

Public School Guidance Counselors

Guidance Counselor Characteristics

CHARACTERISTICS OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Table 52 lists the characteristics of full-time public school guidance counselors in 1997-1998, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. The characteristics of guidance counselors did not change significantly between 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Between 1997-1998 and 2009-2010 the average age of guidance counselors decreased from 46.5 to 45.1. The percent of female guidance counselors increased from 58.8 percent in 1997-1998 to 74.0 percent in 2009-2010. The percent of minority counselors increased from 1.9 percent to 2.4 percent between 1997-1998 and 2009-2010. The percent of guidance counselors with advanced degrees decreased from 93.2 percent in 1997-1998

to 83.7 percent in 2009-2010. The average years of experience decreased between 1997-1998 and 2009-2010. The average years of total experience decreased from 19.2 to 17.2. The average years of district experience decreased from 11.9 to 10.6.

In the ten largest districts in 2009-2010 there were 329 full-time guidance counselors. Their average age was 47.0, average years of total experience was 18.6 and average years of district experience was 11.5. In the ten largest districts, 80.5 percent of the guidance counselors were female, 5.5 percent were minorities and 94.8 percent had an advanced degree. There were three full-time guidance counselors in the ten smallest districts in 2009-2010. Their average age was 51.3, average years of total experience was 5.0 and average years of district experience was 3.7. All three of the full-time guidance counselors in the ten smallest districts were female and two had advanced degrees. There were not any minority full-time guidance counselors in the ten smallest districts.

Table 52

CHARACTERISTICS OF IOWA FULL-TIME PUBLIC SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS 1997-1998, 2008-2009, AND 2009-2010

Characteristics	1997-1998	2008-2009	2009-2010
Average Age	46.5	45.2	45.1
Percent Female	58.8%	73.5%	74.0%
Percent Minority	1.9%	2.5%	2.4%
Percent Advanced Degree	93.2%	84.2%	83.7%
Average Total Experience	19.2	17.4	17.2
Average District Experience	11.9	10.7	10.6
Number of Guidance Counselors	1,222	1,219	1,225

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Planning, Research, Development and Evaluation Services, Basic Educational Data Survey, Staff files.

Notes: Does not include AEA staff.
Every district is required to have a guidance counselor, but some may share with another district or have a waiver.



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