

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

March 3, 2023, ECI State Board Approved Indicators Updated February 2026

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Summary of Changes

Several adjustments were made to indicator numerators, denominators, and data sources in 2026, coinciding with I2D2’s launch of the updated Iowa Data Drive. These adjustments were made to best represent the data, account for data availability, and ensure consistency with reporting from other State agencies. The changes include the following:

Educational Attainment of Mothers

- Several adjustments were made to indicator numerators, denominators, and data sources in 2026, coinciding with I2D2’s launch of the updated Iowa Data Drive. These adjustments were made to best represent the data, account for data availability, and ensure consistency with reporting from other State agencies. The changes include the following:

Domestic Violence Rate

- Numerator definition was previously based on “victims” but is now based on “incidents” to align with Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System.
- Domestic Violence and Domestic Violence Where Children Present are now listed as two separate measures in this document (previously, they were grouped under one set of definitions).

Unemployment Rate

- Data source for numerator and denominator changes from ACS 5-year estimate to Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD).

Preterm or Low Birth Weight

- Definition and numerator updated from “below 36 weeks” to “below 37 weeks” for identifying preterm births, in alignment with national standards.

Medicaid or WIC Receipt at Birth (proxy for Poverty at Birth)

- The name of this indicator was updated to more clearly reflect the fact that Medicaid and WIC receipt at birth are a proxy for poverty and individuals may be eligible for Medicaid or WIC at varying poverty thresholds.

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: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Immunized Children

Definition: Percentage of 2-year-old children who have received the recommended vaccinations.

Note: The Immunization Program uses data from the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) to calculate county and state immunization rates for 2-year-old children. The data include patients served by both public and private health care providers with a record in IRIS that have a zip code and are an “active” patient within a health care provider organization. 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:** Percentage of children fully immunized in Iowa by age 2.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of 2-year-old children who received the recommended vaccinations by age 24 months.
 - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of 2-year-old children with a record in IRIS.
 - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal

- Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Dental Services

Definition: Percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-5 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 ages 0-5 who received a reimbursed dental service.
 - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-5.
 - Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

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: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

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 Health and Human Services
- **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: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Provider lists are updated daily

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).

- **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.
 - Source: Student Information System
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Education
- **Frequency:** Annually

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.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born by mother's education level.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

RESULT: SAFE AND NURTURING FAMILIES

Indicator: Incidence of Child Abuse

Definition: Rate of children under 6 who are victims of confirmed/founded abuse or neglect 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 confirmed/founded abuse or neglect victims under 6 years of age.
 - Source: Statewide Tracking of Child Abuse Reports (STAR)
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of children under 6 years of age divided by 1,000.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Birth to Teenage Mother

Definition: Percentage of children born to mothers under the age of 20 at time of birth.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percent of births to mothers under age 20 in Iowa.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born to mothers under the age of 20 at time of birth.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Domestic Violence Rate

Definition: Domestic Abuse Rate.

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.
- **Numerator:**

- Definition: Total number of domestic violence incidents.
- Source: Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System
- Agency: Iowa Department of Public Safety
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total population in Iowa divided by 100,000.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates, Table S0101
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Rate of Domestic Violence Where Children Present

Definition: Rate of domestic violence incidents per 100,000 population by child presence.

- **Numerical Method of Measurement:** Percent of domestic abuse incidents where children were present but unharmed, children present and harmed, and children not present.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Total number of domestic violence incidents by child presence.
 - Source: Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Public Safety
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total population in Iowa divided by 100,000.
 - Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually

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 people 16 years and older in the civilian labor force who are unemployed.
 - Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

- Agency: Iowa Workforce Development
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of people 16 years and older in the civilian labor force.
 - Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
 - Agency: Iowa Workforce Development
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Children in Poverty

Definition: Percentage of children under 6 years of age who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold.

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 below 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of children under 6 years of age.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Children with Health Coverage by Income Level

Definition: Percentage of minor children with health insurance coverage by poverty level.

- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children with health insurance coverage by Federal Poverty Level.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates, Table B27016
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of children by Federal Poverty Level.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates, Table B17024

- Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: People in Poverty

- **Definition:** Percentage of people living below 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold.
- **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

Indicator: Homelessness Count

Definition: Rate of sheltered and unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) counts of homeless individuals.

- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of people experiencing homelessness, by type (sheltered, unsheltered).
 - Source: <https://icalliances.org/pit>
 - Agency: Institute for Community Alliances
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of people divided by 10,000.
 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates
 - Agency: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Frequency:** Annually

Individual Birth Risk Indicators (I2D2 data, pending continued renewal of data sharing agreements)

Preterm OR Low Birth Weight

- **Definition:** Children born weighing less than 2500 grams or prior to 37 weeks gestation.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born weighing less than 2500 grams or prior to 37 weeks gestation.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records

- Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Birth to Teenage Mother – see “Safe and Nurturing Families” section

Birth to Unmarried Mother

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers who were not married at the time of birth.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born to mothers who were not married at the time of the child's birth.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Low Maternal Education

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers over the age of 19 with less than a high school degree.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born to mothers over the age of 19 with less than a high school degree.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **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 Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Prenatal Tobacco Exposure

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers reporting tobacco use during the three months prior to pregnancy or at any time during pregnancy.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born to mothers reporting tobacco use during the three months prior to pregnancy or at any time during pregnancy.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Medicaid or WIC Receipt at Birth (proxy for Poverty at Birth)

- **Definition:** Children born to mothers who received Medicaid or WIC at the time of the child's birth.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of children born to mothers who received Medicaid or WIC at the time of the child's birth.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**

- Definition: Total number of live births.
- Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
- Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Annually

Cumulative Birth Risks: 0, 1, 2+ or 3+ risks

- **Definition:** Count of births by number of risk factors (i.e., preterm or LBW, birth to teenage mother, birth to unmarried mother, low maternal education, inadequate prenatal care, prenatal tobacco exposure, Medicaid or WIC receipt).
- **Note:** The maximum number of risk factors is 6 given that low maternal education and teen mother are mutually exclusive.
- **Numerator:**
 - Definition: Number of births by number of risk factors.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Denominator:**
 - Definition: Total number of live births.
 - Source: Vital Statistics Birth Records
 - Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **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 or any level on IQ4K.

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:** 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 or any level on IQ4K.
- **Frequency:** Annually

Indicator: Availability of Child Care

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

Note: According to HHS 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 HHS licensed centers/preschools and registered child

development homes. The data is based on point-in-time, with the 1998 and 1999 data drawn in August of each of those years.

- Source: HHS DCPDMAST report
- Agency: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
- **Frequency:** Upon request, point-in-time

Indicator: Working Parents

Definition: Percentage of children under 6 years of age with all parents working.

- **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 working.
 - 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