



BETTER
TOMORROWS
EARLY
CHILDHOOD
IOWA

Community Plan

2022-2026

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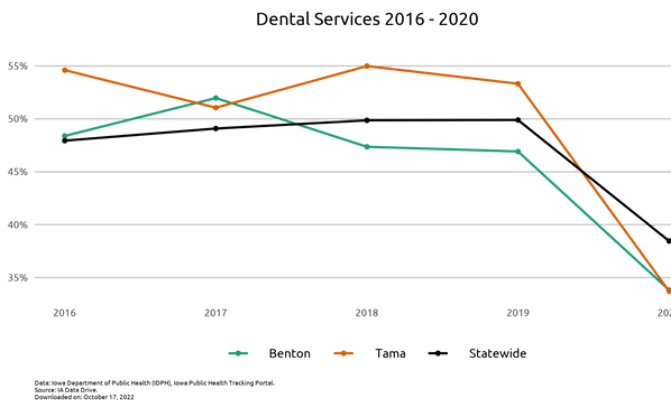
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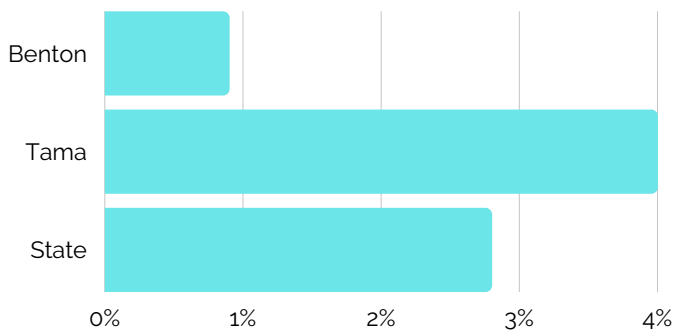
Attachment A FY22 Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

HEALTHY CHILDREN



The chart above shows that in both of our counties, the percent of Medicaid enrolled children, age 0-5 that received dental services, falls below the state average. In both counties, the rate is only 34%.



This chart shows the percent of children who are not covered by health insurance during the year from 2016-2020.

Dental care remains a high need in both counties, with limited providers accepting patients using Medicaid. Along with collaborative partners, we are actively pursuing opportunities to increase opportunities for preventive dental services for young children.

Both counties have a need for child psychologists and mental health services. To help address these needs, we are involved in our regional mental health and disabilities regions including the child mental health advisory councils. We have also recruited helping service professionals to pursue the infant and early childhood mental health endorsements offered through Project Launch and have introduced behavioral supports for child care providers with over 50 child care providers completing the Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions training.

We anticipate offering perinatal classes at a local level beginning in 2023, partnering with public libraries to meet with new and expecting parents in almost all of our communities. These classes will provide the opportunity to learn from trained doulas, car seat technicians, lactation consultants, and public health nurses and family support/parent education professionals. Classes will utilize the Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers programs and will also provide the opportunity for new parents to connect with peers and create social supports.

In 2020, in 90.4% of live births from Benton county, the mother began prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy. Tama county met the state average at 83.9%.

WIC

In 2020, 11.6% of children age 0-4 in Benton county received services through the Women-Infant-Children program. In Tama county it was 20.6% and in the state, it was 25.2%.

CHILD POVERTY

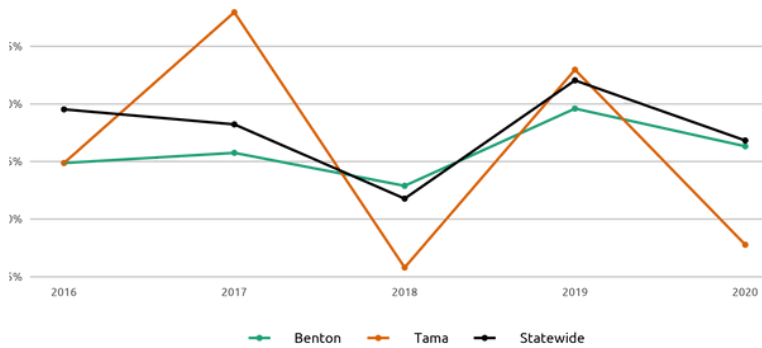
The percent of children age 0-17 living below the federal poverty rate in Benton county in 2020 was 6.6%. In Tama county it was 8.6% and in the state it was 9.8%.

SNAP

The percent of individuals that receive food assistance through the food assistance program in 2020 was 6.6% in Benton county, 8.6% in Tama county and 9.8% in the state.

CHILDREN READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

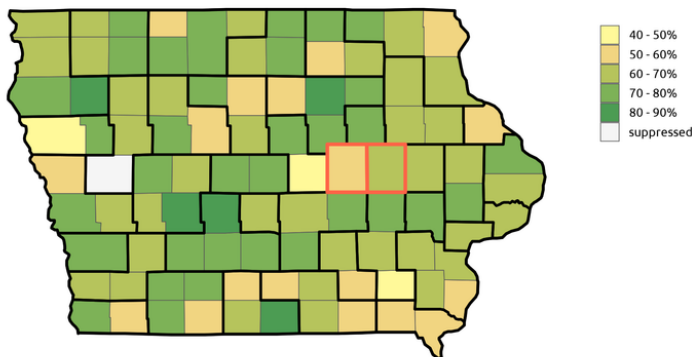
Early Literacy Skills 2016 - 2020



Data: Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), Kindergarten Assessment Tables.
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

In Benton county, 66% of Kindergarten students met the fall 2020 benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements. The rate in Tama county was 58% and the state rate was 67%.

Early Literacy Skills 2020



Data: Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), Kindergarten Assessment Tables.
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

By Kindergarten, children who are read to frequently are also more likely to:

- ✓ Count to 20 or higher (60% vs. 44%)
- ✓ Write their own names (54% vs. 40%)
- ✓ Read or pretend to read (77% vs. 57%)

National Center for Education Statistics

A large percentage of children in our area are enrolled in preschool the year before going to kindergarten. In Benton county, it is 85% and in Tama county, it is 80%.

In addition to offering preschool scholarships, we have worked with Head Start programs and school districts to reduce waiting lists for 3-year old preschool, provide transportation to child care in order to reduce transportation barriers and to utilize Head Start as a wraparound to preschool. Increasing the number of children that enroll in quality early childhood environments is an ongoing priority for Better Tomorrows ECI.

We expected the pandemic to impact the early literacy assessments completed in the fall of 2020 and that there may be an increase in behavioral issues and mental health needs. The early literacy skills graph to the left show that this happened statewide. Anecdotally from preschool programs and through reporting from our CART behavioral support program, we have also seen an increase in behavioral issues.

In response to the literacy data, we are in the process of introducing a variety of early literacy initiatives including the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Our Bookshelf, Small Talk, Raising School Ready Readers and other collaborations with our public libraries and child care providers.

In addition to the supports provided through our CART program, we are providing achievement bonuses to child care providers that complete EC-PBIS training and that earn the early childhood and infant mental health endorsements.

19

Child care programs utilized our CART behavioral support program in FY22. These programs received over 120 onsite consultations and technical assistance contacts in addition to 5 professional development classes.

75%

Of the children that received a preschool scholarship in FY22 were able to demonstrate age appropriate skills by year-end.

29

Child care programs utilized our Child Care Nurse Consultants who provided 318 onsite consultations and technical assistance contacts in addition to 23 professional development classes.

SAFE & NURTURING FAMILIES

The overall rate of child abuse over the last five years is trending downward in both counties.

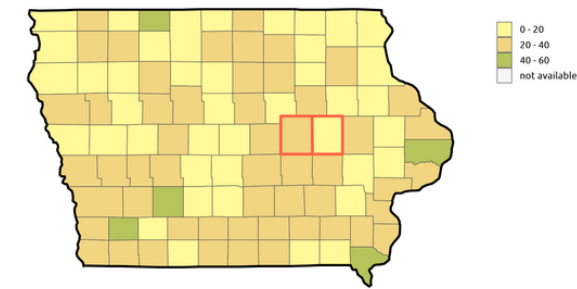
In both counties, children age 5 years or younger were the age group with the most incidences of confirmed or founded abuse and neglect.

Across the state and in our area, the majority of child abuse cases are due to denial of critical care, which is a result of a parent or caretaker that failed to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care necessary for a child's well-being.

To address this, we are implementing strategies to help families meet basic needs through involvement with local food pantries, regional food banks, family support and parent education programming, and efforts to increase child care capacity so that families are able to work and pursue educational opportunities.

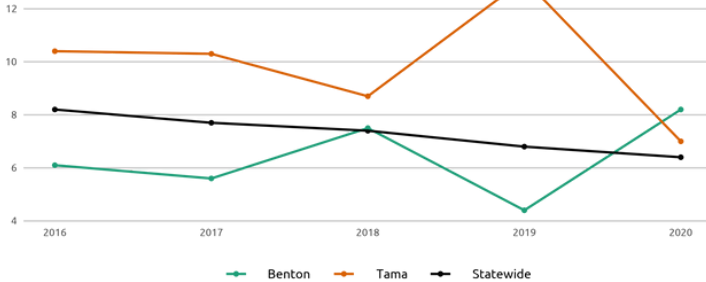
Better Tomorrows ECI has also worked to develop local stakeholder and interagency committees to strengthen the early childhood network through collaboration, referrals, and education/networking opportunities among helping service professionals.

Incidence of Child Abuse 2021



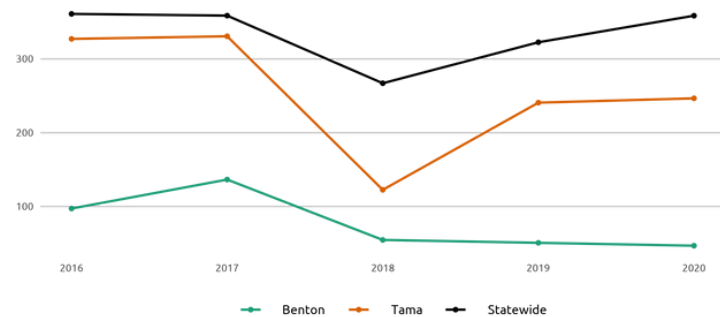
Data: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Abuse Statistics.
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Teen Births 2016 - 2020



Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Domestic Violence 2016 - 2020



Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

198

Number of unique children with confirmed or founded abuse or neglect reports in 2021. 84 in Benton county, 114 in Tama county.

365

Number of confirmed or founded allegations of neglect and abuse. Each child may be confirmed of multiple types of abuse on a single report, and may have multiple reports. 156 in Benton county, 209 in Tama county.

80

Number of unique children with confirmed or founded abuse or neglect reports in 2021 that were age 5 years or younger. 31 in Benton county, 49 in Tama county.

SAFE & SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

While from 2016 - 2020, crime rates in both counties were below the state rates although Tama county's rate was noticeably higher than Benton county's for both serious crime and juvenile arrests.

The graphs to the left show the rate of serious crime per 100,000 population which includes homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated-assault, burglary, larceny, motor-vehicle-theft, arson.

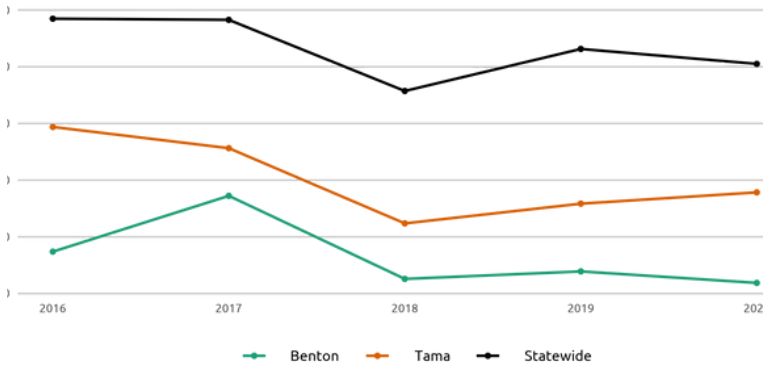
One of the most frequently heard comments made during the board's review of the data collected was how different our two counties are from one another. The child poverty chart on the left is a good example of this point. Even though the employment rates and rate of parents in the workforce are very similar, the child poverty rate in Tama county is 16% while in Benton county it is 6%.

The 2020 median household income in Benton county is \$66,046 while in Tama county it is \$54,749.

The largest age bracket in Benton county is the 50-54 age group while in Tama county it is the 45-49 age group. This could contribute to the higher median household income for Benton county. Both counties have an average household size of 2.5.

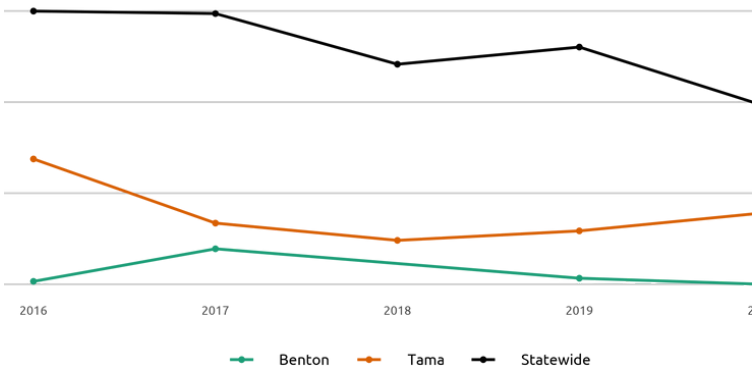
Another possible contributing factor to the differences in income and poverty could be educational attainment rates. In Benton county 5.2% of the population has less than a high school diploma/equivalency, in Tama county it is 8.7%.

Crime Rate 2016 - 2020



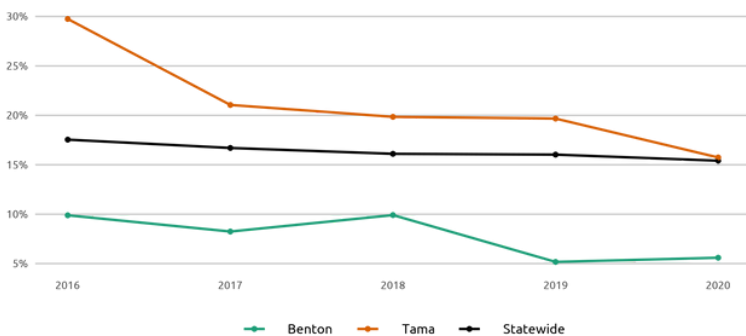
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Juvenile Arrests 2016 - 2020



Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Children in Poverty 2016 - 2020



Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B17020.
Source: IA Data Drive.
Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

POPULATION

The 2020 population for both counties declined by 500-600 people. 7 of 14 communities in Benton county saw an increase in their population while 3 of 13 communities in Tama county saw an increase.

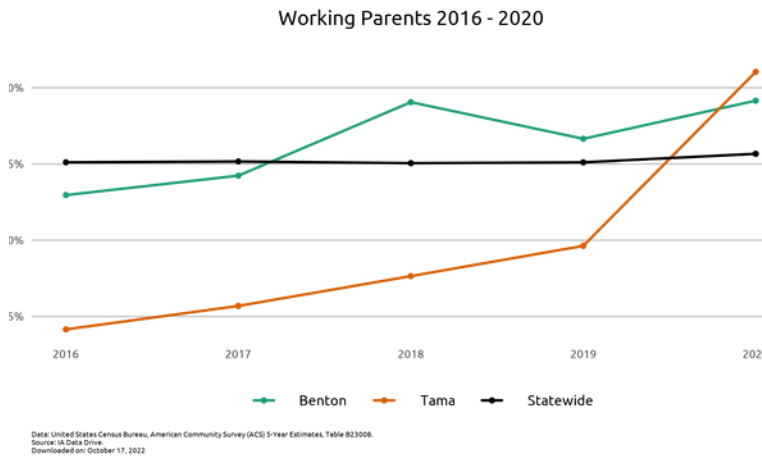
24%

The percent of respondents in our 2022 child care survey that say the availability of child care influenced their decision on where to live.

SINGLE PARENTS

In 2020, the percentage of families with children that are headed by a single parent in Benton county was 29.3% and in Tama county it was 35.5%. The state rate was 31.8%.

SECURE & NURTURING EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS



The above graph shows the percent of children under six years of age, with all parents in the workforce. In 2020, the Benton County rate was 79% while Tama County was 81%. Both exceeding the statewide rate.

In response to surveys conducted with child care programs at the start of the pandemic and immediately following the 2020 derecho, our board introduced initiatives designed to provide financial support to our early learning environments and the professionals working in the field, while also improving the quality of environments. The largest initiative included awarding achievement bonuses for:

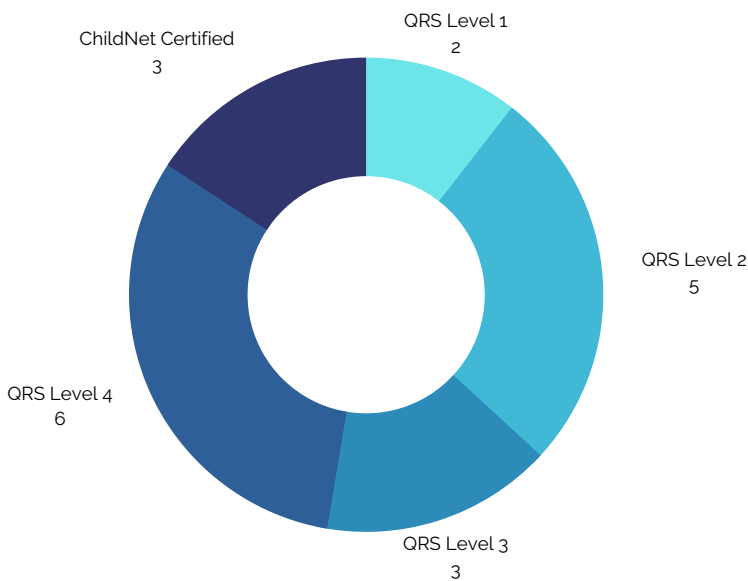
- participation in the Quality Rating System (QRS), ChildNet, and the new Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K),
- the completion of professional development courses required by IQ4K, and in-depth courses that required a significant investment of time.
- increasing capacity through creation of new child care spots or expanding availability of services to nights and weekends.

In order to qualify, programs are required to be registered or licensed and participate in QRS or IQ4K. Individuals are not eligible to receive bonuses until after six months of employment.

In addition to the need for financial support, the surveys revealed that many child care providers felt isolated with little support available to them. We saw this as an opportunity to help child care professionals network, share ideas and tools and also to provide financial supports through a local child care collaborative.

Our five highest QRS rated providers were invited to serve on a steering committee that could provide input to our board and be a resource to other child care providers. The three centers and two home-based providers received bonuses for serving on the committee.

We also invited child care providers to share examples of lesson plans, activities and other resources that could be helpful to their peers, providing a small bonus for each item shared.



This graph shows the number of early childhood environments to achieve a QRS level or become ChildNet certified in FY22 with an overall rate of 40% of programs that were enrolled in a quality initiative.

60

Individual child care providers earned professional development achievement bonuses in FY22 alone.

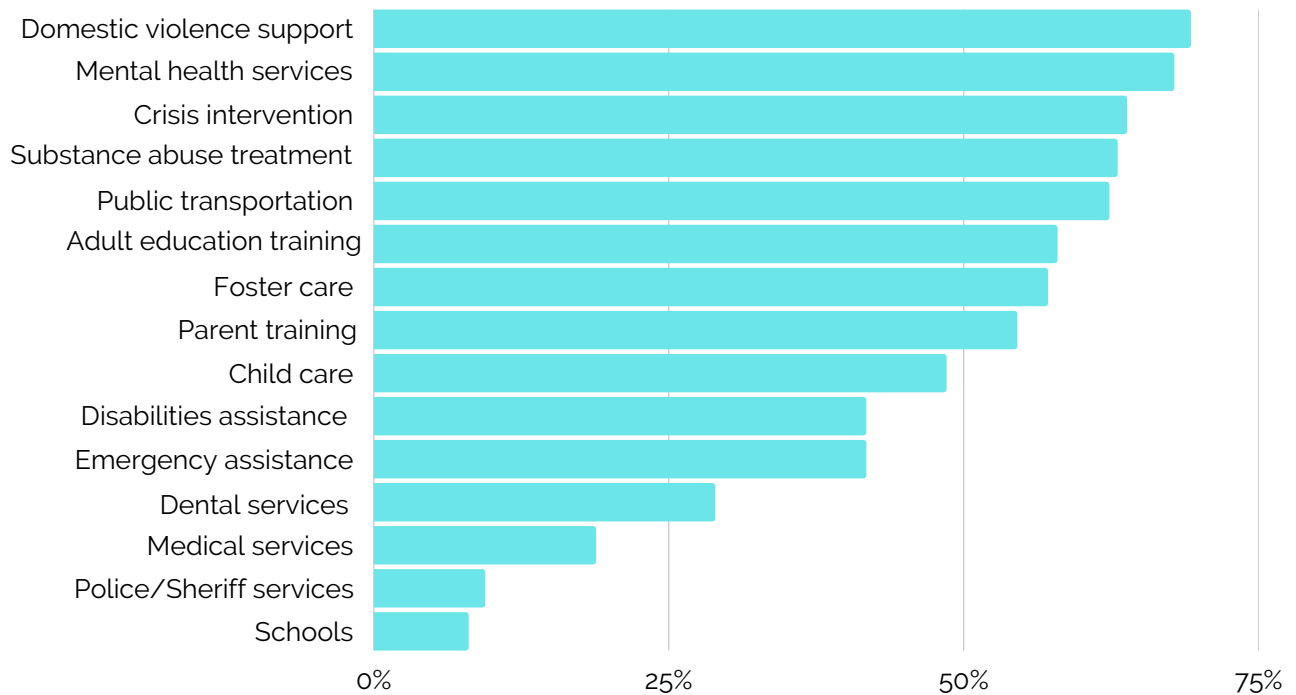
72

The net gain of child care spaces created from 2020-2022.

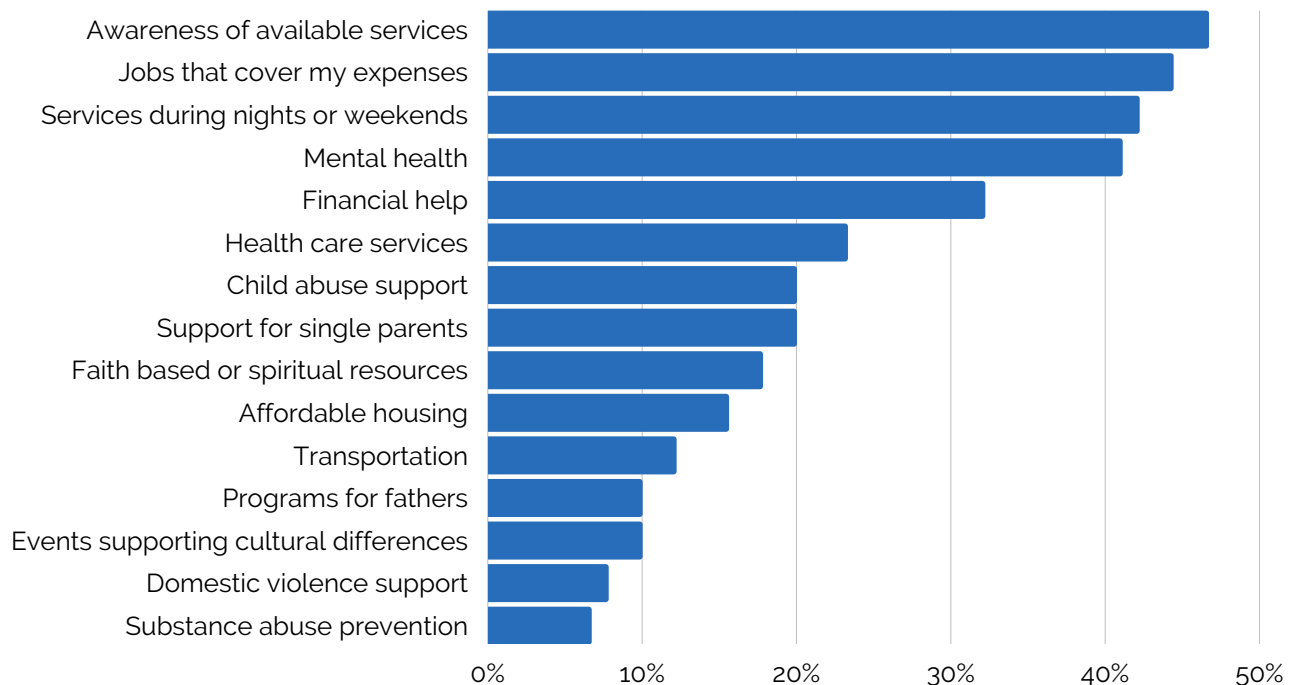
4%

From 2021-2022, we saw a four percent increase in the number of child care providers that participate in the Child Care Assistance program.

What families say are the most inadequate services in our area:



What families think are the most important areas of support needed for their family's well-being and success.



In the last three years, Better Tomorrows conducted surveys with service providers, families, educators and child care providers. The results of these surveys carried a lot of weight when the board completed its needs assessment and crafted its plans for programming, coordination and system development.

About Us

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) was established in Iowa Code in 1998 to create a partnership between communities and state government to improve the well-being of children ages 0-5 and their families. This law created a system and framework that enabled legislators to provide funding for early childhood services through local area boards covering all 99 counties. Within ECI areas, local citizens lead collaborative efforts to unite agencies, organizations, business, and community partners to speak one message – All children, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

ECI brings communities together – parents; childcare, human service, and health care providers; educators; business community; and the faith community – to identify strengths, needs, and gaps in services in the community. Through the identification of the community's gaps in services, ECI area boards provide tools and resources to fully engage young children in learning opportunities so they can grow to be healthy, productive, and well-rounded students, parents, workers, and leaders.

The Better Tomorrows ECI service area is defined by the boundaries of Benton and Tama County. Benton County is located in the east central Iowa. Its county seat is Vinton which is also its largest city and where its hospital is located. Within its borders are Atkins, Belle Plaine, Blirstown, Garrison, Keystone, Luzerne, Mount Auburn, Newhall, Norway, Shellsburg, Urbana, Van Horne, Vinton, Walford and Watkins.

The School Districts represented in Benton County include Benton Community, Belle Plaine, Center Point/Urbana and Vinton-Shellsburg. There is one private school, Central Lutheran School in Newhall. Benton County is served by Grant Wood AEA and has satellite locations for Kirkwood Community.

Tama County is located in east central Iowa. Its county seat is Toledo and the largest city is Tama. Communities in its borders are Buckingham, Chelsea, Clutier, Dysart, Elberon, Garwin, Gladbrook, Lincoln, Montour, Tama, Toledo, Traer, Vining and the Indian Settlement of the Meskwaki's.

The Sac & Fox Indian Settlement, home of the Meskwaki Tribe, has approximately 1,300 members of which about 800 live on the settlement; which is located on more than 8,000 acres within the county near the city of Tama and is the only Settlement in the State of Iowa. Tama County has no institutes of higher learning, or hospitals.

School Districts represented in Tama County include GMG (Green Mountain Garwin), Meskwaki Settlement School, Union, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, North Tama and South Tama. Tama County is served by both AEA 267 and Grant Wood AEA 10.

Our story so far

Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life in Benton and Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

Our Purpose

To ensure the collaboration within our community, the organization will provide families, with children 0–5 years old, the resources and opportunities necessary for their children to be healthy, safe, secure, ready to succeed in school, have available affordable, high quality child care and access to a preschool opportunity

Our Start

After operating as single county Early Childhood Iowa and Empowerment areas, on July 1, 2012, Benton and Tama counties merged to create the Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area.

Our Vision

To enhance the quality of life in Benton and Tama County by promoting strong, healthy families. Barriers will be overcome and programs and services coordinated through community collaboration.

Contact Us

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Faces of Better Tomorrows ECI

Throughout this document, you will find images from many of our programs and partnerships. A few are featured here.

The derecho had destroyed our container garden, and our home. This left us with a huge mountain of leftover dirt in the backyard after rebuilding. We were able to get rid of the mountain, build a play hill and get a new garden tilled with larger nicer garden containers. We have new garden supplies, seeds, riding toys, and picnic tables. The kids are happy to have the yard back, and have been playing baseball and generally playing in the dirt to their hearts content. The hill has been great to run up and down, and roll trucks and balls down too.

These funds made it possible for us to improve the quality of our outdoor environment, and for that we are all extremely thankful.

I have benefitted from all of the programs available through Better Tomorrows, financially and emotionally. The grant money I received for my start up helped me to secure a large amount of supplies that helped increase my quality of program almost immediately. The additional grant money I have received for increasing my capacity, participating in QRS, and taking continuing education classes has helped offset the financial burden of the pandemic/inflation, and helped ensure my ability to stay open and provide care.

Nurse Tara has answered several of my questions regarding COVID, allergies, tooth brushing, and general health over phones calls, emails and texts. She has helped walk me through choices for health policy as an individual business owner, and as a concerned parent.

I cannot say enough good things about Hilary Robinson with the CART program. She is a fantastic support person for myself (finding confidence in accessing and handling parents/children with behavior issues) and for the children/families in my program. She continually provides me with knowledge and tools to use within my program to help ensure happy and successful learning. Now that she's been coming semi regularly to my program, I cannot imagine not having her around. She is extremely kind and passionate about the work she does.

All in all, Better Tomorrows has been a consistently strong support for me and my business since I first started, and I can confidently say that without the support of this program I would have left my childcare business by the wayside after the pandemic struck.

Candace Link, LinkyDo Daycare



Faces of Better Tomorrows ECI

Throughout this document, you will find images from many of our programs and partnerships. A few are featured here.



Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, our board wanted to show support for our child care providers as they navigated unprecedented challenges.

Through collaboration and networking, this seed of an idea blossomed into a statewide initiative for the Iowa Women's Foundation and Early Childhood Iowa.

We added to the Careforce signs and window clings, receiving donations of bathroom tissue, self-care items, books, quilts and toys to create care packages for our child care providers.

The packages were delivered with the help of board members and were greatly appreciated.



The 2020 Derecho storm was a devastating event for both of our counties. Our network of volunteers and helping service organizations stepped up in countless ways to help. We coordinated volunteers to distribute goods and food donated from the Red Cross, Old School Produce Partners, food pantries, the faith community, Public Health, local businesses and individuals.



Participants at one of several Community Childcare Solutions Meeting,

COMMUNITY PLAN OVERVIEW

The Better Tomorrows ECI Area Board developed this community plan to:

- Outline the board's vision and approach to strengthening outcomes.
- Better understand the needs of young children and their families in Benton and Tama counties.
- Guide local efforts to improve the lives of children ages 0-5.
- Understand the data collected and use it to identify priorities and strategies.
- Highlight the work underway to move the local early care, health, family support, and education systems forward.

The plan will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure that it includes and reflects current assets, needs and priorities of the communities we serve. It will be shared electronically with stakeholders and is available to the public at www.bettertomorroweci.org.



SERVICE AREA & ELIGIBILITY

Children 0–5 and their families living or enrolled in early childhood environments within Benton and Tama County are eligible for services provided through the Better Tomorrows ECI Board.

Special circumstances may be made for on a case by case basis when family need crosses county borders. In those situations, we will work with neighboring ECI areas.



Photos courtesy of Tiny Tots Childcare

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to our community partners for their contributions and assistance with the development and implementation of this plan.

The following organizations are part of our local system.

Assault Care Center
Belle Plaine Police Department
Benton Community School District
Benton County Family Nurturing Council
Benton County Public Health
Benton County Social Services
Benton County Sheriff's Office
CASA
Center-Point Urbana School District
Central Lutheran Preschool
Central Rivers AEA
Chances & Consequences
Child Care Resource & Referral
Crayon Corner
Creative Kids
Early Beginnings Atkins & Van Horne
East Central Region for MH/DS
Frontier Child Care Center
Grant Wood AEA
HACAP
Iowa Legal Aid
Iowa Women's Foundation
ISU Extension
Kids Corner
Kids Kingdom
LinkyDo Daycare
Little Knights
LSI Family Services
Meskwaki Health Services
MH/DS of East Central Iowa
MICA
Operation Threshold
Parent Partners
Pied Piper Child Care
Red Cross
Riverview Center
Salvation Army
SKIP
South Tama School District
Tiny Tots Childcare
TLC Preschool
Tama County Public Health
Tama Food Pantry
Tama Ministerial Association
United Way of East Central Iowa
Vinton Early Learning Center
Vinton Kiwanis
Vinton Police Department
Vinton Shellsburg School District
Virginia Gay Hospital & Clinics
Young Parents Network



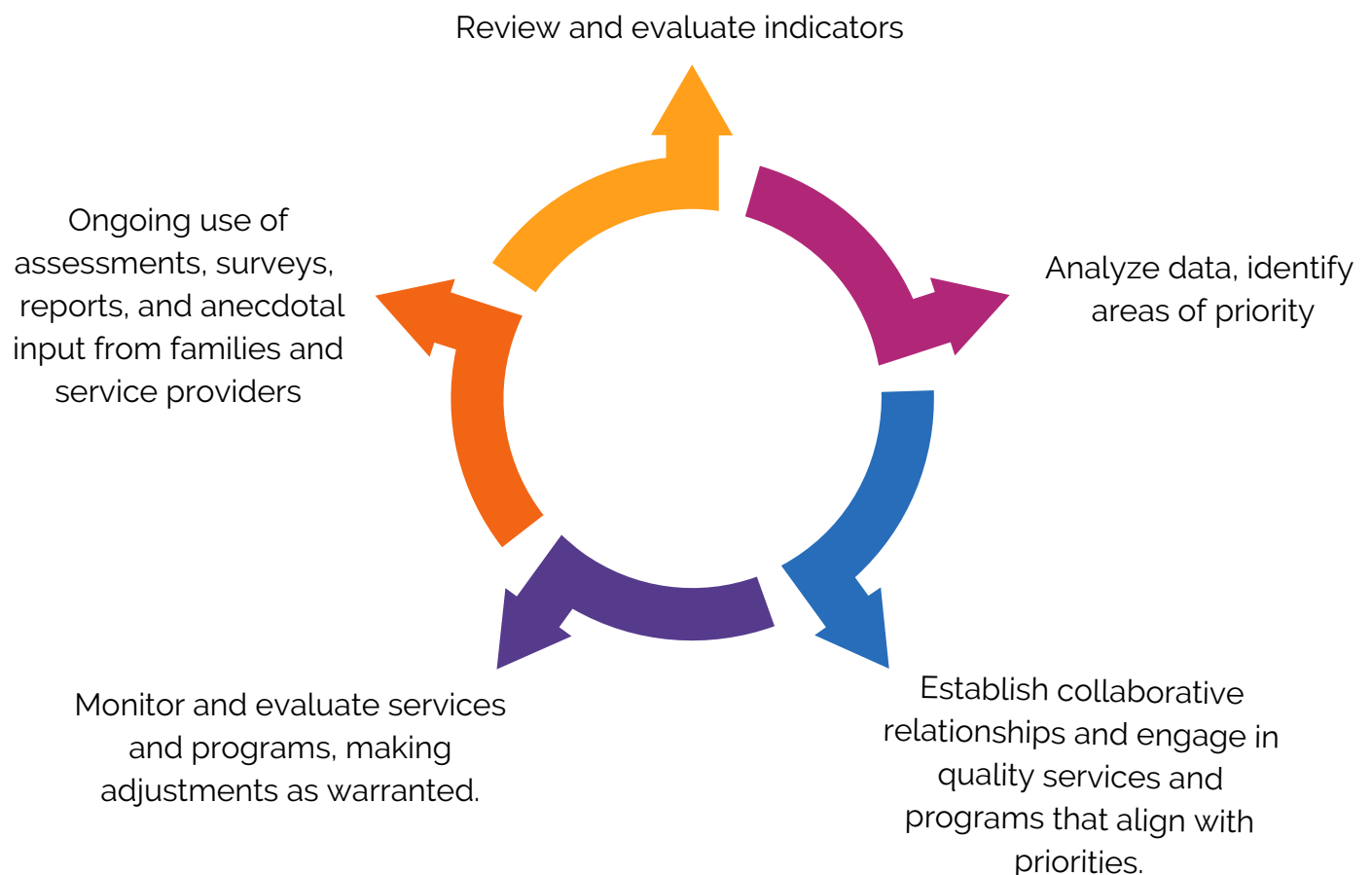
Photo courtesy of Kids Corner Daycare

FY23 Better Tomorrows Board Members

John-Paul Blix
Gwen Doland
Warren Dukes
Matt Johnson
Kathy Koehn
Karen Mixdorf
Dana Sanders, Chair
Deb Vaughan
Brad Wolter, Vice Chair

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Throughout the assessment process, our board relies heavily on service providers to provide statistical data, anecdotal data and information on outcomes. Data in various forms is provided to us throughout the year and it is reviewed and discussed throughout the year. Service providers regularly present program information at board meetings and our advisory committees are comprised of service providers, board members and community stakeholders. This allows us the opportunity to understand how others interpret the data, assess needs and evaluate progress.





ASSESSMENTS & PLANS OF OTHER AGENCIES

A variety of assessments and reports from local, regional and state organizations, have been included in our assessment process. The following assessments and plans were included in the review and analysis process: the Mental Health/Disability Regions, Public Health Community Need Assessments, Iowa Youth Survey, Decat and Community Partnership for Protecting Children, Community Action Agencies, United Way, Iowa's Integrated Data System

These assessments provide valuable data provided by community members and help identify challenges families may be facing including but not limited to lack of health insurance, childhood obesity and nutrition challenges, safe and affordable housing, food insecurity, educational attainment, transportation and poverty. Information was pulled from each of these reports in order to develop a clear picture of what the needs may include for the next three years.

Photos courtesy of Tiny Tots Childcare



FISCAL ASSESSMENT

A fiscal assessment was completed as part of our Community Plan to identify other funding to support families and young children in our area.

The fiscal assessment offers a broad understanding of funding in the area that supports children 0-5 as well as the gaps in funding. The process used to gather the information included online data resources, phone calls and emails to community partners.

This information should be reviewed with an understanding of the challenges with analyzing the data. Program information cannot be compared with identical timeframes, as programs operate on a variety of annual, school, state, and federal calendars. Many initiatives are part of a larger regional system serving numerous counties, and information for these initiatives offers a fiscal picture that is larger than our service area. A program serving rural and urban counties may have a greater percentage of funding going to larger populated cities and it cannot be assumed that rural families were served proportionately. It is also important to note that some funds reported by community partners do not serve just 0-5 year old children. Taking into considerations the limitations of this fiscal information, the assessment provides broad information that may help early childhood planning efforts and guide decision-making processes.

Fiscal Assessment

The following three pages provide a summary of organizations that receive funding to provide programs and services for children age 0-5 and their families.

Organization	County Served	Services Provided	Ages Served
Abuse/Domestic Violence			
Friends of Family	Benton	Emergency Shelter and Supports	All
Pathways	Tama	Domestic violence services	All
St. Luke's Child Protection Center	Both	Referrals, care coordination, interviews, exams, abuse prevention	0 and up
Waypoint	Benton	Domestic violence services	All
Early Childhood Environments			
Atkins Elementary School	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
Center Point Urbana School District	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
Central Lutheran	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
Child Care Resource & Referral	Both	Child care referrals	0 and up
ISU Extension	Both	Literacy programming	0 - 5
Keytone Elementary	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
Belle Plaine Longfellow Preschool	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
North Tama Elementary	Tama	Preschool	4
Shellsburg Elementary	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
South Tama Elementary	Tama	Preschool	4
Vinton Tilford Elementary	Benton	Preschool	3 - 4
Employment			
Promise Jobs	Both	Education, training, support	
Proteus, Inc.	Both	Mobile health services for migrants	All
Family & Child Wellbeing			
Arc of East Central Iowa	Both	Respite care for children with special needs	All
Clothes Closet	Tama	Free clothing	All
Early ACCESS (Central Rivers AEA and Grant Wood AEA)	Both	Service coordination for family education, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy	0-3
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)	Benton	WIC, Maternal and Child Health programs, FaDSS, 1st Five Care Coordination, -Smiles, lead screening, Hawk-i, Head Start, prenatal care	0 and up
Iowa Compass	Both	Referrals for complex health services	0 and up
LSI	Both	Family support and parent education	0 - 5
Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA)	Tama	WIC, Maternal and Child Health programs, FaDSS, 1st Five Care Coordination, -Smiles, lead screening, Hawk-i, Head Start, Early Head Start, prenatal care	0 and up
Parent Partners	Both	Family support for families working to reunify	0 and up
Swaddling Clothes	Benton	Clothing and diapers	0 and up
Tama County Social Services	Tama	Services for people with disabilities	18 and up
Food Assistance			
Belle Plaine Food Pantry	Benton	Food pantry	All
Garrison Food Pantry	Benton	Food pantry	All
Helping Hands - Atkins	Benton	Food pantry	All
Northeast Tama Food Pantry	Tama	Food pantry	All
Shellsburg Share Food Pantry	Benton	Food pantry	All
St. Mary's - Urbana	Benton	Food pantry	All
Tama Food Pantry	Tama	Food pantry	All
Walford Hope Matters	Benton	Food pantry	All
Vinton Food Pantry	Benton	Food pantry	All
Wesley United Methodist Food Pantry	Benton	Food pantry	All

Fiscal Assessment continued

Health Services			
Foundation 2	Both	Mental health therapy	All
Sedlacek Treatment Center	Both	Drug addiction services and care	All
Tama County Public Health & Home Care	Tama	Family Nest	0 - 5
Public Libraries			
Belle Plaine Public Library	Benton	Public Library	All
Blairstown Public Library	Benton	Public Library	All
Chelsea Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Clutier Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Elberon Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Garrison Public Library	Benton	Public Library	All
Garwin Public Library	Benton	Public Library	All
Gladbrook Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
LeGrand Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Newhall Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Schroeder Public Library-Keystone	Benton	Public Library	All
Shellsburg Public Library	Benton	Public Library	All
Tama Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Toledo Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Traer Public Library	Tama	Public Library	All
Vinton Public Library	Benton	Public Library	All



Photo courtesy of Crayon Corner

Result Area Strategies & Core Services

Healthy Children

Goals

- Increase awareness of brain health in early childhood.
- Pregnant women have access to prenatal care.
- Increase preventive dental care education and services.

Objectives

- By the end of FY2026, at least two providers will have endorsements for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.
- By the end of FY2026, 90% of pregnant women will receive care in their first trimester.
- By the end of FY2026, preventive dental care and education will be available through 20% of early learning environments.

Strategies

- Provide early childhood brain health learning opportunities.
- Expand usage of Ages & Stages Questionnaires.
- Encourage connections between child care, preschools and other resources.
- Promote and collaborate with initiatives such as 5-2-1-0, Live Healthy Iowa, 1st Five, Project Launch, I-Smiles and Healthy Hometown.
- Promote opportunities and funding for individuals to pursue the infant and early childhood mental health endorsements.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to provide health fairs, child health and safety events
- Collaborate with stakeholders to offer local perinatal classes.

Core Services

- Health Services
- Family Support
- Early Care & Education
- Community Development



LinkyDo Daycare grew the ingredients for the homemade spaghetti sauce pictured below.



Photo courtesy of Tiny Tots Childcare

Result Area Strategies & Core Services

Children Ready to Succeed in School

Goals

- Increase capacity of early childhood environments that participate in quality initiatives (IQ4K, Head Start, SWVPP)
- Increase use of Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports in early childhood environments
- Increase availability and access to early literacy programming.
- Encourage local connections between child care, preschools and other resources

Objectives

- By the fall of 2026, at least 50% of child care programs will utilize Behavioral Incident Reports in conjunction with positive based intervention strategies.
- By the fall of 2026, 65% of 3 and 4 year old children will enroll in preschool.
- By the fall of 2026 75% of kindergartners will meet the fall benchmark for the early literacy screening.

Strategies

- Partner with ISU Extension to provide early literacy programming.
- Implement the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- Provide tuition assistance to preschools enrolled in a quality initiative.
- Work with school districts to reduce transportation barriers to preschool enrollment.
- Support achievement bonuses for quality programs
- Provide behavioral training, and support for child care providers.
- Collaborate with Head Start and schools to increase access to Head Start through referrals, transportation and blended preschool classrooms in communities without access to Head Start.

Core Services

- Family Support
- Early Care & Education
- Community Development

Photos courtesy of Tiny Tots Childcare



Children learn by doing,
and doing is noisy, untidy,
messy and unpredictable.



Result Area Strategies & Core Services

Safe & Nurturing Families

Goals

- Increase support and opportunity for parents to meet basic needs of their family.
- Teen parents have adequate support to continue their education.
- Reduce the rate of child abuse, neglect and substance abuse.

Objectives

- Family support programs will consistently operate at or near capacity (90% - 100%) by FY 2025.
- By FY2025, 75% of families enrolled in the family support program will have a child age 1 year or younger.
- By FY2025, 50% of families enrolled in the family support program will earn less than 201% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- At least two individuals will be trained to implement LENA Start and LENA Home by FY2024.

Strategies

- Offer LENA Start and LENA Home.
- Offer family nest/closet style of support for families enrolled in family support program..
- Expand relationship with health providers, and child care providers, including outreach to families receiving Child Care Assistance and new parents.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to provide perinatal classes for pregnant and new parents.

Core Services

- Family Support
- Early Care & Education
- Community Development
- Health Services



Result Area Strategies & Core Services

Safe & Supportive Communities

Goals

- Increase community awareness on the importance of quality early childhood education, care, health, family support, parent education.
- Increase coalitions of public and private entities that support quality child care.
- Expand coordination and collaboration among local agencies to ensure families are able to meet basic needs and thrive.
- To gain a more thorough understanding of services and funding available for early childhood programming.

Objectives

- Establish the newly formed advisory committee as an work group, meeting five times per year. This committee of stakeholders will work to strengthen the early childhood system pursuing opportunities to educate, collaborate, develop and promote programs that serve families and young children..
- Implement a Progress Plan, reporting and updating Progress, Plans and Problems (PPP). This PPP will inform and guide the advisory committee and board.
- Expand the number of child care consortiums bringing public and private stakeholders together in order to develop local strategies that support child care.

Strategies

- Partner with stakeholders to inform community members, engage additional stakeholders, promote services, make referrals and collaborate to develop initiatives that will benefit young children and their families.
- Provide presentations and information on ways communities and employers can support child care locally.
- Identify funding opportunities to support early childhood programming and share information with stakeholders.
- Utilize messaging materials to promote and market success in early childhood programming.

Core Services

- Family Support
- Early Care & Education
- Community Development



Keystone community forum on child care



Mapping Mental Health stakeholder meeting



Result Area Strategies & Core Services

Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Goals

- Increase capacity and accessibility of quality child care
- Increase community awareness of quality child care
- Increase use of Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports in early childhood environments
- Provide consultation, support and resources to child care environments and prospective providers regarding:
 - health and safety issues,
 - behavioral and social-emotional development
 - support of quality initiatives

Objectives

- By FY2026, 50% of early childhood environments will participate in a quality initiative.
- Increase the capacity of quality child care in both counties. Progress will be measured by the reduction of the child to provider ratio.
- Collaborate with partner agencies to develop additional continuing education opportunities for child care providers that also meet registration/licensure requirements.

Strategies

- Partner with stakeholders to inform community members, engage additional stakeholders, promote services, make referrals and collaborate to develop initiatives that will benefit young children and their families.
- Provide presentations and information on ways communities and employers can support child care locally.
- Identify funding opportunities to support early childhood programming and share information with stakeholders.
- Utilize messaging materials to promote and market success in early childhood programming.

Core Services

- Family Support
- Early Care & Education
- Community Development



Photo courtesy of Vinton Early Learning Center



Photo courtesy of Tiny Tots Child Care

ALIGNMENT WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA STRATEGIC PLAN:

State Goal 1

Promote a coordinated infrastructure to advance the early childhood system.

Local strategies that align with this goal include:

- Strengthen utilization of data, including integration of the I2D2 Data Drive
- To collect additional data through community and service provider surveys
- Focus on prevention strategies
- Expand collaboration and coordination among organizations serving young children and their families.
- Develop and nurture effective public-private partnerships

State Goal 2

Build public will for investing in young children and families.

Local strategies that align with this goal include:

- Increase communication through newsletter, website, print and social media
- Expand family and provider hub ideas through strengthening website communications, training, and other materials for families and providers
- Promote and market success in early childhood programming and the importance of the First 2,000 Days

State Goal 3

Transform the early childhood workforce through formal education, improved professionalization, increased skills and competence, and new approaches to implementing best practices.

Local strategies that align with this goal include:

- Develop recruitment and retention strategies to build the early childhood system's workforce
- Increase awareness of social and emotional development of children and school readiness
- Support early childhood workforce development to enhance the quality of early childhood programs and services
- Promote initiatives sponsored by the Child Care Collaborative and support local implementation

State Goal 4

Ensure that young children and families receive the services they need when they need them.

Local strategies that align with this goal include:

- Expand the awareness of family support home visiting programs and services so more eligible families are served
- Improve and expand equitable access to high quality early learning opportunities and services, particularly for young children and families who have at-risk factors
- Improve transitions among early childhood programs and between the early childhood and PK-12 education systems.

State Goal 4

Improve the quality of early childhood services for young children and their families across early care and education; health, mental health, and nutrition; and family support services.

Local strategies that align with this goal include:

- Strengthen professional competencies and support the wellbeing of Iowa's early childhood workforce
- Promote quality initiatives for child care
- Expand relevant projects that show promise to support early identification and intervention
- Expand work that is supporting children's mental/ behavioral health
- Promote the use of evidence-based programs and services across the early childhood system.

Indicators Used to Measure Progress

1

Healthy Children

Prenatal Care: Percentage of live births where the mother began prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy

Immunized Children: Iowa children who are fully immunized according to the CDC Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule

Dental Services: Percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-5 who receive a dental service

Infant Mortality: Infant mortality rate for every 1,000 live births

Medical Providers That Accept Medicaid: Number of Dentists and Pediatricians that accept Medicaid for services

2

Children Ready to Succeed in School

Early Literacy: Kindergartners meeting the Fall benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements of Iowa Code.

Educational Attainment of Mothers: Women age 15-50 with a birth in the past 12 months by educational attainment.

3

Safe & Nurturing Families

Teen Births: Births to mothers under age 20

Incidence of Child Abuse: Child Abuse Incidence Rate for Children 5 years and under

Domestic Violence Rate: Domestic Abuse Rate; and Domestic Abuse Rate where children were present

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) has identified 5 desired result areas for children to be healthy and successful. The goals and strategies identified in this plan support these result areas and core services. Our progress will be evaluated using the following indicators.

4

Safe & Supportive Communities

Unemployment Rate: The percent of unemployed persons

Children in Poverty: Children under six years of age living in poverty

Children with Health Coverage: Number and Percent of minor children with health coverage by income and poverty level

Percent of All People in Poverty: Percent of people living in poverty

Homeless Count: Sheltered and Unsheltered Point in Time counts of Homeless Individuals by County

5

Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Quality Early Learning Environments: Percent of early learning environments that are NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) or NAFCC (National Association of Family Child Care) accredited and/or meet Head Start program performance standards, and/or verified QPPS sites, and/or have achieved QRS level 4-5.

Availability of Child Care: The number of "slots" or "spaces" potentially available for a child in a licensed or registered setting

Working Parents: Children under six years of age, with all parents in the workforce

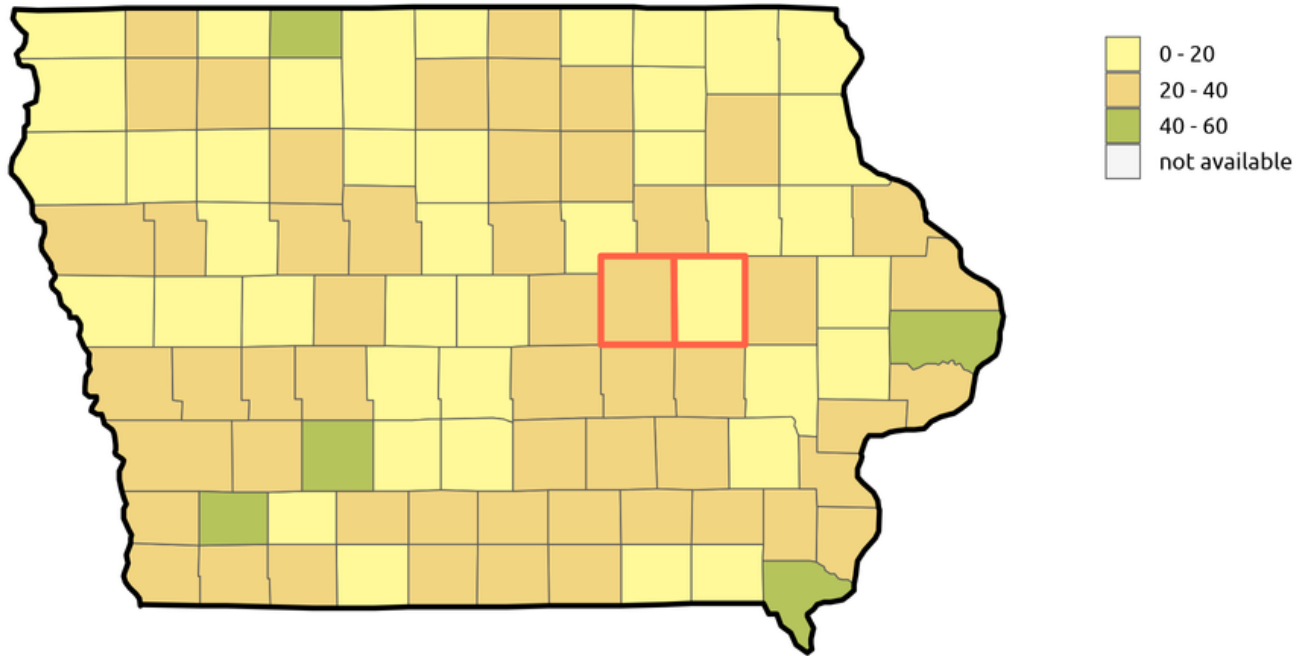
Needs Assessment Data & Survey Results



In the fall of 2021, the Better Tomorrows board and stakeholders met for an in-depth review and discussion on a wide range of data, which is the foundation of our community needs assessment. This data and assessment can be found in Attachment A.

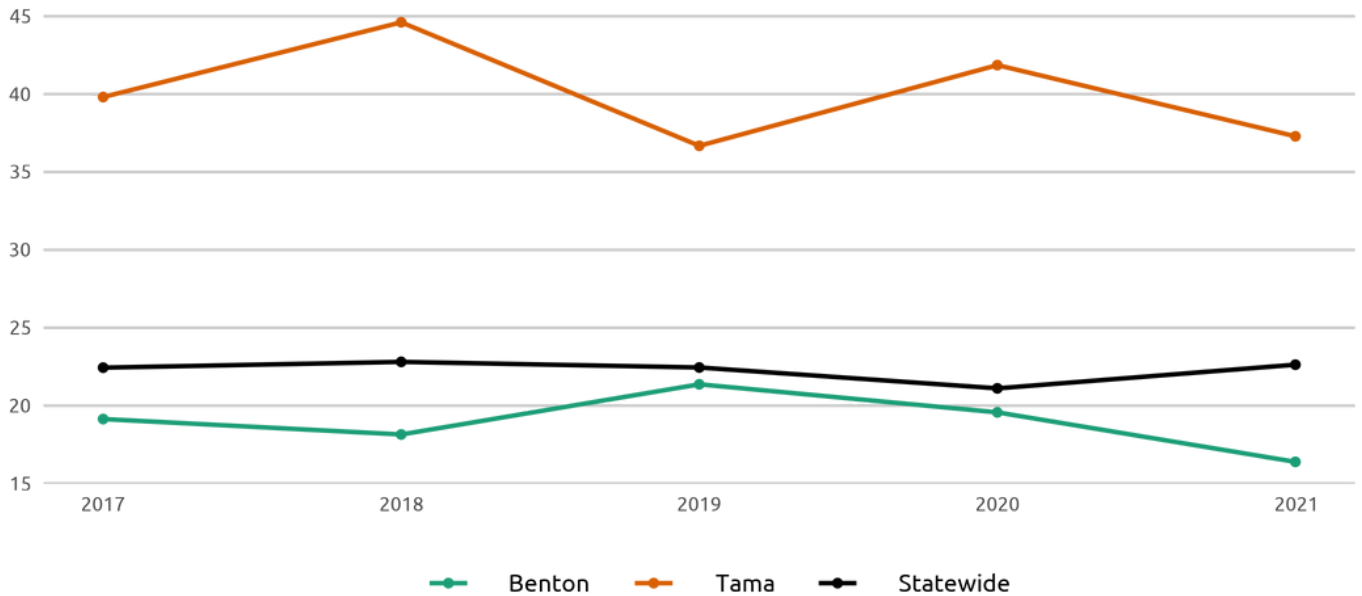
The following updated data was reviewed by the board in the fall of 2022 and provides more of a snapshot, or overview of our indicators and demographics for Benton and Tama counties.

Incidence of Child Abuse 2021



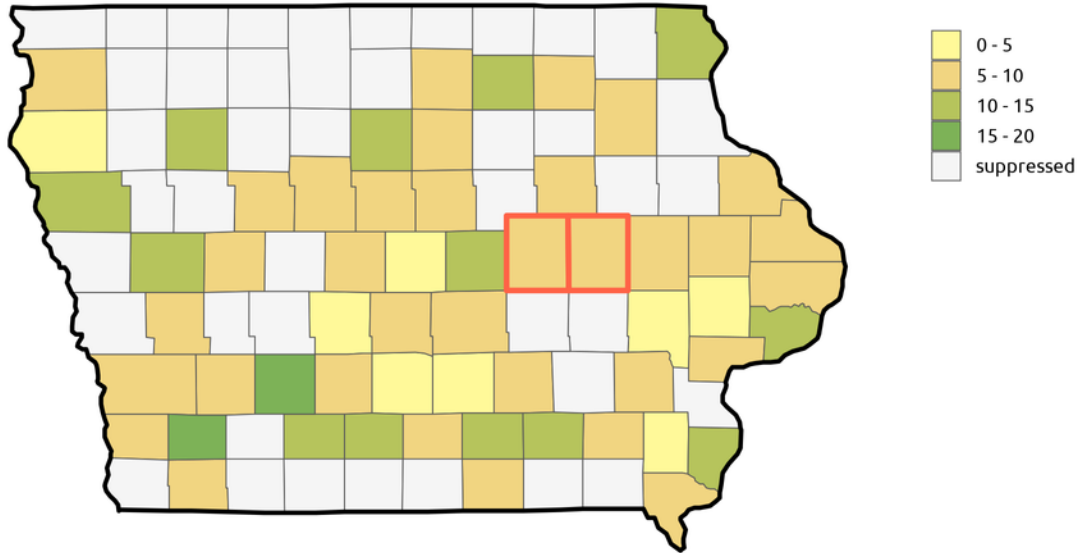
Data: Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS), Child Abuse Statistics.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Incidence of Child Abuse 2017 - 2021



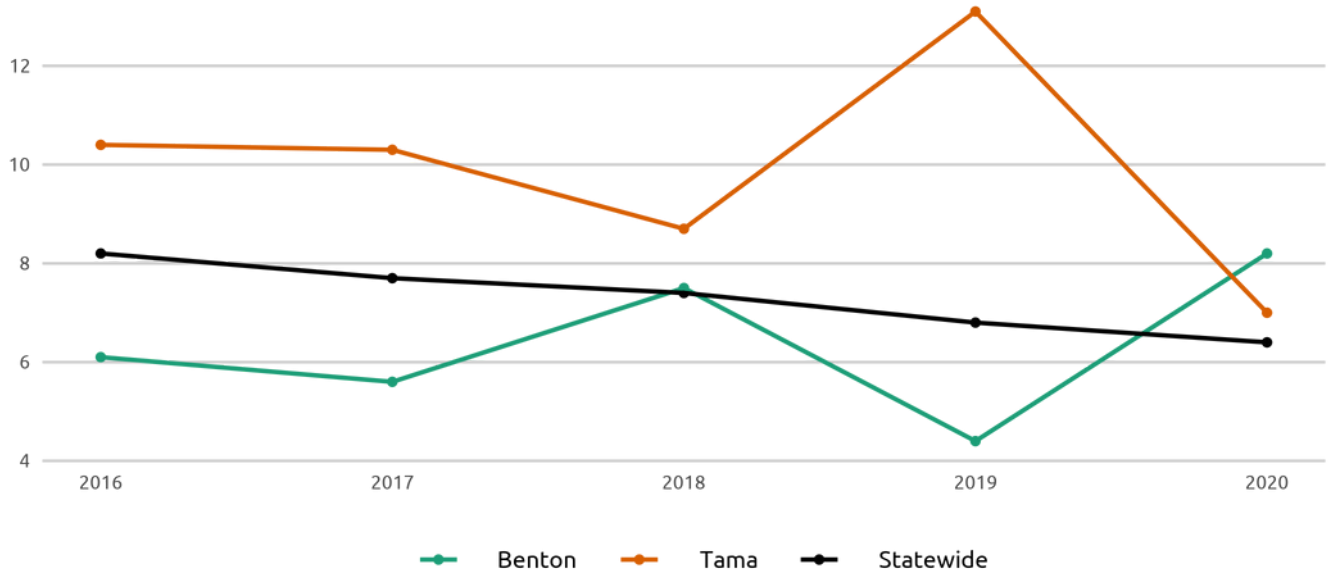
Data: Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS), Child Abuse Statistics.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Teen Births 2020



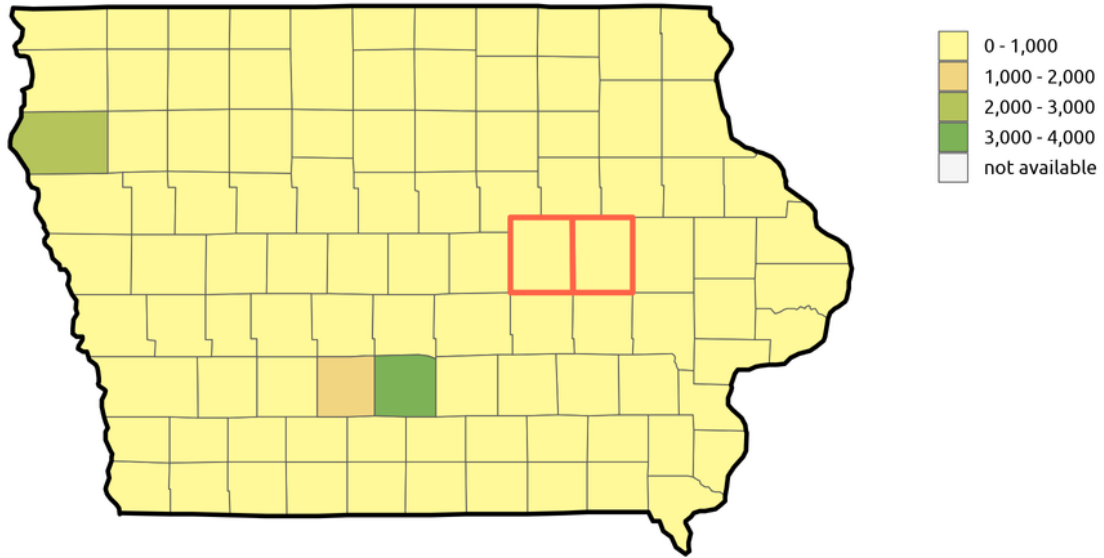
Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Teen Births 2016 - 2020



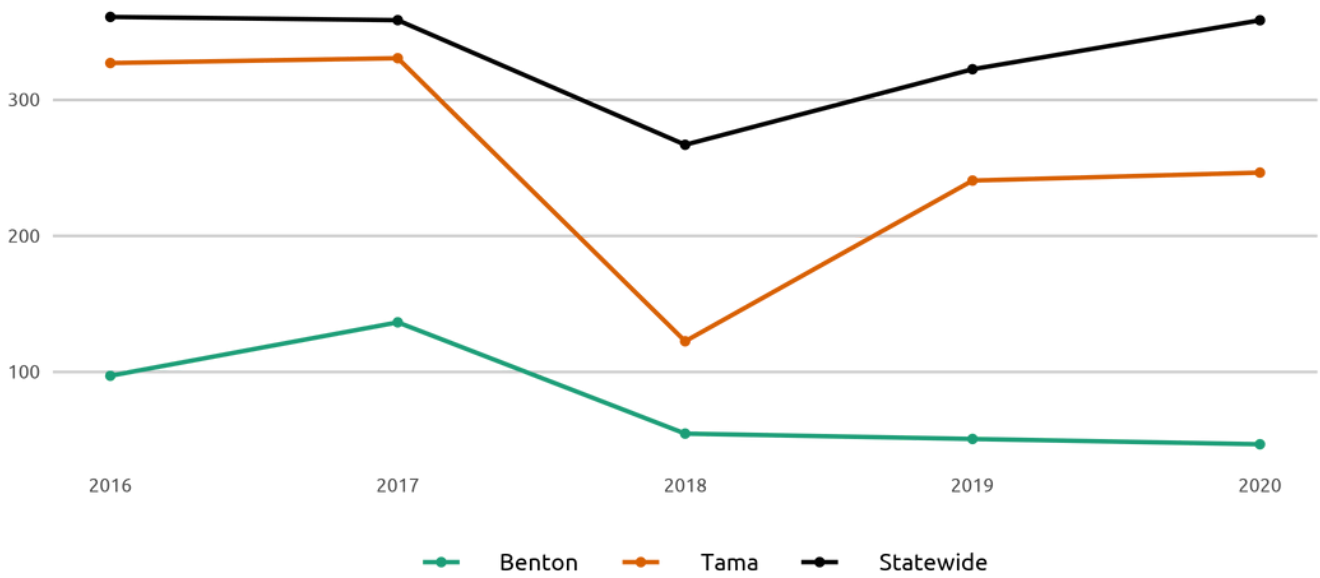
Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Domestic Violence 2020



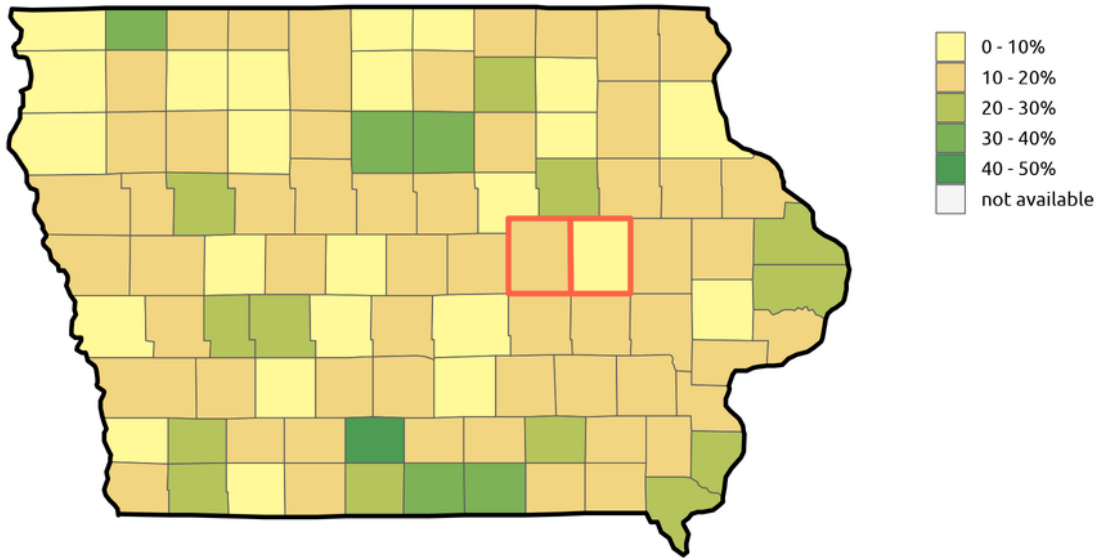
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Domestic Violence 2016 - 2020



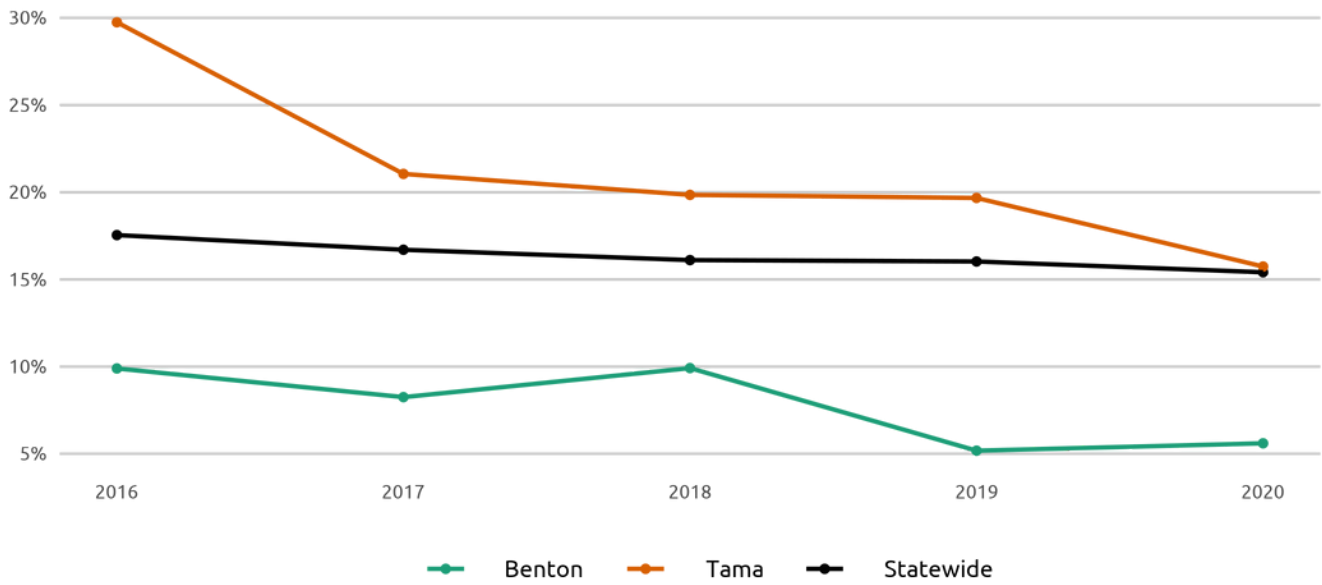
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Children in Poverty 2020



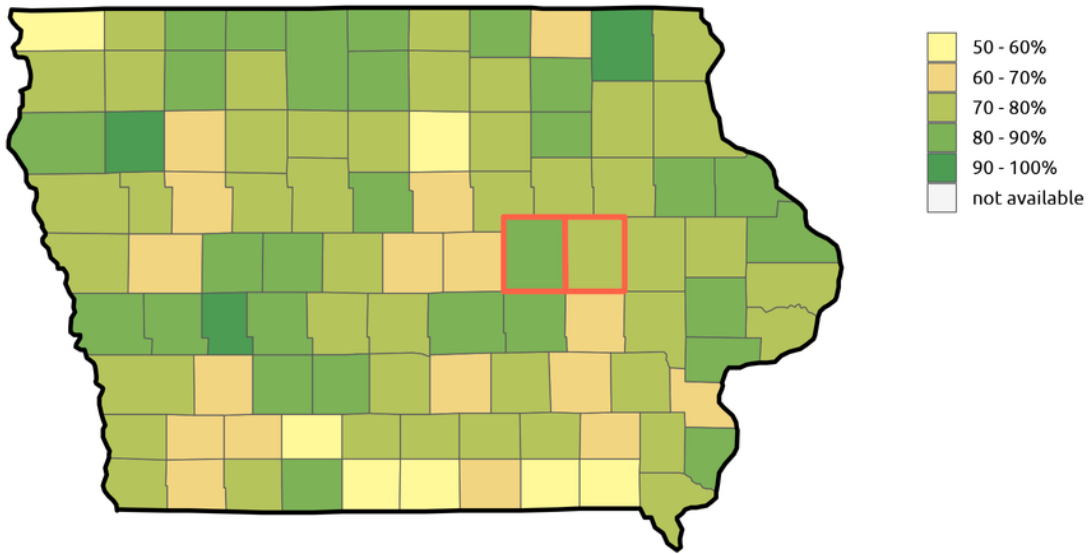
Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B17020.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Children in Poverty 2016 - 2020



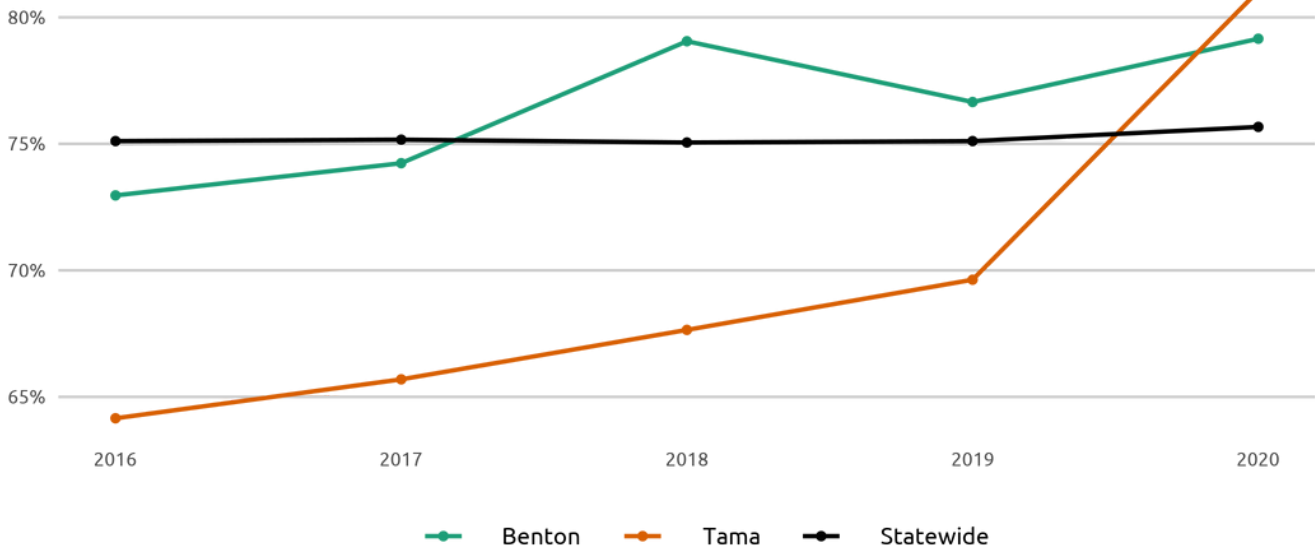
Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B17020.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Working Parents 2020



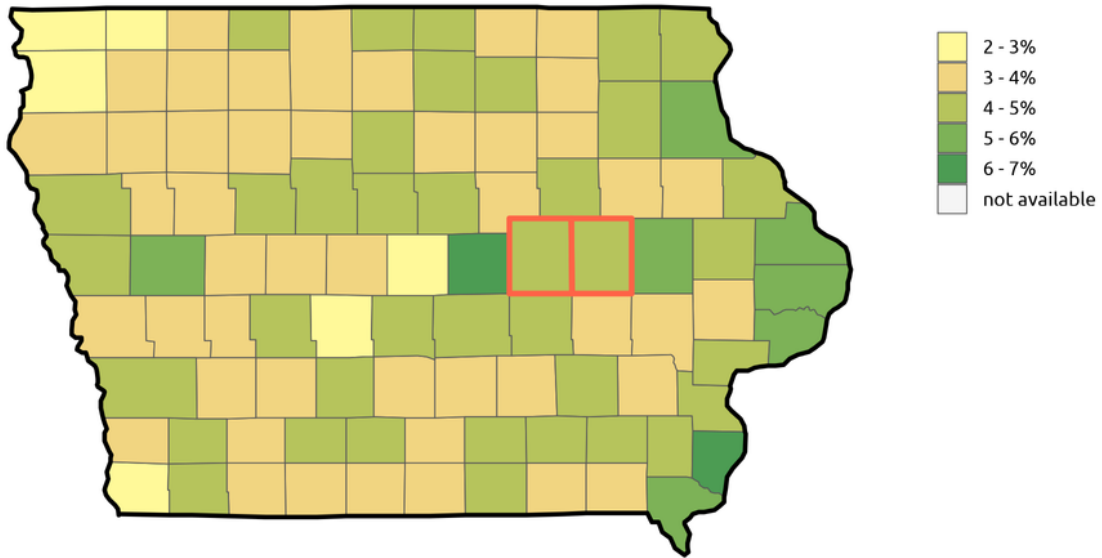
Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Working Parents 2016 - 2020



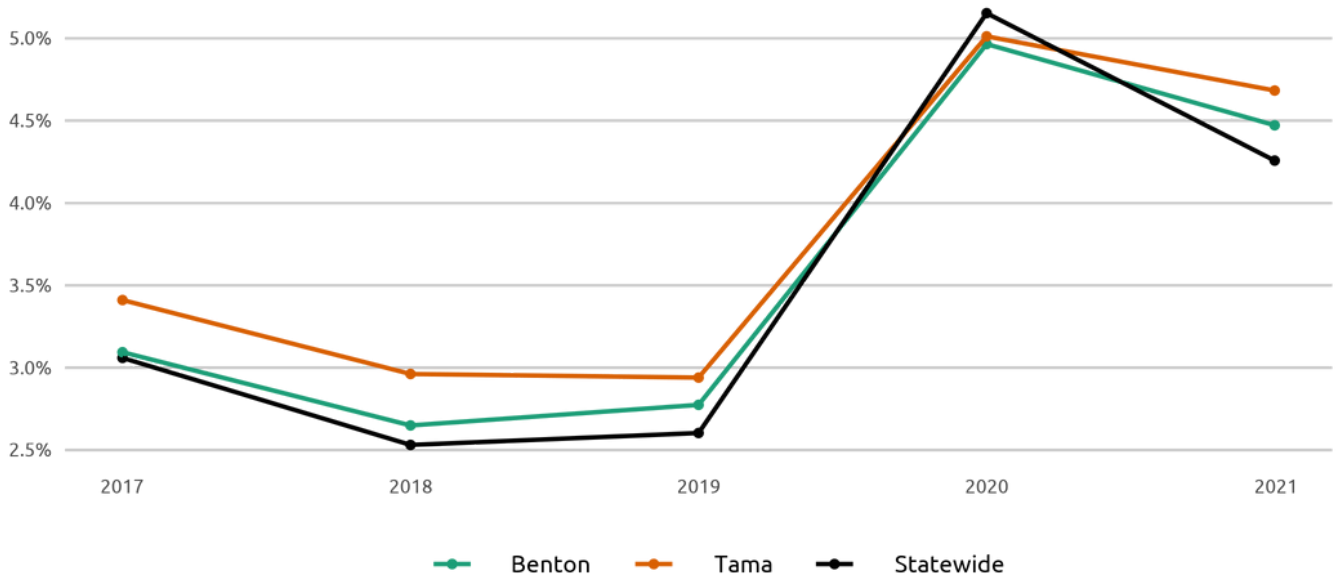
Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Unemployment 2021



Data: Iowa Workforce Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

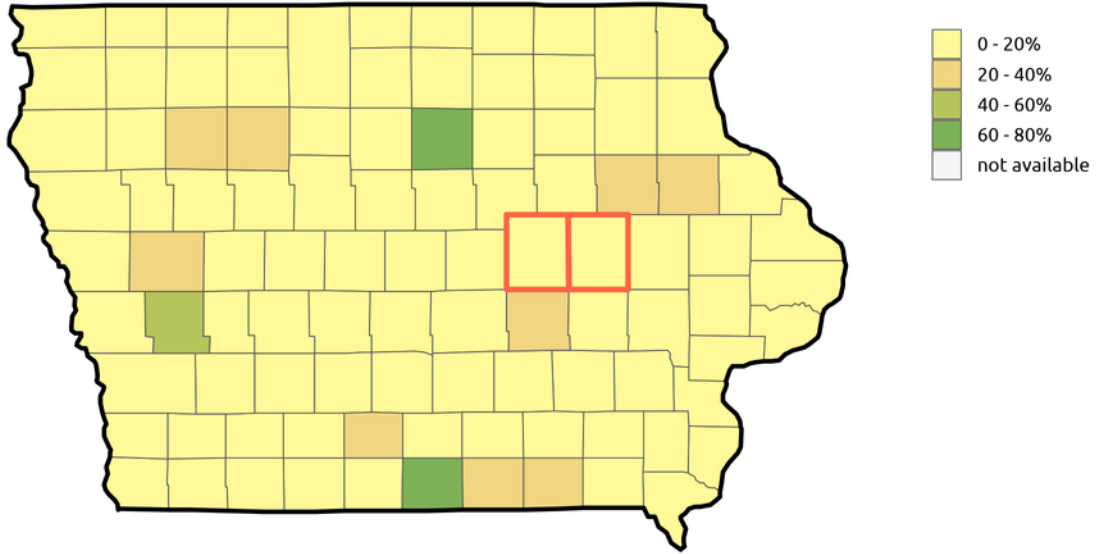
Unemployment 2017 - 2021



Data: Iowa Workforce Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Educational Attainment of Mothers 2020

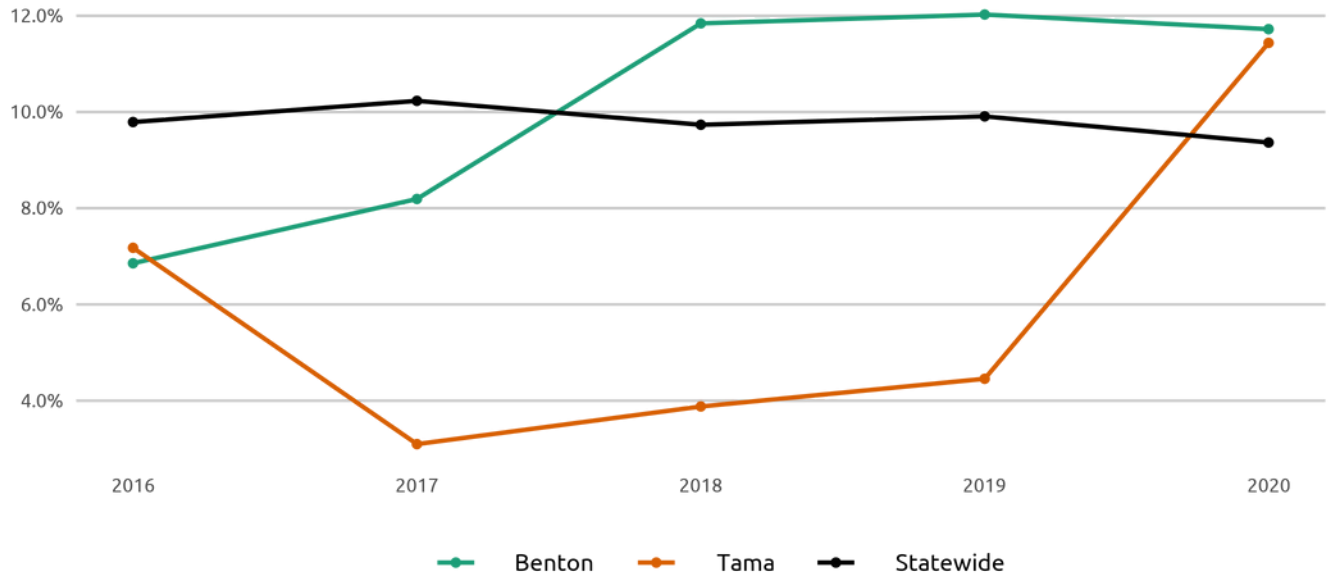
Less than High School Graduate



Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B13014.
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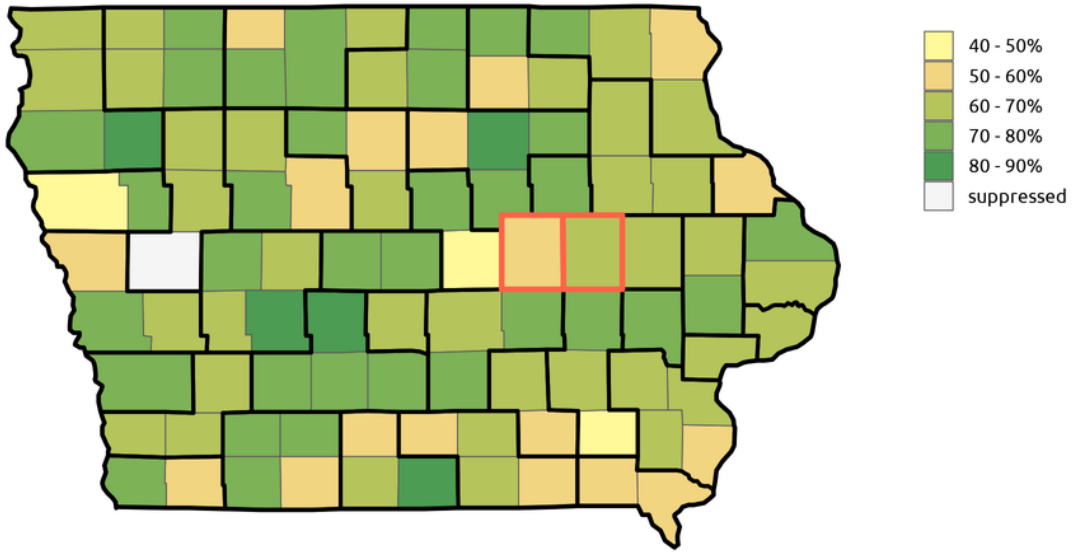
Educational Attainment of Mothers 2016 - 2020

Less than High School Graduate



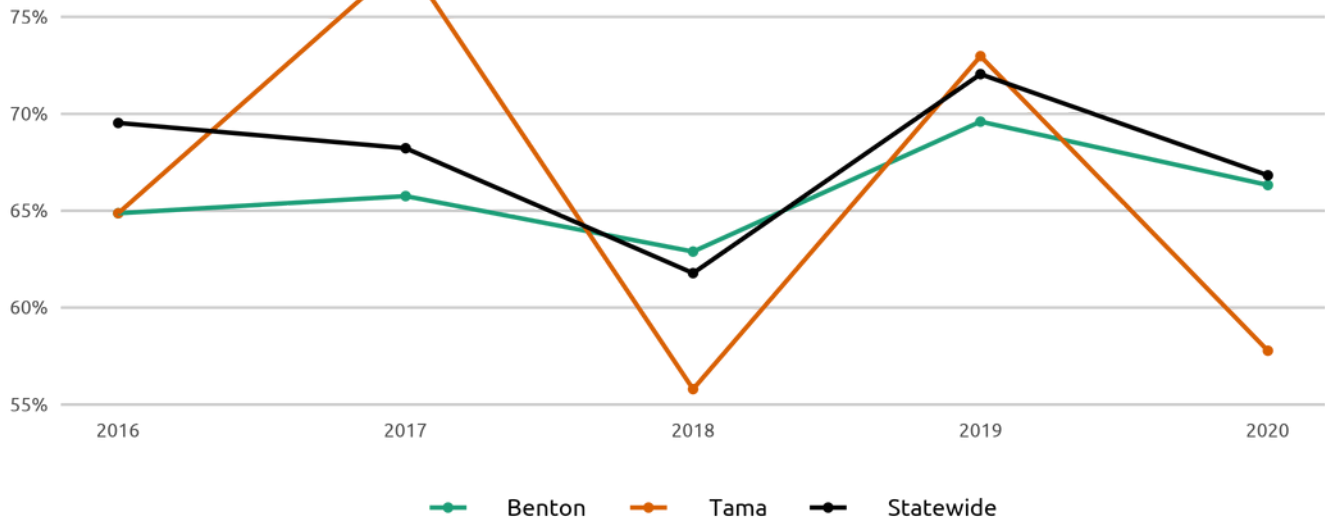
Data: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B13014.
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Early Literacy Skills 2020



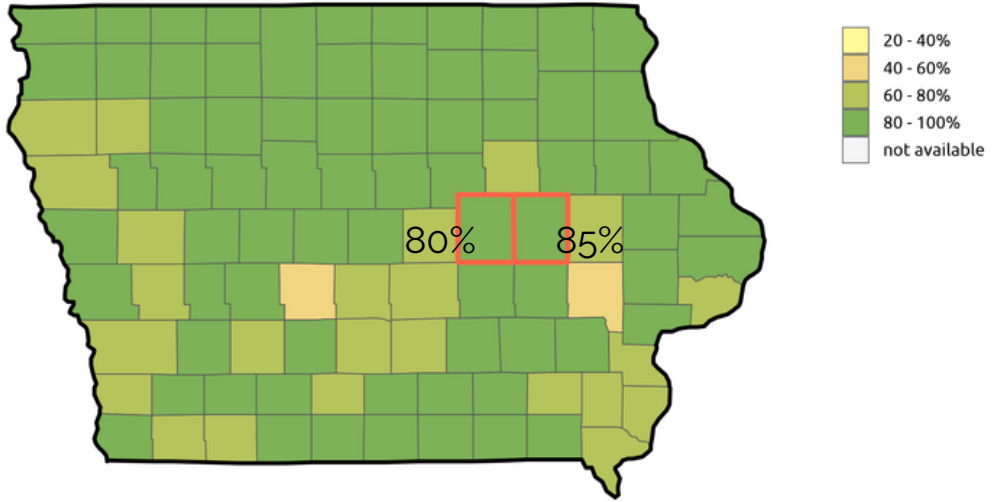
Data: Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), Kindergarten Assessment Tables.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Early Literacy Skills 2016 - 2020



Data: Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), Kindergarten Assessment Tables.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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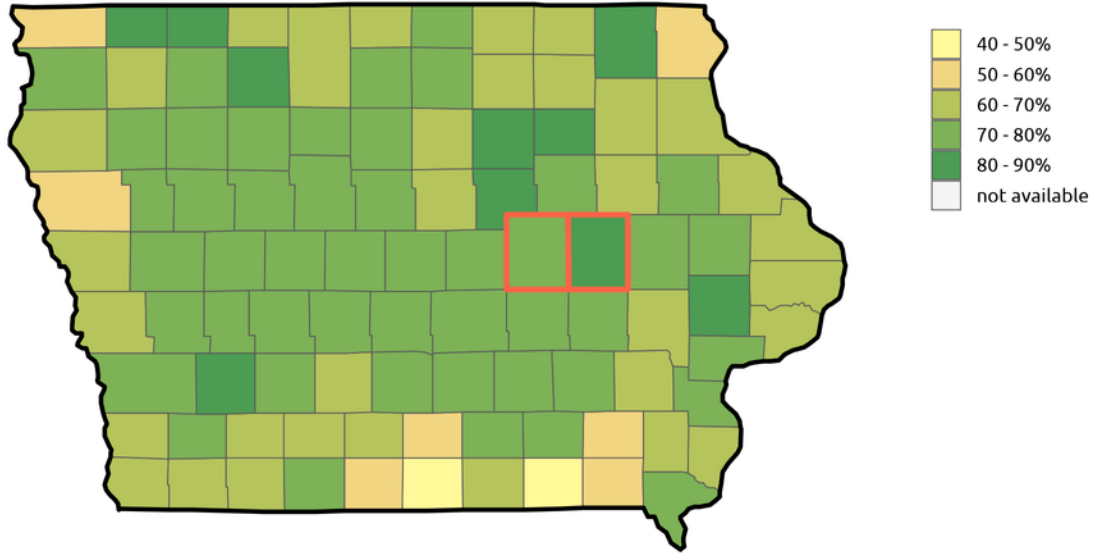
Preschool Enrollment 2017



Data: Iowa's Integrated Data System for Decision-Making (I2D2), Multiple.
Source: IA Data Drive.
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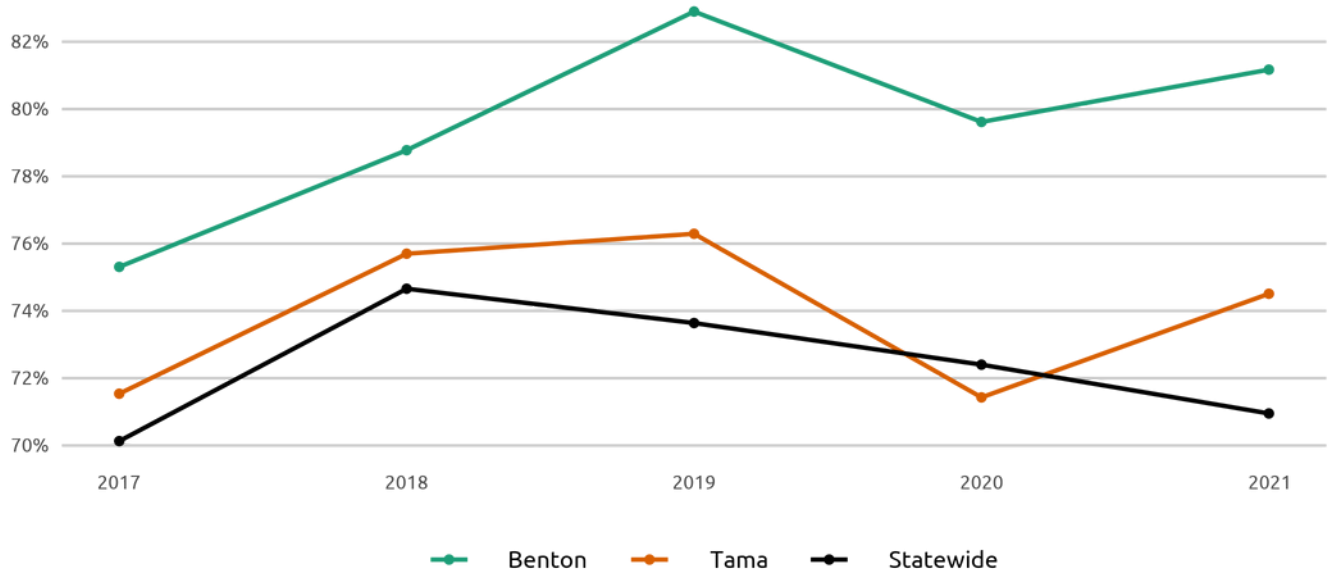
Note: The estimates are based on integrated data from Iowa Department of Education (DE) Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (PK), Teaching Strategies (Gold), and Child Care Assistance (CCA) systems. In order to reproduce the results for other years, a renewed integration of all these systems will be required.

Immunized Children 2021



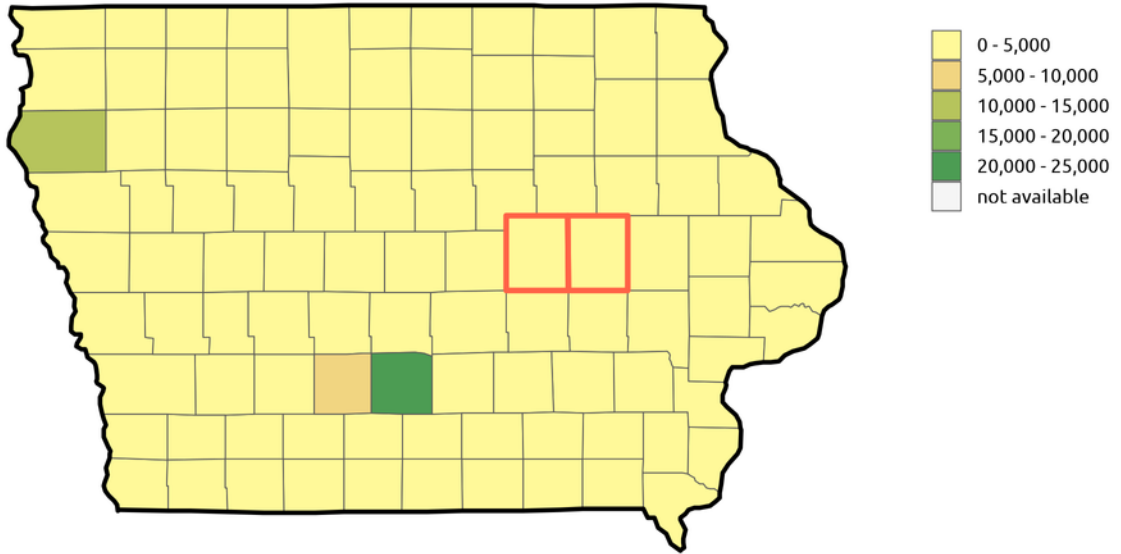
Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Immunized Children 2017 - 2021



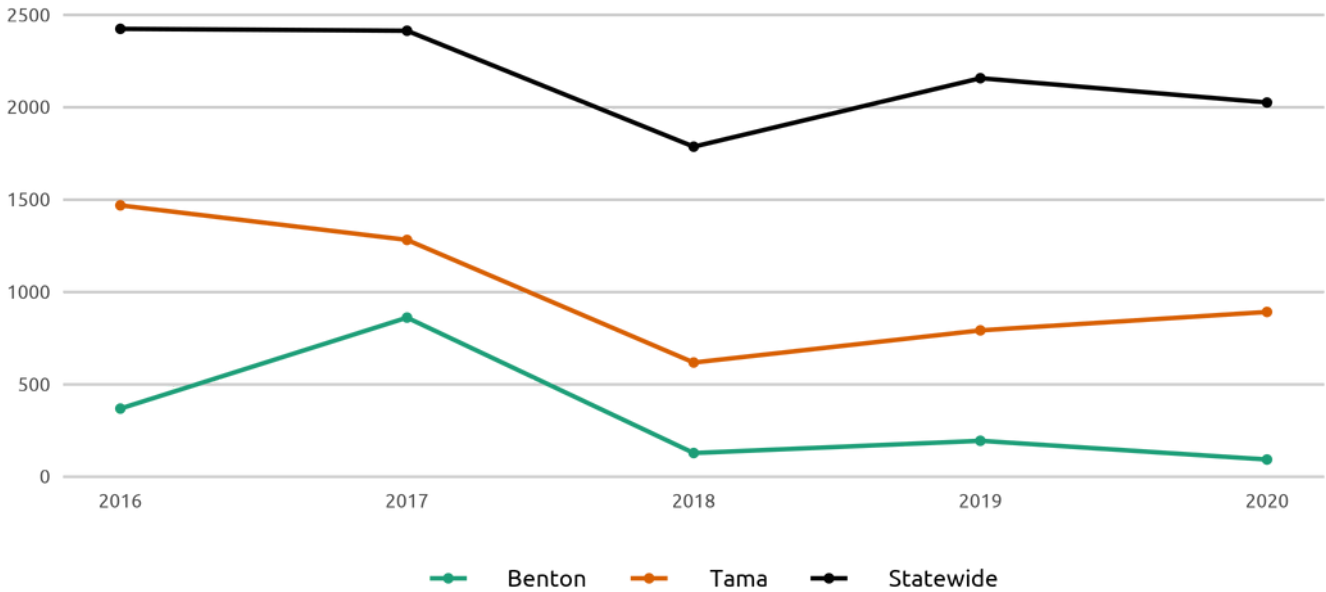
Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
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Crime Rate 2020



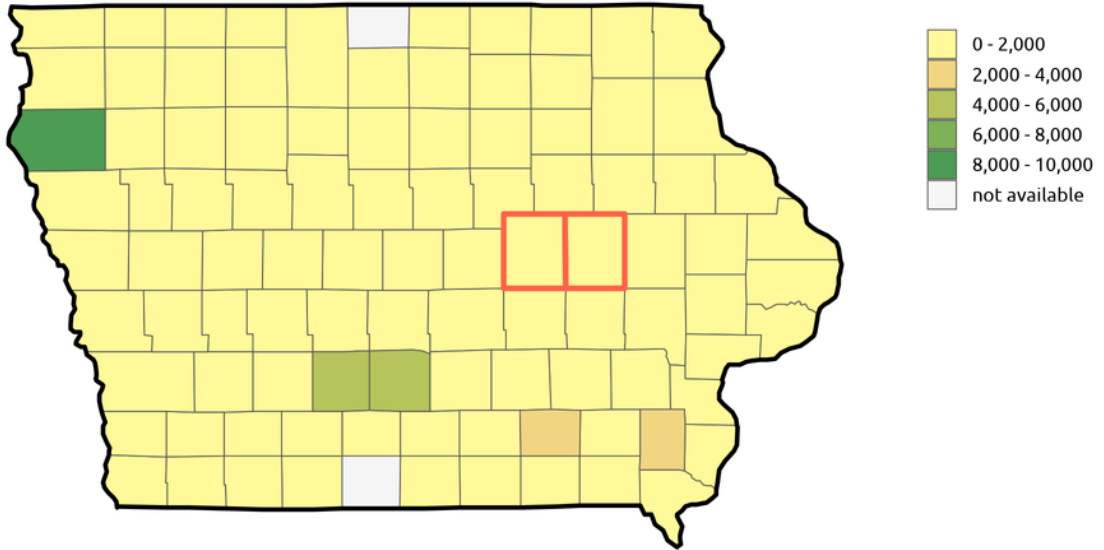
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
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Crime Rate 2016 - 2020



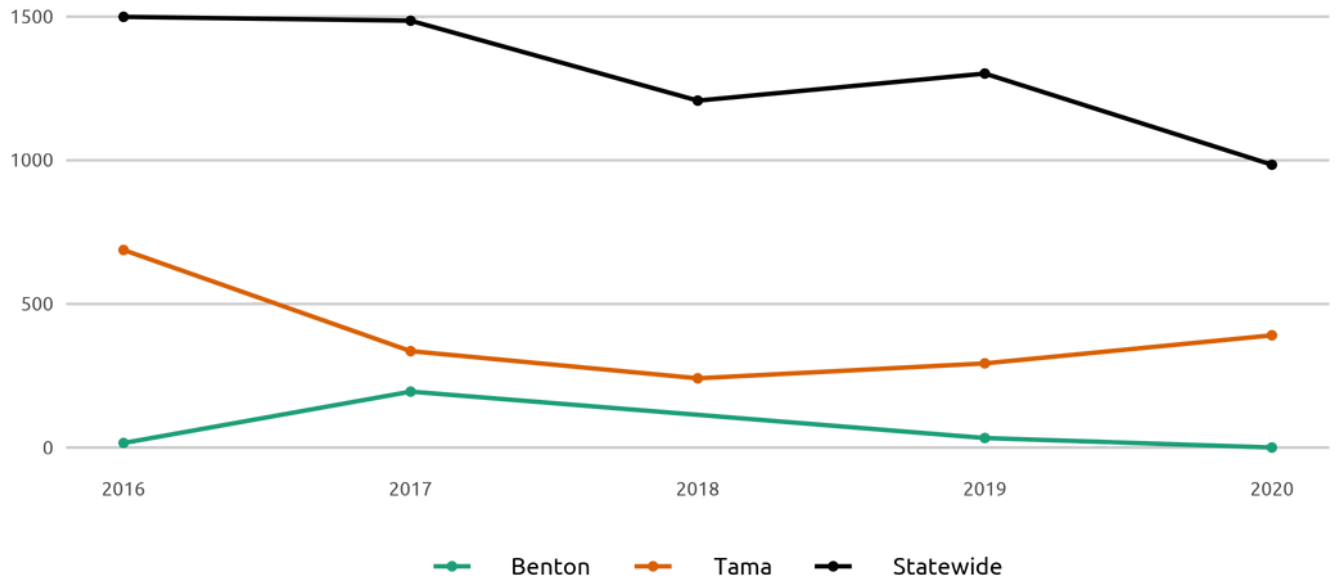
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
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Juvenile Arrests 2020



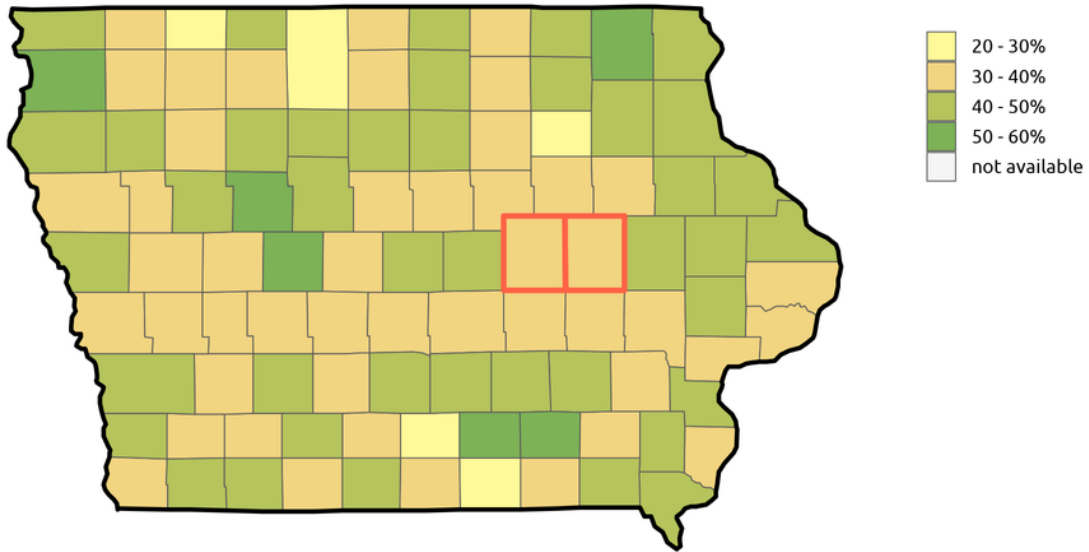
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
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Juvenile Arrests 2016 - 2020



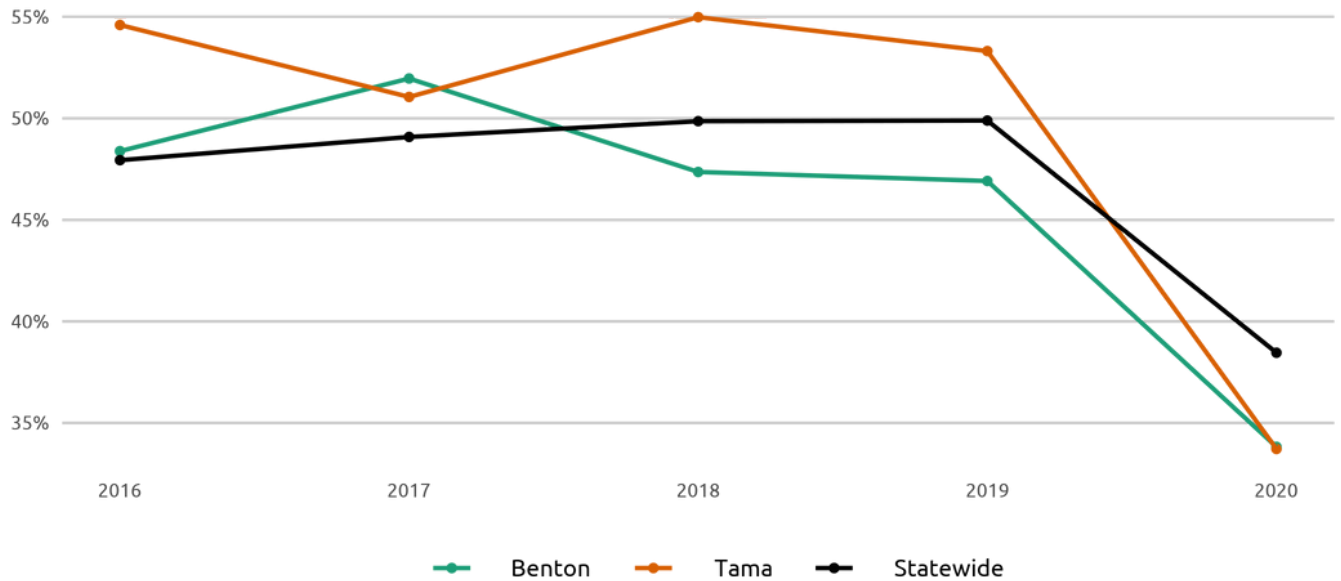
Data: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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Dental Services 2020



Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
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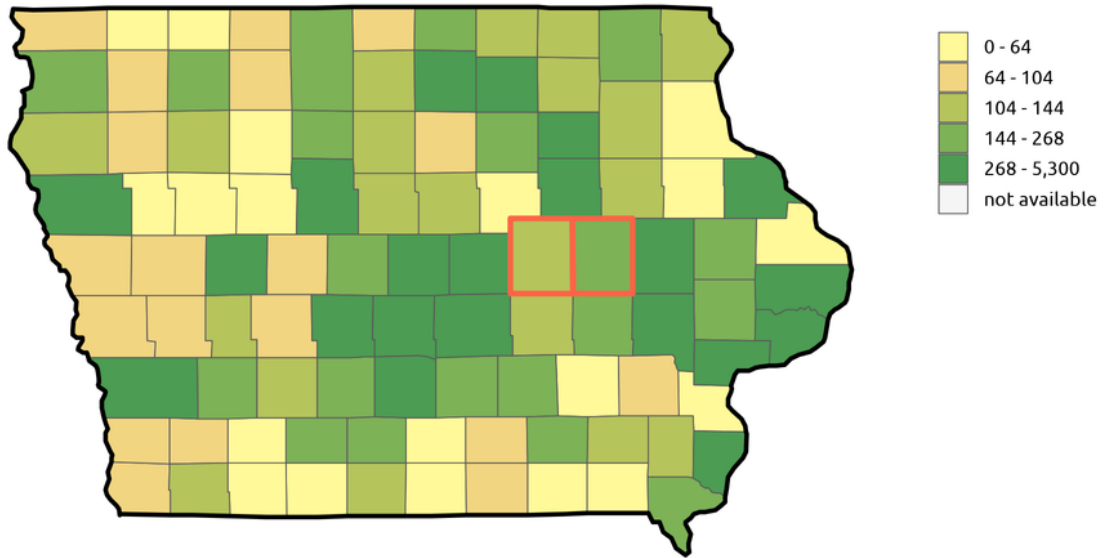
Dental Services 2016 - 2020



Data: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Availability of Child Care 2021

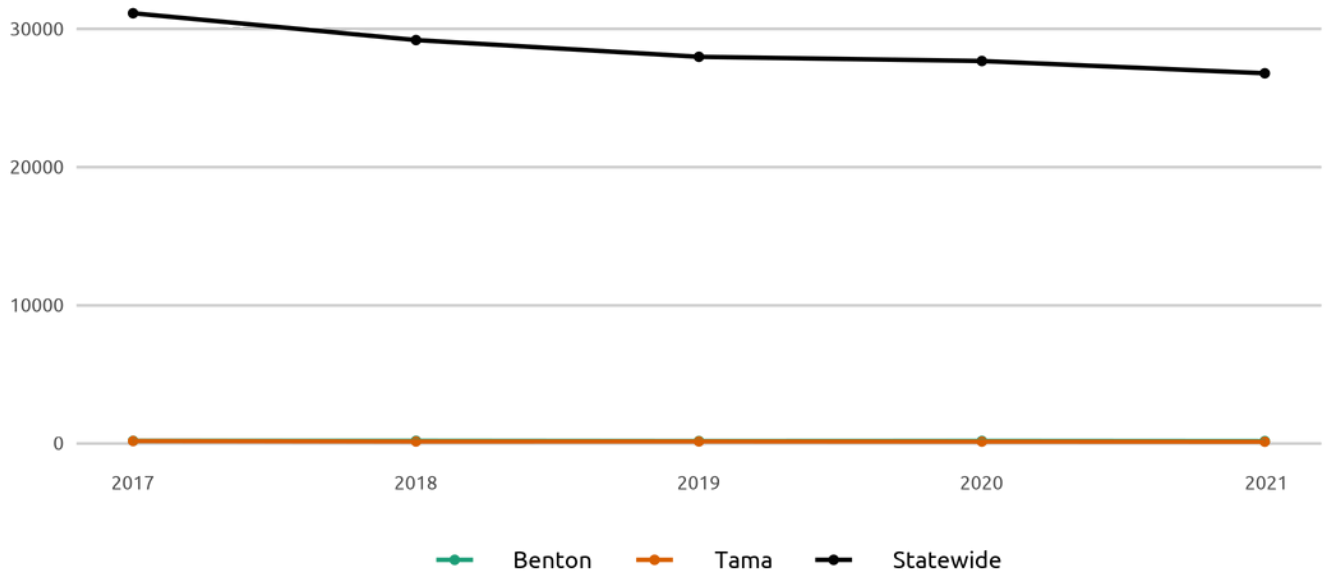
Number of Slots in Registered Child Development Homes



Data: Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), CCR&R data sheets.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

Availability of Child Care 2017 - 2021

Number of Slots in Registered Child Development Homes



Data: Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), CCR&R data sheets.
 Source: IA Data Drive.
 Downloaded on: October 17, 2022

County Demographics

ISU Extension Data for Decision Makers provides the following population breakdown by city and county, including gains and losses from 2010 - 2020.

Benton County

City	2020	2010	Change	% Rate
Norway	466	545	-79	-14.5%
Belle Plaine	2,330	2,534	-204	-8.1%
Garrison	344	371	-27	-7.3%
Walford	1,366	1,463	-97	-6.6%
Vinton	4,938	5,257	-329	-6.1%
Keystone	599	622	-23	-3.7%
Shellsburg	961	983	-22	-2.2%
Newhall	876	875	1	0.1%
Blairstown	713	592	21	3%
Urbana	1,554	1,458	96	6.6%
Mount Auburn	162	150	12	8%
Van Horne	774	682	92	13.5%
Luzerne	112	96	16	16.7%
Atkins	2,056	1,670	386	23.1%

Benton County Population

2020 Census: 25,575
 2010 Census: 26,076
 County change: -501
 County average -1.9%

Tama County

City	2020	2010	Change	% Rate
Lincoln	121	162	-41	-25.3%
Montour	203	249	-46	-18.5%
Gladbrook	799	945	-146	-15.4%
Chelsea	229	267	-38	-14.2%
Garwin	481	527	-46	-8.7%
Dysart	1,281	1,379	-98	-7.1%
Traer	1,583	1,703	-120	-7.0%
Elberon	184	196	-12	-6.1%
Clutier	213	213	0	0%
Toledo	2,369	2,341	28	1.2%
Vining	54	50	4	8%
Tama	3,130	2,877	253	8.8%

Tama County Population

2020 Census: 17,135
 2010 Census: 17,767
 County change: -632
 County average -3.6%



Child Data Snapshot Benton County

demographic summary (2017)

total population	25,646	
under 18	6,166	24.0%
under 6	1,829	7.1%

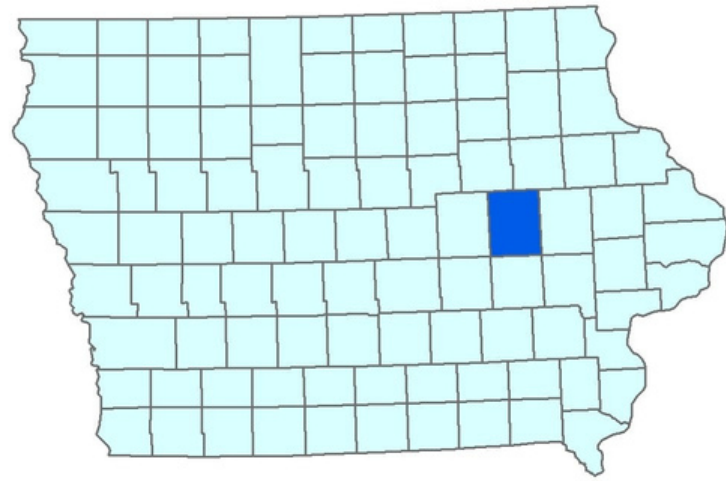
Child population (under 18) by race/ethnicity

african american	115	1.9%
asian	19	0.3%
Native american	11	0.2%
white, non-hispanic	5,732	93.0%
other	20	0.3%
multiple	150	2.4%
hispanic (any race)	150	2.4%

**IOWA
KIDS COUNT**

an initiative of
the Child and
Family Policy
Center

with support
from the
annie e. Casey
Foundation



	Benton County			Iowa		
	2018 Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000\$	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000\$
# \$ unless another year indicated below						
Family & Community Economic Well-Being						
Children living under the poverty level	527	9.0%	+18.4%	96,860	13.5%	+25.3%
unemployed individuals age 16 and over	361	2.7%	+9.9%	42,570	2.5%	-2.6%
School Readiness & Success						
3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool	316	52.8%	-8.7%	37,312	46.9%	+0.1%
Fourth graders proficient in reading	180	81.4%	+10.2%	24,650	74.7%	-2.3%
Eighth graders proficient in mathematics	216	79.4%	+4.1%	24,749	75.7%	+5.6%
High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)	239	91.6%	+1.2%	32,325	91.5%	+3.1%
Stable, Secure Families						
Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)	75	12.5	+70.1%	11,568	15.8	+54.7%
Single-parent families (#2014-18 average)	74	24.0%	-0.7%	115,352	31.2%	+7.9%
Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth)	4	1.6%	-51.2%	1,607	1.5%	-55.1%
Live births that are to unmarried teens	13	4.2%	-35.1%	1,490	4.0%	-52.8%
Healthy Children						
Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester	252	88.7%	+15.0%	29,583	79.0%	+10.9%
Infant mortality (per 1,000)	*	*	*	191	5.1	-19.6%
Child deaths (per 100,000) low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)	*	*	*	96	17	-21.5%
Children 0-18 uninsured during the year (#2014-18 average)	16	5.6%	-30.1%	2,607	6.9%	+12.7%
Children 0-18 uninsured during the year (#2014-18 average)	130	2.0%	N/a	23,736	3.1%	N/a
Use of Public Supports						
Children 0-4 receiving WIC (\$2003)	204	13.1%	-11.3%	51,321	25.9%	-8.3%
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches	1,049	30.9%	+55.0%	195,532	40.5%	+53.2%
Individual tax filers who receive the EITC (#2017)	1,330	11.1%	+32.1%	204,490	14.0%	+33.7%
Individuals receiving Food assistance	1,873	7.3%	+197.2%	344,349	10.9%	+156.7%
Individuals participating in Family Investment Program	60	0.2%	-77.8%	19,565	0.6%	-65.0%

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



Child Data Snapshot Tama County

demographic summary (2017)

Total population	17,236	
under 18	4,172	24.2%
under 6	1,231	7.1%

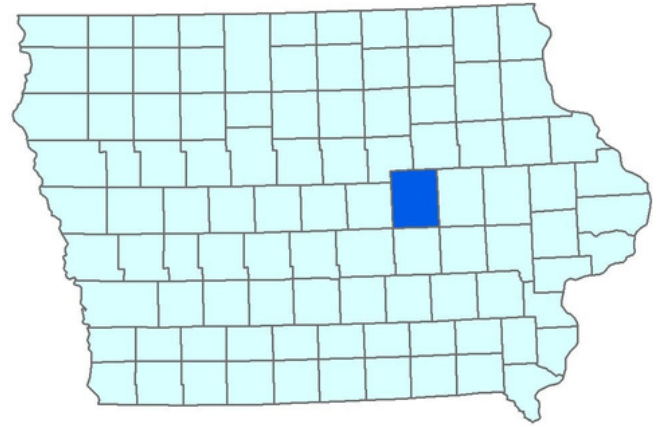
Child population (under 18) by race/ethnicity

african american	51	1.2%
asian	8	0.2%
Native american	456	10.9%
white, non-hispanic	2,893	69.3%
other	90	2.2%
multiple	199	4.8%
hispanic (any race)	706	16.9%

**IOWA
KIDS COUNT**

an initiative of
the Child and
Family Policy
Center

with support
from the
annie e. Casey
Foundation



	Tama County			Iowa		
	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000\$	2018# Number	2018 Rate/ Percentage	Chg from 2000\$
Family & Community Economic Well-being Children living under the poverty level	609	15.2%	+22.6%	96,860	13.5%	+25.3%
Unemployed individuals age 16 and over	281	3.0%	-19.3%	42,570	2.5%	-2.6%
School Readiness & Success						
3- and 4-year-olds participating in preschool (#2014-18 average)	183	52.6%	+9.7%	37,312	46.9%	+0.1%
Fourth graders proficient in reading (§2003)	97	60.6%	-18.7%	24,650	74.7%	-2.3%
Eighth graders proficient in mathematics (§2003)	123	67.2%	-9.7%	24,749	75.7%	+5.6%
High school graduation (students graduating with class in 4 years)	180	96.8%	+10.6%	32,325	91.5%	+3.1%
Stable, Secure Families						
Cases of child abuse/neglect (per 1,000)	92	22.6	+86.4%	11,568	15.8	+54.7%
Single-parent families (#2014-18 average)	640	33.2%	-7.9%	115,35	31.2%	+7.9%
Teen births (number/pct of females 15-19 giving birth) live	10	1.9%	-57.7%	2 1,607	1.5%	-55.1%
Births that are to unmarried teens	10	5.1%	-47.2%	1,490	4.0%	-52.8%
Healthy Children						
Live births where prenatal care began during first trimester (§2007)	155	79.5%	+11.8%	29,583	79.0%	+10.9%
Infant mortality (per 1,000)	*	*	*	191	5.1	-19.6%
Child deaths (per 100,000)	*	*	*	96	17	-21.5%
Low birthweight (live births less than 5.5 pounds)	16	8.1%	+6.8%	2,607	6.9%	+12.7%
Children 0-18 uninsured during the year (#2014-18 average)	219	5.1%	N/a	23,736	3.1%	N/a
Use of Public Supports						
Children 0-4 receiving WIC (§2003)	280	25.5%	-20.3%	51,321	25.9%	-8.3%
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches	1,229	51.1%	+80.6%	195,532	40.5%	+53.2%
Individual tax filers who receive the EITC (#2017)	1,250	15.0%	+45.2%	204,490	14.0%	+33.7%
Individuals receiving food assistance	1,684	10.0%	+226.7%	344,349	10.9%	+156.7%
Individuals participating in Family Investment Program	68	0.4%	-65.5%	19,565	0.6%	-65.0%

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

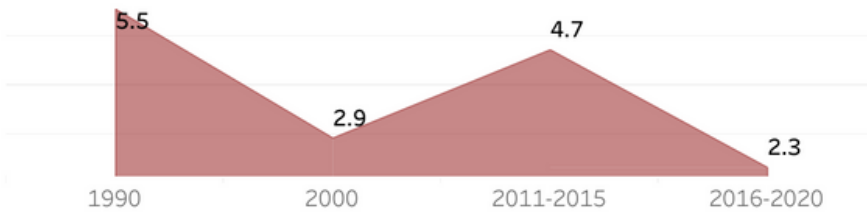
To download data or view data snapshots for other Iowa counties, visit www.cfpciowa.org and click on "Kids Count data."



Economic Characteristics: Benton County, Iowa

Source: 2000 Census & 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-year period estimates (unless noted)

Unemployment rate



Additional Sources: 1990 Decennial Census & 2011-2015 American Community Survey

County
Benton County



Means of transportation to work

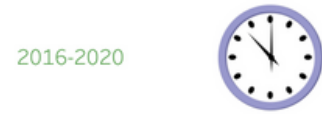
	2000	2016-2020
Car, truck, or van-Drove alone	76.9%	82.5%
Car, truck, or van-Carpooled	13.7%	7.5%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0.3%	0.3%
Walked	0.2%	2.5%
Other means	2.4%	6.5%
Worked at home	6.3%	0.6%

Mean travel time to work



2000

25.0

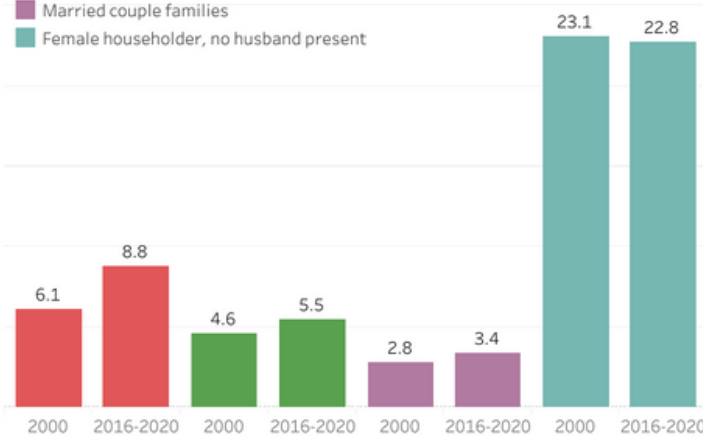


2016-2020

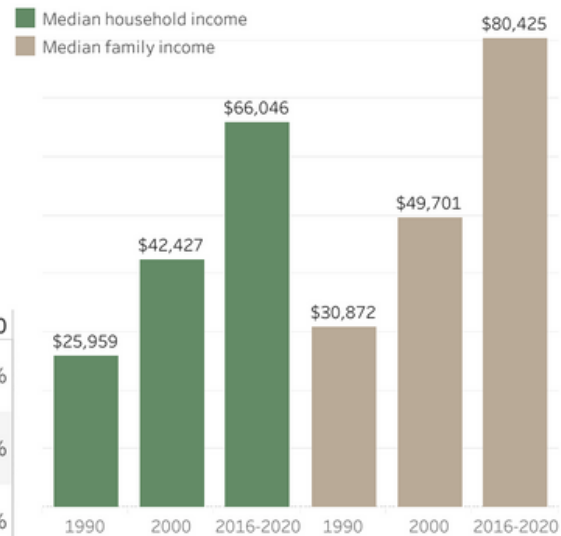
24.9

Poverty rates

- All people
- All families
- Married couple families
- Female householder, no husband present



Median Income



Occupation

	2000	2016-2020
Management, business, science, and arts	27.7%	30.3%
Service	14.3%	14.1%
Sales and office	24.9%	22.0%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	12.3%	15.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving	20.8%	18.3%

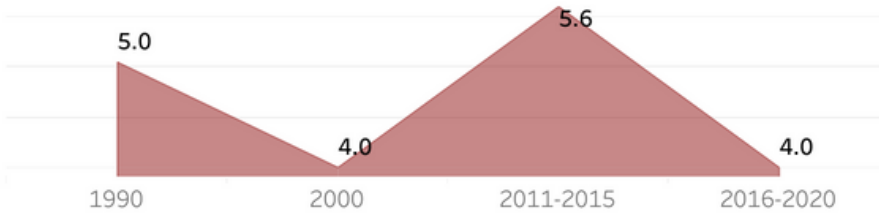
Created by the State Data Center of Iowa
 Contact information: State Library of Iowa, State Data Center Program, <http://www.iowadatatcenter.org> 800-248-4483, cen..



Economic Characteristics: Tama County, Iowa

Source: 2000 Census & 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-year period estimates (unless noted)

Unemployment rate



Additional Sources: 1990 Decennial Census & 2011-2015 American Community Survey

County
Tama County



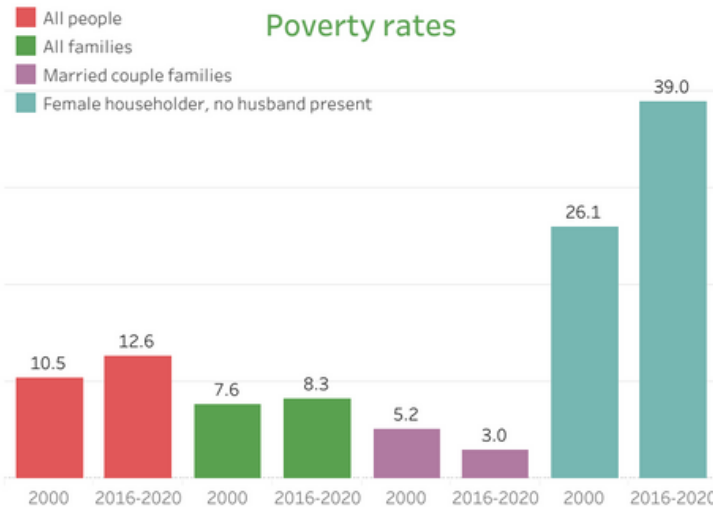
Means of transportation to work

	2000	2016-2020
Car, truck, or van-Drove alone	76.9%	79.5%
Car, truck, or van-Carpooled	11.4%	9.6%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0.0%	0.3%
Walked	0.7%	3.9%
Other means	3.9%	6.1%
Worked at home	6.8%	0.6%

Mean travel time to work



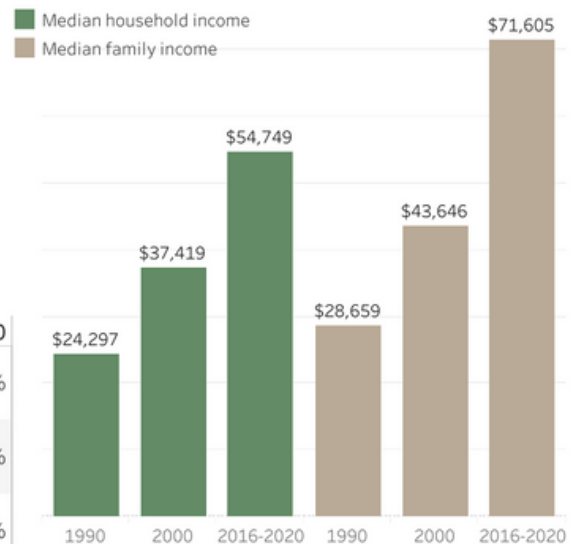
Poverty rates



Occupation

	2000	2016-2020
Management, business, science, and arts	26.0%	25.9%
Service	18.2%	17.9%
Sales and office	23.3%	21.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	12.0%	12.6%
Production, transportation, and material moving	20.5%	22.5%

Median Income



Created by the State Data Center of Iowa
 Contact information: State Library of Iowa, State Data Center Program, <http://www.iowadatacenter.org> 800-248-4483, cen..



Social Characteristics: Benton County, Iowa

2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-year period estimates (unless noted)

County
Benton County

Educational Attainment (Population 25 years of age and over)

	Estimate	Percent
Total	17,768	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	274	1.5%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	666	3.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,797	38.3%
Some college, no degree	3,787	21.3%
Associate's degree	2,613	14.7%
Bachelor's degree	2,522	14.2%
Graduate degree or higher	1,109	6.2%



Average Household Size



2.5

Average ..

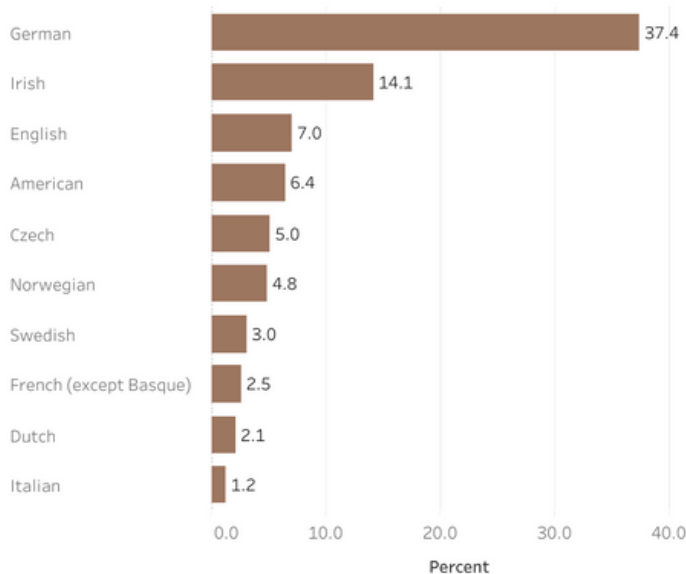


2.9

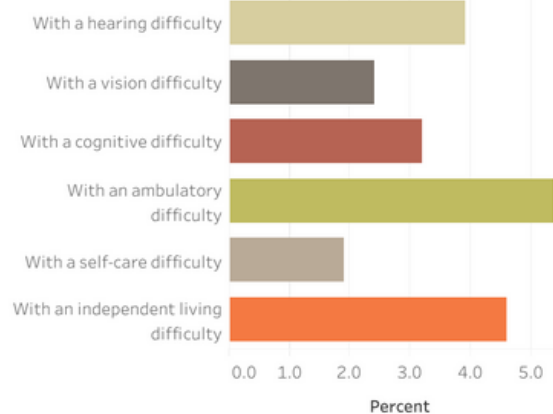
Last Period of Service for Veterans

	Estimate	Percent
Civilian population 18 years and over	19,587	
Total Veteran population	1,776	
Gulf War (9/2001 or later)	203	11.4%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001)	298	16.8%
Vietnam era	618	34.8%
Korean War	154	8.7%
World War II	39	2.2%

Ancestry



Disability status by type of disability



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 Program, <http://www.iowadatacenter.org> 800-248-4483, census@io..



Social Characteristics: Tama County, Iowa

2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-year period estimates (unless noted)

County
Tama County

Educational Attainment

(Population 25 years of age and over)

	Estimate	Percent
Total	11,485	100.0%
Less than 9th grade	410	3.6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	587	5.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	4,720	41.1%
Some college, no degree	2,452	21.3%
Associate's degree	1,522	13.3%
Bachelor's degree	1,311	11.4%
Graduate degree or higher	483	4.2%



Average Household Size



2.5

Average Family Size

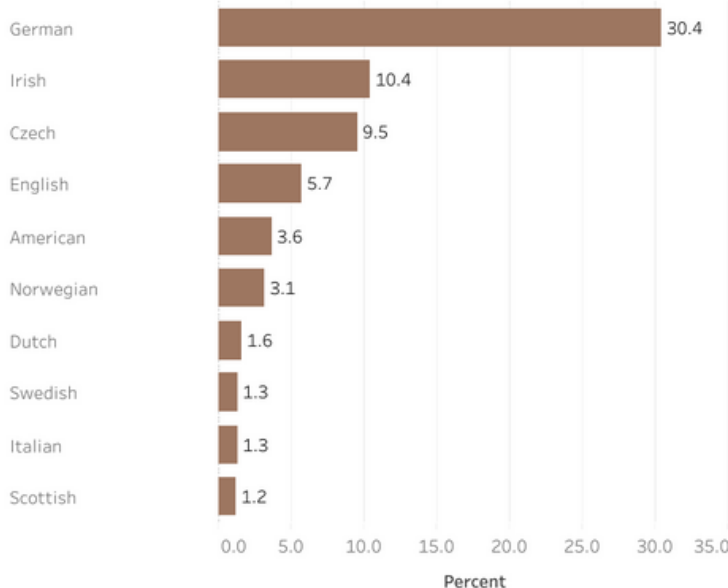


3.1

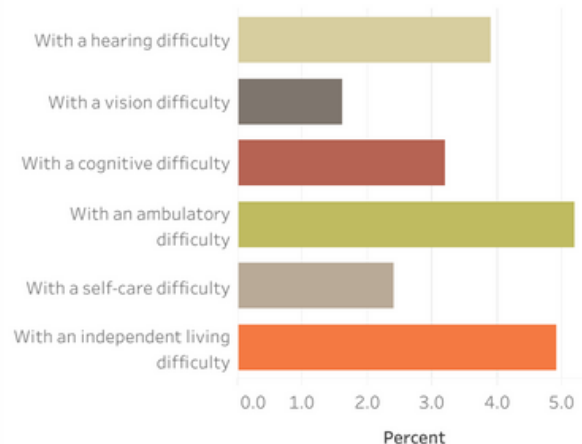
Last Period of Service for Veterans

	Estimate	Percent
Civilian population 18 years and over	12,810	
Total Veteran population	1,014	
Gulf War (9/2001 or later)	80	7.9%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001)	126	12.4%
Vietnam era	426	42.0%
Korean War	127	12.5%
World War II	25	2.5%

Ancestry

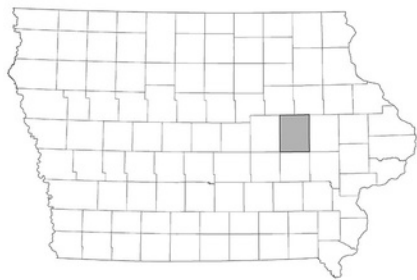


Disability status by type of disability



Created by the State Data Center of Iowa
 Contact information: State Library of Iowa, State Data Center
 Program, <http://www.iowadatacenter.org> 800-248-4483, census@io..

Data for Decision Makers



County Profile Benton County

report created: 10/17/2022

Population profile

Benton County is a metropolitan county in east central Iowa. It is composed of fourteen incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 2010 to 2020, Benton County's population decreased by 1.92% while the state's population increased by 4.73%.

Total Population

City	2000	2010	2020
Garrison	413	371	344
Keystone	687	622	599
Atkins	977	1,670	2,056
Luzerne	105	96	112
Mount Auburn	160	150	162
Newhall	886	875	876
Norway	601	545	466
Belle Plaine	2,878	2,534	2,330
Shellsburg	938	983	961
Blairstown	682	692	713
Urbana	1,019	1,458	1,554
Van Horne	716	682	774
Vinton	5,102	5,257	4,938
Walford*	1,224	1,463	1,366
Male Total	12,652	13,027	NA
Female Total	12,656	13,049	NA
County Total	25,308	26,076	25,575
State Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

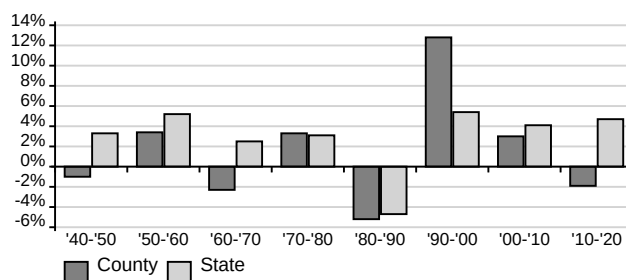
* City is located in multiple counties, total population is provided.

Neighboring Counties - Percent Population Change

County	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Benton, IA	12.84%	3.03%	-1.92%
Black Hawk,	3.40%	2.40%	0.04%
IA	1.19%	-0.64%	-1.88%
Buchanan, IA	7.12%	4.36%	1.88%
Iowa, IA	15.49%	17.91%	16.79%
Johnson, IA	13.59%	10.19%	9.03%
Linn, IA	-1.15%	0.53%	-1.33%
Poweshiek, IA	3.93%	-1.86%	-3.56%
Tama, IA	5.39%	4.10%	4.73%

State of Iowa

Benton County Percent Population Change



Regional Director

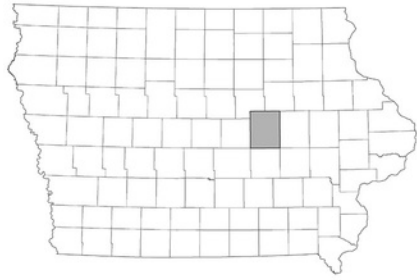
RaeAnn Gordon
383 Collins Road NE, Suite 201501 1st Ave
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
raeannb@iastate.edu
319-377-9839

County Office

Greg Walston
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Vinton, IA 52349
gwalston@iastate.edu
319-472-4739

<http://indicators.extension.iastate.edu>

Data for Decision Makers



County Profile Tama County

report created: 10/17/2022

Population profile

Tama County is a nonmetropolitan county in central Iowa. It is composed of thirteen incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 2010 to 2020, Tama County's population decreased by 3.56% while the state's population increased by 4.73%.

Total Population

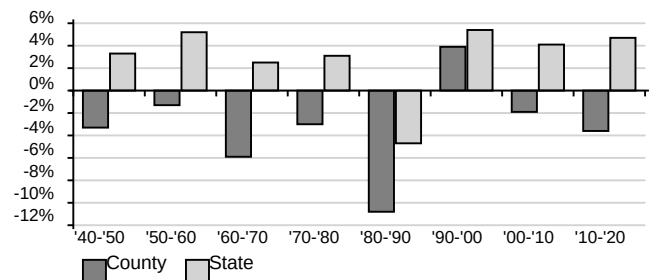
City	2000	2010	2020
Chelsea	287	267	229
Clutier	229	213	213
Dysart	1,303	1,379	1,281
Elberon	245	196	184
Garwin	565	527	481
Gladbrook	1,015	945	799
Le Grand*	883	938	905
Lincoln	182	162	121
Montour	285	249	203
Tama	2,731	2,877	3,130
Toledo	2,539	2,341	2,369
Traer	1,594	1,703	1,583
Vining	70	50	54
Male Total	8,893	8,731	NA
Female Total	9,210	9,036	NA
County Total	18,103	17,767	17,135
State Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

Neighboring Counties - Percent Population Change

County	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Benton, IA	12.84%	3.03%	-1.92%
Black Hawk, IA	3.40%	2.40%	0.04%
Grundy, IA	7.12%	4.36%	1.88%
Iowa, IA	6.95%	-1.00%	2.64%
Jasper, IA	2.70%	3.40%	-1.34%
Marshall, IA	-1.15%	0.53%	-1.33%
Poweshiek, IA	3.93%	-1.86%	-3.56%
Tama, IA	5.39%	4.10%	4.73%

State of Iowa

Tama County Percent Population Change



Regional Director

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County Office

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Demographic Profile

Benton County

As with the other 98 counties in the state, Benton County's population is predominantly white, though between 2010 and 2020 there was a slight decrease in the percent of the population that is white. The percent of the population of Hispanic origin had a slight increase over the same time period. In 2010, Benton County had a higher percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a higher percentage of older people (65+) compared to the state. There is a lower percentage of individuals 25+ with a Bachelor's degree or higher in Benton County compared with the state.

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin^{3,4}

Race Groups	County		State	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
One Race Only	99.1%	96.3%	98.2%	94.4%
White	98.1%	94.9%	91.3%	84.5%
White Alone, Not Hispanic	97.4%	94.1%	88.7%	82.7%
Black or African American	0.4%	0.4%	2.9%	4.1%
Asian	0.3%	0.3%	1.7%	2.4%
American Indian	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Other	0.2%	0.5%	1.8%	2.8%
Two or more races	0.9%	3.7%	1.8%	5.6%
Hispanic origin*	1.1%	1.8%	5%	6.8%

* Hispanics can be of any race.

Households and Families by Type, 2016-2020⁵

Total Households	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Family Households	10,306	+/-218	1,273,941	+/-4,037
Married-couple	70.5%	+/-2.7%	62.9%	+/-0.3%
Female Householdera	58.3%	+/-2.9%	49.6%	+/-0.4%
Male Householdera	7.9%	+/-1.5%	9.1%	+/-0.2%
Nonfamily Households	4.2%	+/-1.1%	4.2%	+/-0.1%
Householder Living Alone	29.5%	+/-2.3%	37.1%	+/-0.3%
a No spouse present	24.2%	+/-2.3%	29.8%	+/-0.3%

Educational Attainment, 2016-2020⁵

Population 25 and older	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
High School Graduate or Higher	17,768	+/-37	2,104,864	+/-892
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	94.7%	+/-1.0%	92.5%	+/-0.1%
	20.4%	+/-1.7%	29.3%	+/-0.3%

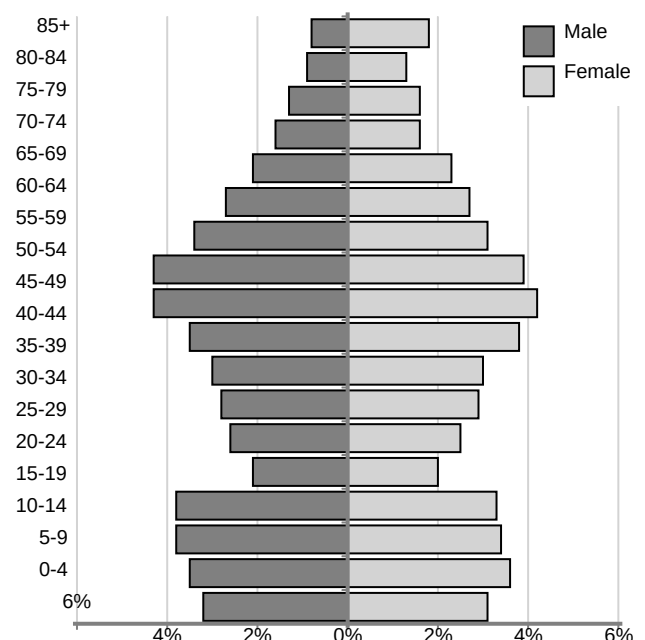
*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates⁵ which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Percentage of Population by Age^{2,3}

Age Groups	County		State	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
17 or younger	27.4%	25.5%	25.1%	23.9%
0 - 4	6.5%	6.3%	6.4%	6.6%
5 - 9	7.9%	7.1%	6.9%	6.6%
10 - 14	8.2%	7.2%	7.2%	6.6%
15 - 17	4.8%	4.9%	4.6%	4.1%
18 - 24	6.8%	6.4%	10.2%	10.0%
25 - 44	29.3%	24.1%	27.6%	24.5%
45 - 64	21.1%	28.6%	22.2%	26.7%
65 or older	15.4%	15.4%	14.9%	14.9%
65 - 84	13%	12.8%	12.7%	12.4%
85 or older	2.4%	2.6%	2.2%	2.5%
Median Age (years)	37.2	40.9	36.6	38.1
Age Dependency* ^b	74.8	69.2	66.7	63.4
Old-Age	26.9	26.1	24.8	24.3
Child	47.9	43.1	41.8	39.1

* Age Dependency Ratio^b

Benton County Population Pyramid, 2010³



Demographic Profile

Tama County

As with the other 98 counties in the state, Tama County's population is predominantly white, though between 2010 and 2020 there was a slight decrease in the percent of the population that is white. The percent of the population of Hispanic origin had a slight increase over the same time period. In 2010, Tama County had a higher percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a higher percentage of older people (65+) compared to the state. There is a lower percentage of individuals 25+ with a Bachelor's degree or higher in Tama County compared with the state.

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin^{3,4}

Race Groups	County		State	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
One Race Only	97.5%	93.8%	98.2%	94.4%
White	86.5%	79.7%	91.3%	84.5%
White Alone, Not Hispanic	83.7%	77.5%	88.7%	82.7%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.8%	2.9%	4.1%
Asian	0.3%	0.5%	1.7%	2.4%
American Indian	7.5%	.3%	0.4%	0.5%
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Other	2.8%	4.5%	1.8%	5.6%
Two or more races	2.5%	.2%	5%	6.8%
Hispanic origin*	7.4%	10.5%		

* Hispanics can be of any race.

Households and Families by Type, 2016-2020⁵

Total Households	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Family Households	6,736	+/-173	1,273,941	+/-4,037
Married-couple	65.2%	+/-2.9%	62.9%	+/-0.3%
Female Householdera	52.1%	+/-2.8%	49.6%	+/-0.4%
Male Householdera	8.6%	+/-1.4%	9.1%	+/-0.2%
Nonfamily Households	4.6%	+/-1.2%	4.2%	+/-0.1%
Householder Living Alone	34.8%	+/-2.9%	37.1%	+/-0.3%
a No spouse present	29.8%	+/-3.0%	29.8%	+/-0.3%

Educational Attainment, 2016-2020⁵

Population 25 and older	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
High School Graduate or Higher	11,485	+/-64	2,104,864	+/-892
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	91.3%	+/-1.3%	92.5%	+/-0.1%
	15.6%	+/-1.5%	29.3%	+/-0.3%

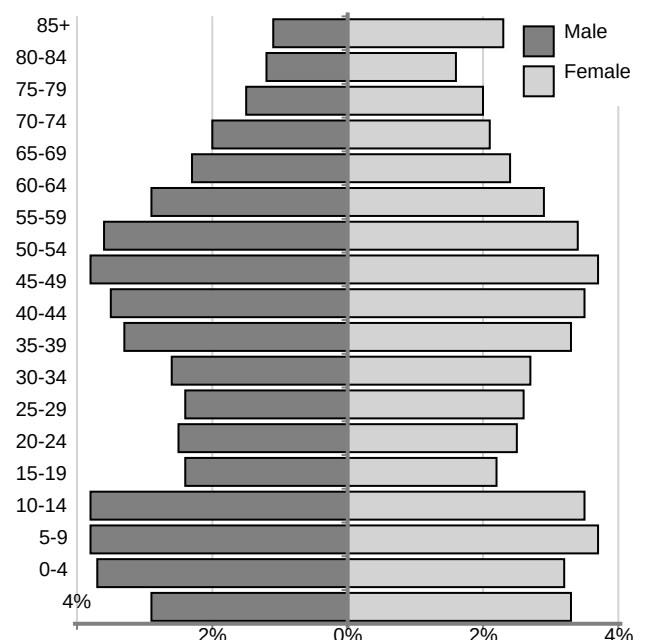
*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates⁵ which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Percentage of Population by Age^{2,3}

Age Groups	County		State	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
17 or younger	26.6%	25.6%	25.1%	23.9%
0 - 4	6.9%	6.3%	6.4%	6.6%
5 - 9	7.2%	6.8%	6.9%	6.6%
10 - 14	7.4%	7.5%	7.2%	6.6%
15 - 17	5.1%	5.0%	4.6%	4.1%
18 - 24	7.0%	6.8%	10.2%	10.0%
25 - 44	25.2%	21.9%	27.6%	24.5%
45 - 64	22.5%	27.3%	22.2%	26.7%
65 or older	18.7%	18.4%	14.9%	14.9%
65 - 84	15.6%	15.1%	12.7%	12.4%
85 or older	3.1%	3.3%	2.2%	2.5%
Median Age (years)	39.1	41.8	36.6	38.1
Age Dependency* ^b	82.8	78.6	66.7	63.4
Old-Age	34.2	32.9	24.8	24.3
Child	48.6	45.7	41.8	39.1

Age Dependency Ratio^b

Tama County Population Pyramid, 2010³



Socioeconomic Profile

Benton County

The median household income in Benton County is greater than the median household income of the state. Both Benton County and the state have more households in the \$50,000 to \$99,999 household income group. The median value of owner-occupied housing can be quite different from county to county. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is higher in Benton County than for the state. There is a lower percentage of vacant housing units in Benton County than there is for the state. Many housing units in Benton County were built prior to 1940.

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2016-2020

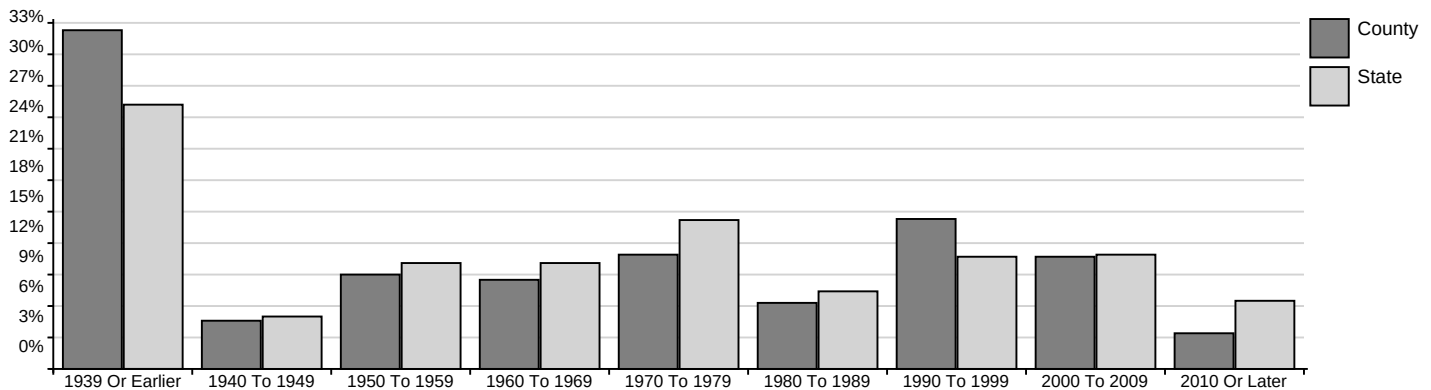
	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households				
Less than \$14,999	10,306	+/- 218	1,273,941	+/- 4,037
\$15,000 To \$34,999	8.7%	+/- 1.6%	9.1%	+/- 0.4%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	16.1%	+/- 1.7%	17.9%	+/- 0.6%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	11.7%	+/- 1.4%	13.1%	+/- 0.2%
\$100,000 Or More	35.4%	+/- 1.9%	33.4%	+/- 0.7%
Median Household Income	28.0%	+/- 2.0%	26.5%	+/- 0.6%
Median Family Income	\$66,046	+/- \$3,853	\$61,836	+/- \$294
Per Capita Income	\$80,425	+/- \$4,460	\$79,186	+/- \$535
	\$32,221	+/- \$1,094	\$33,021	+/- \$225

Housing Characteristics, 2016-2020

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units				
Vacant	11,187	+/- 741	407,819	+/- 743
Occupied	7.9%	+/- 1.9%	9.5%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied a	92.1%	+/- 1.9%	90.5%	+/- 0.3%
Owner	10,306	+/- 218	1,273,941	+/- 4,037
Renter	81.8%	+/- 2.3%	71.2%	+/- 0.2%
Median Rent b	18.2%	+/- 2.3%	28.8%	+/- 0.2%
Median Value c	\$695	+/- \$63	\$806	+/- \$6
	\$158,700	+/- \$6,751	\$153,900	+/- \$867

^aOccupied Units, ^bMedian gross rent of renter-occupied units ^cMedian value of owner-occupied units

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2016-2020



In Benton County there is a higher percentage of workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations than any other occupation category while the production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 18.3% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the county.

5

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2016-2020

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	13,472	+/- 347	1,611,524	+/- 4,809
Management, business, science, and arts	30.3%	+/- 2.1%	37.2%	+/- 0.3%
Service	14.1%	+/- 2.0%	15.9%	+/- 0.2%
Sales and office	22.0%	+/- 1.8%	20.4%	+/- 0.2%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	15.2%	+/- 1.6%	9.6%	+/- 0.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving	18.3%	+/- 1.8%	17.0%	+/- 0.2%

Tama County has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than the state. A portion of those who are not in the labor force are people who are retired. The percent unemployed in Tama County is higher than that for the state overall.

Earnings data are provided for the population 16 and over who have earnings. Median earnings in Tama County tend to be lower than the median earnings for the state. There is a higher percentage of families in Tama County below poverty level than for the state. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

5 5

Employment Status, 2016-2020

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	13,322+/-	83	2,504,540	+/- 1,329
in labor force	64.5%+/-	1.8%	67.1%	+/- 0.2%
not in labor force	35.5%+/-	1.8%	32.9%	+/- 0.2%
Civilian labor force	8,591+/-	238	1,677,262	+/- 4,488
Unemployed	4.0%+/-	1.0%	3.9%	+/- 0.1%

Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race, 2016-2020⁵

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	16,490	+/-181	3,051,284	+/-1,014
Percent Below	12.6%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
White Alone	12.3%	+/-2.1%	9.8%	+/-0.2%
Black/African American Alone	**%	+/-**%	30.8%	+/-2.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander Alone	**%	+/-**%	14.3%	+/-1.5%
Hawaiian Alone	17.4%	+/-6.3%	22.7%	+/-4.0%
Other Race Alone	**%	+/-**%	18.7%	+/-2.3%
Two or more races	**%	+/-**%	20.3%	+/-1.7%
Hispanic origin ⁺	**%	+/-**%	19.3%	+/-1.2%

^afor whom poverty status is determined, + Hispanics can be of any race. **MOE is high, use state estimate.

*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates⁵ which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Median Employment Earnings, 2016-2020

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ a	8,992	+/- 256	1,785,065	+/- 4,527
Median Earnings	\$32,444	+/- \$1,569	\$35,457	+/- \$202
Female	\$26,749	+/- \$1,273	\$29,387	+/- \$372
Male	\$41,745	+/- \$1,533	\$42,313	+/- \$228
Female, full time ^b	\$36,250	+/- \$2,573	\$41,357	+/- \$216
Male, full time ^b	\$48,548	+/- \$2,142	\$52,790	+/- \$279

^awith earnings, ^byear round

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2016-2020⁵

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	16,490	+/-181	3,051,284	+/-1,014
Below poverty	12.6%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
17 and under	20.0%	+/-4.6%	13.3%	+/-0.4%
18 - 64	11.0%	+/-1.8%	11.4%	+/-0.2%
65+	7.8%	+/-2.2%	7.0%	+/-0.2%
All Families	8.3%	+/-1.7%	7.1%	+/-0.2%
with children	16.8%	+/-4.0%	11.7%	+/-0.4%
Married Couple	3.0%	+/-1.1%	3.2%	+/-0.1%
with children	5.7%	+/-2.8%	4.3%	+/-0.3%
Female HH ^b	39.0%+/-9.4%	26.6%+/-0.9%	51.3%+/-10.5%	33.6%+/-1.2%

^afor whom poverty status is determined, ^bfemale householder, no spouse present, **MOE is high, use state estimate.

This series was prepared by:

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Information in this document was derived from:

¹U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Census 1990, Summary File 1
²U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Census 2000, Summary File 1
³U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Census 2010, Summary File 1
⁴U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Census 2020, State Redistricting Data Summary File
⁵U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2016-2020

For more information on these and other topics, please call the a Median is the middle value of a distribution.

Extension and Outreach specialists listed on the cover page b The age dependency ratio compares, by age, those typically not in the labor force with those or visit the ISU Extension and Outreach Indicators Portal at who typically are in the labor force. Old Age dependency is persons 65+ per 100 persons age indicators.extension.iastate.edu18-64. Child dependency is persons under age 18 per 100 persons age 18-64. The total age dependency ratio is persons under age 18 plus persons 65 or older per 100 persons age 18-64.

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2022 CHILD CARE SURVEY

Better Tomorrows
Early Childhood
Iowa Serving
Benton & Tama
counties

Results from:
245 Respondents from
15 communities in
Benton & Tama counties

IMPACT OF CHILD CARE SHORTAGE

1

24% SAY...

The availability of child care influenced their decision on where to live.

2

25% SAY...

They or their spouse/partner quit a job, didn't take a job or promotion, or greatly changed their job because of issues with child care.

3

38% SAY...

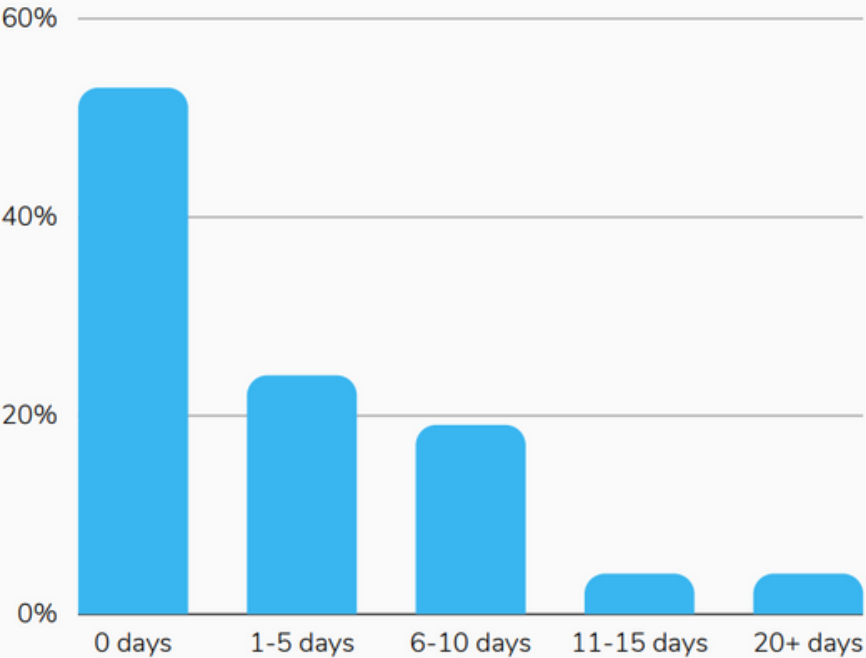
Child care challenges are limiting their or their spouse's/partner's employment. (Ex. working part-time when full-time preferred or not working within preferred field.)

4

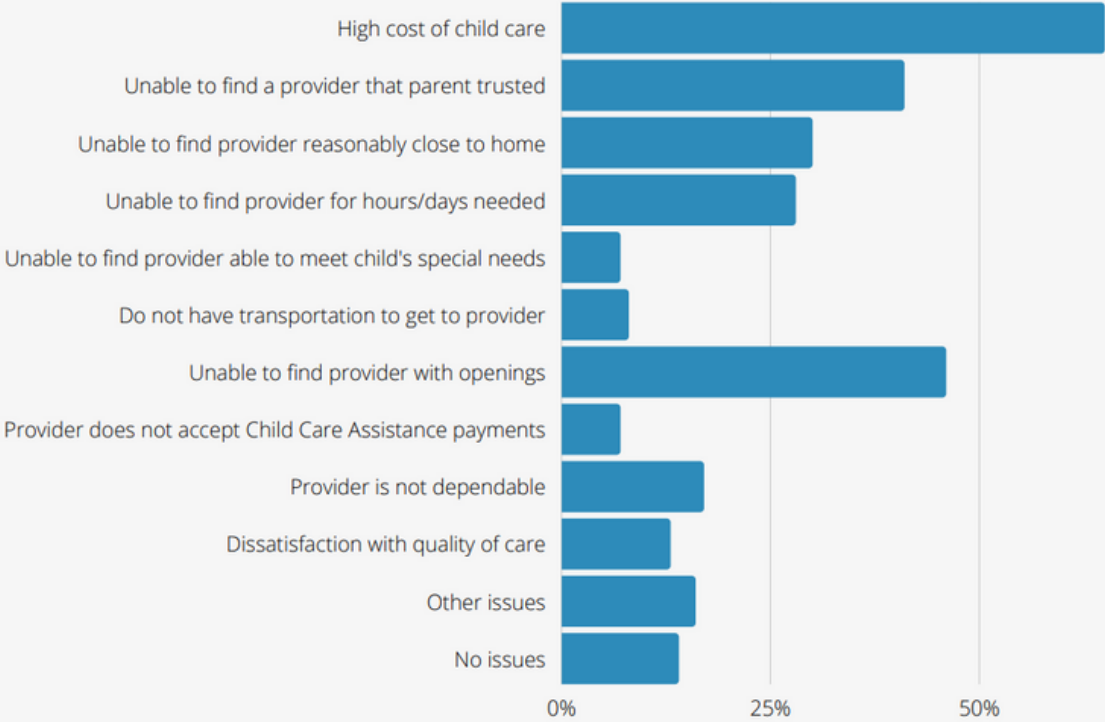
23% SAY...

As of today, child care challenges are keeping them or their spouse/partner from working.

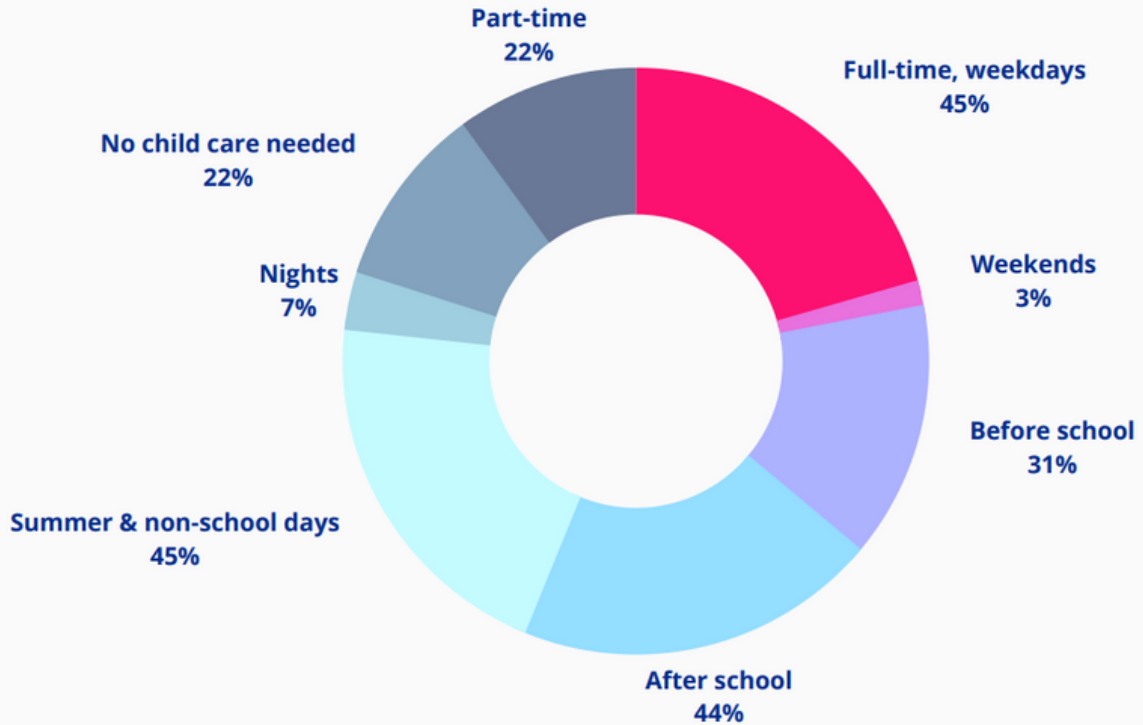
IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, REPORTED FREQUENCY OF MISSING WORK DUE TO CHILD CARE



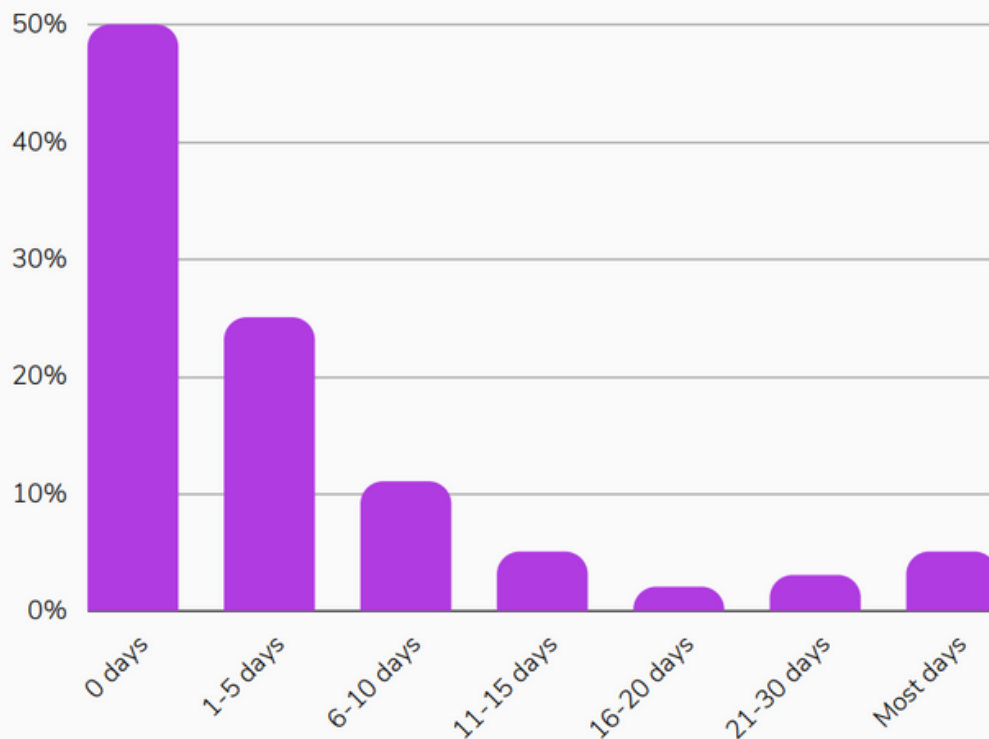
Child care challenges experienced by families in the last 12 months

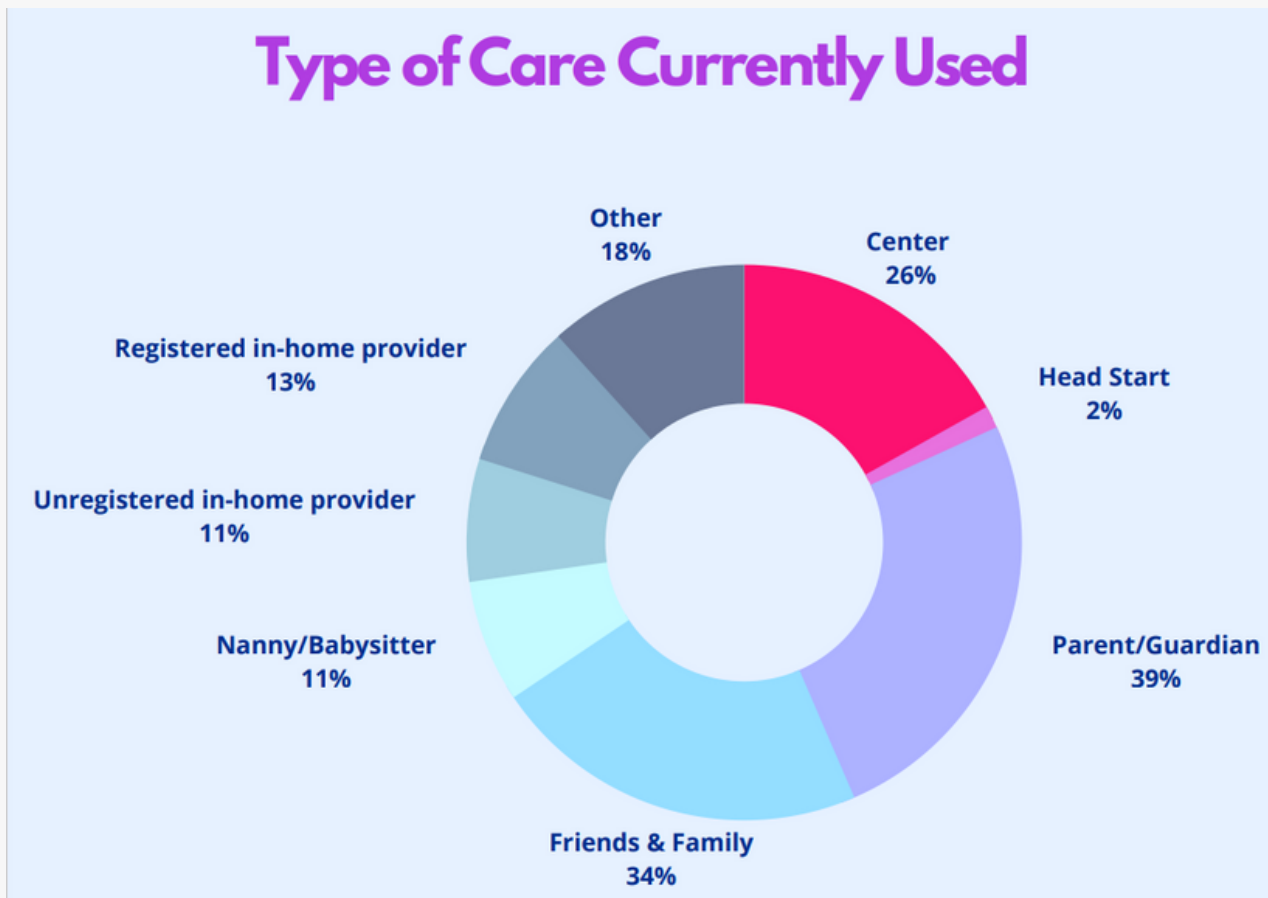
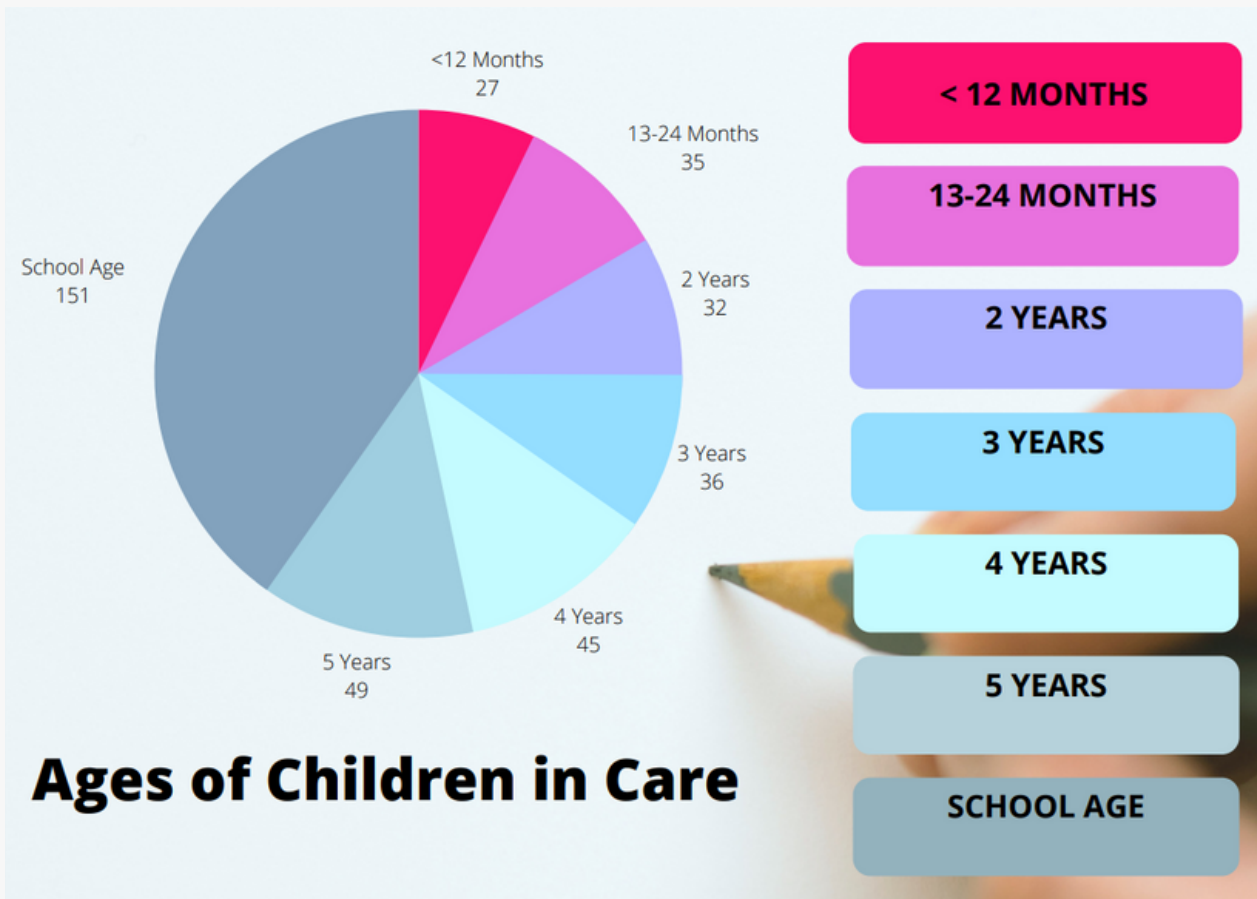


Type of Care Needed



IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, REPORTED FREQUENCY OF ARRIVING LATE TO WORK OR LEAVING EARLY DUE TO CHILD CARE





2022 ECI Family Survey: Local Area Report

A Statewide ECI Family Survey was collected between November of 2021 and March of 2022 using the similar questions as the 2019 Family Survey ([Early Childhood Iowa, 2019](#)). The full results from this survey, including comparisons between 2019 and 2022 results, were presented to the ECI Stakeholder's Alliance on May 10, 2022. The following report was generated in July of 2022 by the I2D2 analytic team to reflect a subset of analysis for families from the **Tama and Benton counties**. The full sample size for this area was 156 families.

Table 1. County frequency, percent, and total sample size.

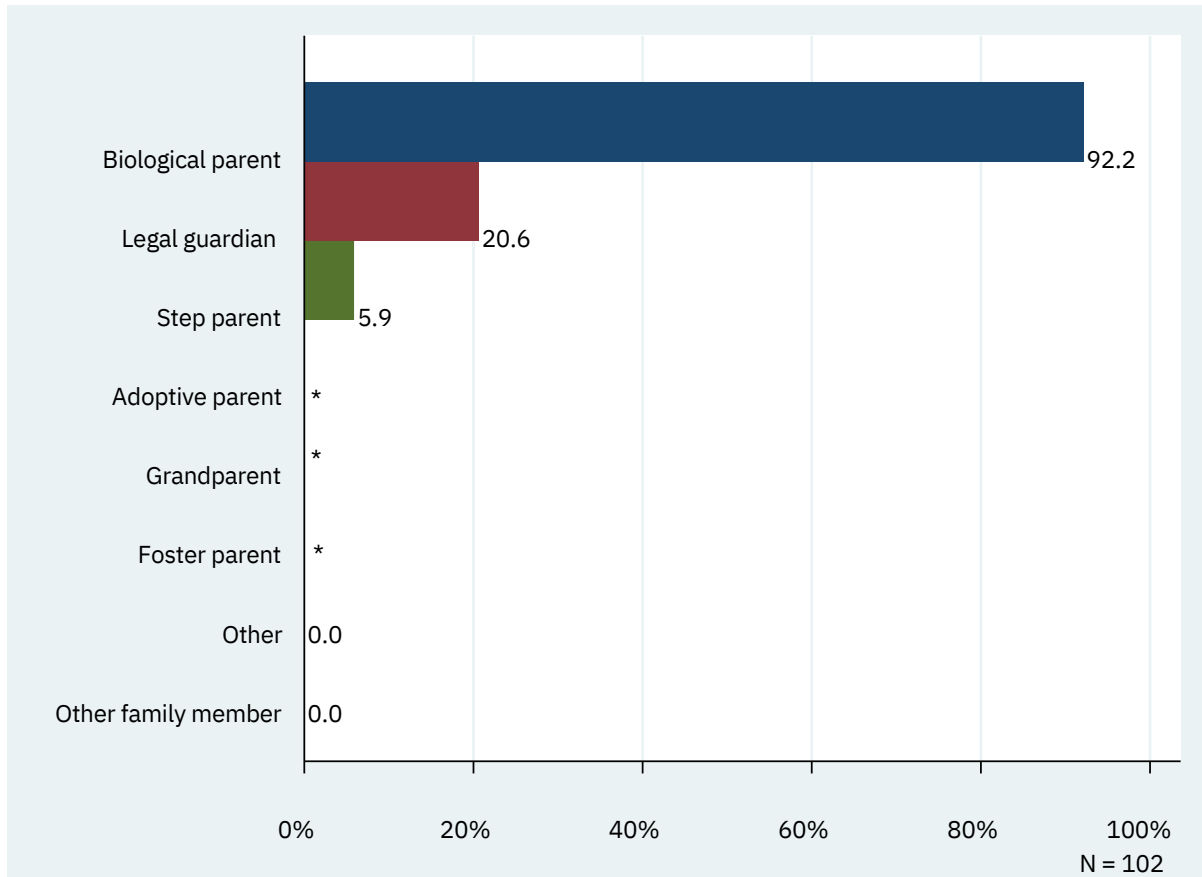
	Number of Respondents	Percent
Benton	133	85.3
Tama	23	14.7
	Total sample size =156	

Table 2. Survey demographic descriptives

Characteristic	Percent or mean (SD)
Race	
Black	0%
Asian	*
Latino/Hispanic	*
Multiracial	*
White	95.3%
Other	0%
Gender	
Female	90.1%
Male	9.9%
Other	0%
Age of respondent	
17 or younger	0%
18-24	3.9%
25-34	42.8%
35-44	32.2%
45-54	38.0%
55+	10.5%
Relationship status	
Married and living with partner	75.0%
Married but separated from my partner	*
Single	*
Not married, but living with partner	13.5%
Education	
Less than high school	*
High school or GED	14.4%
Certification in a specialized area	17.3%
Some college	*
Technical, associate, or bachelor	61.5%
Income	
Less than \$9,999	*
\$10,000-\$19,999	*
\$20,000-\$29,999	8.8%
\$30,000-\$49,999	20.6%
\$50,000+	63.7%
Household composition	
Number of children	2.3 (1.2)
Age younger child	3.8 (3.9)
Age older child	8.1 (4.7)
Language spoken at home	
English only	94.7%
Other	5.3%
All children share same biological mother and father	
Yes	81.5%
No	18.5%
Unsure	0%
Job status	
Work full-time	76.9%
Work part-time	7.7%
Stay at home-parent	13.5%
Other	1.9%

* Indicates percent is masked due to low number of participants

Figure 1. What is your relationship to the children in your home?



* Indicates percent is masked due to low number of participants

Figure 2. When your family experiences a crisis, where do you turn for help?

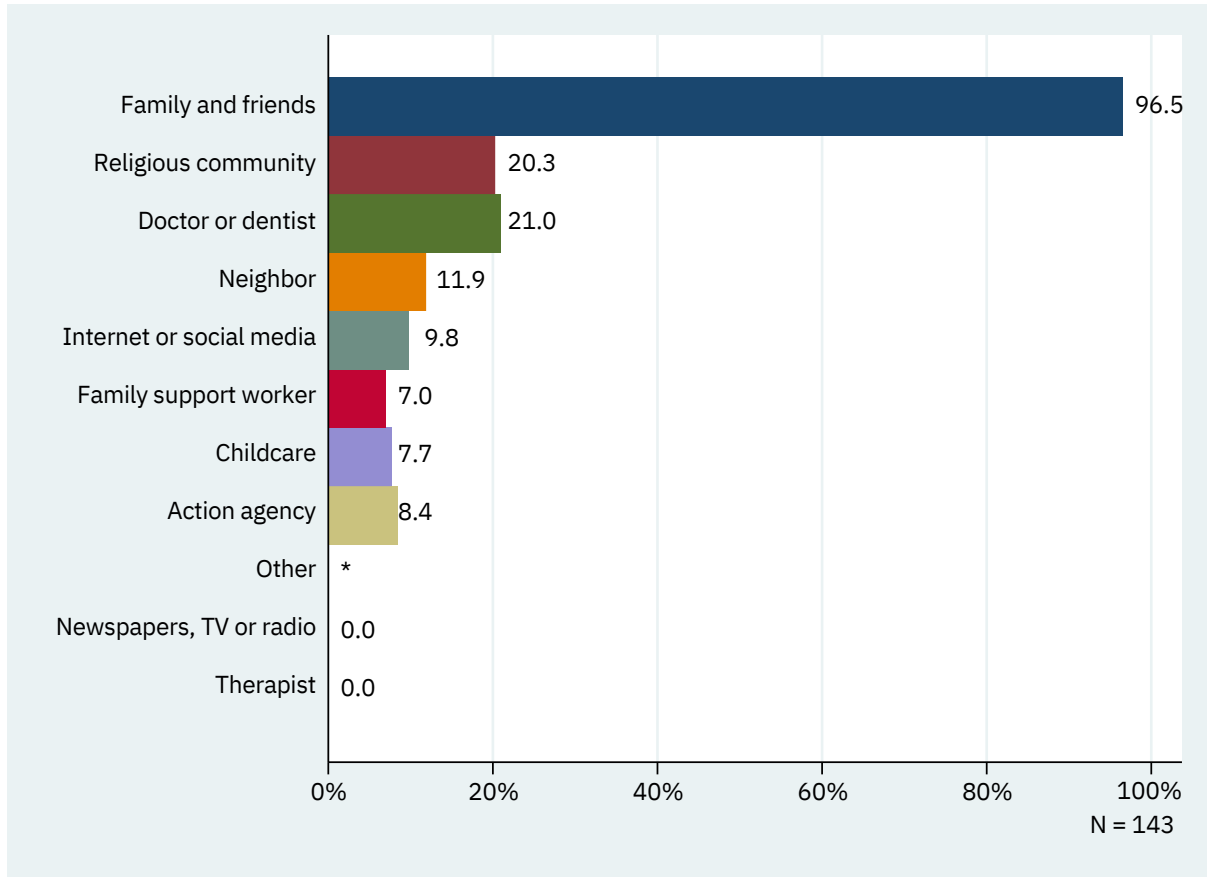


Figure 3. Have you or your family ever used the following services?

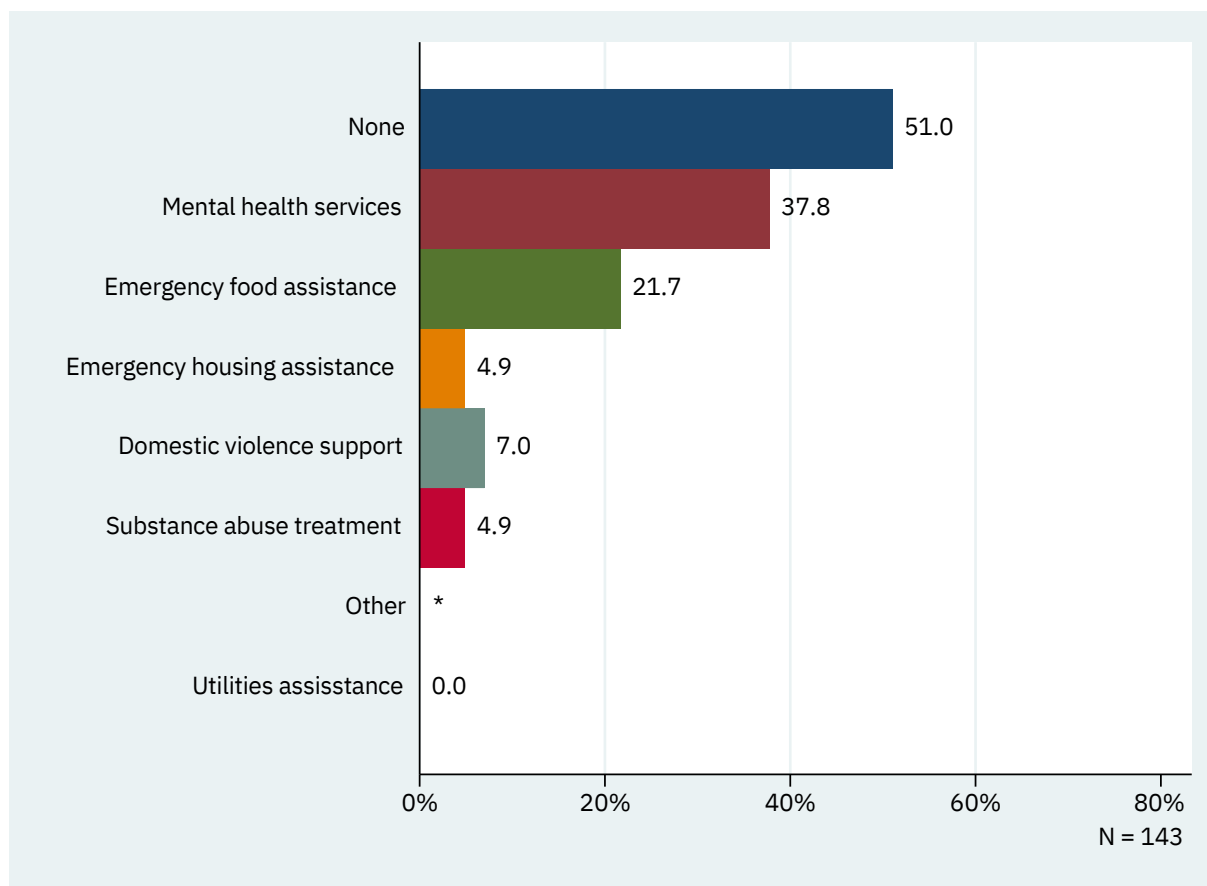


Figure 4. Number of services used

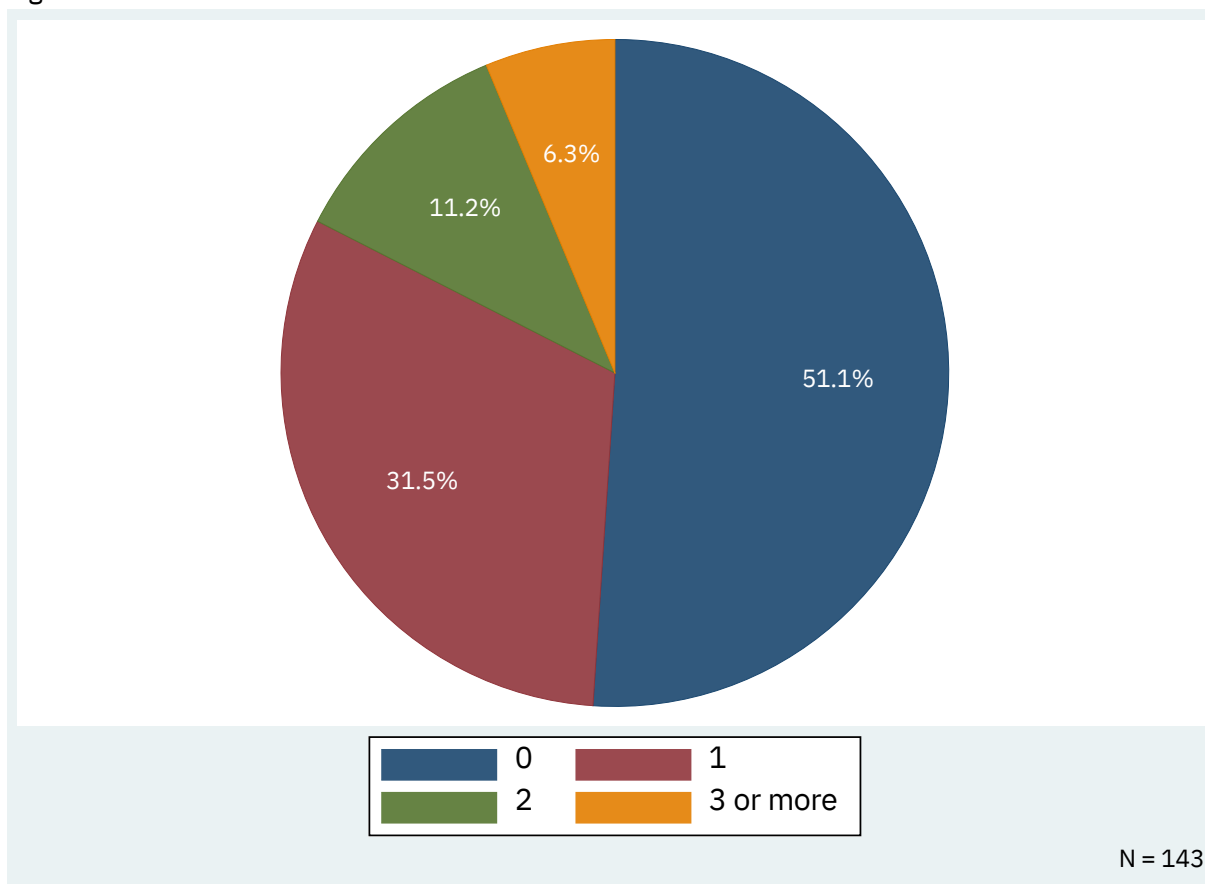


Figure 5. For each of the following family services and programs, indicate which option best describes your experience

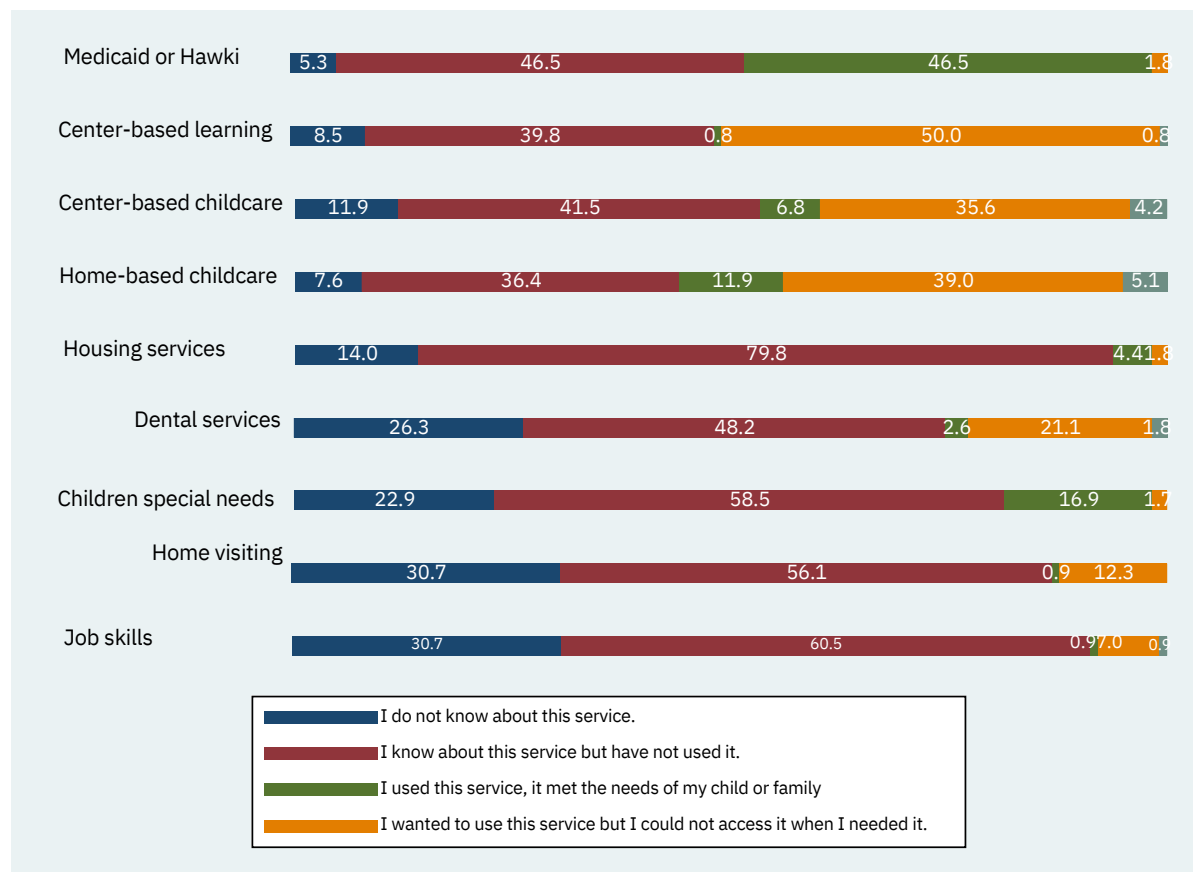


Figure 6. When selecting childcare, which of the following factors are the most important in making that selection?

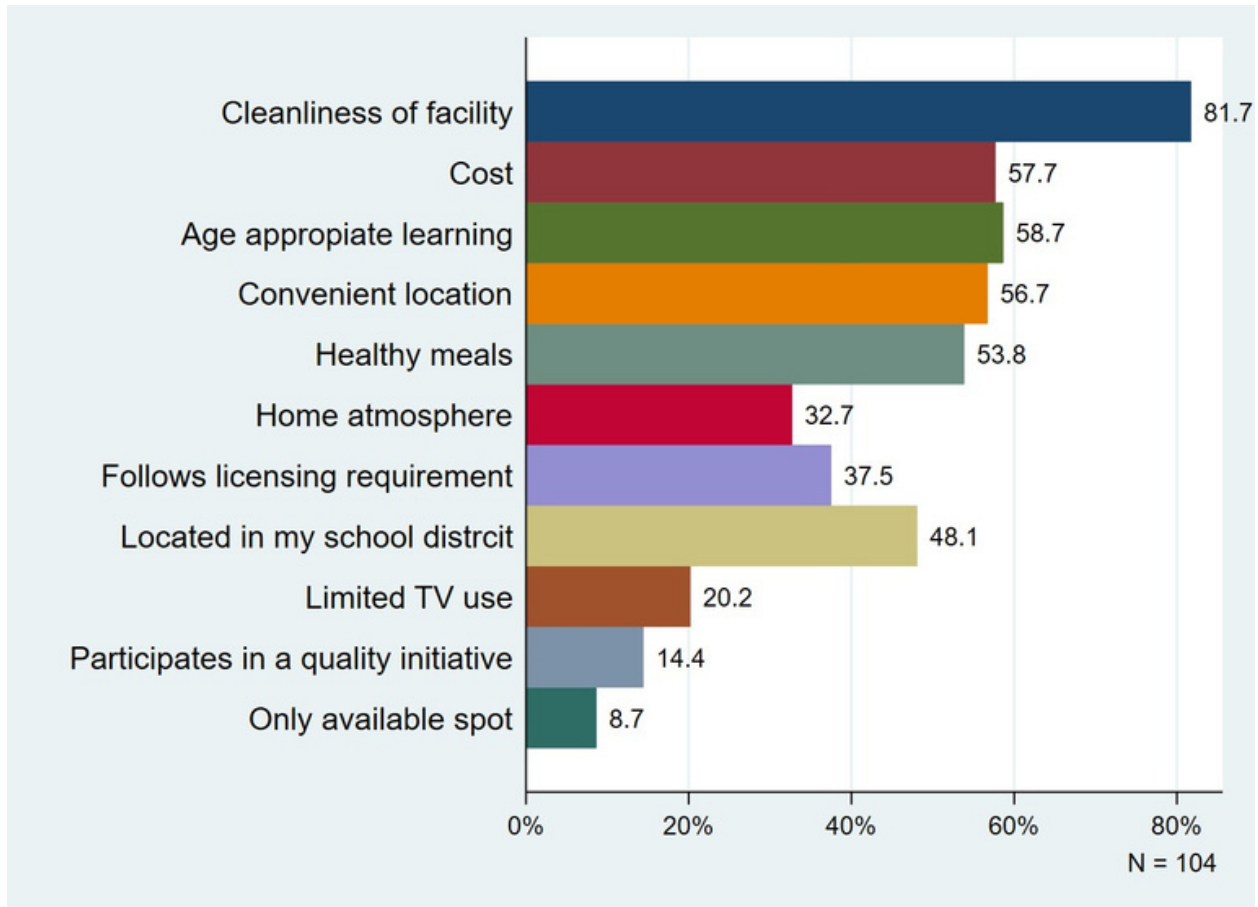


Figure 7. What has made it difficult for you to use services designed for families like yours?

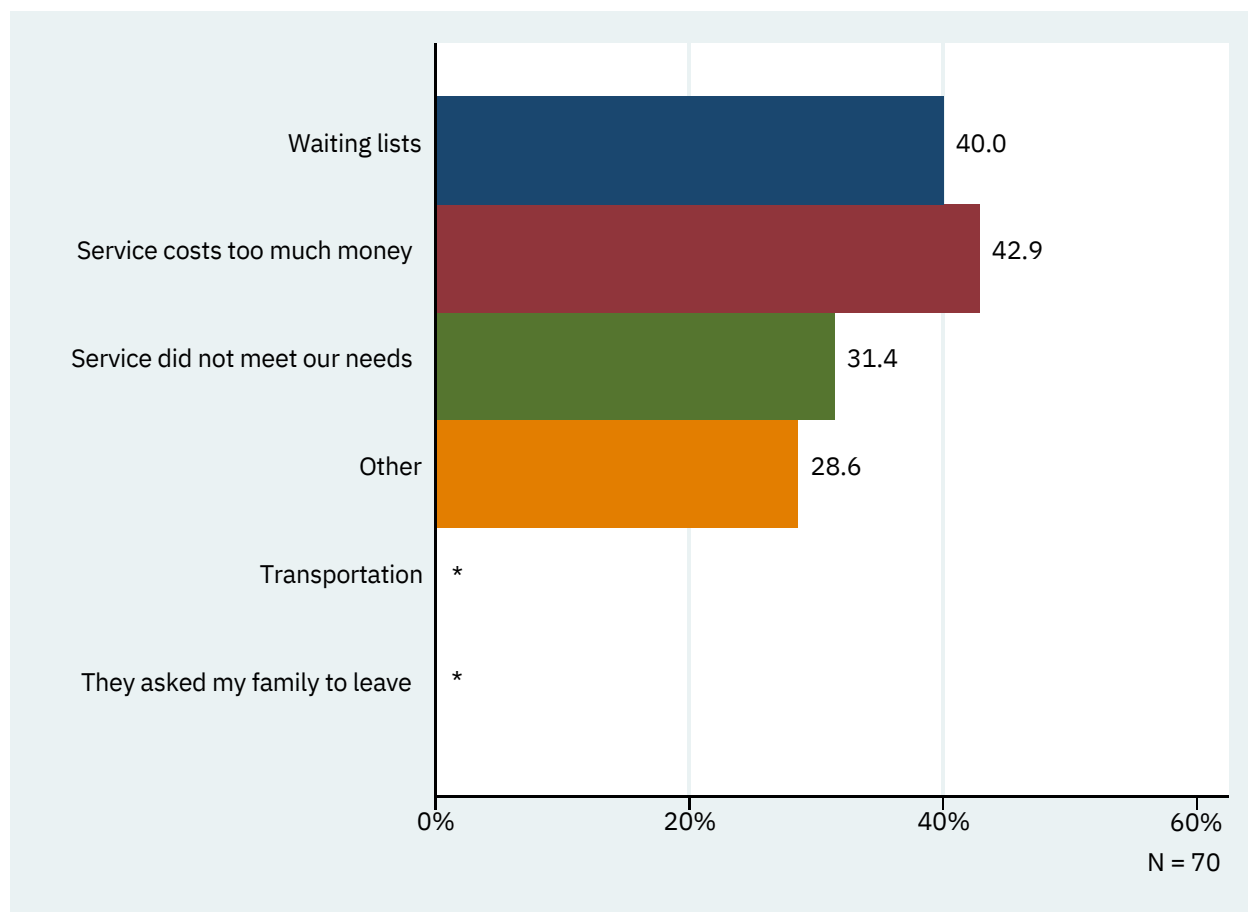


Figure 8. Number of difficulties reported

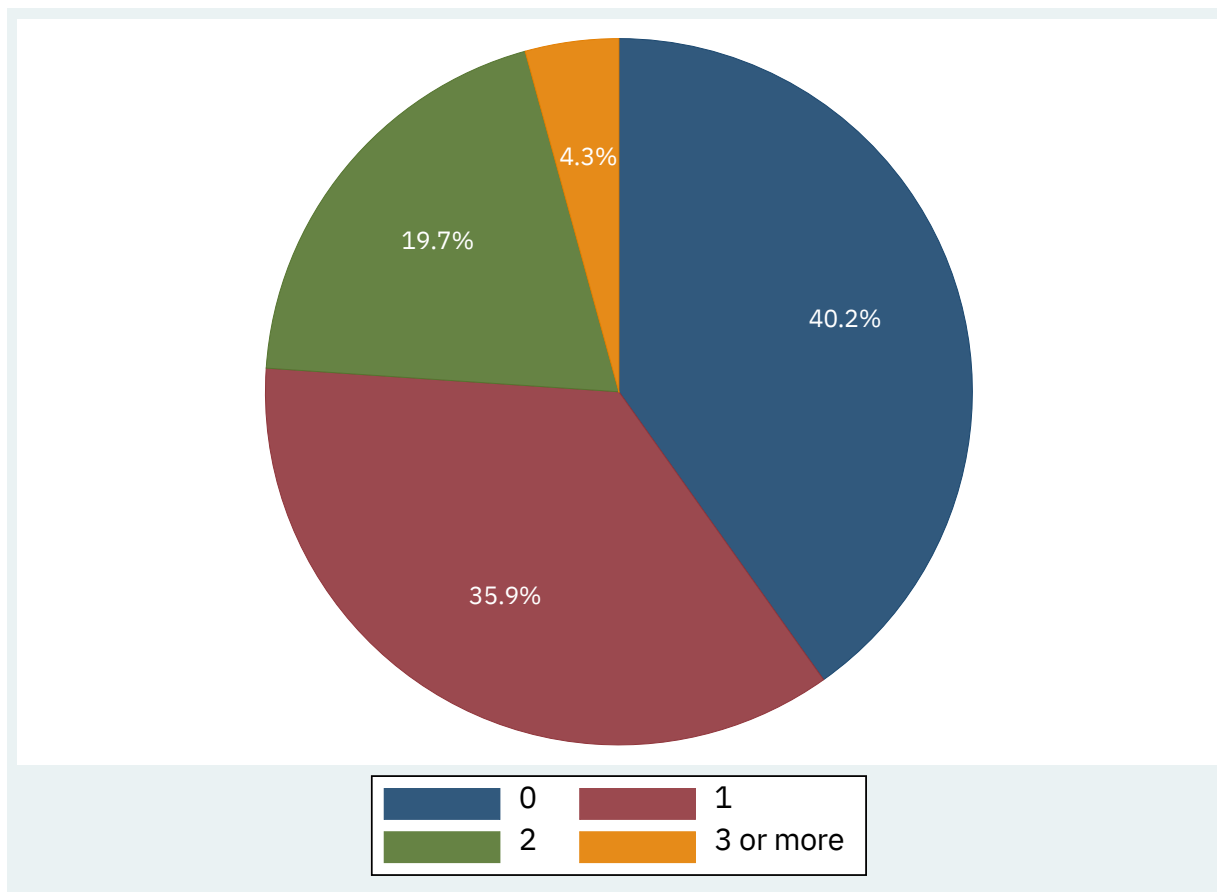


Figure 9. Rate how adequate you feel the services are in your area

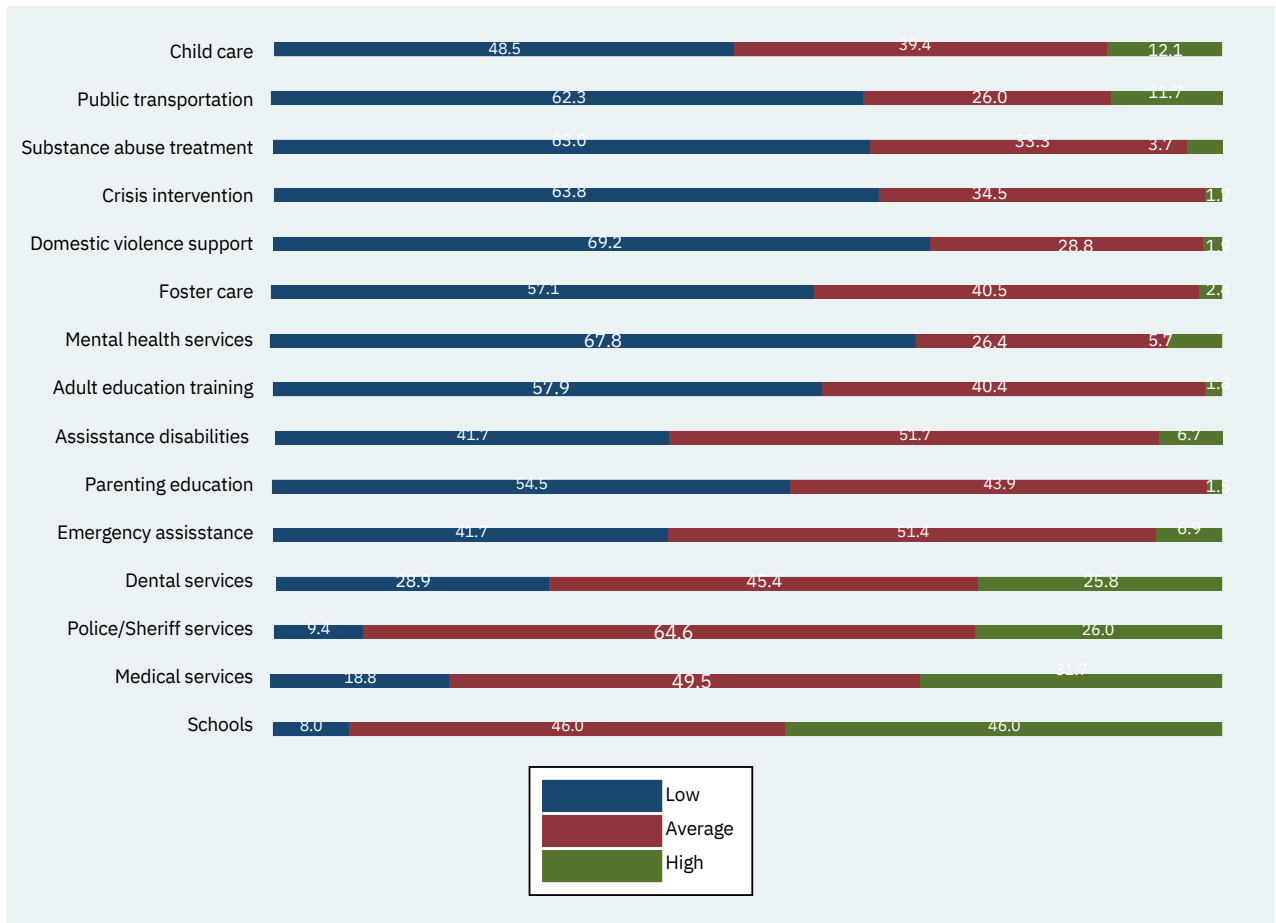


Figure 10. Rate how adequate you feel the services are in your area.

Percent of families reporting **low** adequacy:

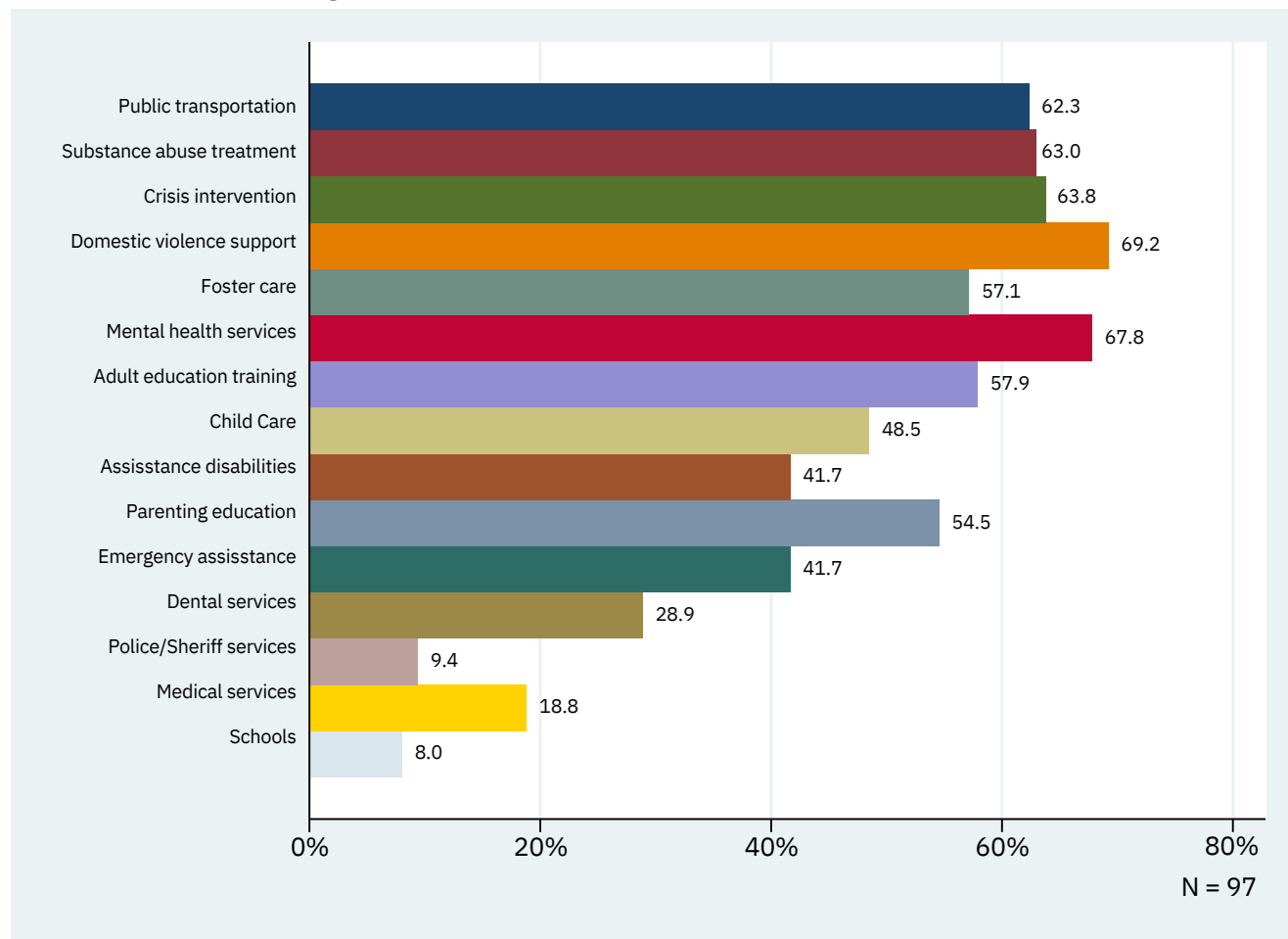


Figure 11. What do you think are the most important areas of support needed for your family's well-being and success?

