

# -Understanding The Community In Which We Live - Ashley, ND

Community Profiles Generated for the Northwest Area Foundation Horizons Program to Assist in Understanding Poverty  
 Prepared by the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, an Equal Opportunity Institution - June 2004

**Table 1. Demographics**

DEMOGRAPHICS	Ashley, ND		McIntosh County, ND					
	Census		Census		Projections			
	1990	2000	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Total Population	1,027	879	4,021	3,390	3,142	3,041	2,917	2,769
AGE:								
Ages 0 to 19	158	129	925	744	622	562	549	538
Percent of Total Population	15.4	14.7	23.0	21.9	19.8	18.5	18.8	19.4
Ages 65 and Older	424	426	1,178	1,161	1,160	1,217	1,227	1,211
Percent of Total Population	41.3	48.5	29.3	34.2	36.9	40.0	42.1	43.7
RACE*								
White	1,012	867	3,998	3,360				
Percent of Total Population	98.5	98.6	99.4	99.1				
Black or African American	0	0	0	0				
Percent of Total Population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	2	12	5				
Percent of Total Population	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.1				
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	8	8	11	8				
Percent of Total Population	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.2				
Other	0	0	0	2				
Percent of Total Population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1				

Note: Racial reporting procedures changed with the 2000 Census, allowing persons to report multiple races. The categories listed above for 2000 represent those persons who reported 'one race only'.  
 Data Sources: AGE - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P13, <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P8, <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>; North Dakota State Data Center, *North Dakota Population Projections: 2005 to 2020-Including County Distributions by Age and Gender*, Issued September 2002, <<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/sdc/data/projections.htm>>; Minnesota Department of Administration, State and Community Services, State Demographic Center, Estimates and Projections, <[http://www.demography.state.mn.us/demog\\_03.html](http://www.demography.state.mn.us/demog_03.html)>; RACE - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P8; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P6.

- Ashley experienced a population decline of 14 percent from 1990 to 2000. McIntosh County experienced a similar decline over the same time period.
- Population projections indicate that population declines in McIntosh County are likely to continue over the next two decades.
- Nearly half of the residents in Ashley are at least 65 years of age. This proportion has increased moderately since 1990. The proportion of residents in McIntosh County at least 65 years of age has also increased since 1990. Population projections for McIntosh County indicate that the proportion of seniors will continue to increase from 34 percent in 2000 to 44 percent in 2020.
- There has been little change in the racial diversity of Ashley city and McIntosh County over the past decade. The racial mix in Ashley city and McIntosh County remains predominantly white.

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**Table 2. Housing**

HOUSING	Ashley, ND				McIntosh County, ND			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	540	100.0	527	100.0	2,031	100.0	1,853	100.0
Occupied Housing Units	487	100.0	435	100.0	1,687	100.0	1,467	100.0
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	398	81.7	358	82.3	1,381	81.9	1,214	82.8
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	89	18.3	77	17.7	306	18.1	253	17.2
Vacant Housing Units	51	100.0	92	100.0	344	100.0	386	100.0
For Rent	15	29.4	23	25.0	44	12.8	40	10.4
For Sale Only	10	19.6	17	18.5	32	9.3	73	18.9
Rented or Sold, Not Occupied	2	3.9	2	2.2	44	12.8	23	6.0
For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	2	3.9	24	26.1	81	23.5	124	32.1
For Migrant Workers	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Vacant	22	43.1	26	28.3	143	41.6	126	32.6
Median Value for Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units (Dollars)	\$21,800		\$23,600		\$20,200		\$28,100	
Median Year Housing Structure Built (All Housing Units)	1958		1949		1955		1949	
Median Price Asked for Specified Vacant-for-sale-only Housing Units (Dollars)			\$13,800					

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Tables H1, H8, H61A, and H25A, Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) Table H5, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Tables H1, H7, H8, H76, H35, and H88, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>.

- The total number of housing units in Ashley city and McIntosh County has slightly declined over the past decade.
- The proportion of owner-occupied housing units in Ashley city and McIntosh County remained fairly stable from 1990 to 2000. Approximately 82 percent of housing units in Ashley city and a similar proportion in McIntosh County were owner-occupied in 2000.
- The number and proportion of vacant housing units have risen in Ashley city and in McIntosh County.
- In 2000, the median value of an owner-occupied home in Ashley city was \$23,600 in 2000 compared to \$28,100 in McIntosh County.
- Half of all housing units in Ashley city and McIntosh County were built before 1949.

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**Table 3. Income and Poverty**

INCOME AND POVERTY	Ashley, ND		McIntosh County, ND	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Median Household Income (Dollars)	\$16,042	\$18,015	\$17,798	\$26,389
Per Capita Personal Income (Dollars)	\$9,510	\$13,001	\$9,133	\$15,018
Persons in Poverty	154	160	655	497
Percent of Persons in Poverty	15.6	18.9	16.9	15.4
Persons Ages 0 to 17 in Poverty	29	12	172	99
Percent of Persons 0 to 17 in Poverty	19.9	11.0	19.5	15.2
Persons Ages 65 and Older in Poverty	79	108	215	191
Percent of Persons Ages 65 and Older in Poverty	20.7	27.4	20.7	18.9

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Tables P80A, P114A, and P117, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Tables P53, P82, and P87, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>.

- The median household income in Ashley city in 2000 was \$18,015 compared to \$26,389 in McIntosh County. When adjusted for inflation, the 2000 median household income level for Ashley actually represents a decline in purchasing power.
- Nearly one in five Ashley residents live in poverty, a proportion that has increased slightly over the past ten years.
- The number and proportion of impoverished children in Ashley has decreased by almost half from 1990 to 2000. However, over the same period of time, the number of impoverished elderly has increased by nearly 37 percent.

**Table 4. Spiritual**

SPIRITUAL	Ashley, ND		McIntosh County, ND	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Number of Churches, Synagogues, Mosques, Temples			20	18
Full-Time Members			3,173	2,614
Number of Attendees				1,005

Data Sources: *Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States 2000: An Enumeration by Region, State and County Based on Data Reported by 49 Religious Bodies*. Nashville, TN: Glenmary Research Center, 2002; *Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990: An Enumeration by Region, State and County Based on Data Reported for 133 Church Groupings*. Atlanta, GA: Glenmary Research Center, 1992.

- The number of churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples in McIntosh County has declined by two over the past 10 years and the number of full-time members declined as well. These declines reflect population losses in the county over the past 10 years.

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**Table 5. Health**

HEALTH	McIntosh County, ND		
	2000	2001	2002
Total Births	32	23	27
Birth Rate (Births Per 1,000 Persons)	9.44	6.78	7.96
Births to Teenage Mothers	NR	NR	NR
Total Deaths	61	67	56
Death Rate (Deaths Per 100,000 Persons)	1,799.41	1,976.40	1,651.92
Deaths Due to Suicide	0	0	NR
Deaths Due to Cancer	13	11	12
Deaths Due to Heart Disease	25	23	15
Foster Care Placements	4	0	
Adoptions			

Data Sources: BIRTHS and DEATHS - North Dakota Department of Health, Vital Records, "unpublished data" and <<http://www.vitalnd.com/>>; Minnesota Department of Health, Health Data and Statistics, <http://www.health.state.mn.us/stats.html>>; South Dakota Department of Health, Vital Records, "unpublished data" and <<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Stats/vstats.htm>>; FOSTER CARE and ADOPTIONS - North Dakota Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services Division, <<http://www.state.nd.us/humanservices/info/pubs/family.html>>; Minnesota Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services, "unpublished data" and <<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/CFS/Research/outofhome.htm>> and <<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/default.htm>>; South Dakota Department of Social Services, <<http://www.state.sd.us/social/>>. Note: NR indicates that data are not reported (event number may be less than 5).

- McIntosh County reported 27 births in 2002, a rate of 8.0 births per 1,000 persons. This rate is up from 6.8 in 2001, but down from 9.4 in 2000.
- The number of deaths occurring in the county fluctuated over the past three years. The expected rise in the number of elderly may increase the number of deaths over time. Major contributors to death are heart disease and cancer.

**Table 6. Labor Force**

LABOR FORCE	Ashley, ND		McIntosh County, ND	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Persons 16 Years and Older	903	783	3,247	2,812
In Labor Force	403	318	1,800	1,466
Civilian Employed	392	307	1,756	1,430
Civilian Unemployed	11	11	42	36
Unemployed as percent of civilian Labor Force	2.7	3.5	2.3	2.5
Not in Labor Force	500	465	1,447	1,346

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P70, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P43, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>.

- The labor force in Ashley city and the McIntosh County decreased by approximately 20 percent over the past 10 years.
- The unemployment rate has remained relatively low in Ashley city and McIntosh County.

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**Table 7. Employment by Gender and Industry**

EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER AND INDUSTRY	Ashley, ND				McIntosh County, ND			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Employment of Persons 16 Years and Older	392	100.0	307	100.0	1,756	100.0	1,430	100.0
Females	178	45.4	157	51.1	770	43.9	681	47.6
Males	214	54.6	150	48.9	986	56.2	749	52.4
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	32	8.2	28	9.1	514	29.3	304	21.3
Manufacturing	34	8.7	7	2.3	81	4.6	47	3.3
Services	117	29.8	138	45.0	548	31.2	568	39.7

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Tables P70 and P77, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Tables P43 and P49, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>.

- Total employment has gone down approximately 20 percent in Ashley city and McIntosh County in the last decade. Despite fewer employed women, there has been an increase in the proportion of employed persons who are female. In 1990, approximately 45 percent of employed persons in Ashley were female. In 2000, though fewer women were employed, that proportion had increased to 51 percent. The proportion of employed persons who are female in McIntosh County increased from 44 to 48 percent during the same time period.

**Table 8. Educational Attainment**

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	Ashley, ND				McIntosh County, ND			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Persons 25 Years and Older	843	100.0	731	100.0	2,987	100.0	2,580	100.0
Less Than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	436	51.7	303	41.5	1,344	45.0	868	33.6
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, No Diploma	58	6.9	47	6.4	185	6.2	182	7.1
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	111	13.2	172	23.5	549	18.4	667	25.9
Some College, No Degree	104	12.3	117	16.0	443	14.8	444	17.2
Associate Degree	43	5.1	34	4.7	183	6.1	164	6.4
Bachelor's Degree	71	8.4	35	4.8	212	7.1	184	7.1
Graduate or Professional Degree	20	2.4	23	3.1	71	2.4	71	2.8

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P57, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P37, <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>.

- A significant proportion, nearly half of residents over the age of 25 in Ashley, did not graduate from high school, though this proportion has declined since 1990. Approximately 40 percent of McIntosh County residents did not graduate from high school, down from half in 1990. While the proportion of residents in Ashley city and McIntosh County with some college or more has remained stable, the proportion who had, at most, a high school diploma (or equivalent) increased over the last decade.

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**Table 9. Enrollment by Grade Level and Race/Hispanic Origin**

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL AND RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN	Ashley, ND School District		
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Total K-12 Enrollment	203	189	185
K-8	131	126	117
9-12	72	63	68
K-12 Enrollment by Race/Hispanic Origin:	203	189	185
White	202	189	185
Black	0	0	0
American Indian	1	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic Origin	0	0	0
High School Graduation Rates	100.0	100.0	100.0
High School Dropouts		0	0
Student/Teacher Ratio	12.4	11.5	11.6
Percent of Students Meeting Proficiency Cutpoints in Reading		67.4	65.3
Percent of Students Meeting Proficiency Cutpoints in Math		32.6	46.9

Data Sources: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota School District Profiles, "unpublished data" and <<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/profile/index.shtm>>; Minnesota Department of Education, School Report Cards, <[http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro\\_mde\\_analysis.htm](http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_mde_analysis.htm)>; South Dakota Department of Education, <<http://www.state.sd.us/deca/Finance/Data/stats/statbook.htm>>.

- Enrollment within the Ashley school district declined by 9 percent from 2000-01 to 2002-03. The majority of the loss occurred in the K-8 grade levels.
- The overall graduation rates for the school district from 2000-01 to 2002-03 have been excellent. There were no high school dropouts between 2001-02 and 2002-03.