



This chart depicts the change in Michigan's population by age cohort, i.e. the first data point at the left reflects the difference between the number of infants in 1990 or 2000 and the number of eight-year-olds in 1998 or 2008.

Michigan gained children during the 1990's, primarily through international immigration. Michigan has had a small net loss of children during the current decade due to lower immigration, lower in-migration of young families from other states, and higher out-migration of young families from Michigan.

The dip between the ages of 19 and 30 largely reflects a temporary out-migration of young people from Michigan that takes place in every decade as young adults serve in the military or attend college in other states. The dip is somewhat deeper for the current decade because of the one-state recession that Michigan experienced during most of this period.

Michigan gained population in the 1990's for people who were between the ages of 30 and 36 in 1998. This largely reflected immigration from foreign countries and the return of people who had been serving in the military or attending college elsewhere in 1990. Michigan has had a small net loss for people who were between the ages of 30 and 36 in 2008. This reflects lower immigration, lower levels of return-migration and domestic in-migration, and higher out-migration to other states.

The pattern for people over age 36 is similar for both decades. The saw-tooth pattern for the 1990's reflects "age heaping" in the censuses upon which the estimates were based, i.e. a tendency for over-reporting of ages ending in "5" or "0." The smoother pattern for the current decade reflects methodological improvements.

The large decreases for older cohorts reflect mortality as well as movement of retirees from Michigan to Sunbelt states.