## Child Data Snapshot
### Palo Alto County

#### Demographic summary (2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Under 18</th>
<th>Under 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,110</td>
<td>2,041</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child population (under 18) by race/ethnicity

- **African American**: 70 (3.4%)
- **Asian**: 11 (0.5%)
- **Native American**: 0 (0.0%)
- **White, non-Hispanic**: 1,852 (90.7%)
- **Other**: 0 (0.0%)
- **Multiple**: 55 (2.7%)
- **Hispanic (any race)**: 53 (2.6%)

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018 Number</th>
<th>2018 Rate/Chg from 2000</th>
<th>2018 Rate/Chg from 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children living under the poverty level</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>+11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed individuals age 16 and over</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>+13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

- **3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool**: 130 (52.6%) (2014-18 average)
- **Fourth graders proficient in reading**: 80 (74.8%) (2003)
- **Eighth graders proficient in mathematics**: 70 (73.7%) (2003)
- **High school graduation**: 109 (91.6%) (students graduating with class in 4 years)

### STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

- **Cases of child abuse/neglect**: 44 (21.6) per 1,000
- **Single-parent families**: 211 (22.8%) (2014-18 average)
- **Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)**: *
- **Live births that are to unmarried teens**: *

### HEALTHY CHILDREN

- **Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester**: 86 (82.7%) (2007)
- **Infant mortality**: *
- **Child deaths**: *
- **Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)**: 13 (12.5%)
- **Children 0-18 uninsured during the year**: 57 (2.7%) (2014-18 average)

### USE OF PUBLIC SUPPORTS

- **Children 0-4 receiving WIC**: 115 (20.7%)
- **Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches**: 651 (40.9%)
- **Individuals who receive the EITC**: 630 (15.0%)
- **Individuals receiving Food Assistance**: 786 (8.8%)
- **Individuals participating in Family Investment Program**: 26 (0.3%)

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* Incidences of five or less have been suppressed to protect confidentiality

To download data or view data snapshots for other Iowa counties, visit [www.cfpciowa.org](http://www.cfpciowa.org) and click on “Kids Count Data.”
### 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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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.