

THE STATE DATA
CENTER OF IOWA
&
THE IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS' OFFICE
ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN

WOMEN IN IOWA: 2020

MARCH 2020

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.

1,585,338

The number of females in Iowa in 2018. That exceeds the number of men (1,570,807). 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.

1,681,219

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

22.3%

The percent of families with children under 18 in 2018 living with their mother in a single-parent household, compared to 9.7 percent living with their father. This compares to 68.0 percent living with both parents.

668,787

Number of married women in 2018 (including those who are separated or have an absent spouse).

51.4%

Percent of unmarried Iowans 15 years and older who are women in 2018. There are 624,055 unmarried (widowed, divorced or never married) women.

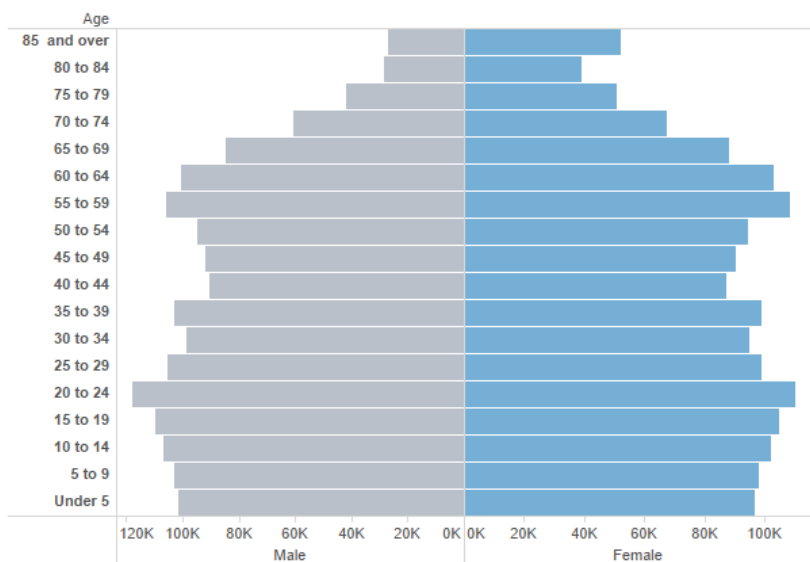
121,044

The number of Iowa families with a female householder, no husband present in 2018. In 1970 there were 52,025 families with a female head of household. This is a 132.7% increase during that time.

39.4

The estimated median age for the female population in Iowa in 2018. The estimated median age for the state of Iowa was 38.2. The male estimated median age was 37.1.

Iowa population by sex and age: 2018



Coming to America

49.7%

The percent of the foreign-born population in 2018 that were female

Serving Our Nation

12,232

The number of Iowa women in 2018 who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces. This is 6.6% of the total veteran population.



Education

268,345

The number of girls enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2018-2019 school year, including preschool. This represents 48.6% of the total enrollment in Iowa.

196,732

Enrollment of women in Iowa's universities and colleges in 2019. Women make up 56.8 percent of the total enrollment in 2019.

Source: Iowa Student College Aid Commission

30.3%

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2018. This compares to 7.5 percent of women who had completed 4 years of college or higher in 1970.

93.3

The graduation rate for girls in 2018. The graduation rate for boys was 89.6.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

92.8%

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over who had at least a high school education in 2018. This compares to 61.8 percent of women who had completed 4 years of high school or higher in 1970.

103,466

Number of women in Iowa 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2018. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.) The number of men in Iowa with an advanced degree in 2018 was 93,632.

Income and Poverty

\$41,088

The median income for women in Iowa who worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months in 2018. The median income for men in the state was \$52,232.

12.5%

The poverty rate in 2018 for women in Iowa. The corresponding rate for men is 10.0 percent.

\$28,610

The median family income for female householders, no husband with own children under 18 in 2018. The median income for married-couple families was \$97,993. The median income for male householder, no wife present was \$45,828.

38.9%

The percentage of female households, no husband present with related children under age 18, below the poverty level in 2018. The corresponding rate for married-couple families with related children under 18 years was 5.0 percent. For male householder, no wife present the poverty rate was 11.7 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

3.0%

The unemployment rate for women age 20 to 64 in Iowa in 2017. The unemployment rate for men was 3.4%.

Earnings

\$40,353

The median earnings in 2018 inflation-adjusted dollars for full-time, year-round women workers in Iowa. Men in Iowa had median earnings of \$51,488.

Industry

303,032

The number of Iowa women in the Education services, and health care and social assistance industry in 2018. 39.3% of Iowa's total female labor force work is in this one industry, making it the largest industry sector for female employment.

58.9%

The percent of the total population who were women that work in the Finance and Insurance industry in 2018. Women make up **48.1** percent of the Retail trade industry; **60.0** percent in management of companies and enterprises; **47.8** percent in information; and **56.4** 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)

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

In 2015, Senator Joni Ernst became the first female U.S. Senator from Iowa.

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

In 2019, U.S. Representatives Abby Finkenauer and Cindy Axne became the first female Representatives from Iowa.

Occupations

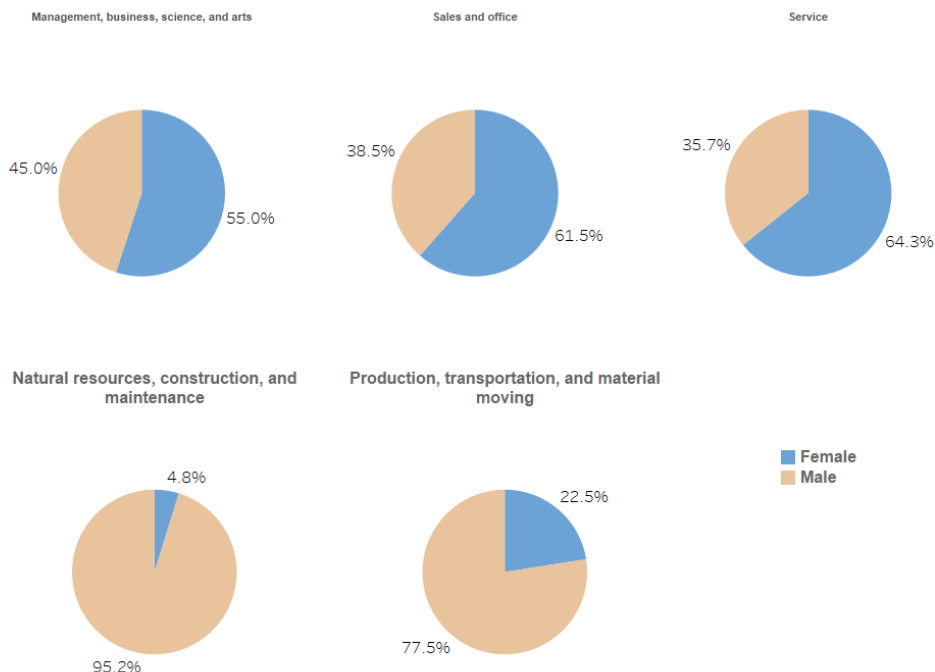
132,653

The number of Iowa women in office and administrative support occupations in 2018, the largest of any occupation. Women represent a wide variety of occupations in Iowa. For instance, there are about **78,974** women in healthcare practitioner and technical occupations, **43,044** in personal care and service occupations and **116,855** education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations.

4.8%

The percent of civilian employed population 16 years and over in Iowa in the Natural resources, construction, and material moving occupations in 2018 that were women. This occupation category has the smallest percentage of female employment.

Occupation by gender in Iowa: 2018



The State Data Center of Iowa



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The Iowa Department of Human Rights'

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<https://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/icsw>

Vital Events

11.9

Live births per 1,000 population in 2018. In 1980 the birth rate was 15.3.

351.5

The rate of Iowa births to unmarried women in 2018 (per 1,000 births). The rate to unmarried women in 1980 was 102.4.

43.6

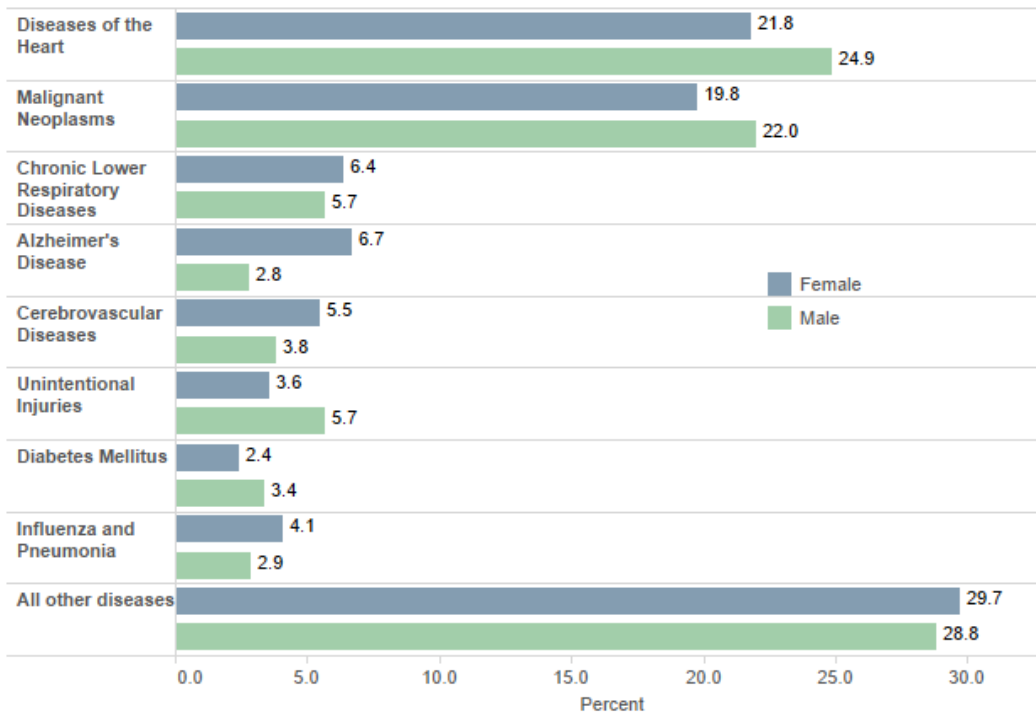
The birth rate for women under 20 years of age in Iowa per 1,000 women in 2018. In 1980 the birth rate was 32.5.

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

9.5

The 2018 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: 2018



Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "Vital Statistics of Iowa 2018"

Data Sources (unless otherwise noted) :
U.S. Census Bureau,
2018 American Community Survey
U.S. Decennial Census
1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000
Photos by U.S. Census Bureau