

# Early Childhood Iowa Area: Linking Families and Communities

IA Data Drive Annual Report 2025

Created on April 20, 2026



Iowa State University  
Iowa's Integrated Data System for Decision-Making (I2D2)  
<https://i2d2.iastate.edu/>



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

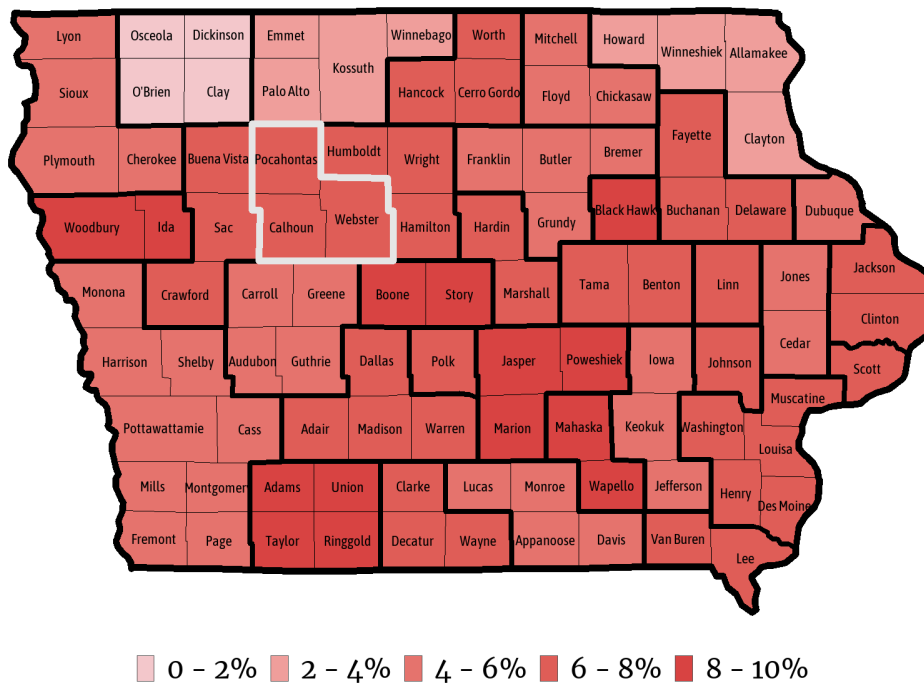
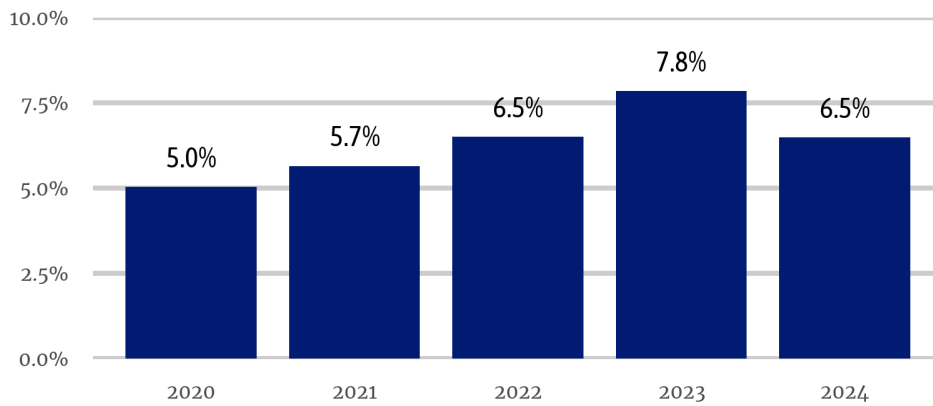
<b>RESULT AREA: Healthy Children</b>	<b>2</b>
Low Birth Weight . . . . .	2
Preterm Birth . . . . .	3
Preterm or Low Birth Weight . . . . .	4
Inadequate Prenatal Care . . . . .	5
Prenatal Tobacco Exposure . . . . .	6
Immunized Children . . . . .	7
Dental Services . . . . .	8
Infant Mortality . . . . .	9
<b>RESULT AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School</b>	<b>10</b>
Low Maternal Education at Birth . . . . .	10
Educational Attainment of Mothers . . . . .	11
Early Literacy Skills . . . . .	12
<b>RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities</b>	<b>13</b>
Poverty at Birth . . . . .	13
Children in Poverty . . . . .	14
All People in Poverty . . . . .	15
Unemployment . . . . .	16
Homelessness . . . . .	17
Children with Health Coverage . . . . .	18
Cumulative Birth Risks . . . . .	19
<b>RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families</b>	<b>20</b>
Teenage Mother . . . . .	20
Unmarried Mother . . . . .	21
Incidence of Child Abuse . . . . .	22
Domestic Violence . . . . .	23
Domestic Violence Children Present . . . . .	24
<b>RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments</b>	<b>25</b>
Availability of Child Care – Licensed Centers and Preschools . . . . .	25
Availability of Child Care – Child Development Homes . . . . .	26
Working Parents . . . . .	27
<b>APPENDIX A: ECI Approved Indicators</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: Indicator Data</b>	<b>31</b>



## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Low Birth Weight

In 2024, 6.5% of children were born with low birth weight in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 6.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 18th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.

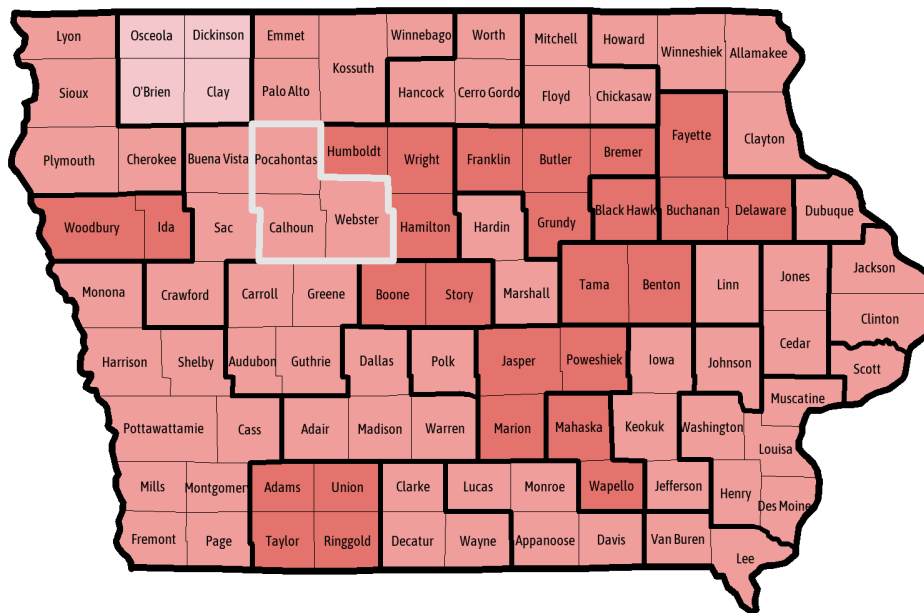
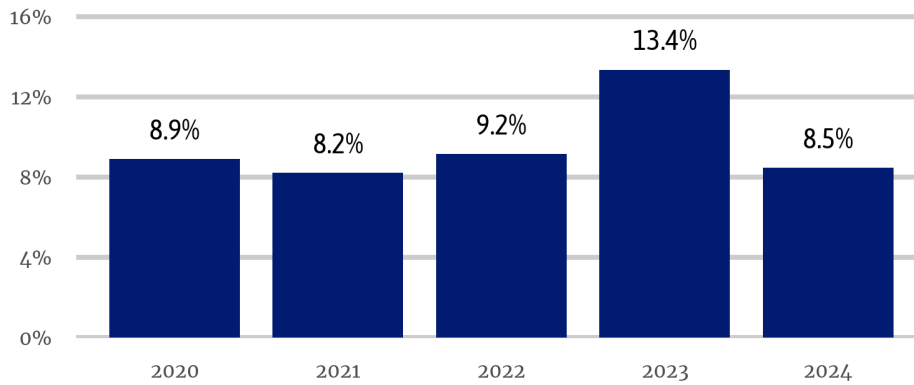




## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Preterm Birth

In 2024, 8.5% of children were born preterm in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 9.3%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



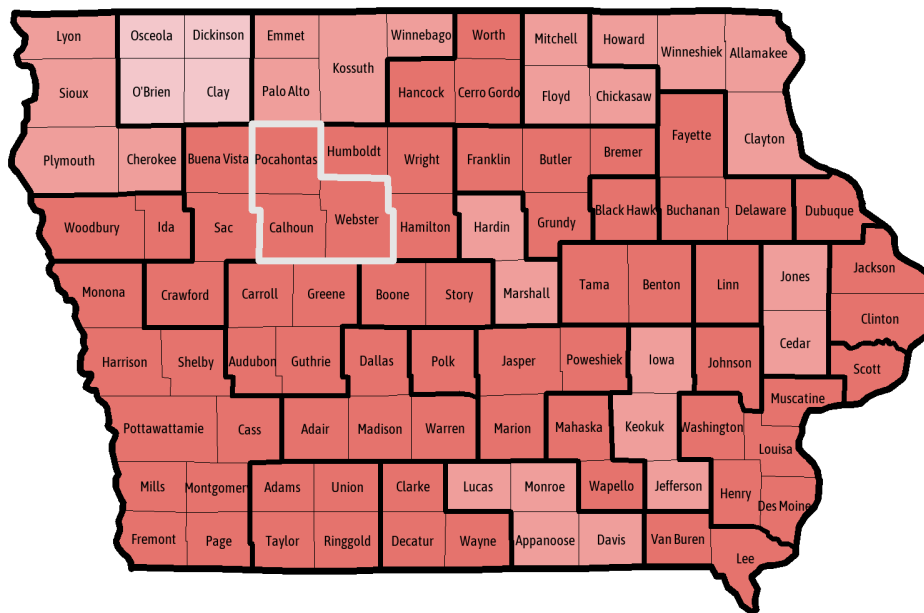
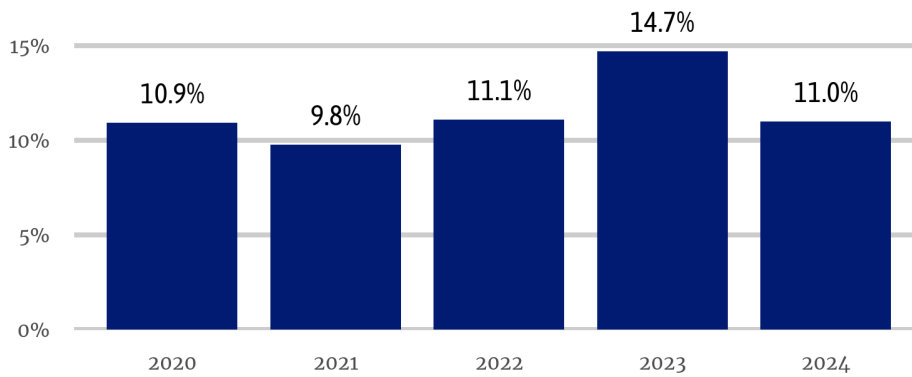
0 - 5%    5 - 10%    10 - 15%



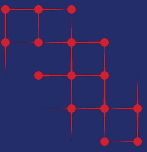
## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Preterm or Low Birth Weight

In 2024, 11.0% of children were born preterm or with low birth weight in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 11.4%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 21st among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



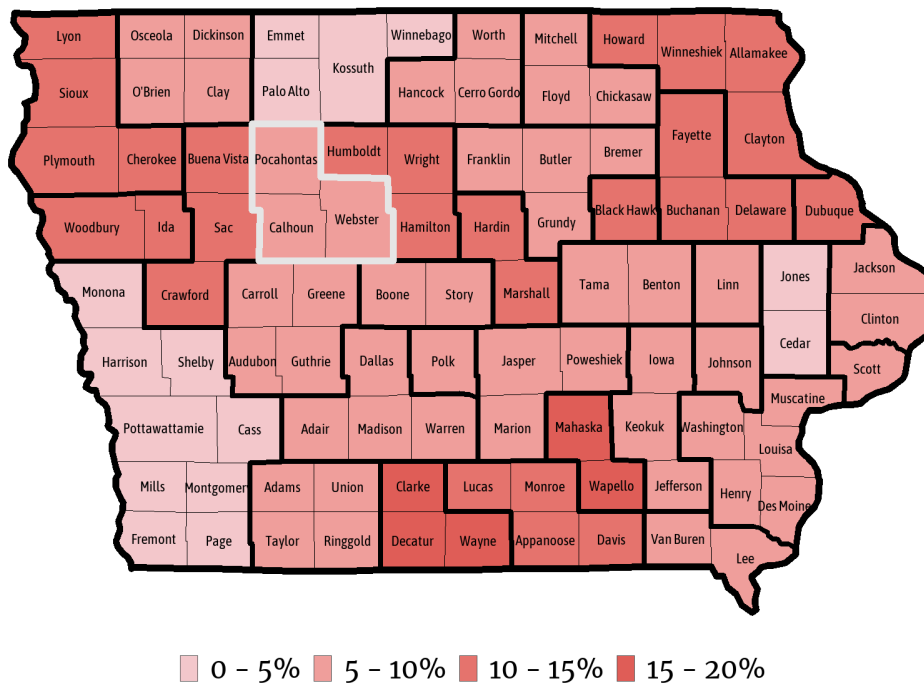
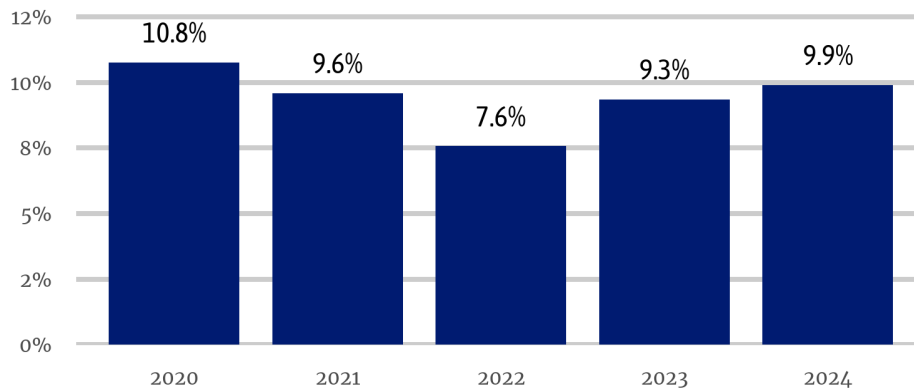
0 - 5%    5 - 10%    10 - 15%



## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Inadequate Prenatal Care

In 2024, **9.9%** of children were born with inadequate prenatal care in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of **8.8%**. Linking Families & Communities was ranked **14th** among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.

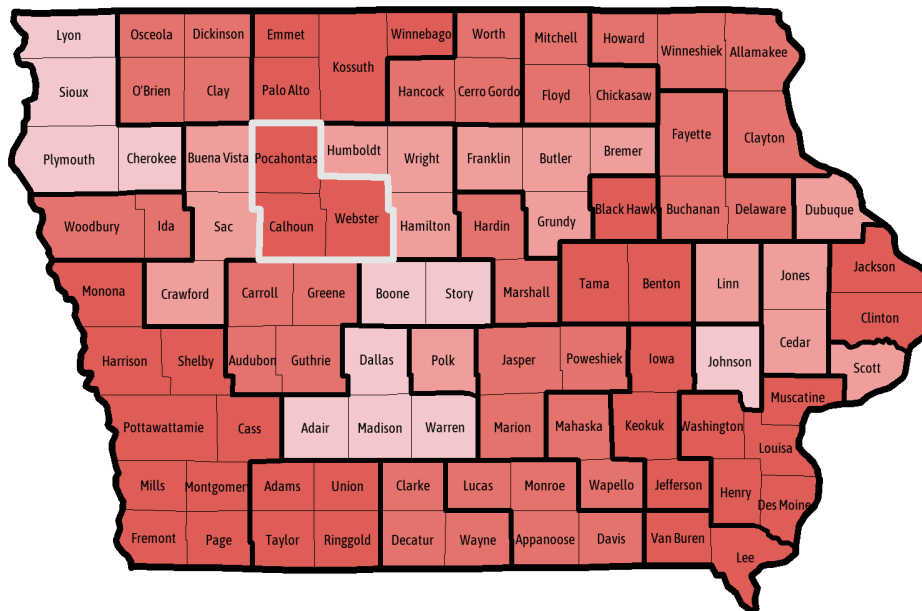
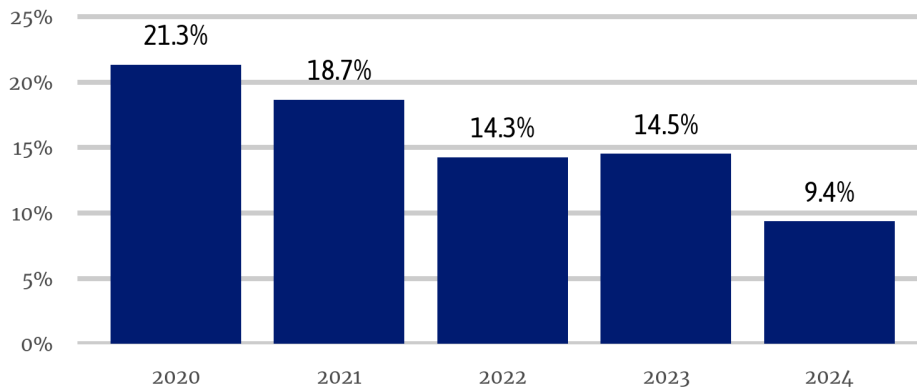




## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Prenatal Tobacco Exposure

In 2024, 9.4% of children were born of mothers who smoked during pregnancy and/or three months prior to becoming pregnant in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 5.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 6th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



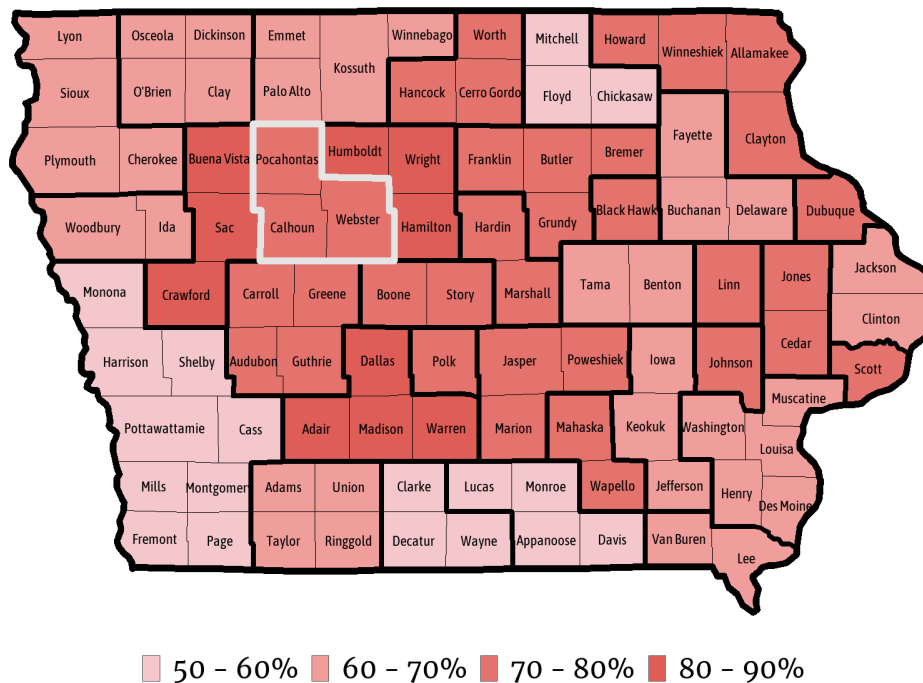
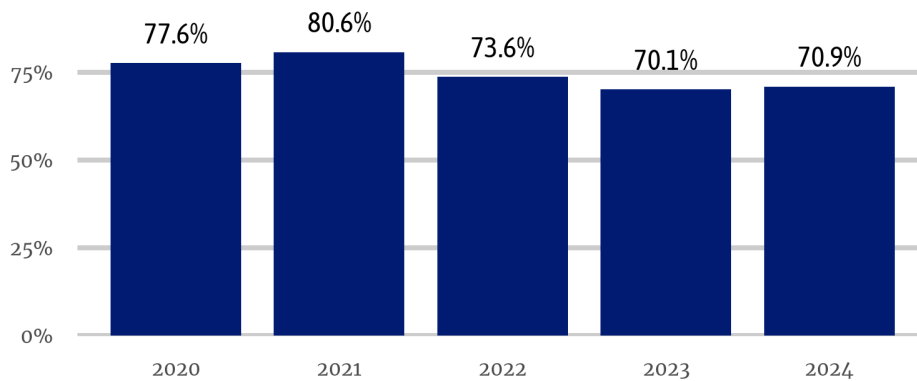
■ 2 - 4% ■ 4 - 6% ■ 6 - 8% ■ 8 - 10%



## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Immunized Children

In 2024, 70.9% of children were fully immunized by age 2 in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 71.1%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 16th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.

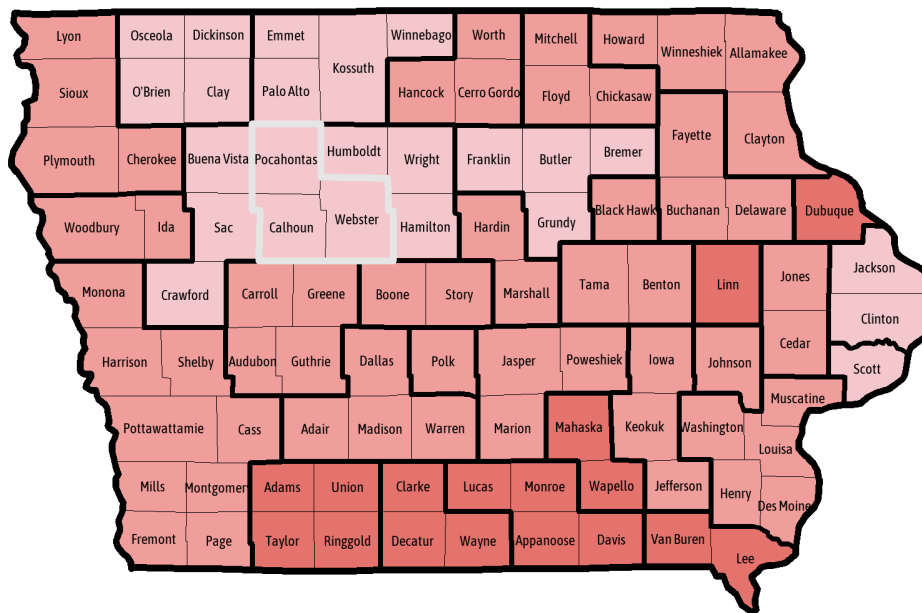
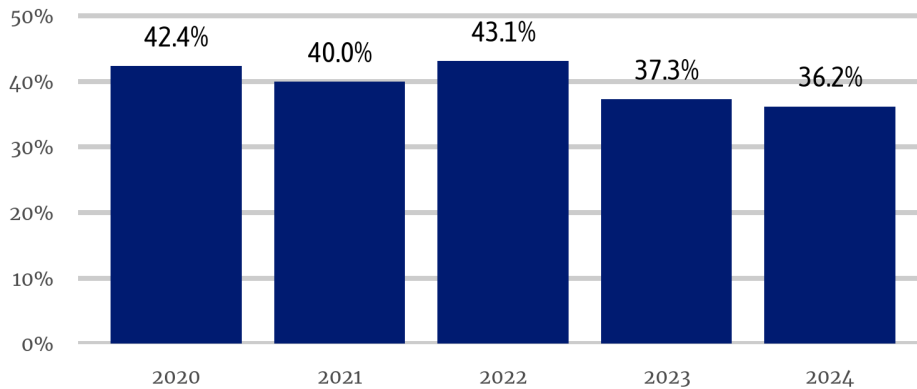




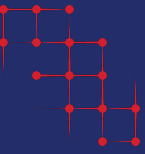
## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Dental Services

In 2024, 36.2% of Medicaid-enrolled children under age 6 received dental services in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 43.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 31st among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



30 - 40% 40 - 50% 50 - 60%



## RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

### Infant Mortality

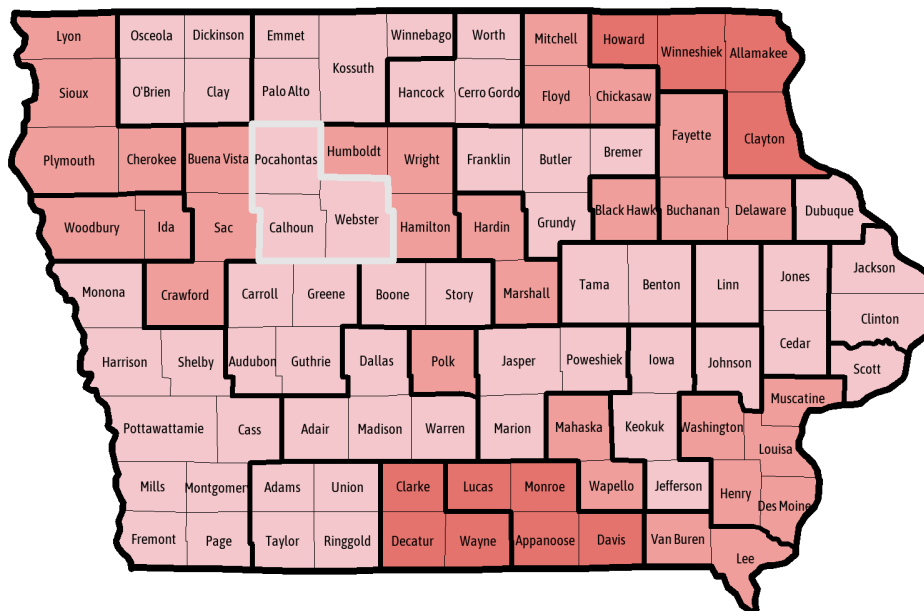
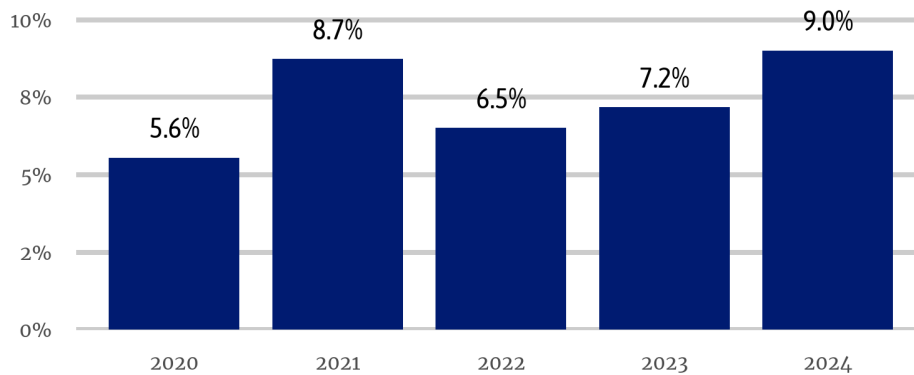
Infant mortality data are no longer reported at the county level from their original source.



## RESULT AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School

### Low Maternal Education at Birth

In 2024, **9.0%** of children were born to mothers with less than a high school education (at birth) in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of **10.0%**. Linking Families & Communities was ranked **16th** among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



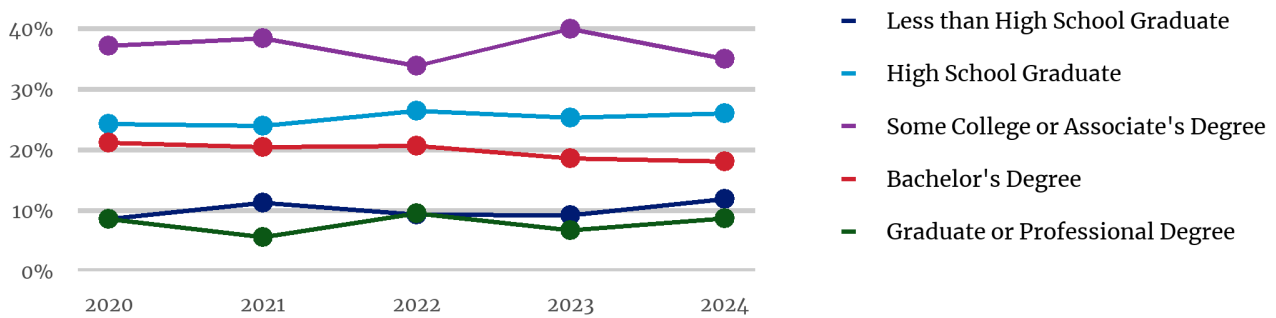
0 - 10%   10 - 20%   20 - 30%



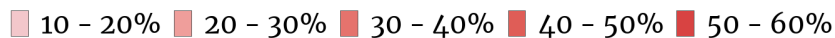
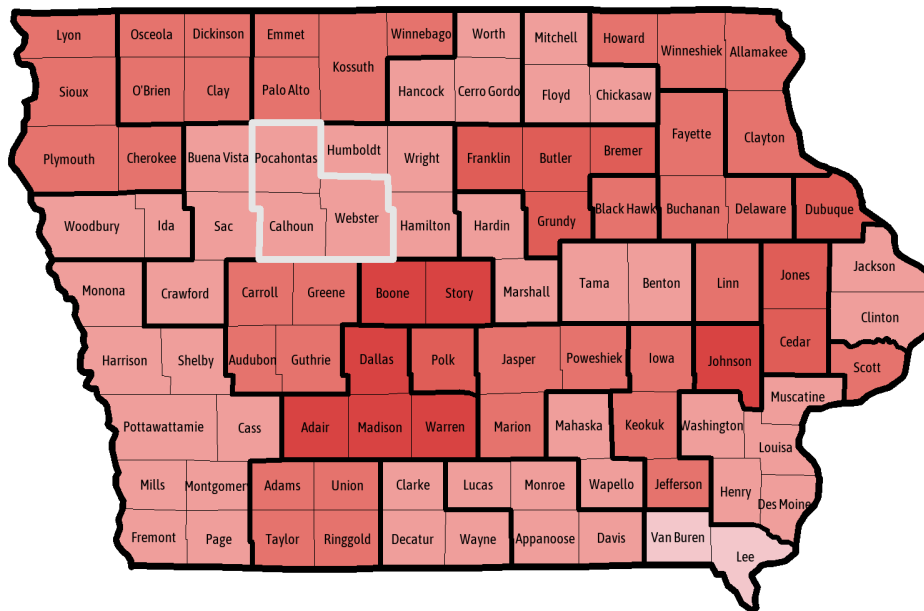
## RESULT AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School

### Educational Attainment of Mothers

In 2024, 26.9% of mothers aged 15 to 50 had completed a Bachelor's or advanced degree in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 36.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 26th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



### Mothers with Bachelor's or Advanced Degree

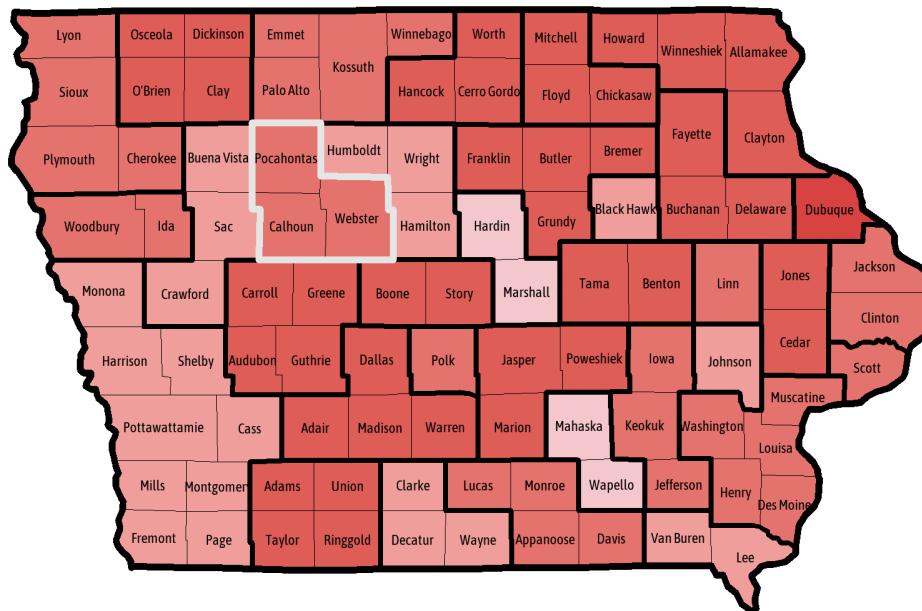
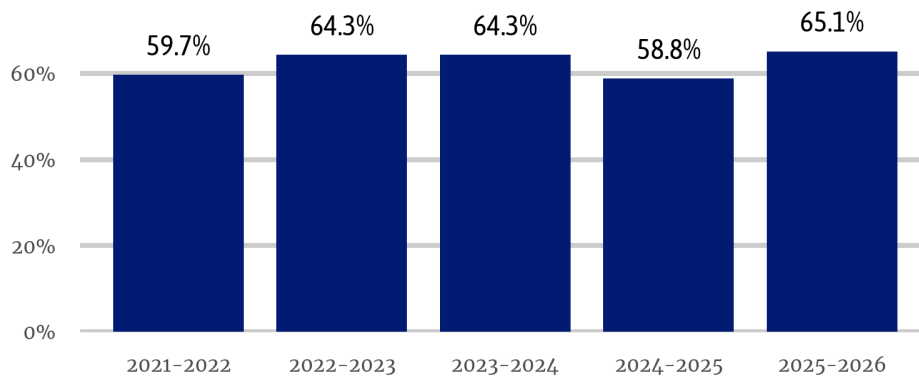




## RESULT AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School

### Early Literacy Skills

In 2025-2026, 65.1% of kindergartners met the fall benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 65.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 22nd among all 34 ECI areas in 2025-2026.



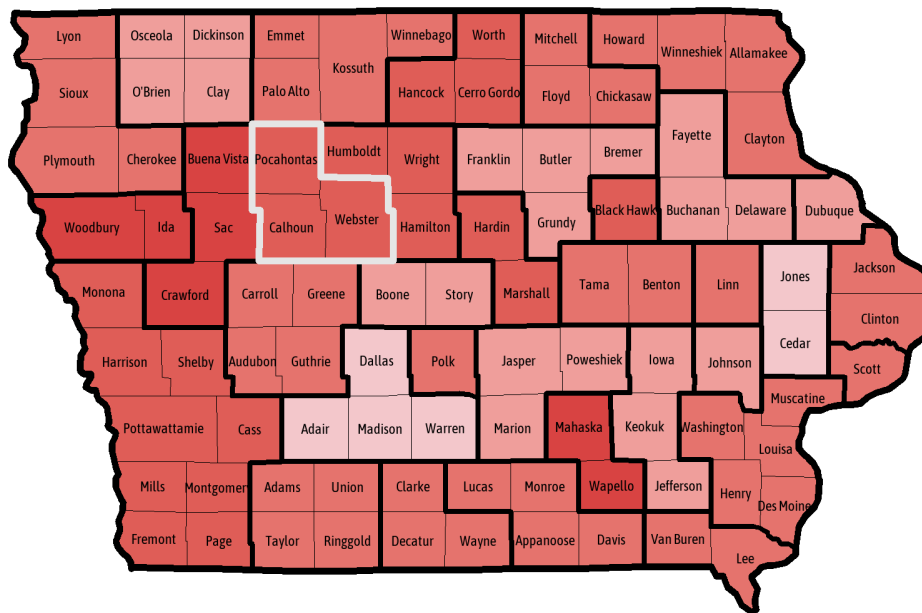
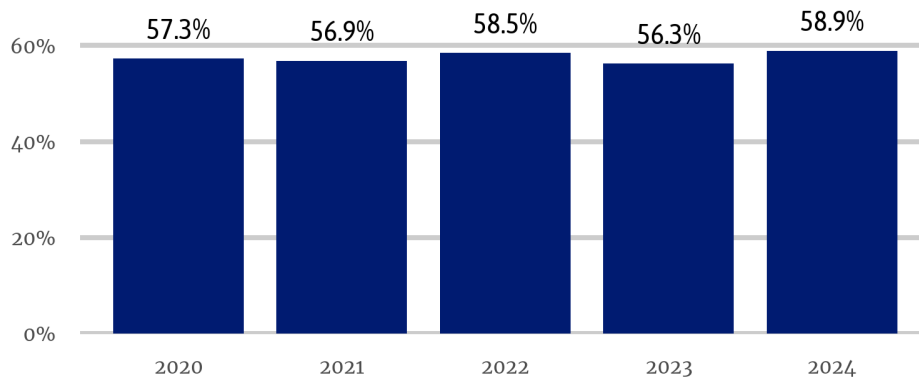
40 - 50% 50 - 60% 60 - 70% 70 - 80% 80 - 90%



## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### Poverty at Birth

In 2024, 58.9% of children were born of mothers susceptible to poverty (at birth) in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 44.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 5th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



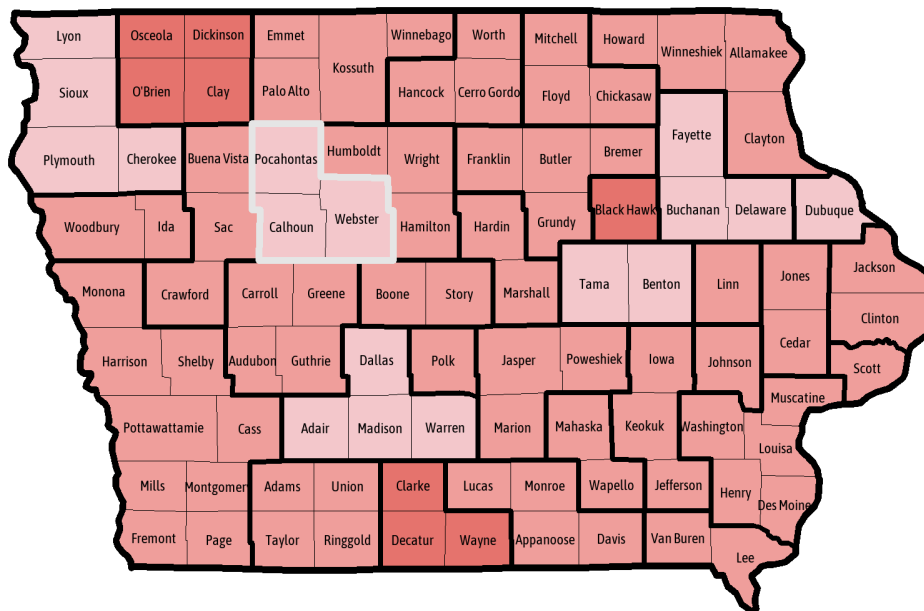
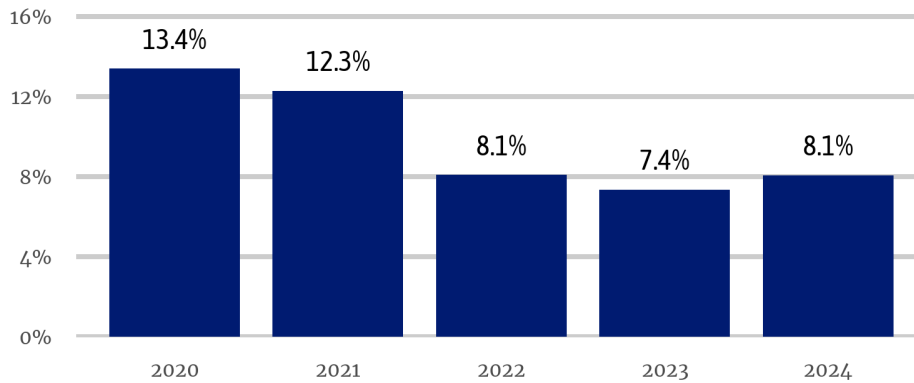
20 - 30% 30 - 40% 40 - 50% 50 - 60% 60 - 70%



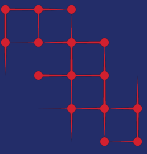
## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### Children in Poverty

In 2024, 8.1% of children under age 6 lived in low-income (below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level) families in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 13.6%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 32nd among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



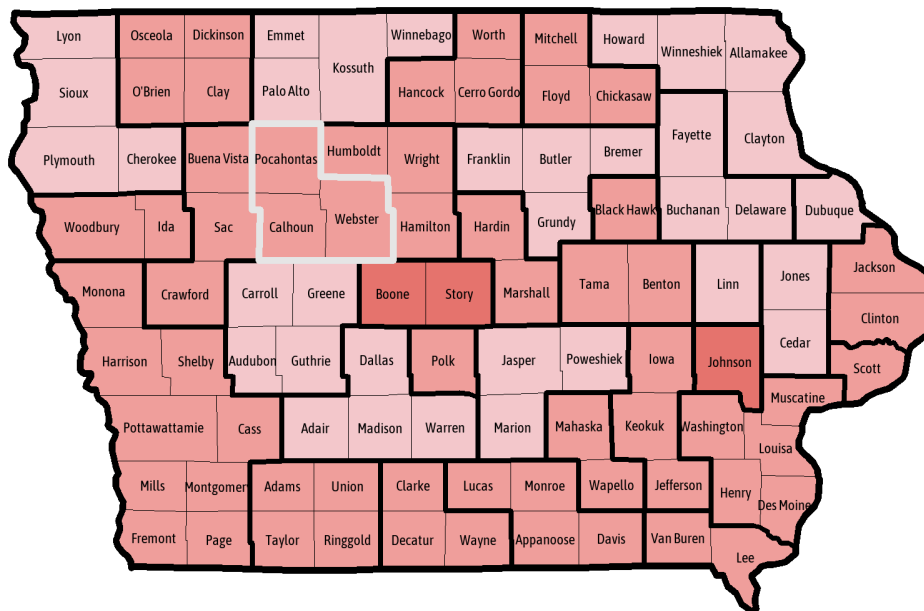
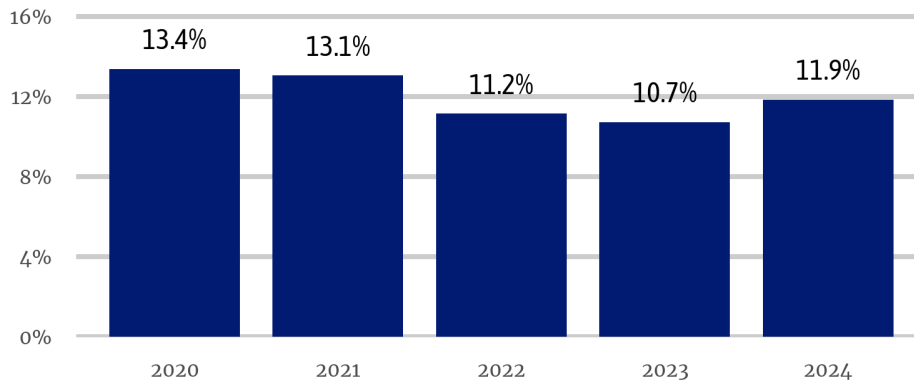
0 - 10% 10 - 20% 20 - 30%



## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### All People in Poverty

In 2024, 11.9% of people lived in poverty (with household income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level) in Linking Families & Communities compared to the statewide value of 11.1%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 12th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.

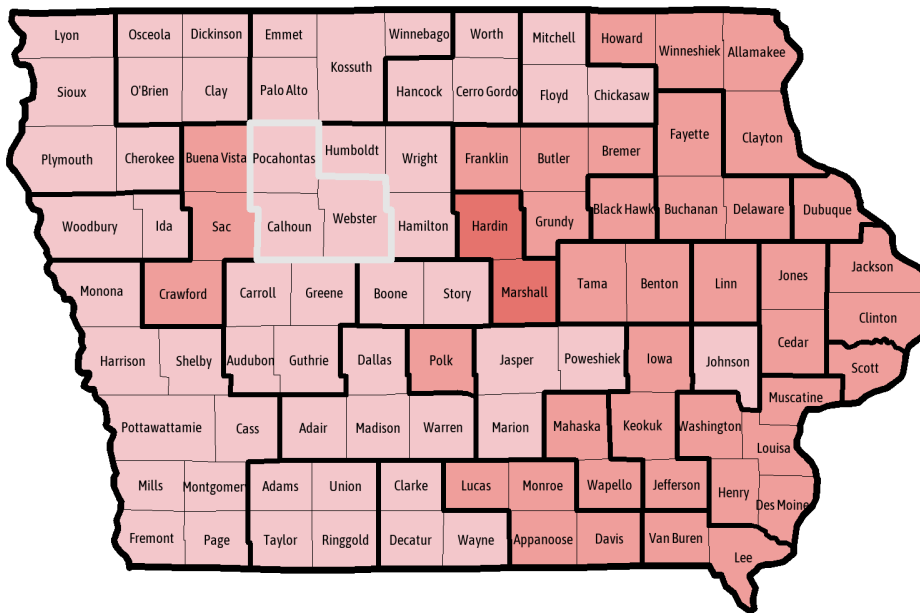
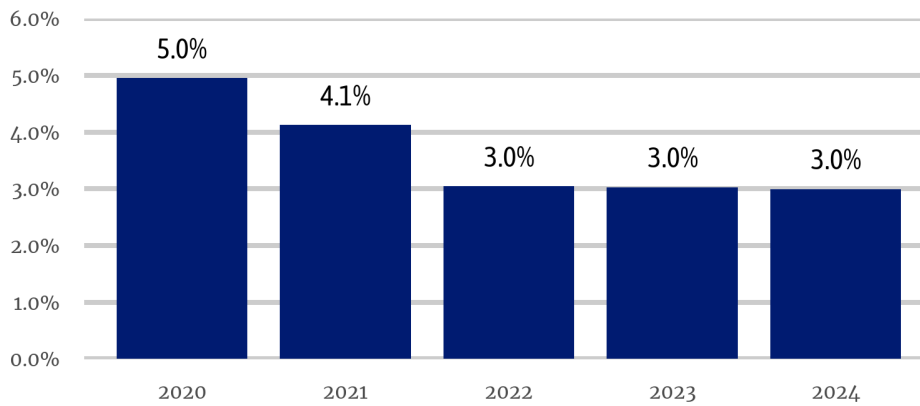




## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### Unemployment

In 2024, 3.0% of people were unemployed in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 3.1%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 19th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



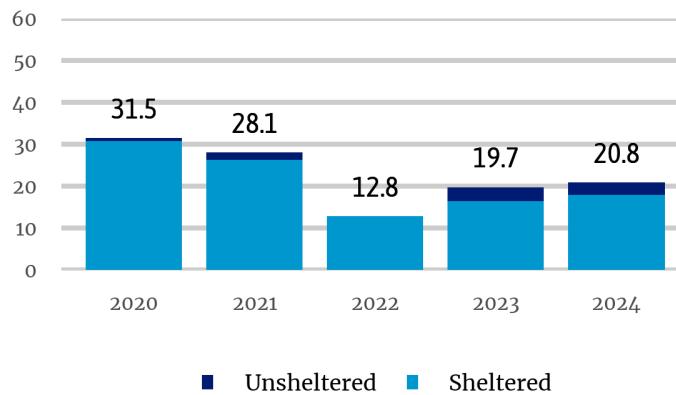
■ 2 - 3% ■ 3 - 4% ■ 4 - 5%



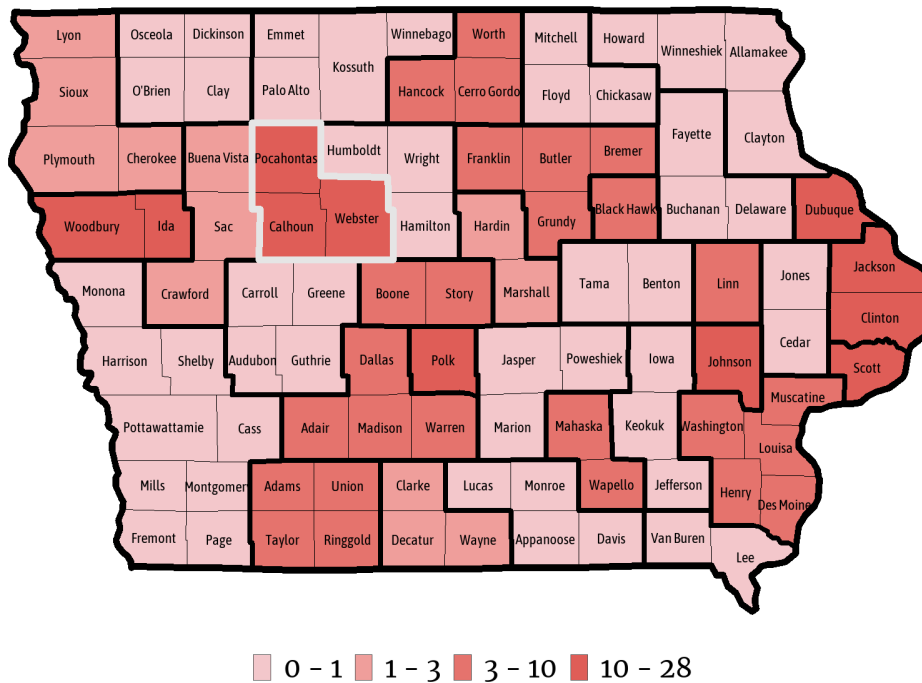
## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### Homelessness

In 2024, 20.8 per 10,000 population were homeless (point in time) in Linking Families & Communities compared to the statewide rate of 7.9. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 2nd among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



### Total Homeless (Sheltered and Unsheltered)

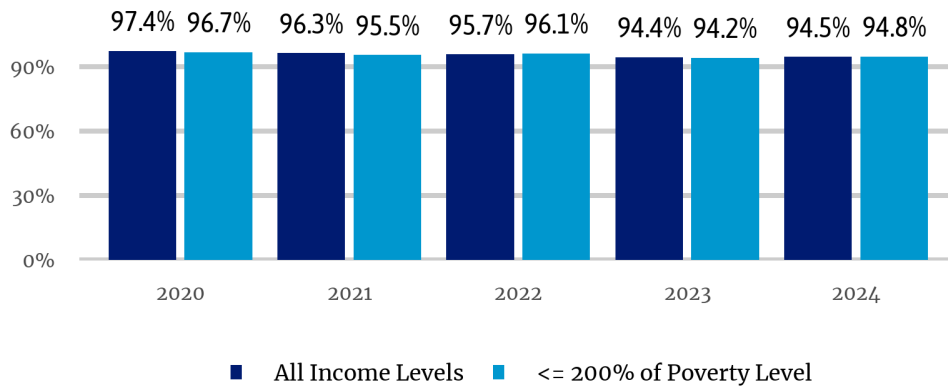




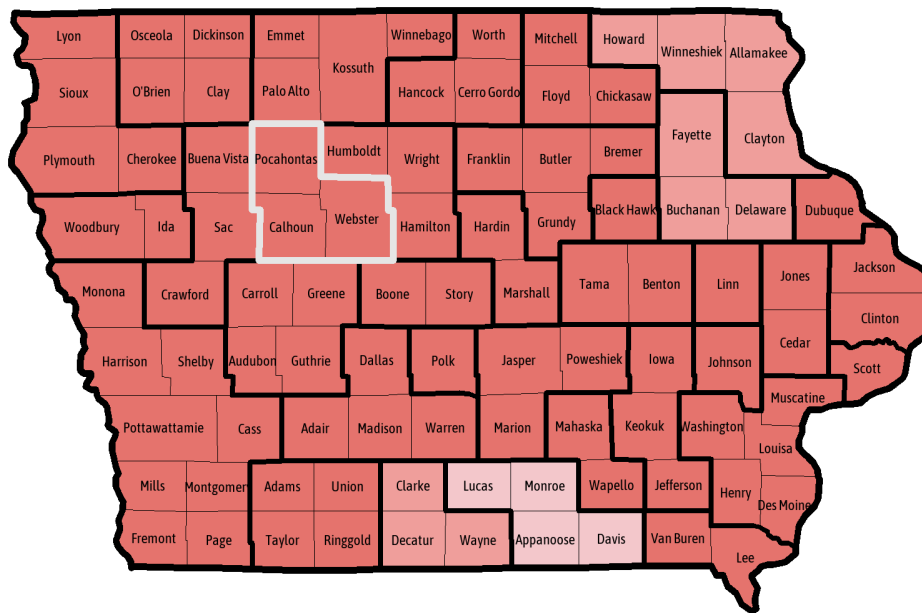
## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### Children with Health Coverage

In 2024, **94.8%** of minors living in low-income (at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) families had health coverage in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of **95.2%**. Linking Families & Communities was ranked **23rd** among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



### Children in Families Living Below 200% of Poverty Level



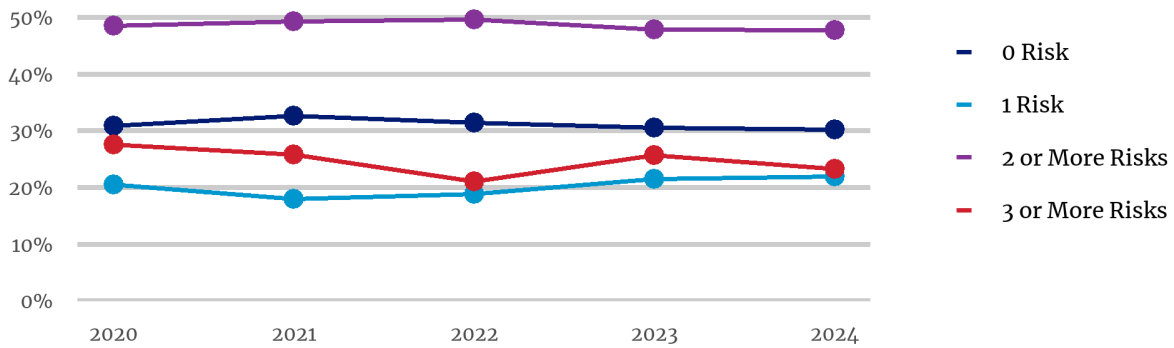
70 - 80% 80 - 90% 90 - 100%



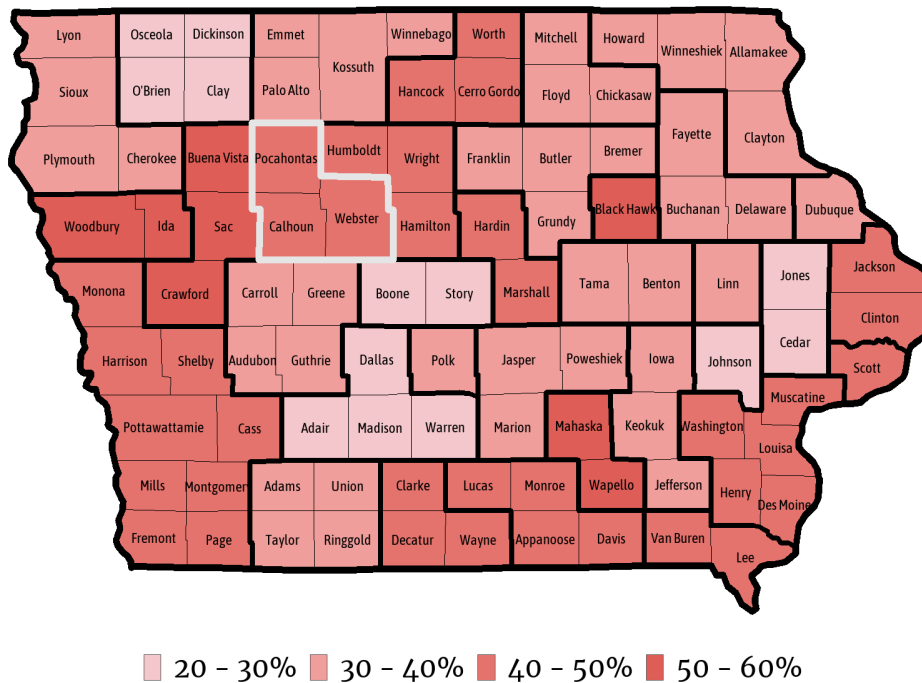
## RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

### Cumulative Birth Risks

In 2024, 47.8% of children were born with 2 or more risk factors in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 38.4%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 6th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



### Children with 2 or More Risk Factors

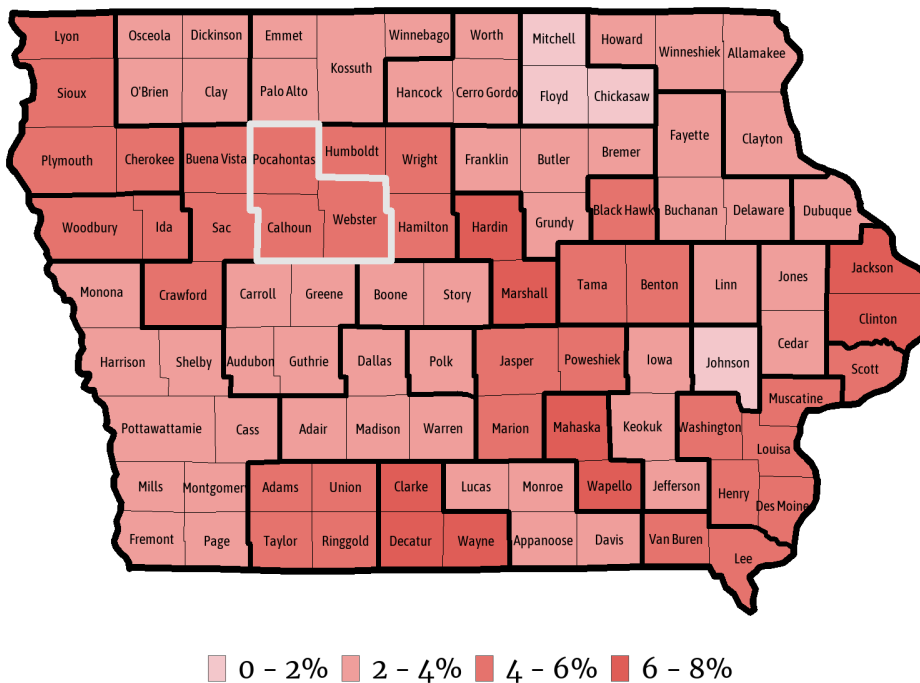
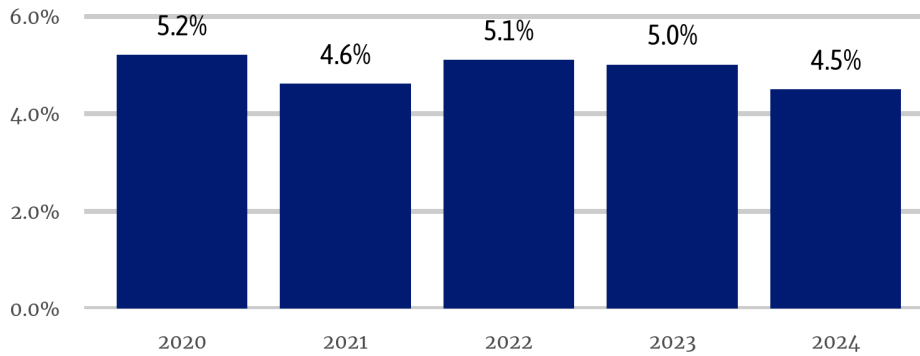




## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

### Teenage Mother

In 2024, 4.5% of children were born of teenage mothers (at birth) in Linking Families & Communities compared to the statewide value of 3.9%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 12th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.

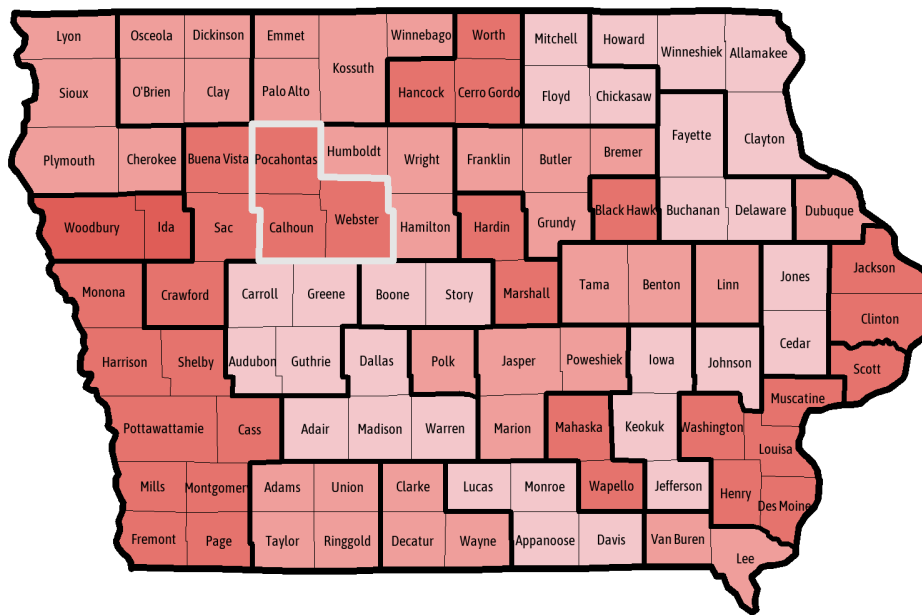
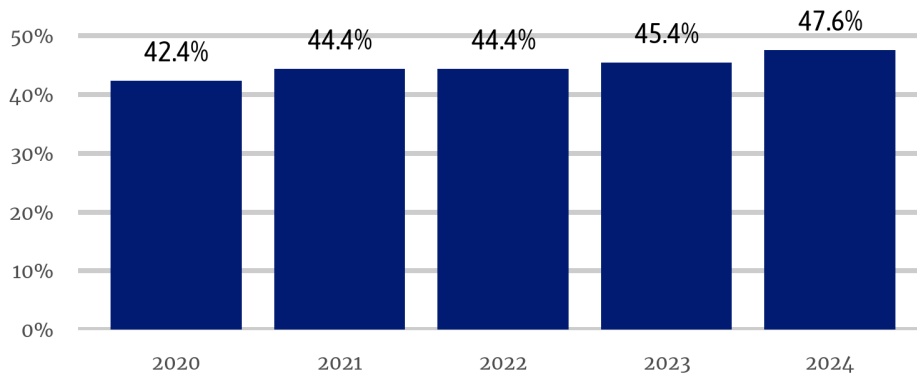




## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

### Unmarried Mother

In 2024, 47.6% of children were born of unmarried mothers (at birth) in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 36.6%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 2nd among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



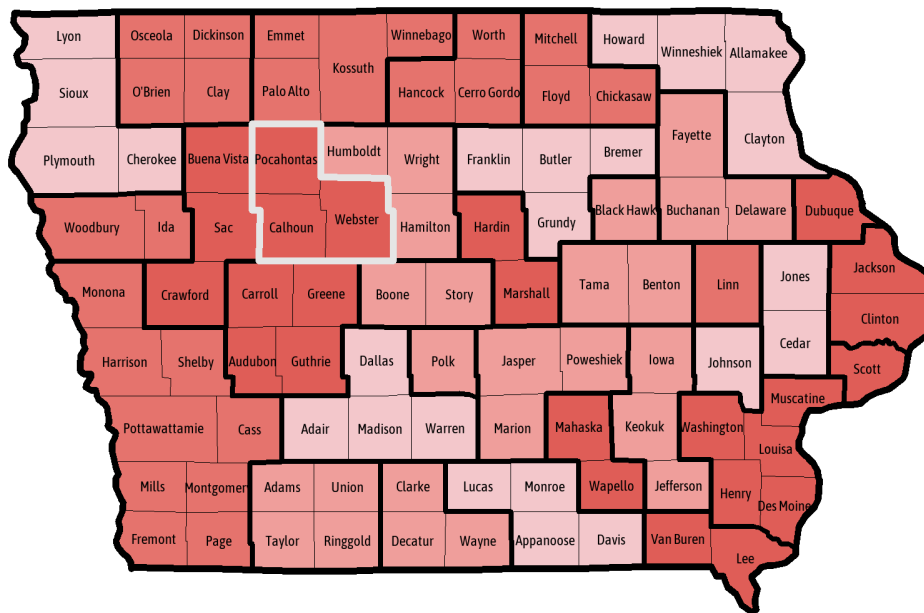
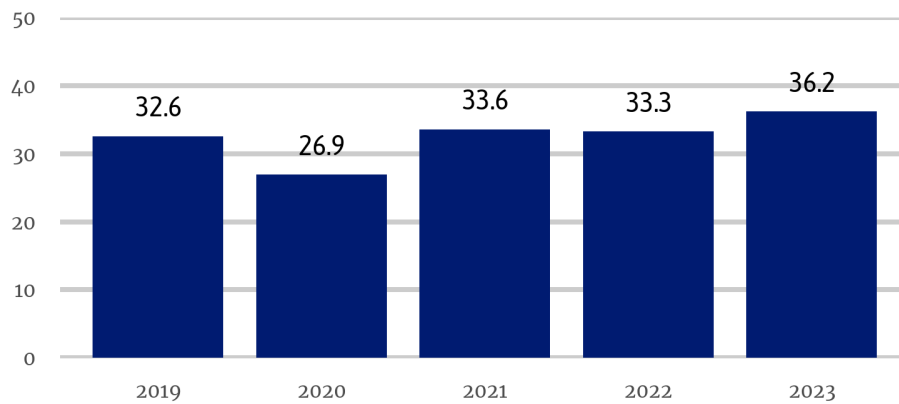
20 - 30%   30 - 40%   40 - 50%   50 - 60%



## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

### Incidence of Child Abuse

In 2023, 36.2 in 1,000 children under age 6 have been abused or neglected in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide rate of 21.0. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 1st among all 34 ECI areas in 2023.



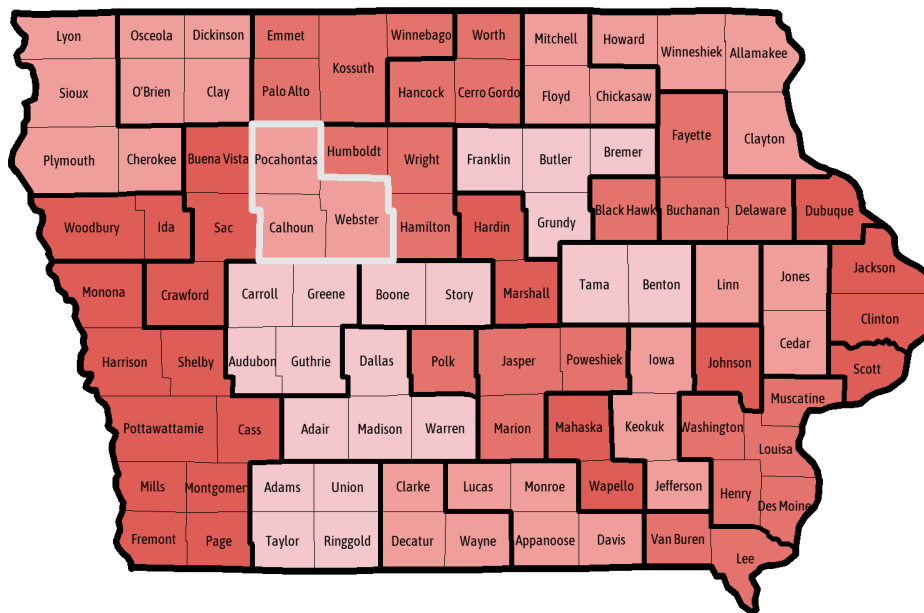
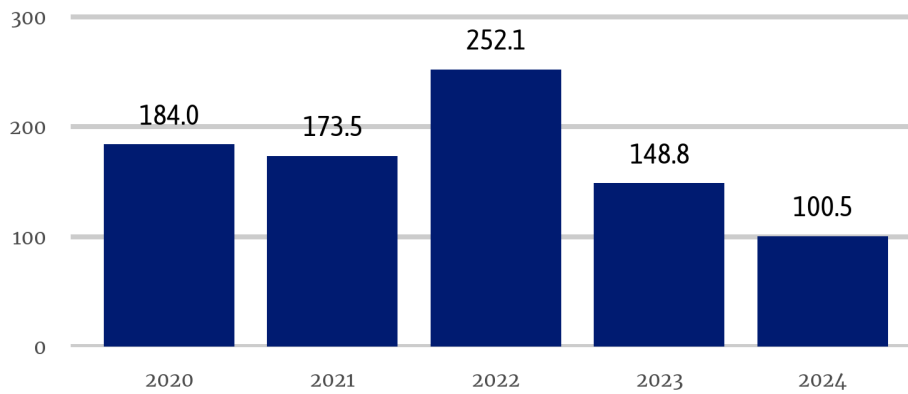
0 - 16   16 - 21   21 - 25   25 - 38



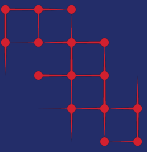
## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

### Domestic Violence

In 2024, 100.5 per 100,000 population were a victim of domestic abuse in Linking Families & Communities compared to the statewide rate of 215.8. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 27th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



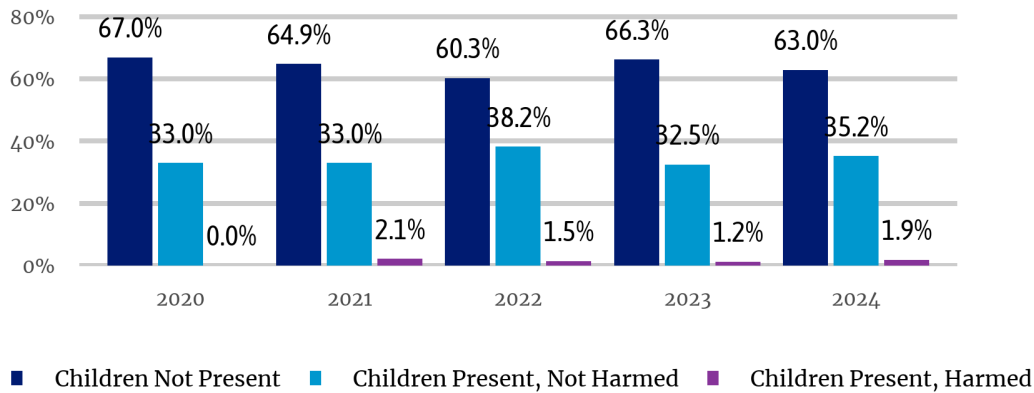
0 - 100   100 - 178   178 - 251   251 - 519



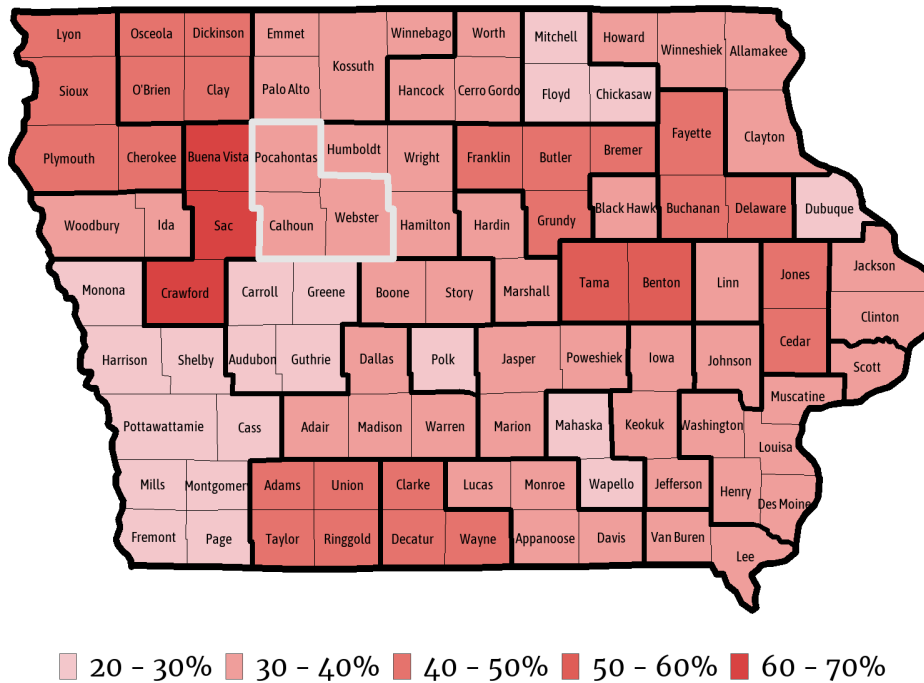
## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

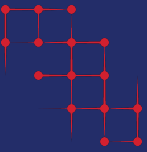
### Domestic Violence Children Present

In 2024, children were present in 37.0% of domestic violence incidents in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 33.2%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 18th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



### Children Present (Harmed and Not Harmed)

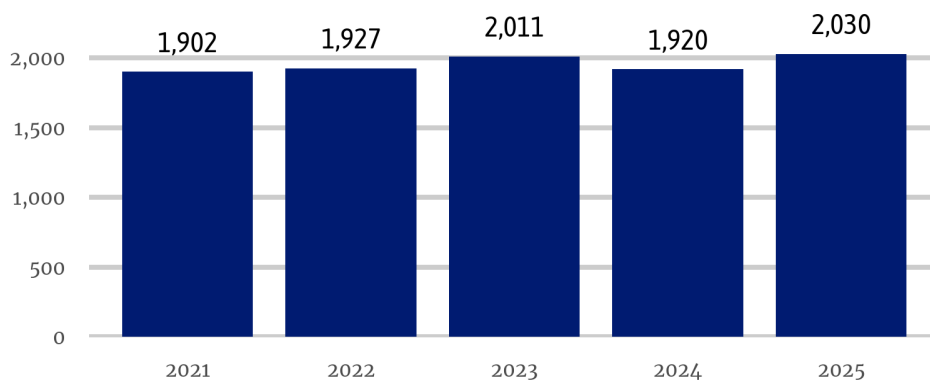




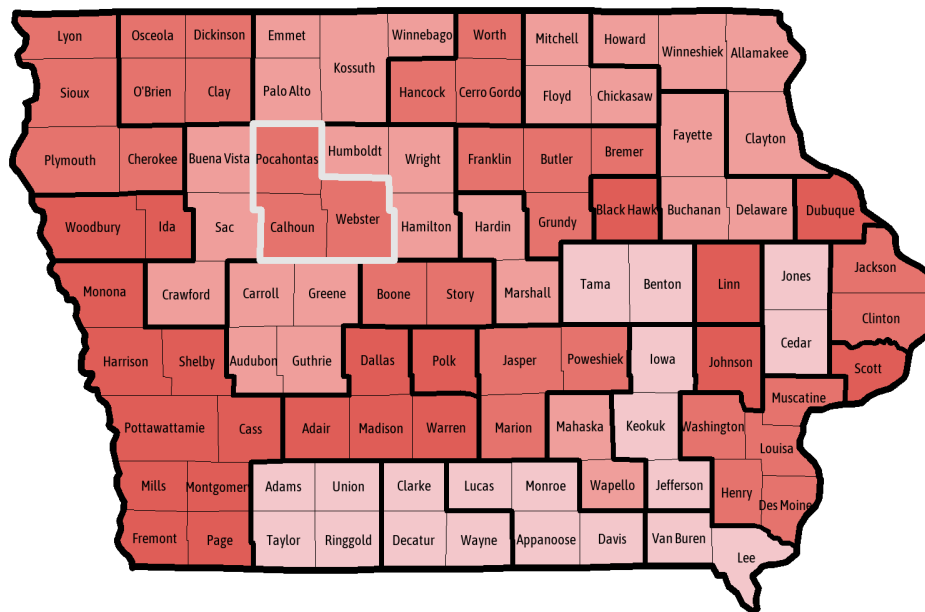
## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

### Availability of Child Care – Licensed Centers and Preschools

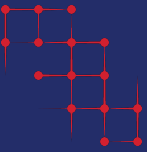
In 2025, 2,030 slots were potentially available for children in HHS licensed centers and preschools in **Linking Families & Communities**. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 18th among all 34 ECI areas in 2025.



Licensed Centers and Preschools



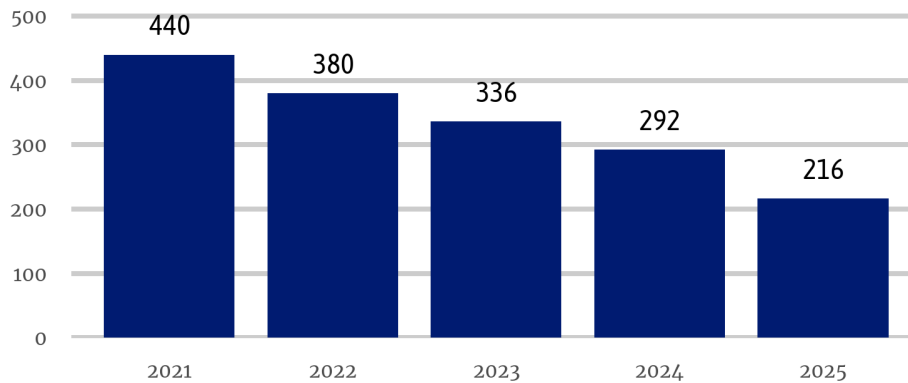
0 - 1,253 1,253 - 2,030 2,030 - 5,282 5,282 - 35,900



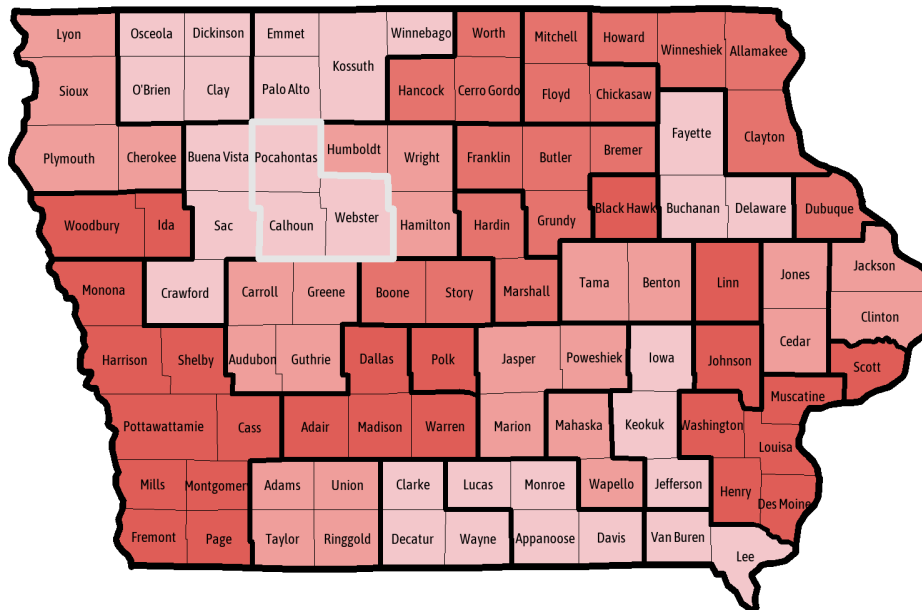
## RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

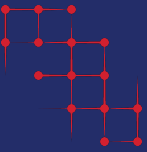
### Availability of Child Care - Child Development Homes

In 2025, 216 slots were potentially available for children in HHS registered child development homes in **Linking Families & Communities**. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 27th among all 34 ECI areas in 2025.



Child Development Homes

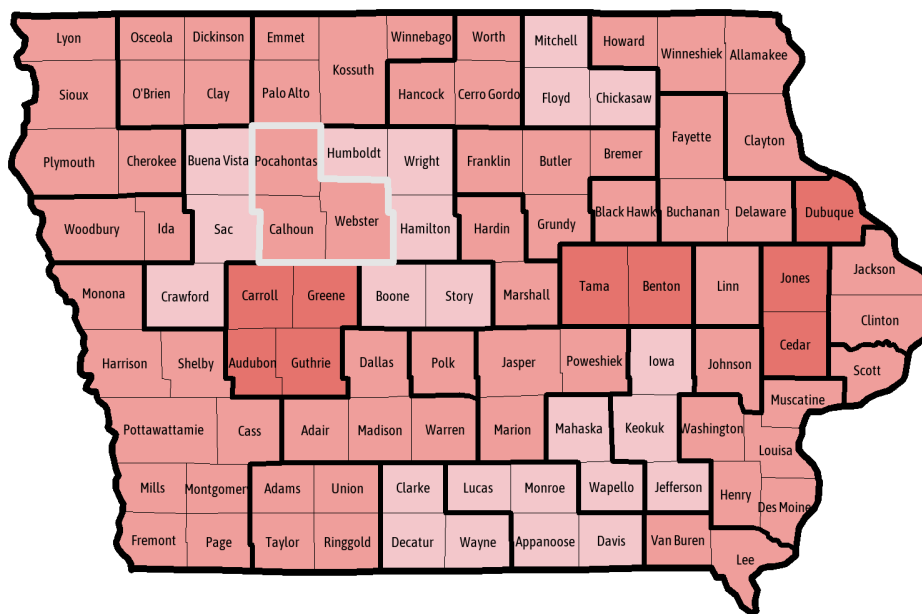
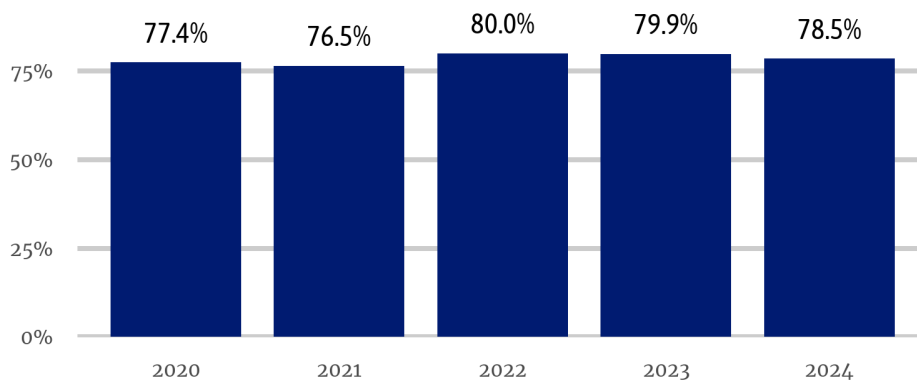




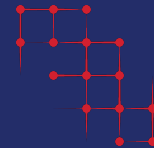
# RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

## Working Parents

In 2024, 78.5% of children under age 6 lived in families with all parents working in **Linking Families & Communities** compared to the statewide value of 76.6%. Linking Families & Communities was ranked 9th among all 34 ECI areas in 2024.



60 - 70%   70 - 80%   80 - 90%



## APPENDIX A: ECI Approved Indicators

### Low Birth Weight

Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of live-born babies who weigh under 2,500 grams.

### Preterm Birth

Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of children born prior to 36 weeks gestation.

### Preterm or Low Birth Weight

Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of children born preterm or with low birth weight.

### Inadequate Prenatal Care

Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of children born of mothers who received inadequate prenatal care.

### Prenatal Tobacco Exposure

Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of children born of mothers who smoke during pregnancy and/or three months prior to becoming pregnant.

### Immunized Children

Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal (HHS)

Percentage of children fully immunized by age 2.

### Dental Services

Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal (HHS)

Percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0 to 5 who received dental and/or oral health services.

### Infant Mortality

Source: Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal (HHS)

Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births.

### Low Maternal Education at Birth

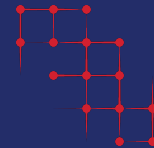
Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of children born of mothers with low education.

### Educational Attainment of Mothers

Source: Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)

Percentage of women age 15-50 with a birth in the past 12 months by educational attainment.



### Early Literacy Skills

Source: *Early Childhood Iowa (HHS)*

Percentage of kindergartners meeting the fall benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements.

### Poverty at Birth

Source: *Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)*

Percentage of children born of mothers being susceptible to poverty.

### Children in Poverty

Source: *American Community Survey Table B17024 (Census)*

Percentage of children, under 6, who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

### All People in Poverty

Source: *American Community Survey Table B17020 (Census)*

Percentage of people who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

### Unemployment

Source: *Local Area Unemployment Statistics (Iowa Workforce Development)*

Percentage of unemployed persons 16 years and older.

### Homelessness

Source: *Institute for Community Alliances*

Point in Time counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals per 10,000 population.

### Children with Health Coverage

Source: *American Community Survey Table C27001 and C27016 (Census)*

Percentage of minor children with health coverage by poverty level.

### Cumulative Birth Risks

Source: *Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)*

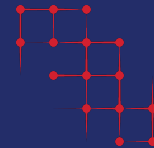
Percentage of children with 0, 1, 2 or more, or 3 or more risk factors.

Note, cumulative risk was calculated by adding risks that were present at the time of child birth, including the following risks: unmarried mother, teenage mother, low maternal education, prenatal tobacco exposure, poverty, inadequate prenatal care, and preterm or low birth weight. This indicator has a maximum possible score of 6 as low maternal education and teenage mother were mutually exclusive.

### Teenage Mother

Source: *Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)*

Percentage of children born of teenage mothers.



### **Unmarried Mother**

Source: *Vital Records (I2D2 data holdings)*

Percentage of children born of unmarried mothers.

### **Incidence of Child Abuse**

Source: *Child Abuse Statistics (HHS)*

Child abuse incidence rate per 1,000 for children 5 years and under.

### **Domestic Violence**

Source: *Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (IDPS)*

Rate of domestic abuse per 100,000 population.

### **Domestic Violence Children Present**

Source: *Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (IDPS)*

Percentage of domestic abuse incidents by child presence.

### **Availability of Child Care**

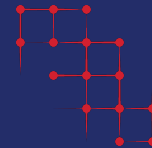
Source: *HHS DCPDMAST Report (HHS)*

Number of slots (spaces) potentially available for children in HHS licensed centers/preschools or registered child development homes.

### **Working Parents**

Source: *American Community Survey Table B23008 (Census)*

Percentage of children under 6 years with all parents in the labor force.



## APPENDIX B: Indicator Data

### Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Indicators

The [Early Childhood Iowa](#) (ECI) provides resources and tools to help communities meet ECI's vision that “every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful”. Among these tools are data indicators to support local area boards in their data informed decision-making and to monitor progress across five legislatively mandated result areas:

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

Taken together, these indicators provide a useful overview of the multiple dimensions of child wellbeing that may impact quality of life for Iowa's young children and their families. The ECI State Board regularly reviews and approves an [updated list of indicators](#). *Indicator and Data Dictionary Tool* includes detailed information on the type, quality, availability, and frequency of assessment for community-wide measures used in official ECI reports.

### Iowa Data Drive

*IA Data Drive* is a free online interface developed by [I2D2](#) at Iowa State University with a goal to improve understanding and provide support for decision-making relevant to early childhood programs in Iowa. In a nutshell, it brings together information about key indicators into an interactive dashboard from federal, state, and local datasets covering more than a decade. IA Data Drive enables users to source, organize, and visualize data so it can be summarized effectively and used by people at all stages of the data-use spectrum.

Tools in IA Data Drive include maps and trend charts, data tables, and downloadable reports for further use or integration. It also provides accurate descriptions of the indicators, references to the data sources, and other important details. [IA Data Drive webpage](#) includes a manual and a navigation tutorial to help users maximize utility of the tools available in the dashboard.

### Data and Suppressed Values

IA Data Drive uses publicly available administrative data along with I2D2 data holdings to compute ECI approved indicators covering topics such as education, child health, available services, and others. It should be noted that some indicators were not available or could not be computed for all geographies (counties, ECI areas) due to data suppression implemented by (data-providing) agencies in order to protect confidentiality. Methods and thresholds applied to limit the disclosure of information varies among agencies.

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) suppressed any data (including aggregate counts and statistics) that were based on counts of **five or fewer** to comply with its [data policy](#). The same criterium was implemented by I2D2 for releasing indicators computed using I2D2 Vital Statics Birth Records data.

Data were also restricted for FAST outcomes in [ECI Kindergarten Assessment Tables](#). Data for districts with **less than 30** students tested were suppressed in the reports, therefore those school districts were not taken into account when computing county, ECI area, or statewide values.

There may also be suppressed values in the American Community Survey (ACS) data. In that case the suppressed values will be missing in the original data files. For additional information on ACS data suppression see the [Census Bureau website](#).