

Profile of Child Well-Being in Hancock County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Hancock County in 2000 was 3,210, a decrease of 9.9 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 2,660 by 2020.

In Hancock County, youth accounted for 26.5 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 185 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 238 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Hancock County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	12,638	12,100	11,721	11,705
Percent 17 or younger	28.2	26.5	22.9	22.7
Population 17 or younger	3,561	3,210	2,682	2,660
0 to 4 years	913	737	704	726
5 to 9 years	1,079	846	712	720
10 to 14 years	1,010	978	745	734
15 to 17 years	559	649	521	480
Minority [^] Population 17 or younger	n/a	185	180	238
0 to 4 years	n/a	55	54	70
5 to 9 years	n/a	56	38	68
10 to 14 years	n/a	47	48	64
15 to 17 years	n/a	27	40	36
Female Population 17 or younger	1,747	1,590	1,308	1,319
0 to 4 years	462	357	346	357
5 to 9 years	511	426	347	356
10 to 14 years	502	508	357	368
15 to 17 years	272	299	258	238
Male Population 17 or younger	1,814	1,620	1,374	1,341
0 to 4 years	451	380	358	369
5 to 9 years	568	420	365	364
10 to 14 years	508	470	388	366
15 to 17 years	287	350	263	242

[^] 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 Hancock County dropped from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens increased by 4. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 7.1 percent of total births in the county compared to 12.1 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 Hancock County, 7.5 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 Hancock County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 834.6 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*	
	Hancock County	State	Hancock County	State	Hancock County	State	Hancock 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	9	7.1	7	5.5	---	---	90.0	84.0
2000	11	8.4	10	7.6	---	---	90.0	86.0
2001	16	12.0	10	7.5	834.6	869.8	94.0	88.0
2002	10	9.0	8	7.2	n/a	n/a	94.0	85.0
2003	13	12.1	8	7.5	n/a	n/a	83.0	89.0

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Hancock County in 2003, 83 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 90 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 Hancock County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 5.7, higher 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	Hancock County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1995-1997	0	0.0	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	2	5.1	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	2	5.7	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Hancock 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	Hancock County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2000-2002	1	0.1	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Hancock County, 44 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 4 child decrease from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Hancock County	State
2000-2001	48	5,797
2001-2002	53	5,714
2002-2003	48	5,949
2003-2004	44	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Cerro Gordo, Hancock & Worth County Empowerment Area reported at least 23.3 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

	Hancock County	State
Motor Skills ¹	83.3	48.8
Communication Skills ²	26.7	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	23.3	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	83.3	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	70.0	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, 25.2 percent of K-12 students in Hancock 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

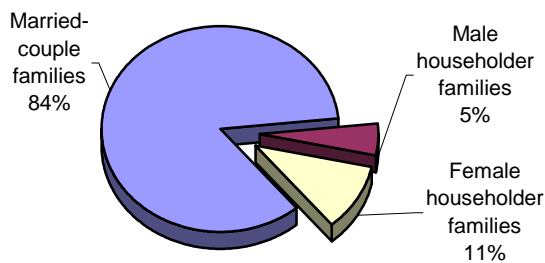
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Hancock County	State	Hancock County	State	Hancock County	State
2000-01	298	93,823	203	37,754	24.6	26.7
2001-02	275	93,062	193	36,492	23.5	26.7
2002-03	274	100,544	200	36,870	24.1	28.5
2003-04	280	107,324	204	36,907	25.2	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 3,081 children under 18 years of age in Hancock County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 15.6 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 Hancock County, 78.3 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.

8. Employment Status of Parents with Young Children, 2000

	Hancock County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	851		
Living with 2 parents	726		
Both parents in labor force	569	78.4	69.2
Living with father only	35		
Father in labor force	27	77.1	88.8
Living with mother only	90		
Mother in labor force	70	77.8	71.4

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

Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Hancock County in 2003 was 56, an increase of 27 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Hancock County	State
1999	29	9,588
2000	57	10,821
2001	44	12,793
2002	53	12,292
2003	56	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Hancock County reported 763 Group A and 445 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.