

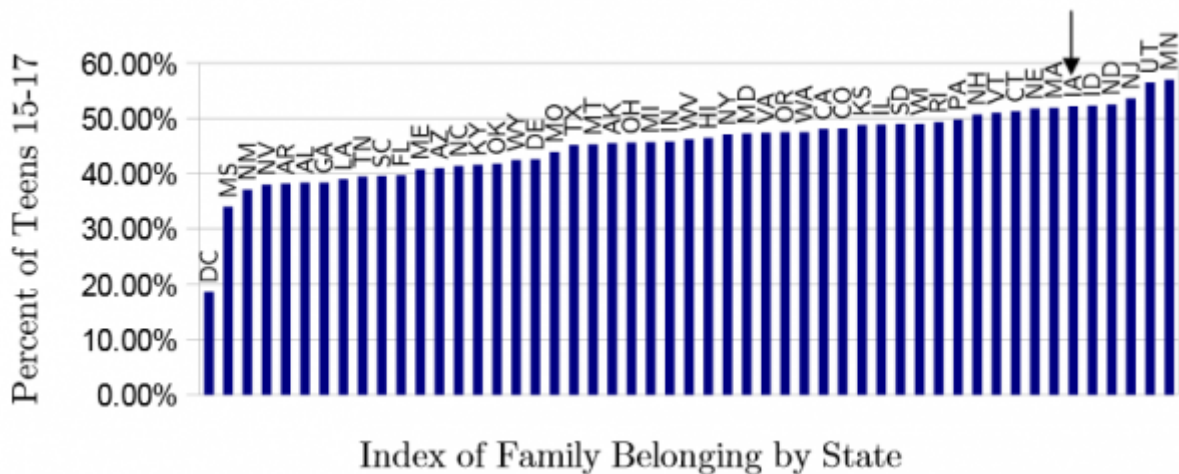
State of the Family in Iowa

The [United States Family Belonging Index](#) is 46 percent, with a corresponding Family Rejection Index of 54 percent, based on 2008-2012 data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. The action of parents determines the Family Belonging or Rejection Index within a nation, region, [state](#), or [racial or ethnic group](#)—whether they marry and belong to each other, or whether they reject one another through divorce or other means. Rejection leaves children without married parents committed to one another and to their children.

The Index of Family Belonging is determined by the fraction of children aged 15 to 17 in a given area who live with both their biological parents, who have been married since before or around the time of their birth.

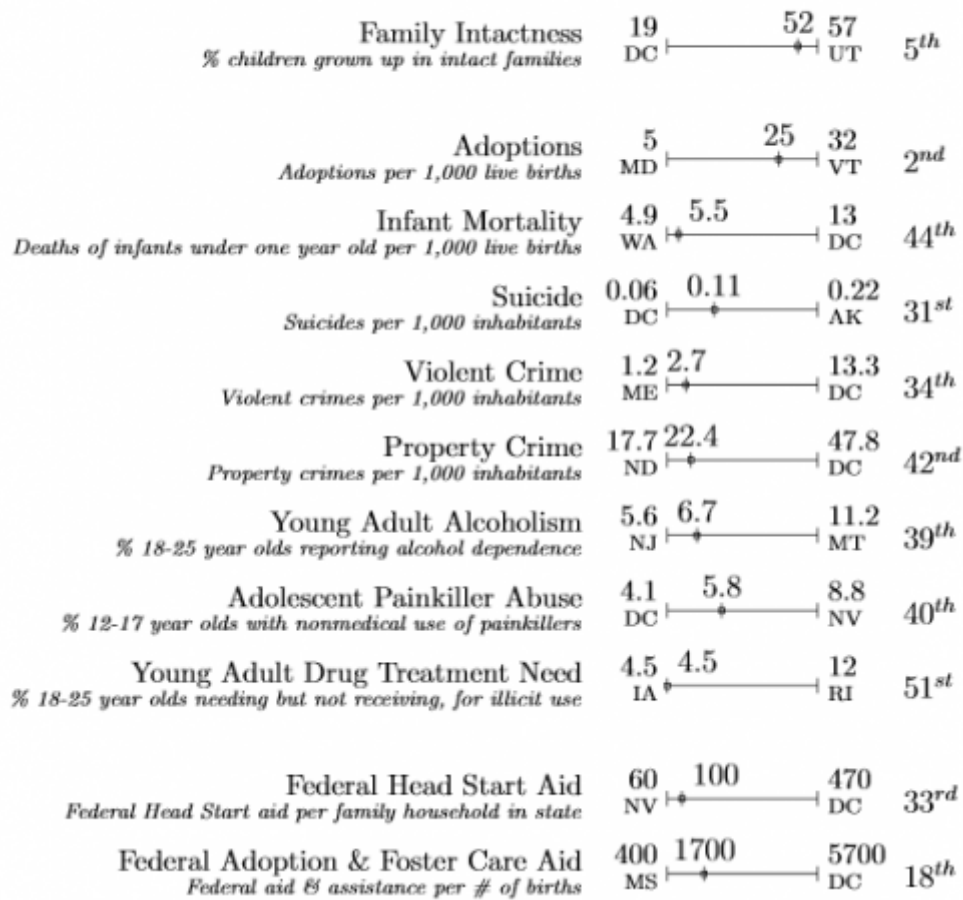
1. Index of Belonging

Iowa has a Family Belonging Index of 52.2 percent. In other words, 52.2 percent of Iowan teenagers aged 15 to 17 have lived with their always-married parents since their birth, whereas 47.8 percent of these adolescents were raised in a non-intact family. Iowa ranks 6th on the [state ranking](#) of the Index of Belonging and Rejection.¹⁾



2. Outcomes by Index of Belonging

Significant outcomes: Location between states at the extremes followed by state ranking, for Iowa



2.1 Youth Outcomes

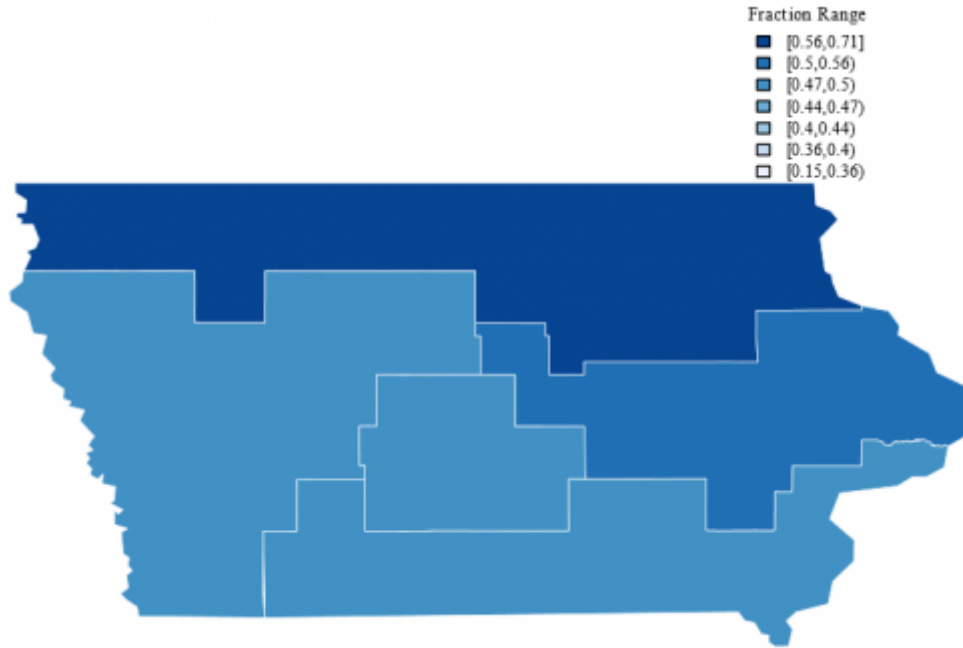
Youth Outcomes	Iowa	Weakest State	Strongest State
Graduation rates (high school)	86.4	51.3 (NV)	89.6 (WI)
NAEP reading scores (eighth grade)	265	251 (MS)*	274 (MA)
Child poverty (percent in)	16%	31% (MS)	11% (NH)
Births to unmarried teenagers (percent of)	8.1%	14.1% (MS)	5.3% (UT)

3. Mapping Iowa

See [Effects of Family Structure on Policy Outcomes](#)

3.1 Family Intactness

Fraction of Families Intact



3.2 Teenage Out-of-Wedlock Births

Fraction of **teenage out-of-wedlock births** out of all births

3.3 High School Graduates

Fraction of 19- to 20-year-olds who are **high school graduates**

3.4 Employment

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-old **men working**

3.5 Earnings

Average **earnings** per 25- to 54-year-old male

3.6 Homeowners

Fraction of households owning a home

3.7 Poverty

See *Effects of Family Structure on Poverty*

Fraction of the overall population below poverty

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-old females below the poverty line

Fraction of minors below the poverty line

3.8 Government Dependence

See [Effects of Family Structure on Government Dependency](#) and [Effects of Welfare on Families](#)

Fraction of households receiving food stamps

Average TANF and State Welfare Transfers per 25- to 54-year-old females

Average Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) per 25- to 54-year-olds

Average Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) per 25- to 54-year-old male

Average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) per 25- to 54-year-old male

Average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) per 25- to 54-year-old female

3.9 Healthcare

See [Effects of Family Structure on Healthcare Coverage](#)

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-olds receiving public healthcare

Fraction of minors receiving public healthcare

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-olds covered by private healthcare

Fraction of minors covered by private healthcare

¹⁾ This entry draws heavily from original research found in [Index of Family Belonging and Rejection: State by State \(2011\)](#), [Family Intactness: Influence on Major State Social Policy Outcomes](#), and [Family Intactness and Public Policy Outcomes by State](#).

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