

# AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN IOWA: 2020

FEBRUARY 2020

To recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week beginning on Feb. 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month.

## 124,819

The 2018 African American population in Iowa. African Americans constitute 4.0% of the state's total population. In 1980, African Americans made up 1.4% of the state's total population.

## 199.3%

The percent change in the African American population from 1980 to 2018. This is a 78,518 numeric increase for the period.

Source: 2018 Annual Population Estimates

## 286,894

The projected African American population of Iowa in 2050, according to Woods & Pool Economics Inc.(2019). African Americans will constitute 8.5 percent of the state's total population.

## Age

## 26.7

The median age of Iowa's African American population in 2018. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.2.

## Families and Children

### 21,277

The number of African American families in 2018 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 76.2 percent include their own children under 18 years of age.

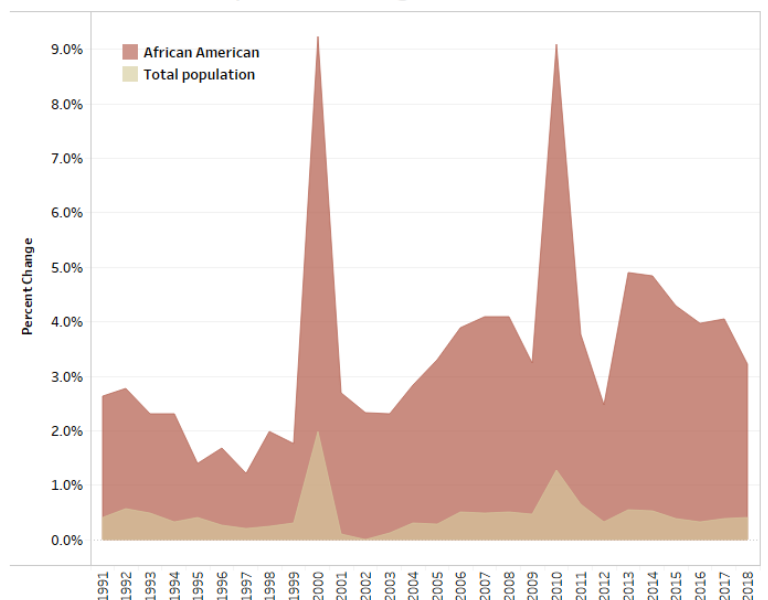
### 9.7%

Percentage of the African American population under age 5, in 2018. African Americans have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than the state as a whole (6.3%).

### 128.1%

Percent increase in the number of African American families in the state of Iowa from 1980 to 2018. Since 1980, the number of African American families have increased by 11,949.

Annual percent change from 1990-2018



# Counties and Cities

## Top 5 counties: African American Population

	2018	2000
Polk	34,457	18,113
Scott	13,586	9,689
Linn	13,389	4,919
Black Hawk	12,856	10,179
Johnson	10,999	3,223

## Top 5 cities: African American Population

	2014-2018	2000
Des Moines	24,356	16,025
Davenport	11,216	9,093
Waterloo	10,961	9,529
Cedar Rapids	9,343	4,481
Iowa City	6,101	2,333

### 90.2%

The percent change of African Americans in Polk county from 2000-2018. Polk county has the largest population of African Americans of any Iowa county.

### 9.7%

The percent of total population in Black Hawk County who were African American in 2018. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of African Americans are Scott (7.8%), Johnson (7.3%), Polk (7.1%) and Des Moines (6.1%).

### 82,398

The African American population in five counties: Polk, Scott, Linn, Black Hawk, and Johnson in 2017. this accounts for 68.5% of the total African American population in Iowa.

### 51.7%

Over half of the growth in Iowa's African American population from 2010-2018 occurred in three counties: Polk, Linn and Johnson.

### 19.5%

The percent of the African American population living in Des Moines. Des Moines has the largest population (24,356) of African Americans in any city in Iowa.

### 16.1%

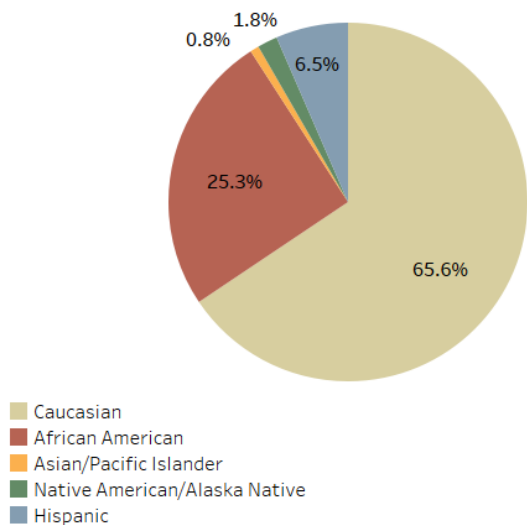
The percent of the total population in Waterloo who are African American. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage of African Americans are Hiawatha (15.1%) and Coralville (12.0%).

### 44.8%

The percentage of Iowa's total African American population living in Des Moines, Davenport, Waterloo, and Cedar Rapids.

Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey

## Iowa prison population by race and Hispanic origin



If an individual of any race indicated that their ethnicity was Hispanic, their race was coded as Hispanic

Source: Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Iowa Prison Population Forecast FY 2019-FY 2029 <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice-planning/publications>

## Income and poverty

### \$31,992

The median income in the of African American households in 2018. The median household income for the state during the same time period was \$59,955.

### 30.7%

The poverty rate in 2018 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.2 percent.

### \$31,001

The median income of African American families in Iowa in 2018. The median income of families in Iowa was \$76,068.

### 37.8%

The percentage of families with related children under 18 below the poverty level in 2018 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.8 percent.

### \$15,769

The per capita money income of Iowa African Americans in 2018. The per capita money income for the state was \$31,559.

# Businesses and Jobs

**4,918**

The number of African American-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**344.7%**

The percent increase in African American-owned firms between 1992 and 2012.

Source: 2012 & 1992 Survey of Business Owners

**62.6%**

The labor force participation rate of Iowa African Americans age 16 and over in 2018. The labor force participation rate for Iowans age 16 was 63.3%.

**8.7%**

The unemployment rate of Iowa African Americans in 2018. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was 4.9%.

## Earnings

**\$23,179**

The median earnings for Iowa African Americans in 2018. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was \$34,583.

**\$32,419**

The median earnings for Iowa African American males in 2018. African American women in Iowa had median earnings of \$30,134. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$51,488 and \$40,353 respectively.

## Occupation



**10,269**

Iowa African Americans in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2018. 32.6% of the African Americans in this occupation group are in management, business and financial occupations.



**8,270**

The number of Iowa African Americans in sales and office occupations in 2018.



**24.2%**

The percentage of Iowa African Americans in service occupations in 2018. 4,188 African Americans in Iowa are working in healthcare support occupations.



**32.5%**

The percent in 2018 of Iowa African Americans in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.



**2,196**

The number of Iowa African Americans in construction and extraction occupations in 2018.

**1,698**

The number of Iowa African American veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in 2018

## The State Data Center of Iowa

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This program is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa



## ICSAA

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Data Sources (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2018 American Community Survey  
U.S. Decennial Census 1980,  
2000 and 2010  
Photos by the U.S. Census Bureau

## Housing

**73.6%**

The percentage occupied housing units with an African American householder who rent their home in 2018. The corresponding percentage for the state is 28.7%.



## Vital Statistics

**20.9**

The African American birth rate per 1,000 population in 2018. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was 11.9

**659.5**

The African American rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2018. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was 351.5.

**81.7**

The African American rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2018. The rate for the state was 43.6.

**4.5**

The African American death rate per 1,000 population in 2018. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was 9.6.

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

## Education

**33,339**

The number African Americans enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2018-2019 school year. African Americans represent 6.2% of Iowa's school enrollment (521,408).

**70.7%**

Percent increase in African American enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2018-2019.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**17.2%**

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2018. The percentage for Iowa was 29.0%.

**6.4%**

Percentage of Iowa African Americans 25 years and older with graduate or professional degree in 2018. The percentage of Iowans with a graduate or professional degree was 9.4%.

**85.9%**

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2018. The percentage for Iowa was 92.3%.