



A Demographic Profile

Selected Geographies:
Howard County, MO

United States

Comparison Geographies:
U.S.

Produced by
Headwaters Economics'
Economic Profile System (EPS)
<https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps>

June 11, 2023

Demographics

Howard County, MO

About the Economic Profile System (EPS)

EPS is a free web tool created by Headwaters Economics to build customized socioeconomic reports of U.S. counties, states, and regions. Reports can be easily created to compare or aggregate different areas. EPS uses published statistics from federal data sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service have made significant financial and intellectual contributions to the operation and content of EPS.

See <https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps> for more information about the capabilities of EPS. For technical questions, contact Patty Hernandez Gude at eps@headwaterseconomics.org or telephone 406-599-7425.



headwaterseconomics.org

Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group. Our mission is to improve community development and land management decisions.



www.blm.gov

The Bureau of Land Management, an agency within the U.S. Department of Interior, administers 249.8 million acres of America's public lands, located primarily in western states. It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



www.fs.fed.us

The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers national forests and grasslands encompassing 193 million acres. The Forest Service's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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Note to Users:

This is one of 14 reports that can be created and downloaded from EPS. Topics include land use, demographics, specific industry sectors, the role of non-labor income, the wildland-urban interface, the role of amenities in economic development, and payments to county governments from federal lands. The EPS reports are downloadable as Excel or PDF documents. See <https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps>.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Population

	Howard County, MO	United States
Population (2021*)	10,147	329,725,481
Population (2010*)	10,120	303,965,272
Population Change (2010*-2021*)	27	25,760,209
Population Pct. Change (2010*-2021*)	0.3%	8.5%

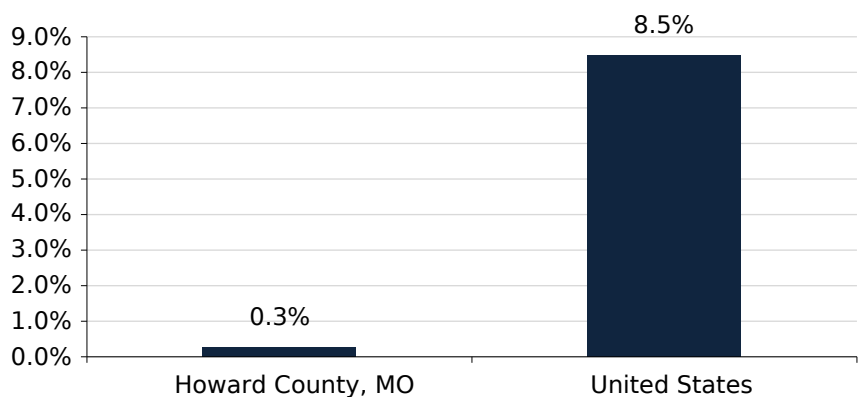
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Percent Change in Population, 2010*-2021*

- From 2010* to 2021*, Howard County, MO had the smallest estimated absolute change in population (27).
- From 2010* to 2021*, United States had the largest estimated relative change in population (8.5%), and Howard County, MO had the smallest (0.3%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Population

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the total population and change in total population.^{1, 2}

Data in this report comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).³ The ACS is conducted nationwide every year by the U.S. Census Bureau to collect demographic, social, economic, and housing information. For more information about ACS data and accuracy, see the Methods section at the end of this report.

Why is it important?

Population growth is generally an indication of a healthy economy. No growth or long-term decline generally occur when an area is struggling.

Growth can benefit the general population of a place, especially by providing economic opportunities, but it can also stress communities and lead to income stratification. When considering the benefits of growth, it is important to distinguish between standard of living (such as earnings per job and per capita income) and quality of life (such as leisure time, crime rate, and sense of well-being).

The size of a population and economy (metropolitan, micropolitan, or rural) can have an important bearing on economic activities as well as opportunities and challenges for area businesses.

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES: Data describing change over time can be misleading when geographic boundaries have changed. The Census provides documentation about changes in boundaries at this site: www.census.gov/geo/reference/boundary-changes.html

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Age and Gender

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population, 2021*	10,147	329,725,481
Under 5 years	578	19,423,121
5 to 9 years	593	20,247,138
10 to 14 years	680	21,674,117
15 to 19 years	796	21,654,363
20 to 24 years	902	21,574,425
25 to 29 years	504	22,854,328
30 to 34 years	548	22,506,614
35 to 39 years	763	21,920,290
40 to 44 years	311	20,521,593
45 to 49 years	510	20,582,187
50 to 54 years	562	21,049,271
55 to 59 years	631	21,928,936
60 to 64 years	795	20,900,477
65 to 69 years	506	17,634,322
70 to 74 years	626	13,956,297
75 to 79 years	275	9,066,018
80 to 84 years	344	5,932,196
85 years and over	223	6,299,788
Total Female	5,049	166,518,866
Total Male	5,098	163,206,615

Change in Median Age, 2010*-2021*

Median Age^ (2021*)	38.5	38.4
Median Age^ (2010*)	39.0	36.9
Median Age % Change	-1.3%	4.1%

^ Median age is not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

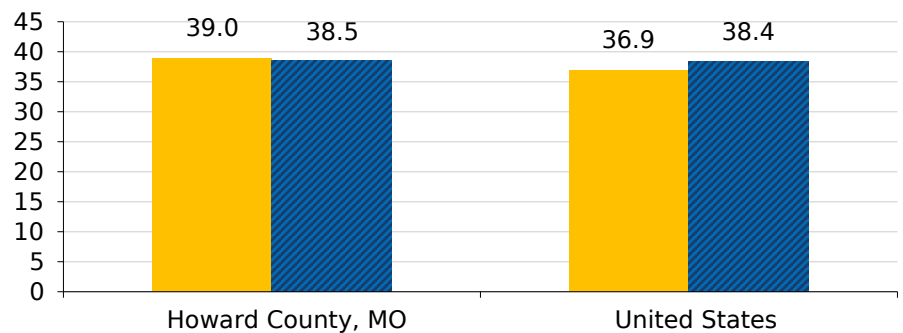
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Median Age, 2010* & 2021*

- From 2010* to 2021*, the median age estimate increased the most in United States (36.9 to 38.4, a 4.1% increase) and decreased the most in Howard County, MO (39.0 to 38.5, a 1.3% decrease).



■ Median Age^ (2010*) ■ Median Age^ (2021*)

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Age and Gender

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes population distribution by age and gender, and the change in median age.

Median Age: The age that divides the population into two numerically equal groups (half the people are younger than this age and half are older).

Why is it important?

Different locations have different age distributions. For example, in counties with a large number of retirees, the age distribution may be skewed toward categories 65 years and older.⁴ In counties with universities, the age distribution will be skewed toward 18- to 29-year-olds. In many counties, the largest segment of the population is the Baby Boomer generation (people born between 1946 and 1964).

The change in median age is one indicator of whether the population has gotten older or younger.⁵

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Age and Gender

	2010*	2021*
Total Population, 2010*-2021*	10,120	10,147
Under 18	2,161	2,246
18-34	2,454	2,355
35-44	1,117	1,074
45-64	2,771	2,498
65 and over	1,617	1,974

Percent of Total

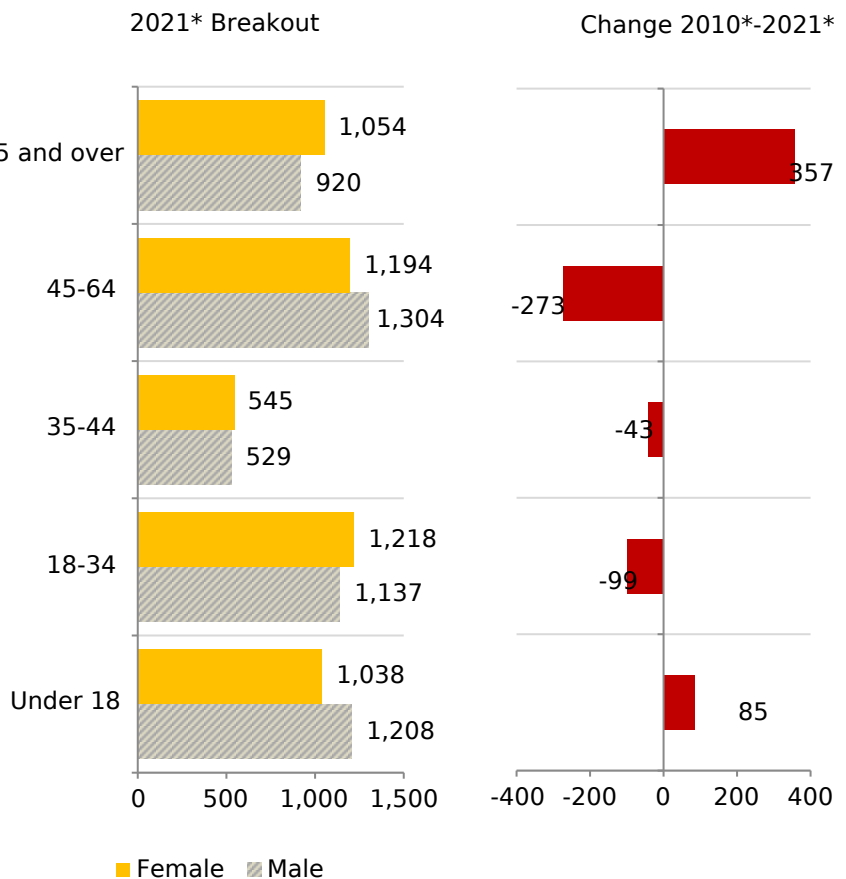
Under 18	21.4%	22.1%
18-34	24.2%	23.2%
35-44	11.0%	10.6%
45-64	27.4%	24.6%
65 and over	16.0%	19.5%

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- In 2021*, the age category with the highest estimate for number of women was 18-34 (1,218), and the age category with the highest estimate for number of men was 45-64 (1,304).
- From 2010* to 2021*, the age category with the largest estimated increase was 65 and over (357), and the age category with the largest estimated decrease was 45-64 (-273).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Age and Gender

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the change in age and gender distribution over time, and the change in age distribution, with five age-group categories.⁶

Why is it important?

Understanding the age distribution can help highlight whether policy changes and management actions might affect some age groups more than others. It also may highlight the need to understand the different needs, values, and attitudes of different age groups. If an area has a large retired population or soon-to-be-retired population, for example, the needs and interests of the public may differ than an area with a large number of minors or young adults.

For many locations, a significant development is the aging of the population, and in particular the retirement of the “Baby Boomer” generation (those born between 1946 and 1964).^{7, 8, 9} As this generation continues to enter retirement age, their mobility, spending patterns, and consumer demands (for health care and housing, for example) can affect how communities develop economically.^{10, 11, 12}

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Race

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population, 2021*	10,147	329,725,481
White alone	9,044	224,789,109
Black or African American alone	554	41,393,012
American Indian alone	61	2,722,661
Asian alone	45	18,782,924
Native Hawaii & Other Pacific Is. alone	3	615,557
Some other race alone	45	18,382,796
Two or more races	395	23,039,422

Percent of Total

	Howard County, MO	United States
White alone	89.1%	68.2%
Black or African American alone	5.5%	12.6%
American Indian alone	0.6%	0.8%
Asian alone	0.4%	5.7%
Native Hawaii & Other Pacific Is. alone	0.0%	0.2%
Some other race alone	0.4%	5.6%
Two or more races	3.9%	7.0%

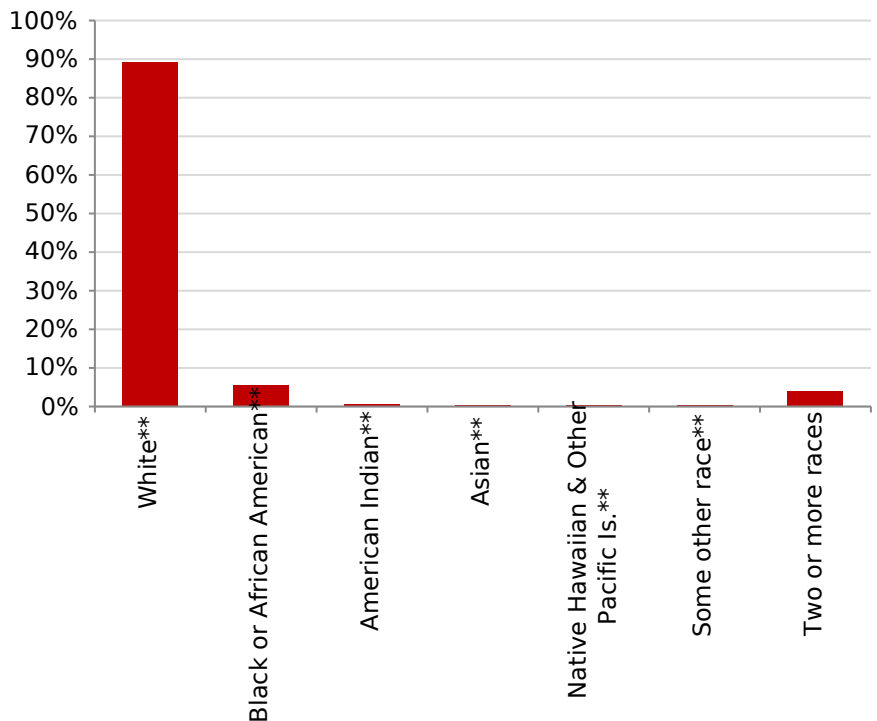
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Population by Race, Percent of Total, Howard County, MO, 2021*

- In the 2017-2021 period, the racial category with the highest estimated percent of the population in the Howard County, MO was white alone (89.1%), and the racial category the lowest estimated percent of the population was native hawaii & other pacific is. alone (0.0%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

** Percentages are by an individual race alone unless otherwise noted

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Race

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as belonging to a particular race.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. In 1997 the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the standards for how the federal government collects and presents data on race and ethnicity.¹³

Race Alone Categories: The minimum five race categories required by the OMB, plus the some-other-race-alone categories included by the U.S. Census Bureau with the approval of the OMB. The categories are: White alone, Black or African-American alone, American Indian or Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone, and Some Other Race alone.

Some Other Race: All other responses not included in the "White," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Asian," and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" race categories described above. Respondents providing write-in entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic/Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban) in the Some Other Race write-in space are included in this category.

Two or More Races: People may have chosen to provide two or more races either by checking two or more race response check boxes, by providing multiple write-in responses, or by a combination of check boxes and write-in responses.

Race categories include both racial and national-origin groups. The concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic origin, which is discussed elsewhere in this report.¹⁴ Percentages for the various race categories add to 100 percent and should not be combined with the percent Hispanic.

Why is it important?

The United States hit a tipping point in 2015 in its racial and ethnic make-up: more toddlers under the age of five are now minorities than non-Hispanic whites.¹⁵ The racial composition of a place can indicate different needs, values, and attitudes sometimes held by different racial groups.

Federal agencies use information on race and ethnicity to implement a number of programs and to promote and enforce equal opportunities, such as in employment or housing, under the Civil Rights Act.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, many federal programs are put into effect based on Census race data (i.e., promoting equal employment opportunities; assessing racial disparities in health and environmental risks).¹⁶

It is important to consider whether proposed policies and management actions could have disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority populations. This consideration, broadly referred to as "environmental justice," is a requirement of Executive Order 12898.¹⁷ The Social Science Research Council hosts a useful resource on the health and welfare of racial and ethnic groups.¹⁸

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Ethnicity

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population, 2021*	10,147	329,725,481
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	185	60,806,969
Not Hispanic or Latino	9,962	268,918,512
White alone	8,930	196,010,370
Black or African American alone	530	40,196,302
American Indian alone	57	1,936,842
Asian alone	45	18,554,697
Native Hawaii & Oth.Pacific Is. alone	3	555,712
Some other race	8	1,208,267
Two or more races	389	10,456,322

Percent of Total

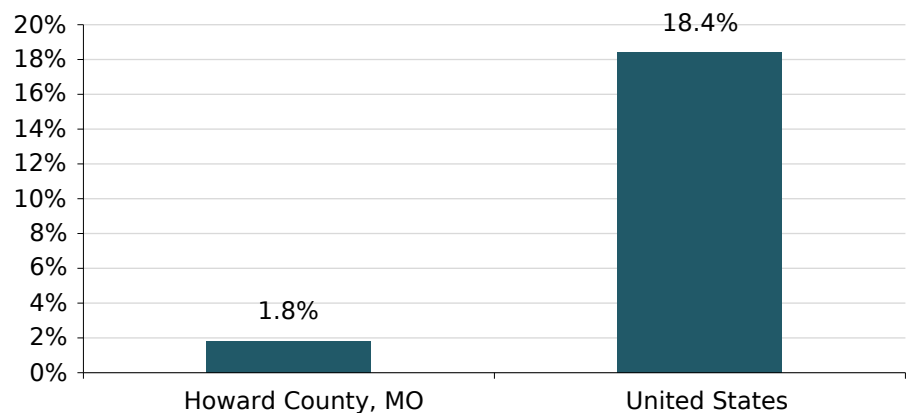
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1.8%	18.4%
Not Hispanic or Latino	98.2%	81.6%
White alone	88.0%	59.4%
Black or African American alone	5.2%	12.2%
American Indian alone	0.6%	0.6%
Asian alone	0.4%	5.6%
Native Hawaii & Oth.Pacific Is. alone	0.0%	0.2%
Some other race	0.1%	0.4%
Two or more races	3.8%	3.2%

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Hispanic Population, Percent of Total, Howard County, MO, 2021*



- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of the population that self-identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race (18.4%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (1.8%).

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Ethnicity

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as Hispanic. The information also is presented according to race. The term "Hispanic" refers to a cultural identification; Hispanics can be of any race.

Ethnicity: There are two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.^{13, 19}

Hispanic or Latino Origin: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the U.S. Census Bureau questionnaire (Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban, as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino"). Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.¹⁴

Why is it important?

Hispanics are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. population. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that 17.3 percent of the population in the U.S. self-identified as being Hispanic in 2016. The Census Bureau predicts that 28.6 percent of the population in the U.S. will be Hispanic by 2060.²⁰ The ethnic composition of a place can indicate different needs, values, and attitudes sometimes held by different ethnic groups.

According to the Census Bureau: "Data on ethnic groups are important for putting into effect a number of federal statutes (i.e., enforcing bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act; monitoring and enforcing equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act). Data on Ethnic Groups are also needed by local governments to run programs and meet legislative requirements (i.e., identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving medical services under the Public Health Act; evaluating whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of minority populations under the Community Reinvestment Act)."

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Tribal

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population, 2021*	10,147	329,725,481
Total Native American, 2021*	61	2,722,661
American Indian Tribes	29	2,082,129
Alaska Native Tribes	0	107,200
Non-Specified Tribes	29	439,550

Percent of Total

Total Native American	0.6%	0.8%
American Indian Tribes	0.3%	0.6%
Alaska Native Tribes	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Specified Tribes	0.3%	0.1%

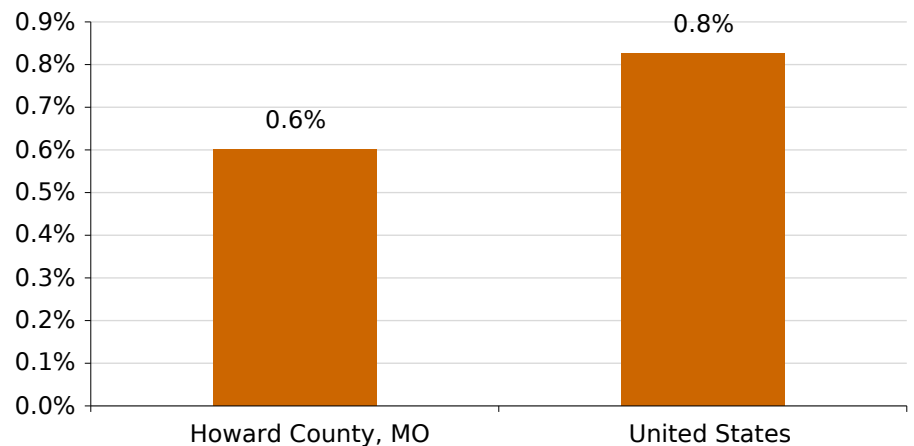
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Native American Population, Percent of Total, Howard County, MO and United States, 2021*

- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of the population that self-identified as American Indian and Alaska Native (0.8%) and Howard County, MO had the lowest (0.6%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Tribal

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes, in general terms, the number of people who self-identify as American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races.²¹

American Indian: This category shows self-identification among people of American Indian descent. Census data are available for 36 tribes or Selected American Indian categories: Apache, Arapaho, Blackfeet, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chickasaw, Chippewa, Choctaw, Colville, Comanche, Cree, Creek, Crow, Delaware, Hopi, Houma, Iroquois, Kiowa, Lumbee, Menominee, Navajo, Osage, Ottawa, Paiute, Pima, Potawatomi, Pueblo, Puget Sound Salish, Seminole, Shoshone, Sioux, Tohono O'Odham, Ute, Yakama, Yaqui, Yuman, and "All other tribes." In this report, people who self-identified as members of the Delaware, Houma, Menominee, and Ottawa tribes are included in the "All other tribes" category, along with all other federally recognized tribes not separately listed.²²

Alaska Native: This category shows self-identification among people of Alaska Native descent. U.S. Census Bureau data are available for seven Alaska Native race and ethnic categories: Alaska Athabaskan, Aleut, Inupiat, Tlingit-Haida, Tsimshian, Yupik, and All other tribes.

Non-Specified Tribes: This category includes respondents who checked the "American Indian or Alaska Native" response category on the U.S. Census questionnaire or wrote in the generic term "American Indian" or "Alaska Native," or tribal entries not elsewhere classified.

International Indian Tribes: This category shows people who self-identified as Canadian and French American Indian, Central American Indian, Mexican American Indian, South American Indian, or Spanish American Indian.

Why is it important?

The American Indian and Alaska Native identity of a place can indicate different needs, values, and attitudes sometimes held by different groups.

Many tribal people have unique historical and current ties to the land,^{23, 24} and some tribes have unique legal rights to certain activities, such as hunting, fishing, and plant-gathering. Policies and management actions may have disproportionately high and adverse effects on tribes and it is helpful to know whether native peoples live in a particular area.^{25, 26}

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Tribal

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population, 2021*	10,147	329,725,481
Total Native American	61	2,722,661
American Indian Tribes; Specified	29	2,082,129
Apache	0	71,924
Arapaho	0	7,307
Blackfeet	0	27,177
Cherokee	2	10,112
Cheyenne	0	10,574
Chickasaw	0	25,674
Chippewa	0	101,210
Choctaw	0	90,789
Colville	0	8,103
Comanche	0	12,011
Cree	0	1,964
Creek	0	42,442
Crow	0	11,534
Hopi	0	15,157
Iroquois	0	35,919
Kiowa	0	7,089
Lumbee	0	66,610
Navajo	0	80,037
Osage	13	8,346
Paiute	0	9,861
Pima	0	23,577
Potawatomi	0	17,962
Pueblo	0	56,974
Puget Sound Salish	0	13,705
Seminole	0	13,535
Shoshone	0	9,396
Sioux	8	103,686
Tohono O'Odham	0	22,586
Ute	0	8,585
Yakama	0	7,352
Yaqui	0	25,596
Yuman	0	7,030
All other tribes	3	3,631
American Indian; Not Specified	6	96,761
Alaska Native Tribes; Specified	0	107,200
Alaska Athabaskan	0	16,126
Aleut	0	11,085
Inupiat	0	30,421
Tlingit-Haida	0	12,456
Tsimshian	0	2,159
Yupik	0	34,953
Alaska Native; Not Specified	23	342,789
American Indian or Alaska Native; Not Specified	29	439,550
International Indian Tribe	0	377,760

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Non-Specified Tribes: This category includes respondents who checked the "American Indian or Alaska Native" response category on the U.S. Census questionnaire or wrote in the generic term "American Indian" or "Alaska Native," or tribal entries not elsewhere classified.

International Indian Tribes: This category shows people who self-identified as Canadian and French American Indian, Central American Indian, Mexican American Indian, South American Indian, or Spanish American Indian.

Why is it important?

The American Indian and Alaska Native identity of a place can indicate different needs, values, and attitudes sometimes held by different groups.

Many tribal people have unique historical and current ties to the land,^{23, 24} and some tribes have unique legal rights to certain activities, such as hunting, fishing, and plant-gathering.

Policies and management actions may have disproportionately high and adverse effects on tribes and it is helpful to know whether native peoples live in a particular area.^{25, 26}

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Occupations and Industries

	Howard County, MO	United States
Civilian employees > 16 years, 2021*	4,356	157,510,982
Management, professional, & related	1,627	63,469,480
Service	865	26,826,595
Sales and office	746	32,862,044
Farming, fishing, and forestry	19	259,220
Construction, extract, maint, & repair	193	7,911,748
Production, transportation	684	20,633,592

Percent of Total

Management, professional, & related	37.4%	40.3%
Service	19.9%	17.0%
Sales and office	17.1%	20.9%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.4%	0.2%
Construction, extract, maint, & repair	4.4%	5.0%
Production, transportation	15.7%	13.1%

	Howard County, MO	United States
Civilian employees > 16 years, 2021*	4,356	157,510,982
Ag, forestry, fishing & hunting, mining	200	2,138,149
Construction	274	10,717,186
Manufacturing	408	15,786,008
Wholesale trade	55	3,916,817
Retail trade	586	17,253,259
Transport, warehousing, and utilities	227	8,905,978
Information	12	3,031,263
Finance and ins, and real estate	284	10,483,270
Prof, mgmt, admin, & waste mgmt	112	18,817,926
Edu, health care, & social assistance	1,501	36,753,702
Arts, entertain, rec, accomod, & food	336	14,346,635
Other services, except public admin	201	7,485,169
Public administration	160	7,399,660

Percent of Total

Ag, forestry, fishing & hunting, mining	4.6%	1.4%
Construction	6.3%	6.8%
Manufacturing	9.4%	10.0%
Wholesale trade	1.3%	2.5%
Retail trade	13.5%	11.0%
Transport, warehousing, and utilities	5.2%	5.7%
Information	0.3%	1.9%
Finance and ins, and real estate	6.5%	6.7%
Prof, mgmt, admin, & waste mgmt	2.6%	11.9%
Edu, health care, & social assistance	34.5%	23.3%
Arts, entertain, rec, accomod, & food	7.7%	9.1%
Other services, except public admin	4.6%	4.8%
Public administration	3.7%	4.7%

High Reliability: Data with coefficients of variation (CVs) < 12% are in black to indicate that the sampling error is relatively small.

Medium Reliability: Data with CVs between 12 & 40% are in orange to indicate that the values should be interpreted with caution.

Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Occupations and Industries

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes what people do for work in terms of the type of work (by occupation) and where they work (by industry).

Employment by Occupation: Refers to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system in which workers are classified into occupations with similar job duties, skills, education, and/or training, regardless of industry.^{27, 28}

Employment by Industry: Refers to employment by industry, listed according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For a more detailed analysis of long-term employment and personal income earned by industry, run an EPS Measures report. See <https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps>.

Why is it important?

Employment statistics are usually reported by industry. This is a useful way to show the relative diversity of the economy and the degree of dependence on certain sectors. Employment by occupation offers additional information that describes what people do for a living and the type of work they do, regardless of the industry. For example, management and professional occupations generally offer higher wages and require formal education, and these occupations could exist in any number of industries. Managers could be working for a software firm, a mine, or a construction company. Occupation information describes what people do, while employment by industry describes where people work.²⁹

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES: Data describing change over time can be misleading when geographic boundaries have changed. The Census provides documentation about changes in boundaries at this site: www.census.gov/geo/reference/boundary-changes.html

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Labor

	Howard County, MO	United States
Population 16 to 64, 2021*	6,193	211,199,021
WEEKS WORKED PER YEAR:		
Worked 50 to 52 weeks	3,358	124,927,362
Worked 27 to 49 weeks	442	17,285,558
Worked 1 to 26 weeks	627	17,240,384
Did not work	1,766	47,962,637
HOURS WORKED PER WEEK:		
Worked 35 or more hours per week	3,526	127,454,743
Worked 15 to 34 hours per week	656	28,375,824
Worked 1 to 14 hours per week	245	7,458,699
Did not work	1,766	47,962,637
Mean usual hours worked for workers	38.9	39.7

Percent of Total

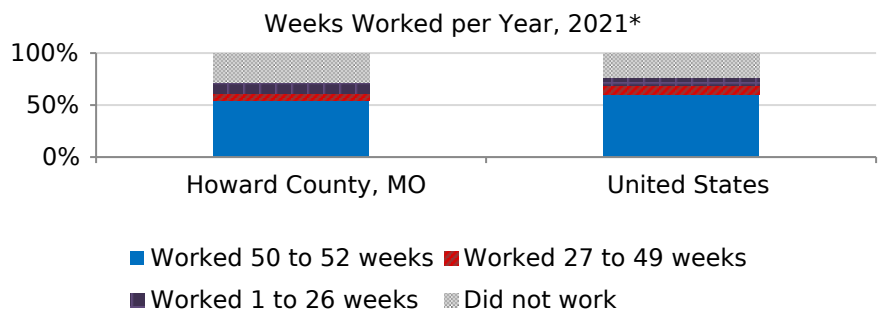
WEEKS WORKED PER YEAR:		
Worked 50 to 52 weeks	54.2%	59.2%
Worked 27 to 49 weeks	7.1%	8.2%
Worked 1 to 26 weeks	10.1%	8.2%
Did not work	28.5%	22.7%
HOURS WORKED PER WEEK:		
Worked 35 or more hours per week	56.9%	60.3%
Worked 15 to 34 hours per week	10.6%	13.4%
Worked 1 to 14 hours per week	4.0%	3.5%
Did not work	28.5%	22.7%

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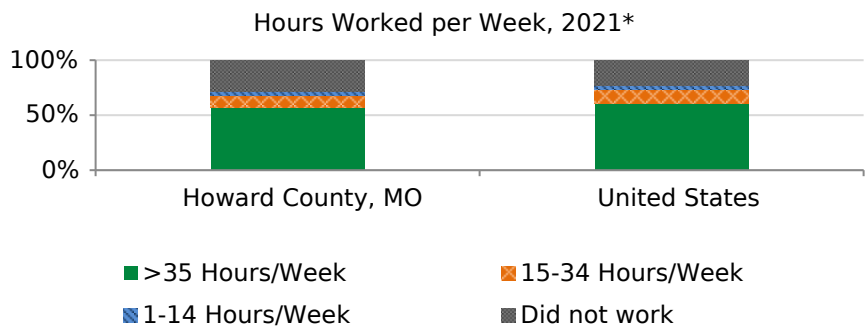
Medium Reliability: Data with CVs between 12 & 40% are in orange to indicate that the values should be interpreted with caution.

Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of people that worked 50 to 52 weeks per year (59.2%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (54.2%).



- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of people that worked 35 or more hours per week (60.3%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (56.9%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Labor

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes workers by hours worked per week and by weeks worked per year.

Weeks worked per year and hours worked per week are irrespective of each other. For example, regardless of whether an individual worked 10 or 40 hours per week, if (s)he worked 50 weeks per year, (s)he will be recorded as having "worked 50 to 52 weeks per year."

Labor force participation should be not confused with the unemployment rate, which is a measure of the people who are jobless and looking for work. To see long-term trends of unemployment, run an EPS Measures report. See <https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps>.

Why is it important?

Fewer hours worked per week or weeks worked per year may indicate that the local economy is suffering from underemployment which results in lower real incomes and a lower standard of living.³⁰ For example, labor incomes in agriculture and other seasonal employment are consistently among the lowest incomes in industrial classes as reported by the U.S. Census.

However, shorter work weeks and fewer weeks worked per year also can be indicative of worker preference. Part-time jobs (those that average fewer than 35 hours/week) are often ideal for students, people who are responsible for taking care of their dependents, and the elderly who wish to remain active in the workplace but do not want to work a full schedule. Advances in computer technologies enable workers to telecommute and work shorter and more flexible hours. And, in some cases, young adults seek out seasonal-, tourism-, or recreation-related employment by choice.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics offers data tables on workers by category.³¹ For example, in 2006, before the Great Recession, 3.9 million people in the county were employed part-time for economic reasons (slack work or business conditions or could only find a part-time job). By 2008, toward the end of the recession, this number had risen to 7.3 million people.³²

Data on age and income distribution should be examined to better understand the degree to which the data on this page are related to under-employment and economic hardship versus worker preference.

Most employment statistics count full-time, part-time, and seasonal employment as the same—that is, a single job. In places where a relatively large percent of the employment base is either part-time or seasonally employed, this may explain falling wages or rates of employment that outpace population change.

For more information about changes in wages, employment, and population over time, create an EPS Socioeconomic Measures report. See <https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps>.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Commuting

	Howard County, MO	United States
Workers 16 years and over, 2021*	4,314	155,284,955
PLACE OF WORK:		
Worked in county of residence	2,235	114,221,838
Worked outside county of residence	2,079	41,063,117
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK:		
Less than 10 minutes	803	17,365,437
10 to 14 minutes	500	18,548,783
15 to 19 minutes	350	21,368,336
20 to 24 minutes	429	20,112,989
25 to 29 minutes	300	9,337,047
30 to 34 minutes	561	19,260,931
35 to 39 minutes	214	4,405,536
40 to 44 minutes	274	5,572,146
45 to 59 minutes	287	11,551,905
60 or more minutes	239	12,700,161
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	24.2	24.2

Percent of Total

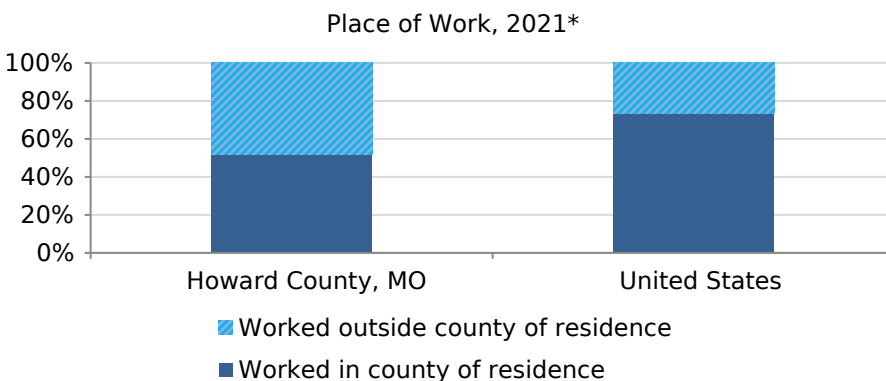
PLACE OF WORK:		
Worked in county of residence	51.8%	73.6%
Worked outside county of residence	48.2%	26.4%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK:		
Less than 10 minutes	18.6%	11.2%
10 to 14 minutes	11.6%	11.9%
15 to 19 minutes	8.1%	13.8%
20 to 24 minutes	9.9%	13.0%
25 to 29 minutes	7.0%	6.0%
30 to 34 minutes	13.0%	12.4%
35 to 39 minutes	5.0%	2.8%
40 to 44 minutes	6.4%	3.6%
45 to 59 minutes	6.7%	7.4%
60 or more minutes	5.5%	8.2%

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Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

- In the 2017-2021 period, Howard County, MO had the highest estimated percent of people that worked outside the county of residence (48.2%), and United States had the lowest (26.4%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Commuting

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes workers by place of work and by travel time to work. These data do not include those who work from home.

Why is it important?

The longest commute times tend to occur in larger metro areas or in counties surrounding metro areas. However, fast-growing micropolitan communities or some rural areas, such as resort communities, where the cost of living has gone up, are also experiencing large commute times.³³

Economic development is sometimes affected by commuting in unanticipated ways: strategies aimed at increasing jobs in a community will not necessarily mean jobs for residents. Conversely, creating job opportunities for residents does not always require bringing jobs into that community.

High out-commuting rates can also separate tax revenues from demands for services, which complicates fiscal planning for local governments. "Bedroom communities"—those with high levels of out-commuting—may struggle to provide social services, housing, and water and sewer facilities without an adequate source of business tax revenue. Higher levels and longer distance of commuting likely indicate a housing-job imbalance. This can result from unaffordable housing prices or other residential constraints.³⁴

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Income

	Howard County, MO	United States
Per Capita Income (2021 \$s)	\$25,827	\$37,638
Median Household Income^ (2021 \$s)	\$58,596	\$69,021
Total Households, 2021*	3,186	124,010,992
Less than \$10,000	96	6,835,028
\$10,000 to \$14,999	167	4,848,344
\$15,000 to \$24,999	236	9,620,321
\$25,000 to \$34,999	359	10,140,962
\$35,000 to \$49,999	544	14,162,768
\$50,000 to \$74,999	523	20,845,331
\$75,000 to \$99,999	482	15,895,589
\$100,000 to \$149,999	511	20,237,972
\$150,000 to \$199,999	129	9,694,986
\$200,000 or more	139	11,729,691
Gini Coefficient^	0.41	0.48

Percent of Total

Less than \$10,000	3.0%	5.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.2%	3.9%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.4%	7.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.3%	8.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	17.1%	11.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16.4%	16.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.1%	12.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	16.0%	16.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4.0%	7.8%
\$200,000 or more	4.4%	9.5%

^ Median Household Income and Gini Coefficient are not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

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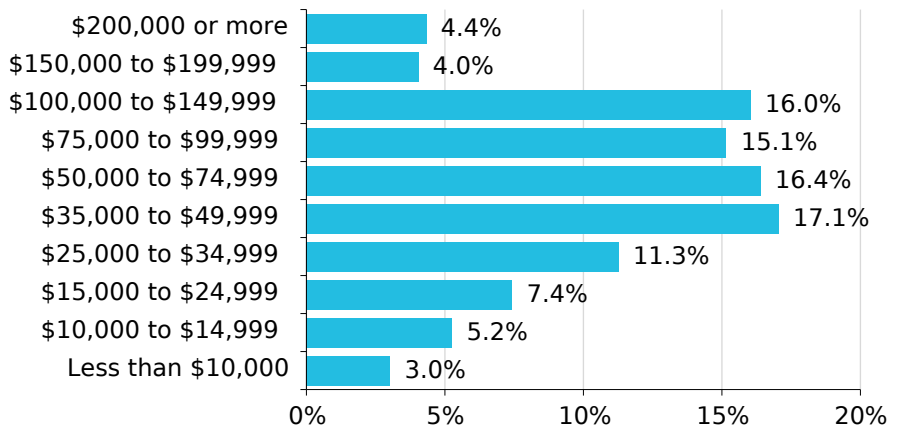
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- In the 2017-2021 period, the income category in the Howard County, MO with the most households was \$35,000 to \$49,999 (17.1% of households). The income category with the fewest households was Less than \$10,000 (3.0% of households).

- In the 2017-2021 period, the bottom 40% of households in the Howard County, MO accumulated approximately 12.9% of total income, and the top 20% of households accumulated approximately 58.3% of total income.

Household Income Distribution, Howard County, MO, 2021*



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Income

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes per capita income and the distribution of household income.

Per Capita Income: Total personal income divided by total population of an area.⁵⁰

Household: All the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Gini Coefficient: A summary value of the inequality of income distribution. A value of 0 represents perfect equality and a value of 1 represents perfect inequality. The lower the Gini coefficient, the more equal the income distribution.

The per capita income shown on this page is from the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) define income differently and derive the estimates using different techniques.⁵¹

Why is it important?

One important consideration of proposed policies and management actions is whether low-income populations could experience disproportionately adverse effects as a result. Analyzing income differences within and between locations helps to highlight areas where the population or a sub-population may be experiencing economic hardship.

The distribution of income is related to important aspects of economic well-being. Large numbers of households in the lower end of income distribution indicate economic hardship. A bulge in the middle can be interpreted as the size of the middle class. A figure that shows a proportionally large number of households at both extremes indicates a location characterized by "haves" and "have-nots."³⁵

Income distribution has always been a central concern of economic theory and economic policy. Classical economists were mainly concerned with the distribution of income among the main factors of production: land, labor, and capital. Modern economists have also addressed this issue but have been more concerned with the distribution of income across individuals and households.³⁶

According to the Census Bureau, "Researchers believe that changes in the labor market and... household composition affected the long-run increase in income inequality. The wage distribution has become considerably more unequal with workers at the top experiencing real wage gains and those at the bottom real wage losses.... At the same time, long-run changes in society's living arrangements have taken place also tending to exacerbate household income differences. For example, divorces, marital separations, births out of wedlock, and the increasing age at first marriage have led to a shift away from married-couple households to single-parent families and nonfamily households. Since non-married-couple households tend to have lower income and less equally distributed income than other types of households... changes in household composition have been associated with growing income inequality."³⁷

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Poverty Prevalence

	Howard County, MO	United States
People, 2021*	9,414	321,897,703
Families, 2021*	2,243	80,755,759
People Below Poverty	919	40,661,636
Families below poverty	87	7,181,779

Percent of Total

People Below Poverty	9.8%	12.6%
Families below poverty	3.9%	8.9%

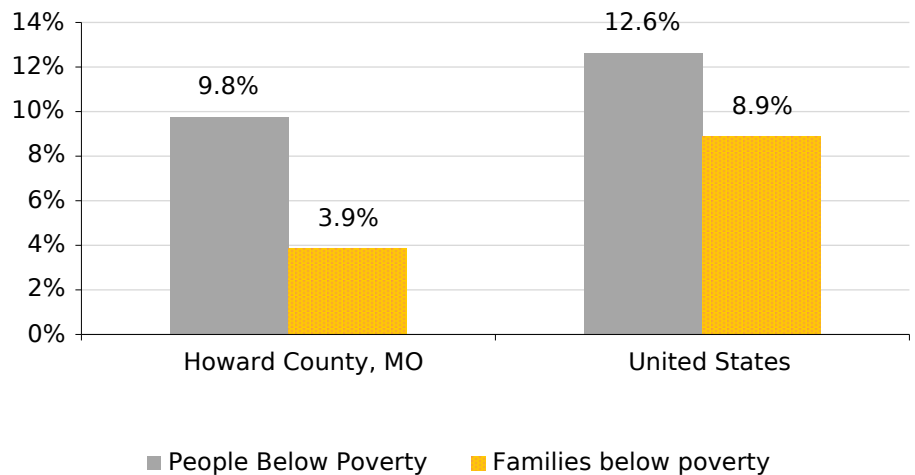
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Individuals & Families Below Poverty, 2021*

- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of individuals living below poverty (12.6%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (9.8%).
- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of families living below poverty (8.9%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (3.9%).



Poverty Rate by Age & Family Type~

	Howard County, MO	United States
People, 2021*	9.8%	12.6%
Under 18 years	10.2%	14.8%
65 years and older	8.3%	8.7%
Families, 2021*	3.9%	8.9%
Families with related children < 18 years	7.0%	12.8%
Married couple families	1.5%	4.5%
with children < 18 years	0.9%	6.0%
Female householder, no husband present	9.8%	24.5%
with children < 18 years	12.3%	33.6%

~Poverty rate by age and family type is calculated by dividing the number of people by demographic in poverty by the total population of that demographic.

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Poverty Prevalence

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of individuals and families living below the poverty line.

Family: A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive¹⁴, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Why is it important?

Poverty is an important indicator of economic well-being. Understanding the extent of poverty is important for several reasons. For example, people with limited income may have different needs and values. Also, proposed policies and activities may need to be analyzed in the context of whether people who are economically disadvantaged could experience disproportionately adverse effects.

Poverty rates are often reported in aggregate, which can hide important differences. The bottom table shows poverty for various types of individuals and families. This is important because aggregate poverty rates (for example, families below poverty) may hide some important information (for example, the poverty rate for single mothers with children).^{38, 39}

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population in Poverty, 2021*	919	40,661,636
White alone	728	22,616,705
Black or African American alone	53	8,630,739
American Indian alone	21	135,351
Asian alone	3	1,900,825
Native Hawaii & Other Pacific Is. alone	0	99,627
Some other race	0	3,440,072
Two or more races	114	3,358,317
All Ethnicities in Poverty, 2021*		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	32	10,560,320
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	720	17,668,529

Percent of Total[^]

White alone	79.2%	55.6%
Black or African American alone	5.8%	21.2%
American Indian alone	2.3%	0.3%
Asian alone	0.3%	4.7%
Native Hawaii & Other Pacific Is. alone	0.0%	0.2%
Some other race	0.0%	8.5%
Two or more races	12.4%	8.3%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3.5%	26.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	78.3%	43.5%

[^] Percent of total population in poverty by race and ethnicity is calculated by dividing the number of people in poverty in each racial or ethnic category by the total population.

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Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

Percent of People by Race and Ethnicity Who Are Below Poverty~, 2021*

	Howard County, MO	United States
White alone	8.7%	10.3%
Black or African American alone	10.5%	21.7%
American Indian alone	38.2%	5.1%
Asian alone	6.7%	10.3%
Native Hawaiian & Oceanic alone	0.0%	16.7%
Some other race alone	0.0%	19.1%
Two or more races alone	29.5%	14.9%
Hispanic or Latino alone	17.9%	17.7%
Non-Hispanic/Latino alone	8.7%	9.2%

~Poverty prevalence by race and ethnicity is calculated by dividing the number of people by race in poverty by the total population of that race.

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of people living in poverty by race and ethnicity. It also shows the share of all people living in poverty by race and ethnicity, and the share of each race and ethnicity living in poverty.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which U.S. Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify.

Race categories include both racial and national-origin groups. The concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic origin. Percentages for the various race categories add to 100 percent and should not be combined with the percent Hispanic.

Ethnicity: There are two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive¹⁴, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Poverty thresholds are updated every year by the U.S. Census Bureau to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The poverty thresholds are the same for all parts of the country. They are not adjusted for regional, state or local variations in the cost of living.⁴⁰

Why is it important?

Understanding levels of poverty for different races and ethnicities can be important. People with limited income and from different races and ethnicities may have different needs and values. Proposed policies and activities may need to be analyzed in the context of whether minorities and people who are economically disadvantaged could be disproportionately impacted.^{41, 42}

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Household Earnings

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total households, 2021*	3,186	124,010,992
Labor earnings	2,298	96,520,813
Social Security (SS)	1,203	38,585,633
Retirement income	953	27,294,149
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	156	6,426,771
Cash public assistance income	97	3,248,323
SNAP (previously Food Stamps)	264	14,105,231

Percent of Total ^

Labor earnings	72.1%	77.8%
Social Security (SS)	37.8%	31.1%
Retirement income	29.9%	22.0%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	4.9%	5.2%
Cash public assistance income	3.0%	2.6%
SNAP (previously Food Stamps)	8.3%	11.4%

^ Total may add to more than 100% due to households receiving more than 1 source of income.

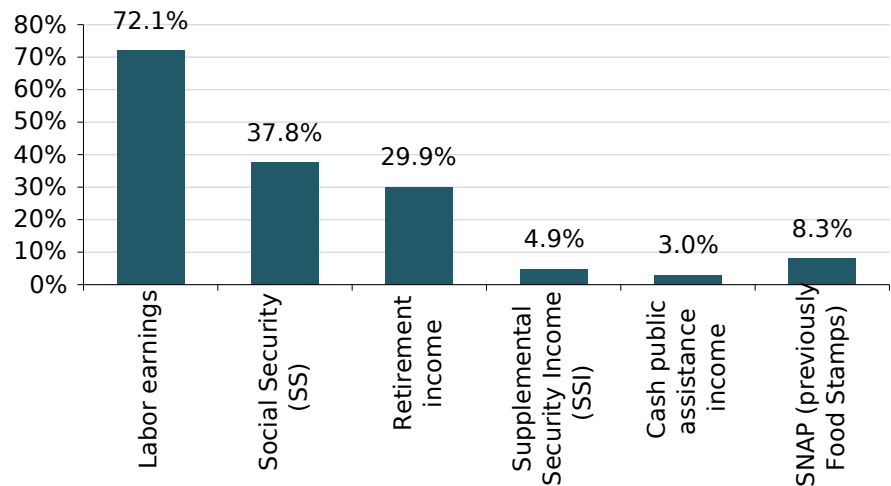
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Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

Percent of Households Receiving Earnings, by Source, 2021*

- In the 2017-2021 period, the highest estimated percent of public assistance in the Howard County, MO was in the form of Social Security (SS) (37.8%), and the lowest was in the form of Cash public assistance income (3.0%).



Mean Annual Household Earnings by Source

	Howard County, MO	United States
Mean earnings, 2021 (2021 \$s)	\$72,129	\$98,892
Mean Social Security income	\$20,962	\$21,046
Mean retirement income	\$34,560	\$29,743
Mean Supplemental Security Income	\$10,440	\$10,466
Mean cash public assistance income	\$3,708	\$3,875

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Household Earnings

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes household earnings by source.

Labor Earnings: Refers to households that receive wage or salary income and also those that receive net income from self-employment.

Social Security: Households that receive income that includes Social Security pensions and survivor benefits, permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration before deductions for medical insurance, and Railroad Retirement insurance. It does not include Medicare reimbursement.

Retirement Income: Households that receive: 1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer, labor union, U.S. military, or federal, state, or local government; 2) disability income from companies, unions, the U.S. military, or federal, state, or local government; 3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and 4) regular income from IRA and Keogh plans. It does not include Social Security income.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Households that receive assistance from the Social Security Administration that guarantees a minimum level of income for needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals.

Cash Public Assistance Income: Households that receive public assistance that includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). It does not include separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or noncash benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Households that receive coupons or cards that can be used to purchase food. Prior to 2008, this program was referred to as Food Stamps. The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) does not report mean dollar amounts for this item.

Why is it important?

Earnings are not the only source of income, and for many families and communities a significant portion of income can be in the form of additional sources such as retirement and Social Security. While some payments may be an indication of an aging population or an influx of retirees (retirement payments), other measures (for example, SSI or SNAP) are an indication of economic hardship.

Additional information on "non-labor" sources of income are available by running an EPS Non-labor report: See <https://headwaterseconomics.org/eps>.

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES: Data describing change over time can be misleading when geographic boundaries have changed. The Census provides documentation about changes in boundaries at this site: www.census.gov/geo/reference/boundary-changes.html

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Education

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population 25 yrs or older, 2021*	6,598	225,152,317
No high school degree	798	25,050,356
High school graduate	5,800	200,101,961
Associates degree	432	19,614,710
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,829	75,808,834
Graduate or professional	867	29,454,503

Percent of Total

No high school degree	12.1%	11.1%
High school graduate	87.9%	88.9%
Associates degree	6.5%	8.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.7%	33.7%
Graduate or professional	13.1%	13.1%

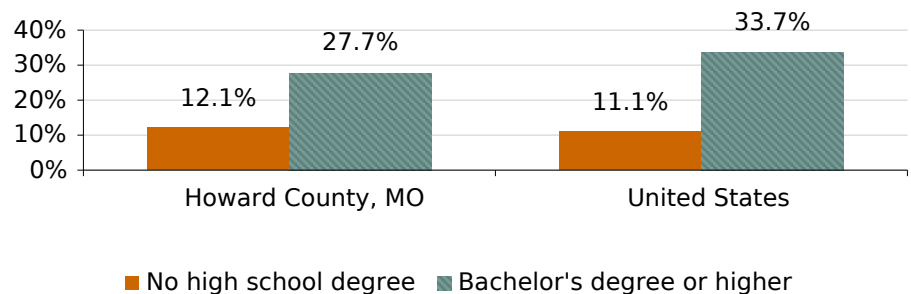
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Medium Reliability: Data with CVs between 12 & 40% are in orange to indicate that the values should be interpreted with caution.

Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest percent of people over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher (33.7%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (27.7%).
- In the 2017-2021 period, Howard County, MO had the highest percent of people over age 25 with no high school degree (12.1%), and United States had the lowest (11.1%).

Educational Attainment, 2021*



	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Population over 3 years old, 2021*	9,805	318,402,496
Enrolled in school:	2,864	81,120,907
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	124	4,744,776
Enrolled in kindergarten	128	4,050,752
Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 4	453	16,067,988
Enrolled in grade 5 to grade 8	514	17,002,367
Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12	545	17,256,453
Enrolled in college	1,100	21,954,493
Not enrolled in school	6,941	237,325,667

Percent of Total

Enrolled in school:	29.2%	25.5%
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	1.3%	1.5%
Enrolled in kindergarten	1.3%	1.3%
Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 4	4.6%	5.0%
Enrolled in grade 5 to grade 8	5.2%	5.3%
Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12	5.6%	5.4%
Enrolled in college	11.2%	6.9%
Not enrolled in school	70.8%	74.5%

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Education

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes levels of educational attainment.

Educational Attainment: This refers to the level of education completed by people 25 years and over in terms of the highest degree or the highest level of schooling completed.

School Enrollment: The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) defines people as enrolled in school if they were attending a public or private school or college at any time during the three months prior to taking the survey. People enrolled in vocational, technical, or business school such as post-secondary vocational, trade, hospital school, and on-the-job training were not reported as enrolled in school.

Why is it important?

Education is one of the most important indicators of the potential for economic success, and lack of education is closely linked to poverty. Studies show that areas with a higher-than-average-educated workforce grow faster, have higher incomes, and suffer less during economic downturns than other areas.^{43, 44} In 2017, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the higher the rate of educational achievement, the lower the unemployment rate and the higher the wages.⁴⁵

Understanding differences in education levels can highlight whether certain people might be disproportionately impacted by policies, plans, and management actions, and can inform communication and outreach efforts.

School enrollment can be an important indicator of the level of access to education, a community's potential for economic growth, and the number of dependents in a community that are not of working age. Some government agencies also use this information for funding allocations.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Language

	Howard County, MO	United States
Population 5 yrs or older, 2021*	9,569	310,302,360
Speak only English	9,379	243,107,751
Speak a language other than English	190	67,203,410
Spanish or Spanish Creole	90	41,157,140
Other Indo-European languages	21	11,525,491
Asian and Pacific Island languages	55	10,906,763
Other languages	3	3,509,680
Speak English less than "very well"	69	25,535,259

Percent of Total

	Howard County, MO	United States
Speak only English	98.0%	78.3%
Speak a language other than English	2.0%	21.7%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	0.9%	13.3%
Other Indo-European languages	0.2%	3.7%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	0.6%	3.5%
Other languages	0.0%	1.1%
Speak English less than "very well"	0.7%	8.2%

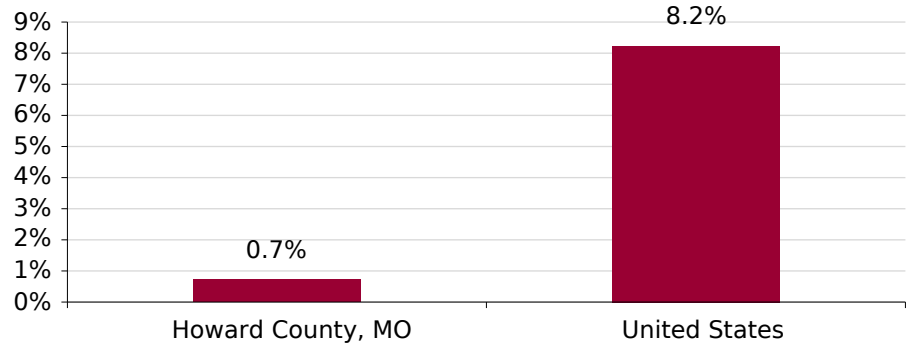
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Percent of Population that 'Speaks English Less Than Very Well', 2021*

- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest estimated percent of people that spoke English less than 'very well' (8.2%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (0.7%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Language

What do we measure on this page?

This page measures the primary language people speak at home.

Language Spoken at Home: The language used by respondents five years and older at home, either "English only" or a non-English language which is used in addition to English or in place of English.⁴⁶

Why is it important?

If a significant portion of the population is classified as speaking English "less than very well," public outreach, meetings, plans, and implementation may need to be conducted in multiple languages. Community leaders and policy makers should be prepared to use interpreters of languages other than English to communicate effectively with diverse publics.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Housing Characteristics

	Howard County, MO	United States
Total Housing Units, 2021*	4,393	139,647,020
Occupied	3,186	124,010,992
Vacant	1,207	15,636,028
For rent	"4	2,674,125
Rented, not occupied	"0	552,198
For sale only	"7	1,021,651
Sold, not occupied	"0	141,317
Seasonal, recreational, occasional	"70	5,092,152
For migrant workers	"0	34,074
Other vacant	1,126	5,640,511
Year Built		
Built 2010 or later	"230	10,425,505
Built 2000 to 2009	"494	18,958,193
Built 1990 to 1999	"359	18,930,786
Built 1980 to 1989	465	18,494,657
Built 1970 to 1979	"535	20,706,671
Built 1940 to 1969	1,331	35,026,562
Median year structure built^	1968	1979

Percent of Total

Occupancy		
Occupied	72.5%	88.8%
Vacant	27.5%	11.2%
For rent	"0.1%	1.9%
Rented, not occupied	"0.0%	0.4%
For sale only	"0.2%	0.7%
Sold, not occupied	"0.0%	0.1%
Seasonal, recreational, occasional	"1.6%	3.6%
For migrant workers	"0.0%	0.0%
Other vacant	25.6%	4.0%
Year Built		
Built 2010 or later	"5.2%	7.5%
Built 2000 to 2009	"11.2%	13.6%
Built 1990 to 1999	"8.2%	13.6%
Built 1980 to 1989	"10.6%	13.2%
Built 1970 to 1979	12.2%	14.8%
Built 1940 to 1969	30.3%	25.1%

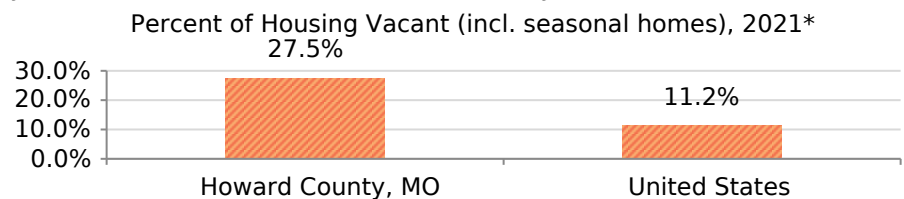
^ Median year structure built is not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

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- In the 2017-2021 period, Howard County, MO had the highest estimated percent of the vacant housing (27.5%), and United States had the lowest (11.2%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Housing Characteristics

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes whether housing is occupied or vacant, for rent or seasonally occupied, and the year built.

Rent: The number of homes for rent was defined as occupied housing units that were for rent, vacant housing units that were for rent, and vacant units rented but not occupied at the time of interview.

Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use: Refers to vacant units used or intended for use only in certain seasons or for weekends or other occasional use throughout the year.

For Migrant Workers: Refers to housing units intended for occupancy by migratory workers employed in farm work during the crop season.

Why is it important?

Vacancy status is an indicator of the housing market and provides information on the stability and quality of housing for certain areas. The data is used to assess the demand for housing, to identify housing turnover within areas, and to better understand the population within the housing market over time. These data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of persons at different economic levels.

Seasonal or recreational homes (i.e., “second homes”) are often an indicator of the desirability of a place for recreation and tourism. This could also be used as an indicator of recreational and scenic amenities, which can be a source of economic growth.

While the late 1990s and early 2000s were a period of rapid home development throughout the country, there have been other periods when housing grew at a fast rate (the late 1970s, for example, in many parts of the country). The relative growth rate of housing is an indicator of overall economic growth but may indicate challenges such as the need to prepare for risk of wildfire, flooding, and other natural disasters. The year the home was built also provides information on the age of the housing stock, which can be used to forecast future demand of services such as energy consumption and fire protection.

Housing that is classified as available for migrant workers can be used as an indicator of a certain type of economic activity, in particular crop agriculture.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Housing Affordability

	Howard County, MO	United States
Owner-occupied mortgaged homes, 2021*	1,473	49,820,928
Cost >30% of household income	231	13,476,120
Specified renter-occupied units, 2021*	596	43,858,831
Rent >30% of household income	214	20,169,402
Median monthly mortgage cost [^] , 2021*	\$1,116	\$1,697
Median gross rent [^] , 2021*	\$712	\$1,163

Percent of Total

Cost >30% of household income	15.7%	27.0%
Rent >30% of household income	35.9%	46.0%

[^] Median monthly mortgage cost and median gross rent are not available for metro/non-metro or regional aggregations.

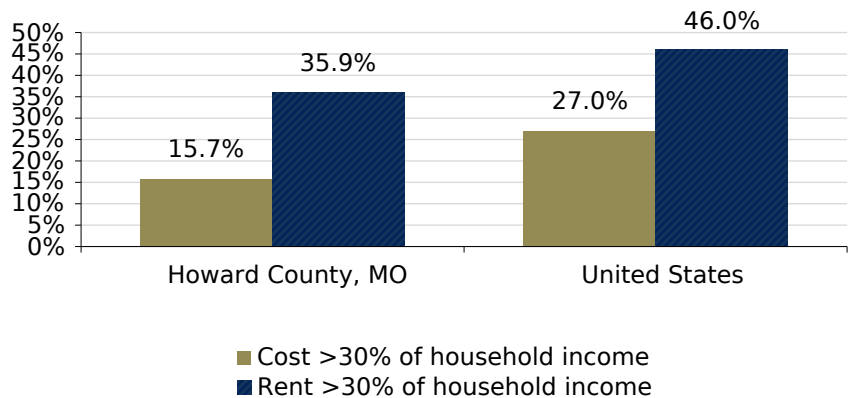
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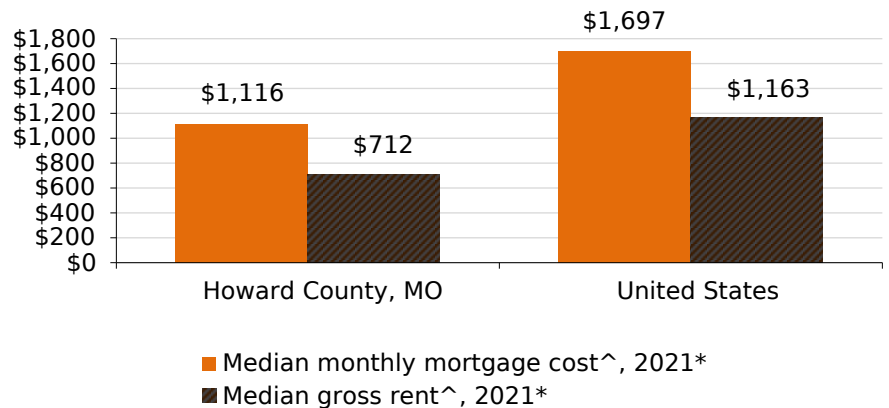
Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest percent of owner-occupied households where > 30% of household income was spent on mortgage costs (27.0%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (15.7%).
- In the 2017-2021 period, United States had the highest percent of renter-occupied households where > 30% of household income was spent on gross rent (46.0%), and Howard County, MO had the lowest (35.9%).

Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income, 2021*



Median Monthly Mortgage Costs and Gross Rent, 2021*



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Housing Affordability

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes whether housing is affordable for homeowners and renters.⁴⁷

Owner-Occupied Housing Unit: A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for.

Renter-Occupied Housing Unit: All occupied units that are not owner-occupied are classified as renter-occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent.

Household: A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Monthly Costs (owner-occupied): The sum of payment for mortgages, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

Gross Rent: The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid for by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else).

The lowest ownership costs and gross rent share of household income reported in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey is 15 percent. Many government agencies define as excessive (or unaffordable) housing costs that exceed 30 percent of monthly household income.

Why is it important?

An important indicator of economic hardship is whether housing is affordable.⁴⁸ This page measures housing affordability in terms of the share of household income that is devoted to a mortgage and related costs (for homeowners) and rent and related costs (for renters). An income share devoted to housing that is below 15 percent is a good proxy for highly affordable, while the income share devoted to housing that is above 30 percent is a good proxy for unaffordable.

Demographics

Howard County, MO

Comparisons

Indicators		Howard County, MO	United States	Percent difference Howard County, MO vs. United States
Demographics	Population Growth (% change, 2010*-2021*)	0.3%	8.5%	-97.8%
	Median Age (2021*)	38.5	38.4	0.3%
	Percent Population White Alone (2021*)	89.1%	68.2%	30.6%
	Percent Population Hispanic or Latino (2021*)	1.8%	18.4%	-90.2%
	Percent Population American Indian or Alaska Native (2021*)	0.6%	0.8%	-25.0%
	Percent of Population 'Baby Boomers' (2021*)	24.6%	24.7%	-0.4%
Income	Median Household Income (2021*)	\$58,596	\$69,021	-15.8%
	Per Capita Income (2021*)	\$25,827	\$37,638	-31.4%
	Percent Individuals Below Poverty (2021*)	9.8%	12.6%	-22.2%
	Percent Families Below Poverty (2021*)	3.9%	8.9%	-56.2%
	Percent of Households with Retirement and Social Security Income (2021*)	67.7%	53.1%	27.5%
	Percent of Households with Public Assistance Income (2021*)	16.2%	19.2%	-15.6%
Structure	Percent Population 25 Years or Older without High School Degree (2021*)	12.1%	11.1%	9.0%
	Percent Population 25 Years or Older with Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2021*)	27.7%	33.7%	-17.8%
	Percent Population That Speak English Less Than 'Very Well' (2021*)	0.7%	8.2%	-91.5%
	Percent of Houses that are Seasonal Homes (2021*)	1.6%	3.6%	-55.6%
	Owner-Occupied Homes where > 30% of Household Income Spent on Mortgage (2021*)	15.7%	27.0%	-41.9%
	Renter-Occupied Homes where > 30% of Household Income Spent on Rent (2021*)	35.9%	46.0%	-21.7%

-200% -100% 0% 100%

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* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Comparisons

What do we measure on this page?

This page compares key demographic, income, and social indicators from the selected region to the United States overall.

The term "benchmark" in this report should not be construed as having the same meaning as in the National Forest Management Act.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. In 1997 the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the standards for how the Federal government collects and presents data on race and ethnicity.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Baby Boomers: Baby boomers are defined as having been born between 1946-1964. The reported percent of population that are "Baby Boomers" has some associated error since ACS generally reports age classes in 5-year increments (55 to 59 years, 60 to 64 years, etc.).

Social Security: Refers to households that receive income that includes Social Security pensions and survivor benefits, permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration before deductions for medical insurance, and Railroad Retirement insurance. It does not include Medicare reimbursement.

Retirement Income: Consists of households that receive: 1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer, labor union, U.S. military, or federal, state, or local government; 2) disability income from companies, unions, the U.S. military, or federal, state, or local government; 3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and 4) regular income from IRA and Keogh plans. It does not include Social Security income.

Median Age, Median Household Income, and Per Capita Income are not calculated for multi-location regions due to data availability.

Why is it important?

This page shows a quick comparison of indicators covered in this report and shows how the region is different from the selected comparison area. If no custom comparison area was selected, EPS defaults to comparing against the U.S.

The chart offers an at-a-glance view of whether groups of indicators are atypical compared to the comparison area. For example, this page may show that a selected area has an older population, relatively unaffordable housing, and language barriers. In combination, these indicators can help community leaders, local government staff, policy makers and others improve outreach strategies and consider whether the impacts of projects and policies could have disproportionate impacts on certain segments of the population.

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Demographics

Howard County, MO

Data Sources & Methods

EPS uses national statistics from public government sources. All data used in EPS can be readily verified with the original sources:

- **American Community Survey**

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

<https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/index.php>

Contacts:

<https://www.census.gov/about/contact-us.html>

EPS core approaches: EPS is designed to focus on long-term trends across a range of important measures. Trend analysis provides a more comprehensive view of changes than spot data for select years. We encourage users to focus on major trends rather than absolute numbers. EPS displays detailed industry-level data to show changes in the composition of the economy over time and the mix of industries at points in time. EPS employs cross-sectional benchmarking—comparing smaller areas such as counties to larger regions, states, and the nation—to give a sense of relative performance. EPS allows users to aggregate data for multiple locations to allow for more sophisticated cross-sectional comparisons.

About the American Community Survey (ACS): All data used in this report is based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide survey conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau that provides current demographic, social, economic, and housing information about communities. The ACS is not the same as the Decennial U.S. Census, which is conducted every 10 years.

Estimates based on five years of sampling are available for all areas, whereas estimate based on annual and three-year sampling are only available for areas with larger population sizes. Data used in this report are five-year ACS estimates which are consistently available for locations with small populations such as towns. Five-year estimates are displayed for all locations because data obtained using the same survey technique is ideal for comparisons. The disadvantage is that multi-year estimates cannot be used to describe any particular year in the period, only the average value over the full period.

Data Accuracy: ACS is based on a survey and is subject to error. The U.S. Census Bureau reports the accuracy of the data by providing margins of error. In this report, we alert the user to the data accuracy using color-coded text and symbols in the tables: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation <12%; **ORANGE** (preceded with one dot) indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD** (preceded with two dots) indicates a coefficient of variation >40%. The coefficient of variation is a measure of relative error in the estimate and is calculated directly from the margin of error as the ratio of the standard error to the estimate itself. Less populated areas tend to have lower accuracy. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Endnotes

- 1 - A useful resource on rural population change is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service web page: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/population-migration/>.
- 2 - William H. Frey's website provides links to publications, issues, media stories, data tools and resources on migration, population redistribution, and demography of both rural and urban populations in the U.S.: frey-demographer.org.
- 3 - For a description of the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS methodology and data accuracy, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology.html>.
- 4 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging has a host of resources about older Americans at <https://aoa.acl.gov/>.
- 5 - The U.S. Census Bureau publishes age data estimates for the U.S., states, counties, and metropolitan areas. See <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/age-and-sex.html>.
- 6 - The non-profit Population Reference Bureau offers a helpful video on population pyramids at <http://www.prb.org/Multimedia/Video/2009/distilleddemographics1.aspx>.
- 7 - Grayson KV and Victoria VA. 2010. The Next Four Decades: Older Population in the United States: 2010 to 2050. U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p25-1138.pdf>.
- 8 - Jacobsen LA and Mather M. 2010. U.S. Social and Economic Trends Since 2000. Population Bulletin 65(1):1-16. Washington DC: Population Reference Bureau.
- 9 - Cromartie J and Nelson P. 2009. Baby Boom Migration and Its Impact on Rural America. USDA-ERS Report No. 79. Washington, DC: USDA Economic Research Service. <https://permanent.access.gpo.gov/lps125026/ERR79.pdf>.
- 10 - The U.S. Census Bureau has many resources that describe the trends in aging in the U.S. and its implications. See for example: An Aging Nation: The Older Population in the United States <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf>; and The Graying of America: More Adults Than Kids by 2035 <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2018/03/graying-america.html?eml=gd>.
- 11 - Frey WH. 2006. America's Regional Demographics in the '00 Decade: The Role of Seniors, Boomers and New Minorities. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/americas-regional-demographics-in-the-00s-decade-the-role-of-seniors-boomers-and-new-minorities/>
- 12 - Frey WH. 2007. Mapping the Growth of Older America. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/mapping-the-growth-of-older-america/>.

Endnotes

- 13 - OMB. 1997. Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. Federal Register 62(210):58782-58790. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf>.
- 14 - For a primer on how the Census 2010 handles race and Hispanic origin, see: Humes KR, Jones NA, and Ramirez RR. 2011. Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin. U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>.
- 15 - <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2017/school-enrollment.html>
- 16 - <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=ethnic%20groups>
- 17 - <https://www.archives.gov/files/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf>
- 18 - A Century Apart: New Measures of Well-Being for U.S. Racial and Ethnic Groups is available at <http://www.measureofamerica.org/acenturyapart/>.
- 19 - Additional U.S. Census Bureau information on the Hispanic population (Who's Hispanic in America?) is available at https://www.census.gov/newsroom/cspan/hispanic/2012.06.22_cspan_hispanics.pdf.
- 20 - U.S. Census Bureau. Facts for Features: Hispanic Heritage Month 2016 <https://census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2016/cb16-ff16.html>.
- 21 - See U.S. Census Bureau Tribal Affairs at <https://www.census.gov/aian/>.
- 22 - The U.S. Department of Interior's Indian Affairs oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education. Indian Affairs resources and contacts are available at <https://bia.gov/index.htm>.
- 23 - The U.S. Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations, formed in 2004, is a useful source of information and policies related to agency-tribal relations. See <https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/index.shtml>.
- 24 - In 2016 the Bureau of Land Management published a Tribal Relations Manual and Handbook. See <https://www.blm.gov/programs/cultural-heritage-and-paleontology/tribal-consultation>.
- 25 - The American Indian Heritage Foundation hosts an American Indian Resource Directory with a list of all American Indian tribes, including Federally recognized tribes. This and other resources are available at <http://www.indians.org/index.html>.
- 26 - For an indispensable publication on environmental justice, see: Council on Environmental Quality. 1997. Environmental Justice: Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act. Washington, DC: CEQ. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-02/documents/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf.

Endnotes

- 27 - The Census Bureau provides industry and occupation code lists and definitions: <https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/industry-occupation/guidance/code-lists.html>.
- 28 - Occupations are also defined by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/soc/>.
- 29 - The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides The Occupational Outlook Handbook, which is an analysis of the prospects for different types of jobs, including training and education needed, earnings, working conditions, and what workers do on the job: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.
- 30 - Maynard DC and Feldman DC. (Eds.) 2011. Underemployment: Psychological, economic and social challenges. New York, NY: Springer.
- 31 - Labor Force Statistics from Current Population Survey. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm>.
- 32 - Involuntary Part-Time Work on the Rise. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm>.
- 33 - <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2017/acs-5yr.html>
- 34 - Aldrich L, Beale C, and Kasse K. 1997. Commuting and the Economic Functions of Small Towns and Places. Rural Development Perspectives 12(3):26-31. <https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/34577/PDF>.
- 35 - For useful remarks and scholarly references on the level and distribution of economic well-being, see Federal Reserve System Chairman Ben S. Bernanke's speech on February 6, 2007: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/Bernanke20070206a.htm>.
- 36 - For an analysis of trends in the distribution of wealth in the U.S., see Saez E and Zucman G. 2016. Wealth inequality in the United States since 1913: Evidence from capitalized income tax data. The Quarterly Journal of Economics 131(2):519-578.
- 37 - Income Inequality. U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income-inequality/about/middle-class.html>.
- 38 - The University of Michigan's National Poverty Center has a range of resources on poverty in the United States at <http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/>.
- 39 - For more information on rural poverty, see USDA Economic Research Service Briefing Room, Rural Income, Poverty, and Welfare: High Poverty Counties at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being/>.
- 40 - The specific thresholds used for tabulation of income for particular years are shown at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

Endnotes

- 41 - The University of Michigan's National Poverty Center hosts a body of research on race and ethnicity as they relate to poverty. See <http://npc.umich.edu/research/ethnicity/>.
- 42 - The U.S. Census Bureau briefing on "Poverty Areas" shows that Blacks and Hispanics are disproportionately affected by poverty. "Four times as many Blacks and three times as many Hispanics lived in poverty areas than lived outside them." For more information, see https://www.census.gov/prod/1/statbrief/sb95_13.pdf.
- 43 - The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows a tight relationship between employment projections and educational attainment. See <https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education-training-system.htm>.
- 44 - Card D. 1999. The Causal Effect of Education on Earnings in Ashenfelter O and Card D, eds., Handbook of Labor Economics, Vol. 3A. New York: Elsevier. Pp. 1801-63.
- 45 - Employment Projections. 2017. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>.
- 46 - The Modern Language Association has developed an online mapping tool that shows languages spoken for most areas of the United States. See https://apps.mla.org/map_main.
- 47 - The U.S. Census Bureau's American Housing Survey has additional information on housing and housing affordability. See <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/>.
- 48 - For current calculations on housing affordability, see the National Association of Realtors' Housing Affordability Index, available at <https://www.nar.realtor/topics/housing-affordability-index>.
- 49 - Federal Register 59(32). See <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1994-02-16/html/94-3685.htm>.
- 50 - For a description of the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS definition of per capita income, see <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/note/US/INC910216>.
- 51 - For an explanation of the discrepancies between the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, see <http://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2003/jan-feb03/details.asp>.