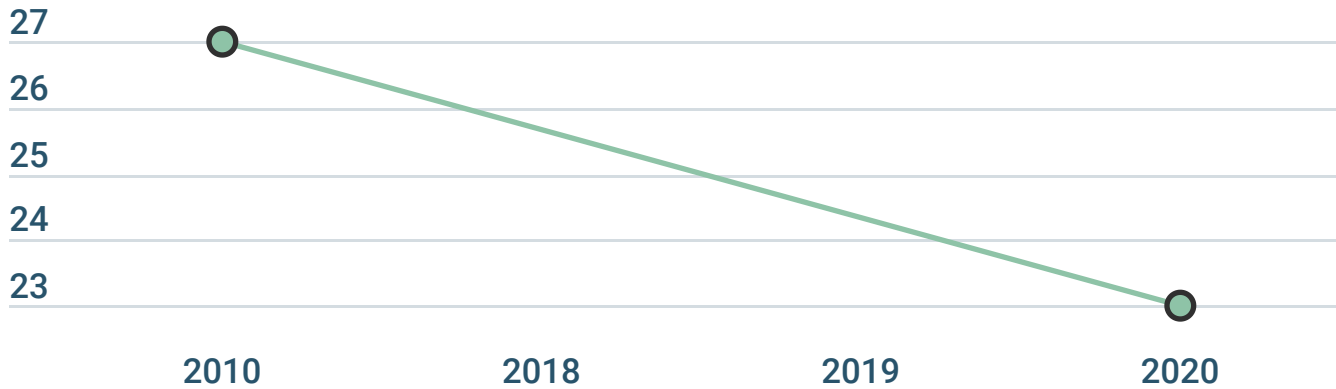


Michigan’s youth and young adults, aged 14 to 24, should have the opportunity to succeed in school, access well-paying jobs, gain financial stability, and be healthy mentally and physically. However, due to state and federal policies, systemic barriers to accessing public support, and historic racism and discrimination, many of these youth, especially young people of color, have been left behind.

In 2020, 23% of young adults ages 18-24 in Michigan were living in poverty, meaning living on less than \$12,760 a year for a single person. Though this has decreased from about 27% in 2010, still nearly 1 in 4 young adults are living below the federal poverty threshold.

Though rates have improved, 23% of young adults live in poverty in Michigan.



Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center

What’s more, youth and young adults of color ages 14 to 24 are more likely to live in high-poverty areas than their white counterparts. Black and Asian youth and young adults were most likely to live in high-poverty areas at 42% and 27%, respectively, compared to just 13% of white youth and young adults.

Living in poverty makes it more difficult for these youth and young adults to get their basic needs met. If they and their families are engulfed in the struggles of poverty vying for their time, energy and incomes, they often are left unable to pay for necessities like education, medical care and everyday living expenses.

Michigan trails behind the national percentage in high school graduation rates: 19% of Michigan’s high schoolers are not graduating on time, compared to 14% for the rest of the United States.

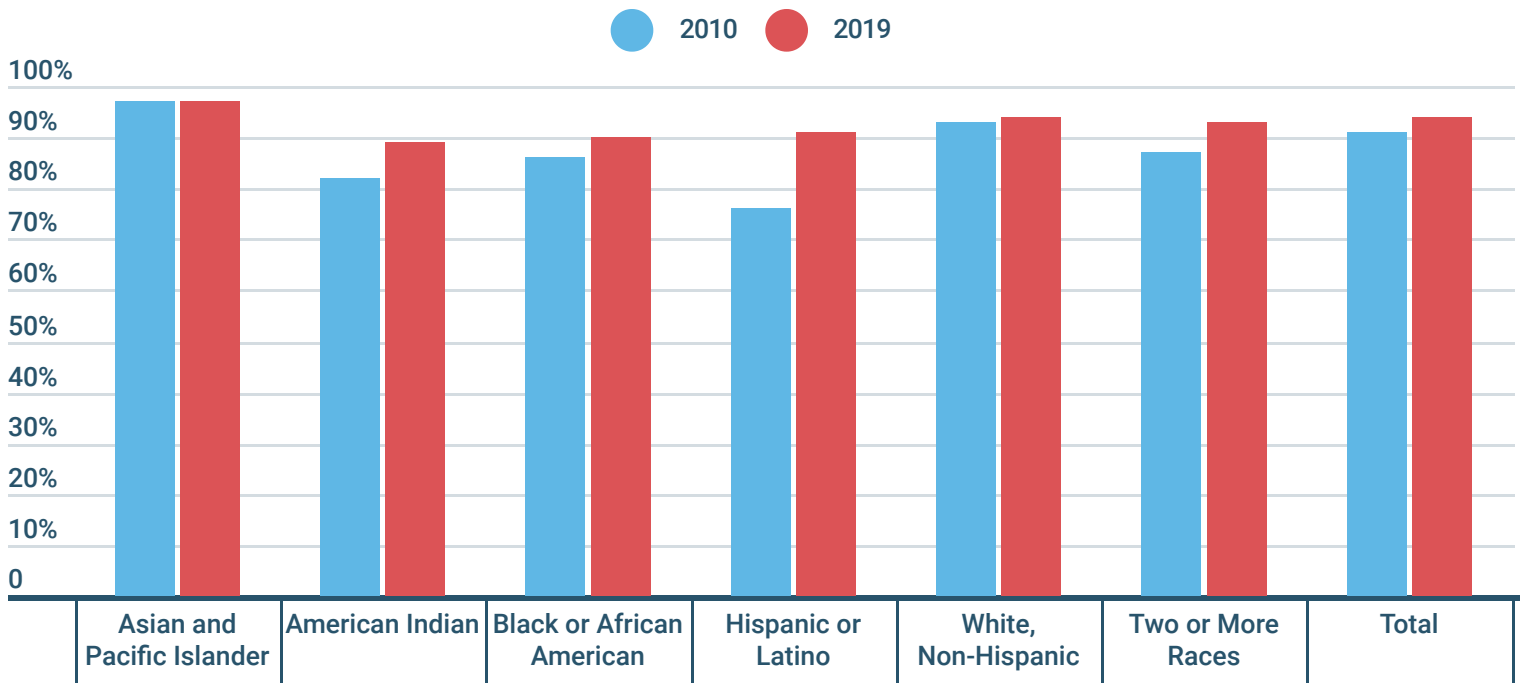


19% of Michigan's high schoolers are not graduating on time, compared to 14% for the rest of the United States.

Moreover, we continue to see disparities across race and ethnicity for adults ages 18 to 24 who are high school graduates or enrolled in school. Between 2010 and 2019, graduation rates and school enrollment improved for all youth and young adults. Asian and Pacific Islander young adults had the highest rates of high school graduation and/or school enrollment in Michigan in both 2010 and 2019, at 97%. However, American Indian and Black/African American young adults had the lowest rates in 2019 at 90%, followed by Hispanic/Latino young adults at 91%

There is definitely work to do here to make sure students are graduating on time, including better monitoring absenteeism in high school students and investing in better resources to support students who have fallen behind on their grades, which are two of the highest indicators of on-time high school completions.

94% of young adults ages 18-24 are high school graduates or enrolled in school, but disparities exist by race.



Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center

Fortunately, there are many areas where our young adults are faring well compared to their counterparts across the United States. 93% of Michigan's youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 were covered by health insurance in 2019, compared to an 89% rate for the United States as a whole. This is great news, as families with youth and young adults who have health insurance have less expensive medical costs, as well as better access to preventative care, leading to healthier behaviors and outcomes. This rise in coverage rates is in part due to the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, specifically since the state of Michigan created the Healthy Michigan Plan that expanded Medicaid coverage in 2014, when we saw health insurance rates start to rise.

The future looks brighter for young adults who will be leading our democracy in a few short years. We saw an uptick in young adults exercising their right to vote by elevated election participation in both the last two midterm and presidential elections. In 2018, 34% of young adults voted in the midterm election, nearly double the 2014 rate of 19%. Historically, young adult midterm voter participation hovers around 20%. We saw a similar trend with young adult participation in the presidential election, at 53% in 2020, compared to 38% in 2016. Due to this uptick in participation, young voters truly had a significant impact on the results of elections, especially in key swing states like Michigan, where we saw a democratic trifecta for the first time in 40 years, in which Democrats now hold majorities in both chambers, as well as Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer being re-elected.



We saw an uptick in young adults exercising their right to vote by elevated election participation in both the last two midterm and presidential elections.

We can—and we should—do more. On top of healing from traumatic childhood experiences, establishing identities and developing relationships, these are youth who started or finished high school or college and got their first job during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our state budget and policy decisions need to create an environment that will cultivate their growth and development and provide them access to the systems they need to thrive.

Policy solutions can improve outcomes for Michigan's vibrant young adults:



Permanently extend the American Rescue Plan Act enhancements to the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Because the Michigan EITC piggybacks off of the federal EITC, these improvements would also extend to the state EITC.



Increase cash assistance eligibility and benefit levels to support families in poverty. Remove barriers such as the \$15,000 asset limit and the child support compliance requirement.



Adopt a true weighted school funding formula to fund schools based on community and student need. In this way, students would receive a standard amount and schools would receive additional dollars for students who, for example, are English-language learners, are economically disadvantaged or have a disability.



Address barriers young people may face in accessing school-based health services. This can be done by addressing root causes of community health challenges through acknowledging social determinants of health such as housing and education.

Population

929,745 Michiganders are age 18-24.



- Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian or...
- Asian
- African American/Black
- Native Hawaiian or...
- White
- Two or More Races

Economic Security

Michigan's young adults on average are more likely than their peers nationwide to live in low-income families and live in poverty.

Indicator	MI Number	MI Rate	US Number	US Rate
Ages 16-19 Not Attending School and Not Working (2021)	39,000	7%	1,234,000	7%
Ages 14 to 24 living in households with a high housing cost burden (2015-2019)	368,000	25%	13,578,000	29%
Ages 18 to 24 in poverty (2021)	168,000	20%	5,134,000	19%
Ages 14 to 24 who live in low-income families (2015-2019)	573,000	41%	17,446,000	40%

Family and Community

94% of Michigan's young adults are enrolled in high school or high school graduates.

Indicator	MI Number	MI Rate	US Number	US Rate
Ages 18 to 24 who are parents (2015-2019)	64,000	7%	2,146,000	7%
Ages 14 to 24 with computer and high-speed internet at home (2015-2019)	1,017,000	76%	32,373,000	76%
Ages 18 to 24 who voted in the last presidential election (2020)	469,000	53%	13,752,000	51%
Ages 15 to 19 who gave birth (2020)	4,190	14 per 1,000	158,043	15 per 1,000

Health and Safety

Michigan's young adults have a high rate of health insurance, but report more poor mental health days than their national peers..

Indicator	MI Rate	US Rate
Ages 14 to 24 with health insurance coverage (2015-2019)	93%	89%
Ages 18 to 24 reporting zero poor mental health days in the past month (2017-2019)	39%	46%
Ages 18 to 24 in good, very good, or excellent general health	89%	90%
Ages 18 to 25 who have used illicit drugs other than marijuana	7%	6%
Ages 18-25 who have participated in binge alcohol drinking	39%	35%

Education

94% of Michigan's young adults are enrolled in high school or high school graduates.

Indicator	MI Rate	US Rate
High school students not graduating on time (2018-19)	19%	14%
Ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled in or have completed college (2019)	50%	49%
Ages 18 to 24 not in school, not working, and no degree beyond high school (2019)	11%	12%
Ages 18 to 24 who are high school graduates or enrolled in school	94%	94%

Population

174,000 Michiganders age 14-24 are immigrants or live in immigrant families.

- Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- African American/Black
- White
- Two or More Races



Data Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center