

# AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN IOWA: 2017

FEBRUARY 2017

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

## 110,050

The 2015 African American population in Iowa. African Americans constitute 3.5% of the state's total population. In 1980, African Americans made up 1.4% of the state's total population.

## 68,350

The numeric change in the African American population from 1980 to 2015. This is a 163.9 percent increase for the period.

Source: 2015 Annual Population Estimates

## 230,393

The projected African American population of Iowa in 2050, according to Woods & Poole Economics Inc.. African Americans will constitute 6.7 percent of the state's total population.

## Age

## 26.0

The median age of Iowa's African American population in 2015. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.1.

## Families and Children

## 21,888

The number of African American families in 2015 who reside in Iowa. Of these families, 71.5 percent include their own children under 18 years of age.

## 134.6%

Percent increase in the number of African American families in the state of Iowa from 1980 to 2015.

## 9.3%

Percentage of the African American population under age 5, in 2015. African Americans have a higher concentration of preschoolers among the population than the state as a whole (6.3%). 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 2015. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 2.99.



# Counties and Cities

## Top 5 counties: African American Population

	2015	2000
Polk	31,524	18,113
Scott	13,015	9,689
Black Hawk	12,068	10,179
Linn	10,333	4,919
Johnson	8,785	3,223

## Top 5 cities: African American Population

	2011-2015	2000
Des Moines	22,857	16,025
Davenport	11,358	9,093
Waterloo	10,959	9,529
Cedar Rapids	7,840	4,481
Iowa City	4,595	2,333

**31,524**

The number of African Americans in Polk County in 2015, making it the largest population of African Americans in any Iowa county.

**60.8%**

Over half of the total African American population live in four counties; Polk, Scott, Black Hawk, and Linn in 2015.

**22,857**

The number of African Americans in Des Moines making it the largest population of African Americans in any city in Iowa.

**9.0%**

The percent of total population in Black Hawk County who were African American in 2015. Other Iowa counties with a high percentage of African Americans are Scott (7.6%), Polk (6.7%), Des Moines (6.1%) and Johnson (6.1%).

**54.5%**

Almost half of the growth in Iowa's African American population from 2010-2015 occurred in four counties: Polk, Johnson, Linn and Scott.

**16.0%**

The percent of the total population in Waterloo who are African American. Other Iowa cities with a high percentage of African Americans are Davenport (11.2%), and Des Moines (11.0%).

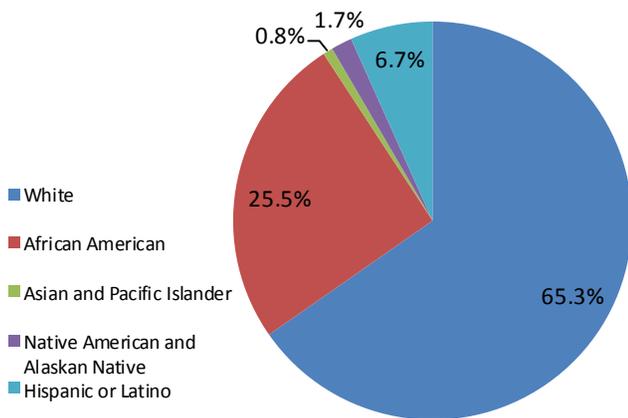
**20.8%**

The percentage of Iowa's total African American population living in Des Moines, which along with Davenport (10.3%) and Waterloo (10.0%) make up almost half the total African American population.

Source: 2011-2015 American



## Iowa Prison Population by Race and Hispanic Origin



In FY2015 African Americans made up about 25.5% of the total prison population and have seen a 2.2% increase of incarcerated since FY2006. The white population has seen a 2.6% decrease during this same time period.

Source: Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)  
[https://humanrights.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/media/Forecast2015\\_1.pdf](https://humanrights.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/media/Forecast2015_1.pdf)

## Income and poverty

**\$28,425**

The median income in the of African American households in 2015. The median household income for the state during the same time period was \$54,736.

**36.1%**

The poverty rate in 2015 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 12.2 percent.

**\$31,775**

The median income of African American families in Iowa in 2015. The median income of families in Iowa was \$69,382.

**40.9%**

The percentage of families with related children under 18 below the poverty level in 2015 for the African American population. The corresponding rate for Iowa is 13.3 percent.

**\$15,035**

The per capita money income of Iowa African Americans in 2015. The per capita money income for the state was \$28,628..

# Businesses and Jobs

**4,918**

The number of African American-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**344.7%**

The percent increase in African American-owned firms between 1992 and 2012.

Source: 2012 & 1992 Survey of Business Owners

**69.4%**

The labor force participation rate of Iowa African Americans age 16 and over in 2015. The labor force participation rate for Iowans age 16 was 67.5%.

**13.1%**

The unemployment rate of Iowa African Americans in 2015. In comparison the state of Iowa's unemployment rate was 4.2%.

## Earnings

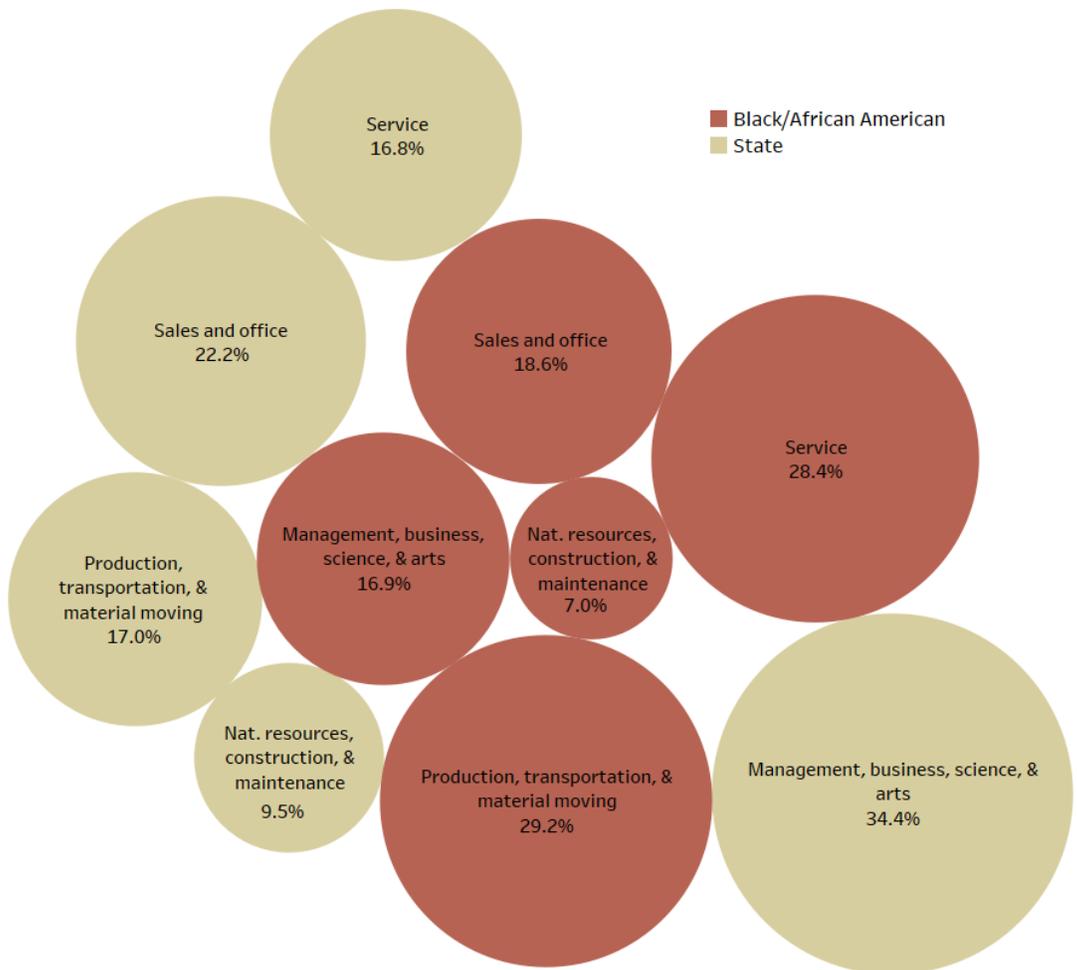
**\$20,190**

The median earnings for Iowa African Americans in 2015. The median earnings for the state of Iowa was \$30,916.

**\$27,161**

The median earnings for Iowa African American males in 2015. African American women in Iowa had median earnings of \$28,479. In comparison the median earning for men and women in the state of Iowa were \$47,298 and \$36,264 respectively.

Occupation in Iowa  
(percent of total population)



## Occupation

**19.7%**

The percent of African American women in Iowa age 16 years and over in sales and office occupations in 2015. 17.6% of African American men in Iowa are in this occupation.

## Industry

**23.7%**

The percent of Iowa African Americans in 2015 employed in the manufacturing industry.

**20.9%**

The percent of African Americans in 2015 who work in the Educational services, and health care and social assistance industry. Approximately 11.3 percent work in retail trade; 10.6 percent work in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services industry; and 9.9 percent work in professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services.

## The State Data Center of Iowa

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This program is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa



## ICSAA

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Data Sources (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2015 American Community Survey  
U.S. Decennial Census 1980,  
2000 and 2010  
Photos by the U.S. Census Bureau

## Housing

**73.8%**

The percentage occupied housing units with an African American householder who rent their home in 2015. The corresponding percentage for the state is 29.3%.

**3,817**

The number of Iowa African American veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in 2015.

## Vital Statistics

**20.1**

The African American birth rate per 1,000 population in 2015. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was 12.6.

**696.4**

The African American rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2015. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was 356.3.

**83.5**

The African American rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2015. The rate for the state was 41.6.

**4.1**

The African American death rate per 1,000 population in 2015. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was 9.4.

## Education

**29,558**

The number African Americans enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2015-2016 school year. African Americans represent 6.2% of Iowa's school enrollment (516,785).

**51.1%**

Percent increase in African American enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2015-2016.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**83.5%**

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, who had at least a high school education in 2015. The percentage for Iowa was 91.7%.

**14.2%**

The percentage of Iowa African Americans age 25 and over, with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2015. The percentage for Iowa was 26.8%.

**4.0%**

Percentage of Iowa African Americans 25 years and older with graduate or professional degree in 2015. The percentage of Iowans with a graduate or professional degree was 8.7%.