

## Michigan Poverty & Well-being Map: Northeast

*The Northeast region includes: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, and Roscommon counties. Learn more about the map at [poverty.umich.edu](http://poverty.umich.edu).*

### Barriers to Health Care Access

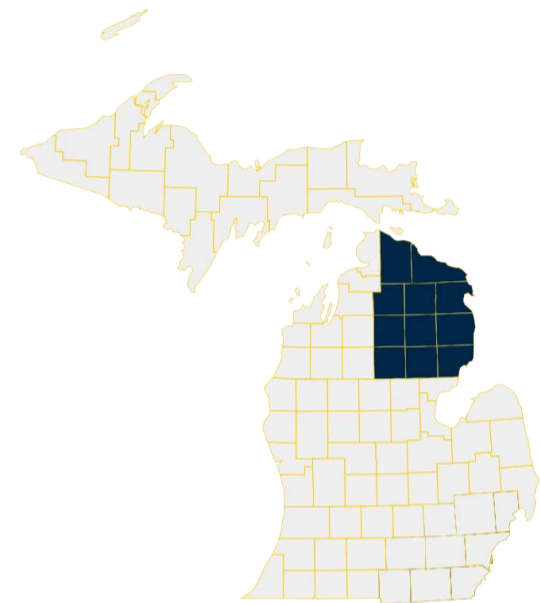
Michigan's Northeast region has the highest rate of uninsured individuals in the state (6.7% vs 5.5% in the state overall), with very high patient-to-physician ratios. The ratio of primary care physicians is particularly low in Ogemaw (3,490:1), Oscoda (4,140:1), and Presque Isle counties (4,250:1); the state average is 1,270:1.<sup>1</sup> Clearly, access to primary care in this region is limited by these two factors.

The community health needs assessment conducted by Munson Healthcare and MidMichigan Health identified access to care and chronic conditions as priorities for the region. Without access to routine care, chronic conditions cannot be managed sufficiently.

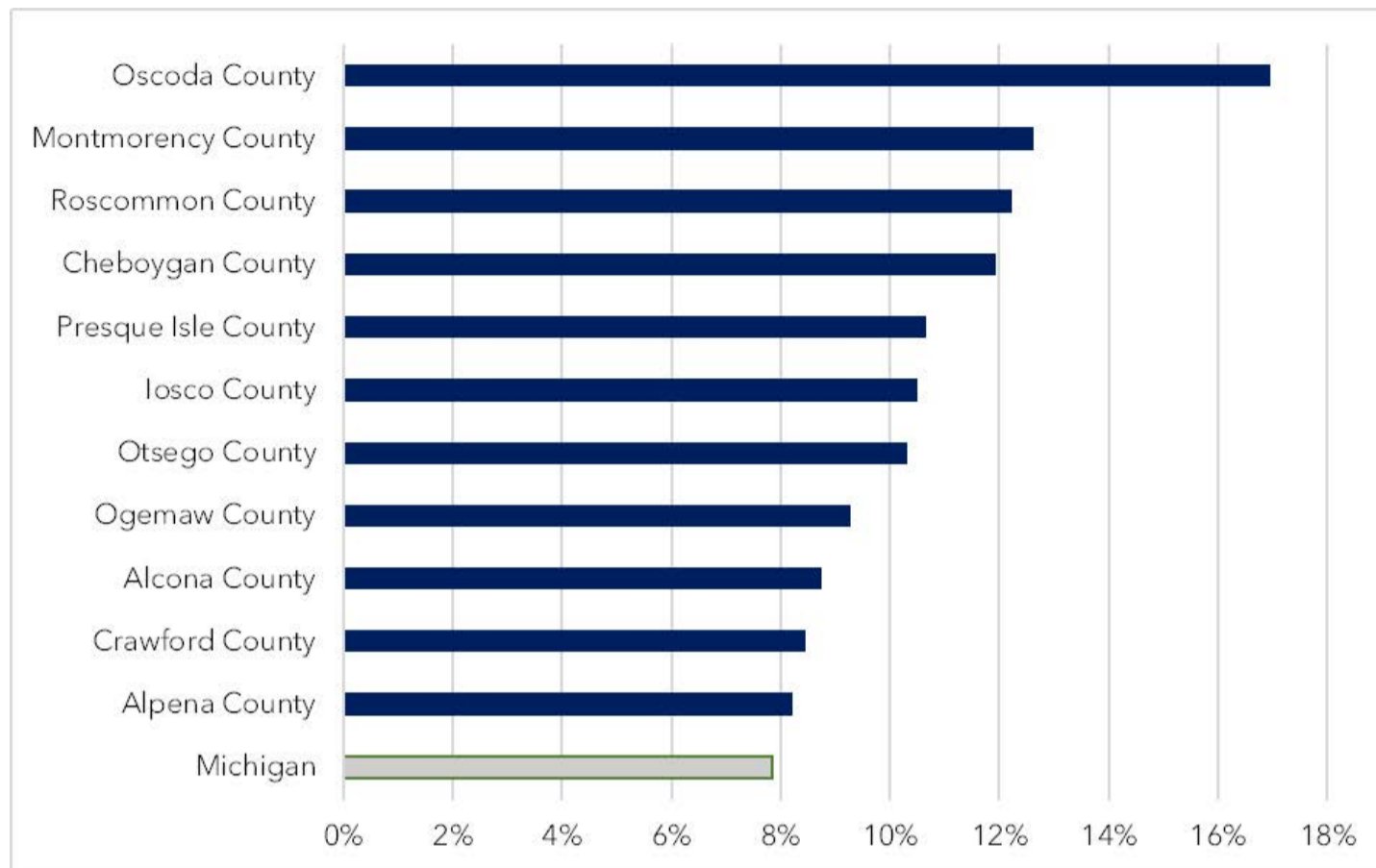
Increasing access to insurance and addressing the shortage of physicians and dentists in the area will be key to improving health outcomes. In addition to outreach to get people insured, one strategy to address these issues is by expanding training for nurse practitioners, who can provide a wide range of medical care, and then integrating these practitioners into the community through local health centers and mobile care models that are well-suited for rural areas.

Additionally, opioid use is particularly high, which presents other health care challenges. Opioid dispensing rates in Crawford (75.8 per 100 people), Ogemaw (78.2 per 100 people), and Otsego counties (111.5 per 100 people) are particularly high.<sup>2</sup> Both the health systems and members of the community have stressed the need to expand substance abuse and mental health treatment capacity.<sup>3</sup> The lack of providers for patients of all ages and income levels means people cannot access treatment, a problem compounded by the high rates of adults without health insurance. Being unable to access substance abuse and mental health services hurts not only the individual but also their family and community.

In addition to providing funds to provide training to increase the supply of health care workers, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) also earmarked funds for block grants to address unmet mental health and substance abuse treatment needs, which is a critical opportunity to meet the challenges in this region. Directing this funding toward the health care needs of this region should be a priority.



## Northeast: Percentage of Population Aged 19-64 Who Do Not Have Health Insurance<sup>4</sup>



## References

<sup>1</sup> University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "County Health Rankings and Road Maps: Michigan." Accessed March 21, 2022. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2021/measure/factors/4/data>.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "U.S. County Opioid Dispensing Rates, 2020." Accessed March 21, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/county2020.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Munson Healthcare. "Community Health Needs Assessment." Accessed March 21, 2022. <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/community-health-needs-assessment/community-health-needs-assessment>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table A20001.