

Population Trends

NORTH DAKOTA

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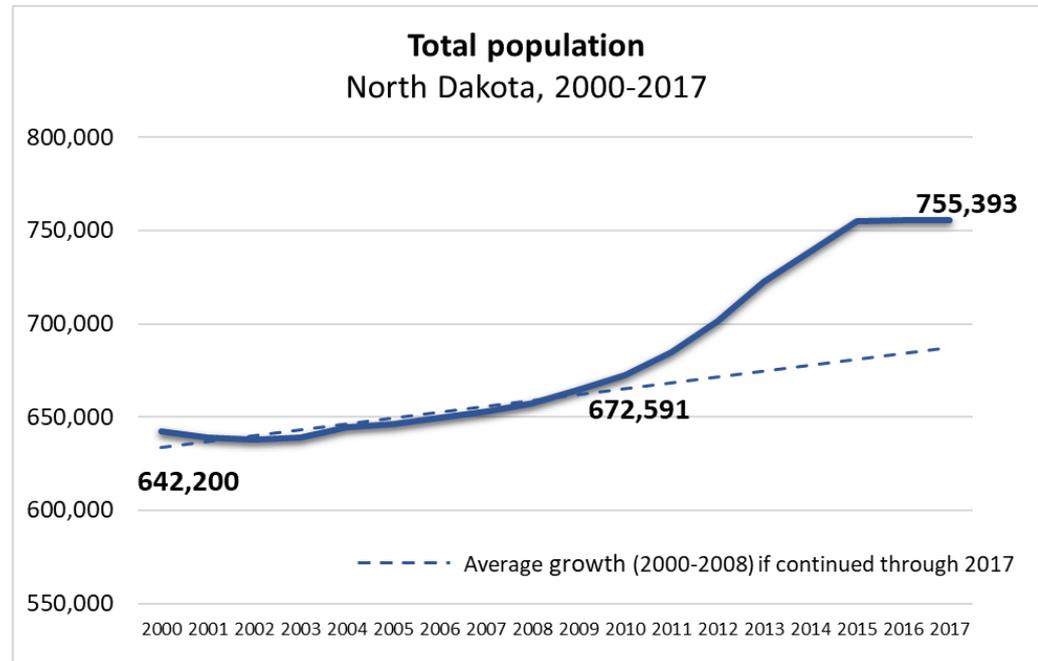
Population Trends Summary

- ❖ After years of continuous growth, North Dakota lost 155 people from 2016 to 2017. Despite the stabilizing of the growth rate, North Dakota still experienced one of the highest percentage growth of all states from 2010 to 2017.
- ❖ Core oil and gas producing counties that were gaining population in previous years started to lose population in 2016 and the trend continued in 2017. While most of the counties lost population in the past year, nine counties maintained moderate growth.
- ❖ For five years, North Dakota's population grew younger as the median age continually decreased from 37.0 in 2010 to 34.8 in 2015. While the median age slightly increased to 35.1 in 2017, North Dakota was still the fourth youngest state out of the 50 states in the nation with only Texas, Alaska, and Utah having a younger median age.
- ❖ While both the male and female population remained relatively stable after 2015, North Dakota still is one of few states where males outnumber females overall.
- ❖ Racial and ethnic diversity continued to grow in North Dakota. The increase in non-White population from 2010 to 2017 was the greatest percentage change of any state.

Total population

After years of continuous growth, North Dakota lost 155 people from 2016 to 2017 reaching a total of 755,393 residents in 2017.

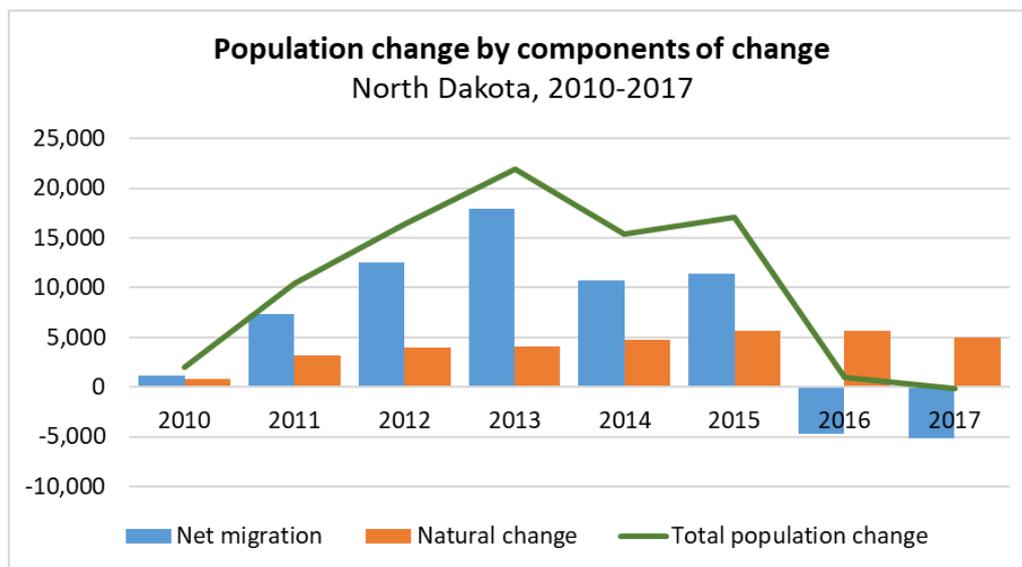
Although the population held relatively steady over the last two years, North Dakota had a 12.3 percent growth from 2010 to 2017 which is the second fastest population growth of all states during this time period, slightly behind Texas.



Components of change

The modest population change over the past two years can be attributed to the stabilizing of the birth rates and out-migration. Increasing since 2011, North Dakota's birth rate started to level off in 2015 with [the number of births](#) slightly decreasing from 11,404 in 2015 to 11,282 in 2016, and 11,064 in 2017.

Over the past two years, North Dakota has experienced a larger number of people leaving than entering the state. The negative [net migration](#) of 4,684 residents in 2016 and 5,164 residents in 2017 is in contrast to previous years when North Dakota had more people entering than leaving the state ([U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Population and Housing Unit Estimates](#)).



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Population estimate	674,518	684,830	701,380	722,908	738,658	754,859	755,548	755,393
Net migration	1,039	6,925	12,294	17,079	10,691	10,954	-4,687	-5,164
Natural change	844	3,158	3,938	4,024	4,775	5,065	5,364	4,978
Total population change	1,933	10,312	16,550	21,528	15,750	16,201	689	-155

Note:

Net migration = number of people who enter the state (in-migration) minus the number of people who leave the state (out-migration)

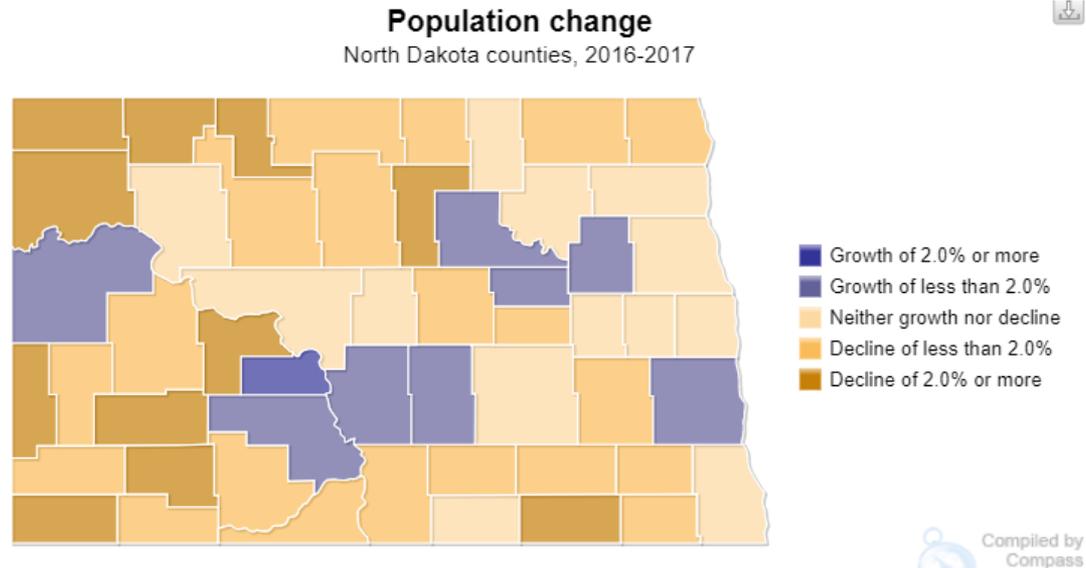
Natural change = Number of births minus number of deaths

Total population change = Net migration + Natural change

Population change by county

North Dakota's counties experienced differential [population change from 2016 to 2017](#). Core oil and gas producing counties that were gaining population in previous years started to lose population in 2016 and the trend continued in 2017. Out of the 53 counties, 34 counties lost population from 2016 to 2017.

While most of the counties lost population in the past year, nine counties continued to grow. Oliver County leads the counties in percentage growth with a 2.2 percentage increase in population from 2016 to 2017.

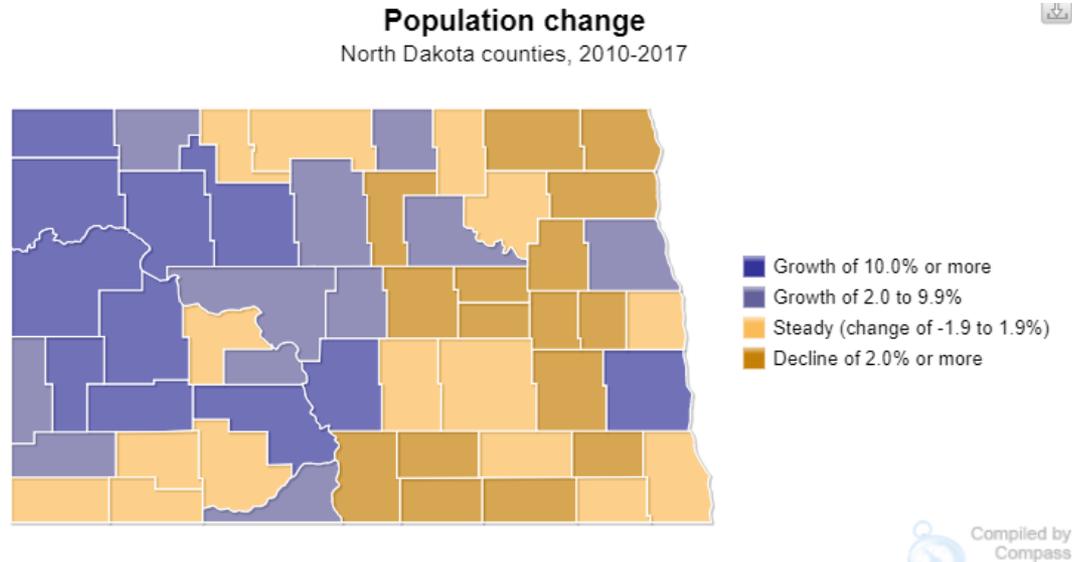


Population change by county

While the year to year gains in population have subsided, the western North Dakota counties experienced extraordinary growth when compared with the 2010 decennial census (McKenzie County doubled its population and Williams County saw almost a 50% increase).

In addition, 9 counties, mainly in the western and metropolitan areas grew 10 percent or more while 11 counties saw modest growth (ranging from 2% to 9.9%).

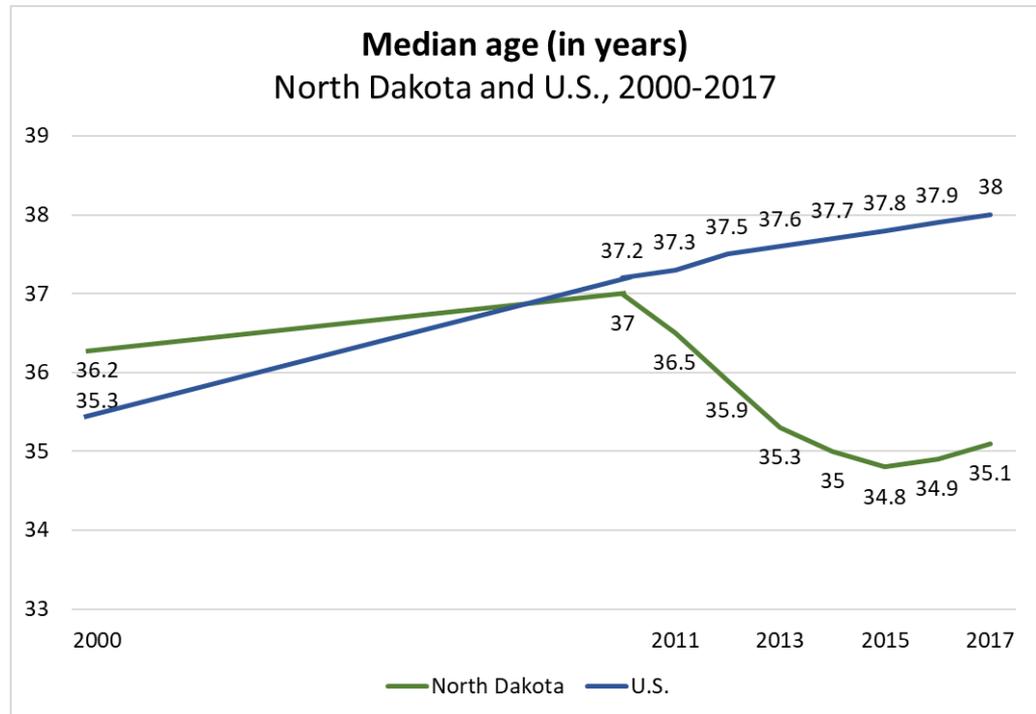
However, the population in the majority of counties remained constant or declined from 2010 to 2017; the population in 15 counties saw little change; and population in 16 counties decreased 2.0 percent or more.



Median age

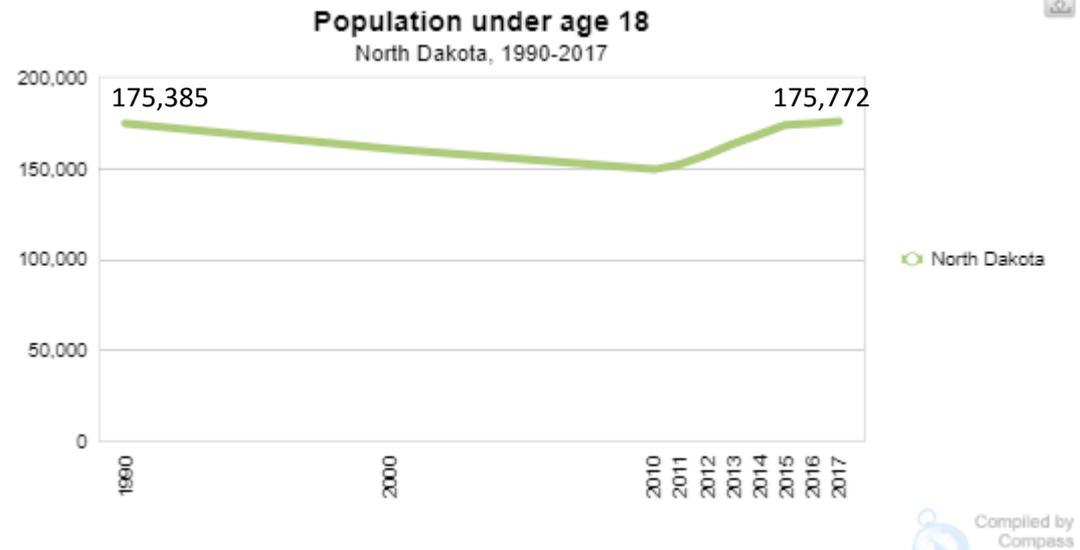
The population in most states has increasingly become older. The increase in the median age (the age where half of the population is younger and the other half older) is largely a result of the aging of the baby boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964). The [median age in the U.S.](#) steadily increased from 35.3 in 2000, to 37.2 in 2010, to 38.1 in 2017.

However, North Dakota was one of the few states who reversed this trend. For five years, [North Dakota's](#) population grew younger as the median age continually decreased from 37.0 in 2010 to 34.8 in 2015. While the median age started to increase in 2016, North Dakota was still the [fourth youngest state](#) out of the 50 states in the nation with a median age of 35.1 in 2017.



Child & youth population

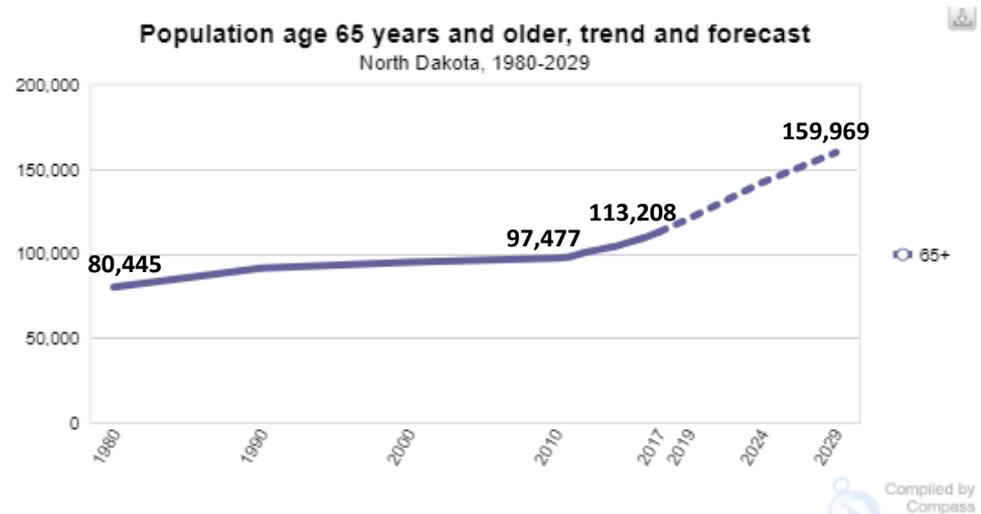
After decades of decline, the number of children and youth (under 18 years old) has grown since 2010. While the growth rate slowed in 2016, the number of children and youth increased by 25,901 from 2010 to 2017, reaching a population of 175,772 in 2017. In 2017, children and youth comprised 23.3 percent of the total population in North Dakota, a slight increase from 22.3 percent in 2010.



Older adults population

There were **113,208 older adults** (65 years of age and older) in North Dakota in 2017, representing 15 percent of the total population, a percentage almost unchanged since 2010.

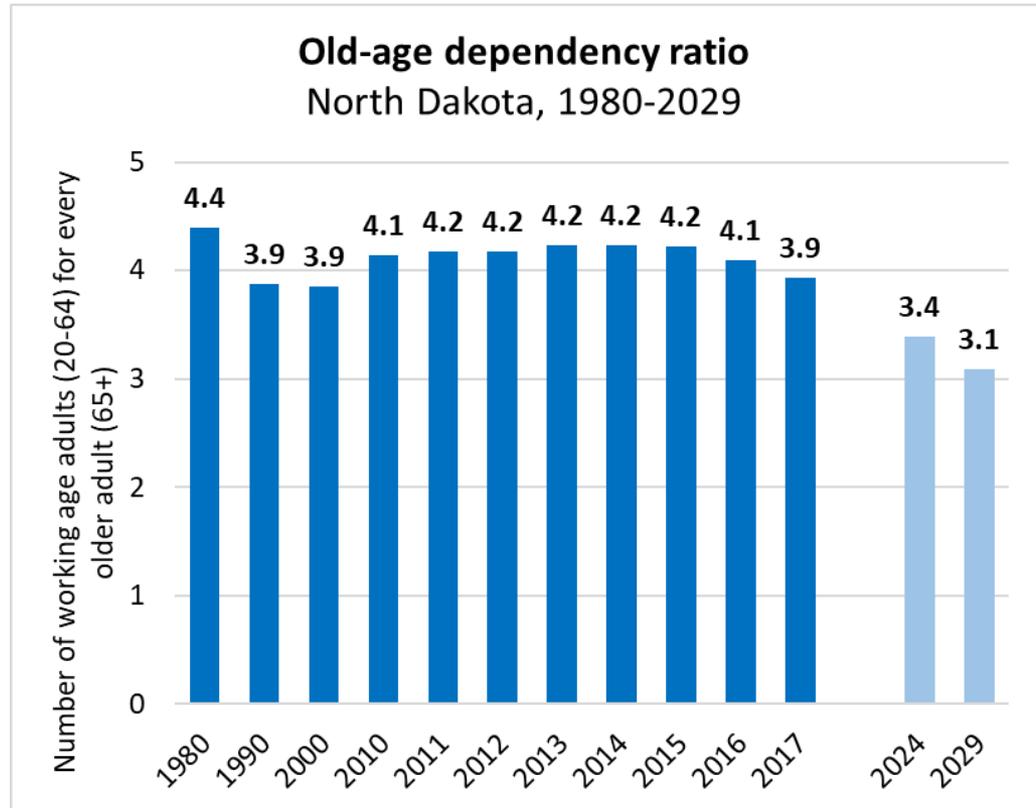
With the aging of the baby boom generation (the large cohort of people born between 1946 and 1964), the **share of older adults in North Dakota's population** is expected to increase to 18 percent by 2029 (reaching 159,969 people age 65 and older).



Old-age dependency

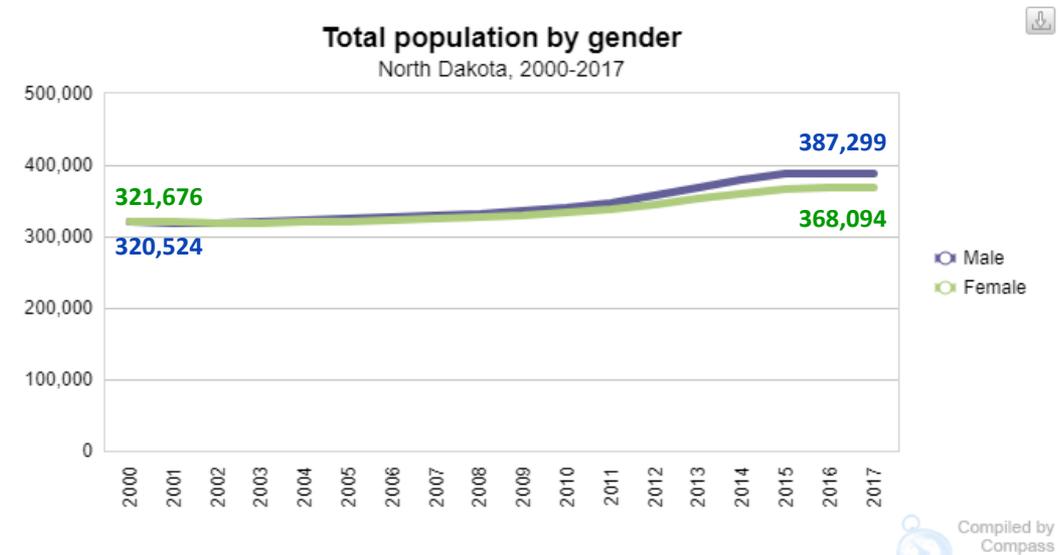
The share of the working-age population (age 20-64) in North Dakota is projected to decline from 59 percent of the total population in 2017 to 55 percent in 2029.

These demographic changes will potentially reduce the number of workers in relation to the population needing support. Even with the influx of more working-age people into the state, the ratio is projected to decrease from 3.9 working-age adults to every one older adult in 2017 to 3.1 working-age adults per every older adult by 2029.



Population by gender

North Dakota is one of few states where males outnumber females. In 2000, the number of females was slightly higher than males in North Dakota. After 2000, the male population started to surpass the female population and up to 2015 continued to increase at a rate higher than the female population. After 2015, both the male and female population remained relatively stable.

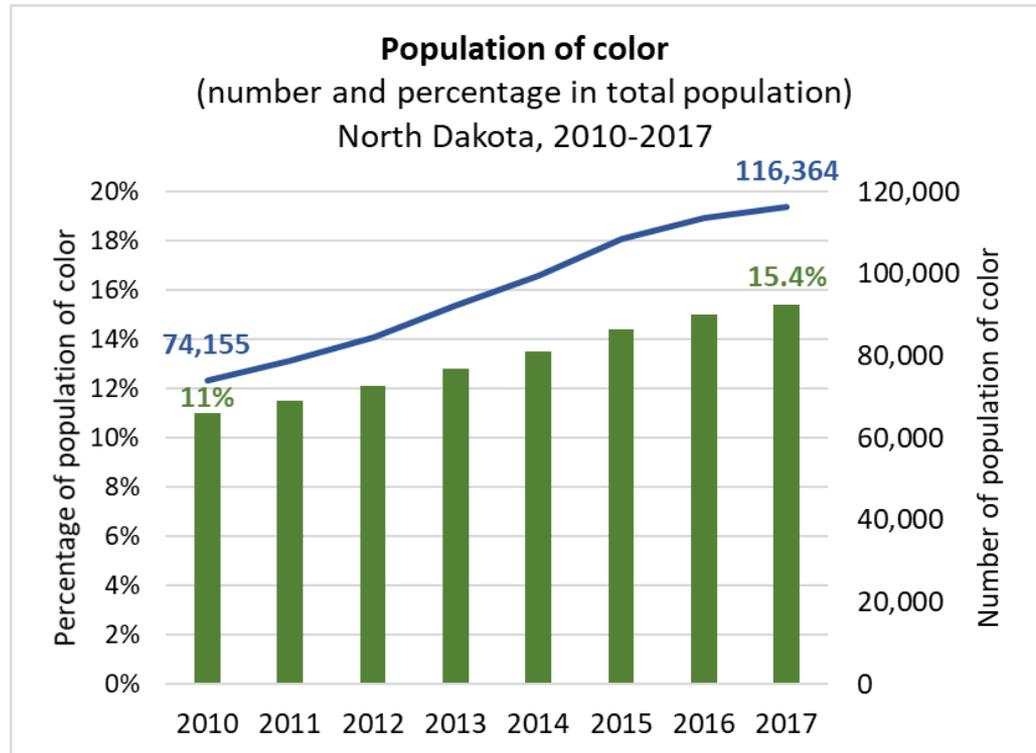


Sources:

Population by race

While the rate of growth for the North Dakota population of color (i.e., non-White) slowed down in the past year (2.4% increase from 2016 to 2017), the population of color saw a 56.9 percent increase from 2010 to 2017. For comparison, the U.S. population of color increased by 14.8 percent for the same time period, 2010-2017.

However, despite the increase in the population of color, North Dakota was less racially and ethnically diverse than most states (44th out of 50 states) in 2017.



Population by race

Among the racial and ethnic groups in North Dakota, the Black population experienced the largest increase from 8,248 in 2010 to 23,533 in 2017 (185%).

The Hispanic population doubled from 13,467 in 2010 to 28,006 in 2017 (108%).

The American Indian population continues to make up the largest minority population in North Dakota (41,588 residents in 2017) and remained constant as a percentage of total population in the state, at about 5.5 percent, from 2010 to 2017.

The Hispanic population increased from 2.0 percent in 2010 to 3.7 percent in 2017, and the Black population more than doubled from 1.2 percent in 2010 to 3.1 percent in 2017.

