

Quad
Counties 4
Kids Early
Childhood
Area
Community
Plan

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Early Childhood Iowa History: State and Local

State History:

Iowa's Community Empowerment was established during the 1998 legislative session in an effort to create a partnership between communities and State government with an emphasis to improve the well-being of families with young children. Within local empowerment areas, local citizens were able to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health and human service programs.

The 2010 legislative session brought about some changes in Iowa's early childhood structure. Prior to this legislative session, Iowa's youngest children were served through a partnership between Community Empowerment and the Early Childhood Stakeholder's Council (ECI). Both groups had served as leading advocates for young children and their families for several years.

In an effort to work toward a common vision of a comprehensive early care, health, and education system, the Iowa Legislature established Senate File 2088, calling for a merger of Community Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa into one inclusive structure. These efforts lead to the name change from Community Empowerment to Early Childhood Iowa.

Iowa is committed to achieving results and every community in Iowa has the opportunity to develop the capacity and commitment for achieving these results:

- Healthy Children
- Children Ready to Succeed in School
- Safe and Nurturing Families
- Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
- Safe and Supportive Communities

The Early Childhood Iowa legislation established two specific programs *School Ready* and *Early Childhood*. These programs provide funding to encourage communities to "work together" to assist families with children ages prenatal through age five.

School Ready Grants provide comprehensive services for children prenatal through age five, including early learning environments (preschool and child care), family support and other services. Early Childhood Grants enhance the quality and capacities of child care services.

History of Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Area

In June 2009 the State Empowerment Board, now known as the State Early Childhood Iowa Board, went through a "lean" event. The purpose of the lean event was to improve efficiencies at the state level, improve efficiencies at the local level, find balances between the local and state level, clarify roles and responsibilities, and improve performance and accountability. In the 2010 legislative session, legislators embraced the lean event recommendations and implemented many of the State Empowerment

recommendations. Merging of Empowerment Boards, now known as Early Childhood Iowa Areas, was one of the new requirements.

The merger conversation among Adams, Ringgold and Union Counties started in early 2010. After numerous conversations it was determined that there were commonalities in the counties that made the merger of the three into a new area a logical next step. On March 29, 2010 a joint meeting of the three boards with 14 in attendance was held in Creston. Steve Adams, ISU Extension, led the group through a SWOT analysis which was very beneficial as the merger process began in earnest. Taylor County had chosen to explore other options at that time.

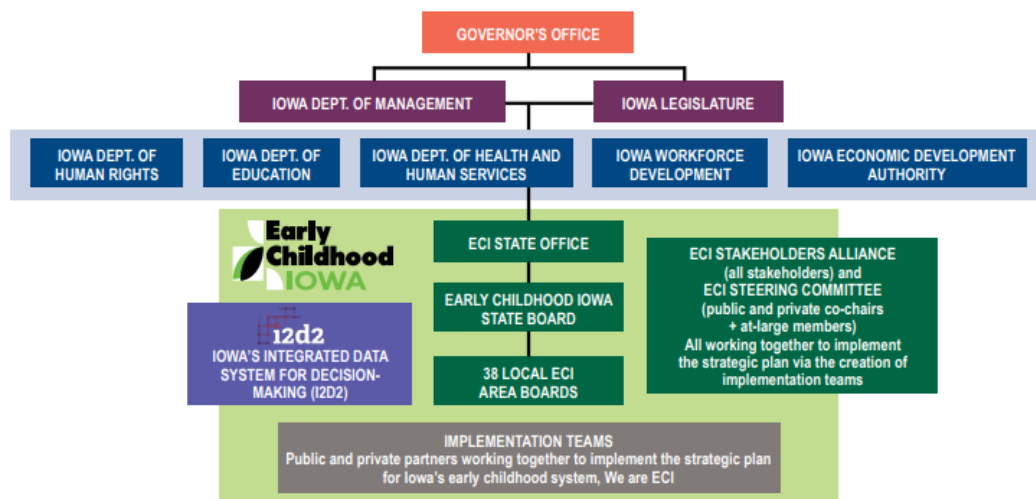
Three committees were formed with each having assigned tasks. There was equal representation on these committees from the three counties. One Director/Coordinator served as the contact and collector of information for each of the committees. All committees came together on an as needed basis to report progress and gather additional input. In the fall of 2010, the three individual boards chose to delay the merger process until the legislatively mandated date of July 1, 2013. The three committees continued to meet but work was done at a more leisurely pace. All counties were still in agreement on the merge and stayed in contact through their directors.

Taylor County formally requested permission to join with Adams, Ringgold and Union Counties to form a four-county area in the fall of 2011. By December 31, 2011 all three of the individual county boards had voted to accept the Taylor County request to become part of the new area. State ECI Staff was notified that we were ready to move forward. A joint meeting of the boards was convened January 31, 2012 at which time Taylor County accepted the work that had been done previously by the merger committees.

On July 1, 2023, Early Childhood Iowa will become part of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a new organizational structure for state government goes into effect. Government departments and agencies that provide related services or have similar business functions are aligning to better serve Iowans. You can expect the same quality services you get now from Early Childhood Iowa to continue as usual. Our goal is to meet your needs more efficiently and effectively through better coordination as one team.

Early Childhood Iowa Structure

EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA STRUCTURE



ECI State Board

The Early Childhood Iowa State Board provides oversight of the ECI Area Boards to provide governance for planning and collaboration of services to support young children and their families. There are currently 38 area boards that cover all of Iowa's 99 counties. The ECI State Board includes citizen members appointed by the Governor, the agency directors (or designees) of the Departments of Education, Economic Development Authority, Human Rights, Health and Human Services, and Workforce Development, and ex-officio legislators.

ECI Local Area Boards

The 38 ECI Area boards are charged to reach the desired results to improve the quality of life for young children and their families at a local level. These local boards consist of citizens, elected officials, and representatives of education, health, human services, faith, business, and consumers and work together with other early childhood partners, including program and service providers and other early childhood funders.

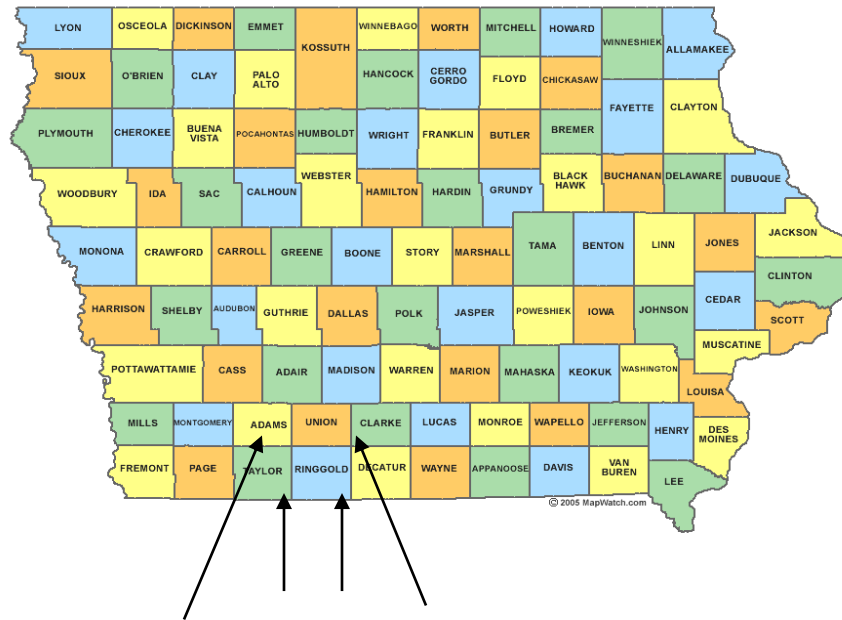
Use of Community Plan:

As outlined in Tool NN, Early Childhood Area community plan template, the Quad Counties 4 Kids Community Plan "is a living, breathing document that guides the work of the local Early Childhood Iowa Area (ECIA) board and community". The plan was written with the assistance of community partners using a needs assessment survey and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis (SWOT) along with program participant surveys. It is used to assist the Board and community partners to build a strong local early care, health and education system that exists for children ages prenatal through five years within the Quad Counties 4 Kids boundary area. The plan identifies community assets, common needs and gaps in services. The document guides planning and decision making, addresses sustainability and is a tool that can be utilized by the community as a whole.

Copies of the community plan are distributed to partners and the community as a whole thru an email distribution list. More information about the Quad Counties 4 Kids Area and community plan can be obtained by contacting the Area Director at quad.kfc@gmail.com or 641-247-1261.

SECTION 1: General Information

Identification of Early Childhood Area/Geographical Composition



Adams County is situated in southwest Iowa in the second tier of counties and is the state’s smallest county. It is a rural and economically depressed area dependent on industry located both within the county as well as outside the county, and agriculture within the county. Adams County is composed of the following incorporated communities and their surrounding areas.

• Carbon	• Corning	• Nodaway	• Prescott
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Ringgold County is a rural county in South Central Iowa that is economically depressed and dependent on local industry and agriculture. More precisely it is in the southern tier of counties in Iowa on the Missouri border and is the 4th county east of the Missouri River. Agriculture is the major economic engine driving the county. Ringgold County is composed of the following incorporated communities and their surrounding areas.

• Beaconsfield	• Benton	• Delphos	• Ellston
• Diagonal	• Kellerton	• Maloy	• Mount Ayr
• Redding	• Tingley		

Taylor County is located in extreme southwest Iowa in the lower tier of counties bordering Missouri. It is a rural and economically depressed area dependent on industry located outside the county and agriculture within the county. Taylor County is composed of the following incorporated communities and their surrounding areas.

• Bedford	• Clearfield	• Gravity	• New Market
• Blockton	• Conway	• Lenox	• Sharpsburg

Union County is situated in southwest Iowa in the 2nd tier of counties, 75 miles southwest of Des Moines and 100 miles southeast of Omaha. It is a rural and economically depressed area dependent on industry located within the county and agriculture within the county. Union County is composed of the following incorporated communities and their surrounding areas.

• Afton	• Arispe	• Creston	• Cromwell
• Lorimor	• Shannon City	• Thayer	

Children prenatal through age five and their families living within these counties are eligible for services funded by Quad Counties 4 Kids. Procedures are in place for services to be provided to families that cross ECI areas.

County Population and Area

	Adams County	Ringgold County	Taylor County	Union County
Founded	1851	1847	1847	1851
Sq. Miles	424	538	534	424

Population Histories (Data Source U.S. Census Bureau)

Census	Adams		Ringgold		Taylor		Union	
	Pop	% ±	Pop	% ±	Pop	% ±	Pop	% ±
1850					204	---		
1860	1,533	---	2,923	---	3,590	1,659.8%	2,012	---
1870	4,614	201.0%	5,691	94.7%	6,989	97.7%	5,986	197.5%
1880	11,888	157.7%	12,085	112.54%	15,635	123.7%	14,980	150.3%
1890	12,292	3.4%	13,556	12.2%	16,384	4.8%	16,900	12.8%
1900	13,601	10.6%	15,325	13.0%	18,784	14.6%	19,928	17.9%
1910	10,998	-19.1%	12,904	-15.8%	16,312	-13.2%	16,616	-16.6%
1920	10,521	-4.3%	12,919	0.1%	15,514	-4.9%	17,268	3.9%
1930	10,437	-0.8%	11,966	-7.4%	14,859	-4.2%	17,435	1.0%
1940	10,156	-2.7%	11,137	-6.9%	14,258	-4.0%	16,280	-6.6%
1950	8,853	-13.8%	9,528	-14.4%	12,420	-12.9%	15,651	-3.9%

1960	7,468	-14.7%	7,910	-17.0%	10,288	-17.2%	13,712	-12.4%
1970	6,322	-15.3%	6,373	-19.4%	8,790	-14.6%	13,557	-1.1%
1980	5,731	-9.3%	6,112	-4.1%	8,353	-5.0%	13,858	2.2%
1990	4,866	-15.1%	5,420	-11.3%	7,114	-14.8%	12,750	-8.0%
2000	4,482	-7.9%	5,469	0.9%	6,958	-2.2%	12,309	-3.5%
2010	4,029	-10.1%	5,131	-6.2%	6,317	-9.2%	12,534	1.8%
2018	3,645	-9.5%	4,968	-3.2%	6,191	-2.0%	12,359	-1.4%
2020	3,704	1.6%	4,663	-6.1%	5,896	-4.8%	12,138	-1.8%
2022 Est	3,611	-2.6%	4,670	0.2%	5,858	-0.6%	11,887	-2.1%

The populations of all counties peaked in the 1900 census. This is reflective of the immigration boom that took place throughout the country at that time. Iowa overall has had a population increase of 36.9% since 1910. This growth has mostly occurred in metropolitan areas with rural population experiencing declines. Currently only ¼ of total population of Iowa lives in rural counties. Low population areas are dominated by jobs in agriculture with fewer jobs in higher skilled services like finance, insurance and real estate. Counties with the smallest populations in 2022 estimates in Iowa were Adams (3,611) which was the smallest, followed by Ringgold (4,670) ranked second smallest, and Taylor ranked as fourth (5,858). These are three of the four counties making up the Quad Counties Area.

Quad Counties 4 Kids Vision:

“Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.”

Early Childhood Iowa is tasked with ensuring that our young children are healthy, ready to succeed in school, grow up in safe and supportive communities with secure and nurturing families, and have access to secure and nurturing early learning environments.

All four counties continue to be united in their belief that Quad Counties 4 Kids Area Board ensures that services are provided to children and their families; there is continued collaboration with other community agencies and organizations; and recognized data and assessments are utilized for decision making.

Quad Counties 4 Kids Mission:

We will collaborate as a four-county area to enhance the lives of children 0-5 and their families.

This has been the Board’s mission since the merger in FY2013.

ECI Result Areas

The Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Area Board will strive to serve children birth to five and their families focusing on these five areas as identified by the State Early Childhood Iowa Board:

- **Healthy Children**
- **Secure and Nurturing Families**
- **Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments**
- **Children Ready to Succeed in School**
- **Safe and Supportive communities**



Area Demographic Profile

Population and % Minority

(Source: I2D2: Iowa Population Estimates 2021 US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates)

	Population				% Minority		
	Under 3	Under 5	Under 6	Total	Under 5	Under 18	Total
	113,759	194,570	235,958	742,175	25.8%	24.1%	15.6%
Adams	111	207	256	794	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%
Ringgold	144	288	330	1,149	8.7%	9.4%	5.2%
Taylor	209	333	397	1,388	7.8%	15.6%	10.9%
Union	439	677	766	2,761	10.2%	9.3%	6.4%

All counties in the area continue to have an increase in Hispanic or Latino residents. Taylor County has the largest % of population who fit into this group. Lenox in particular has a larger concentration of Hispanics/Latinos. There are four large employers in Lenox, a food processing plant Michael Foods, Precision Pulley and Idler, Dalton Ag and AgriVision Equipment.

Other Information of Interest

Births

Adams, Ringgold and Union Counties each have a hospital, however Greater Regional Medical Center in Union County is the only hospital that delivers babies. There are no hospitals in Taylor County. Secondary hospital care is received in Clarinda, Iowa (22 miles away), Corning, Iowa (22 miles away), Mt. Ayr, Iowa (28 miles away), Creston, Iowa (50 miles away) and Maryville, Missouri (25 miles away). Tertiary care is a minimum of 110 miles away. Taylor County is designated as a federal medically underserved area while both Taylor and Ringgold are designated as dental shortage areas.

SECTION II: Community Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment / Data Analysis

The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) provides resources and tools to help every community in the state with developing capacity to 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.

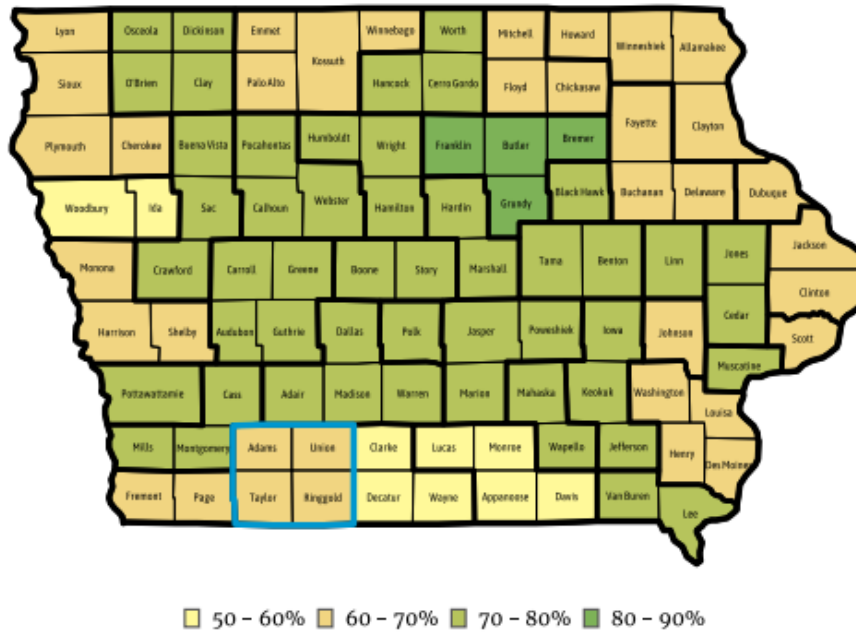
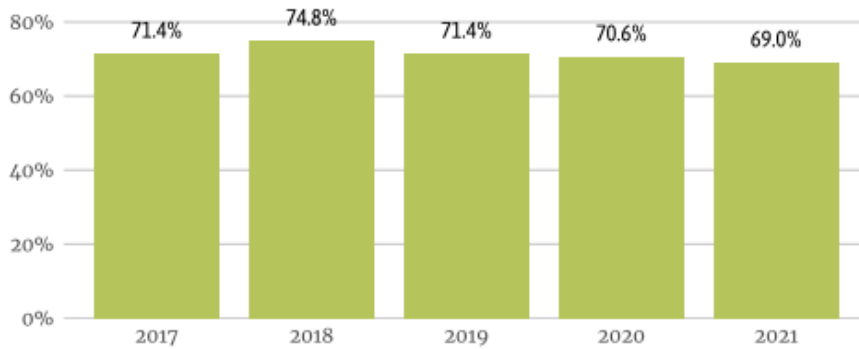
Taken together, these indicators provide a useful overview of the multiple dimensions of child wellbeing that may impact quality of life for Iowa's young children and their families. The ECI State Board regularly reviews and approves an updated list of indicators. Indicator and Data Dictionary Tool includes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

Iowa Data Drive Annual Report 2022 Data was reviewed and highlights in the Quad Counties 4 Kids area included data in the result areas for our community needs assessment, along with county health needs and priorities, child care data and board swot analysis.

RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

Immunized Children

In 2021 **69.0%** of children were fully immunized by age 2 in **Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area** compared to the statewide value of **71.0%**. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked **28th** among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.

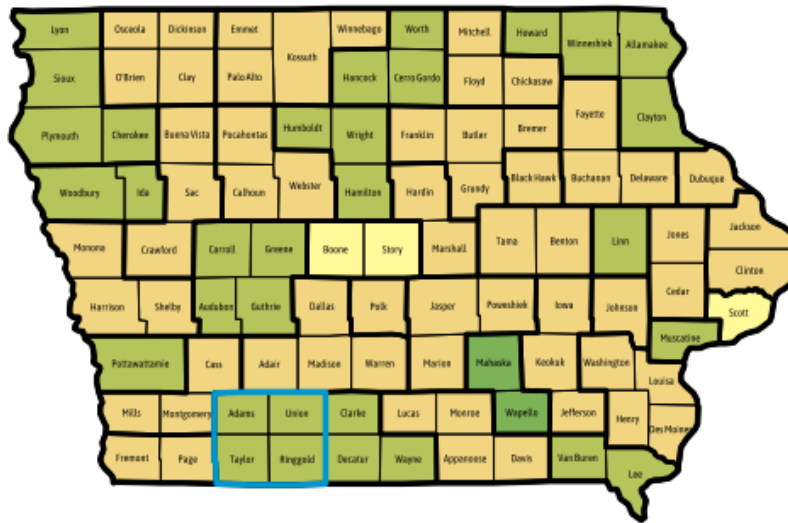
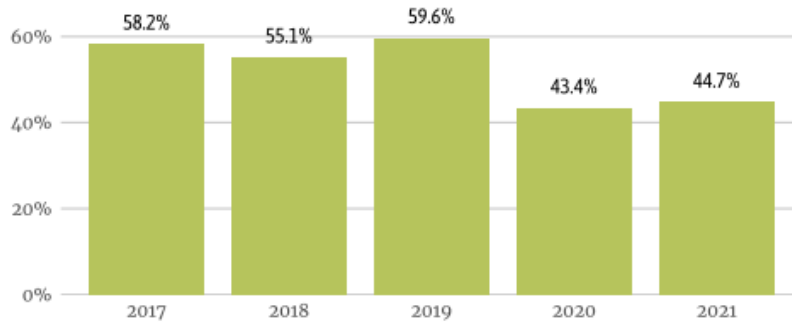


Immunized Children by County			
Adams: 68.2%	Ringgold: 75.6%	Taylor: 65.9%	Union: 69.0%

RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

Dental Services

In 2021 44.7% of Medicaid-enrolled children under age 6 received dental services in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 38.4%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 3rd among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.



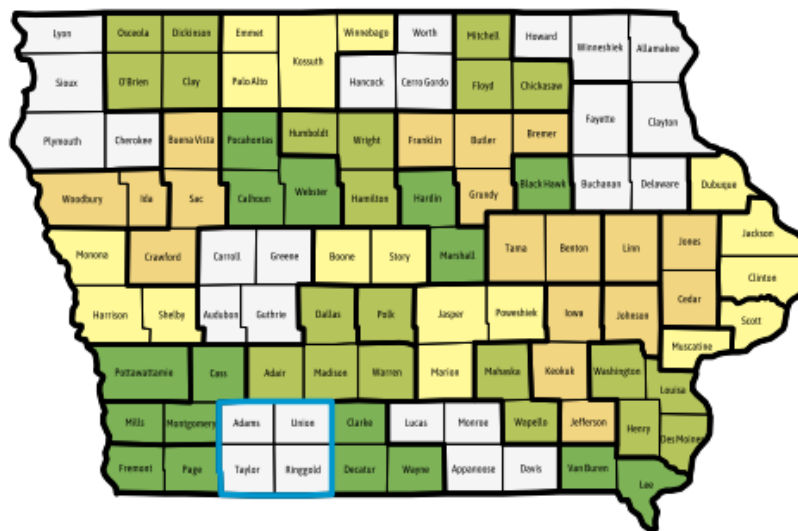
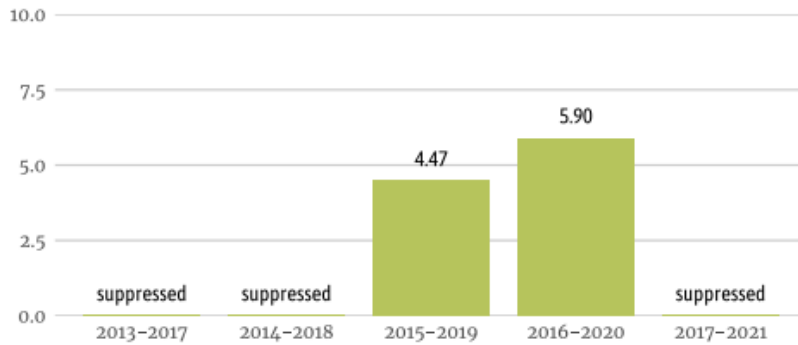
20 - 30% 30 - 40% 40 - 50% 50 - 60%

Medicaid Enrolled Children Received Dental Services by County			
Adams: 34.4%	Ringgold: 43.1%	Taylor: 44.3%	Union: 48.7%

RESULT AREA: Healthy Children

Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality could not be computed for Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area due to suppressed data for one or more comprising counties in 2017-2021. The statewide value for that year was 4.65.



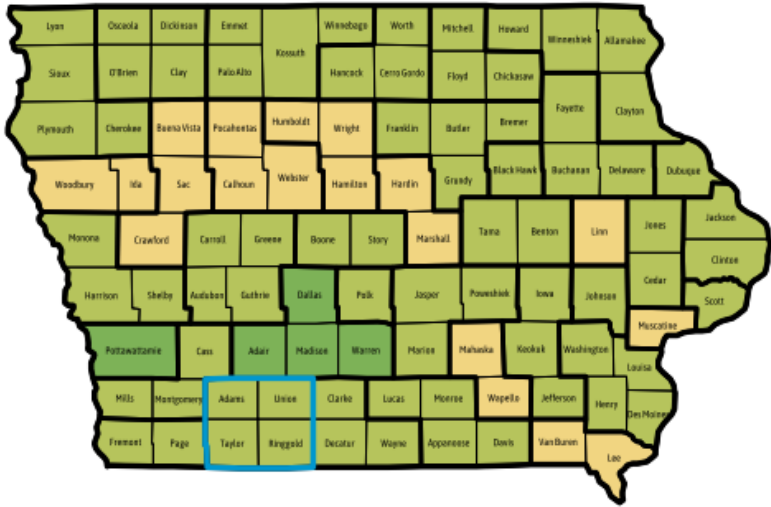
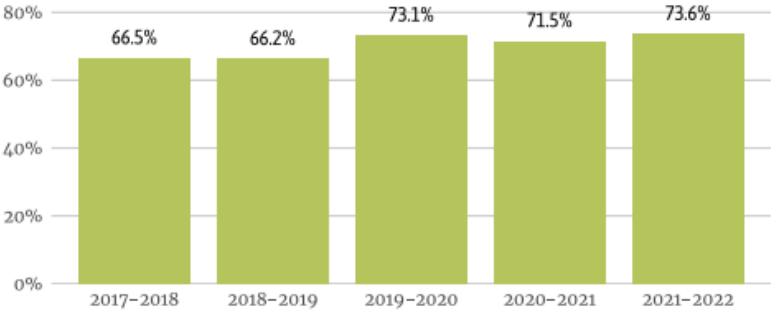
0 - 3.8 3.8 - 4.7 4.7 - 5.5 5.5 - 10 suppressed

Infant Mortality by County 2017-2021 (infants younger than 1 year of age per 1,000 births)			
Adams: 5	Ringgold: 5 or fewer	Taylor: 9	Union: 6

RESULT AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School

Early Literacy Skills

In 2021-2022 73.6% of kindergartners met the fall benchmark for the early literacy universal screening measure requirements in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 65.8%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 7th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021-2022.



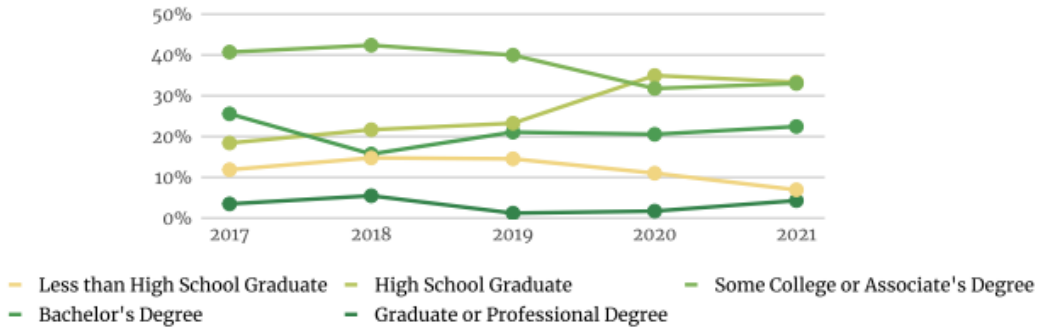
20 - 40% 40 - 60% 60 - 80% 80 - 100%

Early Literacy Skills by County			
Adams: 87.1%	Ringgold: 74.5%	Taylor: 78.8%	Union: 66.7%

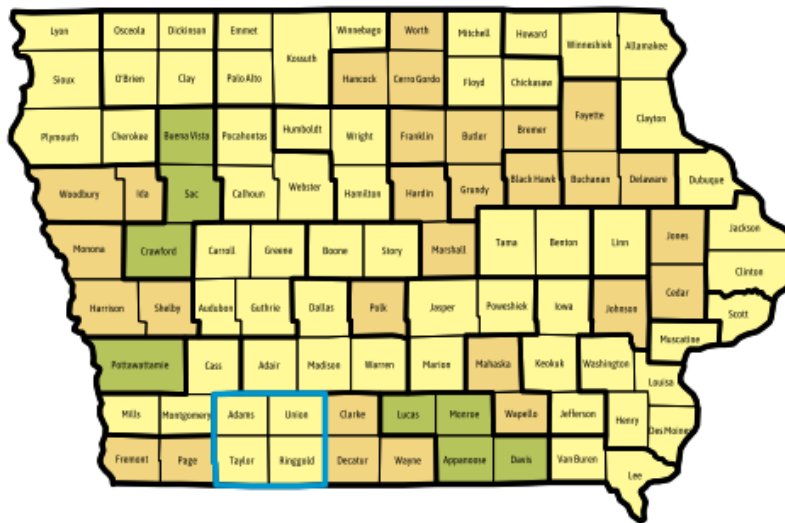
RESULT AREA: Children Ready to Succeed in School

Educational Attainment of Mothers

In 2021 6.9% of mothers age 15 to 50 had less than high school education in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 9.8%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 22nd among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.



Mothers with Less than High School Education



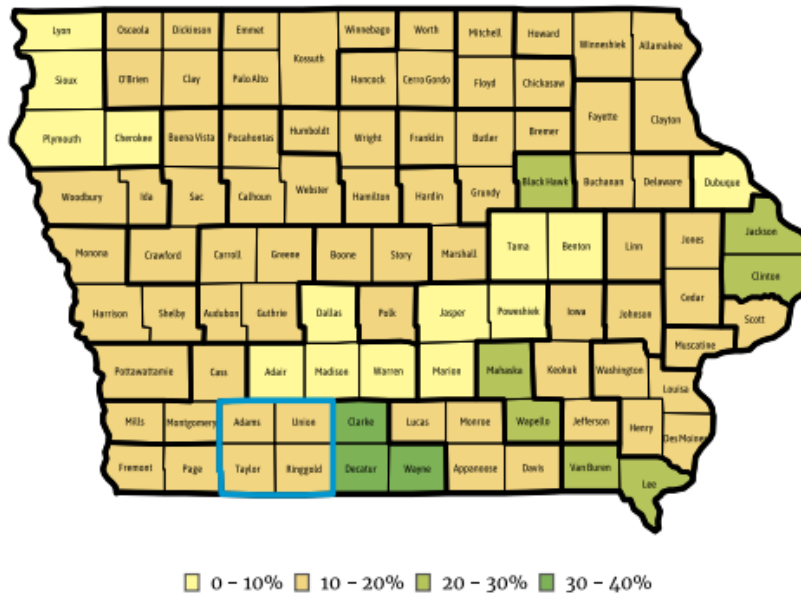
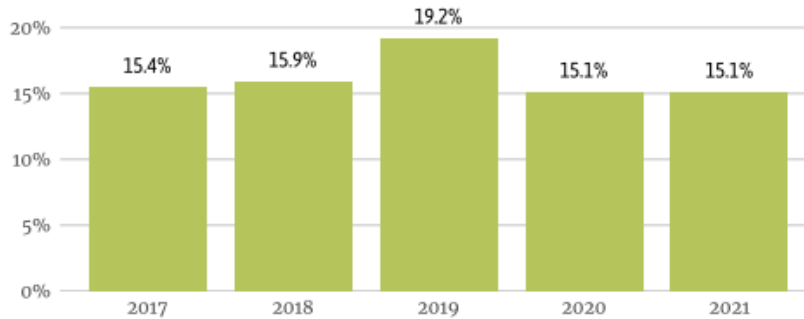
0 - 10% 10 - 20% 20 - 30%

Education Attainment by County			
Adams: 6.2%	Ringgold: 15.8%	Taylor: 0%	Union: 8.3%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Children in Poverty

In 2021 15.1% of children under age 6 lived in low-income (below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level) families in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 14.7%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 20th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.

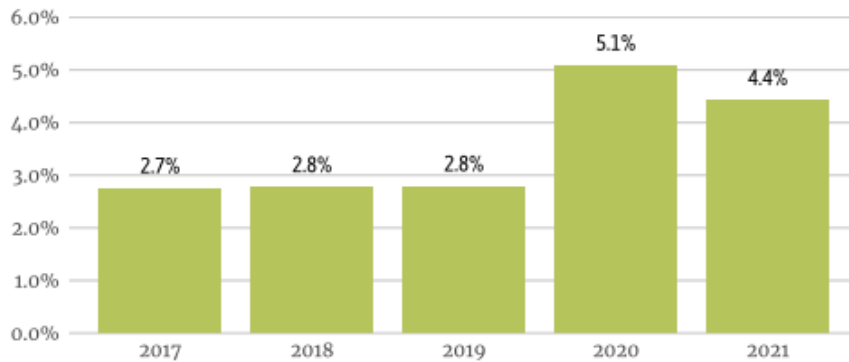


Children in Poverty by County			
Adams: 15.2%	Ringgold: 19.9%	Taylor: 7.3%	Union: 17.0%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Unemployment

In 2021 4.4% of people were unemployed in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 4.2%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 13th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.

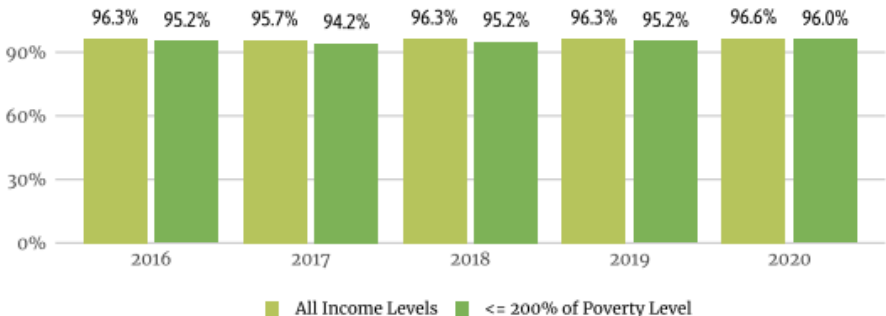


Unemployment by County			
Adams: 5.0%	Ringgold: 4.2%	Taylor: 3.2%	Union: 4.9%

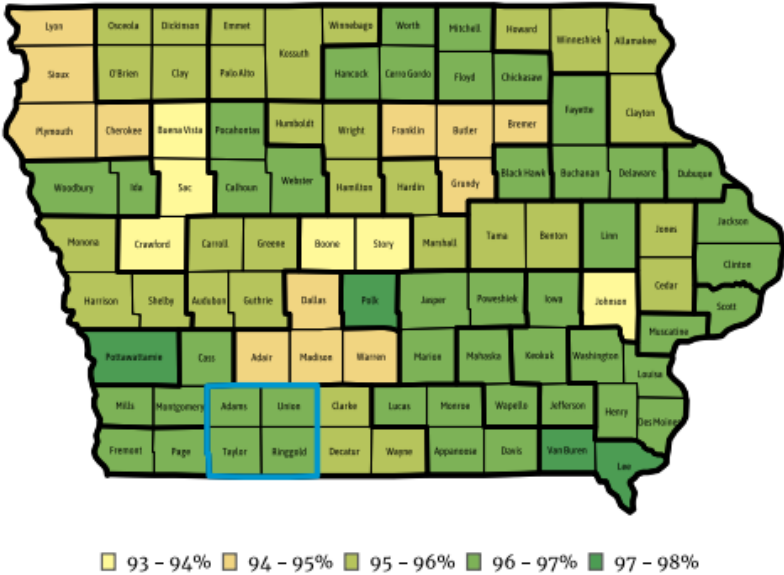
RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Children with Health Coverage

In 2020 96.0% of minors living in low-income (at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) families had health coverage in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 96.1%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 22nd among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.



Children in Families Living Below 200% of Poverty Level

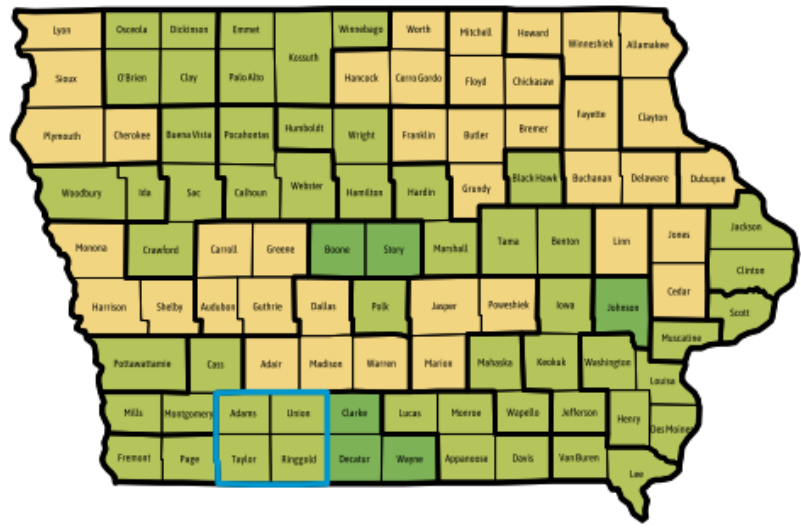
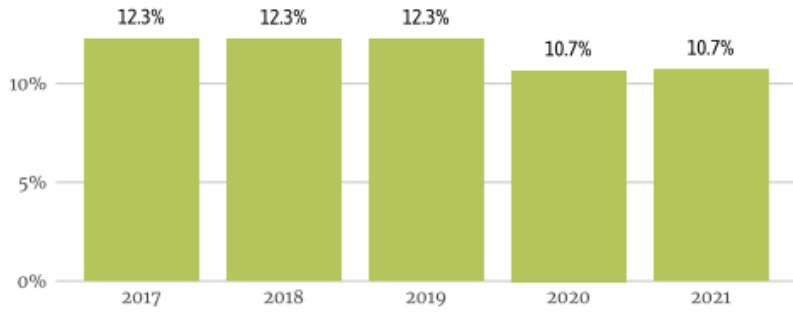


Children with Health Coverage by County			
Adams: 95.6%	Ringgold: 95.3%	Taylor: 95.4%	Union: 96.7%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

All People in Poverty

In 2021 10.7% of people lived in poverty (with household income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level) in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 11.0%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 20th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.

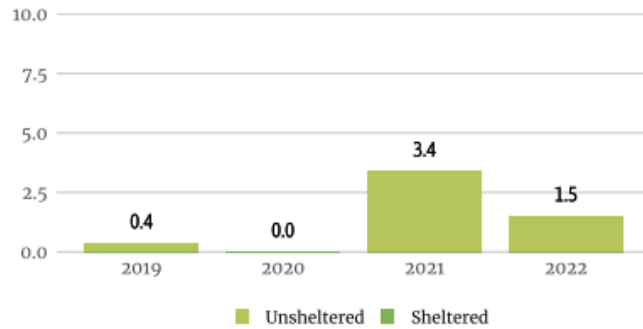


Poverty by County			
Adams: 11.7%	Ringgold: 9.4%	Taylor: 7.7%	Union: 12.4%

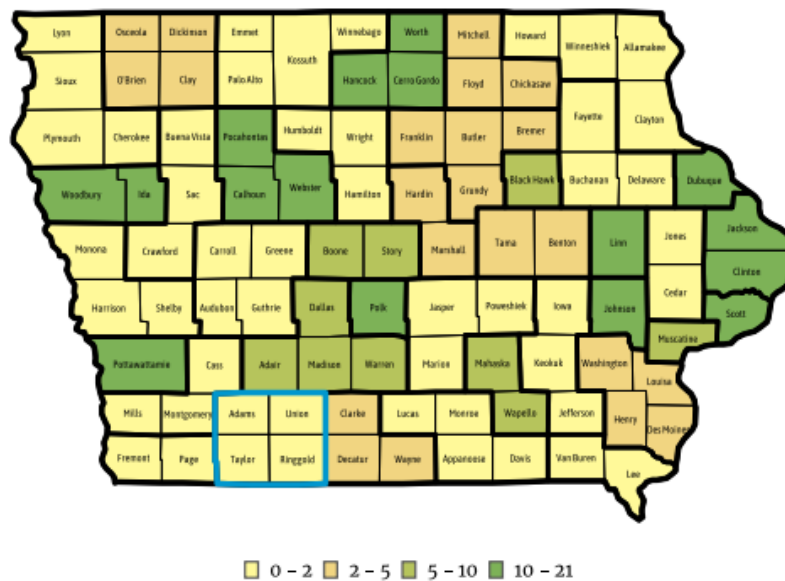
RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Homelessness Count

In 2022 2 per 10,000 population were homeless (point in time) in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide rate of 8.3. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 23rd among all 38 ECI areas in 2022.



Total Homeless (Sheltered and Unsheltered)

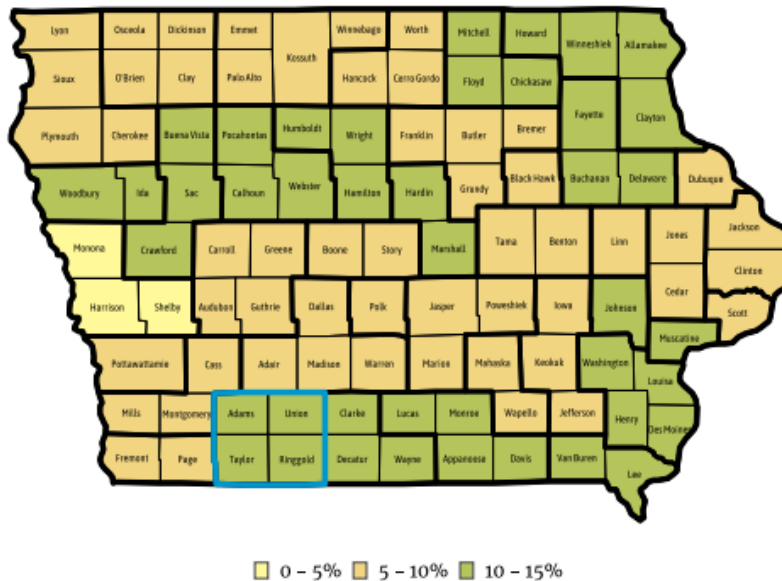
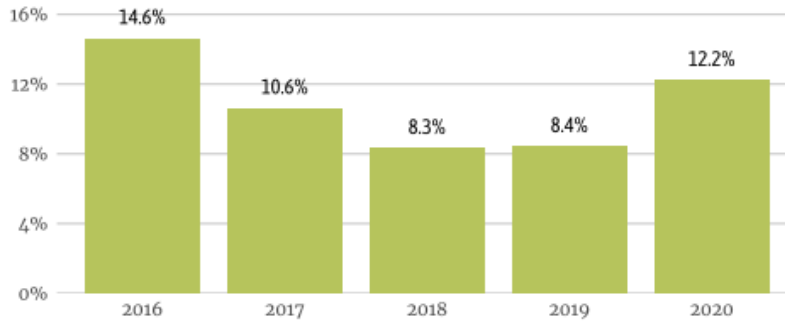


Homelessness by County			
Adams: 0	Ringgold: 4	Taylor: 0	Union: 2

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Individual Birth Risk – Inadequate Prenatal Care

In 2020 12.2% of children were born with inadequate prenatal care in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 8.5%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 8th among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.

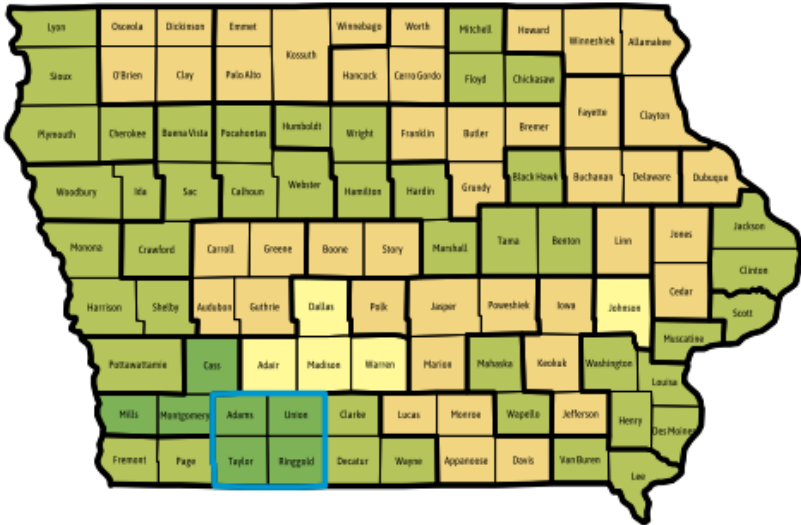
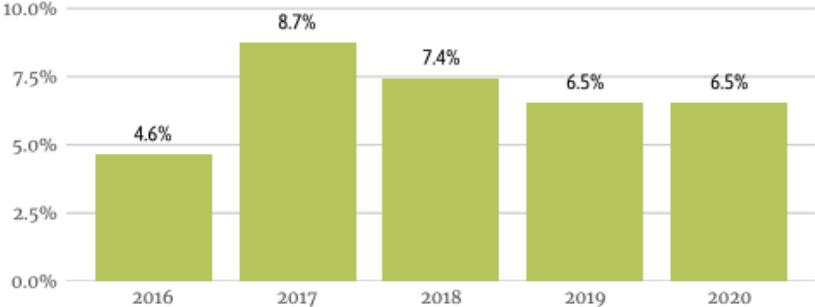


Inadequate Prenatal Care by County			
Adams: 5 or Fewer	Ringgold: 16.7%	Taylor: 20.0%	Union: 9.4%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Individual Birth Risk - Teenage Mother

In 2020 6.5% of children were born of teenage mothers (at birth) in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 3.9%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 2nd among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.



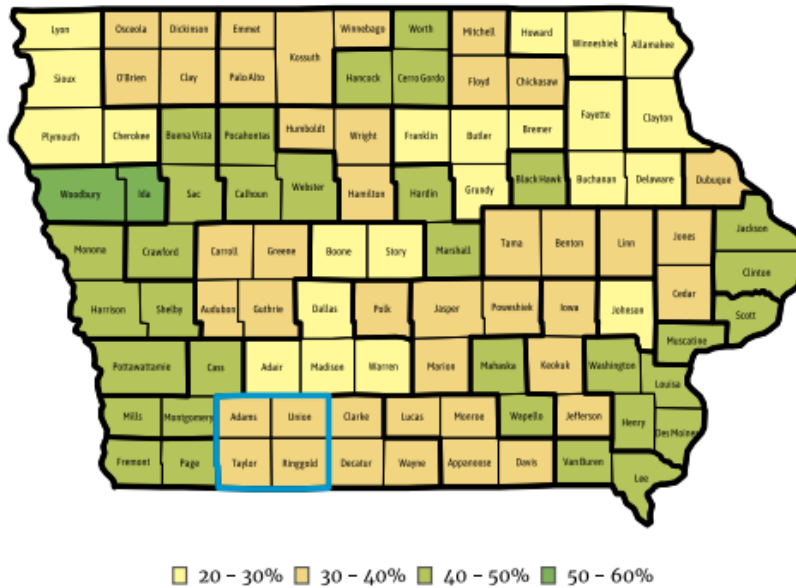
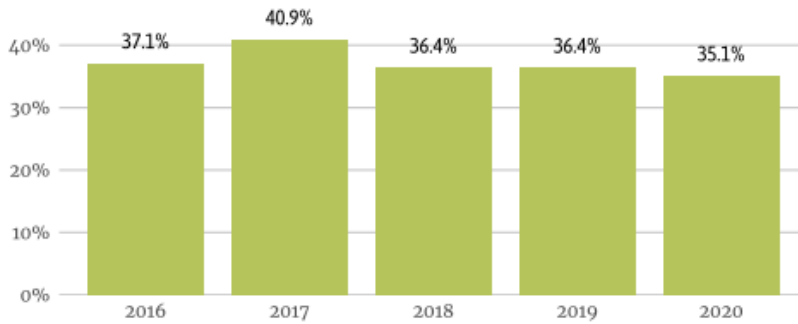
0 - 2% 2 - 4% 4 - 6% 6 - 8%

Births: Teenage Mother by County			
Adams: 5 or Fewer	Ringgold: 5 or Fewer	Taylor: 5 or Fewer	Union: 7.9%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Individual Birth Risk - Unmarried Mother

In 2020 35.1% of children were born of unmarried mothers (at birth) in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 36.4%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 24th among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.

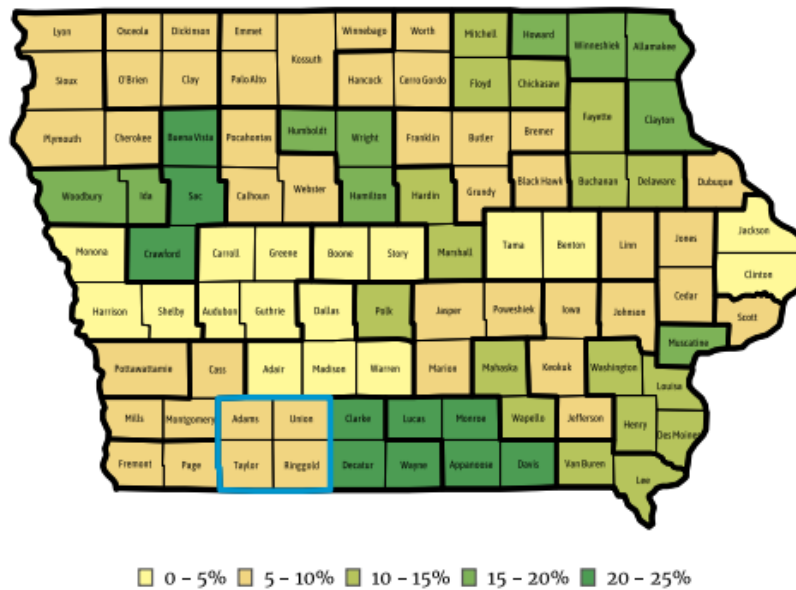
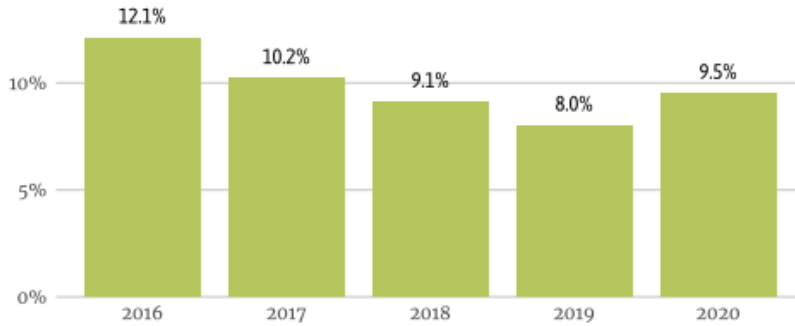


Births: Unmarried Mothers by County			
Adams: 28.6%	Ringgold: 33.3%	Taylor: 40.0%	Union: 36.2%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Individual Birth Risk - Low Maternal Education at Birth

In 2020 9.5% of children were born of mothers having low education (at birth) in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 9.3%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 17th among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.

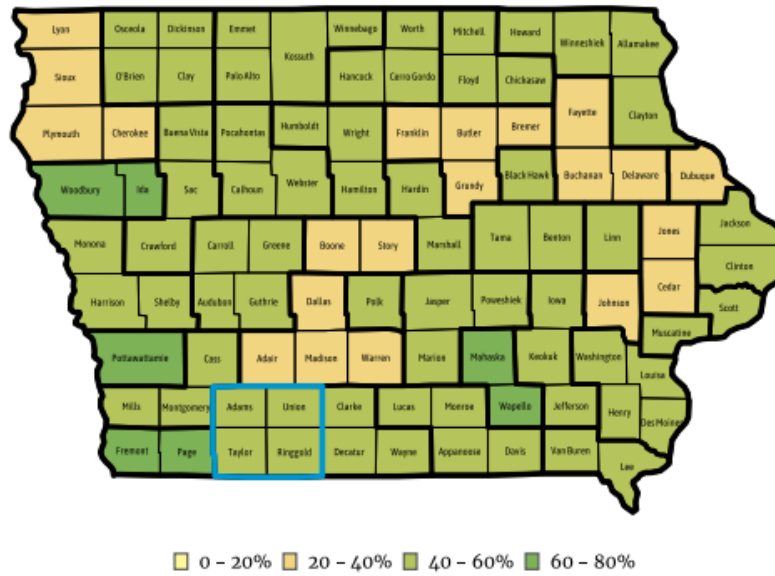
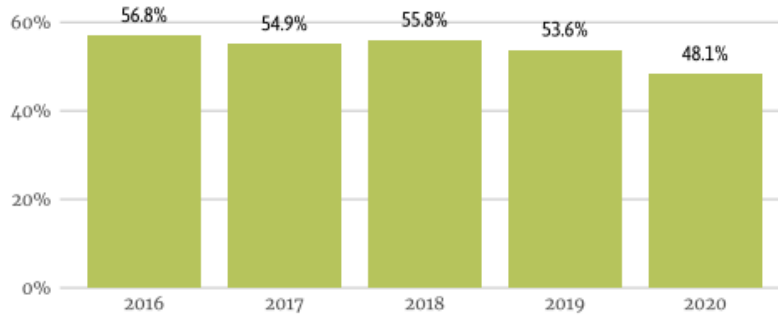


Births Low Maternal Education by County			
Adams: 5 or Fewer	Ringgold: 16.7%	Taylor: 5 or Fewer	Union: 10.2%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Individual Birth Risk - Poverty at Birth

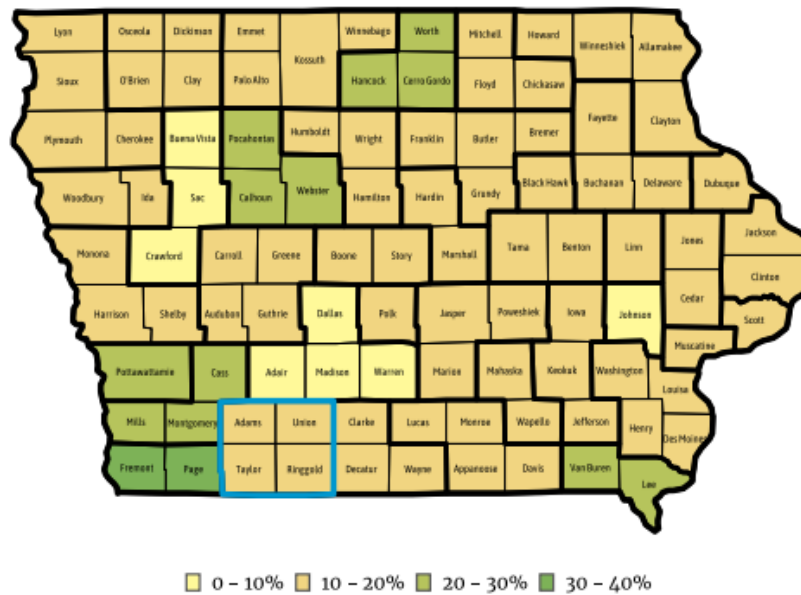
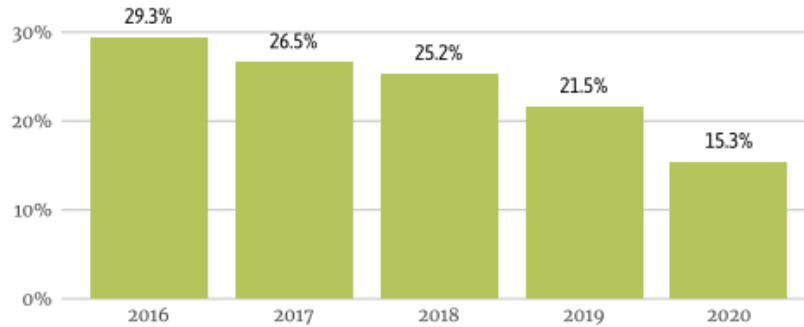
In 2020 **48.1%** of children were born of mothers susceptible to poverty (at birth) in **Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area** compared to the statewide value of **45.4%**. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked **18th** among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.



Poverty at Birth by County			
Adams: 40.5%	Ringgold: 43.8%	Taylor: 57.8%	Union: 48.8%

Individual Birth Risk - Prenatal Tobacco Exposure

In 2020 15.3% of children were born of mothers who smoked during pregnancy and/or three months prior to becoming pregnant in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 14.0%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 24th among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.

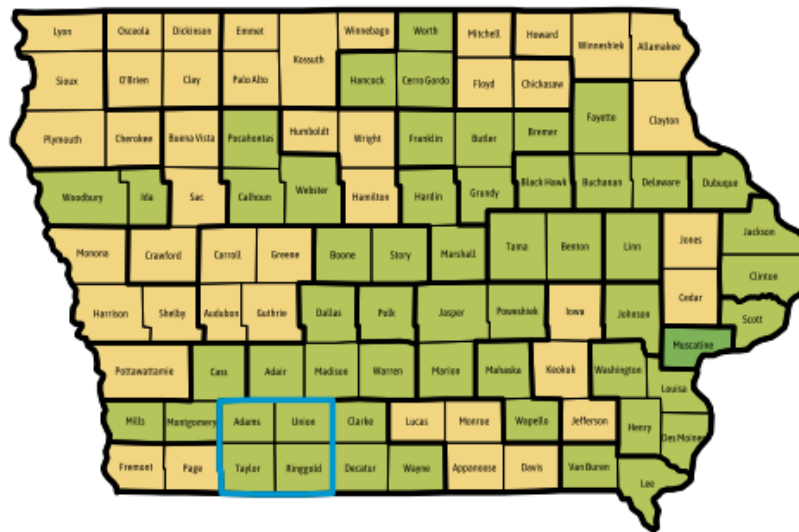
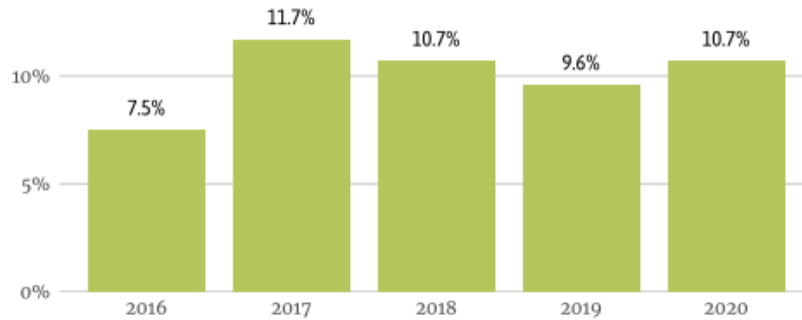


Prenatal Tobacco Exposure by County			
Adams: 19.0%	Ringgold: 18.8%	Taylor: 5 or Fewer	Union: 14.2%

RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Individual Birth Risk - Preterm or Low Birth Weight

In 2020 10.7% of children were born preterm or with low birth weight in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 11.3%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 21st among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.



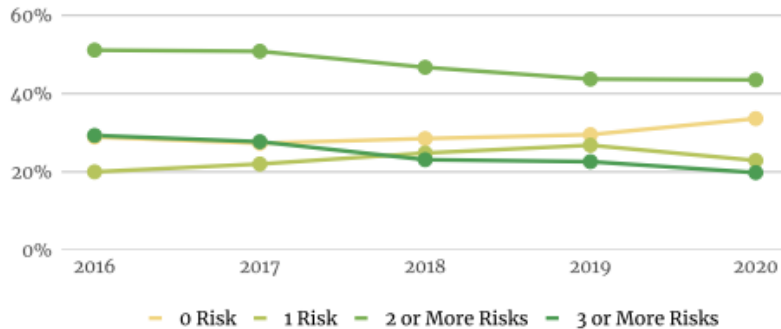
■ 0 - 5%
 ■ 5 - 10%
 ■ 10 - 15%
 ■ 15 - 20%

Preterm or Low Birth by County			
Adams: 5 or Fewer	Ringgold: 16.7%	Taylor: 5 or Fewer	Union: 10.2%

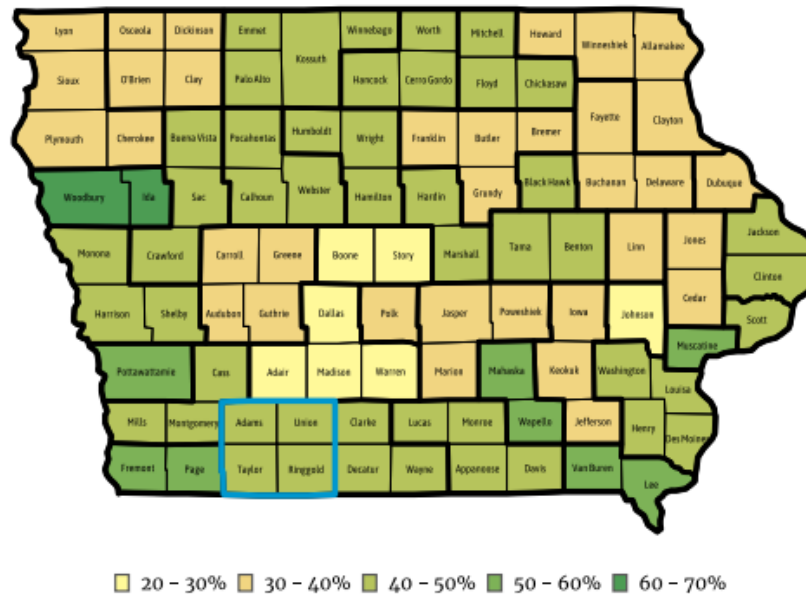
RESULT AREA: Safe and Supportive Communities

Cumulative Birth Risks

In 2020 43.5% of children were born with 2 or more risk factors in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 40.3%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 18th among all 38 ECI areas in 2020.



Children with 2 or More Risk Factors

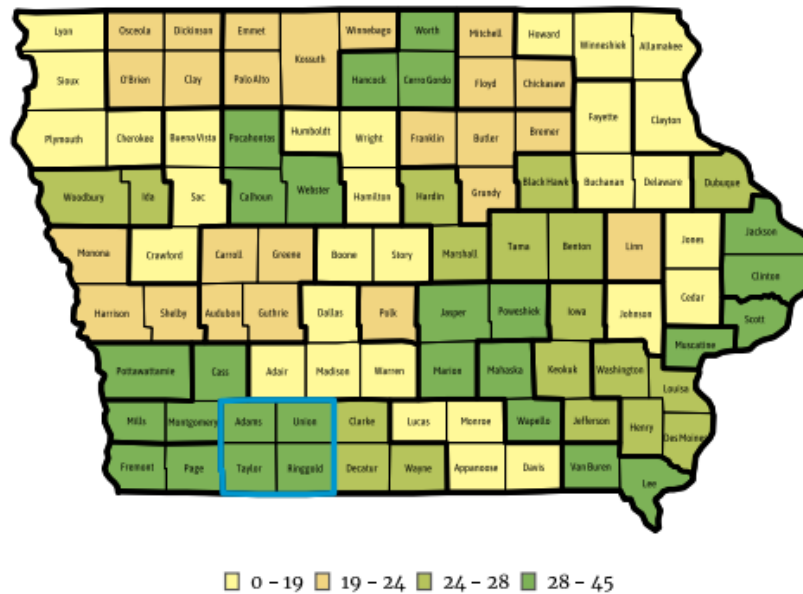
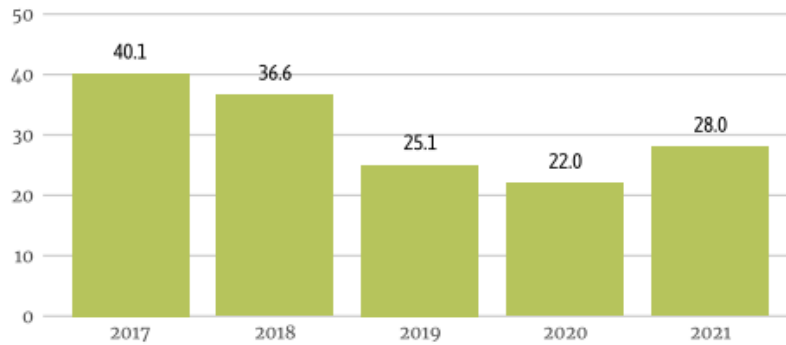


Cumulative Birth Risks by County			
Adams: 31.0%	Ringgold: 45.8%	Taylor: 48.9%	Union: 44.9%

RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

Incidence of Child Abuse

In 2021 28 in 1,000 children under age 6 have been abused or neglected in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide rate of 22.6. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 12th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.

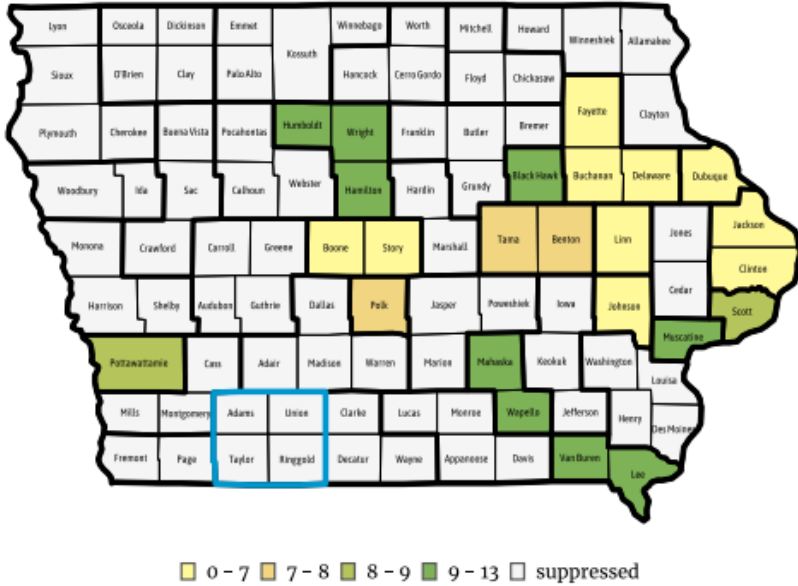
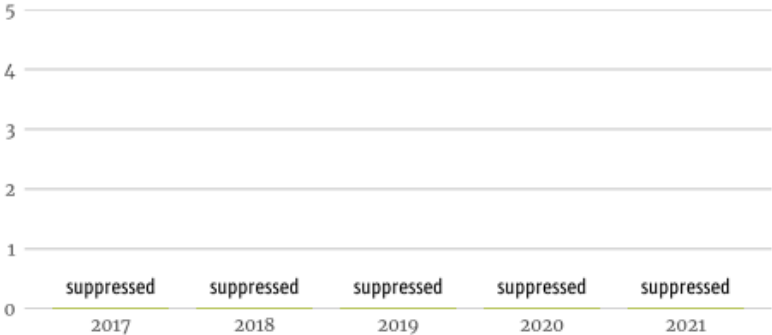


Incidence of Child Abuse by County			
Adams: 20	Ringgold: 18	Taylor: 28	Union: 35

RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

Mothers Under 20

Mothers Under 20 could not be computed for Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area due to suppressed data for one or more comprising counties in 2021. The statewide value for that year was 6.3.

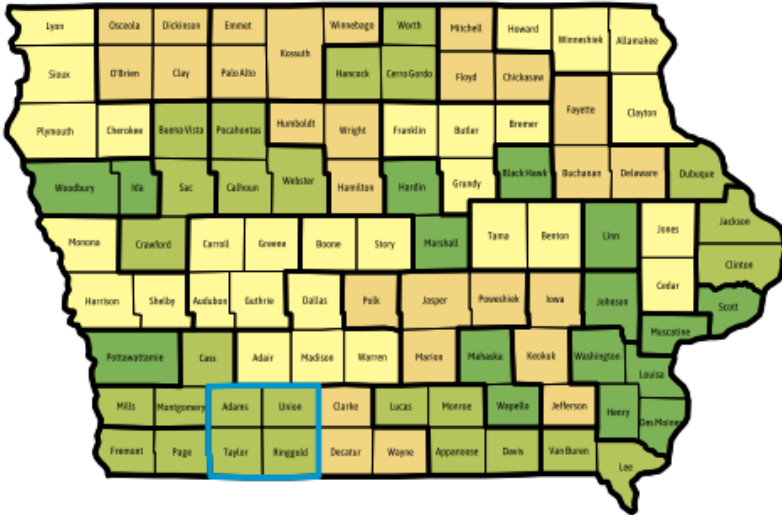
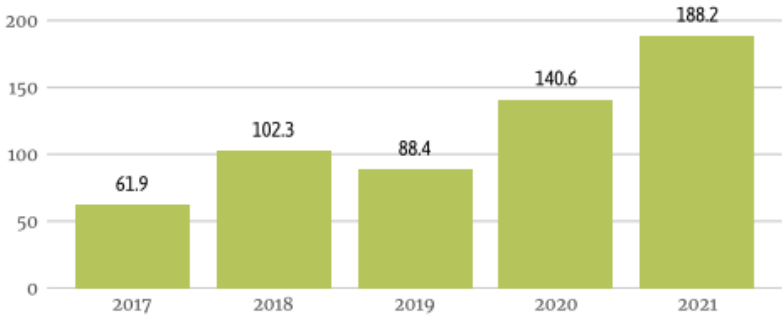


Mothers Under 20 by County			
Adams: 5 or Fewer	Ringgold: 5 or Fewer	Taylor: 5 or Fewer	Union: 5 or Fewer

RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

Domestic Violence

In 2021 188 per 100,000 population were a victim of domestic abuse in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide rate of 191.5. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 17th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.



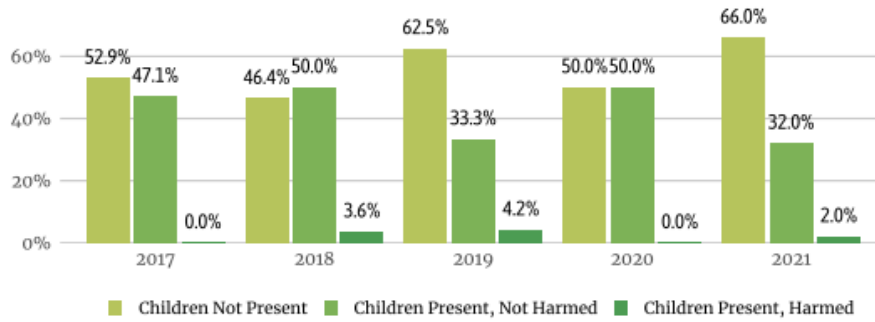
0 - 109 109 - 152 152 - 212 212 - 750

Domestic Violence by County			
Adams: 108	Ringgold: 84	Taylor: 0	Union: 344

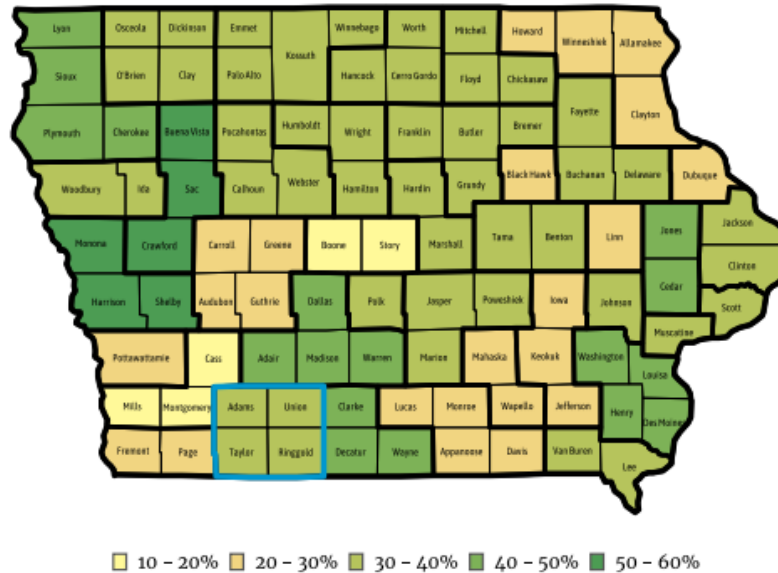
RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Families

Domestic Abuse Incident Characteristics

In 2021 children were present in 34.0% of domestic violence incidents in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area compared to the statewide value of 31.8%. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 18th among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.



Children Present (Harmed and Not Harmed)

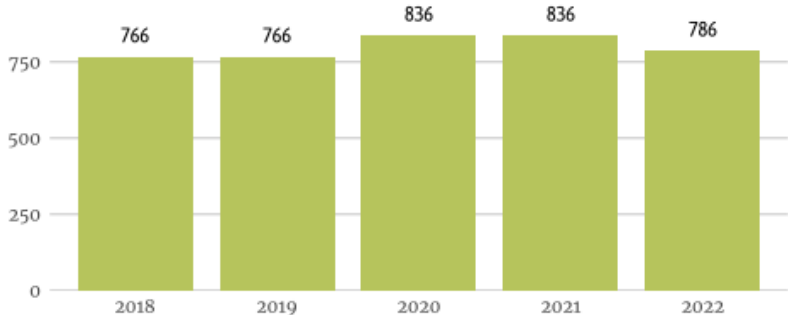


Domestic Abuse Incident by County			
Adams: 0%	Ringgold: 50%	Taylor: 0%	Union: 35.7%

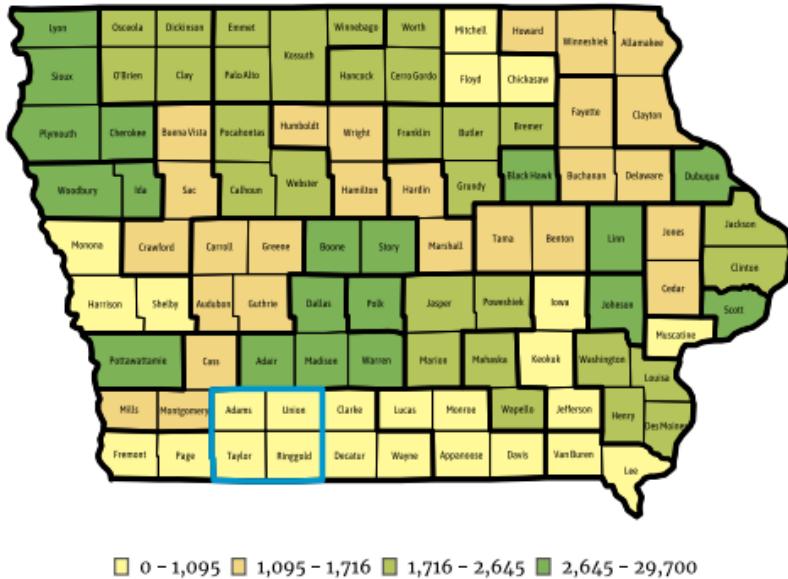
RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Availability of Child Care - Licensed Centers and Preschools

In 2022 786 slots were potentially available for children in DHS licensed centers and preschools in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 36th among all 38 ECI areas in 2022.



Licensed Centers and Preschools

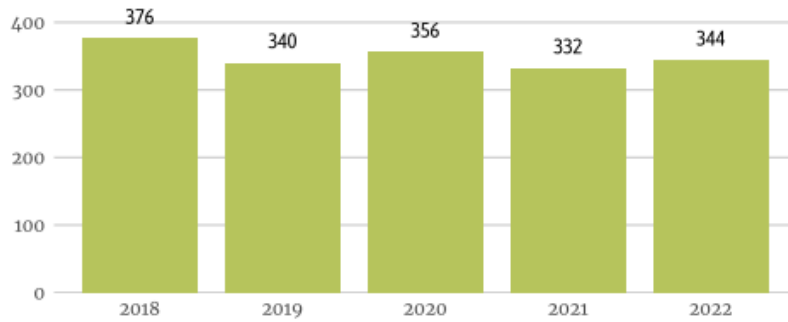


Availability of Child Care (Licensed & Preschools) by County			
Adams: 74	Ringgold: 153	Taylor: 225	Union: 334

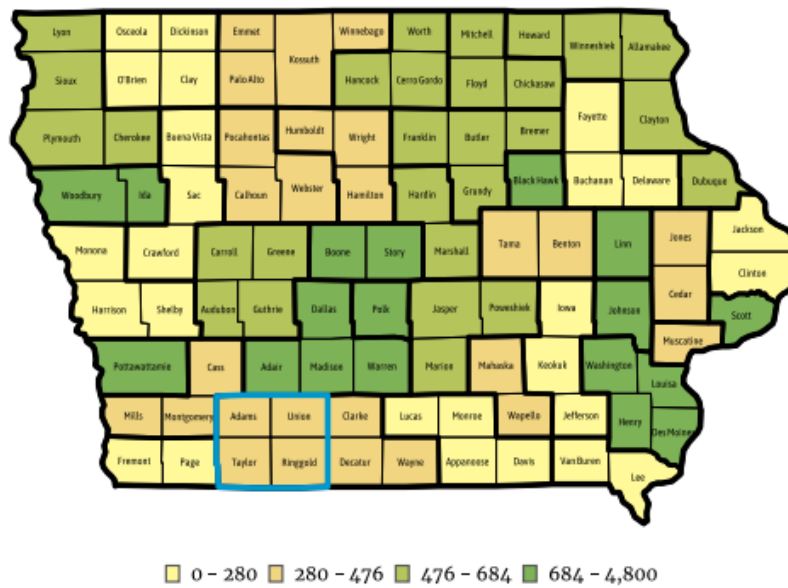
RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Availability of Child Care - Child Development Homes

In 2022 344 slots were potentially available for children in DHS registered child development homes in Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked 25th among all 38 ECI areas in 2022.



Child Development Homes

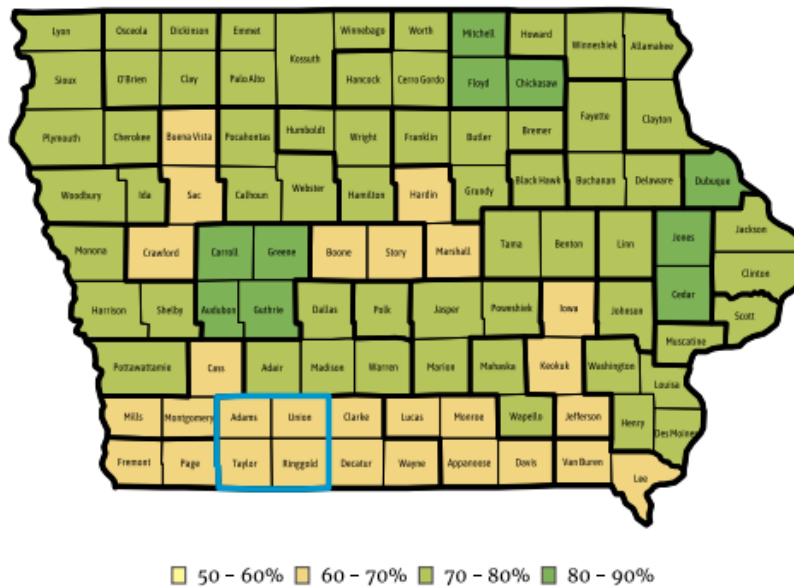
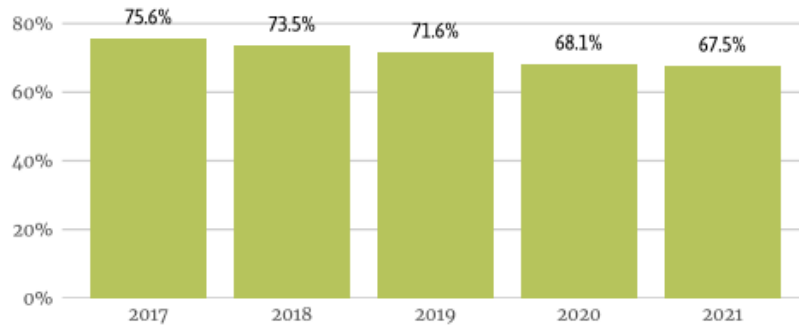


Availability of Child Care (Child Development Homes) by County			
Adams: 44	Ringgold: 36	Taylor: 36	Union: 228

RESULT AREA: Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Working Parents

In 2021 **67.5%** of children under age 6 lived in families with all parents working in **Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area** compared to the statewide value of **75.7%**. Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area was ranked **31st** among all 38 ECI areas in 2021.



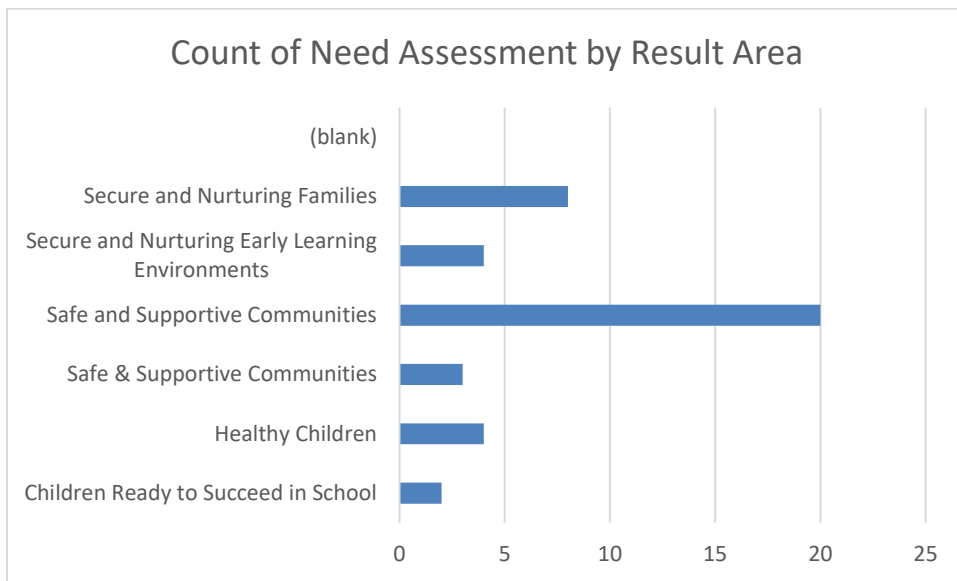
Working Parents by County			
Adams: 63.3%	Ringgold: 80.1%	Taylor: 78.7%	Union: 57.9%

Priorities

Quad Counties reviewed I2D2 data to highlight each result area and prioritized by county based on that need to determine where the focus areas* would be in the Quad Counties 4 Kids ECI Area with focus area:

County	Need Assessment	Result Area
Adams	Dental*	Healthy Children
	Children in Poverty	Safe & Supportive Communities
	Unemployment	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Poverty	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Prenatal Tobacco	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Child Care Center Slot Shortage*	Secure and Nurturing Families
Ringgold	Education Attainment of Mothers	Children Ready to Succeed in School
	Children in Poverty	Safe & Supportive Communities
	Homelessness	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Inadequate Prenatal Care	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Low Maternal Education at Birth	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Prenatal Tobacco	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Low Birth Weight	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Birth Risks	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Domestic Violence Incidents where Children were present	Secure and Nurturing Families
	Child Care Center Slot Shortage*	Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
	Child Care Home Slot Shortage*	Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
	Working Parents	Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments

Taylor	Immunized Children	Healthy Children
	Infant Mortality	Healthy Children
	Inadequate Prenatal Care	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Unmarried Mother	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Birth Risks	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Child Abuse Incidence	Secure and Nurturing Families
	Child Care Home Slot Shortage*	Secure and Nurturing Families
	Working Parents	Secure and Nurturing Early Learning Environments
Union	Infant Mortality	Healthy Children
	Children in Poverty	Safe & Supportive Communities
	Literacy	Children Ready to Succeed in School
	Unemployment	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Poverty	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Inadequate Prenatal Care*	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Teenage Mother	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Low Maternal Education at Birth	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Poverty at Birth	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Prenatal Tobacco	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Birth Risks	Safe and Supportive Communities
	Child Abuse Incidence	Secure and Nurturing Families
	Domestic Violence	Secure and Nurturing Families
	Domestic Violence Incidents where Children were present	Secure and Nurturing Families
	Child Care Center Slot Shortage	Secure and Nurturing Families



High need assessments from the I2D2 data in three or more counties include:

- **Birth Risks:** 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.
- **Child Care Center Slot Shortages:** Number of slots (spaces) potentially available for children in DHS licensed centers/preschools or registered child development homes.
- **Children in Poverty:** 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.
- **Inadequate Prenatal Care:** Percentage of children born of mothers who received inadequate prenatal care.
- **Prenatal Tobacco use:** Percentage of children born of mothers who smoke during pregnancy and/or three months prior to becoming pregnant.

Quad Counties ECI area will continue to collaborate with programs and partners to improve and share results with a focus on Safe and Supportive Communities with a focus on Birth Risks, Child Care, Poverty, Prenatal Care and Pregnancy Tobacco use.

County Health Rankings

The 2023 County Health Rankings provide a snapshot of a community’s health based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many factors, if improved, can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The table below shows the rankings for the four counties in the Quad Counties 4 Kids Communities compared to the 99 counties in Iowa. Rankings are 1 to 99 with 1 being the best and 99 the worst.

County Health Rankings Rank 1-99				
Measure	Adams	Ringgold	Taylor	Union
Overall Health Outcomes	31	58	64	92
Length of Life Measures: Premature death	50	56	74	99
Quality of Life Measures: Poor or fair health, Poor physical health days, Poor Mental health days, Low birth weight	11	60	47	53
Health Behaviors Measures: Adult smoking, Adult obesity, Food environment index, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, Excessive drinking, Alcohol-impaired driving deaths, Sexually transmitted infections, Teen births	55	54	47	70
Clinical Care Measures: Uninsured, Primary care physicians, Dentists, Mental health providers, Preventable hospital stays, Diabetic monitoring, Mammography screening	35	11	81	9
Social & Economic Factors Measures: High school graduation, Some college, Unemployment, Children in Poverty, Income inequality, Children in single-parent households, Social associations, Violent crime, Injury deaths	30	74	47	81
Physical Environment Measures: Air pollution-particle matter; Drinking water violations; Severe housing problems; Driving alone to work; Long commute-driving alone	18	7	29	26

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

After reviewing the county health rankings for 2023, Union County ranks 92 out of 99 for the state with highest health rankings in Length of Life, contributing from poor health behaviors and Social & Economic factors. Taylor Scores next at 64 out of 99 with high rankings in Clinical Care. Ringgold county ranks 58 out of 99 with highest rankings in Quality of Life. All four counties have high rankings in Length of Life and Health behaviors, that can include Adult smoking, Adult obesity, Food environment index, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, Excessive drinking, Alcohol-impaired driving deaths, Sexually transmitted infections, Teen births.

Community Health Needs Assessment & Health Improvement Plan

At least every 5 years, local boards of health lead a community-wide discussion with stakeholders and residents about their community’s health needs. The CHNA/HIP is a fundamental element in county planning. The following table is the list of priorities of each of the individual county Health Improvement Plan which can be viewed in its entirety on the Iowa Health and Human Services website:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/cha-chip/assessments-and-plans>

Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan 2019-2024			
Adams	Ringgold	Taylor	Union
<p>Priorities</p> <p>Decrease tobacco use in Adams County</p> <p>Improve access to mental health services</p> <p>Increase breast cancer screenings yearly</p> <p>Improve physical inactivity</p> <p>Decrease hypertension in 40-65 year old residents</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Decrease violent crime *Decrease falls *On site wastewater system accessibility *Investigate reportable diseases in 10 days *Improve emergency response, communication 	<p>Priorities</p> <p>Mental health services access/suicide prevention/mental wellness education</p> <p>Safe and affordable child care (including access)</p> <p>Affordable housing</p> <p>Lack of network infrastructure (high speed internet/broadband, narrow bank radio conversion)</p> <p>Drug abuse prevention</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Education on Healthy behavior, tobacco cessation *Prevention on child, domestic violence, elder abuse, pregnancy, motor vehicle collision, fall, and Emergency management /communicable disease *Disability services *Farm Safety *Improved water quality *Access to health services, immunizations 	<p>Priorities</p> <p>Increase the immunization rates for children in Taylor County</p> <p>Improve the health, function, and quality of life of older adults</p> <p>Improve cardiovascular health and quality of life through prevention, detection, and treatment of risk factors for heart attack and stroke; early identification and treatment of heart attacks and strokes; and prevention of repeat cardiovascular events</p>	<p>Priorities</p> <p>Assist Union County residents to increase their physical activity and improve healthy eating habits.</p> <p>Improve local access to mental health services for all ages in Union County.</p> <p>Improve the general health and safety of the aging population in Union County.</p>

*Those community health needs not listed as priorities does not diminish their importance. Many have a system in place for improvement, others would need more than just a local county working on them.

Childcare Cost Burden

July 2022 CCRR - Data Source: <http://www.iowadatacenter.org/>

Sources: Costs: Common Good Iowa calculations from 2022 Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral data. Tuition: University of Iowa, accessed at <https://admissions.uiowa.edu/finances/estimated-costs-attendance>. Young children with working parents: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2016-20. CCA: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

County	Total Programs listed with CCRR	Total Spaces listed with CCRR	Parents working with children under 6	Children Ages 0-5	Average Cost of 0-12 mths Homes/Centers	Annual Cost of Infant Care Medium Income Iowa: 11,129	Medium Income
Adams	8 4 Registered Home 1 Child Care Home 1 DOE Preschool 2 DHS Licensed Centers/Preschools	144	61%	234	128.75/135	7,020	70,022
Ringgold	7 3 Registered Child Development Homes 1 Child Care Home 1 DOE Preschool 2 DHS Licensed Centers/Preschool	215	84%	311	138.75/153.88	8,002	73,065
Taylor	8 3 Registered Child Development Homes 1 Child Care Home 2 DOE Preschool 2 DHS Licensed Centers/Preschool	337	76%	411	136.67/146.50	7,618	68,281
Union	31 21 Registered Child Development Homes 3 Child Care Home 1 DOE Preschool 6 DHS Lic Ctrs/PS Centers/Preschool	612	59%	840	138.82/163.00	8,476	74,148

The childcare cost burden among counties in Iowa averages from 14% to 33% of the median income for families. This continues to be a burden for families and child care businesses with the economy. Priority of the Quad Counties area will continue to offering families relief from the cost burden and offer quality childcare and preschool in the area. Quad Counties annual cost of childcare for families is lower than the state average, which causes providers to struggle with the increase in cost of running their businesses.

Preschool Enrollment

% of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in prechool (parent reported)

	% Enrolled Iowa: 46%
Adams	72%
Ringgold	72%
Taylor	49%
Union	55%

Sources: School enrollment: Iowa Department of Education, 2022-23; Preschool: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2016-20.

Taylor and Union are lower in the parent reported percentage of enrolled in 3 and 4 year old preschool programs. The partnership with Headstart and several ECE centers and schools in 2023 will hopefully help to promote early childhood learning in the Quad Counties ECI area. We will continue to work on providing quality preschool programming in all counties with a focus to promote in Union and Taylor.

Internal Quad Counties 4 Kids Communities Board SWOT Analysis Review

The Quad Counties Communities Board reviewed the SWOT analysis that was previously completed in the community plan for updates to the Quad Counties board’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and made changes to the SWOT analysis. The Board looked at both Internal and External factors.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funding flexibility for area specific needs. ✓ Preschool scholarships for families. ✓ Strong board of directors. ✓ Headstart partnership with Early Childhood Programs ✓ Good support and collaboration with Early Childhood Iowa (ECI). ✓ A really good provider network. ✓ Strong parental support. ✓ Good training programs. ✓ Quality childcare programs that are willing to go the extra mile. ✓ Very proactive groups and individuals. ✓ State initiatives (CCMS/FMS, increase in CCA, workforce pilot program, child care ratios, PD reimbursements) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lack of adequate funding. ✓ Trying to meet the many deadlines for reporting. ✓ Choices for childcare are getting more limited. ✓ Early and after hours accessibility. ✓ Uncertified or nonregistered caregivers. ✓ Minimal availability of infant care. ✓ Burnout amongst caregivers. ✓ Not a lot of incentives for caregivers to become certified. ✓ Child care networking/participation ✓ Lack of training and resources for children with special needs.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Child care collaboration initiatives. ✓ Increase parent understanding through education. ✓ Create an opportunity for bilingual education ages 0-5. ✓ Tobacco pregnancy awareness ✓ Improve local access to mental health services ✓ Address inadequate prenatal care ✓ Infant and early childhood mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unknown of ECI future with realignment ✓ Funding ✓ Mental and physical abuse. ✓ Lack of mental health services in the region. ✓ Lack of participation amongst providers. ✓ The inability to find and retain staff. ✓ High poverty rates. ✓ High birth risks rates. ✓ Negative media coverage on child care

Reflecting the cohesiveness of the members, the board found a high number of Internal Strengths. The Internal Weaknesses almost all related to the challenges in childcare. External opportunities offset many of the weaknesses and with the support of the state initiatives around child care, we should continue to see the needle move with these initiatives. External threats revolved around lack of/unstable funding and the unknown of the future of Quad Counties 4 Kids. Challenges continue to face our communities linked to cost of services/low income and lack of available quality child care, lack of mental health resources and resource shortage in our area for families.

Short Term Goals (0-12 months)

- Recruit 1 new board member
- Increase knowledge of funding available to providers and families.
- Raise awareness of ECI Quad Counties local board in the area.
- Promote and increase the number of family support resources including partnering with prenatal care and tobacco prevention programs.

Mid-Term Goals (13-36 months)

- New recruitment and maintenance programs for childcare providers to increase the number of “quality” providers.
- Increase advocacy and recruitment for additional mental health service providers
- Find new ways to support quality child care and promote the new IQ4K rating
- Encourage new child care options
- Encourage those who can benefit from services to take advantage of what is offered
- Explore new services, think outside the box
- Expand collaborations to help fill needs

Analysis of Needs Assessments and Priorities

Information gathered through the SWOT Analysis, communication with community partners and results from gathered I2D2 insight into what gaps and needs exist. The Board reviewed the most statistical data available and current priorities to determine what changes were warranted. Priorities were determined based on several factors, including effect of the issue on target population, gaps in service as well as strengths and needs in the community both at the family and agency level. These priorities guide the work of the board, assist with funding decisions and help evaluate effectiveness of programs funded. These priorities will continue to be reviewed annually against updated data. As the capacity to address result areas changes updates will be made.

Priority	Rationale and Strategies
Parent Education and Family Support	<p>The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board is committed to supporting families and providers in the four-county area. The community recognizes the importance for families to have access to programs that can assist them with their needs, guide them in decision making and educate them on their children’s health and development.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase awareness of and promote access to family support programs ➤ Increase coordination among child and family services ➤ Maintain quality through Iowa Family Support Credential or National Accreditation process ➤ Offer information to parents and smooth the process of to connect to needed services and supports, including tobacco prevention resources ➤ Strive to serve families at the child’s birth.
Quality Early Learning Environments (centers, homes and preschools)	<p>The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board is committed to quality early learning environments. With 79% of children under the age of 6 having both parents in the workforce and review of parent surveys it is essential to have high quality early learning environments for our children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase provider awareness of increasing quality and capacity of their child care home/center and preschools. ➤ Support professional development opportunities for early care and education programs ➤ Support the work of consultants as they work with providers to increase quality ➤ Support efforts to increase availability of quality care including slots.
Preschool Experience	<p>The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board is committed to assisting families and preschools to increase the number of children who have the preschool experience, increasing their success rate as they enter kindergarten.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with early care and education partners to inform community members and families of quality preschool opportunities ➤ Address barriers to transportation for preschool aged children. ➤ Work with preschools to identify their needs to provide a quality environment that will lead to children being successful and prepared. ➤ Provide preschool tuition assistance for families in need.
Healthy Children	<p>The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board is committed to assisting families and preschools to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oral Health education and resources in family support programs, child care and preschool ➤ Prenatal care and birth risks ➤ Infant and Early Mental Health Consultation

Strategies for the Quad Counties 4 Kids Area Board

In the Board's current capacity, for children and families in the area, respectful and well thought out decisions are made to support quality programs. Over the last few years the Board has had the opportunity to become familiar with and evaluate effectiveness of priorities, indicators, programming and outcomes. Although specific strategies were developed to guide the Board in determining that supported programs achieve outcomes that meet the adopted priorities, they also recognized that the process is a learning experience for providers as well as themselves.

Continued conversation occurs with providers to achieve the best possible outcomes and when unable, they are committed to assisting them reach success. On an annual basis, these priorities are reviewed and changes, if any, are included in the Annual Report.

The Quad Counties 4 Kids Area Board has:

- supported quality programming for children and families by assisting providers to reach high quality through meeting required outcome measures;
- moved the system forward – through the monitoring process, providers are more aware of accountability and reporting requirements;
- provided information to communities of the identified priorities;
- worked with local partners to promote and increase the new Iowa Quality Rating with "Building Blocks for Quality" incentive program.
- participated on mental health advisor boards and behavior health coalitions.

Quad Counties 4 Kids is committed to moving the early care health and education system forward. During the next several years the Board plans to:

- Review the State ECI Strategic Plan, adjusting our strategies to fit within the state-wide plan as needed.
- Review current programming/services on an annual basis
- Review quarterly reports and information from annual site visits
- Continue to review process to award funding
- Improve communication with the community, providers, and policy makers about gaps and needs
- Continue to enhance Board policies and procedures
- Align with state and local goals for new HHS alignment process

Quad Counties 4 Kids Process for Awarding Funds

Overall funding plan

- Each spring when an approximate amount of available funding is determined by the Quad Counties 4 Kids ECI Area Board, the Board will determine the need for a complete Request for Proposal (RFP) or a Request for Renewal (RFR). If the Board determines that a revision of the RFP is necessary, a committee comprised of Board members convenes to review and recommend for approval of a new/amended RFP/RFR. To assist programs in planning, the board is currently using a three-year funding plan. If the board feels it is necessary, the funding process can be opened.

Process Request for Proposals/Requests for Renewals

- The Board typically releases the Request for Proposal (RFP) as early as possible in March for the following funding year with the intent to allow applications at least 30 days for submission. Electronic notification is distributed widely to all current contract holders and the general public. If the Board determines that an RFP is not necessary, currently funded programs will be asked to submit a request for renewal (RFR).
- The Director will monitor all requests for funding received and convene the appointed committee, comprised of Board members, to evaluate the requests and determine the next steps. This committee meeting is usually planned in lieu of a regular board meeting in April and is open to the public.

Process for Awarding Funding and Evaluating Programs

- The Director will perform a technical assistance review on all applications received. The committee members will receive copies of each proposal. They will be asked to read the proposals, score them, and be prepared for discussion at the scheduled committee meeting. During the meeting they will discuss availability of funding, proposals, narratives and budgets received. Items to be considered when determining funding requests for proposals will be current Quad Counties 4 Kids ECI Area community priorities, level of satisfaction and evaluation of the current contractors, and levels of funding compared to previous year(s). Funding recommendations and analysis will be shared with the full Board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Historically this is in May.
- The Quad Counties 4 Kids Area Director will notify all applicants of funding decisions which are pending approvals from Early Childhood Iowa, Health and Human Services.

Appeals Process

Applicants have the right to appeal the funding decisions based upon a showing that the policies and procedures governing the grant selection process have not been properly applied. The appeal process begins on the emailed date of the written notification to the applicant of the board's decision. Appeals should be in writing and filed with the Director within five working days of the date of written notification of funding decisions to the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to assure that appeals are received by 4:30 PM on or before the fifth working day of the appeals process. Appeals received after 4:30 PM on the fifth day will not be reviewed. All appeals shall be delivered to the Area Director who will forward them to the Chairperson of the Board.

- All appeals shall clearly state how the selection failed in following the rules of the grant process as governed by the policies and procedures outlined in the application material provided to all applicants. The request must also describe the remedy sought.
- The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board will review the appeal and gather information regarding any infractions of the process.
- At the next regularly scheduled meeting, or if time is of the essence at a special meeting, the Board will determine if there has been a violation of process and will rule on the appeal.

SECTION 111: FISCAL ASSESSMENT

Process used to gather Information:

Fiscal assessment information for services/agencies in Adams, Ringgold, Taylor and Union Counties was gathered through email, telephone and interagency meetings by director with assistance from Board members in 2019. Every effort is made to complete the fiscal assessment as accurately and completely as possible, but in the small rural four counties of the Quad Counties Area issues always arise. Services/agencies were asked to provide the following information:

- Name of agency/organization
- Completed by
- Date
- Location/city/county
- Type of service provided and program name
- Ages of children served
- Number of families served
- Yearly estimated funding: Identified by Federal, State Local, Private, Local ECI Area
- Identified gaps in funding

These responses were reviewed and updated for the 2023 community plan by the director and will continue to be updated during contract monitoring in FY2024.

Use of Information

The Board of Directors evaluates the information collected to assist in the decision-making process for distribution of funds. The information gathered achieves the following:

- Awareness of what is offered in the counties other than their own, ultimately allowing for matching Early Childhood Iowa funding with others to get maximum benefit for children and families in the area.
- Familiarize themselves with other funding opportunities in each county that will prevent duplication of services.
- Sustainability for programming could depend on the Early Childhood Iowa funding not be the sole source of funding.
- Recognize and increase the levels of collaboration that exist in each of the counties.
- Sharing of document with other community partners as a tool they can utilize.

Fiscal Assessment Results								
Agency Organization	Location County	Type of Service Provided	Ages of Children Served	Number 0-5 Children/Families Served	Yearly Estimated Funding	Identified Sources of Funding	Needs in funding identified	Agency's Level of Collaboration
Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault and domestic violence advocates Referrals Legal advocacy 	All	50 Children	Varies Services are free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Donations 	Depends on the family but in general transportation and housing are needed by those we serve. If donations are consistent, we can provide the services of our mission.	Collaboration
MATURA Action Corporation	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCNC Oral Health WIC MACH BFPC 1st Five 	Ages 0-5 served	1,000 children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500K WIC \$250K MCAH \$110K 1st Five 40K BFPC Medicaid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDPH Quad Co Grants Donations Fees for service 	Transportation Health care Help families with limited English proficiency Family Education	Collaboration
East Union CSD- Early Childhood Center	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental Health Parent/Family 	2 ½ to 5 years of age	60 children	\$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iowa DHS Dept of Ed Quad Co 	Parenting classes and resources. Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Assessment Early Intervention Child Care Preschool Crisis Care 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Donations Federal Funds State 	Housing	
Iowa AEYC	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Care WAGES & TEACH 	Not direct service	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$662K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iowa DHS Iowa Dept Mgmt-ECI Quad Co 	Did not answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration
West Central Community Action	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Care Resource and Referral 	Not direct service	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iowa DHS Grants Donations Quad Co 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting classes Assessments Mental Health Transportation Quality Child Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration
MATURA Action Corporation	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head Start 	Ages 3-5	113-130 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$950K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iowa DHS Quad Co Federal Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting classes & resources Transportation Assessments Mental Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration
Taylor County Public Health	Taylor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Care Nurse Consultant Dental 	Ages 0-5	300 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$360K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDPH Iowa DHS Quad Co Grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Mental Health, Nutrition • Assessments • Early Intervention • Lactation Specialists 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations • MCAH 	<p>Assessments</p> <p>Affordable housing</p> <p>Quality/Affordable childcare</p>	
Trinity Preschool	Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith based preschool 	Ages 2-5	52 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$82,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Dept Ed • Quad Co • Donations • Parent fees 	<p>Parenting classes & resources</p> <p>Assessments</p> <p>Kindergarten Prep</p> <p>Cost of health services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration
Zion Recovery	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention • Information on Substance Abuse 	Children ages 0-5 served	100 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not answer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • Donations 	<p>Help with substance abuse</p> <p>Parenting resources</p> <p>Help with employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication
Southern Iowa Trolley	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation 	Children ages 3-5 served	750 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 516K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • State • Quad Co 	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Did not answer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration
Dept. of Education	Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWVPP 	4-year old children		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication
Ringgold County	Ringgold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare 	Children	116	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$390K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa DHS 	Affordable stable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration

Family Resource Center		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool 	ages 0-5 served	Children		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Funds • Grants • Donations • Quad Co • Fees for service 	housing Parenting classes Safety	
Panther Pride Preschool	Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool 	Children 3-5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept of Ed • Quad Co • Grants • Fees for service 	Parenting classes & resources Assessments Kindergarten Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration
Precious People Learning Center	Adams, Taylor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Preschool 	Children ages 0-5 served	76 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not answer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • Donations • Quad Co 	More training for staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration
Joyful Sparks Preschool	Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool 	Children ages 0-5 served	10 Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$28,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept of Ed • Quad Co • Grants • Donations • Fees for service 	Transportation Pediatric dentist Funds for childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration
Southwestern Community College	Adams, Taylor, Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents as Teachers • ECE PD 	Children ages 0-5 served	77 children 59 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quad Co • Iowa DHS • Grants • Donations 	Family Support Education Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication
Ringgold County Public Health	Ringgold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Support 	Children ages 3-5	31 children 21 Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$65K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quad Co • Grants 	Family Support Education Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication

SECTION IV: Community Collaboration

Collaborative and Networking Opportunities

During the original merge process in FY2013, the Quad Counties 4 Kids Area Board of Directors came to the table knowing that individually, as well as collectively, they brought knowledge that being small communities, folks wear many hats. They have the opportunity to know each other, and consequently feel a deep responsibility to working with their professional counterparts who may also be their neighbors. The Board continues to understand that it is part of their responsibility to help facilitate collaboration of services for children birth through five and their families. Conversation within the Board itself as well as with their individual community partners indicate that shared goals and resources ultimately result in better service delivery to at-risk children and families. It still stands true, as during the merge that when asked, “how does your organization collaborate in the community”, the consensus is “small communities have learned how to work together” because limited funding opportunities drive the need to collaborate and share resources.

A key component to the Quad Counties 4 Kids Area becoming successful is continued communication. Ensuring that their voices are heard during on-going collaborations, every effort is made to include agencies, organizations, and service providers who were unable to respond to resource collection. As all agencies have experienced budgetary cuts and loss of program services or staff, economic conditions make this endeavor even more critical.

The Quad Counties 4 Kids ECI Area keeps abreast of developments through communication with our partners who are members of the Shared Decision-Making Team (Decatorization) and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children. We participate on each county’s interagency group meetings and are active in the Prevent Child Abuse Councils, Southern Hills Mental Health region and Behavior Health Collation. Quad Counties 4 Kids ECI Area Director or Board members serve on a host of boards in the area including: school boards, ISU Extension Councils; County boards, and local employer councils. Conversation continues through these involvements giving voice to the priorities of the Quad Counties 4 Kids Early Childhood Area.

The Quad Counties 4 Kids looks forward to more collaborative opportunities as some of our focus changes through active participation in the State ECI Strategic Plan Implementation. The board has begun to broaden our range of contacts as we join with other community agencies and individuals to have conversation about the needs we see in the area. We will also analyze the Needs Assessment information, specific to our area, recently released as a result of the Preschool Development Grant 0-5. This document has been added as an addendum to this plan as a matter of reference for future planning.

Community Partners

- Adams, Ringgold and Taylor County Public Health Departments
- Adams/Taylor Behavioral Health Coalition
- Public School Districts
- Creston Cluster Decatorization
- Area Churches
- Crisis Intervention & Advocacy
- Community Action Agencies
- Development Corporations
- Child Abuse Prevention Councils
- Counseling Services
- Parent Partners
- In-home & Center child care providers
- Health & Human Services
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Area Education Agencies/Early Access
- Preschools
- Southwestern Community College
- Hospitals
- Iowa State Extension Offices
- City Councils
- Community Partnerships for Protection Children
- Iowa Workforce Development
- Southern Hills Mental Health

SECTION V: Review and Evaluation

Quad Counties 4 Kids Community Plan – Evaluation

The Community Plan is a living, breathing document that tells a complete story of the Quad Counties 4 Kids Area (Adams, Ringgold, Taylor and Union). As such, it is necessary for the plan to be continually evaluated for effectiveness over time. The following steps are in place to ensure this takes place:

- The Community Plan is discussed and reviewed annually for updates to community wide indicator data to monitor trends. At this time priorities are reviewed.
- The board will make changes to the plan as conditions change within the area and new opportunities present themselves.
- All funded programs must address the state required performance measures as stated in the Toolkit on the Early Childhood Iowa website.
- The Director conducts an onsite review to determine if the Contractor is meeting program expectations. The review may include activities as, conducting periodic review of program performance measures, expenditures, and financial records, verification that an individual is eligible for a program based on income eligibility requirements (if applicable).
- The funding process includes a review of the area priorities and indicators as related to funding requests.
- Programs will be required to submit monthly reports along with their reimbursement request (with attached appropriate documentation) and quarterly reports that follow the

format designated by the Director and include at a minimum: demographic data, activities performed, state and local performance outcomes and measures as outlined in the contract. Reporting periods and due dates are outlined in the contract.

- Quarterly program reports will be reviewed by the Director at Board meetings,
- The ECI Area submits a Mid-Year report to the office of Early Childhood Iowa.
- Director shall maintain an up-to-date financial report, submitted for Board approval, which includes monthly expenditures for each program and the balance/percentage of allocated funds.
- Contractors are required to submit an annual report with required performance measures.
- The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board submits and annual report as required to Early Childhood Iowa on or before September 15 of each year.
- The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board will participate in the Early Childhood Iowa's designation process every four years.

Evaluation of Board Functioning

The Quad Counties 4 Kids Board evaluates itself through an annual evaluation using a Survey Monkey document to maintain anonymity. Individuals from the community who are familiar with the Board and funded programs may also be asked to complete the survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess the board function and performance. The information is brought to the board where discussion includes results, areas of concern identified, strengths, and the need for Professional Development on Board functioning.