

## Chapter 3.0 Population

### 3.1 Introduction

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

Because communities do not exist in a vacuum, it is important to examine trends in the surrounding areas as well. Residents of one community may work in another community, send their children to school in a different place and travel to additional areas to purchase goods and services.

Demographics -- age, income, gender, education, and occupation, among other related factors -- shape the development of a community as well as its growth. Analysis of these trends and patterns are a useful tool to determine the needs and demands of the future population of the City of Ishpeming. Included in this chapter is a thorough review of the current population, historic population trends, population projections, and age distribution. Concluding each section of this chapter is a description and explanation of foreseen impacts of the analysis.

### 3.2 Area Population Trends

Table 3-1 presents a comparison of historic population trends for all Marquette County jurisdictions from 1940 to 2000. The population of the City of Ishpeming declined from 1940 to 2000 by nearly 30 percent. The population of Marquette County from 1940 to 2000 increased by 17,490 persons, or 37.1 percent. Of the County civil or political divisions, the townships of Chocolay, Ely, Forsyth, Ishpeming, Marquette, Negaunee, Powell, Sands, Skandia, Tilden and West Branch and the city of Marquette experienced growth during this period, with the largest growth occurring in Sands. Countywide, a significant portion of the population growth was attributed to K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, with large population increases in Forsyth, Sands and West Branch townships, which encompass the former base. Between 1950 and 1960, for example, Sands Township population grew by over 800 percent. While the population of the city of Marquette has declined since 1990, the population in the surrounding townships of Marquette, Chocolay, Sands and Negaunee has increased significantly.

The six county CUPPAD Region experienced some population decline in the 1940s, which was then followed by steady growth from 1950-1980, with a population increase of 22 percent; however, from 1990 to 2000, the region lost 2,975 persons.

The State of Michigan in each of the decades from 1940 to 2000 incurred growth in population, with a 60 year period increase of 89.1 percent. Michigan's population has steadily declined for the past three years (2006-2008). If the state maintains its losses for another year, its population could fall below 10 million for the first time since 2000. The U.S. Bureau of the Census has estimated the State of Michigan's population as of July 1, 2008 at 10,003,422 persons. Driving the state's decline is the steady increase in movement of residents to other states, many who left for economic reasons.

<b>Table 3-1 Population and Percent Change, Selected Areas, 1940-2000</b>														
Area	1940	1950	% Change 1940- 1950	1960	% Change 1950- 1960	1970	% Change 1960- 1970	1980	% Change 1970- 1980	1990	% Change 1980- 1990	2000	% Change 1990- 2000	% Change 1940- 2000
<b>Ishpeming City</b>	<b>9,491</b>	<b>8,962</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>8,857</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>8,245</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>-8.6</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>6,686</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-29.6</b>
Champion Twp.	694	557	-19.7	495	-11.1	519	4.8	460	11.4	346	-24.8	297	-16.5	-57.2
Chocolay Twp.	882	1,205	36.6	2,235	85.5	3,299	47.6	5,685	72.3	6,025	6.0	7,148	18.6	710.4
Ely Twp.	616	674	9.4	884	31.2	1,120	26.7	1,955	74.6	1,946	-0.5	2,010	3.3	226.3
Ewing Twp.	308	281	-9.1	223	-20.6	176	-21.1	163	-7.4	156	-4.3	159	1.9	-48.4
Forsyth Twp.	1,998	1,736	-13.1	3,454	99.0	8,290	140.0	9,679	16.8	8,775	-9.3	4,824	-45.0	141.4
Humboldt Twp.	522	445	-148.0	471	5.8	444	-5.7	577	30.0	500	-13.3	469	-6.2	-10.2
Ishpeming Twp.	1,331	1,517	14.0	2,238	47.5	2,376	6.2	3,612	52.0	3,515	-2.7	3,522	.20	164.6
Marquette City	15,928	17,202	8.0	19,824	15.2	21,967	10.8	23,288	6.0	21,977	-5.6	19,661	-10.5	23.4
Marquette Twp.	780	1,280	64.1	1,880	46.9	1,703	-9.4	2,669	56.7	2,757	3.3	3,286	19.2	321.3
Michigamme Twp.	513	455	-11.3	410	-10.0	436	6.3	383	-12.2	339	-11.5	377	11.2	-26.5
Negaunee City	6,813	6,472	-5.0	6,126	-5.3	5,248	-14.3	5,189	-1.1	4,741	-8.6	4,576	-3.5	-32.8
Negaunee Twp.	568	909	60.0	1,383	52.1	1,760	27.3	2,443	38.8	2,368	-.31	2,707	14.3	376.6
Powell Twp.	644	623	-3.3	390	-37.4	372	-4.6	667	79.3	660	-1.0	724	9.7	12.4
Republic Twp.	1,617	1,490	-7.9	1,417	-4.9	1,442	1.8	1,390	-3.6	1,170	15.8	1,106	-5.5	-31.6
Richmond Twp.	1,225	1,197	-2.3	1,411	17.9	1,277	-9.5	1,246	-2.4	1,095	-12.1	974	-20.2	-20.5
Sands Twp.	172	179	4.1	1,657	825.7	2,164	30.6	2,437	12.6	2,696	10.6	2,127	-21.1	1,136.6
Skandia Twp.	793	634	-20.1	664	4.7	717	8.0	999	39.3	933	-6.6	907	-2.8	14.4
Tilden Twp.	967	932	-3.6	922	1.1	883	-4.2	1,044	18.2	1,010	-3.3	1,003	-.70	3.7
Turin Twp.	353	217	-385.0	128	-410.0	101	-21.1	160	8.4	156	-2.5	131	-16.0	-62.9

**Table 3-1  
Population and Percent Change, Selected Areas, 1940-2000**

Area	1940	1950	% Change 1940- 1950	1960	% Change 1950- 1960	1970	% Change 1960- 1970	1980	% Change 1970- 1980	1990	% Change 1980- 1990	2000	% Change 1990- 2000	% Change 1940- 2000
Wells Twp.	491	431	-12.2	278	-35.5	277	-0.4	351	26.7	281	-20.0	292	3.9	-40.5
West Branch Twp.	438	256	-41.6	807	215.2	2,195	172.0	2,806	27.8	2,998	6.8	1,648	-45.0	276.3
Marquette County	47,144	47,654	1.2	56,154	17.8	64,686	15.2	74,101	9.9	70,887	-4.3	64,634	-8.8	37.1
CUPPAD Region	154,496	149,865	-.30	157,257	4.9	165,744	5.4	182,390	10.0	177,692	-2.6	174,717	-1.7	13.1
Michigan	5,256,106	6,381,766	21.2	7,824,965	22.8	8,875,083	13.4	9,262,078	4.4	9,295,297	0.4	9,938,444	6.9	89.1
United States	131,669,275	151,325,798	14.9	179,232,175	18.5	203,302,031	13.4	226,542,199	11.4	248,709,873	9.8	281,421,906	13.2	113.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, years cited. Table DP-1, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000.

Population change is the result of a combination of natural increase or decrease 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, because the birth rate is relatively high. 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 for real or perceived employment opportunities elsewhere.

In Marquette County, births exceeded deaths in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. From 1960 to 1969 and from 1970 to 1979 in-migration occurred, while out-migration has taken place from 1980 to 1989 and from 1990 to 1999. In the 1980s and 1990s, out-migration exceeded the natural increase, resulting in a declining population. Significant out-migration appears to have occurred after the closure of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in 1995.

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census’s population estimates for 2008, births rose and deaths in Michigan declined for the third consecutive year, pushing the state’s “natural increase” up. It was the loss of movers to out of state locations, many driven by economic reasons that drove the state’s population down.

	1960-1969	1970-1979	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, Department of History, Arts and Library

### **3.3 Population Estimates**

Periodically, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB), along with the U.S. Bureau of the Census, prepare population estimates between the decennial censuses. County estimates of population developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census are used by DMB to develop sub-county population estimates. These estimates are based on formulas which attempt to estimate migration, births and deaths in a

community and also respond, to a certain extent, to known local changes. An example is the mid-1990s closure of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base and activities associated with the mining industry.

The population estimates for the City of Ishpeming from 2000 to 2007 indicate a slight population decrease of 212 persons, or a 3.2% decrease. Population estimates for the City of Negaunee indicate a population of 4,451, down 2.7 percent from 2000, while the City of Marquette experienced a very slight increase in population from 2000 to 2007 of 0.3 percent.

Of the Townships surrounding the City of Ishpeming, all predict minor growth in their population base. Ishpeming and Tilden Townships are estimated to have experienced increases around 4 percent, as have many other smaller townships in the County. Negaunee Township experienced a very slight population increase of 0.5%. This is a marked difference from the previous decade, when many townships in Marquette County reported growth near 40 percent.

Marquette County population was estimated at 65,216 persons in 2007, which was an increase of 712 persons or 1.1 percent from 2000. The majority of this increase occurred in the smaller townships of Ely, Ewing, Humboldt, Michigamme, Turin and Wells. In the previous decade, the county experienced a significant population decline. The majority of this decrease occurred in Forsyth, Sands and West Branch Townships, and can be related to the closure of K.I. Sawyer AFB.

The county estimates are prepared utilizing data from a number of sources including federal income tax returns, Medicare enrollment data, birth and death records, and counts of persons in prisons, hospitals, college dormitories and other group quarters. The Department of Management and Budget also responds to a certain extent to known local changes in a community such as the construction of a new nursing home or the closure of an air force base. The population estimates are approximate and more accurate information will not be available until the 2010 Census. The estimates are prepared as annual estimates from July 2001 to July 2007.

Area	2000 Census (April 1)	2000 Estimate (Dec 31)	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate	% Change 2000- 2007
<b>Ishpeming City</b>	<b>6,686</b>	<b>6,675</b>	<b>6,630</b>	<b>6,596</b>	<b>6,566</b>	<b>6,568</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>6,510</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
Champion Twp.	297	299	308	314	321	336	346	357	365	22.9
Chocolay Twp.	7,148	6,091	6,086	6,077	6,069	6,106	6,037	6,040	6,025	-1.1
Ely Twp.	2,010	2,014	2,029	2,037	2,047	2,080	2,094	2,110	2,118	5.4
Ewing Twp.	159	160	163	164	166	171	174	178	180	13.2
Forsyth Twp.	4,824	4,826	4,834	4,834	4,835	4,875	4,874	4,883	4,874	1.0
Humboldt Twp.	469	470	476	480	485	497	505	513	518	10.4
Ishpeming Twp.	6,522	3,525	3,539	3,553	3,558	3,570	3,569	3,598	3,597	2.1
Marquette City	19,661	20,681	20,653	20,801	20,663	20,763	20,781	20,748	20,780	0.3
Marquette Twp.	3,286	3,302	3,296	3,292	3,291	3,315	3,315	3,322	3,319	0.5
Michigamme Twp.	377	378	383	386	390	401	408	415	420	11.4
Negaunee City	4,576	4,569	4,544	4,524	4,505	4,510	4,487	4,475	4,451	-2.7
Negaunee Twp.	2,707	2,707	2,709	2,708	2,707	2,726	2,724	2,726	2,720	0.5
Powell Twp.	724	726	734	739	745	762	771	780	786	8.6
Republic Twp.	1,106	1,107	1,113	1,116	1,120	1,136	1,142	1,151	1,154	4.3
Richmond Twp.	974	975	980	983	986	1,001	1,006	1,013	1,015	4.2
Sands Twp.	2,127	2,115	2,135	2,145	2,153	2,178	2,183	2,190	2,187	3.6
Skandia Twp.	907	909	919	924	931	950	959	969	975	7.5
Tilden Twp.	1,003	1,006	1,017	1,023	1,031	1,052	1,061	1,071	1,077	7.4
Turin Twp.	131	132	138	141	146	155	161	167	172	31.3
Wells Twp.	292	294	302	306	312	325	334	343	349	19.5
West Branch Twp.	1,648	1,651	1,651	1,649	1,649	1,661	1,660	1,663	1,660	0.5
Marquette	61,63	64,612	64,639	64,792	64,676	65,138	65,122	65,222	65,216	0.9

Table 3-3 Population Estimates, Marquette County Jurisdictions, 2000-2007									
County	4								

Source: Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, Subcounty Population Estimates (7.1.08), 2009.

### 3.4 Age and Male/Female Composition

The median age of Ishpeming residents in 2000 was 38.9 years (Table 3-3). This figure was about a year and a half older than the median age for the County. The City’s median age figure was lower than the City of Negaunee and only slightly higher than that of Negaunee Township. Between 1970 and 2000, the City’s median age increased 5.4 years; the most significant increase occurred between 1980 and 1990, when the median age increased by 3.5 years.

The term “Baby Boomers” can be used to describe those born between 1946 and 1964. Currently Boomers are approximately 100 million strong in the United States and by 2015 they will represent 35 percent of the US population. The term “Generation X” or “Gen Xers” is used to describe the age group of individuals born after the post World War II baby boom. The exact age range for this generation is in dispute but can generally be considered those born between 1965 and 1976; these individuals came of age in the 1980s. Generation X is much smaller than the Baby Boomers group or the Millennials. “Generation Y”, or the “Millenials” were born during a baby bulge which took place between 1977 and 1994. Millenials are 60 million strong, more than three times the size of Generation X and have grown up in a more media-saturated and brand-conscious world than any of their predecessors. Millenials are also the most racially diverse in history (one third are not Caucasian), 75 percent have working mothers and 25 percent live in a single family home. Access to information is perhaps the biggest difference between Millenials and their predecessors, as they are the first generation to grow up with the internet.

Retaining local Gen Xers and Millenials as well as attracting this age group to the area will be largely dependent on the availability of employment, technology and possibly even the environmental sustainability of the City. Utilizing New Urbanism or Smart Growth techniques may be beneficial as well. Smart Growth uses design concepts and tools that provide solutions to unsustainable urban and suburban growth patterns (sprawl). Some of the specific principles include mixed-use housing, preservation of historic buildings and surroundings that improve bicycling, walking, and use of public space.

Generally speaking, the aging population of the City is following state and national trends that result from a combination of factors. The City’s older age structure is most



like the result of young adults (Millenials and Gen Xers) out-migrating to other areas with larger populations in search of educational and job opportunities. It has been reported that many Gen Xers across the country are dropping out of the general workplace culture and starting their own businesses; therefore many may be moving out of the area seeking additional economic development opportunities. Millenials are considered to be extremely “tech-savvy” and many are seeking employment out of the area to meet those qualifications. Increased life expectancy, combined with the fact that the largest segment of the population, the “Baby Boomers” is aging is also contributing as well. A trend toward smaller families, with many people choosing to delay childbearing or not to have children, also contributes toward aging.

Area	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change, 1970-2000
City of Ishpeming	33.5	32.7	36.2	38.9	16.1
City of Negaunee	34.3	31.8	36.9	40.4	17.8
Negaunee Township	25.7	28.7	33.8	38.4	55.9
Marquette County	24.2	26.1	30.7	37.5	55.0
Michigan	26.3	28.8	32.6	35.5	35.0
United States	27.9	30.0	32.9	35.3	26.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census Table DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Table 1; 1980 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, Table 44; 1970 Census of Population, Characteristics of the Population, Table 33.

Table 3-4 indicates the 2000 population distribution of the City of Ishpeming by age and sex. The age group of 35-44 years made up the largest portion of the total population at 977 persons, or 14.6 percent. The age group of 45-54 years is second, at 906 persons, or 13.6 percent. The Baby Boomers consists of persons between the ages of 36-54 and were born approximately between 1945 and 1964. Persons of the Baby Boomer Generation comprise about 25 percent of the City of Ishpeming’s population. Generation X, those individuals born between 1965 and 1976 comprise about 12 percent of Ishpeming’s population. At the time of the 2000 Census, these individuals would have been between the ages of 24 and 35. The Millenials, ranging from ages 6 to 21 at the time of the Census, comprise about 20 percent of the City’s population.

Persons in the City over the age of 65 represent 1,267 residents or about 19 percent. As the working population ages, the type and amount of services the City provides may need to change to accommodate an older population. Many persons 65 and older are moving back to the Upper Peninsula after retirement and have at least some discretionary income.

**Table 3-4  
Age Distribution by Sex, City of Ishpeming, 2000**

Age Group	2000			
	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	198	6.3	210	6.0
5 to 9	214	6.8	185	5.2
10 to 14	217	6.9	237	6.7
15 to 19	234	7.4	238	6.7
20 to 24	194	6.1	238	6.7
25 to 34	392	12.4	427	12.1
35 to 44	462	14.6	515	14.6
45 to 54	485	15.3	421	11.9
55 to 59	160	5.1	141	4.0
60 to 64	113	3.6	138	3.9
65 to 74	271	8.6	322	9.1
75 to 84	178	5.6	307	8.7
85+	41	1.3	148	4.2
Total	3,159	100.0	3,527	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Table DP-1: Profile of General Demographic Characteristics.

### 3.5 Racial Composition

The racial make-up of the City of Ishpeming is primarily persons who are white. In 2000, the other race categories combined only accounted for 115 residents, or 1.7 percent of the total population (Table 3-5). This represents a slight increase from 1990. The largest minority group was the American Indian (there were no reported persons of Eskimo or Aleut race) race with 80 persons. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of minorities within the City of Ishpeming increased by sixty-three persons.

**Table 3-5  
Number Of Persons By Race, City of Ishpeming, 1980-2000**

Race	1980		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	7,538	100.0	7,200	100.0	6,686	100.0
White	7,490	99.4	7,117	98.8	6,505	97.3
Black	5	0.07	3	0.04	4	0.1
American Indian, Eskimo & Aleut	31	0.4	58	0.8	80	1.2
Asian and Pacific Islander	14	0.2	16	0.2	13	0.2
Other Races	2	0.03	6	0.08	18	0.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census Table DP-1: Profile of General Demographic Characteristics; 1990 Census STF, 1A Table P8; and 1980 Census of Population STF 1, Table 007.

### 3.6 Educational Attainment

The number of Ishpeming residents over 25 years of age without a high school diploma in 2000 was 579 persons or 13 percent, which was higher than the County, but significantly lower than the State (Table 3-6). Overall, 87.0 percent of residents over 25

years of age in the City were high school graduates or higher, which was slightly lower than the County (88.5 percent), and much higher than the State (80.4 percent). The percent of residents in the City and County over 25 years of age with a bachelor’s degree or higher was slightly lower than the rate reported by the State, but rates are still relatively high. This may indicate that a high percentage of jobs within the City and County require higher education skills.

Recent trends indicate that employers are now requiring their employees to have higher educational levels. The economy is increasingly global, with companies both acquiring goods and services in foreign countries and selling their products internationally. In this regard employers certainly want individuals who have higher levels of technical competence. Employers are also looking for potential workers with high-level proficiency in more general higher-order skills, including communication, computation, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Educational Level	City of Ishpeming		Marquette County		State of Michigan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 9th Grade	165	3.7	1,559	3.7	13,755,477	7.5
9th-12th Grade, No Diploma	414	9.3	3,274	7.8	21,960,148	12.1
High School Graduate	1,919	43.2	14,815	35.3	52,168,981	28.6
Some College, No Degree	860	19.3	9,674	23.1	38,351,595	21.0
Associate Degree	345	7.8	2,669	6.4	11,512,833	6.3
Bachelor's Degree	558	12.5	6,685	15.9	28,317,792	15.5
Graduate or Professional Degree	186	4.2	3,258	7.8	16,144,813	8.9
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	--	87.0	--	88.5	--	80.4
Percent Bachelor's Degree or Higher	--	16.7	--	23.7	--	24.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Table DP-2, Profile of Selected Social Characteristics; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, STF 3A, P057.

### 3.7 Household Characteristics

The U.S. Census defines a *household* as all persons who occupy a housing unit; e.g., a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any group of related or unrelated persons sharing living quarters. A *family* consists of a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

From 1990 to 2000, the population of the City of Ishpeming decreased by 7.1 percent, however the number of housing units (by definition a household is the same as a

housing unit) decreased by 2.5 percent during the same time period (Table 3-7). This scenario was caused by a decrease in the average household size, which was the result of an increase in single-parent families and non-family households. As household size decreases, the number of households increases.

The number of single-parent family households increased by about 2 percent between 1990 and 2000, while the number of non-family households, including persons living alone, increased by about 4 percent. The number of non-family householders living alone increased from 955 to 990 between 1990 and 2000; about 15 percent of these households are elderly people living alone. The average household size decreased from 2.36 persons to 2.25 persons between 1990 and 2000.

Household Type	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Family Households	1,937	64.8	1,757	60.3
Married-Couple Family	1,512	50.6	1,278	43.8
Female Householder	337	11.3	360	12.3
Male Householder	88	2.9	119	4.0
Non-Family Households	1,053	35.2	1,158	39.7
Householder Living Alone	955	31.9	990	34.0
Householder 65 or Over	514	17.2	443	15.2
Total Households	2,990	100.0	2,915	100.0
Average Household Size	2.36		2.25	

Source: U.S. Census, 2000 Table DP-1: Profile of General Demographic Characteristics; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, STF 1A, P003, P016, and H017A; and 1980 Census of Population and Housing, STF 1, 003, 016, 022, and 035.

### 3.8 Population Projections

Population projections are very useful for units of government like counties for projecting future residential demands for public services. However, the major component for making population projections, future in- and out-migration, is very difficult to predict. The main problem is this data depends heavily on the future economic trends of the locality and other areas. The other components of population projections, fertility and mortality data, have less of an impact on population change, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.

In 1996, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget prepared baseline population projections to the year 2020 for counties of the state using a special formula that utilizes the three main components of population change; birth, death, and migration. These population projections assist counties in making predictions on future demographic trends.

The 30-year population forecast for Marquette County reveals downward population trend, with an overall 5.96 percent decrease from 1990 to 2020 (Table 3-1, Table 3-8). Though anticipated to grow from 1995 to 2000, the county is projected to experience a drop in population in the ensuing years. Marquette and Menominee Counties are the only counties in the central U.P. with an expected decline in the next three decades. Alger County to the east is projected to have the largest increase, at 13.74 percent during the 30-year time period. The populations of Delta, Dickinson and Schoolcraft counties are also predicted to grow during this time period.

Area	2005	2010	2015	2020
Alger County	10,009	10,114	10,192	10,205
Delta County	38,906	39,004	39,244	39,400
Dickinson County	27,547	27,746	27,942	28,096
Marquette County	68,916	68,393	67,016	66,661
Menominee County	22,518	21,497	20,565	19,581
Schoolcraft County	8,861	8,926	8,970	8,929
Michigan	9,963,788	10,121,298	10,284,960	10,454,737
United States	287,092,000	299,194,000	311,833,000	324,668,000

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

### 3.9 Population Density

With a 2000 population of 6,686 persons and a land area of 8.7 square miles, the City of Ishpeming population density was 769.8 persons per square mile (Table 3-9). This figure compares with a density of 35.5 persons per square mile at the county level and 175.0 persons per square mile at the state level. The City of Ishpeming has the second highest population density, behind Marquette within Marquette County.

Place	Land Area (Sq. Miles)	Population	Persons Per Square Mile
City of Ishpeming	8.7	6,686	769.8
City of Negaunee	13.8	4,578	332.1
Negaunee Township	42.1	2,707	64.4
Ishpeming Township	86.5	3,522	40.7
Marquette Township	54.7	3,286	60.0
City of Marquette	11.4	19,661	1,724.6
Chocolay Township	59.7	7,148	119.7
Marquette County	1821.3	64,634	35.5
Michigan	56,809.2	9,938,444	175.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, 2000.

### 3.10 Issues and Opportunities

- Census data indicates that the City of Ishpeming has experienced a relatively steady population decline from 1940 to 2000.
- **Lack of career opportunities for local high school and college graduates have contributed to the declining population in the City of Ishpeming and Marquette County.**
- From 1990 to 2000, the population of the City decreased by 7.1 percent, however the number of housing units only decreased by 2.5 percent during the same time period. This indicates that there is an increase in householders living alone in the City.
- The median age of Ishpeming residents in 2000 was 38.9 years. The age composition and distribution within the City indicates an older population base than the State, the nation and county averages.
- Baby Boomers account for about 25 percent of the City's population, Gen Xers make up about 12 percent and Millennials comprise about 20 percent of Ishpeming's population.
- Providing alternate modes of transportation in the City may help attract and retain Gen Xers and Millennials as well as new business development opportunities. Establishing a Park and Ride at the Ishpeming Senior Center has the potential to benefit all generations in the community. Adding bike and ski racks to the front of Marq-Tran buses also facilitates the use of alternate modes for transportation when possible.
- Nearly 20 percent of the City's population is over the age of 65. Many of these residents have moved back to the area to retire and may have discretionary income to spend.
- The population estimates for the City of Ishpeming indicate a slight decrease in the number of residents, while county population projections also indicate an overall population decrease into the 21st Century.
- The relatively high percentage of high school graduates or higher in the City indicates that the City offers a well-educated work force to potential employers within the area.

- The moderately large shift from family households to non-family households between 1990 and 2000 may indicate a change in the type of housing and other services demanded within the City. Most significant is the increase in the number of non-elderly persons living alone.
- The City's population density of 769.8 persons per mile is the second highest of the communities within the Ishpeming-Negaunee-Marquette urban area.