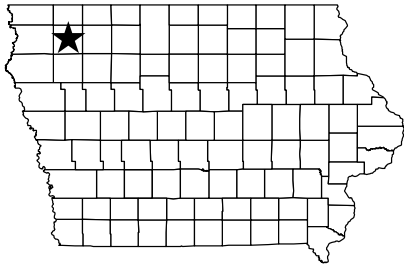


# Child and Family Data for Decision Makers



## O'Brien County

### Population Profile

O'Brien County is a non-metropolitan county in northwest Iowa. The total population in the county decreased 2.2 percent from 1990 to 2000. At the same time, the population under the age of 18 in O'Brien County decreased 9.3 percent. Statewide, total population increased 5.4 percent and the population under 18 increased 2.1 percent during that period.

#### 1. Population 17 or younger

	O'Brien County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Total Population	16,972	15,444	15,102	2,913,808	2,776,831	2,926,324
Percent 17 or younger	27.5	26.7	24.8	28.3	25.9	25.1
Population 17 or younger	4,669	4,124	3,742	825,873	718,880	733,638
Under 1 year	296	182	161	48,309	34,301	37,338
1 and 2 years	571	397	359	88,825	79,758	75,150
3 and 4 years	494	447	369	84,494	79,144	75,925
5 years	225	233	182	41,200	41,088	38,649
6 years	210	240	186	39,274	40,967	39,441
7 to 9 years	676	755	596	130,567	127,283	124,513
10 and 11 years	482	535	446	92,514	85,454	84,392
12 and 13 years	482	477	451	90,875	80,260	82,996
14 years	249	221	226	48,311	38,503	43,159
15 years	316	226	247	51,934	38,170	43,759
16 years	314	207	261	54,449	36,626	43,617
17 years	354	204	258	55,121	37,326	44,699

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1.

#### For more information contact your...

##### County Extension Education Director

Terry Janssen  
340 Second Street SE, P.O. Box 99  
Primghar, IA 51245-0099

Phone: (712) 757-5045  
E-mail: [tjans@iastate.edu](mailto:tjans@iastate.edu)

##### Extension Community Development Specialist

Jane Goeken  
Phone: (712) 262-2264  
E-mail: [jngoeken@iastate.edu](mailto:jngoeken@iastate.edu)

Alan Vandelaar  
Phone: (712) 276-2157  
E-mail: [alanv@iastate.edu](mailto:alanv@iastate.edu)

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

CFDD 71 Revised June 2003

ISU Extension to Communities and ISU Extension to Families

## Family Profile

In 2000, there were 1,822 families with children under 18 in O'Brien County. A large majority of these families were headed by a married-couple family; 16 percent were headed by a single parent. Statewide, 24.0 percent of families with children under 18 were headed by a single parent in 2000.

### 2. Families with children under 18 years by race/Hispanic Origin, 2000

	Total	Families with children under 18					
		Married-couple families		Female householder families*		Male householder families*	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
O'Brien County	1,822	1,530	84.0	186	10.2	106	5.8
White alone	1,791	1,505	84.0	184	10.3	102	5.7
Black alone	5	4	80.0	0	0.0	1	20.0
American Indian alone	0	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Asian/Pacific Islander alone	8	6	75.0	2	25.0	0	0.0
Some other race alone	10	9	90.0	0	0.0	1	10.0
Two or more races	8	6	75.0	0	0.0	2	25.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	39	30	76.9	6	15.4	3	7.7
State	361,153	274,565	76.0	64,367	17.8	22,221	6.2
White alone	338,833	261,530	77.2	57,027	16.8	20,276	6.0
Black alone	8,567	3,285	38.3	4,475	52.2	807	9.4
American Indian alone	1,206	617	51.2	471	39.1	118	9.8
Asian/Pacific Islander alone	4,490	3,712	82.7	563	12.5	215	4.8
Some other race alone	5,176	3,624	70.0	998	19.3	554	10.7
Two or more races	2,881	1,797	62.4	833	28.9	251	8.7
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	10,653	7,458	70.0	2,149	20.2	1,046	9.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1 (P34-35).

\*No spouse present.

Note: Includes families with own children only. See definition section on page 4.

The vast majority of children under 18 in O'Brien County lived in married-couple families in 1990 and 2000. The percentage living in single-parent families however, increased from 9.5 percent in 1990 to 13.7 percent in 2000. The figures for the state were 16.6 percent and 21.2 percent, respectively.

### 3. Children 17 or younger by family type

	Children in all families	Percent of children in...					
		Married-couple families		Female householder families*		Male householder families*	
		O'Brien County	State	O'Brien County	State	O'Brien County	State
Total Children 17 or Younger							
1990	4,000	90.5	83.4	7.8	13.7	1.7	2.9
2000	3,622	86.3	78.9	9.2	16.1	4.5	5.1
White alone	3,506	86.7	80.8	9.1	14.3	4.2	5.0
Black alone	16	68.8	36.1	12.5	57.5	18.8	6.4
American Indian alone	4	50.0	56.9	50.0	34.8	0.0	8.3
Asian/Pacific Islander alone	38	86.8	84.8	10.5	11.1	2.6	4.2
Some other race alone	31	74.2	70.5	9.7	21.9	16.1	7.6
Two or more races	27	66.7	57.6	14.8	35.6	18.5	6.8
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	94	71.3	70.0	20.2	22.6	8.5	7.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1 (P36).

\*No spouse present.

Note: Includes families with own children only. See definition section on page 4.

## Employment of Parents Profile

The majority of children under 6 years of age in O'Brien County (70.9 percent) had all parents in the labor force\* in 2000. This compared to 71.4 percent statewide.

### 4. Employment status of parents with young children

	O'Brien County				State	
	1990		2000		1990	2000
	n	%	n	%	%	%
Total Children Under 6 Years in Families or Subfamilies	1,240	—	1,030	—	—	—
Living with two parents	1,155	100.0	904	100.0	100.0	100.0
Both parents in labor force	838	72.6	614	67.9	68.0	69.2
Father only in labor force	290	25.1	274	30.3	29.3	25.3
Mother only in labor force	24	2.1	11	1.2	1.4	3.0
Neither parent in labor force	3	0.3	5	0.6	1.3	3.0
Living with one parent	85	—	126	—	—	—
Living with father	17	100.0	62	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	17	100.0	54	87.1	93.2	88.8
Not in labor force	0	0.0	8	12.9		11.2
Living with mother	68	100.0	64	100.0	100.0	100.0
In labor force	37	54.4	62	96.9	56.3	75.9
Not in labor force	31	45.6	2	3.1		24.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3 (P46).

\*This includes all children in this age group living in single-parent families with that parent in the labor force, as well as children in married-couple families where both parents are in the labor force.

## Income Profile

In 1999, median family income was \$42,959 in O'Brien County. Median income is the point at which half of the families report more income and half report less. Ten years earlier, median family income in the county was \$28,519. Statewide, median family income increased from \$31,659 in 1989 to \$48,005 in 1999.

### 5. Median family income

	O'Brien County		State	
	1989	1999	1989	1999
Median family income (\$)	28,519	42,959	31,659	48,005
Married-couple family (\$)	29,736	44,438	34,092	52,409
With children under 18 years (\$)	31,284	50,456	36,387	55,946
Female household family*	13,393	22,353	15,202	24,468
With children under 18 years	10,227	20,000	11,079	20,453
Male household family*	n/a	33,068	n/a	32,466
With children under 18 years	n/a	28,393	n/a	28,788

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

\*No spouse present.

# Poverty Profile

The percentage of families with children under 18 living in poverty in O'Brien County in 1999 was 1.7 percentage points lower than the state average. Families with female householders, no husband present, continued to constitute a disproportionate percentage of total families with children in poverty. Note: See definition section below for poverty thresholds.

## 6. Poverty status of families with children 17 or younger

	O'Brien County				State	
	1989		1999		1989	1999
	n	%	n	%	%	%
Total families in poverty	349	8.1	191	4.6	8.4	6.0
With related children under 18 years	262	13.3	120	2.9	12.6	4.6
Married-couple families in poverty	254	6.3	129	3.4	5.0	3.2
With related children under 18 years	173	9.7	62	3.8	6.3	4.0
Female householder* families in poverty	91	42.3	41	18.8	33.5	23.4
With related children under 18 years	87	58.0	37	27.4	45.1	30.5
Male householder* families in poverty	4	7.4	21	14.3	13.4	11.2
With related children under 18 years	2	6.1	21	19.4	19.0	14.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

### Definitions and Notes:

**Own children** include all never-married children under 18 years who are sons/daughters by birth, stepchildren, or adopted children of householder.

**Related children** include own children and all other persons under 18 years of age in the household, regardless of marital status, who are related to the householder. Foster children are not included since they are not related to the householder.

**Poverty status** is determined for all persons except those institutionalized, in military quarters, in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years of age. The income cutoffs used to determine poverty status include several thresholds; for families, size is cross-classified by the number of related children under 18 years of age, with everyone in a particular family given the same poverty status. For a two-person family, the poverty threshold averaged \$10,869 in 1999, it was \$13,290 for a three-person family, and \$17,029 for a four-person family.

**Economic data** (e.g., income and poverty) collected in the decennial censuses are based on the previous calendar year. That is the reason for the 1989 and 1999 headings in Tables 5 and 6.

### Prepared by

Margie Hanson  
Office of Social and Economic Trend Analysis (SETA)  
303 East Hall  
Ames, Iowa 50011-1070

Phone: (515) 294-4800  
E-mail: mmhanson@iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
University Extension

*Helping Iowans become their best.*

#### ...and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

Information in the county profile was derived from data acquired from:

U.S. Bureau of the Census

For more information on these and other topics, please call the Extension specialists listed on the cover page or visit the ISU Extension internet site at <http://extension.iastate.edu/communities/>