

I O W A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 5

Iowa's Children At a Glance	
State Population (2003) ¹	2,944,062
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	693,428
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	10.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	12.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	10.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	14.6%

C H I L D A B U S E A N D N E G L E C T

- In 2002, 34,793 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Iowa, a rate of 49.5 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 12,202 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Iowa, a rate of 17.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 5% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 71.8% were neglected, 17.4% were physically abused, and 7.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 15 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Iowa.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 5,238 children in Iowa lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,202 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 24.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.0% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 69.8% white children, 11.7% black children, 4.6% Hispanic children, 2.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 11.5% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Iowa.¹¹

P E R M A N E N T F A M I L I E S F O R C H I L D R E N

- Of the 5,647 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 76.0% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 882 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Iowa, a 33.4% increase from 661 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 5,238 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,277 or 24.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

K I N S H I P S U P P O R T

- In 2003, more than 16,905 Iowa grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,238 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 0.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Iowa children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 72.2% were white, 11.1% were black, 5.6% were Hispanic, 2.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.3% were other races.¹⁷

C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total number of *individuals* 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 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Iowa was 37% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Iowa spent \$156,098,684 in TANF funds, including 51.8% on cash assistance, -14.8% on child care, 1.4% on transportation and support activities, and 61.6% on nonassistance.²⁰ (A negative percentage could represent funds the state has carried over from a previous year; therefore, it may appear the state has overspent its annual funds.)

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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- In 2002, Iowa collected and distributed \$255,489,996 in child support funds, an increase of 7.8% from 2001.²¹
- 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.²²

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

- In 2001, Iowa served an estimated monthly average of 15,300 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 17,400 children were served, and in 1999, when 20,000 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 41% of Iowa's median income, or \$22,680, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Iowa had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 7,717 Iowa children were served by Head Start, a 1.3% increase from 2002.²⁶

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

- In 2001, 156,434 Iowa children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 48.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Iowa had 37,060 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.4% increase from 2002, when 34,506 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 169 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Iowa. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 3,392, reflecting a rate of 32.5 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 1,487 adults and adolescents, as well as 11 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Iowa.³⁰
- In 2001, 38 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.75 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 187,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 7% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 2% increase from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 10% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴

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 under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Iowa, compared with one in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 21,176 children under age 18 were arrested in Iowa, a 1% increase from 20,944 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 741 were for violent crimes and 132 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,105 children in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa.³⁷

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 2002, Iowa spent \$317,371,621 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁸ Of this amount, 44% was from federal funds and 56% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$317,371,621 spent for child welfare, 14% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 15% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 7% was from TANF, and 1% was from Supplemental Security Income.⁴⁰
- Out of 5,238 children in out-of-home care in Iowa on September 30, 2002, only 1,620 or 31% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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

- 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.⁴²
- 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 those children and families.⁴³
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that 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.⁴⁴

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