



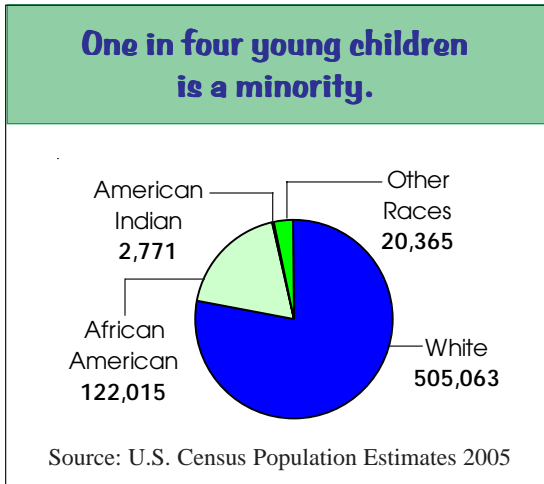
# Community Conditions for Young Children in Michigan 2000-2005

## The number of young children is declining.

Roughly 650,000 young children, ages 0-4, lived in Michigan in 2005.

That number represented

a decline of 3 percent between 2005 and 2000 when the number was 671,000.



The annual number of births to Michigan mothers dropped roughly 5 percent between 2000 and 2004—from 136,000 to 130,000.

## One of five young children lived in poverty in 2005.

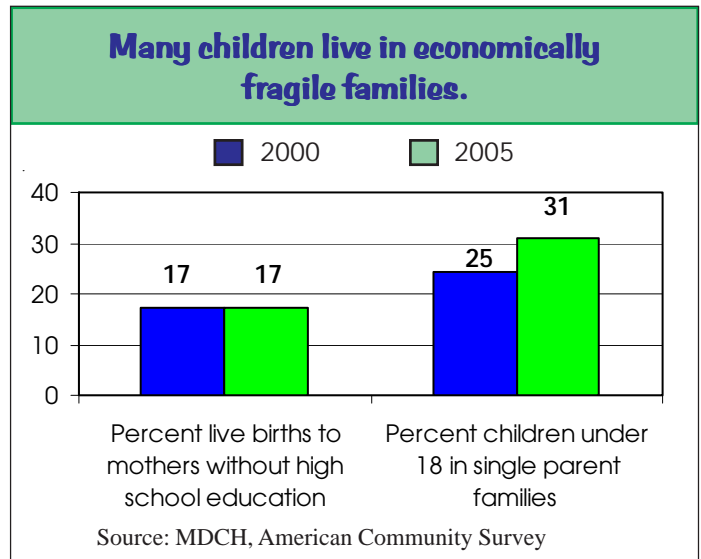
The percentage of children under the age of five living in poverty (\$19,800 for a two-parent family in 2005) rose from 16 percent to 21 percent between 2000 and 2005. Almost one of two African-American young children lived in poverty. Extensive research has documented that poverty in early childhood exerts the most damage.

## Economic insecurity grew between 2000 and 2005 for children.

In 1999, at the height of the economic boom in Michigan one of three young children in the state lived in a family with income below 200 percent or double the poverty level (\$39,600 for a two-parent family in 2005). At this level families still struggle to meet their basic needs for shelter, heat, nutrition, and transportation.

In 2005 almost two of five public school students qualified to participate in the School Lunch Program at free or reduced prices (family 185% of poverty). The participation rate rose 15 percent between 2000 and 2005.

Between 2001 and 2005, the unemployment rate in the state rose from 5.3 to 6.7.



## One of six babies is born to mothers without a high school education.

These mothers lack the skills to compete for “good” jobs that will pay a living wage or provide benefits. They also may have difficulty protecting and providing for their children.

## One of three children lives with a single parent.

Children in single parent families are eight times more likely to live in poverty than those in two-parent families (4% vs. 32% in 2000). A single income, particularly that of mothers, often cannot provide adequate income to support a family. In most two-parent families both parents work outside the home to have a sufficient income.

## One in four houses in the state could threaten the health of young children

In Michigan one quarter of the housing stock was constructed prior to 1950, and many of these structures covered in lead paint house poor young children who have the highest susceptibility to damage from lead.

