

1

Population Characteristics

Highlights

- Females make up the majority of the state's population—50.8 percent.
- In 2005, Iowa ranked fourth in the nation in the percentage of population over 85 years of age, fifth in the percentage of population over 75 years of age, fifth in the percentage of population over 65 years of age, and sixth in the percentage of the population over 60 years of age.
- Sixty-two percent of Iowa's female population resides in urban areas, an increase over 1950 when just 49 percent lived in urban areas.
- In 2004, fewer Iowa women than ever before were married—56.5 percent.
- The number of divorces obtained each year in the state has been declining; in 2004 there were 8,305 divorces.
- Between 1970 and 2005, the number of single-parent, female-headed households increased 184.1 percent, from 26,570 to 275,485, while the number of single-parent, male-headed households increased 467.2 percent, from 4,301 to 24,395.

—Chapter 1—

Population Characteristics

1.1 Introduction

Women have comprised the majority of Iowa’s population for more than 50 years, a majority that increases among each advancing age group. Public policy initiatives must address the needs of older women, as well as support single heads of households.

1.2 Population

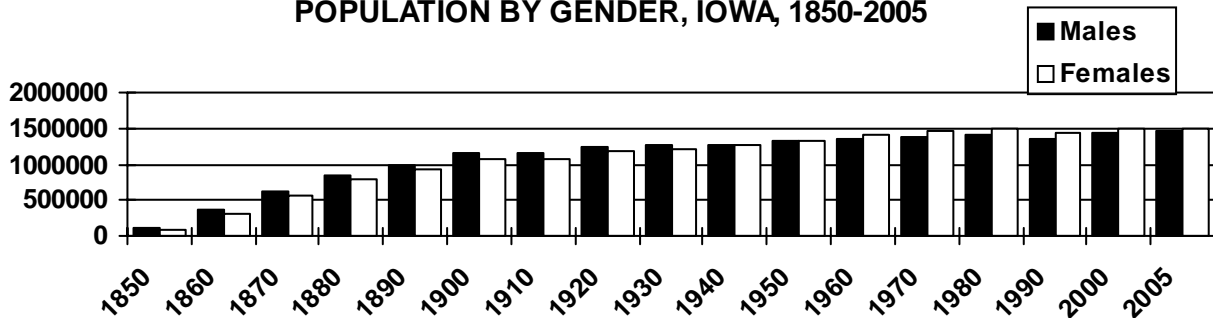
Until 1950, males outnumbered females in Iowa. Subsequently, females have remained the majority of Iowa’s population. In 2005, females represented more than one-half, or 50.8 percent, of the state’s population, outnumbering males 1,505,585 to 1,460,749. (SEE FIGURE 1.1)

Iowa’s overall population increased five percent in

the 1950s.¹ Throughout the 1980s, Iowa’s population declined. 2005 American Community Survey (ACS) census data reports a 5.1 percent increase in the female population and an 8.6 percent increase in the male population since 1990.

Iowa’s population consists of many racial and ethnic groups. Whites comprise the largest racial group, totaling 94.9 percent of the population as reported in the 2005 ACS census data. (SEE FIGURE 1.2)

Figure 1.1
POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1850-2005



SEE TABLE 1.1 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: U.S. Census and Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University

Figure 1.2
POPULATION OF GENDER AND MINORITY STATUS, IOWA, 2005* **

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>%</u>
TOTAL POPULATION	2,966,344	100.0%
Female	1,505,585	50.8%
White	2,816,321	94.9%
African American	69,414	2.3%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander	44,297	1.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	9,905	0.3%
Other Races	43,915	1.5%
Two or More Races	26,670	0.9%
Hispanic	108,968	3.7%
TOTAL MINORITY	258,981	8.7%

*May not sum due to rounding

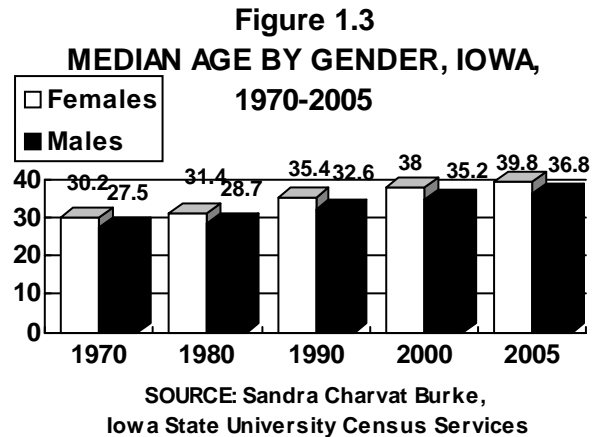
**Hispanic included in total minority, also counted within other categories in population

SOURCE: 2005 American Community Survey

1.3 Age

The median age, or the point at which half of the residents are older and half are younger, of females has been greater than that of males between 1940 and 2000, and continues to remain so. In 2005 the median age was 39.8 years for females and 36.8 for males. In 1990 the median age was 35.4 for females, compared to 32.6 for males. (SEE FIGURE 1.3)

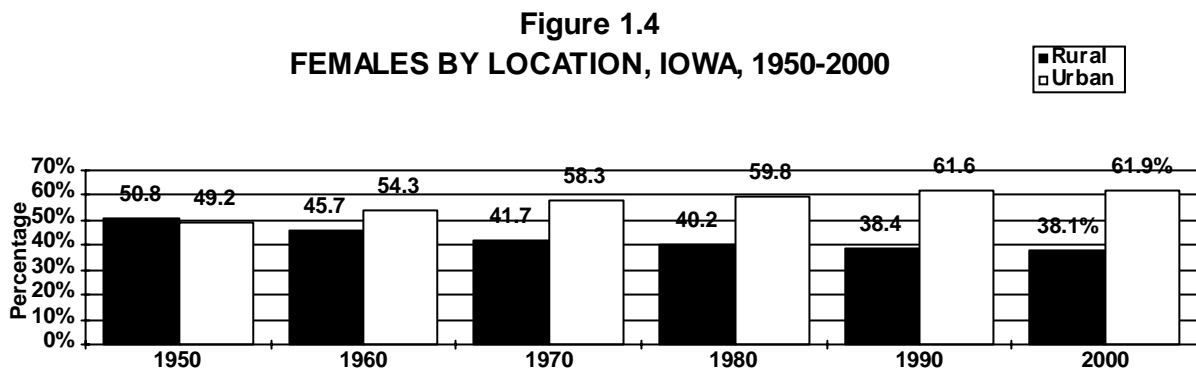
Iowa's elderly population is also on the rise. As of 2005, Iowa ranked fourth in the percentage of population over 85 years of age, fifth in the percentage of population over 75 years of age, and fifth in the percentage of population over 65 years of age.² In 2005, 59 percent of Iowans over 65 were women.



1.4 Population Distribution/Homelessness

According to the 2000 census, approximately six out of every ten Iowan females, or 61.9 percent, resided in urban areas. This was an increase from 1950, when only 49.2 percent of Iowa's female population lived in urban areas. (SEE FIGURE 1.4)

Women comprise 56 percent of the adult homeless population in Iowa. An estimated 21,280 adults, children, and youth were homeless in Iowa at some point during 2005. The largest proportion of homeless individuals, 45 percent, lived in single-parent families. Ninety-four percent of homeless single adult families with children were headed by women. Inability to find affordable housing, eviction/foreclosure, and domestic violence were reported as the primary experiences leading to homelessness, which indicates that family instability is highly correlated with family homelessness.³



SOURCE: U. S. Census and Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Service

1.5 Marriage, Divorce, and Children

In 2005, fewer Iowa women than ever before were married—56.5 percent. (SEE FIGURES 1.5 AND 1.6) The decline in the number of marriages can be partially attributed to Iowa's age structure.⁴ Its older population is one in which there are fewer marriages; sixty-four percent of persons between the ages of 65-74, 42.9 percent between 75-84, and 16.2 percent 85 and older were married in 2005. (SEE FIGURE 1.7)

While the number of marriages in the state has declined, modest growth in the number of divorces followed the advent of Iowa's "no fault" divorce legislation in 1970. From 1970 to 1971 the number of divorces went

from 7,188 to 7,772. The number of divorces peaked in 1981 at 12,071 and has subsequently declined. In 2004, there were 8305 divorces. (SEE FIGURE 1.8)

The average number of divorces that involved children under the age of 18 has remained steady since its 1980 peak. In 2004, 4,376 divorces, or 52.7 percent, involved children.⁵

Including those who have been divorced, widowed, or never married, the number of female-headed households, no husband present, with children increased 184.1 percent between 1970 and 2005. The number of male-headed households, no wife present, increased 467.2 percent during the same period. (SEE FIGURE 1.9)

Figure 1.5
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES, IOWA, 1890-2005

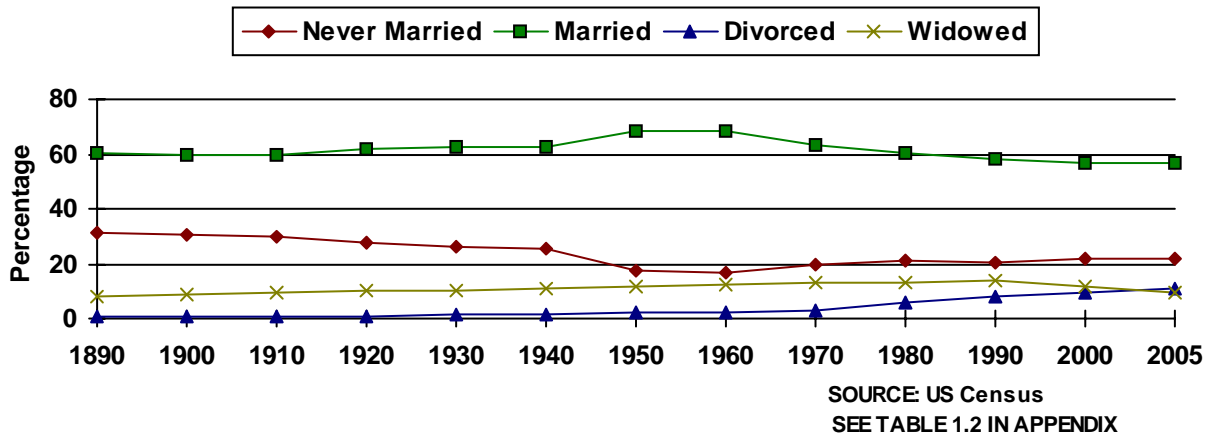


Figure 1.6
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, IOWA, 2005

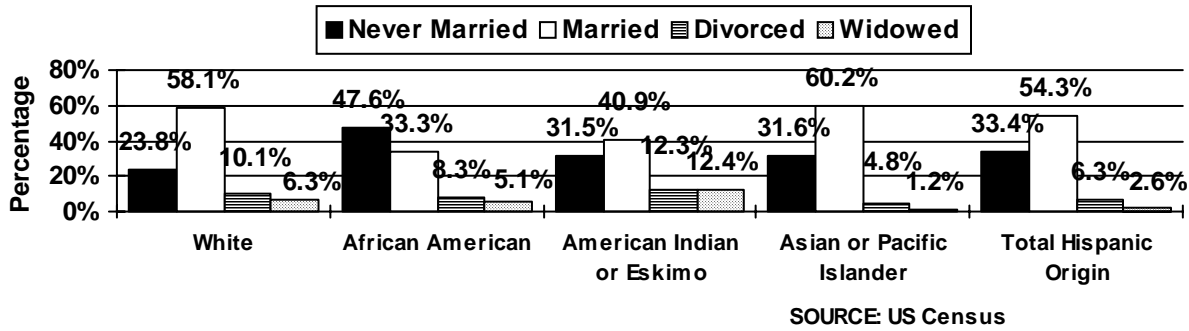


Figure 1.7
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY AGE, IOWA, 2005

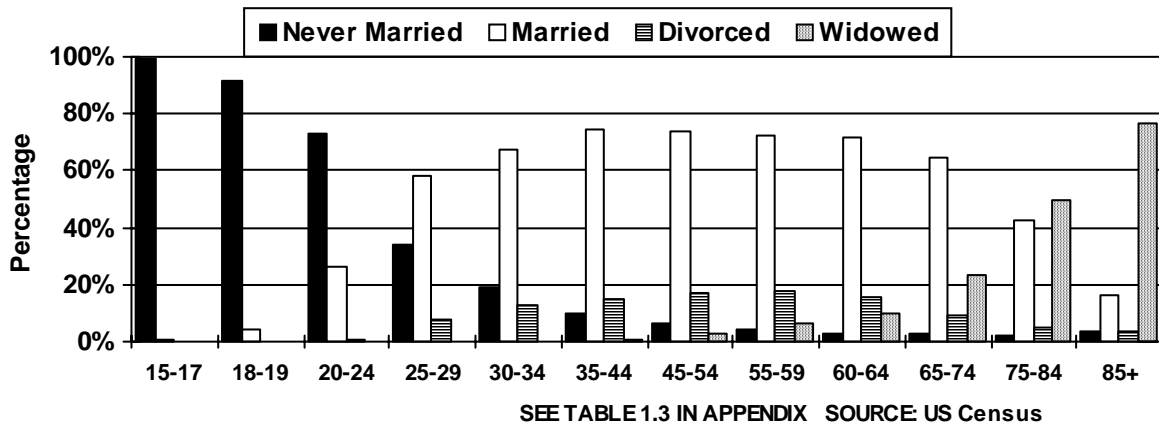


Figure 1.8
DISSOLUTIONS, IOWA, 1960-2004

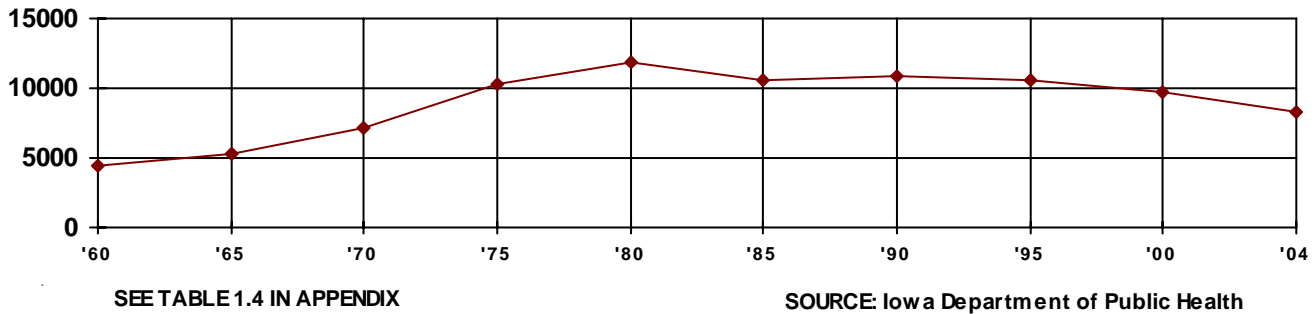
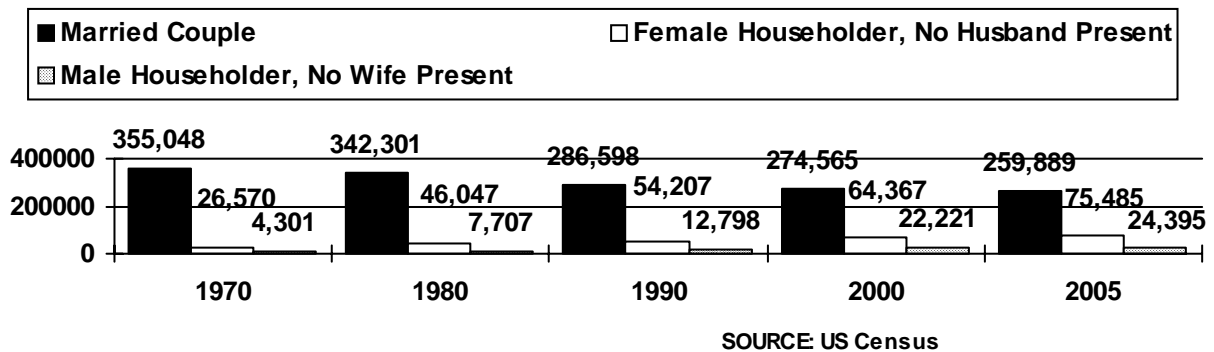


Figure 1.9
FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE, IOWA, 1970-2005



1.6 Forward-looking Strategies

- As Iowa’s population continues to age, issues regarding health care for the elderly, caregiving, and elder abuse must be carefully addressed. More support programs for family caregivers must be developed, especially pertaining to the care of disabled or elderly persons in their private home environment; statewide implementation of integrated case management programs for the frail elderly is needed; Medicaid Home and Community-based waivers for the elderly should be expanded statewide to make more in-home services available; legislative action to increase pay for caregivers, so that the occupation is deemed professional, will result in better health care for the elderly.

- The fastest growing segment of the homeless population in Iowa is women with children, fleeing from violent homes. Additional services need to be provided to ensure adequate housing and safety for these homeless families. Furthermore, a need exists for governmental funding for homeless shelters, transitional housing, and low-income housing.
- Adequate awards and enforcement of child support are imperative.
- Equitable divorce settlements will provide an equal standard of living for both parties.

¹ Willis Goudy and Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services, *Iowa's Counties: Selected Population Trends, Vital Statistics, and Socioeconomic Data*, October 1993.

² U.S. Census Data, American Community Survey, 2005.

³ Iowa Council on Homelessness through the Iowa Finance Authority, *2005 Iowa Statewide Homeless Study*, January 2006, pg 6-20.

⁴ Willis Goudy, "Look at Divorce Numbers, Not Laws," *The Des Moines Register*, January 23, 1996.

⁵ Iowa Department of Public Health, *2004 Vital Statistics of Iowa*, Fall 2006, pg

Appendix

Chapter 1: Population Characteristics

Table 1.1

POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1850-2005

<u>Year</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
1850	91,162	101,052
1860	320,420	354,493
1870	568,103	625,917
1880	776,479	848,136
1890	917,630	994,453
1900	1,075,004	1,156,849
1910	1,076,600	1,148,171
1920	1,174,629	1,229,392
1930	1,215,838	1,255,101
1940	1,257,774	1,280,494
1950	1,310,790	1,310,283
1960	1,398,490	1,359,047
1970	1,451,509	1,372,867
1980	1,497,418	1,416,390
1990	1,431,953	1,344,802
2000	1,490,809	1,435,515
2001	1,491,921	1,439,351
2002	1,492,224	1,442,116
2003	1,494,588	1,446,774
2004	1,499,835	1,453,069
2005	1,505,585	1,460,749

Table 1.2

MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES, IOWA, 1890-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Never Married</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Divorced</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
1890	31.0	60.4	.5	8.1
1900	30.7	59.9	.6	8.6
1910	29.8	60.0	.7	9.1
1920	27.4	61.6	.9	9.9
1930	26.0	62.3	1.4	10.3
1940	25.1	62.3	1.7	10.9
1950	17.8	68.4	2.1	11.6
1960	16.9	68.1	2.4	12.6
1970	20.0	63.5	3.0	13.4
1980	21.3	60.2	5.5	13.0
1990	20.5	58.0	8.0	13.6
2000	21.8	57.0	9.6	11.6
2004	21.6	56.5	10.8	9.8

Table 1.3
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY AGE, 2005

<u>Age</u>	<u>Never Married</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Divorced</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
15-17	99.0	.8	.1	.07
18-19	95.5	4.4	0	.03
20-24	72.8	26.5	.6	.1
25-29	33.9	58.4	7.6	.03
30-34	19.5	67.7	12.6	.2
35-44	9.9	74.3	14.9	1.0
45-54	6.4	73.9	16.9	2.8
55-59	4.2	72.2	17.4	6.2
60-64	2.9	71.7	15.4	10.1
65-74	3.1	64.6	9.1	23.2
75-84	2.1	42.9	5.2	49.8
85+	3.9	16.2	3.2	76.7

Table 1.4
DISSOLUTIONS, IOWA, 1960-2004

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1960	4,483	1983	10,588
1961	4,777	1984	10,509
1962	4,739	1985	10,525
1963	5,003	1986	10,324
1964	5,091	1987	10,527
1965	5,258	1988	10,808
1966	5,571	1989	10,507
1967	6,064	1990	10,913
1968	6,511	1991	10,939
1969	6,995	1992	10,924
1970	7,188	1993	10,700
1971	7,772	1994	10,885
1972	8,471	1995	10,545
1973	9,151	1996	10,347
1974	9,480	1997	9,712
1975	10,304	1998	9,880
1976	10,817	1999	9,737
1977	10,890	2000	9,756
1978	11,123	2001	9,542
1979	11,426	2002	9,113
1980	11,854	2003	8,285
1981	12,071	2004	8,305
1982	10,869		