

Profile of Child Well-Being in Benton County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Benton County in 2000 was 6,924, an increase of 11.3 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 6,540 by 2020.

In Benton County, youth accounted for 27.4 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 181 in 2000 and are projected to decrease to 171 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Benton County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	22,429	25,308	28,090	30,986
Percent 17 or younger	27.7	27.4	21.9	21.1
Population 17 or younger	6,219	6,924	6,161	6,540
0 to 4 years	1,652	1,638	1,645	1,868
5 to 9 years	1,811	2,003	1,618	1,855
10 to 14 years	1,814	2,079	1,697	1,789
15 to 17 years	942	1,204	1,201	1,028
Minority [^] Population 17 or younger	n/a	181	135	171
0 to 4 years	n/a	57	41	44
5 to 9 years	n/a	57	30	36
10 to 14 years	n/a	40	36	50
15 to 17 years	n/a	27	28	41
Female Population 17 or younger	2,988	3,267	3,227	3,653
0 to 4 years	787	733	806	913
5 to 9 years	878	947	805	914
10 to 14 years	891	1,001	802	914
15 to 17 years	432	586	814	912
Male Population 17 or younger	3,231	3,657	3,316	3,808
0 to 4 years	865	905	839	955
5 to 9 years	933	1,056	836	955
10 to 14 years	923	1,078	831	951
15 to 17 years	510	618	810	947

[^] Minority includes all persons except white non-Hispanics.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1, *Projections by Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 2005

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Health Profile

As the number of total births in Benton County dropped from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 13. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 8.9 percent of total births in the county compared to 5.1 percent in 2004.

Teen parenting is used as a predictor of future economic hardship for both parents and children. Teen parents are often less able to provide positive, safe and caring environments, or family stability.

In Benton County, 2.9 percent of total births in 2004 were low birthweight compared to 7.0 percent statewide.

Low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds or 2,500 grams) can be an indicator of mothers not receiving adequate prenatal care and is often a good predictor of future health and developmental complications.

Early and ongoing prenatal care increases the chances of delivering healthy, full-term, and normal weight babies. Rates are per 1,000 live births.

For the period from 2002 to 2003, the rate of mothers in Benton County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 940.3 compared to 886.2 statewide.



2. Births to Teens, Low Birthweight Births, Pre-natal Care, and Immunizations

Year	Births to Teens		Low Birthweight Births		1st Trimester Prenatal Care		Full Immunizations*	
	Benton County	State	Benton County	State	Benton County	State	Benton County	State
	% of total births	% of total births	% of total births	% of total births	rate (per 1,000 live births)	rate (per 1,000 live births)	% fully immunized	% fully immunized
2000	29	8.9	26	6.1	---	---	88.0	86
2001	25	8.2	20	6.4	884.4	869.8	78.0	88
2002	19	6.3	16	6.6	n/a	n/a	44.0	85
2003	10	3.0	22	6.6	940.3	886.2	100.0	89
2004	16	5.1	9	7.0	n/a	n/a	100.0	90

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

* NOTE: Immunization data reflect only one site per county so should be interpreted with caution.

In Benton County in 2004, 100 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 88 percent in 2000. Percentages for the state were 89 in 2004 and 84 in 2000.

Fully immunized = 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep. B by 24 months of age.

Infant mortality is considered one of the best overall measures of health care accessibility and quality in that it measures the health of the most vulnerable in a given population. The infant mortality rate is the number of infants who die before their first birthday per 1,000 live births.

In Benton County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 4.3, lower than the county rate of 1999-2001 and lower than the statewide rate of 5.3 in the 2002-2004 period.

NOTE: Due to the relatively low number of births, infant deaths, and child deaths per year in many of Iowa's counties, users are encouraged to use 3-5 year averages for comparative purposes. These are presented in Tables 3 and 4.



3. Infant Mortality

Year	Benton County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1996-1998	7	8.0	7	6.6
1999-2001	4	4.4	4	5.9
2002-2004	4	4.3	4	5.3

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

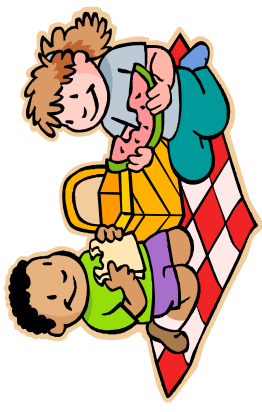
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Benton County was 0.2 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

Child deaths include deaths to all children ages 1 to 14. Child death rates are the number of deaths in this population per 1,000 total population age 1 to 14.

4. Child Death Rates

Year	Benton County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2002-2004	3	0.2	3	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Benton County, 16 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 17 child decrease from 2001-02.

Pre-Kindergarten students often demonstrate stronger early reading and math skills than non PK students.

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Benton County	State
2001-2002	33	5,714
2002-2003	26	5,949
2003-2004	18	6,907
2004-2005	16	6,108

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Benton County Empowerment Area reported at least 37.3 percent of its kindergartners consistently displaying school-ready behaviors in the five areas. Statewide at least 33.7 percent of kindergarten students were reported as school ready.

"School readiness" is the result of kindergarten teachers being asked to assess their students in 5 areas: communication skills, cognitive skills, self-management skills, motor skills, and social-emotional development. Teachers report the degree to which behaviors within these five areas are observable ranging from "rarely" to "consistently".

6. School Readiness*, 2003-2004

	Empowerment Area		State
	n	rate	
Motor Skills ¹	50.3	46.1	
Communication Skills ²	37.3	33.7	
Cognitive Skills ³	45.2	41.8	
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	54.3	47.0	
Self-Management Skills ⁵	40.9	41.2	

* Percent reported "consistently observed"

Source: Iowa Department of Education

- ¹ Include coordination and balance, using scissors, etc.
- ² Include the ability to ask and answer questions, communicate needs, etc.
- ³ Include using a variety of words to describe a shape or color, ability to sort objects into categories, etc.
- ⁴ Includes ability to build relationships with adults and peers, express emotions and feelings, etc.
- ⁵ Includes ability to follow classroom rules and routines, take responsibility for personal belongings, etc.

Economic Profile

During the 2004-05 school year, 25.5 percent of K-12 students in Benton County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 20.1 percent in 2001-02. Statewide a total of 148,759 students (31.1%) were eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Because eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals is an annual measure, it is a good indicator of the economic well-being of children in a community. Families with incomes 135% or less of the federal poverty threshold are eligible for free meals, those with incomes 136% to 180% of poverty are eligible for reduced-price meals.

7. Eligibility for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

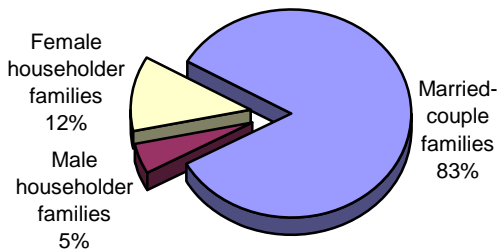
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Benton County	State	Benton County	State	Benton County	State
2001-02	590	93,062	251	36,492	20.1	26.7
2002-03	655	100,544	249	36,870	22.1	28.5
2003-04	721	107,324	251	36,907	24.0	30.0
2004-05	771	111,390	266	37,369	25.5	31.1

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 6,564 children under 18 years of age in Benton County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 16.5 percent lived in a family headed by a single parent.

Children by Family Type, 2000



Source: Census 2000, SF1, US Bureau of the Census

In Benton County, 76.8 percent of children under 6 living in a family or subfamily had all parents in the labor force compared to 71.4 percent statewide. All parents includes both parents in a married-couple family and the parent in a male- or female-headed family.

Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Benton County in 2004 was 150, an increase of 47 since 2000.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Benton County	State
2000	103	10,821
2001	114	12,793
2002	114	12,292
2003	136	14,936
2004	150	14,499

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Benton County reported 186 Group A and 974 Group B arrests per 100,000 juveniles compared to rates of 1,687 and 1,199, respectively, for the state.

Source and further details available @ http://www.dps.state.ia.us/documents_repository/DPS/2004/iacrime/iacrime.htm

Juvenile arrests are reported in 2 groups, Group A offenses include such crimes as murder, rape, burglary and drug violations while Group B offenses include curfew, drunkenness and runaways.

8. Employment Status of Parents with Young Children, 2000

	Benton County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	1,966		
Living with 2 parents	1,640		
Both parents in labor force	1,262	77.0	69.2
Living with father only	113		
Father in labor force	107	94.7	88.8
Living with mother only	213		
Mother in labor force	141	66.2	75.9

Source: Census 2000, SF3, US Bureau of the Census