Chapter 2 - County Profile

2.1 Description

Chippewa is the second largest county in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the only county to reach the northern, southern and eastern borders of the Upper Peninsula. To the south is Lake Huron, on the north border, Lake Superior, and the waters of the St. Marys River on the east. Three of the state's largest islands are within the boundaries of Chippewa County, Drummond, Sugar, and Neebish Islands. The County extends 84 miles from the western boundary to the most eastern point. Its location on the shores of the Great Lakes and St. Marys River has provided the communities with a rich and varied history dating back to the 1600s. A visual map representation of the County boundary and following categories can be found in Appendix F.

The County seat is in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, the most populous community in the County. The County has 16 townships, 1 city, and 1 village and 2 Native American tribes. From Sault Ste. Marie the City of Marquette lies 165 miles to the west, Traverse City 160 miles to the south and Detroit 339 miles to the south. The International Bridge connects Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Canada and is one of four border crossing points in Michigan.

2.2 Geography

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 2,698 square miles, of which, 1,561 square miles of it is land and 1,137 square miles of it is water. The soils of Chippewa County are primarily sand and clay with mostly sand in the western sections and clay in the eastern sections.

The entire 1,561 square miles that make up Chippewa County lie almost entirely on a low plain, ranging generally between 600 and 1,000 feet in elevation with the highest elevations found in the northern and western sections.

2.3 Climate

It is generally recognized that the Great Lakes have a significant impact on the local climate. Winters and summers are later than those in other northern inland areas due to the temperatures of the surrounding large bodies of water. The climate is not as harsh as those inland areas of the Midwest.

According to information from Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) the climate of the Great Lakes is changing. Higher global temperatures change patterns of seasons and precipitation at Great Lakes regional and local levels. These uncertainties impact ecology, economy, and social well-being. The frequency and intensity of severe storms has increased, and current models suggest that this trend will continue as the effects of climate change become more pronounced. More severe storms may have a negative economic impact.
due to resulting damages and increased costs of preparation, clean up, and business disruption.¹

Weather changes are frequent in Chippewa County because many pressure systems pass eastward through this section of the United States and Canada. Precipitation is well distributed throughout each year. Summer rains usually accompany a southeast surface wind; winter snows are most often associated with northwest winds.

Winters in Chippewa County tend to be long, cold and snowy because of the northern latitude. There are roughly 8 hours of sunlight per day during winter.

The average temperature of Chippewa County is 41°F, which is much lower than the Michigan average temperature of 46.64°F and is much lower than the national average temperature of 54.45°F. The average winter temperature is 17.3°F and the average daily minimum temperature is 9.4°F. The lowest temperature on record, which occurred on two separate occasions (February 10, 1899 and again February 8, 1934), is -37°F. In summer, the average temperature is 62.2°F and the average daily maximum temperature is 73.7°F. The highest recorded temperature occurred on July 13, 1936, at 103°F.

Chippewa County gets 31 inches of rain, on average, per year. The US average is 39 inches of rain per year. The annual snowfall averages 109 inches per year. The US average is 26 inches of snow per year. On average, there are 156 sunny days per year in Chippewa County.

2.4 Surface Waters
Chippewa County has approximately 421 miles of shoreline (including islands) on Lakes Superior and Huron and the connecting waters of the St. Marys River. Added to this, 38,912 acres of inland water comprise 3.7 percent of the total surface area. Within the inland water category are approximately 560 artificial and natural lakes and ponds and 800 miles of streams.

Caribou Lake is the largest inland lake at the eastern end of the County with public access for boating and fishing. Trout Lake area consists of many lakes but the important ones are (by size) Carp Lake; Little Trout Lake; Frenchman Lake and Wegwaas Lake. Both Carp Lake and Frenchman Lake have public access for boating and fishing. Other lakes in Chippewa County include: Hulbert Lake, Piatt Lake, Soldier’s Lake, Monocle Lake, Spectacle Lake, Pendills Lake, McNearney Lake, Kinross Lake, and Duke Lake.

2.5 Watershed Basins
Chippewa County has many watersheds basins. The major watershed basins are described in the following paragraphs.

¹ http://glisa.msu.edu
The **St. Mary’s River** drains Lake Superior, starting at the end of Whitefish Bay and flowing 74.5 miles southeast into Lake Huron, with a fall of 23 feet. For its entire length it is an international border, separating Michigan in the United States from Ontario, Canada.

The Tahquamenon River Basin and Betsy River Basin originates in Luce County and covers part of western Chippewa County. These basins consist of **Betsy or Shelldrake River, Tahquamenon River**, plus numerous small tributaries, with discharge to Whitefish Bay on Lake Superior. The **Hendrie River** also branches off of the Tahquamenon into western Chippewa County.

The **Tahquamenon River** is a 94-mile long blackwater river that flows in a generally eastward direction through the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula. It drains approximately 820 square miles of the Upper Peninsula, including large sections of Luce County and Chippewa County. It begins in the Tahquamenon Lakes in northeast Columbus Township of Luce County and empties into Lake Superior near the village of Paradise. Highway M-123 runs alongside a portion of the river. The river is best known for the Tahquamenon Falls, a succession of two waterfalls in Tahquamenon Falls State Park totaling approximately 73 feet in height. Because the headwaters of the river are located in a boreal wetland that is rich in cedar, spruce and hemlock trees, the river's waters carry a significant amount of tannin in solution (i.e., it is a blackwater river), and are often brown or golden-brown in color. The Tahquamenon Falls are thus acclaimed as being the largest naturally dyed or colored waterfall in the United States. The state park preserves the falls area and some 24 miles of the river.

The **Shelldrake River** is a river in Chippewa County. It flows through Tahquamenon Falls State Park and the Lake Superior State Forest into Lake Superior. The Shelldrake River's headwaters are an undefined area in the Betsy Lake Wetland, an Eastern Hemlock and tamarack forest in the roadless area of northern Tahquamenon Falls State Park. This wetland, in Chippewa County and adjacent Luce County, is dominated by Lake Superior-fed rain and snow. Much of the Shelldrake River's course passes through the Betsy Lake Wetland, and an alternate name for the river is "Betsy River." The Shelldrake River flows generally west-to-east towards its mouth in northern Whitefish Township and empties into Whitefish Bay, Lake Superior. A dam impounds the river 8 miles northwest of Shelldrake.

The Carp River Basin, Waishkey River Basin and Pine River Basin are located in central Chippewa and the central part of Mackinac Counties.

The **Carp River** of Mackinac and Chippewa Counties is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River in the Upper Peninsula. Approximately 45 miles long, the river rises near Trout Lake, Michigan in Chippewa County. The river then flows southeast into Mackinac County, continuing in this county until it flows into St. Martin Bay, Lake Huron. In contrast to much of the Upper Peninsula, the Carp River’s watershed is relatively flat, and there are no waterfalls on the river. It is often used by paddlers.
The Charlotte River Basin, Little Munuscong River Basin and Munuscong River Basin are located on the eastern shore of Chippewa County with parts of the Munuscong reaching into Mackinac County.

2.6 Population and Demographics

The County has seen great fluctuations in population over the past five decades as shown in the table below. Much of this is attributed to the Kincheloe Air Force Base closure in the 1970’s. With the re-development of the Air Force Base into several State Correctional Facilities, the population began to climb until reaching a peak in 2005. Since then, the population has remained somewhat steady but current numbers show a decline of approximately 900 persons in 2017. Correctional facilities in Kinross Township were reduced to two. This downward trend is expected to turn around with the anticipated expansion of the US Army Corps of Engineers Soo Locks which was approved for funding by President Trump through the "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018,". Construction of a new 1,200’ lock is expected to take seven to ten years and will have a major impact on the economy and employment opportunities.

2.6.1 Population

![Population Chart]

Table 4: Chippewa County Population Trend 1970-2017, US Census Bureau

2.6.2 Population in Group Quarters

According to the 2017 Census estimates there were 4,130 people living in group quarters. Of that number it is estimated that 2,339 are located in the Chippewa Correctional Facility and 1,420 are located in the Kinross Correctional Facility. Both correctional facilities are located in Kinross Charter Township.
2.6.3 Housing Units

The 2017 Census estimated there are 21,457 housing units in Chippewa County, an increase of 204 units from 2010. On average, there were 2.42 persons per household.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>1-Apr-10 Census</th>
<th>Housing Unit Estimate (as of July 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa County, Michigan</td>
<td>21,253</td>
<td>21,253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Chippewa County Housing Units, 2017; Source: https://factfinder.census.gov

Of the occupied housing units 47.6% relied on utility gas, 21.1% on bottled, tank or LP gas, 16.1% on electricity, 3.7% on fuel oil/kerosene and 9.4% on wood for heating.

2.6.4 Seasonal Population

In 2010, there were 5,531 housing units (26.0% of the county’s total) listed as “seasonal, recreational or occasional use”, which shows a substantial seasonal flow of people into and out of the county, depending on the time of year (season). Throughout the County, the percentage of seasonal homes continued to be high, with the lowest percentages found in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Dafter Township, and Kinross Charter Township. The highest percentages were found in Whitefish Township, Drummond Island Township, and Chippewa Township, five other townships had seasonal housing percentages above 40%. The influx of population is believed to be highest during the summer months, and can be directly correlated with the holidays (Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day). However, in areas such as Trout Lake, Superior Township, Hulbert, Whitefish and Chippewa, seasonal increases are also being found during the winter months, as snowmobiling has increased exponentially in popularity in recent years. Another seasonal increase can be found during the late fall when hunting season formally begins statewide.

2.6.5 Age

The age of the residents in Chippewa County continues to rise, as evidenced by the table below, 26.4% of the total population falls between the ages of 35-54 years old, and this represents a decrease of 9% since the 2000 Census. The median age in the County is 39.7, compared to 39.6 for the State of Michigan.
CHIPPEWA COUNTY 2010-2017 POPULATION BY AGE cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>% DIFF. from 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 yrs.</td>
<td>5,863</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>5,239</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>-10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 59 yrs.</td>
<td>2,579</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>2,757</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 64 yrs.</td>
<td>2,247</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>2,317</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 yrs.</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>3,643</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 84 yrs.</td>
<td>1,839</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1,837</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38,520</td>
<td></td>
<td>38,023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHIPPEWA COUNTY MEDIAN AGE 1990-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Median Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Source: ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates |

Table 6: Chippewa Co. Population by Age 2010-2017/Median Age 1990-2017; Source: https://factfinder.census.gov

2.6.6 Employment

The 2015 Labor Force was 16,880 people with a 7.4% unemployment rate. The major employers in the County include: Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, War Memorial Hospital, Kincheloe Correctional Complex, Lake Superior State University, Sault Area Schools and Bay Mills Indian Community.

2.7 Land Use Patterns

Major land uses in Chippewa County include forestry, recreation, and agriculture.

Forestry constitutes the major land use in the County. Approximately 72 percent of the total land area is forested. Major forest types include white-red-jack pine, spruce-fir, maple-beech-birch, elm-ash-cottonwood and aspen-birch.

Agriculture is the next largest land use with an area totaling about 12 percent of the County although it is not a major economic factor for the County.

The remainder of the County is made up of wetlands at 8 percent, rangeland at 4 percent, urban and built up areas constituting about 3 percent, water and barren land completing the make-up of land use at 1 percent.

Recreation is of course, one type of land use that must be considered in Chippewa County. It is well suited for outdoor recreation and tourism development throughout the year.

2.8 Transportation Network

Chippewa County is connected to the outside by four modes of transportation: highway, railway, air service and seaway.
2.8.1 Highways

Chippewa County has 281 miles of State highways, 1,300 miles of County roads and 88 miles of city streets in Sault Ste. Marie. There are 9 main highways in the county: Interstate I-75, M-28, M-129, M-134, M-221, M-48, M-123, and M-80. County roads H-63 and H-40 are major county routes with many more miles of paved, gravel and graded county roads that provide access to other parts of the county. Automobile and truck traffic utilize almost all roads in the county.

Interstate I-75 travels north/south from the Mackinac Bridge to the International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie. State highway M-129 also travels north/south connecting the City of Sault Ste. Marie to the community of Pickford and the community of Cedarville in Mackinac County. Highway M-28 is an east/west route to Luce County and beyond. Highway M-48 connects with I-75 and M-129 and travels east/west connecting the communities of Rudyard, Pickford, Stalwart, Raber and Goetzville. Highway M-123 connects Trout Lake with communities north and west such as Paradise in Whitefish Township and Newberry in Luce County. A small portion of M-134 within the county travels eastward to the communities of DeTour Village and Drummond Island. Highway M-80 connects Kincheloe with I-75 to the west and M-129 to the east. Highway M-221 connects Brimley to Highway M-28.

County road H-63, also known as Mackinac Trail, travels north/south from Sault Ste. Marie to St. Ignace in Mackinac County connecting the communities of Dafter, Kinross and Rudyard. County Road H-40 travels east/west connecting Rudyard with Trout Lake and communities west.

2.8.2 Air Service

Chippewa County International Airport, established in 1978 as part of the KAFB closure and owned by the Chippewa Co. Economic Development Corporation, is located in Kincheloe. The airport extends south into Pickford Township and currently operates a main runway 7,200’ by 200’ and a second cross-winds runway of approximately 5,600’. The airport provides flight services to more than 10,000 persons annually and, is classified as a primary air carrier. It is classified as a Class A airport, providing fueling facilities and attendants on a 24 hour daily schedule. The airport covers approximately 400 acres of land in Kinross Charter Township including an abandoned 40 acre paved fueling pad formerly used by the KAFB. The Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association launched an initiative to build a spaceport in Michigan by 2022 and, at the time of this writing, the Chippewa County International Airport was one of the areas under consideration.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie operates a municipal airport within the City limits. The airport has a terminal and office but there are no scheduled services. The facility can accommodate small corporate jets and Turbo-Prop aircraft.

Drummond Island also has an airport with a paved runway that can accommodate small aircraft. Smaller private airfields with grass runways or a seaplane base can be found in Hulbert, Trout Lake, and Neebish Island.
2.8.3 Seaways

Water is an important means of transportation in and about Chippewa County. Great Lakes freighters carrying iron ore, oil and grain utilize Lakes Superior and Huron and the St. Mary’s River, all which border the county. The Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie are important to the city and the county in terms of employment and tourist expenditures. Over 11,000 vessels pass through the Lock with a shipping season beginning in April and running as long as possible before ice sets in usually in December or January.

Car and passenger ferry service operated by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority (EUPTA) is available to Sugar Island from Sault Ste. Marie, Neebish Island from Barbeau and Drummond Island from DeTour Village.

Deep-water harbors in Chippewa County include the old Union Carbide Dock in Sault Ste. Marie and the Drummond Dolomite located on Drummond Island. There are several other small boat harbor facilities located in Sault Ste. Marie, DeTour Village, and Whitefish Point. There are also several public boat launches located in the County all along the shoreline.

2.8.4 Railway

There is no available railroad passenger service in Chippewa County. The Canadian National Railroad owns and operates the only railway service in the county. There are approximately 90 miles of track in Chippewa County, which carry forest and paper products, hay and steel products as well as hazardous waste. Most of the steel transported originates from Essar Steel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The track connects the County to Central U.P. and Western U.P. and the State of Wisconsin to the west, and Canada to the north.

2.8.5 Bus Transit

Within the City of Sault Ste. Marie taxi service and Dial-A-Ride bus service are available. The Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority (EUPTA) has a bus service from DeTour Village through Pickford north to Sault Ste. Marie and back during the weekdays. Also during the week a bus runs from Sault Ste. Marie to Rudyard, Trout Lake, Eckerman Corners, and H-40. The EUPTA also provides daily transportation from Sault Ste. Marie to Kincheloe and back with scheduled runs to coincide with the prison employee’s schedules. Indian Trails Buslines operates a daily bus service from Sault Ste. Marie to St. Ignace.

2.9 Utilities

2.9.1 Electric

The Cloverland Electric Power Canal is used to power the Cloverland Electric Hydroelectric Plant located at the eastern end of the canal. It is the longest hydroelectric plant in the world at 1,340 ft. in length. The plant consists of 74 three-phase generators capable of generating 25 to 30 MW. The hydro plant is faced with stone quarried during the excavation of the Power Canal.
The Power Canal runs between Lake Superior and Lake Huron through the city of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, south of the American locks. The canal separates downtown Sault Ste. Marie from its mainland making it an island. Measured from its head gates to its end at the power plant, it is 2.25 miles in length, between 200 ft. and 220 ft. wide, and 24 ft. deep. The water runs down the canal at speeds upwards of 7 mph. Construction of the canal began in September 1898 as the Michigan Lake Superior Power Company Canal, but was completed by Edison Sault Electric Company in June 1902. The Edison Sault Electric Company was purchased by Cloverland Electric in 2010.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates 2 hydroelectric generating plants directly north of the American locks.

American Transmission Co. owns and operates high-voltage electric transmission systems that provide the pathway for power into communities throughout Chippewa County.

2.9.2 Natural Gas & Oil
DTE Energy Co. is a diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide and provide services in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County.

Trans-Canada Pipeline maintains a pipeline providing natural gas distribution within and through the County and in Canada.

2.9.3 Communications
A fiber optic network and communication towers located throughout Chippewa County, provide a variety of communication services including land line telephone, cable and wireless internet, radio and cell phone communication. Charter Communications, AT&T, and Peninsula Fiber Network make up the majority of area’s fiber connectivity.

2.9.4 Warning Sirens
Municipalities are responsible for the installation and operation of warning sirens. Fire chiefs, township supervisors and police chiefs are authorized to activate these systems. From the 2005 Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan there were sirens located in 15 communities in the County. In 2019, ten are no longer used in Whitefish, Trout Lake, Pickford, Sugar Island Superior, Kinross Charter, Drummond Island, Bay Mills, Dafter and Soo Townships. Hulbert Township maintains a siren and must trigger theirs manually. They test it once a month. DeTour Village has a manual siren which sounds a short signal for the monthly fire meeting and a longer alert for a fire. Rudyard Township maintains a siren system and triggers a noon siren on a timer. The City of Sault Ste. Marie maintains a siren and triggers their alarm nightly at 10 PM to sound the curfew for teenagers. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians installed ten 30-foot towers throughout their seven-county service area in 2012 including two in or near housing complexes in Soo Township and Kinross Township. With the use of smart technology these siren warning systems are becoming outdated. There have been no educational campaigns for the public to make them aware of siren warnings, what they mean, and what
one should do if they hear it. Much of the public can receive warnings through a text message that provides much more information.

2.9.5 Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities

SSM City Water Treatment Plant services the City of Sault Ste. Marie and portions of Soo Township, which is located on the south side of 3 Mile Road, the city’s limits. The water treatment facility is located on the western part of the City just south of Sherman Park. The facility is rated at 6,000,000 gallons per day. This facility possesses underground storage of finished water for up to 1,500,000 gallons. The wastewater treatment plant located on E. Portage Avenue across from the Armory has primary treatment capacity of 15 million gallons per day; secondary treatment capacity is 12 million gallons per day. The city also has 3 primary water towers. The W. 4th Avenue water tower has a capacity of 750,000 gallons; the W. 25th Avenue water tower has a capacity of 250,000 gallons; and the Radar Road water tower has a capacity of 200,000 gallons.

Kinross Charter Township provides water from deep wells; two located near the 500,000 gallon water tower and three wells located near the 250,000 gallon water tower. Potable water is available in the residential, commercial, and industrial sections of the developed area of the former KAFB, covering approximately four-square miles and serving approximately 6,568 people, including approximately 5,300 prison inmates. All the public water wells are 12 inches in diameter and are drilled to depths between 175 and 212 feet. The two newest wells were installed by the Corps of Engineers and brought on line in April of 2001. One well was taken offline because of sand issues and the Township had a new well drilled. Water is pumped from these wells directly into the distribution system.

The Kinross Township area is serviced by three storm drainage areas. The first drainage area services the developed residential neighborhood located in the northern part of the former Kincheloe Air Force Base (KAFB). The area is serviced by concrete storm drains with catch basin inlets at the street edge. The storm drain outlets are north of the residential area, discharging into a mixed forest. The Windermere condominium area has experienced minor road flooding, and it is believed that parts of this area may be serviced with filtration type drains without a surface outlet. The second drainage area services the industrial area south of M-80. The area is serviced by concrete storm drain with catch basin inlets at street edge. The storm drain system outlet is southwest of the airport and discharges into a ravine which then traverses to low wetland area. The third storm drainage area is located in the commercial and residential area north of M-80. The area is serviced by concrete storm drain with catch basin inlets at street edge. The storm drain outlet is east of the Country Club Road and then traverses by way of open ditch and culvert to the south of M-80 and the prison complex and discharges into a ravine and a low wetland area.

Township sanitary sewers are available in the residential, commercial, and industrial sections of the developed area of the former KAFB. The sanitary mains within the system are vitrified clay pipe, and sewer laterals are 6 inch diameter vitrified clay pipe. Numerous sewer laterals have been replaced by property owners by slip lining 4 inch diameter PVC pipe inside
the 6 inch vitrified clay pipe. There are eight lift stations within the system and all are equipped with standby backup generators.

The unincorporated village of Rudyard had water and sewer services installed in the mid 1990’s. The sewer system is a three stage lagoon which runs by pressure on the east side of town and gravity flow through the central area and continuing to the west side.

Water is provided by Rudyard Township through two production wells with a 125,000 gallon elevated water tank located on the east side of town.

DeTour Village has a public water and sewer system that was installed in the 1970’s and is maintained by the Village’s Department of Public Works. The lagoon lies on the outskirts of town in DeTour Township.

### 2.10 Emergency Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2.10.1 County</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa County Office of Emergency Management maintains and operates the 911 Central Dispatch for the County. Extensively trained full-time and authorized part-time personnel staff the center 24 hours, 365 days a year, providing service to the county’s residents in an area of 2,698 square miles. The center also houses the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), used in the event of a large casualty or extended duration event; the EOC is also used by various agencies and groups for meetings and training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) Office of Emergency Preparedness currently keeps and maintains several county-wide plans that are intended to increase preparedness and response that will greatly reduce the loss of life and property during a natural or man-made public health emergency. CCHD collaborates daily with other county, tribal, and hospital preparedness partners to identify the most probable hazards in Chippewa County and the most efficient ways to respond to them. They develop partnerships at the local and regional level to help organize the people and resources that may be needed before, during, and after an emergency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chippewa County Road Commission is responsible for maintaining the county roads, bridges, road signs, and traffic signals within the County to provide a safe and convenient transportation system for the public. Several maintenance garages and the equipment necessary for this task are located throughout the County.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chippewa County Building Department and Drain Commissioner is responsible for processing permits, site reviews, inspections and enforcement of local building codes.

Chippewa County maintains a sheriff’s department that includes road patrol, marine and corrections divisions, as well as, maintaining a county jail. In addition, the County Sheriff’s department provides security and educational programs for the area’s schools.

### 2.10.2 State

The Michigan State Police maintain a presence in Sault Ste. Marie and service the entire County.

The Sault Area Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Management Unit is responsible for approximately 125,000 acres in Chippewa County and Eastern Mackinac County, including ownership on numerous islands in the St. Mary's River and Lake Huron. Most notable are over 47,000 acres on Drummond Island. Besides the main office located in Sault Ste. Marie there is the DeTour Office, a one-person station. The East Unit covers Chippewa and parts of Mackinac County.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is a State regulatory agency that oversees the water quality of lakes, rivers and streams, air quality, waste management and environmental land quality of Michigan.

### 2.10.3 Federal

US Hiawatha National Forest Service also provides firefighting capabilities and equipment with a service center located in Superior Township.

The US Army Corps of Engineers maintains the Soo Locks facilities in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The Corps mission is to deliver vital public and military engineering services; partnering in peace and war to strengthen the Nation’s security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters.
As a Port of Entry city, Sault Ste. Marie is home to the US Customs and Border Protection Department. It is one of the Department of Homeland Security’s largest and most complex components with a priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing the border and facilitating lawful international trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws and regulations, including immigration and drug laws. U.S. Border Patrol also operates a station in Sault Ste. Marie.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie is responsible for all Coast Guard missions on Lake Superior and Northern Lakes Michigan and Huron including surrounding navigable waterways, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Aids to Navigation, Marine Safety, and Homeland Security. Located on the St. Mary’s River in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, the Sector is the operational and administrative commander of 15 subordinate field units, which include 8 Multi-Mission Small Boat Stations, 1 Marine Safety Unit, 2 Aids to Navigation Teams, and 4 Coast Guard Cutters.

### 2.10.4 Local Jurisdiction Police

- City of Sault Ste. Marie Police Department
- Kinross Charter Township Police Department
- Bay Mills Indian Community Police Department
- Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Police Department

### 2.10.5 Local Jurisdiction Fire

The City of Sault Ste. Marie maintains a Fire Department which covers 14 square miles with fire prevention and protection. The Sault Ste. Marie Fire Department originated in 1884 and has been housed in the same building since 1907.

In addition to the City, most Townships within the county maintain a fire department with service equipment and a volunteer crew; Bay Mills, Bruce, Dafter, DeTour Village, Drummond, Hulbert, Kinross Charter, Pickford, Raber, Rudyard, Soo (including Neebish Island), Sugar Island, Superior, Trout Lake, and Whitefish.

### 2.10.6 Local Jurisdiction Ambulance

The City of Sault Ste. Marie services 7 townships; Kinross Charter, Trout Lake, Clark, DeTour, Drummond Island, Whitefish, Pickford, Sugar Island including the City with Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Kinross EMS is a 24/7 medical services department.
Bay Mills Emergency Connection services Bay Mills and Superior Townships with 24 hour service department.

DeTour Village and several Townships within the County also maintain ambulance service equipment and trained volunteers; DeTour, Drummond, Pickford, Sugar Island, and Whitefish Township. Two townships no longer provide service due to lack of trained volunteers.

### 2.10.7 Other Agencies

**War Memorial Hospital, located in Sault Ste. Marie, provides a variety of health services to the residents of the county and surrounding area.**

**The Chippewa County Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Office is in Sault Ste. Marie and provides various educational and outreach activities involving agriculture and health.**

**The EUP Transportation Authority (EUPTA) is the connection for local transportation in Chippewa and Luce Counties of the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Established in 1975 the EUPTA operates 3 local vehicle and passenger ferries to the nearby islands of Sugar, Neebish and Drummond and also operates a rural public busing system with scheduled runs to and from Sault Ste. Marie to local areas such as Kinceloe, DeTour, Brimley, Rudyard and a few others.**

**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission is one of 14 Regional Agencies in the State of Michigan; established in 1968 as a multi-county organization to pool resources for the assistance of local governments in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The agency assists EUP cities, townships and counties in the areas of grant writing, community surveys, land use planning, recreation planning, economic and community development, transportation, and GIS mapping.**

**The Sault Ste. Marie Salvation Army provides emergency disaster assistance as well as training and educational programs in emergency preparedness.**

### 2.11 Critical Facilities

When dealing with natural disasters, some development is more important than others, and these are considered to be “critical facilities.” Critical facilities are buildings and
infrastructure whose exposure or damage can affect the wellbeing of a large group. For example, the impact of a flood or tornado on a hospital is greater than on a home or most businesses.

Generally, critical facilities fall into two categories:

1. Buildings or locations vital to public safety and the disaster response and recovery effort, such as police and fire stations and telephone exchanges, and
2. Buildings or locations that, if damaged, would create secondary disasters. Examples of such buildings or locations are hazardous materials facilities and nursing homes.

Critical facilities are not strictly defined by any agency. Seven categories of critical facilities were used by the Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee in the 2019 plan:

1. Hazardous materials sites.
2. Health facilities: hospitals and nursing homes.
3. Emergency response facilities: police and fire stations, public works sites, etc.
4. Utilities: water and wastewater treatment plants, electrical substations, etc.
5. Schools.
6. Places of assembly, such as casinos, or campgrounds or festivals that host over 1,000 people

An additional category of historical/cultural facilities was incorporated into this update.

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<th>Critical Facilities</th>
<th>Hazard Material Sites</th>
<th>Health Facilities</th>
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CC NHMP 25 January, 2020
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*Table 7: Chippewa County Critical Facilities by Local Unit of Government*