

Chapter 3 – Community Profile

Population

The 2010 Census showed that Crawford County had population of 14,074, which equated to a 1.4% decline in population from the 2000 US Census. Prior to this, Crawford County had experienced 30-year trend of population gains. a steady growth in population until the latter part of the 2000's. Population is concentrated in the City of Grayling and Grayling Township area with other population centers located in South Branch, Beaver Creek and Frederic Townships.

Further examination of the demographics shows Crawford County's population is aging at a higher rate than the State and Nation. Shifting population bases create new demands on community services and emergency response.

Population by Municipality

The City of Grayling, Grayling and Frederic Township experienced population loss over the past decade, while Beaver Creek, Lovells, Maple Forest and South Branch Townships experienced population gains. The county as a whole showed a population loss over the past decade. **Table 3.1** shows population trends for communities in the County.

Municipality	2000 Population	2010 Population	Percent Change	Numeric Change
Crawford County	14,273	14,074	-1.4%	-196
City of Grayling	1,952	1,884	-3.50%	-68
Beaver Creek Township	1,486	1,736	16.80%	250
Frederic Township	1,401	1,341	-6.10%	-87
Grayling Township	6,516	5,827	-0.10%	-658
Lovells Township	578	626	8.30%	48
Maple Forest Township	498	653	3.90%	154
South Branch Township	1,842	2,007	9.0%	165

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
Note: Red text indicates decline and green text indicates increase

Seasonal Population

Obtaining accurate numbers of seasonal residents and tourists is difficult. Because the U.S. Census is conducted each decade in April, the numbers only reflect those persons who live in the county on a year-round basis. Tourism and annual events can provide large increases in population on any one weekend. The Weyerhaeuser AuSable River Canoe Marathon in July can attract as many as 50,000 people to area.

A rough estimate of the number of county seasonal residents can be calculated by multiplying the number of county seasonal housing units by the county's average number of persons per household. The 2010 Census showed that there were 4,535 seasonal housing units in the county and an average household size of 2.5 persons. Considering the additional influx of seasonal visitors or tourists staying in area motels, campgrounds, or family homes, a spike in population could exceed 10,000 persons on during certain times. These spikes in populations should be acknowledged when identifying hazard mitigation strategies.

Age Distribution

According to the 2010 Census, Crawford County's year round population was 14,074 persons. This figure represents a loss of 199 persons or 1.4 percent from the 2000 Census. Even with the loss, the age group of 45 years and older gained population, increasing by 1,571 persons (26% increase). However, the county experienced losses in age groups that represent young families. Youth age group (19 years and younger) lost 703 persons (18.4% decrease) and the adult age group (25-44 years of age) declined by 1,073 persons (28.3% loss). See **Table 3.2 and Figure 3.1**.

The median age of the County has increased from 34.7 years in 1990 to 47.7 years in 2010. At the same time the State's median age increase from 32.5 to 38.9 years. The difference in median age between the County and State increased from 1990 to 2010 as the County's population make-up "ages" at the faster rate, **Figure 3.2**

In conclusion, shifts in the County's demographic make-up are changing the population structure. Long term trends in the increase in median age continue at the faster rate than the State of Michigan and US. The rate has increased with the down turn in the economy, as young families move to other areas for employment. An aging population needs access to social and medical services. The county's emergency response services will experience an increase in demands.

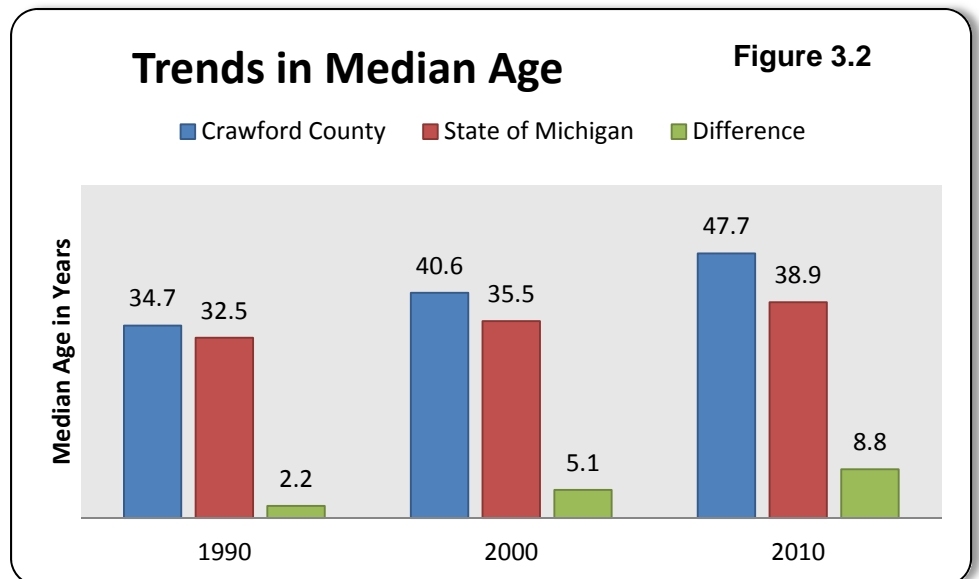


Figure 3.1

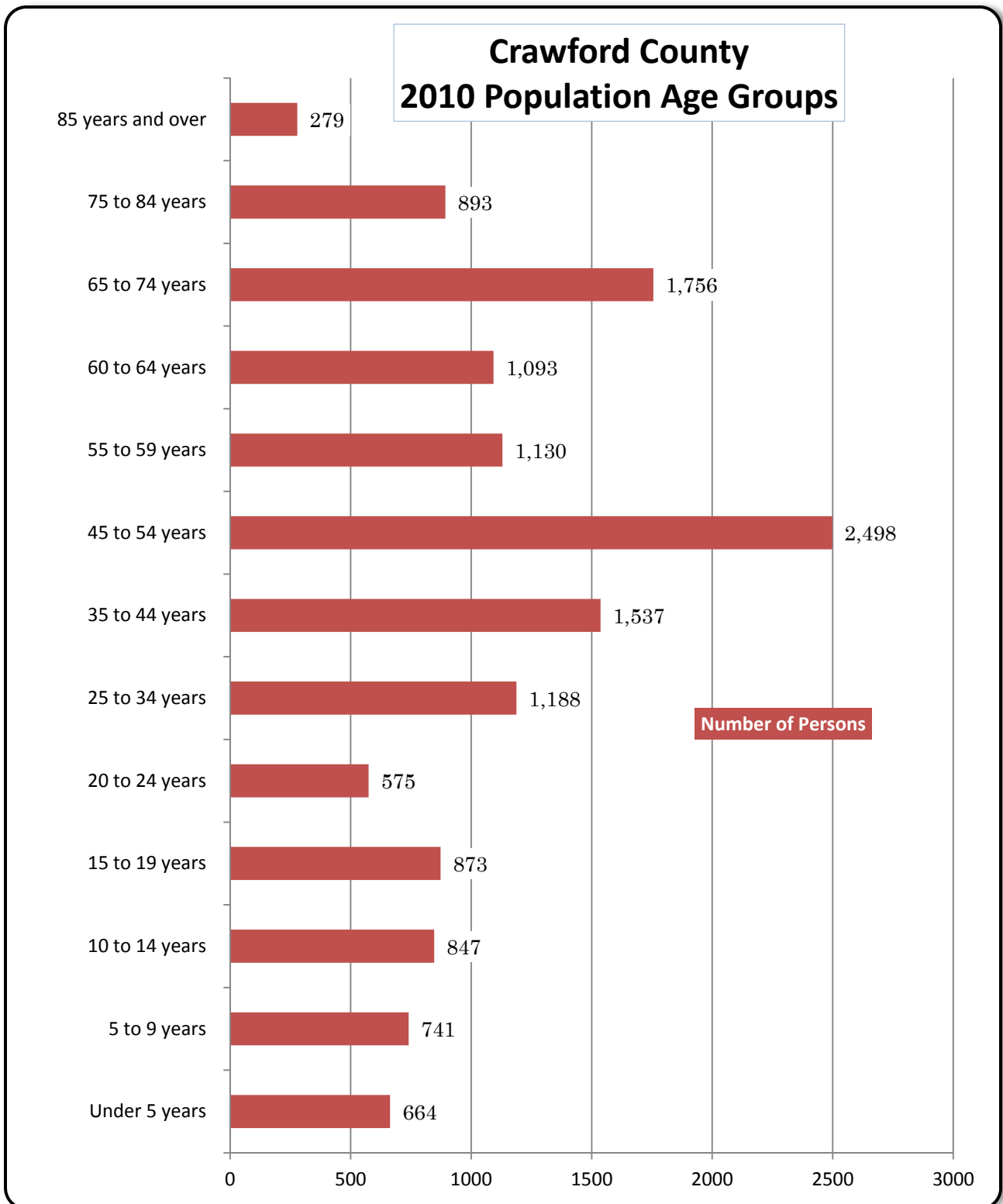


Table 3.2
Age Distribution By Municipality For Crawford County - 2010

MUNICIPALITY	< 5 Yrs.	%*	5-19 Yrs.	%*	20-24 Yrs.	%*	25-44 Yrs.	%*	45-64 Yrs.	%*	65 Yrs. & >	%*	Median Age
City of Grayling	124	6.6	385	20.4	118	6.3	450	23.9	417	22.1	390	20.8	38.6
Beaver Creek Township	67	3.9	330	19.0	67	3.9	317	18.3	601	34.7	354	20.3	47.8
Frederic Township	62	5.2	243	18.1	53	4.0	266	19.9	456	34.0	261	19.4	47.5
Grayling Charter Township	282	4.8	1019	17.5	241	4.1	1137	19.4	2009	34.6	1139	19.6	45.0
Lovells Township	14	2.2	63	10.0	14.0	2.2	71	11.4	258	41.2	206	32.9	57.5
Maple Forest Township	28	4.3	126	19.3	19	2.9	129	19.8	235	36.0	116	17.7	46.8
South Branch Township	87	4.3	295	14.7	63	3.1	355	17.7	745	37.1	462	23.0	50.8
Crawford Co.	664	4.7	2461	17.5	575	4.1	2725	19.3	4721	33.5	2928	20.8	47.7

*Figure shows the percentage each age grouping represents of the local unit's total population.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Housing Stock

Over past decades, Crawford County has experienced a steady increase in number housing units, with a high percentage used as seasonal housing. New housing starts drastically dropped in 2008 with the down turn in the U.S. economy.

Housing characteristics from the 2010 US Census are presented in **Table 3.3**. The Census found 11,092 housing units with 6,016 units occupied and 5,076 units vacant. Grayling Township has the most housing units at 4,289 units (39% of the county total). As in many areas of northern Michigan, Crawford County has a large percentage of seasonal housing units, nearly 41 percent. Frederic, Lovells, and South Branch Township have percentages of seasonal housing units greater than 40 percent. The City of Grayling has a very low percentage of seasonal housing units (2.25%).

When conducting the hazard assessment for the CWPP, a critical step in the process is locating housing developments in relation to forest types and high risk wildfire areas. Parcel data and structure locations were provided by Crawford County. This data can be overlaid onto forest types and maps generated by the RAMS program. The results can be found in Chapter 4.

Table 3.3 Housing Counts and Occupancy Status in Crawford County						
Area Name	2010					
	Total	Occupied	Vacant	Percent Vacant	Seasonal	Percent Seasonal
Crawford County	11,092	6,016	5,076	45.8%	4,535	40.89%
Beaver Creek Township	1,317	733	584	44.3%	524	39.79%
Frederic Township	1,231	576	655	53.2%	586	47.60%
Grayling City	890	764	126	14.2%	20	2.25%
Grayling Township	4,289	2,464	1,825	42.6%	1,629	37.98%
Lovells Township	1,034	315	719	69.5%	694	67.12%
Maple Forest Township	470	263	207	44.0%	181	38.51%
South Branch Township	1,861	901	960	51.6%	901	48.41%

Source: US Census Bureau

Selected Economic Indicators for Crawford County, MI

In Crawford County, 2010 Census data shows a loss in population levels over the last decade. The number of people in the labor force and employment has also dropped from 2004, as well the unemployment rate has increased. In 2009, Crawford County was 293 in the nation (of the 3144 counties) with the highest unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for the county has been consistently lower than region-wide rates. The median household income has remained relatively stable, showing a small drop from 2000 to 2010. Poverty rates have also increased in recent years. See **Table 3.4**. **Figure 3.3** shows the jobless rate for Crawford County, Northeast Michigan, Michigan and US. The County's employment was lower than the NEMCOG region's overall rate, but consistently higher than the state and US.

Table 3.4 Select Demographics and Economic Indicators			
Population (2010) Estimate	14,074	Median Household Income (2007)	\$35,979
Labor Force (2010)	6,292	Median Household Income (2009)	\$35,866
Employment (2010)	5,441	Adults over 25 (2007) % Bachelor's Degrees	12.9%
Unemployment Rate (2010)	13.5%	Poverty Rate (2007)	14.7%

Figure 3.3

