

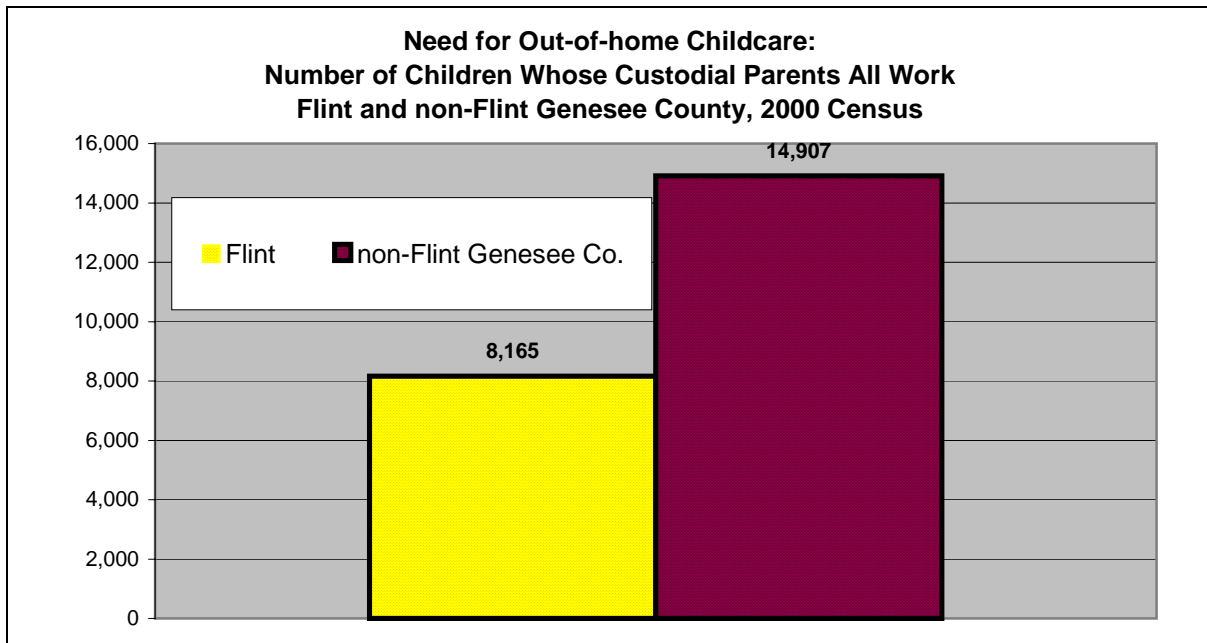


**Mission:** Improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, public awareness and advocacy.

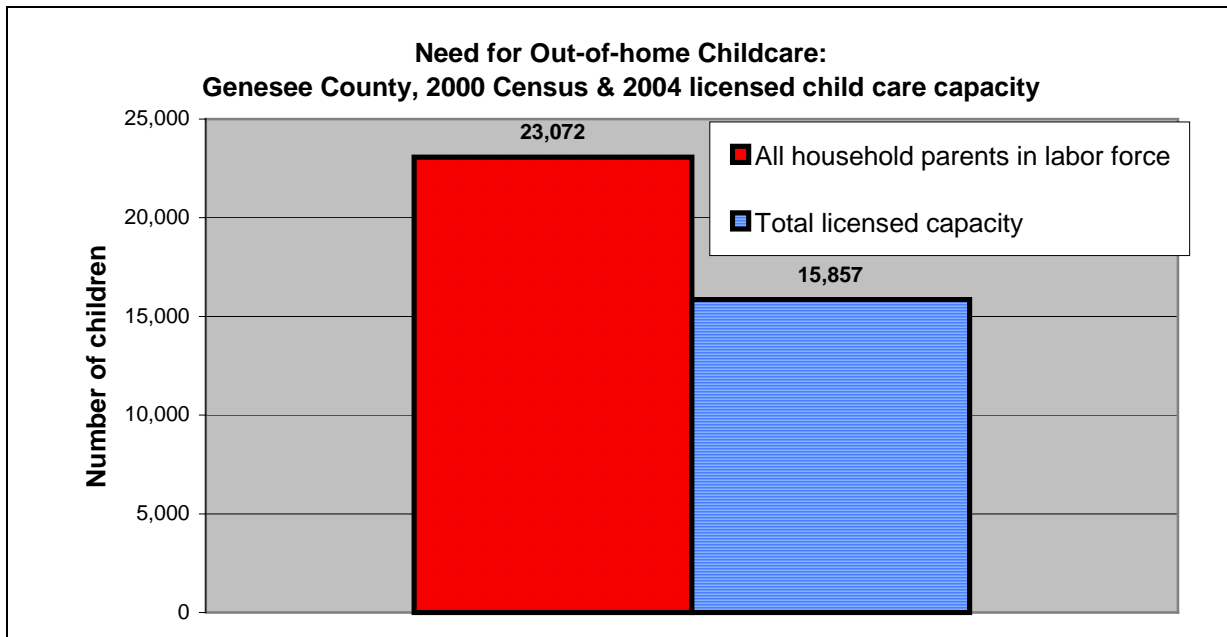
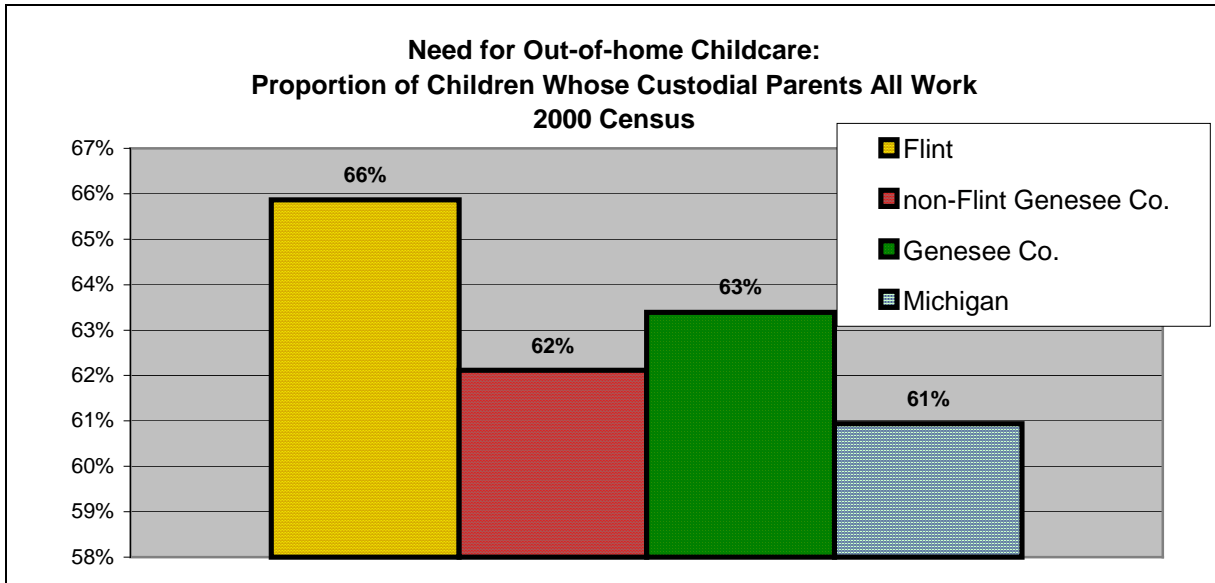
### **Fact Sheet 3.1 Early Childhood Care**

According to the 2000 census, there were 23,072 children in Genesee County who lived with parents who worked. Many of these children were probably cared for by family members, or through non-licensed child care arrangements. Other families relied on paid childcare. Providers are licensed and regulated by the Michigan Department of Human Services (formerly FIA). The capacity of these childcare providers is limited as a condition of their licenses.

One can establish an approximate upper limit on the need for paid out-of-home childcare by estimating the number of children whose custodial parents work outside the home. While undoubtedly some of these children are cared for on an unpaid basis by grandparents or other relatives, many of their families rely on licensed childcare settings.



**Fact Sheet 3.1: Early Childhood Care continued...**



- In 2004, there was capacity for 15,857 children in licensed childcare settings in Genesee County. However, according to the 2000 census there may have been more than 23,000 children whose parents worked outside the home who have been in need of childcare.
- In the case of 66% of preschool-aged children in Flint, all the parents in the household worked, as compared to 62% of similarly aged children in Genesee County outside Flint. In Michigan as a whole, 61% of preschool children live in households where all the resident parents worked.

## ***Fact Sheet 3.1: Early Childhood Care continued...***

### **BEYOND THE NUMBERS**

Early childhood education has become a component of licensed childcare. Families can now also receive funds for taking care of related children in their homes, producing an “income stream” for families. This kind of care can add strength to extended families. There is no measure of how this compares with or links with the early childhood education provided through licensed centers. Connecting to a center, Head Start or other early childhood education program, or outreach education can help fill the gap, if there is one.

### **EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS**

- **4C Child Care Unlimited** - Coordinating agency for out of home childcare.
- Some schools also provide early childhood care and education such as the **Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth Learning Community** and **Manley School** in Flint.

**Sources:** 4C Childcare Unlimited; Genesee Intermediate School District; Flint Community Schools, Clio Community Schools, Flushing Community Schools; Montrose Community Schools; Michigan Department of Education; US Department of Health and Human Services  
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806 Tuuri Place ▼ Flint, MI 48503 ▼ **ph:** 810.234.5007 ▼ **fx:** 810.234.5017  
kids@prioritychildren.org ▼ www.prioritychildren.org