
A Profile of Demographics

Houghton County MI

Produced by
Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit
EPS-HDT
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About EPS-HDT

About the Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit (EPS-HDT)

EPS-HDT is a free, easy-to-use software application that produces detailed socioeconomic reports of counties, states, and regions, including custom aggregations. In addition to these geographies, the Demographics report can be run for county subdivisions, cities and towns, American Indian areas, and congressional districts.

EPS-HDT uses published statistics from federal data sources, including Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce; and Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service have made significant financial and intellectual contributions to the operation and content of EPS-HDT.

See <http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt> for more information about the other tools and capabilities of EPS-HDT.

For technical questions, contact Ray Rasker at eps-hdt@headwaterseconomics.org, or 406-570-7044.



Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group. Our mission is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West.



www.blm.gov

The Bureau of Land Management, an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers 249.8 million acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 Western States. It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



www.fs.fed.us

The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers national forests and grasslands encompassing 193 million acres. The Forest Service's mission is to achieve quality land management under the "sustainable multiple-use management concept" to meet the diverse needs of people while protecting the resource. Significant intellectual, conceptual, and content contributions were provided by the following individuals: Dr. Pat Reed, Dr. Jessica Montag, Doug Smith, M.S., Fred Clark, M.S., Dr. Susan A. Winter, and Dr. Ashley Goldhor-Wilcock.

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Note to Users:

This report is one of fourteen reports that can be produced with the EPS-HDT software. You may want to run another EPS-HDT report for either a different geography or topic. Topics include land use, demographics, specific industry sectors, the role of non-labor income, the wildland-urban interface, the role of amenities in economic development, and payments to county governments from federal lands. For further information and to download the free software, go to: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt>.

This report contains color-coded text. **BLUE TEXT** describes data in figures specific to selected geographies. Blue text appears on report pages next to or below figures. **BLACK TEXT** describes what is being measured and data sources used. Black text appears at the top of study guide pages under the heading "What do we measure on this page?" **RED TEXT** explains methodologies and the importance of the information. Red text appears in the middle of study guide pages under the headings "Why is this important?" and "Methods." **GREEN TEXT** lists additional resources that help with interpretation of the information. Green text appears at the bottom of study guide pages under the heading "Additional Resources."

The EPS-HDT software also allows the user to "push" the tables, figures, and interpretive text from a report to a Word document. At that point, you can keep some text (most often blue and black text) and delete other text (most often red and green text). Blue text can serve as a starting point for additional description and interpretation of data unique to specific geographies.

Demographics

How has population changed?

This page describes the total population and change in total population.

Note: with the exception of some 2000 Decennial Census data used on pages 1-3, all other data used in this report are from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the Census Bureau. Red, orange, and black text indicate different data quality thresholds – please read the Methods section in the Study Guide text.

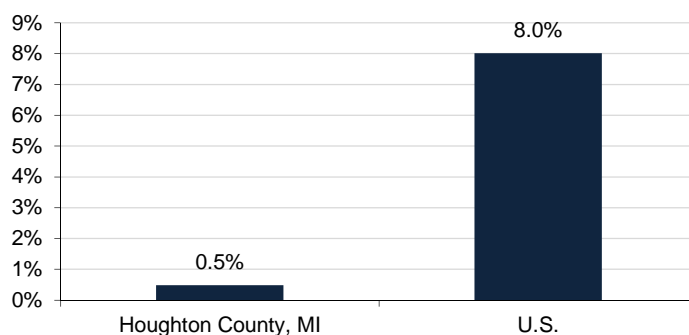
Population, 2000-2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Population (2010*)	36,192	303,965,272
Population (2000)	36,016	281,421,906
Population Change (2000-2010*)	176	22,543,366
Population Percent Change (2000-2010*)	0.5%	8.0%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- From 2000 to the 2006-2010 period, Houghton County, MI had the smallest estimated absolute change in population (176).
- From 2000 to the 2006-2010 period, U.S. had the largest estimated relative change in population (8.0%), and Houghton County, MI had the smallest (0.5%).

Percent Change in Population, 2000-2010*



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

How has population changed?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the total population and change in total population.

Note: with the exception of some 2000 Decennial Census data used on pages 1-3, all other data used in this report are from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the Census Bureau. Red, orange, and black text indicate different data quality thresholds – please read the Methods section below.

Why is this important?

This report covers a broad range of characteristics including gender, race, age, employment status, income levels, education, and home ownership. It is the only EPS-HDT report that can be run for geographic areas other than the U.S., states, and counties. These include cities, towns, and census designated places, American Indian, Alaska native, and native Hawaii areas, congressional districts, and county subdivisions.

In addition to its usefulness for social research, the information throughout this report is valuable for public land managers and others in identifying whether the selected geographies contain minorities and people who are economically and/or socially disadvantaged. This is important because Executive Order 12898, February 11, 1994 states that "...each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations..." (see Additional Resources on Page 2 of this report for more references).

While the data in this report does not constitute an analysis of environmental justice per se, it serves to identify whether minorities and/or economically/socially disadvantaged people live in an area. The assessment of whether environmental justice pertains to an area or management action requires consideration of the presence and distribution of minority individuals, minority populations, and low income populations and whether they are or would be disproportionately subject to high and adverse human health effects (such as bodily impairment, infirmity, illness, or any other negative health effects from cumulative or multiple adverse exposures to environmental hazards), and disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects (such as impacts on the natural environment that significantly or adversely affect minority, low income, or native populations).

Methods

The majority of data in this report comes from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a nation-wide survey conducted every year by the Census Bureau that provides current demographic, social, economic, and housing information about communities every year—information that until recently was only available once a decade. The ACS is not the same as the decennial census, which is conducted every ten years (the ACS has replaced the detailed, Census 2000 long-form questionnaire).

For populations of 65,000 or more, ACS provides estimates based on 1 year of sampling. For populations of 20,000 or more, ACS provides estimates based on 3 years of sampling. For all other geographies, estimates based on 5 years of sampling are provided. Data used in this report are 5-year ACS estimates. More so than the 1 or 3-year estimates, the 5-year estimates are consistently available for small geographies, such as towns. We show 5-year estimates for all geographies since data obtained using the same survey technique is ideal for cross-geography comparisons. The disadvantage is that multiyear estimates cannot be used to describe any particular year in the period, only what the average value is over the full period. For brevity, table and figure titles show the latest year of the 5-year period. Footnotes are provided to clarify that the data represent average characteristics over a 5-year period.

Because ACS is based on a survey, it is subject to error. The Census Bureau reports the accuracy of the data by providing margins of error for every data point. In this report, we alert the user to the data accuracy using color-coded text in the tables: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. Less populated areas tend to have lower accuracy. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale. A listing of all coefficients of variation by data point can be found by scrolling down to the tables provided below the border of the page in the Excel workbook.

Additional Resources

An indispensable publication on environmental justice: Council on Environmental Quality. 1997. Environmental Justice: Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act. Washington, D.C. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/resources/policy/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf.

For a description of the Census Bureau's ACS survey methodology and data accuracy used by the Census Bureau, see: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/.
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2009.pdf

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2000. Census Bureau, Systems Support Division, Washington, D.C.

Study Guide

Demographics

What is the age and gender distribution of the population?

This page describes population distribution by age and gender, and the change in median age.

Median Age: The age which divides the population into two numerically equal groups; i.e, half the people are younger than this age and half are older.

Age & Gender Distribution, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population	36,192	303,965,272
Under 5 years	2,048	20,131,420
5 to 9 years	1,941	20,116,654
10 to 14 years	2,127	20,643,730
15 to 19 years	3,665	22,132,691
20 to 24 years	5,153	21,214,118
25 to 29 years	2,083	20,712,949
30 to 34 years	1,695	19,478,064
35 to 39 years	1,766	20,629,102
40 to 44 years	1,870	21,577,039
45 to 49 years	2,189	22,770,506
50 to 54 years	2,307	21,532,191
55 to 59 years	2,072	18,817,728
60 to 64 years	1,961	15,459,667
65 to 69 years	1,500	11,518,053
70 to 74 years	1,199	8,975,414
75 to 79 years	1,002	7,358,170
80 to 84 years	743	5,721,633
85 years and over	871	5,176,143
Total Female	16,553	154,566,548
Total Male	19,639	149,398,724

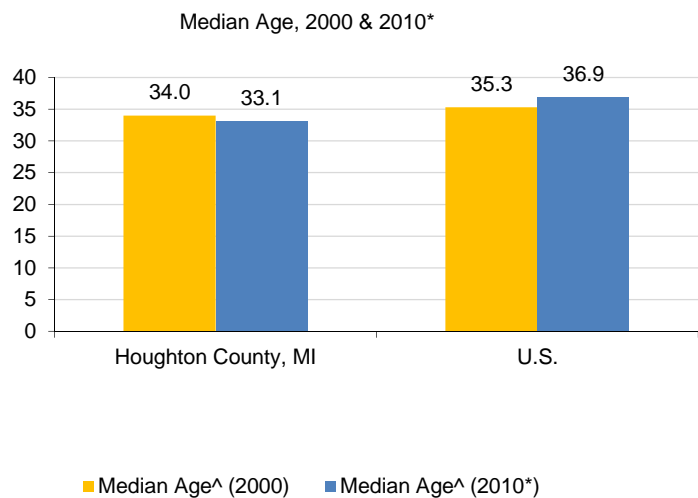
Change in Median Age, 2000-2010*

Median Age^ (2010*)	33.1	36.9
Median Age^ (2000)	34.0	35.3
Median Age % Change	-2.6%	4.5%

^ Median age is not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- From 2000 to the 2006-2010 period, the median age estimate increased the most in the U.S. (35.3 to 36.9, a 4.5% increase) and decreased the most in Houghton County, MI (34.0 to 33.1, a 2.6% decrease).



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2000. Census Bureau, Systems Support Division, Washington, D.C.

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What is the age and gender distribution of the population?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes population distribution by age and gender, and the change in median age.

Median Age: The age which divides the population into two numerically equal groups; i.e., half the people are younger than this age and half are older.

Why is it important?

Different geographies can have different age distributions. For example, in counties with a large number of retirees, the age distribution may be skewed towards categories 65 years and older. In counties with universities, the age distribution will be skewed toward the age group 18-29. In many counties, the largest segment of the population is in the Baby Boomer generation (people born between 1946 and 1964).

The change in median age is one indicator of whether the population has gotten older or younger.

Methods

Data in this report are based on the American Community Survey (ACS) of the Census Bureau. Data used in this report are 5-year estimates for all geographies. The latest year of the 5-year estimate is indicated in tables and figures (for example, 2009* may be listed as the year, but this is a 5-year estimate based on data collected from 2005 through 2009).

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Environmental Protection Agency environmental justice resources are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej>.

An indispensable publication on environmental justice: Council on Environmental Quality. 1997. Environmental Justice: Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act. Washington, D.C. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/resources/policy/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf.

The nonprofit organization The State of the USA is developing a national indicator system using consistent measures of well-being. Their resources are available at: <http://stateoftheusa.org>.

A useful resource on rural population change is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service's Briefing Room on "Rural Population and Migration" available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Population.Demographer>

William H. Frey's website provides links to publications, issues, media stories, data tools and resources on migration, population redistribution, and demography of both rural and urban populations in the U.S.: www.frey-demographer.org.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging has a host of resources on older Americans at: http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aging_statistics/index.aspx.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program publishes age data estimates for the U.S., states, counties, and metropolitan areas. This information is available at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/age.html>.

For information on county-level health ranking, see: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2000. Census Bureau, Systems Support Division, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

What is the age and gender distribution of the population?

This page describes the change in age and gender distribution over time, and the change in age distribution, with age categories separated into five age groups.

Age & Gender Distribution and Change, 2000-2010*

	2000	2010*
Total Population	36,016	36,192
Un -450	7,869	7,419
18- 754	10,539	11,293
35- 856	4,492	3,636
45- 992	7,537	8,529
65 -264	5,579	5,315

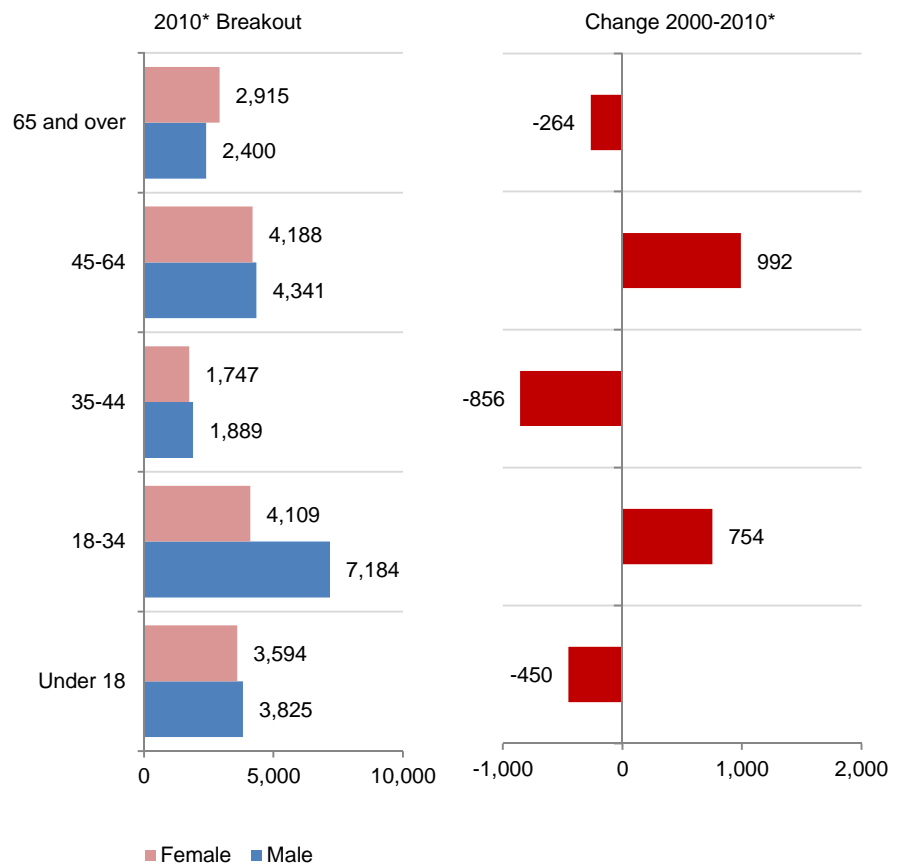
Percent of Total

	2000	2010*
Under 18	21.8%	20.5%
18-34	29.3%	31.2%
35-44	12.5%	10.0%
45-64	20.9%	23.6%
65 and over	15.5%	14.7%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the age category with the highest estimate for number of women was 45-64 (4,188), and the age category with the highest estimate for number of men was 18-34 (7,184).

- From 2000 to the 2006-2010 period, the age category with the largest estimated increase was 45-64 (992), and the age category with the largest estimated decrease was 35-44 (-856).



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What is the age and gender distribution of the population?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the change in age and gender distribution over time, and the change in age distribution, with age categories separated into five age groups.

Why is it important?

For public land managers, understanding the age distribution can help highlight whether management actions might affect some age groups more than others. It also may highlight the need to understand the different needs, values, and attitudes of different age groups. If a geography has a large retired population, or soon-to-be-retired population, for example, the needs and interests of the public may place different demands on public land managers than a geography with a large number of minors or young adults.

For many geographies, a significant development is the aging of the population, and in particular the retirement of the "Baby Boomer" generation (those born between 1946 and 1964). As this generation enters retirement age, their mobility, spending patterns, and consumer demands (for health care and housing, for example) can affect how communities develop economically. An aging population can also affect changing demands on land use (e.g., recreation).

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

The non-profit Population Reference Bureau offers a helpful video on population pyramids at: www.prb.org/Journalists/Webcasts/2009/distilleddemographics1.aspx.

For a discussion on the implications of rising age trends, see: Peterson, Peter, G. 1999. *Gray Dawn: How the Coming Age Wave Will Transform America—and the World*. Random House. New York, New York. 280 p.

The Census maintains a useful web site with data, articles, and PowerPoint presentations on the characteristics of different age groups: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/age/general-age.html#bb>.

The Next Four Decades: Older Population in the United States: 2010 to 2050. May 2010. Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p25-1138.pdf>.

Cromartie, J. and P. Nelson. 2009. *Baby Boom Migration and Its Impact on Rural America*. Economic Research Service, Report Number 29. Washington, DC. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err79/err79fm.pdf>.

Frey, W.H. 2006. *America's Regional Demographics in the '00 Decade: The Role of Seniors, Boomers and New Minorities*. The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

Frey, W. H. 2007. *Mapping the Growth of Older America: Seniors and Boomers in the Early 21st Century*. Brookings Census 2000 Series. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program.

Jacobsen, L. A., and Mather, M. 2010. "U.S. Social and Economic Trends Since 2000." *Population Bulletin* 65(1): 1-16. Washington D.C.: Population Reference Bureau.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2005. "State Interim Population Projections by Age and Sex: 2004-2030." www.census.gov/population/www/projections/projectionsagesex.html. Retrieved September 1, 2010.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2000. Census Bureau, Systems Support Division, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

What is the racial makeup of the population?

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as belonging to a particular race.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The Office of Management and Budget revised the standards in 1997 for how the Federal government collects and presents data on race and ethnicity.

Population by Race, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population	36,192	303,965,272
White alone	34,281	224,895,700
Black or African American alone	312	37,978,752
American Indian alone	265	2,480,465
Asian alone	980	14,185,493
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Is. alone	20	491,673
Some other race alone	81	16,603,808
Two or more races	253	7,329,381

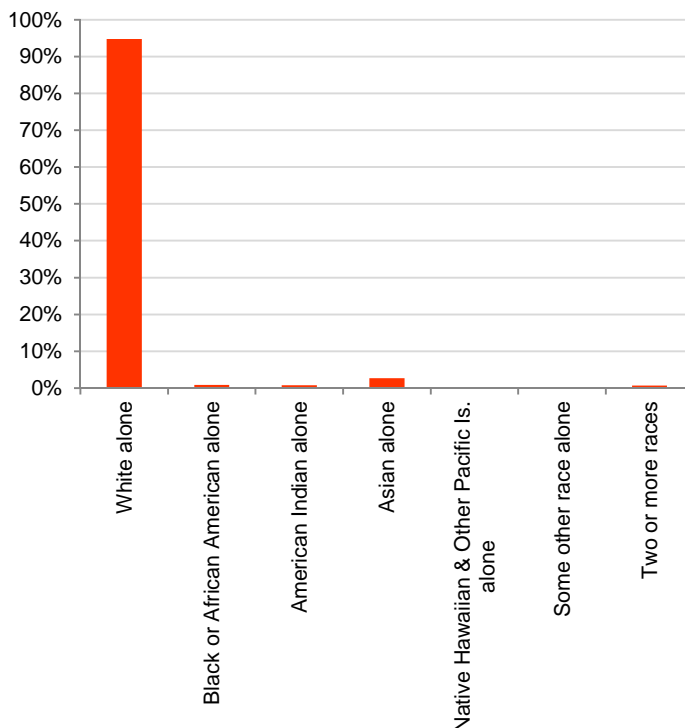
Percent of Total

White alone	94.7%	74.0%
Black or African American alone	0.9%	12.5%
American Indian alone	0.7%	0.8%
Asian alone	2.7%	4.7%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Is. alone	0.1%	0.2%
Some other race alone	0.2%	5.5%
Two or more races	0.7%	2.4%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

Population by Race, Percent of Total, Houghton County MI, 2010*

- In the 2006-2010 period, the racial category with the highest estimated percent of the population in the Houghton County MI was White alone (94.7%), and the racial category the lowest estimated percent of the population was Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Is. alone (0.1%).



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What is the racial makeup of the population?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as belonging to a particular race.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the standards in 1997 for how the Federal government collects and presents data on race and ethnicity.

Race Alone Categories: This includes the minimum five race categories required by the OMB, plus the 'some other race alone' included by the Census Bureau, with the approval of the OMB. The categories are: White alone, Black or African-American alone, American Indian or Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone, and Some other race alone.

Some Other Race: This includes all other responses not included in the "White," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" race categories described above. Respondents providing write-in entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic/Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban) in the "Some other race" write-in space are included in this category.

Two or More Races: People may have chosen to provide two or more races either by checking two or more race response check boxes, by providing multiple write-in responses, or by some combination of check boxes and write-in responses.

Why is it important?

Federal agencies make use of information on race and ethnicity for implementing a number of programs, while also using this information to promote and enforce equal opportunities, such as in employment or housing, under the Civil Rights Act.

According to the Census Bureau, "Many federal programs are put into effect based on the race data obtained from the decennial census (i.e., promoting equal employment opportunities; assessing racial disparities in health and environmental risks)." In addition, "Data on ethnic groups are important for putting into effect a number of federal statutes (i.e., enforcing bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act; monitoring and enforcing equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act). Data on Ethnic Groups are also needed by local governments to run programs and meet legislative requirements (i.e., identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving medical services under the Public Health Act; evaluating whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of minority populations under the Community Reinvestment Act)."

For public land managers, one of the important considerations of proposed management actions is whether the action could have disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority populations. This consideration, broadly referred to as "Environmental Justice", is a requirement of Executive Order 12898. The data on this page show which minority populations are represented, but does not analyze whether there is a potential environmental justice issue.

Methods

Race categories include both racial and national-origin groups. The concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic origin, which is discussed elsewhere in this report. Percentages for the various race categories add to 100 percent, and should not be combined with the percent Hispanic.

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

For information on revised Federal Office of Management and Budget standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity (1997), see: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/fedreg/ombdir15.html>.

For a primer on how the Census 2000 handles race and Hispanic origin, see the U.S. Census Bureau's publication "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin," available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>.

Additional race and ethnicity data from the U.S. Census Bureau is available at: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFPeople?_event=&geo_id=01000US&_geoContext=01000US&_lang=en&_sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=&_useEV=&pctx=fph&pgsl=010&_submenuId=people_10.

The American Human Development Project has created a useful resource on the health and welfare of racial and ethnic groups. It is called A Century Apart: New Measures of Well-Being for U.S. Racial and Ethnic Groups and is available at: <http://www.measureofamerica.org/acenturyapart>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

What is the Hispanic makeup of the population?

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as Hispanic. The information also is presented according to race. The term "Hispanic" refers to a cultural identification, and Hispanics can be of any race.

Hispanic or Latino Origin: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census questionnaire "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban" as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Hispanic Population, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population	36,192	303,965,272
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	447	47,727,533
Not Hispanic or Latino	35,745	256,237,739
White alone	33,923	196,572,772
Black or African American alone	303	37,122,425
American Indian alone	253	2,048,784
Asian alone	973	14,021,974
Native Hawaiian & Oth.Pacific Is. alone	20	458,775
Some other race	56	685,669
Two or more races	217	5,327,340

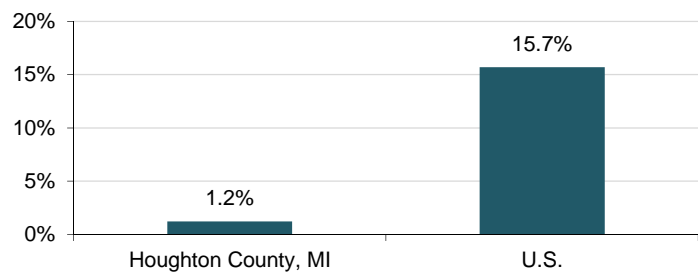
Percent of Total

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1.2%	15.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	98.8%	84.3%
White alone	93.7%	64.7%
Black or African American alone	0.8%	12.2%
American Indian alone	0.7%	0.7%
Asian alone	2.7%	4.6%
Native Hawaiian & Oth.Pacific Is. alone	0.1%	0.2%
Some other race	0.2%	0.2%
Two or more races	0.6%	1.8%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of the population that self-identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race (15.7%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (1.2%).

Hispanic Population, Percent of Total, Houghton County MI, 2010*



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What is the Hispanic makeup of the population?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as Hispanic. The information also is presented according to race. The term "Hispanic" refers to a cultural identification, and Hispanics can be of any race.

Ethnicity: There are two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Hispanic or Latino Origin: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census questionnaire "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban" as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Why is it important?

Hispanics are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. population. The Census Bureau reported that 15 percent of the population in the U.S. self-identified as being Hispanic in 2010. The Census Bureau predicts that 24.4 percent of the population in the U.S. will be Hispanic by 2050. Between 2000 and 2010, Hispanics accounted for over one-half of the nation's population growth.

Different groups of people may value and use public lands in different ways. Understanding the various values, beliefs, and attitudes of the Hispanic community in an area can be an important consideration for public land managers working to meet the needs of the public or evaluating potentially adverse impacts on a population.

According to the Census Bureau: "Many federal programs are put into effect based on the race data obtained from the decennial census (i.e., promoting equal employment opportunities; assessing racial disparities in health and environmental risks)" and "Data on ethnic groups are important for putting into effect a number of federal statutes (i.e., enforcing bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act; monitoring and enforcing equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act). Data on Ethnic Groups are also needed by local governments to run programs and meet legislative requirements (i.e., identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving medical services under the Public Health Act; evaluating whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of minority populations under the Community Reinvestment Act)."

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

For information on revised Federal Office of Management and Budget standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity (1997), see: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/fedreg/ombdir15.html>.

For a primer on how the Census 2000 handles race and Hispanic origin, see the U.S. Census Bureau publication "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin," available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>.

Additional race and ethnicity data from the U.S. Census Bureau is available at:

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFPeople?_event=&geo_id=01000US&_geoContext=01000US&_lang=en&_sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=&_useEV=&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&_submenuId=people_10.

Additional information on the U.S. Hispanic population from the U.S. Census Bureau is available at:

http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hispanic/hispanic_pop_presentation.html.

For an analysis of Latinos and Hispanics and federal land management in the Columbia River Basin, as well as a literature review on the subject, see: http://www.icbemp.gov/science/hansisrichard_10pg.pdf.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

What is the tribal makeup of the population?

This page describes, in general terms, the number of people who self-identify as American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races.

American Indian: This category shows self-identification among people of American Indian descent. Many American Indians are members of a principal tribe or group empowered to negotiate and make decisions on behalf of the individual members. Census data are available for 34 tribes or Selected American Indian categories: Apache, Blackfeet, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chickasaw, Chippewa, Choctaw, Colville, Comanche, Cree, Creek, Crow, Delaware, Houma, Iroquois, Kiowa, Lumbee, Menominee, Navajo, Osage, Ottawa, Paiute, Pima, Potawatomi, Pueblo, Puget Sound Salish, Seminole, Shoshone, Sioux, Tohomo O'Odham, Ute, Yakama, Yaqui, Yuman, and All other.

Alaska Native: This category shows self-identification among people of Alaska Native descent. Census data are available for five detailed Alaska Native race and ethnic categories: Alaska Athabaskan, Aleut, Eskimo, Tlingit-Haida, and All other tribes.

Non-Specified Tribes: This category shows self-identification among people of American Indian or Alaska Native decent that does not fall within a major tribal affiliation.

American Indian & Alaska Native Population, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population	36,192	303,965,272
Total Native American	265	2,480,465
American Indian Tribes	197	1,970,249
Alaska Native Tribes	0	103,905
Non-Specified Tribes	59	341,933

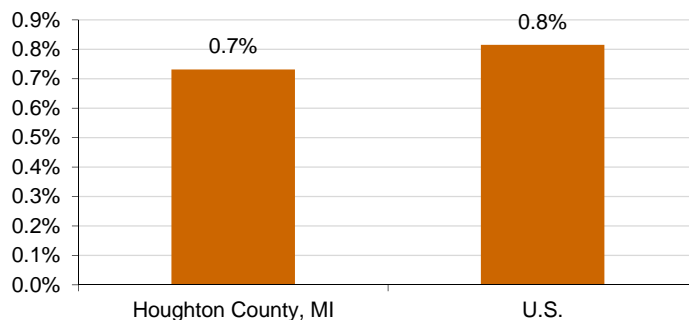
Percent of Total

Total Native American	0.7%	0.8%
American Indian Tribes	0.5%	0.6%
Alaska Native Tribes	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Specified Tribes	0.2%	0.1%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of the population that self-identified as American Indian and Alaska Native (0.8%) and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (0.7%).

Native American Population, Percent of Total, Houghton County MI, 2010*



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What is the tribal makeup of the population?

What do we measure on this page?

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Alaska Native: This category shows self-identification among people of Alaska Native descent. Census data are available for five detailed Alaska Native race and ethnic categories: Alaska Athabaskan, Aleut, Eskimo, Tlingit-Haida, and All other tribes.

Non-Specified Tribes: This category includes respondents who checked the “American Indian or Alaska Native” response category on the Census questionnaire or wrote in the generic term “American Indian” or “Alaska Native,” or tribal entries not elsewhere classified.

Why is it important?

Different groups of people may value and use public lands in different ways. Understanding the various values, beliefs, and attitudes of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes is an important consideration for public land managers where these populations reside and have a historical and/or current tie to the land. Some management actions may have disproportionately high and adverse effects on tribes and it is helpful to know if native peoples live in a particular geography.

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

An indispensable publication on environmental justice: Council on Environmental Quality. 1997. Environmental Justice: Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act. Washington, D.C. Available at: http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/resources/policy/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf.

The U.S. Department of Interior’s Indian Affairs oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education. Indian Affairs resources and contacts are available at: <http://www.bia.gov/index.htm>.

The American Indian Heritage Foundation hosts an American Indian Resource Directory with a list of all American Indian tribes, including Federally recognized tribes, and the Native Wire news service. These and other resources are available at: <http://www.indians.org/index.html>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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American Indian & Alaska Native Population, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population	36,192	303,965,272
Total Native American	265	2,480,465
American Indian Tribes; Specified	197	1,970,249
Apache	0	65,274
Blackfeet	23	26,080
Cherokee	13	282,760
Cheyenne	0	11,739
Chickasaw	0	20,780
Chippewa	88	115,036
Choctaw	0	87,638
Colville	0	8,479
Comanche	0	11,872
Cree	0	2,600
Creek	0	41,147
Crow	0	11,056
Delaware	0	7,064
Houma	0	8,522
Iroquois	0	48,247
Kiowa	0	8,939
Lumbee	8	67,724
Menominee	0	8,220
Navajo	0	298,164
Osage	0	7,479
Ottawa	48	6,909
Paiute	0	10,310
Pima	0	22,819
Potawatomi	0	17,545
Pueblo	0	71,542
Puget Sound Salish	0	13,806
Seminole	0	13,223
Shoshone	0	8,750
Sioux	0	119,236
Tohono O'Odham	0	20,291
Ute	0	8,279
Yakama	0	9,300
Yaqui	0	19,099
Yuman	0	8,123
All other tribes	17	482,197
American Indian; Not Specified	9	53,532
Alaska Native Tribes; Specified	0	103,905
Alaska Athabaskan	0	16,089
Aleut	0	11,697
Eskimo	0	56,606
Tlingit-Haida	0	14,920
All other tribes	0	4,593
Alaska Native; Not Specified	0	10,846
American Indian or Alaska Native; Not Specified		
Specified	59	341,933

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What is the tribal makeup of the population?

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Non-Specified Tribes: This category includes respondents who checked the "American Indian or Alaska Native" response category on the Census questionnaire or wrote in the generic term "American Indian" or "Alaska Native," or tribal entries not elsewhere classified.

Why is it important?

Different groups of people may value and use public lands in different ways. Understanding the various values, beliefs, and attitudes of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes is an important consideration for public land managers where these populations reside and have a historical and/or current tie to the land. Some management actions may have disproportionately high and adverse effects on tribes and it is helpful to know if native peoples live in a particular geography.

Methods

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Additional Resources

The U.S. Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, formed in 2004, is a useful source of information and policies related to agency-tribal relations. See: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/index.shtml>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Employment

What occupations and industries are present?

This page describes what people do for work in terms of the type of work (occupation) and where they work (by industry).

Employment by Occupation, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Civilian employed population > 16 years	16,043	141,833,331
Management, professional, & related	5,487	50,034,578
Service	3,885	24,281,015
Sales and office	3,599	36,000,118
Farming, fishing, and forestry	174	1,011,461
Construction, extraction, maint., & repair	1,391	12,928,812
Production, transportation, & material moving	1,507	17,577,347

Percent of Total

Management, professional, & related	34.2%	35.3%
Service	24.2%	17.1%
Sales and office	22.4%	25.4%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	1.1%	0.7%
Construction, extraction, maint., & repair	8.7%	9.1%
Production, transportation, & material moving	9.4%	12.4%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

Employment by Industry, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Civilian employed population > 16 years	16,043	141,833,331
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting, mining	286	2,634,188
Construction	1,129	10,115,885
Manufacturing	1,074	15,581,149
Wholesale trade	264	4,344,743
Retail trade	1,798	16,293,522
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	427	7,183,907
Information	316	3,368,676
Finance and insurance, and real estate	719	9,931,900
Prof., scientific, mgmt., admin., & waste mgmt.	806	14,772,322
Education, health care, & social assistance	6,020	31,277,542
Arts, entertain., rec., accomodation, & food	1,932	12,566,228
Other services, except public administration	696	6,899,223
Public administration	576	6,864,046

Percent of Total

Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting, mining	1.8%	1.9%
Construction	7.0%	7.1%
Manufacturing	6.7%	11.0%
Wholesale trade	1.6%	3.1%
Retail trade	11.2%	11.5%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2.7%	5.1%
Information	2.0%	2.4%
Finance and insurance, and real estate	4.5%	7.0%
Prof., scientific, mgmt., admin., & waste mgmt.	5.0%	10.4%
Education, health care, & social assistance	37.5%	22.1%
Arts, entertain., rec., accomodation, & food	12.0%	8.9%
Other services, except public administration	4.3%	4.9%
Public administration	3.6%	4.8%

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What occupations and industries are present?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes what people do for work in terms of the type of work (occupation) and where they work (by industry).

Employment by Occupation: Refers to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, where workers are classified into occupations with similar job duties, skills, education, and/or training, regardless of industry.

Employment by Industry: Refers to the employment by industry, listed according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Why is it Important?

Employment statistics are usually reported by industry (as with other reports in EPS-HDT). This is a useful way to show the relative diversity of the economy and the degree of dependence on certain sectors. Employment by occupation offers additional information that describes what people do for a living and the type of work they do, regardless of the industry. For example, management and professional occupations are generally of higher wage and require formal education, and these occupations could exist in any number of industries (for example, managers could be working for a software firm, a mine, or a construction company). Occupation information describes what people do, while employment by industry describes where people work.

Methods

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Additional Resources

The Census Bureau provides a definition of SOCS: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ioindex/overview.html>.

Occupations are also defined by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/soc/>.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides an analysis of the prospects for different types of jobs, including training and education needed, earnings, working conditions, and what workers do on the job: [prospectshttp://www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/).

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Employment

What are the characteristics of labor participation?

This page describes workers by weeks worked per year and usual hours works per week.

Labor Participation Characteristics, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Population 16 to 64	24,378	199,984,431
WEEKS WORKED PER YEAR:		
Worked 50 to 52 weeks	10,606	109,411,675
Worked 27 to 49 weeks	4,286	25,144,188
Worked 1 to 26 weeks	4,634	20,668,662
Did not work	4,852	44,759,906
HOURS WORKED PER WEEK:		
Worked 35 or more hours per week	11,866	120,257,025
Worked 15 to 34 hours per week	5,564	28,158,856
Worked 1 to 14 hours per week	2,096	6,808,644
Did not work	4,852	44,759,906
Mean usual hours worked for workers	33.7	38.9

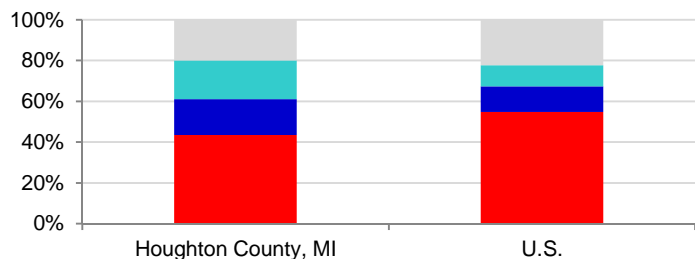
Percent of Total

WEEKS WORKED PER YEAR:		
Worked 50 to 52 weeks	43.5%	54.7%
Worked 27 to 49 weeks	17.6%	12.6%
Worked 1 to 26 weeks	19.0%	10.3%
Did not work	19.9%	22.4%
HOURS WORKED PER WEEK:		
Worked 35 or more hours per week	48.7%	60.1%
Worked 15 to 34 hours per week	22.8%	14.1%
Worked 1 to 14 hours per week	8.6%	3.4%
Did not work	19.9%	22.4%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people that worked 50 to 52 weeks per year (54.7%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (43.5%).

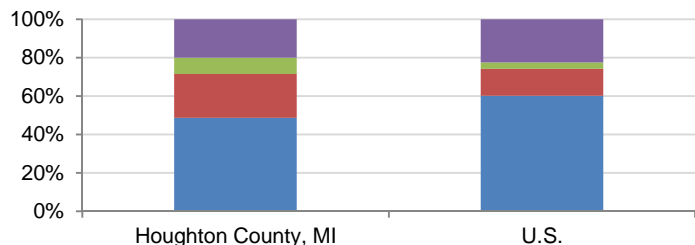
Weeks Worked per Year, 2010*



■ Worked 50 to 52 weeks ■ Worked 27 to 49 weeks
■ Worked 1 to 26 weeks ■ Did not work

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people that worked 35 or more hours per week (60.1%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (48.7%).

Hours Worked per Week, 2010*



■ >35 Hours/Week ■ 15-34 Hours/Week ■ 1-14 Hours/Week ■ Did not work

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are the characteristics of labor participation?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes workers by hours worked per week and by weeks worked per year.

Note: Weeks worked per year and hours worked per week are irrespective of each other. For example, regardless of whether an individual worked 10 or 40 hours per week, if they worked 50 weeks per year, they will be recorded as having "worked 50 to 52 weeks per year".

Why is it important?

Often, if too few hours are worked per week or weeks worked per year, the local economy may suffer from underemployment of labor and human capital, translating to lower real incomes and a lower standard of living. For example, labor incomes in agriculture and other seasonal sources of employment have consistently been among the lowest of the industrial classes as reported by the U.S. Census.

However, shorter work weeks and fewer weeks worked per year can be indicative of worker preference. Part-time jobs (those that average less than 35 hours/week) are often ideal for students, people who are responsible for taking care of their dependents, and the elderly who wish to remain active in the workplace but do not want to work a full schedule. Advances in computer technologies have also enabled workers to telecommute and work shorter and more flexible hours. And, in some cases, young adults seek out seasonal, tourism, or recreation related employment by choice. Since the 1960s, during periods of economic stability, the vast majority of part-time workers have been voluntary. For example, in 2006, only about one in seven part-time workers were involuntary (individuals wanting full-time jobs but working less than 35 hours/week).

To understand the degree to which the data on this page are related to underemployment and economic hardship versus worker preference, data on age and income distribution should be examined.

Most employment statistics count full time, part time, and seasonal employment as the same, a single job. In places where a relatively large percent of the employment base is either part time or seasonally employed this may explain falling wages or rates of employment that outpace population change (see the Socioeconomic Measures report for changes in wages, employment, and population over time).

Methods

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Additional Resources

Maynard, D. C. & Feldman, D. C. (Eds.) 2011. Underemployment: Psychological, economic and social challenges. New York: Springer.

A. Levenson. 2006. Trends in Jobs and Wages in the U.S. Economy. CEO Publication G 06-12 (501). Available at: <http://ceo.usc.edu/pdf/G0612501.pdf>

For historical fluctuations of involuntary part-time employment, see: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ils/pdf/opbils71.pdf>

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Employment

What are commuting patterns?

This page describes workers who do not work from home by place of work and by travel time to work.

Commuting Characteristics, 2010*

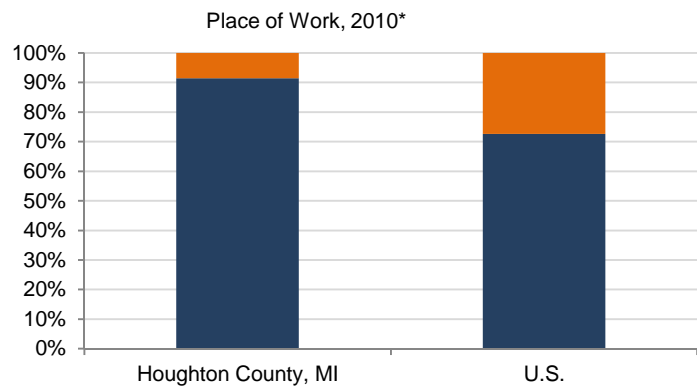
	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Workers 16 years and over	15,347	139,255,035
PLACE OF WORK:		
Worked in county of residence	14,044	101,118,449
Worked outside county of residence	1,303	38,136,586
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK:		
Less than 10 minutes	4,898	18,832,538
10 to 14 minutes	3,163	19,299,572
15 to 19 minutes	2,395	20,718,310
20 to 24 minutes	1,942	19,588,462
25 to 29 minutes	539	8,070,188
30 to 34 minutes	793	17,862,104
35 to 39 minutes	181	3,627,253
40 to 44 minutes	119	4,802,466
45 to 59 minutes	235	9,995,400
60 or more minutes	428	10,699,018
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	16	25

Percent of Total

PLACE OF WORK:		
Worked in county of residence	91.5%	72.6%
Worked outside county of residence	8.5%	27.4%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK:		
Less than 10 minutes	31.9%	13.5%
10 to 14 minutes	20.6%	13.9%
15 to 19 minutes	15.6%	14.9%
20 to 24 minutes	12.7%	14.1%
25 to 29 minutes	3.5%	5.8%
30 to 34 minutes	5.2%	12.8%
35 to 39 minutes	1.2%	2.6%
40 to 44 minutes	0.8%	3.4%
45 to 59 minutes	1.5%	7.2%
60 or more minutes	2.8%	7.7%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people that worked outside the county of residence (27.4%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (8.5%).



■ Worked in county of residence ■ Worked outside county of residence

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are commuting patterns?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes workers who do not work from home by place of work and by travel time to work.

Place of Work: The values reported under "place of work" describe the number of workers that live in the selected geographic area who worked either in or outside the county they live in. If the selected geography is not a county, the workers may or may not work within the selected geography. For example, for the city of Phoenix, the data reported for "Worked in county of residence" describes the number of city of Phoenix residents that worked in Maricopa County (but not necessarily within the city of Phoenix).

Why is it important?

High rates of out-commuting are more common in non-metro areas, and in parts of the U.S. where communities are closer together.

Economic development is sometimes affected by commuting in unanticipated ways: strategies aimed at increasing jobs in a community will not necessarily mean jobs for residents. Conversely, creating job opportunities for residents does not always require bringing jobs into that community.

High out-commuting rates can also separate tax revenues from demands for services, complicating fiscal planning for local governments. "Bedroom communities," those with high levels of out-commuting, may struggle to provide social services, housing, and water and sewer facilities without an adequate source of revenue. Higher levels and longer distance of commuting likely indicate a housing-job imbalance. This can result from unaffordable housing prices or other residential constraints.

Methods

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Additional Resources

Aldrich, L., Beale, B. and K. Kasse. 1997. Commuting and the Economic Functions of Small Towns and Places. Rural Development Perspectives 12(3). <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/RDP/RDP697/RDP697e.pdf>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

How is income distributed?

This page describes the distribution of household income.

Household Income Distribution, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Per Capita Income (2010 \$s)	\$18,267	\$27,334
Median Household Income^ (2010 \$s)	\$34,174	\$51,914
Total Households	13,991	114,235,996
Less than \$10,000	1,658	8,274,388
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,311	6,294,748
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,412	12,340,738
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,752	12,043,840
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,308	16,132,902
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,087	21,201,711
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,135	14,097,295
\$100,000 to \$149,999	959	14,065,756
\$150,000 to \$199,999	160	4,993,775
\$200,000 or more	209	4,790,843
Gini Coefficient^	0.46	0.47

Percent of Total

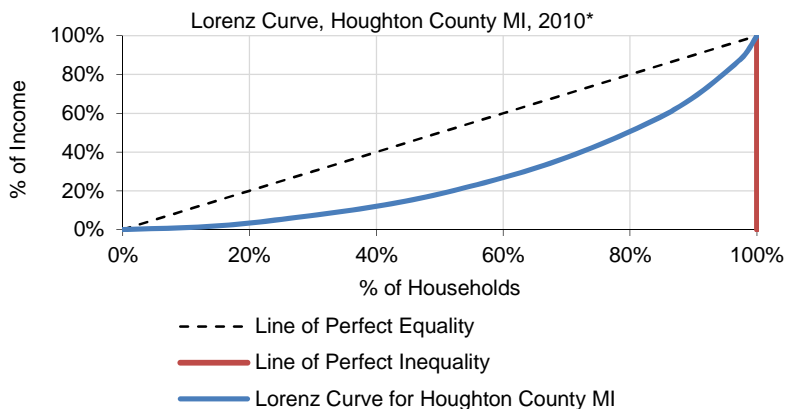
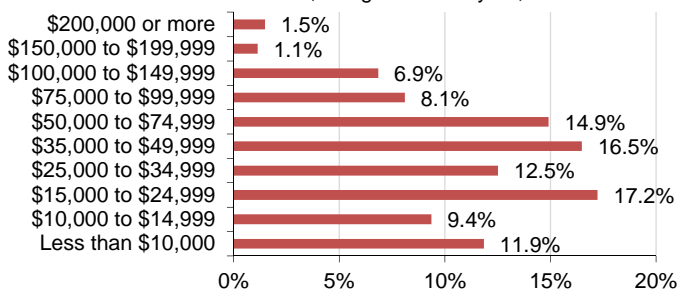
Less than \$10,000	11.9%	7.2%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	9.4%	5.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	17.2%	10.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	12.5%	10.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16.5%	14.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	14.9%	18.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8.1%	12.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	6.9%	12.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1.1%	4.4%
\$200,000 or more	1.5%	4.2%

^ Median Household Income and Gini Coefficient are not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the income category in the Houghton County MI with the most households was \$15,000 to \$24,999 (17.2% of households). The income category with the fewest households was \$150,000 to \$199,999 (1.1% of households).
- In the 2006-2010 period, the bottom 40% of households in the Houghton County MI accumulated approximately 10.6% of total income, and the top 20% of households accumulated approximately 52.2% of total income.
- In the 2006-2010 period, Houghton County, MI had the most equal income distribution between high and low income households (Gini coef. of 0.46) and the U.S. had the least equal income distribution (Gini coef. of 0.47).

Household Income Distribution, Houghton County MI, 2010*



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

How is income distributed?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the distribution of household income.

Per Capita Income: Total personal income divided by total population of an area.

Household: A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Gini Coefficient: provides a summary value of the inequality of income distribution. A value of 0 represents perfect equality and a value of 1 represents perfect inequality. The lower the Gini coefficient, the more equal the income distribution.

Lorenz Curve: a graphic representation comparing income distribution in the geography selected to the hypothetical lines of perfect equality and perfect inequality. Every point on the Lorenz curve can be used to develop statements such as "the bottom ___% of households have ___% of all income," or "the top ___% of households have ___% of all income."

Why is it important?

For public land managers, one of the important considerations of proposed management actions is whether low income populations could experience disproportionately high and adverse effects of proposed management actions. Understanding income differences within and between geographies helps to highlight areas where the population or a sub-population may be experiencing economic hardship.

The distribution of income can help to highlight several important aspects of economic well-being. A large number of households in the lower end of income distribution indicates economic hardship. A bulge in the middle distribution can be interpreted as the size of the middle class. A figure that shows a proportionally large number of households at both extremes indicates a geography characterized by "haves" and "have-nots."

Income distribution has always been a central concern of economic theory and economic policy. Classical economists were mainly concerned with the distribution of income between the main factors of production, land, labor, and capital. Modern economists have also addressed this issue, but have been more concerned with the distribution of income across individuals and households.

According to the Census Bureau, "Researchers believe that changes in the labor market and... household composition affected the long-run increase in income inequality. The wage distribution has become considerably more unequal with workers at the top experiencing real wage gains and those at the bottom real wage losses... At the same time, long-run changes in society's living arrangements have taken place also tending to exacerbate household income differences. For example, divorces, marital separations, births out of wedlock, and the increasing age at first marriage have led to a shift away from married-couple households to single-parent families and nonfamily households. Since non-married-couple households tend to have lower income and less equally distributed income than other types of households... changes in household composition have been associated with growing income inequality."

Methods

While the Census Bureau does not have an official definition of the "middle class," it does derive several measures related to the distribution of income and income inequality. Two standard measures of income equality are the Lorenz Curve and the Gini Coefficient. Mean values for each cohort were used to calculate total income, in the case of the top income cohort, income was assumed to be \$250,000, a value which tends to yield lower than actual values for income disparity. For details on how to calculate, see Additional Resources below.

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service published a useful article on metro and non-metro income levels and inequality. McLaughlin, Diane K. "Income Inequality in America." 2002. Rural America. Vol. 17(2). It is available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ruralamerica/ra172/ra172c.pdf>.

For useful remarks and scholarly references on the level and distribution of economic well-being, see Federal Reserve System Chairman Ben S. Bernanke's speech on February 6, 2007, available at: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/Bernanke20070206a.htm>.

For a helpful definition and description of the Lorenz Curve and Gini Coefficient see: <http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.php?lid=885&type=educator>.

For source material on how the Gini Coefficient and Lorenz Curve were computed see: <https://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AXe2E1Mm09WIZGhzaxDRfMjUzZ25nMjdkZzY&hl=en>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.
Study Guide

What are poverty levels?

This page describes the number of individuals and families living below the poverty line.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Poverty, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
People	33,065	296,141,149
Families	8,117	76,254,318
People Below Poverty	7,378	40,917,513
Families below poverty	993	7,685,345

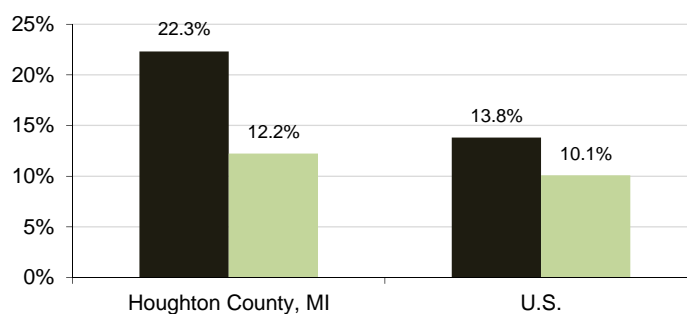
Percent of Total

People Below Poverty	22.3%	13.8%
Families below poverty	12.2%	10.1%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, Houghton County, MI had the highest estimated percent of individuals living below poverty (22.3%), and the U.S. had the lowest (13.8%).
- In the 2006-2010 period, Houghton County, MI had the highest estimated percent of families living below poverty (12.2%), and the U.S. had the lowest (10.1%).

Individuals and Families Below Poverty, 2010*



■ People Below Poverty ■ Families below poverty

Percent Below Poverty Level by Age & Family Type~, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
People	22.3%	13.8%
Under 18 years	21.4%	19.2%
65 years and older	10.3%	9.5%
Families	12.2%	10.1%
Families with related children < 18 years	20.7%	15.7%
Married couple families	7.5%	4.9%
with children < 18 years	12.5%	7.0%
Female householder, no husband present	39.1%	28.9%
with children < 18 years	54.3%	37.4%

~Percent below poverty level by age and family type is calculated by dividing the number of people by demographic in poverty by the total population of that demographic.

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are poverty levels?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of individuals and families living below the poverty line.

Family: A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Why is it important?

Poverty is an important indicator of economic well-being. For public land managers, understanding the extent of poverty is important for several reasons. First, people with limited income may have different needs, values, and attitudes as they relate to public lands. Second, proposed activities on public lands may need to be analyzed in the context of whether people who are economically disadvantaged could experience disproportionately high and adverse effects.

Poverty rates are often reported in aggregate, which can hide important differences. The bottom table shows poverty for various types of individuals and families. This is important because aggregate poverty rates (for example, families below poverty) may hide some important information (for example, the poverty rate for single mothers with children).

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

For more information on rural poverty, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Briefing Room, "Rural Income, Poverty, and Welfare: High Poverty Counties" available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/IncomePovertyWelfare/HighPoverty>.

The University of Michigan's National Poverty Center has a range of resources on poverty in the United States. See: www.npc.umich.edu/poverty.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Environmental Protection Agency environmental justice resources are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

What are poverty levels?

This page describes the number of people living in poverty by race and ethnicity. It also shows the share of all people living in poverty by race and ethnicity, and the share of each race and ethnicity living in poverty.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify.

Ethnicity: There are two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Poverty by Race and Ethnicity[^], 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population (all races) in Poverty	7,378	40,917,513
White alone	6,724	24,378,350
Black or African American alone	36	9,180,061
American Indian alone	74	631,614
Asian alone	436	1,580,505
Native Hawaiian & Oth.Pacific Is. alone	20	78,712
Some other race	0	3,803,254
Two or more races	88	1,265,017
All Ethnicities in Poverty		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	89	10,470,990
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7,289	30,446,523

Percent of Total (Total = All individuals in poverty)

White alone	91.1%	59.6%
Black or African American alone	0.5%	22.4%
American Indian alone	1.0%	1.5%
Asian alone	5.9%	3.9%
Native Hawaiian & Oth.Pacific Is. alone	0.3%	0.2%
Some other race	0.0%	9.3%
Two or more races	1.2%	3.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1.2%	25.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	98.8%	74.4%

[^] Percent of total population in poverty by race and ethnicity is calculated by dividing the number of people in poverty in each racial or ethnic category by the total population.

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

Percent of People by Race and Ethnicity Who Are Below Poverty~, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
White alone	21.3%	11.1%
Black or African American alone	61.0%	25.3%
American Indian alone	32.0%	26.4%
Asian alone	53.4%	11.3%
Native Hawaiian & Oceanic alone	100.0%	16.5%
Some other race alone	0.0%	23.4%
Two or more races alone	34.8%	17.8%
Hispanic or Latino alone	23.6%	22.4%
Non-Hispanic/Latino alone	21.3%	9.6%

~Poverty prevalence by race and ethnicity is calculated by dividing the number of people by race in poverty by the total population of that race.

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are poverty levels?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of people living in poverty by race and ethnicity. It also shows the share of all people living in poverty by race and ethnicity, and the share of each race and ethnicity living in poverty.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify.

Ethnicity: There are two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Why is it important?

For public land managers, understanding whether different races and ethnicities are affected by poverty can be important. People with limited income and from different races and ethnicities may have different needs, values, and attitudes as they relate to public lands. In addition, proposed activities on public lands may need to be analyzed in the context of whether minorities and people who are economically disadvantaged could experience disproportionately high and adverse effects.

Methods

The Census Bureau uses the federal government's official poverty definition. According to the Census: "Families and persons are classified as below poverty if their total family income or unrelated individual income was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder, and number of related children under 18 present" (see below for poverty level thresholds).

The poverty thresholds are updated every year by the Census Bureau to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The poverty thresholds are the same for all parts of the country. They are not adjusted for regional, state or local variations in the cost of living. The specific thresholds used for tabulation of income for particular years are shown at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld.html>.

Race categories include both racial and national-origin groups. The concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic origin. Percentages for the various race categories add to 100 percent, and should not be combined with the percent Hispanic.

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

The University of Michigan's National Poverty Center hosts a body of research on race and ethnicity as they relate to poverty. See: <http://npc.umich.edu/research/ethnicity>.

The U.S. Census Bureau briefing on "Poverty Areas" shows that Blacks and Hispanics are disproportionately affected by poverty. "Four times as many Blacks and three times as many Hispanics lived in poverty areas than lived outside them." For more information, see: <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/statbriefs/povarea.html>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

What are the components of household earnings?

This page describes household earnings by income source and mean household earnings by source.

Number of Households Receiving Earnings, by Source, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total households:	13,991	114,235,996
Labor earnings	10,632	91,045,812
Social Security (SS)	4,639	31,387,932
Retirement income	2,847	19,998,762
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	425	4,626,547
Cash public assistance income	454	2,816,127
Food Stamp/SNAP	1,819	10,583,720

Percent of Total[^]

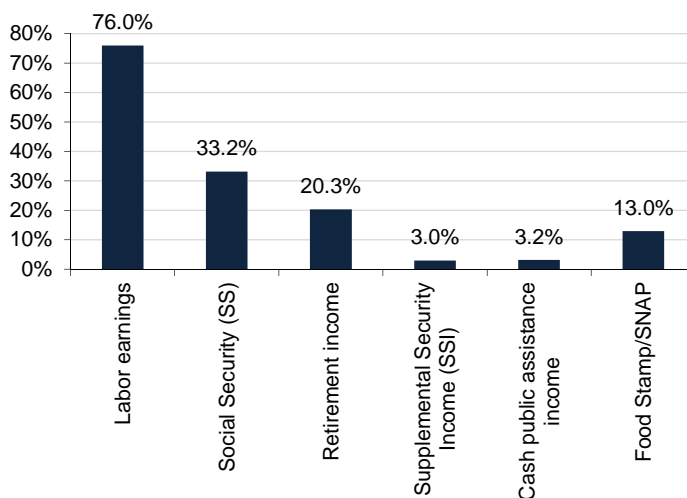
Labor earnings	76.0%	79.7%
Social Security (SS)	33.2%	27.5%
Retirement income	20.3%	17.5%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	3.0%	4.0%
Cash public assistance income	3.2%	2.5%
Food Stamp/SNAP	13.0%	9.3%

[^] Total may add to more than 100% due to households receiving more than 1 source of income.

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the highest estimated percent of public assistance in the Houghton County MI was in the form of Social Security (SS) (33.2%), and the lowest was in the form of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (3.0%).

Percent of Households Receiving Earnings, by Source, 2010*



Mean Annual Household Earnings by Source, 2010 (2010 \$s)

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Mean earnings	\$44,268	\$71,902
Mean Social Security income	\$15,091	\$15,495
Mean retirement income	\$17,396	\$21,489
Mean Supplemental Security Income	\$7,472	\$8,221
Mean cash public assistance income	\$1,519	\$3,553

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are the components of household earnings?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes household earnings by source.

Labor Earnings: Refers to households that receive wage or salary income and net income from self-employment.

Social Security: Refers to households that receive income that includes Social Security pensions and survivor benefits, permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration before deductions for medical insurance, and railroad retirement insurance. It does not include Medicare reimbursement.

Retirement income: Consists of families that receive income from: (1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer; labor union; or federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (2) disability income from companies or unions; federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and (4) regular income from IRA and Keogh plans. It does not include Social Security income.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Refers to households that receive assistance by the Social Security Administration that guarantees a minimum level of income for needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals.

Cash Public Assistance Income: Are households that receive public assistance that includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). It does not include separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or noncash benefits such as Food Stamps.

Food Stamps/SNAP: Refers to households that receive coupons or cards that can be used to purchase food. This program was recently renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). ACS does not report mean dollar amounts for this item.

Methods

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Why is this important?

Earnings are not the only source of income, and for many families and communities a significant portion of income can be in the form of additional sources, such as retirement and Social Security. While some payments may be an indication of an aging population or an influx of retirees (retirement payments), other measures (for example, SSI or Food Stamps) are an indication of economic hardship.

Additional Resources

For a glossary of terms used in ACS, see:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2009_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Social Characteristics

What are education and enrollment levels?

This page describes educational attainment and school enrollment.

Educational Attainment, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population 25 yrs or older	21,258	199,726,659
No high school degree	2,154	29,898,483
High school graduate	19,104	169,828,176
Associates degree	1,758	15,021,920
Bachelor's degree or higher	5,709	55,726,999
Bachelor's degree	3,475	35,148,428
Graduate or professional	2,234	20,578,571

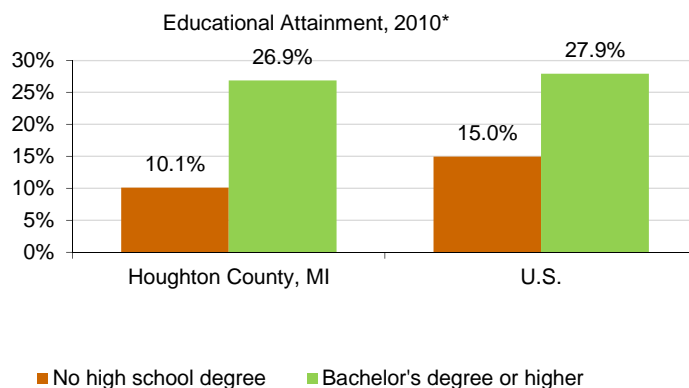
Percent of Total

No high school degree	10.1%	15.0%
High school graduate	89.9%	85.0%
Associates degree	8.3%	7.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	26.9%	27.9%
Bachelor's degree	16.3%	17.6%
Graduate or professional	10.5%	10.3%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher (27.9%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (26.9%).

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people over the age of 25 with no high school degree (15.0%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (10.1%).



School Enrollment, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Population over 3 years old:	35,070	291,985,651
Enrolled in school:	12,651	80,939,002
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	355	4,924,145
Enrolled in kindergarten	450	4,113,849
Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 4	1,532	16,091,724
Enrolled in grade 5 to grade 8	1,645	16,487,084
Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12	1,711	17,532,181
Enrolled in college, undergraduate years	5,951	17,941,769
Graduate or professional school	1,007	3,848,250
Not enrolled in school	22,419	211,046,649

Percent of Total

Enrolled in school:	36.1%	27.7%
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	1.0%	1.7%
Enrolled in kindergarten	1.3%	1.4%
Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 4	4.4%	5.5%
Enrolled in grade 5 to grade 8	4.7%	5.6%
Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12	4.9%	6.0%
Enrolled in college, undergraduate years	17.0%	6.1%
Graduate or professional school	2.9%	1.3%
Not enrolled in school	63.9%	72.3%

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are education and enrollment levels?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes levels of educational attainment.

Educational Attainment: This refers to the level of education completed by people 25 years and over in terms of the highest degree or the highest level of schooling completed.

School Enrollment: The ACS defines people as enrolled in school if when the survey was conducted they were attending a public or private school or college at any time during the three months prior to the time of interview. People enrolled in vocational, technical, or business school such as post secondary vocational, trade, hospital school, and on job training were not reported as enrolled in school.

Why is it important?

Education is one of the most important indicators of the potential for economic success, and lack of education is closely linked to poverty. Studies show that geographies with a higher than average educated workforce grow faster, have higher incomes, and suffer less during economic downturns than other geographies. See "Additional Resources" below for more information.

For public land managers, understanding the differences in education levels can highlight whether certain people in geographic areas might experience disproportionately high and adverse effects of particular management actions. It also can help to identify how communication and outreach efforts could be tailored to different audiences.

School enrollment is an important indicator of the number of dependents in a community that are not of working age, access to education, and potential for future growth. Some government agencies also use this information for funding allocations.

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

For information on the relationship between level of education, earnings, year-round employment, and unemployment rates, see:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' web resource: http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm.

U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 publication "The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings," available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf>.

Card, David (1999). "The Causal Effect of Education on Earnings" in Orley Ashenfelter and David Card, eds., *Handbook of Labor Economics*, vol. 3A. New York: Elsevier, pp. 1801-63.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Social Characteristics

What languages are spoken?

This page measures the primary language people speak at home.

Language Spoken at Home: The language currently used by respondents five years and over at home, either "English only" or a non-English language which is used in addition to English or in place of English.

Language Spoken at Home, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Population 5 yrs or older	34,144	283,833,852
Speak only English	31,745	226,738,479
Speak a language other than English	1,699	55,230,013
Spanish or Spanish Creole	252	35,470,765
Other Indo-European languages	921	10,393,671
Asian and Pacific Island languages	515	8,902,093
Other languages	11	463,484
Speak English less than "very well"	587	24,067,186

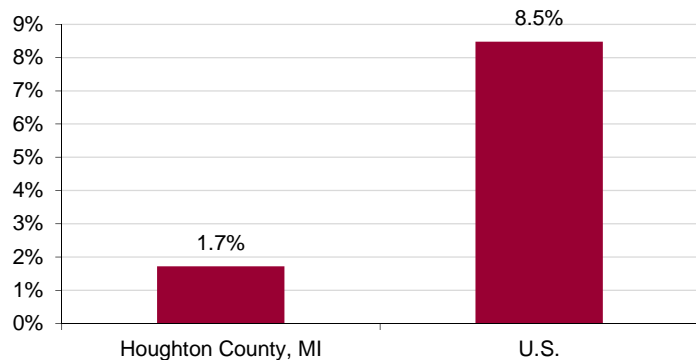
Percent of Total

Speak only English	93.0%	79.9%
Speak a language other than English	5.0%	19.5%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	0.7%	12.5%
Other Indo-European languages	2.7%	3.7%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	1.5%	3.1%
Other languages	0.0%	0.2%
Speak English less than "very well"	1.7%	8.5%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people that spoke English less than 'very well' (8.5%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (1.7%).

Percent of Population that Speaks English Less Than "Very Well", 2010*



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What languages are spoken?

What do we measure on this page?

This page measures the primary language people speak at home.

Language Spoken at Home: The language currently used by respondents five years and over at home, either "English only" or a non-English language which is used in addition to English or in place of English.

Why is it important?

For public land managers who are trying to communicate with citizens of communities adjacent to public lands, it is important to know whether a significant portion of that population has trouble speaking English. If this is the case, public outreach, meetings, plans, and implementation may need to be conducted in multiple languages.

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

The Modern Language Association has developed an online mapping tool that shows languages spoken for most geographies in the United States. This tool is available at: http://www.mla.org/map_single.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

What are the main housing characteristics?

This page describes whether housing is occupied or vacant, for rent or seasonally occupied, and the year built.

Housing Characteristics, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Total Housing Units	18,575	130,038,080
Occupied	13,991	114,235,996
Vacant	4,584	15,802,084
For rent	232	3,286,932
Rented, not occupied	56	601,338
For sale only	204	1,886,522
Sold, not occupied	0	639,273
For seasonal, recreational, occasional use	2,630	4,683,380
For migrant workers	0	34,385
Other vacant	1,462	4,670,254
Year Built		
Built 2005 or later	341	5,273,880
Built 2000 to 2004	799	11,282,610
Built 1990 to 1999	1,588	18,316,301
Built 1980 to 1989	1,423	18,473,041
Built 1970 to 1979	2,028	21,353,306
Built 1960 to 1969	1,366	14,808,721
Built 1959 or earlier	11,030	40,530,221
Median year structure built[^]	1945	1975

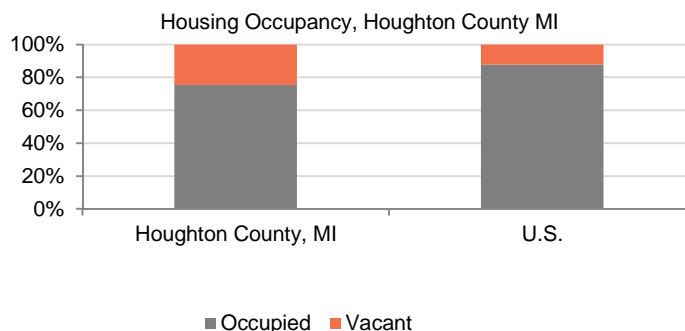
Percent of Total

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Occupancy		
Occupied	75.3%	87.8%
Vacant	24.7%	12.2%
For rent	1.2%	2.5%
Rented, not occupied	0.3%	0.5%
For sale only	1.1%	1.5%
Sold, not occupied	0.0%	0.5%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	14.2%	3.6%
For migrant workers	0.0%	0.0%
Other vacant	7.9%	3.6%
Year Built		
Built 2005 or later	1.8%	4.1%
Built 2000 to 2004	4.3%	8.7%
Built 1990 to 1999	8.5%	14.1%
Built 1980 to 1989	7.7%	14.2%
Built 1970 to 1979	10.9%	16.4%
Built 1960 to 1969	7.4%	11.4%
Built 1959 or earlier	59.4%	31.2%

[^] Median year structure built is not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- In the 2006-2010 period, Houghton County, MI had the highest estimated percent of the vacant housing (24.7%), and the U.S. had the lowest (12.2%).



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are the main housing characteristics?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes whether housing is occupied or vacant, for rent or seasonally occupied, and the year built.

Rent: The number of homes for rent was defined as occupied housing units that were for rent, vacant housing units that were for rent, and vacant units rented but not occupied at the time of interview.

For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use: Refers to vacant units used or intended for use only in certain seasons or for weekends or other occasional use throughout the year.

For Migrant Workers: refers to housing units intended for occupancy by migratory workers employed in farm work during the crop season.

Why is it important?

Vacancy status is an indicator of the housing market and provides information on the stability and quality of housing for certain areas. The data is used to assess the demand for housing, to identify housing turnover within areas, and to better understand the population within the housing market over time. These data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of persons at different economic levels.

Seasonal or recreational homes (i.e., "second homes") are often an indicator of the desirability of a place for recreation and tourism. This could also be used as an indicator of recreational and scenic amenities, which can be one of the economic contributions of public lands.

While the late 1990s and early 2000s were a period of rapid home development throughout the country, there have been other periods when housing grew at a fast rate (the late 1970s, for example, in some parts of the country). Understanding the relative growth rates of housing is relevant for public lands managers in the context of the wildland-urban interface, and as an indicator of overall economic growth. The year the home was built also provides information on the age of the housing stock, which can be used to forecast future demand of services, such as energy consumption and fire protection.

Housing that is classified as available for migrant workers can be used as an indicator of a certain type of economic activity, in particular crop agriculture.

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; *ORANGE ITALICS* indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

For a glossary of terms used in ACS, see:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2009_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

How affordable is housing?

This page describes whether housing is affordable for homeowners and renters.

Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income, 2010*

	Houghton County, MI	U.S.
Owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage	5,497	51,696,841
Monthly cost <15% of household income	1,292	8,731,234
Monthly cost >30% of household income	1,650	19,344,421
Specified renter-occupied units	4,203	38,146,346
Gross rent <15% of household income	455	4,324,758
Gross rent >30% of household income	2,480	17,937,957
Median monthly mortgage cost[^]	\$631	\$1,126
Median gross rent[^]	\$547	\$841

Percent of Total

Monthly cost <15% of household income	23.5%	16.9%
Monthly cost >30% of household income	30.0%	37.4%
Gross rent <15% of household income	10.8%	11.3%
Gross rent >30% of household income	59.0%	47.0%

[^] Median monthly mortgage cost and median gross rent are not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

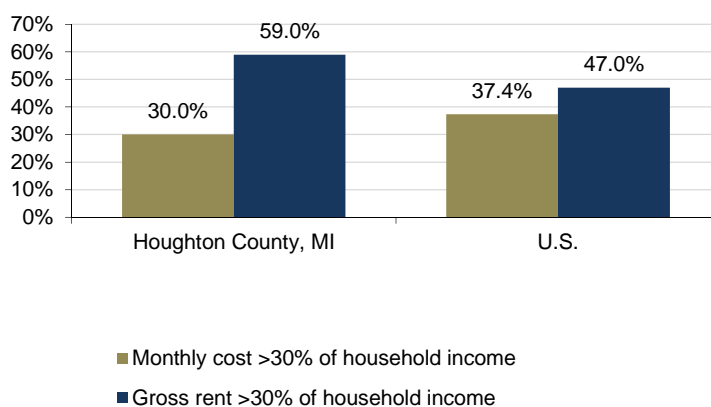
- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of owner-occupied households where greater than 30% of household income was spent on mortgage costs (37.4%), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (30.0%).

- In the 2006-2010 period, Houghton County, MI had the highest estimated percent of renter-occupied households where greater than 30% of household income was spent on gross rent (59.0%), and the U.S. had the lowest (47.0%).

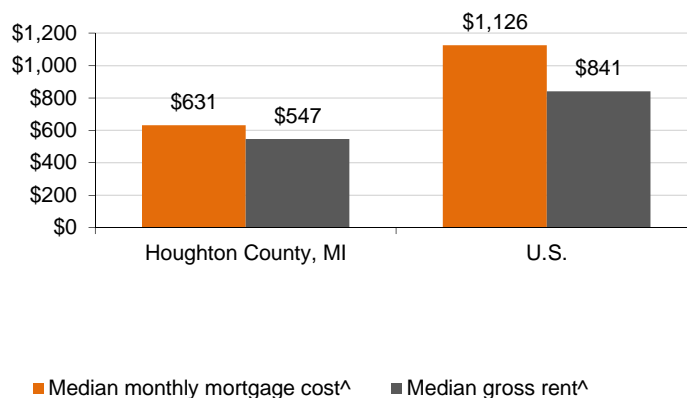
- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated monthly mortgage costs for owner-occupied homes (\$1,126), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (\$631).

- In the 2006-2010 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated monthly gross rent for renter-occupied homes (\$841), and Houghton County, MI had the lowest (\$547).

Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income, 2010*



Median Monthly Mortgage Costs and Gross Rent, 2010*



Study Guide and Supplemental Information

How affordable is housing?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes whether housing is affordable for homeowners and renters.

Owner-Occupied Housing Unit: A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for.

Renter-Occupied Housing Unit: All occupied units which are not owner-occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter-occupied.

Household: A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Monthly Costs (owner-occupied): The sum of payment for mortgages, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

Gross Rent: The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid for by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else).

Why is it important?

An important indicator of economic hardship is whether housing is affordable. This page measures housing affordability in terms of the share of household income that is devoted to mortgage and related costs (for homeowners) and rent and related costs (for renters). The income share devoted to housing that is below 15 percent is a good proxy for highly affordable, while the income share devoted to housing that is above 30 percent is a good proxy for unaffordable.

Methods

The lowest ownership costs and gross rent share of household income reported in ACS is 15 percent. Many government agencies define as excessive (or unaffordable) housing costs that exceed 30 percent of monthly household income.

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Housing Survey has additional information on housing and housing affordability. See: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs.html>.

For housing prices, for-profit online real-estate services may have the most recent price information. See, for example, www.zillow.com.

For current calculations on housing affordability, see the National Association of Realtors' Housing Affordability Index, available at: <http://www.realtor.org/research/research/housinginx>.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Benchmarks

How do demographic, income, and social characteristics in the region compare to the U.S.?

This page compares key demographic, income, and social indicators from the region to the United States.

Indicators	Houghton County MI	U.S.	Houghton County MI vs. U.S.
Demographics	Population Growth (% change, 2000-2010*)	0.5%	8.0%
	Median Age (2010*)	33.1	36.9
	Percent Population White Alone (2010*)	94.7%	74.0%
	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino (2010*)	1.2%	15.7%
	Percent Population American Indian or Alaska Native (2010*)	0.7%	0.8%
	Percent of Population 'Baby Boomers' (2010*)	23.6%	25.9%
Income	Median Household Income (2010*)	\$34,174	\$51,914
	Per Capita Income (2010*)	\$18,267	\$27,334
	Percent Individuals Below Poverty (2010*)	22.3%	13.8%
	Percent Families Below Poverty (2010*)	12.2%	10.1%
	Percent of Households with Retirement and Social Security Income (2010*)	53.5%	45.0%
	Percent of Households with Public Assistance Income (2010*)	19.3%	15.8%
Structure	Percent Population 25 Years or Older without High School Degree (2010*)	10.1%	15.0%
	Percent Population 25 Years or Older with Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2010*)	26.9%	27.9%
	Percent Population That Speak English Less Than 'Very Well' (2010*)	2.4%	8.5%
	Percent of Houses that are Seasonal Homes (2010*)	14.2%	3.6%
	Owner-Occupied Homes where Greater than 30% of Household Income Spent on Mortgage (2010*)	30.0%	37.4%
	Renter-Occupied Homes where Greater than 30% of Household Income Spent on Gross Rent (2010*)	59.0%	47.0%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2006-2010 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

- The Houghton County MI is most different from the U.S. in Percent of Houses that are Seasonal Homes (2010*), Population Growth (% change, 2000-2010*), and Percent Population Hispanic or Latino (2010*).

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

How do demographic, income, and social characteristics in the region compare to the U.S.?

What do we measure on this page?

This page compares key demographic, income, and social indicators from the region to the United States.

The term "benchmark" in this report should not be construed as having the same meaning as in the National Forest Management Act.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The Office of Management and Budget revised the standards in 1997 for how the Federal government collects and presents data on race and ethnicity.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Baby Boomers: Baby boomers are defined as having been born between 1946-1964. The reported percent of population that are "baby boomers" has some associated error since ACS generally reports age classes in 5-year increments (55 to 59 years, 60 to 64 years, etc.).

Social Security: Refers to households who receive income that includes Social Security pensions and survivor benefits, permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration before deductions for medical insurance, and railroad retirement insurance. It does not include Medicare reimbursement.

Retirement Income: Consists of families that receive income from: (1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer; labor union; or federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (2) disability income from companies or unions; federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and (4) regular income from IRA and Keogh plans. It does not include Social Security income.

Why is it important?

This page shows a quick comparison of a number of indicators covered in this report to highlight where the region is different from the U.S.

It also offers an at-a-glance view of whether groups of indicators are atypical compared to the U.S. For example, this page may show that a geography has an older population, relatively unaffordable housing, and difficulties communicating in English. In combination, these indicators can help public land managers identify groups of people and aspects of hardship that can aid with outreach and consideration of whether the impacts of land management actions could have disproportionately high and adverse impacts on disadvantaged people or places.

Methods

The ratio of the selected region to the U.S. is a percentage calculated by dividing the figure from the region by the figure from the U.S.

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Median Age, Median Household Income and Per Capita Income are not calculated for multi-geography regions due to data availability.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Data Sources

EPS-HDT uses published statistics from government sources that are available to the public and cover the entire country. All data used in EPS-HDT can be readily verified by going to the original source. The contact information for databases used in this profile is:

- **2000 Decennial U.S. Census**

Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.
<http://www.census.gov>
Tel. 303-969-7750

- **American Community Survey**

Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.
<http://www.census.gov>
Tel. 303-969-7750
The on-line ACS data retrieval tool is available at:
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Methods

EPS-HDT core approaches

EPS-HDT is designed to focus on long-term trends across a range of important measures. Trend analysis provides a more comprehensive view of changes than spot data for select years. We encourage users to focus on major trends rather than absolute numbers.

EPS-HDT displays detailed industry-level data to show changes in the composition of the economy over time and the mix of industries at points in time.

EPS-HDT employs cross-sectional benchmarking, comparing smaller geographies such as counties to larger regions, states, and the nation, to give a sense of relative performance.

EPS-HDT allows users to aggregate data for multiple geographies, such as multi-Regions, to accommodate a flexible range of user-defined areas of interest and to allow for more sophisticated cross-sectional comparisons.

About the American Community Survey (ACS)

With the exception of some 2000 Decennial Census data used on pages 1-3, all other data used in this report is based on the American Community Survey (ACS) of the Census Bureau.

The ACS is a nation-wide survey conducted every year by the Census Bureau that provides current demographic, social, economic, and housing information about communities every year—information that until recently was only available once a decade. The ACS is not the same as the decennial census, which is conducted every ten years (the ACS has replaced the detailed, Census 2000 long-form questionnaire).

Data used in this report are 5-year ACS estimates. More so than the 1 or 3-year estimates, the 5-year estimates are consistently available for small geographies, such as towns. We show 5-year estimates for all geographies since data obtained using the same survey technique is ideal for cross-geography comparisons. The disadvantage is that multiyear estimates cannot be used to describe any particular year in the period, only what the average value is over the full period.

Because ACS is based on a survey, it is subject to error. The Census Bureau reports the accuracy of the data by providing margins of error (MOE) for every data point. In this report, we alert the user to the data accuracy using color-coded text in the tables: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation (CV) < 12%; **ORANGE ITALICS** indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD ITALICS** indicates a CV > 40%.

The CV is a measure of relative error in the estimate, and is calculated directly from the MOE as the ratio of the standard error to the estimate itself. To get the standard error, the MOE is divided by 1.645 (for a 90 percent confidence interval). The CV is expressed as a percentage. For example, if you have an estimate of 60 +/- 20, the CV for the estimate is 20.3 percent. This estimate should be used with caution, since the sampling error represents more than 20 percent of the estimate.