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Opening Doors for Young Parents, a national KIDS COUNT policy report, presents the barriers that young adult parents (ages 18-24) face as they transition into adulthood and parenting simultaneously. Young parents need the same supports that all young people need—and they also need what all parents need—to ensure that they and their children reach their full potential. Solutions must take a two-generation approach, combining resources for parents of all ages as well as those for young people.

Young Parents in Michigan

About 85,000 young adults in Michigan are parents, or approximately 9% of all 18-24 year olds.

While White young adults are nearly two-thirds (65.4%) of the total young parent population in Michigan, people of color are more likely to become parents between the ages of 18-24.

Children with Young Parents in Michigan

Around 100,000 children in Michigan have at least one young parent. With limited access to opportunities to advance their education and find family-sustaining jobs, many of these parents struggle to make ends meet.

Nearly 3 in 4 children in Michigan with young parents live in families with low incomes.
Young Parents and Educational Attainment

We know how important postsecondary training and education is to getting a job that pays family-sustaining wages and provides benefits. Yet, in Michigan the vast majority of young parents have not completed schooling beyond high school.

In fact, over 31% of young parents in Michigan are disconnected, meaning they are not employed or in the labor force and are not attending schools, which has a direct impact on their financial security.

Less than 1 in 10 young parents has completed a postsecondary program.

- High school degree or GED: 73%
- Less than high school degree: 13.2%
- Associate degree or more: 8.8%

Nearly half of children with young parents have at least one parent who is disconnected.

- All resident parents are disconnected: 18.7%
- At least one disconnected parent: 45.6%

Source: Opening Doors For Young Parents, KIDS COUNT, Annie E. Casey Foundation, September 2018