



*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 be **PREPARED FOR A PRODUCTIVE ADULTHOOD**

This report is the second 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

Preparation for productive adulthood has far-reaching implications for Iowa youth. Families, schools, and communities all play a role in the development of youth as productive adults. Five leading indicators were identified as a tool to measure progress in the area of prepared for a productive adulthood.

The five indicators, presented in this data brief, are:

1. High School Graduation Rate
2. Teen Birth Rate
3. Youth Employment
4. Youth Participation in Structured Activities
5. Youth Idleness

### **INDICATOR 1: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

Graduation rates are an important indicator of productive adulthood because youth who graduate from high school are more likely to achieve economic success<sup>2</sup>. According to NCES's Condition of Education Report, Iowa consistently ranks higher than the national average for high school graduation rate when compared to other states<sup>3</sup>. NCES figures graduation rates for each state by using the *averaged freshman graduation rate*. This is a measure of the percentage of an incoming freshman class that graduates four years later. It does not track individual students and thus is an estimate.

The following chart shows that Iowa had a graduation rate between 82.8% and 85.3% for three consecutive years with increases of slightly over one percent each year. Similar increases were found at the national level, but Iowa exceeded the national average by approximately 12% as national graduation rates remained closer to 70% for the same reporting period.

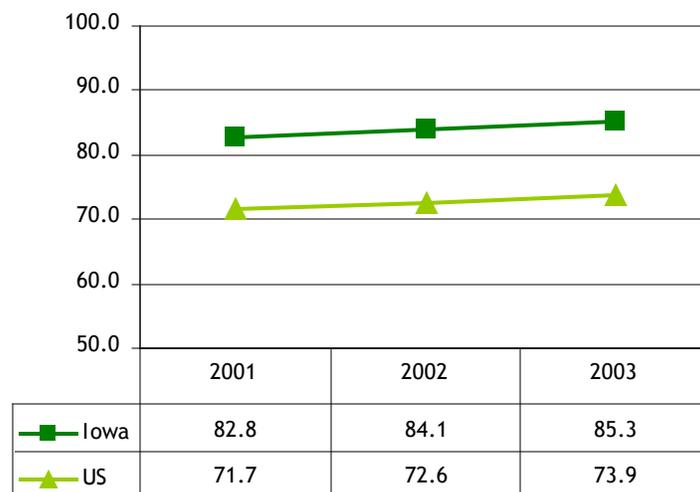
<sup>1</sup>The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development is a non-statutory network of state agencies committed to improving results among Iowa's youth. <http://www.icyd.org>

<sup>2</sup>Child Trends DataBank. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>

<sup>3</sup>National Center for Education Statistics, Condition of Education Report. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>

## Iowa and United States Graduation Rates (NCES Formula), 2001-2003<sup>4</sup>

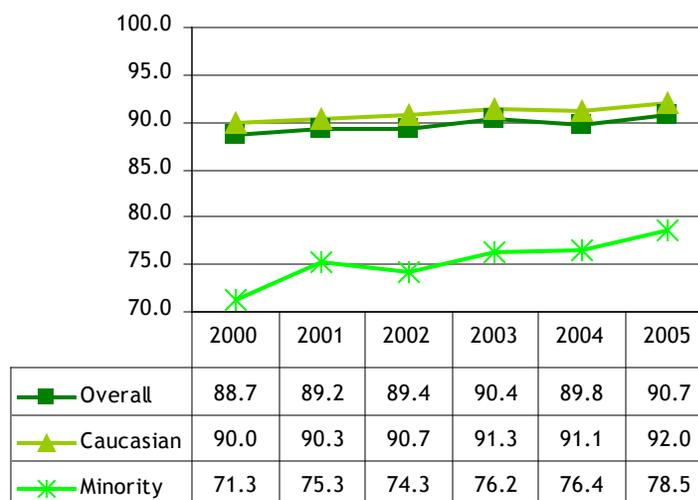
Four-Year Public School Graduation Rates



Currently, the State of Iowa figures the graduation rate differently than NCES. Through the graduating class of 2008, the Iowa Department of Education will estimate the graduation rate based on the number of graduates and the number of dropouts in each of the preceding four years for a graduating class. It does not take into account the number of years it takes a student to graduate. The chart below shows the overall graduation rate in Iowa and compares the graduation rate for Caucasians and other Minority students. Students in the Minority category; Hispanic, African American, Asian, and American Indian, graduate at a substantially lower rate than Caucasian students. From 2000-2005, the graduation rate for Caucasian students was about 91%, while for Minority students it was about 75%.

## Iowa Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity (Iowa Formula), 2000-2005<sup>5</sup>

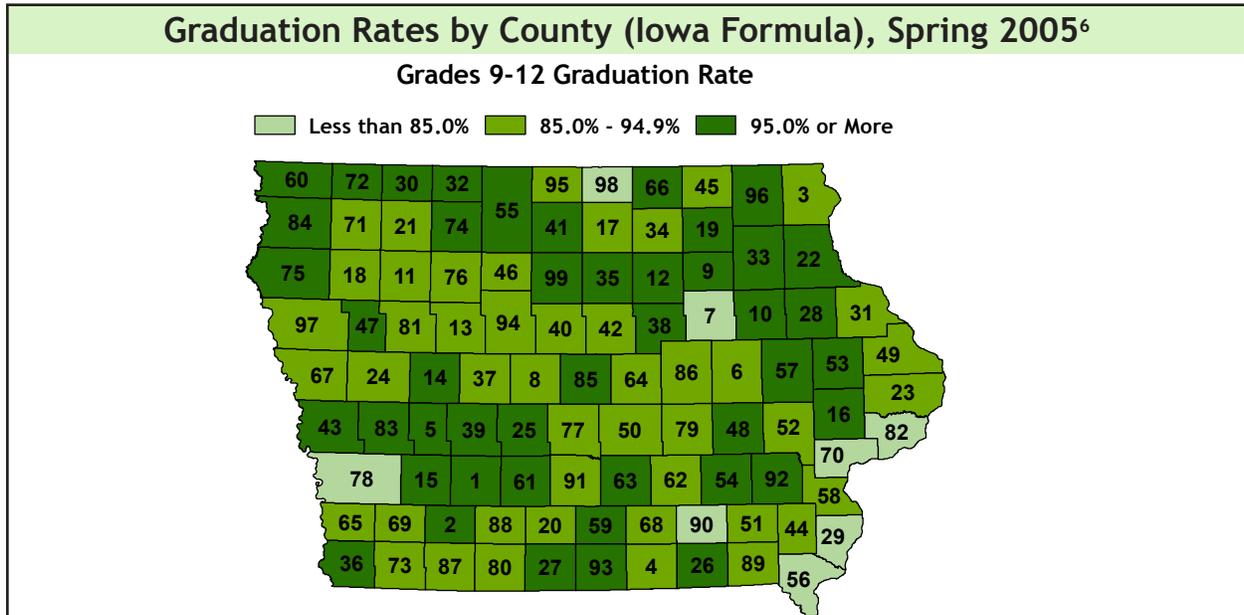
Iowa Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity



<sup>4</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, Condition of Education Report. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>

<sup>5</sup> Iowa Department of Education, Condition of Education Report. <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/346/299/>

As shown in the map below, most counties in Iowa have a graduation rate of 85.0% or more, and 45 counties have a rate of 95.0% or more. Eight counties have a graduation rate of less than 85.0%



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	80-Ringgold	

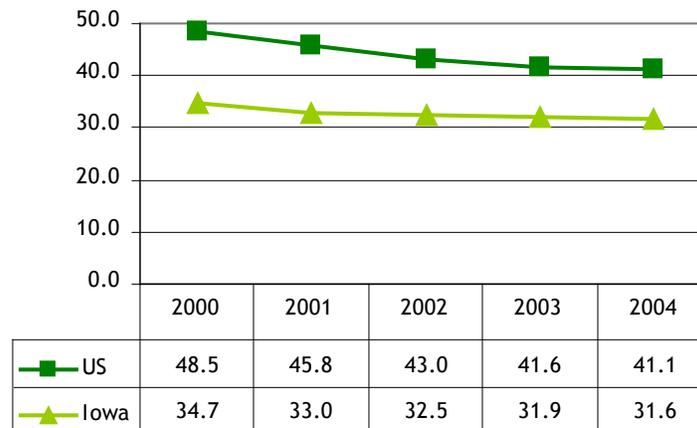
<sup>6</sup> Iowa Department of Education, Condition of Education Report. <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/346/299/>

## INDICATOR 2: *TEEN BIRTH RATE*

The teen birth rate is an indication of preparation for a productive adulthood because teen mothers are more likely to be high school drop-outs and rely on public assistance<sup>7</sup>. Using data published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Iowa has a teen birth rate below the national average. From 2000-2004, Iowa's average birth rate to mothers age 15-19 was 33.0 per 1,000 teen females while the national average for the same years was 44.0. Both in Iowa and nationally, the teen birth rate has decreased each year from 2000-2004.

### Iowa and United States Teen Birth Rates, 2000-2004<sup>8</sup>

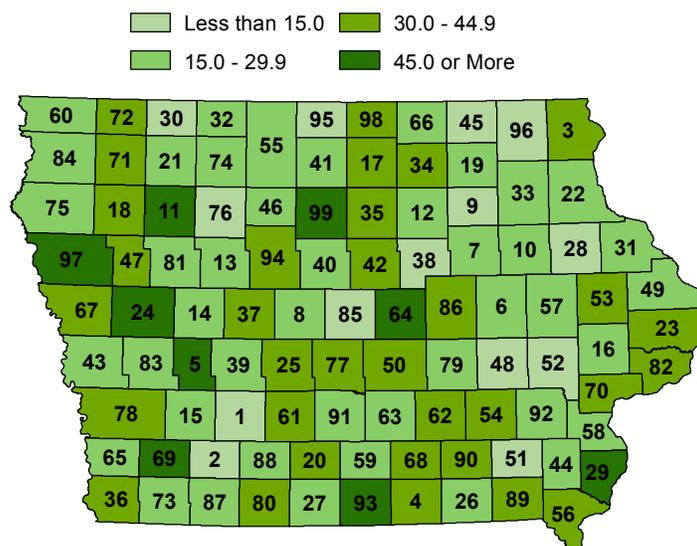
Rate of Births to Mothers Age 15 - 19 Per 1,000 Females in This Age Range



In 57 counties in Iowa, the teen birth rate is less than 30.0 per 1,000 females age 15 to 19. In 9 counties the rate is above 45.0.

### Teen Birth Rates by County, 2004<sup>9</sup>

Rate of Births to Mothers Age 15-19 per 1,000 Females in that Age Group



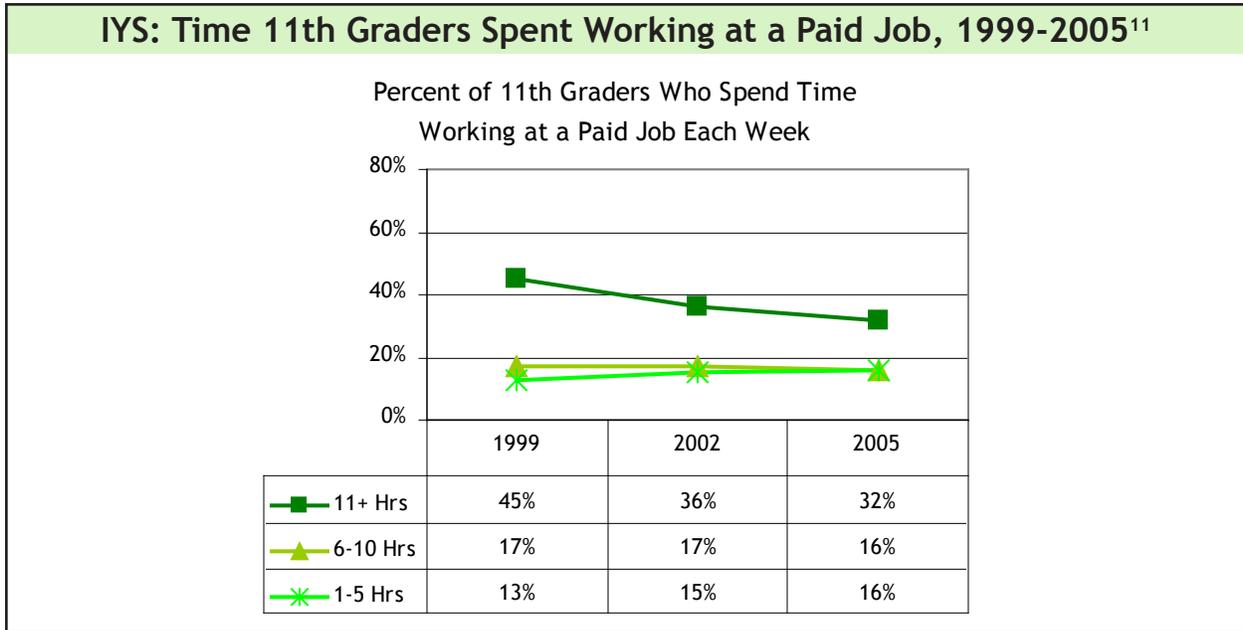
<sup>7</sup> Child Trends DataBank. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>

<sup>8</sup> National Center for Health Statistics. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

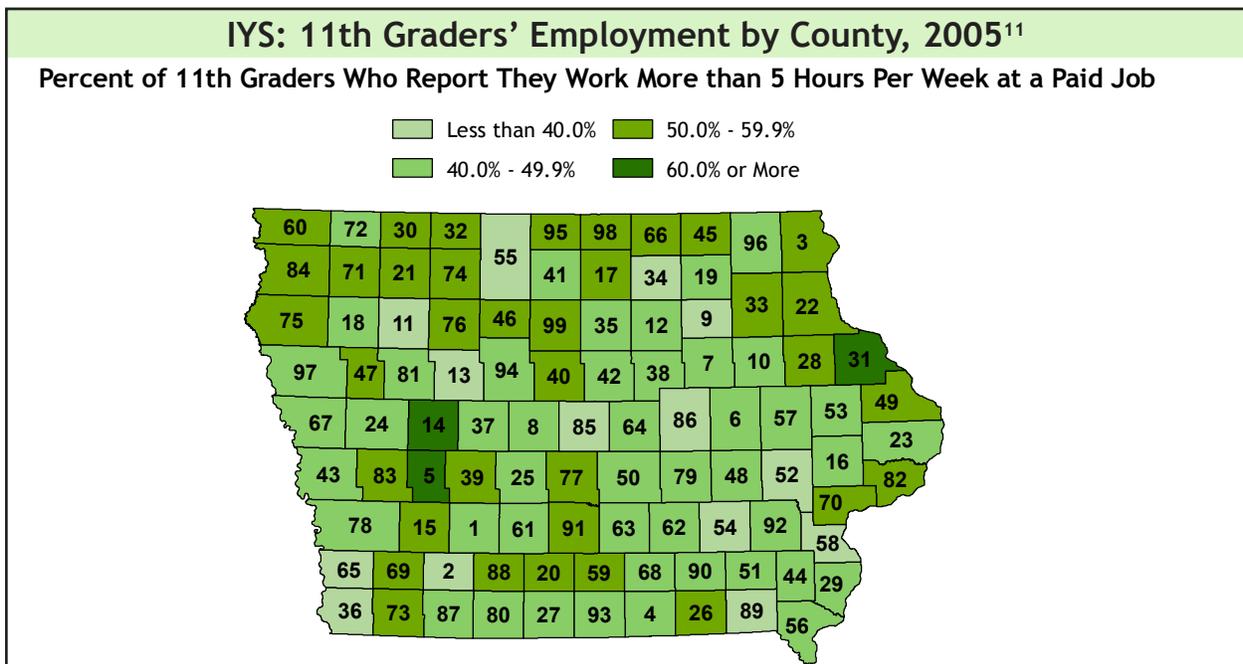
<sup>9</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, Vital Statistics of Iowa, 2004. [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/health\\_statistics](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/health_statistics).

### INDICATOR 3: *YOUTH EMPLOYMENT*

The third productive adulthood indicator is youth employment. The chart below shows that 75% of 11th graders spent some amount of time working at a paid job in 1999 while 64% did in 2005. The largest decline was in the percent of 11th graders who spent 11 or more hours each week working in a paid job, which dropped from 45% in 1999 to 32% in 2005. Youth who work can gain valuable experience in the skills needed to keep a full-time job. Some research also indicates that working more than 20 hours per week is associated with diminished school performance<sup>10</sup>.



In 85 counties, 40.0% or more of 11th graders worked 5 or more hours per week and in three counties this percentage rose to 60.0%.



<sup>10</sup> Steinberg, L. & Cauffman, E. The impact of employment on adolescent development. Child Development, 11, 131-166.

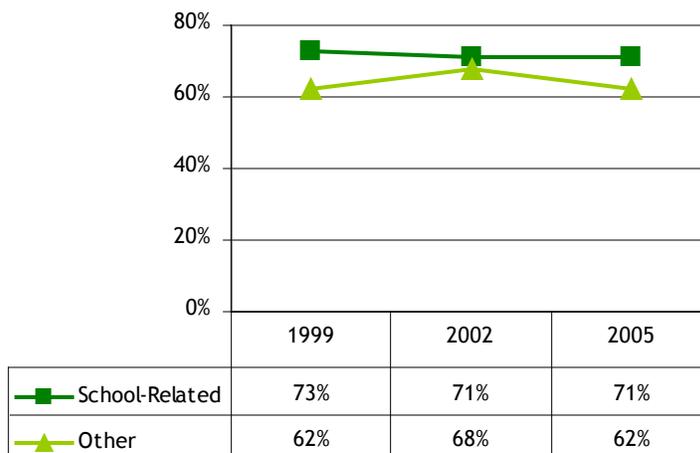
<sup>11</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Youth Survey. <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org>

## INDICATOR 4: *YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES*

Participation in structured activities outside of normal school hours can also contribute to a productive adulthood. From 1999 to 2005, the percent of 11th graders who participated in school activities was steady with 73% participating in 1999 and 71% participating in 2005. The percentage who participated in other structured activities was 62% in both 1999 and 2005.

### IYS: 11th Graders' Participating in Structured Activities, 1999-2005<sup>12</sup>

Percent of 11th Graders Who Spend One or More Hrs Participating in Structured Activities

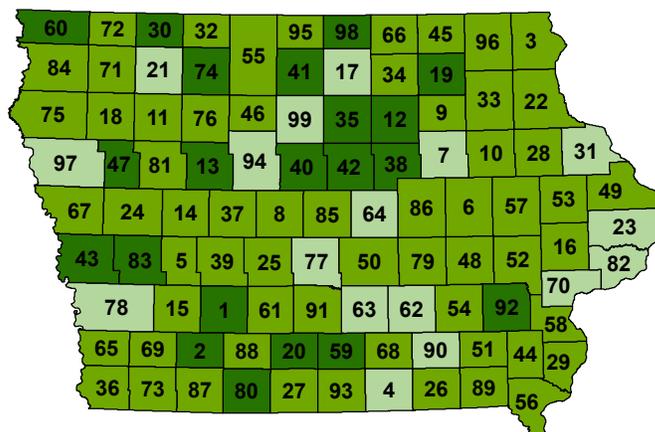


School activities, such as participation in sports or fine arts groups, contribute to improved physical and mental health, as well as to connections with school<sup>13</sup>. In 84 Iowa counties, 70.0% or more of 11th graders spent one or more hours participating in school-related activities. In 21 counties, 80.0% or more youth spend time participating in them.

### IYS: 11th Graders' Participation in School-Related Activities by County, 2005<sup>12</sup>

Percent of 11th Graders Who Report They Spend One or More Hours Per Week Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities at School

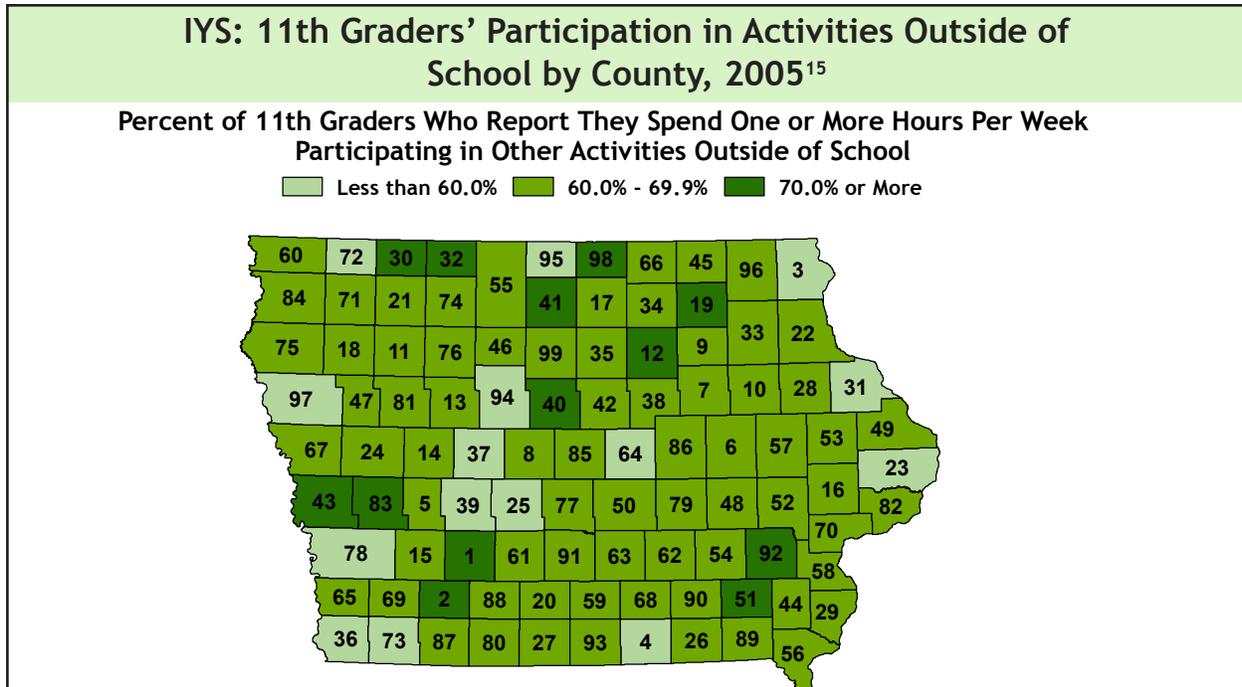
Less than 70.0%
  70.0% - 79.9%
  80.0% or More



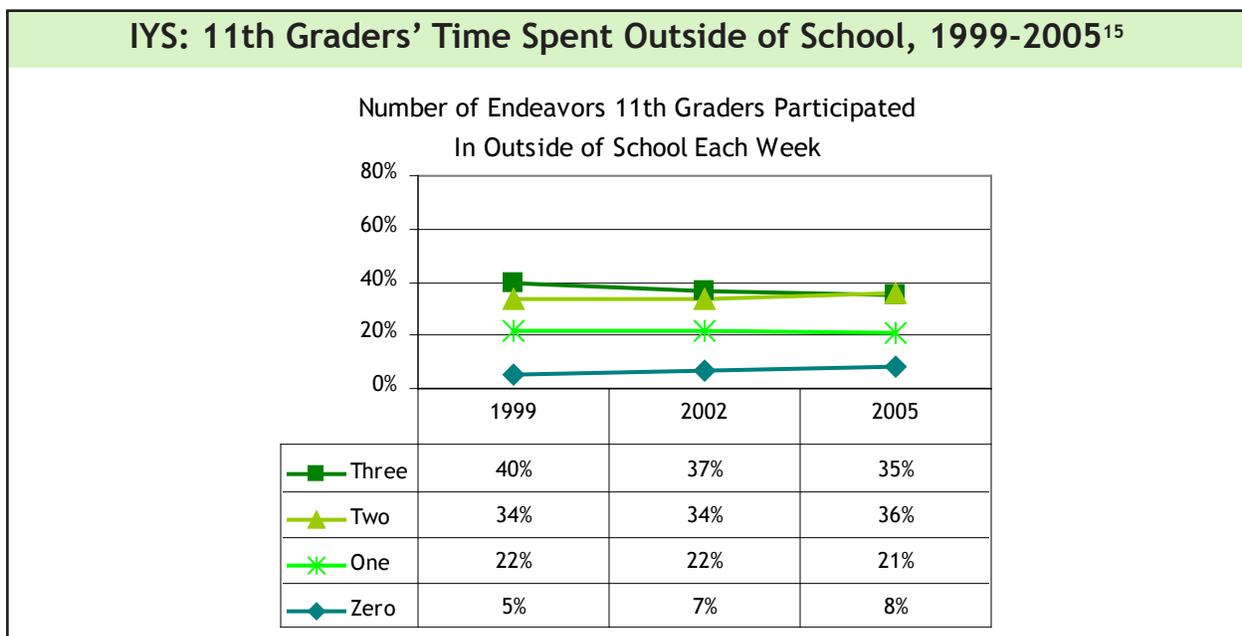
<sup>12</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Youth Survey. <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org>

<sup>13</sup> Child Trends DataBank. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>

Participation in activities outside of school can increase youth leadership skills and connections to the community<sup>14</sup>. Across the counties in Iowa, fewer 11th graders spent time participating in other structured activities than in school-related activities. Only 13 counties reported 70.0% of 11th graders spending one or more hours per week at these activities.



In 2005, many 11th graders worked at a paid job, participated in school-related activities, and participated in other structured activities. The chart below shows that 35% of 11th graders took on all three of these endeavors outside of school. Only 8% did not engage in any of these activities outside of school.

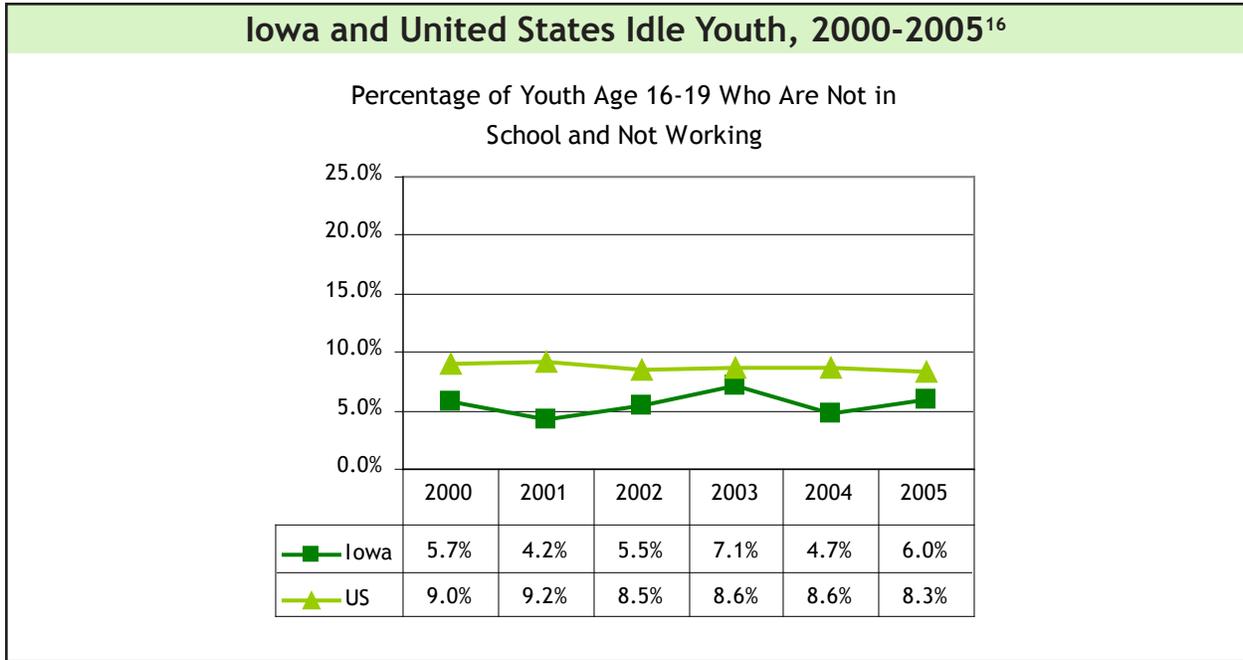


<sup>14</sup> Child Trends DataBank. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>

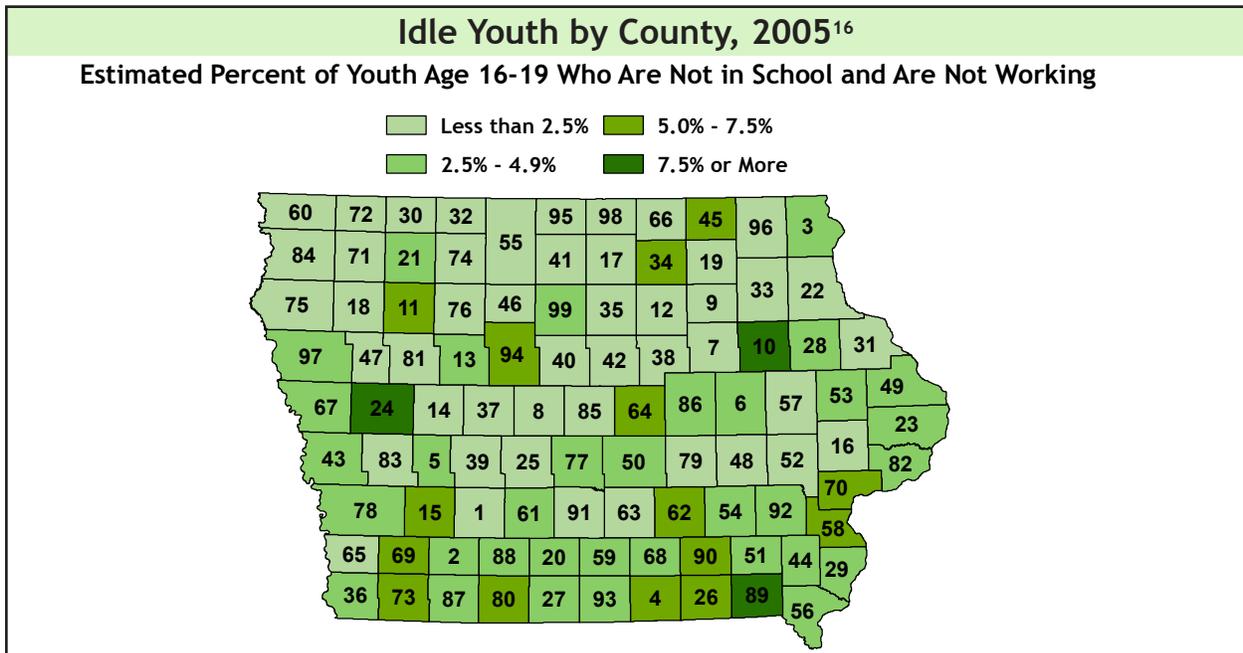
<sup>15</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Youth Survey. <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.org>

## INDICATOR 5: *YOUTH IDLENESS*

The data below represents youth age 16-19 who are not in school and not working according to the Census-American Community Survey<sup>16</sup>. Youth idleness may be an indication of youth having problems becoming an independent adult<sup>17</sup>. From 2000-2005, about 6.0% of 16-19 year olds in Iowa were idle compared to about 9.0% nationally.



Most counties in Iowa have fewer than 5% of youth age 16-19 who are not in school and not working. On the other hand, three counties report 7.5% or more of youth who are considered idle.



<sup>16</sup> U.S. Census, Bureau, American Community Survey. <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>

<sup>17</sup> Child Trends DataBank. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/>

---

This data brief was prepared for ICYD by the Iowa Department of Education, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, and Iowa Department of Public Health. Funding was provided by 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.

Questions concerning the report should be directed to: [janell.brandhorst@iowa.gov](mailto:janell.brandhorst@iowa.gov)