

# African-Americans in Iowa: 2024

February 2024

To recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week beginning on Feb. 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month.

## 141,178

The 2022 African American population in Iowa. African Americans constitute 4.4% of the state's total population. In 1980, African Americans made up 1.4% of the state's total population.

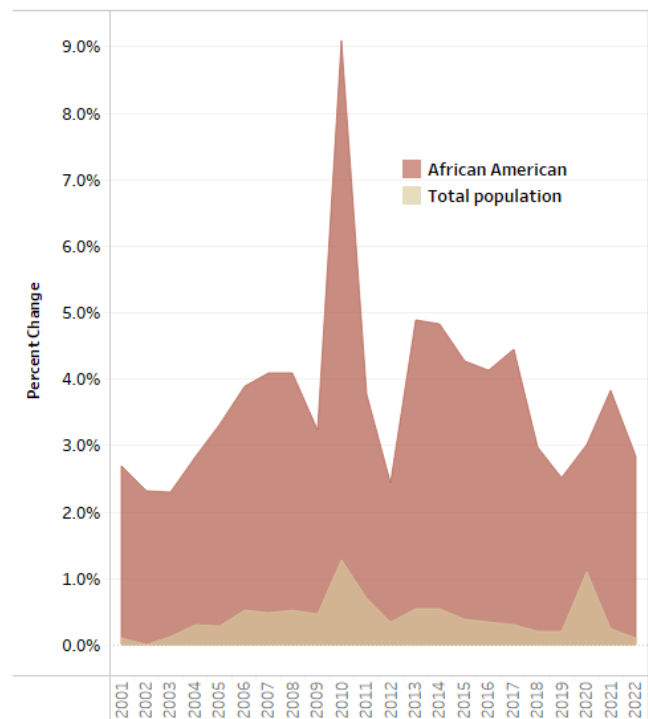
## 238.6%

The percent change in the African American population from 1980 to 2022. This is a **99,478** numeric increase for the period.

## 375,076

The projected African American population of Iowa in 2060, according to Woods & Poole Economics Inc.(2023). African Americans will constitute 10.7 percent of the state's total population.

Annual percent change from 2000-2022



## Age 28.7

The median age of Iowa's African American population in 2022. The median age for the state of Iowa is **38.9**.

## Families and Children

### 24,943

The number of African American families in 2022 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, **71.9** percent include related children under 18 years of age.

### 167.4%

Percent increase in the number of African American families in the state of Iowa from 1980 to 2022. Since 1980, the number of African American families have increased by **15,615**.

### 9.7%

Percentage of the African American population under age 5 in 2022. African Americans have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than the state as a whole (**5.8%**).

## Counties and Cities

### Top 5 counties in Iowa: African American Population

County	2022	2000	Percent change
Polk	39,106	18,113	115.9%
Linn	15,513	4,919	215.4%
Scott	14,395	9,689	48.6%
Johnson	13,381	3,223	315.2%
Black Hawk	12,801	10,179	25.8%

### Top 5 cities in Iowa: African American Population

\*Data is from 2018-2022 5yr American Community Survey

City	2018-2022*	2000	Percent change
Des Moines	25,057	16,025	56.4%
Waterloo	11,885	9,529	24.7%
Cedar Rapids	11,847	4,481	164.4%
Davenport	11,195	9,093	23.1%
Iowa City	6,359	2,333	172.6%

### 115.9%

The percent change of African Americans in Polk county from 2000-2022. Polk county has the largest population of African-Americans of any Iowa county.

### 9.8%

The percent of total population in Black Hawk County who were African American in 2021. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of African Americans are Johnson (8.6%), Scott (8.3%), Polk (7.8%), and Linn (6.8%).

### 95,196

The African American population in five counties: Polk, Scott, Linn, Black Hawk, and Johnson in 2022. This accounts for 67.4% of the total African American population in Iowa.

### 17.7%

The percent of the African American population living in Des Moines. Des Moines has the largest population (25,057) of African Americans in any city in Iowa.

### 17.7%

The percent of the total population in Waterloo who are African American. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage of African Americans are West Burlington (16.4%), Coralville (13.9%) and Des Moines (11.8%).

### 42.5%

The percentage of Iowa's total African American population living in Des Moines, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, and Davenport.

\*Data is from 2018-2022 5yr American Community Survey

## Income and poverty

### \$38,071

The median income in the of African American households in 2022. The median household income for the state during the same time period was \$69,588.

### \$45,723

The median income of African American families in Iowa in 2022. The median income of families in Iowa was \$90,921.

### \$21,477

The per capita money income of Iowa African Americans in 2022. The per capita money income for the state was \$37,949.

### 30.5%

The poverty rate in 2022 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.1 percent.

### 42.5%

The percentage of families with related children under 18 below the poverty level in 2021 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 10.2 percent.



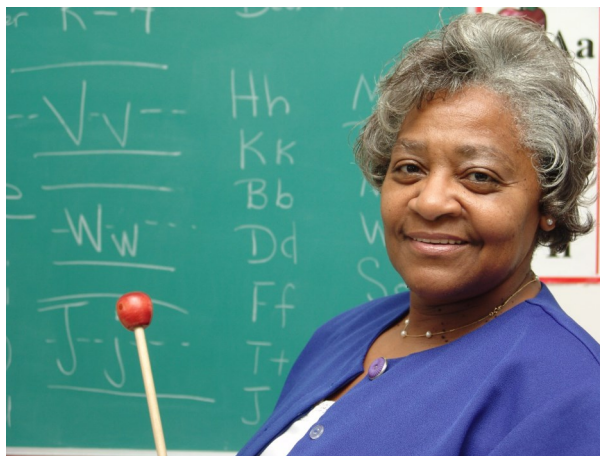
## Employment

**68.1%**

The labor force participation rate of Iowa African Americans age 16 and over in 2022. The labor force participation rate for Iowans age 16 was **66.6%**.

**9.1%**

The unemployment rate of Iowa African Americans in 2022. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was **2.9%**.



## Earnings

**\$27,561**

The median earnings for Iowa African Americans in 2022. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was **\$41,625**.

**\$43,644**

The median earnings for Iowa African American males in 2022. African American women in Iowa had median earnings of **\$37,392**. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were **\$59,736** and **\$44,239** respectively.

## Occupation



**12,672**

Iowa African Americans in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2022. **35.3%** of the African Americans in this occupation group are in management, business and financial occupations.



**34.0%**

The percent in 2022 of Iowa African Americans in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.



**6,085**

The number of Iowa African Americans in sales and office occupations in 2022.



**1,558**

The number of Iowa African Americans in construction and extraction occupations in 2022.



**24.9%**

The percentage of Iowa African Americans in service occupations in 2022. **4,875** African Americans in Iowa are working in healthcare support occupations.

**3,466**  
The number of Iowa African American veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in 2022



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## ICSAA

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Data Sources (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2022 American Community Survey  
2022 Annual Population Estimates  
U.S. Decennial Census 1980,  
2000, 2010, and 2020

## Vital Statistics

### 19.4

The African American birth rate per 1,000 population in 2022. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was **11.5**

### 618.6

The African American rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2022. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was **357.1**.

### 66.9

The African American rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2021. The rate for the state was **37.6**.

### 6.4

The African American death rate per 1,000 population in 2022. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was **10.6**.  
Source: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services



## Housing

### 70.1%

The percentage occupied housing units with an African American householder who rent their home in 2022. The corresponding percentage for the state is 28.0%.

## Education

### 36,639

The number African Americans enrolled in the state's public and non public elementary and high schools during the 2023-2024 school year. African Americans represent **7.1%** of Iowa's school enrollment (**518,087**).

### 87.3%

Percent increase in African American enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2023-2024.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

### 83.3%

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2022. The percentage for Iowa was **93.5%**.

### 15.4%

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2022. The percentage for Iowa was **32.3%**.

### 5.4%

Percentage of Iowa African Americans 25 years and older with graduate or professional degree in 2022. The percentage of Iowans with a graduate or professional degree was **10.8%**.