

Educational Attainment Levels of North Dakotans Living in Poverty: 2000

Educational attainment levels have risen over the past few decades in North Dakota. Among persons ages 25 to 64, who make up the bulk of the labor force, the percentage having a Bachelor's degree or higher form of education was 18.2 percent in 1980, 21.2 percent in 1990, and 25.7 percent in 2000 (Figure 1). Of these college educated residents, only 3.5 percent lived in poverty in 2000 (compared to 10.1 percent of all persons ages 25 to 64).

Unfortunately, more education does not protect one from poverty completely. A closer look at North Dakotans ages 25 to 64 living in poverty reveals a growing proportion having college degrees. The percentage of North Dakotans ages 25 to 64 living in poverty who are college educated was 9.1 percent in 1980, 9.6 percent in 1990, and reached 10.8 percent by 2000 (Figure 1). See Table 1 for county level data in 2000.

Nationally, the percentage of persons ages 25 to 64 living in poverty who are college educated was slightly lower than North Dakota at 8.8 percent in 1980, 7.8 percent in 1990, and 9.3 percent in 2000.

Figure 1. Of All Persons Ages 25 to 64 and Of Persons 25 to 64 Living in Poverty; Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher in North Dakota



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: 1980 Census 5% PUMS; 1990 Census 5% PUMS; Census 2000 Summary File 4, Table PCT145.

Figure 2. Percent of Persons Ages 25 to 64 Living in Poverty Who Have a Bachelor's Degree or Higher Form of Education in North Dakota by County: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4, Table PCT145.

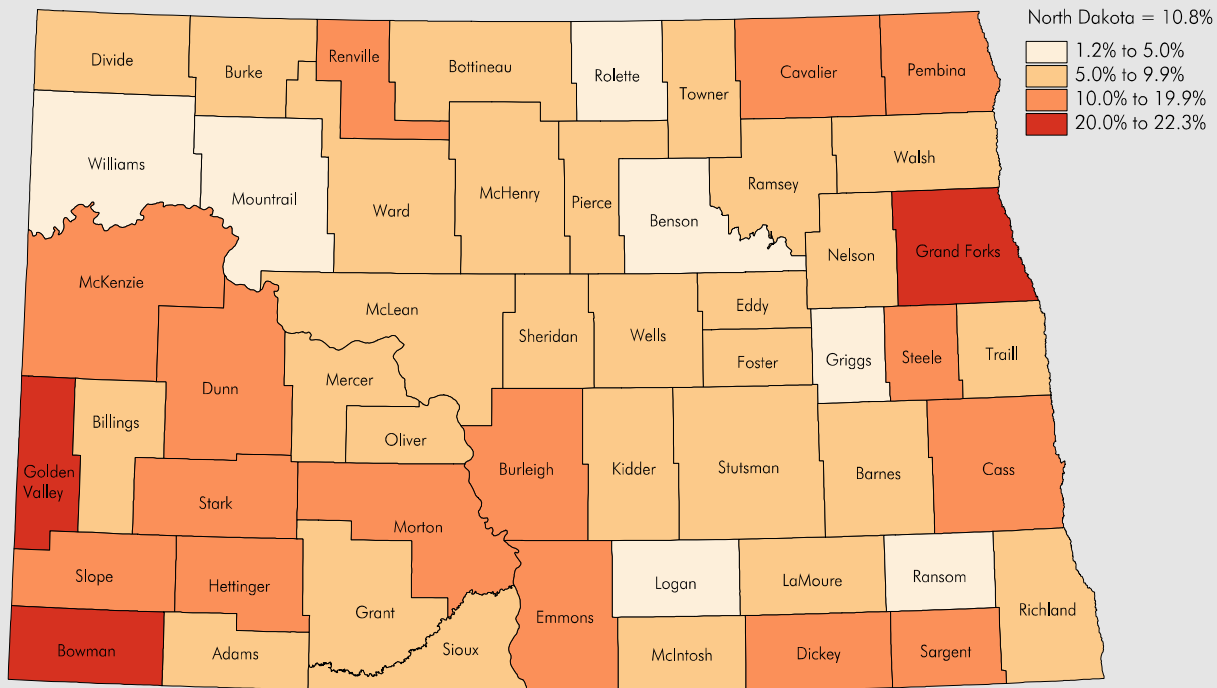


Table 1. Income in Relation to Poverty by Educational Attainment of Persons Ages 25 to 64 in North Dakota by County: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4, Table PCT145.

Area	Persons Ages 25 to 64 with:														
	Income Below Poverty (0% to 99% of Poverty)			Income At or Above Poverty											
	Total	% with Less than Bachelor's Degree	% with Bachelor's Degree or more	100% to 124% of Poverty			125% to 184% of Poverty			185% to 199% of Poverty			200% of Poverty and Above		
				Total	% with Less than Bachelor's Degree	% with Bachelor's Degree or more	Total	% with Less than Bachelor's Degree	% with Bachelor's Degree or more	Total	% with Less than Bachelor's Degree	% with Bachelor's Degree or more	Total	% with Less than Bachelor's Degree	% with Bachelor's Degree or more
North Dakota	26,303	89.2	10.8	9,814	88.3	11.7	30,691	85.8	14.2	7,899	84.3	15.7	237,363	70.2	29.8
Adams	128	91.4	8.6	75	82.7	17.3	183	84.7	15.3	23	87.0	13.0	849	73.7	26.3
Barnes	448	92.4	7.6	246	87.4	12.6	712	83.3	16.7	137	82.5	17.5	3,914	68.8	31.2
Benson	679	98.8	1.2	177	100.0	0.0	423	92.7	7.3	121	91.7	8.3	1,541	79.0	21.0
Billings	65	92.3	7.7	34	88.2	11.8	64	73.4	26.6	0	-	-	340	73.2	26.8
Bottineau	313	94.2	5.8	134	91.0	9.0	457	88.6	11.4	111	92.8	7.2	2,409	76.4	23.6
Bowman	104	77.9	22.1	53	77.4	22.6	186	87.6	12.4	62	85.5	14.5	1,167	74.7	25.3
Burke	163	90.2	9.8	44	100.0	0.0	188	89.4	10.6	26	80.8	19.2	710	79.2	20.8
Burleigh	1,894	85.5	14.5	746	91.6	8.4	2,249	84.7	15.3	571	80.0	20.0	29,946	64.0	36.0
Cass	3,576	82.9	17.1	1,465	83.3	16.7	5,039	81.8	18.2	1,320	78.3	21.7	51,227	62.6	37.4
Cavalier	203	88.7	11.3	61	80.3	19.7	249	90.4	9.6	89	96.6	3.4	1,753	80.2	19.8
Dickey	307	86.6	13.4	64	95.3	4.7	331	87.0	13.0	90	90.0	10.0	1,766	74.0	26.0
Divide	133	92.5	7.5	27	92.6	7.4	143	93.7	6.3	36	94.4	5.6	724	75.1	24.9
Dunn	272	86.0	14.0	105	88.6	11.4	244	79.9	20.1	61	85.2	14.8	1,087	78.4	21.6
Eddy	105	92.4	7.6	31	77.4	22.6	134	95.5	4.5	49	75.5	24.5	926	73.5	26.5
Emmons	329	84.5	15.5	80	91.3	8.8	357	89.9	10.1	48	91.7	8.3	1,204	80.2	19.8
Foster	123	92.7	7.3	51	76.5	23.5	202	86.6	13.4	85	96.5	3.5	1,309	69.1	30.9
Golden Valley	130	77.7	22.3	37	100.0	0.0	109	78.9	21.1	33	81.8	18.2	565	72.4	27.6
Grand Forks	2,166	78.4	21.6	749	80.6	19.4	2,965	80.8	19.2	673	85.1	14.9	24,200	66.4	33.6
Grant	216	92.6	7.4	85	85.9	14.1	185	88.6	11.4	67	89.6	10.4	796	81.4	18.6
Griggs	134	97.0	3.0	66	75.8	24.2	172	85.5	14.5	44	81.8	18.2	871	76.0	24.0
Hettinger	167	86.8	13.2	60	81.7	18.3	166	83.1	16.9	35	91.4	8.6	854	77.4	22.6
Kidder	227	92.5	7.5	71	95.8	4.2	232	90.5	9.5	22	90.9	9.1	755	80.7	19.3
LaMoure	307	90.2	9.8	79	86.1	13.9	260	90.0	10.0	60	78.3	21.7	1,481	80.3	19.7
Logan	130	97.7	2.3	49	91.8	8.2	168	78.6	21.4	29	89.7	10.3	681	77.1	22.9
McHenry	404	92.3	7.7	134	91.8	8.2	354	90.1	9.9	93	94.6	5.4	1,908	80.9	19.1
McIntosh	188	92.0	8.0	50	96.0	4.0	251	89.6	10.4	46	91.3	8.7	884	79.0	21.0
McKenzie	389	86.6	13.4	135	91.9	8.1	404	86.6	13.4	118	89.8	10.2	1,688	76.8	23.2
McLean	540	90.6	9.4	165	89.7	10.3	441	84.1	15.9	138	86.2	13.8	3,444	79.7	20.3
Mercer	215	92.6	7.4	62	79.0	21.0	398	88.4	11.6	101	89.1	10.9	3,776	81.9	18.1
Morton	832	88.8	11.2	499	92.8	7.2	1,154	86.4	13.6	310	93.2	6.8	9,967	77.7	22.3
Mountrail	496	95.2	4.8	165	95.2	4.8	496	91.1	8.9	99	80.8	19.2	1,889	73.7	26.3
Nelson	152	94.1	5.9	73	90.4	9.6	203	88.2	11.8	70	70.0	30.0	1,216	73.6	26.4
Oliver	119	90.8	9.2	32	100.0	0.0	75	94.7	5.3	42	78.6	21.4	832	83.8	16.2
Pembina	322	87.9	12.1	127	90.6	9.4	334	82.6	17.4	90	88.9	11.1	3,332	77.9	22.1
Pierce	236	91.9	8.1	135	85.2	14.8	372	90.3	9.7	80	77.5	22.5	1,348	78.5	21.5
Ramsey	549	91.1	8.9	157	91.7	8.3	607	91.6	8.4	123	78.9	21.1	4,345	73.7	26.3
Ransom	197	97.5	2.5	111	87.4	12.6	172	83.7	16.3	59	96.6	3.4	2,226	77.9	22.1
Renville	135	86.7	13.3	52	100.0	0.0	180	83.9	16.1	51	72.5	27.5	883	77.0	23.0
Richland	569	91.2	8.8	235	94.5	5.5	596	90.6	9.4	189	84.1	15.9	6,587	79.7	20.3
Rolette	1,473	96.1	3.9	341	94.7	5.3	832	88.5	11.5	153	87.6	12.4	3,238	75.6	24.4
Sargent	144	88.9	11.1	53	92.5	7.5	246	81.3	18.7	64	84.4	15.6	1,735	84.6	15.4
Sheridan	151	91.4	8.6	58	86.2	13.8	104	87.5	12.5	21	100.0	0.0	467	85.2	14.8
Sioux	602	93.4	6.6	108	100.0	0.0	257	89.5	10.5	76	94.7	5.3	640	80.5	19.5
Slope	79	87.3	12.7	50	66.0	34.0	88	87.5	12.5	4	100.0	0.0	180	81.1	18.9
Stark	935	88.1	11.9	293	90.8	9.2	1,134	87.0	13.0	260	84.2	15.8	8,113	69.5	30.5
Steele	76	85.5	14.5	49	95.9	4.1	113	77.0	23.0	60	76.7	23.3	788	72.7	27.3
Stutsman	794	93.5	6.5	343	87.2	12.8	1,006	88.3	11.7	265	82.3	17.7	7,999	71.2	28.8
Towner	109	90.8	9.2	55	96.4	3.6	170	86.5	13.5	32	87.5	12.5	1,012	74.8	25.2
Traill	288	92.0	8.0	85	88.2	11.8	310	85.2	14.8	106	83.0	17.0	3,127	71.3	28.7
Walsh	627	93.5	6.5	173	89.6	10.4	715	89.8	10.2	142	90.8	9.2	4,435	81.0	19.0
Ward	2,193	93.2	6.8	943	86.5	13.5	2,808	85.8	14.2	987	82.7	17.3	21,568	70.7	29.3
Wells	259	93.4	6.6	97	91.8	8.2	220	90.9	9.1	83	94.0	6.0	1,721	76.9	23.1
Williams	911	95.4	4.6	445	89.4	10.6	1,233	90.7	9.3	245	89.0	11.0	6,940	75.7	24.3

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North Dakota Shows Growing Proportion of Educated Poor

Since 1980, the percentage of North Dakotans who have college degrees has grown. This growth, however, has been paralleled by growth in the proportion of North Dakotans living in poverty who are college educated.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University focuses on the educational attainment levels of persons ages 25 to 64 living in poverty throughout North Dakota. Overall, educational attainment levels have risen over the past few decades in North Dakota. Among persons ages 25 to 64, who make up the bulk of the labor force, the percentage having a Bachelor's degree or higher form of education was 18.2 percent in 1980, 21.2 percent in 1990, and 25.7 percent in 2000. Of these college educated residents, only 3.5 percent lived in poverty in 2000 (compared to 10.1 percent of all persons ages 25 to 64).

Unfortunately, more education does not protect one from poverty completely. A closer look at North Dakotans ages 25 to 64 living in poverty reveals a growing proportion having college degrees. The percentage of North Dakotans ages 25 to 64 living in poverty who are college educated was 9.1 percent in 1980, 9.6 percent in 1990, and reached 10.8 percent by 2000. "This is a troubling trend when we see education levels rising among the ranks of the impoverished," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center. "In part, some of this can be explained by college students who are continuing their education while living modestly; typically a temporary situation. However, much of it is the reality of a skills mismatch with available job opportunities," said Rathge.

North Dakota counties in the southwestern part of the state tend to have a larger proportion of poor who are college educated. In a majority of counties south and west of the Missouri River, at least 10 percent of persons ages 25 to 64 living in poverty had a Bachelor's degree or higher form of education in 2000.

Nationally, the percentage of persons ages 25 to 64 living in poverty who are college educated was slightly lower than North Dakota at 8.8 percent in 1980, 7.8 percent in 1990, and 9.3 percent in 2000.

<p>North Dakota State Data Center North Dakota State University IACC Building, Room 424 or PO Box 5636 Fargo, North Dakota 58105-5636 Ph: (701) 231-7980 Fax: (701) 231-9730</p>	<p>For more information, contact:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p>Dr. Richard Rathge, Director (701) 231-8621 richard.rathge@ndsu.edu</p> </td> <td> <p>Karen Olson, Information Specialist (701) 231-1060 k.olson@ndsu.edu</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Dr. Richard Rathge, Director (701) 231-8621 richard.rathge@ndsu.edu</p>	<p>Karen Olson, Information Specialist (701) 231-1060 k.olson@ndsu.edu</p>	<p>View publication online at: www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm</p>
<p>Dr. Richard Rathge, Director (701) 231-8621 richard.rathge@ndsu.edu</p>	<p>Karen Olson, Information Specialist (701) 231-1060 k.olson@ndsu.edu</p>				