In 2018, the Health Care and Social Assistance sector was the second-largest sector in Iowa, comprising 14.5 percent of covered public and private employment, with 224,515 jobs. The size of this sector has steadily increased in the past decade, growing by 20,528 jobs in the decade between 2010–2019; this represents a 10.1 percent increase in employment.

Wages increased by $9,034 over the same period, a gain of 23.7 percent. The sector was largely unaffected by the recession, with jobs and wages increasing every year in the last decade. Some of this is likely attributable to higher demand for health care services brought upon by an aging population.

This sector reported an average annual wage of $47,085 for 2019, which was 3.3 percent less than the statewide average of $48,672. Wages vary tremendously between subsectors within this sector. For example, Ambulatory health care services had the highest average wage, at $66,916 annually, while Social assistance had the lowest annual wage, at $23,073.

This sector is dominated by women, who held 82.2 percent of jobs in 2018.
What is Health Care & Social Assistance?

The Health Care and Social Assistance sector comprises firms providing health care and social assistance for individuals. The sector includes both health care and social assistance because it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the boundaries of these two activities.

The industries in this sector are arranged on a continuum starting with providing medical care exclusively, continuing with those providing health care and social assistance and finally finishing with only social assistance.

The services provided in this sector are delivered by trained health practitioners and social workers with requisite experience.

Source: www.bls.gov/cew/bls_naics/bls_naics_app.htm

2019 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa
Health Care & Social Assistance NAICS Industry Coding
Percentage Employed and Average Annual Wage by Subsector

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

2010–2019 Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance in Iowa

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
IOWA INDUSTRY PROFILE

2019 Covered Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance by County

Top Occupations in Health Care & Social Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>29,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>19,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Aides</td>
<td>9,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides</td>
<td>7,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Workers</td>
<td>6,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>6,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistants</td>
<td>4,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Secretaries</td>
<td>4,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Managers</td>
<td>4,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Clerks, General</td>
<td>3,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptionists and Information Clerks</td>
<td>3,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners</td>
<td>3,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education</td>
<td>3,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Human Service Assistants</td>
<td>3,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria</td>
<td>3,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistants</td>
<td>2,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians</td>
<td>2,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other</td>
<td>2,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Servers, Nonrestaurant</td>
<td>2,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Support Workers, All Other</td>
<td>2,464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2019, there were 10,964 Health care and Social Assistance locations across Iowa. Ambulatory health care services represented the majority of establishments, with 5,475 locations, or 49.9 percent. Not surprisingly, Hospitals had the fewest number of establishments in this sector at 254, but had the highest employment with 69,787 workers.

Social assistance had the second-highest number of locations (3,832) but the fewest number of employees (37,451). This is likely due to the prevalence of home-based establishments in which only a handful of caretakers are employed.

Establishment Facts:


Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

Sector Statewide:

- Employment: 224,516
- Average Annual Wage: $47,085

Label Key:
First line is the county name followed by average employment and finally, average wage.

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

North Dakota $53,245
South Dakota $53,757
Nebraska $49,054
Kansas $44,502
Iowa $45,180
Missouri $47,447
Minnesota $53,643
Wisconsin $50,680
Michigan $52,098
United States Average: $51,792

Contact Information
Iowa Workforce Development, Employment Statistics Bureau
1000 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319
800-532-1249
Fax: 515-281-8195
Iwd.lmi@iwd.iowa.gov
www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov

Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TTY 515-281-4748
1-800-831-1399

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender, 2nd Quarter 2019

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau
https://lehd.ces.census.gov/