



*Port Huron & St. Clair County, MI*  
**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER  
HEALTH EQUITY REPORT CARD**

● ● ● ● ● 2024

# INTRODUCTION AND KEY

PORT HURON | ST. CLAIR COUNTY | MICHIGAN | UNITED STATES

## A: 1.0-1.4

No disparity

The Substance Use Disorder Health Equity Report Card (SUD-HERC) supports the health and well-being of **St. Clair County** and city of **Port Huron** residents by providing understandable, relevant, and actionable health outcome data. To do this, data is categorized (disaggregated) **by location** when available.

## B: 1.5-1.9

Some  
disparity

By understanding the current state of health disparities (differences) and health outcomes in our community, we can better address their causes and support prevention efforts. This will help us all live in a healthier community and create better lives for generations to come. The information presented in the SUD-HERC is only part of our community's story. It does not include the tremendous efforts by community organizations, residents or others to meet community needs in the Greater Port Huron area.

## C: 2.0-2.4

Disparity may  
require  
intervention

Information presented in the SUD-HERC includes **20 public health indicators** broken down **by location** (Port Huron, St. Clair County, Michigan, and the US). Each indicator is organized into one of **three categories**: health services and access, socioeconomic status, and substance use. Grouping the indicators into these categories helps us understand the health of our community. This way we can see what's working and what should be addressed.

## D: 2.5-2.9

Disparity  
requires  
intervention

To understand the differences for each indicator, we calculated a **disparity ratio**. This tells us how small (good) or large (bad) the differences are for each indicator. A **letter grade** is then given for each disparity (difference).

## F: 3.0+

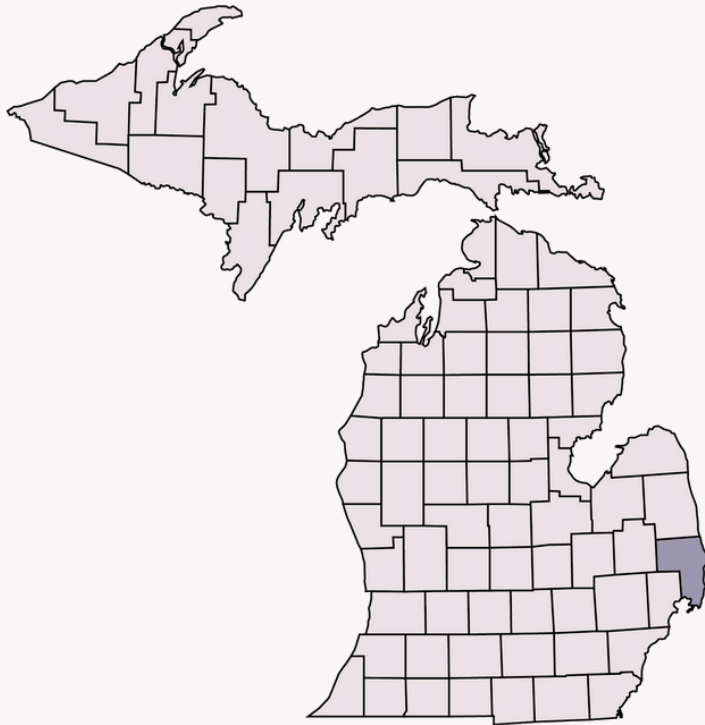
Critical  
disparity,  
requires  
immediate  
intervention

Importantly, we must keep in mind that little to no disparity (difference) - an A or B grade - does not mean adequate health services, access, behaviors, or outcomes. It simply means there isn't a large difference between race or geographic locations for this health indicator.

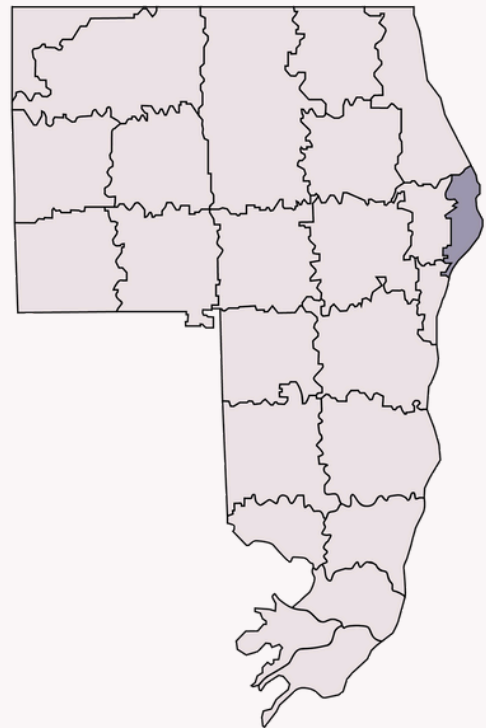
# DEMOGRAPHICS

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**St. Clair County** is highlighted below



**Port Huron** is highlighted below



Race/Ethnicity	St. Clair County	Port Huron
White	90.6%	77.6%
Hispanic or Latino	3.8%	7.3%
Black	2.5%	8.1%
Two or More Races	2.5%	8.1%
Asian	0.6%	0.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%	0.5%

**1.6%** of Michigan residents **live in** St. Clair County (**159,668 people**) and **17.9%** of St. Clair County residents **live in** the Port Huron area (**28,626 people**) (2022).

Age	St. Clair County	Port Huron
Under 18 years old	20.1%	21.8%
Between 18 to 64 years old	59.4%	60.6%
65 years old and older	20.5%	17.6%

Race/ethnicity and age data was gathered from the US Census (2023).

# FAST FACTS

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These fast facts provide information about indicators experiencing high disparities (in other words, the worst letter grades). The letter grades and their disparity ratios are provided in parentheses. An asterisk [\*] next to a letter grade indicates that St. Clair County faces worse outcomes than Port Huron for that indicator.

## Health Services and Access

- 12% of Port Huron residents **do not have a vehicle** (5.9% in St. Clair County) (2020 data; C grade [2.0 disparity ratio]).
- 98.6% of Port Huron residents are within a 15 minute drive of a **syringe service program** (46.5% in St. Clair County) (2021 data; C\* grade [2.1 disparity ratio]).
  - A syringe service program is a community-based prevention program that provides a range of services, including substance use disorder treatment, access to and disposal of sterile syringes and other injection tools, as well as vaccination, testing, and connection to continued care/treatment for infectious diseases.

## Socioeconomic Status

- 22% of Port Huron residents are **in poverty** (11.1% in St. Clair County) (2020 data; C grade [2.0 disparity ratio]).
- 10.7% of Port Huron households have **single parents with children under the age of 18** (6.1% in St. Clair County) (2020 data; B grade [1.8 disparity ratio]).
  - 32.1% of **Michigan** households have **single parents with children under the age of 18** (2021 data; F grade [5.3 disparity ratio]).

## Substance Use

- The **non-fatal overdose emergency department visits** per 100,000 residents is 663.3 in Port Huron (374.6 in St. Clair County) (2020 data; B grade [1.8 disparity ratio]).
- The **overdose death rate** per 100,000 residents is 7 in Port Huron (31.8 in St. Clair County) (2021 data; F\* grade [4.5 disparity ratio]).

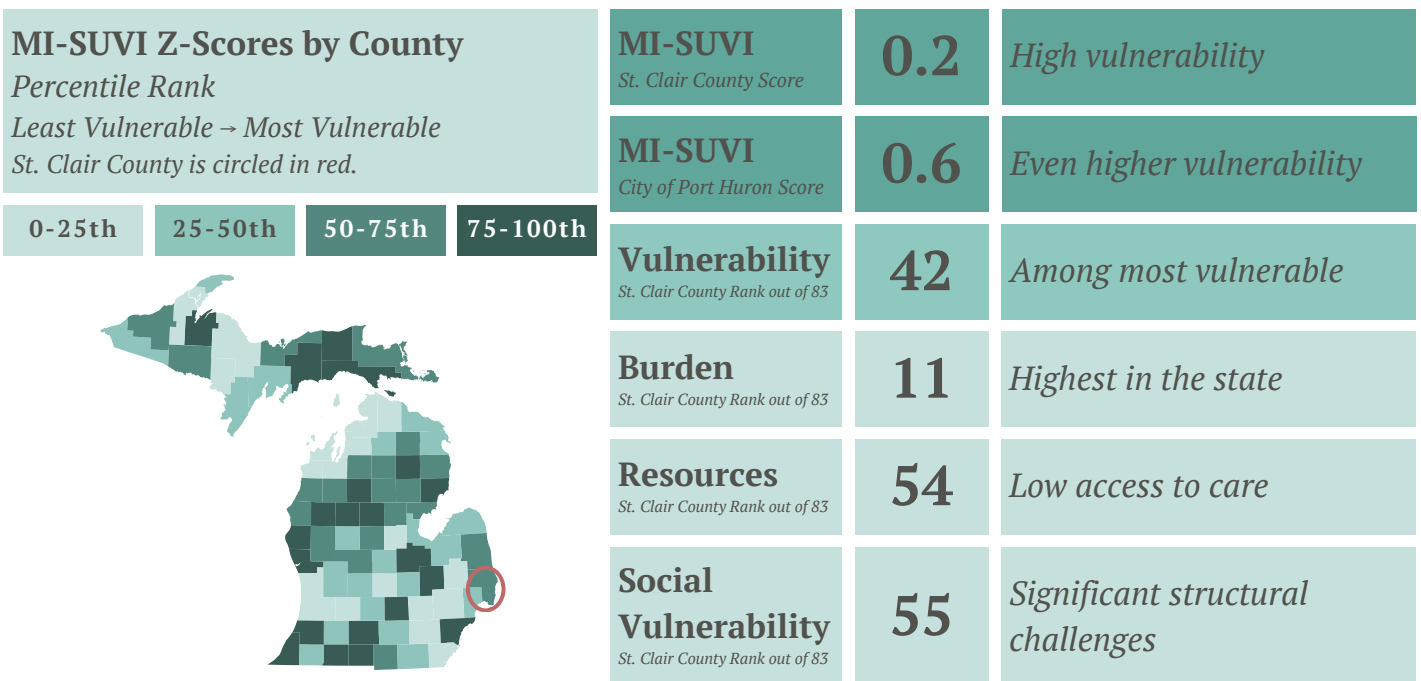
# SUBSTANCE USE VULNERABILITY INDEX SCORE (MI-SUVI)

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The Michigan Substance Use Vulnerability Index (MI-SUVI) is a tool developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to identify where and why communities across the state, like **Port Huron and St. Clair County**, face greater risks related to substance use. It combines data on overdose burden, access to care, and social vulnerability into one standardized score. By moving beyond overdose deaths alone, the MI-SUVI offers a more complete picture of the systems and structures that shape substance use risk—helping local leaders plan, fund, and advocate more equitably.

The MI-SUVI score is based on **8 data indicators** across **3 key areas**:

- **Substance Use Burden** – The impact of substance use on individuals and systems like healthcare and criminal justice.
- **Substance Use Resources** – Services available to help address substance use challenges.
- **Social Vulnerability** – Community factors (like poverty or housing instability) that shape health outcomes.



**St. Clair County** has a MI-SUVI score of **0.2**, placing it as the **42nd most vulnerable county** in Michigan. The **City of Port Huron** scores even higher, at **0.6**. St. Clair County ranks **11th in substance use burden**, **54th in access to resources**, and **55th in social vulnerability**—a stark snapshot of overlapping needs. This data helps ensure that action and resources are focused where they're needed most—especially in communities already facing compounded disadvantage.

## How MI-SUVI Scoring Works

Each county and ZIP code in Michigan receives a standardized score that shows how far above or below the statewide average it falls in terms of vulnerability. A higher MI-SUVI score indicates greater risk, whether due to high overdose rates, limited treatment access, or broader structural challenges like poverty or lack of healthcare.

# HEALTH SERVICES AND ACCESS

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This section highlights disparities related to access to health services in our community. By examining the availability of and barriers to health services, we can better understand the current state of SUD-related health equity in this region.

INDICATORS	YEAR(S)	MI x SCC Grade	MI x SCC Ratio	SCC x PH Grade	SCC x PH Ratio
Population without health insurance	MI: 2020 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.1	A	1.0
Households with no vehicle	MI: 2020 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.3	C	2.0
Households without internet	MI: 2017-20 SCC: 2017-20 PH: 2017-20	A	1.1	A	1.1
Population within 15 minute drive to a pharmacy	MI: 2021 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.1	A	1.1
Population within 30 minute drive to a hospital	MI: 2021 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.1	A	1.1
Population within 30 minute drive to a SUD treatment center	MI: 2021 SCC: 2021 PH: 2021	A	1.0	A	1.1
Population within 15 minute drive of a syringe service program	MI: 2021 SCC: 2021 PH: 2021	A	1.2	C*	2.1

Compared to Port Huron, **2 times** more individuals in St. Clair County **do not have a vehicle**. This indicates a **C grade** disparity that should be monitored and may require intervention. Individuals in Port Huron are **2.1 times** more likely to live **within a fifteen minute drive of a syringe service program** compared to St. Clair County. This indicates a **C grade** disparity that should be monitored and may require intervention.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Disparity ratios measure the difference in outcomes between two groups. The resulting number then determines the letter grade for that given indicator. A lack of disparity or difference does not mean adequate health services, access, behaviors, or outcomes. An asterisk [\*] indicates that St. Clair County [SCC] faces worse outcomes, rather than Michigan [MI] or Port Huron [PH].

<b>A: 1.0-1.4</b> No disparity	<b>B: 1.5-1.9</b> Some disparity	<b>C: 2.0-2.4</b> Disparity may require intervention	<b>D: 2.5-2.9</b> Disparity requires intervention	<b>F: 3.0+</b> Critical disparity, requires immediate intervention
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# SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

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This section highlights disparities related to social and economic factors in the community. By examining indicators such as income and education, we can better understand the current socioeconomic conditions that may affect SUD-related health equity in this region.

INDICATORS	YEAR(S)	MI x SCC Grade	MI x SCC Ratio	SCC x PH Grade	SCC x PH Ratio
High school graduate or higher	MI: 2017-21 SCC: 2017-21 PH: 2017-21	A	1.0	A	1.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	MI: 2017-21 SCC: 2017-21 PH: 2017-21	B*	1.6	A	1.1
Unemployed, ages 16+	MI: 2022 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.0	A	1.3
People in poverty	MI: 2020 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.2	C	2.0
Median household income	MI: 2017-20 SCC: 2017-20 PH: 2017-20	A	1.0	A	1.4
Single parent households with children	MI: 2021 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	F	5.3	B	1.8
High housing-cost-burden households	MI: 2015-19 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.1	A	1.4

Compared to St. Clair County, **2 times** more individuals in Port Huron are **in poverty**. This indicates a **C grade** disparity that should be monitored and may require intervention. Households in Port Huron are **1.8 times** more likely to be **single parent households with children** compared to St. Clair County. This indicates a **B grade** disparity that should be monitored.

## GRADING SYSTEM

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# SUBSTANCE USE

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This section highlights disparities for SUD and related indicators within the community. By examining factors such as drug-related arrests and overdose deaths, we can better understand the current state of SUD and related disparities in this region.

INDICATORS	YEAR(S)	MI x SCC Grade	MI x SCC Ratio	SCC x PH Grade	SCC x PH Ratio
Opioid prescription units	MI: 2021 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	B*	1.6	A	1.2
Buprenorphine prescription units	MI: 2021 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.4	A	1.4
Drug-involved traffic crashes	MI: 2021 SCC: 2021 PH: 2021	A	1.3	B	1.7
Drug-related arrests	MI: 2019 SCC: 2020 PH: 2020	A	1.0	A	1.3
Non-fatal overdose emergency department visits	MI: 2020 SCC: 2020 PH: 2021	A	1.2	B	1.8
Overdose deaths	MI: 2021 SCC: 2021 PH: 2020	A	1.2	F*	4.5

Individuals in Port Huron are **1.8 times** more likely to have a **non-fatal overdose emergency department visit** compared to St. Clair County. This indicates a **B grade** disparity that should be monitored. Individuals in St. Clair County are **4.5 times** more likely to have **died from overdose** compared to Port Huron. This indicates a **F grade** critical disparity that requires immediate intervention.

The **substance use vulnerability index score (MI-SUVI)** for Port Huron residents is **0.6** and **-0.1** in St. Clair County. This means that Port Huron and St. Clair County residents have been similarly impacted by substance use disorder compared to other residents across the state.

## GRADING SYSTEM

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# DEFINITION OF TERMS

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Using everyday words is one way that we can help create a healthier, more informed community. Listed below are terms that you will see in the Report Card. You may have also heard them used in the media or other places. To keep our community well informed, we include two definitions for each term: one in everyday language and one from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or another credible organization. The ‘formal’ definition is italicized.

## Access

Able to get.

*“Access to health care is the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best possible health outcomes.”*

— Healthy People 2030, US Department of Health and Human Services.

## Buprenorphine prescription unit

A medication used to treat serious pain or opioid use disorder. A prescription unit refers to the dosage, or how much you take at a time.

*“Buprenorphine is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).”*

— Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration.

## Chronic disease, illness, or condition

A serious health problem that goes on for a long time.

*“Conditions that last one year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both.”*

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Data

Facts, information, numbers.

*“Information, especially facts or numbers, collected to be examined and considered and used to help decision-making.”*

— Cambridge Online Dictionary.

## Health disparities

Differences in health among groups of people.

*“Preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by populations that have been disadvantaged by their social or economic status, geographic location, and environment.”*

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Health equity

Ensuring that everyone has the same chance to be as healthy as everyone else.

*“The state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health.”*

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## High-housing-cost burden

Expensive housing.

*“Housing costs account for 30% or more of a household's income.”*

— Michigan League for Public Policy.

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

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## Morbidity

Having a disease or medical problem.

*“Refers to having a disease or a symptom of disease, or to the amount of disease within a population. Also refers to medical problems caused by a treatment.”*

— National Cancer Institute.

## Mortality

Death or number of deaths.

*“The state of being mortal (destined to die). In medicine, a term also used for death rate, or the number of deaths in a certain group of people in a certain period of time.”*

— National Institutes of Health.

## Opioid prescription unit

Medication prescribed by a healthcare provider to relieve pain. A prescription unit refers to the dosage, or how much you take at a time.

*“Prescription opioids can be used to treat moderate-to-severe pain and are often prescribed following surgery or injury, or for health conditions such as cancer.”*

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Overdose death

A death caused by taking too much of a drug or combining drugs that are more dangerous when taken together.

*Overdose death “happens when a toxic amount of a drug, or combination of drugs overwhelms the body,” resulting in death.*

— National Harm Reduction Coalition.

## Social determinants of health (SDOH)

Non-medical factors that influence health outcomes.

*“[SDOH] are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.”*

— Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Substance use disorder (SUD)

A pattern of drug and/or alcohol use that leads to significant problems or distress.

*“A treatable mental disorder that affects a person’s brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.”*

— National Institute of Mental Health.

## Michigan substance use vulnerability index score (MI-SUVI)

How likely it is for a community to have drug problems.

*“The MI-SUVI score consists of 8 data indicators grouped into 3 components (Substance Use Burden, Substance Use Resources, Social Vulnerability) that make up the total score.” (Substance Use Burden: negative outcomes associated with SUD that place a burden on individuals and community resources such as the healthcare and justice systems. Substance Use Resources: resources available to the community that can be used to address the negative outcomes associated with SUD. Social vulnerability: a measure of community level characteristics known to be important drivers of health (i.e., social determinants of health)).*

— State of Michigan.

# PARTNERS AND SOURCES

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The Substance Use Disorder - Health Equity Report Card is supported through the **Flint Odyssey House (FOH)** and **Michigan State University's Addiction Consortium on Research and Education Network (ACORN)**.

Thank you to our partner, **Flint Odyssey House**, a multi-service therapeutic community organization dedicated to addressing substance use disorders and mental health issues in culturally diverse populations. FOH's mission is to provide intervention, prevention, and treatment services, and their vision is to break the cycle of substance abuse and poverty by returning individuals to their families and communities as productive members of society through a holistic and comprehensive recovery approach.

**ACORN** is focused on addressing substance use disorder issues in underserved communities. Its primary goals are community engagement, improving clinical care for SUD, and conducting research to better understand and enhance the SUD service system. ACORN works to bridge the gap in available SUD treatment services and resources, conducting research, and disseminating findings to inform policy, practice, and community stakeholders, ultimately striving for health equity in SUD care.

Data represented in the Report Card were retrieved from the following sources: **America's Health Rankings, Crime Grade, Federal Reserve Economic Data, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan League for Public Policy, State of Michigan, the US Census, and US News.**

**We appreciate your feedback!**

A brief survey can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3tPVAnv>.

Email any questions to Heatherlun Uphold at [upholdhe@msu.edu](mailto:upholdhe@msu.edu).



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