

African-Americans in Iowa: 2022

February 2022

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.

131,972

The population of African Americans in Iowa according to the 2020 Census. African Americans constitute 4.1% of the state's total population. In 1980, African Americans made up 1.4% of the state's total population.

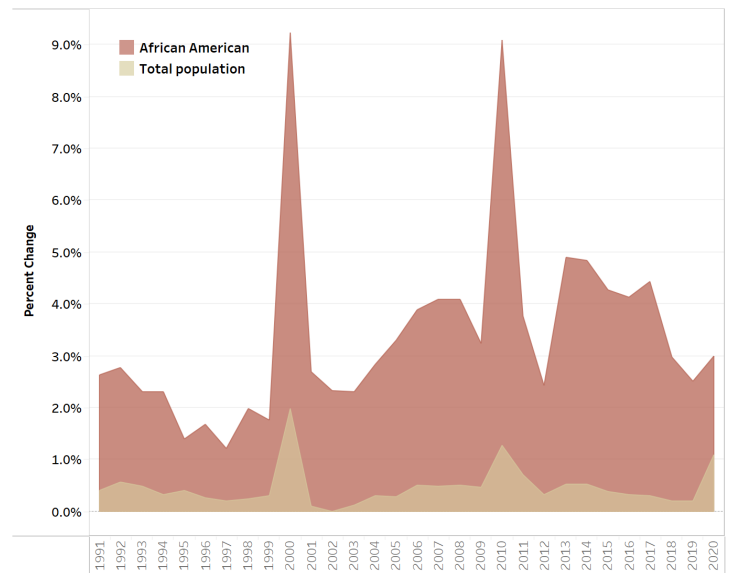
216.5%

The percent change in the African American population from 1980 to 2020. This is a **90,272** numeric increase for the period.

294,172

The projected African American population of Iowa in 2050, according to Woods & Pool Economics Inc. (2021). African Americans will constitute 8.6 percent of the state's total population.

Annual percent change from 1990-2020



**Age
28.4**

The median age of Iowa's African American population in 2019. The median age for the state of Iowa is **38.5**.

Families and Children

26,353

The number of African American families in 2019 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, **75.8** percent include related children under 18 years of age.

182.5%

Percent increase in the number of African American families in the state of Iowa from 1980 to 2019. Since 1980, the number of African American families have increased by **17,025**.

9.6%

Percentage of the African American population under age 5, in 2019. African Americans have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than the state as a whole (**6.2%**).

Counties and Cities

Top 5 counties in Iowa: African American Population

County	2020	2000	Percent change
Polk	36,623	18,113	102.2%
Linn	16,449	4,919	234.4%
Scott	14,117	9,689	45.7%
Black Hawk	13,676	10,179	34.4%
Johnson	12,847	3,223	298.6%

Top 5 cities in Iowa: African American Population

City	2020	2000	Percent change
Des Moines	25,011	16,025	56.1%
Cedar Rapids	14,338	4,481	220.0%
Davenport	12,187	9,093	34.0%
Waterloo	12,150	9,529	27.5%
Iowa City	7,664	2,333	228.5%

102.2%

The percent change of African Americans in Polk county from 2000-2020. Polk county has the largest population of African-Americans of any Iowa county.

10.4%

The percent of total population in Black Hawk County who were African American in 2020. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of African Americans are Johnson (8.4%), Scott (8.11%), Polk (7.2%) and Linn (7.1%).

92,712

The African American population in five counties: Polk, Scott, Linn, Black Hawk, and Johnson in 2020. This accounts for 70.3% of the total African American population in Iowa.

57.0%

Over half of the growth in Iowa's African American population from 2010-2020 occurred in three counties: Polk, Linn and Johnson.

19.0%

The percent of the African American population living in Des Moines in 2020. Des Moines has the largest population (25,011) of African Americans in any city in Iowa.

18.0%

The percent of the total population in Waterloo who are African American in 2020. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage of African Americans are Coralville (14.0%) and Davenport (12.0%).

48.3%

The percentage of Iowa's total African American population living in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, and Waterloo in 2020.

Income and poverty



\$35,548

The median income in the of African American households in 2019. The median household income for the state during the same time period was \$61,691.

\$39,414

The median income of African American families in Iowa in 2019. The median income of families in Iowa was \$78,152.

\$18,741

The per capita money income of Iowa African Americans in 2019. The per capita money income for the state was \$33,107.

27.3%

The poverty rate in 2019 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.2 percent.

30.6%

The percentage of families with related children under 18 below the poverty level in 2019 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.7 percent.

Employment

71.9%

The labor force participation rate of Iowa African Americans age 16 and over in 2019. The labor force participation rate for Iowans age 16 was **66.9%**.

10.1%

The unemployment rate of Iowa African Americans in 2019. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was **3.7%**.



Earnings

\$25,346

The median earnings for Iowa African Americans in 2019. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was **\$35,837**.

\$32,419

The median earnings for Iowa African American males in 2018. African American women in Iowa had median earnings of \$30,134. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$51,488 and \$40,353 respectively.

Occupation



10,737

Iowa African Americans in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2019. 32.6% of the African Americans in this occupation group are in management, business and financial occupations.



35.0%

The percent in 2019 of Iowa African Americans in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations.



9,706

The number of Iowa African Americans in sales and office occupations in 2019.



1,722

The number of Iowa African Americans in construction and extraction occupations in 2019.



22.3%

The percentage of Iowa African Americans in service occupations in 2019. 3,634 African Americans in Iowa are working in healthcare support occupations.

6,002
The number of Iowa African American veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in 2019



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Data Sources (unless otherwise noted):
U.S. Census Bureau,
2019 American Community Survey
U.S. Decennial Census 1980,
2000, 2010, and 2020

Vital Statistics

20.1

The African American birth rate per 1,000 population in 2020. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was **11.4**

636.1

The African American rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2020. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was **366.1**.

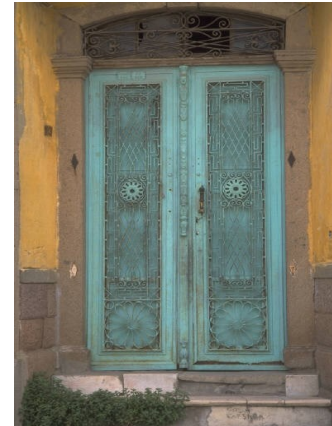
73.9

The African American rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2020. The rate for the state was **39.0**.

5.6

The African American death rate per 1,000 population in 2020. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was **11.3**.

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health



Housing

76.6%

The percentage occupied housing units with an African American householder who rent their home in 2019. The corresponding percentage for the state is 29.5%.

Education

34,646

The number African Americans enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2021-2022 school year. African Americans represent **6.7%** of Iowa's school enrollment (**518,087**).

77.1%

Percent increase in African American enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2021-2022.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

83.0%

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2019. The percentage for Iowa was **92.6%**.

14.9%

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2019. The percentage for Iowa was **29.3%**.

3.9%

Percentage of Iowa African Americans 25 years and older with graduate or professional degree in 2019. The percentage of Iowans with a graduate or professional degree was **9.5%**.