



Includes a  
Special Profile of  
Latino Youth Services



# **Greater Omaha Human Care Profile<sup>©</sup>**

**Includes a special  
Profile of Latino Youth Services**

**Sixth Edition**

**United Way of the Midlands**  
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March 2005

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## Foreword

*by Virgil Keller, Vice President*

*Planning and Community Development*

One common criticism levied at projects like the Profile is that these projects provide a bleak or negative picture of our community. The argument continues that no community is perfect and sharing this data is akin to needlessly exposing one's "soiled laundry." We disagree. The United Way of the Midlands remains as committed as ever to the proposition that we must understand our conditions and what has results; "what is" and "what works." Without this understanding, we are doomed to repeat our mistakes even though we know that doing so also repeats our failure. Some pundits state that knowing better but not changing our actions for the better is one definition of mental illness. That is, to retain the same exact conduct despite clear evidence of continued failure is the hallmark of mental illness on a community level. With this sixth publication of the Profile, we affirm that information provided in the Profile must be accessible to our fellow citizens and decision makers. Information is essential for the creation of appropriate interventions for change and to provide a rational response to our challenging and ever-changing environment.

The United Way is committed to producing results on a community level, which we call community impact. We are transforming what we do, our processes for doing it, and how we

measure results. Brian Gallagher, President and CEO of the United Way of America remarked about the need for change: "...our helping systems were built for different economic times and ...social conditions. ...we are now in a global market space which changes how money is earned and how wealth and income is accumulated and distributed. It's why during the 1990's, we didn't make real progress on some of our difficult social issues. ... unless we get laser beam-like focus on real results, our health systems, education systems, child protection systems and United Way systems will not create strategies that work with different partners, invest our resources differently, use the right metrics of success, and therefore make progress that will ultimately satisfy donor and taxpayer aspirations and thereby earning their trust and confidence."<sup>1</sup>

This year, our laser beam-like focus remains on Hispanic/Latino youth. This obviously is not the only relevant target group with needs and assets, but it is a start for change. The reader will find this report a message of hope about the success of leaders keeping faith with our metro area youth. The Omaha metropolitan area is justly proud of its services but we can and must do better; if only because our youth deserve it.

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<sup>1</sup> United Way of America President Brian Gallagher, speaking at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Monday, November 22, 2004, topic: Restoring Faith in America's Charities: A Call for Accountability

## **Introduction**

*by Joy Tillema, Director of Research and Analysis, United Way of the Midlands*

The Greater Omaha Human Care Profile focuses on United Way’s mission “to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities.” This strategy is based on the following organizing principles:

- ◆ A coordinated effort to make the best use of limited community resources
- ◆ An emphasis on measurable results
- ◆ Broad community involvement in human service issues

In 1999, United Way of the Midlands first published the Human Care Profile as a way to track community indicators in support of the mission and guiding principles. The Human Care Profile has evolved significantly during the past five years. By providing trend data on 48 health and human service indicators, the report begins to identify “what is” occurring across our community and provides a baseline for measuring results. Community engagement activities suggest “what works” in terms of coordinating efforts to address these issues and identifying promising practices at work in our community.

## **Greater Omaha Human Care Profile**

The Greater Omaha Human Care Profile’s trend data continues to be widely used and circulated across the Omaha Metropolitan area by grant writers, planners and policy makers. The 2004 Greater Omaha Human Care Profile builds on this data collection effort again this year. This data is located in the first half of this report and is available on our website at [www.uwmidlands.org/profile.htm](http://www.uwmidlands.org/profile.htm).

The Profile report includes 48 indicators in the areas of family functioning, basic and material needs, economic opportunity, health-birth/death and health risks, education and public safety. The community indicators in this Profile track qualitative information concerning the well-being of our community over a three to five year period. These indicators operate under the assumption that community well-being can be defined, measured and managed. Indicators were selected based on the number of issues they would imply or directly impact and every effort has been made to select indicators that provide the broadest representation of the problem or need. The counties represented in this report include Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties of Nebraska and Pottawattamie County of Iowa.

## **Data Collection Criteria**

Since the inception of this initiative, a technical advisory group of area experts in research and statistics has periodically reviewed the criteria used in the selection of indicators. These criteria address the questions identified below.

### **Validity**

Does the indicator measure a factor, or issue, which is directly related to the key unmet need? If the indicator changes, will a diverse group of people agree on how the change affects the unmet need – positively or negatively?

## **Data Collection Criteria (continued)**

### **Availability and timeliness**

Is the indicator readily available on an annual basis?

### **Stability and reliability**

Is the statistic compiled in a systematic and fair way that can be repeated every year?

### **Understandability**

Is the indicator simple enough to be interpreted by the public (non experts)?

### **Responsiveness**

Does the indicator respond quickly and noticeably to real change?

### **Policy relevance**

Does the indicator have relevance for policy decisions?

### **Representative**

Do the indicators, as a group, cover an important dimension of the unmet need?

### **Comparability**

Does the indicator lend itself to a level of comparability with national, state or regional data?

## **Data Limitations**

Data has been collected from secondary sources as cited, and a ‘good faith’ effort has been made to ensure its integrity relative to the criteria set forth above. Although most of the indicators have been presented along trend lines, these trends may differ significantly from one year’s report to the next. Factors such as staff changes across reporting agencies, differences in state and local reporting methods, availability of data and inclusiveness of the data make this process very challenging. *Therefore, it is recommended that data from each annual Profile report be used independently of each other.*

Significant variations and instability between data points may be apparent with some indicators. Although these indicators have policy relevance and should be reviewed, one all-inclusive source for tracking and monitoring the need may not exist. To ensure reliability, reporting organizations were selected that could provide some assurance that the data covered an important dimension of the unmet need being tracked. Sources were also selected that represented a significant portion of the greater Omaha area. If data is poor or limited, it has been intentionally left in the report to raise community awareness and concerns regarding the need for reliable, accurate and timely reporting of this information.

## **2003 Profile of Latino Youth**

In recent years, more focused information has been requested by community service providers and community leaders for use in strategic planning and grant development efforts. As Latinos increase in proportion to the general population, it is important that they are accurately represented in data gathering and research studies. Phase I of this project - The 2003 Profile of Latino Youth - helped the community identify emerging needs, trends and assets for Hispanic/Latino youth and their families; and provided information that was unique, usable and timely to the community. United Way of the Midlands has chosen to focus on the assets of Hispanic youth as a way to track service, educational and community opportunities.

## **2004 Profile of Latino Youth Services Supplement**

Because the Hispanic/Latino population is the fastest growing ethnic group in our community, United Way is developing a better understanding of the assets possessed by Latino youth and youth services available in the South Omaha Community. The 2004 Profile of Latino Youth Services supplement is the first step toward developing a comprehensive list of programs and services available to these youth so that we can better facilitate the coordination of limited resources. This coordination will help support and ensure a bright future for these children specifically, and to the general youth population as well. This supplement includes an analysis of United Way services provided specifically to Hispanic/Latino youth and youth in South Omaha. In addition, this report provides a sampling of additional youth service providers located throughout the South Omaha Community.

## **Promising Practices for Latino Youth**

Documentation of successful efforts that help Latino youth achieve their potential is essential if we hope to replicate these successes. In 2004, detailed interviews with United Way member agencies serving Hispanic/Latino youth were conducted. These interviews identified promising practices currently used to serve Hispanic/Latino youth in our community. The interviews resulted in the development of three common themes attributed to successful outcomes for Hispanic/Latino youth services.

The most prominent of these common themes is language and cultural competency. The the last section of this report provides a sample of national programs demonstrating success in this area. United Way seeks better outcomes for Hispanic/Latino youth through coordinating service delivery around promising practices.

## **Cox Communications Partnership**

Together for the fifth year, Cox Communications and United Way of the Midlands present the Greater Omaha Human Care Profile with a special focus on a Profile of Latino Youth Services. Professionally produced video programs will highlight promising practices for Hispanic/Latino youth. Each show will invite viewers into the lives of Hispanic/Latino individuals and families, provide information on Latino youth and explore best practices of human care services across the Omaha metro area. Tapes of these shows will be made available to local libraries, colleges and universities for educational purposes and to increase community dialogue and awareness about these issues.

## **Profile of Latino Youth Services Study Area**

The Profile of Latino Youth Services supplement provides an overview of youth services located in the South Omaha community comprising zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108. Nearly 58 percent of all Hispanic/Latino children in the county and the highest concentration of Hispanic/Latinos reside within these zip codes. The 2003 Profile of Latino Youth report identified additional areas of the community experiencing growth in Hispanic/Latino population. While these areas are not being studied at the present time, program implementation efforts in these areas are not precluded.

## **Profile of Latino Youth Terminology and Definitions**

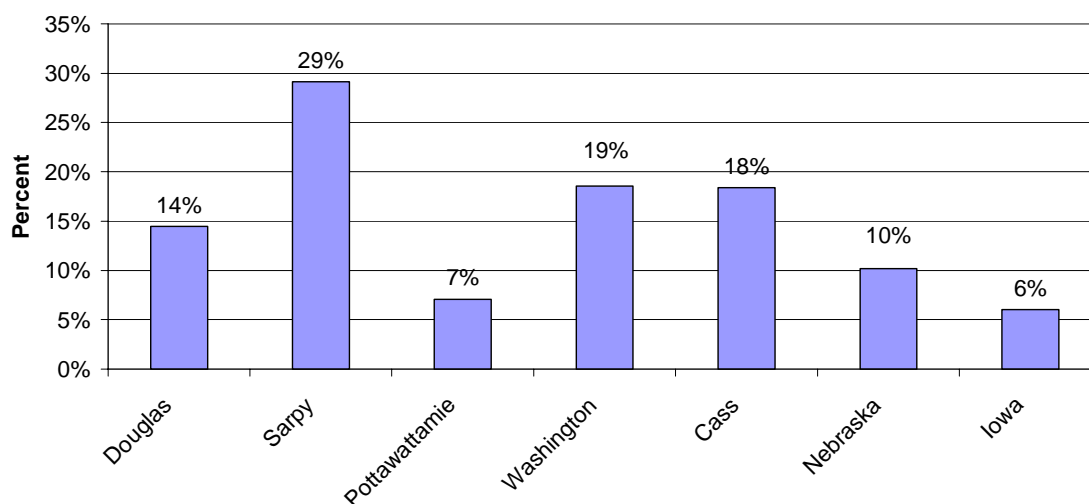
Throughout the Profile of Latino Youth Services supplement report, the terms Hispanic and Latino are used interchangeably to describe the Hispanic/Latino population as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Where possible, Hispanic/Latino has been used to describe the population. Hispanics or Latinos are those people who classify themselves in one of the specific Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 questionnaire - "Mexican, Mexican American., Chicano," "Puerto Rican", or "Cuban" -as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino."

The Census of Population 2000 states that origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial categories. Tallies that show race categories for Hispanics and non-Hispanics separately are available.

## GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Current and accurate data available from the U.S. Census Bureau will reveals changes in the social and demographic landscape of our community. This information is a valuable tool for identifying areas of unmet need.

### Population Change 1990-2003



<b>County and State Population</b>				
	<i>1990 Census</i>	<i>2000 Census</i>	<i>2002 Estimate</i>	<i>2003 Estimate</i>
<b>Douglas</b>	416,444	463,585	472,744	476,703
<b>Sarpy</b>	102,583	122,595	129,319	132,476
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	82,628	87,704	88,157	88,477
<b>Washington</b>	16,607	18,780	19,211	19,690
<b>Cass</b>	21,318	24,334	24,839	25,242
<b>Nebraska</b>	1,578,417	1,711,263	1,727,564	1,739,291
<b>Iowa</b>	2,776,755	2,926,324	2,935,840	2,944,062

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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# Family Functioning

## Highlights

**Family functioning refers to the social development of the individual in the context of families, their contribution to the community and the community's support of the family and its members through their life span.**

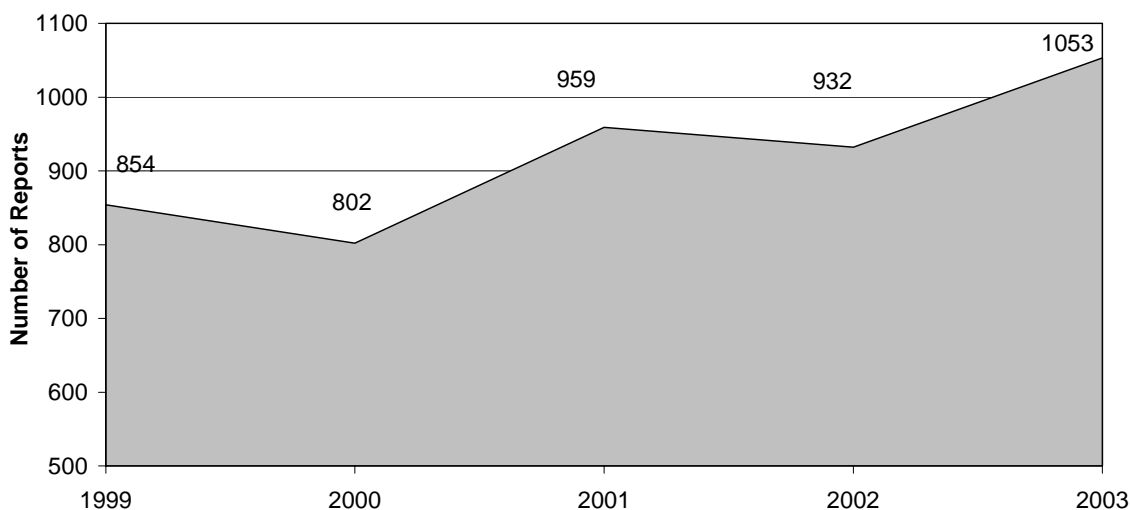
- ❖ Between 1999 and 2003, substantiated child abuse reports for Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties increased 23.3 percent.
- ❖ In 2003, 601 children in Pottawattamie County were in out of home placement, up 73.2 percent over the 347 children in placement in 2002.
- ❖ In 2002, the Census Bureau estimates 51,161 elderly individuals (65 years and older) living in Douglas County.
- ❖ Between 1998 and 2002, the number of alzheimer's disease deaths in Douglas County increased from 47 to 102, or 117 percent.

## CHILD ABUSE

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Child abuse refers to many forms of child maltreatment that include physical abuse, neglect, sexual and emotional abuse. Child abuse is not limited to the family or the household, but is a community problem as it strikes at the core of the community –the family.

### Substantiated Child Abuse Reports\* Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie County



### Substantiated and Confirmed Child Abuse or Neglect Reports\*

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas &amp; Sarpy</b>	635	528	657	655	732
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	219	274	302	277	321
<b>Douglas, Sarpy &amp; Pottawattamie</b>	854	802	959	932	1,053

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Human Services

\*Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System reports court-substantiated child abuse. This is where a court has entered a judgment of guilty on a criminal complaint, indictment or information. The Iowa Department of Human Services uses a preponderance of evidence as the level to "confirm" a report of child abuse. Use caution in comparing child abuse reports between states, as different levels of evidence are used.

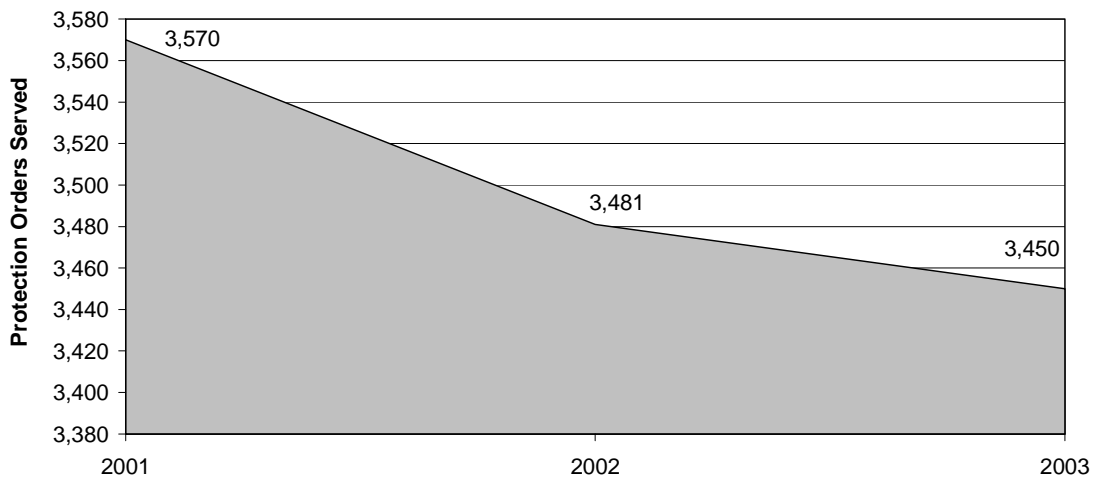
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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence focuses on the use of control through physical and/or sexual assault, social isolation, stalking, threats, psychological abuse or economic abuse. This violence negatively impacts the spouse (generally the most common and immediate victim), the family and the community.

### Domestic Abuse/Harassment Protection Orders Douglas County



Domestic Abuse/Harassment Protection Orders Filed Douglas County			
	2001	2002	2003
Domestic Abuse	2,239	2,268	2,337
Harassment	1,331	1,213	1,113
<b>Total Domestic Abuse/Harassment Protection Orders</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>3,481</b>	<b>3,450</b>

Source: Douglas County Protection Order Office

Domestic Violence 911 Calls					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Omaha/Douglas County</b>	<b>9,271</b>	<b>10,112</b>	<b>10,184</b>	<b>10,053</b>	<b>10,420</b>

Source: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Greater Omaha

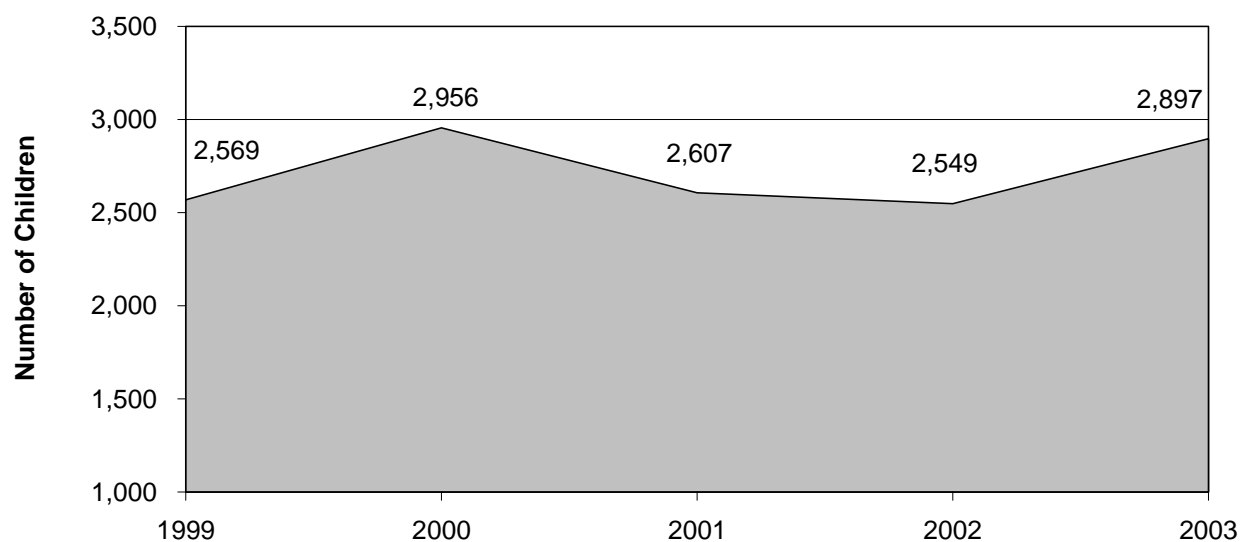
Note: Calls received by the 911 call center

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## OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT

Out of home placement refers to situations where the family is so dysfunctional that it becomes a threat to the child's welfare, or the child can no longer be 'managed' in the home due to acting out or risky behaviors. The child is placed outside the home for varying lengths of time dependent upon specific family and child circumstances.

### Out of Home Placement Omaha Metropolitan Area



Children in Out of Home Placement by Area*					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	1,911	2,149	1,892	1,850	1,950
<b>Sarpy</b>	322	332	278	267	264
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	289	398	344	347	601
<b>Washington</b>	8	21	25	24	21
<b>Cass</b>	39	56	68	61	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>2,897</b>

Sources: Nebraska Foster Care Review Board Independent Tracking System and Iowa Department of Human Services

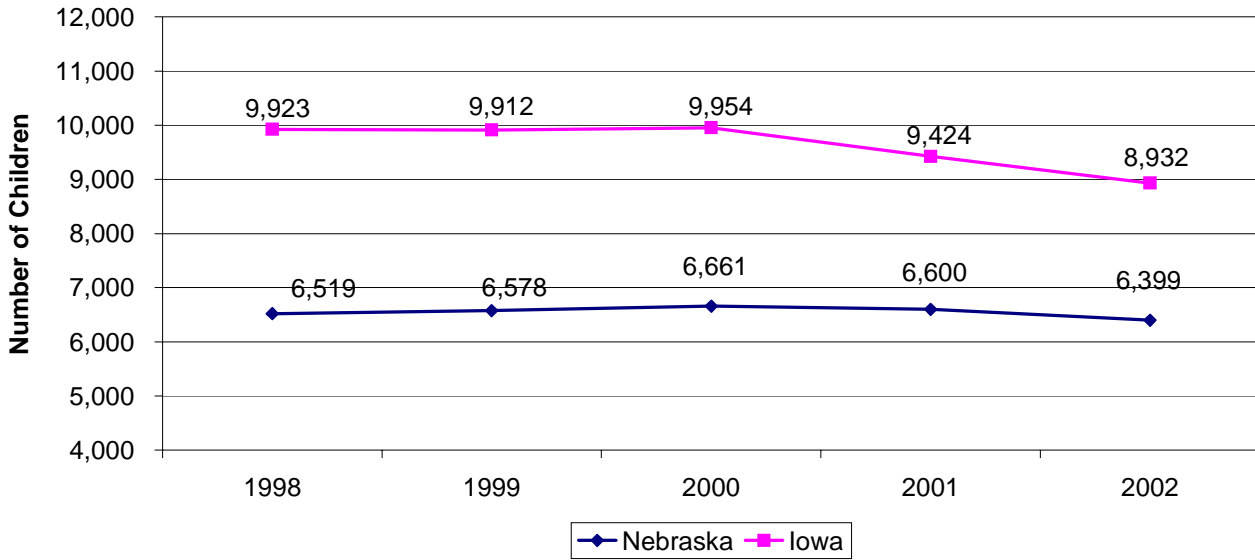
\* Nebraska tracks the number of children in care on December 31st of each year.

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## DIVORCE

Divorce refers to the dissolution of a marriage between husband and wife. This dissolution strikes at the core of traditional family units and can have devastating effects when children are involved.

**Children Involved in Divorce**  
Nebraska and Iowa



<b>Children Involved in Divorce</b>					
	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	6,519	6,578	6,661	6,600	6,399
<b>Iowa</b>	9,923	9,912	9,954	9,424	8,932

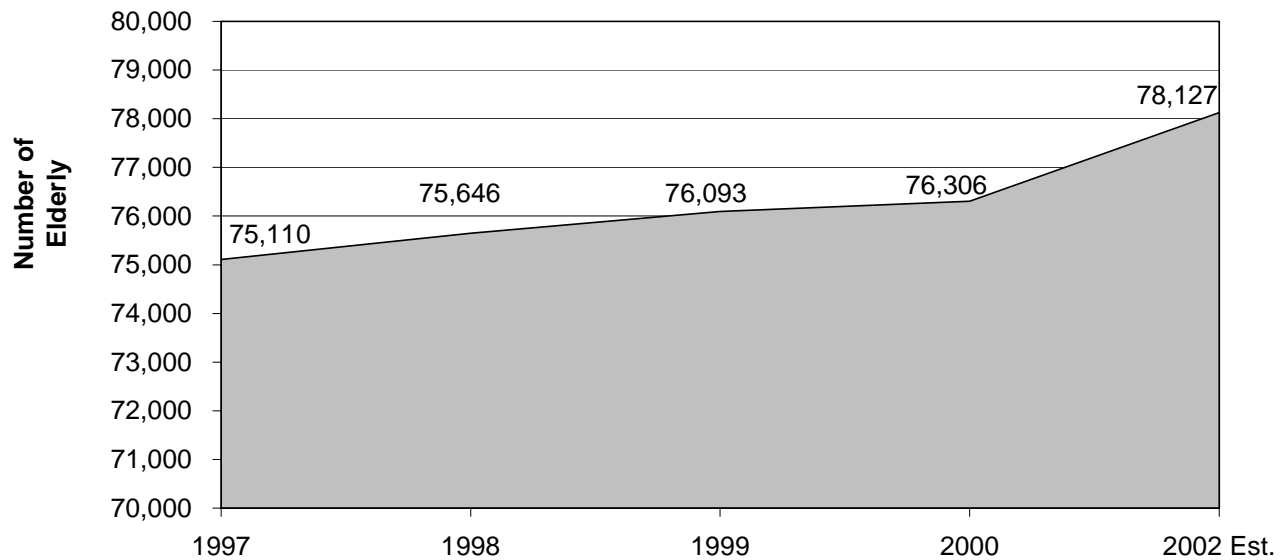
Sources: Nebraska Vital Statistics and Iowa Vital Statistics

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## ELDERLY

Seniors 65 years and older are the fastest growing population group in our area. Income security and health care needs for this population group are important issues to consider as we strive to strengthen the quality of life for our families.

### Elderly Population Metropolitan Area



Elderly Population by Area*					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	Est 2002
Douglas	49,777	49,676	49,517	50,795	51,161
Sarpy	8,102	8,749	9,387	8,123	9,364
Pottawattamie	11,864	11,835	11,794	11,972	12,083
Washington	2,397	2,428	2,459	2,423	2,462
Cass	2,970	2,958	2,936	2,993	3,057
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>75,110</b>	<b>75,646</b>	<b>76,093</b>	<b>76,306</b>	<b>78,127</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\* Elderly population includes individuals 65 years of age and older.

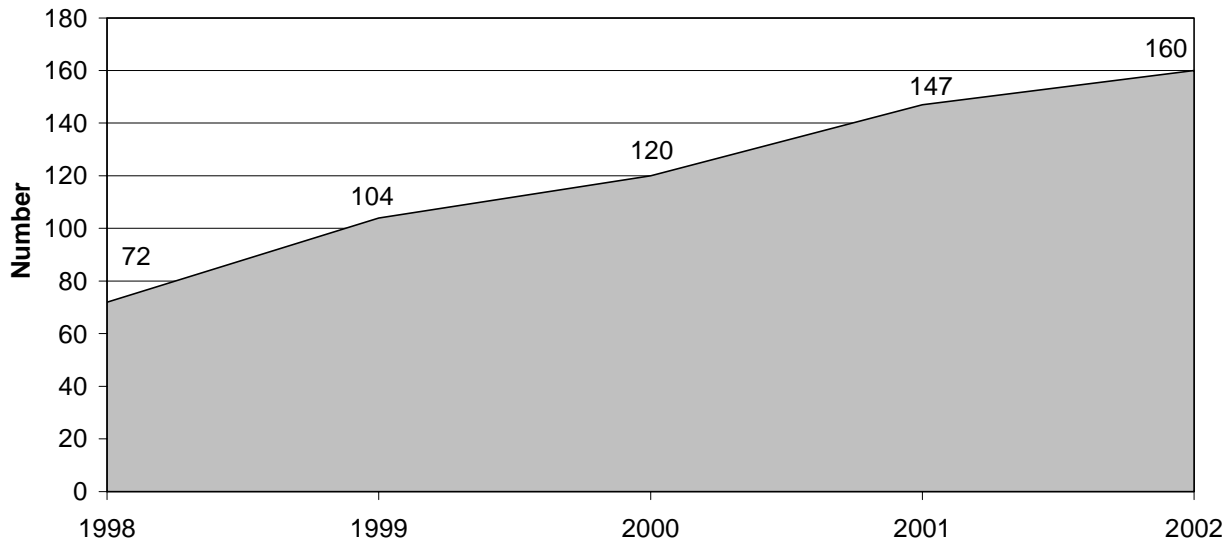
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## ALZHEIMER'S

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Alzheimer's disease is a progressive and degenerative disease of the brain which results in impaired thinking, memory and reasoning.

### Alzheimer's Disease Deaths Metropolitan Area



Alzheimer's Disease Deaths					
	1998	1999*	2000	2001	2002
Douglas	47	53	72	88	102
Sarpy	3	8	9	14	8
Pottawattamie	16	24	21	19	27
Washington	3	11	11	15	11
Cass	3	8	7	11	12
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>160</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Department of Public Health

\*Coding changes occurred in Nebraska in 1999, possibly contributing to an artificial increase in alzheimer's disease deaths.

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## Basic & Material Needs

# Highlights

**Basic & Material Needs refer to the primary material needs for physical survival that include food, clothing and shelter.**

- ❖ Between 1999 and 2003, the average monthly number of homeless individuals sheltered in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties increased 22.6 percent.
- ❖ On January 26, 2005, there were 320 unsheltered homeless individuals in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties.
- ❖ Between 1999 and 2003, the number of Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program recipients increased from 9,815 to 13,247, or 35 percent.
- ❖ During fiscal year 2003, nearly \$6.3 million of heating assistance was provided throughout Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties.

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

This indicator refers to the need for or loss of shelter due to natural and man made disasters, poverty, unemployment, substance abuse or mental illness.

<b>Homeless Sheltered per Month-Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties</b>						
	<b>Average Total</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>Physically Disabled</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>797</b>	421	169	192	59	23
<b>2000</b>	<b>852</b>	459	186	207	53	16
<b>2001</b>	<b>916</b>	506	204	206	71	24
<b>2002</b>	<b>913</b>	534	196	180	56	26
<b>2003</b>	<b>977</b>	564	208	201	66	28

Source: Omaha City Planning Department and Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless

In January of 2005, the Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (OACCH) conducted a point-in-time count of homeless individuals and families within the Omaha Area Continuum of Care region which includes Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties. Below are the results of this effort.

<b>Point-In-Time Count of Homeless Individuals and Families (Jan. 26, 2005)</b>				
<b>Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties</b>				
<b>Homeless Population</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Transitional</b>		
Homeless Individuals	565	203	185	953
Homeless Families w/ Children	31	66		97
Persons in Homeless Families with Children	82	206		288
<b>Total (Lines 1 &amp; 3)</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1241</b>

Source: Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless

<b>Point-In-Time Count of Homeless Individuals and Families (Jan. 26, 2005)</b>				
<b>Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties</b>				
<b>Homeless Subpopulations</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Transitional</b>		
Chronically Homeless	439	64	136	639
Seriously Mentally Ill	231	37	68	336
Chronic Substance Abuse	483	118	99	700
Veterans	84	19	16	119
Persons w/ HIV / AIDS	3			3
Victims of Domestic Violence	80	48	1	129
Youth	21	36	0	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>1983</b>

Source: Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless

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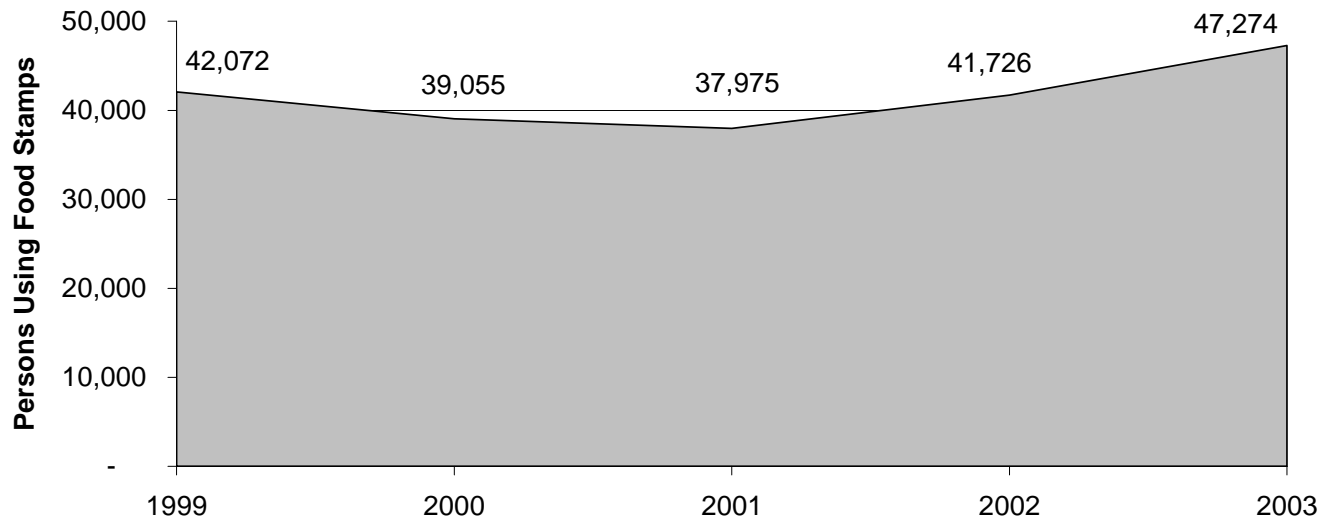
## PERSONS USING FOOD STAMPS

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The federal food stamp program helps low income people buy food. Food refers to survival needs for caloric intake and is one of the most basic material needs in our society.

### Food Stamps

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Persons Using Food Stamps by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Douglas	32,835	30,666	29,701	32,334	36,519
Sarpy	2,387	2,204	2,153	2,445	2,866
Pottawattamie	5,265	4,963	4,979	5,684	6,548
Washington	347	289	274	357	422
Cass	1,238	933	868	906	919
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>42,072</b>	<b>39,055</b>	<b>37,975</b>	<b>41,726</b>	<b>47,274</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Human Services

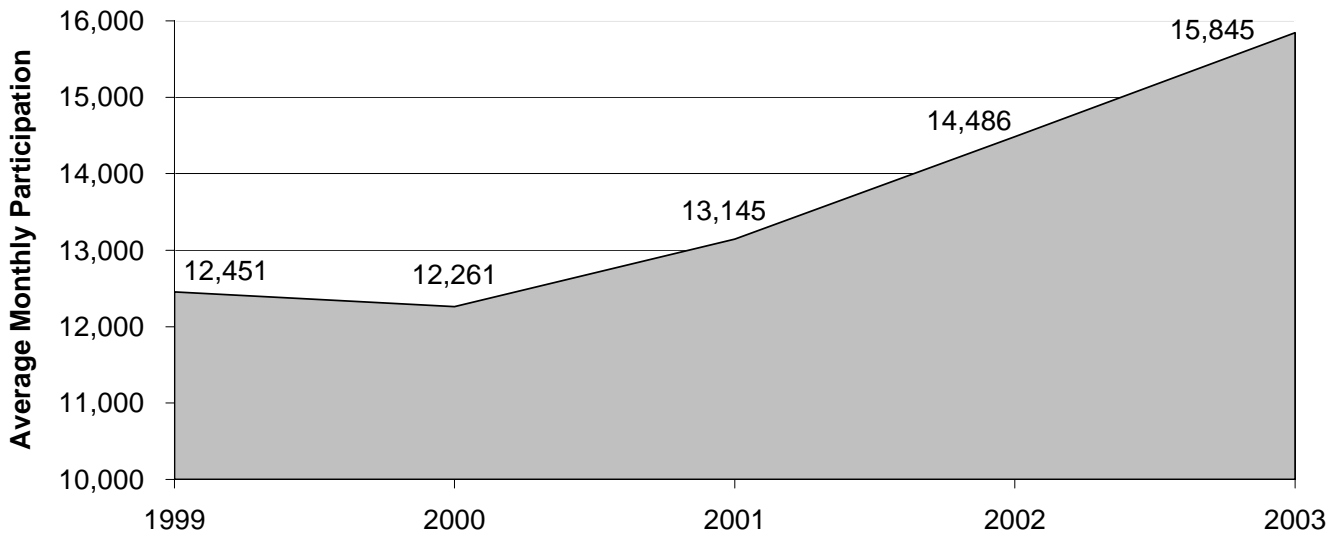
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## WIC PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

This supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides free food and nutrition information to help keep pregnant women, infants and children under five years of age healthy and strong.

### WIC Recipients Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass Counties



WIC Recipients by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas, Sarpy, Washington &amp; Cass*</b>	9,815	9,720	10,607	11,884	13,247
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	2,636	2,541	2,538	2,602	2,598
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>12,451</b>	<b>12,261</b>	<b>13,145</b>	<b>14,486</b>	<b>15,845</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Human Services

\*Washington County represents WIC recipients from the Blair clinic and Cass County represents WIC recipients from the Plattsmouth clinic.

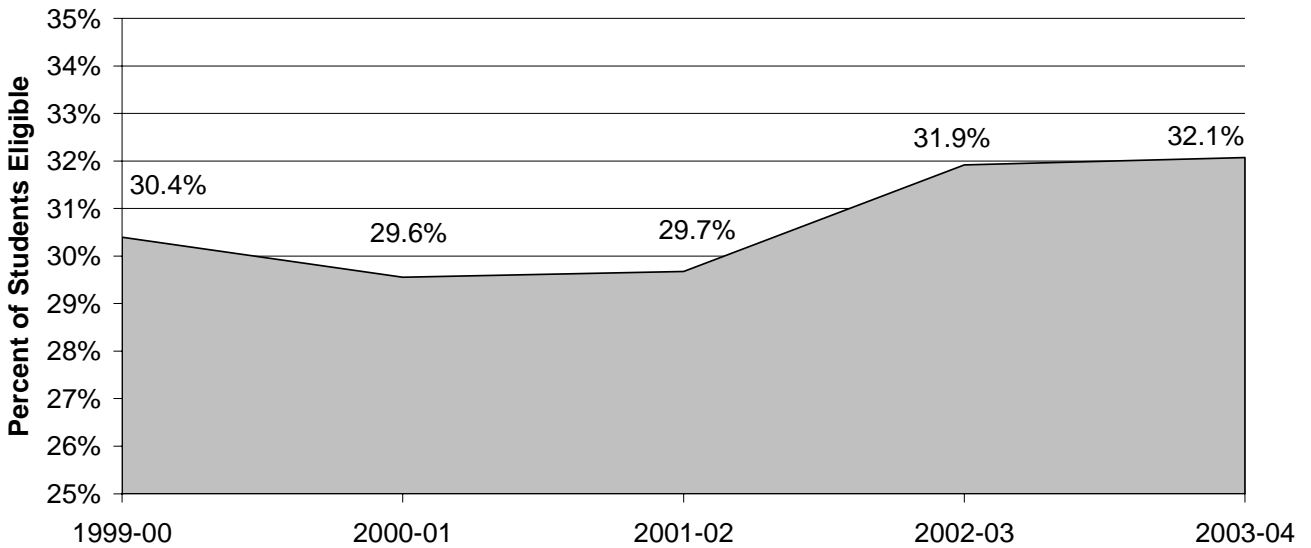
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## SUBSIDIZED SCHOOL MEALS

The National School Lunch program provides nutritional lunches to children in participating schools. Low income families are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches through this program.

### Subsidized School Meals

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Meals					
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Douglas	34.0%	33.7%	33.4%	36.5%	37.0%
Sarpy	16.7%	16.7%	16.4%	13.9%	16.3%
Pottawattamie*	35.0%	32.5%	31.9%	38.0%	32.3%
Washington	14.0%	11.5%	12.8%	14.9%	14.8%
Cass	29.2%	27.1%	28.8%	26.3%	27.5%
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>31.9%</b>	<b>32.1%</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Department of Education

\*Pottawattamie County consists of Council Bluffs and Lewis Central school districts

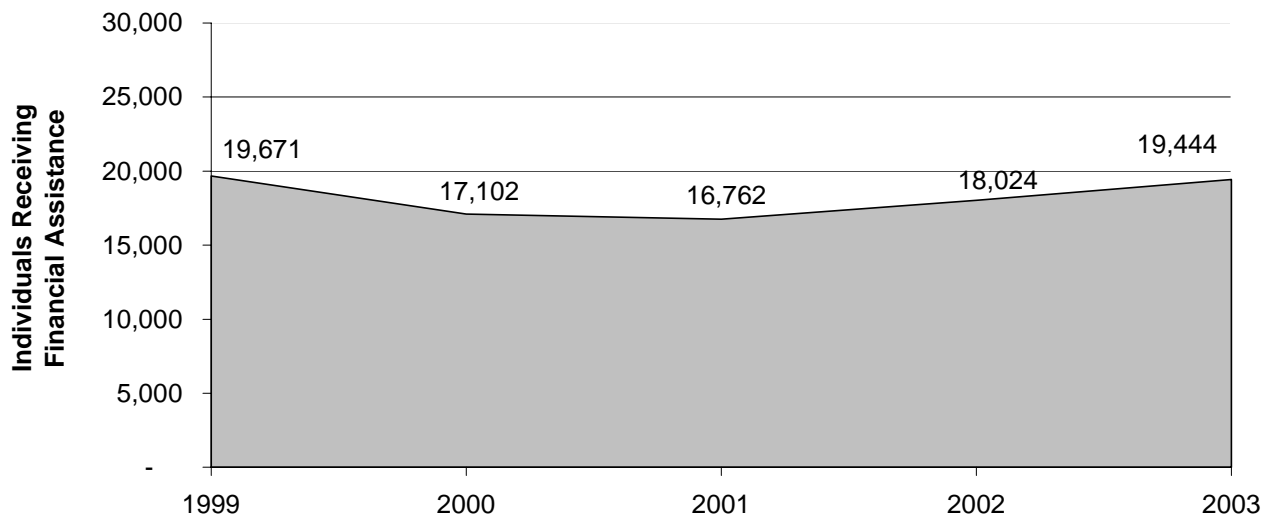
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## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This indicator refers to the support by government agencies for the basic survival needs of those who are not economically self-sufficient. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), commonly known as welfare, is the monthly cash assistance program for poor families with children under age 18. A family of three (mother and two children) may qualify for TANF if their gross income is below \$784 a month and assets are worth less than \$1,000. This income is used to pay for family living expenses such as rent, utilities, food, clothing, and other necessities, and is often the only source of cash assistance for a family.

### Financial Assistance

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



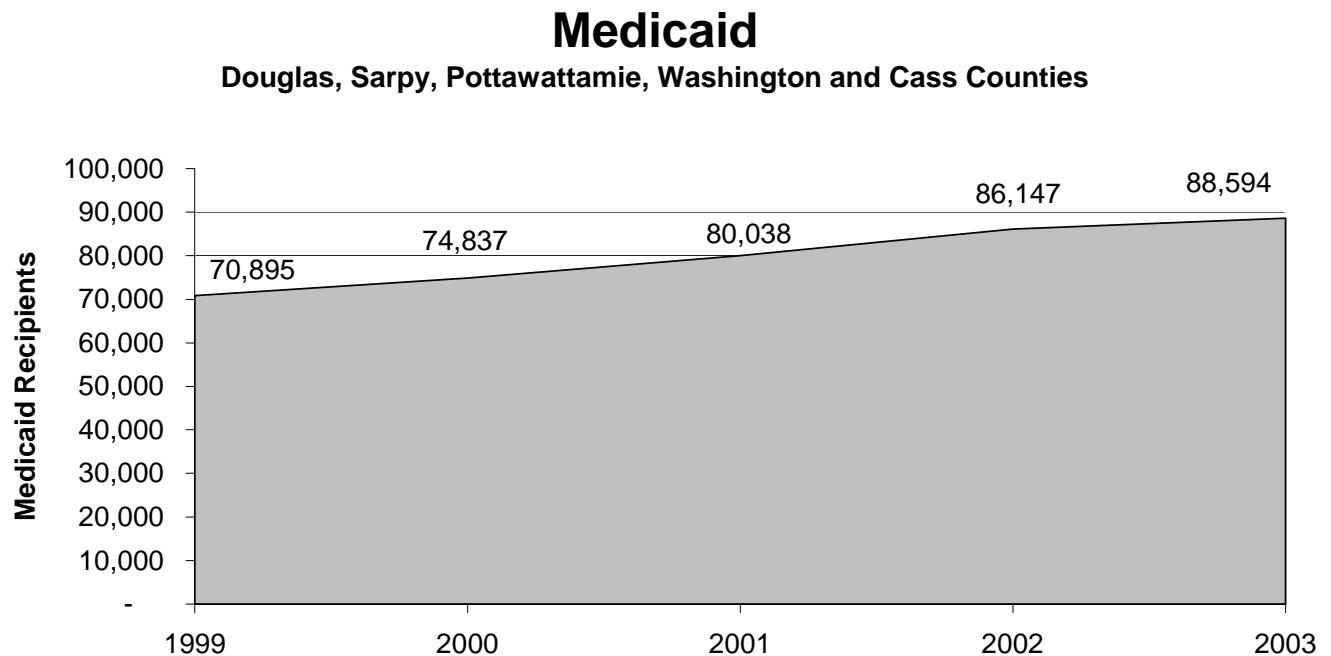
Individuals Receiving Financial Assistance by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	15,645	13,689	13,349	14,182	15,437
<b>Sarpy</b>	1,041	860	856	1,036	1,079
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	2,516	2,257	2,307	2,494	2,598
<b>Washington</b>	115	74	59	77	112
<b>Cass</b>	354	222	191	235	218
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>19,671</b>	<b>17,102</b>	<b>16,762</b>	<b>18,024</b>	<b>19,444</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Human Services

FOR A LISTING OF ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING RELATED ISSUES, PLEASE VISIT THE UNITED WAY/FIRST CALL FOR HELP COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY AT [HTTP://WWW.UWMIDLANDS.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTM](http://www.uwmidlands.org/directory.htm) OR CALL 2-1-1.

## MEDICAID

This federal and state funded insurance program provides medical assistance to certain individuals and families with low incomes and limited resources. It is the largest program of its kind providing health related services to America's poorest people.



<b>Average Monthly Medicaid Eligible Persons</b>					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	51,572	54,831	58,867	63,007	64,078
<b>Sarpy</b>	5,103	5,588	6,158	6,692	6,736
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	11,202	11,304	11,775	12,911	14,376
<b>Washington</b>	907	1,005	1,042	1,199	1,201
<b>Cass</b>	2,111	2,109	2,196	2,338	2,203
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>70,895</b>	<b>74,837</b>	<b>80,038</b>	<b>86,147</b>	<b>88,594</b>

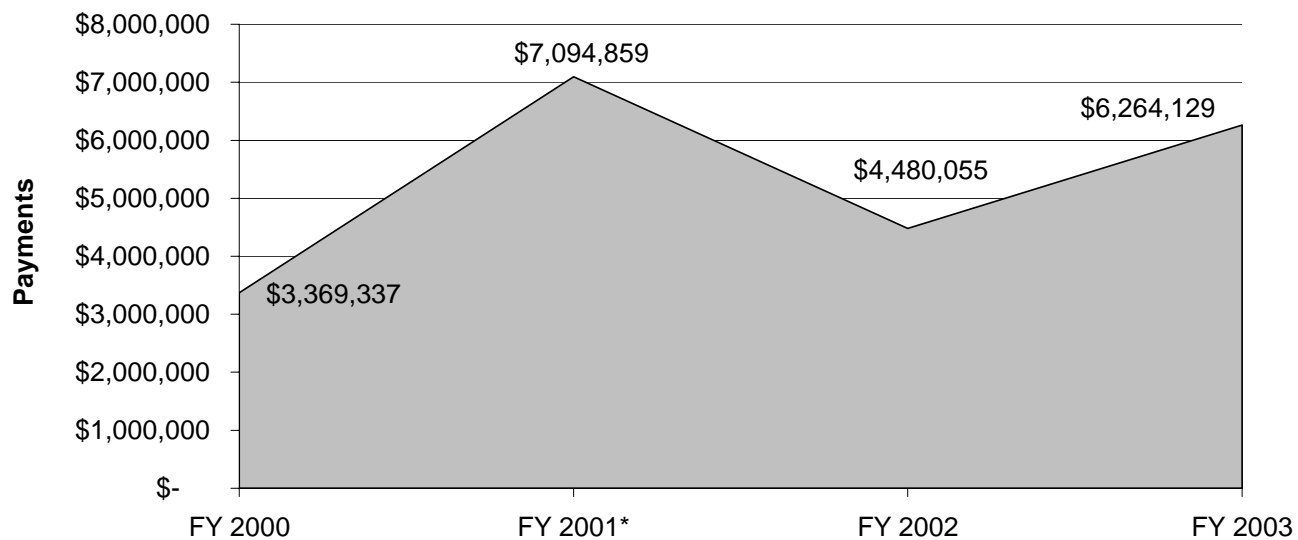
Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Human Services

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## UTILITY ASSISTANCE

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is available to those individuals or families with limited incomes to offset the cost of heating and cooling their homes.

### Heating Assistance Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties



Heating Assistance Payments by Area				
	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
<b>Douglas and Sarpy Counties*</b>	\$ 3,007,747	\$ 5,798,517	\$ 3,975,395	\$ 5,549,409
<b>Pottawattamie County**</b>	\$ 361,590	\$ 1,296,342	\$ 504,660	\$ 714,720
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,369,337</b>	<b>\$ 7,094,859</b>	<b>\$ 4,480,055</b>	<b>\$ 6,264,129</b>

Source:s Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Department of Human Rights and The West Central Development Corporation

\*To qualify for assistance in Nebraska, households must maintain financial responsibility for utility payments, be economically vulnerable, have combined household income of 116% of the federal poverty level (1999 and 2000) or 130% of the federal poverty level (2001) and have available resources of less than \$5,000.

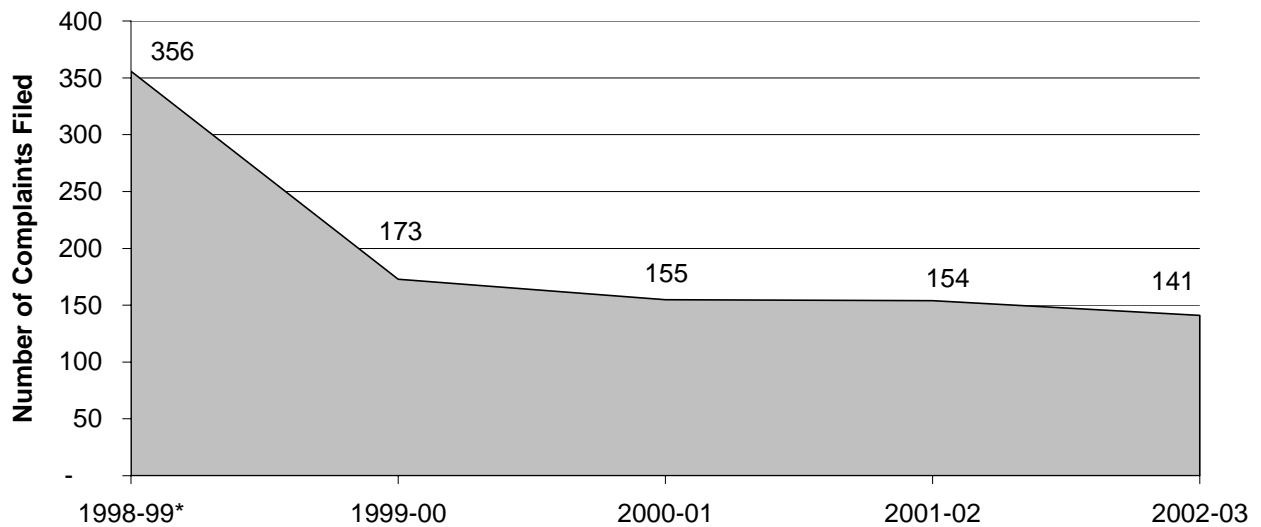
\*\*To qualify for assistance in Iowa, households must be at, or below, 150% of the federal poverty level.

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## HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

This indicator refers to the unlawful denial of equality in the provision of housing and related services. Federal law prohibits housing discrimination due to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status or disability.

### Housing Discrimination Nebraska and Iowa



Housing Discrimination by Area					
	1998-99*	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Iowa	161	101	87	75	87
Nebraska	195	72	68	79	54
<b>Iowa and Nebraska Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>141</b>

Sources: Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission and Iowa Civil Rights Commission

\*127 of the charges in 1998-99 were filed after an incident involving six complainants and a group of individuals

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United Way  
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# Economic Opportunity

## Highlights

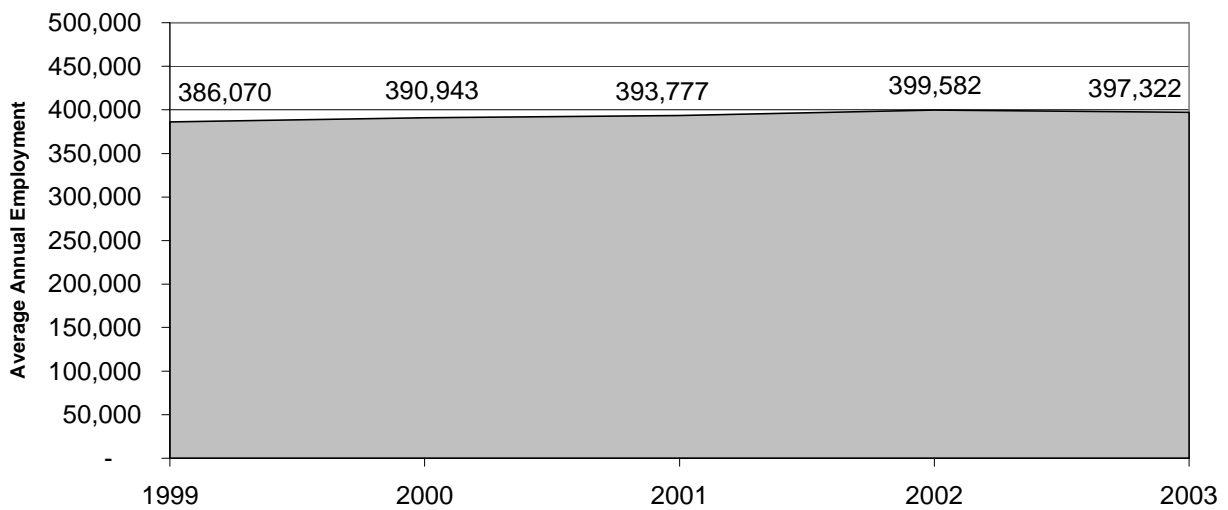
**Economic Opportunity refers to financial self-sufficiency through employment and alternate sources of income.**

- ❖ Pottawattamie County in Iowa has experienced a dramatic increase in their rate of unemployment. Between 1999 and 2003, the rate of unemployment grew from 2.0 to 5.3.
- ❖ Average wages in Sarpy County grew from \$29,509 in 1998 to \$34,359 in 2002, or 16.4 percent.
- ❖ Median income in Cass County increased 48.5 percent between 1999 and 2003.
- ❖ Employment discrimination in Nebraska decreased slightly, from 1,406 to 1,256 between 1998-99 and 2002-03.

## EMPLOYMENT

This indicator refers to the community's engagement or use of an individual's time and services. Employment has become a prime measure of the community's economic health and ultimately leads to the satisfaction of the individual in making life choices.

### Employment Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



<b>Employment by Area</b>					
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Douglas</b>	254,725	258,393	260,359	263,101	262,548
<b>Sarpy</b>	60,986	61,787	62,230	62,467	63,104
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	47,000	47,100	47,400	50,350	48,300
<b>Washington</b>	10,819	10,972	11,048	10,989	10,813
<b>Cass</b>	12,540	12,691	12,740	12,675	12,557
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>386,070</b>	<b>390,943</b>	<b>393,777</b>	<b>399,582</b>	<b>397,322</b>

Sources: Nebraska Workforce Development and Iowa Workforce Development

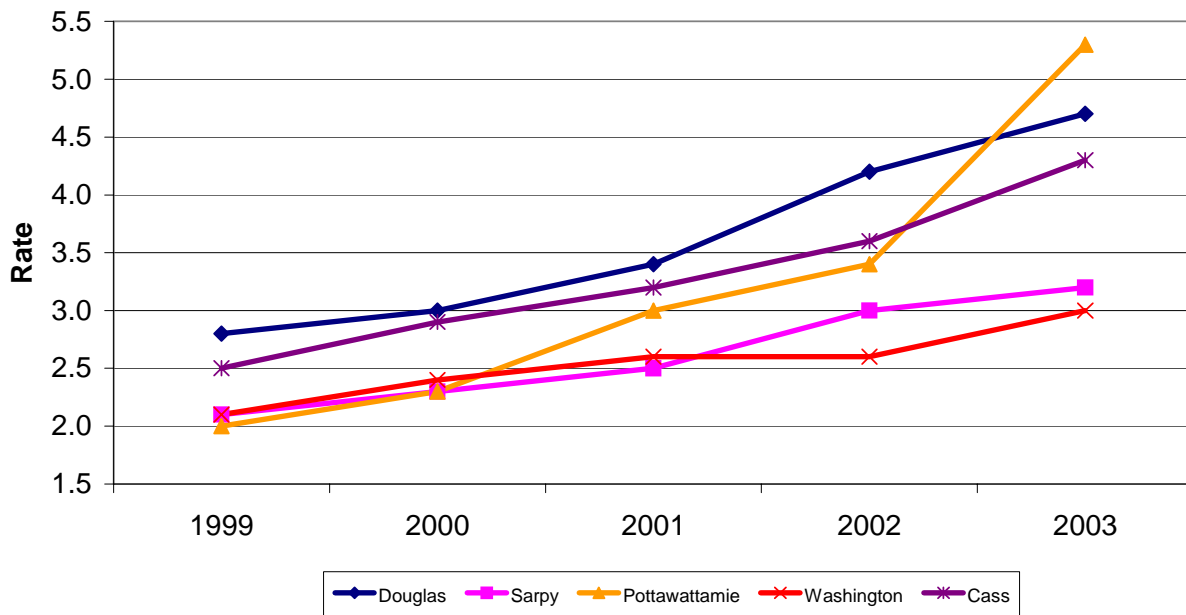
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## UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment results in lost wages for families and the production of fewer goods and services. When the purchasing power of these workers is lost, unemployment for additional workers may follow. This indicator is useful in measuring the health of our community's economy.

### Unemployment Rates

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Unemployment Rates by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	2.8	3.0	3.4	4.2	4.7
<b>Sarpy</b>	2.1	2.3	2.5	3.0	3.2
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	2.0	2.3	3.0	3.4	5.3
<b>Washington</b>	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.0
<b>Cass</b>	2.5	2.9	3.2	3.6	4.3

Sources: Nebraska Workforce Development and Iowa Workforce Development

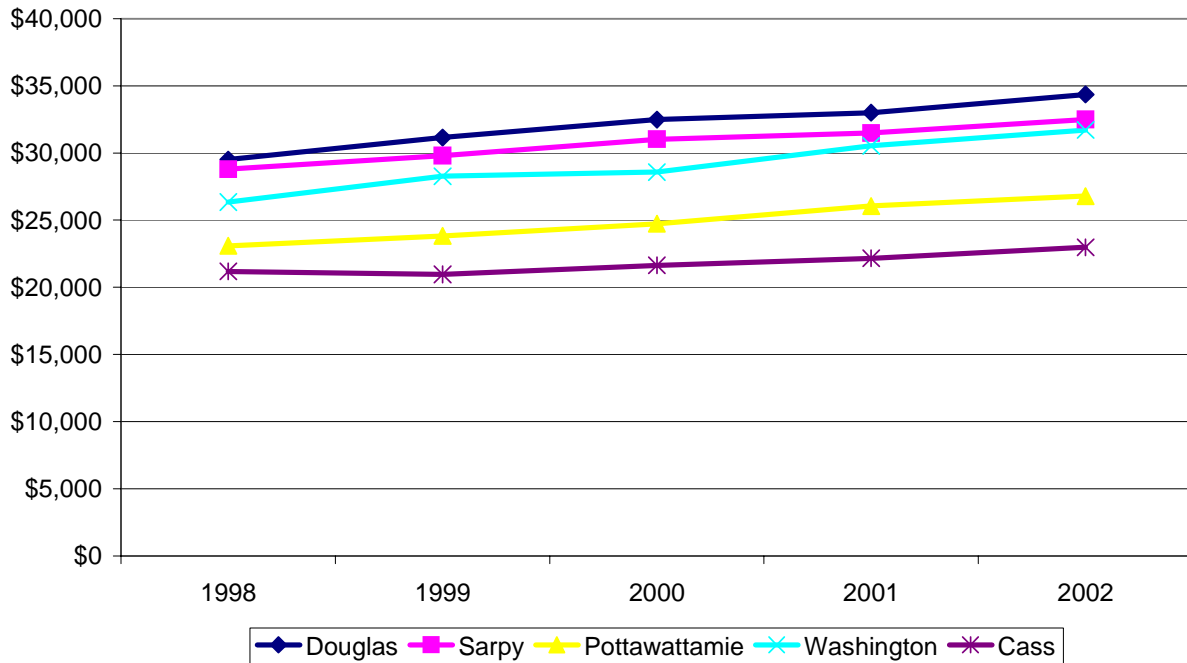
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## INCOME/WAGES

This indicator refers to the availability of individual or household financial support.

### Average Wages

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



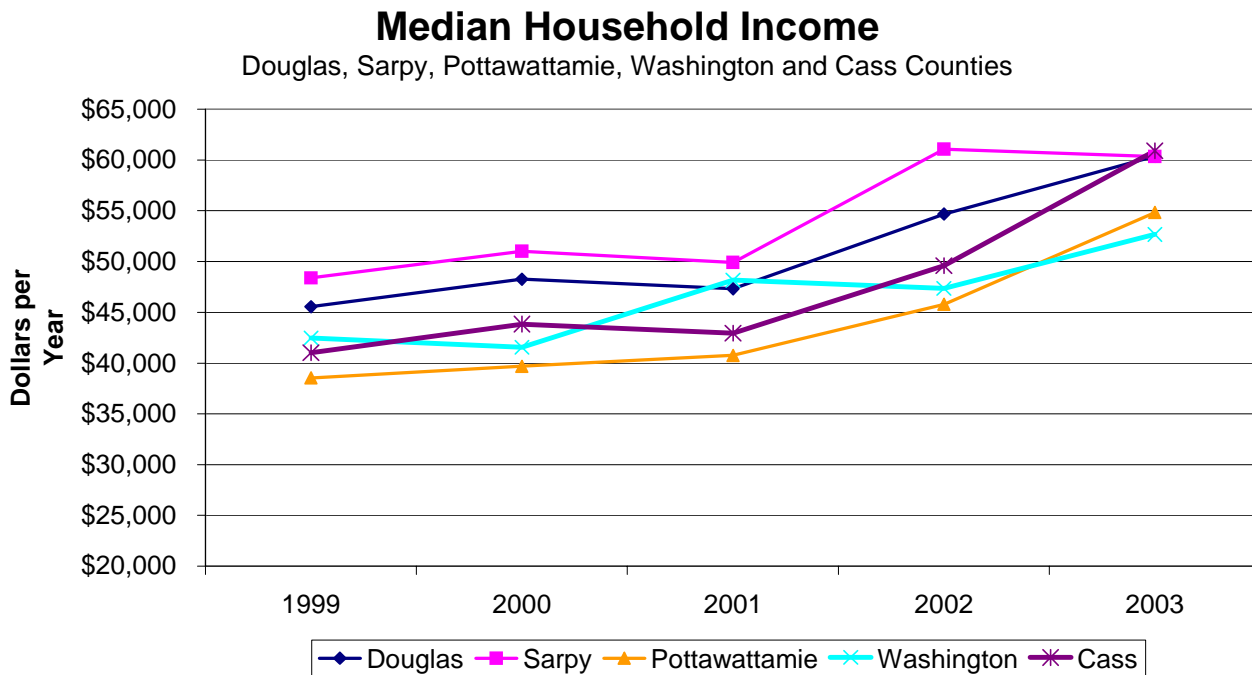
Average Wages by Area					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Douglas</b>	\$29,509	\$31,147	\$32,483	\$32,998	\$34,359
<b>Sarpy</b>	\$28,806	\$29,809	\$31,026	\$31,492	\$32,502
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	\$23,092	\$23,824	\$24,728	\$26,063	\$26,788
<b>Washington</b>	\$26,345	\$28,277	\$28,573	\$30,529	\$31,716
<b>Cass</b>	\$21,182	\$20,958	\$21,642	\$22,169	\$22,976

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce and Bureau of Economic Analysis

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# INCOME

This indicator refers the availability of individual or household financial support.



Median Household Income by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	\$45,549	\$48,261	\$47,318	\$54,679	\$60,383
<b>Sarpy</b>	\$48,389	\$51,022	\$49,919	\$61,073	\$60,355
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	\$38,542	\$39,699	\$40,765	\$45,797	\$54,840
<b>Washington</b>	\$42,471	\$41,568	\$48,172	\$47,349	\$52,664
<b>Cass</b>	\$41,016	\$43,828	\$42,950	\$49,587	\$60,908

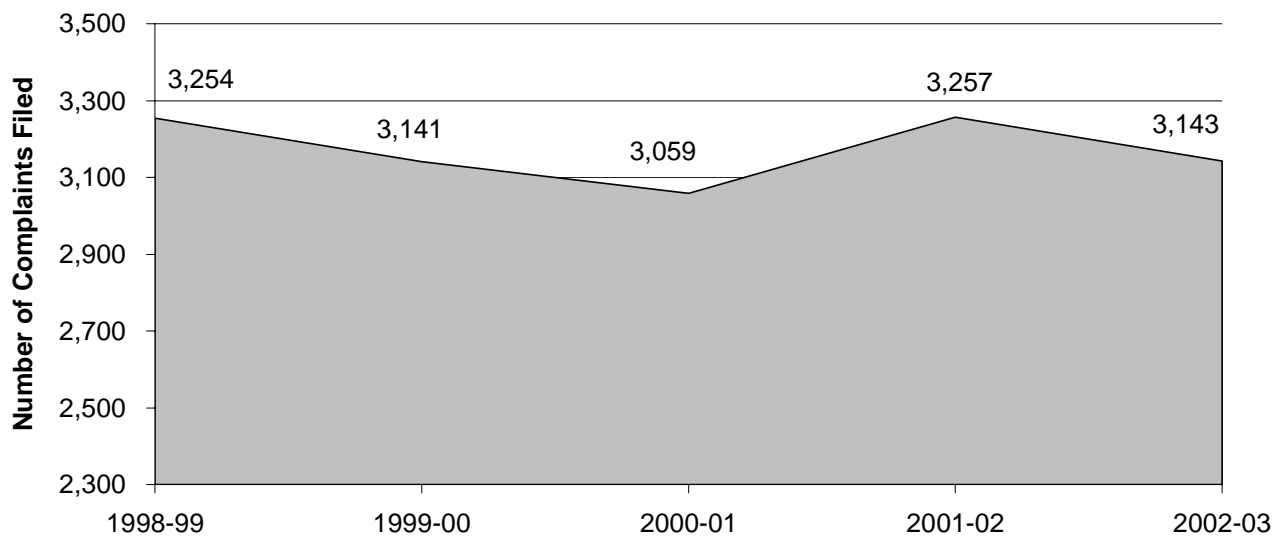
Source: Omaha World-Herald Consumer Preference Study

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## EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

This indicator refers to the unlawful denial of equality in the provision of employment and related services. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 strives to protect employees against discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

### Employment Discrimination Nebraska and Iowa



Employment Discrimination by Area					
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
<b>Iowa</b>	1,848	1,837	1,706	1,908	1,887
<b>Nebraska</b>	1,406	1,304	1,353	1,349	1,256
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>3,143</b>

Source: Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission and Iowa Civil Rights Commission

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United Way  
of the Midlands

# Health-Birth and Death

## Highlights

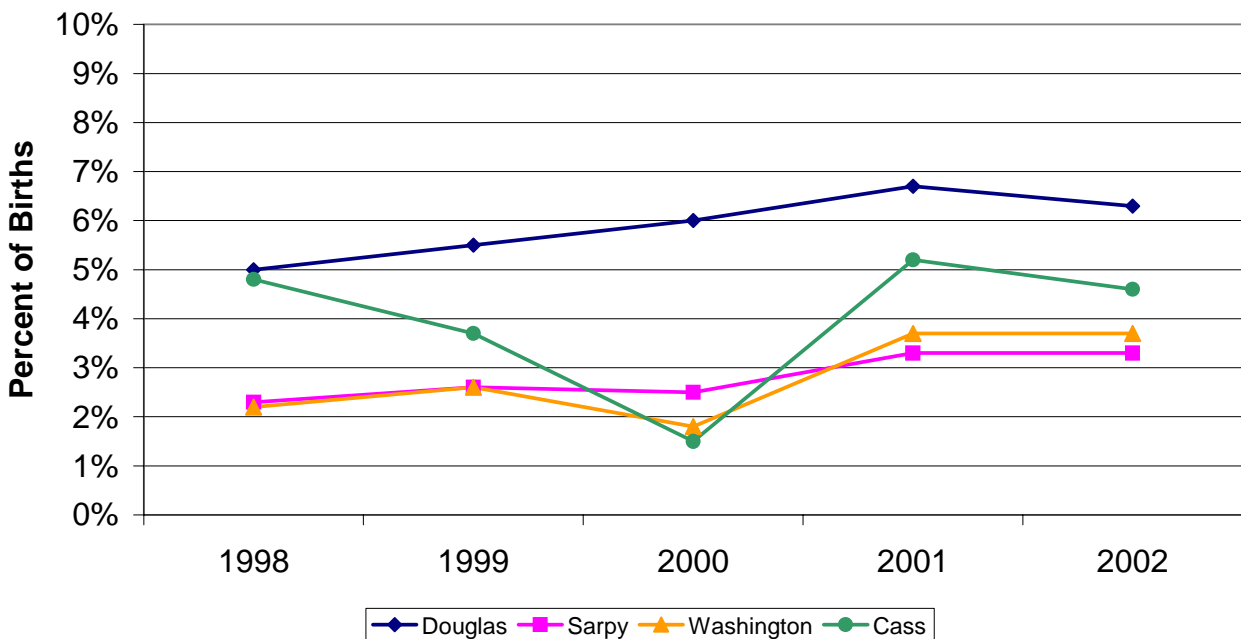
**Birth and Death related health issues are concerned with the physical well-being as well as the use and access to preventive and remedial care.**

- ❖ In 2002, 6.3 percent of all the babies born in Douglas County did not have adequate prenatal care (as measured with the Kessner Index).
- ❖ Between 2001 and 2002, the number of low birth weight babies (weighing less than 2,500 grams) in Pottawattamie County increased from 83 to 127, or 53 percent.
- ❖ In 2002, 831 teenagers (age 19 and younger) had babies in Douglas County.
- ❖ Between 1998 and 2002, cardiovascular deaths in Douglas County decreased 14.6 percent.
- ❖ Cancer deaths throughout the Omaha Metro area remained relatively steady between 1998 and 2002.

## INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE

Adequacy of prenatal care is measured with the Kessner Index, which incorporates 1) length of gestation, 2) timing of the first prenatal care visit, and 3) the number of prenatal visits. These factors contribute toward the health and well-being of a newborn child.

### Inadequate Prenatal Care Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass Counties



Percent of Births Receiving Inadequate Prenatal Care by Area					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Douglas</b>	5.0%	5.5%	6.0%	6.7%	6.3%
<b>Sarpy</b>	2.3%	2.6%	2.5%	3.3%	3.3%
<b>Washington</b>	2.2%	2.6%	1.8%	3.7%	3.7%
<b>Cass</b>	4.8%	3.7%	1.5%	5.2%	4.6%

Source: Nebraska Vital Statistics Report

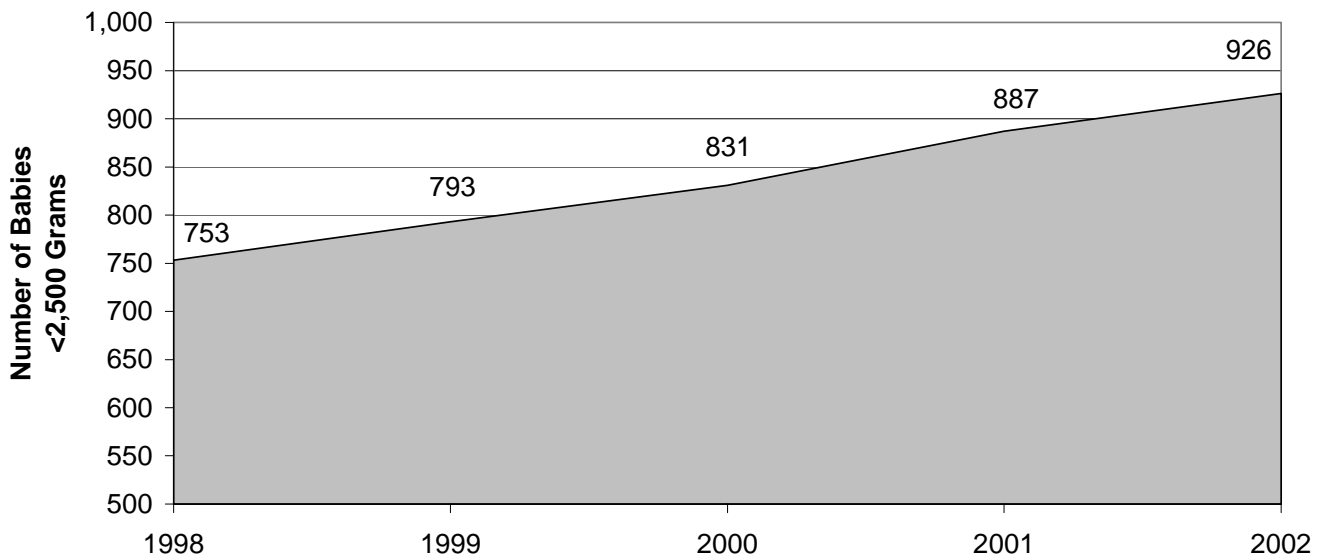
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## LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) is considered by health care practitioners to be a negative birth outcome and is often used as an indicator for infant frailty.

### Low Birth Weight Babies

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Low Birth Weight by Area					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Douglas	532	537	590	600	610
Sarpy	109	133	126	164	158
Pottawattamie	87	85	76	83	127
Washington	9	19	16	20	9
Cass	16	19	23	20	22
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>926</b>

Sources: Nebraska Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

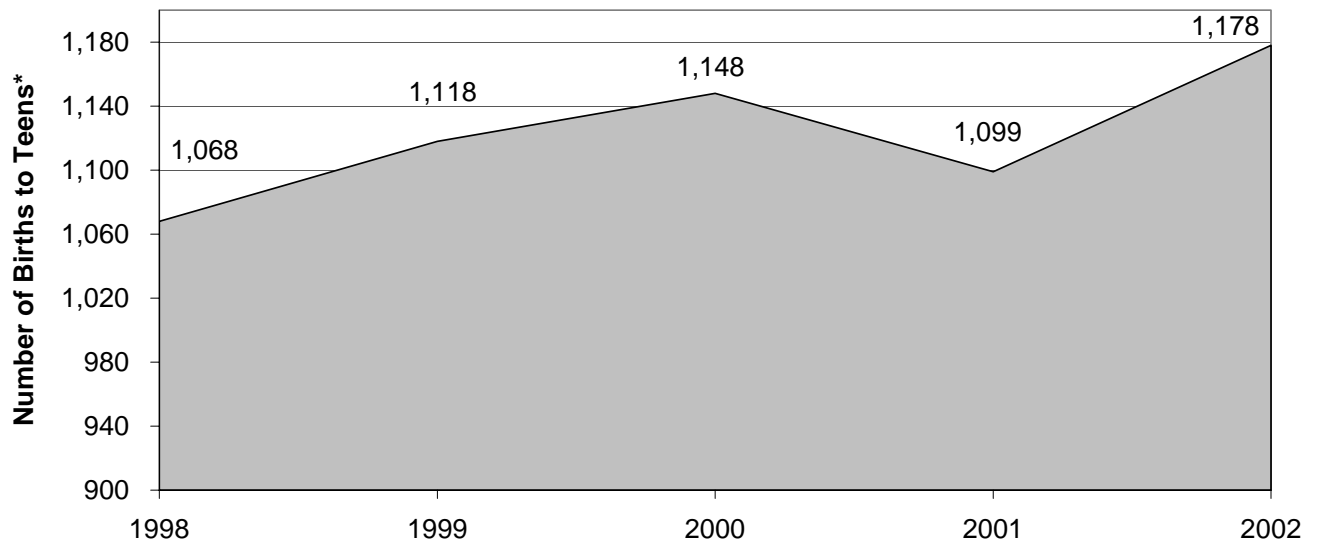
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## TEEN PREGNANCY

Many teen mothers are not ready for the emotional, psychological, and financial responsibilities and challenges of parenthood.<sup>74</sup> Furthermore, pregnant teens are less likely to receive timely prenatal care and are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, resulting in a low birth weight infant.

### Teen Births

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Teen Births by Area*					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Douglas</b>	725	758	802	768	831
<b>Sarpy</b>	126	144	129	128	145
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	162	165	165	162	163
<b>Washington</b>	20	16	13	11	22
<b>Cass</b>	35	35	39	30	17
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>1,178</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

\*Teen births are births to women age 19 and under.

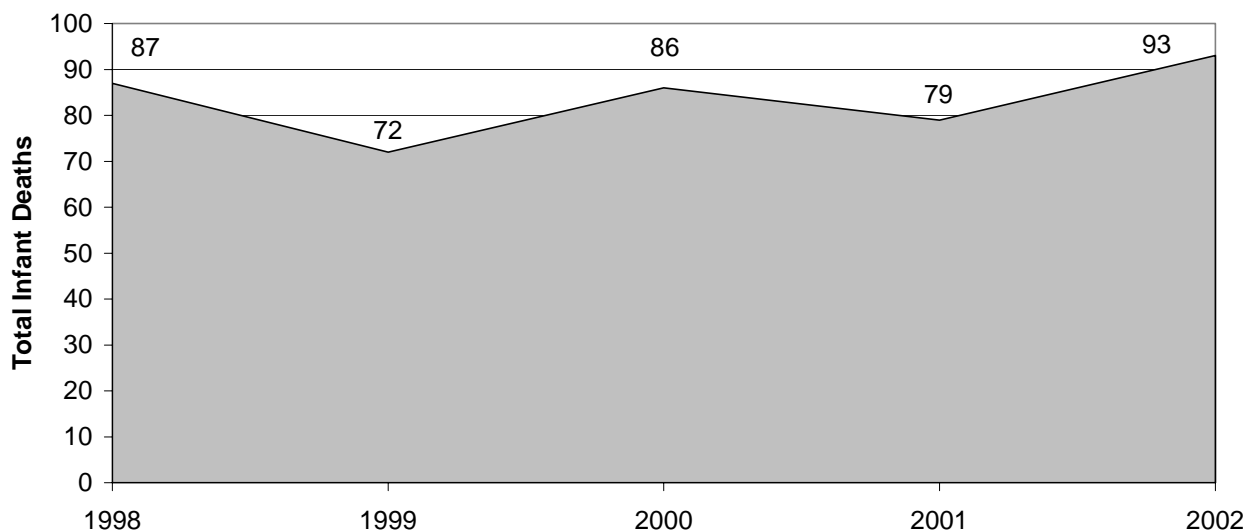
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## INFANT DEATH

Infant mortality is the incidence of death that occurs within the first year after birth. Most infant deaths result from low birth weight, prematurity, sudden infant death syndrome or birth defects.<sup>78</sup> Infant mortality is considered an important indicator of the general level of health for a given population.

### Infant Death

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Infant Death by Area					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Douglas	63	49	65	56	69
Sarpy	11	12	11	11	11
Pottawattamie	11	8	8	5	9
Washington	1	1	1	3	3
Cass	1	2	1	4	1
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>93</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

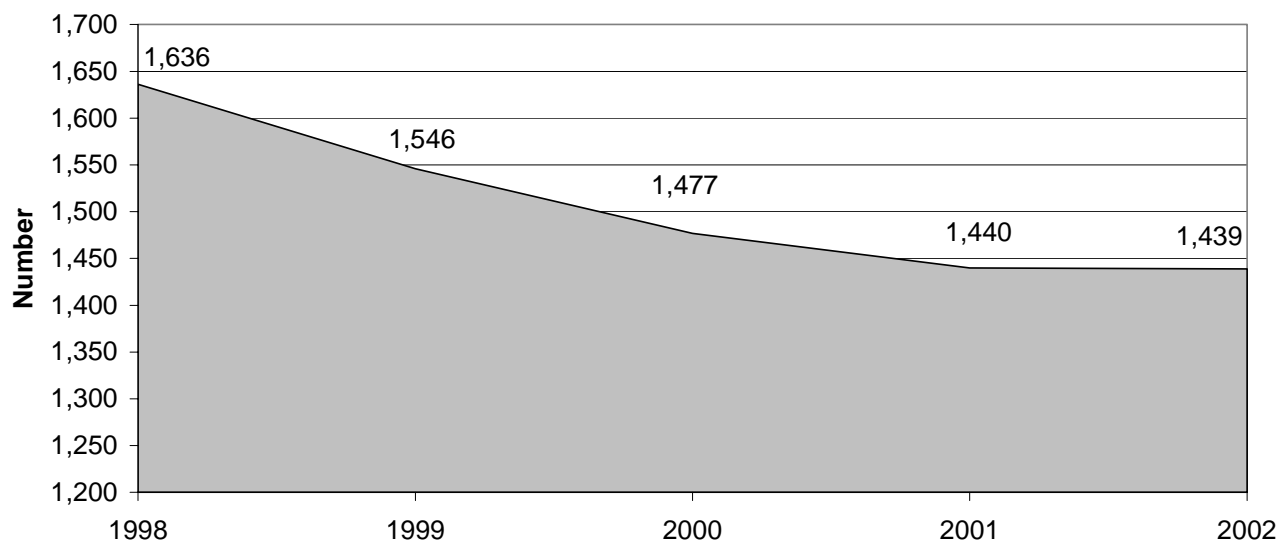
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## CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE DEATHS

This indicator refers to deaths that are the result of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease includes various diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Cardiovascular disease caused by smoking is the largest cause of premature death in industrialized societies, killing even more people than lung cancer.

### Cardiovascular Death

Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



Cardiovascular Deaths					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Douglas</b>	996	983	922	862	869
<b>Sarpy</b>	170	148	130	135	171
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	364	320	344	336	305
<b>Washington</b>	48	42	32	35	34
<b>Cass</b>	58	53	49	72	60
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,439</b>

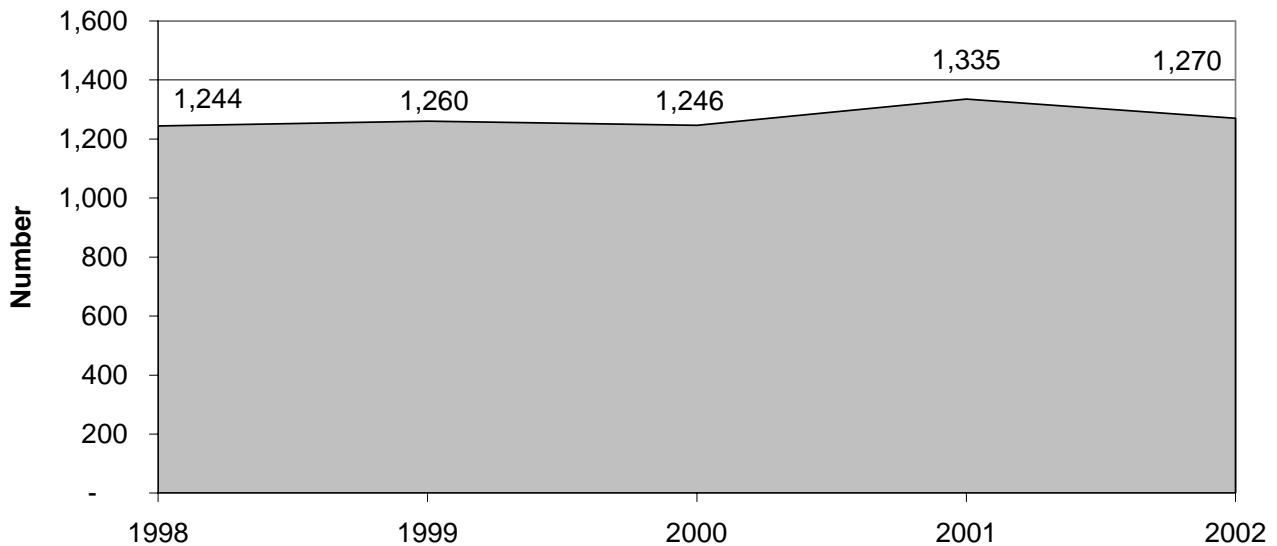
Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

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## CANCER DEATHS

This indicator refers to deaths that are the result of cancer. Cancer includes more than 100 diseases that are characterized by uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells. Cancer cells can spread locally or through the bloodstream and lymphatic system to other parts of the body.

### Cancer Death Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties



<b>Cancer Deaths by Area</b>					
	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Douglas</b>	829	869	823	887	847
<b>Sarpy</b>	140	117	136	171	147
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	200	196	186	207	206
<b>Washington</b>	33	35	53	31	36
<b>Cass</b>	42	43	48	39	34
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,270</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

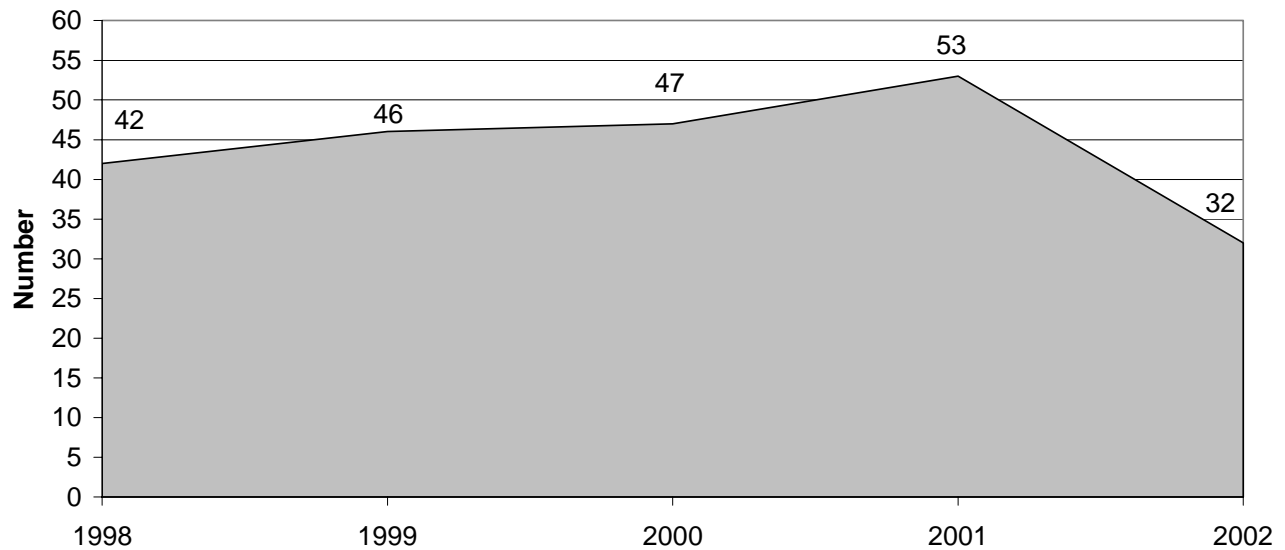
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## YOUTH SUICIDE

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Teen death by suicide is a deliberate act by a teenager to kill oneself. Suicide rates are often higher than reported because many suicides may be reported as accidents as evidence of intent may be absent.

### Youth Suicide Iowa and Nebraska



Youth Suicide by Area					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Iowa</b>	25	28	29	34	18
<b>Nebraska</b>	17	18	18	19	14
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>32</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

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FOR A LISTING OF ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING RELATED ISSUES, PLEASE VISIT THE UNITED WAY/FIRST CALL FOR HELP COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY AT [HTTP://WWW.UWMIDLANDS.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTM](http://www.uwmidlands.org/directory.htm) OR CALL 2-1-1.

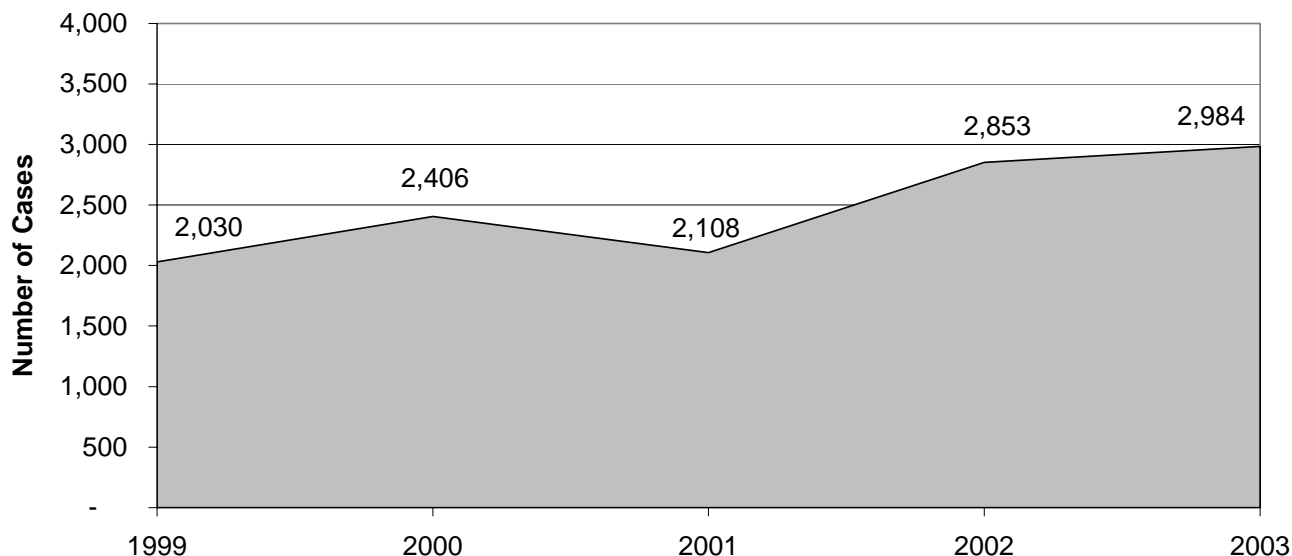
**Health Risks refer to physical activities, behaviors or other factors that jeopardize physical or mental health.**

- ❖ The incidence of chlamydia increased from 1,658 in 1999 to 2,489 in 2003, or 50.1 percent.
- ❖ Syphilis cases in Douglas County increased from 7 in 1999 to 21 cases in 2003.
- ❖ Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease that causes inflammation of the genitals and may eventually lead to sterility. Nearly 1,200 cases of gonorrhea were reported in Douglas County in 2003.
- ❖ Across Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass Counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie County in Iowa, nearly 5,900 clients received government funded substance abuse services.
- ❖ Since 2000, the number of children tested in north and south Omaha exhibiting elevated blood lead levels has declined significantly.

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES-CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection among men and women in America. Left untreated, this infection can lead to chronic pelvic pain, ectopic pregnancy or infertility in women.

**Chlamydia**  
**Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie, Washington and Cass Counties**



<b>Chlamydia by Area</b>					
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Douglas</b>	1,658	1,959	1,731	2,333	2,489
<b>Sarpy</b>	189	235	187	338	269
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	154	177	153	142	183
<b>Washington</b>	12	11	21	24	22
<b>Cass</b>	17	24	16	16	21
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>2,853</b>	<b>2,984</b>

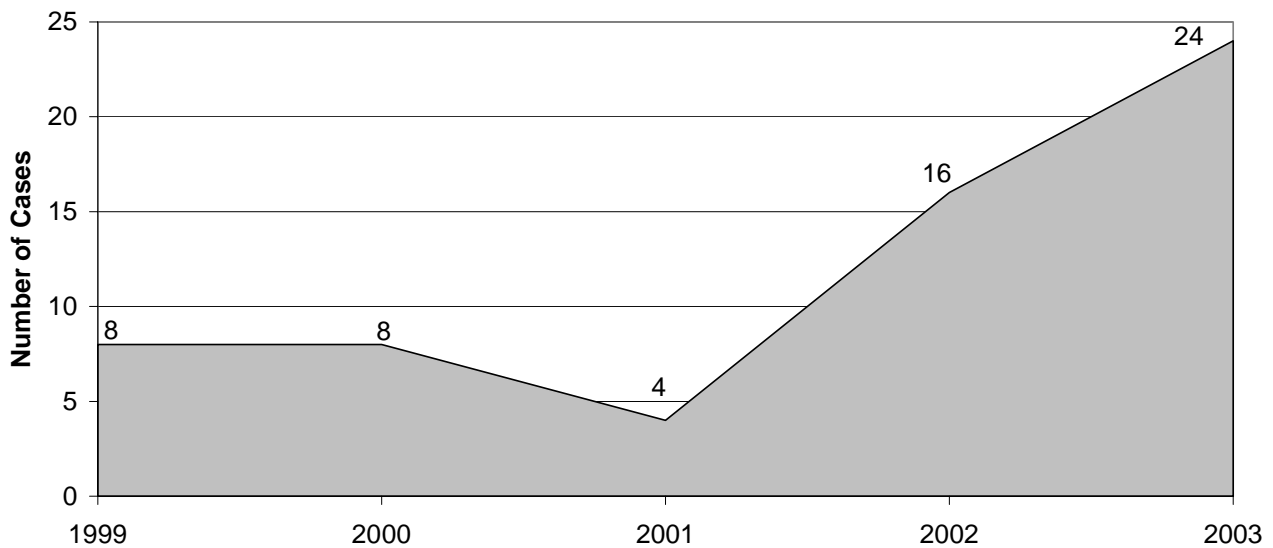
Sources: Douglas County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health

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## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES-SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a contagious venereal disease transmitted primarily by sexual contact. Untreated, the disease can cause lesions to internal organs and degeneration of the nerves, resulting in blindness, psychosis and may potentially result in unintended death.

### Syphilis Metropolitan Area



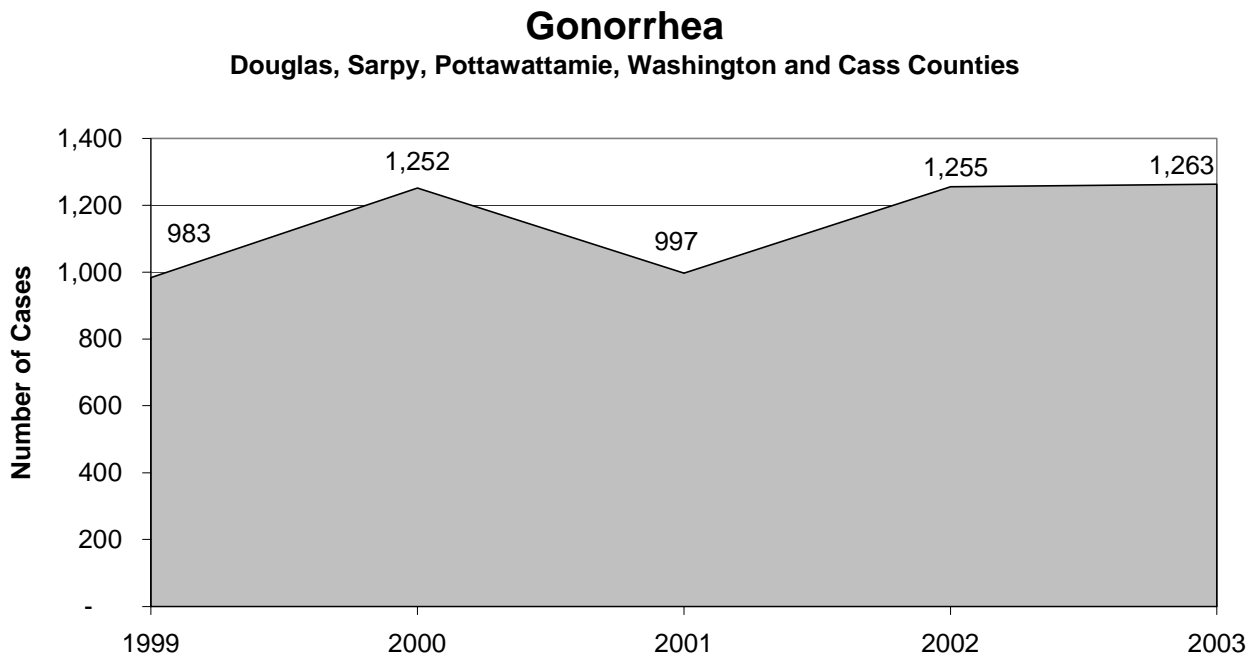
Syphilis by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Douglas	7	6	1	15	21
Sarpy	0	0	0	0	1
Pottawattamie	1	2	3	1	2
Washington	0	0	0	0	0
Cass	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>

Sources: Douglas County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health

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## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES-GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease that causes inflammation of the genitals and may eventually lead to sterility. The gonococcus organism is highly vulnerable to most antibiotics.



<b>Gonorrhea by Area</b>					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	905	1,160	925	1,147	1,170
<b>Sarpy</b>	43	45	43	62	45
<b>Pottawattamie</b>	23	39	27	36	45
<b>Washington</b>	5	3	1	4	1
<b>Cass</b>	7	5	1	6	2
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>1,263</b>

Sources: Douglas County Health Department and Iowa Department of Public Health

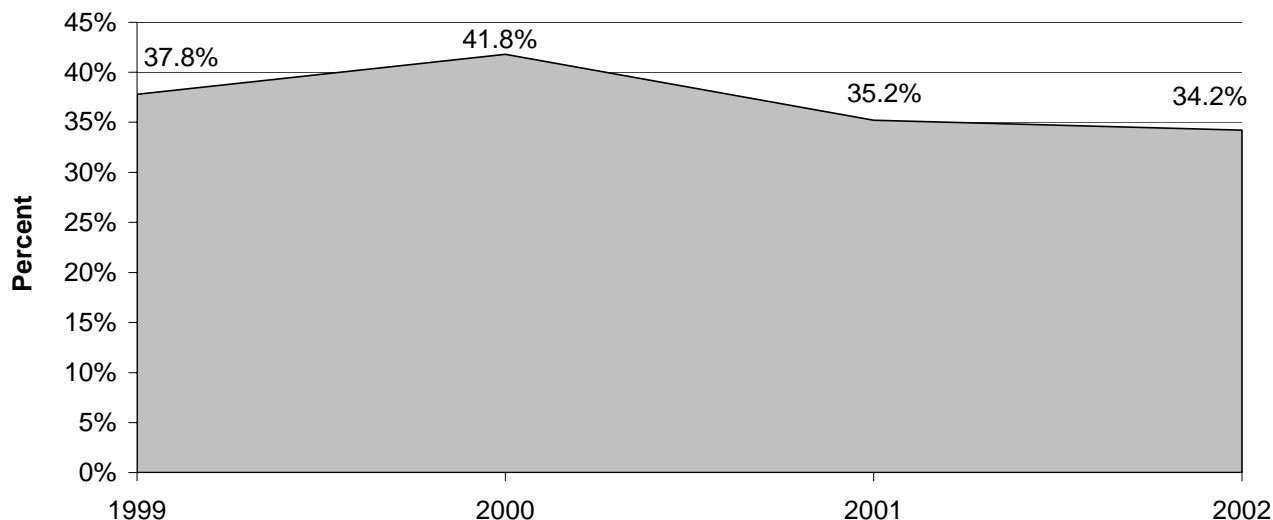
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## TOBACCO USAGE

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Each year, tobacco kills more people than drugs, AIDS, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crashes and alcohol.

### Tobacco Usage Everyday Usage in Douglas County



	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Everyday</b>	37.8%	41.8%	35.2%	34.2%
<b>Some Days</b>	9.4%	9.9%	11.6%	10.5%
<b>Not at All</b>	52.4%	48.0%	53.2%	55.3%
<b>Unknown</b>	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%

Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, NHSS; Douglas County Health Department

\*Percentages are based on those individuals that report having smoked over 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.

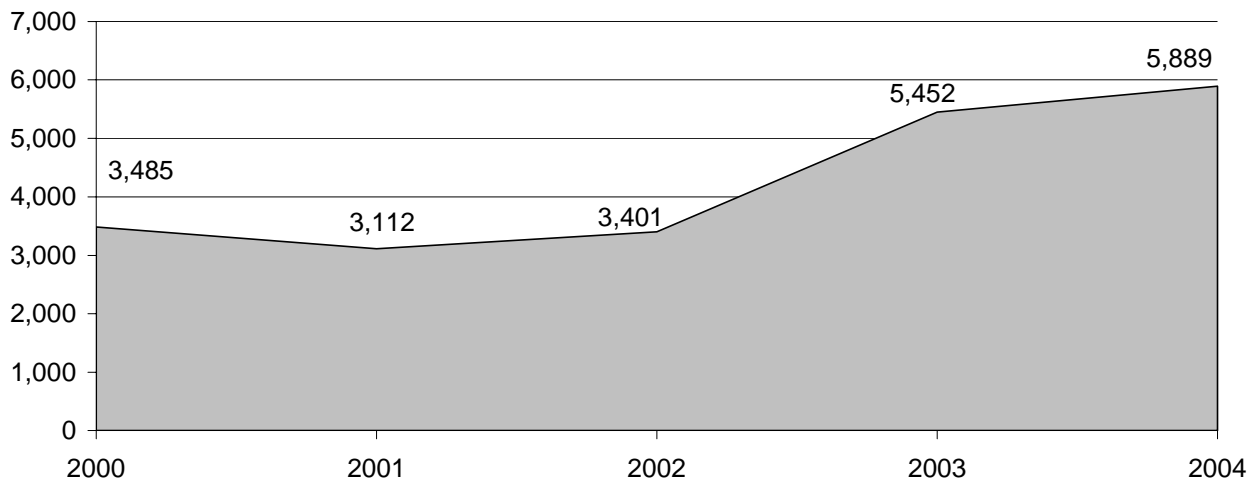
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## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Substance abuse refers to the unhealthy and harmful use of drugs, alcohol and other chemical substances which jeopardizes the physical health, social functioning and mental health of an individual.

### Substance Abuse Clients Admitted Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, Cass and Pottawattamie Counties



Number of Clients Admitted to Substance Abuse Services*					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Douglas</b>	1,797	1,687	1,723	3,657	3,696
<b>Sarpy</b>	147	193	212	270	337
<b>Washington</b>	35	17	24	40	55
<b>Cass</b>	59	52	56	72	87
<b>Pottawattamie**</b>	1,447	1,163	1,386	1,413	1,714
<b>Metro Area Total</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>3,401</b>	<b>5,452</b>	<b>5,889</b>

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

\*This data refers to the number of admissions to programs that serve clients who are financially eligible according to the State's Financial Eligibility Policy. It does not include clients who pay for the entire cost of their services or services covered by private insurance. These clients have a diagnosis of substance abuse or substance dependence which includes alcohol and other drugs. Services range from outpatient to long term residential care.

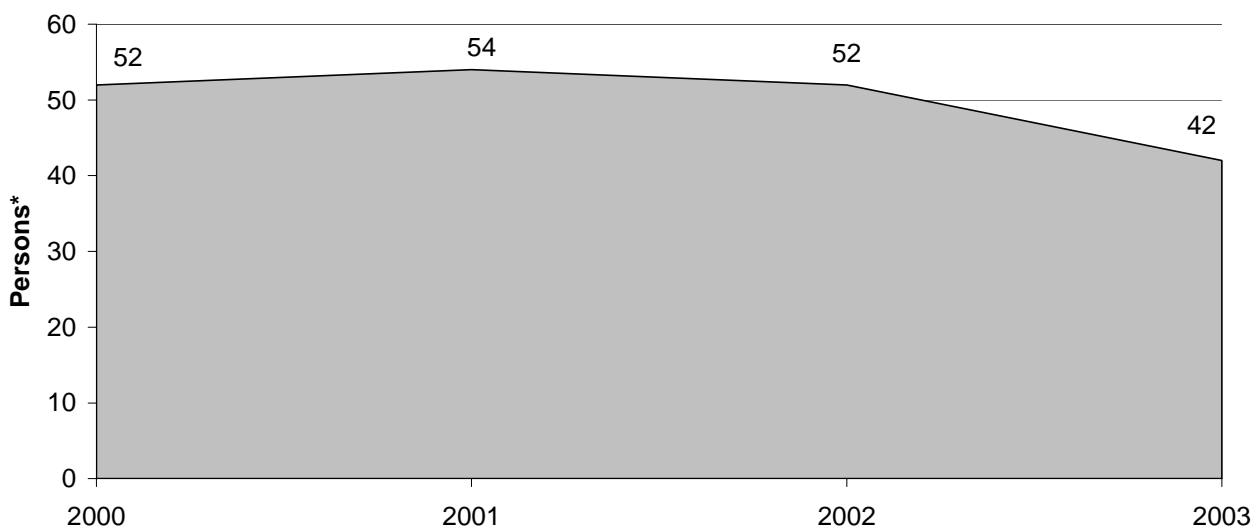
\*\*Number of clients admitted to treatment centers in Pottawattamie County. This figure includes unduplicated clients who were residents of Pottawattamie County or the surrounding area, and received funding from local, state or federal sources.

FOR A LISTING OF ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING RELATED ISSUES, PLEASE VISIT THE UNITED WAY/FIRST CALL FOR HELP COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY AT [HTTP://WWW.UWMIDLANDS.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTM](http://www.uwmidlands.org/directory.htm) OR CALL 2-1-1.

## HIV/AIDS

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and applies to the most advanced stage of HIV infection. At this stage, the affected individual will experience a specific immune system failure that creates susceptibility to life threatening diseases. HIV is transmitted through contact with infected bodily fluids including blood.

### AIDS Cases Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties



AIDS Cases for Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattmie Counties				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Persons with AIDS*</b>	52	54	52	42

Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Department of Public Health

\*Indicates number of persons reported with AIDS who were residents of Douglas, Sarpy or Pottawattamie County at the time they were diagnosed. These persons were not necessarily living at the time of report nor were they necessarily still living in one of these counties. The year is not the year of diagnosis, but the year the person was reported to the office. Due to confidentiality reasons, county data is not reported.

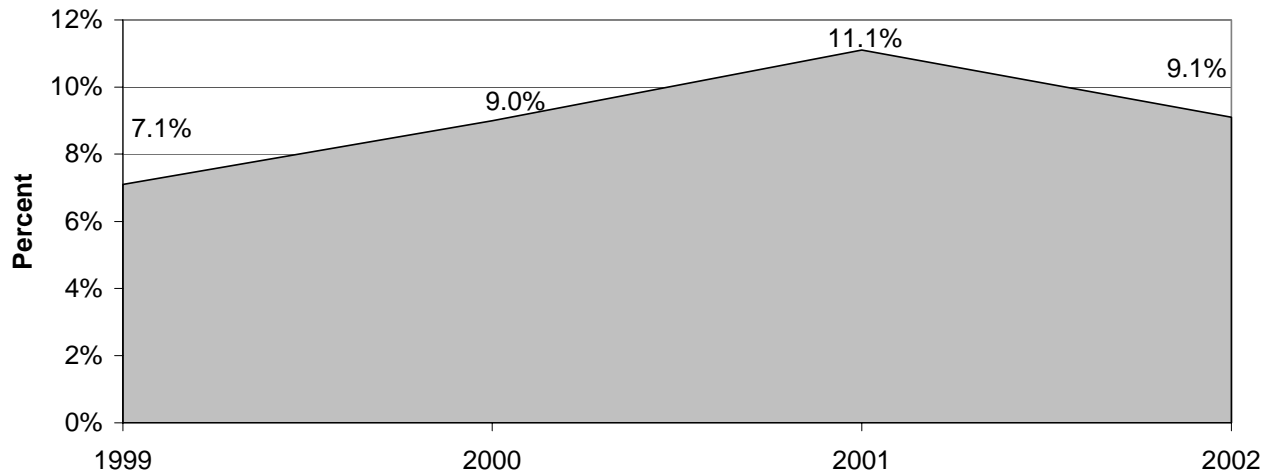
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**ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES**

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This indicator refers to the ability to pay for health services either through personal resources or a third party payer. Persons with health insurance are generally more likely to have a primary care provider and receive appropriate preventive health care.

**Individuals Without Health Insurance Coverage  
Douglas County**



<b>Individuals Without Health Insurance Coverage</b>				
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Douglas County</b>	7.1%	9.0%	11.1%	9.1%

Sources: Douglas County Health Department, Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

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## LEAD CONTAMINATION

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Lead is a neurotoxin, which is very harmful to the developing brains and nervous systems of younger children. Exposure can come from lead residues resulting from the use of leaded gasoline or paint.

Children Tested in Douglas County Exhibiting Elevated Blood Lead Levels* 2000 - 2003								
	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
North Omaha**	318	13.2%	151	7.4%	167	6.2%	114	4.5%
South Omaha**	341	11.6%	186	7.0%	243	6.5%	188	5.2%
Remainder	36	2.3%	32	2.1%	27	0.9%	37	1.1%

Source: Douglas County Health Department

\*Children between the age of six months and six years are tested for lead exposure.  
The percentage indicates those children with lead in their blood over 10 micrograms per deciliter.

\*\*North Omaha target area for this program includes zip codes 68104, 68110, 68111, 68112, and 68152;  
South Omaha target area for this program includes zip codes 68102, 68105, 68107, 68108, 68131, and 68132.

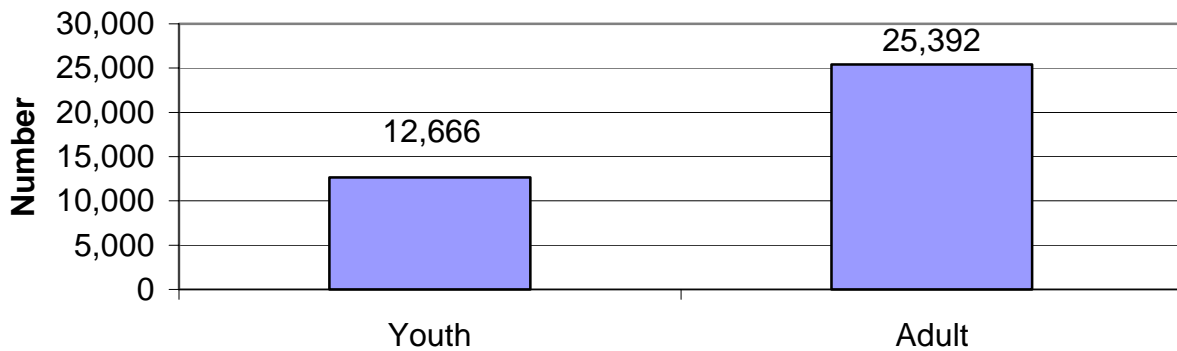
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## MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

Mental health disorders involve impaired psychosocial or cognitive functioning. The major forms of mental disorder include mood disorders, psychosis, personality disorders, organic mental disorders and anxiety disorders.

### Mental Health Services\* Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Pottawattamie Counties



Estimates of Need for Mental Health Services* Year 2000			
	All Ages	Youth**	Adult**
Douglas	28,660	9,181	19,479
Sarpy	6,899	2,637	4,262
Washington	1,062	353	709
Cass	1,437	495	942
<b>Nebraska Metro Area Total</b>	<b>38,058</b>	<b>12,666</b>	<b>25,392</b>

Source: The University of Texas Medical Branch, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

\*Year 2000 estimates of service for individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness

\*\*Youth are individuals under age 18; adults include individuals 18 years of age and older

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**Formal and informal educational processes prepare our youth for self-sufficiency, self-fulfillment and an opportunity to add value to the community.**

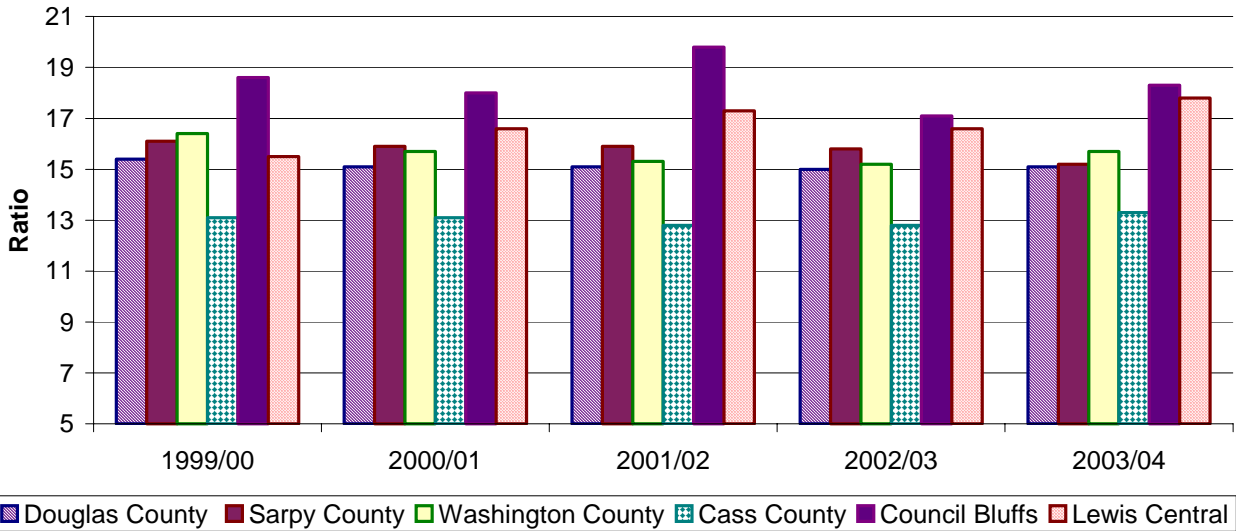
- ❖ Pupil/teacher ratios for Council Bluffs and Lewis Central school districts are higher than the ratios reported for Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties. Cass County reported the lowest pupil/teacher ratio of 13.3 in 2003-04.
- ❖ Douglas County reports the largest expenditure per pupil in 2002-03 of \$7,644 per student.
- ❖ In 2002-03, Washington County reported graduation rates of 94.4 compared to Douglas County's graduation rate of 75.5.
- ❖ The number of Lewis Central graduates indicating their intention for post-secondary education increased dramatically between 1999-00 and 2003-04. In 1999-00, 29 graduates planned on pursuing post-secondary education compared to 121 in 2003-04.

## STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO

This indicator refers to the number of students under the instruction of a single teacher.

### Pupil/Teacher Ratio

Public School Districts



Pupil/Teacher Ratio by Public School District*					
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Douglas County	15.4	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.1
Sarpy County	16.1	15.9	15.9	15.8	15.2
Washington County	16.4	15.7	15.3	15.2	15.7
Cass County	13.1	13.1	12.8	12.8	13.3
Council Bluffs	18.6	18.0	19.8	17.1	18.3
Lewis Central	15.5	16.6	17.3	16.6	17.8

Sources: Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Department of Education

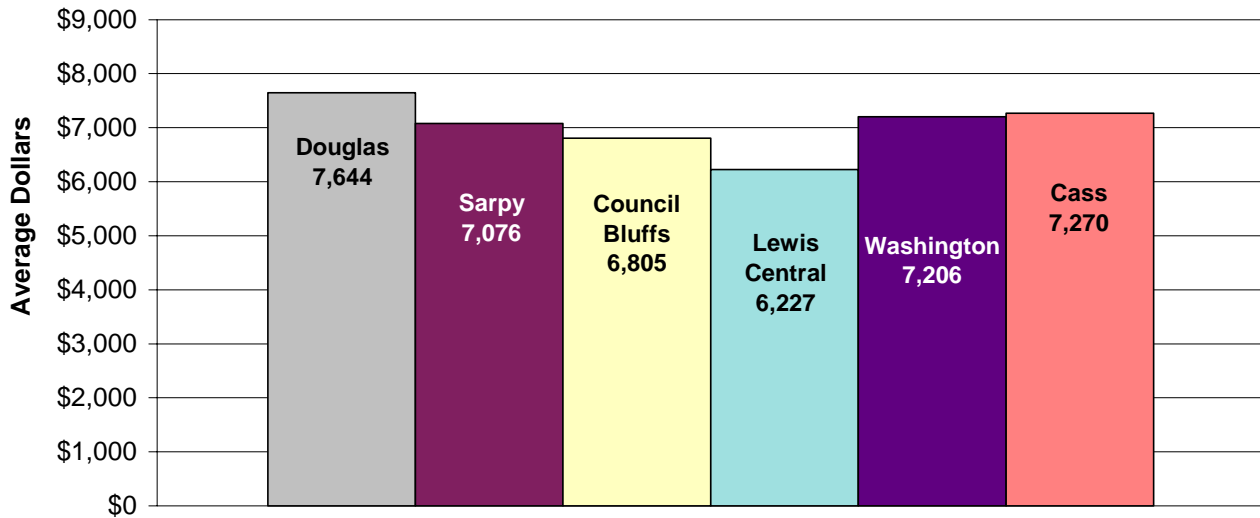
\* Teacher FTE (Full Time Equivalent) does not include ESU (educational service unit) staff that serve students in Nebraska.

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## COST PER PUPIL

This indicator refers to the amount of funding required to support one student's educational needs for a year. *Increased expenditures do not necessarily translate into a higher quality education due to a number of variables.*

### Expenditures by Pupil 2002-2003



	Expenditures per Pupil*				
	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
<b>Douglas</b>	6,276	6,811	7,635	7,341	7,644
<b>Sarpy</b>	5,603	5,831	6,260	6,643	7,076
<b>Council Bluffs</b>	5,211	5,535	6,192	6,426	6,805
<b>Lewis Central</b>	5,039	5,324	5,871	5,803	6,227
<b>Washington</b>	5,576	5,774	6,240	6,945	7,206
<b>Cass</b>	5,793	5,820	6,393	6,839	7,270

Sources: Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Department of Education

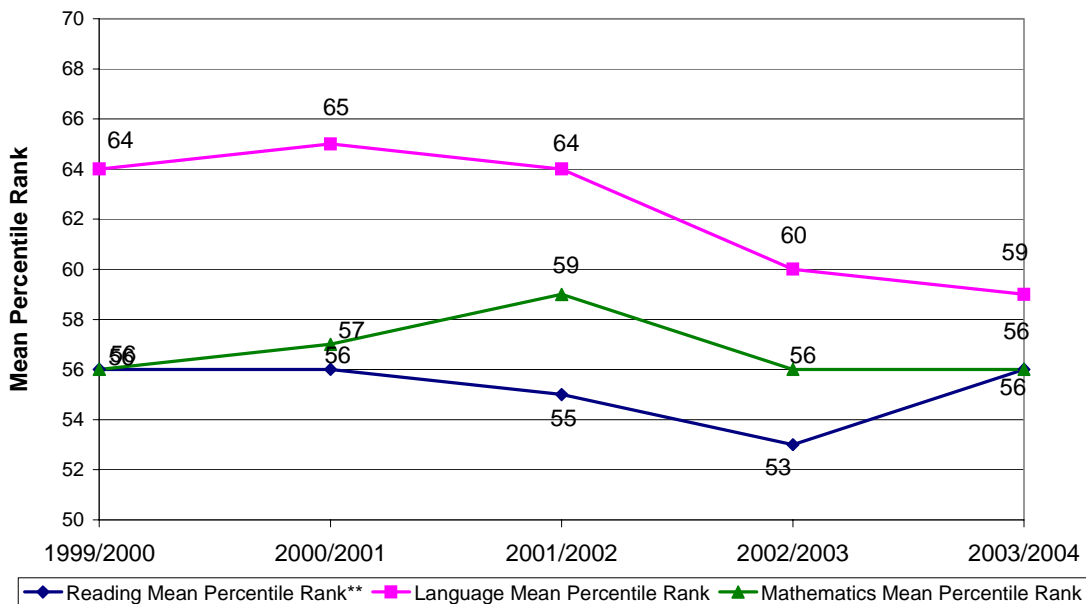
\*Costs for Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass counties in Nebraska are based on average daily membership, while costs for Council Bluffs and Lewis Central schools in Iowa are based on resident certified enrollment.

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## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

This indicator utilizes standardized testing to measure the acquisition of basic knowledge and skills necessary for the accomplishment of academic standards. This test represents only one component of Omaha Public School district's broad educational standards.

### 8th Grade California Achievement Test Scores Omaha Public Schools



California Achievement Test Scores* Grade 8 Omaha Public Schools					
	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
<b>Reading Mean Percentile Rank**</b>	56	56	55	53	56
<b>Language Mean Percentile Rank</b>	64	65	64	60	59
<b>Mathematics Mean Percentile Rank</b>	56	57	59	56	56

Source: Omaha Public Schools. Results of the Standardized Testing Program 2001-2002.

\* The California Achievement Test is a norm-referenced standardized test comparing achievement between OPS students and a norm group who was administered the same test at approximately the same time of the year. The demographic characteristics of the norm sample do not necessarily represent the demographic characteristics of the Omaha Public Schools.

\*\* A percentile rank indicates the percentage of students in the national norm group who scored below a particular point. For example, a percentile rank of 65 means a student scored as well or better than approximately 65 percent of the students in the national norm group.

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## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, DROPOUT AND FOLLOWUP

Graduation rates refer to the number of high school students graduating from the 12th grade in a given year. Dropout rates measure those students discontinuing formal education before high school graduation. Follow-up measures high school graduates status and intentions relative to post secondary education.

<b>Graduation Rates</b>					
<b>Public Schools</b>					
	<b>1998/1999</b>	<b>1999/2000</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003*</b>
<b>Cass County</b>	101.1	94	90.3	95.9	89.4
<b>Douglas County</b>	92.3	89.6	89	89.3	75.5
<b>Sarpy County</b>	101.1	95.2	89	88.6	91.5
<b>Washington County</b>	96.4	96.6	96.7	94.6	94.4
<b>Council Bluffs**</b>	86.7	81.4	76.5	77	73.2
<b>Lewis Central**</b>	84.9	86.7	85.3	87.1	80.7

Sources: Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Department of Education

\*Beginning in 2002-2003, the Nebraska Department of Education adopted the national definition for graduation rate, resulting in a new method of calculation. Caution should be used when comparing 2002-2003 data to previous years.

\*\*Iowa has a narrower definition for high school graduates than the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Accountability System. Regular diplomas are given to students for completing all unmodified district graduation requirements in the standard number of 4 years, from an alternative placement within the district, or who have had the requirements modified in accordance with a disability.

<b>Dropout Rates</b>					
<b>Public Schools</b>					
	<b>1998/99</b>	<b>1999/2000</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>
<b>Cass County</b>	2.1	2	1.9	2	0.7
<b>Douglas County</b>	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.8	3.3
<b>Sarpy County</b>	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.3
<b>Washington County</b>	1.6	2.01	1.2	1.2	0.4
<b>Council Bluffs</b>	1.6	3.4	4.2	3.5	4.5
<b>Lewis Central</b>	1.9	2.3	3.1	1.2	2.3

Sources: Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Department of Education

<b>Graduate Followup - Post Secondary Education*</b>					
	<b>1999/00</b>	<b>2000/01</b>	<b>2001/02</b>	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04</b>
<b>Omaha Public Schools</b>	1329	1264	1239	1192	1345
<b>Council Bluffs</b>	296	320	353	371	370
<b>Lewis Central</b>	29	88	123	123	121

Sources: Nebraska Department of Education and Iowa Department of Education

\*Omaha Public Schools conducts a phone survey of previous school year graduates to ascertain the current status of these individuals, while Council Bluffs and Lewis Central surveyed current graduates asking what their future intentions are after graduation.

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## Highlights

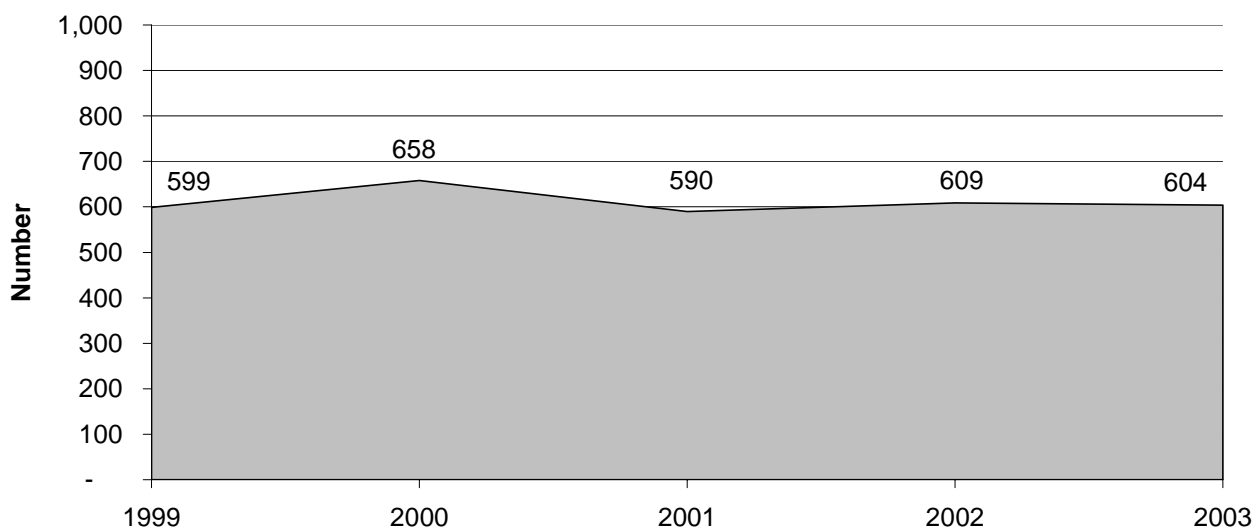
**Public Safety refers to the protection of persons and property, administration of justice and security from man made and natural disasters.**

- ❖ In 2003, over 600 incidents of violent crime (murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) were reported in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties.
- ❖ Between 2002 and 2003, property crime reports in Douglas County declined 25.6 percent, from 4,948 to 3,941.
- ❖ Between 1999 and 2003, juvenile crime in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties declined 35.8 percent.
- ❖ Drug abuse violations in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties steadily declined during the past five years for which data is available.
- ❖ Liquor law violations in Douglas County increased from 2,548 to 3,512 between 1999 and 2003. This is an increase of 37.8 percent during this period.
- ❖ Between 1999 and 2003, Sarpy County Driving Under the Influence (DUI) violations declined 71.1 percent, from 1,160 to 678.
- ❖ During this same period, DUI violations in Douglas County increased 28.9 percent.

## VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime includes offenses such as murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault committed against another individual.

### Violent Crime Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties



Violent Crime by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	568	615	562	576	566
<b>Sarpy</b>	23	34	19	31	29
<b>Washington</b>	8	9	9	2	9
<b>Metro Area Total*</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>604</b>

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

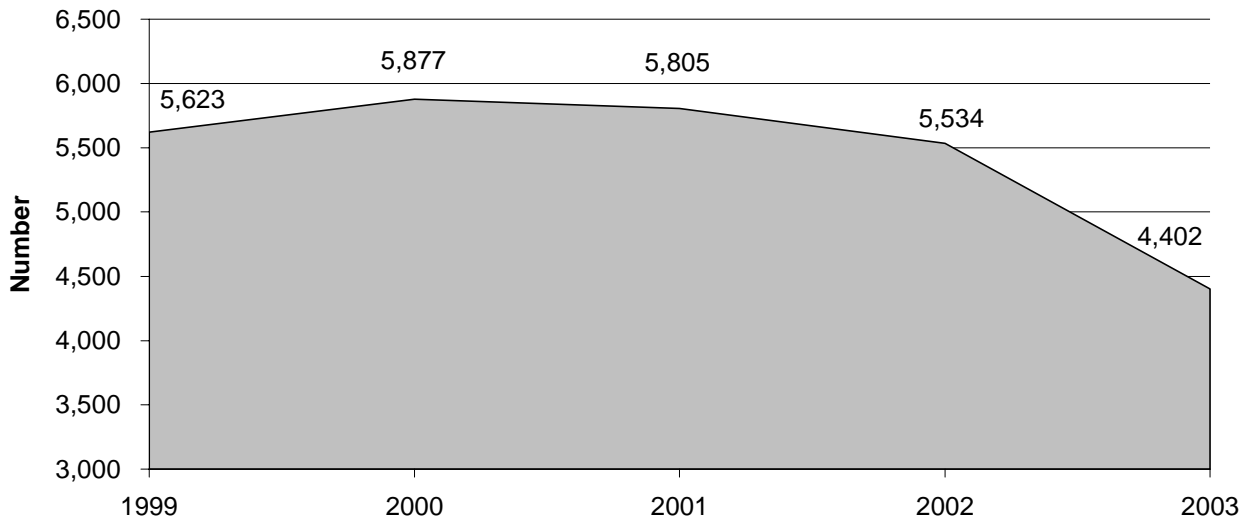
\* Consistently reported Cass and Pottawattamie County trend data was not available for the years shown.

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## PROPERTY CRIME

This indicator refers to crimes such as burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Such offenses aim at the unlawful possession or destruction of property, yet may result in personal injury.

### Property Crime Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties



Property Crime by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	4,691	4,969	5,047	4,948	3,941
<b>Sarpy</b>	866	844	719	544	430
<b>Washington</b>	66	64	39	42	31
<b>Metro Area Total*</b>	<b>5,623</b>	<b>5,877</b>	<b>5,805</b>	<b>5,534</b>	<b>4,402</b>

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement

\* Consistently reported Cass and Pottawattamie County trend data was not available for the years shown.

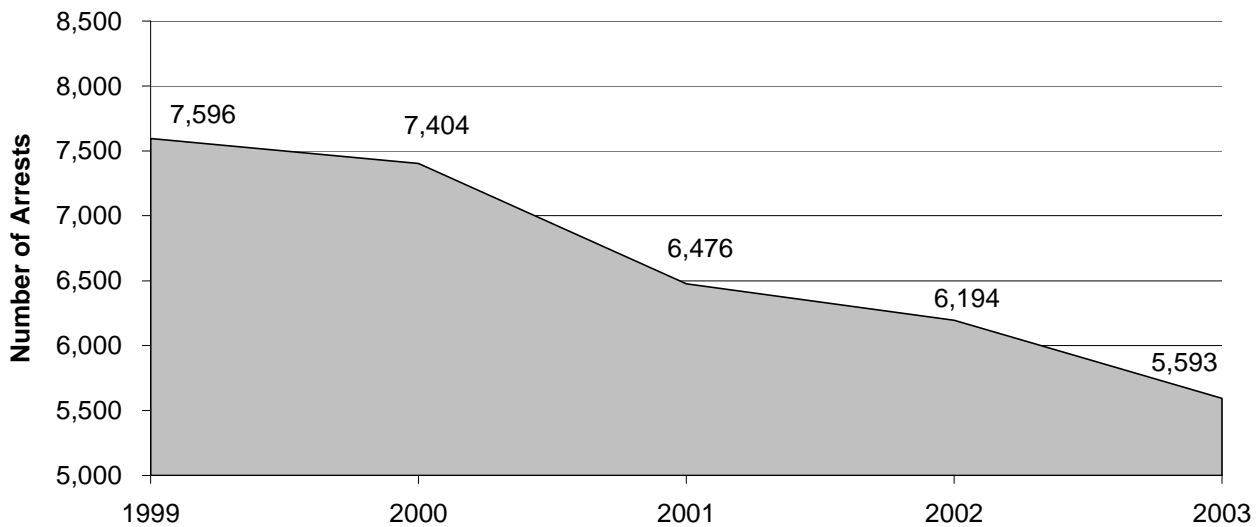
FOR A LISTING OF ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING RELATED ISSUES, PLEASE VISIT THE UNITED WAY/FIRST CALL FOR HELP COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY AT [HTTP://WWW.UWMIDLANDS.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTM](http://www.uwmidlands.org/directory.htm) OR CALL 2-1-1.

## JUVENILE CRIME

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This indicator refers to juveniles (those individuals under the age of 18) who commit crimes in our community.

### Juvenile Crime Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties



Juvenile Arrests					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	5,367	5,427	5,024	4,832	4,335
<b>Sarpy</b>	1,990	1,802	1,294	1,243	1,148
<b>Washington</b>	239	175	158	119	110
<b>Metro Area Total*</b>	<b>7,596</b>	<b>7,404</b>	<b>6,476</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>5,593</b>

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement

\* Consistently reported Cass and Pottawattamie County trend data was not available for the years shown.

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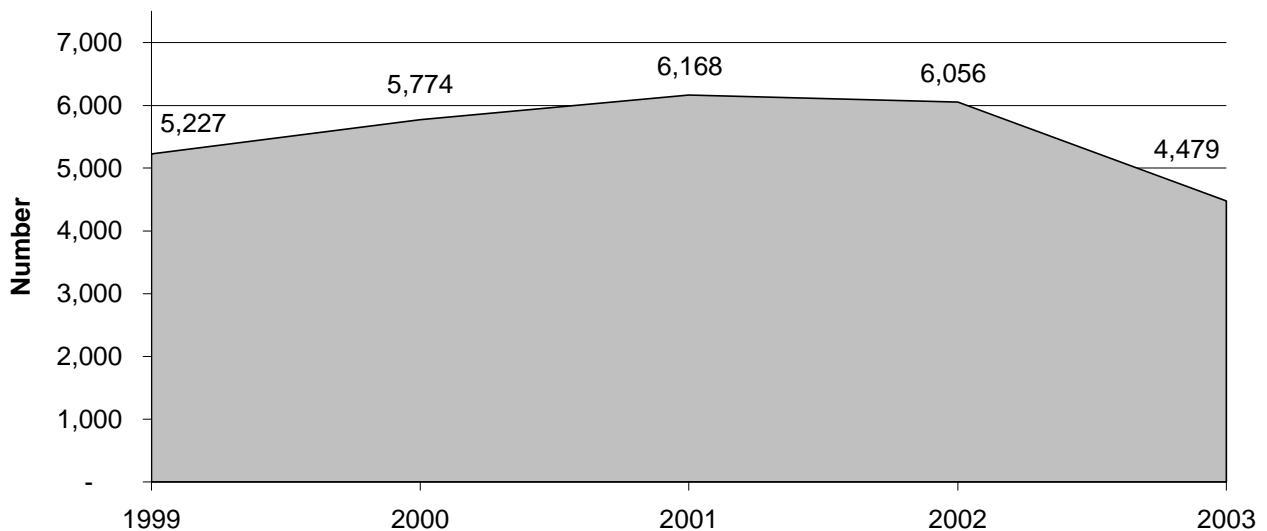
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## DRUG ABUSE VIOLATIONS

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Drug abuse violations relate to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing and manufacturing of narcotic drugs.

**Drug Abuse Violations**  
Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties



<b>Drug Abuse by Area</b>					
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Douglas</b>	4,411	4,923	5,498	5,359	3,915
<b>Sarpy</b>	659	732	544	534	432
<b>Washington</b>	157	119	126	163	132
<b>Metro Area Total*</b>	<b>5,227</b>	<b>5,774</b>	<b>6,168</b>	<b>6,056</b>	<b>4,479</b>

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement

\* Consistently reported Cass and Pottawattamie County trend data was not available for the years shown.

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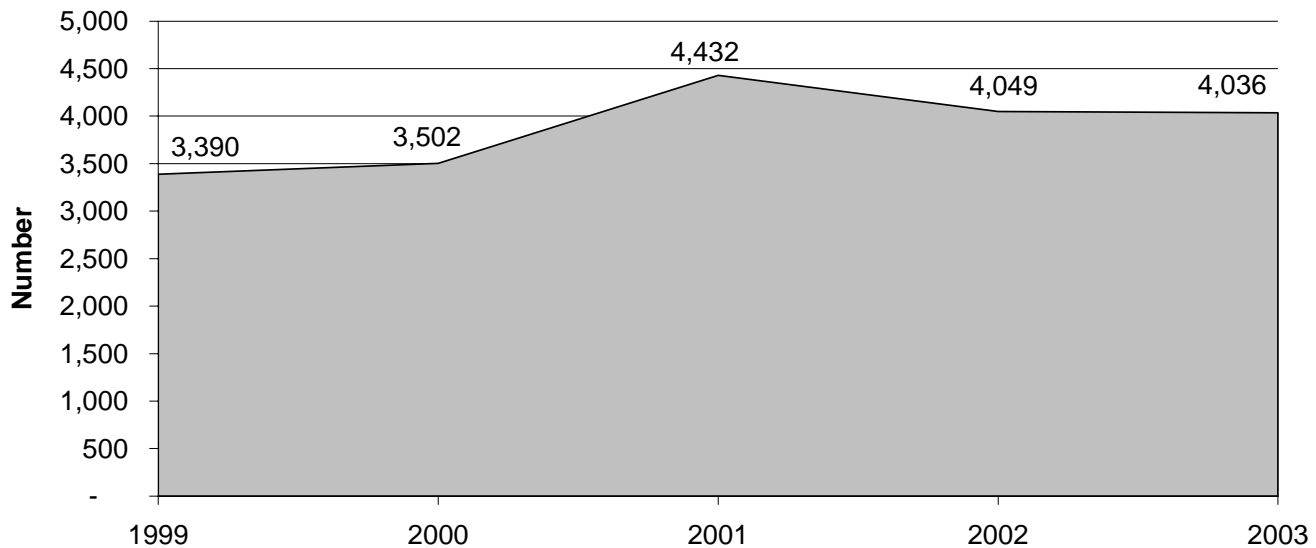
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## LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS

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This indicator refers to the violation of any state or local liquor laws with the exception of drunkenness and driving under the influence of alcohol.

### Liquor Law Violations Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties



Liquor Law Violations by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	2,548	2,832	3,780	3,490	3,512
<b>Sarpy</b>	615	501	435	411	410
<b>Washington</b>	227	169	217	148	114
<b>Metro Area Total*</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>4,432</b>	<b>4,049</b>	<b>4,036</b>

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement

\* Consistently reported Cass and Pottawattamie County trend data was not available for the years shown.

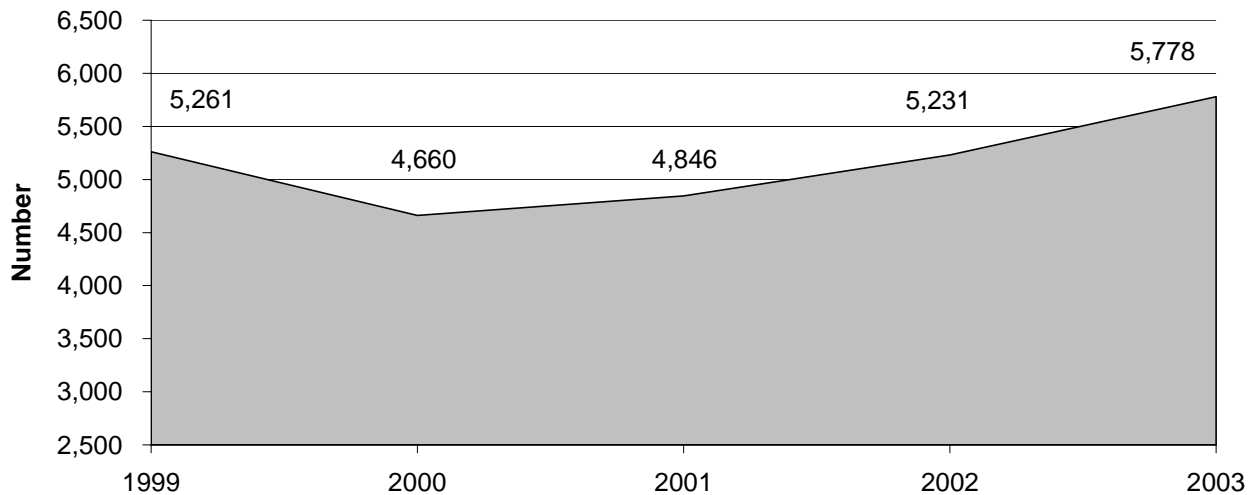
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## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)

This indicator refers to driving or operating any vehicle while drunk or under the influence of liquor or narcotic drugs.

### DUI Violations Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Cass Counties



DUI Violations by Area					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Douglas</b>	3,803	3,568	3,858	4,198	4,900
<b>Sarpy</b>	1,160	807	674	803	678
<b>Washington</b>	170	135	178	181	167
<b>Cass</b>	128	150	136	49	33
<b>Metro Area Total*</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>4,660</b>	<b>4,846</b>	<b>5,231</b>	<b>5,778</b>

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement

\* Consistently reported Pottawattamie County trend data was not available for the years shown.

FOR A LISTING OF ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING RELATED ISSUES, PLEASE VISIT THE UNITED WAY/FIRST CALL FOR HELP COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY AT [HTTP://WWW.UWMIDLANDS.ORG/DIRECTORY.HTM](http://www.uwmidlands.org/directory.htm) OR CALL 2-1-1.

Profile of  
**Latino Youth Services**



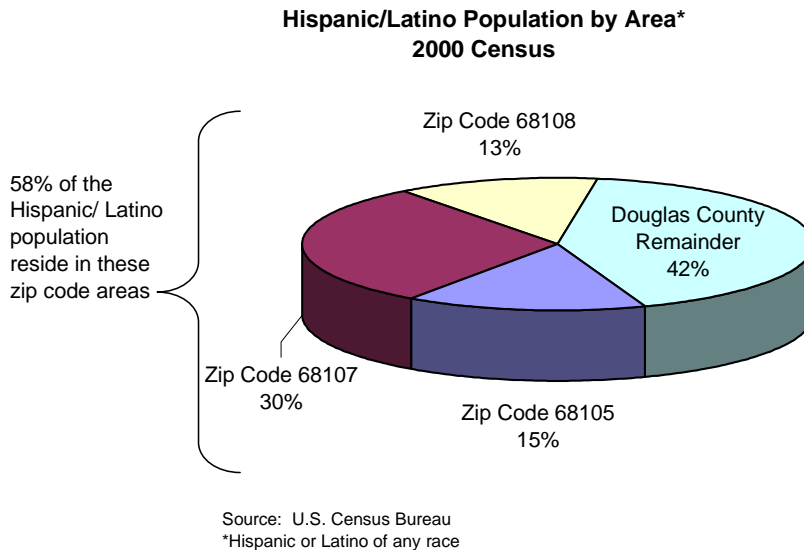
# Latino Youth Demographics

## Highlights

- ❖ The Latino population is widely disbursed across the Omaha Metropolitan area. Nearly 28 percent of the total population in South Omaha (zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108) are Hispanic/Latino. Fifty-eight percent of the Hispanic/Latino population in Douglas County reside in this area.
- ❖ Over 11,500 Hispanic/Latino children live throughout Douglas County. Half of these children, over 6,700 or 50 percent, reside in South Omaha (zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108).
- ❖ Hispanic/Latino children across Douglas County are on average much younger than non-Hispanic/Latino children. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of Hispanic/Latino children in Douglas County are under age 10 compared to 54 percent of non-Hispanic/Latino children. Nearly two-thirds (66 percent) of all the children in South Omaha are under age 10.
- ❖ Hispanic/Latino youth residing in zip codes 68107 have the largest representation of children under age 10, with 2,310 children in this age group.
- ❖ According to the 2000 Census, Census tract 18 in South Omaha reported the fewest number of Hispanic/Latino children (36) compared to Census tract 29 with 829 children.

## Concentration of Hispanic/Latino Population by Area

The Latino population is widely dispersed across the Omaha Metropolitan area. Nearly 28 percent of the total population in South Omaha (zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108) are Hispanic/Latino. Fifty-eight percent of the Hispanic/Latino population in Douglas County reside in this area. Individuals of Hispanic/Latino origin, while significantly represented across zip codes 68131 and 68132, represent a smaller proportion of the County's total Hispanic/Latino population (4.8 percent and 2.0 percent respectively). The map below provides a graphic of the area, zip codes included in the study area and boundaries being discussed.



The 2000 Census reports 30,928 individuals of Hispanic/Latino origin residing in Douglas County. Nearly 8,000 individuals of Hispanic/Latino origin across the county reside in three zip code areas (68105, 68107, and 68108) traditionally referred to as South Omaha. Thirty percent of the Hispanic/Latino population (over 9,000 individuals) reside in zip code 68107. Please note that these numbers may have changes in the past five years since the 2000 Census of the Population.

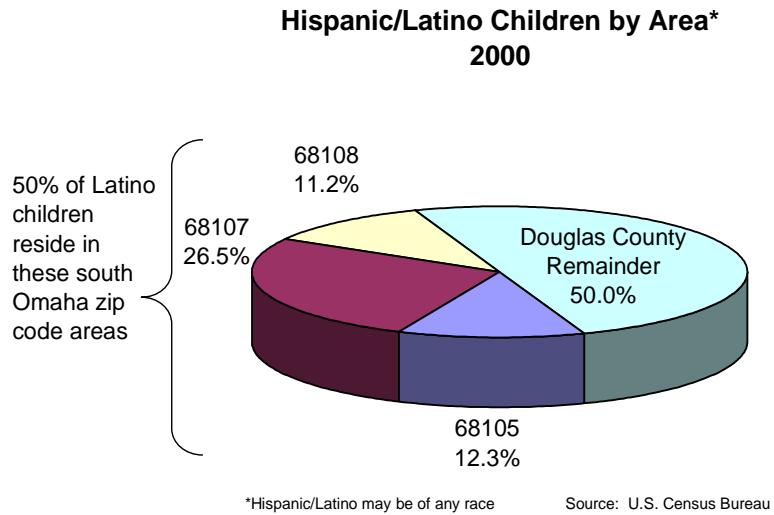
## The South Omaha Community in Douglas County

The map below provides a visual portrait of the South Omaha community studied in the 2003 Profile of Latino Youth. This community lies primarily east of 50th Street, south of Dodge (Hwy 6), and north of Harrison Street.

While it is important to realize that the Hispanic/Latino population resides throughout the entire Omaha metropolitan area, data and findings provided throughout this report will be presented within this area of the community for comparative purposes.

## Hispanic/Latino Children by Area

Over 11,500 Hispanic/Latino children live throughout Douglas County. Half of these children, over 6,700 or 50 percent, reside in South Omaha (zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108). More than one-fourth of all Hispanic/Latino children (3,561) in Douglas County reside in zip code 68107 in the South Omaha community. Nearly one-fourth (23.5 percent) reside in zip codes 68105 and 68108 combined. It is important to understand the demographic make-up of youth across the Hispanic/Latino community to identify appropriate and effective programming for these children. The following sections provide an overview of age, ethnicity and the areas of the community where they reside.



## Hispanic/Latino Youth by Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino children across Douglas County are on average much younger than non-Hispanic/Latino children. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of Hispanic/Latino children in Douglas County are under age 10 compared to 54 percent of non-Hispanic/Latino children.

<b>Douglas County Youth by Ethnicity 2000</b>				
	<i>Hispanic/ Latino*</i>	<i>Percent of Hispanic/ Latino*</i>	<i>White Alone/Not Hispanic or Latino*</i>	<i>Percent of non- Hispanic/ Latino*</i>
Children Under 5 years	4,117	35.7%	23,145	26.8%
Children 5 to 9 years	3,300	28.6%	23,618	27.3%
Children 10 to 14 years	2,507	21.7%	24,614	28.5%
Children 15 to 17 years	1,616	14.0%	15,063	17.4%
<b>Total Children by Ethnicity</b>	<b>11,540</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>86,440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

U.S. Census Bureau

\*Individuals of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity may be of any race. There are 136,729 children of various races in Douglas County. This chart represents those children which identified ethnicity.

## Hispanic/Latino Youth by Age

Nearly two-thirds (66 percent) of all the children in South Omaha are under age 10. Thirty-seven percent of the Hispanic/Latino children in South Omaha are under five years of age and 29 percent are between ages five and nine. Hispanic/Latino children residing in zip codes 68107 have the largest representation of children under age 10 with 2,310 children in this age group.

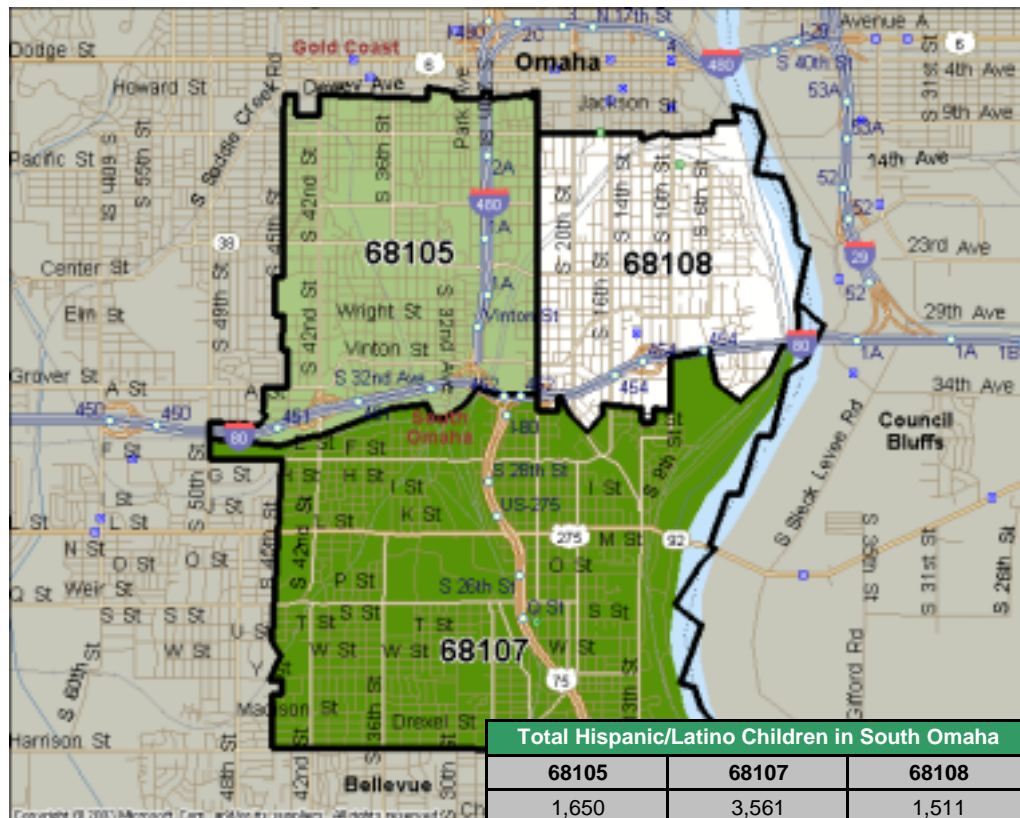
<b>Hispanic/Latino Children by Age*</b>					
South Omaha and Douglas County, 2000 Census					
	68105	68107	68108	South Omaha Total	Douglas County
<b>Total Hispanic/ Latino Children Under 5 Years</b>	679	1,284	536	2,499	4,117
<b>Total Hispanic/Latino Children 5 to 9 Years</b>	487	1,026	431	1,944	3,300
<b>Total Hispanic/Latino Children 10 to 14 Years</b>	273	753	328	1,354	2,507
<b>Total Hispanic/Latino Children 15 to 17 Years</b>	211	498	216	925	1,616
<b>Total Hispanic/Latino Children</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>3,561</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>6,722</b>	<b>11,540</b>

U.S. Census Bureau

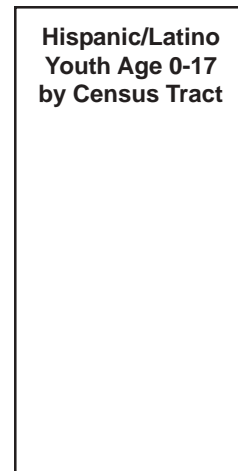
\*Hispanic/Latino may be of any race

The map below depicts the total number of Hispanic/Latino children by South Omaha zip code. Zip code 68107 has the largest number of Hispanic/Latino children (3,561), followed by 68105 (1,650) and 68108 (1,511). These demographic differences are important because they will affect the nature and quantity of focused programming for these children.

## Hispanic/Latino Children in South Omaha by Zip Code



## **Total Hispanic/Latino Children in South Omaha by Census Tract**



The map above depicts the number of Hispanic/Latino children (age 0-17) living in the South Omaha community based upon the Census tract in which they reside. The Census tracts with darker shading depict a higher concentration of Hispanic/Latino children living in that area. According to the 2000 Census, tract 18 reported the fewest number of Hispanic/Latino children (36) and Census tract 29 reported the largest number of Hispanic/Latino children (829). Gaining a better understanding of where these children live throughout the community will assist in better coordination of programs, services and community assets for these youth.



# Services for Hispanic/Latino Youth

## Highlights

- ❖ The beneficiary statistics United Way collects from member agencies provide detailed information on United Way funded services being provided to Hispanic/Latino youth and to youth living in South Omaha.
- ❖ In 2003, United Way funded programs provided nearly 275,000 services to youth (ages 0-17) across the greater Omaha area.
- ❖ The agencies providing primarily youth focused programming (listed on page 66) provided over 95,000 services to youth (ages 0-17) across the Omaha Metropolitan area. Of these programs, 9,414 services (or 10 percent) were provided to Hispanic/Latino youth and 13,476 services (or 14.2 percent) were provided in South Omaha zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108.
- ❖ United Way conducted interviews with nine youth agencies providing services in South Omaha. These interviews helped identify the existence of promising practices in an effort to build upon “what works” in terms of youth services for Hispanic/Latino youth.
- ❖ United Way recognizes that there are a multitude of programs providing services to Hispanic/Latino youth and to youth in the South Omaha community. Therefore, a sample listing of South Omaha youth serving agencies has been developed. This serves as the first step toward developing a comprehensive list of programs and services available to these youth so that we can assist in inviting and including Hispanic/Latino families to participate in community opportunities.

## United Way Funded Youth Services

United Way of the Midlands captures detailed beneficiary statistics from member agencies pertaining to funded programs. This is a first step toward better understanding the United Way services being provided to Hispanic/Latino youth and youth in the South Omaha community. The chart below provides a brief overview of the primarily youth serving programs United Way of the Midlands supports. Note: *(For the purpose of this analysis, primarily youth serving programs include only those programs that self-reported 90 percent of their services were provided to youth ages 0-17. Youth serving programs that reported a large number of clients age 18+ were not included.)*

<b>United Way of the Midlands Youth Focused Programming* 2003 Services Provided**</b>				
Agency Name	Programs Serving Youth***	Services Provided to Youth ages 0-17	Services Provided to Hispanic or Latino	Services Provided in South Omaha
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Mentoring Program for Children (at school) and Youth	1,672	85	138
Boy Scouts, Mid-America Council	School-Based Troop Activities/Outreach Troop Activities/Juvenile Delinquency Diversion Counseling	3,876	1,070	778
Boys & Girls Clubs of Omaha	Recreational Programs for Children; Swimming, Meals and Arts Appreciation for Youth; Guidance, Counseling and Recreational Programs for Adolescents.	26,209	5,307	6,384
Camp Fire USA	Youth Development for Children and Adolescents, Educational Programs for Youth and Youth Development for Homeless Families	13,670	1,149	1,470
Chicano Awareness Center	Substance Abuse Education/Prevention for Latino Youth	167	116	152
Child Saving Institute	Family Preservation - Emphasis on Children and Emergency Shelter for Youth	654	69	78
Christ Child Society	Early Childhood Education and Youth Development	3,755	441	1,800
Heartland Family Service	Social Development for Youth/Girls	144	1	42
Girl Scouts-Great Plains Council	Youth Development/At Risk Youth and Latino Youth	3,466	385	654
Girls Incorporated of Omaha	Arts, Career Counseling, Education, Meals/Cooking and Mental Health Care and Counseling for Young Women and Girls	6,650	232	910
Girls Incorporated of Omaha	Child Abuse Prevention	5,846	NA	NA
Ponca Tribe of NE	Substance Abuse Prevention for Youth	62	0	20
Social Settlement Association	Early Childhood Education, Tutoring and Social Development	255	34	83
YMCA	School-Based Mentoring Services for Adolescents, After School Day Care for Children, Recreational Leisure and Social Development for Youth	28,614	525	967
<b>Total</b>		<b>95,040</b>	<b>9,414</b>	<b>13,476</b>

\*Youth serving programs include only those programs that self reported 90% of their services were provided to youth.

\*\*Totals represent the number of services provided by the United Way funded program; persons may have received services from more than one program and may be represented more than once in the totals.

\*\*\*Programs may not include all agency programs serving youth. If self-reported beneficiary statistics include a large percent of adults (18+) receiving services, the program was not used in this analysis.

## **United Way Funded Youth Services (continued)**

In 2003, United Way funded programs provided nearly 275,000 services to youth (ages 0-17) across the greater Omaha area. The agencies providing primarily youth focused programming (listed on the previous page) provided over 95,000 services to youth (ages 0-17) across the Omaha Metropolitan area. Of these programs, 9,414 services (or 10 percent) were provided to Hispanic/Latino youth and 13,476 services (or 14.2 percent) were provided in South Omaha zip codes 68105, 68107 and 68108.

*Note: Totals represent the number of services provided. Persons may have received services from more than one program and may be represented more than once in the totals.*

### **Developing a Portrait of “What Is”**

The beneficiary statistics United Way collects from member agencies provide some detailed information on services being provided to Hispanic/Latino youth and to youth living in South Omaha. By learning more about programs serving youth in South Omaha, we begin to create a portrait of “what is” or what exists in terms of youth services in South Omaha. By better understanding what programs and services exist for Hispanic/Latino youth, United Way can better facilitate the coordination of limited resources to help support and ensure a bright future for these children.

### **Building Upon “What Works”**

In an effort to make the best use of limited resources, it is important to build upon successful programs and services already established in the South Omaha community for Hispanic/Latino youth. Further dialogue is the first step toward better understanding the dynamics of these programs and how we can build upon “what works” to create a coordinated effort toward program improvement for Hispanic/Latino youth. Personal interviews with nine United Way member agencies providing services to Hispanic/Latino youth are detailed later in this report.

### **South Omaha Agencies Providing Youth Services**

United Way recognizes that there are many other successful programs providing services to Hispanic/Latino youth and to youth in the South Omaha community. Therefore, the following section has been developed to provide a sampling of agencies providing youth services with offices located in South Omaha. This listing was developed from secondary data sources including IRS 990's and United Way's 2-1-1 Community Resource Directory. This listing is the first step toward developing a comprehensive list of programs and services available to these youth so that we can assist in inviting and including Hispanic/Latino families to participate in community opportunities. Phase II of this project will include primary data collection efforts designed to gather additional information on the programs and services available to Hispanic/Latino youth and resulting positive outcomes.

## Sampling of Agencies Providing Youth Services in South Omaha

United Way strives to better facilitate the coordination of limited resources throughout the community. In an effort to coordinate limited resources for youth in the South Omaha community, a preliminary listing of non-profit organizations with offices located within the South Omaha community (zip codes 68105, 68107, 68108) is provided. (*Sources used for identifying organizations and programs are detailed at the end of the listing.*)

This list of agencies providing youth services in South Omaha is the first step toward identifying gaps in service, developing viable partnerships among service providers and connecting youth and their families with necessary resources. This information will assist United Way and community partners as we continue to research promising practices across the South Omaha Community and help foster new collaborations. While this data was collected from secondary sources, primary research will be conducted in 2005 to identify additional services available to youth throughout the South Omaha community. Readers that identify organizations or services that should be included are encouraged to contact United Way using the contact information listed at the beginning of this report.

### Assistance League of Omaha Nebraska, Inc.

- Mission:** Provides clothing to needy children through the Omaha School Bell program. Provides a review class for disadvantaged youth who are taking college entrance exams through the Scholastic Aptitude Test Review Program.
- Programs:** Operation School Bell, New Friends, ACT/SAT review, Operation Bear Hug, Operation Glasses, ASK, and Yesterday's Best.
- Address:** 3569 Leavenworth, Omaha, NE 68105
- Phone:** (402) 342-4288
- Fax:** (402) 342-1396

### Bohemian Catholic Sokol Benevolent Society Inc.

- Mission:** To provide financial assistance to other charitable or civic organizations and offer direct support to needy individuals in the form of clothing, food and transportation.
- Address:** 4206 South 13th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

### Catholic Charities - Juan Diego Center

- Mission:** Catholic Charities supports individuals and families, works to reduce poverty, and builds community. They deliver relevant and accessible services through the development and stewardship of human and spiritual, financial and physical resources.
- Programs:** Food pantry, microbusiness community forums, spanish language assistance, and family counseling.
- Address:** 5211 South 31st Street, Omaha, NE 68107
- Phone:** (402) 731-5413
- Fax:** (402) 731-5865

## **Catholic Charities - Latina Resource Center**

- Mission:** Latina Resource Center provides a culturally welcoming place where Latinas gather to develop personal and family skills, find resources they need and build a supportive community with other Latinas.
- Programs:** Personal and family skills development for Latinas, including 'Women and Values' self-esteem program, arts and crafts, career counseling, peer sharing, language and reading programs, drivers education classes, nutrition classes, parenting classes legal services, domestic violence help, education, advocacy, and on-site counseling.
- Address:** 5211 South 31st Street, Omaha, NE 68107
- Phone:** (402) 898-6760
- Fax:** (402) 898-6762

## **Chicano Awareness Center**

- Mission:** To promote the self-sufficiency and self-determination of Heartland Latino families and their community by providing bilingual, high quality social, educational, economic, public health and advocacy services.
- Programs:** Education, teen pregnancy, substance abuse prevention and treatment, volunteer lawyers, HIV/AIDS testing, summer youth program, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, drivers education, certified babysitting, and cultural transition services.
- Address:** 4821 S 24 St, Omaha, NE 68107
- Phone:** (402) 733-2720
- Fax:** (402) 733-6720

## **Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.**

- Mission:** Child Evangelism Fellowship exists to evangelize children, disciple children in the word of God and establish children in the local church.
- Programs:** Good News Clubs, 5-Day Clubs, and Party a Month Club.
- Address:** 1941 South 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105
- Phone:** (402) 342-9272

## **Christ Child Society**

- Mission:** The society serves the community by establishing better family and neighborhood living.
- Programs:** Licensed preschool for children age 3 to 5, layette distribution, neighborhood and organizational development, summer programs for youth, after-school recreation and social development, arthritis aquatics, swim lessons, aquatic programs, day care, Creative Learning Center for children age 3 to 7, summer day camp, social services and health maintenance clinic.
- Address:** Main Office - 1248 South 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68108  
Creative Learning Center - 2201 South 11th Street, Omaha, NE 68108
- Phone:** (402) 342-4566
- Fax:** (402) 341-1880

## **Christ Child/Grace Lutheran Center**

**Programs:** Summer programs  
**Address:** 1326 South 26th Street, Omaha, NE 68105  
**Phone:** (402) 341-7730  
**Fax:** (734) 448-4601

## **City of Omaha-Parks and Recreation Department**

**Mission:** To facilitate inclusive recreation/leisure opportunities designed to fulfill, uplift and encourage positive healthy lifestyles as well as benefit the community's quality of life.  
**Programs:** Recreation facilities providing programs and services to the community.

### **South Omaha Locations:**

#### **Christie Heights Community Center**

**Address:** 5105 South 37th Street, Omaha, NE 68107  
**Phone:** (402) 444-5081

#### **Columbus Park Community Center**

**Address:** 1515 South 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68108  
**Phone:** (402) 444-4111

#### **Hanscom/Brandeis Indoor Tennis Center**

**Address:** 3220 Ed. Creighton Ave., Omaha, NE 68105  
**Phone:** (402) 444-5584

## **Douglas County Health Department**

**Mission:** Provide leadership, support and public health services to the community which prevent disease and injury, promote and maintain health, and provide protection against environmental hazards.  
**Programs:** Pediatric clinics/immunizations, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program - UNMC, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.  
**Address:** 4102 Woolworth, Omaha, NE 68105  
**Phone:** (402) 444-3286  
**Fax:** (402) 444-3287

## **El Museo Latino**

**Programs:** Education programs, temporary and permanent exhibits, art classes, bi-lingual guided tours, workshops, dance classes and family days.  
**Address:** 4701 South 25th Street, Omaha, NE 68107  
**Phone:** (402) 731-1137  
**Fax:** (402) 731-7012

### **Family Connections Inc.**

**Mission:** Providing and arranging for services that are family-centered, community based and culturally rooted to protect children from abuse and neglect.

**Programs:** Intensive family preservation services

**Address:** 2101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105

### **Friends of Runners Inc.**

**Programs:** Recreational and sporting camps

**Address:** 1913 Vinton Street, Omaha, NE 68108

### **Girl Incorporated of Omaha – Emma Lozier Center**

**Mission:** Girls Inc. is a national nonprofit youth organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

**Programs:** Girls Inc. develops research-based informal education programs that encourage girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Major programs address math and science education, pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, and sports participation.

**Address:** 5407 South 30th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 731-2108

### **Girl Scouts - Great Plains Council**

**Mission:** Girl Scouts inspires girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service so they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

**Programs:** Troop activities, youth development - at risk youth and Latino youth and summer camps.

**Address:** 2121 South 44th Street, Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 558-8189

**Fax:** (402) 558-8060

### **Good Neighbor Ministries Inc.**

**Programs:** Food pantry, helping the needy with outdoor projects, camp, evangelism, discipleship, transportation and home work projects.

**Address:** 1555 South 27th Street, Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 344-4738

## **Heartland Family Service**

**Mission:** The mission of Heartland Family Service is to strengthen children and families in our community through education, counseling and support services. Our comprehensive programs are designed to assist children and families in their most complicated and desperate situations.

**Programs:** Emergency shelters for abused and neglected children, a concealed shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse, emergency services for the homeless, parenting classes for parents who are at high-risk for losing their children, domestic abuse support groups for women and children, counseling and education for adolescents and adults coping with substance abuse and mental health issues and intensive supervision for juveniles on probation.

**Address:** 2101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 553-3000

**Fax:** (402) 552-7444

## **Kids Club - Omaha Public Schools**

**Mission:** The Mission of Kids Club is to provide high quality care for children in a safe nurturing environment. Local non-profits assist in providing these services.

**Phone:** (402) 557-2070

### **South Omaha Locations:**

#### **Bancroft Academy**

**Address:** 2724 Riverview Boulevard, Omaha, NE 68108

#### **Bethel Baptist Church**

**Address:** 5318 South 30th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

#### **Field Club Elementary**

**Address:** 3512 Walnut Street, Omaha, NE 68105

#### **Indian Hill Academy**

**Address:** 3121 U Street, Omaha, NE 68107

#### **Jefferson Elementary**

**Address:** 4065 Vinton Street, Omaha, NE 68105

#### **Marrs Academy**

**Address:** 5619 South 19th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

## **Kids Club - Omaha Public Schools (continued)**

### **South Omaha Boys and Girls Club**

**Address:** 5054 South 22nd Street, Omaha, NE 68107

### **Spring Lake Academy**

**Address:** 4215 South 20th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

## **LaFern Williams Center - Omaha Housing Authority**

**Programs:** Recreational activities, Center Stage Theater, child care, child family development center, head start, after school tutoring, computer lab, and Omaha Housing Authority services.

**Address:** 3010 R Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 444-7700 x224

**Fax:** (402) 444-4241

## **LITH (Laborers in the Harvest)**

**Mission:** "Change the Atmosphere" of everyday life by clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. LITH also provides mother-to-mother outreach to single mothers and their children.

**Address:** 2412 St. Marys Ave., Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 341-1866

## **Little League Baseball, Inc.**

**Mission:** Little League baseball provides a wholesome, healthy activity for children using the ball field as a classroom to instill discipline, team work, sportsmanship and fair play, and to establish a set of values to guide them into adulthood.

**Programs:** Baseball/softball for boys and girls

**Address:** 4302 South 12th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (570) 326-1921

## **Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.**

**Mission:** Provides quality human care services that build and strengthen individual, family, and community life.

**Programs:** Strong Urban Neighborhoods - South Omaha - after school programs

**Address:** 2315 I Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 346-6100

**Fax:** (402) 345-0412

## **Mission for all Nations**

**Mission:** Supplies emergency food, clothing and shelter for people in need. Services are targeted toward Hispanics, racial minorities and area newcomers.

**Programs:** Food pantry, temporary shelter and emergency assistance

**Address:** 5210 South 21st Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 733-2077

**Fax:** (877) 881-5732

## **Mosaic Community Development**

**Mission:** To provide children with a positive environment where they can work toward their fullest potential by receiving mentoring, education, and art skills development.

**Programs:** Creative Educational Center - tutoring and mentoring

**Address:** 1258 South 13th Street, Omaha, NE 68108

**Phone:** (402) 933-6672

## **NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation**

**Programs:** Supportive services (gas and food) to migrant workers, employment training assistance, job referrals and counseling, ABE/GED vocational referrals, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Spanish translation, and the Aguante Project.

**Address:** 4826 South 24 Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 734-4100

**Fax:** (402) 734-4103

## **Nebraska State Recycling Association**

**Mission:** Serve as a catalyst by improving the consumer's ability to conserve resources by meeting solid waste management and recycling challenges with local resources, bridging the public/private gap, and helping create local and regional markets for recycled commodities profitably.

**Address:** 1941 South 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 933-3059

**Fax:** (402) 933-3259

## **Ollie Webb Center**

**Mission:** Provides peer support programs, information, training, and networking services to families and individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Programs:** Developmentally Disabled Services/Centers, Just Friends and Best Buddies, and programs for parents of developmentally disabled children

**Address:** 1942 South 42nd Street, Suite 122, Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 346-5220

**Fax:** (402) 346-5253

### **OneWorld Community Health Center, Inc.**

**Mission:** Provides primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to vulnerable populations including recent immigrants, the homeless, the uninsured, the unemployed and the working poor.

**Programs:** The Women, Infants and Children program (WIC), medication assistance, Familia to Family, pediatrics, child health care, and immunizations.

**Address:** 5155 South 36th Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 734-4110

**Fax:** (402) 734-3990

### **Ponca Tribe of Nebraska - Fred LeRoy Health and Wellness Center**

**Programs:** Outpatient medical, dental and pharmacy services, tribal traditional healing, and community outreach/public health nursing and transportation.

**Address:** 2602 J Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 734-5275

### **Ronald McDonald House Charities**

**Mission:** A temporary home for families with children receiving medical care.

**Programs:** “Thanks a Million Club” and local grant opportunities

**Address:** 620 South 38th Ave, Omaha, NE 68105

**Phone:** (402) 346-9377

**Fax:** (402) 346-9468

### **SHARING Clinic - University of Nebraska Medical Center**

**Mission:** The SHARING (Student Health Alliance Reaching Indigent Needy Groups) Clinic is one of a few clinics nationally that combine service to the underserved with an opportunity for students to learn.

**Programs:** Medical students at the University of Nebraska provide quality, low-cost health care to families in need in South Omaha.

**Address:** 5211 South 31st Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 595-3142

### **South Omaha Boys & Girls Club**

**Mission:** Inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible citizens.

**Programs:** Homework assistance, technology centers, teen centers, career exploration, job assistance, sports and recreation, art classes, leadership development and meals for youth.

**Address:** 5051 South 22nd Street, Omaha, NE 68107

**Phone:** (402) 733-8333

## **Visting Nurse Association of the Midlands**

- Mission:** REACH out to all - all creeds, colors, ages and neighborhoods. ANSWER need - when and where its face appears. TREAT illness - identify, anticipate, prevent, educate and comfort. OPEN avenues - serve more people in more ways, and in more settings. FOSTER dignity - increase independence and self care.
- Programs:** Project WIN - health screenings and maternal and infant care.
- Address:** 1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 225, Omaha, NE 68105
- Phone:** (402) 342-5566
- Fax:** (402) 342-0034

## **YMCA – South Omaha**

- Mission:** The YMCA puts Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.
- Programs:** Programs include physical fitness and leisure activities, youth health education, counseling fitness, camp, swimming, mentoring and counseling for teens and intervention and prevention programs.
- Address:** 3010 R Street, Omaha, NE 68107
- Phone:** (402) 731-3999

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### **Sources:**

- City of Omaha, Mayors Office, Afterschool Basics for Omaha's Children Report, 2004.
- National Center for Charitable Statistics, 2004 Master File, 501C3 organizations filing IRS 990 form in 2002.
- United Way of the Midlands, 2-1-1 Data Resource Directory, September 2004.
- United Way of the Midlands, Designation Application File.
- Note: Faith based organizations providing services in the South Omaha community were not identified through these research efforts unless they filed a 990 form to the Internal Revenue Service in 2002.



# Promising Practices for Latino Youth

## Highlights

- ❖ Interviews conducted with local youth service providers reveal three common themes as necessary programmatic components for the success of Hispanic youth. The most common theme is language and cultural competency. Also of importance are family and parental involvement, and neighborhood and faith-based practices.
- ❖ Hispanic/Latino language and cultural competency is one of the most significant components to effectively teaching and serving our Hispanic/Latino children. These tools and techniques include enriched skills and knowledge that improve communication, understanding and service delivery for Hispanic/Latino clients.
- ❖ “Researchers feel strongly that gaining competency in spoken and written English, as rapidly as possible, is absolutely essential in solving the problems of Hispanic educational attainment and achievement”<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ Parental engagement and family engagement are essential tools for building relationships between Hispanic/Latino youth and necessary youth services.
- ❖ “The integrity, self-reliance, and closeness of the Hispanic family are among the greatest assets that it brings to the problem of educational improvement.”<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Programs are most effective when they are neighborhood based or faith-based. Latino youth and their families are more likely to become involved in programming that is provided by a trusted source (i.e. neighborhood group, church or school).

<sup>2</sup> Tornatzky, Louis G., Harry P. Pachon, Celina Torres. 2003. Closing achievement gaps: Improving educational outcomes for Hispanic children. *National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, The Center for Latino Educational Excellence, & The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute*, 4 April. Available online at <http://www.naleo.org/AC2003/cag.pdf>. Accessed 5 December 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Local Promising Practices for Hispanic/Latino Youth

In 2004, United Way of the Midlands interviewed several member agencies serving Hispanic/Latino youth. These interviews were designed to identify promising practices currently being used by agencies serving Hispanic/Latino youth and improve results by coordinating and focusing service delivery around specific elements of “what works”. This small sample of interviews revealed some effective practices as well as some common themes being used by programs serving Hispanic/Latino youth in our local community. Common themes obtained from these interviews are provided below along with national research from the 2003 Profile of Latino Youth.

Common Themes from Hispanic/Latino Youth Interviews	National Research
<b>Language and Cultural Competency</b>	
<p>Hispanic/Latino language and cultural competency is one of the most significant components to effectively teaching and serving our Hispanic/Latino children. Language barriers pose the most significant challenge in educational settings and serving Latino youth and their families. It is important that youth, parents, instructors and service providers all become linguistically competent and culturally competent before quality education and services can be provided.</p>	<p>Research conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center indicates that a prime characteristic of Latino dropouts is their poor English language ability (Fry 2003). The 2000 Census reports that 59 percent of Latino youth speaking English “less than well” dropped out of school. “Researchers feel strongly that gaining competency in spoken and written English, as rapidly as possible, is absolutely essential in solving the problems of Hispanic educational attainment and achievement”<sup>4</sup></p>
<b>Build on Relationships/Family and Parental Involvement</b>	
<p>Latino families build relationships with agencies and utilize their programs on an on-going basis once that relationship is established. Parental engagement and family engagement are effective tools for building these relationships.</p>	<p>“The integrity, self-reliance, and closeness of the Hispanic family are among the greatest assets that it brings to the problem of educational improvement.”<sup>5</sup></p>
<b>Neighborhood and Faith Based</b>	
<p>Programs are most effective when they are neighborhood based or faith-based. Latino youth and their families are more likely to become involved in programming that is provided by a trusted source (i.e. neighborhood group, church or school).</p>	<p>“Schools and agencies working with parents must understand the best communication methods for Latinos and deliver them across many different modes”<sup>6</sup></p>

<sup>4</sup>Tornatzky, Louis G., Harry P. Pachon, Celina Torres. 2003. Closing achievement gaps: Improving educational outcomes for Hispanic children. *National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, The Center for Latino Educational Excellence, & The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute*, 4 April. Available online at <http://www.naleo.org/AC2003/cag.pdf>. Accessed 5 December 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

## Local Promising Practices for Hispanic/Latino Youth (continued)

The findings from each individual agency interview are detailed below. As you review the findings, it is important to note that many agencies indicated that there are more similarities than differences among Hispanic/Latino youth and all other youth. Therefore, exceptional programs for youth can also be effective for Hispanic/Latino youth if elements of these promising practices are properly incorporated. These programs may serve as models for youth of diverse backgrounds and heritage.

### Boy Scouts, Mid-America Council (BSA)

12401 West Maple Road

Omaha, NE 68164-1853

Phone: (402) 431-9272

Website: [www.MAC-bsa.org](http://www.MAC-bsa.org)

- Hispanic families tend to do things as a family group. Activities that exclude the family are not a priority, and may even be suspect. Attempts are made to engage parents and invite them to learn about scouting and BSA includes siblings in summer day camps and some troop activities.
- Language is an on-going difficulty when working with Hispanic/Latino families and youth. As a result, Boy Scouts has hired a full-time bilingual staff person to run several troop meetings. In addition, families speaking only Spanish have not been recruited as troop leaders.
- Troop activities held in the community at local schools and churches have the best Hispanic/Latino attendance.
- Hispanic families whose kids are part of scouts credit the program directly for keeping youth out of gangs.
- Local physicians donate physicals for children so they can attend camp. The lack of camp physicals has been a barrier to many youth who want to attend camps.
- Boy Scouts partners with other organizations such as Girl Scouts, Turning Point, local schools, etc. to further joint missions and issues. They are also developing a network of Hispanics in the community who help support and promote scouting.
- Boy Scouts is working with immigrants to overcome the misconception that scouting is only for the upper class (which it is in most South American countries). They are also working to overcome barriers sometimes caused by the resemblance of their scout master uniforms to those worn by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).



## Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha – South Club

5051 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68107-2899

Phone: 733-8333

Website: [www.bgcomaha.org](http://www.bgcomaha.org)

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha serves Latino youth through the “Amigos” tutoring program in partnership with Omaha Public Schools/Spring Lake Elementary school. All tutors in this program are bilingual.
- 56% of South Omaha Boys and Girls Club members are Hispanic/Latino and 38% of the staff are bilingual.
- The Club works to overcome the most significant barrier to youth and parental participation - language and cultural gaps. Hispanic/Latino parents are very interested in the programs and services, but participation remains low.
- Staff strive to be competent in not only the Hispanic/Latino language, but in the culture as well, to further engage the entire Hispanic/Latino family.



## Camp Fire USA Midlands Council

3801 Harney Street, Suite 120

Omaha, NE 68131

Phone: (402) 397-5809

Website: [www.campfireomaha.org](http://www.campfireomaha.org)

- Camp Fire stresses the importance of bi-lingual staff, with one out of every four of their staff being bi-lingual.
- Camp Fire USA administers surveys to the youth and parents to better understand their clients. They provide surveys in English and Spanish.
- Positive results are seen when program staff come from the neighborhood where services are being provided.
- Programs are most successful when they are neighborhood based or faith based.
- Camp Fire finds that Hispanic/ Latino students are attending school to learn English for job-seeking purposes or to return to their homeland. This is influencing the higher than average drop-out rates and is impacting service design and delivery.



## Chicano Awareness Center (CAC)

4821 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68107-2704  
Phone: (402) 733-2720

- Having a Latino-based organization present at schools is very effective in educating Hispanic/Latino youth and their parents about the importance of graduating from high school, about college, and to help them navigate the system.
- The DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act assists the schools and the Chicano Awareness Center in providing undocumented Latino students an opportunity to attend college.
- CAC is experiencing success with Hispanic/Latino youth through the involvement of their parents.
- The juvenile justice system is misunderstood by many Hispanic/ Latino families (parents feel they may be deported if their child is arrested). A key to creating a positive interaction with the law is overcoming language barriers.



## Girl Scouts - Great Plains Council

2121 South 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 6-8105-2800  
Phone: (402) 558-8189

- The Girl Scout's Hispanic Initiative partners with six Omaha Public Schools and the Latina Resource Center.
- These programs are bilingual and utilize the same components that have proven effective with all youth engaged in Girl Scouts programming.
- Girl Scouts strives for parental and family involvement by engaging Latina Resource Center parents in the Girl Scouts activities.
- Participants' families are introduced to American culture through an active cultural exchange among Hispanic and non-Hispanic girls.
- In the School Day (ISD) is a program responsive to the need for understanding the unique factors involved in gang violence among young women and girls. Behavior modification skills are also taught.
- ISD takes place "in the school day" at Omaha Public Schools which helps to ensure attendance.



## Latina Resource Center

5211 South 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68107

Phone: (402) 898-6760

- Latina Resource Center addresses domestic violence issues which are often based on cultural and assimilation issues.
- Latina Resource Center stresses the importance of involving parents in programming and not separating children's programs from their families.
- Programs try not to isolate the problems youth are having at home from possible problems at school. It is critical that schools and parents communicate.
- Language is a barrier to the communication between parents and children. Latino youth often serve as the interpreter for the family, which often exposes them to inappropriate subject matter or allows them to inappropriately influence communication if it involved them directly. This may lead to role shift of parents and children.



## OneWorld Community Health Center

5155 South 36<sup>th</sup> Street

Omaha, NE 68107-2547

Phone: (402) 734-4110

- Programs must be relational and aware of the subtle ways and nuances around how we effectively work with the Hispanic/Latino population. Cultural sensitivity and competence must be paramount in all our communications with clients/patients. One example is having pictures and images of Hispanic/Latinos in the waiting room or lobby.
- Clients must be treated fairly, equally and be valued regardless of income or need.
- Family involvement in every aspect of service is very critical. The Hispanic/ Latino "family" is essentially strong and supportive to each other. Trust of the entire family must be attained before they will accept service.
- More emphasis must be put into staff training and awareness of cultural norms to ensure consistency and not slip into "former" ways of relating to clients.



## Visiting Nurse Association of the Midlands

1941 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 225

Omaha, NE 68105-2953

Phone: (402) 342-5566

- The certified birth program and Project WIN provide service to the Hispanic/ Latino population. Nearly half of all post-partum clients are Spanish speaking.
- Visiting Nurse Association currently has seven bilingual staff members and is challenged to hire additional direct care providers who are culturally and linguistically competent to serve the Hispanic/Latino population.
- VNA builds on Hispanic/Latino assets which include a strong faith and a true concern for children's welfare. They respect that Hispanic/Latinos do not expect the system to take care of them.
- Visiting Nurse Association does not see a strong ethic in the Hispanic/Latino community to keep girls in school.
- Hispanic/Latino families are in need of appropriate transportation.



## Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) – South Omaha

3010 R Street

Omaha, NE 68107

Phone: (402) 731-3999

Website: [www.metroymca.org](http://www.metroymca.org)

- 90% of YMCA's youth clientele in South Omaha are Hispanic, while only 2% of the staff are bi-lingual.
- A barrier for Latinos to access YMCA services is that Latinos do not use checking accounts and the YMCA does not accept cash.\*
- The YMCA believes that a soccer program in South Omaha for Hispanic/Latino youth would be a tremendous benefit to the community.



*\*There is a current United Way initiative to address the "unbanked" disadvantaged families.*



United Way  
of the Midlands

# National Hispanic Literacy Programs

## Highlights

National research and interviews with agencies serving Hispanic/Latino youth have revealed three common themes as necessary programmatic components for the success of Hispanic/Latino youth. These include: (1) language and cultural competency (2) family and parental involvement, and (3) neighborhood and/or faith based.

Hispanic/Latino language and cultural competency is clearly one of the most significant elements to effectively teaching and serving our Hispanic/Latino children. In fact, research conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center indicates that a prime characteristic of Latino dropouts is their poor English language ability. The 2000 Census reports that 59 percent of Latino youth speaking English “less than well” dropped out of school.

The following section highlights a variety of national programs that are demonstrating positive results in the area of Hispanic/Latino literacy.

## Houston Chronicle Parent Reading Program

The Houston Chronicle Parent Reading Program (HCPRP) is a family-oriented approach to addressing intergenerational literacy. HCPRP fosters reading, library use and lifelong learning for parents or other child caregivers and their pre-schoolers. HCPRP is designed to accommodate both English and non-English speaking parents and is offered free to the public.

- The children involved in the Houston Chronicle Parent Reading Program are between the ages of 2 and 4.
- Pre-planned activities are designed for both the parents and the children and some of the class sessions will require that the children and parents have their instruction separately but at the same time. This assists the children in understanding that temporary separation from their parents will be an important element in their educational development.
- The Houston Chronicle Parent Reading Program involves children in story times, arts and crafts, finger plays, active movement games, and songs. Activities are to teach coordination, gross and fine motor abilities, and visual and auditory perception.



*For additional information on this program, please visit their website at: <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/youth/prp.html>*

## Young Readers Program

The Young Readers program encourages the development of strong reading skills in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students through the involvement of parents in the learning process and the promotion of reading as the fundamental building block to later academic success. First developed nearly 15 years ago, the Young Readers program has expanded into a year-long program with a six week intensive summer program.

- Young Readers brings together thirty students, their parents and a reading facilitator for a year long program of creative reading where participants experience fun activities that promote reading as a life long habit.
- The program coincides with the academic school year allowing the participants to engage in after school activities on their campuses.
- During the weekly reading sessions, participants are involved in entertaining activities such as field trips to the public library, bookstores and newspaper offices that help them to develop an understanding of the reading process. Additionally, the reading facilitator develops activities related to various themes, which help the students to build concepts and related vocabulary and make interconnections between old and new knowledge.
- Parents are involved at the home and help the reading facilitator keep track of at home assignments for which participants receive points. These points are tallied at the end of the program and can be turned in for incentive prizes.
- Participant reading proficiency is tested at the beginning and end of the program to determine the degree of improvement. Parents and teachers are also involved in the evaluation through interviews. Generally, participant reading levels increase from one to three levels.



*For additional information on this program, please visit their website at <http://www.lulac.org/Programs/Literacy.html>*

## Bronx Educational Alliance ENLACE

The Bronx Educational Alliance ENLACE project is part of a national initiative that is seeking to increase Latino educational success in high school and college by supporting students at multiple points along the K-16 pathway. To help these students graduate from high school and, later, from college, the Alliance is linking the resource of public schools and community partners to increase student/family literacy and leadership development.

- **Provide leadership and other skills to Latino parents in order to engage them fully in their children’s education. Latino youth also will participate in leadership activities.** Parents attend leadership and communication workshops to increase their understanding of the NYC school system. Latino college students serve as role models and tutors for the ENLACE 7th graders.
- **Increase student and parent literacy and writing skills through exposure to Latino art, culture and technology.** Through coursework that is enriched by connections to children’s homes and cultures, ENLACE plans to increase the number of Latino 8th graders who pass the state English exam. Additionally, parents also receive training in financial literacy and business skills.
- **Produce “home-grown” teachers who integrate bilingual and special education through the urban teacher education program at Lehman College.** The effort seeks to recruit more Latino college freshmen into education degrees that lead to teaching careers and fieldwork in Bronx school districts.
- **Increase political will and economic resources of Latinos.** Bronx Educational Alliance ENLACE conducts two annual community conversations involving student leaders, parents, and community members, in addition to a biannual policy institute that teams community stakeholders with policymakers.



*For additional information on this program, please visit their website at <http://www.wkkfweb.org/enlace/bronx.htm>.*

## Toyota Family Literacy Program

The objective of the Toyota Family Literacy Program is to help Hispanic and other immigrant families with the lowest literacy skills. This program helps parents in at-risk Hispanic and other immigrant families improve their English, education, work and parenting skills, while helping their children succeed in school. Because parent engagement in the child's education is a priority, these family literacy programs provide parents with skills and information they need to become a full partner in their child's education.

The National Center for Family Literacy model integrates adult education, children's education, interactive literacy activities and parent training into one comprehensive program. In family literacy programs, parents and children work and learn together, giving parents an opportunity to increase their skills as their children's first and most important teacher.

- Over 70 percent of the families enrolled in the Toyota Family Literacy Program for one year fully completed the program year, compared to 40 percent in typical education programs.
- The percentage of parents with library cards increased substantially, to 70% within the first year of being enrolled in the program.
- According to National Reporting System standards, adults increased their literacy scores from the 'Low Literacy' level to the 'Intermediate or High Intermediate' level by the end of the program year.
- Across eight domains, children enrolled in the program are succeeding at rates higher than children not enrolled in the program.
- Parents reported that the program increased their involvement in their child's education and the school, and they reported improvement in their child's grades.



*For additional information on this program, please visit their website at <http://www.famlit.org/ProgramsandInitiatives/tflp.cfm>*

## Two Way Immersion Education

Two-way immersion is an educational model that integrates native English speakers and native speakers of another language for all or most of the day. Language learning takes place primarily through content instruction with academic subjects being taught to all students through both English and the non-English language. Common goals include the promotion of high academic achievement, second-language development and cross-cultural understanding for all students.

Core similarities of two-way immersion education programs include:

- The student populations are balanced, with approximately 50 percent native English speakers and 50 percent native speakers of the non-English language.
  - Academic instruction takes place through both languages, with the non-English language being used from 50 to 90 percent of the time. All students have the opportunity to be both first-language models and second-language learners.
- 
- A second language is best acquired by language-minority students after their first language is established.
  - Most classrooms have language-rich environments and teachers tend to use cooperative learning, thematic units, hands-on materials, and visual and graphic displays to teach.
  - Teachers teach for extended periods of time in one designated language.
  - Students from both language backgrounds learn together for significant portions of the day.
  - Programs provide continuous bilingual instruction for at least 4 to 6 years.
  - Support from families and the community at large with all families included in school decision-making processes.
  - National longitudinal studies of two-way bilingual programs have found that language-minority students enrolled in two-way immersion programs attain higher levels of academic achievement over the long term than students enrolled in other educational programs within the same district.



*For additional information on this program, please visit their website at <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/toolsforSchools/2way.html>*

## Somos Familia Initiative Orange County, California United Way

Orange County United Way's Somos Familia Initiative advocates and supports strategies that build on the strengths of Latino communities by cultivating values of self-sufficiency and economic empowerment. The initiative consists of funded projects and collaborative models designed to support the needs of three economically challenged, densely populated Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods.

**Adult Wealth Creation and Retention** - Funded projects in this area address financial literacy and English language acquisition.

**Cultural Navigation and Bridging Cultural Gaps** - Funded projects help participants understand and navigate the legal system, government rules and regulations, workers' rights and responsibilities, community organizing, leadership, cross-cultural communication and basic survival skills.

**Health Care** - Funded projects provide Health Care and/or insurance to uninsured adults and children.

### Collaborative Models

- **La Colonia Community Center** - The Workforce Development Program and the Credit Counseling Program build upon financial literacy workshops to provide economic empowerment, provide information to the community and long term local access to assist them in becoming more financially independent.
- **Pio Pico Neighborhood Model** - A partnership between local schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana brings resources and programs to these children that involve parents in the school process and develop agency and school district collaboration.
- **Pio Pico Latino Health Access** - *Promotoras* training empowers new immigrants or first generation citizens as local residents to become trusted leaders within their communities. By working with school principals, agency staff and other parents, these *promotoras* help ensure that all people in the neighborhood have access to vital services and programs in the community.



*For additional information on this program, please visit their website at [http://www.ocuw.org/communityresults/somos\\_familia.asp](http://www.ocuw.org/communityresults/somos_familia.asp)*

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