

Population Trends

NORTH DAKOTA

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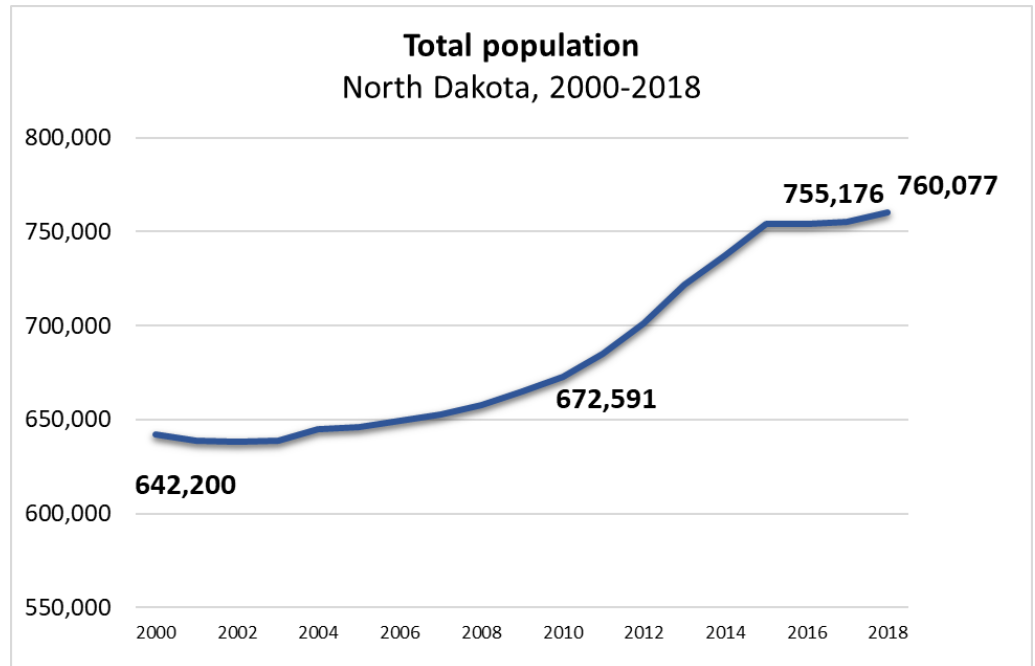
Population Trends Summary

- North Dakota's population increased by 4,901 people from 2017 to 2018. Despite the stabilizing of the growth rate, North Dakota still experienced one of the highest percentage growth of all states from 2010 to 2018.
- McKenzie and Williams counties, two of the core oil and gas producing counties in North Dakota, had the highest percentage of population growth in the U.S. among counties with at least 10,000 residents.
- 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 35.2 in 2018, North Dakota was still the only state with a younger median age when compared to 2010.
- While both the male and female population remained relatively stable after 2015, North Dakota 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 2018 was by far the greatest percentage change of any state.

Total population

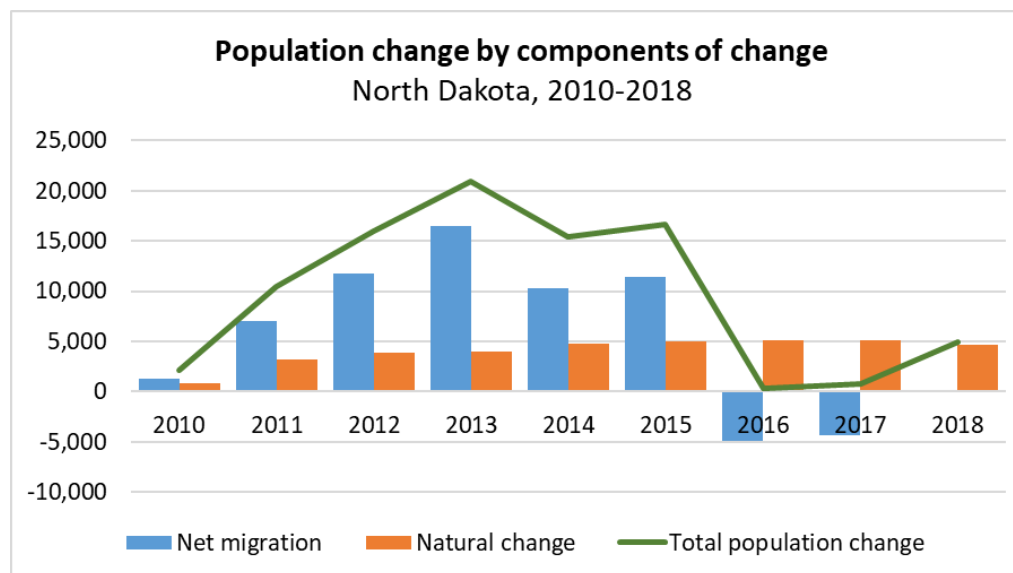
After five years of continuous growth (2010-2015), North Dakota's population remained relatively unchanged from 2015 to 2017. However, from 2017 to 2018, North Dakota's population increased by 4,901 people.

On a larger scale, from 2010 to 2018, North Dakota gained 87,486 people. This represents a 13 percent increase and ranks North Dakota 5th highest in percentage increase during this time period among the 50 states.



Components of change

Most of the increase in population from 2017 to 2018 is attributed to natural growth (4,656 more births than deaths). The net migration, although low (218), turned positive for the first time after 2015, with more people entering than leaving the state in 2017-2018 ([U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Population and Housing Unit Estimates](#)).



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Population estimate	674,710	685,136	701,116	721,999	737,382	754,022	754,353	755,176	760,077
Net migration	1,247	7,068	11,708	16,437	10,318	11,412	-4,878	-4,338	218
Natural change	842	3,157	3,938	4,028	4,770	5,056	5,169	5,128	4,656
Total population change	2,134	10,426	15,980	20,883	15,383	16,640	331	823	4,901

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

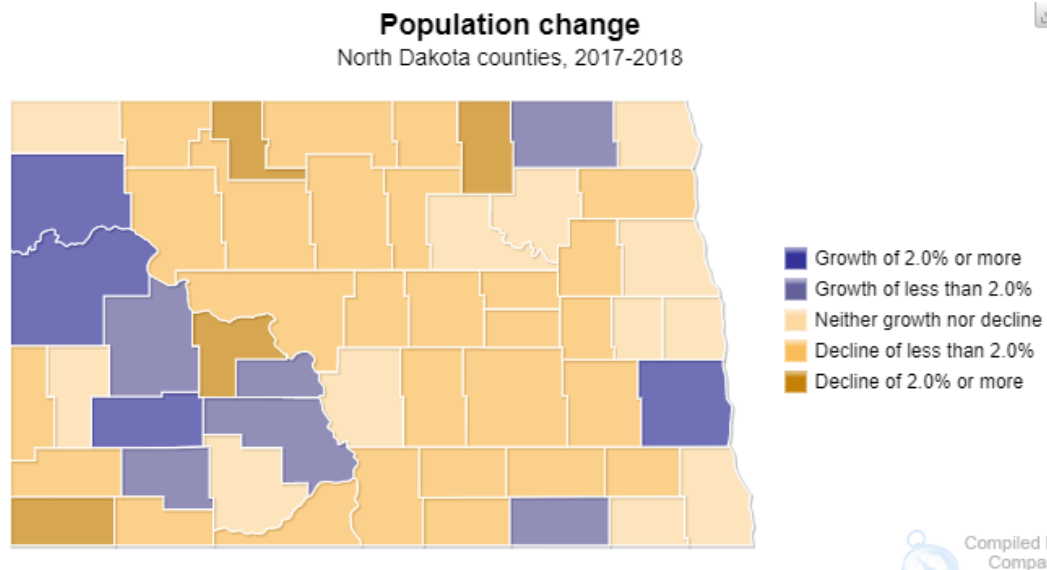
Total population change = Net migration + Natural change

Population change by county

North Dakota's counties continued to experience differential population change from 2017 to 2018.

McKenzie and Williams counties, two of the core oil and gas producing counties in North Dakota, had the highest percentage of population growth in the U.S. among counties with at least 10,000 residents (7.1% and 5.9% population growth, respectively). Stark and Cass counties also saw about 2 percent increase in population from 2017 to 2018.

However, most counties still continued to lose population, with Mercer, Bowman, Towner, and Renville losing more than two percent of their population from 2017 to 2018.

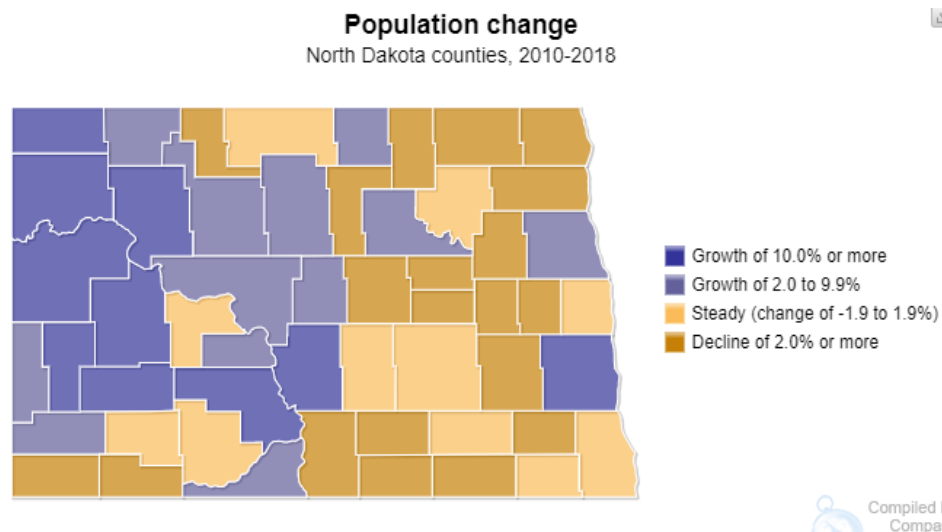


Population change by county

Western North Dakota counties experienced extraordinary growth when compared with the 2010 decennial census. McKenzie County more than doubled its population (114% increase) and Williams County grew by half (58% increase).

In addition, nine counties, mainly in the western and metropolitan areas grew 10 percent or more while 12 counties saw modest growth (ranging from 2% to 9.9%).

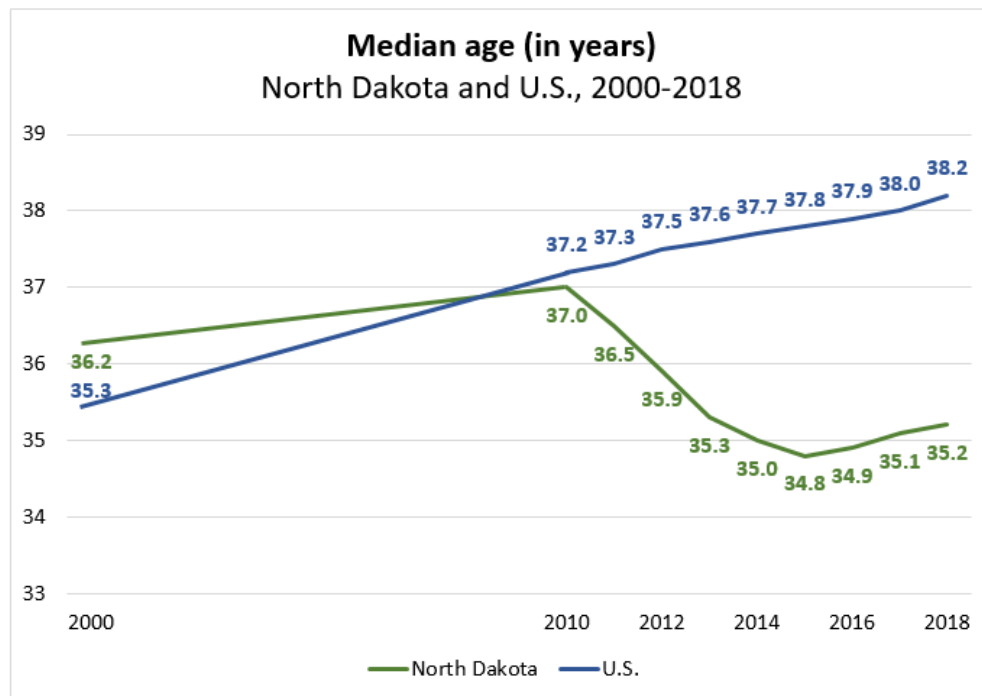
However, in contrast to this growth, population in the remaining 30 counties remained steady or decreased during this time period.



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 baby boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) and increased life expectancy. The median age in the U.S. steadily increased from 35.3 in 2000, to 37.2 in 2010, to 38.2 in 2018.

However, North Dakota was one of the few states that has reversed this trend. For five years, North Dakota's population kept growing 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 only state with a younger median age compared to 2010 (37.0 years in 2010 to 35.2 years in 2018).



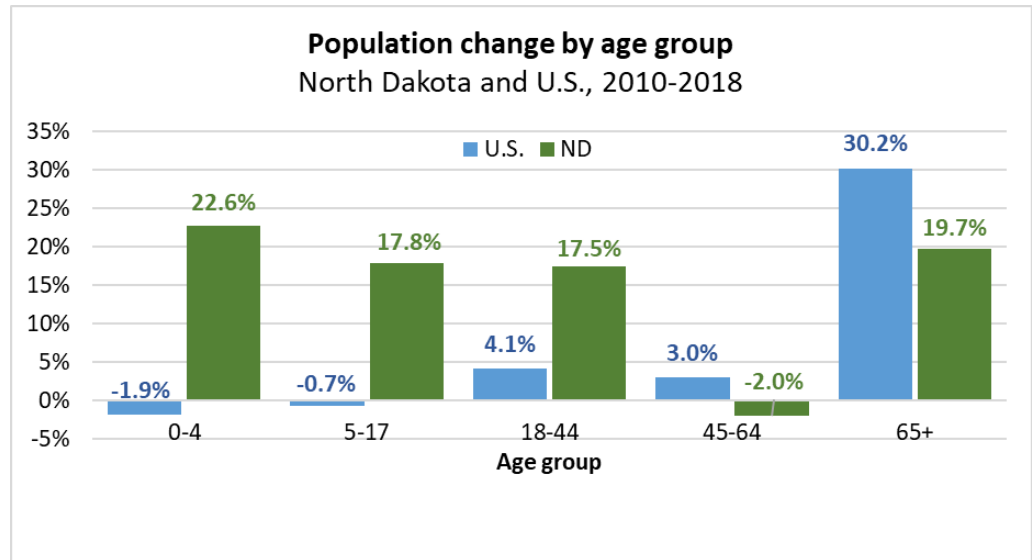
Population by age

A look at the population change by age groups in North Dakota and the U.S. explains some of the difference in median age trends.

From 2010 to 2018, the number of pre-school age children (age 0 to 4) increased by 23 percent in North Dakota as compared to a 2 percent decrease in the U.S. The number of older children (age 5-17) in North Dakota increased by 18 percent and this age group decreased by one percent in the U.S.

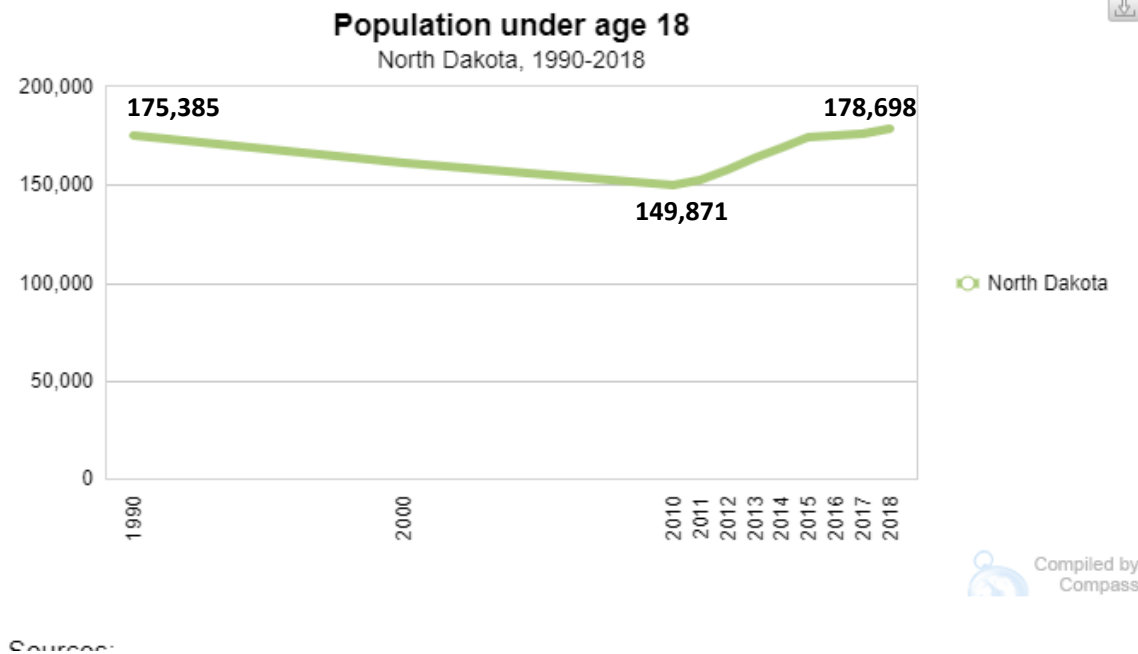
The only age group that experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2018 in North Dakota was the 45-64 age group. In addition, the number of older adults (age 65 and older) grew at a slower rate in North Dakota than in the U.S.

([U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program](#))



Child & youth population

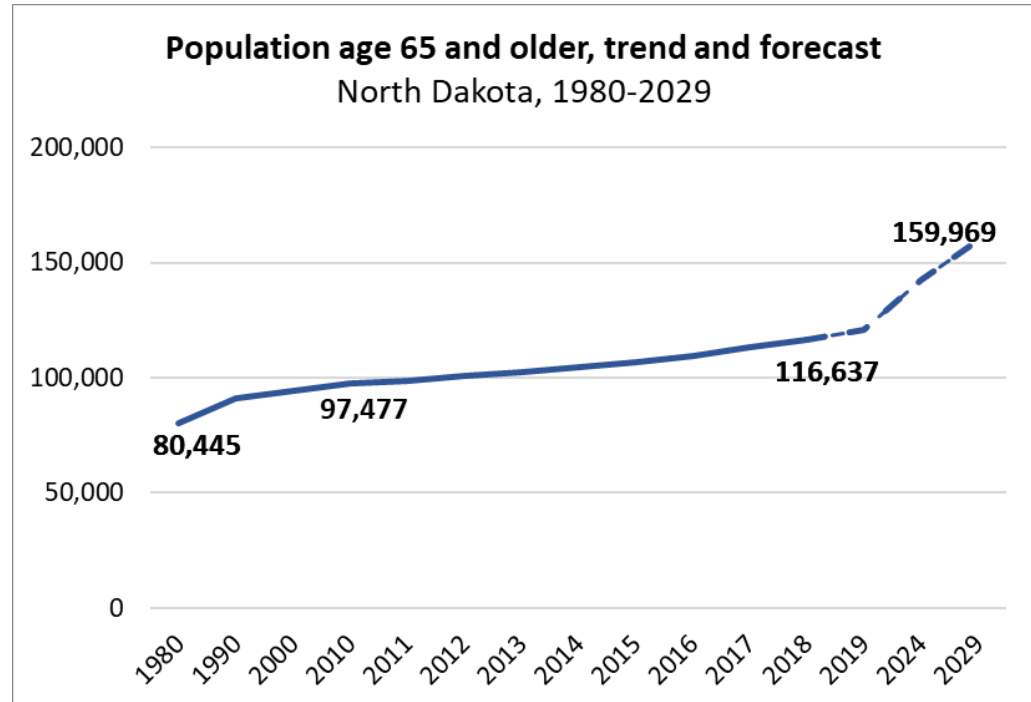
After decades of decline, the number of children and youth (under 18 years old) has grown since 2010. While the growth rate slowed in 2016, the number of children and youth increased by 28,827 from 2010 to 2018, reaching a population of 178,698 in 2018. In 2018, children and youth comprised 23.5 percent of the total population in North Dakota, a slight increase from 22.3 percent in 2010.



Older adults population

There were 116,637 older adults (65 years of age and older) in North Dakota in 2018, representing 15 percent of the total population, a percentage almost unchanged since 2010.

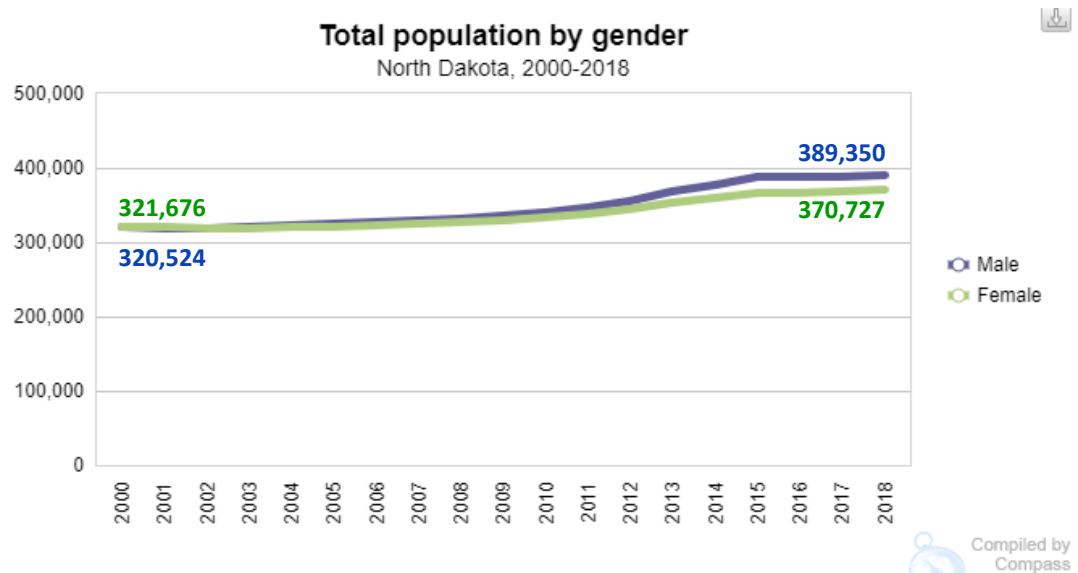
With the aging of the baby boom generation (the large cohort of people born between 1946 and 1964), the share of older adults in North Dakota's population is expected to increase to 18 percent by 2029 (reaching 159,969 people age 65 and older).



Population by gender

North Dakota is currently one of a few states where males outnumber females.

Back in 2000 however, females outnumbered males in the state. From 2003 through 2015, the male population grew, on average, a half percent per year faster than females, resulting in more males than females. After 2015, both the male and female populations remained relatively steady.

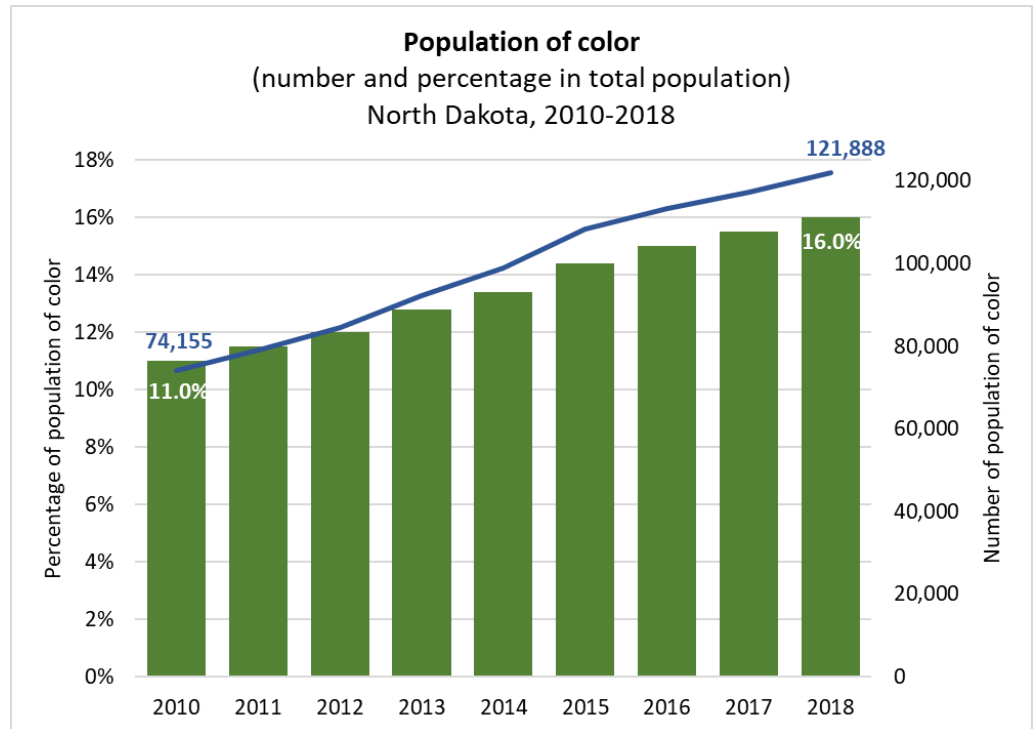


Population by race

Combined, American Indian, Black, Asian, people reporting multiple races, and people who are of Hispanic ethnicity (i.e., population of color) in North Dakota comprised 16 percent of the total population in 2018 as compared to 11 percent in 2010.

Compared to 2010, North Dakota's population of color saw a 64.4 percent increase, from 74,155 people in 2010 to 121,888 people in 2018. The increase in the population of color from 2010 to 2018 was by far the largest percentage change of any state. For comparison, the U.S. population of color increased by 16.3 percent for the same time period, 2010 to 2018.

However, despite the increase in the population of color, North Dakota was less racially and ethnically diverse than most states (43th out of 50 states) in 2018.



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 25,620 in 2018 (211% increase).

The Hispanic population more than doubled, from 13,467 in 2010 to 29,529 in 2018 (119% increase).

The Asian population also nearly doubled from 2010 to 2018 (91% increase).

The American Indian population continues to make up the largest minority population in North Dakota (41,962 residents in 2018) and saw a 14 percent increase from 2010 to 2018.

For comparison, the white, non-Hispanic population grew 7 percent from 2010 to 2018.

