

# Profile of Child Well-Being in Tama County



## Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Tama County in 2000 was 4,808, an increase of 5.7 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 4,291 by 2020.

In Tama County, youth accounted for 26.6 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 913 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 938 by 2020.

### 1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Tama County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	17,419	18,103	18,158	18,577
Percent 17 or younger	26.1	26.6	23.6	23.1
Population 17 or younger	4,548	4,808	4,278	4,291
0 to 4 years	1,139	1,255	1,131	1,180
5 to 9 years	1,294	1,302	1,175	1,190
10 to 14 years	1,365	1,337	1,251	1,195
15 to 17 years	750	914	721	726
Minority <sup>^</sup> Population 17 or younger	n/a	913	880	938
0 to 4 years	n/a	330	216	306
5 to 9 years	n/a	233	218	264
10 to 14 years	n/a	221	336	236
15 to 17 years	n/a	129	110	132
Female Population 17 or younger	2,257	2,302	2,043	2,045
0 to 4 years	545	623	544	570
5 to 9 years	636	626	562	571
10 to 14 years	679	623	597	558
15 to 17 years	397	430	340	346
Male Population 17 or younger	2,291	2,506	2,235	2,246
0 to 4 years	594	632	587	610
5 to 9 years	658	676	613	619
10 to 14 years	686	714	654	637
15 to 17 years	353	484	381	380

<sup>^</sup> 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 Tama County dropped from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens increased by 1. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 11.3 percent of total births in the county compared to 11.7 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 Tama County, 7.1 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 Tama County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 817.7 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*	
	Tama County	State	Tama County	State	Tama County	State	Tama 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	27	11.3	13	5.4	---	---	98.0	84.0
2000	28	11.2	19	7.6	---	---	96.0	86.0
2001	27	11.4	12	5.1	817.7	869.8	88.0	88.0
2002	21	9.5	21	9.5	n/a	n/a	91.0	85.0
2003	28	11.7	17	7.1	n/a	n/a	89.0	89.0

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

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

In Tama County in 2003, 89 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 98 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 Tama County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 7.2, lower than the county rate of 1995-1998 and higher 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	Tama County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
1995-1997	7	9.8	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	5	7.0	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	5	7.2	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Tama County was 0.1 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	Tama County		State	
	n	rate	rate	rate
2000-2002	1	0.1	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



### Education Profile

In Tama County, 119 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 19 child decrease from 2000-01.

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

### 5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Tama County	State
2000-2001	138	5,797
2001-2002	113	5,714
2002-2003	89	5,949
2003-2004	119	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Tama County Empowerment Area reported at least 33.7 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 <sup>1</sup>	47.7	48.8
Communication Skills <sup>2</sup>	33.7	35.9
Cognitive Skills <sup>3</sup>	35.0	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. <sup>4</sup>	38.3	50.1
Self-Management Skills <sup>5</sup>	33.9	43.0

\* 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 2003-04 school year, 33.9 percent of K-12 students in Tama County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 28.8 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

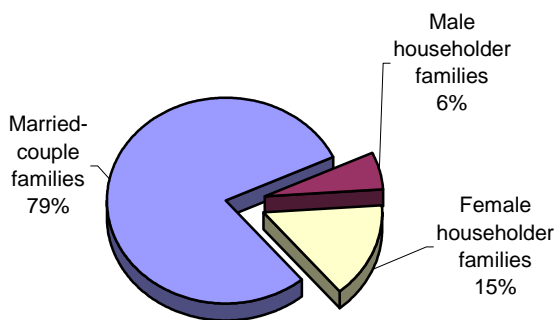
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Tama County	State	Tama County	State	Tama County	State
2000-01	659	93,823	345	37,754	28.8	26.7
2001-02	651	93,062	321	36,492	28.6	26.7
2002-03	708	100,544	293	36,870	28.8	28.5
2003-04	824	107,324	367	36,907	33.9	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

### Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 4,331 children under 18 years of age in Tama County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 20.9 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 Tama County, 67.9 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.

### Safety Profile

The number of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Tama County in 2003 was 124, an increase of 45 since 1999.

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

	Tama County	State
1999	79	9,588
2000	111	10,821
2001	96	12,793
2002	101	12,292
2003	124	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Tama County reported 297 Group A and 1,039 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](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

	Tama County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	1,374		
Living with 2 parents	1,063		
Both parents in labor force	702	66.0	69.2
Living with father only	86		
Father in labor force	71	82.6	88.8
Living with mother only	225		
Mother in labor force	160	71.1	71.4

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