## Cherokee County Data Snapshot

### Demographic summary

- **Total population**: 11,577
- **Under 18**: 2,467 (21.3%)
- **Under 6**: 853 (7.4%)

### Family & Community Economic Well-being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cherokee County</th>
<th>Iowa</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children living under the poverty level</strong></td>
<td>272 (1.5%) +5.5%</td>
<td>90,244 (12.6%) +16.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployed individuals age 16 and over</strong></td>
<td>155 (2.5%) +16.4%</td>
<td>52,524 (3.1%) +20.8%</td>
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</tbody>
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### School Readiness & Success

- **3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool (2013-17 average)**: 96 (33.7%) -15.2%
- **Fourth graders proficient in reading (2003)**: 90 (84.9%) +11.3%
- **Eighth graders proficient in mathematics (2003)**: 90 (77.6%) +0.6%
- **High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)**: 88 (92.6%) +0.8%

### Stable, Secure Families

- **Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)**: 33 (13.6%) +61.4%
- **Single-parent families (2013-17 average)**: 464 (39.0%) +76.6%
- **Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)**: 8 (2.7%) -14.5
- **Live births that are to unmarried teens**: 8 (6.6%) -25.7%

### Healthy Children

- **Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester (2007)**: 102 (86.4%) +11.7%
- **Infant Mortality (per 1,000)**: * * *
- **Child deaths (per 100,000)**: * * *
- **Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)**: 8 (6.6%) -3.5%
- **Children 0-18 uninsured during the year (2013-17 average)**: 149 (5.9%) N/A

### Use of Public Supports

- **Children 0-4 receiving WIC (2003)**: 207 (30.4%) -11.2%
- **Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches**: 612 (37.6%) +85.5%
- **Individuals receiving EITC (2016)**: 870 (15.5%) +50.9%
- **Individuals receiving Food Assistance**: 973 (8.6%) +205.4%
- **Individuals participating in Family Investment Program**: 46 (0.4%) -66.2%

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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.cfpaciowa.org](http://www.cfpaciowa.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.

#### 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Uninsured children**
Children 0-18 who are uninsured during the year
— U.S. Census Bureau

Health care 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 age 4.

**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.