

## Towner, 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	Towner		McHenry County					
	1990	2000	1990	2000	Projections			
					2005	2010	2015	2020
Total population	690	581	6,528	5,987	5,787	5,760	5,736	5,701
AGE								
Ages 0 to 19	174	107	1,888	1,574	1,406	1,294	1,271	1,277
% of total population	25.2	18.4	28.9	26.3	24.3	22.5	22.2	22.4
Ages 65 and Older	155	164	1,360	1,299	1,322	1,446	1,584	1,731
% of total population	22.5	28.2	20.8	21.7	22.8	25.1	27.6	30.4
RACE*								
White	690	574	6,503	5,916				
% of total population	100.0	98.8	99.6	98.8				
Black	0	0	3	12				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2				
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	4	18				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3				
Asian, Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	0	0	15	5				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1				
Other	0	0	3	6				
% of total population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1				
Two or more races	-	7	-	30				
ETHNICITY								
Hispanic Origin of any race	0	2	23	26				
% of total population	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4				

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 Towner and McHenry County experienced a decline in population between 1990 and 2000.
- Population projections for McHenry County indicate that population declines are likely to continue over the next two decades.
- Both the city of Towner and McHenry 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 are likely to continue in McHenry County over the next two decades.
- There was little change in the racial diversity in the city of Towner and McHenry County between 1990 and 2000; nearly all residents were white.

## Towner, 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 2. Housing Characteristics**

Housing	Towner				McHenry County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total housing units	357	100.0	329	100.0	3,320	100.0	2,983	100.0
Occupied housing units	302	84.6	299	90.9	2,551	76.8	2,526	84.7
Owner-occupied housing units	228	63.9	203	61.7	2,056	61.9	2,059	69.0
Renter-occupied housing units	74	20.7	96	29.2	495	14.9	467	15.7
Vacant housing units	58	16.2	30	9.1	769	23.2	457	15.3
For rent	21	5.9	9	2.7	109	3.3	48	1.6
For sale only	7	2.0	9	2.7	114	3.4	74	2.5
Rented or sold, not occupied	2	0.6	0	0.0	61	1.8	22	0.7
For seasonal or recreational use	4	1.1	12	3.6	101	3.0	72	2.4
For migrant workers	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Other vacant	24	6.7	0	0.0	383	11.5	241	8.1
Median value for specified owner-occupied housing units (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$33,729		\$26,100		\$30,566		\$32,600	
Median year housing structure built (all housing units)	1954		1953		1948		1955	
Median price asked for specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units (dollars)	NA		\$17,500		NA		\$11,300	

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/>.

- The city of Towner and McHenry County experienced a decline in total housing units between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 69 percent of housing units in McHenry County and 62 percent in Towner were owner-occupied.
- Both the city of Towner and McHenry County experienced a decline in vacant housing units between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, vacant housing comprised 9 percent of all housing in Towner and 15 percent in McHenry County.
- In 2000, the median value of an owner-occupied home in the city of Towner was \$26,100, compared to \$32,600 in McHenry County. The 2000 values for the city of Towner were actually lower than their 1990 values after adjusting for inflation.
- In 2000, half of all housing units in the city of Towner were built before 1953; half of all housing units in McHenry County were built before 1955.

## Towner, 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 3. Income and Poverty Characteristics**

Income and Poverty	Towner		McHenry County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Median household income (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$25,337	\$25,536	\$24,078	\$27,274
Per capita income (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$12,285	\$19,598	\$11,688	\$15,140
Persons for whom poverty is determined	690	581	6,479	5,928
Living below poverty	99	59	1,224	936
% of all persons	14.3	10.2	18.9	15.8
Ages 0 to 17 below poverty	27	4	403	264
% of all persons below poverty	27.3	6.8	32.9	28.2
Ages 65 and older below poverty	42	27	213	210
% of all persons below poverty	42.4	45.8	17.4	22.4

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 Towner was \$25,536 in 2000, compared to \$27,274 in McHenry County. When the 1990 median values are adjusted for inflation, the 2000 median household incomes represent an increase in purchasing power for both the city of Towner and McHenry County.
- The city of Towner and McHenry County experienced a decline in the number and proportion of people living below poverty between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 10 percent of residents in Towner and 16 percent in McHenry County were impoverished.
- The number of impoverished children declined in both the city of Towner and McHenry County between 1990 and 2000. At the same time, the number of impoverished elderly declined in the city of Towner and remained relatively unchanged in McHenry County. In 2000, children comprised 28 percent of all impoverished residents in McHenry County and 7 percent in the city of Towner. Elderly comprised 22 percent of all impoverished residents in McHenry County and 46 percent in the city of Towner in 2000.

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

Religion	Towner		McHenry County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Number of churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples	NA	NA	37	30
Full-time members	NA	NA	3,289	3,087
Number of attendees	NA	NA	NA	996

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 McHenry County declined by seven 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.

## Towner, 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 5. Health Characteristics**

Health	McHenry County			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total resident births	48	57	57	50
Birth rate (births per 1,000 persons)	8.02	9.52	9.52	8.35
Births to teenage mothers	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total resident deaths	52	84	63	74
Death rate (deaths per 1,000 persons)	8.69	14.03	10.52	12.36
Deaths due to suicide	NR	NR	NR	0
Deaths due to cancer	10	20	17	19
Deaths due to heart disease	19	25	19	18
Foster care placements	7	13	9	10

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.

- McHenry County reported 50 births in 2005, a rate of 8.35 per 1,000 persons. This rate changed little over the past few years.
- McHenry County reported 74 deaths in 2005, up from 52 in 2002. Major contributors to death were heart disease and cancer.
- The number of foster care placements in McHenry County has fluctuated over the past few years. In 2005, there were 10 foster care placements in McHenry County.

**Table 6. Labor Force Characteristics**

Labor Force	Towner		McHenry County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Persons 16 years and older	550	509	4,950	4,768
In the labor force	298	309	2,691	2,749
Armed Forces	3	0	14	20
Civilian employed	279	279	2,454	2,589
Civilian unemployed	16	30	223	140
Unemployment rate (unemployed as a % of civilian labor force)	5.4	9.7	8.3	5.1
Not in the labor force	252	200	2,259	2,019

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/>.

- Both the city of Towner and McHenry County experienced an increase in the labor force between 1990 and 2000 despite an overall decline in persons ages 16 and older.
- The unemployment rate increased for the city of Towner between 1990 and 2000 and decreased in McHenry County.

## Towner, 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 7. Employment Characteristics**

Employment	Towner				McHenry County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total employed (in civilian labor force)	279	100.0	279	100.0	2,454	100.0	2,589	100.0
GENDER								
Females	134	48.0	142	50.9	980	39.9	1,162	44.9
Males	145	52.0	137	49.1	1,474	60.1	1,427	55.1
INDUSTRY								
Agriculture, forestry, mining	27	9.7	26	9.3	772	31.5	531	20.5
Manufacturing	45	16.1	22	7.9	83	3.4	148	5.7
Retail Trade	52	18.6	17	6.1	340	13.9	222	8.6
Services	76	27.2	121	43.4	586	23.9	899	34.7
Other	79	28.3	93	33.3	673	27.4	789	30.5

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 remained unchanged for the city of Towner and increased slightly for McHenry County between 1990 and 2000.
- The proportion of employment that was female increased in both the city of Towner and McHenry County between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, females comprised 51 percent of all employed in the city of Towner and 45 percent of all employed in McHenry County.
- Between 1990 and 2000 the city of Towner experienced declines in manufacturing and retail trade employment, but saw an increase in service industry employment. McHenry County experienced declines in agricultural and retail trade employment, but saw growth in manufacturing and service industry employment. In 2000, the service sector was the largest industry in both areas, employing 35 percent of workers in McHenry County and 43 percent in Towner.

**Table 8. Educational Attainment Characteristics**

Educational Attainment	Towner				McHenry County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Persons 25 years and older	496	100.0	428	100.0	4,439	100.0	4,192	100.0
Less than High School								
Less than 9th grade	121	24.4	55	12.9	997	22.5	585	14.0
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	38	7.7	51	11.9	481	10.8	382	9.1
High school graduate (or equivalency)	160	32.3	140	32.7	1,473	33.2	1,462	34.9
Some college, no degree	61	12.3	78	18.2	707	15.9	929	22.2
College degree								
Associate degree	56	11.3	26	6.1	351	7.9	282	6.7
Bachelor's degree	53	10.7	65	15.2	333	7.5	432	10.3
Graduate or professional degree	7	1.4	13	3.0	97	2.2	120	2.9

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/>.

- Both the city of Towner and McHenry County experienced a decline in the proportion of persons 25 years and older with less than a high school education between 1990 and 2000. Both areas also experienced an increase in the proportion of persons 25 years and older with some college education but no degree and in the proportion with a college degree.

## Towner, 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 9. School District Characteristics**

Enrollment, Achievement, and Proficiency	TGU Public School District			
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Total K-12 enrollment	368	373	385	383
GRADE				
Kindergarten to 6th grade	181	188	186	186
7th to 8th grade	55	56	64	61
9th to 12th grade	132	129	135	136
RACE*				
% White	98.1	97.1	97.9	94.3
% Black	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0
% American Indian	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.0
% Asian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0
% Hispanic	0.8	1.9	1.0	4.7
High school graduation rate	97.3	97.4	100.0	100.0
High school dropouts	0	0	0	0
Student to classroom teacher ratio	11.7	13.0	14.8	14.7
% of students who scored at the proficient or advanced achievement level in reading	53.6	59.8	61.9	73.6
% of students who scored at the proficient or advanced achievement level in math	36.9	28.2	45.7	65.4

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 K-12 enrollment for TGU Public School District totaled 383 students in 2004-2005, up from 368 in 2001-2002.
- In 2004-2005, 74 percent of students in the TGU Public School District were proficient or advanced in reading, up from 54 percent in 2001-2002. In addition, 65 percent of students were proficient or advanced in math in 2004-2005, up from 37 percent in 2001-2002.