



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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#### **Children in Unmarried Partner Households**

*Approximately 9 percent of children in North Dakota reside in unmarried partner households. The householder and their partner were members of the opposite sex, most likely in a heterosexual relationship. Generally, the number of children present in these households is one or two.*

Source: ACS 2015 5-Yr File, PUMS and CPS 2016 Annual, Social and Economic Supplement microdata.

### Households of Unmarried Partners in North Dakota

Just under seven percent of North Dakota's nearly 300,000 households, or about 20,400, are made up of unmarried partners. These situations involve male – female relationships as well as male – male and female – female relationships.

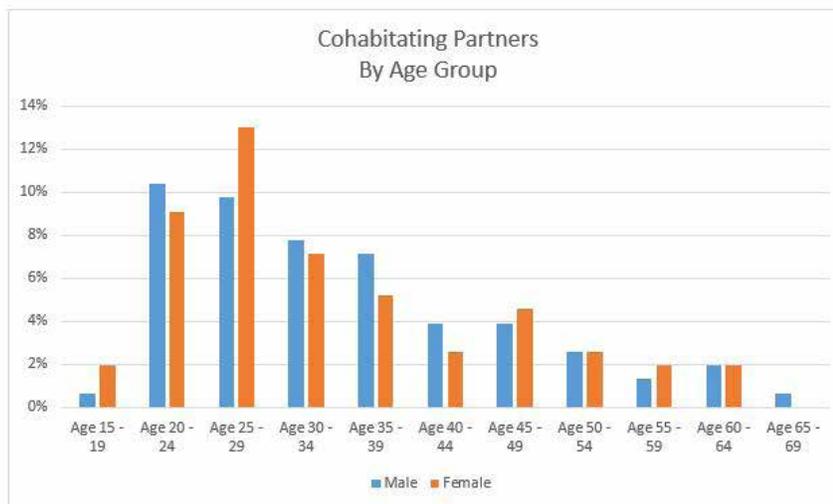
Nationally, an estimated six percent of households consist of unmarried partners. North Dakota households slightly exceeds the national estimate at seven percent. Of the 50 states, North Dakota is estimated to the 14<sup>th</sup> highest

percentage of unmarried partner households. Maine, nine percent, followed by Vermont and Alaska at eight percent each had the highest estimated percentage of unmarried partner households.

While North Dakota's percentage of unmarried partner households exceeds the national average, the number of unmarried same sex couples, both male – male and female – female is estimated to be among the lowest in the country. Nationally, both male – male and female – female

unmarried partner couples are estimated to constitute four-tenths of one percent. Of the fifty states, the Census Bureau estimate shows North Dakota at two tenths of one percentage of total households consisting of same sex unmarried partnership at the lowest percentage of any state. North Dakota's percentage was closely match by that of Wyoming.

Source: ACS 2015 5-Yr File, table B11009.



*Cohabiting partners tend to be younger adults although they can be found at all adult age groups. The average age of cohabiting partners was 34 in 2015.* Source: CPS Annual, Social and Economic Supplement 2016 microdata.

### **Births to Women in Unmarried Partner Households**

An estimated 1,495 women in North Dakota who gave birth in the past 12 months were in unmarried partner households. These births constitute about 13 percent of total number of births in the state, but is considerably smaller than both the number of births to married women, or to women who were not married and not residing in an unmarried partner household.

Source: ACS 2015 5-Yr File B13004.

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## Households of Unmarried Partners By County

Unmarried partner householders are estimated to exist in every county in the state. Of North Dakota's 53 counties, 13 exceed the national average for the percentage of households consisting of unmarried partners. Eleven percent of Sioux County's households were estimated to consist of unmarried partners. Sioux was followed by Rolette, Williams and Pierce. The larger counties

of Cass, Morton and Burleigh also exceeded the national average for percentage of households consisting of unmarried partners. Counties with the lowest estimated number of unmarried partner households were in the more rural counties of Griggs, Slope, Wells and Oliver.

Cass was notable in that it has both the highest

number of unmarried partnership households as well as over half of the state's estimated same sex unmarried partner households.

Source: ACS 2015 5-Yr File, Table B11009.

## Select Socio-Economics of Cohabiting Partners

With the exceptions of slight differences in income and labor force participation, unmarried partner households are not exceptionally different than their married or single counterparts. Unmarried partners are more likely to rent than own a home. When they do own, they are more likely to have a mortgage on the home. When they do rent, the amount of rent they pay tends to be somewhat lower.

Households with unmarried partners reported an average household income

of about \$73,000 in the current population survey in 2015, slightly more than their peers. An estimated 92 percent of cohabiting partners work higher than their peers, with about 83 percent employed in private sector business, considerably higher than their non-cohabiting peers. While the rate of employment in private sector is substantially higher than their peers, the reason is unclear.

Most work 40 hours per week although there is a wide range of reported hours. The number of hours

this group worked was about 11 percent higher than their peers, but may be related to fewer children found to be present in these households.

When limited to the primary age range in which cohabiting partners are found, ages 20 – 34, educational attainment was slightly less than that of their peers.

Source: CPS 2016 Annual, Social and Economic Supplement microdata.

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