upper explorerland
regional planning commission

# Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission

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## Iowa Smart Planning …

- Is a tool for local comprehensive planning and subsequent decision-making
- Provides 10 planning principles as a guide to ensure a complete and equitable process
- Identifies 13 elements that may be included in a comprehensive plan
- Is part of the Land Use section of the Iowa State Code, signed into law in April of 2010

## Smart Planning Principles

- Collaboration
- Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency
- Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy
- Occupational Diversity
- Revitalization
- Housing Diversity
- Community Character
- Natural Resource and Agricultural Protection
- Sustainable Design
- Transportation Diversity

## Smart Planning Elements

- Public Participation
- Community Characteristics
- Community Culture
- Community Facilities
- Housing
- Public Infrastructure and Utilities
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources and Agriculture
- Land Use
- Hazards
- Intergovernmental Collaboration
- Implementation Plan

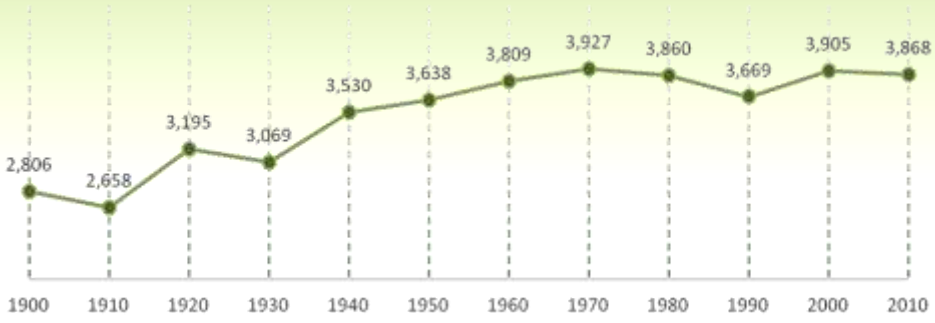
# City Snapshot: Demographics

Why do we look at demographics?

- To look for trends in population – are we growing or declining, which age groups are growing or declining, which communities are growing or declining. Do we know why?
- To understand who we are – what are our ages, where are we living?
- To help plan for all of us – what will we need in the future to support our population and communities?

# City Snapshot: Demographics

Population Trend Since 1900



# City Snapshot: Demographics

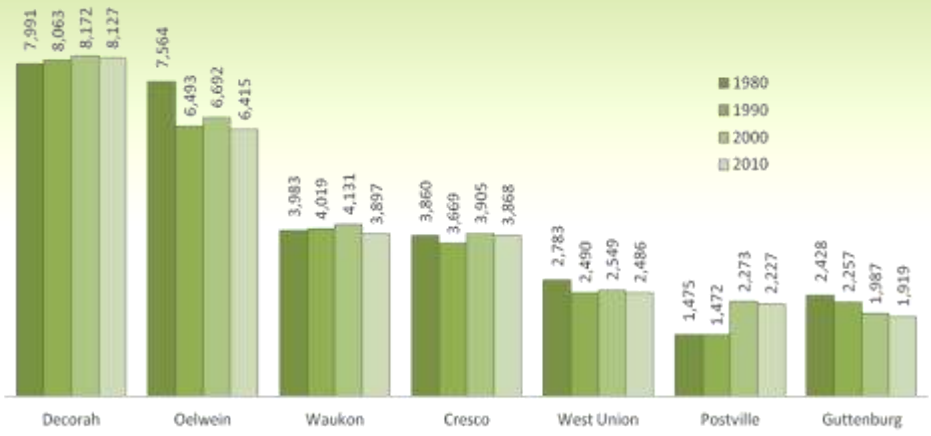
## Age Group as a Percent of Population: 1980-2010

# City Snapshot: Demographics

## Population Projection to 2030

# City Snapshot: Population Change

City Population Comparisons 1980 - 2010




# Element: Community Character & Culture

What makes Cresco special?

- Natural Resources (parks, scenic vistas, water features…)
- Culture (performing arts, events, festivals, visual arts…)
- History (architecture, museums, archeology…)

## Element: Community Facilities

What is the condition of our community…

- Libraries
- City Halls
- Fire Stations
- Water/Sewer Plants
- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Child Care Centers
- Schools
- Police Stations
- Courthouse
- Senior Centers
- Community Centers
- Park and Recreation Venues

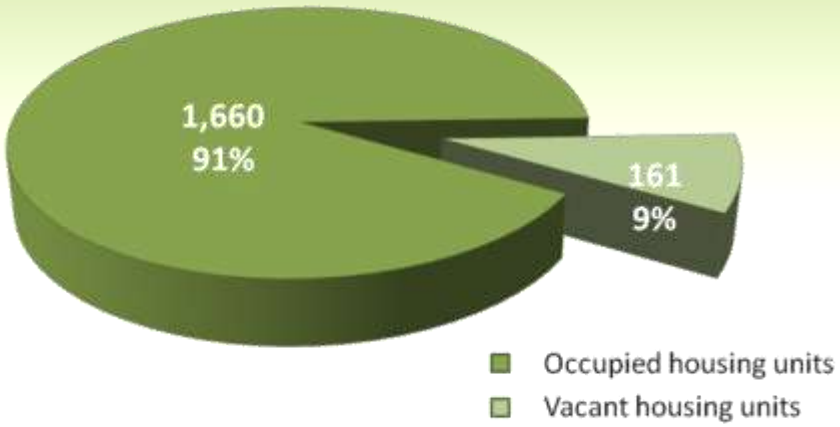
## Element: Housing

Why do we look at housing?

- To identify what type of housing is available – do we have a variety of unit-types and price ranges?
- To understand the condition of our housing stock – how old are our houses?
- To help plan for all of us – what will we need in the future to support our population and communities?

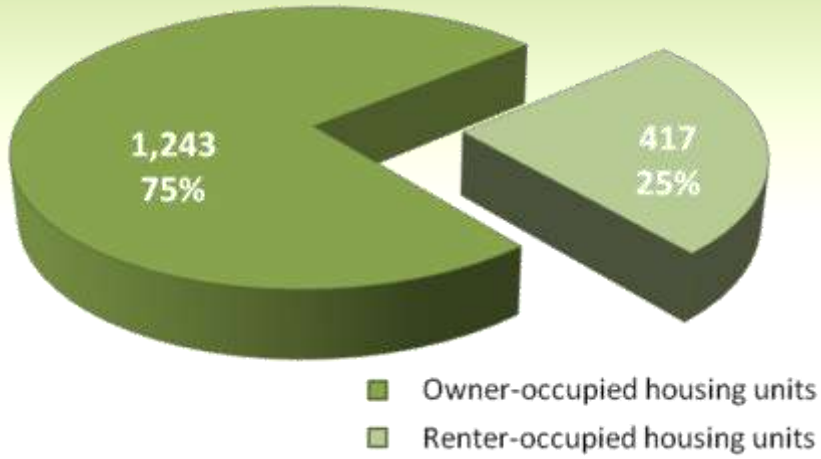
# Element: Housing

Total Housing Units in Cresco: 1,821



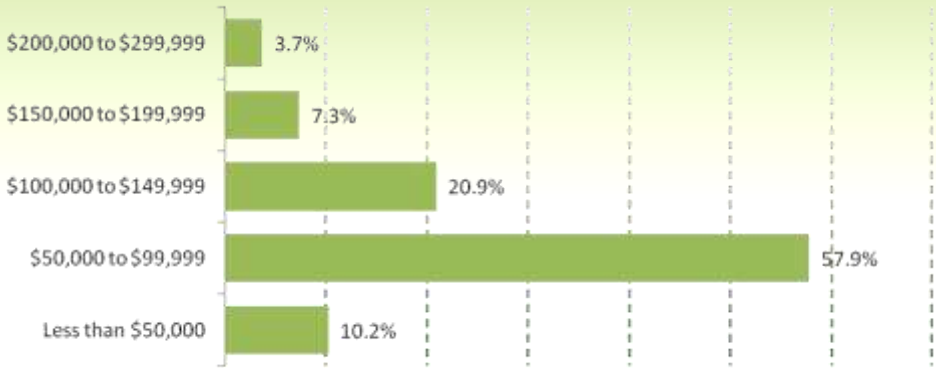

# Element: Housing

Cresco Owner Occupied and Rental Units



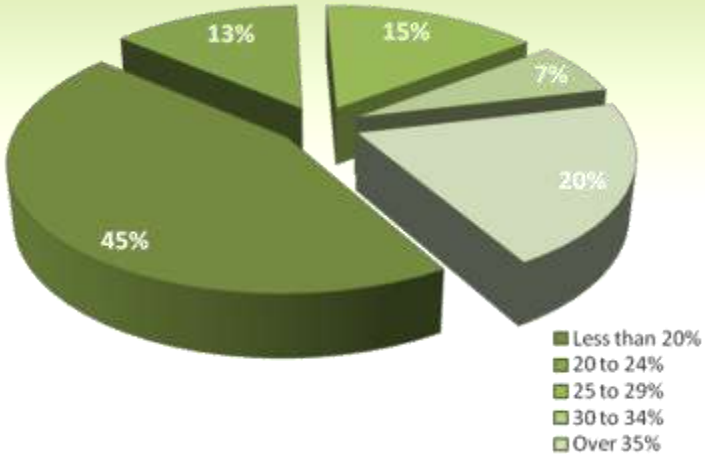
# Element: Housing

## Value of Cresco Housing



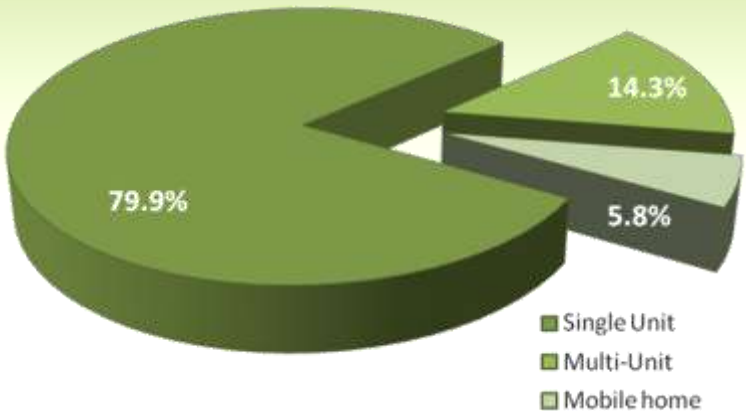

# Element: Housing

## Percent of Income Spent on Rent, Mortgage and Selected Monthly Owner Costs by Cresco Residents



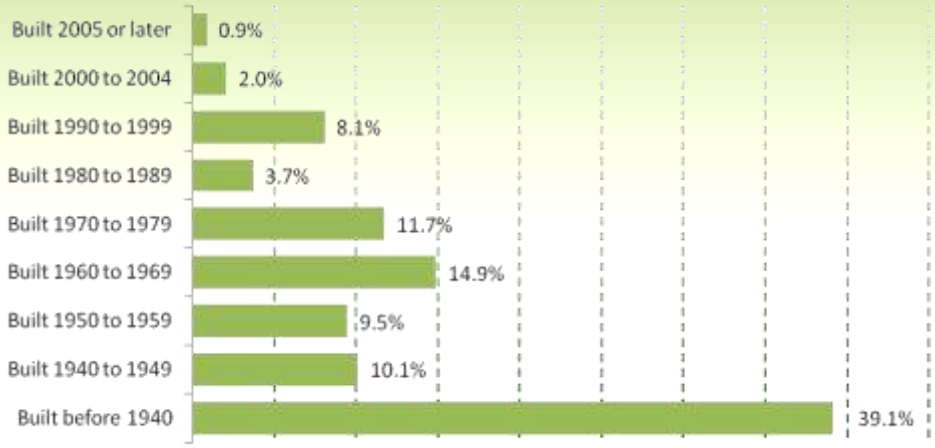
# Element: Housing

## Types of Cresco Housing




# Element: Housing

## Age of Cresco Housing Stock



## Element: Public Infrastructure & Utilities

What is the condition and availability of…

- Roads
- Bridges
- Sidewalks
- Water/Sewer Pipes
- Storm Drainage
- Waste Collection
- Telephone Service
- Internet Service
- Electric Service
- Natural or LP Gas Service
- Recycling Service

## Element: Transportation

How do we get around and what is the impact to our transportation system?

How can we make sure everyone can get safely to where they need to go?

Does our land use plan consider the impacts of air and noise disturbance?

What specific policies should be supported or encouraged?

- Personal Transport – cars, motorcycles, bicycles…
- Passenger Transport – buses, group vans…
- Farm and Business Transport – tractors, semis…
- Air Transport – airplane, helicopter…

## Element: Economic Development

### Why do we look at economic development?

- To study our workforce – educational levels, unemployment levels, etc.
- To understand our current business environment – business types, occupation types and income levels
- To help plan for all of us – what will we need in the future to attract and support businesses and the workforce?

## Element: Economic Development

### Howard County Workforce Quick Facts

- The largest concentration of workers are employed within manufacturing, followed closely by wholesale and retail trade
- 12.9% are working multiple jobs
- Average age is 46 years old
- 90% of workers are offered health and medical benefits
- 76% state they are currently sharing the cost of health insurance premiums with their employer.
- 18.2 % indicate their employer pays the entire cost of insurance premiums.

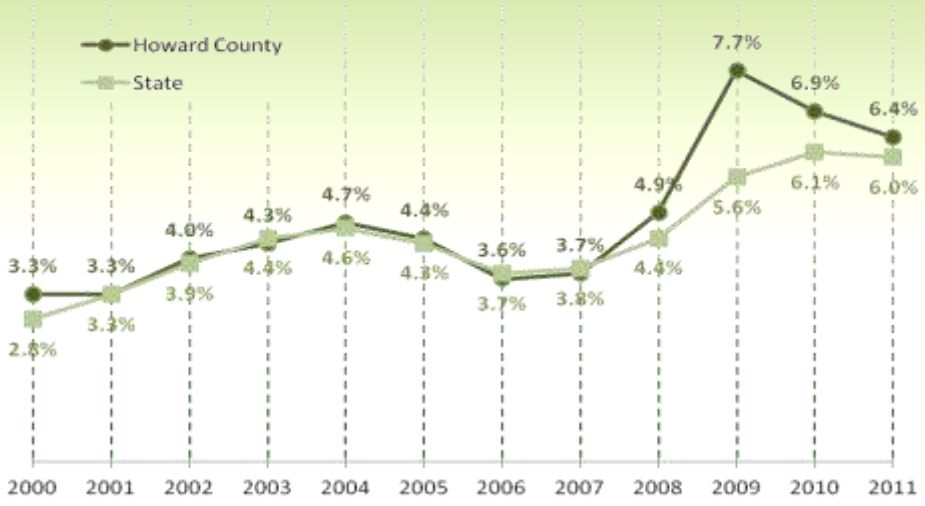
# Element: Economic Development

## Howard County Unemployment Quick Facts

- Average year-to-date unemployment rate for 2011 is 6.4%
- Average age is 52 years old
- 45.5% are female
- 54.5% are male
- 54.5% have some post high school education
- On average, they are willing to commute 21 miles one way for the right opportunity

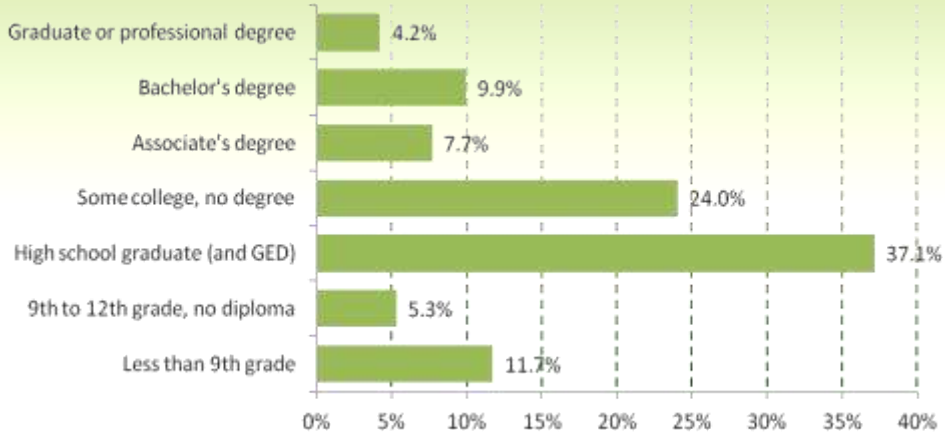
# Element: Economic Development

## State and County Unemployment Rates, 2000-2011



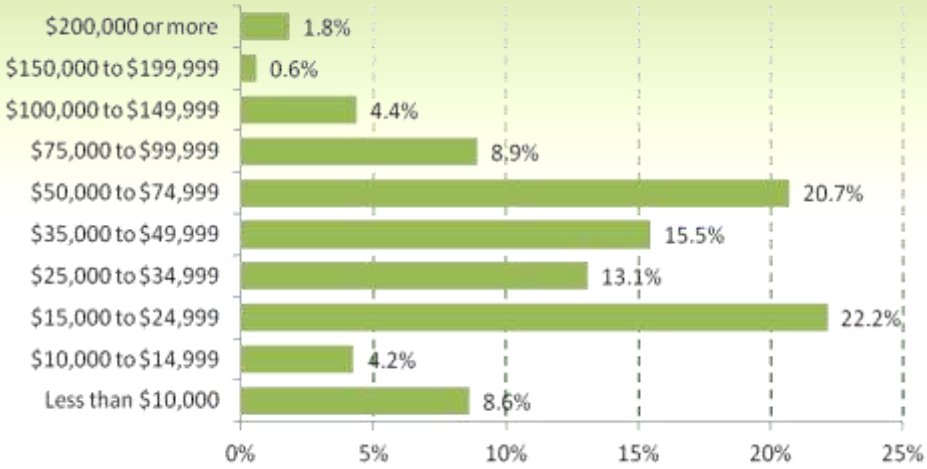
# Element: Economic Development

## Educational Attainment of City Population over 25



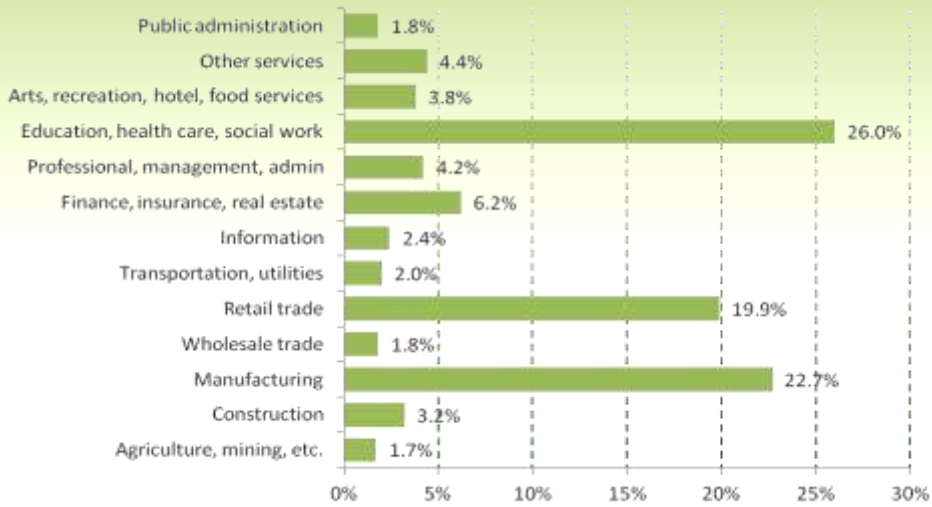

# Element: Economic Development

## Cresco Household Income Level Distribution



# Element: Economic Development

## Economic Base, Cresco by Employer Type




# Element: Economic Development

## Cresco by Occupation Type

## Element: Natural Resources & Agriculture

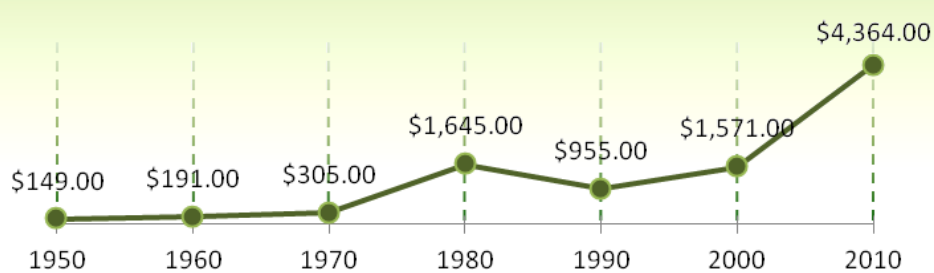
What is the condition of our natural resources?

- Streams and rivers
- Farmland
- Forest
- Prairie
- Air

Do we have pollution issues? Run-off or drainage problems? Noxious weeds? Emerald Ash Borer? What else should we prepare for and how should we prepare for it?

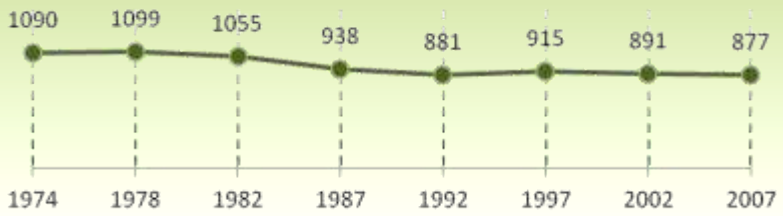
## Element: Natural Resources & Agriculture

Price of Howard County Farm Land Per Acre, 1950 - 2010

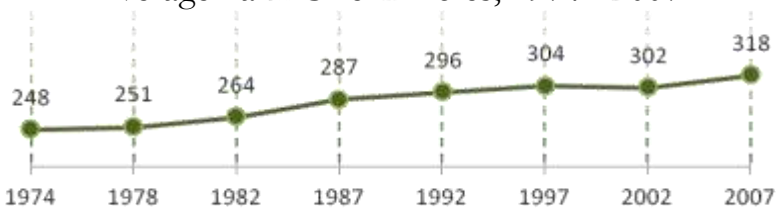


# Element: Natural Resources & Agriculture

Number of Farms, 1974 - 2007




Average Farm Size in Acres, 1974 - 2007




# Element: Land Use

Why do we look at land use?

- To understand the best placement for agriculture, industry, housing and commercial to avoid conflicts
- To understand the suitability of land for various uses
- To help communities attract the businesses and population they are able to sustain
- To help plan for all of us – how should our communities be laid out for the best possible uses and smart growth?

## Element: Hazards

Why do we look at hazards?

- To understand the likelihood of potentially devastating occurrences like floods and tornados
- To be prepared for these occurrences
- To ensure that hazard areas are considered during land use planning
- To prepare a plan to help communities rebuild after an occurrence
- To help plan for all of us – what do we need to do now to be able to withstand unexpected events?

## Element: Intergovernmental Collaboration

Why collaboration?

- To make the most of limited budgets faced by all organizations
- To bring the needed expertise and resources to communities
- To support each other with the goal of strengthening communities
- To help plan for all of us – who and which organizations can we look to for to partner on the many types of community projects?