



## *Changing Composition of Michigan Households.*

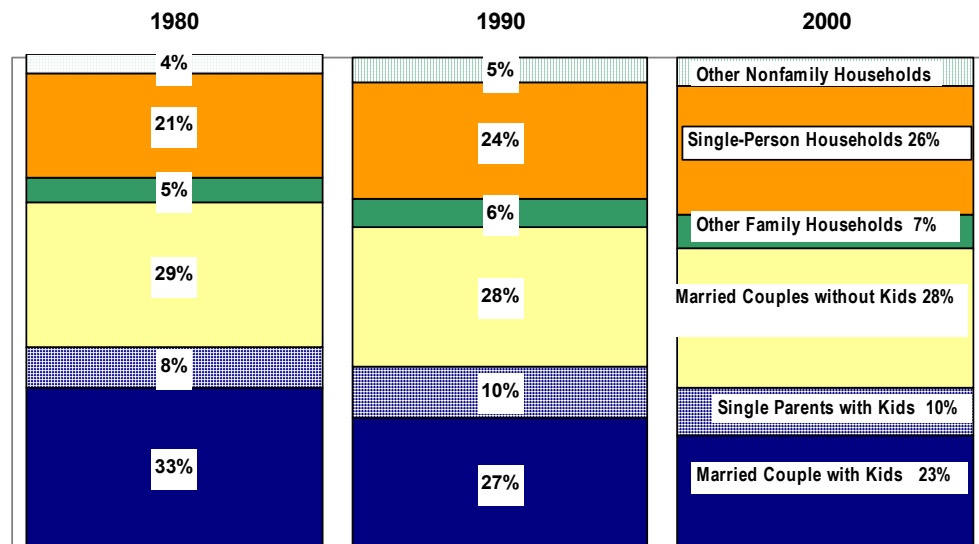
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The changing composition of Michigan's households has important ramifications for Michigan's schools. Between 1980 and 2000, Michigan's population grew by 7.3%, while the number of households grew by 590,448 or 18%. Households are growing faster than the population because of the fragmentation of Michigan families into smaller and smaller units. Households have become more diverse as the percentage of married couples with children decreases, and households composed of unmarried adults, either single or living with others, increases. The effect of the graying of the state means that fewer

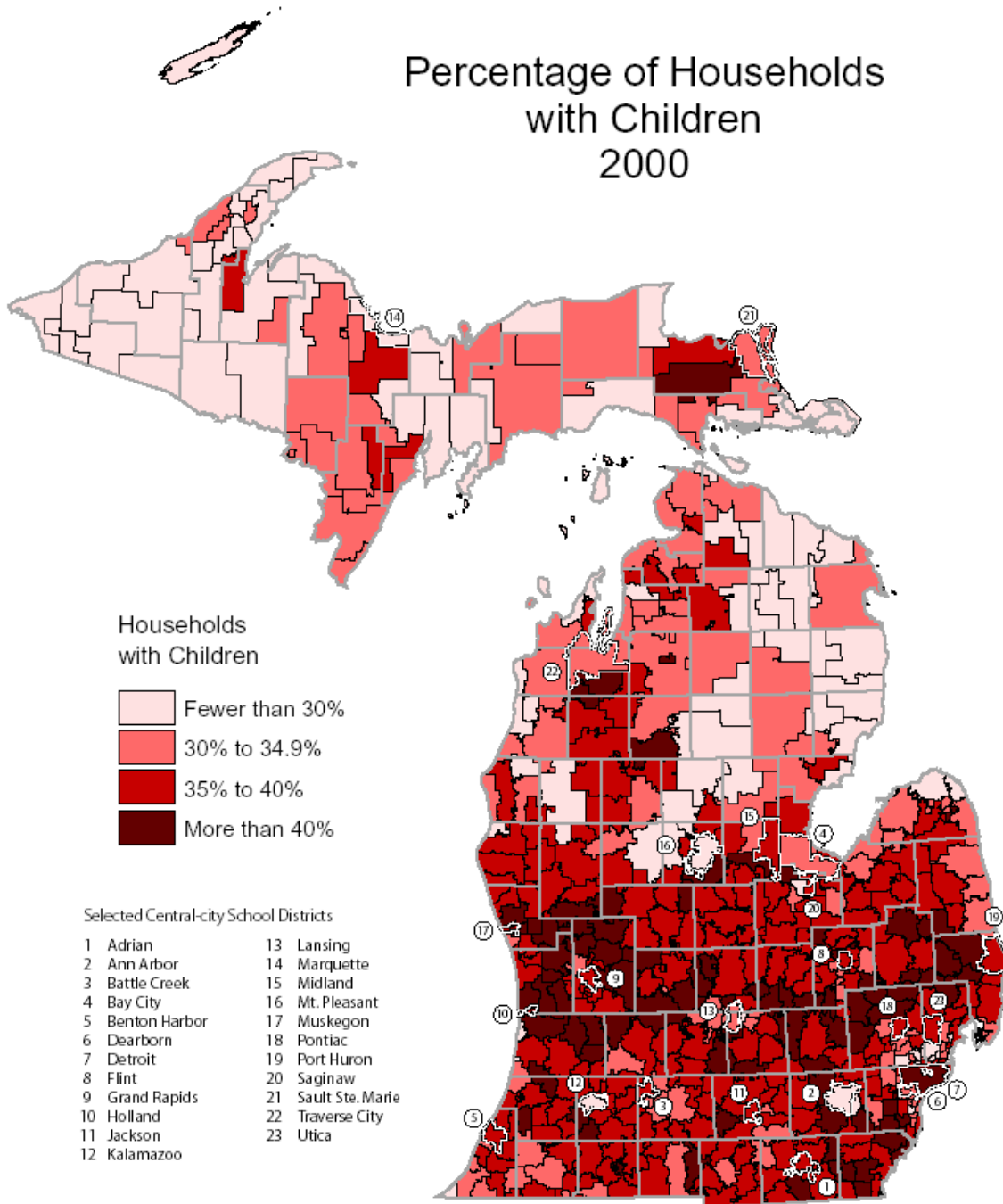
households come into contact with children on a daily basis. Fewer voters are likely to relate to bond issues and other local school proposals; reaching these households will continue to present challenges for school officials. In districts where the number of households without children is increasing, schools may want to consider ways to integrate people into community activities – perhaps expanding the use of school buildings as a community resource.

Households can be either families or nonfamilies. A family household includes two or more related persons. All married couples are families, but not

**CHANGING MICHIGAN HOUSEHOLDS, 1980 - 2000**



## Percentage of Households with Children 2000



Household composition is not uniform in Michigan counties. Households in the five most populous counties, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Kent, and Genesee, have similar composition – approximately one third of households are families with children, one half are non-related persons living together or single persons living alone, and one third are families without children (for example, married couples with no children at home or two or more related people living together). School districts in the rural areas of urban counties have the highest percentage of families with children—schools in these areas are most likely to feel growing pains. These school districts were largely composed of farmland 20 years ago. Counties in the upper peninsula and the upper lower peninsula have the highest percentage of families with no children as there are fewer opportunities for fulltime work with income to support children. One effect of the graying of the state is that fewer households come into contact with children on a daily basis. As fewer households see children on a daily basis, it is increasingly important for schools to reach out to the community. It is in the interest of all residents of the state that all children in every district receive a quality education.

necessarily families with children. In 2000, families with children account for only 1/3 of Michigan households, down from 41% in 1980. Nonfamily households include people who live alone, unmarried couples, and housemates. The 2000 Census shows how Michigan has changed.

The number of families with children continues to shrink as a proportion of the total population. Married couples with children declined from 26.6% of the total population to 23.1%, while single parents with children declined from 10.5% to 9.6%. Only the percentage of single fathers rose by 40%. Other family, nonfamily, and single person households continue to grow faster than families with children. Suburban counties (eg. Livingston, Ottawa, Lapeer, Ionia, and Allegan counties) have a

higher proportion of families with children than the state average. Rural counties, especially in the Upper Peninsula have significantly lower proportions of families with children.

While a number of states are experiencing increases in the number and percentage of families with children because of new immigration, it is unlikely that Michigan is likely to see the percentage of families with children increase in the near future

Districts need to consider the composition of their communities when thinking of how to gain support for bond issues or how to involve the community in school affairs, or how link service learning to the residents of the districts. Household composition also has a direct effect on income and how much community members are likely to want to increase their taxes for education programs.

**Table 1: Changes in Michigan Household Composition, 1990-2000**

	2000	2000	1990	1990	Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1990-2000
<b>All households</b>	3,785,661	100.0%	3,419,331	100.0%	10.7%
<b>Family household w children</b>	1,236,713	32.7%	1,265,116	37.0%	-2.2%
<b>Married couple w own children</b>	873,227	23.1%	908,696	26.6%	-3.9%
<b>Single father w own children</b>	79,728	2.1%	56,871	1.7%	40.2%
<b>Single mother w own children</b>	283,758	7.5%	299,549	8.8%	-5.3%
<b>Family households without children</b>	1,338,986	35.4%	1,174,055	34.3%	14.0%
<b>Married couple no children</b>	1,074,483	28.4%	974,447	28.5%	10.3%
<b>Other</b>	264,503	7.0%	199,608	5.8%	32.5%
<b>Nonfamily households</b>	216,355	5.7%	170,711	5.0%	26.7%
<b>Single person household</b>	993,607	26.2%	809,449	23.7%	22.8%

Michigan Households is the second in a series of Demographic Briefs based on the 2000 Census. The series seeks to understand how Michigan has changed during the last decade and what that means for Michigan education community. Data for all school districts is available at [www.epc.msu.edu](http://www.epc.msu.edu).



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