

# UP Demographics: Implications for Energy

UP ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING: AUGUST 5, 2019

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# Agenda

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- Population & Housing Distribution & Change
- Housing Characteristics
- Residential Energy Demand & Sources
- Energy Poverty & Socioeconomic Dimensions
- Potential for popular, locally-based generation
  - Minewater Geothermal for Heating & Cooling
  - Community Solar



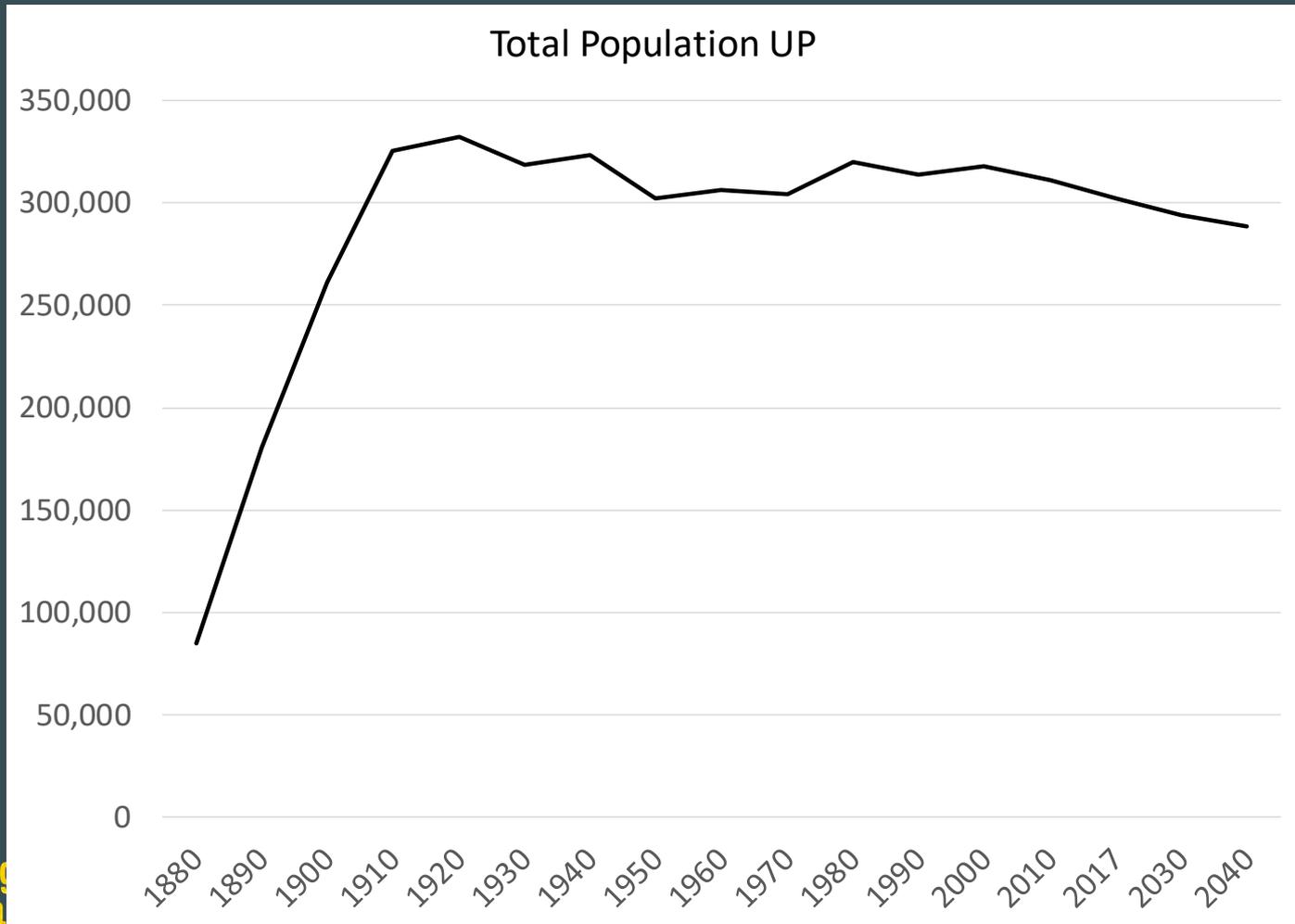
# Population: Key Points

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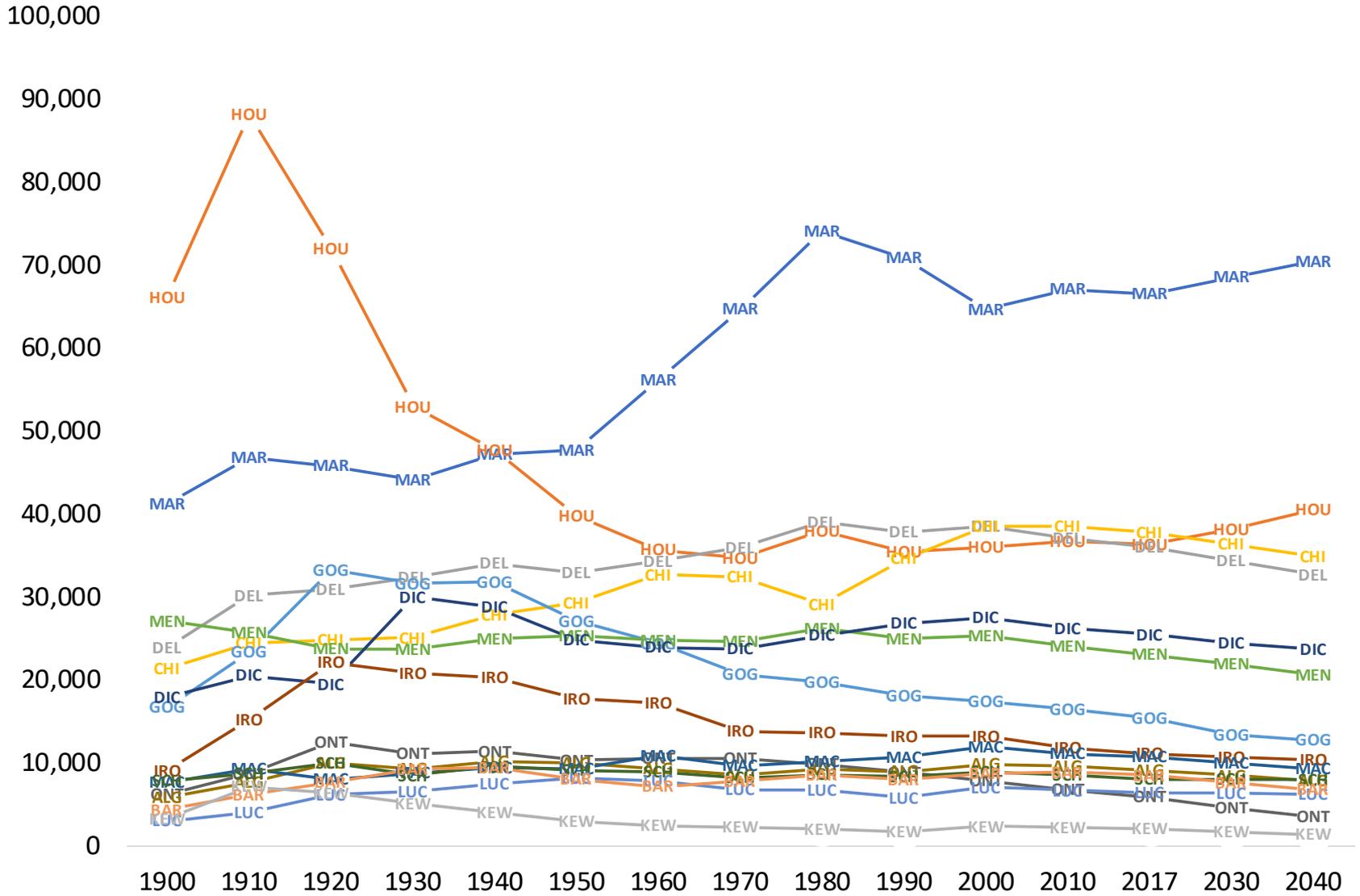
- ~ 300,000 people live in the UP. ~ 130,000 Households.
- Slowly declining since peak in 1920 @ 333K
  - **But # of households growing**
- Projected to decline by ~ 13K, 2017-2040
  - **Regions of growth- Houghton & Marquette**
  - **Urban centers suburbanizing/exurbanizing**
- Concentrated in urban centers and along roads
  - ~ 162,000 (52%) live in rural areas/small towns, some of which are not served by natural gas
- Population is old and aging. Growing proportion of elderly (75+)



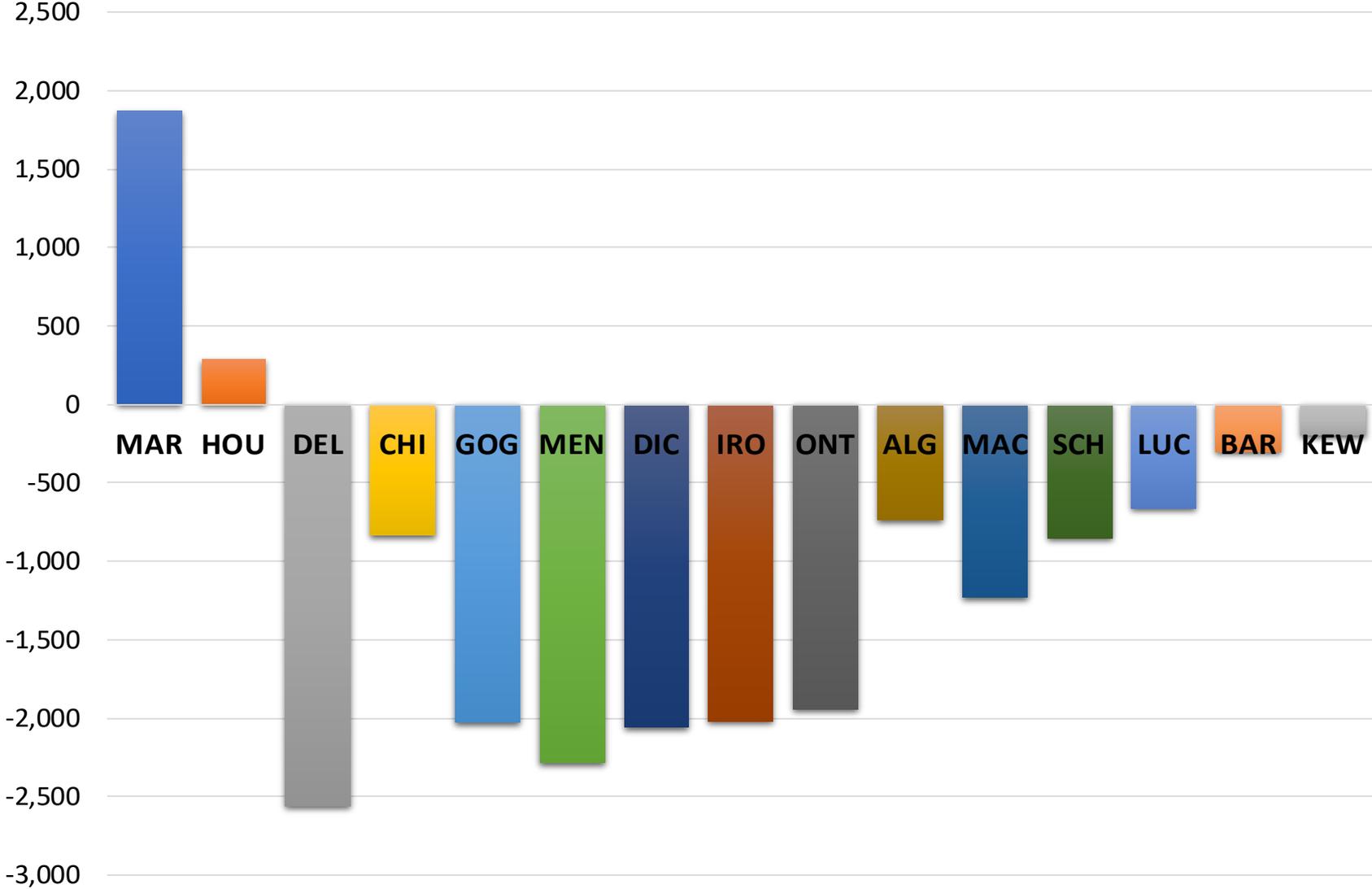
# Population Change



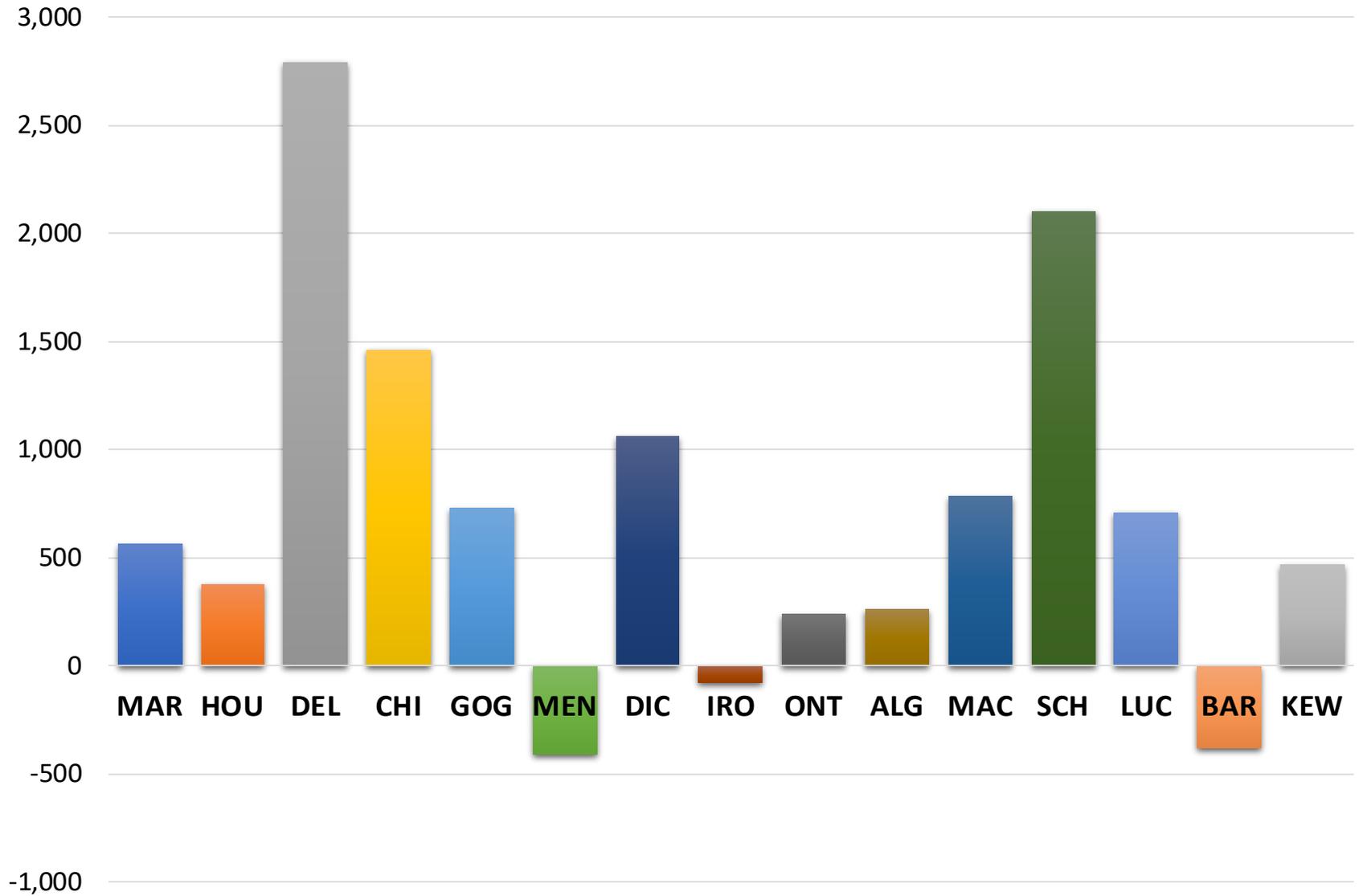
# POPULATION BY COUNTY



# County Population Change, 2000-2017



# County Household Change, 1990-2010



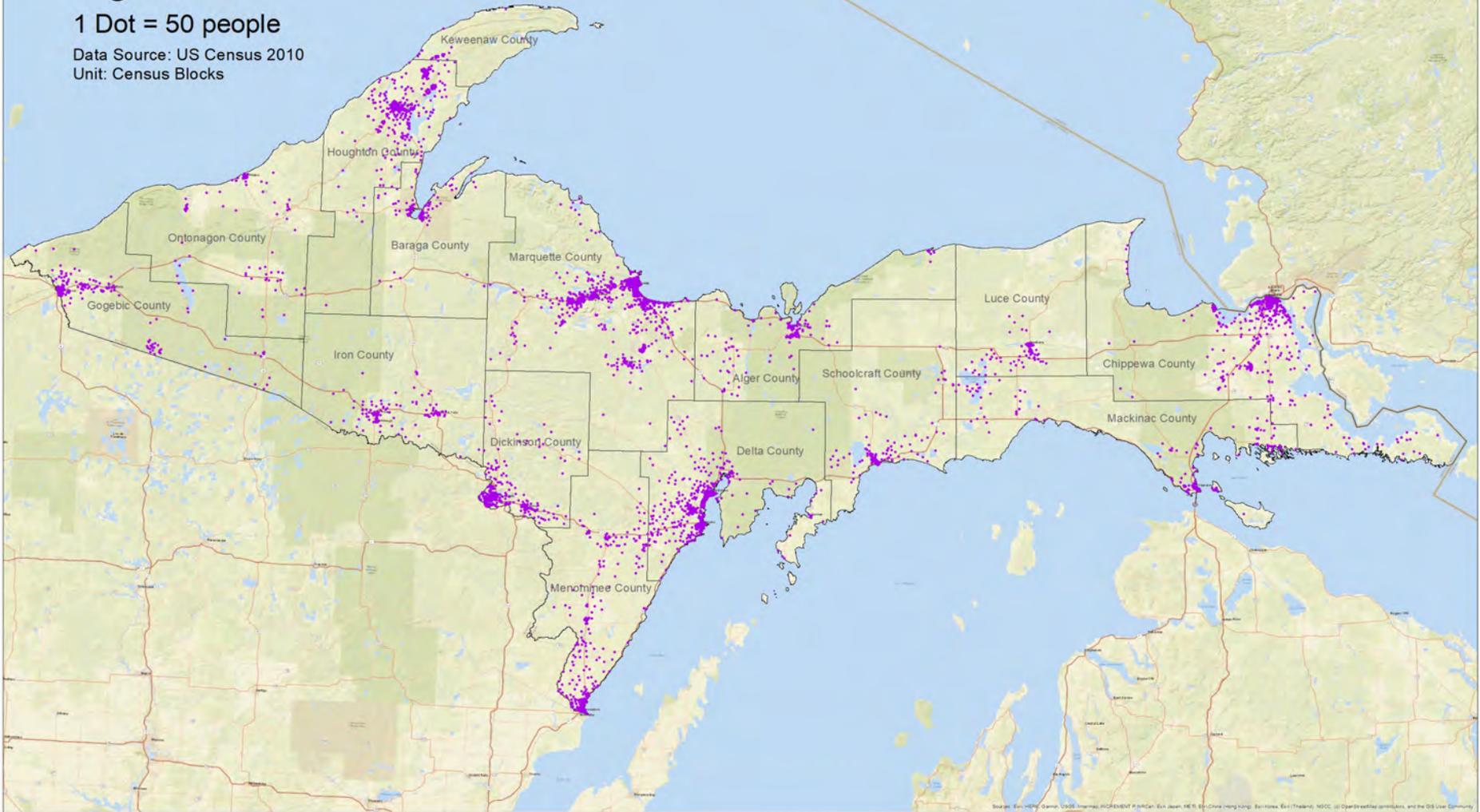


## Legend

1 Dot = 50 people

Data Source: US Census 2010

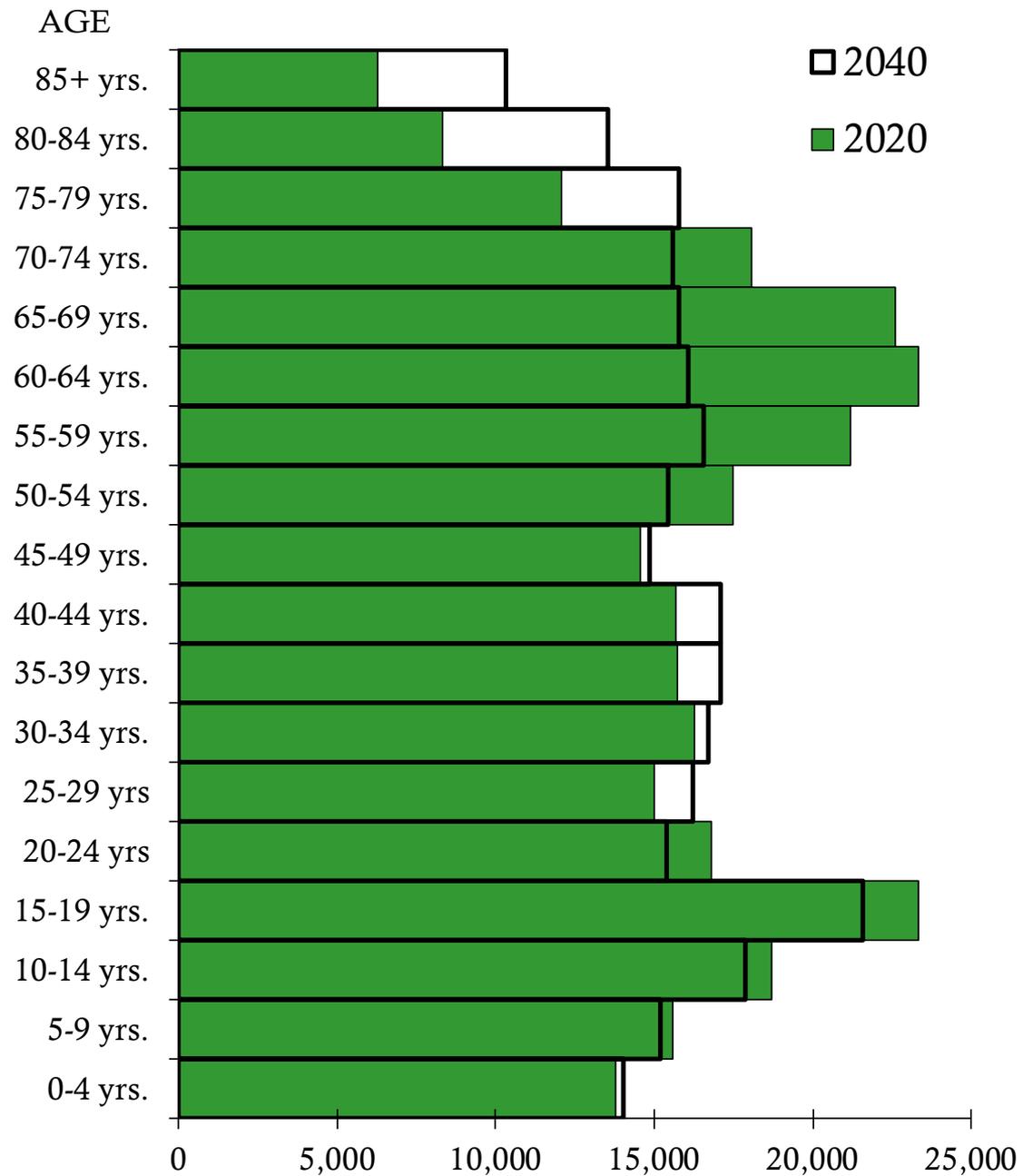
Unit: Census Blocks



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UP population is already relative old.

Elderly (75+) projected to almost double in coming years



Data Source: MI Dept of Technology, Management & Budget, Population Projections

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

# Housing

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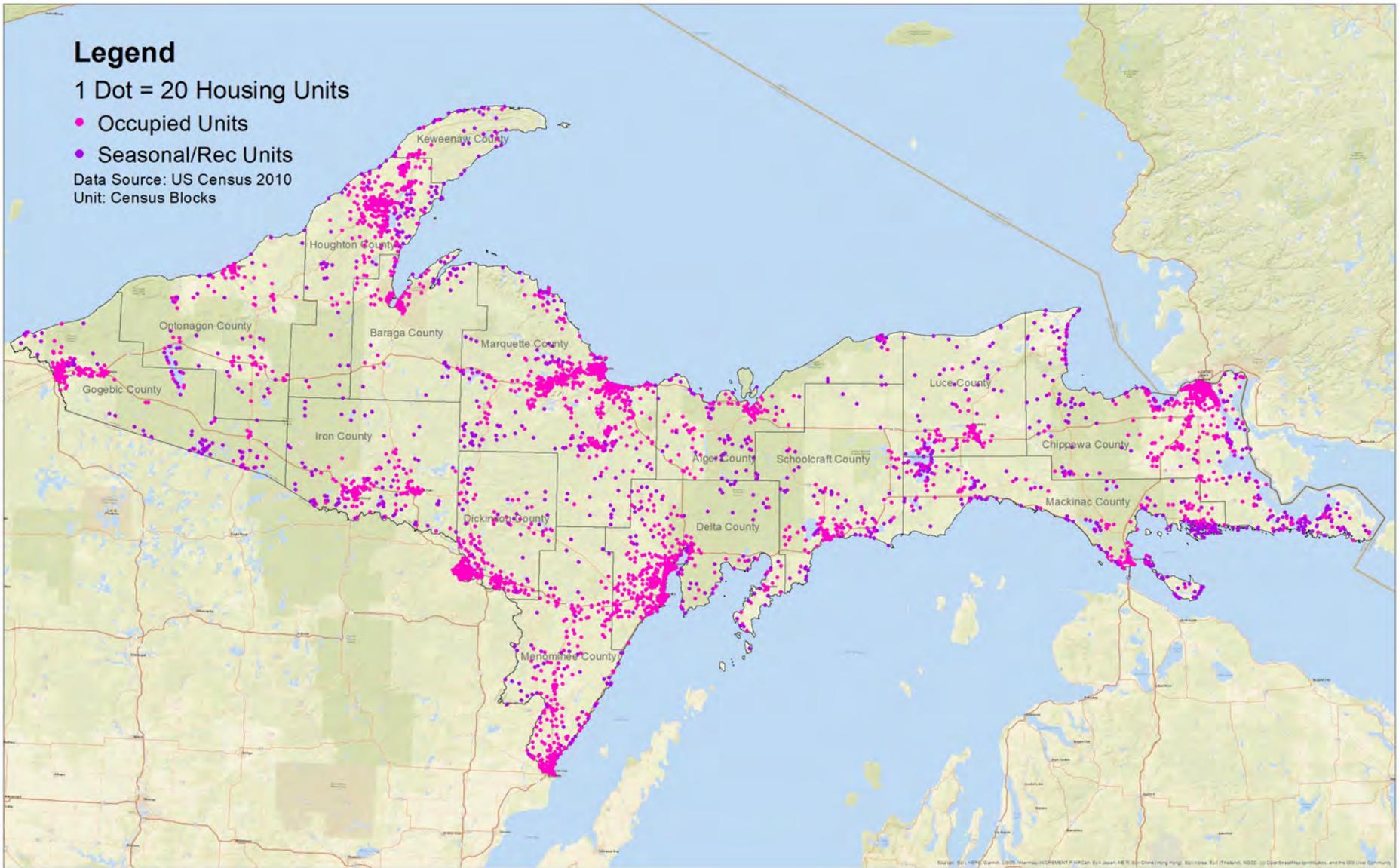
- Seasonal/Rec housing is important: 22% of housing units
  - Especially Keweenaw & Mackinac Counties (~ 50%)
  - Number of seasonal units increasing across UP.
  - Energy demands for seasonals are different
- Characteristics of housing matter for efficiency and to understand trends in development

## Legend

1 Dot = 20 Housing Units

- Occupied Units
- Seasonal/Rec Units

Data Source: US Census 2010  
Unit: Census Blocks



## Legend

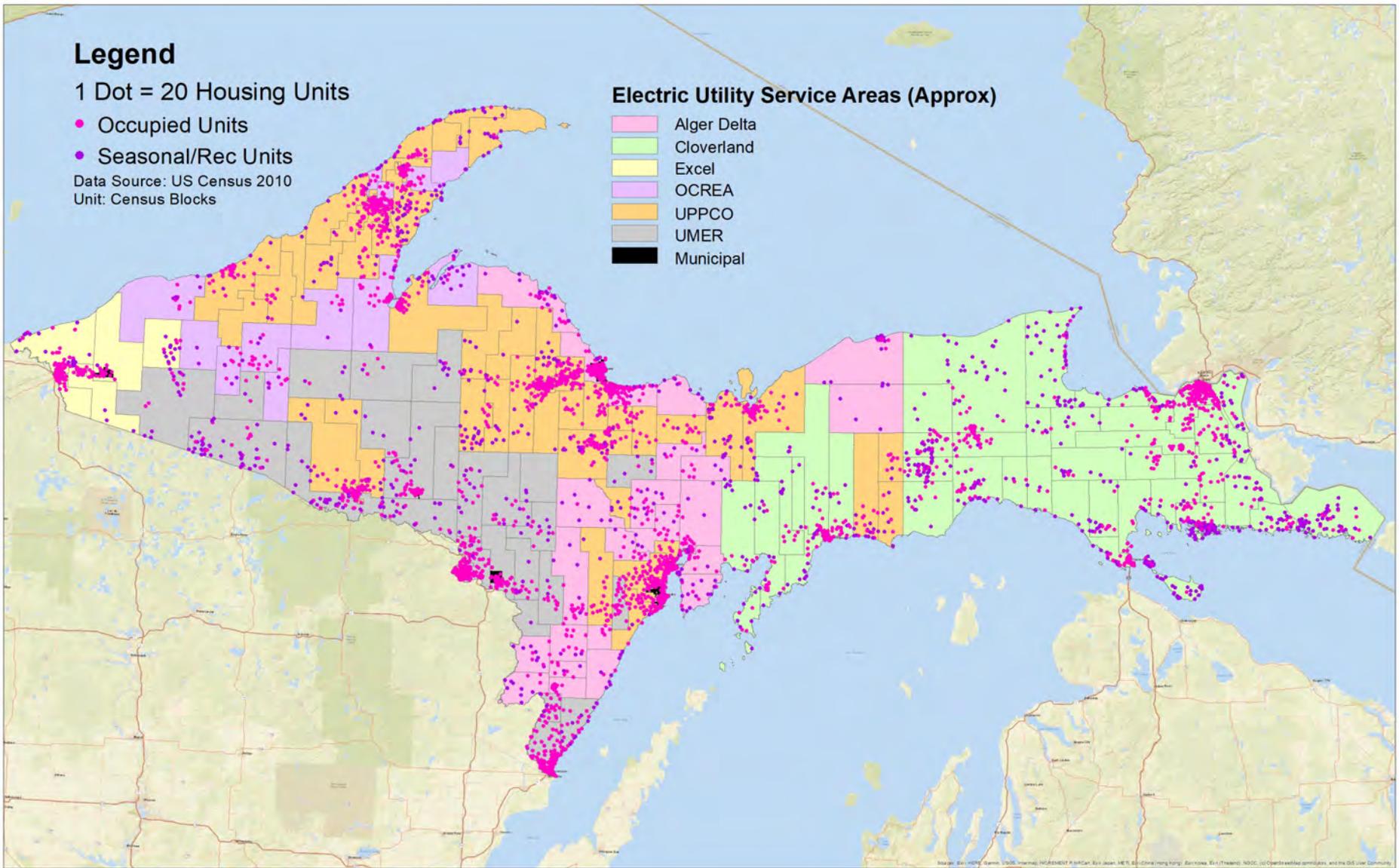
1 Dot = 20 Housing Units

- Occupied Units
- Seasonal/Rec Units

Data Source: US Census 2010  
Unit: Census Blocks

## Electric Utility Service Areas (Approx)

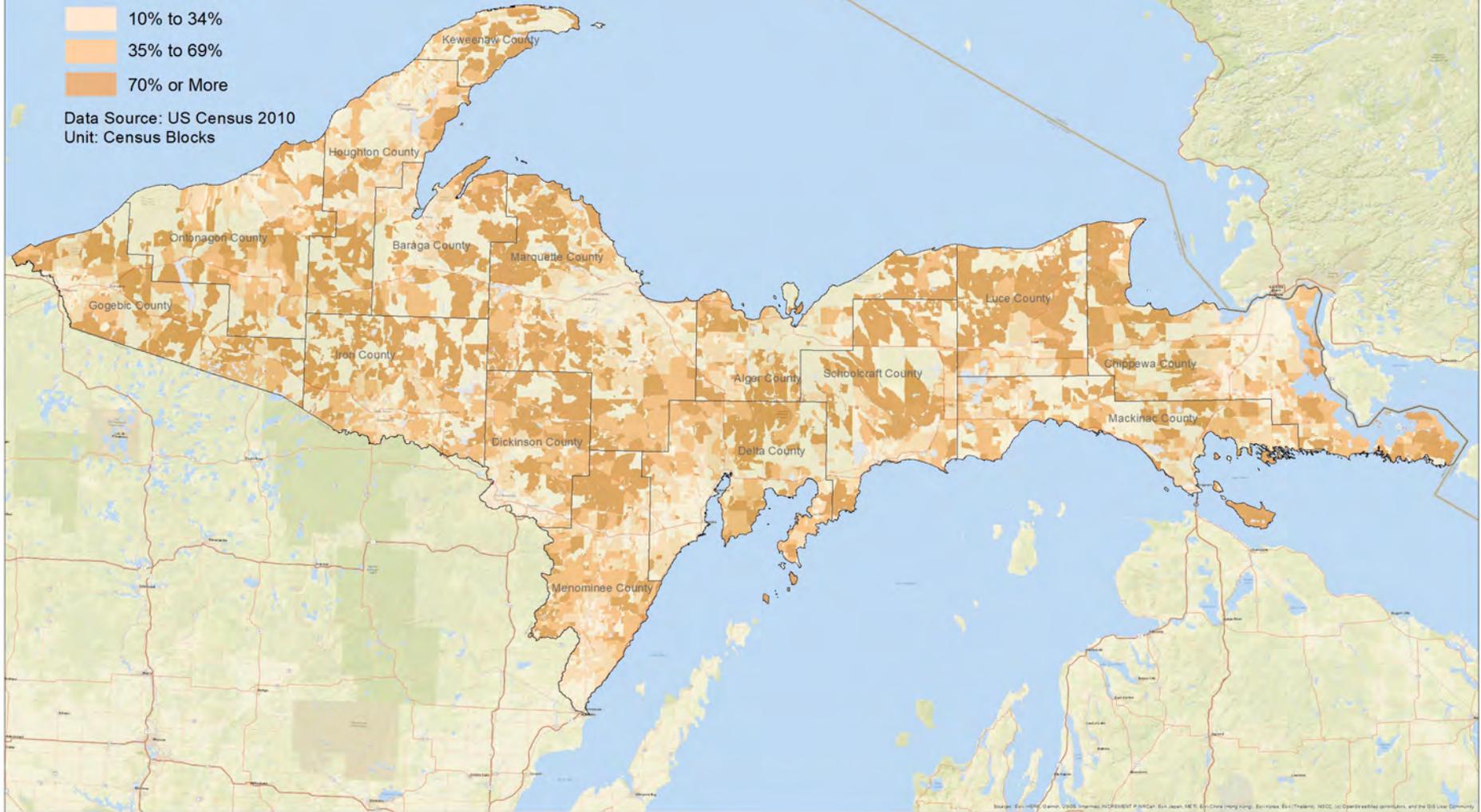
- Alger Delta
- Cloverland
- Excel
- OCREA
- UPPCO
- UMER
- Municipal



# Percent of Housing for Seasonal/Rec Use



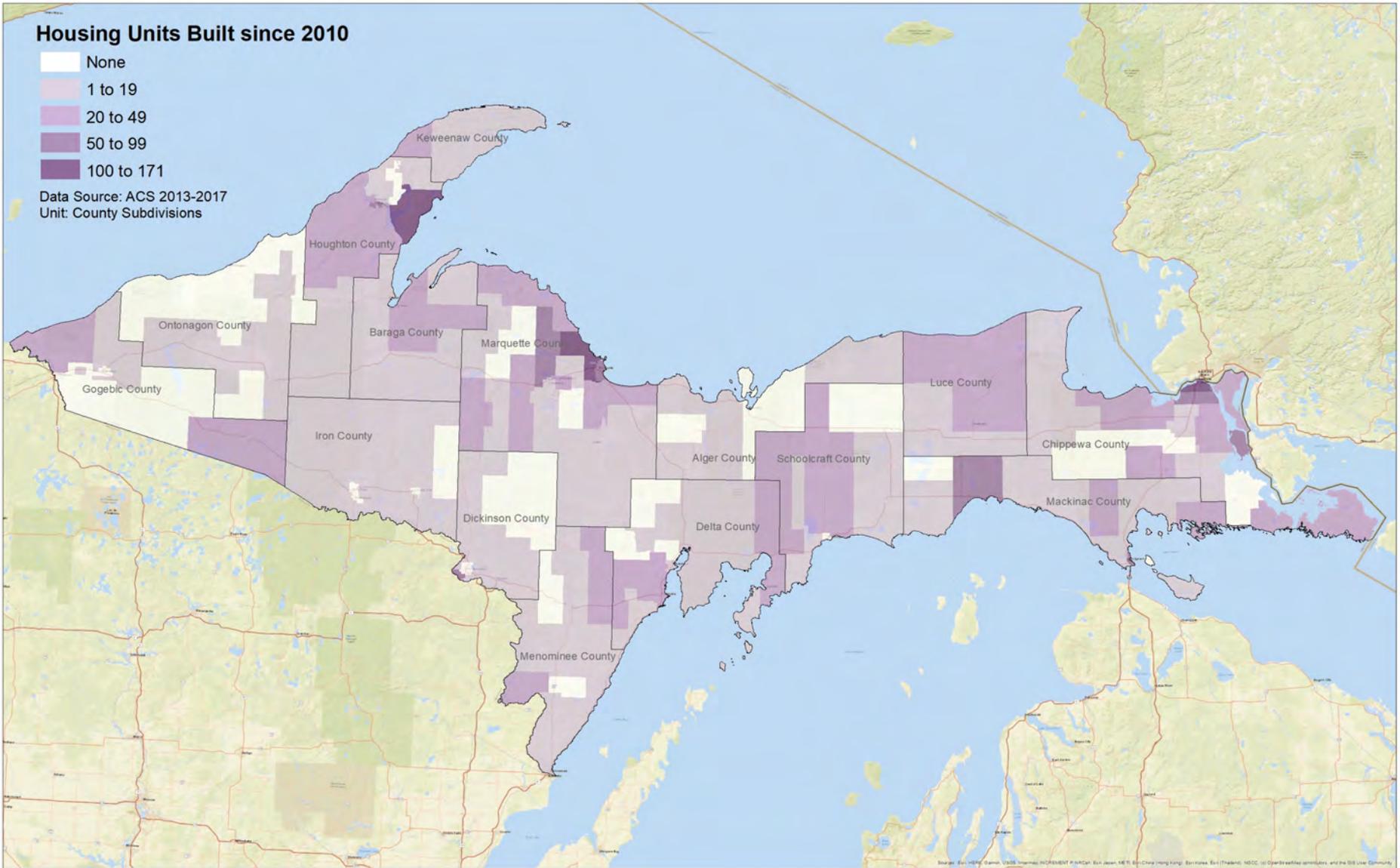
Data Source: US Census 2010  
Unit: Census Blocks



# Housing Units Built since 2010

- None
- 1 to 19
- 20 to 49
- 50 to 99
- 100 to 171

Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions





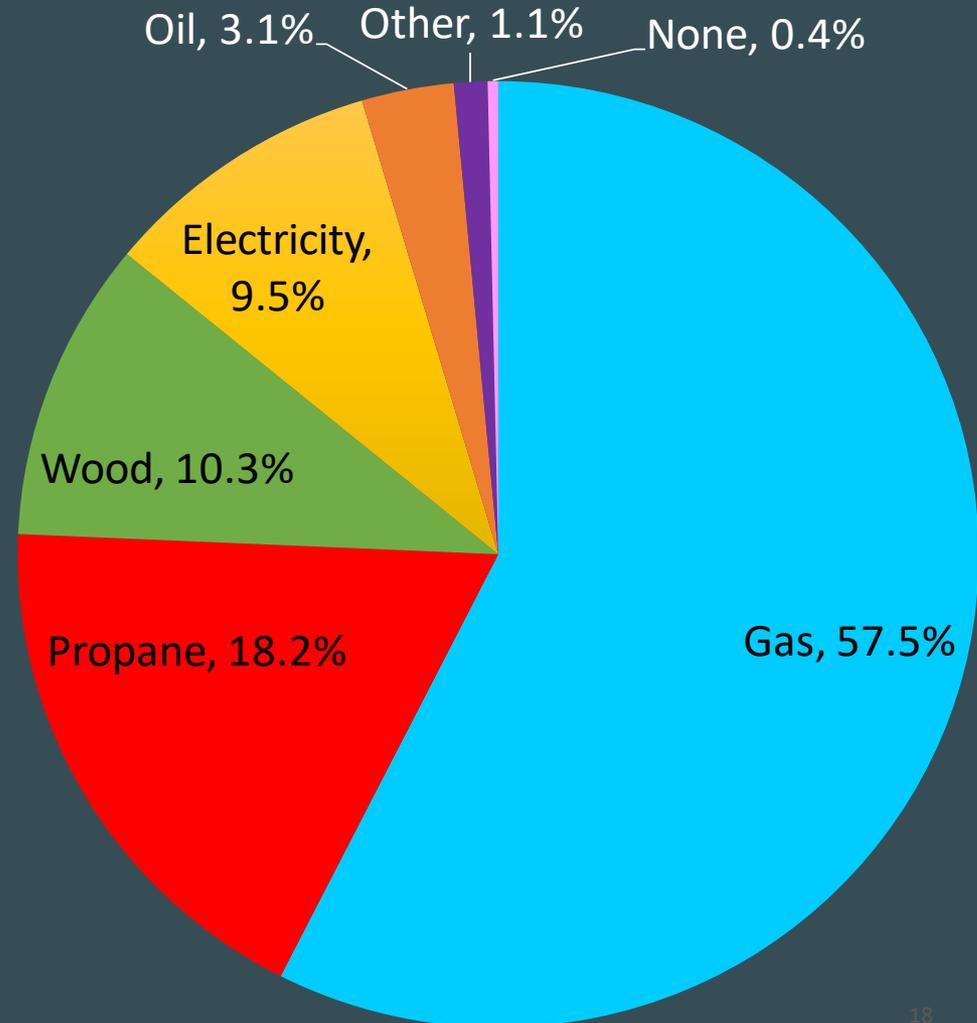
# Residential Energy Demand

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- ~22,600 households (18%) heat with propane
- Most (58%) use Natural Gas, but not available everywhere
- Electric heating poses issues for affordability and energy poverty

# UP Residential Heating Sources

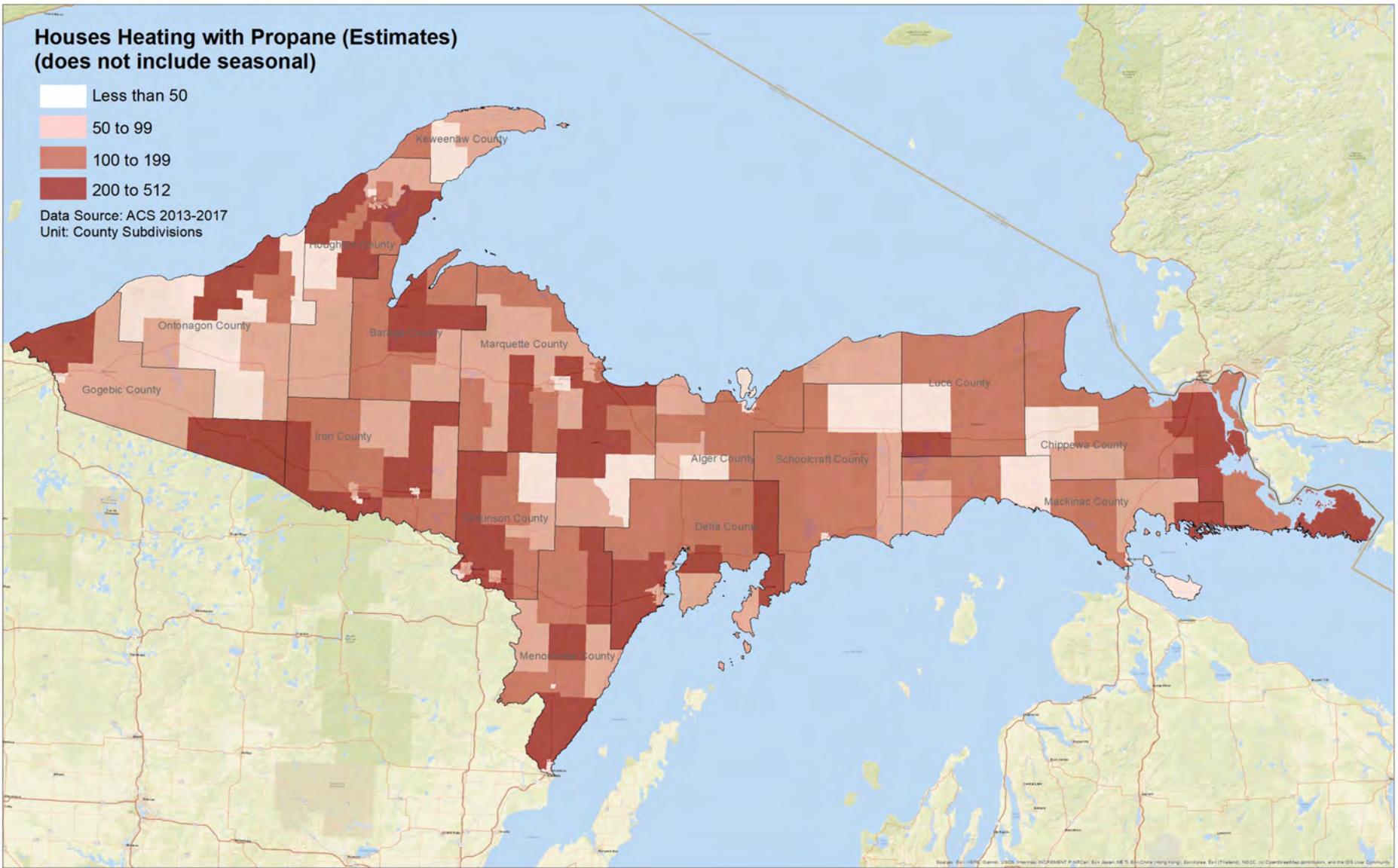
- ~22,600 households (18%) heat with propane
- With seasonals, maybe as many as 60K



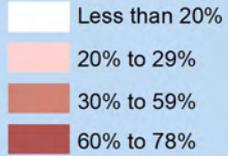
# Houses Heating with Propane (Estimates) (does not include seasonal)



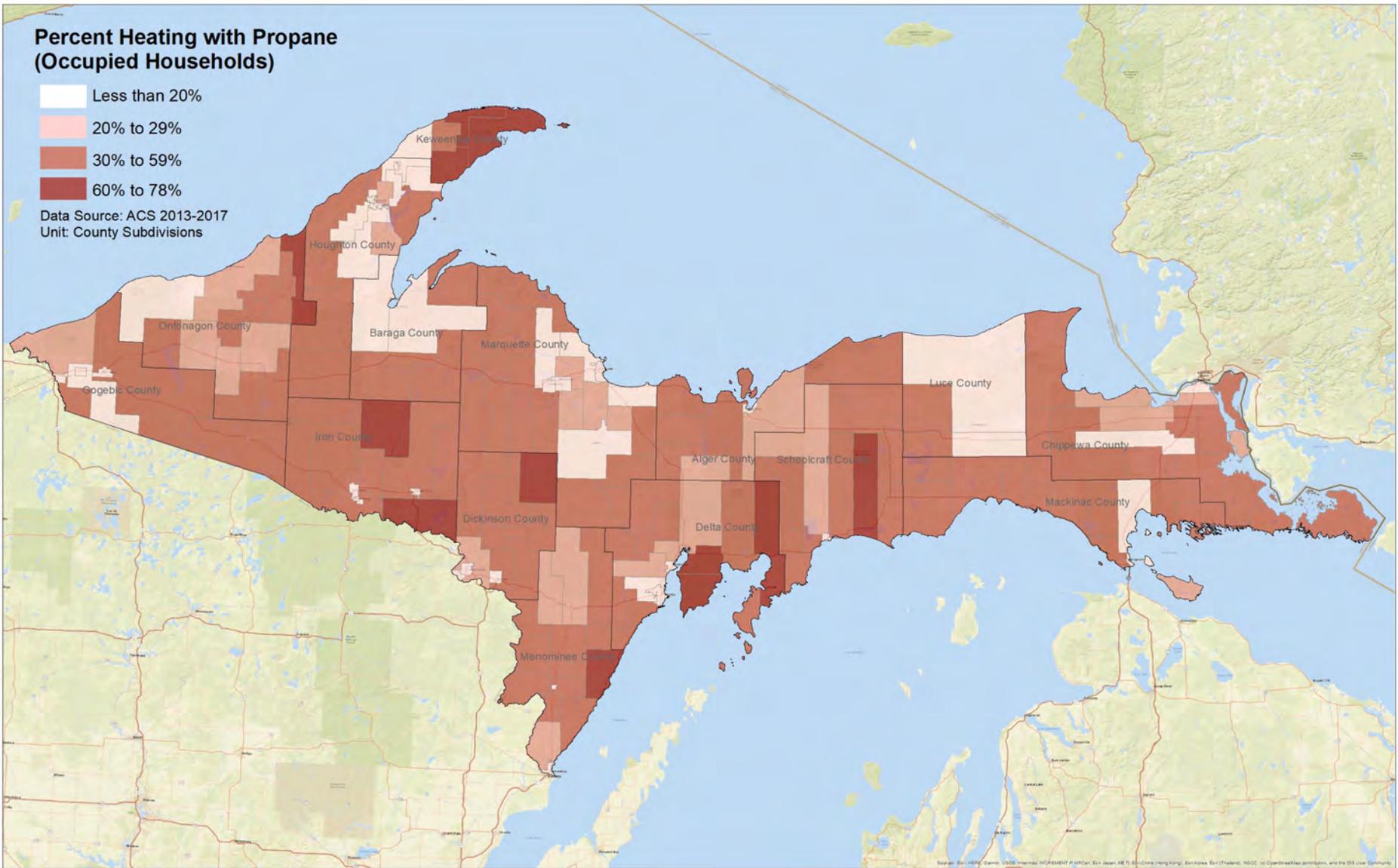
Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions



# Percent Heating with Propane (Occupied Households)



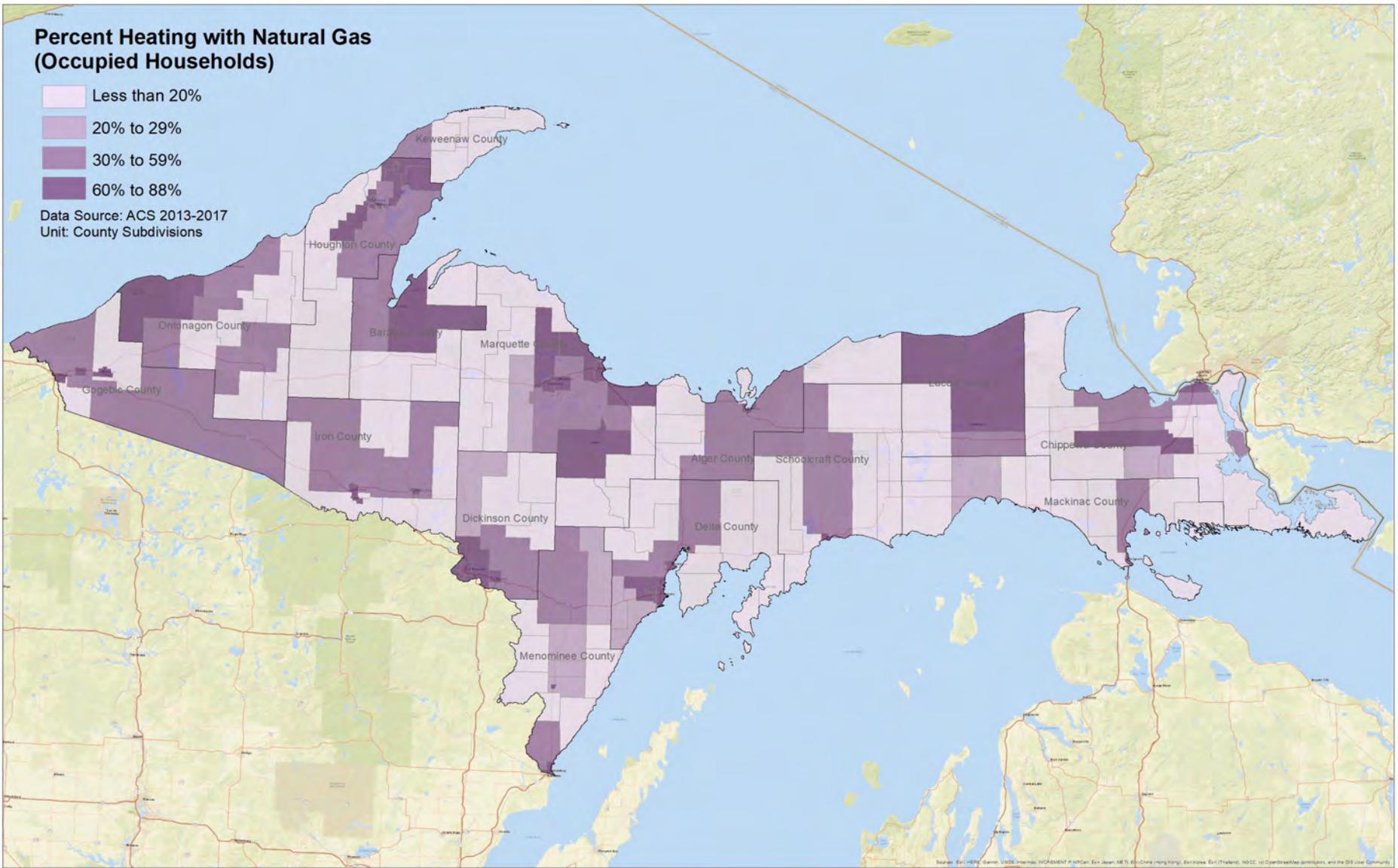
Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions



# Percent Heating with Natural Gas (Occupied Households)

- Less than 20%
- 20% to 29%
- 30% to 59%
- 60% to 88%

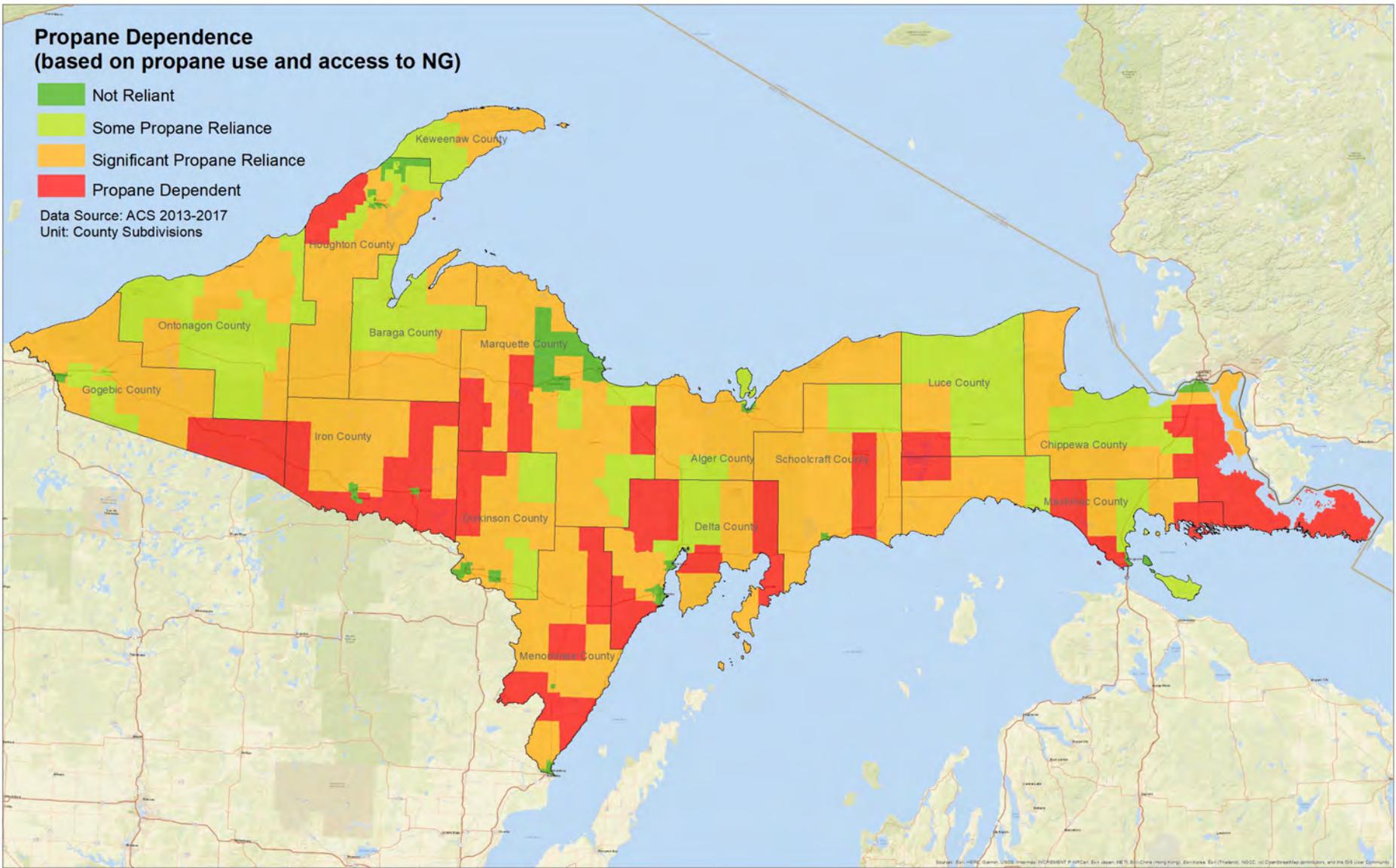
Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions



# Propane Dependence (based on propane use and access to NG)

- Not Reliant
- Some Propane Reliance
- Significant Propane Reliance
- Propane Dependent

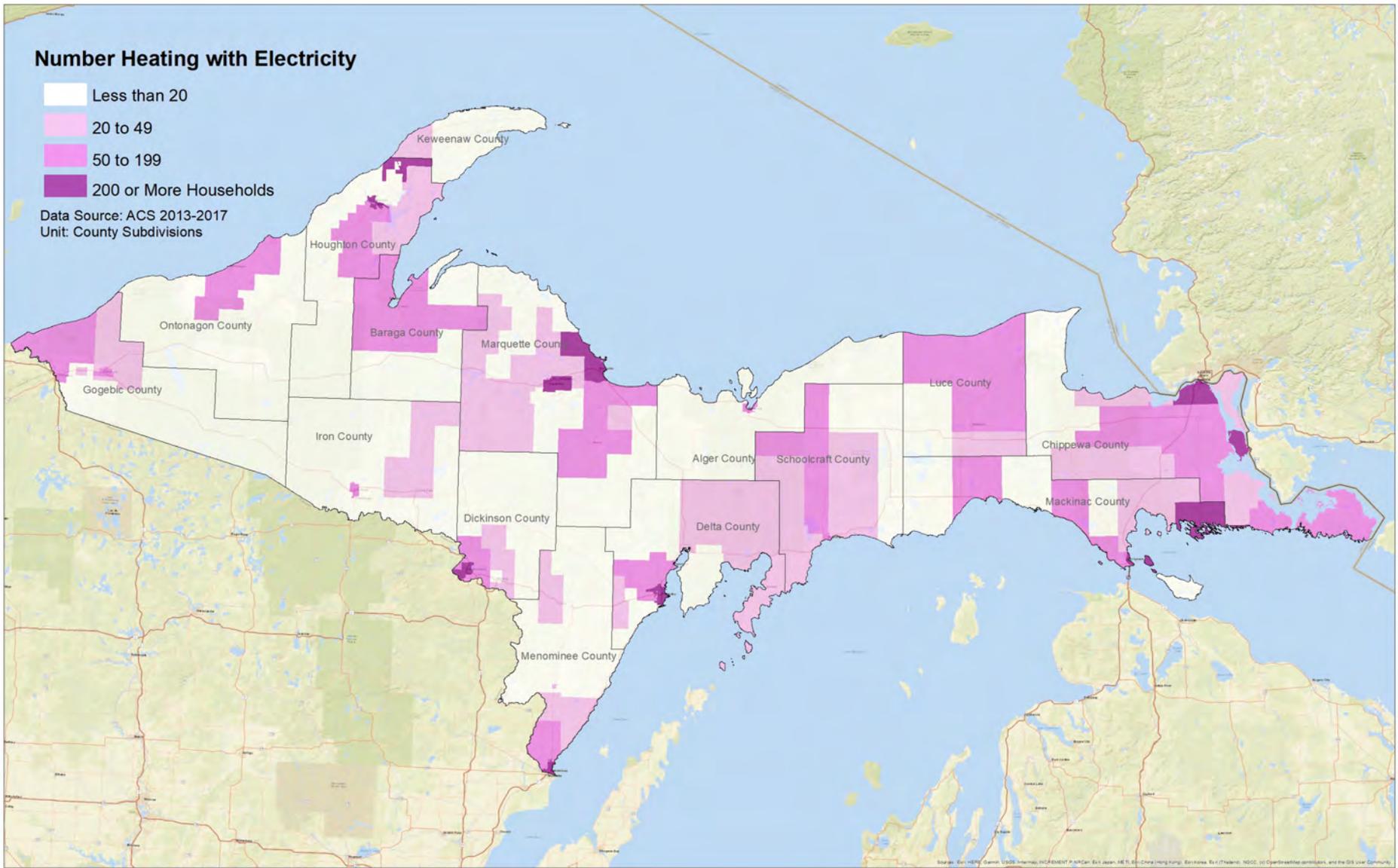
Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions



# Number Heating with Electricity

- Less than 20
- 20 to 49
- 50 to 199
- 200 or More Households

Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions



# Energy Poverty

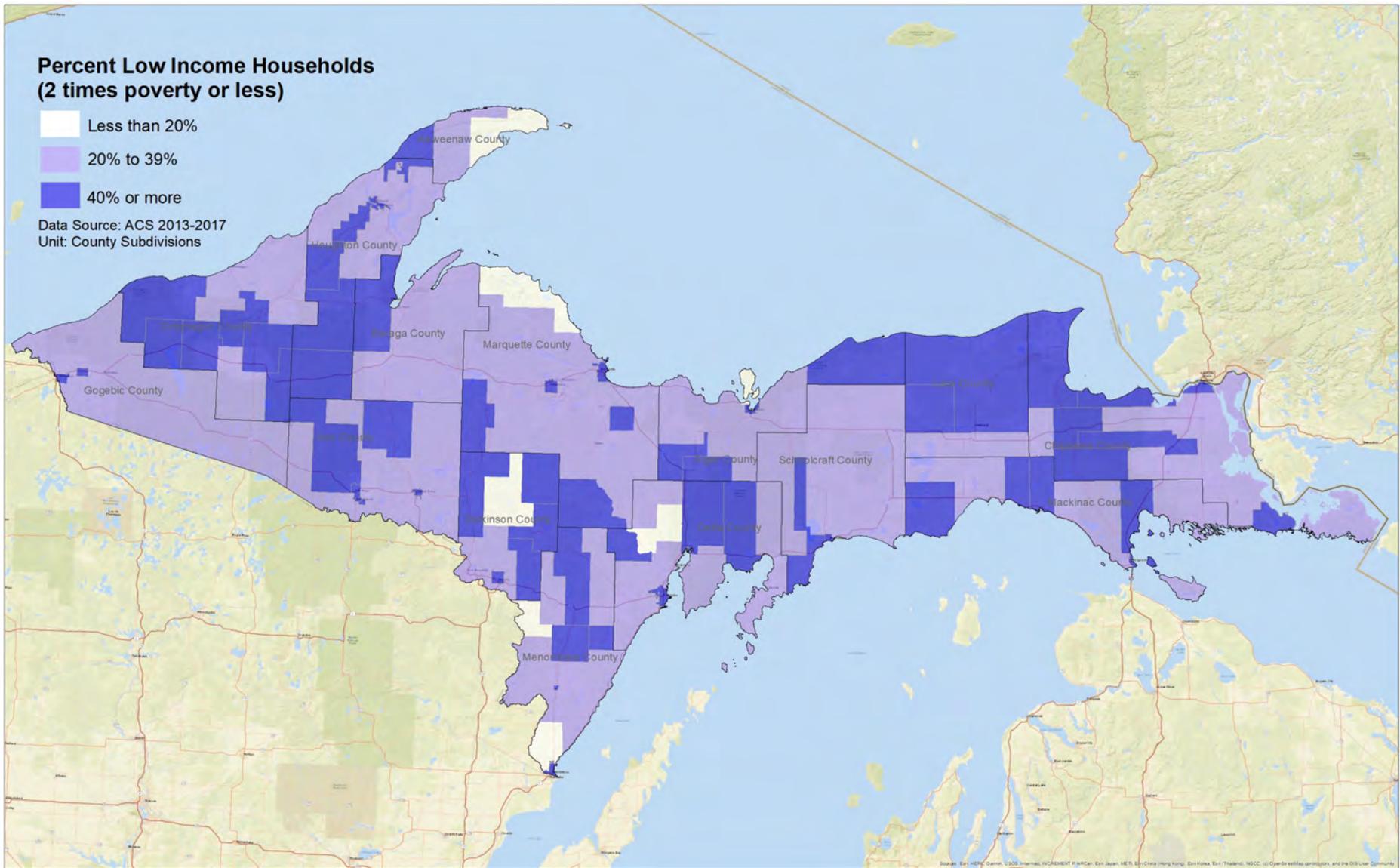
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- FACTORS: Housing conditions; income; rates; age; alternatives; education; support; policies
- Old housing stock – years of disinvestment
- Income- ~38% of households are low income
- Electricity Rates- are high in western UP
- Population is old and aging. Elderly population concerns.
- Alternatives: Wood
- Educational attainment rates fairly low
- Support- CAC, Little Brothers, churches
- Policy- natural gas shut offs

## Percent Low Income Households (2 times poverty or less)



Data Source: ACS 2013-2017  
Unit: County Subdivisions



# Some Interesting Alternatives

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- Community-Engaged Technical and Socioeconomic Feasibility Studies in Houghton/Baraga Counties
  - Minewater Geothermal for heating/cooling
  - Community Solar
- Widespread community support
  - Connect to heritage & community values
  - Community centered/controlled
  - Environmentally responsible
  - Economic advantages



# **Community Solar: An Opportunity for Clean Local Energy**

**KIWANIS CLUB OF THE COPPER COUNTRY: JULY 24, 2019**

**Richelle Winkler**, Associate Professor of Sociology & Demography, Dept of Social Sciences

**Chelsea Schelly**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Dept of Social Sciences

**Emily Prehoda**, PhD Candidate, Environmental and Energy Policy

**Jay Meldrum**, Executive Director of Sustainability/Director Keweenaw Research Center/AEE Faculty Advisor

**Brett Niemi**, Senior Energy Services Representative, WPPI Energy

**Brad Barnett**, Senior Planner, Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region

**Robert LaFave**, Village Manager, L'Anse, Michigan

**LeAnn LeClaire**, Village Manager, Baraga, Michigan



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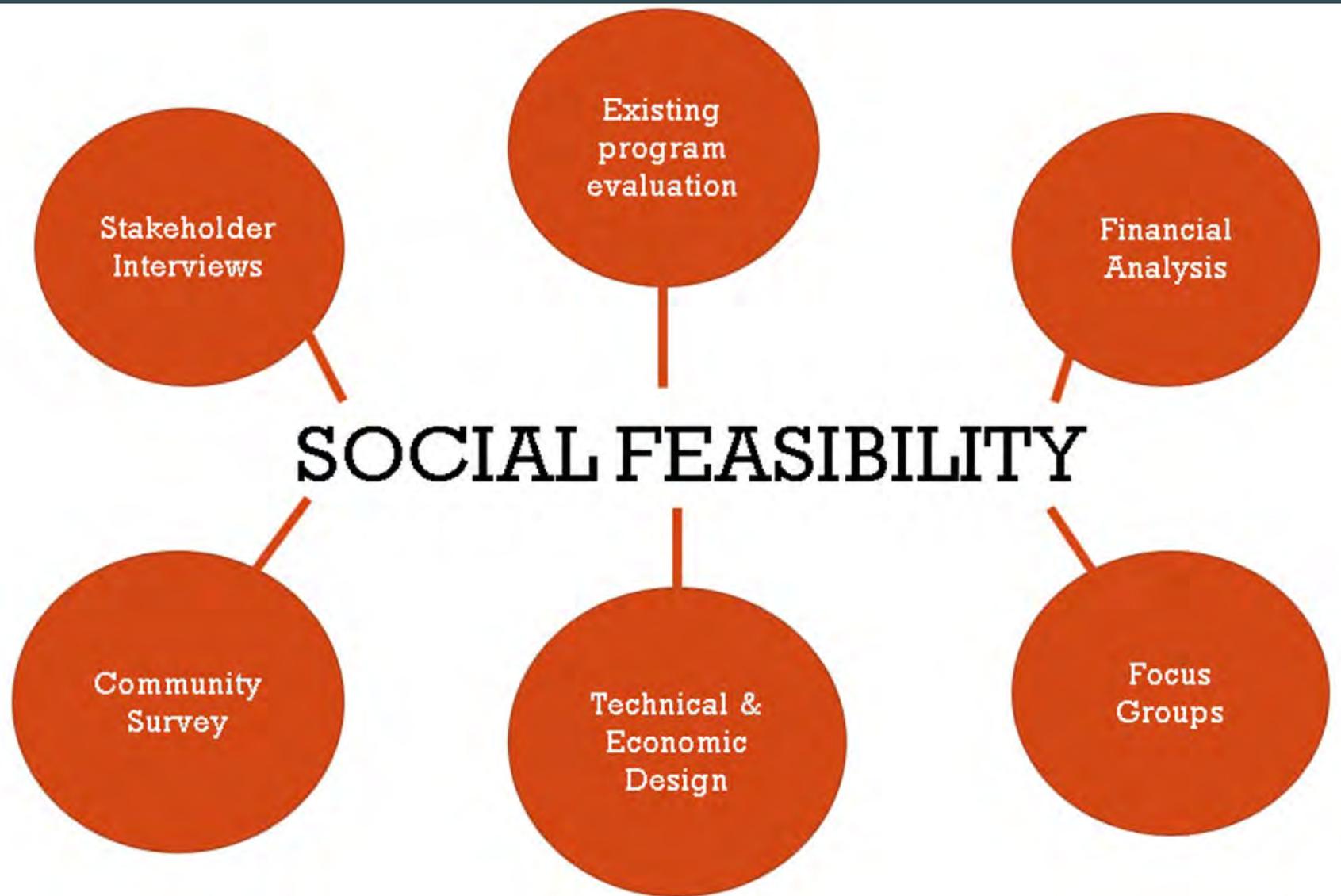


# BENEFITS & CHALLENGES

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- Increased access: renters/site
- Increased affordability
- Money saving potential
- Lower emissions
- Local energy source & local control
- Community-building
- Easy- No individual installation
- Lack of institutional and policy support
- Lack of resources/expertise
- Complicated program design
- Community skepticism/lack knowledge
- Low participation
- Affordability





# RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT

**Do people in L'Anse & Baraga want community solar, and if so, how should it be designed to meet community interests and needs?**

- 15 key informant interviews
- 3 community meetings
- 2 community surveys: mail and door-to-door
- Financial analysis: NPV
- Press features & presentations

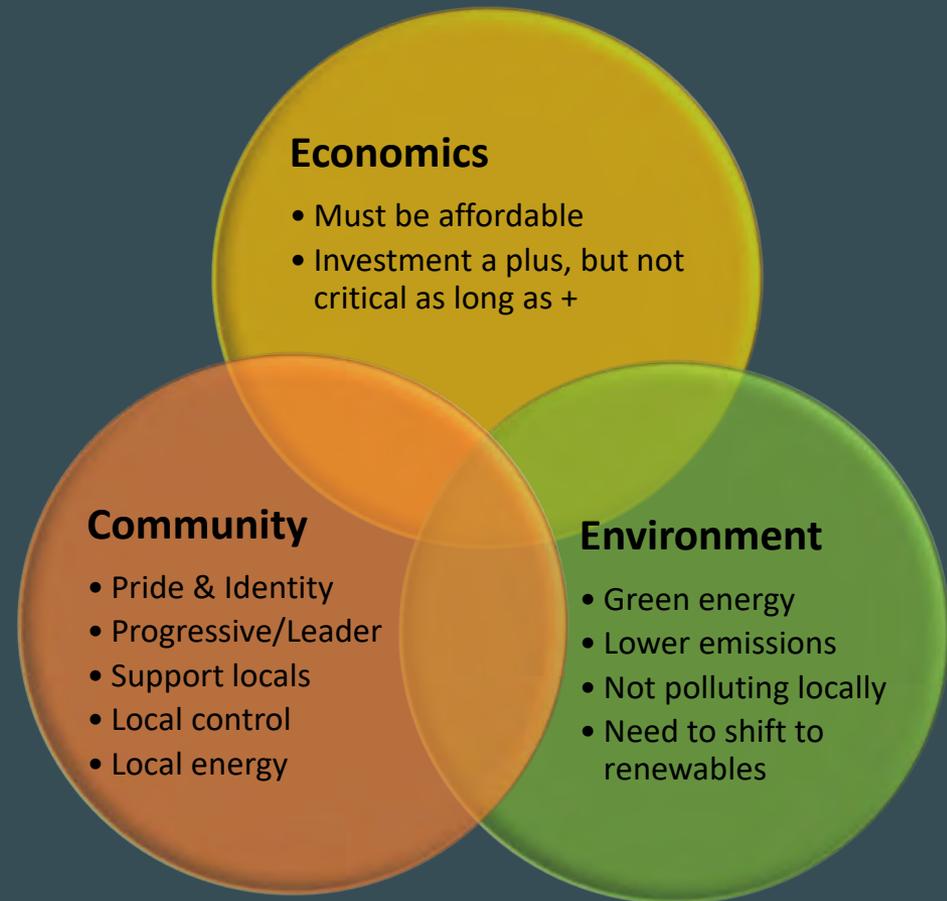


# FINDINGS

- Yes- people are interested!



- Concerns, but can design around them



# MAKING IT REAL

- L'Anse system under construction. Selling shares.

L'ANSE COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS AND SAVINGS ESTIMATES*					
Payment Plans (per panel)	Upfront Payment	Monthly Payment	Monthly Savings	Net Lifetime Savings	Payback Length (years)
MI Energy Options: Low-to-Moderate Income Plan (250 shares reserved)					
Supported LMI	\$0 (MEO)	\$2.00/month for 10 years	\$3	\$660	0
Short Term Payment Plan	\$ 250	\$ 2.00/month for 10 years	\$ 3	\$ 410	14
Upfront Payment Plan	\$ 450	\$ —	\$ 3	\$ 450	13

\* Savings will vary depending on actual system performance.  
 \*\* Income qualifications apply to this payment plan.



# Using Minewater for Geothermal Energy in the Keweenaw

Richelle Winkler, Department of Social Sciences  
Jay Meldrum, Keweenaw Research Center

Green Lecture Series  
Michigan Tech University  
November 20, 2014

**Michigan Tech**

Source: Keweenaw National Historic Park



# Keweenaw Research Center

- System cost approximately \$100K to install for new building
  - 11,000 sq ft heat/cool with 12 heat pumps
  - Recently added 4,000 sq ft & 4 heat pumps
- Save approximately 30% over natural gas.
- Estimated pay back period 3-5 years.



# Results



Source: Amanda Kreuze

# Energy Costs Comparison - KRC

## Updated with Actual Prices 2013

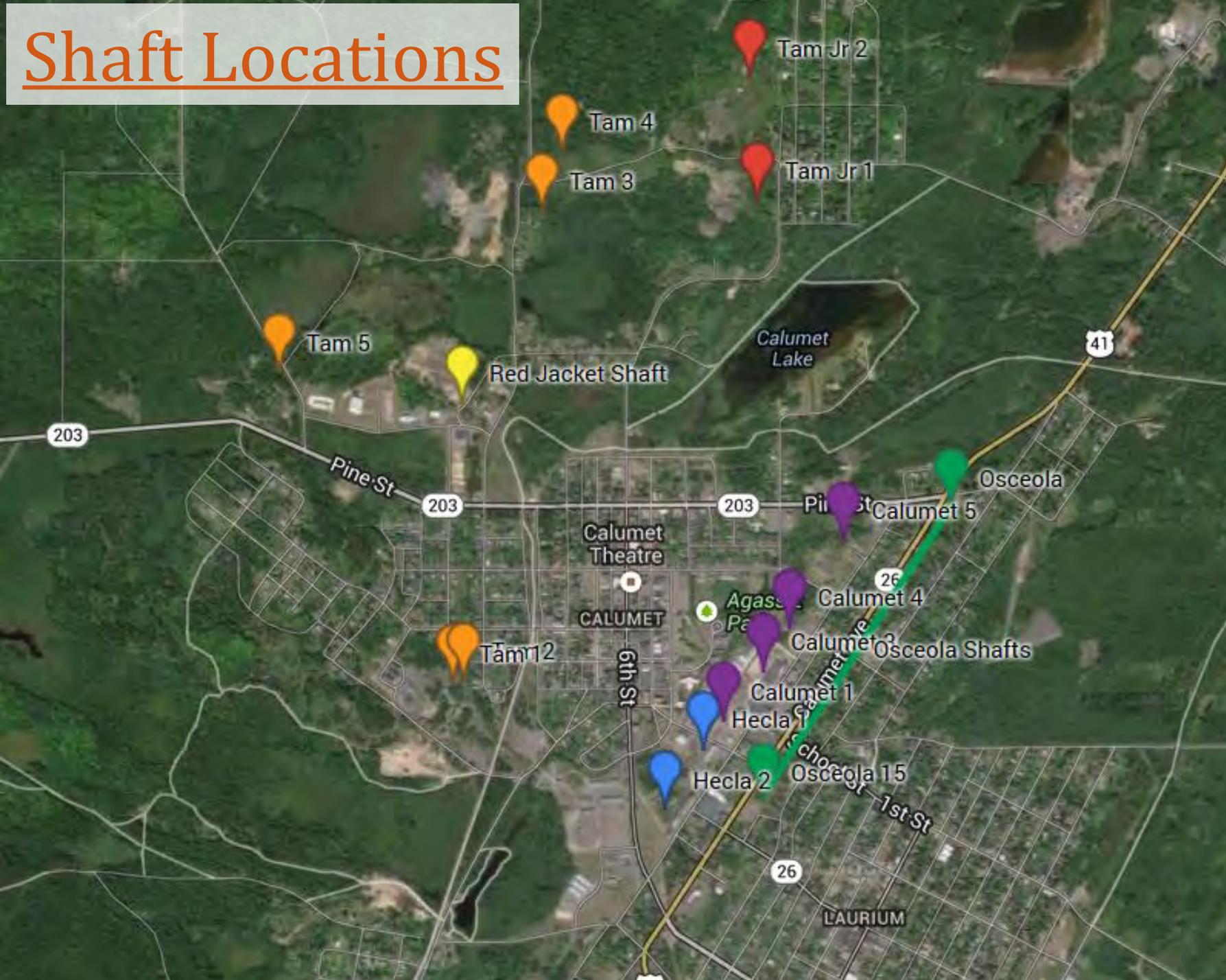
Energy Source	Efficiency	Price	\$ per Million BTU
Electrical Resistance (REA)	100%	\$0.109/kWh	\$31.94
Heating Oil (state average)	85%	\$3.54/gal	\$30.19
Propane (state average)	85%	\$2.25/gal	\$25.75
Natural Gas (SEMCO)	87%	\$0.65/Therm	\$7.53
Geothermal Heat Pump (large)	COP=5.2	\$0.109/kWh	\$6.10
Geothermal Heat Pump (small)	COP=5.2	\$0.109/kWh	\$8.85
Geothermal Heat Pump (combined)	COP=4.7	\$0.109/kWh	\$6.81
Geothermal Well Pump (250 -ft Head)		\$0.109/kWh	\$1.41
Total Geothermal System			\$8.22

# Calumet- Technical Infrastructure

- 37 Shafts in and around Village of Calumet
- Temperature  $\sim 55^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Billions of gallons of water
- Close proximity to downtown, residences, industrial park
- Heating demand is substantial, cooling a plus



# Shaft Locations



Environmental: Renewable/sustainable energy source, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions. Turns a negative into a positive.

Cultural: Reinforces community identity and celebrates cultural connections to mining. People feel the community owns the water and the legacy. Much interest. >50 people attended meeting. 29 of 30 on survey supportive. 16 said would adopt in their home.

Human: Some opportunity for training and cultivating interest in renewable energy systems.

Political: Would require political will and coordination between several political entities: Village, Township, NPS, School District, etc. Concerns about who benefits/who pays/who controls. Up front cost and leadership.

Social: Could reinforce and build social relationships and connections between organizations depending on how organized.

Financial: Currently more expensive than natural gas in western UP (high electric/low gas prices). How initial costs would be financed is major issue. Could save money in long term and encourage job creation/new industry/tourism.

Built: Would be a source of new infrastructure, but would need to be maintained and questions about who benefits and who pays.

# Summary Points

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1. Population stable, concentrated, and aging.
  - Some areas of growth (Houghton/Marquette). Moderate decline projected others.
2. Housing type matters: old & inefficient; seasonal
  - Western UP has particularly old housing stock
  - Seasonal is remote/rural – lakes, rivers, forests/hills- hard to service
3. Propane dependence is real. Numbers fairly small, but hard to serve population. Widely distributed across space.
4. Efficiency a big issue with old housing stock, particularly in western UP
5. Energy poverty/justice issues are real-- mix of old stock, electric heat, high electric rates, elderly population, and low incomes
6. Some alternatives are widely popular, but depends on community involvement/control, source, environmental impact, and distribution of cost/benefit.
7. Residential analysis- other energy demands!



# References & Data Sources

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- IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, [www.nhgis.org](http://www.nhgis.org)
- US Census 1990, 2000, 2010
- American Community Survey, 2013-2017
- Michigan Dept of Technology, Management, and Budget-  
Population Projections

# Questions?



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# UP POPULATION BY COUNTY

