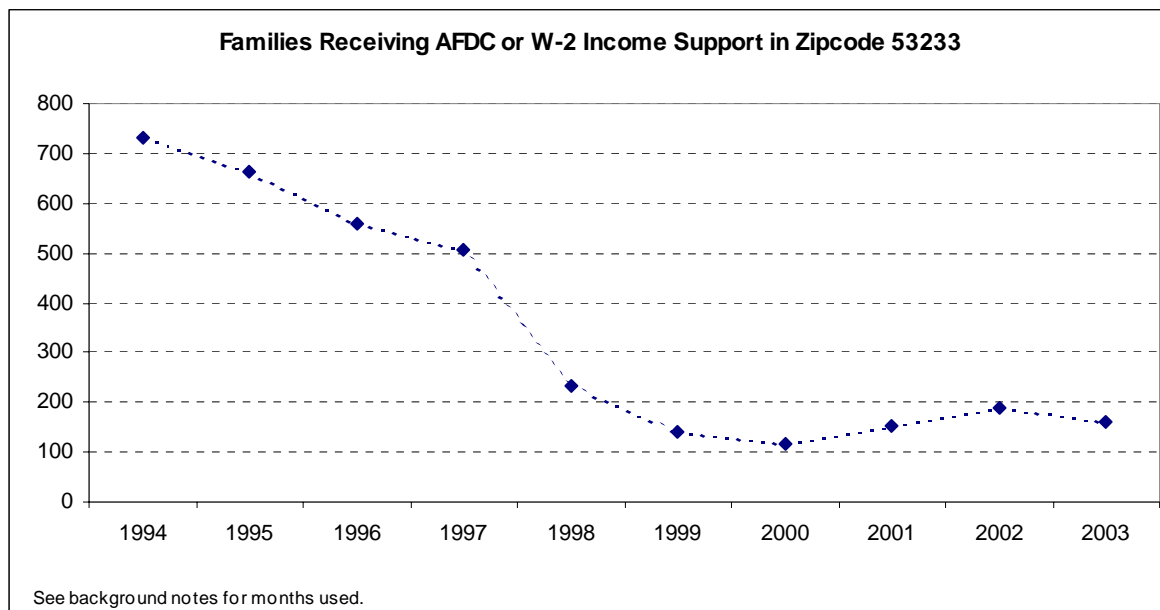
- Licensing records from the state Department of Health and Family Services show that in zipcode 53233 the total capacity for children in full-time care with licensed providers rose 43 percent, from 528 slots for full-time care in March 1996 to 753 slots in October 2003.
- Nearly all (96 percent) of the licensed slots were in group centers and the balance in licensed family care.



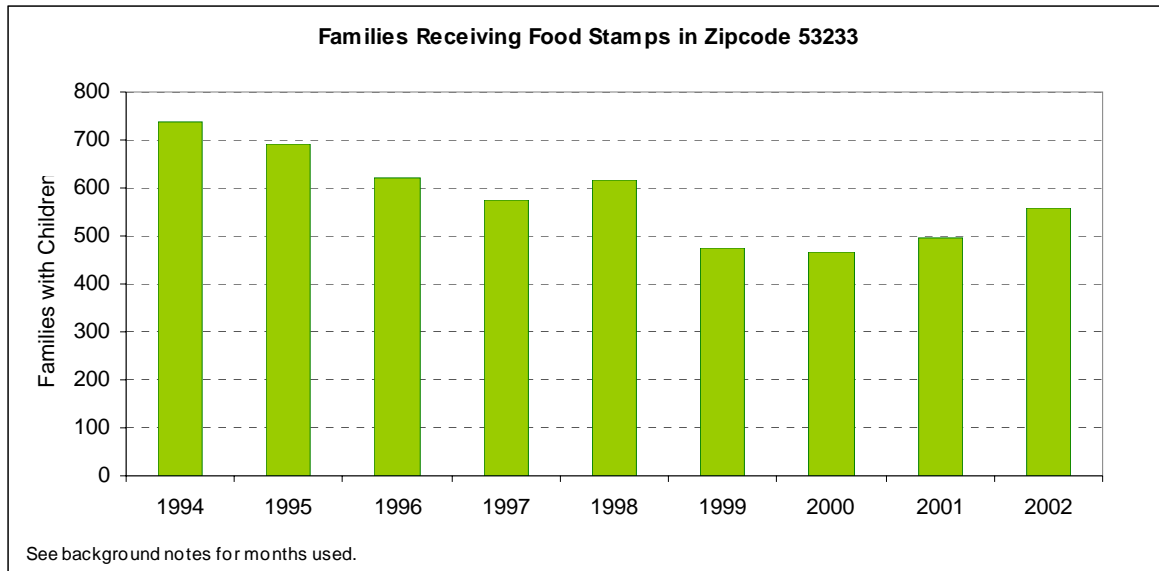
## Families Receiving Public Assistance 1994-2003

Public assistance case records were analyzed for families receiving AFDC/"W-2" income support, food stamps, and medical coverage.

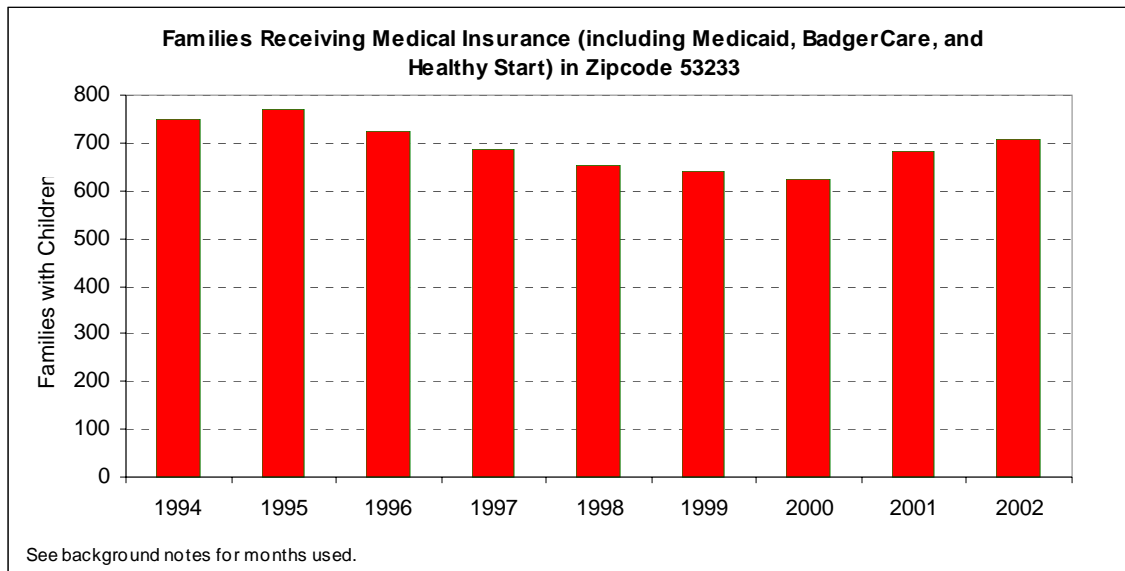
- The number of families in zipcode 53233 receiving **income support** (AFDC or "Wisconsin Works," i.e. "W-2," cases) dropped 84 percent, from 732 in March 1994 to 118 in April 2000. Caseloads rose again, but only to 160 "W-2" payment cases in July 2003.
- Even with the recent increase in "W-2" caseloads, the total number of families receiving income support (AFDC or "W-2") is still 78 percent below the 1994 levels.



- The families with children in zipcode 53233 also showed sharp declines in the numbers receiving **food stamps** although these declines were not nearly as steep as the AFDC/W-2 drops. The number of families receiving food stamps dropped from 739 in March 1994 to 466 in April 2000, or a 37 percent decline.
- The number of families enrolled in the food stamp program had increased to 560 in 2002, with an increase of 65 families between 2001 and 2002. Enrollments in 2002 remained 24 percent below the 1994 levels.

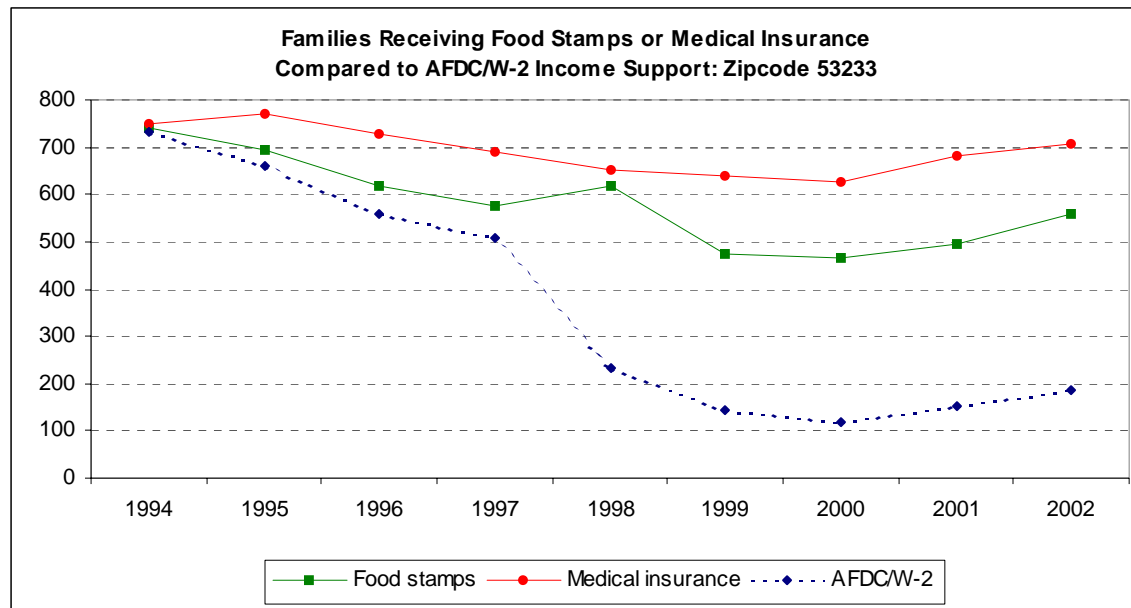


- The number of families (with children) in zipcode 53233 covered by medical assistance, including Medicaid, BadgerCare and Healthy Start, dropped from 748 in March 1994 to 625 in April 2000, or 16 percent.
- Numbers increased between 2000 and 2002 to 708, or 5 percent below 1994 levels.



- When trends in the numbers of families (with children) receiving income support are compared to those receiving medical assistance and food stamps, the data show many more families in zipcode 53233 using medical insurance and food stamps than receiving income support.

- All three programs showed increased enrollments in recent years.

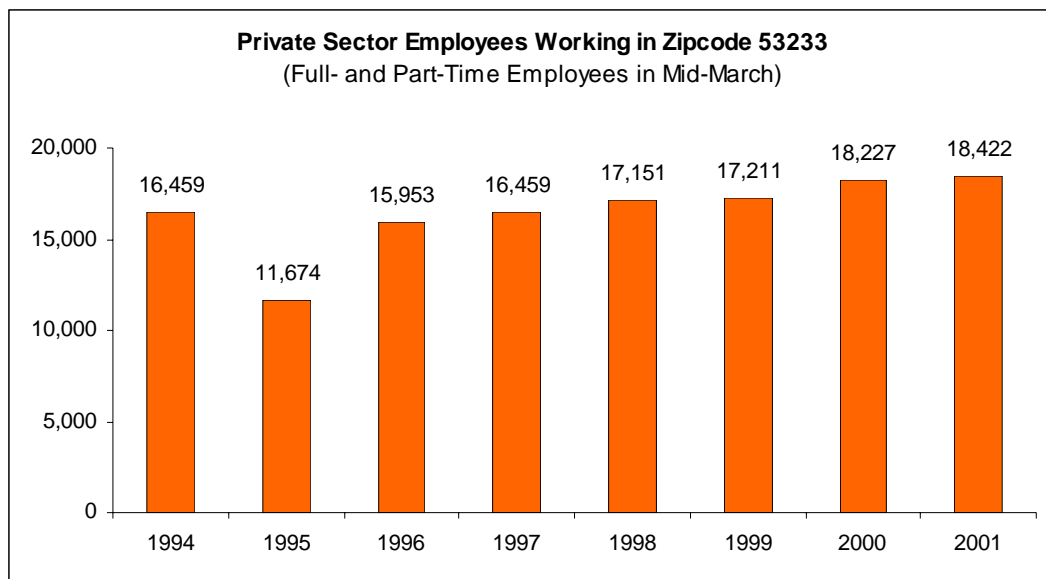


## Business Activity in the Neighborhood 1993-2003

Three sources of data are used to measure business activity in zipcode 53233: U.S. Census Bureau data on business patterns (including number of number of employees, first quarter payroll, annual payroll for private companies, and number of establishments), City of Milwaukee records on the value of taxable business property in the zipcode, and Internal Revenue Service records on residents who are self-employed and filing Schedule C income tax forms for sole proprietor businesses.

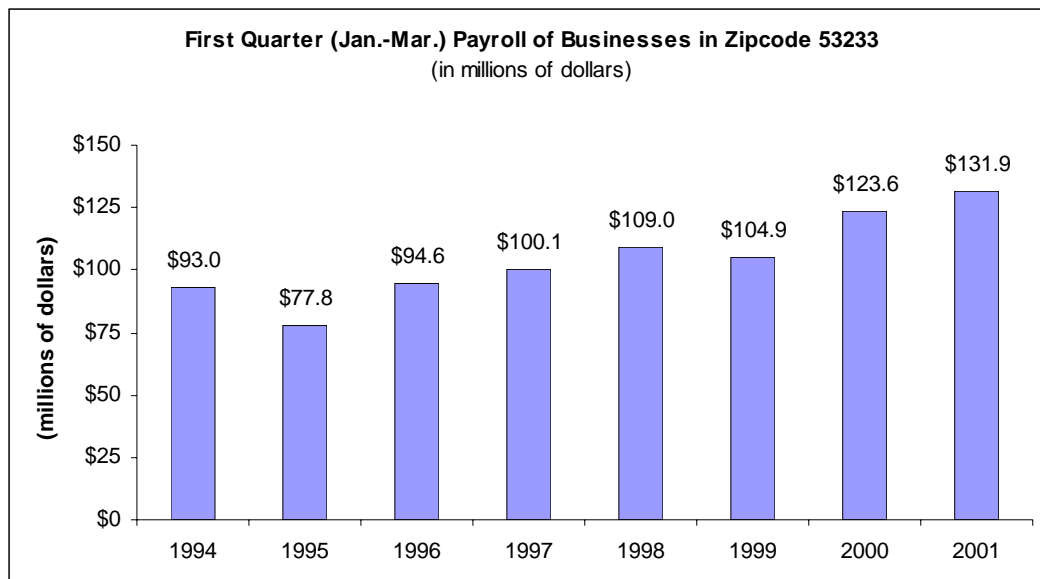
The U.S. Census Bureau ZIP Code Business Patterns reports the number of businesses, payroll and number of full-time and part-time employees.

- The number of **workers employed in private businesses** located in zipcode 53233 increased from 16,459 in 1994 to 18,422 in 2001, for a 12 percent net increase.
- The number of workers employed in businesses in the zipcode has been increasing over the past six years.



The Census Bureau ZIP Code Business Patterns reports **First Quarter payrolls** for all private establishments located in the zipcode (regardless of the residence of the workers). Payroll is reported before deductions for social security, income tax, insurance, etc.

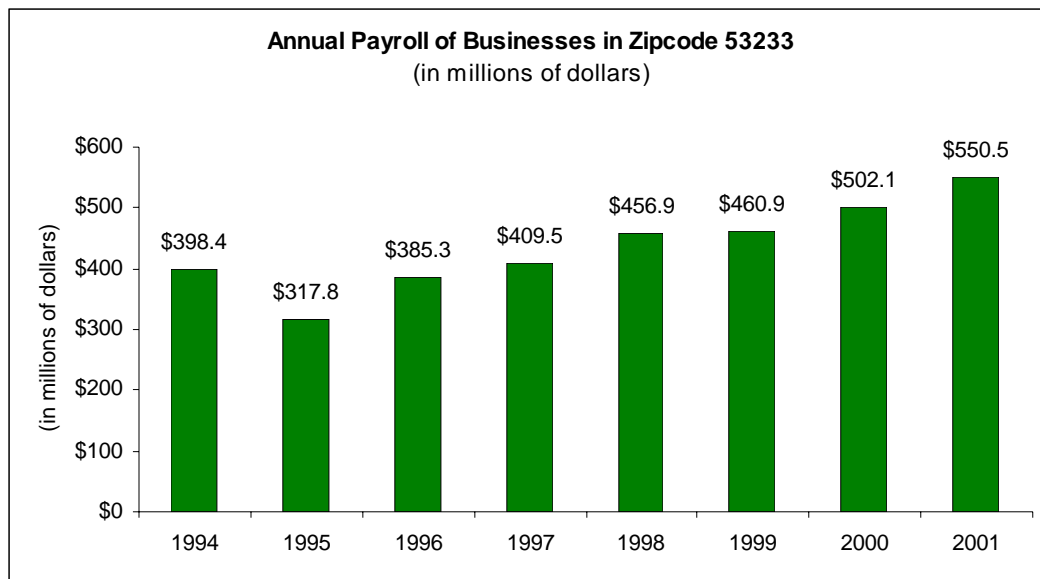
- Quarterly payrolls rose from \$93 million in First Quarter (i.e., January – March) 1994 to \$132 million in First Quarter 2001, or 42 percent. When increases in the cost of living are considered, increases in payroll were 20.5 percent.
- In this zipcode payrolls continued to rise, during the recent downturn in the economy.





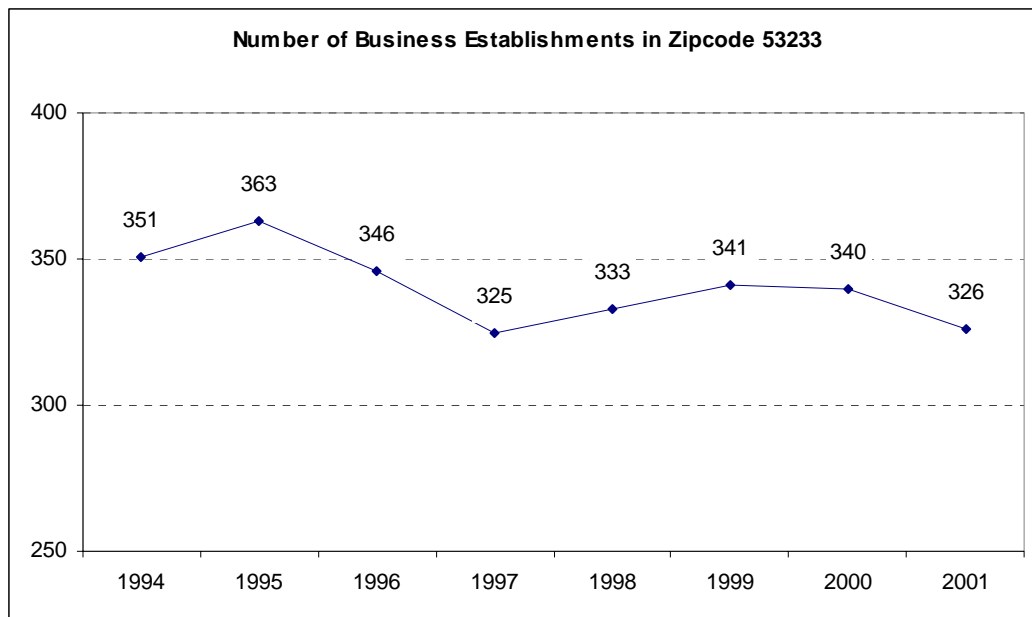
The ZIP Code Business Patterns reports total **annual payroll**, including salaries, wages, commissions, bonuses, sick-leave pay, in-kind payments for meals and lodging, and reported tips. Total are before deductions for social security, taxes, union dues, etc.

- Annual payrolls for private establishments located in zipcode 53233 rose from \$398 million in 1994 to \$550 million in 2001, or a 38 percent net increase. When cost of living increases are considered, the increase is an 18 percent net increase.
- Between 2000 and 2001 payrolls increased by \$48 million, or 10 percent.



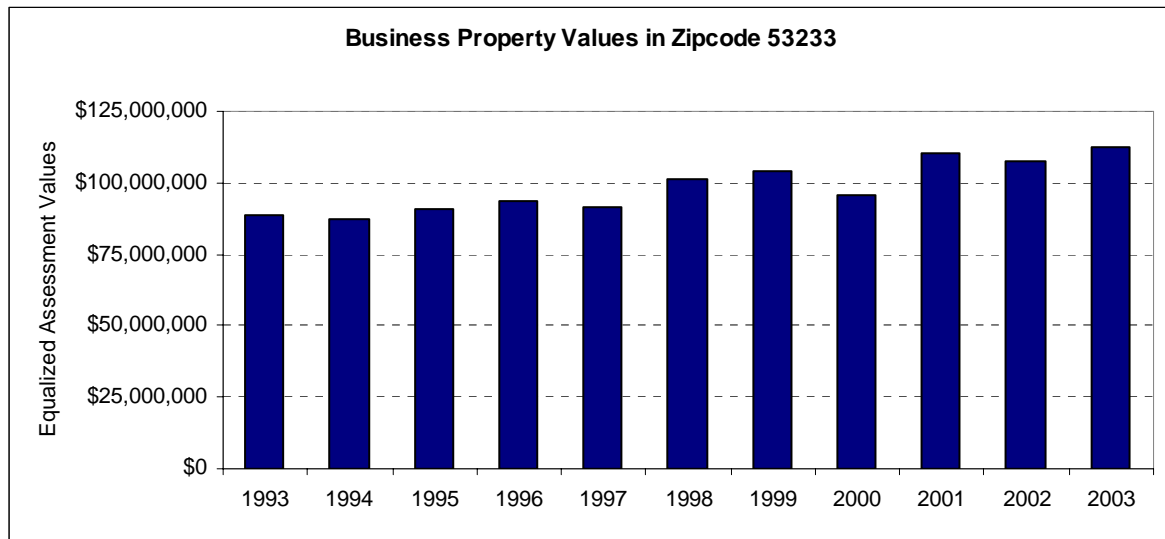
The ZIP Code Business Patterns also report **number of establishments** by location. Establishments are defined as single physical locations where business is conducted or services or industrial operations are performed. Individual companies may have several establishments in a community – each counted separately. Changes in the number of establishments reflect gains or losses of businesses, shifts from smaller to larger businesses (or vice versa), and redefinitions of what is considered an establishment.

- In zipcode 53233 the number of establishments went from 351 in 1994 to 326 in 2001, or a 7 percent decline.



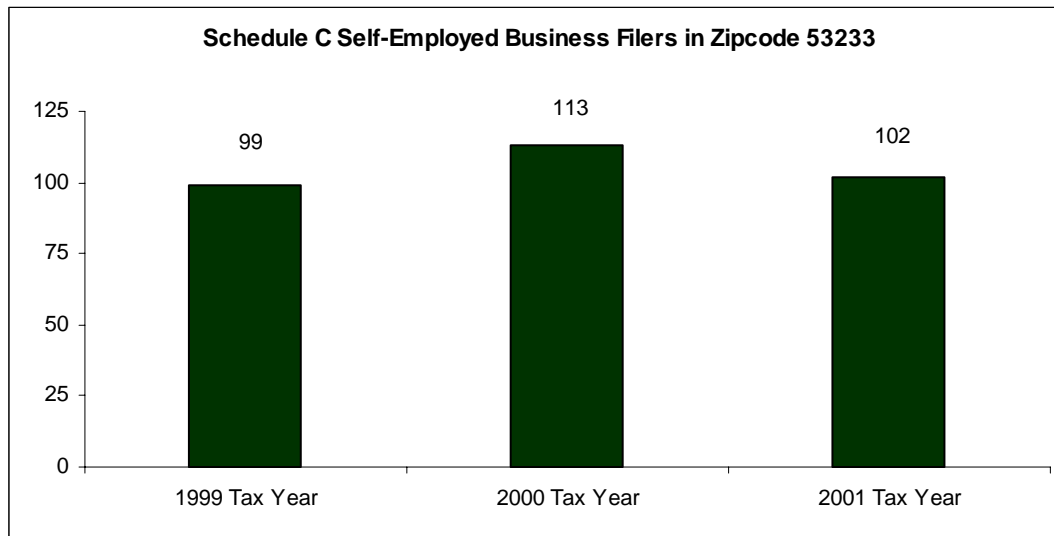
City of Milwaukee property records on **equalized tax assessment of business property** provide another measure of business activity and were analyzed for a ten-year period. These records showed continuing growth of business property values. The records are somewhat limited, however, since Wisconsin has exempted manufacturing and equipment property from taxation and the full value of manufacturing properties are no longer assessed by the city or state.

- The equalized tax assessments of business, non-residential properties in zipcode 53233 increased by 27 percent from \$89 million in 1993 to \$113 million in 2003.
- Business property values rose 5 percent between 2002 and 2003.



The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has begun reporting some of its income tax statistics by zip code, including the number of individual income tax filers who completed Schedule C Profit or Loss from Business forms. These include **self-employed individuals** who are sole proprietors (who own unincorporated businesses) or statutory employees.

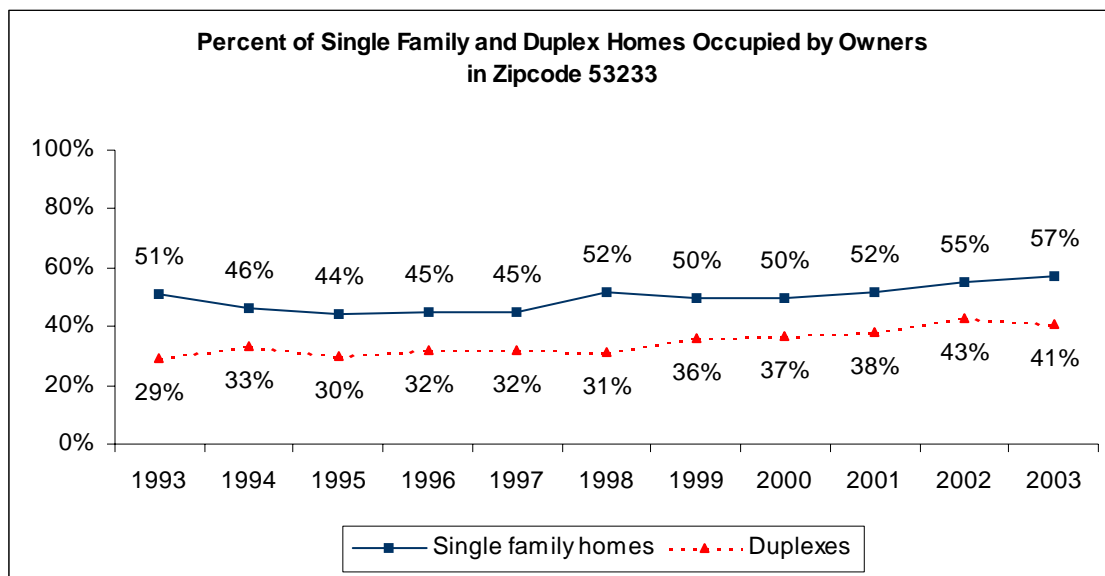
- In zipcode 53233, about 100 individuals filed Schedule C forms.
- The number of filers completing Schedule C remained fairly similar over the three years from 1999 to 2001.



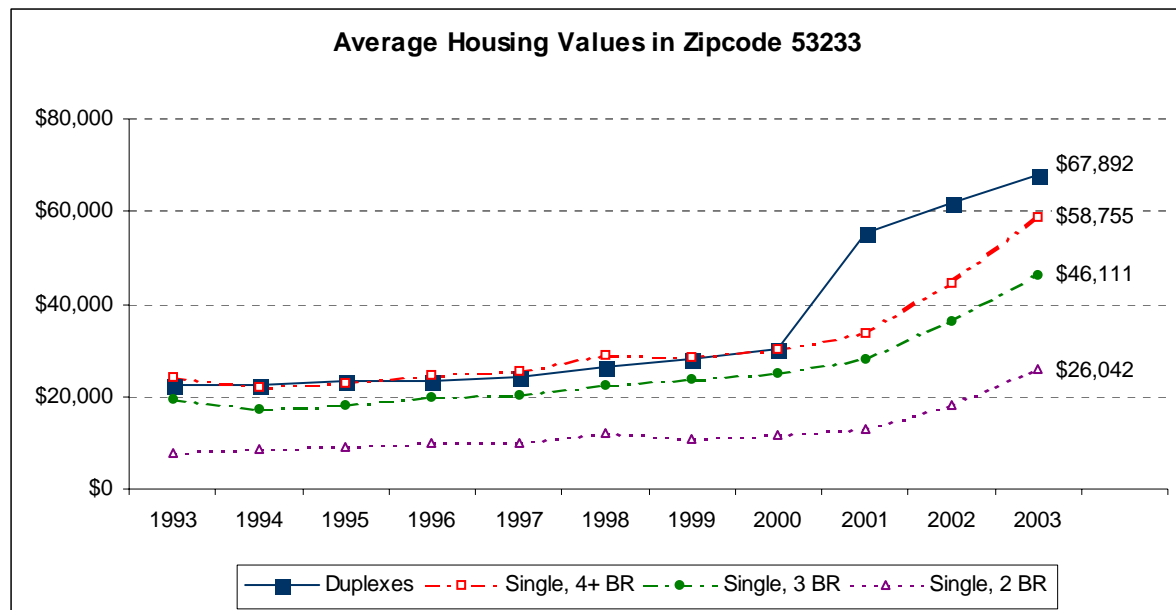
## Housing Trends 1993-2003

Neighborhood housing data were tracked using City of Milwaukee property files.

- From 1993 to 2003 the area showed a net loss of 4 single-family houses and 22 duplexes.
- In the 53233 neighborhood, only 57 percent of single family homes are owner-occupied, the lowest rate for central city zipcodes.
- The home ownership rate for duplexes was at 41 percent.



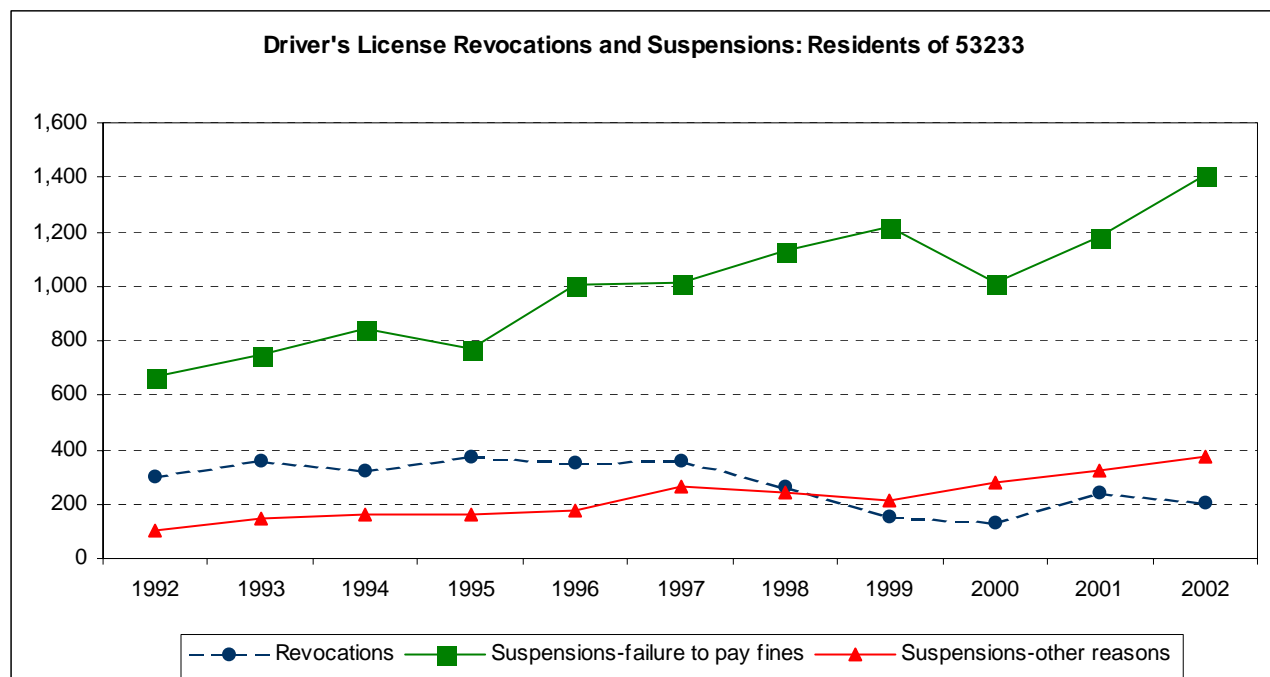
- From 1993 to 2003, average housing values doubled for homes with 3 bedrooms and homes with 4 or more bedrooms and tripled for duplexes. Housing values of single family homes and duplexes still remain very low.
- In spite of the downturns in the economy, housing values showed increases from 2002 to 2003, with the average value of homes with 4 or more bedrooms rising 32 percent.



## Transportation Barriers 1992-2002

State department of transportation files on licensed drivers, license suspensions, and revocations were analyzed since greater employment opportunities are available to workers with private transportation.

- Failure to pay fines and civil forfeitures was the most common reason for driver's license suspensions. In 2002, suspension orders issued for failure to pay fines or forfeitures totaled 1,410, an all-time high for the study period from 1992–2002.
- The zipcode area showed almost 4 times as many suspensions for failure to pay fines (1,410) as for suspension orders for traffic violations, driving while intoxicated, and drug convictions combined (371).
- License revocations totaled 207 in 2002, down 14 percent from 2001, but up 60 percent compared to 2000.

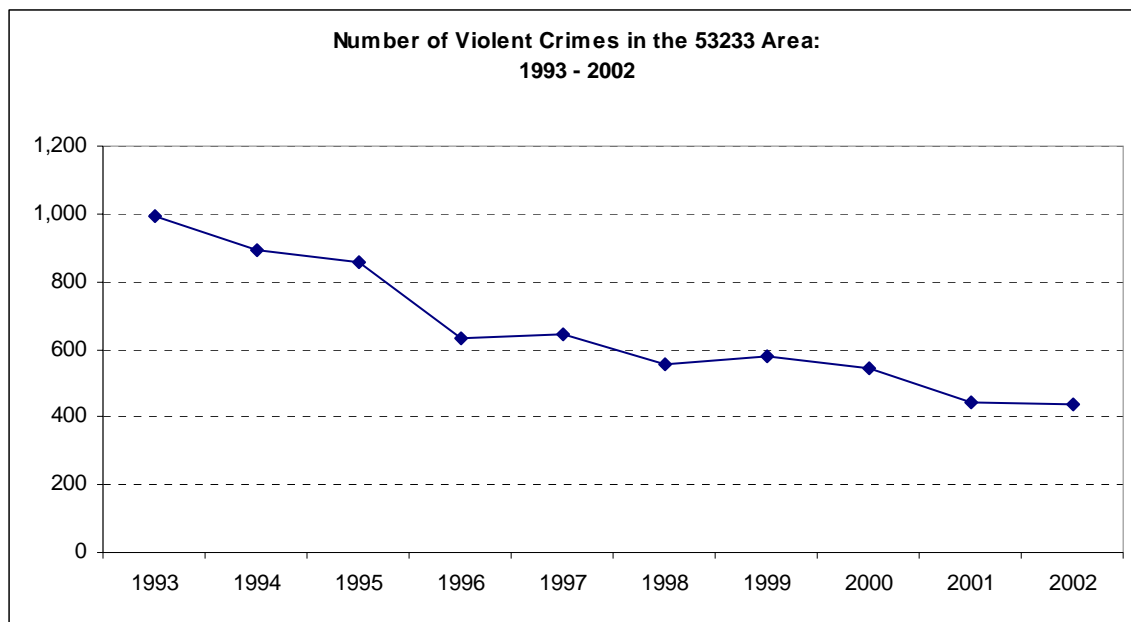


## Neighborhood Safety

### 1993-2002

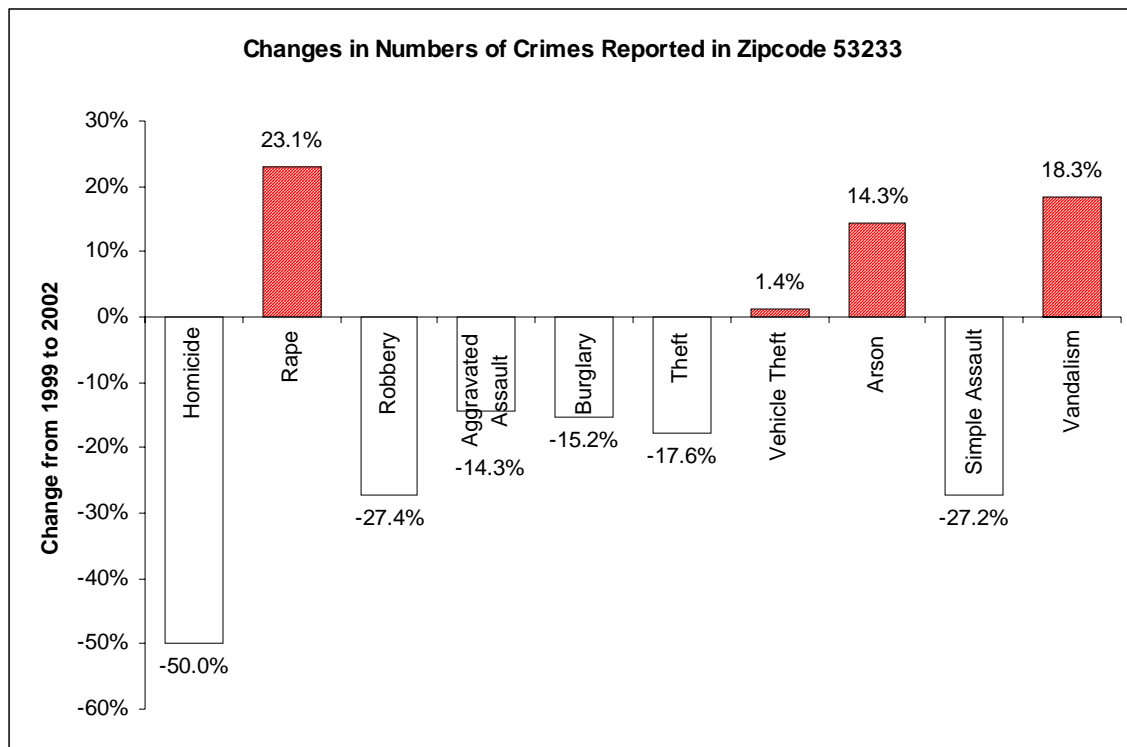
Crime statistics from the Milwaukee Police Department were analyzed for 1993 through 2002 for violent crimes, including arson, assault, homicide, rape and robbery.

- From 1993 to 2002 the number of violent crimes decreased by 56 percent in the census tracts in the 53233 zipcode area.
- Between 2001 and 2002, the number of violent crimes decreased by 0.5 percent. Crime remains a serious problem.





- The table below shows the changes in types of crimes reported in the zipcode from 1999 to 2002. Declines were reported for homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, and simple assault. A higher number of crimes were reported for rape, vehicle theft, arson, and vandalism in 2002 compared to 1999.



## Background Notes

The Milwaukee Neighborhood Indicators Reports are based on eleven years of institutional data, including state income tax filings, property tax records, welfare administrative records, county child care payments, state child care licensing reports, city crime reports, and federal census records.

“Adjusted gross income” includes income from wages, salaries, tips, taxable interest, dividends, alimony, business income, capital gains income, rental income, etc. and excludes certain business losses, capital gains losses, alimony payments, etc. See state and federal tax forms for definitions of adjustments made to calculate Adjusted Gross Income. Income tax data have several advantages as neighborhood indicators: they are available annually and they provide more comprehensive listings of income than may be volunteered for the U.S. Census long form or survey research projects. They miss, however, income of persons not filing taxes, “earnings” from the underground economy, and the cash value of food stamps, medical assistance, and child care subsidies. Also, they are subject to the vagaries of the income tax code and may understate income for persons with rental properties, self-employment expenses, tax-deferred annuities, etc.

The income tax returns analyzed in this report are for working age tax filers, excluding dependents (teenagers, students and others) claimed on another adult’s tax return and senior citizens claiming the elderly credit or elderly exemption. In tax year 2000, the elderly credit was replaced by an elderly exemption. Because filers can now be more effectively identified as elderly, the year 2000 through year 2002 working age files include a slightly different, and smaller, population than the files for previous years.

The Department of Revenue tax data in this report are for “working age” tax filers, excluding those claimed as dependents by another filer or claiming the elderly credit. In the 2000 tax year the elderly credit (which was phased out when income reached \$40,000) was replaced by an elderly exemption (which is not phased out). Consequently, calculations of working age tax filers and total AGI for the 1993 to 1999 period may differ from those in 2000-2002 due to the elderly credit/exemption changes.

The earned income tax credit offers a tax benefit to help reduce the tax burden and to supplement wages for low and moderate income working families and single persons. For family tax filers who claim the credit, Wisconsin adds 4 percent to the federal credit for families with one qualifying child, adds 14 percent to the federal credit for families with two qualifying children, and adds 43 percent to the federal credit for families with three or more qualifying children. Together the federal and state credits could total from \$4 to \$5,920 for the 2002 tax year.

The poverty estimates understate poverty for larger families with more than three dependents and for families who are contributing to the support of other family members, and they do not include federal food stamps and child care subsidy benefits, SSI payments, child support, other financial contributions to the care of family and non-reported income sources.

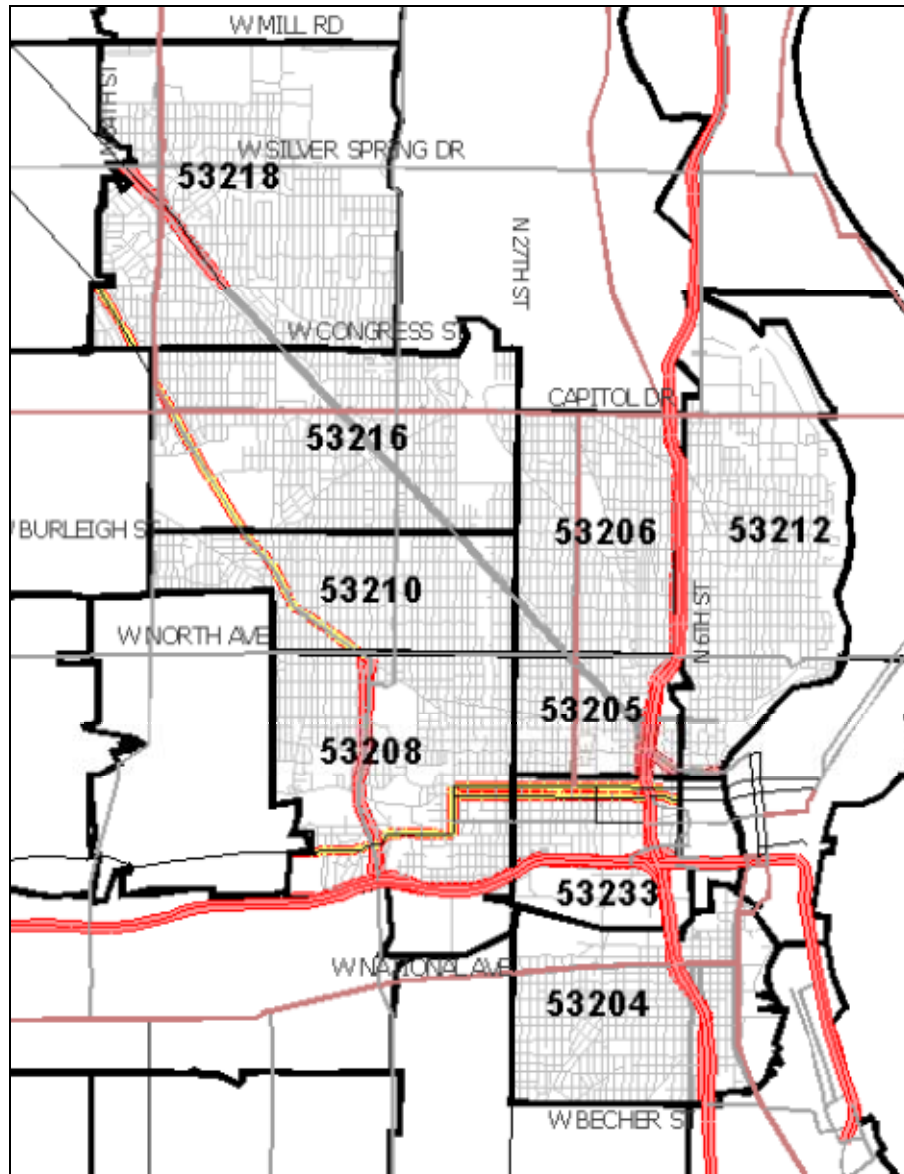
“W-2” cases for the zipcode do not include families receiving public assistance support under the “Kinship Care” program for relatives caring for minor children or the “Caretaker Supplement” program for eligible parents receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Crime statistics by ZIP code are calculated based on uniform crime reports by census tract.

The cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the Milwaukee-Racine area, increased 22.4 percent from 1993 to 2002 and by 1.3 percent from 2001 to 2002.

The aerial map is from the 2000 Digital Orthophotography, originally produced for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

## Milwaukee Central City ZIP Codes



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