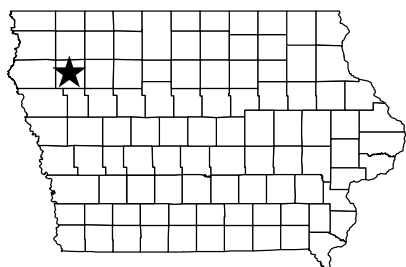


Older Iowans Data for Decision Makers



Cherokee County

Population Profile

Cherokee County is a non-metropolitan county in northwest Iowa. The total population in the county decreased 7.5 percent from 1990 to 2000. At the same time, the population 55 years or older decreased 5.4 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

	Cherokee County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Total population	16,238	14,098	13,035	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324
Percent 55 or older	26.5	29.6	30.3	22.9	24.3	23.7
Population 55 or older	4,306	4,178	3,954	666,509	675,794	693,625
55 to 59	903	767	691	145,854	122,335	139,052
60 to 64	865	800	609	133,071	127,353	118,360
65 to 69	722	727	663	117,905	122,454	107,373
70 to 74	643	630	647	96,949	104,507	104,562
75 to 79	502	527	544	75,104	84,486	91,505
80 to 84	338	381	415	52,686	59,404	67,655
85 or older	333	346	385	44,940	55,255	65,118

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

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

	1990					2000				
	Total	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female	
		n	%	n	%		n	%	n	%
Population 55 or older	4,178	1,831	43.8	2,347	56.2	3,954	1,722	43.6	2,232	56.4
55 to 59	767	364	8.7	403	9.6	691	345	8.7	346	8.8
60 to 64	800	412	9.9	388	9.3	609	281	7.1	328	8.3
65 to 69	727	354	8.5	373	8.9	663	303	7.7	360	9.1
70 to 74	630	264	6.3	366	8.8	647	299	7.6	348	8.8
75 to 79	527	200	4.8	327	7.8	544	240	6.1	304	7.7
80 to 84	381	142	3.4	239	5.7	415	159	4.0	256	6.5
85 or older	346	95	2.3	251	6.0	385	95	2.4	290	7.3

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 Cherokee 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 839 older persons living in nonfamily households in Cherokee County, 98 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

	Cherokee County		State
	n	%	%
Total persons 65 years or older	2,654	100.0	100.0
Living in family households	1,571	59.2	60.1
Living in nonfamily households	839	31.6	31.5
Males living alone	194	---	---
Females living alone	628	---	---
Living in group quarters	244	9.2	8.4

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

Education and Employment Profile

Among residents in Cherokee County age 65 or older in 2000, 78.1 percent had at least a high school diploma and 9.8 percent had graduated college. Statewide, the percentages were 70.6 and 11.5, respectively.

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

	Cherokee County		State
	n	%	%
Total persons 65 years or older	2,647	100.0	100.0
Less than high school	579	21.9	29.4
High school graduate	1,375	51.9	42.0
Less than 4 years college	433	16.4	17.1
4 or more years college	260	9.8	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
Cherokee County									
Total persons 65 years or older	2,647	1,089	1,558	384	220	164	377	219	158
Persons 65 to 69	696	322	374	223	131	92	221	131	90
Persons 70 to 74	613	276	337	96	61	35	95	60	35
Persons 75 or older	1,338	491	847	65	28	37	61	28	33

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 Cherokee County was \$25,431 in 1999, compared to the \$21,784 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

	Cherokee County	State
Median household income (\$)	35,142	39,469
Householder 65 to 74 years (\$)	25,431	29,804
Householder 75 or older (\$)	21,784	21,230
Median nonfamily household income (\$)	20,131	22,454
Male householder 65 years or older living alone (\$)	19,318	18,759
Female householder 65 years or older living alone (\$)	14,531	15,101

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

In 2000, 5.7 percent of the persons 65 or older in Cherokee 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			
	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee 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	136	5.7	7.7	45	4.3	5.1	91	6.7	9.6
Persons 65 to 74	64	4.9	5.6	36	6.0	4.4	28	4.0	6.6
Persons 75 or older	72	6.5	10.0	9	2.0	6.2	63	9.5	12.3

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

Housing Profile

Among the 5,378 occupied housing units in Cherokee County, 31.7 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		
	Cherokee County		Cherokee County	State		Cherokee County	State	
	n	%	n	%	%	n	%	%
Total householders 65 years or older	1,704	100.0	1,419	83.3	80.0	285	16.7	20.0
Householder 65 to 74 years	807	100.0	703	87.1	85.2	104	12.9	14.8
Householder 75 to 84 years	679	100.0	536	78.9	78.4	143	21.1	21.6
Householder 85 years or older	218	100.0	180	82.6	66.0	38	17.4	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		
	Cherokee County		Cherokee County		State	Cherokee County		State
	n	%	n	%	%	n	%	%
Total householders 65 years or older	1,704	100.0	1,419	100.0	100.0	285	100.0	100.0
Housing units 10 or fewer years old	84	4.9	41	2.9	6.6	43	15.1	13.6
Housing units 40 or more years old	1,000	58.7	879	61.9	59.9	121	42.5	34.8
Moved into unit since 1990	450	26.4	250	17.6	21.9	200	70.2	67.8
Moved into unit 1969 or earlier	615	36.1	585	41.2	43.7	30	10.5	7.7
Householders 65 to 74 years old	807	100.0	703	100.0	100.0	104	100.0	100.0
Housing units 10 or fewer years old	37	4.6	17	2.4	7.9	20	19.2	12.0
Housing units 40 or more years old	455	56.4	420	59.7	56.6	35	33.7	41.5
Moved into unit since 1990	207	25.7	131	18.6	25.7	76	73.1	72.3
Moved into unit 1969 or earlier	290	35.9	285	40.5	39.0	5	4.8	7.3
Householders 75 years or older	897	100.0	716	100.0	100.0	181	100.0	100.0
Housing units 10 or fewer years old	47	5.2	24	3.4	5.3	23	12.7	14.5
Housing units 40 or more years old	545	60.8	459	64.1	63.4	86	47.5	31.2
Moved into unit since 1990	243	27.1	119	16.6	17.9	124	68.5	65.3
Moved into unit 1969 or earlier	325	36.2	300	41.9	48.6	25	13.8	7.9

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

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Information in the county profile was derived from data acquired from:

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