

2023 State Report on the Status of Boys and Men in Iowa



GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR
BOYS & MEN

Supporting boys and men and
the women who love them

Table of Contents

Mission and Values Statements.....	Page 3
Topics of Critical Issues Facing Boys and Men.....	Page 4
Key Takeaways from the Report.....	Page 5
Physical and Mental Health.....	Page 6
K-12 and Higher Education.....	Pages 7-9
Jobs, Careers, and Financial Health.....	Page 10
Fatherhood, Family, and Relationships.....	Page 11
Criminal Justice and Court Systems.....	Page 12
Male Narrative in the Public Discourse.....	Page 13
References.....	Pages 14-18



Our Mission

To inform policy-makers, professionals, researchers, educators, parents and the media in Iowa and the nation on the status of boys and men in six key areas. The research and data presented in this report should be used to inform those in positions of authority to implement changes that improve the outcomes of boys and men.

Our Values

Our values are rooted in verifiable and reliable data. Given the rising challenges boys and men face in a number of measurable areas over the past several decades, the time has come to produce an annual report that compiles, measures, analyzes, and shares essential data on the status of boys and men in Iowa. In doing so, Iowans will have the data they need to make the informed policy decisions that lead to successful outcomes.

A Bipartisan Issue

The education, physical & mental health, careers, and family circumstances that impact boys and men and the women who love them are issues all Iowans can support.

The troubling outcomes of boys and men are seen in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), poorer educational outcomes, opioid deaths, suicides, homelessness, homicide deaths and diseases of despair that impact families and communities.

Legislators on both sides of the aisle can certainly come together to address these issues, and an Office on the Status of Boys and Men would go a long way in educating the public and policy makers as they look for solutions that lead to measurable outcomes and allow boys and men to contribute to society according to their full potential.



Our Vision

Every boy and man is healthy, safe, prosperous, and encouraged to achieve his full potential.

Prepared by Sean Kullman, President, Global Initiative for Boys & Men, Email: seank@gibm.us

Critical Issues Facing Boys and Men in Iowa

4

An Iowa Office on Boys and Men should be established to address the unique challenges boys and men face.

This past year has been particularly difficult for boys and men, and the pandemic has exacerbated areas where boys and men have already fallen behind and are experiencing lifetime hardships. Boys and men have been disproportionately impacted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in a number of areas and the pandemic has worsened the long neglected status of boys and men. Iowa has seen troubling outcomes for boys and men in six key areas.



**Physical and Mental
Health**



Education



**Jobs, Careers, and
Financial Health**



**Fatherhood, Family,
and Relationships**



**Criminal Justice
System and Court
Systems**



**Male Narrative in the
Public Discourse**

Key Takeaways from the Report

5

Several key findings from our research are highlighted below to help educate Iowans about the status of boys and men and the need to respond with purpose.

Education and Employment in Iowa	Physical and Mental Health in Iowa	Fatherhood, Family, Youth and Policy in Iowa
• From 2018-21 Males were 93% of workplace deaths. • Males are only 24% of public school teachers. • In 2022, only 26% of 8th grade boys read at grade level on the NAEP. • In 2022, 63% of 11th grade boys read at grade level on ISASP compared to 77% of girls. • In 2022, 69% of 8th grade boys read at grade level on Iowa state tests compared to 83% of girls. • In 2023, men were only 45% of four-year college enrollment. • From 2019-2021, male unemployment was slightly higher than female unemployment.	• From 2018-2021, boys 15-24 years of age were 86% of suicide deaths in their age group. • 2018-2021, boys and men were 82% of suicide deaths. • 2018-2021, males were 68% of unintentional overdose deaths. • In 2021, males were 65% of opioid deaths. • Since 2000, 74% of alcohol deaths have been male. • 2018-2021, males were 72% of homicide deaths. • In 2021, 56% of those without health insurance were male. • 61% of COVID deaths are male.	• 35% of Iowa's children are born to unwed parents. • From 2011-2021, 30% of Iowa's children lived in single parent homes. • 63% of unaccompanied homeless youth are male. • 72% of the homeless are male. • 92% of homeless Veterans are male. • In 2022, boys were 87% of detained juveniles. Males are detained more in all racial groups. • Iowa does not have an Office on the Status of Boys and Men to educate the legislature.



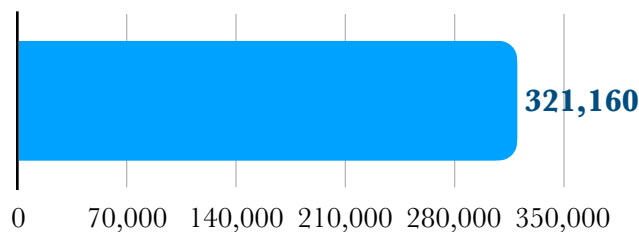
An Iowa Office on the Status of Boys and Men could ensure healthier lives for Iowa's boys and men by addressing growing disparities and troubling outcomes. Data on healthcare access, affordability, and quality of care in IA and nationally shows boys and men are further behind.

56%

Iowa's Uninsured

- Males make up the majority of Iowa's underserved population. Males make up 56% of Iowans without health insurance.
- In the U.S., there are 13.6 million uninsured males 20 to 64 years of age.
- In the U.S., the Male-Gender-Gap in health insurance is 3.3 million.

Male Cancer Deaths in US 2020



Males are 53% of estimated cancer deaths.



Almost **3 in 4** men (73.3%) are considered overweight or obese.



Males are **61%** of Iowa Covid Deaths from Jan. 1, 2020 to June 17, 2023.

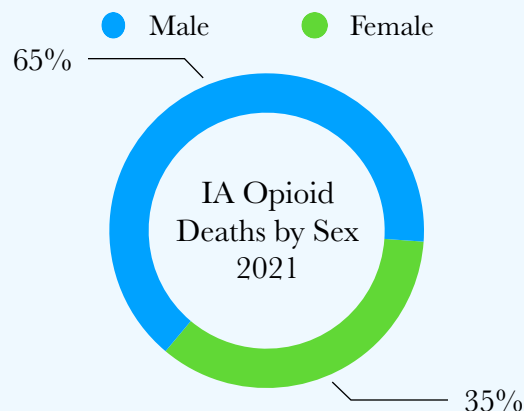
IA Males are 74% of alcohol related deaths since 2000.

82%

Suicides

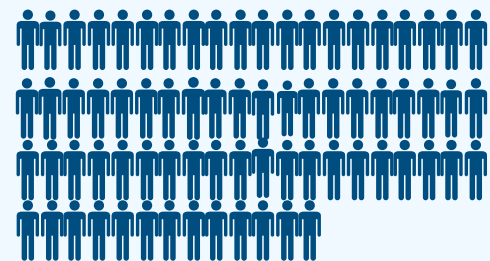
- IA Boys 10-14 and 15-24 are **62% & 86%** of suicide deaths in their respective age groups.
- IA boys and men are **82%** of suicides.
- Males are **4.6 times** more likely to die of suicide.
- IA Men 65 and over are **90%** of suicide deaths in respective age group.

A 12 year analysis of IA opioid deaths from the National Center of Health Statistics and Kaiser Family Foundation **identified opioid deaths as a serious male problem.** Males accounted for 60% of opioid deaths from 2010-2021. From 2018 to 2021, males accounted for **68% of unintentional overdose deaths** (non-suicide). Boys' and men's inequities are compounded due to lack of services. With an increase in opioid deaths in 2021-2022, these numbers are likely to continue to increase.



U.S. Suicide and Opioid Deaths

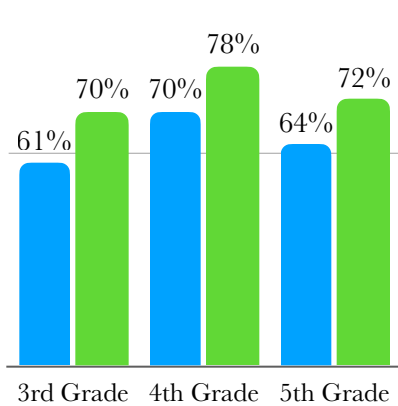
73%



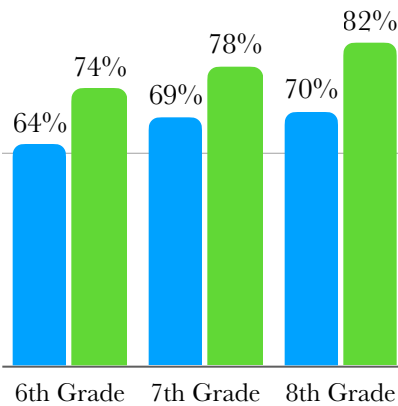
Nearly 800,000 (787,096) boys and men in the U.S. have lost their lives to suicide and opioid deaths from 2009 to 2021. Opioid deaths increased 66% from 2019 to 2021. (If we include non-opioid overdose deaths, **that number reaches 945,360 male lives.**)

A review of state data from 2021-22 and 2020-2021 reveal boys are behind in reading at all grade levels. Advanced and proficiency gaps are highest in 8th and 11th grades (14%). Although boys are slightly ahead in math in 3rd through 7th grades, boys are slightly behind in grades 8 through 11. The K-12 outcomes partly explain the Male Gender-Gap in higher education.

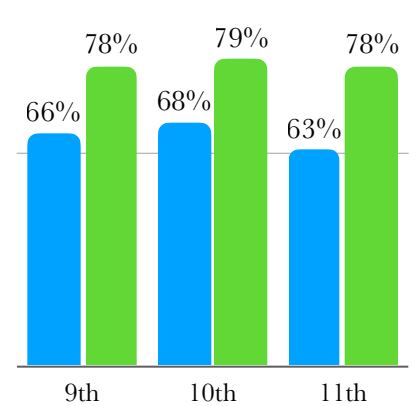
Iowa 3rd-5th graders at or above proficient in Reading 2022



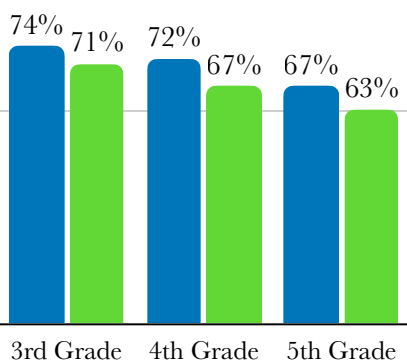
Iowa 6th-8th graders at or above proficient in Reading 2022



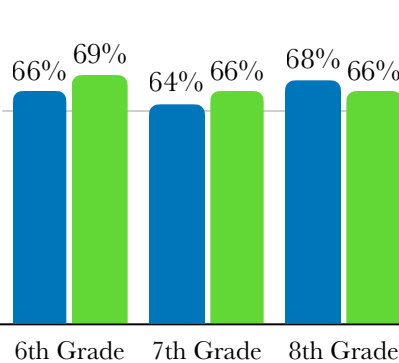
Iowa 9th-11th graders at or above proficient in Reading 2022



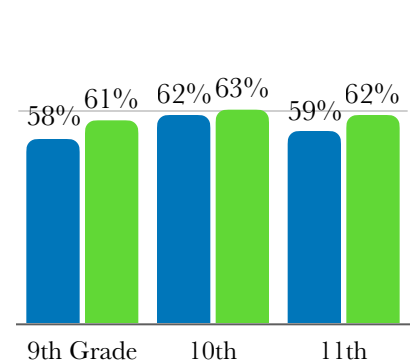
Iowa 3rd-5th graders at or above proficient in Math 2022



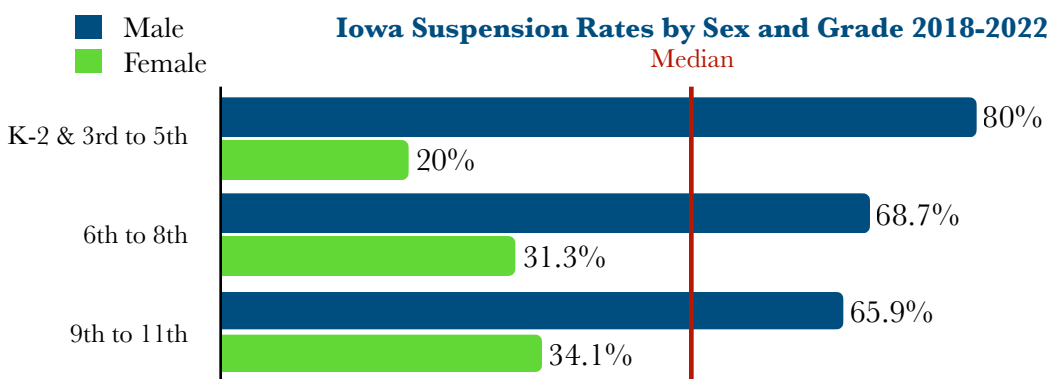
Iowa 6th-8th graders at or above proficient in Math 2022



NM 9th-11th graders at or above proficient in Math 2015-2019



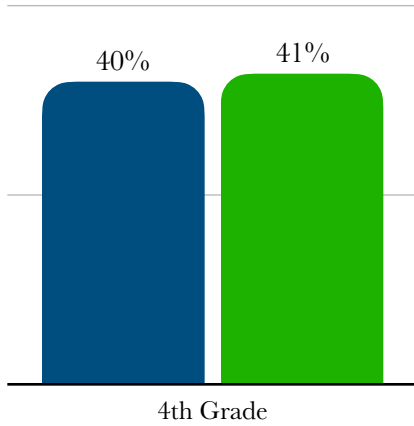
■ Percentage Male Students Proficient ■ Percentage Female Students Proficient



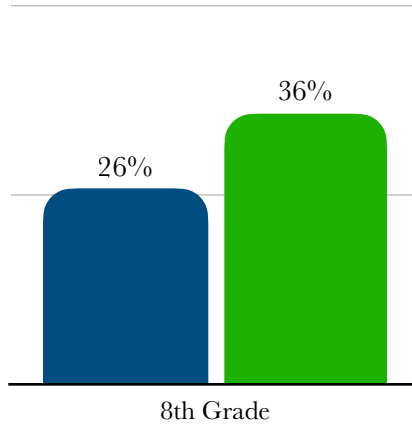
Suspension Data

Suspension data reveals schools are hard on boys early in their education and through much of their education. Some suspensions are certainly warranted, but it's also likely pedagogical approaches are not working well for boys. Boys of all races are suspended at higher rates than their female counterparts.

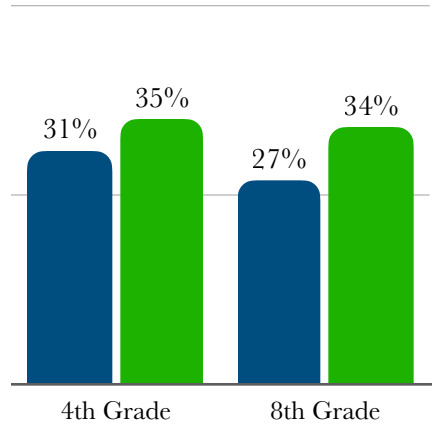
Iowa NAEP 4th Grade Reading at or Above Proficiency 2022



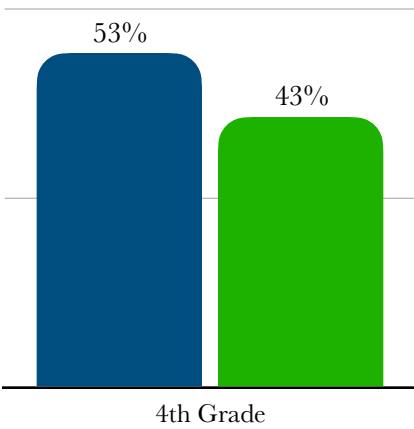
Iowa NAEP 8th Grade Reading at or Above Proficiency 2022



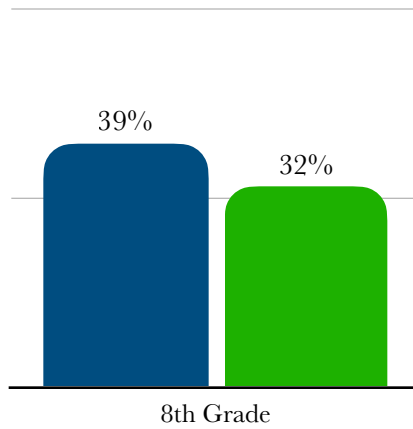
National (NAEP) 4th & 8th Grade Reading Proficient or Above 2022



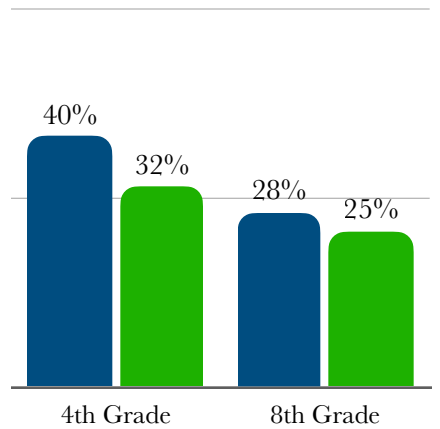
Iowa NAEP 4th Grade Math at or Above Proficiency 2022



Iowa NAEP 8th Grade Math at or Above Proficiency 2022



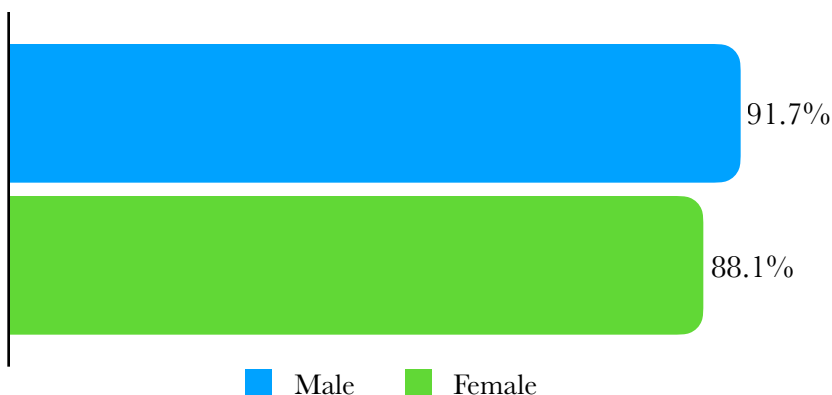
National (NAEP) 4th & 8th Grade Math Proficient or Above 2022



■ Male Students Advanced/Proficient

■ Female Students Advanced/Proficient

Iowa High School Graduation Rates 2022



■ Male

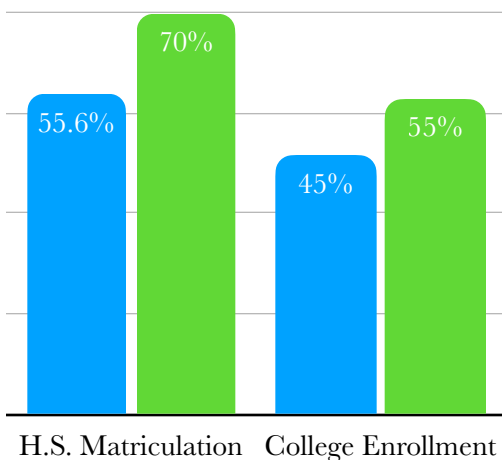
■ Female

Iowa's Boy Literacy-Gap

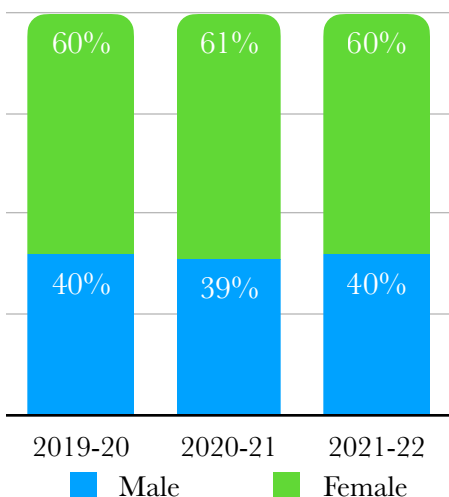
Although the graduation gap is seemingly small, Iowa, like so many states, resembles national trends in higher educational outcomes and funding. College outcomes are partly a product of K-12 education and other social factors policy makers need to look at more closely. Iowa's trends tend to mirror National trends when it comes to higher education. Boys have greater skill deficits.

Post-secondary education is more difficult for Iowa's sons. Although Iowa does show better results than some states, male matriculation to college, male college enrollment, and male funding lags behind. Iowa's trends mirror that national direction of poorer educational outcomes for boys.

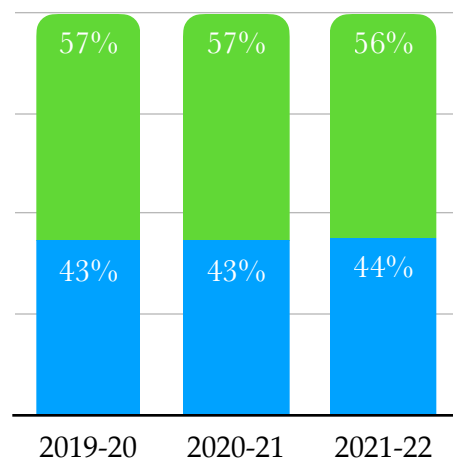
2023 Iowa H.S. Matriculation to College and College Enrollment



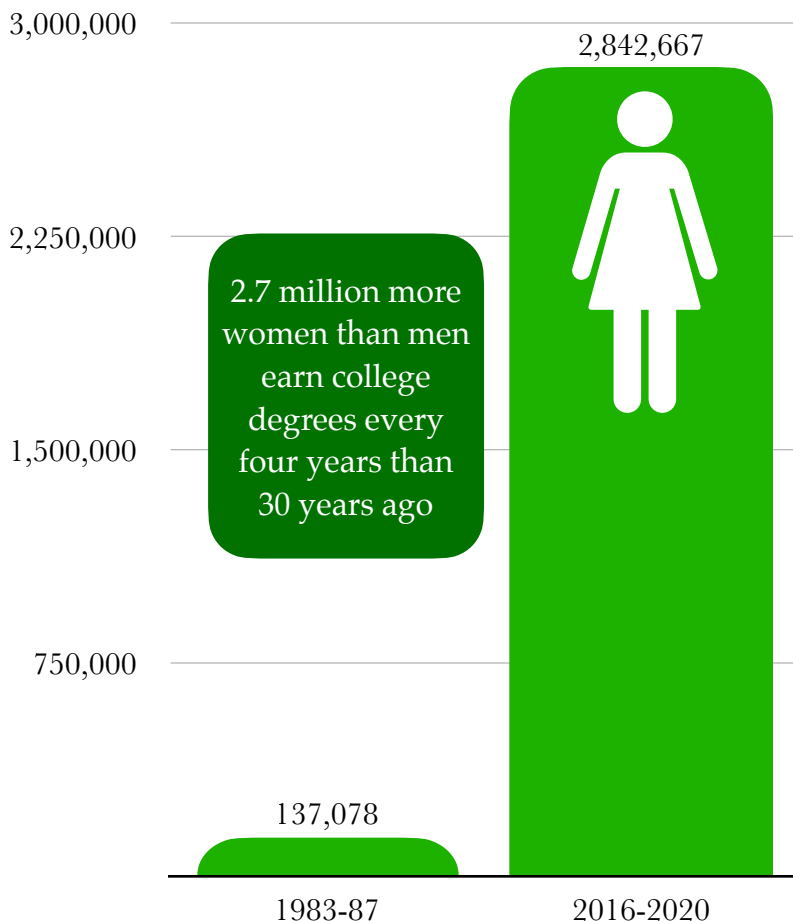
% Iowa Skilled Workforce Tuition Grants by Sex 2019-2022



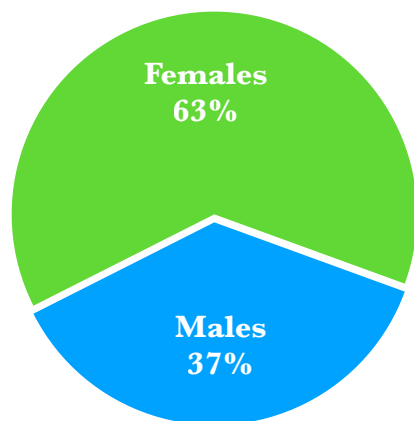
% Iowa Vocational Technical Tuition Grants by Sex 2019-2022



Female-Male Gap in Associate, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Degrees in U.S. 1983 vs. 2020



U.S. Pell Grant Funding by Sex for Years 2003-04 to 2015-16

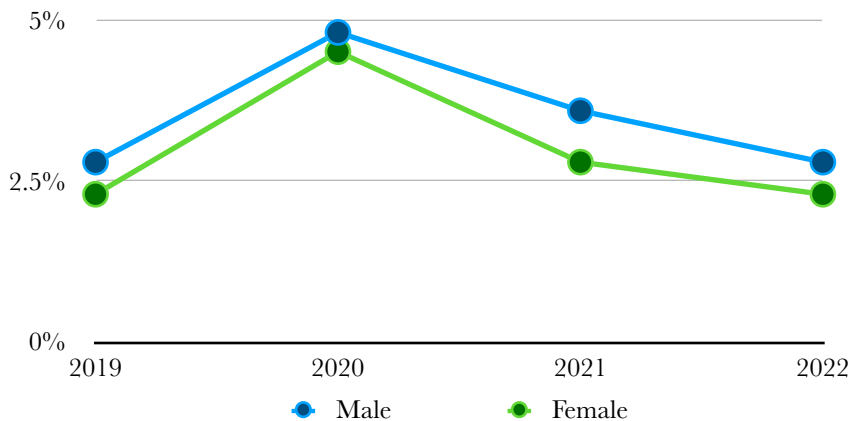


U.S. Male Gender -Gap in College

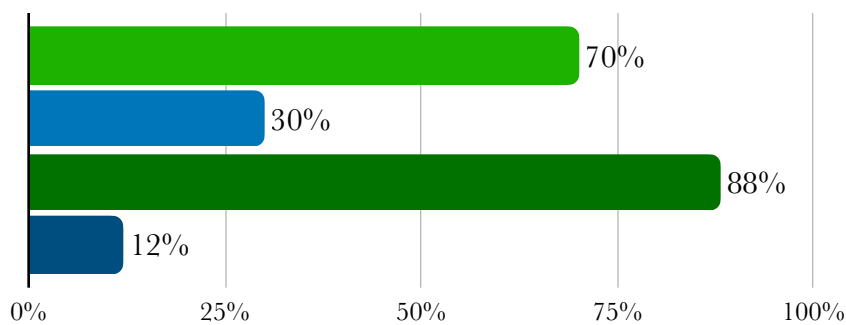
- Males are **underfunded** in Pell Grants by **\$6.4 billion annually**.
- Males are underrepresented in undergraduate programs by **more than 2 million every year** and have been since 2003.
- **From 2016 to 2020**, women earned 2.8 million more degrees than males.
- **In 2019-2020**, males only accounted for 39% of associate degrees, 42% of bachelor degrees, 39% of master degrees and 46% of doctoral degrees.

A diverse outlook regarding the outcomes of males in employment, financial health, and areas where males are underrepresented and struggling would play a significant role in ensuring policy actions lead to positive and measurable outcomes for men and women.

Unemployment Trends in Iowa of 25 to 64 year-olds by Sex from 2019-2022



Percent of Veterinarians & Vet Techs

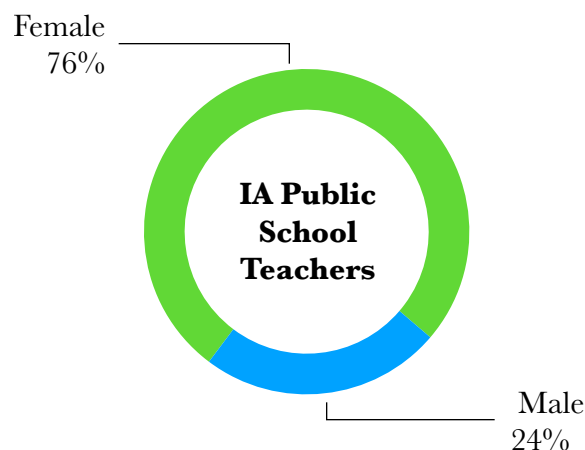
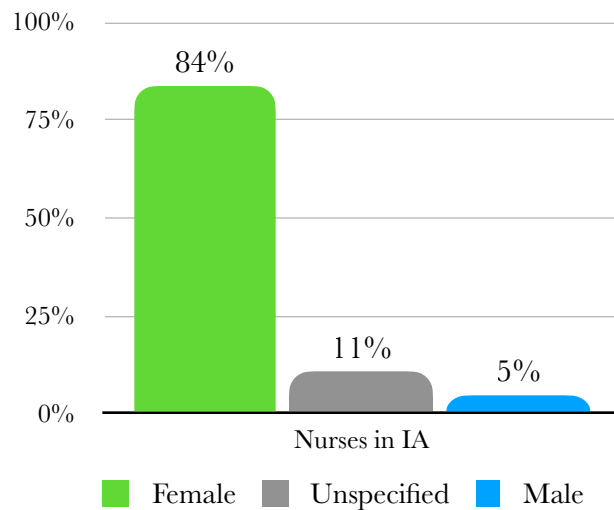


Female Veterinarians Male Veterinarians Female Vet Techs Male Vet Techs

Human Resources Personnel in US by Sex 2020

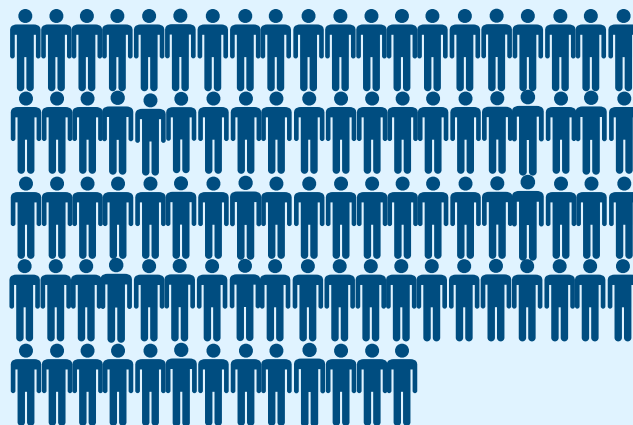


Iowa's Nurses by Sex



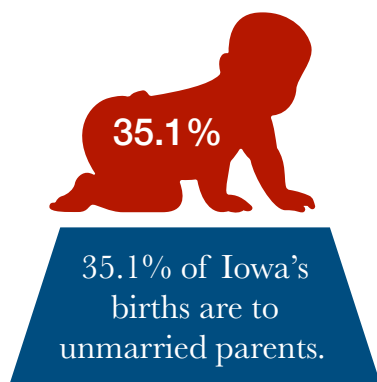
93%

Iowa Fatal Occupational Injuries

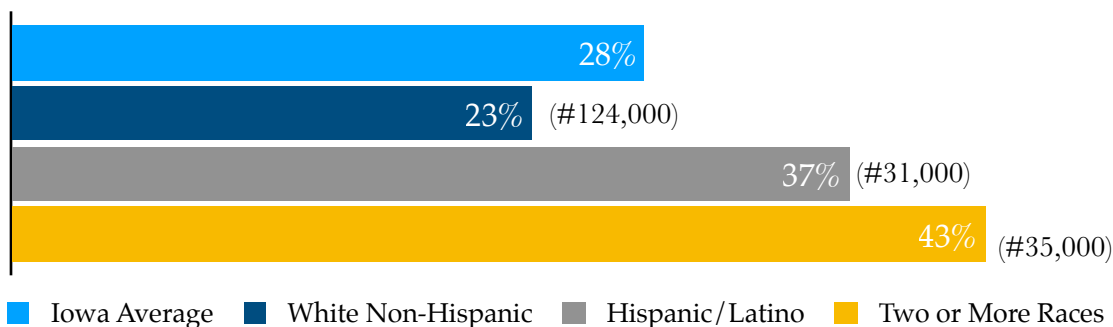


Males are 93% of fatal occupational injuries in Iowa according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data from 2018-2021

Fathers and mothers play unique and vital roles in the lives of children. Single family homes have greater challenges. Understanding child-family dynamics is important in education and other areas.



Iowa Children in Single Parent Families by Race/Ethnicity 2021 (Total Numbers)



Single-Parent Homes by Race Ethnicity 2021 in US and Select States near Iowa

Race/Ethnicity	U.S.	NE	KS	MO
American Indian	52%	NR	NR	NR
Asian & Asian Pacific Is.	16%	12%	NR	17%
Black /African American	66%	NR	NR	67%
Hispanic/Latino	42%	43%	41%	38%
Two or More Races	41%	42%	43%	36%
White Non-Hispanic	25%	21%	23%	26%
Average	35%	28%	30%	32%

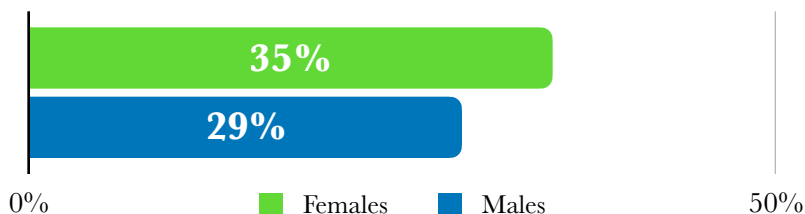
*Annie E. Kasey Foundation Iowa estimates for American Indian, Asian & Asian Pacific Islander, and Blacks or African American were suppressed because data did not meet the confidence interval threshold.

Fatherlessness contributes to poorer outcomes for children.

F+ from National Parents Organization

Iowa received an F+ on the National Parents Organization 2022 Child Support and Shared Parenting Report Card.

Percent of Iowans experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse or stalking from a partner



“Sexual violence against men and boys is a significant problem.... It is one that has largely been neglected in research. Rape and other forms of sexual coercion directed against men and boys take place in the home, the workplace, schools, on the streets, in the military and during war, as well as in prisons and police custody” (*World Health Organization*).

Sexual Abuse of Boys

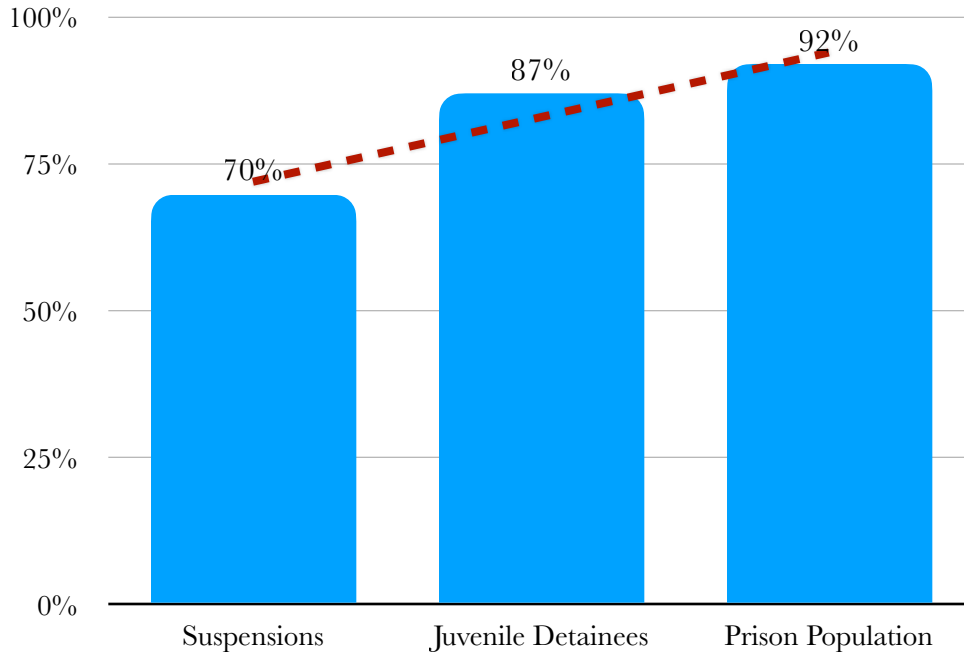
“Contrary to expectations, boys report greater exposure to sexual abuse.”
(*Journal of Adolescent Health*)



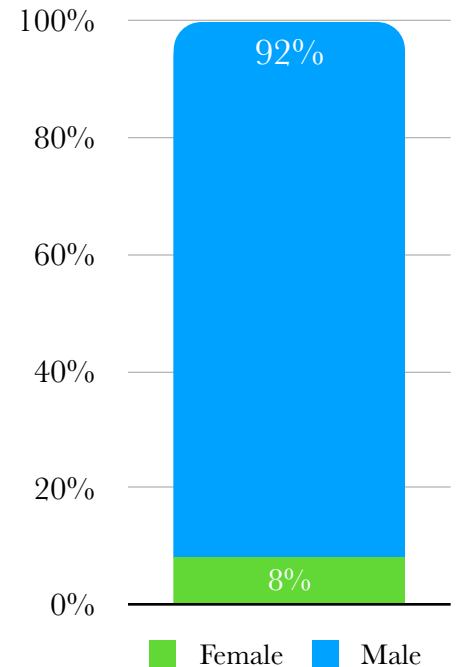
According to the CDC, nearly 16 million U.S. men have been victims of intimate partner violence

The school to prison pipeline has been a demonstrably male problem at the state and national level. Iowa shows a clear linear path in the treatment of boys in K-12 education, juvenile court, and prison populations. The school to prison pipeline is a troubling trend associated with a poor education, lack of father involvement, a history of poverty, abuse, and neglect, an isolation from society, and a lack of access to counseling and other services.

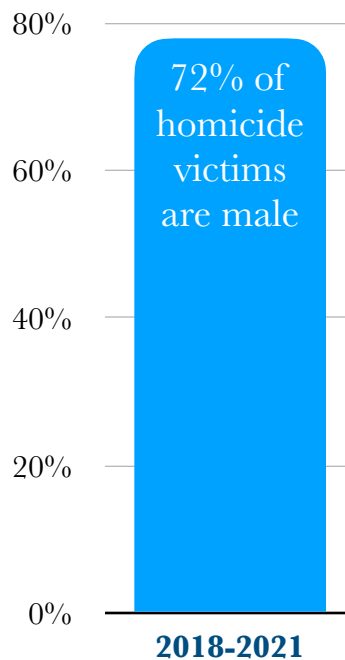
Iowa Males and the School to Prison Pipeline



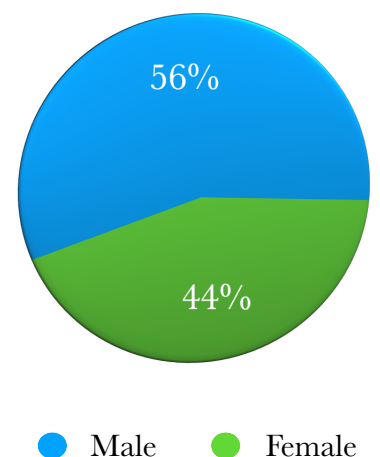
Iowa State Prison Population



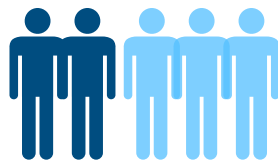
Iowa Homicides



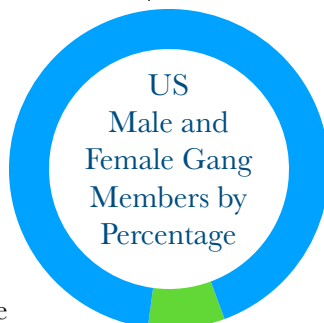
Iowa Missing Persons by Sex



2 of 5 gang members are under 18 years of age



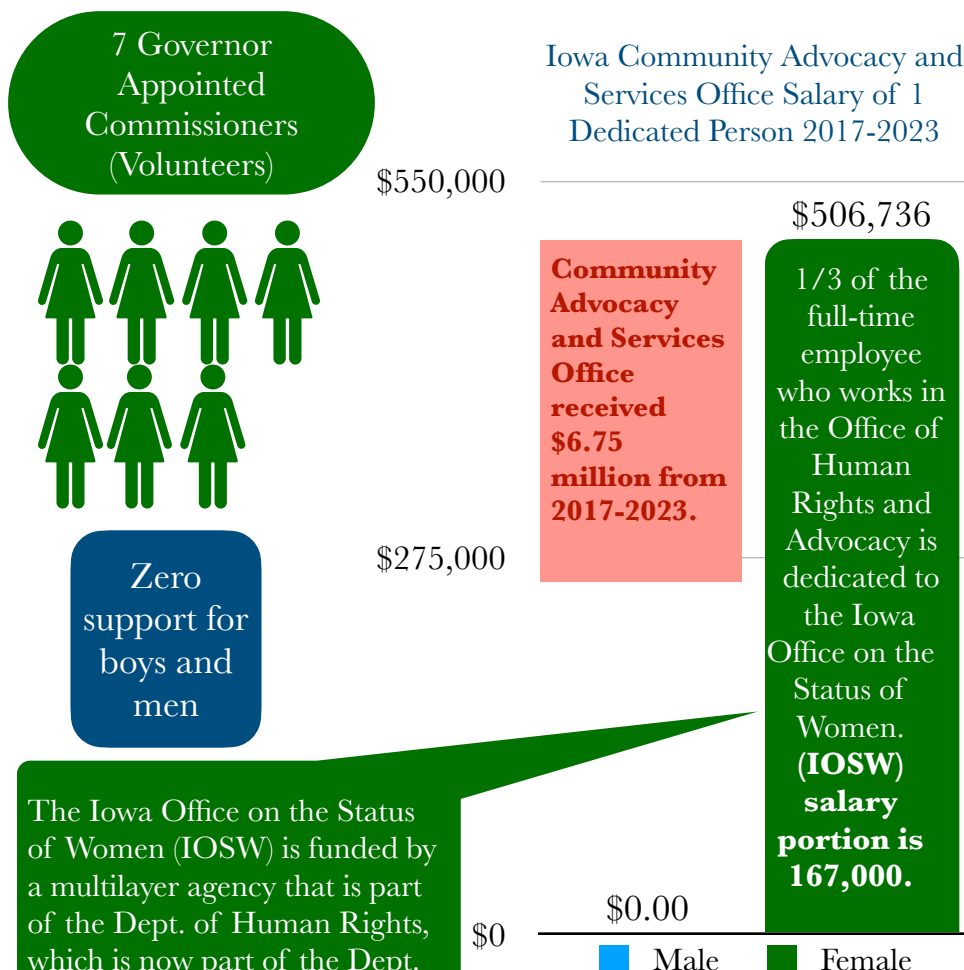
92%



Male
Female

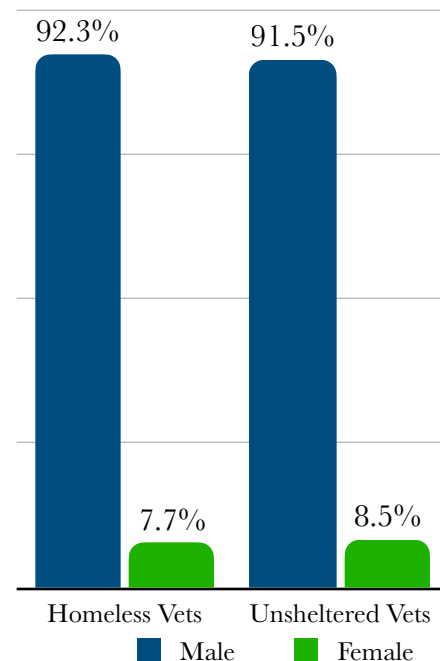
8%

The status of boys and men is practically absent from Iowa policy and its social narrative. Creating an Iowa Office on the Status of Boys and Men similar to Iowa's Office on the Status of Women would help educate policymakers on the outcomes of boys and men and allow for more informed policy actions.

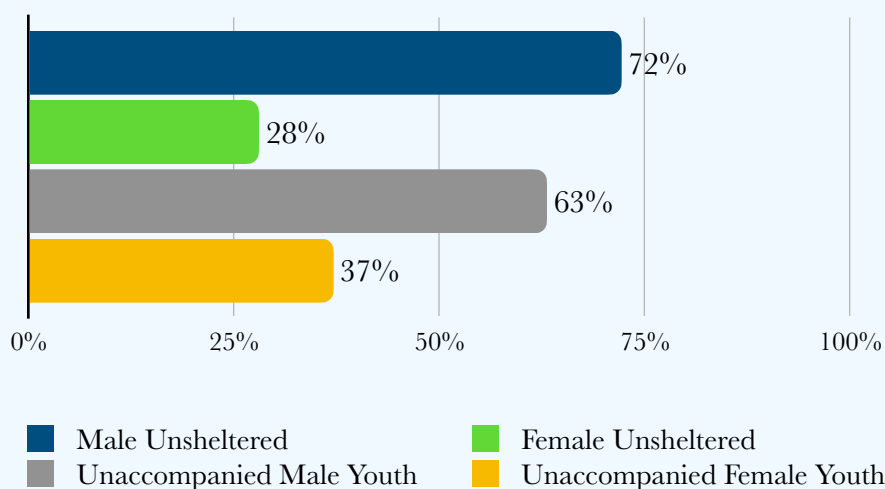


Iowa does not have any funded state, county, and city offices on boys and men.

IA Veteran Homelessness



Iowa Unsheltered Homeless



Statewide policy largely ignores outcomes for boys and men by bringing far less in the way of data collection, attention, and directed services to the challenges boys and men face.

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Physical and Mental Health

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Education

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