

BIRTH TRENDS IN SKILLMAN NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE CITY OF DETROIT, 2009 AND 2011

The Michigan Department of Community Health recently made their 2011 birth file available to Data Driven Detroit (D3). While the State does not provide mother's address, they do assign each record (where possible) to a census tract. D3 has taken these records and created Skillman neighborhood summaries. The table below provides these 2011 summaries along with the 2009 analysis that was incorporated in our previous profiles. Those profiles are being updated to include the new data without any comparisons. While health-related data tend to be reported as 3-year averages, to account for year-to-year anomalies, we felt it would be informative to look for potential trends that could inform neighborhood programming and the Skillman 2016 goals.

Table 1. Birth Outcomes by Skillman Neighborhood, 2009 and 2011

Data Category	Brightmoor		Chadsey-Condon		Cody Rouge		Northend Central		Osborn		Southwest		Neighborhood Total		Detroit	
	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011
Total Births	359	343	712	585	544	556	494	434	449	435	915	800	3,473	3,153	10,800	10,314
<i>Percent of all births by mother's age</i>																
10-19	20.6%	17.8%	16.4%	14.0%	21.1%	14.9%	22.5%	18.4%	29.4%	19.1%	17.7%	16.1%	20.5%	16.4%	21.4%	17.2%
20-24	28.1%	31.8%	27.9%	30.3%	32.4%	35.8%	36.0%	35.5%	29.0%	41.6%	30.1%	28.0%	30.5%	33.1%	31.5%	34.6%
25 and over	51.3%	50.4%	55.7%	55.7%	46.5%	49.3%	41.5%	46.1%	41.6%	39.3%	52.2%	55.9%	49.0%	50.5%	47.1%	48.2%
<i>Percent of births to teens...</i>																
Where baby has a low, or very low, birth weight	6.8%	13.1%	8.6%	7.3%	7.0%	8.4%	7.2%	16.3%	10.6%	13.3%	6.2%	10.1%	9.0%	11.2%	10.1%	13.4%
Where prenatal care was inadequate	26.9%	18.0%	14.0%	17.1%	18.8%	16.9%	22.9%	15.0%	27.7%	30.1%	24.7%	16.3%	22.4%	18.7%	23.2%	21.1%
To an unmarried mother	97.3%	98.4%	82.9%	86.6%	97.4%	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%	97.0%	100.0%	94.4%	91.5%	94.5%	95.6%	96.9%	97.6%
To a mother who did not graduate high school	65.8%	54.1%	70.7%	75.6%	55.3%	56.6%	59.1%	61.3%	64.6%	61.4%	70.6%	69.8%	64.7%	64.1%	60.1%	57.7%
<i>Percent of total births...</i>																
Where baby has a low, or very low, birth weight	12.5%	14.3%	7.6%	6.7%	9.4%	12.8%	12.1%	16.6%	12.9%	14.3%	7.0%	8.8%	9.6%	11.5%	11.4%	13.1%
Where prenatal care was inadequate	17.2%	15.2%	12.3%	10.8%	14.5%	13.1%	16.9%	17.1%	28.0%	23.9%	13.6%	10.0%	16.1%	14.1%	18.4%	16.7%
To an unmarried mother	84.1%	83.4%	55.5%	59.7%	79.0%	80.6%	87.2%	84.1%	88.9%	86.9%	65.4%	66.5%	73.6%	74.8%	79.8%	80.3%
To a mother who did not graduate high school	32.0%	27.7%	61.2%	59.1%	30.1%	31.1%	33.5%	30.4%	38.4%	32.4%	57.3%	48.4%	45.5%	40.4%	36.0%	32.2%
Definitions																
<i>Low or Very low birthweight</i> - Very low birthweight is less than 1,500 grams; low birthweight is 1,500 to 2,499 grams																
<i>Inadequate prenatal care</i> - According to the Kessner index, when no care is received or if care began during the 3rd trimester																

The trends that are highlighted below tend to be relatively consistent across neighborhoods. Variations to these trends are identified.

1. The number of births decreased in all neighborhoods except Cody Rouge. The decrease in city births was a continuation of a trend that began in 1991 and has resulted in 57 percent fewer births in 2011 than in 1990.
2. The percentage of births to teens decreased by four percentage points over the two year period – both for the combined neighborhoods and the city. The Osborn neighborhood experienced a 10.3 percentage point decrease, while Cody Rouge followed with a 6.2 point drop.

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3. The incidence of low birthweight babies born to teenage mothers increased over the period across all neighborhoods and across the city. The largest increases occurred in Brightmoor and Northend Central. Chadsey Condon was the only neighborhood to experience a decrease.
4. In spite of the increasing incidence of low birthweight babies, the data show that an increasing share of teen mothers, in the majority of neighborhoods, are receiving adequate prenatal care. This is particularly true for Brightmoor and Northend Central which experienced the highest increases in both. Better prenatal care will result in better outcomes for these low birthweight babies. Chadsey-Condon and Osborn were the exceptions to the trend. The Osborn rise is more problematic in that 30.1 percent of all teen mothers received inadequate care.
5. There was essentially no change in the percentage of new teen moms who were unmarried, with neighborhood rates ranging from 86.6 to 100 percent.
6. The percentage of teenage mothers who had not finished high school remained at 64 percent overall. Brightmoor experienced a 12 percentage point decrease and came in at the lowest rate among the neighborhoods – 54.1 percent. Chadsey-Condon experienced the largest increase and had the highest non-graduation rate – 75.6 percent.
7. A review of total births (including teen births) showed similar trends of increased low birthweight, increased prenatal care, an increase in the share of unmarried mothers, and an increase in high school graduation rates (particularly in the Southwest neighborhood).

When comparing the aggregate of Skillman neighborhoods with the city as a whole (which, of course, includes the neighborhoods), the neighborhoods come out slightly better on all measure except high school graduation. It is clear that this is being driven by the higher rates in Chadsey-Condon and Southwest Detroit neighborhoods. Increased programming in these areas to assist new mothers at least complete their high school graduation requirements is critical for family success. Early childhood education, combined with parental education support, will go a long way toward improving outcomes for families in the Skillman neighborhoods and throughout the City of Detroit.