

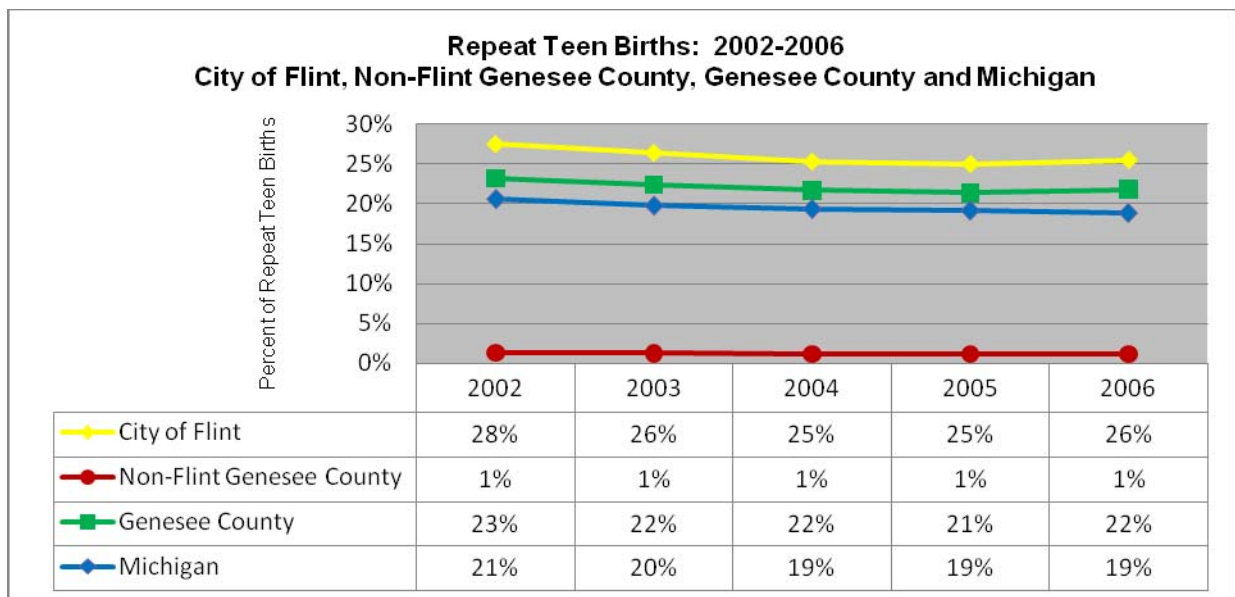


Mission: To improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, awareness, advocacy and action.

Fact Sheet 2.13 Repeat Teen Births

“Repeat teen births” refers to the share of Michigan teen births to young women who already have a child. Changes in the percent of repeat teen births provides an indication of the extent of planning among teens for future pregnancies and their ongoing levels of need for access to reproductive health education and services.

Children of teenage mothers are at elevated risk for being poor but when there are repeated births to teen mothers the likelihood of being raised in extreme poverty rises dramatically. When teen mothers have more than one child, problems compound for both the mother and child. Teen mothers who have more than one child are less likely to complete high school or to get a GED; babies born to a teen who already has a child are more likely to be born premature or at low weight. Reducing the rates of repeat teen births can assist in lessening the significant health and socio-economic risks to young women and their infants associated with teenage childbearing.



- The proportion of repeat teen births has fallen in Michigan and Genesee County as a whole over the most recent ten year period.
- When all of Genesee County is compared to Michigan as a whole, the proportion of repeat teen births is consistently higher in Genesee County.
- While repeated teen births to Flint mothers represent a much higher proportion of all teen births than in Genesee County outside Flint, improvement has occurred over the latest ten years in Flint.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

The statistics show quite a range of outcomes. There are differences between Flint and Genesee County, and both exhibit higher rates than the state as a whole. With all repeat births declining, City of Flint numbers show a greater rate of decline. We are quick to look to birth control awareness and access to solve the problem. Perhaps that needs to be accompanied by counseling and mental/emotional health services.

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

- Planned Parenthood - Offices throughout Michigan provide pregnancy prevention education and information, as well as health care to those requesting it.
- Schools and other agencies such as Connexions, Inc. also address teen pregnancy prevention.
- Catholic Charities - Through a contract with the Department of Human Services, provides comprehensive services to low incomes teen parents and pregnant teens.
- The Flint Carrera Replication Program- The project provides pregnancy prevention education/activities for 11-12 year olds that will continue through the graduation. The original partnership is with Children's Aid Society and replication sites incorporate research-based activities.
- Schools of Choice - Program for pregnant and teen parents.

Definitions: The percentage is based on total teen births for ages 15-19 and number of total births to teens under 20.

Data Source: Annie. E. Casey Foundation - <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=MI&loc=3768>

Note: These data are based on three-year averages, with the year given as the midpoint.

Revised: 4/2/09