

Profile of Child Well-Being in Webster County



Population Profile

The population 17 years of age or younger in Webster County in 2000 was 9,847, a decrease of 6.1 percent since 1990. According to projections, the youth population will decline to 8,711 by 2020.

In Webster County, youth accounted for 24.5 percent of the total population in 2000 compared to 25.1 percent statewide. Minority youth in the county numbered 1,087 in 2000 and are projected to increase to 1,192 by 2020.

1. Population 17 Years or Younger

	Webster County			
	1990	2000	2010*	2020*
Total population	40,342	40,235	38,988	38,229
Percent 17 or younger	26.0	24.5	22.3	22.8
Population 17 or younger	10,483	9,847	8,688	8,711
0 to 4 years	2,949	2,536	2,445	2,479
5 to 9 years	3,082	2,697	2,402	2,434
10 to 14 years	2,897	2,802	2,340	2,347
15 to 17 years	1,555	1,812	1,501	1,451
Minority^ Population 17 or younger	n/a	1,087	910	1,192
0 to 4 years	n/a	339	296	366
5 to 9 years	n/a	313	250	344
10 to 14 years	n/a	260	222	310
15 to 17 years	n/a	175	142	172
Female Population 17 or younger	5,142	4,759	4,230	4,264
0 to 4 years	1,454	1,231	1,201	1,217
5 to 9 years	1,476	1,315	1,194	1,199
10 to 14 years	1,431	1,359	1,132	1,143
15 to 17 years	781	854	703	705
Male Population 17 or younger	5,341	5,088	4,458	4,447
0 to 4 years	1,495	1,305	1,244	1,262
5 to 9 years	1,606	1,382	1,208	1,235
10 to 14 years	1,466	1,443	1,208	1,204
15 to 17 years	774	958	798	746

^ 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

Data and support for this profile
provided by:

Margie Hanson
Office of Social and Economic
Trend Analysis (SETA)
Iowa State University
www.seta.iastate.edu
e-mail: seta@iastate.edu

Michael Crawford
Iowa Kids Count
Child and Family Policy Center
Des Moines, Iowa
www.cfpciowa.org/ipkc.shtml
e-mail: mcrawford@cfpciowa.org
phone: (515) 280-9027

Beth Henning
State Data Center
State Library of Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa
www.iowadatacenter.org
e-mail:
beth.henning@lib.state.ia.us
phone: (515) 281-4350

Health Profile

As the number of total births in Webster County dropped from 1999 to 2003, the number of births to teens decreased by 2. In 1999, births to teens accounted for 11.8 percent of total births in the county compared to 11.9 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 Webster County, 6.5 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 Webster County receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy was 834.3 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*		
	Webster County	State	% of total births	Webster County	State	% of total births	Webster County	State	rate (per 1,000 live births)	Webster County	State	% fully immunized
1999	59	11.8	10.6	34	6.8	6.2	---	---	---	88.0	84.0	84.0
2000	62	12.6	10.0	30	6.1	6.1	---	---	---	75.0	86.0	86.0
2001	69	13.8	9.6	27	5.4	6.4	834.3	869.8	869.8	80.0	88.0	88.0
2002	65	13.8	9.0	24	5.1	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.0	85.0	85.0
2003	57	11.9	8.7	31	6.5	6.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.0	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 Webster County in 2003, 100 percent of children 24 months of age were reported to be fully immunized compared to 88 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 Webster County, the infant mortality rate from 2001 to 2003 was 6.2, 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	Webster County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
1995-1997	10	6.6	7.1	7.1
1998-2000	9	6.0	6.2	6.2
2001-2003	9	6.2	5.5	5.5

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

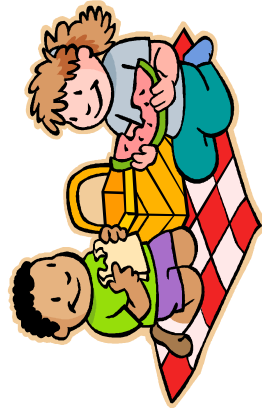
From 2000 to 2002, the child death rate in Webster County was 0.0 compared to the state's rate of 0.2

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	Webster County		State	
	n	rate	n	rate
2000-2002	1	0.0	0.2	0.2

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Education Profile

In Webster County, 59 children were enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten during the 2003-04 school year. This was a 2 child increase from 2000-01.

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

5. Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

	Webster County	State
2000-2001	57	5,797
2001-2002	27	5,714
2002-2003	56	5,949
2003-2004	59	6,907

Source: Iowa Department of Education

The Linking Families and Community Empowerment Area reported at least 47.4 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	57.0	48.8	48.8
Communication Skills ²	49.7	35.9	35.9
Cognitive Skills ³	52.0	44.5	44.5
Social/Emotional Dev. ⁴	58.4	50.1	50.1
Self-Management Skills ⁵	47.4	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, 38.3 percent of K-12 students in Webster County were eligible for free or reduced-price school compared to 38.7 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

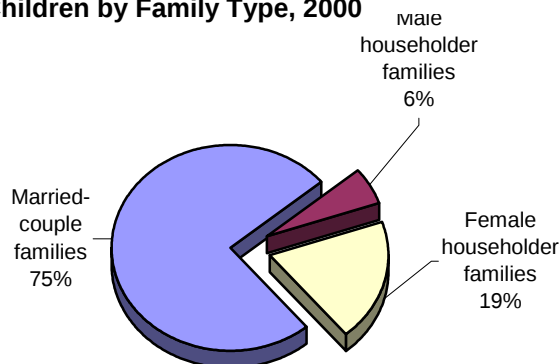
	Number Eligible for Free Meals		Number Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals		Percentage Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals	
	Webster County	State	Webster County	State	Webster County	State
2000-01	1,602	93,823	564	37,754	38.7	26.7
2001-02	1,408	93,062	473	36,492	33.6	26.7
2002-03	1,442	100,544	487	36,870	34.9	28.5
2003-04	1,707	107,324	415	36,907	38.3	30.0

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Family Living Profile

While the majority of the 9,121 children under 18 years of age in Webster County in 2000 resided in a two-parent family, 24.9 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 Webster County, 70.9 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 Webster County in 2003 was 197, a decrease of -3 since 1999.

9. Confirmed Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Webster County	State
1999	200	9,588
2000	199	10,821
2001	203	12,793
2002	224	12,292
2003	197	14,936

Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

In 2003, Webster County reported 2,375 Group A and 2,057 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

	Webster County		State
	n	%	%
Total Own Children in Families			
Under 6 years:	2,987		
Living with 2 parents	2,126		
Both parents in labor force	1,479	69.6	69.2
Living with father only	210		
Father in labor force	188	89.5	88.8
Living with mother only	651		
Mother in labor force	450	69.1	71.4

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