

Data Definitions and Notes

TREND INDICATORS

(in order of their appearance on state/county profiles)

POPULATION

Estimated populations for 2012 and 2016 are for all people and of children ages 0-5, 6-12, 13-17 and 0-17. The 0-17 populations are broken down by race and ethnicity. The estimates use a model that incorporates information on natural changes such as births and deaths and net migration.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *State and County Population Estimates*; Detroit and Flint estimates from the Office of the State Demographer

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children in Poverty

The number reflects children living in families whose income was below the poverty level in 2012 and 2017. The percentage is based on the total number of children ages 0-17 during that period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*

Young Children in the Food Assistance Program

The number includes children in families eligible for the Food Assistance Program (FAP), also known as the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), in December 2012 and December 2017. Families qualify with incomes below 130% of the poverty level. The percentage is based on the estimated populations of children ages 0-5 in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 68, December 2012 and December 2017 (for counties); special run for Detroit data*

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunches

K-12 students from families with incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level are eligible for a fully subsidized lunch while children from families with incomes between 130% and 185% are eligible for reduced-price meals. The percentage is based on total enrollment of K-12 public school students for school years 2011-12 and 2017-18, including public school academies.

Source: Center for Educational Performance Information

HEALTH & SAFETY

Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care

The number represents the mothers who received less than adequate prenatal care as defined by the Kessner Index, which measures the adequacy of prenatal care by the month it began, the number of prenatal visits and the length of the pregnancy. The base year is an annual average for the three-year period of 2010-12. The current number is an annual average for the three-year period of 2014-16. The percentage is based on total resident live births based on the mother's county of residence. Data prior to 2008 are not comparable due to a change in the definition.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Records and Health Data Development Section*

Low-Birthweight Babies

The number, which includes those babies who weighed less than 2,500 grams (approximately 5 lb., 8 oz.) at birth, is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The percentage is based on total resident live births in the mother's county of residence. Data prior to 2008 are not comparable due to a change in the definition.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Records and Health Data Development Section*

Infant Mortality

The number, which includes infants who died before their first birthday, is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 births during the referenced periods based on the mother's county of residence.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Records and Health Data Development Section*

Child and Teen Deaths

The number includes deaths from all causes for children ages 1-19. It is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The rate is the number of child deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-19 during those periods based on the child's county of residence.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Records and Health Data Development Section*

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Births to Teens

The number of births to teens ages 15-19 is an annual average for the three-year periods of 2010-12 and 2014-16. The rate of teen births is based on the number of live births per 1,000 females, ages 15-19, for those periods by county of residence.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Records and Health Data Development Section*

Children in Investigated Families

These children reside in families where an investigation of abuse or neglect was conducted in fiscal years 2012 and 2017. Families may be investigated more than once in a given year and their children would be counted each time. The number reflects the total for the year. Rates are calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-17 in their county of residence for 2011 and 2016. Data is no longer combined for two sets of counties: Missaukee-Wexford and Grand Traverse-Leelanau.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Welfare Data Center, Children's Protective Services Management Special Report

Confirmed Victims of Abuse or Neglect

The number reflects a count of children ages 0-17 confirmed to be victims of abuse or neglect following an investigation in fiscal years 2012 and 2017. Children may be counted twice if there was evidence of two separate cases of abuse found. The rate is calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-17 in their county of residence for 2011 and 2016. Data is no longer combined for two sets of counties: Missaukee-Wexford and Grand Traverse-Leelanau.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Welfare Data Center, Children's Protective Services Special Report

Children in Out-of-Home Care

The number represents child victims of abuse or neglect placed in active out-of-home placements, such as a foster or relative home, court-ordered fictive kin, residential or shelter care supervised by the Department of Health and Human Services, its agents or the courts. The county represents the location of the court rather than the child's residence. The data are from a single month (September) in the reference years. The rate is calculated per 1,000 children ages 0-17 for 2011 and 2016. Data is no longer combined for two sets of counties: Missaukee-Wexford and Grand Traverse-Leelanau.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Services Management Information System, Special Report

EDUCATION

Children Ages 3-4 Not in Preschool

The count represents the average number of children ages 3-4 who were not enrolled in preschool during 2008-2012 and 2013-2017. The percentage is based on the population for ages 3-4 during those periods.

Source: American Community Survey, Table S1401

Students Not Graduating on Time

The count includes students who entered Grade 9 in 2008 or 2013 and did not graduate four years later as expected, or five years if enrolled in an Early Middle College program. The percentage is based on the cohort of students entering Grade 9 in those years. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting on-time graduation rates. The counties most affected are Manistee, Leelanau and Berrien.

Source: Michigan Department of Education



Third-Grade English Language Arts (M-STEP)

The number reflects third-graders whose performance on the 2015 and 2018 M-STEP English Language Arts (ELA) tests did not meet the standard of proficiency. The percentage is based on the number of third-graders whose ELA test scores were included in the report. M-STEP is a state standardized test for selected subjects in selected grades administered for the first time in 2015 to public school students. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting outcomes.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

Eighth-Grade Math (M-STEP)

The number reflects eighth-graders whose performance on the 2015 and 2018 M-STEP math tests did not meet the standard of proficiency. The percentage is based on the number of eighth-graders whose math test scores were included in the report. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting outcomes.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

College Readiness

The number reflects 11th-graders whose performance on the 2016 and 2018 College Board SAT in the subjects of Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics did not meet the college readiness benchmarks in one or both of the subjects. The percentage is based on the number of 11th-graders whose SAT test scores were included in the report. The SAT College Readiness data are based on the SAT with essay administration completed during the Michigan Merit Examination in the spring of Grade 11. Prior to the 2015-16 school year, the ACT College Readiness examination was used to measure the proficiency of high school students in English, mathematics, reading and science. Several county totals include virtual schools operated by Intermediate School Districts or school districts within the county whose students may reside in other counties, impacting outcomes.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

BACKGROUND INDICATORS

(in order of their appearance on state/county profiles)

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Children Receiving:

Subsidized child care: The number reflects children ages 0-12 in child care whose parents received a subsidy payment from the state in December 2017. Most families qualify with earned income below 12% of the poverty level. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-12 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Development and Care Program, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 69, December 2016

Family Independence Program cash assistance: The number reflects child recipients age 0-18 in the Family Independence Program (FIP) in a single month (December 2017). Families with minor children qualify with assets less than \$3,000 and gross monthly income below \$814. Children in families receiving extended FIP are not included. The percentage is based on the estimated 2016 population of children ages 0-18.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 4, December 2016 (for counties); special run for Detroit data

Food Assistance Program: The number reflects child recipients ages 0-18 in the Food Assistance Program (FAP), also known as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), in a single month (December 2017), whose families qualify with incomes below 130% of the poverty level. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-18 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance Payments Statistics, Table 68, December 2016 (for counties); special run for Detroit data

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program: The number reflects children ages 0-4 who were enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program during calendar year 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-4 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan WIC Program



Children With Support Owed:

The number reflects children ages 0-19 who had a child support order and should have received child support for at least one month during fiscal year 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of all children ages 0-19 in 2016. The county represents the location of the court rather than the child's residence.

Receiving none: The number reflects children who received none of the support payments that were owed during fiscal year 2017. The percentage is based on the number of children with support owed for at least one month during fiscal year 2017.

Receiving less than 70% of court-ordered amount: The number reflects children who received less than 70% of the total support amount owed for fiscal year 2017 (including those who received none). The percentage is based on the number of children with support owed for at least one month during fiscal year 2017.

Average amount per child: The number reflects the average monthly amount (per child) of support received in fiscal year 2017 for children who received some child support.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Child Support Enforcement System Special Run

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Unemployment

The 2017 annual rate (not seasonally adjusted) is based on the average monthly number of persons considered to be in the "workforce" because they are employed or unemployed but are looking and available for work as of August 2018.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Median Household Income

The median represents the midpoint of household income amounts in 2017.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Average Cost of Full-Time Child Care

The number is the weighted average monthly cost for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children in day care centers, group homes and family homes in 2018.

Source: Early Childhood Investment Corporation

Percent of Full-Time Minimum Wage

The percentage is the average child care cost divided by the monthly income from a full-time minimum wage job (based on 173 hours of work).

All Parents Work

The number is an average for 2013-2017 of children ages 0-5 whose parents are in the labor force (i.e., either both parents work in a two-parent family or the parent works in a one-parent family). The percentage is based on the average population ages 0-5 for 2013-17.

Source: American Community Survey, Table B23008

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Births to Mothers With No High School Diploma or GED

The count is an average for 2014-16. The percent is based on average births for 2014-16.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Records and Health Data Development Section

Children 0-17 Living in High-Poverty Neighborhoods

The count is an average for 2013-17 of children living in census tracts with poverty rates of 30% or higher. The percentage is based on the 2013-17 average population of children ages 0-17.

Source: American Community Survey, Table S1701

Family Structure for Children Ages 0-17:

Two-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in two-parent households. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 for that period.

One-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in one-parent households. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 for that period.

Source: American Community Survey Table B17006

Poverty Rate for Children Ages 0-17:

Two-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in two-parent households whose income was below the poverty level. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 in two-parent households for that period.

One-Parent Household: The number reflects the 2013-17 average of children ages 0-17 in one-parent households whose income was below the poverty level. The percentage is based on the average population of children ages 0-17 in one-parent households for that period.

Source: American Community Survey, Table B17006

Children Ages 5-17 in Households Not Speaking English at Home

The count is an average for 2013-17 of children living in households where English is not spoken. The percentage is based on the 2013-17 average population of children ages 5-17.

Source: American Community Survey, Table B16008

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Children With Health Insurance

The annual number and percentage estimates are based on a three-year average (2014-16) number of children ages 0-18 insured through a public or private program at any point during the year based on the Current Population Survey. Detroit and Flint data are from the American Community Survey.

Source: Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)



Children Ages 0-18 Insured by:

Medicaid: The number reflects the enrollment in Medicaid as of December 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-18 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, special run for December 2016

MiChild: This program provides health insurance to children ages 0-18 in families with income between 150% to 200% of the federal poverty level. The number reflects the enrollment in MiChild as of December 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population of children ages 0-18 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, special run for December 2016

Fully Immunized Toddlers

The number reflects children ages 19-35 months who had completed the vaccination 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Series Coverage as of December 2017, according to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). The percentage is based on the population of children ages 19-35 months who were born to mothers residing in Michigan at the time of the birth.

Source: Michigan Care Improvement Registry

Lead Poisoning in Children, Ages 1-2

Tested: The number reflects children ages 1-2 who were tested for lead in 2017. The percentage is based on the number of children ages 1-2 in 2016.

Poisoned (% of tested): The number reflects children ages 1-2 whose test showed 5 or more micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (mcg/dL), with the results confirmed by venous testing. The percentage is based on the number of children ages 1-2 who were tested.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 2017

Children Hospitalized for Asthma

This number represents Michigan hospital discharges of children ages 1-14 with asthma recorded as the primary diagnosis. The number reflects the annual average and rate per 10,000 children ages 1-14 in 2016. Due to a change in hospital reporting after 2014, 2016 data are available for the state only and should not be compared to prior years. Three-year averages will be available for the years 2016-2018 in 2020.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Epidemiology Services

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students in Special Education

The number includes all individuals ages 0 through 26 receiving special education services as of December 2017, except those in programs operated by state agencies. These students have been diagnosed with a mental or physical condition that qualified them for special education services. The percentage is based on the enrollments from the Free/Reduced Lunch data file.

Source: Michigan Department of Education, Special Education Services and the Center for Educational Performance Information

Children Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The number reflects child recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as of December 2017. SSI is a Social Security Administration program of cash and medical assistance for elderly people with low incomes and individuals with disabilities, including children. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 0-18 in 2016.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Special Run for December 2016

Children Served by *Early On*

The number reflects children ages 0-2 who were enrolled in *Early On* in the fall of 2017. The percentage is based on the estimated population for ages 0-2 in 2016. These data are reported by Intermediate School District (ISD); 40 counties have county data, while 43 have their ISD total listed.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

DEFINITIONS

Population Estimates: Rates for non-census years are based on population estimates from the United States Census Bureau.



Rates: Except where noted, rates are calculated when incidents total more than five. Three years of data are used to calculate an average annual rate for most health indicators, because they are less likely to be distorted than rates based on single-year numbers; this three-year averaging also allows rates to be calculated for many counties with small populations. Rates based on small numbers of events and small populations can vary dramatically and are not statistically reliable for projecting trends or understanding local impact.

Percentage Change: Change is calculated by dividing the difference between the recent and base year rates by the base year rate (recent rate-base rate) / base rate. Rising rates indicate worsening conditions for children on measures in this report. Changes on some indicators such as victims of abuse or neglect may reflect state or local policies or staffing levels. The calculation is based on unrounded rates; calculations using rounded rates may not produce identical results.

Rank is assigned to a county indicator based on the rounded rate of the most recent year reported or annual average. A rank of No. 1 is the "best" rate on the measure. Only counties with a rate in the most recent year are ranked on a given indicator.

Endnotes

Introduction

1. Arsen, David, Tanner Delpier, and Jesse Nagel, *Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control*, January 2019: <http://education.msu.edu/ed-policy-phd/pdf/Michigan-School-Finance-at-the-Crossroads-A-Quarter-Center-of-State-Control.pdf>
2. Annie E. Casey Foundation, *2018 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Trends in Child Well-Being*, July 2018: <https://www.aecf.org/resources/2018-kids-count-data-book/>
3. *ibid*

Economic Security

1. Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/brain-architecture/>
2. Arsen, David, Tanner Delpier, and Jesse Nagel, *Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control*, January 2019: <http://education.msu.edu/ed-policy-phd/pdf/Michigan-School-Finance-at-the-Crossroads-A-Quarter-Center-of-State-Control.pdf>

Health & Safety

1. Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Michigan PRAMS Indicator Tables 2014 Birth Year, Accessed January 7, 2019: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2017-08-21_MI_PRAMS_2014_Tables_final_598704_7.pdf
2. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, *Michigan Home Visiting Report FY 2017*, Accessed January 7, 2019: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/homevisiting/Home_Visiting_Initiative_Report_2017_637278_7.pdf
3. Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid/CHIP Coverage of Lawfully-Residing Immigrant Children and Pregnant Women*, January 2018, Accessed February 1, 2019: <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-chip-coverage-of-lawfully-residing-immigrant-children-and-pregnant-women/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22collid%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

Family & Community

1. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Relationships: The Foundation of Learning and Development, Accessed February 8, 2019: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/infant-toddler-resource-guide/relationships-foundation-learning-and-development>
2. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Opening Doors for Young Parents, October 2018, <https://mlpp.org/kids-count/national/youngparents/>
3. Youth.gov, Youth Topics-LGBTQ-Child Welfare, Accessed, March 8, 2019: <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/lgbtq-youth/child-welfare>
4. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Fostering Youth Transitions: Using Data to Drive Policy and Practice Decisions, November 2018, <https://www.aecf.org/resources/fostering-youth-transitions/>
5. Mattie Quinn, Planning for Detention: How 2 States Help Immigrant Children Stay Out of Foster Care, *Governing*, January 31, 2019: <https://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/gov-immigration-deportation-guardianship-children-maryland.html>

Education

1. Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, January 1, 2010: https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-Early_Warning_Full_Report-2010.pdf
2. Arsen, David, Tanner Delpier, and Jesse Nagel, *Michigan School Finance at the Crossroads: A Quarter Century of State Control*, January 2019: <http://education.msu.edu/ed-policy-phd/pdf/Michigan-School-Finance-at-the-Crossroads-A-Quarter-Center-of-State-Control.pdf>

Special Note:

Letter artwork featured on the cover comes from works by: Samantha Avina, age 15; Taylor Brown, age 16; Jaden Chapman, age 17; Rovic Ines, age 17; Isabella Martellini, age 15; Brook Robinson, age 18; Morgan Sieloff, age 17; Rio Tomlinson, age 16; and Brandon Vega, age 18.

Bug artwork featured in the Data Definitions and Notes section was created by Jrue Sims, age 6.