

Secure and Nurturing Families

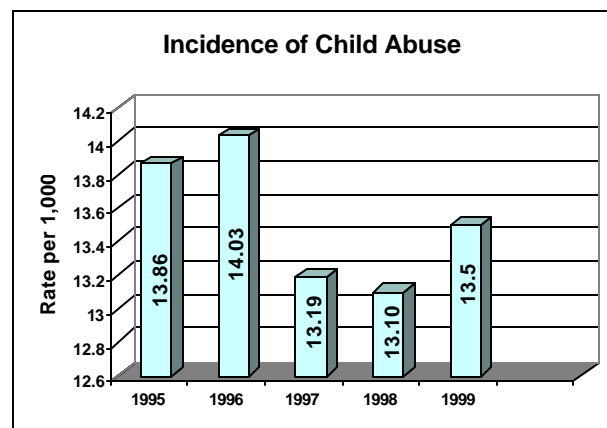
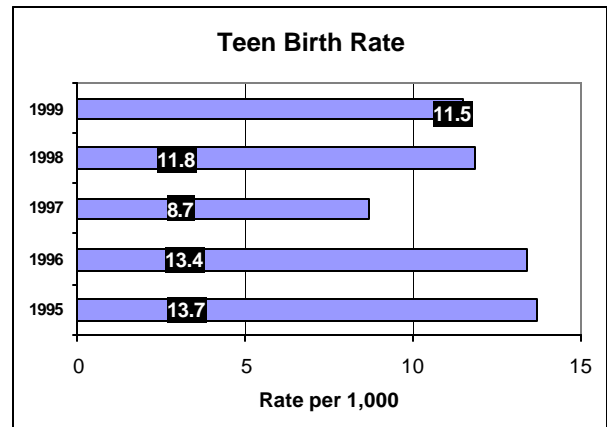
Community Empowerment strives to help families effectively fulfill their roles as primary providers, nurturers and teachers of their children. Community Empowerment provides families with advocacy, information, education, and support. Examples of services include family resource centers, training in parenting skills, parent education opportunities, family literacy and home visiting programs.

Families in Iowa have a great need for support:

- Iowa ranks 2nd in the nation in the percentage of families with preschool children in which all parents in the household are employed.
- The majority of mothers with children under the age of five are in the workforce.



The incidence of children, 0-17 years old, whose abuse has been confirmed has remained steady.



Progress Towards Results from Community Empowerment Areas

Secure and Nurturing Families

Linn County Empowerment

Local Identified Need/Priority:

Reduce the effects of family violence on children

Goal: 5% increase, by FY '07, in the number of children receiving therapy and the number of families receiving family support services

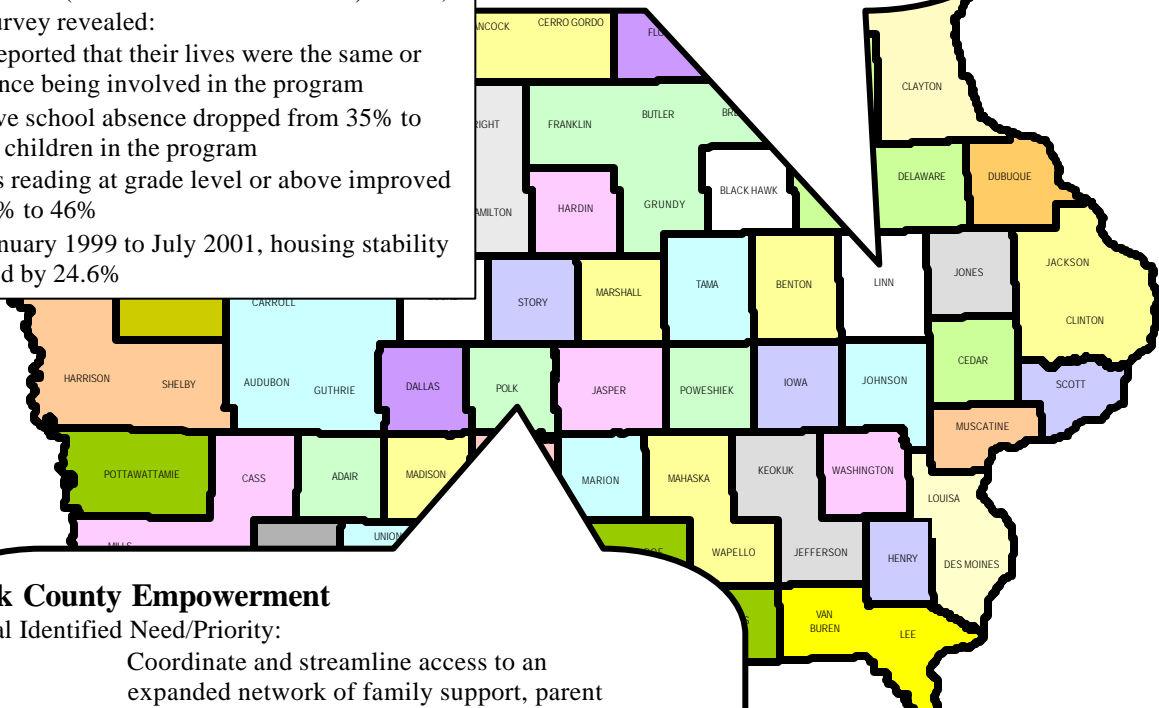
Local Indicator: Number of children receiving therapy; number of families receiving family support services

Strategy(ies): Develop and fund Family Violence Collaboration to improve service delivery and to reduce duplication

FY '01 Family Violence Collaboration reports:

Of the 63 families (79 adults and 153 children) served, a program survey revealed:

- 79.5% reported that their lives were the same or better since being involved in the program
- Excessive school absence dropped from 35% to 26% for children in the program
- Students reading at grade level or above improved from 29% to 46%
- From January 1999 to July 2001, housing stability improved by 24.6%



Polk County Empowerment

Local Identified Need/Priority:

Coordinate and streamline access to an expanded network of family support, parent education programs; including home visiting

Goal: Expand and enhance capacity of existing, effective family support programs to identify and serve more high-risk families

Local Indicator: Families practicing healthy behaviors with children

Strategy(ies): Family Support Pool, coordinated by Healthy Families & Visiting Nurses

According to agency surveys and client questionnaires of the 407 families served:

- 90% screened for indicators of child abuse
- 80% had current immunizations
- 90% of pregnant mothers referred for services