

Educational Attainment of Adults in North Dakota: 2009

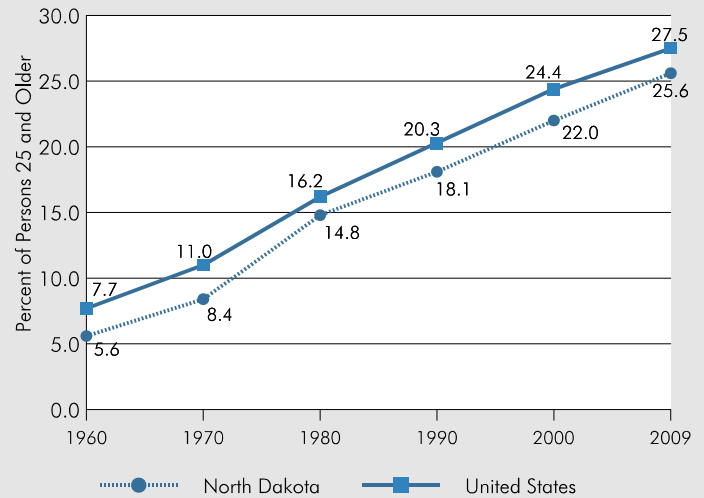
Approximately one in four North Dakotans ages 25 and older had completed a Bachelor's degree in 2009 (26 percent), which is up from 22 percent in 2000 and 18 percent in 1990. Nationally, 28 percent of adults had completed a Bachelor's degree in 2009 (Figure 1).

North Dakota had the 28th highest proportion in the nation of persons ages 25 and older who had completed a Bachelor's degree in 2009. West Virginia ranked lowest with 17 percent. Four states, along with the District of Columbia, had at least 35 percent of persons ages 25 and older who had completed a Bachelor's degree (Massachusetts, Colorado, Maryland, and Connecticut) (Figure 2).

Approximately 11 percent of North Dakotans ages 25 and older had less than a high school diploma in 2009, which is down from 16 percent a decade earlier. Only 10 states had a lower proportion of uneducated adults (i.e., persons ages 25 and older with less than a high school diploma).

The proportion of North Dakotans ages 25 and older who had completed some college or an Associate's degree changed little over the past decade, from 34 percent in 2000 to 35 percent in 2009 (Table 1). North Dakotans who had completed an advanced degree (i.e., Master's, Professional, Doctorate) accounted for 7 percent of all adults ages 25 and older in 2009, compared to 6 percent in 2000.

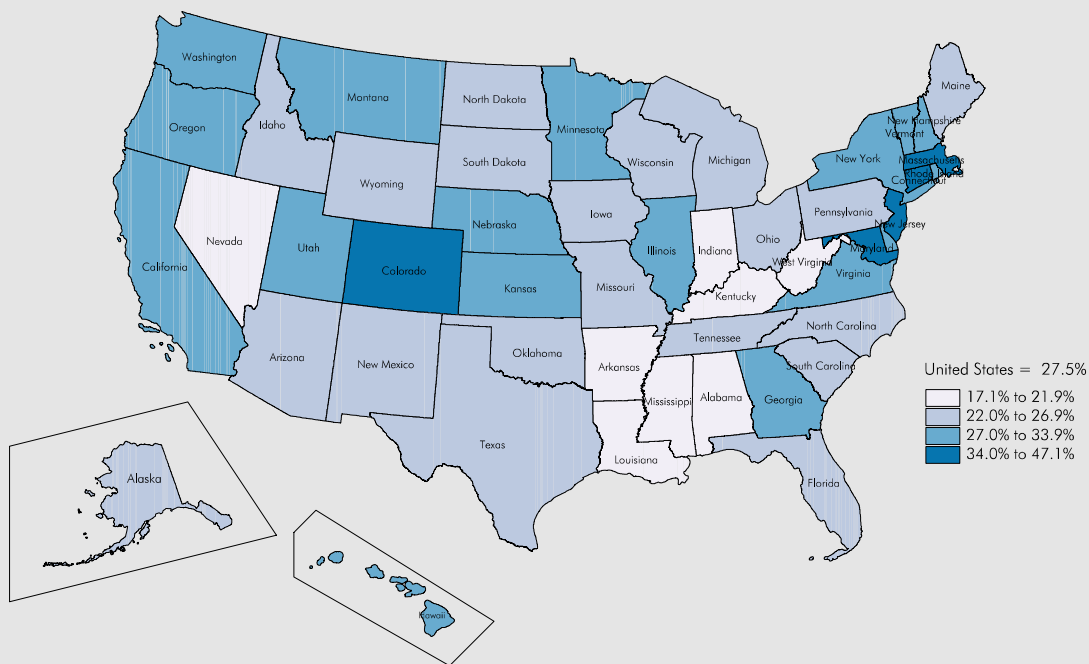
Figure 1. Percent of Adults Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree in North Dakota and the U.S.: 1960 to 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2. Percent of Adults Ages 25 and Older Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree by State: 2009

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B15002.



North Dakota State Data Center

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Table 1. Educational Attainment of Adults Ages 25 and Older in North Dakota by County: 2009

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B15002.

Area	Total persons ages 25 and older - Highest level of education attained								
	Total number	Less than a high school diploma		High school graduate, GED, or equivalent		Some college or Associate's degree		Bachelor's degree or higher	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
North Dakota	408,469	46,051	11.3%	116,312	28.5%	141,536	34.7%	104,570	25.6%
Adams	1,725	315	18.3%	697	40.4%	415	24.1%	298	17.3%
Barnes	7,530	847	11.2%	2,547	33.8%	2,165	28.8%	1,971	26.2%
Benson	3,828	694	18.1%	1,341	35.0%	1,398	36.5%	395	10.3%
Billings	647	83	12.8%	231	35.7%	209	32.3%	124	19.2%
Bottineau	4,634	681	14.7%	1,276	27.5%	1,713	37.0%	964	20.8%
Bowman	2,086	280	13.4%	712	34.1%	717	34.4%	377	18.1%
Burke	1,576	173	11.0%	607	38.5%	535	33.9%	261	16.6%
Burleigh	51,487	4,507	8.8%	12,506	24.3%	18,111	35.2%	16,363	31.8%
Cass	82,161	5,397	6.6%	19,473	23.7%	28,817	35.1%	28,474	34.7%
Cavalier	2,985	398	13.3%	1,022	34.2%	1,056	35.4%	509	17.1%
Dickey	3,483	574	16.5%	1,034	29.7%	1,242	35.7%	633	18.2%
Divide	1,490	128	8.6%	494	33.2%	607	40.7%	261	17.5%
Dunn	2,218	444	20.0%	805	36.3%	677	30.5%	292	13.2%
Eddy	1,674	281	16.8%	508	30.3%	626	37.4%	259	15.5%
Emmons	2,676	591	22.1%	960	35.9%	756	28.3%	369	13.8%
Foster	2,449	299	12.2%	871	35.6%	821	33.5%	458	18.7%
Golden Valley	1,062	80	7.5%	392	36.9%	388	36.5%	202	19.0%
Grand Forks	35,041	2,878	8.2%	8,549	24.4%	12,476	35.6%	11,138	31.8%
Grant	1,760	264	15.0%	635	36.1%	563	32.0%	298	16.9%
Griggs	1,724	273	15.8%	609	35.3%	456	26.5%	386	22.4%
Hettinger	1,870	320	17.1%	616	32.9%	563	30.1%	371	19.8%
Kidder	1,761	341	19.4%	614	34.9%	530	30.1%	276	15.7%
LaMoure	2,929	451	15.4%	1,012	34.6%	935	31.9%	531	18.1%
Logan	1,495	493	33.0%	404	27.0%	412	27.6%	186	12.4%
McHenry	3,715	515	13.9%	1,447	39.0%	1,139	30.7%	614	16.5%
McIntosh	2,154	633	29.4%	631	29.3%	521	24.2%	369	17.1%
McKenzie	3,720	412	11.1%	1,147	30.8%	1,368	36.8%	793	21.3%
McLean	6,103	956	15.7%	1,853	30.4%	2,172	35.6%	1,122	18.4%
Mercer	5,680	858	15.1%	1,544	27.2%	2,268	39.9%	1,010	17.8%
Morton	17,313	2,241	12.9%	5,733	33.1%	5,653	32.7%	3,686	21.3%
Mountrail	4,210	621	14.8%	1,188	28.2%	1,500	35.6%	901	21.4%
Nelson	2,390	269	11.3%	844	35.3%	848	35.5%	429	17.9%
Oliver	1,211	164	13.5%	393	32.5%	435	35.9%	219	18.1%
Pembina	5,355	815	15.2%	1,814	33.9%	1,854	34.6%	872	16.3%
Pierce	3,041	513	16.9%	1,041	34.2%	1,146	37.7%	341	11.2%
Ramsey	7,540	997	13.2%	2,146	28.5%	2,681	35.6%	1,716	22.8%
Ransom	3,957	469	11.9%	1,484	37.5%	1,313	33.2%	691	17.5%
Renville	1,549	181	11.7%	460	29.7%	613	39.6%	295	19.0%
Richland	9,940	1,520	15.3%	2,658	26.7%	3,776	38.0%	1,986	20.0%
Rolette	7,512	1,397	18.6%	1,977	26.3%	2,786	37.1%	1,352	18.0%
Sargent	2,818	369	13.1%	1,109	39.4%	925	32.8%	415	14.7%
Sheridan	1,117	248	22.2%	426	38.1%	296	26.5%	147	13.2%
Sioux	2,094	435	20.8%	667	31.9%	696	33.2%	296	14.1%
Slope	484	36	7.4%	176	36.4%	160	33.1%	112	23.1%
Stark	14,678	1,949	13.3%	4,519	30.8%	4,796	32.7%	3,414	23.3%
Steele	1,339	154	11.5%	426	31.8%	496	37.0%	263	19.6%
Stutsman	13,951	2,109	15.1%	4,672	33.5%	3,984	28.6%	3,186	22.8%
Towner	1,771	214	12.1%	561	31.7%	599	33.8%	397	22.4%
Traill	5,385	640	11.9%	1,592	29.6%	1,789	33.2%	1,364	25.3%
Walsh	7,603	1,343	17.7%	2,633	34.6%	2,399	31.6%	1,228	16.2%
Ward	35,024	2,843	8.1%	9,946	28.4%	13,258	37.9%	8,977	25.6%
Wells	3,244	596	18.4%	1,127	34.7%	979	30.2%	542	16.7%
Williams	13,280	1,762	13.3%	4,183	31.5%	4,898	36.9%	2,437	18.4%

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Education Levels in North Dakota Up Slightly

Approximately one in four North Dakotans ages 25 and older had completed a Bachelor's degree in 2009 (26 percent), which is up from 22 percent in 2000 and 18 percent in 1990. Nationally, 28 percent of adults had completed a Bachelor's degree in 2009.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the educational attainment of adults ages 25 and older as reported in the Census Bureau's 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

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Approximately 11 percent of North Dakotans ages 25 and older had less than a high school diploma in 2009, which is down from 16 percent a decade earlier. Only 10 states had a lower proportion of uneducated adults (i.e., persons ages 25 and older with less than a high school diploma).

"This significant decline in North Dakota's proportion of adults with less than a high school degree in part reflects the diminishing proportion of the state's population who were born prior to the Great Depression. This was a time when the demand for education was less pressing," said Richard Rathge, director of the State Data Center.

The proportion of North Dakotans ages 25 and older who had completed some college or an Associate's degree changed little over the past decade, from 34 percent in 2000 to 35 percent in 2009. North Dakotans who had completed an advanced degree (i.e., Master's, Professional, Doctorate) accounted for 7 percent of all adults ages 25 and older in 2009, compared to 6 percent in 2000.

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