

Education Trends

NORTH DAKOTA

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Education Trends Summary

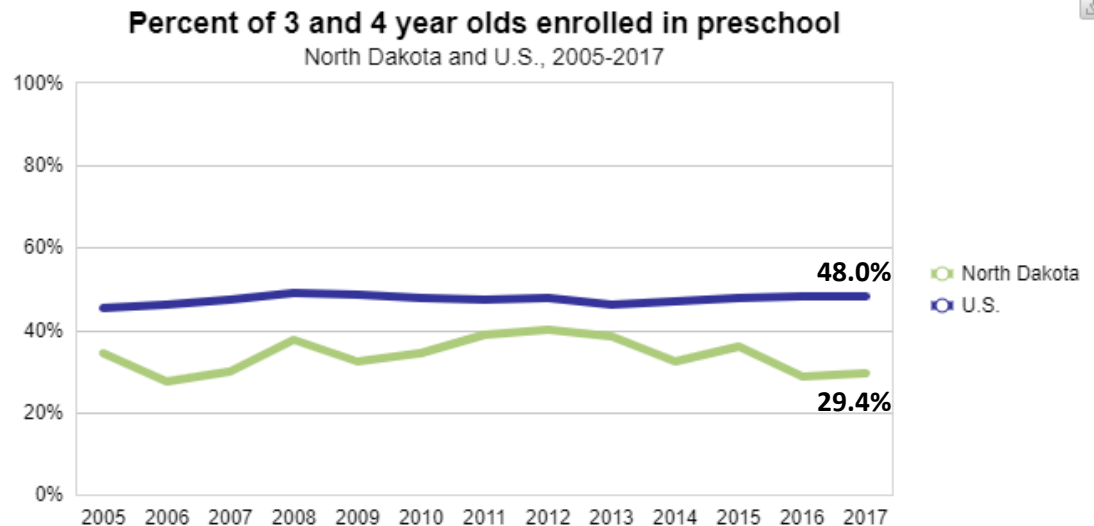
- ❖ In 2017, North Dakota had the lowest percentage of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool among all 50 states.
- ❖ Achievement scores in English Language Arts/Literacy remained steady for North Dakota 3rd graders from 2017 to 2018.
- ❖ Achievement scores in Math increased 11 percentage points for North Dakota 8th graders from 2017 to 2018.
- ❖ Large racial and income gaps in academic achievement continue to exist in North Dakota as related to 3rd grade English Language Arts/Literacy and 8th grade Math scores.
- ❖ High school graduation rates have been fairly constant in North Dakota. Graduation rates significantly improved for American Indian students but fairly large disparities continue to exist.
- ❖ The percent of adults (age 25 and older) with postsecondary education in North Dakota increased slightly from 2016 to 2017. Differences in educational attainment exist by race, poverty status, and gender.

Preschool enrollment

Preschool programs include organized child care programs offering educational experiences for children during the years preceding kindergarten. [The percentage of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool programs](#) in North Dakota has historically trended below the national average.

In 2017, 29.4 percent of children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in preschool in North Dakota; [the national average](#) in 2017 was 48.0 percent.

In 2017, North Dakota maintained the lowest percentage of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool [among all 50 states](#).



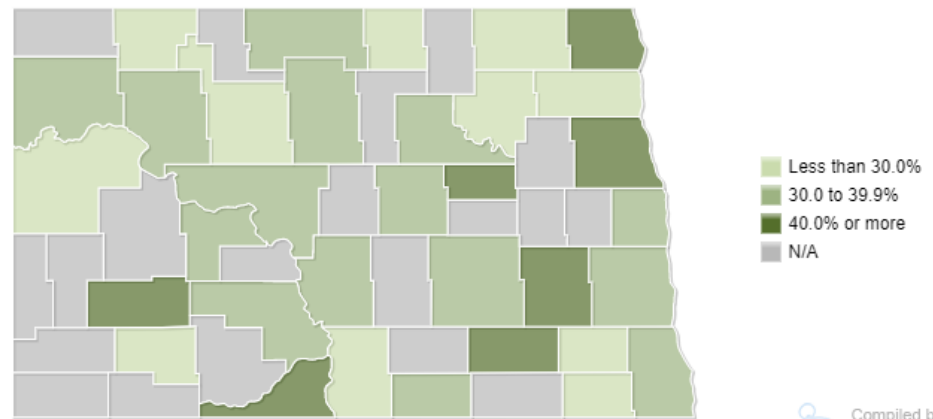
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Preschool enrollment by county

Preschool enrollment varies greatly by county. In 2017, three counties in North Dakota had enrollment higher than national average (48.0%) with Pembina County having the highest percent of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool at 56.6 percent.

Emmons County ranked last in North Dakota with 19.8 percent of 3-4 years old enrolled in preschool, while data for 20 counties was suppressed due to data unavailability or low number of cases recorded during the time period (2013-2017).

Percent of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool
By county, North Dakota, 2013-2017



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3rd grade reading scores

Forty-five percent of students were achieving standards in [3rd grade English Language Arts/Literacy](#) in 2018 (34% meeting standards and 11% exceeding standards).

Notes:

The North Dakota State Assessments are standards-based tests that measure how well students have mastered the challenging ND state content standards. The NDSA tests report student achievement at the following four levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.
3. Partially Proficient. Demonstrates an emerging or developing level of understanding and performance.
4. Novice. Attempt made; however, lack of understanding and performance is evident.

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

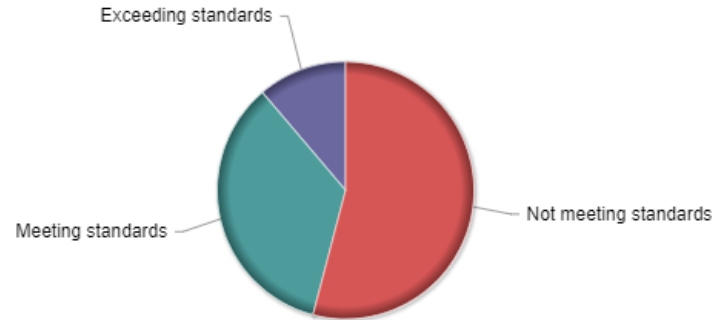
Exceeding standards represent Advanced achievement levels;

Meeting standards represent Proficient achievement levels;

Not meeting standards represent Novice and Partially proficient achievement levels.

3rd grade students by achievement of English Language Arts/Literacy standards

North Dakota, 2018



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3rd grade reading scores

In 2018, 49 percent of [Asian](#) students and 48 percent of [White](#) North Dakota 3rd grade students achieved the English Language Arts (ELA) standards, compared to 38 percent of [Hispanic](#) students, 31 percent of [Black](#) students and 28 percent of [Native American](#) students. From 2017 to 2018, [Hispanic](#) students improved the most from 28 percent to 38 percent.

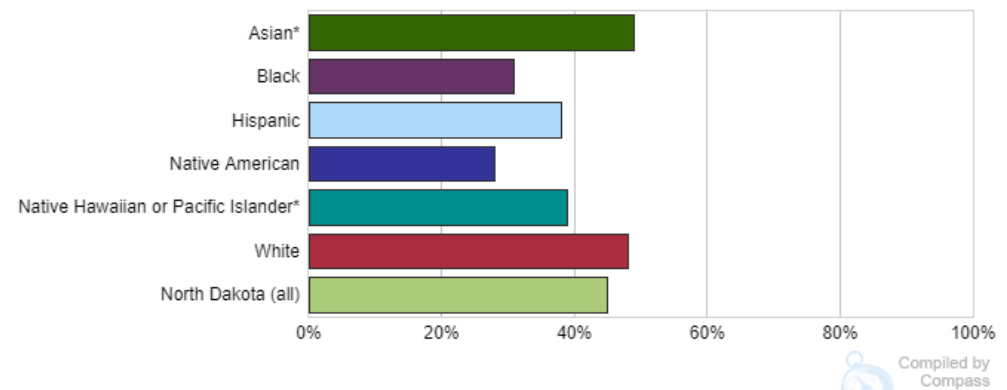
Note:

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.

3rd grade students achieving reading/ English Language Arts/Literacy standards by racial and ethnic group

North Dakota, 2018



3rd grade reading scores

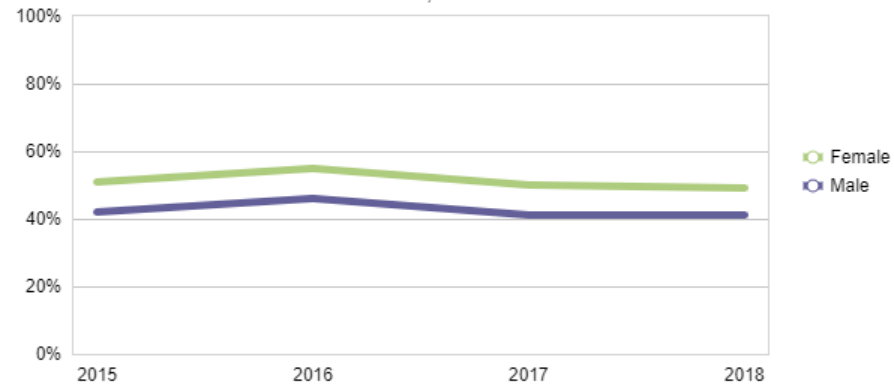
Female students have been performing better than male students at the North Dakota State English Language Arts (ELA) assessment tests administered to 3rd graders. In 2018, 49 percent of female and 41 percent of male 3rd grade students achieved the ELA standards.

Note:

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.

3rd grade students achieving reading/
English Language Arts/Literacy standards by gender
North Dakota, 2015-2018



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3rd grade reading scores

The percentage of 3rd grade students achieving English Language Arts (ELA) standards who live in moderate and high income households was more than one and a half higher than the percentage of low income students achieving ELA standards in 2018 (52% and 31%, respectively). The gap has been steady from 2015 to 2018.

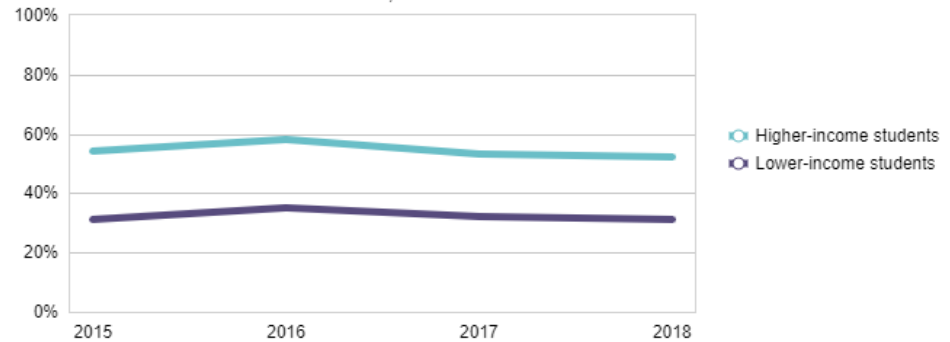
Note:

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.

3rd grade students achieving reading/ English Language Arts/Literacy standards by income

North Dakota, 2015-2018



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8th grade math scores

Forty-three percent of students were achieving standards in [8th grade Math](#) in 2018 (32% meeting standards and 11% exceeding standards).

The remaining 55 percent of 8th graders were not meeting Math standards in 2018.

Notes:

The North Dakota State Assessments are standards-based tests that measure how well students have mastered the challenging ND state content standards. The NDSA tests report student achievement at the following four levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
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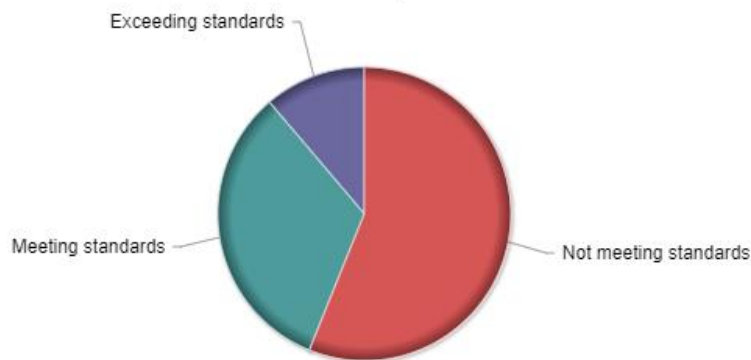
Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

Exceeding standards represent Advanced achievement levels;

Meeting standards represent Proficient achievement levels;

Not meeting standards represent Novice and Partially proficient achievement levels.

8th grade students by level of math achievement
North Dakota, 2018



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8th grade math scores

In 2018, 54 percent of [Asian](#) students, 49 percent of [Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander](#) students, and 48 percent of [White](#) North Dakota 8th grade students achieved Math standards, compared to 24 percent of [Hispanic](#) students, 24 percent of [Black](#) students and 16 percent of [Native American](#) students.

Students of [all racial and ethnic groups](#) improved Math scores from 2017 to 2018.

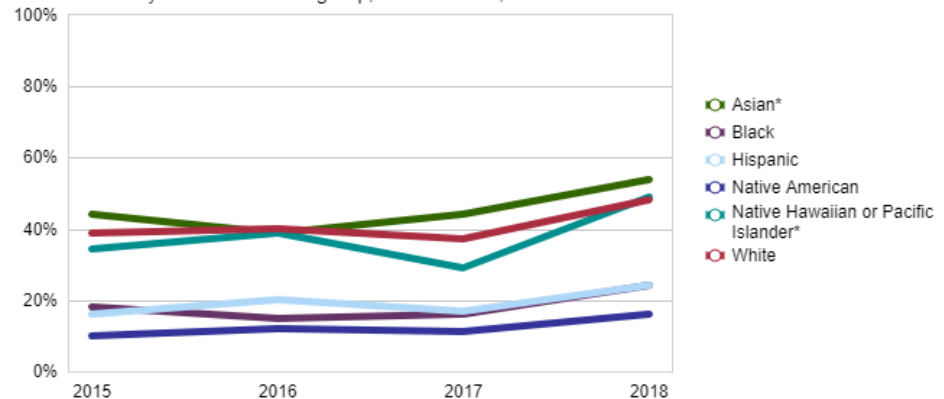
Note:

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.

8th grade students achieving math standards

By racial and ethnic group, North Dakota, 2015-2018



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8th grade math scores

Both male and female 8th grade students in North Dakota improved Math test scores from 2017 to 2018.

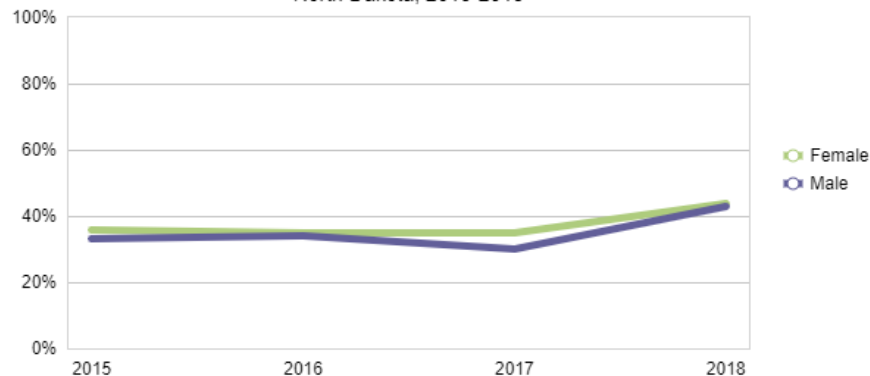
Note:

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.

8th grade students achieving math standards by gender

North Dakota, 2015-2018



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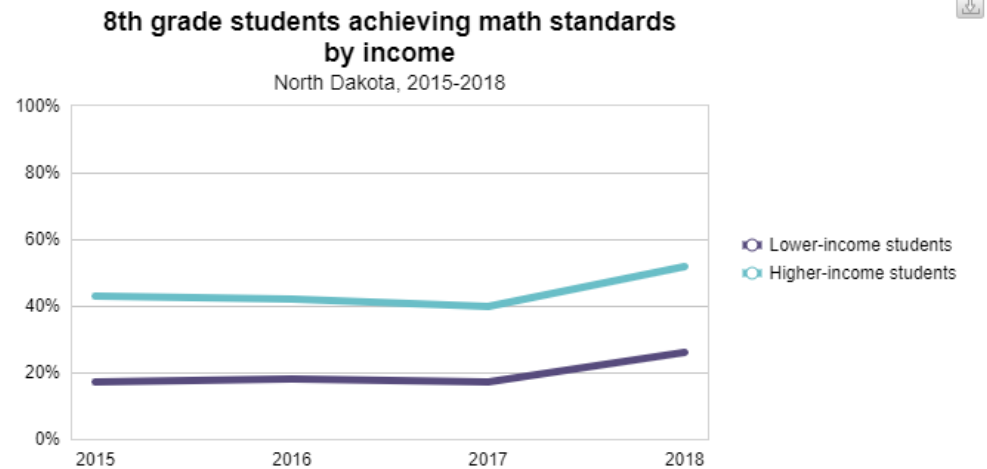
8th grade math scores

The percentage of 8th grade students achieving Math standards who live in moderate and high income households was twice the percentage of low income students achieving ELA standards in 2018 (52% and 26%, respectively). The gap has been steady from 2015 to 2018.

Note:

Achieving standards represent Proficient and Advanced achievement levels:

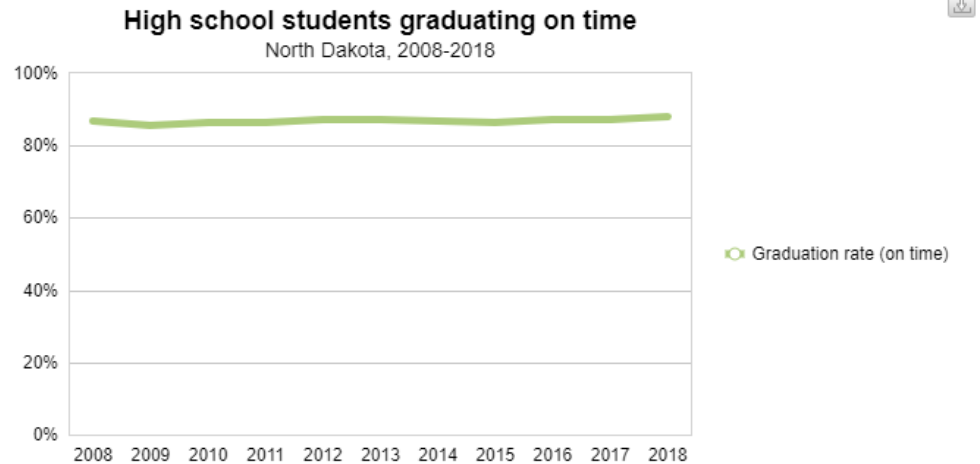
1. Advanced. Demonstrates exemplary understanding and exceeds expected level of performance.
2. Proficient. Demonstrates understanding and meets expected level of performance.



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High school graduation

The percentage of students graduating on time in North Dakota have remained fairly steady over the past 10 years, from 86.9 percent in 2008 and 88.0 percent in 2018.

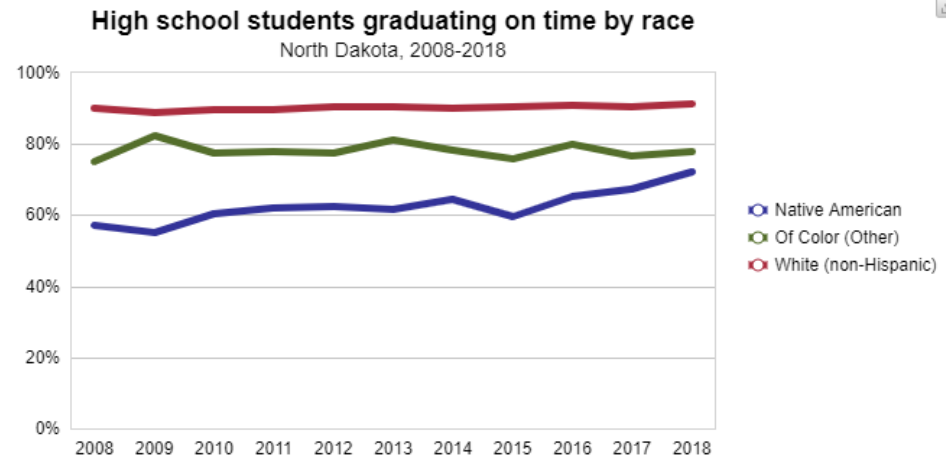


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High school graduation by race

Racial gaps in the high school graduation rate continue to persist in North Dakota. In 2018, 72.0 percent of American Indian students and 78.0 percent students of color (Asian, Black, and Hispanic) graduated on-time, compared to 91.4 percent of White (non-Hispanic) students.

Although racial gaps persist, they are shrinking. Between 2015 and 2018, the high school graduation rate increased 12.3 percentage points for American Indian students..

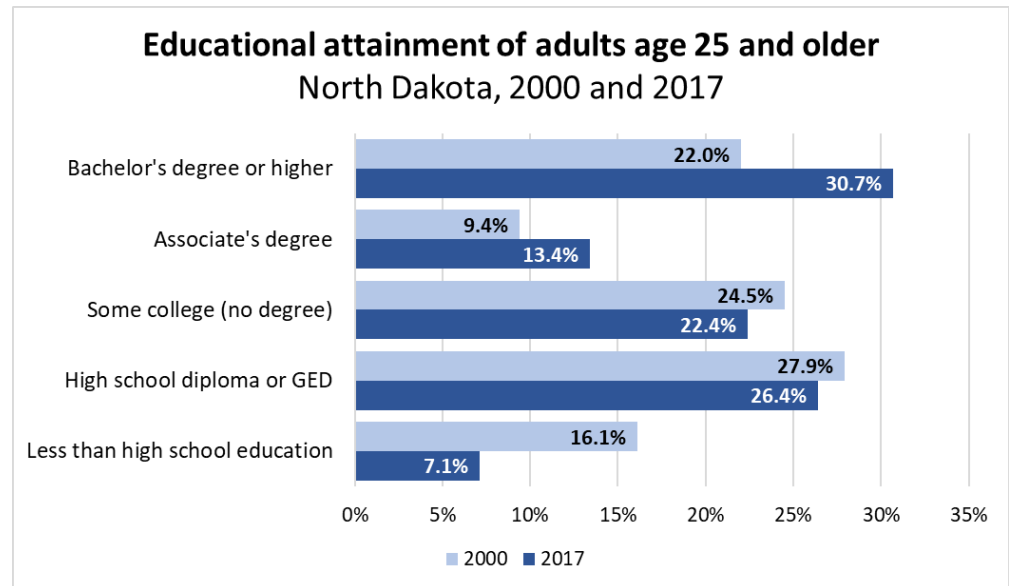


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Educational attainment by highest level completed

In 2017, a little over 9 in 10 adults (age 25 and older) had at least a high school diploma or GED (93%), while nearly 1 in 3 of adults (30.7%) had a bachelor's degree or higher. About 7 percent of adults had less than high school education.

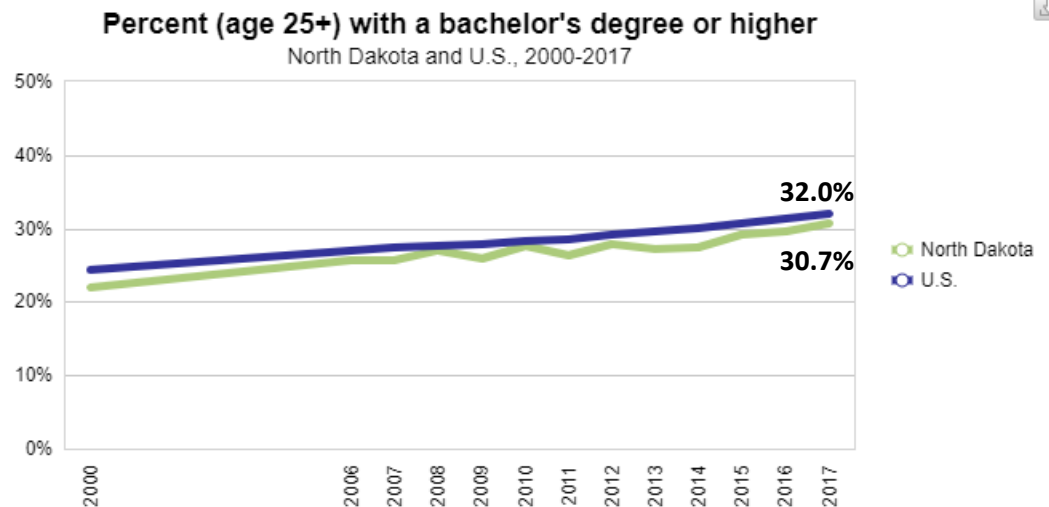
When comparing to 2000, educational attainment increased in North Dakota. The percentage of adults with less than high school education decreased from 16.1 percent in 2000 to 7.1 percent in 2017 while the percentage of adults with an associate's degree or higher increased.



Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher

Since 2000, North Dakota's percentage of adults (age 25 and older) holding a bachelor's degree or higher has been slightly behind the national average.

In 2017, North Dakota ranked 26th among the 50 states with 30.7 percent of adults (age 25 and older) holding at least a bachelor's degree.

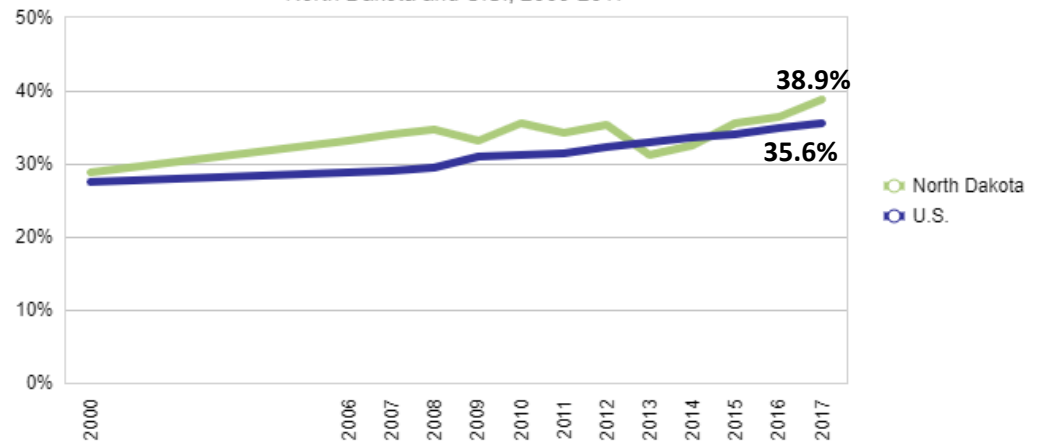


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Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher

Younger adults (age 25-34) are more likely to have higher education than the adult population, age 25 and older, overall. In 2017, North Dakota ranked 13th among the 50 states for the percentage of adults (age 25-34) holding at least a bachelor's degree (38.9%), which slightly exceeded the national average (35.6%).

Percent (age 25-34) with a bachelor's degree or higher
North Dakota and U.S., 2000-2017

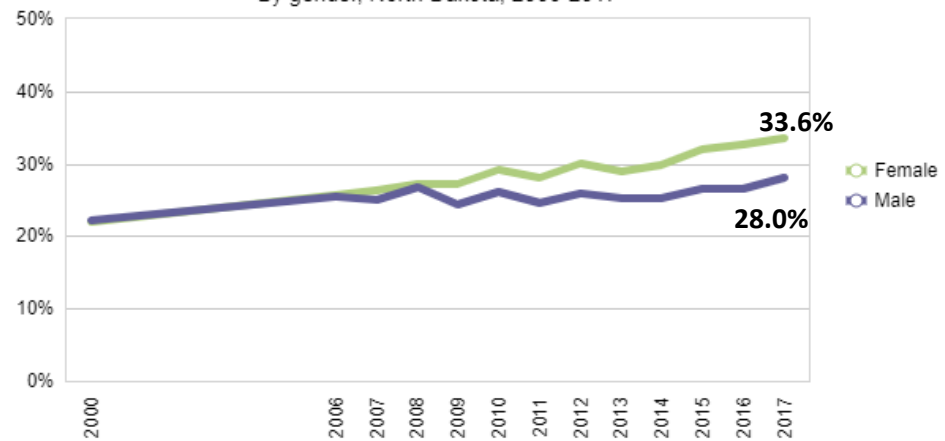


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Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, by gender

Since 2007, women in North Dakota have been more likely than men to have a bachelor's degree or higher. This trend continued in 2017 with 33.6 percent of women and 28.0 percent of men holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

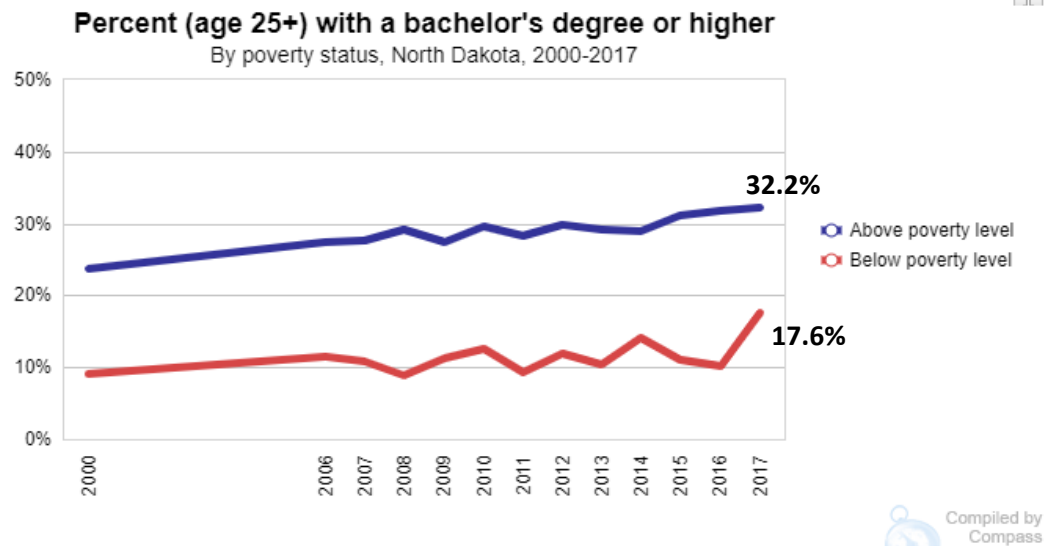
Percent (age 25+) with a bachelor's degree or higher
By gender, North Dakota, 2000-2017



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Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, by poverty status

The gap in educational attainment by poverty status shrank in 2017 in North Dakota. The percentage of adults below the poverty level with a bachelor's degree or higher significantly increased from 10.1 percent in 2016 to 17.6 percent in 2017. However, the gap is still large, with 32.2 percent of adults above the poverty level holding at least a bachelor's degree.



Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, by race & ethnicity

Gaps in educational attainment persist, especially for American Indian and Hispanic adults.

Asian adults have the highest percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2017, almost half (48%) of Asians had at least a bachelor's degree, as compared to 30 percent non-Hispanic Whites, 23 percent Black, 16 percent Hispanic, and 15 percent American Indian.

