

# Profile of Child Well-Being in Decatur County



## Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Decatur County in 2000 was 2,002, an increase of 3.1 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will grow to 2,015 by 2020.

In Decatur County, youth accounted for 23.0 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 85 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 229 by 2020.

### 1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Decatur County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	8,338	8,689	8,664	8,690
Percent 17 or younger	23.3	23.0	20.4	23.2
Population 17 or younger	1,941	2,002	1,768	2,015
0 to 4 years	507	481	500	577
5 to 9 years	567	545	494	578
10 to 14 years	534	589	470	547
15 to 17 years	333	387	304	313
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	85	110	229
0 to 4 years	n/a	32	39	66
5 to 9 years	n/a	17	18	55
10 to 14 years	n/a	23	34	57
15 to 17 years	n/a	13	19	51
Female Population 17 or younger	961	956	971	1,119
0 to 4 years	242	232	243	279
5 to 9 years	287	249	242	280
10 to 14 years	275	268	241	280
15 to 17 years	157	207	245	280
Male Population 17 or younger	980	1,046	1,025	1,195
0 to 4 years	265	249	257	298
5 to 9 years	280	296	257	300
10 to 14 years	259	321	256	299
15 to 17 years	176	180	255	298

^ 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

Data and support for this profile provided by:

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## Health Profile

As the number of total births in Decatur County rose from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 3. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 14.9 percent of total births in the county compared to 11.7 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 Decatur County, 6.8 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 Decatur County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 783.3 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*	
	Decatur County	State	Decatur County	State	Decatur County	State	Decatur County	State
	% of total births		rate (per 1,000 live births)		rate (per 1,000 live births)		% fully immunized	
2000	15	14.9	10.0	6.1	---	---	92.0	86
2001	6	7.3	9.6	6.4	813.7	869.8	91.0	88
2002	10	11.8	9.0	6.6	n/a	n/a	82.0	85
2003	11	11.6	8.7	6.6	783.3	886.2	100.0	89
2004	12	11.7	8.5	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 Decatur County in 2004, 100 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 92 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 Decatur County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 3.8, 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	Decatur County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1996-1998	2	7.0	6.6	6.6
1999-2001	4	14.1	5.9	5.9
2002-2004	1	3.8	5.3	5.3

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

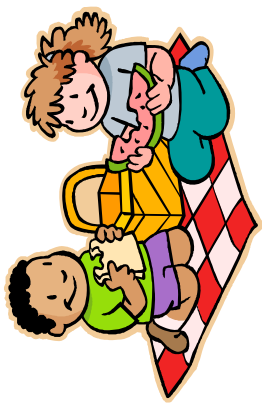
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Decatur County was 0.2 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

*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	Decatur County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2002-2004	1	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



### Education Profile

In Decatur County, 39 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 15 child decrease from 2001-02.

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

### 5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Decatur County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2001-2002	54	5.714	5,714	5.714
2002-2003	61	5.949	5,949	5.949
2003-2004	71	6.907	6,907	6.907
2004-2005	39	6.108	6,108	6.108

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Decatur County Empowerment Area reported at least 51 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	n	rate
Motor Skills <sup>1</sup>	57.0	46.1	46.1	46.1
Communication Skills <sup>2</sup>	51.0	33.7	33.7	33.7
Cognitive Skills <sup>3</sup>	58.3	41.8	41.8	41.8
Social/Emotional Dev. <sup>4</sup>	56.0	47.0	47.0	47.0
Self-Management Skills <sup>5</sup>	57.0	41.2	41.2	41.2

\* Percent reported "consistently observed"

Source: Iowa Department of Education

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

### Economic Profile

During the 2004-05 school year, 44.4 percent of K-12 students in Decatur County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 42.6 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**

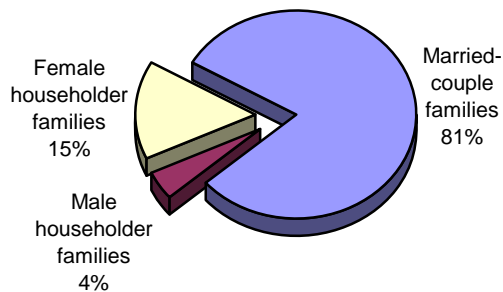
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Decatur County	State	Decatur County	State	Decatur County	State
2001-02	454	93,062	161	36,492	42.6	26.7
2002-03	536	100,544	183	36,870	49.5	28.5
2003-04	483	107,324	173	36,907	46.9	30.0
2004-05	353	111,390	116	37,369	44.4	31.1

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**Family Living Profile**

While the majority of the 1,850 children under 18 years of age in Decatur County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 19.7 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 Decatur County, 64.4 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 Decatur County in 2004 was 47, an increase of 15 since 2000.

**9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect**

	Decatur County	State
2000	32	10,821
2001	44	12,793
2002	29	12,292
2003	47	14,936
2004	47	14,499

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Decatur County reported 66 Group A and 0 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](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**

	Decatur County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	559		
Living with 2 parents	453		
Both parents in labor force	284	62.7	69.2
Living with father only	30		
Father in labor force	29	96.7	88.8
Living with mother only	76		
Mother in labor force	47	61.8	75.9

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