

## AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN IOWA: 2009

To recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week beginning on Feb. 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bi-centennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month.

### 77,477

The estimated African American population in Iowa as of July 1, 2007. African Americans constitute 2.6 percent of the state's total population. In 1980 African Americans made up 1.4 percent of the state's total population.

### 35,777

The numeric change in the African American population from 1980 to 2007. This is a 85.8 percent increase for the period.

### 156,500

The projected African American population of Iowa as 2040. According to Woods & Poole Economics Inc., African Americans will constitute 4.5 percent of the state's total population.

## FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

### 14,948

The number of African American families in 2007 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 73 percent include their own children under 18 years of age.

### 56.7%

Percent increase in the number of African American families in the state of Iowa from 1980 to 2007.

### 26.3%

Percentage of African American families with children who live with both parents in 2007 compared to 74 percent for the state of Iowa. In 1980 this percentage was 41.7 compared to the state of Iowa's 83.6%.

### 9.3%

Percentage of the African American population under age 5, as of July 1, 2007. African Americans have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than the state as a whole (6.6%). In 1980 the percentage of the African American population under age 5 was 10.9.

### 3.33

The average family size for the Iowa African American population in 2000. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 3.0.



## COUNTIES AND CITIES

### 22,461

The number of African Americans in Polk County in 2007, making it the largest population of African Americans in any Iowa county.



### 8.1%

The percent of total population in Black Hawk County who are African American in 2007. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of African Americans are Scott (6.7%), Polk (5.4%), Des Moines (4.1%) and Johnson (4.0%).

### 72.3%

Nearly three-fourths of the total African American population live in Polk, Scott, Black Hawk, Linn and Johnson counties in 2007.

### 54.7%

Over half of the growth in Iowa's African American population from 2000-2007 occurred in four counties: Polk, Linn, Johnson, and Scott.

### 16,025

The number of African Americans in Des Moines in 2000, making it the largest population of

African Americans in any city in Iowa.

### 13.9%

The percent of the total population in Waterloo in 2000 who are African American. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage of African Americans are Davenport (9.2%), Balltown (8.2%), Des Moines (8.1%) and Anamosa (6.1%).

## AT A GLANCE

### Top 5 counties:

	African American Population	
	2007	1980
Polk	22,461	13,884
Scott	10,953	6,453
Black Hawk	10,323	8,733
Linn	7,302	2,962
Johnson	4,988	
Woodbury		1,019

### Top 5 cities:

	African American Population	
	2000	1980
Des Moines	16,025	13,164
Waterloo	9,529	8,398
Davenport	9,093	6,229
Cedar Rapids	4,481	2,743
Iowa City	2,333	
Sioux City		1,015

## HOUSING

### \$62,100

The median home value in 2000 for those who reported their race as African American. The corresponding value for the state is \$82,500.

### 68.6%

The percentage of African Americans who rent their home in 2007. The corresponding percentage for the state is 26.3%.

### 23.1%

The percentage of African Americans whose gross rent as a percentage of household income was over 50% in 2000. The corresponding percentage for the state is 14.4%.

## INCOME AND POVERTY

### \$22,461

The median income in the past 12 months of African American households in 2007. The median household income for the state during the same time period was \$47,292.

### \$26,417

The median income of African American families in Iowa in 2007. The median income of families in Iowa was \$59,587.

### \$13,640

The per capita money income of Iowa African Americans in 2007. The per capita money income for the state was \$24,566.

### 37.5%

The poverty rate in 2007 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 11.0 percent.

### 47.6%

The percentage of families with related children under 18 below the poverty level in 2007 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 14.5 percent.

## AGE

### 26.7

The median age of Iowa's African American population in 2007. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.0.

## BUSINESSES AND JOBS

**1,619**

The number of African American-owned firms in Iowa in 2002.

**130.3%**

The percent increase in African American-owned firms between 1987 and 2002.

**14.7%**

The unemployment rate for Iowa African Americans in 2007. The Iowa unemployment rate at that time was 4.8%.

**66.0%**

The percent of Iowa African Americans age 16 and over in the labor force in 2007. The percent of Iowans age 16 and over in the labor force was 68.9%.

**65.3%**

The percent of Iowa African Americans males age 16 and over in the labor force in 2007. The percent of Iowa African Americans females in the labor force was 66.7%. In comparison 74.7% of all men and 63.3% of all women age 16 and over were in the labor force in Iowa.

### Earnings

**\$16,132**

The median earnings for Iowa African Americans in 2007. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was \$26,247

**\$19,522**

The median earnings for Iowa African American males in 2007. African American women in Iowa had median earnings of

\$15,271. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$32,112 and \$20,854 respectively.

### Industry

**5,770**

The number of Iowa African Americans in 2000 employed in the educational, health, and social services industry.

**19.4%**

The percent of African Americans in 2000 who work in the manufacturing industry. Approximately 10 percent work in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services industry; 9.9 percent in retail trade; and 7.6 percent work in professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services.

## Occupation

**25.2%**

The percent of Iowa African Americans in 2000 in sales and office occupations.

**1,254**

The number of Iowa African American in 2000 in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations. African Americans are represented in a wide variety of occupations. For instance, there are about 992 cooks and food preparation workers; 743 nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides; 644 customer service representatives; and 602 child care workers.

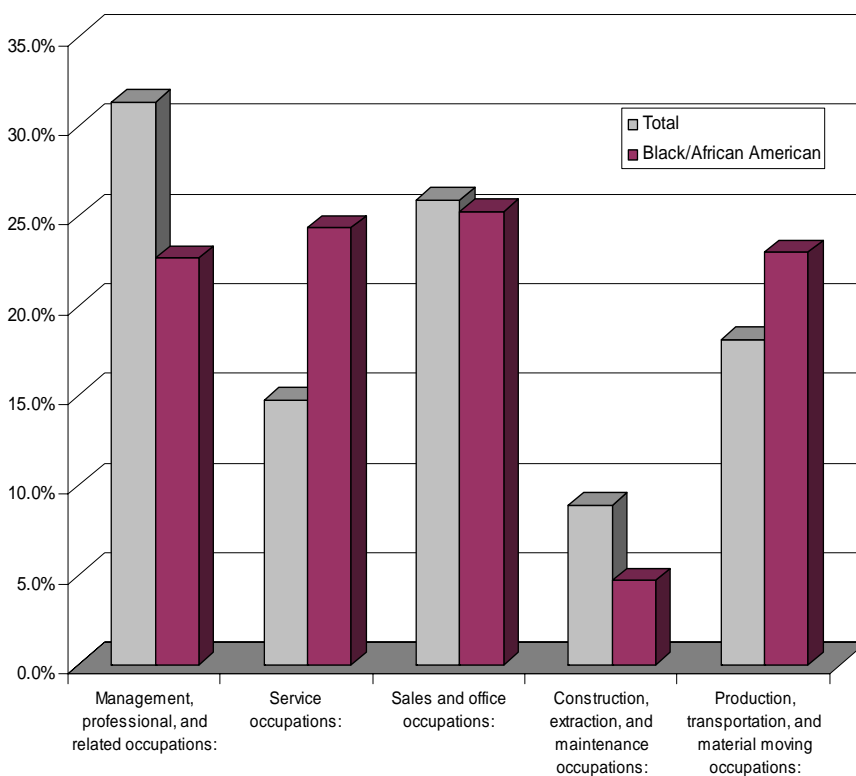
**22.6%**

The percent of African Americans in Iowa age 16 years and over in management, professional, and related occupations in 2000. In Iowa this occupation accounts for 31.3% of all people age 16 years and over.

**26.4%**

The percent of African American women in Iowa age 16 years and over in management, professional, and related occupations in 2000. 19.0% of African American men in Iowa are in this occupation.

Employment by Occupation (Percent of Population)



**3,693**

*The number of Iowa African American veterans of the U.S. armed Forces in 2007*

State Data Center of Iowa—A program of the State Library of Iowa

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**ICSAA**

Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

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Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2007 & Census 2000  
Photos by U.S. Census Bureau's

**VITAL EVENTS**

**23.4**  
The African American birth rate per 1,000 population in 2007. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was 13.7.

**775.8**  
The African American rate of out-of-wedlock

births per 1,000 live births in 2007. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was 343.3.

**208.7**  
The African American rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in

2007. The rate for the state was 87.3.

**5.6**  
The African American death rate per 1,000 population in 2007. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was 9.1.

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "Vital Statistics of Iowa 2007"

**EDUCATION**

**28,212**  
The number African Americans enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2007-2008 school year. African Americans represent 5.4% of Iowa's school enrollment (519,253).



**40.8%**  
Percent increase in African American enrollment between the 2000-2001 school year and 2007-2008.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**80.4%**  
The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2007. The percentage for Iowa was 88.9%.

**19.5%**  
The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2007. The percentage for Iowa was 24.3%.

**5.7%**  
Percentage of Iowa African Americans 25 years and older with an advanced degree in 2007. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate.) The percentage of Iowans with an advanced degree was 7.5%.