



September 2021

Census 2020 Results for Southeast Michigan

The U.S. Census Bureau released its much-anticipated redistricting data file (Public Law 94-171 data) on August 12, 2021. This release of Census 2020 data provides a count of total population; population by race; population by two age groups: voting age and children under 18; and housing units, including occupancy and vacancy status for all geographies in the nation.

The 2020 Census results show that:

- The seven-county SEMCOG region's population grew by 125,680, or 2.7%, from 2010 to 2020, regaining almost all the population loss that took place in the previous decade;
- The share the number of children under the age of 18 declined during the last decade, and the population aged 18 and over increased at a much faster pace than the total population.
- The region continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse.
- Households in the region grew at a much faster rate than the housing units resulting in increased housing occupancy and lower residential vacancy rates.
- Household size decreased, continuing the downward trends observed for several decades now.



Census 2020 redistricting data at community level and smaller geographies can be accessed from [SEMCOG's Census 2020 page](#).

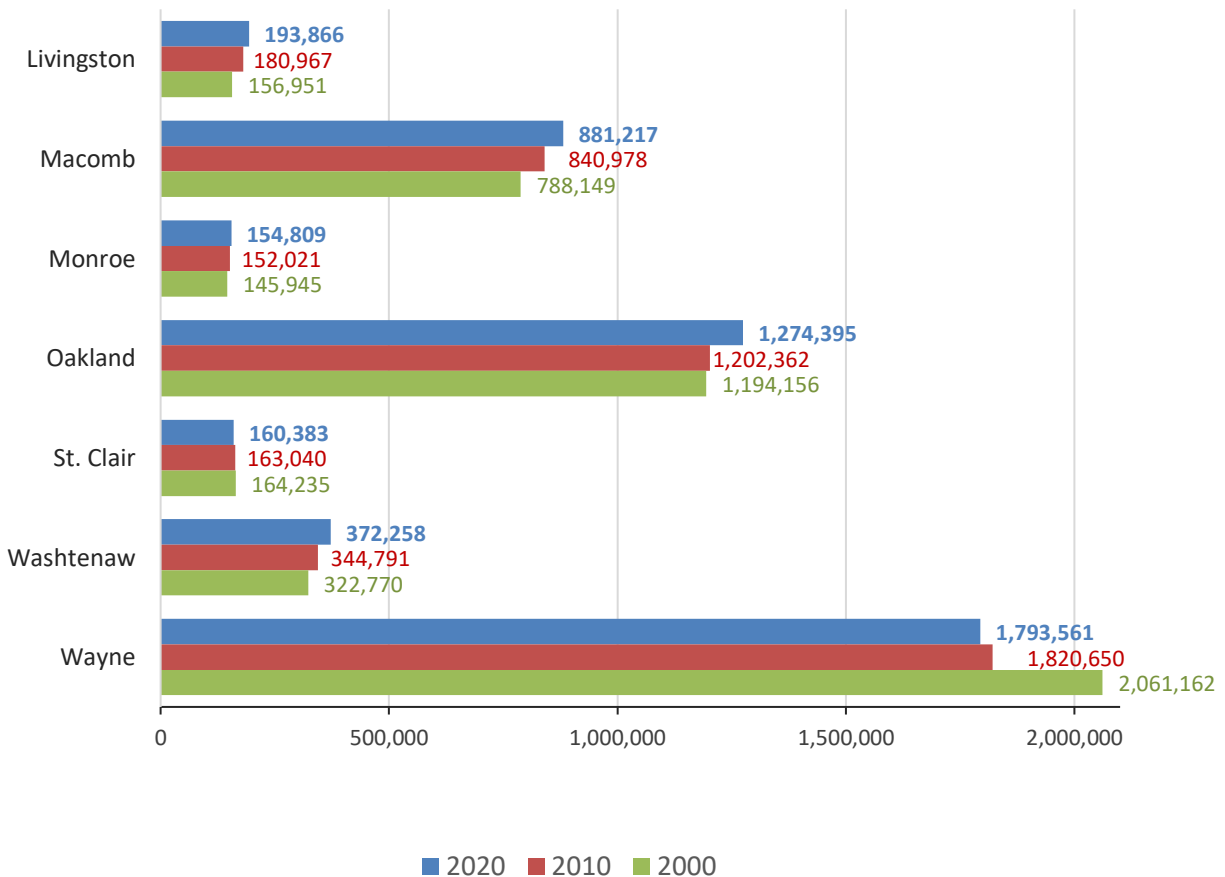
The SEMCOG region’s population increased by 125,680, or 2.7%, from 2010 to 2020, regaining almost all the population loss that took place in the previous decade. As of April 1, 2020, there were 4,830,489 people living in the seven county Southeast Michigan region. This is the second time the decennial Census showed population growth for Southeast Michigan since 1970; the other time was between 1990 and 2000, when the region grew by 5.3%. The region’s 2.7% population growth rate exceeded the State of Michigan’s at 2.0%, while both were substantially lower than the national rate of 7.4%.

Population Change by County

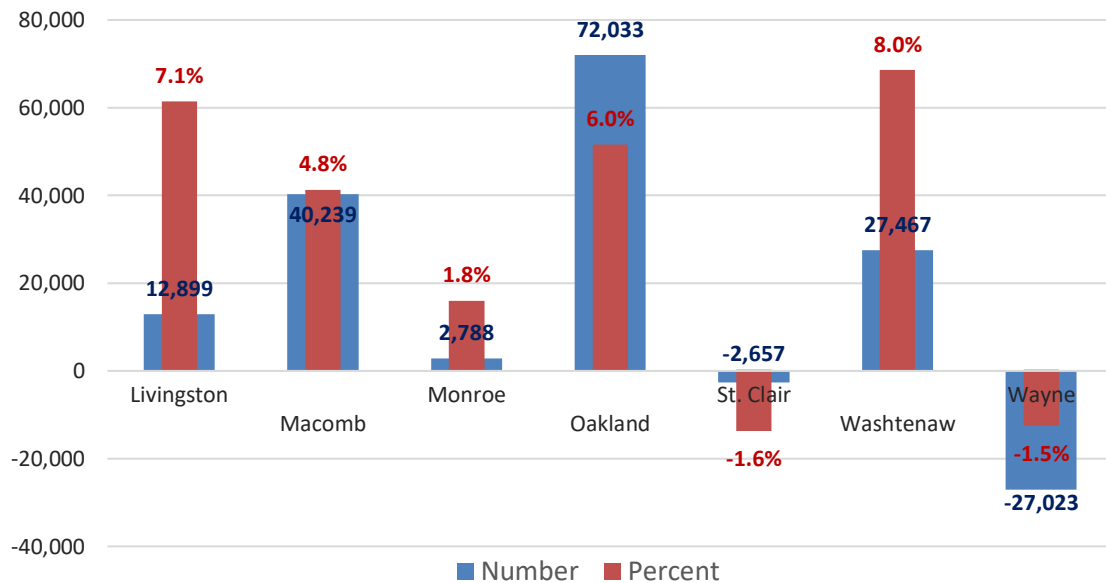
- During the last decade, Oakland County added the most (72,033) people to its 2010 population.
- Macomb County gained 40,239 people.
- Washtenaw County had the fastest growth with 8.0% (27,467) increase in population.
- Livingston County followed with a growth rate of 7.1% (12,899).
- Wayne County, including the City of Detroit, had a population loss of 27,023 (-1.5%) people.

Wayne County’s population loss is driven by loss in Detroit’s population. Wayne County, excluding Detroit, grew by 47,662 (4.3%) persons. The City of Detroit experienced a much smaller loss (-74,751 or -10.5%) compared to the decade of 2000-2010. Of the region’s total population, 81.8% (3,949,173) lived in the tri-county region of Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties.

Population by county: 2000, 2010, 2020



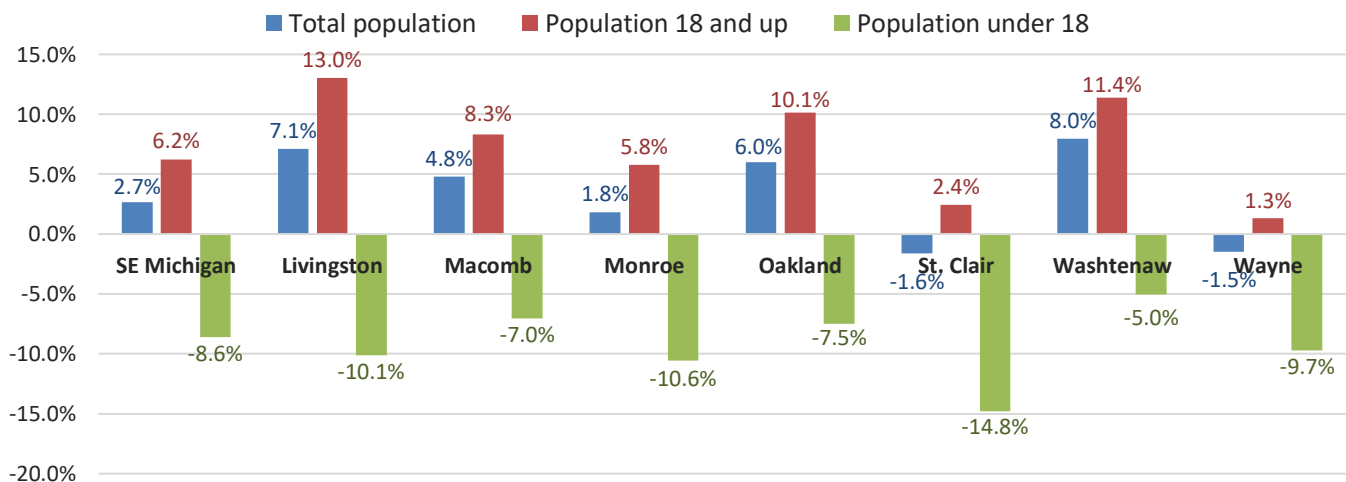
Population change by county: 2010-2020



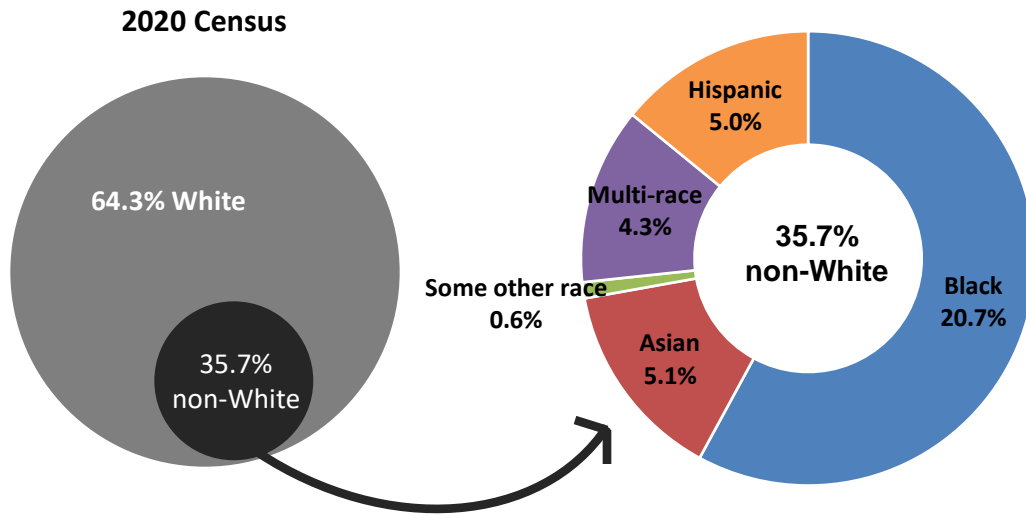
Group quarters population (those living in group living arrangements such as college dorms, nursing facilities, correctional facilities, etc.) increased by 4,200 (6.3%) between 2010 and 2020. Washtenaw County, home to the University of Michigan, saw the largest gain in group quarters population (6,195), followed by Oakland County (1,600).

Child population declined during the last decade. In 2010, 24% (1.13 million) of region's population were children (17 or under), which decreased to 21.4% (1.03 million) in 2020, a decline of 97,455 (-8.6%). The region's decline in child population was more significant than those of Michigan (-7.7%) and the U.S. (-1.4%). This decline in younger population is due to the aging of existing population and lowering birth rates, especially among White and Black population groups. Adult population, those aged 18 and up, grew faster than the total population in the last decade. In 2020, 3.8 million (78.6%) of the region's 4.83 million people were adults aged 18 and older – an increase of 223,133 people (6.2%) from 3.6 million in 2010.

Percent change in population by age groups: 2010-2020



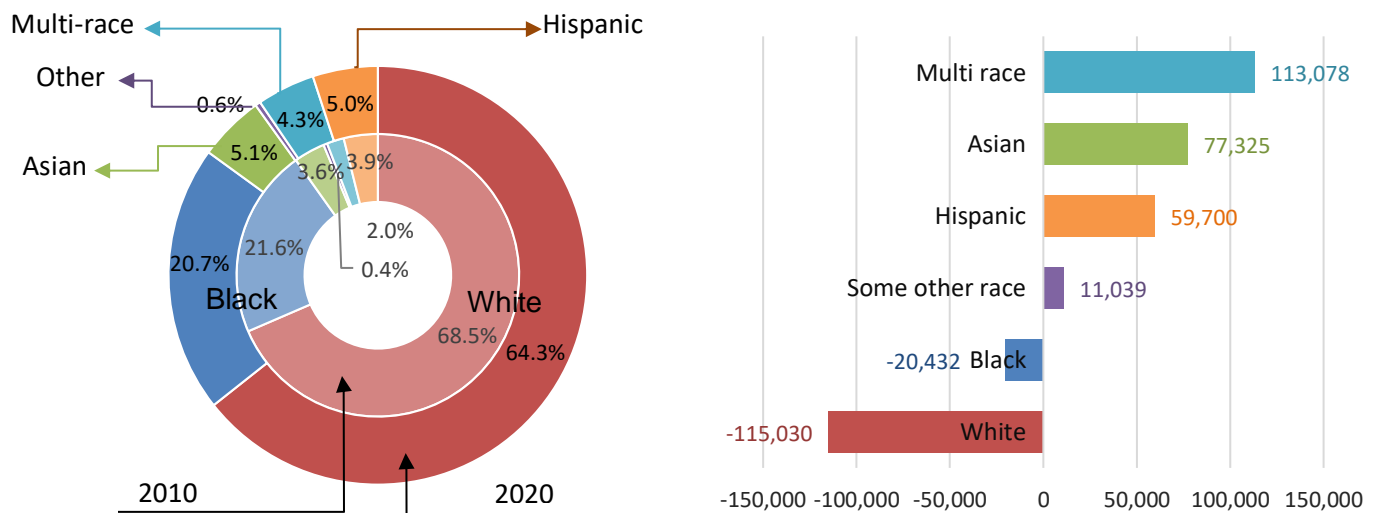
Southeast Michigan continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse. In 2020, 35.7% of region's population identified themselves as non-White, compared to 31.5% in 2010.



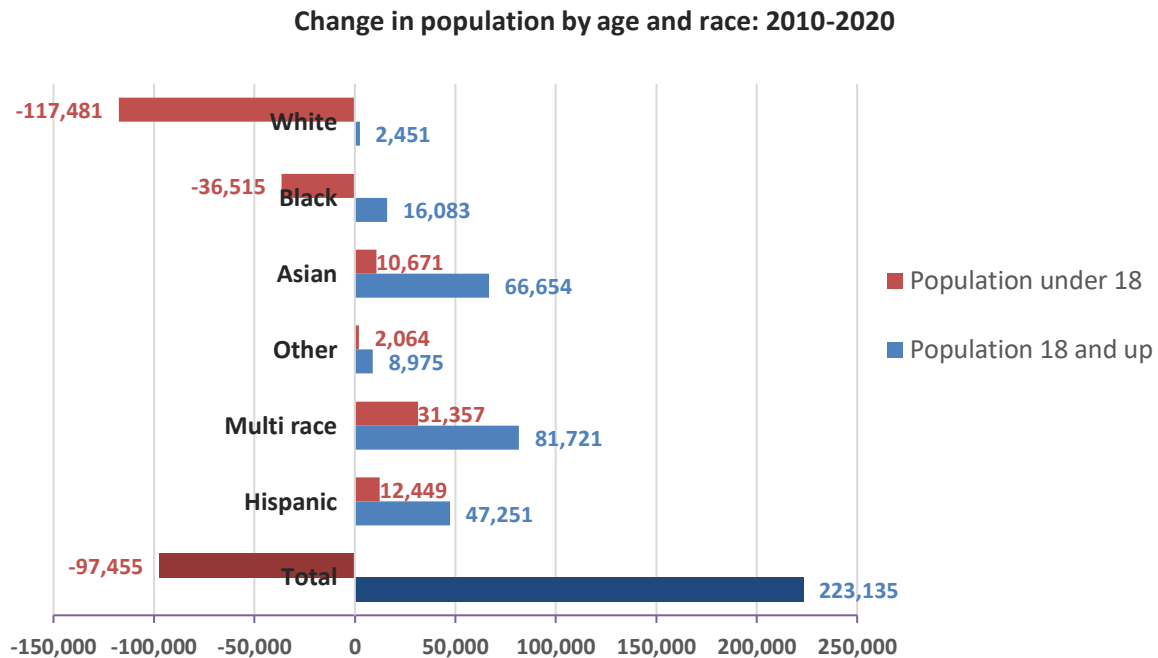
Note: Throughout this report, all race groups include populations of single race (except multi-race) and are not Hispanic. Some other race is comprised of American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and "some other race."

All of the region's population growth between 2010 and 2020 is attributed to growth in Asian, Hispanic, those who identified themselves as some other race, and those who identified as two or more races (multi-race). Multi-race population experienced the largest gain (123%) compared to other race and ethnic groups. The changes in multi-race population can be attributed to actual demographic changes in the population in the past 10 years as well as improvements to the data processing and coding between 2010 and 2020 Census¹. The population shares and numbers of people of White and Black races declined during the last decade.

Change in population by race and ethnic groups: 2010-2020



The declines in population among White and Black race groups is driven by the declines in the child population of those races. The racial and ethnic composition among children in the region is quite different from adults. When looking at race and ethnicity by age groups, adult population (ages 18 and up) among all race groups increased between 2010 and 2020; however, population under 18 declined for White and Black races.

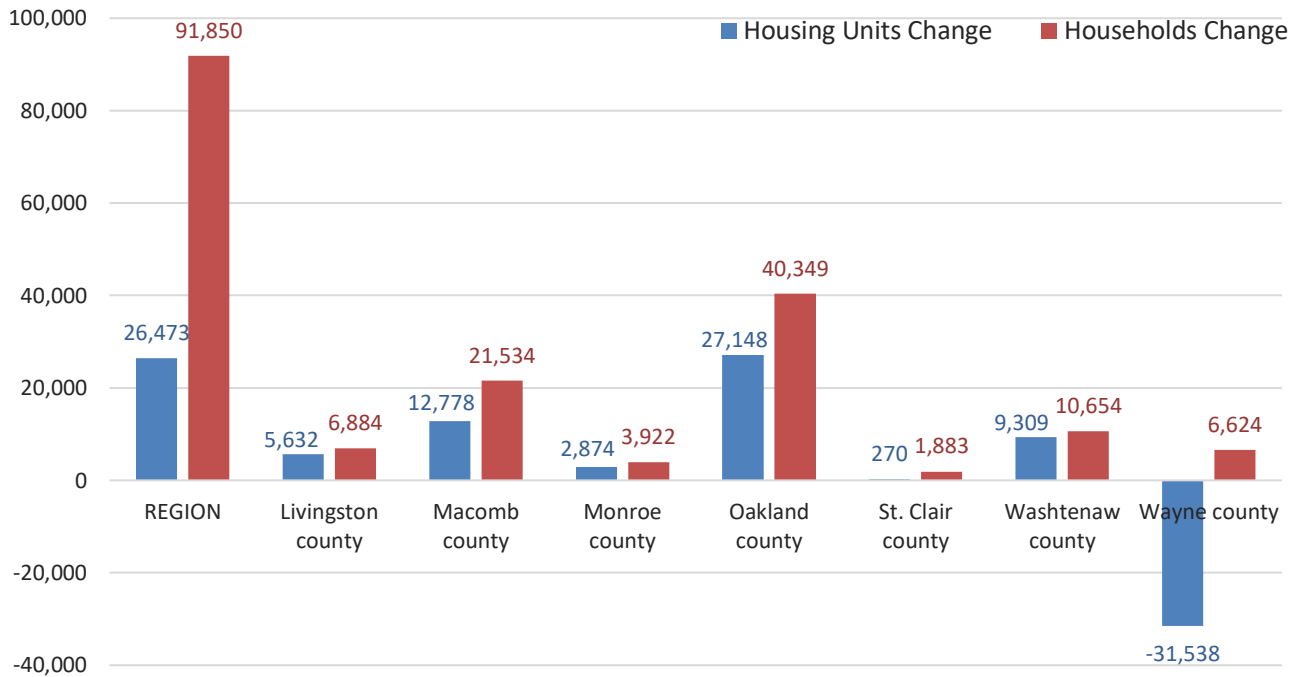


The total number of housing units in the region grew by 1.3% between 2010 and 2020, one-fourth the rate of growth observed during the previous decade. Between 2010 and 2020, the region added 26,473 housing units compared to 108,887 units that were added during 2000-2010. The housing crash during the latter part of the 2000s resulted in excessive vacant units. The subsequent Great Recession and recovery lasted until well after 2010 and impacted the demand for new construction across the region during the last decade.

Occupied housing units or households grew by 5% or 91,850 units between 2010 and 2020 compared to the decline (-0.02%) that was observed between 2000 and 2010. This is the result of population growth and improvement in the economy leading to adult children moving out of parents' homes to establish households of their own.

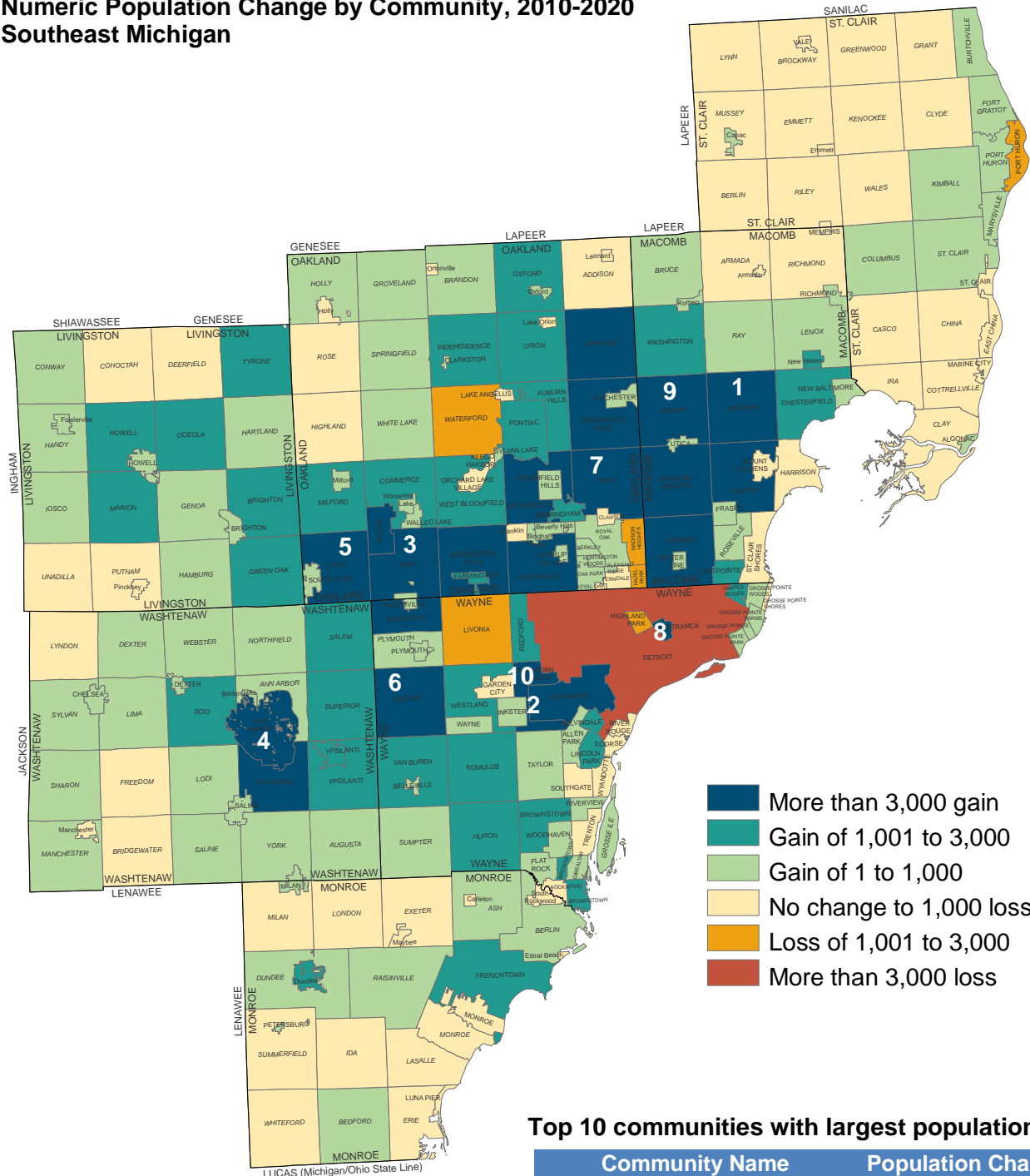
The slower growth in housing units combined with increase in households has resulted in higher residential occupancy and lower vacancy rates across the region. Residential vacancy rate in the region decreased from 10.5% in 2010 to 7.2% in 2020, a reduction of 65,377, or 30.3%, in vacant housing units.

Change in housing units and households: 2010-2020



Household size has been declining in the region for several decades, and the downward trend continued between 2010 and 2020. Household size declined from 2.58 in 2000 to 2.51 in 2010 and to 2.46 in 2020. Several factors – including aging of population, lower birth rates, and fewer babies born in the – region have contributed to this reduction in household size.

Numeric Population Change by Community, 2010-2020 Southeast Michigan

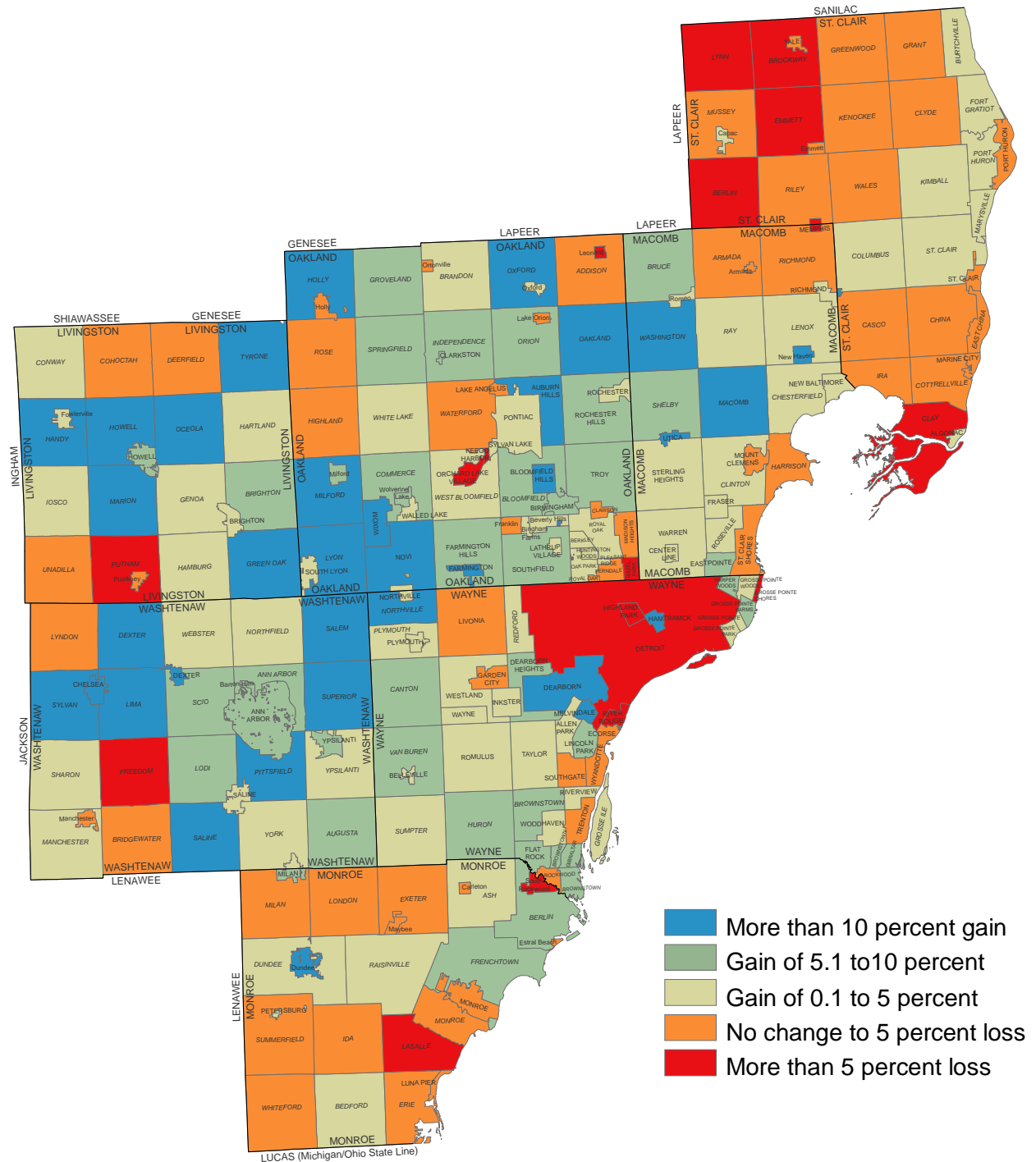


- More than 3,000 gain
- Gain of 1,001 to 3,000
- Gain of 1 to 1,000
- No change to 1,000 loss
- Loss of 1,001 to 3,000
- More than 3,000 loss

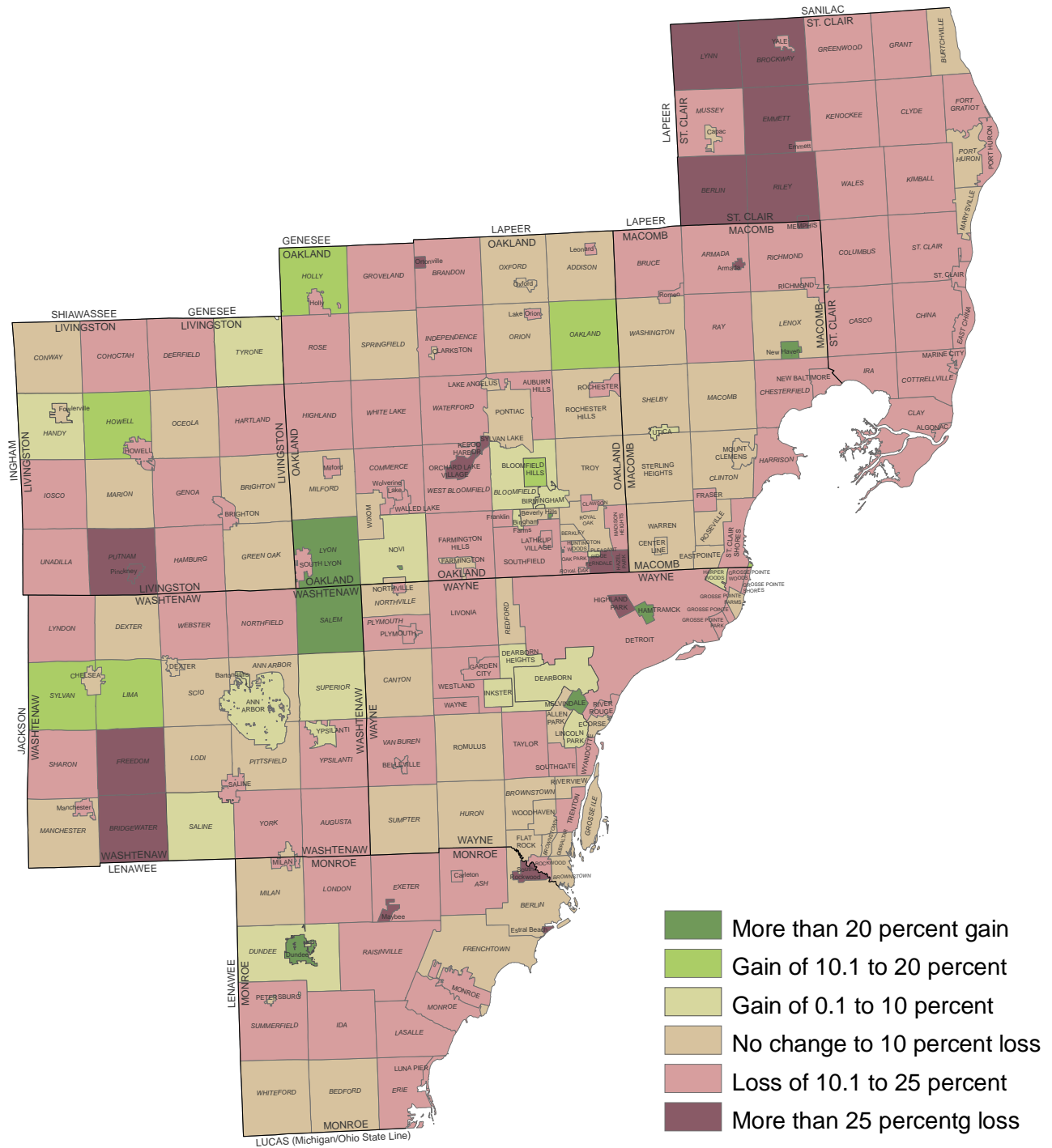
Top 10 communities with largest population gain

	Community Name	Population Change 2010-2020
1	Macomb township	12,083
2	Dearborn city	11,830
3	Novi city	11,019
4	Ann Arbor city	9,917
5	Lyon township	8,726
6	Canton township	8,486
7	Troy city	6,314
8	Hamtramck city	6,016
9	Shelby township	5,604
10	Dearborn Heights city	5,518

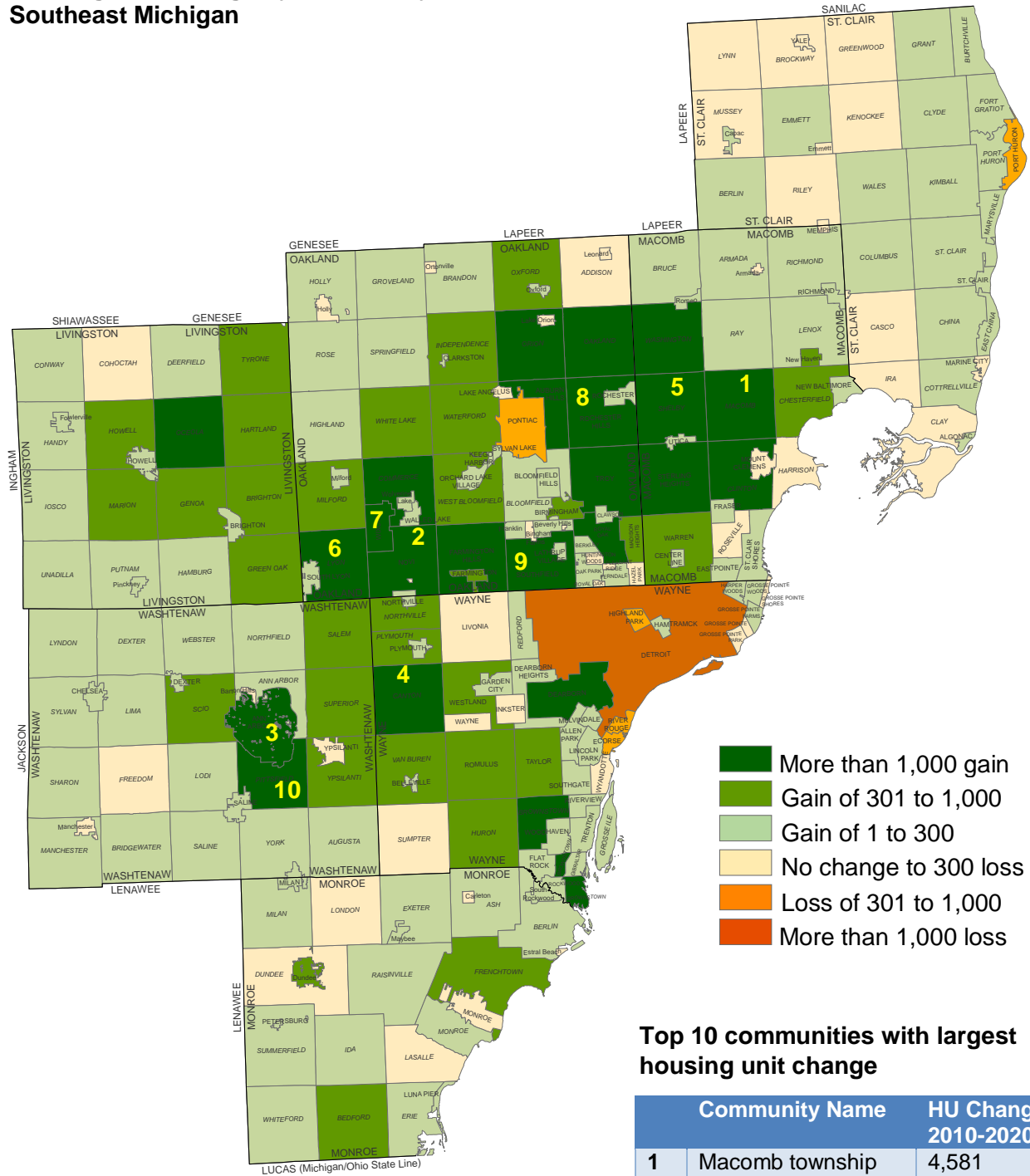
Percent Change in Population by Community, 2010-2020 Southeast Michigan



Percent Change in Child Population (Ages 0-17) by Community, 2010-2020 Southeast Michigan



Housing Unit Change by Community, 2010-2020 Southeast Michigan



1. Note about Census 2020 multi-race data

In 2020, Census Bureau implemented an improved process to capturing and coding the responses to the Census race questions.

- In the 2010 Census, only the first 30 characters of written responses to the race and ethnicity questions were captured and coded up to two write-in responses in each write-in line.
- In 2020 census, the number of characters being captured were increased from 30 to 200 and instead of prioritizing multiple responses into only two codes, six-detailed codes were allowed for each write-in area.

For more information, see Census Bureau's report ["2020 U.S. Population more racially and ethnically diverse than measured in 2010."](#)