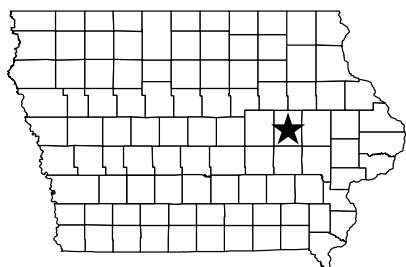


Older Iowans Data for Decision Makers



Benton County

Population Profile

Benton County is a non-metropolitan county in southeast Iowa. The total population in the county increased 12.8 percent from 1990 to 2000. At the same time, the population 55 years or older increased 5.2 percent. Statewide, total population increased 5.4 percent and the population over the age of 54 increased 2.6 percent during that period. Females consistently outnumbered males in the older age groups.

1. Population 55 years or older

	Benton County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Total population	23,649	22,429	25,308	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324
Percent 55 or older	24.5	25.9	24.2	22.9	24.3	23.7
Population 55 or older	5,797	5,808	6,112	666,509	675,794	693,625
55 to 59	1,187	1,044	1,219	145,854	122,335	139,052
60 to 64	1,155	1,041	991	133,071	127,353	118,360
65 to 69	1,130	1,029	997	117,905	122,454	107,373
70 to 74	849	951	889	96,949	104,507	104,562
75 to 79	640	803	796	75,104	84,486	91,505
80 to 84	446	507	615	52,686	59,404	67,655
85 or older	390	433	605	44,940	55,255	65,118

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1.

2. Population 55 years or older by sex, Benton County

	1990					2000				
	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
		n	%	n	%		n	%	n	%
Population 55 or older	5,808	2,546	43.8	3,262	56.2	6,112	2,723	44.6	3,389	55.4
55 to 59	1,044	521	9.0	523	9.0	1,219	592	9.7	627	10.3
60 to 64	1,041	476	8.2	565	9.7	991	492	8.0	499	8.2
65 to 69	1,029	477	8.2	552	9.5	997	473	7.7	524	8.6
70 to 74	951	429	7.4	522	9.0	889	405	6.6	484	7.9
75 to 79	803	337	5.8	466	8.0	796	331	5.4	465	7.6
80 to 84	507	177	3.0	330	5.7	615	251	4.1	364	6.0
85 or older	433	129	2.2	304	5.2	605	179	2.9	426	7.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1.

For more information contact ...

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Living Arrangement Profile

The majority of older persons in Benton County lived in family households in 2000, which means they lived with at least one other person related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Among the 1,196 older persons living in nonfamily households in Benton County, 95.7 percent were persons living alone, the majority of which were female. Relatively few older residents lived in group quarter settings (e.g., nursing homes).

3. Living arrangements of persons 65 years or older, 2000

	Benton County		State
	n	%	%
Total persons 65 years or older	3,902	100.0	100.0
Living in family households	2,450	62.8	60.1
Living in nonfamily households	1,196	30.7	31.5
Males living alone	248	---	---
Females living alone	897	---	---
Living in group quarters	256	6.6	8.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 1.

Education and Employment Profile

Among residents in Benton County age 65 or older in 2000, 70.1 percent had at least a high school diploma and 5.7 percent had graduated college. Statewide, the percentages were 70.6 and 11.5, respectively.

4. Educational attainment of persons 65 years or older, 2000

	Benton County		State
	n	%	%
Total persons 65 years or older	3,901	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	1,165	29.9	29.4
High school graduate	2,083	53.4	42.0
Less than 4 years college	431	11.0	17.1
4 or more years college	222	5.7	11.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

Two statistics are important when considering employment among older lowans; labor force participation and employment. Although the number of older lowans participating in the labor force declined steadily with age in 2000, the proportion of labor force participants employed remained quite high.

5. Labor force participation and employment for persons 65 years or older, 2000

	Population 65 Years or Older			In the Civilian Labor Force			Number Employed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Benton County									
Total persons 65 years or older	3,901	1,634	2,267	527	307	220	515	299	216
Persons 65 to 69	944	485	459	284	158	126	272	150	122
Persons 70 to 74	946	389	557	146	78	68	146	78	68
Persons 75 or older	2,011	760	1,251	97	71	26	97	71	26

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

Income and Poverty Profile

Median household income among householders 65 to 74 years of age in Benton County was \$31,571 in 1999, compared to the \$22,586 median of householders 75 years or age or older. Statewide these medians were \$29,804 and \$21,230, respectively. In most cases median income in nonfamily households were lower.

6. Median household income (\$) by age of householder, 1999

	Benton County	State
Median household income (\$)	42,427	39,469
Householder 65 to 74 years (\$)	31,571	29,804
Householder 75 or older (\$)	22,586	21,230
Median nonfamily household income (\$)	22,855	22,454
Male householder 65 years or older living alone (\$)	22,986	18,759
Female householder 65 years or older living alone (\$)	14,753	15,101

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

In 2000, 7 percent of the persons 65 or older in Benton County lived below the poverty line compared to 7.7 percent statewide. Poverty rates tended to be higher among older females than among older males both in the county and across the state. NOTE: poverty rates are not determined for nursing home residents.

7. Poverty status for persons 65 years or older, 1999

	Total		Male			Female			
	Benton County	State	Benton County	State		Benton County	State		
	n	% of age group	n	% of age group	% of age group	n	% of age group	% of age group	
Total persons 65 years or older in poverty	257	7.0	7.7	84	5.3	5.1	173	8.3	9.6
Persons 65 to 74	109	5.8	5.6	58	6.7	4.4	51	5.1	6.6
Persons 75 or older	148	8.2	10.0	26	3.6	6.2	122	11.3	12.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

Housing Profile

Among the 9,746 occupied housing units in Benton County, 26.5 percent were headed by a person 55 years of age or older. Statewide that percentage was 24.5. The vast majority of these householders owned their homes rather than rented—both in the county and across the state.

8. Tenure of occupied housing units with householders 65 years or older, 2000

	Total Occupied Units		Owner-Occupied			Renter-Occupied		
	Benton County		Benton County	State		Benton County	State	
	n	%	n	%	%	n	%	%
Total householders 65 years or older	2,579	100.0	2,198	85.2	80.0	381	14.8	20.0
Householder 65 to 74 years	1,080	100.0	948	87.8	85.2	132	12.2	14.8
Householder 75 to 84 years	1,065	100.0	953	89.5	78.4	112	10.5	21.6
Householder 85 years or older	434	100.0	297	68.4	66.0	137	31.6	34.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

Housing Profile (continued)

Older populations tend to be less likely to change residence than younger persons; therefore they are likely to have lived in their current housing unit for longer periods of time and those housing units tend to be older units. This is especially true for older homeowners. It should be noted that "assisted living" quarters are included in the renter-occupied numbers.

9. Age of housing units with householders 65 years or older, 2000

	Total		Owner-Occupied			Renter-Occupied		
	Benton County		Benton County		State	Benton County		State
	n	%	n	%	%	n	%	%
Total householders 65 years or older	2,579	100.0	2,198	100.0	100.0	381	100.0	100.0
Housing units 10 or fewer years old	204	7.9	174	7.9	6.6	30	7.9	13.6
Housing units 40 or more years old	1,471	57.0	1,337	60.8	59.9	134	35.2	34.8
Moved into unit since 1990	775	30.1	507	23.1	21.9	268	70.3	67.8
Moved into unit 1969 or earlier	973	37.7	954	43.4	43.7	19	5.0	7.7
Householders 65 to 74 years old	1,080	100.0	948	100.0	100.0	132	100.0	100.0
Housing units 10 or fewer years old	92	8.5	81	8.5	7.9	11	8.3	12.0
Housing units 40 or more years old	636	58.9	580	61.2	56.6	56	42.4	41.5
Moved into unit since 1990	384	35.6	280	29.5	25.7	104	78.8	72.3
Moved into unit 1969 or earlier	353	32.7	349	36.8	39.0	4	3.0	7.3
Householders 75 years or older	1,499	100.0	1,250	100.0	100.0	249	100.0	100.0
Housing units 10 or fewer years old	112	7.5	93	7.4	5.3	19	7.6	14.5
Housing units 40 or more years old	835	55.7	757	60.6	63.4	78	31.3	31.2
Moved into unit since 1990	391	26.1	227	18.2	17.9	164	65.9	65.3
Moved into unit 1969 or earlier	620	41.4	605	48.4	48.6	15	6.0	7.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary File 3.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census

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