North Dakota STATE DATA CENTER

Population Bulletin

A Monthly Publication by the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, an Equal Opportunity Institution

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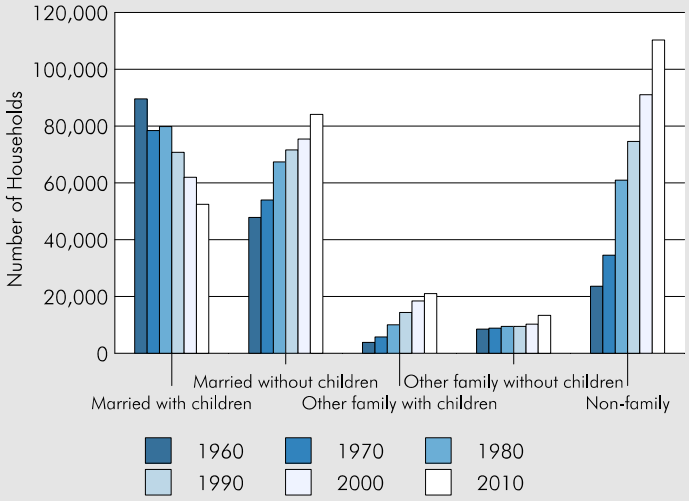
North Dakota Household Composition: 2010

A population dynamic that continues to have an important impact on North Dakota is the changing composition of households. As noted in Figure 1, the state's dominant household type in 1960 was married couples with children under age 18, which represented 89,590 households in the state (52 percent of households). In 2010, married couples with children under age 18 accounted for 52,438 households, a decline of approximately 37,000 households or 41 percent. This dramatic transition began largely as a result of the Baby Boom generation, children born from 1946 to 1964 who grew up and left behind a growing proportion of "empty nester" households. The number of households comprised of married couples without children under age 18 grew from 47,808 households in 1960 to 84,084 households in 2010, an increase of 76 percent.

Figure 1. North Dakota Households by Type: 1960 to 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The most dramatic shift in households during the past 50 years has been the explosion of non-family households. As noted in Figure 1, non-family households represented fewer than 24,000 households in 1960 (14 percent of households). However, by the year 2010 this household type more than quadrupled to 110,276 households or more than one in three households in the state (39 percent of households). Approximately 80 percent of these non-family households are accounted for by persons living alone. While elderly (i.e., ages 65 and older) represent 15 percent of the population in North Dakota, they are 35 percent of all persons living alone (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Householders Living Alone - Percent Ages 65 and Older in North Dakota by County: 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Demographic Profile

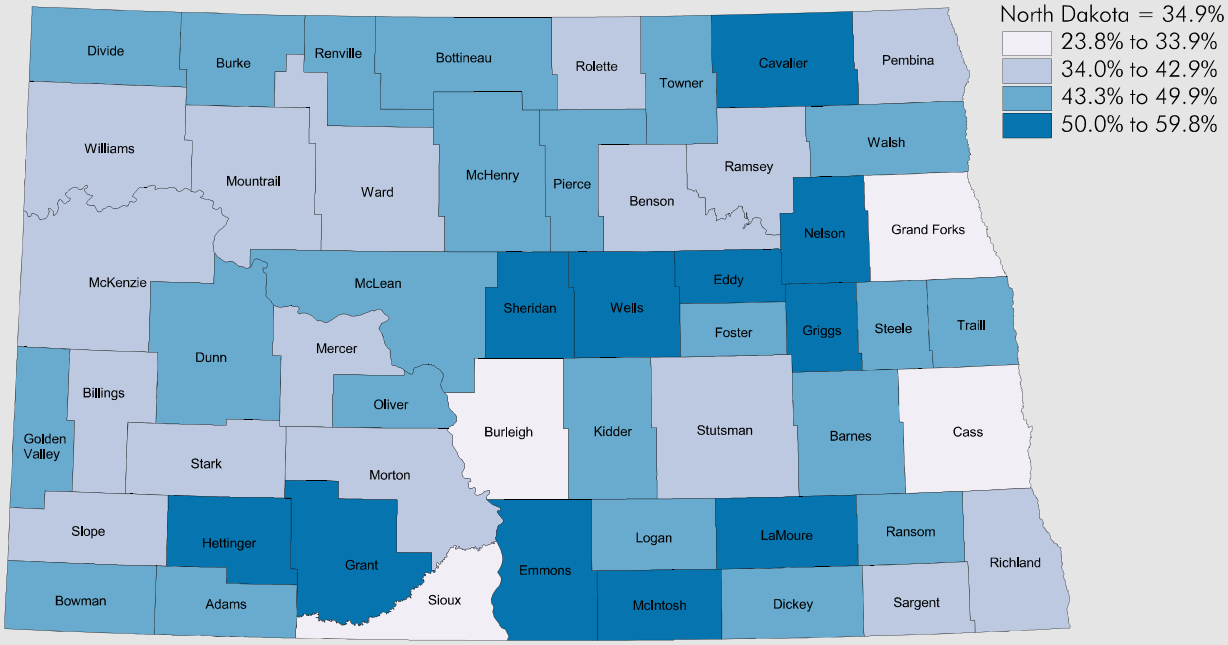


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Table 1. Household Composition and Presence of Children in North Dakota by County: 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Demographic Profile.

Area	Total Households	Family households						Non-family households	
		Husband-wife families		Male householder, no wife present		Female householder, no husband present			
		With children	Without children	With children	Without children	With children	Without children	Living alone	Not living alone
North Dakota	281,192	52,438	84,084	6,320	5,086	14,724	8,264	88,563	21,713
Adams	1,098	173	392	26	14	32	21	402	38
Barnes	4,826	845	1,609	87	79	215	92	1,588	311
Benson	2,233	317	627	121	103	257	203	517	88
Billings	358	57	144	7	9	1	5	119	16
Bottineau	2,832	475	1,091	38	60	98	61	912	97
Bowman	1,385	263	498	30	21	38	23	455	57
Burke	913	152	326	18	22	23	26	307	39
Burleigh	33,976	6,788	10,281	657	546	1,921	1,020	10,360	2,403
Cass	63,899	12,104	15,317	1,335	1,164	3,443	1,852	21,067	7,617
Cavalier	1,818	311	702	26	31	47	25	621	55
Dickey	2,180	473	748	35	26	53	44	725	76
Divide	977	136	364	20	20	23	21	358	35
Dunn	1,401	283	526	40	35	38	55	371	53
Eddy	1,057	170	368	21	16	51	27	358	46
Emmons	1,594	282	601	22	37	36	25	549	42
Foster	1,495	262	537	24	25	52	30	501	64
Golden Valley	774	126	249	12	9	22	11	305	40
Grand Forks	27,417	4,760	6,964	541	464	1,631	855	8,798	3,404
Grant	1,128	176	441	15	18	20	24	412	22
Griggs	1,131	173	437	18	19	29	18	411	26
Hettinger	1,056	180	428	13	14	33	14	350	24
Kidder	1,059	190	427	25	27	31	22	298	39
LaMoure	1,825	333	706	31	28	42	42	596	47
Logan	843	166	352	3	16	11	14	260	21
McHenry	2,377	425	856	48	59	80	59	744	106
McIntosh	1,307	199	520	19	16	24	22	473	34
McKenzie	2,410	479	790	97	70	143	103	610	118
McLean	3,897	629	1,622	90	61	106	92	1,131	166
Mercer	3,625	696	1,481	87	53	120	63	988	137
Morton	11,289	2,263	3,727	301	179	702	351	3,127	639
Mountrail	2,793	473	877	94	90	171	147	791	150
Nelson	1,474	220	548	25	33	48	31	530	39
Oliver	756	145	350	12	11	22	14	171	31
Pembina	3,257	572	1,193	73	48	113	70	1,055	133
Pierce	1,835	337	631	32	36	60	49	630	60
Ramsey	4,955	827	1,501	130	81	320	149	1,708	239
Ransom	2,310	464	803	52	22	92	33	761	83
Renville	1,061	202	400	19	10	32	22	328	48
Richland	6,651	1,331	2,101	163	104	299	173	2,052	428
Rolette	4,783	787	1,082	267	167	724	386	1,194	176
Sargent	1,675	330	629	46	29	57	22	506	56
Sheridan	645	84	266	13	17	11	26	213	15
Sioux	1,158	155	221	82	76	203	163	201	57
Slope	326	60	138	6	4	7	9	96	6
Stark	10,085	1,911	3,110	214	186	483	263	3,117	801
Steele	864	160	353	17	20	24	15	240	35
Stutsman	8,931	1,449	2,771	231	134	470	200	3,151	525
Towner	1,048	159	381	23	13	38	25	381	28
Traill	3,394	700	1,138	60	41	122	89	1,062	182
Walsh	4,746	843	1,645	113	85	207	128	1,556	169
Ward	25,029	5,292	7,187	569	441	1,403	705	7,518	1,914
Wells	1,943	279	773	31	31	53	56	666	54
Williams	9,293	1,772	2,855	241	166	443	269	2,923	624

North Dakota STATE DATA CENTER

Population Bulletin -Press Release-

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Non-Family Households in North Dakota Quadruple Over Past 50 Years

The most dramatic shift in households during the past 50 years has been the explosion of non-family households. In 1960, non-family households represented fewer than 24,000 households (14 percent of households). By the year 2010 this household type quadrupled to more than 110,000 households or more than one in three households in the state (39 percent).

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the number of North Dakota households by living arrangements as presented by the 2010 Census.

A non-family household is comprised of a single person living alone or of two or more persons living together who are not related by birth marriage or adoption. According to the 2010 Census, approximately 80 percent of non-family households in North Dakota are accounted for by persons living alone. Of all persons living by themselves, 35 percent are seniors (i.e., ages 65 and older) and 65 percent are of working ages. This distribution is slightly different from 2000 when 39 percent of persons living alone were seniors.

"The escalating demand for housing by workers in western North Dakota associated with energy development activity is changing the distribution of single-person households. A growing proportion of single-person households are now of working age, reducing the proportion that are elderly. However, the demand for housing to accommodate seniors cannot be overlooked," said Richard Rathge, director of the State Data Center.

Even with the changing household situation in western North Dakota, one needs to keep in mind that the proportion of elderly will dramatically increase during the next two decades as the baby boomers age into retirement (the oldest baby boomers turn 65 this year).

In contrast to the increasing number of non-family households is the decreasing number of family households with children ages 0 to 17. In 1960, families with children comprised the majority of households (54 percent). By 2010, this proportion dropped by half to 26 percent. To put this another way, three of four North Dakota households did not have children in 2010.

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