

# Profile of Child Well-Being in Des Moines County



## Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Des Moines County in 2000 was 10,328, a decrease of 5.7 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 9,335 by 2020.

In Des Moines County, youth accounted for 24.4 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 1,266 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 1,438 by 2020.

### 1. Population 17 Years or Younger

|  | Des Moines County |        |        |        |
|--|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | 1990              | 2000   | 2010*  | 2020*  |
| Total population                               | 42,614            | 42,351 | 40,392 | 39,543 |
| Percent 17 or younger                          | 25.7              | 24.4   | 22.7   | 23.6   |
| Population 17 or younger                       | 10,952            | 10,328 | 9,150  | 9,335  |
| 0 to 4 years                                   | 2,798             | 2,662  | 2,540  | 2,590  |
| 5 to 9 years                                   | 3,281             | 2,884  | 2,561  | 2,638  |
| 10 to 14 years                                 | 3,157             | 2,887  | 2,472  | 2,592  |
| 15 to 17 years                                 | 1,716             | 1,895  | 1,577  | 1,515  |
| Minority <sup>^</sup> Population 17 or younger | n/a               | 1,266  | 1,142  | 1,438  |
| 0 to 4 years                                   | n/a               | 405    | 294    | 403    |
| 5 to 9 years                                   | n/a               | 388    | 266    | 351    |
| 10 to 14 years                                 | n/a               | 285    | 329    | 376    |
| 15 to 17 years                                 | n/a               | 188    | 253    | 308    |
| Female Population 17 or younger                | 5,357             | 5,062  | 4,985  | 5,084  |
| 0 to 4 years                                   | 1,447             | 1,280  | 1,258  | 1,275  |
| 5 to 9 years                                   | 1,592             | 1,387  | 1,247  | 1,272  |
| 10 to 14 years                                 | 1,528             | 1,446  | 1,236  | 1,270  |
| 15 to 17 years                                 | 790               | 949    | 1,244  | 1,267  |
| Male Population 17 or younger                  | 5,595             | 5,266  | 5,163  | 5,329  |
| 0 to 4 years                                   | 1,351             | 1,382  | 1,282  | 1,315  |
| 5 to 9 years                                   | 1,689             | 1,497  | 1,289  | 1,326  |
| 10 to 14 years                                 | 1,629             | 1,441  | 1,297  | 1,338  |
| 15 to 17 years                                 | 926               | 946    | 1,295  | 1,350  |

<sup>^</sup> 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:

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 Des Moines County dropped from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 4. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 14.2 percent of total births in the county compared to 14.3 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 Des Moines County, 5.9 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 Des Moines County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 841.9 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* |                   |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|      | Des Moines County | State             | Des Moines County      | State             | Des Moines County            | State                        | Des Moines County   | State             |
|      | n                 | % of total births | n                      | % of total births | rate (per 1,000 live births) | rate (per 1,000 live births) | % fully immunized   | % fully immunized |
| 2000 | 79                | 14.2              | 44                     | 7.9               | ---                          | ---                          | 79.0                | 86                |
| 2001 | 55                | 11.0              | 27                     | 5.4               | 831.7                        | 869.8                        | 78.0                | 88                |
| 2002 | 72                | 14.5              | 30                     | 6.0               | n/a                          | n/a                          | 76.0                | 85                |
| 2003 | 51                | 10.3              | 40                     | 8.1               | 841.9                        | 886.2                        | 84.0                | 89                |
| 2004 | 75                | 14.3              | 31                     | 5.9               | n/a                          | n/a                          | 92.0                | 90                |

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Des Moines County in 2004, 92 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 79 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 Des Moines County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 6.7, higher than the county rate of 1999-2001 and higher 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      | Des Moines County |      | State |      |
|-----------|-------------------|------|-------|------|
|           | n                 | rate | n     | rate |
| 1996-1998 | 9                 | 5.5  | 9     | 6.6  |
| 1999-2001 | 8                 | 5.0  | 8     | 5.9  |
| 2002-2004 | 10                | 6.7  | 10    | 5.3  |

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

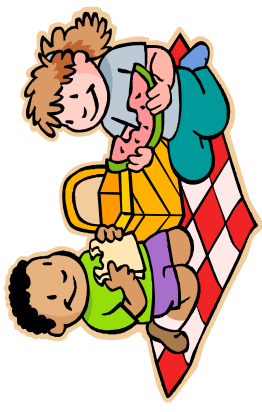
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Des Moines County was 0.1 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

*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      | Des Moines County |      | State |      |
|-----------|-------------------|------|-------|------|
|           | n                 | rate | n     | rate |
| 2002-2004 | 3                 | 0.1  | 3     | 0.2  |

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



### Education Profile

In Des Moines County, 39 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 2 child increase from 2001-02.

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

### 5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

|           | Des Moines County |       | State |       |
|-----------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | n                 | rate  | n     | rate  |
| 2001-2002 | 37                | 5.714 | 37    | 5.714 |
| 2002-2003 | 42                | 5.949 | 42    | 5.949 |
| 2003-2004 | 29                | 6.907 | 29    | 6.907 |
| 2004-2005 | 39                | 6.108 | 39    | 6.108 |

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Des Moines & Louisa County Empowerment Area reported at least 30.4 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>           | 41.3             | 46.1 | 41.3  | 46.1 |
| Communication Skills <sup>2</sup>   | 30.4             | 33.7 | 30.4  | 33.7 |
| Cognitive Skills <sup>3</sup>       | 39.7             | 41.8 | 39.7  | 41.8 |
| Social/Emotional Dev. <sup>4</sup>  | 40.3             | 47.0 | 40.3  | 47.0 |
| Self-Management Skills <sup>5</sup> | 39.7             | 41.2 | 39.7  | 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, 35.6 percent of K-12 students in Des Moines County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 31.9 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**

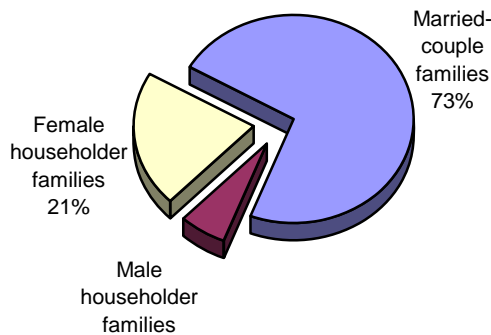
|         | Number Eligible for Free Meals |         | Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals |        | Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals |       |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---|--------|---|-------|
|         | Des Moines County              |         | Des Moines County                       |        | Des Moines County                                   |       |
|         | County                         | State   | County                                  | State  | County  | State |
| 2001-02 | 1,674                          | 93,062  | 518                                     | 36,492 | 31.9  | 26.7  |
| 2002-03 | 1,715                          | 100,544 | 527                                     | 36,870 | 33.2  | 28.5  |
| 2003-04 | 1,919                          | 107,324 | 530                                     | 36,907 | 37.2  | 30.0  |
| 2004-05 | 1,841                          | 111,390 | 462                                     | 37,369 | 35.6  | 31.1  |

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**Family Living Profile**

While the majority of the 9,509 children under 18 years of age in Des Moines County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 27.5 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 Des Moines County, 74.3 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 Des Moines County in 2004 was 292, a decrease of -16 since 2000.

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

|      | Des Moines County |        | State |
|------|-------------------|--------|-------|
|      | County            | State  |       |
| 2000 | 308               | 10,821 |       |
| 2001 | 359               | 12,793 |       |
| 2002 | 343               | 12,292 |       |
| 2003 | 390               | 14,936 |       |
| 2004 | 292               | 14,499 |       |

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Des Moines County reported 2,338 Group A and 3,090 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**

|                                | Des Moines County |      | State |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------|-------|
|                                | n                 | %    | %     |
| Total Own Children in Families |                   |      |       |
| Under 6 years:                 | 3,056             |      |       |
| Living with 2 parents          | 2,034             |      |       |
| Both parents in labor force    | 1,470             | 72.3 | 69.2  |
| Living with father only        | 233               |      |       |
| Father in labor force          | 205               | 88.0 | 88.8  |
| Living with mother only        | 789               |      |       |
| Mother in labor force          | 597               | 75.7 | 75.9  |

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