

Older Iowans: 2023

May 2023

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.

567,581

The estimated number of people age 65 and over in Iowa in 2021. This age group accounted for 17.8% of the total population. In 2021, Iowa ranked 20th nationwide in the percentage of population age 65 and older.

307,711

The estimated number of women age 65 and over in Iowa in 2021. This accounted for 54.2% of the age group 65 and over. The estimated number of women age 85 and was 44,005. This was 63.7% of Iowans 85 and over.

729,292

The projected population age 65 and older in Iowa in the year 2060. 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

44.4%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over who lived alone in 2021.

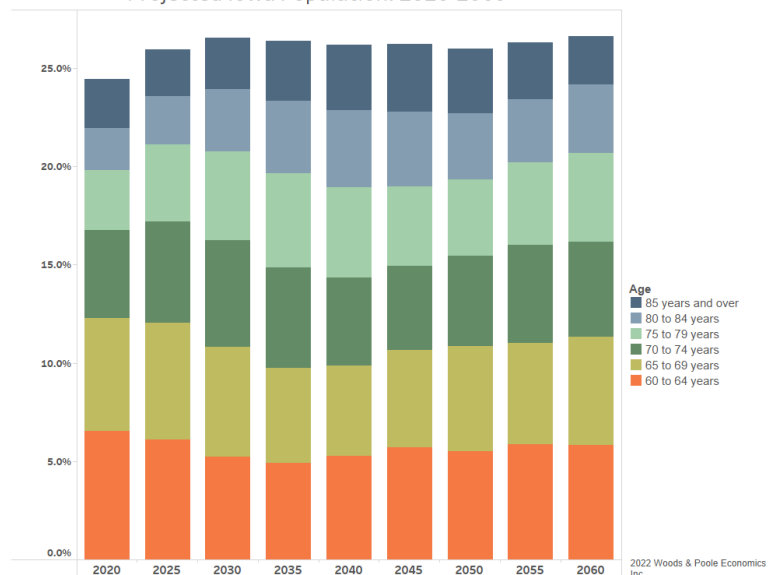
14,721

The number of children under 18 who are being cared for by a grandparent in Iowa in 2021.

21,362

Number of Iowans age 65 and older in 2021 who lived in group quarters. Group quarters include nursing facilities; military quarters, correctional facilities as well as college student housing. This age group is 23.0% of the total group quarter population.

Projected Iowa Population: 2020-2060



Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance

\$48,171

Median household income in 2021 with householders 65 and over. The median income for all households in Iowa in 2021 was \$65,600.

8.4%

Poverty rate for people 65 and older in 2021, compared to 11.1% for all Iowans.

1,656

The number of Iowans 65 years and over without health insurance coverage in 2021. That is 0.3% of that population without health insurance coverage. The percentage of the total population in Iowa without health insurance coverage was 4.8%.

533,699

The number of 2021 social security beneficiaries aged 65 or older in Iowa. This group collected \$884,875,000 total benefits.

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

Voting

33.1%

Percent of the registered voters age 65 and older who voted in the 2022 election.

Data provided by the Iowa Secretary of State

Education

92.7%

Percent of people age 65 and older in 2021 with at least a high school diploma. The percent of all Iowans age 25 and over with at least a high school diploma was 93.3%.

24.4%

Percentage of the population age 65 and older in 2021 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 30.5%.

Migration

94.1%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over who did not move between 2020 and 2021. This can be compared to 86.3% for the state as a whole.

72.5%

Percent of Iowans age 65 and over in 2021 who were born in Iowa. The percent of all Iowans born in the state was 79.7%.

7,535

The number of people age 65 and over who moved into the state of Iowa between 2020 and 2021. This represented only 8.7% of all the people who moved into the state during that time.

Serving Our Nation

15.5%

Percentage of people in 2021 age 65 and older in Iowa who are military veterans.

Disability

166,900

The number of lowans in 2021 age 65 and over with at least one type of disability.

30.4%

The percent of Iowa veterans in 2021 age 65 and over with a disability.

166,900

The number of people 65 & over in 2021 with a disability that have health insurance coverage.

Type of Disability: 2021 Population 65 and over	
Hearing difficulty	79,348
Vision difficulty	27,975
Cognitive difficulty	33,365
Ambulatory difficulty	95,295
Self-care difficulty	30,666
Independent living difficulty	57,804

Employment

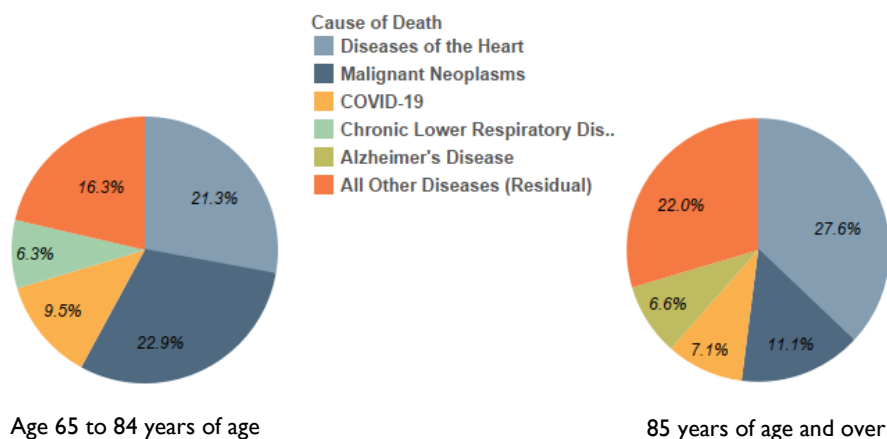
19.3%

Labor force participation rate for lowans age 65 and older in 2021. There were 109,559 lowans age 65 and over in the labor force.

3.2%

The unemployment rate in 2021 for lowans age 65 and over.

Vital Statistics



Leading causes of death for all lowans: 2021

Disease of the heart: 22.4%	Chronic lower Respiratory: 4.9%
Malignant Neoplasms : 18.2%	Cerebrovascular Diseases: 4.1%
COVID-19: 8.9%	Alzheimer's Disease: 3.4%
Unintentional injuries: 5.0%	Other: 33.1%

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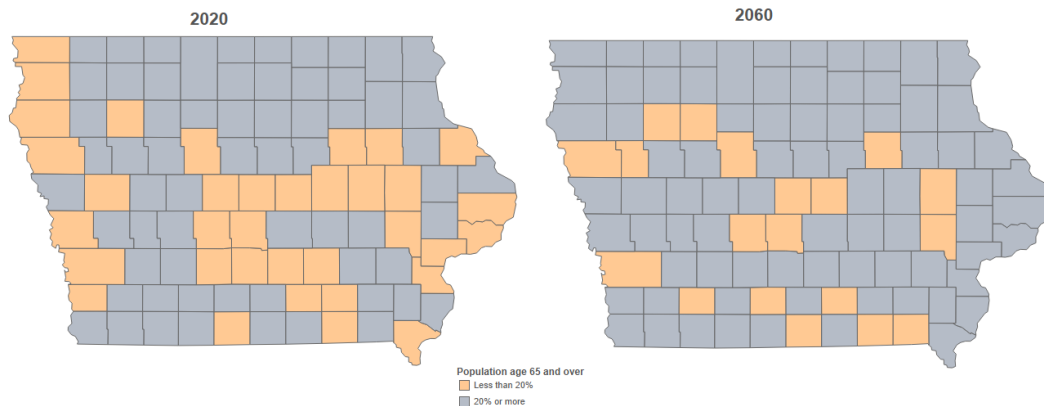
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Data Source:
(unless otherwise noted)
U.S. Census Bureau,
2021 American Community
Survey,
2021 Annual population estimates
Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.
2022

Photos by the U.S. Census
Bureau

Older Iowans: 2022

Percent of the total population 65 years of age and over



Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. 2022

Counties and Cities

67,875
The number of people age 65 and over in Polk County, making it the largest population of this age group in any county in 2021,

27.1%
The percent of total population in Dickinson county who are age 65 and over in 2021. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage in this age group are Audubon (25.0%), Kossuth (24.7%), Clayton (24.6%), and Jefferson (24.4%).

45.3%
Iowans age 65 and over in 2021 lived in these 10 counties: Polk, Linn, Scott, Black Hawk, Johnson, Dubuque, Pottawattamie, Woodbury, Story, and Dallas.

6
The number of Iowa counties with a decrease in the population age 65 and over between 2010 and 2021.
Source: 2021 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.

25,805
The number of people age 65 and over in Des Moines, making it largest population of this age group in any Iowa city.

68.8%
The percent of total population in Bassett who were age 65 and over. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage in this age group were Pioneer (68.4%), Conway (66.7%), Carbon (58.8%) and Hayesville (58.1%).

19.0%
The percent of the total population age 65 and over who lived in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City, Dubuque, Waterloo, and Council Bluffs.
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey