

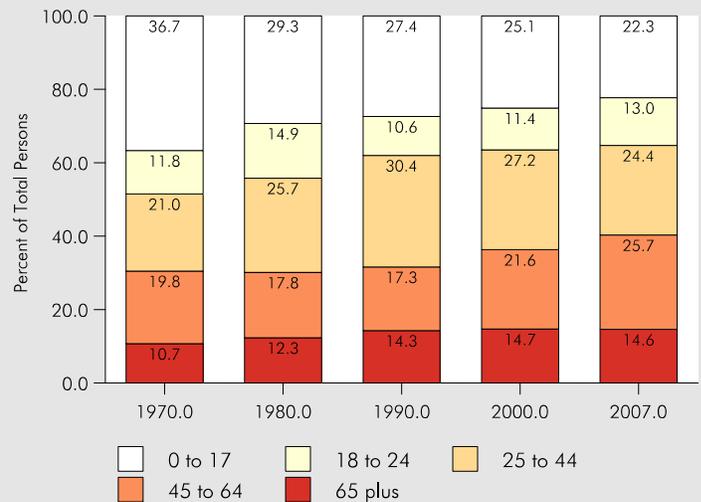
Characteristics of North Dakota's Resident Voting-Age Population: July 1, 2007

Current population estimates released from the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau provide an opportunity to examine the voting-age population (persons 18 years and older) in North Dakota by county for July 1, 2007. The number of North Dakota residents of voting age was estimated at 496,906 in 2007, an increase of 15,555 persons or 3.2 percent from 2000. In 1970, fewer than two-thirds of North Dakotans were of voting age. This proportion grew to three-fourths in 2000 and 78 percent in 2007 (Figure 1).

In 2007, approximately the same number of women as men were of voting age in North Dakota, with little difference among counties (Table 1). Age distributions among counties did vary. In three out of four North Dakota counties, more than 20 percent of the voting-age population was age 65 or older (Figure 2). In contrast, persons ages 18 to 24 comprised less than 10 percent of the voting-age population in 30 of the state's 53 counties.

It is important to note that the population estimates included in this publication (North Dakota residents 18 years and older) include persons who are ineligible to vote, such as non-citizens and prison inmates, but exclude Americans living overseas who can vote. Information on the methodology used by the Population Division to produce population estimates can be found at <http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/>.

Figure 1. Population by Age as a Percent of Total Persons in North Dakota: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and July 1, 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/>

Figure 2. The Elderly (65 plus) as a Proportion of the Voting-Age Population (18 plus) in North Dakota by County: July 1, 2007

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/>

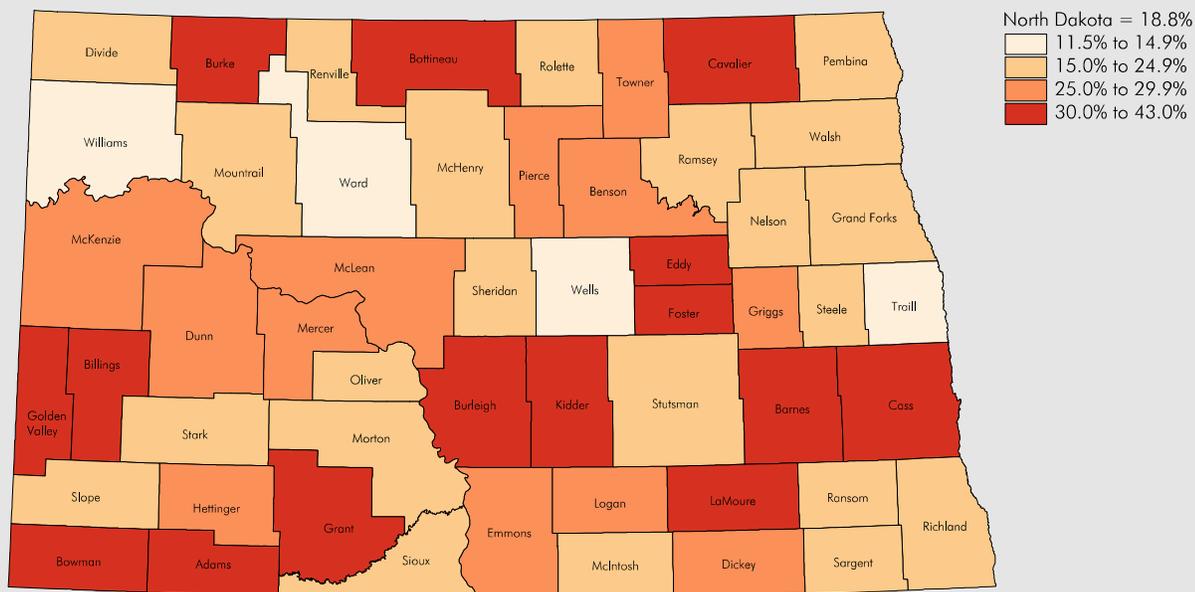


Table 1. Voting-Age Population by Gender and Age Distributions in North Dakota by County: July 1, 2007

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/>

Area	Total persons of all ages	Persons 18 years and older								
		Total	Percent of total persons 18 years and older							
			Males	Females	Ages 18 to 24	Ages 25 to 34	Ages 35 to 44	Ages 45 to 54	Ages 55 to 64	Ages 65 plus
North Dakota	639,715	496,906	49.9%	50.1%	16.8%	15.9%	15.5%	19.1%	14.0%	18.8%
Adams	2,279	1,879	47.4%	52.6%	9.7%	7.8%	12.7%	20.3%	17.7%	31.8%
Barnes	10,783	8,704	49.2%	50.8%	16.5%	12.1%	12.4%	19.2%	15.8%	24.1%
Benson	6,971	4,625	50.7%	49.3%	16.6%	14.2%	16.6%	18.2%	14.9%	19.5%
Billings	798	654	51.8%	48.2%	12.5%	6.4%	14.4%	25.7%	20.9%	20.0%
Boffineau	6,409	5,238	50.7%	49.3%	12.9%	8.2%	12.6%	20.9%	19.0%	26.4%
Bowman	2,944	2,394	49.1%	50.9%	10.5%	9.7%	14.2%	21.9%	16.6%	27.1%
Burke	1,862	1,518	51.4%	48.6%	7.2%	5.0%	14.2%	21.7%	22.5%	29.4%
Burleigh	77,316	60,431	48.8%	51.2%	15.7%	19.5%	15.9%	18.8%	13.3%	16.8%
Cass	137,582	106,234	50.5%	49.5%	19.5%	22.4%	17.4%	17.0%	11.3%	12.4%
Cavalier	3,911	3,173	50.3%	49.7%	8.1%	2.9%	12.9%	22.1%	21.4%	32.7%
Dickey	5,356	4,153	49.1%	50.9%	16.9%	9.3%	13.3%	18.0%	15.4%	27.0%
Divide	2,004	1,691	50.0%	50.0%	8.5%	8.0%	11.8%	20.9%	19.6%	31.2%
Dunn	3,308	2,586	51.2%	48.8%	12.5%	9.6%	14.4%	23.3%	17.9%	22.3%
Eddy	2,430	1,959	48.8%	51.2%	7.5%	10.8%	13.0%	20.9%	16.3%	31.5%
Emmons	3,470	2,780	49.6%	50.4%	8.2%	5.1%	13.9%	21.8%	17.2%	33.7%
Foster	3,490	2,745	49.3%	50.7%	9.3%	12.0%	15.5%	19.9%	14.8%	28.6%
Golden Valley	1,670	1,275	47.6%	52.4%	10.8%	8.2%	14.0%	21.3%	17.6%	28.1%
Grand Forks	66,983	52,754	51.4%	48.6%	28.7%	16.9%	14.8%	15.9%	11.0%	12.6%
Grant	2,467	2,026	50.3%	49.7%	10.3%	6.6%	13.1%	18.3%	19.7%	31.9%
Griggs	2,397	1,989	49.6%	50.4%	8.8%	8.0%	11.9%	20.0%	20.4%	30.9%
Hettinger	2,427	2,036	52.5%	47.5%	10.5%	6.8%	12.3%	19.6%	18.4%	32.4%
Kidder	2,349	1,933	51.6%	48.4%	10.2%	7.6%	13.6%	22.9%	17.0%	28.8%
LaMoure	4,110	3,315	50.6%	49.4%	10.1%	8.9%	12.7%	22.0%	16.3%	30.0%
Logan	1,956	1,584	49.2%	50.8%	8.1%	5.7%	13.3%	19.6%	17.4%	35.9%
McHenry	5,224	4,190	51.0%	49.0%	10.9%	10.6%	13.5%	22.3%	17.1%	25.6%
McIntosh	2,752	2,330	47.4%	52.6%	6.8%	6.1%	11.1%	18.3%	14.8%	43.0%
McKenzie	5,617	4,299	49.5%	50.5%	14.4%	10.3%	13.5%	23.3%	17.8%	20.6%
McLean	8,349	6,784	49.1%	50.9%	11.1%	8.3%	12.6%	22.2%	20.1%	25.6%
Mercer	7,972	6,321	50.5%	49.5%	13.1%	7.3%	14.6%	27.5%	18.3%	19.1%
Morton	25,926	19,842	49.4%	50.6%	12.4%	16.6%	16.2%	20.9%	15.1%	18.8%
Mountrail	6,481	4,835	49.4%	50.6%	14.3%	13.1%	14.3%	19.8%	17.4%	21.2%
Nelson	3,217	2,704	48.3%	51.7%	10.1%	7.6%	11.9%	18.9%	17.7%	33.8%
Oliver	1,725	1,411	51.6%	48.4%	10.7%	5.0%	14.2%	24.7%	25.5%	19.9%
Pembina	7,531	6,070	50.7%	49.3%	10.8%	9.6%	14.3%	22.4%	18.3%	24.7%
Pierce	4,103	3,287	48.8%	51.2%	9.9%	7.7%	15.6%	20.0%	16.0%	30.9%
Ramsey	11,189	8,665	49.3%	50.7%	12.9%	11.5%	15.9%	21.5%	15.4%	22.9%
Ransom	5,682	4,469	51.9%	48.1%	9.6%	15.3%	16.4%	19.7%	15.0%	24.0%
Renville	2,314	1,892	51.4%	48.6%	9.7%	9.2%	13.3%	22.9%	17.0%	27.9%
Richland	16,498	12,853	52.4%	47.6%	19.4%	12.6%	14.2%	21.9%	13.0%	18.9%
Rolette	13,665	9,139	47.7%	52.3%	18.0%	17.0%	17.4%	20.2%	12.9%	14.4%
Sargent	4,110	3,217	53.3%	46.7%	10.1%	10.0%	16.1%	21.0%	18.2%	24.7%
Sheridan	1,320	1,127	51.1%	48.9%	6.7%	3.5%	10.6%	22.1%	21.1%	35.9%
Sioux	4,223	2,738	51.1%	48.9%	21.5%	19.4%	20.2%	15.6%	11.8%	11.5%
Slope	659	543	53.4%	46.6%	12.5%	5.2%	14.0%	29.5%	16.4%	22.5%
Stark	22,458	17,567	48.8%	51.2%	16.8%	15.8%	13.8%	19.3%	13.7%	20.6%
Steele	1,840	1,469	52.1%	47.9%	11.6%	5.4%	16.7%	23.1%	18.7%	24.5%
Stutsman	20,480	16,501	49.5%	50.5%	14.5%	13.2%	14.2%	20.9%	15.2%	22.0%
Towner	2,292	1,901	50.6%	49.4%	9.8%	3.4%	14.5%	25.2%	18.1%	28.9%
Traill	8,069	6,358	49.8%	50.2%	16.2%	10.8%	14.9%	19.5%	14.3%	24.2%
Walsh	11,011	8,618	50.0%	50.0%	10.3%	10.9%	15.2%	21.5%	17.2%	25.0%
Ward	55,927	41,254	48.8%	51.2%	16.3%	16.9%	17.3%	18.2%	13.1%	18.1%
Wells	4,269	3,528	49.1%	50.9%	8.7%	5.6%	13.2%	21.4%	17.3%	33.9%
Williams	19,540	15,318	48.6%	51.4%	13.8%	14.2%	13.8%	21.7%	15.5%	21.0%

Date of Release: October 2, 2008

Voting-Age Residents in North Dakota

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the voting-age population in North Dakota. With November elections nearing, current 2007 population estimates released from the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau provide an opportunity to examine the voting-age population (persons 18 years and older) in North Dakota by county.

The number of North Dakota residents of voting age was estimated at 496,906 in 2007, an increase of 15,555 persons or 3.2 percent from 2000. In 1970, fewer than two-thirds of North Dakotans were of voting age. This proportion grew to three-fourths in 2000 and 78 percent in 2007. "The significant upward shift in the voting age population reflects the declining proportion of youth in our state," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center. "Equally important, it signals a corresponding shift in voting patterns since the elderly vote in much higher rates than others," said Rathge.

According to the November 2004 Voter and Registration supplement to the Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/cps>), older age groups were more likely than younger age groups to vote. Approximately 80 percent of North Dakota's elderly (persons 65 and older) voted in 2004 compared to 52 percent of persons 18 to 24. The age differential in voting is an extremely important factor in the outcome of elections. According to the July 1, 2007 population estimates, elderly populations exceeded 20 percent of persons 18 and older in three out of every four North Dakota counties. In one out of every four counties (15 of 53 counties), elderly populations exceeded 30 percent. Since 8 out of 10 seniors typically vote, they represent a major voting block that may likely decide many North Dakota races in November.

Along with age, other indicators were also related to the propensity to vote in the 2004 presidential election. According to the November 2004 Voter and Registration survey, North Dakota women, homeowners, married individuals, persons with higher education, persons with higher incomes, and employed persons were more likely to vote. In the 2004 presidential election, North Dakota ranked 5th highest in percent voter turnout (71.5 percent of citizens 18 and older); nationally, 63.8 percent of the population voted. The top two reasons why 24.6 percent of North Dakota citizens did not vote in 2004 included busy schedules and non-interest.

North Dakota State Data Center

North Dakota State University
IACC Building, Room 424 - PO Box 6050
 Fargo, North Dakota 58108-6050
 Ph: (701) 231-7980 Fax: (701) 231-9730

For more information, contact:

Dr. Richard Rathge, Director
(701) 231-8621
richard.rathge@ndsu.edu

Karen Olson, Information Specialist
(701) 231-1060
k.olson@ndsu.edu

View publication online at:
www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm