

Women in Iowa: 2023

March 2023

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.

1,591,695

The number of females in Iowa in 2021. The number of men in Iowa is 1,601,384. Males outnumber females in most of the five-year-age groups through the 55-59 age group. Starting with the 60 to 64 age group, women outnumber men. At ages 85 and over there are nearly twice as many women as men.

1,724,070

The projected female population of Iowa in 2060 according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Women will constitute 49.2 percent of the state's total population.

Families and Children

20.8%

The percent of households with children under 18 in 2021 who are living with their mother in a single-parent household, compared to 9.0 percent living with their father. This compares to 70.2 percent living with both parents.

114,021

The number of Iowa families with a female householder, no husband present in 2021. In 1970 there were 52,025 families with a female head of household. This is a 136.6% increase during that time.

670,977

Number of married women in 2021 (including those who are separated or have an absent spouse).

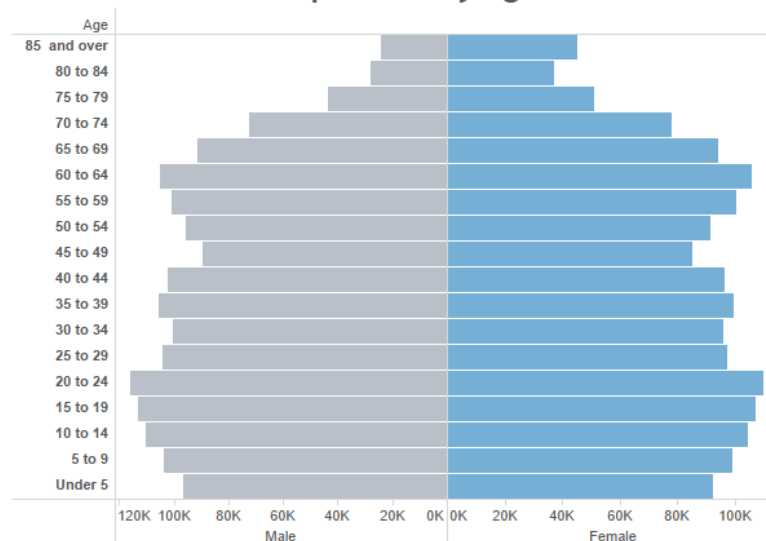
50.7%

Percent of unmarried Iowans 15 years and older who are women in 2021. There are 625,707 unmarried (widowed, divorced or never married) women.

39.5

The estimated median age for the female population in Iowa in 2021. The estimated median age for the state of Iowa was 38.6. The male estimated median age was 37.7.

Iowa Population by Age: 2021





Coming to America

48.5%
The percent of the foreign-born population in 2021 that were female

Income and Poverty

\$40,104

The median income for female householders, no spouse in Iowa in 2021. The median income for male householder, no spouse present was \$55,275.

12.4%

The poverty rate in 2021 for women in Iowa. The corresponding rate for men is 9.9 percent.

\$33,723

The median family income for female householders, no husband with own children under 18 in 2021. The median income for married-couple families was \$105,576. The median income for male householder, no wife present was \$50,795.

31.9%

The percentage of female households, no spouse present with related children under age 18, below the poverty level in 2021. The corresponding rate for married-couple families with related children under 18 years was 4.6%. For male householder, no spouse present the poverty rate was 15.1%.

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

266,061

The number of females enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2022-2023 school year, including preschool. This represents 48.5% of the total enrollment in Iowa.

109,598

Enrollment of women in Iowa's universities and colleges in 2022. Women make up 54.5 percent of the total enrollment in 2022.

Source: Iowa Student College Aid Commission

32.3%

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2021. This compares to 7.5 percent of women who had completed 4 years of college or higher in 1970.

92.0

The graduation rate for girls in 2021. The graduation rate for boys was 88.4.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

94.0%

The percentage of women in Iowa age 25 and over who had at least a high school education in 2021. This compares to 61.8 percent of women who had completed 4 years of high school or higher in 1970.

110,967

Number of women in Iowa 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2021. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.) The number of men in Iowa with an advanced degree in 2021 was 99,897.

Business and Jobs

Occupations

117,829

The number of Iowa women in management, business, and financial occupations in 2021. Women represent a wide variety of occupations in Iowa. For instance, there are about **131,3574** in office and administrative support occupations, **79,078** women in healthcare practitioner and technical occupations, and **115,254** education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations.

3.5%

The percent of civilian employed population 16 years and over in Iowa in the Natural resources, construction, and material moving occupations in 2021 that were women. This occupation category has the smallest percentage of female employment.

Industry

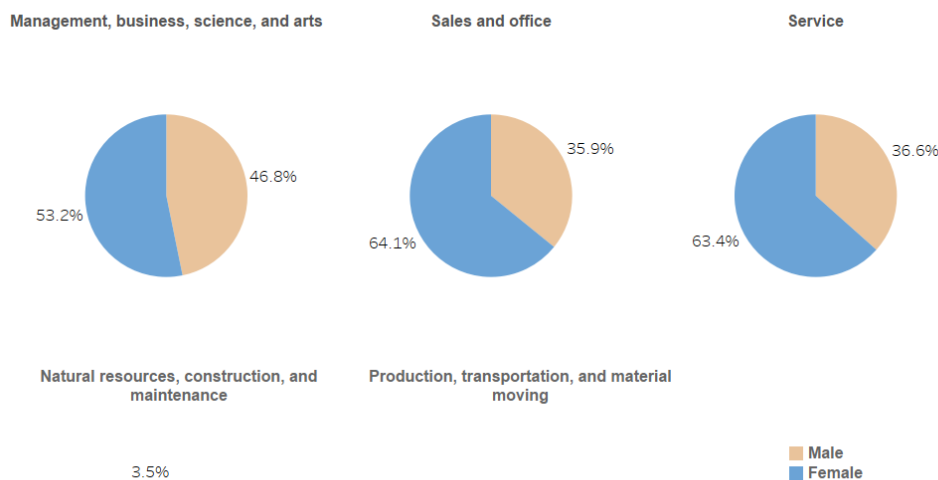
185,840

The number of Iowa women in the Education services, and health care and social assistance industry in 2021. 38.1% 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 Finance and insurance industry who were women in 2021. Women make up **41.6** percent of the Retail trade industry; **54.1** percent in management of companies and enterprises; **46.1** percent in information; and **52.0** percent in accommodation and food services.

Occupation by gender in Iowa: 2021



Employment

3.2%

The unemployment rate for women age 20 to 64 in Iowa in 2021. The unemployment rate for men was 3.6%.

Earnings

\$44,801

The median earnings in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars for full-time, year-round women workers in Iowa. Men in Iowa had median earnings of \$56,427.

Voting and Representation

29.3%

In 2023 women comprise 28.7% of Iowa's elected legislature, 29 members of the House of Representatives and 15 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.

71.7%

The percentage of registered women in Iowa who reported voting in the 2022 general election. The number of registered males who voted in the same election was 70.4%.
Iowa Secretary of State's office

**THE STATE DATA CENTER
OF IOWA**



State Library of Iowa
Miller Building
1112 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515-281-6618
census@iowa.gov



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**



321 E. 12th
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Tel: 515/281-4470 or
800/558-4427
Fax: 515/242-6119
Email: women@iowa.gov
https://
www.humanrights.iowa.gov/
cas/icsw

**Data Sources (unless
otherwise noted):**

U.S. Census Bureau,
2021 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

13,995

The number of Iowa women in 2021 who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces. This is 8.6% of the total veteran population.

Leading causes of deaths in Iowa by gender: 2020

