

# Profile of Child Well-Being in Polk County



## Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Polk County in 2000 was 96,300, an increase of 17.5 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will grow to 118,536 by 2020.

In Polk County, youth accounted for 25.7 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 18,766 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 35,091 by 2020.

### 1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Polk County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	327,140	374,601	410,891	446,093
Percent 17 or younger	25.1	25.7	25.5	26.6
Population 17 or younger	81,971	96,300	104,900	118,536
0 to 4 years	24,860	27,955	31,269	35,370
5 to 9 years	23,748	27,210	29,892	33,755
10 to 14 years	21,454	25,945	27,459	31,191
15 to 17 years	11,909	15,190	16,280	18,220
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	18,766	24,546	35,091
0 to 4 years	n/a	6,111	7,012	9,530
5 to 9 years	n/a	5,447	5,896	7,929
10 to 14 years	n/a	4,662	6,458	9,675
15 to 17 years	n/a	2,546	5,180	7,957
Female Population 17 or younger	40,025	46,897	60,173	68,380
0 to 4 years	12,080	13,575	15,321	17,315
5 to 9 years	11,564	13,372	15,101	17,162
10 to 14 years	10,452	12,525	14,928	17,025
15 to 17 years	5,929	7,425	14,823	16,878
Male Population 17 or younger	41,946	49,403	62,633	71,370
0 to 4 years	12,780	14,380	15,948	18,055
5 to 9 years	12,184	13,838	15,703	17,885
10 to 14 years	11,002	13,420	15,550	17,776
15 to 17 years	5,980	7,765	15,432	17,654

^ 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 Polk County rose from 2000 to 2004, the number of births to teens decreased by 137. In 2000, births to teens accounted for 9.9 percent of total births in the county compared to 7.6 percent in 2004.

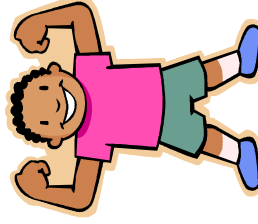
*Teen parenting is used as a predictor of future economic hardship for both parents and children. Teen parents are often less able to provide positive, safe and caring environments, or family stability.*

In Polk County, 7.1 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 Polk County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 902.6 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*	
	Polk County	State	Polk County	State	Polk County	State	Polk 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
2000	618	9.9	387	6.2	---	---	85.0	86
2001	550	9.0	414	6.8	865.4	869.8	87.0	88
2002	539	8.8	393	6.4	n/a	n/a	91.0	85
2003	563	8.8	472	7.4	902.6	886.2	95.0	89
2004	481	7.6	449	7.1	n/a	n/a	98.0	90

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Polk County in 2004, 98 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 85 percent in 2000. Percentages for the state were 89 in 2004 and 84 in 2000.

*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 Polk County, the infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 5.7, lower than the county rate of 1999-2001 and higher than the statewide rate of 5.3 in the 2002-2004 period.

*Fully immunized = 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep. B by 24 months of age.*

**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	Polk County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1996-1998	124	7.1	6.6	6.6
1999-2001	123	6.8	5.9	5.9
2002-2004	107	5.7	5.3	5.3

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

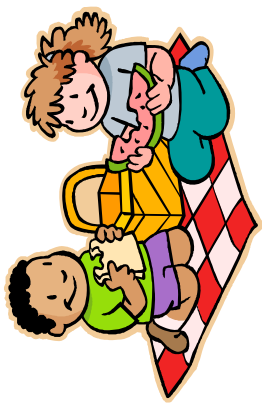
From 2002 to 2004, the child death rate in Polk County was 0.2 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

*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	Polk County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2002-2004	51	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



### Education Profile

In Polk County, 1,151 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2004-05 school year. This was a 273 child increase from 2001-02.

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

### 5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Polk County	State
2001-2002	878	5,714
2002-2003	754	5,949
2003-2004	911	6,907
2004-2005	1,151	6,108

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Human Services Planning Alliance Area reported at least 30.5 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>	51.0	46.1	
Communication Skills <sup>2</sup>	30.5	33.7	
Cognitive Skills <sup>3</sup>	39.2	41.8	
Social/Emotional Dev. <sup>4</sup>	47.7	47.0	
Self-Management Skills <sup>5</sup>	42.4	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, 32.8 percent of K-12 students in Polk County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 27.5 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**

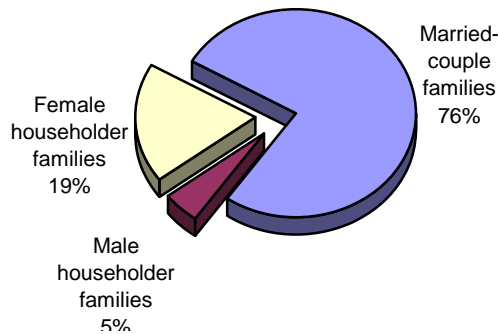
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Polk County	State	Polk County	State	Polk County	State
2001-02	12,648	93,062	4,504	36,492	27.5	26.7
2002-03	14,021	100,544	4,481	36,870	29.7	28.5
2003-04	14,680	107,324	4,383	36,907	30.5	30.0
2004-05	16,099	111,390	4,859	37,369	32.8	31.1

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**Family Living Profile**

While the majority of the 88,711 children under 18 years of age in Polk County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 23.7 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 Polk County, 69.3 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 Polk County in 2004 was 1873, an increase of 240 since 2000.

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

	Polk County	State
2000	1,633	10,821
2001	1,875	12,793
2002	1,898	12,292
2003	2,308	14,936
2004	1,873	14,499

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2004, Polk County reported 1,014 Group A and 440 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**

	Polk County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	32,775		
Living with 2 parents	25,359		
Both parents in labor force	16,847	66.4	69.2
Living with father only	1,668		
Father in labor force	1,512	90.6	88.8
Living with mother only	5,748		
Mother in labor force	4,365	75.9	75.9

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