



Early Childhood Iowa  
Indicators and Data Dictionary  
Tool K(B)

March 3, 2023 ECI State Board Approved Updates

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## 2022 Summary of Changes

As I2D2 worked to prepare the indicators for the 2022 ECI Annual Report, a few adjustments needed to be made to best represent the data, account for data availability, and stay consistent with numbers reported by other State agencies.

The changes include the following:

### Low Birth Weight

- Updated values are computed based on occurrence (rather than residence) data
- Data pulled from Vital Records (from the I2D2 system holdings)

### Percent of Immunized Children

- Drawn from the IDPH Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal, rather than from the Iowa Immunization Program Annual Report
- <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/Childhood-Immunizations/Childhood-Immunization-Data>

### Dental Services

- Drawn from the IDPH Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal, rather than from EPSD report
- <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Oral-Health/Child-Dental-Services-Medicaid-Data>

### Educational Attainment of Mothers

- Reporting percentages instead of counts
- American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B13014

### Incidence of Child Abuse

- Minor inconsistencies with prior reports were attributed to different denominators (updated values in the current report are based on ACS 5-year estimates, while previous values were computed using the 10-year Census data)
- <https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-abuse-statistics>

### Domestic Violence Rate

- Minor inconsistencies with prior reports were attributed to different denominators (updated values in the current report are based on ACS 5-year estimates, while previous values were computed using the 10-year Census data)
- <https://icrime.dps.state.ia.us/CrimeInIowa/Report/DomesticAbuseSummaryReport>

### Children in Poverty

- Updated values are computed using ACS 5-year estimates. Prior values were obtained from the secondary report published by Kids Count
- American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B17020

### Unemployment Rate

- Data is often corrected (retroactively) by Iowa Workforce that could explain observed discrepancies
- <https://www.iowalmi.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics>

### Working Parents

- Minor inconsistencies with prior reports are attributed to different denominators (updated values in the current report are based on ACS 5-year estimates, while previous values were computed using the 10-year Census data)
- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>

## RESULT: HEALTHY CHILDREN

### Indicator: Low Birth Weight

**Definition:** Percentage of babies born with low birth weight (computed based on occurrence without regard to residence).

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percentage of live-born babies in Iowa weighing less than 2,500 grams.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of live births in Iowa weighing under 2,500 grams or 5 lbs. 9 oz.
  - Source: Birth Certificates, Vital Statistics of Iowa
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of live births in Iowa
  - Source: Birth certificates, Vital Statistics of Iowa
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Vital Statistics of Iowa, I2D2

### Indicator: Immunized Children

**Definition:** Rate of children fully immunized by age 2.

**Note:** Data are for patients with a record in the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) and the records are in a health care provider's immunization home. Recommended vaccination series are based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Rate of children fully immunized in Iowa by age 2.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of Iowa 2-year-old children recorded in IRIS who have completed a 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 vaccine series
  - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health/Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of 2-year-old children with a record in IRIS
  - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health/Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal  
<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/Childhood-Immunizations/Childhood-Immunization-Data>

### Indicator: Dental Services

**Definition:** Percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children under age 6 who received dental services.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children under age 6 who received a dental service in Iowa.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of Medicaid-enrolled children under age 6 who had a reimbursed dental and/or oral health service
  - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health

- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of children under age 6 who have been enrolled in Iowa Medicaid with dental coverage
  - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal  
<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Oral-Health/Child-Dental-Services-Medicaid-Data>

### Childhood Obesity – \*Future Consideration\*

Add childhood obesity as an indicator of child health. Data from Head Start/Early Head Start is available on this measure; however, it is the recommendation of the component group that additional data sources be sought to provide a representative understanding of childhood obesity in the general population.

### Indicator: Infant mortality

**Definition:** Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Mortality rate in infants younger than one year of age per 1,000 live births on a five-year aggregate basis (to reduce the presence of suppressed values due to small numbers).
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of deaths in the first year of life
  - Source: Vital Statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of live births
  - Source: Vital Statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal  
<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/People-Community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Infant-Mortality/Infant-Mortality-Data>

### Indicator: Health and dental providers who accept Medicaid

**Definition:** Number of Dentists (general) and Pediatricians (specialization) that accept Medicaid for services.

- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of dentists (general) or doctors with pediatrics specialization that accept Iowa Medicaid fee-for-service coverage
  - Source: Iowa Medicaid Provider Search
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Denominator:**
  - For Dentists: Scaled by 1:10,000 persons in the total population (2019)
  - For Pediatricians: Scaled by 1:1,000 children under age 6 in households (2019)
  - Source: American Community Survey
  - Agency: US Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Provider lists are updated daily
- **Published Source:** <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/providersearch/>

## RESULT: CHILDREN READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

### Indicator: Early Literacy Skills

**Definition:** Kindergartners meeting the Fall benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements of Iowa Code section 279.68 (assessments with demonstrated technical adequacy for universal screening of literacy).

**Note:** Continue inclusion of IQPPS as an indicator until such time as changes to the monitoring process are finalized and can be further reviewed. Furthermore, it is the recommendation of the Results Accountability Component Group that IQPPS verification be reported as the overall number and percent of programs meeting/not meeting the criteria for verification.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percent of kindergartners meeting the Fall benchmark for the approved universal screening measure.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of Iowa's kindergarten children who perform at or above a level indicating a high probability of success on an end-of-year general outcome measure of literacy
  - Source: Approved measures (as of 7/14) consist of: Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) composite, AIMSweb Letter Sound Fluency, AIMSweb Letter Naming Fluency, Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS-K), Star Early Literacy, or Texas Primary Reading Inventory. Each of Iowa's public school districts will administer one of these measures to all kindergarten children
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Education
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of Iowa's kindergarten children [enrolled as of xx date]
  - Source: Student Information System
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Education
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Early Childhood Iowa Annual Report

### Indicator: Educational Attainment of Mothers

**Definition:** Women age 15-50 with a birth in the past 12 months by educational attainment.

**Note:** The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The ACS universe includes the household population and population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Number of women reporting the following educational attainment levels: less than high school, high school graduation, some college, bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B13014

## RESULT: SAFE AND NURTURING FAMILIES

### Indicator: Incidence of Child Abuse

**Definition:** Rate of abuse of children under 6 per 1,000 children.

**Note:** According to DHS sources, this data represents the rate per thousand that children were determined to have been abused. Values are now calculated based on ACS 5-year estimates rather than 10-year Census data.

- **Numerical Method of Measure:** Rate of abuse or neglect incidents of children under 6 per 1,000 children.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of children under 6 years of age whose maltreatment (abuse or neglect) have been confirmed/founded by the Department of Human Services
  - Source: Statewide Tracking of Child Abuse Reports (STAR)
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Human Services
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of children under 6 years of age
  - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Iowa Department of Human Services  
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-abuse-statistics>

### Indicator: Teen Births

**Definition:** Percentage of births to mothers under age 20 (computed based on occurrence without regard to residence).

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percent of births to mothers under age 20 in Iowa.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of births to mothers under age 20 that occurred in Iowa
  - Source: Birth Certificates, Iowa Vital Statistics
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of births to mothers of all ages that occurred in Iowa.
  - Source: Birth Certificates, Iowa Vital Statistics
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Vital Statistics of Iowa, I2D2

### Indicator: Domestic Violence Rate

**Definition:** Domestic Abuse Rate; and Domestic Abuse Rate where children were present.

**Note:** Denominator values are now calculated using ACS 5-year estimates rather than 10-year Census data.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:**
  - Domestic abuse rate per 100,000 population
  - Percent of domestic abuse incidents where children were present by no children present, children present but not harmed, children present and harmed
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Total number of domestic abuse victims; Number of domestic abuse victims by children present

- Source: Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program
- Agency: Iowa Department of Public Safety
- **Denominator (for Domestic Abuse Rate):**
  - Definition: Total population in Iowa
  - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator (for Domestic Abuse Rate by Children Present):**
  - Definition: Total number of domestic abuse victims
  - Source: Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program
  - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Safety
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Iowa Department of Public Safety  
<https://icrime.dps.state.ia.us/CrimeInIowa/Report/DomesticAbuseSummaryReport>

## RESULT: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

### Indicator: Unemployment Rate

**Definition:** Percentage of unemployed persons.

**Note:** Data is often corrected (retroactively) by Iowa Workforce. Discrepancies year to year may result.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percent of unemployed persons in Iowa.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of persons 16 years and older who are unemployed
  - Source: Annual Average Labor Force Summaries
  - Agency: Iowa Workforce Development
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of persons 16 years and older employed and unemployed
  - Source: Annual Average Labor Force Summaries
  - Agency: Iowa Workforce Development
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Iowa Workforce Development Annual Report and website  
<https://www.iowalmi.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics>

### Indicator: Children in Poverty

**Definition:** Percentage of children under 6 years of age living in poverty.

**Note:** Updated values are computing using ACS-5-year estimates. Prior values were obtained from the secondary report published by Kids Count data center.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percent of children under 6 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of children under 6 years of age living in poverty
  - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of children under 6 years of age living in Iowa
  - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B17020

### Indicator: Children with health coverage by income level

**Definition:** Number and Percent of minor children with health coverage by income and poverty level.

- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of children with health coverage
  - Source: Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of children



- Source: Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
- Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** United States Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), <https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/sahie/#/>

### Indicator: People in poverty

**Definition:** Percentage of people living in poverty.

- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of people living in poverty
  - Source: American Community Survey, Table B17020
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of people
  - Source: American Community Survey, Table B17020
  - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B17020

### Indicator: Homelessness count

**Definition:** Sheltered and unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) counts of homeless individuals.

- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Point in Time counts of sheltered/unsheltered homeless persons
  - Source: <https://icalliances.org/pit>
  - Agency: Institute for Community alliances
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Scaled by 1:10,000 persons in the total population (2019)
  - Source: American Community Survey Table B01003\_001
  - Agency: US Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/pit-hic/>

### Indicator: Individual birth risks (I2D2 data, pending continued renewal of data sharing agreements)

#### Preterm OR Low Birth Weight

- **Definition:** Born prior to 36 weeks gestation or less than 2500 grams at birth.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Count of children noted as preterm or low birth weight
  - Source: Vital statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of births in Iowa
  - Source: Vital statistics
  - Agency: IDPH

- **Frequency:** Annually

**Teen mom** – see “Safe and Nurturing Families” section

### Single mom

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers unmarried at the time of delivery.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of children born to an unmarried mother
  - Source: Vital statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of births in Iowa
  - Source: Vital Statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually

### Low maternal education

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers over the age of 19 with less than a high school degree (i.e., less than 12 years of school).
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of children born to mothers over the age of 19 with less than a high school degree
  - Source: Vital statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of births in Iowa
  - Source: Vital Statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually

### Inadequate prenatal care

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers who received no prenatal care during the first trimester or who had fewer than four prenatal visits in total.
- **Numerator:**
  - Definition: Number of children born to mothers who received no prenatal care during the first trimester or who had fewer than four prenatal visits in total
  - Source: Vital statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - Definition: Total number of births in Iowa
  - Source: Vital Statistics
  - Agency: IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually

### Prenatal tobacco exposure

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers who used tobacco in the three months prior to pregnancy or at any time during pregnancy.
- **Numerator:**

- **Definition:** Number of children born to mothers who used tobacco in the three months prior to pregnancy or at any time during pregnancy
- **Source:** Vital statistics
- **Agency:** IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - **Definition:** Total number of births in Iowa
  - **Source:** Vital Statistics
  - **Agency:** IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually

#### Poverty at birth

- **Definition:** Children whose mothers were receiving WIC or Medicaid at the time of birth.
- **Numerator:**
  - **Definition:** Number of children whose mothers were receiving WIC or Medicaid at the time of birth.
  - **Source:** Vital statistics
  - **Agency:** IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - **Definition:** Total number of births in Iowa
  - **Source:** Vital Statistics
  - **Agency:** IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually

#### Indicator: Cumulative birth risks (I2D2 data, pending continued renewal of data sharing agreements)

##### 0, 1, 2+ or 3+ risks

- **Definition:** Count of individual birth risks (i.e., poverty, preterm/LBW, inadequate prenatal care, single mom, teen mom, low maternal education, prenatal tobacco).
- **Note:** This indicator has a maximum possible score of 6 as low maternal education and teen mother were mutually exclusive.
- **Numerator:**
  - **Definition:** Number of children with each count of individual birth risks.
  - **Source:** Vital statistics
  - **Agency:** IDPH
- **Denominator:**
  - **Definition:** Total number of births in Iowa
  - **Source:** Vital Statistics
  - **Agency:** IDPH
- **Frequency:** Annually

#### Indicator: Unduplicated counts of preschool participation (I2D2 data, pending continued renewal of data sharing agreements)

##### Unduplicated counts of preschool participation

- **Definition:** Count of children who have at least one formal, early childhood educational experience (including Head Start, Statewide Voluntary Preschool, or private preschool) the year before entering kindergarten.
- **Numerator:**

- **Definition:** Number of children who are enrolled in at least one formal, early childhood educational experience the year before kindergarten enrollment.
- **Sources:** Enrollment records from the Department of Education, Head Start grantees, and Department of Human Services child care databases
- **Agencies:** DE, Head Start (all grantees), and DHS
- **Denominator:**
  - **Definition:** Total number of children enrolled in public school kindergarten.
  - **Source:** Kindergarten enrollment
  - **Agency:** DE
- **Frequency:** Annually

## RESULT: SECURE AND NURTURING EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

### Indicator: Quality Early Learning Environments

**Definition:** Quality early learning environments that are NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) or NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accredited and/or meet Head Start program performance standards, and/or verified QPPS sites, and/or have achieved QRS level 4-5.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Number of quality early learning environments that are NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) or NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accredited and/or meet Head Start program performance standards, and/or verified QPPS sites, and/or have achieved a QRS level 4-5.
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** Early Childhood Iowa Annual Report

### Indicator: Availability of Child Care

**Definition:** Number of "slots" or "spaces" potentially available for a child in a licensed or registered setting.

**Note:** According to DHS sources, the number of slots represents the statewide capacity of licensed and registered childcare providers. Homes are allowed to care for additional children for special situations, such as snow days, before and after school care, and emergency care. Data collection does not include additional children for special situations.

- **Numerical Method of Measure:** Count of licensed or registered child care slots available
- **Numerator:**
  - **Definition:** Number of child care slots available for children 0 to 13 years of age, in licensed and registered provider settings. The data is based on point-in-time, with the 1998 and 1999 data drawn in August of each of those years.
  - **Source:** Department of Human Services DCPDMAST report
  - **Agency:** Department of Human Services
- **Frequency:** Upon request, point-in-time
- **Published Source:** Goudy, Burke & Hanson

### Indicator: Working Parents

**Definition:** Percentage of children under 6 years of age, with all parents in the workforce.

- **Numerical Method of Measure:** Percent of children under 6 years with all parents in the labor force
- **Numerator:**
  - **Definition:** Number of children under 6 years of age with all parents in the labor force
  - **Source:** American Community Survey
  - **Agency:** U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator:**
  - **Definition:** Total number of children under 6 years of age
  - **Source:** American Community Survey
  - **Agency:** U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Published Source:** United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B-23008