

Profile of Child Well-Being in Cherokee County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Cherokee County in 2000 was 3,212, a decrease of 16.1 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 2,396 by 2020.

In Cherokee County, youth accounted for 24.6 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 142 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 166 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Cherokee County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	14,098	13,035	12,538	12,352
Percent 17 or younger	27.1	24.6	20.2	19.4
Population 17 or younger	3,827	3,212	2,533	2,396
0 to 4 years	930	717	645	644
5 to 9 years	1,110	823	684	656
10 to 14 years	1,135	996	728	672
15 to 17 years	652	676	476	424
Minority [^] Population 17 or younger	n/a	142	142	166
0 to 4 years	n/a	42	30	58
5 to 9 years	n/a	39	26	52
10 to 14 years	n/a	38	70	38
15 to 17 years	n/a	23	16	18
Female Population 17 or younger	1,928	1,507	1,236	1,163
0 to 4 years	460	359	310	312
5 to 9 years	519	386	339	321
10 to 14 years	593	470	383	331
15 to 17 years	356	292	204	199
Male Population 17 or younger	1,899	1,705	1,297	1,233
0 to 4 years	470	358	335	332
5 to 9 years	591	437	345	335
10 to 14 years	542	526	345	341
15 to 17 years	296	384	272	225

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1, *Projections by Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 2004

Data and support for this profile provided by:

Margie Hanson
Office of Social and Economic
Trend Analysis (SETA)
Iowa State University
www.seta.iastate.edu
e-mail: seta@iastate.edu

Michael Crawford
Iowa Kids Count
Child and Family Policy Center
Des Moines, Iowa
www.cfpciowa.org/ipkc.shtml
e-mail: mcrawford@cfpciowa.org
phone: (515) 280-9027

Beth Henning
State Data Center
State Library of Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa
www.iowadatacenter.org

e-mail:
beth.henning@lib.state.ia.us
phone: (515) 281-4350

Health Profile

As the number of total births in Cherokee County dropped from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens decreased by 0. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 9.7 percent of total births in the county compared to 11.3 percent in 2003.

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 Cherokee County, 7.8 percent of total births in 2003 were low birthweight compared to 6.6 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 1998 to 2001, the rate of mothers in Cherokee County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 907.2 compared to 869.8 statewide.

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

Year	Cherokee County		State		Cherokee County		State		Cherokee County		State	
	n	% of total births	n	% of total births	(per 1,000 live births)	rate (per 1,000 live births)	% fully immunized	% fully immunized	% fully immunized	% fully immunized		
1999	13	9.7	9	6.7	---	---	92.0	84.0	92.0	84.0		
2000	14	9.6	10	6.8	---	---	90.0	86.0	90.0	86.0		
2001	5	4.3	3	2.6	907.2	869.8	92.0	88.0	92.0	88.0		
2002	8	7.0	9	7.8	n/a	n/a	93.0	85.0	93.0	85.0		
2003	13	11.3	9	7.8	n/a	n/a	99.0	89.0	99.0	89.0		

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

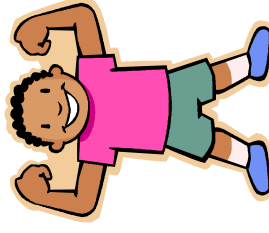
In Cherokee County in 2003, 99 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 92 percent in 1999. Percentages for the state were 89 in 2003 and 84 in 1999.

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 Cherokee County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 2.9, higher than the county rate of 1995-1998 and lower than the statewide rate of 5.5 in 2001-2003 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	Cherokee County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
1995-1997	1	2.6	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	2	4.9	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	1	2.9	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Cherokee County was 0.3 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	Cherokee County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
2000-2002	2	0.3	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Cherokee County, 38 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 32 child increase from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Cherokee County	State
2000-2001	6	5,797
2001-2002	29	5,714
2002-2003	56	5,949
2003-2004	38	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The NW Iowa Empowerment Area reported at least 33.2 percent of its kindergartners consistently displaying school-ready behaviors in the five areas. Statewide at least 35.9 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*, 2002-2003

	Empowerment Area	State
Motor Skills ¹	43.5	48.8
Communication Skills ²	33.2	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	45.7	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	44.2	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	34.2	43.0

* 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 2003-04 school year, 27.0 percent of K-12 students in Cherokee County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 20.1 percent in 2000-01. Statewide a total of 144,000 students (30.0%) 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

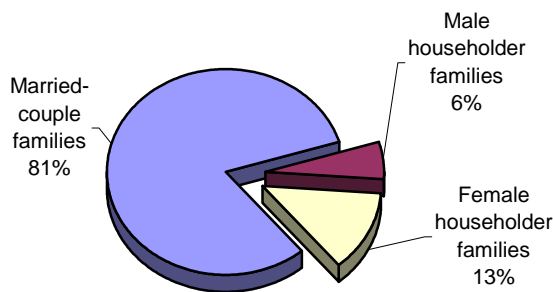
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State
2000-01	286	93,823	148	37,754	20.1	26.7
2001-02	262	93,062	185	36,492	21.1	26.7
2002-03	324	100,544	192	36,870	25.0	28.5
2003-04	364	107,324	186	36,907	27.0	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 2,999 children under 18 years of age in Cherokee County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 18.6 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 Cherokee County, 81.0 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.

8. Employment Status of Parents with Young Children, 2000

	Cherokee County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	905		
Living with 2 parents	720		
Both parents in labor force	604	83.9	69.2
Living with father only	53		
Father in labor force	49	92.5	88.8
Living with mother only	132		
Mother in labor force	80	60.6	71.4

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

Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Cherokee County in 2003 was 31, a decrease of -13 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Cherokee County	State
1999	44	9,588
2000	46	10,821
2001	33	12,793
2002	27	12,292
2003	31	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Cherokee County reported 2,793 Group A and 1,968 Group B arrests per 100,000 juveniles compared to rates of 2,003 and 1,180, respectively, for the state.

Source and further details available @ http://www.dps.state.ia.us/documents_repository/DPS/2003/iacrim e/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.