



Home Visiting and Early Childhood

Why are early childhood interventions important to Iowans?

- *Lasting impact:* Research shows the first five years of a child's life have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.
- *Living in poverty:* Poverty can negatively impact children's cognitive development and ability to learn, can lead to behavioral, social and emotional problems, and can result in poor health. In 2018, an estimated 14.4% of Iowans age 0-4 were living in poverty.
- *Unintended injury:* This is the leading cause of death and disability for children over age 1. Preventing injuries in early child care and education settings has a significant impact on the health, school readiness and lifelong potential of Iowa's children.
- *Better health outcomes:* Adults who experienced childhood abuse and neglect are more likely to suffer from a range of chronic physical problems. (cont.)

Did you know?

Research shows the most rapid brain development occurs before age 5, when children's brains develop 700 synapses (neural connections that transmit information) every second. Evidence shows when babies have stimulating and supportive interactions with caring adults, they develop healthier brains, better learning abilities and more successful interpersonal relationships into adulthood and beyond.

A focus on health equity

Early Childhood Iowa's (ECI) Equity Advisory Committee, within the Governance, Planning and Administration Component Group, has developed cultural competencies to be used within all aspects of ECI. The Advisory Committee has also drafted Equity Guiding Principles.

What does the department do?

- IDPH is an integral partner with ECI, which has developed a comprehensive plan that serves as the framework for Iowa's early childhood system.
- The [1st Five](#) program partners with primary healthcare providers to ensure quality social, emotional and developmental screenings of children under age 5, and helps practices by offering enhanced care coordination to families in need of diverse community resources. 1st Five works in 88 Iowa counties with participating medical practices, impacting approximately 136,971 children from birth to age 5 who are seen for well-child exams at these practices.
- [Healthy Child Care Iowa](#) supports the health and safety of children enrolled in early care and education programs through nurse consultation, health education and facilitating health services referrals. In 2018, 1,670 early care programs received consultation visits from a child care nurse consultant.
- IDPH collaborates with community partners to implement Iowa's Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health. This initiative supports early childhood professionals with resources and opportunities to promote healthy mental development among children age birth through 5. (cont.)



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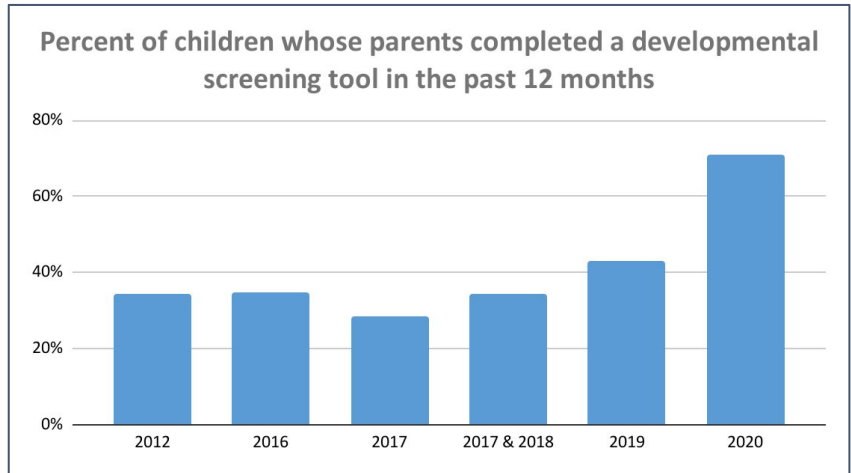
Why are early childhood interventions important to Iowans? (cont.)

- *School readiness and workforce preparation:* At-risk children who participated in a high-quality, home visiting program had improved cognitive and vocabulary scores by age 6 and higher third-grade scores in math and reading.

What does the department do? (cont.)

- IDPH coordinates the Early ACCESS program, providing developmental evaluations and services for children from birth to age 3, and coordinates services for children with or at-risk for developmental delays.
- [The Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program](#) is responsive to the diverse needs of children and families in at-risk communities, and provides an opportunity to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs.

How do we measure our progress?



What can Iowans do to help?

- Visit [Early Childhood Iowa](#) to learn more about Iowa’s Early Childhood system and how you can get involved.
- Check the [1st Five website](#) for information on children’s social-emotional development and search a current statewide map of clinics partnering with the program.
- All Iowans can make sure their babies are [screened for hearing loss](#). Iowa law requires screening all babies before leaving the hospital.
- For more information about family support programs across the state, [Children at Home and Parentivity](#).
- All Iowans can support and encourage funding for quality, evidence-based early childhood programs.

Resources	SFY 2019	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
	Actual	Actual	Estimate
State Funds	\$3,946,028	\$3,943,878	\$3,943,878
Federal Funds	\$6,322,418	\$6,135,167	\$6,338,670
Other Funds	\$1,921,840	\$2,329,723	\$2,826,025
Total Funds	\$12,190,285	\$12,408,768	\$13,108,573
FTEs	9.70	10.53	11.90