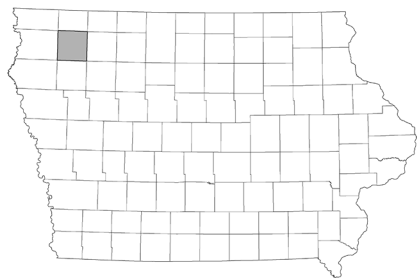# Data for Decision Makers

Sheldon, Iowa
City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Sheldon is 5,512. Between 2010 and 2020 the population increased by 6.2%. The City of Sheldon is in O'Brien County. O'Brien County saw a 1.5% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

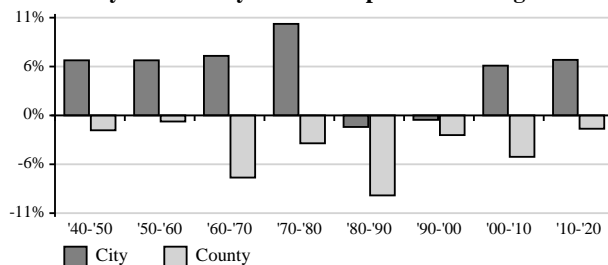**O'Brien County Cities - Total Population[1]**

City	2000	2010	2020
Sheldon[†]	**4,914**	**5,188**	**5,512**
Male Total	2,406	2,630	2,782
Female Total	2,508	2,558	2,730
Archer	126	131	117
Calumet	181	170	146
Hartley	1,733	1,672	1,605
Paullina	1,124	1,056	982
Primghar	891	909	896
Sanborn	1,353	1,404	1,392
Sutherland	707	649	629
O'Brien County Total	15,102	14,398	14,182
State of Iowa Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

[†]*City is located in multiple counties, total population is provided.*

Neighboring Cities - Percent Population Change

	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Archer	-3.8%	4.0%	-10.7%
Ashton	-0.2%	-0.7%	-4.8%
Boyden	3.2%	5.2%	-0.8%
Hospers	4.5%	3.9%	2.9%
Matlock	-9.8%	4.8%	-14.9%
Sheldon	-0.5%	5.6%	6.2%
O'Brien County	-2.2%	4.7%	-1.5%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change[1]

Regional Director	County Office
Greta Giese	Marsha Rehder
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Orange City, IA 51041	Primghar, IA 51245
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Sheldon's population is predominantly White. The City of Sheldon, compared to O'Brien County, had a lower percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a lower percentage of older people (65 and older) in 2020. New household relationship categories were reported for 2020 that are not comparable with 2010.[3]

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin[1]

Race Groups	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
One race only	99.2%	93.5%	99.2%	95.4%
White	93.7%	85.2%	96.0%	90.4%
White alone, not Hispanic	91.3%	83.1%	94.5%	88.9%
Black or African American	0.6%	1.4%	0.5%	1.1%
Asian	1.1%	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.9%	0.1%	0.6%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	3.7%	5.0%	2.0%	2.7%
Two or more races	0.8%	6.5%	0.8%	4.6%
Hispanic origin[a]	6.5%	11.7%	3.8%	6.9%

[a] *Hispanics can be of any race.*

Households by Family or Nonfamily Type[1,3]

	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
Total households	2,213	2,186	6,069	5,861
Family households[a,b]	58.7%	60.6%	64.7%	63.4%
Married couple family[b]	49.6%	48.4%	55.1%	52.7%
With own children	18.6%	18.3%	19.5%	17.9%
Other family[c]	9.2%	12.3%	9.6%	10.7%
Male householder[c]	2.9%	4.6%	3.5%	4.3%
With own children	1.9%	2.7%	2.4%	2.5%
Female householder[c]	6.3%	7.6%	6.1%	6.4%
With own children	4.5%	5.8%	4.1%	5.0%
Nonfamily households[d]	41.3%	39.4%	35.3%	36.6%
Male living alone	15.1%	15.9%	13.5%	15.3%
Female living alone	19.9%	18.2%	17.9%	16.5%

Households by Couple or Non-couple Type[1,3]

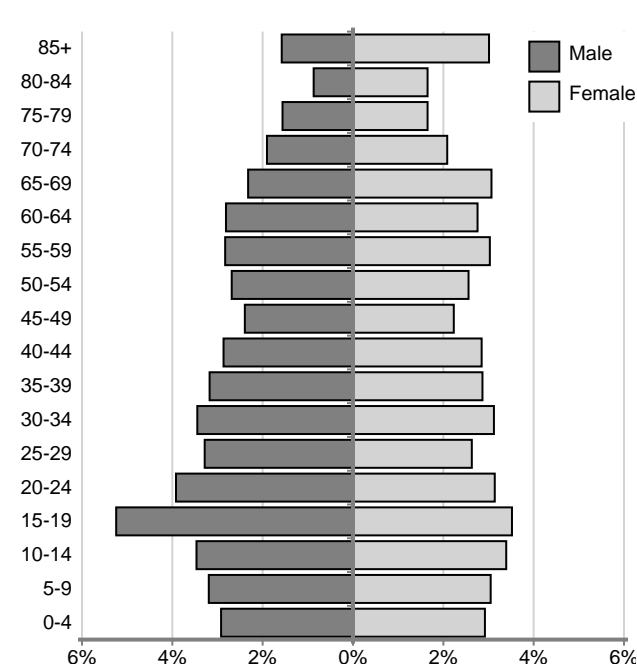|	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
Total households	2,213	2,186	6,069	5,861
Married couple[b]	49.6%	48.4%	55.1%	52.7%
Cohabiting couple[b,f]	NA[e]	5.9%	NA[e]	6.2%
Male householder[g]	NA[e]	21.1%	NA[e]	19.3%
Female householder[g]	NA[e]	24.6%	NA[e]	21.8%

[a]*Householder and at least one other person related to the householder.* [b]*For 2020 includes same-sex couples.* [c]*No spouse present, but at least one relative present.* [d]*In 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present).* [e]*2010 not comparable with 2020.* [f]*For 2020 householder has an unmarried partner.* [g]*For 2020 no spouse or partner present, but relatives, nonrelatives may be present or householder may be living alone.*

Percentage of Population by Age[1]

Age Groups	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
17 or younger	23.1%	23%	23.6%	23.3%
0 - 4	6.6%	5.8%	6.4%	6.0%
5 - 9	6.5%	6.2%	6.5%	6.3%
10 - 14	6.5%	6.9%	6.6%	6.8%
15 - 17	3.5%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%
18 - 24	9.5%	11.8%	6.6%	7.3%
25 - 44	24.1%	24.2%	21.3%	23%
45 - 64	24.8%	21.3%	28.1%	24.3%
65 or older	18.6%	19.7%	20.4%	22.1%
65 - 84	15.1%	15.1%	16.4%	17.4%
85 or older	3.5%	4.6%	4.0%	4.6%
Median[4] Age (years)	39.4	37.0	43.6	42.0
Age Dependency[a,5]	71.4	74.5	78.6	83.2
Old-Age	31.8	34.4	36.4	40.5
Child	39.6	40.1	42.1	42.7

[a]*Age Dependency Ratio*

Sheldon, Iowa Population Pyramid,[a] 2020[1]

[a]*Each bar represents the percentage that an age-sex group comprises of the total population.*

The median household income in Sheldon is less than the median household income of O'Brien County. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is higher in Sheldon than for O'Brien County. There is a higher percentage of vacant housing units in Sheldon than there is for O'Brien County. Many housing units in Sheldon were built between 1940 to 1959. There is a lower percentage of individuals 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree or higher in Sheldon compared to O'Brien County.

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	2,051	+/- 157	5,700	+/- 198
Less than $34,999	20.3%	+/- 3.5%	23.9%	+/- 2.4%
$35,000 To $49,999	19.1%	+/- 5.5%	14.0%	+/- 2.4%
$50,000 To $99,999	30.9%	+/- 3.6%	34.6%	+/- 2.4%
$100,000 Or More	29.7%	+/- 3.7%	27.5%	+/- 2.5%
Median[4] Household Income	$61,939	+/- $12,818	$65,076	+/- $6,868
Median Family Income	$95,438	+/- $26,777	$89,832	+/- $4,507
Per Capita Income	$29,944	+/- $3,073	$32,460	+/- $1,798

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	2,448	+/- 163	6,546	+/- 25
Vacant	16.2%	+/- 7.1%	12.9%	+/- 3.0%
Occupied	83.8%	+/- 7.1%	87.1%	+/- 3.0%
Occupied[a]	2,051	+/- 157	5,700	+/- 198
Owner	68.0%	+/- 7.5%	76.0%	+/- 3.5%
Renter	32.0%	+/- 7.5%	24.0%	+/- 3.5%
Rent[b]	$631	+/- $122	$691	+/- $79
Value[c]	$158,000	+/-$20,726	$141,900	+/-$12,274

[a]*Occupied Units,* [b]*Median gross rent of renter-occupied units,* [c]*Median value of owner-occupied units*
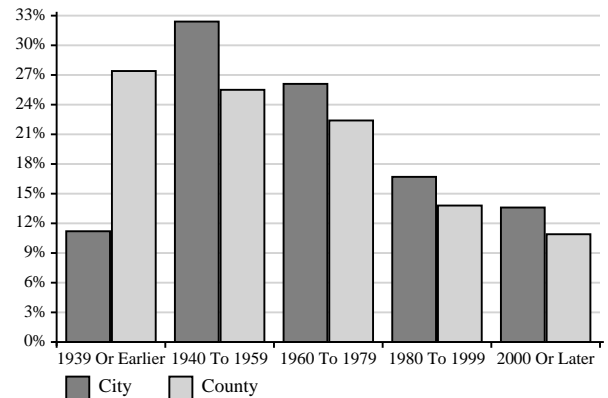
Educational Attainment, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	3,693	+/-171	9,734	+/-46
High School Graduate or Higher	88.6%	+/-5.6%	90.7%	+/-2.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	20.3%	+/-6.9%	21.6%	+/-3%

*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates[2] which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.
**MOE is high, use county estimate.

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022[2]

In Sheldon there is a higher percentage of workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations than any other occupation category. The production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 29.5% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	2,827	+/- 338	6,949	+/- 370
Management, business, science, and arts	35.2%	+/- 8.4%	33.7%	+/- 4.0%
Service	13.6%	+/- 4.9%	15.5%	+/- 2.6%
Sales and office	10.2%	+/- 4.5%	15.4%	+/- 2.4%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	11.5%	+/- 4.3%	13.3%	+/- 2.6%
Production, transportation, and material moving	29.5%	+/- 8.8%	22.1%	+/- 4.0%

Sheldon has a higher proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than O'Brien County. A portion of those who are not in the labor force are people who are retired. Earnings data are provided for the population 16 and over who have earnings. Median earnings in Sheldon tend to be lower than the median earnings for O'Brien County. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ [a]	3,131	+/- 299	7,638	+/- 314
Median Earnings	$38,850	+/- $38	$40,000	+/- $2,679
Female	$24,481	+/- $5,447	$24,565	+/- $2,523
Female, full time[b]	$39,087	+/- $6,046	$40,746	+/- $4,464
Male	$45,491	+/- $5,191	$50,401	+/- $4,126
Male, full time[b]	$55,323	+/- $6,912	$57,835	+/- $1,816

[a] with earnings, [b] year round, **MOE is high, use county estimate.

Employment Status, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	4,287	+/- 159	11,139	+/- 73
in labor force	67.0%	+/- 8.1%	64.0%	+/- 3.2%
not in labor force	33.0%	+/- 8.1%	36.0%	+/- 3.2%
Civilian labor force	2,871	+/- 334	7,121	+/- 358
Unemployed	1.5%	+/- 1.7%	2.4%	+/- 1.2%

**MOE is high, use county estimate.

Disability Status and Health Insurance Coverage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population[a]	5,366	+/-70	13,880	+/-8
With a disability[b]	15.6%	+/-5.9%	15.4%	+/-2.6%
With Health Insurance	97.7%	+/-2.0%	96.8%	+/-1.3%
With Private[c] Coverage	73.8%	+/-7.2%	71.6%	+/-3.6%
With Public[d] Coverage	42.0%	+/-6.5%	42.7%	+/-3.1%
No Health Insurance	**%	+/-**%	3.2%	+/-1.3%

[a]Civilan Noninstitutionalized Population, [b]limitations of activities or inability for full participation, [c]provided by employer, union, bought by individual, and some miliary plans, [d]includes Medicare, Medicaid, VA Health Care, children's CHIP, and some state plans, **MOE is high, use county estimate.
*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates[2] which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population[a]	5,244	+/-65	13,868	+/-19
Below poverty	14.7%	+/-5.8%	12.1%	+/-2.8%
17 and under	**%	+/-**%	14.4%	+/-5.8%
18 - 64	18.8%	+/-7.8%	12.5%	+/-3.5%
65+	**%	+/-**%	8.5%	+/-3.0%
All Families	**%	+/-**%	7.0%	+/-2.1%
with children	**%	+/-**%	12.6%	+/-4.2%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	4.4%	+/-1.7%
with children	**%	+/-**%	6.6%	+/-2.9%
Female HH[b]	**%	+/-**%	39.2%	+/-16.4%
with children	**%	+/-**%	46.6%	+/-20.0%

[a] for whom poverty status is determined, [b] female householder, no husband present, **MOE is high, use county estimate.

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Community and Economic Development   **Data for Decision Makers**