



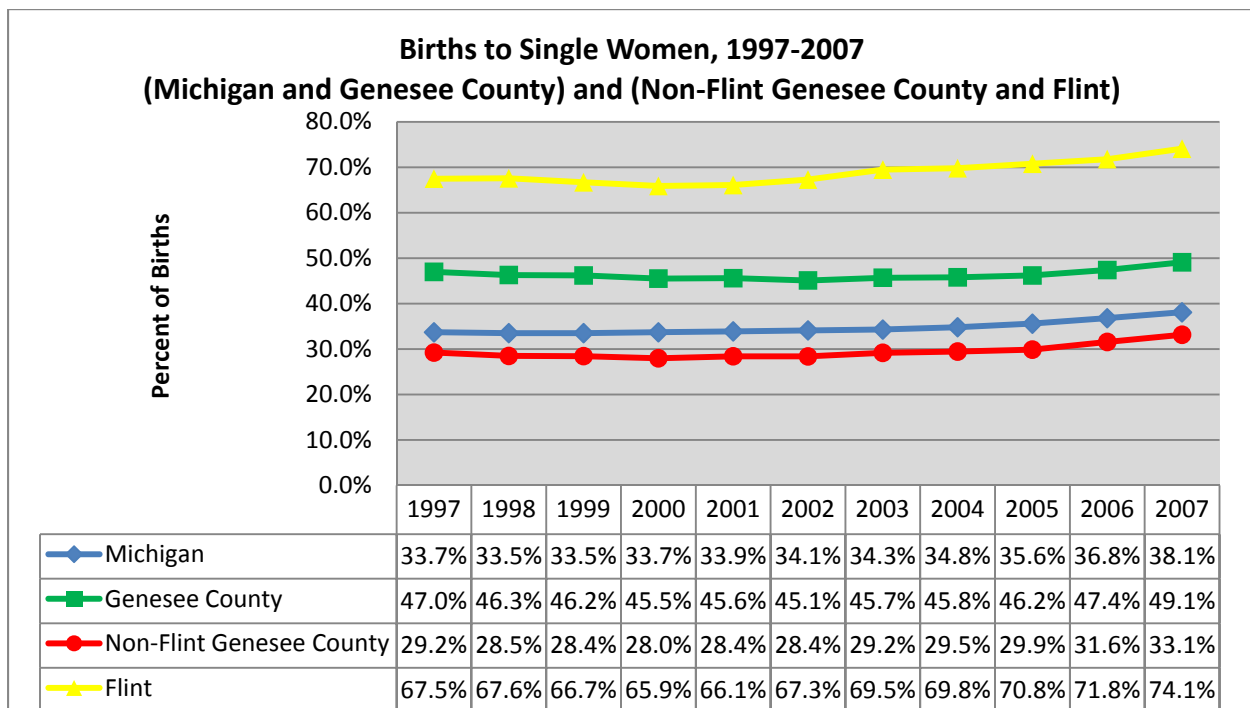
Mission: To improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, awareness, advocacy and action.

Fact Sheet 4.1 Births to Single Women

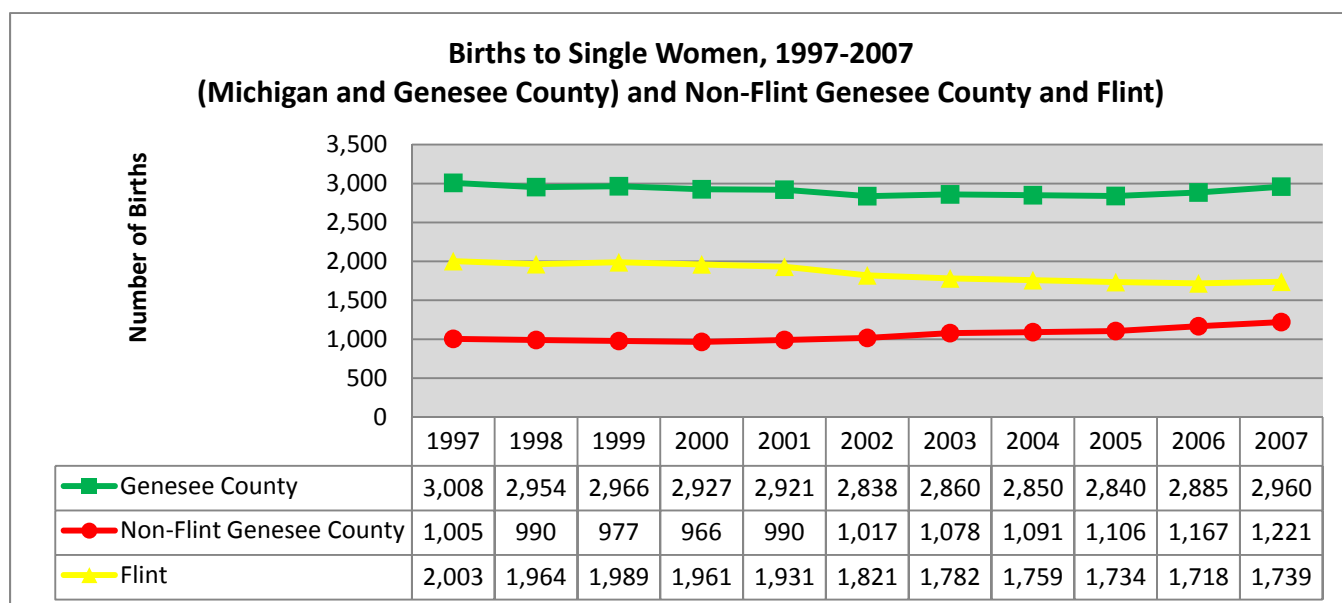
Children born to unmarried women face a greater likelihood of growing up in mother-headed households, which have high risk of poverty. Poverty is closely linked to adverse outcomes in health, education, emotional well-being and delinquency. Children living in poverty are three times more likely to die in infancy and four times more likely to become pregnant as teenagers

Never-married mothers are less likely than divorced single parents to be awarded child support or receive the support awarded. Financial stress can contribute to depression and anxiety that compromise parenteral capacity to nurture. Children of single mothers typically also have more limited social resources. Although about 40 percent of unmarried mothers are living with the child’s father at the time of the birth, the risk of relationship breakup for cohabitating couples within five years of a first birth is roughly double that of married couples – 31 percent versus 16 percent.¹

The graphs depict three-year averages. For example, the numbers identified for 2002 are actually the average for 2001, 2002 and 2003.



Fact Sheet 4.1: Births to Single Women continued...



*Michigan not graphed

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
45059	44739	44708	45347	45439	45313	45051	45228	46101	47198	48347

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

There appears to be good news in this area, based on overall declines. The City of Flint statistics are confusing in that recent years show a slight rise percentage-wise in births to single mothers, while the overall numbers of births have declined. The concern for births to single mothers, the conditions that statistics present relative to them – poverty, related socio-economic hardships, need for and access to social services remains. The information presented does not include the ages of the single mothers, nor does it indicate education level. These factors would perhaps change or clarify the true picture.

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

Education and awareness are still two of the most effective means of helping women make decisions related to raising a family. Planned Parenthood offers comprehensive information related to such decisions, ranging from law to personal health.

- **Healthy Start** - Coordinated by the Health Department, Healthy Start serves mothers and children 0-2 in the 48503, 48504, and 48458 zip codes. The providers assist with housing, food and nutrition, baby clothes, making and keeping doctor appointments, advice on infant bonding, and health care concerns.

Definitions: The total number of live births to single mothers.

Data Source: Annie E. Casey, http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliqs.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=MI

Note: These data are based on three-year averages, with the year given as the midpoint. Births by county and city are based on the mother's residence.

Revised: 6/30/09

1 Paul R. Amato The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation. *Marriage and Child Well-Being*. The Future of Children series. Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and the Brookings Institution. Vol 15, No.2, Fall 2005.