

## Steele, North Dakota - Understanding the Community in Which We Live

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 - January 2007

**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics**

Demographics	Steele		Kidder County					
	1990	2000	1990	2000	Projections			
					2005	2010	2015	2020
Total population	768	756	3,332	2,753	2,548	2,385	2,194	1,995
AGE								
Ages 0 to 19	198	187	984	695	595	512	471	421
% of total population	25.8	24.7	29.5	25.2	23.4	21.5	21.5	21.1
Ages 65 and Older	215	229	665	664	651	683	684	718
% of total population	28.0	30.3	20.0	24.1	25.5	28.6	31.2	36.0
RACE*								
White	768	752	3,317	2,737				
% of total population	100.0	99.5	99.5	99.4				
Black	0	0	0	2				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1				
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	4	0	4				
% of total population	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1				
Asian, Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	0	0	15	0				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0				
Other	0	0	0	0				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				
Two or more races	-	0	-	10				
ETHNICITY								
Hispanic Origin of any race	10	2	14	28				
% of total population	1.3	0.3	0.4	1.0				

Note: \*Racial reporting procedures changed with Census 2000, allowing persons to report multiple races.

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.edu/sdc/data/ndpopulationprojections.htm>. RACE - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P8; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P6. ETHNICITY - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P10; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P7.

- Both the city of Steele and Kidder County experienced a decline in population between 1990 and 2000.
- Population projections for Kidder County indicate that population declines are likely to continue over the next two decades.
- Both the city of Steele and Kidder County experienced a decline in the proportion of residents younger than 20 years of age between 1990 and 2000 and an increase in the proportion of residents ages 65 and older. Population projections indicate these trends will likely continue in Kidder County over the next two decades.
- There was little change in the racial diversity of Steele and Kidder County between 1990 and 2000; nearly all residents were white.

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**Table 2. Housing Characteristics**

Housing	Steele				Kidder County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total housing units	343	100.0	361	100.0	1,672	100.0	1,610	100.0
Occupied housing units	316	92.1	337	93.4	1,247	74.6	1,158	71.9
Owner-occupied housing units	246	71.7	254	70.4	1,045	62.5	948	58.9
Renter-occupied housing units	70	20.4	83	23.0	202	12.1	210	13.0
Vacant housing units	30	8.7	24	6.6	425	25.4	452	28.1
For rent	3	0.9	4	1.1	28	1.7	5	0.3
For sale only	6	1.7	11	3.0	37	2.2	61	3.8
Rented or sold, not occupied	12	3.5	0	0.0	18	1.1	6	0.4
For seasonal or recreational use	0	0.0	6	1.7	200	12.0	284	17.6
For migrant workers	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
Other vacant	9	2.6	3	0.8	141	8.4	96	6.0
Median value for specified owner-occupied housing units (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$42,819		\$55,600		\$29,776		\$33,400	
Median year housing structure built (all housing units)	1968		1969		1962		1962	
Median price asked for specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units (dollars)	NA		\$10,000-		NA		\$10,000-	

Notes: "\$10,000-" indicates that the median falls below \$10,000. For 1990 data, occupied and vacant housing units may not sum to total housing units due to two different data sets used to collect 1990 data; see Data Sources. The 1990 median values for owner-occupied housing units are inflated to their 2000 values using the consumer price index. NA indicates that data are not available.

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, H37, and H88, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

- While the city of Steele experienced an increase in total housing units between 1990 and 2000, Kidder County saw a decline in housing units. In 2000, 59 percent of housing units in Kidder County and 70 percent in Steele were owner-occupied.
- The city of Steele experienced a decline in vacant housing units between 1990 and 2000 and Kidder County experienced a slight increase in vacant housing. In 2000, vacant housing comprised 7 percent of all housing in Steele and 28 percent in Kidder County.
- In 2000, the median value of an owner-occupied home in the city of Steele was \$55,600, compared to \$33,400 in Kidder County.
- In 2000, half of all housing units in the city of Steele were built before 1969; half of all housing units in Kidder County were built before 1962.

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**Table 3. Income and Poverty Characteristics**

Income and Poverty	Steele		Kidder County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Median household income (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$22,939	\$27,841	\$22,896	\$25,389
Per capita income (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$12,524	\$16,767	\$11,462	\$14,270
Persons for whom poverty is determined	729	711	3,293	2,706
Living below poverty	92	100	792	537
% of all persons	12.6	14.1	24.1	19.8
Ages 0 to 17 below poverty	26	24	279	133
% of all persons below poverty	28.3	24.0	35.2	24.8
Ages 65 and older below poverty	31	39	173	147
% of all persons below poverty	33.7	39.0	21.8	27.4

Note: The 1990 median household income and per capita income values are inflated to their 2000 values using the consumer price index.

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 the city of Steele was \$27,841 in 2000, compared to \$25,389 in Kidder County. When the 1990 median values are adjusted for inflation, the 2000 median household incomes represent an increase in purchasing power for the city of Steele and Kidder County.
- The city of Steele experienced an increase in the number and proportion of people living below poverty between 1990 and 2000, while Kidder County saw a decline. In 2000, 14 percent of residents in Steele and 20 percent in Kidder County were impoverished.
- The number of impoverished children declined slightly in the city of Steele and more significantly in Kidder County between 1990 and 2000. At the same time, the number of impoverished elderly increased slightly in Steele and declined in Kidder County. In 2000, children comprised 25 percent of all impoverished residents in Kidder County and 24 percent in Steele. Elderly comprised 27 percent of all impoverished residents in Kidder County and 39 percent in Steele in 2000.

**Table 4. Religious Congregation and Membership Characteristics**

Religion	Steele		Kidder County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Number of churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples	NA	NA	21	17
Full-time members	NA	NA	1,596	1,388
Number of attendees	NA	NA	NA	631

Note: NA indicates that data are not available for this geography.

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 Kidder County declined by four between 1990 and 2000 and the number of full-time members declined as well. These declines may be a reflection of the overall population loss the county experienced during the same time period.

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**Table 5. Health Characteristics**

Health	Kidder County			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total resident births	24	24	14	29
Birth rate (births per 1,000 persons)	8.72	8.72	5.09	10.53
Births to teenage mothers	NR	NR	0	NR
Total resident deaths	38	25	32	40
Death rate (deaths per 1,000 persons)	13.80	9.08	11.62	14.53
Deaths due to suicide	0	0	0	NR
Deaths due to cancer	NR	NR	7	11
Deaths due to heart disease	9	12	8	15
Foster care placements	1	7	7	7

Note: NR - Data are not reported for geographies where the number of events is five or less.

Data Sources: BIRTHS and DEATHS - Calendar year data. North Dakota Department of Health, Vital Records, <http://www.vitalnd.com/>. FOSTER CARE - Fiscal year data. North Dakota Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services Division, unpublished data.

- Kidder County reported 29 births in 2005, a rate of 10.53 per 1,000 persons. This rate was up from 5.09 in 2004.
- Kidder County reported 40 deaths in 2005, up from 25 in 2003. Major contributors to death were heart disease and cancer.
- In 2005, the number of foster care placements for Kidder County was seven, up from one in 2002.

**Table 6. Labor Force Characteristics**

Labor Force	Steele		Kidder County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Persons 16 years and older	613	616	2,534	2,236
In the labor force	299	311	1,465	1,234
Armed Forces	0	0	0	2
Civilian employed	267	293	1,386	1,172
Civilian unemployed	32	18	79	60
Unemployment rate (unemployed as a % of civilian labor force)	10.7	5.8	5.4	4.9
Not in the labor force	314	305	1,069	1,002

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 city of Steele experienced little change in the size of its labor force between 1990 and 2000, while Kidder County experienced a decline in its labor force.
- The unemployment rate declined significantly for the city of Steele between 1990 and 2000 but remained steady for Kidder County.

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**Table 7. Employment Characteristics**

Employment	Steele				Kidder County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total employed (in civilian labor force)	267	100.0	293	100.0	1,386	100.0	1,172	100.0
<b>GENDER</b>								
Females	130	48.7	136	46.4	557	40.2	504	43.0
Males	137	51.3	157	53.6	829	59.8	668	57.0
<b>INDUSTRY</b>								
Agriculture, forestry, mining	27	10.1	20	6.8	604	43.6	353	30.1
Manufacturing	2	0.7	9	3.1	17	1.2	38	3.2
Retail Trade	39	14.6	20	6.8	157	11.3	75	6.4
Services	95	35.6	119	40.6	341	24.6	380	32.4
Other	104	39.0	125	42.7	267	19.3	326	27.8

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 increased in the city of Steele between 1990 and 2000 while total employment declined in Kidder County.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the proportion of employment that was female declined in the city of Steele while the proportion increased in Kidder County. In 2000, females comprised 46 percent of all employed in Steele and 43 percent of all employed in Kidder County.
- Both the city of Steele and Kidder County experienced declines in agricultural and retail trade employment between 1990 and 2000 and experienced growth in manufacturing and service industry employment. In 2000, the service sector was the largest industry in Steele, employing 41 percent of workers. In Kidder County, the service industry, which employed 32 percent of workers in 2000, was only slightly larger than agriculture, which employed 30 percent of workers.

**Table 8. Educational Attainment Characteristics**

Educational Attainment	Steele				Kidder County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Persons 25 years and older	535	100.0	547	100.0	2,235	100.0	1,982	100.0
<b>Less than High School</b>								
Less than 9th grade	150	28.0	111	20.3	656	29.4	340	17.2
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	50	9.3	54	9.9	226	10.1	215	10.8
High school graduate (or equivalency)	126	23.6	144	26.3	591	26.4	694	35.0
Some college, no degree	109	20.4	109	19.9	350	15.7	375	18.9
<b>College degree</b>								
Associate degree	38	7.1	52	9.5	160	7.2	140	7.1
Bachelor's degree	51	9.5	58	10.6	217	9.7	174	8.8
Graduate or professional degree	11	2.1	19	3.5	35	1.6	44	2.2

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/>.

- There was little change in the educational attainment of persons ages 25 and older in both the city of Steele and Kidder County between 1990 and 2000; however, both areas witnessed a decline in the number and proportion of persons 25 years and older with less than a high school education.

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**Table 9. School District Characteristics**

Enrollment, Achievement, and Proficiency	Steele-Dawson Public School District			
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Total K-12 enrollment	279	274	276	287
GRADE				
Kindergarten to 6th grade	138	140	140	142
7th to 8th grade	46	38	45	45
9th to 12th grade	95	96	91	100
RACE*				
% White	95.3	96.4	93.1	93.4
% Black	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
% American Indian	1.4	0.4	1.1	0.3
% Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Hispanic	2.9	2.9	5.4	5.9
High school graduation rate	91.7	91.7	93.3	88.9
High school dropouts	3	2	2	0
Student to classroom teacher ratio	14.6	15.2	15.6	15.4
% of students who scored at the proficient or advanced achievement level in reading	62.5	72.6	65.3	68.3
% of students who scored at the proficient or advanced achievement level in math	41.6	46.8	51.0	58.9

Notes: \*The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction classifies Hispanic origin as a separate race, not as an ethnic origin of any race. NA indicates that data are not available.  
 Data Sources: Academic year data. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota School District Profiles, <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/Profile/index.shtm>.

- The Steele-Dawson Public School District experienced minor fluctuations in total K-12 enrollment over the past few years, with a total K-12 enrollment of 287 students in 2004-2005.
- In 2004-2005, 68 percent of students in the Steele-Dawson Public School District were proficient or advanced in reading, up from 63 percent in 2001-2002. In addition, 59 percent of students were proficient or advanced in math in 2004-2005, up from 42 percent in 2001-2002.