

# OLDER IOWANS: 2018

MAY 2018

A meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens resulted in President John F. Kennedy designating May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month, encouraging the nation to pay tribute in some way to older people across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter's proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, a time to celebrate those 65 and older through ceremonies, events and public recognition.

## 514,215

The estimated number of people age 65 and over in Iowa in 2016. This age group accounted for 16.4 percent of the total population. In 2016 Iowa ranked 16th in the percentage of population age 65 and older.

## 285,825

The estimated number of women age 65 and over in Iowa in 2016. This accounted for 55.6 percent of the age group 65 and over. The estimated number of women age 85 and was 52,355. This was 66.5 percent of Iowans 85 and over.

## 677,266

The projected population age 65 and older in Iowa in the year 2050. According to Woods & Poole Economics Inc., this age group will constitute 19.7 percent of the state's total population at that time.

## Households and Families

### 46.2%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over who lived alone in 2016.

### 16,681

The number of children under 18 who are being cared for by a grandparent in Iowa in 2016.

### 24,418

Number of Iowans age 65 and older in 2015 who lived in group quarters. Group quarters include nursing facilities; military quarters, correctional facilities as well as college student housing. This age group is 24.3% of the total group quarter population.

### Marital Status

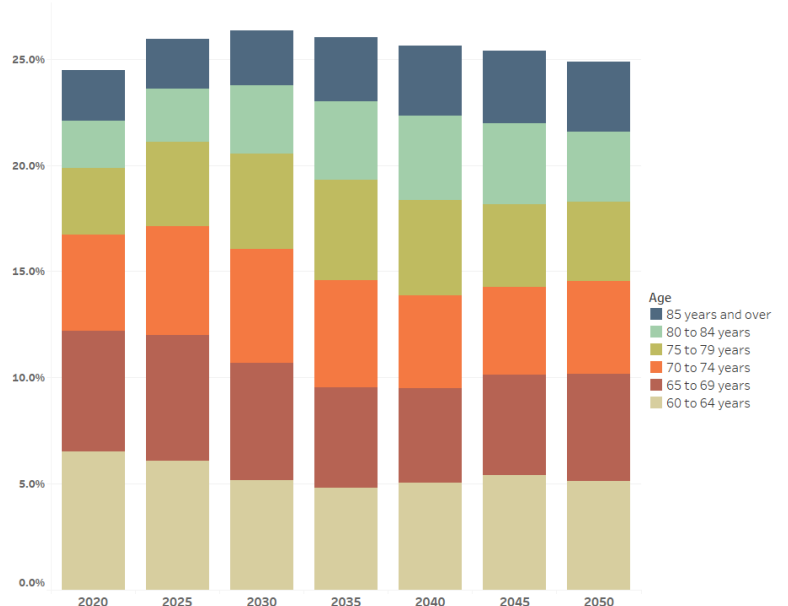
#### 59.5%

*Percentage of people in Iowa age 65 and older in 2016 who were married.*

#### 25.3%

*Percentage of Iowans age 65 and older in 2016 who were widowed.*

Projected Iowa Population: 2020-2050



## Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance

**\$39,433**

Median household income in 2016 with householders 65 and over. The median income for all households in Iowa in 2016 was \$56,247.

**6.9%**

Poverty rate for people 65 and older in 2016, compared to 11.8% for all Iowans.

**820**

The number of Iowans 65 years and over without health insurance coverage in 2016. That is 0.2% of the population without health insurance coverage. The percentage of the total population in Iowa without health insurance coverage was 4.3%.

**481,404**

The number of 2016 social security beneficiaries aged 65 or older in Iowa. This group collected \$649,275,000 total benefits.

Data provided by the Social Security Administration publication "OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County"  
<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/>

## Voting

**83.4%**

Percentage of Iowans age 65 and older who were citizens and registered to vote in the 2016 election, the highest rate of any age group.

**28.9%**

Percent of the votes cast by citizens age 65 and older in the 2016 election.

Data provided by the Iowa Secretary of State

## Education

**89.4%**

Percent of people age 65 and older in 2016 with at least a high school diploma. The percent of all Iowans age 25 and over with at least a high school diploma was 91.8%.

**21.7%**

Percentage of the population age 65 and older in 2016 who had earned a bachelor's degree or higher education. The percent of all Iowans age 25 and over who had earned a bachelor's degree or higher was 28.4%.



## Migration

**93.3%**

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over who did not move between 2015 and 2016. This can be compared to 84.7% for the state as a whole.

**6,531**

The number of people age 65 and over who moved into the state of Iowa between 2015 and 2016. This represented only 7.2% of all the people who moved into the state during that time.

**74.4%**

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over in 2016 who were born in Iowa. The percent of all Iowans born in the state was 70.5%.

**Serving Our Nation**  
**19.9%**

Percentage of people in 2016 age 65 and older in Iowa who are military veterans.

# Disability

**156,602**

The number of Iowans in 2016 age 65 and over with at least one type of disability.

**36.8%**

The percent of Iowa veterans in 2016 age 65 and over with a disability.

**156,308**

The number of people 65 & over in 2016 with a disability that have private as well as public insurance.

Type of Disability: 2016 Population 65 and over	
Hearing difficulty	70,594
Vision difficulty	24,786
Cognitive difficulty	33,023
Ambulatory difficulty	93,149
Self-care difficulty	28,396
Independent living difficulty	56,408

# Employment

**20.0%**

Labor force participation rate for Iowans age 65 and older in 2016. There were 102,980 Iowans age 65 and over in the labor force.

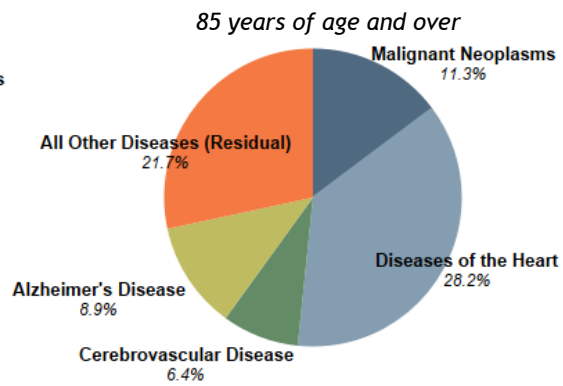
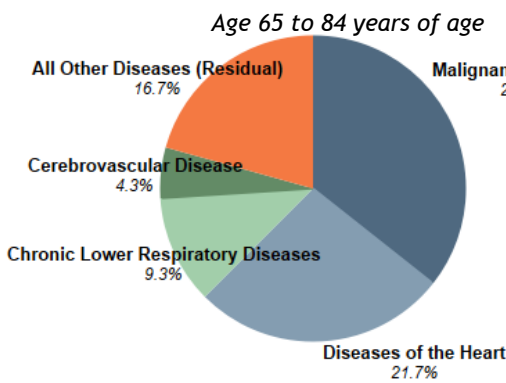
**2.0%**

The unemployment rate in 2016 for Iowans age 65 and over.



# Vital Stats

## Leading causes of death by age group: 2016



Leading causes of death for all Iowans: 2016

- Disease of the heart: 23.3%
- Malignant Neoplasms: 21.6%
- Chronic lower respiratory: 6.7%
- Unintentional injuries: 5.3%
- Alzheimer's Disease: 4.8%
- Other: 38.3%

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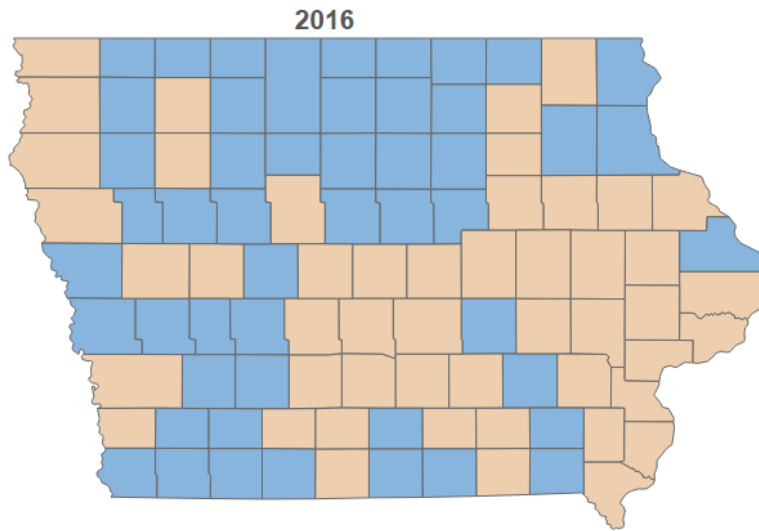
Miller Building  
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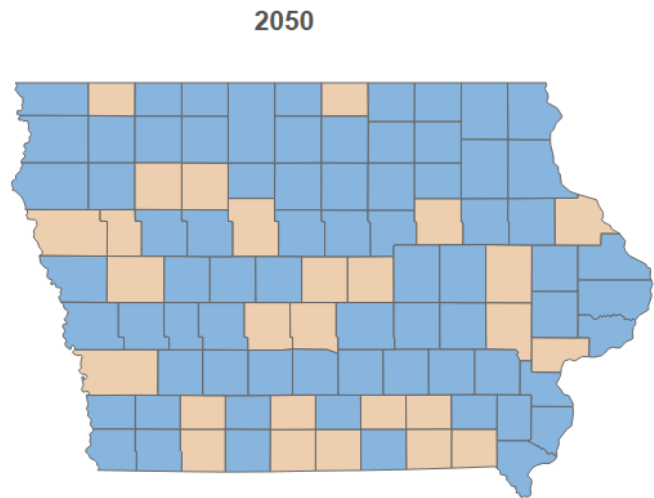
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Population age 65 and over  
■ Less than 20%  
■ 20% or more



# Counties and Cities

Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
 U.S. Census Bureau,  
 American Community  
 Survey, 2016  
 Woods & Poole  
 Economics, Inc. 2017  
 Photos by:  
 the U.S. Census Bureau

**58,310**

The number of people age 65 and over in Polk County, making it the largest population of this age group in any county in 2016.

**25.1%**

The percent of total population in Monona county who are age 65 and over in 2016. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage in this age group are Dickinson (25.0%), Ringgold (24.8%), Audubon (24.7%), and Cherokee (23.9%).

**43.0%**

Over a quarter of Iowans age 65 and over in 2016 lived in Polk, Linn, Scott, Black Hawk, Dubuque, Johnson, Pottawattamie, Woodbury, Story, and Dallas counties.

**15**

The number of Iowa counties with a decrease in the population age 65 and over between 2010 and 2016.

**73**

The number of Iowa counties in 2050 in which at least 20% of the residents will be age 65 and over according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. In 2000 that number was 30.

**22,318**

The number of people age 65 and over in Des Moines, making it largest population of this age group in any Iowa city in 2010.

**44.6%**

The percent of total population in Wahpeton who were age 65 and over in 2010. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage in this age group were Beaconsfield (40.0%), Ledyard (36.9%), Clio (36.3%) and Diagonal (36.1%).

**17.8%**

The percent of the total population age 65 and over in 2010 who lived in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City, Waterloo, and Dubuque.