

Population by Age and Sex:  
1970, 2010, and 2030



Sandra Charvat Burke

rev: January, 2012

Figure 1: Age Group by Sex, Iowa, 1970

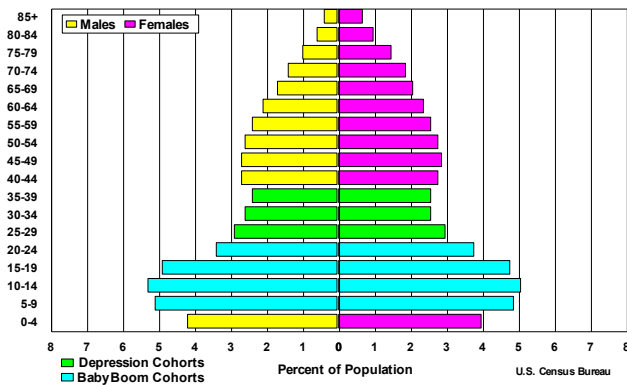


Figure 2: Age Group by Sex, Iowa, 2010

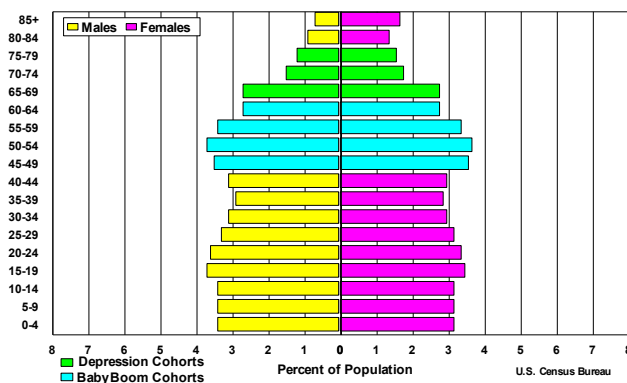
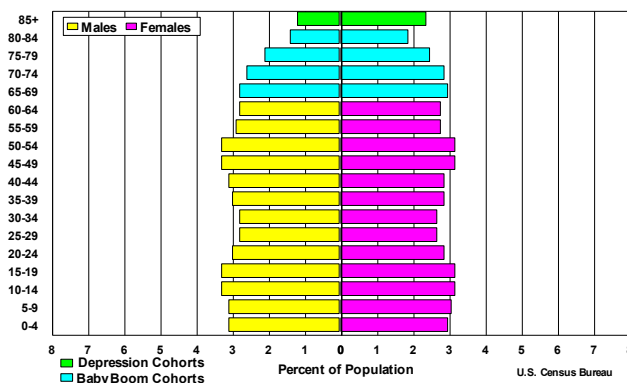


Figure 3: Age Group by Sex, Iowa, 2030, Projected



A population “pyramid” is a way to visually show the important population characteristics of age and sex. Each bar represents a five-year age group (top bar is 85 and older) with females on the right and males on the left. The length of the bars corresponds to the percentage of the total population included in each age/sex group. The bars for males and females tend to be similar in length with the exception of the older ages. Because women have a longer life expectancy than men, more women survive into the oldest ages (Figures 1 - 3).

The “Baby-Boomers” are generally considered to be those who were born after World War II from 1946 to 1964, nearly a 20 year span, and were some of the largest birth cohorts in U.S. history. The blue bars (Figure 1) show the impact of this group on Iowa’s age structure in 1970. In that year, the Boomer groups ranged in age from 5 to 24 years old and were significantly larger than any other five-year age group in the state. The Boomers contrast with the birth cohorts that immediately preceded them. Those born between 1930 and 1945, the Great Depression and World War II, were some of the smallest birth groups. They were age 25 to 39 in 1970 (green bars).

The population pyramid for 2010 (Figure 2, Table 1) shows the Boomer cohorts as they have aged, being 45 to 64 years old. Although not as heavily dominant as they once were, the Boomer groups are still a significant portion of Iowa’s population. The first Boomers began turning age 65 at the beginning of 2011 and as each year passes more of them will be leaving the work force, applying for social security benefits, and coping with deteriorating health.

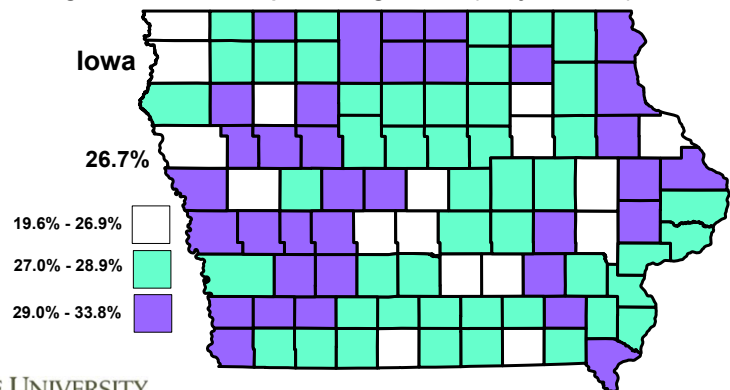
The future population of Iowa is projected to be structured with relatively even, similarly sized age groups in a rectangular pattern rather than a pyramid shape (Figure 3). By 2030, the Boomers will all have passed age 65 with the oldest approaching age 84 and they will still be a significant portion of Iowa’s population. Because they started as a very large birth cohort and have had the benefit of general increases in life expectancy during their lifetime, in old age they will be a larger percentage of the state’s population than those same age groups were in previous decades.

In 2010, Iowa’s counties varied in the number and proportion of various age groups (Table 1, Figure 4). For all but seven of Iowa’s 99 counties, the Boomer cohort (age 45 - 64) out-numbered both those age 17 or younger as well as those age 65 or older. In 35 counties, the Boomer group was 29 percent or more of the population. Thus, in most of Iowa, the Boomer cohort will continue as an important population component.

Table 1. Population by Selected Age Groups in Iowa's Counties, 2010.

County	Total		Age 17 or Younger		Age 45 - 64 Baby-Boom		Age 65 or Older		County	Total		Age 17 or Younger		Age 45 - 64 Baby-Boom		Age 65 or Older	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Adair	7682		1725	22.5	2234	29.1	1644	21.4	Lyon	11581		3205	27.7	3009	26.0	1948	16.8
Adams	4029		849	21.1	1253	31.1	860	21.3	Madison	15679		4268	27.2	4356	27.8	2321	14.8
Allamakee	14330		3310	23.1	4194	29.3	2803	19.6	Mahaska	22381		5441	24.3	5985	26.7	3598	16.1
Appanoose	12887		2894	22.5	3730	28.9	2592	20.1	Marion	33309		8362	25.1	8838	26.5	5192	15.6
Audubon	6119		1339	21.9	1817	29.7	1419	23.2	Marshall	40648		10304	25.3	11066	27.2	6677	16.4
Benton	26076		6646	25.5	7445	28.6	4015	15.4	Mills	15059		3819	25.4	4772	31.7	2023	13.4
Black Hawk	131090		28496	21.7	32568	24.8	18131	13.8	Mitchell	10776		2664	24.7	2926	27.2	2342	21.7
Boone	26306		6279	23.9	7633	29.0	4194	15.9	Monona	9243		2048	22.2	2729	29.5	2190	23.7
Bremer	24276		5513	22.7	6296	25.9	4192	17.3	Monroe	7970		1925	24.2	2211	27.7	1482	18.6
Buchanan	20958		5676	27.1	5745	27.4	3205	15.3	Montgomery	10740		2511	23.4	3179	29.6	2141	19.9
Buena Vista	20260		5056	25.0	5338	26.3	3055	15.1	Muscatine	42745		11164	26.1	11716	27.4	5843	13.7
Butler	14867		3503	23.6	4259	28.6	2944	19.8	O'Brien	14398		3393	23.6	4051	28.1	2937	20.4
Calhoun	9670		2052	21.2	2872	29.7	2292	23.7	Osceola	6462		1490	23.1	1854	28.7	1276	19.7
Carroll	20816		5176	24.9	5819	28.0	3874	18.6	Page	15932		3506	22.0	4559	28.6	3175	19.9
Cass	13956		3188	22.8	4076	29.2	2924	21.0	Palo Alto	9421		2068	22.0	2607	27.7	2009	21.3
Cedar	18499		4537	24.5	5495	29.7	3093	16.7	Plymouth	24986		6484	26.0	7149	28.6	4149	16.6
Cerro Gordo	44151		9491	21.5	13268	30.1	7919	17.9	Pocahontas	7310		1569	21.5	2330	31.9	1617	22.1
Cherokee	12072		2555	21.2	3752	31.1	2604	21.6	Polk	430640		109925	25.5	107273	24.9	46545	10.8
Chickasaw	12439		3035	24.4	3649	29.3	2376	19.1	Pottawattamie	93158		22479	24.1	25786	27.7	13333	14.3
Clarke	9286		2346	25.3	2565	27.6	1549	16.7	Poweshiek	18914		3952	20.9	5098	27.0	3488	18.4
Clay	16667		3830	23.0	4791	28.7	3066	18.4	Ringgold	5131		1243	24.2	1394	27.2	1209	23.6
Clayton	18129		4204	23.2	5571	30.7	3504	19.3	Sac	10350		2325	22.5	3101	30.0	2291	22.1
Clinton	49116		11590	23.6	14085	28.7	8267	16.8	Scott	165224		40566	24.6	45235	27.4	21605	13.1
Crawford	17096		4516	26.4	4507	26.4	2793	16.3	Shelby	12167		2866	23.6	3623	29.8	2540	20.9
Dallas	66135		19221	29.1	15513	23.5	6476	9.8	Sioux	33704		9047	26.8	7768	23.0	4808	14.3
Davis	8753		2550	29.1	2269	25.9	1493	17.1	Story	89542		15953	17.8	17574	19.6	8945	10.0
Decatur	8457		1918	22.7	2120	25.1	1533	18.1	Tama	17767		4540	25.6	4851	27.3	3274	18.4
Delaware	17764		4483	25.2	5275	29.7	2944	16.6	Taylor	6317		1476	23.4	1806	28.6	1327	21.0
Des Moines	40325		9343	23.2	11433	28.4	7096	17.6	Union	12534		2936	23.4	3461	27.6	2267	18.1
Dickinson	16667		3227	19.4	5295	31.8	3712	22.3	Van Buren	7570		1822	24.1	2128	28.1	1498	19.8
Dubuque	93653		22252	23.8	25120	26.8	14355	15.3	Wapello	35625		8119	22.8	9733	27.3	5856	16.4
Emmet	10302		2370	23.0	2801	27.2	1939	18.8	Warren	46225		12018	26.0	12576	27.2	6159	13.3
Fayette	20880		4691	22.5	5901	28.3	4055	19.4	Washington	21704		5459	25.2	6119	28.2	3758	17.3
Floyd	16303		3891	23.9	4548	27.9	3263	20.0	Wayne	6403		1500	23.4	1804	28.2	1418	22.1
Franklin	10680		2547	23.8	3011	28.2	2037	19.1	Webster	38013		8419	22.1	10547	27.7	6337	16.7
Fremont	7441		1699	22.8	2277	30.6	1456	19.6	Winnebago	10866		2354	21.7	3155	29.0	2093	19.3
Greene	9336		2156	23.1	2798	30.0	1951	20.9	Winneshiek	21056		4297	20.4	5677	27.0	3547	16.8
Grundy	12453		2965	23.8	3586	28.8	2342	18.8	Woodbury	102172		27214	26.6	25675	25.1	13125	12.8
Guthrie	10954		2621	23.9	3269	29.8	2178	19.9	Worth	7598		1757	23.1	2302	30.3	1390	18.3
Hamilton	15673		3769	24.0	4493	28.7	2835	18.1	Wright	13229		3086	23.3	3756	28.4	2769	20.9
Hancock	11341		2658	23.4	3481	30.7	2166	19.1	State of Iowa	3046355		727993	23.9	812476	26.7	452888	14.9
Hardin	17534		4048	23.1	4834	27.6	3675	21.0	Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census 2010								
Harrison	14928		3595	24.1	4421	29.6	2659	17.8									
Henry	20145		4669	23.2	5579	27.7	3228	16.0									
Howard	9566		2412	25.2	2608	27.3	1847	19.3									
Humboldt	9815		2258	23.0	2805	28.6	2021	20.6									
Ida	7089		1698	24.0	2057	29.0	1465	20.7									
Iowa	16355		4017	24.6	4770	29.2	2811	17.2									
Jackson	19848		4605	23.2	5928	29.9	3693	18.6									
Jasper	36842		8417	22.8	10660	28.9	6089	16.5									
Jefferson	16843		3066	18.2	5686	33.8	2501	14.8									
Johnson	130882		25918	19.8	28173	21.5	11211	8.6									
Jones	20638		4626	22.4	6124	29.7	3556	17.2									
Keokuk	10511		2442	23.2	3081	29.3	2021	19.2									
Kossuth	15543		3555	22.9	4693	30.2	3399	21.9									
Lee	35862		7961	22.2	10750	30.0	6078	16.9									
Linn	211226		51847	24.5	54604	25.9	27488	13.0									
Louisa	11387		2943	25.8	3215	28.2	1704	15.0									
Lucas	8898		2175	24.4	2557	28.7	1794	20.2									

Figure 4. Percent of Population Age 45 - 64 (Baby-Boomers), 2010



Community Vitality Center  
 181 Heady Hall  
 Iowa State University  
 Ames, IA 50011-1070  
 515-294-9307  
 scburke@iastate.edu  
 www.cvcia.org  
 January, 2012

... and justice for all

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
 University Extension

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cathann A. Kress, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.