

# Status of Iowa Women Report

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June 2001, 6th Edition



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*This publication is produced by many people, not all of whom we can adequately acknowledge here. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Sandra Charvat Burke of the Iowa State University Census Services and the many public and private agencies that helped in the creation of this report.*

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# Introduction

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) is a state agency that seeks to assure equality for Iowa women. As an advocacy agency, the Commission works to equalize women's opportunities and to promote full participation by women in the economic, political, and social life of the state.

As part of that goal, the ICSW studies changing needs and problems facing women of Iowa, and recommends and develops programs and constructive action. This report is an effort in that direction, reporting on the status of women and identifying needs in reference to education, health, economics, justice, and politics.

This is the sixth edition of the *Status of Iowa Women Report*. Many positive changes toward women's full participation in all aspects of society are evident in this edition: more women than ever are getting a post-secondary education; they have made significant inroads into some traditionally male-dominated work domains; and, more than ever before, they are participating in the political process. Still, much remains to be done. The 2001 report also shows that girls, by and large, are not enrolling in upper-level high-school computer courses, a necessity for the 21st century; women's earnings lag behind men's; and women continue to be raped, beaten, and battered at staggering rates. Much work needs to be done at the community and state levels to address those and other challenges addressed in this publication.

The ICSW, made statutory in 1972 following several years as a Governor's commission, became a division in the newly created Department of Human Rights in 1986. Nine citizens are appointed by the Governor (and confirmed by the Senate) to four-year terms on the Commission; two Iowa Senators, two Iowa Representatives and the director of the Department of Human Rights serve *ex officio*. The Commission's executive director is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and serves as administrator of the division. The administrator and other staff members enable the division to implement programs and policies as determined by the Commission.





# 1

## Population Characteristics

### *Highlights*

- Females make up the majority of the state's population—50.9 percent.
- In 1999, Iowa ranked second nationally in the percentage of population over 85 years of age, fourth in the percentage of population over 75 years of age, and fifth in the percentage of population over 65 years of age.
- Sixty-two percent of Iowa's female population reside in urban areas, an increase over 1950 when just 49 percent lived in urban areas.
- In 1990, fewer Iowa women than ever before were married—58 percent.
- The number of divorces obtained each year in the state has remained steady for eighteen years, averaging 10,513 a year.
- Between 1970 and 2000, the number of single-parent, female-headed households increased 142 percent, from 26,570 to 64,367, while the number of single-parent, male-headed households increased 416 percent, from 4,301 to 22,221.



—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 with age. Public policy initiatives must address the needs of older women, as well as support single heads of households.

## 1.2 Population

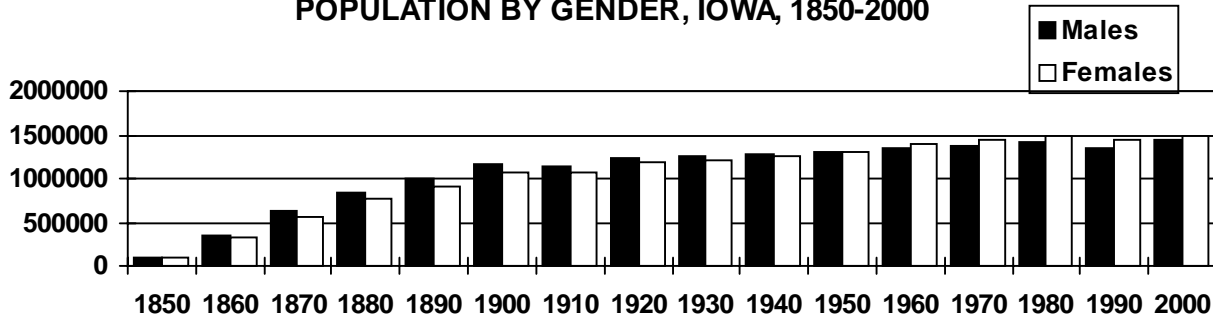
Until 1950, males outnumbered females in Iowa. Since then, females have remained the majority in the state. In 2000, females represented more than one-half, or 50.9 percent, of the state's population, outnumbering males 1,490,809 to 1,435,515. (SEE FIGURE 1.1)

Iowa's overall population increased five percent in the 1950s.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the 1980s, Iowa's population

declined. 2000 census data show an increase of 4.1 percent in the female population and a 6.7 percent increase in the male population.

Iowa's population consists of many racial and ethnic groups. Whites comprise the largest racial group, totaling 93.9 percent of the population as reported in 2000 census data. (SEE FIGURE 1.2)

**Figure 1.1**  
**POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1850-2000**



SEE TABLE 1.1 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Service

**Figure 1.2**  
**POPULATION OF GENDER AND MINORITY STATUS, IOWA, 2000\* \*\***

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	2,926,324	100.0%
<b>Female</b>	1,490,809	50.9%
<b>White</b>	2,748,640	93.9%
<b>African American</b>	61,853	2.1%
<b>Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander</b>	37,644	1.3%
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	8,989	0.3%
<b>Other Races</b>	37,420	1.3%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	31,420	1.1%
<b>Hispanic</b>	82,473	2.8%
<b>TOTAL MINORITY</b>	215,980	7.4%

\*May not sum due to rounding

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

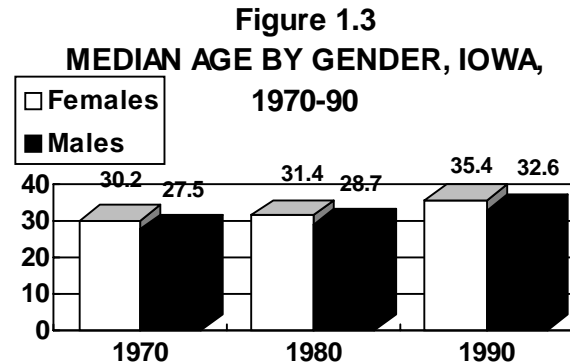
SOURCE: 2000 Census Data

### 1.3 Age

The median age, or the point at which half of the residents are older and half are younger, for females has been greater than that of males between 1940 and 1990, and continues to rise. In 2000, the median age in Iowa was 36.6 years. (2000 Census figures for median age by gender have not yet been released.) In 1990, the median age was 35.4 for females, compared to 32.6 for males. (SEE FIGURE 1.3)

Also on the rise is Iowa's elderly population. In 1999, Iowa ranked second in the percentage of population over 85 years of age, fourth in the percentage of population over 75 years of age, and fifth in the percentage of population over 65 years of age.<sup>2</sup> Fifty-nine percent of

persons over 65 in Iowa are women.

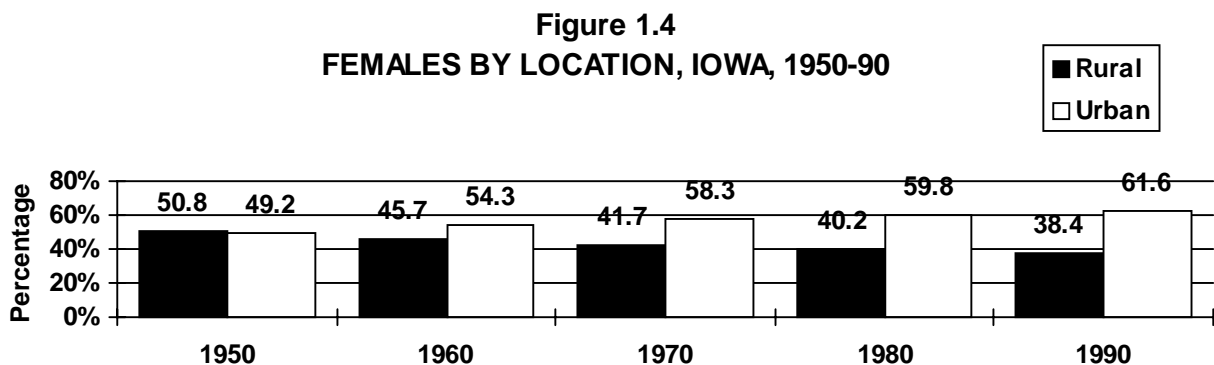


SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

### 1.4 Population Distribution/Homelessness

According to the 1990 census, approximately six out of every ten females, or 61.6 percent, who resided in Iowa lived in urban areas. This is an increase from 1950, when only 49.2 percent of Iowa's female population resided in urban areas. (SEE FIGURE 1.4)

Women comprise well over half the adult homeless population. In 1999, an estimated 18,592 homeless people and 7,306 near-homeless people lived in the state. By far the largest proportion of both homeless and near-homeless individuals live in single-parent households. Eighty-two percent of all homeless, and 90 percent of all near-homeless single adult households with children are headed by a woman. Family breakups are reported as the primary cause of homelessness, far ahead of factors such as eviction or utility disconnection, which indicates that family instability, such as domestic violence, is highly correlated with homeless families.<sup>3</sup>



SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census

### 1.5 Marriage, Divorce, and Children

In 1990, fewer Iowa women than ever before were married—58 percent. (SEE FIGURES 1.5 AND 1.6) The decline in the number of marriages can be partially attributed to Iowa's age structure.<sup>4</sup> Its older population is one in which there are fewer marriages. Only 57.8 percent of those between the ages of 65-74, 31.2 percent between 75-84, and 8.8 percent 85 and older were married in 1990. (SEE FIGURE 1.7)

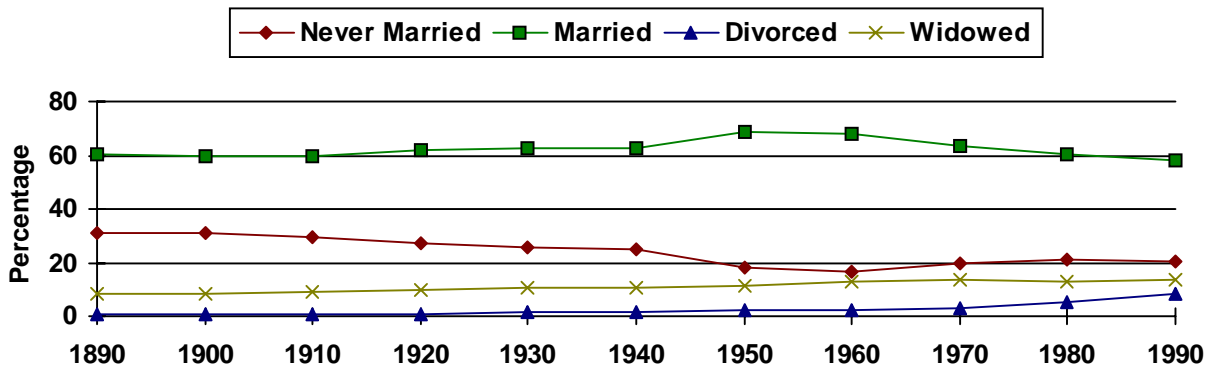
While the number of marriages in the state has declined, there have been modest gains in the number of divorces since the advent of Iowa's "no fault" divorce legislation in 1970. The number of divorces from 1970 to

1971 went from 7,188 to 7,772. Since then, it peaked at 12,071 in 1981 and has leveled to an average of 10,513 per year, which it has maintained for 18 years. (SEE FIGURE 1.8)

Since the peak, the average number of divorces that involved children under the age of 18 has also remained steady, averaging 6,188, or 59 percent of the divorces each year.<sup>5</sup>

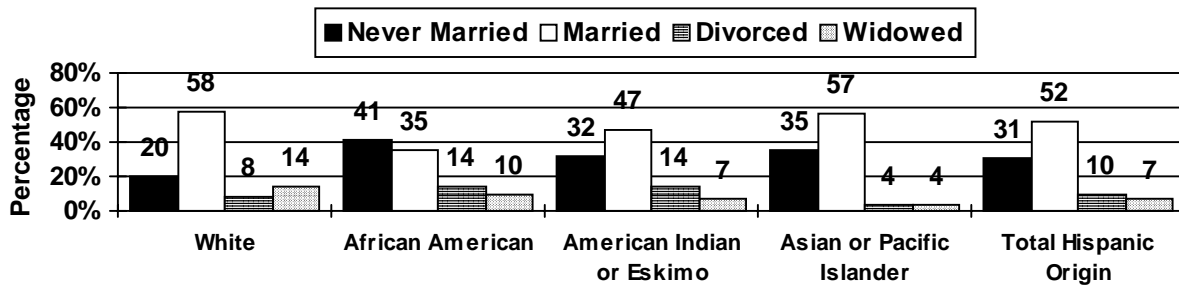
Including those who have been divorced, widowed, or never married, the number of female-headed households, no husband present, with children increased 142 percent between 1970 and 2000 while the number of male-headed households, no wife present, increased 416 percent. (SEE FIGURE 1.9)

**Figure 1.5**  
**MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES, IOWA, 1890-1990**



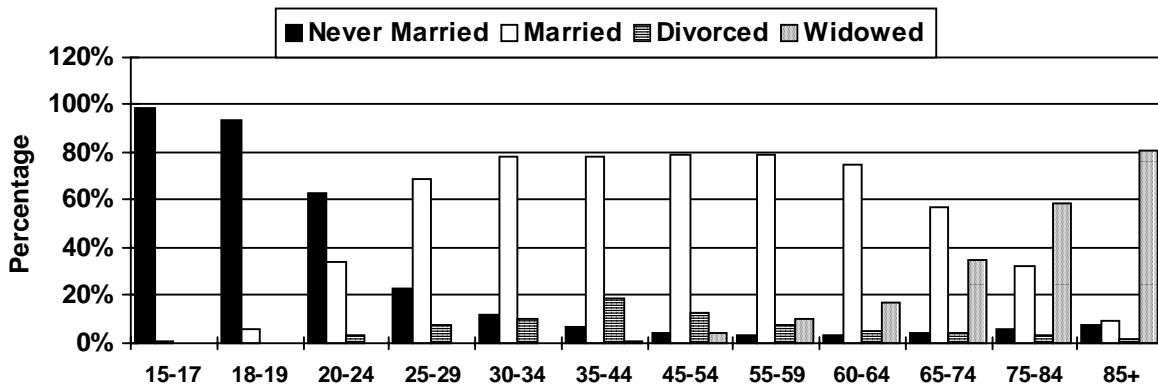
SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services  
SEE TABLE 1.2 IN APPENDIX

**Figure 1.6**  
**MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, IOWA, 1990**



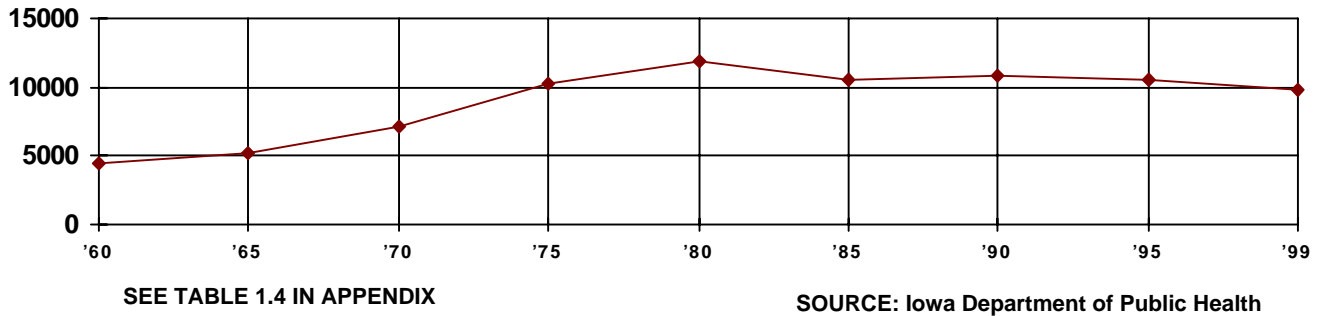
SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 1.7**  
**MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY AGE, IOWA, 1990**

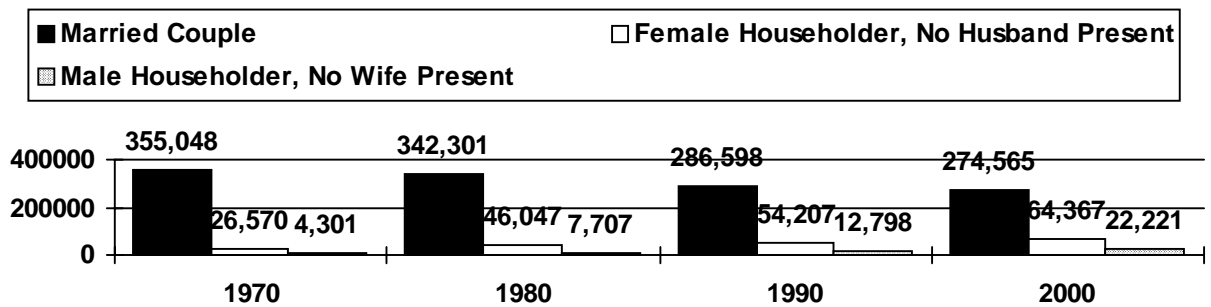


SEE TABLE 1.3 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 1.8**  
**DISSOLUTIONS, IOWA, 1960-1999**



**Figure 1.9**  
**FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE, IOWA, 1970-2000**



**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 caregivers, especially relative to care of disabled or elderly persons in their own homes, must be developed; statewide implementation of integrated case management programs for the frail elderly is needed; Medicaid Home and Community-based waiver 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.
- With Iowa's aging population and women living longer than men, more women than ever before are becoming widows. Women often become displaced homemakers after the death of a spouse (or a divorce), and experience subsequent financial

hardships. A need exists for the continued support of displaced homemaker programs in the state, particularly through increased funding for programs through the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Iowa Department of Human Rights.

- The largest growing population of the homeless in Iowa is women with children, fleeing from violent homes. More 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> Iowa Department of Elder Affairs.

<sup>3</sup> Iowa Department of Education and Iowa State University, *Iowa's Homeless Population: Summary of 1999 Estimates and Profile*. Across all categories of homelessness, domestic violence and family-related issues account for 31.8 percent of the causal factors.

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

<sup>5</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, *Vital Statistics of Iowa* for years 1975-1999.





# 2

## Women and Education

### *Highlights*

- Collectively, Iowa males over the age of 25 have higher educational attainments than women over age 25.
- In the 1997-98 school year, Iowa women were conferred 62.5 percent of all degrees in higher education--the highest ever.
- A 1994 Iowa study shows that 83 percent of young women have experienced at least one sexually harassing incident in school.
- Large gaps are evident in girls' 2000-2001 enrollment in upper-level computer courses. While a virtual split exists between the percentages of boys and girls in Basic Computer and General Computer Application courses statewide, female participation drops in upper levels, from 46.0 percent to 24.4 percent participation.
- Although women make up the majority of elementary school teachers--89.0 percent--they are not equitably represented at the top administrative level. In the 2000-2001 school year, women comprised 45.7 percent of all public elementary school principals. Only 11.2 percent of high school principals were women in that same year.



—Chapter 2—

# Women and Education

## 2.1 Education Introduction

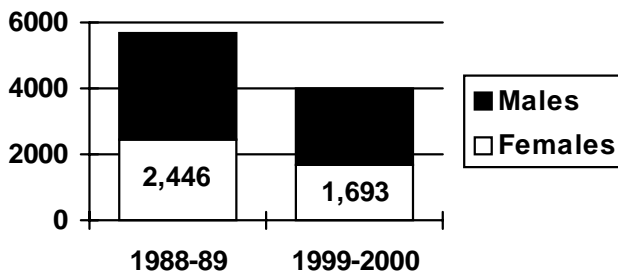
More Iowa women now than ever before are graduating from high school and receiving post-secondary education. Nevertheless, many barriers still exist toward the equal education of males and females. A lack of female administrators and female teacher role models in traditionally male-dominated fields, sexual harassment, and gender role stereotypes all impact the educational experience of Iowa females.

## 2.2 Educational Attainment

Educational enrollment and attainment among Iowa women is on the rise. Young women today are more likely to graduate from high school and college than their mothers and grandmothers. According to a 1990 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) report, 12 percent of working women ages 40-69 did not have a high school degree compared with 6 percent of those ages 25-39. The report also shows that 8 percent of females 75 and older had four or more years of college, while 17 percent of those 25-34 had four or more years of post-secondary education.<sup>1</sup>

The proportion of women and men who obtain high school degrees increased over the past eleven years as the number of women and men who drop out of school decreased. (SEE FIGURE 2.1) Males account for the majority of dropouts for grades 7-12, making up 58.0 percent of the total number of dropouts in the 1999-2000 school year. Females that same year constituted 42.0 percent of the total number of dropouts, down from 44.9 percent one year ago.

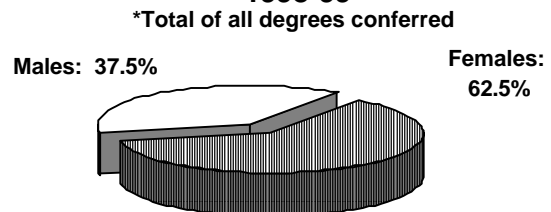
**Figure 2.1**  
**DROPOUTS BY GENDER, IOWA,**  
**1988-89 AND 1999-2000\***



\*Grades 7-12 SOURCE: Iowa Department of Education  
SEE TABLE 2.1 IN APPENDIX

The 1990 U.S. Census shows that women over the age of 25 are at a slightly higher percentage rate than men having at least a high school education (or equivalent), with 80.7 percent for women and 79.5 percent for men. Males over age 25, on the other hand, had a higher percentage rate than women in obtaining post-secondary degrees. Significant movement has been made, however, in closing that gap. In the 1997-98 academic year, more females than males obtained degrees in higher education. (SEE FIGURES 2.2 AND 2.3)

**Figure 2.2**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES**  
**CONFERRED BY GENDER, IOWA,**  
**1998-99\***



SOURCE: Iowa College Student Aid Commission, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems Completions

**Figure 2.3**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES**  
**CONFERRED BY LEVEL, IOWA, 1997-98**

DEGREES	FEMALES	MALES
Less than 2-year Certificates	11.1%	8.6%
Associate	25.2%	24.4%
More than 2-year Certificates	0.7%	0.4%
Bachelor's	47.0%	50.3%
Master's	10.9%	8.3%
Post Baccalaureate	0.2%	0.2%
Doctor's	2.0%	1.5%
First Professional	3.0%	6.2%

SOURCE: Iowa College Student Aid Commission and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems Completions  
SEE TABLE 2.2 IN APPENDIX

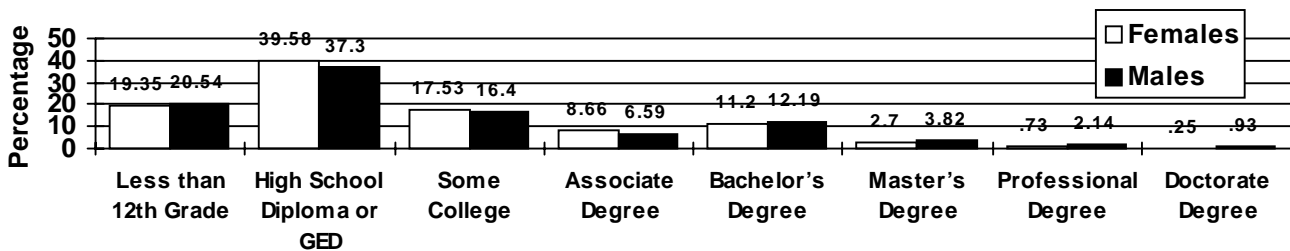
As the gender gap closes for recent college graduates in the number and type of post-secondary education received, the gap is evident in those 25 years and older. Males over the age of 25 are more likely to have their bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctorate degrees, while females tend to hold two-year degrees, a factor that can contribute to lower paying jobs. (SEE FIGURE 2.4)

While the overall levels of educational attainment are increasing for women, dramatic differences still exist among females of different ages, races, and ethnicities. For example, older women are living the effects of an educational gap that widens between females and males with age. Furthermore, white women over the age of 25 are much more likely than African-American, Asian-American, and American-Indian women to have a high

school degree. In 1990, 81 percent of all white women over the age of 25 had a high school degree or more, while only 68.9 percent of African-American women, 69.7 percent of Asian-American women, and 67.5 percent of American-Indian women had high school degrees. Similarly, women of Hispanic origin over the age of 25 were 14.2 percent less likely to have at least a high school degree than white women not of Hispanic origin.

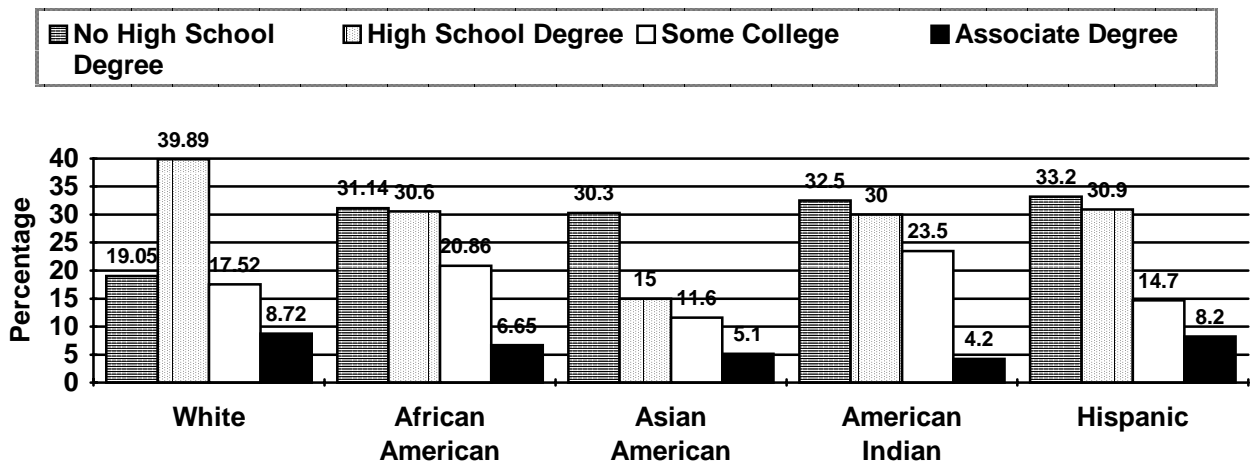
Nevertheless, the 1990 census data reveal that women of color who did graduate from high school were more likely than white women to earn post-secondary degrees. The only exception is African-American women who were twice as unlikely as white women to receive post-secondary degrees. African-American women were, however, more likely than white women to receive a post-college degree. (SEE FIGURES 2.5 AND 2.6)

**Figure 2.4**  
**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY GENDER, THOSE 25+, IOWA, 1990**



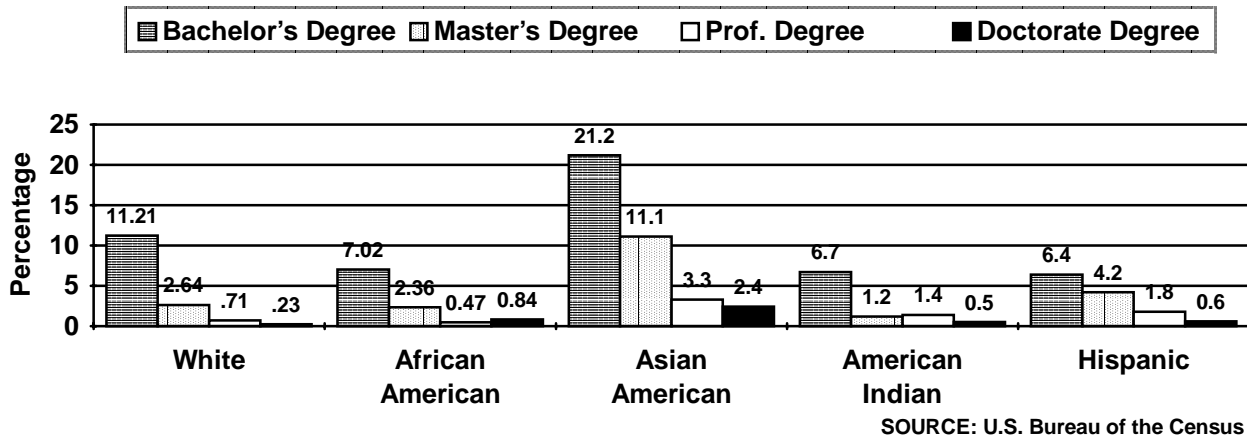
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

**Figures 2.5**  
**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF FEMALES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 1990**



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

**Figure 2.6**  
**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF FEMALES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 1990**



### 2.3 Sexual Harassment in Education

Students' success in school is dependent upon a number of factors, including whether or not they find themselves in a hostile educational environment. Nationwide and in Iowa's high schools, students are often victims of sexual harassment.

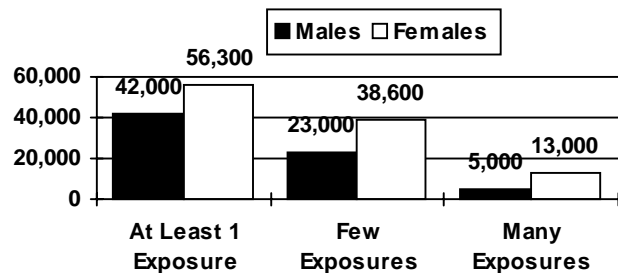
Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual comments, requests for sex, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when a person's success in classes or grades is at stake; when it interferes with students' classwork, social life, or athletics; or when it creates a hostile environment.<sup>2</sup>

Although both male and female students are victims of sexual harassment, Iowa's female high school students are more likely than males to have at least one exposure to a sexually harassing incident in their schools. A 1994 study of Iowa high school students by Selzer Boddy, Inc. revealed that 83 percent of young women and 62 percent of young men in Iowa have had at least one exposure to a sexually harassing incident in their schools. Collectively, this means that 98,300 Iowa high school students have

had at least one exposure to a sexually harassing situation. Many of those experience on-going harassment.<sup>3</sup> (SEE FIGURE 2.7)

The Selzer Boddy, Inc. study showed that the size of the high school is immaterial: sexual harassment is as common at small rural schools as it is at large urban schools.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 2.7**  
**SEXUAL HARASSMENT EXPOSURES, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, IOWA, 1994**



SOURCE: Selzer Boddy, Inc.

### 2.4 Educational Enrollment

Though Iowa schools are required to have a plan to promote gender equity in their vocational courses, Iowa's record of female participation in nontraditional vocational courses is poor.

The number of females enrolled in nontraditional vocational courses, e.g., construction, drafting/drawing, and electronics, is low. Similar findings can be found for males in traditionally female-dominated vocational courses such as child development and home economics. The statistics do, however, indicate that Iowa is doing a better job of attracting males to traditionally female-dominated courses than it does in attracting females to traditionally male-dominated vocational courses. (SEE FIGURE 2.8)

Enrollment of females in Iowa's upper level high school math and science courses continues to be high. (SEE FIGURE 2.8)

Large gaps, however, are evident in girls' 2000-01 enrollment in upper-level computer courses. While an almost equal percentage of boys and girls in Basic Computer and General Computer Application courses statewide, female participation drops dramatically in classes such as programming. (SEE FIGURE 2.9)

**Figure 2.8**  
**SELECT PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL COURSE ENROLLMENT OF FEMALES, IOWA**  
**1990-1991 AND 2000-2001**

<u>VOCATIONAL</u>			<u>MATH/SCIENCE</u>		
<u>COURSE</u>	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>2000-01</u>
General Home Economics	72.1%	65.9%	Algebra	49.9%	49.6%
Child Development	81.7%	86.5%	Advanced Algebra	51.7%	50.3%
Automotive	6.0%	5.9%	Calculus	46.8%	45.8%
Construction	7.3 %	3.2%	Trigonometry	51.8%	52.3%
Drafting	10.7%	12.0%	Computer Science	48.9%	43.8%
Electronics	3.6%	3.3%	Chemistry	50.4%	54.2%
Metals	2.0%	3.1%	Physics	41.3%	52.3%

SOURCE: Iowa Department of Education

**Figure 2.9**  
**PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL COURSE**  
**ENROLLMENT IN COMPUTER & INFORMATION**  
**SCIENCES, BY GENDER, IOWA, 2000-2001**

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Basic Computer	54.0%	46.0%
General Computer App.	52.7%	47.3%
Business Computer App.	51.6%	48.4%
Business Programming	58.6%	41.4%
Data Processing	42.0%	58.0%
Computer Graphics	64.1%	35.9%
Computing System	62.1%	37.9%
Computer Technology	66.2%	33.8%
Network Technology	77.5%	22.5%
Computer Programming	75.6%	24.4%
Basic Programming	77.1%	22.9%
Pascal Programming	83.8%	16.2%
Other Programming	77.0%	23.0%
AP Computer Science	78.9%	21.1%
Computer-related Subject	64.4%	35.6%
Computer-Independent	51.8%	48.2%
Computer-Other	48.9%	51.1%

SOURCE: Iowa Department of Education

SEE TABLE 2.3 IN APPENDIX

## 2.5 Higher Education by Program Area

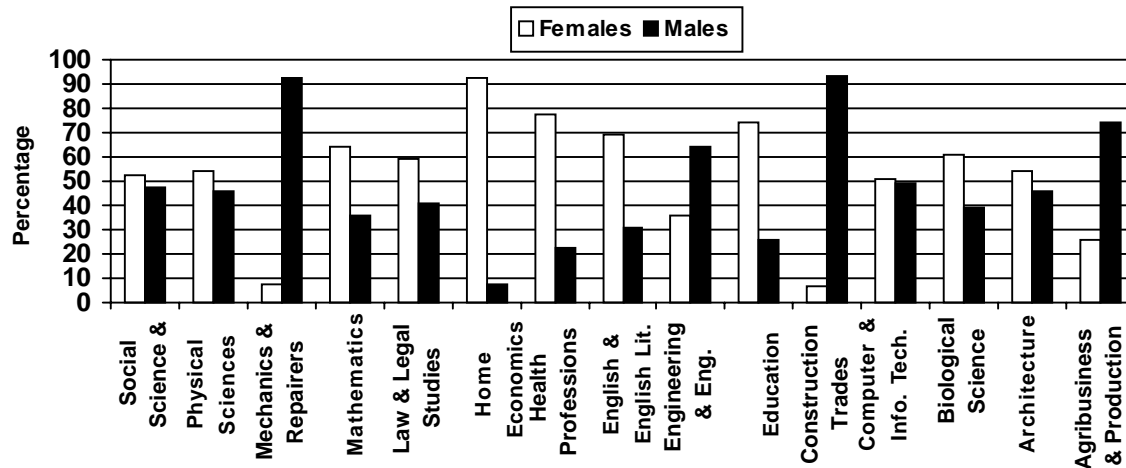
Distinct differences exist in the post-secondary education of women and men. Post-secondary educational opportunities include vocational education programs and two- and four-year college, professional, and graduate programs.

Although progress has been made, women and men are still clustered in traditionally male/female areas of study. Degree areas where women are still severely underrepresented include mechanics and repairers, construction trades, and agribusiness and production.

Low enrollment of women in nontraditional vocational education courses is one of the causes of wage disparity. The result is that women are concentrated in a relatively small number of occupations that are traditionally dominated by females and characterized by low pay, poor fringe benefits, and limited opportunities for advancement. As these numbers increase, the outcome should be greater parity in wages.

Changes, however, are evident from the 1997-98 school year. Women, for example, outnumbered men 177 to 99 with mathematics degrees, 681 to 436 with biological sciences/life sciences degrees, and 269 to 183 in law and legal studies degrees. Women also nearly equaled men in computer and information technologies (264 to 256) and physical science (207 to 175) degrees. (SEE FIGURE 2.10)

**Figure 2.10**  
**DEGREES CONFERRED IN SELECT DISCIPLINES IN HIGHER**  
**EDUCATION, BY GENDER, IOWA, 1997-98**



SEE TABLE 2.3 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Completions

## 2.6 Educational Personnel

Clear differences exist in the employment of women and men in secondary educational institutions, reflecting the traditional occupational specializations of women and men.

Women overwhelmingly comprise Iowa's elementary education teachers and are also the majority of English, consumer and homemaking education, and vocational home economics teachers. Men, on the other hand, dominate social studies and industrial education classrooms. (SEE FIGURE 2.11)

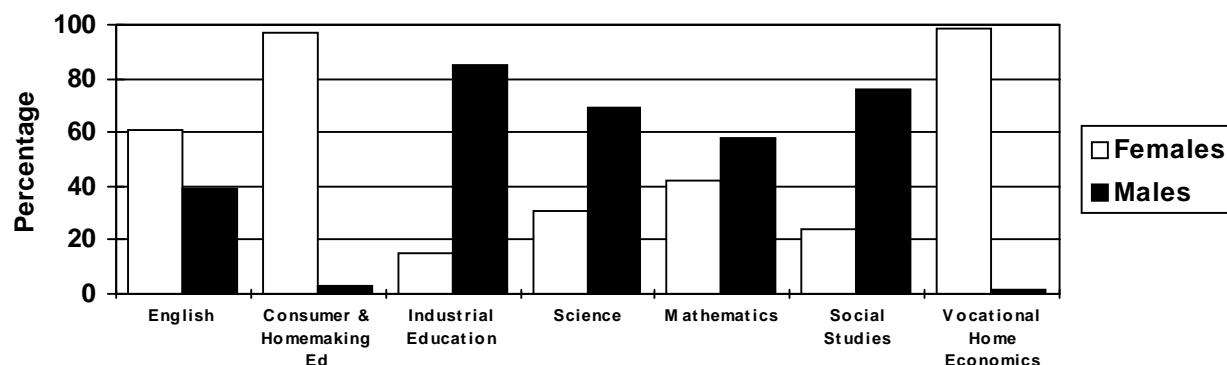
The number of women teaching in certain male-dominated fields, however, has increased. More women are now teaching sciences and math than in past years. (SEE FIGURE 2.11)

Although women make up the majority of elementary school teachers--89.0 percent--they are not equitably represented at the top administrative level. In the 2000-01 school year, women comprised 45.7 percent of all public elementary school principals. (SEE FIGURE 2.12)

Women make up even less of the total body of public high school principals—11.2 percent. Similarly, an extremely high majority of men serve as superintendents in the state—94.2 percent. (SEE FIGURE 2.12)

As of July 2001, 5 out of 30 members of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges had females as presidents. Of the three regents universities, there was one female president. There were two female presidents at the 15 community colleges.

**Figure 2.11**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, BY GENDER, IOWA,**  
**2000-01\***



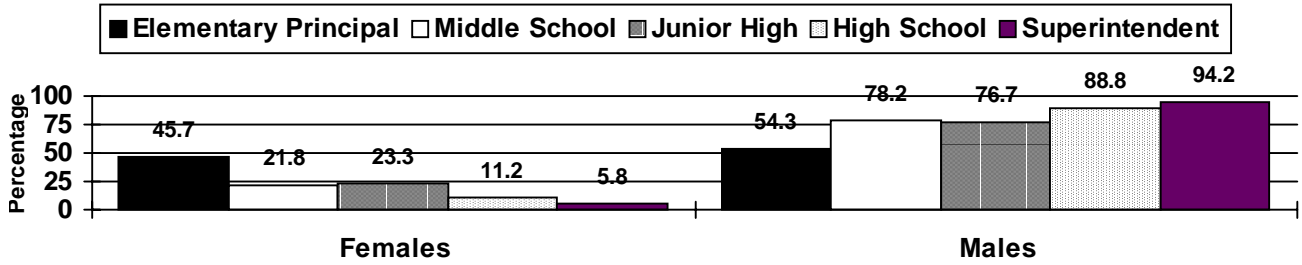
\*Full-time and part-time

SEE TABLE 2.5 IN APPENDIX

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**Figure 2.12**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, BY GENDER, IOWA, 2000-01**

\*Most communities have changed to or are in the processing of changing to middle schools



SEE TABLE 2.6 IN APPENDIX

SOURCE: Iowa Department of Education

### 2.7 Salaries in Higher Education

For the most part, female post-secondary educators in Iowa received salaries that were less than their male colleagues in the 1999-2000 school year. The differences in salaries among male and female two- and four-year private/public colleges, however, has been significantly decreasing over the past few years.

Iowa's post-secondary female educators earned less than men at all levels—professor, associate professor, and instructor—at all two- and four-year private/public

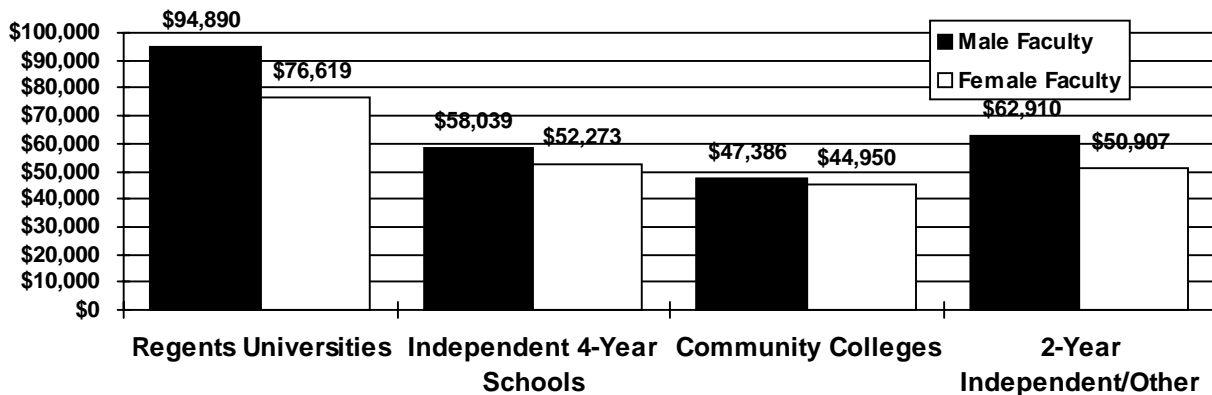
colleges with six exceptions.

Female instructors at the regents universities earn more than their male colleagues. At four-year private colleges, female associate professors and instructors earn more than males. At community colleges, female associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors' earnings are higher than men. (SEE FIGURE 2.13)

**Figure 2.13**  
**MEAN SALARIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS, BY GENDER, IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. IOWA 1999-2000\* \*\***

\*Salaries figures are for faculty on 12-month contracts.

\*\*Includes professors, associate professors, assistant professors, instructors, lecturers, and other.



SEE TABLE 2.7 IN APPENDIX

SOURCE: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems Completions



## 2.8 Forward-looking Strategies

- Affirmative action programs that promote opportunities for women in educational administration must be continued and strengthened. Having more women in administrative positions results in role models for students as well as a vehicle for change in the institutional environment.
- Although measurable success has been made in the increased participation of females in math and science on national and state levels, Iowa needs to continue its programming designed to encourage female students to study math and science, especially beyond high school.<sup>5</sup> That could mean the difference between a low-wage job and one with economic advantages.
- A need exists for specialized programming to encourage females to enroll in high-skill computer courses. Nationwide and in Iowa girls tend to cluster in lower-end data entry and word-processing classes that can lead to less stimulating, lower-paying jobs, particularly as our society becomes increasingly dependent upon those computer skills for work.<sup>6</sup>
- More females should be encouraged to participate in vocational classes in junior high and high schools and to acquire post-secondary vocational education. By taking commonly male-dominated nontraditional vocational courses in high school, females may discover interests that transform into career options later on. Similarly, males must be encouraged to take traditionally female-dominated courses, such as home economics, child care, and health care, at secondary and post-secondary educational institutions.
- Equity and diversity training should be infused into college programs such as counseling, administration, teaching, media, and coaching.
- There needs to be active recruitment of male teachers in elementary classrooms and female teachers in courses that are nontraditional for women.
- Sexual harassment is an ongoing problem in Iowa's schools and colleges. Training and retraining of educators, students, and governing boards in a curriculum on harassment must take place in all school districts and at all post-secondary schools. All schools should adopt a comprehensive harassment policy; implement the policy; educate staff, students, parents, and the community in regards to harassment; and make each school a zero tolerance zone for harassment.
- The state should continue its effort in training women for nontraditional jobs. The increase in the gender educational gap with age translates into lower wages and even poverty for older women. Training programs allow those and other women opportunities to acquire skills in a field that pays above minimum wage.
- State funding should be made available for programs and educational equity, including monitoring and implementing the multi-cultural, gender-fair curriculum mandated by the *Code of Iowa*.

<sup>1</sup>Equal Employment Opportunity Commission File, 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, *Iowa Women & the Law* (October 1997): 9-10.

<sup>3</sup>Selzer Boddy, Inc., *Sexual Harassment: An Abuse of Trust: A Report On A Statewide Survey of Sexual Harassment in Iowa High Schools*, 1994.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, *Gender Gaps: Where Our Schools Still Fail Our Children* (Washington, D.C., September 1998): 10.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid, p. 14.



# 3

## Women and Economics

### *Highlights*

- Between 1950 and 1990, the number of women in Iowa's labor force increased 159 percent, from 249,524 to 646,632. In 1999, 66.1 percent of women age 16 and older were in Iowa's workforce.
- In 1999, women represented an estimated 46.1 percent of the total workforce in Iowa.
- In 1989, the average of earnings for full-time male employees who worked year-round in Iowa was \$25,391. For women, the average of earnings was \$16,465.
- Almost half, 45.1 percent, of all female-headed households, no husband present with children under the age of 18 lived in poverty in 1989.
- In 1995, Iowa women comprised just 6.9 percent of members on boards of directors of Iowa's largest publicly owned corporations.
- Women primarily owned 57,527 small businesses in 1997, decreasing from the 1992 total of 71,040.



—Chapter 3—

# Women and Economics

## 3.1 Introduction

Iowa women's economic status is tenuous. Despite some efforts, Iowa women and men are still clustered into jobs that are either predominately male or female. Some occupational classifications traditionally held by women are characterized by low pay, few benefits, and little, if any, chance for advancement. The result is that more women, many of whom are single parents, than men live in poverty.

## 3.2 Labor Force Participation

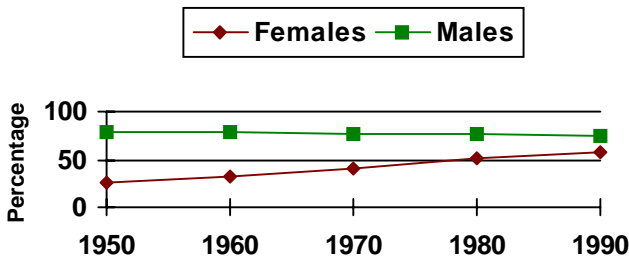
Between 1950 and 1990, the number of women in Iowa's labor force increased 159 percent while the number of men in the labor force dropped slightly by 1.6 percent. According to census data, 249,524 women were in the labor force in 1950, climbing to 646,632 in 1990. Males, on the other hand, dropped from 772,286 in 1950 to 759,871 in 1990. (SEE FIGURES 3.1 AND 3.2) In 1990, the percentage of Iowa women in the labor force

was 57.8 percent, up from 25.3 percent in 1950.<sup>1</sup> In 1999, 66.1 percent of women 16 years of age or older were in Iowa's labor force.<sup>2</sup>

In 1990, women represented nearly half, 46 percent, of the total workforce in Iowa, up from just one-quarter, 24.6 percent, in 1950.<sup>3</sup> The 1999 Iowa Workforce Development estimate is 46.1 percent. (SEE FIGURE 3.3)

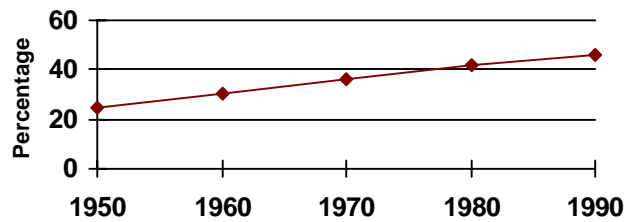
These changes can be attributed to a number of

**Figure 3.1**  
FEMALES AND MALES IN LABOR FORCE, IOWA, 1950-90



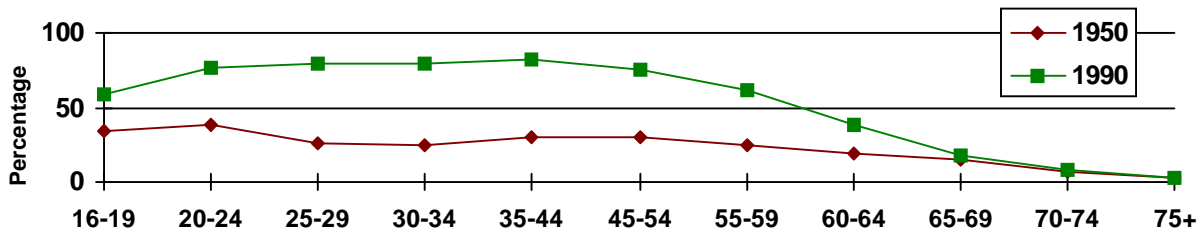
SEE TABLE 3.1 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 3.3**  
LABOR FORCE THAT IS FEMALE IOWA, 1950-90



SEE TABLE 3.3 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

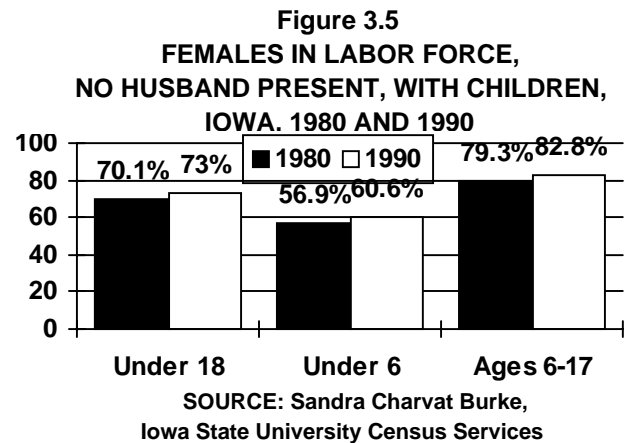
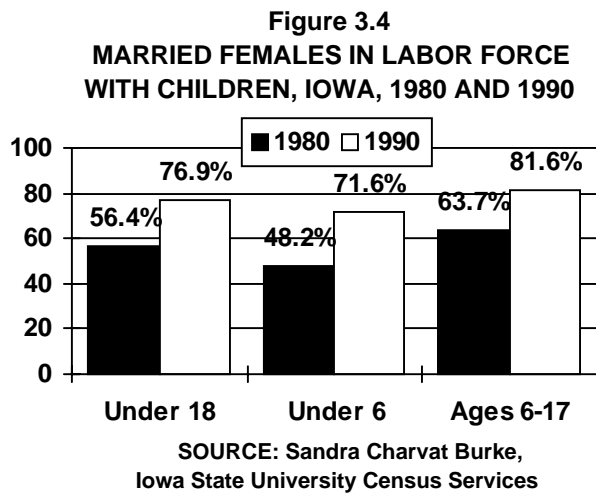
**Figure 3.2**  
FEMALES IN LABOR FORCE BY AGE, IOWA, 1950 AND 1990



SEE TABLE 3.2 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

factors, including financial pressure to work outside the home to support families as well as increased educational and professional opportunities.

A growing number of women with children are in Iowa's workforce. From 1980 to 1990, the percentage of married women in the workforce with children under age 18 rose 20.5 percent. For single women with children, that number increased slightly, from 70.1 percent to 73 percent. (SEE FIGURES 3.4 AND 3.5)



### 3.3 Occupations and Income

In 1999, Iowa women made 73 cents for every \$1 a man made. Sixty-four percent of women made \$25,000 or less, while 67 percent of men made \$25,000 or more.<sup>4</sup> The average of earnings for Iowa men who worked year-round, full-time was \$25,391 in 1989 compared to \$16,465 for full-time women workers. (SEE FIGURE 3.6) This wage disparity reflects the occupational choices of males and females, the wage differences between male- and female-dominated jobs, and the gender pay gap that exists in many of the same occupations.

Differences in pay scales among occupations that are dominated by one gender or the other contribute to pay

inequities. Out of 496 occupational categories in the 1990 census, 310 showed gender imbalance in Iowa. Men dominated 237, or 47.8 percent, of the jobs while women dominated 73, or 14.7 percent of the jobs.<sup>5</sup>

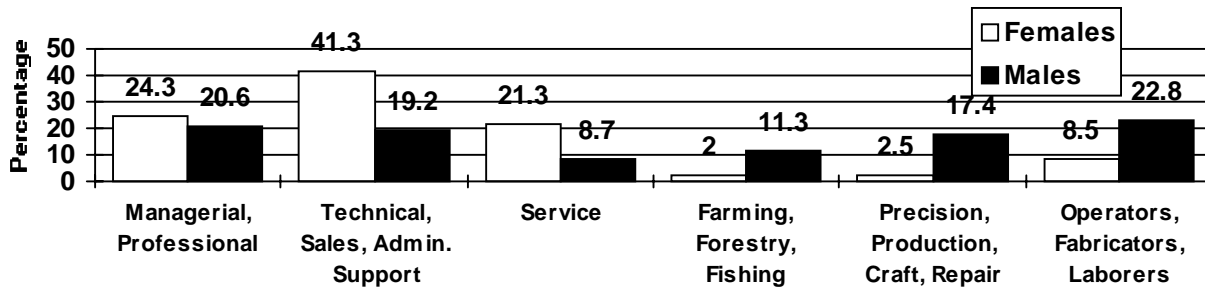
The 1990 census data also reveal that the largest percentage of Iowa's female wage-earning workers, 41.3 percent, were in technical, sales, and administrative support positions. Those are commonly referred to as "sticky floor" occupations because the pay tends to be low with limited potential for advancement. Comparatively, the largest percentage of male wage earners in the state, 22.8 percent, were operators, fabricators, or laborers, jobs that tend to pay higher wages. (SEE FIGURES 3.7-3.9)

**Figure 3.6**  
**AVERAGE EARNINGS BY GENDER, IOWA, 1979 AND 1989**

Average Earnings:	Full-time Employees		Other than Full-time Employees	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
<b>1979</b>	\$17,297	\$9,846 (56.9%)	\$6,219	\$3,398 (54.6%)
<b>1989</b>	\$25,391	\$16,465 (64.8%)	\$9,726	\$5,918 (60.8%)
<b>Full-time Employees</b>	<b>-\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000-\$24,999</b>	<b>\$25,000-\$34,999</b>	<b>\$35,000 or More</b>
<b>1979</b>				
<b>Male</b>	39.1%	40.7%	12.4%	7.8%
<b>Female</b>	83.2%	14.6%	1.5%	0.7%
<b>1989</b>			24.2%	27.0%
<b>Male</b>	17.8%	31.1%	14.0%	5.9%
<b>Female</b>	42.4%	37.7%		

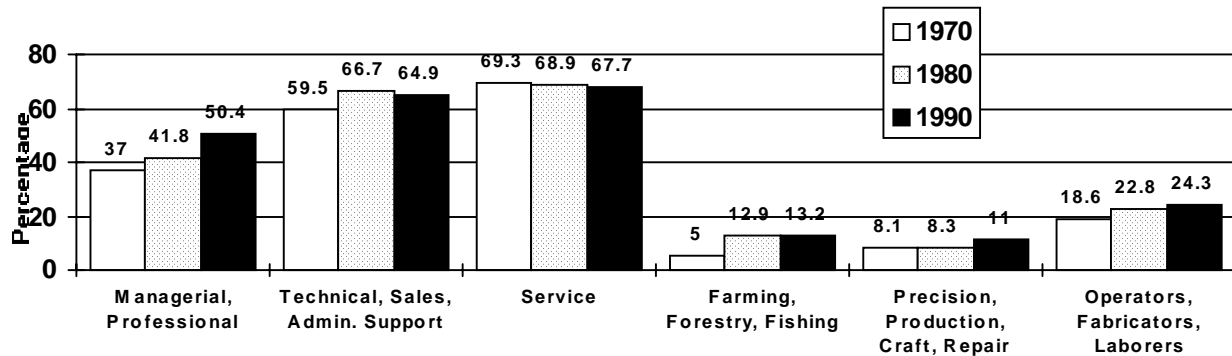
SOURCE: Willis Goudy and Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 3.7**  
**OCCUPATIONS OF FEMALES AND MALES, IOWA, 1990**



SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 3.8**  
**OCCUPATIONS HELD BY FEMALES, IOWA, 1970-90**



SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 3.9**  
**CONCENTRATION OF WORKERS IN JOBS, IOWA, 1999\***

OCCUPATION	%MALE	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	OCCUPATION	%FEMALE	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE
1) Automobile Mechanic	98.9%	\$12.57	1) Child Care Provider	99.5%	\$ 6.52
2) Carpenter	98.6%	\$13.88	2) Secretary	98.9%	\$10.16
3) Electrician	97.9%	\$17.61	3) Registered Nurse	96.5%	\$16.04
4) Construction Laborer	97.4%	\$11.21	4) Receptionist	95.7%	\$ 8.33
5) Mechanic/Repairer	96.5%	\$13.61	5) Hairdresser/ Cosmetologist	95.7%	\$ 8.67
6) Machinist	95.3%	\$13.14	6) Typist	95.7%	\$10.35
7) Truck Driver	94.1%	\$15.58	7) Bank Teller	94.0%	\$ 7.91
8) Welder/Cutter	93.7%	\$12.61	8) Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk	91.5%	\$10.17
9) Farm Manager	91.5%	\$21.65	9) Data Entry Keyer	90.9%	\$ 8.75
10) Material Handler	89.9%	\$ 9.96	10) Nursing Aide/Orderly	89.8%	\$ 7.94

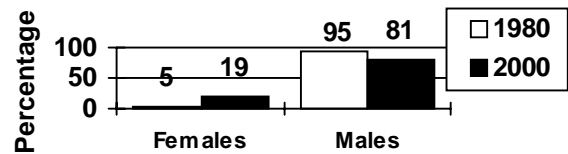
*\*Ten jobs held primarily by women pay a weighted average of \$10.45 an hour, compared to \$14.58 paid by ten jobs held primarily by men—a difference of \$4.13 per hour, or \$165.80 per week.*

SOURCE: Labor Market Information Bureau, Iowa Workforce Development

Males in Iowa also outnumber females in many of the professions, but that is changing, particularly for lawyers and doctors. According to the Iowa Bar Association, although they do not have the exact figures of women lawyers in the state (the latest estimate being 1/5 of all lawyers), women graduating from law school in the nation and in Iowa today nearly equals that of men. The same is true for physicians. Although females in 2000 comprised only 19 percent of the state's physicians, they are 42 percent of statewide family practice residents, and 41 percent of medical students and new residents in all specialties at the University of Iowa.<sup>6</sup> (SEE FIGURE 3.10) These occupations tend to pay more than the traditionally female dominated jobs.

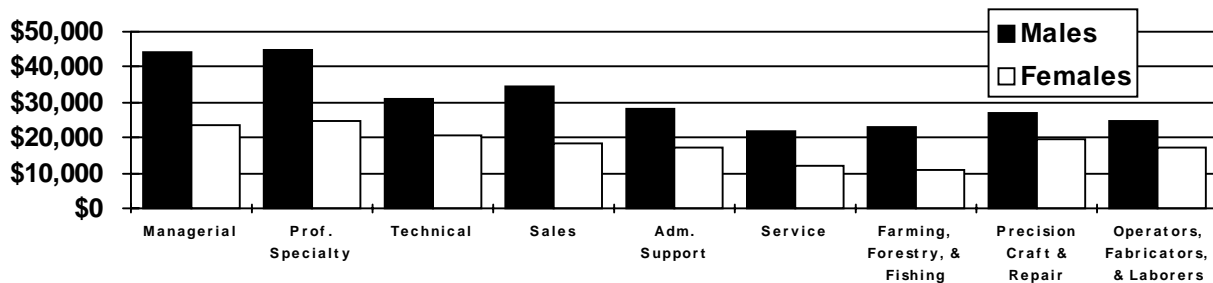
Yet, even within the same occupational categories, (professional, skilled, etc.) Iowa women were shown in 1990 to have made less than men. (SEE FIGURE 3.11)

**Figure 3.10**  
**PHYSICIAN POPULATION, BY GENDER**  
**IOWA, 1980 AND 2000**



SOURCE: College of Medicine, The University of Iowa  
SEE TABLE 3.4 IN APPENDIX

**Figure 3.11**  
**AVERAGE INCOME BY OCCUPATION AND GENDER, IOWA, 1990**



SEE TABLE 3.5 IN APPENDIX

SOURCE: U.S.Census Bureau

### 3.4 Poverty

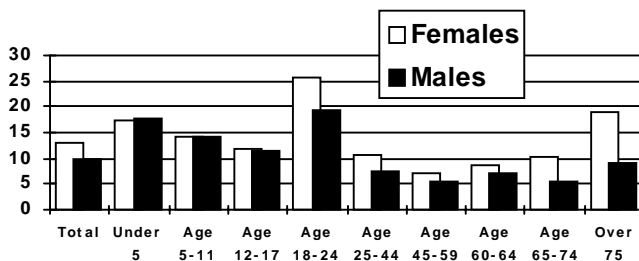
Low wages in female-dominated occupations, and many women in low-paying jobs, contribute to the fact that so many women and their families live in poverty. Of all of Iowa's adults living in poverty in 1990, 61.9 percent were women.<sup>7</sup> At almost every age, more females than males were living in poverty. (SEE FIGURE 3.12)

Throughout the 1980s, the number of displaced homemakers and single mothers in Iowa dramatically rose and their income status became even more tenuous.<sup>8</sup>

Displaced homemakers are those who have worked principally in the home providing unpaid household services for family members, who are unemployed or underemployed, who have had or would apparently have difficulty finding appropriate paid employment, who are or who have been dependent on the income of another family member but who are no longer supported by that income, and who have been dependent upon government assistance, or who are supported as the parent of a minor. Women dominate these numbers.

Census data show that in 1990 there were 196,854 displaced homemakers in Iowa, an increase of 20 percent from the 1980 census.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, 45.1 percent of female-headed households, no husband present, with children under age eighteen lived in poverty in 1990. Since children living in single-parent families are more likely to live with their mothers, they are more likely to live in poverty. (SEE FIGURES 3.13 AND 3.14)

**Figure 3.12**  
**POVERTY BY AGE AND GENDER**  
**IOWA, 1989**



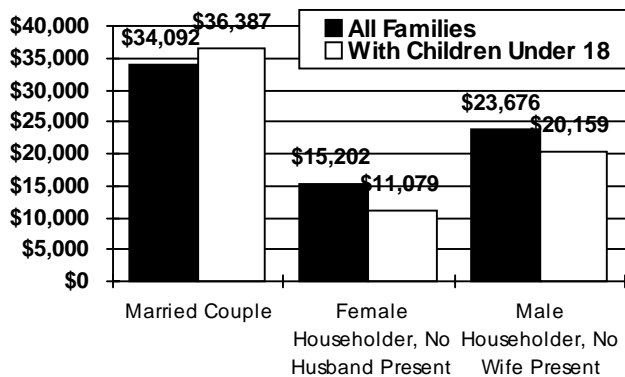
SEE TABLE 3.6 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat  
Burke, Iowa State University Census Services



The vast majority of households receiving cash assistance under the state-federal program called Family Investment Program (FIP) in Iowa are headed by single females -- 83 percent of adult FIP recipients are women. About 14.7 percent of the households on FIP are two-parent families. (In June, 2001 there were 18,527 regular FIP cases.)<sup>10</sup>

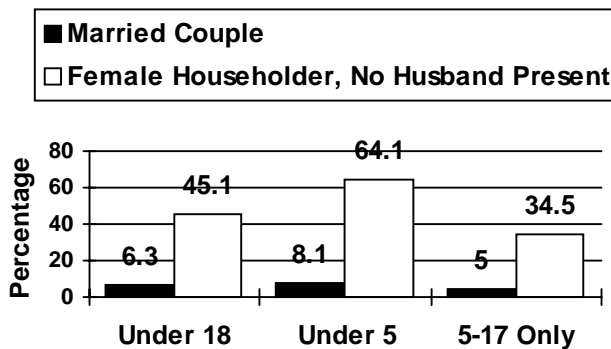
Women recipients of state assistance outnumber men recipients almost 2 to 1 (106,060 women to 56,276 men). In fiscal year 2000, women received the majority of assistance in programs such as FIP, Medicaid, Iowa Promise Jobs, food stamps, transitional child care, and child care block grant monies.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 3.13**  
**MEDIAN INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE**  
**IOWA, 1989**



SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

**Figure 3.14**  
**POVERTY BY AGE OF CHILDREN**  
**IOWA, 1989**



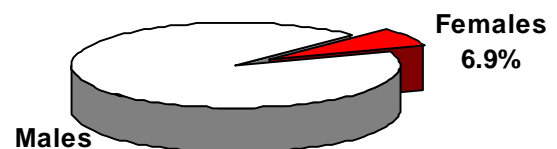
SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services

### 3.5 Corporate Boards

Often times, Iowa women who are able to get their shoes "unstuck" from the "sticky floor" find themselves bumping their heads on the "glass ceiling." Evidence of that is shown in the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and Iowa Department of Economic Development's 1995 study on women who hold board seats in Iowa's largest publicly owned corporations in the state.

Of the 289 directors' seats in the study, only 20 were filled by women. (SEE FIGURE 3.15) All of those were white women. Furthermore, a double standard existed in the amount of education held by male and female board members. The largest percentage of women on boards of Iowa's largest publicly-owned companies had their master's degree while the largest percentage of men had their undergraduate degree.<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 3.15**  
**COMPOSITION OF IOWA'S CORPORATE**  
**BOARDS OF DIRECTORS, IOWA, 1995\***

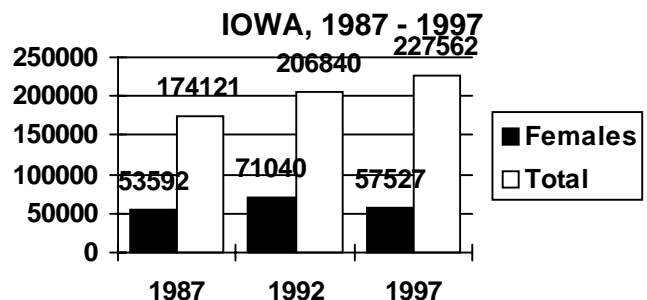


\*Results from a survey of Iowa's largest publicly owned corporations by the ICSW and the IDED

### 3.6 Business Owners

The number of women leading their own businesses in Iowa has increased from 1987 to 1997, from 53,592 to 71,040. In 1992, over 71,000 women were the primary owners of their business. (SEE FIGURE 3.16)

**Figure 3.16**  
**FEMALE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS,**  
**IOWA, 1987 - 1997**



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

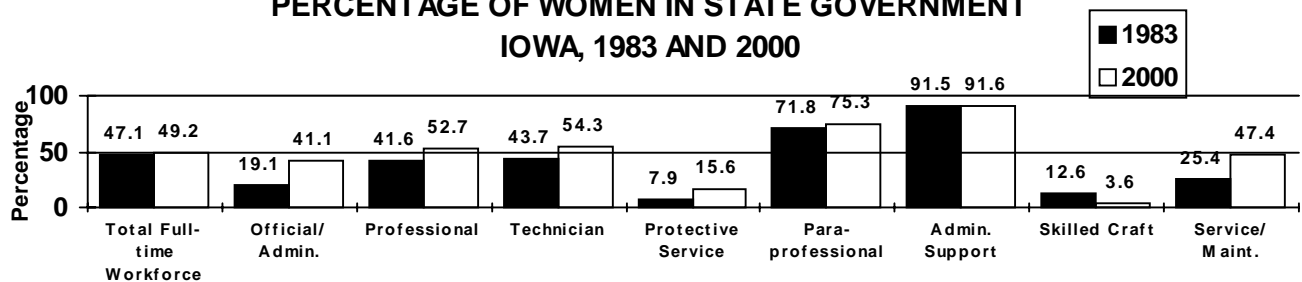
### 3.7 State Government

In 1982, the Governor's Affirmative Action Task Force was created to review the progress of affirmative action in the state and to make recommendations for change.

Greater emphasis on affirmative action since then has resulted in gains for Iowa women in employment in state government. For example, the percentage of women in official/administrative positions in the government climbed from 19.1 percent in 1983 to 41.1 percent in 2000. The percentage of women in professional positions went from 41.6 percent to 52.7 percent. (SEE FIGURE 3.17)

In May 2001, State department head positions that were filled by women included the Civil Rights Commission, Cultural Affairs, Economic Development, Elder Affairs, Human Services, Human Rights, Management, Personnel, and Public Safety. While the State of Iowa is improving its hiring of women for previously male-dominated occupations, it is having a tougher time attracting males to its female-dominated occupations such as administrative support and paraprofessional positions. From 1983 to 2000, the percentage of women in paraprofessional positions remained high--71.8 percent to 75.3 percent. During those 17 years, administrative support remained a female domain at 91.5 percent in 1983 and 91.6 percent in 2000, respectively. (SEE FIGURE 3.17)

**Figure 3.17**  
**PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN STATE GOVERNMENT**  
**IOWA, 1983 AND 2000**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Personnel

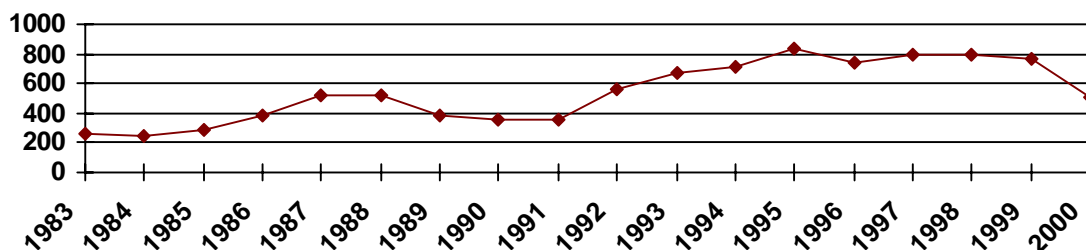
### 3.8 Sexual Discrimination

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1965 are the principal laws that protect workers from discrimination in employment. The acts make it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sex as well as other protected characteristics. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICRC) is the state's antidiscrimination agency that serves as a contact point for citizens who believe that they have been discriminated against in the areas of employment, housing, credit, public accommodations, and education.

Eighty-three and one-half percent of the discrimination complaints received by the ICRC are employment related.<sup>13</sup> In 2000, there were 509 sex discrimination complaints made to the ICRC, the lowest since 1991. In 1999, there were 769 complaints.<sup>14</sup> (SEE FIGURE 3.18)

From 1983 to 2000, complaints were most often made in the area of sex discrimination with exceptions in 1983, 1991, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, when it was the second most common complaint.

**Figure 3.18**  
**COMPLAINTS FILED ON SEX DISCRIMINATION TO THE**  
**IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION, 1983-2000**



SEE TABLE 3.7 IN APPENDIX

SOURCE: Iowa Civil Rights Commission

### 3.9 Forward-looking Strategies

- Equal pay for work of equal value is one solution to gender-based income differences. Enactment of the Fair Pay Act by Congress would seek to eliminate wage discrimination based upon sex, race, or national origin. The legislation would require employers to provide equal pay for work of equivalent value. Such work would be defined as work that may be similar, but whose requirements are equivalent, when viewed as a composite of skills, effort, responsibility, and working conditions.

- Iowa should develop a plan to achieve pay equity for employees in private industry, thereby eliminating wage discrimination on the basis of gender.

- Females should be actively sought as members on corporate boards of directors. Appointing females on boards of directors brings new perspectives to board decisions. Furthermore, authorities who recruit female board members show shareholders and employees their commitment to diversity and equality.

- Measures must be designed to guarantee affordable, accessible, quality child care, in particular for women seeking training and/or employment; income guidelines to qualify for child care reimbursement should be adjusted above the current 140 percent of the poverty level; and funding should be increased for child care subsidy programs for low-income Iowans.

- As the number of displaced homemakers in the state of Iowa continues to rise, so arises the

need for increased funding for Iowans in Transition (displaced homemaker, single parents, or female offenders) program grants through the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

- Iowa must continue its efforts in training and placing women in nontraditional occupations through state-operated employment and training programs.

- Women entrepreneurs often face barriers that are not usually encountered by men: lack of socialization to entrepreneurship; exclusion from traditional male-dominated business networks; lack of money; and gender stereotypes. The State should continue to offer loans and programs to assist women who wish to start their own businesses, including the Targeted Small Business Program.

- The Family Investment Program (FIP) should be modified to allow continued financial assistance until the recipient earns a living wage plus medical care, to allow some participants to be full-time mothers, and to recognize the need for a parent to stay home to care for a sick child.

- A need exists to study the impact on women of contingency jobs, such as temporary, part-time, and contractual work, usually with no benefits and little job security.

- Advocacy for the elimination of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination in the workforce must be continued.

<sup>1</sup> Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services.

<sup>2</sup> Labor Market Information Bureau, Iowa Workforce Development.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Iowa Workforce Development, *Iowa Gender Wage Study*, 1999.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau statistics as compiled by Beth Henning, State of Iowa Library.

<sup>6</sup> College of Medicine, The University of Iowa.

<sup>7</sup> Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services.

<sup>8</sup> Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment, *Women Work, Poverty Persists: A Status Report*

*on Displaced Homemakers and Single Mothers in the United States*, 1994.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Iowa Department of Human Services.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Iowa Commission on the Status of Women within the Iowa Department of Human Rights, and the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

<sup>13</sup> Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.



# 4

## Women and Health

### *Highlights*

- Women's life expectancy is 79.4 years compared to men's 73.6 years.
- In 1999, the leading causes of death for Iowa women were heart disease, cancer, and strokes. For females, the most common cancers that caused death were of the trachea, bronchus, lung, breast, and intestine.
- While the live birth rate in Iowa declines each year, the number of infants born out of wedlock in Iowa is on the rise. The 1999 rate per 1,000 births was 275.1—the highest ever.
- The proportion of live births to teenage mothers in Iowa remained the same in 1999 as it was in 1998, ending the increasing trend from 1993 to 1996.



—Chapter 4—

# Women and Health

## 4.1 Introduction

Good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life and to participating fully in the economic, social, and political life of the state. It requires safe and healthful physical and social environments, sufficient incomes, safe and adequate housing, proper nutrition, preventive treatment, and education on maintaining healthful behaviors. Many factors, including gender, account for differences in health among people.

## 4.2 Life Expectancy and Morbidity

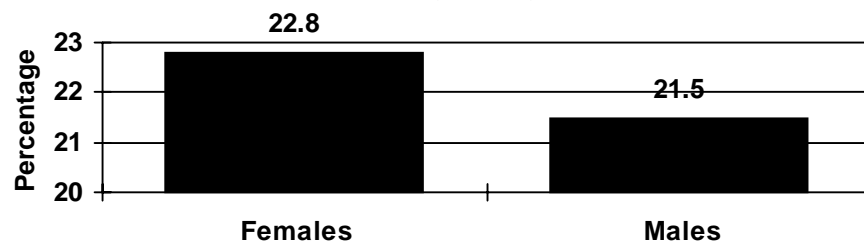
Women in the nation and in Iowa live longer than men. For women, the average life expectancy age is 79.4 compared to men's 73.6 years.<sup>1</sup> While women in Iowa are living longer, it is important to consider their quality of life. One commonly used indicator of quality of life is health status as it is related to economic status, education, and age.

The Iowa Department of Public Health, through its Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), collects data on health risk behaviors, including self-ratings of overall health status. In 1998, when asked how their health was in general, more women than men reported

that their health was excellent. (SEE FIGURE 4.1) Respondents who were most likely to report "excellent" or "very good" health included those aged 25-34 (71.1 percent), those with an annual income greater than or equal to \$75,000 (83.3%), and college graduates (74.8%).<sup>2</sup>

In Iowa, women have a lower rate of educational attainment than men 25 years of age and older (see Chapter 2), earn less money (see Chapter 3), and comprise the majority of those living in poverty (see Chapters 1 and 3). Given, therefore, the effects of income, age, and education on health status, Iowa women may be living longer, but many are doing so with accompanying poor health.

**Figure 4.1**  
**REPORTING "EXCELLENT" HEALTH**  
**BY GENDER, IOWA, 1998**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

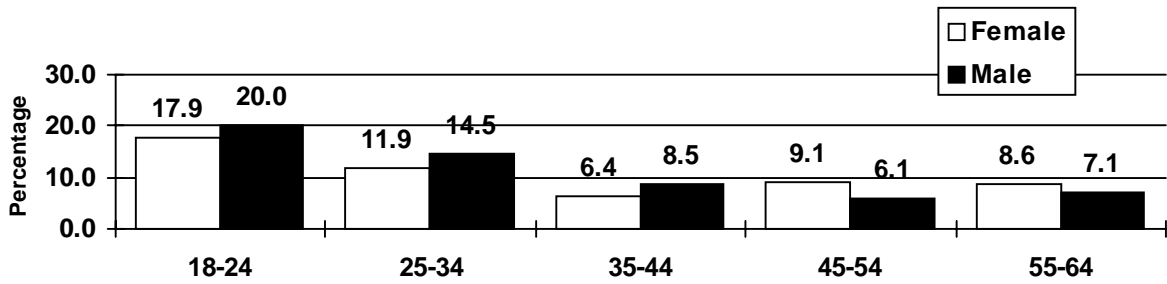
## 4.3 Health Insurance

Diseases and illnesses are often considered best regulated by a healthcare provider. Many are chronic and require long-term medical supervision and prescribed medication. For people with these and other medical needs, having medical insurance is the primary way they can continue to receive the medical help they need.

A 1998 BRFSS survey shows that 8.6 percent of respondents, both male and female, did not have a health care plan. The number included 9.3 percent of male respondents and 8.0 percent of female respondents. (SEE FIGURE 4.2) Of all age groups, those between ages 18-24 were least likely to have health insurance at 18.9 percent. Those Iowans in the income group of less than \$15,000 (17.9 percent), those who were unemployed (37.3 percent), those who were unmarried (14.6 percent), and those who weren't high school graduates (14.6 percent) were also least likely to have insurance.<sup>3</sup> (SEE FIGURE 4.3)

Survey respondents also reported how long it has been since they visited a doctor for a routine checkup. Females were much more likely to have had a routine checkup within the last year compared to men. (SEE FIGURE 4.4)

**Figure 4.2**  
**POPULATION WITHOUT A HEALTH CARE PLAN, BY AGE, IOWA, 1998**



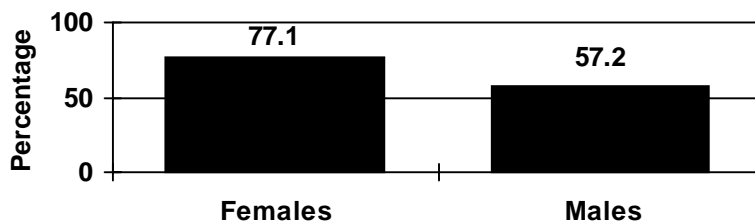
SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.3**  
**PERSONS WITH NO HEALTH CARE PLAN**  
**BY MARITAL STATUS, IOWA, 1998**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.4**  
**ROUTINE DOCTOR'S CHECKUP WITHIN**  
**LAST YEAR, BY GENDER, IOWA, 1998**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

#### 4.4 Mortality

In 1999, the leading causes of death for women were heart disease, cancer, and strokes. Together, the diseases accounted for approximately 61 percent of all female deaths in the state. (SEE FIGURE 4.5) While the majority of Iowa females and males died from heart disease and cancer in 1999, there were slight differences in other leading causes of death. (SEE FIGURE 4.6)

Heart disease is not only one of the leading causes of death for women, it is also one of the leading causes of disability.<sup>4</sup> According to the 1998 BFRSS survey, more women than men have been told that their blood pressure was high, a major risk factor for heart disease. (SEE

FIGURE 4.7) High blood pressure is most prevalent in older individuals, African Americans, and those with less education and low socioeconomic status.<sup>5</sup> High cholesterol, another heart disease risk, is virtually equal in women and men, according to the BRFSS survey. (SEE FIGURE 4.7)

For females, the most common cancers that caused death were of the trachea, bronchus, lung, breast, and intestine. Trachea, bronchus, and lung cancers comprised 21.4 percent of all cancers and breast totaled 15.9 percent of all cancers in Iowa females. (SEE FIGURE 4.8)

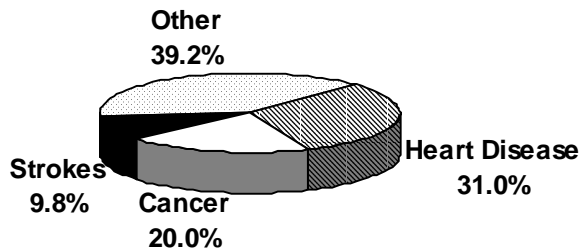
The American Cancer Society recommends mammograms for early detection and treatment of breast cancer, which can decrease a woman's mortality.<sup>6</sup>



According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, the number of Iowa women over age 40 who have ever had a mammogram has increased significantly in the past ten years. (SEE FIGURE 4.9) Still, disparities exist between white women and women of color who have received mammograms. (SEE FIGURE 4.10)

The principal screening test for cervical cancer is the Papanicolaou (Pap) Smear. Early detection through Pap smears can dramatically lower the incidence of invasive disease and nearly eliminate deaths from cervical cancer.<sup>7</sup> In 1998, 93.3 percent of women age 18 or older who were surveyed through the BRFSS reported they had a Pap smear at some time during their lives.<sup>8</sup> The highest risk group for not having a Pap smear was women age 18-24. (SEE FIGURE 4.11) Of those who ever had Pap smears, the lower the income level or the older the woman, the less likely they had a Pap smear done in the past three years.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 4.5**  
**LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH**  
**FOR FEMALES, IOWA, 1999**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

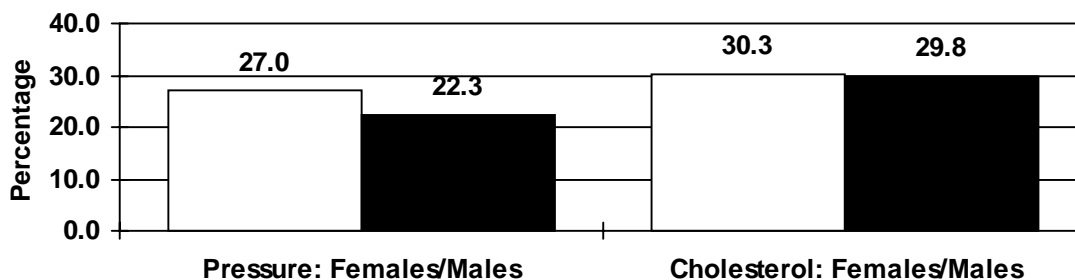
**Figure 4.6**  
**LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH**  
**BY GENDER, IOWA, 1999**

MALES	
<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u># of Deaths</u>
1. Heart Disease	4,021
2. Cancer	3,328
3. Pulmonary Disease	893
4. Strokes	832
5. Accidents	662
6. Pneumonia & Influenza	419
7. Diabetes	283
8. Suicide	252
9. Alzheimers	236
10. Infective & Parasitic Diseases	199

FEMALES	
<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u># of Deaths</u>
1. Heart Disease	4,651
2. Cancer	3,004
3. Strokes	1,469
4. Pulmonary Disease	739
5. Pneumonia & Influenza	659
6. Alzheimers	469
7. Accidents	454
8. Diabetes	396
9. Arteriosclerosis	210
10. Infective & Parasitic Diseases	182

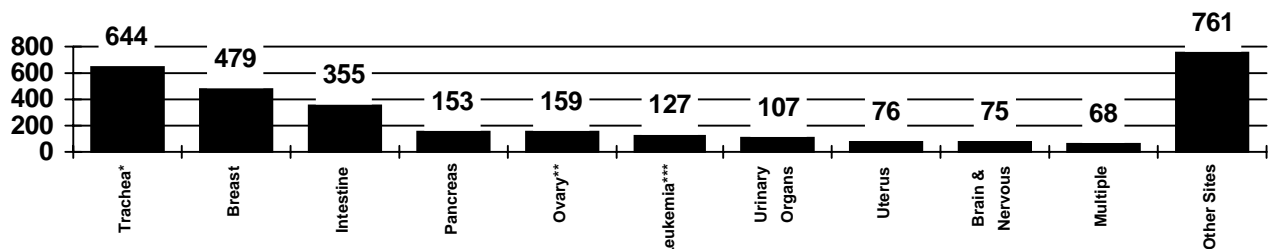
Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.7**  
**REPORTED HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, CHOLESTEROL BY GENDER**  
**IOWA, 1998**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

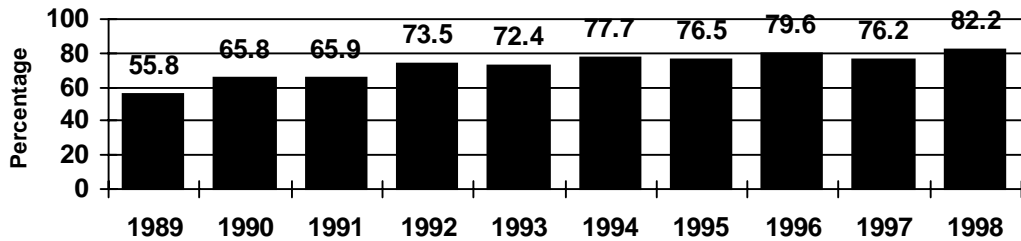
**Figure 4.8**  
**FEMALE CANCER DEATHS, BY SITE OF DISEASE, IOWA, 1999**



\*Also includes bronchus and lung. \*\*Also includes uterine adnexia.  
 \*\*\*Leukemia is included although it is not an actual site.

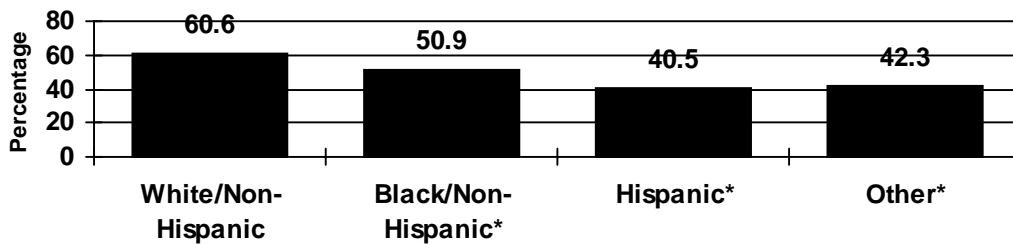
SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.9**  
**FEMALES OVER AGE 40 WHO HAVE HAD A MAMMOGRAM**  
**IOWA, 1989-1998**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

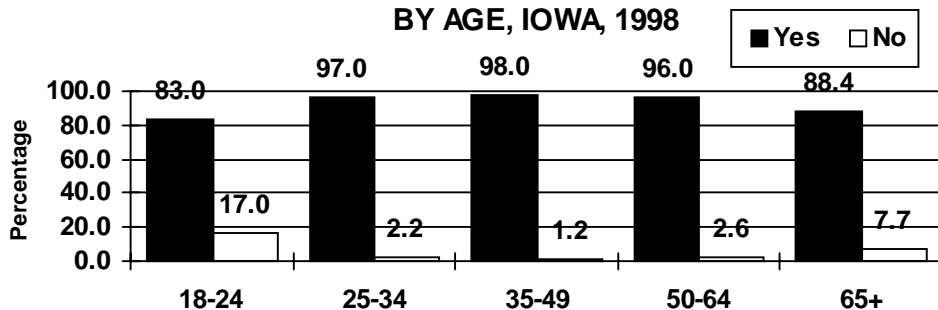
**Figure 4.10**  
**FEMALES WHO HAVE HAD A MAMMOGRAM**  
**BY RACE/ETHNICITY, IOWA, 1998**



\* Small sample size

SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

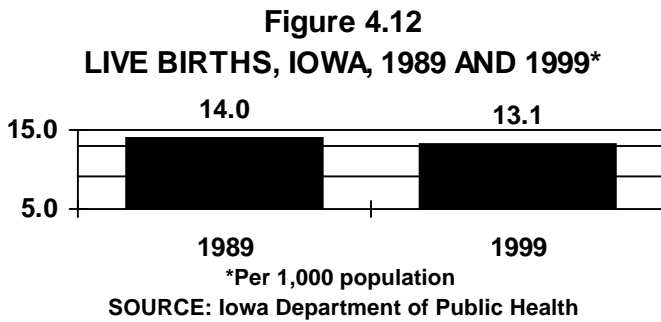
**Figure 4.11**  
**FEMALES WHO HAVE HAD A PAP SMEAR**  
**BY AGE, IOWA, 1998**



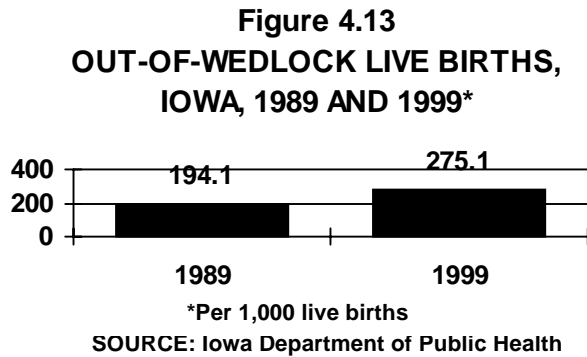
SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

### 4.5 Natality

The live birth rate in Iowa continues to decline. The 1989 rate was slightly higher than the 1999 rate per 1,000 population. (SEE FIGURE 4.12)



While the birth rate in Iowa is down, the number of infants born out-of-wedlock in Iowa has risen significantly since 1989. The 1999 rate per 1,000 births was 275.1--the highest level ever.<sup>10</sup> This translates to nearly one out of every four births in Iowa being to unwed parents.<sup>11</sup> (SEE FIGURE 4.13)



### 4.6 Teenage Pregnancy

The proportion of live births to teenage mothers (those aged 19 and under) remained at 10.6 percent of the total live births in 1999; ending the increasing trend from 1993 to 1996.<sup>13</sup> (SEE FIGURE 4.15)

African-American females have the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Iowa; white women have the lowest. (SEE FIGURE 4.16)

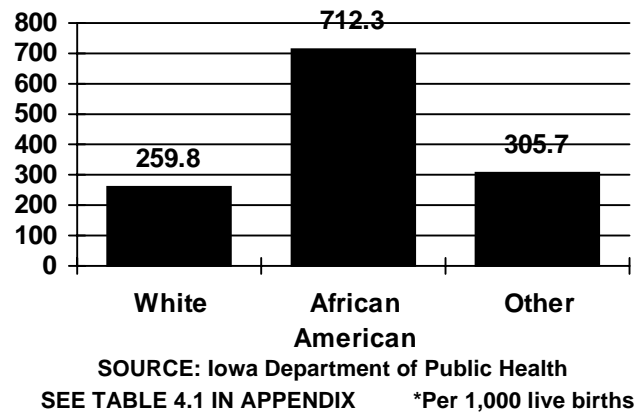
While births to teenagers have declined in Iowa, the number of births to females under 15 years of age has been high in the 1990s. Births to young teenagers peaked at 64 in 1992, and have since declined. (SEE FIGURE 4.17)

Teenagers are the most likely of all age groups to delay seeking or to not seek prenatal care (see section 4.7 Prenatal Care).

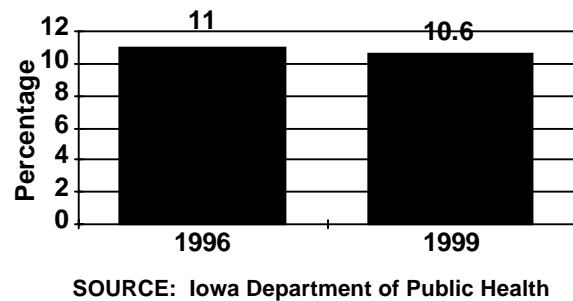
The proportion of out-of-wedlock mothers aged 20-24 has steadily increased to 39.9 percent in 1999, compared with 37.6 percent in 1995. Currently, 31.3 percent of the out-of-wedlock mothers are 15-19 years of age. This percentage has decreased continuously from 35.1 in 1995.<sup>12</sup>

The Iowa African-American out-of-wedlock birth rate decreased from 723.4 in 1998 to 712.3 per 1,000 live births in 1999. The rate for other races also decreased this year-- 305.7 compared to 307.2 in 1998. (SEE FIGURE 4.14)

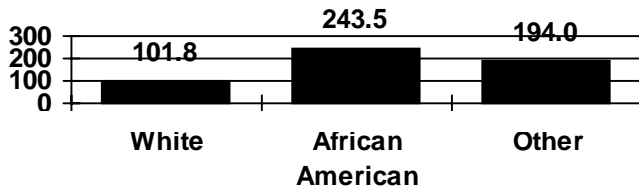
**Figure 4.14**  
**OUT-OF-WEDLOCK LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE, IOWA, 1999\***



**Figure 4.15**  
**LIVE BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS, IOWA 1996 AND 1998**

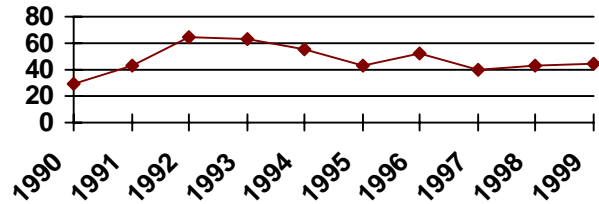


**Figure 4.16**  
**LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE OF**  
**MOTHERS, 19 AND UNDER, IOWA,**  
**1999\***



\*Per 1,000 live births  
 SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.17**  
**BIRTHS TO MOTHERS**  
**UNDER 15, IOWA, 1990-99**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health  
 SEE TABLE 4.2 IN APPENDIX

### 4.7 Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is one of the most important determinants of birth outcome. Obtaining little or no prenatal care may result in low birthweight, many lifelong disabilities, and infant deaths. The percentage of mothers in Iowa receiving care during the first trimester has gradually increased from 84.8 percent in 1987 to 87.3 percent in 1998.<sup>14</sup>

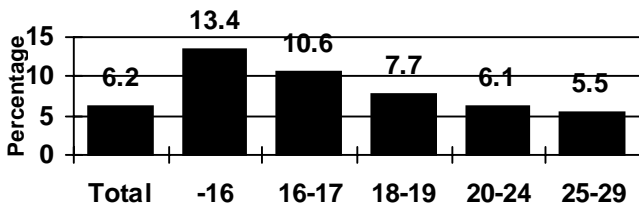
Teens are the most likely of all age groups to delay seeking or to not seek prenatal care.<sup>15</sup> One result is the higher percentage of low-birthweight babies to younger mothers. (SEE FIGURE 4.18)

Women of color and all Hispanic women are also less likely to receive prenatal care in Iowa. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 1998 white, non-Hispanic women in Iowa received prenatal care in 88.6 percent of the cases; black, non-Hispanic, 74.4 percent; and Hispanic, 73.0.<sup>16</sup>

The rate of infants weighing less than 2,500 grams was highest in 1999 for those of African-American mothers. (SEE FIGURE 4.19)

**Figure 4.18**  
**LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES BY**  
**AGE OF MOTHER, IOWA, 1999\***

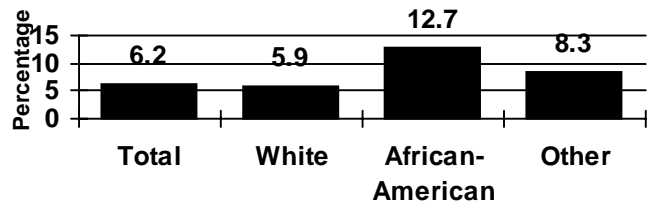
\*Under 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health  
 SEE TABLE 4.3 IN APPENDIX

**Figure 4.19**  
**LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES**  
**BY RACE OF MOTHER, IOWA, 1999\***

\*Under 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health  
 SEE TABLE 4.4 IN APPENDIX

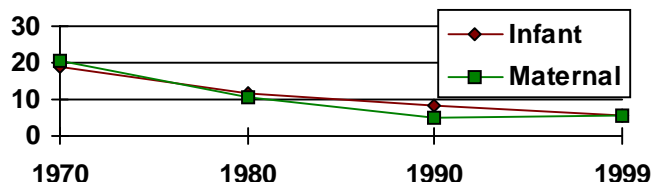
### 4.8 Infant and Maternal Mortality

Infant mortality rates are considered a universal indicator of maternal and child well-being. Infant mortality, or deaths to children in the first year of life, is reflective of socioeconomic conditions and of the absence of adequate health services. The infant mortality rate for 1999 was 5.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, an all-time low. (SEE FIGURE 4.20)

The Iowa maternal mortality rate has decreased over the past ten years. In 1988, the rate was 13.1 per 100,000 live births. In 1999, there were 5.3 maternal deaths per 100,000, up from 1997's rate of 2.7. (SEE FIGURE 4.20)

**Figure 4.20**  
**INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY**  
**RATES, IOWA, 1970-99\***

\*Infant death rates per 1,000 live births, maternal, 100,000



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health  
 SEE TABLE 4.5 IN APPENDIX

### 4.9 Sexually Transmitted Diseases/AIDS

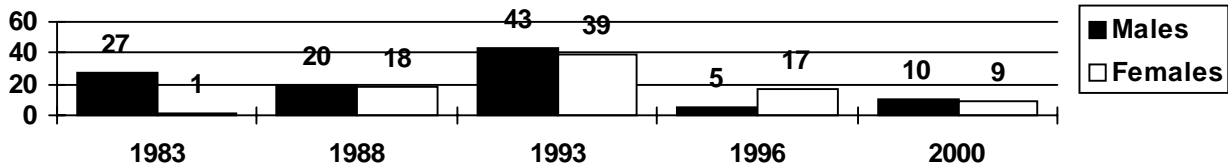
A recent estimate indicates that 15 million Americans become newly infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) each year, yet STDs remain one of the most under recognized health threats.<sup>17</sup> Although current Iowa data show some of the lowest levels of disease since the 1980s, STDs are still a serious concern. Sexually transmitted diseases affect women and men of all backgrounds and are most prevalent among teenagers and young adults.<sup>18</sup>

Although nationally syphilis is far less common than it once was, the number of men and women in Iowa who are infected with the disease increased between 1983 and 1993, and has since decreased. (SEE FIGURE 4.21) While easily treated with antibiotics within the early stages, if progressed to its late stages, mental disorders, blindness, and even death can occur. Moreover, syphilis is believed to be accelerating the spread of the HIV epidemic, particularly in communities of color.<sup>19</sup>

Chlamydial infections are the most common of all STDs, with an estimated 3 to 4 million new cases occurring each year. The number of reported cases of chlamydia increased between 1996 and 2000, the largest number for women. (SEE FIGURE 4.22) Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious complication of chlamydial infection, is a major cause of infertility among women of childbearing age.<sup>20</sup>

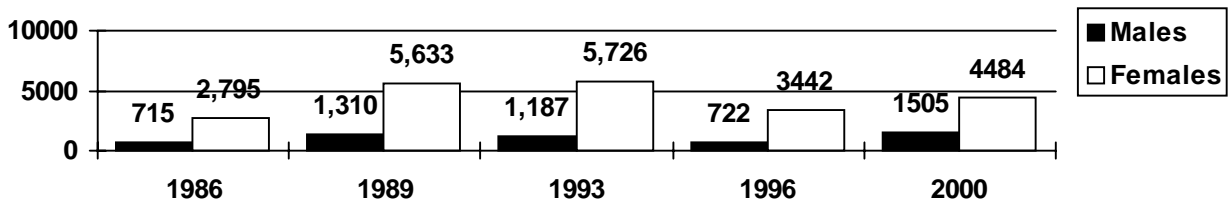
The number of reported cases of gonorrhea in Iowa between 1996 and 2000, for both women and men, has increased. (SEE FIGURE 4.23) While Iowa women are only slightly more likely than men to acquire the disease, the most common and serious complications of gonorrhea occur in women. These include PID, ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy that occurs inside the fallopian tubes), and infertility.<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 4.21**  
**REPORTED CASES OF SYPHILIS, IOWA, 1983-2000**



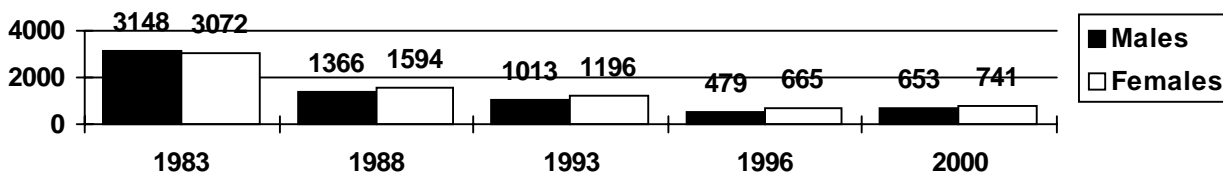
SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.22**  
**REPORTED CASES OF CHLAMYDIA, IOWA, 1986-2000**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

**Figure 4.23**  
**REPORTED CASES OF GONORRHEA, IOWA, 1983-2000**

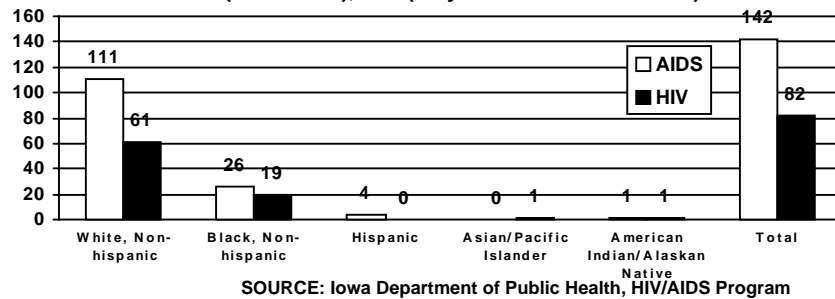


SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Health

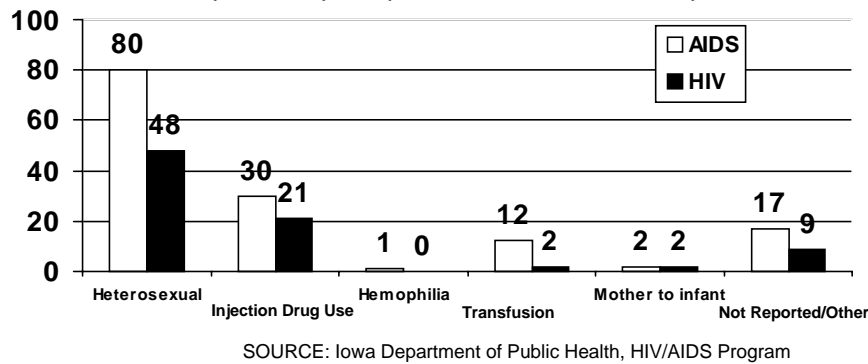
Over the last few years, women have accounted for an increasing proportion of AIDS cases nationwide and in Iowa.<sup>22</sup> By 2000, 16.1 percent of newly diagnosed AIDS cases in Iowa were among women, twice what was seen early in the epidemic, while women comprise 18.7 percent of newly reported HIV infections.

From 1983 to 2000, 142 Iowa women were diagnosed with AIDS. While female minorities represent just 5.4 percent of Iowa's female population according to 1999 census estimates, they represented 18.3 percent of all female AIDS cases since 1983 and 23.2 percent of all female HIV cases reported since July 1, 1998. (SEE FIGURE 4.24) Heterosexual exposure comprised more than one-half of the AIDS cases from 1983-98, followed by injection drug use. (SEE FIGURE 4.25)

**Figure 4.24**  
**AIDS & HIV CASES IN FEMALES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, IOWA,**  
**AIDS (1983-2000), HIV (July 1998-December 2000)**



**Figure 4.25**  
**ADULT AIDS & HIV CASES IN FEMALES BY MODE OF EXPOSURE, IOWA, AIDS**  
**(1983-2000), HIV (JULY 1998-DECEMBER 2000)**



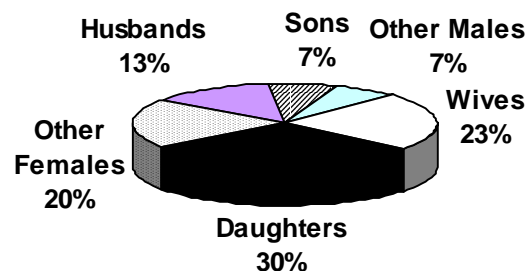
### 4.10 Caregiving for the Elderly

Iowa ranks second nationwide in the percentage of population that is over 85 years; fourth in the percentage of population over 75 years; and fifth in the percentage of population over 65 years.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, Iowa's elderly population is expected to continue to increase as the baby boom generation gets older. Because of this, many of Iowa's non-institutionalized disabled elderly rely or will rely solely on informal care provided by family and friends.

Caregivers for the elderly are individuals who provide support and assistance to their disabled or dependent friends or relatives, usually without compensation and often with great personal sacrifice. According to the OWL: The Voice of Midlife and Older Women, the typical caregiver in today's society is a married woman in her mid-forties to mid-fifties, works full-time outside the home and spends an average of 18 hours per week on caregiving. Seventy-three percent of all caregivers are wives, daughters, or other females. (SEE FIGURE 4.26)

Eighty percent of these caregivers spend seven days a week providing services that include personal care tasks such as bathing, dressing and feeding, and performing general care tasks, including shopping, transportation, housework, and finance management.<sup>24</sup>

**Figure 4.26**  
**CAREGIVERS' RELATIONSHIP TO**  
**ELDERLY CARE RECIPIENT**



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

#### 4.11 Forward-Looking Strategies

■ In Iowa, gender is used as a rate characteristic by insurance companies for small firms, which means that those employers pay higher insurance rates for women than they do men. The more women small firms employ, the higher rates they will pay. In fact, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, women are less likely to have employer provided health insurance than men.<sup>25</sup> Iowa should reject the use of gender as a rating factor in insurance. Using gender as a rating factor repudiates the fundamental principle of equality that no person should be treated differently because of her or his membership in a group defined by race, gender, religion, or ethnicity.

■ Prenatal care, which helps reduce the incidents of low birthweight infants and lifelong disabilities, costs far less than services provided after birth.<sup>26</sup> More accessible, available, and affordable prenatal healthcare services should be made available to Iowa women.

■ Teen childbearing has harsh consequences to mothers, children, and society. According to a Kids Count Special Report, teen mothers complete high school or attend college less frequently, are less likely to secure steady employment, and are more likely to receive welfare than women who delay

childbearing.<sup>27</sup> Iowa should maintain funding for the community adolescent pregnancy prevention and information services grant program.

■ Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can be an effective tool in preventing the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.<sup>28</sup> State funding should continue to make the chlamydia screening and treatment program available statewide and there should be an increased emphasis on prevention and treatment services for women.

■ Women of color and white women of Hispanic origin in Iowa have disparate health concerns (when compared to white women), many of which originate from racism/xenophobia. Significant attention needs to be paid to the particular health concerns of Iowa's female minority population.

■ As more women become caregivers to the elderly, support programs for caregivers will be increasingly in demand. To help support caregivers, services need to be made available for in-home care, including provision of meals and nutrition consultation by a registered dietitian, adult day care, emergency response system, respite care, and hospice, through the Senior Living Trust and the statewide expansion of the Medicaid Home and Community-based waiver for the elderly.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 28, December 13, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, *Iowa Health Risk Behaviors: 1997-1998 Final Report from the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System*.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> American Cancer Society, *Cancer Risk Report*, 1995.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, *Iowa Health Risk Behaviors: 1997-1998 Final Report from the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System*.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, *Vital Statistics: Iowa 1999*.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, *Child and Adolescent Health in Iowa*, November 1995 and the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 48, No. 3, March 28, 2000.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 47, No. 4, October 7, 1998.

<sup>17</sup> Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Prevention, Center for Disease Control, *CDC Issues National Report Card on STDs: Gonorrhea and Syphilis Down, but Not Beaten: Chlamydia Continues to Spread Widely*, March 1, 1999.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 1999.

<sup>23</sup> Iowa Department of Elder Affairs.

<sup>24</sup> National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, *Facts on Aging and Caregiving in America*, 1995.

<sup>25</sup>U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, *Measuring the Uninsured by Firm Size and Employment Status*.

<sup>26</sup> Center for the Future of Children, *The Future of Children, Low Birthweight*, 1995; 5:1. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Los Altos, CA. quoted by Iowa Department of Public Health, *Child and Adolescent Health in Iowa*, November 1995, p. 5.

<sup>27</sup>Kids Count, *When Teens Have Sex: Issues and Trends—A KIDS COUNT Special Report*, 1998.

<sup>28</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Critical Need to Pay Attention to HIV Prevention for Women: Minority and Young Women Bear Greatest Burden*, accessed on [http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv\\_aids/pubs/facts/women.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/pubs/facts/women.htm) on May 11, 1999.



# 5

## Women and Justice

### *Highlights*

- Civil order protection filings jumped 2,703 percent, from 189 in 1990 to 5,297 in 2000.
- Domestic violence is a gender-based crime with 82.9 percent of the victims being female and 82.9 percent of the perpetrators being male.
- Between 1991 and 1999, Iowa law enforcement agencies saw a 131.1 percent increase in the number of reported sex offenses, from 890 to 2,057. The majority of those victims were female.
- In 1987, Iowa's prison female population was fewer than 125. By 2000, that number was 604.
- African-American women represent a disproportionate number of women who are incarcerated at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. While representing approximately one percent of the female population, they comprised 22 percent of the female prison population at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in June 2000.



# —Chapter 5— Women and Justice

## 5.1 Introduction

Violence against women hinders them from achieving their full potential. In Iowa, the reported number of women who are victims of violent crimes, particularly domestic abuse and sexual assault, has escalated in the past eight years. Iowa women are also committing more crimes than they were 10 years ago. The Iowa Correctional Institution for Women is treating more women now than ever before for drug-related crimes.

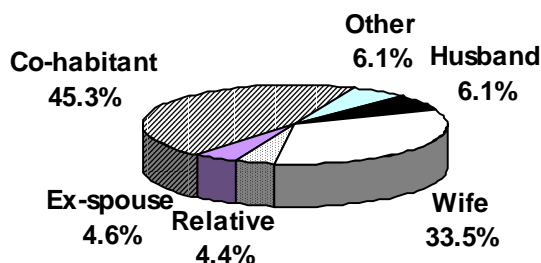
## 5.2 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a gender-based crime. Although both women and men can be victims of domestic abuse, the vast majority are women. In Iowa, 82.9 percent of victims were female and 82.9 percent of perpetrators were male, making domestic violence a gender-based crime in 1999.<sup>1</sup>

Domestic violence crosses ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic lines—with children often becoming the indirect victims. It is a pattern of abusive behavior used to control one's partner that includes physical violence or assault, isolation, intimidation, threats, economics, and forced sex.

Nationwide, in 1998, about 1 million violent crimes were committed against persons by their current or former spouses or partners.<sup>2</sup> Domestic abuse not only includes violent behavior among people who live together, but also includes assault between separated or divorced spouses, couples who had lived together in the past year, relatives, and two people with a child in common. (SEE FIGURE 5.1)

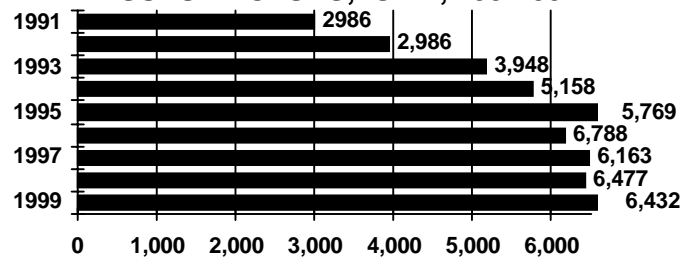
**Figure 5.1  
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO OFFENDER  
IN REPORTED DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES  
IOWA, 1999**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Safety

Domestic abuse reports to law enforcement officials increased 115.4 percent from 1991 to 1999. (SEE FIGURE 5.2)

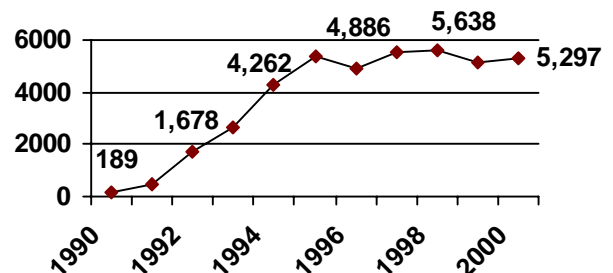
**Figure 5.2  
REPORTED DOMESTIC ABUSE  
ASSAULT CASES, IOWA, 1991-99**



SOURCE: Iowa Department of Public Safety

Civil protection order filings jumped dramatically between 1990 and 2000, with a 2,703 percent increase. (SEE FIGURE 5.3) The increases can be attributed in part to the fact that domestic violence nationally and in Iowa has acquired a great deal of media and legal attention over the past decade, encouraging more victims to report domestic abuse.

**Figure 5.3  
CIVIL ORDER PROTECTION  
FILINGS IN IOWA, 1990-2000**



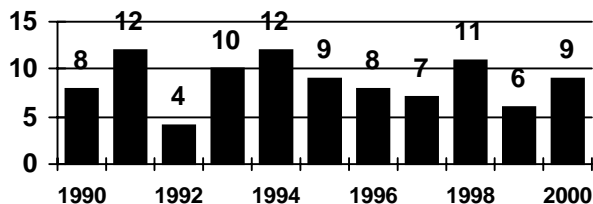
SOURCE: Iowa Judicial Department

Nonetheless, reported cases of domestic abuse represent only a small portion of those who seek help from Iowa's domestic violence crisis lines and shelters. From July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, 18,458 victims of domestic violence were served by programs receiving state dollars. Of those, 14,883 were adults and 3,575 were children.<sup>3</sup>

In 67 percent of cases reported to law enforcement in 1999, the victim suffered some sort of injury. A weapon was indicated in 93 percent of those cases.<sup>4</sup> Sometimes, the result is death.

Many Iowa women have died as a result of domestic violence. From 1990 to 2000, 96 women were killed by their partners—husbands, men with whom they lived, and men they had dated. (One woman was six months pregnant at the time of the murder.) (SEE FIGURE 5.4) More than half of the perpetrators committed suicide after the murder in 2000.<sup>5</sup> Conversely, nine men were murdered in Iowa by their female partners during that same time period. Of those, three were reported to have had a history of abusing the woman or were physically threatening her at the time. In all domestic abuse murders in that time, 13 children were also killed at the crime scenes. Many more children witnessed the crimes.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 5.4**  
**FEMALES KILLED IN DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES, IOWA, 1990-2000**



SOURCE: Iowa Attorney General's Office, Crime Victim Assistance Division

Children are at risk of death and of physical and sexual abuse in families where domestic violence occurs. In 29 percent of the cases reported to law enforcement in 1999, children were present.<sup>7</sup> Research shows that 50-70 percent of husbands who batter their wives also batter their children.<sup>8</sup>

The 1999 Iowa Youth Survey, conducted by the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation, reported that a range of 10 to 17 percent of students in each grade, 6-12, experienced physical abuse at home. (SEE FIGURE 5.5)

The 1999 report also shows that of those who had a boyfriend/girlfriend, four to eight percent of students in

each grade, 6-12, have experienced physical abuse by their partner. Overall, 6 percent of both boys and girls have been victims of dating violence. (SEE FIGURE 5.6) In 1999, 32 domestic violence projects existed in Iowa to assist victims of domestic abuse of all ages.

**Figure 5.5**  
**PHYSICAL ABUSE AT HOME, GRADES 6-12, IOWA, 1999\***



\*85,552 students statewide were surveyed  
SOURCE: Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation

**Figure 5.6**  
**DATING VIOLENCE, GRADES 6-12, IOWA, 1999\***



\*85,552 students statewide were surveyed  
SOURCE: Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation

### 5.3 Sexual Assault

In Iowa, the number of reported sexual assaults continues to rise yearly. A violent crime, primarily an aggressive rather than sexual act, sexual assault occurs whenever a person is forced to submit to another person against her or his will. It involves physical force, psychological pressure, and/or exploitation. The majority of reported sexual assault victims are women.

In 1999, law enforcement officials saw a 131.1 percent increase from 1991 in the number of reported sex offenses. (SEE FIGURE 5.7) That included 818 reports of forcible rape, 948 reports of forcible fondling, 42 reports of sexual assault with an object, 95 reports of forcible sodomy, 38 reports of incest, and 116 reports of statutory rape.<sup>10</sup> The actual number of offenses is presumed to be much higher, as many cases of sexual assault are not reported to law enforcement officials.

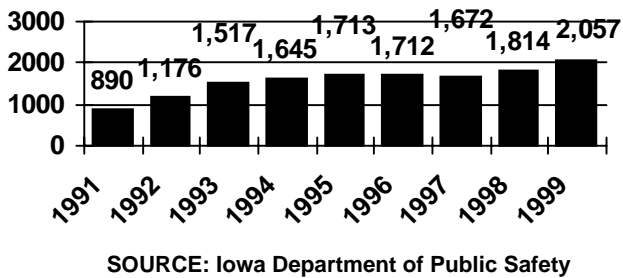
The majority of the rape victims knew their attacker in 1999. Victims identified a family member as their attacker 13.8 percent of the time, and two-thirds of the

victims knew the perpetrator. (SEE FIGURE 5.8) Most rapes occurred within a residence. (SEE FIGURE 5.9)

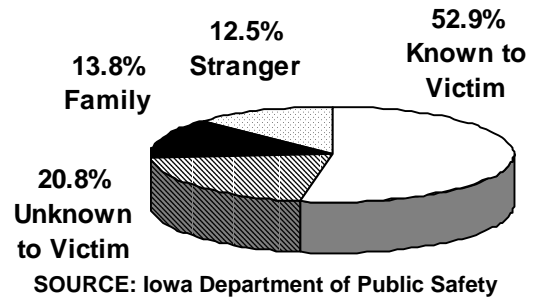
From July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999, 3,482 adult, teenage, and child survivors of sexual assault sought services from Iowa's 31 sexual assault crisis centers. This includes 1,631 adults, 792 teens (13-17), and 723 children. This was up from approximately 3,000 in 1990.<sup>11</sup>

Ninety-five percent of forcible rape victims were female.<sup>12</sup>

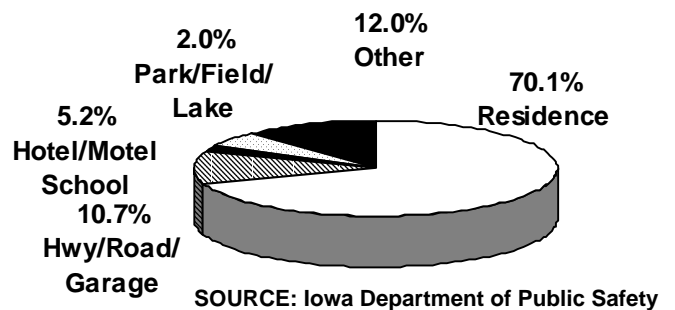
**Figure 5.7**  
**REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULTS**  
**IOWA, 1991-99**



**Figure 5.8**  
**REPORTED RAPE RELATIONSHIPS**  
**IOWA, 1999**



**Figure 5.9**  
**REPORTED RAPE LOCATIONS**  
**IOWA, 1999**



### 5.4 Offenders

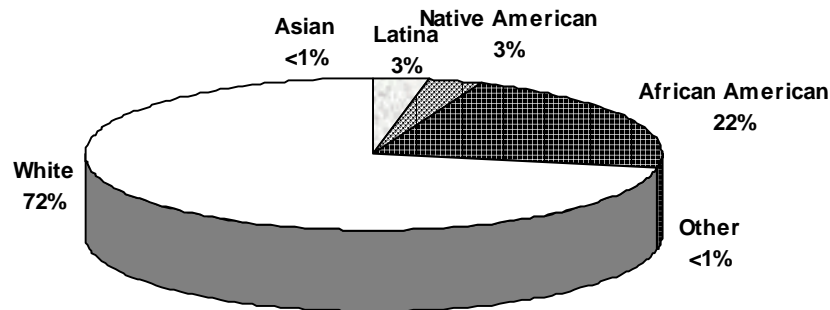
The proportion of female offenders to the total population remained fairly stable during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Over the past five years, the female population increased by nearly 53 percent.<sup>13</sup> (SEE FIGURE 5.10) There are grave differences in the rate of African-American women and white women who are in prison. In June of 2000, approximately 22 percent of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women population was African-American and 72 percent white.<sup>14</sup> These figures are staggering when considering that African-American women made up just 1 percent of Iowa's female population in 1999.<sup>15</sup> (SEE FIGURE 5.11)

**Figure 5.10**  
**IOWA INMATE POPULATIONS AT MIDYEAR, IOWA, 1987-2000**

YEAR	TOTAL	# WOMEN	% WOMEN	YEAR	TOTAL	# WOMEN	% WOMEN
1987	2,789	123	4.7%	1994	5,090	307	6.0%
1988	2,890	134	4.6%	1995	5,692	395	6.9%
1989	3,322	181	5.4%	1996	6,176	447	7.2%
1990	3,842	204	5.3%	1997	6,636	521	7.9%
1991	4,077	221	5.4%	1998	7,431	616	8.3%
1992	4,485	217	4.8%	1999	7,331	540	7.4%
1993	4,695	262	5.6%	2000	7,646	604	7.9%

SOURCE: Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights

**Figure 5.11  
RACIAL/ETHNIC MAKE-UP FOR IOWA  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN, JUNE 30, 2000**



SOURCE: Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights

Female-offender populations throughout the 1990s appear to be driven by trends in the following offenses: drug offenses, forgery and theft.<sup>16</sup> The proportion of female offenders serving time for these crimes has grown more rapidly than for other types of offenses. (SEE FIGURE 5.12)

**Figure 5.12  
LEAD OFFENSES OF IOWA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN INMATES  
AUGUST 19, 1992 AND JUNE 30, 2000**

Lead Offense	August 19, 1992		June 30, 2000		% Change, 1992-2000
	#	%	#	%	
Drug Offense	30	16.4%	137	31.3%	356.7%
Forgery/Fraud	17	9.3%	57	13.0%	235.3%
Theft	30	16.4%	61	13.9%	103.3%
All Other Offenses	106	57.9%	183	41.8%	72.6%
<b>Total Inmates</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>139.3%</b>

SOURCE: Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights

### 5.5 Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile arrests in 1999 (those under 18 years of age) totaled 19,210 in Iowa--29.8 percent female and 70.2 percent male. The highest percentage of Iowa's female juvenile were arrested for larceny and violating liquor laws.<sup>17</sup>

Since 1995, the number of females served in Iowa's juvenile detention facilities has increased dramatically--a 44.1 percent increase from 1995 to 2000. (SEE FIGURE 5.13) The largest increases have been in property offenses (all degrees of theft, burglary, criminal mischief, trespassing, forgery, etc.), person offenses (all degrees of assault, robbery, arson, murder, and kidnapping), and drug offenses.<sup>18</sup> (SEE FIGURE 5.14)

**Figure 5.13  
JUVENILES HELD IN DETENTION  
FACILITIES BY GENDER, IOWA, 1995-2000**

	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
<b>Female</b>	707	864	864	906	1,066	1,019
<b>Male</b>	3,426	3,683	3,929	4,379	4,147	4,275
<b>Total</b>	4,133	4,547	4,793	5,285	5,213	5,294

SOURCE: Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights

**Figure 5.14  
FEMALE JUVENILE OFFENDERS BY OFFENSE, IOWA, 1995-2000**

	<u>FY95</u>	<u>FY96</u>	<u>FY97</u>	<u>FY98</u>	<u>FY99</u>	<u>FY00</u>
<b>Other</b>	5	11	24	15	15	0
<b>Person</b>	194	230	246	280	325	345
<b>Sex</b>	2	4	0	2	3	0
<b>Drug</b>	33	65	77	70	82	115
<b>Public Health</b>	7	26	47	39	33	25
<b>Justice</b>	22	43	45	69	128	109
<b>Morality</b>	3	3	3	0	3	3
<b>Traffic</b>	6	10	12	14	26	30
<b>Property</b>	424	460	408	409	446	381
<b>Weapons</b>	11	12	2	8	5	11
<b>Total</b>	707	864	864	906	1066	1019

SOURCE: Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights

### 5.6 Forward-looking Strategies

- In response to the dramatic increase in drug-related crimes in the state of Iowa, there is a serious need for more drug abuse treatment programs.
- Funding and support for improved educational and vocational training for women is needed throughout Iowa's correctional system. Training for women and men needs to include parenting education with follow-up after release by community correctional programming and referral/support agencies. Furthermore, a task force needs to be established to examine treatment and equality of opportunity in education and training programs for women throughout the correctional system.
- Domestic abuse programs are understaffed. Programs require skilled staff and volunteers to be available on crisis lines and to work in person, 24 hours every day. Many programs respond to domestic abuse victims at hospitals, clinics, and police stations.
- In the past few years, many new domestic violence and sexual assault projects have developed in Iowa, especially in rural communities. These projects need continued funding.
- Training should be mandated for criminal justice personnel in victim-related issues.

- To meet the increasing needs of females involved with or at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system, advocate for gender-specific programming on multiple levels as identified in the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women's *Providing Gender-Specific Services for Adolescent Female Offenders: Guidelines and Resources*.
- The Equality in the Courts Task Force, which investigated racial/ethnic and gender bias in Iowa's court system, reported in 1993 one consistent finding: gender and race bias poses a problem for women and minorities. Members of minority groups received harsher treatment in the court system. Educational programs should continue to incorporate materials on gender and racial/ethnic bias in courts. Training is needed for judges, attorneys, court personnel, and corrections/community-based supervision personnel.<sup>19</sup>
- Increase sentences to community-based programs as an alternative to prison, particularly for mothers who have been convicted of nonviolent crimes.
- State funding should be made available for a full-time position to coordinate, develop, and manage legal assistance to meet the needs of low-income women.
- Intimate relationship violence should be included in the statutory definition of domestic violence.

<sup>1</sup>Iowa Department of Public Safety, *Iowa Uniform Crime Reports*, 1999.

<sup>2</sup>Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence*, May 2000.

<sup>3</sup>Crime Victim Assistance Division, Iowa Department of Justice.

<sup>4</sup>Iowa Department of Public Safety, *Iowa Uniform Crime Reports*, 1999.

<sup>5</sup>Crime Victim Assistance Division, Iowa Department of Justice.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup>Iowa Department of Public Safety, *Iowa Uniform Crime Reports*, 1999.

<sup>8</sup>Pagelow, "Effects of Domestic Violence on Children and Their Consequences for Custody and Visitation Arrangements," *Mediation Quarterly*, 1990, p. 347 quoted by *Final Report of the Supreme Court Task Force on Courts and Communities' Response to Domestic Abuse, State of Iowa*, August 1994, p. 93.

<sup>9</sup>Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation, University of Iowa, *1999 Youth Survey Report*.

<sup>10</sup>Iowa Department of Public Safety, *Iowa Uniform Crime Reports*, 1999.

<sup>11</sup>Crime Victim Assistance Division, Iowa Department of Justice.

<sup>12</sup>Iowa Department of Public Safety, *Iowa Uniform Crime Reports*, 1999.

<sup>13</sup>Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights, *State of Iowa Inmates at Mid-Year 2000*.

<sup>14</sup>Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights, *State of Iowa Inmates at Mid-Year 2000*.

<sup>15</sup>State Data Center, Division of Library Services, Department of Education.

<sup>16</sup>Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights, *State of Iowa Inmates at Mid-Year 2000*.

<sup>17</sup>Iowa Department of Public Safety.

<sup>18</sup>Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights.

<sup>19</sup>*Final Report of the Equality in the Courts Task Force Executive Summary*, February 1993.



# 6

## Women and Politics

### *Highlights*

- In 1974, Iowa women made up just 14 percent of those serving on state boards and commissions. In May 2001, that number reached 46 percent.
- In 2001, Iowa women comprised 22 percent of the state's General Assembly, up from 10.7 percent in 1977.
- In 2000, Iowa women made up 36 percent of all of the state's elected county officials.
- From 1990 to 2000, the number of women judges has increased in Iowa--from 6.0 percent to 17.8 percent of all judicial positions.
- The percentage of female registered voters who vote has dropped considerably since the 1984 general election, when 82 percent of female voters turned out at the polls. In 1996 and 2000, female voter turnout for the general election lagged at 72 percent.



—Chapter 6—

# Women and Politics

## 6.1 Introduction

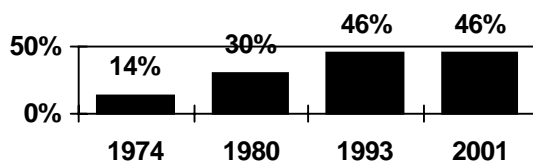
Women's involvement in all aspects of politics is crucial for the elevation of the status of women in Iowa and nationwide. Equal participation of women and men in politics will provide a necessary balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society. Although advances have been made in the number of Iowa women who hold public office or serve on state boards or commissions, they continue to be gravely underrepresented in the majority of the public decision-making bodies in the state.

## 6.2 State Boards and Commissions

The State of Iowa has made great strides over the past twenty-five years in attaining equal gender representation on boards and commissions. In 1974, only 14 percent of all people on state boards and commissions were women. Governor appointments steadily increased that percentage until 1987, when Iowa's gender balance law was enacted—the first of its kind in the nation. In May of 2001, 46 percent of members of Iowa's boards and commissions were female. (SEE FIGURES 6.1 and 6.2)

While Iowa has instituted gender balance on state boards and commissions, only one city in the state, Iowa City, has engendered such a policy.

**Figure 6.1**  
**PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES**  
**ON STATE BOARDS AND**  
**COMMISSIONS, IOWA, 1974-**  
**2001**



SOURCE: Office of the Governor

**Figure 6.2**  
**STATE BOARD AND COMMISSION**  
**MEMBERS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2001\***

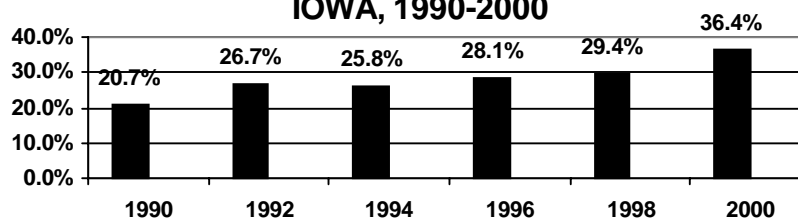
	# OF MALES	# OF FEMALES
White	543	505
African American	31	29
Asian American	2	4
American Indian	4	3
Hispanic	18	0
Unknown	19	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>559</b>

\*As of May 21, 2001, 34 positions were open  
SOURCE: Office of the Governor

## 6.3 State Department Directors

The number of women serving as state department directors has increased 15.4 percent from 1989 to 2000. Department directors are Governor-appointed positions. In 1989, six women served as leaders of state agencies. As of May 2000, nine women led state departments: Civil Rights, Cultural Affairs, Economic Development, Elder Affairs, Human Rights, Human Services, Management, Personnel and Public Safety. (SEE FIGURE 6.3)

**Figure 6.3**  
**FEMALE STATE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS,**  
**IOWA, 1990-2000**



Source: Iowa Official Register

### 6.4 Elective Public Office

Iowa's record of electing women to public office, both at the state and national levels, is poor. It is one of only six states that has failed to send a woman to the U.S. Congress, and it ranks 29th nationwide in the number of women that serve in state legislatures.<sup>1</sup>

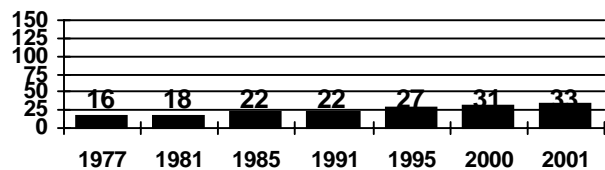
Since the first year in which a woman was elected to the Iowa General Assembly in 1929, the total percentage of women legislators has increased from .6 percent to 22 percent in 2001.

Even with this increase, women, who total 50.9 percent of Iowa's population, represent about one-fifth of the General Assembly. (SEE FIGURE 6.4) Eleven women serve as Senators, while 22 serve as Representatives in 2001. Representation of women of color in the General Assembly is also deficient; only two women of color have served in the Iowa General Assembly. Furthermore, few Iowa women have served as elected state officials. (SEE FIGURE 6.5)

Likewise, few women lead Iowa's cities. According to the Iowa League of Cities, of the 949 cities in Iowa, 101 women serve as mayors.

Iowa's record of electing women to county offices surpasses its record of electing women to state and national offices. In 1996, 34 percent of all county elected offices in Iowa were held by females. Since 1970, there has been a continual increase in the percentage of women elected as county officials in the state. (SEE FIGURE 6.6)

**Figure 6.4**  
**FEMALES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IOWA, 1977-2001**



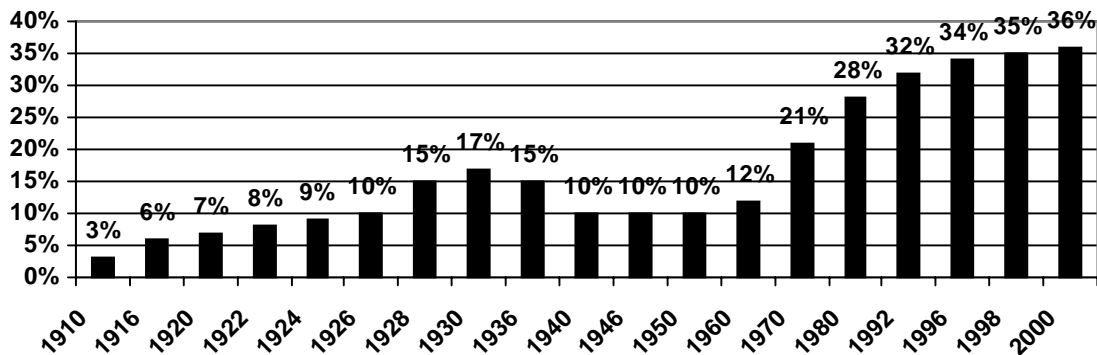
SOURCE: Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, *Legislators and Politicians: Iowa's Women Lawmakers*, 1995 and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Iowa Department of Human Rights

**Figure 6.5**  
**FEMALE ELECTED OFFICIALS IOWA, THROUGH MAY OF 2001**

OFFICE	# OF MALES	# OF FEMALES
Governor	39	0
Lieutenant Governor	41	3
Secretary of State	25	3
Treasurer	25	0
Auditor	30	0
Secretary of Agriculture	13	1
Attorney General	31	1

SOURCE: Iowa Official Register

**Figure 6.6**  
**PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES IN ALL ELECTED COUNTY OFFICES, IOWA, 1910-2000**



Source: Melissa Fahr, Buena Vista University and Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, DHR

## 6.5 Judges

Although an increasing number of Iowa women have obtained law degrees over the past two decades, very few women serve as judges. Until recently, several types of judicial positions were held exclusively by men. That, however, is slowly beginning to change as Iowa is improving its representation of women on judicial seats.

According to the Iowa Judicial Branch, from 1990-2000 women magistrate judges increased from 7 to 28; associate juvenile judges from 2 to 6; district associate judges from 5 to 12; district court judges from 4 to 11; court of appeals from 1 to 3, and supreme court judges from 1 to 2. There were no female senior judges in 1990 or 2000. (SEE FIGURE 6.7)

In 2000, women comprised 17.8 percent of the state judiciary positions, compared to 6 percent ten years earlier.

**Figure 6.7**  
**FEMALE JUDGES, IOWA, 1990 AND 2000**

<u>JUDICIAL SEATS</u>	<u>TOTAL JUDGES 1990</u>	<u>FEMALE JUDGES 1990</u>	<u>TOTAL JUDGES 2000</u>	<u>FEMALE JUDGES 2000</u>
Senior Judge	17	0	16	0
Judicial Magistrate	146	7	132	28
Associate Juvenile/Probate	10	2	13	6
District Associate	46	5	54	12
District Court	100	4	116	11
Court of Appeals	6	1	9	3
Supreme Court	9	1	8	2

SOURCE: State Court Administrator

## 6.6 Voters

In every presidential election since 1980, the proportion of eligible female adults who voted has exceeded the proportion of eligible male adults who voted. The number of female voters has exceeded the number of male voters in every presidential election since 1964.<sup>2</sup> The same holds true for Iowa.

In 2000, women comprised the majority of registered voters in the state at approximately 53 percent, men totaling 47 percent, the same as in 1996 and 1984. Since women make up 50.9 percent and men 49.1 percent of the population of the state, Iowa women have a higher voter registration rate than men.

Iowa females also have a higher voter turnout rate than men. In the 2000 and 1996 presidential election, voter turnout was 72 percent for females and 70 percent for males. Nonetheless, this was down from the 1984 presidential election when 82 percent of female registered voters and 81 percent of males voted. (SEE FIGURE 6.8) According to a survey by The Women's Vote Project,

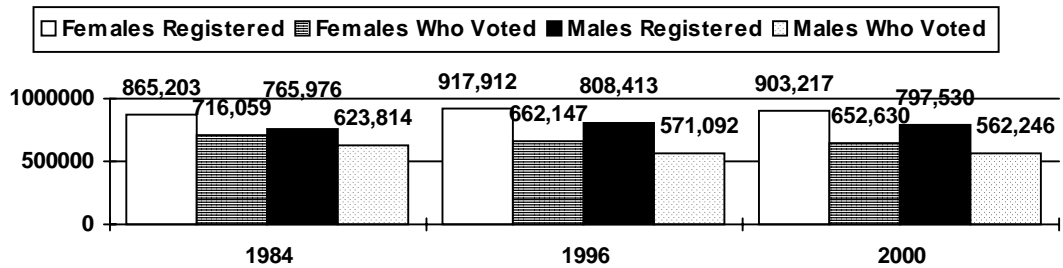
declining voter turnout for women can be attributed to several barriers, including getting time off work, finding child care, and lack of adequate information about candidates.<sup>3</sup> The survey also found that white women were more likely than African-American or Hispanic women to receive information by mail or phone about election issues.<sup>4</sup>

Young adults, aged 18 to 24, had the lowest turnout rate for both men and women, with just 42 and 44 percent, respectively, of those registered to vote casting ballots. This is a substantial drop since 1984 when 63 percent of women and 62 percent of men in that age group voted in the general election. The largest turnout of female registered voters in 2000 was in the 50 to 64 age category at 84 percent. For males, those 65 years and older showed the largest voter turnout at 84 percent. (SEE FIGURE 6.9)

Since 1994, both men and women have been leaving the rolls of registered Democrats and Republicans to register as No Party (Independent). From 1984 to 2000,

there was an increase of 53 percent of women registered as Independents, while male affiliation increased by 50 percent. In fact, more people are registered as Independent than either Republican or Democrat. (SEE FIGURES 6.10 and 6.11)

**Figure 6.8**  
**VOTER PARTICIPATION, IOWA, 1984, 1996, AND 2000**



SOURCE: Iowa Voter Registration

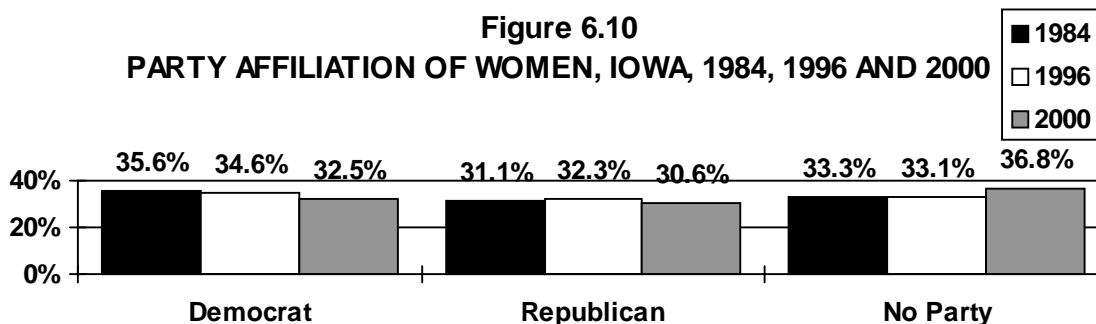
**Figure 6.9**  
**PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS WHO VOTED BY GENDER, AGE, AND YEAR, IOWA, IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 1984, 1996, AND 2000**

	AGE	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	AGE UNKNOWN
<b>FEMALE</b>							
1984		63%	79%	87%	90%	85%	76%
1996		40%	56%	76%	84%	82%	18%
2000		44%	55%	75%	84%	81%	8%
<b>Male</b>							
1984		62%	76%	85%	89%	88%	49%
1996		38%	53%	74%	83%	85%	11%
2000		42%	52%	73%	83%	84%	0%

SEE TABLE 6.1 IN APPENDIX

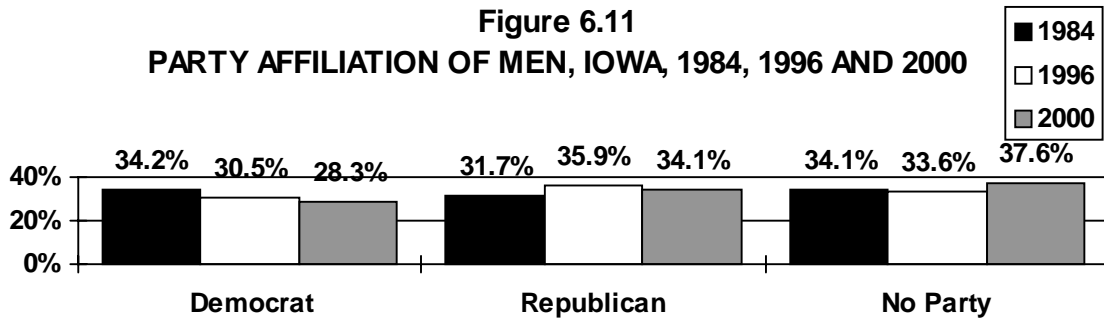
SOURCE: Iowa Voter Registration

**Figure 6.10**  
**PARTY AFFILIATION OF WOMEN, IOWA, 1984, 1996 AND 2000**



SOURCE: Iowa Voter Registration

**Figure 6.11**  
**PARTY AFFILIATION OF MEN, IOWA, 1984, 1996 AND 2000**



SEE TABLE 6.2 IN APPENDIX FOR 6.8 AND 6.9

SOURCE: Iowa Voter Registration

### 6.7 Forward-looking Strategies

- It is crucial that women's active participation and incorporation at all levels of decision making, including that of city and county governments, be promoted by the establishment of measures that would substantially increase the number of women who serve on community decision-making bodies. This could include a legislative mandate for gender-balanced boards and commissions on city and county levels.

- Women's service in state and national legislatures not only establishes a more representative governing body, but also works to advance the status of women in other ways. According to a national survey of women officeholders, women who hold elective office reshape the public policy agenda by giving a priority to women's rights policies and to women's traditional roles as caregivers in the family and society.<sup>5</sup> Women elective office holders also serve as role models for other women. According to a groundbreaking study by the National Women's Political Caucus in 1994, women who run for elective office win as often as men do.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, there are so few women in Iowa's elective offices because women just do not run. To encourage more women to run for office, work must be done to eliminate discriminatory attitudes and unequal gender power relations in private life that preface inequality in the public sphere.

- Education of judicial nominating commission members regarding the need to increase the number of women in the Iowa judiciary should be continued. Furthermore, the judicial nominating commission members need to be encouraged to give weight and consideration to relevant background and experience in the selection of candidates, rather than favoring the time served in a law office.

- Although the existence of a gender gap in voting has been debated since women won the right to vote in 1920, over the past two decades tangible political differences between women and men have increased.<sup>7</sup> (The gender gap refers to differences between women and men in their political attitudes and voting choices.) For example, in 1996, the largest-ever recorded gender gap--11 points--was made during a presidential election, with women favoring Bill Clinton and men preferring Bob Dole.<sup>8</sup>

- Voter education at an early age is an important factor in getting people out to the voting booths. Education on the history of women's struggle to obtain the right to vote in the U.S. should be increased in Iowa's schools.

- Political parties and candidates must provide more equitable information by mail or phone to women of varying races and ethnicities.

<sup>1</sup>Center for the American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, *Women in State Legislatures*, 2001 Fact Sheet.

<sup>2</sup>Center for the American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, *Sex Differences in Voter Turnout*, 1997.

<sup>3</sup>The Women's Vote Project, survey conducted by Lake, Sosin, Snell, Perry, and Associates, 1997.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Center for the American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, *The Impact of Women in Public Office: An Overview*, 1991.

<sup>6</sup>National Women's Political Caucus, *Perception and Reality: A Study Comparing the Success of Men & Women Candidates*, 1994.

<sup>7</sup>Center for the American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, *The Gender Gap*, 1997.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid





# Appendix

## Chapter 1: Population Characteristics

Table 1.1

## POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1850-2000

<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

Table 1.2

## MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES, IOWA, 1890-1990

<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

Table 1.3

## MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY AGE, 1990

<u>Age</u>	<u>Never Married</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Divorced</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
15-17	98.9	1.0	.1	.1
18-19	93.0	6.5	.4	.1
20-24	64.0	32.7	3.3	.1
25-29	23.7	66.6	9.2	.3
30-34	12.1	75.7	11.7	.5
35-44	6.9	78.2	8.9	9.6
45-54	3.8	80.1	12.2	3.9
55-59	3.3	78.2	8.9	9.6
60-64	3.5	72.4	7.0	17.1
65-74	4.3	57.8	5.0	32.9
75-84	6.3	31.2	3.3	59.0
85+	8.2	8.8	1.9	81.1

Table 1.4

DISSOLUTIONS, IOWA, 1960-99

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

## Chapter 2: Women in Education

Table 2.1

1999-2000 DROPOUTS AND ENROLLMENT BY GENDER AND RACE/ETHNICITY, GRADES 7-12

	<u>Dropouts</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Total	4,027	229,779
Total Male	2,334	117,474
Total Female	1,693	112,305
Total White	3,364	212,235
White Male	1,959	108,584
White Female	1,405	103,651
Total Black	254	6,895
Black Male	128	3,417
Black Female	126	3,478
Total Asian	63	3,967
Asian Male	41	2,055
Asian Female	22	1,912
Total Hispanic	295	5,668
Hispanic Male	172	2,946
Hispanic Female	123	2,722
Total American Indian	51	1,014
American Indian Male	34	472
American Indian Female	17	542

Table 2.2

HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES CONFERRED BY LEVEL, IOWA, 1997-98

<u>Regents</u>	<u>4-year Independent</u>	<u>Community Colleges</u>	<u>2-year Independent</u>
<u>Undergraduate/Graduate</u>	<u>Undergraduate/Graduate</u>	<u>Associate/Diploma or Certificate</u>	<u>Associate/ Other</u>
<u>Females</u>			
5,432 / 2,525	5,390 / 833	5,094 / 2,339	1,085
<u>Males</u>			
4,089 / 1,221	2,749 / 490	3,140 / 1,192	726

Table 2.3

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL COURSE ENROLLMENT IN COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCES, BY GENDER, IOWA, 2000-01

<u>Course</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
Basic Computer	1,193	1,398
General Computer	5,937	6,614
Business Computer App.	3,494	3,836
Business Programming	162	229
Data Processing	302	219
Computer Graphic	875	1,563
Computing System	163	267
Computer Technology	209	409
Network Technology	101	348
Computer Programming	275	853
Basic Programming	240	807
Pascal Programming	37	192
Other Programming	158	529
AP Computer Science	37	138
Computer-related Subject	88	159
Computer-Independent	67	72
Computer-Other	747	715

Table 2.4

## DEGREES CONFERRED IN SELECT DISCIPLINES IN HIGHER EDUCATION, BY GENDER, IOWA, 1995-96

<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
Agribusiness & Production	184	520
Architecture	100	84
Biological Sciences	681	436
Computer & Info. Sciences	264	256
Construction Trades	19	259
Education	2,393	821
Engineering & Related Tech.	611	1,076
English & Literature	596	266
Health Professions	4,457	1,264
Home Economics	276	22
Law and Legal Studies	269	183
Mathematics	177	99
Mechanics and Repairs	55	639
Physical Sciences	207	175
Soc. Sciences & History	867	784

Table 2.5

## PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS BY GENDER, IOWA, 2000-01

<u>Course</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
English	2,452	1,560
Consumer & Homemaking Education	304	10
Industrial Education	57	331
Science	856	388
Mathematics	588	799
Social Studies	374	1,179
Vocational Home Economics	122	2

Table 2.6

## PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS BY GENDER, IOWA, 2000-01

<u>Level</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
Elementary Principal	249	296
Middle School Principal	39	140
Junior High Principal	7	23
High School Principal	36	286
Superintendent	19	307

Table 2.7  
 MEAN SALARIES OF FACULTY MEMBERS, BY GENDER, OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, IOWA,  
 1999-2000

	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Associate Professor</u>	<u>Assistant Professor</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Lecturer/Other</u>
<u>Regents Universities</u>					
Females	\$101,273	\$75,199	\$64,082	\$47,674	-
Males	\$107,783	\$79,616	\$71,363	\$44,628	-
<u>4-year Independent</u>					
Females	\$ 58,940	\$60,271	\$47,570	\$44,295	\$36,633
Males	\$ 77,387	\$53,315	\$49,346	\$38,260	-
<u>Community Colleges</u>					
Females	\$ 50,327	\$43,468	\$39,823	\$43,532	\$47,165
Males	\$ 56,732	\$42,399	\$37,997	\$42,272	\$47,534
<u>2-year Independent/ Other</u>					
Females	\$ 74,214	\$66,804	\$54,450	\$43,629	\$42,830
Males	\$ 79,716	\$71,950	\$55,062	\$45,113	\$31,160

## Chapter 3: Women and Economics

Table 3.1  
PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES AND MALES IN  
LABOR FORCE, IOWA, 1950-90

<u>Year</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
1950	25.3	79.7
1960	31.9	78.1
1970	40.0	77.2
1980	50.1	76.3
1990	57.8	75.0

Table 3.2  
PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES IN LABOR FORCE  
BY AGE, IOWA, 1950 AND 1990

<u>Age</u>	<u>Females in 1950</u>	<u>Females in 1990</u>
16-19	34.3	59.3
20-24	38.6	77.1
25-29	25.5	79.2
30-34	24.6	79.2
35-44	30.2	82.1
45-54	29.8	75.8
55-59	24.0	61.6
60-64	19.5	38.4
65-69	14.4	17.5
70-74	7.2	8.9
75+	2.8	2.6

Table 3.3  
PERCENTAGE OF LABOR FORCE THAT  
IS FEMALE, IOWA, 1950-90

<u>Year</u>	<u>Females</u>
1950	24.6
1960	30.2
1970	36.5
1980	41.8
1990	46.0

Table 3.4  
PHYSICIAN POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA  
1980 AND 2000

	<u>1980</u>	<u>2000</u>
<u>Males</u>	3,111	3,874
<u>Females</u>	175	881

Table 3.5  
AVERAGE INCOME BY OCCUPATION AND  
GENDER, IOWA, 1990

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
Managerial	\$23,600	\$44,100
Professional Specialty	\$25,000	\$45,000
Technical	\$20,800	\$30,800
Sales	\$18,300	\$34,200
Admin. Support	\$17,100	\$27,900
Service	\$12,000	\$23,200
Farming, Forestry, & Fishing	\$11,100	\$21,600
Precision Craft, & Repair	\$19,400	\$27,000
Operators, Fabricators, & Laborers	\$17,100	\$24,900

Table 3.6  
PERCENTAGE IN POVERTY BY AGE AND GENDER,  
IOWA, 1989

<u>Age</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
Total	12.9	10.0
Under 5	17.2	17.8
5-11	14.4	14.2
12-17	12.0	11.4
18-24	25.8	19.4
25-44	10.7	7.4
45-59	7.0	5.4
60-64	8.8	7.1
65-74	10.2	5.4
75+	19.0	8.9

Table 3.7  
COMPLAINTS FILED ON SEX DISCRIMINATION TO  
THE IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION, 1983-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Complaints</u>
1983	254
1984	251
1985	287
1986	384
1987	514
1988	521
1989	378
1990	351
1991	359
1992	566
1993	678
1994	709
1995	830*
1996	745
1997	796
1998	792
1999	769
2000	509

\*The 1995 figure is based on an estimate

## Chapter 4: Women and Health

Table 4.1

### OUT-OF-WEDLOCK LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE, IOWA, 1999

<u>Race</u>	<u>Births</u>
White	9,174
African-American	822
Other	332

Table 4.2

### BIRTHS TO MOTHERS AGE 15 AND UNDER, IOWA, 1990-98

<u>Year</u>	<u>Births</u>
1990	30
1991	43
1992	64
1993	63
1994	56
1995	43
1996	52
1997	40
1998	43
1999	44

Table 4.3

### LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES BY AGE, IOWA, 1999

<u>Age</u>	<u>#</u>
Total	2,320
-16	25
16-17	112
18-19	212
20-24	589
25-29	637

Table 4.4

### LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES BY RACE OF MOTHER, IOWA, 1999

<u>Race</u>	<u>#</u>
Total	2,320
White	2,084
African-American	146
Other	90

Table 4.5

### INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY, IOWA, 1970-99

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate*</u>		<u>#</u>	
	<u>Infant</u>	<u>Maternal</u>	<u>Infant</u>	<u>Maternal</u>
1970	18.8	20.7	908	10
1980	11.8	10.5	565	5
1990	8.1	5.1	317	2
1995	8.2	2.7	300	1
1996	8.5	2.7	259	1
1997	6.2	2.7	229	1
1998	6.5	8.1	243	3
1999	5.7	5.3	213	3

\*Infant death rates per 1,000 live births and maternal death rates per 100,000 live births

## Chapter 6: Women and Politics

Table 6.1

REGISTERED VOTERS WHO VOTED BY GENDER, AGE, AND YEAR, IOWA, 1984, 1996 AND 2000

<u>Age</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
Female 1984	73,333	146,267	178,620	157,363	160,625	211
Female 1996	41,882	86,434	207,793	148,865	177,167	6
Female 2000	47,548	78,190	196,209	159,415	171,265	3
Male 1984	67,338	132,162	164,980	142,006	117,284	44
Male 1996	37,368	75,407	190,657	136,226	131,432	2
Male 2000	42,186	67,946	177,119	148,146	126,849	0

Table 6.2

PARTY AFFILIATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1984, 1996 AND 2000

	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>No Party</u>
Female 1984	259,574	235,575	220,910
Female 1996	317,152	296,681	304,079
Female 2000	293,929	276,823	332,465
Male 1984	217,829	209,953	196,032
Male 1996	185,631	232,434	153,027
Male 2000	225,679	272,088	299,763