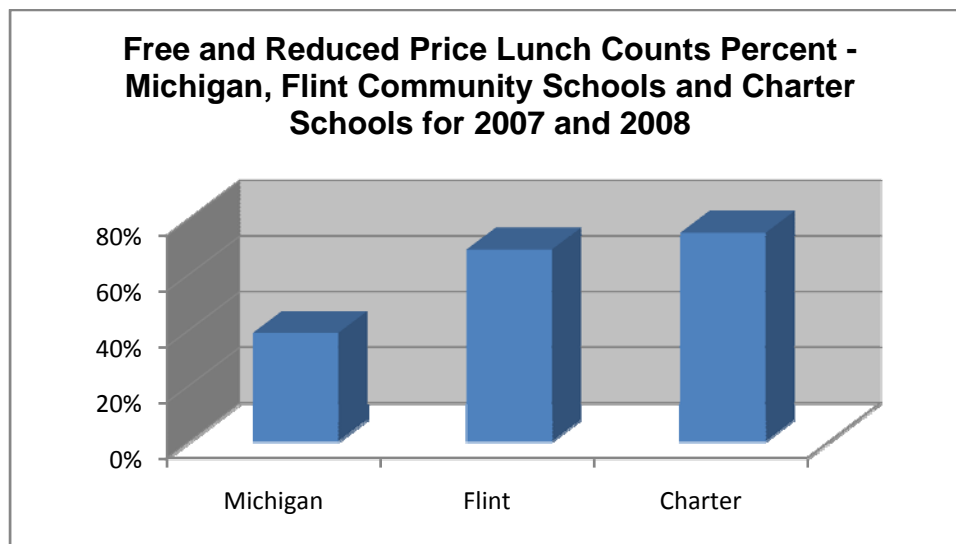
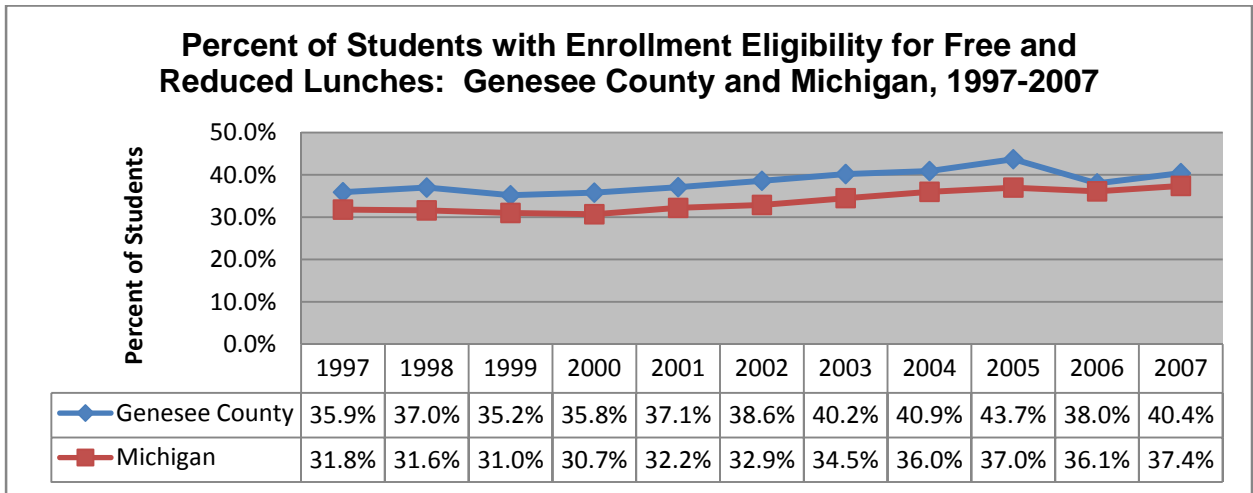




Mission: To improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, awareness, advocacy and action.

Fact Sheet 4.3 Free or Reduced Lunch

The eligibility of students to participate in the free and reduced price school lunch program is determined by federal income guidelines according to family size. Eligibility for free or reduced lunch is therefore one indicator of poverty status.



Continued...

Fact Sheet 4.3: Free or Reduced Lunch continued...

When all Genesee county schools are compared to statewide averages, Genesee County is higher. However: when students of all ages are compared, students in the Flint Community Schools are about twice as likely as students in Michigan in general to apply for free or reduced lunch in school.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

In this area, the numbers speak for themselves. The numbers of children applying for free/reduced lunch are indicators for child poverty and the economic status of the geographic area. The importance of the accuracy of this data lies in its use for qualifying for grant monies, especially federal, that can have an impact on many of the negative conditions that affect families and children. Though this is not a statistic that we would want to see increase, it should be fully and accurately reported in order to access services for those who need them.

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

For some children, free and/or reduced lunches might be the healthiest or most regular meal served, for a variety of reasons. The lunches themselves are an intervention that impacts health and ability to learn.

- **Child and Adult Care Food Program** - Public and private organizations may receive reimbursement for providing nutritious snacks and suppers (new) to children up to age 18 in after school care programs in low-income areas. While many organizations provide lunch and/or snacks, we know that some children do not get healthy dinners. This opportunity is a new one, and of course organizations must consider their capacity to handle the responsibility. The suppers would include milk, meat or alternative, two servings vegetables/fruit, and whole-grain bread or cereal. This is part of the Child Nutrition Application Program (CNAP) and details are available at 517-373-7391 or by email to MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov.

Data Source: Annie E. Casey - http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliqs.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=MI&areaid=95&printerfriendly=0&expandindicators=0&expandyears=1#4
Revised: 3/18/09