2019

KIDS COUNT

in **MICHIGAN**
DATA BOOK

What It's Like
to Be a Kid in
Michigan

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We wanted to make this book as bright and vibrant as Michigan's kids, so we asked children from around the state to submit artwork to show us "what it's like to be a kid in Michigan." Their responses are featured in this year's book.

Kids Count in Michigan is part of a broad national effort to measure the well-being of children at the state and local levels and use that information to shape efforts to improve the lives of children.

The project is housed at the Michigan League for Public Policy, a research and advocacy organization whose mission is to advance economic security, racial equity, health and well-being for all people in every part of Michigan through policy change.

kids count
in Michigan

www.mlpp.org

Acknowledgements

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Brook Robinson, Age 18

Introduction

Michigan is at a crossroads.

The data is clear and cannot be denied: We know the barriers children face to reaching their full potential. Some children face roadblocks along their pathway to success due to their family's income, where they live or because of inequitable access to opportunities based on race and ethnicity. Immigrant families have also experienced incredible trauma because of federal policy decisions. Policymakers, community leaders and residents have the opportunity to take action now to support all kids and families.

Our children are in need of leadership and courage from those with the ability to make change and strategic investments. For example, while educational outcomes continue to lag, study after study has determined that Michigan has underfunded public schools. Research has shown that funding has also not been equitably distributed to reach the students who need the most support.[1] If Michigan is going to reach its goal of becoming a "Top 10 in 10 Years" in education, then state leaders should prioritize our kids from cradle to career. The data shows that Michigan's children are struggling in other areas as well—not just in education—pointing to the need for comprehensive solutions that look at the whole child and the families and communities that they are a part of.

As we near the 2020 Census, there is also a responsibility to ensure that all people are counted. Young children and those living in high-poverty communities are more likely to be missed.[2] In Michigan, about 11% of young children live in hard-to-count areas. It's even higher in Detroit: 70% of young children are at high risk of being missed. Already undercounted are immigrants and those whose primary language may not be English, and with the proposed inclusion of a citizenship question on the census survey, the undercount will likely be even worse.[3] What's at stake if all children aren't counted? Over $4 billion in federal funding that is based on an accurate count of children to determine the need for programs and services, including child care, Medicaid and school lunch. Every child must be counted.

> We can either take the necessary steps to ensure adequate investments in our kids are made, or we can continue to languish while other states move ahead.

As in previous editions, the *2019 Kids Count in Michigan Data Book* lays out the data to help illustrate the state of Michigan's children. The report is a tool to be used to make informed policy decisions. The strategies may vary for kids depending on their needs—which are identified through the data. However, one thing is clear: Everyone wants every child in our state to thrive. We can either take the necessary steps to ensure adequate investments in our kids are made, or we can continue to languish while other states move ahead.

About the Kids Count Indicators

Economic Security

Children in Poverty (Ages 0-17)

-U.S. Census Bureau, SAIPE-

Children growing up in poverty ($24,858 for a family of four in 2017) are much more likely than their peers to experience stress and deprivation that hinders health, development and readiness for school, and other developmental outcomes.

Young Children Eligible for SNAP (Ages 0-5)

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

The Michigan Food Assistance Program (FAP), known as SNAP nationally, provides financial assistance to families with low incomes to buy groceries, striving to reduce food insecurity.

Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunches

-Center for Education Performance Information-

K-12 students from families with incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level are eligible for a fully subsidized lunch. Those from families with incomes between 130% and 185% of poverty are eligible for reduced-price lunch. This is commonly used as a proxy for poverty.

Health & Safety

Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Prenatal care increases the chances of a healthy pregnancy and birth. Adequacy of prenatal care is based on the Kessner Index, which measures adequacy by the month the care began, number of prenatal visits and length of the pregnancy. Prenatal care is adequate when it begins in the first trimester and includes, on average, at least one or two additional prenatal visits per month, depending on length of gestation.

Low-Birthweight Babies

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Infants born with low birthweight (less than 5 lbs., 8 oz.) are at a higher risk for physical and developmental delays that hinder growth, school readiness and long-term health outcomes.

Infant Mortality

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Infants who die before their first birthday is a child outcome, but also an indicator of population health. There are several main causes of infant deaths, some of which are genetic and others are environmental factors.

Child/Teen Deaths (Ages 1-19)

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Child and teen death rates from all causes, such as accidents, illnesses, homicide and suicide, can reveal underlying issues and inequities within communities, such as neighborhood safety, access to healthcare or exposure to environmental toxins.

Family & Community

Births to Teens (Ages 15-19)

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Teen moms often struggle to complete high school, live in poverty, and raise a child alone, making it more difficult for them to create good early learning environments to ensure their children are ready and prepared for school. Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to be born too early and/or too small.

Children in Families Investigated for Abuse/Neglect

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Each reported case of abuse or neglect is investigated and categorized based on the evidence collected and the safety risk for recurrence of abuse or neglect.

Children Confirmed as Victims of Abuse/Neglect

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Experiencing abuse or neglect as a child is one adverse childhood experience (ACE) that hinders healthy development and outcomes into adulthood.

Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care Due to Abuse/Neglect

-MI Dept. of Health & Human Services-

Children are removed from their families and placed in a foster home, relative care, residential care or shelter following substantiated abuse or neglect. This also has an adverse effect on health, development and outcomes into adulthood.

Education

3- and 4-Year-Olds NOT in Preschool

-U.S. Census Bureau, SAIPE-

Children who participate in high-quality preschool programs are more likely to be socially and cognitively ready for kindergarten.

Students NOT Graduating From High School on Time

-MI Dept. of Education-

Students who graduate with their cohort within four years are more likely to be better prepared for postsecondary education or training.

Third-Graders NOT Proficient in English Language Arts

-MI Dept. of Education-

After third grade, students read to learn rather than learn to read, making third-grade reading proficiency an important benchmark of future academic outcomes, such as high school graduation and long-term economic security.

Eighth-Graders NOT Proficient in Math

-MI Dept. of Education-

Proficiency in math by the end of middle school prepares students for high school math courses, increasing chances of graduation and development of basic math skills for adulthood.

Students NOT College Ready

-MI Dept. of Education-

Students who meet the college readiness benchmarks are more likely to successfully complete entry-level college requirements without remediation courses. Being college ready at the start of college increases the likelihood of postsecondary graduation.

Using the Data Book

Since 1992, the Michigan League for Public Policy has produced the annual *Kids Count in Michigan Data Book.*

The book reviews background and trend data to evaluate the well-being of children throughout communities in Michigan while identifying policy strategies that could be implemented to improve outcomes. The base period for the 2019 book is 2012 compared to 2017, unless otherwise noted. The report analyzes 16 key indicators across four domains: 1) economic security; 2) health and safety; 3) family and community; and 4) education. The overall child well-being rank is based on a county's rank in 14 of the 16 measures; infant mortality and child and teen deaths are excluded as many counties do not have sufficient data on these two indicators.

The following data limitations exist, or continue to exist, in this year's report:

Children hospitalized for asthma: In 2015, there were changes in the coding, making previous and future years incomparable. With this change, the data is only available in a single year, which means that almost all counties do not have data available since this data is generally reported in three-year averages.

Virtual schools: Due to the methodology and available data, virtual schools are included in county data according to the location of the virtual school authorizer.

Program participation in Detroit and Flint: Kids Count in Michigan has been unable to obtain Detroit and Flint data for the Food Assistance Program and Family Independence Program despite multiple requests. Detroit data are available through December 2016. Flint data remain unavailable at this time.

M-STEP and college readiness: In September 2018, new disclosure avoidance rules were applied to M-STEP and college readiness data. As a result, districts with fewer than 10 test-takers, or where the number of students not meeting proficiency or college readiness was suppressed, were excluded from analysis. County and city totals are estimations that may exclude some districts, and careful consideration should be taken when comparing data across years due to changes in data disclosure.

Throughout the report, the term "low income" refers to 200% of federal poverty while "poverty" refers to 100% of federal poverty. Additionally, please note changes to racial and ethnic terminology. Both the switch to "Latinx" to refer to the Hispanic/Latino community and the use of African American, unhyphenated, have been made intentionally in the interest of inclusion.

Data by race and ethnicity is collected and reported differently based on the source, and data labels in charts and the narrative may differ to reflect this. The Children's Services Administration at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has made their data available in a detailed breakdown, which is then categorized by the League. All children with a race code that includes Hispanic are categorized as "Hispanic," while children with multiple race codes are categorized as "Multiracial." Children with single race codes are categorized accordingly. The MDHHS also includes race codes "Unable to Determine" and "No Match Found," which the League categorizes as "Unable to Determine." Due to these changes, data prior to fiscal year 2016 cannot be compared. Additionally, for the first time, Vital Statistics data from the MDHHS was provided in a raw format allowing the League to conduct more in-depth analysis by race and ethnicity; however, these data are still comparable to previous years.

Finally, caution should be taken when reviewing rates (e.g., per 1,000 or 100,000), percentages and numbers. Small population numbers in some areas of the state often result in data being suppressed, and small numbers may cause percentage changes in a rate to appear more significant. Also, keep in mind that some data are based on different time frames (e.g., school years, fiscal years, and three-year and five-year averages).

Data Into Action

Strategies for Improving Overall Child Well-Being

Michigan has seen some positive movement in recent years in policy decisions and investments, yet outcomes for children have been mostly stagnant, pointing to the need to do much more. Data should be used by policymakers to understand where efforts should be focused in order to support all kids and families across the state. Applying a racial equity lens to proposed policies and using two-generation strategies are two approaches that should be adopted to improve the overall well-being of kids, families and communities.

Economic Security

Key Findings

Nearly 1 in 5 kids in Michigan live below the federal poverty line, which is not an adequate measure of the share of families whose basic needs are going unmet.

An estimated 23% of children live in working families with low incomes who are struggling to make ends meet, in part, because of low-wage jobs, unaffordable child care and housing, and a lack of access to affordable postsecondary training and education programs to help gain the skills necessary to obtain a job that pays well.

Recommendations

Modernize the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to allow young workers and childless adults, often noncustodial parents, to receive the credit. The EITC helps workers with low wages keep more of what they earn to make ends meet. Research shows that children in families receiving the EITC benefit through improved educational and health outcomes.

Ensure access to affordable, high-quality child care by expanding income eligibility levels for subsidies and increasing provider reimbursement rates. Child care helps provide early learning experiences for children, allows parents to work and benefits employers.

Support youth and young adults to access postsecondary training, credentialing and education programs through flexible programming and increased financial aid. Providing multiple paths to access postsecondary programs, like early middle college programs, can help students achieve necessary career skills. It is also important to make college affordable for all students.

Health & Safety

Key Findings

Significant health disparities exist by race and ethnicity for women and children in Michigan.

African American babies are more than two times as likely to die before their first birthdays, there is an increasing rate of Latinx infant mortalities and women of color face more barriers to accessing adequate prenatal care.

With a low of 3% uninsured, Michigan does well in providing health coverage to children, but more can be done.

Recommendations

Expand home visitation programs and strengthen the system by creating a centralized intake process that will ensure families are able to participate in the program that will meet their needs best. Home visiting programs are evidence-based and research shows that they improve outcomes in health, economic security and school readiness.

Restore funding for family planning and pregnancy prevention programs to previous levels. Unintended pregnancy can lead to delayed prenatal care and preterm births, which impact the health of moms and babies, including maternal and infant mortality.

Under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), states have the ability to provide health coverage to lawfully residing immigrant children before the five-year wait period ends. Michigan should extend coverage to these children to promote better health.

Family & Community

Key Findings

More than **1 in 5** kids in Michigan have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), stressful or traumatic events impacting long-term well-being.

Michigan is one of four states to still automatically prosecute 17-year-old children as adults in the criminal justice system **regardless of the crime.** This law prevents youth from accessing age-appropriate treatment in the juvenile justice system and increases trauma for young people while also leading to higher crime rates and more violent offenses.

Additionally, **the rate of child abuse and neglect has continued to rise**—by 30% from 2012 to 2017—with disproportionate impacts on children of color. There are also recent increases in the rate of children placed in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect.

Approximately **58%** of young people exit foster care because they are emancipated or age out of the system without any permanence, meaning without a recognized adult parenting relationship in place.

Recommendations

Raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years old and fully fund its implementation.

Promote comprehensive strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect, including investments in job training and child care, along with positive parenting education, such as home visitation programs.

Address disparities in the child welfare system through appropriate data collection and cultural competency training for workers.

Ensure adequate support for programs that assist foster youth exiting the system with education, housing and work. In Michigan, only 3% of youth transitioning out of foster care receive employment assistance, and just 1% receive education support.

Education

Key Findings

M-STEP, the state's standardized assessment on English Language Arts, math, science and social studies, has been in place for four years.

56% of third-graders test below proficiency in reading.

Over **67%** of eighth-graders are not proficient in math.

Plus, **more than half** of Michigan's 3- and 4-year-olds **are not enrolled in preschool**, which is critical to building a strong foundation for learning. Students from families with lower incomes face additional barriers to reaching their potential.

Recommendations

Provide sufficient funding for early interventions to improve third-grade reading using a birth-to-8 framework, including maternal and child health programs, *Early On*, and affordable, high-quality child care and education.

Ensure that all children from families with low and moderate incomes can receive a high-quality preschool education.

Address the state's Read by Grade Three law, which will allow for the retention of students reading below grade level in the upcoming school year by ensuring adequate funding and support for parents, schools and communities.

Adequately fund public schools, targeting resources in high-need areas and fully funding the At-Risk program.

Data Collection

Key Findings

Data collection by race and ethnicity is **inconsistent with federal standards** in several state systems, especially in the justice system. Juvenile justice data collection statewide is also inadequate and requires investment to create a streamlined system that is supported at the state and local levels.

Recommendations

To make informed policy decisions and increase transparency, robust data must be collected and publicly disseminated, including data by race and ethnicity.

MICHIGAN

2019 TRENDS IN CHILD WELL-BEING
(All Data Are for 2017 Unless Otherwise Noted)

POPULATION

	2012	2016	% change
Total population	9,883,360	9,933,445	0.5%
Child population 0-17	2,266,870	2,189,505	-3.4%
• Ages 0-5	697,840	688,553	-1.3%
• Ages 6-12	889,637	849,758	-4.5%
• Ages 13-17	679,393	651,194	-4.2%

Child population by race	2012	2016	% change
Hispanic 0-17	173,982	180,051	3.5%
Non-Hispanic 0-17			
• White	1,591,656	1,518,967	-4.6%
• African American/Black	408,553	393,828	-3.6%
• American Indian	18,919	17,823	-5.8%
• Other	73,760	78,836	6.9%

	BASE YEAR		CURRENT YEAR		
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	RATE CHANGE
ECONOMIC SECURITY	2012		2017		
Children in poverty, ages 0-17	549,131	24.7%	416,305	19.6%	-20.6%
Young children, ages 0-5, in the Food Assistance Program[1]	259,168	36.7%	179,467	26.1%	-28.9%
Students receiving free/reduced- price school lunches[2]	2011-12 (SY)		2017-18 (SY)		
	747,630	48.1%	742,922	50.3%	4.7%
HEALTH & SAFETY	2010-12 (avg.)		2014-16 (avg.)		
Less than adequate prenatal care	33,431	29.4%	36,926	32.5%	10.6%
Low-birthweight babies	9,599	8.4%	9,637	8.5%	0.6%
Infant mortality (per 1,000)	783	6.9	763	6.7	-2.4%
Child/Teen deaths, ages 1-19 (per 100,000)	684	27.5	630	26.7	-3.2%
FAMILY & COMMUNITY (per 1,000)	2010-12 (avg.)		2014-16 (avg.)		
Births to teens, ages 15-19	9,793	28.1	6,371	19.4	-30.9%
Child abuse/neglect	2012		2017		
Children in investigated families	206,896	90.1	249,110	113.8	26.2%
Confirmed victims	33,565	14.6	41,462	18.9	29.5%
Children in out-of-home care	10,316	4.5	11,209	5.1	13.9%
EDUCATION	2008-12 (avg.)		2013-17 (avg.)		
3- and 4-year-olds not in preschool	126,290	51.5%	123,617	52.9%	2.7%
	2012		2017		
Students not graduating on time	30,808	23.8%	24,035	19.8%	-16.6%
	2016		2018		
Students not college ready	67,878	65.1%	68,757	65.4%	0.5%
Not proficient (M-STEP)	2014-15 (SY)		2017-18 (SY)		
Third-graders (English Language Arts)	53,535	49.9%	56,872	55.6%	11.4%
Eighth-graders (Math)	75,854	67.8%	74,265	67.3%	-0.7%

[1] Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
[2] Family income is below 185% poverty level.
SY - School Year. | M-STEP - Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress was first administered in 2015.

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

	NUMBER	RATE
Children receiving...		
• Subsidized child care, ages 0-12[1]	33,648	2.2%
• FIP cash assistance[1,2]	35,448	1.5%
• Food Assistance Program[1,3]	509,470	21.9%
• Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	270,784	47.3%
Children with support owed	511,639	20.8%
• Receiving none (% of those owed)	92,125	18.0%
• Receiving less than 70% of amount	263,182	51.4%
• Average amount received (month)	$216	—

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Unemployment	4.6%
Median household income	$54,840
Average cost of full-time child care/month (2018)	$563
• Percent of full-time minimum wage (2018)	35.2%
Percent of young children ages 0-5 in Michigan families (2013-17 avg.) where all parents work	66.2%

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

	NUMBER	RATE
Births to moms without high school diploma or GED (2014-16 avg.)	13,539	11.9%
High-poverty neighborhoods, ages 0-17 (2013-17 avg.)	323,870	15.0%
Household structure, ages 0-17 (2013-17 avg.)		
• Two-parent family	1,425,045	66.2%
• One-parent family	727,831	33.8%
Poverty by household structure, ages 0-17 (2013-17 avg.)		
• Two-parent family	139,881	9.8%
• One-parent family	319,116	43.8%
English not spoken at home, ages 5-17 (2013-17 avg.)	170,164	10.4%

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

	NUMBER	RATE
Children with health insurance (2016)	2,195,206	96.9%
Children, ages 0-18, insured by...		
• Medicaid[1]	1,003,645	43.1%
• MIChild	44,170	1.9%
Fully immunized toddlers, ages 19-35 months (for the series 4:3:1:3:3:1:4)[1]	125,853	75.0%
Lead poisoning in children, ages 1-2		
• Tested	93,174	40.4%
• Poisoned (% of tested) (EBL confirmed by venous)	1,519	1.6%
Children, ages 1-14, hospitalized for asthma (rate per 10,000) (2016)	1,979	9.3
Children with special needs		
• Students in Special Education[1]	207,315	14.0%
• Children receiving Supplemental Security Income (rate per 1,000)[1]	41,149	17.7
• Children, ages 0-2, receiving *Early On* services (ISD totals)	10,527	3.1%

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[1] As of December 2017.
[2] Family Independence Program.
[3] State name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called "food stamps." Note: Percentages reflect percent of population unless otherwise noted. See Data Definitions and Notes for details.

Overall Child Well-Being Ranked
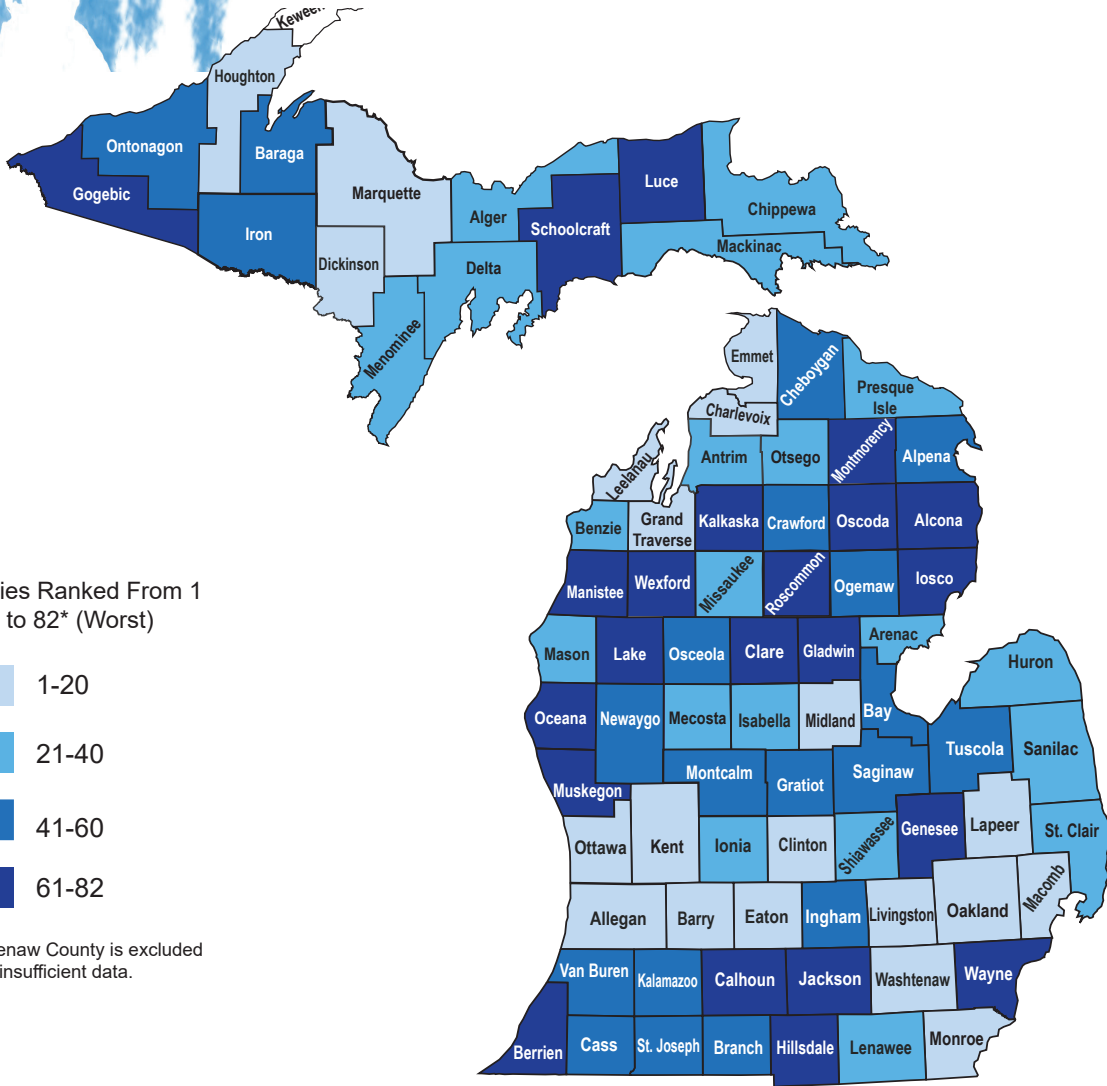
Counties Ranked From 1 (Best) to 82* (Worst)

	1-20
	21-40
	41-60
	61-82
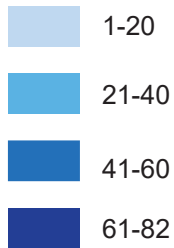
*Keweenaw County is excluded due to insufficient data.

1. Livingston
2. Clinton
3. Ottawa
4. Oakland
5. Washtenaw
6. Emmet
7. Leelanau
8. Houghton
9. Grand Traverse
10. Midland
11. Charlevoix
12. Barry
13. Lapeer
14. Monroe
15. Dickinson
16. Antrim
17. Allegan
18. Macomb
19. Kent
20. Marquette
21. Huron
22. Isabella
23. Benzie
24. Otsego
25. Ionia
26. Antrim
27. Mackinac
28. Lenawee
29. Alger
30. Chippewa
31. Sanilac
32. Shiawassee
33. St. Clair
34. Menominee
35. Mason
36. Delta
37. Arenac
38. Presque Isle
39. Missaukee
40. Mecosta
41. Baraga
42. Bay
43. Tuscola
44. Alpena
44. Kalamazoo
46. Gratiot
47. Newaygo
48. Ingham
49. Ontonagon
49. Saginaw
51. Cass
52. Branch
53. Montcalm
54. Cheboygan
55. Van Buren
56. Ogemaw
57. Osceola
58. Crawford
59. Iron
60. St. Joseph
61. Berrien
62. Gogebic
63. Roscommon
64. Hillsdale
65. Jackson
66. Genesee
67. Wayne
68. Montmorency
69. Kalkaska
70. Gladwin
71. Oceana
72. Wexford
73. Iosco
74. Manistee
74. Oscoda
76. Clare
77. Calhoun
78. Muskegon
79. Schoolcraft
80. Alcona
81. Luce
82. Lake

Child Population

Michigan's child population continues to decline, with decreases higher than 18% in some counties.

Change in Child Population by County, 2012-2016

- Increase
- No Change (0% to +/-1%)
- -1% to -5%
- -5% to -9%
- -10% and above

Michigan Rate: -3.4%

Median Rate: -4.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State and County Population Estimates; Ages 0-17
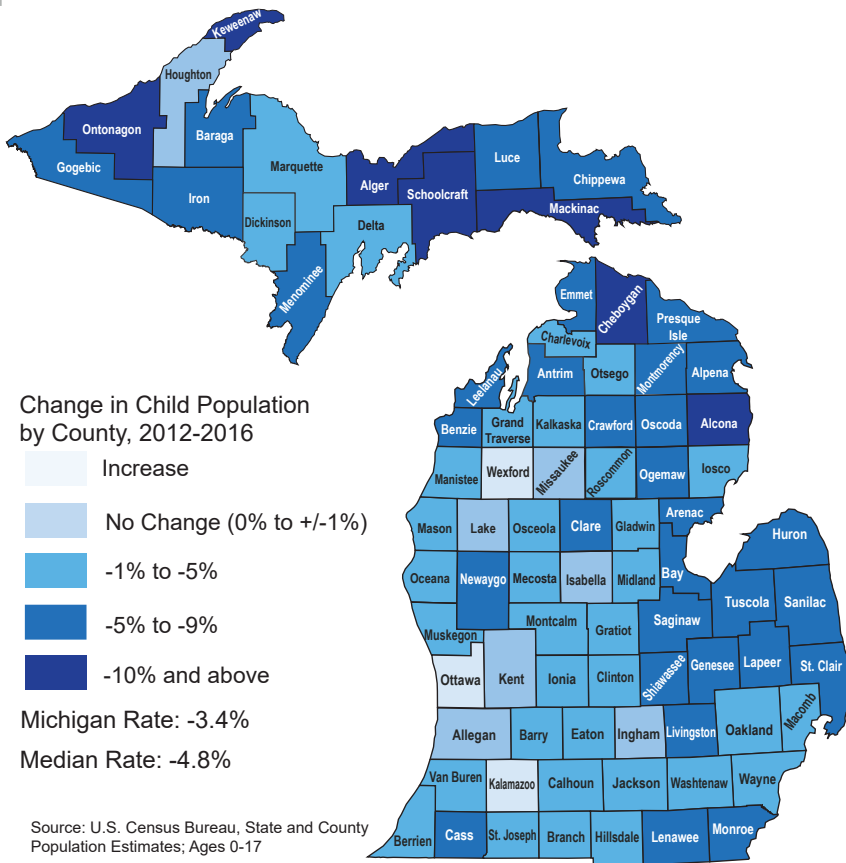
The state's child population is mostly balanced across age groups.

- 15-19 Years 27%
- 0-4 Years 23%
- 5-9 Years 24%
- 10-14 Years 26%
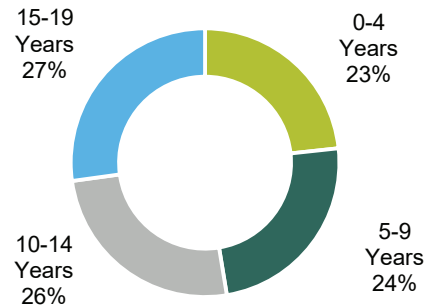
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016; Ages 0-19

With a declining child population, still about 1 in 3 are kids of color.

Year	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Native non-Hispanic	Other non-Hispanic
2016	69.4%	18.0%	8.2%	0.8%	3.6%
2012	70.2%	18.0%	7.7%	0.8%	3.3%

- White non-Hispanic
- Black non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Native non-Hispanic
- Other non-Hispanic
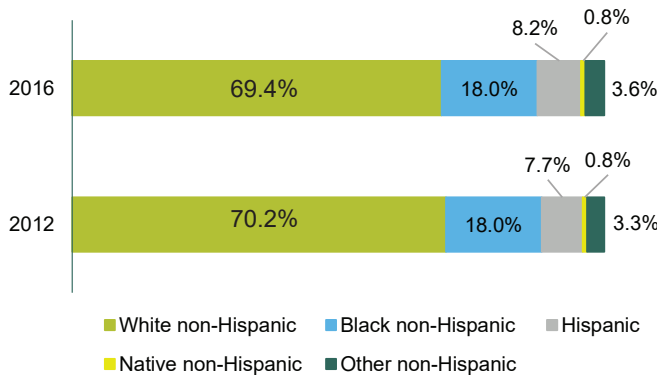
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016; Ages 0-17

60,000—or 3% of all children in Michigan were born outside of the United States.

286,000—or 13% of Michigan kids live in an immigrant family, where they or at least one parent was born outside of the country.

24,000—or 8% of children in immigrant families live with a parent who has been in the U.S. less than five years.

Source: National KIDS COUNT

Economic Security

While the child poverty rate is on the decline, we know that isn't enough.

The federal poverty level is an outdated measure, plus there continues to be about 1 in 5 children living in poverty with more young children and children of color disproportionately impacted. Two-thirds of young children have both parents in the workforce, yet child care alone can consume more than 35% of full-time, minimum wage earnings, which equal approximately $1,600 a month. Positively, Michigan's median income has increased by 17% from 2012 to 2017; however, the county with the largest incomes (Livingston County) is 134% higher—more than double—than the county with the lowest median income (Lake County). There has been an uneven recovery in the state's economy. This inequitable distribution of income and resources results in many negative impacts on children:

> Child care alone can consume more than 35% of full-time, minimum wage earnings.

•   Fewer family resources to provide basic needs, let alone cover expenses for extracurricular and other enrichment activities that are important for all kids;

•   Increased family financial stress for prolonged periods of time can cause toxic stress response, which affects child development[1];

•   School quality varies significantly based on a community's ability to pay taxes to support their local districts, as necessary, when state funding has declined significantly[2]; and,

•   Lack of access to affordable, high-quality child care, healthy foods, adequate transportation and more all affect children and families and are tied to income.

Almost half of counties experienced a larger decrease in child poverty than the state average.

Child Poverty Rates by County

- Below 17%
- 17% to 24%
- 24% to 28%
- Above 28%

Michigan Poverty Rate: 19.6%
Median Poverty Rate: 20.9%

Families of color face more barriers to economic security, with higher rates having low incomes.

Percent of Children in Families With Less Than 200% of FPL

	2012	2016
American Indian	*	*
Asian and Pacific Islander	28%	28%
Black or African American	74%	70%
Hispanic or Latinx	64%	60%
White, non-Hispanic	38%	33%
Two or more races	56%	54%
Total	46%	42%

* No data available

Emily Glas, Age 9

County Summary & Rankings

2017: Child poverty, ages 0-17			
Michigan: 19.6%			
5 Best Counties	**Rate**	**5 Worst Counties**	**Rate**
Livingston	6.3%	Lake	38.8%
Clinton	7.7%	Clare	37.8%
Ottawa	8.2%	Roscommon	37.8%
Oakland	9.3%	Wayne	33.4%
Leelanau	10.9%	Crawford	30.5%

Number of Counties:

	2012 vs. 2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
83	**83**	**79**

2017: Young children eligible for food aid (SNAP)			
Michigan: 26.1%			
5 Best Counties	**Rate**	**5 Worst Counties**	**Rate**
Livingston	7.5%	Wayne	43.6%
Ottawa	8.2%	Lake	43.4%
Leelanau	10.1%	Genesee	38.8%
Keweenaw	10.6%	Saginaw	38.6%
Clinton	11.9%	Iosco	38.6%

Number of Counties:

	2012 vs. 2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
83	**83**	**82**

Susan Nasser, Age 4

Ciara Sheffey, Age 9

Inequitable distribution of income and resources results in many negative impacts on children.

2017-2018: Students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch			
Michigan: 50.3%			
5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Livingston	22.3%	Lake	95.3%
Clinton	31.3%	Oceana	74.8%
Washtenaw	32.0%	Oscoda	72.5%
Oakland	34.7%	Roscommon	72.2%
Ottawa	36.3%	Iosco	70.8%

Number of Counties:

	2012 vs. 2018	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
82	**78**	**15**

What does the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) mean for a family of four in Michigan?

200%	150%	100%	50%
$49,716 a year	**$37,287** a year	**$24,858** a year	**$12,429** a year
about **41%** of kids	about **31%** of kids	about **20%** of kids	about **9%** of kids

Young children are more likely to live in poverty during some of their most formative years of development.

23%

18%

Percent in Poverty
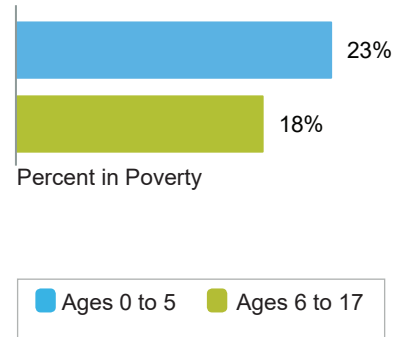
● Ages 0 to 5   ● Ages 6 to 17

Gabriel Sheppard, Age 10

Nearly 1 in 4 young adults ages 18-24 live in poverty.

19.6%

of children in Michigan live in poverty.

1 in 4 children in immigrant families live below the poverty threshold.

Nearly half of children in immigrant families live in families with low incomes.

53%   47%

● Not Low Income   ● Low Income
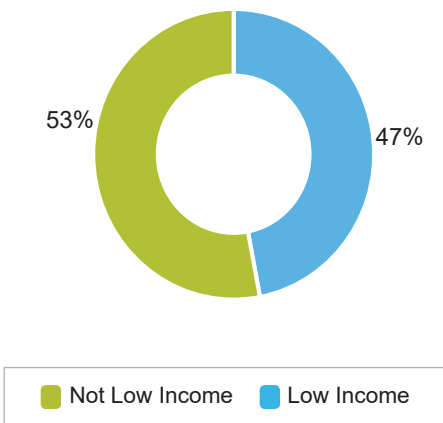
More than 1 in 8 young adults ages 16-24 struggle to access school and work.

● 2012   ● 2016

Percent Not Attending School and Not Working

8%   7%   19%   15%   14%   12%

16 to 19   20 to 24   16 to 24
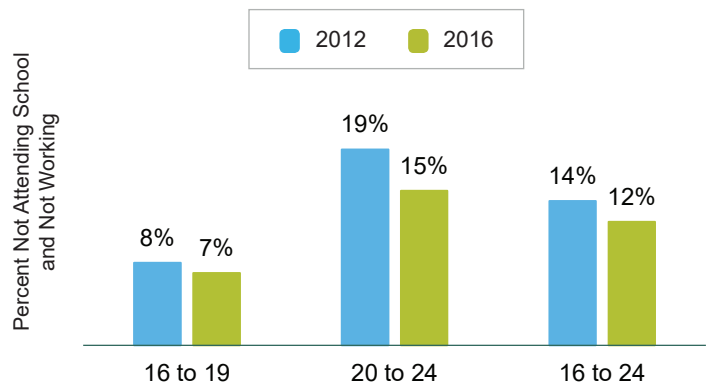
Melody Placeway, Age 13

As poverty rates decline, program participation also down with the exception of free or reduced-price lunch.

	2012	2017
Family Independence Program (FIP), Ages 0-18	4.5%	1.5%
Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program, K-12*	48.2%	50.3%
Food Assistance Program (FAP), Ages 0-5	36.7%	26.1%
Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), Ages 0-4	51.2%	47.3%
Child Care Subsidies, Ages 0-12	2.9%	2.2%

Percent Receiving Each Program
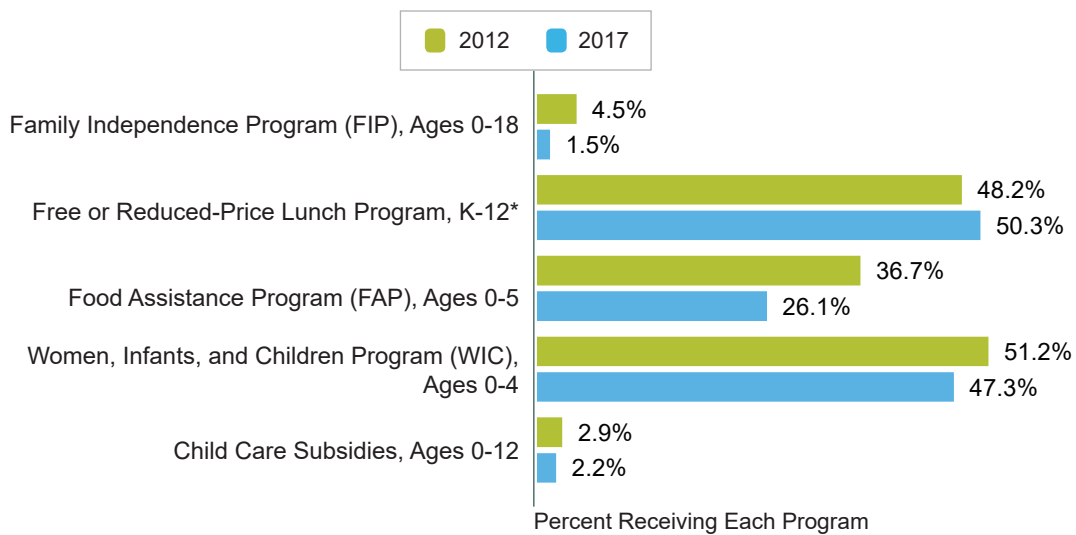
*Students receiving due to income eligibility, not community eligibility provisions.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Michigan Department of Education

Health & Safety

The health of moms and babies is incredibly important to our state.

Unfortunately, the data show that there is a lot of work to do to ensure that women not only have access to prenatal care, but also to family planning options. Both have impacts on birth outcomes. Over 30% of births are to women who were not planning to become pregnant, which comes with a higher likelihood that prenatal care does not begin on time.[1] More than 32% of births are to women who received less than adequate prenatal care due to lack of access, coverage, transportation, irregular work schedules and more. Women of color experience systemic barriers and worse outcomes.

> Home visiting programs improve outcomes for women and children, addressing prenatal care, family planning and much more.

Home visiting programs improve outcomes for women and children addressing prenatal care, family planning and much more, but the need is much higher than the available resources. In 2017, over 245,500 home visits were made, serving over 24,000 women and 23,000 children.[2]

Historically, Michigan has done well in ensuring that children have healthcare coverage. In 2016, nearly 97% of children in the state had some type of health insurance. About half of states have opted to provide health coverage to immigrant children and pregnant women who are lawfully residing, or green card holders, without the typical five-year waiting period.[3] Michigan has not. During a time of anti-immigrant sentiment and policies that threaten the health of immigrant families, this is one option the state should take to help improve the well-being of all kids in Michigan.

The majority of counties reported at least one child having lead poisoning, with Cass, Calhoun and Wayne counties reporting that over 3% of children tested were confirmed as poisoned.

Confirmed Lead Poisoning by County Among Children Tested

Zero Confirmed
Fewer Than 6 Kids Confirmed
Below 1%
1% to 1.5%
1.5% to 2%
Above 2%

Michigan Rate: 1.6%
Median Rate: 0.9%

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
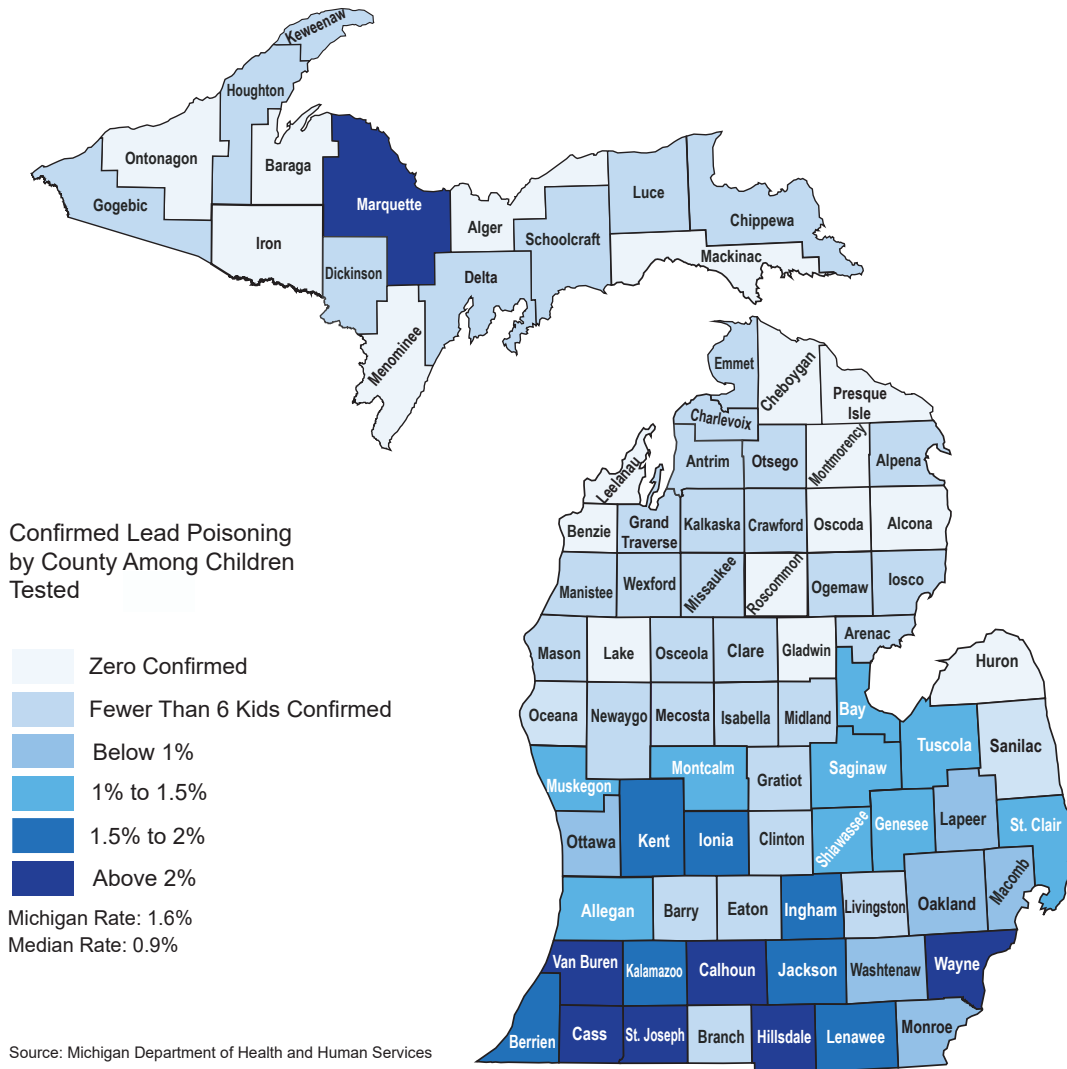
More than
93,000
1- to 2-year-olds in Michigan are tested for possible lead poisoning.

40.4%
of all 1- to 2-year-olds are tested for possible lead poisoning.

44.1%
of all 1- to 2-year-olds on Medicaid are tested for possible lead poisoning.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2017

Mari Montgomery, Age 12

County Summary & Rankings

2014-2016: Less than adequate prenatal care

Michigan: 32.5%

5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Huron	19.5%	Gratiot	51.1%
Oakland	19.6%	Hillsdale	50.9%
Chippewa	20.9%	Schoolcraft	50.0%
Clinton	21.5%	Menominee	49.4%
Crawford	21.7%	Oscoda	49.1%

Number of Counties:

	2010-2012 vs. 2014-2016	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
83	**82**	**19**

2014-2016: Low-birthweight babies

Michigan: 8.5%

5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Menominee	3.8%	Ontonagon	12.2%
Leelanau	4.5%	Oscoda	11.6%
Missaukee	4.9%	Crawford	11.0%
Otsego	5.2%	Wayne	10.8%
Dickinson	5.4%	Genesee	10.6%
Hillsdale	5.4%		

Number of Counties:

	2010-2012 vs. 2014-2016	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
82	**78**	**37**

Adrienne Kilmer-Burke, Age 9
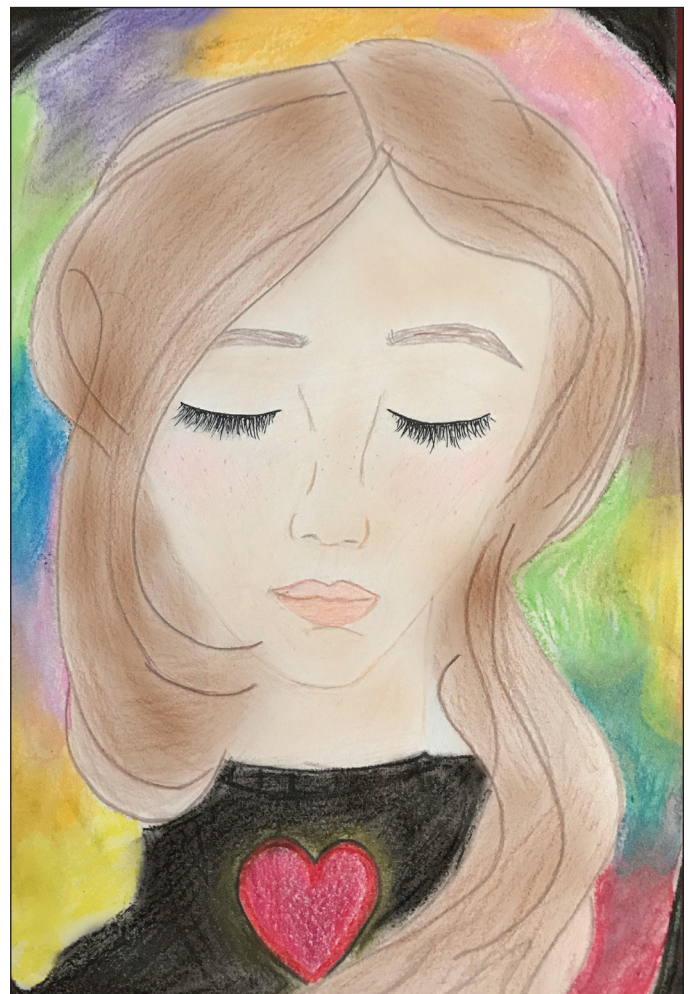
Rylie Carey, Age 18

2014-2016: Infant mortality			
Michigan: 6.7 per 1,000			
5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Isabella	3.5	Gogebic	16.1
Midland	3.5	Oceana	12.1
Marquette	4.2	Saginaw	10.0
Monroe	4.2	Gladwin	9.7
Tuscola	4.2	Wayne	9.3

Number of Counties:	2010-2012 vs. 2014-2016	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
45	40	20

2014-2016: Child/Teen deaths, ages 1-19			
Michigan: 26.7 per 100,000			
5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Lapeer	11.4	Menominee	48.9
Marquette	16.4	Cass	45.9
Ionia	17.1	Wexford	45.9
Newaygo	17.4	Manistee	43.4
Clinton	17.9	Otsego	42.5

Number of Counties:	2010-2012 vs. 2014-2016	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
50	47	23

Navid Ali, Age 16

Rates of infant deaths have decreased overall, but are rising for some babies of color and significant racial and ethnic disparities exist.

	2010-2012	2014-2016

Infant Death Rate Per 1,000 Births

	2010-2012	2014-2016
TOTAL	6.9	6.7
White, non-Hispanic	5.1	4.8
African American/Black, non-Hispanic	13.8	13.6
American Indian/Native, non-Hispanic	11.0	12.9
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	3.4	3.7
Hispanic	7.4	8.6
Arab (all races)	5.9	5.4
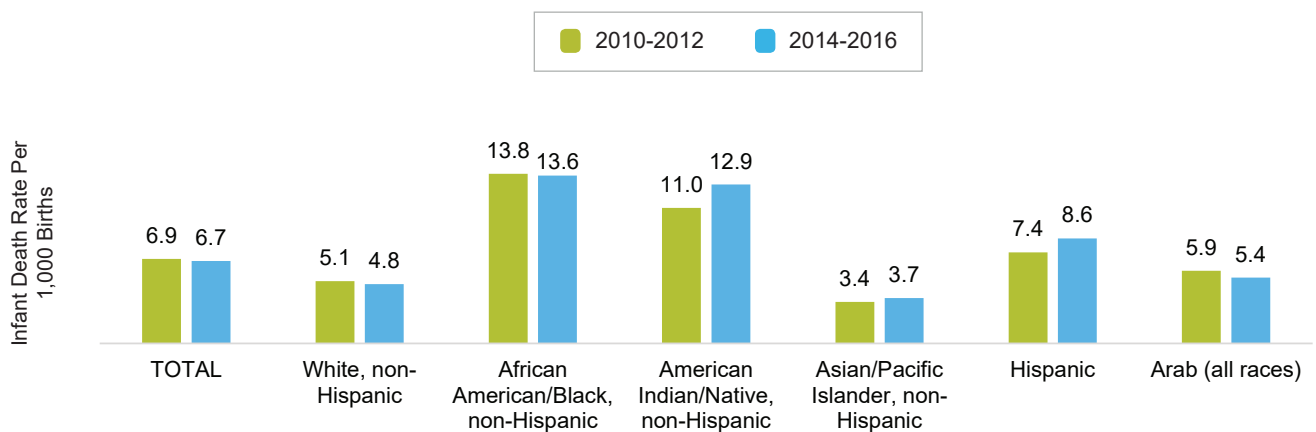
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Statistics

After declining for two years in a row, child death rates are beginning to climb.

Rates Per 100,000, Ages 1-19

Year	Rate
2010	27
2011	27
2012	28.5
2013	24.5
2014	24
2015	27
2016	28.5
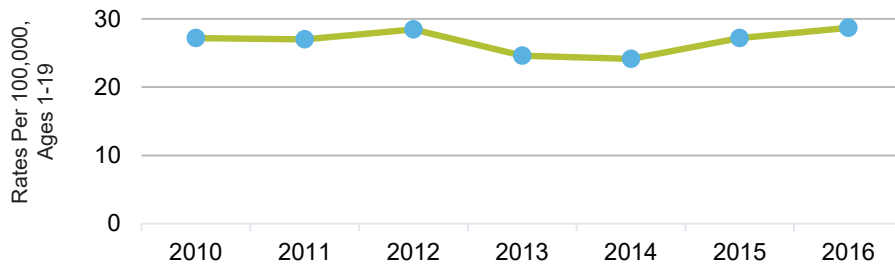
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2016

African American children make up 18% of the child population, but 28% of child deaths.
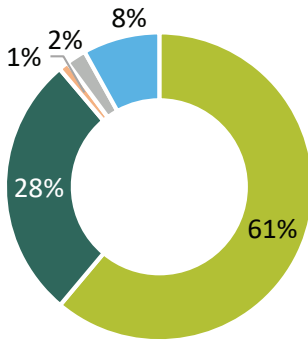
- 61% White, non-Hispanic
- 28% African American/Black, non-Hispanic
- 1% American Indian, non-Hispanic
- 2% Asian Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 8% Hispanic

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2016

Over **12%** of Michigan births are to mothers born outside of the United States.

Women of color face more barriers to prenatal care and experience poorer birth outcomes.

Percent of Live Births

Legend: Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care · Preterm Births · Low-Birthweight Babies

| Group	Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care	Preterm Births	Low-Birthweight Babies
Total	32.5%	9.9%	8.5%
White, non-Hispanic	28.5%	8.9%	7.0%
African American/Black, non-Hispanic	44.4%	14.0%	14.3%
Latinx/Hispanic	40.7%	9.1%	7.2%
American Indian, non-Hispanic	36.8%	11.5%	8.6%
Asian Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	29.5%	8.9%	9.3%
Arab Ethnicity (all races)	35.0%	7.6%	7.3%

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2014-2016

Family & Community

Investments in our neighborhoods, schools and families are critical to building strong foundations for our children.

Nurturing relationships are also important beginning at birth and through adolescence. The development of caring relationships affects development in infants and toddlers and is important for youth as they transition into adulthood.[1] The interactions children and families have with various programs and systems in their communities should reflect this.
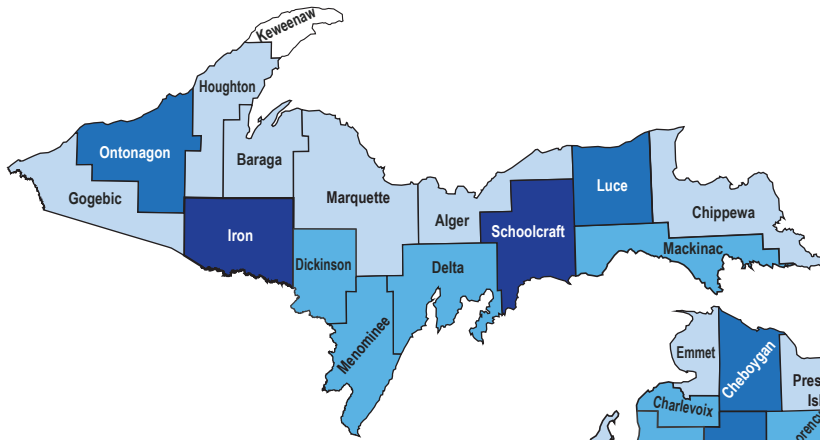
Michigan and the U.S. have made incredible strides in reducing unintended teen pregnancy, but the work is not done and there are threats on the horizon. Expanded access to healthcare and contraception along with funding for evidence-based programs are both key strategies to reducing unintended teen pregnancy. There has been a rise in repeat teen pregnancies, with more young people having subsequent children before reaching adulthood. This points to the need for more resources for young parents, whether it is connecting them to child care and schooling or supporting their family planning decisions. Additionally, about 1 in 10 young adults in Michigan are parents who face unique barriers that should be addressed.[2]

> The amount of trauma created through these policy decisions and the impact on the foster care system require thoughtful and compassionate solutions.

Rates of child abuse and neglect continue to rise and are of significant concern, as are recent upticks in the share of children being placed in foster care. Young children and kids of color—particularly African American children—are disproportionately impacted, along with LGBTQIA+ youth who are not only overrepresented, but also more likely to leave foster care without a permanent home.[3] Additionally, youth in foster care overall are more likely to age out instead of leaving with a stable, permanent family relationship, and few receive needed transition support services like employment, education and housing.[4]

Increased immigration arrests, detentions and deportations have caused parents and their children to become separated. There have been reports of families withdrawing from services and/or not attending school because of fear created. Due to a proposed "public charge" rule, there's been evidence of fewer families enrolling in programs intended to improve well-being. Plus, the potential end to Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from certain countries could impact over a quarter of a million U.S. citizen children.[5] The amount of lifelong trauma created through these policy decisions and the impact on the foster care system require thoughtful and compassionate solutions.
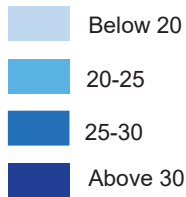
Live Births to Teens Ages 15-19 by County*, 2014-2016 Rate Per 1,000 Teens

Below 20
20-25
25-30
Above 30

*Keeweenaw County is excluded due to insufficient data.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
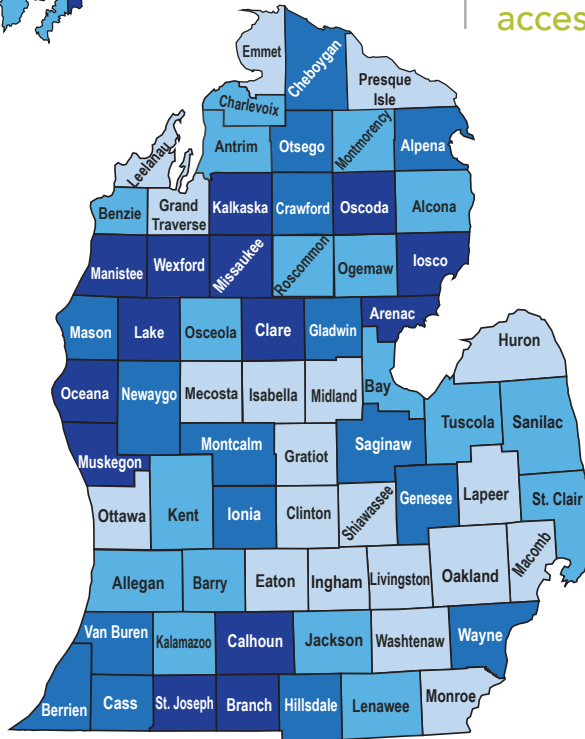
From 2012 to 2016, the teen birth rate has declined over 30%. Some parts of the state experience higher rates with more barriers to healthcare access.

More young mothers are having additional children during their teen years.

Repeat Teen Births
Percent of Births, Ages 15-19

■ 2010-2012 ■ 2014-2016

	2010-2012	2014-2016
Total	17.1%	17.5%
White, non-Hispanic	13.4%	14.4%
African American/Black, non-Hispanic	20.6%	21.0%
Latinx/Hispanic	21.7%	20.0%
American Indian, non-Hispanic	14.6%	17.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	15.9%	18.0%
Arab (all races)	18.1%	17.8%
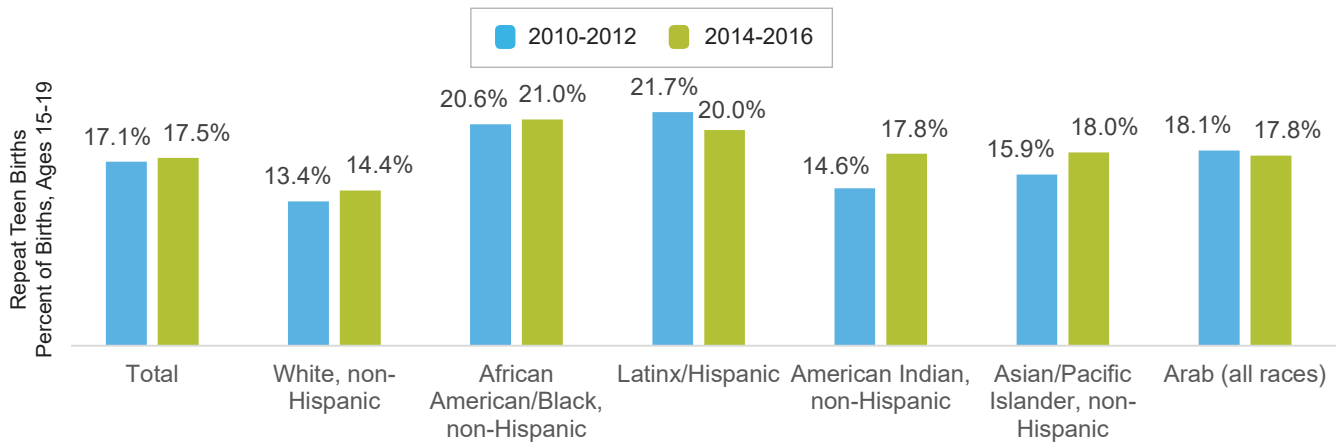
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Rio Tomlinson, Age 16

County Summary & Rankings

2014-2016: Teen births			
Michigan: 19.4 per 1,000			
5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Livingston	6.3	Schoolcraft	40.7
Washtenaw	6.3	Oceana	39.7
Isabella	8.6	Clare	37.2
Oakland	9.4	Manistee	35.8
Houghton	9.7	Oscoda	35.5
Ottawa	9.7		

Number of Counties:		
	2010-2012 vs. 2014-2016	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
82	82	76

2017: Children in investigated families			
Michigan: 113.8 per 1,000			
5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Keweenaw	40.3	Iosco	250.6
Leelanau	41.1	Lake	245.4
Livingston	52.4	Montcalm	223.3
Oakland	56.2	Wexford	215.9
Ottawa	65.7	Jackson	215.4

Number of Counties:		
	2012 vs. 2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
83	82	10
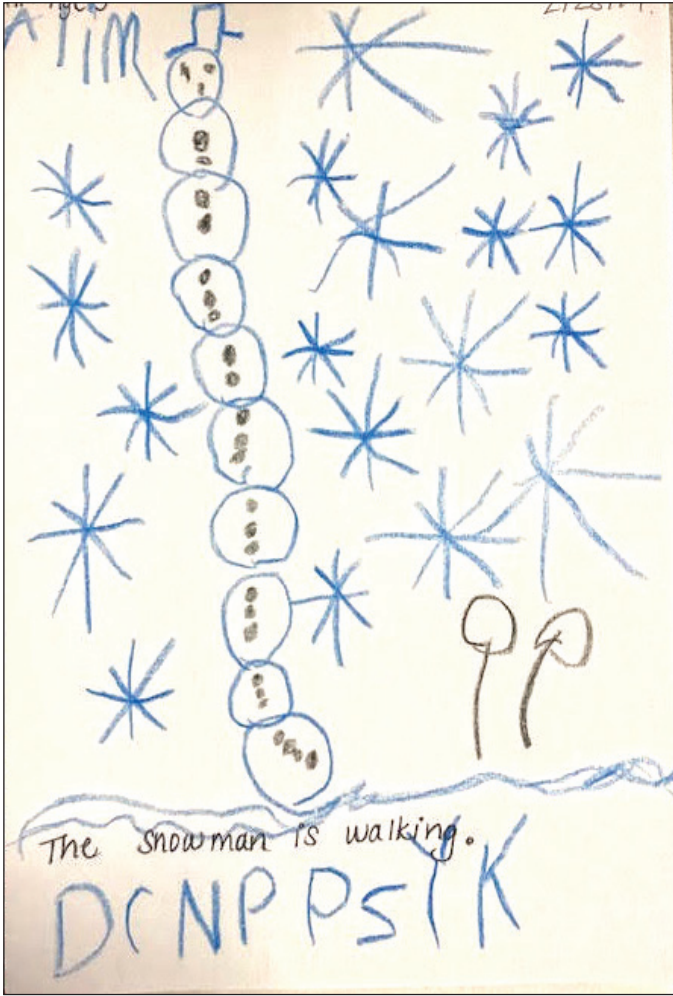
Ali Mukahhal, Age 5

Eleanor Groen, Age 7

2017: Confirmed victims of abuse/neglect			
Michigan: 18.9 per 1,000			
5 Best Counties	**Rate**	**5 Worst Counties**	**Rate**
Oakland	8.4	Lake	44.2
Clinton	9.0	Gladwin	43.8
Houghton	9.2	Alcona	43.6
Macomb	9.4	Kalkaska	42.2
Leelanau	9.8	Wexford	41.3

Number of Counties:

	2012 vs. 2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
82	**81**	**19**

2017: Children in out-of-home care			
Michigan: 5.1 per 1,000			
5 Best Counties	**Rate**	**5 Worst Counties**	**Rate**
Houghton	1.1	Gogebic	20.6
Washtenaw	1.8	Cass	14.6
Clinton	2.0	Crawford	14.1
Missaukee	2.0	Lake	13.4
Oceana	2.1	Oscoda	12.8

Number of Counties:

	2012 vs. 2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
80	**77**	**31**

Michaela Enger, Age 10

A disproportionate number of African American children are placed in foster care, and the share of multiracial and White children is increasing.

Percent of Children Ages 0-21 in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity

	2012	2016	
White, non-Hispanic	46%	50%	
African American/Black, non-Hispanic	37%	29%	
Multiracial, non-Hispanic	10%	13%	
Latinx/Hispanic	6%	7%	
American Indian, non-Hispanic	1%	1%	

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016
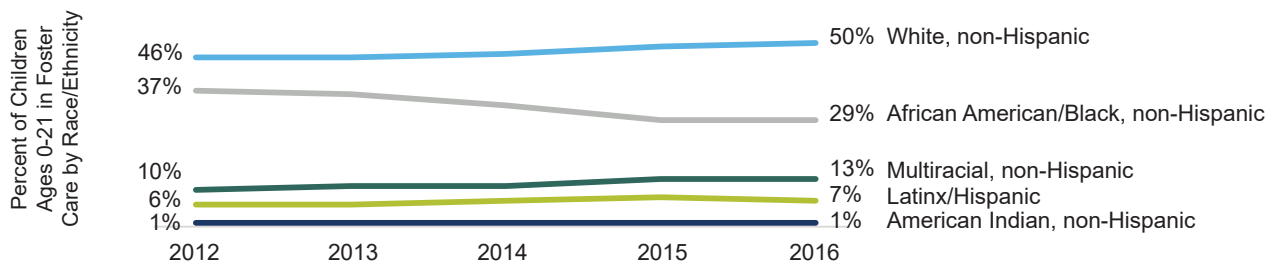
Source: National KIDS COUNT

African American children have systematically been overrepresented in the total number of victims of abuse and neglect.

Percentage of children who are confirmed as victims of abuse and neglect.

- American Indian/Alaskan Native 0.4%
- Asian 0.3%
- Multiracial 9.4%
- African American/Black 27.4%
- White 54.7%
- Latinx/Hispanic 6.9%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander 0.0%
- Unknown 0.9%
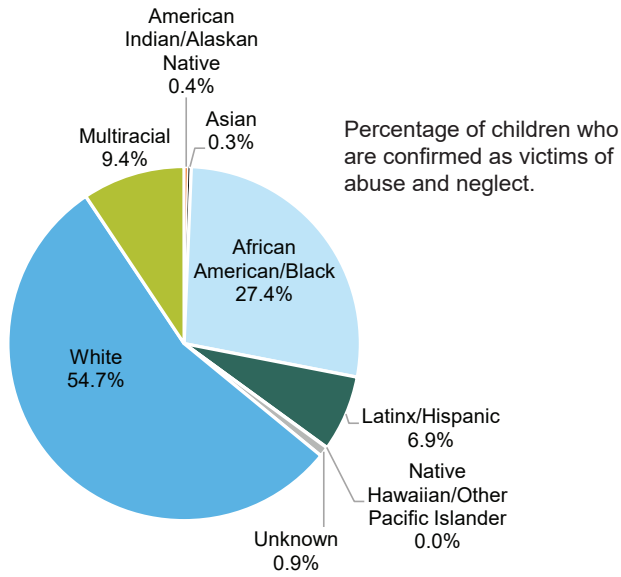
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2017

Rebecca Johnson, Age 10

The structures and institutions in which our children are growing up—and how those systems interact with one another—have an effect on child development and well-being across time.

The rate of children placed in out-of-home care is increasing after several years of decline.

Number of Children, Ages 0-17

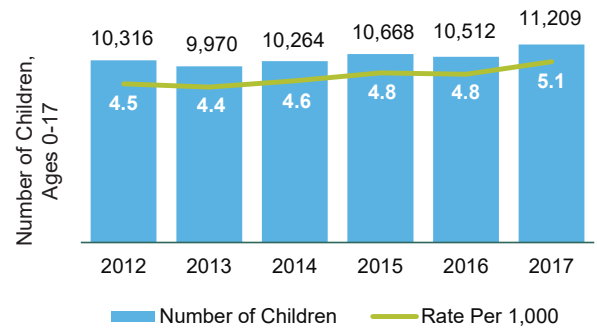| 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
10,316	9,970	10,264	10,668	10,512	11,209
4.5	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.1

■ Number of Children ── Rate Per 1,000

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

While 10% of all foster children age out, 58% of older foster youth age out. Less than half of children are reunified with their families and almost a third are adopted.

Percent Exiting Foster Care

■ 2012 ■ 2016

	Adoption	Death of Child	Emancipation	Guardianship	Living With Other Relatives	Reunified With Parent or Primary Caretaker	Runaway	Transfer to Another Agency
2012	32%	<.5%	10%	6%	3%	47%	1%	1%
2016	32%	<.5%	10%	7%	2%	46%	<.5%	1%
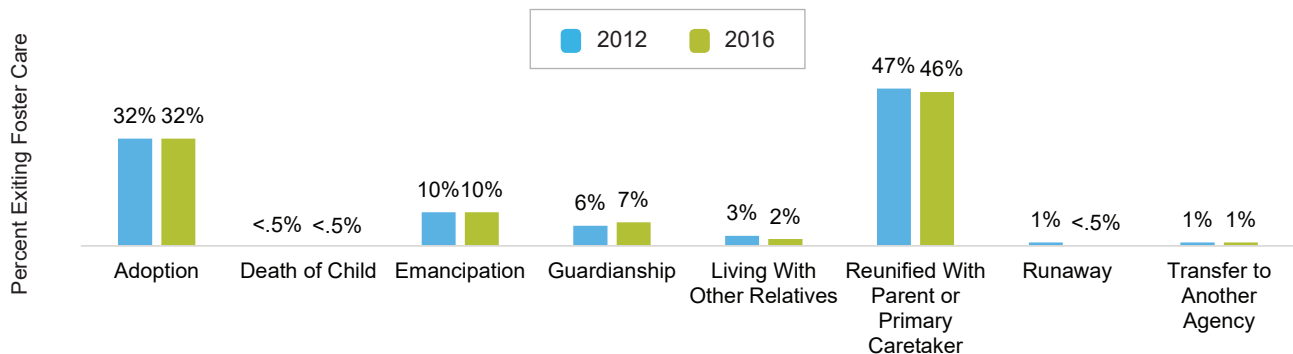
Source: National KIDS COUNT and Fostering Youth Transitions, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2018

Education

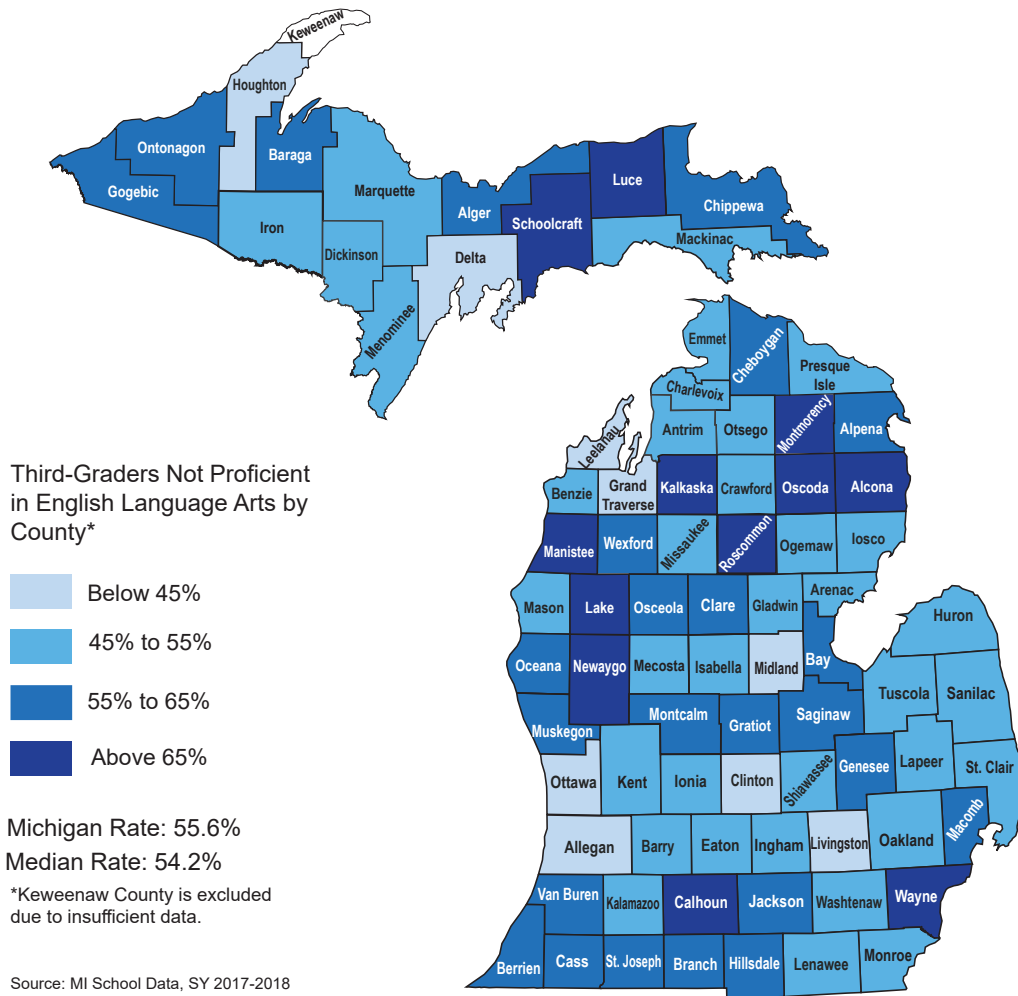## It isn't news that our students are struggling with educational achievement.

In the national *2018 KIDS COUNT Data Book,* Michigan ranked 38th in the country on four measures of educational outcomes—an improvement from 41st the year before. Yet, the most recent M-STEP results show that nearly 56% of Michigan's third-graders are not proficient in reading. This is important as we approach the next school year, when the Read by Grade Three law will mandate that students are retained if they are more than one grade level behind. There were many well-intended components of the law, however, sufficient financial resources from the state were not provided to support our schools to meet these new requirements. Students from families with low incomes and students of color will be disproportionately impacted if nothing is changed.

Third-grade reading is built on a strong foundation in early childhood, which includes healthy births, access to infant mental health, interventions for developmental delays, high-quality child care and preschool attendance. The readiness gap begins at birth and continues due to a difference in resources and opportunities.[1] These all impact graduation rates and college readiness, which are two other areas in need of attention. To reach educational goals, like becoming a "Top 10 in 10 Years" state, there also needs to be a focus on systems that interact with institutions of education.

Students from families with low incomes and students of color will be disproportionately impacted if nothing is changed.

Several studies now have shown that Michigan is underfunding schools. The state's school finance model has not addressed equity and, in fact, support for students with greater barriers—poverty, language access and more—has diminished relative to the number of students in need.[2] Ensuring that all of our children are well-educated and prepared for the workforce is critical, regardless of where they live, their family's income, or their race and ethnicity.

In most counties, at least 50% of third-graders are not proficient in reading.

Third-Graders Not Proficient in English Language Arts by County*

- Below 45%
- 45% to 55%
- 55% to 65%
- Above 65%

Michigan Rate: 55.6%
Median Rate: 54.2%

*Keweenaw County is excluded due to insufficient data.

Source: MI School Data, SY 2017-2018

Map counties labeled: Keweenaw, Houghton, Ontonagon, Baraga, Gogebic, Iron, Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa, Dickinson, Delta, Mackinac, Menominee, Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Charlevoix, Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Huron, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Tuscola, Sanilac, Muskegon, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Jackson, Washtenaw, Wayne, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe


When it comes to meeting college readiness benchmarks, the majority of students in Michigan struggle. But students from families with low incomes and students of color face additional barriers, as they are more likely to attend underresourced schools and have less access to additional support.

Not Economically Disadvantaged

- White: 50.7%
- Two or More Races: 54.3%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 44.4%
- Latinx/Hispanic (Any Race): 66.2%
- African American/Black: 82.2%
- Asian: 24.4%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 67%
- All Race/Ethnicity: 52.4%

Economically Disadvantaged

- White: 77.7%
- Two or More Races: 82.5%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 82.6%
- Latinx/Hispanic (Any Race): 87%
- African American/Black: 94.1%
- Asian: 62.7%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 85.3%
- All Race/Ethnicity: 82.8%

Legend:
- White
- Two or More Races
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Latinx/Hispanic (Any Race)
- African American/Black
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- All Race/Ethnicity

Percent NOT Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks

Source: MI School Data, SY 2017-2018

The state's school finance model has not addressed equity, and support for students with greater barriers—poverty, language access and more—has diminished relative to the number of students in need.
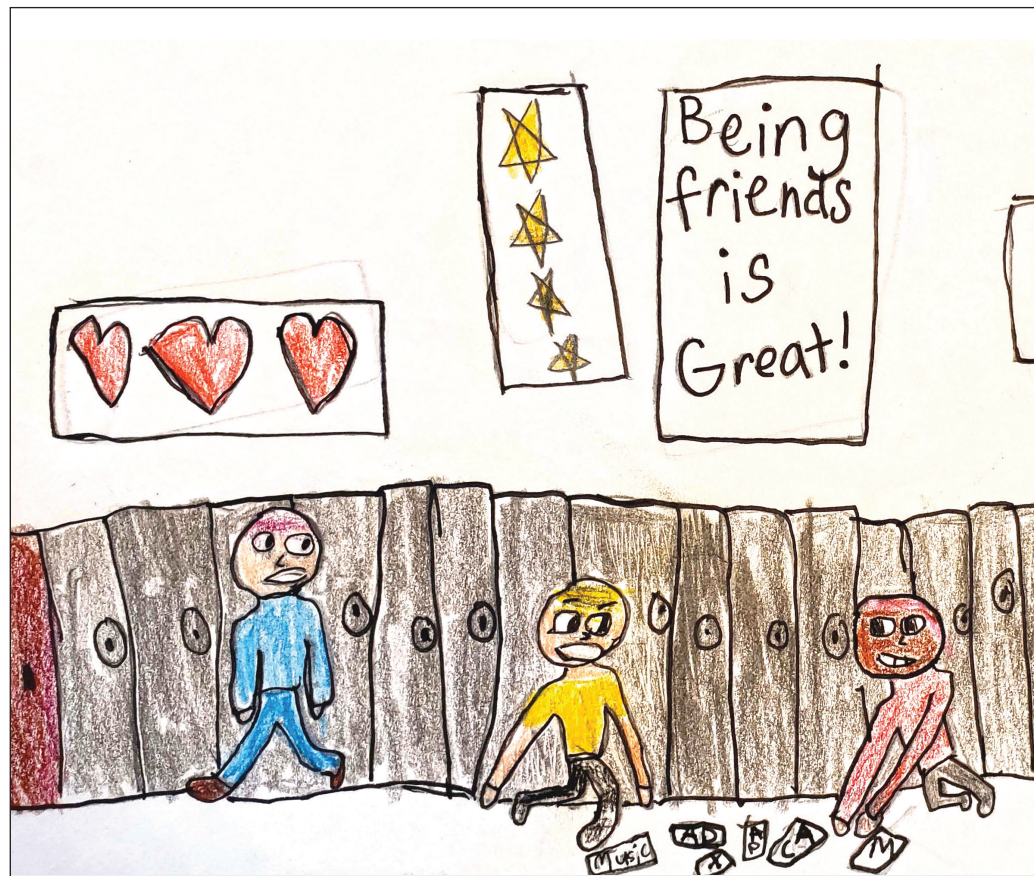
County Summary & Rankings

2018: Students not college ready			
Michigan: 65.4%			
5 Best Counties	**Rate**	**5 Worst Counties**	**Rate**
Washtenaw	45.2%	Schoolcraft	93.7%
Midland	46.1%	Lake	91.3%
Oakland	52.6%	Osceola	83.8%
Grand Traverse	53.4%	Manistee*	80.4%
Ottawa	54.1%	Luce	80.0%

Number of Counties:		
	2016 vs. 2018	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
82	**78**	**43**

2017: Students not graduating on time			
Michigan: 19.8%			
5 Best Counties	**Rate**	**5 Worst Counties**	**Rate**
Clinton	7.4%	Manistee*	53.0%
Mackinac	8.2%	Berrien*	36.5%
Alger	9.9%	Ogemaw	28.0%
Arenac	10.1%	Lake	26.7%
Ottawa	10.4%	Eaton	25.9%
		Ingham	25.9%

Number of Counties:		
	2012 vs. 2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
79	**77**	**58**

*Districts within Manistee and Berrien counties are authorizers for virtual schools, which is included in totals for the county data.
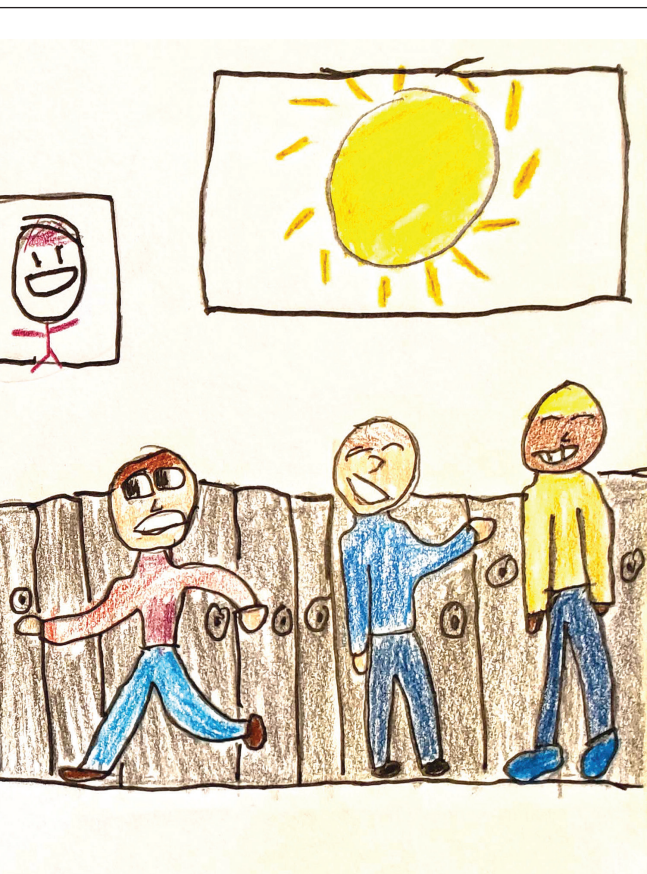
Marcus Sheppard, Age 10

Less than half of preschool-age children are enrolled in a public or private school.

2017: 3- and 4-year-olds not in preschool

Michigan: 52.9%

5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Keweenaw	22.2%	Oscoda	70.7%
Iron	32.1%	Houghton	69.3%
Otsego	34.2%	Missaukee	67.5%
Ontonagon	34.4%	Tuscola	67.0%
Cheboygan	38.8%	Gogebic	66.5%

Number of Counties:

	2008-2012 vs. 2013-2017	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
83	**81**	**35**

2018: Third-graders not proficient in English Language Arts

Michigan: 55.6%

5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Clinton	34.1%	Montmorency	80.0%
Houghton	34.8%	Roscommon	71.8%
Ottawa	36.3%	Schoolcraft	71.4%
Grand Traverse	42.0%	Luce	70.8%
Livingston	42.0%	Oscoda	69.6%

Number of Counties:

	2015 vs. 2018	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
82	**80**	**15**

2018: Eighth-graders not proficient in math

Michigan: 67.3%

5 Best Counties	Rate	5 Worst Counties	Rate
Emmet	41.4%	Alcona	86.5%
Newaygo	50.3%	Luce	86.0%
Crawford	50.4%	Calhoun	84.3%
Ottawa	50.6%	Iron	84.3%
Washtenaw	51.7%	Schoolcraft	84.3%

Number of Counties:

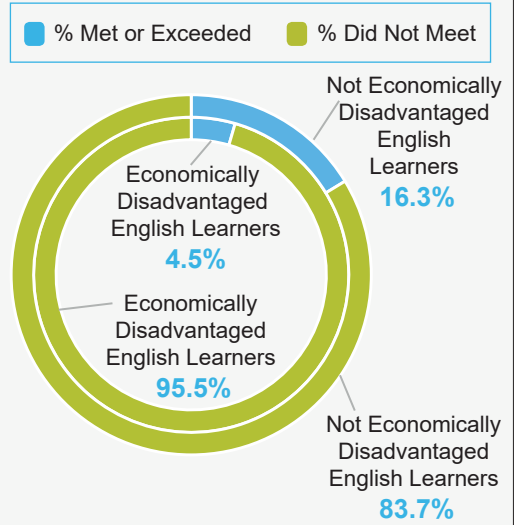|	2015 vs. 2018	
Ranked	Changed	Improved
80	**75**	**42**

Allowing more time to graduate increases high school completion for all students, especially for those who are English Learners, have a disability or are experiencing homelessness.

Graduation Rate

Legend: 4 Years | 5 Years | 6 Years

- All Students
- Male
- Female
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black, Not of Hispanic Origin
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White, Not of Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- Two or More Races
- Economically Disadvantaged
- English Learners
- Migrant
- Homeless
- Students With Disabilities

(scale: 0, 50, 100)
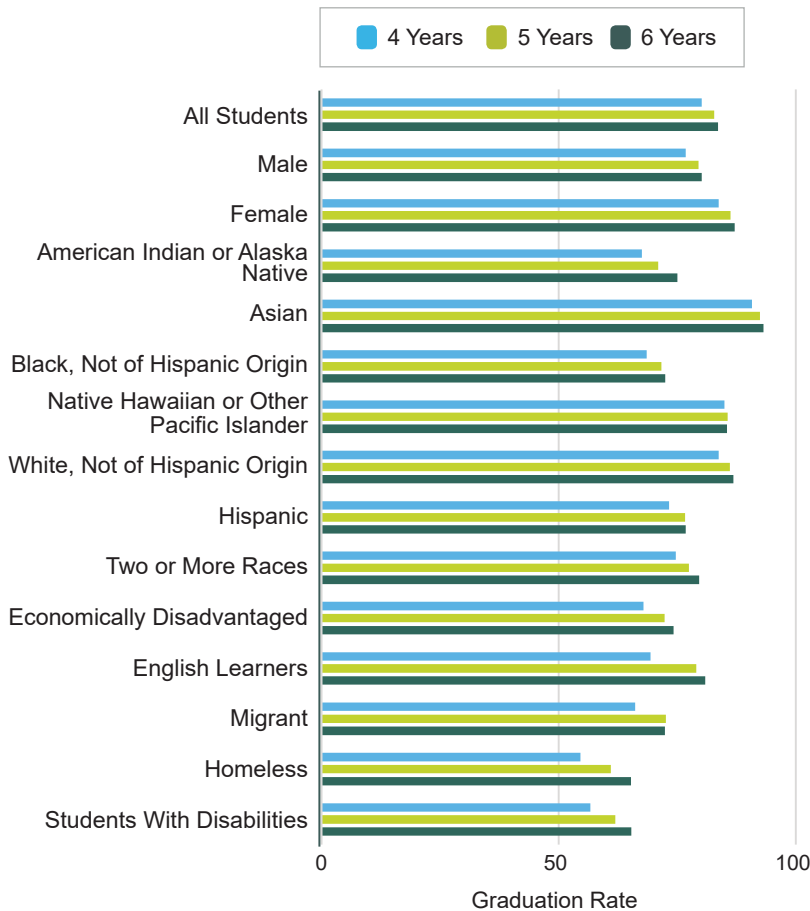
Source: Michigan Department of Education, SY 2016-2017

The majority of students whose primary language is not English face barriers to college readiness despite their family income.

Legend: % Met or Exceeded | % Did Not Meet

- Not Economically Disadvantaged English Learners **16.3%**
- Economically Disadvantaged English Learners **4.5%**
- Economically Disadvantaged English Learners **95.5%**
- Not Economically Disadvantaged English Learners **83.7%**

Source: Michigan School Data, SY 2017-2018

19.8%

of students do not graduate on time in Michigan.

While supports are needed to improve reading proficiency for *all* students, some face additional barriers, such as attendance at underresourced schools.

- Not English Language Learner — 54.4%
- English Language Learner — 66.8%
- Not Economically Disadvantaged — 37.4%
- Economically Disadvantaged — 69.7%
- Male — 58.6%
- White Students — 47.7%
- Students of Color — 70%
- All Students — 55.6%
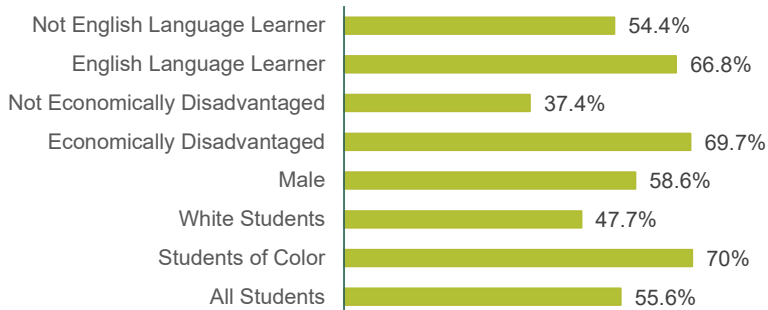
Percent of Third-Graders NOT Proficient in English Language Arts (ELA)

Source: MI School Data, SY 2017-2018

Less than half of preschool-age children are enrolled in school, meaning they often lack access to age-appropriate programs.

Legend: Not Enrolled | Enrolled
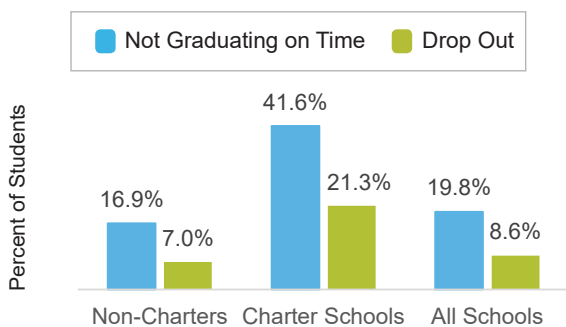
- 52.9%
- 47.1%
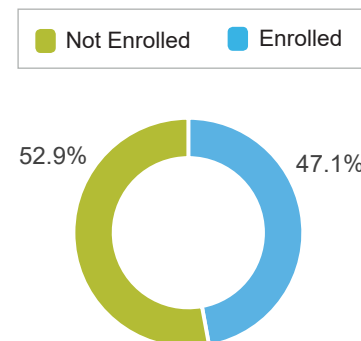
Source: American Community Survey, 2013-2017

Morgan Sieloff, Age 17

Students attending charter schools experience more difficulties graduating on time and completing high school.

Allowing more time to graduate increases high school completion for all students.

Legend: Not Graduating on Time | Drop Out

Percent of Students

Non-Charters: 16.9% / 7.0%
Charter Schools: 41.6% / 21.3%
All Schools: 19.8% / 8.6%

Source: Michigan Department of Education, SY 2016-2017

TREND INDICATORS

(in order of their appearance on state/county profiles)

POPULATION

Estimated populations for 2012 and 2016 are for all people and of children ages 0-5, 6-12, 13-17 and 0-17. The 0-17 populations are broken down by race and ethnicity. The estimates use a model that incorporates information on natural changes such as births and deaths and net migration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State and County Population Estimates; Detroit and Flint estimates from the Office of the State Demographer

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children in Poverty

The number reflects children living in families whose income was below the poverty level in 2012 and 2017. The percentage is based on the total number of children ages 0-17 during that period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Young Children in the Food Assistance Program

The number includes children in families eligible for the Food Assistance Program (FAP), also known as the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), in December 2012 and December 2017. Families qualify with incomes below 130% of the poverty level. The percentage is based on the estimated populations of children ages 0-5 in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 68, December 2012 and December 2017 (for counties); special run for Detroit data

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunches

K-12 students from families with incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level are eligible for a fully subsidized lunch while children from families with incomes between 130% and 185% are eligible for reduced-price meals. The percentage is based on total enrollment of K-12 public school students for school years 2011-12 and 2017-18, including public school academies.

Source: Center for Educational Performance Information

HEALTH & SAFETY

Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care

The number represents the mothers who received less than adequate prenatal care as defined by the Kessner Index, which measures the adequacy of prenatal care by the month it began, the number of prenatal visits and the length of the pregnancy. The base year is an annual average for the three-year period of 2010-12. The current number is an annual average for the three-year period of 2014-16. The percentage is based on total resident live births based on the mother's county of residence. Data prior to 2008 are not comparable due to a change in the definition.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

Low-Birthweight Babies

The number, which includes those babies who weighed less than 2,500 grams (approximately 5 lb., 8 oz.) at birth, is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The percentage is based on total resident live births in the mother's county of residence. Data prior to 2008 are not comparable due to a change in the definition.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

Infant Mortality

The number, which includes infants who died before their first birthday, is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 births during the referenced periods based on the mother's county of residence.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

Child and Teen Deaths

The number includes deaths from all causes for children ages 1-19. It is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The rate is the number of child deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-19 during those periods based on the child's county of residence.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Births to Teens

The number of births to teens ages 15-19 is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The rate of teen births is based on the number of live births per 1,000 females, ages 15-19, for those periods by county of residence.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

Children in Investigated Families
These children reside in families where an investigation of abuse or neglect was conducted in fiscal years 2012 and 2017. Families may be investigated more than once in a given year and their children would be counted each time. The number reflects the total for the year. Rates are calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-17 in their county of residence for 2011 and 2016. Data is no longer combined for two sets of counties: Missaukee-Wexford and Grand Traverse-Leelanau.
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Welfare Data Center, Children's Protective Services Management Special Report

Confirmed Victims of Abuse or Neglect
The number reflects a count of children ages 0-17 confirmed to be victims of abuse or neglect following an investigation in fiscal years 2012 and 2017. Children may be counted twice if there was evidence of two separate cases of abuse found. The rate is calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-17 in their county of residence for 2011 and 2016. Data is no longer combined for two sets of counties: Missaukee-Wexford and Grand Traverse-Leelanau.
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Welfare Data Center, Children's Protective Services Special Report

Children in Out-of-Home Care
The number represents child victims of abuse or neglect placed in active out-of-home placements, such as a foster or relative home, court-ordered fictive kin, residential or shelter care supervised by the Department of Health and Human Services, its agents or the courts. The county represents the location of the court rather than the child's residence. The data are from a single month (September) in the reference years. The rate is calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-17 for 2011 and 2016. Data is no longer combined for two sets of counties: Missaukee-Wexford and Grand Traverse-Leelanau.
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Services Management Information System, Special Report

EDUCATION

Children Ages 3-4 Not in Preschool
The count represents the average number of children ages 3-4 who were not enrolled in preschool during 2008-2012 and 2013-2017. The percentage is based on the population for ages 3-4 during those periods.
Source: American Community Survey, Table S1401

Students Not Graduating on Time
The count includes students who entered Grade 9 in 2008 or 2013 and did not graduate four years later as expected, or five years if enrolled in an Early Middle College program. The percentage is based on the cohort of students entering Grade 9 in those years. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting on-time graduation rates. The counties most affected are Manistee, Leelanau and Berrien.
Source: Michigan Department of Education

Third-Grade English Language Arts (M-STEP)
The number reflects third-graders whose performance on the 2015 and 2018 M-STEP English Language Arts (ELA) tests did not meet the standard of proficiency. The percentage is based on the number of third-graders whose ELA test scores were included in the report. M-STEP is a state standardized test for selected subjects in selected grades administered for the first time in 2015 to public school students. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting outcomes.
Source: Michigan Department of Education

Eighth-Grade Math (M-STEP)
The number reflects eighth-graders whose performance on the 2015 and 2018 M-STEP math tests did not meet the standard of proficiency. The percentage is based on the number of eighth-graders whose math test scores were included in the report. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting outcomes.
Source: Michigan Department of Education

College Readiness
The number reflects 11th-graders whose performance on the 2016 and 2018 College Board SAT in the subjects of Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics did not meet the college readiness benchmarks in one or both of the subjects. The percentage is based on the number of 11th-graders whose SAT test scores were included in the report. The SAT College Readiness data are based on the SAT with essay administration completed during the Michigan Merit Examination in the spring of Grade 11. Prior to the 2015-16 school year, the ACT College Readiness examination was used to measure the proficiency of high school students in English, mathematics, reading and science. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting outcomes.
Source: Michigan Department of Education

BACKGROUND INDICATORS

(in order of their appearance on state/county profiles)

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Children Receiving:

Subsidized child care: The number reflects children ages 0-12 in child care whose parents received a subsidy payment from the state in December 2017. Most families qualify with earned income below 12% of the poverty level. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-12 in 2016.

> *Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Development and Care Program, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 69, December 2016*

Family Independence Program cash assistance: The number reflects child recipients age 0-18 in the Family Independence Program (FIP) in a single month (December 2017). Families with minor children qualify with assets less than $3,000 and gross monthly income below $814. Children in families receiving extended FIP are not included. The percentage is based on the estimated 2016 population of children ages 0-18.

> *Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 4, December 2016 (for counties); special run for Detroit data*

Food Assistance Program: The number reflects child recipients ages 0-18 in the Food Assistance Program (FAP), also known as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), in a single month (December 2017), whose families qualify with incomes below 130% of the poverty level. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-18 in 2016.

> *Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 68, December 2016 (for counties); special run for Detroit data*

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program: The number reflects children ages 0-4 who were enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program during calendar year 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-4 in 2016.

> *Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan WIC Program*

Children With Support Owed:

The number reflects children ages 0-19 who had a child support order and should have received child support for at least one month during fiscal year 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of all children ages 0-19 in 2016. The county represents the location of the court rather than the child's residence.

Receiving none: The number reflects children who received none of the support payments that were owed during fiscal year 2017. The percentage is based on the number of children with support owed for at least one month during fiscal year 2017.

Receiving less than 70% of court-ordered amount: The number reflects children who received less than 70% of the total support amount owed for fiscal year 2017 (including those who received none). The percentage is based on the number of children with support owed for at least one month during fiscal year 2017.

Average amount per child: The number reflects the average monthly amount (per child) of support received in fiscal year 2017 for children who received some child support.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Support Enforcement System Special Run

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Unemployment

The 2017 annual rate (not seasonally adjusted) is based on the average monthly number of persons considered to be in the "workforce" because they are employed or unemployed but are looking and available for work as of August 2018.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Median Household Income

The median represents the midpoint of household income amounts in 2017.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Average Cost of Full-Time Child Care

The number is the weighted average monthly cost for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children in day care centers, group homes and family homes in 2018.

Source: Early Childhood Investment Corporation

Percent of Full-Time Minimum Wage

The percentage is the average child care cost divided by the monthly income from a full-time minimum wage job (based on 173 hours of work).

All Parents Work
The number is an average for 2013-2017 of children ages 0-5 whose parents are in the labor force (i.e., either both parents work in a two-parent family or the parent works in a one-parent family). The percentage is based on the average population ages 0-5 for 2013-17.
Source: American Community Survey, Table B23008

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
Births to Mothers With No High School Diploma or GED
The count is an average for 2014-16. The percent is based on average births for 2014-16.
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

Children 0-17 Living in High-Poverty Neighborhoods
The count is an average for 2013-17 of children living in census tracts with poverty rates of 30% or higher. The percentage is based on the 2013-17 average population of children ages 0-17.
Source: American Community Survey, Table S1701

Family Structure for Children Ages 0-17:
   Two-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in two-parent households. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 for that period.

   One-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in one-parent households. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 for that period.
      Source: American Community Survey Table B17006

Poverty Rate for Children Ages 0-17:
   Two-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in two-parent households whose income was below the poverty level. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 in two-parent households for that period.

   One-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in one-parent households whose income was below the poverty level. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 in one-parent households for that period.
      Source: American Community Survey, Table B17006

Children Ages 5-17 in Households Not Speaking English at Home
The count is an average for 2013-17 of children living in households where English is not spoken. The percentage is based on the 2013-17 average population of children ages 5-17.
*Source: American Community Survey, Table B16008*

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
Children With Health Insurance
The annual number and percentage estimates are based on a three-year average (2014-16) number of children ages 0-18 insured through a public or private program at any point during the year based on the Current Population Survey. Detroit and Flint data are from the American Community Survey.
Source: Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)
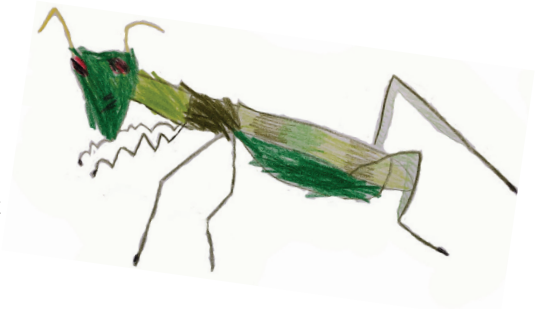
Children Ages 0-18 Insured by:
   Medicaid: The number reflects the enrollment in Medicaid as of December 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-18 in 2016.
      Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, special run for December 2016

   MIChild: This program provides health insurance to children ages 0-18 in families with income between 150% to 200% of the federal poverty level. The number reflects the enrollment in MIChild as of December 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-18 in 2016.
      Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, special run for December 2016

Fully Immunized Toddlers
The number reflects children ages 19-35 months who had completed the vaccination 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Series Coverage as of December 2017, according to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). The percentage is based on the population of children ages 19-35 months who were born to mothers residing in Michigan at the time of the birth.
Source: Michigan Care Improvement Registry

Lead Poisoning in Children, Ages 1-2
   Tested: The number reflects children ages 1-2 who were tested for lead in 2017. The percentage is based on the number of children ages 1-2 in 2016.

Poisoned (% of tested): The number reflects children ages 1-2 whose test showed 5 or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (mcg/dL), with the results confirmed by venous testing. The percentage is based on the number of children ages 1-2 who were tested.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 2017

Children Hospitalized for Asthma
This number represents Michigan hospital discharges of children ages 1-14 with asthma recorded as the primary diagnosis. The number reflects the annual average and rate per 10,000 children ages 1-14 in 2016. Due to a change in hospital reporting after 2014, 2016 data are available for the state only and should not be compared to prior years. Three-year averages will be available for the years 2016-2018 in 2020.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Epidemiology Services

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Students in Special Education
The number includes all individuals ages 0 through 26 receiving special education services as of December 2017, except those in programs operated by state agencies. These students have been diagnosed with a mental or physical condition that qualified them for special education services. The percentage is based on the enrollments from the Free/Reduced Lunch data file.

Source: Michigan Department of Education, Special Education Services and the Center for Educational Performance Information

Children Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
The number reflects child recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as of December 2017. SSI is a Social Security Administration program of cash and medical assistance for elderly people with low incomes and individuals with disabilities, including children. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 0-18 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Special Run for December 2016

Children Served by *Early On*
The number reflects children ages 0-2 who were enrolled in *Early On* in the fall of 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population for ages 0-2 in 2016. These data are reported by Intermediate School District (ISD); 40 counties have county data, while 43 have their ISD total listed.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

DEFINITIONS

Population Estimates: Rates for non-census years are based on population estimates from the United States Census Bureau.

Rates: Except where noted, rates are calculated when incidents total more than five. Three years of data are used to calculate an average annual rate for most health indicators, because they are less likely to be distorted than rates based on single-year numbers; this three-year averaging also allows rates to be calculated for many counties with small populations. Rates based on small numbers of events and small populations can vary dramatically and are not statistically reliable for projecting trends or understanding local impact.

Percentage Change: Change is calculated by dividing the difference between the recent and base year rates by the base year rate (recent rate-base rate) / base rate. Rising rates indicate worsening conditions for children on measures in this report. Changes on some indicators such as victims of abuse or neglect may reflect state or local policies or staffing levels. The calculation is based on unrounded rates; calculations using rounded rates may not produce identical results.

Rank is assigned to a county indicator based on the rounded rate of the most recent year reported or annual average. A rank of No. 1 is the "best" rate on the measure. Only counties with a rate in the most recent year are ranked on a given indicator.

Endnotes

Introduction

1. Arsen, David, Tanner Delpier, and Jesse Nagel, *Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control,* January 2019: http://education.msu.edu/ed-policy-phd/pdf/Michigan-School-Finance-at-the-Crossroads-A-Quarter-Center-of-State-Control.pdf
2. Annie E. Casey Foundation, *2018 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being,* July 2018: https://www.aecf.org/resources/2018-kids-count-data-book/
3. ibid

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1. Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University: https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/brain-architecture/
2. Arsen, David, Tanner Delpier, and Jesse Nagel, *Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control,* January 2019: http://education.msu.edu/ed-policy-phd/pdf/Michigan-School-Finance-at-the-Crossroads-A-Quarter-Center-of-State-Control.pdf

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2. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Michigan Home Visiting Report FY 2017,* Accessed January 7, 2019: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/homevisiting/Home_Visiting_Initiative_Report_2017_637278_7.pdf
3. Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid/CHIP Coverage of Lawfully-Residing Immigrant Children and Pregnant Women,* January 2018, Accessed February 1, 2019: https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-chip-coverage-of-lawfully-residing-immigrant-children-and-pregnant-women/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D

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Special Note:

Letter artwork featured on the cover comes from works by: Samantha Avina, age 15; Taylor Brown, age 16; Jaden Chapman, age 17; Rovic Ines, age 17; Isabella Martellini, age 15; Brook Robinson, age 18; Morgan Sieloff, age 17; Rio Tomlinson, age 16; and Brandon Vega, age 18.

Bug artwork featured in the Data Definitions and Notes section was created by Jrue Sims, age 6.

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