

# **Analysis of Friend of the Court Custody Recommendations**

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*This report is dedicated to the memory of Minister Ronald Elijah Smith, a good father tragically separated from his children.*

## Summary of Findings

1. 37% of FOC offices (28 of 48) failed to report results in the statistical summaries in 2003, the last year available. Among those failing to report were mid sized counties such as Monroe (2006 population estimate 155,035), Eaton (2006 population estimate 107,237), and Van Buren (2006 population estimate 79,018)
2. Statistics show that recommendations for joint physical custody varied significantly among counties with 100 or more total recommendations, from a low of 7% in Lenawee County to a high of 47% Claire County.
3. Statistics show that recommendations for Mother sole custody also varied significantly among counties with 100 or more total recommendations, from a low of 35% in Livingston County to a high of 87% in Wayne County.
4. Statistics show that recommendations for Father sole custody varied significantly among counties with 100 or more total recommendations, from a low of 4% in Wayne County to a high of 31% in Macomb County.
5. Statistics show that recommendations for Father sole custody and joint custody combined varied significantly among counties with 100 or more total recommendations, from a low of 12% in Wayne County to a high of 63% in Livingston County.
6. Among local FOC offices with with 100 or more total recommendations, Alpena/Montmorency was distinct in recommending third party custody almost 5% of the time. Only 4 other counties recommended third party custody more than 2% of the time.
7. Based on statistical summaries of FOC recommendations and county population data, the following overall recommendation statistics were estimated:

All Mother Custody:	60.85%
All Joint Physical Custody:	20.39%
All Father Custody:	17.65%
All Third Party Physical Custody:	1.11%
8. Based on statistical summaries of FOC recommendations and county population data, the following overall recommendation statistics were estimated by population group among fathers:

Percent Black Father Custody:	11.18%
Hispanic or Latino Origin Father Custody:	17.04%
Percent Asian Father Custody:	17.51%
Percent Two or More Races Father Custody:	17.90%
Percent White Father Custody:	18.94%
Percent White Persons not Hispanic Father Custody:	19.02%

## **FOC Recommendations**

2003 Friend of the Court Statistical Supplement

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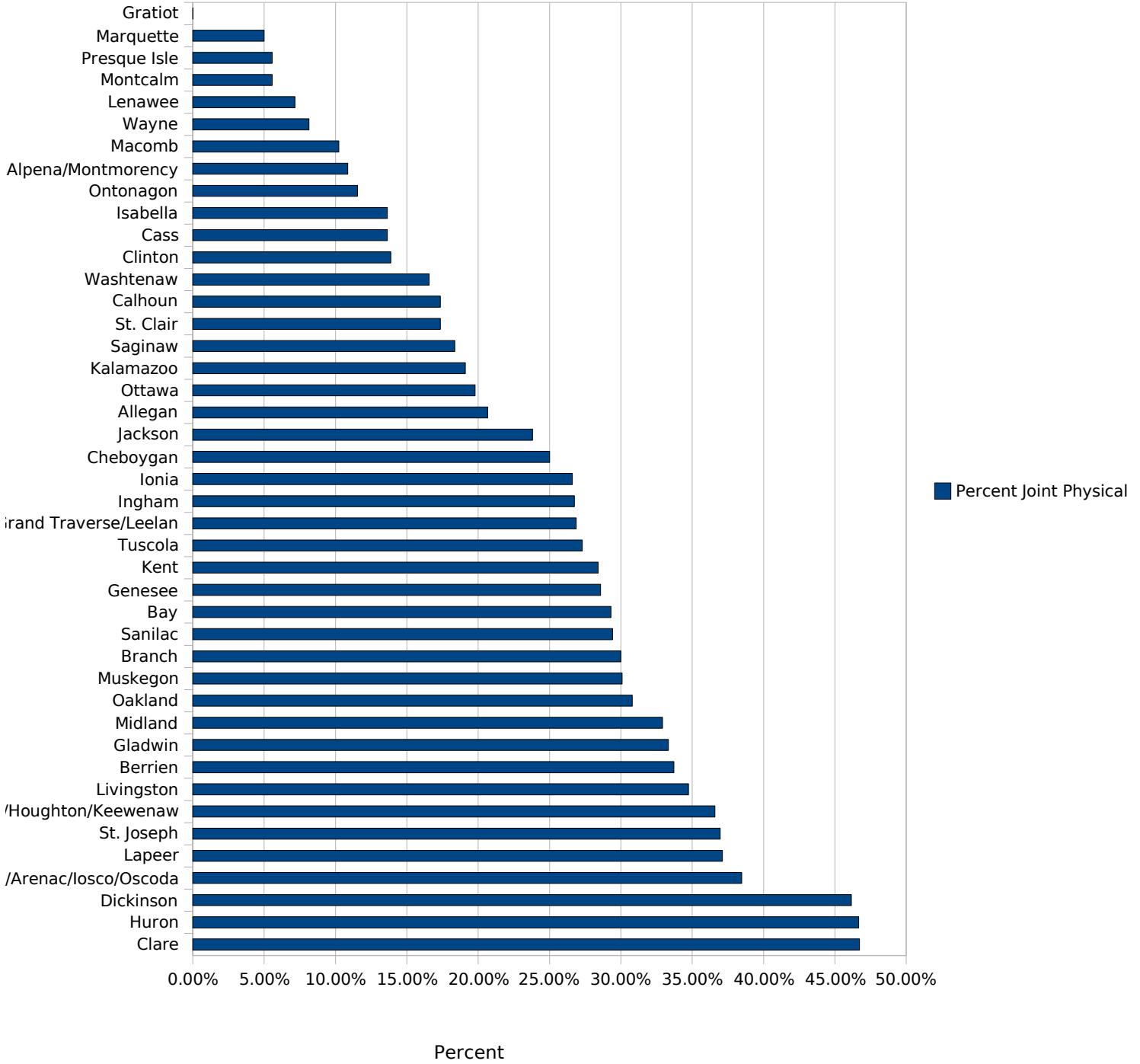
<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/statistics/foccaseloadreport2003.pdf>

These recommendations were taken from the reports, errors in the totals were corrected, non-reporting jurisdictions were eliminated, and the data was normalized to a percentage basis. These data were then sorted based on various recommendation types in order to generate the graphs that appear below.

County	"Joint		"Third		My Total Custody Rec	Percent Joint Physical	Percent Mother Custody	Percent Father Custody	Percent Third Party Custody
	Physical Custody Rec."	"Mother Custody Rec."	"Father Custody Rec"	Party Custody Rec."					
Alcona/Arenac/I	20	24	8	0	52	38.46%	46.15%	15.38%	0.00%
Allegan	44	126	42	1	213	20.66%	59.15%	19.72%	0.47%
Alpena/Montmo	14	87	22	6	129	10.85%	67.44%	17.05%	4.65%
Antrim/Grand Tr	108	257	32	5	402	26.87%	63.93%	7.96%	1.24%
Baraga/Houghto	30	38	13	1	82	36.59%	46.34%	15.85%	1.22%
Bay	148	295	61	1	505	29.31%	58.42%	12.08%	0.20%
Berrien	90	131	44	2	267	33.71%	49.06%	16.48%	0.75%
Branch	21	37	10	2	70	30.00%	52.86%	14.29%	2.86%
Calhoun	17	41	38	2	98	17.35%	41.84%	38.78%	2.04%
Cass	9	42	15	0	66	13.64%	63.64%	22.73%	0.00%
Cheboygan	25	60	15	0	100	25.00%	60.00%	15.00%	0.00%
Clare	114	92	31	7	244	46.72%	37.70%	12.70%	2.87%
Clinton	24	107	40	2	173	13.87%	61.85%	23.12%	1.16%
Dickinson	12	12	2	0	26	46.15%	46.15%	7.69%	0.00%
Genesee	4	6	4	0	14	28.57%	42.86%	28.57%	0.00%
Gladwin	50	90	8	2	150	33.33%	60.00%	5.33%	1.33%
Gratiot	0	10	10	2	22	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%
Huron	14	9	6	1	30	46.67%	30.00%	20.00%	3.33%
Ingham	269	521	211	5	1006	26.74%	51.79%	20.97%	0.50%
Ionia	75	131	75	1	282	26.60%	46.45%	26.60%	0.35%
Isabella	3	16	3	0	22	13.64%	72.73%	13.64%	0.00%
Jackson	20	44	18	2	84	23.81%	52.38%	21.43%	2.38%
Kalamazoo	17	55	17	0	89	19.10%	61.80%	19.10%	0.00%
Kent	102	174	79	4	359	28.41%	48.47%	22.01%	1.11%
Lapeer	36	44	14	3	97	37.11%	45.36%	14.43%	3.09%
Lenawee	28	325	30	8	391	7.16%	83.12%	7.67%	2.05%
Livingston	41	41	33	3	118	34.75%	34.75%	27.97%	2.54%
Macomb	40	220	122	9	391	10.23%	56.27%	31.20%	2.30%
Marquette	1	17	2	0	20	5.00%	85.00%	10.00%	0.00%
Midland	80	138	25	0	243	32.92%	56.79%	10.29%	0.00%
Montcalm	1	8	9	0	18	5.56%	44.44%	50.00%	0.00%
Muskegon	133	287	20	2	442	30.09%	64.93%	4.52%	0.45%
Oakland	218	341	142	7	708	30.79%	48.16%	20.06%	0.99%
Ontonagon	3	15	8	0	26	11.54%	57.69%	30.77%	0.00%
Ottawa	18	34	35	4	91	19.78%	37.36%	38.46%	4.40%
Presque Isle	1	16	1	0	18	5.56%	88.89%	5.56%	0.00%
Saginaw	114	425	80	2	621	18.36%	68.44%	12.88%	0.32%
Sanilac	20	24	22	2	68	29.41%	35.29%	32.35%	2.94%
St. Clair	144	571	103	12	830	17.35%	68.80%	12.41%	1.45%
St. Joseph	34	39	19	0	92	36.96%	42.39%	20.65%	0.00%
Tuscola	86	167	60	2	315	27.30%	53.02%	19.05%	0.63%
Washtenaw	82	353	56	4	495	16.57%	71.31%	11.31%	0.81%
Wayne	407	4372	198	24	5001	8.14%	87.42%	3.96%	0.48%

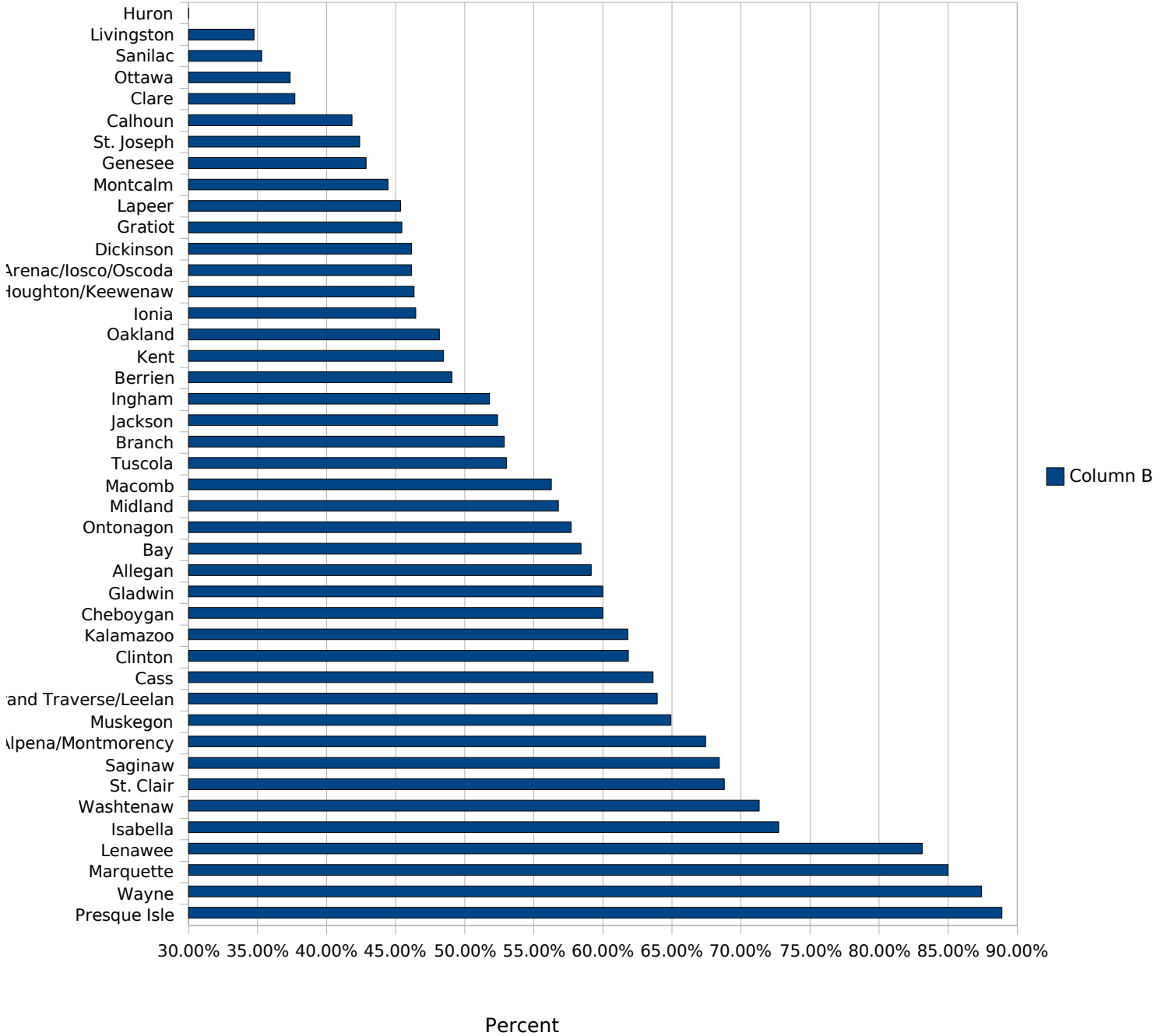
# Percent Joint Physical Custody Rec

2003 FOC Statistical Supplement



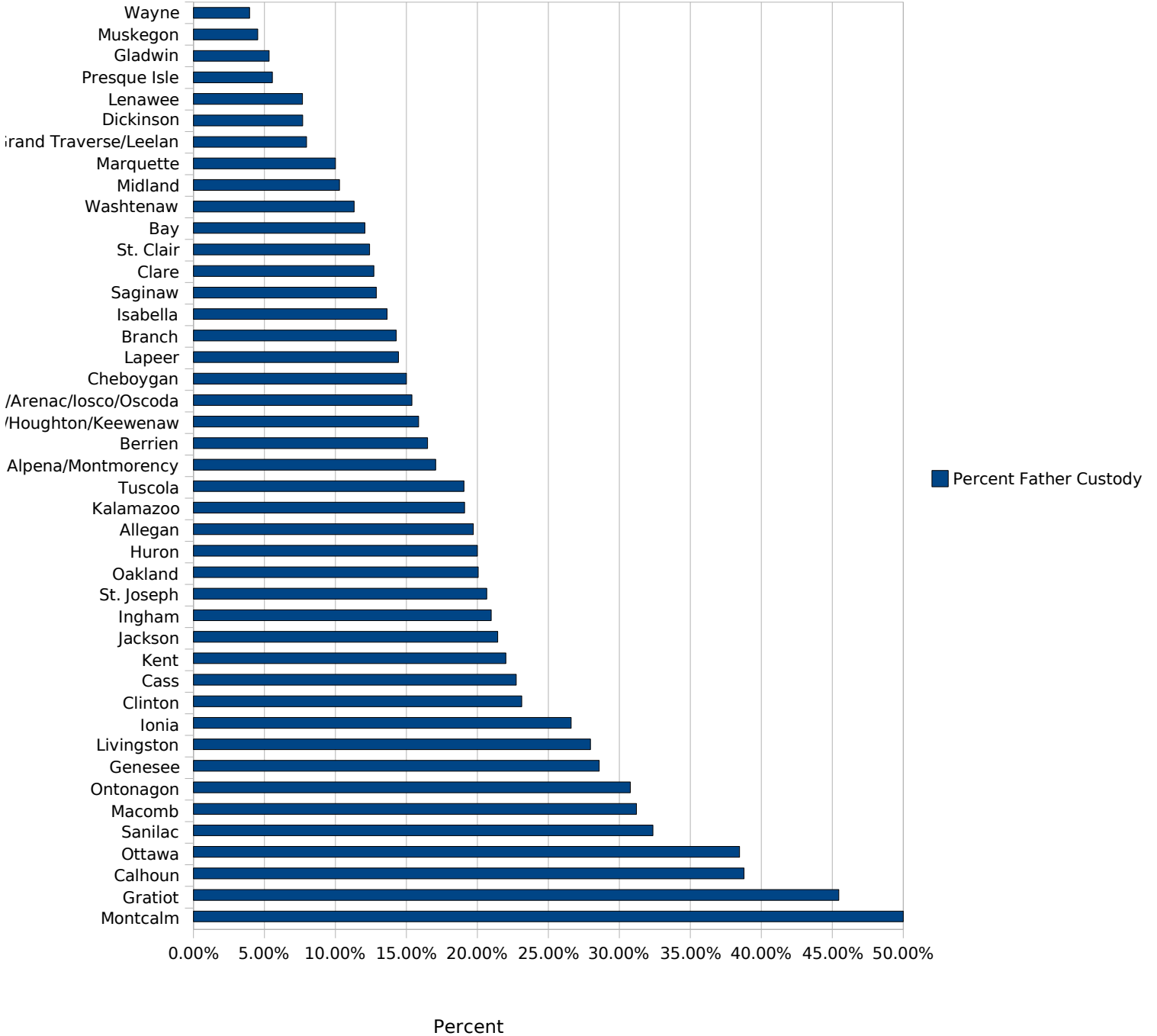
# Percent Mother Custody

## 2003 FOC Statistical Supplement



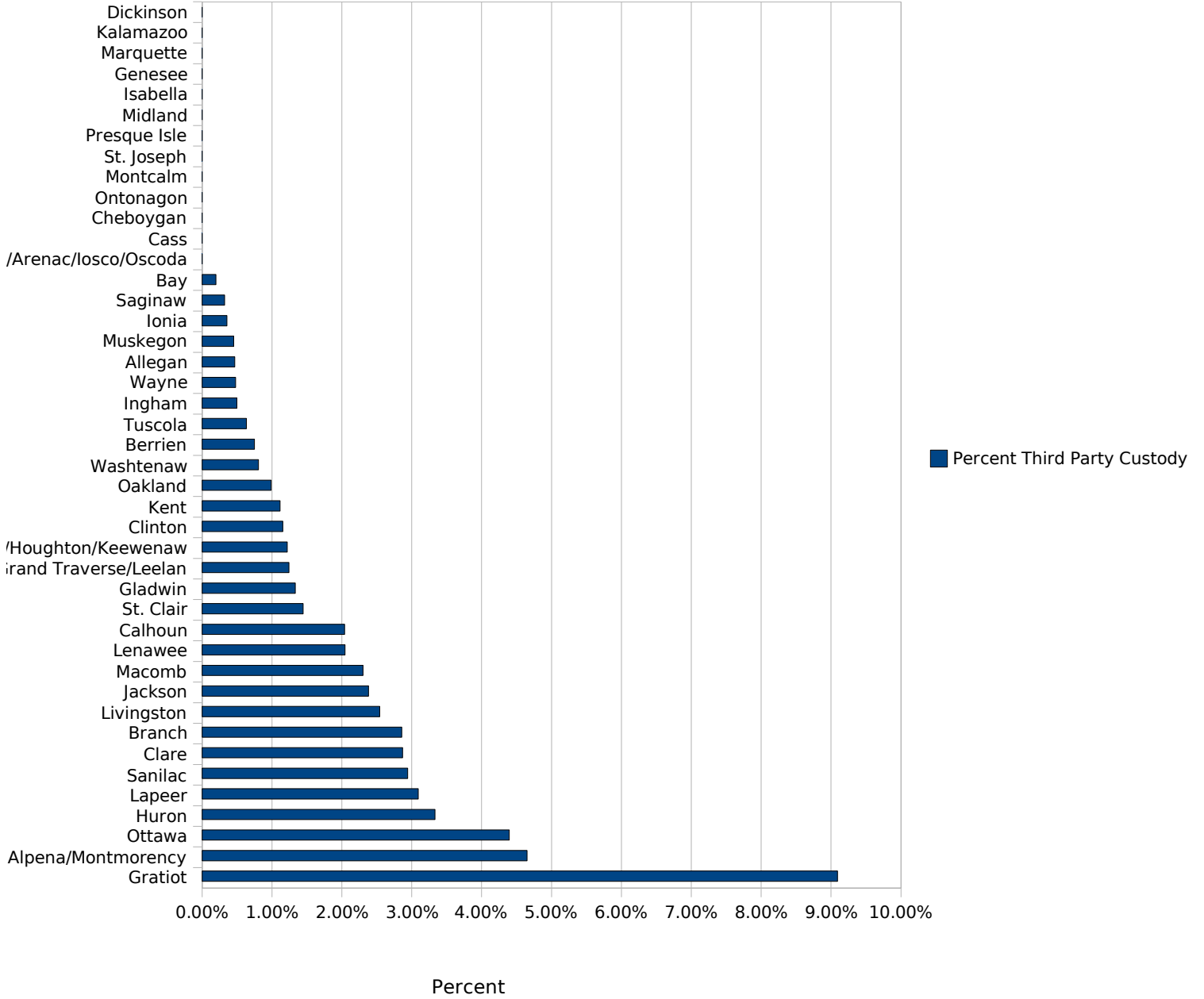
# Percent Father Custody

## 2003 FOC Statistical Supplement

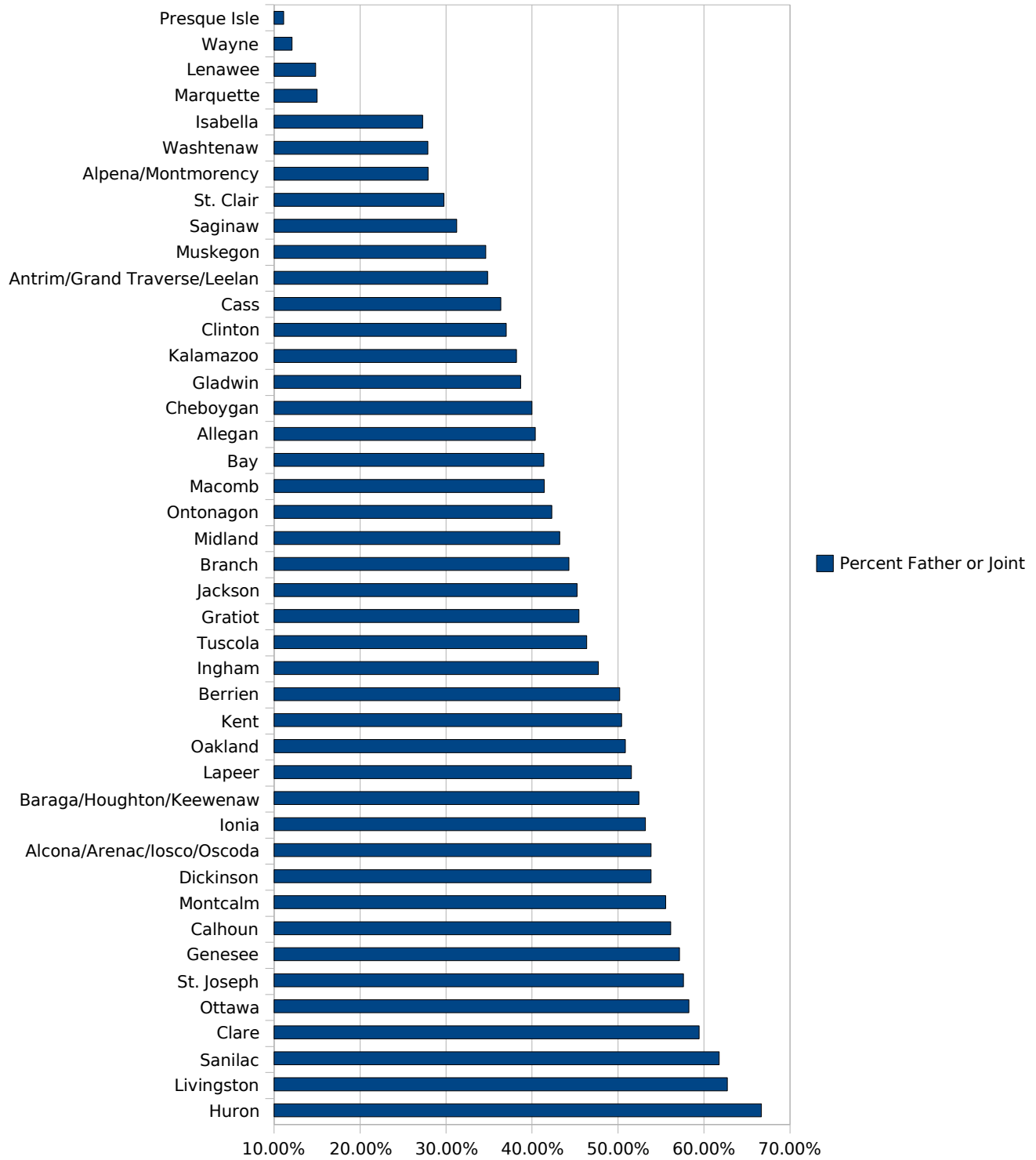


# Percent Third Party Custody

## 2008 FOC Statistical Supplement



# Percent Father or Joint



## Demographics

Demographic data was then gathered from the US Census Bureau web site. Where FOC data was not available, county level data was removed. When FOC data included multiple counties, data for the multiple counties was calculated using a population weighted average using the data for individual counties.

Estimates for FOC statistical reports per population group were calculated by combining the data on population groups in various counties with the averages for each county for father custody from the FOC statical report for that county, summing them for each population group, and finding the average for that group.

To summarize:

All Mother Custody:	60.85%
All Joint Physical Custody:	20.39%
All Father Custody:	17.65%
All Third Party Physical Custody:	1.11%

By population group among fathers:

Percent Black Father Custody:	11.18%
Hispanic or Latino Origin Father Custody:	17.04%
Percent Asian Father Custody:	17.51%
Percent Two or More Races Father Custody:	17.90%
Percent White Father Custody:	18.94%
Percent White Persons not Hispanic Father Custody:	19.02%

<b>County</b>	<b>Percent Father Custody</b>	<b>"White persons, percent, 2006 (a)"</b>	<b>"Black persons, percent, 2006 (a)"</b>	<b>"Asian persons, percent, 2006 (a)"</b>	<b>"Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2006"</b>	<b>"Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2006 (b)"</b>	<b>"White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2006"</b>
Alcona/Arenac	15.38%	96.51%	0.88%	0.40%	1.37%	1.30%	95.29%
Allegan	19.72%	96.20%	1.40%	0.80%	1.00%	6.40%	90.10%
Alpena/Montr	17.05%	97.86%	0.37%	0.40%	0.90%	0.70%	97.18%
Antrim/Grand	7.96%	96.15%	0.74%	0.48%	1.12%	2.03%	94.20%
Baraga/Hought	15.85%	91.68%	2.39%	1.51%	1.51%	0.94%	90.98%
Bay	12.08%	96.00%	1.40%	0.50%	1.40%	4.10%	92.30%
Berrien	16.48%	81.50%	15.10%	1.50%	1.40%	3.90%	77.90%
Branch	14.29%	94.50%	3.30%	0.70%	0.90%	4.20%	90.60%
Calhoun	38.78%	85.20%	10.60%	1.40%	2.10%	3.60%	82.00%
Cass	22.73%	90.90%	5.50%	0.60%	2.10%	2.80%	88.40%
Cheboygan	15.00%	94.80%	0.40%	0.20%	2.20%	0.90%	94.00%
Clare	12.70%	97.40%	0.40%	0.30%	1.00%	1.30%	96.30%
Clinton	23.12%	96.10%	1.50%	0.70%	1.10%	2.70%	93.60%
Dickinson	7.69%	97.80%	0.20%	0.50%	0.80%	0.80%	97.10%
Genesee	28.57%	76.70%	19.90%	0.90%	2.00%	2.40%	74.70%
Gladwin	5.33%	97.90%	0.20%	0.30%	0.90%	1.10%	97.00%
Gratiot	45.45%	93.50%	4.10%	0.50%	1.20%	4.70%	89.20%
Huron	20.00%	98.10%	0.20%	0.50%	0.80%	1.90%	96.30%
Ingham	20.97%	81.10%	11.20%	4.50%	2.50%	6.00%	76.00%
Ionia	26.60%	92.60%	5.00%	0.40%	1.40%	3.00%	89.90%
Isabella	13.64%	90.70%	2.50%	2.20%	1.70%	2.60%	88.70%
Jackson	21.43%	89.10%	7.90%	0.70%	1.80%	2.60%	86.80%
Kalamazoo	19.10%	85.00%	10.00%	2.40%	2.10%	3.10%	82.30%
Kent	22.01%	86.00%	9.60%	2.20%	1.70%	9.00%	77.80%
Lapeer	14.43%	97.00%	1.00%	0.50%	1.10%	3.70%	93.50%
Lenawee	7.67%	95.70%	2.10%	0.60%	1.20%	7.30%	88.80%
Livingston	27.97%	96.90%	0.70%	0.90%	1.00%	1.60%	95.40%
Macomb	31.20%	88.90%	6.30%	3.00%	1.50%	2.00%	87.00%
Marquette	10.00%	94.80%	1.50%	0.60%	1.40%	0.80%	94.20%
Midland	10.29%	95.50%	1.20%	1.90%	0.90%	1.70%	93.90%
Montcalm	50.00%	95.50%	2.20%	0.40%	1.30%	2.60%	93.10%
Muskegon	4.52%	82.90%	13.90%	0.50%	1.90%	4.10%	79.10%
Oakland	20.06%	80.80%	12.10%	5.50%	1.20%	3.00%	78.20%
Ontonagon	30.77%	97.00%	0.30%	0.20%	1.30%	0.90%	96.10%
Ottawa	38.46%	94.80%	1.30%	2.40%	1.10%	7.70%	87.40%
Presque Isle	5.56%	97.80%	0.50%	0.20%	0.80%	0.60%	97.30%
Saginaw	12.88%	77.90%	19.10%	1.10%	1.50%	7.10%	71.60%
Sanilac	32.35%	98.00%	0.40%	0.30%	0.90%	2.90%	95.10%
St. Clair	12.41%	95.50%	2.20%	0.50%	1.20%	2.50%	93.20%
St. Joseph	20.65%	94.80%	2.70%	0.60%	1.40%	6.20%	89.00%
Tuscola	19.05%	96.80%	1.10%	0.40%	1.00%	2.40%	94.50%
Washtenaw	11.31%	76.80%	12.50%	8.20%	2.10%	3.20%	74.00%
Wayne	3.96%	54.00%	41.80%	2.40%	1.40%	4.70%	49.80%

<b>County</b>	<b>"Population , 2006 estimate"</b>
Alcona/Arenac/Iosco/Oscoda	64754
Allegan County	113501
Alpena/Montmorency	40545
Antrim/Grand Traverse/Leelan	131527
Baraga/Houghton/Keewenaw	46259
Bay County	108390
Berrien County	161705
Branch County	45875
Calhoun County	137991
Cass County	51329
Cheboygan County	27282
Clare County	31307
Clinton County	69909
Dickinson County	27447
Genesee County	441966
Gladwin County	27008
Gratiot County	42107
Huron County	34143
Ingham County	276898
Ionia County	64821
Isabella County	65818
Jackson County	163851
Kalamazoo County	240720
Kent County	599524
Lapeer County	93761
Lenawee County	102191
Livingston County	184511
Macomb County	832861
Marquette County	64675
Midland County	83792
Montcalm County	63977
Muskegon County	175231
Oakland County	1214255
Ontonagon County	7202
Ottawa County	257671
Presque Isle County	14144
Saginaw County	206300
Sanilac County	44448
St. Clair County	171725
St. Joseph County	62777
Tuscola County	57878
Washtenaw County	344047
Wayne County	1971853