

I O W A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 8

Iowa's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	2,982,085
Population, Children Under 18 ²	670,801
State Poverty Rate ³	10.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	13
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	16.9

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Iowa had 39,752 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 24,536 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 9,147 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Iowa, a rate of 20.9 per 1,000 children, and representing a 2.9% increase from 2004. Of these children, 78.5% were neglected, 13.4% were physically abused, and 5.8% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 9 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Iowa.⁹
- In 2005, 6,794 children in Iowa lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,384 children in 2004. In 2005, 30.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.1% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 72.6% were white, 13.8% black, 5.6% Hispanic, 1.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.4% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,725 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 72.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 947 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Iowa, a 12% decrease from 1,061 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 6,794 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 1,276, or 18.8%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 14,436 Iowa grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 6,794 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 9.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Iowa children in kinship care in 2005, 70.4% were white, 12.5% were black, 6.2% were Hispanic, 2.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.7% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Iowa increased from 39,551 in March 2006 to 41,177 in March 2007, an increase of 5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 16,444, a 5.2% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Iowa was at 40.5% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Iowa spent \$165,638,273 in TANF funds, including 44.6% on basic assistance, 2.2% on transportation, 53.2% on nonassistance, and none on child care.²⁰
- In 2006, Iowa collected and distributed \$298,238,365 in child support funds, an increase of 2.9% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Iowa was \$594 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$11.42 per hour working a 40-hour week.²²

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

- 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 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Iowa a family of three could make no more than \$24,084, which is equivalent to 43% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no Iowa children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 7,710 Iowa children, a 0.3% increase from 2005.²⁶

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

- In 2004, 212,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa, representing 53.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 14,194 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Iowa spent \$64,657,062 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$4,555 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Iowa reported spending \$275,815 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Iowa reported spending \$17,633,851 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Iowa had 49,575 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 6.08% increase from 2005, when 46,562 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 2,686 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Iowa a rank of 13 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 195 infants younger than age 1 died in Iowa, giving it a rank of 5 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 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

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

- Cumulative through 2005, 1,358 adults and adolescents, as well as 7 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Iowa.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 22,000 children ages 12–17, and 128,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Iowa.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 342 children aged out of out-of-home care in Iowa.³⁸
- In 2005, 8,000 Iowa teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 11% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Iowa needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 24 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.99 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 2 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Iowa, a 100% increase from 1 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 19,605 children younger than 18 were arrested in Iowa, a 1.61% increase from 19,926 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 720 were for violent crimes and 114 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. Of this amount, 50% was from federal funds, and 50% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- 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.⁴⁸
- Out of 6,794 children in out-of-home care in Iowa in 2005, only 2,237 children, or 32.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²

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