



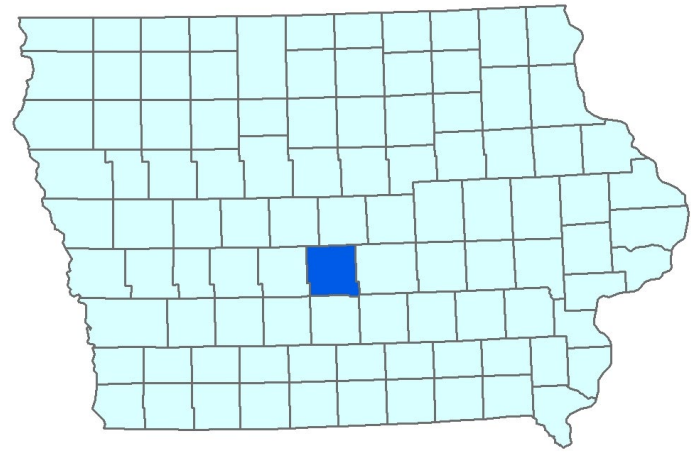
# Child Data Snapshot Polk County

## Demographic summary (2017)

Total population	467,235	
Under 18	117,560	25.2%
Under 6	40,299	8.6%

### Child population (under 18) by race/ethnicity

African American	10,046	8.5%
Asian	5,435	4.6%
Native American	395	0.3%
White, non-Hispanic	79,494	67.6%
Other	2,132	1.8%
Multiple	8,128	6.9%
Hispanic (any race)	15,635	13.3%



IOWA  
KIDS COUNT

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

	Polk County			Iowa		
	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000 <sup>§</sup>	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000 <sup>§</sup>
<b>FAMILY &amp; COMMUNITY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING</b>						
# § Unless another year indicated below						
Children living under the poverty level	13,958	11.7%	+24.5%	96,860	13.5%	+25.3%
Unemployed individuals age 16 and over	6,706	2.5%	+24.6%	42,570	2.5%	-2.6%
<b>SCHOOL READINESS &amp; SUCCESS</b>						
3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool (#2014-18 average)	6,048	43.0%	-7.8%	37,312	46.9%	+0.1%
Fourth graders proficient in reading (§2003)	3,675	72.1%	-4.5%	24,650	74.7%	-2.3%
Eighth graders proficient in mathematics (§2003)	3,656	73.5%	+7.3%	24,749	75.7%	+5.6%
High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)	4,652	88.9%	+5.1%	32,325	91.5%	+3.1%
<b>STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES</b>						
Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)	1,571	12.9	+16.3%	11,568	15.8	+54.7%
Single-parent families (#2014-18 average)	19,908	33.3%	+11.0%	115,352	31.2%	+7.9%
Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)	282	1.9%	-61.7%	1,607	1.5%	-55.1%
Live births that are to unmarried teens	261	3.9%	-52.7%	1,490	4.0%	-52.8%
<b>HEALTHY CHILDREN</b>						
Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester (§2007)	5,487	83.2%	+19.9%	29,583	79.0%	+10.9%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	33	5.0	-32.8%	191	5.1	-19.6%
Child deaths (per 100,000)	16	17.0	-15.8%	96	17	-21.5%
Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)	499	7.5%	20.8%	2,607	6.9%	+12.7%
Children 0-18 uninsured during the year (#2014-18 average)	3,249	2.6%	N/A	23,736	3.1%	N/A
<b>USE OF PUBLIC SUPPORTS</b>						
Children 0-4 receiving WIC (§2003)	9,259	26.6%	+20.7%	51,321	25.9%	-8.3%
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches	35,096	46.8%	+77.1%	195,532	40.5%	+53.2%
Individual tax filers who receive the EITC (#2017)	31,400	13.6%	+42.8%	204,490	14.0%	+33.7%
Individuals receiving Food Assistance	64,717	13.3%	+205.3%	344,349	10.9%	+156.7%
Individuals participating in Family Investment Program	3,465	0.7%	-66.2%	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.