

# Profile of Child Well-Being in Plymouth County



## Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Plymouth County in 2000 was 7,038, an increase of 3.6 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 5,908 by 2020.

In Plymouth County, youth accounted for 28.3 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 335 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 361 by 2020.

### 1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Plymouth County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	23,388	24,849	25,163	26,040
Percent 17 or younger	29.0	28.3	23.2	22.7
Population 17 or younger	6,792	7,038	5,826	5,908
0 to 4 years	1,717	1,641	1,486	1,595
5 to 9 years	2,045	1,900	1,581	1,673
10 to 14 years	1,976	2,062	1,662	1,658
15 to 17 years	1,054	1,435	1,097	982
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	335	354	361
0 to 4 years	n/a	122	90	96
5 to 9 years	n/a	118	87	77
10 to 14 years	n/a	67	86	107
15 to 17 years	n/a	28	91	81
Female Population 17 or younger	3,245	3,397	2,979	3,192
0 to 4 years	875	778	731	784
5 to 9 years	924	933	741	795
10 to 14 years	954	1,016	751	806
15 to 17 years	492	670	756	807
Male Population 17 or younger	3,547	3,641	3,093	3,319
0 to 4 years	842	863	755	811
5 to 9 years	1,121	967	766	823
10 to 14 years	1,022	1,046	779	837
15 to 17 years	562	765	793	848

^ 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 Plymouth County rose from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 9. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 9.1 percent of total births in the county compared to 5.9 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 Plymouth County, 5.9 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 Plymouth County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 945.7 compared to 886.2 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*	
	Plymouth County	State	Plymouth County	State	Plymouth County	State	Plymouth County	State
	% of total births		rate (per 1,000 live births)		rate (per 1,000 live births)		% fully immunized	
2000	28	9.1	14	4.5	6.1	6.1	94.0	86
2001	21	7.5	14	5.0	6.4	6.4	90.0	88
2002	22	7.3	20	6.6	6.6	n/a	89.0	85
2003	19	6.2	24	7.8	6.6	886.2	83.0	89
2004	19	5.9	19	5.9	7.0	n/a	88.0	90

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Plymouth County in 2004, 88 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 94 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 Plymouth County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 5.6, lower than the county rate of 1999-2001 and higher 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	Plymouth County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1996-1998	4	4.2	4	6.6
1999-2001	10	11.1	5	5.9
2002-2004	5	5.6	5	5.3

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

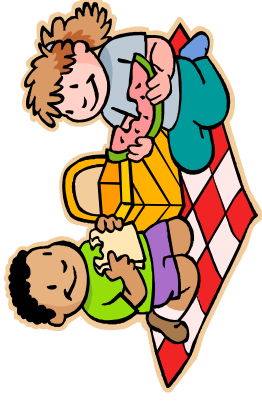
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Plymouth County was 0.3 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

*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	Plymouth County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2002-2004	4	0.3	4	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



### Education Profile

In Plymouth County, 7 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 25 child decrease from 2001-02.

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

### 5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Plymouth County	State
2001-2002	32	5,714
2002-2003	26	5,949
2003-2004	27	6,907
2004-2005	7	6,108

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The NW Iowa Empowerment Area reported at least 39.6 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>	45.3	46.1	
Communication Skills <sup>2</sup>	39.6	33.7	
Cognitive Skills <sup>3</sup>	50.3	41.8	
Social/Emotional Dev. <sup>4</sup>	54.1	47.0	
Self-Management Skills <sup>5</sup>	46.8	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, 19.5 percent of K-12 students in Plymouth County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 16.4 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**

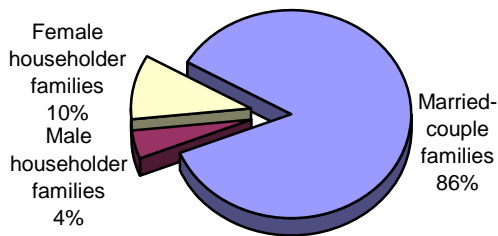
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Plymouth County	State	Plymouth County	State	Plymouth County	State
2001-02	458	93,062	265	36,492	16.4	26.7
2002-03	500	100,544	248	36,870	17.2	28.5
2003-04	536	107,324	265	36,907	18.2	30.0
2004-05	590	111,390	261	37,369	19.5	31.1

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**Family Living Profile**

While the majority of the 6,766 children under 18 years of age in Plymouth County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 14.5 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 Plymouth County, 76.7 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 Plymouth County in 2004 was 90, an increase of 49 since 2000.

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

	Plymouth County	State
2000	41	10,821
2001	57	12,793
2002	56	12,292
2003	61	14,936
2004	90	14,499

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Plymouth County reported 954 Group A and 641 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**

	Plymouth County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	1,927		
Living with 2 parents	1,637		
Both parents in labor force	1,261	77.0	69.2
Living with father only	56		
Father in labor force	51	91.1	88.8
Living with mother only	234		
Mother in labor force	166	70.9	75.9

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