

Organization of State and County Data Profiles

North Dakota County Map

A map of North Dakota highlighting the location of each county is included in each data profile. The map below shows the names and locations of each of the state's 53 counties.



Quick Facts

Quick facts are included to provide some background information for the state and each of its 53 counties. Data, except for the capital and county seat, come from the 2000 Decennial Census and can be found online at the U.S. Census Bureau's website: <http://www.census.gov>. Quick facts included are:

- North Dakota's capital and the county seat for each county
- North Dakota's national population rank and the state population rank of each of the counties (population for the United States in 2000 was 281,421,906)
- The median age in years for North Dakota and each county (median age for the United States in 2000 was 35.3)
- The number of persons per square mile, or population density, for North Dakota and each county (persons per square mile for the United States in 2000 was 79.6)

Population Trends

The *Population Trends: 1920 - 2020* charts show the population trendline for the state and each county using U.S. Census Bureau data from 1920 through 2000. The population projections through 2020 are also shown, as a dotted extension of the census trendline. At 642,200 in 2000, North Dakota has shown a 5.7 percent decrease in population since its peak in 1930 at 680,845. The state's population is projected to increase by 1.4 percent by 2020, to 651,291. The trends for most counties show continued population decline, except for those counties that have larger urban centers, which show increases in population.

Organization of State and County Data Profiles (continued)

Census Population Counts (Table 1)

Table 1 consists of the census population counts by age and gender, as well as totals, for the state and each county in 1980, 1990, and 2000. The population is divided into seventeen 5-year age cohorts, starting with 0 to 4, in addition to the final cumulative cohort of persons age 85 and older. Table 1 offers a useful historical context to the population projections in Table 2.

Population Pyramids

Population pyramids are used in this report to illustrate the age-specific distribution of the population. Two pyramids are generated for the state and each county. The first represents the population distribution as enumerated during the 2000 Census. The second pyramid illustrates what the population distribution is projected to look like in the year 2020, though significant changes in socio-economic and demographic trends could alter this distribution. Each bar in the pyramid represents a 5-year age cohort with males depicted on the left and females on the right. The bottom bar on the graph represents the youngest age cohort, persons 0 to 4 years of age. The top bar represents those seniors age 85 and older. The bars are in percentages, thus the pyramid provides an easy way to see the relative distribution of the population by age and gender.

The best way to interpret population pyramids is to compare and contrast the bars that represent age cohorts. The smaller the bar, the smaller that age cohort is relative to others. For example, when viewing North Dakota's pyramid for 2000 on page 2, one can quickly see that the three bars representing the young adult population (i.e., ages 20-24, 25-29, and 30-34) are among the smallest of all age cohorts in the state. This reflects the significant loss of young adults in North Dakota through out-migration. In turn, the loss of young adults has a direct effect on the number of births. Persons in the age cohorts from 20 to 34 are primarily responsible for new births in the state. It is not surprising, therefore, that the bar representing persons under the age of 5 is also relatively small. In contrast, the size of the bars representing the baby-boom population, those born between 1946 and 1962, is the largest in the state (i.e., age cohorts 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59). The senior population also is relatively large and the proportion of elderly is growing (i.e., persons 65 years of age and older) in North Dakota. Contrasting the pyramid for 2000 with 2020 on page 2, one can quickly see the changes that are expected in each age cohort given current trends. On a statewide level, for example, the bars representing the age cohorts become very uniform. This means the proportion of elderly will increase, becoming very similar to younger cohorts in size. For most counties, however, the elderly will represent the largest proportion of all age groups.

Population Projections (Table 2)

Table 2 consists of the population projections by age and gender, as well as totals, for the state and each county for 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The population is divided into seventeen 5-year age cohorts, starting with 0 to 4, in addition to the final cumulative cohort of persons age 85 and older. The projections were determined using the Cohort-Survival Model described in the Methodology section.