CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.2 Area Population Trends

Historic Population Trends

Table 2-1 presents a comparison of historic population trends for all Marquette County jurisdictions from 1940 to 2015. Humboldt Township has experienced an 11.1 percent population loss between 1940 and 2010 (Figure 2-1, Table 2-1). Humboldt Township's population peaked in 1980. The Humboldt Mill was originally built to process ore from the Humboldt Iron Mine, an open pit process, and the Humboldt Mill has served several mining companies since the 1950s. The Humboldt Mill was later used to process gold ore, with finely ground waste rock, or tailings, placed in the open pit. The Humboldt Iron Mine site has not been used since the mid-1990s and Humboldt Township's population has declined since that time. The Township lost 5 persons, or 1.1 percent of the population between 2000 and 2010. By 2015, it had regained 17 persons (3.7%).

Lundin Mining Corporation has reestablished the Humboldt Mill and to process approximately 1,500 tons of ore per day from Lundin's Eagle Mine located on the Yellow Dog Plains in Michigamme Township, near Big Bay. There were 70 full-time workers employed at the Humboldt Mill in early phases of operation, with those workers being hired largely from Marquette County. Over time this number increased to nearly 200.[1] Another 100 to 200 local contract jobs relate to the Humboldt Mine/Mill site reclamation, facility refurbishment and construction work. The cost for the site cleanup and rehabilitation of the mill was $275 million.

Many rural areas have been characterized by slight, but consistent long-term population loss, coupled with a lack of employment opportunities, low levels of infrastructure and business development, low educational attainment and skill development as well limited access to medical facilities and health care professionals. In addition, continued out-migration of working age residents leaves behind a large residual of both young and older residents who will still require a large share of governmental services. Job creation within Humboldt Township is a major priority in order to keep this rural area from declining further. With the rehabilitation and retrofit of the Humboldt Mill by the Lundin Mining Corporation, the Township's population should rebound. Lundin crushes and grinds rock obtained from its Eagle Mine at the new Humboldt Mill Site to produce nickel and copper concentrates, which are sent by rail to Sudbury, Ontario for further processing.

The population of Marquette County increased by 20,438 persons, or 43.4 percent, from 1940 to 2015 and increased 4.6 percent from 2000 to 2015. Marquette County was one of three UP counties to experience a population increase from 2000 to 2010. Of all County civil or political divisions, many of the Townships, as well as the City of Marquette experienced growth during this period, with the largest growth occurring in Sands Township. Countywide, a significant portion of the population growth in the 1950s and 1960s was attributed to K.I. Sawyer Air Force

[1] See Eagle Mine, Table 3-7

2.2 Area Population Trends continued

Base, with large population increases in Forsyth, Sands and West Branch townships, which encompass the former base.

Historic Population Trends continued

Between 1950 and 1960, for example, Sands Township population grew by over 800 percent. According to the 2010 Census, the population of the City of Marquette has declined since 1980, but has rebounded from 2000 Census numbers.

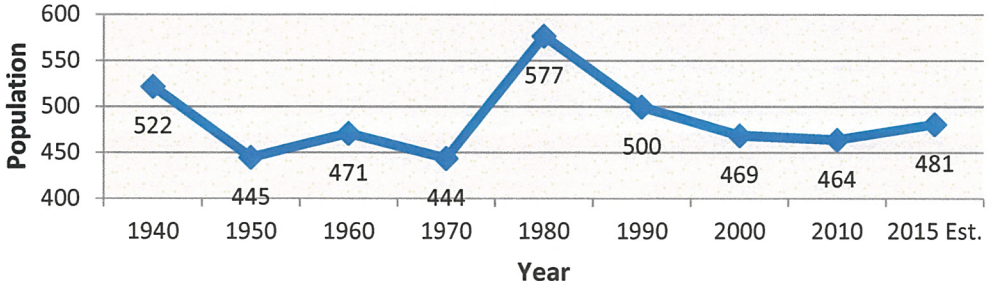
Population in the surrounding townships has increased significantly. The populations of the other two cities in the County, Ishpeming and Negaunee, have declined significantly from 1940-2010. Population decline in cities, with migration to the surrounding townships has occurred in areas across the country.

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 2000 to 2010, the region lost 2,228 persons, or -1.3 percent.

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 five years (2006-2010). Michigan was the only state to lose population from 2000 to 2010. The state's population declined from 9,938,444 in 2000 to 9,883,640 in 2010, a -0.6 percent loss. Driving the state's population decline is the steady increase in movement of residents to other states, many of whom left for economic reasons. The 2015 population estimates a slight increase (0.2%) to 9,900,571. The population of the United States increased 12.5 percent from 2000 to 2015, to 316,515,021. (See Table 2-1, Population and Percent Change, Selected Areas, 1940-2015).

Figure 2-1

Humboldt Township Population Trends
1940-2015



CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.2 Area Population Trends continued

Table 2-1
Population and Percent Change, Selected Areas, 1940-2010

Area	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	%Change 2000-2010	% Change 1940-2010
Humboldt Twp.	**522**	**445**	**471**	**444**	**577**	**500**	**469**	**464**	**481**	-1.1	**-11.1**
Champion Twp.	694	557	495	519	460	346	297	297	331	0.0	-57.2
Chocolay Twp.	882	1,205	2,235	3,299	5,685	6,025	7,148	5,903	5,976	-3.1	569.3
Ely Twp.	616	674	884	1,120	1,955	1,946	2,010	1,952	2,054	-2.9	216.9
Ewing Twp.	308	281	223	176	163	156	159	160	125	0.6	-48.1
Forsyth Twp.	1,998	1,736	3,454	8,290	9,679	8,775	4,824	6,164	6,217	27.8	208.5
Ishpeming City	9,491	8,962	8,857	8,245	7,538	7,200	6,686	6,470	6,517	-3.2	-31.8
Ishpeming Twp.	1,331	1,517	2,238	2,376	3,612	3,515	3,522	3,513	3,542	-0.3	163.9
Marquette City	15,928	17,202	19,824	21,967	23,288	21,977	19,661	21,355	21,444	3.1	34.1
Marquette Twp.	780	1,280	1,880	1,703	2,669	2,757	3,286	3,905	3,948	18.2	400.6
Michigamme Twp.	513	455	410	436	383	339	377	349	304	-7.4	-32.0
Negaunee City	6,813	6,472	6,126	5,248	5,189	4,741	4,576	4,568	4,609	-0.2	-33.0
Negaunee Twp.	568	909	1,383	1,760	2,443	2,368	2,707	3,088	3,106	14.1	443.7
Powell Twp.	644	623	390	372	667	660	724	816	388	12.7	26.7
Republic Twp.	1,617	1,490	1,417	1,442	1,390	1,170	1,106	1,060	853	-3.7	-34.4
Richmond Twp.	1,225	1,197	1,411	1,277	1,246	1,095	974	882	838	-9.4	-28.0
Sands Twp.	172	179	1,657	2,164	2,437	2,696	2,127	2,285	2,817	8.3	1,228.5
Skandia Twp.	793	634	664	717	999	933	907	826	848	-8.9	4.2
Tilden Twp.	967	932	922	883	1,044	1,010	1,003	1,013	1,192	1.0	4.8
Turin Twp.	353	217	128	101	160	156	131	153	118	16.8	-56.7
Wells Twp.	491	431	278	277	351	281	292	231	215	-20.9	-53.0
West Branch Twp.	438	256	807	2,195	2,806	2,998	1,648	1,623	1,659	-1.7	270.5
Marquette County	47,144	47,654	56,154	64,686	74,101	70,887	64,634	67,077	67,582	3.8	42.3
CUPPAD Region	154,496	149,865	157,257	165,744	182,390	177,692	174,717	172,429	171,787	-1.3	11.6
Michigan	5,256,106	6,381,766	7,824,965	8,875,083	9,262,078	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	9,900,571	-0.6	88.0
United States	131,669,275	151,325,798	179,232,175	203,302,031	226,542,199	248,709,873	281,421,906	308,745,538	316,515,021	9.7	134.5

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, years cited. Table DP-1, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2010 and US. Census Bureau, 2011-2016, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

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2.3 Age Composition

The Median Age of Humboldt Township residents in 2015 was 47.0 years (Table 2-2). This figure was 7.9 years older than the median age reported for the County. Humboldt Township's Median Age figure was higher than each of the bordering Townships and all of the cities in Marquette County, with the exception of Michigamme Township. Between 1970 and 2015, Humboldt Township's Median Age increased 18.6 years, for a 65.5 percent increase; the most significant increase occurred between 1980 and 1990, when the Median Age increased by 10.5 years. Communities similar to Humboldt Township are experiencing declines in their birth rates and a rapid increase in the proportion of elderly people, contributing to the increase in Median Age.

Table 2-2
Median Age, Selected Areas, 1970-2015

Area	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	% Change, 1970-2010	% Change 1970-2015
Humboldt Township	**28.4**	**27.8**	**38.3**	**45.5**	**50.9**	**47.0**	**79.2**	**65.5**
Champion Township	31.5	27.8	36.9	44.1	45.4	40.3	44.1	27.9
Ely Township	23.0	25.1	32.0	36.8	43.3	41.1	88.3	78.7
Michigamme Township	40.0	41.1	45.1	51.4	54.7	59.1	36.8	47.8
City of Negaunee	34.3	31.8	36.9	40.4	39.7	38.6	15.7	12.5
Richmond Township	31.4	30.6	37.1	42.3	45.7	40.8	45.5	29.9
Tilden Township	23.8	28.3	33.7	39.7	43.8	41.4	84.0	73.9
Marquette County	24.2	26.1	30.7	37.5	39.4	39.1	62.8	61.6
Michigan	26.3	28.8	32.6	35.5	38.9	39.5	47.9	50.2
United States	27.9	30.0	32.9	35.3	37.2	37.6	33.3	34.8

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010 Summary File 1, 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 and US. Census Bureau, 2011-2016, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

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 Millenials, also known as "Generation Y."

CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.3 Age Composition continued

"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 Township.

The aging population of Humboldt Township is following state and national trends that result from a combination of factors. The Township's older age structure is most likely the result of young adults (Millenials and Gen Xers) out-migrating to other areas with larger populations in search of educational and job opportunities. Many Gen Xers across the country have been dropping out of the general workplace culture, starting their own businesses and are moving to seek additional economic development opportunities. Millenials are considered to be extremely "tech-savvy," and many seek employment 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 a contributing factor as well. A trend toward smaller families, with many people choosing to delay childbearing or not to have children, also contributes toward the aging population.

Table 2-3 indicates the age distribution of Humboldt Township in 2010 and 2015. In 2010 the Age Group of 45-54 years made up the largest portion of the total population at 84 persons, or 18.1 percent. By 2015 this had shifted to the Age Group 65-74 with 90 persons (18.7%). In 2010 this Age Group of 65-74 years was second, at 70 persons, or 15.1 percent. The Baby Boomers consists of persons between the ages of 46-64 and were born approximately between 1945 and 1964. Persons of the Baby Boomer Generation comprise about 27 percent of Humboldt Township's population. Generation X, those individuals born between 1965 and 1976, comprise about 10 percent of the Township's population. At the time of the 2010 Census, these individuals would have been between the ages of 34 and 45. The Millenials, ranging from ages 16 to 31 at the time of the 2010 Census, comprise approximately 15 percent of the Township's population.

Persons residing in Humboldt Township over the age of 65 represent 104 residents or about 22.5 percent of the population. By 2015 this group had increased to 132 or 27.4 percent. As the working population ages, the type and amount of services Humboldt Township 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.

CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.3 Age Composition continued

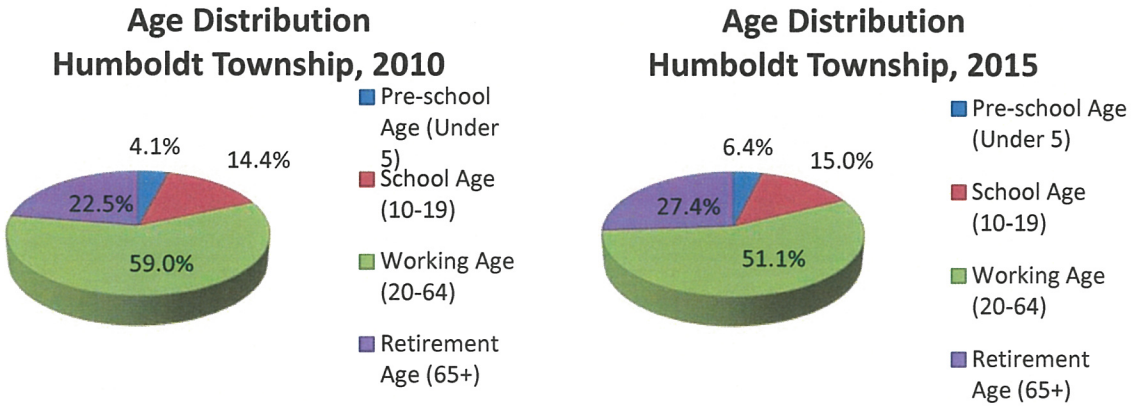
Table 2-3
Age Distribution, Humboldt Township, 2010 and 2015

Age Group	2010		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	19	4.1	31	6.4
Preschool Age	***19***	***4.1***	***31***	***6.4***
5 to 9	21	4.5	14	2.9
10 to 14	22	4.7	22	4.6
15 to 19	24	5.2	36	7.5
School Age	***67***	***14.4***	***72***	***15.0***
20 to 24	8	1.7	16	3.3
25 to 34	38	8.2	54	11.2
35 to 44	48	10.3	52	10.8
45 to 54	84	18.1	56	11.6
55 to 59	41	8.8	29	6.0
60 to 64	55	11.9	39	8.1
Working Age	***274***	***59.0***	***246***	***51.1***
65 to 74	70	15.1	90	18.7
75 to 84	30	6.5	40	8.3
85+	4	0.9	2	0.4
Retirement Age	***104***	***22.5***	***132***	***27.4***
Total	464	100.0	481	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Table DP-1: Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, 2010 and US. Census Bureau, 2011-2016, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Figure 2-2 illustrates the age distribution in Humboldt Township according to four major categories: Preschool Age (under 5), School Age (10-19), Working Age (20-64) and Retirement Age (65+).

Figure 2-2



CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.4 Disability Status

The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines disability as "a long-lasting physical, mental or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business." Disability status data is not available for Humboldt Township from the American Community Five-Year Estimates 2006-2010; 2000 Census data is the most recent available data.

For tracking disability status, the population is broken down into three groups: population 5-20 years (School Age), population 21-64 years (Working Age) and the population 65 and older (Retirement Age). The Census only counted individuals who are not in the military and people who are not under formally authorized supervised care or custody in institutions and typically classified as "patients" or "inmates." Approximately 9.5 percent of school age children in Humboldt Township have a disability, while 17.3 percent of the working age population and 38.8 percent of the retirement age population reported having a disability in 2000. Assessments for providing services for individuals with a disability depend on direct communication with these populations and the professionals who serve them.

Table 2-4
Disability Status, Humboldt Township, 2000 / 2015

	2000		2015	
Disability Status of the Noninstitutionalized Population	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Population 5-20 Years (2000) / Under 18 (2015)	105	100.0	86	100.0
With a disability	10	9.5	0	0.0
Population 21-64 Years (2000)/ 18-64 (2015)	271	100.0	263	100.0
With a disability	47	17.3	53	20.2
Population 65+	67	100.0	132	100.0
With a disability	26	38.8	35	26.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Table DP-2: Profile of Selected Social Characteristics and US. Census Bureau, 2011-2016, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP02.

2.5 Educational Attainment

Education is one important factor in analyzing the capabilities of the local work force. The amount of Humboldt Township residents over 25 years of age without a high school diploma from 2006-2009 was 14.9 percent, which was higher than the County and the State (Figure 2-3). Overall, 85.5 percent of residents over 25 years of age in Humboldt Township were high school graduates or higher, which was significantly lower than the County (91.7 percent), and lower than the State (88.1 percent). The percent of residents in Humboldt Township over 25 years of age with a bachelor's degree or higher was much lower than the rates reported by the County and the State. This may indicate that a lower percentage of jobs within Humboldt Township and the County require higher education skills or an elevated percentage of older residents who did or may not have needed a bachelor's degree to obtain employment in the past.

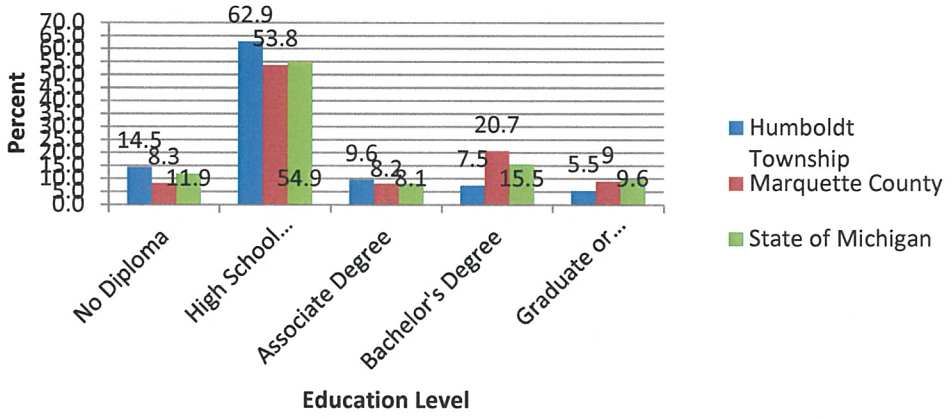
CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.5 Educational Attainment continued

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. Therefore, employers desire individuals who possess 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.

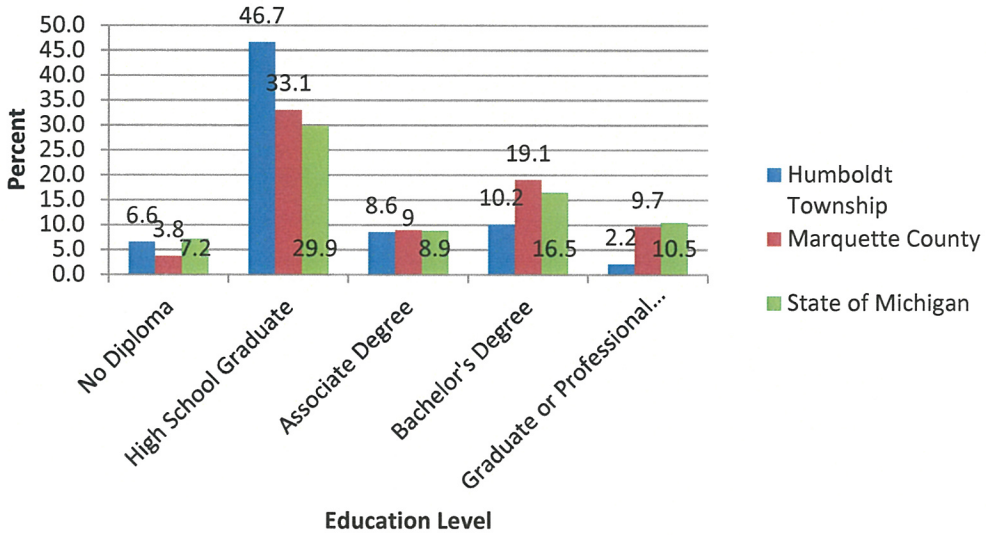
Figure 2-3

Educational Attainment of Persons Over 25 Years of Age, 2006-2010



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Table DP-2, Profile of Selected Social Characteristics; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, STF 3A, P057 and US. Census Bureau, 2011-2016, ACS 5-Year Estimates.

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 & Over Years of Age, 2015



2.6 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. A *Non-Family Household* is comprised of a person living alone or sharing a home exclusively with unrelated people, for example, roommates or unmarried partners.

From 2000 to 2015, the population of Humboldt Township increased by 2.6 percent, however the number of Housing Units (by definition a Household is the same as a Housing Unit) increased by 6.2 percent during the same time period (Table 2-5). 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 percentage of family households in Humboldt Township decreased by about 4.5 percent between 2000 and 2010, while the number of non-family households, including persons living alone, increased by about 4.5 percent. The number of non-family householders living alone increased from 41 to 59 between 2000 and 2010; about 12 percent of these households are elderly people living alone. The average household size decreased from 2.42 persons to 2.33 persons between 2000 and 2015.

Table 2-5
Household Characteristics, Humboldt Township, 2000 - 2015

Household Type	2000		2010		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Family Households	142	73.2	145	68.7	150	72.8
Husband-Wife Family	123	63.4	127	60.2	130	63.1
Female Householder	12	6.2	8	3.8	16	7.8
Male Householder	7	3.6	10	4.7	4	1.9
Non-Family Households	52	26.8	66	31.3	56	27.2
Householder Living Alone	41	21.1	59	28.0	49	23.8
Householder 65 or Over	21	10.8	26	12.3	27	13.1
Total Households	194	100.0	211	100.0	206	100.0
Average Household Size	2.42		2.20		2.33	

Sources: U.S. Census, 2010 SF1, 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. US. Census Bureau, 2011-2015, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

2.7 Population Density

With a 2010 population of 464 persons and a land area of 95.7 square miles, Humboldt Township's Population Density was 4.8 persons per square mile (Table 2-6). This figure compares with a density of 36.8 persons per square mile at the County level and 174.0 persons per square mile at the State level. Humboldt Township has the third lowest Population Density of communities listed in Table 2-6, slightly higher than Champion and Michigamme Townships. The

CHAPTER 2.0-POPULATION

2.7 Population Density continued

low Population Density in Humboldt Township is likely due to large tracts of land that are part of the Escanaba River State Forest as well as additional lands held in corporate and private ownership.

Table 2-6
Population Densities, Selected Areas, 2010 & 2015

		2010		2015	
Place	Land Area (Sq. Miles)	Population	Persons Per Sq. Mile	Population	Persons Per Sq. Mile
Humboldt Township	**95.7**	**464**	**4.8**	**481**	**5.0**
Champion Township	125.0	297	2.4	331	2.6
Ely Township	140.6	1,952	13.9	2,054	14.6
Michigamme Township	141.8	349	2.5	304	2.1
City of Marquette	11.4	21,355	1,873.2	21,444	1,881.1
City of Negaunee	13.8	4,568	331.0	4,609	334.0
Negaunee Township	42.1	3,088	73.3	3,106	73.8
Sands Township	71.1	2,285	32.1	2,817	39.6
Richmond Township	57.5	882	15.3	838	14.6
Tilden Township	96.0	1,013	10.6	1,192	12.4
Marquette County	1821.3	67,077	36.8	67,582	37.1
Michigan	56,809.2	9,883,640	174.0	9,900,571	174.3

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, 2010 and US. Census Bureau, 2011-2016, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

2.8 Issues and Opportunities

- Humboldt Township lost 5 persons, or 1.1 percent of the population between 2000 and 2010, and the population declined from 469 in 2000 to 464 in 2010. By 2015 the population had rebounded to 481 (2017 est. 444). Lack of career opportunities for local high school and college graduates in the area have contributed to the declining population in Humboldt Township over the last thirty years. The reopening of the Humboldt Mill by Eagle Mine, a subsidiary of Lundin Mining Corporation, has likely contributed to the Township's population temporary resurgence.

- Census data indicates that Humboldt Township has experienced a relatively steady population decline since 1940, with the exceptions of the year 1980 and now 2015.

- The population of Marquette County increased 4.6 percent from 2000 to 2015. Marquette County was one of three UP counties to experience a population increase from 2000 to 2010.