



I O W A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Iowa's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	3,002,555
Population, Children Under 18 ²	709,481
State Poverty Rate ³	9.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	12.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	18.2%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Iowa had 39,847 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 23,093 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 14,051 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Iowa, a rate of 19.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.7% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 10,322 were neglected, 1,401 were physically abused, and 554 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 5 children in Iowa died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 8,240 children in Iowa lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,040 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,602 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,015 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Iowa children in out-of-home care in 2007, 67.8% were white, 14.5% black, 6.5% Hispanic, 1.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,379 children exiting out-of-home care in Iowa in 2007, 66.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,001 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Iowa, a 1.7% increase from 984 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 8,240 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,298 or 15.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 16,852 Iowa grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 8,240 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 20.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Iowa children in kinship care in 2007, 68.2% were white, 13.7% were black, 4.6% were Hispanic, 1.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 11.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Iowa increased from 39,996 in March 2008 to 40,000 in March 2009, an increase of < 0.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 15,956, a 0.5% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Iowa was at 40.5% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Iowa spent \$166,430,845 in TANF funds, including 39.0% on basic assistance, 6.1% on child care, 1.9% on transportation, and 53% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Iowa spent \$35,799,568 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 72,555 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Iowa collected and distributed \$336,575,027 in child support funds, an increase of 8.5% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Iowa was \$629 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.10 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Iowa had a monthly average of 19,200 children served by subsidized child care; 19,400 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 17,900 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Iowa, a family of three could make no more than \$25,524, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Iowa had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 7,710 Iowa children, a 0.3% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 221,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa—48.7% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 11,878 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 11,878 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 220 received Targeted Case Management services, and 136 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Iowa had 34,580 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.5% increase from 2007, when 33,412 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Iowa had 38,000 uninsured children, representing 5.3% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 2,809 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Iowa a rank of 8 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 208 infants under age 1 died in Iowa, giving it a rank of 4 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Iowa was 16 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 57. This reflects a total rate of 33 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 1,802 adults and adolescents, as well as 13 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Iowa.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 23,000 children ages 12–17, and 154,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Iowa.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 463 children aged out of out-of-home care in Iowa.³⁸
- In 2008, 6,000 Iowa teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 8,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 29,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Iowa needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 37 Iowa children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.37 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 9 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Iowa, a 350% increase from 2 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 20,893 children younger than 18 were arrested in Iowa, a 2.2% decrease from 21,362 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 743 were for violent crimes and 154 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,062 children in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR IOWA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Iowa spent \$347,702,560 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 55% was from federal funds, 45% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$190,213,266 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 31% was from Medicaid, 9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 24% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 8,240 children in out-of-home care in Iowa in 2007, only 2,281, or 27.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

IOWA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well-being for children.⁵¹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for that child and family.⁵²
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Iowa was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Iowa was \$61,656.⁵⁴

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