



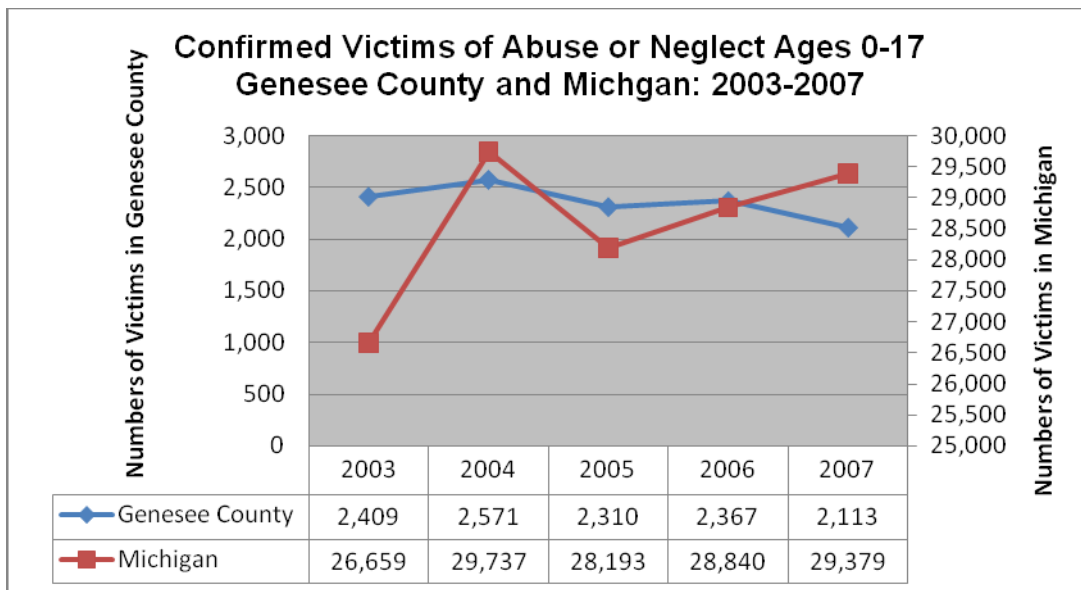
**Mission:** To improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, awareness, advocacy and action.

## Fact Sheet 2.2 Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect are associated with both short-term and long-term negative consequences for children’s physical and mental health, cognitive skills, educational attainment, and social development, including anti-social behavior and physical aggression.

**Child abuse** is defined in Michigan as harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare that occurs through non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment.

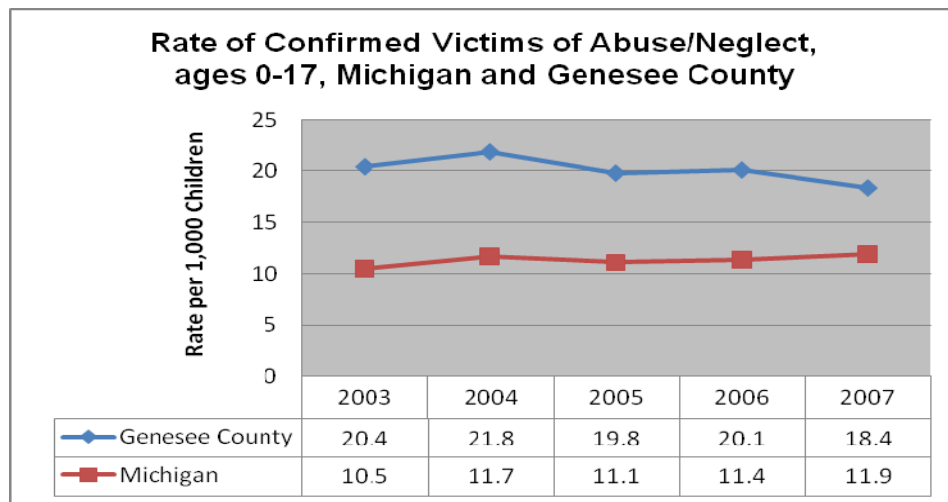
**Child neglect** is defined as harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare that occurs through negligent treatment or failure to intervene to eliminate risk. The abuse or neglect must be on the part of someone who has a legal responsibility for the child’s health and well-being (such as a parent, teacher, etc.).



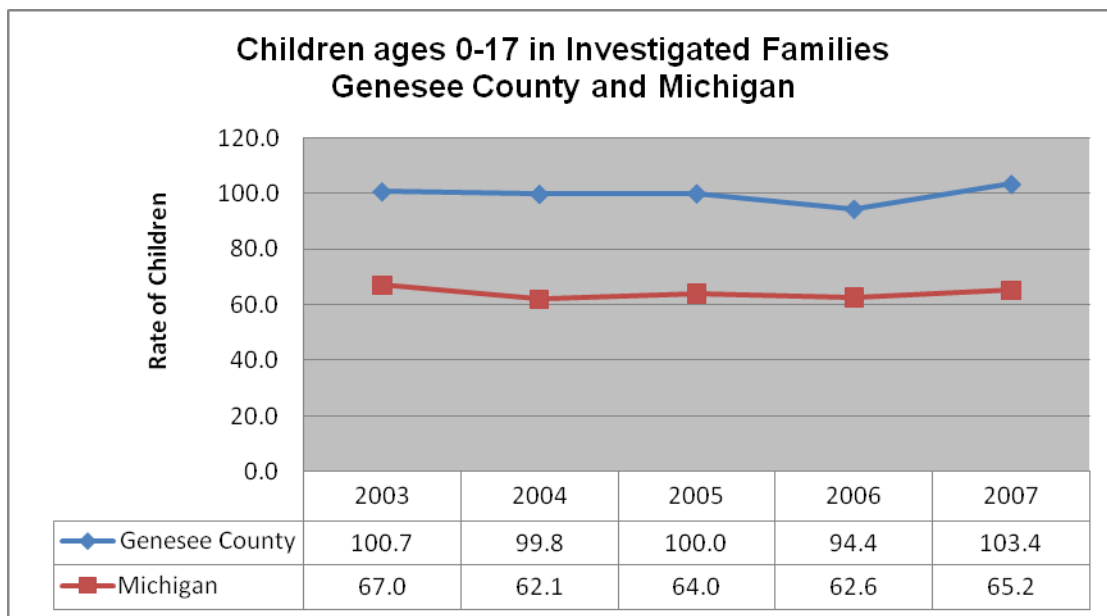
- There was a significant jump in confirmed cases of abuse and neglect in Michigan in 2004.
- Then in 2005 a drop occurred with the numbers climbing steadily over the next two years.

**Continued...**

**Fact Sheet 2.2: Child Abuse and Neglect continued...**



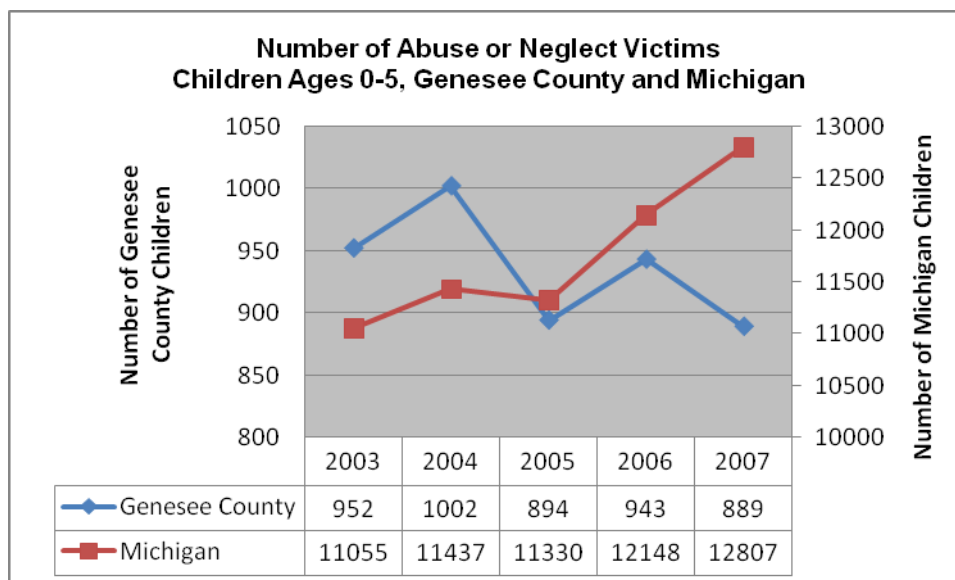
- The rate of confirmed cases of victims of Abuse/Neglect in children ages 0-17 has remained steady at both the state and county levels.



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**Continued...**

## Fact Sheet 2.2: Child Abuse and Neglect continued...



- The numbers of abuse or neglect victims among children ages 0-5 rose significantly in Michigan between 2005 and 2007.
- However, overtime the numbers of these victims dropped over a period of three years.

### BEYOND THE NUMBERS

The numbers of children involved in confirmed cases of child abuse/neglect is dropping in Genesee County, although it continues to rise in Michigan.

There is a need to take a closer look at what happened in 2004 to reverse the upward trend of child abuse and neglect. Were there successful interventions? Was it simply a decrease in reporting or less thorough record keeping? And finally, what happened to re-establish the climb in numbers of cases, children involved, and rate of child abuse/neglect in 2004? Are there social/emotional supports available to assist the adult caretakers of the county's children in dealing with their and the family's situations? This would include stress relief, affordable recreation/leisure activities, counseling, and similar services that bring positive stimuli to what can be a negative, overwhelming environment.

The increasing rates of abuse in Genesee County, in comparison to the lower but still increasing rate in Michigan, call attention to the relationship between child abuse/neglect and other socio-economic factors. High unemployment, low earnings, and the accompanying frustration have a bearing upon how children are treated by adults. This is borne out by the statistical information depicted in the graph.

### EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

- **Community Action Plan on Child Abuse & Neglect** - In February 2005, a community action plan for child abuse and neglect was completed (CAPCAN). The plan includes a vision, goals, activities, education, fund development, assessment, planning, training, and implementation. Very comprehensive and methodical, it should make a difference for families and children in Genesee County. For a copy of the action plan, visit <http://www.prioritychildren.org/CAPCAN.pdf>
- **Consortium on Child Abuse & Neglect** - Offers a variety of services to educate and advocate against child abuse and neglect.
- **Child Advocacy Center** - By using a multi disciplinary team, the center aims to reduce the number of forensic interviews for child victims of sexual abuse. Forensic interviews are conducted on site along with support services for child and family.

Data Source: Annie E. Casey, [http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliqs.cgi?action=profile\\_results&subset=MI&areaid=95](http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliqs.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=MI&areaid=95)  
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