

Profile of Child Well-Being in Linn County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Linn County in 2000 was 48,422, an increase of 14.1 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will grow to 59,172 by 2020.

In Linn County, youth accounted for 25.3 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 5,299 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 7,030 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Linn County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	168,767	191,701	211,498	233,719
Percent 17 or younger	25.1	25.3	24.4	25.3
Population 17 or younger	42,430	48,422	51,543	59,172
0 to 4 years	11,930	13,425	15,116	17,439
5 to 9 years	12,124	14,005	14,418	16,879
10 to 14 years	11,715	13,160	13,576	15,755
15 to 17 years	6,661	7,832	8,433	9,099
Minority [^] Population 17 or younger	n/a	5,299	5,462	7,030
0 to 4 years	n/a	1,808	1,736	2,100
5 to 9 years	n/a	1,643	1,568	2,032
10 to 14 years	n/a	1,219	1,338	1,868
15 to 17 years	n/a	629	820	1,030
Female Population 17 or younger	20,573	23,641	25,336	28,904
0 to 4 years	5,833	6,516	7,345	8,471
5 to 9 years	5,870	6,932	7,027	8,215
10 to 14 years	5,580	6,387	6,664	7,713
15 to 17 years	3,290	3,806	4,300	4,505
Male Population 17 or younger	21,857	24,781	26,207	30,268
0 to 4 years	6,097	6,909	7,771	8,968
5 to 9 years	6,254	7,073	7,391	8,664
10 to 14 years	6,135	6,773	6,912	8,042
15 to 17 years	3,371	4,026	4,133	4,594

[^] 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 Linn County rose from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens decreased by 51. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 8.6 percent of total births in the county compared to 6.8 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 Linn County, 6.5 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 Linn County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 891.9 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*	
	Linn County	State	Linn County	State	Linn County	State	Linn 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	237	8.6	162	5.9	---	---	97.0	84.0
2000	210	7.7	150	5.5	---	---	98.0	86.0
2001	226	7.9	163	5.7	891.9	869.8	99.0	88.0
2002	197	7.2	171	6.2	n/a	n/a	95.0	85.0
2003	186	6.8	178	6.5	n/a	n/a	91.0	89.0

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

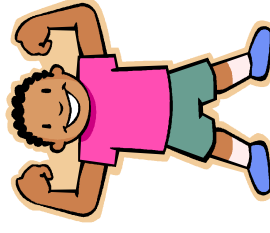
In Linn County in 2003, 91 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 97 percent in 1999. Percentages for the state were 89 in 2003 and 84 in 1999.

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 Linn County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 5.4, 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	Linn County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
1995-1997	60	7.8	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	40	4.9	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	45	5.4	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Linn 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	Linn County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
2000-2002	26	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Linn County, 311 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 15 child increase from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Linn County	State
2000-2001	296	5,797
2001-2002	422	5,714
2002-2003	388	5,949
2003-2004	311	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Linn County Empowerment Area reported at least 31.8 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	38.4	48.8
Communication Skills ²	33.1	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	53.7	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	53.7	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	31.8	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, 25.8 percent of K-12 students in Linn County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 20.4 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

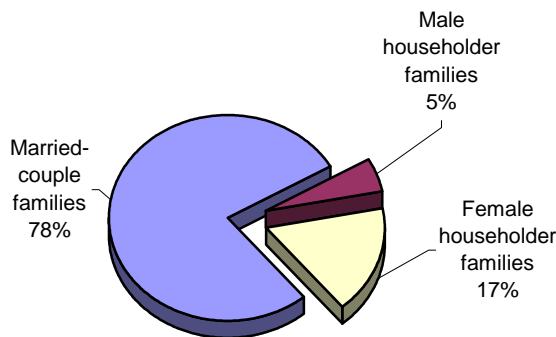
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Linn County	State	Linn County	State	Linn County	State
2000-01	4,903	93,823	1,828	37,754	20.4	26.7
2001-02	5,105	93,062	1,926	36,492	21.4	26.7
2002-03	5,782	100,544	1,994	36,870	23.5	28.5
2003-04	6,527	107,324	2,023	36,907	25.8	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 45,307 children under 18 years of age in Linn County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 22.1 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 Linn County, 70.3 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 Linn County in 2003 was 958, an increase of 496 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Linn County	State
1999	462	9,588
2000	517	10,821
2001	617	12,793
2002	726	12,292
2003	958	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Linn County reported 2,254 Group A and 586 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.

8. Employment Status of Parents with Young Children, 2000

	Linn County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	15,560		
Living with 2 parents	12,184		
Both parents in labor force	8,211	67.4	69.2
Living with father only	820		
Father in labor force	700	85.4	88.8
Living with mother only	2,556		
Mother in labor force	2,030	79.4	71.4

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