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Population and Housing Trends in West Michigan, 2011

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Data Brief: 2010 Census Redistricting Data

Population and Housing Trends in West Michigan

Introduction

Upon the release of 2010 Census data, Michigan emerged as the only state with a decline in its population. Although Michigan still ranks as the 8th most populous state, its 0.6 percent decline (54,804 less residents) will result in the loss of one congressional seat, along with some loss in federal funds. While complete 2010 Census data has yet to be released, Michigan's redistricting data was released on March 22. This provides population and housing counts, with some age and race breakdowns. The following is an overview of this data from a West Michigan perspective.

Overall Population Trends

Most of Michigan's larger cities suffered population losses. This overall population decline is no surprise, given the state's moribund economy, with Detroit's iconic automotive industry being particularly depressed toward the end of the last decade. However, the trend in West Michigan⁽¹⁾ and Kent County was positive, although at a slower pace than in the 1990s. Grand Rapids, like most of Michigan's larger cities, saw a modest population decline, losing almost 5 percent of its residents and erasing its gain in the 1990s.

Population 1990, 2000 and 2010

	1990	Change 90-00	2000	Change 00-10	2010
United States	248,709,873	13.2%	281,421,906	9.7%	308,745,538
Michigan	9,295,297	6.9%	9,938,444	-0.6%	9,883,640
West Michigan	1,136,233	15.8%	1,315,927	5.2%	1,384,899
Kent County	500,631	14.7%	574,335	4.9%	602,622
Grand Rapids	189,126	4.6%	197,800	-4.9%	188,040

Sources: 1990 Decennial Census SF1, 2000 Decennial Census SF1, 2010 Redistricting Data SF PL 94-171

Highlights:

Grand Rapids saw a modest population decline, losing almost 5% of its residents and erasing its gain in the 1990s.

Other than residents leaving, family size can affect the population total. That is, if families get smaller, the total population will fall even if every housing unit is filled. Thus, in some ways, the number of households (which, by definition, is the same as the number of occupied housing units as provided in the redistricting data) is a better indicator of change than is the total population.

It is good news that the number of households in Grand Rapids fell by only 1.5 percent. This indicates that the loss in population mostly is due to smaller family sizes. Over-building of new housing in the suburbs also contributed, but the number of housing units in Grand Rapids itself increased in the past decade (*see below*).

Households 1990, 2000 and 2010






	1990	Change 90-00	2000	Change 00-10	2010
United States	91,947,410	14.7%	105,480,101	10.4%	116,449,585
Michigan	3,419,331	10.7%	3,785,661	2.3%	3,872,508
West Michigan	402,460	18.6%	477,366	7.9%	515,181
Kent County	181,740	17.1%	212,890	6.7%	227,239
Grand Rapids	69,029	6.1%	73,217	-1.5%	72,126

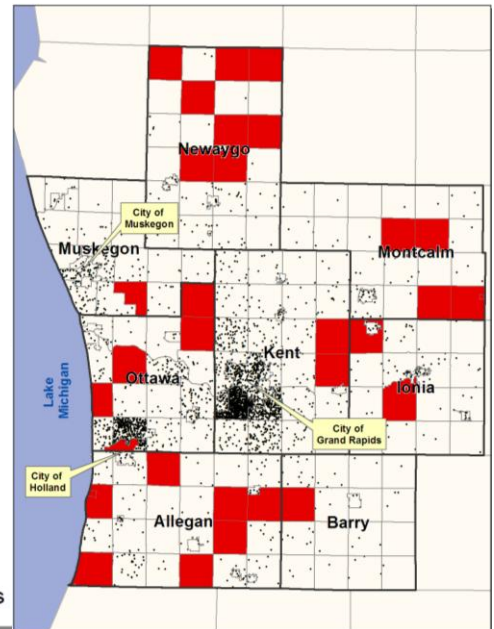
Sources: 1990 Decennial Census SF1, 2000 Decennial Census SF1, 2010 Redistricting Data SF PL 94-171

Race and Hispanic Origin

The Hispanic population increased significantly in the past two decades. The Grand Rapids Hispanic population, 9,394 in 1990, jumped to 25,818 in 2000, and to 29,261 in 2010. Similar growth is evident in Kent County and West Michigan (*see next page*). Although it is likely that immigration slowed with the slow economy, the Hispanic population has a high natural growth rate. Forty-two percent of the Hispanic population in Grand Rapids and Kent County was under age 18 in 2010. This compares to the Non-Hispanic white population’s 16 percent and 22 percent under age 18, respectively. The percent of the Non-Hispanic white population under 18 has fallen since 1990 while the percent under age 18 in the Hispanic population has stayed relatively constant. Thus, only 1 in 6 Grand Rapidians is Hispanic, but 1 in 4 Grand Rapidians under 18 is Hispanic.

Legend

-  Counties
-  Lake Michigan
-  Hispanic Population Gains
-  1 Dot = an increase of 10 people
-  Hispanic Population Losses



Highlights:

Only 1 in 6 Grand Rapidians is Hispanic, but 1 in 4 under age 18 is Hispanic.

However, the growth in the Hispanic population is not limited to the central city. Fifty percent of Kent County's Hispanics live in the suburbs.

Hispanic Population 1990, 2000, and 2010

	1990	Change 90-00	2000	Change 00-10	2010
United States	22,354,059	57.9%	35,305,818	42.9%	50,477,594
Michigan	201,596	60.7%	323,877	34.7%	436,358
West Michigan	32,702	128.4%	74,697	41.4%	105,635
Kent County	14,684	173.7%	40,183	45.4%	58,437
Grand Rapids	9,394	174.8%	25,818	13.3%	29,261

Sources: 1990 Decennial Census SF1, 2000 Decennial Census SF1, 2010 Redistricting Data SF PL 94-171

African American/Black






The African American / Black population decreased in Michigan, and in Grand Rapids. The state decrease is likely due to out-migration caused by high unemployment rates in Michigan's urban areas. The decrease in Grand Rapids and corresponding increase in Kent County suggests a continued suburbanization of the area's African American / Black population. In particular, the Grand Rapids suburbs of Kentwood and Wyoming had substantial increases. African American / Black suburbanization is a national trend affecting many large Midwestern cities including Chicago and Detroit. Bucking this trend, Holland and Muskegon both gained African American / Black population.

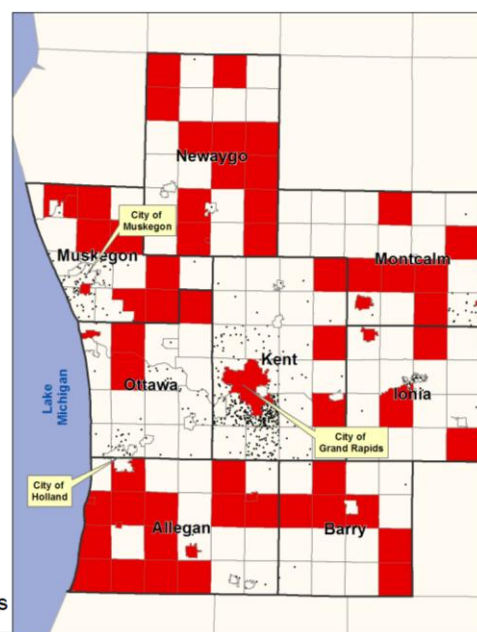
African American/Black Population 1990, 2000 and 2010

	1990	Change 90-00	2000	Change 00-10	2010
United States	29,986,060	15.6%	34,658,190	12.3%	38,929,319
Michigan	1,282,744	9.3%	1,402,047	-1.3%	1,383,756
West Michigan	68,703	19.5%	82,383	10.3%	90,903
Kent County	39,432	26.7%	49,994	12.7%	56,372
Grand Rapids	34,308	14.8%	39,401	-3.8%	37,890

Sources: 1990 Decennial Census SF1, 2000 Decennial Census SF1, 2010 Redistricting Data SF PL 94-171

Legend

-  Counties
-  Lake Michigan
-  AA/Black Population Gains
-  1 Dot = an increase of 10 people
-  AA/Black Population Losses



Highlights:

The decrease in Grand Rapids' African American / Black population is more than offset by an increase in Kent County; this suggests a continued suburbanization of that population.

Housing Units

Because of the housing bust at the end of the decade, the increase in new housing units was more modest this past decade than it was in the 1990s. However, even Grand Rapids had an increase in total housing units.

Total Housing Units 1990, 2000, and 2010

	1990	Change 90-00	2000	Change 00-10	2010
United States	102,263,678	13.3%	115,904,641	13.3%	131,408,011
Michigan	3,847,926	10.0%	4,234,279	7.0%	4,532,233
West Michigan	441,162	17.3%	517,688	11.5%	577,467
Kent County	192,698	16.2%	224,000	10.2%	246,901
Grand Rapids	73,716	5.8%	77,960	3.4%	80,619

Sources: 1990 Decennial Census SF1, 2000 Decennial Census SF1, 2010 Redistricting Data SF PL 94-171

As might be expected, higher vacancy rates are indicated across all four geographies. The Michigan vacancy rate is strongly influenced by upstate tourist areas with seasonal housing normally vacant on census day in April. However, Kent County experienced near peak residential foreclosures during the first quarter of 2010. A total of 3,148 homes were foreclosed in Kent County during 2010 and nearly half of those (1,392) were in Grand Rapids⁽²⁾. This problem was even worse in three southeastern Michigan counties, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne, where the vacancy rate was more than double their 2000 rates.

Vacant Housing Units 1990, 2000, and 2010

	1990		2000		2010	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
United States	10,316,268	10.1%	10,424,540	8.9%	14,958,426	11.3%
Michigan	428,595	11.1%	448,618	10.6%	659,725	14.6%
West Michigan	38,702	8.8%	40,322	7.8%	62,286	10.8%
Kent County	10,958	5.7%	11,110	5.0%	19,662	8.0%
Grand Rapids	4,687	6.4%	4,743	6.1%	8,493	10.5%

Sources: 1990 Decennial Census SF1, 2000 Decennial Census SF1, 2010 Redistricting Data SF PL 94-171

References:

- (1) This brief references West Michigan as Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo and Ottawa counties
- (2) Rotondaro, Gustavo, Feliz-Santana, Eleibny. "Data Update: Residential Foreclosures in Grand Rapids and Kent County, Michigan, January 2004 – December 2010." Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University, February 2011.

Highlights:

Despite the end-of-decade housing bust and the overall population loss, the state, West Michigan, Kent County and Grand Rapids all had more housing units in 2010 than in 2000.

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