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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count data book examines statewide trends in the well-being of Minnesota children during the 1990s. The statistical portrait is based on 11 indicators of well-being: (1) child poverty rate; (2) percent of children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children; (3) percent receiving free or reduced-price school lunches; (4) teen birth rate; (5) percent born at low birthweight; (6) percent not immunized by age 2; (7) school dropout rate; (8) percent arrested for violent crime; (9) child abuse and neglect rates; (10) percent in out-of-home placements; and (11) child violent death rate. Following an introduction outlining the major findings and providing guidance on interpreting the tabular information, Section 1 of the data book presents state and regional findings for each indicator for this decade, briefly discusses trends in Minnesota, delineates racial differences for each indicator, and discusses prevention and treatment options. Section 2 contains statewide and county profiles, including trends in the 1990s, a brief description of each county, and a comparison of each county to the average. Findings indicate that there are several important areas where Minnesota children are not faring well: the percentage of children born at low birthweight is increasing, the percentage of low-income children has remained the same despite the 1990s economic boom, school dropout rates are unacceptably high, and the percentage of violent crimes committed by children continued to rise through 1995. The data book concludes with data notes and sources and a list of resources. (KB)

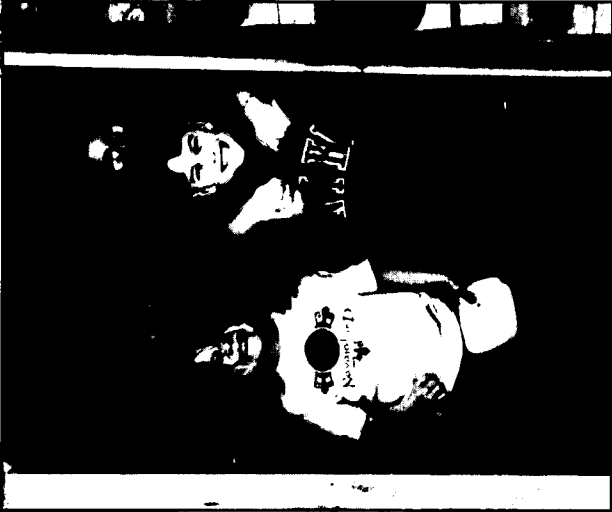
Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look 1998 Data Book

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at the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition.

Minnesota KIDS COUNT releases periodic reports and an annual data book to provide a statistical profile of Minnesota's children and suggestions for action on their behalf. This data book was made possible through funds provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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ERRATUM

The 1993-95 teen birth rate for the state is 22 per 1,000 births, not 31 per 1,000 as shown on regional and county tables. Teen birth rates for regions and counties are correct as shown.

INTRODUCTION

Despite rapid job growth, falling unemployment and rising average annual pay, many children in Minnesota are not faring well. In order for this economic boom to really penetrate into the lives of all Minnesota children and their families, we need to look closely at where we fall short and commit our state's full energy and resources to solving these problems.

This report brings together data about many aspects of child well-being in order to paint a picture of children in Minnesota. It contains indicators that are readily available for each county in the state, easily understood, and collected annually (with two exceptions). Of course, many Minnesota children are born healthy, succeed in school, and become happy and productive adults. This data book draws attention to the children who are less likely to succeed, who may need extra help and support along the way.

There are several important areas where children are not faring well: the percentage of children born at low birth weight is increasing; the percentage of low-income children has remained the same despite the economic boom of the 1990's; school dropout rates, especially for children of color, are unacceptably high; and the percentage of violent crime committed by children continued to rise through 1995.

Adults in Minnesota can take action to help children. Children should be a priority in community activities, legislative action, corporate and charitable giving, and in people's own neighborhoods and families.

Children in Poverty

About one in seven Minnesota children live below the poverty line, according to estimates done by

the U.S. Census bureau in 1993 and in 1989. Poverty estimates in 1993 ranged from 7.3% in the surrounding metro counties, to almost 27% in northern Minnesota's Region 2. Regions 1, 2, 4 and 5 in northern Minnesota, four of the poorest areas of the state in 1989, all saw the largest decreases in child poverty estimates. Hennepin, Ramsey, the surrounding metro counties and the southeastern Regions 9 and 10 had increased estimates.

Children Receiving AFDC

The number and percentage of children receiving AFDC has fallen seven percent since 1994. Many regions outside of Hennepin and Ramsey counties have experienced larger decreases, ranging up to 24% in Region 3 in Northeastern Minnesota. The southwestern portion of the state saw an increase in children receiving assistance.

Children Approved for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

In the 1996-1997 school year, close to 27% of students came from low-income families as measured by the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch. Statewide, school lunch participation has not changed from 1991 to 1996. Close to 20% of students received free lunch, meaning their families were very low-income. The percent of students in the program varies greatly between regions, reflecting different rates of child poverty.

Children Born to Teen Mothers

The teen birth rate was 22 per every thousand 15-17 year olds in 1993-1995, the latest years available. In 1996, 2,019 births to mothers under 18 were recorded in Minnesota. This birth rate differed significantly across

INTRODUCTION, continued

the state. Hennepin and Ramsey counties had the highest rates, but Regions 2 and 5, in north central Minnesota, also had high rates of teen births.

Children Born at Low Birth Weight

The percentage of children born at low birth weight has increased over the past six years, rising to 5.8% in 1996. In line with national statistics, African-American children in Minnesota are twice as likely as other children to be born at low birth weight. Significant differences also occur between Minnesota regions.

Children Not Immunized by Age 2

For children entering kindergarten in 1996, 32% were not up to date on their vaccinations by age two. This was a small improvement over the last survey in 1992, when 39% were not up to date by age two. Many regions showed a much greater improvement.

Children Dropping Out of School

In the 1995-96 school year, an estimated 4% of the state's 7-12th grade students dropped out of school. The state drop out rate for students of color was 13.1% for the 1995-96 school year, or more than three times that of white students. Over their entire high school careers, 9% of white, 17% of Asian, 39% of Hispanic, 44% of Black and 40% of Indian students were estimated to have dropped out of school.

Children Arrested for Violent Crime

In 1995 and 1996, the percent of all violent crime committed by juveniles declined somewhat in Minnesota, from over 30% to 28.6%. However, this still represents a 27% increase over 1991 rates. Regions

vary considerably in the percent of violent crimes committed by juveniles, from 10% in northwest Region 1, to almost 40% in Ramsey County and the surrounding metro counties. All regions saw an increase from 1991 to 1995.

Children Abused and Neglected

In 1996, 10,195 cases of abuse or neglect were substantiated, a slight decrease since 1991. However, reporting the number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect does not accurately reflect the true rate of child abuse and neglect in the state. About half of these substantiated reports were for neglect. Regions differed widely in their trends between 1991 and 1996.

Children in Out-Of-Home Placements

In 1996, 14 out of every 1,000 children were in out-of-home care for at least part of the year. This is a slight increase since 1991, but a decrease from 1993. Rates varied by region, ranging from relatively low rates in the southern part of the state, to rates of more than 20 per 1,000 in Regions 2 and 3 in northern Minnesota. African-American and American Indian children in Minnesota continue to be over-represented in the number of children in out-of-home placements.

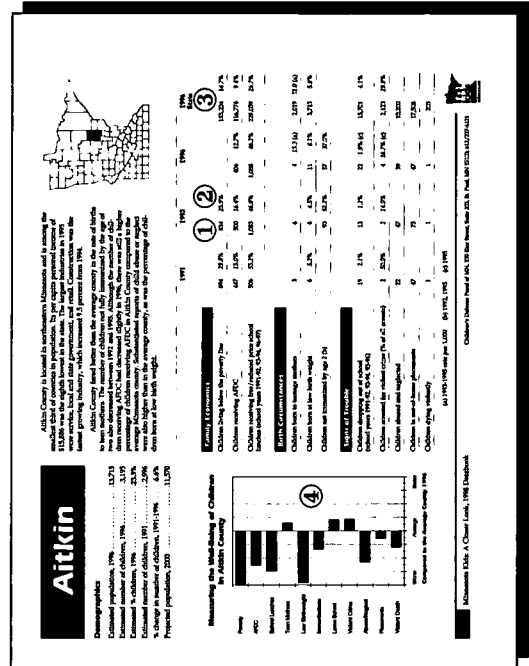
Children Dying Violently

In 1996, 205 Minnesota children died violently. The largest cause of violent death in Minnesota are deaths related to motor vehicles. There is no clear trend over time in the number of violent, preventable child deaths in Minnesota. The number of homicides is up slightly in the last two years, but still comprise only 16% of violent deaths in 1996.

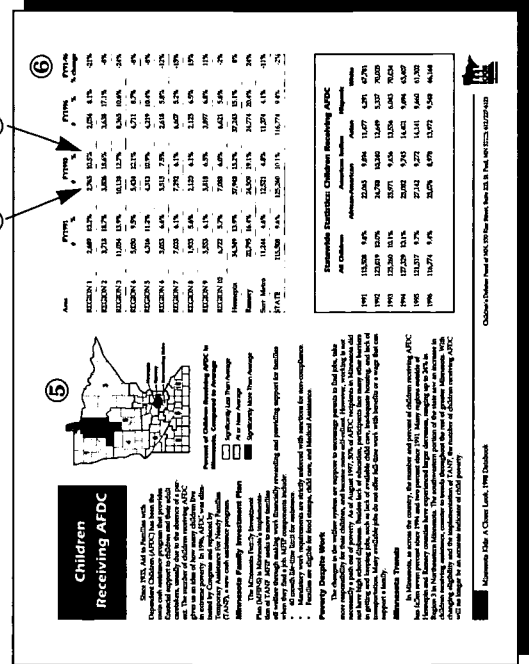
How to Read the Tables

- ① **Number of children.** It helps to know the actual number of children affected by a problem, as well as the percentage. Very small numbers in a category may fluctuate significantly from year to year, making interpretation difficult.
- ② **Percent of children** (compared to total population, total births, total school enrollment, etc.) Unless the number of children is very small, percentages provide useful comparisons across time.
- ③ **State Average.** This number compares a county to the state as a whole.
- ④ **Bar Charts.** These charts allow comparisons of different indicators within a county. At a glance, a county can be compared to the "average county." (For more detail about the bar charts, please see the data notes at the end of the book.)
- ⑤ **Map.** The map ranks regions in thirds, allowing for regional comparisons. It can also help determine if a problem is concentrated in certain areas of the state.
- ⑥ **Percent Change.** This figure reveals trends over time (1991-1996). Small numbers in some regions can create relatively large percentage changes, however.

Sample County Page



Sample Indicator Page



Family Economics



Children Living in Poverty

Poverty is closely linked with negative outcomes in children and affects all areas of their lives. It has a devastating impact on their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Poverty places children at greater risk for hunger, homelessness, physical and mental disabilities, sickness, life-long disabilities, violence, nutritional deficiencies, stunted growth, and death. Poor children are also less likely to do well in school. They have lower test scores, more learning disabilities, more special education needs, and face a greater risk for dropping out.

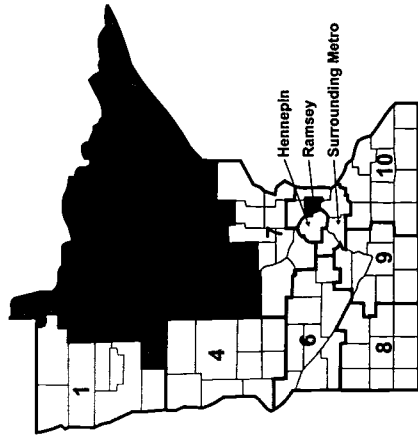
- Nationwide:
- 20.5% of children under the age of 18 were poor in 1996.
- Children compose a larger percentage of people in poverty than any other age group.
- They represent 40% of people in poverty, although they are only 27% of the total population.
- The overall poverty rate for children under the age of six is 22.7%.
- Nationally, 42% of Black children and 40% of Hispanic children live in poverty.

Working Poor Families

The majority of poor adults are working. Fifty-two percent of all poor individuals ages 18-54 were employed for part or all of 1996. The income of the poorest fifth of American families dropped 1.5% while the incomes of the top five percent of American families rose 43% from 1979 to 1995. Full-time year-round work at \$5.15 an hour equals only 83% of the poverty line for a three-person family. A single parent with one child would have to work about thirty hours a week at seven dollars an hour to reach an income slightly above the poverty level.

Federal Poverty Guidelines, 1997

Family Size	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	\$ 658	\$7,890
2	\$ 884	\$10,610
3	\$1,111	\$13,330
4	\$1,338	\$16,050
5	\$1,564	\$18,770



Percent of Children Living in Poverty in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1989		1993		1991-93	
	#	%	#	%	%	% change
REGION 1	5,205	20.0%	4,483	17.1%		-14.3%
REGION 2	6,147	31.4%	5,688	26.6%		-15.3%
REGION 3	15,410	19.4%	15,806	19.4%		-0.3%
REGION 4	10,698	20.2%	10,064	18.2%		-9.7%
REGION 5	9,802	25.4%	8,694	21.1%		-17.0%
REGION 6	7,293	16.0%	7,112	15.2%		-4.8%
REGION 7	13,621	12.2%	14,758	11.8%		-3.0%
REGION 8	5,374	15.8%	4,900	14.2%		-10.1%
REGION 9	7,392	12.7%	7,748	13.0%		2.5%
REGION 10	12,060	10.4%	13,469	11.1%		6.7%
Hennepin	36,924	15.3%	46,466	18.5%		20.9%
Ramsey	21,392	17.6%	26,055	20.9%		18.8%
Surr. Metro	14,214	6.0%	19,981	7.3%		21.3%
STATE	165,531	14.0%	185,224	14.7%		5.0%

Statewide Statistics: Children in Poverty (Census Bureau Estimates)

	Number of Children	% in Poverty
1989	165,531	14.0%
1993	185,224	14.7%

Minnesota Trends

According to estimates done by the U.S. Census Bureau, child poverty in Minnesota was about the same in 1993 as in 1989. About one in seven Minnesota children lived below the poverty line in those years. This rate varies greatly between different areas in the state. Poverty estimates in 1993 ranged from 7.3% in the surrounding metro counties, to almost 27% in northern Minnesota's Region 2. However, Regions 1, 2, 4 and 5, four of the poorest areas of the state in 1989, all saw the largest decreases in child poverty estimates by 1993. Hennepin, Ramsey, the surrounding metro counties and the southeastern Regions 9 and 10 all saw increases in child poverty estimates from 1989 to 1993.

Children Receiving AFDC

Since 1935, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has been the main cash assistance program that provides financial support to children and their adult caretakers, usually due to the absence of a parent. The number of children receiving AFDC gives us an idea of how many children live in extreme poverty. In 1996, AFDC was eliminated by Congress and replaced by Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF), a new cash assistance program.

Minnesota Family Investment Plan

The Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP-S) is Minnesota's implementation of TANF. MFIP seeks to move families off welfare through making work financially rewarding and providing support for families when they find a job. MFIP components include:

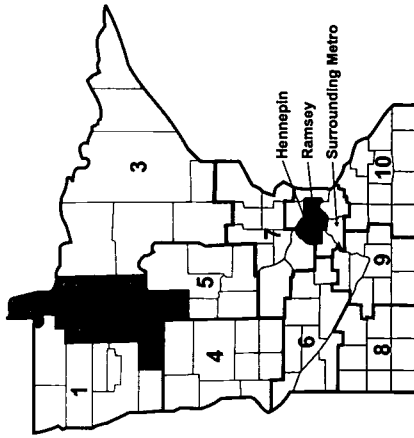
- 60 month life-time limit for assistance.
- Mandatory work requirements are strictly enforced with sanctions for non-compliance.
- Families are eligible for food stamps, child care, and Medical Assistance.

Poverty Despite Work

The changes in the welfare system are suppose to encourage parents to find jobs, take more responsibility for their children, and become more self-reliant. However, working is not necessarily a path out of poverty. As of August 1997, 50% of AFDC recipients in Minnesota did not have high school diplomas. Besides lack of education, participants face many other barriers in getting and keeping jobs, such as lack of available child care, inadequate housing, and lack of transportation. Many available jobs do not offer full-time work with benefits or a wage that can support a family.

Minnesota Trends

In Minnesota, as across the country, the number and percent of children receiving AFDC has fallen seven percent since 1994 and two percent since 1991. Many regions outside of Hennepin and Ramsey counties have experienced larger decreases, ranging up to 24% in Region 3 in Northeastern Minnesota. The southwestern portion of the state saw an increase in children receiving assistance, counter to trends throughout the rest of greater Minnesota. With changing eligibility and the implementation of TANF, the number of children receiving AFDC will no longer be an accurate indicator of child poverty.



Percent of Children Receiving AFDC in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	FY1991 #	FY1991 %	FY1993 #	FY1993 %	FY1996 #	FY1996 %	FY91-96 % change
REGION 1	2,689	10.2%	2,765	10.5%	2,054	8.1%	-21%
REGION 2	3,718	18.7%	3,806	18.6%	3,638	17.1%	-8%
REGION 3	11,054	13.9%	10,138	12.7%	8,365	10.6%	-24%
REGION 4	5,050	9.5%	5,434	10.1%	4,711	8.7%	-8%
REGION 5	4,316	11.2%	4,313	10.9%	4,219	10.4%	-8%
REGION 6	3,053	6.6%	3,515	7.5%	2,618	5.8%	-12%
REGION 7	7,033	6.1%	7,292	6.1%	6,607	5.2%	-15%
REGION 8	1,935	5.6%	2,120	6.1%	2,125	6.5%	15%
REGION 9	3,553	6.1%	3,818	6.5%	3,897	6.8%	11%
REGION 10	6,722	5.7%	7,088	6.0%	6,621	5.6%	-2%
Hennepin	34,349	13.9%	37,948	15.2%	37,243	15.1%	8%
Ramsey	20,795	16.4%	24,509	19.1%	24,774	20.4%	24%
Surr. Metro	11,244	4.6%	12,521	4.8%	11,374	4.1%	-11%
STATE	115,508	9.6%	125,260	10.1%	116,774	9.4%	-2%

Statewide Statistics: Children Receiving AFDC

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White	
1991	115,508	9.6%	22,065	9,894	11,477	4,291	67,781
1992	123,019	10.0%	24,788	10,240	12,649	5,337	70,005
1993	125,260	10.1%	25,971	9,656	13,556	6,043	70,034
1994	127,329	10.1%	28,082	9,745	14,401	9,694	65,407
1995	121,517	9.7%	27,142	9,272	14,141	9,660	61,302
1996	116,774	9.4%	28,076	8,978	13,972	9,548	46,168

Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

Free or reduced-price school lunches are available to children with family incomes below 185% of the federal poverty level. Children with family incomes below 130% of poverty receive free meals. Children with family incomes between 130% and 185% of poverty pay a reduced price for their meals at school. Because most eligible students participate, the number of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunches can indicate the number of low-income school-age children in a county.

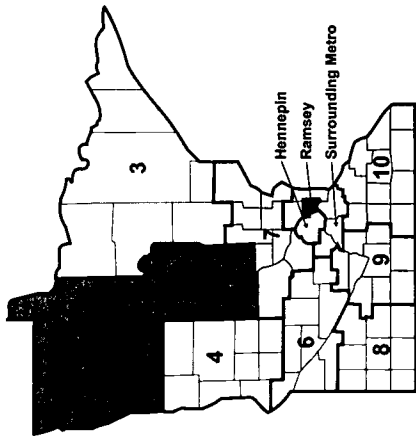
The benefits of school lunches are numerous. School lunches provide 1/3 to 1/2 of the recommended daily allowances for key nutrients and are the main nutritional food source of the day for many low-income children. Many scientific studies have documented the benefits of school lunches. Children who eat school meals perform better on standardized achievement tests and are late and absent from school less often than children who do not participate in the programs. Good nutrition positively correlates with the development and learning of children, making it an essential component of the education of children.

Children Are Still Hungry

Nationally, 11.9% of households are considered "food insecure," meaning they have limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate food. A U.S. Department of Agriculture spokesperson stated that the federal agency is hearing anecdotal evidence of food demand increases through its state and regional offices since federal food stamp cuts took effect in 1997. These cuts make school lunches and breakfasts even more critical to children.

Minnesota Trends

Statewide, school lunch participation has been quite stable from 1991 to 1996. In the 1996-1997 school year, 229,059, or close to 27% of students came from low-income families. Close to 20% of students received free lunch, meaning their families were very low-income. The percent of students in the program varies greatly between regions, ranging from less than 15% in the surrounding metro counties, to almost 50% in Region 2, reflecting different rates of child poverty. Region 2, in North Central Minnesota, as well as the surrounding metro counties and Ramsey County, all have significant increases since 1991.



Percent of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991-1992 #	1991-1992 %	1993-1994 #	1993-1994 %	1996-1997 #	1996-1997 %	1991-1996 % change
REGION 1	6,778	36.1%	6,969	37.1%	6,581	35.2%	-3%
REGION 2	6,264	41.6%	7,309	46.6%	7,646	47.8%	15%
REGION 3	16,211	30.0%	17,038	30.6%	16,105	29.0%	-3%
REGION 4	11,444	31.3%	12,281	32.9%	11,638	30.6%	-2%
REGION 5	12,292	43.0%	12,782	43.1%	13,511	43.3%	1%
REGION 6	9,291	29.4%	10,174	30.5%	9,486	29.3%	0%
REGION 7	19,339	24.3%	20,878	24.7%	20,954	23.5%	-3%
REGION 8	7,036	29.2%	7,711	31.2%	7,698	30.9%	6%
REGION 9	9,768	24.6%	11,220	26.7%	11,155	26.1%	6%
REGION 10	16,216	20.7%	17,100	21.7%	18,034	22.4%	8%
Hennepin	36,828	27.0%	48,220	33.4%	43,778	28.2%	5%
Ramsey	26,707	35.7%	28,421	35.3%	35,467	40.3%	13%
Surr. Metro	20,233	12.9%	24,577	14.5%	27,006	14.5%	12%
STATE	198,407	25.6%	224,860	27.6%	229,059	26.7%	4%

Statewide Statistics: Number and Percent of Students Approved for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

	Free or Reduced-Price	Free
1991-92	198,407	25.6%
1992-93	206,381	26.0%
1993-94	224,860	27.6%
1994-95	222,431	27.0%
1995-96	223,891	27.0%
1996-97	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances & Health



Children Born to Teenage Mothers

Early childbirth has a lasting impact on the lives and future opportunities of both young mothers and their children. Young mothers are more likely to not complete high school, raise their children alone, and be poorer than mothers who are older. Children born to teenage mothers also have increased health, academic, and social problems. Most young fathers are ill-equipped to take on the responsibilities of fathering due to lack of education and job skills, which leads to low wages. A child born to an unmarried, teenage, high school dropout is ten times more likely to live in poverty than other children.

Prevention Programs

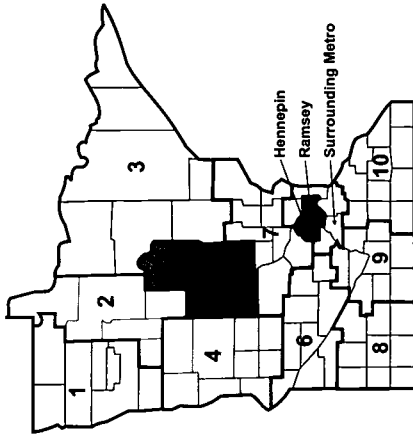
Prevention programs focused on both young women and young men are the most important strategy to reduce the occurrences of teenage pregnancy. Research studies have found that school-based programs are the most effective because all youth are enrolled in school at some point before they engage in sex. Prevention programs include educating young people about sexuality, family planning, and contraception; making contraception and medical services available and accessible to young people; providing teenagers at risk of becoming parents with alternative life options to parenting; and instilling a hope for a productive future.

Help for Teen Parents

Programs that reduce the undesirable outcomes for teenage parents and their children are essential as well. Comprehensive services work best; recent research and evaluation of school-based programs for pregnant and parenting teens has shown that they are effective in providing quality education programs, preparing the teens to be self-sufficient adults, and promoting healthy development and school readiness for their children.

Minnesota Trends

In 1996, 2,019 births to mothers under 18 were recorded in Minnesota. The teen birth rate (or number of 15- to 17-year-old teenagers who gave birth out of every thousand teens) was 22 in 1993-1995, the latest years available. This birth rate differed significantly across the state. Hennepin and Ramsey Counties had the highest rates, but Regions 2 and 5, in north central Minnesota, also had high rates of teen births. The surrounding metro area and the southwest area of Minnesota had the lowest rates of teen births.



Teen Birth Rate in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991 #	1993 #	1996 #	1993-1995 rate
REGION 1	27	29	37	16.9
REGION 2	35	36	47	23.5
REGION 3	110	125	111	16.9
REGION 4	68	82	73	17.7
REGION 5	63	70	55	24.7
REGION 6	48	63	60	16.8
REGION 7	118	137	168	16.1
REGION 8	27	46	46	14.6
REGION 9	65	73	85	16.2
REGION 10	154	149	127	16.8
Hennepin	557	558	534	31.5
Ramsey	320	350	372	38.4
Surrounding Metro	248	240	304	14.1
STATE	1840	1958	2,019	31.0

Statewide Statistics: Children Born to Teenage Mothers

	All Children			Hispanic	White
	African-American	American Indian	Asian		
1991	1,840	322	132	103	1,119
1992	1,911	389	122	121	1,174
1993	1,958	357	137	143	1,182
1994	1,999	361	157	139	1,234
1995	2,033	369	128	147	1,235
1996	2,017	325	106	174	1,180

Children Born at Low Birthweight

Low birthweight is the major cause of infant illness and death in the United States. This term describes infants born weighing less than 2500 grams or 5.5 pounds, including those born prematurely (before 37 weeks). As a group, these infants have higher rates of health problems than other children. By school age, children born at low birthweight are more likely to have mild learning disabilities, attention disorders, developmental impairments, and breathing problems.

Risk Factors for Low Birthweight

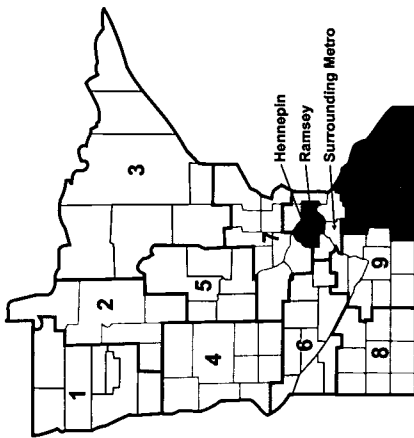
The three major risk factors for low birthweight are cigarette smoking during pregnancy, low maternal weight gain, and low pre-pregnancy weight. Other risks include socioeconomic status, genetic make-up, and other health problems. African American infants are twice as likely as infants of nearly all other racial/ethnic groups in America to be born at low birthweight. There is some evidence which indicates that higher rates of poverty and other environmental factors may not be the only determining factors for these differences.

Effective Prenatal Services

In the past, researchers focused on prenatal care as a preventive solution, although recent evidence indicates that traditional prenatal care services may not actually provide significant benefits for low birthweight babies. For prenatal services to be effective in reducing chances of low birthweight, women at risk need to be identified early. The three most effective prenatal intervention efforts are aimed at smoking, nutrition, and medical care.

Minnesota Trends

The percent of children born at low birthweight has increased slightly over the past six years, rising to 5.8% in 1996. In line with national statistics, African-American children in Minnesota are twice as likely as other children to be born at low birthweight. Significant differences also occur between Minnesota regions. Hennepin and Ramsey Counties have the highest percentages of low birthweights, with rates under 5% in several rural regions.



Percent of Children Born at Low Birth Weight in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991		1993		1996		1991-96	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%	% change
REGION 1	58	4.9%	39	3.5%	56	4.9%	56	-0.7%
REGION 2	42	4.0%	56	6.0%	48	5.1%	48	28.5%
REGION 3	165	4.7%	169	5.0%	142	4.5%	142	-3.1%
REGION 4	119	4.8%	116	5.0%	119	5.2%	119	8.2%
REGION 5	87	4.7%	94	5.3%	88	5.0%	88	7.3%
REGION 6	59	2.8%	75	3.7%	83	4.3%	83	49.5%
REGION 7	276	4.9%	278	5.0%	319	5.4%	319	10.2%
REGION 8	44	2.8%	73	4.7%	79	5.4%	79	94.7%
REGION 9	137	5.0%	107	4.1%	134	5.3%	134	6.6%
REGION 10	277	4.5%	314	5.5%	319	5.9%	319	29.7%
Hennepin	967	5.8%	911	5.8%	1,045	6.8%	1,045	17.9%
Ramsey	485	5.9%	428	5.5%	487	6.6%	487	13.4%
Surrounding Metro	623	4.5%	660	4.7%	796	5.5%	796	21.7%
STATE	3,339	5.0%	3,320	5.1%	3,715	5.8%	3,715	17.1%

Statewide Statistics: Children Born With Low Birth Weight (Less Than 2500 grams)*

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White						
1991	3,339	5.0%	406	12.2%	93	5.7%	138	5.7%	79	6.2%	2,692	4.5%
1992	3,211	4.9%	366	10.4%	88	6.0%	131	5.4%	73	5.2%	2,618	4.0%
1993	3,320	5.1%	348	9.9%	100	7.2%	174	6.8%	85	5.4%	2,675	4.1%
1994	3,646	5.7%	429	11.5%	94	6.6%	192	6.9%	107	6.4%	2,893	5.2%
1995	3,709	6.0%	405	11.2%	105	7.9%	181	6.4%	129	6.7%	2,960	5.4%
1996	3,715	5.8%	365	12.0%	63	5.9%	175	6.6%	138	6.0%	2,936	5.4%

Children Not Immunized by Age 2

Immunizations against preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, polio and whooping cough (pertussis) are one of the most important preventive health measures available. Except for clean water, no other intervention has had such a major influence on reducing child deaths and serious illness. Besides protecting children from unnecessary diseases that may have serious consequences, vaccines also offer a cost savings. Every dollar invested in an immunization program saves ten dollars in medical costs to treat disease and illness.

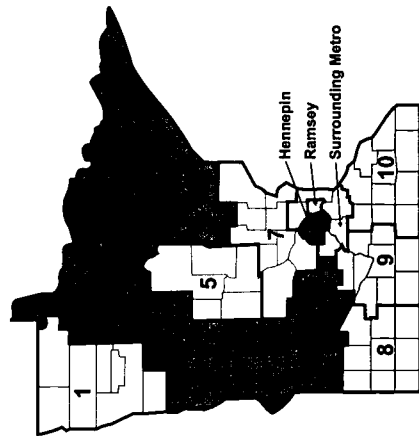
Preventable Diseases Decrease

Nationally, immunization rates have been rising after a measles epidemic in 1989-1991. By 1996, rates of many preventable diseases among children under 5 were at all-time low rates. Nationally, in 1995, about 75% of two-year-olds were fully immunized.

In the 1992-93 school year, and again in 1995-96, the Minnesota Department of Health conducted a survey of all kindergartners to find out how many of them were immunized and at what age. All students are required to be immunized to enter kindergarten, but the basic set of immunizations should be completed by the time a child is 24 months old. While children often get their very first immunizations (90% of Minnesota children had their shots at four months), children often fall behind during their toddler years. Because immunization schedules are complex, it is important for clinics to remind patients of immunizations regularly, and to check children's immunization history at every visit.

Minnesota Trends

For children entering kindergarten in 1995, 32% were not up-to-date on their vaccinations by age two. This was a small improvement over the last survey in 1992, when 39% were not up-to-date by age two. Much of the improvement was probably the result of heightened awareness from the 1990 measles outbreak in Minnesota. Many regions showed a much greater improvement. Region 9 in south central Minnesota posted a 50% improvement in the number of un-immunized children. Regions 3 and 6 had the highest rates of un-immunized children and had increases in the number of un-immunized children from the 1992 to the 1995 surveys.



Percent of Children Not Immunized by Age 2 in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1992-1993		1995-1996		% change
	#	%	#	%	
REGION 1	651	42.0%	479	32.0%	-23.7%
REGION 2	455	46.7%	430	37.0%	-20.7%
REGION 3	1,596	38.4%	1,303	41.7%	8.4%
REGION 4	1,234	45.8%	1,004	37.0%	-19.2%
REGION 5	921	40.9%	748	33.5%	-18.0%
REGION 6	946	37.0%	737	42.4%	14.4%
REGION 7	2,515	38.4%	2,110	35.4%	-7.9%
REGION 8	709	37.6%	519	28.4%	-24.5%
REGION 9	936	31.2%	794	14.8%	-52.5%
REGION 10	2,201	33.8%	1,656	26.7%	-21.1%
Hennepin	5,969	42.1%	5,572	37.0%	-12.1%
Ramsey	3,805	46.3%	2,789	34.9%	-24.7%
Surrounding Metro	5,257	36.0%	3,938	26.5%	-26.4%
STATE	27,172	39.3%	22,023	32.2%	-18.5%

Statewide Statistics: Children Not Immunized by Age 2

	All Children		African-American		American Indian		Asian		Hispanic		White	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1992-93	27,193	(39.3%)	1,914	(61.8%)	568	(47.8%)	1,469	(65.0%)	606	(56.9%)	18,040	(37.2%)
1995-96*	22,023	(32.0%)	1,547	(62.2%)	597	(52.4%)	2,962	(69.8%)	1,381	(66.8%)	21,970	(41.7%)

* Racial/ethnic breakout for 1995-96 is for full immunization at 20 months

Signs of Trouble



Children Dropping Out of School

Dropping out of school is associated with many negative factors that can affect a child's future. Children who drop out of school are three times as likely to slip into poverty in adulthood than those who finish school. Dropping out of school is more prevalent among students from lower socioeconomic classes, students in urban environments, students of color, and students with disabilities.

It is imperative to look beyond the personal and family factors that contribute to the likelihood of dropping out. Higher rates of dropouts occur in schools that do not have "early warning" mechanisms in place, are perceived as being too dangerous, do not have in-school disciplinary suspensions, and where students feel teachers don't care about them.

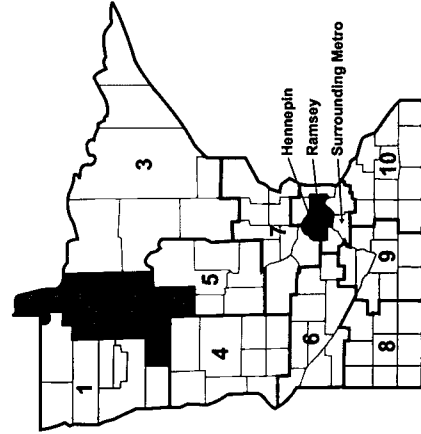
Reasons for Dropping Out

- Research indicates that there is a high correlation between truancy and dropout rates.
- Studies on truancy rates show that children at risk of dropping out can be detected as early as third grade.
- During 1992, Minneapolis students who dropped out of school attended an average of 46 fewer days than students who stayed in school.
- 10th grade truant students are likely to have reading and math competencies below the 7th grade level, and are likely to have learning disabilities.

Minnesota Trends

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning was not able to provide drop-out statistics for the 1996-1997 school year as of March 1998. In the 1995-96 school year, an estimated 4% of the state's 7-12th grade students dropped out of school. The state drop out rate for students of color was 13.1% for the 1995-96 school year, or more than three times that of white students. This rate increased 21% from 1993-94 to 1995-96, compared to a 14% increase for white students during that time. The Department did a "completion study" of the class of 1996 to try to estimate how many students dropped out between their ninth grade and twelfth grade years. Nine percent of white, 17% of Asian, 39% of Hispanic, 44% of Black and 40% of Indian students were estimated to have dropped out of school.

Area	1991-92		1993-94		1995-96		1991-95	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	% change
REGION 1	115	1.3%	146	1.6%	131	1.4%		7.0%
REGION 2	149	2.4%	167	2.4%	340	4.6%		96.7%
REGION 3	994	3.7%	811	3.0%	875	3.2%		-15.0%
REGION 4	251	1.6%	342	2.0%	534	2.9%		84.2%
REGION 5	374	2.9%	438	3.1%	552	3.8%		31.6%
REGION 6	319	2.2%	352	2.3%	533	3.3%		50.6%
REGION 7	749	2.2%	809	2.1%	1,204	2.9%		36.3%
REGION 8	144	1.3%	127	1.2%	207	1.8%		34.4%
REGION 9	286	1.7%	332	1.8%	396	2.0%		17.3%
REGION 10	836	2.5%	816	2.3%	1,015	2.8%		10.1%
Hennepin	3,364	6.0%	3,554	5.9%	4,749	7.5%		24.2%
Ramsey	1,844	6.4%	2,376	7.4%	2,580	7.5%		16.4%
Surr. Metro	2,066	3.1%	2,117	2.8%	2,585	3.2%		5.6%
STATE	11,491	3.5%	12,387	3.4%	15,701	4.1%		18.3%



Percent of Children Dropping Out of School in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Children Dropping Out of School

	All Children		African-American		American Indian		Asian		Hispanic		White	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1991-92	11,491	3.5%	1,467	14.0%	669	13.0%	456	4.5%	496	11.3%	8,403	8.4%
1992-93	13,640	3.9%	1,870	16.0%	844	15.6%	691	6.6%	627	12.5%	9,608	9.6%
1993-94	12,387	3.4%	1,812	14.0%	787	13.0%	612	5.4%	681	12.3%	8,495	8.5%
1994-95	12,930	3.5%	1,963	14.1%	920	14.6%	618	5.0%	675	11.1%	8,754	8.8%
1995-96	15,701	4.0%	2,766	18.2%	1,049	15.9%	806	6.0%	836	12.5%	10,244	10.2%

Children Arrested for Violent Crime

Juvenile violent crime is associated with many other risk factors for children including poverty, learning disabilities, substance abuse, physical abuse and neglect, family dysfunction, low-income neighborhoods, cognitive deficiencies, and perinatal risks.

Although juvenile court systems have traditionally focused on treatment and rehabilitation, tougher policies are a growing trend in courts that deal with juvenile offenders, especially violent ones. Recent federal legislation reflects the growing trend to impose harsh sanctions on children who commit crime, allowing little room for prevention and rehabilitation before it's too late.

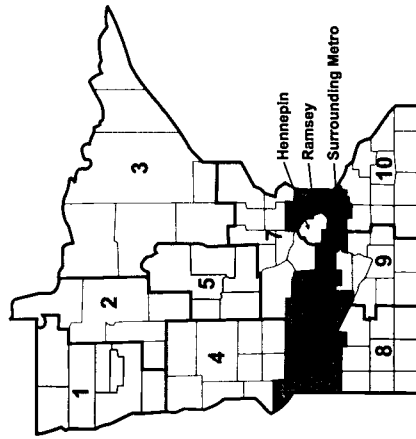
Treating Children as Adult Offenders

- This "get tough" rhetoric is ineffective for several reasons:
- Children tried as adults re-offend sooner, commit more serious new offenses, and re-offend more often than children tried as juveniles and placed in juvenile facilities.
- Children in adult jails are at a greater risk for assault and abuse from staff and other inmates, and have a higher suicide rate.
- Children in adult jails do not receive the services that are critical in rehabilitating them.

Long-term evaluations of promising prevention programs is necessary to determine which interventions will be the most successful. Unless successful preventative and rehabilitative programs are proven, policy initiatives will focus on punishment and retribution.

Minnesota Trends

In 1995 and 1996, the percent of all violent crime committed by juveniles declined somewhat in Minnesota, from over 30% to 28.6%. However, this still represents a 27% increase over 1991 rates. Data for Minnesota counties is only available through 1995. Regions vary considerably in the percent of violent crimes committed by juveniles, from 10% in northwest Region 1, to almost 40% in Ramsey County and the surrounding metro counties. All regions saw an increase from 1991 to 1995, although the large percentage increases in some regions should be balanced against the relatively small number of violent crimes in those racial groups than do white children. However, over 40% of violent crime



Percent of Children Arrested for Violent Crime in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991 #	1991 %	1993 #	1993 %	1995 #	1995 %	1991-95 % change
REGION 1	3	5.3%	16	16.8%	7	10.3%	95.6%
REGION 2	12	20.0%	16	14.0%	21	26.6%	32.9%
REGION 3	65	24.1%	110	32.1%	105	27.1%	12.7%
REGION 4	30	19.6%	26	14.1%	41	26.5%	34.9%
REGION 5	11	11.3%	13	8.8%	21	17.1%	50.6%
REGION 6	30	23.4%	37	27.4%	50	29.9%	27.7%
REGION 7	52	16.0%	90	26.3%	90	23.3%	45.3%
REGION 8	6	7.7%	26	29.2%	11	15.3%	98.6%
REGION 9	13	10.3%	27	20.6%	35	22.7%	120.3%
REGION 10	41	17.4%	87	23.5%	109	25.5%	46.6%
Hennepin	569	24.2%	640	22.9%	771	27.1%	11.9%
Ramsey	325	26.5%	394	31.6%	523	38.8%	46.7%
Surrounding Metro	225	30.7%	285	34.3%	339	38.2%	24.5%
STATE	1,382	23.6%	1,767	25.9%	2,123	29.9%	26.7%

Statewide Statistics: Children Arrested For Violent Crimes* (murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault)

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White					
1991	1,382	23.6%	512	24.2%	98	22.6%	35	41.7%	738	22.9%
1992	1,662	26.4%	574	26.0%	90	21.8%	50	39.1%	943	27.3%
1993	1,767	25.9%	603	24.5%	103	22.1%	78	40.8%	983	26.6%
1994	2,225	31.0%	785	28.9%	121	23.6%	101	42.6%	1,219	32.7%
1995	2,123	29.9%	774	28.6%	117	23.3%	116	49.5%	1,115	30.2%
1996	2,026	28.6%	643	24.1%	131	24.9%	102	42.1%	1,150	31.6%

* As a percent of all arrests for violent crimes

Asians is committed by Asians under 18.



Children Abused and Neglected

Child abuse and neglect often results in physical, intellectual, behavioral, and emotional problems. In addition to the immediate and short-term harm of child abuse, there are long-term ramifications as well. Young abused children are more likely to be socially withdrawn, physically aggressive, and to have learning problems. As adolescents, they are more likely to be involved in crime, become pregnant, perform poorly at school, use drugs and alcohol, or attempt suicide.

According to a 1992 U.S. Department of Justice report, 68% of the youths arrested had prior history of abuse and neglect. The study also found that girls who were abused or neglected in childhood were worse off; they were 77 percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles. Youths who were abused or neglected in childhood are also more likely to be the most chronic and serious of the juvenile offenders.

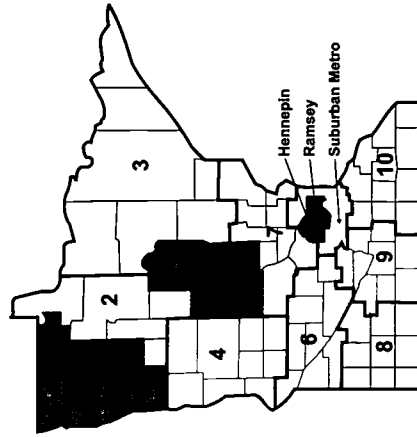
A 1995 study conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health found that many homeless people, especially women, reported serious family problems or a history of sexual or physical abuse as children.

Prevention Is Essential

Within the past few years there have been initiatives at all levels to help communities become more responsible for child protection. At the federal level, final regulation adapted to the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program emphasizes the importance of community-based child and family services. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was also reauthorized in 1996 to include a new demonstration grant program to promote innovative partnerships between public and private sectors. Community-based, family-centered, comprehensive services to protect children and support families are being advanced with the help of foundations, local community leaders, families, and public and private agencies.

Minnesota Trends

In Minnesota, the only available data about child abuse and neglect comes from recording cases which are reported and investigated by one of the state's 87 counties. Reporting the number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect does not accurately reflect the true rate of child abuse and neglect in the state. In 1996, 10,195 cases of abuse or neglect were substantiated, a slight decrease since 1991. This represents 40% of all reports of child abuse or neglect. About half of these substantiated reports were for neglect. Regions differed widely in their trends between 1991 and 1996.



Percent of Children Abused and Neglected in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991 #	1991 rate/1000	1993 #	1993 rate/1000	1996 #	1996 rate/1000	1991-96 % change
REGION 1	197	7.5	220	8.4	277	10.5	41%
REGION 2	198	9.9	211	10.3	139	6.7	-33%
REGION 3	642	8.1	607	7.6	540	6.8	-16%
REGION 4	541	10.1	501	9.3	478	8.8	-13%
REGION 5	473	12.3	459	11.6	366	9.1	-26%
REGION 6	336	7.3	400	8.6	386	8.2	13%
REGION 7	520	4.5	468	3.9	639	5.2	15%
REGION 8	233	6.5	338	9.4	249	6.5	1%
REGION 9	711	10.3	688	9.9	494	7.1	-31%
REGION 10	691	5.9	786	6.6	809	6.8	15%
Hennepin	3,048	12.4	3,545	14.2	2,919	11.5	-7%
Ramsey	1,233	9.7	1,350	10.5	1,445	11.2	15%
Surr. Metro	1,401	5.7	1,491	5.7	1,459	5.4	-5%
STATE	10,224	8.5	11,064	8.9	10,200	8.1	-4%

Statewide Statistics: Children Abused and Neglected (reports substantiated by county agencies)

	All Children		African-American		American Indian		Hispanic		Asian		White	
	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000
1991	10,224	8.5	1,768	15.2	909	15.2	424	15.2	217	15.2	6,876	8.1
1992	11,217	9.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	11,058	9.8	2,273	19.8	870	15.2	478	15.2	195	15.2	7,090	8.5
1994	10,434	8.9	2,393	20.8	866	15.2	598	15.2	206	15.2	6,360	7.8
1995	10,273	8.8	2,175	19.2	846	15.2	663	15.2	185	15.2	6,268	8.1
1996	10,195	8.7	2,349	20.6	757	13.2	630	13.2	248	13.2	6,158	7.9

Children in Out-of-Home Placements

Out-of-home care affects only a small proportion of troubled families. Many instances of child abuse or neglect go unreported. Some situations are reported and resolved without children needing to leave their families. Many children live with relatives or family friends without the involvement of the formal child welfare system.

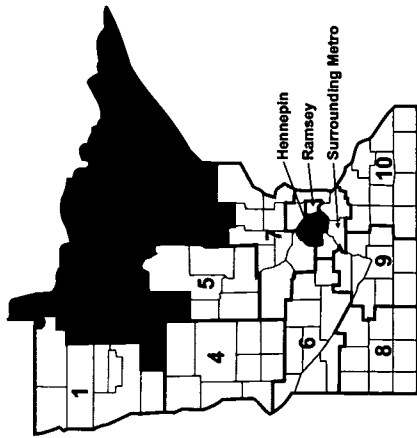
In 1996, 21% of reasons given for children entering into care were for protection. Another 24% entered because of a parent's substance abuse, illness or disability, incarceration or other condition. Forty-three percent entered because of a child-related conduct or condition such as delinquency, substance abuse or disability.

Improving the Out-of-Home Placement System

- Advocates have made the following suggestions for improving the system in Minnesota:
 - Funding for out-of-home care should be stabilized by the state increasing its investment on a targeted basis, and by decreasing reliance on local property taxes.
 - The emphasis of the child welfare system must be shifted to early prevention activities. Spending for prevention and early intervention should at least equal spending on out-of-home care and adoption.
 - The state and counties must undertake aggressive implementation and evaluation of current best practices, paying special attention to the youngest children in the system.
 - Data about out-of-home care and the entire child welfare system must be structured to provide the maximum information about outcomes for children and families.

Minnesota Trends

In 1996, 14 out of every 1,000 children were in out-of-home care for at least part of the year. This is a slight increase since 1991, but a decrease from 1993. Rates varied by region, ranging from relatively low rates in the southern part of the state, to rates of more than 20 per 1,000 in Regions 2 and 3 in northern Minnesota. Some regions saw significant increases in out-of-home placement, some remained relatively stable, and three decreased. Since the child welfare system is county administered, wide variations between counties are likely, due both to different circumstances in counties but also variations in policies and practices. African-American and American Indian children in Minnesota continue to be over-represented in the number of children in out-of-home placements.



Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Placements in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

Area	1991 #	1991 rate/1000	1993 #	1993 rate/1000	1996 #	1996 rate/1000	1991-96 % change
REGION 1	248	9.4	253	9.6	289	11.0	16.5%
REGION 2	394	19.8	418	20.5	423	20.3	2.8%
REGION 3	1,899	23.9	2,074	26.0	1,864	23.3	-2.4%
REGION 4	650	12.2	669	12.4	698	12.8	5.4%
REGION 5	544	14.1	603	15.3	629	15.7	11.3%
REGION 6	416	9.0	469	10.1	411	8.8	-2.5%
REGION 7	1,108	9.7	1,178	9.9	1,473	12.1	24.5%
REGION 8	390	1.2	444	1.4	488	1.5	25.5%
REGION 9	550	8.0	671	9.7	675	9.7	22.2%
REGION 10	955	8.2	921	7.7	1,168	9.8	19.8%
Hennepin	5,813	23.6	6,713	26.8	4,973	19.7	-16.6%
Ramsey	1,545	12.2	1,582	12.3	1,684	13.1	7.0%
Surr. Metro	2,265	9.2	2,678	10.2	2,786	10.3	12.2%
STATE	16,777	13.9	18,673	15.0	17,561	14.0	0.7%

Children in Out-of-Home Placement

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White
1991	16,777	3,000	1,865	344	425	10,777
1992	18,096	3,459	2,130	304	412	11,337
1993	18,673	3,860	2,108	316	562	11,489
1994	19,636	4,007	2,176	292	581	11,658
1995	18,492	3,685	2,034	308	636	11,308
1996	17,508	3,492	1,995	285	644	10,701



Children Dying Violently

Relatively few children die violent deaths in Minnesota each year. However, it is important to be aware of violent child deaths because many of these deaths are preventable. Homicides, suicides, and unintentional injuries such as motor vehicle crashes (children as occupants, pedestrians, and bicyclists), drownings, fires, and falls are included in this category.

According to the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, highway crashes are the number one cause of death among youth. Advocates strive to promote four key laws: zero alcohol tolerance laws, which set the legal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) level at .02 percent or less; teenage graduated licensing laws, in which young drivers pass through phases of restricted driving before they receive unrestricted licenses; child passenger restraint laws; and primary enforcement safety belt laws, which allow a law enforcement officer to pull over and fine motorists who are not wearing their safety belts.

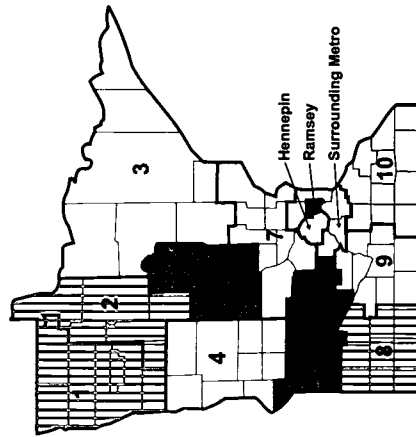
High Rates of Violent Deaths in the U.S.

Although there are not many violent child deaths in Minnesota, the United States has enormously high rates of homicide, suicide, and firearm-related deaths for children 15 and younger among the world's 26 richest industrialized countries. According to a report released by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- The homicide rate for children in the U.S. is higher than for children in the other twenty-five countries combined.
- The U.S. suicide rates among juveniles are twice as high.
- The firearm-related homicide rate in the United States was nearly 16 times higher.

Minnesota Trends

In 1996, 205 Minnesota children died violently. The largest numbers of violent death in Minnesota are related to motor vehicles. There is no clear trend over time in the number of violent preventable child deaths in Minnesota. The number of homicides is up slightly in the last two years, but still comprise only 16% of violent deaths in 1996. Although the numbers are too small to calculate accurate rates in Regions 1, 2, 8 and 9, rates for the remaining regions are fairly consistent across the state. Region 5 and Region 6 in the north and east-central part of Minnesota reported the highest rates, with Region 10 in southeast Minnesota reporting the lowest.



Percent of Children Dying Violently in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average
- ▨ Insufficient Data

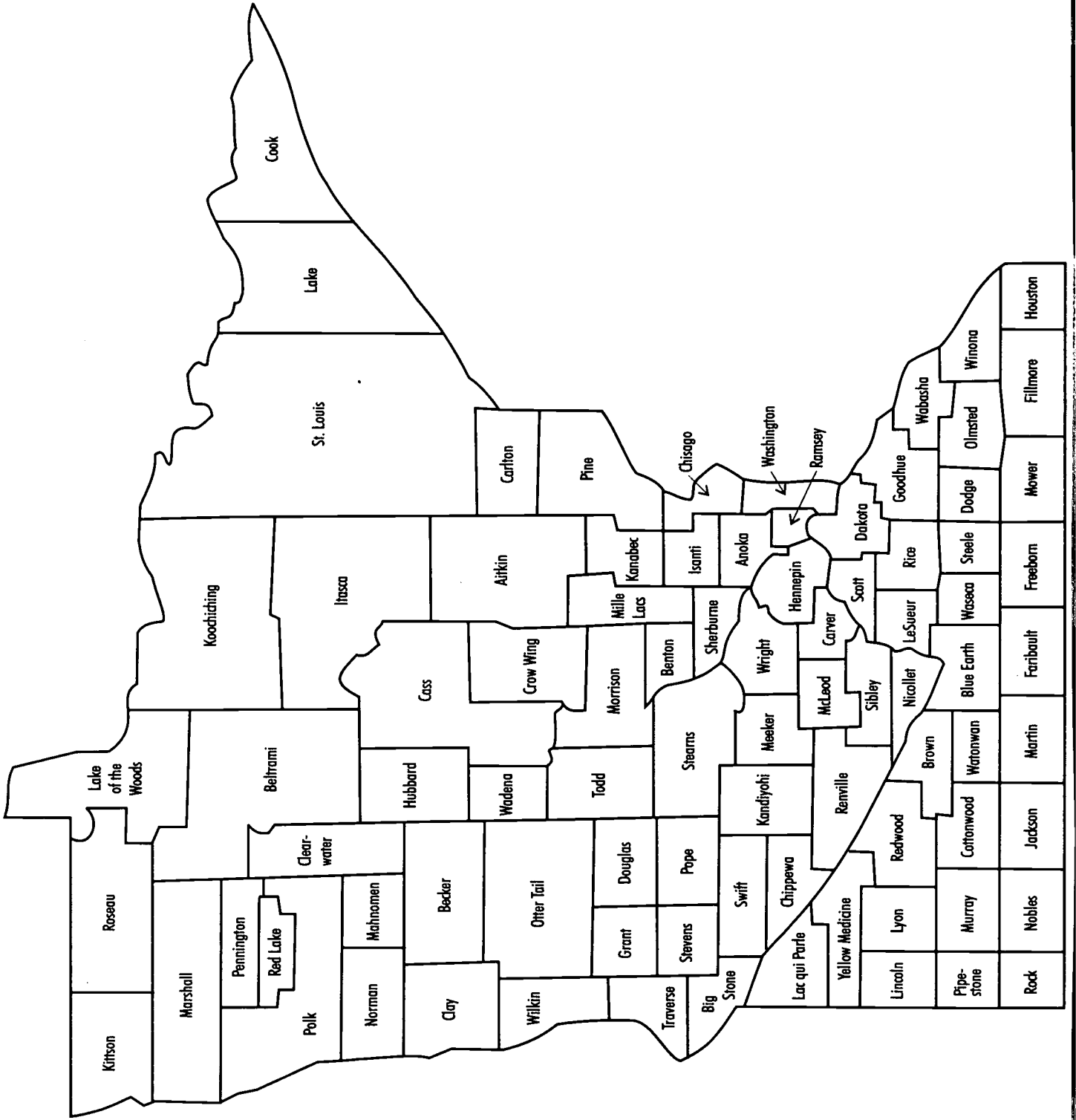
Area	1991 #	1991 rate/1000	1993 #	1993 rate/1000	1996 #	1996 rate/1000	1991-96 % change
REGION 1	6	6	7	7	6	6	
REGION 2	4	4	9	9	5	5	
REGION 3	21	2.6	13	1.6	15	1.9	-28.2%
REGION 4	6	6	6	6	11	2.0	
REGION 5	13	3.4	18	4.6	12	2.9	-12.7%
REGION 6	18	3.9	8	8	11	2.4	-37.6%
REGION 7	24	2.1	20	1.7	21	1.7	-21.1%
REGION 8	2	2	9	9	5	5	
REGION 9	8	8	21	3.6	11	1.9	
REGION 10	24	2.1	10	0.8	14	1.2	-41.8%
Hennepin	35	1.4	32	1.3	42	1.7	20.1%
Ramsey	13	1.0	23	1.8	17	1.4	36.3%
Surrounding Metro	25	1.0	28	1.1	35	1.3	23.8%
STATE	199	1.6	204	1.6	205	1.6	-0.1%

Statewide Statistics: Children Dying Violently

	All Children	Children of Color*	Murder	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Crashes
1991	199	30	21	28	73
1992	213	32	20	39	84
1993	204	41	23	27	75
1994	183	41	19	16	108
1995	211	44	29	34	75
1996	205	35	32	24	92

* includes Hispanic

Region 5 and Region 6 in the north and east-central part of Minnesota reported the highest rates, with Region 10 in southeast Minnesota reporting the lowest.



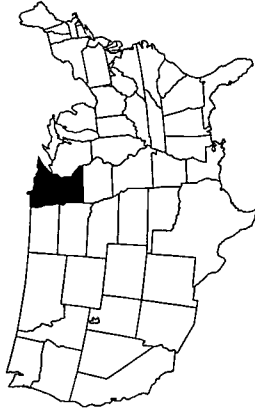
Minnesota

Demographics (1990)

Estimated population, 1996	4,657,758
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,247,008
Estimated % children, 1996	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,209,365
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	3.1%
Projected population, 2000	4,649,480



Minnesota is the twentieth largest state in the United States. The per capita income in 1995 was \$23,937, seventeenth in the country. The largest industries in 1995 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing 4.5% between 1994 and 1995.



In the most recent national KIDS COUNT data book, which used 1994 figures, Minnesota ranked eleventh best in the nation, a drop from an eighth-place ranking for the previous year. Although Minnesota ranked fifth best in its teen birth rate, and seventh for the percent of children born at low birth weight, the state slipped from seventh to eighteenth in the percent of high school dropouts, and from twentieth to twenty-seventh in juvenile arrests for violent crimes. The state ranks twenty-sixth in the percentage of children living in poverty.

	1991	1993	1996
Family Economics			
Children living below the poverty line	165,531 14.0%	185,224 14.7%	
Children receiving AFDC	115,508 9.6%	125,260 10.1%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	198,407 25.6%	224,860 27.9%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances			
Children born to teenage mothers	1,840	1,958	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3,339 5.0%	3,320 5.1%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		27,172 39.3%	22,023 32.2%
Signs of Trouble			
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	11,491 3.5%	12,387 3.4%	15,701 4.1% (c)
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1,382 23.6%	1,767 26.0%	2,123 29.9% (c)
Children abused and neglected (rate per 1,000)	10,224 8.5	11,064 8.9	10,200 8.1
Children in out-of-home placements (rate per 1,000)	16,777 13.9	18,673 15.0	17,508 14.0
Children dying violently (rate per 1,000)	199 1.6	204 1.6	205 1.6

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995



Aitkin

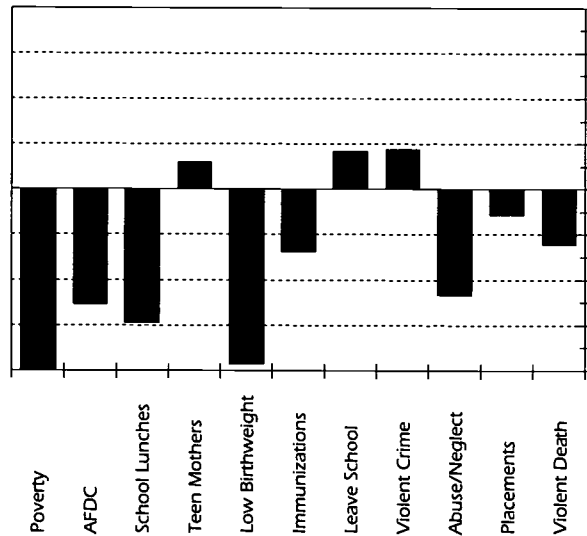
Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	13,715
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,195
Estimated % children, 1996	23.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,996
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	6.6%
Projected population, 2000	11,570

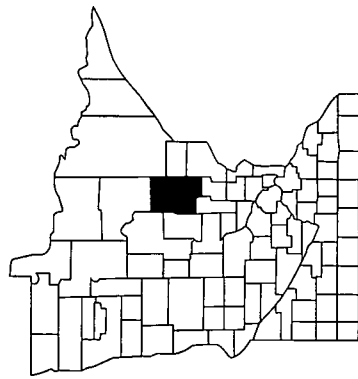
Aitkin County is located in northeastern Minnesota and is among the smallest third of counties in population. Its per capita personal income of \$15,886 was the eighth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were service, local and state government, and retail. Construction was the fastest growing industry, which increased 9.5 percent from 1994.

Aitkin County fared better than the average county in the rate of births to teen mothers. The number of children not fully immunized by the age of two also decreased between 1992 and 1995. Although the number of children receiving AFDC had decreased slightly in 1996, there was still a higher percentage of children receiving AFDC in Aitkin County compared to the average Minnesota county. Substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect were also higher than in the average county, as was the percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Aitkin County



Compared to the Average County 1996



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	894 29.8%	834 25.9%		185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	447 15.0%	500 16.4%	406 12.7%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	506 55.2%	1,083 46.6%	1,088 46.2%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	3	6	4 15.3 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	6 5.2%	6 4.5%	11 8.1%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		93 52.2%	57 37.0%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	19 2.1%	13 1.2%	22 1.9% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2 50.0%	2 14.0%	4 16.7% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	22	47	39	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	47	75	47	17,508
Children dying violently	1	1	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

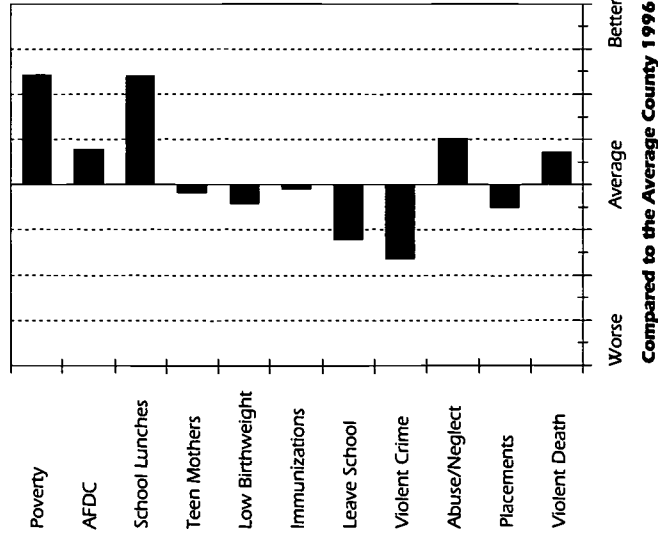


Anoka

Demographics

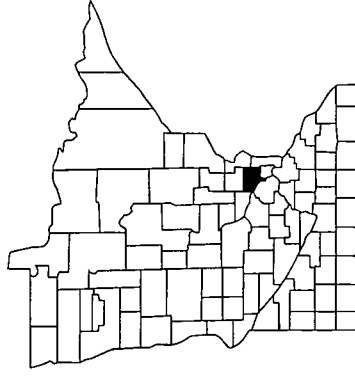
Estimated population, 1996	282,139
Estimated number of children, 1996	85,540
Estimated % children, 1996	30.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	78,161
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	9.4%
Projected population, 2000	281,870

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Anoka County



Anoka County is part of the northern section of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. This county is the fourth largest in Minnesota. The largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in Anoka was state and local government, which increased 7.6 percent. Anoka had a per capita personal income of \$21,587, the twelfth highest in the state.

Anoka County had a lower percentage of children on AFDC and children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch than the average county. Anoka County also had a lower percentage of children in poverty and a low number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect in comparison with the average county. Anoka's rate of arrests for violent crimes by children has increased slightly from 1993 to 1996, and the number of children in out-of-home placements increased steadily from 1991 to 1996.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	5,415	7,699	9.1%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	4,528	5,112	6.3%	4,653 5.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	8,416	10,599	18.9%	10,834 18.3%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	104	96	116	18.2 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	208	187	226	5.4%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		1,795	37.0%	1,504	32.8%

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	595	793	3.2%	998	3.8% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	104	104	38.0%	132	43.0% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	401	503		442		10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	874	1,063		1,241		17,508
Children dying violently	7	12		10		205

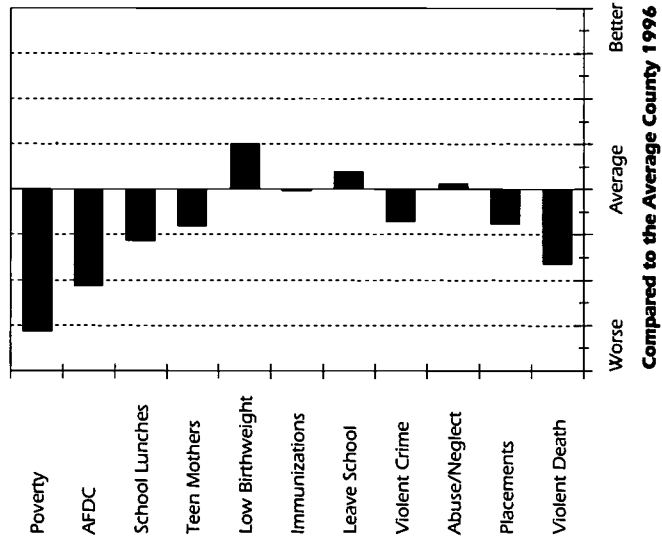
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Becker

Demographics

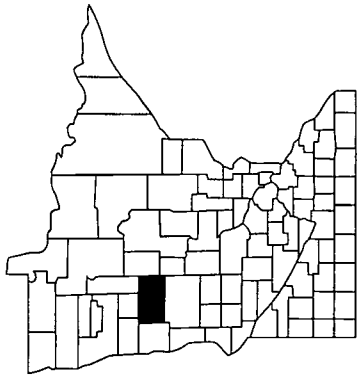
Estimated population, 1996	.....29,161
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....8,404
Estimated % children, 1996	.....28.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....8,256
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....1.8%
Projected population, 2000	.....25,360

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Becker County



Becker County is a moderate-sized county located in northwestern Minnesota. A portion of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. In 1995, Becker had a per capita personal income of \$16,625, which was the seventeenth lowest in the state. Becker County's largest industries in 1994 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing industry in 1995 was transportation and public utilities, which increased 10 percent.

The percentage of babies born at a low birth weight was low in comparison with the average Minnesota county. Becker County also saw a drop in the number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect from 1993 to 1996. Although the percentage of children receiving AFDC and free and reduced-price lunch has decreased steadily from 1993 to 1996, these percentages still remain high in comparison to the average county.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	2,319	2,024	23.5%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	1,189	1,116	13.4%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,004	2,105	41.5%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	19	19	20.5 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	17	18	4.2%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	155	123	32.6%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	31	32	2.3% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	2	11.8%	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	71	105	59	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	110	122	129	17,508
Children dying violently	2	1	3	205

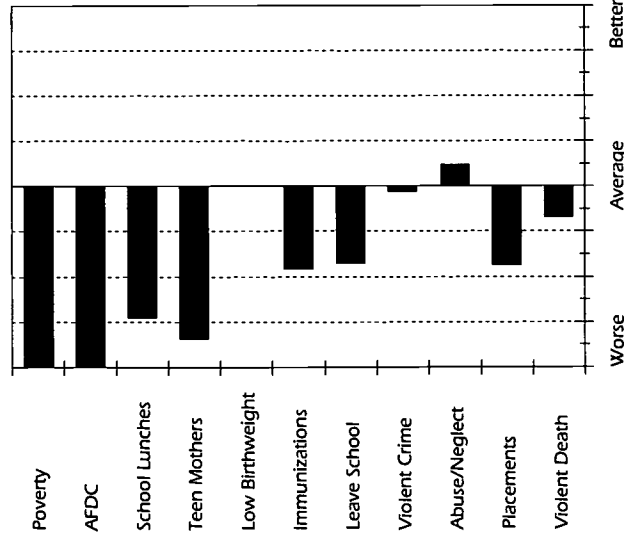
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Beltrami

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	38,274
Estimated number of children, 1996	11,589
Estimated % children	30.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	10,622
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	9.1%
Projected population, 2000	36,500

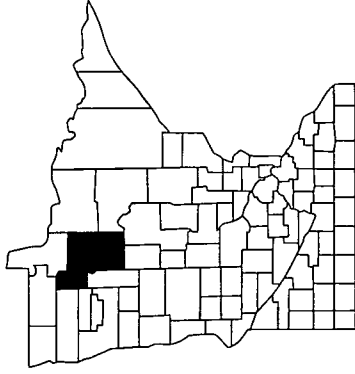
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Beltrami County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Beltrami County is located in north central Minnesota and is the twenty-second largest county in the state. The Red Lake Indian Reservation is located in the county. In 1994, Beltrami had a per capita personal income of \$16,086, the eleventh lowest in Minnesota. Services, state and local government, and retail were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased by 12% between 1994 and 1995.

Although the percentage of children on AFDC has decreased in most Minnesota counties, this is not the case in Beltrami. The percentage of children eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch has continued to rise between 1991 and 1996 and remains high in comparison with the average county. Beltrami County also had a higher rate of children born to teenage mothers in 1993-95 compared to the average county. The number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect is lower in Beltrami than the average Minnesota county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	3,237	31.7%	3,385	29.3%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	2,455	23.2%	2,716	24.7%	2,577	22.2%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,942	36.3%	3,572	42.1%	3,986	45.9%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	22		22		27	30.2 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	23	3.6%	34	6.4%	28	5.0%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)			236	44.6%	255	38.5%		
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	74	2.3%	75	2.0%	164	4.2% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	12	30.0%	11	21.0%	12	27.3% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	90		105		73		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	201		231		216		17,508	
Children dying violently	2		6		3		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

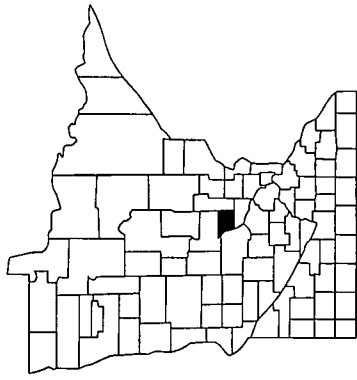
Benton

Demographics

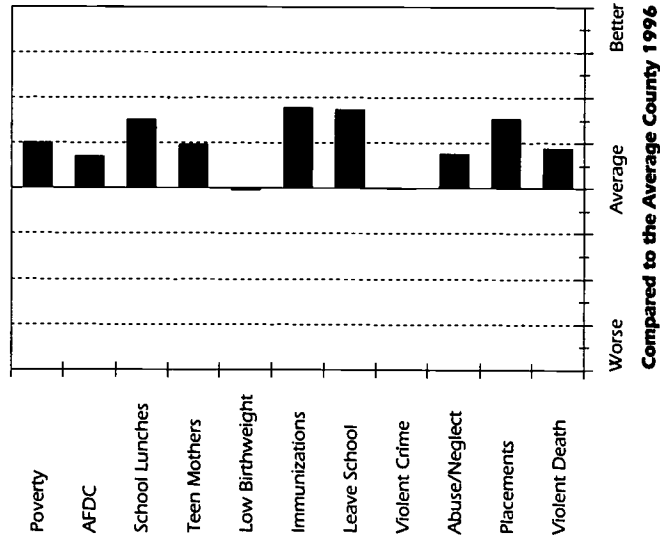
Estimated population, 1996	33,336
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,952
Estimated % children, 1996	29.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,387
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	6.0%
Projected population, 2000	33,780

Benton County is a moderate sized county located within the St. Cloud Metropolitan area in central Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$17,689 increased 5.4% from 1994 to 1995, faster than the state average. The largest industries in 1994 in Benton County were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and retail. Services was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 12.6% from 1994 to 1995.

Children in Benton County did better than the average county's children on all of the indicators of well-being. There was a sharp decrease between 1993 and 1996 in the percentage of children receiving AFDC. There were slight decreases on many of the other indicators but no other significant trends.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Benton County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	1,268	1,290	12.8%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	647	682	7.0%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,182	1,326	23.8%	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	4	9	10	13.8 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	25	31	25	5.1%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		164	148	26.7%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	7	0.4%	13	0.6%	26	1.1% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	12.5%	8	44.0%	6	26.1% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	52	48	57	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	53	76	76	17,508				
Children dying violently	3	1	1	205				

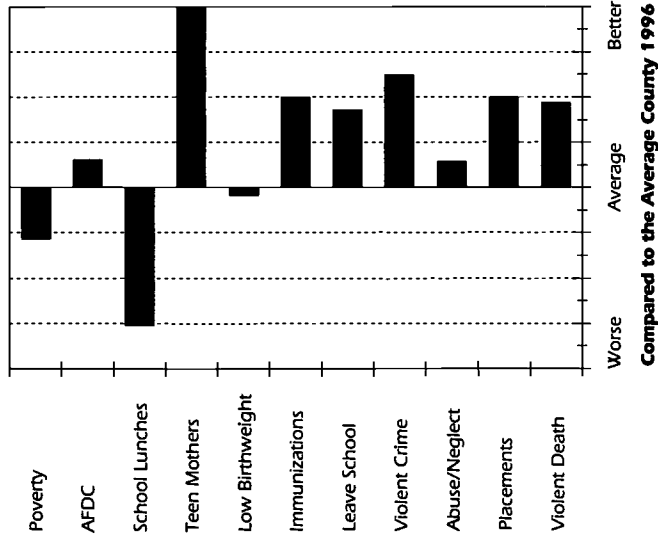
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Big Stone

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	.....5,839
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....1,480
Estimated % children, 1996	.....25.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....1,620
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....-8.6%
Projected population, 2000	.....5,470

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Big Stone County



Big Stone County is located in west central Minnesota on the South Dakota border. Its population of 5,896 makes Big Stone the sixth smallest county in the state. In 1995, Big Stone had a per capita personal income of \$16,382. This income ranked relatively low compared to the rest of the state, although it reflects an 8.5% increase from 1994. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and construction. The fastest growing industry was finance, insurance, and real estate, which increased 9.9% between 1994 and 1995.

Big Stone County children did well on several indicators of well-being. There was a steady decline in the number of children receiving AFDC from 1993 to 1996. Although the number of children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches remained fairly steady, it was significantly higher than the average Minnesota county. This shows that there is a high percentage of low-income children in Big Stone County. The rate of children born to teenagers in 1993-95 was significantly lower than the average county.

Family Economics

Children living below the poverty line

Children receiving AFDC

Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers

Children born at low birth weight

Children not immunized by age 2 (b)

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)

Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying violently

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	324	20.0%	282	18.3%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	107	6.6%	121	7.8%	85	5.7%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	611	46.6%	662	48.6%	666	46.6%	229,059	26.7%
Children born to teenage mothers	1	1	1	2.4 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	3	4.3%	0	3	5.2%	3,715	5.8%	
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	51	38.3%	21	25.9%				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	0	4	0.6%	8	1.1% (c)	15,701	4.1%	
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%	
Children abused and neglected	13	2	9	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	9	2	9	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205				

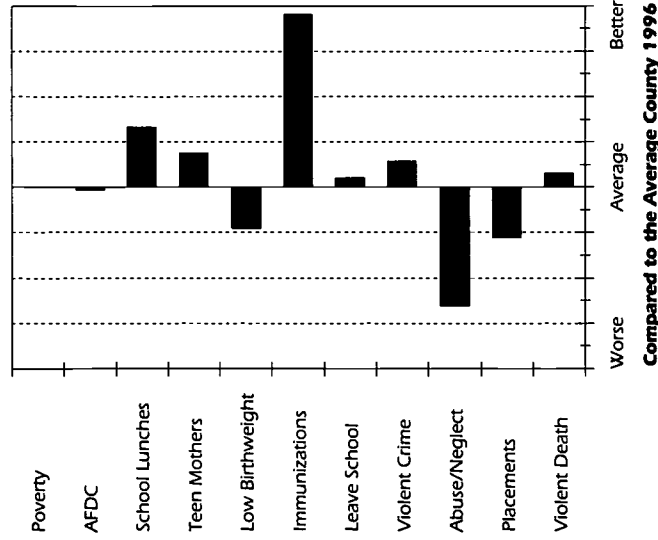
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Blue Earth

Demographics

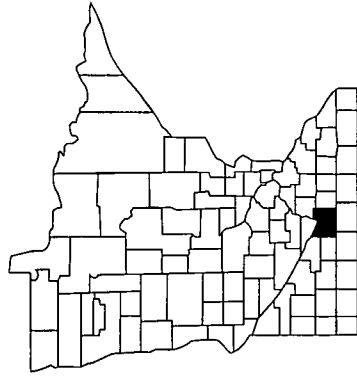
Estimated population, 1996	.....54,199
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....12,568
Estimated % children, 1996	.....23.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....12,730
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....-1.3%
Projected population, 2000	.....53,640

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Blue Earth County



Blue Earth County, located in south central Minnesota, is the twelfth largest county in Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$20,631 was the sixteenth highest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased 12% between 1994 and 1995.

The number of children receiving AFDC declined steadily between 1993 and 1996. The number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect declined from 1993 to 1996, but was higher in Blue Earth County than in the average Minnesota county. The number of children in out-of-home placements also increased between 1994 and 1996. Children in Blue Earth County were much more likely to be fully immunized by age two than were children in the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,611	1,987	15.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	1,114	1,129	8.9%	913 7.3% 116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,361	2,612	23.6%	2,669 23.9% 229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	14	14	14.6 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	19	23	3.7%	37 5.8% 3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	187	21.9%	157 20.0%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	104	2.5%	127 2.6%	124 2.5% (c) 15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	4.2%	15 28.0%	12 20.0% (c) 2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	188	270	161	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	141	172	208	17,508
Children dying violently	1	5	2	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

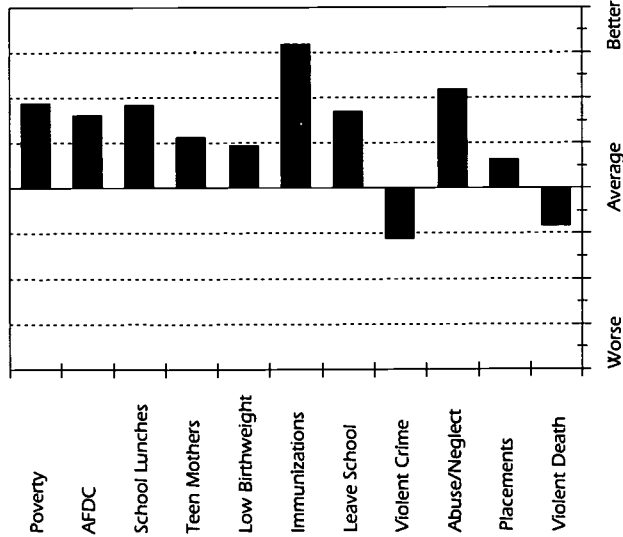


Brown

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	.....27,262
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....7,321
Estimated % children, 1996	.....26.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....7,453
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....-1.8%
Projected population, 2000	.....25,690

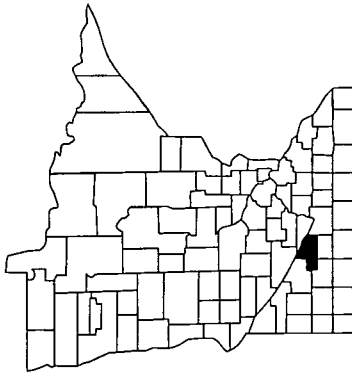
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Brown County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Brown County is a moderate-sized county located along the Minnesota River in the southwestern portion of the state. Brown County had a 1995 per capita personal income of \$20,266, which ranked 18th in the state. The largest industries were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and durable goods manufacturing. Non-durable goods was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 8.8%.

Children in Brown County did well on several indicators of child well-being. Like most other counties, there was a steady decrease in the number of children receiving AFDC between the years of 1993 and 1996. This percentage was also lower than the average Minnesota county. The percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two decreased from 29% in 1993 to 22% in 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	753 9.9%	800 10.5%	263 3.6%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	307 4.1%	360 4.8%	263 3.6%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,305 21.8%	1,434 23.2%	1,392 21.3%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	8	6	6 13.2 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	23 6.6%	12 3.4%	12 4.3%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		133 29.0%	95 22.1%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	29 1.5%	31 1.4%	25 1.1% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1 9.1%	1 7.0%	3 37.5% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	32	34	20	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	63	57	78	17,508
Children dying violently	2	0	2	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

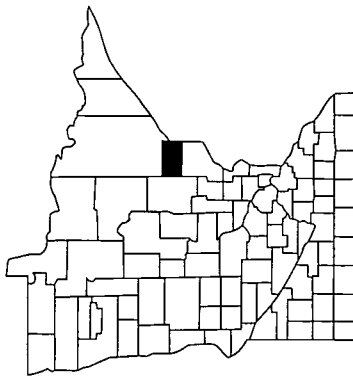
Carlton

Demographics

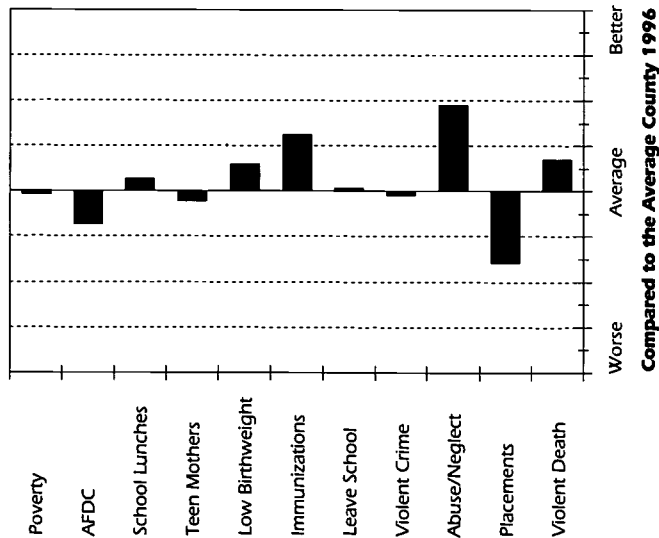
Estimated population, 1996	30,426
Estimated number of children, 1996	8,464
Estimated % children, 1996	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.7%
Projected population, 2000	28,710

Carlton County is a mid-sized county located in northwestern Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior. It includes part of the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation. In 1995, Carlton had a per capita personal income of \$17,707, which is slightly lower than the average among Minnesota counties. Non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased 20.4% between 1994 and 1995.

The number of children receiving AFDC in Carlton County decreased, although this percentage is still higher than the average county. There was also a steady decrease in the number of students receiving free or reduced-price school lunch. Carlton County has also seen a decrease in the number of children not fully immunized by the age of two from 1992 to 1995. Carlton County's percentage of children in out-of-home care was higher than the average county.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carlton County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	1,270	1,357	15.3%	15.6%
Children receiving AFDC	875	865	10.5%	10.3%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,029	2,090	30.8%	30.8%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	9	17	18.3 (a)	7	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	10	17	2.9%	15	4.5%	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		216	41.2%	152	28.4%	

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	101	53	3.4%	84	2.6% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	5	5	20.0%	7	26.9% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	34	24		28		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	134	124		153		17,508	
Children dying violently	3	2		1		205	

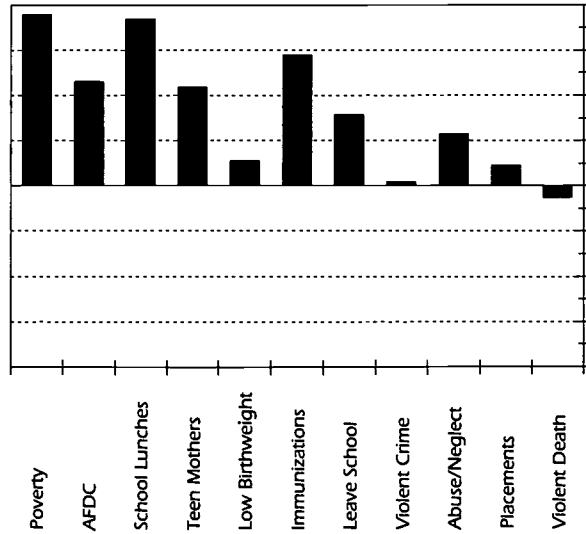
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Carver

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	61,415
Estimated number of children, 1996	18,453
Estimated % children, 1996	30.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	15,285
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	20.7%
Projected population, 2000	57,390

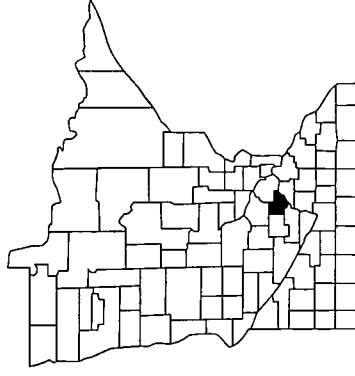
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carver County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Carver County, the 11th largest county in the state, is located on the western edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1995, Carver had the fourth highest per capita personal income in the state: \$25,967. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing, and services. The durable goods manufacturing industry was the fastest growing, increasing by almost 19% from 1994 to 1995.

Carver County fared better than the average county on almost all of the indicators that measure the well-being of children. The number of children in out-of-home placements rose between 1991 and 1996. The percentage of children on AFDC and the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch has remained very low in Carver County in comparison with other Minnesota counties.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	744	5.0%	990	5.6%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	375	2.5%	384	2.3%	374	2.0%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,025	11.6%	1,272	12.9%	1,302	11.7%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	14		8		21	9.3 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	33	3.7%	34	3.6%	48	4.6%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)			275	34.0%	231	23.0%		
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	227	6.5%	41	1.0%	54	1.2% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	3	10.3%	15	30.0%	14	25.0% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	56		78		90		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	114		146		208		17,508	
Children dying violently	3		1		4		205	

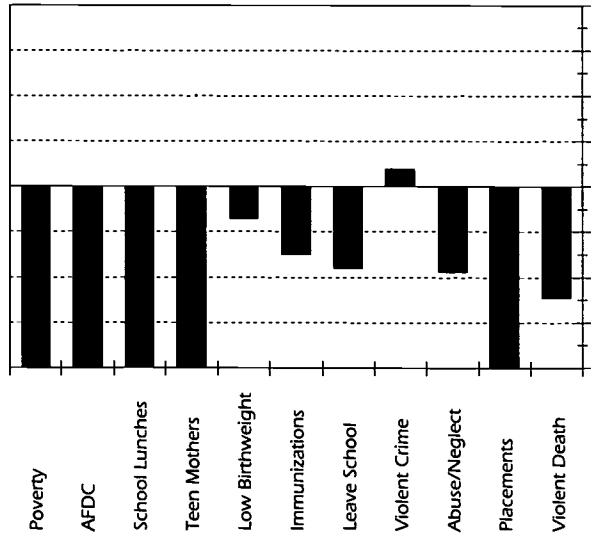
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Cass

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	25,329
Estimated number of children, 1996	6,836
Estimated % children, 1996	27.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,099
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	12.1%
Projected population, 2000	22,330

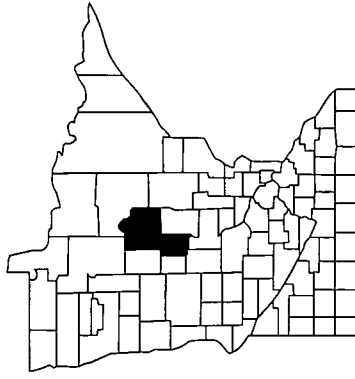
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cass County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Cass County is a moderate-sized county located in north central Minnesota. Part of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation is within the county's borders. Cass County's per capita personal income of \$16,486 was the fourteenth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing was services, which increased by 8.3% between 1994 and 1995.

The situation for children in Cass County remained largely unchanged from 1991 to 1996. Children are doing less well in Cass County than children in the average Minnesota county on most of the indicators. Cass County did not experience a large drop in the number of children receiving AFDC, as many other counties have experienced, and this percentage remains high as well. Although the percentage of violent crimes committed by children increased between 1993 and 1996, this percentage was lower than the average Minnesota county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,409	39.9%	1,961	29.2%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	1,160	19.1%	1,194	18.6%	1,103	16.1%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,491	53.3%	2,710	56.6%	3,307	61.2%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	16	10	20	33.6 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	19	6.4%	18	6.3%	16	5.6%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		154	41.3%	155	37.4%			
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	105	5.8%	128	6.5%	89	4.4% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	5	17.9%	1	2.0%	7	21.9% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	90	105	77					
Children in out-of-home placements	190	233	211					
Children dying violently	4	4	3					

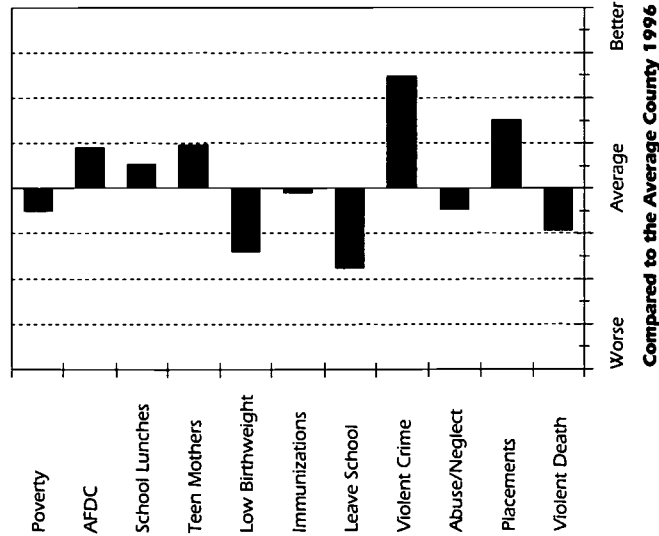
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Chippewa

Demographics

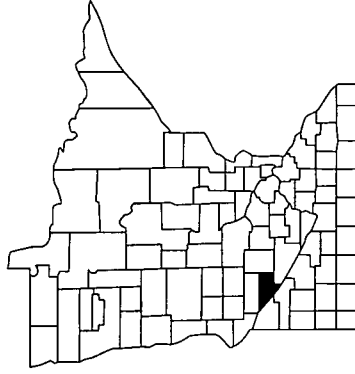
Estimated population, 1996	13,132
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,504
Estimated % children, 1996	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,622
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.2%
Projected population, 2000	11,940

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chippewa County



Chippewa County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota along the Minnesota River. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farmworkers and their children. In 1995, Chippewa had a per capita personal income of \$19,656, which was twenty-fifth in the state. The largest industries were durable goods, state and local government, and services. Construction was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 25.2% from 1994 to 1995.

Chippewa County children fared well on many of the indicators. Children in Chippewa County were somewhat more likely than children in the average Minnesota county to be born at low birth weight. Chippewa County had a very low rate of the percentage of children committing violent crimes, but a higher-than-average percentage dropping out of school.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	712 19.6%	608 16.7%	181 5.2%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	223 6.2%	252 7.0%	181 5.2%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	693 28.3%	739 29.5%	756 28.1%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	0	3	4 13.9 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	5 3.4%	5 3.3%	9 6.2%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	57 38.8%	42 32.8%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	19 1.6%	34 2.7%	60 4.3% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1 14.3%	0	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	41	66	29	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	29	35	27	17,508
Children dying violently	1	0	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

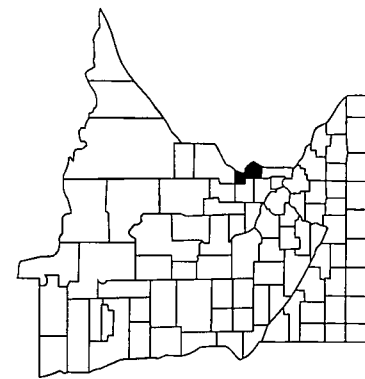
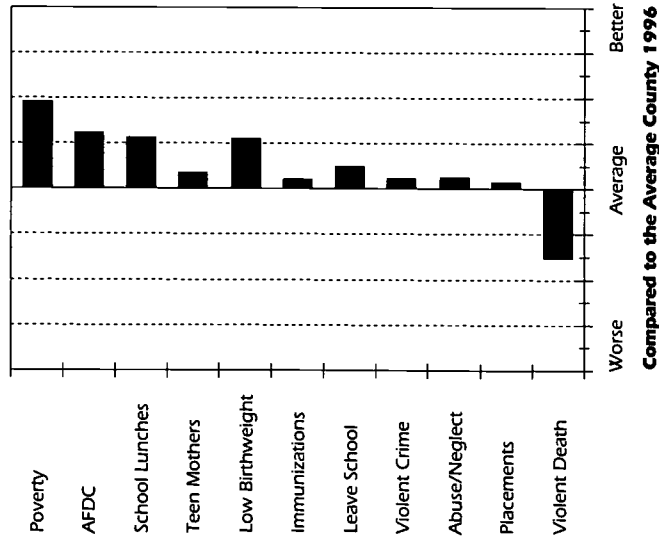


Chisago

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	.....38,123
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....11,656
Estimated % children, 1996	.....30.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....9,777
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....19.2%
Projected population, 2000	.....33,990

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chisago County



Chisago County is located in west central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border and is part of the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. Its population of 37,014 ranked twenty-fourth in the state. In 1995, Chisago had a per capita personal income of \$19,355 which ranked a little higher than the average Minnesota county. The largest industries in the county were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 21.2 percent.

Many of the indicators of child well-being remained steady during the past few years in Chisago County. With the exception of the child violent death rate, all of the indicators show that Chisago County children did relatively well in comparison with the average county. One area of concern may be the jump in the number of children being born to teenage mothers in 1996. This may continue to be a long term trend, although it may also be a single year fluctuation.

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	862	9.0%	1,166	10.4%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	579	5.9%	637	6.1%	516	4.4%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,372	22.9%	1,511	23.9%	1,807	25.0%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	10	14	22	16.2 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	21	4.4%	17	3.2%	24	4.1%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		231	46.5%	216	31.8%			

Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	124	4.3%	92	3.1%	71	2.2% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	3	8.8%	9	29.0%	12	23.5% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	65		51		79		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	137		144		143		17,508	
Children dying violently	2		5		4		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

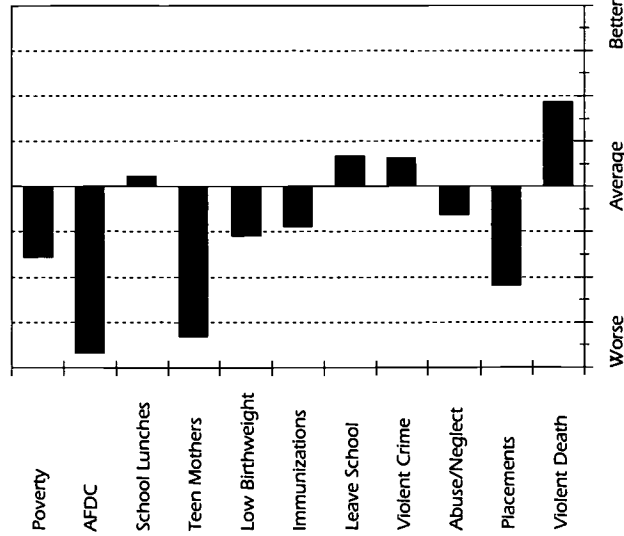


Clay

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	51,848
Estimated number of children, 1996	13,164
Estimated % children, 1996	25.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,302
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-1.0%
Projected population, 2000	52,010

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clay County



Clay County is located in northwestern Minnesota on the North Dakota border. It is part of the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area and is the sixteenth largest county in Minnesota. Clay County's population during the summer months includes migrant farmworkers and their children. In 1994, Clay County had a per capita personal income of \$17,114, which is relatively lower than the average Minnesota county. The largest industries were state and local government, services, and retail. Wholesale increased by 20.8% between 1994 and 1995.

In 1996, a higher-than-average percentage of children received AFDC in Clay County. This rate decreased slightly in 1996 but still remained higher than the average county. The rate of children born to teenage mothers was also higher in Clay County than the average county. Clay County saw a significant drop in the percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two.

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
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Family Economics

Children living below the poverty line	2,417	18.9%	2,617	19.4%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	1,765	13.3%	2,110	15.5%	2,005	15.2%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,415	28.2%	2,676	30.2%	2,696	29.6%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	23	22	22	30.0 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	30	4.6%	39	5.9%	38	5.9%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	371	51.9%	254	35.4%				

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	48	1.3%	43	1.1%	87	2.0% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	5	10.9%	9	20.0%	6	19.4% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	101	125	113	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	214	194	265	17,508				
Children dying violently	2	1	0	205				

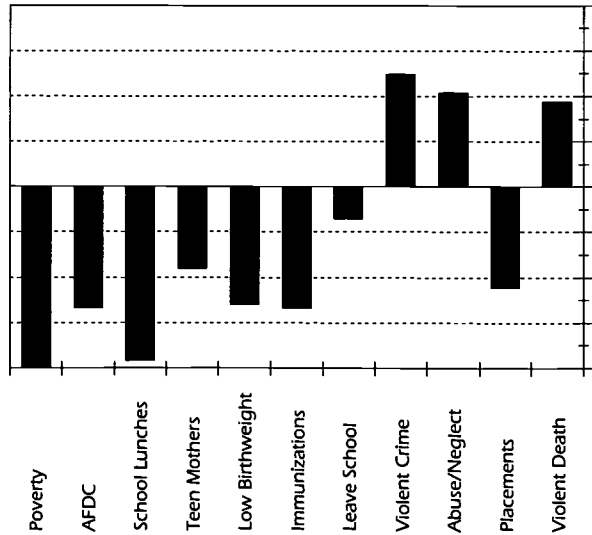
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Clearwater

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	8,254
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,368
Estimated % children, 1996	28.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,408
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-1.6%
Projected population, 2000	7,980

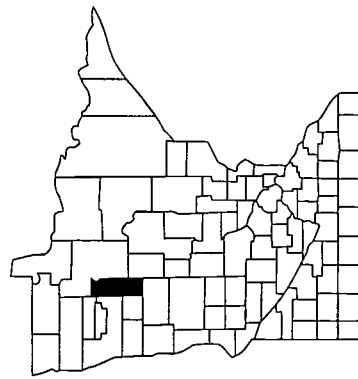
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clearwater County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Clearwater County, in northwestern Minnesota, is the eleventh smallest county in the state. Portions of the Red Lake Indian Reservation are located within the county. The county's 1995 per capita personal income of \$14,592 was the third lowest in Minnesota. State and local government, construction, and services were the county's largest industries in 1994. The fastest growing industry in 1995 was transportation and public utilities, which increased 31.4 from the previous year.

The percentage of children on AFDC in Clearwater County continued to decline in 1996, although it was still higher than the average county. Almost 50% of children received free or reduced-price lunch in 1996, which indicates a significant number of low-income students. This percentage has increased between 1991 and 1996. Clearwater County had a lower-than-average number of substantiated reports of abused and neglected children, and there were no children arrested for committing violent crimes for the second year in a row.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	925	706	37.6%	28.4%
Children receiving AFDC	410	354	17.1%	13.0%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	824	911	45.2%	50.8%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	4	4	24.3 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	5	6	4.1%	7.1%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	70	50	48.6%	41.3%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	28	6	3.4%	0.7%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	1	11.0%	(c) 2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	13	18	7	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	32	38	48	17,508
Children dying violently	1	1	0	205

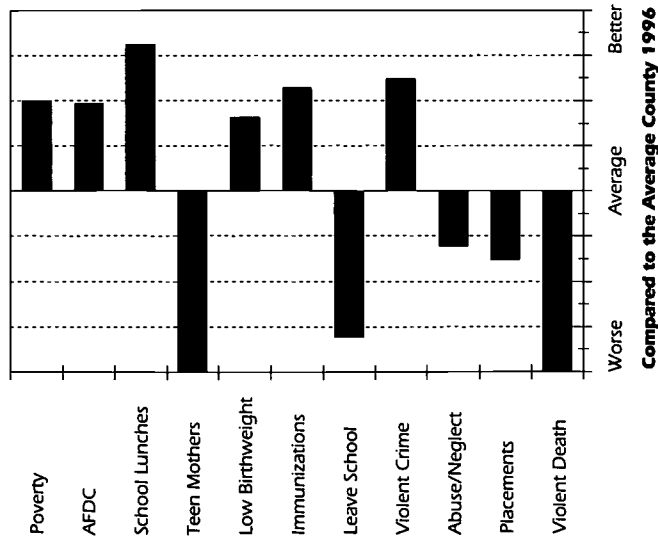
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Cook

Demographics

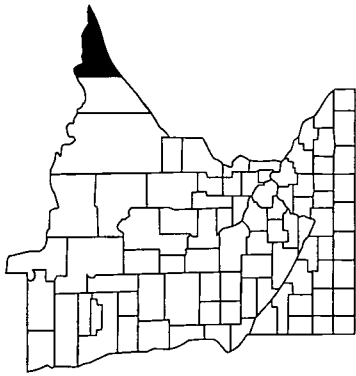
Estimated population, 1996 4,688
 Estimated number of children, 1996 1,119
 Estimated % children, 1996 23.9%
 Estimated number of children, 1991 962
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996 16.3%
 Projected population, 2000 3,700

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cook County



Cook County is the fourth smallest county in Minnesota. It is located in the Arrowhead Region of northeastern Minnesota bordering Canada and Lake Superior. The Grand Portage Indian Reservation is located in the county. Its per capita personal income of \$21,090 was the thirteenth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Services was also the fastest growing, increasing at a rate of 10.9% between 1994 and 1995.

The indicators have remained relatively steady for the past few years in Cook County. In 1996, the number of children in out-of-home placements increased significantly, making the percentage of children in out-of-home placements higher in Cook County than the average. Cook County has a lower-than-average percentage of children receiving AFDC and free or reduced-price school lunch in comparison with the average Minnesota county.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	134	110	10.2%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	40	25	2.4%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	108	99	14.0%	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	0	2	0	32.9 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)	
Children born at low birth weight	1	3	6.4%	2	3.7%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	16	14	25.0%				

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	5	1.7%	6	1.9%	19	5.7% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%		
Children abused and neglected	15	6	11				10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	12	10	20				17,508	
Children dying violently	0	0	1				205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

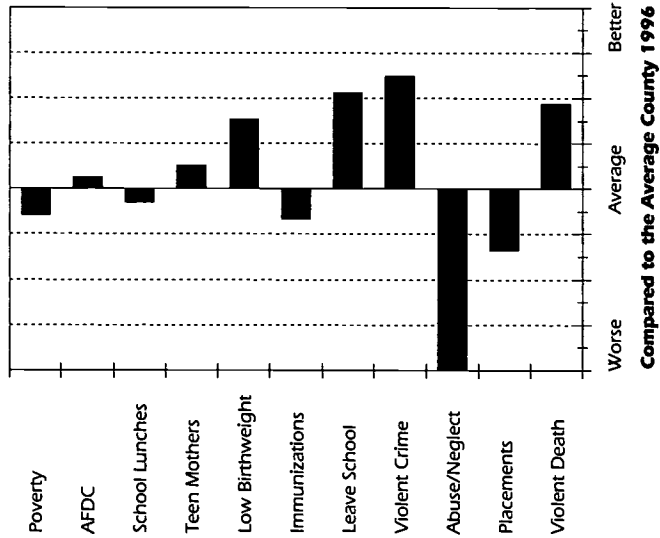


Cottonwood

Demographics

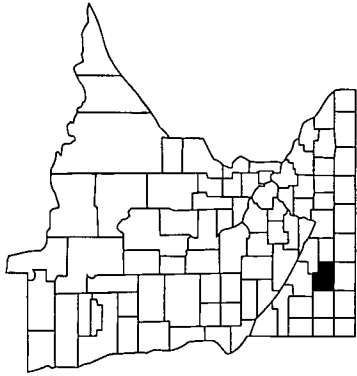
Estimated population, 199612,321
 Estimated number of children, 19963,174
 Estimated % children, 199625.8%
 Estimated number of children, 19913,273
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996-3.0%
 Projected population, 200011,390

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cottonwood County



Cottonwood County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota. Cottonwood County's 1995 per capita personal income of \$18,253 is slightly lower than the average Minnesota county. The largest industries in 1994 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased 8.6% between 1994 and 1995.

Cottonwood County experienced a large increase in substantiated reports of abused and neglected children between 1995 and 1996. The rate of reports of abuse and neglect is also significantly higher in Cottonwood than the average county. The percentage of children born at low birth weight and to teenage mothers continued to be lower than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	498 14.9%	561 16.9%	208 6.6%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	221 6.8%	305 9.3%	792 32.4%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	749 31.2%	870 34.3%	208 6.6%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	3	6	8 15.6 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	5 3.6%	9 6.1%	5 3.8%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		74 39.4%	60 34.7%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	9 0.8%	9 0.8%	8 0.7% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	5 42.0%	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	57	27	54	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	45	46	55	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

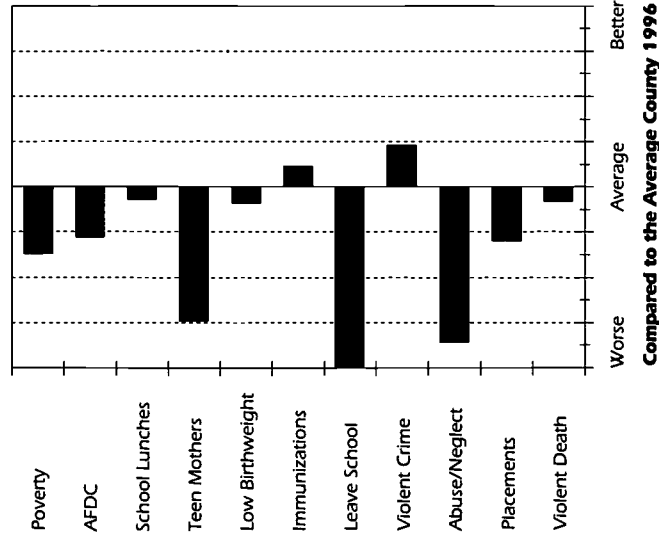


Crow Wing

Demographics

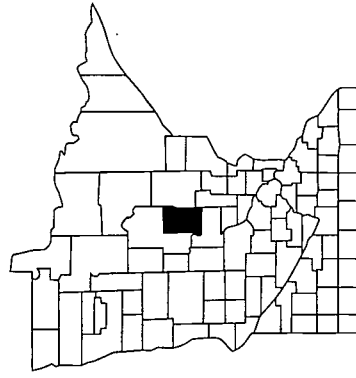
Estimated population, 1996	50,634
Estimated number of children, 1996	13,507
Estimated % children, 1996	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,332
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	9.5%
Projected population, 2000	46,200

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Crow Wing County



Crow Wing County is located in the north central portion of Minnesota and is the seventeenth largest county in the state. The largest industries in 1994 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Construction increased by 14% from 1993 to 1994, making it the fastest growing industry. In 1994, Crow Wing County had a per capita personal income of \$17,755, forty-six highest in the state.

Between 1991 and 1996, Crow Wing County had a steady decrease in the number of children receiving AFDC, although the percentage is still slightly higher than the average. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch remained consistent and was also higher than the average county. The number of children born to teenage mothers dropped significantly from 1995 to 1996. This may or may not indicate a longer-term trend.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	2,592	2,580	19.2%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	1,510	1,481	11.5%	9.6%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,984	3,172	33.1%	32.3%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	21	29	13	28.7 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	29	29	4.8%	5.3%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	300	39.9%	244	31.0%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	180	4.4%	216	4.8%	319	6.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	6.5%	6	12.0%	9	16.4% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	206	245	196				10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	175	228	227				17,508	
Children dying violently	5	7	3				205	

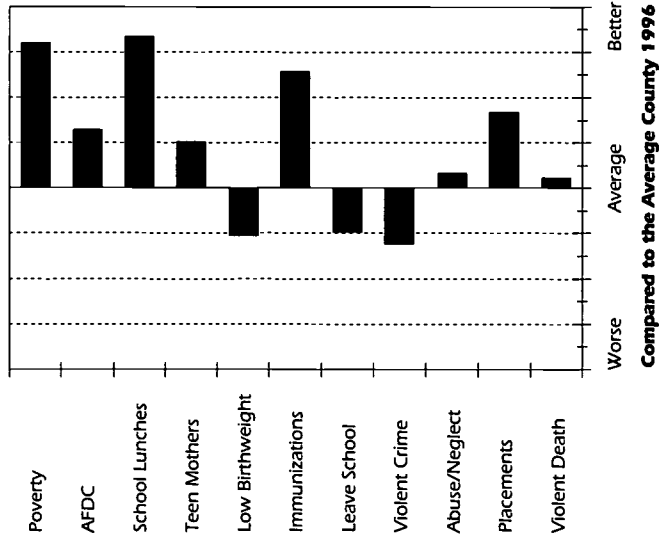
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Dakota

Demographics

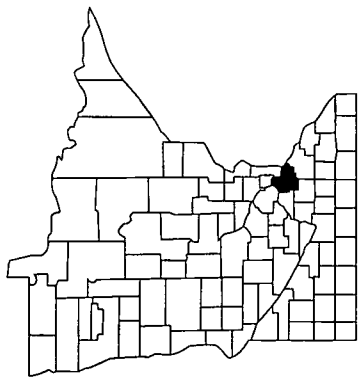
Estimated population, 1996	326,016
Estimated number of children, 1996	96,661
Estimated % children, 1996	29.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	87,463
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	10.5%
Projected population, 2000	347,220

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dakota County



Dakota County is the third largest county in the state and is located in the southeastern portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1995, Dakota had a per capita personal income of \$26,093, the third highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were services, wholesale trade, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Services was also the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 18.3% from 1994 to 1995.

The children in Dakota County have continued to do well on most of the indicators of child well-being. The number of children receiving AFDC continued to decline and is lower than the average county. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price school lunch increased in 1994 and 1995, although it decreased in 1996. This percentage is also lower in Dakota county in comparison with the average county. The percentage of children arrested for violent crime continued to increase in 1996 and remains higher than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	4,479	5.4%	6,757	7.1%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	3,893	4.5%	4,351	4.7%	4,136	4.3%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	6,292	11.2%	7,717	12.5%	9,299	13.5%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	66	78	105	13.7 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	221	4.4%	256	5.0%	303	5.9%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		1,953	37.3%	1,323	24.1%			
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	681	2.9%	869	3.1%	1,004	3.6% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	42	23.6%	88	33.0%	111	38.8% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	585	581	637				10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	805	921	699				17,508	
Children dying violently	5	14	16				205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

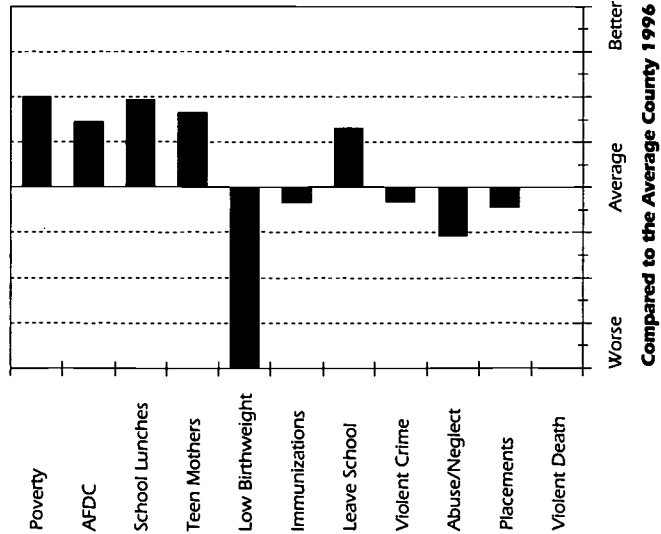


Dodge

Demographics

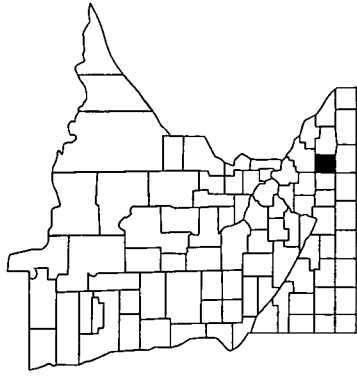
Estimated population, 1996	16,855
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,243
Estimated % children, 1996	31.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,113
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	2.5%
Projected population, 2000	16,540

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dodge County



Dodge County is a moderate-sized county located in southeastern Minnesota. Its per capita personal income was \$19,292 in 1995, which ranked it slightly higher than average in comparison with other counties in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Services was also the fastest growing industry, increasing 37.1% between 1994 and 1995.

The number of children born at low birth weight continued to increase in 1996, making the percentage of children born at low birth weight in Dodge County significantly higher than the average county. The number of children in out-of-home placements also continued to rise in 1996, higher than the average county. Between 1993 and 1996, Dodge County saw a significant decrease in the number of children not fully immunized by the age of two.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	522	10.4%	548	10.2%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	193	3.8%	260	5.0%	207	3.9%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	767	20.4%	863	22.3%	833	20.8%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	8	4	10	11.3 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	14	5.5%	10	4.4%	20	8.7%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	123	45.1%	90	33.6%				

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	11	0.7%	19	1.1%	27	1.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	33.3%	0		7	29.2% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	21	51	50	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	40	31	75	17,508				
Children dying violently	3	0	1	205				

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

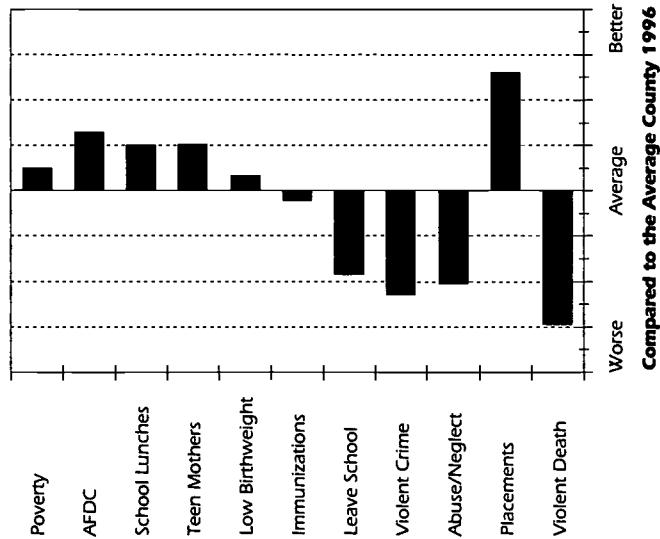


Douglas

Demographics

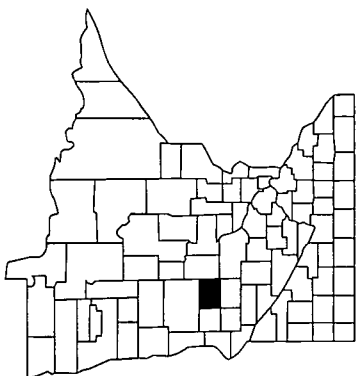
Estimated population, 1996	30,459
Estimated number of children, 1996	8,182
Estimated % children, 1996	26.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,928
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	3.2%
Projected population, 2000	28,850

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Douglas County



Douglas County is a moderately large-sized county located in west central Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry since 1995 was transportation and public utilities, which increased 13.2%. Douglas County had a per capita personal income of \$18,902, which ranks about average among Minnesota counties.

Douglas County children fared well on many of the indicators. The percentage of children on AFDC decreased between 1991 and 1996. Between 1994 and 1996 the percentage of children approved for free or reduced-price lunch also declined. As a group, Douglas County children were less likely to receive AFDC and free or reduced-price lunch than the average county in Minnesota. Douglas County had higher-than-average rates of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and a higher rate of violent child deaths in 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,229	1,184	1,184	14.1% 185,224
Children receiving AFDC	470	444	351	5.5% 116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,757	1,826	1,589	28.5% 229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	6	9	6	13.6 (a) 2,019
Children born at low birth weight	21	11	16	6.1% 3.3% 4.8% 3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		160	144	35.8% 33.2%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	40	138	132	1.6% 4.9% 4.4% (c) 15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	8	38.1%	5	22.0% (c) 2,123
Children abused and neglected	155	102	95	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	27	30	33	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	4	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

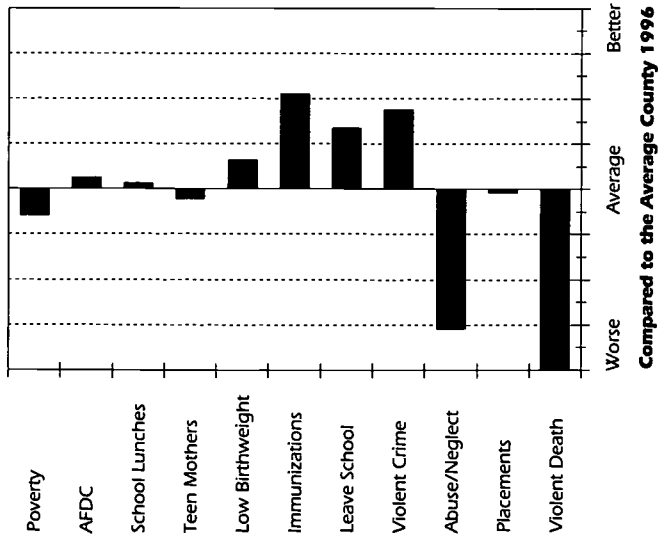


Faribault

Demographics

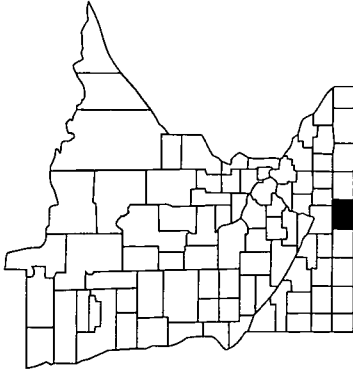
Estimated population, 1996	16,405
Estimated number of children, 1996	4,286
Estimated % children, 1996	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,580
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-6.4%
Projected population, 2000	15,020

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Faribault County



Faribault County is a moderately small county located in southern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased 17.5% between 1994 and 1995. The per capita personal income in Faribault County was \$18,982, which is about average in comparison with other Minnesota counties.

Faribault County had lower-than-average rates of children receiving AFDC. The number of children receiving AFDC in Faribault county dropped substantially from 1995 to 1996. The county also had more children immunized by age two than in the average county. The rate of children born to teenage mothers is slightly higher than the average county. The number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect is also higher than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	762	767	767	185,224
Children receiving AFDC (Faribault/Martin, 1991, 1993)	8.8%	8.20	7.7%	6.6%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	904	975	911	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	4	6	7	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	13	8	7	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	69	29.5%	57	25.6%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	15	21	21	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	0	1	2,123
Children abused and neglected	66	42	59	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	52	38	56	17,508
Children dying violently	1	1	3	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

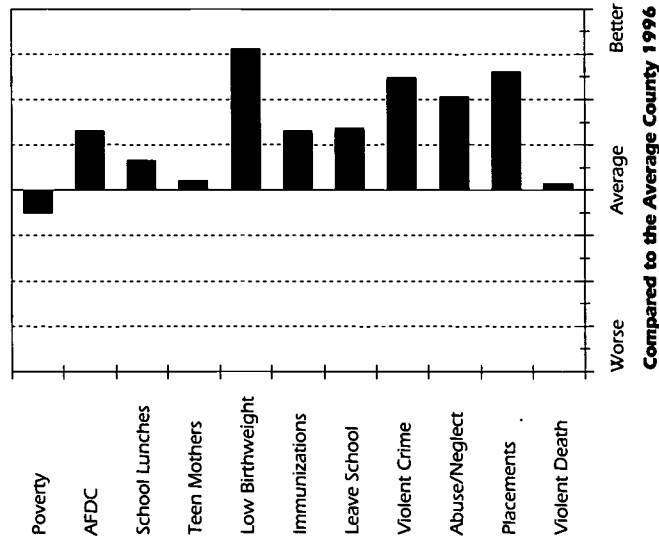


Fillmore

Demographics

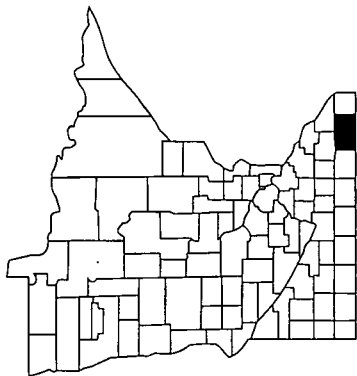
Estimated population, 1996	20,860
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,704
Estimated % children, 1996	27.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,745
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-0.7%
Projected population, 2000	19,950

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Fillmore County



Fillmore County is a moderate-sized county located along the Iowa border in southeastern Minnesota. In 1995, Fillmore had a per capita personal income of \$17,257, which is slightly lower than the state average. Fillmore County's largest industries were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The industry experiencing the largest growth between 1994 and 1995 was transportation and public utilities.

Substantiated reports of abuse and neglect rapidly declined between 1993 and 1996 in Fillmore County to a rate lower than the average county. The county also experienced a rapid decrease in the number of children born at low birth weight between 1994 and 1996. As a result, Fillmore County had a significantly lower-than-average percentage of children born with low birth weight. There were no children arrested for violent crime between 1991 and 1996 in Fillmore County.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,009	986	986	185,224
	17.2%	16.7%	16.7%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	224	269	242	116,774
	3.9%	4.7%	4.2%	9.4%
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	991	1,047	970	229,059
	28.3%	30.1%	27.4%	26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	9	11	4	2,019
			16.7 (a)	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	9	16	6	3,715
	3.2%	6.0%	2.5%	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	135	99	99	28.2%
	34.8%	28.2%	28.2%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	20	18	24	15,701
	1.2%	1.1%	1.4% (c)	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	2,123
			(c)	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	30	31	17	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	29	27	23	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

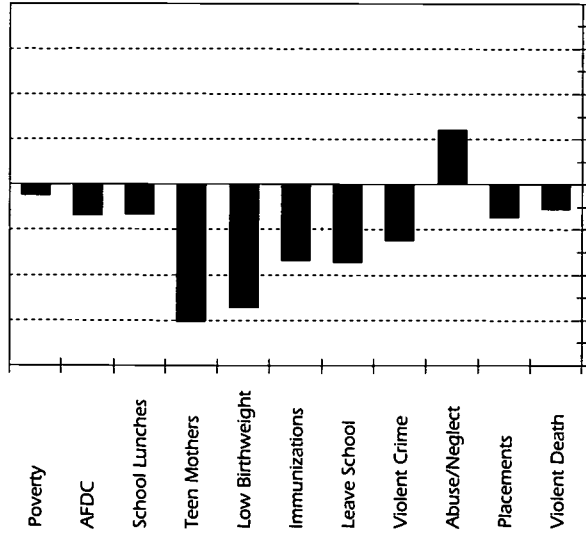


Freeborn

Demographics

Estimated population, 199631,972
 Estimated number of children, 19968,143
 Estimated % children, 199625.5%
 Estimated number of children, 19918,912
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996-8.6%
 Projected population, 200030,640

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Freeborn County



Worse Average Better
 Compared to the Average County 1996

Freeborn County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Iowa border. It is the twenty-seventh largest county in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Construction was the fastest growing industry, increasing 23.3% between 1994 and 1995. Freeborn's per capita personal income was \$18,277, which is about average in comparison with other Minnesota counties.

Although the number of children born at low birth weight steadily declined between 1991 and 1995, this number increased in 1996, causing a higher-than-average rate in Freeborn County. Between 1993 and 1996, Freeborn County also had a higher rate of children born to teenage mothers. The percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch increased steadily between 1991 and 1996, and remained slightly higher than the average Minnesota county.

Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	1,273	1,365	1,371	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	771	819	702	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,218	1,423	1,371	229,059

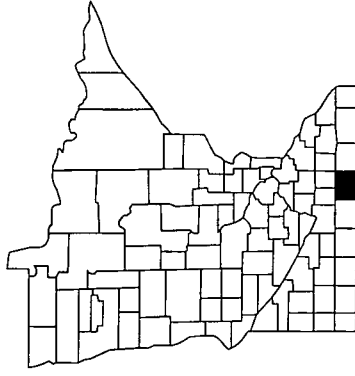
Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	15	21	10	28.9 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	32	25	23	7.2%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	197	48.5%	131	38.0%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	108	100	106	4.3% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	4	19.0%	14	38.9% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	101	80	39		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	110	94	124		17,508	
Children dying violently	2	1	2		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995



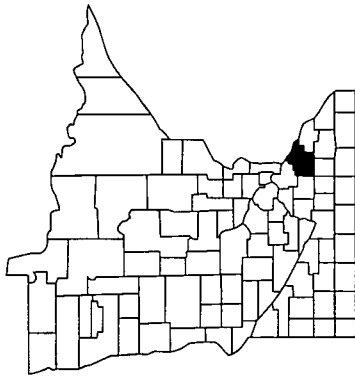
Goodhue

Demographics

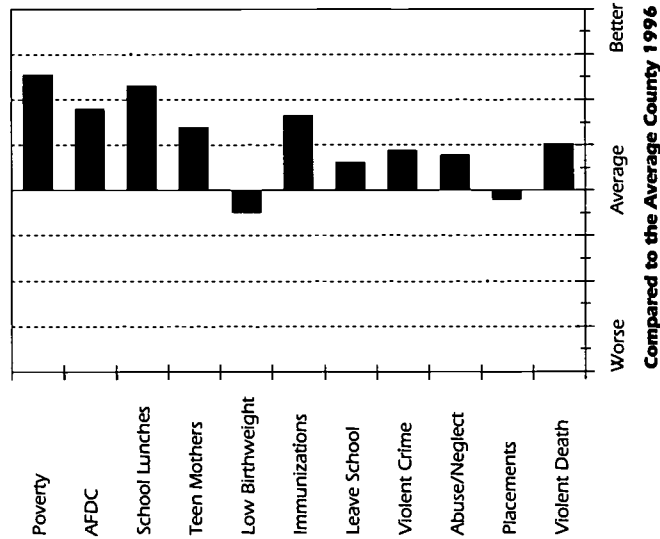
Estimated population, 1996	42,366
Estimated number of children, 1996	11,780
Estimated % children, 1996	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,614
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.4%
Projected population, 2000	41,480

Goodhue County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin border. It's the twentieth largest county in Minnesota. The Prairie Island Indian Reservation lies within its borders. The largest industries in the county were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The county experienced a 22.7% increase in durable goods manufacturing income from 1994 to 1995. The per capita personal income of \$21,700 ranked eleventh in the state.

The number of children receiving AFDC steadily decreased in Goodhue County between 1991 and 1996, making this percentage lower than the average county. Although the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch is lower than average in Goodhue County, this percentage increased between 1993 and 1996. Goodhue County had a lower-than-average number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect in 1996. This number increased between 1991 and 1995, but sharply dropped in 1996.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Goodhue County



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,052	1,056	8.8%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	581	439	3.7%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,320	1,499	16.7%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	10	8	12.2 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	21	28	5.6%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		237	37.0%	174 27.1%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	79	84	2.0%	92 2.1% (c)
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	12	24.0%	6 16.7% (c)
Children abused and neglected	85	102		67 10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	133	119		158 17,508
Children dying violently	3	2		1 205

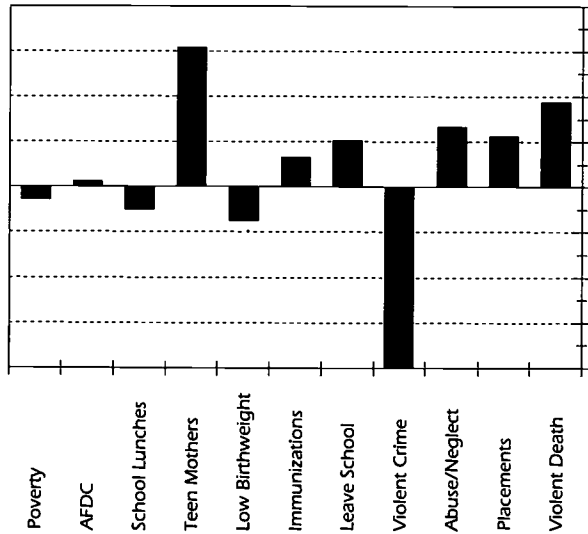
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Grant

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	6,154
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,548
Estimated % children, 1996	25.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,609
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.8%
Projected population, 2000	5,620

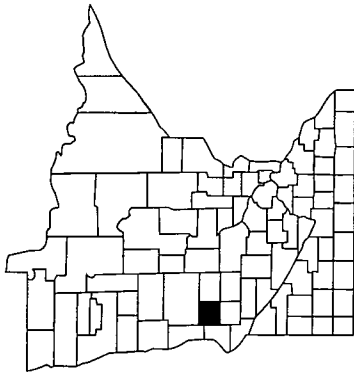
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Grant County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Grant County is the eighth smallest county and is located in west central Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were services, construction, and state and local government. The greatest growth came from the transportation and public utilities industry, which increased 55.2% between 1994 and 1995. In 1995, Grant County had a per capita personal income of \$19,470, reflecting an increase of 6.6% from the previous year.

Between 1991 and 1996, no children in Grant County died violent deaths, and very few children were born to teenage mothers. The county also had lower-than-average percentages of out-of-home placements and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect. The percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch steadily increased between 1993 and 1996. The high rate of violent crime reflects the fact that no adults were arrested for violent crimes in 1995. The actual number of children arrested was quite small.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	288 17.5%	260 16.1%	106 6.8%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	128 8.0%	123 7.9%	513 33.4%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	463 32.7%	443 32.5%	23 30.3%	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	0	1	3 5.9 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	1 1.8%	0 0.0%	4 5.6%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	17 36.2%	23 30.3%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	5 0.7%	1 0.1%	14 1.7% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	1 25.0%	2 100.0% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	2	5	7	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	9	11	14	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	0	205

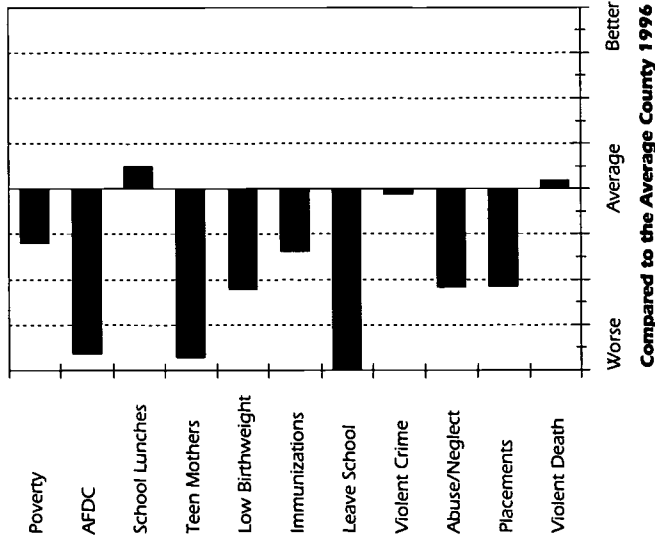
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Hennepin

Demographics

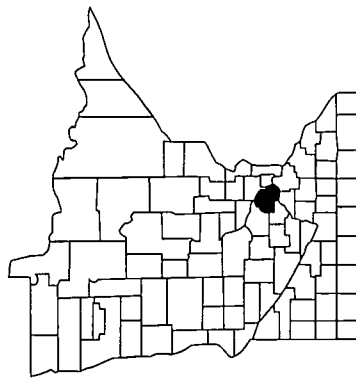
Estimated population, 19961,058,746
 Estimated number of children, 1996246,346
 Estimated % children, 199623.3%
 Estimated number of children, 1991246,930
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996-0.2%
 Projected population, 20001,110,300

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hennepin County



Hennepin County, which contains the city of Minneapolis and is part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area, is the largest county in the state. Hennepin County is ethnically and racially diverse, including African-American, American Indian, Asian and Chicano/Latino children and families. In 1995, Hennepin County as a whole had a per capita personal income of \$32,130, the highest in the state. The county's largest industries in 1995 were services, finance, insurance, and real estate, and durable goods manufacturing. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 9% between 1994 and 1995.

Hennepin County experienced a drop in the number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect between 1993 and 1996. Hennepin County did not share in the statewide decrease in the number of children receiving AFDC. This percentage has remained at about 15% between 1993 and 1996, which is higher than the average county. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two between 1992 and 1995.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	36,924	15.3%	46,466	18.5%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	34,349	13.9%	37,948	15.2%	37,243	15.1%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	36,828	27.0%	48,220	33.4%	43,778	28.2%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	557	558	534	31.5 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	967	5.8%	911	5.8%	1,045	6.8%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		5,969	42.1%	5,572	37.0%			

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	3,364	6.0%	3,554	5.9%	4,749	7.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	569	24.2%	640	23.0%	771	27.1% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	3,048	3,545	2,919	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	5,813	6,713	4,933	17,508				
Children dying violently	35	32	42	205				

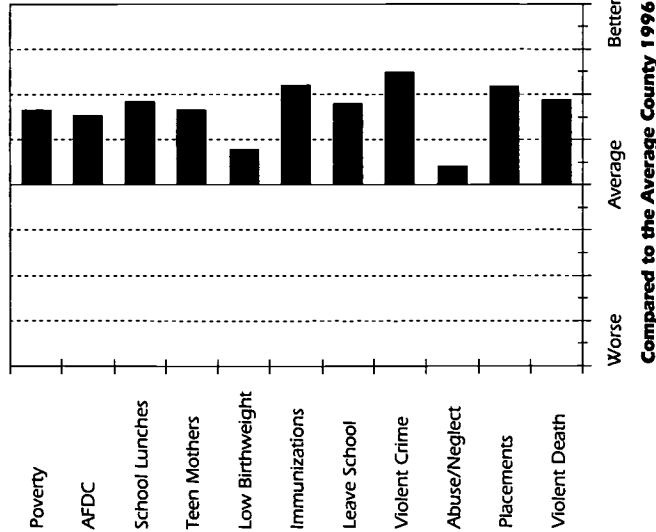
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Houston

Demographics

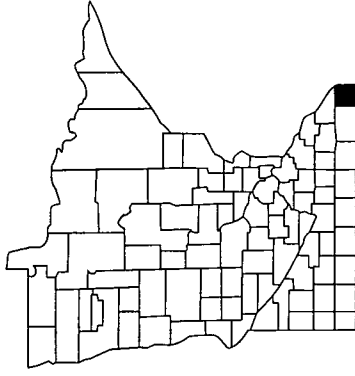
Estimated population, 1996	19,226
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,435
Estimated % children, 1996	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,325
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	2.1%
Projected population, 2000	18,560

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Houston County



Houston County is located in the southeastern corner of Minnesota on the Iowa and Wisconsin borders. It is considered part of the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1995, Houston County had a per capita personal income of \$19,169, which ranked slightly higher than average compared to other Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities comprised the largest industries. Transportation and public utilities was also the fastest growing industry, increasing almost 40% between 1994 and 1995.

Houston County fared better than the average county on all of the indicators of child well-being. In 1996, no children were arrested for committing violent crimes, and there were no violent child deaths. There was a slight increase in the number of children born at low birth weight between 1993 and 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	612	11.3%	623	11.1%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	227	4.3%	276	5.1%	203	3.7%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	774	20.2%	836	21.4%	873	21.3%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	7	3	3	11.3 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	5	1.9%	5	2.0%	10	4.4%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		132	43.6%	77	25.3%			
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	9	0.6%	19	1.1%	18	1.0% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	20.0%	4	31.0%	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	14	38	35	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	24	32	30	17,508				
Children dying violently	1	0	0	205				

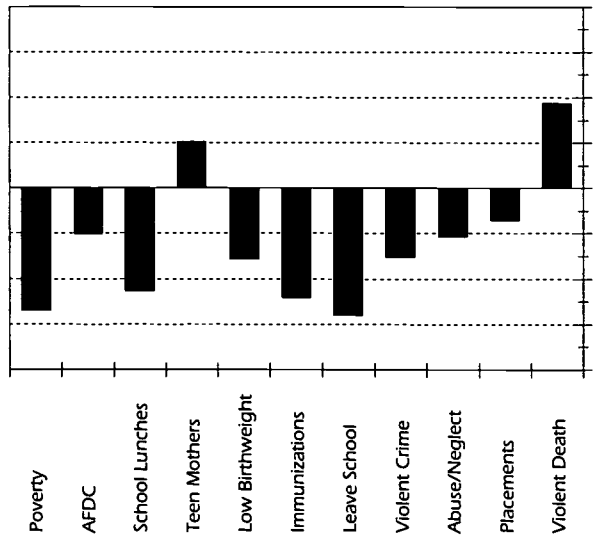
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Hubbard

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	16,406
Estimated number of children, 1996	4,411
Estimated % children, 1996	26.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,179
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	5.5%
Projected population, 2000	15,440

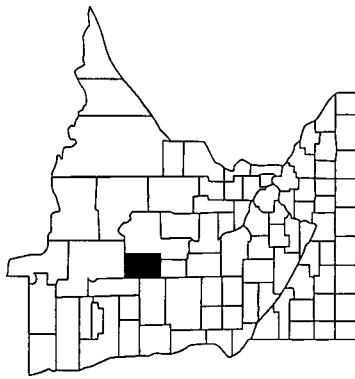
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hubbard County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Hubbard County is a mid-sized county located in the north central portion of the state. In 1995, Hubbard County had a per capita personal income of \$16,074, the tenth lowest in the state. Its largest industries were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing grew significantly in 1995.

Hubbard County had a higher-than-average percentage of children receiving AFDC and free or reduced-price school lunch in 1996. The percentage of children arrested for violent crime was also higher in comparison with the average county. The number of children in out-of-home placements, as well as the number of substantial reports of abuse and neglect, have decreased slightly between 1993 and 1996. Hubbard County also had a very low percentage of children dropping out of school in 1995.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,213	29.3%	992	22.4%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	499	12.0%	424	9.9%	413	9.4%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,073	39.4%	1,323	47.0%	1,230	42.7%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	6	6	10	13.7 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	7	3.8%	11	6.5%	10	6.3%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	88	49.2%	74	40.4%				
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	34	2.8%	20	1.5%	75	5.3% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	4	22.0%	5	41.7% (c)	2,123	29.9%	
Children abused and neglected	62	57	42	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	89	85	67	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205				

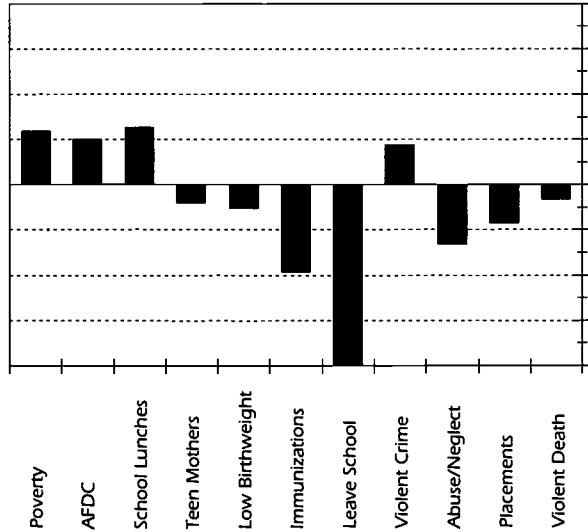
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Isanti

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	29,017
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,022
Estimated % children, 1996	31.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	8.4%
Projected population, 2000	27,470

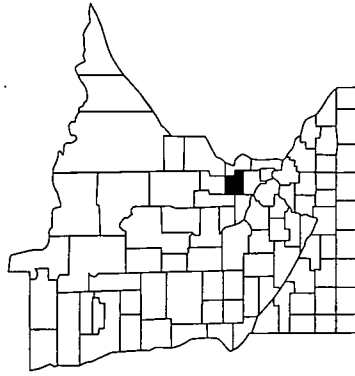
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Isanti County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Isanti County is a moderate-sized county located in east central Minnesota on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. Services, state and local government and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in 1995. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by 14.9%. Isanti County's per capita personal income of \$18,931 is average compared with other Minnesota counties.

The percentage of children born at low birth weight steadily increased between 1993 and 1996, although Isanti County was still slightly better than average on this indicator. The number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect also increased slightly in 1996. The county had a higher-than-average percentage of children dropping out of school. Isanti County continued to have a lower percentage of children receiving AFDC and free or reduced-price school lunch than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,034	1,094	1,094	12.3%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	663	636	444	7.4%	444	4.9%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,352	1,606	1,390	25.4%	1,390	24.3%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	9	12	15	19.0 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	9	15	23	4.5%	3,715	5.8%		
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	178	147	147	47.2%	147	38.8%		
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	101	171	183	4.1%	183	6.6% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	1	3	14.3%	3	16.7% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	33	34	91		91		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	121	138	141		141		17,508	
Children dying violently	4	2	2		2		205	

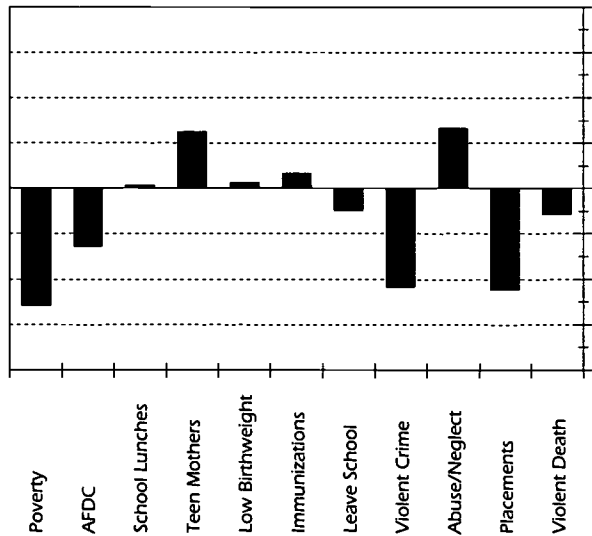
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Itasca

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	.....43,392
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....12,157
Estimated % children, 1996	.....28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....11,729
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....3.7%
Projected population, 2000	.....39,180

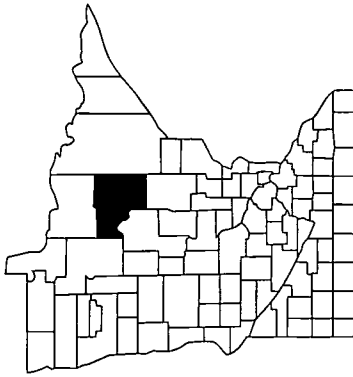
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Itasca County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Itasca County is located in the central section of northern Minnesota. Portions of Leech Lake Indian Reservation are located in the county. It is the nineteenth largest county in the state. Its per capita personal income of \$16,942 ranks in the lower third of Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The county experienced an 82% growth in the mining industry, making it the fastest growing industry in 1995.

The percentage of violent crimes committed by children increased greatly in Itasca County between 1994 and 1996. Itasca also has a higher-than-average percentage of children in out-of-home placements. The percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch decreased in 1996. Itasca County had a lower rate of children born to teenage mothers between 1993 and 1996 in comparison with the average county. There was also a lower-than-average number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect in 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	2,794 23.9%	2,733 22.1%	2,111 10.0%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	1,547 13.2%	1,577 13.2%	1,211 10.0%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	3,184 37.7%	3,042 35.3%	2,619 30.6%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	22 11	11 11	19 12.8 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	29 6.1%	23 4.9%	21 4.9%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	249 44.4%	176 31.4%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	152 3.9%	112 2.7%	134 3.1% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2 10.0%	15 54.0%	17 48.6% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	24 36		55 10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	206 273		247 17,508	
Children dying violently	3 4		3 205	

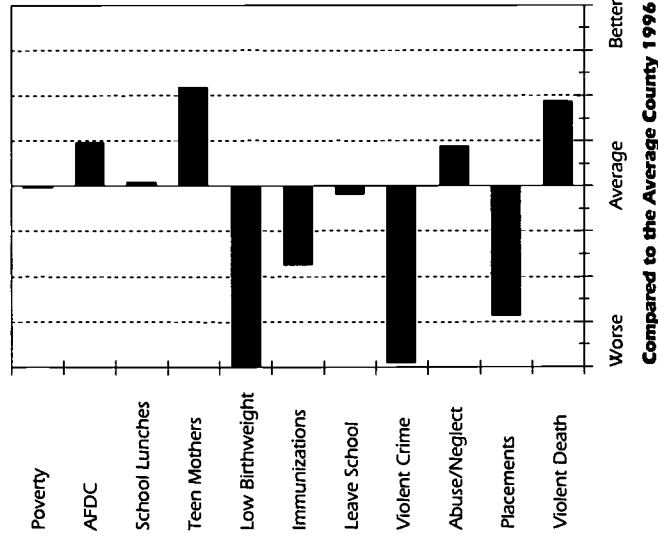
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Jackson

Demographics

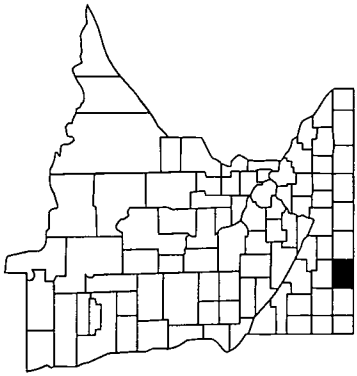
Estimated population, 1996	.....11,718
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....3,126
Estimated % children, 1996	.....26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....3,201
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....-2.3%
Projected population, 2000	.....10,370

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Jackson County



Jackson County is a relatively small county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The largest industries in 1995 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The largest increase in industry was in durable goods manufacturing. Jackson County's per capita personal income of \$17,168 ranked relatively low in comparison with other counties in Minnesota.

Out-of-home placements steadily increased in Jackson County between 1991 and 1996, and Jackson County has a higher proportion of out-of-home placements than the average county. There was also a significant increase in children born at low birth weight in 1996. The number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect rose in 1996, although it was still low in comparison to the average county. Like most other counties, Jackson experienced a drop in the number of children receiving AFDC.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	735	505	505	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	255	247	156	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	693	817	605	229,059

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	1	3	3	9.3 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	5	6	11	8.6%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	53	53	58	38.2%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	7	11	27	2.8% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	0	2	66.7% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	12	8	17		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	29	42	70		17,508	
Children dying violently	0	0	0		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

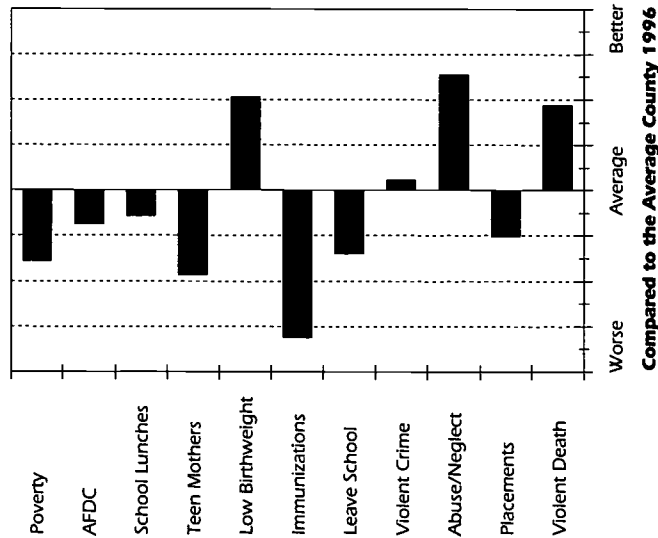


Kanabec

Demographics

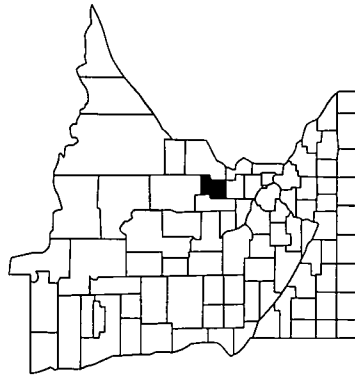
Estimated population, 1996	13,838
Estimated number of children, 1996	4,144
Estimated % children, 1996	29.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,930
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	5.4%
Projected population, 2000	13,340

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kanabec County



Kanabec County is located in east central Minnesota and ranks within the bottom third of Minnesota counties in size. In 1995, Kanabec had a per capita personal income of \$15,999, which was the ninth lowest in the state. The largest industries in the county were retail, state and local government, and construction. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by 16% between 1994 and 1995.

Kanabec County experienced a drop in the number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect in 1996, and this number was lower than the average county. The percentage of children receiving AFDC, as well as the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch, steadily decreased, although these numbers were still slightly high in comparison with the average county. The percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two dropped between 1992 and 1995, but was still worse than the average county.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	890 22.6%	812 19.4%	364 8.8%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	383 9.8%	420 10.5%	964 33.8%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	876 34.2%	918 34.6%	245 (a)	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	6	12	3	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	15 10.2%	6 3.8%	5 3.4%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	90 47.9%	84 43.1%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	42 3.8%	47 3.9%	54 4.0% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1 12.5%	4 21.0%	4 23.5% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	9	12	8	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	24	32	67	17,508
Children dying violently	2	0	0	205

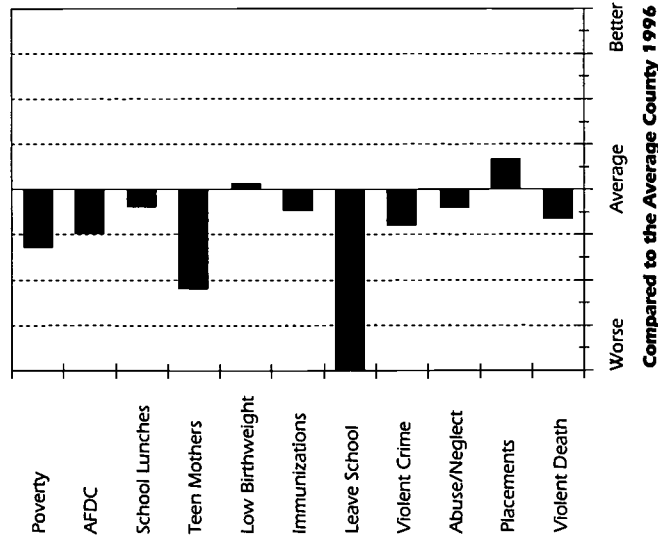
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Kandiyohi

Demographics

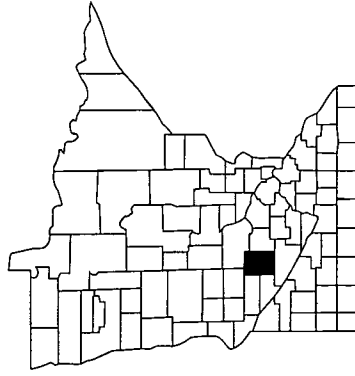
Estimated population, 1996	41,324
Estimated number of children, 1996	11,767
Estimated % children, 1996	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,922
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-1.3%
Projected population, 2000	40,560

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kandiyohi County



Kandiyohi County is located in west central Minnesota and is the twenty-first largest county in the state. During the summer months, the population includes migrant farmworkers and their children. In 1995, the largest industries in the county were state and local government, services, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was non-durable goods manufacturing. In 1995, Kandiyohi County had a per capita personal income of \$19,612, which ranked twenty-sixth in the state.

The number of children in out-of-home placements dropped in 1996, making this number lower than the average county. The number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect rose steadily between 1993 and 1996 and was slightly higher than the average county. The rate of children being born to teenage mothers in 1993-95 was relatively high compared to the average county, as was the percentage of children dropping out of school.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	2,014	2,213	18.7%	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	1,270	1,429	11.6%	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,409	2,548	30.5%	229,059

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	22	31	19	25.7 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	20	3.7%	20	3.4%	26	4.9%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	224	35.7%	194	34.0%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	158	5.1%	207	6.2%	217	6.8% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	17	34.0%	26	39.0%	26	34.2% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	77		69		96		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	148		183		124		17,508	
Children dying violently	6		1		3		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

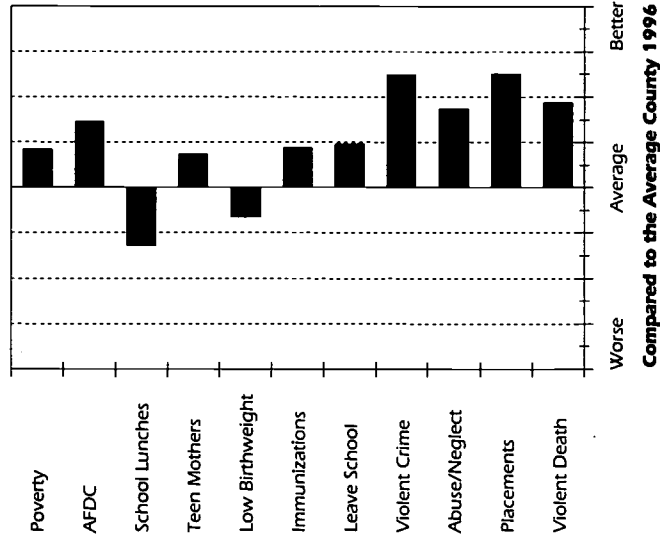


Kittson

Demographics

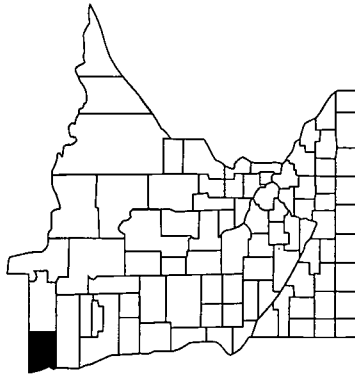
Estimated population, 1996	5,419
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,372
Estimated % children	25.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,506
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-8.9%
Projected population, 2000	5,180

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kittson County



Kittson County is in the northwest corner of Minnesota, bordering North Dakota and Canada. It is the fifth smallest county in Minnesota. The county's largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and retail trade. The retail trade industry increased the most between 1994 and 1995. Kittson County's per capita personal income of \$18,384 ranked within the middle third of Minnesota counties.

Kittson County fared well on many of the child well-being indicators. In 1996, the county continued to have better-than-average rates of children receiving AFDC, substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, and number of children in out-of-home placements. There was an increase in the percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch in 1996. This percentage is slightly higher than the average county. The percentage of children born at low birth weight decreased in 1996, although it is still slightly higher than the average county.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	239 15.4%	194 13%	185,224 14.7%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	62 4.1%	56 3.9%	116,774 9.4%	9.4%
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	385 33.5%	417 35.6%	229,059 26.7%	26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	0	2	2 14.7 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	1 1.9%	3 5.0%	3 5.6%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		25 26.0%	21 29.6%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	2 0.4%	3 0.6%	10 1.8% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	1	5	5	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	4	8	6	17,508
Children dying violently	1	0	0	205

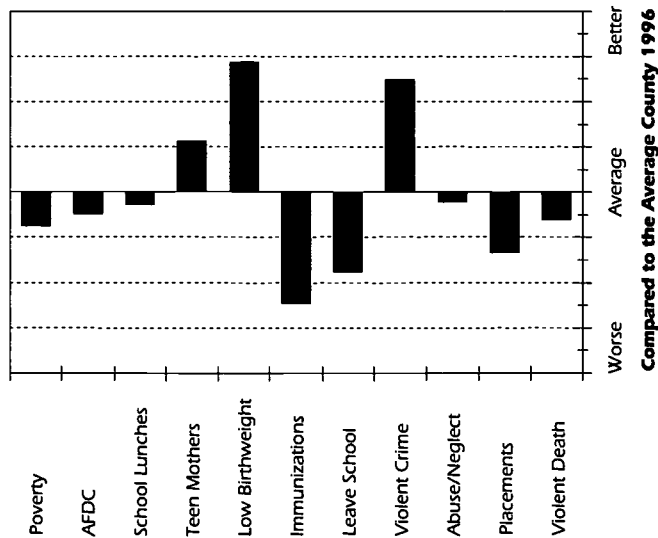
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Koochiching

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	15,858
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,997
Estimated % children, 1996	25.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,191
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-4.6%
Projected population, 2000	15,000

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Koochiching County



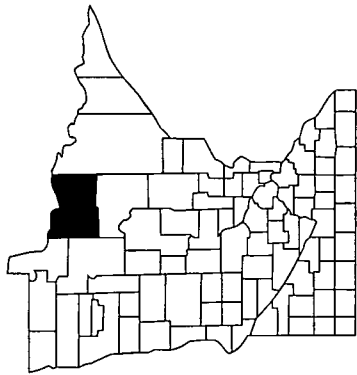
Koochiching County is a mid-sized county located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. Most of the Nett Lake Indian Reservation lies within the county. In 1995, Koochiching had a per capita personal income of \$16,194, the twelfth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing.

Koochiching County continued to have a very low percentage of children born at low birth weight in 1996. The county had significantly lower-than-average rates of low birth weight children for six years in a row. Another positive indicator is that no teenagers were arrested for violent crime in 1996. Substantiated reports of abuse and neglect steadily rose between 1993 and 1996, and this number was slightly higher than the average county. Koochiching County children were much less likely to be fully immunized by age two than children in the average Minnesota county.

Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	902	729	17.3%	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	383	398	9.6%	327
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	663	677	26.5%	796
Children born to teenage mothers	7	6	13.2 (a)	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	8	10	5.2%	4
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	79	45.7%	94	40.5%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	6.7%	0	0
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	33	2.5%	39	2.9%
Children abused and neglected	25	17	31	57
Children in out-of-home placements	63	77	69	15,701
Children dying violently	3	1	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

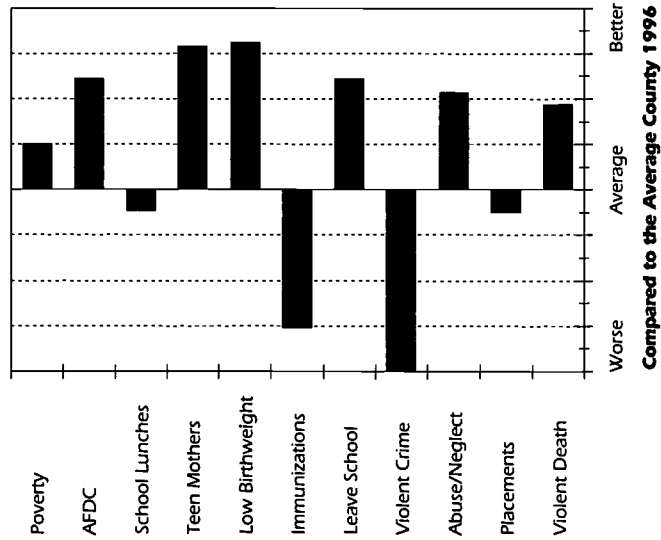


Lac qui Parle

Demographics

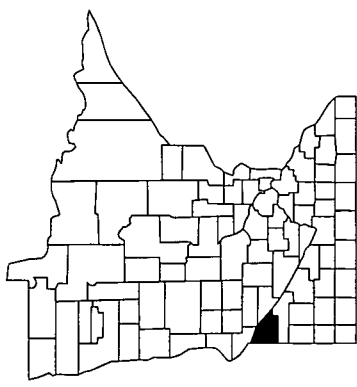
Estimated population, 1996	8,228
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,137
Estimated % children, 1996	26.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,326
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-8.1%
Projected population, 2000	7,730

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lac qui Parle County



Lac Qui Parle County is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border next to the Minnesota River. It is the twelfth smallest county in the state. Its 1995 per capita personal income of \$16,700 ranked within the bottom third of Minnesota, and significantly decreased from 1994. The county's largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The transportation and public utilities industry showed the largest increase between 1994 and 1995, increasing at a rate of 86.3%.

After a sharp increase in substantiated reports of abuse and neglect in 1994, this number was once again very low in 1996. Lac Qui Parle also had a very low rate of children being born to teenage mothers in 1993-95, and children born at low birth weight in 1996. The percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two, and the percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price school lunch, are two indicators that were higher than the average county in 1996.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	320	297	37	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	60	65	37	116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	599	656	704	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	2	1	1	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	1	3	2	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		36	37	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	1	8	4	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	1	2,123
Children abused and neglected	4	2	6	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	15	23	31	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

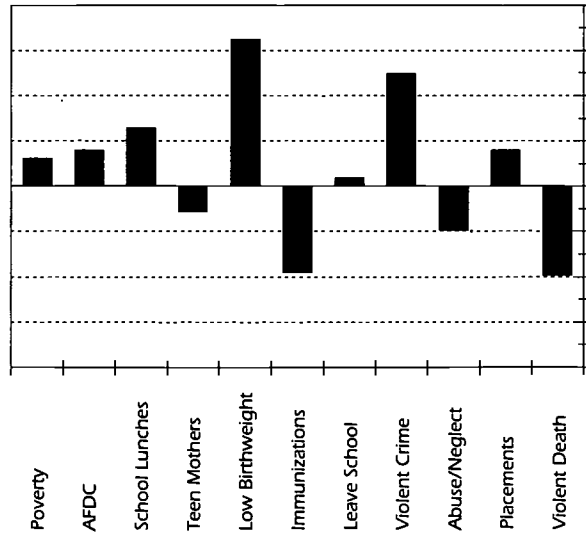


Lake

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	10,707
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,566
Estimated % children, 1996	24.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,542
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	0.9%
Projected population, 2000	9,640

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Lake County is located in northeastern Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior. It is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$17,752 ranks slightly lower than average in comparison with other Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and mining. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased almost 16% between 1994 and 1995.

There was a significant decrease in the number of children born at low birth weight between 1995 and 1996. The percentage of children receiving AFDC steadily decreased between 1991 and 1996, and this number was lower than the average county. Lake County also had a lower-than-average percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch. The number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect increased between 1994 and 1996 and is slightly higher than the average county. Another area of concern may be the increase in the percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two between 1992 and 1995.

Family Economics

Children living below the poverty line

Children receiving AFDC

Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers

Children born at low birth weight

Children not immunized by age 2 (b)

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)

Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)

Children abused and neglected

Children in out-of-home placements

Children dying violently

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	329	12.9%	364	13.8%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	215	8.5%	197	7.7%	138	5.4%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	586	26.8%	729	32.7%	554	24.6%	229,059	26.7%
Children born to teenage mothers	0	2	2	19.6 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	5	4.2%	2	2.1%	2	2.4%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		61	36.7%	55	38.7%			
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	11	1.1%	21	2.0%	25	2.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	3	25.0%	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%	
Children abused and neglected	12	19	24	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	37	31	26	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	0	1	205				

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

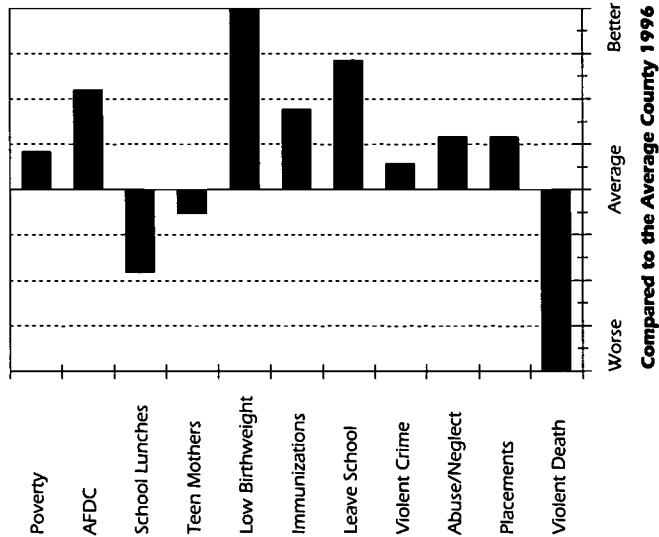


Lake of the Woods

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	4,598
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,238
Estimated % children, 1996	26.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,177
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	5.2%
Projected population, 2000	4,310

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake of the Woods County



Lake of the Woods County is located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. It is the third smallest county in Minnesota. Portions of the Lake Indian Reservation are located in the county. In 1995, Lake of the Woods County had a per capita personal income of \$17,856, which is within the middle third of all counties in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry from 1994 to 1995 was transportation and public utilities which increased by 8.5%.

Lake of the Woods County continued to do well on several child well-being indicators. The percentage of children receiving AFDC dropped significantly between 1993 and 1996, and was much lower than the average county. The county also had a dramatic decrease in the percentage of children not fully immunized by the age of two. The percentage of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch was higher than the average county, indicating a significant number of low-income children within the county.

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
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Family Economics

Children living below the poverty line	216	18.5%	163	13.2%	185,224	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	59	5.0%	60	5.1%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	316	41.4%	360	44.0%	229,059	26.7%

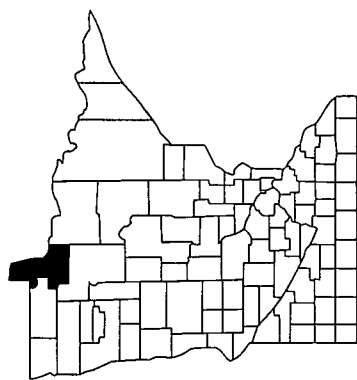
Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	1	1	1	19.5 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	4	7.0%	2	3.5%	0	0.0%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	37	56.9%	16	26.7%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	7	2.3%	11	3.2%	0	(c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	20.0% (c)	1	20.0% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	4	8	6	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	13	8	11	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	0	0	1	205			

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

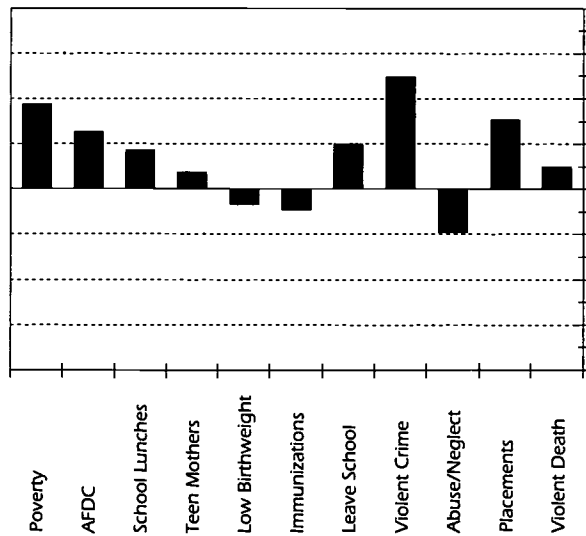


LeSueur

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	24,715
Estimated number of children, 1996	7,208
Estimated % children, 1996	29.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,971
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	3.4%
Projected population, 2000	23,420

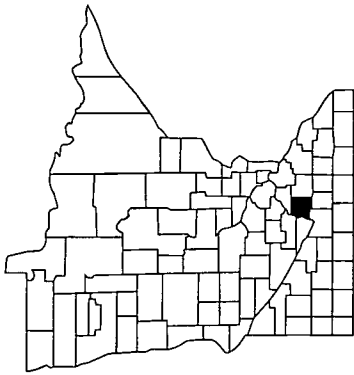
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in LeSueur County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Le Sueur County is a moderate-sized county in south central Minnesota. Le Sueur County's 1995 per capita personal income of \$19,747 ranks twenty-third in the state. The largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Non-durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at 27% from 1994 to 1995.

Children in Le Sueur County rank quite close to the average county on most of the indicators of child well-being. The percentage of children receiving AFDC steadily decreased between 1993 and 1996, and continued to be lower than the average county in 1996. Substantiated reports of abuse and neglect increased from 1994, and is slightly high in comparison to other Minnesota counties. Another area of concern may be the increase in the percentage of children born at low birth weight between 1993 and 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	824 11.9%	767 10.5%	313 4.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	346 5.0%	369 5.2%	1,422 26.4%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,029 23.0%	1,425 25.6%	1,422 26.4%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	9	9	12 16.1 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	20 6.2%	9 2.9%	17 5.3%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	120 38.7%	111 34.0%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	25 1.3%	31 1.3%	44 1.7% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1 20.0%	1 13.0%	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	44	56	67	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	41	73	55	17,508
Children dying violently	1	4	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995



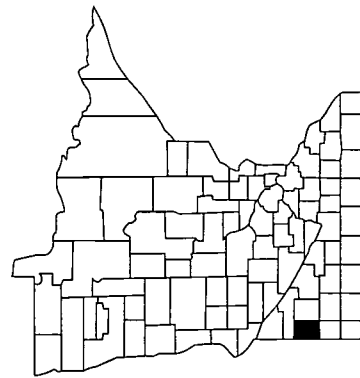
Lincoln

Demographics

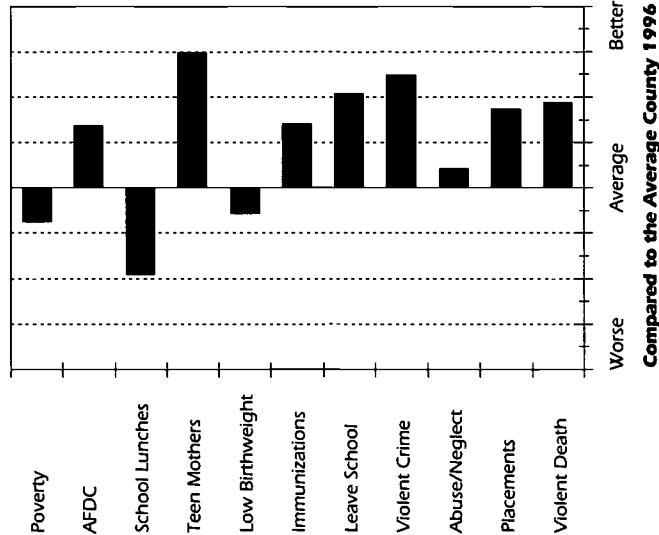
Estimated population, 1996	6,687
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,719
Estimated % children, 1996	25.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,789
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.9%
Projected population, 2000	6,080

Lincoln County, the eighth smallest county in the state, is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border. Its 1995 per capita personal income of \$15,527 was the sixth lowest in the state, decreasing at a rate of 7.7% from 1994. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities. Transportation and public utilities was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of almost 20% in 1995.

Lincoln County fared well on most indicators of child well-being. Lincoln County had a low rate of children being born to teenage mothers in 1993-95. Lincoln County also has a lower-than-average rate of children who are not fully immunized by the age of two. A positive trend in Lincoln County is that there were no children arrested for violent crime between 1991 and 1996. A higher-than-average rate of students receiving free or reduced-price school lunch indicates a higher-than-average proportion of low-income students in the county.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lincoln County



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	419	312	17.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC (Region VIII North, 1991, 1993)	635	684	6.1%	71 4.1% 116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	428	475	42.0%	438 40.7% 229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	2	1	6.3 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	1	4	5.8%	5 5.5% 3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	16	31.4%	12	27.9%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	5	0.8%	5	0.7% (c) 15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	(c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	8	18	11	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	8	8	12	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

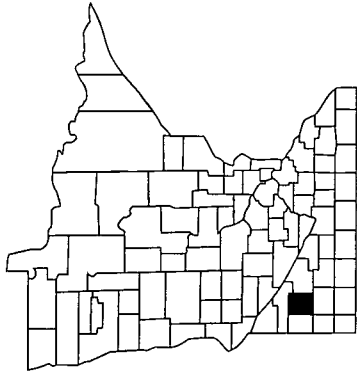
Lyon

Demographics

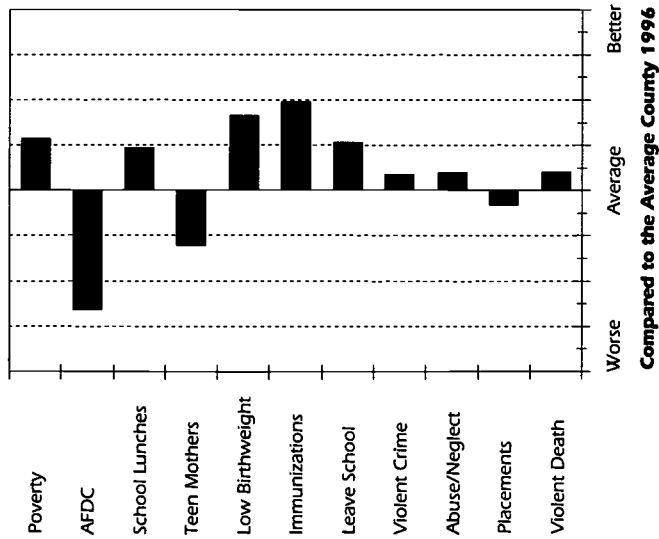
Estimated population, 1996	24,791
Estimated number of children, 1996	6,783
Estimated % children, 1996	27.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,835
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-0.8%
Projected population, 2000	24,680

Lyon County is a mid-sized county located in southwestern Minnesota. In 1995, Lyon County had a per capita personal income of \$20,205, which ranked nineteenth in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The construction industry increased income for the people of Lyon County by almost 11% between 1994 and 1995.

Lyon County saw a significant drop in the number of children not fully immunized by the age of two between 1992 and 1995. Lyon County also had a lower-than-average number of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect. This number significantly decreased in 1996. Lyon County had a higher-than-average rate of children born to teenage mothers and children receiving AFDC. Despite the decrease in the percentage of children receiving AFDC in most other counties, this number rose sharply in Lyon County in 1996.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lyon County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	940	881	12.4%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC (Region VIII North, 1991, 1993)	635	684	6.1%	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,513	1,519	27.9%	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	8	9	22.1 (a)	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	4	15	3.7%	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	208	111	26.1%	

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	38	27	1.1%	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	4	4	20.0%	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	41	86	44	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	105	86	94	17,508
Children dying violently	2	6	1	205

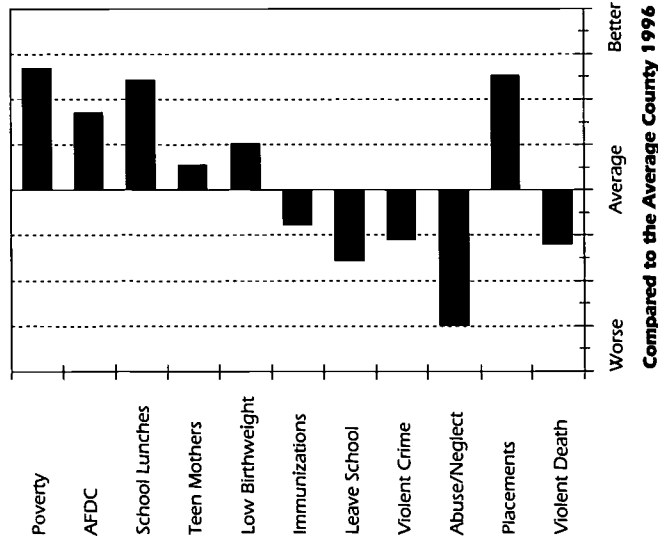
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

McLeod

Demographics

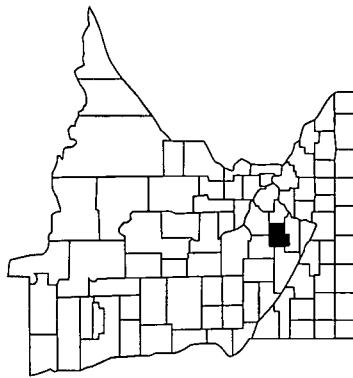
Estimated population, 1996	33,636
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,650
Estimated % children, 1996	28.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,489
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.7%
Projected population, 2000	33,780

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in McLeod County



McLeod County is located in the south central portion of the state and is the twenty-fifth largest county. During the summer months, the population includes migrant farmworkers and their children. The county's largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing and state and local government. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 13% from 1994 to 1995. McLeod County's per capita personal income was \$21,969, the eighth largest in the state.

Children in McLeod County generally did better than children in the average Minnesota county on most measures of child well-being. The county had a much higher-than-average rate of substantiated child abuse and neglect reports, which have increased since 1991. The rate of children in out-of-home placements was significantly lower than the average county, however.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	780	828	824	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	335	360	324	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	857	1,092	1,039	26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	7	5	13	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	13	20	18	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		211	188	35.0%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	77	34	126	4.1% (c)
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	11	9	16	37.2% (c)
Children abused and neglected	113	123	131	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	55	55	42	17,508
Children dying violently	4	0	3	205

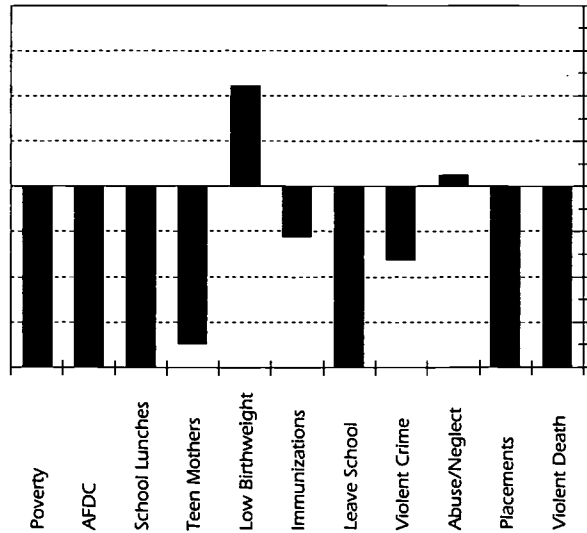
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Mahnomen

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	5,144
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,630
Estimated % children, 1996	31.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,587
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	2.7%
Projected population, 2000	4,950

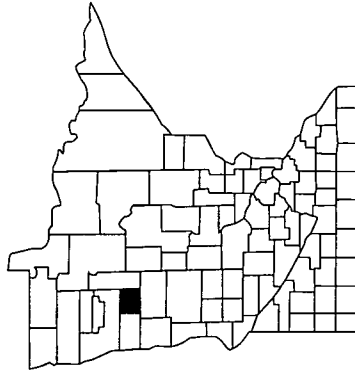
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mahnomen County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Mahnomen County is located in northwestern Minnesota and is the fifth smallest county in the state. Much of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. The county's 1995 personal per capita income was \$13,611, the lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and finance, insurance and real estate, which also was the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 235% between 1994 and 1995.

Children in Mahnomen County were less likely to be born with low birth weight in 1996 than children in the average Minnesota county. Mahnomen County saw an increase over time in the number of children in out-of-home placements as well as an increase in the percentage of children receiving AFDC, contrary to the statewide trend.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	556 35.3%	442 26.6%	311 19.1%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	295 18.6%	252 15.6%	311 19.1%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,109 66.6%	1,143 66.4%	1,154 66.1%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	2 0.8%	3 3.9%	6 30.6 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3 4.8%	3 3.9%	3 3.2%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		24 41.4%	35 36.1%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	6 0.8%	55 7.4%	72 9.5% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	3 42.9% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	29	23	11	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	59	56	81	17,508
Children dying violently	1	1	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

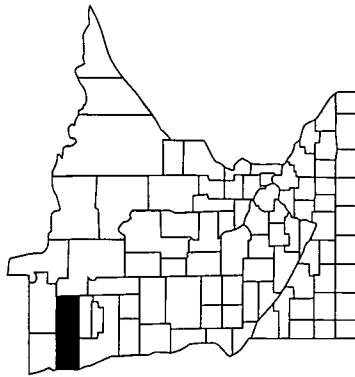
Marshall

Demographics

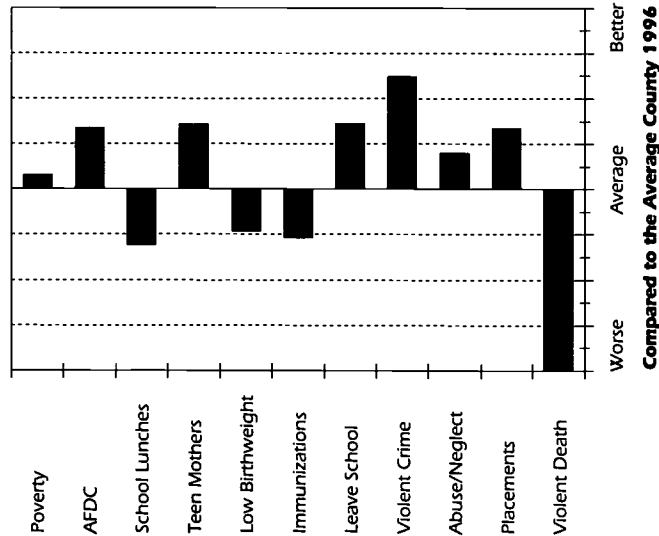
Estimated population, 1996	10,563
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,022
Estimated % children, 1996	28.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,185
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-5.1%
Projected population, 2000	9,910

Marshall County is a moderately small county located along the North Dakota border in the northwest corner of the state. During the summer months, the population of Marshall County includes migrant farmworkers and their children. Marshall County's per capita personal income of \$16,569 ranks within the bottom third of the state. The largest industries in the county were state and local government, services, and retail. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 15% between 1994 and 1995.

Children in Marshall County were much less likely to be born at low birth weight than were children in the average county. Marshall County also had a very low percentage of violent crimes committed by children. The county's high rate of violent deaths probably does not reflect a long-term trend since the actual number of deaths is quite small.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Marshall County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	564	17.4%	461	14.6%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	146	4.6%	163	5.2%	125	4.1%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	987	40.8%	935	38.6%	728	37.3%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	2	1	4	12.1 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	9	6.8%	5	4.3%	7	5.8%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		65	37.8%	49	36.0%			

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	6	0.5%	15	1.3%	13	1.3% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	0	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	12	43	17	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	16	20	25	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	0	2	205				

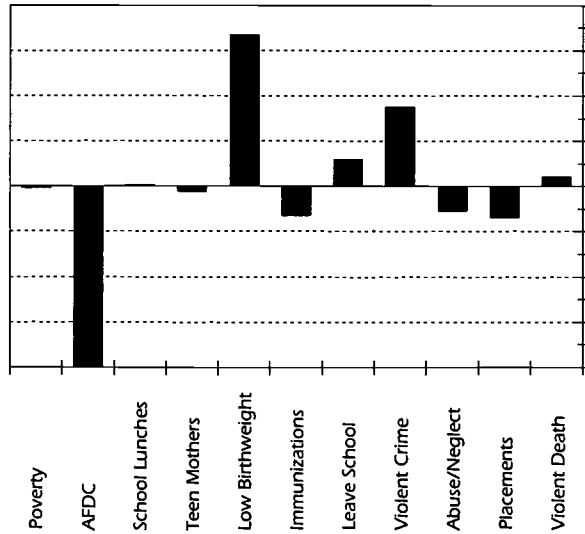
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Martin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	22,462
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,911
Estimated % children, 1996	26.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,173
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-4.2%
Projected population, 2000	21,480

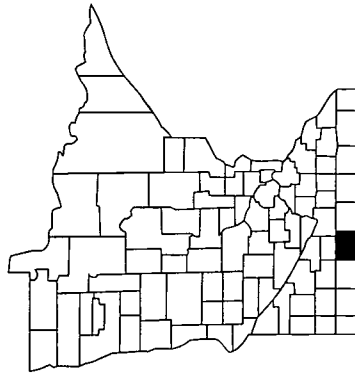
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Martin County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Martin County is a moderate-sized county located in south central Minnesota on the Iowa border. The largest industries in Martin County were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. In 1995, Martin County had a per capita personal income of \$20,144, ranking twentieth among Minnesota counties. The fastest growing industry between 1994 and 1995 was durable goods manufacturing, which increased 13.7%.

Martin County children generally fared close to the average county on many measures of child well being. Children in Martin County had very low rates of dropping out of school and children born at low birth weight. The number of children in out-of-home placements in the county has increased from 1991 to 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	820 13.2%	953 15.5%	1,181 20.0%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC (Faribault/Martin, 1991, 1993)	888 8.3%	820 7.7%	1,181 20.0%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,387 31.0%	1,452 32.1%	1,338 30.8%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	12	9	9 18.0 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	13 4.4%	12 4.4%	5 2.3%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		108 33.0%	107 34.6%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	24 1.2%	31 1.5%	47 2.1% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	1 7.7% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	28	56	50	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	59	71	89	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

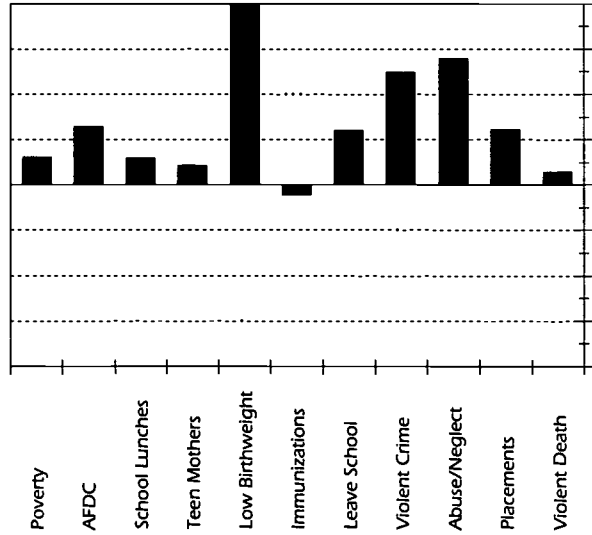


Meeker

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	21,463
Estimated number of children, 1996	6,230
Estimated % children, 1996	29.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,279
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-0.8%
Projected population, 2000	20,840

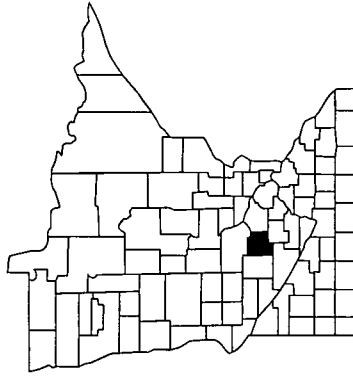
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Meeker County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Meeker County is a moderate-sized county in central Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing by 16%. The 1995 per capita personal income in Meeker County was \$17,379, placing it within the middle third of Minnesota counties.

In 1996, children in Meeker County fared better than children in the average Minnesota county on most measures of child well being. Meeker County improved the rate of two-year-olds who were fully immunized between 1992 and 1995, and had a very low rate of children born at low birth weight.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	974 15.6%	883 13.8%	268 4.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	378 6.0%	382 6.1%	268 4.3%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,578 27.1%	1,731 29.5%	1,779 27.8%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	6	10	8 15.9 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	7 2.6%	13 5.0%	4 1.4%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		142 41.4%	94 33.2%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	31 1.2%	28 1.0%	47 1.5% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	11	19	9	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	54	49	54	17,508
Children dying violently	3	0	1	205

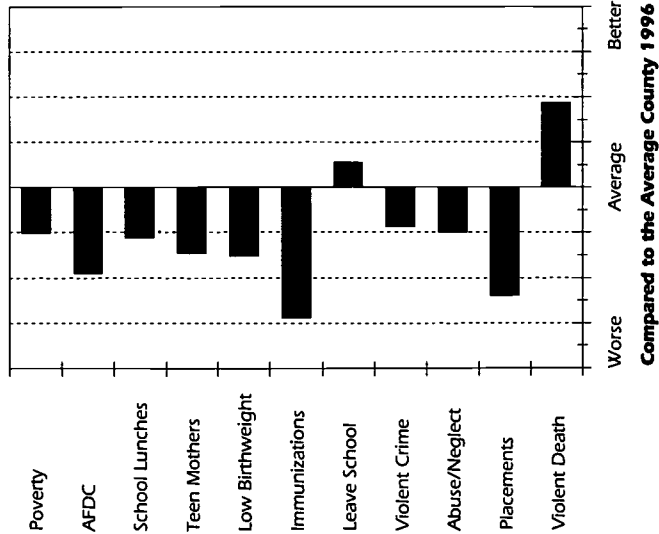
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Mille Lacs

Demographics

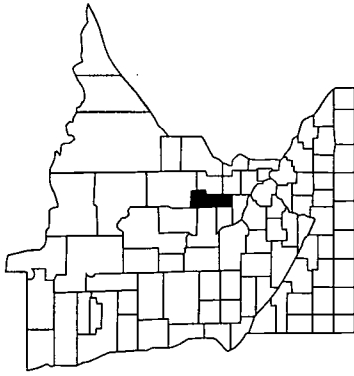
Estimated population, 1996	20,312
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,864
Estimated % children, 1996	28.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,584
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	5.0%
Projected population, 2000	19,030

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mille Lacs County



Mille Lacs County is a mid-sized county located in east central Minnesota. The county also includes the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. Its per capita income of \$16,825 ranks within the bottom third of the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The service industry was also the fastest growing.

Mille Lacs County children fared close to the average county or somewhat below on most indicators of child well-being. The number of families receiving AFDC also continued to increase, possibly due to the fact that because Mille Lacs is an MFIP demonstration county, recipients remained on the program longer as they returned to the workforce. Mille Lacs also had a higher-than-average rate of births to teens, low birth weight babies, and children not fully immunized by age two.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	861 15.7%	1,050 18.0%	185,224	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	580 10.4%	575 10.1%	663 11.3%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,009 34.6%	2,237 36.3%	2,282 36.6%	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	14	8	21 22.9 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	11 4.4%	21 8.0%	17 6.3%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	232 48.8%	200 41.9%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	42 1.6%	51 1.8%	63 2.2% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	5 26.3%	3 18.0%	7 35.0% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	84	49	55	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	98	109	122	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	0	205

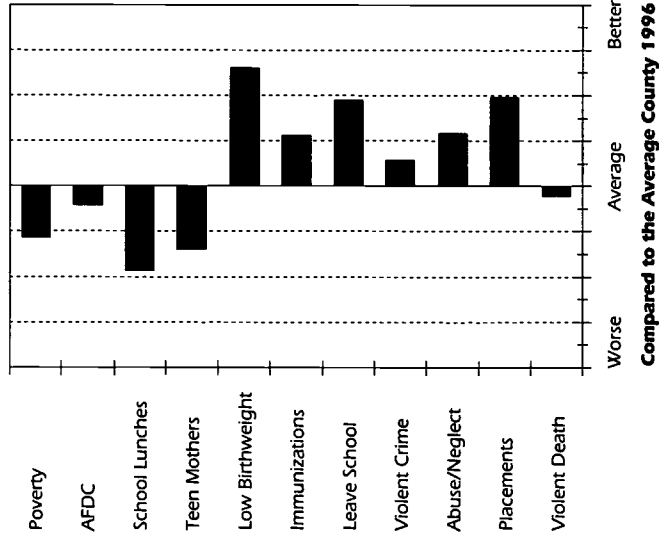
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Morrison

Demographics

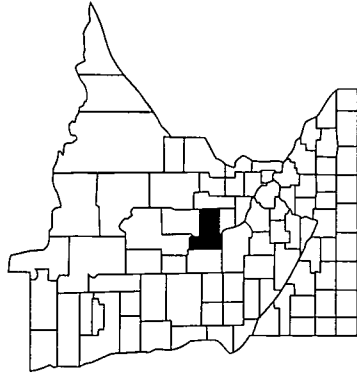
Estimated population, 1996	30,528
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,477
Estimated % children, 1996	31.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,333
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.5%
Projected population, 2000	29,720

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Morrison County



Morrison County, located in central Minnesota, was the thirtieth largest county in Minnesota. Its 1995 per capita personal income was \$15,388, the fourth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased by 22.3% between 1994 and 1995.

Morrison County had a lower percentage of children born at low birth weight than the average county. Substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and the rate of children in out-of-home placements were both lower than the average county. The teen birth rate in 1993-95 was higher than the average county as was the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price school lunch.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	2,204	1,783	1,783	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	691	653	766	116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	3,063	3,109	2,781	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	8	16	11	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	13	13	12	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	185	36.8%	144	28.8%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	36	1.2%	27	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	9.1%	4	2,123
Children abused and neglected	45	37	46	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	61	36	59	17,508
Children dying violently	3	2	2	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

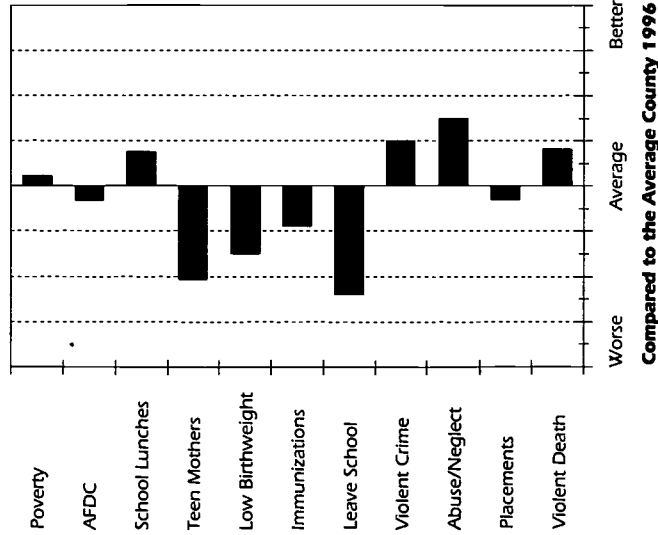


Mower

Demographics

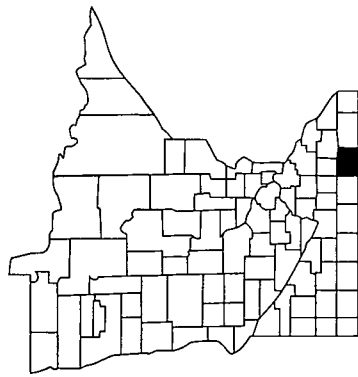
Estimated population, 1996	37,151
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,410
Estimated % children, 1996	25.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,685
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-2.8%
Projected population, 2000	36,570

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mower County



Mower County is located in southeastern Minnesota on the Iowa border. It is the twenty-third largest county in the state. Its 1995 per capita personal income of \$21,889 was the tenth largest in Minnesota. In Mower County, the largest industries were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Non-durable goods was the fastest growing sector between 1994 and 1995.

Mower County had a relatively low percentage of violent crimes committed by children in 1995. The county had a teen birth rate that was higher than the average Minnesota county, and an increasing number of children born at low birth weight. Mower County had a lower-than-average rate of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and a higher-than-average dropout rate.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,548	1,449	14.8%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	895	942	7.8%	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,677	1,686	27.0%	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	26	18	25.3 (a)	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	26	24	6.2%	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	180	171	35.4%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	95	112	4.9% (c)	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	3	3	15.4% (c)	2,123
Children abused and neglected	54	43		10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	96	81		17,508
Children dying violently	2	0		205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

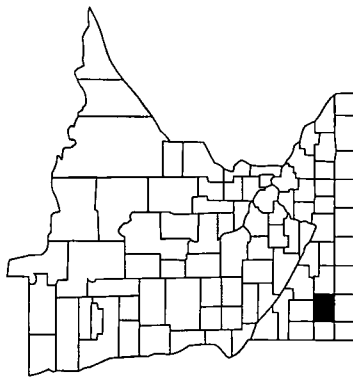
Murray

Demographics

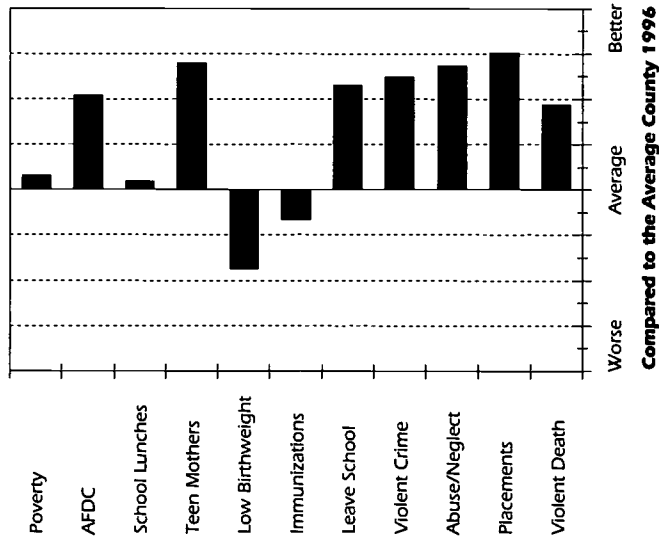
Estimated population, 1996	9,609
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,569
Estimated % children, 1996	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,633
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-2.4%
Projected population, 2000	8,600

Murray County is located in the southwestern corner of Minnesota. It is the thirteenth smallest county in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were construction, services, and state and local government. The non-durable transportation and public utilities industry increased by 17.3% between 1994 and 1995. Murray County had a per capita personal income of \$17,097 in 1995, decreasing from 1994.

Children in Murray County fared better than children in the average Minnesota county on most indicators of child well-being. However, the percentage of children born at low birth weight increased over time, resulting in a rate that was worse than the average county.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Murray County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	421	393	393	14.6%
Children receiving AFDC (Region VIII North, 1991, 1993)	635	684	66	2.6%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	415	520	503	29.9%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	1	2	4	6.9 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3	4	6	6.5%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		53	41	34.7%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	2	0	4	0.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	8	13	4		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	16	12	7		17,508	
Children dying violently	0	0	0		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Nicollet

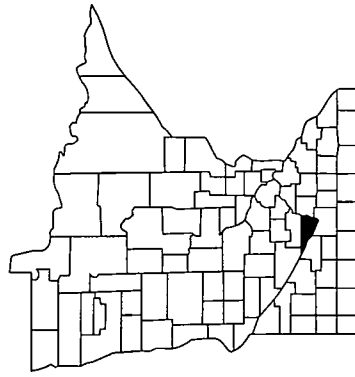
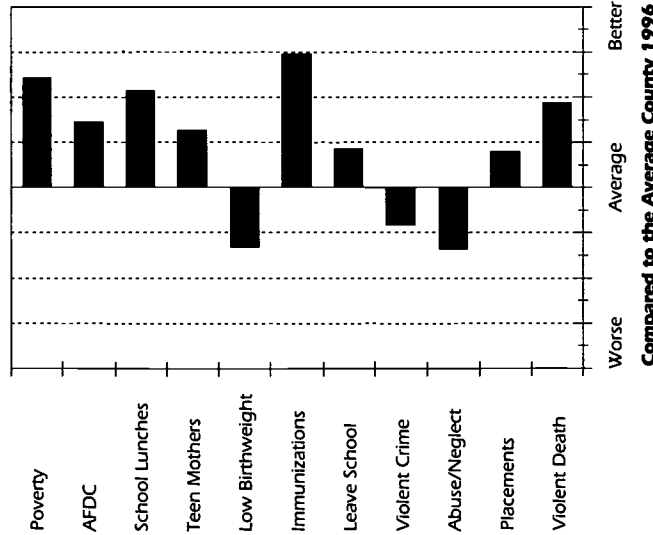
Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	29,846
Estimated number of children, 1996	7,790
Estimated % children, 1996	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,517
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	3.6%
Projected population, 2000	28,890

Nicollet County, located along the Minnesota River in south central Minnesota, is the thirty-third largest county in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was non-durable goods manufacturing. Nicollet County's per capita personal income of \$20,045 ranked twenty-first in the state.

Children in Nicollet County did better than children in the average Minnesota county on many indicators of child well-being. The rate of immunizations for two-year-olds improved, resulting in a rate much better than the average county's. The percentage of violent crimes committed by children increased from 1991 to 1996.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nicollet County



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	981	725	725	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	361	370	305	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	582	630	552	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	6	7	6	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	18	17	19	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	71	71	45	22,888
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	20	19	24	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	4	6	9	2,123
Children abused and neglected	249	95	79	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	79	111	79	17,508
Children dying violently	1	0	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995



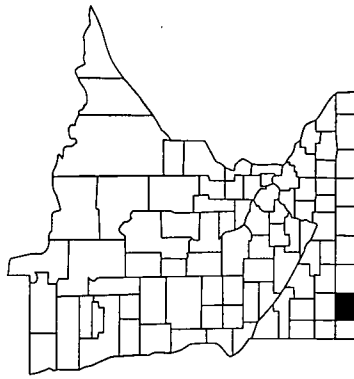
Nobles

Demographics

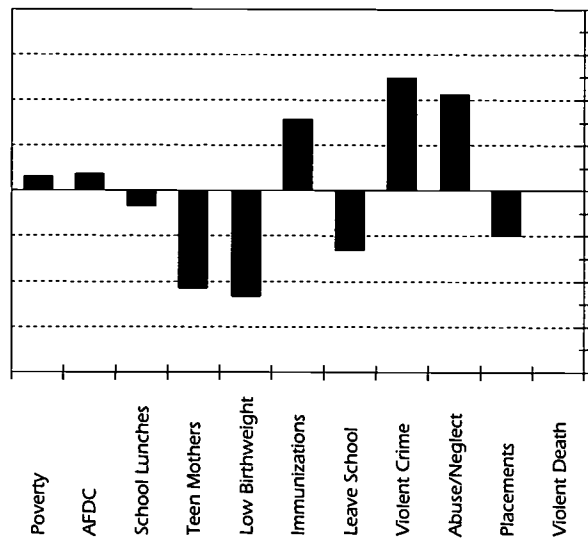
Estimated population, 1996	20,060
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,259
Estimated % children, 1996	26.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,442
% Change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.4%
Projected population, 2000	19,060

Nobles County is a mid-sized county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing sector between 1994 and 1995, increasing at a rate of 15.4%. Nobles County's per capita personal income in 1995 was \$19,556, which ranked the county twenty-ninth in the state on this measure.

Nobles County did better than the average county at fully immunizing two-year-olds. There were also fewer substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect than in the average county, although the sharp decrease in 1996 may not reflect a long-term trend. The teen birth rate in Nobles County was much higher than the average county's in 1993-95.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nobles County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	768	810	14.1%	14.6%
Children receiving AFDC	310	395	5.7%	7.2%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,039	1,132	28.7%	29.2%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	3	15	12	25.6 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	13	14	4.5%	5.0%	19	6.9%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	89	32.8%	77	27.3%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	56	3.2%	49	2.7%	75	3.9% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	10	48.0%	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%	
Children abused and neglected	49	43	15	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	67	89	85	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	0	1	205				

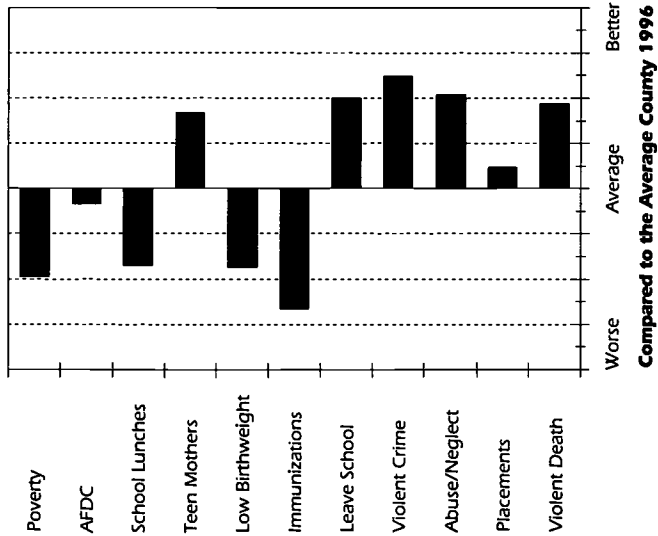
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Norman

Demographics

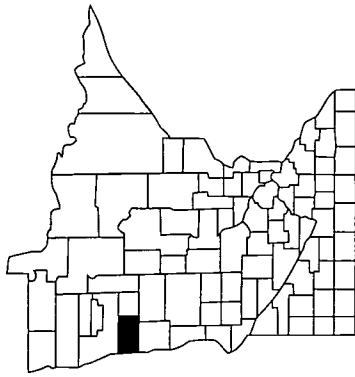
Estimated population, 1996	7,753
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,053
Estimated % children, 1996	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,157
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-4.8%
Projected population, 2000	7,060

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Norman County



Norman County, the tenth smallest county, is located in northwestern Minnesota along the Red River and North Dakota border. During the summer months, the population of Norman County includes migrant farmworkers and their children. Norman County's per capita personal income in 1995 was \$17,722, which reflects an increase of 17.4% from 1994. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and retail trade. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 17.6% between 1994 and 1995.

In Norman County, there was a low rate of births to teens in 1993-95. The percentage of violent crime committed by children was also quite low. The percentage of children born at low birth weight was consistently higher than the average county from 1991 through 1996 and the rate of two year-olds not fully immunized was also higher than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	596	430	162	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	134	183	162	116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	651	649	579	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	2	0	2	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	5	5	6	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	42	42	42	2,019
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	5	6	6	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	2,123
Children abused and neglected	10	9	6	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	17	33	23	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

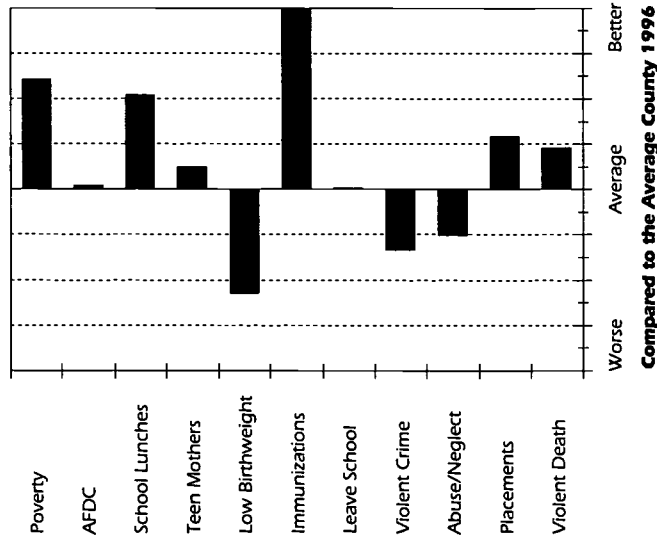


Olmsted

Demographics

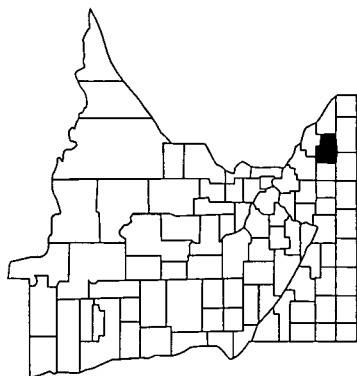
Estimated population, 1996	113,182
Estimated number of children, 1996	31,100
Estimated % children, 1996	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	30,642
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.5%
Projected population, 2000	117,160

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Olmsted County



Olmsted County in southeastern Minnesota is the eighth largest county in the state. Olmsted County's population includes a significant number of Southeast Asian children. Olmsted County's 1995 per capita income of \$24,720 ranked sixth in the state. The largest industries in the county were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was construction.

Children in Olmsted County had a very high rate of full immunization by age two. Olmsted County had a consistent increase in the number of children receiving AFDC, reaching a rate similar to that of the average Minnesota county. The percentage of violent crimes committed by children also increased over time. The county did worse than average in the percentage of children born at low birth weight.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	2,100	7.0%	2,954	9.1%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	1,725	5.6%	1,910	6.1%	2,156	6.9%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	3,381	16.6%	3,599	17.8%	4,253	20.0%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	29		32		30	15.6 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	80	4.3%	108	5.9%	113	6.9%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)			420	23.5%	324	19.0%		
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	208	2.6%	149	1.8%	236	2.6% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	16	25.4%	37	36.0%	67	39.9% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	158		173		293		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	227		264		276		17,508	
Children dying violently	6		2		3		205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

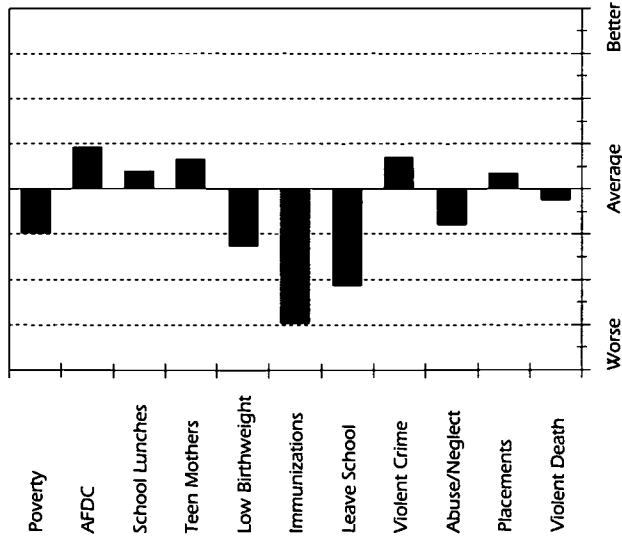


Otter Tail

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	53,889
Estimated number of children, 1996	14,074
Estimated % children, 1996	26.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,660
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	3.0%
Projected population, 2000	49,270

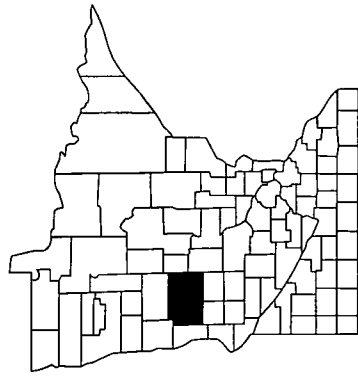
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Otter Tail County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Otter Tail County, located in the west central region of Minnesota, is the thirteenth largest county in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Durable goods manufacturing increased 20.2% between 1994 and 1995. Otter Tail County's 1995 per capita personal income of \$18,227 ranked slightly lower than average in comparison to other Minnesota counties.

Children in Otter Tail County fared near the average Minnesota county in 1996 for many indicators of child well-being. The County had fewer substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect than the average county. Although Otter Tail County improved the percentage of two year-olds who were not fully immunized, its rate was still much lower than the average county's rate.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	2,811	2,558	17.9%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	885	991	7.2%	9.4%
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,828	2,949	31.3%	26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	11	20	14	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	33	28	32	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	366	366	294	5.8%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	113	106	225	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	8	7	11	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	137	105	126	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	205	200	164	17,508
Children dying violently	1	2	3	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

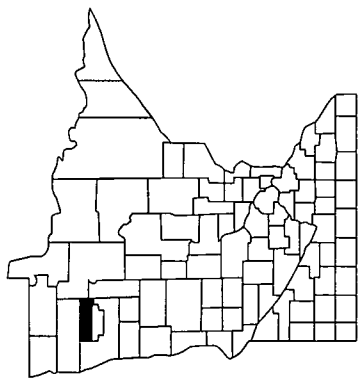
Pennington

Demographics

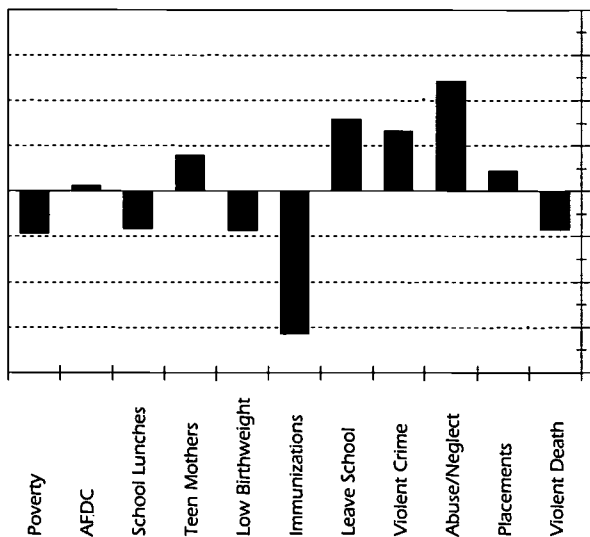
Estimated population, 1996	13,564
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,625
Estimated % children, 1996	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,650
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-0.7%
Projected population, 2000	13,050

Pennington County is a relatively small county located in northwestern Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing, which was also the fastest growing industry. Its per capita personal income of \$19,166 ranked slightly higher than average and increased almost 10% from 1994.

Pennington County had a low number of substantiated child abuse and neglect reports. Pennington County had a lower-than-average rate of fully immunized two-year-olds in 1995. The percentage of children born at low birth weight, while near that of the average Minnesota county, increased between 1991 and 1996.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pennington County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	708 19.2%	658 17.8%	185,224	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	409 11.2%	408 11.2%	248 6.8%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	922 37.4%	872 36.4%	846 35.1%	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	5	5	7 14.5 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	6 4.0%	6 3.7%	11 5.7%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	78 43.8%	74 42.8%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	7 0.5%	24 1.7%	16 1.2% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1 12.5%	4 36.0%	3 12.0% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	8	6	8	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	19	30	41	17,508
Children dying violently	0	2	1	205

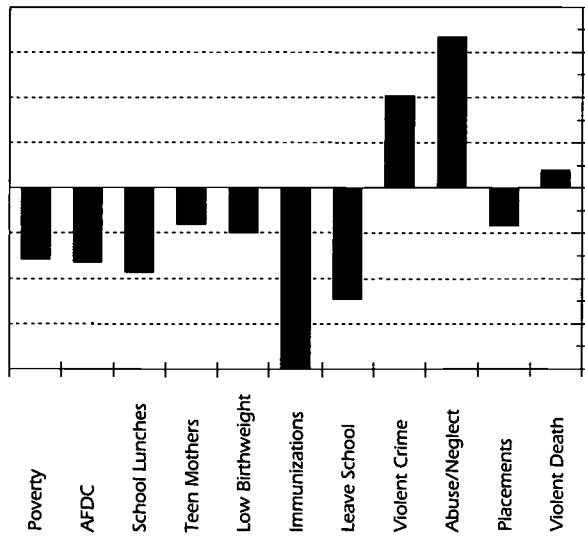
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Pine

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	23,331
Estimated number of children, 1996	6,607
Estimated % children, 1996	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,160
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	7.3%
Projected population, 2000	22,130

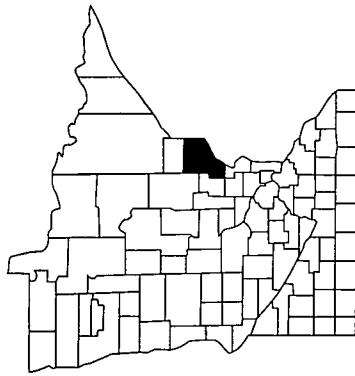
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pine County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Pine County is a moderate-sized county located in east central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and retail trade, which increased 11.6% between 1994 and 1995. The county's per capita personal income of \$15,680 was the seventh lowest in the state.

The percentage of children receiving AFDC in Pine County decreased slightly from 1995 to 1996, and the percentage of children receiving free and reduced-price school lunch held steady. Both rates were higher than the average Minnesota county. Pine County had a slight improvement in the rate of un-immunized two-year-olds, but that rate was still higher than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,519 25.6%	1,263 19.5%	709 10.7%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	728 11.8%	686 10.8%	1,846 40.6%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,732 38.7%	1,829 39.7%	15 5.8%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	17	11	7 20.6 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	14 5.1%	20 7.6%	139 45.7%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	145 49.5%	139 45.7%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	61 2.8%	65 2.8%	116 4.9% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2 11.1%	1 7.0%	1 4.8% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	11	14	2	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	91	87	103	17,508
Children dying violently	0	3	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

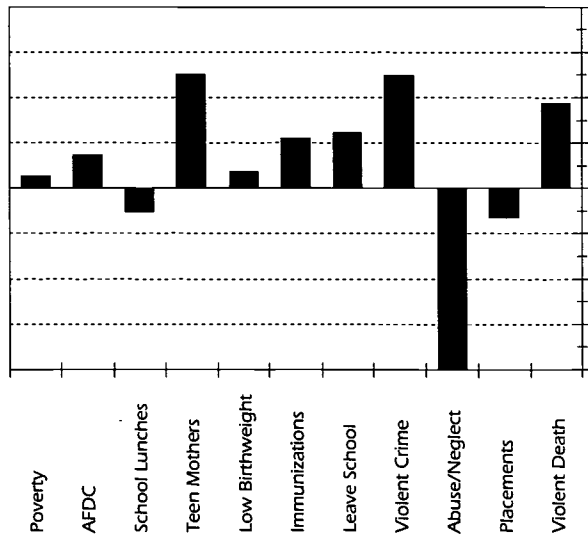


Pipestone

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	10,124
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,814
Estimated % children, 1996	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,940
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-4.3%
Projected population, 2000	9,730

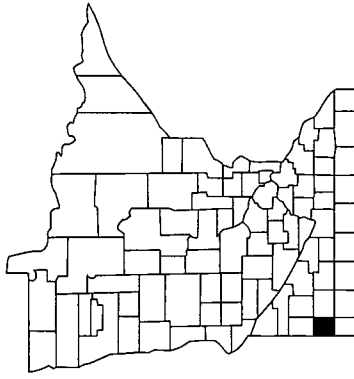
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pipestone County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Pipestone County is located in the southwestern corner of the state along the South Dakota border. It's the fifteenth smallest county in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were retail trade, state and local government, and services. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry between 1994 and 1995. Pipestone County had a per capita personal income of \$17,074, ranking within the bottom third of the state.

There was a much lower teenage birth rate in Pipestone County than in the average Minnesota county in 1993-95. Pipestone County also improved its rate of two-year-olds who were not fully immunized between 1992 and 1995. The number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect continued to increase from 1991 to 1996, resulting in a rate higher than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	487	16.6%	438	14.7%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	193	6.6%	176	6.0%	155	5.5%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	819	30.8%	847	32.2%	855	33.6%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	4		4		6	8.1 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	6	4.1%	4	3.4%	6	4.7%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)			89	38.4%	56	28.9%		
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	2	0.2%	15	1.8%	13	1.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0		0		0	(c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	24		45		50		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	54		45		42		17,508	
Children dying violently	0		0		0		205	

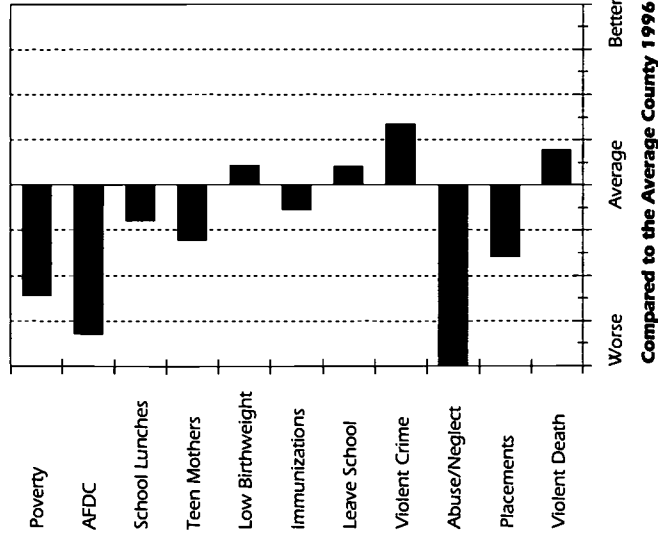
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Polk

Demographics

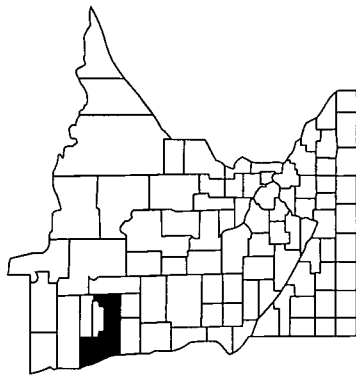
Estimated population, 1996	32,433
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,050
Estimated % children, 1996	27.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,711
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-6.8%
Projected population, 2000	31,340

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Polk County



Polk County is in northwest Minnesota on the North Dakota border and the Red River. In 1995 it ranked as the twenty-seventh largest county in Minnesota. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farmworkers and their children. Its per capita personal income of \$17,682 ranks slightly lower than average among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were services, state and local government, and retail. The fastest growing industry between 1994 and 1995 was durable goods manufacturing.

The number of two-year-olds not fully immunized in Polk County fell between 1992 and 1995 to a rate close to the average county. Children in Polk County are more likely to be poor than children in the average county, and also had a higher-than-average teen birth rate in 1993-95. Substantiated rates of child abuse and neglect continued to be higher than in the average county.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	2,318 25.0%	2,044 21.7%	1,302 14.4%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	1,722 17.8%	1,725 17.6%	2,363 35.0%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,329 35.5%	2,466 37.0%	2,019 22.1 (a)	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	12	11	13	22.1 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	23	12	18	4.7%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	290	43.8%	170	34.3%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	78	2.7%	87	2.8%	75	2.3% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2	5.4%	11	19.0%	4	11.8% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	147	135	211				10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	159	135	164				17,508	
Children dying violently	2	2	1				205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

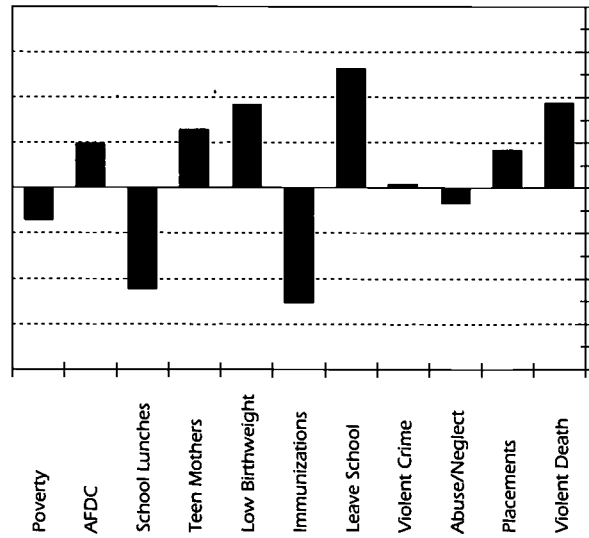


Pope

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	11,051
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,995
Estimated % children, 1996	27.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,951
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.5%
Projected population, 2000	10,130

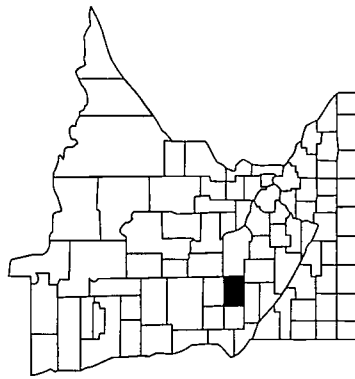
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pope County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Pope County is a moderately small county in west central Minnesota. Its \$16,508 per capita personal income ranked fifteenth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased almost 24% between 1994 and 1995.

Pope County had a better-than-average rate of births to teens for 1993-1995 and a better-than-average percentage of children born at low birth weight. Children were less likely than children in the average county to receive AFDC, but much more likely to receive free or reduced-price school lunch, indicating a significant number of low-income children in the county. Pope County also had a higher-than-average rate of two-year-olds not fully immunized.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	593 19.6%	533 17.2%	149 5.0%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	170 5.8%	210 7.1%	808 42.5%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	593 32.7%	834 43.6%	2 12.6 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	2	5	4 3.5%	3,715 5.8%
Children born at low birth weight	6 4.6%	3 3.1%	51 40.8%	
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)				
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	5 0.7%	2 0.2%	2 0.2% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	7 43.8%	0	3 25.0% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	25	28	24	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	20	36	30	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	0	205

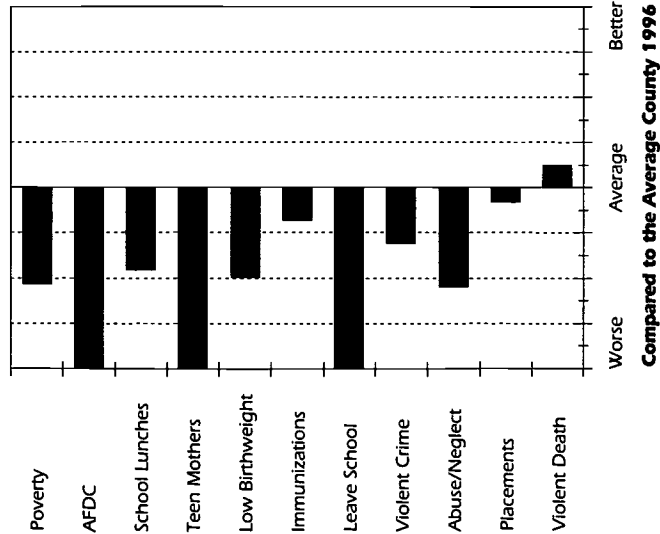
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Ramsey

Demographics

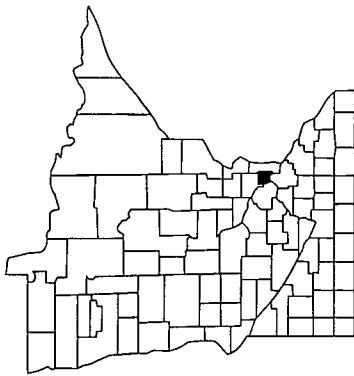
Estimated population, 1996	484,484
Estimated number of children, 1996	121,559
Estimated % children, 1996	25.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	126,924
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-4.2%
Projected population, 2000	512,240

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Ramsey County



Ramsey County is the second largest county in Minnesota and is part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. Ramsey County is ethnically and racially diverse, with significant numbers of African American, American Indian, Southeast Asian and Chicano/Latino children. The largest industries in 1995 were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Services was also the fastest growing industry, increasing by 8% between 1994 and 1995. Ramsey county had a per capita personal income of \$27,087, the second highest in the state.

Ramsey County improved its rate of un-immunized two year-olds, bringing the 1995 rate to near the average county. In many other areas of child well-being, Ramsey County children did not do as well. The rate of births to teens and the percentage of children dropping out of school were especially high compared to the average county.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	21,392	17.6%	26,055	20.9%
Children receiving AFDC	20,795	16.4%	24,509	19.1%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	26,707	35.7%	28,421	35.3%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	320	350	372	38.4 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	485	5.9%	428	5.5%	487	6.6%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		3,805	46.3%	2,789	34.9%	

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	1,844	6.4%	2,376	7.4%	2,580	7.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	325	26.5%	394	32.0%	523	38.8% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	1,233	1,350	1,445				10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	1,545	1,582	1,684				17,508	
Children dying violently	13	23	17				205	

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

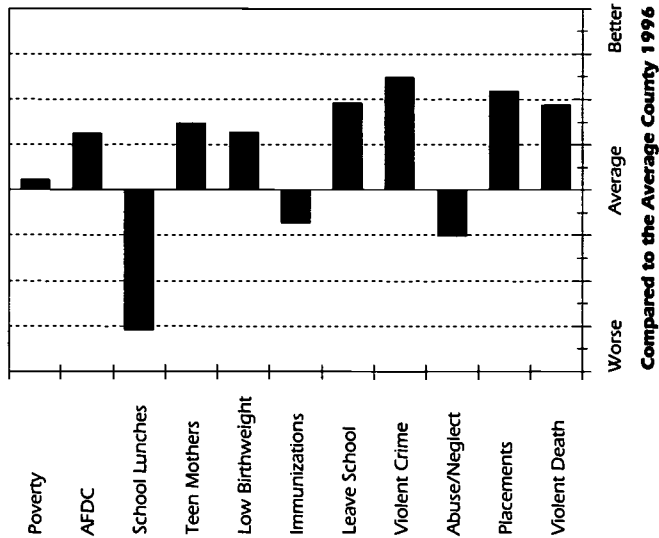


Red Lake

Demographics

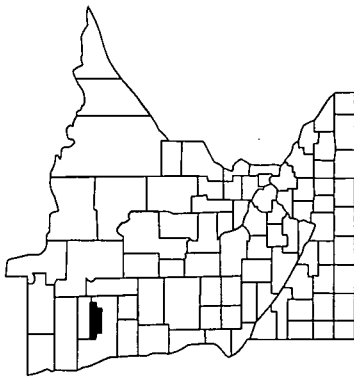
Estimated population, 1996	4,342
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,273
Estimated % children, 1996	29.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,359
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-6.3%
Projected population, 2000	4,040

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Red Lake County



Red Lake County is the second smallest county in the state, and is located in northwestern Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$14,701 was the third lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and transportation and public utilities. Durable goods manufacturing increased by approximately 15% between 1994 and 1995.

Children in Red Lake County fared slightly better or close to the average county on most indicators of child well-being. A relatively high percentage of children received free or reduced-price school lunch since 1991, which indicates the presence of low-income children in the county. The county consistently had no children arrested for violent crimes.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	269	203	14.8%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	69	77	5.7%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	507	531	47.1%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	1	4	11.9% (a)	2,019 31.0% (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3	4	7.7%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	15	22	23.1%	34.9%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	5	1	0.2%	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	(c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	3	6	12	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	8	5	7	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	0	205

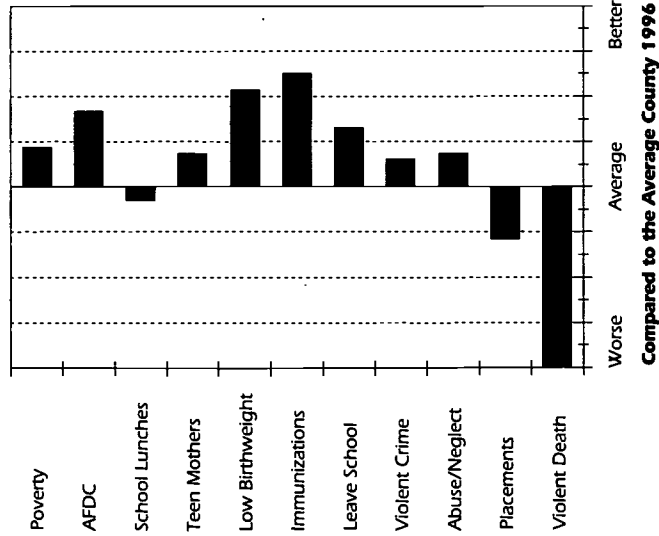
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Redwood

Demographics

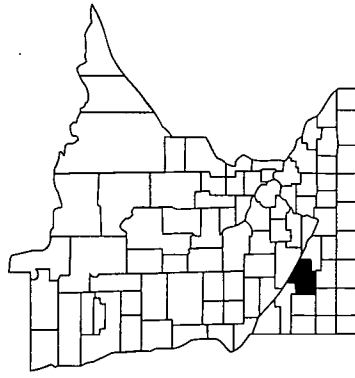
Estimated population, 1996	16,878
Estimated number of children, 1996	4,677
Estimated % children, 1996	27.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,869
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.9%
Projected population, 2000	15,770

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Redwood County



Redwood County is a moderate-sized county located in southwestern Minnesota along the Minnesota River. The Lower Sioux Indian Reservation lies on its border. Its per capita personal income of \$19,730 ranked twenty-fourth in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry between 1994 and 1995.

Redwood County children were much less likely to be born at low birth weight than children in the average county in 1996. Redwood County also had a high immunization rate for two-year-olds. The county saw a slight increase from 1994 to 1996 in the percentage of children receiving free or reduced price school lunches. The high rate of violent death in 1996 probably does not reflect a long-term trend, but is a one-year fluctuation.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	741 15.0%	648 13.1%	185,224 14.7%	
Children receiving AFDC	177 3.6%	189 3.9%	160 3.4%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	895 26.7%	1,005 29.9%	1,155 32.4%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	2	5	1 14.7 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	5 2.2%	10 4.6%	6 3.3%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	84 29.0%	76 24.3%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	15 1.0%	6 0.4%	23 1.4% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	7 29.0%	7 19.4% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	23	58	27	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	55	87	78	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	3	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

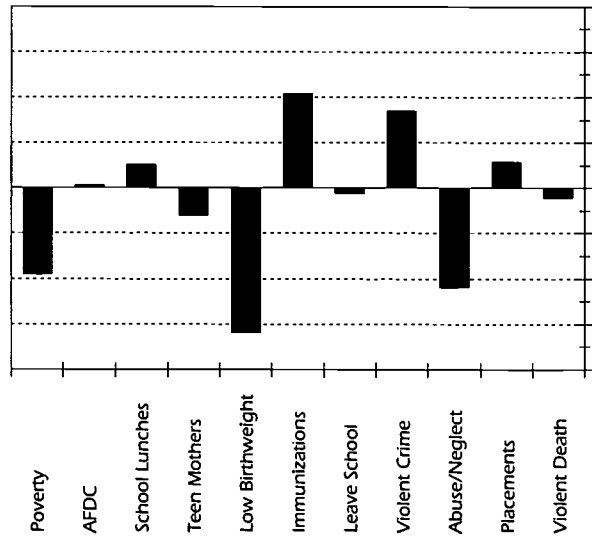


Renville

Demographics

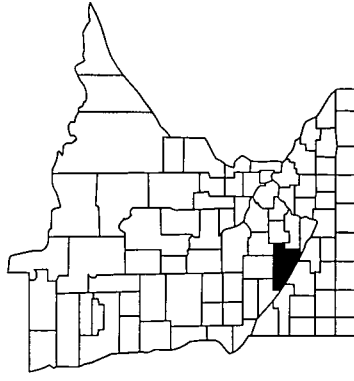
Estimated population, 1996	17,075
Estimated number of children, 1996	4,701
Estimated % children, 1996	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,006
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-6.1%
Projected population, 2000	16,050

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Renville County



Renville County is a moderate-sized county in south central Minnesota. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation lies along its border. During the summer months, the population includes migrant farmworkers and their children. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods, services, and state and local government. Public utilities and transportation income increased the fastest, at a rate of 17.3%. The county's per capita personal income of \$19,568 ranked twenty-eighth in the state.

The percentage of two-year-olds who were not fully immunized decreased in Renville County between 1992 and 1995, resulting in a rate well below the average county. The percentage of low birth weight babies was higher in Renville County than the average county, and increased from 1991 to 1996. There were also an increasing number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,013	1,003	20.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	277	502	10.1%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	901	1,008	30.7%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	5	7	6	19.7 (a) 2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3	1.4%	5	2.7% 14 7.6% 3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		93	32.2%	43 25.7%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	13	0.9%	15	1.1% 40 2.8% (c) 15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	1 8.3% (c) 2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	28	45	56	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	56	58	51	17,508
Children dying violently	2	3	1	205

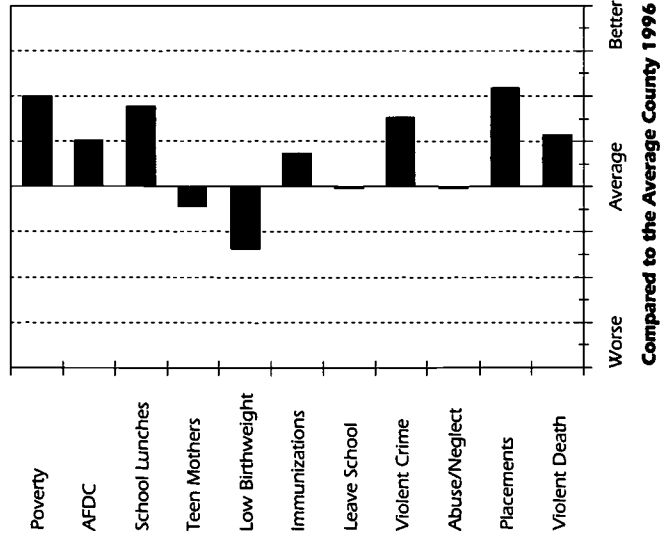
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Rice

Demographics

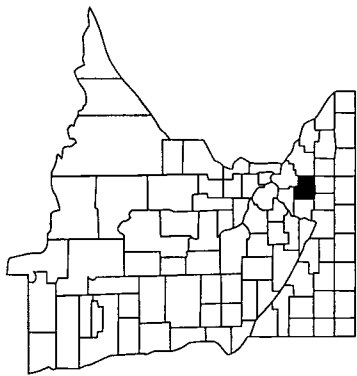
Estimated population, 1996	.52,888
Estimated number of children, 1996	.13,710
Estimated % children, 1996	.25.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.13,371
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.2.5%
Projected population, 2000	.51,650

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rice County



Rice County is located in the southeast region of Minnesota. During the summer months, the population of Rice County includes migrant farm workers and their children. It is the fifteenth largest county in the state, and ranked slightly higher than average with its 1995 per capita personal income of \$19,130. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 19%.

Children in Rice County did slightly better than children in the average county on many indicators of child well-being. There was a steady increase over time in the percentage of children born at low birth weight, bringing the county slightly higher than average on that indicator. Substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect also increased over time.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	1,187	9.2%	1,410	10.2%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	688	5.2%	789	5.8%	666	4.9%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,154	25.2%	1,898	21.5%	1,933	21.6%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	18	27	18	19.1 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	26	4.0%	32	5.4%	41	6.1%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)			238	34.9%	192	30.1%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	126	3.6%	132	3.2%	106	2.7% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	6	25.0%	17	41.0%	3	10.0% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	23		94		101		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	121		79		75		17,508	
Children dying violently	3		1		1		205	

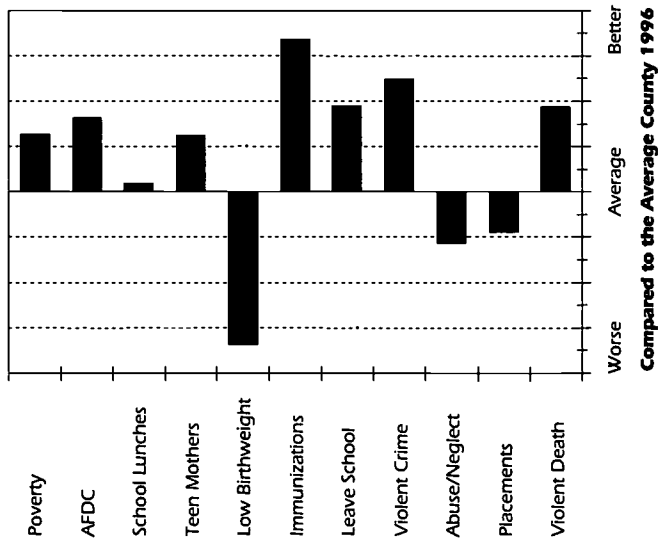
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Rock

Demographics

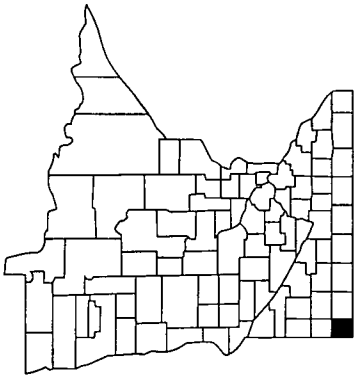
Estimated population, 1996	.....	9,948
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....	2,789
Estimated % children, 1996	.....	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....	2,784
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....	0.2%
Projected population, 2000	.....	9,100

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rock County



Rock County is the fourteenth smallest county and is located in the southwest corner of Minnesota, bordering South Dakota and Iowa. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Services was the fastest growing industry from 1994 to 1995, increasing at a rate of 30%. Rock County's per capita personal income of \$18,706 ranked about average in comparison with the rest of the state.

Children in Rock County fared near or better than average in most indicators of child well-being. The exception was the number of children born at low birth weight which increased in 1996 and was much higher than the average Minnesota county. The number of children in out-of-home placements also increased over time.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	365	12.8%	352	12.1%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	144	5.2%	124	4.5%	98	3.5%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	485	26.2%	526	27.6%	562	29.9%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	3	1	2	12.8 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	2	1.7%	7	5.7%	9	7.8%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	43	32.1%	28	21.5%				

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	10	1.2%	5	0.6%	8	0.9% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	(c)	0	(c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	11	40	27	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	11	29	44	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205				

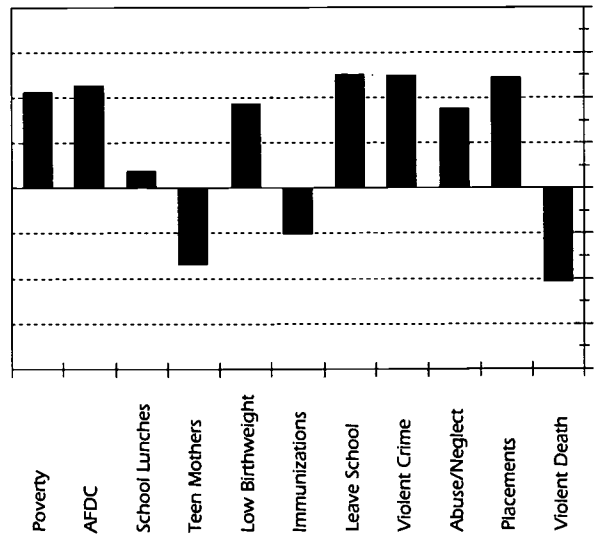
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Roseau

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	16,215
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,010
Estimated % children, 1996	30.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,801
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	4.4%
Projected population, 2000	16,950

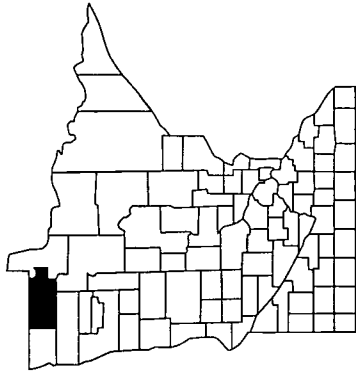
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Roseau County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Roseau County is a relatively small-sized county in northern Minnesota. Its 1995 per capita personal income of \$19,043 ranked slightly higher than the average of the state, and increased almost 7% from 1994. Its largest industries were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Services was also the fastest growing industry and increased 14.3% between 1994 to 1995.

Roseau County children were somewhat less likely to be poor than children in the average Minnesota county. The 1993-1995 teen birth rate was higher than average, however. Roseau County improved its immunization rate for two-year-olds between 1992 and 1995 and had very low rates of violent crime and out-of-home placements.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	511	493	493	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	147	153	107	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	997	1,099	1,138	229,059

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	5	6	9	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	11	4	9	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	137	101	101	35.8%

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	12	10	6	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	1	0	2,123
Children abused and neglected	16	16	18	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	25	22	23	17,508
Children dying violently	3	2	2	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

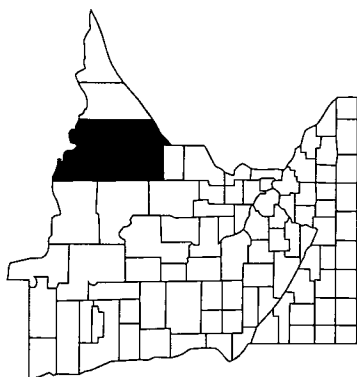
St. Louis

Demographics

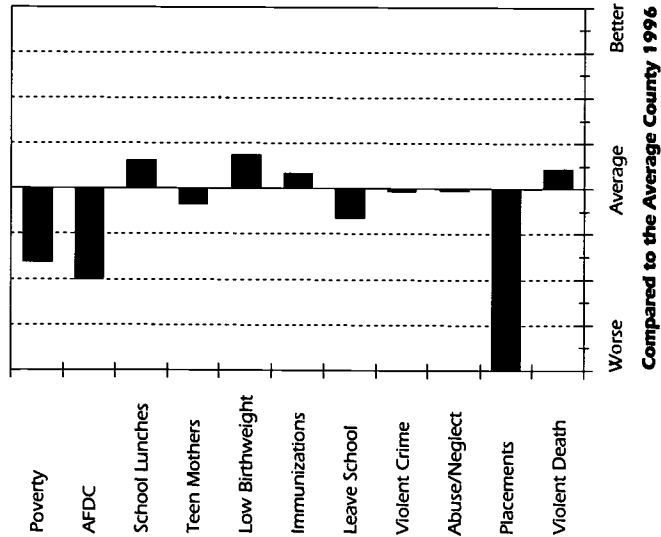
Estimated population, 1996196,414
 Estimated number of children, 199647,619
 Estimated % children24.2%
 Estimated number of children, 199148,955
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996-2.7%
 Projected population, 2000192,540

St. Louis County is located on the North Shore of Lake Superior in northeast Minnesota and is part of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the fifth largest county in Minnesota. Portions of both the Fond du Lac and Nett Lake Indian Reservations are located in the county. The largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and retail. The service sector of the economy was the fastest growing, increasing 7% between 1994 and 1995. Its per capita personal income of \$20,428 reflected a significant increase from the previous year, and ranked seventeenth in the state.

St. Louis County children were more likely to receive AFDC than children in the average county, although the rate declined steadily since 1993. The county had a sharp decline in the number of children in out-of-home placements, although the rate is still much higher than the average Minnesota county. On other indicators of child well-being, children in St. Louis County are close to the average county.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in St. Louis County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Children living below the poverty line	9,087	18.7%	9,679	19.6%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	7,547	15.4%	6,576	13.5%	5,511	11.6%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	9,135	28.0%	9,318	28.7%	9,057	27.7%	229,059	26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	69	81	75	18.8 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	106	4.8%	108	5.1%	87	4.4%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)			882	35.4%	754	31.4%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	673	4.1%	567	3.5%	534	3.3% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	55	27.5%	85	37.0%	77	26.5% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	510		458		352		10,200	
Children in out-of-home placements	1,400		1,484		1,300		17,508	
Children dying violently	11		5		7		205	

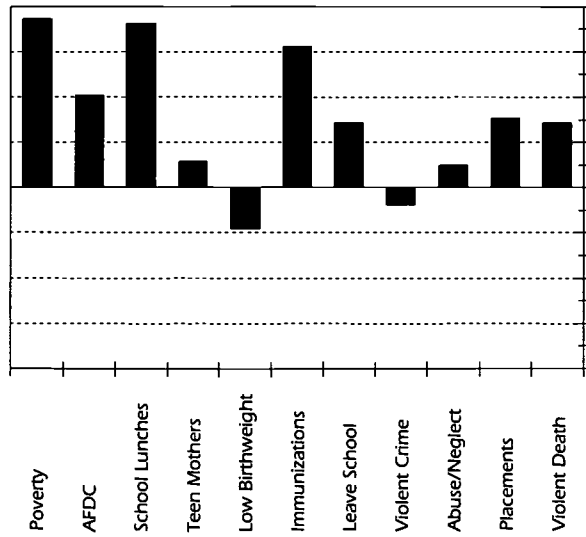
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Scott

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	.....72,813
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....22,469
Estimated % children, 1996	.....30.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....18,916
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....18.8%
Projected population, 2000	.....69,770

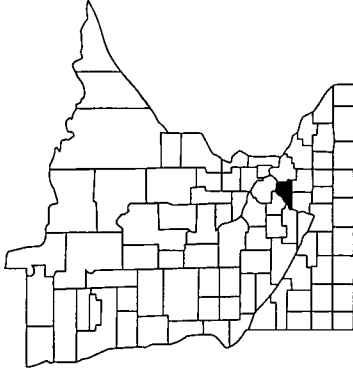
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Scott County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Scott County comprises the southwest edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area and is the tenth largest county in Minnesota. Prior Lake Indian Reservation is located within the county. Scott County's per capita personal income of \$23,497 ranked seventh in the state. Services, durable goods manufacturing, and construction were the largest industries in Scott County in 1995. The construction industry increased by almost 21% since 1995.

Scott County children were much less likely to be poor than children in the average Minnesota county. The rate of immunized two-year-olds in Scott County improved between 1992 and 1995, moving well above that of the average county. The number of children in out-of-home placements increased sharply in 1996, although the county is still slightly below average in the rate of placements.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	854 4.7%	1,242 5.7%	1,852 2.6%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	592 3.1%	664 3.3%	590 2.6%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free /reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,315 12.5%	1,410 12.5%	1,550 12.0%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	19	18	24 15.3 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	57 5.0%	56 4.7%	80 5.8%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	425 34.0%	322 22.3%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	62 1.3%	42 0.9%	71 1.3% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	12 24.0%	16 30.0%	17 29.8% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	140	131	141	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	101	132	172	17,508
Children dying violently	3	1	1	205

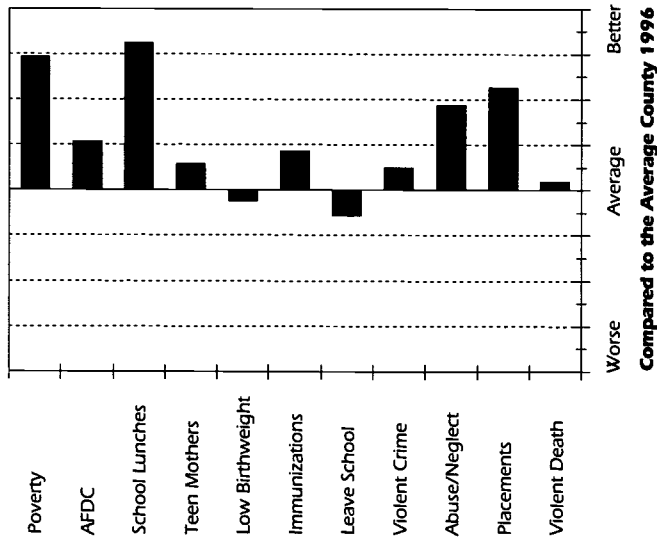
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Sherburne

Demographics

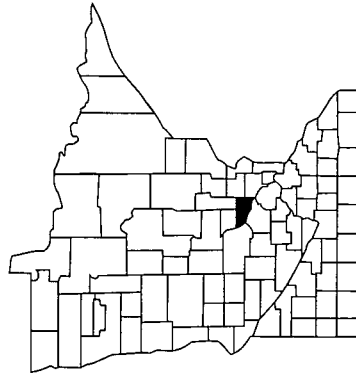
Estimated population, 1996	55,401
Estimated number of children, 1996	17,592
Estimated % children, 1996	31.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	14,073
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	25.0%
Projected population, 2000	52,650

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sherburne County



Sherburne County is located in central Minnesota, on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the fourth largest county in Minnesota, and had a per capita personal income of \$18,449 in 1995, which is average in comparison with the rest of the state. Its largest industries were transportation and public utilities, state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing grew the fastest in 1995, increasing by 36%.

Children in Sherburne County were less likely to be poor than children in the average county. There was a slight increase over time in the percentage of children born at low birth weight as well as a steady increase in the number of children in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,016	1,259	1,852	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	675	661	841	4.8%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,363	1,588	1,607	14.0%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	6	18	16	15.4 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	36	40	45	5.1%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	336	371	360	29.7%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	119	118	160	3.2% (c)
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	3	11	6	20.7% (c)
Children abused and neglected	41	52	59	10.2%
Children in out-of-home placements	63	50	92	17,508
Children dying violently	2	3	3	205

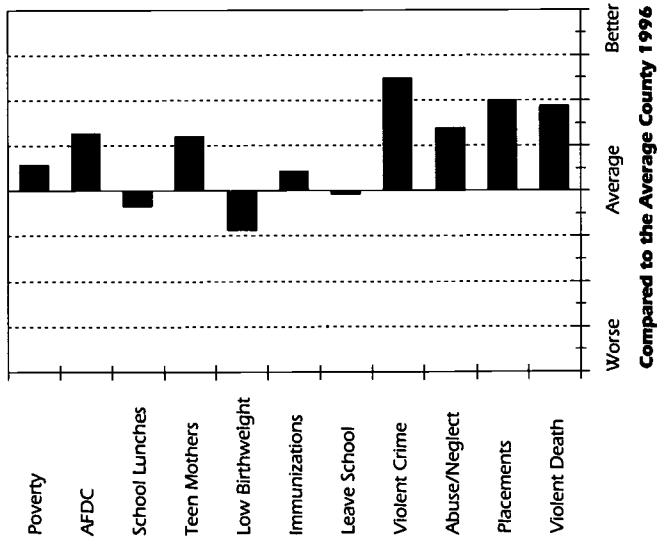
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Sibley

Demographics

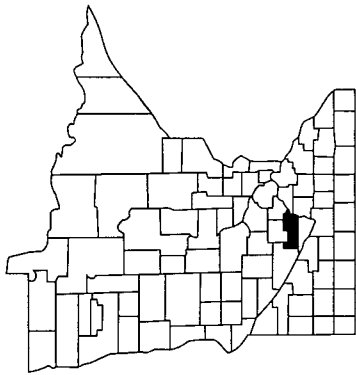
Estimated population, 1996	14,652
Estimated number of children, 1996	4,104
Estimated % children, 1996	28.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,112
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-0.2%
Projected population, 2000	13,640

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sibley County



Sibley County is a moderate-sized county located in south central Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$17,520 placed it within the middle third of Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1995 were construction, services, and state and local government. Durable goods manufacturing increased 10% from 1994 to 1995.

Children in Sibley County were close to the average Minnesota county for many indicators of child well-being. The county did have a higher-than-average percentage of children born at low birth weight. The number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect declined significantly from 1993 to 1996.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	570 13.7%	589 13.9%	178 4.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	154 3.8%	212 5.1%	178 4.3%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	528 22.4%	732 28.3%	908 32.6%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	3	4	9 13.0 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	9 4.5%	8 5.0%	11 5.7%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		79 39.9%	65 31.1%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	26 2.3%	21 1.7%	34 2.7% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	1 14.0%	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	37	70	18	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	25	42	25	17,508
Children dying violently	0	4	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

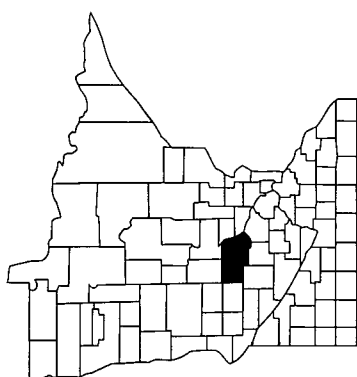
Stearns

Demographics

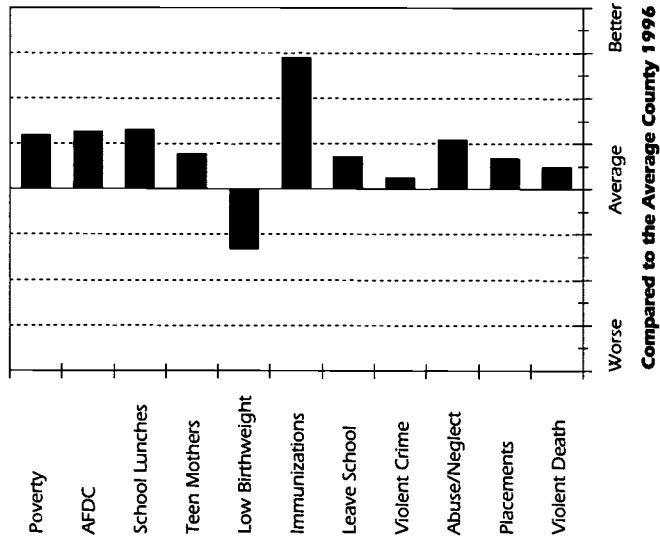
Estimated population, 1996	126,990
Estimated number of children, 1996	35,945
Estimated % children, 1996	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	34,204
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	5.1%
Projected population, 2000	123,900

Stearns County is located in central Minnesota and is part of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the seventh largest county in Minnesota. Its largest industries in 1995 were services, retail, and state and local government. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry reflecting an increase of 9.3% from 1994 to 1995. Stearns County's per capita personal income of \$18,871 ranked close to the average for the state.

The immunization rate for two-year-olds in Stearns County was well above that of the average county in 1995. The percent of children born at low birth weight increased since 1993, as did substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. However, the county is still close to average on both of those indicators.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stearns County



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	4,313	4,465	12.8%	12.3%
Children receiving AFDC	1,697	1,755	5.0%	5.0%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	6,862	7,037	25.6%	25.2%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	28	36	14.6 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)	
Children born at low birth weight	94	59	5.6%	99	6.1%	
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	567	30.7%	393	23.0%	3,715	5.8%

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	135	1.2%	120	1.0%	252	2.0% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	33	26.2%	31	23.0%	36	23.2% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	106	129	180	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	277	249	379	17,508				
Children dying violently	7	5	5	205				

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

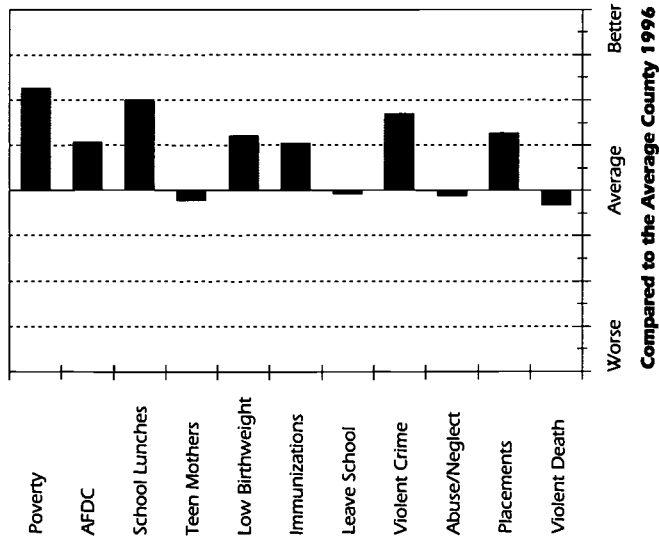


Steele

Demographics

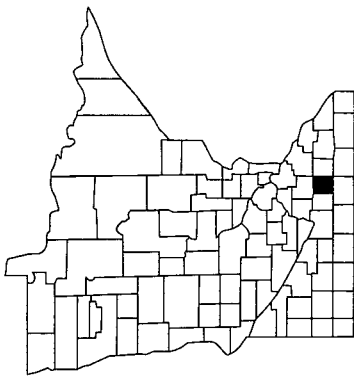
Estimated population, 1996	31,567
Estimated number of children, 1996	9,002
Estimated % children, 1996	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,130
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-1.4%
Projected population, 2000	31,260

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Steele County



Steele County, in southeast Minnesota, is the twenty-ninth largest county in the state. During the summer months, the population of Steele County includes migrant farmworkers and their children. Steele County's per capita personal income of \$21,939 was the ninth highest in the state. The largest industries were durable goods manufacturing; services; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Non-durable goods manufacturing increased 15.2% from 1994 to 1995.

Children in Steele County generally did better than children in the average county on most measures of child well-being. The number of children receiving AFDC continued to increase through 1996, although it is still lower than the average county. The number of teens giving birth also increased and the 1993-1995 birth rate was near average.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	748	887	887	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	399	383	429	116,774
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,181	1,478	1,273	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	5	7	14	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	18	22	16	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	182	155	155	29.1%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	54	66	83	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	6	3	3	2,123
Children abused and neglected	100	64	68	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	57	79	77	17,508
Children dying violently	2	2	2	205

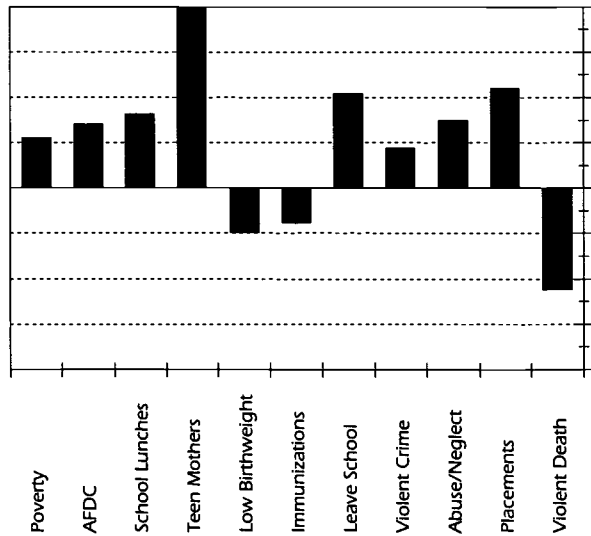
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Stevens

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	10,197
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,400
Estimated % children, 1996	23.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,527
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-5.0%
Projected population, 2000	9,890

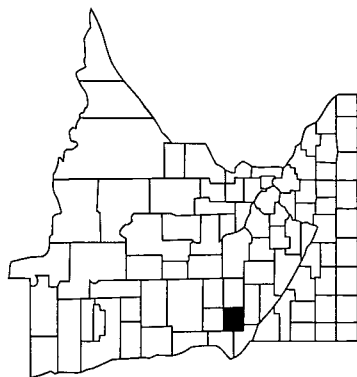
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stevens County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Stevens County is located in west central Minnesota and is the sixteenth smallest county in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and construction. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities, which increased by almost 25% from 1994 to 1995. The per capita personal income of \$18,364 ranked close to average among Minnesota counties.

Stevens County continued to have a very low rate of births to teens. The percentage of children born at low birth weight and the percentage of children not immunized by age two both increased, but were still near the average count for these indicators.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	371 14.6%	315 12.5%	96 4.0%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	144 5.7%	122 4.9%	96 4.0%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	499 26.1%	519 26.3%	424 22.4%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	3	0	2 1.9 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3 2.8%	3 3.0%	5 5.8%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		35 31.0%	42 35.0%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	1 0.1%	5 0.5%	7 0.7% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	2 18.0%	1 16.7% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	5	3	10	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	15	17	13	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	1	205

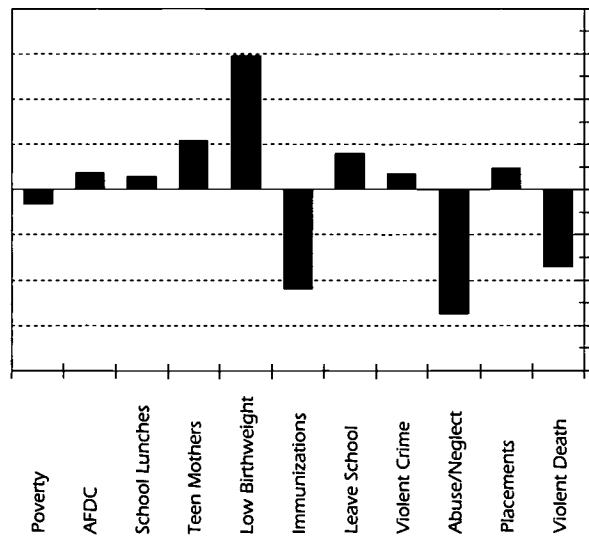
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Swift

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	10,857
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,757
Estimated % children, 1996	25.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,894
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-4.7%
Projected population, 2000	9,360

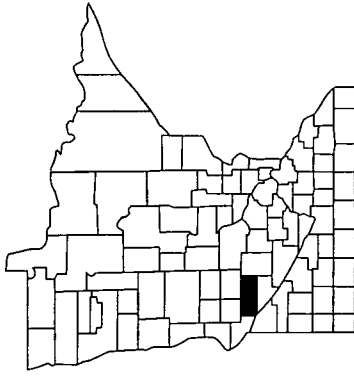
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Swift County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Swift County, located in west central Minnesota, is a moderately small county. The 1995 per capita personal income was \$17,640, which ranks slightly lower than average. The largest industries were state and local government, durable goods manufacturing, and services. Durable goods manufacturing increased by 27% from 1994 to 1995.

Swift County significantly improved the number of children fully immunized by age two, although there were still more un-immunized two-year-olds than the average county. The county had fewer children than average born at low birth weight in 1996. The number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect continued to be higher than the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	499 17.5%	473 16.2%	174 6.3%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	209 7.2%	198 6.9%	174 6.3%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	755 34.8%	769 36.0%	570 29.4%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	1	1	5 13.4 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	3 2.1%	2 1.6%	3 2.6%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		66 41.5%	87 39.7%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	10 1.2%	11 1.2%	18 1.9% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	2 22.2% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	28	31	36	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	20	25	31	17,508
Children dying violently	2	1	1	205

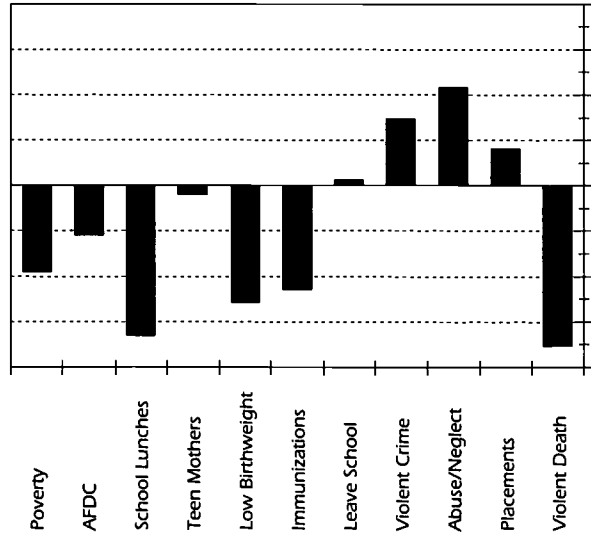
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Todd

Demographics

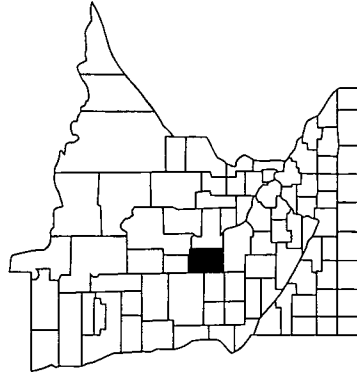
Estimated population, 1996	24,128
Estimated number of children, 1996	7,273
Estimated % children, 1996	30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,143
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	1.8%
Projected population, 2000	22,060

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Todd County



Todd County is a moderate-sized county in the central portion of Minnesota. Its 1995 per capita personal income of \$14,333 was the second lowest in Minnesota. The largest industries were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing 11.4% between 1994 and 1995.

Substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect declined in Todd County, although the number of children in out-of-home placements increased in 1996. The number of families receiving AFDC also continued to increase, possibly due to the fact that, since Todd County is an MFIP demonstration county, recipients remained on the program longer as they returned to the workforce. The county also had higher-than-average rates of unimmunized two-year-olds and children born at low birth weight.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State				
Family Economics								
Children living below the poverty line	1,698	23.4%	1,517	20.3%	185,224	14.7%		
Children receiving AFDC	544	7.6%	564	7.9%	692	9.5%	116,774	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,280	47.1%	2,263	44.9%	2,547	48.0%	229,059	26.7%
Birth Circumstances								
Children born to teenage mothers	13	10	8	18.3 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)		
Children born at low birth weight	20	6.2%	25	8.8%	20	7.1%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		138	39.2%	118	40.0%			
Signs of Trouble								
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	40	1.6%	38	1.5%	67	2.5% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	10.5% (c)	2	10.5% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	43	31	20	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	40	57	73	17,508				
Children dying violently	0	2	4	205				

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

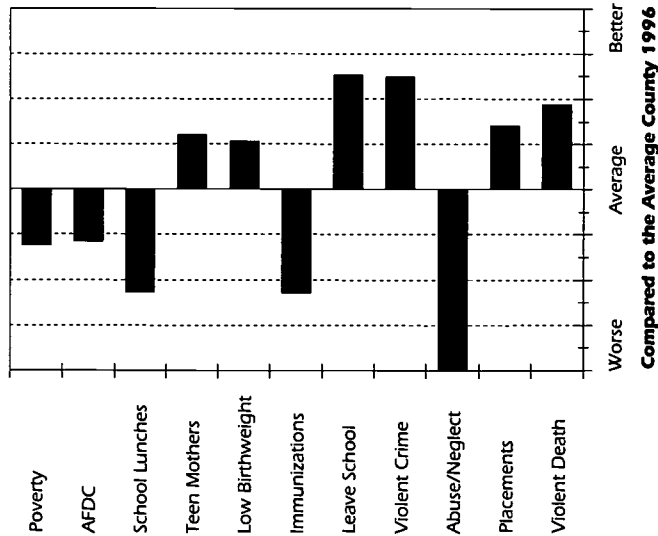


Traverse

Demographics

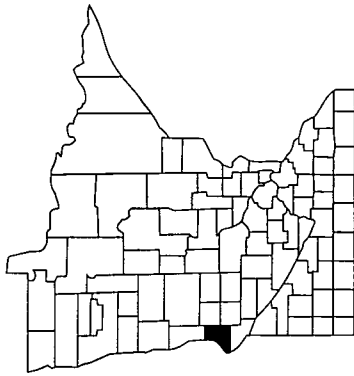
Estimated population, 1996	4,298
Estimated number of children, 1996	1,118
Estimated % children, 1996	26.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,146
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-2.5%
Projected population, 2000	3,880

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Traverse County



Traverse County is located in the west central part of the state on the South Dakota border. It is the smallest county in Minnesota. The county's per capita personal income of \$20,734 ranked fifteenth in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and retail. The fastest growing industry was transportation and public utilities which increased 11% between 1994 and 1995.

Contrary to state trends, there continued to be an increase in the percentage of children receiving AFDC and free and reduced-price school lunch. There was also an increase in children not fully immunized by age two and a higher-than-average number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. On other indicators of child well-being, Traverse County children fared better than children in the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	267	217	108	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	84	85	108	116,774
Children receiving free/ reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	323	334	318	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	0	3	2	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	3	3	2	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	7	7	22	40,0%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	0	1	1	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	0	2,123
Children abused and neglected	10	13	18	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	9	15	9	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

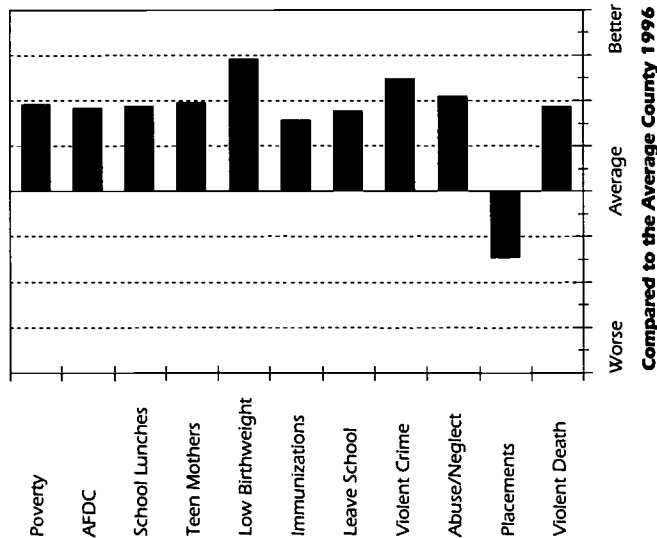


Wabasha

Demographics

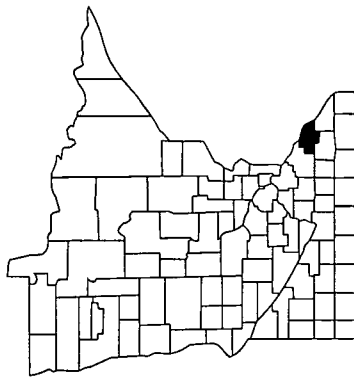
Estimated population, 1996	.....	20,752
Estimated number of children, 1996	.....	5,890
Estimated % children, 1996	.....	28.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	.....	5,782
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	.....	1.9%
Projected population, 2000	.....	20,040

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wabasha County



Wabasha County is a mid-sized county located in southeast Minnesota along the Mississippi River. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of 13.6% between 1994 and 1995. The county's per capita personal income of \$19,611 ranked twenty-seventh in the state.

In Wabasha County, children generally did better than the average county for most indicators of child well-being. There was a significant drop in 1996 in the number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, but an increase in the number of children in out-of-home placements.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	582 10.1%	629 10.4%	180 3.1%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	269 4.7%	232 4.0%	180 3.1%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	898 19.6%	861 20.9%	916 21.1%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	6	2	5 10.1 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	8 2.8%	13 5.4%	6 2.7%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	141 38.2%	84 27.3%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	12 0.6%	20 1.0%	20 1.0% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2 33.3%	0	0 (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	36	46	17	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	51	51	104	17,508
Children dying violently	0	0	0	205

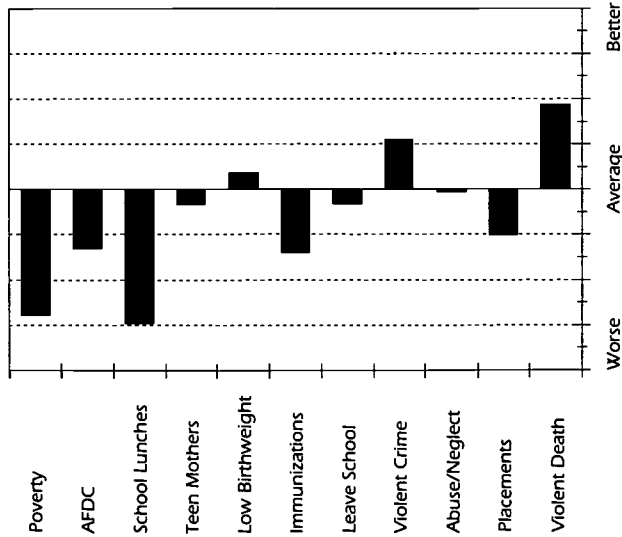
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Wadena

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	13,126
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,643
Estimated % children, 1996	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,691
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-1.3%
Projected population, 2000	12,610

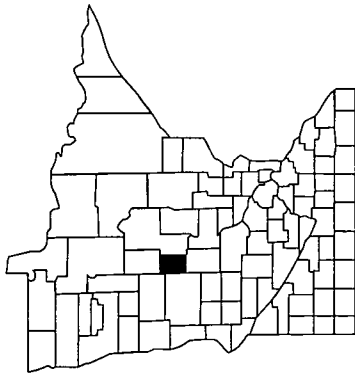
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wadena County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Wadena County is a moderately small county in the north central portion of the state. Wadena County's \$15,583 per capita personal income ranked the sixth lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1995 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing segment of the economy was transportation and public utilities, which increased by almost 29% between 1994 and 1995.

The percentage of children receiving AFDC in Wadena County continued to decrease, although the percentage of children poor enough to qualify for subsidized school lunch has remained steady and was quite a bit higher than the average county. Wadena County improved its rate of un-immunized two-year-olds between 1992 and 1995.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	899	853	366	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	411	421	366	116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,474	1,528	1,549	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	5	5	3	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	6	9	7	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)		143	88	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	13	29	49	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	3	2	1	2,123
Children abused and neglected	89	41	27	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	78	49	59	17,508
Children dying violently	1	3	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

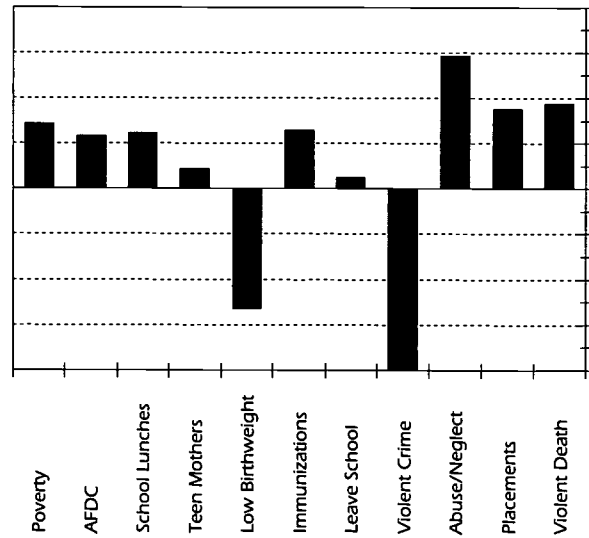


Waseca

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	17,998
Estimated number of children, 1996	5,188
Estimated % children, 1996	28.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,302
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-2.2%
Projected population, 2000	17,600

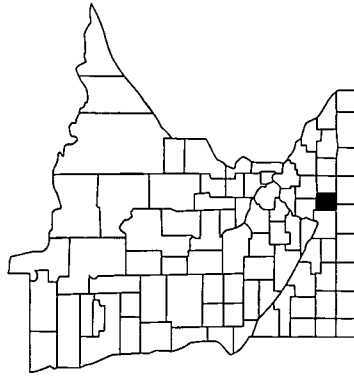
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Waseca County



Compared to the Average County 1996

Waseca County is a moderate-sized county located in the southeast portion of Minnesota. The largest industries in 1995 were non-durable goods manufacturing, durable goods manufacturing, and services. The durable goods manufacturing sector was also the fastest growing. The per capita personal income of \$18,955 ranked slightly better than average in comparison with the rest of the state.

Substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect dropped significantly in Waseca County from 1991 to 1996, as did the number of children in out-of-home placements. There has been a steady increase in the percent of children born at low birth weight and Waseca ranks above the average county on that indicator. In 1995, there were no adult arrests for violent crime in Waseca, which means that the percentage of children committing violent crimes was 100%. However, the number of children committing violent crimes has been relatively stable over time.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
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Family Economics

Children living below the poverty line	562	10.6%	624	11.7%	185,224	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	286	5.4%	309	5.9%	236	4.5%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	945	23.4%	1,081	26.2%	1,121	24.6%
Children receiving AFDC	286	5.4%	309	5.9%	236	4.5%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	4	6	10	15.9 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	11	4.6%	15	6.4%	18	7.2%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	93	35.1%	75	28.3%	75	28.3%

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	27	1.5%	25	1.3%	53	2.4% (c)
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	33.3%	1	25.0%	2	100.0% (c)
Children abused and neglected	38	22	6	10,200		
Children in out-of-home placements	53	42	36	17,508		
Children dying violently	1	1	0	205		

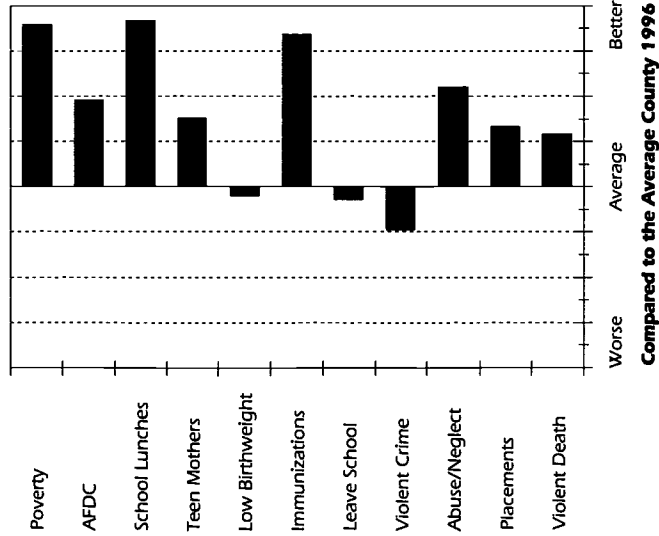
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Washington

Demographics

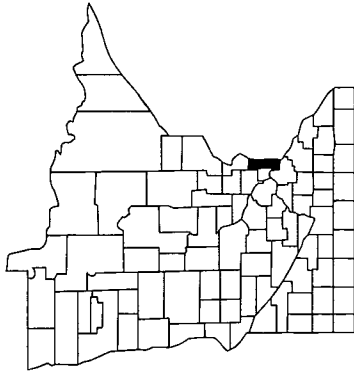
Estimated population, 1996	185,074
Estimated number of children, 1996	55,630
Estimated % children, 1996	30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	47,156
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	18.0%
Projected population, 2000	172,110

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Washington County



Washington County is in the eastern part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area and borders Wisconsin. Washington County is the sixth largest county in Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$25,388 is the fifth highest in the state. Durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government were the largest industries in 1995. The fastest growing industry was public utilities and transportation, which increased by 15% between 1994 and 1995.

Washington County children fared somewhat better than children in the average county on many indicators of child well-being. Although there was a steady decline in substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, there was an increase in the number of children in out-of-home placement during the same time.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	2,722	3,293	6.1%	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	1,856	2,010	3.9%	116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	3,185	3,579	11.8%	229,059

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	45	40	11.8 (a)	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	104	127	5.2%	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	808	558	32.7%	21.5%

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	501	372	3.9%	458	2.9% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	64	62	29.9%	65	35.9% (c)	2,123	29.9%
Children abused and neglected	219	198	149	10,200			
Children in out-of-home placements	371	416	463	17,508			
Children dying violently	7	0	4	205			

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Watowan

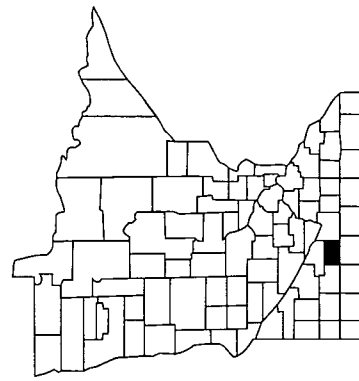
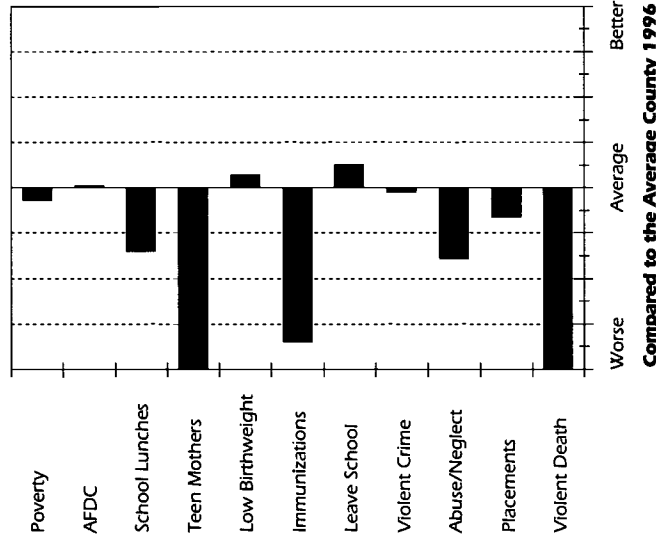
Demographics

Estimated population, 199611,600
 Estimated number of children, 19963,217
 Estimated % children, 199627.7%
 Estimated number of children, 19913,546
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996-9.3%
 Projected population, 200011,260

Watowan County is located in the south central portion of Minnesota, near the Iowa border. The largest industries in 1995 were transportation and public utilities, services, and state and local government. There was a significant increase in the durable goods manufacturing industry between 1994 and 1995. The \$17,874 per capita personal income in Watowan County ranked slightly lower than the average of the state.

Children in Watowan County fared close to the average county on many indicators. Contrary to the state trend, poverty has increased somewhat in Watowan County, indicated by increased poverty rate, an increase in AFDC cases, and an increase in school lunch enrollment since 1991. Watowan County also had a relatively high rate of teen births from 1993 to 1995.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Watowan County



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	509	536	536	185,224
Children receiving AFDC	97	249	226	116,774
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	727	879	842	229,059
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	5	12	9	2,019
Children born at low birth weight	11	3	8	3,715
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	76	54.7%	82	43.6%
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	16	26	24	15,701
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	3	2	7	2,123
Children abused and neglected	29	43	34	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	37	65	48	17,508
Children dying violently	1	5	2	205

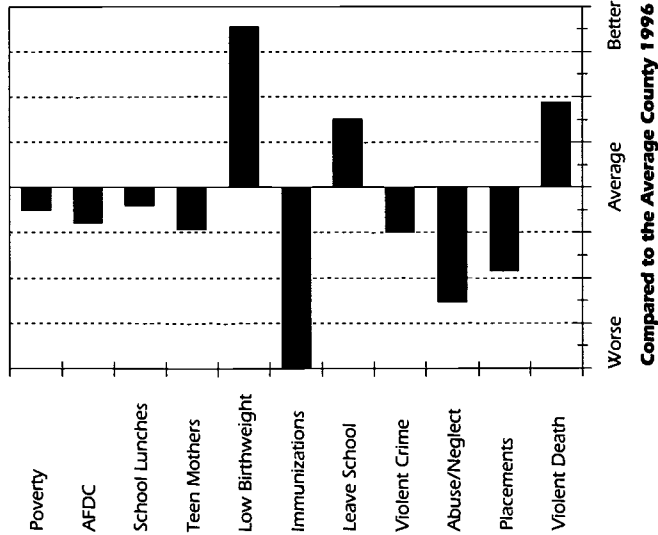
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Wilkin

Demographics

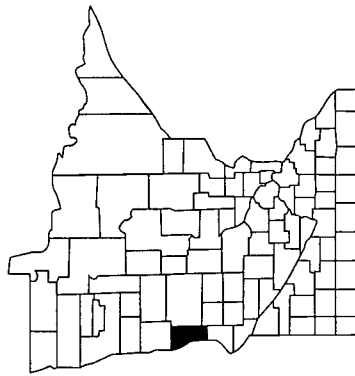
Estimated population, 1996	7,381
Estimated number of children, 1996	2,057
Estimated % children, 1996	27.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,128
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.4%
Projected population, 2000	6,990

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wilkin County



Wilkin County is located in west central Minnesota on the North Dakota border. It is the ninth smallest county in the state. During the summer months, the population of Wilkin County includes migrant farmworkers and their children. Its per capita personal income of \$19,431 was ranked slightly higher than average. The largest industry was services, followed by state and local government and transportation and public utilities. The construction sector increased the fastest, increasing by 14.3% between 1994 and 1995.

Wilkin County reduced the number of children receiving AFDC and living in poverty to near the average county's rate. The percentage of children born at low birth weight in Wilkin County fluctuated from year to year, but was extremely low in 1996. Wilkin County continued to have a high rate of children not fully immunized by age two.



Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	403 19.1%	356 16.7%	182 8.8%	185,224 14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	215 10.1%	233 11.0%	182 8.8%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	562 35.2%	595 35.7%	566 33.0%	229,059 26.7%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	4	3	2 21.0 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	5 5.4%	11 10.7%	2 2.2%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	60 50.8%	51 46.4%		

Signs of Trouble

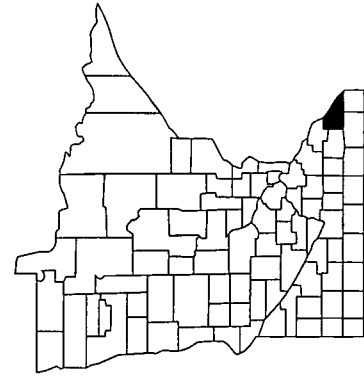
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	8 1.2%	14 1.9%	10 1.3% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	0	4 36.4% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	35	15	26	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	41	44	39	17,508
Children dying violently	1	1	0	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Winona

Demographics

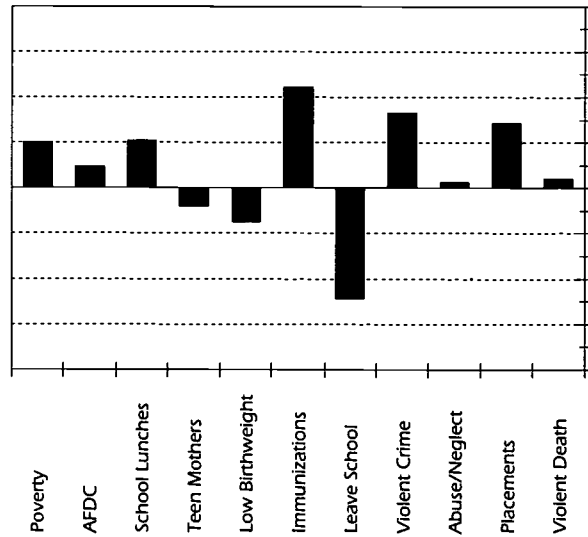
Estimated population, 1996 48,411
 Estimated number of children, 1996 11,839
 Estimated % children, 1996 24.5%
 Estimated number of children, 1991 11,910
 % change in number of children, 1991-1996 -0.6%
 Projected population, 2000 48,070



Winona, the eighteenth largest county, is located in the southeastern area of Minnesota, bordering the Mississippi River. The per capita personal income of Winona County was \$19,855 in 1995, ranking twenty-second in the state. The largest industries in Winona County were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased almost 22% between 1994 and 1995.

Winona County two-year-olds were much more likely to be up-to-date on immunizations than children in the average Minnesota county. The county had a drop over time in the number of births to teens. The number of children in out-of-home placements rose steadily since 1991, although the 1996 rate was average for the state.

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Winona County



Worse Average Better
 Compared to the Average County 1996

Family Economics

	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Children living below the poverty line	1,427	1,562	12.0%	12.8%
Children receiving AFDC	750	769	6.3%	6.4%
Children receiving free/reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	1,855	1,910	23.1%	24.3%

Birth Circumstances

Children born to teenage mothers	21	16	15	19.0 (a)	2,019	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	38	31	5.6%	5.6%	3,715	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	217	33.9%	159	25.2%		

Signs of Trouble

Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	114	3.7%	97	3.2%	155	4.9% (c)	15,701	4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	0	1	4.0%	8.8% (c)	2,123	29.9%		
Children abused and neglected	69	64	83	10,200				
Children in out-of-home placements	67	64	95	17,508				
Children dying violently	2	1	2	205				

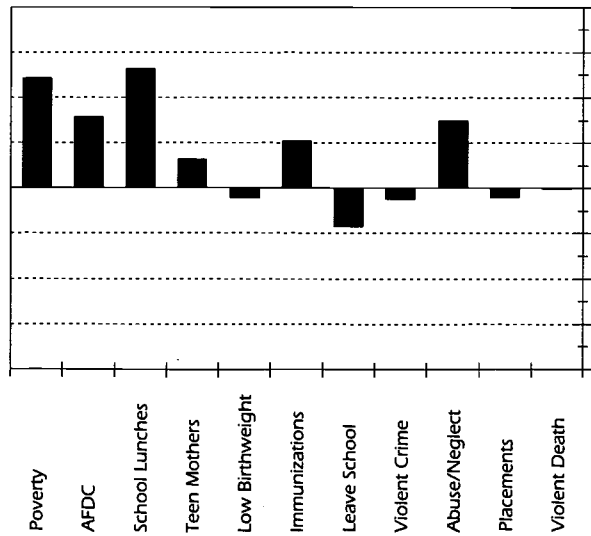
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Wright

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	80,757
Estimated number of children, 1996	26,083
Estimated % children, 1996	32.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	23,230
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	12.3%
Projected population, 2000	76,820

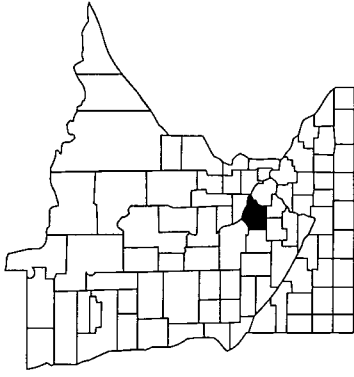
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wright County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Wright County is located in the western portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. It is the ninth largest county in Minnesota. Its largest industries in 1995 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was also the fastest growing segment of the economy, increasing by 14.5%. Wright County had a per capita personal income of \$20,823, which ranked fourteenth in the state.

Wright County children are less likely to be poor than children in the average Minnesota county. The county has low rates of both AFDC use and school lunch enrollment. The county saw a significant improvement in its immunization rate. A continued rise in the number of children in out-of-home placements since 1991 reflected a multiyear trend for this indicator.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	1,858 8.2%	2,323 9.1%	185,224 3.7%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	1,081 4.7%	1,240 5.1%	958 3.7%	116,774 9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	2,591 17.4%	2,826 18.1%	3,015 17.2%	229,059 26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	24	17	35 15.1 (a)	2,019 31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	51 4.2%	69 5.9%	66 5.2%	3,715 5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	573 40.7%	423 29.1%		
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	118 1.8%	132 1.8%	279 3.5% (c)	15,701 4.1%
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	2 3.0%	22 31.0%	15 28.3% (c)	2,123 29.9%
Children abused and neglected	119	79	108	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	244	293	350	17,508
Children dying violently	4	1	5	205

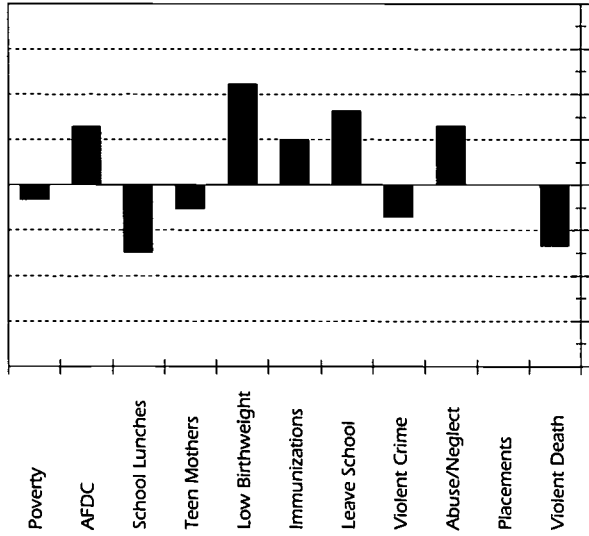
(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Yellow Medicine

Demographics

Estimated population, 1996	11,559
Estimated number of children, 1996	3,064
Estimated % children, 1996	26.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,180
% change in number of children, 1991-1996	-3.6%
Projected population, 2000	10,520

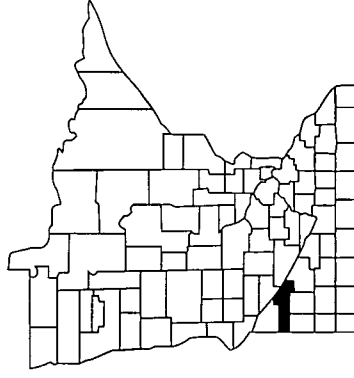
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Yellow Medicine County



Worse Average Better
Compared to the Average County 1996

Yellow Medicine County is located on the South Dakota border in the southwestern portion of Minnesota. Its per capita personal income of \$18,135 ranks within the middle third of Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1995 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. From 1994 to 1995, the durable goods manufacturing industry increased by 55%, making it also the fastest growing industry.

Yellow Medicine County had a much lower-than-average percentage of low birth weight babies in 1996. There was also a sharp decline in substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect. The county greatly improved its immunization rate between 1993 and 1996. The number of children committing violent crimes increased slightly, although the percent of all violent crimes remained near the average county.



	1991	1993	1996	1996 State
Family Economics				
Children living below the poverty line	657	525	525	185,224
		20.5%	16.2%	14.7%
Children receiving AFDC	194	206	132	116,774
		6.1%	6.5%	9.4%
Children receiving free / reduced price school lunches (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 96-97)	888	969	915	229,059
		37.1%	39.4%	26.7%
Birth Circumstances				
Children born to teenage mothers	4	4	3	2,019
			19.5 (a)	31.0 (a)
Children born at low birth weight	4	7	4	3,715
		3.2%	4.8%	5.8%
Children not immunized by age 2 (b)	67	67	31	
		41.6%	29.2%	
Signs of Trouble				
Children dropping out of school (school years 1991-92, 93-94, 95-96)	10	11	13	15,701
		1.0%	0.9%	1.1% (c)
Children arrested for violent crime (% of all arrests)	1	2	4	2,123
		12.5%	10.0%	33.3% (c)
Children abused and neglected	21	43	14	10,200
Children in out-of-home placements	30	39	39	17,508
Children dying violently	0	1	1	205

(a) 1993-1995 rate per 1,000 (b) 1992, 1995 (c) 1995

Data Notes

Demographic Information. Population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau. Population projections are from the Office of the State Demographer.

Data About Children of Color. Data about children of color is collected using many different methods. Parents might identify their race or the race of their children, race may be determined by others based on a visual determination, or a combination of these methods may be used. Furthermore, different categories are used to classify children by race. Some indicators treat "Hispanic" as a separate ethnic designation rather than a race, while others do not.

Accepted names for various racial and ethnic groups are constantly in flux and once again, indicators differ in their terminology. KIDS COUNT has tried to use widely accepted terms that generally match the categories in which most of the data is collected.

Finally, children of color are often undercounted and unmeasured. Families may be mistrustful of providing information to the government. Children of migrant farmworkers may not be adequately represented because they are only in Minnesota part of the year. Data collectors may not be fluent in the parent's language or may determine race for a child incorrectly. Thus, data about children of color in Minnesota should be interpreted with caution.

Children in Poverty is the estimated number of children under 18 whose families have income below the federal poverty line. In 1998, the Census Bureau released 1989 and 1993 estimates for states and counties. These estimates have significant margins of error at the county level, and should be used with caution.

Children Receiving AFDC is the monthly average of all children receiving payments from Aid to Families with Dependent Children between July 1 and June 30 of the selected fiscal years. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The percent of children receiving AFDC is the number of children receiving AFDC divided by the estimated total number of children.

Children Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price School Lunches is the number of children who have been approved to receive these meals in October of each school year. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. Public and many private schools are represented. Not all eligible children participate in this program. The percent of children eligible is the number of children approved for meals divided by the total school enrollment.

Children Born to Teenage Mothers is the number of infants born to women who were less than age 18 at the time of the child's birth. It is provided by The Center for Health Statistics of the Minnesota Department of Health, based on information collected from birth certificates. The rate of these births is a combined three-year average in order to obtain large enough numbers in most counties for this rate to be calculated.

Children Born at Low Birth Weight is the number of babies weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. It is provided by The Center for Health Statistics of the Minnesota Department of Health, based on information collected from birth certificates. The percent of children born at low birth weight is the number of low birth weight children divided by the total number of births.

(continued on page 108)

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Data Notes, continued from page 107

Children Who Were Not Fully Immunized By Age 2 is the number of kindergarten students in the 1996-97 school year who had not been immunized by age two. It is provided through a retrospective survey by the Minnesota Department of Health. The percent of children not fully immunized is the number of un-immunized children divided by the total number of kindergarten students.

Children Dropping Out of School is the number of students who were enrolled in school during the previous school year and were not enrolled by October 1 of the current school year. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. This definition was new as of the 1993-94 school year; previously, a student was counted as "dropping out" if they were not enrolled by the beginning of the next school year. School districts are assigned to the county where their district offices are located. The percent of students dropping out is the number of students dropping out divided by the total enrollment of grades 7-12.

Children Arrested for Violent Crime is the number of children arrested for murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. It is provided by the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning from statistics collected by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The percent of children arrested for violent crime is the number of children arrested divided by the total number of arrests for violent crime.

Children Abused and Neglected is the number of children for whom a report of child abuse or neglect was substantiated by a county child protection worker. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services from statistics collected by counties. Substantiated abuse means that the local social service agency has conducted an assessment in response to a report and has found that maltreatment occurred.

Children in Out-of-Home Placements is the unduplicated number of children who were placed in foster care, group homes, emergency shelter or residential treatment facilities during the year. It is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services from statistics collected by counties.

Children Dying Violently is the number of children dying from murder, suicide and other injuries such as motor vehicle crashes, drowning and falls. It is provided by the Center for Health Statistics at the Minnesota Department of Health using information on death certificates.

About the Graphs for Counties

The graphs allow comparison of multiple indicators within a county. At a glance, you are also able to see how a county compares to the state average for each indicator. The "Minnesota Average" is the mean of all the county data points. Each thinner line represents one standard deviation above or below the average.

Comparing distributions that are expressed in different units is accomplished by using standard scores also known as z-scores. Standard scores are generated for each indicator by computing the difference between each data point and the mean (the sum of all county values divided by the number of counties) and dividing it by the standard deviation (a measure of the degree to which the scores cluster around the mean.) The resulting z-score has a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of one.

Other Resources

CDF-Minnesota Publications

KIDS COUNT: (to order, call 612-870-3671 or 1-888-870-1402)

Information is Power! A Child Advocate's Guide to Fear-Free Fact Finding. 1998. \$5. This guide provides a complete overview to finding and using data about children in Minnesota.

Minnesota Children in Out-of-Home Placement. Winter 1998. \$3.

Minnesota Children and Information Technology: Challenges for

Children's Advocates. Summer 1997. \$3.

Community Efforts to Help Children: A Review of Collaborations in Minnesota. Spring, 1997. \$3.

with Partnership for Minnesota's Future (to order, call 612-227-6121)

Federal Budget Update: Trends. September 1997

Federal Budget Update: The Taxpayer Relief and Balanced Budget Acts of 1997

Basic Facts About the Federal Budget

How the State's Budget is Determined

How the State Spends its Dollars

Minnesota's Fiscal Future: Re-Examining the "Structural Deficit"

with Congregations Concerned for Children, Child Advocacy Network: (to order, call 870-3670 or 1-888-870-1402)

Recognizing and Celebrating Children: Congregational Resources, volumes 1 and 2.

On-Line Resources

Minnesota KIDS COUNT 1998 Data Book:
<http://www.cyfc.umn.edu/kidscount98>

Bureau of the Census: <http://www.census.us>

Children's Defense Fund-Washington, DC:
<http://www.tmn.com/cdf/index.html>

Children, Youth and Family Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse:
<http://www.fsci.umn.edu/cyfc/cyfc.html>

Minnesota Planning Children's Report Card and other data:
<http://www.mmpln.state.mn.us>

Minnesota Extension Service: <http://www.mes.umn.edu>

Minnesota Legislature: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Northstar: Minnesota Govt. Information & Services:
<http://www.state.mn.us/govtoffice/index.html>

National Center for Health Statistics: <http://www.cdc.gov/scientific.html>

Urban Institute: <http://newferralsim.urban.org>

Welfare Information Network: <http://www.welfareinfo.org>

Handsnet: <http://www.igc.org/handsnet/>

Children Now: <http://www.childrennow.org>

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Endnotes: Sources for Databook Information

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The Children's Defense Fund. *Wasting America's Future*, 1996.
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- The Children's Defense Fund. *Rescuing the American Dream: Halting the Economic Freefall of Today's Young Families with Children*, 1997.
- U.S. Census Bureau. *Poverty Facts*. 1996.
Population Reference Bureau, Inc. *A New Look at Poverty in America*. Vol. 51:2, 1996.
- Children Receiving AFDC**
Minnesota Department of Human Services.
Children's Defense Fund-MN. *The Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide: Minnesota's Response to Federal Welfare Reform*, May 1997.
- Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch**
American School Food Service Association press release, "School Lunch Program Turns 50," 5/24/96.
Food Research and Action Center. Part I of *Federal Nutrition Programs Update*, 12/14/97.
- Children Being Born to Teenage Parents**
University of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development. *Special Report: Preventing Teenage Pregnancy*, March 1995.
- Harvard Family Research Project. *The Evaluation Exchange Newsletter: Emerging Strategies in Evaluating Child and Family Services*. "Spotlight: Parenting Programs and Poverty: What's Our Evidence?" Vol. II, No. 4 1996.
- Children Born at Low Birth Weight**
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. *The Future of Children: Low Birth Weight*, Vol. 5:1-Spring 1995.
- Immunization**
Children's Defense Fund-MN and Medica Foundation. *Shots for Tots: Best practices Report*. 1994.
- School Dropouts**
University of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development. *Special Report: School Dropouts*, 1986.
Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning. *Hennepin County's Hope for Kids Project: Report for the 1996-1997 School Year*.
The Truancy Work Committee of Hennepin County. *Chronic Absenteeism: A Growing Problem*, August, 1993.
- Juveniles Arrested for Violent Crimes**
University of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development. *Effectiveness of Treatment for Violent Juvenile Delinquents*, March 1996.
- Children's Defense Fund, Washington D.C. *Juvenile Crime Bill Would Harm Children*, October 13, 1997.
National Association Counsel for Children. *Talking Points on Children in Adult Jails*, 1996.
- Children Abused and Neglected**
National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics*, April 1997.
National Child Abuse Coalition. *Facts About Child Abuse*, February 4, 1997.
Child Welfare League of America. *Children '97: Facts & Figures*, April 1, 1997.
- Out-of-Home Placement**
Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- Children Dying Violently**
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. *Kids, Cars and Crashes Fact Sheet*, 1995.
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. *The Highway Safety Deficit: Who Pays and Who Delays?*, 1997.

Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look



Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota, 550 Rice Street, Suite 205, St. Paul, MN 55103; 612/227-6121

Congregations Concerned for Children-Child Advocacy Network, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition,
122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 315, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 612/870-3670



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