

I O W A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 4

Iowa's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	2,936,760
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	731,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	9.2%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	10.7%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	9.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	18.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 25,112 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Iowa, a rate of 34.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 12,792 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Iowa, a rate of 17.5 per 1,000 children, representing an 18% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 12.6 were neglected, 3.3 were physically abused, and 1.4 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, 15 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Iowa.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 5,202 children in Iowa lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,068 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 19.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 3,889 white children, 612 black children, 247 Hispanic children, 125 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 576 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,712 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 80% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 661 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Iowa, a 50% increase from 440 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 5,202 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 1,903 or 37% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 5,202 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 16,973 Iowa grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Iowa declined from 54,381 in March 2002 to 51,713 in March 2003, a decrease of 4.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 19,833, a 3.1% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Iowa was 37% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Iowa spent \$150,270,419 in TANF funds, including 50.8% on cash assistance, 1% on transportation and support activities, and 48.2% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Iowa collected and distributed \$236,936,971 in child support funds, an increase of 8.3% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Iowa was \$520 per month, or 63% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²¹

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 15,300 of Iowa's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 17,400 in 2000 and 20,000 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 47% of Iowa's median income, or \$22,680, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- Due to the state budget shortfall, all programs in Iowa will receive a 2.2% cut. Funding for child care assistance will either be unavailable or taken from funding allocated for child care resource and referral agencies, which itself has already received a 17% reduction in appropriations.²⁴
- In 2002, Head Start served 7,620 Iowa children, a 0.9% decrease from 2001.²⁵
- In 2000, 81% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Iowa had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁶

H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2000, 161,301 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa, representing 22.9% of Iowa's total enrollees.²⁷
- In 2002, Iowa had 34,506 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 48.3% increase from 2001, when 23,270 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2001, 34 babies in Iowa were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 3,574—a rate of 33 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 1,487 adults and adolescents, as well as 11 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Iowa.³⁰
- In 2002, 38 Iowa children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.75 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2001, an estimated 10,000 children ages 12–17, and 24,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, two children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Iowa, a 100% increase from one in 2000.³³
- In 2002, 20,944 children younger than 18 were arrested in Iowa, an 11% decrease from 23,544 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 6,587 were for violent crimes and 111 were for possession of a weapon.³⁴
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,017 children in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa.³⁵

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R I O W A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Iowa spent \$308,956,871 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁶ Of this amount, 51% came from federal funds, and 49% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁷
- In 2000, of the \$156,560,327 in federal funds received for child welfare, 34% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 3% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 31% from Medicaid, 11% from the Social Services Block Grant, 19% from TANF, 2% from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% from other federal sources.³⁸
- Of the 5,202 children in out-of-home care in Iowa on September 30, 2001, only 1,820, or 35.0%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁹

I O W A ' S C H I L D W E L F A R E W O R K F O R C E

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.⁴⁰
- In 2002, the median income in Iowa for a family of four was \$57,921.⁴¹

Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

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