

Demographic Summary of Boulder County, Colorado

Prepared by Boulder County Public Health

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**BOULDER COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Population

As of 2012, Boulder County's population was estimated to be 305,318, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2012 county population is about 13.2% larger than it was in 2000. The population is mainly concentrated in four cities, but it does spread to a number of mountain communities, as indicated below.

Race/Ethnicity

Between 2008 and 2012¹, the racial makeup of the county was 79.3% white, 0.8% black or African American, 0.3% Native American, 4.0% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 0.2% from some other race alone, and 2.2% from two or more races. In the same year, 13.3% of the population was Hispanic or Latino of any race.

Household Composition

Between 2008 and 2012² there were, on average, 120,061 occupied households in Boulder County, of which 58.9% were family households, and 41.1% were non-family households. Of family households, 27.6% had their own children under the age of 18 living with them; 47.4% were married-couple families; 3.6% were male householders with no wife present; and 7.8% had a female householder with no husband present. Of non-family households, 28.4% consisted of individuals living alone. Of all households, 28.9% included related children under 18 years of age, and 15.9% included individuals who were 65 years and older. Household composition characteristics for Boulder County are represented below.

Table 1. Household Composition, Boulder County, 2008-2012 Average Estimates²

	Number	Percent
Occupied housing units	120,061	100%
Family households	NA	58.9%
With own children under 18 years	NA	27.6%
Married-couple family	NA	47.4%
Male householder, no wife present	NA	3.6%
Female householder, no husband present	NA	7.8%
Non-family households	NA	41.1%
Individuals living alone	NA	28.4%
All households		
Related children under 18 years of age	NA	28.9%
Householder 65 years and older	NA	15.9%

Age and Generation

The Boulder County population is spread by age, ranging from 21.0% under the age of 18 to 10.1% who were 65 years of age or older between 2008 and 2012.¹ The median age was 35.6 years. The state Demographer's Office predicts a dramatic rise in the county's median age in the coming decade, in large part due to increases in the population aged 65 to 74 years. This forecast is based on Colorado's high concentration of Baby Boomers. Compared to their national and state counterparts, Boulder County's Baby Boomers tend to be healthier, have a slow retirement rate, and have a strong attachment to the county.

Sex

Between 2008 and 2012, 50.2% of the Boulder County population was male, while 49.8% was female.

Table 2. Age, Boulder County, 2008-2012 Average¹

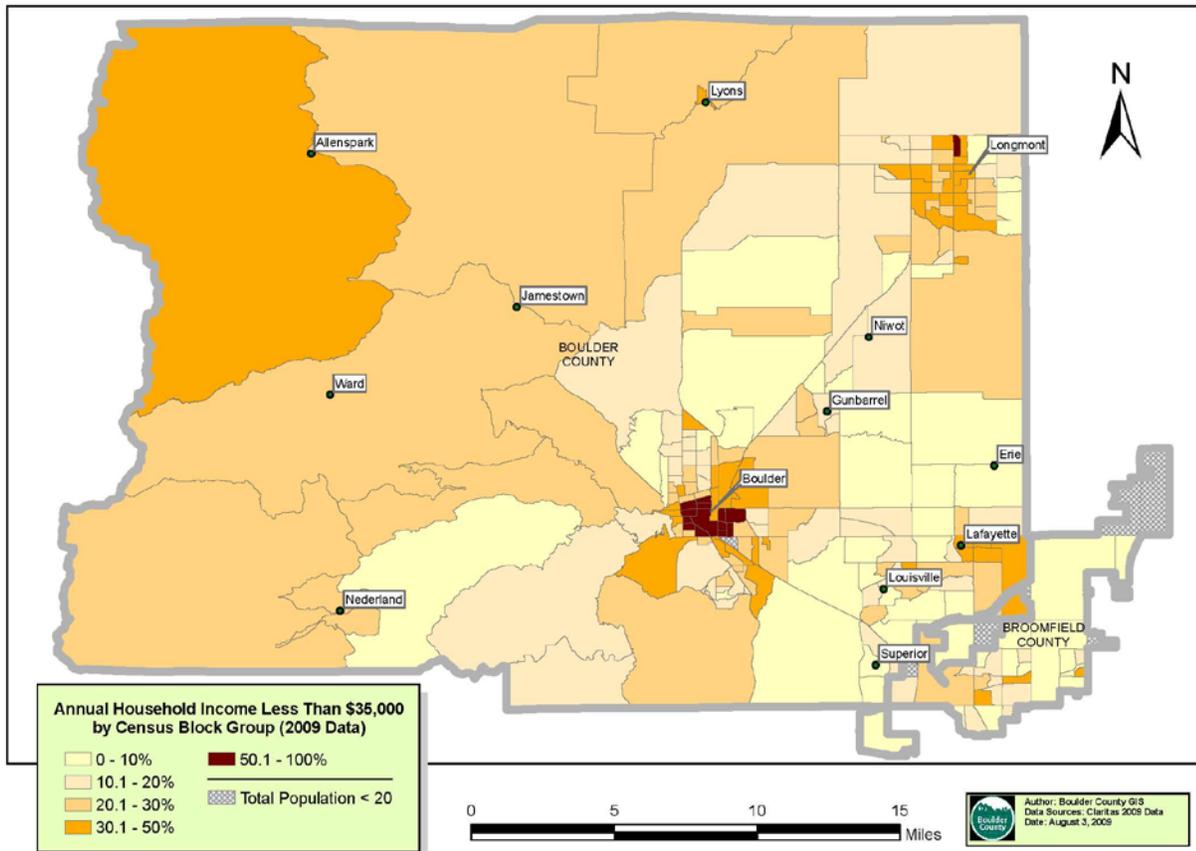
	Number	Percent
Total population	297,218	100
Sex		
Male	149,296	50.2%
Female	147,922	49.8%
Age		
Under 5 years	16,413	5.5
5 to 9 years	17,801	6.0
10 to 14 years	17,770	6.0
15 to 19 years	23,901	8.0
20 to 24 years	30,918	10.4
25 to 34 years	39,269	13.2
35 to 44 years	41,222	13.9
45 to 54 years	44,159	14.9
55 to 59 years	20,571	6.9
60 to 64 years	15,036	5.1
65 to 74 years	17,126	5.8
75 to 84 years	8,822	3.0
85 years and over	4,210	1.4
Median age (years)	35.6	

Income

Using data spanning from 2008 to 2012,³ the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the median income for a household in Boulder County was \$67,403 (in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars), and the median income for a family was \$92,788. In the same time period, the per capita income for the county was \$38,283. About 6.4% of families and 13.3% of all people were below the poverty line.

Although census data do not distinguish between students and non-students, Figure 1 is a spatial analysis of household income in Boulder County, showing that the highest concentration of households making under \$35,000 per year in the county are within one mile of the University of Colorado at Boulder campus, indicating the potentially large effect that the university student population has on the county's demographics.

Figure 1. Boulder County Household Income Map, 2009⁴



Boulder County Demographics Compared to Colorado and U.S.

Table 3 shows that, compared to Colorado and the U.S., Boulder County has:

- A similar proportion of persons under 18 and 65 years and older.
- A higher proportion of non-Hispanic or Latino whites, a lower proportion of Black or African Americans, and a lower proportion of Hispanics or Latinos.
- A higher proportion of high school graduates and residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- A similar homeownership rate.
- Higher per capita and median household incomes and similar poverty levels.

City and Town Demographics

Table 3 also shows the demographics of each of the cities and towns in Boulder County, which contain approximately 85% of all Boulder County residents. The remaining residents live in unincorporated Boulder County, which includes the communities of Allenspark, Eldorado Springs, Gunbarrel, and Niwot. A description of each of the cities and towns compared to the overall county demographics is below.¹

¹ When interpreting city and town demographics, keep in mind the percentage and the number of total Boulder County population that the city or town has. For example, although 74.1% of Jamestown residents are college graduates, because Jamestown has only 274 residents (0.1% of Boulder County’s population), this is approximately 203 people.

Table 3. Boulder County, Boulder Cities, and U.S. Census Demographics

	Boulder County	City of Boulder	City of Lafayette	City of Longmont	City of Louisville	Town of Erie	Town of Jamestown	Town of Lyons	Town of Nederland	Town of Superior	Town of Ward	Colorado	USA
Population*													
Population	305,318	97,385	24,453	86,270	18,376	18,135	274	2,033	1,445	12,483	150	5,187,582	308,747,508
Percentage of Boulder County population**	NA	31.9%	8.0%	28.3%	6.0%	5.9%	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%	4.1%	0.05%	NA	NA
Persons under 18 years	20.5%	13.9%	25.4%	26.2%	24.4%	31.1%	17.5%	25.2%	19.8%	31.5%	19.3%	23.7%	23.5%
Persons 65 years and over	11.1%	8.9%	8.10%	11.2%	9.9%	5.7%	12.0%	8.3%	5.9%	3.1%	8.0%	11.8%	13.7%
Race/Ethnicity*													
Not Hispanic or Latino	86.7%	91.3%	81.8%	75.4%	92.8%	91.2%	98.9%	94.3%	95.9%	93.4%	98.0%	79.4%	83.6%
White alone	79.3%	83.0%	74.4%	69.3%	85.9%	83.8%	94.9%	90.9%	92.2%	75.3%	94.0%	70.0%	63.7%
Black or African American alone	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%	1.3%	3.8%	12.2%
American Indian & Alaska Native alone	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.6%	0.7%
Asian alone	4.0%	4.7%	3.7%	3.1%	3.9%	4.2%	1.8%	1.4%	0.8%	13.8%	0.0%	2.7%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Some other race alone	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Two or more races	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.6%	1.9%	2.1%	2.2%	1.4%	1.5%	3.1%	2.7%	2.1%	2.0%
Hispanic or Latino	13.3%	8.7%	18.2%	24.6%	7.2%	8.8%	1.1%	5.7%	4.1%	6.6%	2.0%	20.6%	16.4%
Education***													
High school graduate or higher, among age 25+	94.0%	95.7%	93.3%	87.4%	98.4%	97.7%	100.0%	98.7%	99.0%	99.5%	95.7%	89.9%	85.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher, among age 25+	58.0%	71.3%	53.7%	37.3%	68.8%	55.6%	74.1%	58.2%	52.1%	75.0%	27.7%	36.7%	28.5%
Income***													
Homeownership rate	64.2%	47.7%	72.8%	63.5%	72.5%	88.1%	77.9%	72.1%	60.6%	62.2%	76.0%	66.8%	66.1%
Per capita money income in the past 12 months	\$38,283	\$37,734	\$36,536	\$29,363	\$43,798	\$39,398	\$27,142	\$38,774	\$31,683	\$50,687	\$19,666	\$31,039	\$28,051
Median household income	\$67,403	\$56,206	\$69,759	\$57,142	\$84,988	\$107,246	\$61,042	\$74,375	\$68,071	\$107,921	\$33,125	\$58,244	\$53,046
Mean household income	\$93,303	\$88,918	\$89,052	\$74,773	\$103,325	\$115,683	\$65,579	\$92,352	\$73,909	\$138,092	\$40,587	77,900	\$73,034
Median family income	\$92,788	\$102,379	\$78,864	\$72,212	\$105,561	\$115,068	\$60,208	\$80,568	\$75,000	\$126,518	\$61,500	72,455	\$64,585
Mean family income	\$118,787	\$137,824	\$99,807	\$87,052	\$128,692	\$121,758	\$71,271	\$99,656	\$89,250	\$161,850	\$60,236	92,254	\$85,065
Persons below poverty level	13.3%	21.6%	8.8%	13.7%	5.6%	3.7%	17.6%	8.0%	16.7%	4.2%	6.6%	12.9%	14.9%
Persons 18-64 below poverty level	14.6%	25.6%	7.6%	12.2%	5.6%	3.4%	16.8%	7.7%	17.0%	4.7%	5.0%	12.1%	13.7%
Persons age 65 or older below poverty level	5.6%	6.1%	2.7%	8.2%	8.8%	1.9%	0.0%	4.5%	12.5%	0.0%	28.6%	8.1%	9.4%
Families below poverty level	6.4%	7.0%	5.7%	10.0%	2.4%	2.8%	10.2%	4.6%	13.6%	2.0%	0.0%	8.9%	10.9%
Families below poverty level with related children under 18	10.4%	10.8%	9.7%	15.9%	3.5%	3.3%	16.7%	5.3%	14.7%	3.3%	0.0%	14.0%	17.2%

*County, state, and national population and race/ethnicity data are from 2012; city data are from 2010.

**Approximately 14.4% of Boulder County residents live in unincorporated areas and are not represented in the city- and town-level statistics.

***City, county, state, and national education and income data are from 2008-2012, except for city homeownership rate (i.e. owner-occupied housing units) data, which are from 2010, and county, state, and national homeownership rate, which are from 2007-2011.

Sources: U.S. Census, U.S. Census Bureau State & County Quick Facts, and American Community Survey.

- The city of **Boulder** has the highest percentage of Boulder County’s population, with 31.9% of county residents, or 97,385 people. It also has a lower percentage of persons in the county who are under 18 years of age at 13.9%. Boulder has a higher percentage of whites who are not Hispanic or Latino than the overall county at 83.0%. It also has a higher percentage of people who have a bachelor’s degree or higher, among those who are age 25 and over, at 71.3%. The city also has a lower home ownership rate than in the county at 47.7%, a lower median household income at \$56,206, and a higher percentage of persons below the poverty level at 21.6%.
- The city of **Lafayette** has 24,453 residents, or 8.0% of the county’s population. Compared to county levels, it has a higher percentage of persons under 18 years of age at 25.4% and a lower percentage of its population is 65 years and older than the county, 8.1%. The Hispanic and Latino population is higher than in the county at 18.2%. The education levels are similar to the overall county, but Lafayette has a lower level of high school graduates among those 25 years and older at 93.3%. It has a higher home ownership rate than the overall county at 72.8%, similar income levels to the overall county, and a lower percentage of persons below poverty level at 8.8%.
- The city of **Longmont** has the second-largest population in the county, with 28.3% of county residents, or 86,270 people. It has a higher percentage of persons who are under 18 years of age, 26.2%, than in the county overall. It has a higher percentage of Hispanics or Latinos in the county at 24.6%. Compared to the overall county, Longmont has a lower percentage of residents 25 and over who have graduated from high school, 87.4%, and a lower percentage who have a bachelor’s degree or higher at 37.3%. Compared to Boulder County, Longmont’s homeownership rate is similar at 63.5%, and its median household income is lower at \$57,142. Poverty levels are similar to those of the county.
- The city of **Louisville** contains 6.0% of the county’s population (18,376 people), with a similar proportion of persons under 18 years and persons 65 years and over. It has a higher proportion of non-Hispanic or Latino whites than the county at 85.9%. In addition, among its population 25 years and older, it has a higher percentage of high school graduates at 98.4% and graduates with a bachelor’s degree or higher at 68.8%. It has a higher homeownership level than the county at 72.5% and a higher median household income at \$84,988. It also has a lower poverty level than the county at 5.6%.
- Residents of the town of **Erie** comprise 5.9% of the county’s population, with a population of 18,135. It has a higher percentage of persons under 18 years at 31.1% and a lower percentage 65 years and over than in the overall county at 5.7%. It has a lower proportion of Hispanics or Latinos, 8.8%, than in the county as a whole. The education levels of Erie residents are similar to that of the county as a whole. The homeownership level is higher than in the overall county at 88.1%. Erie also has a higher median household income in the county at \$107,246, and only 3.7% of Erie residents are below the poverty level, which is lower than in the county as a whole.
- The town of **Jamestown** has the second-smallest population in the county, with 274 residents, or 0.1% of the county population. It has a lower level of persons under 18 years of age at 17.5% and a higher percentage of people 65 years and older at 12.0%. It has a higher percentage of persons who are non-Hispanic or Latino whites at 94.9%. All (100.0%) of the town’s residents 25 years or older are high school graduates, and 74.1% have a bachelor’s degree or higher, which is higher than in the overall county. The homeownership rate is 77.9%, which is higher than the overall county, and the median household income is somewhat lower than the county at \$61,042. The percentage of persons who are below the poverty level is the higher than in the county at 17.6%.

- The town of **Lyons** has 2,033 residents, which is 0.7% of the county's population. It has a higher percentage of persons less than 18 years of age (25.2%) and a lower percentage of persons 65 years and older (8.3%) than the county as a whole. It has a higher percentage of non-Hispanic or Latino whites than in the overall county (90.9%) and a lower percentage of Hispanic or Latinos (5.7%). It has a higher percentage of high school graduates than the county, with 98.7% of its residents being graduates. It has a similar level of persons with a bachelor's degree or higher at 58.2%. It has a higher homeownership level than the county as a whole at 72.1% and a higher median household income at \$74,375. It also has a lower poverty level compared to the county at 8.0%.
- The town of **Nederland** has 1,445 residents, which is 0.5% of the county's population. It has a similar level of persons under 18 years of age, 19.8%, to that of the county, and a somewhat lower level of persons 65 years and over at 5.9%. It has a higher percentage of persons who are non-Hispanic or Latino Whites at 92.2%, and a lower percentage of Hispanic or Latinos at 4.1%. Compared to overall county levels, it has a somewhat higher percentage of persons 25 years and older who are high school graduates at 99.0%, which is the third-highest in the county. It has a somewhat lower percentage in this age group with bachelor's degrees or higher at 52.1%. The homeownership level is lower than in the overall county at 60.6%, and the median household income is higher at \$68,071. The percentage of persons below the poverty level is higher than in the county at 16.7%.
- The town of **Superior** has a population of 12,483, which is 4.1% of the county population. It has a higher percentage of people under 18, with 31.5% of its population in this age group, and a lower percentage of persons 65 years and over than in the county, with only 3.1% in this age group. Compared to the overall county, it has a lower percentage of non-Hispanic or Latino whites at 75.3%, a lower level of Hispanic or Latinos at 6.6%, and a higher percentage of Asians at 13.8%. Compared to the county, it has a higher level of high school graduates among those ages 25 years and older at 99.5% and a higher level of college graduates than in the county as a whole, with 75.0% having attained this level of education. The homeownership level is lower than in the overall county at 62.2%, and it has a higher median household income at \$107,921. The percentage of persons below the poverty level is 4.2%, which is lower than the county level.
- The town of **Ward** has the smallest population in the county, with 150 residents, or 0.05% of the county population. It has about the same percentage of residents under 18 years than the county at 19.3%, and lower levels of persons 65 years and over at 8.0%. It has a higher proportion of non-Hispanic or Latino whites at 94.0% than in the county and a lower percentage of Hispanic or Latinos at 2.0%. Compared to county percentages, it has a similar level of persons 25 and older who graduated from high school and a lower level of persons in this age group who have a bachelor's degree or higher at 27.7%. Ward has a higher homeownership level than the county at 76.0% and a lower median household income at \$33,125. It also has a lower percentage of its residents below poverty level at 6.6%.

¹ 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Demographics and Housing Estimates, accessed online August 18, 2014 <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_DP05>

² 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Occupancy Characteristics, accessed online July 24, 2014 <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_S2501>

³ 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Economic Characteristics, accessed online August 18, 2014, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_DP03>

⁴ Map produced by Boulder County IT GIS, based on 2009 Claritas data