

Population Trends

NORTH DAKOTA

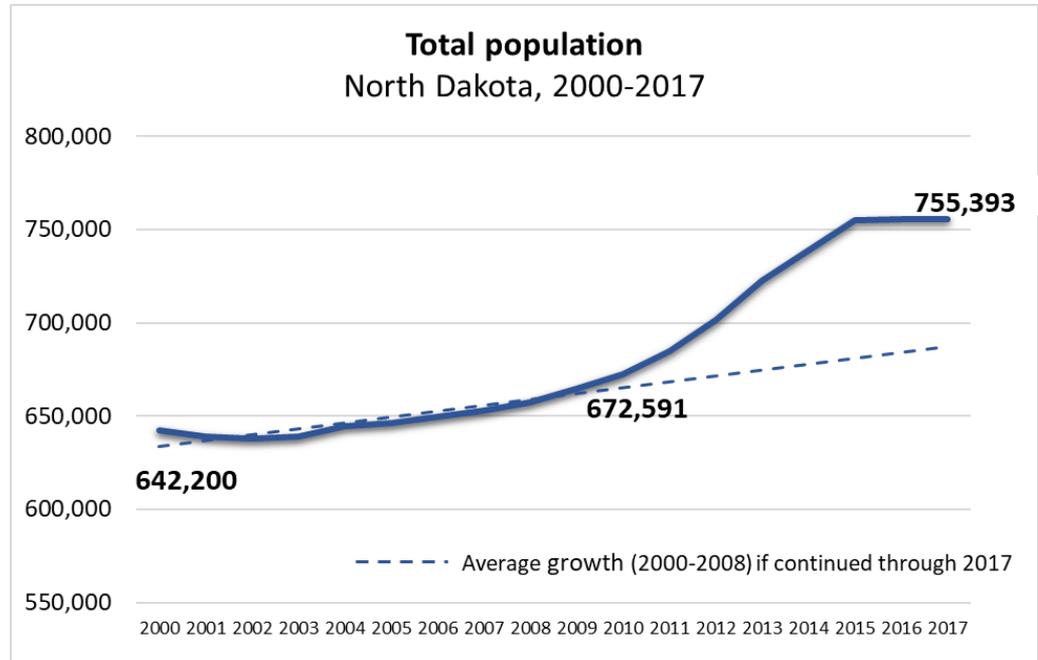
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Population Trends Summary

- ❖ Population has been steady over the past two years, yet North Dakota still experienced one of the highest percentage growth of all states from 2010 to 2017.
- ❖ The modest population change in the past year can be attributed to the stabilizing of the birth rates and a larger number of people leaving than entering the state.
- ❖ North Dakota's counties experienced differential population change. From 2015 to 2016, core oil and gas producing counties saw population declines, reversing the trend of rapid growth from recent years. Mostly rural counties saw little change or continued the historic downward trend while metropolitan 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 34.7 in 2015. While the median age slightly increased to 34.8 in 2016, 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.
- ❖ The recent population growth in the state was not gender balanced, North Dakota being 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 2016 was the greatest percentage change of any state.

Total population

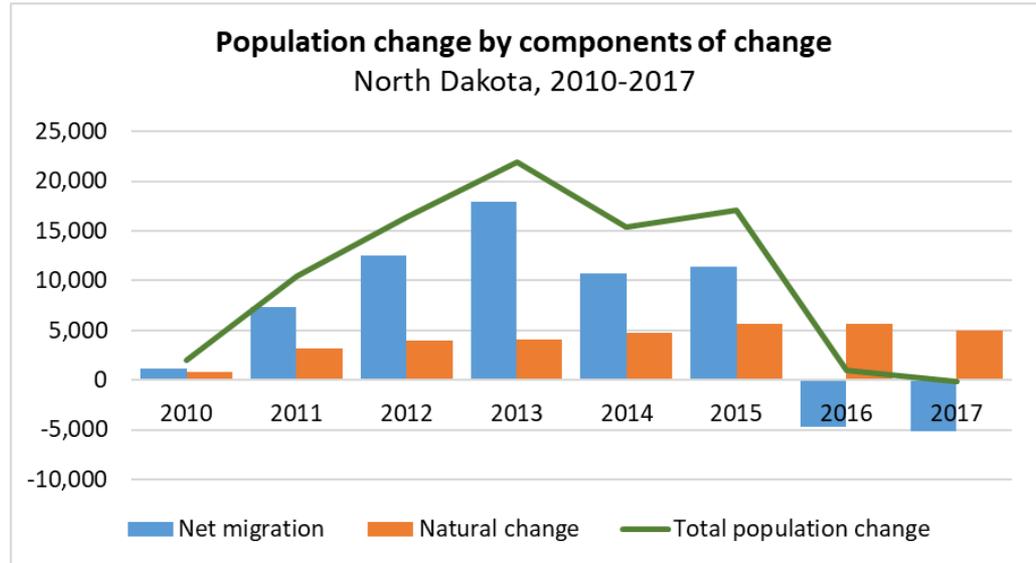
After years of continuous growth, North Dakota's population remained relatively unchanged from 2015 to 2017 reaching a total of 755,393 residents in 2017. Although the population held steady over the last two years, North Dakota had a 12.3 percent growth from 2010 to 2017 which is the second fastest population growth of all states during this time period.



Components of change

The modest population change over the past two years can be attributed to the stabilizing of the birth rates and also 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 experienced a larger number of people leaving than entering the state, a negative [net migration](#) of 4,684 residents in 2016 and 5,164 residents in 2017 which is in contrast to the 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)

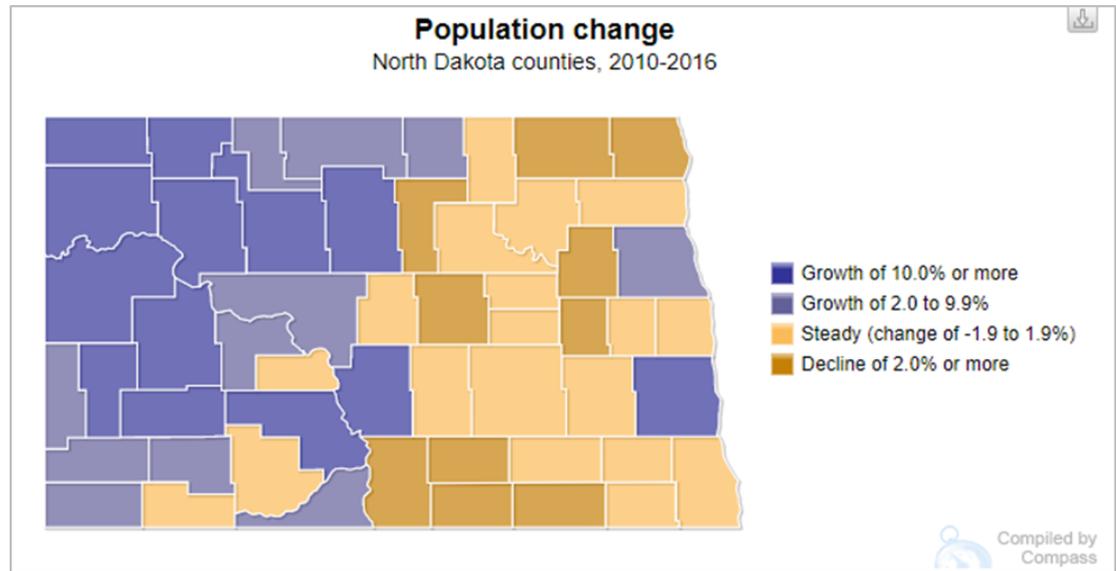
Natural change = Number of births minus number of deaths

Total population change = Net migration + Natural change

Population change by county

At the county level, when looking at the whole time period, from [2010 to 2016](#), some western North Dakota counties experienced extraordinary growth (McKenzie County almost doubled its population and Williams County saw more than a 50% increase); 11 other counties mainly in the western and metropolitan areas grew 10 percent or more; 11 counties saw modest growth (ranging from 2% to 9.9%); 19 counties saw little change; and population in 10 counties decreased 2.0 percent or more.

For those counties with declining population, the losses represent a continuation of historic trends, although at a slower rate (2% - 6% decline).

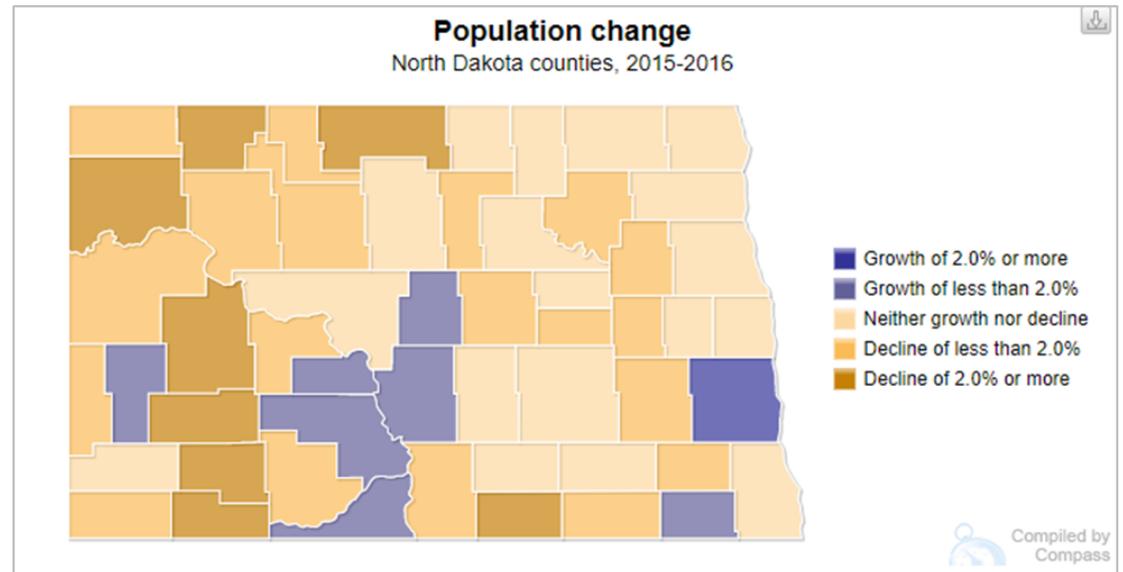


Population change by county

However, from 2015 to 2016, the trend in population change reversed. Core oil and gas producing counties that were gaining population in previous years, lost population in 2016 (Dunn County lost 4.5% and Williams County lost 3.0%).

Only eight counties saw a small increase in population with Cass County being the only county to gain more than 2 percent of population (2.2%).

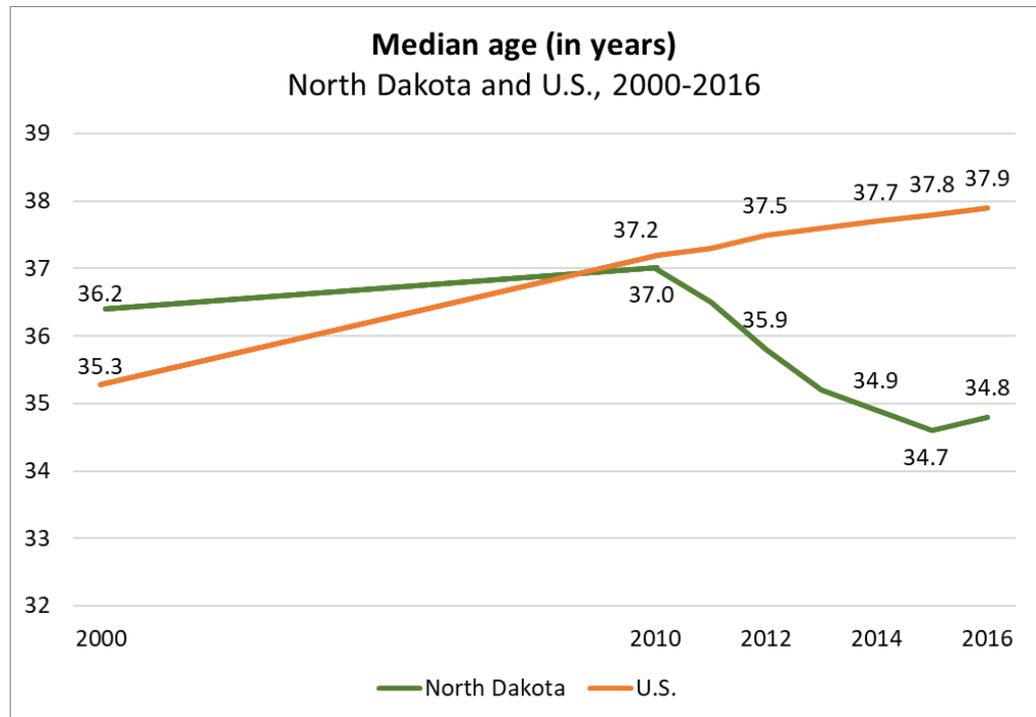
Population in 18 counties remained relatively unchanged (population change of less than \pm 0.5%).



Median age

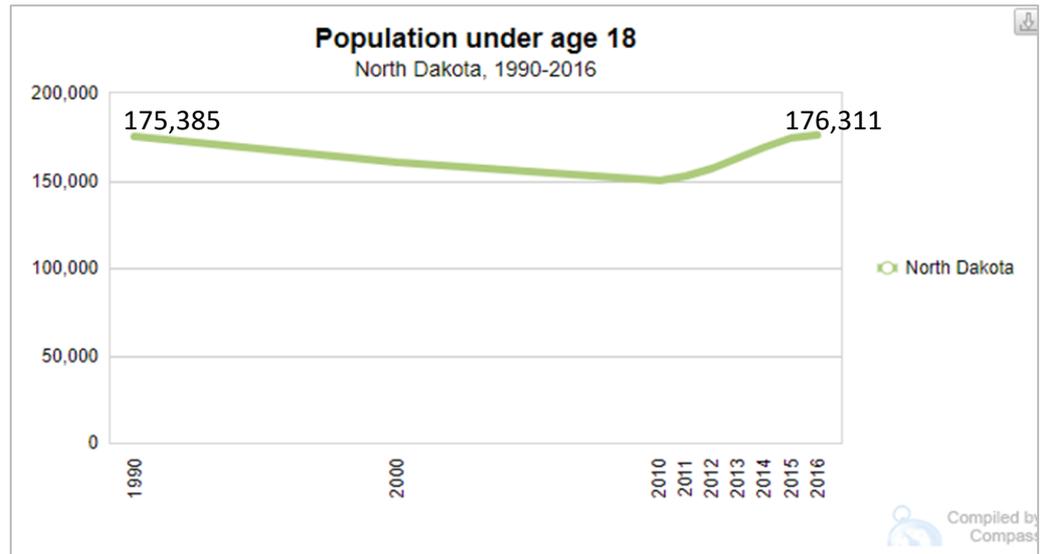
The population in most states has increasingly become older. The increase in the median age (the age where half of the population is younger and the other half older) is largely a result of the aging of the baby boom generation, those born between 1946 and 1964. The [median age in the U.S.](#) steadily increased from 35.3 in 2000, to 37.2 in 2010, to 37.9 in 2016.

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 34.7 in 2015. While the median age increased to 34.8 in 2016, 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.



Child & youth population

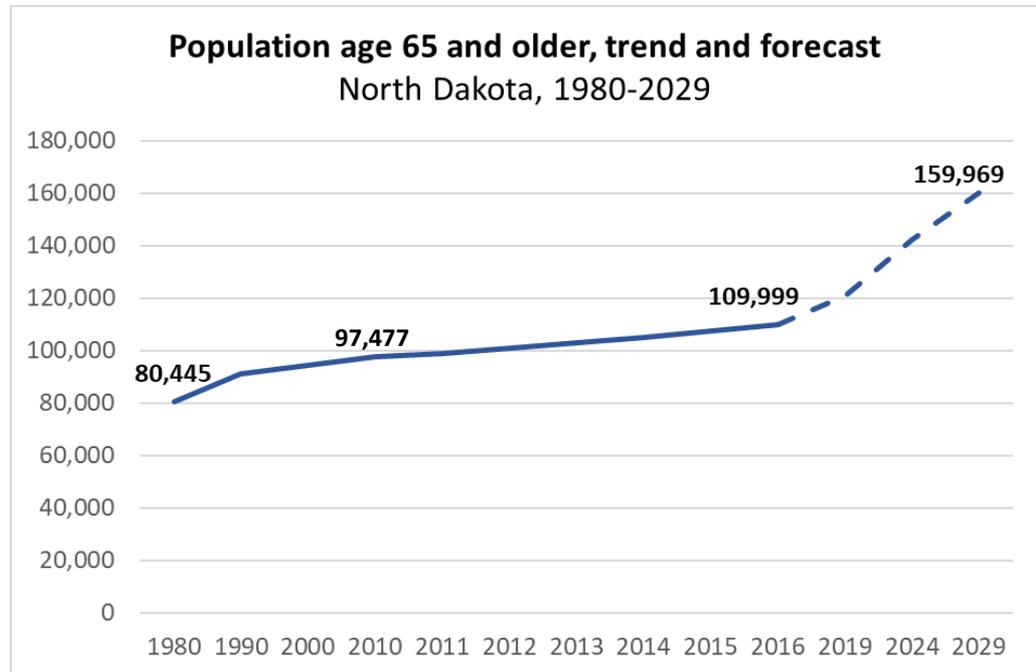
After decades of decline, the number of children and youth (under 18 years old) has grown since 2010. While the growth rate slowed in 2016, the number of children and youth increased by 26,440 from 2010 to 2016, reaching a population of 176,311 in 2016. In 2016, children and youth comprised 23.3 percent of the total population in North Dakota, a slight increase from 22.3 percent in 2010.



Older adults population

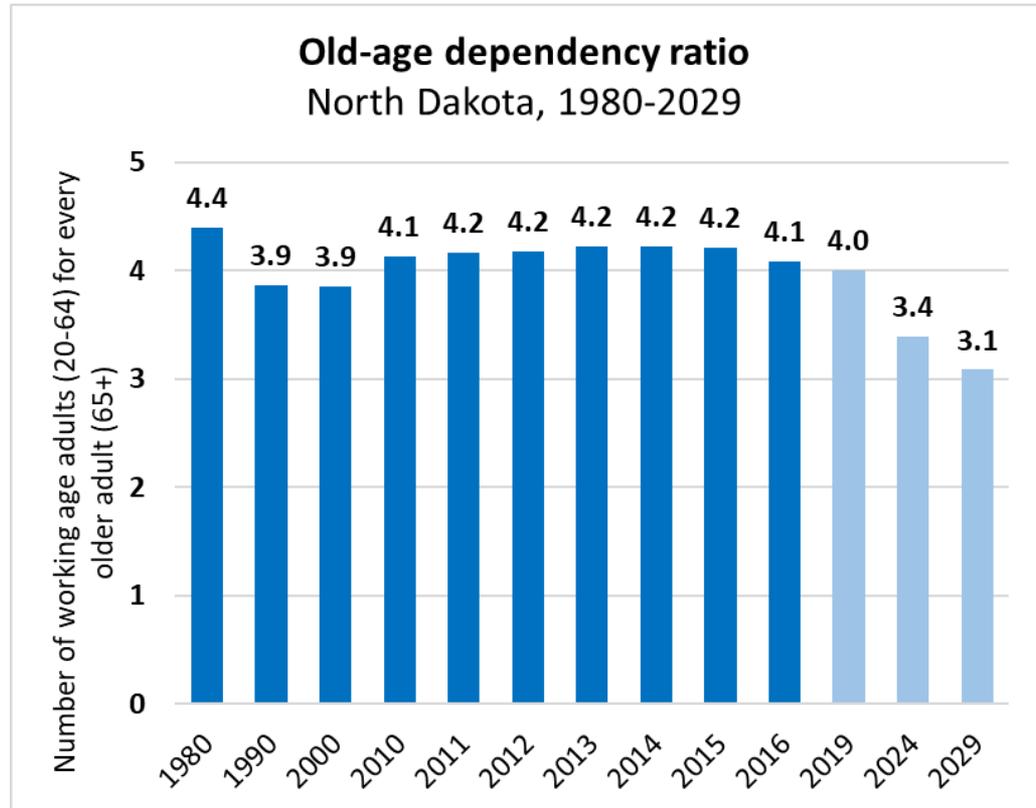
There were **109,999 older adults** (65 years of age and older) in North Dakota in 2016, representing 15 percent of the total population, a percentage almost unchanged since 2010.

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

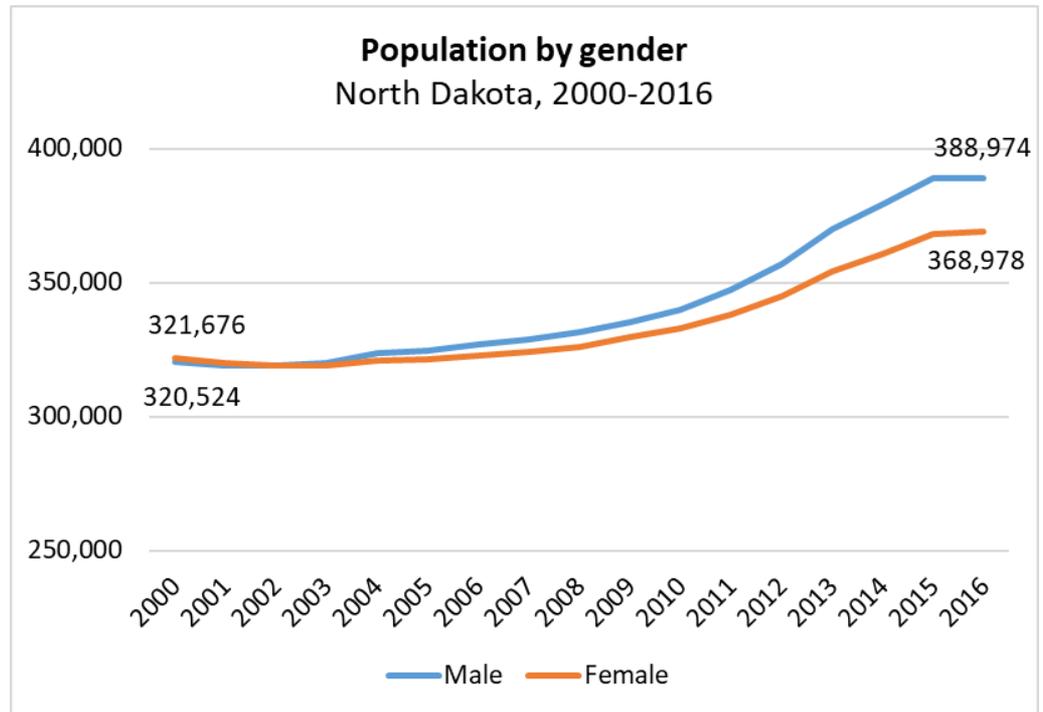
The share of the working-age population (age 20-64) in North Dakota is projected to decline from 59 percent of the total population in 2016 to 55 percent in 2029. These demographic changes will potentially reduce the number of workers in relation to the population needing support. Even with the influx of more working-age people into the state, the ratio is projected to decrease from 4.1 working-age adults to every one older adult in 2016 to 3.1 working-age adults per every older adult by 2029.



Population by gender

Recent economic development attracted more men than women to North Dakota. Therefore, the population growth in the state has not been gender balanced. From 2000 to 2016, the male population in North Dakota increased by 21.4 percent compared to a 14.7 percent increase of females.

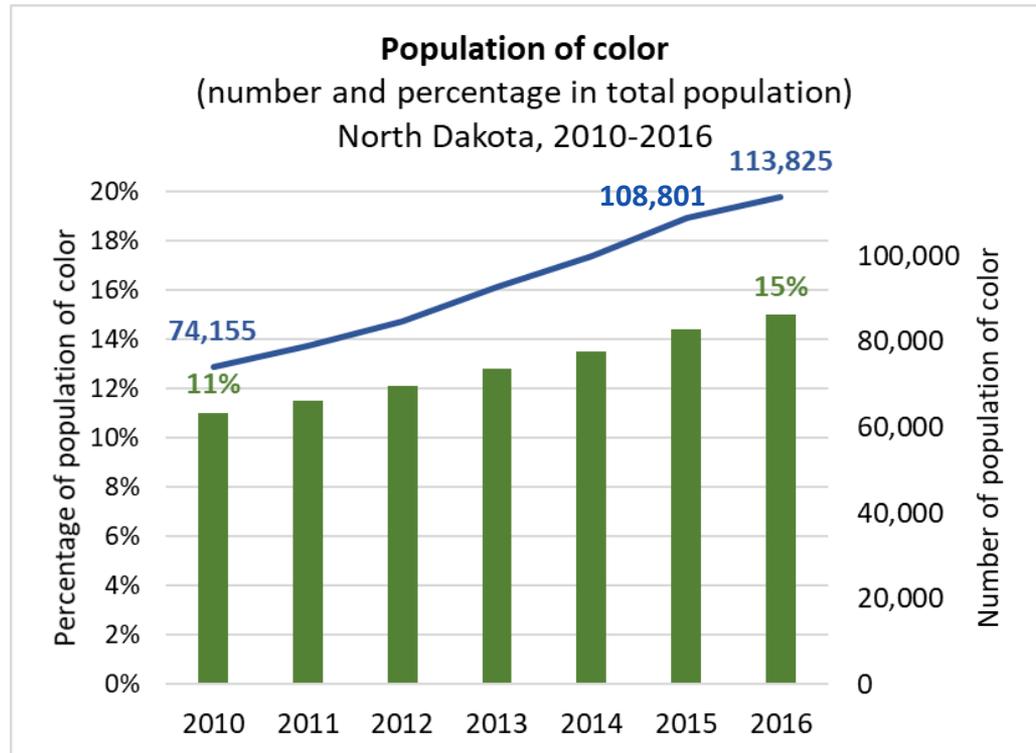
Overall in 2016, there were 95 females in North Dakota for every 100 males, as compared to 103 females for every 100 males in the U.S. However, among older adults (age 65 years and older), women outnumbered men with 120 women for every 100 men in North Dakota in 2016.



Population by race

The North Dakota population of color (i.e., non-White) increased by 4.6 percent from 2015 to 2016 and by 53.5 percent from 2010 to 2016. For comparison, the U.S. population of color increased by 12.3 percent for the same time period, 2010-2016.

However, despite the increase in the population of color, North Dakota is less racially and ethnically diverse than most states (44th out of 50 states) in 2016.



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 22,356 in 2016 (171%).

The Hispanic population doubled from 13,467 in 2010 to 27,538 in 2016 (104.5%).

The American Indian population continues to make up the largest minority population in North Dakota (41,596 residents in 2016) and remained constant as a percentage of total population in the state, at 5.5 percent, from 2010 to 2016.

The Hispanic population increased from 2.0 percent in 2010 to 3.6 percent in 2016, and the Black population more than doubled from 1.2 percent in 2010 to 2.9 percent in 2016.

