Data for Decision Makers



Buffalo Center, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Buffalo Center is 857. Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 5.3%. The City of Buffalo Center is in Winnebago County. Winnebago County saw a 1.7% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

Winnebago County Cities - Total Population¹

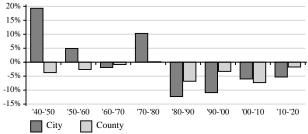
City	2000	2010	2020
Buffalo Center	963	905	857
Male Total	452	422	405
Female Total	511	483	452
Forest City [†]	4,362	4,151	4,285
Lake Mills	2,140	2,100	2,143
Leland	258	289	249
Rake	227	225	186
Scarville	97	72	74
Thompson	596	502	495
Winnebago County Total	11,723	10,866	10,679
State of Iowa Total	2,926,324	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
Lakota	-9.3%	0.0%	4.7%
Ledyard	-10.4%	-11.6%	-6.9%
Rake	-4.6%	-0.9%	-17.3%
Thompson	19.7%	-15.8%	-1.4%
Woden	-6.2%	-5.8%	-17.9%
Buffalo Center	-10.9%	-6.0%	-5.3%
Winnebago County	-3.3%	7.3%	-1.7%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%





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Demographic Profile

Buffalo Center, Iowa

Buffalo Center's population is predominantly White. The City of Buffalo Center, compared to Winnebago 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

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin¹

	C	City	Co	unty
Race Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	99.6%	95.6%	99.0%	96.1%
White	96.1%	92.5%	96.1%	90.5%
White alone, not Hispanic	92.9%	89.7%	94.3%	88.7%
Black or African American	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%	2.0%
Asian	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	0.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	2.1%	2.2%	1.1%	2.4%
Two or more races	0.4%	4.4%	1.0%	3.9%
Hispanic origin ^a	6.0%	6.2%	3.3%	5.6%

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

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

•	•	•	• •	
		City	Co	ounty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	405	359	4,597	4,512
Family households ^{a,b}	59.8%	54.5%	63.3%	60.8%
Married couple family ^b	47.4%	36.4%	51.5%	48.0%
With own children	16.8%	16.2%	17.3%	14.7%
Other family ^c	12.3%	9.2%	11.8%	12.8%
Male householder ^c	4.4%	3.6%	4.4%	4.8%
With own children	3.7%	1.7%	2.7%	2.7%
Female householder ^c	7.9%	5.6%	7.4%	8.0%
With own children	6.2%	1.1%	5.0%	4.7%
Nonfamily households ^d	40.2%	45.5%	36.7%	39.2%
Male living alone	12.8%	15.9%	14.1%	16.4%
Female living alone	24.9%	21.4%	17.5%	17.3%

Households by Couple or Non-couple Type^{1,3}

		City		ounty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	405	359	4,597	4,512
Married couple ^b	47.4%	36.4%	51.5%	48.0%
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	4.2%	NA ^e	6.1%
Male householder g	NA^e	19.8%	NA^e	21.3%
Female householder g	NA ^e	27.9%	NA ^e	24.5%

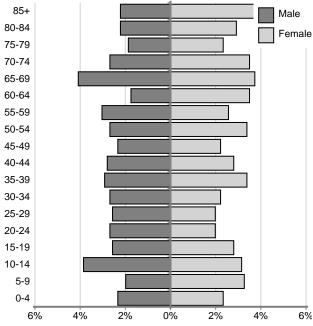
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder has an unmarried partner. ^gFor 2020 no spouse or partner present, but relatives, nonrelatives may be present or householder may be living alone.

Percentage of Population by Age¹

	(City	Co	ounty
Age Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	23.1%	20%	21.7%	20.7%
0 - 4	7%	4.7%	5.5%	5.1%
5 - 9	5.7%	5.3%	6.0%	6.0%
10 - 14	6.4%	7.0%	6.2%	6.0%
15 - 17	4%	3%	4.0%	3.6%
18 - 24	4.9%	7.1%	9.5%	10.2%
25 - 44	17.9%	21.4%	20.5%	21.6%
45 - 64	24%	21.6%	29.0%	25.1%
65 or older	30.2%	30.2%	19.3%	22.3%
65 - 84	22.6%	23.3%	15.5%	18.9%
85 or older	7.6%	6.9%	3.8%	3.5%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	48.3	47.7	43.5	42.3
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	114.1	100.2	69.4	75.6
Old-Age	64.7	60.3	32.7	39.2
Child	49.5	39.9	36.7	36.4

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Buffalo Center, Iowa Population Pyramid, 2020¹



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

Socioeconomic Profile

Buffalo Center, Iowa

The median household income in Buffalo Center is less than the median household income of Winnebago County. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is lower in Buffalo Center than for Winnebago County. There is a higher percentage of vacant housing units in Buffalo Center than there is for Winnebago County. Many housing units in Buffalo Center were built between 1960 to 1979. There is a higher percentage of individuals 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree or higher in Buffalo Center compared to Winnebago County.

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

		City		ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	484	+/- 119	4,511	+/- 137
Less than \$34,999	36.3%	+/- 4.8%	25.9%	+/- 2.9%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	13.6%	+/- 5.9%	13.4%	+/- 2.3%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	20.9%	+/- 2.9%	33.9%	+/- 2.5%
\$100,000 Or More	29.1%	+/- 4.2%	26.8%	+/- 2.4%
Median ⁴ Household Income	\$50,000	+/- \$16,591	\$62,853	+/- \$9,365
Median Family Income	\$94,583	+/- \$29,822	\$86,098	+/- \$5,162
Per Capita Income	\$39,687	+/- \$10,665	\$34,966	+/- \$2,631

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	(City	County		
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Population 25 and older	774	+/-169	7,203	+/-50	
High School Graduate or Higher	95.9%	+/-3.5%	94.5%	+/-1.1%	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	26.4%	+/-9.3%	25.9%	+/-3%	

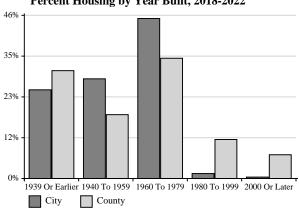
^{*}MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

		City	Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	561	+/- 122	5,089	+/- 24
Vacant	13.7%	+/- 7.4%	11.4%	+/- 2.6%
Occupied	86.3%	+/- 7.4%	88.6%	+/- 2.6%
Occupied ^a	484	+/- 119	4,511	+/- 137
Owner	74.2%	+/- 16.0%	75.4%	+/- 3.6%
Renter	25.8%	+/- 16.0%	24.6%	+/- 3.6%
Rent ^b	\$638	+/- \$48	\$669	+/- \$37
Value ^c	\$96,300	+/-\$16,595	\$121,700	+/-\$6,808

^aOccupied Units, ^bMedian gross rent of renter-occupied units, ^cMedian value of owner-occupied units

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



In Buffalo Center 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 16.6% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022²

	City		Cor	County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	391	+/- 94	5,495	+/- 220	
Management, business, science, and arts	31.5%	+/- 11.8%	32.9%	+/- 4.3%	
Service	15.3%	+/- 7.1%	13.9%	+/- 2.4%	
Sales and office	21.5%	+/- 7.3%	19.9%	+/- 2.8%	
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	**%	+/- **%	10.6%	+/- 2.0%	
Production, transportation, and material moving	16.6%	+/- 7.0%	22.7%	+/- 4.0%	

^{**}MOE is high, use county estimate.

Socioeconomic Profile

Buffalo Center, Iowa

Buffalo Center has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than Winnebago 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 Buffalo Center tend to be higher than the median earnings for Winnebago County. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022²

	(City		ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ ^a	459	+/- 126	6,000	+/- 212
Median Earnings	\$40,529	+/- \$40	\$38,712	+/- \$2,098
Female	\$**	+/- \$**	\$36,015	+/- \$2,356
Female, full time ^b	\$46,250	+/- \$3,259	\$45,720	+/- \$1,881
Male	\$43,393	+/- \$8,280	\$41,820	+/- \$3,796
Male, full time ^b	\$52,692	+/- \$12,906	\$52,442	+/- \$4,751

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

Disability Status and Health Insurance Coverage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, 2018-2022²

	(City	Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population ^a	891	+/-204	10,492	+/-22
With a disability ^b	**%	+/-**%	11.7%	+/-1.7%
With Health Insurance	95.2%	+/-3.2%	96.6%	+/-1.0%
With Private ^c Coverage	69.7%	+/-13.5%	78.0%	+/-3.3%
With Public ^d Coverage	56.2%	+/-12.2%	36.7%	+/-3.0%
No Health Insurance	**%	+/-**%	3.4%	+/-1.0%

^aCivilan Noninstitutionalized Population, ^blimitations of activities or inability for full participation, ^cprovided by employer, union, bought by individual, and some miliary plans, ^dincludes Medicare, Medicaid, VA Health Care, children's CHIP, and some state plans, **MOE is high, use county estimate.

Employment Status, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	815	+/- 172	8,726	+/- 61
in labor force	52.8% +	-/- 10.7%	64.6%	+/- 2.7%
not in labor force	47.2% +	-/- 10.7%	35.4%	+/- 2.7%
Civilian labor force	430	+/- 126	5,638	+/- 230
Unemployed	9.1% +	-/- 10.8%	2.5%	+/- 1.3%

^{**}MOE is high, use county estimate.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	891	+/-204	10,048	+/-24
Below poverty	**%	+/-**%	7.8%	+/-1.6%
17 and under	**%	+/-**%	7.5%	+/-3.4%
18 - 64	**%	+/-**%	8.2%	+/-2.0%
65+	**%	+/-**%	7.0%	+/-2.3%
All Families	**%	+/-**%	5.1%	+/-1.9%
with children	**%	+/-**%	9.4%	+/-4.3%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Female HH ^b	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%

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

Notes and Source Information:

- ¹U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Censuses 1940 2020
- ²U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2018-2022
- ³ For 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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