

# Profile of Child Well-Being in Hamilton County



## Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Hamilton County in 2000 was 4,182, an increase of 2.5 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 3,503 by 2020.

In Hamilton County, youth accounted for 25.4 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 288 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 343 by 2020.

### 1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Hamilton County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	16,071	16,438	16,278	16,399
Percent 17 or younger	25.4	25.4	21.6	21.4
Population 17 or younger	4,081	4,182	3,523	3,503
0 to 4 years	1,062	1,057	942	972
5 to 9 years	1,157	1,130	941	963
10 to 14 years	1,186	1,245	991	978
15 to 17 years	676	750	649	590
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	288	280	343
0 to 4 years	n/a	85	89	100
5 to 9 years	n/a	81	47	83
10 to 14 years	n/a	91	76	88
15 to 17 years	n/a	31	68	72
Female Population 17 or younger	2,004	2,011	1,822	1,879
0 to 4 years	526	496	459	473
5 to 9 years	576	540	455	471
10 to 14 years	578	619	450	467
15 to 17 years	324	356	458	468
Male Population 17 or younger	2,077	2,171	1,921	1,991
0 to 4 years	536	561	483	499
5 to 9 years	581	590	481	499
10 to 14 years	608	626	480	497
15 to 17 years	352	394	477	496

^ 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

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## Health Profile

As the number of total births in Hamilton County rose from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 7. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 9.9 percent of total births in the county compared to 6.0 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 Hamilton County, 9.0 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 Hamilton County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 897.2 compared to 886.2 statewide.



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

Year	Hamilton County		State		Hamilton County		State		Hamilton County		State	
	n	% of total births	% of total births	% of total births	rate (per 1,000 live births)	rate (per 1,000 live births)	rate (per 1,000 live births)	rate (per 1,000 live births)	% fully immunized	% fully immunized	% fully immunized	% fully immunized
2000	19	9.9	10.0	6.1	---	---	---	86	95.0	86	95.0	86
2001	23	12.8	9.6	6.4	908.2	869.8	88	96.0	88	96.0	88	88
2002	18	10.1	9.0	6.6	n/a	n/a	85	85.0	85	85.0	85	85
2003	17	9.4	8.7	6.6	897.2	886.2	89	88.0	89	88.0	89	89
2004	12	6.0	8.5	7.0	n/a	n/a	90	96.0	90	96.0	90	90

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Hamilton County in 2004, 96 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 95 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 Hamilton County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 3.7, 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	Hamilton County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1996-1998	4	6.6	6.6	6.6
1999-2001	5	8.1	5.9	5.9
2002-2004	2	3.7	5.3	5.3

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

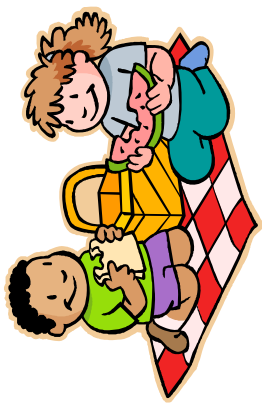
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Hamilton County was 0.0 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

*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	Hamilton County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2002-2004	0	0.0	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



**Education Profile**

In Hamilton County, 24 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 10 child decrease from 2001-02.

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

**5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment**

	Hamilton County	State
2001-2002	34	5,714
2002-2003	49	5,949
2003-2004	49	6,907
2004-2005	24	6,108

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Building Families Empowerment Area reported at least 16.1 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	
Motor Skills <sup>1</sup>	27.6	46.1	
Communication Skills <sup>2</sup>	16.1	33.7	
Cognitive Skills <sup>3</sup>	28.9	41.8	
Social/Emotional Dev. <sup>4</sup>	38.3	47.0	
Self-Management Skills <sup>5</sup>	24.2	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, 26.7 percent of K-12 students in Hamilton County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 22.1 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**

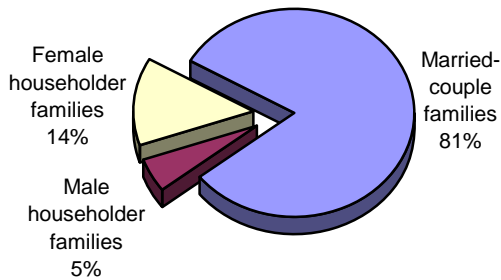
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Hamilton County	State	Hamilton County	State	Hamilton County	State
2001-02	464	93,062	175	36,492	22.1	26.7
2002-03	469	100,544	252	36,870	24.9	28.5
2003-04	554	107,324	224	36,907	27.3	30.0
2004-05	534	111,390	247	37,369	26.7	31.1

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**Family Living Profile**

While the majority of the 3,983 children under 18 years of age in Hamilton County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 18.9 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 Hamilton County, 83.9 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 Hamilton County in 2004 was 45, a decrease of -16 since 2000.

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

	Hamilton County	State
2000	61	10,821
2001	74	12,793
2002	53	12,292
2003	66	14,936
2004	45	14,499

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Hamilton County reported 960 Group A and 912 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**

	Hamilton County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	1,263		
Living with 2 parents	1,112		
Both parents in labor force	918	82.6	69.2
Living with father only	36		
Father in labor force	33	91.7	88.8
Living with mother only	115		
Mother in labor force	109	94.8	75.9

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