

Profile of Child Well-Being in Ringgold County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Ringgold County in 2000 was 1,315, an increase of 1.3 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 1,179 by 2020.

In Ringgold County, youth accounted for 24.0 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 21 in 2000 and are projected to decrease to 0 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Ringgold County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	5,420	5,469	5,171	5,052
Percent 17 or younger	23.9	24.0	21.7	23.3
Population 17 or younger	1,298	1,315	1,124	1,179
0 to 4 years	290	320	300	339
5 to 9 years	418	331	309	328
10 to 14 years	376	367	319	319
15 to 17 years	214	297	196	193
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	21	8	0
0 to 4 years	n/a	4	0	0
5 to 9 years	n/a	2	2	0
10 to 14 years	n/a	6	2	0
15 to 17 years	n/a	9	4	0
Female Population 17 or younger	623	624	548	573
0 to 4 years	127	153	146	165
5 to 9 years	200	171	148	159
10 to 14 years	185	162	148	155
15 to 17 years	111	138	106	94
Male Population 17 or younger	675	691	576	606
0 to 4 years	163	167	154	174
5 to 9 years	218	160	161	169
10 to 14 years	191	205	171	164
15 to 17 years	103	159	90	99

^ 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 Ringgold County dropped from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens increased by 7. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 8.7 percent of total births in the county compared to 20.6 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 Ringgold County, 6.3 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 Ringgold County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 830.6 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*		
	Ringgold County	State		Ringgold County	State		Ringgold County	State		Ringgold 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	6	8.7	10.6	7	10.1	6.2	---	---	---	94.0	84.0	
2000	7	10.1	10.0	4	5.8	6.1	---	---	---	96.0	86.0	
2001	9	14.3	9.6	4	6.3	6.4	830.6	869.8		73.0	88.0	
2002	6	11.1	9.0	5	9.3	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.0	85.0	
2003	13	20.6	8.7	4	6.3	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.0	89.0	

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Ringgold County in 2003, 88 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 94 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 Ringgold County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 0.0, equal to 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	Ringgold County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1995-1997	0	0.0	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	2	10.8	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	0	0.0	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

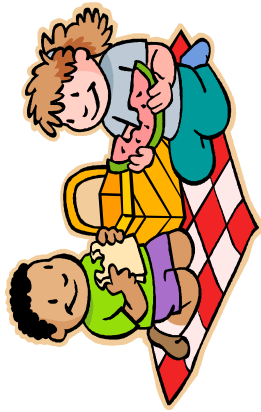
From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Ringgold County was 1.0 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

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	Ringgold County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2000-2002	3	1.0	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Ringgold County, 7 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 1 child increase from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Ringgold County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2000-2001	6	5,797	5,714	5,714
2001-2002	7	5,714	5,949	5,949
2002-2003	7	5,949	6,907	6,907
2003-2004	7	6,907		

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Ringgold County Empowerment Area reported at least 50.8 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	
	n	rate	n	rate
Motor Skills ¹	64.3	48.8	35.9	35.9
Communication Skills ²	50.8	44.5	50.1	50.1
Cognitive Skills ³	52.3	44.5	50.1	50.1
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	60.6	43.0	43.0	43.0
Self-Management Skills ⁵	61.4	43.0	43.0	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, 43.1 percent of K-12 students in Ringgold County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 38.8 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

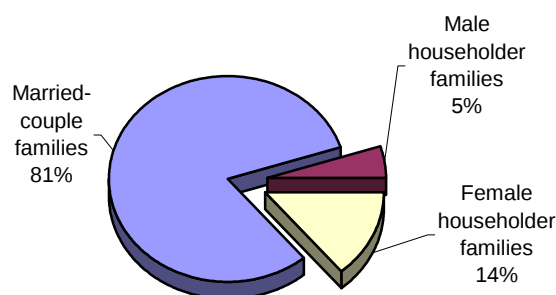
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Ringgold County	State	Ringgold County	State	Ringgold County	State
2000-01	286	93,823	76	37,754	38.8	26.7
2001-02	223	93,062	72	36,492	34.9	26.7
2002-03	258	100,544	83	36,870	43.6	28.5
2003-04	253	107,324	83	36,907	43.1	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 1,242 children under 18 years of age in Ringgold County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 19 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 Ringgold County, 65.9 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

	Ringgold County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	384		
Living with 2 parents	300		
Both parents in labor force	173	57.7	69.2
Living with father only	42		
Father in labor force	40	95.2	88.8
Living with mother only	42		
Mother in labor force	40	95.2	71.4

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

Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Ringgold County in 2003 was 15, a decrease of -7 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Ringgold County	State
1999	22	9,588
2000	22	10,821
2001	25	12,793
2002	21	12,292
2003	15	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Ringgold County reported 0 Group A and 0 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/iacrim.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.