

# Education Trends

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NORTH DAKOTA

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# Education Trends Summary

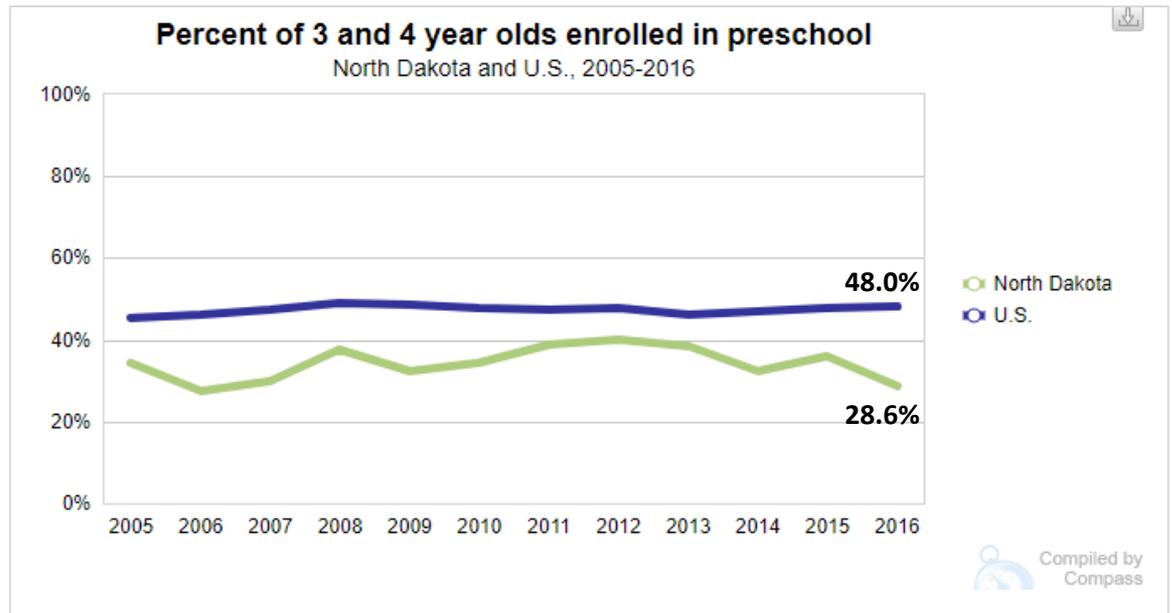
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- ❖ In 2016, North Dakota had the lowest percentage of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool among all 50 states.
- ❖ Achievement scores increased slightly in English Language Arts/Literacy for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and in Math for 8<sup>th</sup> graders from 2015 to 2016.
- ❖ Large racial and income gaps in academic achievement continue to exist in North Dakota as related to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English Language Arts/Literacy and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math scores.
- ❖ High school graduation rates have been fairly constant in North Dakota. Graduation rates improved in 2016 for students of color (i.e., Asian, Black, and Hispanic) but fairly large disparities continue to exist.
- ❖ The percent of adults (age 25 and older) with postsecondary education in North Dakota increased slightly from 2015 to 2016. Differences in educational attainment exist by race, poverty status, and gender in favor of White (non-Hispanic), people living above the poverty level, and women.

# 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.

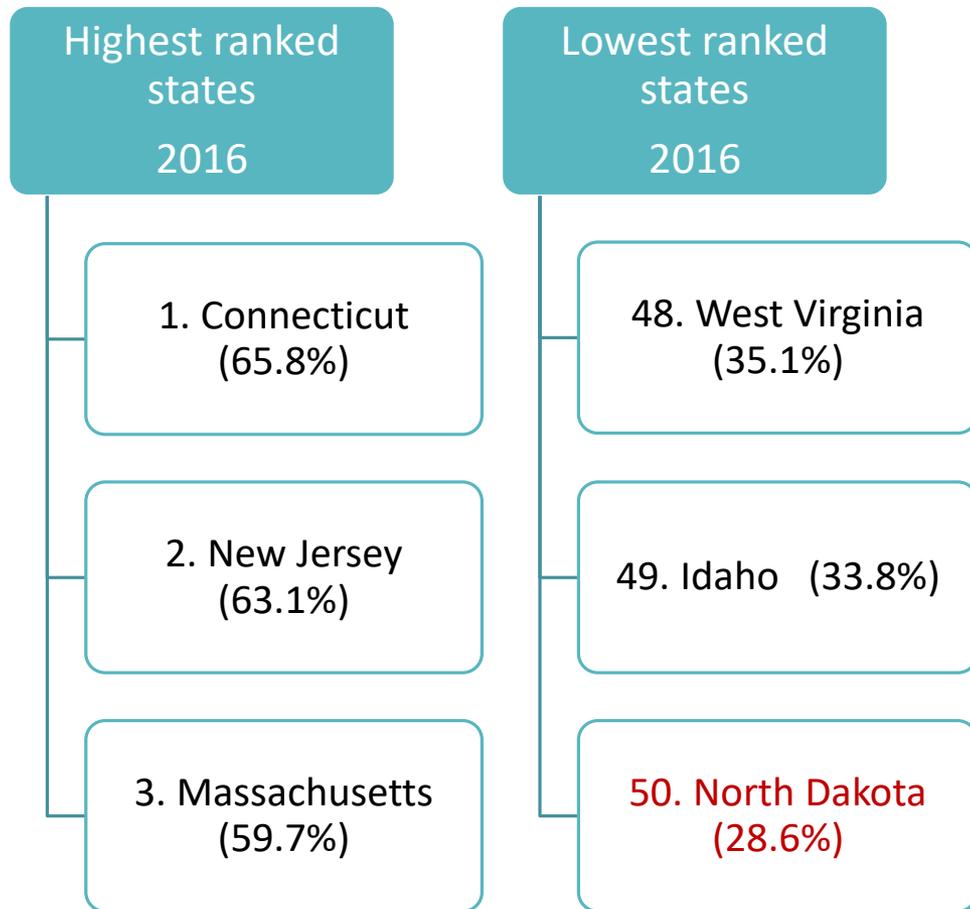
In 2016, 28.6 percent of children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in preschool in North Dakota, a drop from 36.0 percent in 2015 and the lowest percentage since 2007; [the national average](#) in 2016 was 48.0 percent.



# Preschool enrollment

In 2016, North Dakota had the lowest percentage of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool among all 50 states.

In comparison, Connecticut ranked first among all states with two-thirds of 3 and 4 year old children enrolled in preschool.

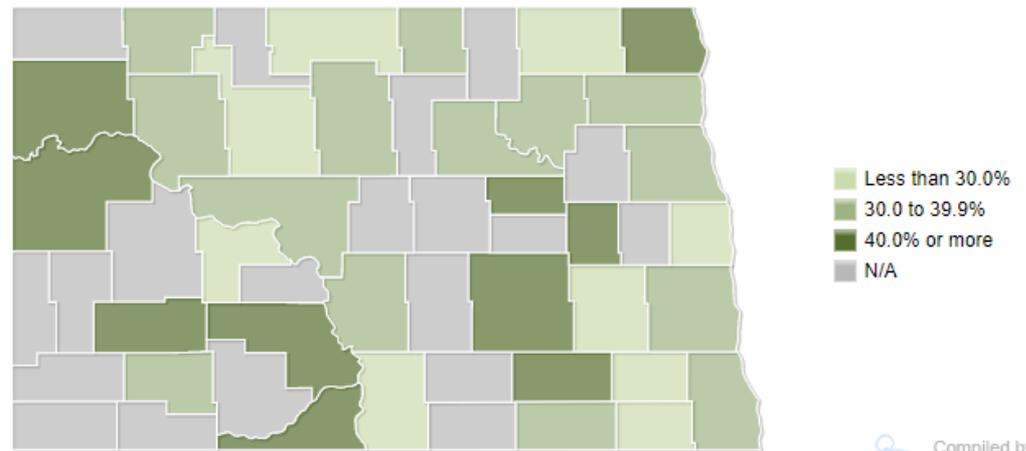


# Preschool enrollment by county

Preschool enrollment varies greatly by county. In 2016, five counties in North Dakota had enrollment higher than national average (48.0%) with Griggs county having the highest percent of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool at 66.2 percent.

Ward county ranked last in North Dakota with 23.1 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 (2012-2016).

**Percent of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool**  
By county, North Dakota, 2012-2016



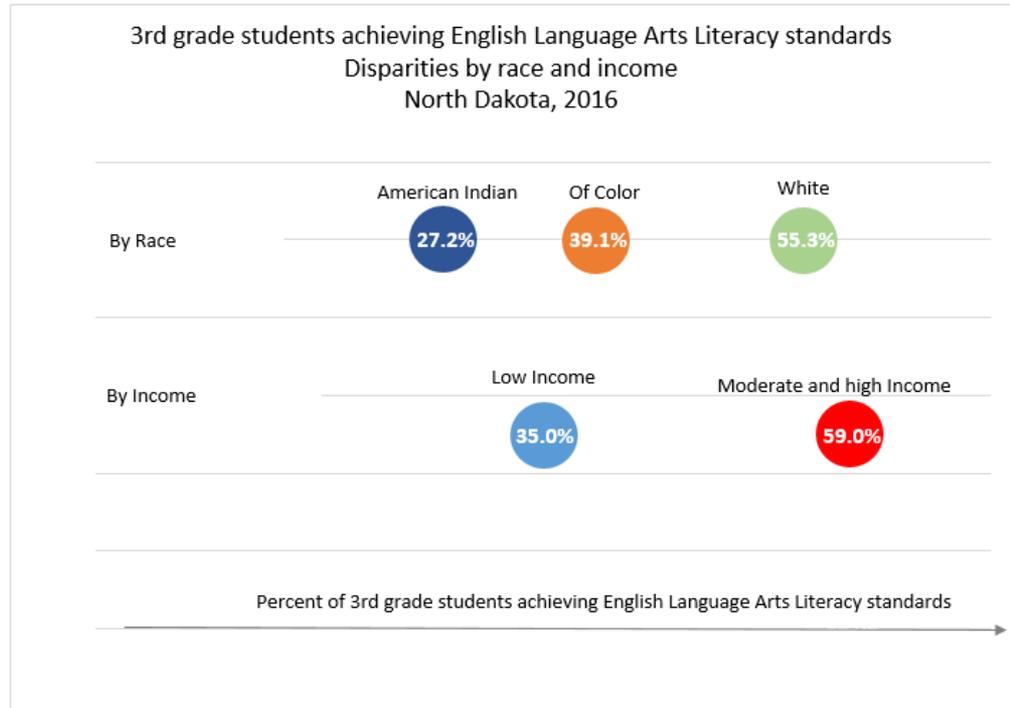
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# 3<sup>rd</sup> grade academic achievement

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English Language Arts/Literacy slightly increased from 46.9 percent in 2015 to 50.4 percent in 2016.

In 2016, 55.3 percent of White North Dakota 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students met or exceeded the English Language Arts (ELA) standards, compared to 39.1 percent of students of color (Asian, Black, or Hispanic), and to 27.2 percent of American Indian students.

There was a 24.0 percentage point gap between 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA achievement scores of moderate and high income students (59.0% and 35.0%, respectively).



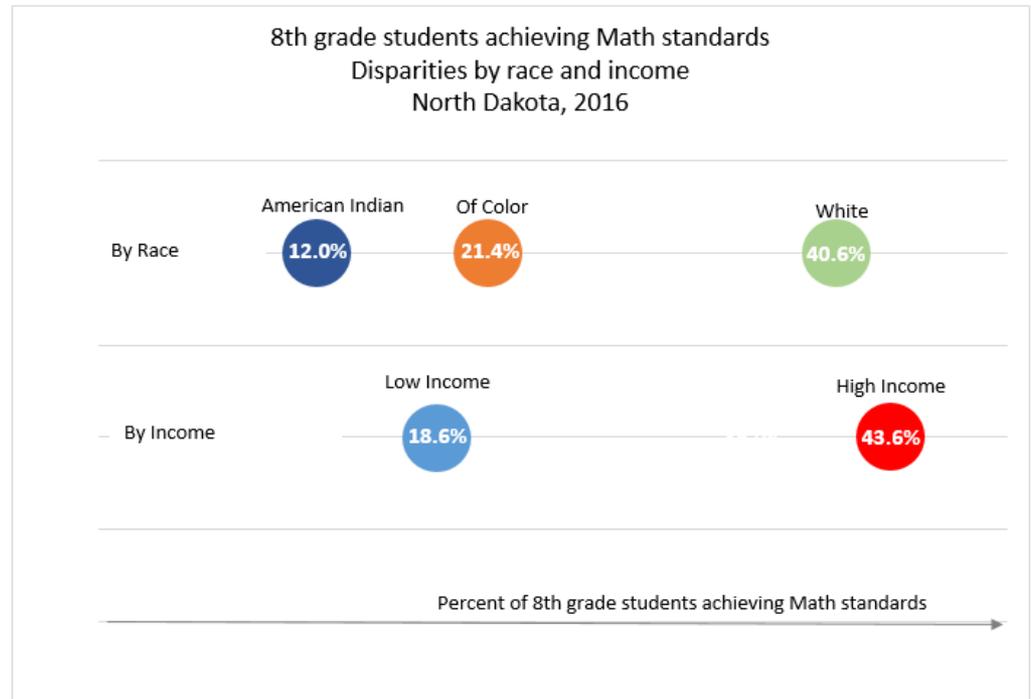
Income categories are based on enrollment in free or reduced price lunch. Low Income students include those enrolled in free or reduced price lunch. Moderate and High Income students are those not enrolled in free or reduced price lunch.

# Disparities in 8<sup>th</sup> grade academic achievement

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math slightly increased, from 34.7 percent in 2015 to 35.6 percent in 2016.

In middle school, 40.6 percent White North Dakota 8<sup>th</sup> grade students met or exceeded Math standards compared to 21.4 percent of students of color (Asian, Black, and Hispanic) and 12.0 percent of American Indian students in 2016.

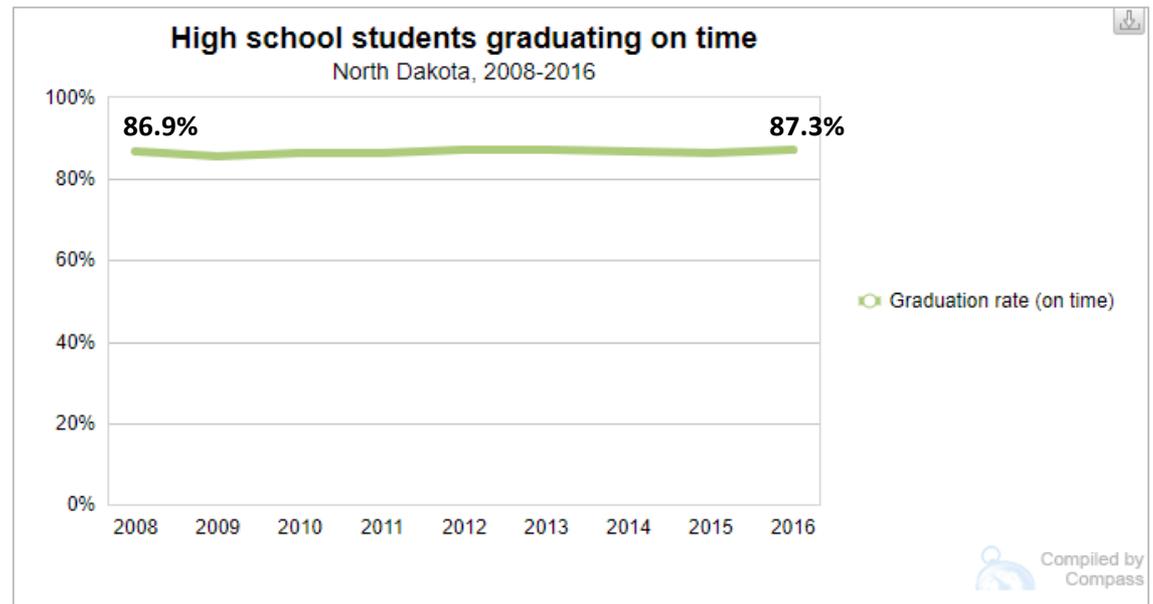
The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students achieving Math standards who live in moderate and high income households was more than double the percentage of low income students achieving Math standards (43.6% and 18.6%, respectively).



\*Income categories are based on enrollment in free or reduced price lunch. Low Income students include those enrolled in free or reduced price lunch. Moderate and High Income students are those not enrolled in free or reduced price lunch.

# High school graduation

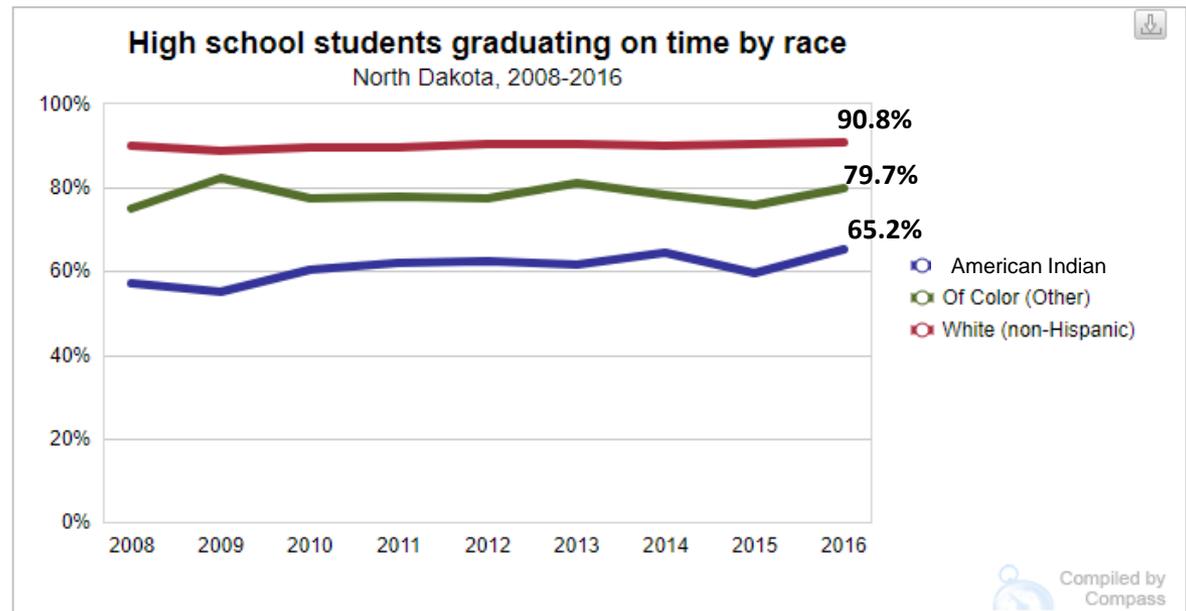
While overall rates showed a slight improvement over the last year, the percent of students graduating on time in North Dakota have remained fairly steady over the past 8 years, from 86.9 percent in 2008 and 87.3 percent in 2016.



# High school graduation by race

Racial gaps in the high school graduation rate continue to persist in North Dakota. In 2016, 65.2 percent of American Indian students and 79.7 percent students of color (Asian, Black, and Hispanic) graduated on-time, compared to 90.8 percent of White (non-Hispanic) students.

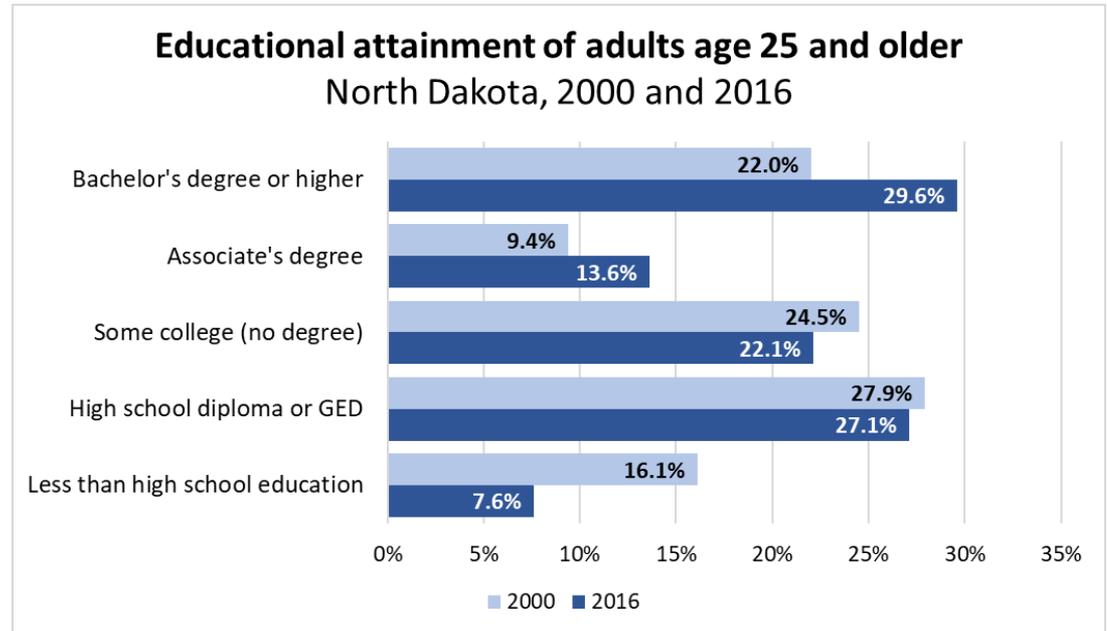
Although racial gaps persist, they are shrinking. Between 2015 and 2016, the high school graduation rate increased 5.5 percentage points for American Indian students and 4.0 percentage points for other students of color.



# Educational attainment by highest level completed

In 2016, a little over 9 in 10 adults (age 25 and older) had at least a high school diploma or GED (92.4%), while nearly 1 in 3 of adults (29.6%) had a bachelor's degree or higher. About 8 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 7.6 percent in 2016 while the percentage of residents with an associate's degree or higher increased.



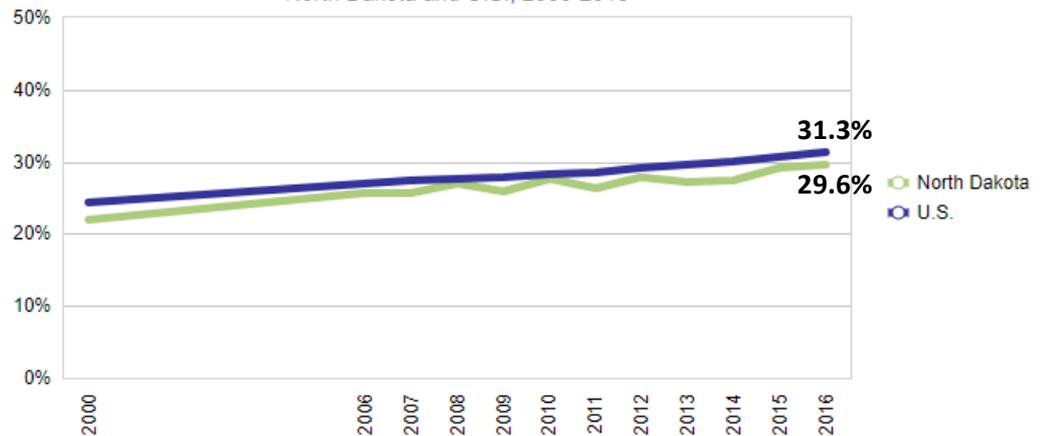
# Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher

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 2016, North Dakota ranked 27<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states with 29.6 percent of adults (age 25 and older) holding at least a bachelor's degree.

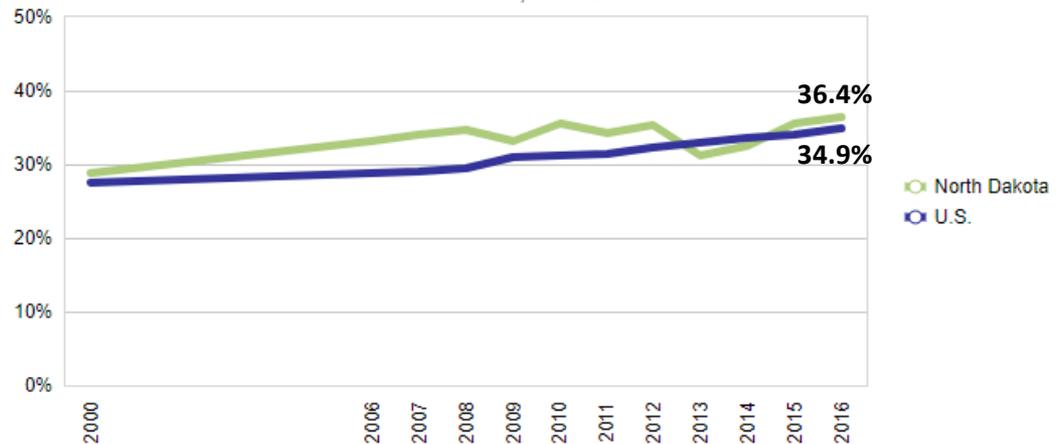
Younger adults (age 25-34) are more likely to have higher education than the adult population, age 25 and older, overall. In 2016, North Dakota ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states for the percentage of adults (age 25-34) holding at least a bachelor's degree (36.4%), which slightly exceeded the national average (34.9%).

**Percent (age 25+) with a bachelor's degree or higher**  
North Dakota and U.S., 2000-2016



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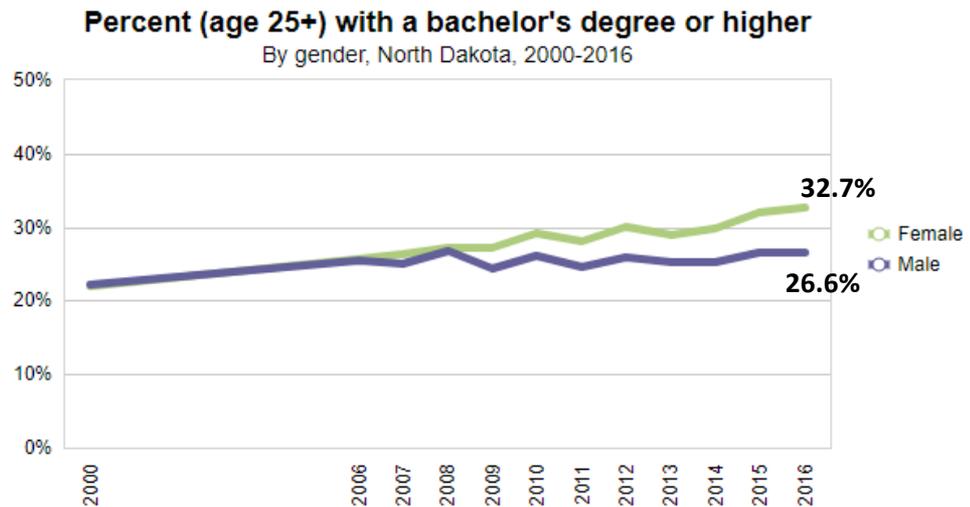
**Percent (age 25-34) with a bachelor's degree or higher**  
North Dakota and U.S., 2000-2016



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

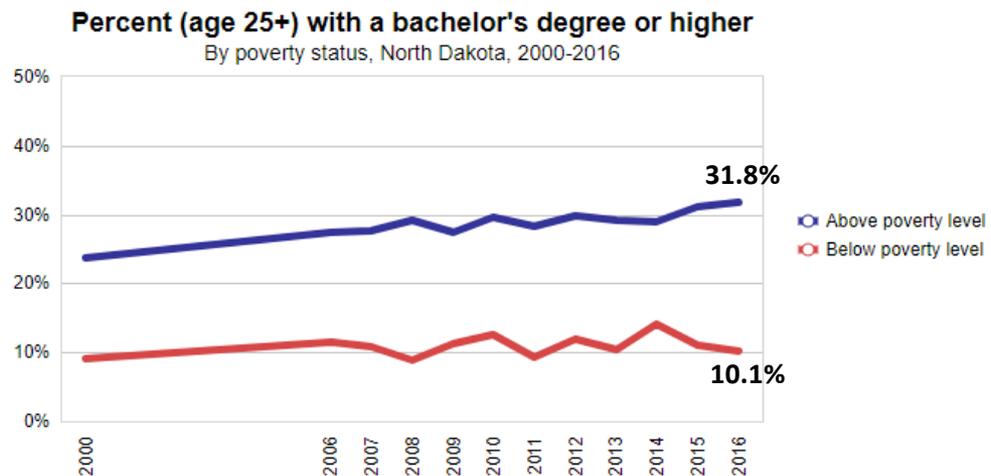
Since 2007, women in North Dakota have been more likely than men to have a bachelor's degree or higher. This trend continued in 2016 with 32.7 percent of women and 26.6 percent of men holding a bachelor's degree or higher.



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

The gap in educational attainment by poverty status widened even more in 2016 in North Dakota. About one-third of adults (age 25 and older) (31.8%) who live above the poverty level had a bachelor's degree or higher as compared to 10.1 percent of adults living below the poverty level.

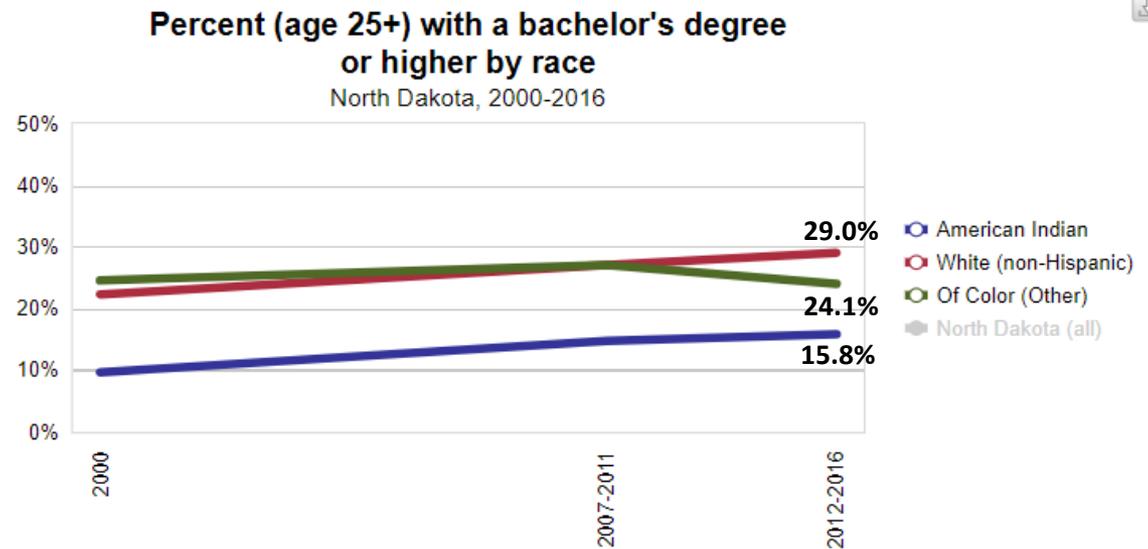


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# Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, by race

Gaps in educational attainment persist especially for American Indian adults.

White, non-Hispanic adults (age 25 and older) were twice as likely to have received a bachelor's degree or higher than American Indian adults (29.0% and 15.8%, respectively).



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