

Siouxland Collective Impact Initiative
Academic Failure in Elementary School
2017

Beginning in the late elementary grades, academic failure increases the risk of drug abuse, delinquency, violence, pregnancy, and school dropout. Children fail for many reasons. It appears that the experience of failure, not necessarily ability, increases the risk of problem behaviors. This is particularly troubling because, in many school districts, African American, Native American, and Hispanic students have disproportionately higher rates of academic failure compared to white students. Consequently, school improvement and reducing academic failure are particularly important prevention strategies for communities of color. *Source: Communities That Care*

National and State Research

- Child's brain is 80% developed by age 3
- Child's brain is 90% developed by age 5
- Talking and listening to a child will advance the linguistic skills

Source: Sioux City Schools "Grade Level by 8" presentation

A 2012 Annie E. Casey Foundation study shows students who cannot read sufficiently by third grade often struggle to keep pace with their peers and are four times more likely than proficient readers to drop out of high school.

According to the Child and Family Policy Center Report (Iowa), for students who are chronically absent, other common issues arise including chronic illnesses, a lack of resources, reliable transportation for the parents, and high family mobility. Other outside factors include neighborhood distress or community violence.

Academic failure and school dropout continue to be issues of concern in the Siouxland area. In an effort *to better prepare children to enter school healthy and ready to learn*, Comprehensive Strategy and its many partners made the decision to use the Collective Impact model. The following pages discuss factors that may influence Early Literacy, including differences by poverty status, parent's education level, parent's home language, race and Hispanic origin, and health issues.

Early School Readiness Report

Factors that may influence Early Literacy

Difference by Poverty Status

Twenty-one percent of poor children ages three to six could recognize all 26 letters of the alphabet, compared with 35 percent living above the poverty threshold. While 49 percent of poor young children were able to count to 20 or higher, 67 percent of those living above poverty level could do so. (2007 Child Trends)

Census Data 2011-2015

	Woodbury County, IA	Iowa	Dakota County, NE	Nebraska
Family poverty - % with children under 18	17.4%	8.1%	26.7%	14.6%

Differences by Parent’s Education Level

For children, whose parents had not completed high school, 15 percent could recognize all letters of the alphabet, 38 percent could count to 20 or more, 37 percent could write their name, and 13 percent could read words in a book. These figures are between 46-142 percent lower than those for children whose parents had completed some college or a vocational program, and between 66 and 224 percent lower than for those whose parents obtained a bachelor’s degree.

US Census Bureau 2011-2015 Data

	Woodbury County, IA	Iowa	Dakota County, NE	Nebraska
High School Degree or higher	85.6%	91.5%	73.6%	90.7%
Bachelor’s Degree or higher	21.1%	26.7%	11.2%	29.3%

Differences by Parent’s Home Language

Forty-eight percent of children whose parents did not speak English could count to 20 or higher, compared with 71 percent of those children who lived in a household with either two English-speaking parents or a with a single parent who was English-speaking, and 52 percent of children in households with two parents, only one of whom speaks English.

Census Bureau 2011-2015

	Woodbury County, IA	Iowa	Dakota County, NE	Nebraska
Language other than English spoken at home	15.4%	7.4%	37.8%	10.8%
Speak English less than “very well”	7.1%	3.1%	17.7%	4.9%

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin

In 2012, 27 percent of Hispanic three to six-year-olds could recognize all 26 letters of the alphabet, compared with 41 and 44 percent, respectively, of white and black children. Asian/Pacific Islander children had the highest rate of recognizing all the letters, at 58 percent.

Census Data 2016

	Woodbury County, IA	Iowa	Dakota County, NE	Nebraska
Hispanic	16%	5.8%	38.8%	10.7%
White	87.9%	91.4%	85.5%	88.9%
Black	3.4%	3.7%	4.5%	5%
Asian	2.9%	2.5%	2.5%	3.5%
Pacific Islander	.2%	.1%	.4%	.1%

Sources: www.childtrends.org, *Census Data*

Health Data

Lead: Lead poisoning is preventable. Approximately 500,000 U.S. children aged 1-5 years have blood levels greater than 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and, at very high levels, seizures, coma, and even death.

Woodbury County-Children Born in Same Year & Tested Before Age 3 for Lead Poisoning

Year	# Tested	% Tested	# Confirmed Elevated	% Confirmed Elevated
2012	1,256	83.51%	10	0.80%
2011	1,374	86.25%	12	0.87%
2010	1,319	84.99%	19	1.44%
2009	1,368	85.50%	25	1.83%
2008	1,450	86.72%	19	1.31%

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

Oral Health: Children need healthy teeth to chew food in order to grow, thrive, and speak properly. Children with decay may be in pain, which can impact their ability to sleep well and their ability to concentrate and learn.

Sioux City Schools Enrollment (Kindergarten & 9th Grade)	#/% Students with a valid Dental Screening Certificate
2016-17 2,117	766/36%
Sioux City Schools Enrollment (Kindergarten)	#/% Students with a valid Dental Screening Certificate
2016-17 1,089	712/65%
Woodbury County Enrollment (Kindergarten & 9th Grade)	#/% Students with a valid Dental Screening Certificate
2016-17 2,956	1,343/45%
Woodbury County Enrollment (Kindergarten)	#/% Students with a valid Dental Screening Certificate
2016-17 1,472	1,060/72%

Source: ISmile Oral Health Program, Siouxland District Health Department

Newborn Baby Drug Tests: Potential consequences include academic underachievement, particularly in the areas of reading and spelling. Older exposed children have demonstrated memory and perceptual problems.

Children Born positive in Two Sioux City Hospitals	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Number Tested	238	237	371	361	436
Newborns tested positive for drugs	10	24	42	86	75
% positive tests to number tested	4.2%	10.1%	11.3%	23.8%	17.2%

Baseline Indicators, Ages 0-5 2017

Education Data:

Preschool Enrollment: Children who participate in a high-quality preschool program are more likely to be socially and cognitively ready for kindergarten. The benefits are strongest for low-income children and children facing other risk factors.

Preschool Enrollment - number (percentage) of students enrolled in preschool:

- Iowa = 48.2% (2010-14).
- Woodbury County = 1,336 students or 43.6% (2010-2014) plus private schools.
- Sioux City Community School District = served 866 students (2015-16).
- South Sioux City School District = 171 (4-year olds enrolled in the public school preschool), at least another 28 are enrolled in a private preschool (2016-17).

Preschool students meeting benchmarks - Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDI) Fall-Preschool Students:

- Iowa = 27.06%
- Northwest Area Education Agency = 18.54%
- Sioux City Community School District = 16.58%
- South Sioux City School District =
 - 2016-17 = Number of Students- 171 (4 year olds)
Literacy- 5% below and 95% at or above the developmental expectation
Mathematics- 12% below and 88% at or above the developmental expectation
Language- 14% below and 86% at or above the developmental expectation
 - 2015-16 = (4 year olds Students)
Literacy- 3% below and 97% at or above the developmental expectation
Mathematics- 4% below and 96% at or above the developmental expectation
Language- 6% below and 94% at or above the developmental expectation

Kindergarten students meeting benchmarks- FAST Assessment Fall-Preschool Students:

- Iowa = 64.95%
- Northwest Area Education Agency = 57.17%
- Sioux City Community School District = 45.55%

Sources: NWAEA, SC Schools, SSC Schools

Health Data:

Nutrition: Overall, students who do not eat breakfast will be less productive and there may be an increased demand for health care and social services. Research shows that kids who eat breakfast have improved memory, problem-solving skills, math and language skills, and higher scores on standardized tests. In fact, students who eat breakfast at school do better than students who skip breakfast and those who have breakfast at home! Breakfast at school also increases attendance and decreases tardiness. That means more minutes of instruction for every child.

Sources: Action For Healthy Kids, Sioux City School District, South Sioux City School District

of enrolled students who eat breakfast at school:

- Sioux City Community School District = Breakfasts served 612,111 or 3,400 per day, approximately 24% (2015-16)
- South Sioux City School District = Breakfasts served 882 breakfasts per day or 22.53%.

#/% of students with a valid dental screening certificate in kindergarten:

- Sioux City Community School District = 1,089 enrollment, 712/65% certificates
- Woodbury County = 1,472 enrollment, 1,060/72% certificates

Sources: Iowa Kids Count, South Sioux City School District, South Sioux City School District, Private preschools, Action For Healthy Kids, ISmile Oral Health Program, Siouxland District Health Department