

# From Fiscal Health to Transportation Policy: Accessing MPPS Data

Sarah Mills, PhD

November 10, 2015

# Presentation Outline

- Background on CLOSUP
- Examples of Michigan Public Policy Survey Data
- Accessing the Data
- Collaborating with CLOSUP

# Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)

- 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
- Funding through U-M general funds
- Director: Barry Rabe

# Research

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

# 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



# 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, **roads**, **public safety**, and much more.
- **70+% response rates**
- **Transparency**
  - Questionnaires online
  - Pre-run data tables online
  - Sharing of datasets with other researchers

# A Sampling of Planning-relevant Questions in our Archive ...

# Fiscal Health

- 6 years of data (2009-2015)
  - Compared to last year, would you say your government is **less able or better able to meet its financial needs** this year?
  - Thinking about the overall fiscal stress of your jurisdiction today and what you expect it to be down the road - including any future financial obligations it may have - on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the best: perfect fiscal health and 10 is the worst: fiscal crisis, how would you rate your jurisdiction's **overall fiscal stress** today?
  - Has there been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year in **revenue from property taxes** for your jurisdiction?
  - Has there been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year in the **number of tax delinquencies** in your jurisdiction?
  - Has there been a decrease, an increase, or no change from the previous fiscal year in the **infrastructure needs** for your jurisdiction?

# Transportation Policy ('14)

- Road conditions, funding
  - Impact of road condition on economic development, tourism, ag
  - Preference for ways to raise additional revenue
  - Success of millage/special assessments
- Private roads
  - Do your policies encourage public or private roads for new development

# Transportation Policy ('14)

- Complete streets
  - Familiarity with initiative
  - Passage / implementation of CS policy
  - Impact of CS on
    - Quality of life
    - Cost-effectiveness of road spending
    - Economic development
    - Pedestrian/cyclist safety
    - Relationship with MDOT

# Public transit

- Current availability of
- Satisfaction of various groups
- Factors encouraging/discouraging expansion
  - Public demand
  - Operation/maintenance costs
  - Concern over traffic congestion
- Some people think a well-functioning transit system is important to communities in a variety of ways, such as for economic development, environmental sustainability, residents' mobility, etc. Others do not. How important, if at all, do you think a **well-functioning transit system** is to the overall needs of your jurisdiction?

# Place-making ('13)

- Is your unit of government currently engaged in any **placemaking** programs or projects for economic development purposes? ('09, '13)
- Effectiveness for economic development purposes
  - Historic preservation
  - Mixed-use developments
  - Public transit accessibility
  - Arts & cultural amenities
  - Form-based codes

# Intergovernmental cooperation ('10)

- In the past two years, has your jurisdiction approached another unit of government about any type of formal collaborative effort(s)?
- Extent of collaboration on
  - Land use planning and/or zoning
  - Transportation
  - Economic development
  - Workforce development
- Factors encouraging/discouraging collaboration

# Sustainability planning

- Does your jurisdiction engage in sustainability planning, and if so, how extensively? ('13)
- Are environmental sustainability and the concept of "being green" important aspects of local gov. leadership? ('10, '13)

# Emergency managers ( '12)

- P.A. 4 of 2011
  - Familiarity with
  - Effectiveness for restoring/protecting fiscal health
  - Support/oppose EM power w.r.t.
    - Collective bargaining agreements
    - Sale, transfer, lease of local assets
    - Recommend consolidation

# Property tax exemption (‘13)

- Types of exemptions
- Asset or liability on
  - Current/future fiscal health
  - Current/future quality of life

# Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

M | Ford School



SEARCH:

- People
- Events
- Michigan Public Policy Survey
- Energy & Environmental Policy Initiative
- National Surveys on Energy & Environment
- CLOSUP in the Classroom
- Research
- Publications
- Resources
- Join Mailing List

CLOSUP > Michigan Public Policy Survey > Michigan Public Policy Survey > Question Database

## Michigan Public Policy Survey Question Database

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

### MPPS Home

- See the MPPS [home page](#)

### MPPS Resources

#### Question Database

- Search survey questions: [Get links to data tables](#)

### Data Tables

- "Core" Fiscal Tracking Items
- Fall 2014 MPPS Data
- Spring 2014 MPPS Data

[More data](#) (+)

### Reports

- Michigan local leaders see need for state and local ethics reform (March 2015)
- Local leaders say Michigan road funding needs major increase, but lack consensus on options that would raise the most revenue (Feb. 2015)
- Michigan local government leaders' views on employee pay and benefits (Jan. 2015)



[More reports](#) (+)

### Questionnaires

- Fall 2014 MPPS questionnaire
- Spring 2014 MPPS Questionnaire

[More questionnaires](#) (+)

### Individual Study Pages

- Fall 2014

# Accessing MPFS data

- Available with (IRB approval), but without FIPS
- Ability to merge your FIPS-based data (soon)
- VERY-de-identified datasets for classroom use available in Winter (Provost grant)
  - Jurisdiction type
  - Population density categories
  - Region

# Collaborating with CLOSUP ...

# Collaboration

- CLOSUP in the Classroom
  - Anonymized datasets for classroom use
  - Guest lectures
  
- Suggest topics for future surveys

# Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP)

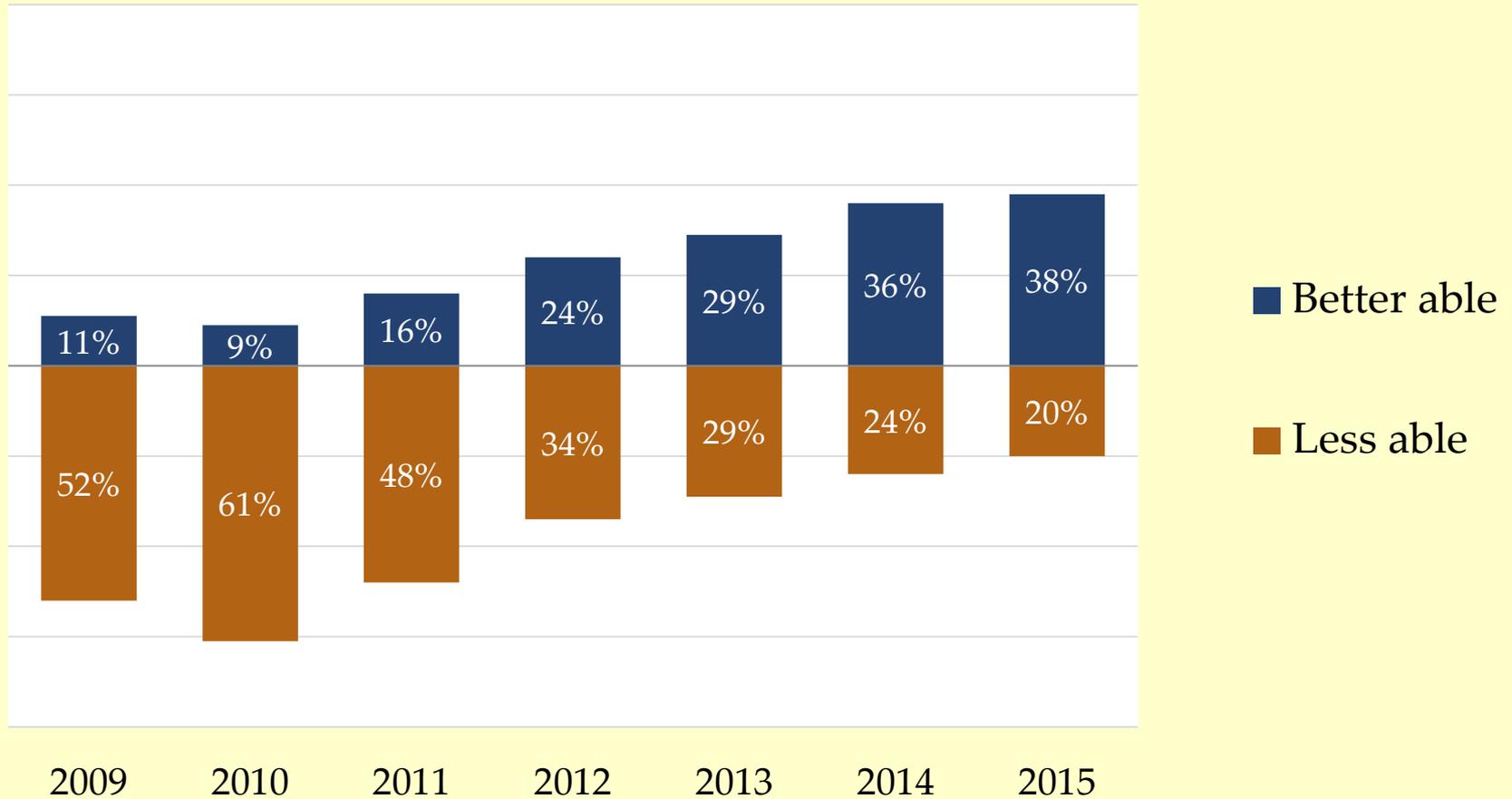
**Web:** [www.closup.umich.edu](http://www.closup.umich.edu)

**Email:** [closup@umich.edu](mailto:closup@umich.edu)

**Twitter:** [@closup](https://twitter.com/closup)

# Slowly Improving Fiscal Health

% of jurisdictions **better or less able** to meet fiscal needs



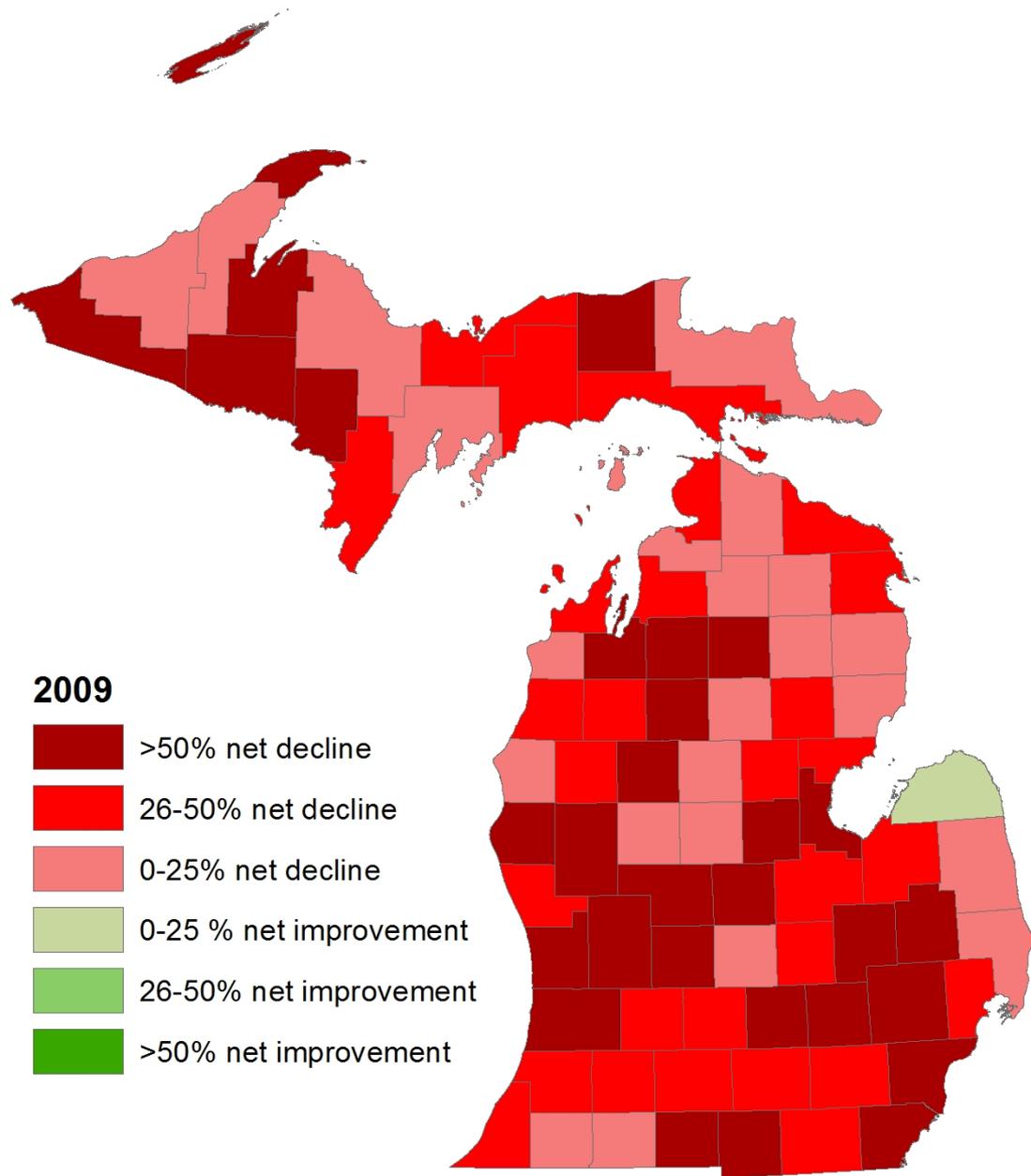
# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

**minus**

% reporting less able to meet needs



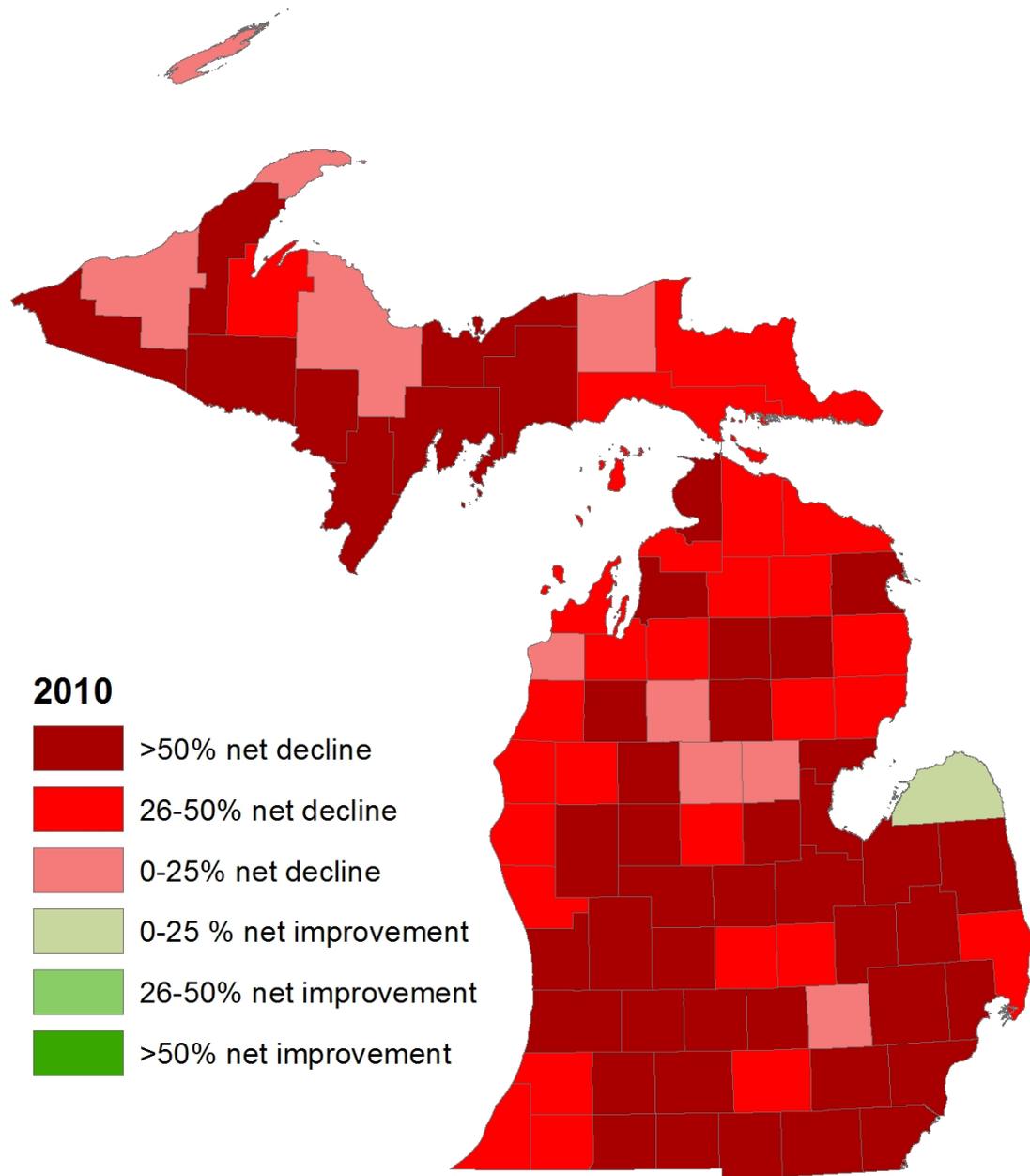
# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

minus

% reporting less able to meet needs



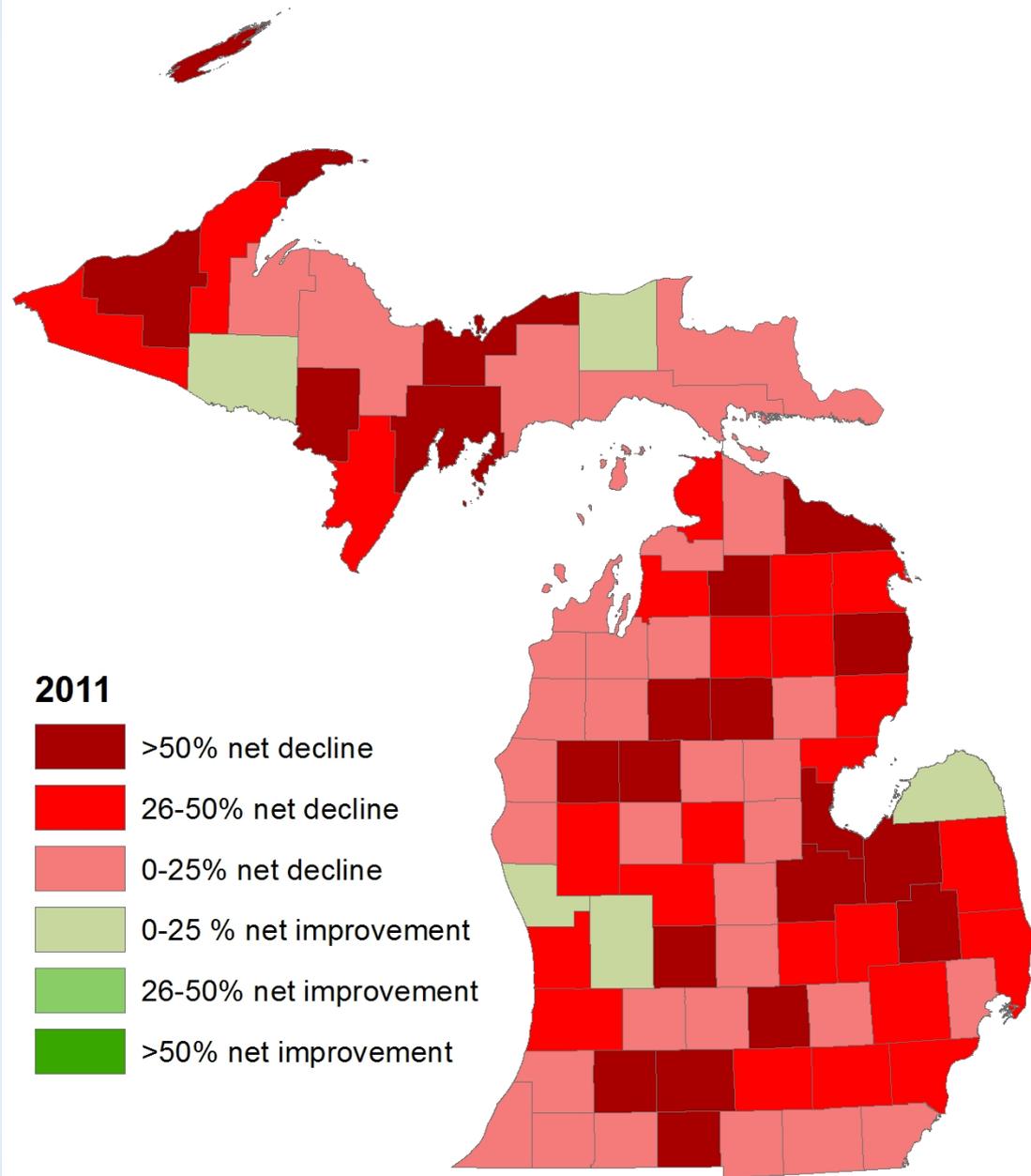
# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

minus

% reporting less able to meet needs



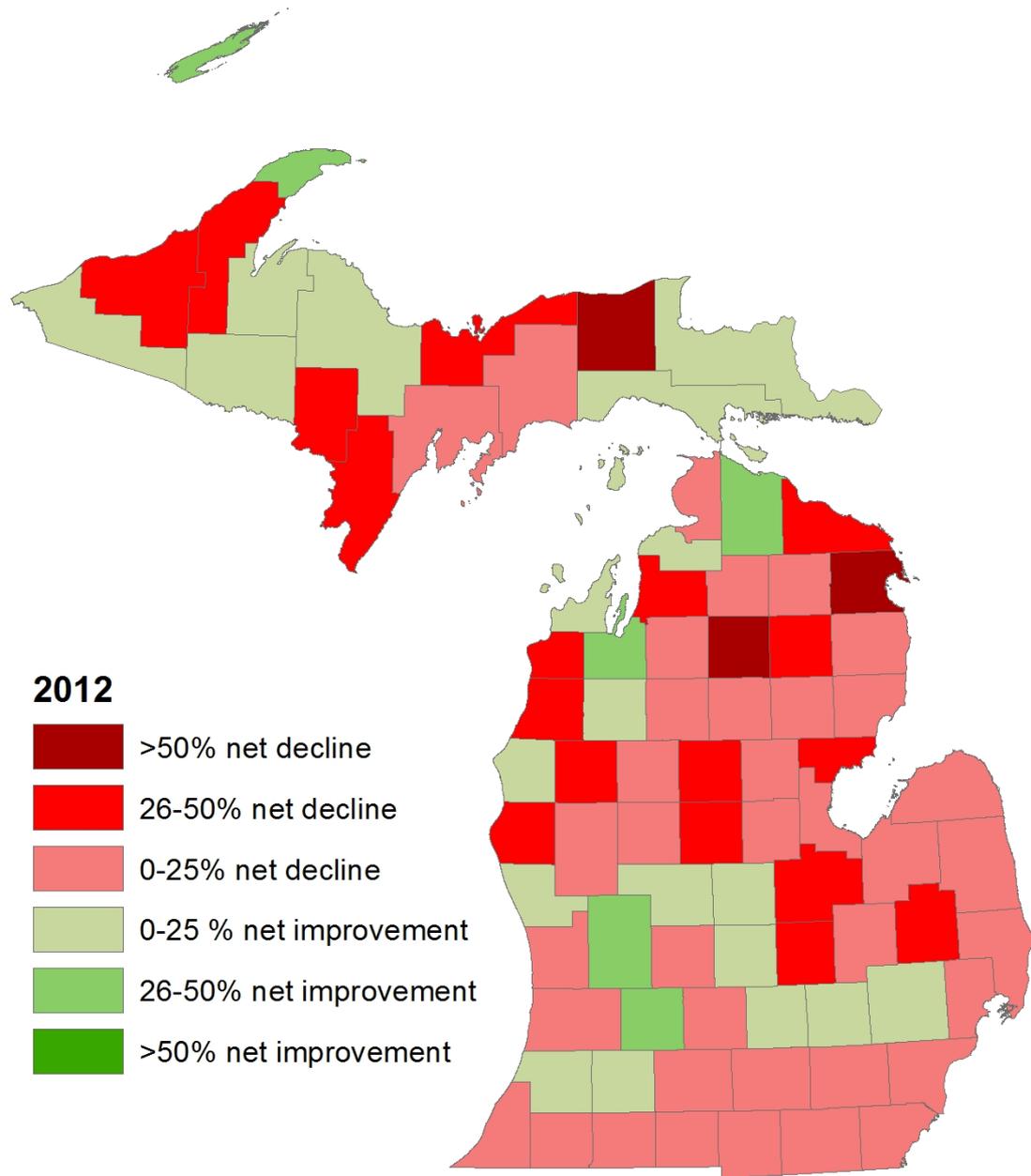
# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

**minus**

% reporting less able to meet needs



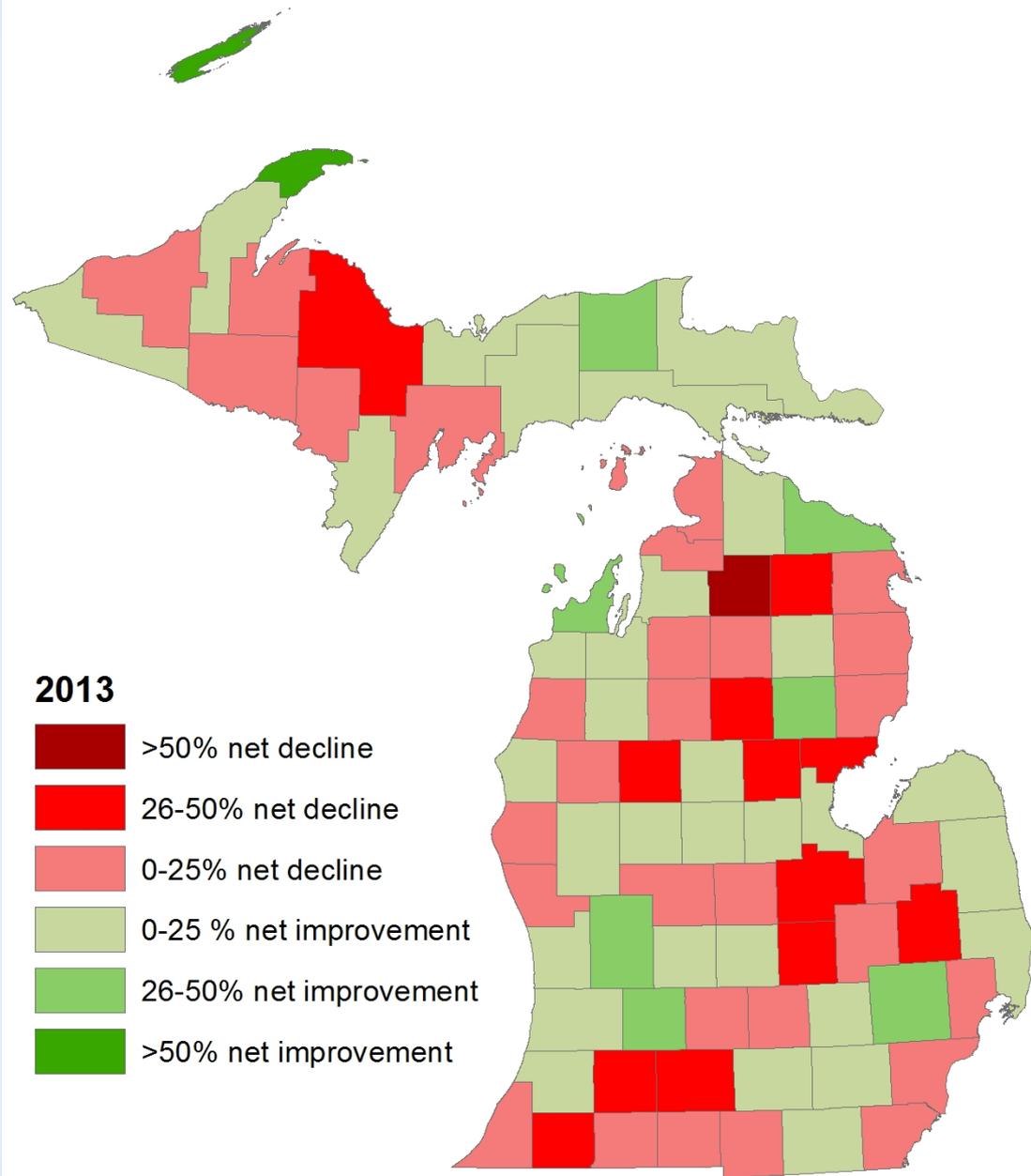
# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

**minus**

% reporting less able to meet needs



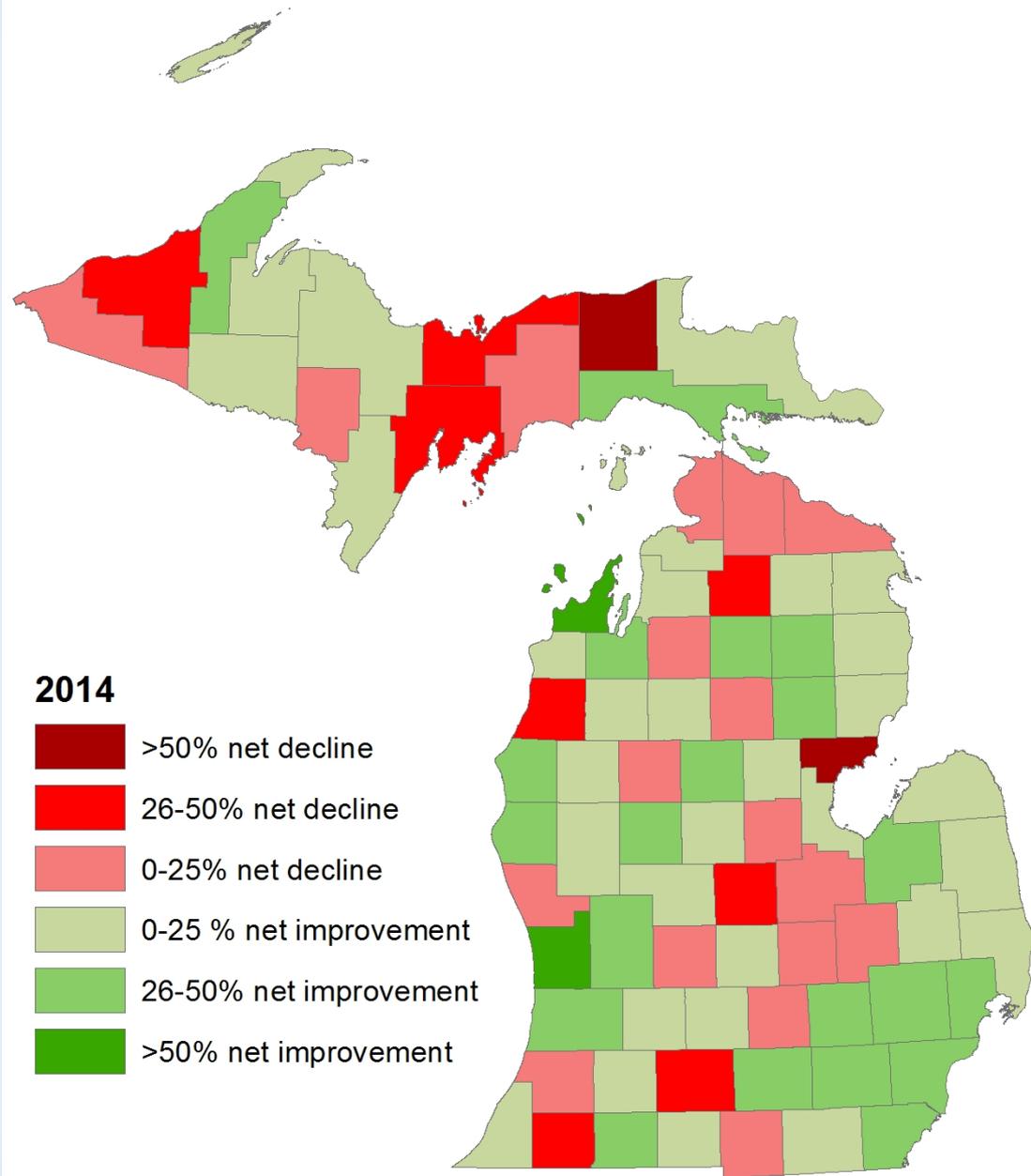
# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

**minus**

% reporting less able to meet needs



# Spread and Easing of Fiscal Problems, by County

## Net fiscal health:

% of local jurisdictions reporting better able to meet needs

minus

% reporting less able to meet needs

