Mapping Vulnerability in Iowa's Early Childhood Systems

Report Prepared for Early Childhood Iowa

February 2020

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i2d2
Iowa's Integrated Data System for Decision-Making

This publication was made possible by the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (Grant Number 90TP0030-01-00) from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a grant totaling $2,190,119 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the help and support of the following individuals, organizations, and departments:

Data Collection and Analysis Partners - Iowa State University:

Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development. Gary Taylor (Director); Sandra Burke (demographer), Bailey Hanson (GIS Specialist), Rakesh Shaw (IT Specialist), and Christopher J. Seeger (Professor; Extension Specialist).

Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Heather Rouse, Cassandra Dorius, Christine Lippard, Carla Peterson, Ji Young Choi (Faculty); Rachael Voas (Program Manager); Quentin Riser, Maya Bartel, Jessica Bruning, Allison Gress, (Graduate Research Assistants); and Emma Kelley (Undergraduate Research Assistant).

ECI Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Core Team:

Shanell Wagler & Amanda Winslow (Iowa Department of Management; DoM); Kelly Davydov (Iowa Department of Human Rights; DHR); Tom Rendon & Mary Breyfogle (Iowa Department of Education; DE); Ryan Page (Iowa Department of Human Services; DHS); Rick Roghair (Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; IAAEYC); James Olson (Iowa Department of Public Health; IDPH); Cassandra Dorius & Heather Rouse (Iowa State University; ISU).

ECI State Board:

David Arens (Wells Fargo); Ryan Wise & Kimberly Villotti (DE); James Christensen (Single Source Architects and Master Builders); Gerd Clabaugh (Director, IDPH; Interim Director, DHS) & Marcus Johnson-Miller (IDPH); Richard Clewell (Citizen); Kathryn Dorsey (University of Iowa); Debi Durham & Chad Driscoll (Economic Development Authority); Terry Harrmann (Registered Iowa Lobbyist); Sigrid Joanne Lane (educator and community volunteer); Angela Lensch (New Opportunities); Barb Merrill (T.E.A.C.H. National Early Childhood Program Manager and former Iowa AEYC Executive Director); Mary Petersen; Brook Rosenberg (Ahrold Fay Rosenberg, Inc./Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services); Jean Stadtlander (Manning Insurance & Real Estate); Beth Townsend & Kristi Judkins (Iowa Workforce Development); Frank Varvaris (Frank A Varvaris & Associates); Kelly Davydov & San Wong (DHR); Diane Campbell (Mississippi Bend AEA); Zach Stier (Ericson Public Library); Mayra Martinez (University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics). Michael Bergan & Mary Mascher (Iowa House); Chris Cournoyer & Claire Celsi (Iowa Senate).

ECI Component Groups:

ECI Stakeholder Alliance, Steering Committee, Professional Development, Quality Services and Programs, Public Engagement, Resource and Funding, Governance, and Results Accountability.

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Introduction

Through Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), every community in the state is provided resources and tools to help them develop capacity and commitment to meet ECI's vision that "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful." Among these tools are data indicators and data dictionaries to support local area boards in their data informed decision making and to monitor progress across five legislatively mandated result areas:

- Healthy children,
- Children ready to succeed in school,
- Safe and supportive communities,
- Secure and nurturing families, and
- Secure and nurturing early learning environments.

In June, 2019, the ECI State Board approved an updated *Indicator and Data Dictionary Tool*[1] that includes detailed information on the type, quality, availability, and frequency of assessment for community-wide measures used in official ECI reports. These indicators, as well as additional items used in the prior year's *ECI's Annual Report*, are detailed in Table 1. Taken together, these indicators provide a useful overview of the multiple dimensions of child wellbeing that may impact quality of life for Iowa's young children and their families.

Table 2 provides an overview of additional publically available measures that could be used by ECI or its local area boards in the future to monitor progress on the five result areas. The majority of the recommended indicators came from the *2010 Title V MIECHV Home Visiting Assessment* produced by the Iowa Department of Public Health and the *2019 National Center for Children in Poverty Report: Iowa Demographics of Young, Poor Children*. Each indicator listed in Tables 1 and 2 has been collected at the county level to afford a more nuanced view of the experiences of vulnerable and underserved children throughout Iowa's 99 counties.

Maps of approved and recommended indicators are provided in Figures 1-34 below. All maps created for this report were produced using ESRI's ArcGIS Pro software. Each map shows the value or percent of each indicator for each county in Iowa. A solid black line represents the boundary for each ECI region. When data was not available or suppressed by the data provider, it is indicated in the map legend and in the map as a light gray color. The maps all use Cynthia Brewer's 5-class Green-Blue color scheme provided in the ColorBrewer software.[2] This color scheme is ideal for sequential data, is printer friendly, and colorblind safe. Lighter colors represent data classes with smaller values or percent and darker colors represent classes with larger values or percent. Data classifications are not consistent between maps and a thorough review of the accompanying legend should take place before attempting to conduct visual analysis between map products. A complete description of the methodology used to collect and create the data underlying these maps can be found in the Appendix.

The identification and collection of these indicators and the creation of the related maps was completed as part of the *Preschool Development Grant* for the use and consideration by ECI's State Board, Stakeholders Alliance, Component Groups, and Local Area Board members.

[1] See https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/08/tool_kb_-_6-14-19.pdf
[2] See http://colorbrewer2.org; Pennsylvania State University

TABLE 1. ECI APPROVED STATEWIDE INDICATORS

RESULT AREA	ECI COMMUNITY-WIDE INDICATORS
Healthy children	• Low birth weight • Percent of Immunized children • Dental services: percent of children eligible and receiving Medicaid dental services or oral health services • *Identified for future consideration*: childhood obesity
Children ready to succeed in school	• Percent of students entering kindergarten who have no obvious dental problems[1] • Percent of kindergarten students proficient by kindergarten literacy assessment • Educational attainment of mothers
Safe and supportive communities	• Serious crime per 100,000 population • Juvenile arrests per 1000,000 population • Child deaths due to unintentional injuries • Unemployment rate • Percent of children under age 6 living in poverty
Secure and nurturing families	• Incidence of child abuse, per 1,000 children • Teen births • Domestic violence rate • Percent of accredited family support programs in Iowa[1]
Secure and nurturing early learning environments	• Quality early learning environments • Availability of childcare • Percent of children under age six with all parents in the workforce

Note: [1] Indicators are not approved in ECI's recent *Indicator and Data Dictionary Tool* (June, 2019), but were utilized in ECI's *Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018.*

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TABLE 2. STATEWIDE INDICATORS FOR ECI CONSIDERATION

RESULT AREA	COMMUNITY-WIDE INDICATORS
Healthy children	• Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (mapped) • Number and percent of premature births • Number and percent of minor children with health coverage, by all income and poverty levels (mapped)
Children ready to succeed in school	• Percent parent high school dropout rate (mapped) • 4th grade reading number and percent proficient/not proficient (mapped) • Percent of students entering kindergarten who have valid screening certificates, require dental care, or require urgent care • Percent of children receiving oral health services by non-dentist • School enrollment, overall and by race/ethnicity • Number and percent of English language learning students • Number and percent of students receiving free lunch and/or reduced lunch
Safe and supportive communities	• Percent of all people in poverty; children under 6 living in poverty by education, race, marital status, and parental employment (mapped) • Number and percent of minor children with no householder present • Binge alcohol prevalence • Number of domestic abuse victims and female domestic abuse victims, number and percent of juvenile domestic abuse victims • Percent and number of children under 6 with no parents in the workforce

TABLE 2, CONTINUED. STATEWIDE INDICATORS FOR ECI CONSIDERATION

RESULT AREA	COMMUNITY-WIDE INDICATORS
Secure and nurturing families	• Home ownership: number and percent of children under 6 living in owner and renter housing units (mapped) • Percent of children under 6 who are native or foreign born (mapped) • Immigrant families - Percent of children under 6 living with (a) two biological parents: both native, both foreign born, one native one foreign born or (b) one parent: native or foreign born • Number and percent of out-of-wedlock births • Percent of families with own/related children in family types: married, male householder with no wife, female householder with no husband, and other
Secure and nurturing early learning environments	• Percent of children under age six with no parents in the workforce (mapped) • Percent of children under 6 with residential move in the last year (mapped) • Number and percent of families with supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months: overall, by married couple, male householder, and female householder families • Family Investment Program average monthly cases, monthly recipients, payment per recipient, and total annual dollars
Demographic	• Population of Children under 6 (mapped) • Population of Children under 5 (mapped) • Percent Minority Population of Children under 5 (mapped) • Percent White non-Hispanic Population of Children under 5 (mapped)

Maps of ECI Approved Statewide Indicators - by ECI Region

Figure 1. Percent Low Birth Weight for Full Term Births, 2017

State Average: 1.8%

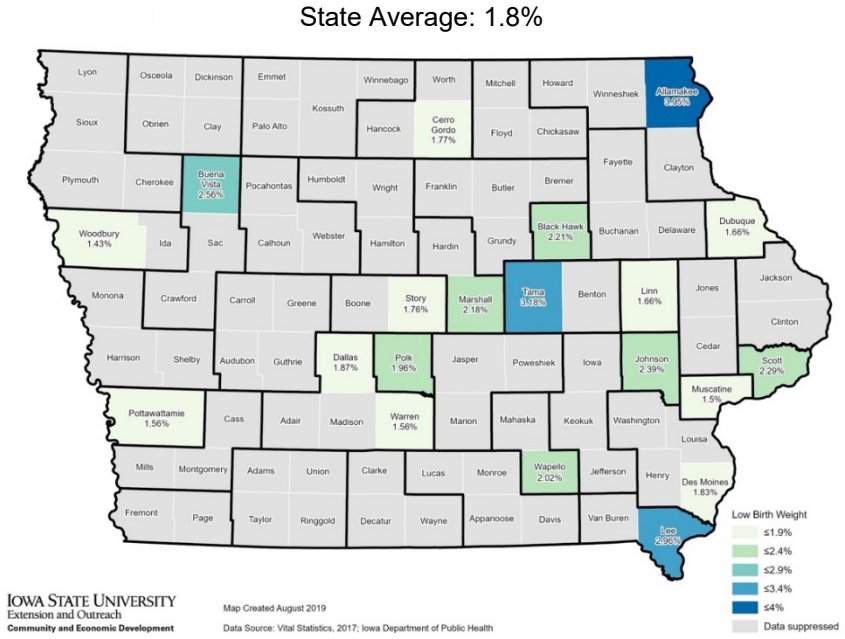


Figure 2. Percentage of 2 Year Olds Immunized from 2016 Births, 2018 Report

State Average: 74.9%

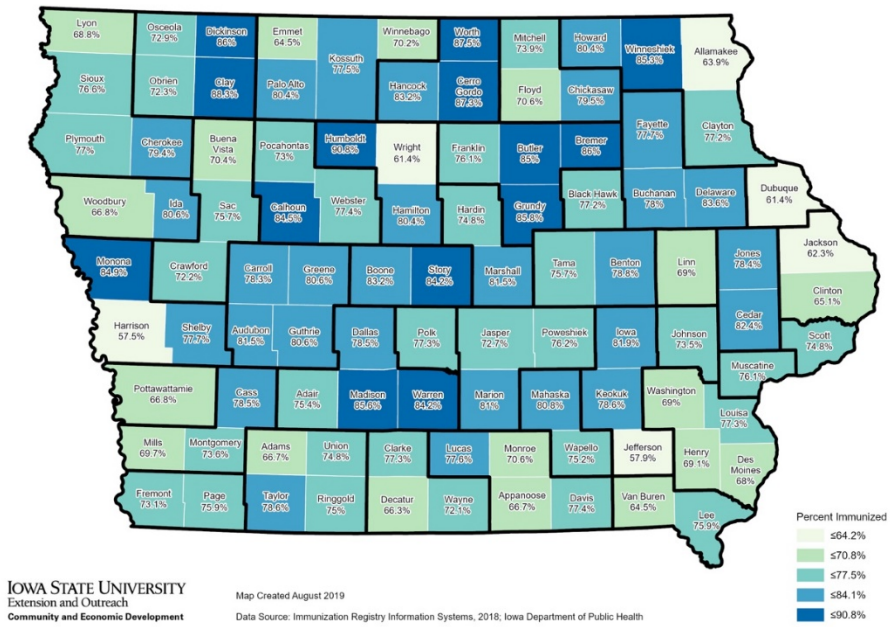


Figure 3. Percentage of Children 0-5 Eligible and Receiving Medicaid Dental or Oral Health Services, 2018

State Average: 49.9%

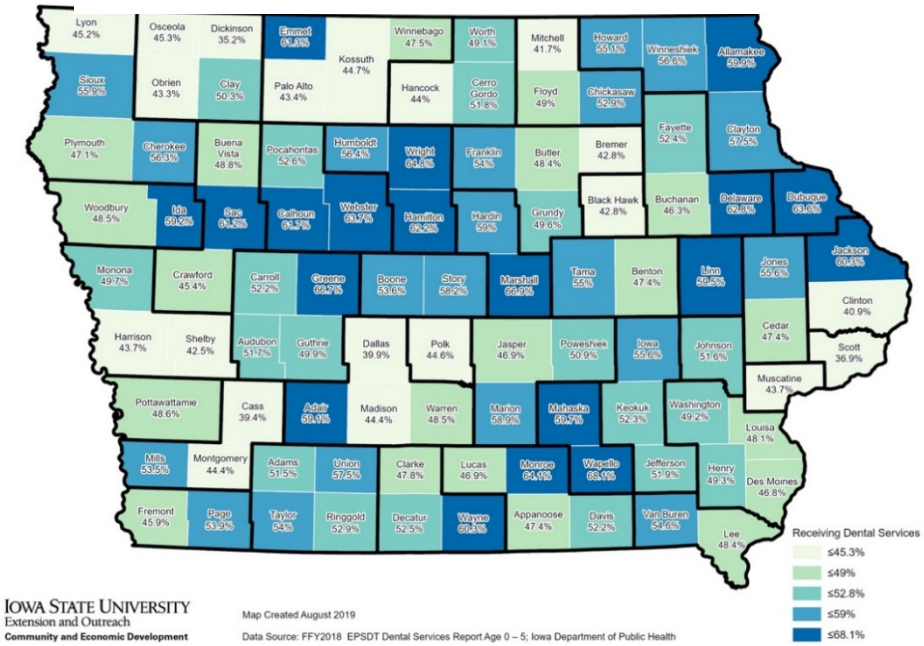


Figure 4. Percentage of Screened Kindergarteners Requiring Obvious Dental Care, 2017-2018

State Average: 13.1%

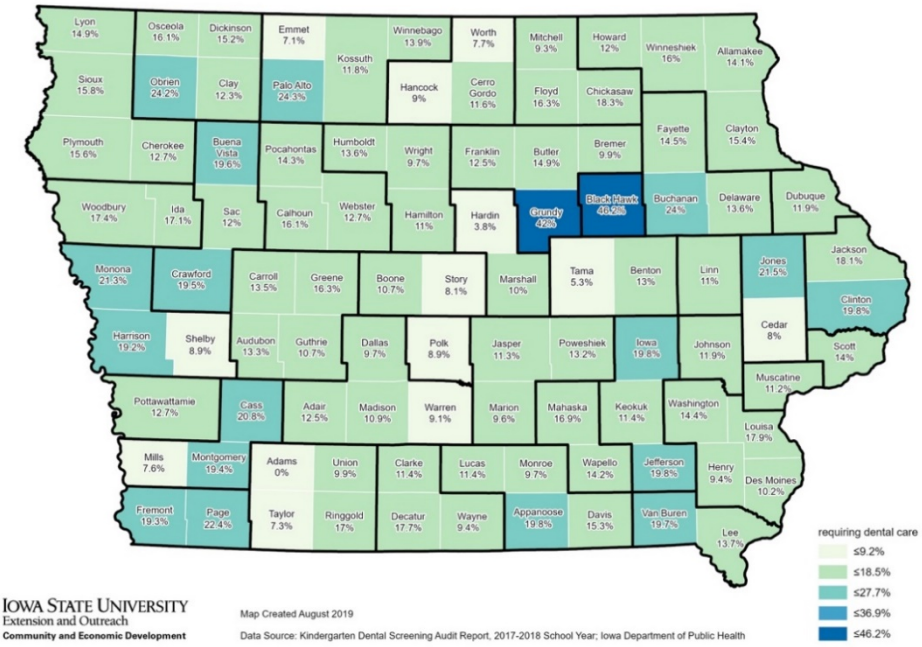
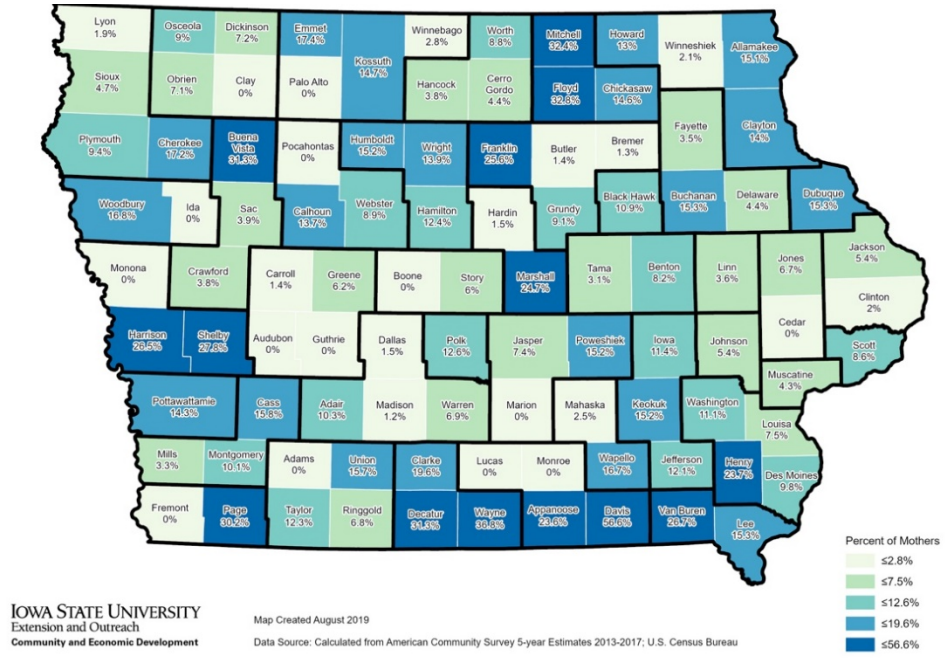


Figure 5. Percentage of Births to Mothers with Less than High School Degree

State Average: 10.2%



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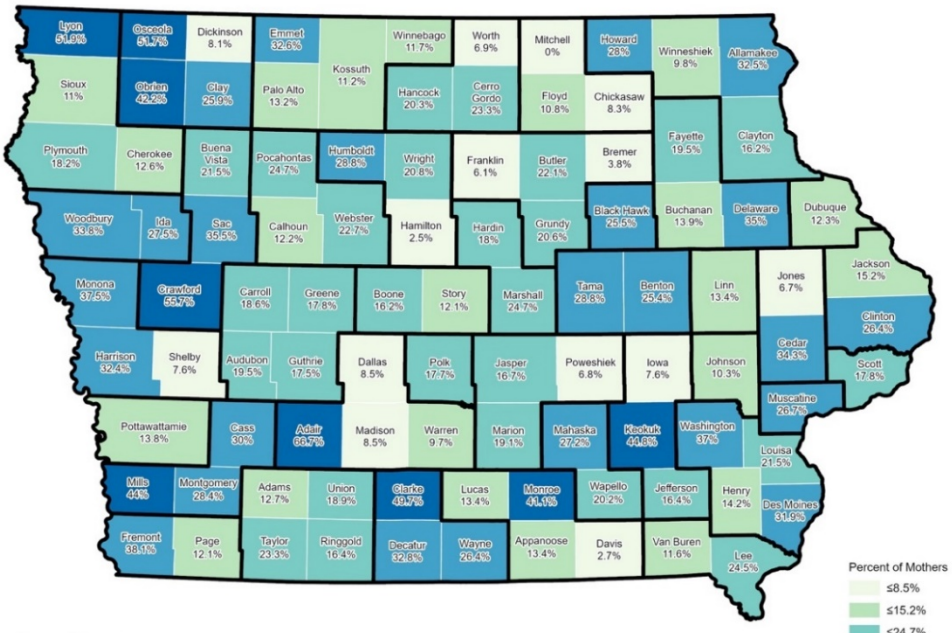
Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Calculated from American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2013-2017; U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 6. Percentage of Births to Mothers with a High School Degree

State Average: 19.2%



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Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Calculated from American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2013-2017; U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 7. Percentage of Births to Mothers with Bachelor's Degrees or Higher

State Average: 34.6%

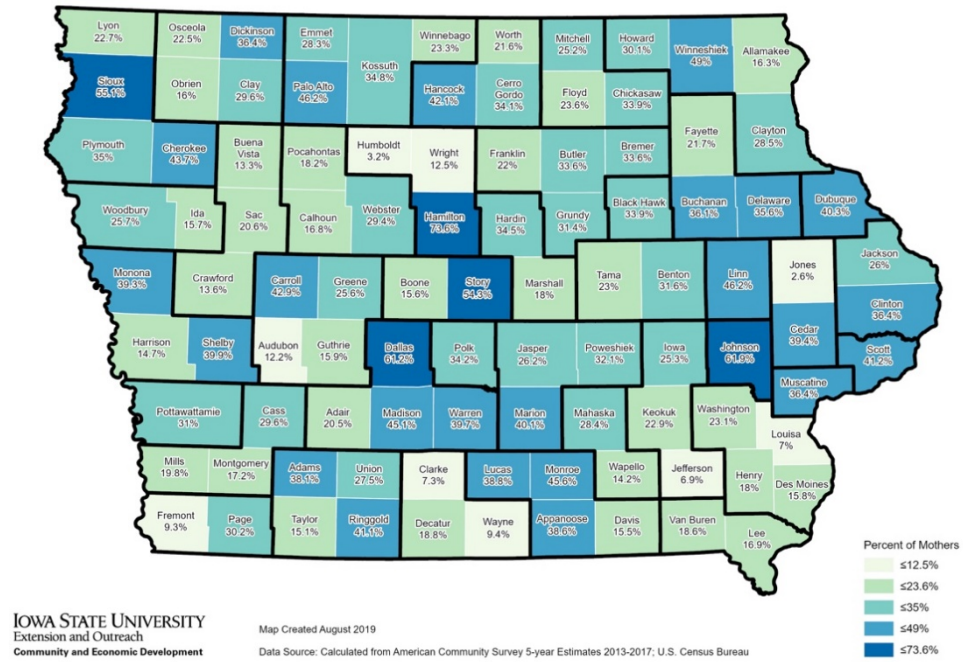


Figure 8. Serious Crime Rate per 100,000 (18 and over), 2016

State total: 5,232

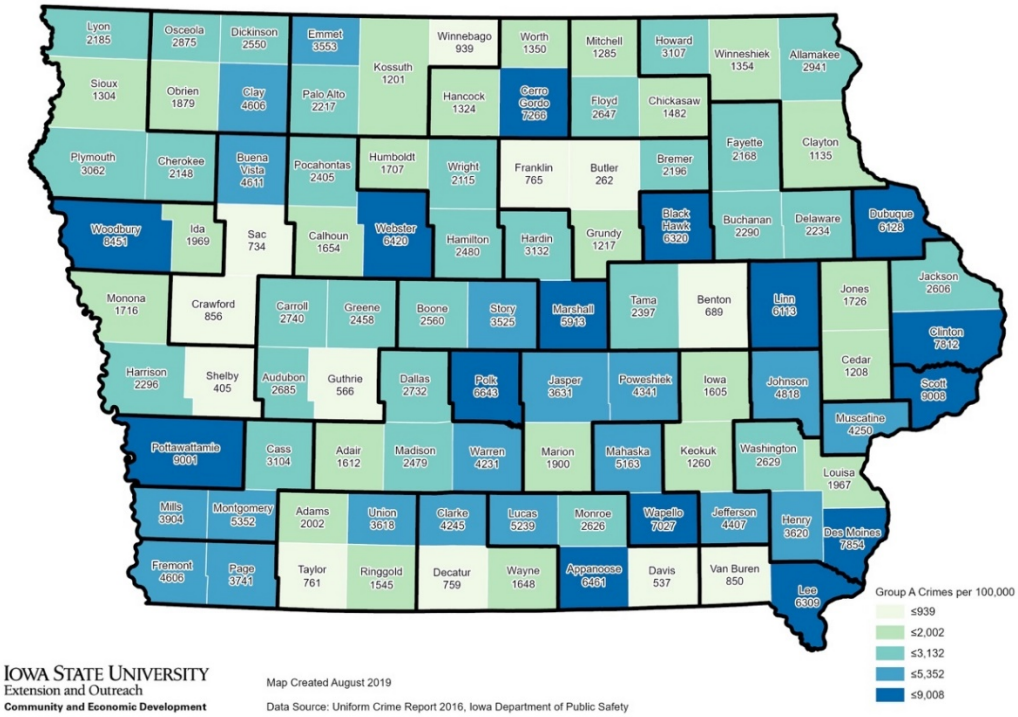


Figure 9. Juvenile Arrest Rate per 100,000 (Under 18), 2016

State Total: 1,462

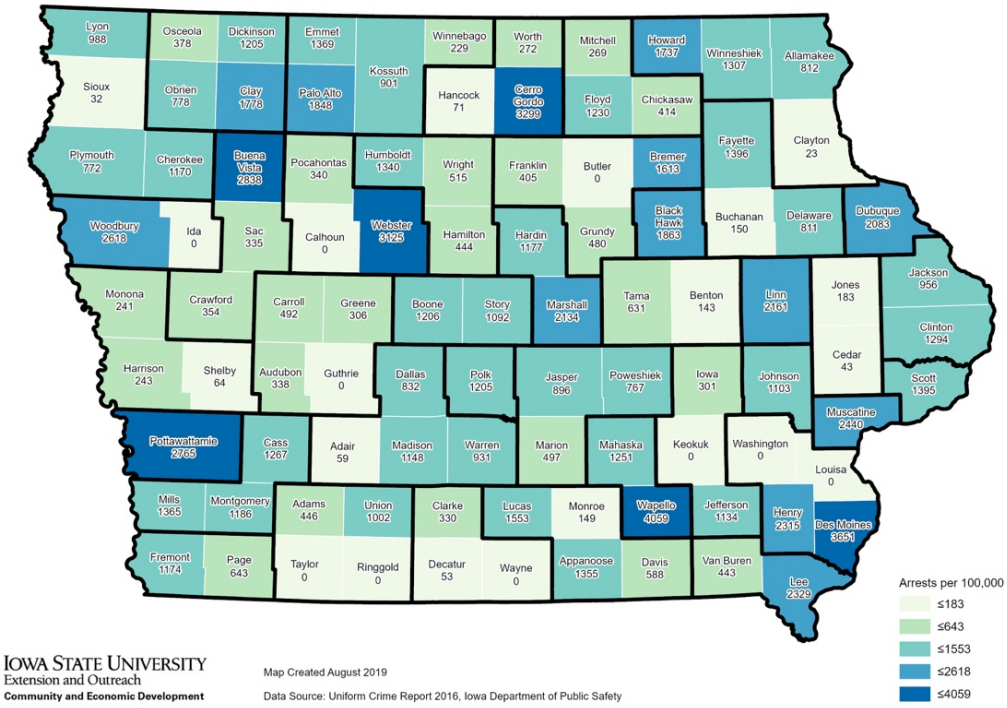


Figure 10. Percent Unemployed, June 2019

State Average: 2.6%

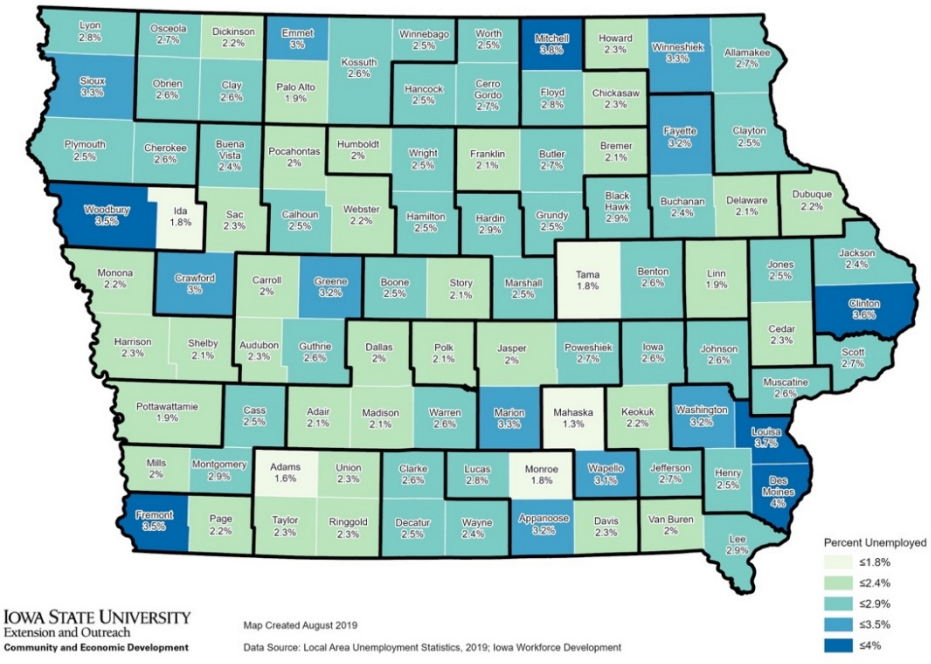


Figure 11. Percent of Children Under 6 Living in Poverty

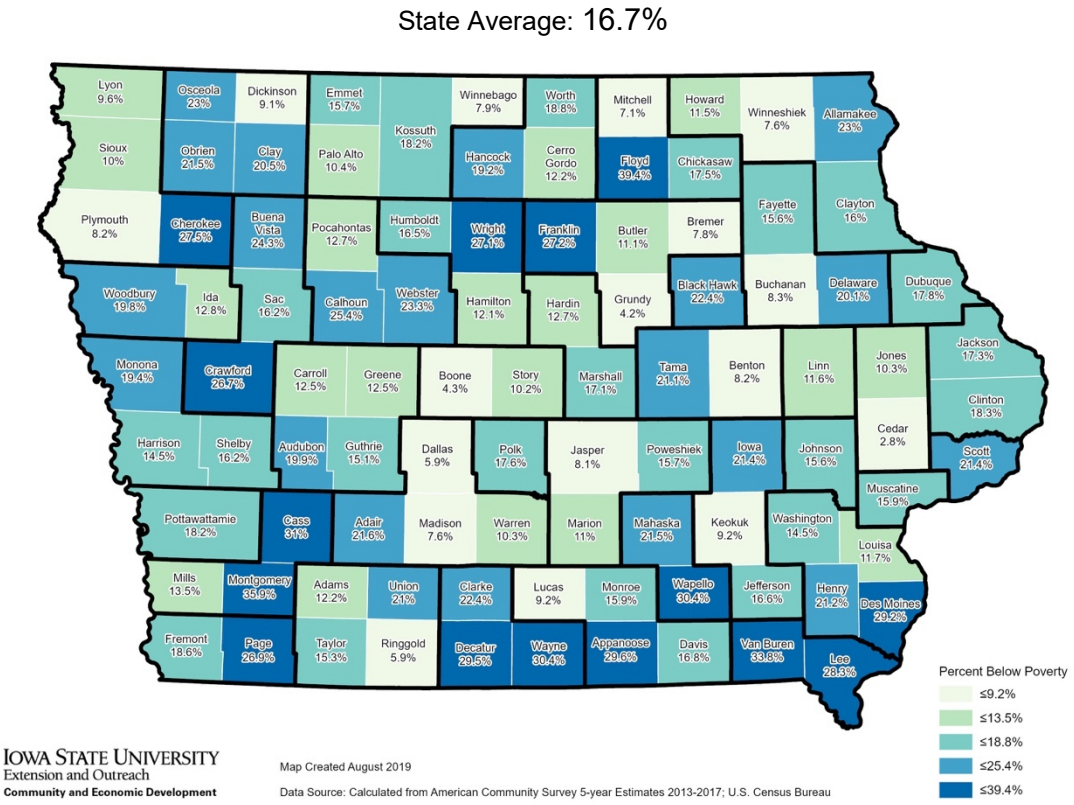


Figure 12. Percent of Confirmed or Founded Child Abuse (see data warning, p27)

Map removed because data were not normalized. We will continue to work on providing these resources.

Figure 13. Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Teens, 2017

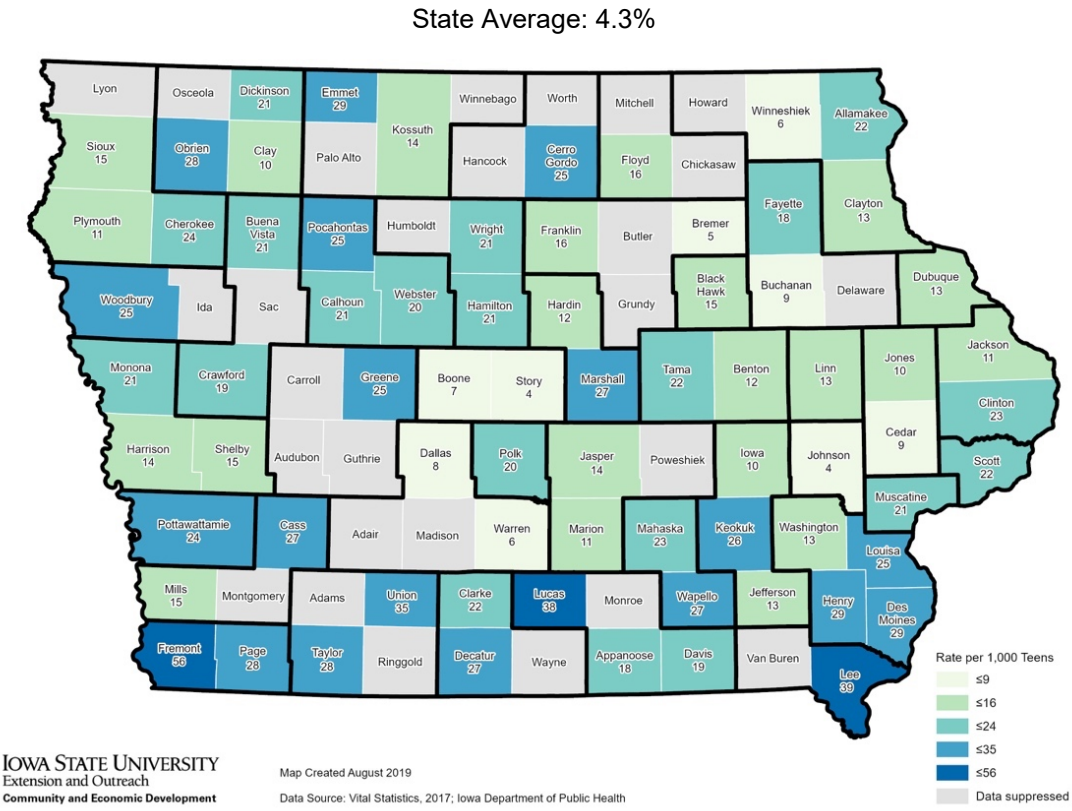
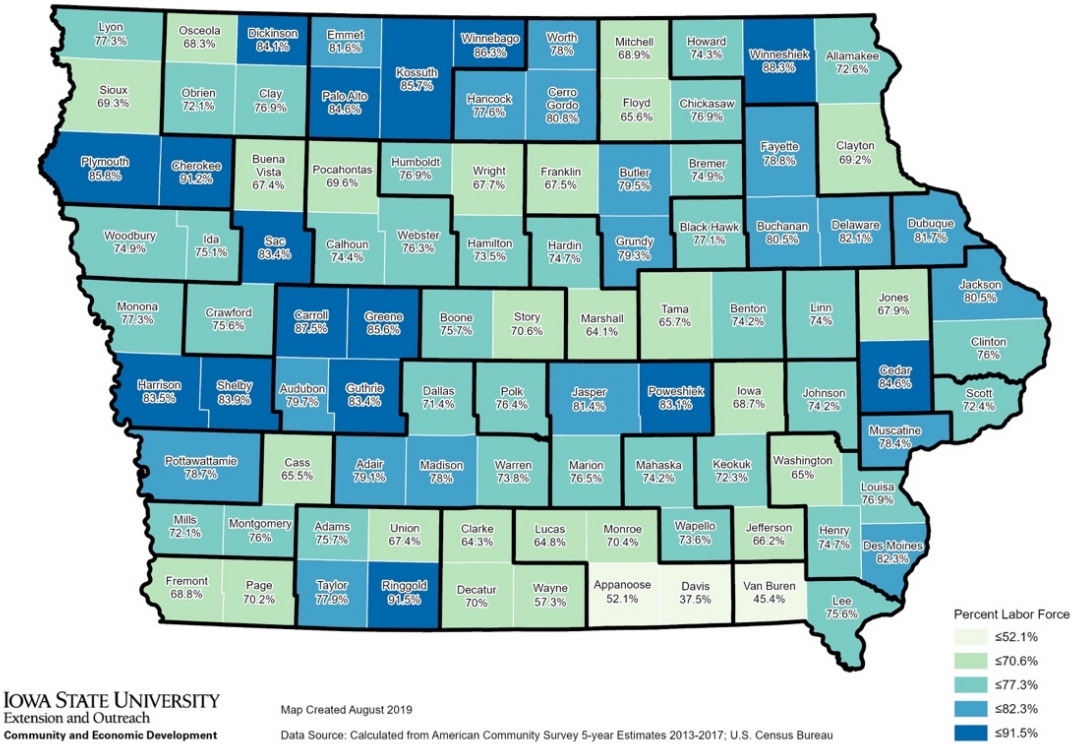


Figure 14. Domestic Abuse Rate per 100,000 (see data warning, p9)

Map removed because data were not normalized. We will continue to work on providing these resources.

Figure 15. Percentage Age 0-5 with All Parents in Labor Force

State Average: 75.2%



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Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Calculated from American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2013-2017; U.S. Census Bureau

Maps of Statewide Indicators for ECI Consideration- by ECI Region

Figure 16. Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births, 2013-2017

State Average: 4.48

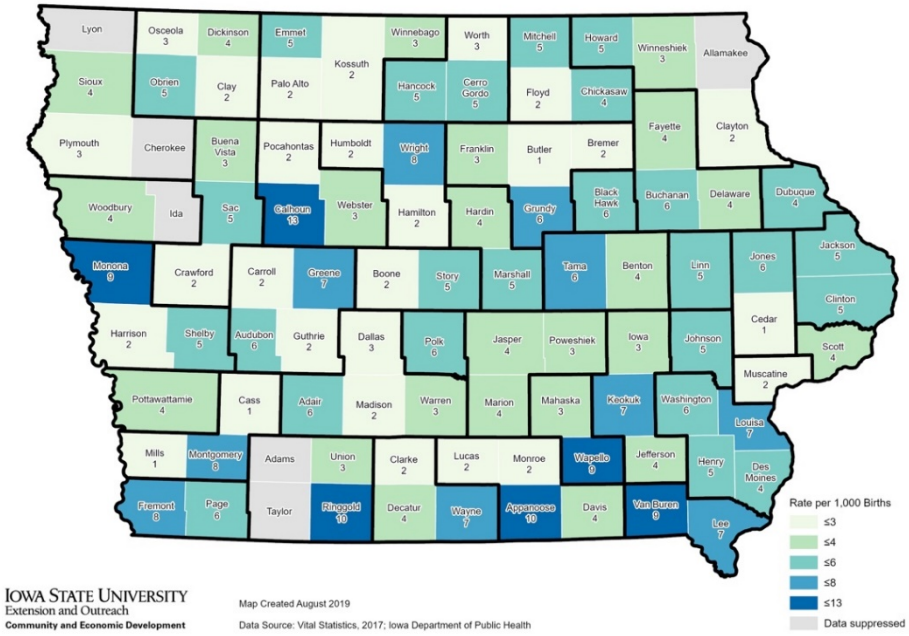


Figure 17. Percent of Minor Children with Health Coverage

State Average: 97.1%

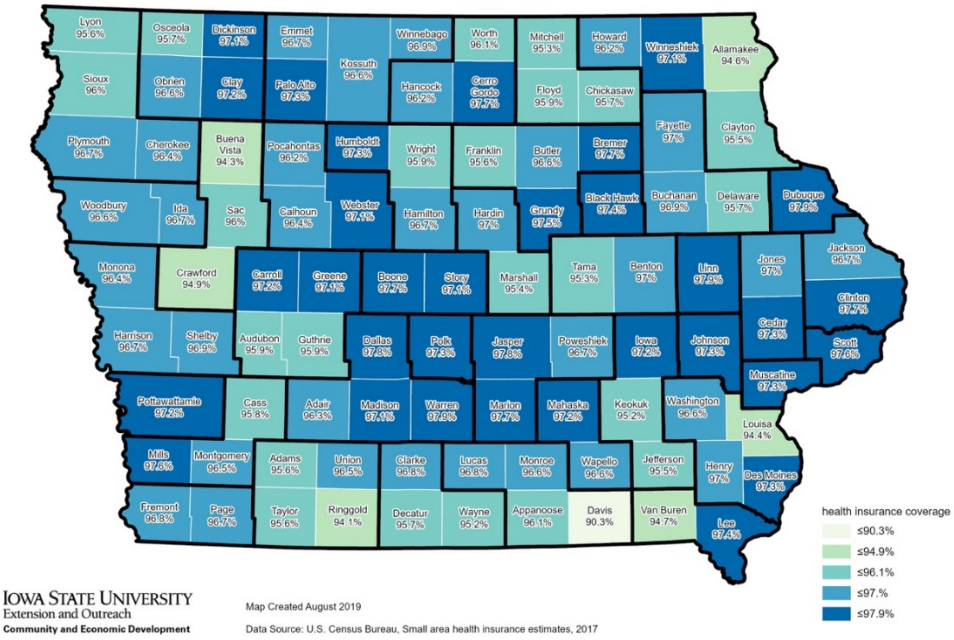
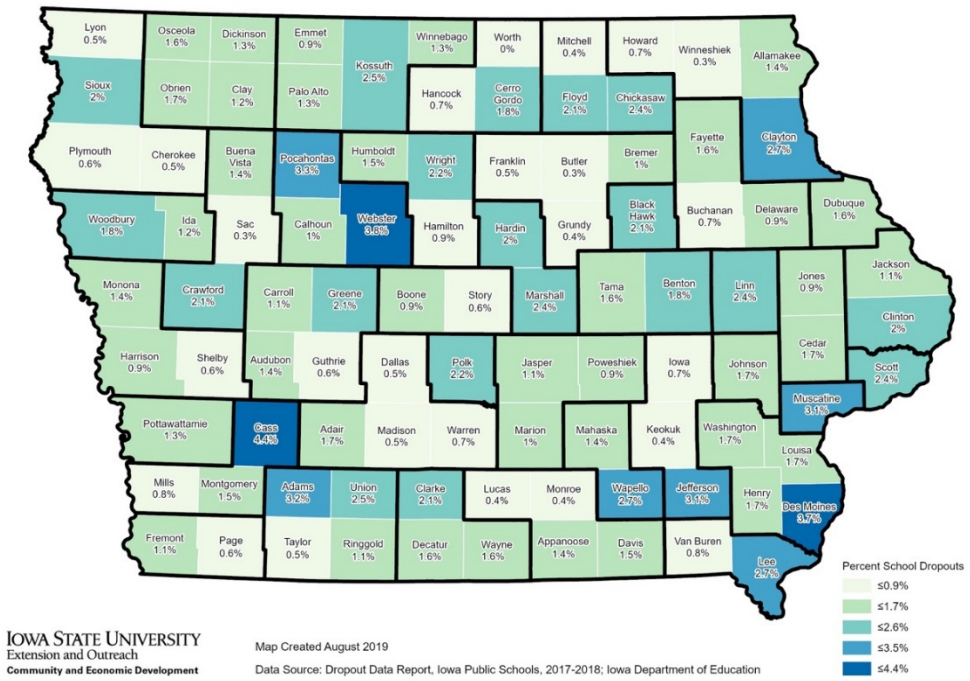


Figure 18. Percent School Dropout Rate (grades 7-12)

State Average: 1.8%



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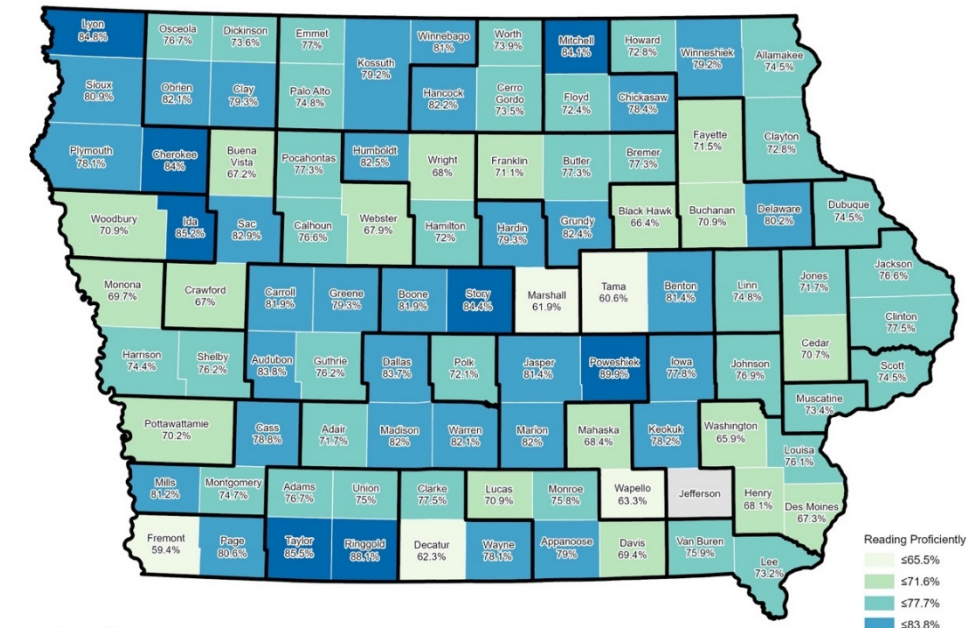
Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Dropout Data Report, Iowa Public Schools, 2017-2018; Iowa Department of Education

Figure 19. 4th Grade Reading Percent Proficient

State Average: 74.7%



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Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Reading Assessment Data, 2017-2018; Iowa Department of Education

Figure 20. Percentage of All Persons Below Poverty Level

State Average: 12.0%

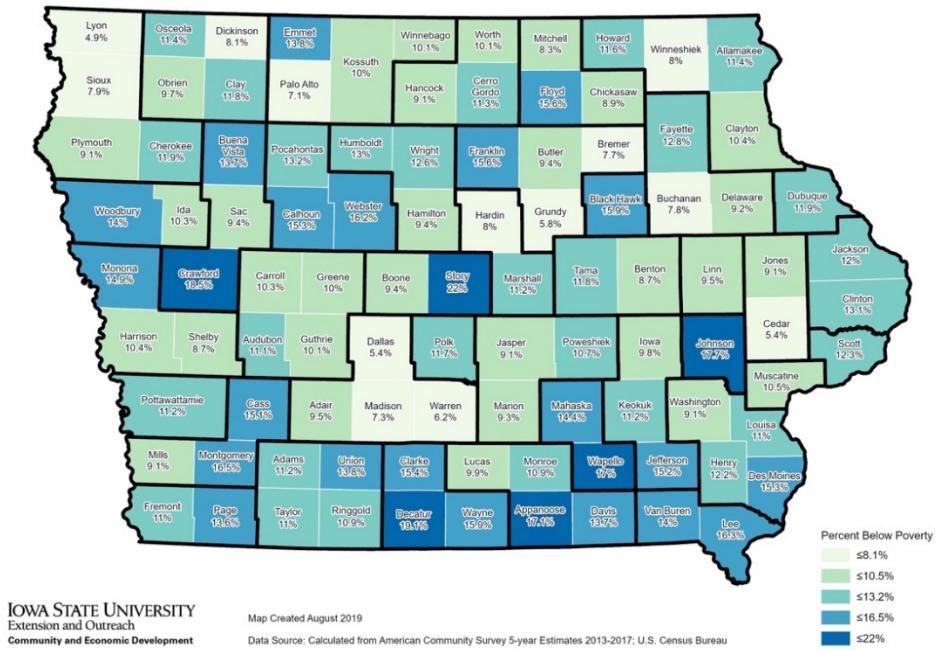


Figure 21. Percentage Minority Children Under 6 Below Poverty Level

State Average: 33.7%

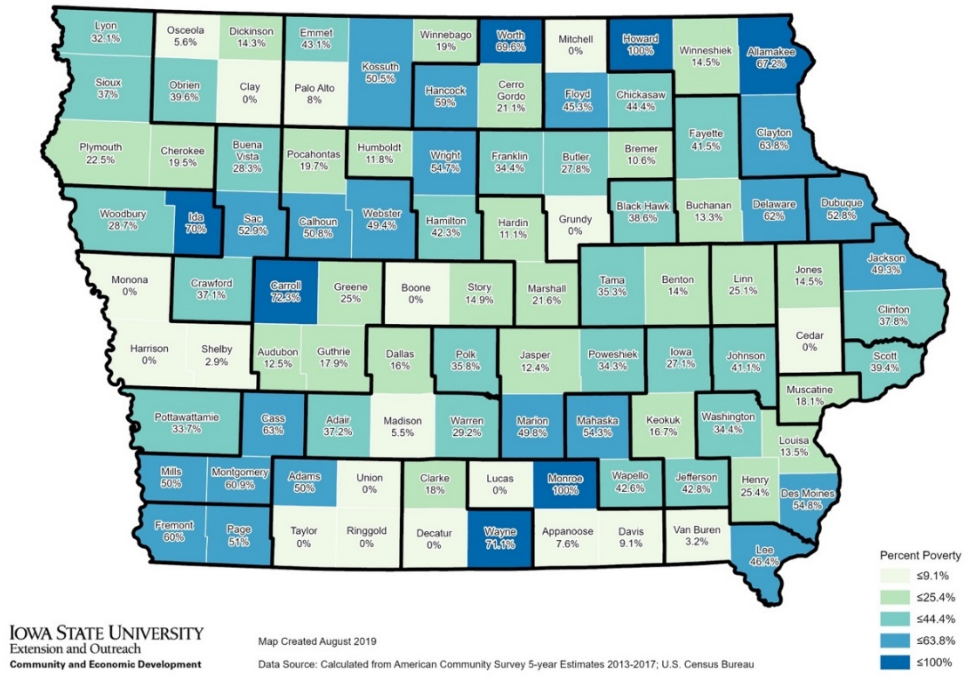


Figure 22. Percentage White, non-Hispanic Children Under 6 Below Poverty Level

State Average: 11.7%

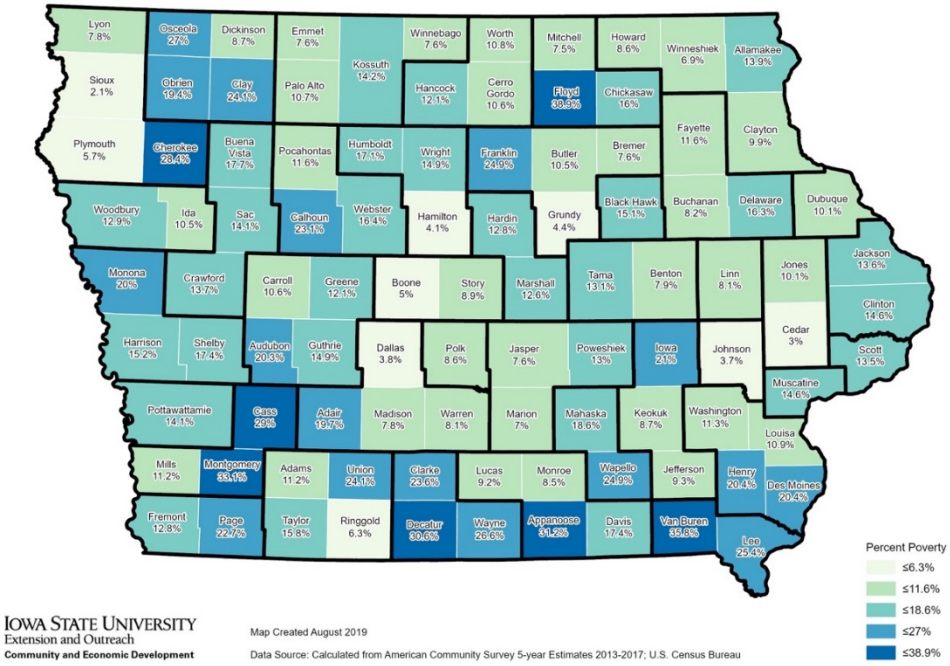


Figure 23. Percent of Children Under 6 Below Poverty Level in Single Father Families

State Average: 19.6%

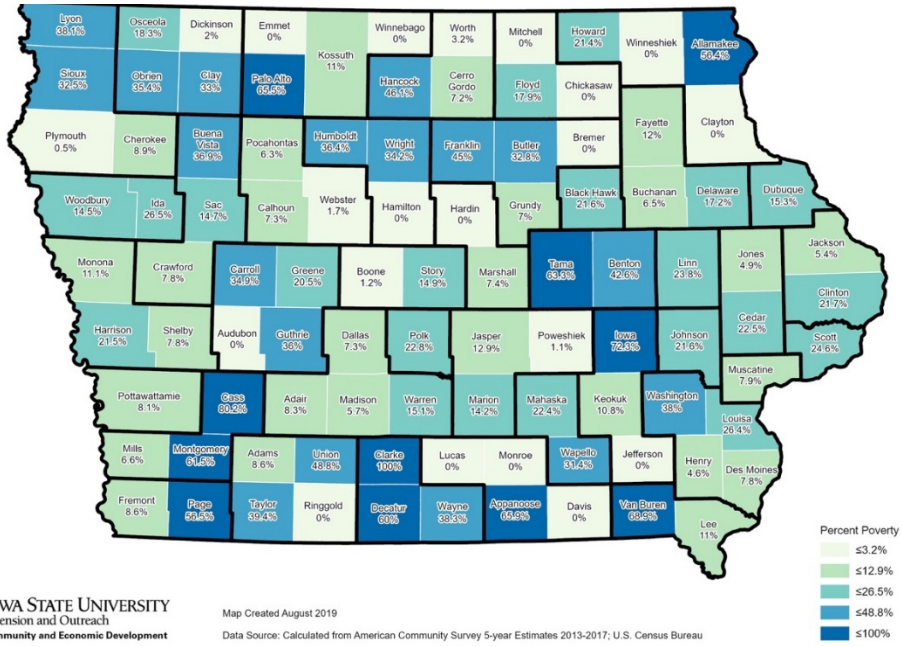
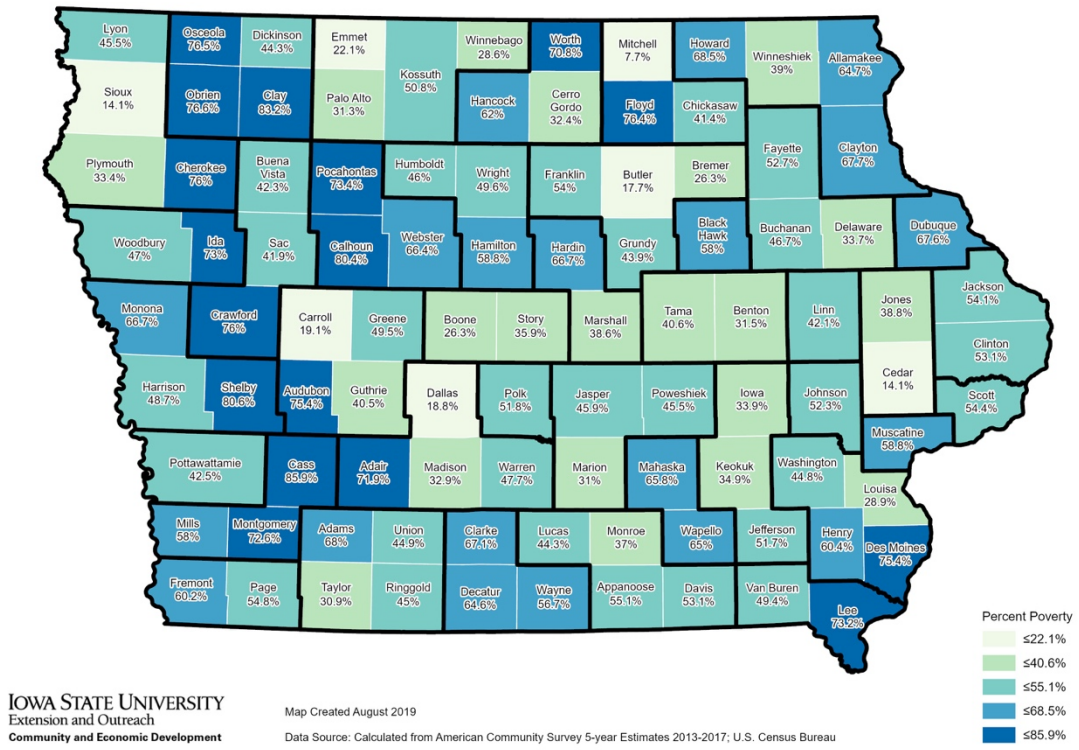


Figure 24. Percent of Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level in Single Mother Families

State Average: 51.7%



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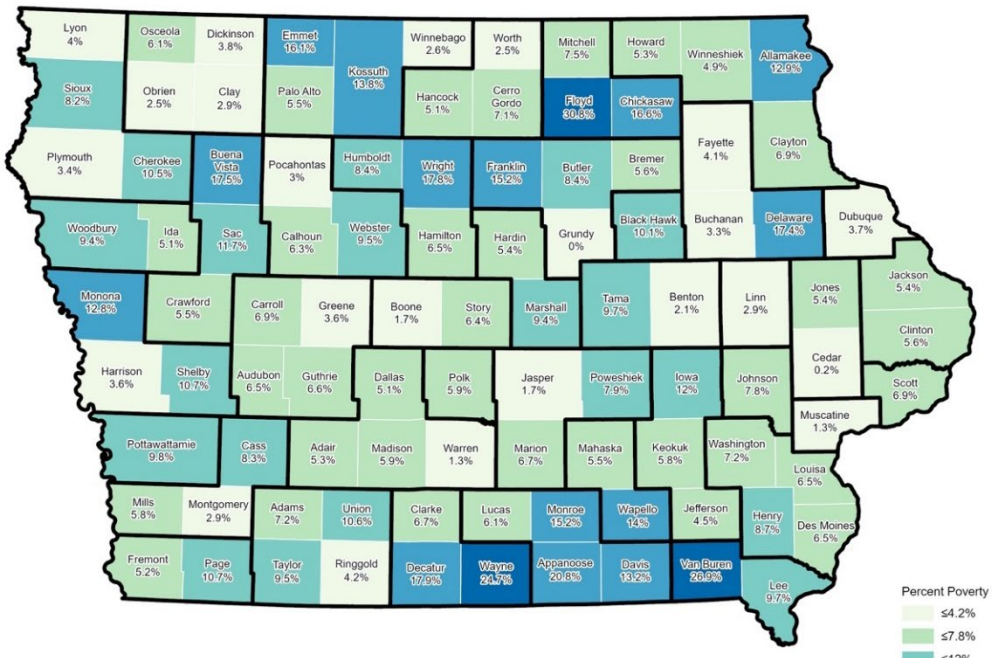
Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Calculated from American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2013-2017; U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 25. Percent of Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level in Married Couple Families



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Map Created August 2019

Data Source: Calculated from American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2013-2017; U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 26. Percent of Children Under 6 Living in Rental Housing Units

State Average: 34.4%

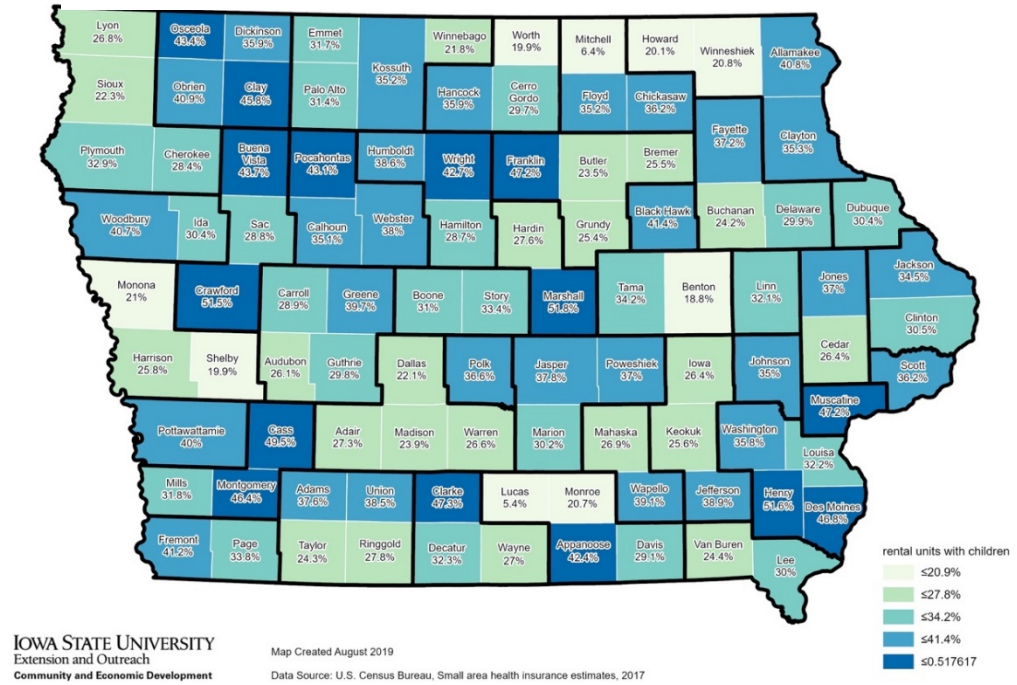


Figure 27. Percent of Children Under 6 with One Native and One Foreign Born Parent

State Average: 3.2%

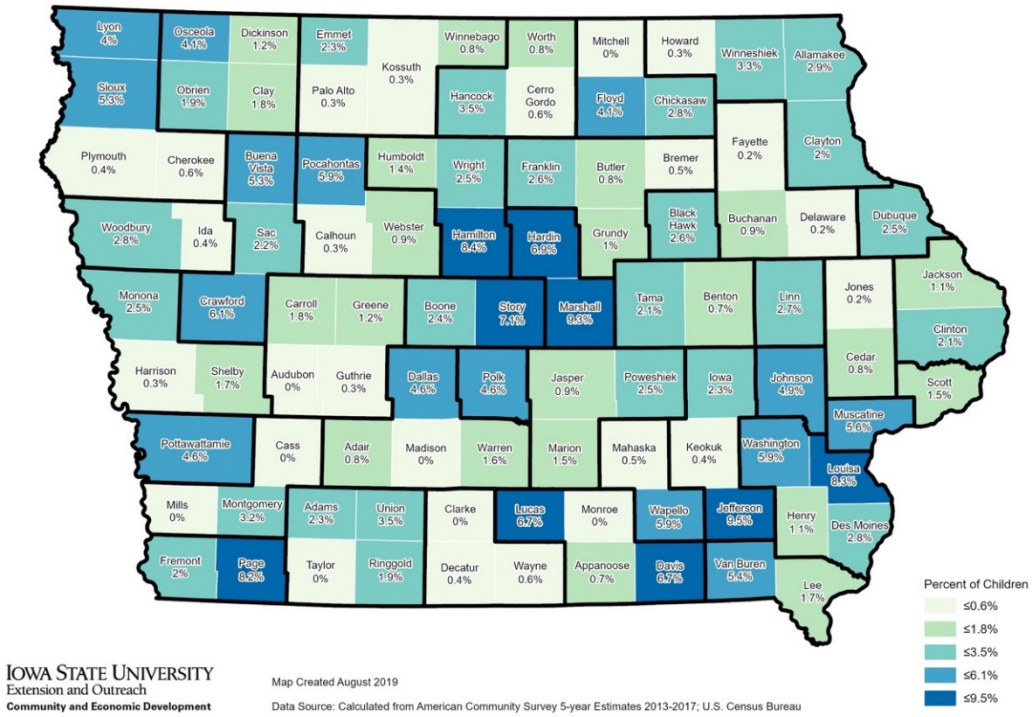


Figure 28. Parent of Children Under 6 with Two Native Born Parents

State Average: 88.3%

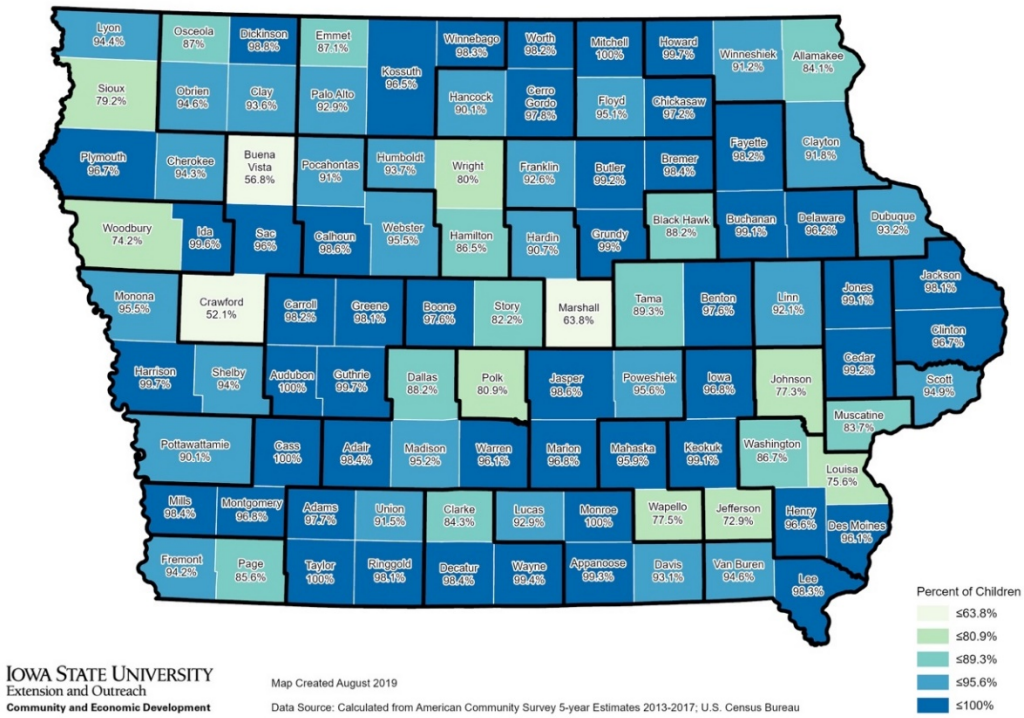


Figure 29. Percent Children Under 6 with No Parents in Labor Force

State Average: 5.4%

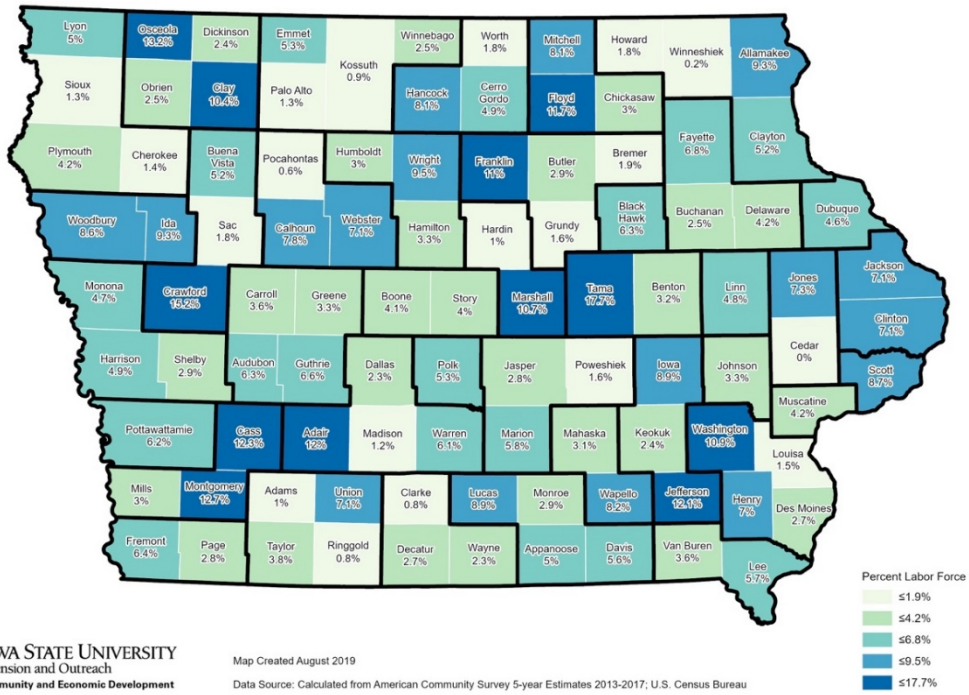


Figure 30. Percent of Children Under 5 with Residential Move in the Prior Year

State Average: 19.7%

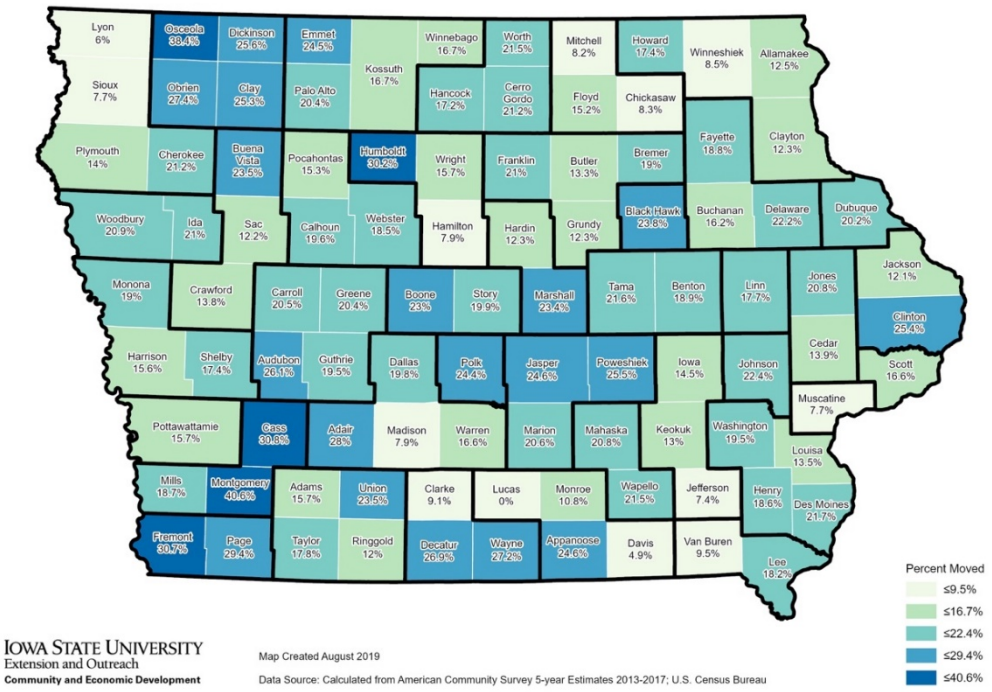


Figure 31. Population of Children Under 6

State Total: 237,284

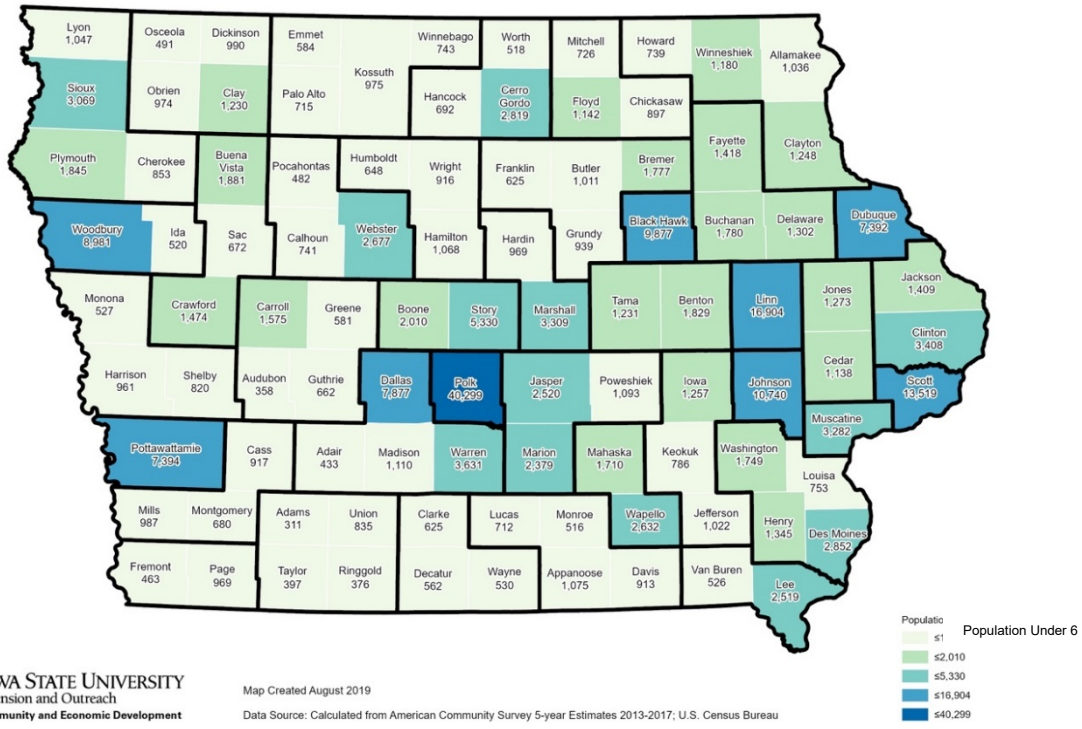


Figure 32. Population of Children Under 5

State Total: 196,485

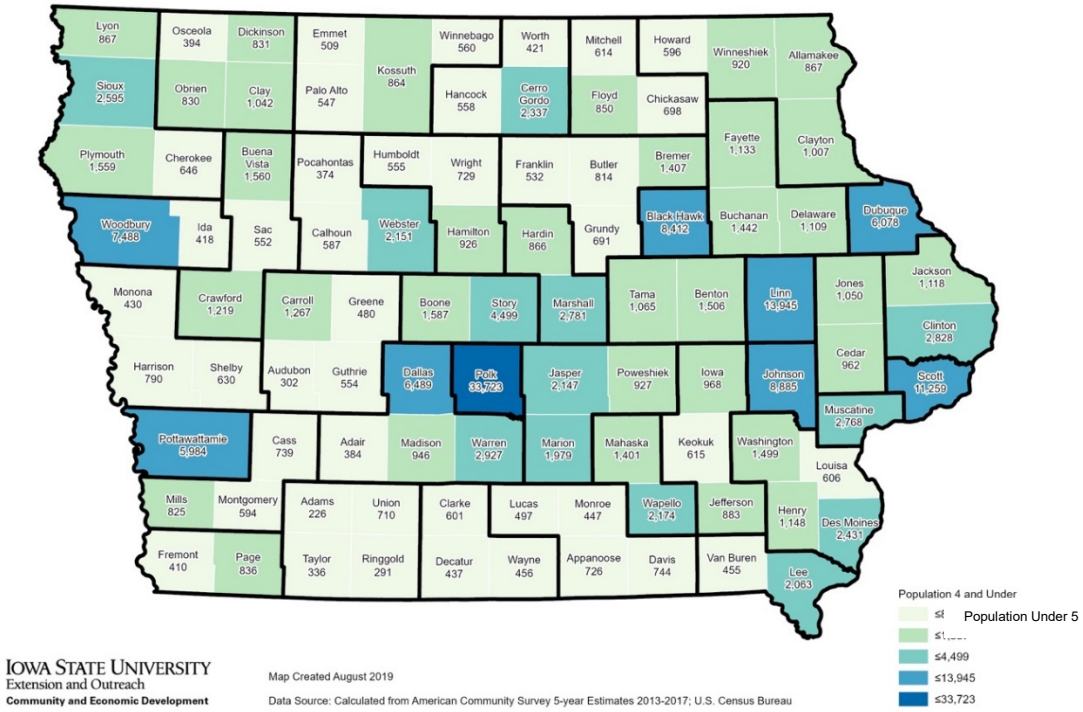


Figure 33. Percent Minority Population of Children Under 5

State Percentage: 22.9%

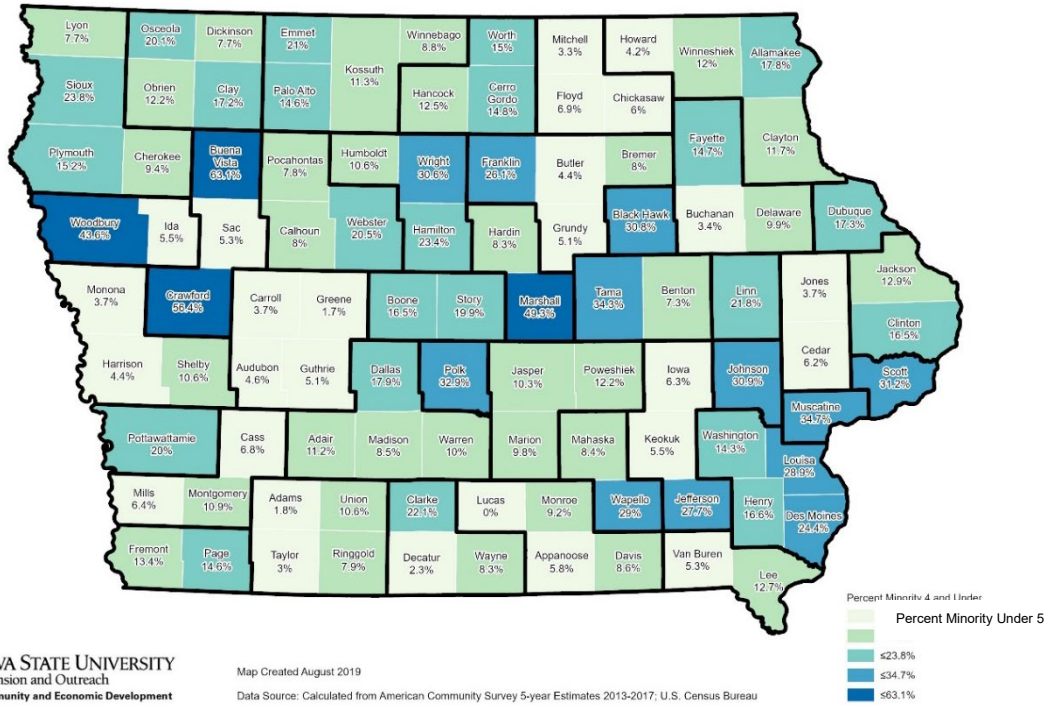
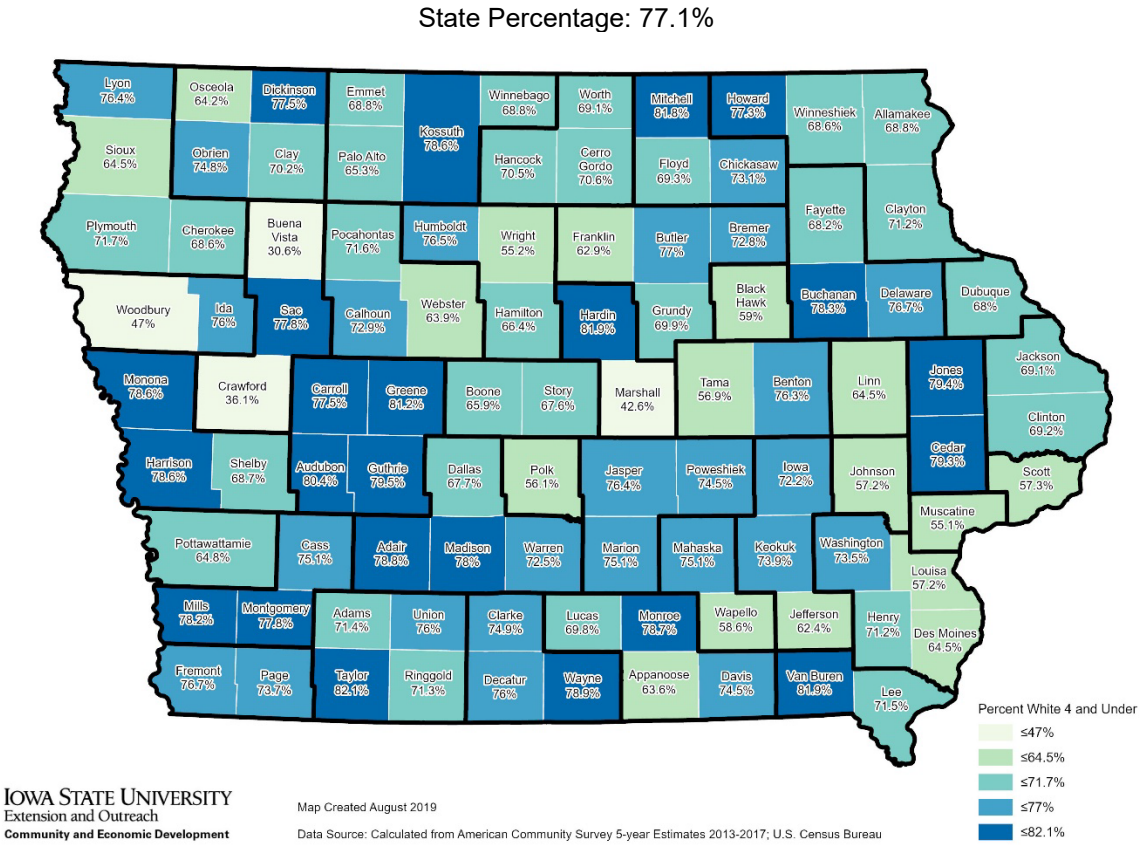


Figure 34. Percent White non-Hispanic Population of Children Under 5



Appendix: Methodology

Data Retrieval Process

The early childhood and other data items collected for this report have come from a variety of publicly available data websites. The descriptions of these sources, websites, and agencies follow. The data were downloaded as provided by the various websites and agencies as comma separated variable (.csv) files, Microsoft Excel files, or PDF files. Data from .csv and PDF files were extracted and converted to Microsoft Excel files. Data tables are available upon request.

For most items, the providing agency did not indicate that there had been data suppression. There are some exceptions to this, however. There may be suppression in some items from the *American Community Survey* data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. These suppressed items will be missing in the data file. See the Census Bureau website for additional information on suppression in the *American Community Survey* (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/data-suppression.html). Another site for which data may be suppressed is the Iowa Department of Public Health. In general, for the public health data items, those with counts of 5 or fewer cases were suppressed. The suppressed items downloaded as asterisks (*) in the data files and are missing in the files (See Iowa Department of Public Health data tracking portal for more information on data suppression; https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/). No post-extraction suppression was used for any data.

Once the original files were downloaded from each website and the selected variables extracted, the selected variables were merged into one Excel file that contained a detailed description of all data elements. (Note that this data is available for use by ECI members and a description of how to use these files follows). Column A of the project data file is the FIPS code for each geographic entity and Column B is the name of the geographic entity. The Excel data file contained, in addition to the variable items, brief descriptions of each item (row one) along with the table number and item identifier and/or formula used to calculate the item as applicable (row two). Percentage values that were not obtained from the original downloaded data file were calculated by dividing the item of interest by the total count or cases for that item and then multiplying by 100 (see row two of the data file). There are some items for which percentage values are missing which may be caused by missing data in the divisor or division by zero for which the total count or cases was zero. In two cases (incidence of child abuse and number of domestic abuse cases) the data were not available as a rate; in some cases a number was provided and at other times a percent. Given that these data could not be normalized, counties with larger populations appear to have a more significant problem. Please interpret these two maps with caution. Under the present approach, we would not suggest these data be used for comparison purposes, but merely to indicate rates in a particular ECI county or region.

Most items were retrieved at the state and county level of geography. The exceptions are items from the Iowa Department of Education. These items were originally provided by the Iowa Department of Education by school district rather than at the county level. For the project data file, the district data were summed to the county level based on the county where the school district office is located before being merged into the county-level file provided to the project investigators. The project data file is accompanied by a metadata file that also gives the item descriptions, item table numbers if applicable, dates of the data item, agency provider, website from which retrieved, and map name if applicable

Data from the American Community Survey

Many of the items collected for this analysis and report were retrieved from data provided through the *American Community Survey* (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The ACS data are from the 2013-2017, 5-year estimates set (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/). The 5-year period represents 60 months of collected data that are pooled together to create more precise multi-year estimates. Because many of Iowa's counties have relatively small populations, the 5-year set of pooled data is the only type of ACS estimates that are available to use across all 99 counties. See the American Community Survey Handbook for Users for more information on pooled, 5-year estimates (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html). All the data items for which the source in the metadata file is noted as "ACS Table…." were retrieved from the Census Bureau's American Factfinder website (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml).

Data from the Iowa Department of Public Health

Many items were retrieved through websites and a data portal provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).See the Iowa Department of Public Health data tracking portal for more information on data suppression (https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/). These items are as follows:

Percent of Children Immunized by Age 2
2014-2018, Immunization Registry Information System, Iowa Dept of Public Health
Iowa Dept Public Health Tracking Portal
https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/Childhood-Immunizations/Childhood-Immunization-Data

Dental services (IDPH- CMS 416 data; Medicaid enrolled children 0-5 who receive dental services) FFY 2018 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Dental Services Reports
https://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/oral-health-center/reports

Children entering Kindergarten without obvious dental problems
School Dental Screening Audit Report, 2017-2018, Iowa Dept. Public Health
https://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/oral-health-center/reports

Births to women under age 20
Vital Statistics, 2013, 2017, Iowa Dept Public Health
https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/data
Iowa Dept Public Health Tracking Portal
https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/people-community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Birth-Rate-Mothers-Under-20

Percent low-birth weight infants
Vital Statistics, 2017, Iowa Dept Public Health
https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/data
Iowa Dept Public Health Tracking Portal
https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/People-Community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Low-Birthweight

Infant mortality rate
Vital Statistics, 2013-2017, Iowa Dept Public Health
https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/data
Iowa Dept Public Health Tracking Portal
https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/People-Community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Infant-Mortality/Infant-Mortality-Data

Births, Premature, and Out-of-Wedlock Births
Vital Statistics, 2012, 2013, 2017, Iowa Dept Public Health
https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/data
Iowa Dept Public Health Tracking Portal
https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/People-Community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Prematurity/Premature-Births
https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/people-community/Reproduction-and-Birth/Out-of-Wedlock-Births

Data from the Iowa Department of Public Safety

Several items were retrieved through the website of the Iowa Department of Public Safety. These items are as follows:

Rate of serious crime per 100,000 population
Rate of juvenile arrests per 100,000 population
Domestic violence rate per 100,000 population
2016 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
http://www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/ucr/2016/iacrime_2016.shtml

Data from the Iowa Department of Human Services

Several items were retrieved through the website of the Iowa Department of Human Services. These items are as follows:

Confirmed child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children
2013-2018
https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-abuse-statistics

Children in Foster Care
2016-2018
https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/dhs/foster-care

Family Investment Program
2017-2018
https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/dhs/fip

Data from Iowa Workforce Development

Several items were retrieved through the website of Iowa Workforce Development. These items are as follows:

Percent unemployment
June percent unemployment
Labor force, employed, unemployed
2017, 2019 Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
https://www.iowalmi.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics

Data from the Iowa Department of Education

Several items were retrieved through the website of the Iowa Department of Human Services. These items are as follows:

High school dropout rate
https://educateiowa.gov/graduation-rates-and-dropout-rates
2017-2018 district data were summed to the county level based on district office location

4th grade reading percent proficient
https://educateiowa.gov/documents/proficiency-district/2018/10/2017-2018-reading-assessment-data-district-and-grade
2017-2018 district data were summed to the county level based on district office location

English Language Learning Students
https://educateiowa.gov/documents/district-el/2018/08/2017-2018-iowa-public-school-k-12-limited-english-proficient-students
2017-2018 district data were summed to the county level based on district office location

School Enrollment and Race, Ethnicity
https://www.educateiowa.gov/education-statistics
2017-2018 district data were summed to the county level based on district office location

Free and Reduced Lunch
https://educateiowa.gov/documents/district-frl/2018/08/2017-18-iowa-public-school-k-12-students-eligible-free-and-reduced
2017-2018 district data were summed to the county level based on district office location

Data from Other Sources

Binge alcohol prevalence
Data from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
2014-2016
https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/iowa/2019/downloads
Original data source, Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System

Health Insurance coverage
2017 U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/sahie/#/