

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

Poverty Estimates for North Dakota: 2009

The Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program, which is part of the U.S. Census Bureau, provides annual estimates of the number and percentage of total persons and children living in poverty. SAIPE estimates indicate that 11.7 percent of North Dakotans were living in poverty in 2009. In order to be 90 percent confident of the true poverty level, one should use a range from 11.2 percent to 12.3 percent (Table 1). These estimates are based on a sample of households. Due to the small population base in North Dakota and the need to keep costs of data collection manageable, the sample sizes for the state are relatively small, which increases the likelihood of error. Confidence intervals are calculated to account for sampling error. Thus, when making important decisions based on these data, one needs to be mindful of the confidence intervals.

Poverty rates in North Dakota continue to be notably higher in Native American reservation areas, with Sioux, Benson, and Rolette counties each having more than one in four persons living in poverty in 2009 (Figure 2).

Nationally, 14.3 percent of all persons were living in poverty in 2009(Table 1).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe. Data for 1994 are not available



Table 1. Income and Poverty Estimates for the United States, North Dakota, and North Dakota Counties: 2009

Note: To be 90 percent confident, the estimate may fall within the specified interval. For an explanation of confidence intervals, visit http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/methods/statecounty/ci.html. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe.

	Median Household Income (\$)		All Ages - Percent in Poverty		Ages 0 to 17 - Percent in Poverty		Ages 5 to 17 in Families - Percent in Poverty	
A	Dallan	90% Confidence	Descent	90% Confidence	Descent	90% Confidence	Descent	90% Confidence
	Dollars		Percent	Interval	Percent		Percent	
Nexth Delvete	47.909	50,147 to 50,295	14.3	14.3 10 14.4	20.0	19.0 to 20.2	10.2	10.11010.4
	47,090	47,011 to 48,785	11.7	11.2 to 12.3	14.1	13.0 to 15.2	11.9	10.0 to 13.2
Ramos	44 154	35,010 to 43,988	11.5	8.6 to 13.7	14.0	0.5 to 17.8	10.2	7.2 to 13.2
Bancan	32 915	20 005 to 25 024	30.1	24 4 to 35 8	30.8	30.2 to 10.0	35.9	7.2 10 15.2
Billings	45 844	41 113 to 50 576	10.4	7.8 to 13.1	15.8	11 2 to 19 7	13.8	20.0 to 17.4
Bottinequ	49.328	41,115 to 50,570	10.4	8.5 to 13.8	13.4	10.1 to 16.7	10.8	7.6 to 13.9
Bowman	47 247	43 452 to 51 043	7.7	5 7 to 9 7	8.3	6 1 to 10.4	6.9	4.8 to 9.0
Burke	47.643	42 616 to 52 669	9.6	7 0 to 12 2	13.7	10.2 to 17.3	11.9	8 4 to 15 3
Burleigh	54,257	50.844 to 57.669	8.4	6.8 to 10.0	10.5	8.2 to 12.9	8.5	6.1 to 10.8
Cass	46,985	44,190 to 49,780	11.6	10.4 to 12.8	10.1	7.9 to 12.2	8.8	6.6 to 11.0
Cavalier	48,535	43,643 to 53,426	10.5	7.8 to 13.1	15.6	11.4 to 19.7	12.1	8.5 to 15.7
Dickey	41,588	37,635 to 45,542	12.6	9.5 to 15.7	14.8	11.0 to 18.6	12.6	8.9 to 16.4
Divide	48,892	43,835 to 53,949	11.6	8.8 to 14.4	16.7	12.3 to 20.8	13.6	9.7 to 17.5
Dunn	44,681	40,151 to 49,210	11.2	8.1 to 14.2	16.5	12.2 to 20.9	12.8	8.9 to 16.7
Eddy	37,475	33,663 to 41,288	12.3	9.4 to 15.3	16.4	12.1 to 20.5	12.8	9.1 to 16.5
Emmons	37,191	34,058 to 40,324	14.7	10.9 to 18.4	19.2	14.0 to 24.3	14.4	10.0 to 18.9
Foster	45,170	40,499 to 49,841	9.1	6.9 to 11.2	10.0	7.3 to 12.5	8.3	5.8 to 10.8
Golden Valley	35,081	31,484 to 38,679	13.3	10.0 to 16.6	19.4	14.5 to 24.6	15.6	10.8 to 20.4
Grand Forks	42,679	40,243 to 45,114	14.4	12.4 to 16.4	13.7	10.6 to 16.9	11.8	8.6 to 15.0
Grant	30,798	27,697 to 33,899	19.1	14.3 to 23.9	32.7	24.1 to 41.4	26.8	18.7 to 34.9
Griggs	40,688	36,907 to 44,470	9.9	7.4 to 12.5	12.7	9.2 to 16.0	10.0	7.0 to 13.0
Hettinger	37,123	33,672 to 40,574	15.4	12.3 to 18.6	16.8	12.7 to 21.0	12.9	9.1 to 16.8
Kidder	37,552	34,758 to 40,346	16.0	12.1 to 20.0	24.0	17.7 to 30.2	19.2	13.4 to 25.1
LaMoure	45,767	41,036 to 50,498	10.9	8.1 to 13.7	14.9	10.9 to 18.7	12.3	8.6 to 16.0
Logan	35,461	31,847 to 39,074	13.2	9.7 to 16.8	18.9	13.7 to 23.7	15.1	10.4 to 19.7
McHenry	38,438	34,729 to 42,147	15.1	11.8 to 18.4	21.6	16.3 to 27.0	16.7	11.9 to 21.5
McIntosh	32,492	29,637 to 35,347	14.0	10.6 to 17.3	17.0	12.5 to 21.5	14.9	10.4 to 19.4
McKenzie	49,465	44,690 to 54,240	12.8	9.5 to 16.1	17.5	12.9 to 22.0	14.6	10.2 to 19.0
McLean	49,212	45,043 to 53,381	10.3	7.7 to 13.0	15.1	11.2 to 19.1	12.0	8.4 to 15.6
Mercer	60,631	54,666 to 66,596	7.2	5.3 to 9.0	8.6	6.3 to 10.8	6.7	4.7 to 8.7
Morton	53,054	48,980 to 57,127	10.1	8.0 to 12.3	14.0	10.5 to 17.4	11.8	8.4 to 15.2
Mountrail	49,884	45,741 to 54,026	12.4	9.0 to 15.8	18.9	14.0 to 23.8	15.9	11.1 to 20.6
Nelson	39,633	35,584 to 43,683	11.3	8.5 to 14.2	15.2	11.4 to 19.1	11.7	8.3 to 15.1
Oliver	51,009	45,793 to 56,225	11.2	8.3 to 14.1	15.6	11.6 to 19.9	13.3	9.2 to 17.3
Pembina	46,756	42,264 to 51,249	9.6	7.5 to 11.7	11.4	8.5 to 14.4	9.3	6.5 to 12.0
Pierce	36,962	33,105 to 40,819	13.3	10.3 to 16.3	16.2	12.0 to 20.4	12.7	8.9 to 16.4
Ramsey	47,821	43,980 to 51,661	12.6	9.4 to 15.8	18.8	13.9 to 23.7	15.9	11.2 to 20.7
Ransom	48,709	44,294 to 53,125	9.3	7.0 to 11.7	12.3	9.1 to 15.4	9.9	7.0 to 12.9
Renville	52,490	47,506 to 57,475	8.1	6.1 to 10.2	10.6	7.8 to 13.2	8.2	5.6 to 10.7
Richland	46,234	42,295 to 50,173	10.7	8.5 to 12.9	10.7	8.0 to 13.4	8.7	6.2 to 11.2
Rolette	31,592	28,533 to 34,651	28.1	22.4 to 33.8	35.9	27.9 to 43.9	31.5	23.3 to 39.7
Sargent	50,329	45,577 to 55,081	7.9	6.0 to 9.8	9.0	6.6 to 11.3	7.2	5.0 to 9.4
Sheridan	32,729	29,/22 to 35,/36	19.4	14.8 to 24.0	29.4	21.5 to 37.3	22.2	15.3 to 29.2
Sloux	27,473	24,641 to 30,305	39.9	31.0 to 48.1	51.0	39.7 to 02.1	45.5	32.0 to 38.5
Store	51,205	28,918 to 35,013	0.4	9.7 10 10.3	10.7	14.0 10 24.3	0.7	9.0 10 19.J
Stoolo	50 305	47,730 to 55,020	7.0	5 1 +0 8 4	11.3	0.4 10 14.2	9.7	5.0 10 12.3
Stutsman	45 300	47,121 TO 37,050	0.9	9.1 to 14.4	14.0	10.6 to 17.5	0.2	8.1 to 14.7
Towner	46,002	41,130 10 47,400	11.7	8.3 to 14.2	17.0	12.8 to 21.0	11.4	9.3 to 17.6
Traill	45 627	42 173 to 49 081	Q.Q.	7.6 to 12.0	11.1	8.3 to 13.8	01	6.5 to 11.7
Walsh	41,858	37 874 to 45 843	11.2	8.6 to 13.9	14.8	11 0 to 18 7	12.2	8.4 to 16.0
Ward	50 272	48 044 to 52 501	9.7	7.7 to 11.8	13.5	10.5 to 16.5	11.9	8.7 to 15.0
Wells	44,952	40,577 to 49 327	12.4	9.5 to 15.3	13.4	10.0 to 16.8	10.5	7.5 to 13.5
Williams	53,958	49,133 to 58,782	8.6	6.5 to 10.6	10.5	7.7 to 13.1	9.1	6.4 to 11.8





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North Dakota's Poverty Rate Unchanged

An estimated 11.7 percent of North Dakotans were living in poverty in 2009, a rate which has remained relatively unchanged over the past decade. This proportion is equivalent to approximately 73,000 people in North Dakota who were impoverished in 2009. "To place this number into context, we would need three FARGODOMEs to seat all those impoverished in North Dakota," said Richard Rathge, director of the State Data Center.

Poverty thresholds are updated annually by the U.S. Census Bureau and vary by family size and number of children. In 2009, the poverty threshold for one person was \$10,956 and \$21,756 for a family of four with two children under the age of 18.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on poverty estimates released from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program through the U.S. Census Bureau. SAIPE provides annual estimates of the number and percentage of total persons and children living in poverty. These estimates are based on a sample of households. Due to the relatively small population base in North Dakota and the need to keep costs of data collection manageable, the sample sizes for the state are relatively small, which increases the likelihood of error. Confidence intervals are calculated to account for this sampling error.

For example, while SAIPE estimates indicate that 11.7 percent of all North Dakotans were living in poverty in 2009, one should use a range from 11.2 percent to 12.3 percent to be 90 percent confident of the true poverty level.

Certain populations in North Dakota continue to struggle with higher than average poverty rates. Children have a greater likelihood of living in poverty than the general public. The percentage of North Dakota children ages 0 to 17 living in poverty was estimated at 14.1 percent in 2009. The percentage of children ages 0 to 4 living in poverty was 18.0 percent and the percentage of children ages 5 to 17 living in families below poverty was 11.9 percent. In addition, poverty rates in North Dakota were notably higher in Native American reservation areas, with Sioux, Benson, and Rolette counties having more than one in four persons living in poverty in 2009. In fact, Sioux County had the 20th highest poverty rate among all 3,143 counties in the nation.

When making important decisions based on these data, one needs to be mindful of the confidence intervals (13.0 percent to 15.2 percent for North Dakota children ages 0 to 17, 16.0 percent to 20.0 percent for children ages 0 to 4, and 10.6 percent to 13.2 percent for children ages 5 to 17).

Nationally, 14.3 percent of all persons were impoverished in 2009, 20.0 percent of children ages 0 to 17 were living in poverty, and 23.2 percent of children ages 0 to 4 were impoverished. The 90 percent confidence intervals are 14.3 percent to 14.4 percent, 19.8 percent to 20.2 percent, and 23.0 percent to 23.5 percent, respectively).

Since the 1960s, poverty has been determined largely based on a family's food budget, with no accounting for child care, health insurance, or other expenses families face today. Efforts to update the measure have been ongoing, and in early January 2011, the Census Bureau released alternative measures of poverty based on recommendations of Congress and the National Academy of Sciences. The purpose of these alternative measures is to show the effect on income and poverty measures when factoring in a range of poverty thresholds and different assumptions about income sources (such as subsidized housing or free or reduced-price school lunches). For more information on these alternative poverty measures, visit http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/poverty/cb11-06.html to see how they compare with the SAIPE data presented in this publication.

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