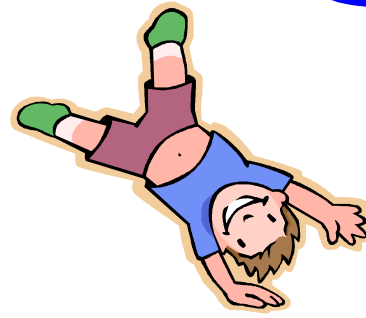


Profile of Child Well-Being in Union County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Union County in 2000 was 2,867, a decrease of 12.9 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 2,490 by 2020.

In Union County, youth accounted for 23.3 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 109 in 2000 and are projected to decrease to 84 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Union County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	12,750	12,309	11,945	11,851
Percent 17 or younger	25.8	23.3	20.7	21.0
Population 17 or younger	3,292	2,867	2,477	2,490
0 to 4 years	798	725	655	678
5 to 9 years	942	753	679	690
10 to 14 years	970	846	725	691
15 to 17 years	582	543	418	431
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	109	92	84
0 to 4 years	n/a	40	20	30
5 to 9 years	n/a	33	16	22
10 to 14 years	n/a	21	40	20
15 to 17 years	n/a	15	16	12
Female Population 17 or younger	1,654	1,412	1,208	1,206
0 to 4 years	404	367	325	333
5 to 9 years	446	365	321	332
10 to 14 years	502	415	356	334
15 to 17 years	302	265	206	207
Male Population 17 or younger	1,638	1,455	1,269	1,284
0 to 4 years	394	358	330	345
5 to 9 years	496	388	358	358
10 to 14 years	468	431	369	357
15 to 17 years	280	278	212	224

^ 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 Union County rose from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens increased by 2. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 12.1 percent of total births in the county compared to 13.2 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 Union County, 7.6 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 Union County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 863.6 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*		
	Union County	State	% of total births	Union County	State	% of total births	Union County	State	rate (per 1,000 live births)	Union County	State	% fully immunized
1999	17	12.1	10.6	9	6.4	6.2	---	---	---	85.0	84.0	84.0
2000	9	7.1	10.0	7	5.5	6.1	---	---	---	66.0	66.0	86.0
2001	7	5.2	9.6	9	6.7	6.4	863.6	869.8	869.8	91.0	88.0	88.0
2002	17	12.3	9.0	13	9.4	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.0	85.0	85.0
2003	19	13.2	8.7	11	7.6	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	79.0	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 Union County in 2003, 79 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 85 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 Union 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	Union County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1995-1997	6	13.2	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	4	9.5	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	3	7.2	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

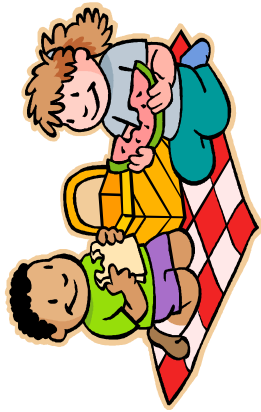
From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Union County was 0.5 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

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	Union County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2000-2002	3	0.5	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Union County, 8 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 12 child decrease from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Union County	State
2000-2001	20	5,797
2001-2002	6	5,714
2002-2003	6	5,949
2003-2004	8	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Union County Empowerment Area reported at least 35.4 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 ¹	50.4	48.8
Communication Skills ²	35.4	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	48.6	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	54.6	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	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, 39.4 percent of K-12 students in Union County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 37.7 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

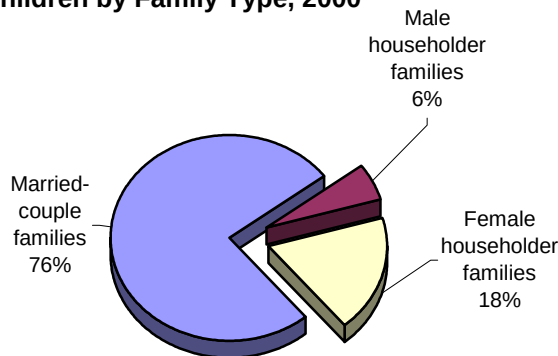
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Union County	State	Union County	State	Union County	State
2000-01	523	93,823	274	37,754	37.7	26.7
2001-02	489	93,062	219	36,492	35.2	26.7
2002-03	532	100,544	198	36,870	38.0	28.5
2003-04	567	107,324	194	36,907	39.4	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 2,710 children under 18 years of age in Union County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 24.1 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 Union County, 73.8 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 Union County in 2003 was 39, a decrease of -46 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Union County	State
1999	85	9,588
2000	62	10,821
2001	58	12,793
2002	61	12,292
2003	39	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Union County reported 565 Group A and 318 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.

8. Employment Status of Parents with Young Children, 2000

	Union County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	854		
Living with 2 parents	609		
Both parents in labor force	438	71.9	69.2
Living with father only	57		
Father in labor force	23	40.4	88.8
Living with mother only	188		
Mother in labor force	169	89.9	71.4

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