Data for Decision Makers



Palmer, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Palmer is 138. Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 16.4%. The City of Palmer is in Pocahontas County. Pocahontas County saw a 3.2% population decrease between 2010 and 2020. Palmer's population is predominantly White.

Total Population¹

City	2000	2010	2020
Palmer	214	165	138
Male Total	114	83	71
Female Total	100	82	67
Pocahontas County Total	8,662	7,310	7,078
State of Iowa Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

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

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin¹

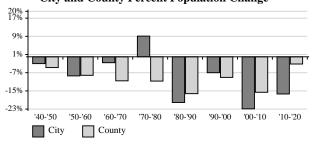
	City		Co	County	
Race Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020	
One race only	98.8%	97.8%	98.9%	95.8%	
White	95.8%	93.5%	97.5%	91.3%	
White alone, not Hispanic	95.8%	93.5%	96.3%	90.2%	
Black or African American	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	
Other	1.2%	4.3%	0.6%	2.6%	
Two or more races	1.2%	2.2%	1.1%	4.2%	
Hispanic origin ^a	1.2%	4.3%	2.3%	5.0%	

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

Neighboring Cities - Percent Population Change

	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Gilmore City	-0.7%	-9.4%	-3.4%
Manson	2.7%	-10.7%	1.1%
Pioneer	-54.3%	9.5%	-82.6%
Pocahontas	-5.5%	-9.2%	4.4%
Pomeroy	-6.8%	-6.8%	-20.5%
Palmer	-7.0%	-22.9%	-16.4%
Pocahontas County	-9.1%	15.6%	-3.2%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change¹



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The City of Palmer, compared to Pocahontas County, had a lower percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a higher percentage of older people (65 and older) in 2020. New household relationship categories were reported for 2020 that are not comparable with 2010.³

Households by Family or Nonfamily Type^{1,3}

	City		C	County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	
Total households	85	70	3,233	3,090	
Family households ^{a,b}	47.1%	74.4%	63.6%	63.1%	
Married couple family ^b	36.5%	59.3%	53.5%	51.2%	
Other family ^c	10.6%	12.9%	10.1%	11.9%	
Male householder ^c	4.7%	4.3%	3.9%	4.4%	
Female householder ^c	5.9%	8.6%	6.2%	7.5%	
Nonfamily households ^d	52.9%	25.6%	36.4%	36.9%	
Male living alone	21.2%	28.6%	15.7%	17.5%	
Female living alone	22.4%	12.9%	16.7%	15.1%	

^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present).

Housing Characteristics¹

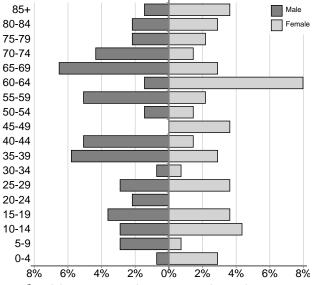
		City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	
Total Units	102	97	3,794	3,666	
Vacant	16.7%	27.8%	14.8%	15.7%	
Occupied	83.3%	72.2%	85.2%	84.3%	
Occupied Units	85	70	3,233	3,090	
Owner Occupied	82.4%	91.4%	80.1%	78.3%	
Renter Occupied	17.6%	8.6%	19.9%	21.7%	

Percentage of Population by Age¹

	City		Co	unty
Age Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	18.2%	21.7%	21.5%	22.7%
18 - 44	27.3%	25.2%	24.5%	26.9%
45 - 64	35.2%	23.1%	31.9%	26.4%
65 or older	19.4%	29.7%	22.1%	24.0%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	47.8	48.5	47.6	45.3
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	60.3	106.4	77.3	87.6
Old-Age	31.1	61.5	39.2	45.0
Child	29.2	44.9	38.1	42.6

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Palmer, Iowa Population Pyramid, 2020¹



^aEach bar represents the percentage that each age-sex group comprises of the total population.

Notes and Source Information:

- ¹U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Censuses 1940 2020
- ²U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2018-2022
- ³For the 2020 Decennial Census, households are divided into subcategories by two different methods. One method (family or nonfamily) is based on the presence or absence of family relationships among the household members and the householder. Using family relationships (birth, marriage, or adoption) has been the usual way to classify households, and the data using this method has good comparability between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, the Census Bureau introduced an additional method to divide households into subcategories. This second method (couple or noncouple) is based on the presence or absence of a couple relationship for the householder. The relationship can be as a married spouse or as an unmarried partner and can be of the opposite or same sex. The 2020 data reported for the second method (except for married couples) does not have good comparability with data from 2010. For smaller towns, the couple or noncouple data are omitted in this profile.
- ⁴Median is the middle value of a distribution.
- ⁵The age dependency ratio compares, by age, those typically not in the labor force with those who typically are in the labor force. Old Age dependency is persons 65+ per 100 persons age 18-64. Child dependency is persons under age 18 per 100 persons age 18-64. The total age dependency ratio is persons under age 18 plus persons 65 or older per 100 persons age 18-64.

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