

**FEMALES AS A PERCENTAGE OF U.S. POPULATION,
ARTICLE III APPOINTMENTS, AND SITTING ARTICLE III JUDGES,
GRAPHS FOR 1790-2002 AND 1930-2002**

LINE-BY-LINE EXPLANATION & SOURCES

TOP LINE – FEM % OF U.S. POPULATION

Female Percentage of U.S. Population.

Data on Females as a percentage of the United States population starting in 1950 comes from the official census taken every ten years.

Although the census is taken only once every ten years, it is assumed that the female percentage of the population in that year also applies to the five preceding years and the four years that follow. For example, the 1990 census showed that females were, at that time, 52 percent of the population (after rounding). For purposes of these charts, it has been assumed that females were 52 percent of the population not just in 1990, but for the entire ten-year period from 1985 through 1994.

BOTTOM LINE – FEM % OF ART. III APPOINTMENTS

Female Percentage of Article III Appointments.

Data on females as a percentage of Article III appointments is derived from the Federal Judges Biographical Database available on the website of the Federal Judicial Center (<http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf>).

Initially, the number of female Article III judges appointed in a particular year was divided by the total number of Article III judges appointed that year, creating a percentage figure for each year covered by the charts. However, this initial approach created a highly erratic and virtually unreadable line, due to dramatic variations in appointments from year-to-year, even within a single presidency.

To create a more coherent picture, multi-year averages were taken for each United States president. For President Carter, to give just one example, the chart does NOT show that females were appointed to Article III judgeships at a rate of 3% in 1977 versus 19% in 1978 and 18% in 1979. Instead, the chart shows that females were appointed at an average annual rate of 16% during each year of his presidency.

It is this averaging that explains the “boxy” look of the line on the chart labeled “Female percentage of Article III appointments.”

MIDDLE LINE – FEM % OF SITTING ART. III JUDGES

Female Percentage of Sitting Article III Judges.

Data on females as a percentage of sitting Article III Judges is derived from hard copies of the Judiciary Fair Employment Practices Annual Report published by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts in Washington, D.C. This report contains a chart on “federal judicial officers” by court type and race, among other things.