

Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Assessment

2020

Executive Summary

Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency (GOCAA) operates an Early Head Start and Head Start program serving children in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties in the western end of the upper peninsula of Michigan. Head Start is a federally funded early childhood education program that provides preschool, health, mental health, disabilities, nutrition, education and other social services to low income children ages 3 - 5 and their families. Early Head Start provides similar services to low income children ages 0-3 and their families as well as pregnant mothers. Both Head Start and Early Head Start also offer services to age eligible children who are homeless or in foster care. GOCAA is funded to serve 85 Head Start children and 30 Early Head Start children and/or pregnant mothers. Ten percent of children served may come from income above 131% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Federal standards require each Head Start and Early Head Start program to conduct a community assessment every 5 years. The community assessment identifies the estimated size of the eligible population, demographic and economic data about the population and any health, educational or other social needs of low income children and their families in the service area. This community assessment was produced in partnership with Early Childhood Analytics, a consultancy based in Portland Oregon. In conducting this Community Assessment, a team including program management and a consultant analyzed internal and external data. Through this process, a few key trends were identified that are highlighted in this community assessment. These include a sudden shift in economic trends affecting families with young children, the beginning of a cyclical recession that coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, and a number of indicators which suggest lower access to health care for low income families, which exacerbates existing health issues impacting the community.

Estimating the Head Start and Early Head Start eligible population

The American Community Survey (ACS), produced by the US Census Bureau, releases a variety of demographic, economic and sociological annual estimates about the US population down to the town and neighborhood level. These estimates are based on a representative sampling of the population and tend to become less useful for smaller populations as margins of error rise. County level estimates are used in this report for more accurate estimates of the Head Start and Early Head Start eligible populations. As of the 2019 ACS there were an estimated 213 children under age 5 whose family income was at or below federal poverty guidelines in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties combined. All of these children would be eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services depending on age. Assuming an equal age distribution across these 213 children, 85 would be eligible for Head Start and 128 would be eligible for Early Head Start. These estimates are down from a 10 year high of an estimated 445 children under age 5 in poverty in 2013.

Driving this decline in the Head Start eligible population are a number of economic trends, all driven primarily by the economic expansion that began at the end of the Great Recession in 2009. This time period was marked by a fall in Gogebic County's poverty rate for young families from a high of 46.8% in 2013 to a low of 22.8% in 2018.¹ In 2019 this poverty rate increased to 29.5% for Gogebic County. Simultaneously, an ongoing decline in the unemployment rate began to rise for Gogebic County for the first time in at least 9 years, from 5.1% in 2018 to 5.2% in 2019.² This study found a strong correlation between the unemployment rate and the poverty rate for young families (+.717 correlation coefficient) in Gogebic County. These two economic indicators may have shown that the region was undergoing early signs of economic recession in 2019. The peak of the post Great Recession expansion was declared by the National Bureau of Economic Research in the final quarter of 2019. This peak signals the beginning of a new recession. It is likely that the current recession will lead to increases in the Head Start and Early Head Start eligible populations. Using the same correlation with unemployment, the poverty rate for young families in Gogebic County may be as high as 30.2% in 2020, though it is difficult to say for certain because of the nature of the economic shutdown due to COVID-19 and associated economic relief provided by the federal government. At the very least, it seems likely that the downward trend in the income eligible population of children under age 5 is over, and that the trend will reverse and the population of low income children will begin to grow.

Actual children enrolled in Head Start/GSRP

In addition to Head Start, 4 year old children in the service area are also served by Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), a state funded pre-kindergarten program for 4-year old children whose family income is up to 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. The program reported serving 46 four-year old children in Gogebic County during the 2020-2021 school year,³ while GOCAA Head Start served 71 income/categorically eligible children, 11 children with family income between 100-130% of the federal poverty guidelines and 19 over income children. In all, about 150 of the estimated 223 children ages 3 & 4 were served by either Head Start or GSRP in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties. With an estimated 85 income eligible 3 & 4 year olds in the two county area, it is clear that the two counties have the capacity to serve all low income children in the service area. In response to this capacity and a shrinking Head Start eligible population, GOCAA Head Start began reducing its funded enrollment from 100 to 85 (2016). Given the economic indicators outlined in the previous section, it seems that any further reductions in funded enrollment should be halted until more information about the current recession and COVID-19 pandemic is released.

GOCAA Early Head Start has maintained enrollment of income/categorically eligible children at very high levels, above 92% of its cumulative enrollment over the past 10 years, and averaging 96.6% of cumulative enrollment from 2010-2020. This is not surprising given that the GOCAA

¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP03, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

²Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics <http://bls.gov>, retrieved January 2021

³ Great Start Readiness Program, Final Allocation Reports 2014-2021, retrieved January 2020 from <https://www.michigan.gov/>

Early Head Start program is funded to serve 30 infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers while there are an estimated 128 low income children eligible for such services in the two counties. This suggests a need for more EHS funded slots, particularly given that the program serves anywhere from 100% to 169% of its funded slots with income/categorically eligible children every year.

Health Care accessibility

Data from the region strongly indicates a lack of access to adequate health care for residents. The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, a multi-county special governmental health unit of which Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties are a part, identified health care access as one of its top 5 issues in its 2018 Health Needs Assessment for the region.⁴ Additionally, data analyzed in this Head Start Community Assessment found that both Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties have healthcare practitioner shortages in the three health care fields tracked by the federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).⁵ These include shortages in mental health, dental, and primary care health practitioners for low income and high needs populations in both counties. Additionally, the percentage of children under age 6 who are uninsured in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties (11.3% and 16.3% respectively) is many times higher than the state average (3%).⁶ Though these estimates are subject to high margins of error, the trend of elevated rates of uninsured young children in the two counties has remained consistent since at least 2015, when this data first became available. The rate of individuals without insurance, whose income is at or below 130% of poverty guidelines, has never dropped below 15% (2019) in Ontonagon County. This is particularly of concern because individuals with this income level qualify for Medicaid and should receive coverage at low rates or for free in many cases. Though more and more adults and young children are enrolling in health insurance, the uninsured rate in the region has remained significantly elevated compared to the state of Michigan as a whole. When combined with the HRSA's designation of practitioner shortages, this data points to a high need for health care accessibility.

Fortunately, Head Start and Early Head Start provide health, mental health and dental referrals and screening as well as assistance with enrollment in Medicaid. Only 2.8% of children enrolled in GOCAA Head Start and Early Head Start were without health insurance in the 2019-2020 program year, compared to 11.3% of all children under age 6 in Gogebic County and 16.3% in Ontonagon County in 2019. The ability of GOCAA Head Start to address healthcare practitioner shortages in the region remains limited, however the efforts of health and family service staff to connect Head Start and Early Head Start children to existing health services has a measurable impact on the young children and families they serve.

⁴ Community Health Needs Assessment, Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, <https://www.wupdhd.org/community-health-needs-assessment/>

⁵ Health Resources & Services Administration, retrieved Januar 2021 from <https://data.hrsa.gov/>

⁶ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2701, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began approximately in March of 2020, has affected Gogebic and Ontonagon counties particularly hard. The COVID-19 case rate as of early February 2021 was 8,601 and 6,923 per 100,00 population in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties respectively.⁷ For comparison, the case rate for Michigan as a whole was 6,211. It is difficult to determine the exact cause of elevated case rates. Even more concerning are the elevated death rates. At 322 COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 residents, Gogebic and Ontonagon counties have more than double the death rate of the state of Michigan as a whole, which was at 159. It could be that the aforementioned issues with health care accessibility had an impact on this death rate. In addition to the toll on human health and life, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic likely leaves young families even more vulnerable. The aforementioned correlation between unemployment and the poverty rate for families with children under 5 shows that young families in the region are particularly sensitive to economic forces. It is possible that the parents of young children are among the first to lose their jobs during any downturn in the economy, whether it is related to COVID-19 or not.

Conclusion

The Gogebic and Ontonagon service area has experienced many years of decline in the Head Start eligible population, likely due to nationwide economic expansion. However, the region tends to lag behind in many economic metrics such as unemployment, median family income and poverty rates. As a result, the need for Head Start and Early Head Start services has always remained. With the end of economic expansion, it can be expected that the need for Head Start and Early Head Start services will continue to grow in the coming years. The identified lack of health care accessibility highlights a particular need for GOCAA to continue connecting young children and families with health care resources in the region. The community as a whole must continue advocating for better access to health care, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that the region is particularly vulnerable to healthcare crises. It is also possible that there is a higher need for Early Head Start services in both counties, especially when compared to the high capacity for services to 4 year old children with GSRP and Head Start options.

⁷ New York Times, State and local health agencies and hospitals. Population and demographic data from Census Bureau. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

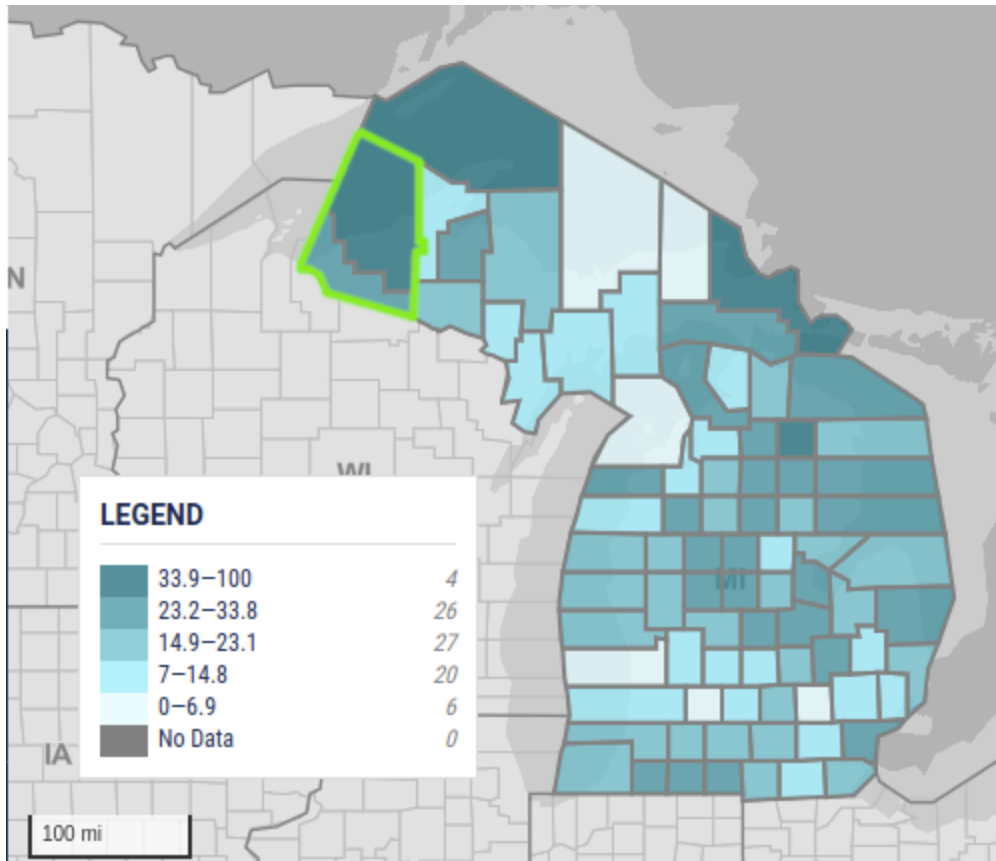
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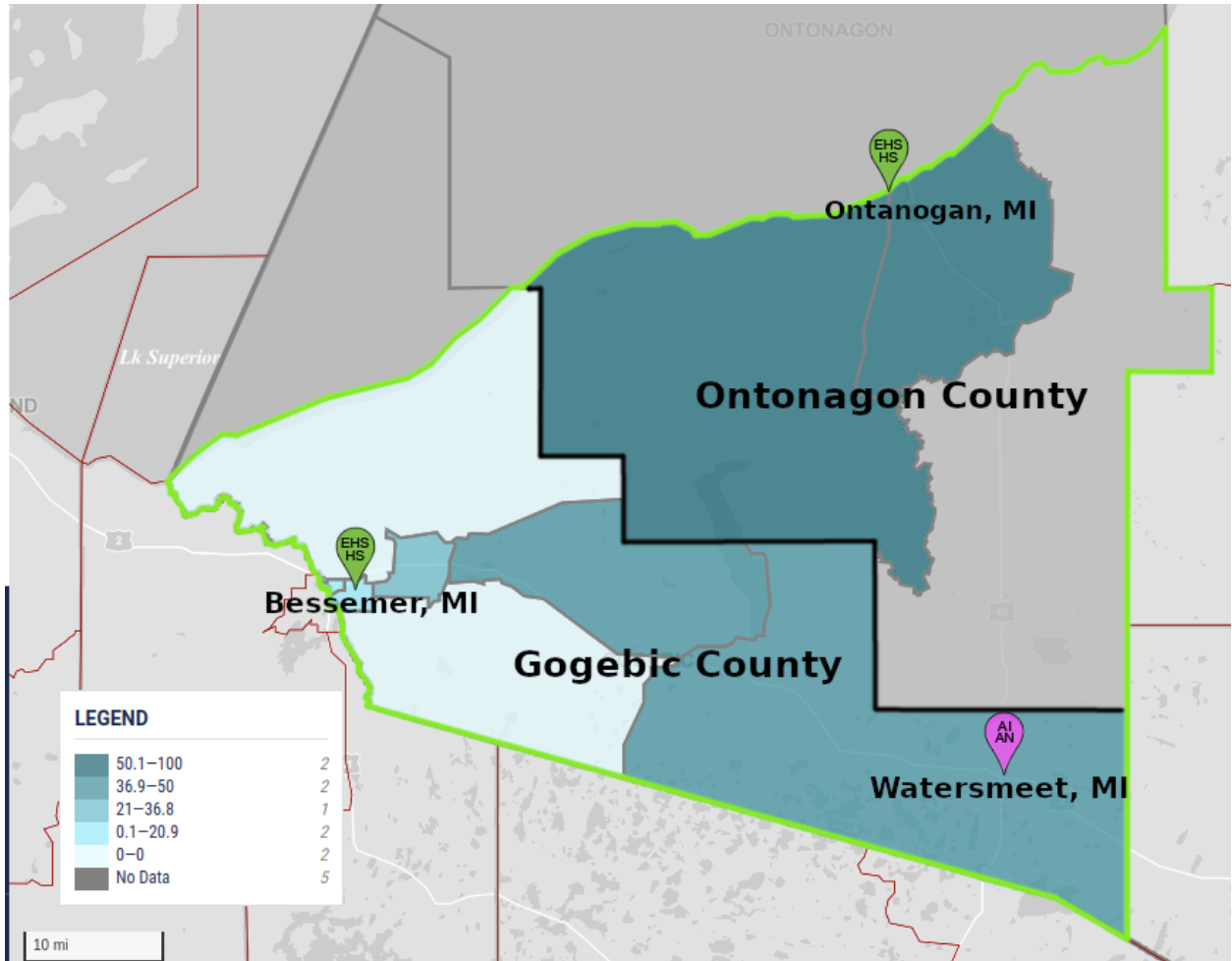
Map & Service Area

Location of service area within the U.S. state of Michigan



The Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start program is located in the western part of Michigan's upper peninsula. The program serves Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties, which are highlighted in green in the map above. The map displays all counties in Michigan color coded by the percentage of families with children under age 5 whose income was at or below poverty level for 2019, the latest year for which there is data.

Source: United States Census Bureau, 5-year American Community Survey, table DP03
https://data.census.gov/cedsci/map?text=DP03&q=0500000US26053.140000.26131.140000&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP03&hidePreview=false&vintage=2019&layer=VT_2019_140_00_PY_D1&cid=DP03_0121PE&palette=Teal&break=5&classification=Natural%20Breaks&mode=thematic



The above shows the GOCAA service area bordered in green, including Gogebic and Ontonagon counties. The green markers represent GOCAA Head Start/Early Head Start centers. The purple marker represents the location of an American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start program on the Lac Vieux Desert Indian Reservation. This program serves primarily American Indian children. The color coding on the map shows the poverty rate for families with young children by Census Tract within each county.

Service Area Data

Estimating the eligible population

Head Start compared to Great Start Readiness Program

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure.⁸ The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Funding is allocated to the local intermediate school district to administer the program. GSRP has an income requirement beyond that of Head Start; GSRP may enroll children at or below 250% of federal poverty guidelines (FPL) and also takes into account other factors such as homelessness, disability or foster care status. GSRP also considers other factors that may qualify a child for enrollment such as severe or challenging behavior, a primary language spoken other than English, parents with low educational attainment, domestic abuse and other environmental risks. In contrast these factors do not automatically qualify a child for enrollment in Head Start, though Head Start programs may prioritize enrollment of children experiencing these issues if they otherwise qualify based on other criteria.

With its focus on 4 year old children up to 250% of FPL, GSRP is a complimentary early childhood program to Head Start, though in many cases families will qualify for both programs. While estimating the Head Start eligible population and the capacity to serve that population, GSRP must be taken into account, since 4-year old children who qualify for Head Start may also qualify for GSRP. GSRP has a presence in Gogebic County only, and 48 funded slots were available for the 2019-2020 school year.

The table below and continued on the next page compares the eligibility criteria of the two programs. Green shade indicates a factor that qualifies a child/family for services while yellow indicates that a factor does not automatically qualify a child/family but may be considered when prioritizing enrollment of a child who qualifies under other criteria.

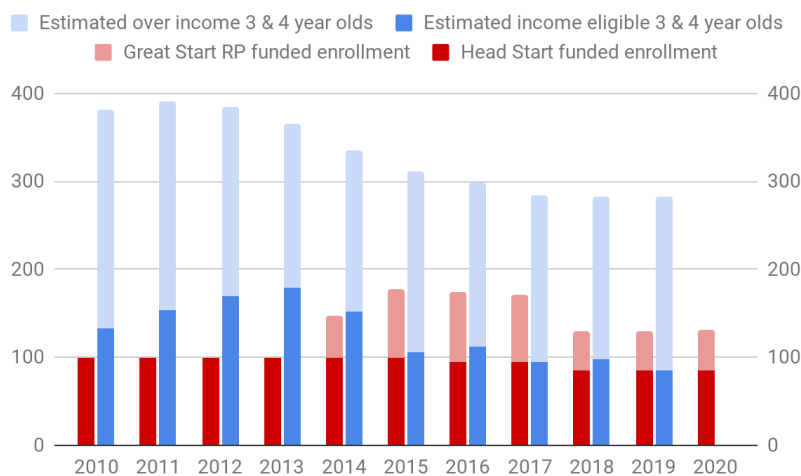
Eligibility Criteria	Michigan Great Start Readiness Program	Head Start
Income	At or below 250% of poverty level.	At or below 100% of poverty level (also availability of 35% of total enrollment to 101-130% of poverty level and 10% of total enrollment for 131% - above)
Diagnosed disability	Considered 0-50% of poverty level and qualified for enrollment.	10% of enrollment must be reserved for children with disabilities, but a disability does not automatically qualify a child.

⁸Michigan Great Start Readiness Program, Michigan Department of Education, https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-63533_50451---.00.html

Eligibility Criteria (continued from previous page)	Michigan Great Start Readiness Program	Head Start
Severe or challenging behavior	A child who has been expelled from preschool or another childcare center may qualify for enrollment.	This factor may prioritize enrollment of a child. Selection criteria is examined yearly based on the needs of the community.
Language	A primary home language other than English may qualify a child for enrollment.	This factor may prioritize enrollment of a child. Selection criteria is examined yearly based on the needs of the community.
Parent/guardian educational attainment	A child with a parent who has not graduated from high school or who is illiterate may qualify for enrollment.	This factor may prioritize a child for enrollment. Selection criteria is examined yearly based on needs of community.
Abuse/Neglect	Domestic, sexual, or physical abuse of child or parent; child neglect issues; Child Protective Services report; may qualify a child for enrollment.	This factor may prioritize enrollment of a child. Selection criteria is examined yearly based on the needs of the community.
Environmental risk	Loss of a parent due to death, divorce, incarceration, military service, residence in high crime areas, exposure to toxic substances and other environmental risks may qualify a child for enrollment.	This factor may prioritize enrollment of a child. Selection criteria is examined yearly based on the needs of the community.
Homelessness	Automatically qualifies for services.	Automatically qualifies for services.
Foster care	Automatically qualifies for services.	Automatically qualifies for services.
Cash Public Assistance	A family receiving cash public assistance (such as TANF) does not automatically qualify, but will more than likely qualify under the income requirement for GSRP.	Automatically qualifies for services.

Estimated number of 3 and 4 year old children in poverty

The American Community Survey (ACS), published by the US Census Bureau, produces an estimate for the number of children under age 5 whose family income is below poverty. This can be used to create an estimate for children eligible for Head Start services by assuming an equal age distribution across this population. The estimated number of Head Start eligible children in the Gogebic-Ontonagon service area has declined from a high of 178 in 2013 to 85 in 2019. Factors driving this change include an overall drop in children under age 5 from a high of 979 in 2011 to a low of 704 in 2019. Also driving this change is a drop in the poverty rate for families with children under age 5, in Gogebic County from a high of 46.8% in 2013 to 29.5% in 2019. The same poverty rate for Ontonagon County has risen to 100%, but this poverty rate has a 98.3% margin of error and is considered to be unreliable. Over this same time period Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start requested a reduction in funded enrollment for Head Start in 2016 and another in 2018. The Great Start Readiness Program also reduced its funded enrollment, from a high of 80 in 2016 to 46 in 2020, and only serves only 4 year olds. GSRP and Head Start combined to serve 97 four-year old children in the two counties in 2020. Based on 2019 ACS estimates, this is about as many 4 year olds as are estimated to be in the two counties. Head Start served only 49 children aged 3, about half of the estimated 3 year olds in both counties. The chart and table below illustrates these trends, comparing the estimated eligible population and over income population for children ages 3 & 4 to the capacity to serve this population in Head Start and GSRP in the two counties.



Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau. 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table B17001. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start, Program Information Reports 2010-2020

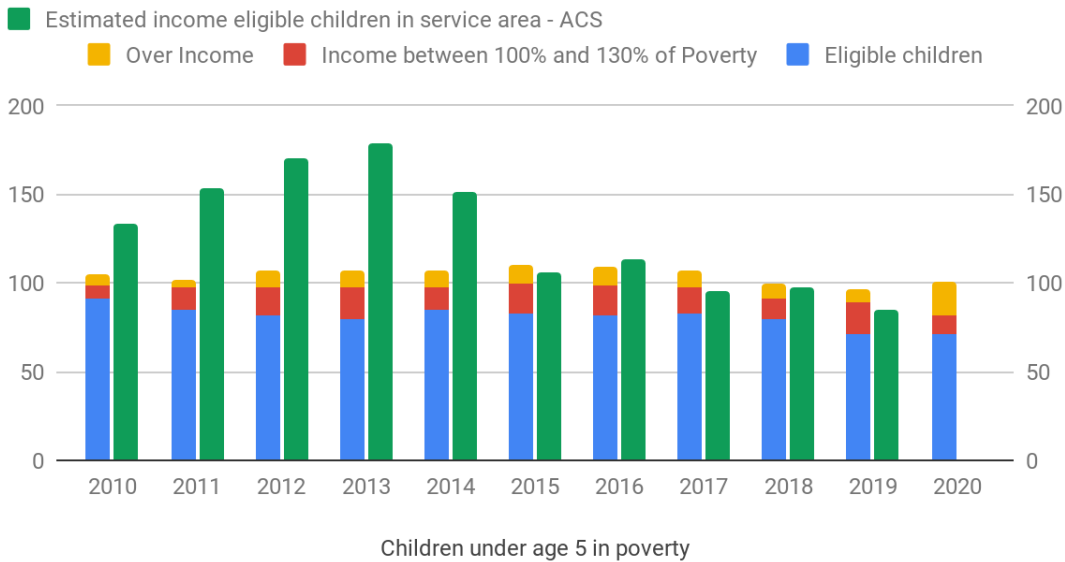
Great Start Readiness Program, Final Allocation Reports 2014-2021, retrieved January 2020 from <https://www.michigan.gov/>

Gogebic-Ontonagon	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Head Start funded enrollment	100	100	100	100	100	100	95	95	85	85	85
Great Start RP funded enrollment					48	77	80	76	45	45	46
Estimated income eligible 3 & 4 year olds in service area - ACS	133	153	170	178	152	106	113	95	98	85	N/A
Estimated over income 3 & 4 year olds	249	238	215	188	183	206	185	189	185	197	N/A

Eligibility status of children enrolled in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start

The table and graph below have the same estimate for Head Start eligible children in the service area (based on income), but compares that number to actual children enrolled in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start by eligibility category. There is a weak correlation (0.373 correlation coefficient) between the number of eligible children enrolled in Head Start⁹ and the estimate for Head Start eligible children in the service area, based on income.

Gogebic County, Michigan and Ontonagon County, Michigan



Gogebic-Ontonagon enrolled children	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HS Eligible children enrolled in GOCAA	91	85	82	80	85	83	82	83	80	71	71
HS Income between 100% and 130% of Poverty enrolled in GOCAA	8	12	15	17	13	17	17	14	11	18	19
HS Over Income enrolled in GOCAA	6	5	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	11
Estimated income eligible 3 & 4 year olds in service area - ACS	133	153	170	178	152	106	113	95	98	85	N/A

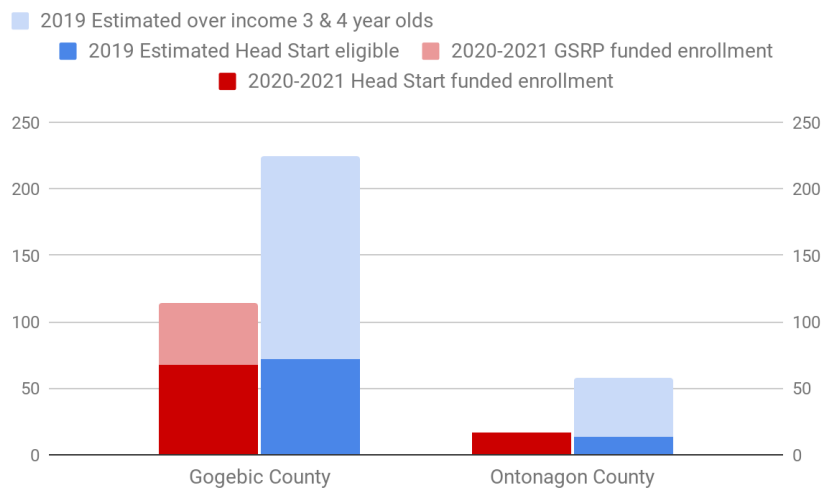
U.S. Census Bureau. 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table B17001. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

⁹ This number includes children who were determined eligible due to any qualifying factor, whether it was low income, receipt of public assistance, homelessness or status as a foster care child

County level estimates

County level estimates for eligible children and enrollment of eligible children show that Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start has a near perfect distribution of funded Head Start slots to serve the population in each county. There are 68 funded Head Start slots in Gogebic County to serve the estimated 72 eligible children in the county, and 17 funded Head Start slots in Ontonagon County to serve an estimated 13 income eligible children. Any enrollment of 4 year olds under poverty guidelines or enrollment of Head Start eligible children in the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Head Start program will reduce the number of eligible children available for Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start to enroll in their program. Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's funded enrollment in Watersmeet, MI (about 50 miles to the east of Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start centers in Bessemer) was unknown at the time of publication of this report. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

operates an American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start program. Their funded enrollment is split across centers in northern Michigan and the upper northern peninsula and goes far beyond Gogebic County. It can be assumed that they have at least one classroom in Watersmeet, MI in Gogebic County serving about 20 children. Because this is an AI/AN Head Start program it may enroll a higher percentage of overincome children (up to 49% of funded enrollment).



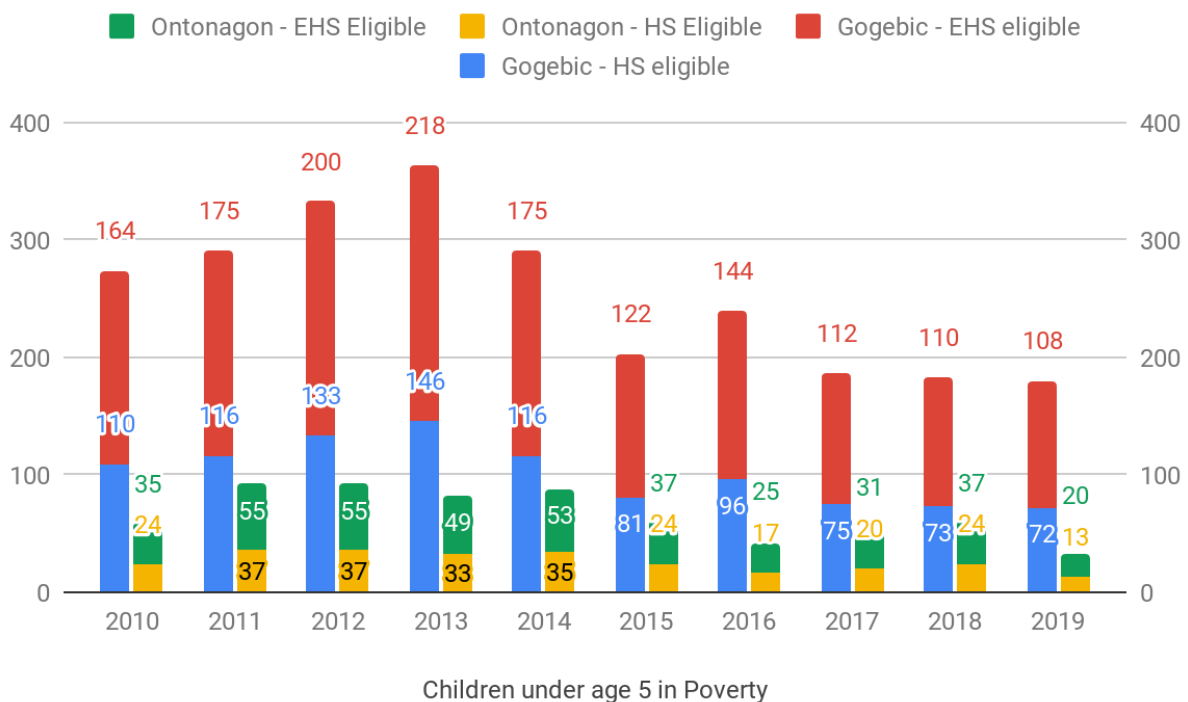
County	2020-2021 Head Start funded enrollment	2020-2021 GSRP funded enrollment	2019 Estimated Head Start eligible	2019 Estimated over income 3 & 4 year olds
Gogebic County	68	46	72	152
Ontonagon County	17	N/A	13.1	45

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table B17001. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start, Program Information Reports 2010-2020

Great Start Readiness Program, Final Allocation Reports 2014-2021, retrieved January 2020 from <https://www.michigan.gov/>

The HS/EHS eligible population in Gogebic and Ontonagon has decreased by 34% and 44% respectively over the past 10 years. This trend is consistent with the aftermath of the 2008/2009 recession and subsequent recovery. However, the recent economic recession declared in February of 2020 and additional economic shutdown in March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has likely led to increased poverty. The chart and table below illustrates the estimated Head Start and Early Head Start eligible populations in each county from 2010 to 2019, the latest year for which there is ACS data. Note that both the Head Start and Early Head Start estimates are based on the same estimate for children under age 5 in poverty, so any change in one population will be mirrored in the other.



Children under age 5 in Poverty	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic - HS eligible	110	116	133	146	116	81	96	75	73	72
Gogebic - EHS eligible	164	175	200	218	175	122	144	112	110	108
Ontonagon - HS Eligible	24	37	37	33	35	24	17	20	24	13
Ontonagon - EHS Eligible	35	55	55	49	53	37	25	31	37	20

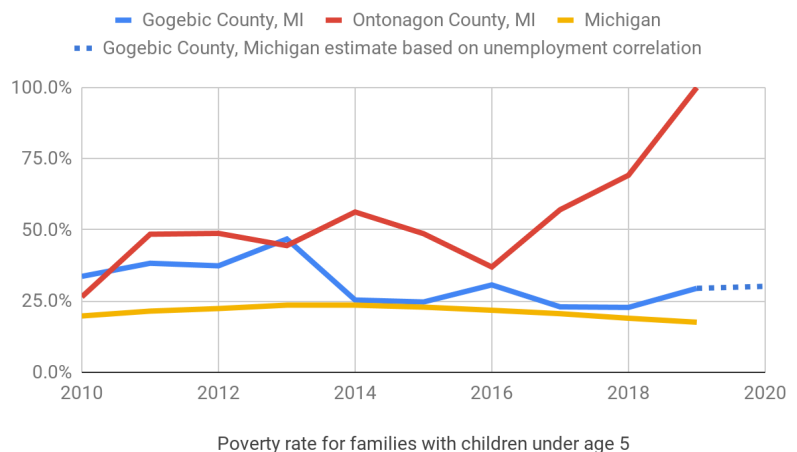
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (derived), table B17001, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Poverty Rate

The ACS produces a poverty rate for families with children under age 5 through 2019. In Gogebic County this poverty rate for young families peaked in 2013, at 46.8%, up from 33.7% in 2010. This is generally consistent with the aftermath of the 2008/2009 recession. This poverty rate then dropped to a low of 22.8% in 2018 before climbing to 29.5%. The increase in the poverty rate may indicate that Gogebic County was experiencing early warning signs of the new recession, which officially began in February of 2020. This recession began prior to the economic effects of COVID-19 shutdowns.

There is a strong correlation between the Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment rate and the poverty rate for young families in Gogebic County (+.717 correlation coefficient.) If this correlation were to continue, then this poverty rate may increase to 30.2% in 2020, based on an unemployment rate of 8.1% for the year. This derived estimate of 30.2% should be considered a rough estimate only. 2020 was an unusual year due to the COVID outbreak and economic shutdown. Factoring in stimulus packages and expanded unemployment benefits makes it difficult to say if the correlation holds up for 2020.

This poverty rate is subject to margins of error. Typically, margins of error are higher for smaller populations. The Ontonagon poverty rate varies between 15 percentage points in 2014 to as high as 98.3 percentage points in 2019. Gogebic margin of error varies from 10.4 to 19.5 percentage points by comparison. This indicates that Ontonagon County's poverty rate is not reliable and other figures should be used.



Poverty rate for families with children under age 5	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gogebic County, MI	33.7%	38.3%	37.4%	46.8%	25.4%	24.7%	30.7%	23.0%	22.8%	29.5%	30.2%
Ontonagon County, MI	26.5%	48.5%	48.8%	44.5%	56.3%	48.7%	37.0%	57.1%	69.2%	100%	
Michigan	19.8%	21.5%	22.4%	23.6%	23.6%	22.9%	21.8%	20.6%	19.0%	17.6%	

U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year Table DP03. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>. 2020 estimate is based on correlation with BLS annual unemployment figures

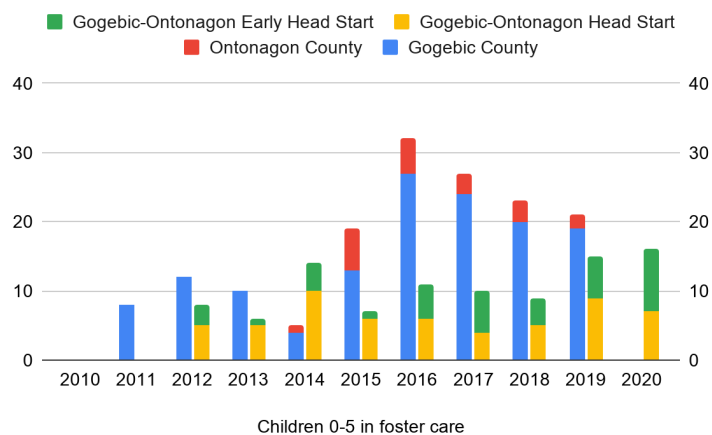
Foster Children

Children under age 5 and in foster care are automatically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start services. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) publishes data on foster care children ages 0-5 in foster care on September 30 of each year (often referred to as a “Point-In-Time” count or PIT). Some children who were in foster care only part of the year may not be counted. This data set is only current through 2019, and includes children age 5 who may have been in kindergarten at the time of out of home placements in foster care.

Despite these limitations, DHHS offers the most complete and accurate data that is available for this population. The ACS provides estimates based on representative sampling of households and families, and is subject to high margins of error and has the same limitation on PIT counts as the DHHS data. Because of this, the ACS estimates are excluded and DHHS data used instead.

Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties each experienced a growth in children in foster care ages 0-5, starting in 2015 with 18 children and peaking in 2016 with 32 children. This number dropped to 21 in 2019, but still remains much higher when compared to the beginning of the decade, from 2010 to 2014. Over this same time period, enrollment of foster care children in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head

Start/Early Head Start also increased to highs of 14 in 2014 and 15 in 2019. In 2014, the program reported more children in foster care than were reported by DHHS, however, this is likely due to the limitation of the PIT count in DHHS data, which is outlined above. Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start staff cite increased efforts among social service agencies as a contributing factor to the rise of foster care children in the area as more children who require out of home placement are being identified.



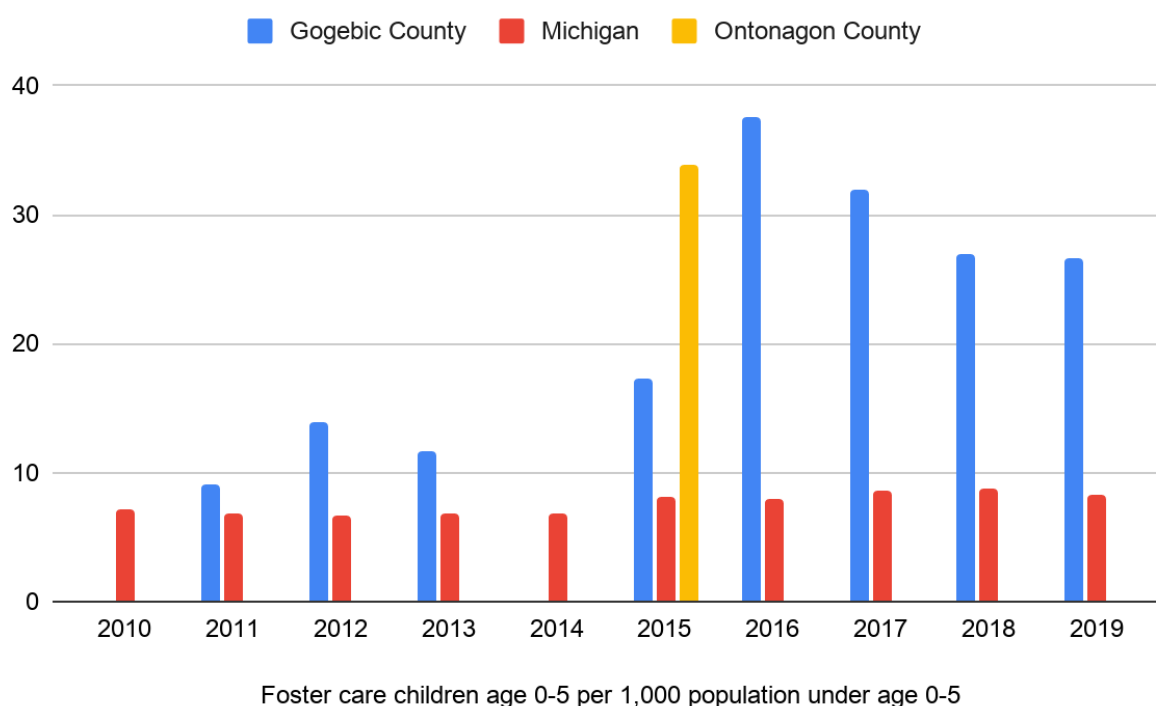
Children 0-5 in foster care	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gogebic County	0	8	12	10	4	13	27	24	20	19	N/A
Ontonagon County	0	0	0	0	1	6	5	3	3	2	N/A
GOCAA Head Start	0	0	5	5	10	6	6	4	5	9	7
GOCAA EHS	0	0	3	1	4	1	5	6	4	6	9

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Services management Information System. Population estimates are from the Census Bureau. Retrieved January 2021 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

Source: Program Information Reports 2010-2019, Head Start Enterprise System and Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start, retrieved November 2019 from <https://hses.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

Rate of foster care children

The rate of children in foster care placement can be compared across geographies, despite population differences. Ontonagon County's population is too small to make meaningful comparisons, however Gogebic County has maintained higher than average rates of children in foster care placement compared to Michigan for every year for which there is data. From 2010 to 2019, there was an average of 18 children ages 0-5 in foster care per 1,000 in Gogebic, compared to just 3 per 1,000 in the state of Michigan as a whole. This indicates a higher need for services of children in foster care in the service area when compared to the rest of the state.



Children 0-5 in foster care - rate per 1,000 population	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County	0	9	14	12	*	17	38	32	27	27
Ontonagon County	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0
Michigan	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	9	9	8

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Services management Information System. Population estimates are from the Census Bureau. Retrieved January 2021 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

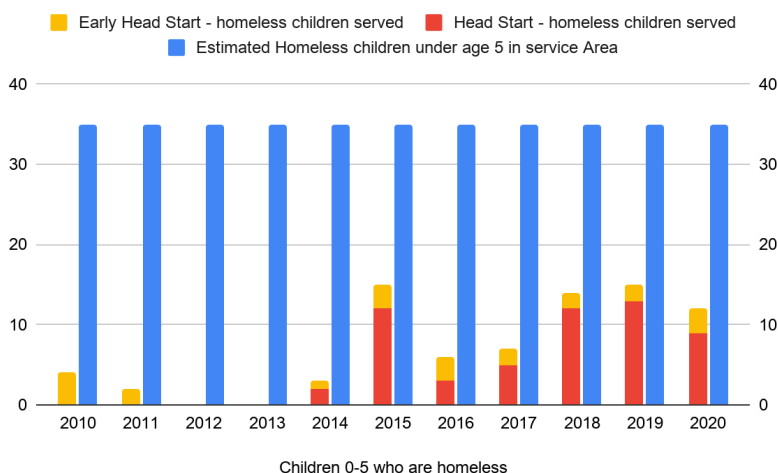
Homelessness

The best data for homeless children under age 5 in the service area is unfortunately from 2016. This data uses the homelessness rate among 1st graders enrolled in school districts to derive a county homelessness rate for children under age five. For Gogebic County this rate is 5.1%, and for Ontonagon this rate is 2.9%. Using these rates, there were an estimated 30 homeless children under age 5 in Gogebic County and 5 in Ontonagon County. If the same rate of homelessness continued through 2019, then the estimate would remain little changed, dropping by only one in each county.

Children Ages 0-4 Experiencing Homelessness in Michigan		
Location	Data Type	2016
Gogebic	Number	30
	Percent	5.10%
Ontonagon	Number	5
	Percent	2.90%
Michigan	Number	15,565
	Percent	4.60%

Source: Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, retrieved January 2021 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

Using this estimate as a very rough guide, the estimated homeless population under age 5 in the combined counties of Gogebic and Ontonagon can be compared to the number of homeless children served in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start/Early Head Start. In the 2019-2020 program year, GOCAA Head Start and Early Head Start combined to serve 12 homeless children under age 5, representing one half to one third of the estimated homeless population. It is unclear how many homeless 4 year old children were served in the GSRP, since they do not make this data publicly available.



GOCAA service area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Estimated homeless children under age 5	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Head Start homeless children served	0	0	0	0	2	12	3	5	12	13	9
EHS homeless children served	4	2	0	0	1	3	3	2	2	2	3

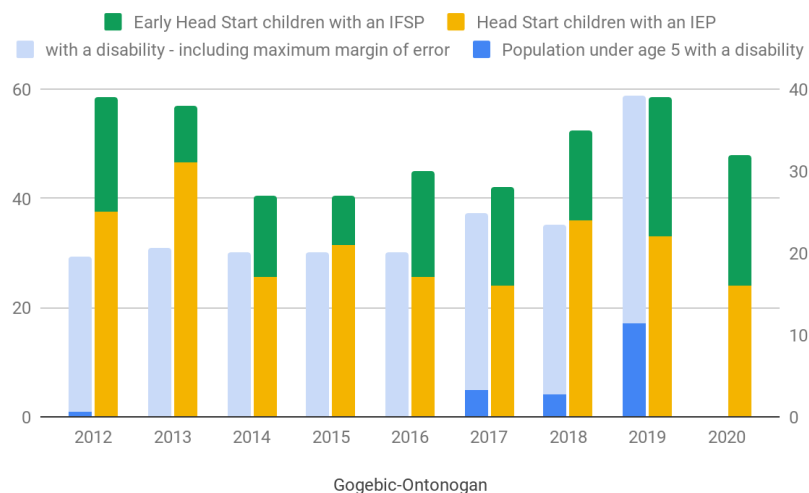
Source: Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, retrieved January 2021 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

Source: Program Information Reports for Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start

Disabilities

The ACS releases estimates for the number of children under age 5 with a disability. These estimates are based off of a very small subset of the population, and are therefore subject to high margins of error (plus or minus 25 with a .90 confidence interval for 2019 based on an estimate of 17.) Therefore, when estimating the number of young children with a disability, it is best to consider the upper bounds of these margins of error as well as the actual number of children with disabilities identified by the program in the service area. In the 2018-2019 program year, there were 39 children with disabilities served in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start. For that year, the ACS estimated there were 17 children under age 5 with a disability in the two counties, with a margin of error of +/- 25. This means that there were as few as 0 children and as many as 42 under age 5 with a disability with a confidence interval of .90. The higher range of this margin of error is closer to the actual number of children served in the program for every year going back to 2012, which is the earliest year for which there is data. Both the estimate and the actual number identified have increased from 2014 to 2019.

The ACS relies on self reported surveys. Any families with a child with an undiagnosed disability will likely not be reflected in ACS data. Because Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide early screening for disabilities for young children, the ACS estimate may actually be directly impacted by Head Start and Early Head Start efforts to screen young children in any given area.



Gogebic-Ontonogon	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Under age 5 w/ a disability	1	0	0	0	0	5	4	17	N/A
with a disability - including maximum margin of error	28	31	30	30	30	32	31	42	N/A
Head Start children with an IEP	25	31	17	21	17	16	24	22	16
EHS children with an IFSP	14	7	10	6	13	12	11	17	16

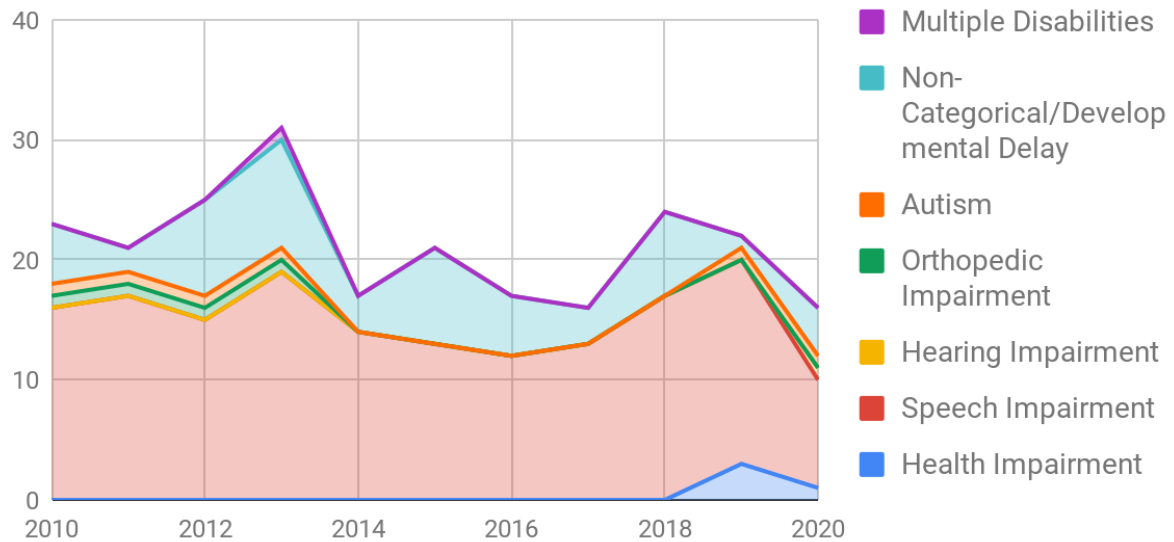
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table B18101. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Source: Gogebic-Ontonogon Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports

Diagnosed Disabilities

Analyzing the diagnosed disabilities of children in the Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start program shows that speech impairment is the most prevalent disability. This is followed by non-categorical/developmental delay. Early Head Start programs do not publish disabilities by type, so they are not included in this data.

GOCAA Head Start - enrolled children



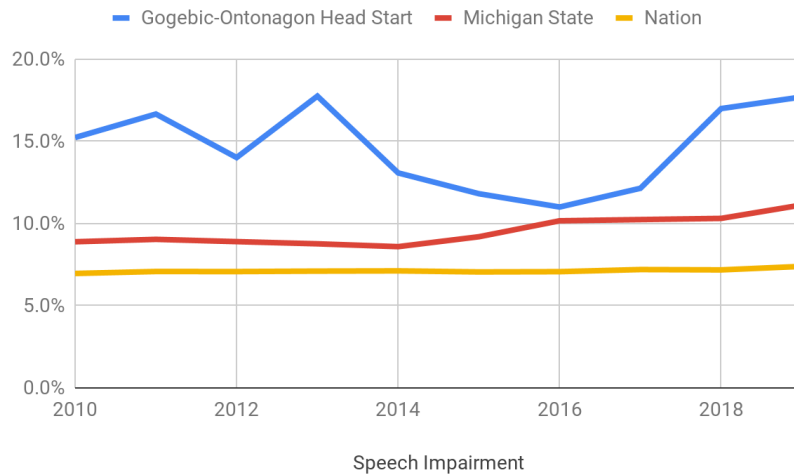
Diagnosed Disabilities

Head Start	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Health Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Speech Impairment	16	17	15	19	14	13	12	13	17	17	9
Hearing Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Orthopedic Impairment	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Autism	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay	5	2	8	9	3	8	5	3	7	1	4
Multiple Disabilities	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start Program Information Reports

Speech Impairment

The most diagnosed disability among Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start children is speech impairment. The rate of this diagnosis was 8.9% in 2019-2020. However from 2010 to 2019 the rate of speech impairment among children in the program averaged 14.6%, which is 5.1 percentage points over the state average for the same time period. The state-wide average for speech impairment for Head Start children is 2.4 percentage points above the national average. When making these comparisons with statewide and nationwide Head Start children, it is difficult to say if differences in disability rates are due to under diagnosis or actual lower or higher rates of speech impairment.



Speech Impairment	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start	15.2%	16.7%	14.0%	17.8%	13.1%	11.8%	11.0%	12.1%	17.0%	17.7%
Michigan State	8.9%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%	8.6%	9.2%	10.2%	10.2%	10.3%	11.1%
Nation	7.0%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.2%	7.2%	7.4%

Source: Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Report

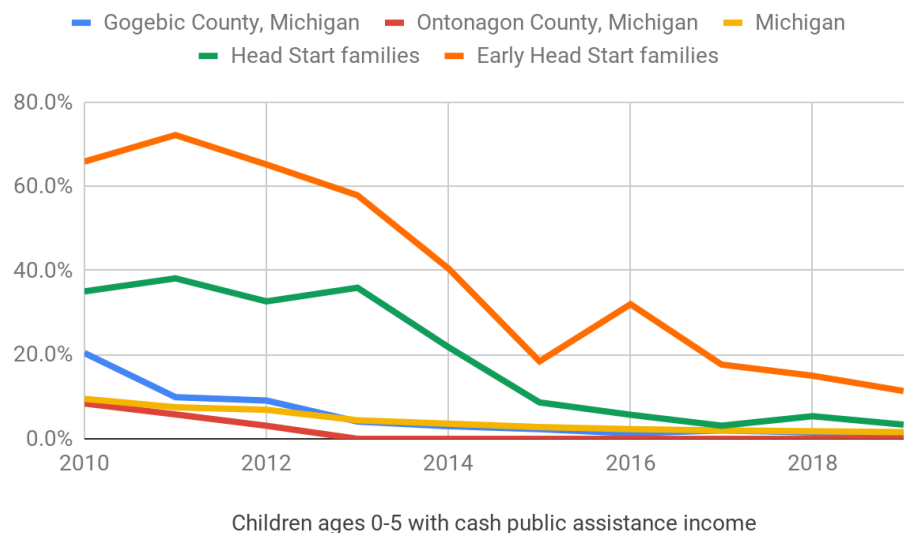
Source: Head Start Enterprise System, Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports, retrieved November 2019 from <https://hses.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

TANF/Cash Public Assistance

Between 2011 and 2012, major reforms were implemented in the Michigan Family Independence Program (FIP), which is the state's cash public assistance program. This resulted in a drastic drop in young children whose families receive FIP benefits, from 9.5% of children ages 0-5 statewide in 2010 to just 1.6% in 2019. The Head Start service area experienced a similar drop, from 20.4% of young children in 2010 to just 1.4% in 2019 for Gogebic County. In Ontonagon County the population of young children receiving FIP benefits dropped so low that numbers are withheld to protect privacy. This essentially means that fewer than 5 children in the county received FIP benefits.

The percentage of children receiving FIP benefits in the Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start programs has followed similar trends. During 2010-2011, this percentage peaked in both programs, at

38.1% of Head Start children and 72.2% of Early Head Start children. These percentages have since dropped to 3% and 17% respectively in the 2019-2020 program year. Because of statewide changes in Michigan's FIP, these drops should not be used to determine changes in poverty levels in the two counties or the state.



Children 0-5 With cash public assistance income	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gogebic County, Michigan	20.4%	9.9%	9.1%	4.1%	3.0%	2.3%	1.3%	2.0%	1.5%	1.4%	
Ontonagon County, Michigan	8.4%	5.8%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Michigan	9.5%	7.5%	6.9%	4.4%	3.6%	2.8%	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	
Head Start families	35.1%	38.1%	32.7%	35.9%	21.8%	8.7%	5.7%	3.1%	5.4%	3.4%	3.0%
Early Head Start families	65.9%	72.2%	65.2%	57.9%	40.5%	18.4%	32.0%	17.6%	15.0%	11.4%	17.0%

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance Payments Statistics-Table 67, retrieved January 2021 from <http://kidscount.org>

Source: Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start & Early Head Start Program Information Reports, 2010 through 2020

Population estimates

The overall population in the service area is in decline, from a high of 23,447 in 2010 to 20,938 in 2019 which represents a 10.7% decline. The population under age 5 has likewise declined, from 955 to 704 over the same time period. The overall percentage of children under age 5 in the population is shrinking, from a high of 4.2% in 2012 to just 3.4% in 2019. These trends result in a declining population under age 5 in poverty.

Gogebic-Ontonagon service area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total population	23,447	23,270	23,000	22,763	22,490	22,122	21,815	21,649	21,382	20,938
Under 5 years	955	979	961	916	838	781	746	709	707	704
Under 5 years %	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	4.0%	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	3.4%
Under 5 years of age and in poverty	333	383	425	446	379	264	282	238	244	213
Percent of children under age 5 in poverty ¹⁰	34.9%	39.1%	44.2%	48.7%	45.2%	33.8%	37.8%	33.6%	34.5%	30.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, tables S0101, B17001, DP03 retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Breaking down the population by county shows that Ontonagon County is experiencing the largest population decline by percentage. Total population in the county declined by 15.8% over the past 10 years, while the population under age 5 declined by 44%. These estimates are subject to higher margins of error due to the smaller population, so for Ontonagon County the overall trend may be a more important factor than any specific year's population estimate.

Gogebic County, Michigan	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total population	16,471	16,422	16,297	16,179	16,042	15,824	15,650	15,577	15,414	15,061
Under 5 years	725	739	733	712	658	617	610	578	564	559
Under 5 years %	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%	4.4%	4.1%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Under 5 years of age and in poverty	274	291	333	364	291	203	240	187	183	180
Poverty rate for families with children under age 5	33.7%	38.3%	37.4%	46.8%	25.4%	24.7%	30.7%	23.0%	22.8%	29.5%

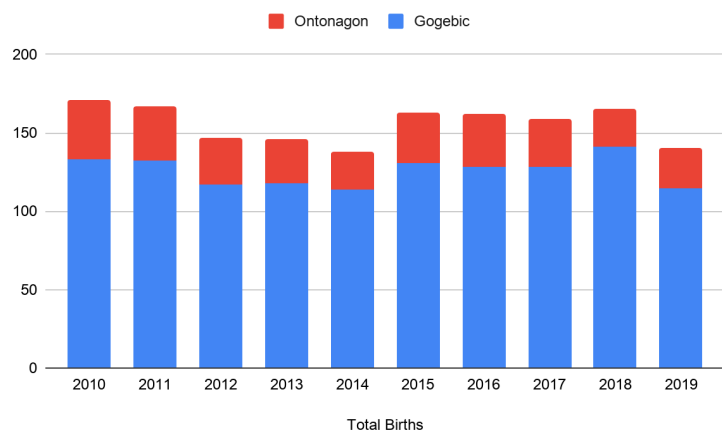
¹⁰ This percentage is a derived estimate that uses the number of children under age 5 in poverty divided by the total number of children under age 5. This is not directly comparable to the poverty rate for families with children under age 5 in poverty. The family poverty rate is more useful for Head Start programs as it uses the same family definitions of poverty that are used to qualify children as eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start. However, it is not possible to create a derived family poverty rate for combined geographies (Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties in this case) with the available data. Therefore this derived estimate is used here.

Gogebic County, Michigan	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total population	6,976	6,848	6,703	6,584	6,448	6,298	6,165	6,072	5,968	5,877
Under 5 years	230	240	228	204	181	164	136	131	143	145
Under 5 years %	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%	3.1%	2.8%	2.6%	2.2%	2.2%	2.4%	2.5%
Under 5 years of age and in poverty	59	92	92	82	88	61	42	51	61	33
Poverty rate for families with children under age 5	26.5%	48.5%	48.8%	44.5%	56.3%	48.7%	37.0%	57.1%	69.2%	100%

Births and Birth Rates

Live birth rates have fallen overall since a high of 171 in 2010, to a ten year low of 140 in 2019. However, a recent spike in live births occurred in 2018 when there were 141 in Gogebic County alone, an all-time high for the County. These children will begin to turn three years old in 2021.

However, this is part of an overall spike in births from 2015-2018, which has since declined. Any bump in the overall population of children who may be Head Start or Early Head Start eligible has likely already affected enrollment in the program, and a dip in births and the birth rate may indicate fewer children.



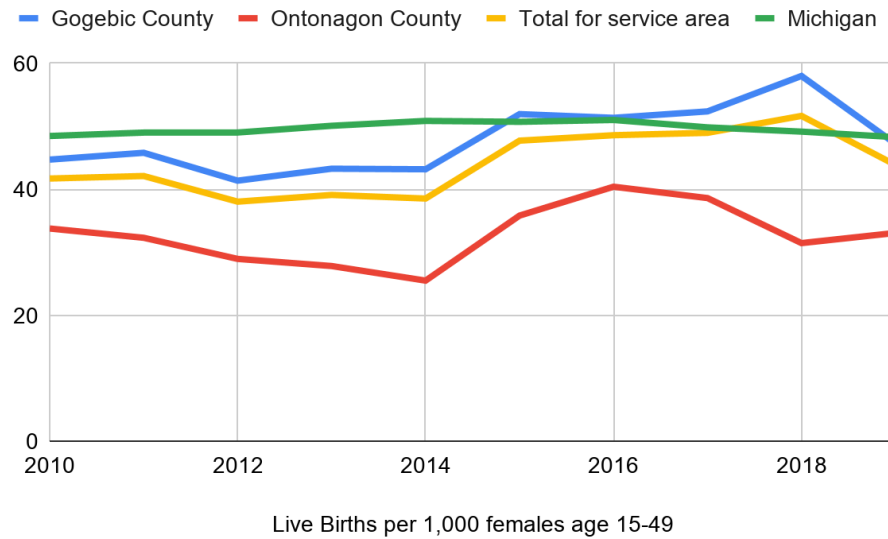
Total Births	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic	133	132	117	118	114	131	128	128	141	115
Ontonagon	38	35	30	28	24	32	34	31	24	25
Total for service area	171	167	147	146	138	163	162	159	165	140

Source:

2009 - 2019 Michigan Resident Birth Files, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services <https://www.mdch.state.mi.us/osr/natality/BirthsTrends.asp>

The birth rate per 1,000 females ages 15-49 in the service area is typically lower than that of the state of Michigan as a whole, averaging 44 over the past 10 years compared to 50 for the state.

Ontonagon County in particular has a very low birth rate, averaging just 33. These trends likely explain the decline in the population under age 5, as shown in the previous section of this report.



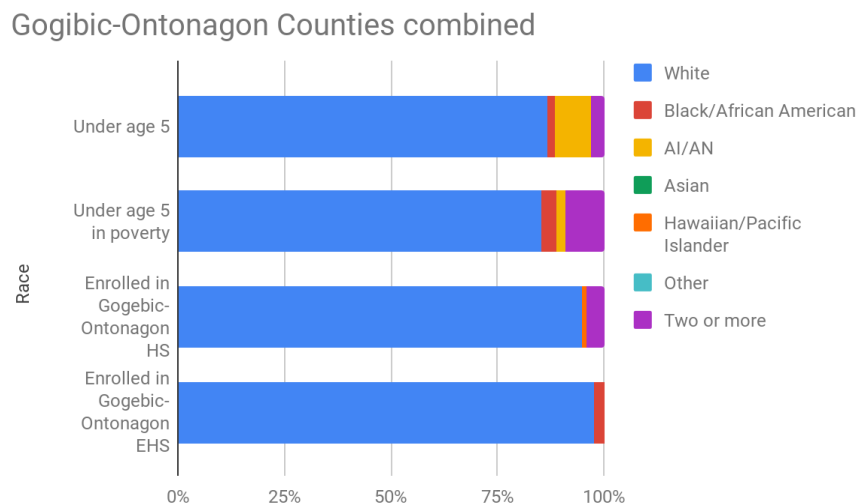
Fertility Rate per 1,000 Females age 15-49	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County	45	46	41	43	43	52	51	52	58	47
Ontonagon County	34	32	29	28	25	36	40	39	31	33
Total for service area	42	42	38	39	39	48	49	49	52	44
Michigan	48	49	49	50	51	51	51	50	49	48

Source: 2009 - 2019 Michigan Resident Birth Files, Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
<https://www.mdch.state.mi.us/osr/nataliy/BirthsTrends.asp>

Racial & Ethnic Characteristics

The racial makeup of the two counties is primarily white, and these children make up 86.7% of children under age 5, and 85.4% of children under age 5 in poverty. Other significant populations include American Indian/Alaska Native children, who make up 8.6% of children under age 5 and 3.3% of children under age 5 in poverty. Multi-racial children make up 8.9% of children under age 5 in poverty. For comparison purposes, 94.8% of Gogebic Ontonagon Head Start children and 93.2% Gogebic Ontonagon Early Head Start children were white in the 2018-2019 program year.

While it appears that white children are over represented in GOCAA Head Start/Early Head Start, this is to be expected since Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, an AI/AN Head Start program, serves children in Watersmeet, MI in eastern Gogebic County. This program has many centers and classrooms throughout Michigan, so the racial makeup of the specific center in Watersmeet is not known. Across all of its Head Start and Early Head Start programs, Inter-Tribal Council’s enrollment is 72.8% Native American. It is likely that this AI/AN Head Start program serves the 5-20 estimated Native American children under age 5 in poverty in the service area.



Race	Under age 5	Under age 5 in poverty	GOCAA HS	GOCAA EHS
White	86.7%	85.4%	94.8%	93.2%
Black/African American	1.7%	3.3%	0.0%	2.2%
AI/AN	8.6%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Two or more	3.0%	8.9%	4.2%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, tables S0101, B17001A-I, B01001A-I, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Source: Head Start Program Information Reports, retrieved from <https://hses.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

Race over time

The racial makeup of children under age 5 in poverty in the service area has changed very little, with white children making up 85% to 90% of the population over the past 10 years. American Indian/Alaska Native children and multi-racial children make up the next largest populations in this group. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children are a growing portion of children under age 5 in poverty. All three of

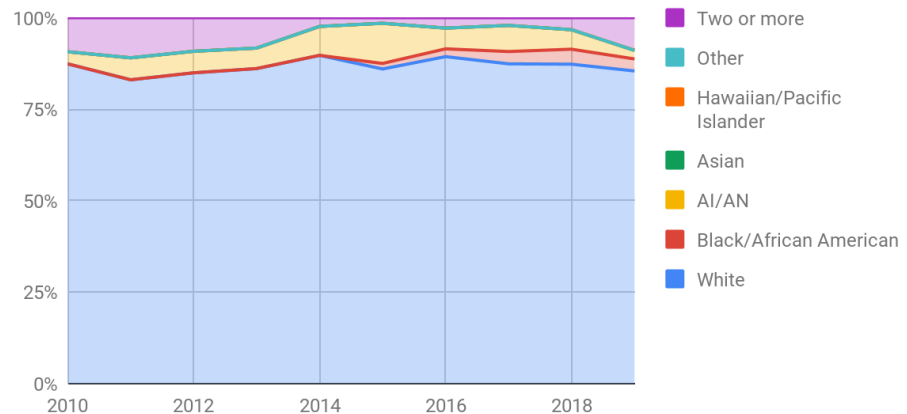
these smaller populations are reflected in

Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start's enrollment, with 1 to 3 children in each racial category over the past 4 years. It should be noted that the way people identify racially changes over time, and that

Hispanic/Latinos may be of any race.

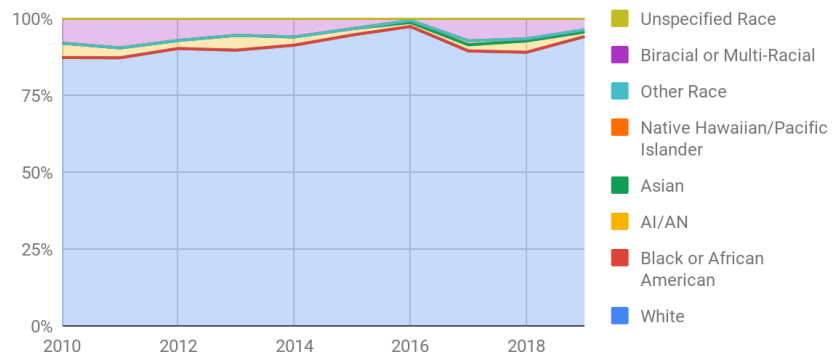
White children make up the largest portion of those enrolled in the Gogebic-Ontonagon program. In the graph below, Head Start and Early Head Start enrolled children are combined. Biracial and multi-racial children have consistently been enrolled in the program over the past 10 years.

Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties - children under age 5 in poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates,

Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start/Early Head Start enrolled children by race

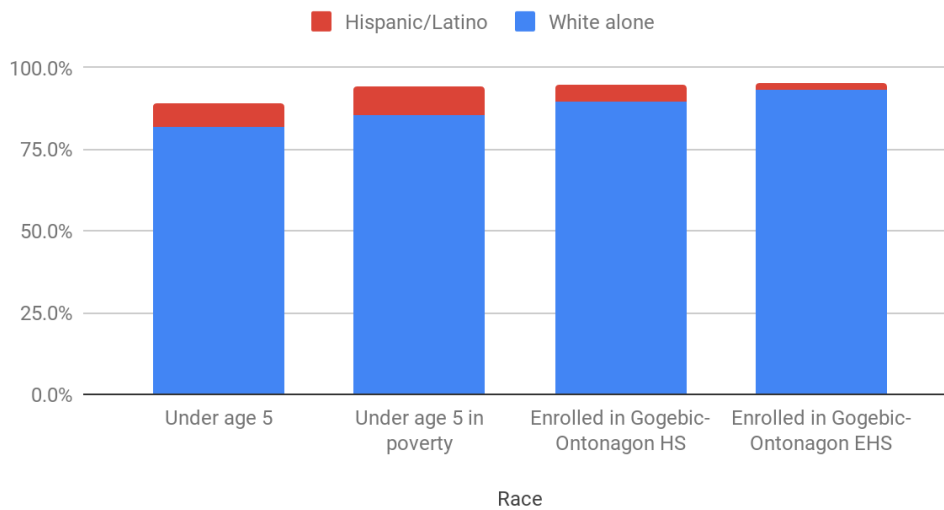


Source: GOCAA Program Information Reports

Hispanic/Latino

Hispanic/Latino children may be of any race, so an analysis of their representation in the population is done separately. The percentage of Hispanic/Latino children under age 5 and in poverty in the service area is 8.9% as of the 2019 ACS. For comparison purposes, 5.2% of enrolled GOCAA Head Start children and 2.2% of enrolled GOCAA Early Head Start children were Hispanic/Latino in the 2019-2020 school year.

White alone and Hispanic/Latino



Race	Under age 5	Under age 5 in poverty	Enrolled in Gogebic-Ontonagon HS	Enrolled in Gogebic-Ontonagon EHS
White alone	81.9%	85.4%	89.6%	93.2%
Hispanic/Latino	7.0%	8.9%	5.2%	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, tables S0101, B17001A-I, B01001A-I, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Source: GOCAA Program Information Reports

Language Spoken

A growing majority of the population in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties speak English only, at 97.6% of the

population over age 5

in 2019. This is up

from 94.2% of the

population in 2010.

This trend is reflected

in Head Start and Early

Head Start enrollment

data; 100% of children

enrolled speak English

at home. All other

language groups are

spoken by less than

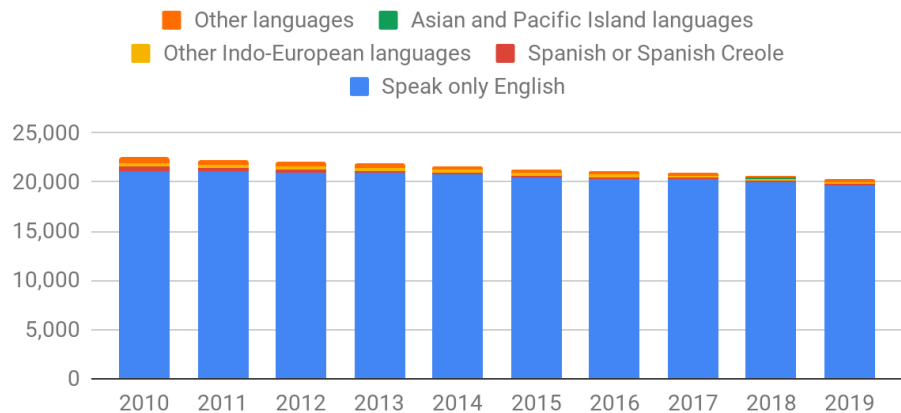
1% of the population

each, with Spanish

representing 0.6% of

the population.

Language spoken - population 5 years and older



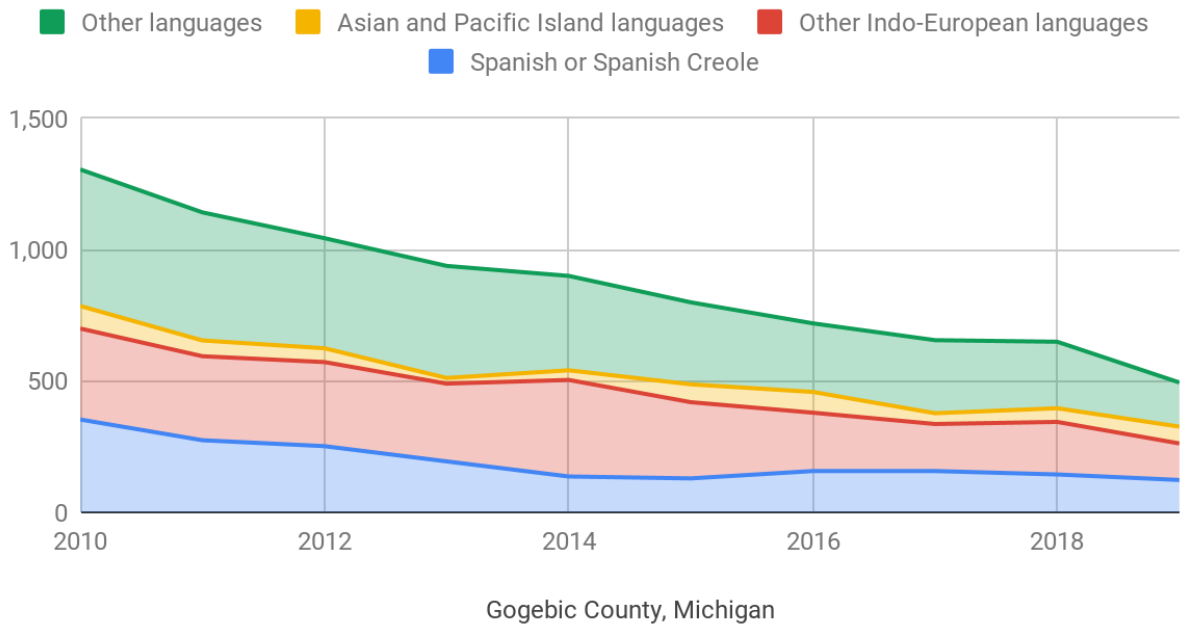
Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties, Michigan

Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Population 5 years & over	29,243	28,909	28,513	28,226	27,922	27,478	27,106	26,881	26,500	25,966
Speak only English	94.2%	94.8%	95.2%	95.7%	95.9%	96.3%	96.6%	96.9%	96.9%	97.6%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	1.6%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Other Indo-European languages	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Other languages	2.3%	2.2%	1.9%	2.0%	1.7%	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%	0.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S1601, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

The population in the service area speaking languages other than English has declined from a high of 1,305 in 2010, representing 4.5% of the population, to a low of 494, representing 1.9% in 2019. Some of this change may be due to high margins of error, which tend to be higher with smaller populations.

Language groups - other than English

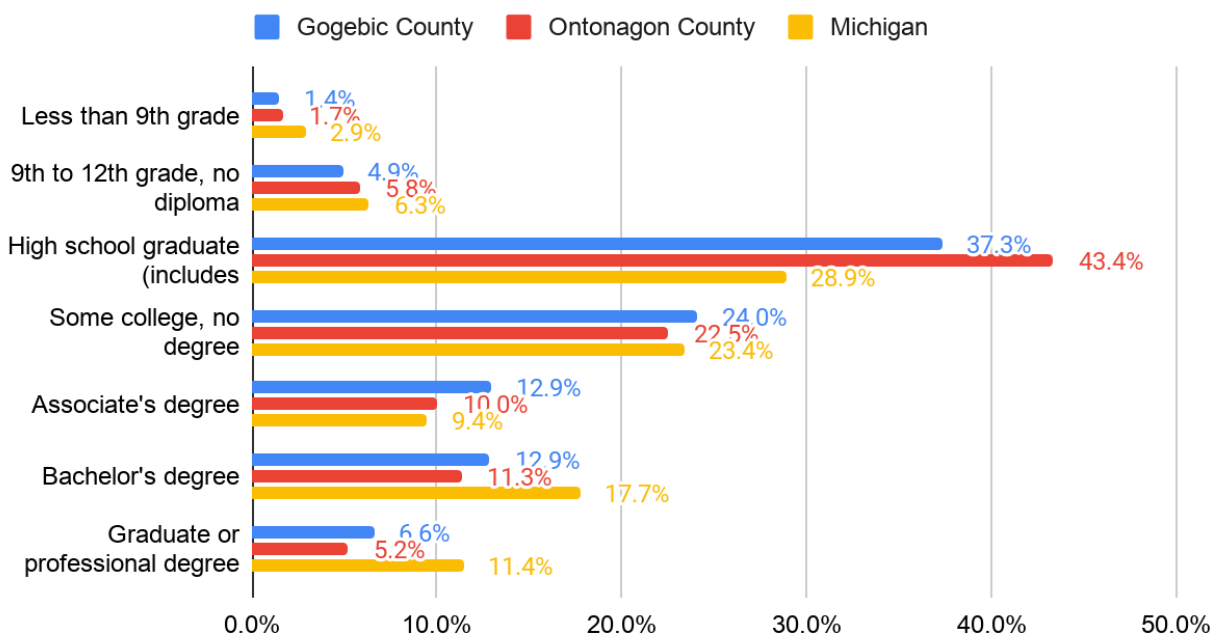


Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties, Michigan	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Spanish or Spanish Creole	353	274	252	194	136	129	157	157	144	123
Other Indo-European languages	346	320	320	296	367	290	222	179	200	139
Asian and Pacific Island languages	86	60	53	21	37	68	79	41	52	64
Other languages	520	487	419	426	359	312	261	278	253	168

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S1601, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Educational Attainment

Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties have higher than average populations of adults who have attained a high school diploma or equivalent and no higher, at 37.3% and 43.4% respectively, compared to 28.9% in the rest of the state. Attainment of higher levels of education is much higher in the State of Michigan as a whole, with 29.1% of adults having attained a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 19.5% and 16.5% in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties, respectively.



2019 - Educational attainment - population 25 years of age and older

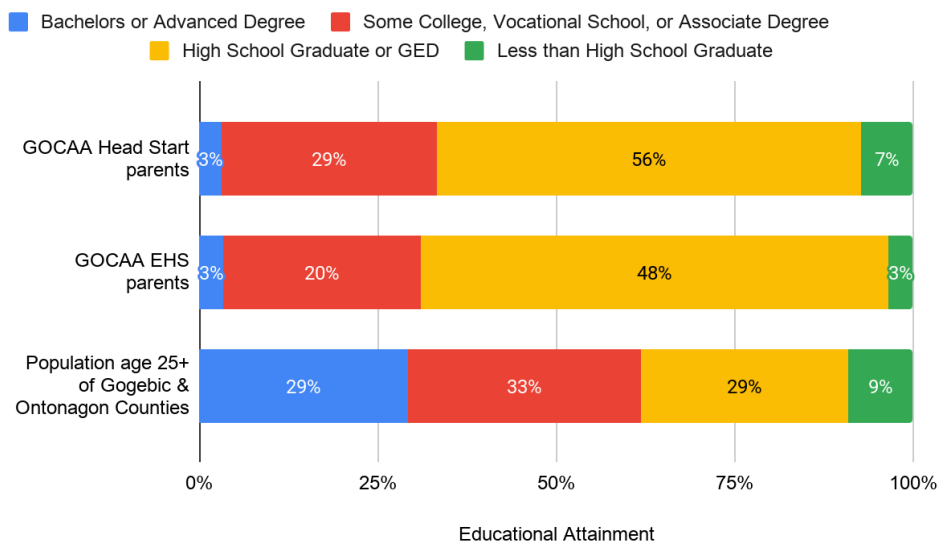
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP02, retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

A 2010 study by the US Department of Education found that young adults without a high school diploma or equivalency experienced poverty at a much higher rate (31%) than those who completed high school (24%) and those with a bachelor's degree (14%).¹¹ This study suggests a correlation between educational attainment levels and poverty. The population that Head Start and Early Head Start serves is by definition more likely to live in poverty, and the educational attainment of the parents whose children are enrolled in these programs reflect this. This elevated rate of lack of high school education puts young children at risk of intergenerational poverty, as low income students have a lower graduation rate compared to students whose

¹¹National Center for Education Statistics, https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2012/2012026/chapter3_31.asp, retrieved June 2020

family is above the poverty level.¹² Only 3% of Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start enrolled families had a college degree or higher in the 2019-2020 program year, compared to 29% of adults in the overall population of the two counties served by the program. The vast majority of parents in the program, 56% for Head Start and 48% for Early Head Start, had a high school degree as their highest level of educational attainment, compared to 29% in the general population. There are no county level statistics available from the US Census Bureau for poverty rates and educational attainment.

However, at the state level the poverty rate for adults over 25 with a high school degree as their highest level of educational attainment was 13.8%, compared to 9.5% for those with some college or an associates degree, and 3.9% for those with a graduate degree or higher.



Educational Attainment	GOCAA Head Start parents	GOCAA EHS parents	Population age 25+ of Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties
Bachelors or Advanced Degree	3%	3%	29%
Some College, Vocational School, or Associate Degree	29%	20%	33%
High School Graduate or GED	56%	48%	29%
Less than High School Graduate	7%	3%	9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, tables DP02
 Source: 2019-2020 Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start & Early Head Start Program Information Reports

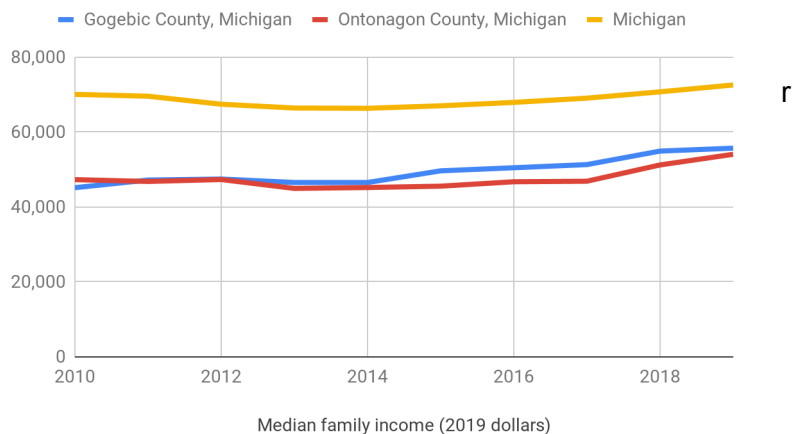
¹² DePaoli, J., Balfanz, R., Atwell, M. and Bridgeland, J. (2018). Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Raising High School Graduation Rates. Civic Enterprises and the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University. <http://gradnation.americaspromise.org/2018-building-grad-nation-report>.

Other Economic data

Median Family Income

Median family income in the service area is consistent with other economic indicators, depicting lower levels of income in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties. In 2019, the annual median family income was \$55,729 in Gogebic County and \$54,093 for Ontonagon County. In the state of Michigan as a whole it was \$72,600. On average, the median family income in each county was about \$20,000 less than the state as a whole since 2010.

To some degree, lower cost of living offsets these lower incomes. Housing tends to be cheaper in the two counties, for instance (see the housing section on page 36). However, higher rates of food insecurity, food prices and rent-to income ratios show that families in the service area are consistent with the rest of the state's lower income households.

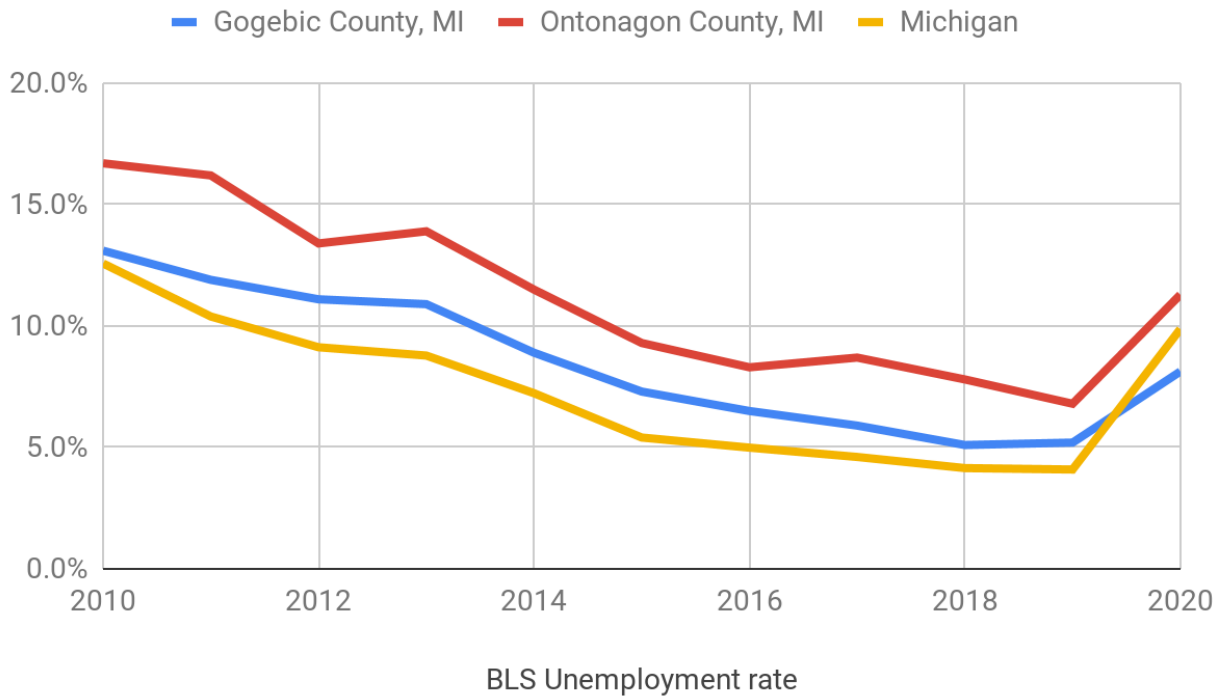


Median family income (2019 dollars)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County, Michigan	45,182	47,219	47,492	46,570	46,563	49,677	50,504	51,344	54,949	55,729
Ontonagon County, Michigan	47,330	46,845	47,354	44,986	45,227	45,585	46,763	46,906	51,250	54,093
Michigan	70,095	69,602	67,462	66,451	66,377	67,043	67,952	69,089	70,772	72,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP03, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

Unemployment Rate

The average annual unemployment rate in the service area tends to be higher than that of the state of Michigan as a whole. In 2020, the rate was at 8.1% in Gogebic County and 11.3% for Ontonagon County. In Michigan, as a whole, the unemployment rate was 9.9%. This represented a drastic increase from 2019, most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown that began in March of 2020. The annual average unemployment rates were at their highest in 2010, when unemployment was at 13.1% and 16.7% in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties respectively, and this was due to the 2008/2009 recession. On average, the unemployment rate has been 1.2 percentage points higher in Gogebic County, and 3.9 percentage points higher in Ontonagon County over the previous 10 years, than that of the State of Michigan as a whole.

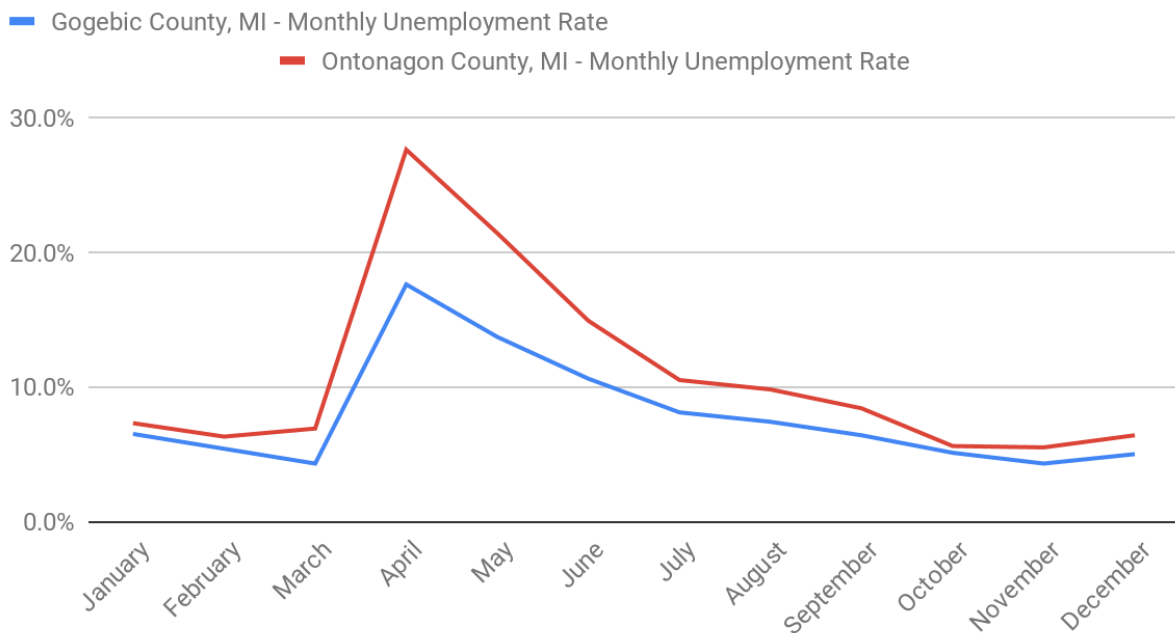


BLS Unemployment rate	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gogebic County, MI	13.1%	11.9%	11.1%	10.9%	8.9%	7.3%	6.5%	5.9%	5.1%	5.2%	8.1%
Ontonagon County, MI	16.7%	16.2%	13.4%	13.9%	11.5%	9.3%	8.3%	8.7%	7.8%	6.8%	11.3%
Michigan	12.6%	10.4%	9.1%	8.8%	7.2%	5.4%	5.0%	4.6%	4.2%	4.1%	9.9%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics <http://bls.gov>, retrieved June 2020

Monthly Unemployment Rate

When analyzing monthly unemployment data, it shows an economic recovery since emergency measures to shut down the economy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 were implemented. The impact of the pandemic pushed the unemployment rate in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties to a high of 17.6% and 27.6% respectively, in April 2020. Unemployment dropped to 5% and 6.4% respectively, as of December 20th (preliminary estimates), the latest month for which there is data. The monthly unemployment rate dropped between February and March in Gogebic County, but rose in Ontonagon County from 6.3% to 6.9%. The National Bureau of Economic Research declared a monthly peak in economic activity in February of 2020, the month prior to the most notable economic impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic. This peak indicated the beginning of a recession that predates the pandemic. It appears that Ontonagon County experienced these national trends in economic recession almost immediately, with the increase in unemployment between February and March, though some of this may likely be due to the pandemic.



BLS Monthly Unemployment - 2020

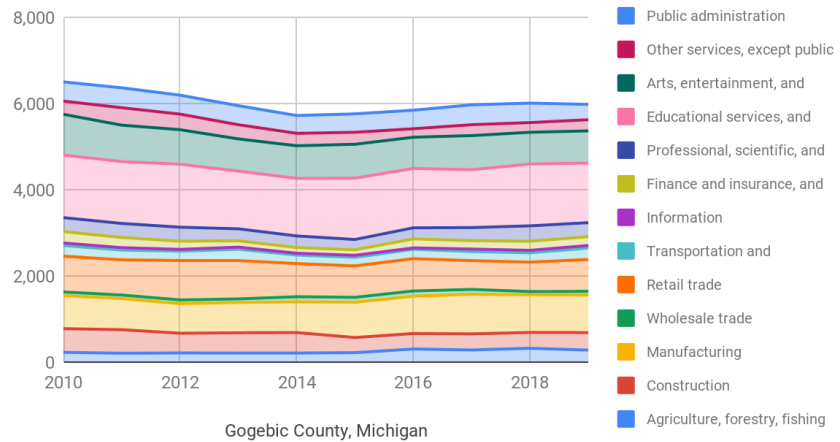
BLS Monthly Unemployment - 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec-p
Gogebic County	6.5%	5.4%	4.3%	17.6%	13.7%	10.6%	8.1%	7.4%	6.4%	5.1%	4.3%	5.0%
Ontonagon County	7.3%	6.3%	6.9%	27.6%	21.4%	14.9%	10.5%	9.8%	8.4%	5.6%	5.5%	6.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics <http://bls.gov>, retrieved January 2021

Employment and industry sectors

Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties combined have experienced some changes in employment by industry over the past 10 years. The largest employment sector was, and continues to be education, health care and other social services, which employs about 1,400 people in the two counties, and has remained little changed since 2010. Two of the biggest changes in employment include construction, which dropped 143 jobs since 2010 (26% decrease), and the sector that includes arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food service, which dropped 200 jobs, (21% decline) from 2010 to 2019.

Employment by industry

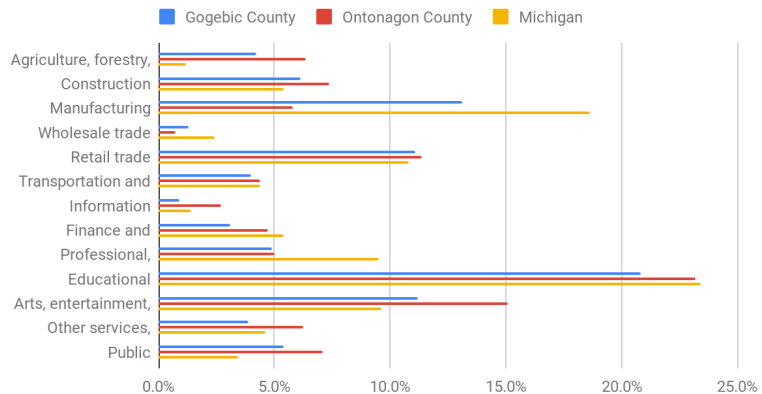


Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties combined	2010	2019	10-19 change	Percent Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	226	278	52	23.0%
Construction	549	406	-143	-26.0%
Manufacturing	767	871	104	13.6%
Wholesale trade	84	86	2	2.4%
Retail trade	831	739	-92	-11.1%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	247	265	18	7.3%
Information	58	59	1	1.7%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	265	204	-61	-23.0%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	324	326	2	0.6%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	1,451	1,383	-68	-4.7%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	946	746	-200	-21.1%
Other services, except public administration	306	259	-47	-15.4%
Public administration	446	356	-90	-20.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP03

Comparing employment sectors to the rest of the state, data shows higher levels of employment in agriculture and natural resources in the service area. Gogebic and Ontonagon have 4.2% and 6.3% of their respective workforce employed in this sector, compared to just 1.2% in the state of Michigan as a whole. Arts, entertainment, accomodation and food service employs 11.2% in Gogebic County, and 15.1% in Ontonagon County, compared to 9.6% in the rest of the state. This sector remains important in the service area, despite a significant drop in employment. It remains to be seen if the economic shutdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic causes further drops in employment levels in this sector.

Employment by Sector - 2019

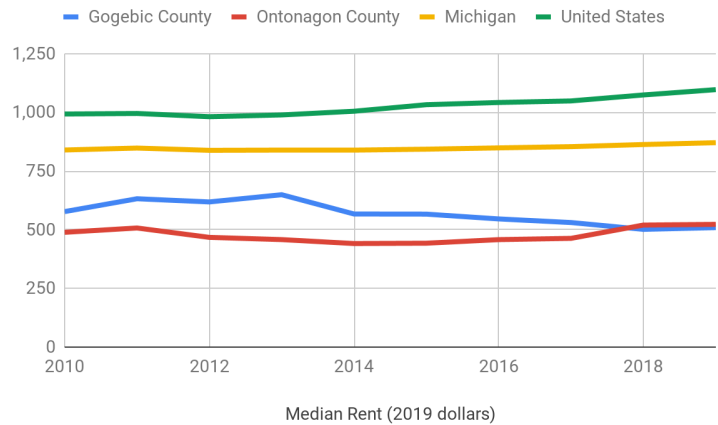


Employment by Sector 2019	Gogebic County	Ontonagon County	Michigan
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	4.2%	6.3%	1.2%
Construction	6.1%	7.4%	5.4%
Manufacturing	13.1%	5.8%	18.6%
Wholesale trade	1.3%	0.7%	2.4%
Retail trade	11.1%	11.4%	10.8%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%
Information	0.9%	2.7%	1.4%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	3.1%	4.7%	5.4%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	4.9%	5.0%	9.5%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	20.8%	23.2%	23.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	11.2%	15.1%	9.6%
Other services, except public administration	3.9%	6.2%	4.6%
Public administration	5.4%	7.1%	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP03

Housing

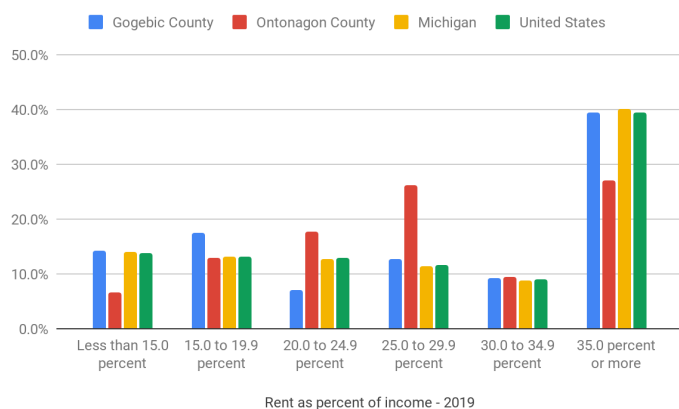
A number of economic and sociological factors indicate lower housing cost in the GOCAA Head Start service area. Median rent in the area is much lower than the rest of the state, at \$509 and \$523 per month for Gogebic County and Ontonagon County respectively (2019). This is lower than that of the state as a whole, which was at \$871 per month (2019). Rent in Gogebic County is dropping, from a high of \$649 in 2013 to \$509 in 2019. Ontonagon County median rent has risen, from \$441 in 2014 to \$523 in 2019, though this is in line with statewide trends.



Median Rent (2019 dollars)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County	577	632	619	649	567	567	546	531	502	509
Ontonagon County	489	507	468	458	441	443	458	463	520	523
Michigan	840	848	838	839	839	843	849	854	863	871
United States	993	996	982	989	1,005	1,033	1,042	1,049	1,074	1,097

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

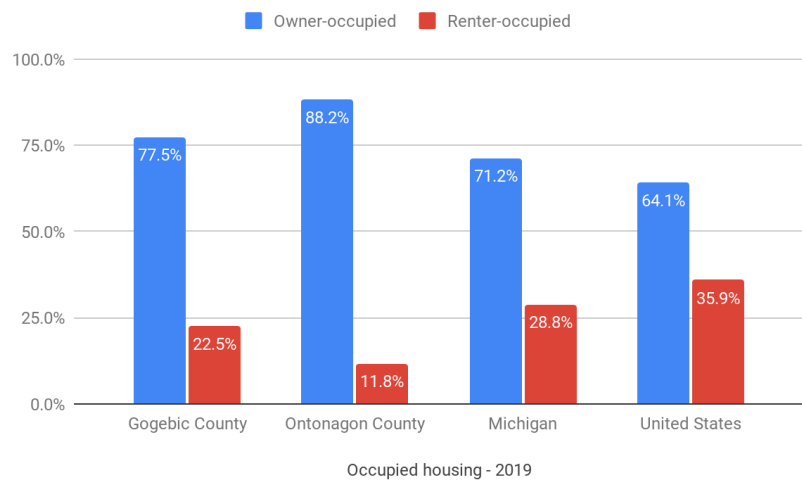
An important measure of cost of living in an area is the ability of income to support rent. Fewer families in Ontonagon County are rent overburdened, defined here by those paying 35% or more of their income toward rent. In 2019, just 27.1% of households were rent overburdened, compared to 40% in the state as a whole. The graph on this page and the table on the next page illustrate this data.



Rent as % of income - 2019	Gogebic County	Ontonagon County	Michigan	United States
Less than 15.0 percent	14.3%	6.7%	13.9%	13.8%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	17.5%	12.9%	13.1%	13.1%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	7.0%	17.6%	12.7%	13.0%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	12.7%	26.3%	11.5%	11.6%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	9.1%	9.4%	8.8%	9.1%
35.0 percent or more	39.4%	27.1%	40.0%	39.4%

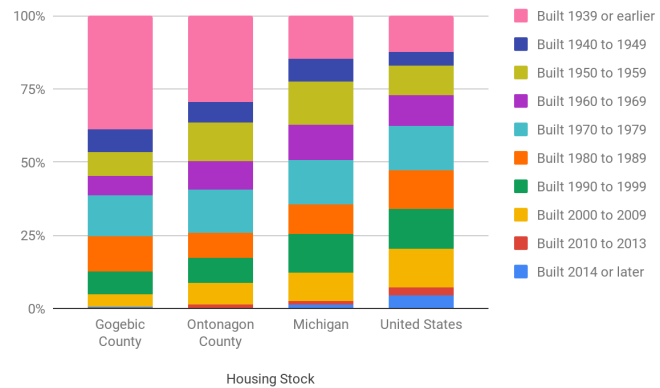
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

There are higher rates of home ownership in the two counties, at 77.5% and 88.2% in Gogebic County and Ontonagon County respectively (2019), compared to 71.2% in Michigan as a whole. However, there are a few indicators that raise some concerns. The homeless rate for young children in Gogebic County is 5.1%, compared to 4.6% for the state and 2.9% for Ontonagon County. Additionally, EHS families enrolled in the GOCAA Head Start program receive housing assistance in one form or another, at higher rates on average, when compared to EHS families in the state as a whole. From 2010 to 2019, an average of almost 2 out of every 5 EHS families in the GOCAA Early Head Start Program received housing assistance, compared to an average of just under 1 out of every 5 EHS families across the state of Michigan. This percentage has come down in recent years, following statewide trends, though this may be due to availability of such services, rather than a drop in need.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

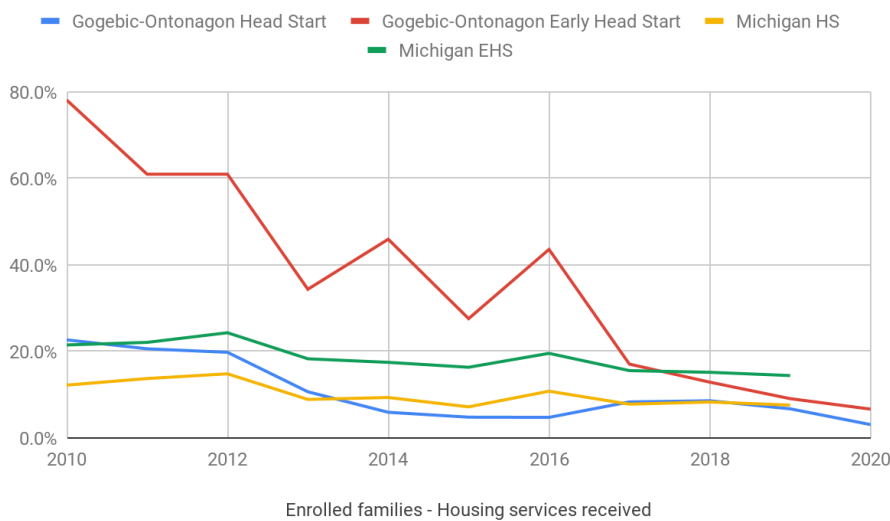
Lastly, the housing stock in the two counties is much, much older, with 38.9% and 29.7% of housing units built before 1940 in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties respectively, compared to 14.8% in the state as a whole. These higher rates of older housing stock are not unusual for places with high rates of home ownership. However, the cost of maintaining such housing stock tends to increase as they get older.



Occupants per room - all occupied housing - 2019	Gogebic County	Ontonagon County	Michigan	United States
1.00 or less	99.6%	98.6%	98.3%	96.7%
1.01 to 1.50	0.3%	1.1%	1.2%	2.2%
1.51 or more	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table DP04, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

The graph below illustrates the historic trend of a higher percentage of GOCAA EHS families requesting or needing housing assistance. This rate has decreased in recent years to below statewide levels among EHS families, but still remains higher than statewide Head Start rates. It is likely that low income families with infants and toddlers are younger and have fewer resources.

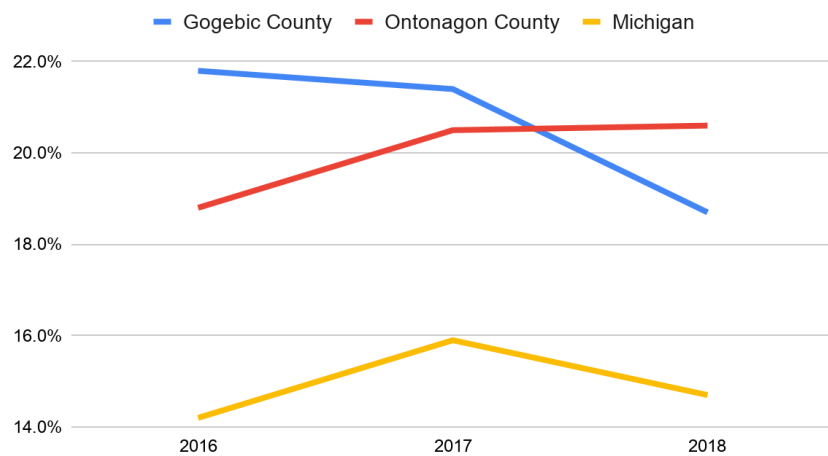


Source: Program Information Reports 2010-2019, Head Start Enterprise System and Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start, retrieved November 2019 from <https://hses.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

Food Insecurity

Food security in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties is considerably higher than the rest of the state of Michigan. In 2018, the latest year for which there is data, the food insecurity rate for children was at 18.7% and 20.6% in the two counties respectively, compared to just 14.7% for children statewide. This indicates that about 1 in every 5 children in the two counties live in food-insecure households, meaning their family income does not cover the basic price of food when other factors are taken into account. This data and estimates are compiled by Feeding America, a nationwide

nonprofit, which analyzes a variety of data to create an estimate for both individuals and children who are food insecure at the county level. The food insecurity rate for children in Ontonagon County has increased between 2016 and 2018, from 18.8% to 20.6%. An estimated 150 children in Ontonagon County are food-insecure, while an estimated 450 in Gogebic County are food insecure.



Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, <https://map.feedingamerica.org>

Food Insecurity Rate	2016	2017	2018
Gogebic County	14.8%	14.8%	14.6%
Gogebic County child rate	21.8%	21.4%	18.7%
Ontonagon County	12.9%	13.7%	15.2%
Ontonagon County child rate	18.8%	20.5%	20.6%
Michigan	16.3%	13.7%	13.6%
Michigan child rate	14.2%	15.9%	14.7%

Cost per meal	2016	2017	2018
Gogebic County	\$2.92	\$2.99	\$3.04
Ontonagon County	\$2.96	\$3.04	\$3.07
Michigan	\$2.81	\$2.79	\$2.84

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, <https://map.feedingamerica.org>

Health

2018 Health Needs Assessment

The 2018 Upper Peninsula Community Health Needs Assessment produced by the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department identified 4 key themes for the Upper Peninsula region in the area of health needs and issues: the impact of an aging population, the importance of disease prevention, correlations between socio-economic status and health, and health care access under the Affordable Care Act. The four top priority issues identified by Upper Peninsula residents surveyed in the health assessment were the high cost of health insurance, drug abuse, lack of health insurance, and economic conditions such as unemployment and low wages. These health issues and priority areas are identified for the Upper Peninsula region as a whole, which includes 15 counties including Gogebic and Ontonagon counties. In the same survey, residents in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties identified the same 4 key issues, though in varying degrees of order, from most important to least. These are illustrated below.

Top 4 priority health issues identified by surveyed Upper Peninsula residents in order of importance from most to least	Gogebic County - percent of residents who identified the issue as "very important"	Ontonagon County - percent of residents who identified the issue as "very important"
Health insurance is expensive or has high costs for co-pays and deductibles	64.0%	71.0%
Drug abuse	63.0%	60.3%
Lack of health insurance	63.5%	60.1%
Unemployment, wages, and economic conditions	72.9%	74.9%

Source: Community Health Needs Assessment, Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, <https://www.wuphd.org/community-health-needs-assessment/>

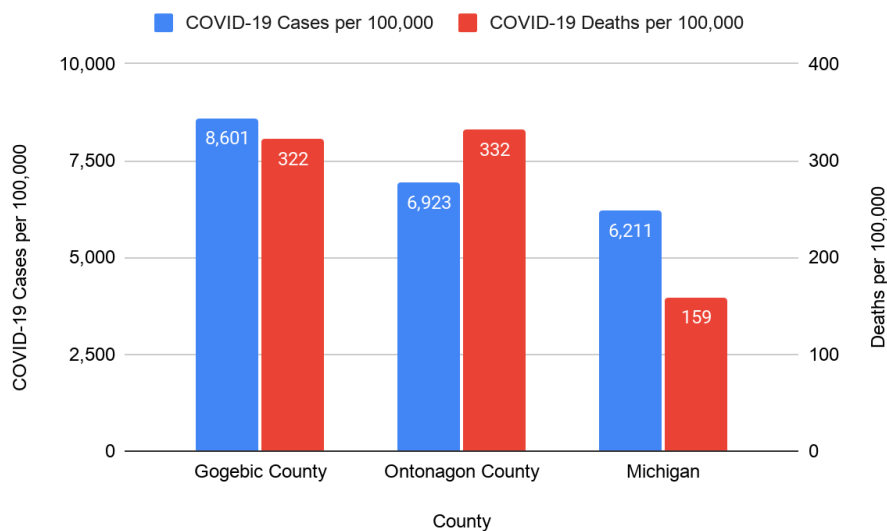
The survey also asked respondents to self-report about selected health indicators. Some of these indicators were worse for Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties, including a lack of a doctor check up in the past 12 months, higher rates of obesity, and higher rates of heavy drinking in both Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties. A positive highlight from the survey depicts a higher than 70% rate of flu shot acquisition among residents in the two counties, compared to 56% for the state as a whole.

The table below shows responses to the 2018 Upper Peninsula Community Health Needs Assessment.

Health Indicator	Gogebic	Ontonagon	State
General Health Status Only Fair or Poor	13.8%	15.6%	18.0%
Unable to Access Healthcare Due to Cost	13.3%	12.3%	12.8%
No Routine Checkup in Past 12 Months	32.9%	32.6%	26.9%
No Dental Care Past 12 Months	29.6%	34.7%	29.9%
Obese (Body Mass Index 300 or Greater)	42.1%	39.2%	32.5%
Current Cigarette Smoker	20.1%	20.3%	20.4%
Former Smoker	37.4%	35.6%	25.8%
5+ Daily Servings of Fruits and Vegetables	14.0%	7.4%	14.4%
Ever Diagnosed With Diabetes	15.6%	15.8%	11.2%
Ever Diagnosed wWith Heart Disease	12.8%	12.1%	5.1%
Ever Diagnosed With Cancer	12.3%	21.5%	12.8%
Ever Diagnosed With Depressive Disorder	23.3%	17.9%	22.0%
Took Medication for Mood Past 12 Months	23.7%	19.8%	N/A
Heavy Alcohol Drinker	15.2%	20.6%	6.9%
Binge Alcohol Drinker	9.2%	13.8%	19.0%
Used Marijuana Past 30 Days	7.0%	6.8%	N/A
Ever Used Prescription Drugs to Get High	2.7%	1.5%	4.7%
Had Flu Shot in Past 12 Months, Age 65+	71.2%	73.2%	56.1%
Colorectal Cancer Screening, Age 50+	63.0%	66.7%	69.7%

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Gogebic and Ontonagon counties harder than the rest of the state of Michigan. As of early February 2021, there were a total of 1,598 cases in the two counties since the beginning of the pandemic. The chart and table below illustrates the COVID-19 case and death rate per 100,000 in each county in the service area, and in the state of Michigan as a whole, for comparison purposes. Gogebic County and Ontonagon County each have higher COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 than the state as a whole, at 38.5% and 11.5% respectively. While these elevated rates are alarming, even more concerning is the COVID-19 death rate per 100,000, which is double the rate of the state of Michigan at 322 and 332 for Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties respectively, compared to 159 in the state of Michigan as a whole. The low total number of COVID-19 deaths in these two counties, at 45 and 19 for each county, may account for such high variance in the death rate. However, when matched with higher COVID-19 case rates, it indicates underlying health issues that likely go beyond the scope of this community assessment.



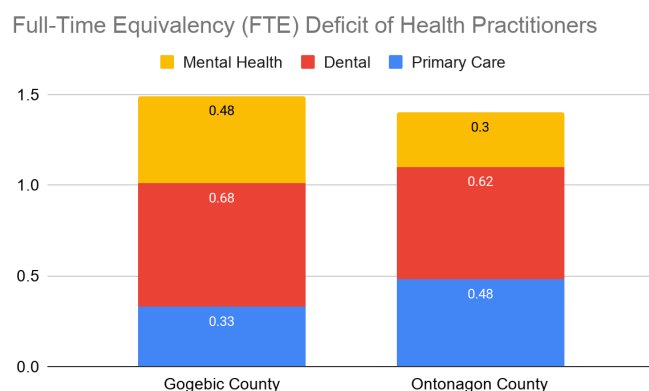
Sources: New York Times, State and local health agencies and hospitals. Population and demographic data from Census Bureau. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

Health Care Accessibility

Practitioner shortages

The United States Human Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) tracks the availability of health, dental and mental health practitioners throughout the United States. Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties both have some form of practitioner shortage through the designation of a Healthcare Practitioner Shortage Area (HPSA) by the HRSA. Both counties have the rural portions of their geography designated as a Low Income HPSA for primary care physicians as well as dental practitioners, meaning that low income populations in the rural parts of both counties have limited access to health and dental care. The ratio of primary care practitioners to the population must be 1:3,000 or better, in a low-income community, or it will qualify as an HPSA. Both counties additionally have a designation as Mental Health HPSA, indicating a lack of mental health resources throughout the service area. All of Ontonagon County has this designation, while Gogebic County has a “High Needs” designation, meaning that there are subpopulations within the county that need higher levels of care, and therefore a better ratio of practitioners per the population. This is similar to the Low Income designation, but takes into account other factors, such as disabilities, migrant status, homelessness and the presence of historically underserved populations. The HRSA does not publish the reason for this designation. However, the Lac Vieux Desert Health Center, which serves the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, has a designation as a facility that has a health care practitioner shortage in the area of mental health. The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa reservation is in the eastern part of the county, and Native American populations typically are designated as higher needs populations by the HRSA.

The chart and table illustrate the number of full time equivalency practitioners needed to meet the acceptable ratio of practitioners per the population.

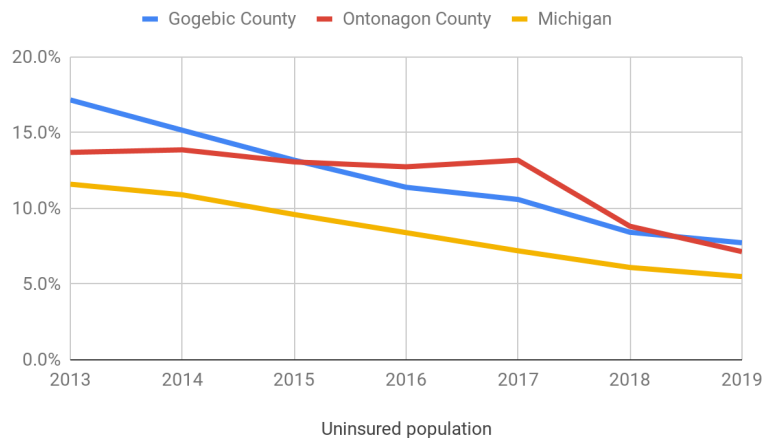


HPSA status	Primary Care		Dental		Mental Health	
County	Designation	FTE Shortage	Designation	FTE Shortage	Designation	FTE Shortage
Gogebic County	Low Income Population HPSA	0.33	Low Income Population HPSA	0.68	High Needs Geographic HPSA	0.48
Ontonagon County	Low Income Population HPSA	0.48	Low Income Population HPSA	0.62	Geographic HPSA	0.3

Source: Health Resources & Services Administration, retrieved January 2020 from <https://data.hrsa.gov/>

Uninsured population

Accessible health care often means enrollment in a health insurance plan for many Americans. Gogebic and Ontonagon counties have lower levels of health insurance enrollment when compared to the state of Michigan as a whole, at 7.7% and 7.1% respectively, as compared to 5.5% of the population in Michigan. These percentages have dropped steadily over time, from highs of 17.2% in Gogebic County and 13.7% in Ontonagon County in 2013. This trend is typical of most counties in the country, as the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act were phased in by January of 2014, which directly impacted enrollment in health insurance programs. These provisions required enrollment in a health care program, expanded medicaid eligibility to include more people, provided premium subsidies based on income, and instituted a number of changes to the US healthcare system.

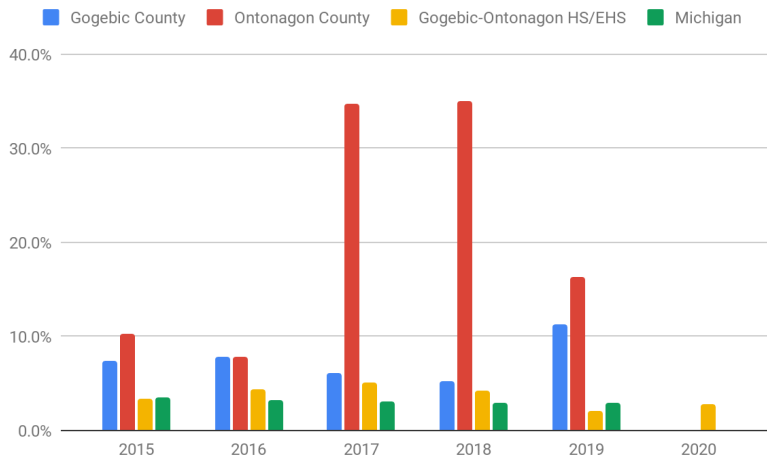


Uninsured population	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County	17.2%	15.2%	13.2%	11.4%	10.6%	8.4%	7.7%
Ontonagon County	13.7%	13.9%	13.1%	12.7%	13.2%	8.8%	7.1%
Michigan	11.6%	10.9%	9.6%	8.4%	7.2%	6.1%	5.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2701, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

Analyzing health insurance enrollment and age shows that young children under age 6 tend to have higher rates of enrollment in insurance programs when compared to the general population. In Gogebic County and Ontonagon County, the uninsured rate among children under age 6 has averaged 2.7 percentage points lower than the uninsured rate for the population of the county as a whole since 2015, the last year for which data is available. In Michigan, as a whole, children under age 6 are uninsured at an average rate of 4.2 percentage points lower than the population as a whole over the same time period. This trend does not hold up for Ontonagon County, where children under age 6 tend to be uninsured at higher levels than the rest of the population. However, this is likely due to higher margins of error of the smaller population of uninsured children under age 6 in the county. Children enrolled in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start are insured at much higher rates. In 2019, only 2.8% of children enrolled in the program were uninsured. In 2019, there was a 6 year low of 2.1% of enrolled GOCAA children without health insurance, compared to 11.3% of young children in Gogebic County. The reason for these lower rates of uninsured children in the Head

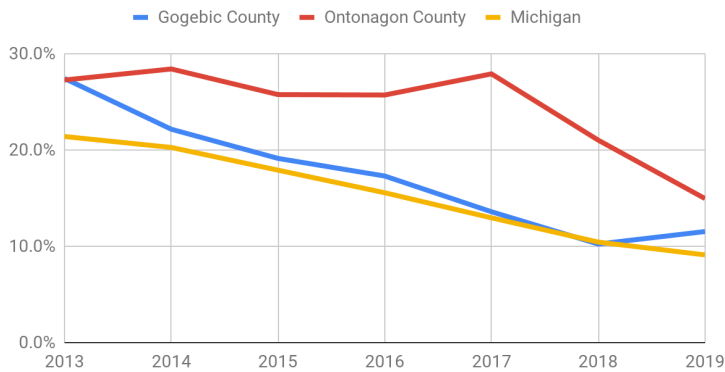
Start and Early Head Start program is likely due to the efforts of family service staff. Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide developmental screening, referrals and connect families to health resources including assisting with enrollment in medicaid or other health insurance programs. Due to the program’s focus on low income families, nearly all families enrolled in GOCAA Head Start and Early Head Start qualify for medicaid coverage, the federally funded and state administered health program for low income families and individuals. In fact, 100% of EHS children and 92% of Head Start children enrolled in the program in 2019-2020 were enrolled in Michigan’s Medicaid program.



Children under age 6 uninsured - percent	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gogebic County	7.3%	7.8%	6.1%	5.3%	11.3%	N/A
Ontonagon County	10.3%	7.8%	34.8%	35.0%	16.3%	N/A
GOCAA enrolled children	3.4%	4.4%	5.1%	4.3%	2.1%	2.8%
Michigan HS children	3.5%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	N/A

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2701, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

ACS data does not produce insurance data for young children in poverty who are uninsured, but it does produce data for individuals whose income is below 138% of poverty guidelines who are unenrolled in a health insurance plan. Income at or below this threshold qualifies an individual or family for Medicaid. Ontonagon County has experienced very high rates of uninsured individuals who technically qualify for Medicaid. This rate peaked twice, at about 28% in 2014 and again in 2017. In 2019, it was at 15%, compared to 11.5% for Gogebic County, and 9.1% for the state of Michigan as a whole. These elevated levels of uninsured individuals who qualify for Medicaid may indicate lower levels of healthcare accessibility or reluctance to enroll in both counties that the Head Start/Early Head Start program serves.



Under 1.38 of poverty guidelines and uninsured - percent

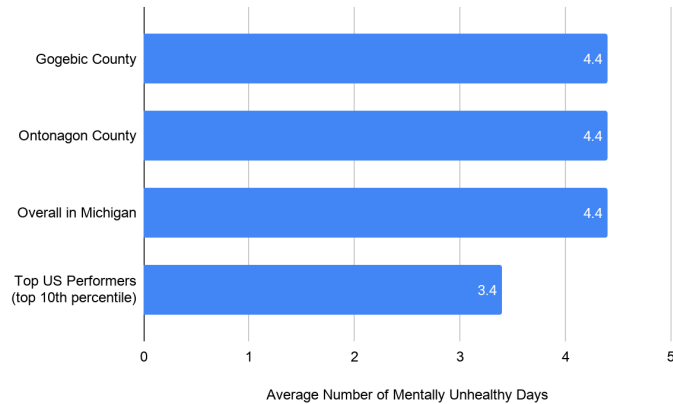
Under 1.38 of poverty guidelines & uninsured	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County	27.4%	22.2%	19.1%	17.3%	13.6%	10.2%	11.5%
Ontonagon County	27.3%	28.4%	25.8%	25.7%	27.9%	21.0%	15.0%
Michigan	21.4%	20.3%	17.9%	15.6%	13.0%	10.4%	9.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S2701, retrieved December 20, 2020 from <https://data.census.gov>

Mental Health

The Center for Disease Control tracks the average number of mentally unhealthy days in each county through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a health survey conducted annually. The latest data for the BRFSS is from 2017. Top performing counties in the country have an average of 3.4

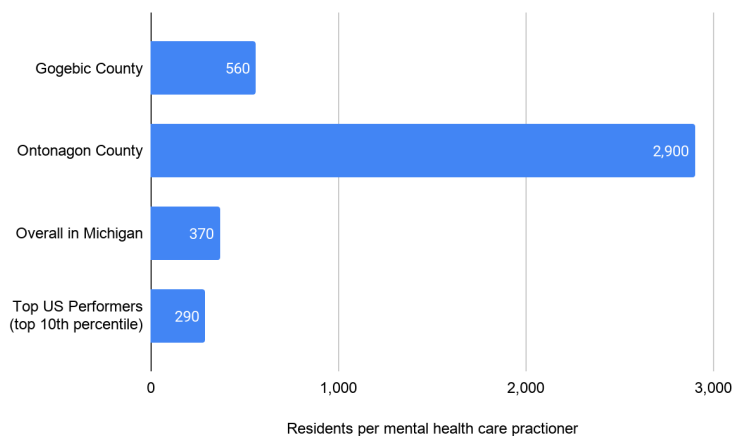
mentally unhealthy days per month. The state of Michigan and both Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties have an average of 4.4 mentally unhealthy days per month. Of surveyed respondents to the 2018 Community Health Assessment, 23.3% of Gogebic residents and 17.9% of Ontonagon residents reported a previous diagnosis of depression, compared to 22% statewide in Michigan.



2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Center for Disease Control, retrieved June 2020 from <http://countyhealthrankings.org>

The “Practitioner Shortages” section of this report cited that the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has designated both Gogebic and Ontonagon as mental health practitioner shortage areas (mental health HPSA). Gogebic County has 560 residents per mental health care practitioner, while Ontonagon County has 2,900. The overall Michigan state number of residents per mental health practitioner is 370, and top performing counties in the country have just 290. These numbers indicate a severe shortage of mental health care practitioners in the area. The ratio of residents to practitioners does not seem to take into account residents who may cross county lines to access health services, which may explain the severe and apparent lack of

mental health care providers in the county. However, the HPSA designation from the HRSA does take into account travel time to the nearest source of care outside the HPSA designation area. While the raw ratio may overstate the shortage, the HPSA designation indicates that a shortage of mental health care workers still exists.

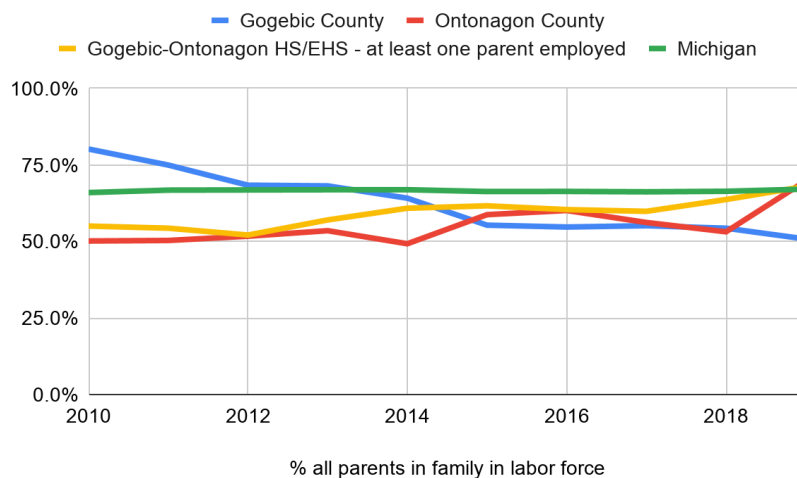


Source: 2019 CMS, National Provider Identification, retrieved from <http://countyhealthrankings.org>

Typical schedule of families

There is no publicly available data source for typical work schedules of families with young children. However, the ACS tracks the number of families with children under age 6 with all parents in the family in the labor force. In Gogebic County, 50.8% of such families have all parents in the labor force, down from 80.2% in 2010.¹³ The rate in Ontonagon County has been more variable, and is currently at 69.8%, which is higher than the state rate of 67.1%. In 2010, the rate in Ontonagon County was lower, at 50.2%. Gogebic County has almost 4 times as many families with children under age 6, at 677, compared to Ontonagon's 159, so the overall trend in the Gogebic-Ontonagon service area is a downward trend in employment among parents of young children.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs track a somewhat comparable statistic for families, which is the number of families with at least one parent who is employed. This is not directly comparable to the ACS statistic, as it is for at least one parent employed, and not whether all parents are in the labor force, as is in the ACS data.¹⁴ The percentage of Head Start and Early Head Start families with at least one parent employed was 77.7% in the 2019-2020 program year, up from 55% in 2010. These two trends combined suggest that though a smaller percentage of families with young children have both parents working, those who have children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start are entering the workforce at higher rates. This mirrors a decrease in the overall unemployment rate as outlined in the Employment section of this report. It remains to be seen if the sharp increase in the unemployment rate will be directly reflected in the program's family employment data at the local and state level.



¹³Though other measures of families with young children have high margins of error, this is not the case for this particular statistic for Gogebic County. The 2010 margin of error was +/- 6.9% within a 90% confidence interval

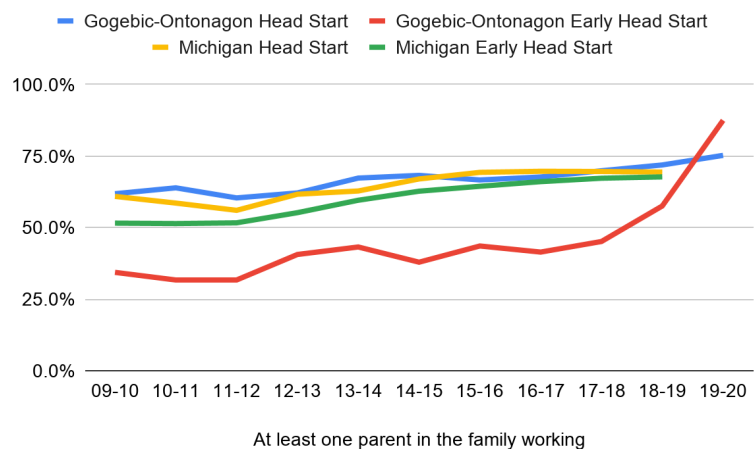
¹⁴Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports previously tracked the number of families with all parents working, but stopped in the 2019-2020 school year

% all parents in family in labor force	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gogebic County	80.2%	75.0%	68.4%	68.2%	64.2%	55.3%	54.7%	55.2%	54.3%	50.8%
Ontonagon County	50.2%	50.3%	51.7%	53.5%	49.3%	58.8%	60.1%	56.2%	53.2%	69.8%
Gogebic-Ontonagon HS/EHS - at least one parent employed	55.0%	54.3%	52.1%	57.0%	60.9%	61.7%	60.4%	59.9%	63.7%	68.0%
Michigan	66.0%	66.8%	66.8%	66.9%	66.9%	66.3%	66.4%	66.2%	66.4%	67.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table DP03. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Source: Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports

The rate of at least one parent working in Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start and Early Head Start can also be compared to the same rate for Head Start and Early Head Start families in the rest of the state. From the 2009-2010 program year to the 2018-2019, Gogebic-Ontonagon Early Head Start families had lower rates of employment compared to EHS families in the rest of the state, averaging 19 percentage points lower over the 10 year period. In 2019-2020, this rate jumped to 87.5% for GOCAA Early Head Start families. However, the actual number of families with at least one parent working only rose by 2 between 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. The rise in the percentage was due to a decrease in cumulative enrollment from 33 to 24 over the same time period. It is likely that this decrease in enrollment is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from this, the general trend is an increase in employment levels among Head Start & Early Head Start families.



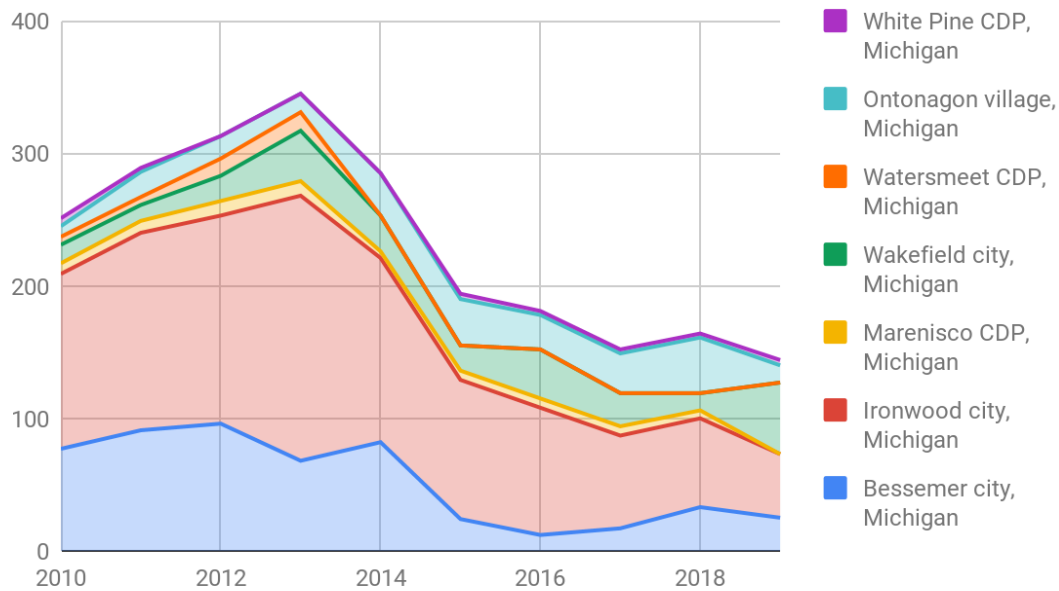
At least one parent in the family working: program year	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start	61.9%	63.9%	60.4%	62.1%	67.3%	68.3%	66.7%	67.7%	69.9%	71.9%	75.3%
Gogebic-Ontonagon Early Head Start	34.4%	31.7%	31.7%	40.6%	43.2%	37.9%	43.6%	41.5%	45.2%	57.6%	87.5%
Michigan Head Start	60.9%	58.6%	56.1%	61.7%	62.8%	67.0%	69.3%	69.7%	69.6%	69.4%	
Michigan Early Head Start	51.6%	51.4%	51.7%	55.2%	59.6%	62.7%	64.5%	66.1%	67.3%	67.7%	

Source: Gogebic-Ontonagon Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports

City/Town Level Data

This section includes city, town, village and Census Designated Place (CDP) data including the poverty rate for children under age 5 and the estimated number of children under age 5 in poverty from the 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) 2010-2019. This data is subject to higher margins of error when compared to county level data, as the ACS is based on a representative sample of the population rather than a true count of the total population. Therefore smaller geographies (such as towns and villages) tend to be subject to higher margins of error when compared to larger geographies (such as Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties.) In some cases, the margin of error will more than double the upper bounds of the estimate. In instances of high margins of error, the data should be analyzed with caution. In other cases the ACS did not publish data due to insufficient sample size. In those cases “N/A” is in the place of any data.

Children under age 5 in poverty

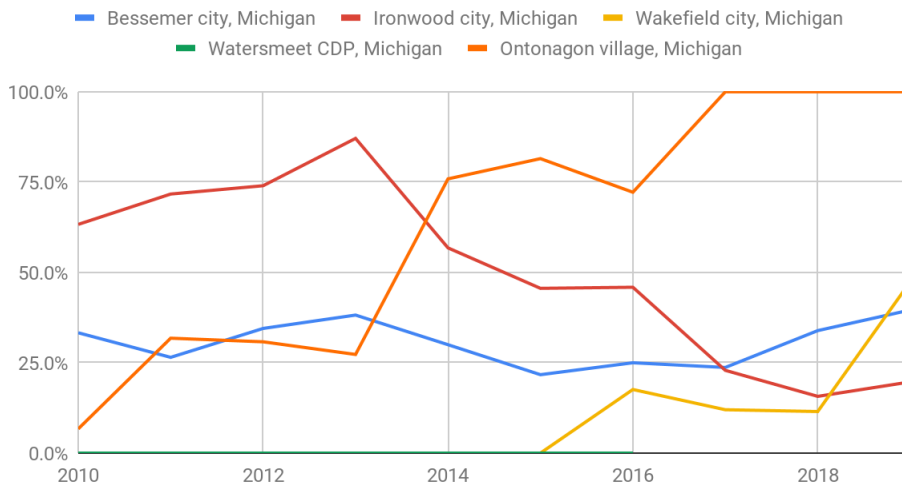


Children under age 5 in poverty

Children under age 5 in poverty	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City of Bessemer, Michigan	77	91	96	68	82	24	12	17	33	25
City of Ironwood, Michigan	132	149	157	200	139	105	96	70	67	48
Marenisco CDP, Michigan	8	9	11	11	5	7	7	7	6	0
City of Wakefield, Michigan	14	12	19	38	27	19	37	25	13	54
Watersmeet CDP, Michigan	6	6	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontonagon village, Michigan	8	19	17	14	32	35	26	30	42	13
White Pine CDP, Michigan	6	3	0	0	0	4	3	3	3	4
Margin of error (90% confidence interval)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City of Bessemer, Michigan	46.2	42.8	42.6	39.1	44.8	19.3	15.6	14.8	23.4	19.8
City of Ironwood, Michigan	60.5	69.1	73.8	66.9	65.8	53.3	47.0	50.3	42.7	37.6
Marenisco CDP, Michigan	109.7	79.2	18.9	18.0	12.8	14.9	14.1	14.1	13.5	14.1
City of Wakefield, Michigan	11.7	8.9	14.9	24.2	23.1	17.0	20.6	17.5	10.6	43.9
Watersmeet CDP, Michigan	109.3	78.5	19.7	20.6	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1
Ontonagon village, Michigan	109.4	79.2	17.2	15.6	17.7	18.6	18.4	19.1	21.9	12.2
White Pine CDP, Michigan	109.4	78.2	14.1	14.1	14.1	4.2	4.2	5.0	4.2	4.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table DP03. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

Poverty rate for families with children under age 5

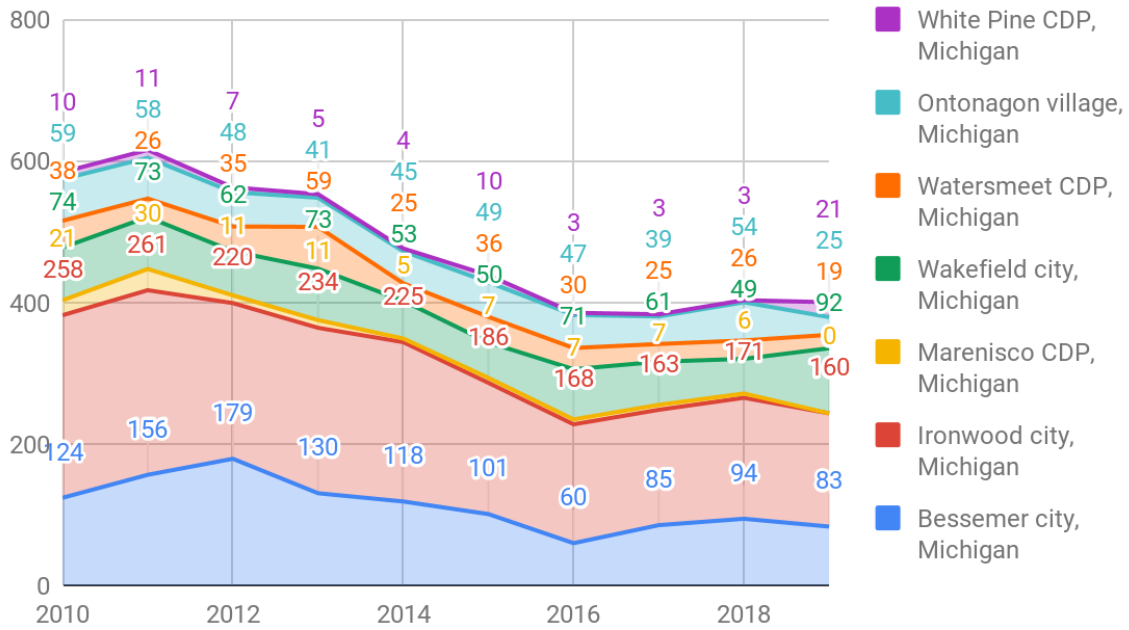


Poverty rate for families with children under age 5 only

Poverty rate for families with children under age 5	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City of Bessemer, Michigan	33.3%	26.5%	34.5%	38.2%	30.0%	21.7%	25.0%	23.7%	33.9%	39.6%
City of Ironwood, Michigan	63.3%	71.7%	74.0%	87.1%	56.8%	45.6%	45.9%	22.9%	15.7%	19.7%
Marenisco CDP, Michigan	62.5%	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
City of Wakefield, Michigan	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	17.6%	12.0%	11.5%	47.4%
Watersmeet CDP, Michigan	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ontonagon village, Michigan	6.7%	31.8%	30.8%	27.3%	75.9%	81.5%	72.2%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
White Pine CDP, Michigan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Margin of error (90% confidence interval)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City of Bessemer, Michigan	44.2%	34.9%	65.5%	60.2%	27.8%	21.3%	25.9%	19.8%	24.7%	24.4%
City of Ironwood, Michigan	25.7%	30.6%	27.4%	15.2%	26.6%	31.9%	29.8%	20.7%	16.9%	20.7%
Marenisco CDP, Michigan	52.5%	57.4%	78.4%	78.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
City of Wakefield, Michigan	42.1%	40.6%	53.1%	67.2%	65.9%	93.3%	32.6%	22.9%	21.0%	37.4%
Watersmeet CDP, Michigan	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	92.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ontonagon village, Michigan	10.2%	30.8%	23.8%	27.0%	23.1%	21.2%	39.4%	65.9%	48.4%	100.0%
White Pine CDP, Michigan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Table DP03. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>

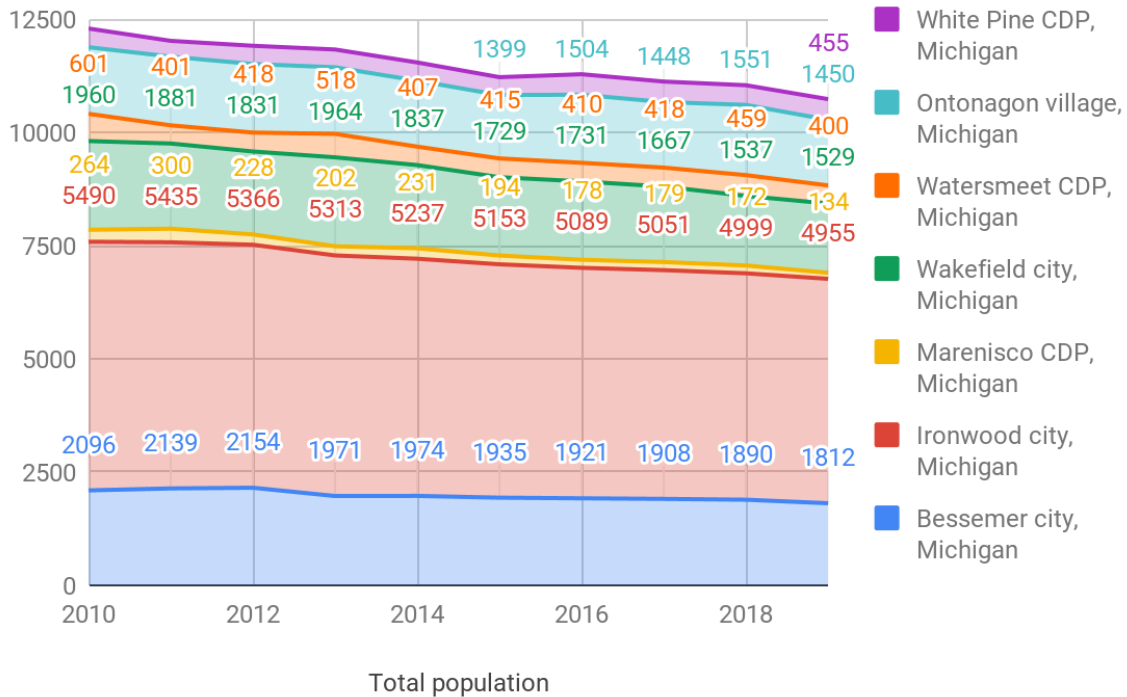
Children under age 5



Children under age 5

Population under age 5	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bessemer city, Michigan	124	156	179	130	118	101	60	85	94	83
Ironwood city, Michigan	258	261	220	234	225	186	168	163	171	160
Marenisco CDP, Michigan	21	30	11	11	5	7	7	7	6	0
Wakefield city, Michigan	74	73	62	73	53	50	71	61	49	92
Watersmeet CDP, Michigan	38	26	35	59	25	36	30	25	26	19
Ontonagon village, Michigan	59	58	48	41	45	49	47	39	54	25
White Pine CDP, Michigan	10	11	7	5	4	10	3	3	3	21

Total Population



Total population	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bessemer city, Michigan	2,096	2,139	2,154	1,971	1,974	1,935	1,921	1,908	1,890	1,812
Ironwood city, Michigan	5,490	5,435	5,366	5,313	5,237	5,153	5,089	5,051	4,999	4,955
Marenisco CDP, Michigan	264	300	228	202	231	194	178	179	172	134
Wakefield city, Michigan	1,960	1,881	1,831	1,964	1,837	1,729	1,731	1,667	1,537	1,529
Watersmeet CDP, Michigan	601	401	418	518	407	415	410	418	459	400
Ontonagon village, Michigan	1,471	1,518	1,514	1,471	1,457	1,399	1,504	1,448	1,551	1,450
White Pine CDP, Michigan	412	348	402	392	402	395	452	452	434	455