

Chapter 2.0 Population

2.1 Introduction

Population change is the primary component in tracking a community's past growth as well as forecasting future population trends. Population characteristics relate directly to housing, educational, community, recreational, health care, transportation, and future economic development needs. The growth and characteristics of population in a community are subject to changes in prevailing economic conditions. Such characteristics are presented throughout this chapter.

2.2 Population Trends

Republic, the community, began to take form concurrently with the mine it served. A map of the area dated 1871 shows one cabin in the forest and along the Michigamme River. This was likely the cabin built in 1870, by the geologist for the mine. A map of the same area dated 1872 shows both a mine and a small community. The population at that early time is not known, but the 1890 census shows the population of Republic and its ethnic communities, Park City, Swedetown, Finn Town and French Town to be 2,590. This fairly large population was documented at a time when transportation was largely by horse and rail. All of the needs of the populace had to be supplied in the town. By 1920 the population had slipped to 2,074 and by 1926 Cleveland Cliffs, faced with the cost of hauling ore a half mile up to the surface and the depletion of high quality ore, chose to close the mine.

The population of the Township has been on the decline since 1970, when the population was 1,442. The population, according to the 2000 Census is at 1,106. The population decline in the Township coincides with the closing of the Republic Mine in 1981.

Communities surrounding Republic Township have experienced a similar decline since 1960. Champion Township, the City of Ishpeming and the City of Negaunee have all experienced large population decreases since 1960. In contrast, each of the remaining townships in Marquette County has experienced a marked increase in population. Area township populations have increased due to an out-migration of residents from urban to rural areas that offer lower taxes, lower densities, larger lot sizes, lower development costs, a more rural lifestyle, and lower incidences of crime.

The trend of population growth for most townships that surround cities is not simply a local phenomenon. In major metropolitan areas this trend takes the form of migration from the city to its surrounding suburbs, while in smaller urban areas people are moving into surrounding rural areas. There are many reasons for this migration, including lower taxes and user fees, lower development costs, a desire for a more rural lifestyle, lower incidences of crime, desire for larger residential lots, etc. Over the past two decades, the population growth in most townships surrounding Upper Peninsula cities has been substantial.

Area population trends are illustrated in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Population Change, Selected Areas, 1960-2000							
Area	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1990- 2000	% Change 1960- 2000
Republic Twp.	1,417	1,442	1,390	1,170	1,106	-5.5	-21.9
Ishpeming Twp.	2,238	2,376	3,612	3,515	3,522	0.2	164.6
Champion Twp.	495	519	460	346	297	-14.2	-57.2
Ely Township	884	1,120	1,955	1,946	2,010	3.3	226.3
Ishpeming City	8,857	8,245	7,538	7,200	6,686	-7.1	-29.6
Marquette Twp.	1,880	1,703	2,669	2,757	3,286	19.2	321.3
Negaunee City	6,126	5,248	5,189	4,741	4,576	-3.5	-32.8
Negaunee Twp.	1,383	1,760	2,443	2,368	2,707	14.3	376.6
Powell Twp.	390	372	667	660	724	9.7	12.4
Tilden Twp.	922	883	1,044	1,010	1,003	-0.7	3.7
Marquette County	56,154	64,686	74,101	70,887	64,634	-8.8	37.1
Central U.P.	157,257	165,744	182,390	177,692	174,717	-1.7	13.1
Michigan	7,824,965	8,875,083	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	6.9	89.1
United States	179,323,175	203,302,031	226,542,199	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.2	113.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census for years cited

Population Change

Population change is the result of a combination of natural increase and migration. When births within a community within a period of time exceed deaths, a positive natural increase occurs. If deaths exceed births, a negative natural increase is the result. Communities with a relatively young population tend to have a high natural increase, due to a higher birth rate. Those communities with a large number of older people tend to have a small natural increase; a negative natural increase is uncommon.

Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into a community and the number of people moving out. Net migration is positive when more people move into an area than move out. Economically depressed areas often experience significant out-migration as residents leave in pursuit of employment opportunities elsewhere.

In Marquette County, births exceeded deaths in every decade from the 1960s to the 1990s. The net population decrease in Marquette County beginning in the 1980s can be explained by the large out-migration surpassing the County’s natural population increase. This information is presented in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2				
Components Of Population Change, Marquette County, 1960-2000				
	1960-69	1970-79	1980-1989	1990-1999
Live Births	13,733	12,781	11,558	7,445
Deaths	5,694	5,380	5,039	5,285
Natural Increase	8,039	7,401	6,519	2,160
Migration	493	2,014	-9,733	-10,709
Total Population Change	8,532	9,415	-3,214	-8,549

Source: Library of Michigan/LDDS, Dept. of History, Arts and Library

2.3 Age & Gender

According to data from the 2000 Census, the population of the Township is somewhat older than that of the county overall. The Township’s median age in 2000 was 47.6 years, over ten years older than Marquette County as a whole. The median age in the Township increased from 35.4 years in 1980 to 47.6 years in 2000. The median age in Republic Township is considerably higher than that of the county, the state and the nation. Table 2-4 presents comparative data regarding median age.

Table 2-3 Median Age, Selected Areas, 1980-2000				
Area	1980	1990	2000	% Change, 1980-2000
Republic Township	35.4	41.5	47.6	35.5
Marquette County	26.1	30.7	37.5	55.0
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5	35.0
United States	30.0	32.9	35.3	26.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau for years cited

The examination of a community's age structure is critical to sound decision making within a community. Persons ages five through 18 make up the school age portion of the population which is further divided into elementary, middle and high school age groups. The working age population is generally accepted as those from 16 to 65 years of age. Those persons 18 or older constitute the eligible voting population. Of course, not everyone between the ages of 16 and 64 is in the labor force, and not everyone 18 or older actually votes. However, this breakdown does give communities a sense of how their population is distributed for planning and comparative purposes.

In 2000 the age group of 65-74 years made up the largest portion of the Township's total population at 147 persons, or 13.3 percent. The elderly population, which is composed of those 65 years and older, made up nearly 25 percent of the population total. Among the older age groups, slight population increases have occurred despite a decline in the general population. Growth of the older segment of the population affects the types and costs of services offered by the Township and other providers.

An analysis of the information in Table 2-4 by age cohort provides a perspective on age distribution within the population. By studying the population fluctuations within this and other groups, it is possible to evaluate the important factors of in-migration and out-migration.

Table 2-6 Population by Age Groups, Selected Areas, 2000							
Age	Republic Township			Marquette County		State of Michigan	
	Total	Percent		Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Under 5	39	3.5	Pres	3,275	5.1	672,005	6.8

Table 2-6 Population by Age Groups, Selected Areas, 2000							
Subtotal	39	3.5		3,275	5.1	672,005	6.8
5-9	65	5.9	Normal School	3,665	5.7	745,181	7.5
10-14	62	5.6		4,080	6.3	747,012	7.5
15-19	64	5.8		5,571	8.6	719,867	7.2
Subtotal	191	17.3		13,316	20.6	2,212,060	22.2
20-34	104	9.5	Normal Working	13,450	20.8	2,006,010	20.2
35-44	172	15.6		9,970	15.4	1,598,373	16.1
45-54	174	15.7		10,028	15.5	1,367,939	13.7
55-64	171	15.5		5,856	9.1	863,039	8.7
Subtotal	621	56.3		39,304	60.8	5,835,361	58.7
65-74	147	13.3	Retirement Age	4,389	6.8	642,880	6.5
75-84	87	7.9		3,220	5.0	433,678	4.4
85 and older	21	1.9		1,130	1.7	142,460	1.4
Subtotal	255	23.1		8,739	13.5	1,219,018	12.3
TOTAL	1,106	100.0		64,634	100.0	9,938,444	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, Table DP-1

Although the population totals do not show radical shifts up or down, the make-up of the population is showing a steady increase in age and an accompanying loss of children and of families with children. People moving into the Township are continuing to raise the median age level, due to the fact that the majority of residents in-migrating to the Township tend to be 50 or older, pre-retirement and retirement age. As a group, these new residents bring with them an above average income and a pool of skills in a variety of areas. They represent a great opportunity for growth and renewal but they also present an issue because as a group, they are not well integrated into the rest of the

community. Contributing to the lack of integration is first, the fact that many come from a different geographical area. Second, a significant number of the new residents live in a part of the Township which has no road linking it to the rest of the Township. Third, the kind of bonds which unite people in a rural/small town area, such as growing up together, sharing school years and sharing family ties are lacking. Finally, many of the new residents live in the Township for six months or less per year, spending much of the year elsewhere. These are concerns which need to be addressed in order to build a healthy community.

It can be said that the Township is experiencing an aging population. Not surprisingly, infants and children number significantly fewer in the Township than Marquette County and even less than the state. This does not bode well for Republic Michigamme School, which is already suffering from lack of students.

Table 2-7 Enrollment, Republic-Michigamme School District School, 2000-2007	
SCHOOL YEAR	ENROLLMENT
Fall of 2008/2009	135
Fall of 2007/2008	130
Fall of 2006/2007	155
Fall of 2005/2006	146
Fall of 2004/2005	149
Fall of 2003/2004	170
Fall of 2002/2003	182
Fall of 2001/2002	170
Fall of 2000/2001	190
Fall of 1999/2000	213

Source: Republic-Michigamme School District, 2009.

2.4 Racial Composition

The racial composition of the Township, consistent with the entire Upper Peninsula, is overwhelmingly white. The largest non-white racial group was identified in the American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut category. In 2000, 11 persons identified themselves as “Other races (or two or more races)”, an increase from zero reported in 1990.

Table 2-8 Number Of Persons By Race, 1990 And 2000, Republic Township				
Race	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,170	100.0	1,106	100.0
White	1,165	99.6	1,075	97.2
Black	1	0.1	0	0.0
American Indian, Eskimo & Aleut	4	0.3	20	1.8

	1990	2000	1990	2000
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Races (or two or more races)	0	0.0	11	1.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, STF 1A, P006; Census 2000, Table DP-1

2.5 Educational Attainment

As shown in Table 2-9 below, nearly 50% of Republic Township residents over the age of 25 reported obtaining a high school diploma in 2000. 82.3 percent of Township residents reported having a high school diploma or higher, slightly lower than that of the county (88.5) and the state (83.4). 8.9 percent of residents have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, lower than the county (23.7 percent) and the state (21.8 percent).

The low amount of technical certificates suggests that there may not be a deep labor pool. There is little need for college or graduate level education for employment in the Township except in the school. Most professional and technical degrees work outside of the Township in one of the three hospitals in the region, or teaching.

Educational and training requirements have been increasing for workforce entrants. Employers who previously required little in the way of formal education are, in many instances, now looking for employees with post-high school education due to the complexity of the equipment and methods being utilized in the workplace. A highly trained, educated workforce is an asset in attracting employers to a community. These figures are presented in Table 2-9.

Educational Level	Republic Township		Marquette County	State of Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than 9 th Grade	50	5.7	3.7	4.7
9 th to 12 th Grade, No Diploma	104	11.9	7.8	11.9
High School Graduate	434	49.8	35.3	31.3
Some College, No Degree	173	19.8	23.1	23.3
Associate Degree	33	3.8	6.4	7.0
Bachelor's Degree	53	6.1	15.9	13.7
Graduate or Professional Degree	25	2.9	7.8	8.1
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	718	82.3	88.5	83.4
Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher	78	8.9	23.7	21.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, TableDP-2

2.6 Population Density

The Township’s total land area of 113.22 square miles and 2000 population of 1,106 produce a population density of 9.8 persons per square mile. Marquette County's 2000 population density was 35.5 persons per square mile. In recent years, many homeowners have chosen to move to the outlying townships, due to the lower population density. Total area, population and density information for selected local communities is presented in Table 2-10.

Place	2000 Area Measurement Land Area (Square Miles)		Population	Persons Per Square Mile
	Total Area	Land Area		
Republic Township	119.57	113.22	1,106	9.8
Ishpeming Township	91.45	86.5	3,522	40.7
Champion Township	124.96	120.9	297	2.5
Ely Township	60.81	137.65	2,010	14.6
Ishpeming City	9.25	8.69	6,686	769.8
Marquette Township	60.15	54.7	3,286	60.0
Negaunee City	14.67	13.78	4,576	332.1
Negaunee Township	43.65	42.1	2,707	64.4
Powell Township	162.31	154.2	724	4.7
Tilden Township	96.01	94.25	1,003	10.6
Marquette County	3,425.17	1,821.3	64,634	35.5
Michigan	96,716.11	56,809.2	9,938,444	175.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

2.7 Population Projections

Population projections are useful for community planning endeavors. For instance, the demand for certain types of public services can be anticipated by using sound population projections. Formulating projections is complicated and fraught with unknowns such as economic conditions, which can greatly influence migration. Other considerations, like fertility and mortality data, have much less impact.

In 1996, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget prepared baseline population projections to the year 2020 for all counties of the state using a formula that includes the three main components of population change: births, deaths and migration. The 15-year population forecast for Marquette County projects a decrease of 2,200 persons from 2005 to 2020. These projections are presented in Table 2-11.

Area	2005	2010	2015	2020
Alger County	10,000	10,000	10,200	10,200
Delta County	38,900	39,100	39,200	39,400
Dickinson County	27,500	27,700	27,900	28,100
Marquette County	68,900	68,400	67,600	66,700
Menominee County	22,500	21,500	20,600	19,600
Schoolcraft County	8,900	8,900	9,000	8,900
Michigan	9,963,800	10,121,300	10,285,000	10,454,700

Source: Department of Management and Budget, Population to the Year 2020 in Michigan, 1996

2.8 Issues and Opportunities

The Township has experienced a significant decrease in the school age and normal working age populations and an increase in the retirement age population; land use plans and community services will need to take into account the needs of older citizens.

It might be possible to increase efforts to draw younger families to the area but the distance to travel to employment makes it extremely difficult to meet the employment needs of the population in the family-forming years. Efforts to improve the businesses which serve the local populace would help build a better retention rate for younger families and are essential for older adults since the present business community is unable to do that.

It should be noted that the segment of the population, 45-64 which is increasing are those who are moving into the Township, purchasing land and building homes on waterfront and recreational land and are the ones who typically remain in the work force and have more disposable income. In 2009, their presence in the small area represented by Dutchman’s point, Cardinal Point and Holli-Blue Road represent nearly 20% of the Township’s tax income. It is a population with which the rest of the Township is virtually unacquainted at this point, but a population which has a great deal to offer in both talent and leadership.