

Profile of Child Well-Being in Dubuque County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Dubuque County in 2000 was 22,779, a decrease of 2.7 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will grow to 23,767 by 2020.

In Dubuque County, youth accounted for 25.6 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 1,235 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 1,670 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Dubuque County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	86,403	89,143	91,747	95,286
Percent 17 or younger	27.1	25.6	24.0	24.9
Population 17 or younger	23,401	22,779	22,009	23,767
0 to 4 years	6,017	5,920	6,158	6,654
5 to 9 years	6,781	6,314	6,183	6,645
10 to 14 years	6,790	6,460	5,969	6,534
15 to 17 years	3,813	4,085	3,699	3,934
Minority [^] Population 17 or younger	n/a	1,235	1,274	1,670
0 to 4 years	n/a	440	372	518
5 to 9 years	n/a	366	342	482
10 to 14 years	n/a	272	330	426
15 to 17 years	n/a	157	230	244
Female Population 17 or younger	11,420	11,156	10,864	11,658
0 to 4 years	2,925	2,884	3,015	3,256
5 to 9 years	3,379	3,043	3,063	3,251
10 to 14 years	3,242	3,207	2,962	3,207
15 to 17 years	1,874	2,022	1,824	1,944
Male Population 17 or younger	11,981	11,623	11,145	12,109
0 to 4 years	3,092	3,036	3,143	3,398
5 to 9 years	3,402	3,271	3,120	3,394
10 to 14 years	3,548	3,253	3,007	3,327
15 to 17 years	1,939	2,063	1,875	1,990

[^] 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

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Health Profile

As the number of total births in Dubuque County rose from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens decreased by 15. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 9.4 percent of total births in the county compared to 7.6 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 Dubuque County, 5.8 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 Dubuque County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 890.4 compared to 869.8 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*	
	Dubuque County	State	Dubuque County	State	Dubuque County	State	Dubuque 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
1999	108	9.4	65	5.6	---	---	87.0	84.0
2000	91	7.5	62	5.1	---	---	83.0	86.0
2001	112	9.5	62	5.3	890.4	869.8	86.0	88.0
2002	71	6.2	62	5.4	n/a	n/a	88.0	85.0
2003	93	7.6	71	5.8	n/a	n/a	89.0	89.0

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Dubuque County in 2003, 89 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 87 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 Dubuque County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 4.8, lower 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	Dubuque County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
1995-1997	22	6.2	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	20	5.7	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	17	4.8	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Dubuque 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	Dubuque County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
2000-2002	14	0.3	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Dubuque County, 180 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 72 child increase from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Dubuque County	State
2000-2001	108	5,797
2001-2002	122	5,714
2002-2003	139	5,949
2003-2004	180	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Dubuque County Empowerment Area reported at least 23.1 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	57.8	48.8
Communication Skills ²	23.1	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	35.0	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	47.0	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	45.8	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, 28.5 percent of K-12 students in Dubuque County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 24.6 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

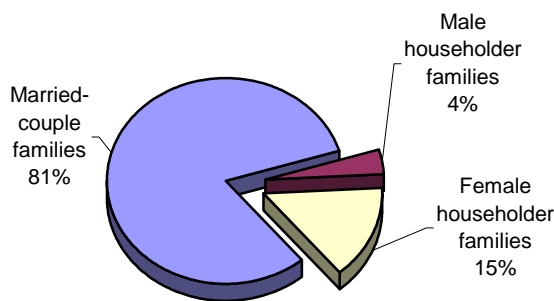
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Dubuque County	State	Dubuque County	State	Dubuque County	State
2000-01	2,043	93,823	1,031	37,754	24.6	26.7
2001-02	2,330	93,062	1,093	36,492	27.7	26.7
2002-03	2,487	100,544	1,100	36,870	28.5	28.5
2003-04	2,611	107,324	1,050	36,907	28.5	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 21,759 children under 18 years of age in Dubuque County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 18.7 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 Dubuque County, 72.0 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

	Dubuque County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	7,020		
Living with 2 parents	5,730		
Both parents in labor force	4,117	71.8	69.2
Living with father only	269		
Father in labor force	249	92.6	88.8
Living with mother only	1,021		
Mother in labor force	687	67.3	71.4

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

Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Dubuque County in 2003 was 396, an increase of 93 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Dubuque County	State
1999	303	9,588
2000	283	10,821
2001	351	12,793
2002	287	12,292
2003	396	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Dubuque County reported 1,713 Group A and 1,447 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.