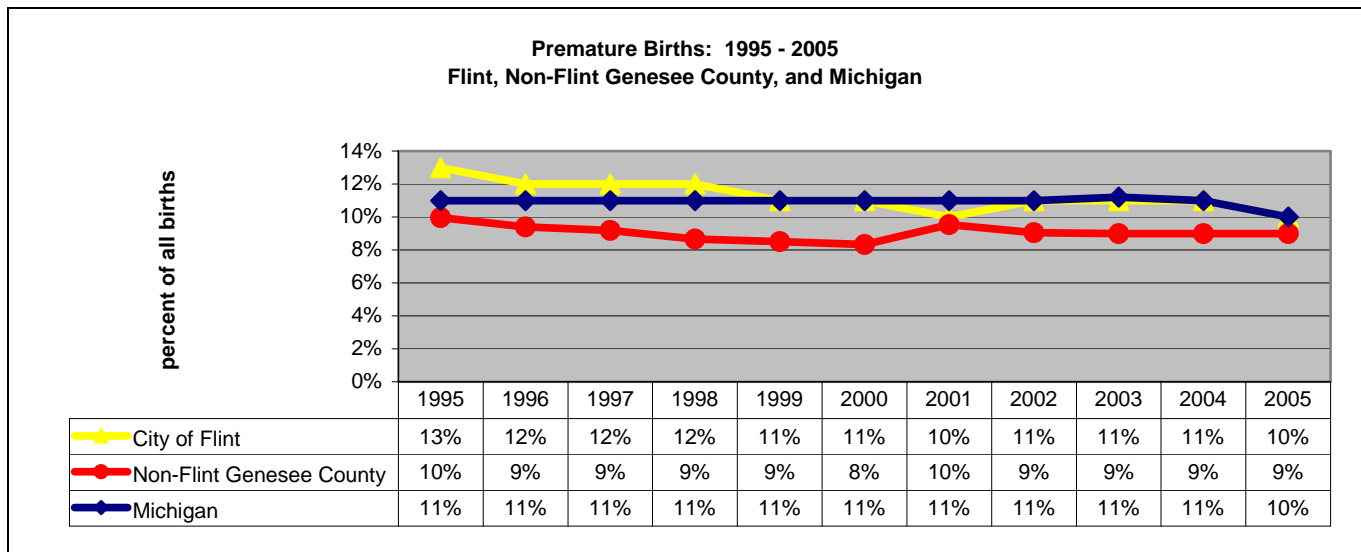


Fact Sheet 2.6: Premature Births

Premature births are those that occur prior to the 37th week of gestation. Preterm babies are at greater than normal risk for getting sick or dying during the first year of life. Preventing premature births increases the chances that the baby will be born healthy.



There have been significant gains reported in the most recent ten year period.

- Between 1995 and 2004, the rate of premature births in Michigan has held constant at 11% of all live births.
- During the same period, the rate of premature births to Flint residents declined to the same rate experienced in Michigan as a whole.
- The rate for non-Flint Genesee County residents remains slightly lower than the rate in Michigan as a whole.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

According to the data for the reported decade, consistency has been achieved in the area of premature births. It is a “good news” consistency, with city, county, and state-wide percentages within a few points of each other. It demonstrates the interrelatedness of varied socio-economic and health factors. Addressing pre-natal and neo-natal care on multiple fronts makes sense! This paves the way for a united effort to further improve chances for Michigan children to be born at full-term, healthy, with less risk of illness and/or deaths. Decreased numbers of premature births should translate to reduced infant mortality.

INTERVENTION EFFORTS

- Premature births and low birthweight babies are focus areas for March of Dimes programs. This includes education and information about pre-term labor and delivery, and the care of these infants, as well as research into causes for the occurrences.
- Maternal and Infant Health Program (formerly MSS/ISS) services nursing, educational, social work, nutrition, case management and home visits for pregnant women and infants (Medicaid).
- Led by the Health Department, Healthy Start serves mothers and children 0-2 in the 48503, 04, and 48458 zip codes. The providers assist with housing, food and nutrition, baby clothes, making and keeping doctor appointments, advice on infant bonding, and health care concerns.

Definitions: The percentage is based on all live births.

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation website

http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=MI&areaid=19&printerfriendly=0&expandindicators=0&expandyears=1#3

Note: These data are based on three-year averages, with the year given as the midpoint. Rates are not calculated for counties or cities with occurrences that total less than six over the three-year period. NA represents the uncalculated rates.

Revised: 3/24/08