

A SNAPSHOT OF **MECOSTA COUNTY**





About the Data

This County Profile is to be used with the 2015-2016 Issue Identification process for Michigan State University Extension. Unless otherwise noted, the data in the profile are drawn from the most recent 2000 U.S. Census and the 2013 American Community Survey. When information from one of the following sources is used, the source is indicated by the source number in parentheses. For example, information drawn from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be noted like this: (1).

1. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. (2014). *Michigan food and agricultural systems profiles*. Retrieved from <http://www.michigan.gov/mda rd/0,4610,7-125-1568-220573--,00.html>
2. United States Department of Agriculture. (2012). *USDA Census of Agriculture*. Retrieved from http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Michigan/index.asp
3. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). *Community profiles: definitions, rates and ratios*. Retrieved from www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/CHI/profiles/frame.html
4. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. (2013). *County health rankings & roadmaps*. Retrieved from <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2015/overview>
5. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources. (2015, June). *Forestry state ownership by county*.
6. Index Mundi. (2006-2010). *Michigan Poverty Rate by County*. Retrieved from <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/michigan/percent-of-people-of-all-ages-in-poverty#map>

A SNAPSHOT OF Mecosta County



Fast Facts

Population 43,007 people

Median age 34.3 years

Percent of people in poverty 20.6%

Median household income \$39,470

Median home value \$112,200

Top three economic sectors:

Educational services, health care and social assistance..... 29.4%

Retail 14.8%

Manufacturing 13%

Acres in:

Farmland 123,005 acres



GENERAL POPULATION

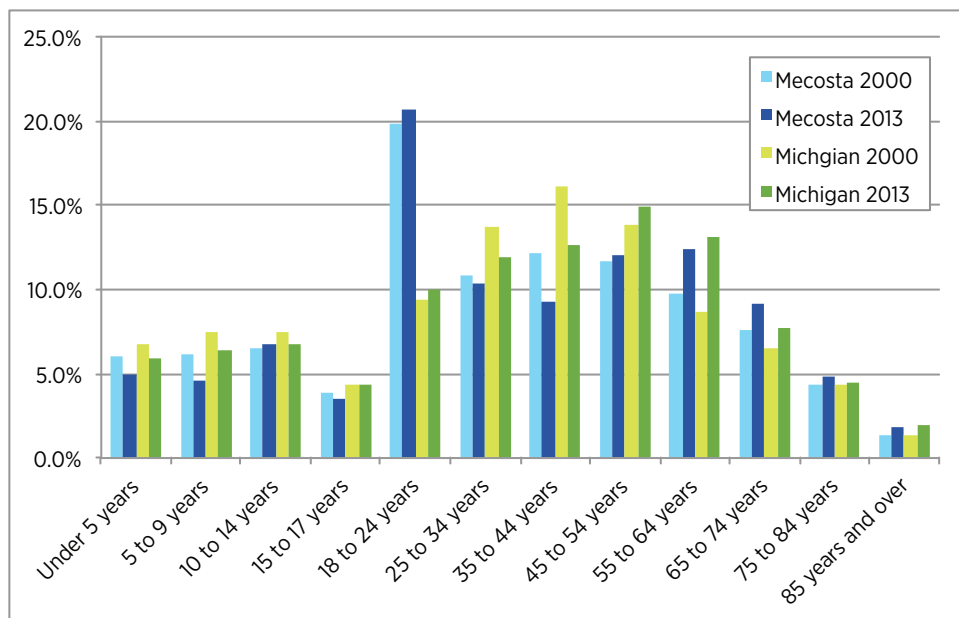
Year	Mecosta County Population	Michigan Population
2000	40,553	9,938,444
2013	43,007	9,883,640

» The population in Mecosta has increased from 2000 to 2013, while overall Michigan saw a decrease in total population.

Population Density (per sq. mile)

Year	Mecosta Population Density (per sq. mile) / Area (Land)	Michigan Population Density (per sq. mile) / Area (Land)
2000	73.0 / 555.69	175.0 / 56,803.82
2013	77.5 / 555.07	174.9 / 56,538.90

Age Distribution



General Population, Continued

Gender

Year	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	% Male	% Female	% Male	% Female
2000	50.7%	49.3%	49.0%	51.0%
2013	50.3%	49.8%	49.1%	50.9%

Race & Ethnicity

	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
White alone	91.9%	92.1%	78.6%	76.3%
Black or African American alone	3.6%	2.8%	14.1%	13.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Asian alone	0.9%	0.7%	1.8%	2.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race alone	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Two or more races	1.7%	2.1%	1.6%	2.1%
Hispanic or Latino	1.3%	1.9%	3.3%	4.5%



ECONOMY

Median Household Income

Median Household Income	Mecosta County	Michigan
In 1999 dollars	\$33,849	\$44,667
In 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars	\$39,470	\$48,411

Per Capita Income

Per Capita Income	Mecosta County	Michigan
In 1999 dollars	\$16,372	\$22,168
In 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars	\$19,336	\$25,681

» Per capita income is the average per-person income and is derived by dividing all the sources of income in an area by the total population.

Poverty

» **Mecosta Poverty Rate:** 20.6% (6)
Michigan Poverty Rate: 14.8% (6)

Poverty Status	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Children under age 18:				
Living in poverty	17.2%	28.2%	13.9%	23.6%
Not living in poverty	82.8%	71.8%	86.1%	76.4%
Age 18 to 64:				
Living in poverty	17.6%	25.2%	9.6%	16.2%
Not living in poverty	82.4%	74.8%	90.4%	83.8%
Age 65 and over:				
Living in poverty	7.6%	7.4%	8.2%	8.2%
Not living in poverty	92.4%	92.6%	91.8%	91.8%

Economy, Continued

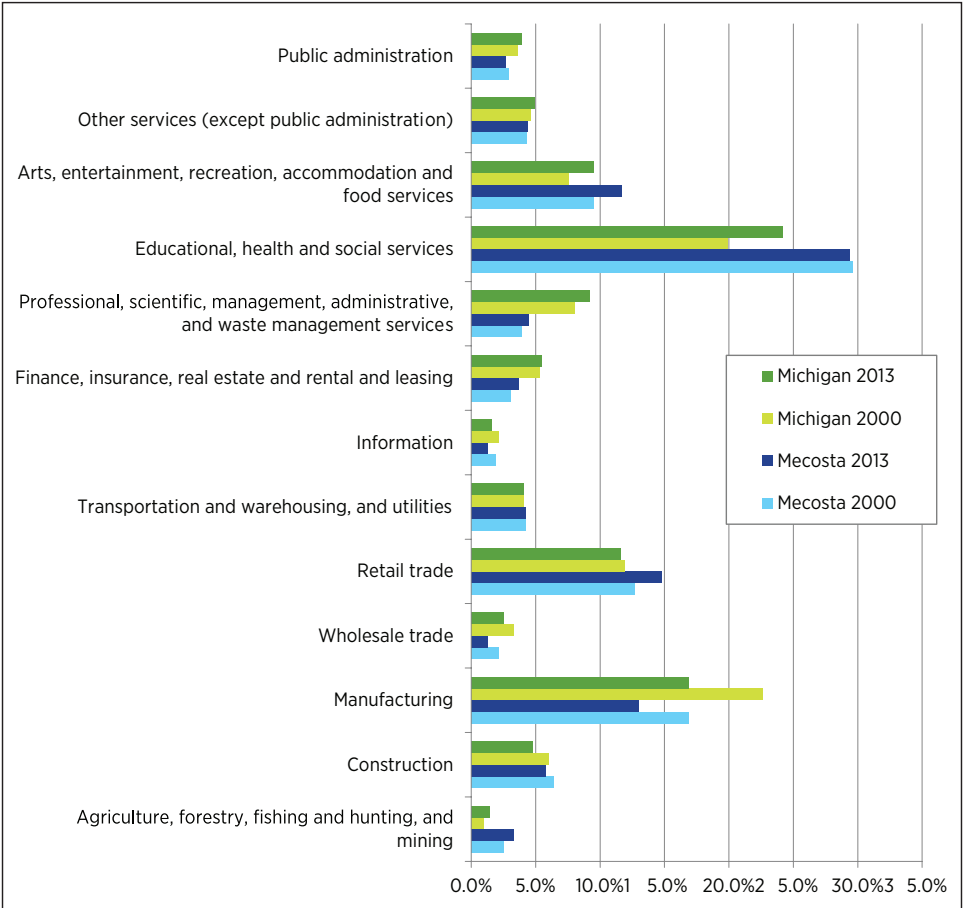
Labor Force

Employment Status for Total Population 16 Years and Over (2000)	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 16 years and over:	32,489		7,630,645	
In labor force	19,791	60.9%	4,926,463	64.6%
In armed forces	20	0.1%	4,010	0.1%
Civilian:	19,771	60.9%	4,922,453	64.5%
• Employed	17,470	53.8%	4,637,461	60.8%
• Unemployed	2,301	7.1%	284,992	3.7%
Not in labor force	12,698	39.1%	2,704,182	35.4%

Employment Status For Total Population 16 Years And Over (2013)	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 16 years and over:	35,510		7,865,350	
In labor force	20,038	56.4%	4,864,014	61.8%
In armed forces	0	0.0%	4,597	0.1%
Civilian:	20,038	56.4%	4,859,417	61.8%
• Employed	16,952	47.7%	4,242,948	53.9%
• Unemployed	3,086	8.7%	616,469	7.8%
Not in labor force	15,472	43.6%	3,001,336	38.2%

Economy, Continued

Industry



» From 2000 to 2013, manufacturing decreased and the retail sector increased in Mecosta County.

Economy, Continued

Means of Transportation to Work (Age 16 Years and Over)

Means of Transportation to Work	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Car, truck, or van	87.0%	88.3%	92.9%	91.6%
Public transportation	0.9%	0.7%	1.4%	1.4%
Motorcycle	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Bicycle	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%
Walked	6.1%	5.9%	2.2%	2.2%
Other means	0.7%	1.0%	0.5%	0.6%
Worked at home	4.9%	3.7%	2.8%	3.6%



AGRICULTURE

Highlights	Mecosta County	Michigan
Acres in ag production (2)	123,005 acres	9,948,564 acres
Acres of state forest (5)	0 acres	3,907,504 acres
Number of farms (2)	779 farms	52,194 farms
Average size of farm (2)	158 acres	191 acres
Average age of principal operator of farm (2)	56.3 years	57.6 years
Farm gate sales (2)	\$113,257,000	\$8,678,050,000

Mecosta top three areas of agriculture production (by volume of sales) (1):

- » Hogs and pigs
- » Milk and other dairy products from cows
- » Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas

FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS



Housing Units

	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Housing Units	19,593	21,075	4,234,279	4,529,311

Average Household Size

	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Average Household Size	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5

Household Type

Household Type	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Family households:	66.3%	65.2%	68.0%	65.7%
• Married couple family	53.3%	52.1%	51.5%	48.5%
• Other family	13.1%	13.1%	16.5%	17.2%
- Male householder, no wife present	3.8%	4.7%	4.1%	4.4%
- Female householder, no husband present	9.3%	8.5%	12.4%	12.8%
Nonfamily households:	33.7%	34.8%	32.0%	34.3%
• Male householder	16.8%	16.5%	15.0%	16.0%
• Female householder	16.9%	18.3%	17.0%	18.4%

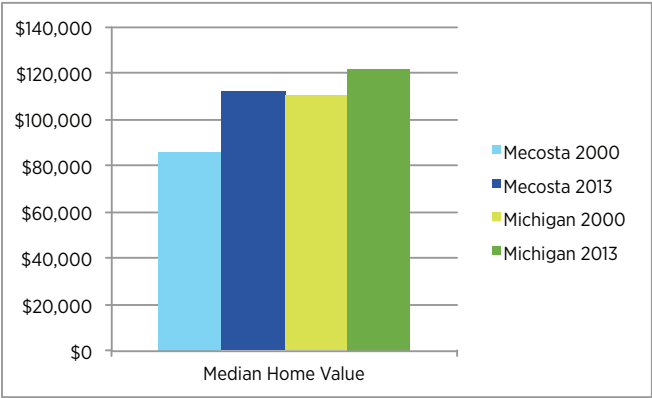
Marriages & Divorces

	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
Marriages filed (3)	215	55,396
Divorces and annulments granted (3)	130	31,687

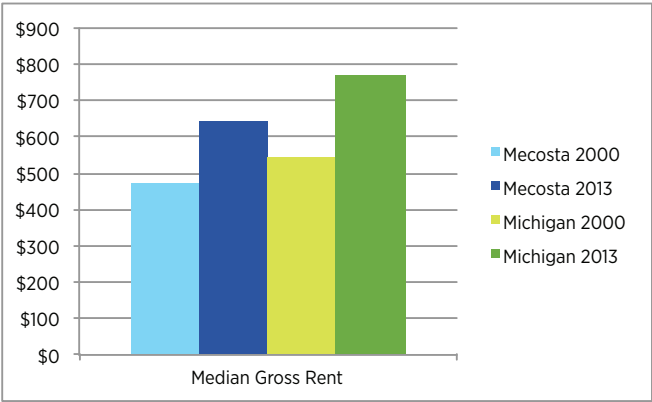


HOUSING

Median Home Value



Median Rent in Dollars per Month



Median Year Structure Built

	Mecosta County		Michigan	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Median year structure built	1973	1978	1965	1969

Type of Ownership

	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
Owner-occupied housing units	11,319	2,757,062

HEALTH & MORTALITY



Leading Causes of Death – Adults

Causes of Death (3)	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
Heart disease	141	24,143
Cancer	99	20,395
Chronic lower respiratory disease	22	5,547
Stroke	21	4,365
Accidents	20	4,194
Alzheimer's	6	3,228
Diabetes mellitus	8	2,821
Pneumonia/flu	9	1,892
Kidney disease	4	1,665
Suicide	7	1,296

Leading Causes of Death – Children Ages 1-19

Causes of Death (3)	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
Accidents	1	213
Assault (homicide)	-	90
Suicide	-	88
Cancer	-	56
Congenital malformations	-	42

Obesity & Diabetes

	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
Obesity (4)	32%	32%
Diabetic (4)	11%	10%

Health and Mortality, Continued

Children

	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
Live births (3)	413	113,732
Teen births (3)*	31	7,944
Children eligible for free lunch (4)	53%	41%

* Age of mother between 10–19.

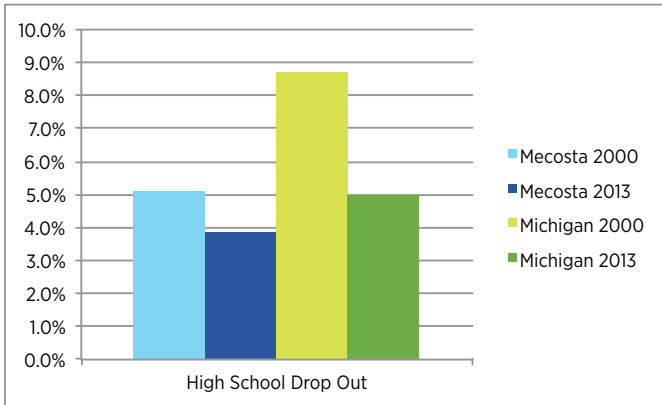
Health Insurance

	Mecosta County	Michigan
	2013	2013
No health insurance coverage	14.0%	11.6%
With health insurance coverage:	86.1%	88.4%
• Public Health Coverage	34.6%	33.3%
• Private Health Insurance	67.1%	69.3%

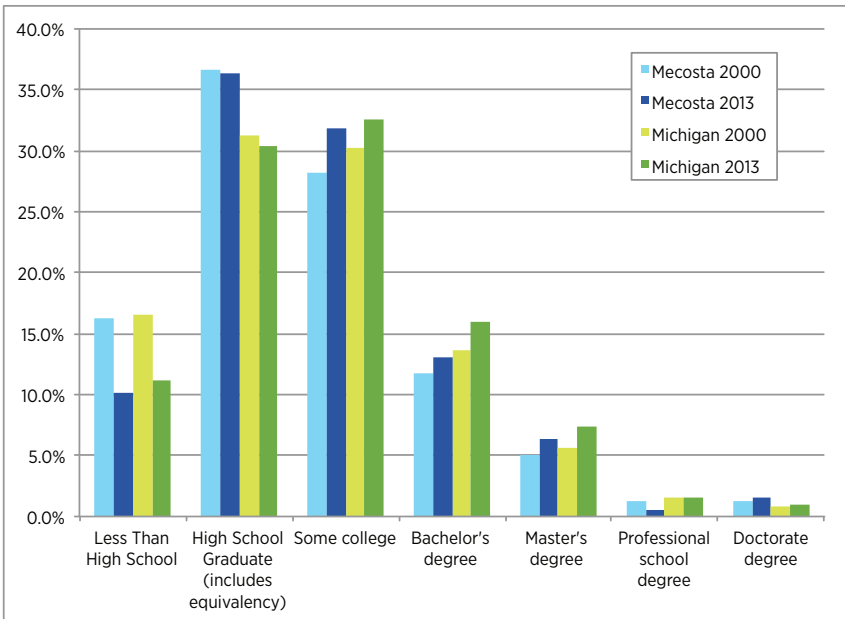
EDUCATION



High School Dropout Rate



Education Attainment



- » The percentage of Mecosta County residents with a bachelor's degree or more is 21.6% compared to Michigan residents with 25.9%



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