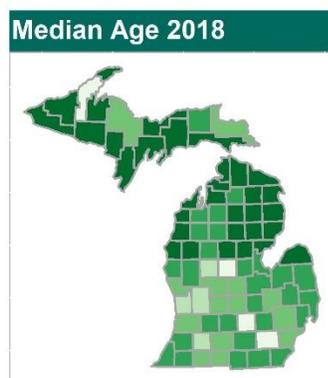
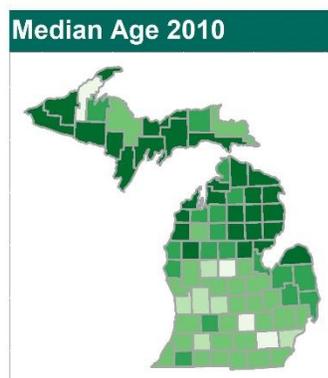
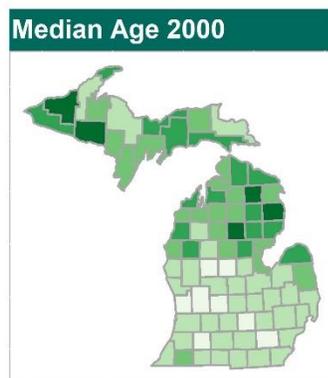
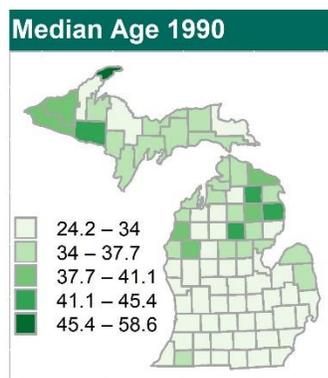


2018 Population Estimates by Age, Sex and Hispanic Origin

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Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2018 population estimates for the nation, states, and counties by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. These estimates provide the opportunity to not only understand how many people live in Michigan and its counties but also how the underlying demographic structure is changing.

Median Age

The median age of Michigan's population rose from 38.9 to 39.8 from 2010 to 2018, a continuation of a long-term aging trend. For example, in 1990, the median age of the state was 32.6 but by 2000 it had moved up to 35.5. Although Michigan's population continues to age, the rate of increase has slowed in recent years. In the 1990s and 2000s the median age of Michigan's residents increased by about 3–3.5 years, in each decade. In comparison, the state's median age is on track to advance by about 1 year between 2010 and 2020. In comparison to the nation, the state was slightly younger in 1990 (median age 0.3 years less than nation), however, as of 2018 it was older than the nation, which had a median age of 38.2.

As displayed in the maps, the median age of most counties has advanced since 1990, however, there is wide variation in the aging exhibited across Michigan. Many of the state's oldest counties are in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula. In contrast, the state's youngest counties include Houghton, Ingham, Isabella, and Washtenaw. This is related to the fact that these counties are home to major universities. In general, southern Michigan counties tend to be younger because they often contain more densely populated areas, which are more likely to attract younger workers and families.

The rapid rate of aging in Michigan in the 1990s and 2000s was related to two factors. First, the largest generation at the time, the Baby Boomers, began entering their mid-40s in the 1990s and are now mostly in their 60s. Second, the number

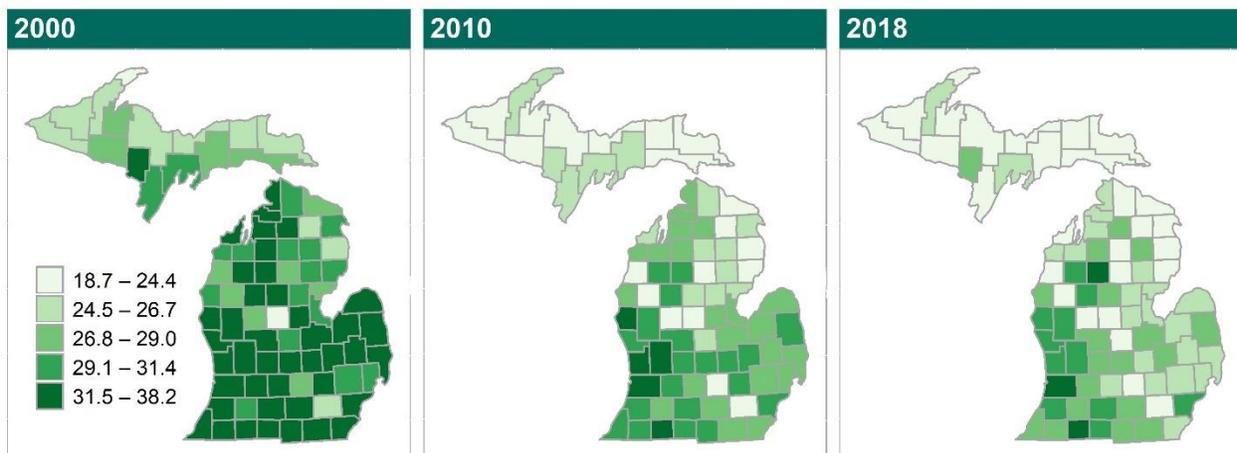
of births declined precipitously between 2000 and 2010. This reduction in natality was related to falling numbers of births per woman and the large out-migration of young adults related to the Great Recession.

Youth Dependency Ratio

The youth dependency ratio is simply the number of people under 15 divided by the number of people aged 15 to 64. This ratio is useful to demographers for at least two reasons. First, it helps researchers identify the relative number of children that need to be supported by the most economically productive age classes (i.e., 15–64). In addition, it gives a relative index of the growth potential of a population in the absence of migration. Obviously, all things being equal, areas with higher ratios of people under age 15 will have the potential for greater future population growth rates.

The maps below show that the youth dependency ratio has declined rapidly in most counties since the turn of the century. Currently, the ratio also varies substantially across the state. Many of the counties in the Upper Peninsula and Northeastern Lower Peninsula, i.e., areas with the highest median ages, also have some of the lowest youth dependency ratios. However, it is also true that some of the youngest counties also have relatively low numbers of youth dependents. The reason for this is that, again, the youngest counties tend to have a university, which serves to reduce both the median age and birth rates because students typically have low pregnancy rates.

Number of people 14 and under per 100 people aged 15–64



All data presented here, in addition to a wealth of other socioeconomic, demographic, and housing information are available from American Fact Finder on the Census Bureau website, www.census.gov. Additionally, access to many of the Census Bureau's most frequently downloaded tables can be found on the population section of the Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives website, www.michigan.gov/census.

As always, we are here to assist you with your demographic data needs. I can be reached at LeachA1@michigan.gov. Eric Guthrie, Michigan's State Demographer, can be reached at guthrie@michigan.gov or 517-241-8667.