## Union County

### Demographic summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>12,497</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>2,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 6</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child population (under 18) by race/ethnicity:

- **African American**: 57 (2.0%)
- **Asian**: 40 (1.4%)
- **Native American**: 0 (0.0%)
- **White, non-Hispanic**: 2,594 (90.7%)
- **Other**: 0 (0.0%)
- **Multiple**: 37 (1.3%)
- **Hispanic (any race)**: 132 (4.6%)

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017 Number</th>
<th>2017 Rate/Percentage</th>
<th>Chg from 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children living under the poverty level</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>+33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed individuals age 16 and over</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>-8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS

- **3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool** (*2013-17 average*)
  - 2017: 99 (39.6%)
  - Change: -22.8%

- **Fourth graders proficient in reading** (*2003*)
  - 2017: 85 (66.9%)
  - Change: -13.5%

- **Eighth graders proficient in mathematics** (*2003*)
  - 2017: 112 (75.7%)
  - Change: +18.6%

- **High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)**
  - 2017: 127 (92.0%)
  - Change: +17.6%

### STABLE, SECURE FAMILIES

- **Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)**
  - 2017: 87 (31.2)
  - Change: +157.7%

- **Single-parent families** (*2013-17 average*)
  - 2017: 492 (32.9%)
  - Change: +18.7%

- **Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)**
  - 2017: 17 (3.7%)
  - Change: +141.8%

- **Live births that are to unmarried teens**
  - 2017: 15 (10.6%)
  - Change: +67.7%

### HEALTHY CHILDREN

- **Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester** (*2007*)
  - 2017: 111 (78.7%)
  - Change: +16.0%

- **Infant Mortality (per 1,000)**
  - 2017: N/A

- **Child deaths (per 100,000)**
  - 2017: N/A

- **Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)**
  - 2017: 6 (4.2%)
  - Change: -23.3%

- **Children 0-18 uninsured during the year** (*2013-17 average*)
  - 2017: 188 (6.1%)
  - Change: N/A

### USE OF PUBLIC SUPPORTS

- **Children 0-4 receiving WIC** (*2003*)
  - 2017: 381 (55.5%)
  - Change: -3.1%

- **Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches**
  - 2017: 1,028 (54.8%)
  - Change: +48.1%

- **Individuals receiving Food Assistance**
  - 2017: 1,860 (14.9%)
  - Change: +174.5%

- **Individuals participating in Family Investment Program**
  - 2017: 113 (0.9%)
  - Change: -36.5%

The data is updated as of 2017, unless otherwise noted. Incidences of five or less have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.
### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### SCHOOLS, 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.

### SCHOOLS, FAMILY/COMM ECON WELL-BEING

**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.

### 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

**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

**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

**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.

### ABOUT THE KIDS COUNT INDICATORS

- **Child poverty**: Children 0-17 who lived below poverty during the year. This is a commonly used proxy for poverty.
- **Unemployment**: Individuals 16 and over in the labor force but unemployed. High levels of unemployment hinder development and readiness for school and life.
- **Preschool participation**: Children ages 3-4 enrolled in preschool. The benefits are strongest for low-income children and children facing other risk factors.
- **8th grade math**: Students proficient on the Iowa Assessments and Iowa Alternate Assessment. Proficiency in math by the end of middle school prepares students for higher-order math classes.
- **High school graduation**: Public school students entering 9th grade who graduate with their class 4 years later. A high school diploma is the baseline credential needed for higher education.
- **Single-parent families**: Families with children that are headed by a single parent. Children in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available in two-parent families.
- **Child deaths**: Deaths of children ages 1-14 per 100,000 children. Child death rates can point to underlying problems and inequities within a community.
- **Infant mortality**: Deaths of infants before age 1 per 1,000 children. Data on infant mortality is used as a proxy for population health.
- **Free or Reduced-Price Lunch**: Students eligible for free or low-cost meals while at school. This program provides meals to students.
- **Food Assistance**: Monthly average of individuals receiving Food Assistance. The Food Assistance Program provides financial assistance that low-income Iowans can use.
- **Family Investment Program**: Monthly average of individuals participating in FIP. Iowa’s version of the federal TANF program provides cash assistance.
- **WIC Program**: Children 0-4 participating in the Women, Infants, & Children program. WIC offers supplemental foods and nutrition education.
- **EITC**: Individual tax filers who receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC is recognized as a successful antipoverty program.

**Stable, Secure Families**

- **Child abuse & neglect**: Confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect among children 0-17. Experience abuse or neglect is one of the adverse childhood experiences that hinders healthy development.
- **Teen births**: Females ages 15-19 giving birth. Children born to teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely or low birth weight.
- **Teen, unmarried births**: Live births that are to unmarried teens. Unmarried teen mothers are less likely to ever marry and often face the primary responsibility of parenthood, often without the full physical, emotional and financial resources needed for child rearing.

**Healthy Children**

- **Prenatal care**: Live births where prenatal care began in first trimester. Early and regular prenatal care can treat and prevent health problems.
- **Insured children**: Children 0-4 who are uninsured during the year. High levels of unemployment in a community contribute to family stress.
- **Low birthweight**: Live births weighing less than 5.5 pounds. Infants born at low birth weight are at higher risk for physical and developmental delays that hinder growth, school readiness and adult health.

**School Readiness & Success**

- **4th grade reading**: Students proficient on the Iowa Assessments and Iowa Alternate Assessment. Reading proficiency by mid-elementary school is an important predictor of future academic success.
- **Stable, Secure Families**: Children growing up in poverty (defined here as $23,850 for a family of four).
- **Stable, Secure Families**: Families with children that are headed by a single parent. Children in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available in two-parent families.
- **Healthy Children**: Infant mortality. Deaths of infants before age 1 per 1,000 children. In addition to being a child outcome, data on infant mortality is used as a proxy for population health.
- **Healthy Children**: Child deaths. Deaths of children ages 1-14 per 100,000 children. Child death rates can point to underlying problems and inequities within a community.
- **Healthy Children**: Uninsured children. Children 0-18 who are uninsured during the year. Health coverage is the key that opens the door to the health-care system.
- **Healthy Children**: Low birthweight. Live births weighing less than 5.5 pounds. Infants born at low birth weight are at higher risk for physical and developmental delays.