

Older Iowans: 2022

May 2022

A meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens resulted in President John F. Kennedy designating May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month, encouraging the nation to pay tribute in some way to older people across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter's proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, a time to celebrate those 65 and older through ceremonies, events and public recognition.

553,575

The estimated number of people age 65 and over in Iowa in 2019. This age group accounted for 17.5% of the total population. In 2019 Iowa ranked 17th nationwide in the percentage of population age 65 and older.

305,392

The estimated number of women age 65 and over in Iowa in 2019. This accounted for 55.2% of the age group 65 and over. The estimated number of women age 85 and was 48,977. This was 63.8% of Iowans 85 and over.

709,477

The projected population age 65 and older in Iowa in the year 2050. According to Woods & Poole Economics Inc., this age group will constitute 20.8% of the state's total population at that time.

Households and Families

29.8%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over who lived alone in 2019.

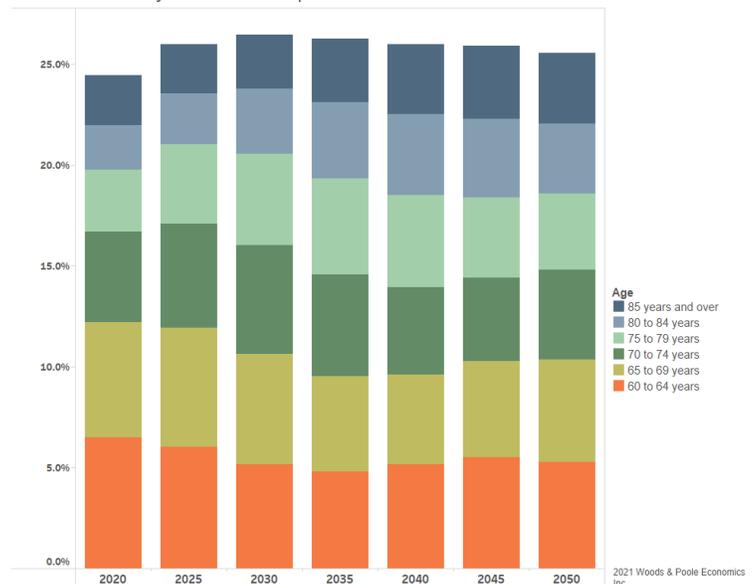
17,917

The number of children under 18 who are being cared for by a grandparent in Iowa in 2019.

24,079

Number of Iowans age 65 and older in 2019 who lived in group quarters. Group quarters include nursing facilities; military quarters, correctional facilities as well as college student housing. This age group is 24.7% of the total group quarter population.

Projected Iowa Population: 2020-2050



Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance

\$45,150

Median household income in 2019 with householders 65 and over. The median income for all households in Iowa in 2018 was \$61,691.

7.4%

Poverty rate for people 65 and older in 2019, compared to 11.2% for all Iowans.

1,678

The number of Iowans 65 years and over without health insurance coverage in 2019. That is 0.3% of that population without health insurance coverage. The percentage of the total population in Iowa without health insurance coverage was 4.7%.

516,148

The number of 2019 social security beneficiaries aged 65 or older in Iowa. This group collected \$771,702,000 total benefits.

Data provided by the Social Security Administration publication "OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County" <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/>

Voting

86.9%

Percentage of registered Iowans age 65 and older who voted in the 2020 general election, the highest rate of any age group.

27.5%

Percent of the votes cast by citizens age 65 and older in the 2020 election.

Data provided by the Iowa Secretary of State

Education

90.8%

Percent of people age 65 and older in 2019 with at least a high school diploma. The percent of all Iowans age 25 and over with at least a high school diploma was 92.5%.

23.1%

Percentage of the population age 65 and older in 2019 who had earned a bachelor's degree or higher education. The percent of all Iowans age 25 and over who had earned a bachelor's degree or higher was 29.3%.

Migration

94.0%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over who did not move between 2018 and 2019. This can be compared to 86.1% for the state as a whole.

72.5%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over in 2019 who were born in Iowa. The percent of all Iowans born in the state was 79.7%.

4,059

The number of people age 65 and over who moved into the state of Iowa between 2018 and 2019. This represented only 5.6% of all the people who moved into the state during that time.

Serving Our Nation

17.7%

Percentage of people in 2019 age 65 and older in Iowa who are military veterans.

Disability

159,517

The number of lowans in 2019 age 65 and over with at least one type of disability.

38.6%

The percent of Iowa veterans in 2019 age 65 and over with a disability.

163,310

The number of people 65 & over in 2019 with a disability that have health insurance coverage

Type of Disability: 2019 Population 65 and over	
Hearing difficulty	77,343
Vision difficulty	24,931
Cognitive difficulty	33,686
Ambulatory difficulty	94,649
Self-care difficulty	29,601
Independent living difficulty	58,274

Employment

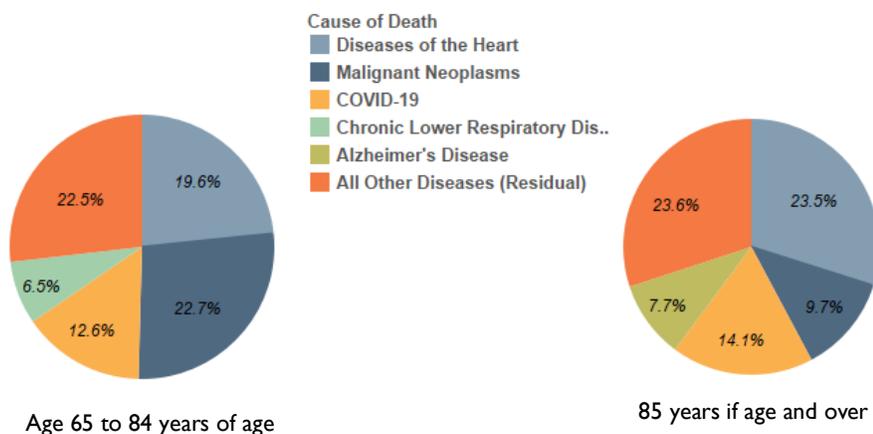
18.9%

Labor force participation rate for lowans age 65 and older in 2019. There were 104,383 lowans age 65 and over in the labor force.

1.6%

The unemployment rate in 2019 for lowans age 65 and over.

Vital Statistics



Leading causes of death for all lowans: 2020	
Disease of the heart: 20.7%	Alzheimer's Disease: 4.1%
Malignant Neoplasms : 17.4%	Unintentional injuries: 4.5%
COVID-19: 12.0%	Cerebrovascular Diseases: 3.9%
Chronic lower Respiratory: 4.7%	Other: 32.7%

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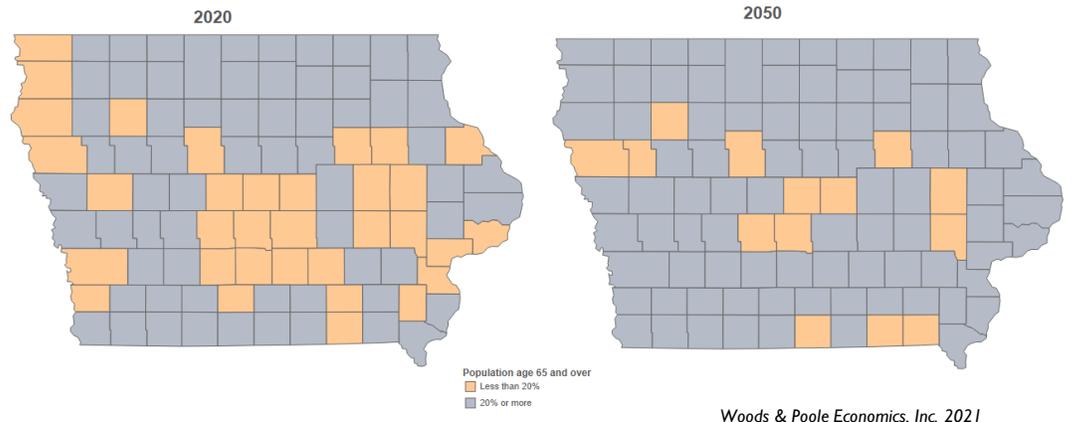
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Data Source:
(unless otherwise noted)
U.S. Census Bureau,
American Community Survey,
2019
Woods & Poole Economics,
Inc. 2021

Photos by the U.S. Census
Bureau

Older Iowans: 2022

Percent of the total population 65 years of age and over



Counties and Cities

66,091

The number of people age 65 and over in Polk County, making it the largest population of this age group in any county in 2019.

26.7%

The percent of total population in Dickinson county who are age 65 and over in 2019. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage in this age group are Ringgold (24.8%), Monona (24.7%), Audubon (24.7%), and Cherokee (24.7%).

50.7%

Just over half of Iowans age 65 and over in 2019 lived in these 10 counties: Polk, Linn, Scott, Black Hawk, Johnson, Dubuque, Pottawattamie, Woodbury, Story, and Dallas.

8

The number of Iowa counties with a decrease in the population age 65 and over between 2010 and 2019.

Source: 2019 Annual Population Estimates

85

The number of Iowa counties in 2050 in which at least 20% of the residents will be age 65 and over according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. In 2000 that number was 30.

25,251

The number of people age 65 and over in Des Moines, making it largest population of this age group in any Iowa city.

75.6%

The percent of total population in Wahpeton who were age 65 and over. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage in this age group were Clayton (71.7%), Carbon (62.2%), West Okoboji (52.9%) and Harper's Ferry (50.2%).

17.8%

The percent of the total population age 65 and over who lived in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City, Waterloo, and Dubuque.
Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey