

I O W A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 7

Iowa's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	2,966,334
Population, Children Under 18 ²	670,801
State Poverty Rate ³	11.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.0
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	17.5

All statistics are for 2005.

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

- In 2004, Iowa had 38,040 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 24,366 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 13,804 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Iowa, a rate of 20.3 per 1,000 children, and representing a 3.8% increase from 2003. Of these children, 75.4% were neglected, 14.2% were physically abused, and 6.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, eight children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Iowa.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 5,384 children in Iowa lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,011 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 24.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 26.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 75.0% were white, 13.5% were black, 5.1% were Hispanic, 2.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.3% were children of other races and ethnicities.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 5,484 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 74.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 1,061 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Iowa, a 6.5% decrease from 1,130 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 5,384 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,152 or 21.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

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

- In 2005, approximately 16,698 Iowa grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,384 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 0.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Iowa children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 84.2% were white, 13.2% were black, and 2.6% were Hispanic.¹⁷

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CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Iowa decreased from 42,942 in March 2005 to 40,223 in March 2006, a decrease of 6.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 16,720, a 6.1% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Iowa was at 40.5% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Iowa spent \$163,222,300 in TANF funds, including 48.9% on basic assistance, 1.4% on transportation, and 49.7% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Iowa collected and distributed \$289,928,099 in child support funds, an increase of 3.4% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Iowa was \$576 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$11.07 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Iowa had an estimated monthly average of 17,900 children served by subsidized child care; 16,400 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 14,100 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Iowa, a family of three could make no more than \$23,328, which is equivalent to 43% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Iowa had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 7,735 Iowa children, a 0.5% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 185,800 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa, representing 43.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 9,640 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa, representing 5.8% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Iowa spent \$39,088,614 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$4,055 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Iowa reported spending \$115,103.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- Iowa reported spending \$47,827.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³¹
- In 2005, Iowa had 46,562 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 11.8% increase from 2004, when 41,636 children were enrolled.³²

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- In 2003, 2,512 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Iowa a ranking of 16 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2003, 215 infants younger than 1 year died in Iowa, giving the state a ranking of 17 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Iowa was 15.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 54.5. This reflects a total rate of 31.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2004, 1,553 adults and adolescents, as well as 12 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Iowa.³⁶
- In 2004, an estimated 23,000 children age 12–17, and 145,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Iowa.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 319 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Iowa.³⁸
- In 2004, 5,000 Iowa teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2004, 5% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 9,000 children age 12–17 in Iowa needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, approximately 16,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2003, 27 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.46 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, one child under age 18 was killed in firearm homicides in Iowa, compared with four in 2002.⁴⁴
- In 2005, 19,926 children younger than 18 were arrested in Iowa, a 5.6% increase from 18,872 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 802 were for violent crimes and 107 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 975 children in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR IOWA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Iowa spent \$324,807,686 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁷ Of this amount, 50% was from federal funds, and 50% was from state funds.⁴⁸

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- In 2004, of the \$162,778,912 in federal funds received for child welfare, 32% 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, 33% was from Medicaid, 11% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 19% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 5,384 children in out-of-home care in Iowa on September 30, 2004, only 1,968, or 36.6%, 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 demonstrated clearly that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³

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