Survey Research on the Great Lakes (and fracking, too)

Sarah Mills, PhD
April 28, 2015
Presentation Outline

• Background on CLOSUP

• Elite and public opinion on the Great Lakes

• Collaborating with CLOSUP
Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)

- Core funding through the Ford School

- Mission:
  - conduct, support, and foster applied academic research that informs local, state, and urban policy issues
  - facilitate student learning and engagement with today’s critical local, state, and urban policy issues

- Director: Barry Rabe
Research

- Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- The Energy & Environmental Policy Initiative (EEPI)
  - The National Surveys on Energy & Environment (NSEE)
- Fracking Project
The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Census survey** – all 1,856 counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Timing** – Spring and Fall each year
MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, privatization, employee policies, labor unions, state relations, energy, environmental sustainability, Great Lakes, citizen engagement, bankruptcy, much more.

- **70+% response rates**

- **Transparency**
  -- Questionnaires online
  -- Pre-run data tables online
  -- Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), a program of biannual state-wide surveys of local government leaders in Michigan, was launched by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) in 2009. The surveys cover a wide range of issues important to local and state governance, such as fiscal, budgetary and operational policy, fiscal health, public sector compensation, workforce development, local-state governmental relations, intergovernmental collaboration, privatization, economic development strategies and initiatives such as placemaking and economic gardening, the role of local government in environmental sustainability, energy topics such as hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and wind power, trust in government, views on state policymaker performance, and much more.

All MPPS questionnaires are available on this MPPS website, and pre-run data tables displaying results are available for almost all questions. Users can browse questionnaires or the pre-run data tables to find questions of interest. In addition, the search engine below allows users to search the question text across all waves of the MPPS. Results of the keyword search provide direct links to the pre-run data tables for each question.

Keyword:  
Limit search results to:  □ 2009 □ 2010 □ 2011 □ 2012 □ 2013 □ 2014
Energy & Environmental Policy Initiative

**Primary components:**
- The National Surveys on Energy & Environment (NSEE)
- Issues in Energy and Environmental Policy (IEEP)
National Surveys on Energy & Environment

- **Conducted in partnership with Muhlenberg College’s Institute of Public Opinion**
- **Respondents** – general public
- **Administered** – via telephone
- **Timing** – twice per year
- **Topics** – Climate change, hydraulic fracturing, shale gas exploration, carbon taxation
Other EEPI Initiatives

- **The Fracking Project**
  - Case studies
  - Comparative public opinion

- **GLPRN**
  - SSHRC Partnership Development Grant
  - PI: Carolyn Johns
Water-related Data
Elite & Public Opinion

Elite Opinion: Michigan local gov’t
- MPPS survey
- 1,353 jurisdictions
  - 73% response rate
  - 1.4% margin of error

Public Opinion: Residents in G L Basin
- Telephone survey
- 1,247 residents
  - 3% margin of error (overall)
  - 267 respondents from Michigan

Reports on each of these datasets available on closup.umich.edu
Current condition of the Great Lakes

MI Elite
- Excellent: 4%
- Good: 1%
- Fair: 33%
- Poor: 4%
- Very Poor: 4%

MI Public
- Excellent: 38%
- Good: 40%
- Fair: 6%
- Poor: 1%
- Very Poor: 7%
### Most important concerns?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue (Grouped by category)</th>
<th>Rank 1</th>
<th>Any mention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollution/Contamination</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Carp</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Levels</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive Species</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewage/Waste</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality/Maintaining Quality</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial/Business Waste</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage Dumping</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebra Mussels</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global warming</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public opinion only
GL economic resource for Michigan

**MI Elite**
- Strongly agree: 89%
- Somewhat agree: 10%
- Somewhat disagree: 1%

**MI Public**
- Strongly agree: 71%
- Somewhat agree: 23%
- Somewhat disagree: 3%
- Strongly disagree: 2%
GL economic resource for your jurisdiction

Overall

- Strongly disagree: 14%
- Somewhat disagree: 23%
- Somewhat agree: 21%
- Strongly agree: 37%

Legend:
- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
Support for GL policies

**MI Elite**
- Limit water diversion (85%)
- Prevent sewer overflow (75%)
- Prevent agri. runoff (72%)

**MI Public**
- Prevent sewer overflow (82%)
- Reduce pharmaceutical release (81%)
- Prevent agri. runoff (77%)
Improve water quality, increase taxes

**MI Elite**
- Strongly support: 49%
- Somewhat support: 19%
- Somewhat oppose: 20%
- Strongly oppose: 7%

**MI Public**
- Strongly support: 35%
- Somewhat support: 38%
- Somewhat oppose: 14%
- Strongly oppose: 9%
Phase out coal-fired power plants

MI Elite

- Strongly support: 33%
- Somewhat support: 29%
- Somewhat oppose: 15%
- Strongly oppose: 12%

MI Public

- Strongly support: 34%
- Somewhat support: 26%
- Somewhat oppose: 17%
- Strongly oppose: 13%
Increase cost of water

MI Elite

- 32% Somewhat support
- 17% Strongly support
- 4% Somewhat oppose
- 39% Strongly oppose

MI Public

- 20% Somewhat support
- 15% Strongly support
- 32% Somewhat oppose
- 28% Strongly oppose

Legend:
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
Shared responsibility for protecting Lakes ...
Individual citizens

MI Elite

- Great deal of responsibility: 57%
- Some responsibility: 35%
- No responsibility: 6%

MI Public

- Great deal of responsibility: 39%
- Some responsibility: 58%
- No responsibility: 3%
Business/industry

MI Elite

- 56% Great deal of responsibility
- 40% Some responsibility
- 3% No responsibility

MI Public

- 77% Great deal of responsibility
- 20% Some responsibility
- 2% No responsibility
Federal government

MI Elite
- Great deal of responsibility: 66%
- Some responsibility: 28%
- No responsibility: 4%

MI Public
- Great deal of responsibility: 70%
- Some responsibility: 25%
- No responsibility: 4%
State government

MI Elite

- Great deal of responsibility: 90%
- Some responsibility: 9%
- No responsibility: 0%

MI Public

- Great deal of responsibility: 69%
- Some responsibility: 29%
- No responsibility: 0%
Local government

MI Elite
- Great deal of responsibility: 62%
- Some responsibility: 30%
- No responsibility: 6%

MI Public
- Great deal of responsibility: 53%
- Some responsibility: 38%
- No responsibility: 6%
Your local government

MI Elite

- Great deal of responsibility: 52%
- Some responsibility: 44%
- No responsibility: 15%

MI Public

- Great deal of responsibility: 48%
- Some responsibility: 44%
- No responsibility: 7%
Your local government

Distance to nearest Great Lake, in miles

- Coastal: 37%
- 10 or fewer: 54%
- >10 - 20: 28%
- >20-40: 32%
- >40-60: 37%
- More than 60: 44%

Elite opinion only
Water and Fracking
Factors discouraging fracking
(Michigan local leaders, Fall 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Somewhat Discouraging</th>
<th>Significantly Discouraging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to water resources</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential environmental damage linked to fracking operations, such as</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spills, leaks, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential risks to citizens’ health</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on property values</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community organizations active on fracking issues</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Most important risk
(public opinion in May 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(open ended)</th>
<th>NY</th>
<th>PA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Problems</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution/Contamination</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Issues</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Destruction/Damage</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquakes</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Leaks/Explosions</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Issues/Dangers</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Damage</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Risk/None</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Natural gas drilling poses a major risk to the state’s water resources.

New York

- Strongly agree: 42%
- Somewhat agree: 25%
- Somewhat disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 11%
- Not sure: 9%

Pennsylvania

- Strongly agree: 33%
- Somewhat agree: 31%
- Somewhat disagree: 14%
- Strongly disagree: 11%
- Not sure: 10%
Collaborating with CLOSUP...
Collaboration

- Request (de-identified) dataset
- Suggest topics for future surveys
- CLOSUP in the Classroom
Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)

Web: www.closup.umich.edu
Email: closup@umich.edu
Twitter: @closup