## Webster County

### Demographic Summary (2017)

- **Total population**: 36,945
- **Under 18**: 7,961 (21.5%)
- **Under 6**: 2,677 (7.2%)

Child population under 18 by race/ethnicity:
- **African American**: 547 (6.9%)
- **Asian**: 147 (1.8%)
- **Native American**: 14 (0.2%)
- **White, non-Hispanic**: 6,469 (81.3%)
- **Other**: 18 (0.2%)
- **Multiple**: 197 (2.5%)
- **Hispanic (any race)**: 650 (8.2%)

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Number</th>
<th>2018 Rate/Percentage</th>
<th>Chg from 2000%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children living under the poverty level</td>
<td>1,421</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>+44.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed individuals age 16 and over</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>+14.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>+19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth graders proficient in reading</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth graders proficient in mathematics</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>+8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2018 Number</th>
<th>2018 Rate/Percentage</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>+91.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-parent families</td>
<td>1,789</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>+9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>-49.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live births that are to unmarried teens</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>-48.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HEALTHY CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2018 Number</th>
<th>2018 Rate/Percentage</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>+29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality (per 1,000)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child deaths (per 100,000)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>-12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 0-18 uninsured during the year</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### USE OF PUBLIC SUPPORTS

<table>
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<th>2018 Rate/Percentage</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children 0-4 receiving WIC</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches</td>
<td>2,639</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
<td>+66.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual tax filers who receive the EITC</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>+36.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals receiving Food Assistance</td>
<td>5,640</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>+169.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals participating in Family Investment Program</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>-58.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# § Unless another year indicated below

* Incidences of five or less have been suppressed to protect confidentiality
### 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  
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  
Teen births  
Females 15-19 giving birth  
— Iowa Department of Public Health  
Children born to teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely or low birthweight and to die as infants. Teen mothers are less likely to finish high school or go on to college and more likely to rely on public supports. | STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES  
Low birthweight  
Live births weighing less than 5.5 pounds  
— Iowa Department of Public Health  
Infants born at low birth weight are at higher risk for physical and developmental delays that hinder growth, school readiness and adult health. |
| 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. | HEALTHY CHILDREN  
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  
Prenatal care  
Live births where prenatal care began in first trimester  
— Iowa Department of Public Health  
Early and regular prenatal care — when a health care provider can treat and prevent health problems early — increases the chances of a healthy pregnancy and birth. | 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. |
| 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 neighborhhoods, 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  
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. |
| 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 Iowaans, including many children and working adults, can use to buy groceries. | 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. |