

## Demographics

Spring 2006

Demographics refer to the study of population change and the use of statistics to characterize population conditions.

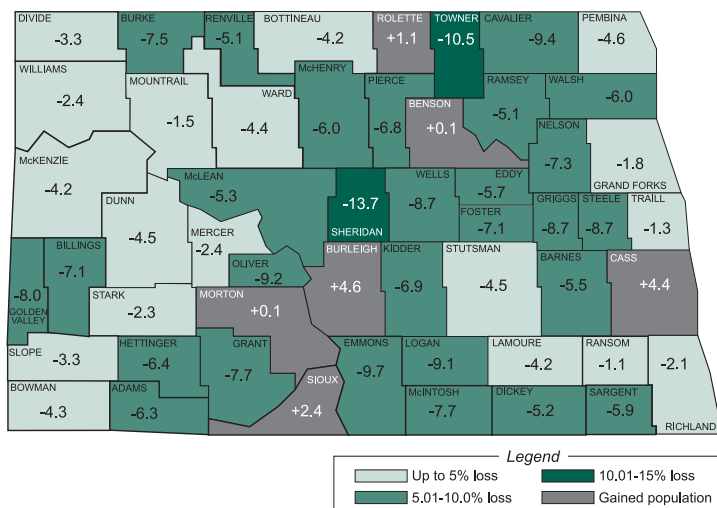
In general, North Dakota population is decreasing, it is becoming older, there is movement toward urbanization, and it is becoming slightly more diversified by race and ethnicity. These trends present unique opportunities and challenges. In the rural areas, a simultaneously shrinking, yet aging population, coupled with low population density, presents challenges in terms of an adequate work force, health service options, and infrastructure. As people age, they are more prone to experience chronic health conditions which places more pressure on the rural health delivery system. Population change influences the health care system because different age groups have different needs and change has direct implications for the supply and demand of health services, providers, and other workers. Do we and will we have a work force both in terms of size and skill that can meet community and societal goals? Does a region host the correct service mix and organizational delivery system to address the growing needs of an aging population (e.g. cardiac and pulmonary rehab may be more in demand than delivering babies)? These are some of the challenges posed by changing demographics.

### Population Change

- ❖ Over 55 million Americans live in non-metropolitan areas and comprise 20 percent of the U.S. population. From 1990 to 2000, the non-metropolitan U.S. population grew by 10 percent while the metropolitan population increased by 14 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Fifty-four percent of the North Dakota population lives in 49 non-metropolitan counties while 46 percent live in the metropolitan counties of Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, and Morton. The non-metropolitan population declined by two percent from 2000 to 2004 (56% in 2000).<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ North Dakota population decreased by 1.3 percent from the 2000 census to the July 2004 estimate (642,200 to 634,366). Only Benson, Burleigh, Cass, Morton, Rolette, and Sioux Counties increased in population. North Dakota ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in population.<sup>2</sup>

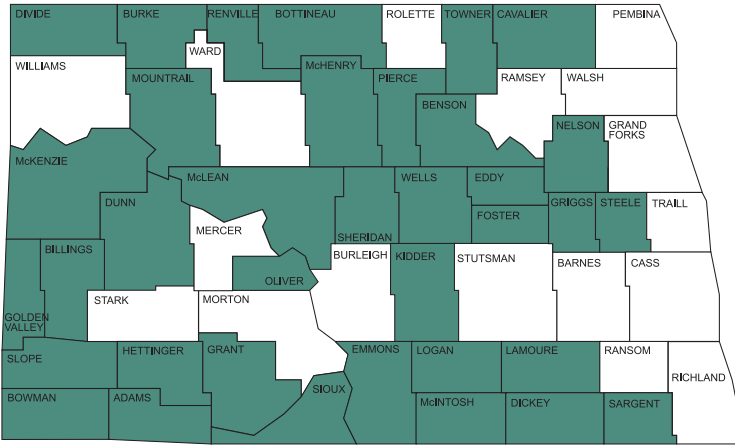
- ❖ In 1990, North Dakota became an urban state (based upon the number of people residing in communities with populations of 2,500 or greater). From 1950 to 2000, the rural population declined from 73.4 percent to 45.4 percent, while the urban population rose from 26.6 percent to 54.6 percent. By 2020, estimates indicate that 59 percent of North Dakotans will be urban and 41 percent will be rural.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ From 1990-2000, 47 of North Dakota's 53 counties (87%) lost population. Six counties lost over 20 percent and 20 counties lost from 10 to 20 percent. The 2004 estimate shows continued loss, however, at a much lower rate. From 2000-2004, 47 counties were estimated to have lost population. However, no counties lost more than 13 percent (two counties lost from 10-13 percent) and 45 lost 10 percent or less. Three urban counties and three counties with a significant American Indian population gained population (see Figure 1). In contrast, nationally, from 1990-2000, 70 percent of rural counties gained population.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 1. North Dakota Population Change by County, 2000-2004



- ❖ The population density for North Dakota is 9.3 people per square mile compared to 79.6 people per square mile nationally. In comparison, Minnesota has a density of 64 people.<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ As indicated by Figure 2, 68 percent of North Dakota counties (36/53) are frontier with six or less people per square mile compared to 25.1 percent of all counties nationally.<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 2. North Dakota Frontier Counties**



36 of 53 North Dakota Counties designated as Frontier (less than 6 persons per square mile) Based on 2000 Census

- ❖ North Dakota has 371 legally incorporated cities. Nine are above 10,000 in population (with four of these being above 25,000). A total of 15 are above 2,500. Fifty-two percent of all cities in North Dakota have 200 or less people (36 percent in 1960).<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ Between 2003 and 2004, North Dakota experienced a net international immigration of 671 people with approximately half located in Cass County and another 20 percent in Grand Forks County.<sup>8</sup>

### General Population Characteristics

- ❖ By racial composition, North Dakota (2004 estimate) is 91.7 percent white, 5.6 percent American Indian, 1.1 percent Hispanic, 0.7 percent Asian, and 0.6 percent black. This contrasts slightly with the 1990 census. North Dakota is becoming slightly more racially diverse as the numbers of minority citizens has increased. In 1990, North Dakota looked like this: 94.6 percent white, 4.1 percent American Indian, 0.7 percent Hispanic, 0.5 percent Asian and 0.6 percent black.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ The median age (median refers to a midway point where half is above and half is below so median age means half are younger and half are older than the specific number presented) in North Dakota increased from 36.2 (2000) to 38.8 (2004, estimate) which compares to a national median of 36.2 (2004, estimate). In 1960, the median age in North Dakota was 26.2.<sup>10</sup>
- ❖ The American Indian population recorded a significant population increase from 1990-2000, growing by 21 percent from 25,917 to 31,329.<sup>11</sup>
- ❖ While the median age for all North Dakotans is 38.8, the median age for the American Indian population is significantly younger (23.1, 2003 estimate) which compares to a national American Indian median age of 28.5 (2000 census). Median age varies by reservation (2000 census): Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, 27.1; Spirit Lake

Sioux, 18.9; Standing Rock Sioux, 22.1; and Three Affiliated Tribes, 22.9.<sup>12</sup>

- ❖ Of the state's population in 2004, 25.1 percent are 19 and younger; 15.9 percent, 20-29; 19.0 percent, 30-44; 25.2 percent, 45-64; and 14.7 percent, 65 and older.<sup>13</sup>
- ❖ 2000 to 2004, two distinct trends emerged in North Dakota and the U.S. First, North Dakota is experiencing a decline in its youngest residents and an increase in its oldest persons. The number of North Dakotans, 19 and younger declined by 13 percent while those 85 and older increased by 11.5 percent. The second trend contrasts in part with the first as nationally both the youngest and oldest population groups are increasing. Nationally, the number of Americans 19 and younger grew by 1.3 percent and the number of Americans 85 and older grew by 14.6 percent. The fastest growing age cohort, nationally, is 85 and older and North Dakota ranks highest, amongst all states, in proportion of residents 85 and older.<sup>13</sup>

### Footnotes:

- 1 Retrieved November 16, 2005 from <http://www.ruralhome.org/pubs/hsganalysis/ts2000>
- 2 North Dakota State Data Center (NDSDC), Population Bulletin, Vol. 21 No. 5, May 2005.
- 3 NDSDC, Presentation, North Dakota Changing Demographics, October 13, 2005.
- 4 NDSDC, May 2005, and Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), Presentation, Toward a Community-Based Rural Policy: Implications for Community Development, March 25, 2003.
- 5 Retrieved November 11, 2005 from <http://factfinder.census.gov> and <http://www.npg.org/states/nd.htm>
- 6 Retrieved November 11, 2005 from <http://factfinder.census.gov> and <http://www.frontierus.org>
- 7 NDSDC, October 13, 2005.
- 8 NDSDC, Population Bulletin, Vol. 21 No. 6, June 2005
- 9 Retrieved November 11, 2005 from <http://factfinder.census.gov> and [http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/sdc/data/census/NDrace90\\_2000.pdf](http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/sdc/data/census/NDrace90_2000.pdf)
- 10 Retrieved November 12, 2005 from <http://factfinder.census.gov> and CRH, Presentations, November 1, 2005.
- 11 Retrieved November 12, 2005 from <http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/38000.html> and <http://www.minot.k12.nd.us>
- 12 U.S. Census, United States Summary, Table 3, Age and Sex for Selected American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and retrieved Nov. 12, 2005 from <http://www.ams.usda.gov/statesummaries/ND/NDhome.htm>
- 13 NDSDC, Population Bulletin, Vol. 21 No.9, September 2005.

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