## Demographic Trends in Michigan

Eric Guthrie, Michigan’s State Demographer<br>Michigan Library Association, Executive Summit<br>June 2, 2017

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## Schedule

- Introduction
- State population trend
- How populations change
- Characteristics of library patrons:
- Age distribution
- Income and poverty
- Educational attainment
- Race/ethnicity
- Rural/urban
- Conclusions
- Michigan's liaison with the U.S. Census Bureau for most programs including population estimates, projections, data dissemination and the decennial census
- Advisor to state leaders, businesses, non-profits, the media, and the general public on issues related to population and the Census
- Lead for the State Data Center (SDC)


## Michigan's Population



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Projected Population for Michigan


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## Why Does It Matter?

- There are only three things that affect a population size over time:
- Births
- Deaths
- Migration



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## Who Uses the Library?

| Women and Those With Higher Levels of Education are More Likely to Have Used Library Last Year |  |  |  |  |
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| Source: Pew Research Centersurvey March 17-April 12, 2015. N=2,004 Americans ages 16 and older PEW RESEARCH CENTER |  |  |  |  |

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## Michigan's Population Structure

1990


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## Michigan's Population Structure

2015


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## Michigan's Population Structure



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## Michigan and the U.S Structure in 2015



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- Michigan has been experiencing negative net migration in many counties and in the state overall
- Michigan is an aging state, and that high proportion of aging individuals is actually what will be driving medium term population increases
- Migration will not be a panacea for all communities. This will be an employment based migration, so places that have been struggling with unemployment will likely continue to struggle with migration
- These in-migrants will have a variety of backgrounds, but will most likely be younger and will bring children or have children when they arrive
- The fertility of these in-migrants will have an effect on the state's age structure moving forward.


## County Age Distribution



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Region 1 -- 2015


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Region 2-- 2015


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Region 3 -- 2015


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Region 4 -- 2015


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Region 5 -- 2015


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Region 6 -- 2015


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Region 7 -- 2015


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Region 8 -- 2015


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Region 9 -- 2015


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Region 10 -- 2015


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## Regional Population Structure

- Population structures vary widely across the state
- Areas in the northern LP and UP tend to have much higher median ages and "top-heavy" pyramids
- The generally older population of the state as a whole will contribute to future population increases by freeing up job opportunities
- Places with large college/university populations are obvious in some of the pyramids
- The region that looks most like the state, from a structural perspective, is region 10, which makes sense when you consider that it accounts for nearly $40 \%$ of the state's total population


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## County Natural Change



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Areas with Negative Natural Change -- 2015


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Areas with Positive Natural Change -- 2015


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- Fertility is continuing on a long-term downward trend
- Many areas are experiencing negative natural change, meaning they have more deaths than births
- The areas with negative natural change also tend to be older, i.e. they have a higher median age and a larger proportion of the population over 65 years
- The areas with the highest proportion of families with children tend to be in the more populous areas of the state, i.e. south of the Saginaw Bay
- Areas with the highest proportions of the 65+ population are in the Northeast Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula.


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Percent Poverty
by Census Tract


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## Concentrated Poverty - Detroit Area



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Percent Poverty
by Census Tract


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## Concentrated Poverty - Ann Arbor



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## Concentrated Poverty - Lansing



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- Median household income is concentrated at higher levels in the southern parts of the Lower Peninsula
- There are large areas of low income in rural parts of the state, but the highest concentrations of poverty are in the urban areas of the state
- Special populations, like those in college and university towns, can confound the poverty data for definitional reasons
- Poverty exists in all parts of the state to some degree
- The context of the individual in poverty makes their experience of poverty vary and necessitates different approaches
- Rural versus urban poverty
- Youth versus elderly poverty, etc.


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- Levels of educational attainment vary widely across the state with a large proportion of the most highly educated clustering around postsecondary institutions and, more broadly, around population centers
- The median level of education is a high school diploma or equivalent
- Overall, $26.9 \%$ of the population 25 and over have a Bachelor's Degree or higher
- Areas in the Northwest LP show high levels of educational attainment, which in combination with their high median age point to possibly high numbers of retirees
- People with the highest levels of educational attainment tend to cluster in suburban areas


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- The state is overwhelmingly white at $76.9 \%$
- The state's next largest group is African Americans who make up nearly $14 \%$ of the state' population
- While being the state's second largest group, African Americans are concentrated in particular areas of the state, which tend to be the more urban parts of the state.
- Hispanic or Latinos are nearly 5\% of the state's population
- Hispanics or Latinos are much more dispersed throughout the state than are African Americans despite being only slightly larger than a third of the African American population.


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- Most of the state's population lives in urban areas, while most of the state's geographic area is rural and sparsely populated
- Urban and rural mean different things to different people and groups
- Metropolitan and Urban are not the same thing, and many areas in metropolitan areas are quite rural
- Rural is often defined by what it is not versus any intrinsic characteristic, e.g. rural is not urban
- Rural people drive long distances for good and services that may be just around the corner in an urban area
- Urbanization is increasing despite periodic "rural rebounds"


## What Other Factors Might Be Important?

- English Language Ability
- Disability Status
- Employment or Labor Force Status
- Multigenerational Families


## Pulling It Together

- There are opportunities and challenges across the state, fortunately data are available to help plan for many of the challenges
- The changes in the population over the next 10-20 years will be coming from migration and will have an effect on the population structures of all areas of the state
- We can't predict the future, but we can project from the current state, and when we do, we see an increasing population that is more diverse and connected


## Thank you

## Questions?

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