

Women in Iowa: 2022

March 2022

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.

1,587,866

The number of females in Iowa in 2020. That exceeds the number of men (1,575,695). 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.

Source: 2020 Evaluation Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

1,690,747

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

22.0%

The percent of households with children under 18 in 2019 living with their mother in a single-parent household, compared to 9.0 percent living with their father. This compares to 69.0 percent living with both parents.

673,553

Number of married women in 2019 (including those who are separated or have an absent spouse).

47.9%

Percent of unmarried Iowans 15 years and older who are women in 2019. There are 618,359 unmarried (widowed, divorced or never married) women.

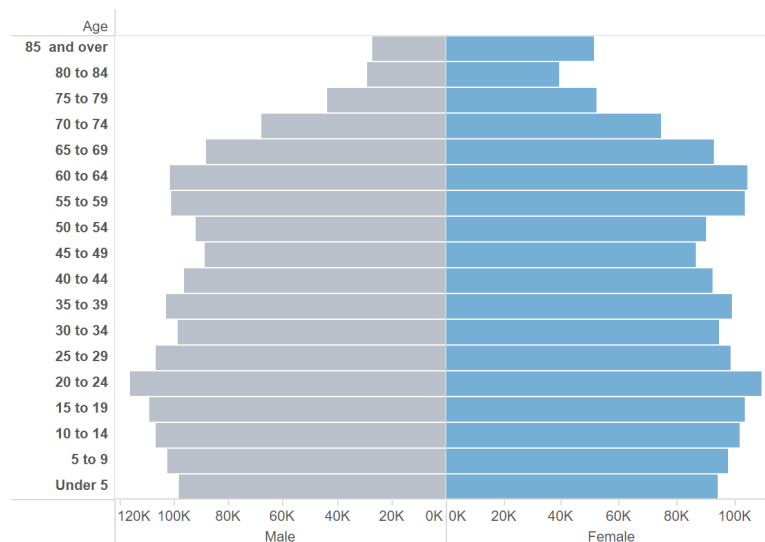
123,077

The number of Iowa families with a female householder, no husband present in 2019. In 1970 there were 52,025 families with a female head of household. This is a 136.6% increase during that time.

39.7

The estimated median age for the female population in Iowa in 2020. The estimated median age for the state of Iowa was 38.6. The male estimated median age was 37.4.

Iowa population by sex and age: 2020



Source: 2020 Evaluation Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau



Coming to America

49.0%

The percent of the foreign-born population in 2019 that were female

Income and Poverty

\$37,154

The median income for female householders, no spouse in Iowa in 2019. The median income for male householder, no spouse present was \$52,302.

\$31,313

The median family income for female householders, no husband with own children under 18 in 2019. The median income for married-couple families was \$99,915. The median income for male householder, no wife present was \$46,364.

12.3%

The poverty rate in 2019 for women in Iowa. The corresponding rate for men is 10.0 percent.

32.0%

The percentage of female households, no spouse present with related children under age 18, below the poverty level in 2019. The corresponding rate for married-couple families with related children under 18 years was 4.2%. For male householder, no spouse present the poverty rate was 14.7%.

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.

Education

266,060

The number of females enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2021-2022 school year, including preschool. This represents 48.6% of the total enrollment in Iowa.

93.3

The graduation rate for girls in 2020. The graduation rate for boys was 90.4.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

110,815

Enrollment of women in Iowa's universities and colleges in 2021. Women make up 54.7 percent of the total enrollment in 2021.

Source: Iowa Student College Aid Commission

93.2%

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over who had at least a high school education in 2019. This compares to 61.8 percent of women who had completed 4 years of high school or higher in 1970.

30.8%

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2019. This compares to 7.5 percent of women who had completed 4 years of college or higher in 1970.

108,244

Number of women in Iowa 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2019. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.) The number of men in Iowa with an advanced degree in 2019 was 93,810.

Business and Jobs

Occupations

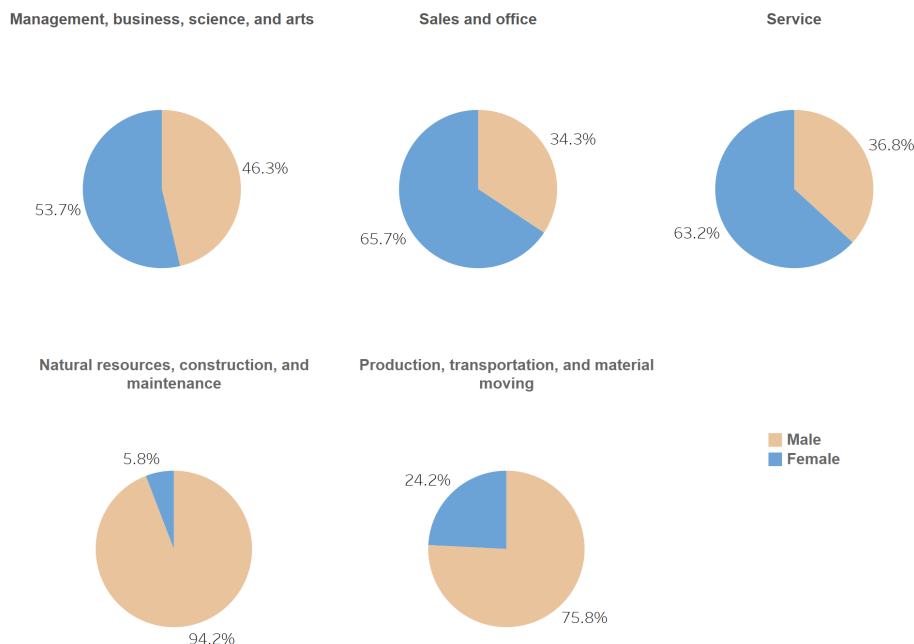
109,648

The number of Iowa women in management, business, and financial occupations in 2019. Women represent a wide variety of occupations in Iowa. For instance, there are about **131,844** in office and administrative support occupations, **78,229** women in healthcare practitioner and technical occupations, and **118,105** education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations.

5.8%

The percent of civilian employed population 16 years and over in Iowa in the Natural resources, construction, and material moving occupations in 2019 that were women. This occupation category has the smallest percentage of female employment.

Occupation by gender in Iowa: 2019



Industry

194,816

The number of Iowa women in the Education services, and health care and social assistance industry in 2019. 39.0% of Iowa's total female labor force work is in this one industry, making it the largest industry sector for female employment.

60.2%

The percent of the work workforce in the Management of companies and enterprises industry who were women in 2019. Women make up **43.9** percent of the Retail trade industry; **57.6** percent in finance and insurance; **57.6** percent in information; and **54.3** percent in accommodation and food services.

Employment

2.9%

The unemployment rate for women age 20 to 64 in Iowa in 2019. The unemployment rate for men was 3.5%.

Earnings

\$40,681

The median earnings in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars for full-time, year-round women workers in Iowa. Men in Iowa had median earnings of \$52,070.

Voting and Representation

28.7%

In 2021 women comprise 28.7% of Iowa's elected legislature, 31 members of the House of Representatives and 12 Senators. (*Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women & Politics; <https://cattcenter.iastate.edu/research/wip-database/women-in-public-office-state/>*)

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.

77.6%

The percentage of registered women in Iowa who reported voting in the 2020 general election. The number of registered males who voted in the same election was 75.9%.
Iowa Secretary of State's office

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Data Sources (unless
otherwise noted):

U.S. Census Bureau,
2019 American Community
Survey

Photos by U.S. Census
Bureau

Vital Events

11.4

Live births per 1,000 population in 2020. In 1980 the birth rate was 15.3.

366.1

The rate of Iowa births to unmarried women in 2020 (per 1,000 births). The rate to unmarried women in 1980 was 102.4.

39.0

The birth rate for women under 20 years of age in Iowa per 1,000 women in 2020. In 1980 the birth rate was 32.5.

**In 2020 the under 20 birth rate was for ages 15-19. In 1980 it was ages 13-19.*

11.1

The 2020 death rate for women in Iowa per 1,000 population. For men in Iowa the death rate was also 11.4 over the same time period. The female death rate in 1980 was 8.4 while the male death rate was 10.2.

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "Vital Statistics of Iowa 2020"

Serving Our Nation 16,254

The number of Iowa women in 2019 who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces. This is 8.8% of the total veteran population.

Leading causes of deaths in Iowa by gender: 2020

