

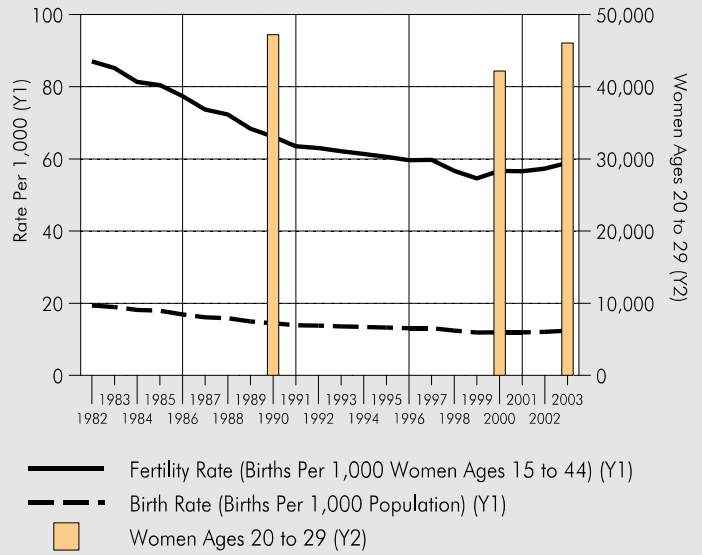
North Dakota Birth and Fertility Rates: 2003

As reported in last month's "Population Bulletin", North Dakota's population increased in 2004, the first time since Census 2000. The reason for the increase is due largely to natural increase: more births than deaths. During the 1980s and 1990s, North Dakota's birth rate steadily declined, reaching a low of 11.9 births per 1,000 persons in 1999. Beginning in 2000, the rate began a slow reversal, increasing to 12.4 by 2003. One reason for this increase in the birth rate is an increase in fertility rates. In 1999, the fertility rate in North Dakota was 55.6 births for every 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. By 2003, the rate increased to 58.9 (Table 1).

Fertility is based on women ages 15 to 44, and although the number of North Dakota women in this age group declined between 2000 and 2003, the number of women who typically have the highest fertility rates, those ages 20 to 29, increased by nearly 4,000 during the same time period (Figure 1). According to population projections for North Dakota, the increase in fertility rates may not continue. Women ages 15 to 44 in North Dakota are projected to decrease 7 percent between 2003 and 2010. Women ages 20 to 29 are projected to decrease 7 percent as well.

The national fertility rate in 2003 was 66.1. Utah led the nation with a fertility rate of 92.2 in 2003. Vermont had the lowest rate, 51.1 (Figure 2).

Figure 1. North Dakota Birth and Fertility Rates: 1982 to 2003 and Women Ages 20 to 29: 1990, 2000, and 2003



Source: North Dakota Department of Health, <<http://www.vitalnd.com/>>; U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and the Population Division, <<http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>>.

Figure 2. Fertility Rates by State: 2003

Note: The fertility rate is obtained by dividing the number of births by the number of women ages 15 to 44, multiplied by 1,000. Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Report, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>>.

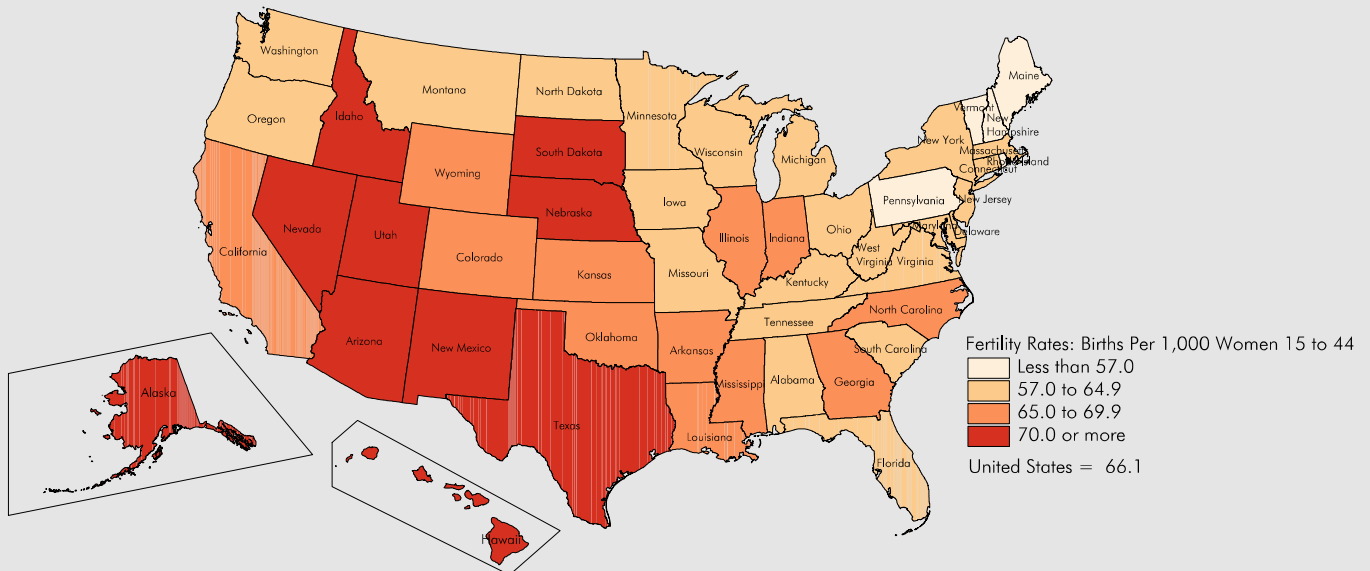


Table 1. Birth Rates and Fertility Rates in North Dakota by County: 1999 to 2003

Note: NR indicates that data are not reported due to the fact that fewer than five birth events were recorded for a specific geography.

Source: North Dakota Department of Health, <<http://www.vitalnd.com/>>.

Area	Birth Rate (Births Per 1,000 Population)					Fertility Rate (Births Per 1,000 Women Ages 15 to 44)				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
North Dakota	11.89	11.95	11.93	12.08	12.42	54.59	56.70	56.61	57.29	58.92
Adams	6.17	8.87	5.78	5.78	6.94	27.54	56.37	36.76	36.76	44.12
Barnes	9.51	8.92	8.66	10.79	9.51	45.47	47.32	45.97	57.23	50.47
Benson	19.39	18.52	18.09	19.24	20.82	102.74	103.37	100.96	107.37	116.19
Billings	6.76	6.76	11.26	9.01	7.88	27.03	35.93	59.88	47.90	41.92
Bottineau	7.13	7.13	6.29	8.67	8.67	35.49	43.81	38.66	53.26	53.26
Bowman	5.55	10.18	8.64	9.25	8.02	26.59	59.57	50.54	54.15	46.93
Burke	7.58	7.58	8.03	8.47	7.58	37.12	52.80	55.90	59.01	52.80
Burleigh	11.65	12.69	12.46	12.36	13.22	54.67	57.04	56.00	55.55	59.43
Cass	13.27	13.28	14.02	13.90	14.97	60.94	53.38	56.38	55.89	60.17
Cavalier	6.21	7.24	7.87	9.94	7.04	30.52	50.43	54.76	69.16	48.99
Dickey	10.25	13.03	11.29	12.33	11.99	53.01	70.09	60.75	66.36	64.49
Divide	5.26	4.82	8.32	6.57	5.69	27.40	36.42	62.91	49.67	43.05
Dunn	8.61	8.61	10.56	6.94	9.17	42.94	50.08	61.39	40.39	53.31
Eddy	9.79	9.43	7.62	6.53	10.16	58.95	58.30	47.09	40.36	62.78
Emmons	6.93	6.70	8.31	7.85	8.77	39.68	45.81	56.87	53.71	60.03
Foster	10.64	7.71	8.25	8.78	10.91	58.65	43.48	46.48	49.48	61.47
Golden Valley	7.80	7.80	9.88	6.76	6.76	42.61	43.73	55.39	37.90	37.90
Grand Forks	12.63	13.45	11.92	12.99	13.07	45.13	53.69	47.59	51.88	52.18
Grant	6.69	5.98	9.50	4.93	3.52	33.57	42.50	67.50	35.00	25.00
Griggs	6.90	7.26	4.36	6.90	6.90	35.32	49.26	29.56	46.80	46.80
Hettinger	10.31	6.63	6.63	5.52	6.26	51.47	47.12	47.12	39.27	44.50
Kidder	9.81	9.81	7.99	8.72	8.72	50.94	63.38	51.64	56.34	56.34
LaMoure	5.11	8.72	8.30	10.42	8.93	28.40	54.02	51.38	64.56	55.34
Logan	7.37	7.37	9.97	6.50	7.80	39.91	53.29	72.10	47.02	56.43
McHenry	8.85	9.35	9.02	8.02	9.52	49.95	57.08	55.05	48.93	58.10
McIntosh	8.26	9.44	6.78	7.96	5.31	52.93	67.94	48.83	57.32	38.22
McKenzie	11.68	12.20	10.46	10.28	9.41	53.30	69.31	59.41	58.42	53.47
McLean	10.10	8.16	7.30	7.30	8.59	49.68	49.48	44.27	44.27	52.08
Mercer	7.98	8.56	9.37	8.21	7.75	32.94	44.39	48.59	42.59	40.19
Morton	11.90	11.34	11.22	12.17	12.41	60.43	55.41	54.83	59.46	60.62
Mountrail	14.03	13.27	14.63	12.22	13.57	72.49	74.58	82.20	68.64	76.27
Nelson	5.65	9.15	7.54	7.54	5.38	32.16	63.43	52.24	52.24	37.31
Oliver	8.23	6.30	8.23	7.75	7.75	35.12	37.36	48.85	45.98	45.98
Pembina	9.09	10.48	9.20	9.09	8.85	45.14	60.57	53.16	52.49	51.14
Pierce	9.41	8.34	12.41	8.77	9.84	54.66	50.85	75.62	53.46	59.97
Ramsey	10.94	11.93	12.93	12.43	11.19	51.66	62.66	67.89	65.27	58.75
Ransom	9.51	9.34	9.34	10.70	11.88	55.83	54.51	54.51	62.44	69.38
Renville	6.90	5.36	7.28	12.64	7.66	31.47	32.79	44.50	77.28	46.84
Richland	11.45	10.89	10.28	12.61	10.39	58.51	54.66	51.59	63.30	52.15
Rolette	18.06	20.18	21.50	19.31	20.40	89.23	93.50	99.59	89.43	94.51
Sargent	9.62	10.77	13.74	8.25	9.16	52.76	67.14	85.71	51.43	57.14
Sheridan	5.26	5.85	5.26	5.85	NR	28.30	43.86	39.47	43.86	NR
Sioux	24.23	24.48	18.30	24.73	26.46	124.68	111.11	83.05	112.23	120.09
Slope	9.13	9.13	10.43	15.65	9.13	41.67	55.12	62.99	94.49	55.12
Stark	11.75	11.00	11.09	10.69	11.88	52.25	51.67	52.09	50.22	55.82
Steele	8.86	4.87	6.20	7.97	5.76	51.68	30.47	38.78	49.86	36.01
Stutsman	10.68	8.76	10.09	9.08	10.04	50.49	43.82	50.43	45.41	50.21
Towner	5.22	4.52	5.91	8.69	6.95	24.92	29.55	38.64	56.82	45.45
Traill	11.44	9.20	8.26	12.39	9.56	57.64	49.37	44.30	66.46	51.27
Walsh	12.43	11.87	10.57	10.09	10.17	59.30	67.00	59.71	56.97	57.43
Ward	14.88	14.56	14.90	14.54	15.36	62.38	64.20	65.70	64.13	67.73
Wells	8.82	8.82	7.06	7.64	6.27	48.75	56.25	45.00	48.75	40.00
Williams	12.04	11.03	10.48	10.63	10.78	53.62	55.83	53.01	53.78	54.55

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North Dakota Fertility Rates Slowing Rising

As reported in last month's "Population Bulletin", North Dakota 's population increased in 2004, the first time since Census 2000. The reason for the increase is due largely to natural increase: more births than deaths. In 1999, the number of births statewide reached the bottom of a long decline and they have been slowly increasing since. One reason for this increase in births is an increase in fertility rates. In 1999, the fertility rate in North Dakota was 55.6 births for every 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. By 2003, the rate increased to 58.9.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on fertility and birth rates throughout the state as reported by the North Dakota Department of Health in Bismarck.

Fertility is based on women ages 15 to 44, and although the number of women in this age group declined between 2000 and 2003 in North Dakota, the number of women who typically have the highest fertility rates, those ages 20 to 29, increased by nearly 4,000 during the same time period. According to population projections, the increase in fertility rates may not continue. Women ages 15 to 44 in North Dakota are projected to decrease by 7 percent between 2003 and 2010. Women ages 20 to 29 are projected to decrease by 7 percent as well. "In addition, the fertility rates across the state vary dramatically which will have an impact on future population changes in the state's counties. For example, Benson County's fertility rate was 116.2 in 2003, while Grant County's fertility rate was 25.0," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

North Dakota is among 12 states with the lowest fertility rates in the nation. The national fertility rate in 2003 was 66.1. Utah led the nation with a fertility rate of 92.2 in 2003. Vermont had the lowest rate, 51.1.

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