

Boxed In:

***Women On Screen and Behind the Scenes on
Broadcast and Streaming Television in 2022-23***

by Dr. Martha M. Lauzen

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Females fared better as characters and contestants on reality programs and game shows than as characters on scripted programs in 2022-23. A comparison of unscripted and scripted programs featured on broadcast network and streaming platforms reveals that females in speaking roles were better represented on unscripted programs (50%) than scripted programs (43%). While the employment of women in behind-the-scenes roles was the same on both scripted and unscripted programs (32%), women fared better as directors on scripted (22%) than unscripted programs (11%). However, the percentage of women working as producers was higher on unscripted (47%) than scripted programs (41%).

Overall, the findings indicate that 2022-23 was not a stellar year for women on screen or behind the scenes. Females accounted for 45% of all speaking characters on original streaming programs and 44% on broadcast network programs. Both of these percentages represent a retreat from slightly higher numbers in 2021-22. The percentage of women working in behind-the-scenes roles also declined from 37% in 2021-22 to 34% in 2022-23 on original streaming programs, and from 31% in 2021-22 to 29% in 2022-23 on broadcast network programs.

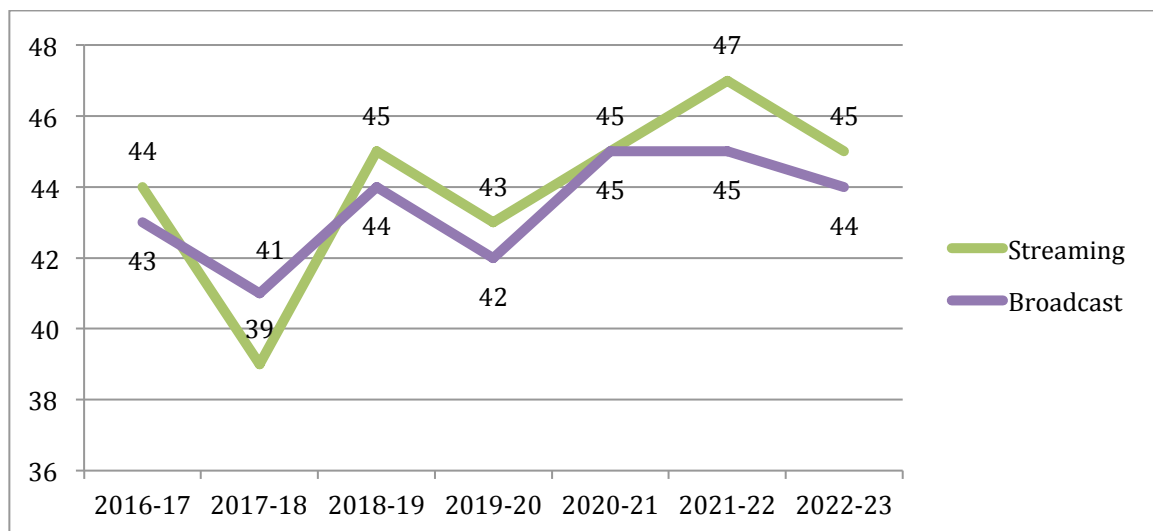
This latest edition of *Boxed In* considers how women fared in original U.S. programming offered by broadcasters and streaming services in 2022-23.

Key Findings

•In 2022-23, original programs on streaming services and broadcast networks featured almost identical percentages of female characters *in speaking roles* (45% streaming, 44% broadcast). For streaming programs, this represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 47% in 2021-22. It represents a slight decline of 1 percentage point from 45% in 2021-22 for broadcast programs (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.

Comparison of Female Characters in Speaking Roles
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs

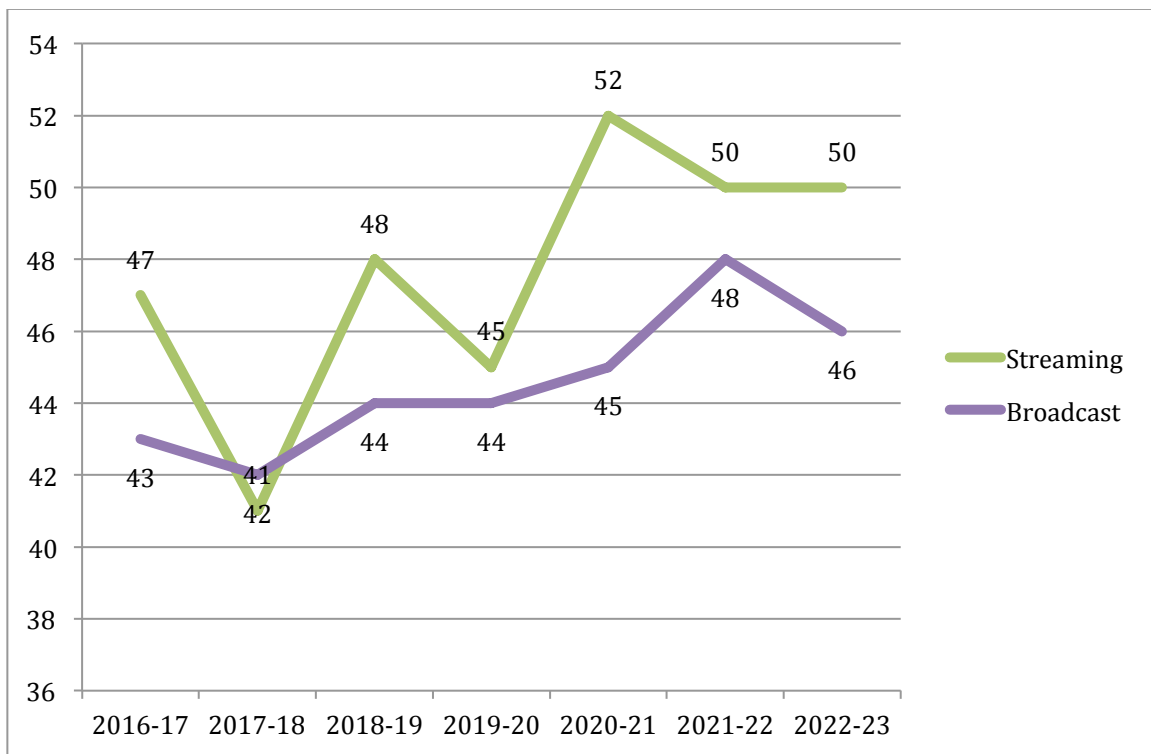


•There has been no meaningful change in the percentage of female characters in speaking roles on broadcast television in the last decade and a half. In 2007-08 females comprised 43% of all characters. In 2022-2023, females accounted for 44% of all characters in speaking roles.

•The representation of female characters on streaming programs has not changed substantially in the last 7 years. Females accounted for 44% of speaking characters in 2016-17 and 45% in 2022-23.

Figure 2.

Comparison of Major Female Characters on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



• **Programs on streaming services featured a higher percentage of *major female characters* than programs on broadcast networks.** Females represented 50% of major characters on streaming programs versus 46% on broadcast network programs (see Figure 2). This represents no change from 50% in 2021-22 for streaming programs. It represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 48% in 2021-22 to 46% in 2022-23 for broadcast programs.

• **A comparison of scripted and unscripted programs on broadcast and streaming platforms reveals that females fared better on unscripted programs.** Females comprised 43% of all speaking characters on scripted programs but 50% of contestants and characters on unscripted programs.

• **Regardless of platform, female characters experience a steep decline in numbers as they age from their 30s into their 40s.** On broadcast network programs, the percentage of major female characters plummeted from 47% in their

30s to 14% in their 40s. Similarly, on streaming programs the percentage of major females dropped from 38% in their 30s to 17% in their 40s.

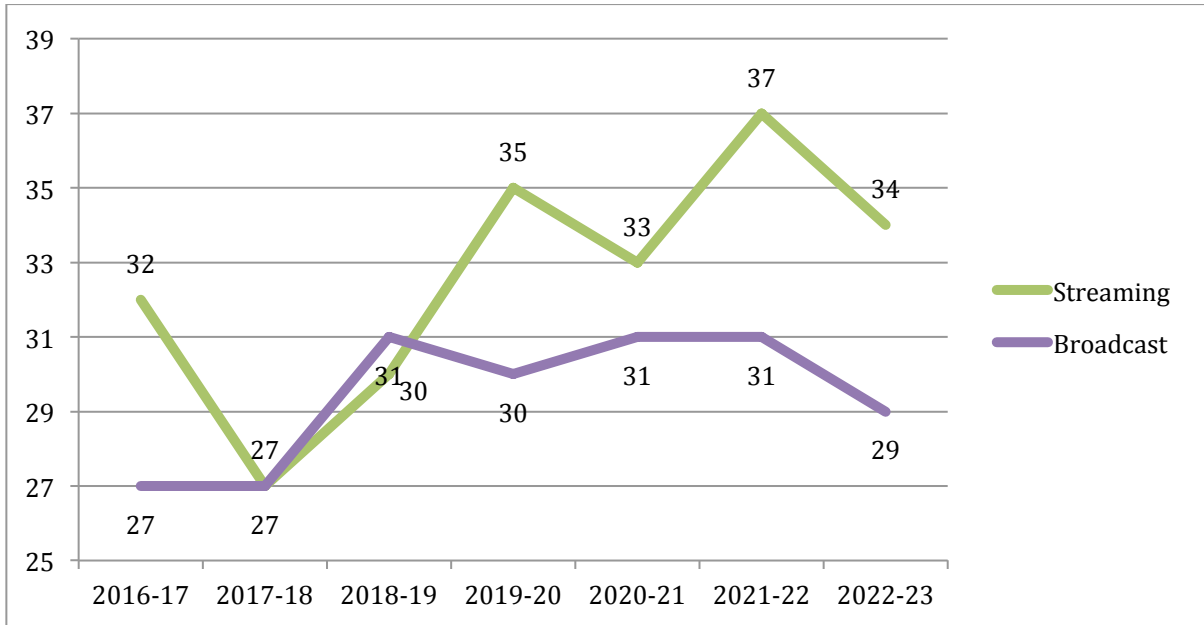
- **Women 60 and over continue to be dramatically underrepresented.** Females comprised just 3% of major female characters 60 and over on broadcast programs and 4% on streaming programs.

- **On broadcast network programs, the percentage of Black female characters declined from 27% in 2021-22 to 23% in 2022-23, and the percentage of Latinas remained steady at 7%. Latinas remain dramatically underrepresented on screen when compared to their representation in the U.S. population.**

- **On original streaming programs, the percentages of Black female (21% in 2021-22, 25% in 2022-23) and Latina characters (4% in 2021-22, 6% in 2022-23) increased.**

- **The percentage of women working in key behind-the-scenes roles declined slightly on streaming and broadcast programs in 2022-23.** Women comprised 34% of creators, directors, writers, executive producers, producers, editors, and directors of photography working on streaming programs in 2022-23, a decline of 3 percentage points from 37% in 2021-22. The percentage of behind-the-scenes women working on broadcast programs declined 2 percentage points from 31% in 2021-22 to 29% in 2022-23 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3.
Comparison of Women in Behind-the-Scenes Roles
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs

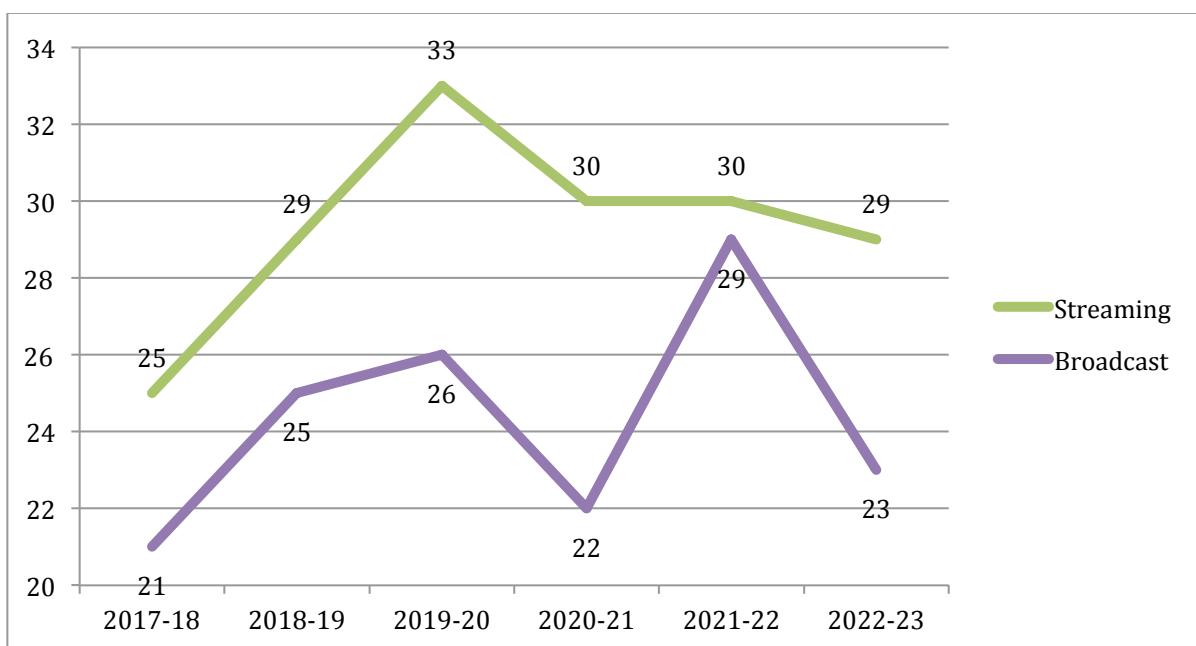


•**The percentages of women creators declined on broadcast and streaming services in 2022-23.** The percentage of creators on broadcast network programs declined by 6 percentage points from 29% in 2021-22 to 23% in 2022-23. The percentage of creators on streaming programs declined 1 percentage point from 30% in 2021-22 to 29% in 2022-23 (see Figure 4).

•**A comparison of scripted versus unscripted programs reveals that women comprised 32% of those working in the behind-the-scenes roles considered in both types of programming. However, women directors fare much better on scripted programs (22%) than on unscripted programs (11%). Women producers fare better on unscripted programs (47%) than on scripted programs (41%).**

Figure 4.

Comparison of Creators on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



•Broadcast programs employed a slightly higher percentage of women as directors (20%) than streaming programs (18%). The percentage of women working as directors on streaming programs dropped from 29% in 2021-22 to 18% in 2022-23. The percentage of women working as directors on broadcast programs increased slightly from 18% in 2021-22 to 20% in 2022-23.

•Women comprised 30% of writers on both broadcast and streaming programs.

•Streaming programs employed a higher percentage of women as executive producers (36%) than broadcast programs (29%).

•On broadcast and streaming platforms, programs with at least 1 woman creator employed substantially higher percentages of women in other key behind-the-scenes roles than programs with exclusively male creators. For example, when a program had at least 1 woman creator, women comprised 38% of directors. On programs with no women creators, women accounted for 12% of directors.

•In 2022-23, 95% of broadcast and streaming programs had no women directors of photography, 83% had no women directors, 74% had no women editors, 73% had no women creators, and 70% had no women writers.

Background

This year's edition of *Boxed In* focuses on the employment of women working in key behind-the-scenes positions, as well as the representation of girls and women on screen in original U.S. dramas, comedies and reality programs featured on broadcast networks and streaming services from September 2022 through May 2023.

The study considers one randomly selected episode of series appearing on the broadcast networks during prime time (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CW) and streaming services (Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, Disney+, HBO Max, Hulu, Netflix, Paramount+, Peacock). In 2022-23, the study tracked over 3,500 characters and more than 4,500 credits. Over the last 26 years -- from 1997-98 through 2022-23 -- *Boxed In* has monitored over 56,500 characters and more than 70,000 credits.

Information on behind-the-scenes credits and on-screen portrayals was collected by viewing every episode in the sample one or more times in its entirety. The study considers the following behind-the-scenes credits: creators, directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and directors of photography. Every character who was seen speaking at least one line was included in the study. The attributes of each character that were coded include: sex, race/ethnicity, age, prominence of character (major vs. minor), marital status, occupational status, goals, and roles. For the purposes of this study, major characters appear in more than one scene and are instrumental to the narrative of the story. The study also coded whether the characters were seen at work and actually working.

Findings for Broadcast Networks

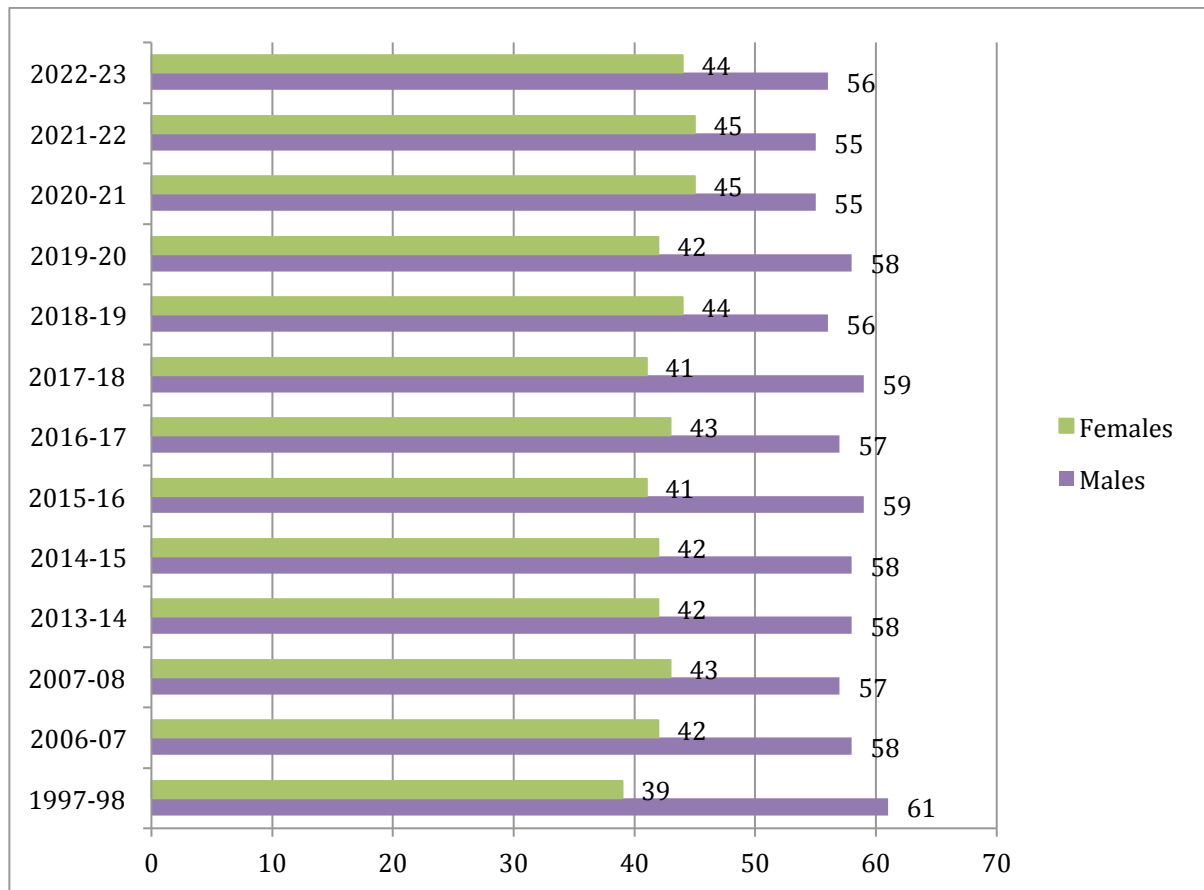
Females On Screen

Representation

In 2022-23, females comprised 44% (43.7%) of *all speaking characters* appearing on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 45% in 2021-22 (see Figure 5). Males accounted for 56% (55.9%) of all characters. Non-binary individuals made up 0.1% of characters and transgender individuals accounted for 0.3% of characters.

Figure 5.

Historical Comparison of Percentages of All Speaking Female Characters on Broadcast Network Programs

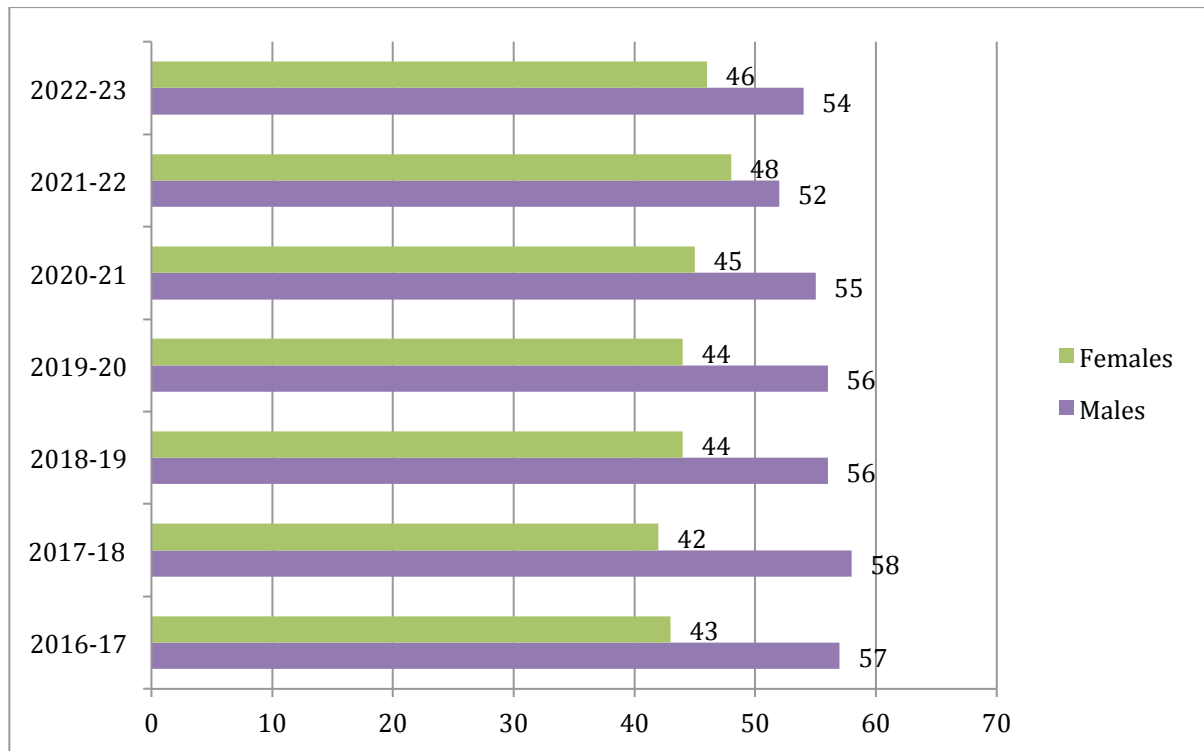


There has been no meaningful change in the percentage of female characters in speaking roles on broadcast television in the last decade and half. In 2007-08 females comprised 43% of all characters. In 2023, females accounted for 44% of all characters in speaking roles.

46% (46.3%) of *major characters* were female in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 48% in 2021-22 (see Figure 6). For the purposes of this study, *major characters* appear in more than one scene and are instrumental to the narrative of the story. Males comprised 54% (53.5%) of major characters and transgender individuals accounted for less than 1 percent (0.2%) of major characters.

Figure 6.

Historical Comparison of Percentage of Major Female Characters on Broadcast Network Programs



Race/Ethnicity

In 2022-23, 58% (58.0%) of all *female characters in speaking roles* were White (up 3 percentage points from 55% in 2021-22), 23% (22.5%) were Black (down 4 percentage points from 27% in 2021-22), 12% (11.7%) were Asian or Asian American (up 2 percentage points from 10% in 2021-22), 7% (6.5%) were Latina (even with 2021-22)¹, 1% (0.6%) were MENA² (up from 0.5% in 2021-22), 1% (0.7%) were Native American (up from 0.3% in 2021-22) and less than 1% (0.1%) were multiracial/multiethnic (down from 0.3% in 2021-22) (see Figure 7).

63% (63.3%) of *male characters in speaking roles* were White, 22% (22.3%) were Black, 7% (7.3%) were Asian or Asian American, 5% (5.1%) were Latino, 1% (1.3%) were MENA, and 1% (0.5%) were Native American.

61% (61.4%) of *major female characters* were White (up 7 percentage points from 54% in 2021-22), 20% (20.1%) were Black (down 8 percentage points from 28% in 2021-22), 10% (10.3%) were Asian or Asian American (approximately even with the percentage in 2021-22), 7% (7.3%) were Latina (approximately even with

Figure 7.

Race/Ethnicity of Female Characters in Speaking Roles on Broadcast Network Programs

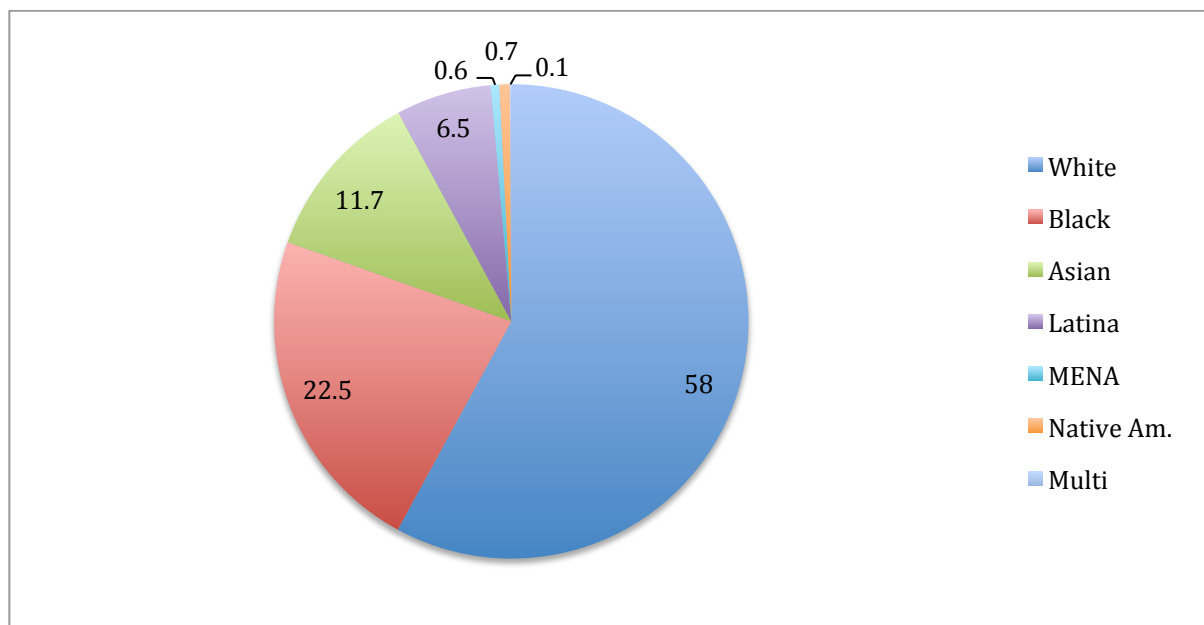
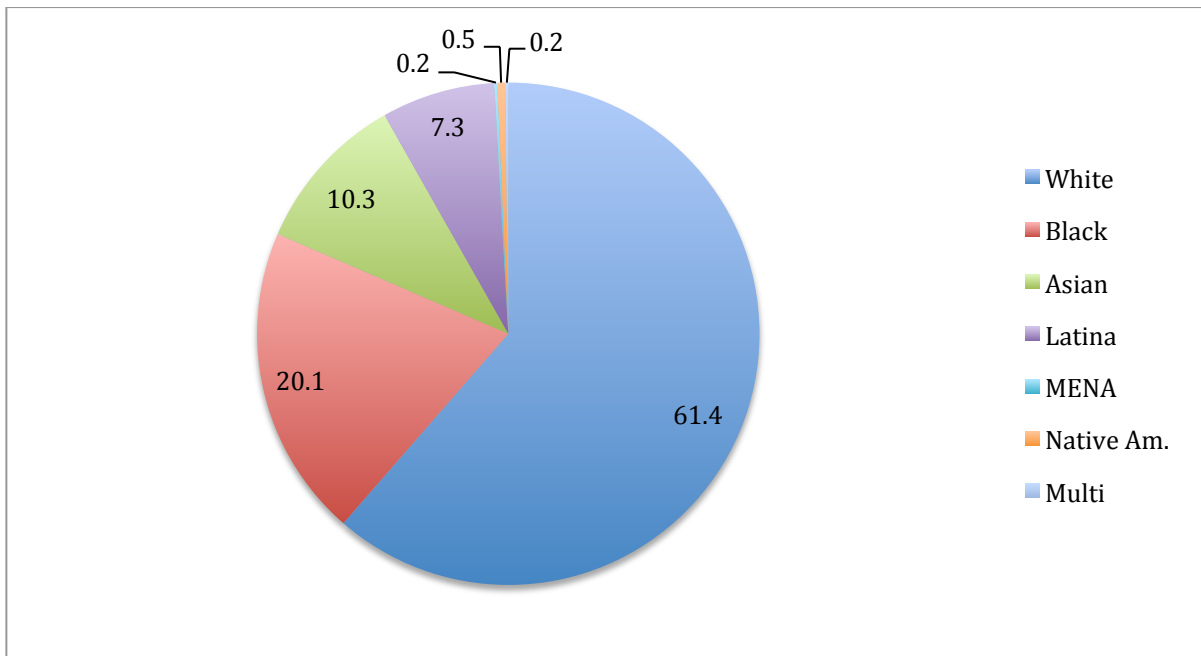


Figure 8.

Race/Ethnicity of Major Female Characters on Broadcast Network Programs



the percentage in 2021-22), 1% (0.5%) were Native American (up slightly from less than 1% in 2021-22), less than 1% (0.2%) were MENA (down slightly from 1% in 2021-22), and less than 1% (0.2%) were multiracial/multiethnic (even with the percentage in 2021-22) (see Figure 8).

62% (61.8%) of *major male characters* were White, 23% (22.6%) were Black, 7% (6.5%) were Latino, 9% (8.5%) were Asian or Asian American, less than 1% (0.4%) were MENA, and less than 1% (0.2%) were Native American.

100% of transgender characters were Latinx.

Age

By age cohort, 8% (8.0%) of *females in speaking roles* were children or teens, 19% (18.8%) were in their 20s, 44% (44.4%) were in their 30s, 16% (16.0%) were in their 40s, 10% (9.9%) were in their 50s, and 3% (2.9%) were in their 60s or older.

For *male characters in speaking roles*, 5% (4.8%) were children or teens, 11% (10.7%) were in their 20s, 34% (33.6%) were in their 30s, 30% (29.5%) were in their 40s, 14% (13.8%) were in their 50s, and 8% (7.6%) were in their 60s or older.

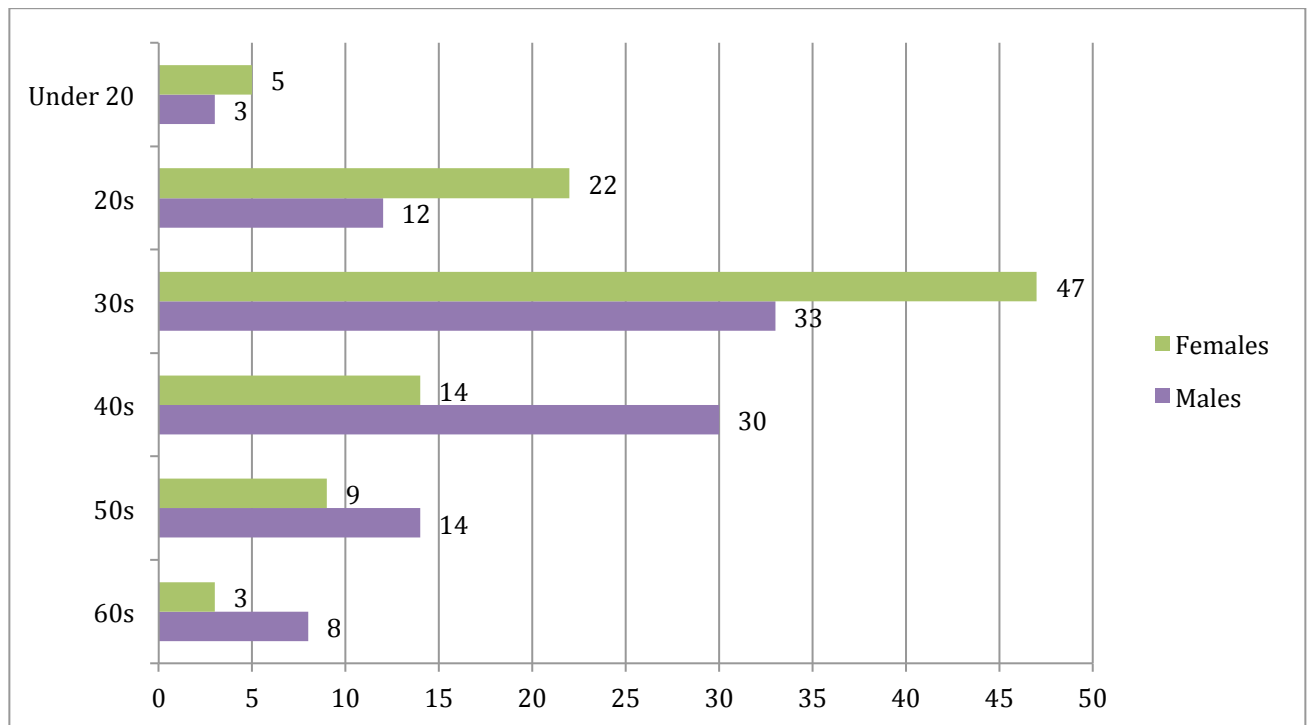
Overall, female characters were younger than their male counterparts. The majority of female characters were in their 20s and 30s (63%), whereas the majority of males were in their 30s and 40s (63%).

Female characters experienced a precipitous decline in numbers from their 30s (44%) to their 40s (16%). The percentage of male characters also declined, but it was not as dramatic (from 34% to 30%).

51% of male characters were 40 and older but only 29% of female characters were 40 and older. More male characters than female characters were 60 or older (8% vs. 3%).

The findings for *major characters* were similar. By age cohort, 5% (4.8%) of *major female characters* were children or teens, 22% (22.3%) were in their 20s, 47% (46.7%) were in their 30s, 14% (14.4%) were in their 40s, 9% (8.7%) were in their 50s, and 3% (3.3%) were 60 and older (see Figure 9).

Figure 9.
Comparison of Ages of Major Female and Male Characters on Broadcast Network Programs



3% (3.4%) of *major male characters* were children or teens, 12% (11.6%) were in their 20s, 33% (33.1%) were in their 30s, 30% (29.9%) were in their 40s, 14% (13.8%) were in their 50s, and 8% (8.3%) were 60 or older.

Overall, the majority of major female characters were in their 20s and 30s (69%), and the majority of males were in their 30s and 40s (63%).

The percentage of major female characters dropped precipitously from their 30s to their 40s (47% to 14%). The percentage of male characters also dropped, but not as dramatically (33% to 30%).

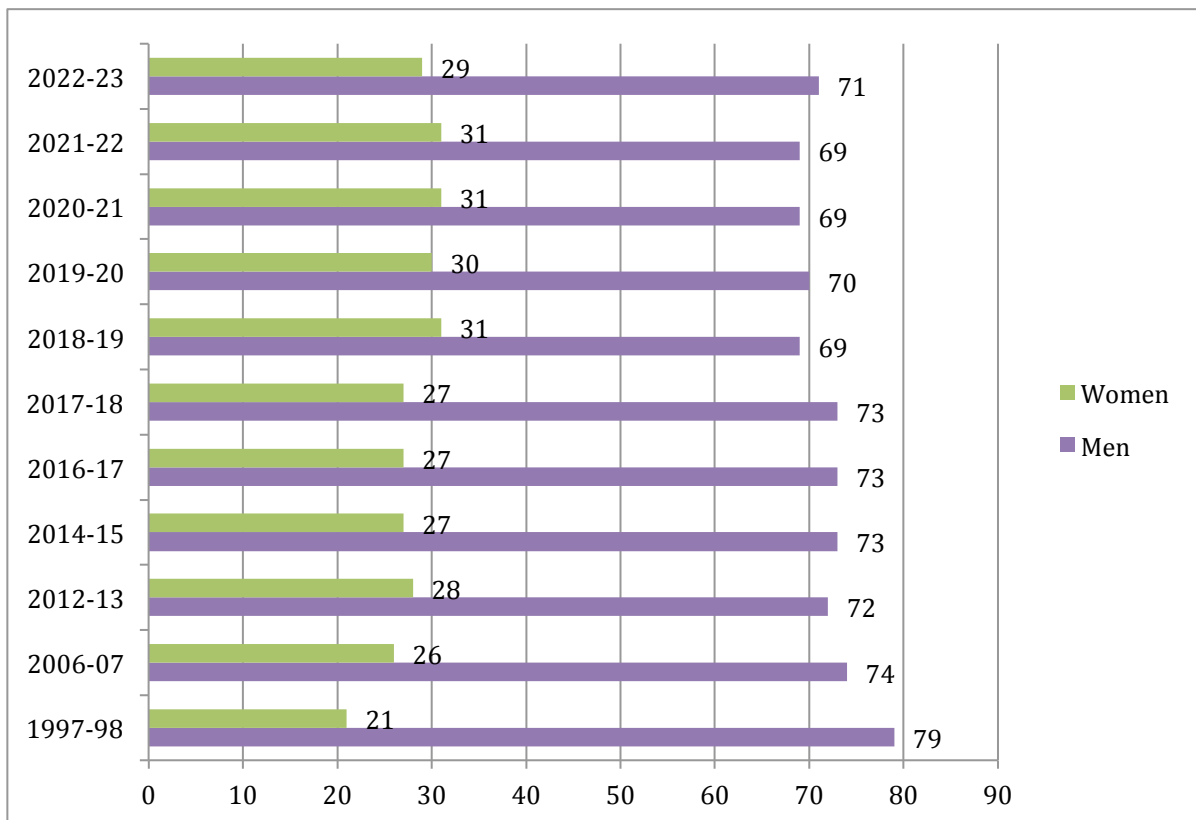
There were more than twice as many *major male characters as female characters* 60 and older (8% vs. 3%).

Women Behind the Scenes

In 2022-23, women accounted for 29% (29.1%) of all creators, directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and directors of photography working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 31% in 2021-22 (see Figure 10). Men comprised 71% (70.9%) of individuals in behind-the-scenes roles.

The percentage of women working in the behind-the-scenes roles considered has not improved substantially since 2012-13 when women accounted for 28% of individuals in these roles.

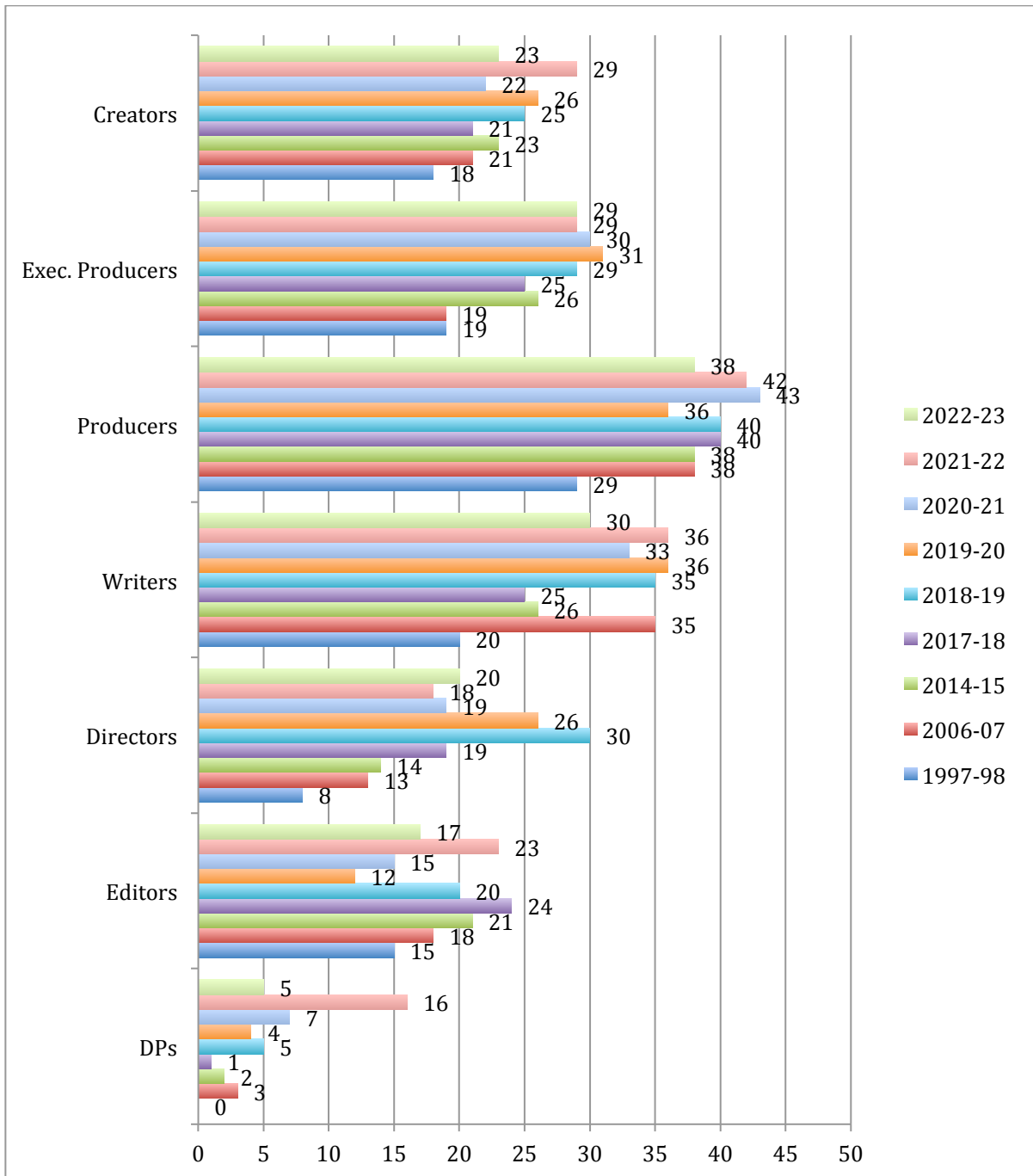
Figure 10.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Working Behind the Scenes on
Broadcast Network Programs



Overall, women fared best as producers (38%), followed by writers (30%), executive producers (29%), creators (23%), directors (20%), editors (17%), and directors of photography (5%) (see Figure 11).

In 2022-23, women comprised 23% (22.9%) of creators on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 6 percentage points from 29% in 2021-22.

Figure 11.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women by Role on
Broadcast Network Programs



Women accounted for 29% (29.3%) of executive producers working on broadcast network programs. This represents no change from 2021-22.

In 2022-23, women comprised 38% (38.4%) of producers working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 4 percentage points from 42% in 2021-22.

Women accounted for 30% (29.5%) of writers working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 6 percentage points from 36% in 2021-22.

Women comprised 20% (20.3%) of directors working on broadcast network programs last year. This represents an increase of 2 percentage points from 18% in 2021-22.

In 2022-23, women accounted for 17% (16.6%) of editors working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 6 percentage points from 23% in 2021-22.

Women accounted for 5% (4.7%) of directors of photography working on broadcast programs last year. This represents a decline of 11 percentage points from 16% in 2021-22.

In 2022-23, 96% (96.2%) of broadcast programs had no women directors of photography, 81% (80.6%) had no women editors, 80% (79.8%) had no women directors, 76% (76.0%) had no women creators, and 68% (68.3%) had no women writers.

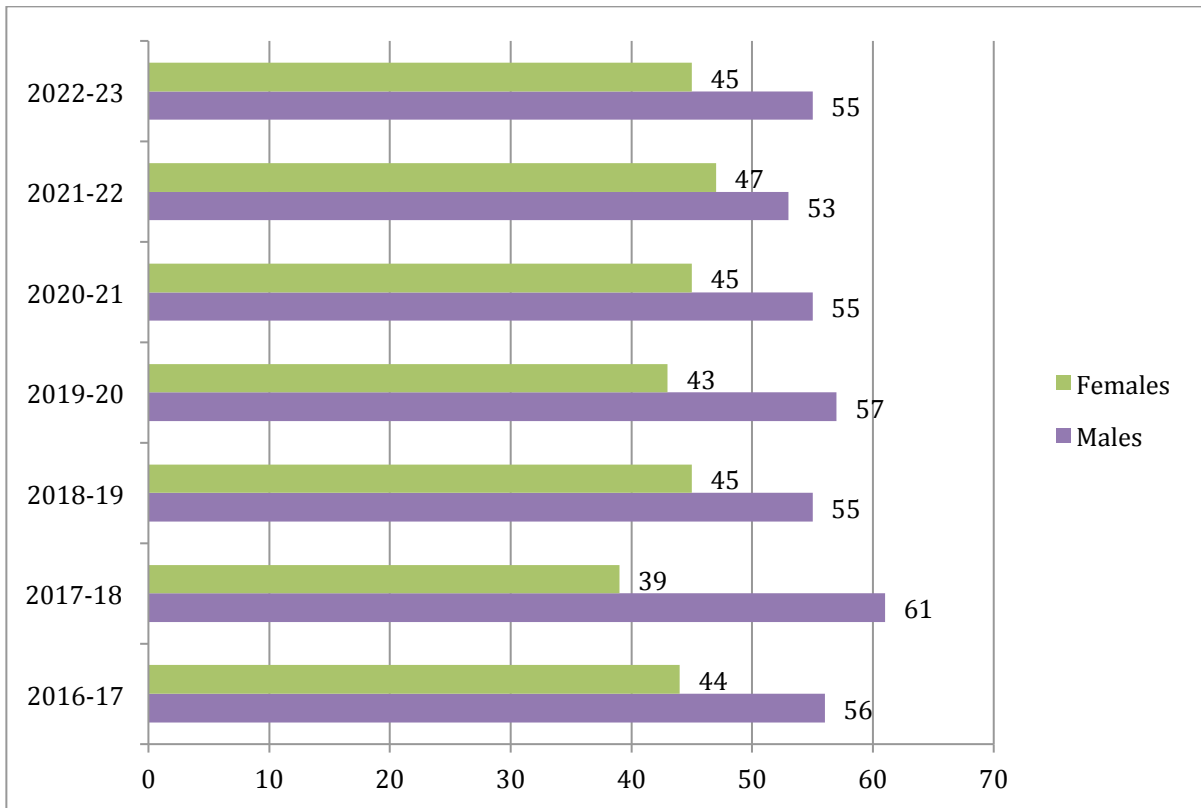
Findings for Streaming Services

Females On Screen

Representation

In 2022-23, females accounted for 45% (45.0%) of *all speaking characters* on streaming programs. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 47% in 2021-22 (see Figure 12). Males comprised 55% (54.7%), nonbinary characters less than 1% (0.2%), and transgender characters less than 1% (0.2%) of all speaking characters.

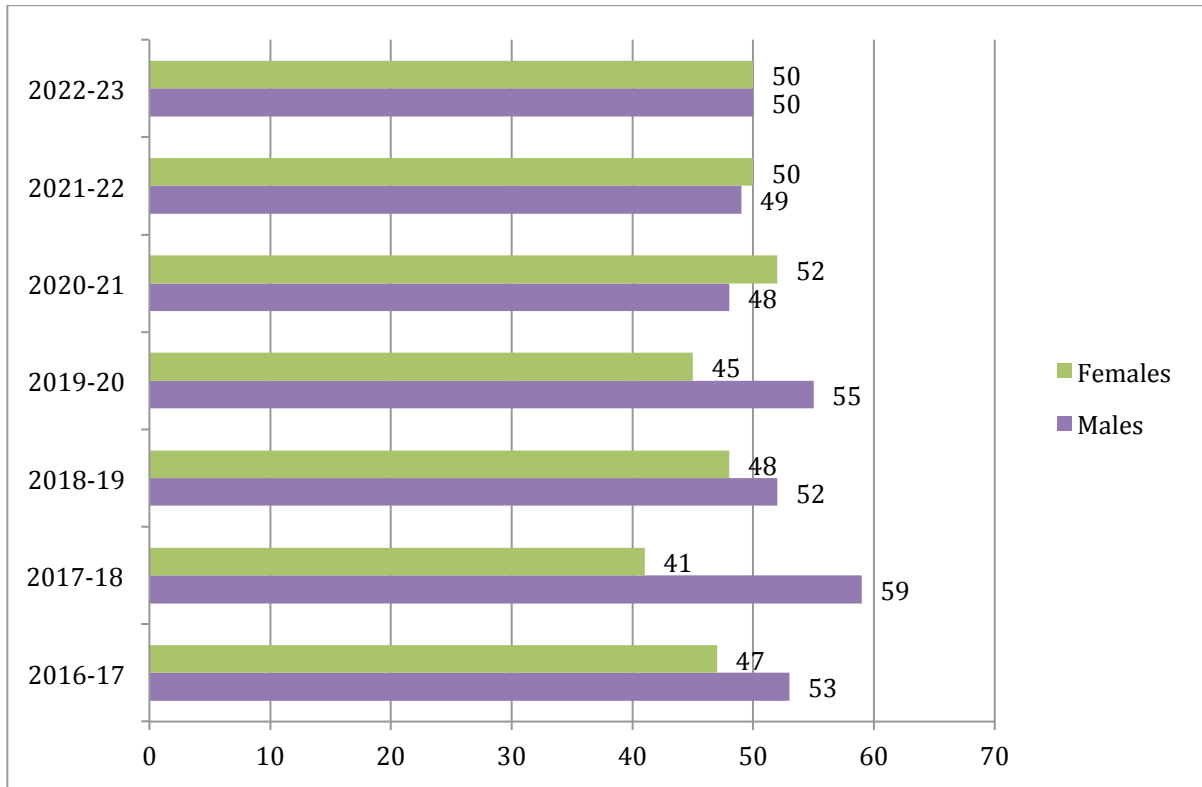
Figure 12.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of All Speaking Female Characters
on Streaming Programs



The representation of female characters on streaming programs has not changed substantially in the last 7 years. Females accounted for 44% of speaking characters in 2016-17 and 45% in 2022-23.

Females comprised 50% (50.2%) of *major characters* on streaming programs. This represents no change from the percentage in 2021-2022 (see Figure 13). Males accounted for 50% (49.6%), and transgender characters for less than 1% (0.2%) of all major characters. For the purposes of this study, *major characters* appear in more than one scene and are instrumental to the narrative of the story.

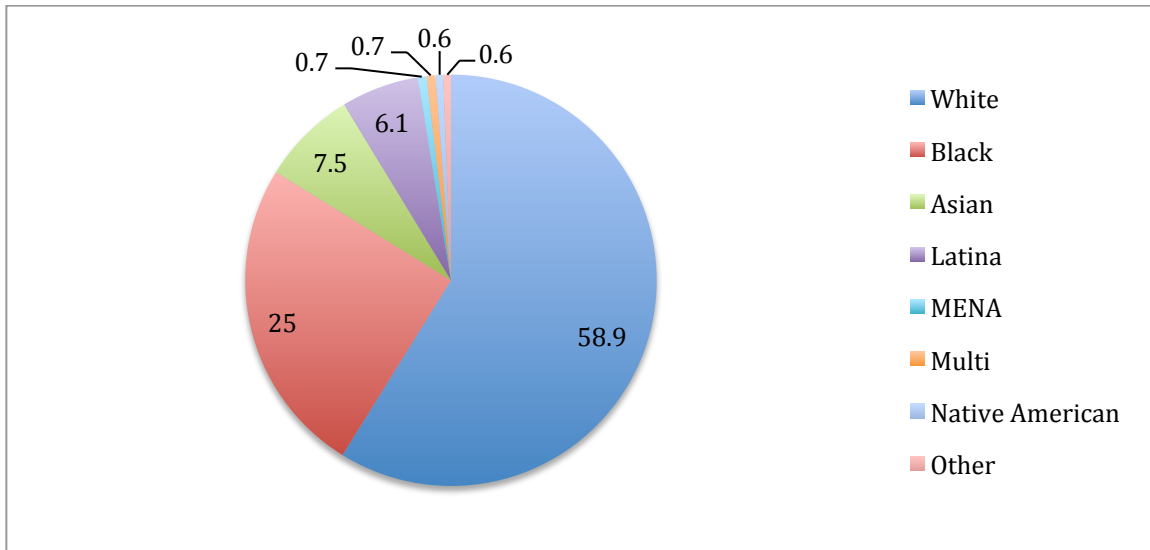
Figure 13.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of All Major Female Characters on Streaming Programs



Race/Ethnicity

Regarding race and ethnicity on streaming programs, 59% (58.9%) of *females in speaking roles* were White (even with 2021-22), 25% (25.0%) were Black (an increase of 4 percentage points from 21% in 2021-22), 8% (7.5%) were Asian or Asian American (a decline of 6 percentage points from 14% in 2021-22), 6% (6.1%) were Latina (an increase of 2 percentage points from 4% in 2021-22), 1% (0.7%) were MENA (even with 2021-22), 1% (0.6%) were Native American (even with 2021-22), 1% (0.6%) were of some other race or ethnicity (even with 2021-22), and 1% (0.7%) were multiracial/multiethnic (up slightly from less than 1% in 2021-22) (see Figure 14).

Figure 14.
Comparison of Race/Ethnicity of Female Characters
in Speaking Roles on Streaming Programs



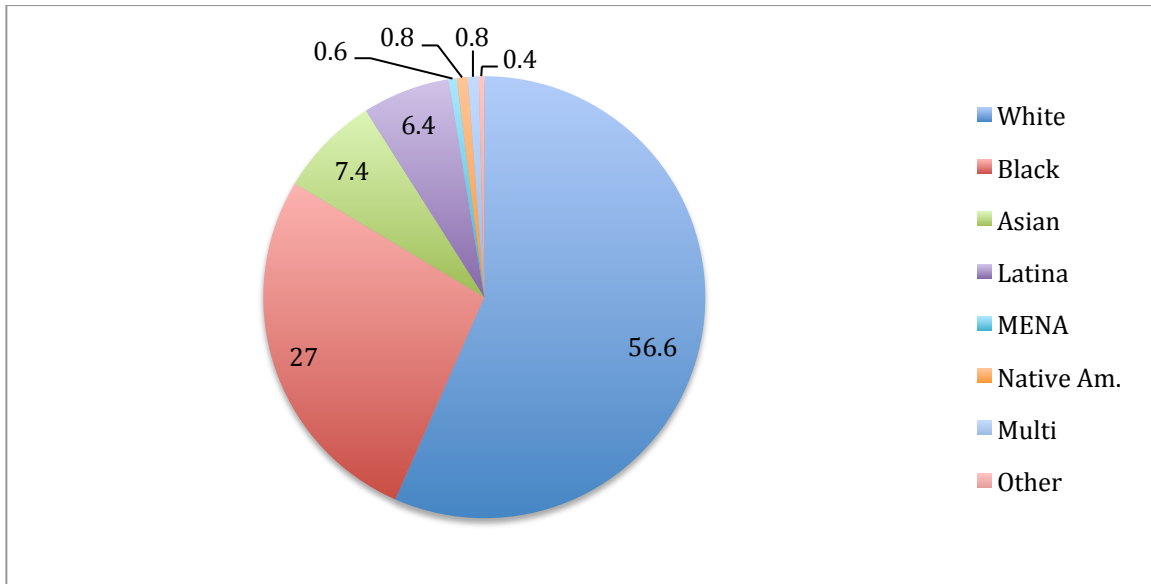
61% (60.7%) of *males in speaking roles* were White, 24% (24.1%) were Black, 6% (6.3%) were Latino, 5% (4.6%) were Asian or Asian American, 2% (1.9%) were MENA, 2% (1.8%) were of some other race or ethnicity, less than 1 percent (0.3%) were Native American, and less than 1% (0.2%) were multiracial/multiethnic.

67% (66.7%) of *nonbinary characters in speaking roles* were White and 33% (33.3%) were of some other race or ethnicity. 33% (33.3%) of transgender characters were White, 33% (33.3%) were Black, and 33% (33.3%) were MENA.

For *major characters only*, 57% (56.6%) of females were White (down 2 percentage points from 59.0% in 2021-22), 27% (27.0%) were Black (up 6 percentage points from 21% in 2021-22), 7% (7.4%) were Asian or Asian American (down 8 percentage points from 15% in 2021-22), 6% (6.4%) were Latina (up 3 percentage points from 3% in 2021-22), 1% (0.6%) were MENA (even with the percentage in 2021-22), 1% (0.8%) were Native American (even with 1% in 2021-22), 1% (0.8%) were multiracial/multiethnic, and less than 1% (0.4%) were of

Figure 15.

Comparison of Race/Ethnicity of Major Female Characters on Streaming Programs



some other race or ethnicity (see Figure 15). 50% (50.0%) of transgender characters were White and 50% (50.0%) were Black.

For *major characters only*, 59% (58.6%) of male characters were White, 26% (26.2%) were Black, 6% (5.8%) were Asian or Asian American, 6% (6.4%) were Latino, 2% (1.7%) were MENA, 1% (0.6%) were of some other race or ethnicity, less than 1% (0.2%) were Native American, and less than 1% (0.4%) were multiracial/multiethnic.

Age

By age cohort, 18% (17.8%) of *female characters in speaking roles* were children or teens, 16% (15.8%) were in their 20s, 39% (38.8%) were in their 30s, 17% (16.8%) were in their 40s, 7% (6.7%) were in their 50s, and 4% (4.1%) were in their 60s.

For *males in speaking roles*, 10% (10.4%) were children or teens, 12% (12.3%) were in their 20s, 30% (30.3%) were in their 30s, 26% (26.3%) were in their 40s, 13% (13.4%) were in their 50s, and 7% (7.4%) were in their 60s.

50% (50.0%) of nonbinary characters were in their teens, and 50% (50.0%) were in their 20s. 67% (66.7%) of transgender characters were in their 40s, and 33% (33.3%) were in their 50s.

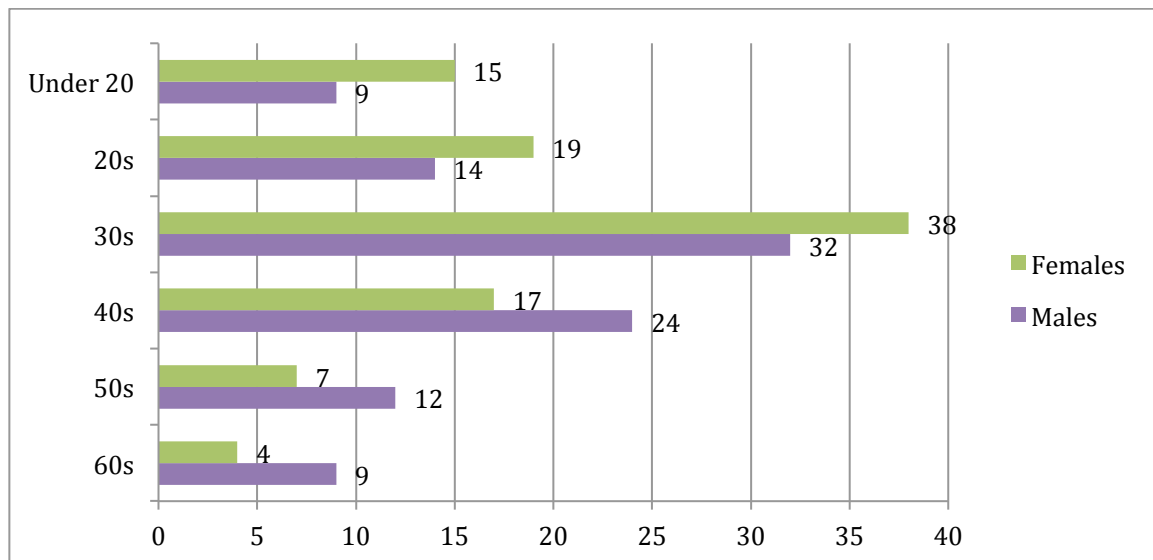
Overall, 28% of female characters but 47% of male characters in speaking roles were 40 or older. Streaming programs featured more male characters as female characters 60 or older (7% vs. 4%).

For *major characters only*, 15% (15.2%) of females were children or teens, 19% (19.3%) were in their 20s, 38% (37.9%) were in their 30s, 17% (17.3%) were in their 40s, 7% (6.6%) were in their 50s, and 4% (3.7%) were 60 and older.

For *major characters only*, 9% (9.0%) of males were children or teens, 14% (13.8%) were in their 20s, 32% (31.8%) were in their 30s, 24% (24.3%) were in their 40s, 12% (11.7%) were in their 50s, and 9% (9.4%) were in their 60s (see Figure 16).

Figure 16.

Comparison of Ages of Major Female and Male Characters on Streaming Programs



For *major characters only*, 100% (100.0%) of transgender characters were in their 40s.

The majority of major female characters were in their 20s and 30s (57%), but the majority of major male characters were in their 30s and 40s (56%).

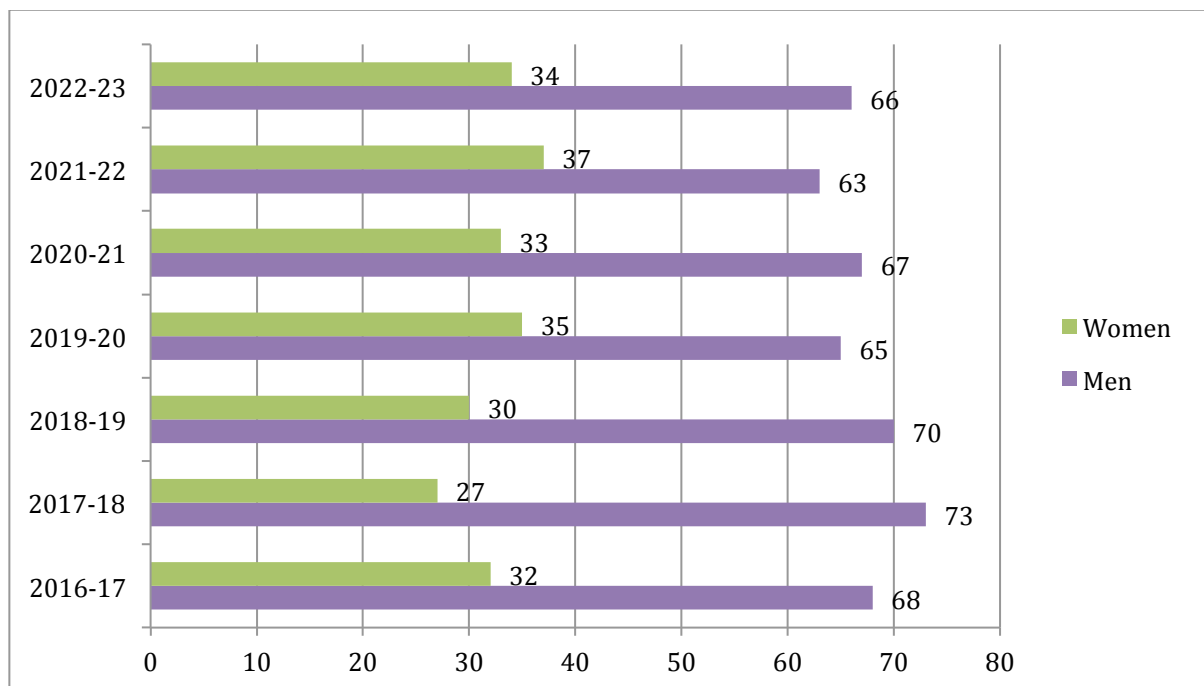
Overall, 28% of *major female characters* but 45% of *major male characters* were 40 and older. Streaming programs featured more major male characters than female characters 60 or older (9% vs. 4%).

Women Behind the Scenes

Women comprised 34% (34.4%) of creators, directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and directors of photography working on streaming programs in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points from 37% in 2021-22 (see Figure 17). Men accounted for 66% (65.6%) of those working in the behind-the-scenes roles considered.

Figure 17.

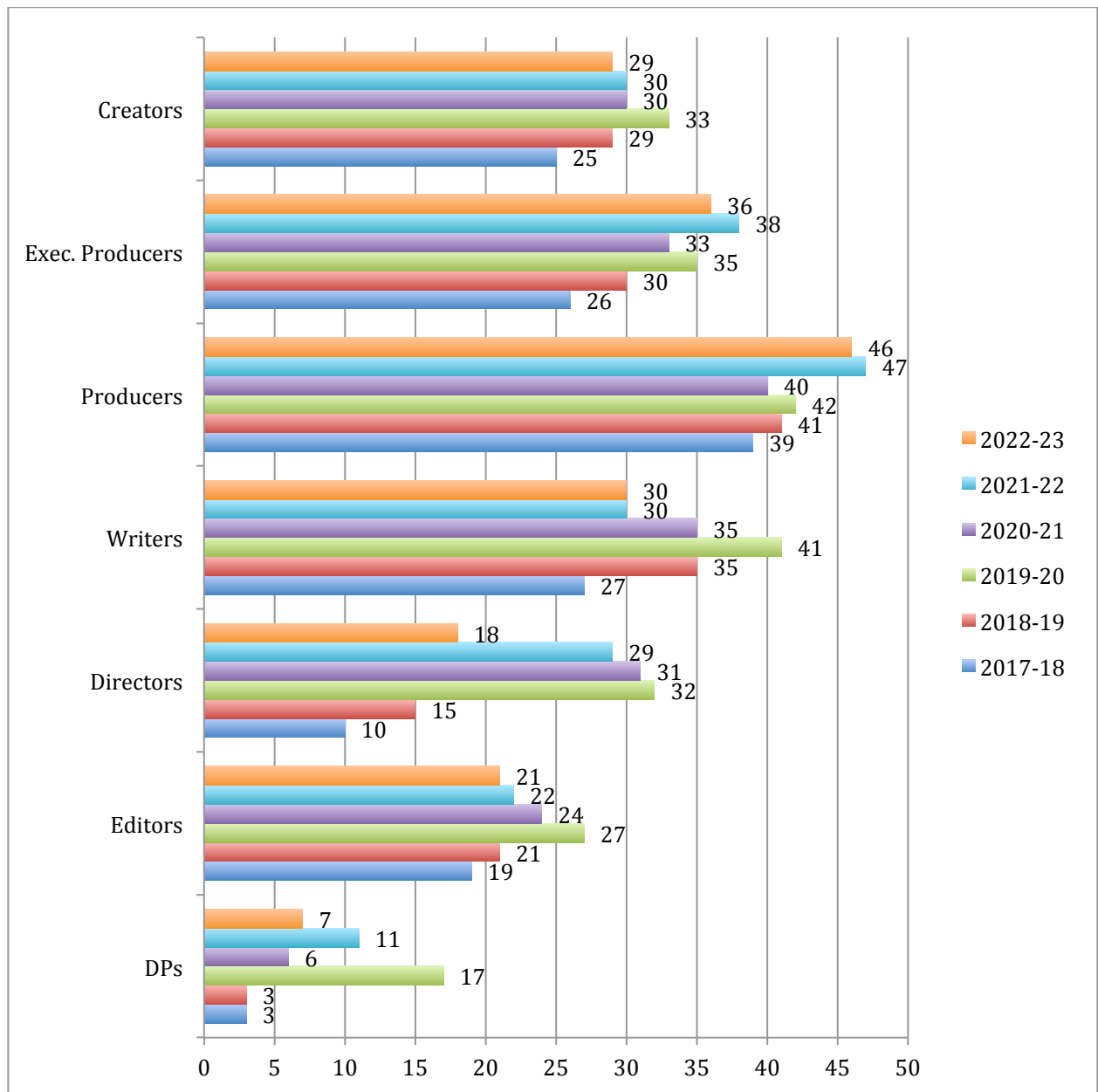
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Working Behind the Scenes on Streaming Programs



Women fared best as producers (46%), followed by executive producers (36%), writers (30%), creators (29%), editors (21%), directors (18%), and directors of photography (7%) (see Figure 18).

Figure 18.

Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Working in Key Behind-the-Scenes Roles on Streaming Programs



Women comprised 29% (28.6%) of creators working on streaming programs in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 30% in 2021-22.

Women accounted for 36% (36.2%) of executive producers working on streaming programs in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 38% in 2021-22.

Women comprised 46% (46.4%) of producers working on streaming programs in 2022-23, a decline of 1 percentage point from 47% in 2021-22.

Women accounted for 30% (29.9%) of writers working on streaming programs in 2022-23, even with the percentage in 2021-22.

Women comprised 18% (17.5%) of directors working on streaming programs in 2022-23, a decline of 11 percentage points from 29% in 2021-22.

Women accounted for 21% (20.6%) of editors working on streaming programs in 2022-23, a decline of 1 percentage point from 22% in 2021-22.

Women comprised 7% (7.2%) of directors of photography working on streaming programs in 2022-23, a decline of 4 percentage points from 11% in 2021-22.

93% (93.3%) of streaming programs had no women directors of photography, 86% (85.6%) had no women directors, 72% (72.0%) had no women writers, 70% (69.5%) had no women creators, and 69% (68.6%) had no women editors.

Findings for Broadcast Networks and Streaming Services

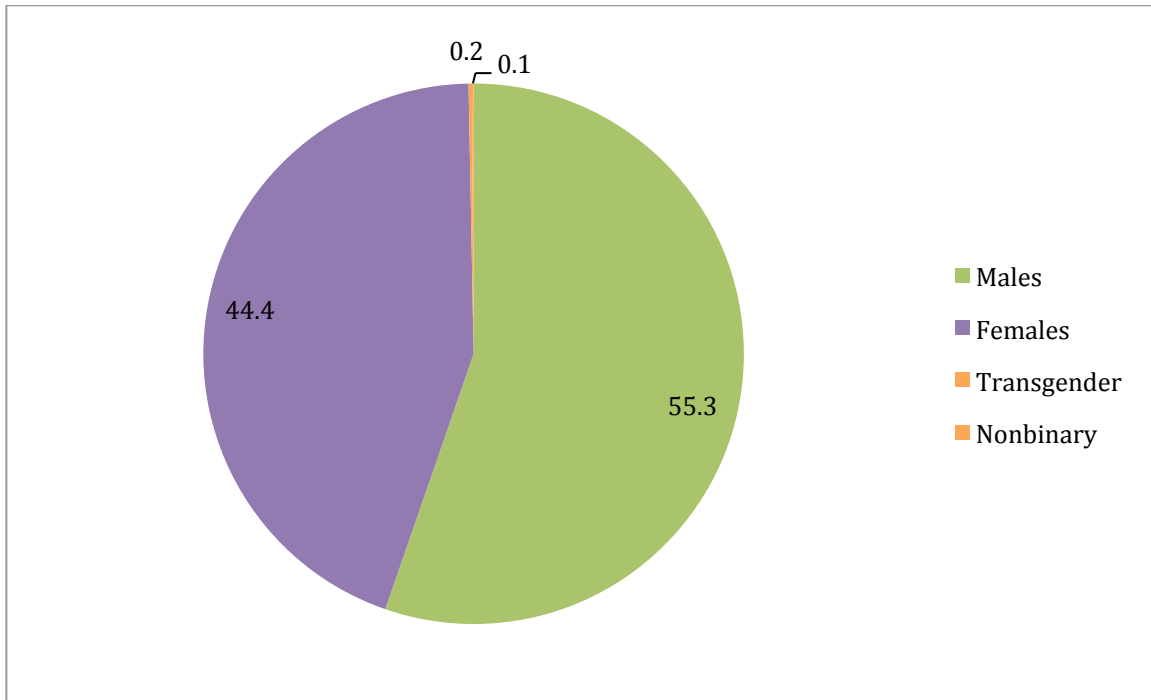
Females On Screen

Representation

In 2022-23, females accounted for 44% (44.4%) of *all speaking characters* on broadcast network and streaming programs. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 46% in 2021-2022. Males comprised 55% (55.3%), non-binary characters less than 1% (0.1%), and transgender characters less than 1% (0.2%) of speaking characters (see Figure 19).

Figure 19.

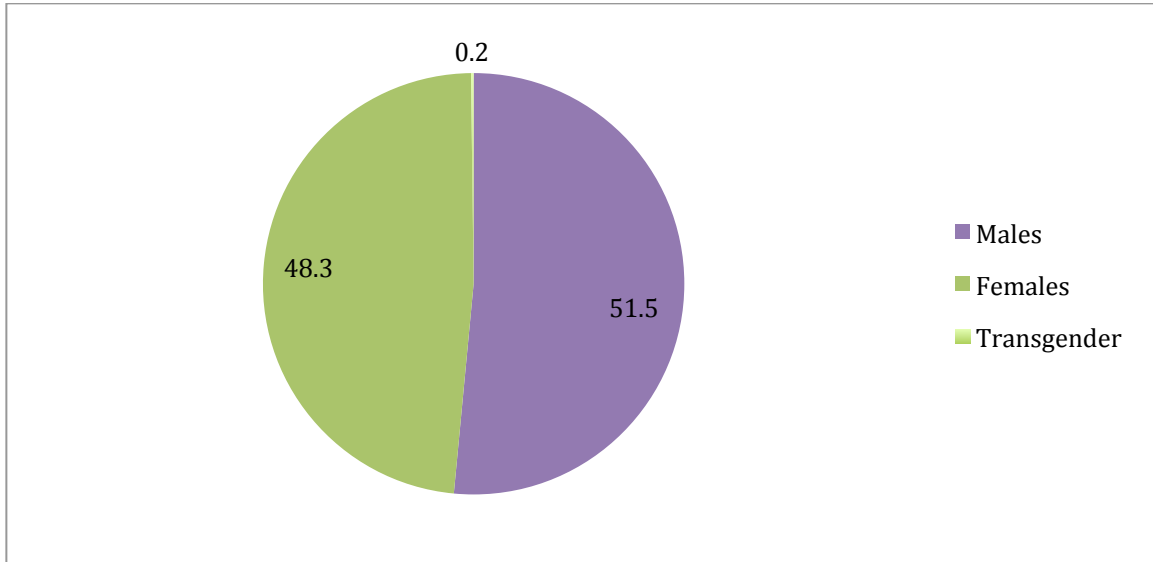
Gender of All Speaking Characters on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



Females accounted for 48% (48.3%) of *major characters* on broadcast network and streaming programs. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 49% in 2021-22. For the purposes of this study, major characters appear in more than one scene and are instrumental to the narrative of the story. Males comprised 52% (51.5%), and transgender characters less than 1% (0.2%) of major characters (see Figure 20). There were no major nonbinary characters in the sample.

Figure 20.

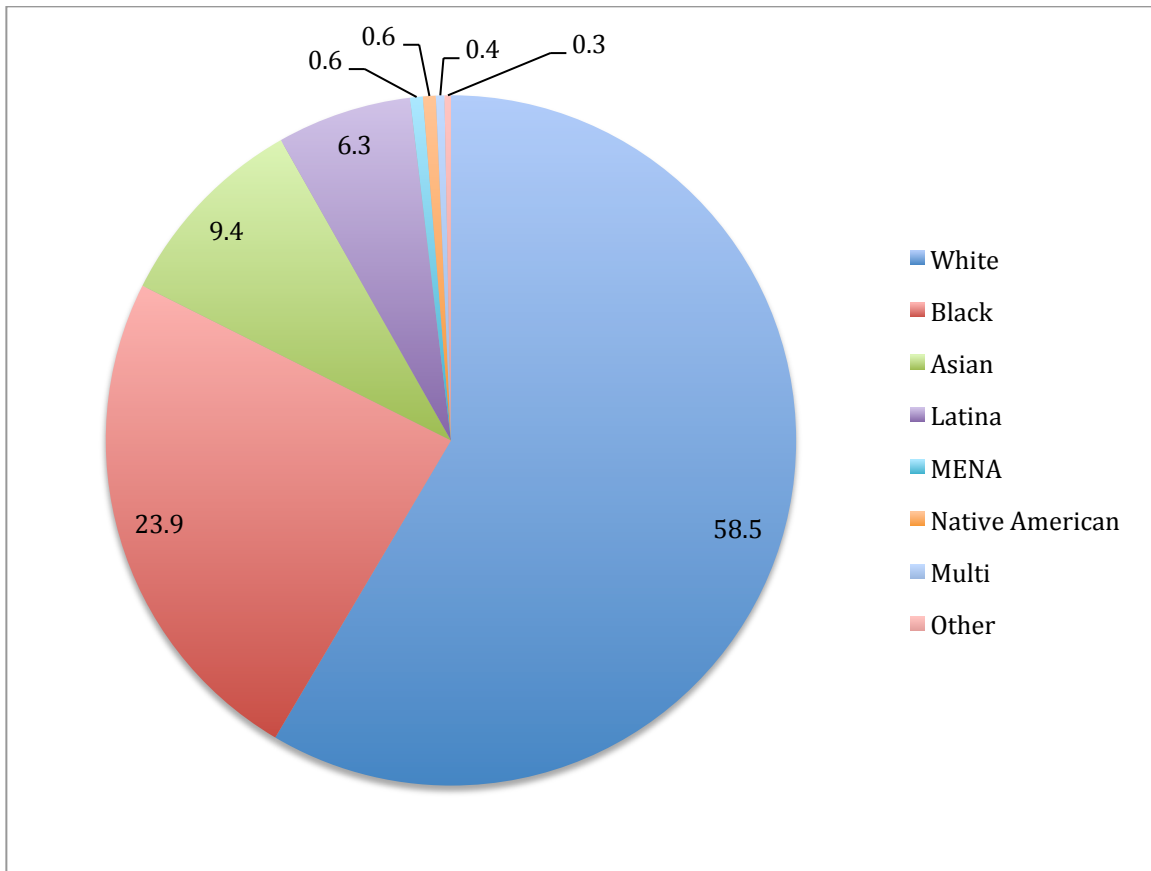
Gender of Major Characters on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



Race and Ethnicity

Regarding the race and ethnicity of female characters in *speaking roles*, 59% (58.5%) of females were White (up 2 percentage points from 57% in 2021-22), 24% (23.9%) were Black (even with percentage in 2021-22), 9% (9.4%) were Asian or Asian American (down 3 percentage points from 12% in 2021-22), 6% (6.3%) were Latina (up 1 percentage point from 5% in 2021-22), 1% (0.6%) were MENA (even with percentage in 2021-22), 1% (0.6%) were Native American (even with percentage in 2021-22), less than 1% (0.3%) were of some other race or ethnicity (down slightly from 0.5% in 2021-22), and less than 1% (0.4%) were multiracial/multiethnic (slightly up from 0.2% in 2021-22) (see Figure 21).

Figure 21.
Race/Ethnicity of Female Characters in Speaking Roles
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



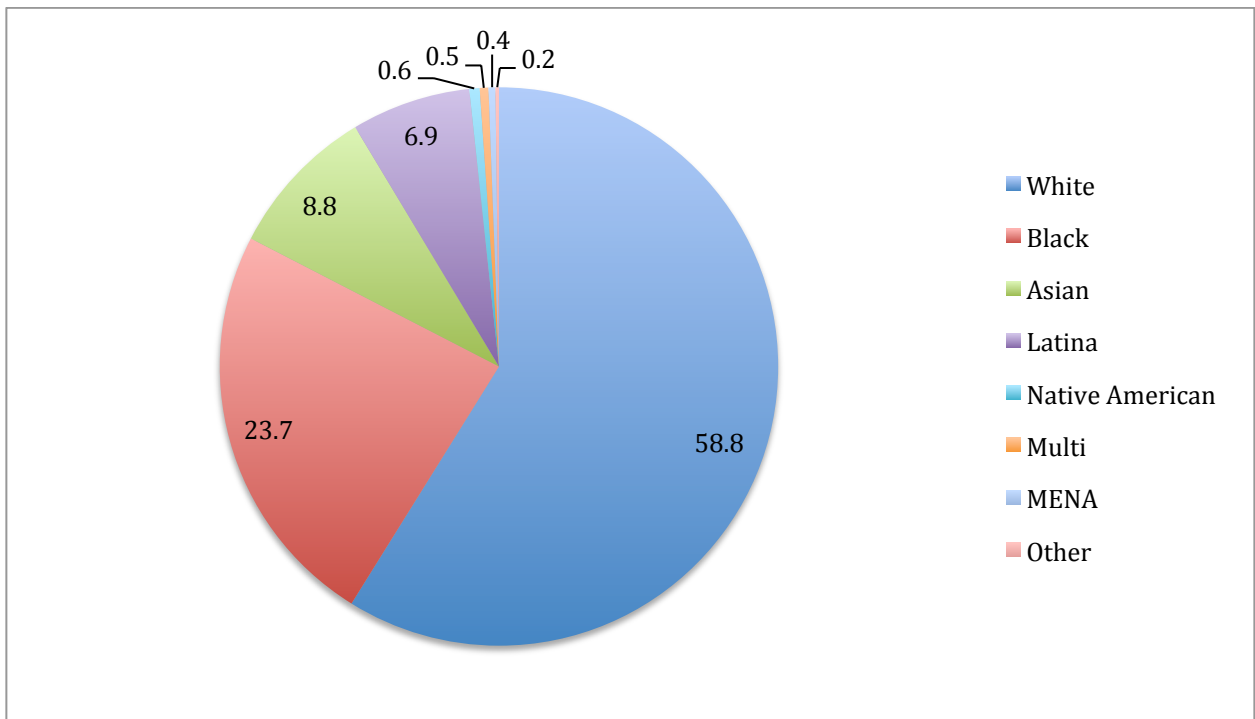
For male characters in speaking roles, 62% (61.9%) were White, 23% (23.3%) were Black, 6% (5.9%) were Asian or Asian American, 6% (5.8%) were Latino, 2% (1.6%) were MENA, 1% (1.0%) were of some other race or ethnicity, less than 1% (0.4%) were Native American, and less than 1% (0.1%) were multiracial/multiethnic.

For nonbinary characters in speaking roles, 75% (75.0%) were White, and 25% (25.0%) were of some other race or ethnicity. For transgender characters, 38% (37.5%) were Black, 25% (25.0%) were White, 25% (25.0%) were Latinx and 13% (12.5%) were MENA.

In *major roles* only, 59% (58.8%) of females were White (up 3 percentage points from 56% in 2021-22), 24% (23.7%) were Black (down 1 percentage point from 25% in 2021-22), 9% (8.8%) were Asian or Asian American (down 3 percentage points from 12% in 2021-22), 7% (6.9%) were Latina (up 2 percentage points from 5% in 2021-22), 1% (0.6%) were Native American (approximately even with 2021-22), 1% (0.5%) were multiracial/multiethnic (slightly up from 0.3% in 2021-22), less than 1% (0.4%) were MENA (slightly down from 2021-22), and less than 1% (0.2%) were of some other race or ethnicity (slightly down from 0.7% in 2021-22) (see Figure 22).

In *major roles* only, 60% (60.3%) of males were White, 24% (24.4%) were Black, 7% (7.2%) were Asian or Asian American, 7% (6.5%) were Latino, 1% (1.0%) were MENA, less than 1% (0.2%) were Native American, less than 1% (0.3%) were

Figure 22.
Race/Ethnicity of Female Characters in Major Roles
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



of some other race or ethnicity, and less than 1% (0.2%) were multiracial/multiethnic.

In *major roles* only, 25% (25.0%) of transgender characters were White, 25% (25.0%) were Black, and 50% (50.0%) were Latinx.

Age

By age cohort, 13% (13.4%) of *all females in speaking roles* were children or teens, 17% (17.2%) were in their 20s, 41% (41.4%) were in their 30s, 16% (16.4%) were in their 40s, 8% (8.2%) were in their 50s, and 4% (3.6%) were 60 or older.

8% (7.7%) of *all males in speaking roles* were children or teens, 12% (11.6%) were in their 20s, 32% (31.9%) were in their 30s, 28% (27.8%) were in their 40s, 14% (13.6%) were in their 50s, and 7% (7.5%) were in their 60s or older.

33% (33.3%) of *all nonbinary characters in speaking roles* were in their teens and 67% (66.7%) were in their 20s. 13% (12.5%) of *transgender characters* were under 20, 38% (37.5%) were in their 20s, 38% (37.5%) were in their 40s, and 13% (12.5%) were in their 50s.

A higher percentage of females than males were in their 30s (41% vs. 32%), but a higher percentage of males than females were in their 40s (28% vs. 16%).

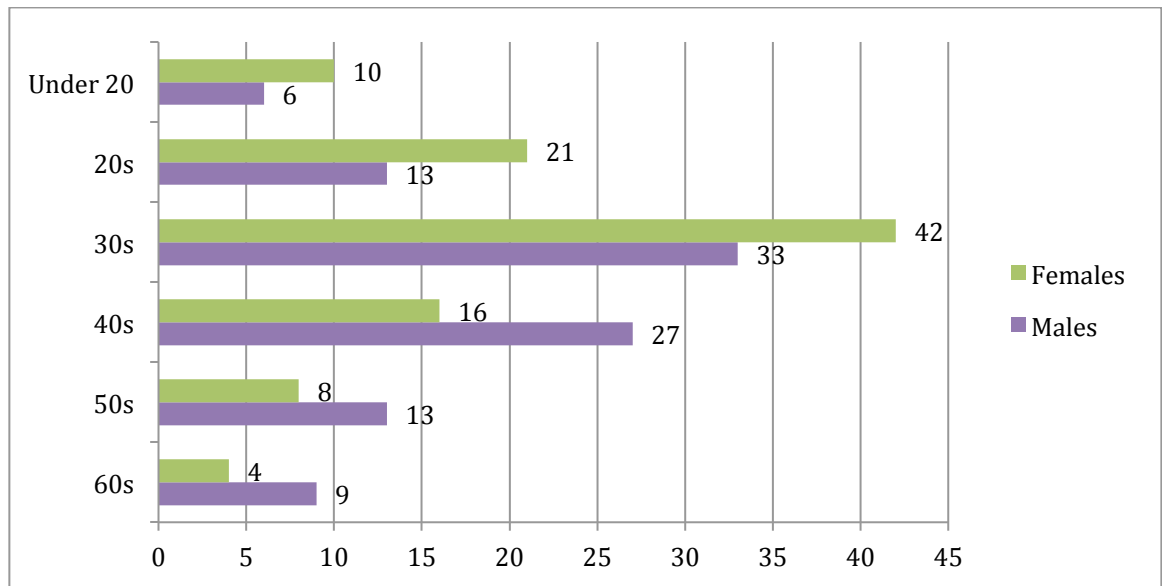
Female characters experienced a precipitous decline from their 30s to their 40s. 41% of females were in their 30s but 16% were in their 40s. Males also experienced a decline but it was not as severe (32% to 28%).

There were twice as many male characters as females 60 or older (8% vs. 4%).

For *major roles* only, 10% (10.2%) of females were children or teens, 21% (20.7%) were in their 20s, 42% (42.1%) were in their 30s, 16% (15.9%) were in their 40s, 7.6% (8.0%) were in their 50s, and 4% (3.5%) were 60 or older (see Figure 23).

Figure 23.

Comparison of Ages of Major Female and Male Characters on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



For *major roles* only, 6% (6.1%) of males were children or teens, 13% (12.7%) were in their 20s, 33% (32.5%) were in their 30s, 27% (27.2%) were in their 40s, 13% (12.8%) were in their 50s, and 9% (8.8%) were 60 or older.

For *major roles* only, 25% (25.0%) of all transgender characters were under the age of 20, 25% (25.0%) were in their 20s, and 50% (50.0%) were in their 40s.

Overall, the majority of *major female characters* were in their 20s and 30s (63%) while the majority of *major male characters* were in their 30s and 40s (60%). The percentage of major female characters dropped precipitously from their 30s (42%) to their 40s (16%).

27% of *major female characters* but 49% of *major male characters* were 40 and older. There were slightly more than twice as many *major male characters* as *major female characters* 60 and older (9% vs. 4%).

Marital Status and Occupation

Viewers were more likely to know the marital status of female than male characters (55% vs. 44%). However, viewers were more likely to know the occupational status of male than female characters (77% vs. 69%).

Roles and Goals

Viewers were more likely to see male characters at work, actually working, than female characters (61% vs. 51%). In addition, male characters were more likely than female characters to have a work-related primary goal (47% vs. 41%).

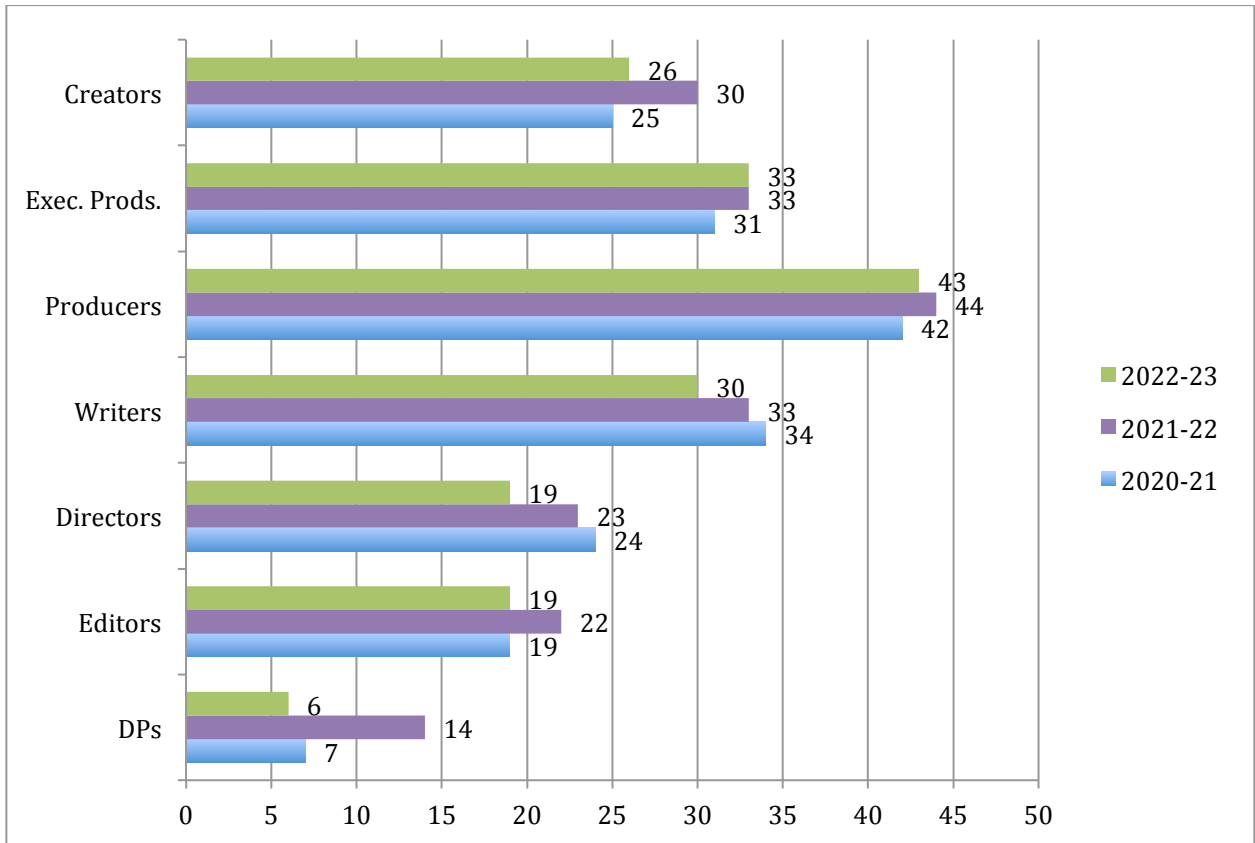
Women Behind the Scenes

Overall, women comprised 32% (31.9%) of creators, directors, writers, executive producers, producers, editors, and directors of photography working on broadcast network and streaming programs in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 34% in 2021-22. Men accounted for 68% (68.1%) of those working in the behind-the-scenes roles considered.

When considering broadcast and streaming programs, women fared best as producers (43%), followed by executive producers (33%), writers (30%), creators (26%), directors (19%), editors (19%), and directors of photography (6%) (see Figure 24).

Women comprised 26% (25.9%) of creators working on all of the programs considered in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 4 percentage points from 30% in 2021-22.

Figure 24.
Historical Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women by Role
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



Women accounted for 33% (32.9%) of executive producers working on all of the programs considered. This represents no change from the percentage in 2021-22.

Women comprised 43% (42.6%) of producers working on all of the programs considered in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 44% in 2021-22.

Women accounted for 30% (29.7%) of writers working on all of the programs considered. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points from 33% in 2021-22.

Women comprised 19% (19.0%) of directors working on all of the programs considered in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 4 percentage points from 23% in 2021-22.

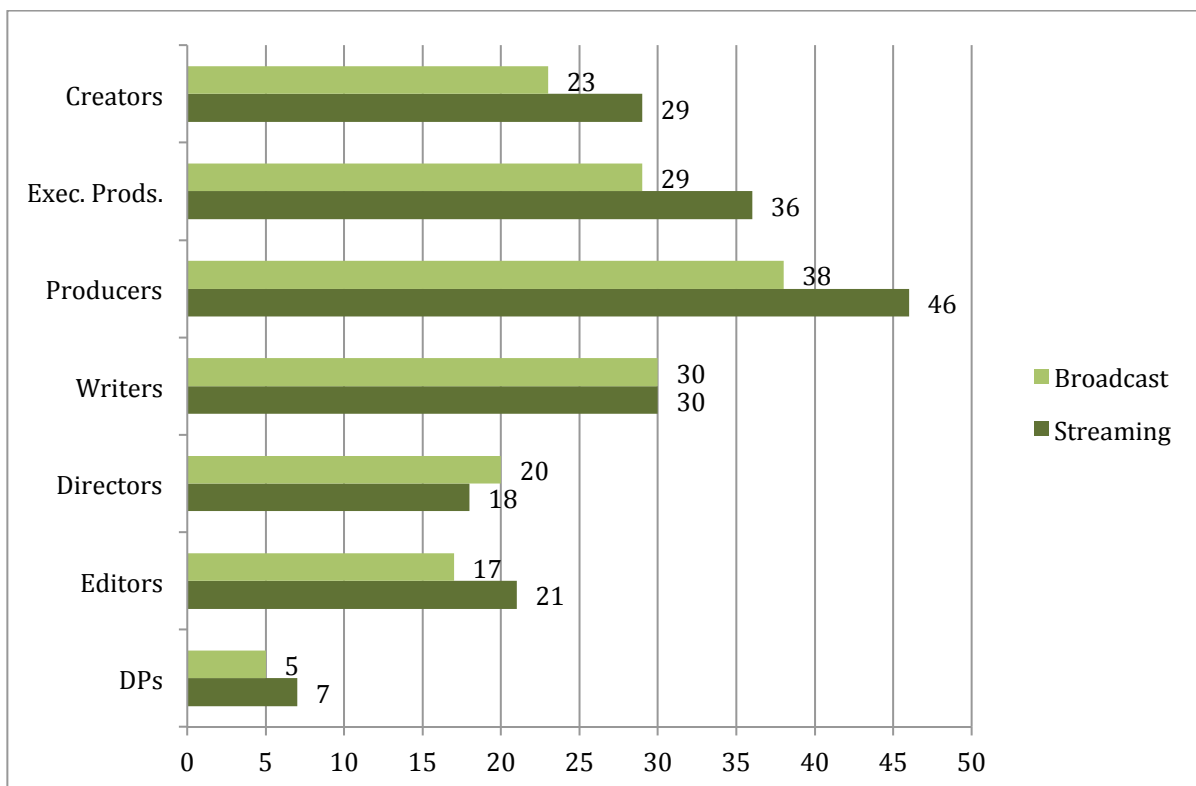
Women comprised 19% (19.0%) of editors working on all of the programs considered. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points from 22% in 2021-22.

Women made up 6% (6.1%) of directors of photography working on all of the programs considered in 2022-23. This represents a decline of 8 percentage points from 14% in 2021-22.

When comparing the employment of women on shows by platform, streaming programs employed higher percentages of women than broadcast network programs in the following roles: creators (29% streaming, 23% broadcast), producers (46% streaming, 38% broadcast), executive producers (36% streaming, 29% broadcast), editors (21% streaming, 17% broadcast), and directors of photography (7% streaming, 5% broadcast). However, broadcast programs employed more women directors than streaming (20% broadcast, 18% streaming). Women comprised 30% of writers for both broadcast and streaming (see Figure 25).

In 2022-23, 95% (94.6%) of broadcast and streaming programs had no women directors of photography, 83% (82.9%) had no women directors, 74% (74.2%) had no women editors, 73% (72.5%) had no women creators, and 70% (70.3%) had no women writers.

Figure 25.
Comparison of Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women by Role
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



Important Relationships

Broadcast and streaming programs with at least 1 woman *creator* employed higher percentages of women as directors and writers.

On programs with at least 1 woman creator, women comprised 38% of directors. On programs with exclusively male creators, women accounted for 12% of directors.

On programs with at least 1 woman creator, women made up 56% of writers. On programs with exclusively male creators, women accounted for 19% of writers.

Scripted vs. Unscripted Programs

A comparison of scripted and unscripted programs seems especially relevant as television platforms are relying more heavily on reality programs this fall. The findings reveal that numerically, females in speaking roles fared better on unscripted programs than scripted programs in 2022-23. Females comprised 43% (42.8%) of characters on scripted programs but 50% (49.8%) of contestants and characters on unscripted programs.

Behind the scenes, women accounted for 32% of individuals working on both scripted (31.7%) and unscripted (32.4%) programs. Women fared better as directors on scripted programs (22%) than on unscripted programs (11%). However, the percentage of women working as producers was higher on unscripted programs (47%) than on scripted programs (41%). In other roles, the differences were slight for creators (26% scripted, 25% unscripted), executive producers (33% scripted, 34% unscripted), editors (20% scripted, 19% unscripted), and directors of photography (6% scripted, 5% unscripted).

Endnotes

¹Latina characters are of Latin American descent and do not include Spaniards.

²MENA or Middle Eastern/North African characters are from the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.