

Demographics

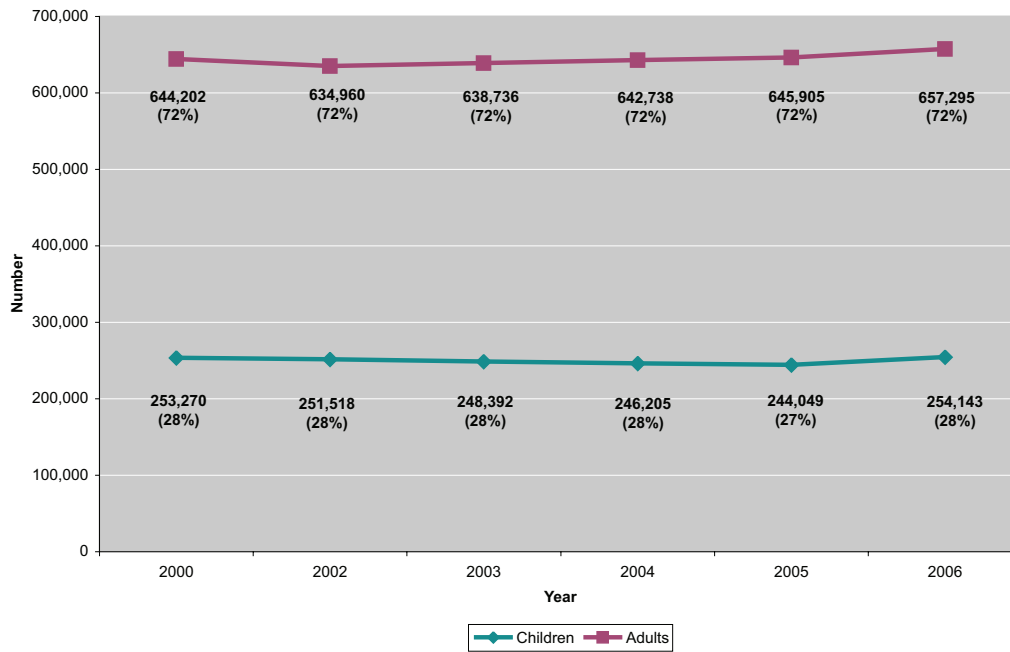


Shelby County is the most populous county in Tennessee.

In 2006 Shelby County remained the most densely populated county in Tennessee, including more than 900,000 residents 70 percent of whom lived in the City of Memphis. The county's population was larger than those of six states in America

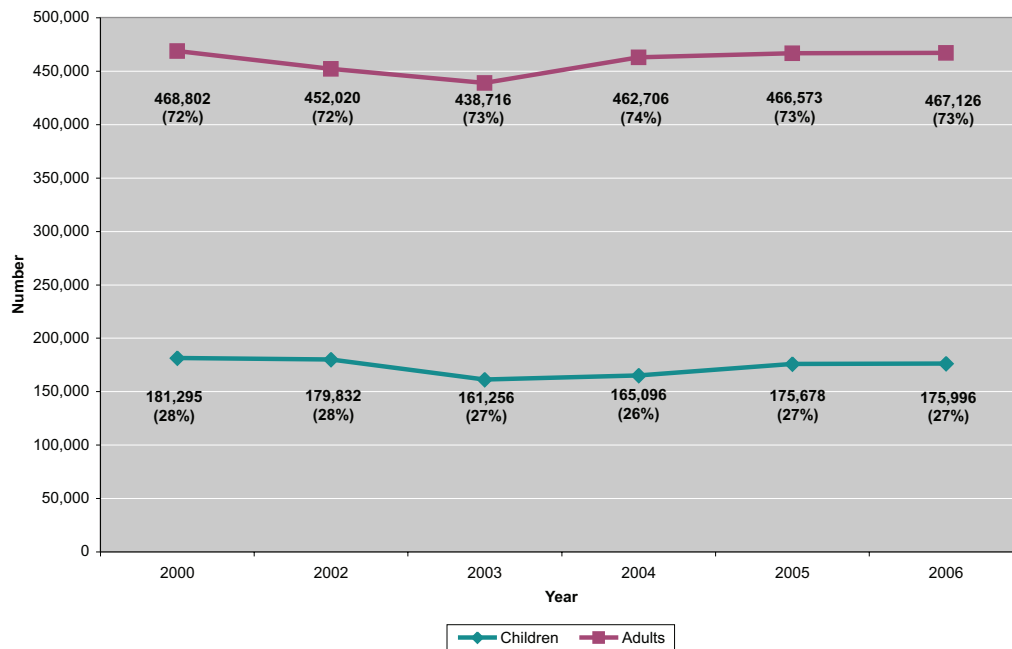
(Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming), yet neither the county nor the City of Memphis populations grew from 2000 to 2006.

Number and Percentage of Adults and Children, Shelby County, 2000-2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and American Community Survey, 2002-2006

Number and Percentage of Adults and Children, City of Memphis, 2000-2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and American Community Survey, 2002-2006

Nearly as many children in Shelby County as FedEx employees worldwide.

Also unchanged was that 28 percent of the county's population (254,143) in 2006 consisted of children under 18, and 27 percent of the City of Memphis population (175,996) was comprised of children under 18.

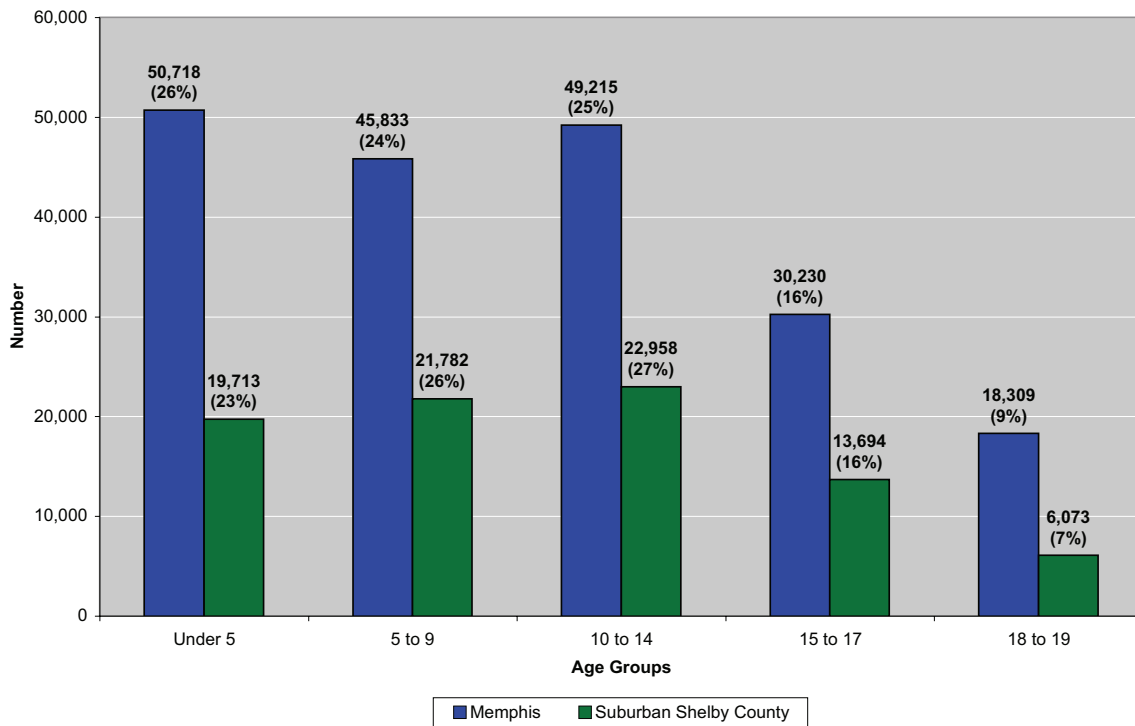
The 175,996 children who resided within the city of Memphis could fill the Liberty Bowl almost three times.

Nearly twice as many children under 5 in Shelby County as MATA passengers on an average weekday.

In 2006 more than one in four (70,431, 26%) children in Shelby County were under 5. This under-5 age group is the largest cohort of children in the county.

Children in the suburbs are older. In the portion of Shelby County that does not include Memphis the largest cohort of children was between the ages of 10 and 14.

Number and Percentage of Children by Ages City of Memphis & Suburban Shelby County, 2006



Source: American Community Survey, 2006

The 2006 American Community Survey includes an estimate that 349,838 children under 18 lived in the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), comprised of Shelby, Fayette and Tipton Counties in Tennessee Crittenden County, Arkansas and DeSoto,

Marshall, Tate and Tunica Counties in Mississippi.

Nearly three out of four (256,783) children who lived in the Memphis MSA resided in Shelby County.

Memphis-area children not representative racially of Tennessee or the nation.

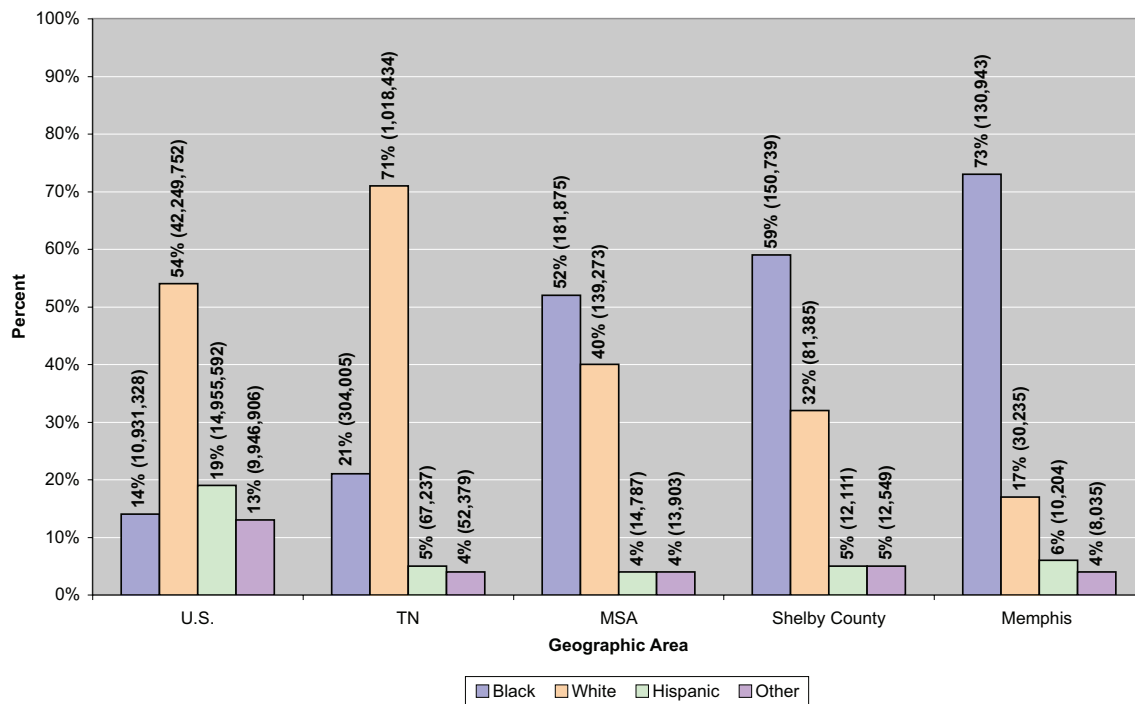
Racial compositions of the Memphis MSA, Shelby County and the City of Memphis vary considerably from the nation and from Tennessee.

In fact, in 2006 the racial makeup of children in the City of Memphis was nearly opposite that of Tennessee with 83 percent of children

were non-white or Hispanic as compared to the state's 30 percent non-white or Hispanic child population. Slightly more than half of all black children in Tennessee live in Shelby County.

Six out of every seven black children in Shelby County live in the City of Memphis.

Number and Percentage of Children by Race and Ethnicity, U.S., TN, MSA, Shelby County & the City of Memphis, 2006



Source: American Community Survey, 2006

Overall birth rate and single-mother birth rate are consistent.

There have been between 14,000 and 15,000 births per year in Shelby County from 2000 through 2005. The average age of first-time mothers in Shelby County is 23, which is marginally younger than the national average age (25) of first-birth mothers. (*Center for Disease Control*)

Also consistent is the fact that more than 50 percent of children in Shelby County were born to single mothers, and that number is rising.

The differences in the outcomes of children born to unwed parents from children born to married parents, are vast and alarming. Children born to unwed parents are at a greater risk of suffering economic hardship and a range of obstacles associated with financial insecurity. (*Child Trends, www.childtrendsdatabank.org/indicators/13teenbirth.cfm*)

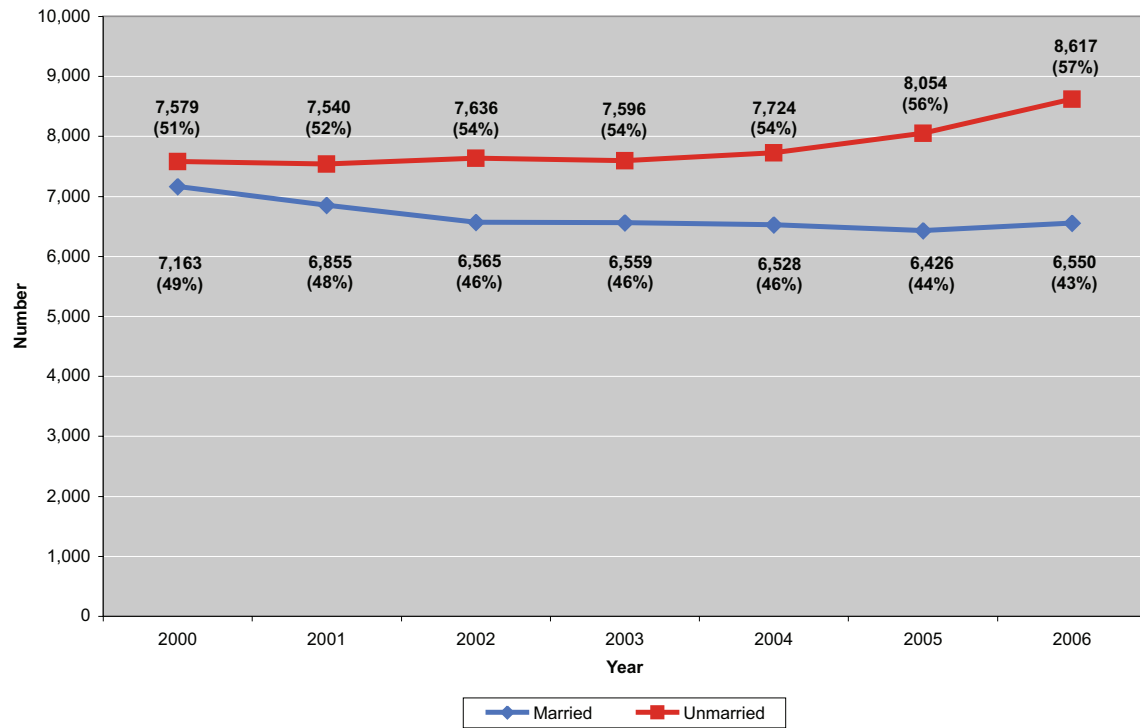
The economic hardships of single mothers have ripple effects.

The economic hardships associated with children of an unmarried parent have been linked to transience. Transience makes it impossible for a child to remain enrolled in the same school district and to establish meaningful and secure relationships within a community. Thus, children who are reared by unwed parents are more likely than their counterparts to drop out of school. (*Astone & Upchurch, 1994; Wu & Martinson, 1993*)

Lower levels of educational attainment among children of unwed mothers result in lifetimes of lower occupational status and earning potential. (*Amato, 2005*)

Moreover, the cycle is perpetuated as children born to, and reared by, unwed parents are at a greater risk of having their own children out of wedlock, having troubled relationships and reporting more symptoms of depression than their counterparts. (*Amato, 2005*)

Number and Percentage of Births by Marital Status, Shelby County, 2000-2006



Source: State of Tennessee Department of Health Birth Certificate Data, 2000-2005 and American Community Survey, 2006

Children of adolescent and teenage single mothers are at great risk.

The children who suffer the most fragile conditions are those born to single, teenage or adolescent mothers. A teen parent traditionally is financially insecure. Younger mothers also are also more likely to be psychologically and emotionally immature. (*ChildTrends*, www.childtrendsdatabank.org/indicators/13teenbirth.cfm)

In Shelby County fewer than 1,000 children were born to mothers younger than 17. Nevertheless, while that number accounted for only six percent of total county births, it is twice the national average. (CDC)

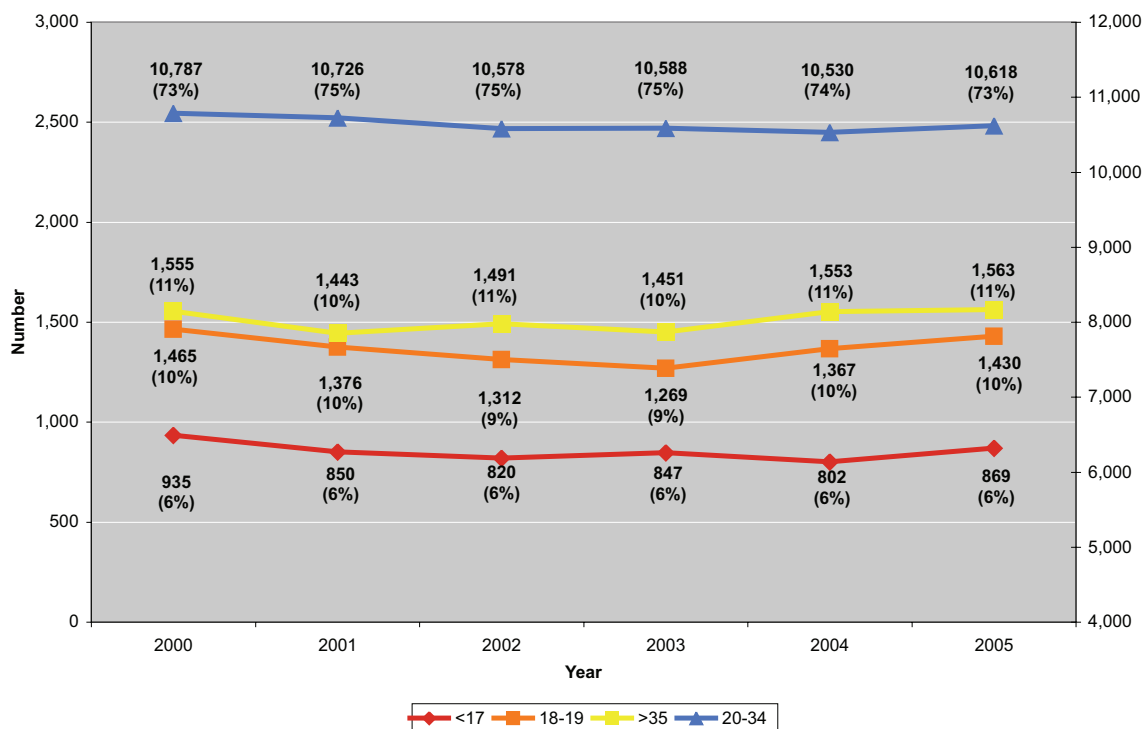
High-risk pregnancies are not isolated to young mothers. Women who give birth at 35

and older are more likely to deliver pre-term than mothers between the ages of 20 and 34. (*Pre-term Births: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention*, 2006)

Additionally, diabetes and hypertension are more prevalent among older women, and infants born to mothers with these conditions are more likely to exhibit “growth restriction, pre-eclampsia and abruption.” (*Ibid*, 44)

A relatively small cohort, approximately 1,500 infants (11%), was born to women 35 and older.

Number and Percentage of Births to Women by Age, Shelby County, 2000-2005



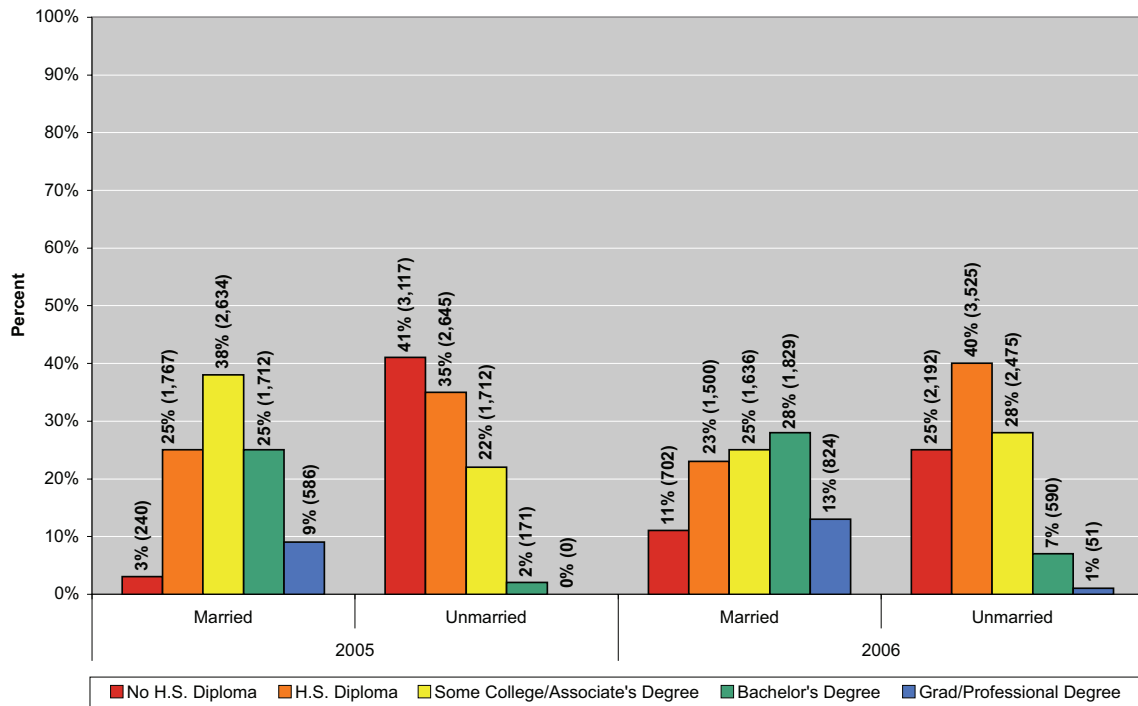
Source: State of Tennessee Department of Health Birth Certificate Data, 2000-2005

Is there a light at the end of the single-mother educational tunnel?

One out of four (2,192) single mothers who gave birth in Shelby County in 2006 did not have a high school diploma. Although these figures are grim, this cohort was 16 percent (925) smaller than that of 2005. Furthermore, this cohort also demonstrated educational gains from 2005 to 2006. In 2006, six percent more (470) single mothers had a bachelor's degree or beyond than in 2005.

Married women who gave birth in Shelby County in 2006 were much more likely to have high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees than were unwed women.

Number and Percentage of Women 15-50 Years-Old Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Educational Attainment, Shelby County, 2005 and 2006



Source: American Community Survey, 2005-2006.

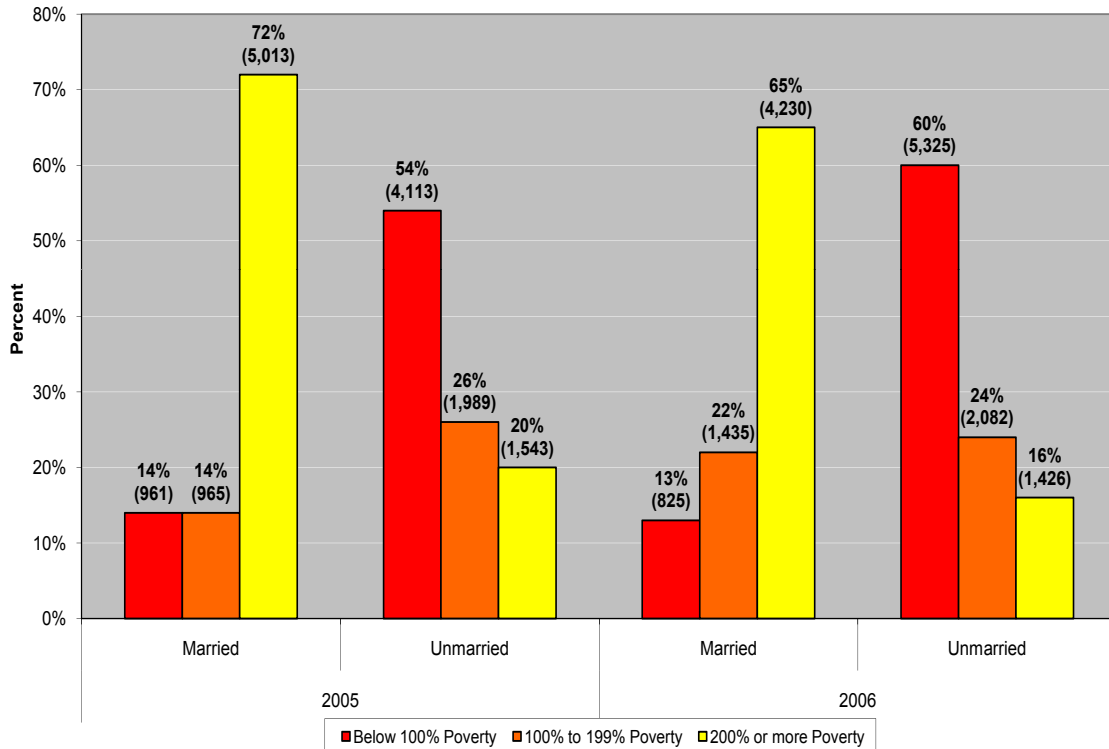
From 2005 to 2006, however, the percentage of both married and unmarried mothers who were living above low income decreased by seven percent and four percent, respectively. This is a disturbing indication of increasing financial insecurity for children in all families.

While the percentage of unmarried women living below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) increased significantly (11%), the percentage of married women living below 100 percent of FPL decreased by one percent.

The percentage of fragile families of married mothers living between 100-199% of FPL rose by eight percent as a result of the seven percent decrease in those living above 200 percent of FPL.

Unmarried mothers living between 100-199% of FPL decreased marginally (2%) between 2005 and 2006.

Number and Percentage of Women 15-50 Years-Old who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Poverty, Shelby County, 2005 & 2006



Source: American Community Survey, 2005-2006

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