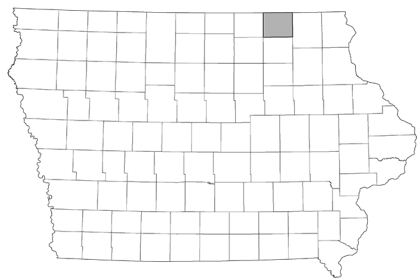# Data for Decision Makers

Cresco, Iowa
City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Cresco is 3,888. Between 2010 and 2020 the population increased by 0.5%. The City of Cresco is in Howard County. Howard County saw a 1.0% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.
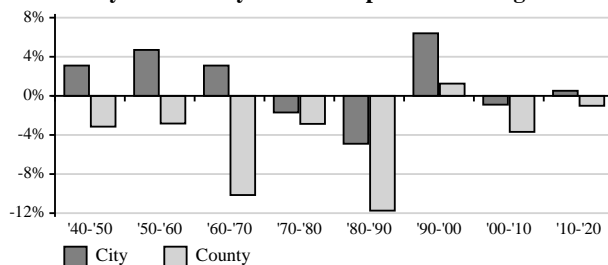
Howard County Cities - Total Population[1]

City	2000	2010	2020
Cresco	**3,905**	**3,868**	**3,888**
Male Total	1,834	1,857	1,914
Female Total	2,071	2,011	1,974
Chester	151	127	139
Elma	598	546	505
Lime Springs	496	505	473
Protivin[†]	317	283	269
Riceville[†]	840	785	806
Howard County Total	9,932	9,566	9,469
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
Chester	-4.4%	-15.9%	9.4%
Lime Springs	13.2%	1.8%	-6.3%
Protivin	3.9%	-10.7%	-4.9%
Ridgeway	-0.7%	7.5%	-12.7%
Spillville	-0.3%	-4.9%	4.9%
Cresco	6.4%	-0.9%	0.5%
Howard County	1.3%	3.7%	-1.0%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change[1]

Regional Director
Bruce Arendt
2316 Sweet Parkway Rd.
Decorah, IA 52101
bparendt@iastate.edu
563-382-2949

County Office
Susan Barnes
132 1st Ave. W
Cresco, IA 52136
skbarnes@iastate.edu
563-547-3001

https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu

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Cresco's population is predominantly White. The City of Cresco, compared to Howard 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	98.9%	96.3%	99.2%	96.7%
White	97.3%	93.3%	98.1%	94.4%
White alone, not Hispanic	96.5%	92.6%	97.4%	93.9%
Black or African American	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%
Asian	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.5%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Other	0.7%	1.2%	0.4%	1.2%
Two or more races	1.1%	3.7%	0.8%	3.3%
Hispanic origin[a]	1.6%	2.8%	1.2%	2.7%

[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	1,660	1,699	3,944	3,945
Family households[a,b]	58.0%	63.3%	64.6%	62.2%
Married couple family[b]	45.1%	37.9%	53.3%	50.7%
With own children	18.5%	17.1%	20.3%	18.6%
Other family[c]	12.8%	13.7%	11.3%	11.5%
Male householder[c]	3.9%	5.5%	4.4%	5.5%
With own children	2.8%	3.3%	2.7%	3.5%
Female householder[c]	9.0%	8.2%	6.9%	6.1%
With own children	6.6%	4.9%	4.8%	3.5%
Nonfamily households[d]	42.0%	36.7%	35.4%	37.8%
Male living alone	14.2%	16.4%	14.1%	16.9%
Female living alone	22.1%	21.2%	16.2%	16.1%

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

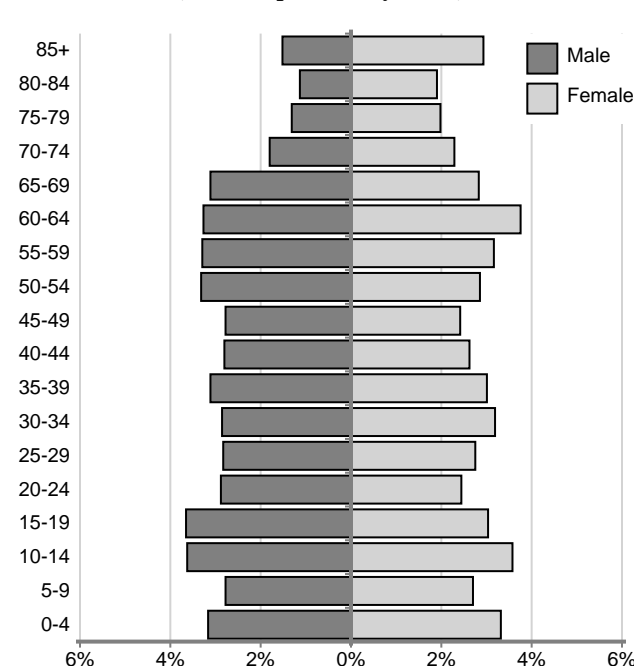|	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
Total households	1,660	1,699	3,944	3,945
Married couple[b]	45.1%	37.9%	53.3%	50.7%
Cohabiting couple[b,f]	NA[e]	7.2%	NA[e]	6.8%
Male householder[g]	NA[e]	20.7%	NA[e]	21.1%
Female householder[g]	NA[e]	28.8%	NA[e]	21.4%

[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	25.1%	23.9%	25.2%	25.1%
0 - 4	7.2%	6.5%	7.2%	6.7%
5 - 9	6.3%	5.5%	6.8%	6.7%
10 - 14	7.2%	7.2%	6.7%	7.4%
15 - 17	4.4%	4.7%	4.5%	4.3%
18 - 24	7.3%	7.3%	6.5%	6.4%
25 - 44	24.3%	23.1%	21.7%	22.4%
45 - 64	23.6%	24.9%	27.3%	25%
65 or older	19.7%	20.8%	19.3%	21.3%
65 - 84	15.1%	16.3%	15.5%	17.7%
85 or older	4.6%	4.4%	3.8%	3.5%
Median[4] Age (years)	39.8	41.1	42.1	41.7
Age Dependency[a,5]	81.2	80.8	80.2	86.2
Old-Age	35.7	37.6	34.8	39.6
Child	45.5	43.2	45.4	46.7

[a]*Age Dependency Ratio*

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

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

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	1,495	+/- 155	3,636	+/- 183
Less than $34,999	23.1%	+/- 3.8%	23.2%	+/- 2.8%
$35,000 To $49,999	14.8%	+/- 6.4%	13.8%	+/- 3.3%
$50,000 To $99,999	38.7%	+/- 3.4%	36.4%	+/- 2.5%
$100,000 Or More	23.4%	+/- 3.3%	26.5%	+/- 2.6%
Median[4] Household Income	$60,135	+/- $5,897	$63,947	+/- $6,909
Median Family Income	$75,455	+/- $12,919	$81,250	+/- $6,353
Per Capita Income	$27,407	+/- $2,611	$32,033	+/- $3,035

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	1,841	+/- 159	4,307	+/- 48
Vacant	18.8%	+/- 6.4%	15.6%	+/- 3.9%
Occupied	81.2%	+/- 6.4%	84.4%	+/- 3.9%
Occupied[a]	1,495	+/- 155	3,636	+/- 183
Owner	67.7%	+/- 8.0%	76.2%	+/- 3.9%
Renter	32.3%	+/- 8.0%	23.8%	+/- 3.9%
Rent[b]	$798	+/- $152	$708	+/- $122
Value[c]	$102,300	+/-$12,212	$125,100	+/-$10,204

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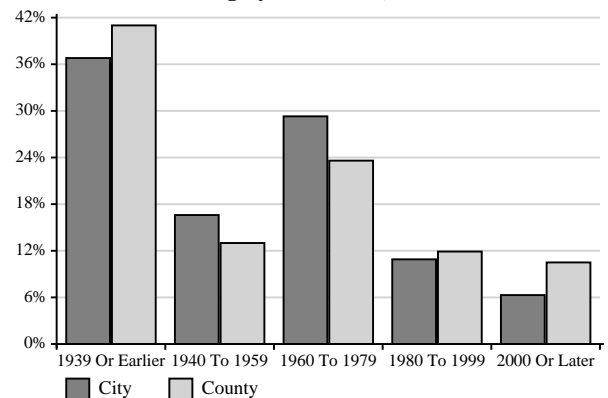
Educational Attainment, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	2,679	+/-145	6,381	+/-47
High School Graduate or Higher	95.0%	+/-2.9%	92%	+/-1.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	20.8%	+/-5.9%	19.2%	+/-3.2%

*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 Cresco there is a higher percentage of workers in production, transportation, and material moving occupations than any other occupation category. The production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 28.2% 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	2,010	+/- 150	4,722	+/- 182
Management, business, science, and arts	21.8%	+/- 5.3%	27.5%	+/- 3.7%
Service	11.5%	+/- 4.4%	11.2%	+/- 2.4%
Sales and office	26.2%	+/- 5.8%	20.0%	+/- 3.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	12.3%	+/- 4.2%	16.7%	+/- 3.1%
Production, transportation, and material moving	28.2%	+/- 6.7%	24.6%	+/- 3.9%

Cresco has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than Howard 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 Cresco tend to be higher than the median earnings for Howard 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]	2,099	+/- 153	4,995	+/- 182
Median Earnings	$36,036	+/- $36	$36,635	+/- $1,594
Female	$31,250	+/- $6,478	$32,926	+/- $2,577
Female, full time[b]	$45,201	+/- $4,780	$40,388	+/- $3,803
Male	$40,345	+/- $4,597	$40,927	+/- $1,860
Male, full time[b]	$46,771	+/- $12,180	$50,735	+/- $3,215

[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+	3,081	+/- 127	7,327	+/- 49
in labor force	65.2%	+/- 5.0%	65.4%	+/- 2.6%
not in labor force	34.8%	+/- 5.0%	34.6%	+/- 2.6%
Civilian labor force	2,010	+/- 150	4,792	+/- 189
Unemployed	0.0%	+/- 1.2%	1.5%	+/- 0.9%

**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]	3,792	+/-21	9,293	+/-8
With a disability[b]	11.0%	+/-3.1%	10.4%	+/-1.6%
With Health Insurance	97.0%	+/-2.1%	90.2%	+/-2.8%
With Private[c] Coverage	70.6%	+/-7.0%	69.0%	+/-4.3%
With Public[d] Coverage	38.6%	+/-5.9%	38.2%	+/-3.1%
No Health Insurance	**%	+/-**%	9.8%	+/-2.8%

[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]	3,792	+/-21	9,276	+/-20
Below poverty	**%	+/-**%	8.7%	+/-3%
17 and under	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
18 - 64	**%	+/-**%	9.1%	+/-3.3%
65+	**%	+/-**%	5.9%	+/-2.8%
All Families	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Female HH[b]	**%	+/-**%	34.0%	+/-16.8%
with children	**%	+/-**%	40.5%	+/-19.3%

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

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