



Child Data Snapshot Palo Alto County

Demographic summary (2017)

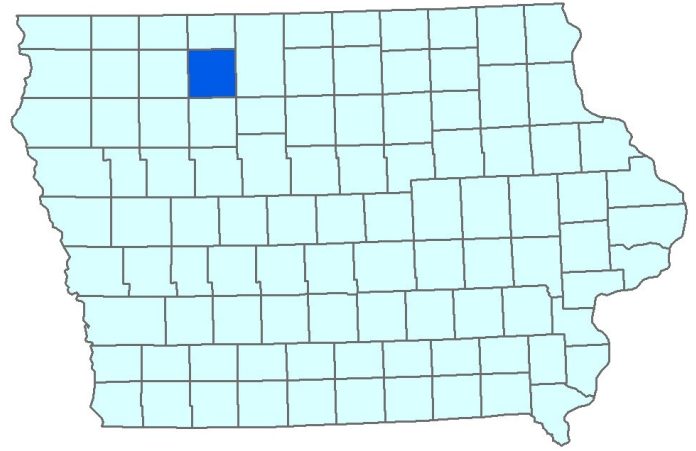
Total population	9,110	
Under 18	2,041	22.4%
Under 6	715	7.8%

Child population (under 18) by race/ethnicity

African American	70	3.4%
Asian	11	0.5%
Native American	0	0.0%
White, non-Hispanic	1,852	90.7%
Other	0	0.0%
Multiple	55	2.7%
Hispanic (any race)	53	2.6%

IOWA
KIDS COUNT

An initiative of
the Child and
Family Policy
Center
With support
from the
Annie E. Casey
Foundation



	Palo Alto County			Iowa		
	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000 [§]	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000 [§]
FAMILY & COMMUNITY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING						
# § Unless another year indicated below						
Children living under the poverty level	282	14.1%	+11.9%	96,860	13.5%	+25.3%
Unemployed individuals age 16 and over	107	2.2%	+13.2%	42,570	2.5%	-2.6%
SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS						
3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool (#2014-18 average)	130	52.6%	+44.4%	37,312	46.9%	+0.1%
Fourth graders proficient in reading (§2003)	80	74.8%	-3.7%	24,650	74.7%	-2.3%
Eighth graders proficient in mathematics (§2003)	70	73.7%	-7.9%	24,749	75.7%	+5.6%
High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)	109	91.6%	-4.9%	32,325	91.5%	+3.1%
STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES						
Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)	44	21.6	+140.4%	11,568	15.8	+54.7%
Single-parent families (#2014-18 average)	211	22.8%	+55.7%	115,352	31.2%	+7.9%
Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)	*	*	*	1,607	1.5%	-55.1%
Live births that are to unmarried teens	*	*	*	1,490	4.0%	-52.8%
HEALTHY CHILDREN						
Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester (§2007)	86	82.7%	+8.4%	29,583	79.0%	+10.9%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	*	*	*	191	5.1	-19.6%
Child deaths (per 100,000)	*	*	*	96	17	-21.5%
Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)	13	12.5%	*	2,607	6.9%	+12.7%
Children 0-18 uninsured during the year (#2014-18 average)	57	2.7%	N/A	23,736	3.1%	N/A
USE OF PUBLIC SUPPORTS						
Children 0-4 receiving WIC (§2003)	115	20.7%	-6.8%	51,321	25.9%	-8.3%
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches	651	40.9%	+34.0%	195,532	40.5%	+53.2%
Individual tax filers who receive the EITC (#2017)	630	15.0%	+33.6%	204,490	14.0%	+33.7%
Individuals receiving Food Assistance	786	8.8%	+211.2%	344,349	10.9%	+156.7%
Individuals participating in Family Investment Program	26	0.3%	-56.5%	19,565	0.6%	-65.0%

* Incidences of five or less have been suppressed to protect confidentiality

About the Kids Count indicators

FAMILY/COMM ECON WELL-BEING

Child poverty

Children 0-17 who lived below poverty during the year

— U.S. Census Bureau —

Children growing up in poverty (defined here as \$23,850 for a family of four) are much more likely than peers to experience stress and deprivation that hinders development and readiness for school and life.

FAMILY/COMM ECON WELL-BEING

Unemployment

Individuals 16 and over in the labor force but unemployed

— Iowa Workforce Development —

High levels of unemployment in a community make it difficult for families to move up the economic ladder. It also contributes to family stress when a parent struggles to find work.

SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

Preschool participation

Children ages 3-4 enrolled in preschool

— U.S. Census Bureau —

Children who participate in a high-quality preschool program are more likely to be socially and cognitively ready for kindergarten. The benefits are strongest for low-income children and children facing other risk factors.

SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

4th grade reading

Students proficient on the Iowa Assessments and Iowa Alternate Assessment

— Iowa Department of Education —

Reading proficiently by mid-elementary school is an important predictor of future academic success, including high school graduation, and of economic stability in adulthood.

SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

8th grade math

Students proficient on the Iowa Assessments and Iowa Alternate Assessment

— Iowa Department of Education —

Proficiency in math by the end of middle school prepares students for higher-order math classes they will need to succeed in high school as well as the basic skills needed for adult life.

SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

High school graduation

Public school students entering 9th grade who graduate with their class 4 years later

— Iowa Department of Education —

A high school diploma is the baseline credential needed for higher education, most kinds of job training and many jobs. Adults without one are much more likely to struggle economically.

STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

Teen births

Females ages 15-19 giving birth

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

Children born to teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely or low birth-weight and to die as infants. Teen mothers are less likely to finish high school or go on to college and more likely to rely on public supports.

STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

Teen unmarried births

Live births that are to unmarried teens

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

Unmarried teen mothers are less likely to ever marry and often face the primary responsibility of parenthood, often without the full physical, emotional and financial resources needed for child rearing.

STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

Single-parent families

Families with children that are headed by a single parent

— U.S. Census Bureau —

Children in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available in two-parent families. They are more likely to drop out of school and experience divorce in adulthood.

STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

Child abuse & neglect

Confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect among children 0-17

— Iowa Dept. of Human Services —

Experiencing abuse or neglect is one of the adverse childhood experiences that hinders healthy development — physical, mental and cognitive — and can affect well-being far into adulthood.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Prenatal care

Live births where prenatal care began in first trimester

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

Early and regular prenatal care — when a health care provider can treat and prevent health problems early — increases the chances of a healthy pregnancy and birth.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Low birthweight

Live births weighing less than 5.5 pounds

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

Infants born at low birth weight are at higher risk for physical and developmental delays that hinder growth, school readiness and adult health.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Infant mortality

Deaths of infants before age 1 per 1,000 children

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

In addition to being a child outcome, data on infant mortality is used as a proxy for population health. The many factors that shape population health also shape infant mortality rates.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Child deaths

Deaths of children ages 1-14 per 100,000 children

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

Child death rates can point to underlying problems and inequities within a community, such as the safety of neighborhoods, access to health care or exposure to environmental toxins.

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Uninsured children

Children 0-18 who are uninsured during the year

— U.S. Census Bureau —

Health coverage is the key that opens the door to the health-care system. Insured children are more likely to get timely medical care, including well-child visits, that contributes to overall health.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SUPPORTS

WIC Program

Children 0-4 participating in the Women, Infants, & Children program

— Iowa Department of Public Health —

WIC offers supplemental foods, referrals and nutrition education for low-income pregnant and postpartum women and children through age 4.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SUPPORTS

Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

Students eligible for free or low-cost meals while at school

— Iowa Department of Education —

This federally funded program provides meals to students. Available to families with incomes up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level, it is a commonly used proxy for poverty.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SUPPORTS

Food Assistance

Monthly average of individuals receiving Food Assistance

— Iowa Dept. of Human Services —

The Food Assistance Program (known nationally as SNAP) provides financial assistance that low-income Iowans, including many children and working adults, can use to buy groceries.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SUPPORTS

Family Investment Program

Monthly average of individuals participating in FIP

— Iowa Dept. of Human Services —

Iowa's version of the federal TANF program provides cash assistance to eligible low-income families for up to 60 months. It serves a small and shrinking share of the population.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SUPPORTS

EITC

Individual tax filers who receive the Earned Income Tax Credit

— Internal Revenue Service —

The EITC is recognized across the political spectrum as a successful antipoverty program that ensures that people who work are able to provide for their families.