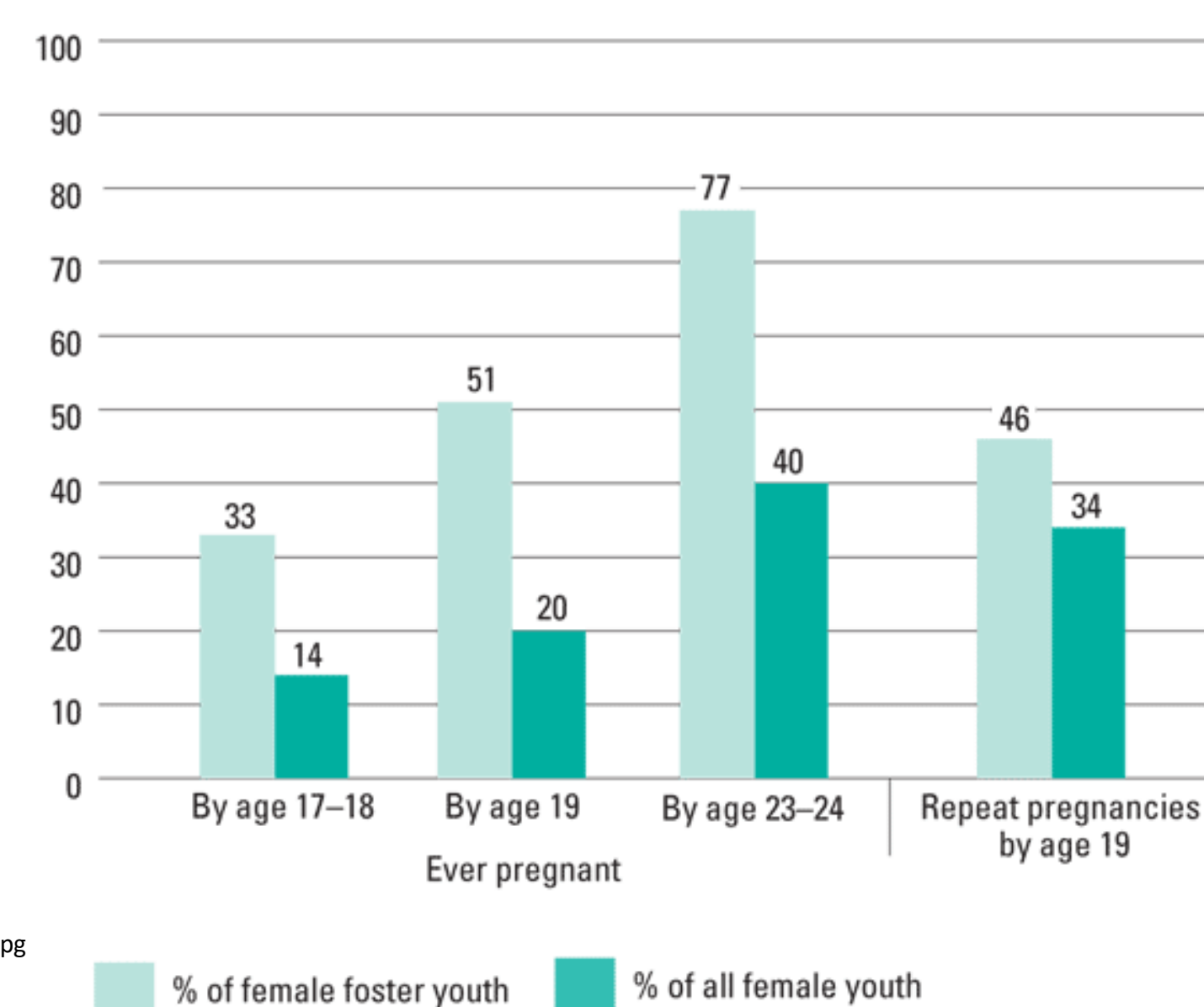


Introduction

While taking ANT 319 this semester, our class has been examining and contemplating contradictions in motherhood. When it came time to pick a community partner for our community based project, we were all drawn to at risk mothers, as they embodied many of the contradictions all mothers face. This led us to our work with Florence Crittenton, an organization in Charlotte that provides resources for at risk mothers and children. In our time shadowing different services at Florence Crittenton, we were able to see the theories we had studied in class as lived experiences, which helped us get closer to understanding motherhood and everything that comes with it.

Sarah's House



Source: <https://www.gutmacher.org/sites/default/files/graphics/gpr1402/2011/05/26/gpr140208f1.gif>

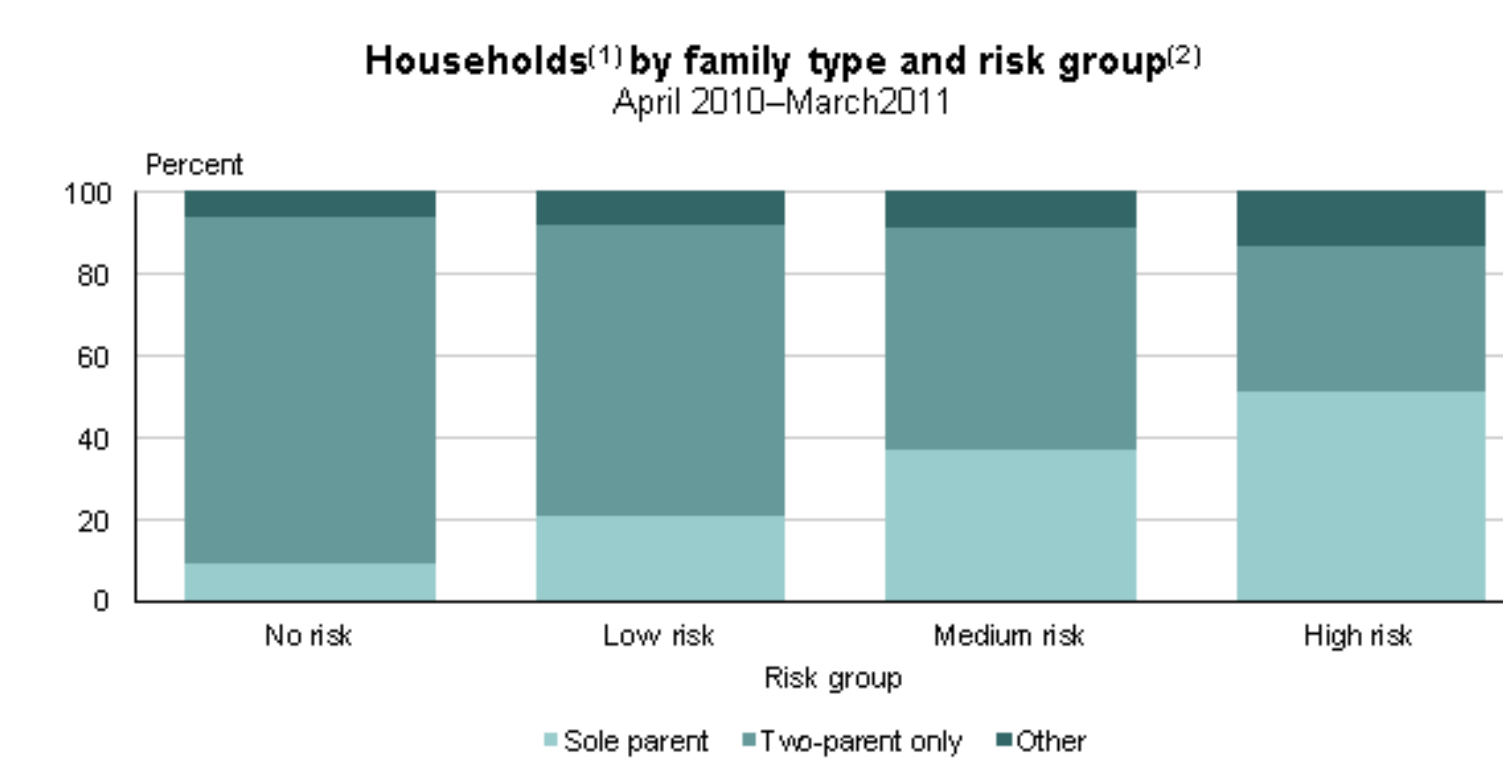
Goal:

Sarah's House is a residence hall for teen mothers currently in the custody of Social Services, that provides 24-hour support for mothers and their children. The goal of this program is to keep mothers with their children, while providing training for self sufficiency

Services offered:

- Housing
- Meals
- Counseling
- Skills development
- Job training
- Mentoring and tutoring

Maternity



Source: Statistics New Zealand
<http://www.stats.govt.nz/media/Statistics/browse-categories/people-and-communities/children/vulnerable-children/figure-3-family-type.gif>

Goal:

The purpose of the Maternity program at the Florence Crittenton is provide support for pregnant women 19 years of age to 40 years of age living in crisis. Examples of women this program would support are homeless women, victims of sexual or physical abuse, drug or alcohol addicted women, foster care clients, women who have higher risks for birth complications and women alienated from family because of their pregnancy status.

Services Offered:

- Prenatal & childbirth education
- Substance abuse recovery support services
- Educational support
- Adoption education
- Lactation support services
- Group, individual and family therapy

Legacy Hall

Goal:

Legacy Hall is a residential program for young women aged 16-21 years old who are about to age out of the foster system. By providing information and experience with independent living skills, the program aims to prepare these young women to transition into living on their own.

Services offered:

- Vocational & Career skills
- Life skills
- Social skills
- Counseling
- Medical Care
- Tutoring

Conclusion

Mothers, specifically at-risk ones, face obstacles often far beyond their control. Stigmas surrounding 'bad' mothers are often focused on groups like teenage mothers and minority mothers. These stigmas often translate into negative societal pressures on these mothers that shape both policy and the way they are treated. This is why places like Florence Crittenton are so important; they work to provide resources to combat these obstacles and empower the women they serve to live their lives in the best way possible.