



Children in the States

IOWA

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Child Population

725,954 children lived in Iowa in 2014; 21 percent were children of color.

- 79 percent were White
- 10 percent were Hispanic
- 5 percent were Black
- 2 percent were Asian
- 4 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 6 (16.2 percent) of Iowa's children were poor in 2013, a total of 115,194 children.¹

- Iowa ranked 12th in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 14 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Iowa are disproportionately poor.

- More than 2 in 5 Black children, nearly 3 in 10 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 6 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2013, compared to nearly 1 in 8 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Iowa leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- Nearly 7,000 Iowa public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Iowa and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 20 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 28 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Iowa ranked 11th of 50 states in child food security and 15th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- 25 percent of Iowa children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 88 percent of Iowa children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Iowa 34th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Iowa's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage, which can jeopardize their education and their future.

- In 2013, 89.1 percent of eligible children participated in Iowa Medicaid Enterprise or Hawk-I, Iowa's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 318,377 Iowa children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, and 83,670 in Hawk-I.
- Nearly 30,000 Iowa children ages 0-17 (4.1 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 7th lowest rate of uninsured children among states.

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- In 2012, 27,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Iowa Medicaid Enterprise or Hawk-I but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$9,185 – 17.1 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Iowa did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 47 percent of Iowa's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 42 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Iowa's state-funded preschool programs met an average of 6.9 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Iowa's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 62 percent of Iowa's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 52 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 85 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
 - 77 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 70 percent could not compute.
- 89 percent of Iowa public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Iowa 5th among states. 64 percent of Black students and 88 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 90 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 6 percent of Iowa public school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Iowa 4th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 25 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Iowa, 11,345 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 15.7 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 6,381 Iowa children in foster care.

Too many Iowa children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 15,897 children were arrested in Iowa in 2012– a rate of 4,913 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 729 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 22 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 10 percent were Hispanic, and 61 percent were White.
- 15 Iowa children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Iowa spent 2.8 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Iowa ranked 7th out of 41 ranked states in child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 18 children and teens were killed by guns in Iowa in 2013—a rate of 2.2* out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

*Rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.