

Profile of Child Well-Being in Louisa County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Louisa County in 2000 was 3,380, an increase of 6.9 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 3,003 by 2020.

In Louisa County, youth accounted for 27.7 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 716 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 1,165 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Louisa County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	11,592	12,183	12,440	12,902
Percent 17 or younger	27.3	27.7	23.6	23.3
Population 17 or younger	3,162	3,380	2,935	3,003
0 to 4 years	803	880	804	859
5 to 9 years	884	934	780	851
10 to 14 years	944	996	817	812
15 to 17 years	531	570	534	481
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	716	890	1,165
0 to 4 years	n/a	243	204	309
5 to 9 years	n/a	228	205	240
10 to 14 years	n/a	169	265	314
15 to 17 years	n/a	76	216	302
Female Population 17 or younger	1,523	1,632	1,571	1,691
0 to 4 years	373	432	394	421
5 to 9 years	411	459	394	423
10 to 14 years	471	484	393	423
15 to 17 years	268	257	390	424
Male Population 17 or younger	1,639	1,748	1,621	1,751
0 to 4 years	430	448	410	438
5 to 9 years	473	475	405	438
10 to 14 years	473	512	403	439
15 to 17 years	263	313	403	436

^ 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:

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Health Profile

As the number of total births in Louisa County dropped from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 5. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 8.5 percent of total births in the county compared to 5.5 percent in 2004.

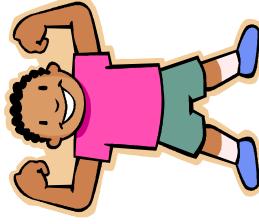
Teen parenting is used as a predictor of future economic hardship for both parents and children. Teen parents are often less able to provide positive, safe and caring environments, or family stability.

In Louisa County, 11.6 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 Louisa County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 882.4 compared to 886.2 statewide.



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

Year	Louisiana County		State		Louisiana County		State		Louisiana County		State	
	n	% of total births	n	% of total births	n	% of total births	n	% of total births	% fully immunized	rate (per 1,000 live births)	% fully immunized	rate (per 1,000 live births)
2000	14	8.5	16	9.8	6.1	---	---	68.0	86	68.0	86	
2001	13	8.2	12	7.5	6.4	853.0	869.8	79.0	88	79.0	88	
2002	27	13.5	12	6.0	6.6	n/a	n/a	84.0	85	84.0	85	
2003	10	7.1	6	4.3	6.6	882.4	886.2	91.0	89	91.0	89	
2004	9	5.5	19	11.6	7.0	n/a	n/a	87.0	90	87.0	90	

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Louisa County in 2004, 87 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 68 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 Louisa County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 2.0, higher 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	Louisa County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1996-1998	4	7.6	6.6	6.6
1999-2001	1	2.0	5.9	5.9
2002-2004	1	2.0	5.3	5.3

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

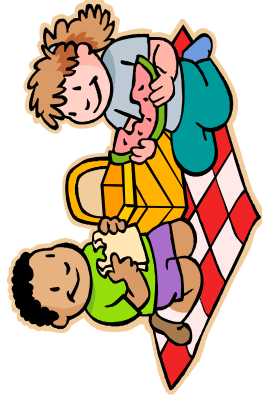
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Louisa County was 0.4 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

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	Louisa County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2002-2004	3	0.4	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Louisa County, 92 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 42 child increase from 2001-02.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Louisa County	State
2001-2002	50	5,714
2002-2003	45	5,949
2003-2004	65	6,907
2004-2005	92	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	
Motor Skills ¹	41.3	46.1	
Communication Skills ²	30.4	33.7	
Cognitive Skills ³	39.7	41.8	
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	40.3	47.0	
Self-Management Skills ⁵	39.7	41.2	

* 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 2004-05 school year, 44.5 percent of K-12 students in Louisa County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 33.5 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

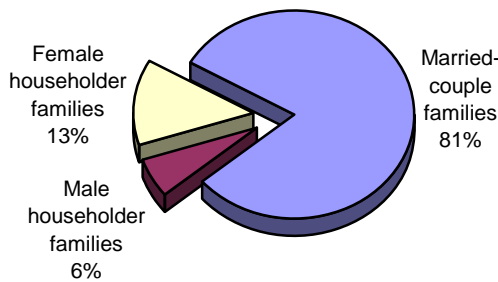
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Louisa County	State	Louisa County	State	Louisa County	State
2001-02	754	93,062	235	36,492	33.5	26.7
2002-03	919	100,544	287	36,870	41.1	28.5
2003-04	1,005	107,324	257	36,907	42.0	30.0
2004-05	1,009	111,390	291	37,369	44.5	31.1

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 3,063 children under 18 years of age in Louisa County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 19.3 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 Louisa County, 64.8 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 Louisa County in 2004 was 86, an increase of 28 since 2000.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Louisa County	State
2000	58	10,821
2001	67	12,793
2002	66	12,292
2003	42	14,936
2004	86	14,499

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Louisa County reported 559 Group A and 765 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

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

	Louisa County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	1,025		
Living with 2 parents	795		
Both parents in labor force	510	64.2	69.2
Living with father only	71		
Father in labor force	61	85.9	88.8
Living with mother only	159		
Mother in labor force	93	58.5	75.9

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