Data for Decision Makers
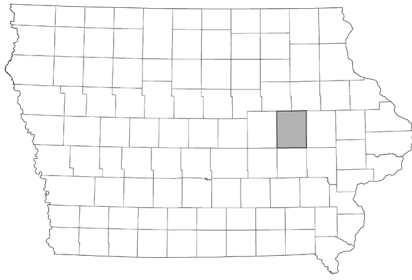
Benton County
County Profile

Population profile

Benton County is a metropolitan county in east central Iowa. It is composed of fourteen incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 2010 to 2020, Benton County's population decreased by 1.92% while the state's population increased by 4.73%.
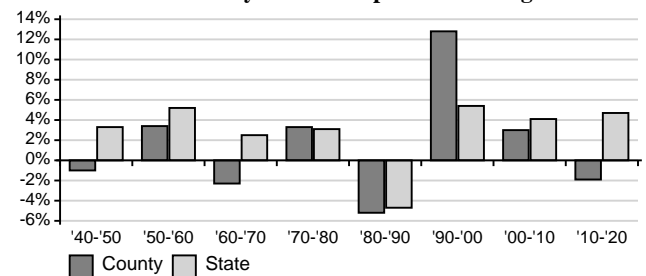
Total Population[1]

Totals	2000	2010	2020
Benton County	**25,308**	**26,076**	**25,575**
Male Total	12,652	13,027	12,883
Female Total	12,656	13,049	12,692
City			
Atkins	977	1,670	2,056
Belle Plaine	2,878	2,534	2,330
Blairstown	682	692	713
Garrison	413	371	344
Keystone	687	622	599
Luzerne	105	96	112
Mount Auburn	160	150	162
Newhall	886	875	876
Norway	601	545	466
Shellsburg	938	983	961
Urbana	1,019	1,458	1,554
Van Horne	716	682	774
Vinton	5,102	5,257	4,938
Walford[†]	1,224	1,463	1,366
State Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

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

Neighboring Counties - Percent Population Change[1]

County	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Benton, IA	**12.84%**	**3.03%**	**-1.92%**
Black Hawk, IA	3.40%	2.40%	0.04%
Buchanan, IA	1.19%	-0.64%	-1.88%
Iowa, IA	7.12%	4.36%	1.88%
Johnson, IA	15.49%	17.91%	16.79%
Linn, IA	13.59%	10.19%	9.03%
Poweshiek, IA	-1.15%	0.53%	-1.33%
Tama, IA	3.93%	-1.86%	-3.56%
State of Iowa	5.39%	4.10%	4.73%

Benton County Percent Population Change[1]

Regional Director
Abby Boysen
107 Cedar St.
Tipton, IA 52772
aboysen@iastate.edu
319-540-7242

County Office
Greg Walston
501 1st Ave.
Vinton, IA 52349
gwalston@iastate.edu
319-472-4739

https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Community and Economic Development

As with the other 98 counties in the state, Benton County's population is predominantly white. The percentage of the population of Hispanic origin increased between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, Benton County had a higher percentage of those 17 or younger than the state. 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	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
One race only	99.1%	96.3%	98.2%	94.4%
White	98.1%	94.9%	91.3%	84.5%
White alone, not Hispanic	97.4%	94.1%	88.7%	82.7%
Black or African American	0.4%	0.4%	2.9%	4.1%
Asian	0.3%	0.3%	1.7%	2.4%
American Indian	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Other	0.2%	0.5%	1.8%	2.8%
Two or more races	0.9%	3.7%	1.8%	5.6%
Hispanic origin[a]	1.1%	1.8%	5.0%	6.8%

[a]Hispanics can be of any race.

Households by Family or Nonfamily Type[1,3]

	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
Total households	10,302	10,282	1,221,576	1,288,560
Family households[a,b]	71.6%	69.2%	64.7%	63.0%
Married couple family[b]	59.6%	55.8%	51.2%	48.5%
With own children	23.8%	20.5%	20.0%	18.2%
Other family[c]	12.0%	13.4%	13.5%	14.4%
Male householder[c]	4.3%	5.2%	4.2%	4.9%
With own children	2.7%	3.1%	2.5%	2.7%
Female householder[c]	7.7%	8.3%	9.3%	9.6%
With own children	4.9%	4.7%	5.9%	5.7%
Nonfamily households[d]	28.4%	30.8%	35.3%	37.0%
Male living alone	11.3%	12.9%	12.8%	14.2%
Female living alone	12.7%	12.6%	15.7%	15.8%

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

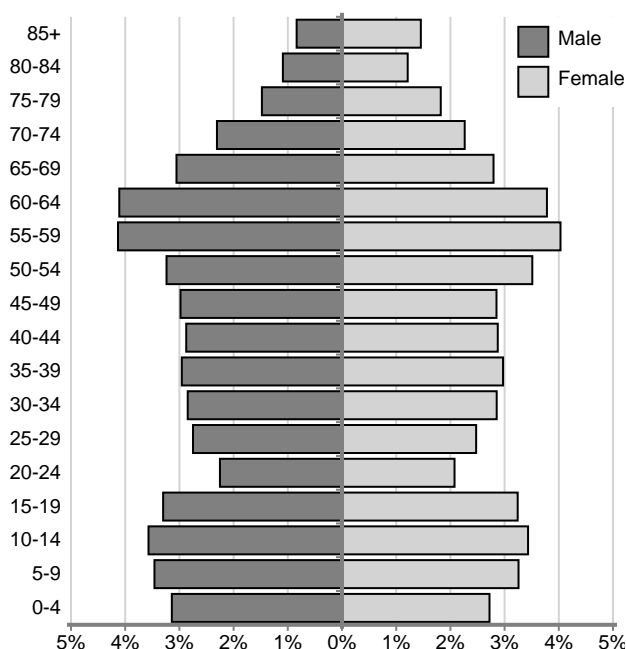|	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
Total households	10,302	10,282	1,221,576	1,288,560
Married couple[b]	59.6%	55.8%	51.2%	48.5%
Cohabiting couple[b,f]	NA[e]	7.1%	NA[e]	7.1%
Male householder[g]	NA[e]	17.5%	NA[e]	19.5%
Female householder[g]	NA[e]	19.6%	NA[e]	24.9%

[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	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
17 or younger	25.5%	23.9%	23.9%	23.2%
0 - 4	6.3%	5.9%	6.6%	6.0%
5 - 9	7.1%	6.7%	6.6%	6.5%
10 - 14	7.2%	7.0%	6.6%	6.8%
15 -17	4.9%	4.3%	4.1%	3.9%
18 - 24	6.4%	6.5%	10.0%	9.8%
25 - 44	24.1%	22.5%	24.5%	24.6%
45 - 64	28.6%	28.6%	26.7%	24.5%
65 or older	15.4%	18.3%	14.9%	18.0%
65 - 84	12.8%	16.0%	12.4%	15.6%
85 or older	2.6%	2.3%	2.5%	2.4%
Median[4] age (years)	40.9	42.3	38.1	38.6
Age dependency[a,5]	69.2	73.3	63.4	69.9
Old-Age	26.1	31.8	24.3	30.6
Child	43.1	41.5	39.1	39.4

[a]Age Dependency Ratio.

Benton County Population Pyramid[a], 2020[1]

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

The median household income in Benton County is greater than the median household income of the state. Both Benton County and the state have more households in the $100,000 or more household income group. The median value of owner-occupied housing can vary among counties. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is higher in Benton County than for the state. There is a lower percentage of vacant housing units in Benton County than there is for the state. Many housing units in Benton County were built prior to 1940. Benton County has a lower percentage of college graduates than does the state.

Median[4] Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total households	10,114	+/- 222	1,290,139	+/- 4,032
Less than $14,999	6.9%	+/- 1.6%	7.8%	+/- 0.4%
$15,000 to $34,999	12.5%	+/- 1.6%	15.2%	+/- 0.6%
$35,000 to $49,999	9.7%	+/- 1.2%	11.9%	+/- 0.2%
$50,000 to $99,999	33.3%	+/- 2.0%	32.2%	+/- 0.6%
$100,000 Or More	37.6%	+/- 2.2%	32.9%	+/- 0.8%
Median[4] household income	$79,444	+/- $4,092	$70,571	+/- $395
Median[4] family income	$95,589	+/- $5,495	$90,921	+/- $579
Per capita income	$37,926	+/- $1,272	$37,949	+/- $241

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total units	11,074	+/- 57	1,417,064	+/- 977
Vacant	8.7%	+/- 1.9%	9.0%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied	91.3%	+/- 1.9%	91.0%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied[a]	10,114	+/- 222	1,290,139	+/- 4,032
Owner	83.8%	+/- 2.2%	71.5%	+/- 0.3%
Renter	16.2%	+/- 2.2%	28.5%	+/- 0.3%
Median[4] rent[b]	$766	+/- $73	$914	+/- $6
Median value[c]	$189,000	+/- $8,699	$181,600	+/- $1,035

[a]Occupied Units. [b]Median gross rent of renter-occupied units [c]Median value of owner-occupied units.

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	17,867	+/-59	2,131,202	+/-967
High school graduate or higher	94.4%	+/-1.2%	93.0%	+/-0.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	23.3%	+/-1.7%	30.3%	+/-0.3%

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.

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

In Benton County there is a higher percentage of workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations than any other occupation category while the production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 17.3% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the county.
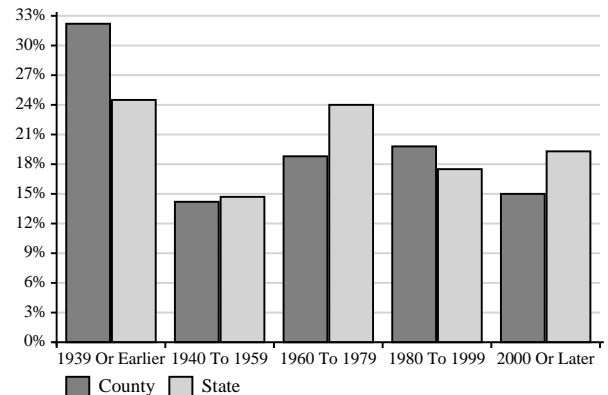
Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	13,194	+/- 329	1,627,434	+/- 5,740
Management, business, science, and arts	33.4%	+/- 1.9%	38.1%	+/- 0.3%
Service	15.0%	+/- 1.9%	15.5%	+/- 0.2%
Sales and office	19.4%	+/- 1.8%	19.7%	+/- 0.2%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	14.8%	+/- 1.7%	9.5%	+/- 0.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving	17.3%	+/- 1.9%	17.2%	+/- 0.2%

Benton County has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than the state. A portion of those who are not in the labor force are people who are retired. The percent unemployed in Benton County is lower than that for the state overall. Earnings data are provided for the population 16 and over who have earnings. Median[4] earnings in Benton County tend to be higher than the median earnings for the state. There is a lower percentage of families in Benton County below poverty level than for the state. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Employment Status, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	20,422	+/- 68	2,544,719	+/- 1,266
In labor force	66.2%	+/- 1.5%	66.6%	+/- 0.2%
Not in labor force	33.8%	+/- 1.5%	33.4%	+/- 0.2%
Civilian labor force	13,511	+/- 311	1,692,129	+/- 5,407
Unemployed	2.3%	+/- 0.7%	3.8%	+/- 0.1%

Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total population[a]	25,175	+/-138	3,088,999	+/-950
Percent below	8.3%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
White alone	8.2%	+/-1.3%	9.7%	+/-0.2%
Black/African American alone	**%	+/-**%	30.5%	+/-1.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander alone	**%	+/-**%	13.6%	+/-1.4%
American Indian alone	**%	+/-**%	27.6%	+/-4%
Hawaiian alone	**%	+/-**%	33.1%	+/-8.5%
Other race alone	**%	+/-**%	16.6%	+/-2.3%
Two or more races	**%	+/-**%	17.6%	+/-1.3%
Hispanic origin[b]	**%	+/-**%	17.4%	+/-1.1%

[a]for whom poverty status is determined, [b]Hispanics can be of any race. **MOE is high, use state 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.

Median[4] Employment Earnings, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ [a]	14,253	+/- 311	1,799,851	+/- 5,338
Median earnings	$46,432	+/- $1,632	$40,905	+/- $219
Female	$38,745	+/- $1,989	$33,724	+/- $250
Male	$54,994	+/- $2,196	$48,115	+/- $407
Female, full time[b]	$49,246	+/- $3,808	$47,128	+/- $238
Male, full time[b]	$61,834	+/- $3,691	$59,875	+/- $356

[a]with earnings. [b]year round.

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

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total population[a]	25,175	+/-138	3,088,999	+/-950
Below poverty	8.3%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
17 and under	7.2%	+/-1.9%	13%	+/-0.4%
18 - 64	7.4%	+/-1.3%	11.4%	+/-0.2%
65+	12.6%	+/-4.3%	7.7%	+/-0.2%
All families	4.3%	+/-1.2%	7%	+/-0.2%
With children	4.5%	+/-1.5%	11.5%	+/-0.4%
Married couple	2.8%	+/-1.2%	3.2%	+/-0.1%
With children	**%	+/-**%	4.1%	+/-0.3%
Female HH[b]	17.9%	+/-7.7%	25.4%	+/-1%
With children	25.8%	+/-11%	32.4%	+/-1.4%

[a]for whom poverty status is determined, [b]female householder, no spouse present, **MOE is high. Use state estimate.

This series was prepared by:

Christopher J. Seeger, Professor & Extension Specialist
Bailey Hanson, Data Analyst III & Extension Specialist
Sandra Burke, Research Scientist III & Extension Specialist
Jay Maxwell, Data Analyst I & Extension Specialist

For more information on these and other topics, please call the Extension and Outreach specialists listed on the cover page or visit the ISU Extension and Outreach Indicators website at https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/