

Indicators Program

Census 2020: Population in Iowa's Extension Regions, 2000 - 2020

Sandra Charvat Burke

Figure 1. Decennial Census 2020, Total Population, Iowa Extension Regions

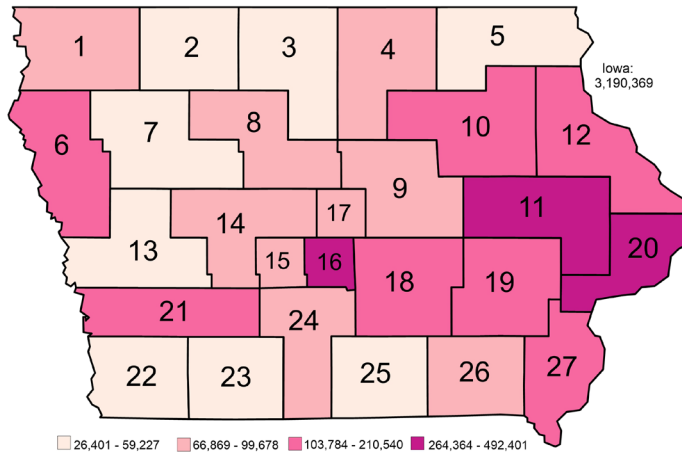


Figure 2. Decennial Numerical Population Change, Iowa Extension Regions, 2010 - 2020

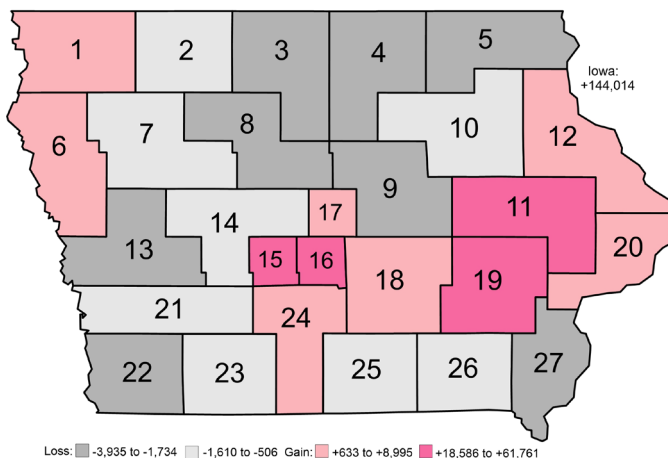
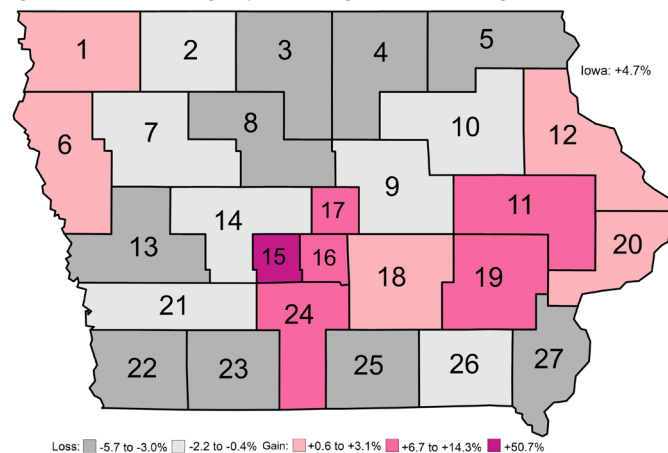


Figure 3. Decennial Percentage Population Change, Iowa Extension Regions, 2010 - 2020



Iowa recorded an increase of 144,014 residents (4.7%) between the Decennial Censuses of 2010 and 2020.¹ In 2020, there were significant population variations among the 27 ISU Extension and Outreach regions. Regions 23 (26,401) and 25 (35,025) in southern Iowa had the smallest populations. They contrast with five other regions (10, 11, 16, 19, 20) that had at least 200,000 residents each. These largest regions contain several of Iowa's metropolitan cities. Region 16, which is Polk County, was the largest with nearly 500,000 residents (Figure 1, Table 1).

Eleven of the Extension regions gained population between 2010 and 2020. Region 18 had the smallest increase (633), with six others showing gains between 2,000 and 9,000 people. Four regions (11, 15, 16, 19) grew by at least 18,000; region 16 had the biggest gain of over 61,000. These higher growth regions were predominantly located in central and eastern Iowa. These growth areas contrasted with 16 Extension regions with population declines. The losses ranged from -506 (21) to -3,935 (27). In general, these regions are relatively rural with smaller populations overall or have micropolitan communities that also recorded declines (Figure 2, Table 1).

For the 16 regions with population losses, 9 recorded at least a three percent decline. Two (22, 23) exceeded a 5% loss. Percentage population gains were modest (0.6% - 3.1%) for five regions. Another five regions (11, 16, 17, 19, 24) had more substantial percentage increases of 6.7% to 14.3%. These five all have large cities. The highest percentage gain, by far, was region 15 that was at 50.7% (Figure 3, Table 1). That region is comprised of Dallas County which, as a county, recorded the fourth highest growth rate among all the counties in the U.S.²

The pattern of population change among Iowa's Extension regions between 2010 and 2020 was very similar to the changes recorded between 2000 and 2010. Of the 27 regions, 23 changed in the same direction in both decades with 13 regions losing residents both times and 10 gaining population in both decades. For the other four regions, three (10, 21, 26) lost in 2020 but had increased in 2010 while one (6) gained in 2020 with a loss recorded in 2010.

Overall, Iowa's core metropolitan counties and those surrounding them have gained population

Census 2020: Population in Iowa's Extension Regions, 2000 - 2020

Table 1. Decennial Census Population, Number and Percentage Change, and Percentage of Iowa Population, Iowa Extension Regions, 2000 - 2020.¹

Extension Region	2020		Change 2010 - 2020		2020		2010		2000		Change 2000 - 2010		2010		2000	
	Population	Number	Percent	Percent of IA	Population	Population	Number	Percent	Percent of IA	Population	Population	Number	Percent	Percent of IA	Population	Population
1	68180	2035	3.1	2.1	66145	65457	688	1.1	2.2	2.2						
2	52471	-586	-1.1	1.6	53057	54970	-1913	-3.5	1.7	1.9						
3	49245	-1734	-3.4	1.5	50979	55320	-4341	-7.8	1.7	1.9						
4	86781	-2727	-3.0	2.7	89508	92834	-3326	-3.6	2.9	3.2						
5	55612	-1779	-3.1	1.7	57391	59012	-1621	-2.7	1.9	2.0						
6	140390	3989	2.9	4.4	136401	138746	-2345	-1.7	4.5	4.7						
7	59227	-721	-1.2	1.9	59948	63927	-3979	-6.2	2.0	2.2						
8	68713	-2098	-3.0	2.2	70811	75716	-4905	-6.5	2.3	2.6						
9	86447	-1955	-2.2	2.7	88402	88595	-193	-0.2	2.9	3.0						
10	210540	-1531	-0.7	6.6	212071	209743	2328	1.1	7.0	7.2						
11	295025	18586	6.7	9.2	276439	255417	21022	8.2	9.1	8.7						
12	153282	3888	2.6	4.8	149394	146521	2873	2.0	4.9	5.0						
13	48527	-1783	-3.5	1.5	50310	52611	-2301	-4.4	1.7	1.8						
14	66869	-543	-0.8	2.1	67412	69364	-1952	-2.8	2.2	2.4						
15	99678	33543	50.7	3.1	66135	40750	25385	62.3	2.2	1.4						
16	492401	61761	14.3	15.4	430640	374601	56039	15.0	14.1	12.8						
17	98537	8995	10.0	3.1	89542	79981	9561	12.0	2.9	2.7						
18	112079	633	0.6	3.5	111446	110415	1031	0.9	3.7	3.8						
19	202114	22662	12.6	6.3	179452	158747	20705	13.0	5.9	5.4						
20	264364	7279	2.8	8.3	257085	250539	6546	2.6	8.4	8.6						
21	114290	-506	-0.4	3.6	114796	110631	4165	3.8	3.8	3.8						
22	46630	-2542	-5.2	1.5	49172	51304	-2132	-4.2	1.6	1.8						
23	26401	-1610	-5.7	0.8	28011	29218	-1207	-4.1	0.9	1.0						
24	86344	6697	8.4	2.7	79647	72512	7135	9.8	2.6	2.5						
25	35025	-1133	-3.1	1.1	36158	37889	-1731	-4.6	1.2	1.3						
26	67413	-1378	-2.0	2.1	68791	68582	209	0.3	2.3	2.3						
27	103784	-3935	-3.7	3.3	107719	112922	-5203	-4.6	3.5	3.9						
State of Iowa	3190369	144014	4.7	100	3046355	2926324	120031	4.1	100	100						

¹Source: U.S. Census Bureau

during the last 20 years while the state's more rural areas and micropolitan areas have, in general, experienced population losses (Table 1). With these changes, Iowa's population has become

more concentrated. In 2020, three Extension regions (11, 16, 20) now have 33% of Iowa's population. With an additional three regions (10, 12, 19) that population total is at 50%. In 2020

then, half of Iowa's population was living in just 22% of the state's Extension regions (Table 1). Overall, these are longer term trends that have been ongoing for several decades..

This report and others in the series are available at: <https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/Indicators/Census/>

Notes

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; <https://www.census.gov/> and <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census.html>

²U.S. Census Bureau; <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/2020-population-and-housing-state-data.html>

Sandra Charvat Burke
Iowa State University
Ames, IA
515-294-9307
scburke@iastate.edu
August 27, 2021

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Indicators Portal: www.indicators.extension.iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Community and Economic Development