

# WOMEN IN IOWA: 2019

MARCH 2019

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress and the Iowa General Assembly have passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the U.S. president and Iowa's Governor have issued a proclamation.

## 1,580,978

The number of females in Iowa in 2017. That exceeds the number of men (1,564,733). Males outnumber females in most of the five-year-age groups through the 50-54 age group. Starting with the 55-59 age group, women outnumber men. At ages 85 and over there are nearly twice as many women as men.

## 1,708,932

The projected female population of Iowa in 2050 according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Women will constitute 49.6 percent of the state's total population.

## Families and Children

### 19.9%

The percent of families with children under 18 in 2017 living with their mother in a single-parent household, compared to 9.5 percent living with their father. This compares to 70.6 percent living with both parents.

### 681,180

Number of married women in 2017 (including those who are separated or have an absent spouse).

### 51.1%

Percent of unmarried Iowans 15 years and older who are women in 2017. There are 603,797 unmarried (widowed, divorced or never married) women.

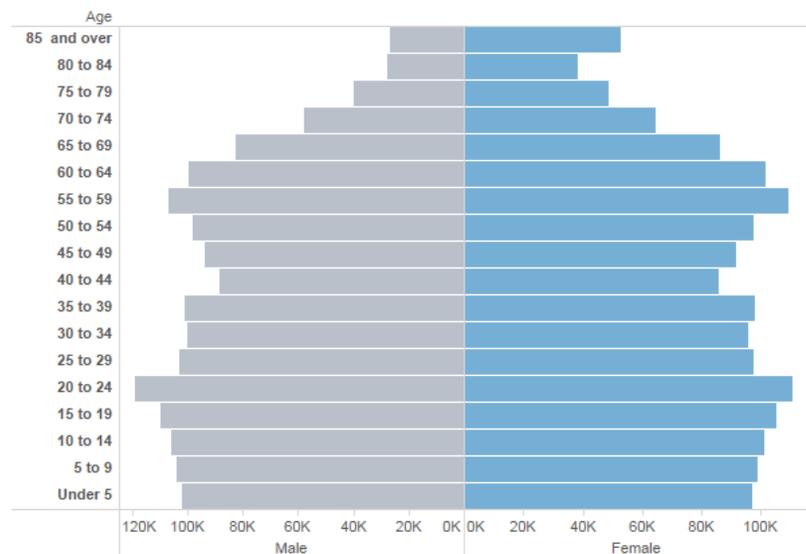
### 107,961

The number of Iowa families with a female householder, no husband present in 2017. In 1970 there were 52,025 families with a female head of household. This is a 107.5% increase during that time.

## 39.3

The estimated median age for the female population in Iowa in 2017. The estimated median age for the state of Iowa was 38.1. The male estimated median age was 36.9

Iowa population by sex and age: 2017



***Coming to America***

**48.6%**

*The percent of the foreign-born population in 2017 that were female*

***Serving Our Nation***  
**11,791**

*The number of Iowa women in 2017 who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces. This is 6.6% of the total veteran population.*



# Education

**267,025**

The number of girls enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2017-2018 school year, including preschool. This represents 51.4% of the total enrollment in Iowa.

**145,027**

Enrollment of women in Iowa's universities and colleges in 2018. Women make up 56.0 percent of the total enrollment in 2018.

Source: Iowa Student College Aid Commission

**30.1%**

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017. This compares to 7.5 percent of women who had completed 4 years of college or higher in 1970.

**92.7**

The graduation rate for girls in 2017. The graduation rate for boys was 89.3.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**92.7%**

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over who had at least a high school education in 2017. This compares to 61.8 percent of women who had completed 4 years of high school or higher in 1970.

**106,298**

Number of women in Iowa 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2017. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.) The number of men in Iowa with an advanced degree in 2017 was 92,892.

# Income and Poverty

**\$40,639**

The median income for women in Iowa who worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months in 2017. The median income for men in the state was \$51,059.

**11.7%**

The poverty rate in 2017 for women in Iowa. The corresponding rate for men is 9.8 percent.

**\$28,924**

The median family income for female householders, no husband with own children under 18 in 2017. The median income for married-couple families was \$94,591. The median income for male householder, no wife present was \$43,368.

**31.7%**

The percentage of female households, no husband present with related children under age 18, below the poverty level in 2017. The corresponding rate for married-couple families with related children under 18 years was 4.2 percent.

Note: Income is the sum of the amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; social security or railroad retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income.

# Businesses and Jobs

**82,345**

The number of female-owned businesses in 2012.

**29.0%**

The percent increase in women-owned firms between 2002 and 2012.

Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners

**3.1%**

The unemployment rate for women age 20 to 64 in Iowa in 2017. The unemployment rate for men was 3.3%.

## Earnings

**\$39,658**

The median earnings in 2017 inflation-adjusted dollars for full-time, year-round women workers in Iowa. Men in Iowa had median earnings of \$50,295.

## Industry

**296,529**

The number of Iowa women in the Education services, and health care and social assistance industry in 2017. 38.4% of Iowa's total female labor force work is in this one industry, making it the largest industry sector for female employment.

**57.0%**

The percent of the total population who were women that work in the Finance and Insurance industry in 2017. Women make up **50.5** percent of the Retail trade industry; **40.9** percent in management of companies and enterprises; **50.5** percent in information; and **56.2** percent in accommodation and food services.

## Voting and Representation

**61.14%**

The percentage of registered women in Iowa who reported voting in the 2018 general election. The number of registered males who voted in the same election was 60.44%.

Iowa Secretary of State's office

**30.0%**

In 2019 women comprise 30.0% of Iowa's elected legislature, 34 members of the House of Representatives and 10 Senators. The previous legislative session had 34 women (28 Representatives and 4 Senators)

In 2017 Governor Kim Reynolds became the first female governor in Iowa.

(Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women & Politics; <https://iastate.app.box.com/v/2018GeneralElection>)

## Occupations

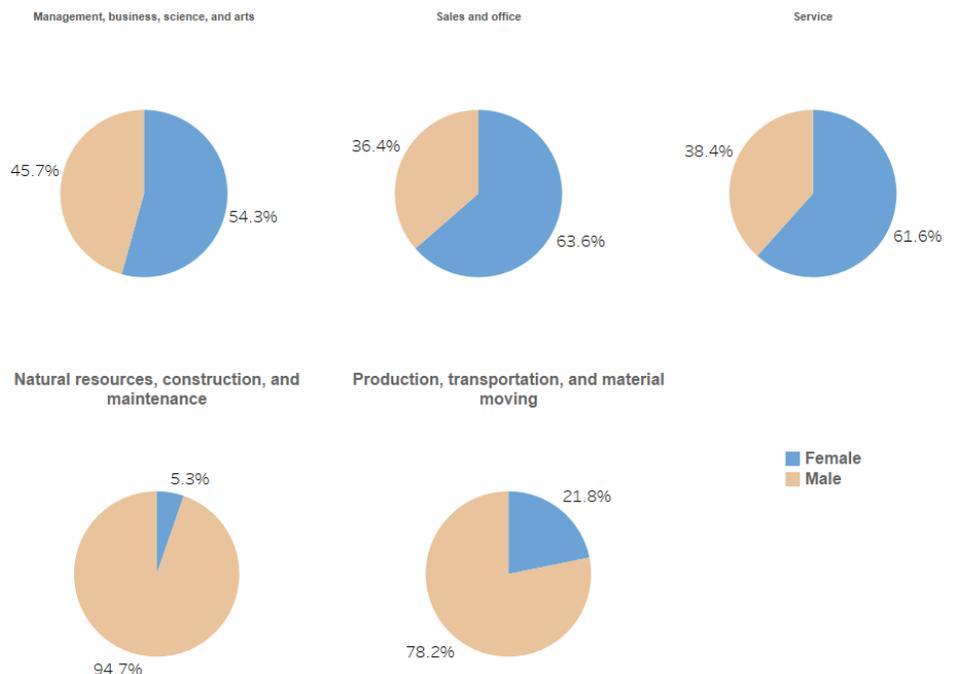
**154,249**

The number of Iowa women in office and administrative support occupations in 2017, the largest of any occupation. Women represent a wide variety of occupations in Iowa. For instance, there are about **78,832** women in healthcare practitioner and technical occupations, **47,845** in personal care and service occupations and **108,905** education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations.

**5.3%**

The percent of civilian employed population 16 years and over in Iowa in the Natural resources, construction, and material moving occupations in 2017 that were women. This occupation category has the smallest percentage of female employment.

Occupation by gender in Iowa: 2017



## 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

## The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Office on the Status of Women



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Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Tel: 515/281-4470 or 800/558-4427  
Fax: 515/242-6119  
Email: [women@iowa.gov](mailto:women@iowa.gov)  
<https://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/icsw>

## Vital Events

### 12.2

Live births per 1,000 population in 2017. In 1980 the birth rate was 15.3.

### 356.5

The rate of Iowa births to unmarried women in 2017 (per 1,000 births). The rate to unmarried women in 1980 was 102.4.

### 45.0

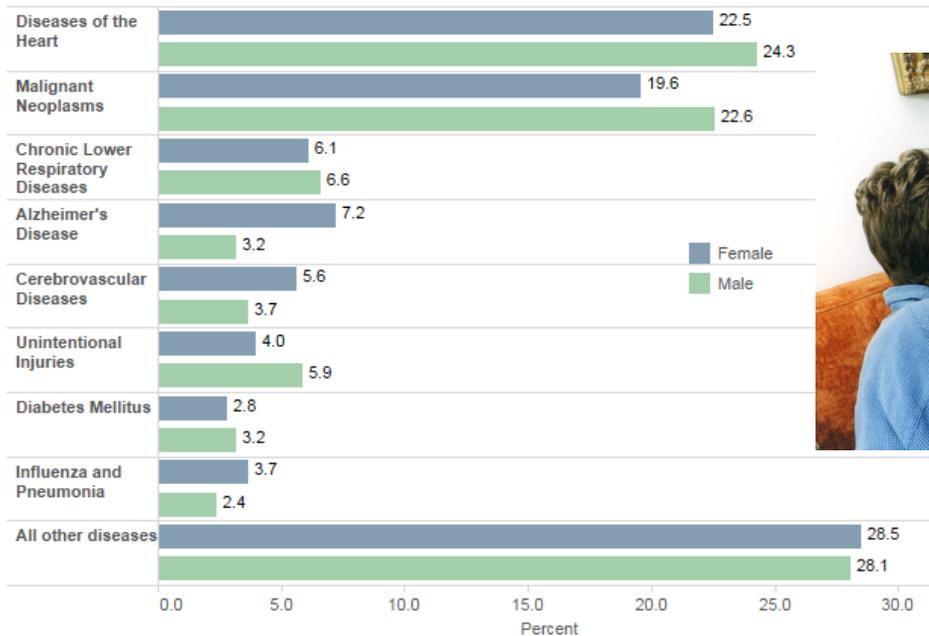
The birth rate for women under 20 years of age in Iowa per 1,000 women in 2017. In 1980 the birth rate was 32.5.

*\*In 2017 the under 20 birth rate was for ages 15-19. In 1980 it was ages 13-19.*

### 9.7

The 2017 death rate for women in Iowa per 1,000 population. For men in Iowa the death rate was also 9.7 over the same time period. The female death rate in 1980 was 8.4 while the male death rate was 10.2.

## Leading causes of deaths in Iowa by gender: 2017



Data Sources (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2017 American Community Survey  
U.S. Decennial Census  
1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000  
Photos by U.S. Census Bureau

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "Vital Statistics of Iowa 2017"