

Boxed In:

***Women On Screen and Behind the Scenes on
Broadcast and Streaming Television in 2025-26***

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In 2025-26, the percentages of women working as creators and directors on original U.S. programs on streaming services plummeted, indicating that last year's increases were a momentary surge as opposed to the beginning of a positive trend in employment.

The percentage of women creating streaming series bounced from 27% in 2023-24 up to 36% in 2024-25 and down to 24% in 2025-26. The percentage of women creating broadcast programs declined slightly from 20% in 2024-25 to 19% in 2025-26. The numbers of women creating shows on both platforms are now lower than they were almost a decade ago in 2017-18.

The percentage of women directing streaming programs rose from 23% in 2023-24 to 32% in 2024-25, declining to 22% in 2025-26. The numbers of women directing broadcast programs also contracted but not as severely from 18% in 2024-25 to 16% in 2025-26.

On screen, the numbers of female characters in major roles also declined in 2025-26. On streaming programs, female characters comprised 44% of major characters, down from 49% in 2024-25. On broadcast programs, females in major roles declined slightly from 47% in 2024-25 to 46% in 2025-26.

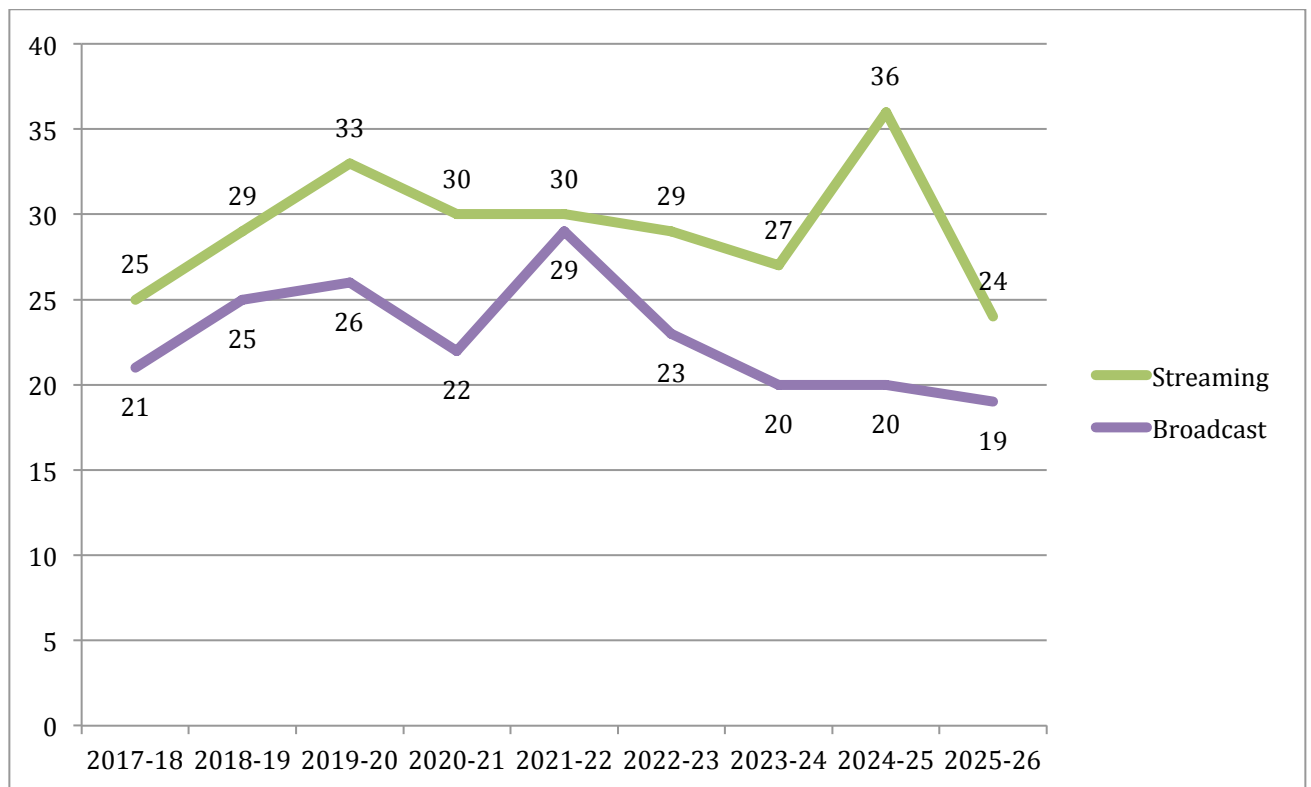
Since 1997, this report has tracked the on-screen representation and behind-the-scenes employment of women in television. The *Boxed In* project provides the longest-running historical record of women's employment in television available. This latest edition considers how women fared in original U.S. programming offered by broadcasters and streaming services in 2025-26.

Key Findings

•**The percentage of women creating streaming series plummeted 12 percentage points from 36% in 2024-25 to 24% in 2025-26.** The percentage of women creating broadcast programs declined slightly from 20% in 2024-25 to 19% in 2025-26. The percentages of women creators on both platforms are now lower than they were almost a decade ago in 2017-18 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.

Comparison of Women Creators of Original U.S. Broadcast and Streaming Series



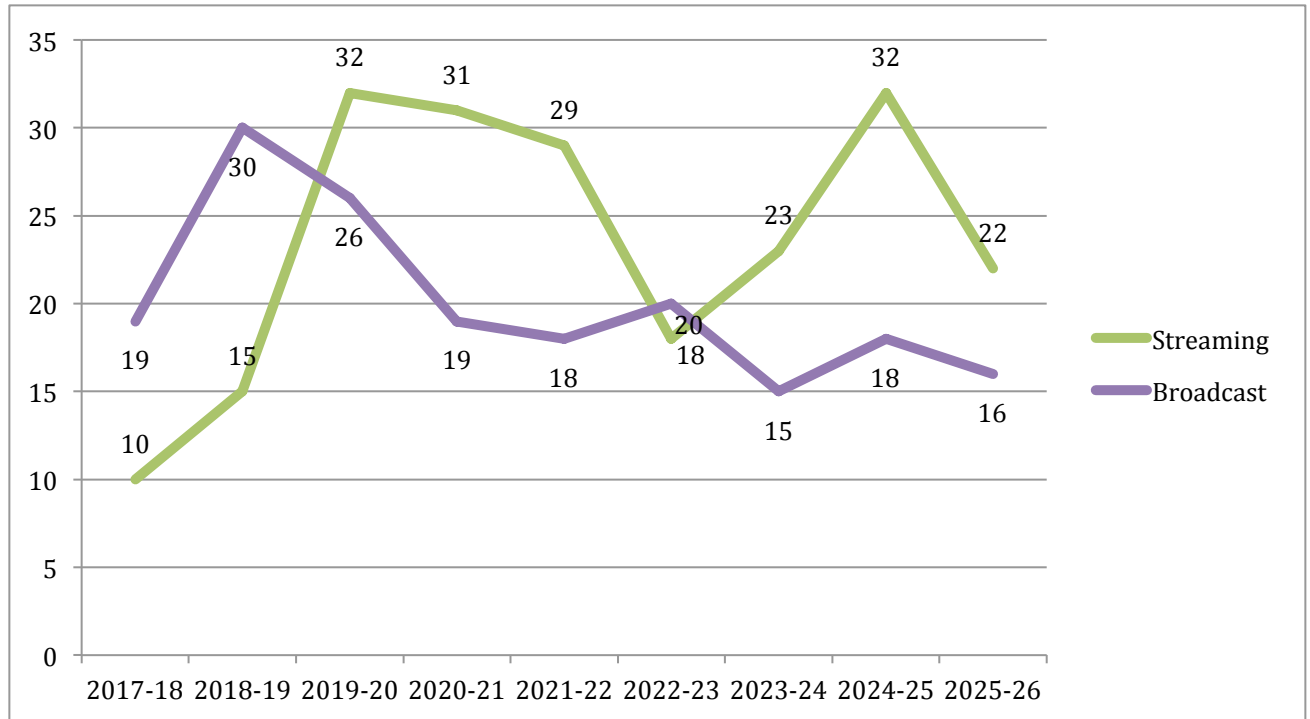
•**When both broadcast and streaming platforms are considered, women accounted for 22% of creators in 2025-26, down 5 percentage points from 27% in 2024-25.** This decline is almost entirely due to the drop in the number of women-created programs on streaming services.

•**Programs with at least 1 female creator employed dramatically higher numbers of women working as directors, writers, and editors than programs with exclusively male creators.** On programs with at least one female creator, women comprised 22% of directors, 48% of writers, and 33% of editors. On programs with exclusively male creators, women accounted for 14% of directors, 17% of writers, and 25% of editors.

•**The percentage of women directing streaming programs declined precipitously from 32% in 2024-25 to 22% in 2025-26. The numbers of women directing broadcast programs also declined but not as severely from 18% in 2024-25 to 16% in 2025-26 (see Figure 2).** The percentage of women directing broadcast programs was actually lower in 2025-26 than it was almost 10 years ago in 2017-18.

Figure 2.

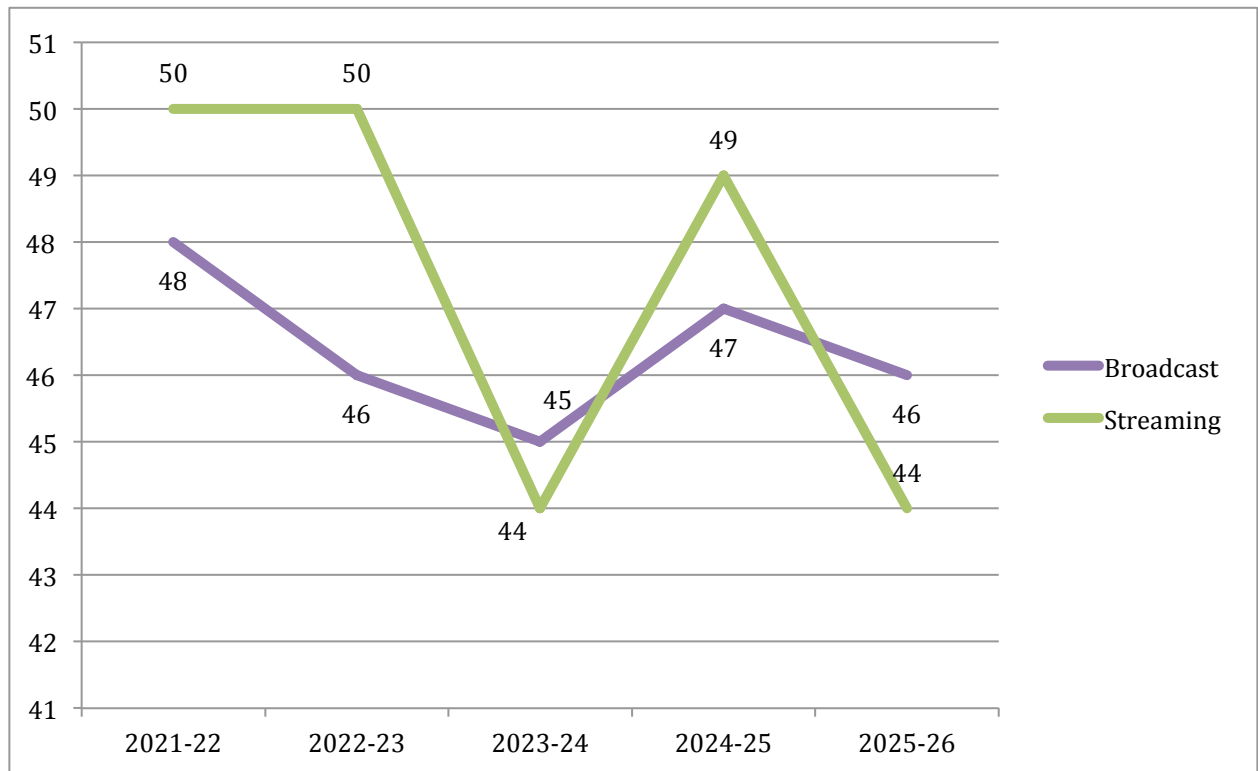
Comparison of Directors on Original U.S. Broadcast and Streaming Programs



•In 2025-26, the percentage of *major female characters* on original streaming programs declined from 49% in 2024-25 to 44% in 2025-26. The percentage of major female characters on broadcast programs decreased slightly from 47% in 2024-25 to 46% in 2025-26 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3.

Comparison of Percentages of Major Female Characters in Original Broadcast and Streaming Programs



•In 2025-26, *female characters in speaking roles and major roles* featured on original broadcast and streaming programs were substantially younger than their male counterparts. The majority of female characters were in their 20s and 30s, whereas the majority of male characters were in their 30s and 40s.

•Original programs on broadcast networks and streaming services featured three times as many male characters 60 and over in major roles than female characters (9% vs. 3%).

•Regardless of platform, *major female characters* experienced a steep decline in numbers as they age from their 30s into their 40s. On broadcast and streaming programs, 38% of females were in their 30s but 15% were in their 40s. In contrast, the percentage of male characters declined only slightly from their 30s (30%) to their 40s (28%).

•Across both platforms, 68% of females in speaking roles were White (up from 60% in 2024-25), 18% were Black (down from 23% in 2024-25), 8% were Asian or Asian American (even with 2024-25), 5% were Latina (down slightly from 6% in 2024-25), 1% were MENA (down from 2% in 2024-25), 1% were Native American (up from less than 1% in 2024-25), and 1% were multiracial/multiethnic (even with 2024-25).

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 August 2025 through June 2026.

The study considers one randomly selected episode of series appearing on the broadcast networks during prime time (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CW) and on streaming services (Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, Disney+, HBO Max, Hulu, Netflix, Paramount+, Peacock). In 2025-26, the study tracked over 2,500 characters and more than 3,600 credits. Over the last 28 years -- from 1997-98 through 2025-26 -- *Boxed In* has monitored over 65,200 characters and more than 81,400 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, and occupational status. The study also coded whether the characters were seen at work and actually working.

For the purposes of this study, major characters appear in more than one scene and are instrumental to the narrative of the story.

Findings for Broadcast Networks

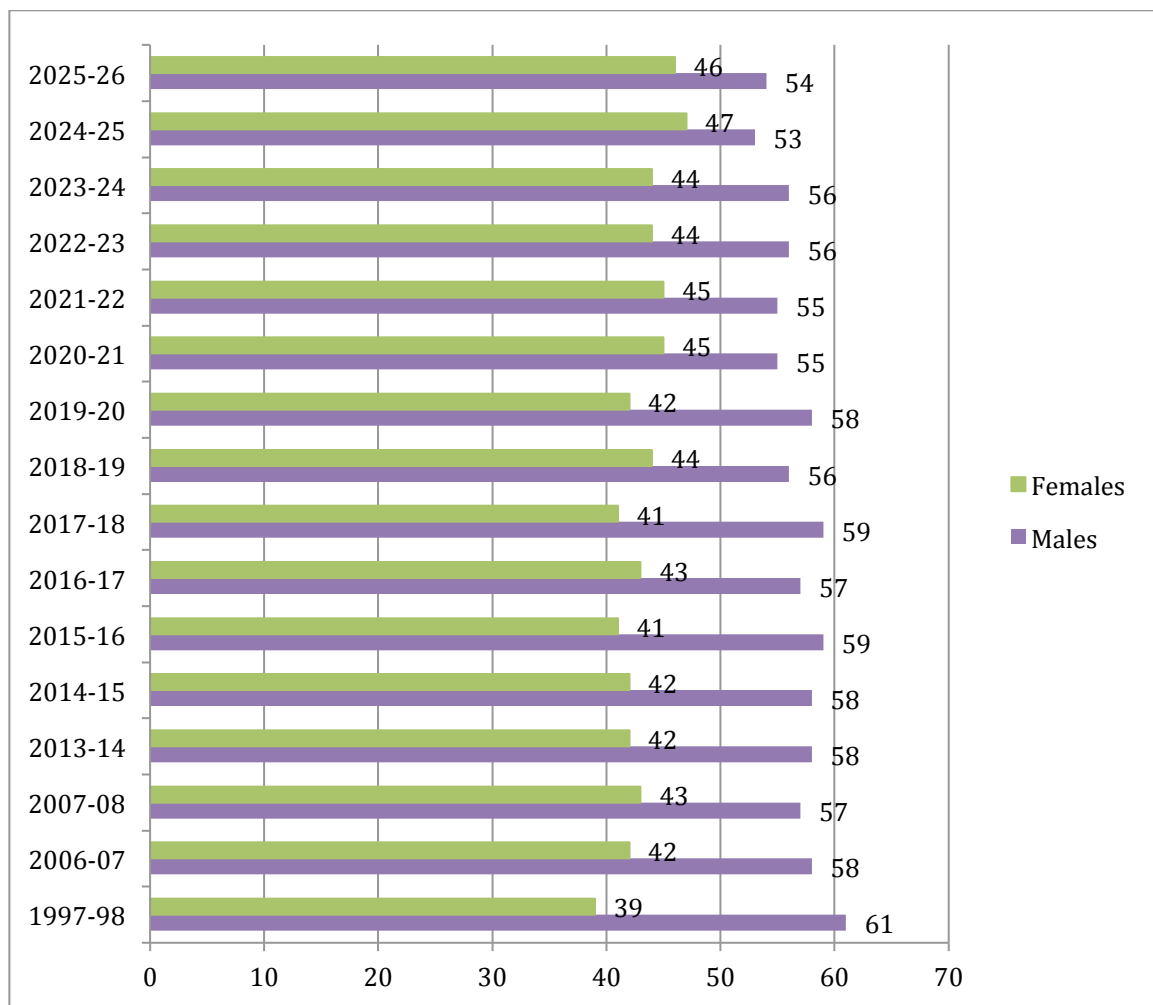
Females On Screen

Representation

In 2025-26, females comprised 46% (46.3%) of all speaking characters appearing on broadcast network programs. This represents a slight decline of 1 percentage point from 47% from 2024-25 (see Figure 4). Males accounted for 54% (53.7%) of all characters.

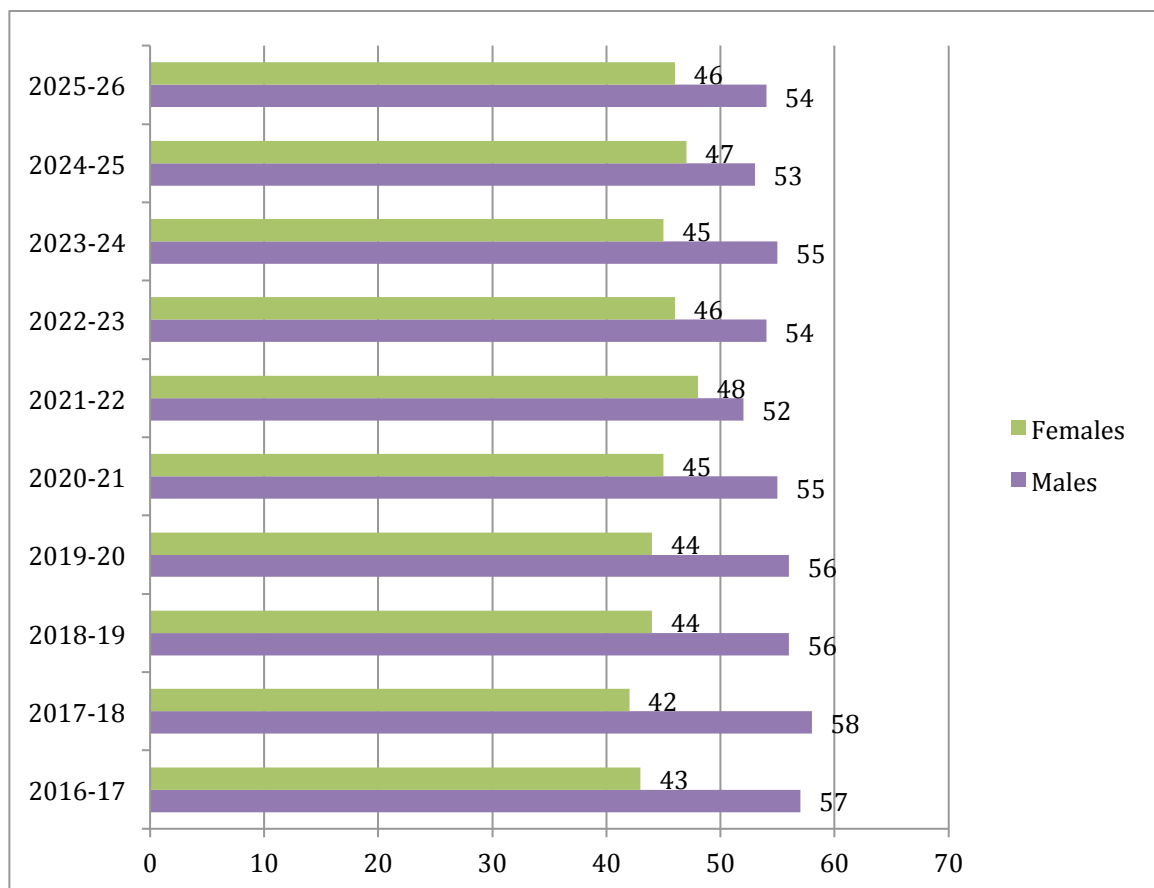
Figure 4.

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



46% (45.8%) of *major characters* were female in 2025-26. This represents a slight decline of 1 percentage point from 47% in 2024-25 (see Figure 5). 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% (54.2%) of major characters.

Figure 5.
Historical Comparison of Percentage of Major Female Characters on Broadcast Network Programs



Race/Ethnicity

In 2025-26, 65% (65.0%) of all *female characters in speaking roles* were White (up from 60% in 2024-25), 21% (21.1%) were Black (down from 23% in 2024-25), 6% (5.5%) were Latina (down from 8% in 2024-25)¹, 8% (7.6%) were Asian or

Asian American (up from 7% in 2024-25), 1% (0.7%) were Native American (up from 0% in 2024-25), and less than 1% (.2%) were MENA (down from 1% 2024-25)².

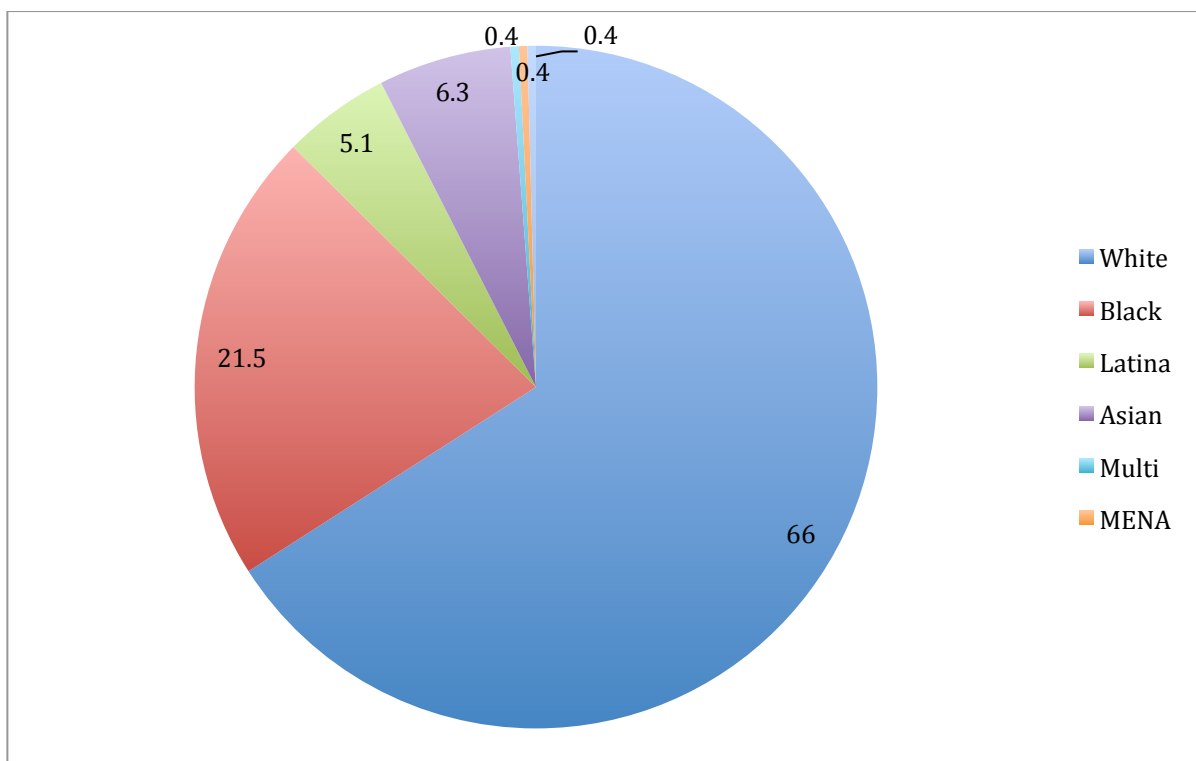
71% (71.1%) of *male characters in speaking roles* were White, 16% (16.3%) were Black, 5% (4.9%) were Asian or Asian American, 5% (4.5%) were Latino, 1% (1.0%) were MENA, 2% (1.8%) were Native American, and less than 1% (0.4%) were multiracial/multiethnic.

66% (66.0%) of *major female characters* were White (up from 59% in 2024-25), 22% (21.5%) were Black (down from 24% in 2024-25), 5% (5.1%) were Latina (down from 9% in 2024-25), 6% (6.3%) were Asian or Asian American (down slightly from 7% in 2024-25), less than 1% (0.4%) were MENA (down from 1% in 2024-25), less than 1% (0.4%) were Native American (up slightly from 0% in 2024-25), and less than 1% (0.4%) were multiracial/multiethnic (down from 1% in 2024-25) (see Figure 6).

71% (71.0%) of *major male characters* were White, 17% (16.5%) were Black, 5% (5.0%) were Latino, 4% (4.3%) were Asian or Asian American, 2% (1.7%) were MENA, 1% (1.0%) were Native American, and 1% (0.7%) were multiracial/multiethnic.

Figure 6.

Race/Ethnicity of Major Female Characters on Broadcast Network Programs



Age

By age cohort, 8% (8.0%) of *females in speaking roles* were children or teens, 17% (16.7%) were in their 20s, 48% (48.2%) were in their 30s, 16% (15.5%) were in their 40s, 9% (8.9%) were in their 50s, and 3% (2.7%) were in their 60s or older.

For *male characters in speaking roles*, 6% (5.7%) were children or teens, 9% (8.7%) were in their 20s, 31% (30.7%) were in their 30s, 33% (32.9%) were in their 40s, 16% (15.9%) were in their 50s, and 6% (6.1%) 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 (65%), whereas the majority of males were in their 30s and 40s (64%).

Female characters experienced a precipitous decline in numbers from their 30s (48%) to their 40s (16%). The percentage of male characters in their 30s rose slightly as they aged into their 40s (31% vs. 33%).

55% of male characters were 40 and older but only 28% of female characters were 40 and older. Twice as many male characters as female characters were 60 or older (6% vs. 3%).

The findings for *major characters* were similar. By age cohort, 7% (7.0%) of *major female characters* were children or teens, 20% (19.9%) were in their 20s, 44% (44.1%) were in their 30s, 17% (17.2%) were in their 40s, 9% (9.0%) were in their 50s, and 3% (2.7%) were 60 and older (see Figure 7).

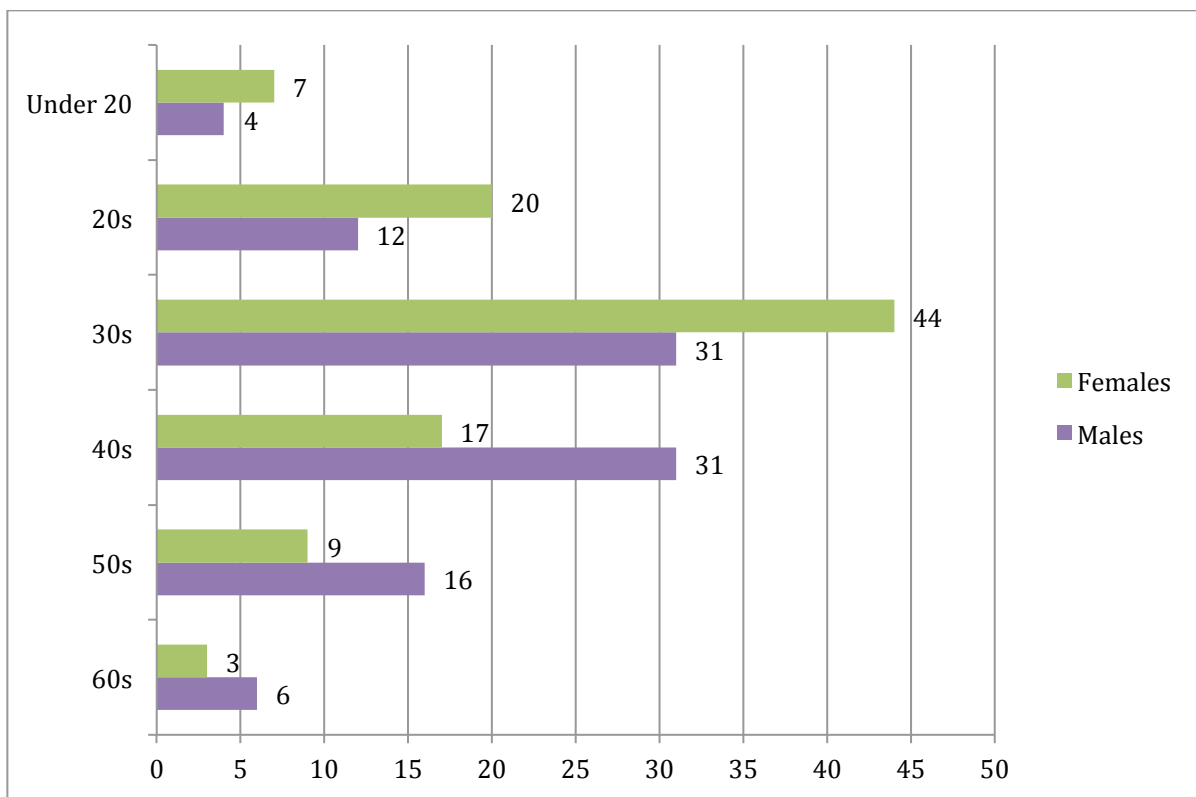
4% (4.3%) of *major male characters* were children or teens, 12% (11.6%) were in their 20s, 31% (31.4%) were in their 30s, 31% (31.4%) were in their 40s, 16% (15.5%) were in their 50s, and 6% (5.9%) were 60 or older.

The majority of *major female characters* were in their 20s and 30s (64%), 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 (44% to 17%). The percentage of male characters remained the same in their 30s and 40s (31%).

There were twice as many *major male characters as female characters* 60 and older (6% vs. 3%).

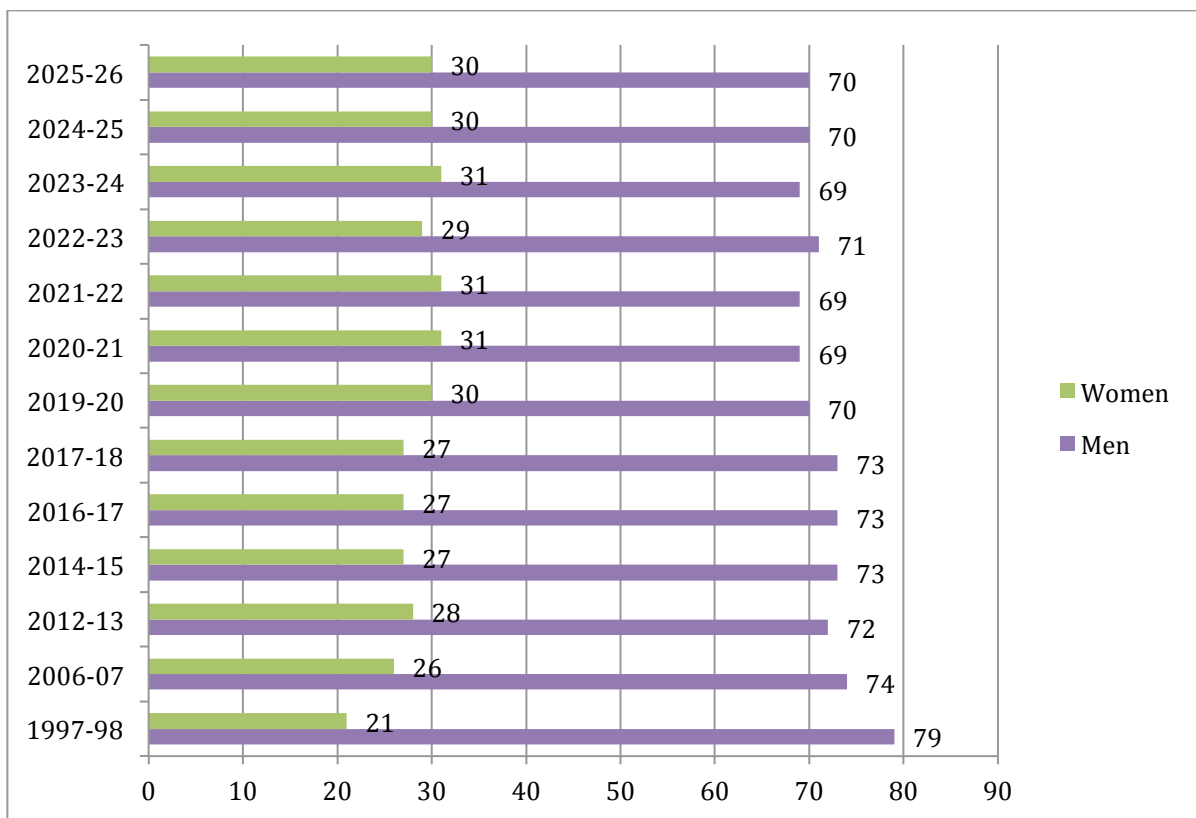
Figure 7.
Comparison of Ages of Major Female and Male Characters on Broadcast Network Programs



Women Behind the Scenes

In 2025-26, women accounted for 30% (30.1%) of all creators, directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and directors of photography working on broadcast network programs. This represents no change from 2024-25 (see Figure 8). Men comprised 70% (69.8%) of individuals in behind-the-scenes roles. The percentage of women working in behind-the-scenes roles has not changed substantially in 7 years.

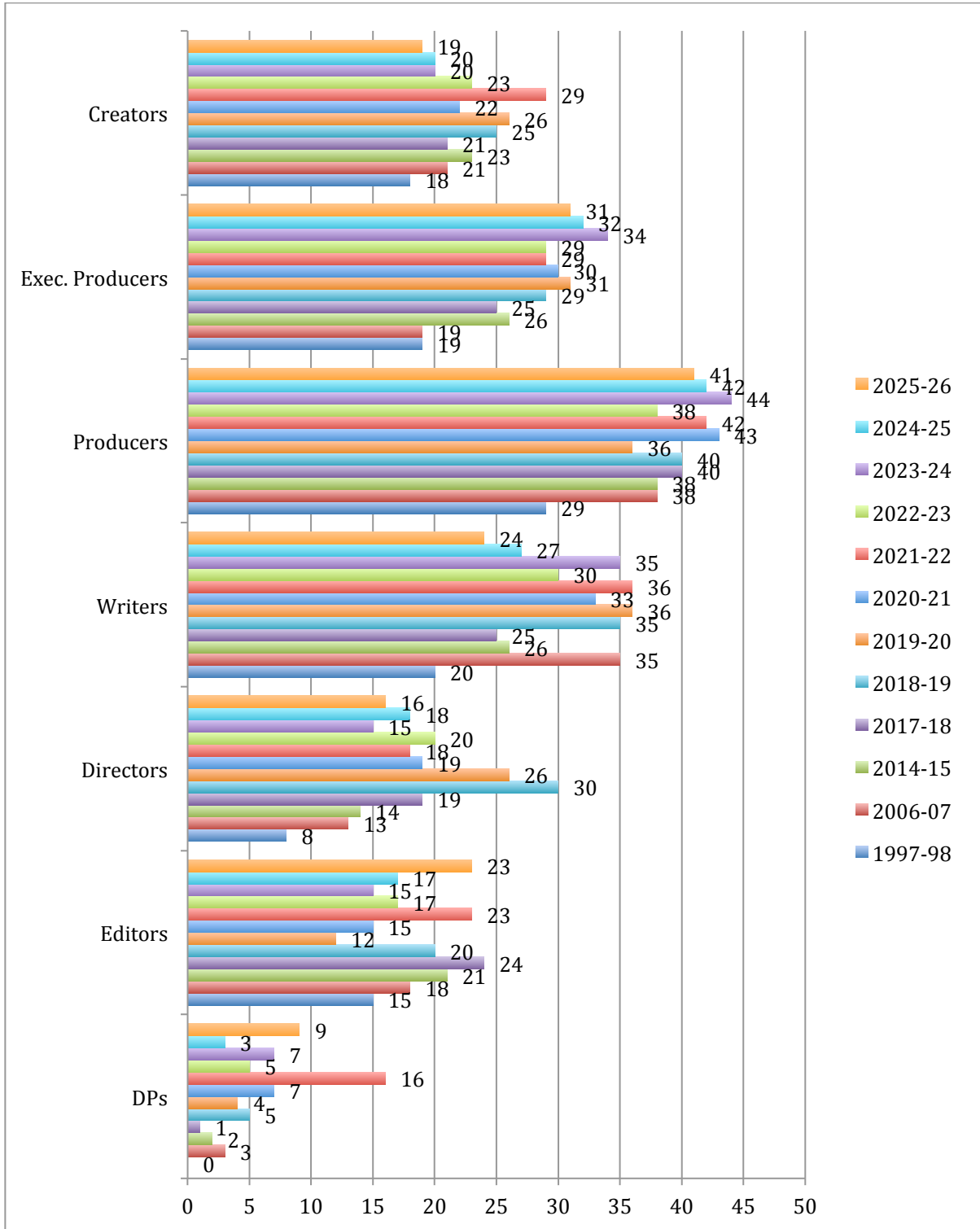
Figure 8.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Working Behind the Scenes on
Broadcast Network Programs



Overall, women fared best as producers (41%), followed by executive producers (31%), writers (24%), editors (23%), creators (19%), directors (16%), and directors of photography (9%) (see Figure 9).

In 2025-26, women comprised 19% (19.4%) of creators on broadcast network programs. This represents a slight decline of 1 percentage point from 20% in 2024-25.

Figure 9.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women by Role on Broadcast Network Programs



Women accounted for 31% (30.6%) of executive producers working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 32% in 2024-25.

In 2025-26, women comprised 41% (40.7%) of producers working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 42% in 2024-25.

Women accounted for 24% (24.3%) of writers working on broadcast network programs. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points from 27% in 2024-25.

Women comprised 16% (15.7%) of directors working on broadcast network programs last year. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 18% in 2024-25.

In 2025-26, women accounted for 23% (23.2%) of editors working on broadcast network programs. This represents an increase of 6 percentage points from 17% in 2024-25.

Women accounted for 9% (9.4%) of directors of photography working on broadcast programs last year. This represents an increase of 6 percentage points from 3% in 2024-25.

In 2025-26, 94% (93.7%) of the episodes considered had no women directors of photography, 86% (85.7%) had no women directors, 70% (69.8%) had no women creators, and 75% (74.6%) had no women writers.

Findings for Streaming Services

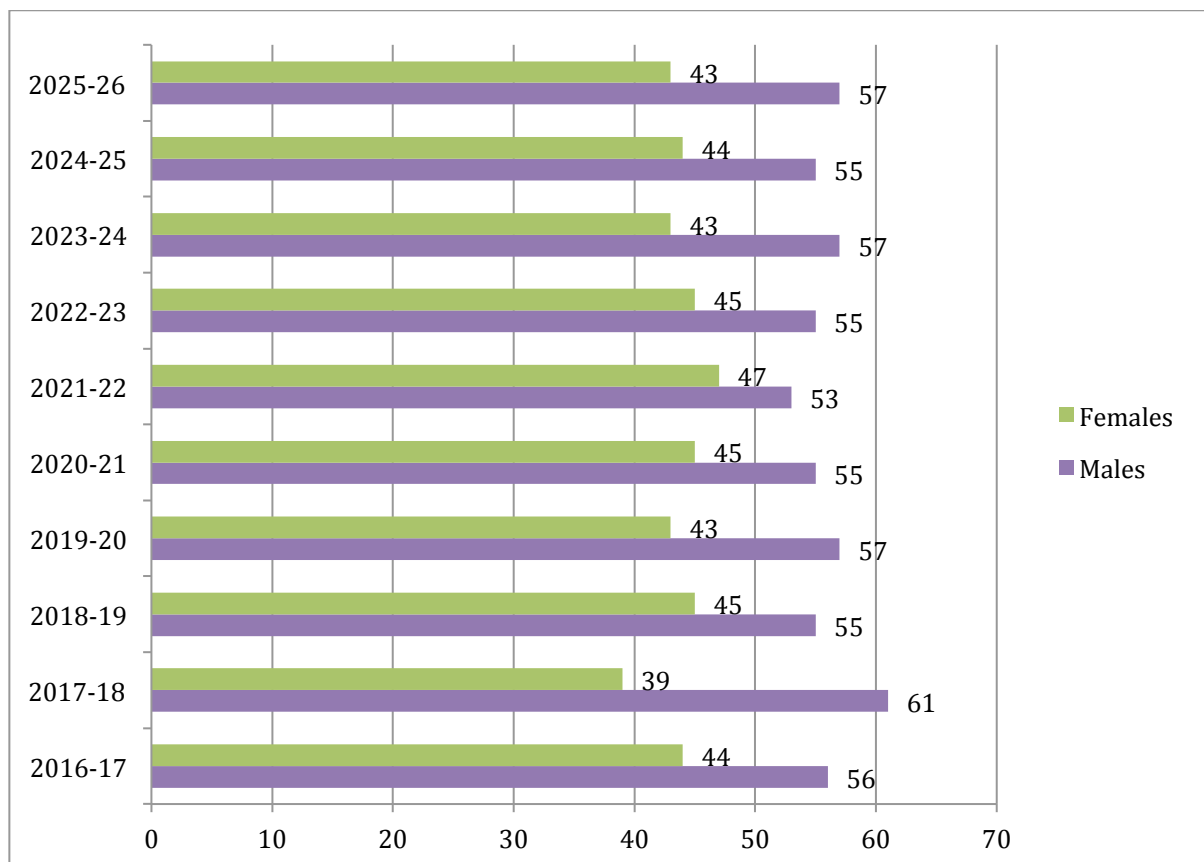
Females On Screen

Representation

In 2025-26, females accounted for 43% (43.0%) of *all speaking characters* on streaming programs. This represents a decline of 1 percentage point from 44% in 2024-25 (see Figure 10). Males comprised 57% (57.0%), and transgender characters less than one-half of 1% of all speaking characters.

Figure 10.

*Historical Comparison of Percentages of All Speaking Female Characters
on Streaming Programs*

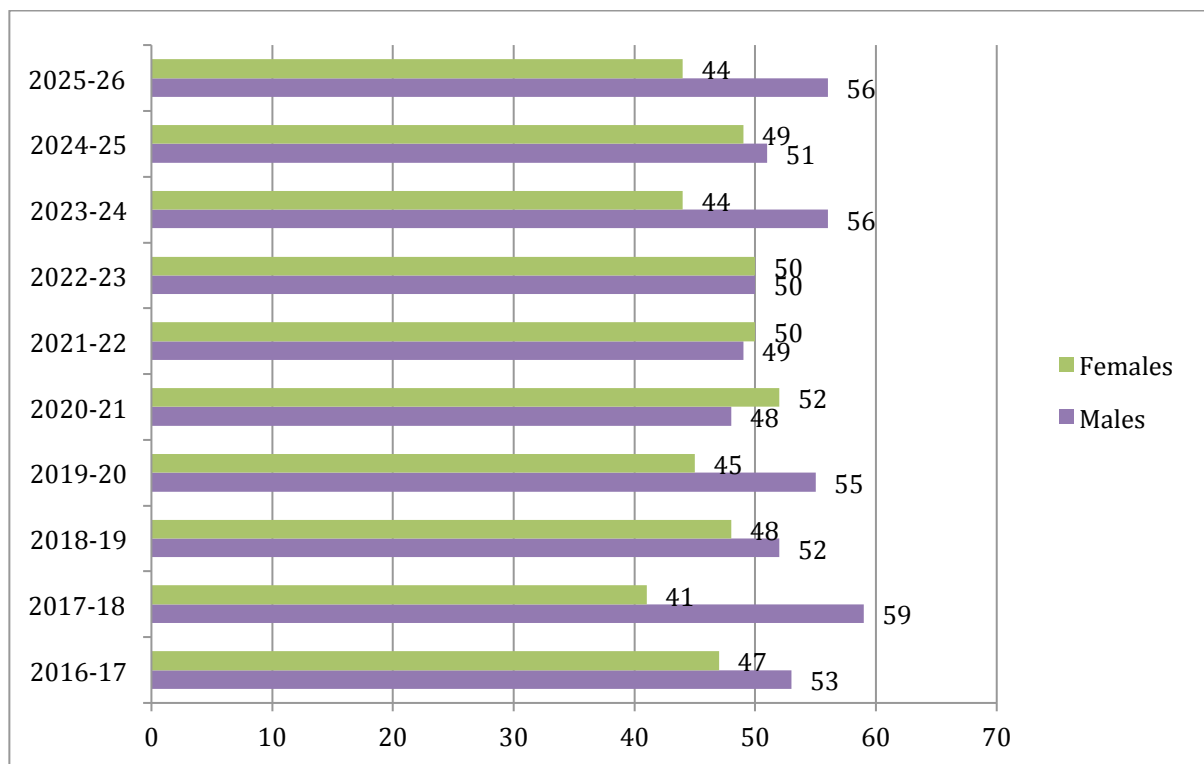


Females comprised 44% (43.6%) of *major characters* on streaming programs. This represents a decline of 5 percentage points from 49% in 2024-2025 (see Figure

11). Males accounted for 56% (56.3%), and transgender characters for less than one-half of 1% 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 11.

Historical Comparison of Percentages of All Major Female Characters on Streaming Programs



Race/Ethnicity

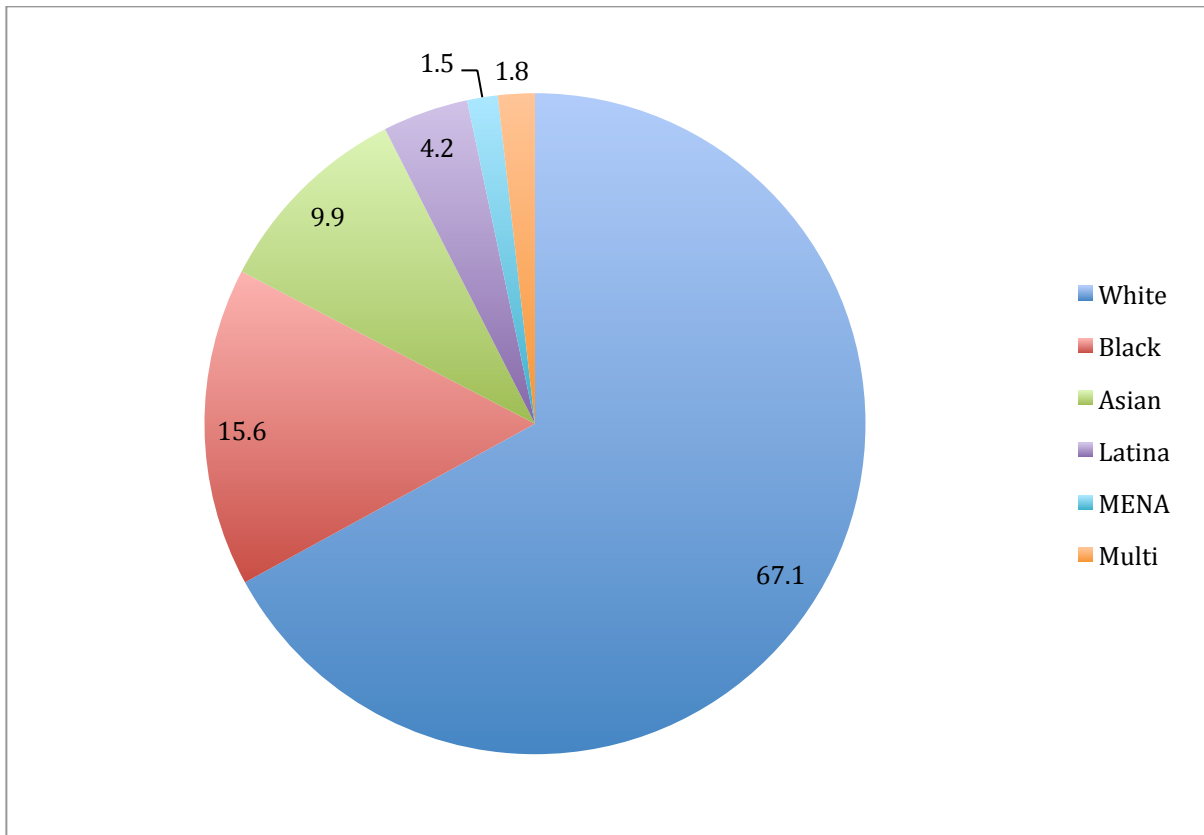
Regarding race and ethnicity on streaming programs, 69% (69.1%) of *females in speaking roles* were White (an increase from 60% in 2024-25), 16% (15.9%) were Black (a decline from 23% in 2024-25), 8% (8.3%) were Asian or Asian American (even with 2024-25), 4% (4.2%) were Latina (a slight decline of 1 percentage point from 2024-25), 1% (1.2%) were MENA (a slight decline from 2% in 2024-25), 1% (1.0%) were multiracial/multiethnic (down from 2% in 2024-25), and less than 1% (0.3%) were Native American (even with 2024-25)

70% (70.3%) of *males in speaking roles* were White, 18% (18.4%) were Black, 4% (4.4%) were Asian or Asian American, 4% (4.1%) were Latino, 2% (2.1%) were MENA, less than 1% (0.2%) were Native American, and 1% (0.5%) were multiracial/multiethnic. The transgender character in a speaking role was White.

For *major characters only*, 67% (67.1%) were White (up from 59% in 2024-25), 16% (15.6%) were Black (down from 21% in 2024-25), 10% (9.9%) were Asian and Asian American (up from 8% in 2024-25), 4% (4.2%) were Latina (down from 7% in 2024-25), 2% (1.5%) were MENA (even with 2024-25), and 2% (1.8%) were multiracial/multiethnic (even with 2024-25) (see Figure 12).

Figure 12.

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



For *major characters only*, 74% (73.7%) of male characters were White, 17% (17.0%) were Black, 4% (4.2%) were Asian or Asian American, 3% (3.0%) were Latino, 2% (1.9%) were MENA, and less than 1% (0.2%) were multiracial or multiethnic.

Age

By age cohort, 14% (13.6%) of *female characters in speaking roles* were children or teens, 25% (25.1%) were in their 20s, 31% (31.4%) were in their 30s, 15% (15.3%) were in their 40s, 9% (9.1%) were in their 50s, and 6% (5.5%) were in their 60s or older.

For *males in speaking roles*, 8% (8.0%) were children or teens, 12% (11.6%) were in their 20s, 30% (30.1%) were in their 30s, 29% (28.9%) were in their 40s, 12% (12.2%) were in their 50s, and 9% (9.1%) were in their 60s or older.

The transgender character was in their 30s.

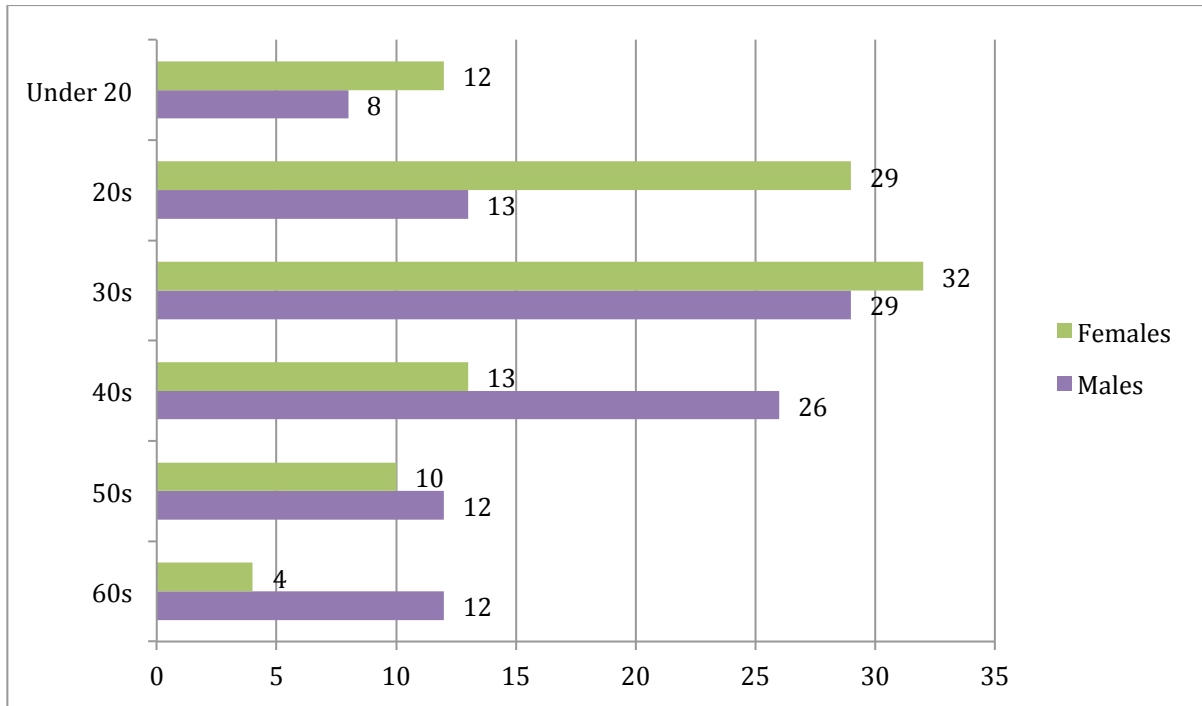
The majority of female characters were in their 20s and 30s (57%), while the majority of male characters were in their 30s and 40s (59%). Streaming programs featured more male characters than female characters 60 or older (9% vs. 6%).

For *major characters only*, 12% (12.0%) of females were children or teens, 29% (29.3%) were in their 20s, 32% (32.0%) were in their 30s, 13% (12.6%) were in their 40s, 10% (10.2%) were in their 50s, and 4% (3.9%) were 60 and older.

For *major characters only*, 8% (7.9%) of males were children or teens, 13% (13.1%) were in their 20s, 29% (29.1%) were in their 30s, 26% (26.1%) were in their 40s, 12% (11.9%) were in their 50s, and 12% (11.9%) were in their 60s or older (see Figure 13).

Figure 13.

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



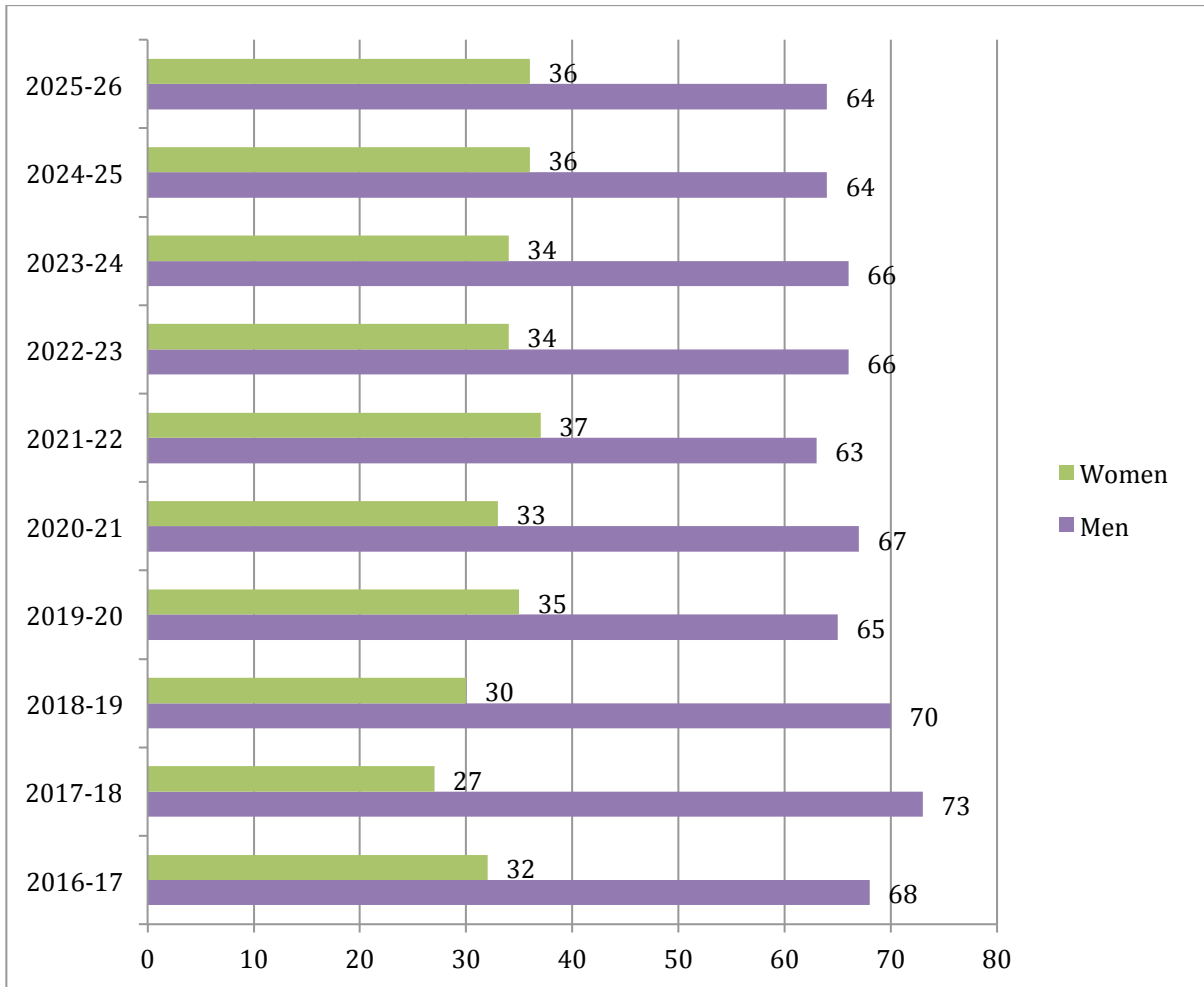
The majority of *major female characters* were in their 20s and 30s (61%), but the majority of *major male characters* were in their 30s and 40s (55%).

Overall, 27% of *major female characters* and 50% of *major male characters* were 40 and older. Streaming programs featured three times as many *major male characters* than *female characters* 60 or older (12% vs. 4%).

Women Behind the Scenes

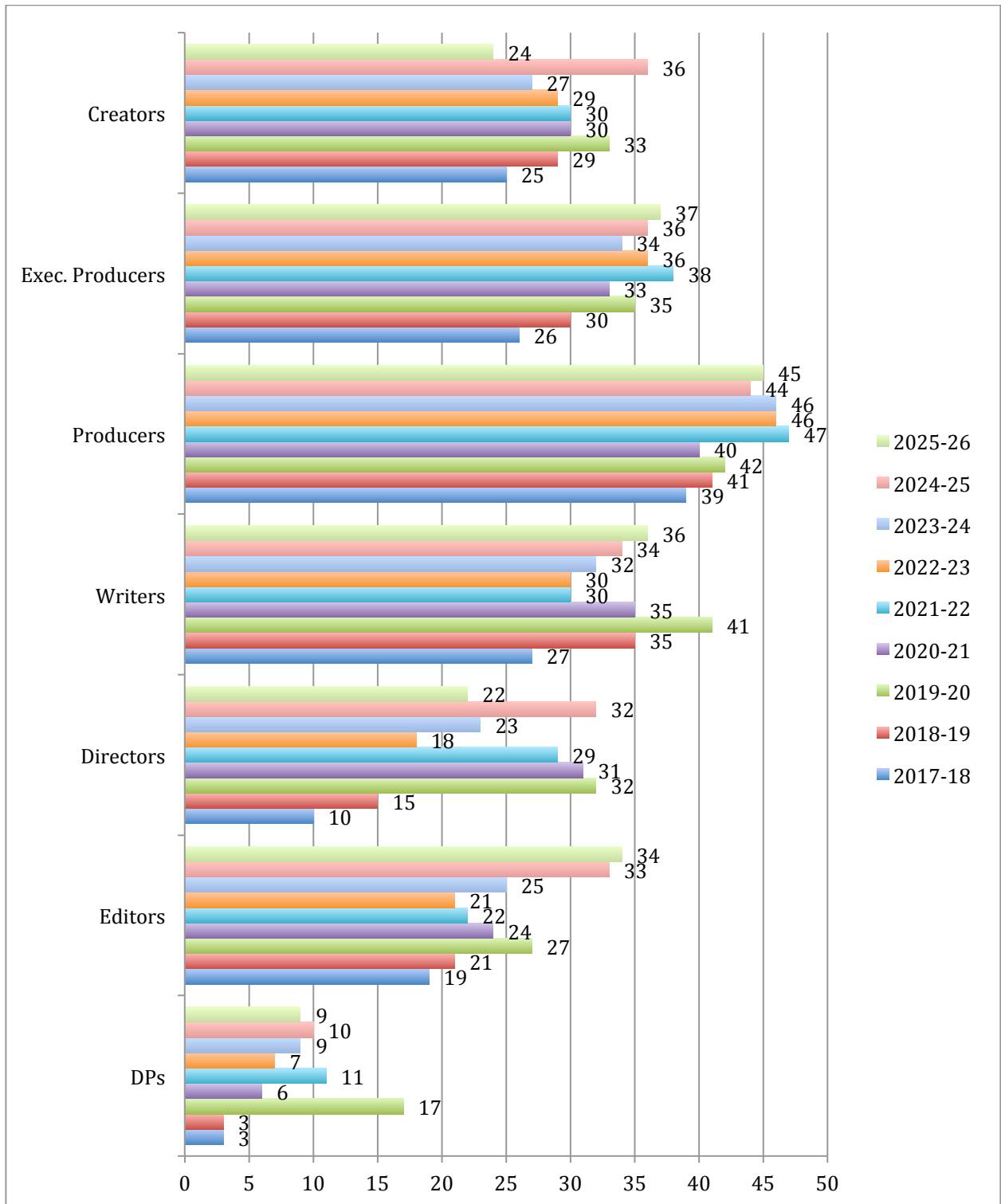
Women comprised 36% (36.3%) of creators, directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and directors of photography working on streaming programs in 2025-26. This represents no change from 2024-25 (see Figure 14). Men accounted for 64% (63.6%) of those working in the behind-the-scenes roles considered.

Figure 14.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Working Behind the Scenes on Streaming Programs



Women fared best as producers (45%), followed by executive producers (37%), writers (36%), editors (34%), creators (24%), directors (22%), and directors of photography (9%) (see Figure 15).

Figure 15.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Working in Key Behind-the-Scenes
Roles on Streaming Programs



Women comprised 24% (24.3%) of creators working on streaming programs in 2025-26. This represents a decline of 12 percentage points from 36% in 2024-25.

Women accounted for 37% (37.4%) of executive producers working on streaming programs in 2025-26. This represents an increase of 1 percentage point from 36% in 2024-25.

Women comprised 45% (45.2%) of producers working on streaming programs in 2025-26. This represents a slight increase of 1 percentage point from 44% in 2024-25.

Women accounted for 36% (35.8%) of writers working on streaming programs in 2025-26, up 2 percentage points from 34% in 2024-25.

Women comprised 22% (21.9%) of directors working on streaming programs in 2025-26, a decline of 10 percentage points from 32% in 2024-25.

Women accounted for 34% (34.0%) of editors working on streaming programs in 2025-26, a slight increase of 1 percentage point from 33% in 2024-25, and a historic high.

Women comprised 9% (9.3%) of directors of photography working on streaming programs in 2025-26, a slight decrease of 1 percentage point from 10% in 2024-25.

90% (90.4%) of the episodes considered had no women directors of photography, 79% (78.7%) had no women directors, and 70% (70.2%) had no women creators.

Findings for Broadcast Networks and Streaming Services

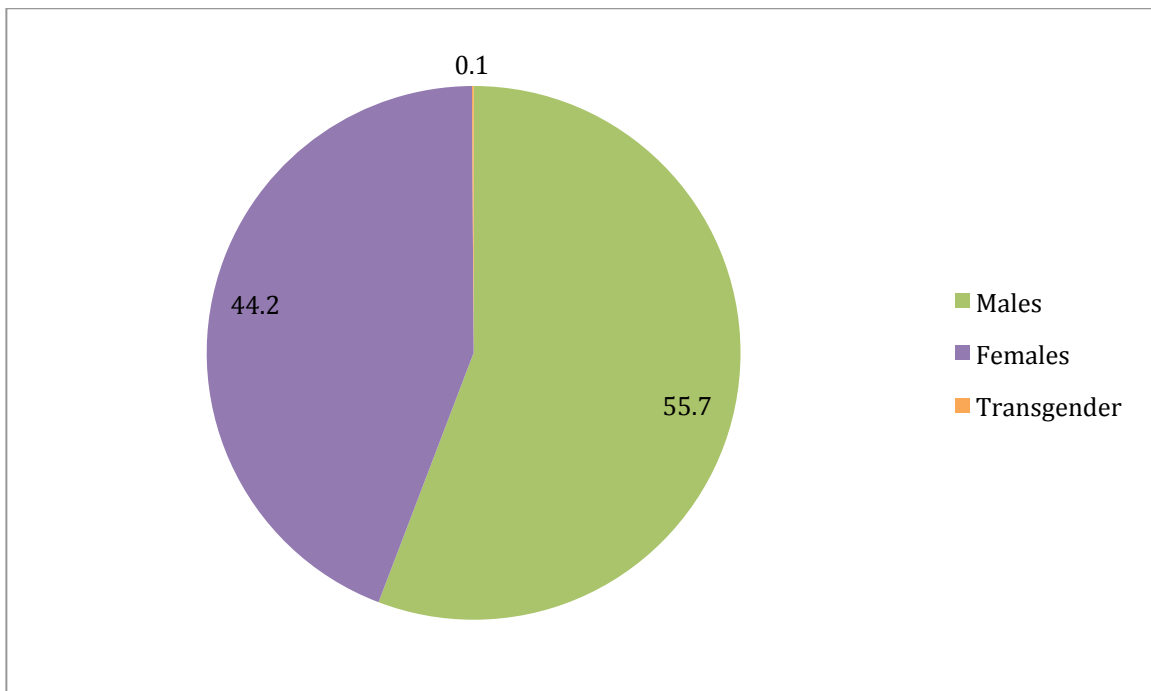
Females On Screen

Representation

In 2025-26, females accounted for 44% (44.2%) of *all speaking characters* on broadcast network and streaming programs. This represents a decline of 2 percentage points from 46% in 2024-2025. Males comprised 56% (55.7%), and transgender characters less than one half of 1% (0.1%) of speaking characters (see Figure 16).

Figure 16.

Gender of All Speaking Characters on Broadcast and Streaming Programs

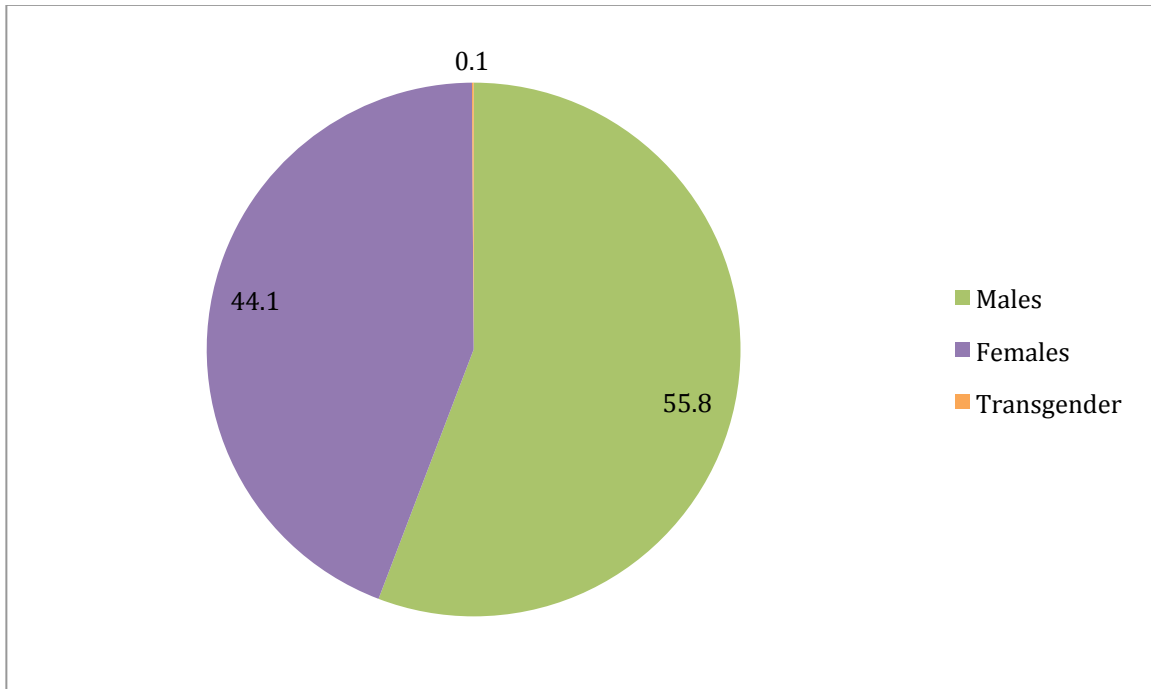


Females accounted for 44% (44.1%) of *major characters* on broadcast network and streaming programs. This represents a decrease of 5 percentage points from 49% in 2024-25. For the purposes of this study, major characters appear in more than one scene and are instrumental to the narrative of the story. Males comprised

56% (55.8%), and transgender characters less than one half of 1% (0.1) of major characters (see Figure 17).

Figure 17.

Gender of Major Characters on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



Race and Ethnicity

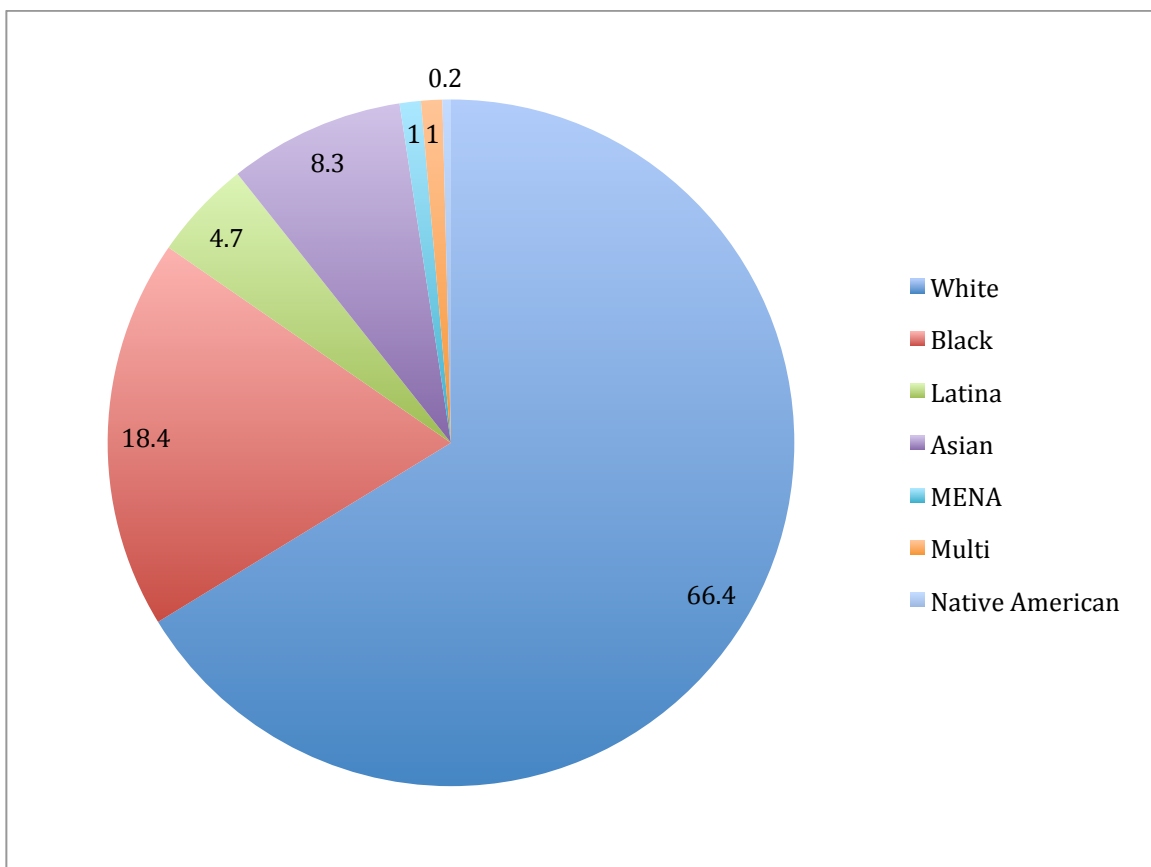
Regarding the race and ethnicity of female characters in *speaking roles*, 68% (67.5%) of females were White (up from 60% in 2024-25), 18% (17.9%) were Black (down from 23% in 2024-25), 8% (8.0%) were Asian or Asian American (even with 2024-25), 5% (4.7%) were Latina (down from 6% in 2024-25), 1% (0.8%) were MENA (down from 2% in 2024-25), 1% (0.6%) were multiracial/multiethnic (even with 2024-25), and 1% (0.5%) were Native American (up from less than 1% in 2024-25).

For *male characters in speaking roles*, 71% (70.5%) were White, 18% (17.6%) were Black, 5% (4.6%) were Asian or Asian American, 4% (4.2%) were Latino, 2%

(1.7%) were MENA, 1% (0.8%) were Native American, and less than 1% (0.4%) were multiracial/multiethnic. The transgender character was white.

In *major roles* only, 66% (66.4%) of females were White (up from 59% in 2024-25), 18% (18.4%) were Black (down from 23% in 2024-25), 5% (4.7%) were Latina (down from 8% in 2024-25), 8% (8.3%) were Asian or Asian American (even with 2024-25), 1% (1.0%) were MENA (unchanged from the percentage in 2024-25), 1% (1.0%) were multiracial/multiethnic (even with the percentage in 2024-25), and less than 1% (0.2%) were Native American (even with 2024-25) (see Figure 18).

Figure 18.
Race/Ethnicity of Female Characters in Major Roles
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



In *major roles* only, 73% (72.5%) of males were White, 17% (16.8%) were Black, 4% (4.2%) were Asian or Asian American, 4% (3.8%) were Latino, 2% (1.8%) were MENA, less than 1% (0.4%) were Native American, and less than 1% (0.4%) were multiracial/multiethnic. The transgender character was white.

Age

By age cohort, 11% (11.4%) of *all females in speaking roles* were children or teens, 22% (21.8%) were in their 20s, 38% (38.0%) were in their 30s, 15% (15.4%) were in their 40s, 9% (9.0%) were in their 50s, and 4% (4.4%) were 60 or older.

7% (7.2%) of *all males in speaking roles* were children or teens, 11% (10.5%) were in their 20s, 30% (30.3%) were in their 30s, 30% (30.3%) were in their 40s, 14% (13.6%) were in their 50s, and 8% (8.0%) were in their 60s or older. The transgender character was in their 30s.

The majority of female characters were in their 20s and 30s (60%), whereas the majority of male characters were in their 30s and 40s (61%).

Female characters experienced a precipitous decline from their 30s (38%) to their 40s (15%). The percentage of male characters remained the same in their 30s and 40s (30%).

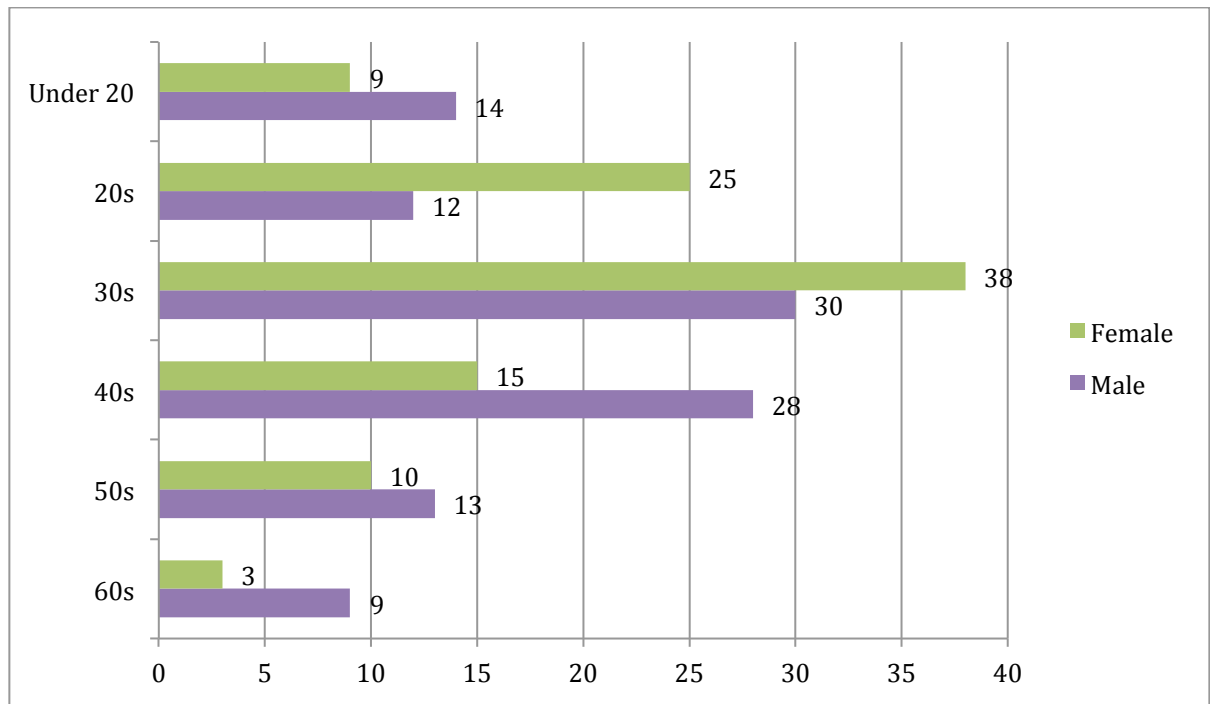
52% of male characters were 40 and older but only 29% of female characters were 40 and above.

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

For *major roles* only, 9% (9.1%) of females were children or teens, 25% (25.3%) were in their 20s, 38% (37.6%) were in their 30s, 15% (14.8%) were in their 40s, 10% (9.7%) were in their 50s, and 3% (3.4%) were 60 or older (see Figure 19).

Figure 19.

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



For *major roles* only, 14% (13.6%) of males were children or teens, 12% (12.4%) were in their 20s, 30% (30.1%) were in their 30s, 28% (28.3%) were in their 40s, 13% (13.4%) were in their 50s, and 9% (9.4%) were 60 or older. The transgender character was in their 30s.

Overall, the majority of *major female characters* were in their 20s and 30s (63%), whereas the majority of *major male characters* were in their 30s and 40s (58%). The percentage of major female characters dropped precipitously from their 30s (38%) to their 40s (15%). The percentage of major male characters declined slightly from their 30s (30%) to their 40s (28%).

28% of *major female characters* but 51% of *major male characters* were 40 and older. There were three times as many *major male characters* as *major female characters* 60 and older (9% vs. 3%).

Occupational Status and Marital Status

Viewers were more likely to know the occupational status of male characters than female characters. While 81% of male characters had a known occupation, 71% of female characters had a known occupation.

In contrast, viewers were more likely to know the marital status of female characters than male characters. 57% of female characters had a known marital status, whereas 48% of male characters has a known marital status.

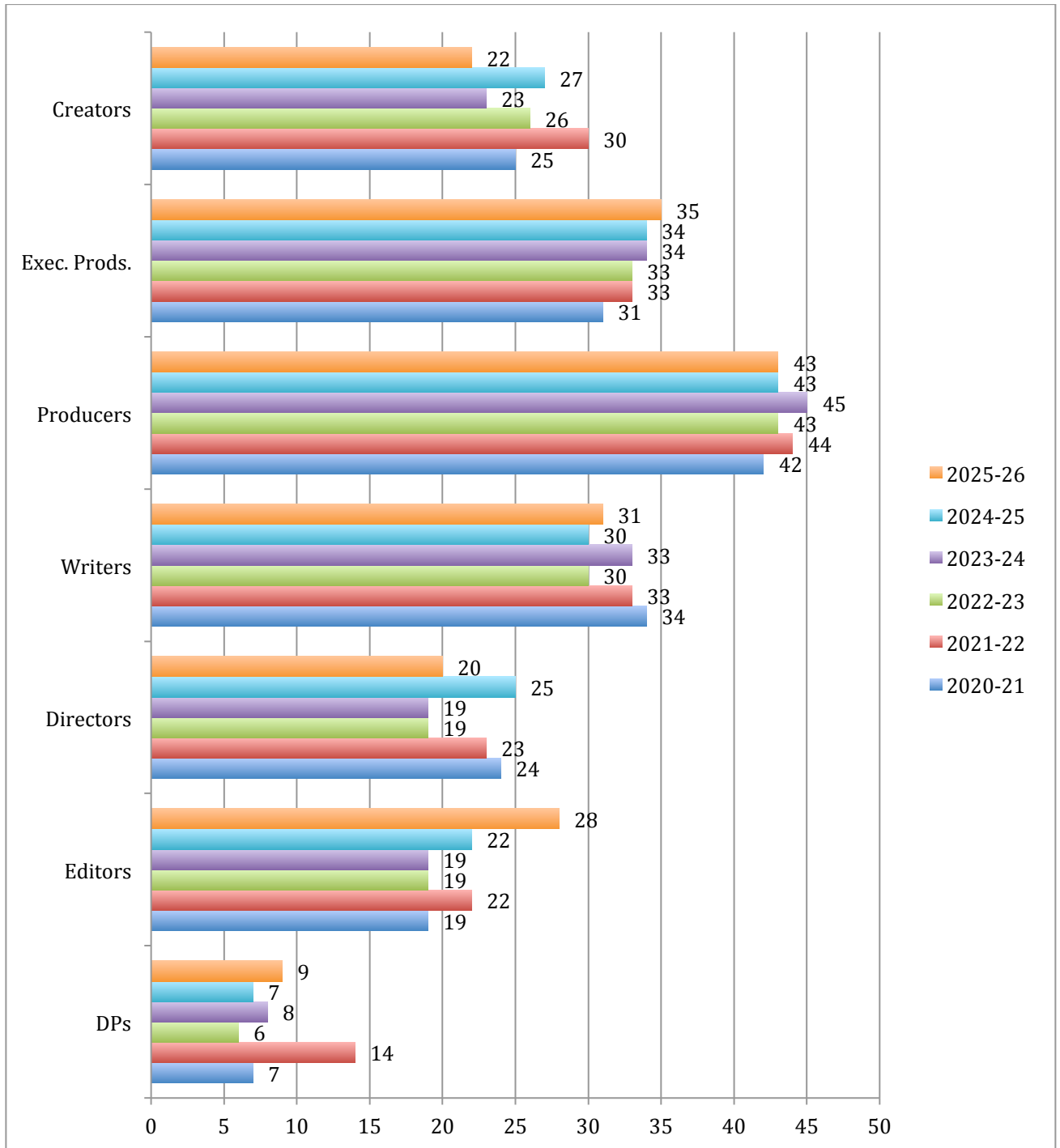
Women Behind the Scenes

Overall, women comprised 34% (33.8%) of creators, directors, writers, executive producers, producers, editors, and directors of photography working on broadcast network and streaming programs in 2025-26. This represents a slight increase of 1 percentage point from 33% in 2024-25. Men accounted for 66% (66.1%) 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 (35%), writers (31%), creators (22%), directors (20%), editors (28%), and directors of photography (9%) (see Figure 20).

Women comprised 22% (22.2%) of creators working on all of the programs considered in 2025-26. This represents a decline of 5 percentage points from 27% in 2024-25.

Figure 20.
Historical Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women by Role
on Broadcast and Streaming Programs



Women accounted for 35% (34.9%) of executive producers working on the programs considered. This represents a slight increase of 1 percentage point from 2024-25, and a historic high.

Women comprised 43% (43.3%) of producers working on the programs considered in 2025-26. This represents no change from 2024-25.

Women accounted for 31% (31.4%) of writers working on the programs considered in 2025-26. This represents a slight increase of 1 percentage point from 30% in 2024-25.

Women comprised 20% (19.5%) of directors working on the programs considered in 2025-26. This represents a decline of 5 percentage points from 25% in 2024-25.

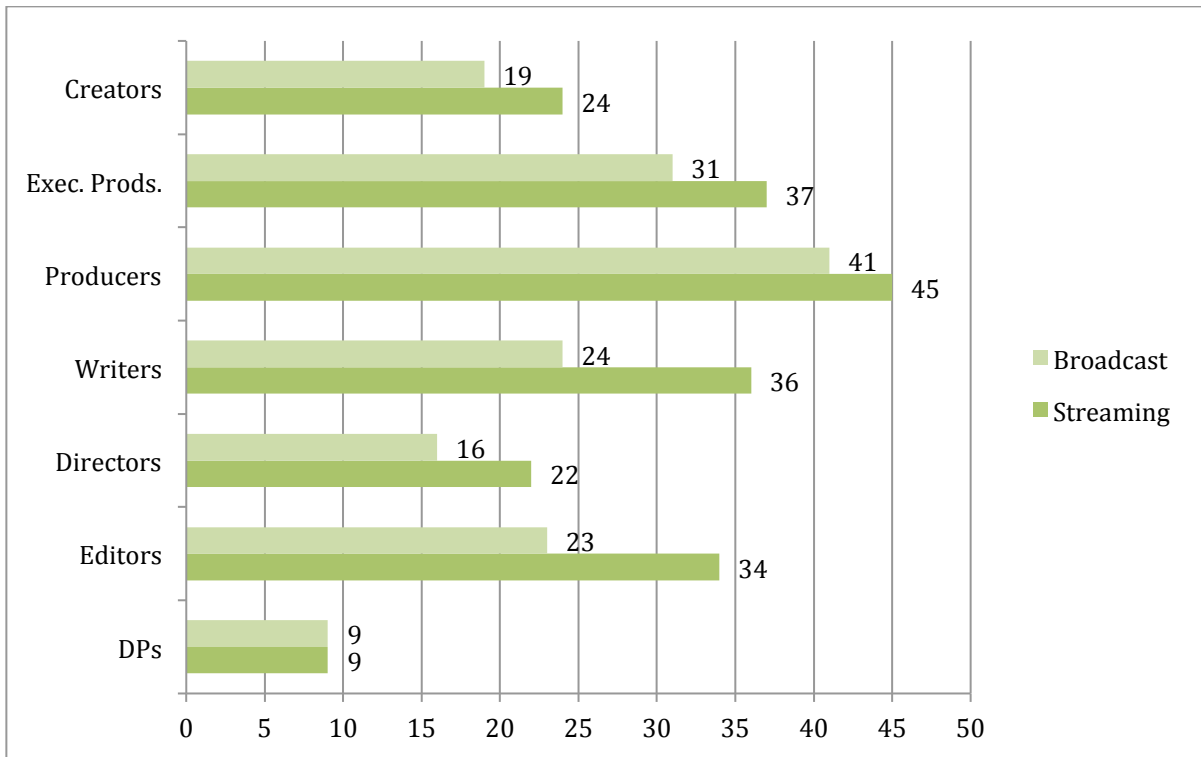
Women comprised 28% (28.2%) of editors working on the programs considered in 2025-26. This represents an increase of 6 percentage points from 22% in 2024-25, and a historic high.

Women made up 9% (9.3%) of directors of photography working on the programs considered in 2025-26. This represents an increase of 2 percentage points from 7% in 2024-25.

In 2025-26, 94% (93.7%) of broadcast and streaming programs had no women directors of photography, 82% (81.5%) had no women directors, and 70% (70.1%) had no women creators.

When comparing the employment of women on shows by platform, streaming programs employed higher percentages of women than broadcast network programs in most of the roles considered: creators (24% streaming, 19% broadcast), directors (22% streaming, 16% broadcast), producers (45% streaming, 41% broadcast), executive producers (37% streaming, 31% broadcast), writers (36% streaming, 24% broadcast), and editors (34% streaming, 23% broadcast). Broadcast network and streaming programs employed the same percentages of directors of photography (9% streaming, 9% broadcast) (see Figure 21).

Figure 21.
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 substantially higher percentages of women as directors, writers, and editors than programs with exclusively men working as creators.

On programs with at least 1 woman creator, women comprised 22% of directors. On programs with exclusively male creators, women accounted for 14% of directors.

On programs with at least 1 woman creator, women made up 48% of writers. On programs with exclusively male creators, women accounted for 17% of writers.

On programs with at least 1 woman creator, women comprised 33% of editors. On programs with exclusively male creators, women made up 25% of editors.

Endnotes

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

2 MENA 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.