**The Community of Kingsley, Iowa**

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Kingsley, Iowa is a small town thirty miles northeast of Sioux City. Kingsley connects to highway 140 and C66, and its population rests at 1,581 as of 2018 according to (Kingsley-Pierson High School) (2). According to Kingsley’s official website, Kinglsey’s history starts with a little village called Quorn (pronounced like corn), in 1880 wealthy Englishman bought a bunch of farmlands and would teach other men how to farm. After some time, a man named John Blair wanted to move the railroad near Quorn, so he hired another guy from Vermont, Nahum Kingsley, to lay out the town. Nahum then platted out the town of Kingsley and by 1884 businesses in Quorn moved to the new town of Kingsley.

When I surveyed the town and after living there for 18 years it was easy to tell that the general population is mostly white, with a small portion being African American and even smaller being Hispanic and biracial. I got the exact numbers from *DataUSA*, I got most of the data from that website because it has a lot of economic and demographic numbers that help back up what I am claiming. Roughly 90% or 1.43k of Kingsley is white, while 5.44% or 86 of Kingsley is African American. Multiracial people makeup 2.66% or 42 people and lastly, 1.77% or 28 people are Hispanic.

“Households in Kingsley, IA have a median annual income of $59,615, which is less than the median annual income of $61,937 across the entire United States. This is in comparison to a median income of $72,778 in 2017, which represents a -18.1% annual growth.” (*DataUSA)* This data suggests that economically, households in Kingsley did not make as much in 2018 as they did previously in 2017. There could be several reasons as to why, the most obvious one could be farming, the town is a lot of farmers, including a big co-op near downtown that a lot of farmers go to. That year could have been a bad farming year.

Kingsley takes a lot of pride in its education. The Kingsley-Pierson High School ranked 33rd in the state in 2018 with a 97% graduation rate. (U.S.NEWS) However, with that graduation rate, there seem to be some differences among the students about the future. Graduating students will either go to University, Trade School, or just the workforce. Now I could not find any stats on the landing spots for graduating students, but I can speak from personal experience. Looking over the few classes I know of (including myself), about 75% of people go to universities, while about 20% go to trade school, and the remaining 5% go straight into the workforce. For the general population, almost all have a high school diploma and probably some form of college or secondary education.

For being a small town, Kingsley does have a variety of job opportunities. There are a variety of stores downtown, which helps with employment and economy, a few restaurants, and a few businesses like healthcare, insurance, tax, newspaper, and home improvement. According to *DataUSA*, the top 5 occupations go as follows:

1. Office & Administrative Support Occupations (14.1%)
2. Management Occupations (9.9%)
3. Education Instruction, & Library Occupations (8.61%)
4. Sales and Related Occupations (8.35%)
5. Healthcare Support Occupations (7.07%)

Kingsley has six forms of healthcare: nursing home and rehab, eye clinic, a pharmacy, dentist, a chiropractor, and a family clinic. With all these healthcare institutions, it gives people plenty of job opportunities and healthcare providers. Next, we can look at all the forms of recreation that the town offers to its residents to promote fitness and ease of access. There is a park, along with the school playground and pool for kids to play. There is also a tennis court, a half-court basketball, a weight room, and full-court basketball where people need to buy a key, a track, both baseball and softball fields, a football field, and a golf course. There is also a kid center that usually opens on the weekend for kids to hang out and stay out of trouble. Lastly, the town also has a food pantry that families can go to if they need it, the school will host competitions to see which grade levels can collect the most canned goods and donate to the pantry.

Next, I would like to look at is safety and transportation, as this is what I think could be a public health issue with the town. After driving around town and living there I was able to see and recall all the modes of transportation. The most popular modes of transportation are cars, bicycles, and walking, however, the modes that are not so random are: horses, ATVs, snowmobiles, golf carts, and mopeds. For safety, they have a few town cops who do a pretty good job most of the time.

Now for the problem. When I was there last, I noticed something on the way out of town, the walking trails are snowed in. Granted, yes, it is about -10 degrees outside right now so not many people would be outside using the walking trail but when the weather is decent the elderly like to go outside and walk around town to get exercise because they cannot go to the gym during the day. Or some of the sidewalks are still caked in snow or ice, making it challenging for elderly people to walk on if they need to go downtown and they cannot drive. That buildup of snow or ice could seriously hurt an elderly person and considering sidewalks are a household responsibility, it could create future law issues.

I think that the easy solution is to clear the walking trails and sidewalks to the best of the town’s abilities. Maybe fine residents if they do not keep their sidewalks clean. A secondary solution would be to have a delivery service of some kind. Like an UberEats to pick up food for elderly people so they would not need to leave the house under bad circumstances. Maybe have an actual Uber car to drive elderly people around so they can go grocery shopping or to see loved ones if they do not feel safe leaving. Everything else seems to be fine for now, there are plenty of wheelchair accessible areas, and plenty of things for recreation. However, the one issue I can point out is the walking trail and sidewalks, if this is left untreated, it could cause trouble for elderly people and the town.

**Sources**

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