

2017 Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin

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Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2017 Population Estimates for the nation, states, and counties by age group, sex, race, and Hispanic origin.

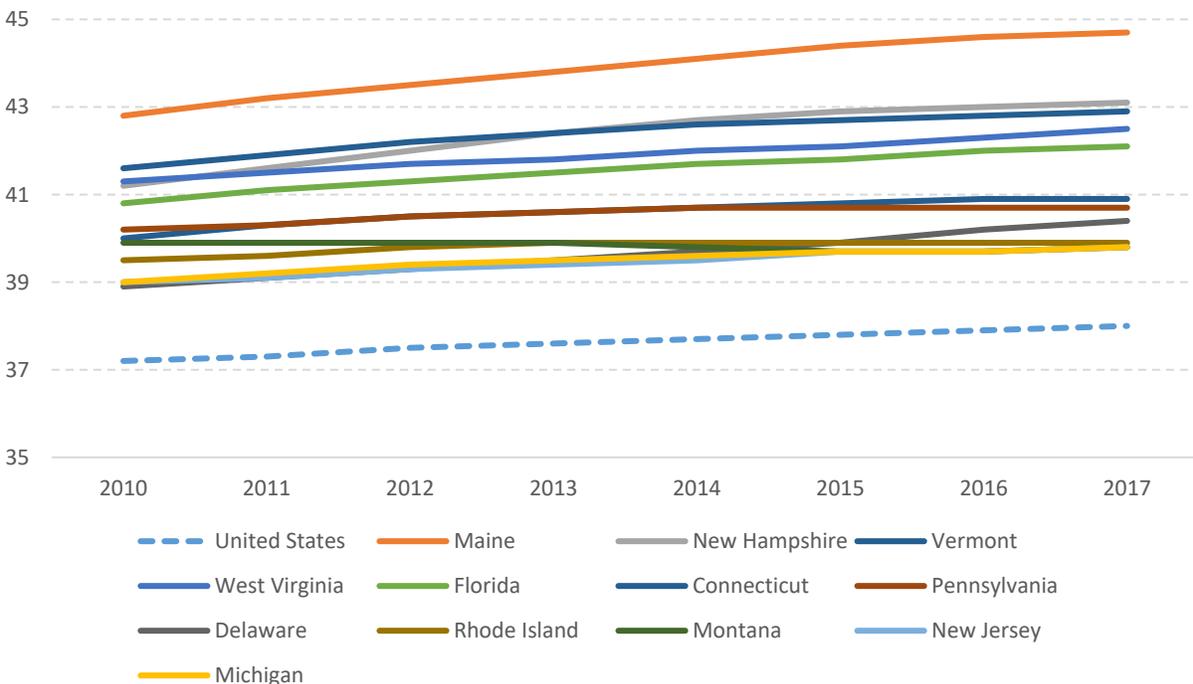
These estimates provide a vantage point for examining population changes among groups by county between April 1, 2010, and July 1, 2017.

Michigan Median Age

An important aspect of this release is the ability to look at the age structure of the state and its counties. The median age of Michigan residents is increasing, as is the case in most states in the nation, but these data provide the detail that are crucial for planning for the needs of the aging population. The median age for Michigan is 39.8, which compares to the national median age of 38 years. Over the period 2010 to 2017, Michigan and the nation have both advanced in median age by 0.8 years.

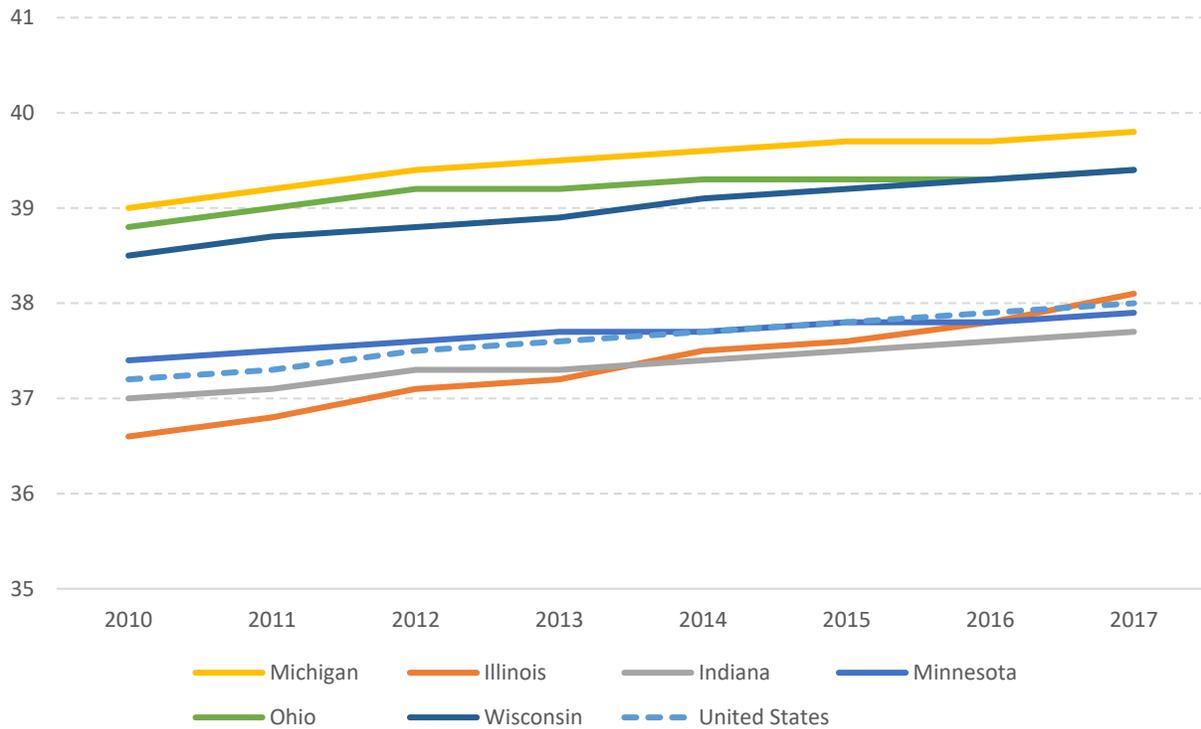
In comparison with other states, Michigan has among the oldest population in the nation. Figure 1 shows the relative differences in median ages for the 12 oldest states and the nation. Michigan is tied with Montana and New Jersey for the 10th spot on this list.

Figure 1 – Median Age: Oldest 12 States & the Nation



In this representation of median ages, Michigan is grouped with many New England states, and at least one in the West, Montana. The only state from the South that makes this list is Florida, which is a state that many people think of as a destination for post-retirement migration. Other states that are thought of in the same vein, such as Nevada and Arizona, ranked much lower, 30th and tied for 33rd, respectively.

Figure 2 – Median Age: Michigan, Contiguous States, and the Nation



While Michigan ranks relatively high in the nation for median age when compared to all states, Michigan comes in first among states in the Great Lakes Region with which the state shares a land or water border. This relationship can be seen in Figure 2.

County Median Age

This release is important not only because of what it reveals about the state in terms of its median age and population structure among its peers, but also about what it indicates about the varying age structure of the population within the state.

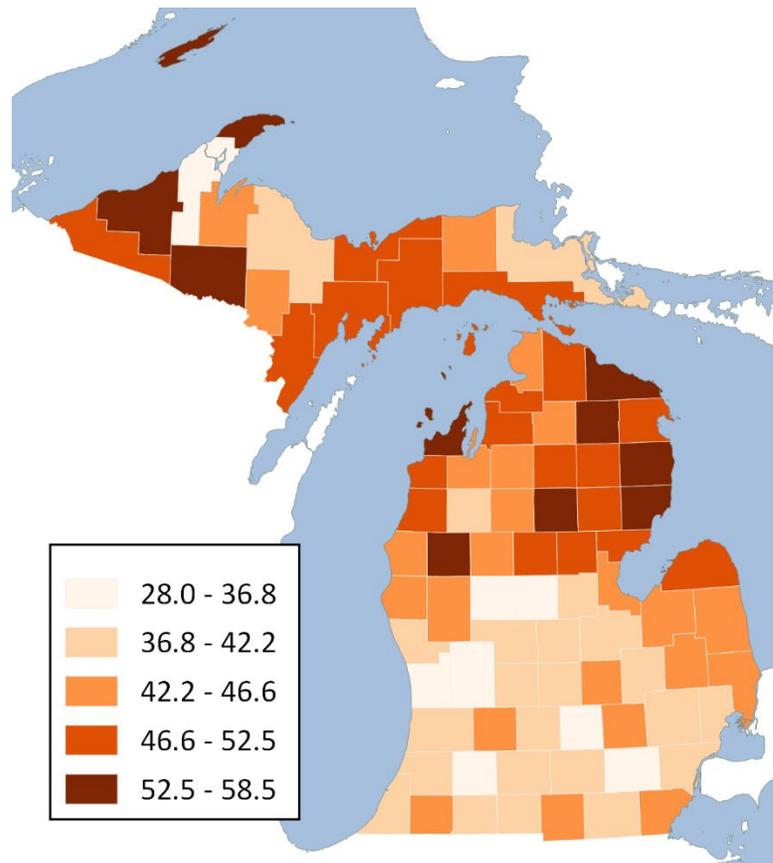
In Figure 3 below, the median ages for all counties in the state can be compared. Some interesting points from these data is that, as expected, most counties with major college populations have low median ages, and the fact that Michigan has significant variation in median age across the state. This is most evident around the Saginaw Bay region, which seems to be the dividing line between the generally older, northern part of the state, and the younger and more populous southern portion of the state. When looking at the

range of ages in Michigan, 30.5 years separate the county with the lowest median age, Isabella (28 years), and the county with the highest median age, Alcona (58.5 years).

While most counties registered increases in median age between 2016 and 2017, there were a few that saw declines. Clinton, Kalkaska, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Wexford counties all decreased by 0.1 years over the period. Marquette County fell by 0.2 years, while Barry and Luce each saw a decline of 0.3 years.

A total of 14 counties had no change in median age between 2016 and 2017. Most of those counties were in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula with Houghton being the only county in the Upper Peninsula to see no change in median age.

Figure 3 – County Median Age



Population Structure of Michigan's Largest Racial and Ethnic Groups

The population structure of a state not only provides a snapshot of current demographic conditions, but it can also provide insights into how that population may change in the future. The charts below show the population pyramids for racial and ethnic groups in the state that have a population of at least 500,000. There is also a dashed line in each graphic to represent the median age for the group.

When reviewing a population pyramid, the relative size of the base and midsection will provide insights into the degree of population increase that would be expected in a population in the absence of migration. A graphic with a wide base indicates a population with a higher birth rate and more likelihood for population growth.

Figure 4 – Structure of the White Population in Michigan

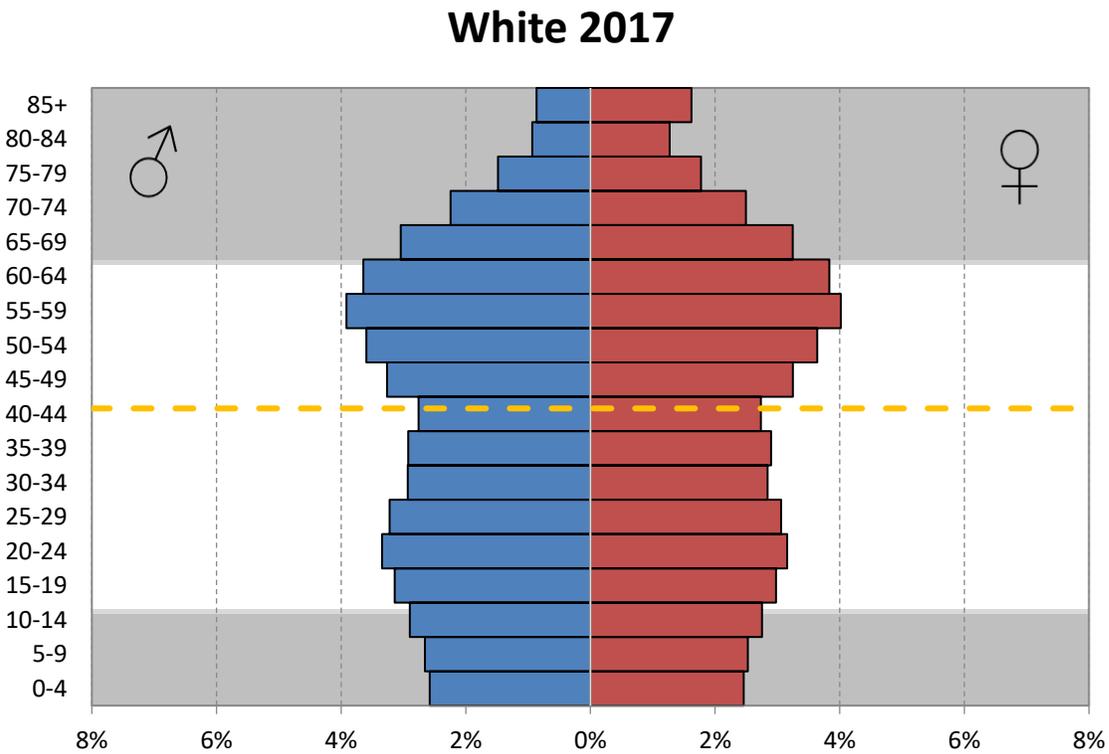


Figure 5 – Structure of the African American Population in Michigan

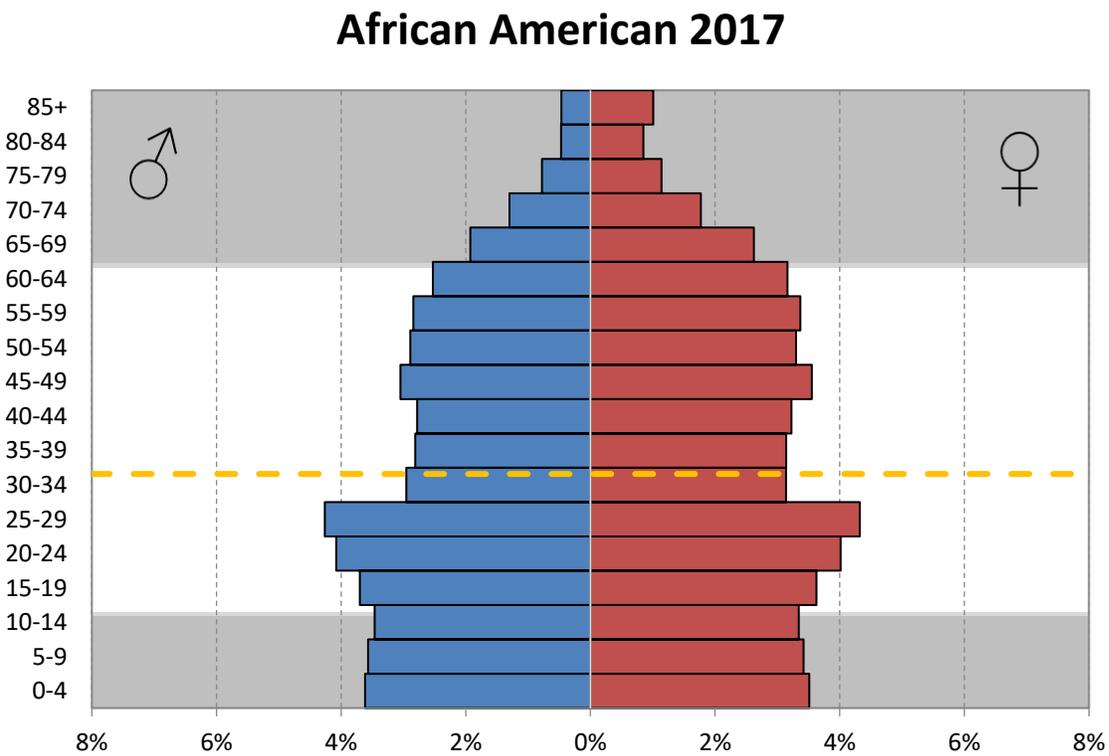
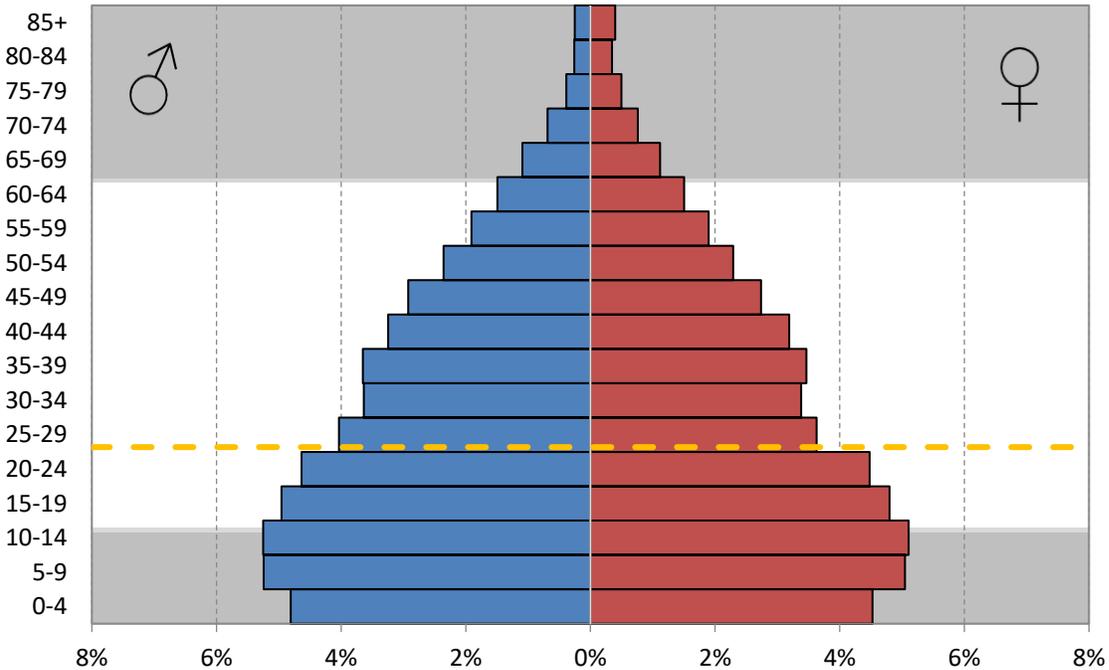


Figure 6 – Structure of the Hispanic Population in Michigan

Hispanic 2017



For More Information

These data are available through the U.S. Census Bureau's data retrieval website, <https://factfinder.census.gov>, or through their page devoted specifically to the population estimates, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>.

The Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives also provides links to these data and many other commonly requested datasets through our website, <http://milmi.org/population>.

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.