

THE RIPPED BODICE PRESENTS

THE STATE OF RACIAL DIVERSITY IN ROMANCE PUBLISHING

2020

The State of Racial Diversity in Romance Publishing Study tracks the publication of books written by authors who are BIPOC in the traditional romance publishing genre. Answers to frequently asked questions about the study can be found on our website, www.therippedbodice.com

This year marks the fifth iteration of our annual Diversity Report. After five years of collecting data, we have an increasingly clear picture of who publishers are publishing each year. The numbers are frequently erratic; while we may see some improvements in one publisher's numbers from one year to the next, there is a lack of consistent, year-over-year improvement across the industry to diversify the authors they publish.

2020 brought a new round of statements from publishers affirming their commitment to anti-racism and dismantling white supremacist structures within publishing. But we continue to see and be troubled by the discrepancy between corporate statements and the number of authors of color who are published and therefore compensated by these companies.

We will continue to track the data and we hope the future brings marked improvement in racial diversity across romance publishing.



Ripped Bodice Bestsellers 2020



Red, White & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston
Bringing Down the Duke by Evie Dunmore
Deal with the Devil by Kit Rocha
Get a Life, Chloe Brown by Talia Hibbert
A Cowboy to Remember by Rebekah Weatherspoon
The Lady's Guide to Celestial Mechanics by Olivia Waite
Xeni: A Marriage of Inconvenience by Rebekah Weatherspoon
Pride, Prejudice and Other Flavors by Sonali Dev
Take a Hint, Dani Brown by Talia Hibbert
The Worst Best Man by Mia Sosa



























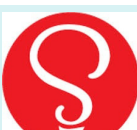





We are deeply grateful for the participation of the following publishers:

All publishers are asked to assist in the study by providing a list of the titles they published in the previous year. This year's study includes 2,203 books, which is why we appreciate publishers who contribute a little bit of their time to this important research.

- Berkley Books
- Bethany House
- Bold Strokes Books
- Entangled Publishing
- Forever
- Kensington
- Montlake Romance
- St. Martin's Press
- Sourcebooks
- Tule

THE STATE OF RACIAL DIVERSITY IN ROMANCE PUBLISHING

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2020 WERE WRITTEN BY BIPOC?

	Avon Romance 	10.9%
	Berkley 	14%
	Bethany House 	0%
	Bold Strokes Books 	1.9%
	Carina Press 	37%
	Entangled Publishing 	7%
	Forever Romance 	11.5%
	Harlequin Series 	6%
	HQN 	5%
	Kensington 	44.8%
	Mira Books 	3.6%
	Montlake Romance 	1.7%
	Simon & Schuster  includes Pocket & Gallery	2.5%
	Sourcebooks 	9.7%
	St. Martin's Press  includes Griffin, SMP & Swerve	29%
	Tule Publishing 	6%



title data graciously provided by the publisher



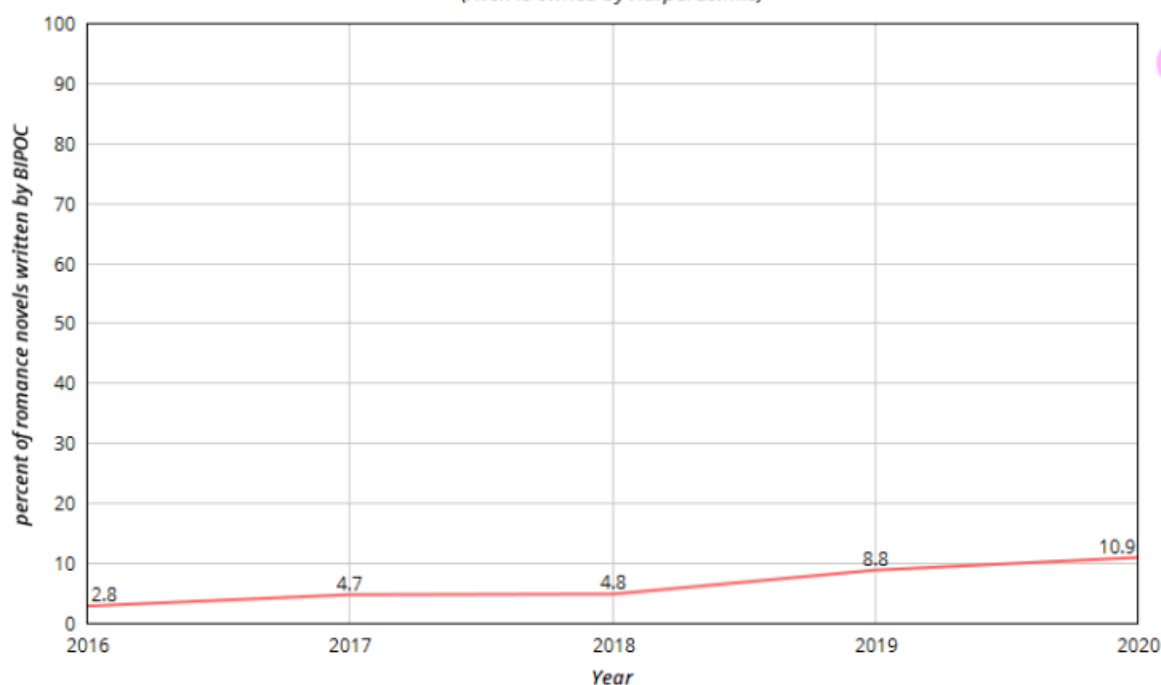
declined to participate



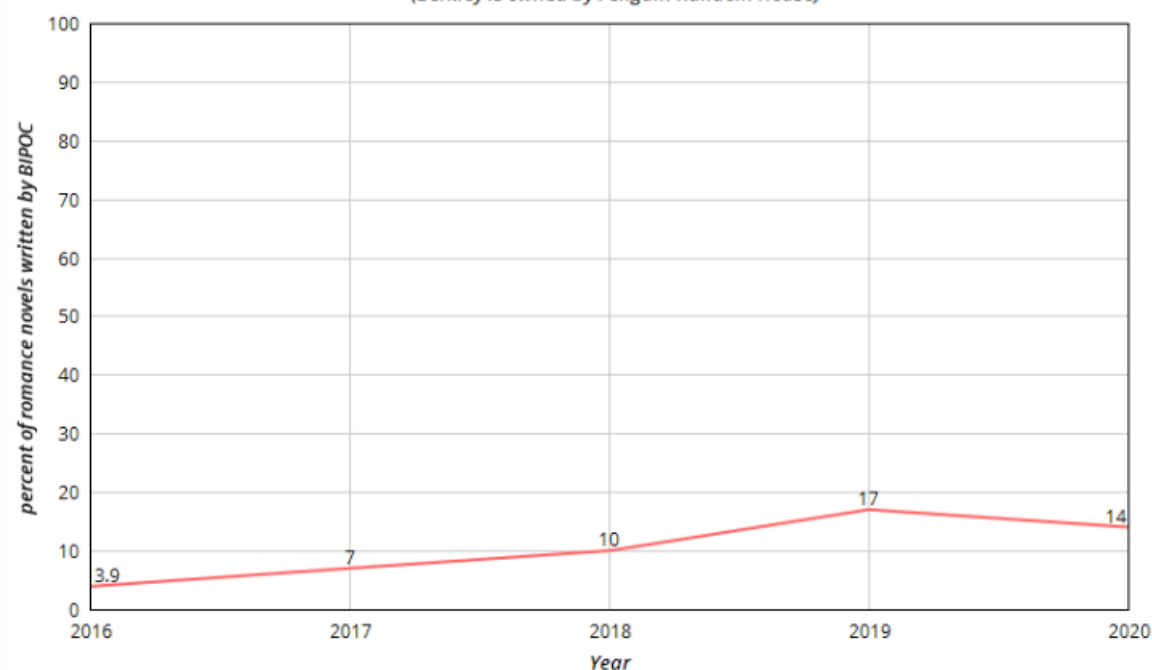
ignored all communication attempts

Individual Publisher Data Over 5 years

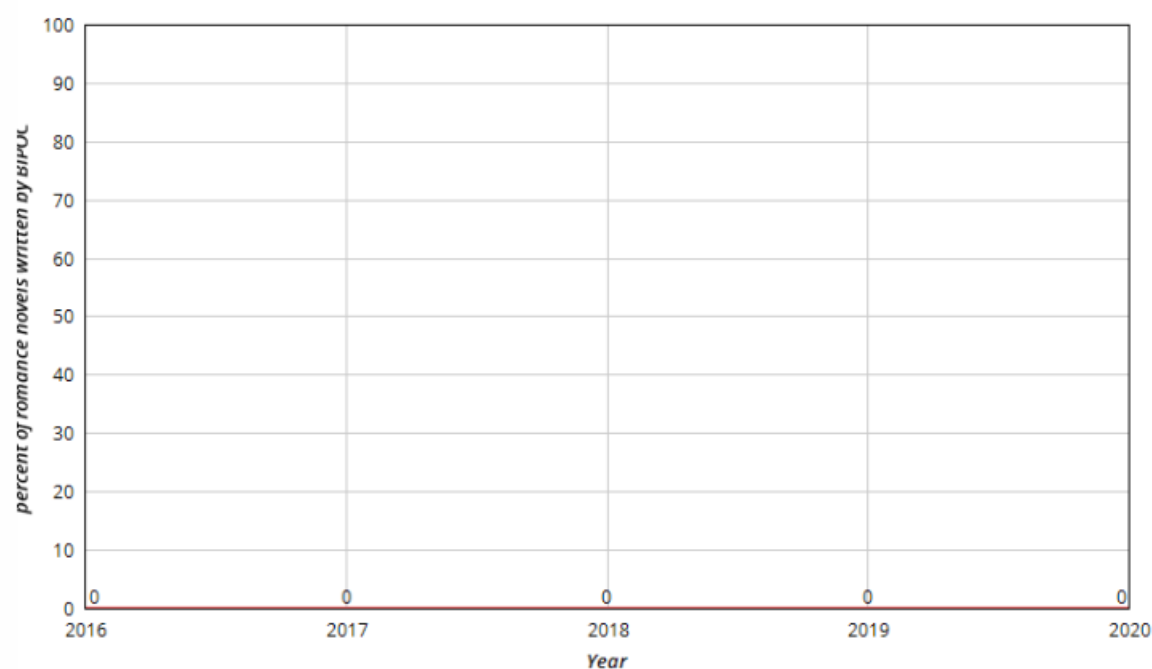
Percent of Romance Novels Published by Avon from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(Avon is owned by HarperCollins)



Percent of Romance Novels Published by Berkley from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(Berkley is owned by Penguin Random House)

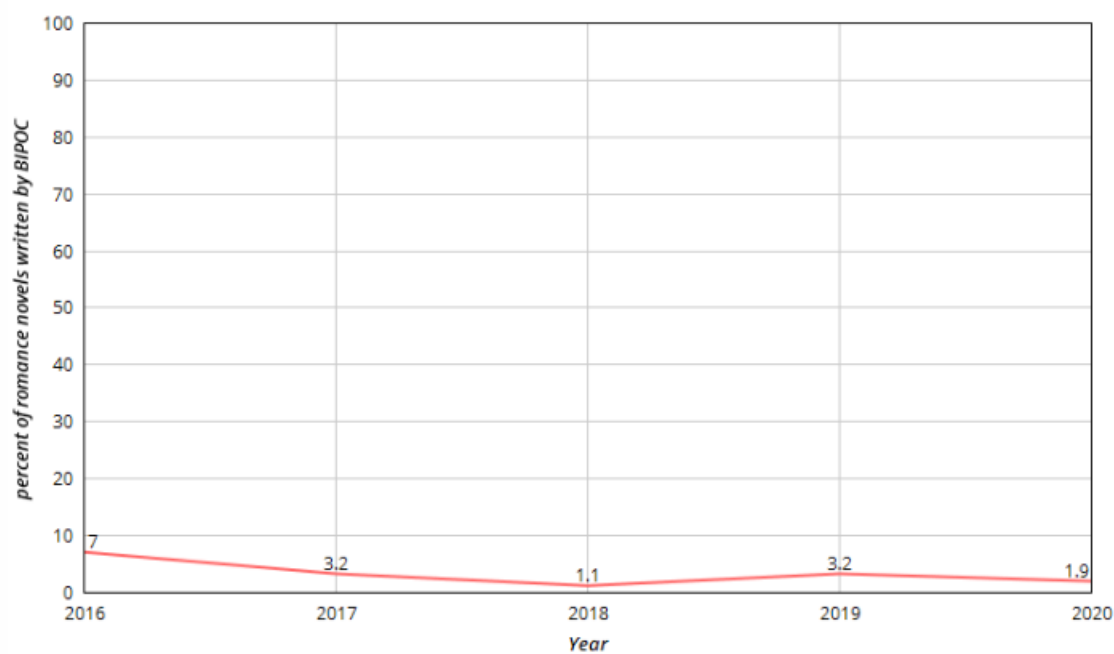


Percent of Romance Novels Published by Bethany House from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC

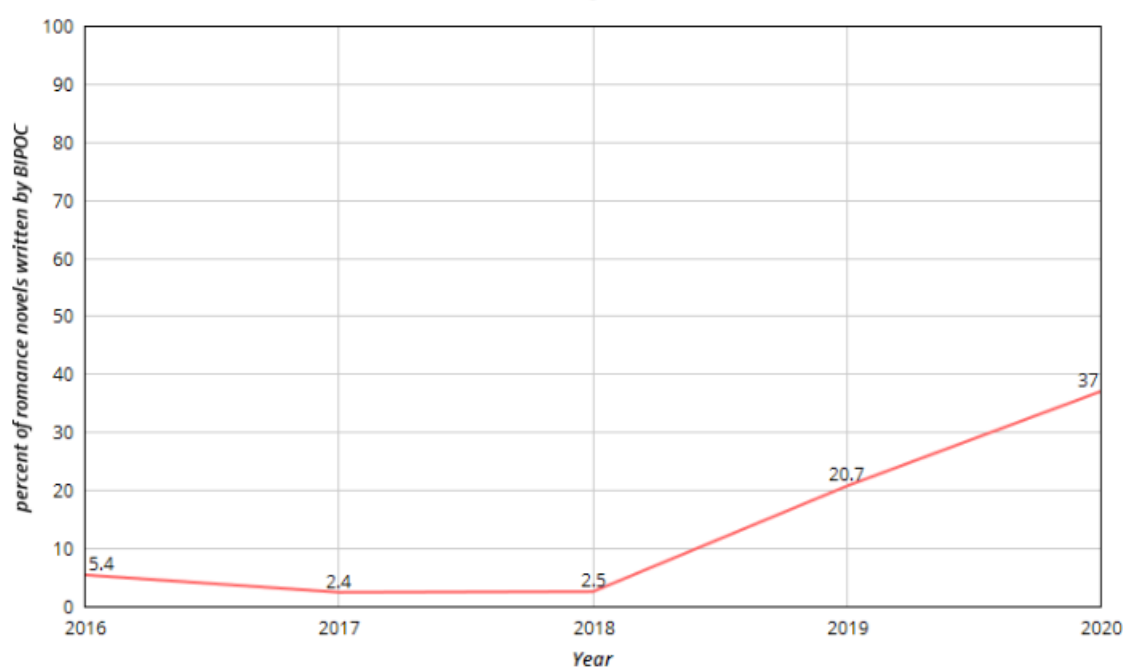


Individual Publisher Data Over 5 years

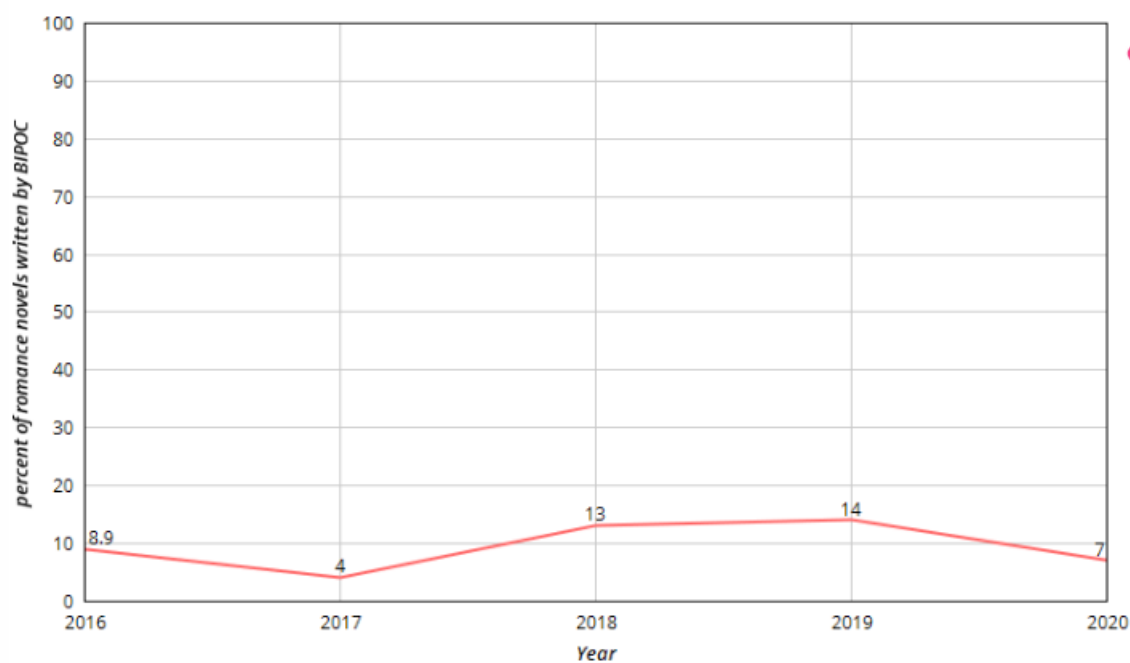
Percent of Romance Novels Published by Bold Strokes Books from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC



Percent of Romance Novels Published by Carina Press from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC

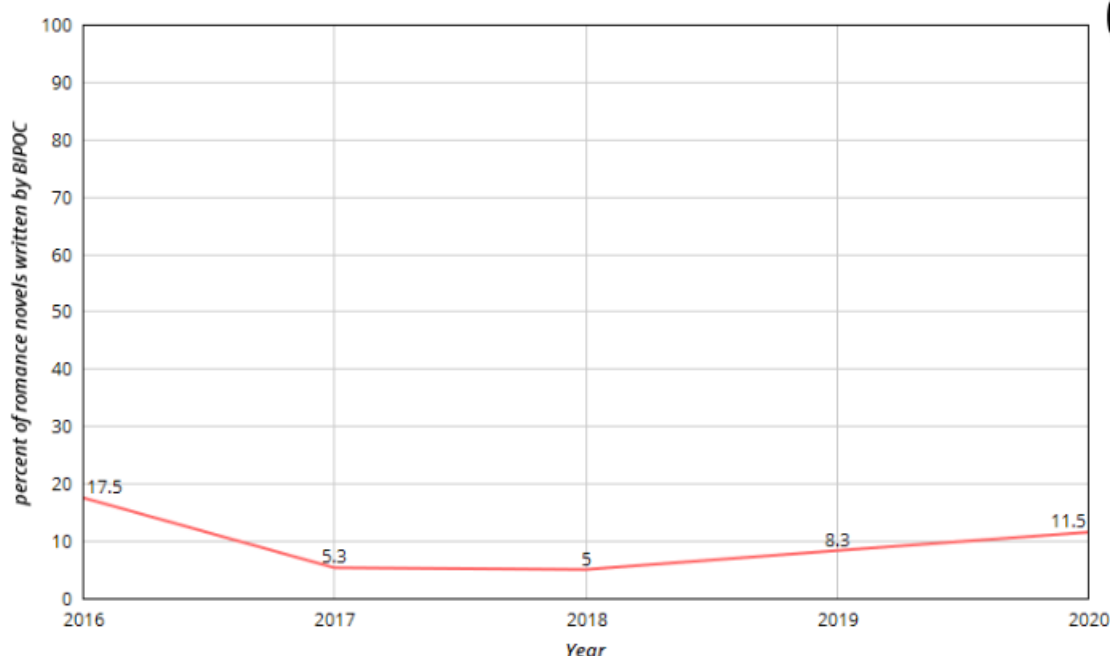


Percent of Romance Novels Published by Entangled Publishing from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC

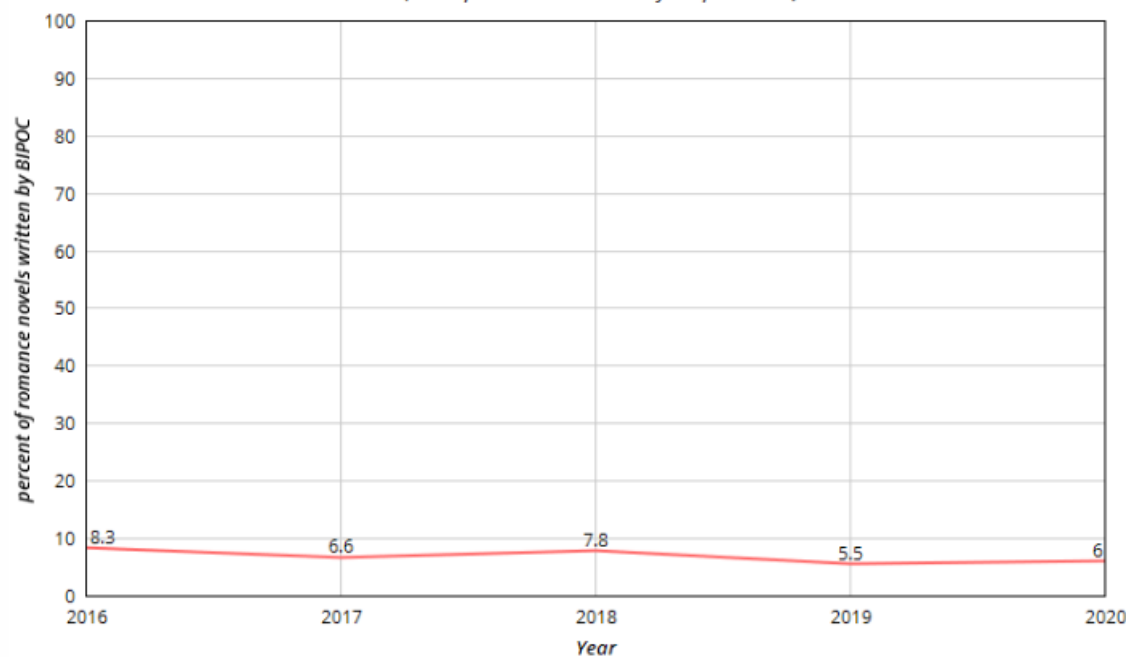


Individual Publisher Data Over 5 years

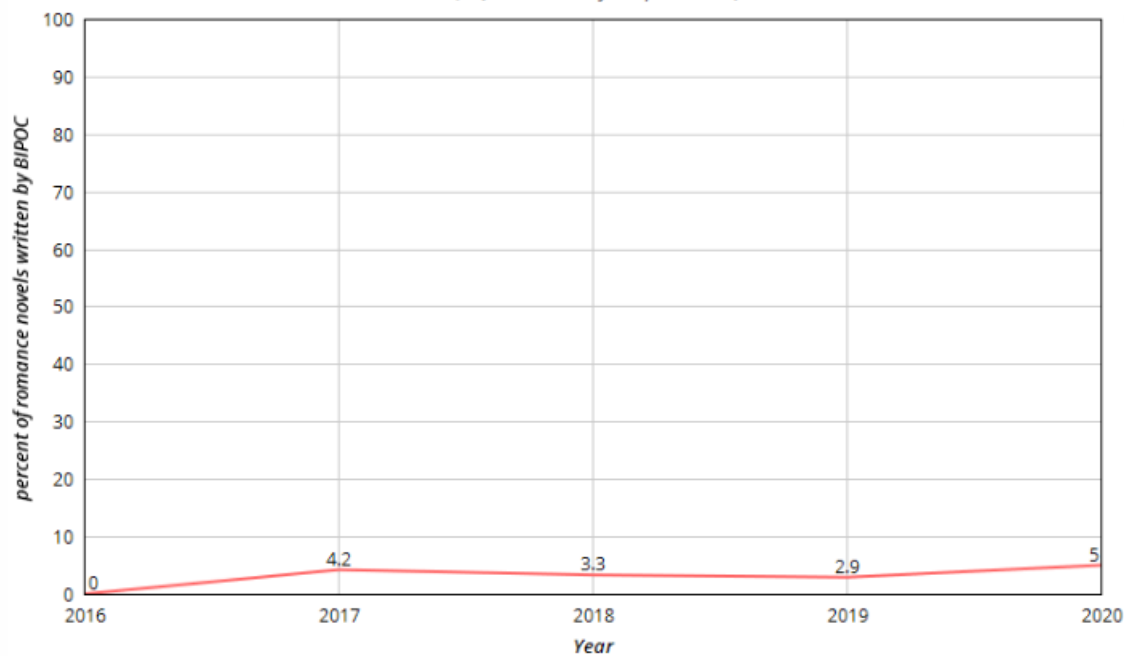
Percent of Romance Novels Published by Forever from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC



Percent of Romance Novels Published by Harlequin Series from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(Harlequin Series is owned by HarperCollins)

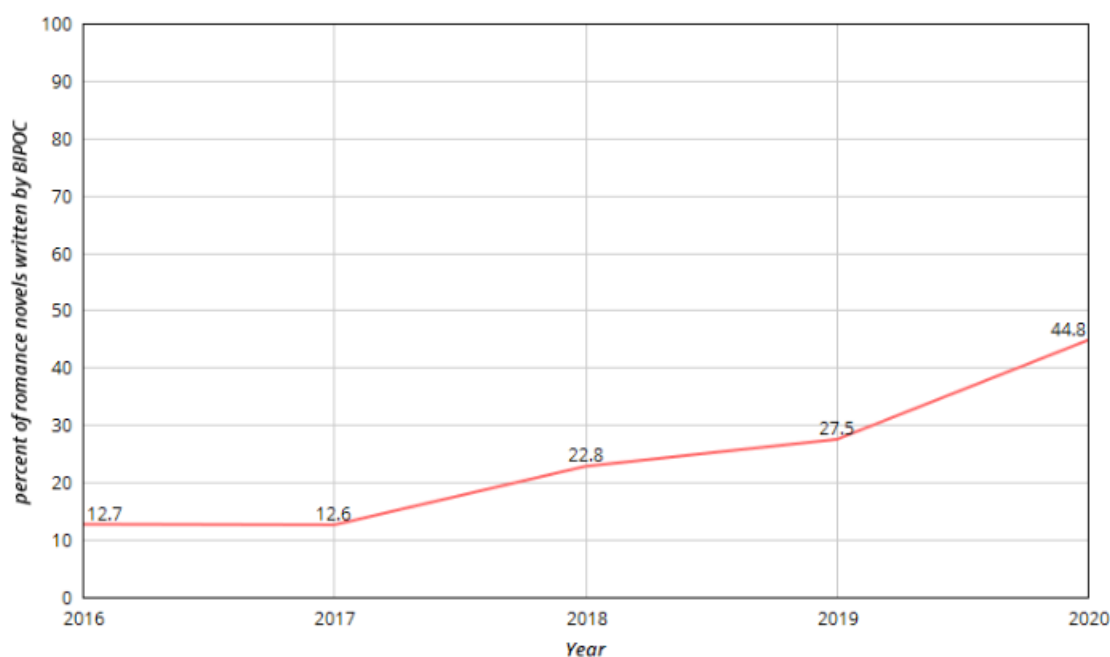


Percent of Romance Novels Published by HQN from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(HQN is owned by HarperCollins)

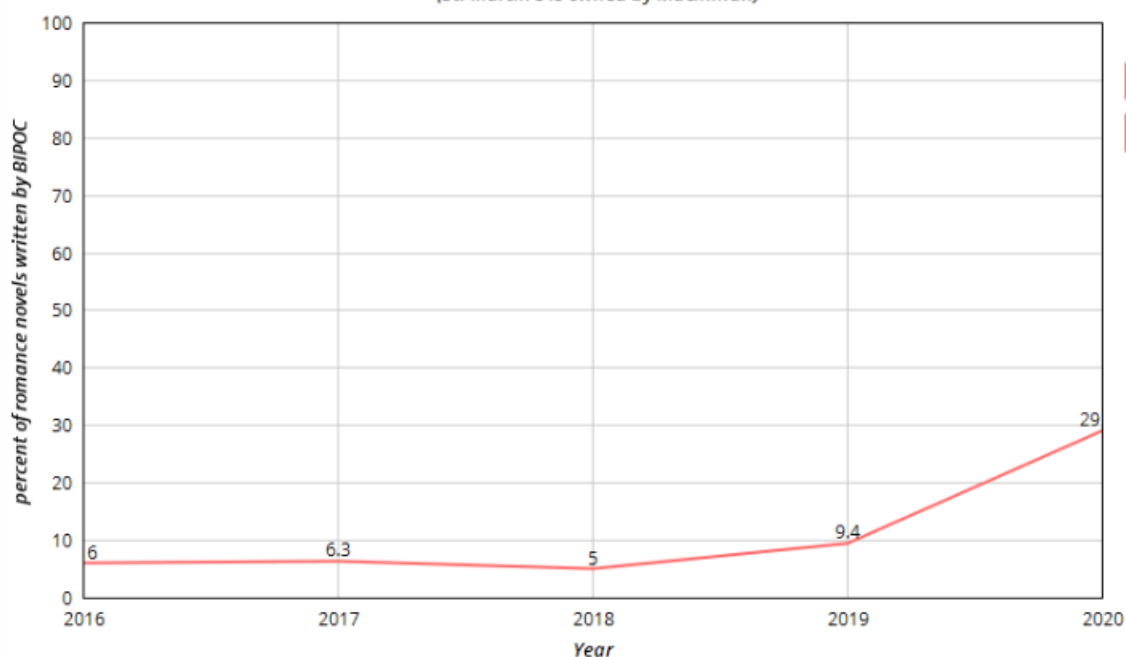


Individual Publisher Data Over 5 years

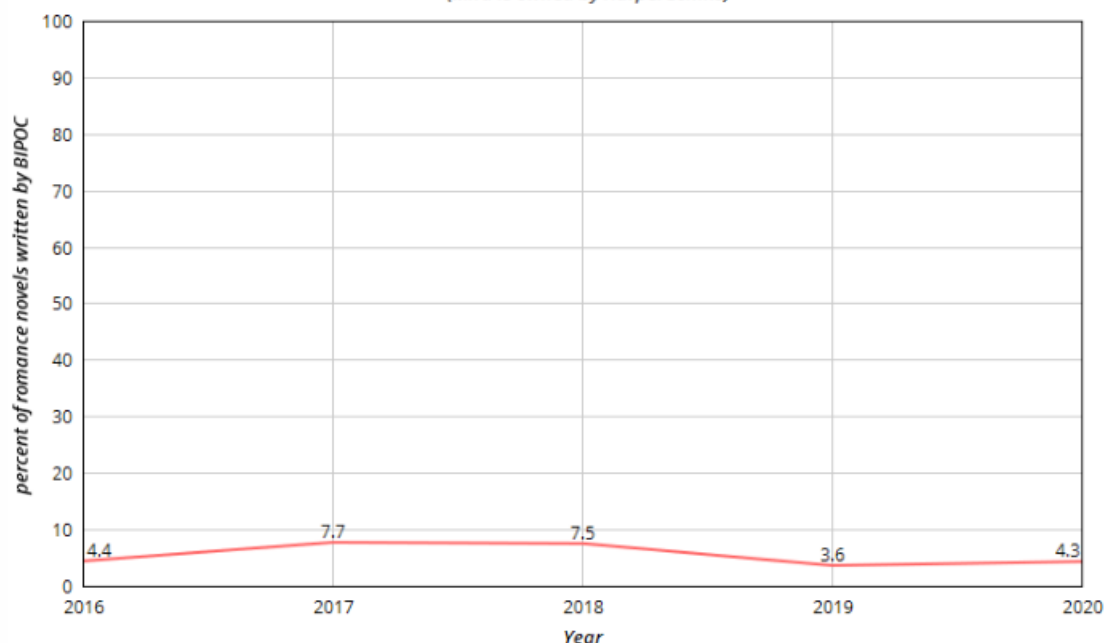
Percent of Romance Novels Published by Kensington from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC



Percent of Romance Novels Published by St. Martin's Press from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(St. Martin's is owned by Macmillan)

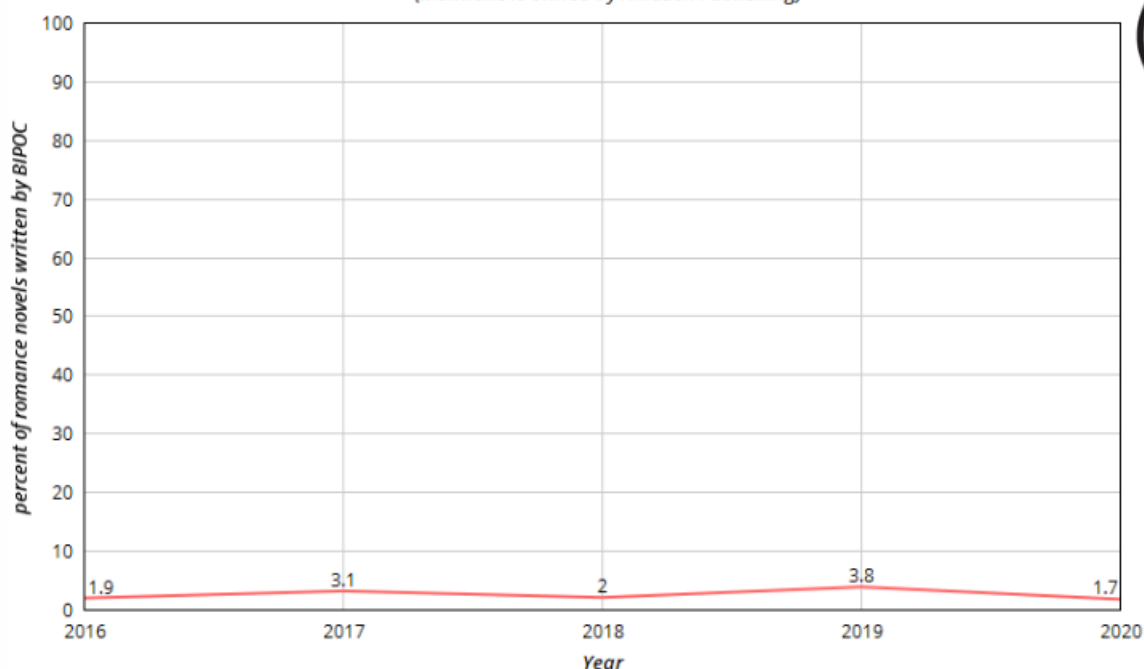


Percent of Romance Novels Published by Mira Books from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(Mira is owned by HarperCollins)

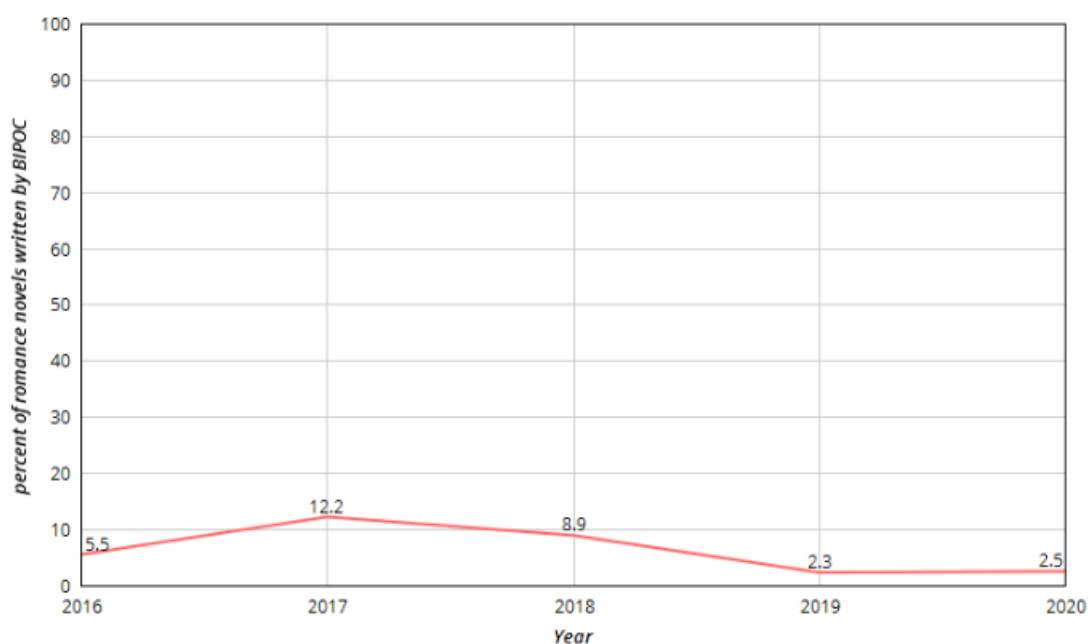


Individual Publisher Data Over 5 years

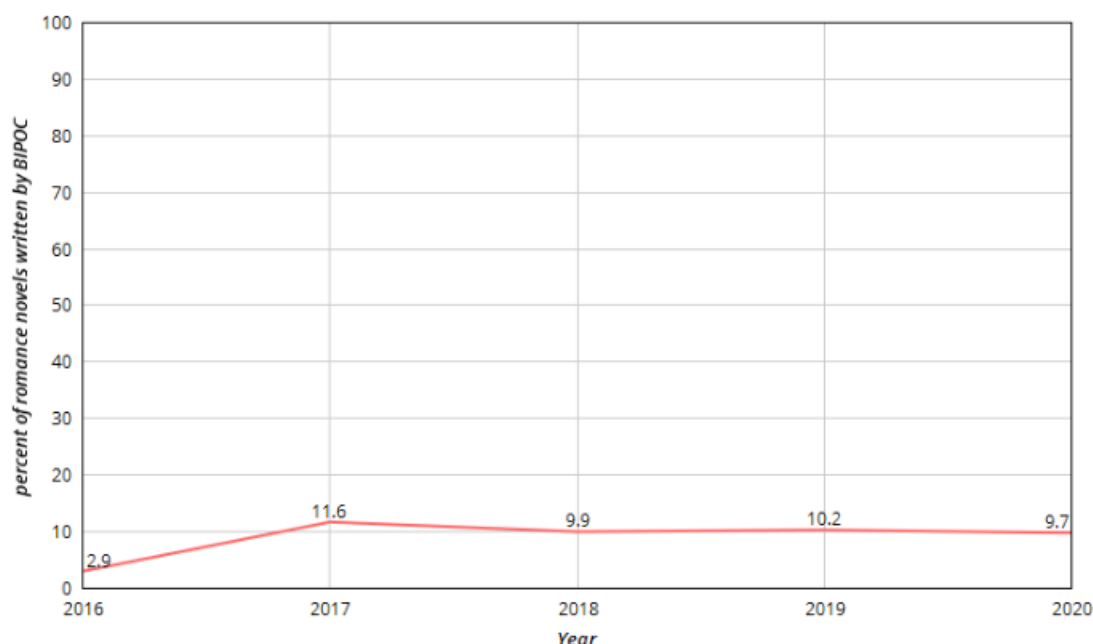
Percent of Romance Novels Published by Montlake from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC
(Montlake is owned by Amazon Publishing)



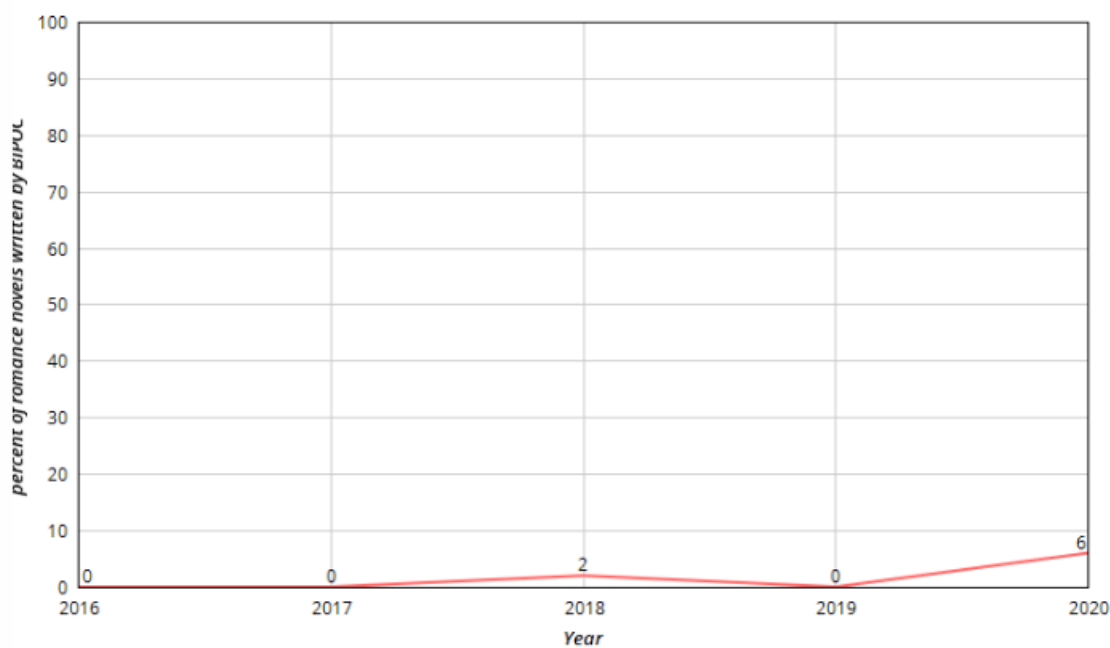
Percent of Romance Novels Published by Simon & Schuster from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC



Percent of Romance Novels Published by Sourcebooks from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC



Percent of Romance Novels Published by Tule from 2016-2020 Written by BIPOC



For every 100 books published by the leading romance publishers in 2020, 12 were written by BIPOC.

(It is worth noting that if one were to exclude the books published by Kensington from this calculation, the industry average would be 8.3%, which is the same as the total industry number in 2019.)

That compares to 8.3% in 2019, 7.7% in 2018, 6.2% in 2017 and 7.8% in 2016.

written by authors who are BIPOC

8.1%

***all romance books
counted in 5 years***

Written by white authors

91.9%