

Profile of Child Well-Being in Dallas County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Dallas County in 2000 was 11,487, an increase of 38.6 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will grow to 13,601 by 2020.

In Dallas County, youth accounted for 28.2 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 1,232 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 1,684 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Dallas County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	29,755	40,750	49,783	57,205
Percent 17 or younger	27.8	28.2	23.7	23.8
Population 17 or younger	8,286	11,487	11,813	13,601
0 to 4 years	2,110	3,372	3,459	4,147
5 to 9 years	2,524	3,184	3,197	3,929
10 to 14 years	2,398	3,032	3,244	3,531
15 to 17 years	1,254	1,899	1,913	1,994
Minority [^] Population 17 or younger	n/a	1,232	1,452	1,684
0 to 4 years	n/a	490	422	486
5 to 9 years	n/a	330	378	484
10 to 14 years	n/a	268	452	454
15 to 17 years	n/a	144	200	260
Female Population 17 or younger	3,954	5,510	5,730	6,545
0 to 4 years	1,031	1,603	1,664	1,995
5 to 9 years	1,197	1,524	1,546	1,882
10 to 14 years	1,140	1,483	1,565	1,692
15 to 17 years	586	900	955	976
Male Population 17 or younger	4,332	5,977	6,083	7,056
0 to 4 years	1,079	1,769	1,795	2,152
5 to 9 years	1,327	1,660	1,651	2,047
10 to 14 years	1,258	1,549	1,679	1,839
15 to 17 years	668	999	958	1,018

[^] 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 Dallas County rose from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens decreased by 16. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 9.5 percent of total births in the county compared to 5.4 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 Dallas County, 6.1 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 Dallas County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 863.4 compared to 869.8 statewide.



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

Year	Dallas County		State		Dallas County		State		Dallas 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	48	9.5	25	5.0	6.2	---	74.0	84.0	74.0	84.0		
2000	32	5.7	34	6.0	6.1	---	72.0	86.0	72.0	86.0		
2001	39	7.4	35	6.7	6.4	863.4	81.0	88.0	81.0	88.0		
2002	26	4.3	40	6.6	6.6	n/a	n/a	85.0	73.0	85.0		
2003	32	5.4	36	6.1	6.6	n/a	n/a	89.0	97.0	89.0		

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Dallas County in 2003, 97 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 74 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 Dallas County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 7.0, lower than the county rate of 1995-1998 and higher 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	Dallas County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1995-1997	13	8.9	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	7	4.4	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	12	7.0	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Dallas County was 0.1 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	Dallas County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2000-2002	2	0.1	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Dallas County, 73 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 22 child increase from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Dallas County	State
2000-2001	51	5,797
2001-2002	12	5,714
2002-2003	59	5,949
2003-2004	73	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Dallas County Empowerment Area reported at least 22.8 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	45.8	48.8
Communication Skills ²	22.8	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	40.1	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	47.9	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	44.5	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, 19.1 percent of K-12 students in Dallas County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 17.0 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

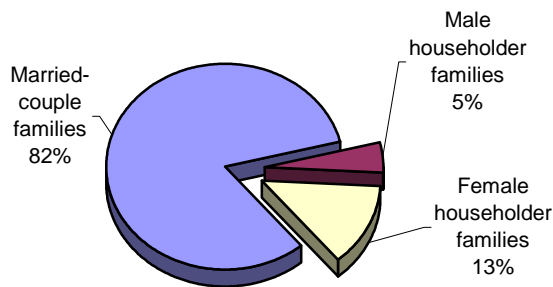
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Dallas County	State	Dallas County	State	Dallas County	State
2000-01	1,047	93,823	424	37,754	17.0	26.7
2001-02	1,074	93,062	504	36,492	18.0	26.7
2002-03	1,147	100,544	496	36,870	18.1	28.5
2003-04	1,252	107,324	582	36,907	19.1	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 10,974 children under 18 years of age in Dallas County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 17.7 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 Dallas County, 70.2 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

	Dallas County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	3,804		
Living with 2 parents	3,202		
Both parents in labor force	2,178	68.0	69.2
Living with father only	256		
Father in labor force	226	88.3	88.8
Living with mother only	346		
Mother in labor force	266	76.9	71.4

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

Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Dallas County in 2003 was 178, an increase of 86 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Dallas County	State
1999	92	9,588
2000	108	10,821
2001	142	12,793
2002	137	12,292
2003	178	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Dallas County reported 759 Group A and 1,158 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/iacrim_e.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.