



DATA FEATURE

Empowering Our Community Through Comprehensive Strategies.

Education: Preschool Attendance

38.2%

WOODBURY COUNTY

is the rate of 3-4 year old preschool attendance in Woodbury County. *Based on 2019-2023 5-year collective estimate*.

- CENSUS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2023

30.8%

DAKOTA COUNTY

is the rate of 3-4 year old preschool attendance in Dakota County. *Based on 2019-2023 5-year collective estimate*.

- CENSUS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2023

36.2%

UNION COUNTY

is the rate of 3-4 year old preschool attendance in Union County. *Based on 2019-2023 5-year collective estimate*.

- CENSUS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2023



PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE & KINDERGARTEN READINESS: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

Background

Preschool and kindergarten readiness reflects the percentage of 3- to 4-year-old children enrolled in preschool programs, serving as an important indicator of early childhood education access and school preparedness. Participation in early education supports cognitive, social, and emotional development, laying the foundation for long-term academic success. Some factors influencing enrollment include program availability, family awareness, socioeconomic conditions, and state or local policy support.

Preschool Participation in Siouxland

Preschool participation rates across Siouxland regions demonstrate relatively moderate variation over the 2018-2023 period, aside from Union County, where participation rates have plummeted. Woodbury County shows relatively stable participation, ranging from 36.5% in 2019 to 40.2% in 2022 before slightly declining to 38.2% in 2023. Iowa remains consistently higher than most regional peers, declining gradually from 46.9% in 2018 to 42.9% in 2023, remaining consistently just under the national average in each recorded year. Dakota County exhibits lower and somewhat fluctuating rates, moving from 34.7% in 2018 down to 30.8% in 2023, the lowest current participation rate. Nebraska shows steadier enrollment, ranging narrowly between 42.4% and 43.5%, reflecting stable participation. Union County demonstrates the greatest variability, starting at 53.6% in 2018, dropping sharply to 36.2% in 2023-i.e., an over 30% drop in participation in five years. South Dakota trends downward as well but not nearly as sharp, from 40.9% in 2018 to 35.7% in 2023. Compared to the U.S. average of 45.6% in 2023, IA and NE remains near the national benchmark, while WC, UC, DC, and SD lag more noticeably.

ABOUT US

Source For Siouxland is a collaborative, strategic community planning initiative for a vibrant, safe, and healthy Siouxland. We measure the Economic Stability, Education, Health, Safety, and Quality of Life of the Siouxland Area in order to identify opportunities to build a stronger and more engaged community, prioritize the opportunities, and lead collective impact teams that will improve community outcomes.

INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SFS LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Catholic Charities· Great Plains ToP· Growing Community Connections· Helios Foundation· One Siouxland· SHIP· Siouxland Community Foundation· Siouxland District Health Department· United Way of Siouxland

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