Data for Decision Makers



Harlan, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

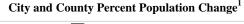
The 2020 population for Harlan is 4,893. Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 4.2%. The City of Harlan is in Shelby County. Shelby County saw a 3.5% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

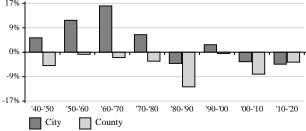
Shelby County Cities - Total Population							
City	2000	2010	2020				
Harlan	5,282	5,106	4,893				
Male Total	2,515	2,367	2,355				
Female Total	2,767	2,739	2,538				
Defiance	346	284	245				
Earling	471	437	397				
Elk Horn	649	662	601				
Irwin	372	341	319				
Kirkman	76	64	56				
Panama	212	221	235				
Portsmouth	225	195	182				
Shelby [†]	696	641	727				
Tennant	73	68	78				
Westphalia	160	127	126				
Shelby County Total	13,173	12,167	11,746				
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
Earling	1.1%	-7.2%	-9.2%
Kirkman	-22.4%	-15.8%	-12.5%
Panama	5.5%	4.2%	6.3%
Tennant	-6.4%	-6.8%	14.7%
Westphalia	11.1%	-20.6%	-0.8%
Harlan	2.6%	-3.3%	-4.2%
Shelby County	-0.4%	7.6%	-3.5%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%





Regional Director	County Office			
Terry Torneten	Terry Torneten			
906 Sixth St.	906 6th St.			
Harlan, IA 51537	Harlan, IA 51537			
ttorn@iastate.edu	ttorn@iastate.edu			
712-755-3104	712-755-3104			
https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu				

Harlan's population is predominantly White. The City of Harlan, compared to Shelby County, had a higher 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

	City		Co	unty
Race Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	99.1%	95.6%	99.3%	96.5%
White	97.0%	90.9%	97.9%	93.6%
White alone, not Hispanic	95.8%	90.0%	96.7%	92.7%
Black or African American	0.5%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%
Asian	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	0.6%	2.5%	0.6%	1.6%
Two or more races	0.9%	4.4%	0.7%	3.5%
Hispanic origin ^a	1.9%	4.6%	1.8%	3.5%

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

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

		•	• •			
		City	C	County		
	2010	2020	2010	2020		
Total households	2,222	2,143	5,085	4,981		
Family households ^{a,b}	60.4%	100.0%	66.4%	64.9%		
Married couple family ^b	47.8%	50.0%	56.0%	52.7%		
With own children	17.0%	15.2%	19.5%	17.7%		
Other family ^c	12.5%	15.1%	10.4%	12.2%		
Male householder ^c	2.8%	4.7%	3.0%	4.2%		
With own children	1.8%	2.7%	2.0%	2.4%		
Female householder ^c	9.7%	10.5%	7.4%	8.1%		
With own children	6.3%	6.0%	4.7%	4.6%		
Nonfamily households ^d	39.6%	0.0%	33.6%	35.1%		
Male living alone	12.4%	14.9%	13.2%	14.9%		
Female living alone	21.7%	20.7%	15.9%	15.5%		

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

		City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	
Total households	2,222	2,143	5,085	4,981	
Married couple ^b	47.8%	50.0%	56.0%	52.7%	
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	5.9%	NA^e	5.6%	
Male householder g	NA ^e	19.6%	NA^e	18.9%	
Female householder g	NA ^e	30.1%	NA ^e	22.8%	

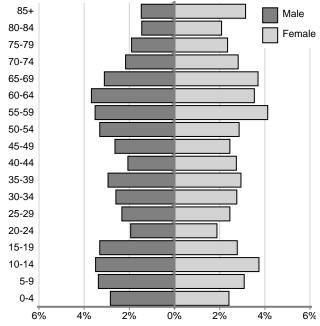
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder 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		ounty
Age Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	23.8%	23.1%	23.6%	22.5%
0 - 4	6.1%	5.3%	5.6%	5.2%
5 - 9	6.3%	6.5%	6.4%	6.1%
10 - 14	7.3%	7.2%	7.0%	7.0%
15 - 17	4.1%	4.1%	4.6%	4.2%
18 - 24	6.1%	5.8%	5.8%	6.1%
25 - 44	21.4%	20.9%	20.0%	19.8%
45 - 64	27%	26.1%	29.8%	28.2%
65 or older	21.8%	24.2%	20.9%	23.4%
65 - 84	16.6%	19.6%	16.7%	19.3%
85 or older	5.2%	4.6%	4.2%	4.1%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	43.8	45.3	45.4	46.4
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	83.7	89.6	80.0	84.8
Old-Age	40.0	45.8	37.6	43.3
Child	43.7	43.8	42.4	41.6

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Harlan, Iowa Population Pyramid, a 20201



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

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

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

		City		ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	2,214	+/- 139	4,933	+/- 151
Less than \$34,999	29.7%	+/- 3.7%	22.8%	+/- 2.6%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	14.3%	+/- 5.5%	13.3%	+/- 2.7%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	28.3%	+/- 3.1%	30.6%	+/- 2.4%
\$100,000 Or More	27.7%	+/- 3.3%	33.3%	+/- 2.8%
Median ⁴ Household Income	\$55,893	+/- \$14,074	\$70,295	+/- \$10,749
Median Family Income	\$82,428	+/- \$20,125	\$90,041	+/- \$8,519
Per Capita Income	\$39,545	+/- \$5,350	\$38,664	+/- \$3,119

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	(City	County		
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Population 25 and older	3,630	+/-140	8,325	+/-69	
High School Graduate or Higher	91.4%	+/-3.0%	94.2%	+/-1.4%	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	20.1%	+/-4.7%	22.8%	+/-2.8%	

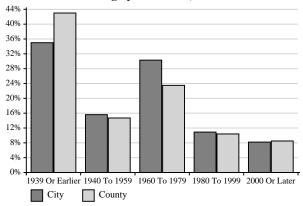
^{*}MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

		City	C	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	2,473	+/- 143	5,422	+/- 50
Vacant	10.5%	+/- 4.3%	9.0%	+/- 2.5%
Occupied	89.5%	+/- 4.3%	91.0%	+/- 2.5%
Occupied ^a	2,214	+/- 139	4,933	+/- 151
Owner	70.1%	+/- 7.7%	76.0%	+/- 3.9%
Renter	29.9%	+/- 7.7%	24.0%	+/- 3.9%
Rent ^b	\$1034	+/- \$205	\$879	+/- \$172
Value ^c	\$138,100	+/-\$14,272	\$152,900	+/-\$10,949

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

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



In Harlan 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 25.8% 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	2,365	+/- 227	5,964	+/- 285
Management, business, science, and arts	34.7%	+/- 6.7%	38.8%	+/- 3.5%
Service	12.7%	+/- 5.4%	10.8%	+/- 2.5%
Sales and office	22.2%	+/- 5.7%	20.6%	+/- 3.0%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	**%	+/- **%	10.2%	+/- 2.1%
Production, transportation, and material moving	25.8%	+/- 6.2%	19.6%	+/- 2.8%

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

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

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ ^a	2,789	+/- 165	6,654	+/- 226
Median Earnings	\$35,121	+/- \$35	\$40,707	+/- \$2,538
Female	\$29,034	+/- \$2,717	\$31,158	+/- \$2,711
Female, full time ^b	\$40,297	+/- \$3,986	\$43,310	+/- \$2,705
Male	\$50,219	+/- \$11,819	\$50,850	+/- \$2,595
Male, full time ^b	\$58,344	+/- \$9,325	\$56,922	+/- \$2,726

^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		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population ^a	4,797	+/-23	11,526	+/-13
With a disability ^b	13.0%	+/-3.5%	10.1%	+/-1.7%
With Health Insurance	95.0%	+/-3.0%	95.6%	+/-1.4%
With Private ^c Coverage	64.9%	+/-7.7%	70.5%	+/-3.7%
With Public ^d Coverage	48.9%	+/-6.0%	41.1%	+/-2.7%
No Health Insurance	**%	+/-**%	4.4%	+/-1.4%

^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+	4,168	+/- 145	9,497	+/- 76
in labor force	58.8%	+/- 5.8%	64.4%	+/- 2.9%
not in labor force	41.2%	+/- 5.8%	35.6%	+/- 2.9%
Civilian labor force	2,449	+/- 234	6,114	+/- 288
Unemployed	3.4%	+/- 2.9%	2.5%	+/- 1.2%

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

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	4,789	+/-28	11,507	+/-23
Below poverty	10.9%	+/-5.2%	8.8%	+/-2.4%
17 and under	**%	+/-**%	5.6%	+/-2.7%
18 - 64	**%	+/-**%	8.6%	+/-3.1%
65+	**%	+/-**%	12.5%	+/-5.4%
All Families	**%	+/-**%	9.1%	+/-3.7%
with children	**%	+/-**%	8.4%	+/-3.8%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Female HH ^b	**%	+/-**%	35.2%	+/-15.2%
with children	**%	+/-**%	48.5%	+/-20.5%

^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
- 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.

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

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^{*}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.