



*It is our belief that all young people should have the opportunity to be safe, healthy, successful, and prepared for the future.*

## All youth should have the benefit of **SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE FAMILIES**

This report is the first in a series of data briefs covering the youth development framework indicators developed by The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD)<sup>1</sup>. The framework has been broken down into four broad result areas as a guide for youth policy, planning activities, and monitoring of youth development outcomes.

The four result areas include:

1. All youth have safe and supportive families, schools, and communities
2. All youth are healthy and socially competent
3. All youth are successful in school
4. All youth are prepared for a productive adulthood.

Families play an important role in the life of a child and their impact on the successes of the child can not be overlooked. Three leading indicators were identified as a tool to measure progress in the area of safe and supportive families.

These three indicators, presented in this data brief are:

1. Rate or Incidence of Child Abuse
2. Family Support
3. Family Boundaries

### **Indicator 1: *Rate or Incidence of Child Abuse***

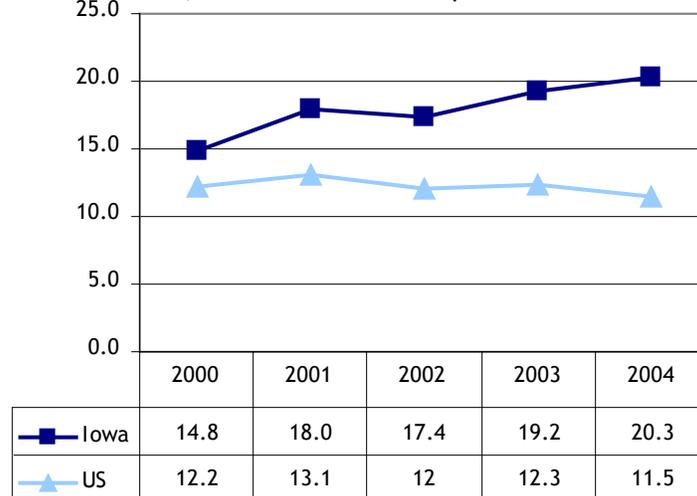
The rate or incidence of child abuse/neglect has been identified as one of the primary indicators of safe and supportive families. According to the Child Welfare League, Iowa consistently ranks higher than the national average for rate of substantiated or indicated victims of child abuse/neglect when compared to other states. Note that while some states use differentiated response to handle possible child abuse, Iowa does not.

The following chart shows that Iowa had more than 20 victims of child abuse or neglect per 1,000 children during the 2004 federal fiscal year. While the national figures indicate a reduction in child abuse/neglect based on unique or unduplicated cases from 2000 through 2004, there appears to be a small but steady increase in the number of victims in Iowa, a 3.7% increase from 2000 to 2004.

<sup>1</sup>The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development is a non-statutory network of state agencies committed to improving results among Iowa's youth. [www.icyd.com](http://www.icyd.com)

## Iowa and United States Child Abuse/Neglect Rates, 2000-2004<sup>2</sup>

Rate of Substantiated or Indicated Victims Per  
1,000 Children in the Population



The state of Iowa recognizes seven categories of child abuse/neglect and reports cases at the state and county levels for (1) Denial of Critical Care (DCC), (2) Physical Abuse, (3) Presence of Illegal Drugs (PIDS), (4) Sexual Abuse, (5) Child Prostitution, (6) Mental Injury, and (7) Manufacturing Methamphetamine in the Presence of a Minor.

When reporting data in these categories, The Iowa Department of Human Services uses the number of cases, not victims, so that one child could be included in one or more of the above categories and could appear in one category more than once. Of the seven above categories, the most prevalent form of child abuse in Iowa is denial of critical care, followed by physical abuse and illegal drugs.

*Denial of critical care*<sup>3</sup> can be defined as the failure of the person responsible for the care of a child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, and clothing or other care necessary for the child health and welfare.

*Physical abuse*<sup>3</sup> is defined as damage to any bodily tissue to the extent that the tissue must undergo a healing process in order to be restored to a sound and healthy condition or damage to any bodily tissue which results in the death of the person who has sustained the damage.

*Presence of illegal drugs*<sup>3</sup> occurs when an illegal drug is present in a child's body or a child is alleged to have been exposed to an illegal drug in a way that is reasonably believed would result in the drug being present in the child and is directly related to acts or omissions of the child's caretaker.

The following maps display the 2005 rate of child abuse in these three categories by county.

<sup>2</sup>Child Welfare League, National Data Analysis System, Number of Child Victims of Abuse and Neglect, 2000-2004. <http://www.cwla.org/ndas.htm>

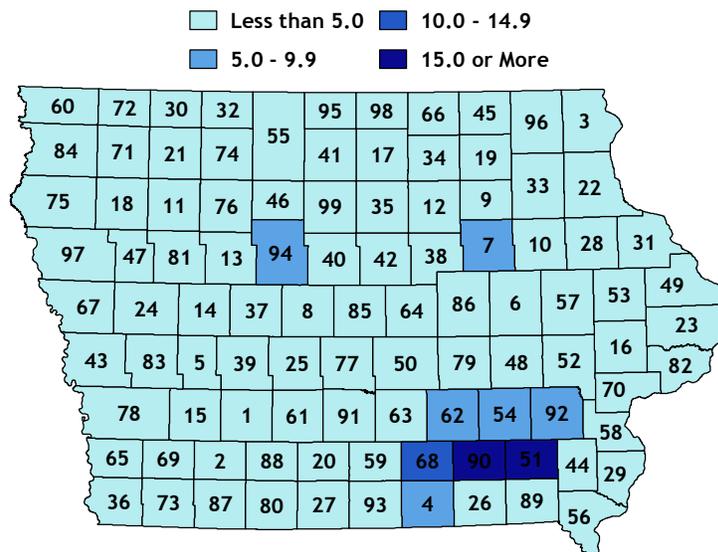
Notes: (1) Data represents unique (unduplicated) victims with substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect, based on the Federal fiscal year. (2) Population data used for rate calculations are estimates from the US Census, Current Population Survey. (3) States have different sets of criteria for screening in cases for investigation, and require different levels of evidence to substantiate or confirm cases.

<sup>3</sup>Iowa Department of Human Services. <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us>



## Child Abuse/Neglect in Iowa by County, 2005: Presence of Illegal Drugs<sup>5</sup>

Rate of Confirmed Cases of Presence of Illegal Drugs per 1,000 Children in the Population



Cases for presence of illegal drugs average 2.00 per 1,000 children statewide with the majority of counties reporting less than 5.00 per 1,000. The largest number of cases appears to be in the southeastern part of the state where three counties report 10.00 or more cases per 1,000 children.

### County List

|                |               |              |                  |               |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1-Adair        | 21-Clay       | 41-Hancock   | 61-Madison       | 81-Sac        |
| 2-Adams        | 22-Clayton    | 42-Hardin    | 62-Mahaska       | 82-Scott      |
| 3-Allamakee    | 23-Clinton    | 43-Harrison  | 63-Marion        | 83-Shelby     |
| 4-Appanoose    | 24-Crawford   | 44-Henry     | 64-Marshall      | 84-Sioux      |
| 5-Audubon      | 25-Dallas     | 45-Howard    | 65-Mills         | 85-Story      |
| 6-Benton       | 26-Davis      | 46-Humboldt  | 66-Mitchell      | 86-Tama       |
| 7-Black Hawk   | 27-Decatur    | 47-Ida       | 67-Monona        | 87-Taylor     |
| 8-Boone        | 28-Delaware   | 48-Iowa      | 68-Monroe        | 88-Union      |
| 9-Bremer       | 29-Des Moines | 49-Jackson   | 69-Montgomery    | 89-Van Buren  |
| 10-Buchanan    | 30-Dickinson  | 50-Jasper    | 70-Muscatine     | 90-Wapello    |
| 11-Buena Vista | 31-Dubuque    | 51-Jefferson | 71-O'Brien       | 91-Warren     |
| 12-Butler      | 32-Emmet      | 52-Johnson   | 72-Osceola       | 92-Washington |
| 13-Calhoun     | 33-Fayette    | 53-Jones     | 73-Page          | 93-Wayne      |
| 14-Carroll     | 34-Floyd      | 54-Keokuk    | 74-Palo Alto     | 94-Webster    |
| 15-Cass        | 35-Franklin   | 55-Kossuth   | 75-Plymouth      | 95-Winnebago  |
| 16-Cedar       | 36-Fremont    | 56-Lee       | 76-Pocahontas    | 96-Winneshiek |
| 17-Cerro Gordo | 37-Greene     | 57-Linn      | 77-Polk          | 97-Woodbury   |
| 18-Cherokee    | 38-Grundy     | 58-Louisa    | 78-Pottawattamie | 98-Worth      |
| 19-Chicasaw    | 39-Guthrie    | 59-Lucas     | 79-Poweshiek     | 99-Wright     |
| 20-Clarke      | 40-Hamilton   | 60-Lyon      |                  |               |

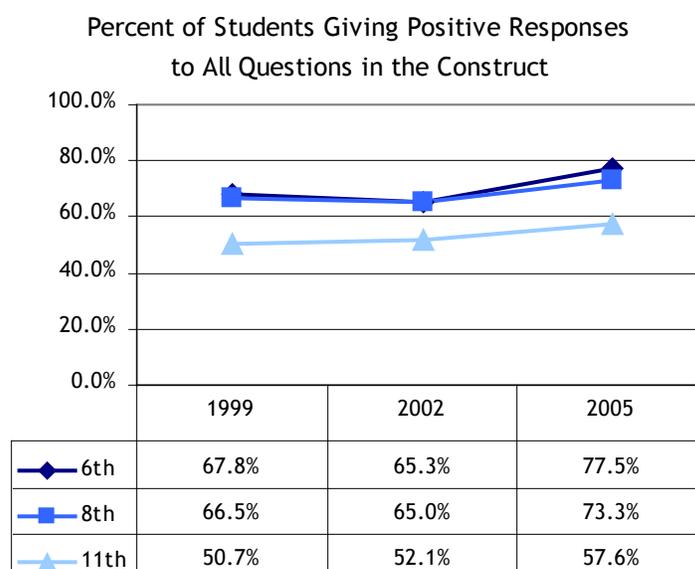
<sup>5</sup>Iowa Department of Human Services. [http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/reports\\_pubs/Child\\_Abuse\\_Statistics/Child%20Abuse%20Statistics.html](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/reports_pubs/Child_Abuse_Statistics/Child%20Abuse%20Statistics.html)

## Indicator 2: *Family Support*

The second indicator identified to measure safe and supportive families is family support. The family support indicator is based on a construct included in the Iowa Youth Survey (IYS), Family Involvement and Support. The IYS concentrates on youth behavior, attitudes, and perceptions and contains 32 constructs within eight identified domains. Six questions on the survey are included in the Family Involvement and Support construct:

1. A parent/guardian knows where I am and who I am with, especially in the evenings and on the weekends.
2. A parent/guardian checks to make sure I have done the things I am supposed to do (school homework, household chores, get home on time, etc).
3. A parent/guardian generally finds out if I have done something wrong, and then punishes me.
4. When I am doing a good job, someone in my home lets me know about it.
5. Someone in my home helps me with my school work.
6. At least one of my parents/guardians goes to school activities that I am involved in.

### IYS: Family Involvement and Support Construct, 1999-2005<sup>6</sup>



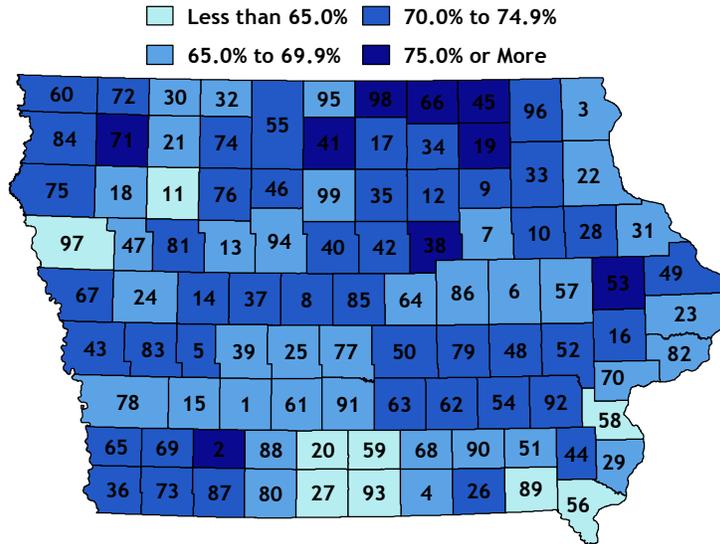
A comparison between 1999, 2002, and 2005 results show consistently high responses to the questions in this construct. There appears to be a substantial increase in the number of participants answering favorably towards the questions in the family involvement and support construct between 2002 and 2005 at all grade levels. Further analysis of the six individual questions indicated a positive trend at all grade levels for all questions.

Also, notice in the following map, that most of the counties who had the lowest percentage of students responding positively to the questions in the construct were in the southern part of the state and conversely, most of the counties who had the highest percentages were in the northern part of the state.

<sup>6</sup>Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Youth Survey Trend Report. <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org>

## IYS: Family Involvement and Support Construct, 2005<sup>7</sup>

Percentage of Students Giving Positive Responses to All Questions in the Construct



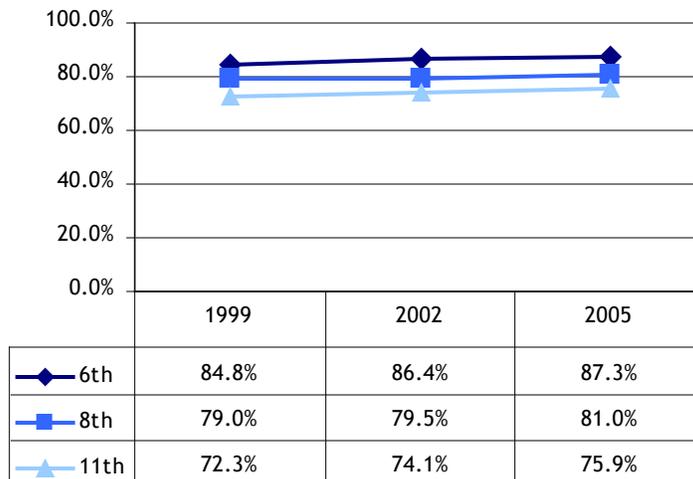
### Indicator 3: *Family Boundaries*

Family boundaries is the final leading indicator as set forth by the Iowa Youth Development Framework. It is also derived from an IYS construct, Parental/Guardian Boundaries. Two questions comprise the construct:

1. If I got in trouble at school for breaking a rule, at least one of my parents/guardians would support the school's disciplinary action.
2. In my home there are clear rules about what I can and cannot do.

## IYS: Parental/Guardian Boundaries Construct, 1999-2005<sup>7</sup>

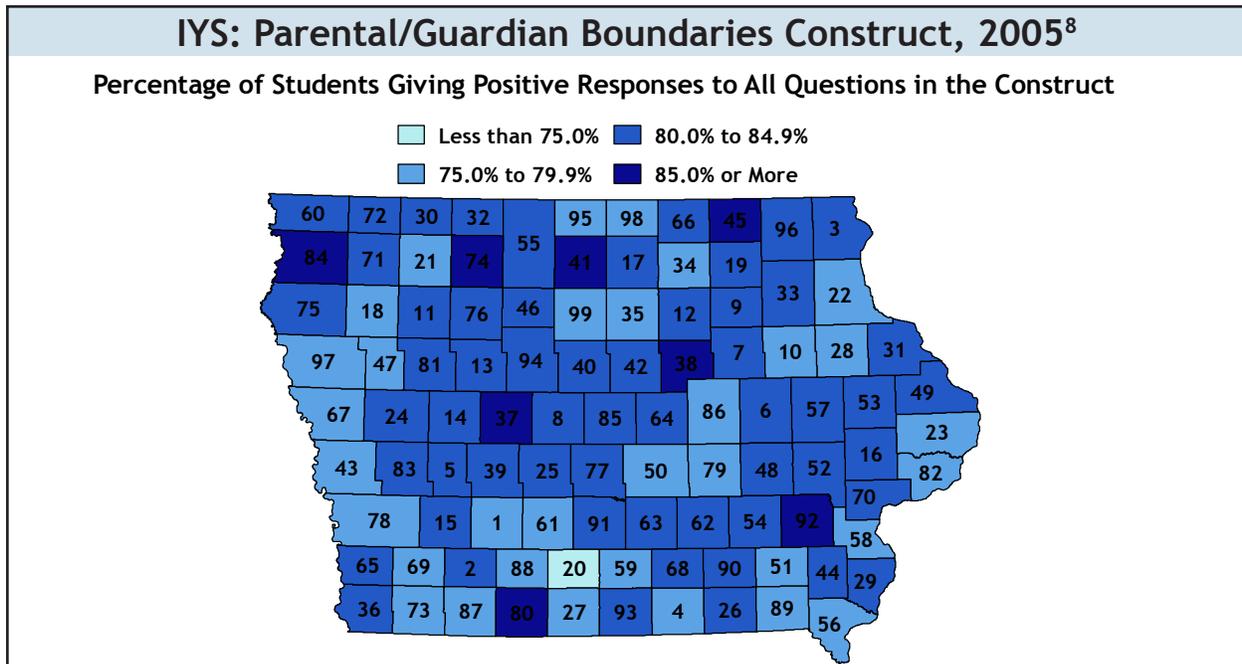
Percent of Students Giving Positive Responses to All Questions in the Construct



<sup>7</sup>Iowa Department of Public Health. <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org>

Student responses to the questions in this construct were consistently high in 1999, 2002, and 2005, with at least 72% of students responding favorably in each year. A slight increase at each grade-level can be found when comparing 1999, 2002 and 2005 results.

The following map shows that only one county had fewer than 75% of students who answered positively to the questions in this construct. The counties with 85% or more students answering positively to the questions in the construct appear to be spread throughout the state.



This data brief was prepared for ICYD through funding from the U.S. Department of Education through Grants to States to Improve Management of Drug and Violence Prevention Programs (Q184R040004). It is intended to inform interested parties of the progress the state of Iowa is making in improving on the result areas relative to youth development.

<sup>8</sup>Iowa Department of Public Health. <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org>