

## Iowa Change Leadership Vision Council

**Vision:** All families and children in Iowa are safe, secure, healthy, and well in their communities.

**Core Beliefs:** Families are experts in their lives. Children and parents experience better outcomes when their needs are heard and addressed in partnership. To achieve the vision, Iowa leaders and systems need to:

- **Address Root Causes: housing instability**, financial insecurity, and childcare challenges are highly correlated with child maltreatment and must be eliminated. The circumstances and effects of poverty are frequently the cause of child neglect and can be addressed.

**Focus Populations:** One of the Vision Council's strategies is to ensure there is a concerted, results-focused effort to have permanent housing options for families in the two focus populations:

- Iowa youth of color ages 10 and older and their families.
- Families living with substance use disorder who have young children prenatal to 10.

There are root causes and risk factors to families becoming involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Risk factors are characteristics of a child or caregiver that may increase the likelihood of child maltreatment. Risk factors can be difficult to accurately assess and measure, and therefore may go undetected among many children and caregivers.

Inadequate Housing is a risk factor related to substandard, overcrowded, or unsafe housing conditions, including homelessness.

In addition, housing instability has been demonstrated to increase the likelihood of youth contact with the justice system.<sup>1</sup>

**The Vision Council is actively working to establish a voice for children and families in the housing discussion and decisions.**

**Result:** Families are connected to Permanent Housing: Housing stability improves outcomes in academic performance, health, and employment.

**Target:** By 2026, increase the percentage of households without severe housing problems to 92% statewide.

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<sup>1</sup> [Reciprocal associations between housing instability and youth criminal legal involvement: a scoping review](#)

**12%** of households experience one type of housing stability issue.<sup>2</sup>

**14%** of households with children where there was little or no confidence in ability to pay their next rent or mortgage payment on time.<sup>3</sup>

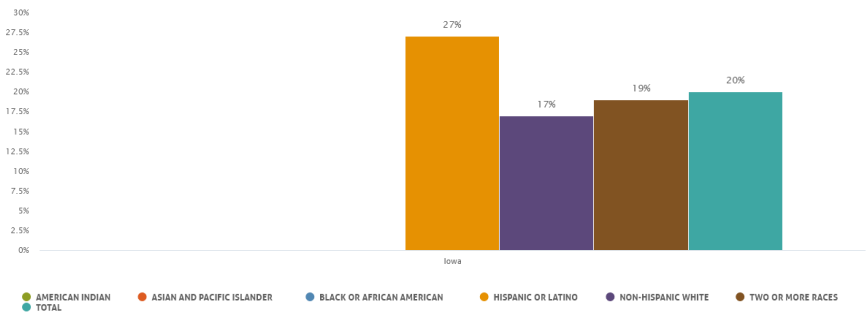
**27%** of Iowa youth reported having been homeless in the previous two years.<sup>4</sup>

Youth of Color are consistently overrepresented in foster care and in Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN).<sup>5</sup>

- Black/African American youth represent **6%** of Iowa's total population, but **19%** of the kids on foster group care.
  - Youth ages 13-17 represent **88%** of the youth in foster group care.<sup>6</sup>

**20%** of children live in households with a high housing cost burden.<sup>7</sup>

CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH A HIGH HOUSING COST BURDEN BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (PERCENT) - 2019



National KIDS COUNT from datacenter.kidscount.org

<sup>2</sup> Housing Stability Issues include, overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities or lack of plumbing facilities. [Severe Housing Problems | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data, 2022.](#)

<sup>4</sup> National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) outcomes survey (<https://ypii.org/homelessness/>)

<sup>5</sup> [Youth Policy Institute of Iowa](#)

<sup>6</sup> Casey Family Programs

<sup>7</sup> Children living in households with a high housing cost burden is the percent of children under age 18 who live in households where more than 30 percent of monthly household pretax income is spent on housing-related expenses, including rent, mortgage payments, taxes and insurance. [Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data, 2022.](#)