

Other Child and Family Policy Center Data Publications

In addition to the annual Iowa Kids Count report, the Child and Family Policy Center produces a variety of other publications that involve collection and analysis of Iowa child and family data. These publications often provide additional detail on the status of Iowa children and families to that found in the annual Iowa Kids Count report, although the data typically are not available on either an annual basis or at the county level. Two of these publications, available on the CFPC website (www.cfpciowa.org), are described below:

Women, Work, and Poverty: The Twenty-First Century Challenge

Women, Work, and Poverty draws upon fifty years of national and Iowa data to track the disparities in poverty and income levels between men and women. It shows that, while there have been dramatic increases in women's employment rates, education levels, and earnings compared with men, the gender gap in poverty rates has remained consistent over this period. The increase in single parenting rates has largely offset the gains in earnings that women have achieved, resulting in little overall change in the disparities in poverty rates. Public policies – particularly around child support enforcement and comparable worth for Iowa employees – have helped equalize income levels by gender. At the same time, combined Iowa investments in welfare benefits and child care assistance have declined substantially over time, both in terms of real dollars and as a share of the state budget. *Women, Work, and Poverty* indicates that addressing both gender and racial disparities in income and poverty should again become a source of public policy dialogue, as it was in the 1980's, when significant policy advances were made.

No Longer a Leader: Update on Iowa Student Educational Performance

No Longer a Leader: Update on Iowa Student Educational Performance provides the most recent National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) data on Iowa student achievement. NAEP data provide the opportunity to compare Iowa student achievement on reading, mathematics, and science at fourth and eighth grade with other states and over time. NAEP data represent the only empirically valid data base to provide these comparisons. This *Update* to a 2006 CFPC report shows that, while Iowa remains in the top half of states on the most recently released test scores (2009 4th and 8th grade math scores), Iowa has lost substantial ground over the last two decades. Moreover, Iowa is among the most homogenous states in the country. When Iowa's test scores for White students are compared with other states' test scores for this population, Iowa ranks 35th among the fifty states on 4th grade math scores and 39th among the fifty states on 8th grade math scores. The *Update* indicates that there also has been a general erosion of investment in K-12 education and teacher compensation over this period, relative to other states. Actions taken in 2007 began to address this issue, but the current fiscal crisis could erode these gains.

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