



MID-IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Assessment 2017



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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) 2017 Community Assessment provides information and analysis on issues relating to poverty in the agency's core service area of Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story, and Tama counties.

APPROACH

MICA collected 660 surveys from service recipients (families), 181 surveys from diverse constituencies of community stakeholders, and 140 surveys from staff. The agency then hosted nine focus groups for people with low-incomes. Two of these groups were for individuals who speak a language other than English. In total, 73 people participated in these groups.

Additionally, data from federal, state, and local agencies was collected and analyzed. Most of this data is from the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Labor, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Iowa Workforce Development.

The agency's Emerging Leaders (staff engaged in an agency leadership development initiative) and its Leadership Team (agency program directors and key staff) reviewed and analyzed the survey, focus group, and public data. MICA's board of directors reviewed and formally accepted this assessment on June 26, 2017.

KEY FINDINGS

Client & Community Needs

Surveys

MICA asked survey respondents to rate 47 community needs/problems as not serious, somewhat serious, or very serious. Of these needs/problems, 18 were rated very serious by at least 25% of families, 32 were rated very serious by at least 25% of stakeholders, and 28 were rated very serious by at least 25% of staff. However, only 17 needs/problems were rated very serious by at least 25% of each group. The chart below illustrates these areas of agreement.

Very Serious Need/Problem (↓)	Family	Stakeholder	Staff
Access to dental care	34.57%	36.29%	38.33%
Access to health care	30.47%	30.00%	28.57%
Access to mental health care	40.67%	73.44%	64.35%
Availability of jobs	31.89%	27.91%	34.23%
Availability of/access to affordable rental housing	36.44%	56.00%	61.95%
Availability of/access to family planning information & services	26.18%	33.67%	41.41%
Availability of/access to quality/safe rental housing	35.84%	52.85%	62.96%
Cost of child care	28.26%	51.72%	70.54%
Debt reduction	28.89%	39.00%	44.44%
Dental care costs	33.19%	54.03%	46.15%
Earning a living wage	36.67%	52.63%	58.40%

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Health care costs	36.07%	69.60%	54.62%
Health insurance	40.87%	42.02%	40.68%
Heating and/or electrical costs	36.27%	27.20%	35.65%
Mental health care costs	37.82%	74.77%	59.05%
Rent/mortgage assistance	33.90%	40.38%	55.00%
Substance abuse	31.16%	55.65%	39.05%

Unemployment was the 18th problem/need rated very serious by more than one-quarter of surveyed families (26.54%). Nearly one-third of MICA staff (28.16%) also rated unemployment as very serious. However, only 14.52% of stakeholders rated unemployment in this way.

Families were also asked to indicate whether someone in their household had experienced each need/problem in the last 12 months. The table below includes the nine needs/problems experienced by at least 25% of respondents.

Need/Problem	Experienced (↓)
Heating and/or electrical costs	45.02%
Obtaining food	34.90%
Earning a living wage	34.13%
Access to dental care	29.45%
Availability of jobs	28.07%
Health care costs	27.85%
Health insurance	26.01%
Rent/mortgage assistance	25.34%
Dental care costs	25.30%

Notably, all but “Obtaining food” are also included in the top-rated needs. This suggests that while more than one-third of families surveyed experienced difficulty obtaining food in the last year, it was not perceived as a community-wide need.

The following table includes the needs/problems rated very serious by at least 25% of family respondents but not experienced by at least 25% of these respondents.

Need/Problem Rated Very Serious but Not Experienced	Rated (↓)	Experienced
Access to mental health care	40.67%	17.58%
Mental health care costs	37.82%	13.38%
Availability of/access to affordable rental housing	36.44%	24.79%
Availability of/access to quality/safe rental housing	35.84%	21.70%
Substance abuse	31.16%	3.18%
Access to health care	30.47%	24.17%
Debt reduction	28.89%	24.78%
Cost of child care	28.26%	19.07%
Availability of/access to family planning information & services	26.18%	11.40%

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As illustrated by the chart, three needs/problems garnered nearly 25% of respondents: “Availability of/access to affordable rental housing” (24.79%), “Access to health care” (24.17%), and “Debt reduction” (24.78%).

Focus Groups

During agency focus groups, participants were asked to identify the top three issues facing low-income people in their communities. The table below includes these issues and the counties in which they were cited. Karen is a language spoken by the largest number of refugees from Burma in Marshall County (Marshalltown).

Identified Issue	Hardin	Marshall	Marshall (Karen)	Marshall (Spanish)	Poweshiek	Story	Tama
Food costs prohibitively high	X	X			X	X	
Utility costs prohibitively high	X	X			X		X
Lack of transportation	X		X		X	X	
Lack of good-quality, affordable housing; homelessness	X	X	X	X			X
Unemployment; no living-wage jobs in the area	X	X	X	X		X	
Lack of good-quality, affordable child care	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Difficult to access resources; not enough information about resources	X		X	X	X	X	
Need more education or training (adult) including language barrier	X	X	X	X			
Cliff effect				X	X		X

With the exception of the “Cliff effect” (increased income leading to loss of benefits without the resources to replace them), “Difficulty accessing resources/not enough information about resources,” and “adult training/education and language barrier,” the identified issues are reflected in the needs/problems rated very serious.

Causes of the Identified Needs/Problems

The respondent-identified needs/problems include both causes and conditions of poverty. Most could be considered either a cause or a condition depending on the unique circumstances of the person and community in question. However, two of the identified needs/problems are solely causes of poverty: 1.) Availability of jobs and 2.) Earning a living wage.

The seriousness of these issues is born out in the publicly available data. Hardin, Marshall, and Story counties have higher unemployment rates than the state, and median family incomes in all core counties except Story County are lower than the state.

Additional Causes and Conditions

A review of the publicly available data provided in this assessment yields additional causes and conditions.

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Language Barrier (Cause)

While language barrier was cited by stakeholder and staff survey respondents, it was not cited by family survey respondents. It was, however, cited in some of the family focus groups. This need is supported by the publicly available data, which suggests that a significant number of residents in Marshall, Story, and Tama counties struggle with a language barrier.

Educational Attainment (Cause)

Respondents were asked to rate the “Availability of/access to High School Equivalency Diploma” and the “Availability of/access to college courses or degree programs.” Neither met the threshold in any survey group. However, data shows that Marshall County has a significantly higher percentage of residents who did not complete high school than the state. This difference is largely due to the percentage of residents whose schooling ended before entering high school.

Additionally, ten school districts in MICA’s core service area had higher rates of non-proficient 3rd-grade readers than the state. However, only Marshalltown Community School District’s rate converts to a high number of affected students. This indicator is especially important given its strong correlation to both educational attainment and earning potential (Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading).

Crime (Cause or Condition)

Crime was not cited as a very serious need/problem by 25% of any respondent group. However, public data reveals that Marshall County has a significantly higher rate of violent crime than both the state and the core service area.

Client & Community Demographics

The population of MICA’s core service area is largely non-Hispanic, white, and English-speaking. However, there are significant ethnic, racial, and linguistic minorities in Marshall, Story, and Tama counties. These ethnic and racial minorities are over-represented in their respective counties’ poverty population. Women are also significantly over-represented in the poverty population of Hardin and Poweshiek counties. Finally, Marshall and Story counties are home to many foreign-born residents – specifically, individuals from Central America, Eastern Asia, and South Eastern Asia. Like the ethnic, racial, and linguistic minorities, these foreign-born residents are over-represented in their respective poverty populations.

Customer Satisfaction

MICA measured customer satisfaction in six dimensions. Ratings were high in all dimensions. However, the dimension with the lowest “Yes” rate, “I was informed about other agency or community services,” was also an area of concern in several focus groups.

Customer Satisfaction: Families	Yes	No	N/A
I was helped in a timely manner.	92.92%	3.45%	3.63%
I was treated with respect.	94.26%	1.91%	3.83%
The staff were friendly and helpful.	94.12%	1.90%	3.98%
I got the information and/or the services I needed.	93.57%	2.09%	4.35%
I was informed about other agency or community services.	91.80%	3.84%	4.36%

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I would recommend your agency to family and friends.	94.26%	1.74%	4.00%
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Additionally, focus group participants were asked about their experience accessing MICA services. Commonly heard feedback and the counties in which the feedback was received are included in the tables below.

Overall, are you happy with the service or services you have received from MICA in the last year? What could MICA do to improve our services?	Hardin	Marshall	Marshall (Karen)	Marshall (Spanish)	Poweshiek	Story	Tama
Very pleased with services	X	X	X	X	X		
Lack of referrals to other MICA services						X	X
Incorrect eligibility information							X
LIHEAP takes a while to credit to accounts		X					

Have you had trouble receiving services from MICA in the last year? What could we do to make it easier for you to receive services?	Hardin	Marshall	Marshall (Karen)	Marshall (Spanish)	Poweshiek	Story	Tama
Referred to program no longer offered	X	X		X			
Participants not aware of available services/Better information to community	X	X		X	X	X	X
Meat options at the food pantry	X					X	
More flexibility in program income guidelines	X						
Services/referrals for outlying communities lacking	X				X		
More capacity for current program (Rent Assistance)					X		
Suggestion for new program (Community garden, support groups for teens, more services in general for ages 5-17, more senior services, programs for students)	X				X	X	

Stakeholder satisfaction was measured in two dimensions – the stakeholder’s perception of MICA’s impact in their community as well as the stakeholder’s perception of MICA’s reputation in their community.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I don't know
Customer Satisfaction: Stakeholders					
My community is better off due to MICA's services.	0.00%	0.70%	33.80%	53.10%	12.40%
MICA has a good reputation in my community.	0.00%	2.90%	36.70%	45.30%	15.10%

About MICA

MICA's Operations and History

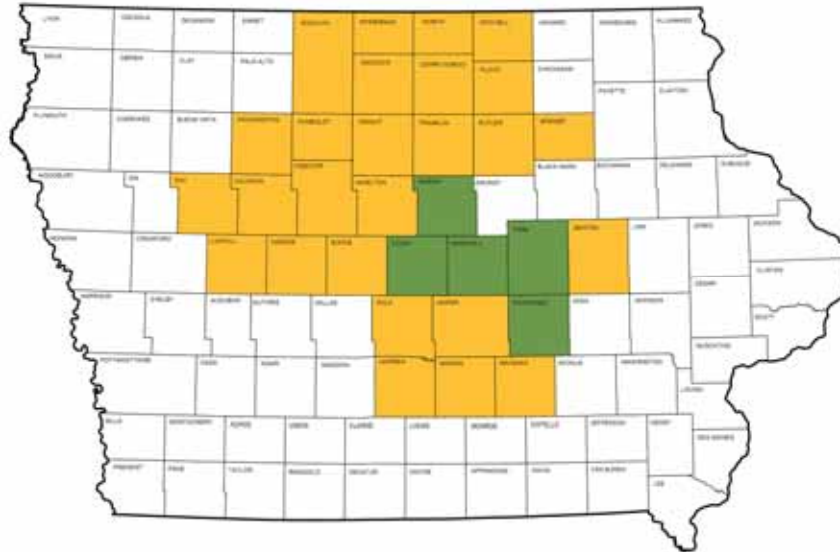
MICA is a private, nonprofit, community action agency serving children and families affected by the conditions of poverty in central Iowa. MICA primarily serves Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story, and Tama counties, and these counties are home to the agency's family development centers. However, the agency provides some services in an additional 26 counties.

Established on December 20, 1965, MICA has provided innovative and transformative services to struggling families for more than 50 years. The agency has also been a convener or partner in many community-wide initiatives that have increased capacity, created opportunities, and focused the anti-poverty efforts of the communities MICA serves.

MICA locally administers federal and state programs like Head Start, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS), Weatherization, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). However, the agency also offers programs and services which are unique to MICA and its service area. For a complete listing of the programs and services MICA offers, visit www.micaonline.org.

MICA's Core Service Area

As of June 2017, MICA offers programming in 31 counties. These counties are highlighted in the map below. Green signifies MICA's core service area of Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story, and Tama counties. Yellow signifies counties in which MICA provides some services. This community assessment will feature data only from the agency's core service area.



Community Assessment Data

The data presented in the following pages supports the conclusions drawn in the executive summary. It also provides additional detail that facilitates a deeper understanding of the causes and conditions of poverty in the communities MICA serves.



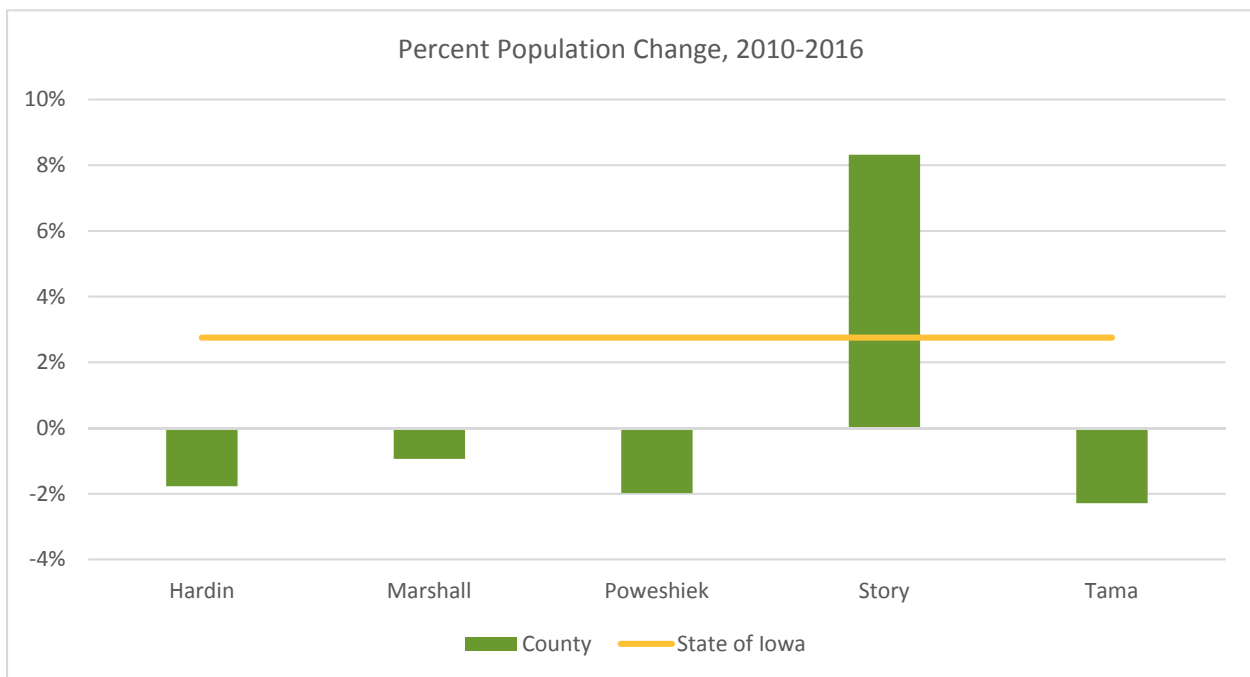
Demographics

Demographics

Population Density	Population	Square Miles	Density
Hardin	17,393	569.31	30.55
Marshall	40,962	572.5	71.55
Poweshiek	18,705	584.92	31.98
Story	93,586	572.68	163.42
Tama	17,479	721.01	24.24
State of Iowa	3,093,526	55,856.43	55.38

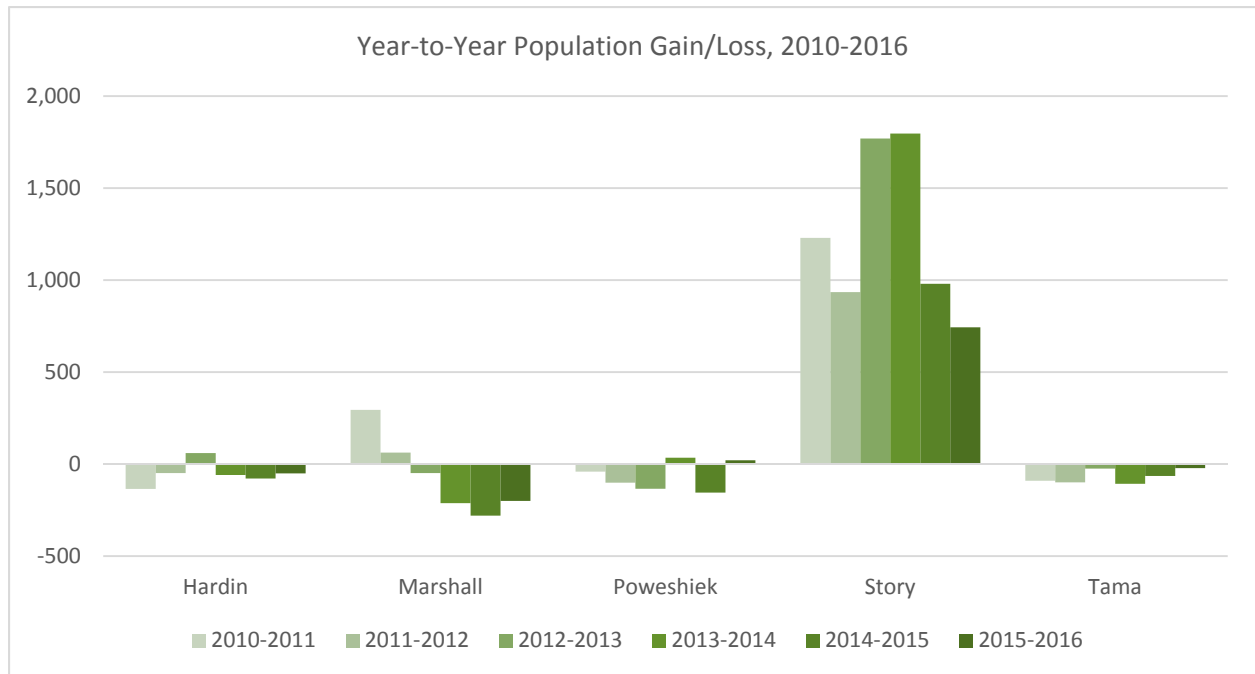
Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Marshall and Story counties are home to the service area's population centers of Marshalltown and Ames.

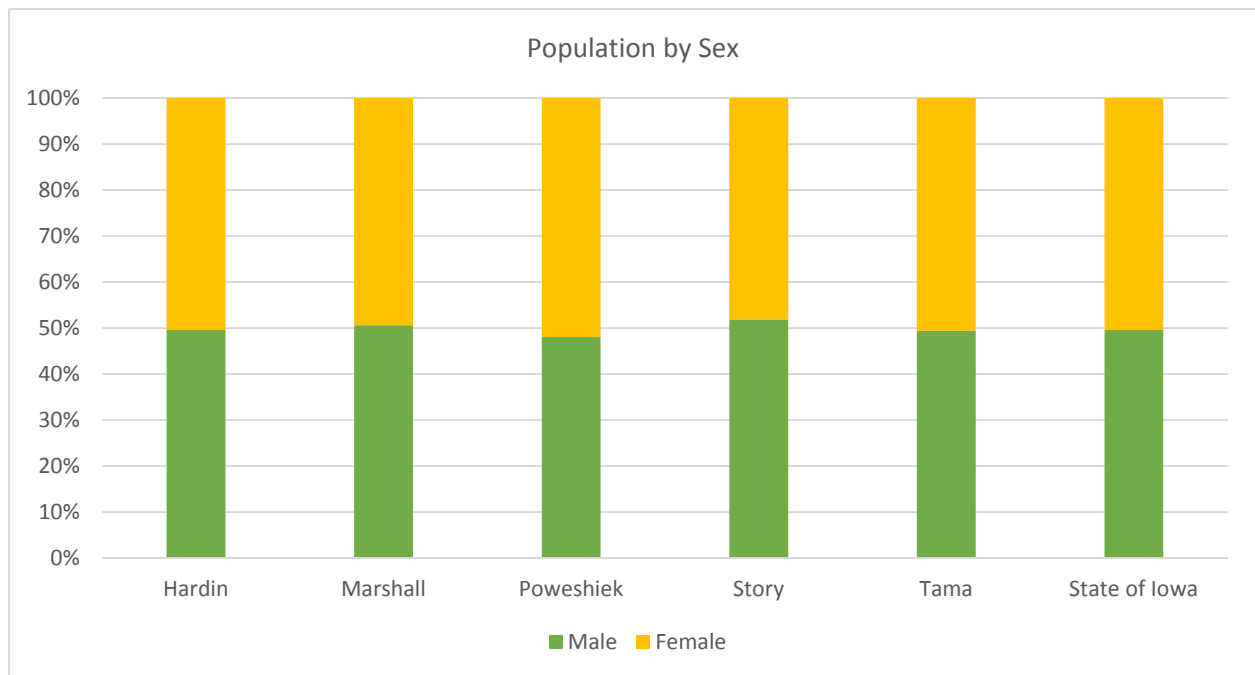


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population

Demographics

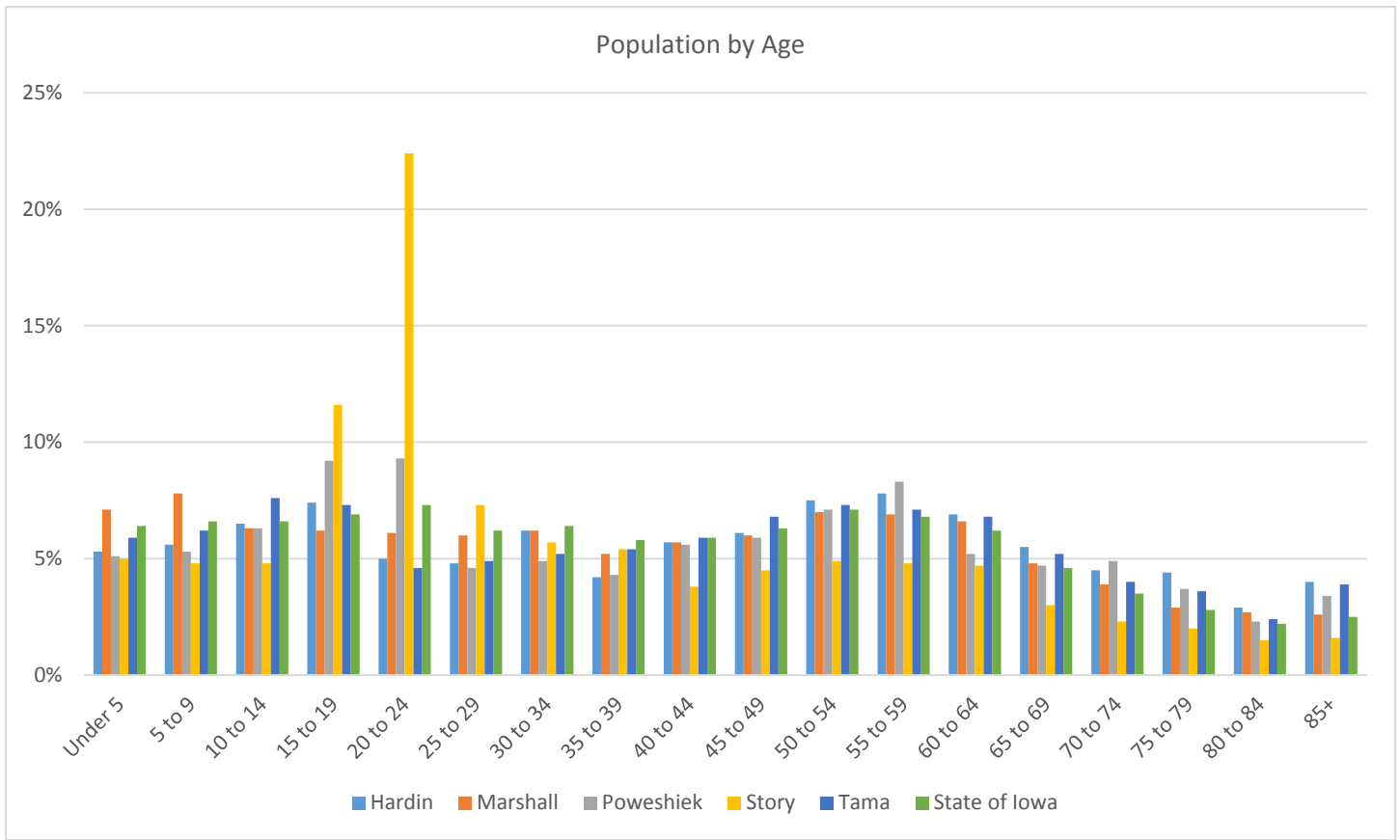


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Demographics

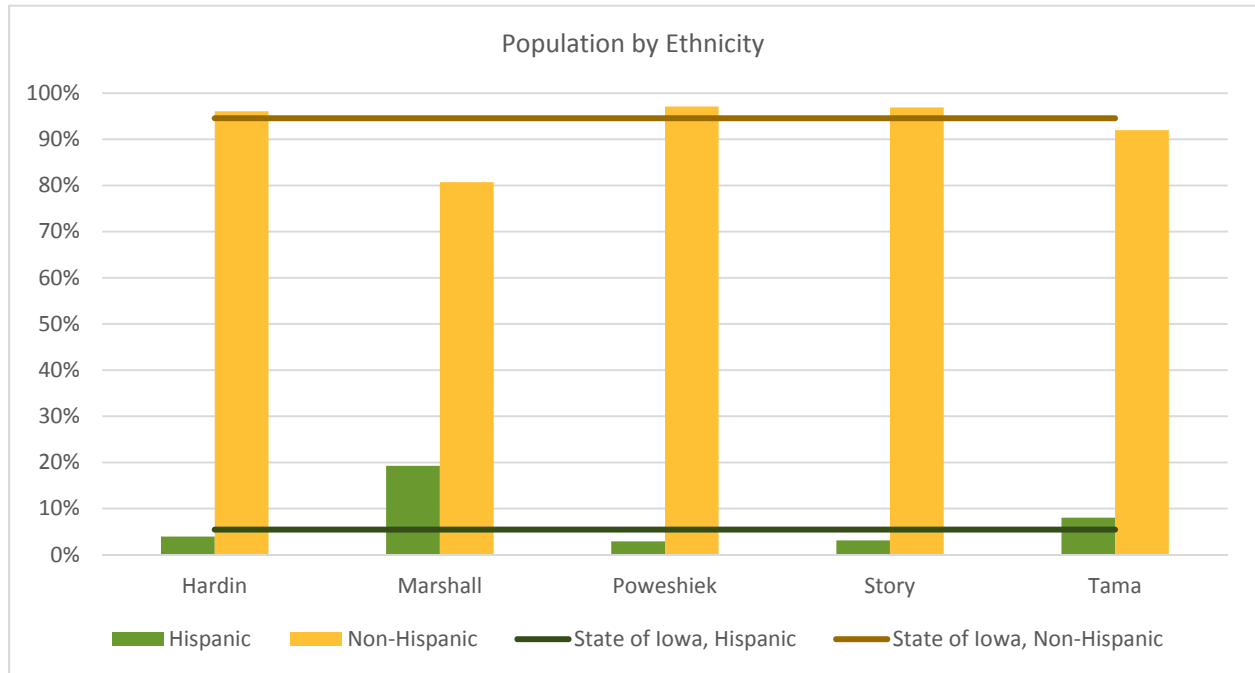


Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Spikes in the 15-19 and 20-24 age ranges are due to the presence of Grinnell College in Poweshiek County and Iowa State University in Story County.

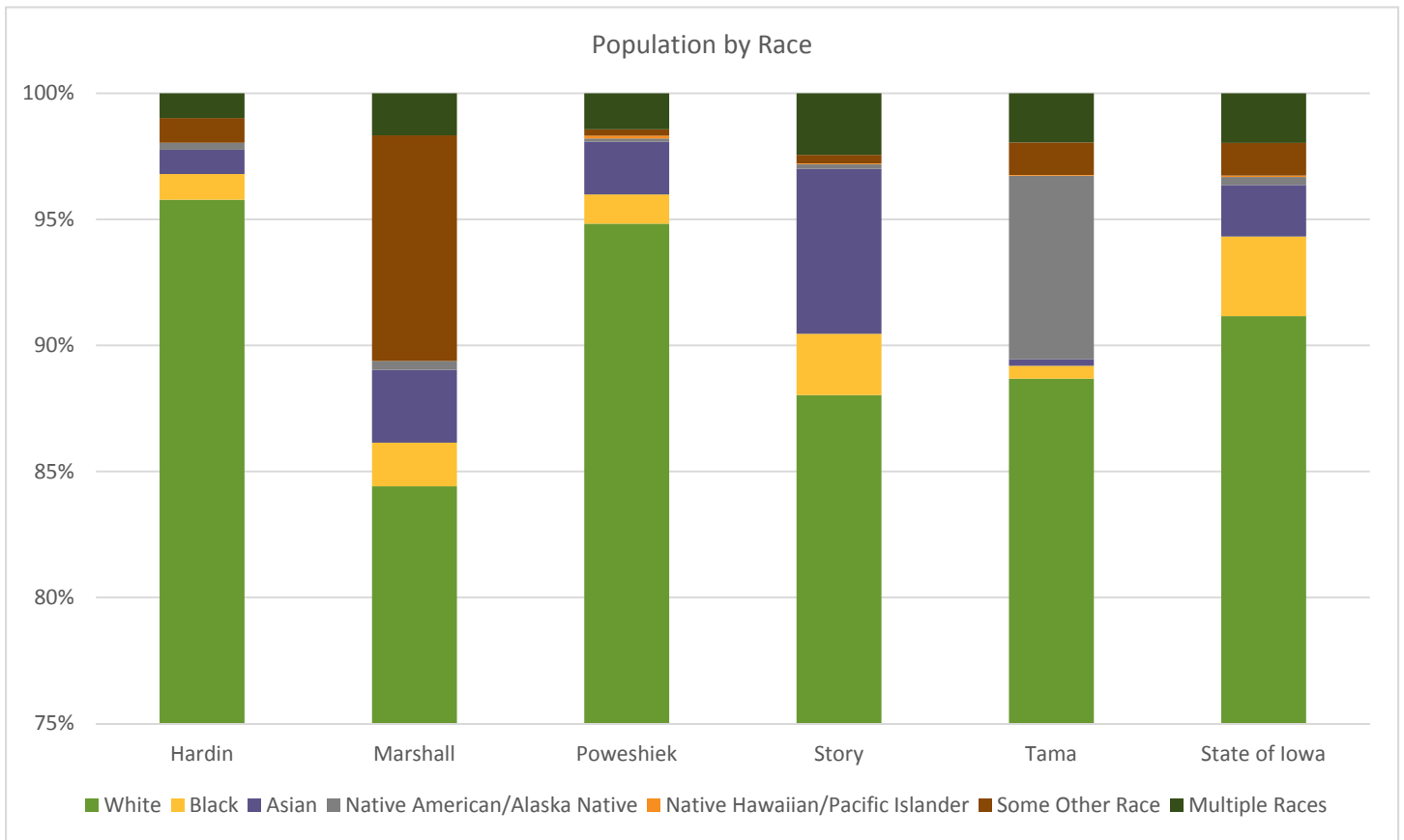
Demographics

The US Census Bureau differentiates between ethnicity and race. It defines a person who is Hispanic or Latino as, “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.” This means that a person who is Hispanic may be of any race or combination of races.



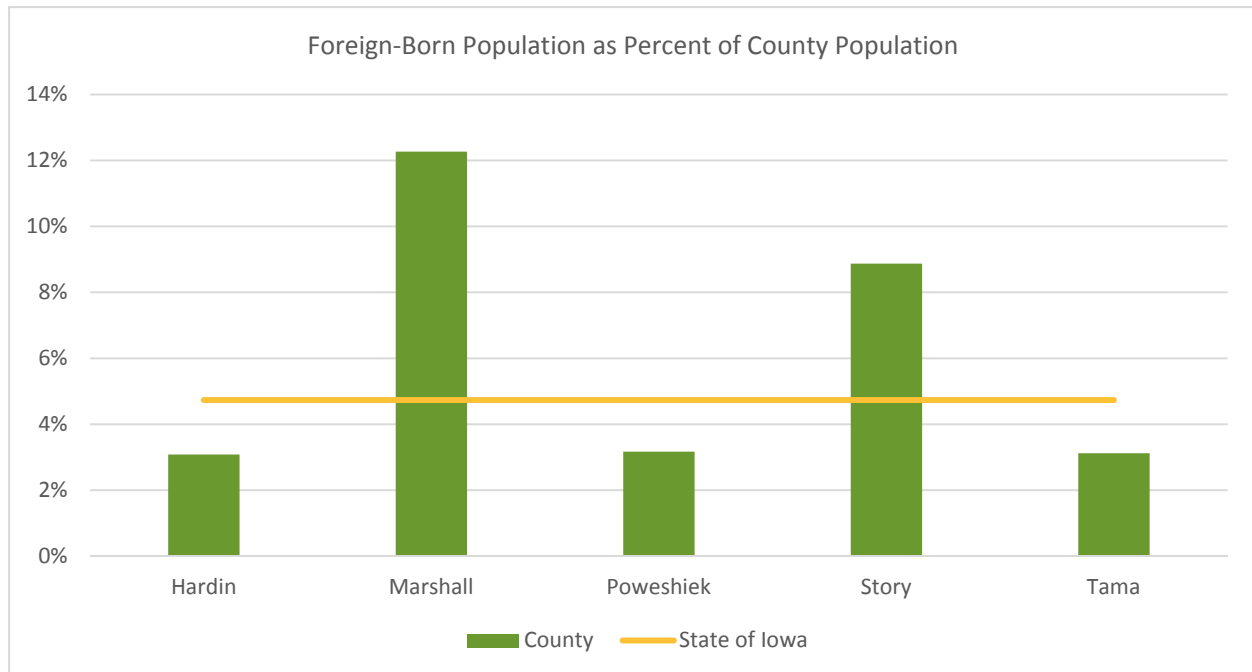
Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015.

Demographics



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015.

Demographics



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015.

Origins of Foreign-Born Population

	Hardin	Marshall	Poweshiek	Story	Tama	Total (↓)
Central America	48.13%	74.54%	20.57%	5.67%	78.94%	33.51%
Eastern Asia	8.77%	1.47%	27.82%	43.04%	5.31%	25.92%
South Eastern Asia	17.72%	13.40%	8.09%	9.47%	2.20%	10.76%
South Central Asia	2.99%	4.32%	7.08%	10.05%	0.73%	7.42%
Western Asia	0.00%	0.00%	3.88%	7.06%	0.00%	4.06%
Eastern Europe	7.09%	0.76%	13.15%	4.63%	2.38%	3.67%
South America	5.04%	0.48%	1.69%	3.24%	1.83%	2.27%
Northern America	0.75%	0.12%	1.52%	3.42%	0.55%	2.04%
Western Africa	0.37%	0.04%	0.84%	3.51%	0.00%	2.00%
Northern Africa	0.00%	3.16%	0.00%	0.96%	2.75%	1.69%
Northern Europe	0.19%	0.00%	3.37%	2.02%	2.93%	1.37%
Eastern Africa	0.56%	0.60%	5.23%	1.67%	0.00%	1.35%
Southern Europe	2.61%	0.00%	0.00%	1.76%	1.10%	1.11%
Western Europe	5.04%	1.09%	2.36%	0.60%	1.28%	1.02%
Caribbean	0.00%	0.00%	4.38%	1.46%	0.00%	0.98%
Middle Africa	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.46%	0.00%	0.25%
Europe, N.E.C.	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.33%	0.00%	0.18%
Oceania	0.75%	0.02%	0.00%	0.25%	0.00%	0.17%
Africa, N.E.C.	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.28%	0.00%	0.15%
Asia, N.E.C.	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.13%	0.00%	0.07%

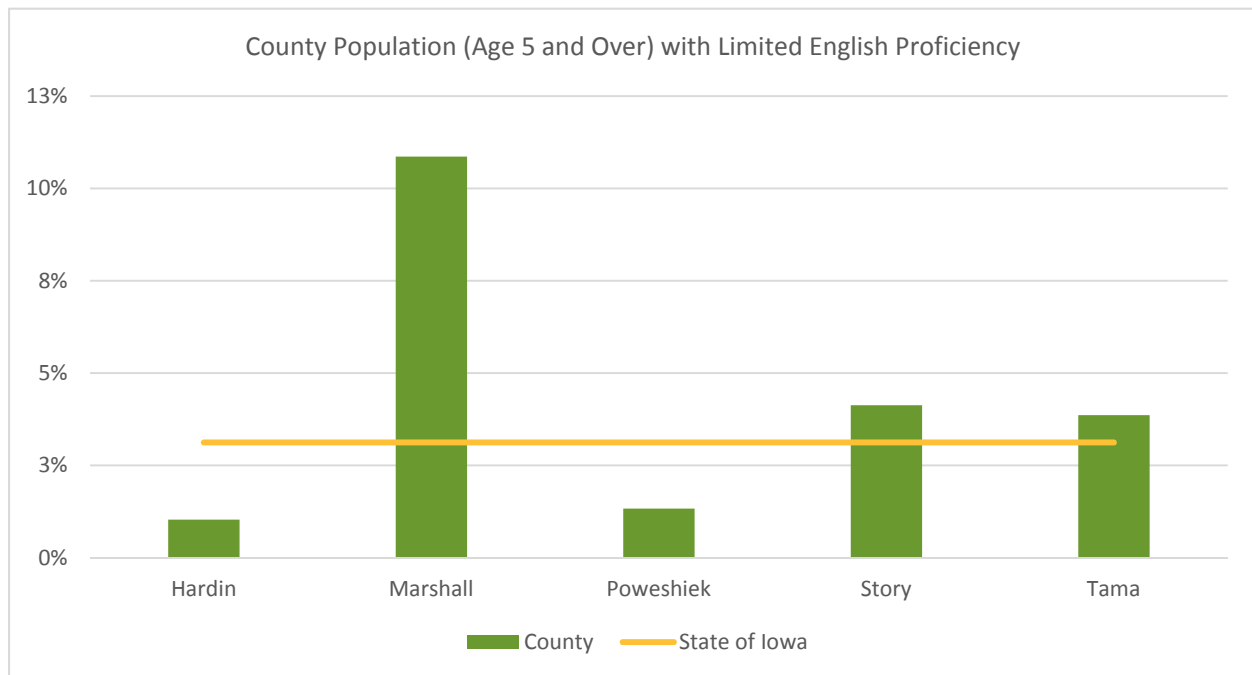
Demographics

Southern Africa	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oceania, N.E.C.	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B05006

It should be noted that the US Census Bureau considers Mexico a part of Central America.

Limited English Proficiency refers to individuals age 5 and over who, “speak English less than very well.”



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

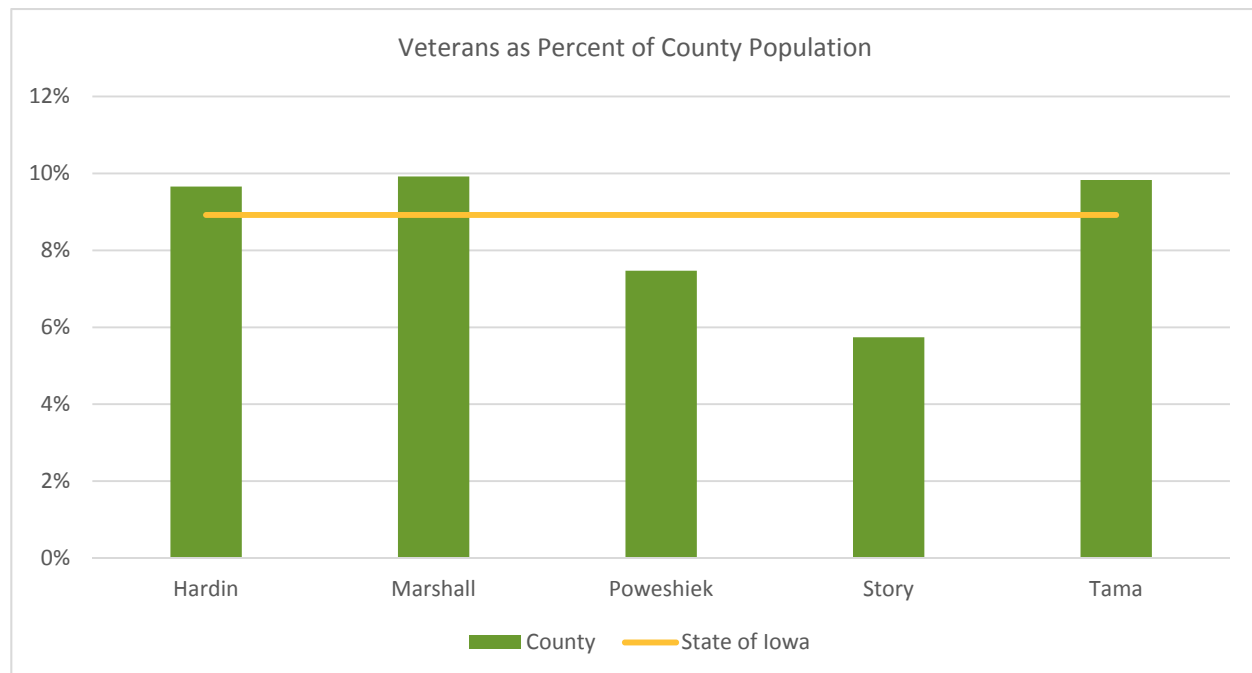
Of those ages 5 and over who, “speak English less than very well,” the following languages are spoken at home. The total column refers to the percent of all individuals with limited English proficiency in the core service area.

Languages Spoken at Home	Hardin	Marshall	Poweshiek	Story	Tama	Total (↓)
Spanish or Spanish Creole	61.54%	81.01%	81.78%	14.78%	79.18%	53.05%
Chinese	0.00%	4.81%	0.00%	51.12%	0.00%	23.46%
Other Asian languages	0.00%	8.30%	2.54%	2.37%	0.63%	4.98%
Korean	0.00%	0.68%	0.00%	8.37%	0.00%	3.79%
Arabic	0.00%	1.48%	0.00%	5.51%	0.00%	2.97%
Other Pacific Island languages	0.00%	0.00%	8.90%	5.75%	0.00%	2.62%
Thai	0.00%	2.95%	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%	1.41%
Vietnamese	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.89%	2.84%	1.40%
Other Native North American languages	0.00%	0.00%	4.24%	0.57%	13.09%	1.29%

Demographics

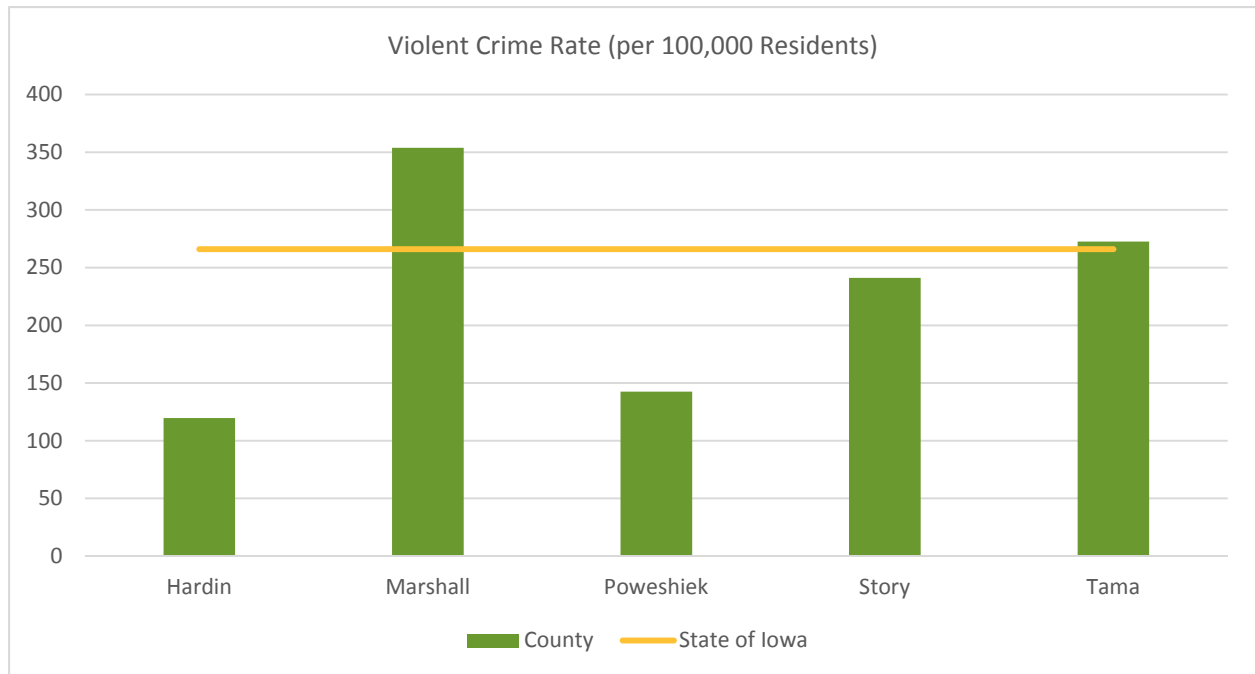
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	1.18%	0.05%	1.27%	1.01%	2.37%	0.67%
Laotian	0.00%	0.19%	0.00%	1.36%	0.00%	0.66%
German	9.47%	0.00%	0.00%	0.55%	0.47%	0.44%
Other Indic languages	0.00%	0.10%	0.00%	0.85%	0.00%	0.40%
Russian	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.85%	0.00%	0.35%
Serbo-Croatian	14.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.16%	0.00%	0.34%
Gujarati	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.82%	0.00%	0.34%
Urdu	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.82%	0.00%	0.34%
Japanese	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%	0.52%	0.00%	0.24%
Persian	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.55%	0.00%	0.23%
Hindi	5.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.25%	0.00%	0.20%
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	0.00%	0.27%	0.00%	0.16%	0.00%	0.19%
Scandinavian languages	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.35%	0.00%	0.15%
Greek	5.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%
African languages	0.00%	0.12%	1.27%	0.00%	0.00%	0.09%
Tagalog	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.19%	0.00%	0.08%
Polish	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.10%	0.08%
French Creole	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.14%	0.00%	0.06%
Italian	2.96%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.06%
Other Slavic languages	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.32%	0.02%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B16001.



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Demographics

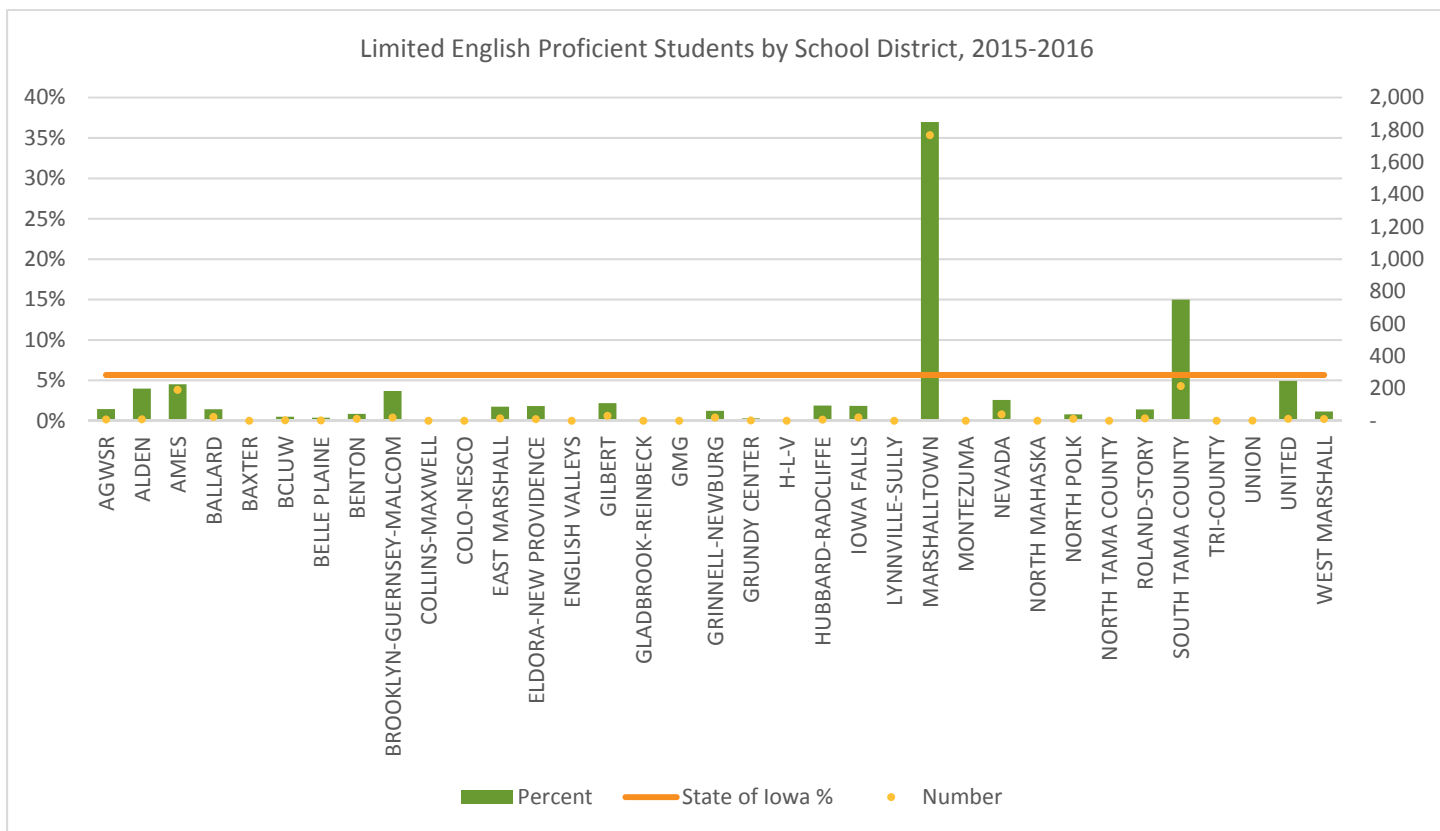


Source: Community Commons, Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Additional analysis by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. Accessed via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. 2010-12.

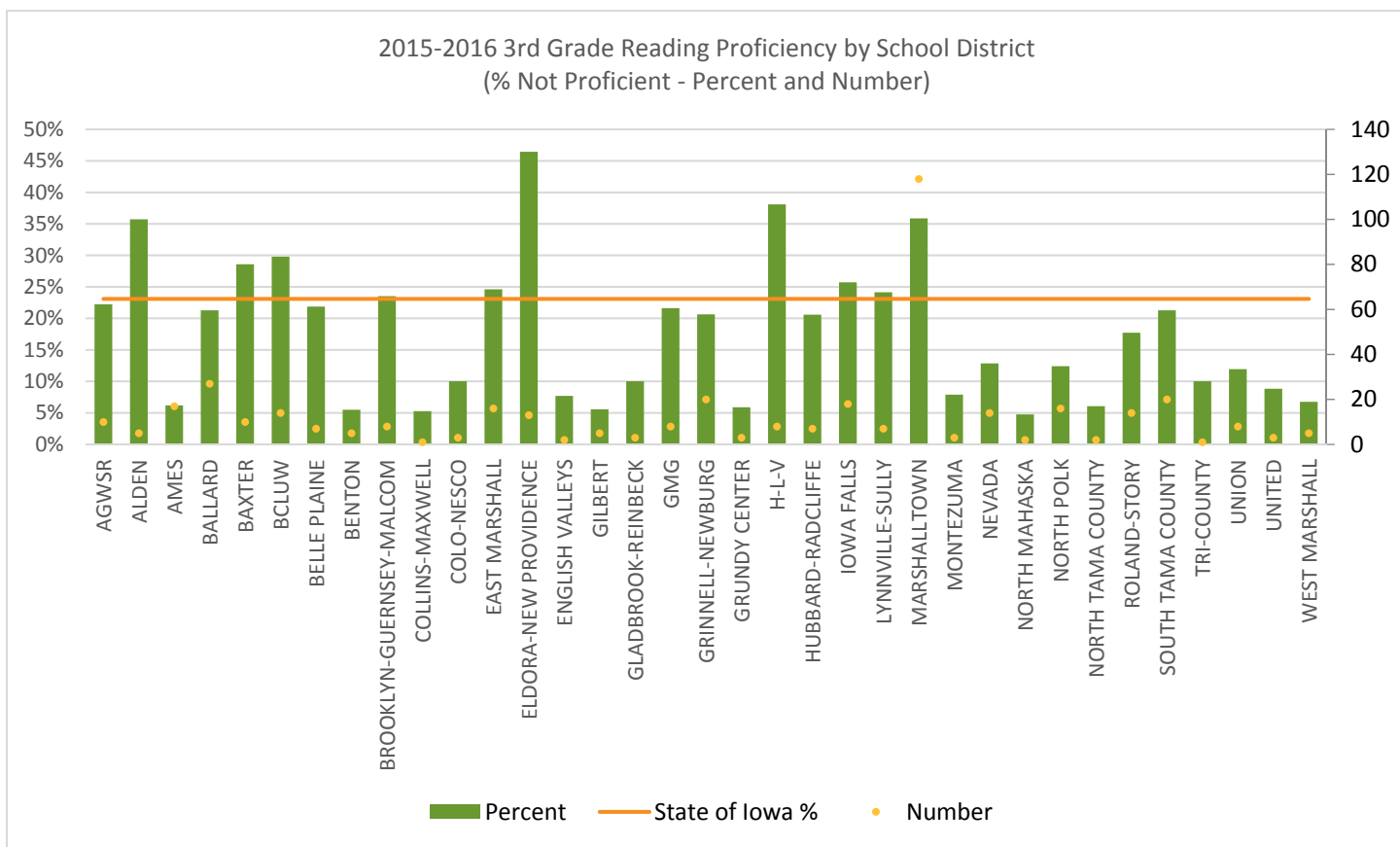


Education

Education

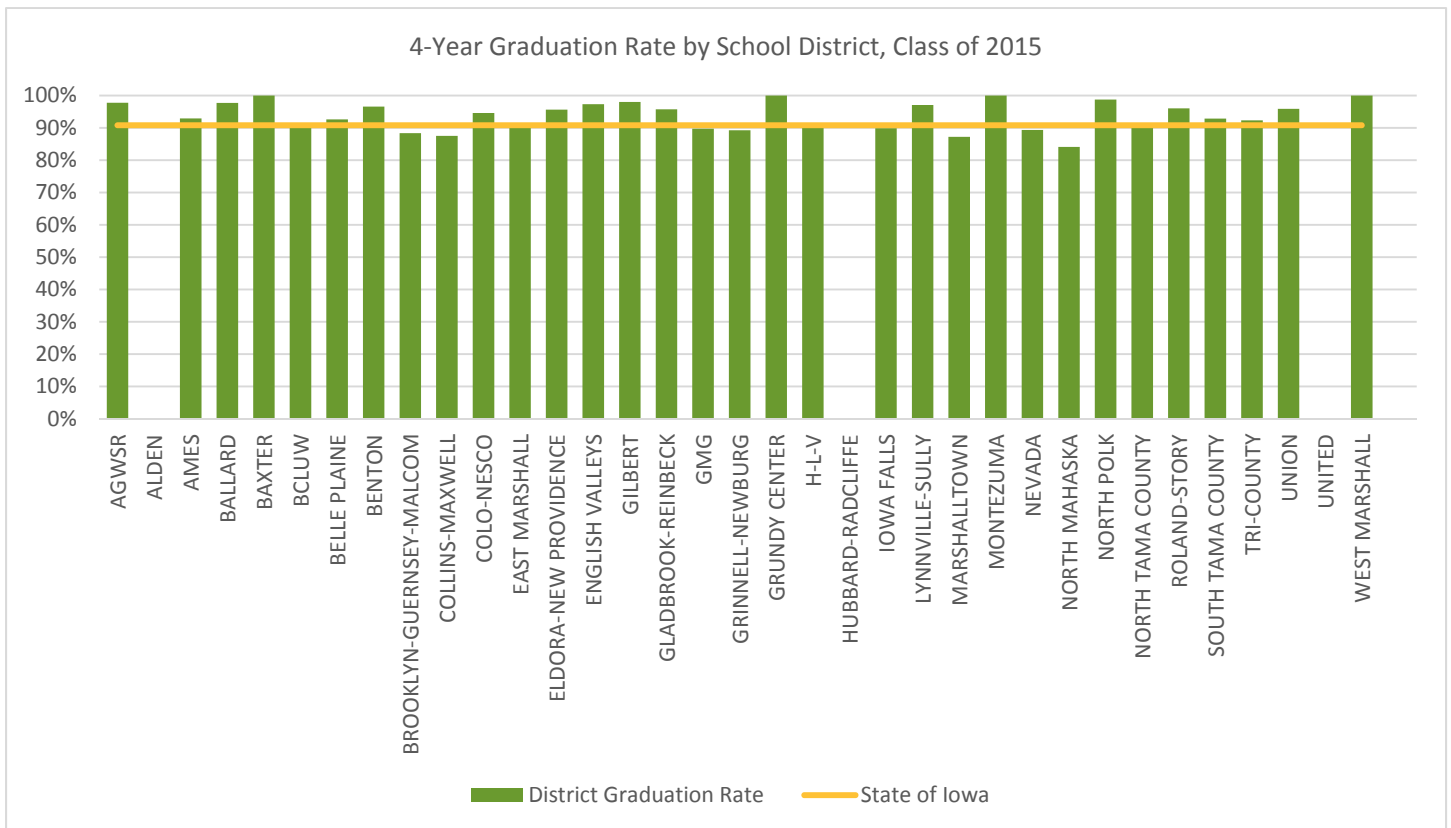


Source: Iowa Department of Education, Student Reporting in Iowa, Fall 2015 file

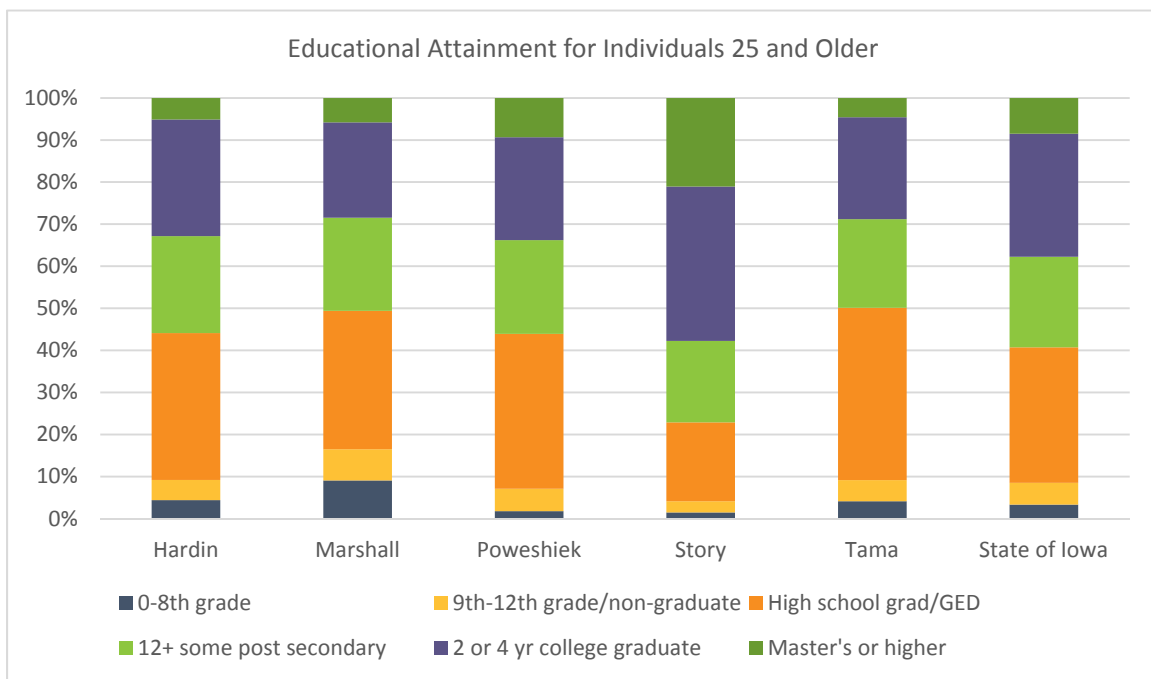


Source: Iowa Department of Education, AYP file

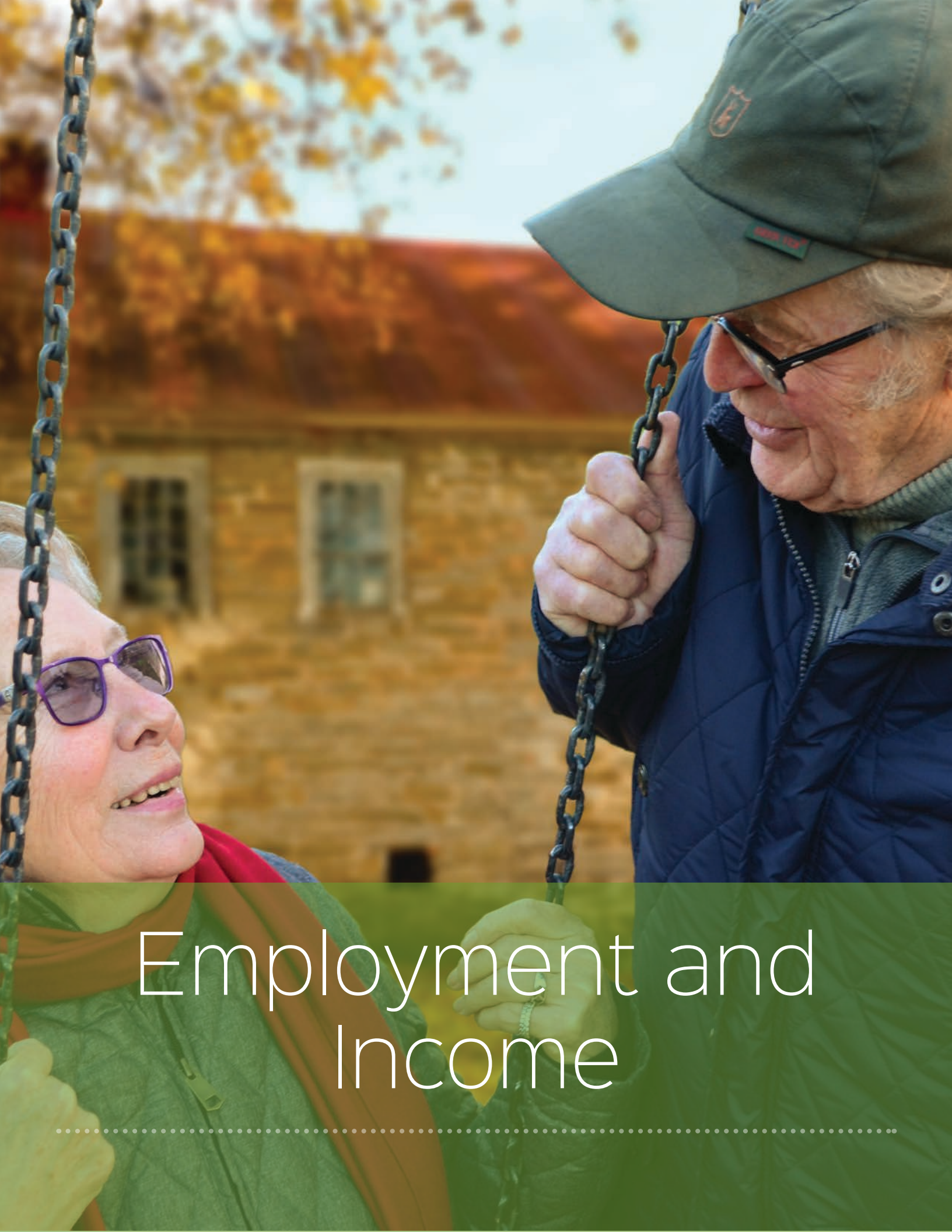
Education



Source: Iowa Department of Education, Information and Analysis, Basic Educational Data Survey and SRI Files.

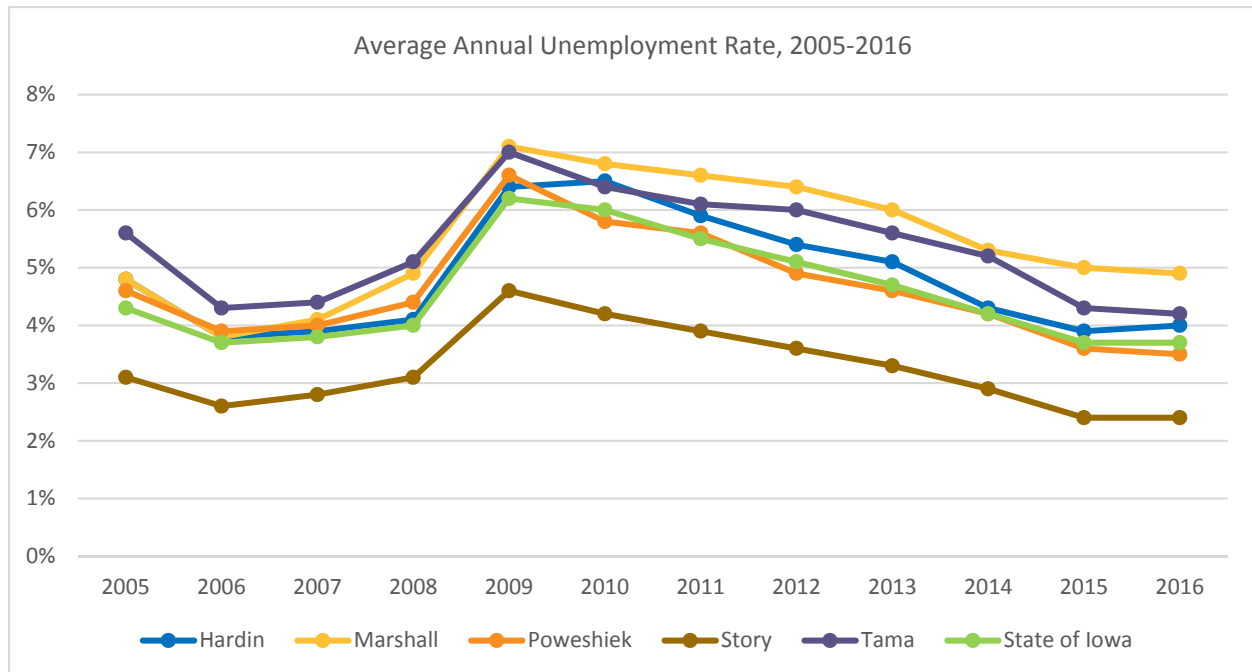


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B15003.

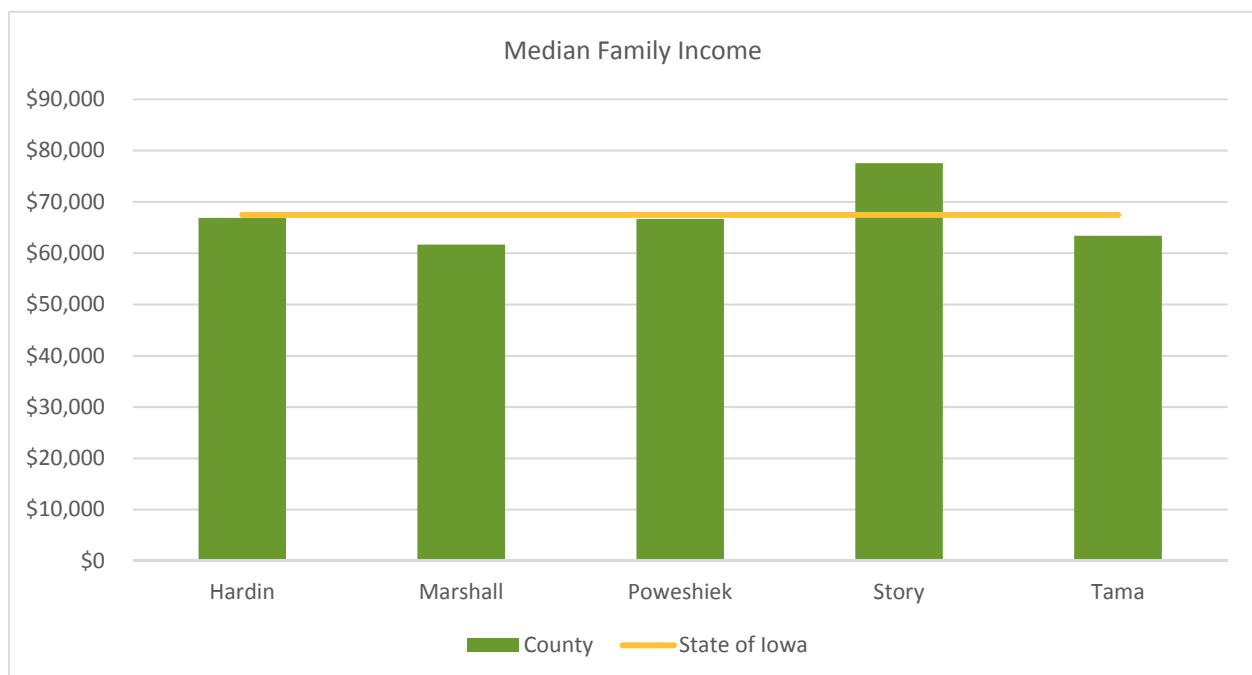


Employment and Income

Employment & Income



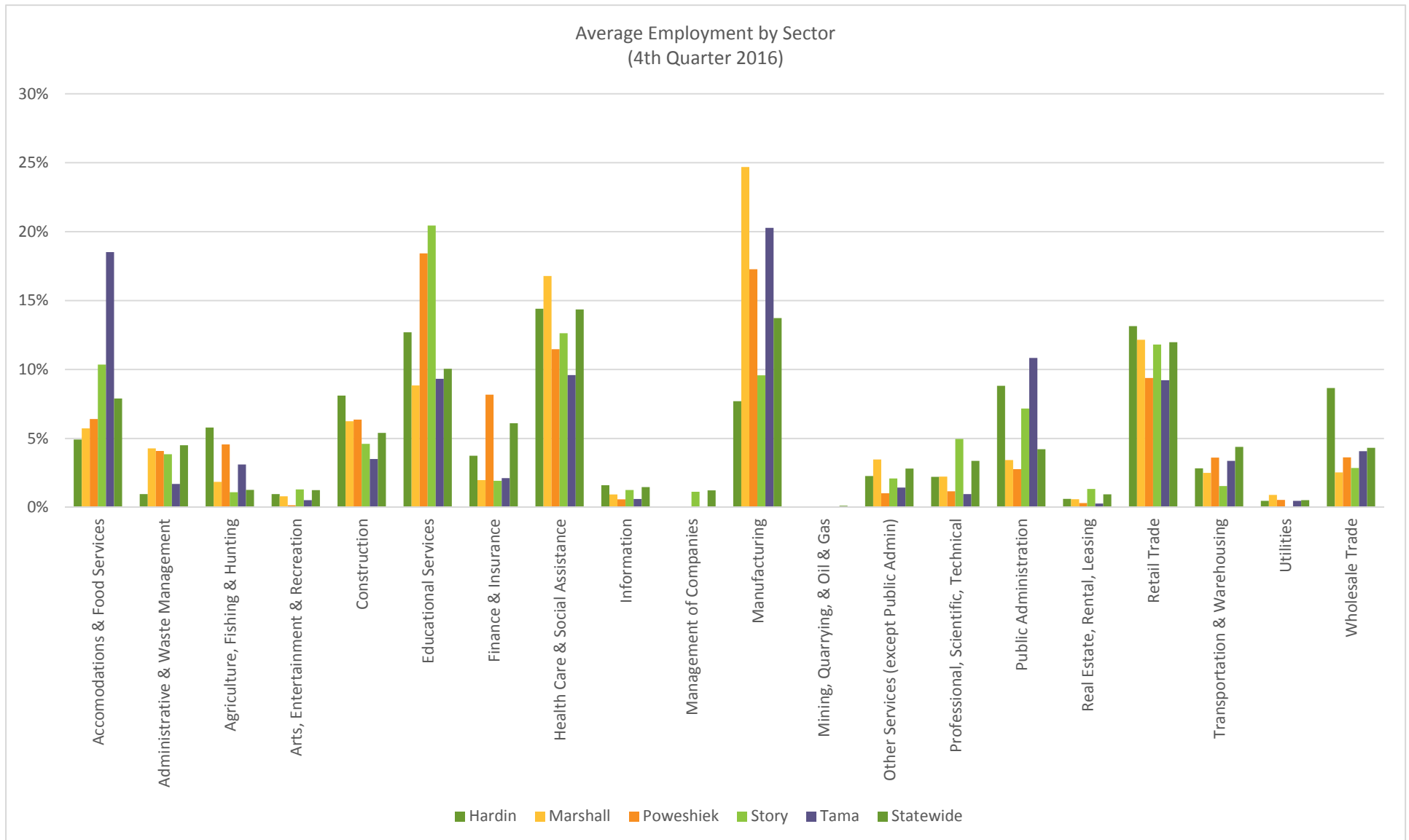
Source: Community Commons, US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Iowa Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Division, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program.



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Employment & Income

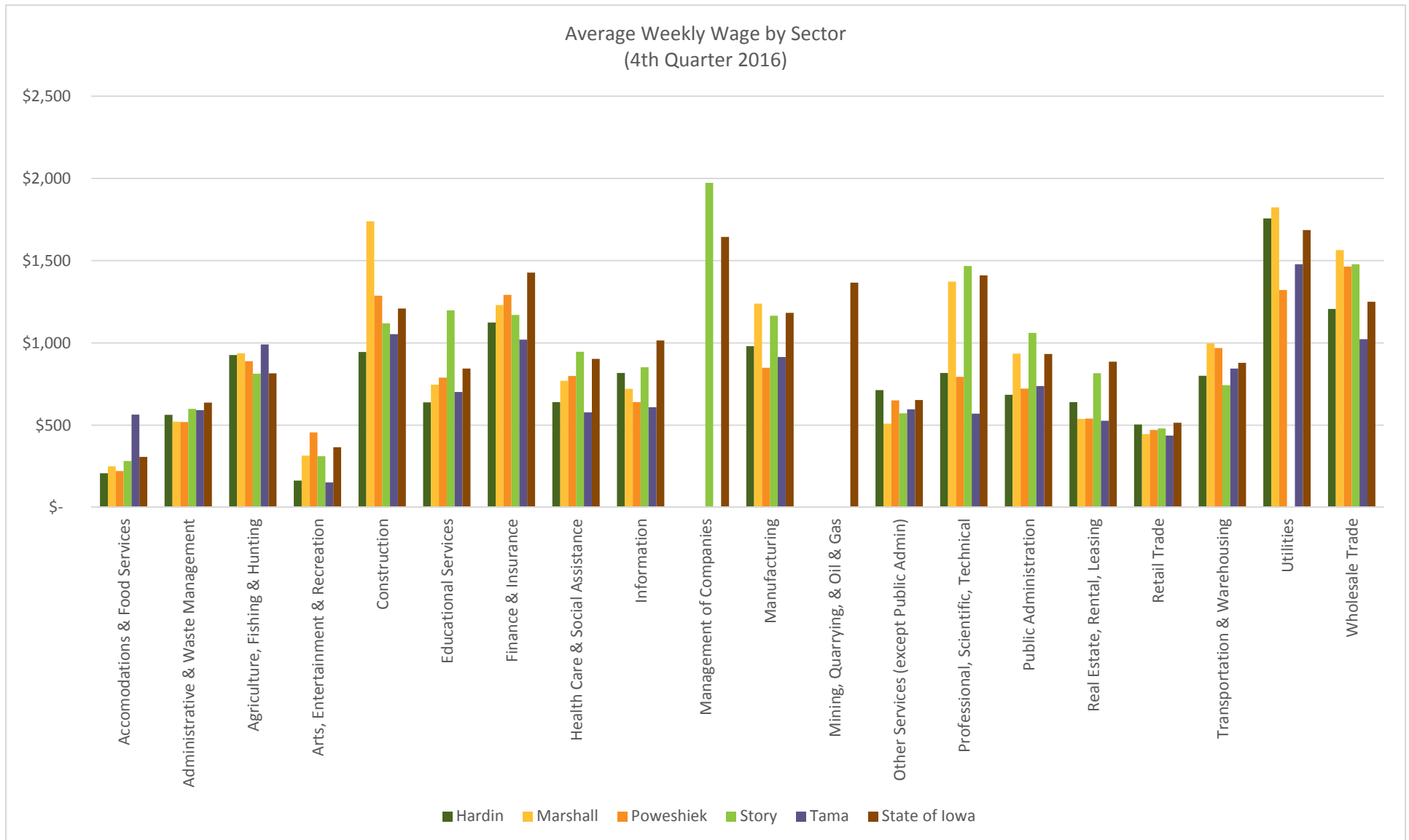
Average Employment by Sector
(4th Quarter 2016)



Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Division, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW).

Employment & Income

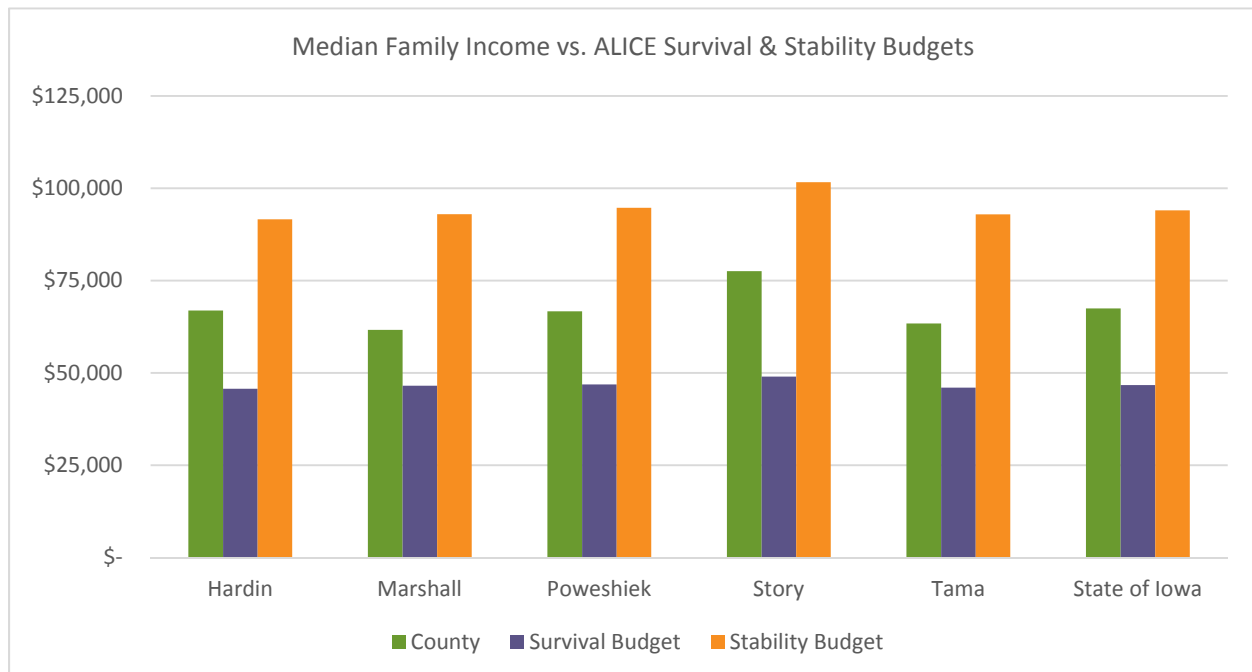
Average Weekly Wage by Sector
(4th Quarter 2016)



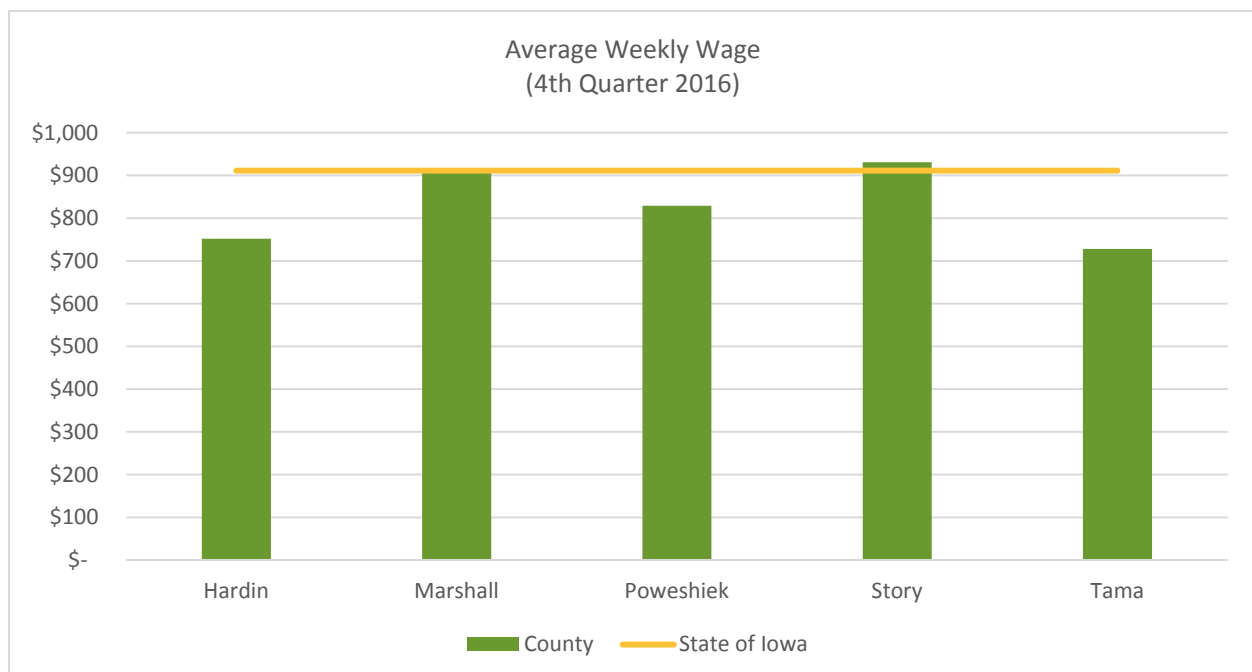
Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Division, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW).

Employment & Income

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is an acronym from the United Way that refers to “individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation” (United Way ALICE Report 2014). United Way provides county-level budgets that list the income needed to survive and the income needed to maintain economic stability. For this comparison, the ALICE budget amounts are for a family of four with two working adults and two children in child care.



Source: Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 and United Way ALICE Report 2014.

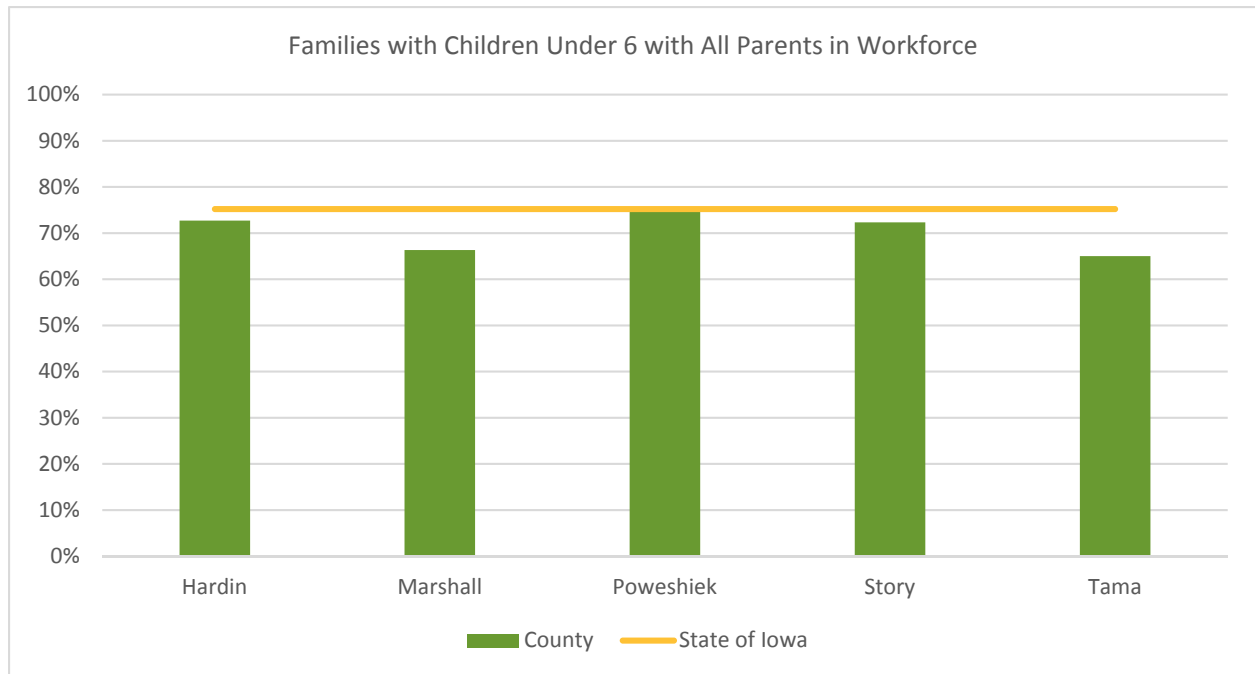


Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Labor Market Information Division, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW).

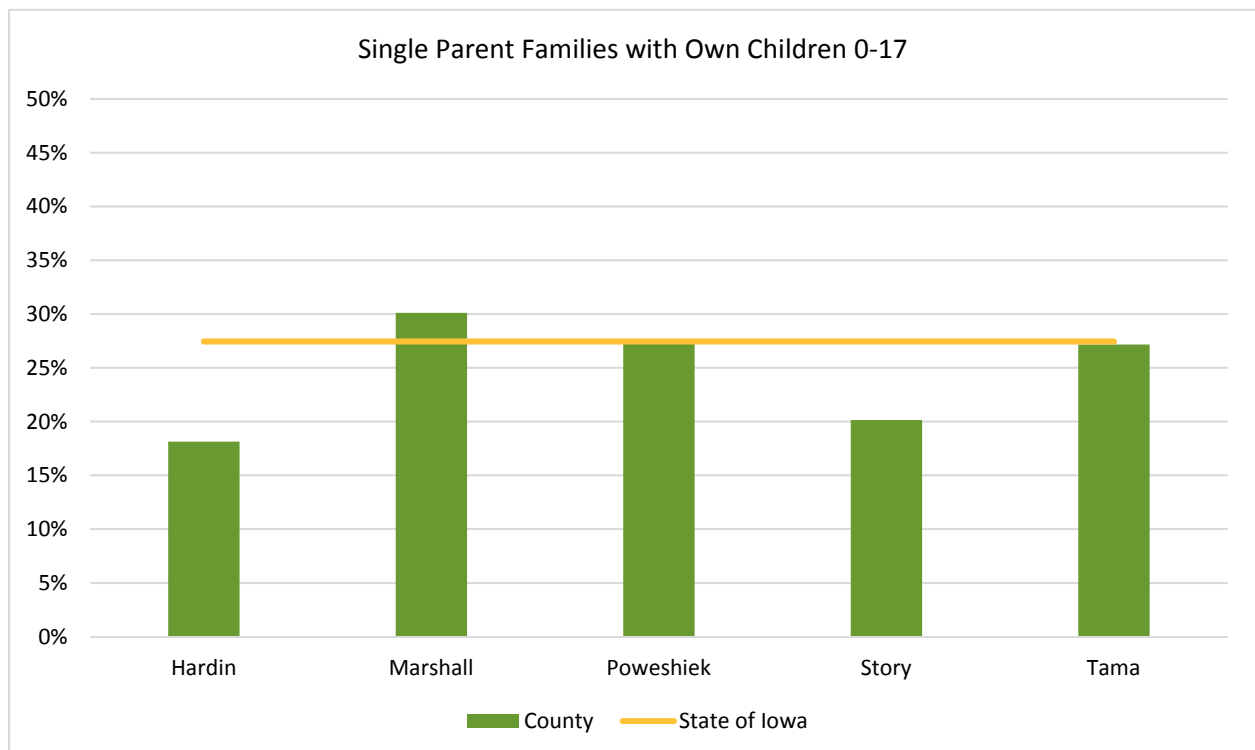


Family Functioning

Family Functioning



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table DP03.



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B09002.

Family Functioning

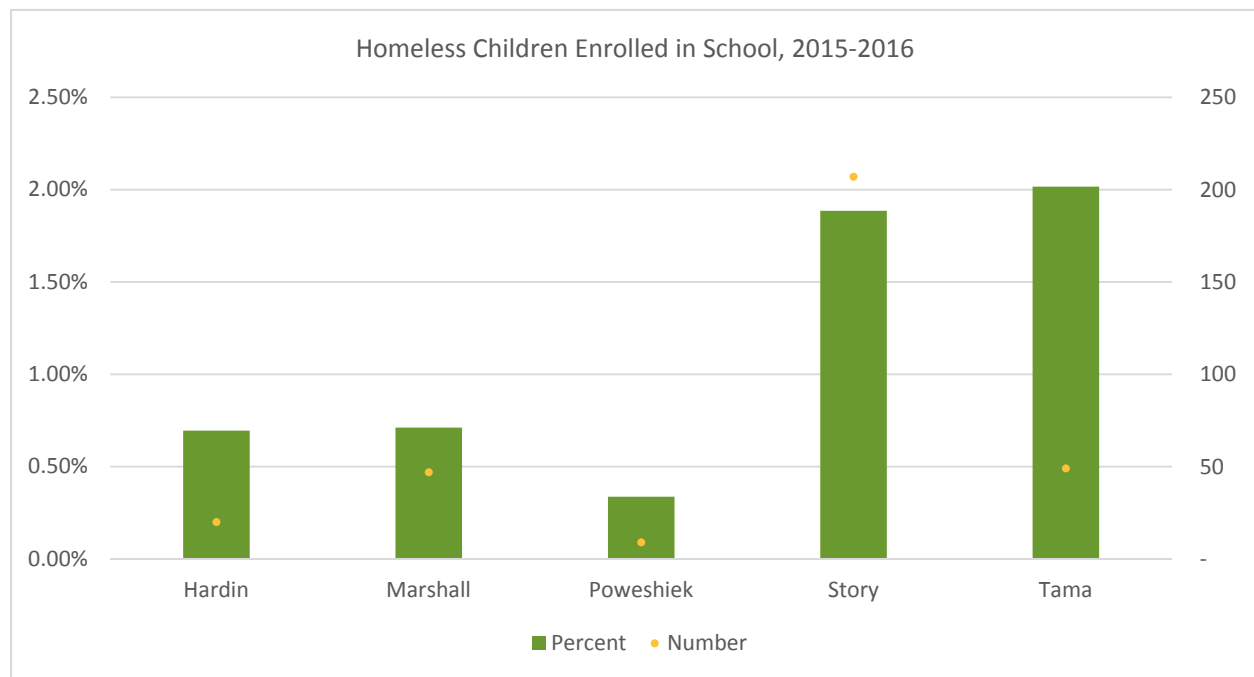
McKinney-Vento Act Homelessness

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and include children who are:

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- In a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances.

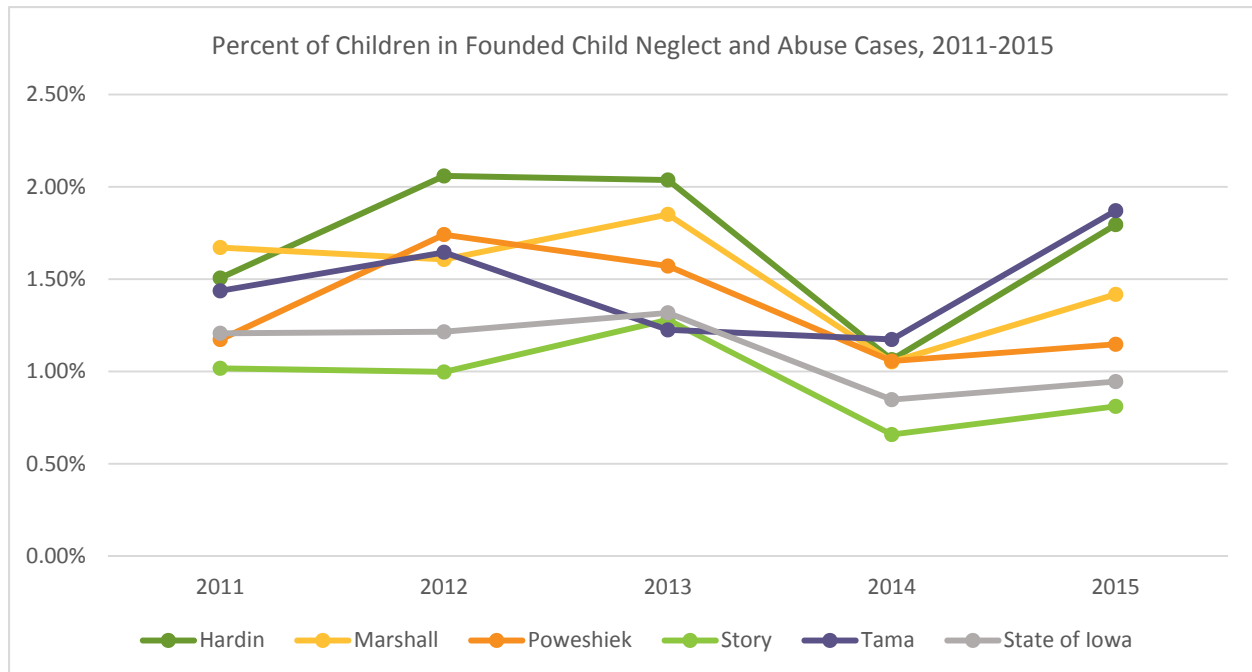
(Taken from US Department of Education “Supporting the Success of Homeless Children and Youths.”)

In the 2014-2015 school year, 1.4% of Iowa children enrolled in public school met this standard of homelessness. The chart below shows the rate and number of McKinney-Vento Act homeless children enrolled in preschool through 12th grade in MICA’s core service area during the 2015-2016 school year.

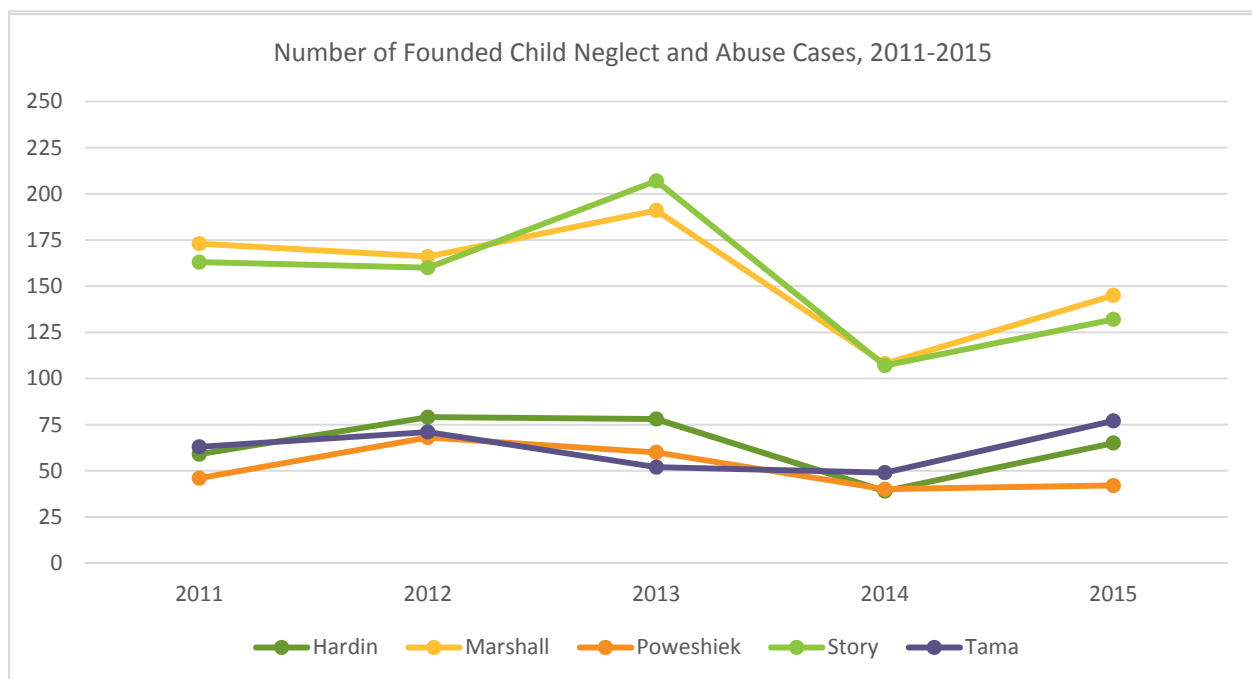


Source: Iowa Department of Education consultant and Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis, Address File, and SRI Fall Merged 1516 file

Family Functioning

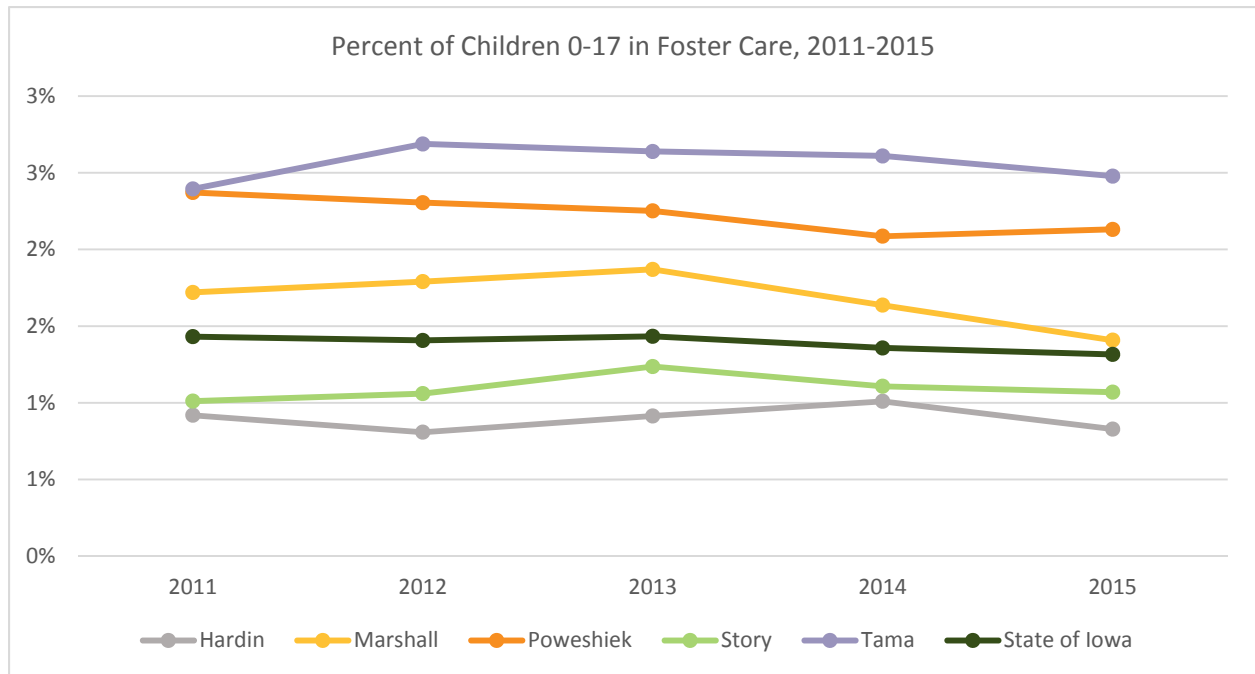


Source: Iowa Department of Human Services and Child Welfare Data Report and Annual Estimates of the Resident Population

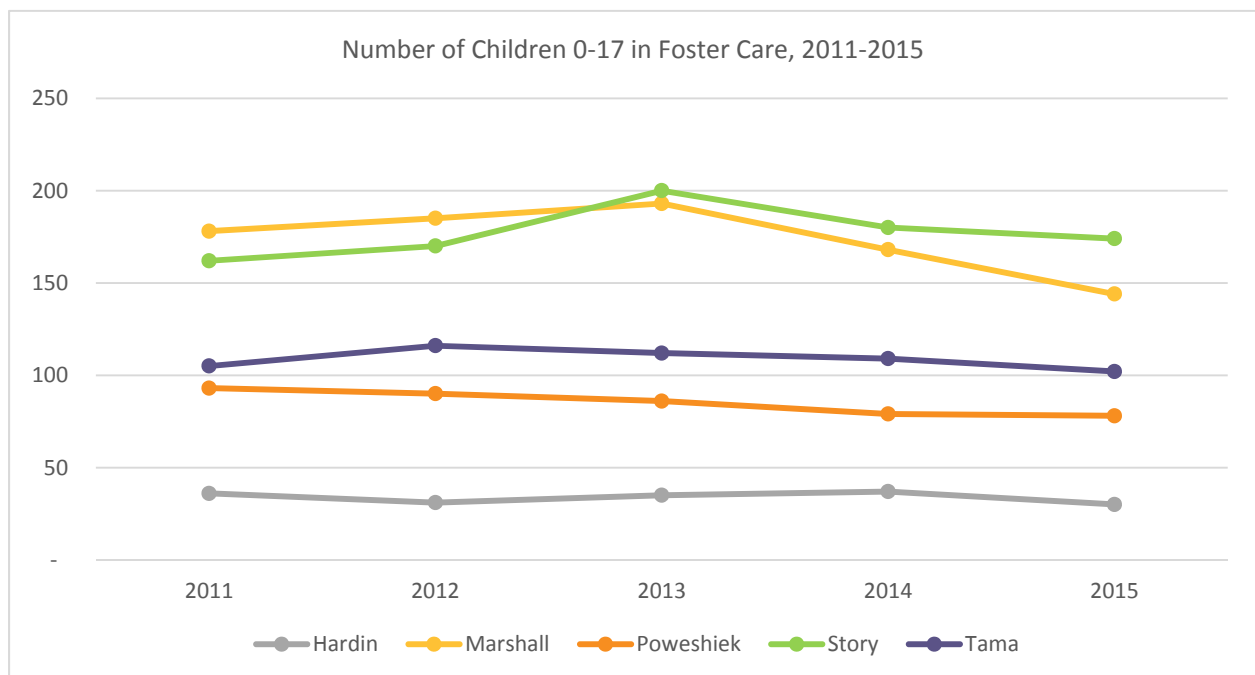


Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

Family Functioning



Source: Iowa Department of Human Services and US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population

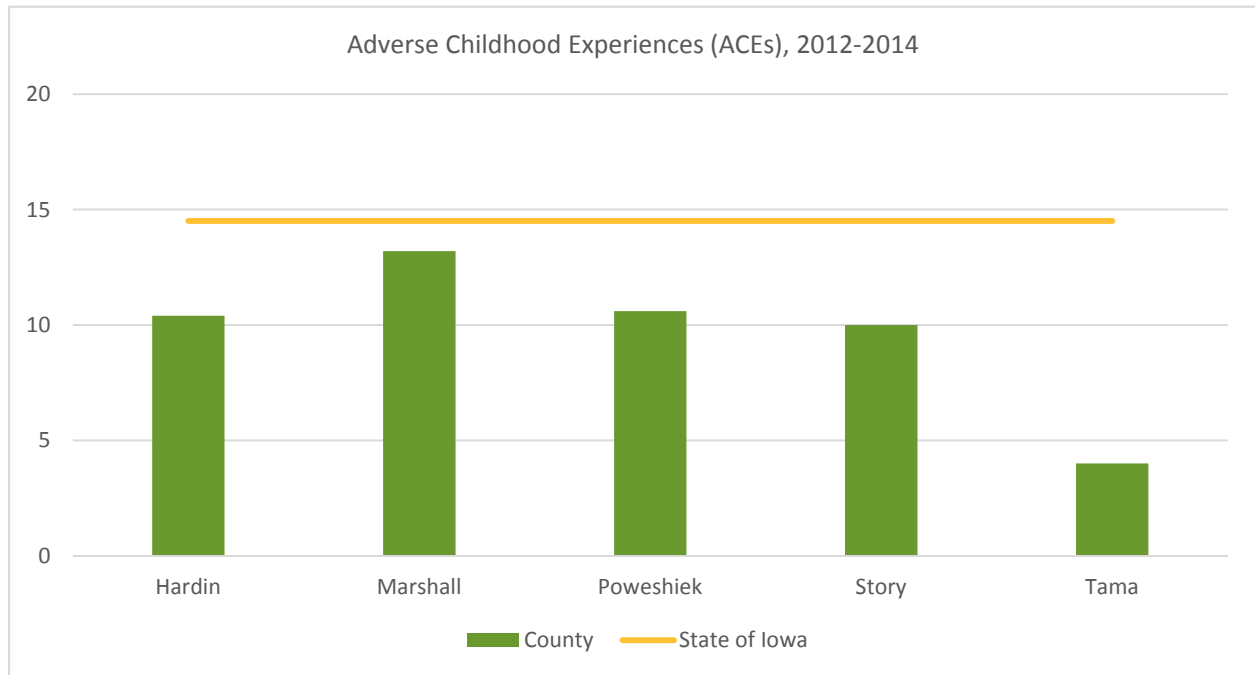


Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

Family Functioning

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The ACES 360 Iowa 2016 report, “Beyond ACEs: Building Hope and Resiliency in Iowa,” describes adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) as “traumatic events that can dramatically upset a child’s sense of safety and well-being.” According to ACES 360 Iowa, there are strong connections between high ACEs scores and poor health outcomes later in life. The chart below includes the percent of adults in each county who reported experiencing four or more ACEs.



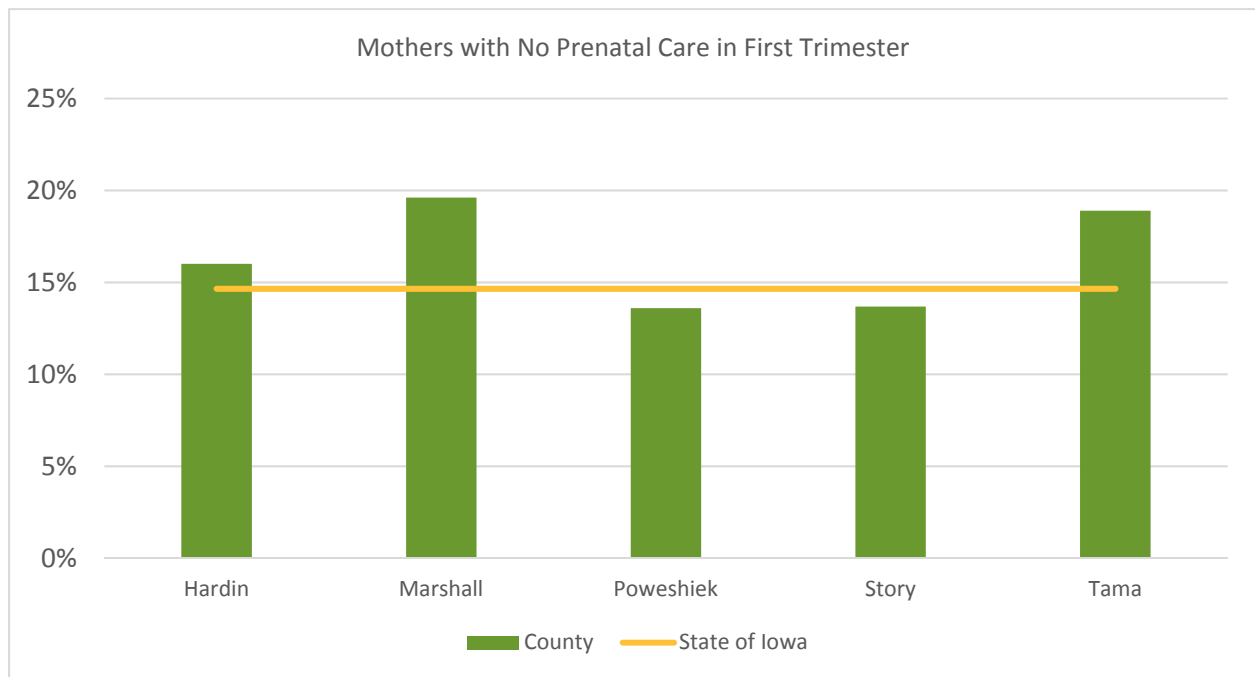
Source: ACES 360 Iowa



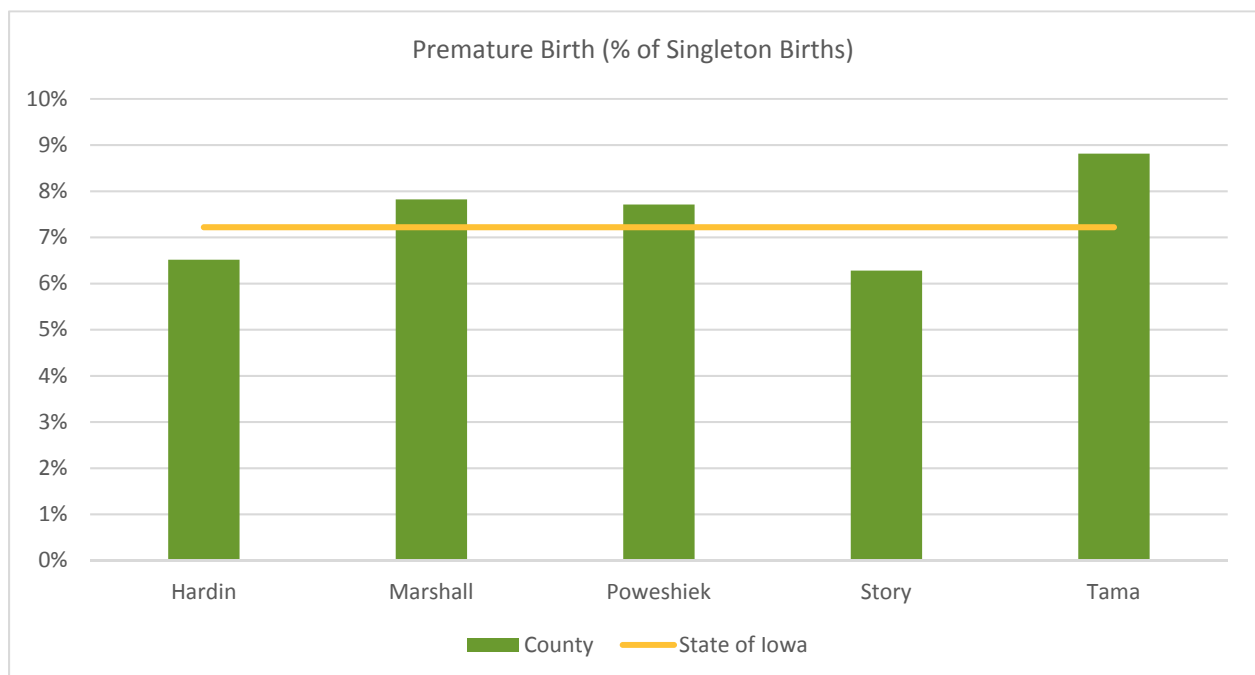
Health

Health

Pregnancy and Birth

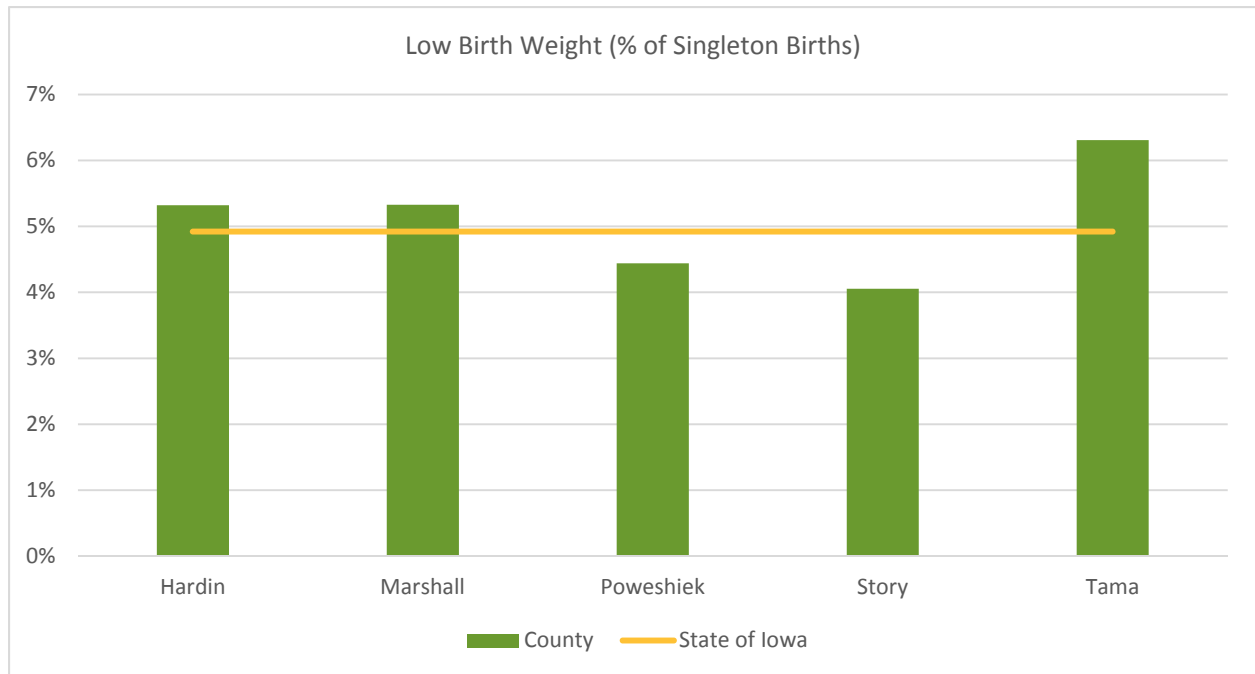


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

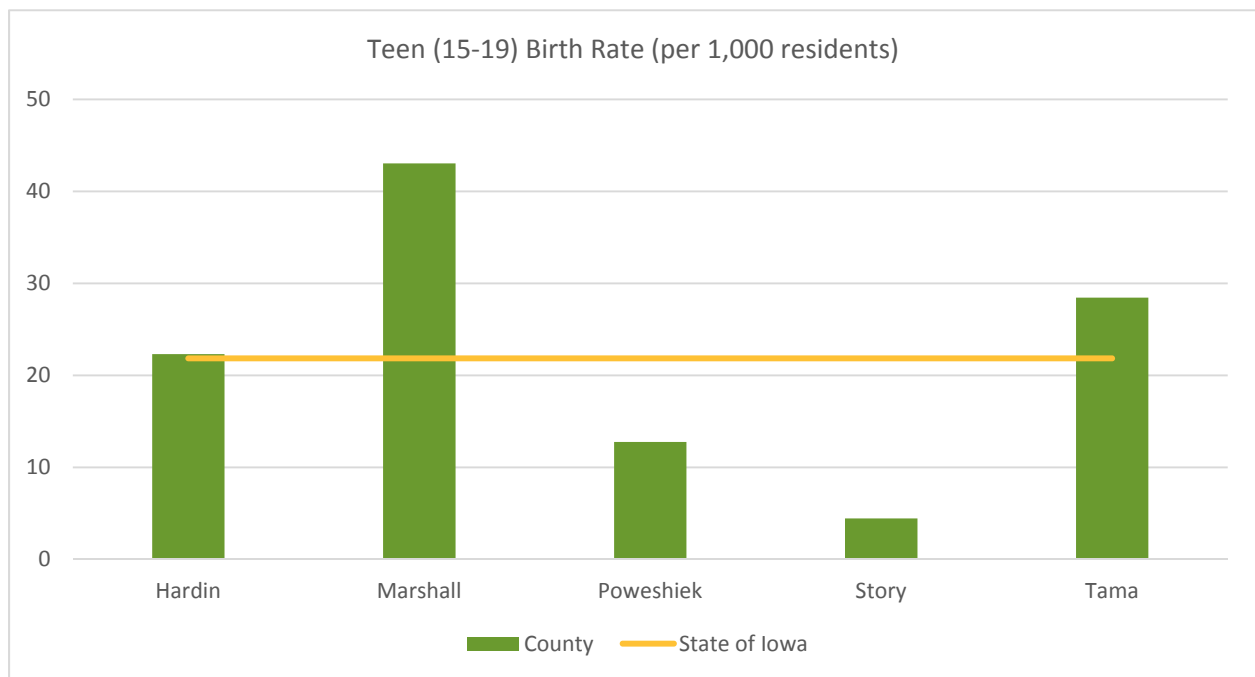


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

Health

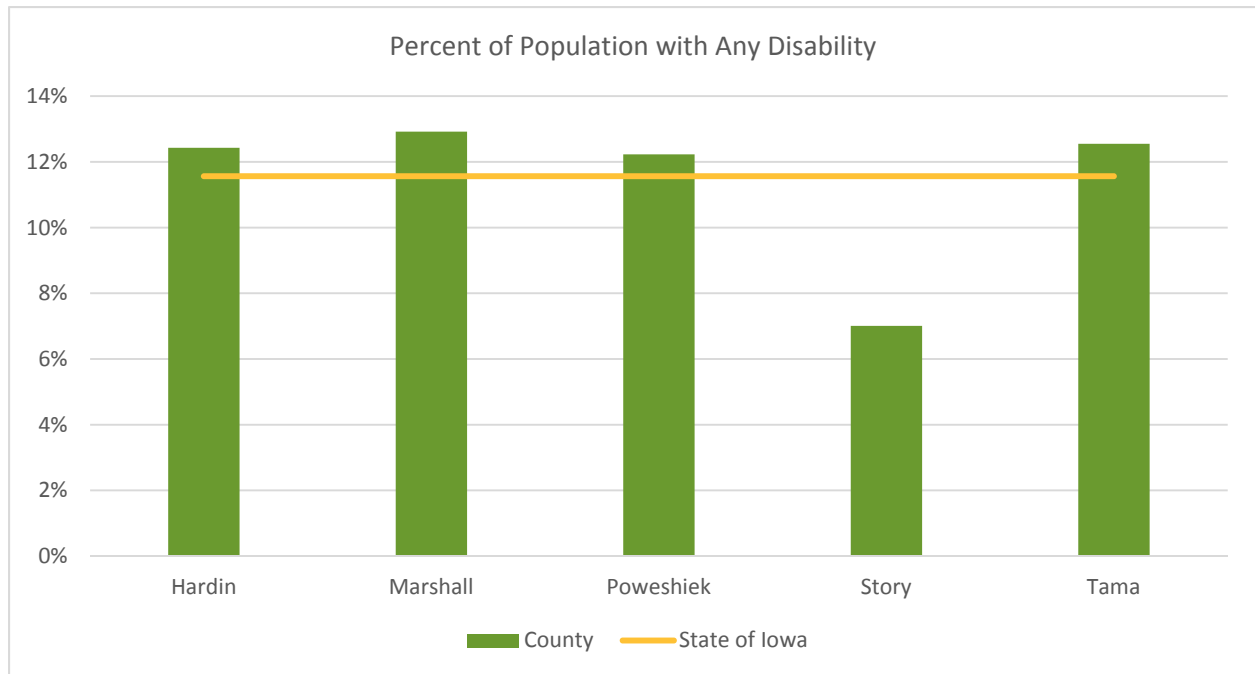


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.



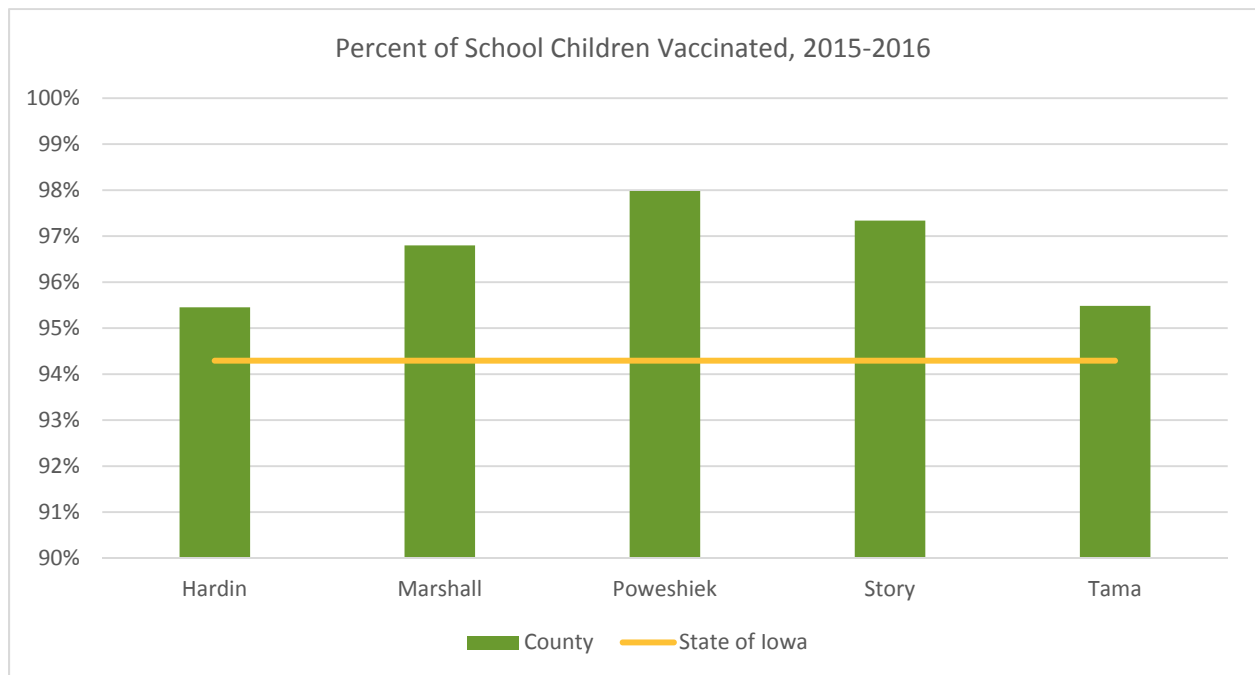
Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

Health

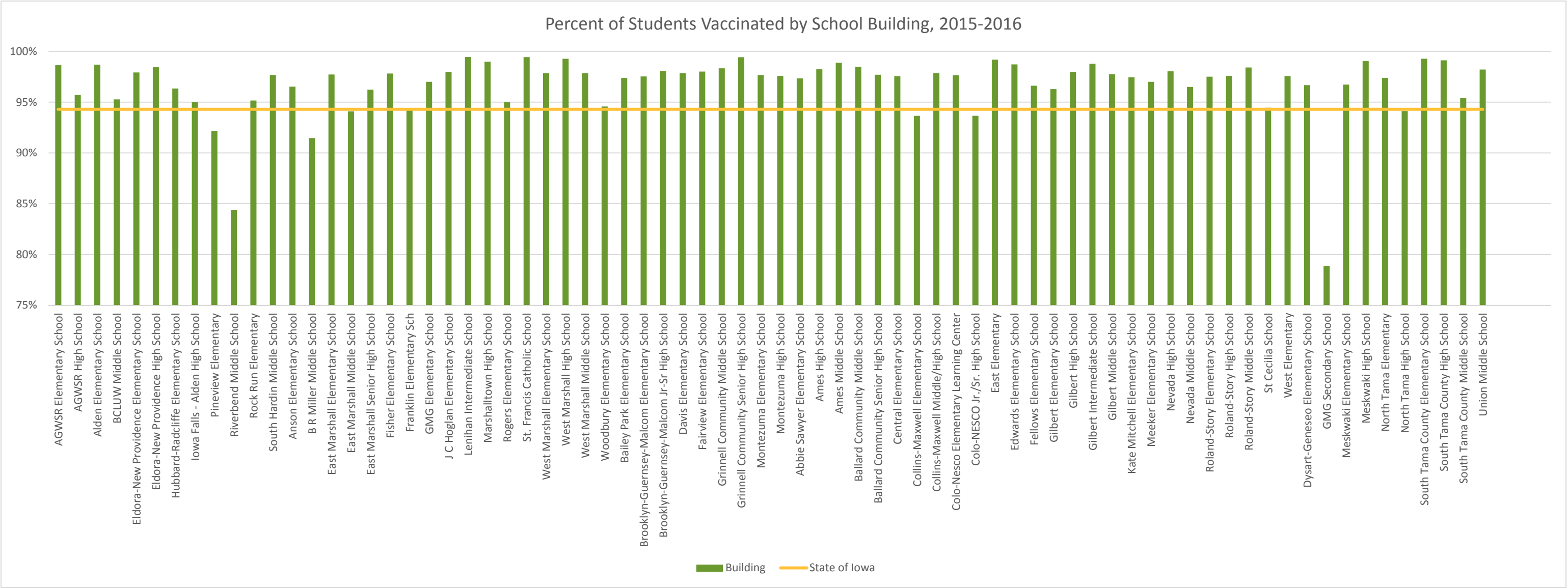


Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Vaccinations



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health - Immunization Program.



Health

Health Professional Shortage Areas

	Dental	Primary Care	Mental
Hardin	Low-income residents	Grundy Center/Eldora residents	Catchment Area 08
Marshall	Low-income residents	Low-income residents	Catchment Area 08
Poweshiek	Medicaid-eligible residents	Low-income residents	Catchment Area 08
Story		Low-income residents	Catchment Area 10
Tama	Low-income residents & members of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa	All residents & members of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa	Catchment Area 08 & members of the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

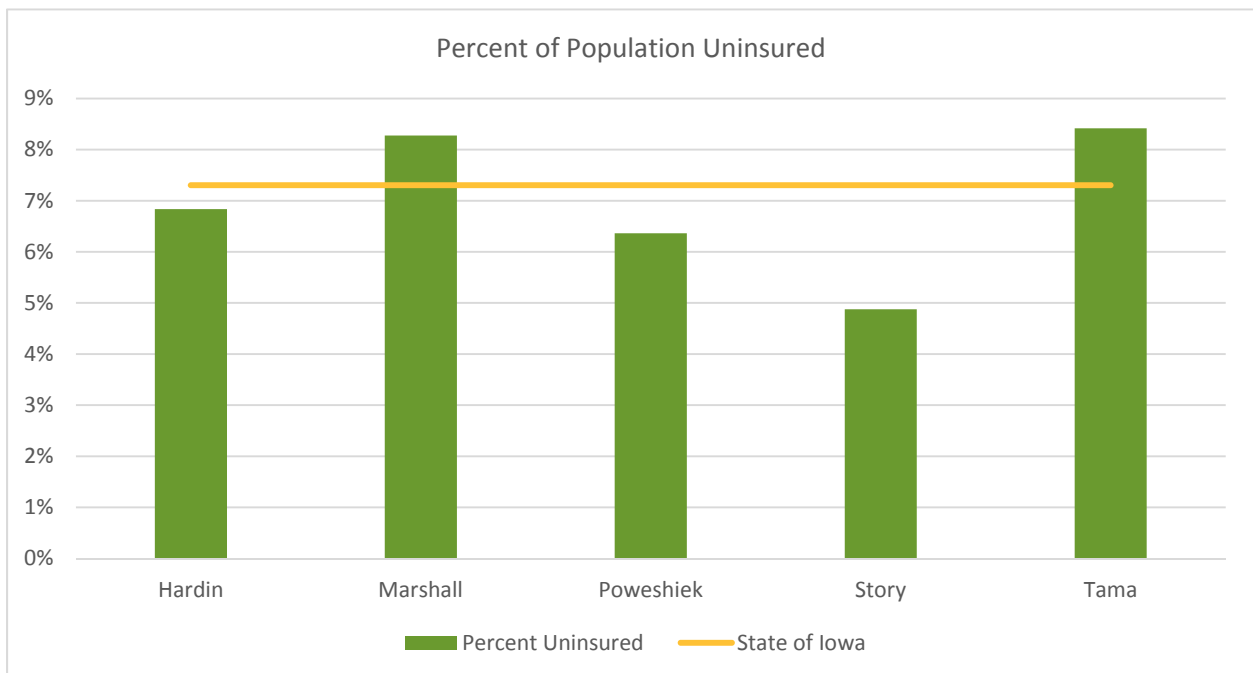
Source: Health Resources and Services Administration Data Warehouse.

Medically Underserved Areas/Populations

	Location/Population
Hardin	Etna Township
Marshall	Marshall County
Poweshiek	
Story	Low-income residents
Tama	Tama County residents

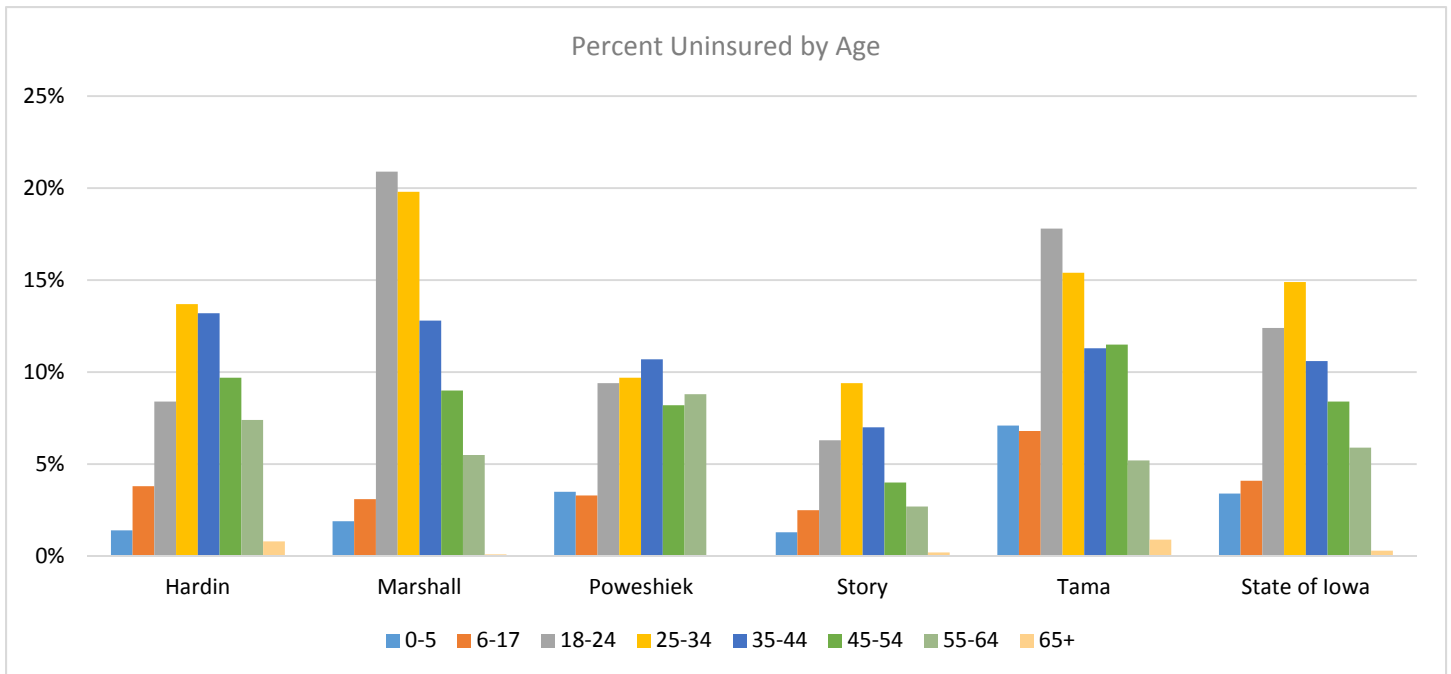
Source: Health Resources and Services Administration Data Warehouse.

Insurance

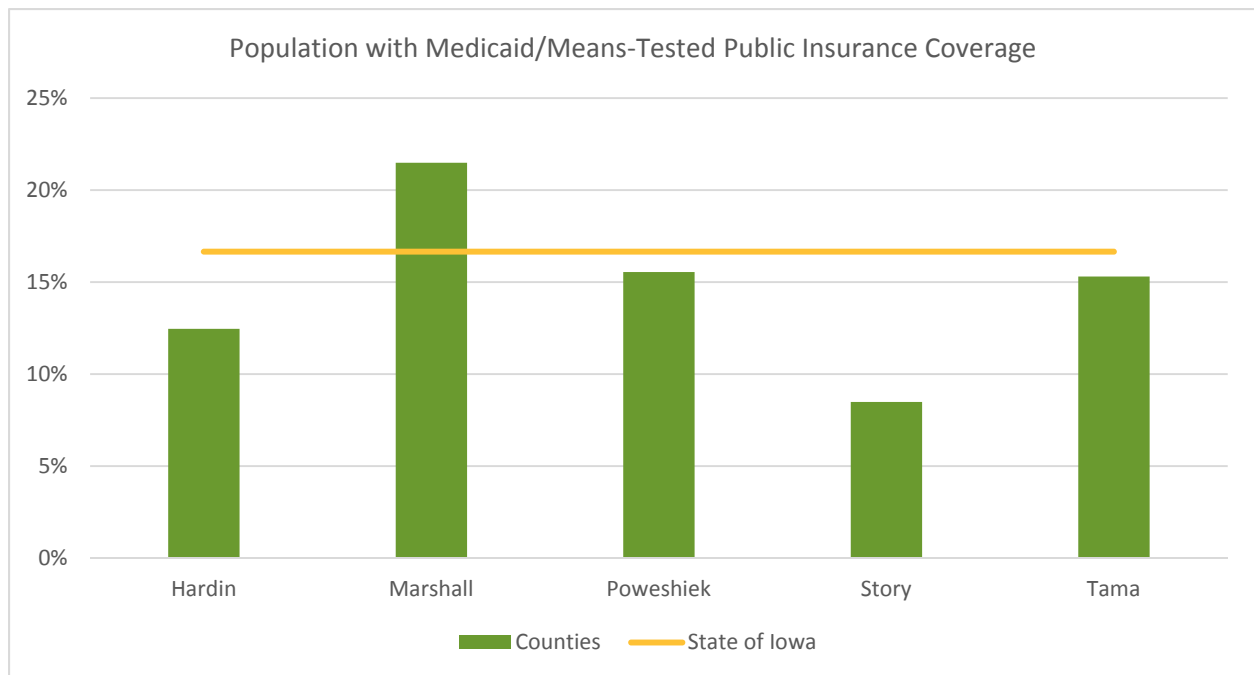


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table C27007.

Health



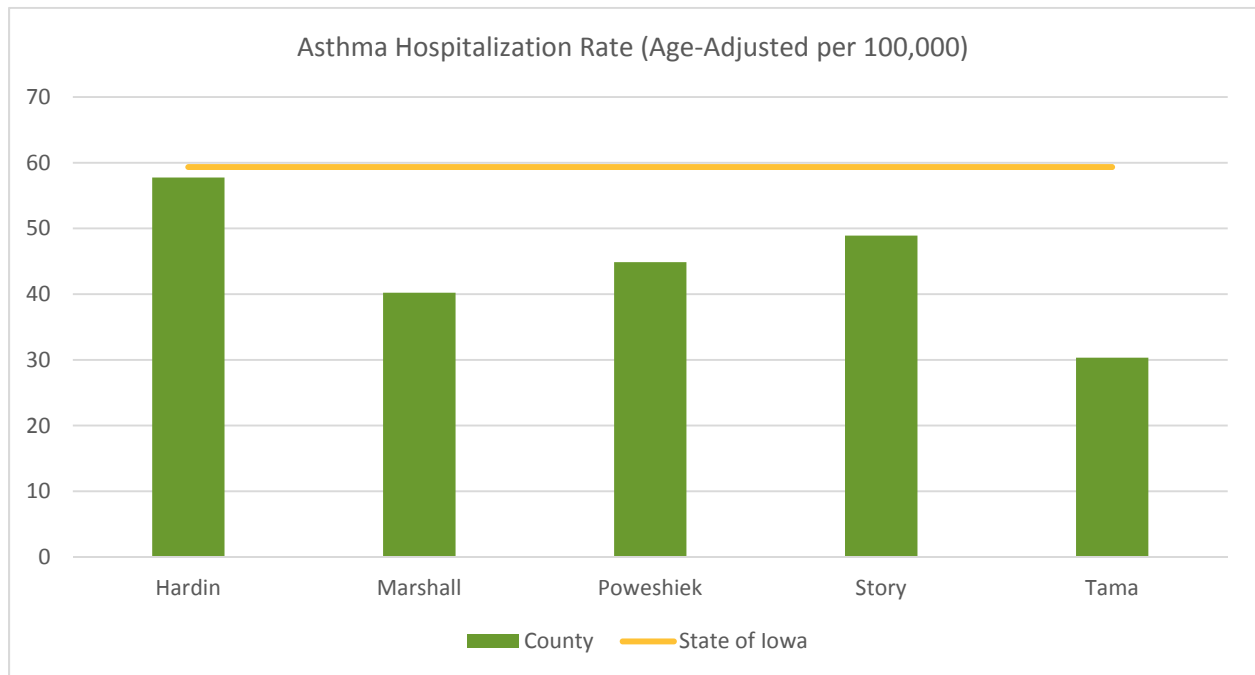
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table C27007.



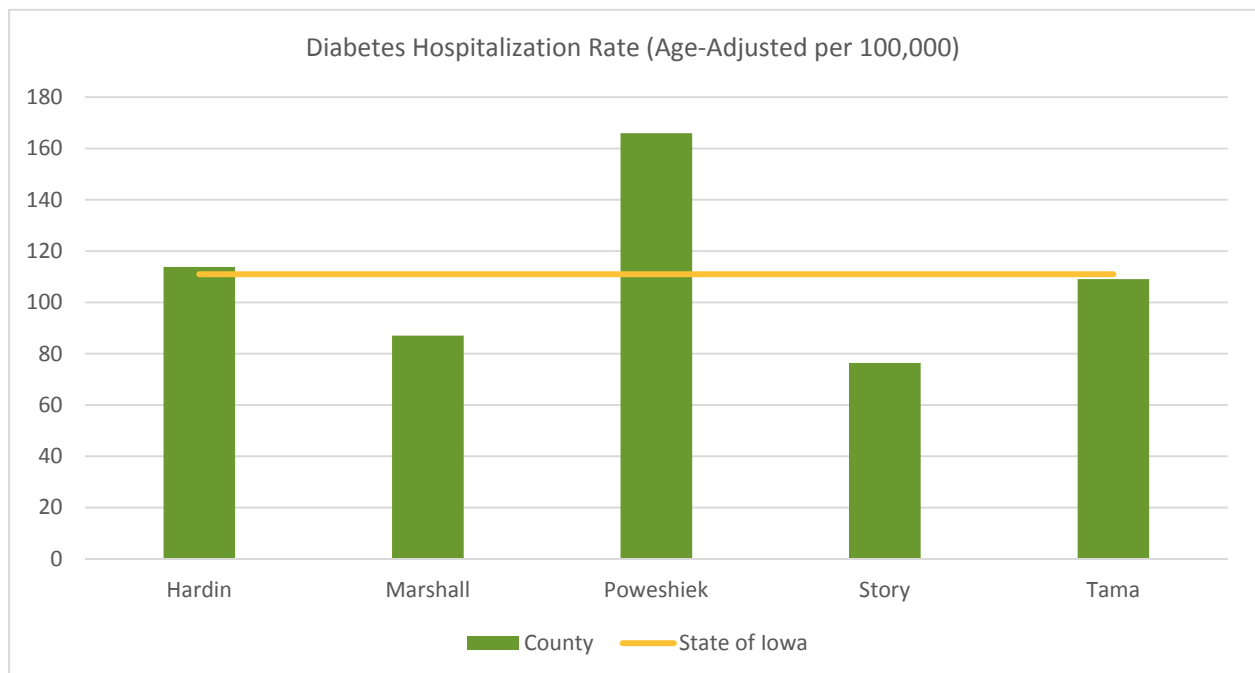
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table C27007.

Health

Chronic Conditions



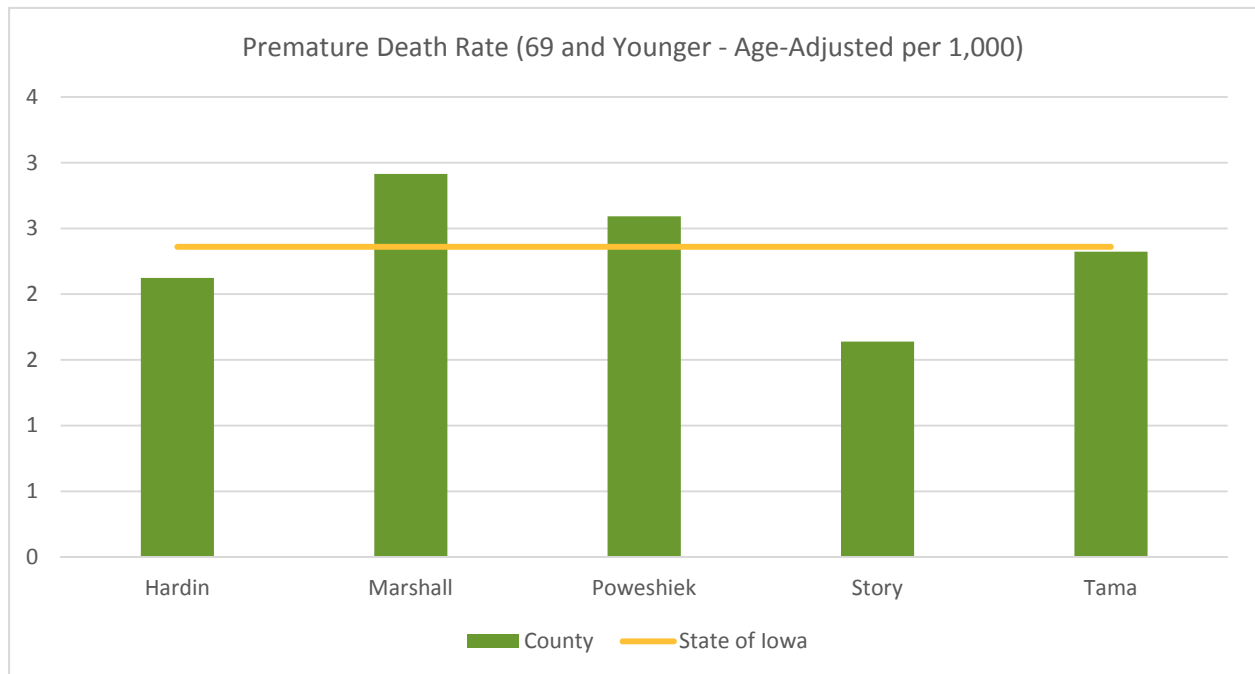
Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.



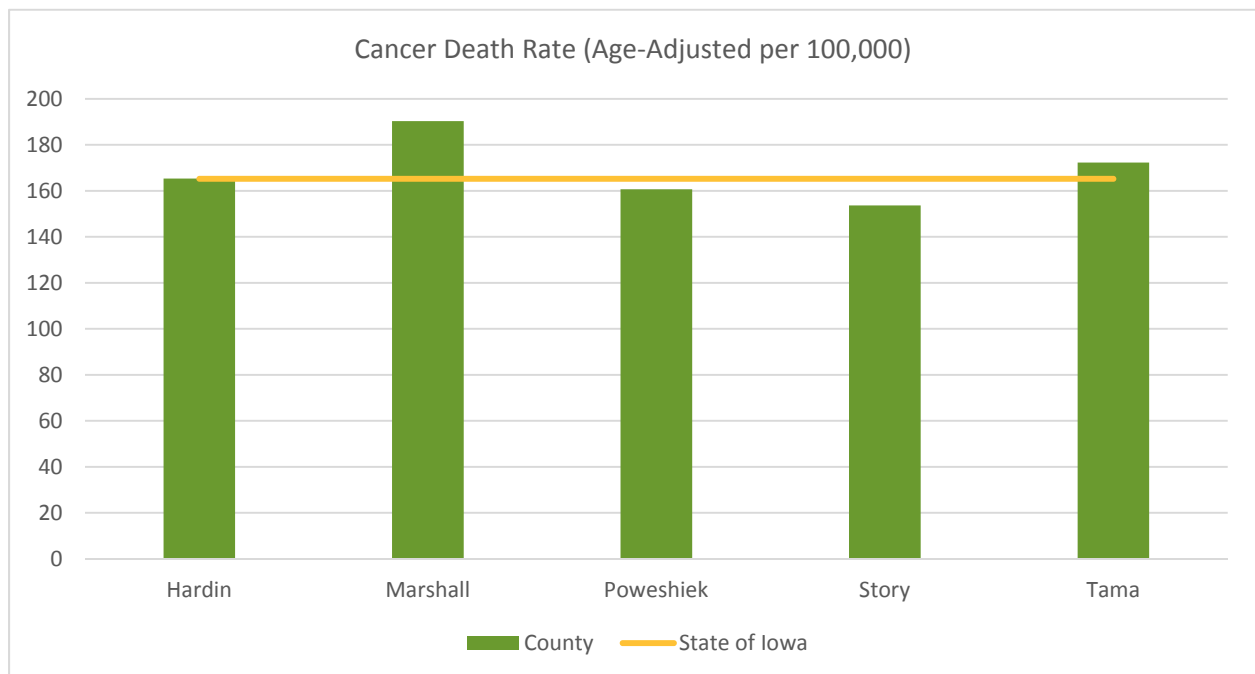
Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

Health

Premature Death and Causes of Death

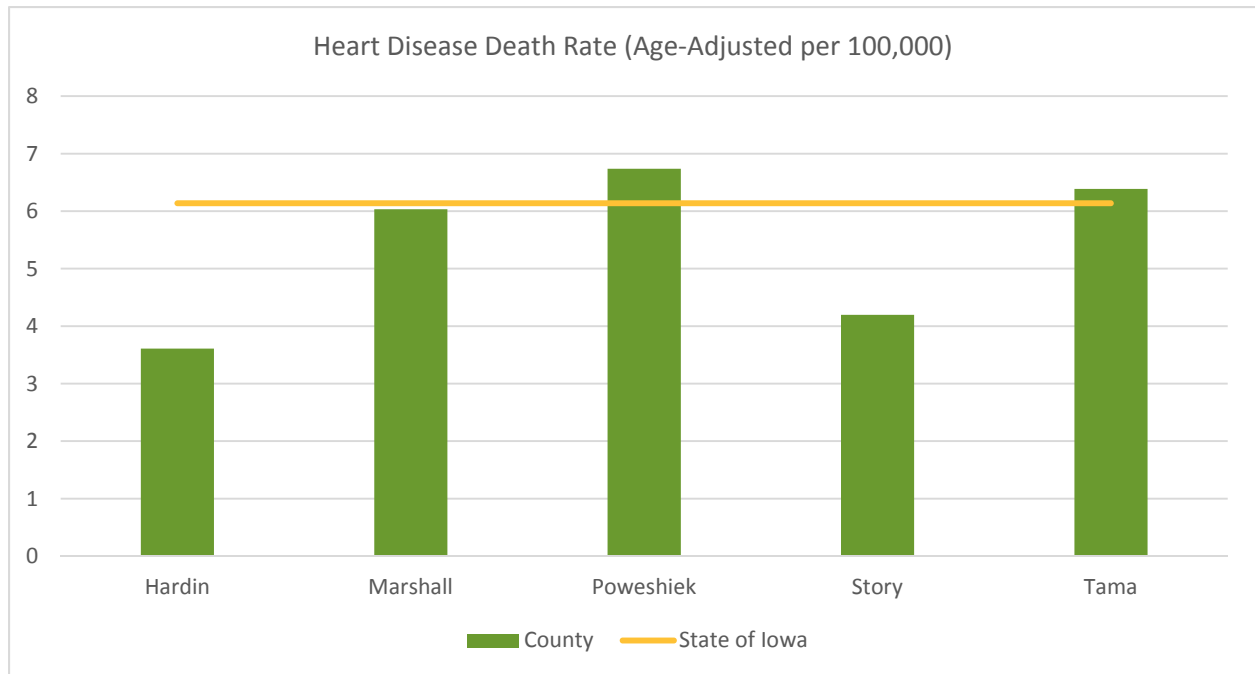


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

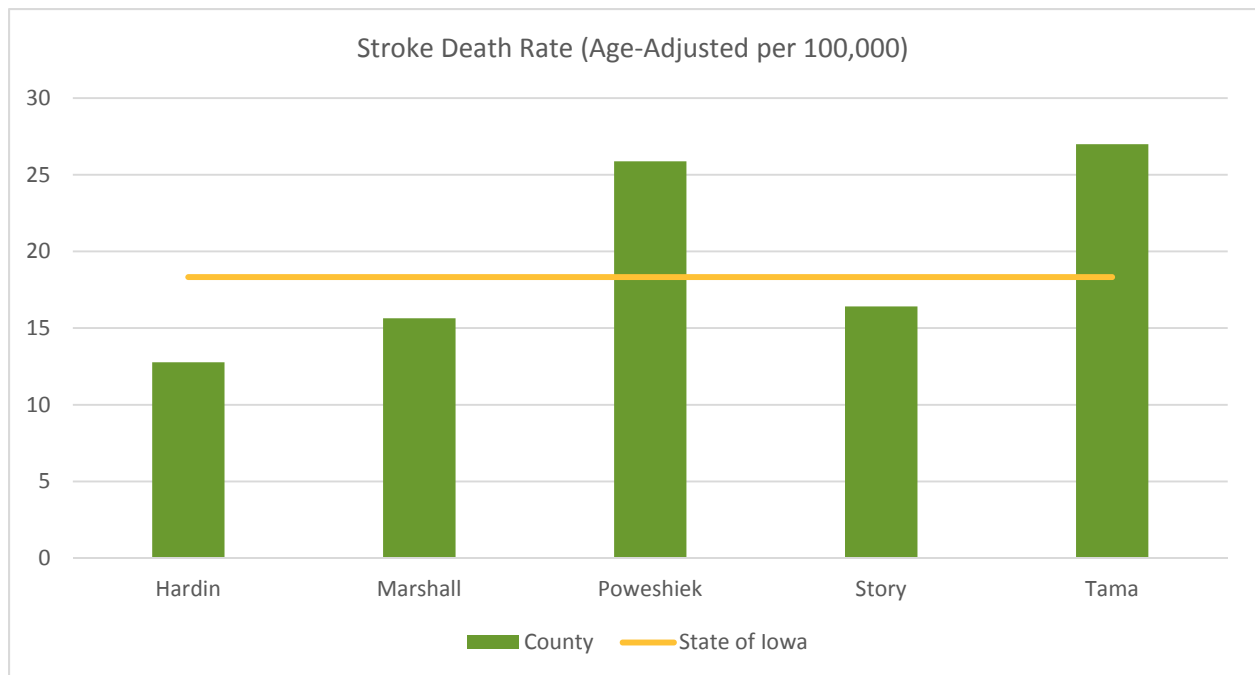


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

Health

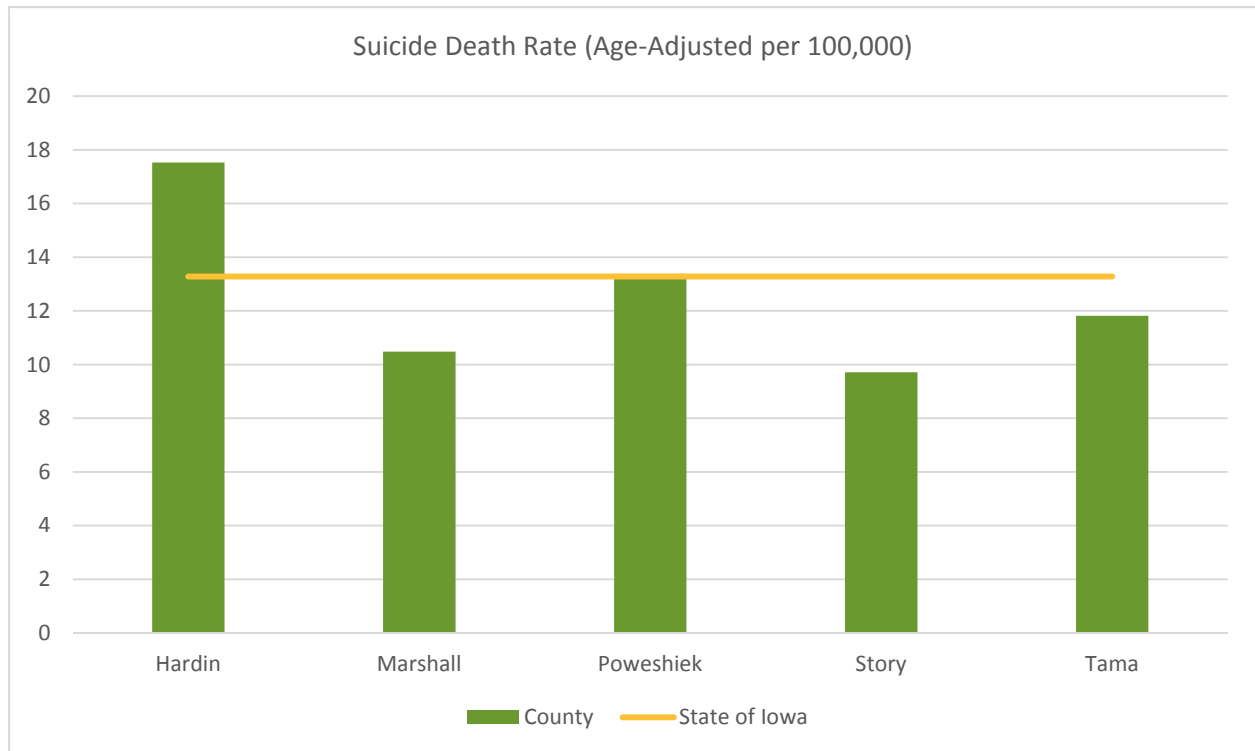


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.



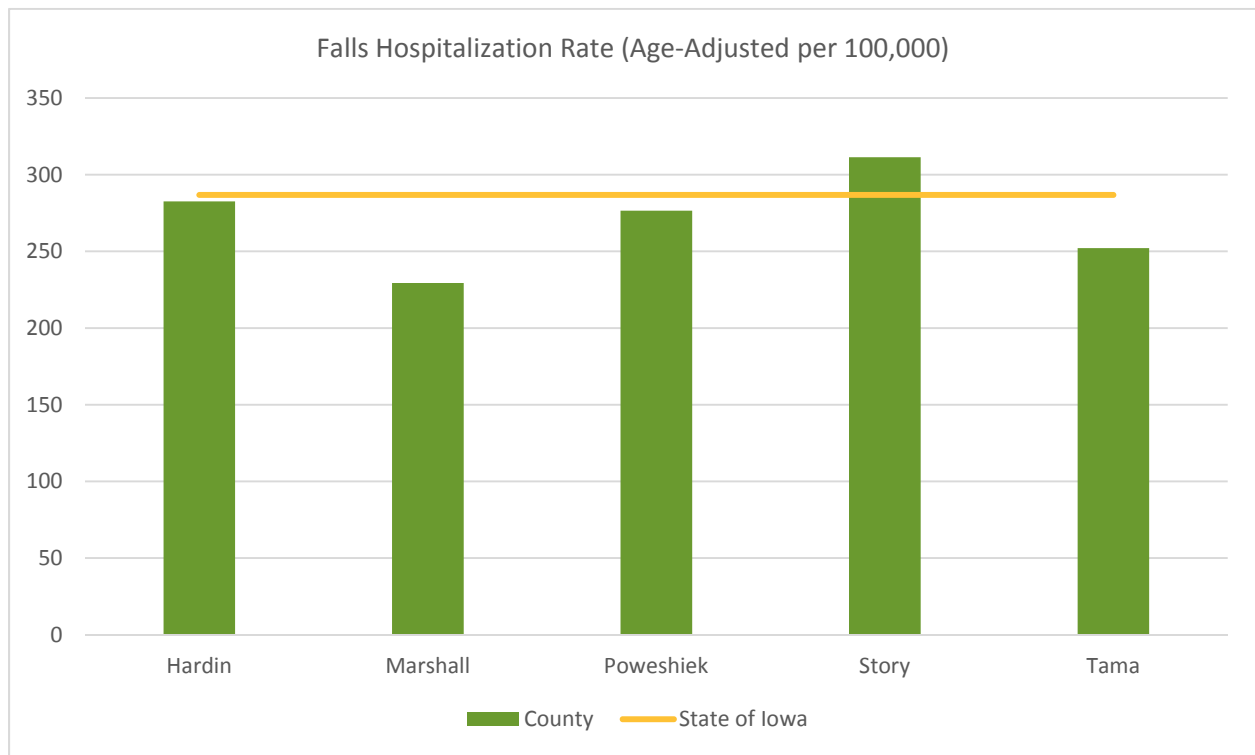
Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

Health



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.

Accidents

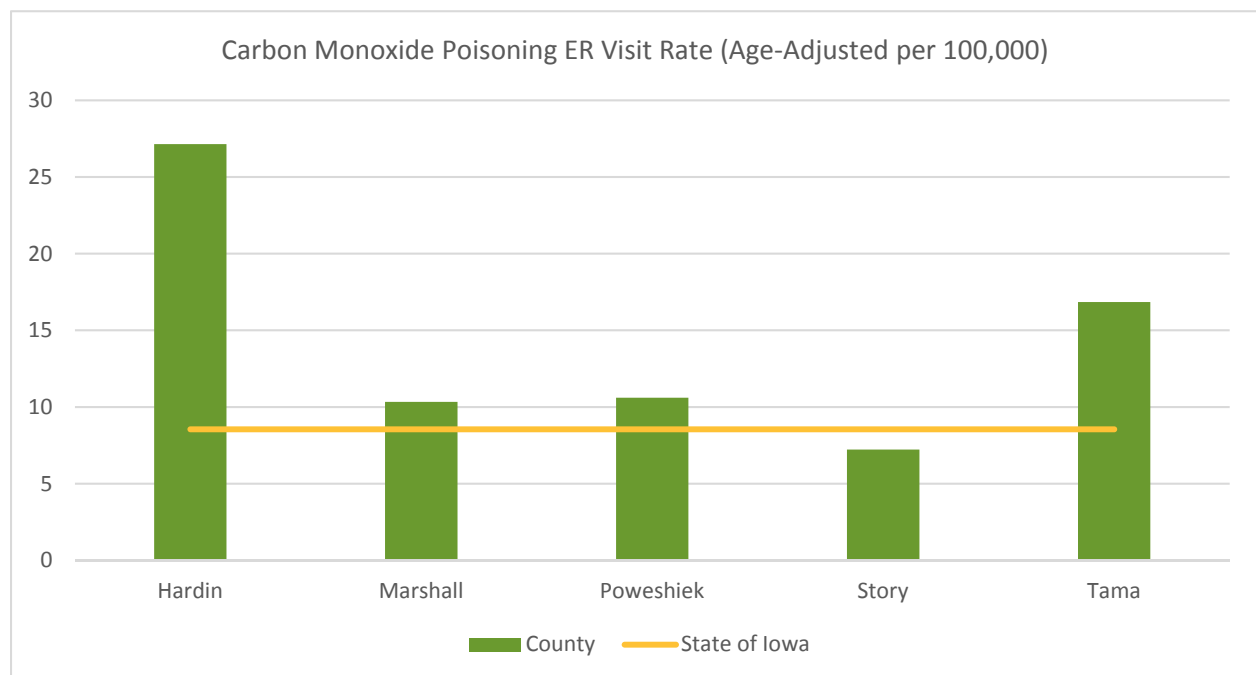
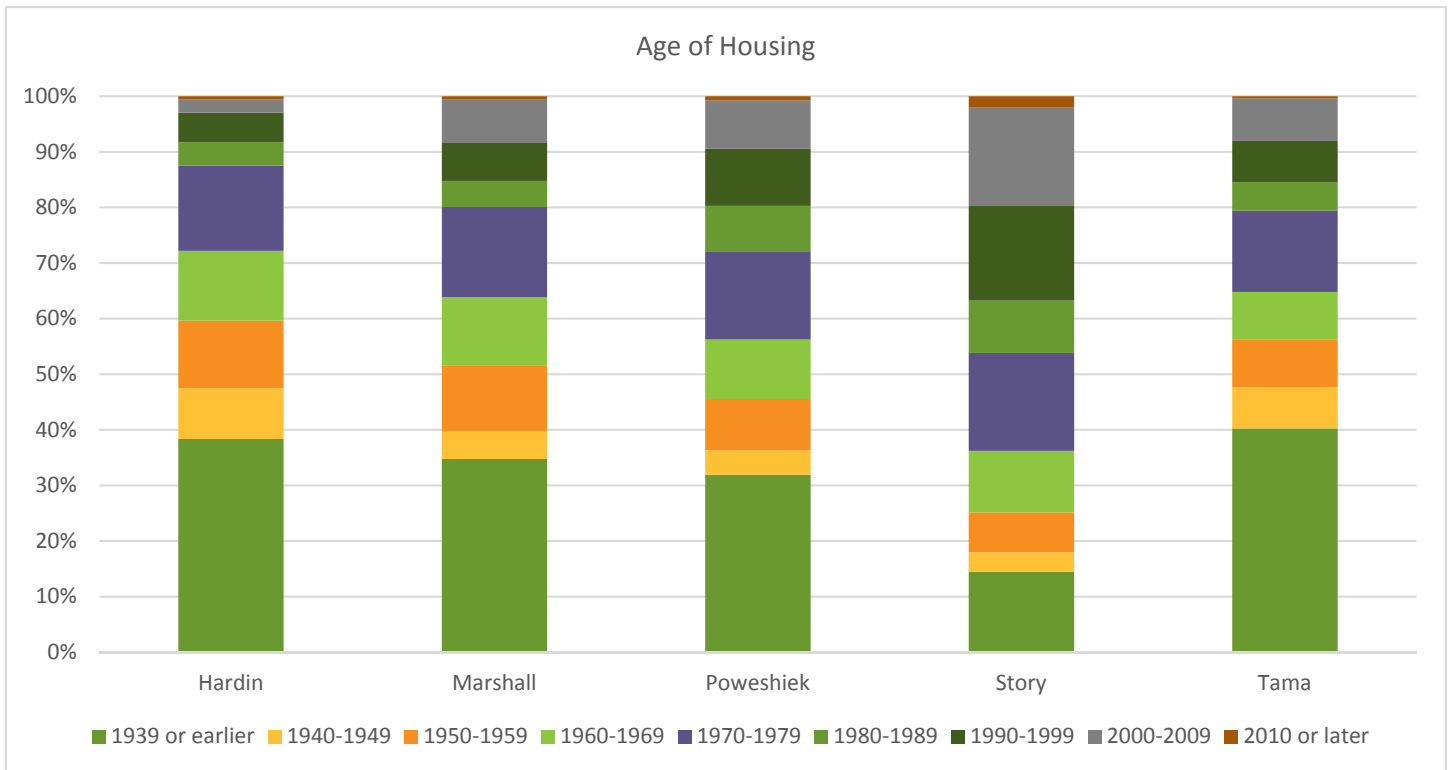


Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, County Health Snapshot, 2011-2015.



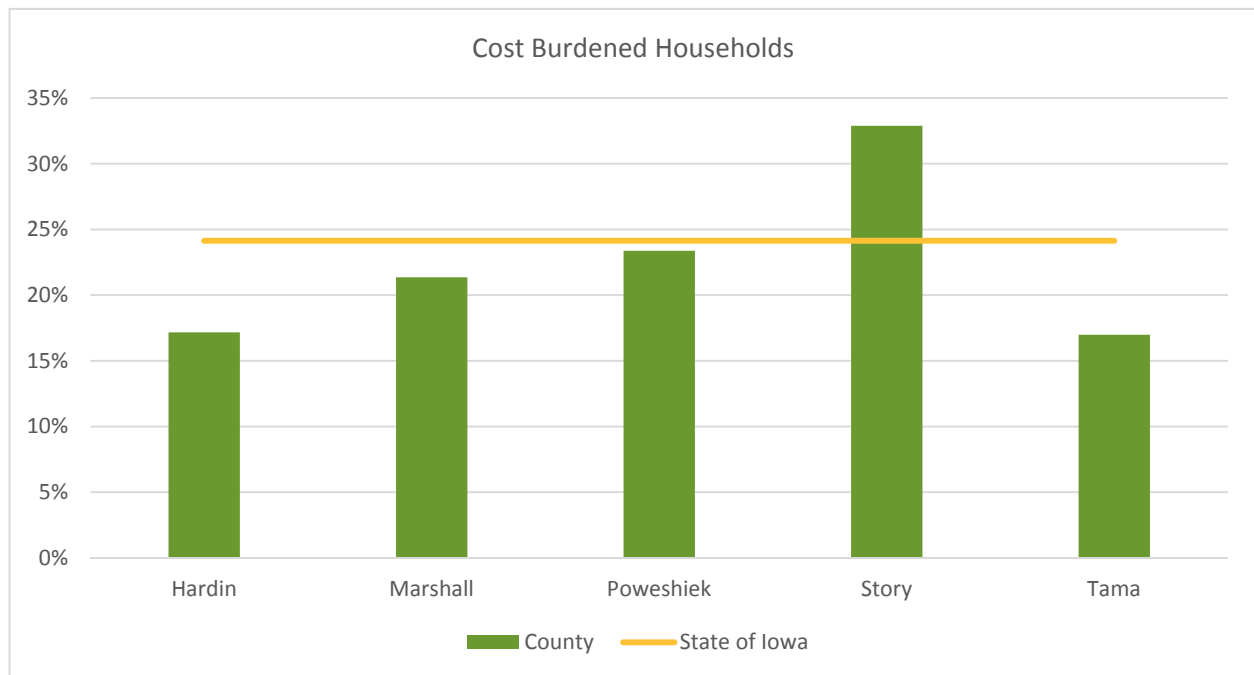
Housing

Housing

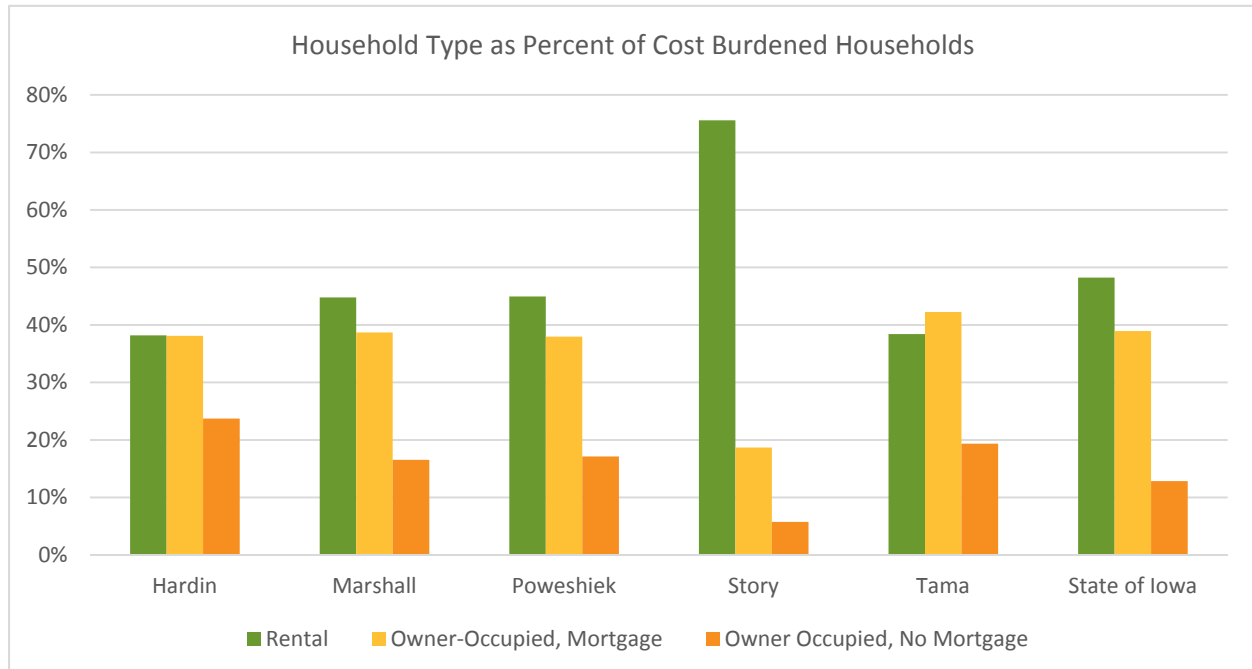


Housing

Cost burdened households spend more than 30% of their income on housing.



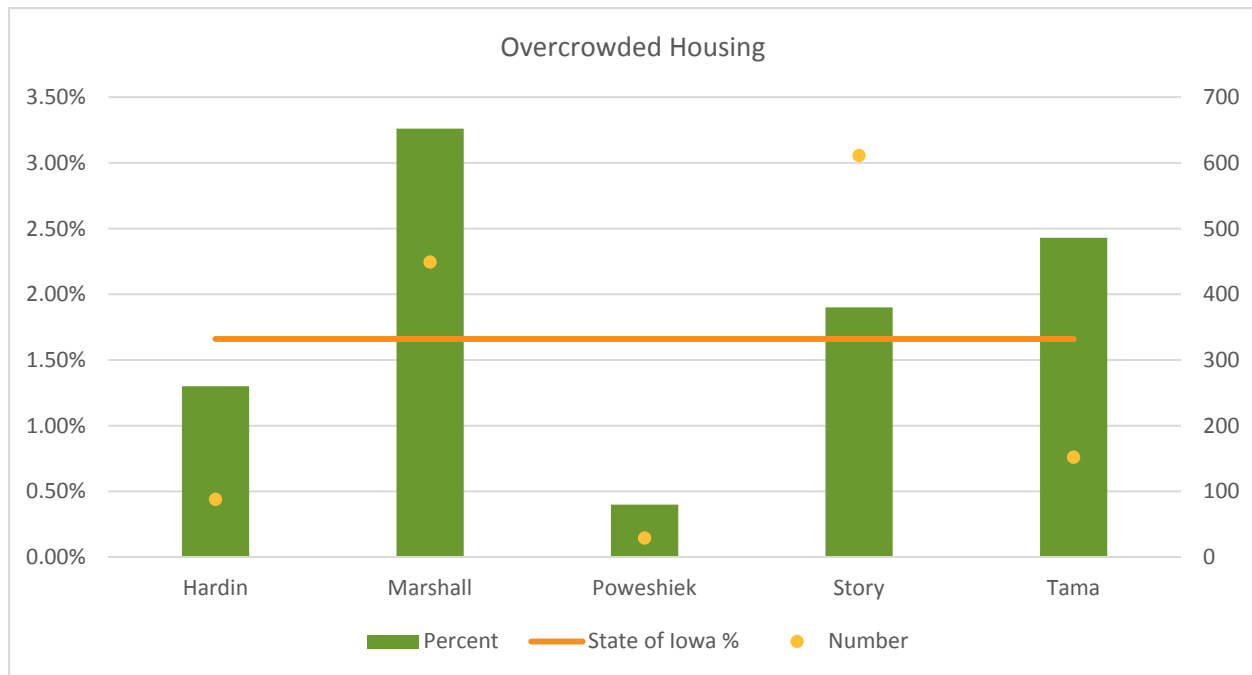
Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015



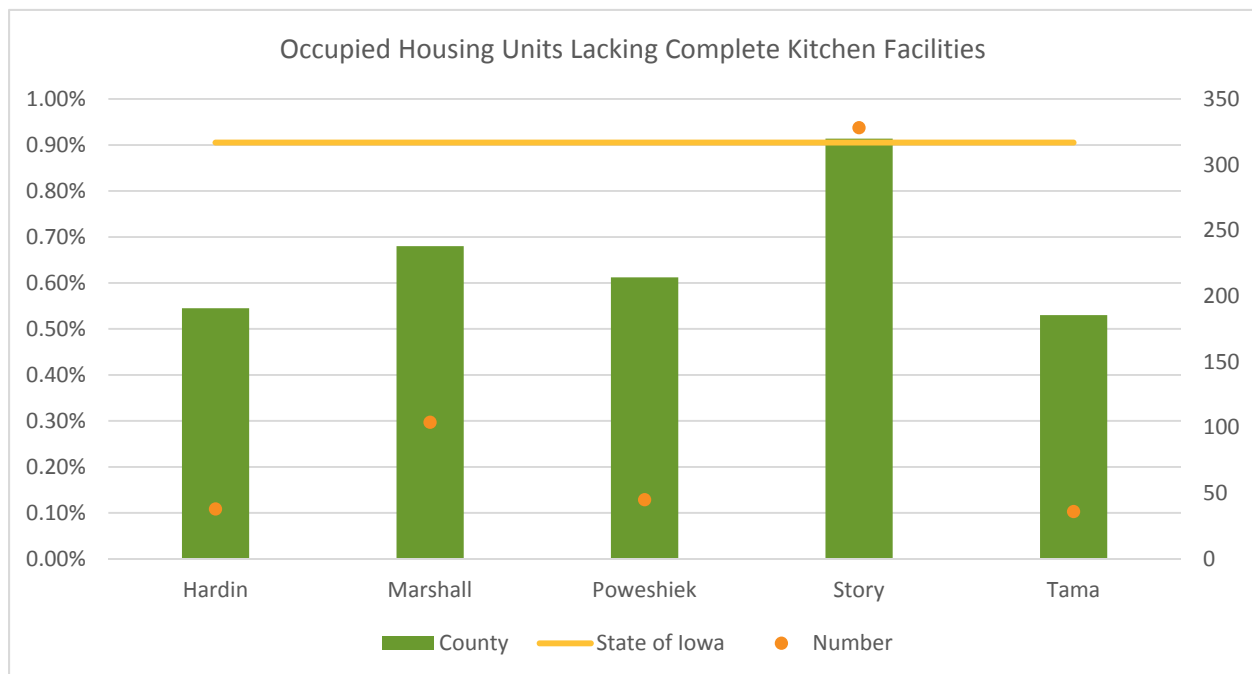
Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Housing

Overcrowded housing refers to occupied housing units with more than one individual per room. All rooms are included in this calculation, not just bedrooms.

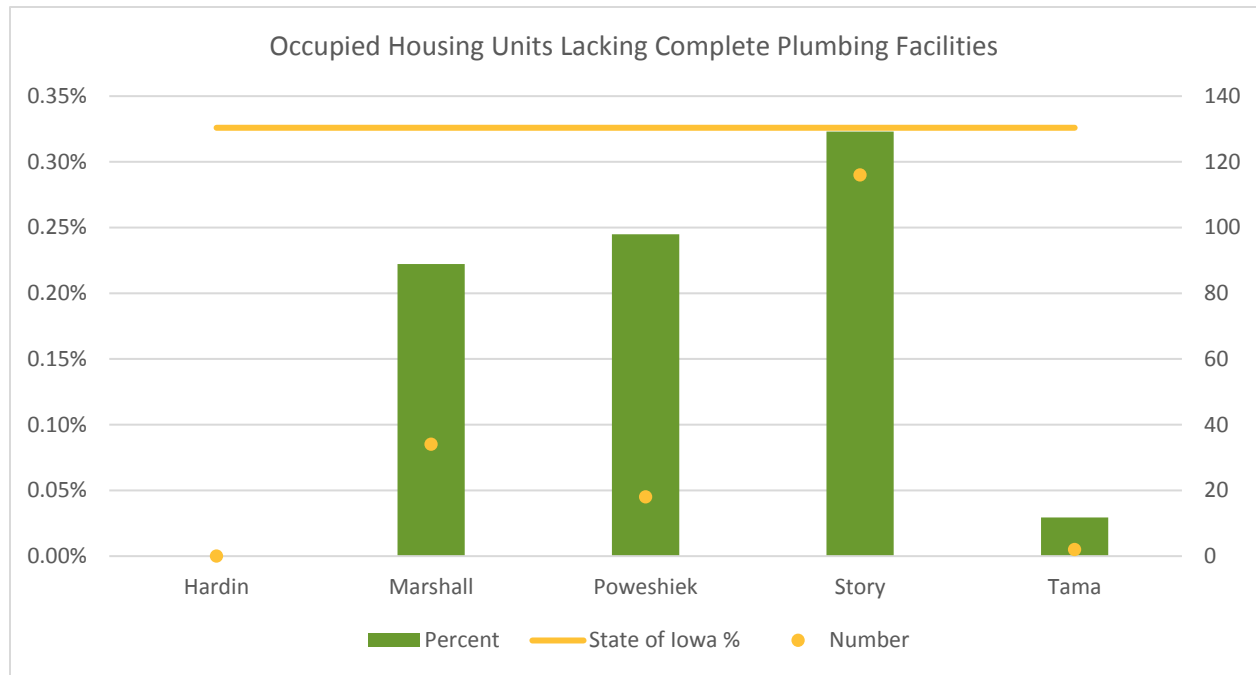


Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015

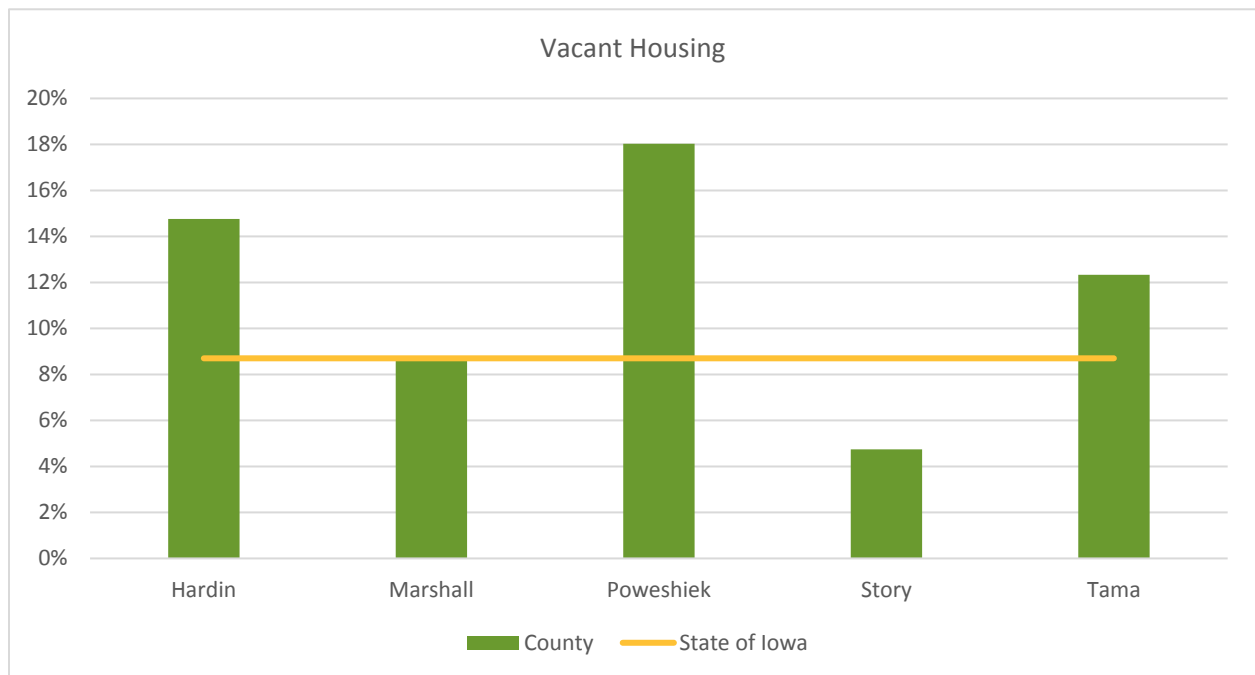


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B25052

Housing



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B25048



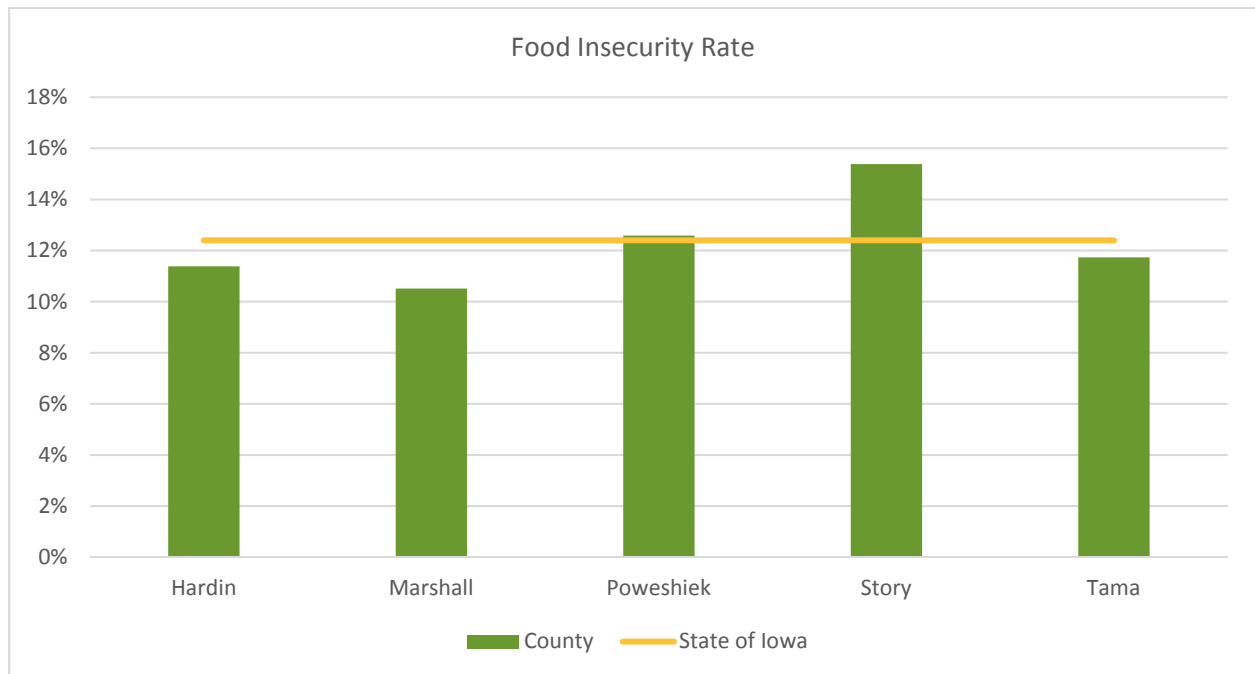
Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015



Hunger and Nutrition

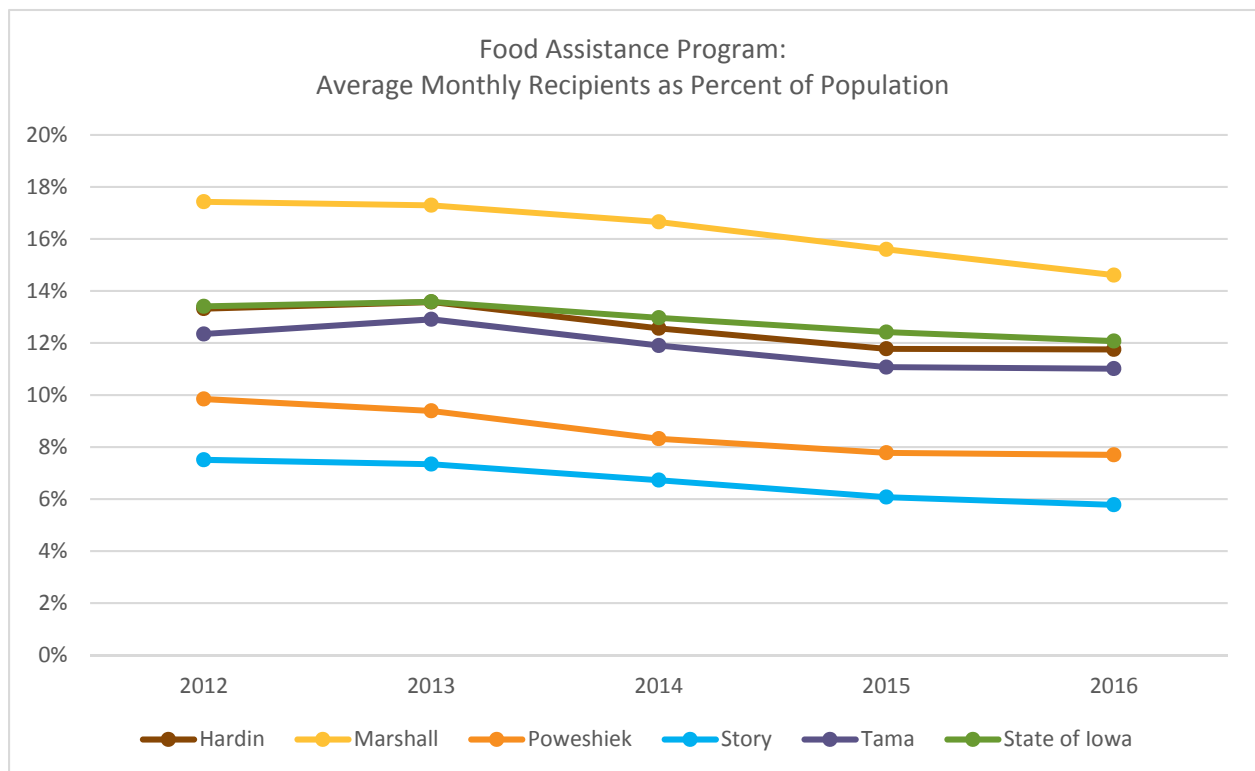
Hunger and Nutrition

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as, “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.”



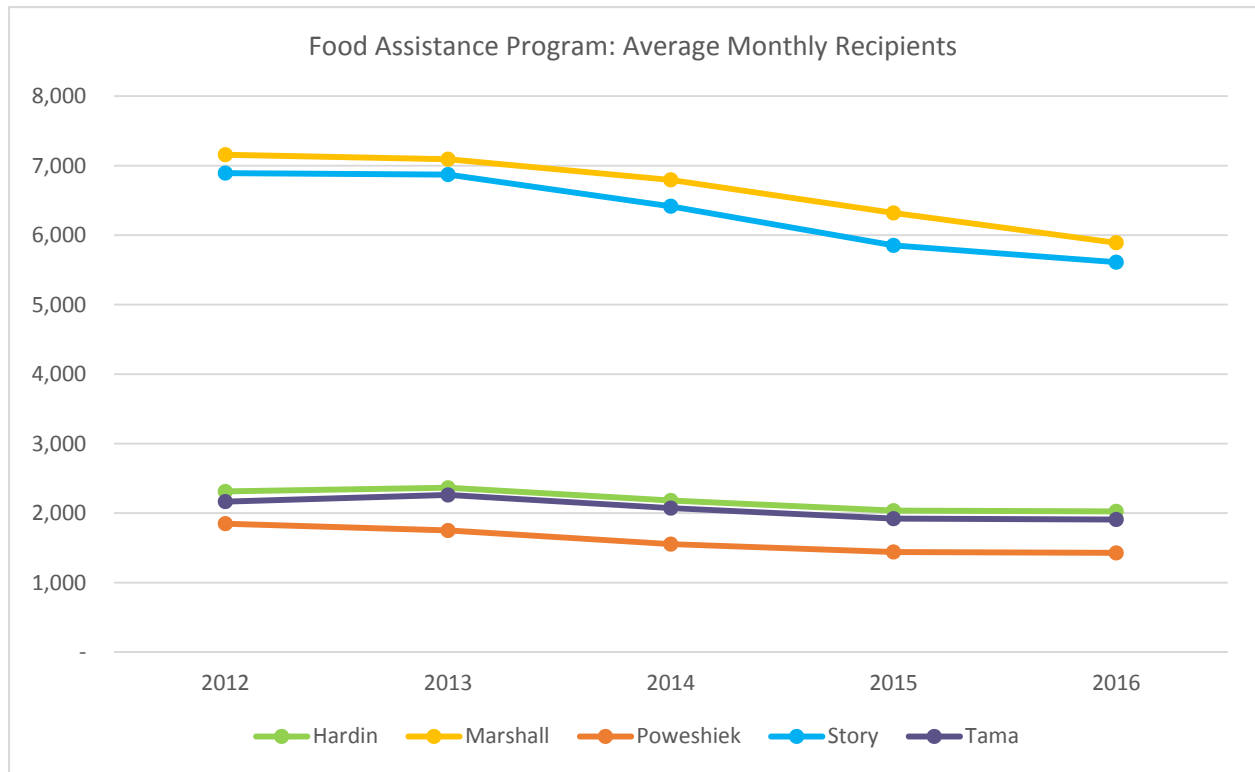
Source: Community Commons, Feeding America, 2014

The Iowa Food Assistance program was formerly known as food stamps.

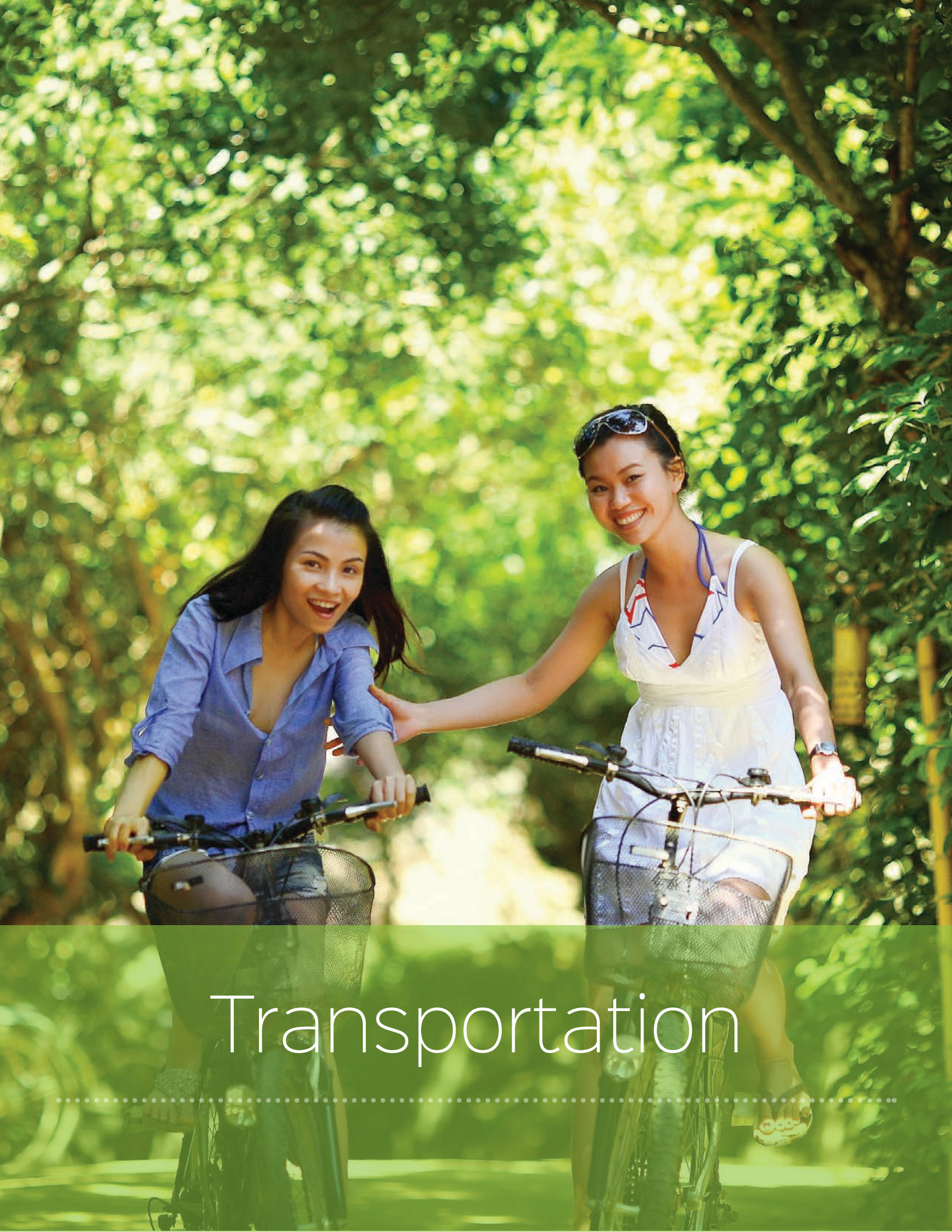


Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

Hunger and Nutrition

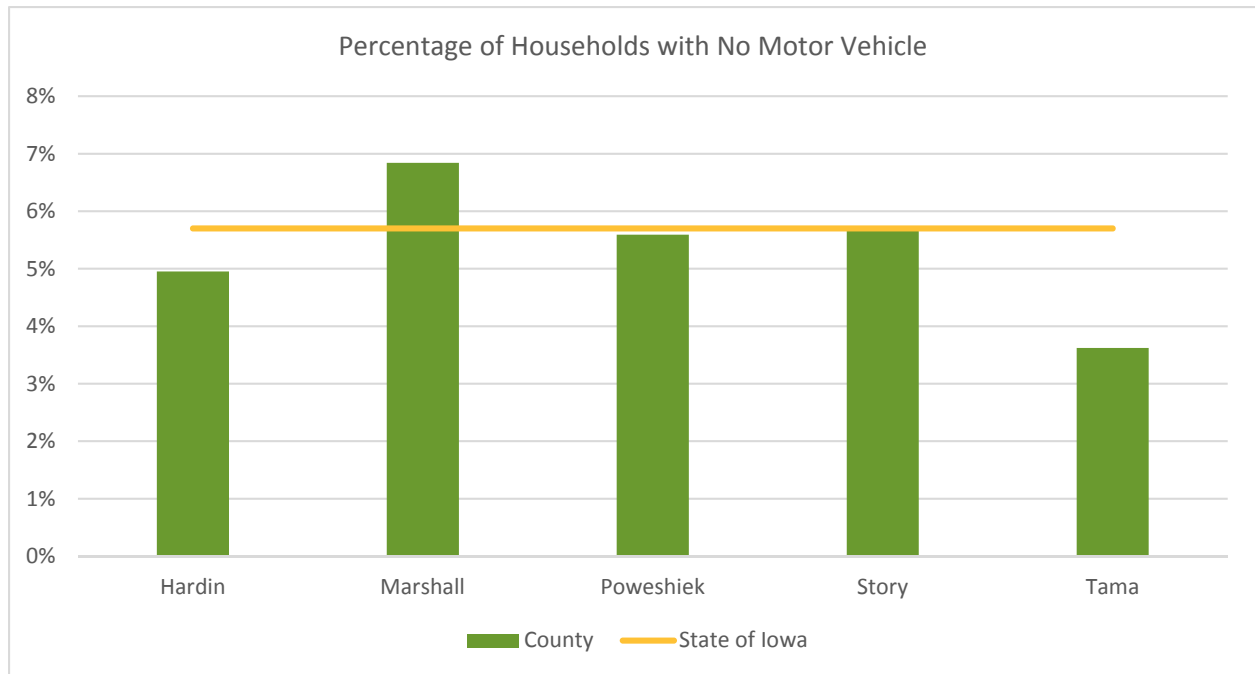


Source: Iowa Department of Human Services

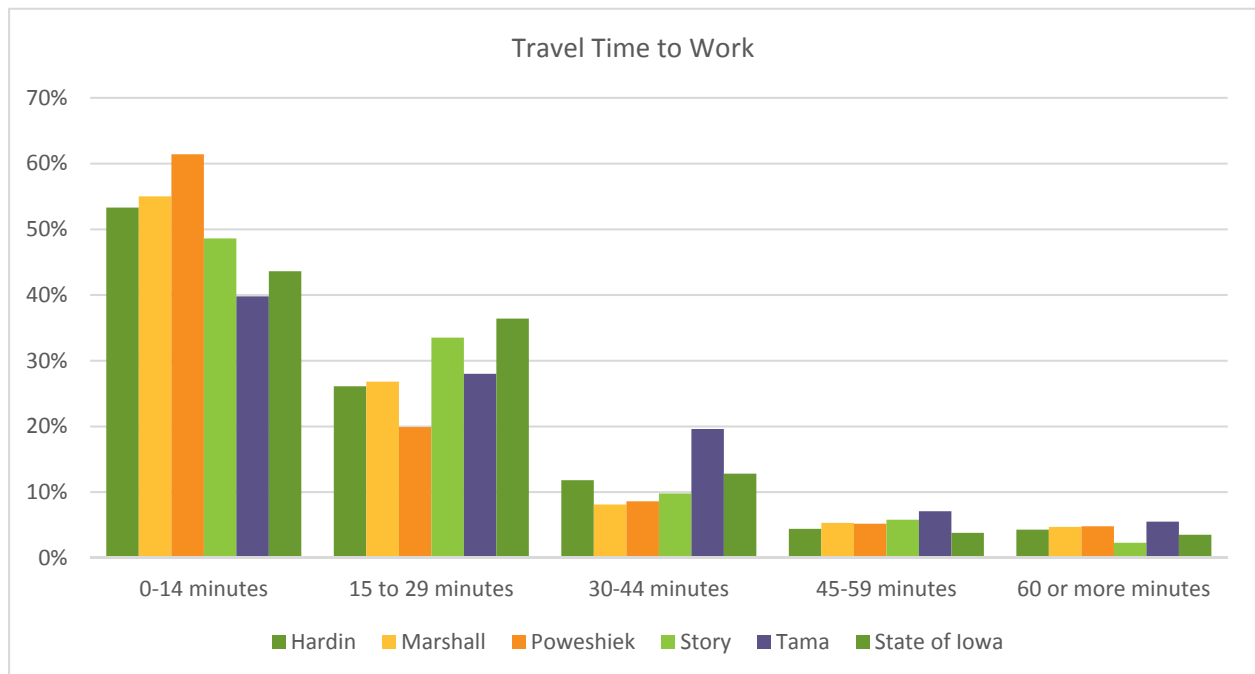


Transportation

Transportation

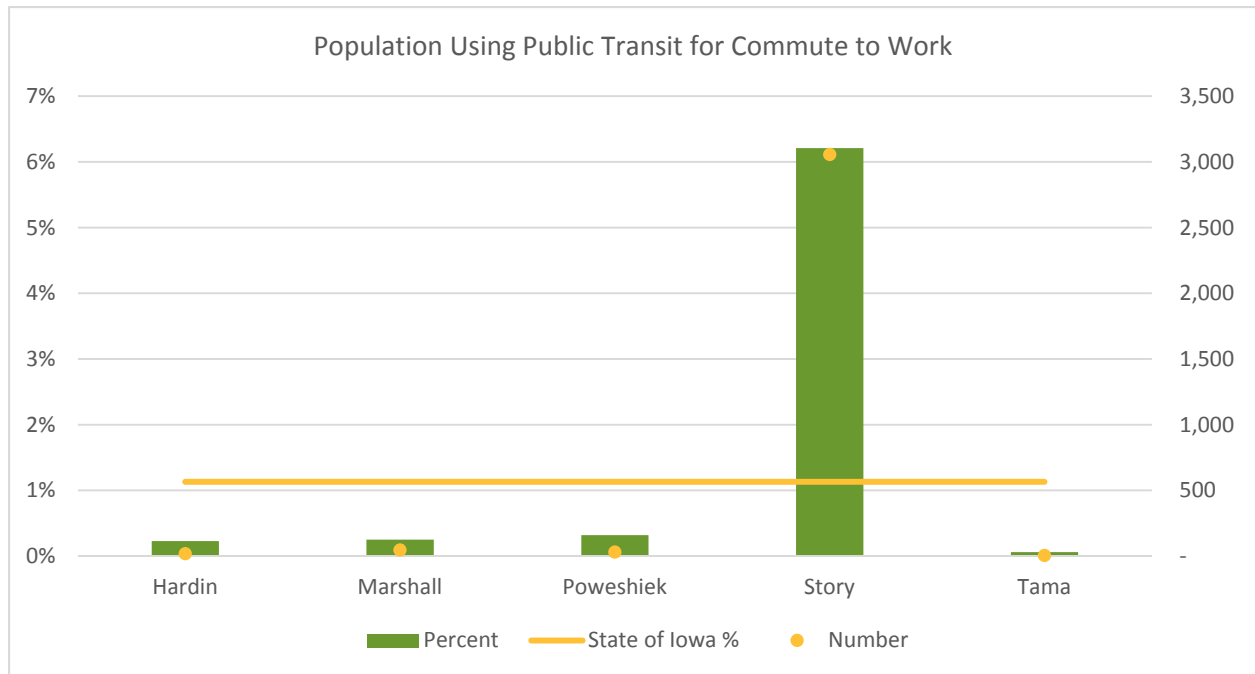


Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table S0802

Transportation



Source: Community Commons, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015



Methodology

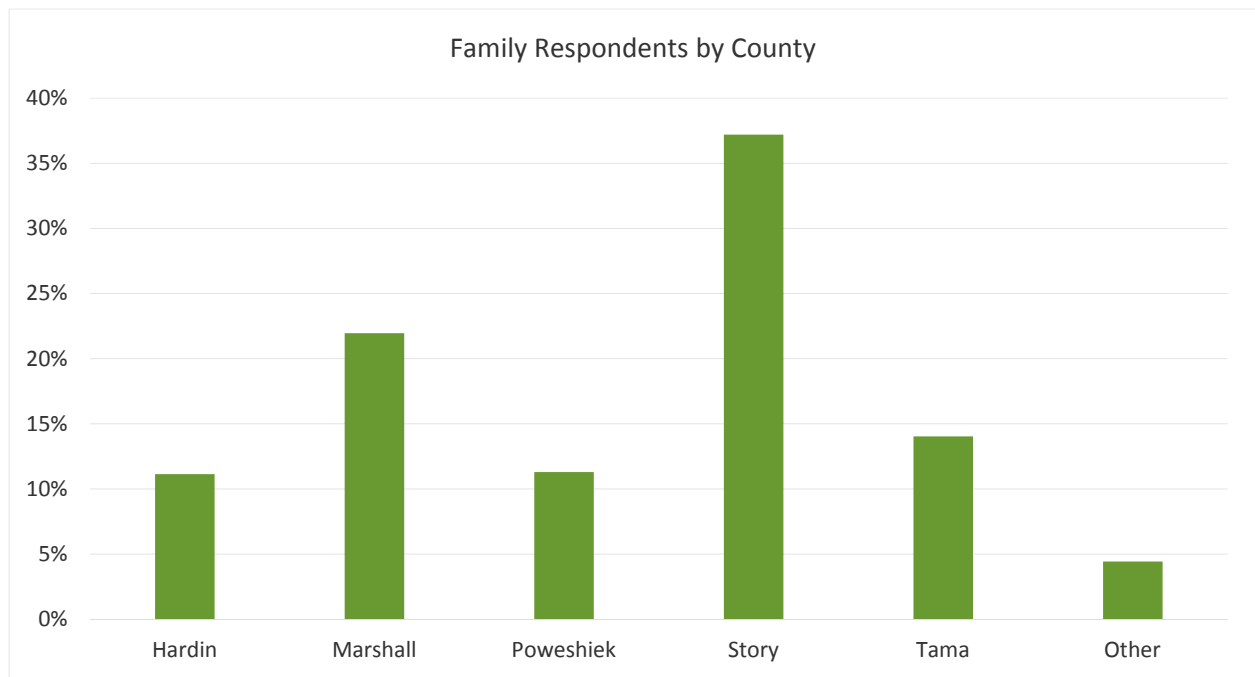
Methodology

Primary Data Collection

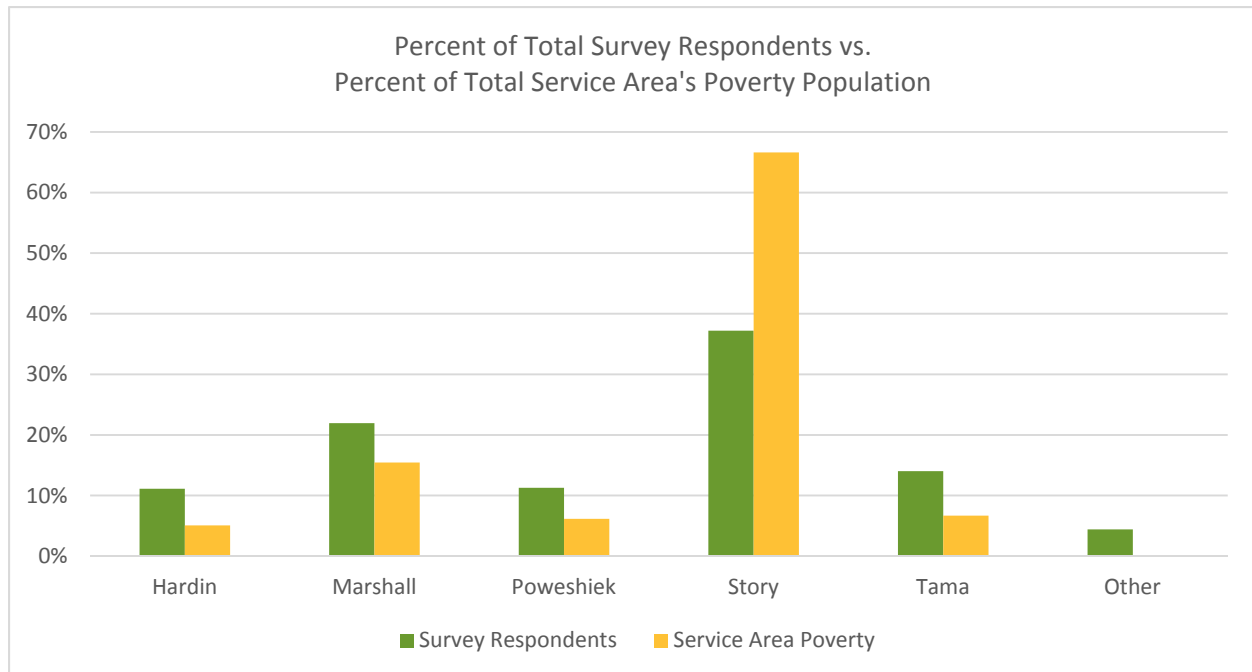
MICA collected 660 surveys from families, 181 surveys from diverse constituencies of community stakeholders, and 150 surveys from staff. The agency then hosted nine focus groups for people with low-incomes. Two of these groups were for individuals who speak a language other than English. In total, 73 people participated in these groups.

Family Survey Respondents

MICA made every effort to ensure an appropriate number of responses was received in each of the core service area counties. The charts below illustrate the agency's success in this endeavor.



Methodology

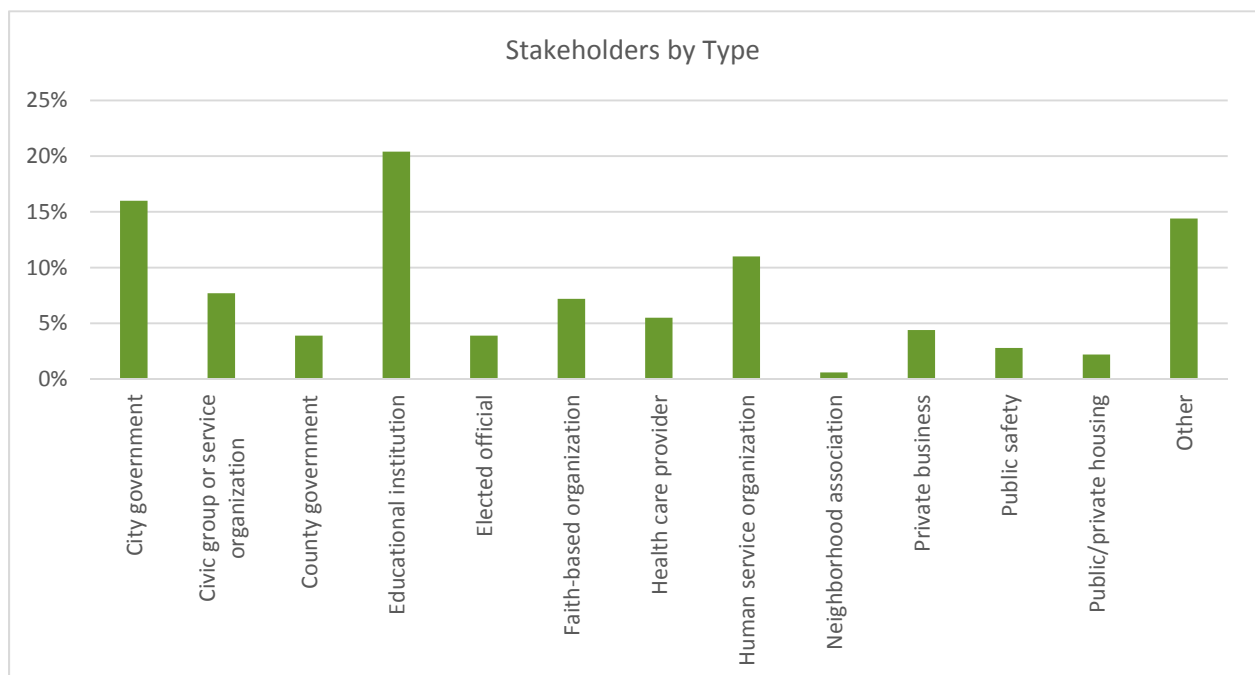
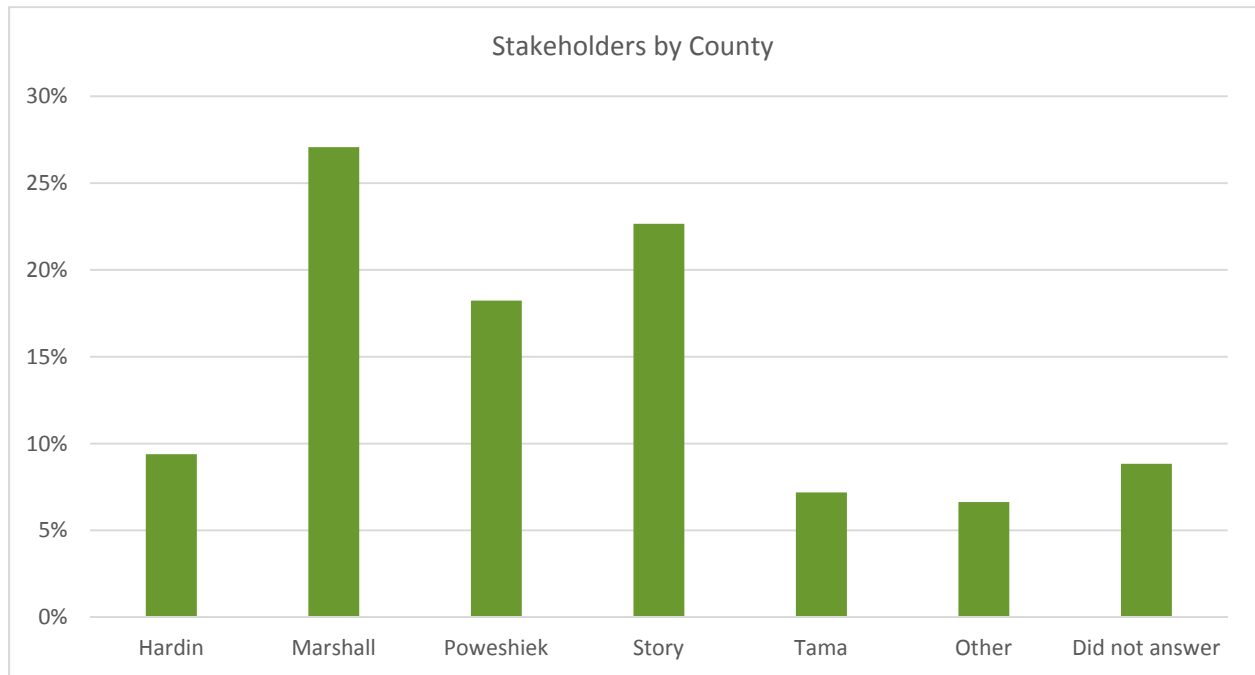


The chart above compares the percent of survey respondents from each of the counties in MICA's core service area to each county's percent of the service area's poverty population. "Other" did not receive a percent of the service area's poverty population as it represents respondents who reside outside the agency's core service area.

Though it appears that the survey drastically under-represents the poverty population of Story County, it should be noted large populations of off-campus college students can have a distorting effect on poverty data. In his 2013 working paper, "Examining the Effect of Off-Campus College Students on Poverty Rates," Alemayehu Bishaw concludes that off-campus students can have a significant effect on poverty rates. "While the poverty rates for most states would be lower if off-campus college students were excluded from the poverty universe, the declines in the state poverty rates would be quite modest," Bishaw writes. "However, at finer levels of geography there are counties and places where the inclusion of off-campus college students has a stronger impact on poverty rates."

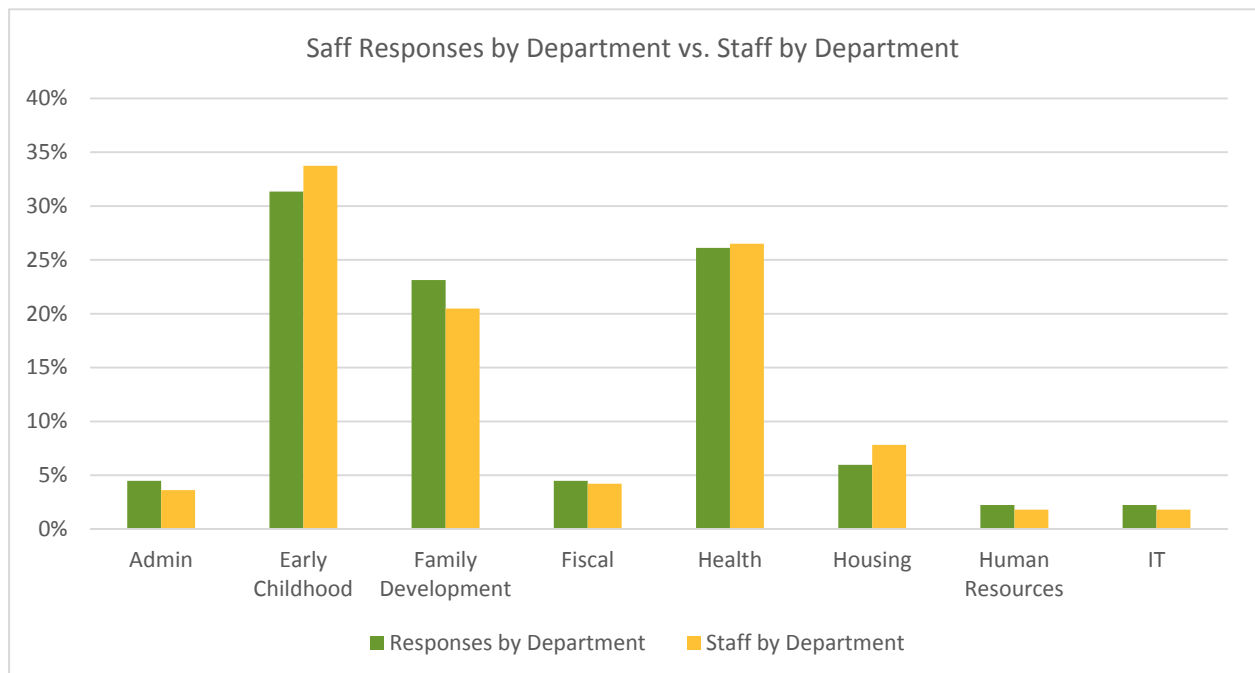
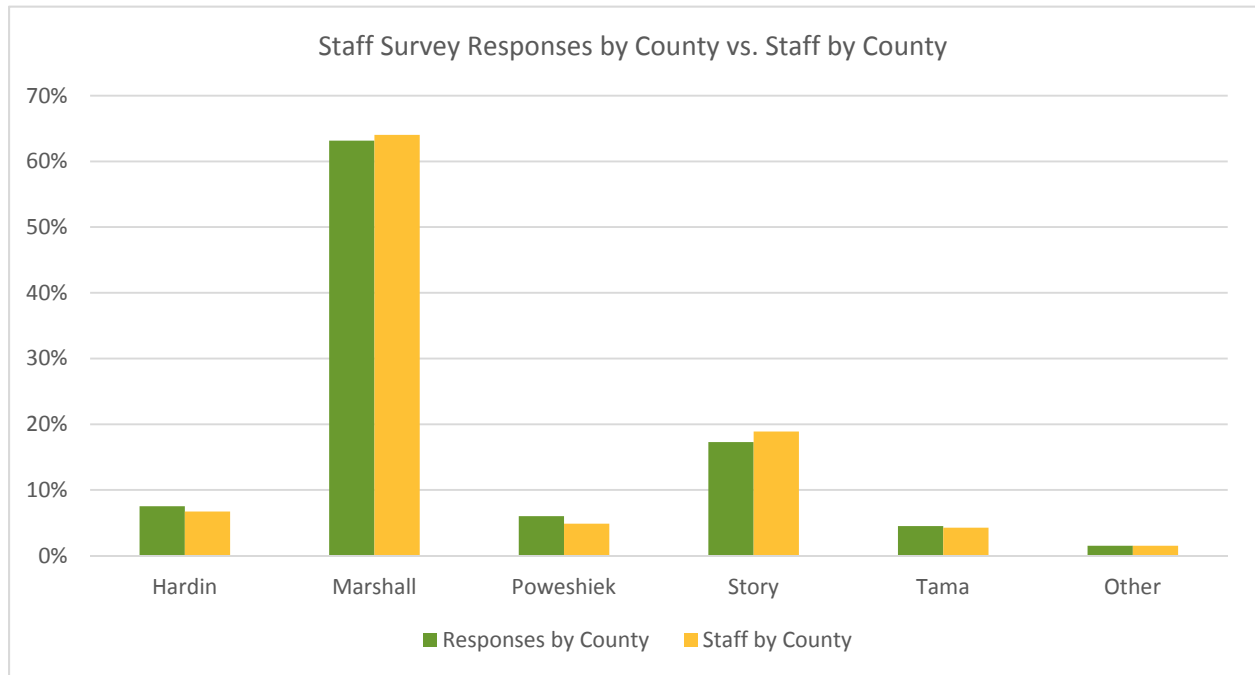
Methodology

Stakeholder Survey Respondents



Methodology

Staff Survey Respondents



Methodology

Family Focus Groups

MICA held family focus groups to collect qualitative data about the issues facing low-income families in the agency's service area. The results of these focus groups are summarized below. The letters after each answer correspond to the county in which the group was held and the primary language of its participants (H = Hardin; P = Poweshiek; S = Story; T = Tama; Me = Marshall English; Ms = Marshall Spanish; Mk = Marshall Karen).

- 1. What do you think are the top three issues facing low-income people in your community? Why did you choose these issues?**
 - a. Food costs prohibitively high (H/P/Me/S)
 - b. Utility costs prohibitively high (H/P/Me/T)
 - c. Lack of transportation (H/P/Mk/S)
 - d. Lack of good-quality, affordable housing; homelessness (H/Me/T/S)
 - e. Unemployment; no living-wage jobs in the area (H/Me/Ms/T)
 - f. Lack of good-quality, affordable child care (H/P/Me/Ms/Mk/S)
 - g. Difficult to access resources; not enough info about resources (H/P/Ms/Mk/S)
 - h. Need more education or training [adult] incl. language barrier (H/Me/Ms/Mk)
 - i. Cliff effect (P/Ms/T)
- 2. Have you had trouble accessing healthcare (medical, dental, or mental) in your community in the last year? What happened and how was it resolved?**
 - a. Insurance, copays, or prescriptions prohibitively expensive (H/Mk/T/S)
 - b. Lack of transportation to appointments (H/P/Me/S)
 - c. Lack of access to mental health care (H/P/Me/T/S)
 - d. Lack of access to doctors/health care/specialists including lack of doctors that take Medicaid (H/P/Ms*/Mk^/T)
 - e. Lack of access to dental care/dentists that take Medicaid (P/S)
- 3. Does anyone in your family have insurance from Medicaid, the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, or hawk-i? What has been your experience with the Managed Care Organizations that took over these programs in April 2016?**
 - a. Pre-authorization process makes receiving timely care difficult, including emergency care (H/Ms/S)
 - b. Lack of information from MCO or lack of accessible information [including language barrier] (H/P/Me/Ms/S)
 - c. Paperwork prohibitive (P/Me/Ms/T)
 - d. Increased costs or additional costs, particularly prescriptions (Mk/T/S)
 - e. Generally pleased with MCOs and additional benefits, e.g. YMCA membership (Me)
- 4. Have you had trouble receiving services from MICA in the last year? What could we do to make it easier for you to receive services?**
 - a. Very pleased with services (H/P/Me/Ms/Mk)
 - b. Lack of referrals to other MICA services (T/S)
 - c. Incorrect eligibility information (T)
 - d. LIHEAP takes a while to credit to accounts (Me)

Methodology

5. Overall, are you happy with the service or services you have received from MICA in the last year? What could MICA do to improve our services?

- a. Referred to program no longer offered [VITA, bus passes, HS transportation] (H/Me/Ms)
- b. Participants not aware of available services/Better information to community (H/Me/Ms/Mk/P/T/S)
- c. Meat options at the food pantry (H/S)
- d. More flexibility in program income guidelines (H)
- e. Services/referrals for outlying communities lacking (H/P)
- f. More capacity for current program [Rent Assistance] (P)
- g. Suggestion for new program [Community garden, support groups for teens, more services in general for ages 5-17, more senior services, programs for students] (H,P,S)

6. How can MICA better connect to the community?

- a. Newspaper (H/P/Me)
- b. Facebook (H/P/S)
- c. Flyers (P/Ms/S)
- d. Information through other organizations [DHS, churches, libraries] (H/P/S)
- e. Awareness-raising events, community gatherings, resource fairs (P/Ms/Mk)
- f. Door-to-door (Me)
- g. Direct mail (Ms/S)
- h. Radio (S)

*Lack of access reported as mistreatment at local health facilities leading to a lack of desire to seek care.

^Lack of access reported as a general reticence to see medical professionals and/or trouble navigating the health care system.

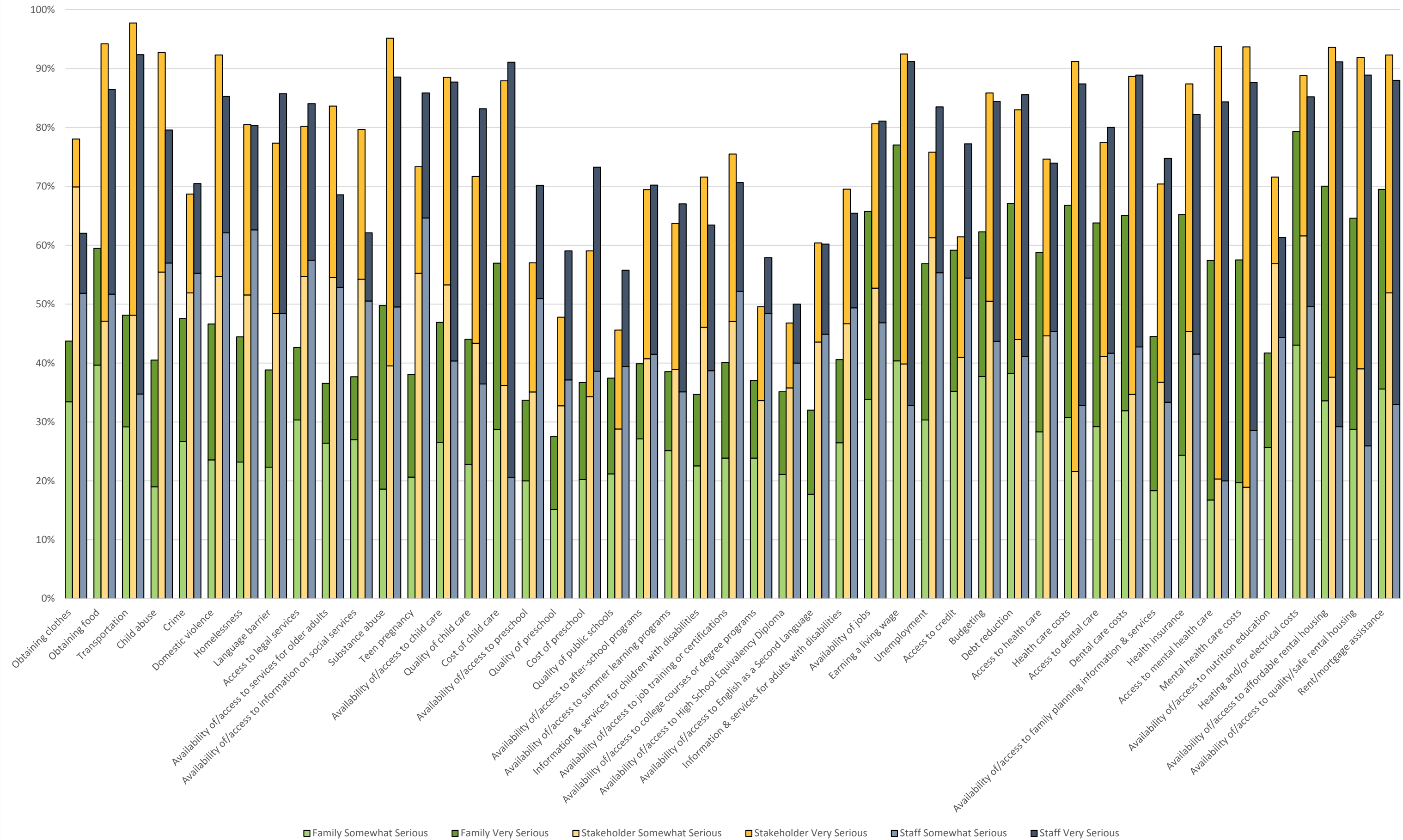


Needs and Problems

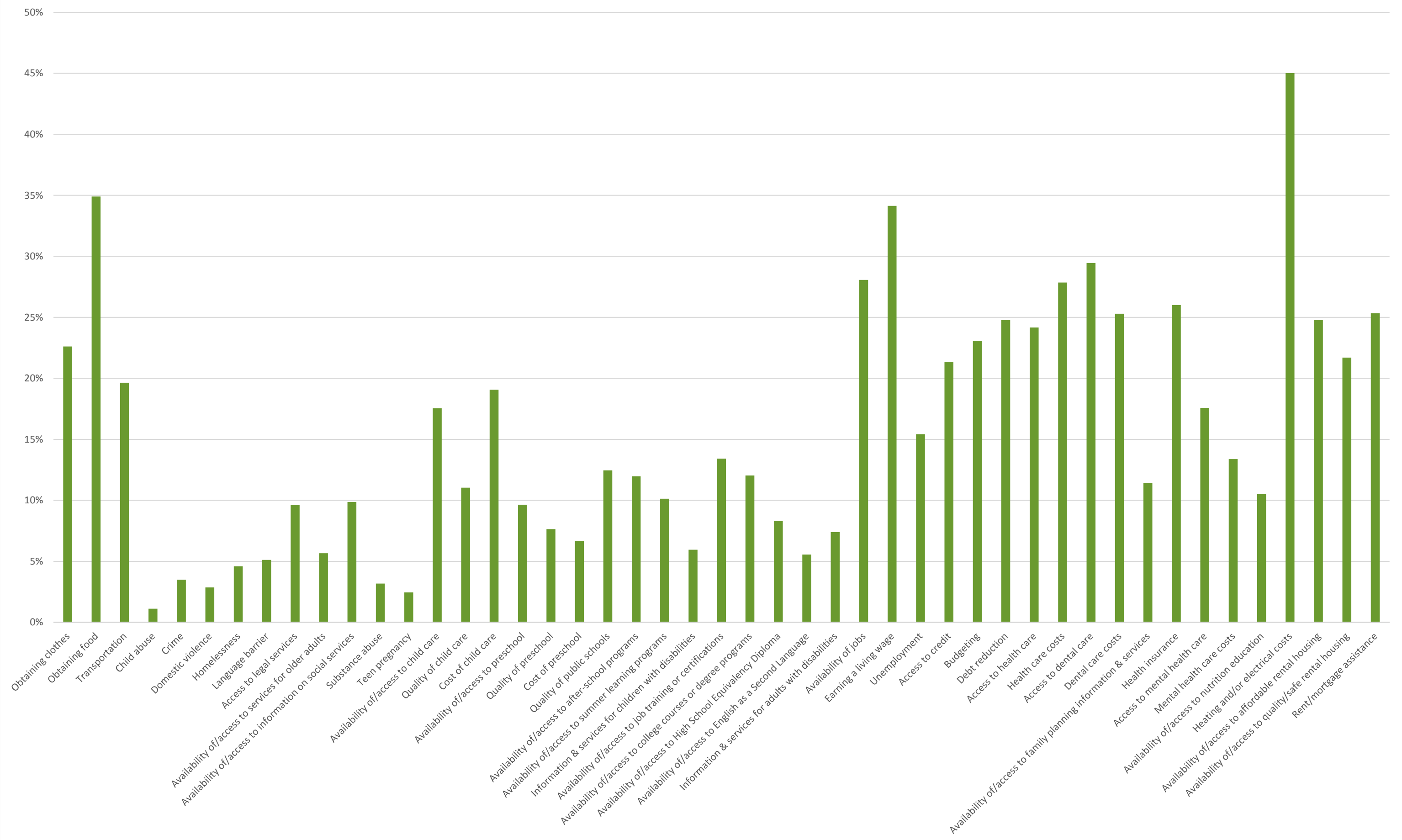
Community Needs & Problems

As aforementioned, the agency asked the families it serves, its staff, and community stakeholders to participate in a survey that examines the problems and needs of low-income families as well as the communities in which they live and work. The charts on the following pages illustrate the problems and needs identified by families, staff, and stakeholders as well as the problems and needs experienced by low-income families.

Community Needs/Problems Rated Somewhat Serious and Very Serious by Survey Respondents



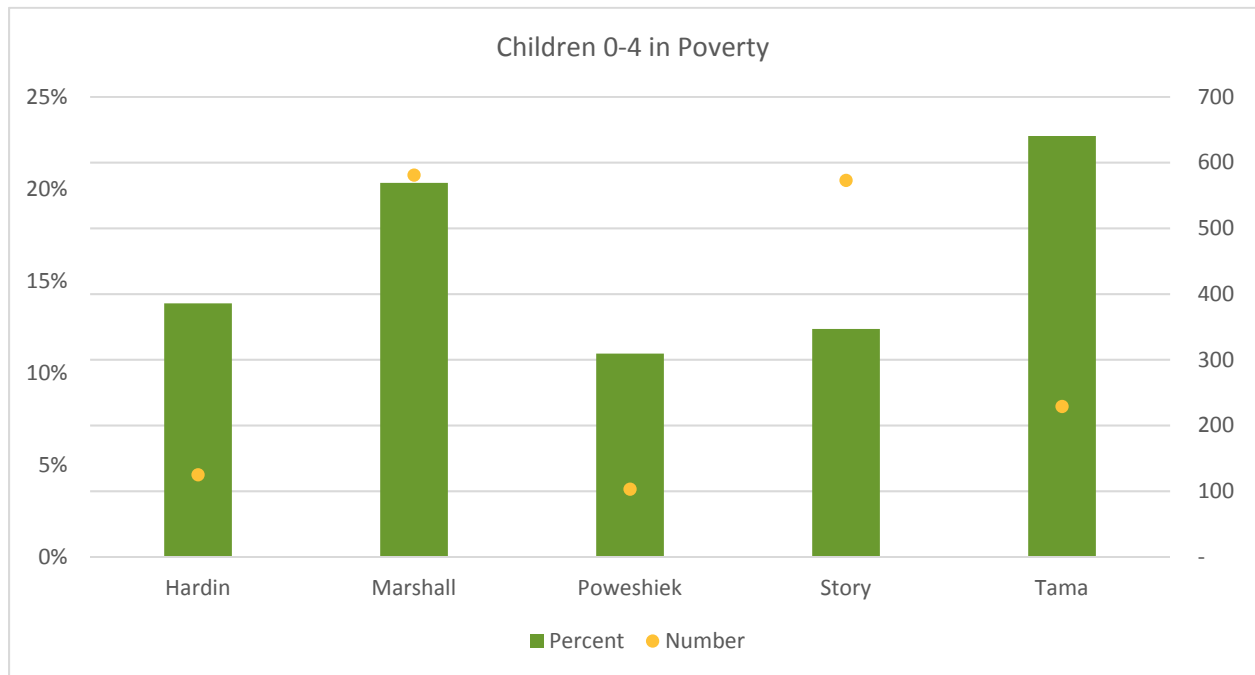
Needs/Problems Experienced by Families in the Last 12 Months



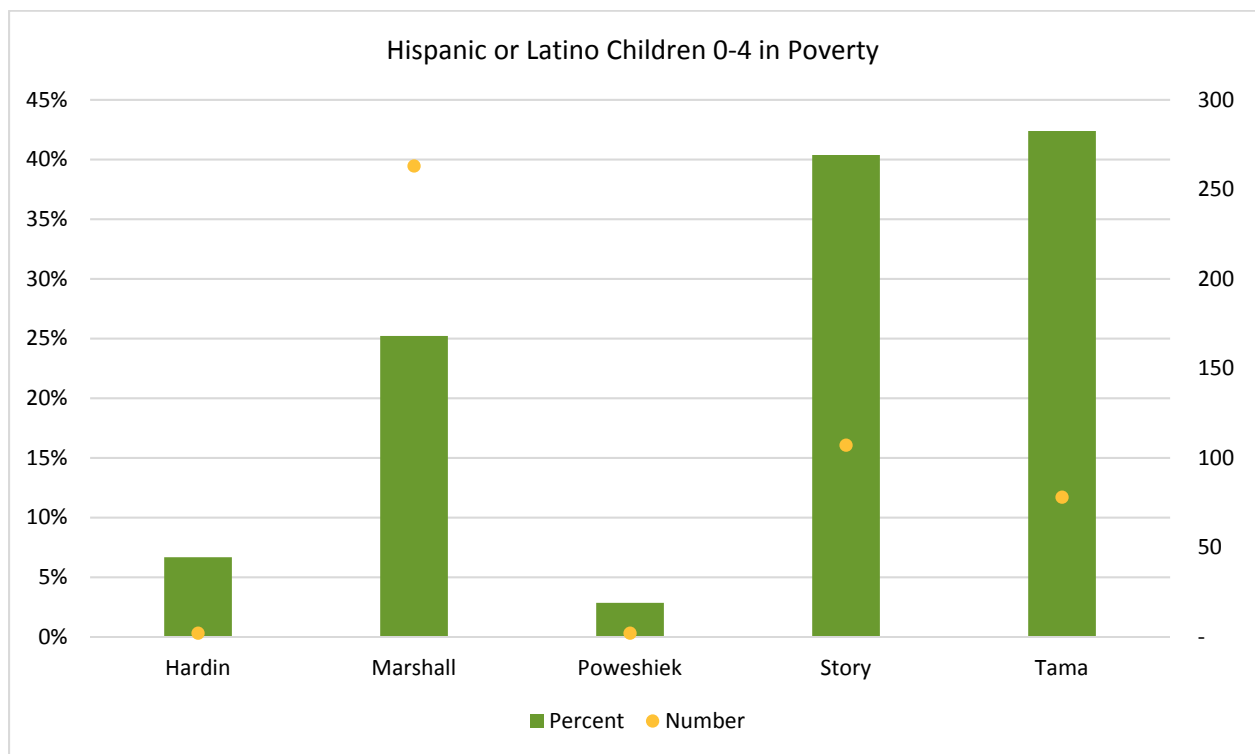


Additional Data Relating to Head Start

Additional Data Relating to Head Start

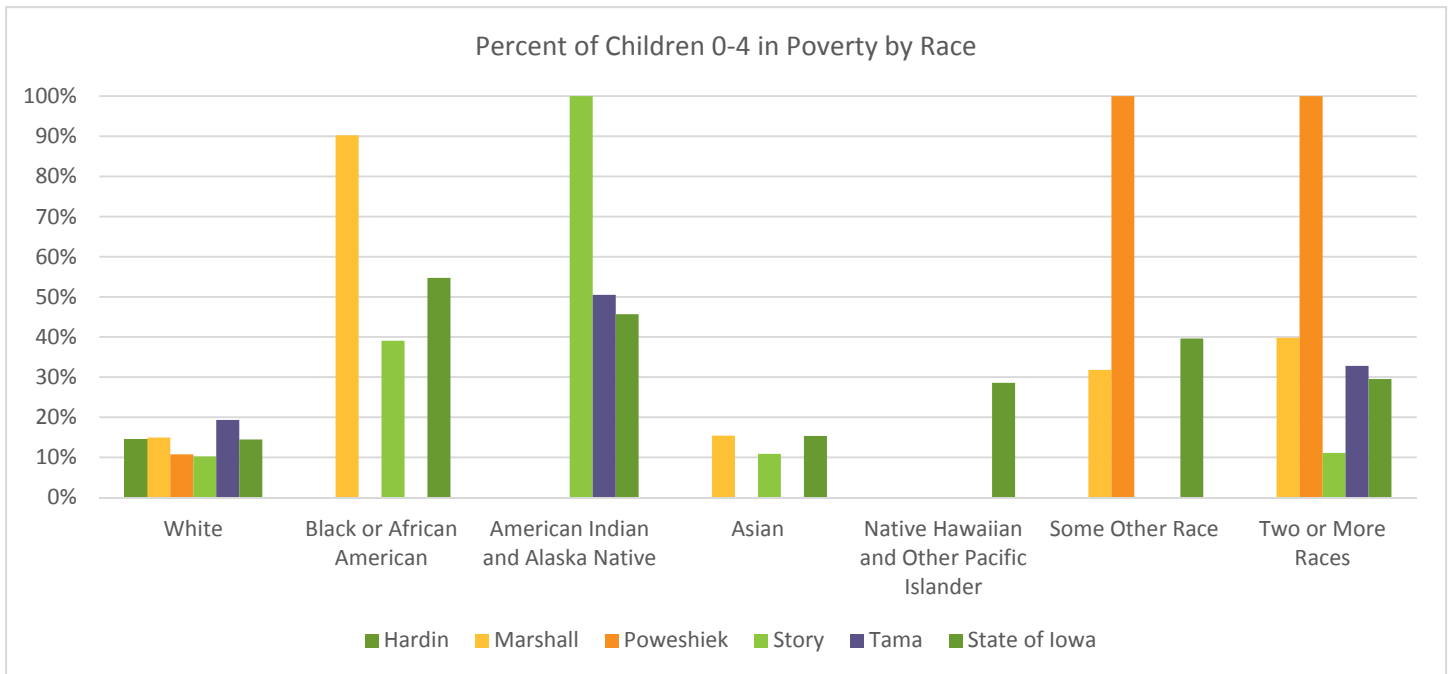


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B17001

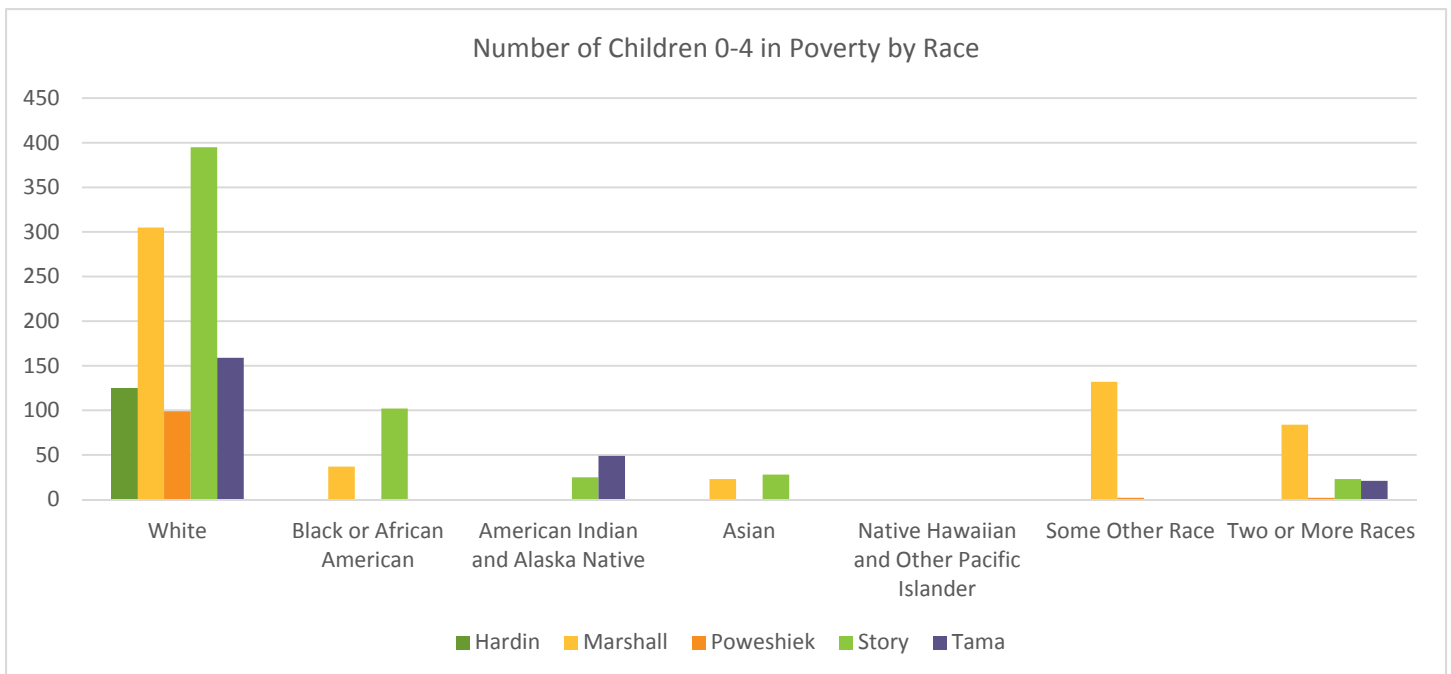


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table B17001

Additional Data Relating to Head Start

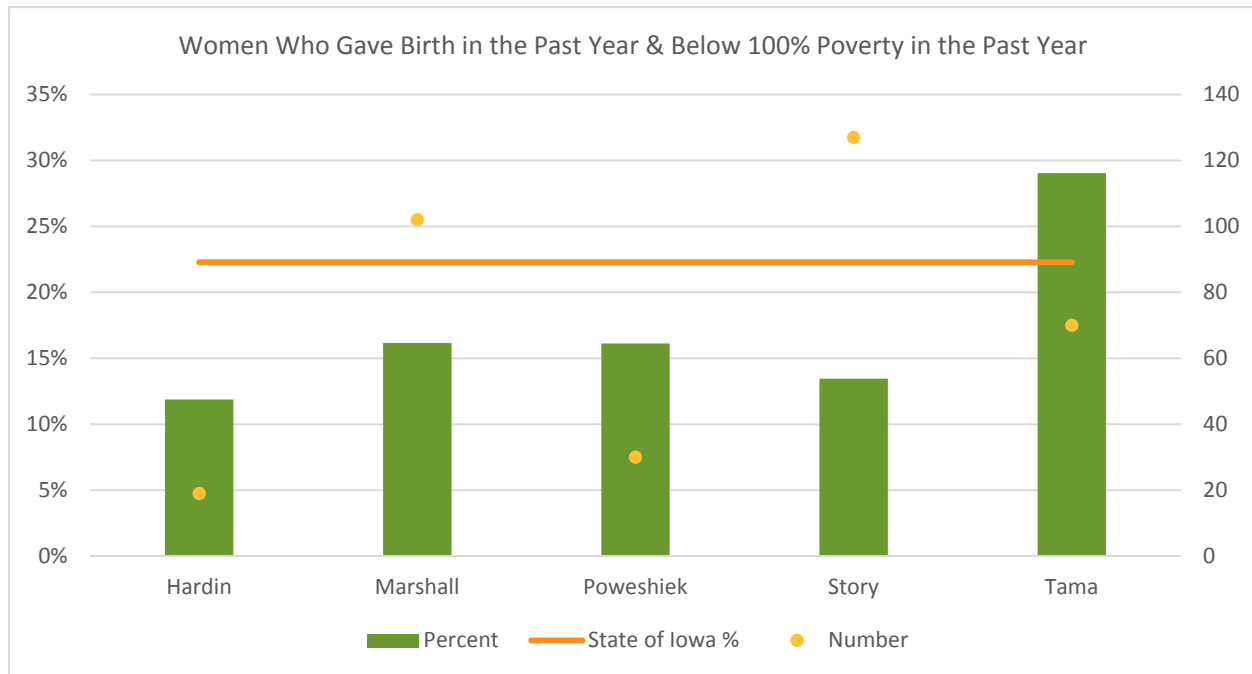


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables: B17001 and B17001 A-G

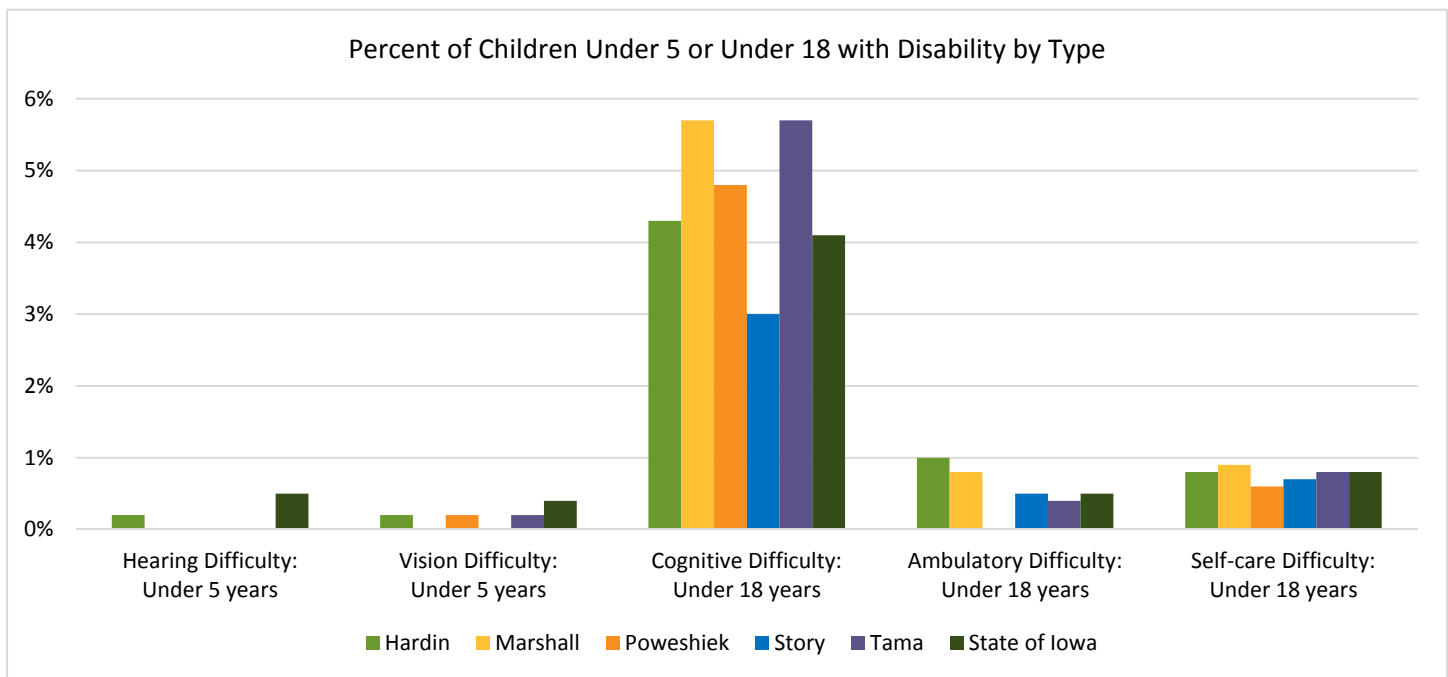


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables: B17001 and B17001 A-G

Additional Data Relating to Head Start

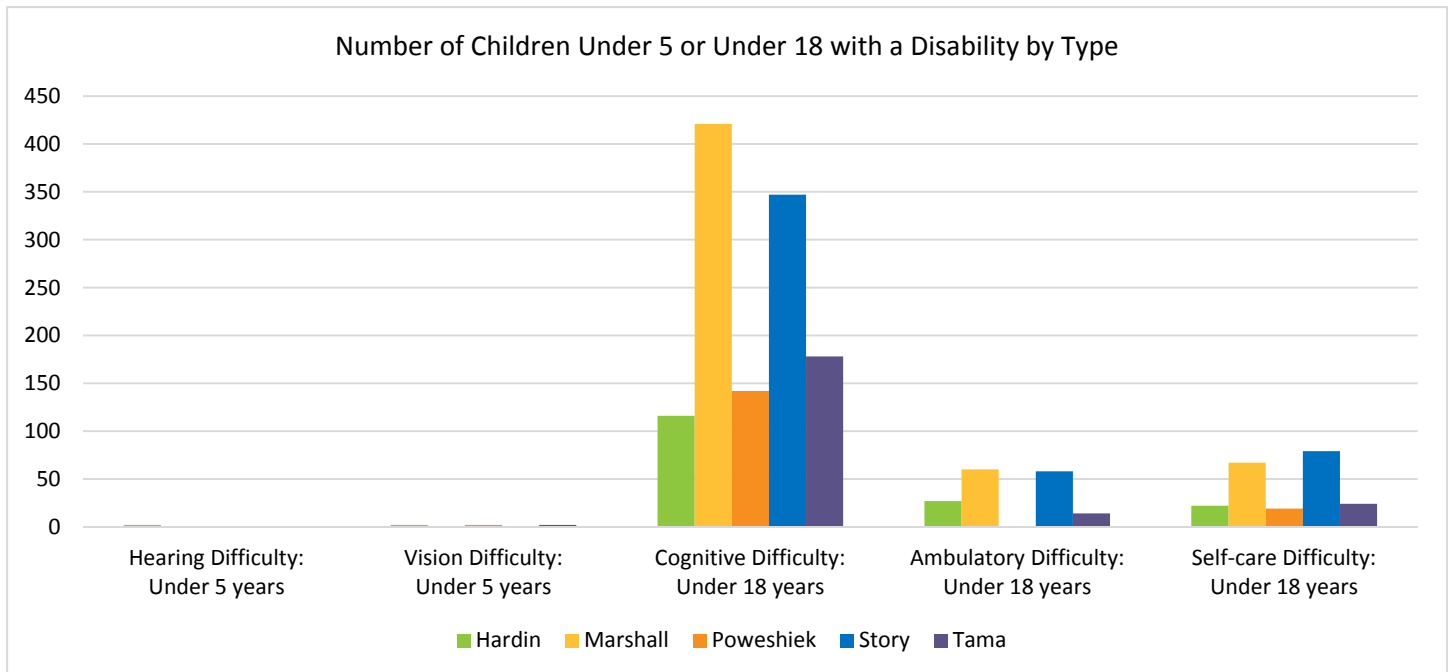


Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table: B13010



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table S1810

Additional Data Relating to Head Start



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Table S1810

Services for Children with Disabilities

MICA collaborates with two local Area Education Agencies (AEA), Heartland AEA and AEA 267, and with local school districts in serving children with disabilities. AEA agencies are the local providers of both Part B and Part C (Early ACCESS) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services. These agencies provide support services for children with special needs and conduct developmental evaluations on children for determination of need for special education services. AEA and Early ACCESS work with parents and other providers, including Early Head Start and Head Start staff, to develop Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) or Individualized Education Programs (IEP) for services to address developmental delays or disabilities. AEA and Early ACCESS deliver a range of services for parents and children from birth until they are enrolled in school. These services include Early Intervention services that support parents of children ages birth to three in providing appropriate learning experiences for their children. The agencies also provide direct services for children to obtain specific skills. Direct services include: speech and language, physical therapy, occupational therapy and service coordination. IDEA Part B special education instructional programming is provided by local school districts when children ages three years and older need the learning experiences provided in an early childhood special education classroom environment.

Available Slots

The following tables include the program slots and home visiting slots available in MICA's core service area.

Additional Data Relating to Head Start

Program Slots

	Hardin	Marshall	Poweshiek	Story	Tama
Registered Child Development Homes	152	340	288	760	180
Child Care Homes	55	125	50	175	20
Dept. Human Services Centers/Preschools	258	606	445	2,479	370
Total	583	1,219	849	3,829	570

Source: Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral, July 2016

Iowa Department of Education Pre-Kindergarten Enrollments 2016-2017

County Name	District Name	PK Enrollment	County Total
Hardin	AGWSR	63	255
	Alden	42	
	Eldora-New Providence	51	
	Hubbard-Radcliffe	29	
	Iowa Falls	70	
Marshall	East Marshall	41	325
	Marshalltown	201	
	West Marshall	83	
Poweshiek	Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom	39	200
	Grinnell-Newburg	130	
	Montezuma	31	
Story	Ames	297	703
	Ballard	134	
	Collins-Maxwell	28	
	Colo-NESCO	33	
	Gilbert	64	
	Nevada	91	
	Roland-Story	56	
Tama	GMG	30	116
	North Tama County	0	
	South Tama County	86	

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis, Address File, and SRI Fall Merged 1617 file

Home Visiting Slots

The following table lists the home-visiting slots available in MICA's core service area counties.

County	Organization	Program Name	Program Slots	County Slots
Hardin	Greenbelt Home Health Care	GHHC Family Support	25	41
	MICA	Early Head Start	16	
Marshall	Child Abuse Prevention Services	Building Healthy Families	105	128
	MICA	Early Head Start, Home Based	23	

Additional Data Relating to Head Start

Poweshiek	MICA	Family Connections	20	20
Story	Lutheran Services in Iowa	Story County Parents as Teachers	40	135
	MICA	Early Head Start, Home Based	20	
	Youth and Shelter Services	Storks NEST	39	
	Youth and Shelter Services	Story County Healthy Futures	36	
Tama	MICA	Early Head Start, Home Based	10	40
	MICA	Tama Healthy Families	30	

Source: Early Childhood Iowa and the programs listed

Work, School, and Training Schedule of Parents with Enrolled Children

The following tables are a breakdown of the work, school, and training schedules of parents with children enrolled in MICA's Early Head Start and Head Start programs. These totals do not equal the total number of parents of enrolled children as not every parent is working or in a school or training program.

Full-Time vs. Part-Time	Number	Percent
Adults Working, Full Time	170	77.98%
Adults Working, Part Time	48	22.02%

Work Shift	Number	Percent
1st Shift	167	76.61%
2nd Shift	25	11.47%
3rd Shift	17	7.80%
Unknown	9	4.13%

Educational Program	Number	Percent
Adults In Education or Training Program, Full Time	23	63.89%
Adults In Education or Training Program, Part Time	6	16.67%
Unknown	7	19.44%

Community Strengths

MICA's Leadership Team, comprised of the agency's directors and key staff, reviewed the community assessment and used their own insights to identify the following strengths of the communities in MICA's core service area.

- Collaboration
 - Marshall County (Marshalltown)
 - Poweshiek County (nutrition and hunger)
 - Story County
 - Tama County (preschool)
- Public Library
 - Hardin County

Additional Data Relating to Head Start

- Marshall County (Marshalltown)
 - Poweshiek County
 - Story County (Ames)
 - Tama County
- Public Transportation
 - Story County (Ames)
- Diversity
 - Marshall County (Marshalltown)
 - Story County (Ames)
 - Tama County
- Strong Public/Private Organizations
 - Marshall County (Marshalltown – Marshalltown Community School District, Iowa Valley Community College District, YMCA/YWCA).
 - Poweshiek (Grinnell College)
 - Story County (Iowa State University)
- Availability of Resources
 - Story County



Community Resources

Community Resources

MICA provides a wide variety of services to vulnerable individuals and families. For a complete listing of the agency's services, please visit www.micaonline.org. The following are non-MICA resources available in the agency's core service area.

Hardin County

Shelter

Rural Development
Section 8
Pheasant Run
Marion Manor
Schager Realty
Project Share
Crisis Intervention
Ministerial Association
Habitat for Humanity
HUD Housing/Zoning Department
Hawkeye Chapter of the Am Red Cross

Parenting/Family Relationships

ISU Extension (parenting classes)
Lighthouse Center of Hope
Department of Human Services
Quakerdale
Greenbelt Home Care
Lutheran Social Services
Freedom House

Adult Education

Ellsworth Comm. College
Buena Vista University
ISU Extension
Iowa Valley ESL, GED Classes, Literacy Ed

Children's Education

AEA 267
Kinder music
AWANA
4-H/Clover Kids
Girl and Boy Scouts
J.A.M. First United Methodist
School districts
Tiger Pack

Employment

Promise Jobs
AmeriCorps
Job Corps

Nutrition

Meals on Wheels
Senior Citizen Meals
First United Methodist Church Wed. Meals
Project Share
Farmer's Markets
Department of Human Services Food Assistance
The Ruth Project

Physical & Mental Health

McFarland Clinic
Wellness Center Rehab-EMH
ENP Work-out Center
Hansen Clinic
Meyer Pools Aquatic
Center Associates
Freedom House
Ackley Clinic
Friendship Club
Greenbelt Home Care
Mental Health Department, Hardin County
Courthouse
Integrated Health

Income/Money Management

ISU Extension
Consumer Credit Council
Rachel Lewey – Edwards Jones

Alcohol/Substance Abuse

SATUCI
Freedom House
Center Associates

Transportation

Iowa Falls Senior Citizen Transportation
COATS (Call OUR Adult Transportation Service)
People Rides
Hardin County Medical/Trans./People Rides
IF Taxi
Region 6 Van
Promise Jobs

Community Resources

University of Iowa

Title 19 Reimbursement

Community Resources

Marshall County

Shelter

Low-Rent Housing Assistance
Section 8 Program
Habitat for Humanity
Youth and Shelter Services County/Transitional
Living Program

Parenting/Family Relationships

AEA 267
CAPS – Building Healthy Families
Center Associates
Youth & Shelter Services
Department of Human Services
Young Parents Support Group
ACCESS
LUNA

Adult Education

Iowa Valley Continuing Education
Marshalltown Community College Vocational
Rehabilitation

Children's Education

AEA 267
Public and Catholic Schools
Child Care Resource and Referral
Marshalltown Learning Academy
Baptist and Christian Schools
Local preschools

Employment

Workforce Development
Promise Jobs
Manpower
Temp Associates
Helping Hands Temp Associates

Nutrition

Dept. of Human Services Food Assistance
ISU Extension

Emergency Food Box
Salvation Army
House of Compassion

Physical & Mental Health

Center Associates
Youth & Shelter Services
Moonstone Wellness
Legal Aid Services
Primary Health Care
Catholic Hispanic Ministries
McFarland Clinic
Marshalltown Parks and Recreation
MMSC Home Care Plus
Hospice Care/Iowa River Hospice
Birthright
Children and Families of Iowa
ChildServe
Grace C. Mae Advocate Center
Quakerdale

Income/Money Management

ISU Extension
Consumer Credit Counseling
House of Compassion
Social Security Administration

Alcohol/Substance Abuse

SATUCI
Alcoholics Anonymous
Narcotics Anonymous

Transportation

Cab Services
Region 6
Marshalltown Metro Transit
People Rides

Other

Iowa Legal Aid

Community Resources

Poweshiek County

Shelter

Low-Rent Housing
Grinnell Housing Authority (Section 8)
American Red Cross
CIRSI

Parenting/Family Relationships

AEA 267
Department of Human Services
Stork's Nest

Adult Education

Iowa Valley Continuing Education

Children's Education

AEA 267
Caring Connection

Employment

Workforce Development – online access
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Promise Jobs

Nutrition

Department of Human Services Food Assistance
Grinnell Community Meal
Meals on Wheels
Congregate Meals
Project Share
Food Recovery Network

Physical and Mental Health

Birthright
Domestic Violence Alternatives/Sexual Assault Advocate
Grinnell Parks & Recreation
GRMC Mother/Child Wellness Center
Grinnell Community Care Clinic
The Station Clubhouse
Grinnell Regional Medical Center
Women's Health Center
Capstone Behavioral Healthcare
Healthy Homes Family Services

Income/Money Management

ISU Extension
Consumer Credit Counseling

Alcohol/Substance Abuse

SATUCI
Alcoholics Anonymous
Narcotics Anonymous

Transportation

Title 19 Reimbursement
Region 6
People Rides
AEA Transportation

Other

Legal Services Corp. of Iowa
Second Mile
Poweshiek County Community Services

Community Resources

Story County

Shelter

Salvation Army
City of Ames
Central Iowa Regional Housing Authority
Transitional Housing
Emergency Residence Project
Community Services
Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance
USDA Rural Development
Story County Comm. Housing Corp
ACCESS

Parenting/Family Relationships

Parents as Teachers
Small Talk
Early Head Start & Head Start
People Place
Youth & Shelter Services
Homeward
Family Development & Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)
Center for Creative Justice
Family Team Meetings
Birthright of Ames
Beyond Welfare
Visiting Nurse Services
Stork's Nest

Adult Education

Des Moines Area Community College
Ames High School – High School Equivalency
Classes/Continuing Education
Iowa State University

Children's Education

Early Head Start & Head Start
Heartland AEA
Drake Head Start
Northwood Preschool Center
Center for Childcare Resources
ChildServe Community Options
Comfort Zone
University Community Childcare
Ames Community Preschool Center
Raising Readers

Employment

Iowa Workforce Development Center
DES Staffing Services
Proteus
Helping Hands Service
ManPower Temporary Service
USA Staffing, Inc.
Suited for Work
Promise Jobs
Mainstream Living, Inc.
Jacobsen Staffing
DMACC Workforce Training Academy

Nutrition

Family Nutrition Program
Mary Greeley Hospital
Department of Human Services Food Assist.

Physical & Mental Health

McFarland Clinic
Mid-Iowa Family Therapy
Gerard
Lutheran Services of Iowa
Youth & Shelter Services
Mary Greeley Hospital
Veteran's Affairs Medical Center
National Alliance of Mental Illness
Planned Parenthood
Homeward
Story County Medical Center, Nevada
Informed Choices Medical Clinic of Ames
Primary Health Clinic
Eyerly Ball Community Mental Health Services

Income/Money Management

ISU Financial Counseling Clinic
ISU Extension
Heartland Senior Services
Iowa New Choices Program

Alcohol/ Substance Abuse

Center for Addictions Recovery, Inc.
Youth & Shelter Services
Community and Family Resources

Community Resources

Transportation

Cy-Ride

Heartland Senior Services Bus

Taxi Service

Beyond Welfare Care Program

Title 19

Other

Volunteer Center/RSVP

Community Resources

Tama County

Shelter

Section 8
USDA Rural Development
Rent Rebate
Project Warmth
County Relief
Veteran's Affairs

Parenting/Family Relationships

Stork's Nest
ISU Extension
Lutheran Social Services
Catholic Charities
Tama County Mental Health Clinic
Department of Human Services
Baby F.A.C.E.
Meskwaki Family Services

Adult Education

Promise Jobs
Vocational Rehabilitation

Children's Education

AEA 267
STC Partnership Center
Child Care Resource & Referral

Employment

Workforce Development
Tama County Employment Options
Vocational Rehabilitation
Promise Jobs

Nutrition

Meals on Wheels
Senior Citizens Meals
Project Share
Department of Human Services Food Assistance

Physical & Mental Health

Mental Health Clinic of Tama County
Primary Health Clinic
Tama County Public Health & Home Care
Meskwaki Healthy Start
Women's Health & Education Center
Sac & Fox Health Care

Income/Money Management

ISU Extension
Legal Aide of Iowa

Alcohol/ Substance Abuse

SATUCI
Freedom House
Center Associates
M.A.D.A.C. (Meskwaki Substance Abuse Services)

Transportation

IF Taxi
People Rides
Region 6 Van
Promise Jobs
University of Iowa
Title 19