Female Population in North Dakota

North Dakota is one of only a handful of states where the population is more male than female. This has only amplified with the oil development in the state. The sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females. When the sex ratio is above 100, the population is more male. Alaska leads the states with a sex ratio of 110, then North Dakota and Wyoming follow at 104, Hawaii at 102, then comes Colorado, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota and Utah at 101. Nationally, the sex ratio is 96.9. For North Dakota, the number has continued to increase since the 2010 Census when it was 102. If the 2015 population estimates of male and female are used, the number is even higher at 106.

The sex ratio varies dramatically by race of the female population in North Dakota. The sex ratio for White females is 105, with Black females at 138, Asian females at 108, and Native American at 98. On a county level, a large majority of North Dakota counties are well above a sex ratio of 100. The highest values are predominantly located in the western third of the state.

Data from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) were used to map the sex ratio by county. (See map on next page for reference.) The American Community Survey collects several characteristics on the population of the state including those specific to each sex. Since the 2010 Census, the median age of North Dakota’s female population has dropped by almost three years from 38.7, recorded with the 2010 Census when it was 102. If the 2015 population estimates of male and female are used, the number is even higher at 106.

The most recent 5-Year ACS data illustrates that in the 25 to 34 year population group, 41.7 percent of females have a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to only 27.5 percent for males of the same age group. This is a strong segment of the male population tied to the oil development.

Other items of interest, like the nation, about 8 percent of North Dakota’s veteran population are female. This represents about one in twelve or approximately 4,155 female veterans in our state.

Source: Census Bureau ACS 2015 1-Yr Tables B0921, B12007, B25105, B25105 and S1701 and PUMS.


Women Live Longer

North Dakota, similar to the nation, has women far outnumbering men when it comes to age 85 and over. In 2015, of the 18,000 North Dakotan’s in the age group 85 and over, there were an estimated 11,884 women compared to 6,202 men. This mirrors the nation’s approximate ratio of two women for every man of age 85 and over.

**Woman More Educated Than Their Male Counterparts**

The percent of the female population with a bachelor’s degree or higher has surpassed males. In 2006, North Dakota men and women were equal at 25.5 percent with bachelor’s or higher. By 2014, females 25 years and over with a bachelor’s degree or higher was at 29.7 percent, while males remained the same, dropping to 25.2 percent. North Dakota women are in line with the national average.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Table C15002, 2006 - 2014.

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**Economic Characteristics of the Female Population**

Nationwide, women age 16 and over comprised 47.4 percent of the labor force in 2015. Of the population in North Dakota with full-time, year-round employment, 60 percent are male while 40 percent are female. The median annual earnings of women age 15 and older who worked full-time in 2015 was $40,742. This represents a 2.7 percent increase between 2014 and 2015, the first significant annual increase since 2009. The ratio has remained significantly steady at 0.80. The median annual earnings for men in 2015 was $51,212 nationally. The women in North Dakota, like the nation, have been trending at about 80 percent of what their male counterparts earn in the same occupation. The median annual income of women age 15 and older in North Dakota who worked full-time, year-round in 2015 was $38,012. This compares to $55,392 for North Dakota’s male population.


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**Map of Sex Ratio by County**

*Sex Ratio by county in North Dakota. Statewide ratio is 104 or 104 males for every 100 females. Source: North Dakota Census Office 2017 Map using data from Table S0101 of the 2011-2015 American Community Survey*