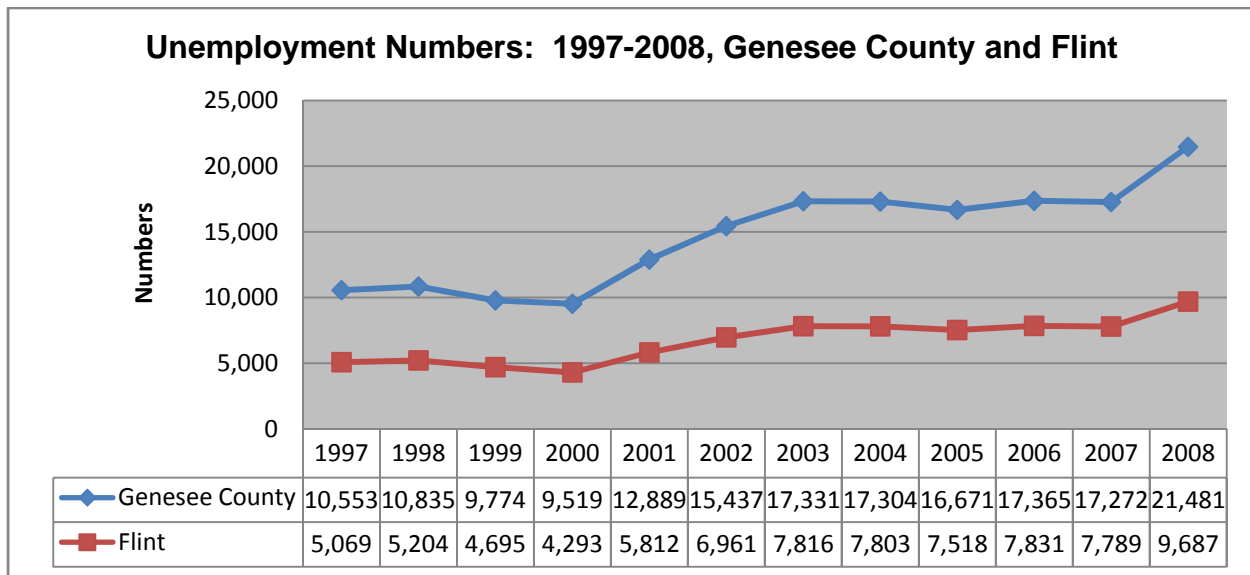




Mission: To improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, awareness, advocacy and action.

Fact Sheet 4.5 Unemployment

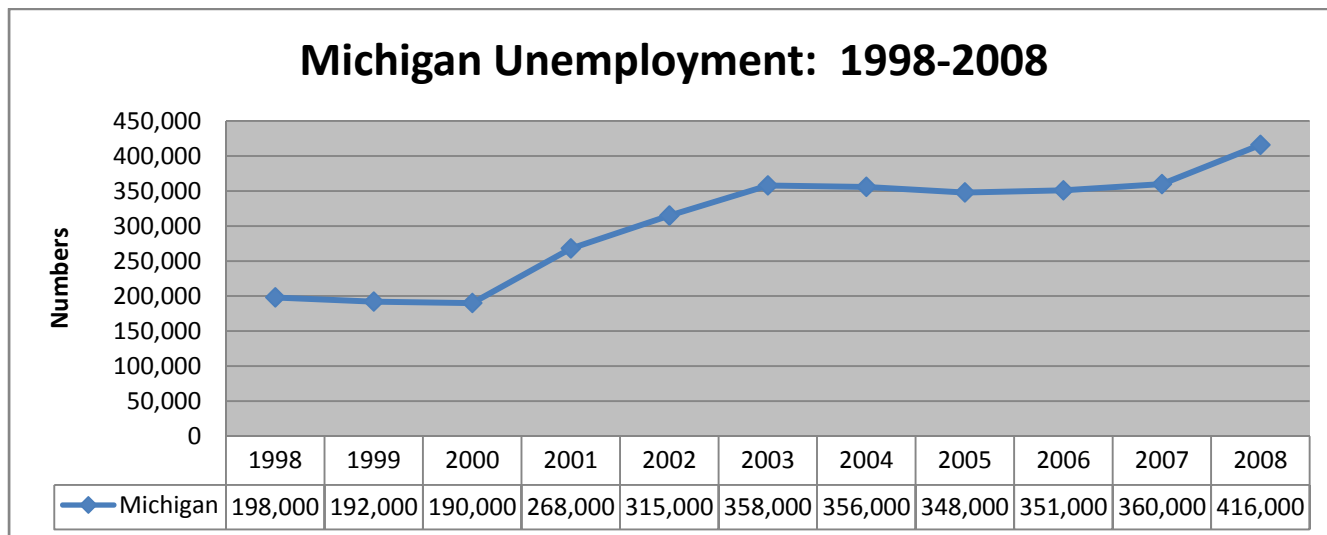
The level of unemployment and associated poverty in a community has important implications for families' abilities to satisfy basic needs and to promote and protect families' health and well-being. Reductions in unemployment rates can help counteract the significant negative effects that poverty can have on children and their families, and can improve access to health insurance and promote family stability. Plant closings and layoffs have had a negative impact.



- Unemployment rates in Genesee County and the city of Flint have all risen dramatically from 2000 through 2003, but declined slightly in 2004 and 2005.
- When numbers for residents of the city of Flint are subtracted, the unemployment rate in the rest of Genesee County closely mirrors or is less than that of the state as a whole.
- Genesee County and Flint saw a huge jump in unemployment in 2008.

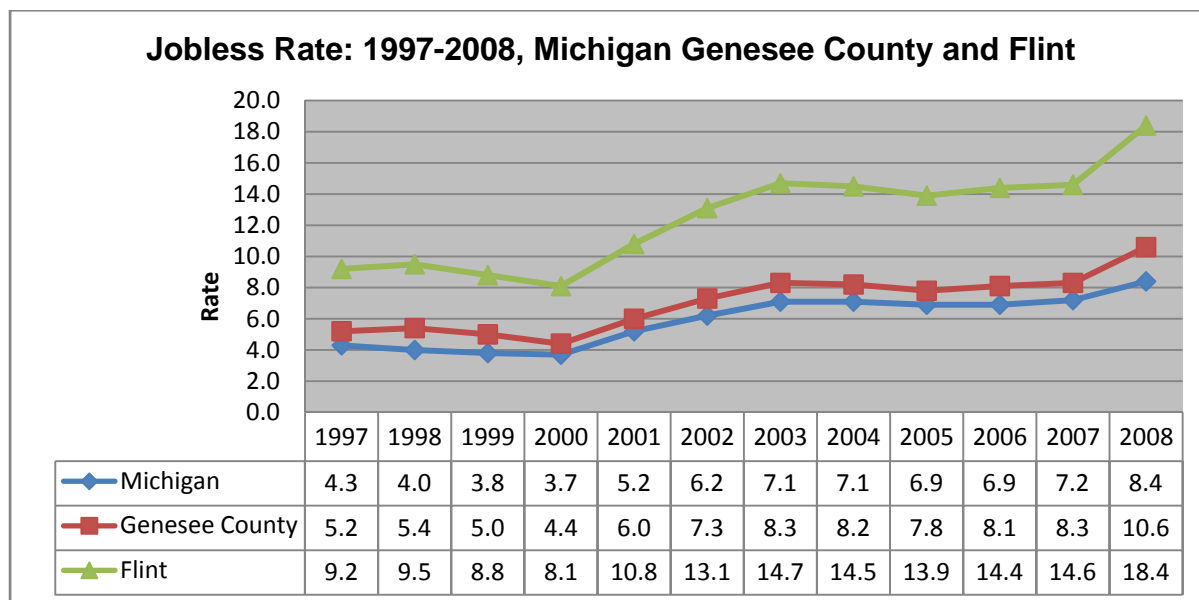
continued...

Fact Sheet 4.5: Unemployment continued...



- Unemployment rates in Michigan have also risen dramatically from 2000 through 2003, but declined slightly in 2004 and 2005 with another huge jump in 2008.
- The numbers from 2006 to 2008 indicate an increase in unemployment at the state level where both Genesee County and Flint numbers reflect a decrease in unemployment.
- Note: Some of the 2004 data has been updated with more accurate information from the Michigan Department of Labor website. As a result, there is a change in the figures. This reveals an interesting pattern in that non-Flint Genesee County's average unemployment rates for both 2004 and 2005 are actually below the state average, while Flint's remains about twice as high as the state averages.

Note: Plant closings impact numbers.



- Although the unemployment rate for Genesee County was closely parallel to that of the state as a whole throughout the 1990's, it rose more sharply than that of the state between 2000 and 2004 and again in 2008.
- The unemployment rate for the city of Flint is regularly more than double that of the state and county outside of Flint.

Fact Sheet 4.5: Unemployment continued...

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Flint's unemployment trend closely mirrors that of Genesee County and the state of Michigan, even showing a very slight downturn in 2005, when the others did not. The fact that the city's rate of unemployment is roughly one and one-half times that of Genesee County and twice that of the state is notable. Even if the area's economic downturn stabilizes, the question of job replacement comes to mind. The questions are valid for city, county, and all of Michigan. What kinds of jobs, if any, are replacing those that ended? Are they in the area, or do people travel greater distances to work? And finally, what is the skill/education level of the unemployed? Do incoming jobs match the workforce, and visa-versa? Perhaps, most importantly, is maximum use being made of economic development grant monies, enterprise zones, etc.?

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

- **National League of Cities** - introduced in 2004 the "Municipal Action to Reduce Poverty" project. The goals are to assist local officials in addressing barriers related to economic needs of the poor, and identify tools, activities, and strategies to alleviate those needs. Components include providing information about how to reduce poverty, developing a strategic approach for meeting needs, and providing conferences, workshops, mentoring, and related meetings.
- **Michigan Works! Systems, Career Alliance, Inc.** - Genesee/Shiawasee County's central location for both linking with training programs and providing programs, including Flint Family Road.

Data Source: Michigan Department of Labor

<http://www.milmi.org/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Labforce>

Revised: 4/2/09