

Using Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) Data in your Classroom

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Presentation Outline

- What is the MPPS?
- What topics have we covered?
- Using MPPS data:
 - No statistics required
 - Simplified datasets
 - Advanced analysis

CLOSUP in the Classroom

- **Mission:** facilitate student learning and engagement with critical local, state, and urban policy issues
- **Student policy analysts**
- **UM Provost Grant**
 - Develop resources for classroom use
 - Develop new UM courses

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

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What is it?

The Michigan Public Policy Survey

Michigan ranks 7th in the number of general purpose local governments (1,856):

- 83 counties
- 256 villages
- 277 cities
- 1,240 townships.



The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Census survey** – all counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Timing** – Spring and Fall each year
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, employee policies, labor unions, state relations, roads, environmental sustainability, citizen engagement, much more.

MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- 70+% response rates
- Expert advisors on questionnaire content
- Borrow from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - **Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers**

Finding MPPS Topics

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Using the MPPS website

Topic-finding aids

mpps.umich.edu

- [Search](#) question text
- [Browse](#) topics list
 - Look though questionnaire



Search Question Text

Michigan Public Policy Survey

← → ↻ closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/search/mpps-search.php?searchterm=budget

Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy
M | Ford School

CLOSUP > Michigan Public Policy Survey >

Michigan Public Policy Survey Question Database

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 2015 2016

Questions in the table below are ordered by survey wave in which they were asked, as well as their position on the questionnaire. Some questions have been asked on multiple waves of the MPPS and therefore will have multiple entries in the results table.

Results of search for: budget for all years

Year	Wave	Question	Question Text	Data Tables
2015	Spring	Q7a	Thinking about your jurisdiction's last fiscal year, were general fund revenues higher or lower than what they were projected to be in its originally adopted general fund budget ?	see tables
2015	Spring	Q7b	Thinking about your jurisdiction's last fiscal year, were general fund expenditures higher or lower than what they were projected to be in its originally adopted general fund budget ?	see tables
2015	Spring	Q13a	Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes? Majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council would prefer to...	see tables
2015	Spring	Q13b	Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes? Majority of your jurisdiction's citizens would prefer to...	see tables
2015	Spring	Q13c	Regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget surplus this year, in your opinion, what would be the highest priority for using any potential surplus (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to spend the budget surplus on public services or infrastructure, save that money for future use, use it to pay down any debt your jurisdiction may have, or reduce taxes? You personally in your role as a local official would prefer to...	see tables
2015	Spring	Q14a	Now, regardless of whether or not your jurisdiction expects to have a budget deficit this year, in your opinion, what would be the preferred method for eliminating any potential deficit (if it had one) according to the following groups or individuals? Do you think that they would prefer to cut costs/services, increase taxes, use any savings your jurisdiction may have, or increase debt (if legally allowable)? Majority of your jurisdiction's Board/Council would prefer to...	see tables

Browse Topics List

Survey Overview	Resources	Topics
Spring 2016	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; package of services provided and trade-off with taxes; system of funding local government; drinking water issues and infrastructure; property tax appeals; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature; right direction vs. wrong track for state
Fall 2015	Data tables Questionnaire	Public safety issues: police services; police-community relations; fire services; emergency medical services
Spring 2015	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; retiree health care; pensions; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature; right direction vs. wrong track for state and own jurisdiction
Fall 2014	Data tables Questionnaire	Road issues: road conditions, maintenance, funding; private roads; complete streets; transit; relations with and evaluation of county road commissions; state and local government ethics
Spring 2014	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; privatization; GFOA-recommended financial policies; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature, state agencies; right direction vs. wrong track for state and own jurisdiction; ballot proposals: citizen referenda, part-time legislature
Fall 2013	Data tables Questionnaire	Energy and environmental issues: the Great Lakes, wind power, fracking, energy sources, environmental sustainability; Detroit bankruptcy
Spring 2013	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; retiree health care; public sector unions and negotiations; right-to-work legislation; property tax exemptions; placemaking economic development; entrepreneurship; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature, state agencies; right direction vs. wrong track for state and own jurisdiction; trust in government
Fall 2012	Data tables Questionnaire	Citizen engagement, including technology related issues
Spring 2012	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; public sector unions and negotiations; package of services provided and trade-off with taxes; system of funding local government; personal property tax; emergency manager law; k-12 education; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature, state agencies; right direction vs. wrong track for state and own jurisdiction
Fall 2011	Data tables Questionnaire	Performance measurement and management, use of data in decision-making; economic vitality incentive program; dashboards
Spring 2011	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; employee compensation; retiree health care; pensions; special tax authorities (DDAs, Brownfield authorities, etc.); tax charge backs by county government; emergency manager law; performance measurement and management; dashboards; federal stimulus package; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature; right direction vs. wrong track for state and own jurisdiction
Fall 2010	Data tables Questionnaire	Inter-governmental cooperation, consolidation, service sharing; local government environmental leadership, energy efficiency, global warming
Spring 2010	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; employee compensation; retiree health care; pensions; trade-offs between services and taxes; economic gardening; revenue sharing and local tax authority; independent redistricting commission; U.S. Census; federal stimulus package
Fall 2009	Data tables Questionnaire	Workforce development; k-12 and higher education; brain drain; MI Public Act 312 (public safety union negotiations); state constitutional convention; term limits; job approval evaluations for governor, legislature; federal stimulus package
Spring 2009	Data tables Questionnaire	Annual tracking items for fiscal, budget, operation policies; most important problem; economic development; placemaking; trust in government; inter-governmental cooperation; land-use planning; federal stimulus package

Using MPPS Data

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Three ways

No statistics required
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No statistics required

- Pre-run data [tables](#)
 - Overall frequencies
 - Breakdowns by jurisdiction type, population size, region of the state
- MPPS [reports](#)
 - Graphics
 - Additional advanced cross-tabs
 - Commentary

Q36. Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?

Jurisdiction Type Crosstabulation						
% within Jurisdiction Type						
		Jurisdiction Type				Total
		County	Township	City	Village	
Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?	Right Direction	36%	49%	36%	35%	44%
	Wrong Track	50%	34%	53%	42%	39%
	Don't Know	14%	17%	11%	22%	17%

*Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding within cells.

Population Size Crosstabulation							
% within Population Size							
		Population Size					Total
		<1500	1500-5000	5001-10000	10001-30000	>30000	
Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?	Right Direction	41%	49%	45%	41%	40%	44%
	Wrong Track	39%	35%	46%	48%	44%	39%
	Don't Know	20%	17%	9%	11%	16%	17%

*Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding within cells.

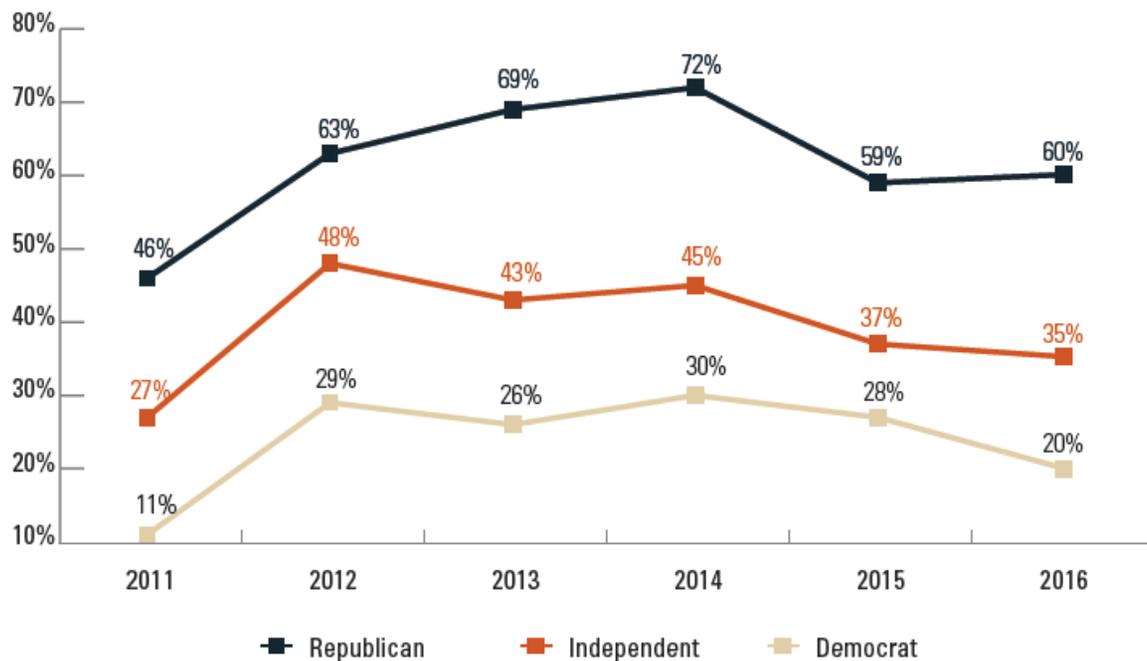
Region of Michigan Crosstabulation								
% within Region of Michigan								
		Region of Michigan						Total
		Upper Peninsula	Northern Lower Peninsula	West Central Lower Peninsula	East Central Lower Peninsula	Southwest Lower Peninsula	Southeast Lower Peninsula	
Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten off on the wrong track?	Right Direction	30%	49%	49%	45%	47%	41%	44%
	Wrong Track	52%	37%	31%	39%	33%	46%	39%
	Don't Know	18%	14%	20%	16%	20%	13%	17%

*Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding within cells.

Reports

Figure 1b

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in the 'right direction' in 2011-2016, by partisan identification



Simplified Datasets



Public Use Datasets

Simplified Datasets

- Public Use Datasets
 - Subset of a survey, by topic
 - 2-3 “demographic” variables
 - Open access on openICPSR
 - Multiple formats: SPSS, STATA, CSV
- Accessed via:
 - [Download datasets](#) page
 - openICPSR’s MPPS [landing page](#)

Fall 2014 Public Use

Principal Investigator(s): Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

Version: V20

Name	File Type
Complete Streets Data	Folder
County Road Commissions Data	Folder
General Roads Data	Folder
Private Roads Data	Folder
State and Local Government Ethics Data	Folder
Transit Data	Folder

Project Citation:
Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy. (2016-10-18). Michigan Public Policy Survey Public Use Research [distributor]. <http://doi.org/10.3886/E100132V20>

Persistent URL: <http://doi.org/10.3886/E100132V20>

Folder Description

Summary: The Fall 2014 MPPS was the twelfth wave in the MPPS survey program. The focus was on private roads, Complete Streets, transit, the relationship between local jurisdictions and their counties, and ethics. The survey was conducted from October 6 to December 11, 2014 and received responses from 73% of jurisdictions. In order to protect respondent confidentiality, we have divided the data collected in the Fall 2014 Michigan Public Policy Survey into separate datasets focused on different topics that were covered in the survey. Each dataset contains only variables relevant to that subject, and the datasets cannot be linked together. A more complete dataset, containing all questions asked

Advanced analysis

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Accessing the restricted datasets

Advanced analysis

- Restricted-use [datasets](#)
 - All responses for a wave (less jurisdiction, respondent identifiers)
 - IDs allow for longitudinal analysis by unit
 - Possibility to merge other data using FIPS
 - Must apply to ICPSR

Using MPPS data in your course

Types of assignments where you can use MPPS data:

Stand-alone
Semester-long research project

Using MPPS data in your course

Overview of an example semester-long research project:

- 1) Students choose a topic related to local government policy in Michigan that has been covered on the Michigan Public Policy Survey.
- 2) They research and describe the scope and recent history of this topic both in Michigan and in other (example) states.
- 3) They present survey data illustrating particular findings about the policy (problems, size or regional differences, cost, barriers to compromise, etc.).
- 4) Finally, they propose one or more potential policy solutions/ approaches that address particular policy challenges presented by the topic.

Using MPPS data in your course

Executing an example semester-long research project:

- **Instructor:** Weekly or every-other-week 5-10 minute “modules” to introduce and explain how to use primary survey data
- **Students:** series of assignments that build up to research paper based on MPPS topic

Using MPPS data in your course

Instructor modules:

- **Week 1:** introduction to the MPPS and an overview of how students will be expected to use it in their final research project
- **Week 2:** a review of topic areas on previous MPPS surveys (have students browse MPPS topics list)
- **Week 3:** an overview of survey research design (have students read article on questionnaire construction and design choices)
- **Week 4:** in-class tutorial on how to download MPPS data from the web
- **Week 5:** how to read a codebook (have students bring in codebook from the dataset they've chosen to use)
- **Week 6:** an overview of data “weights” and why/when to use them
- **Week 7:** in-class tutorial on basic data analysis tools: Excel, Stata, and SPSS (how to create a crosstab)
- **Week 8:** the anatomy of an MPPS dataset in Excel, Stata, and SPSS
- **Week 9:** sources of other survey data and how to evaluate them
- **Week 10:** an overview of presenting survey data analysis in text
- **Week 11:** an overview of presenting survey data analysis in charts

Using MPPS data in your course

Student Assignments:

- **Week 4:** newspaper/blog op-ed/short writing assignment (to give students a chance to “dabble” in their chosen topic and change course, if necessary)
- **Week 6:** one-page research project proposal (including which data they will use)
- **Week 9:** preliminary crosstabs of data analysis
- **Week 11:** rough draft for workshopping
- **Week 13/14:** final paper due

Using MPPS data in your course

Examples from past student research:

<http://closup.umich.edu/student-working-papers/>

Student Working Papers Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy	
<i>Fixing the Higher Education Funding System in Michigan</i> Keerthana Sundar	
<i>Funding Local Governments in Michigan</i> Carson Smith	
<i>Blown Away: The Increasing Importance of Wind Energy in Michigan</i> Sean Smalley	
<i>Regional Tax Authority in the State of Michigan</i> Karen Seo	
<i>Renewable Energy Reform in Michigan</i> Tanner Savitsky	
<i>The Need for Increased Police Funding in Detroit</i> Lucas Ryan	
<i>Michigan Roads and Policy Recommendations</i> Jay Nautiyal	
<i>Michigan Road Funding (Toll Booth/Road)</i> Austin Leist	
<i>Learning from Prop 1: Healing Michigan's Roads</i> Matthew Lawford	
<i>Michigan Agriculture: How Farm Subsidies are Killing Growth and the Environment</i> Kohlton Johnson	
<i>The Promise of Free College</i> Ingrid Johnson	
<i>Healing Michigan: An Examination of State-Level Responses to the Opioid Epidemic in Michigan</i> Benjamin P. Greenberg	

Questions now (or later)
most welcome

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