

2016 Subcounty Population Estimates

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Population Estimates for Incorporated Places and County Subdivisions

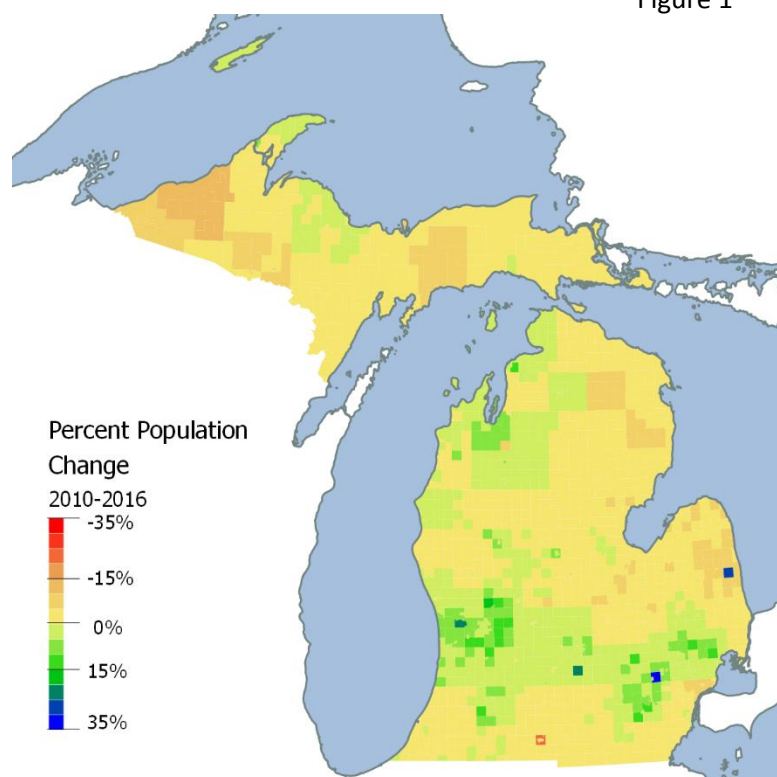
Today the U.S. Census Bureau released the vintage 2016 population estimates for subcounty locations in Michigan. The 2016 release of the population estimates replaces the 2015 series with updated estimates and the addition of 2016 to the series. This dataset provides data at the smallest geographic level for which estimates are produced and includes all cities, towns, villages, and townships. The estimates at this level are relatively concise as they only include the total population for a given geography.

This series provide estimates at a variety of geographic levels that are of concern to people across the state. These populations can be used to create an exhaustive mosaic covering Michigan, but care needs to be exercised to avoid double counting. This estimate series includes populations for cities, townships, villages, as well as estimates that parse out the portions of cities that fall into different counties and estimates for the balance of townships once constituent villages are removed.

One way to use this dataset to form an exhaustive accounting of the state's population is to combine all of the state's cities with its townships. This leaves out the state's villages as their populations will be counted as part of the townships in which they reside.

A result of that type of combination is the map in Figure 1, which shows the percent population change over the period 2010 to 2016 for all townships and cities in the state. From this vantage it is clear that many of the geographic entities in the state have experienced population declines over this period. The exception is the band that stretches roughly from Macomb County in the east to Ottawa and Muskegon counties in the west. Other areas that have seen population increases include the northwest section of the Lower Peninsula and Marquette and Keweenaw counties in the Upper Peninsula. Areas that have seen population reductions over the period include the Thumb region and most of the northeast Lower Peninsula and

Figure 1



Upper Peninsula. Additionally, most of the areas in the southern part of the state along the Indiana and Ohio borders have also seen population declines over the period.

Places that have lost and gained population over the period can be seen in many ways, but the two most common ways to look at these are in terms of percent change and raw numeric change over the period. How you look at the change will likely determine what kind of areas filter to the top of your analysis. Using percent change over the period often results in smaller places taking the top and bottom ranking as it is much easier to get large percent changes when the overall population is low to start. This is not always the case, however. For example, the area in Michigan that recorded the largest percent population increase over the period is Lyon Charter Township, whose population in 2016 was estimated to be 19,027. Similarly, areas that see substantial numerical changes in the raw population are generally large areas where there is a sufficient population base in place to account for these changes. For example, Grand Rapids has seen the largest population increase over this period, gaining over 8,000 residents. Detroit continues to lead in population declines, losing over 38,000 residents during the period 2010 to 2016.

The Detroit area and the counties in its immediate vicinity, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne are always of particular interest. Over the period 2010 to 2016, all areas in Oakland and Macomb have seen some population increases. The degree of increase varies across the particular entities that make up the counties, but all have been positive. This is not the case in Wayne County where all areas with the exception of Northville (city and township), Canton Charter Township, and Brownstown Charter Township have seen population declines over the period. The distribution of these changes can be seen in Figure 2.

Next Release

The final release of data in the 2016 estimate series is scheduled for next month and will include age, sex, and race/ethnicity detail for the nation, state, and counties.

For more Information

These estimates are available through the U.S. Census Bureau and are available on their population estimates page and through their data retrieval tool, American FactFinder.

As always, I am here to assist you with your demographic data needs. I can be reached at guthrie@michigan.gov or 517-241-8667.

