



Growing ND by the Numbers

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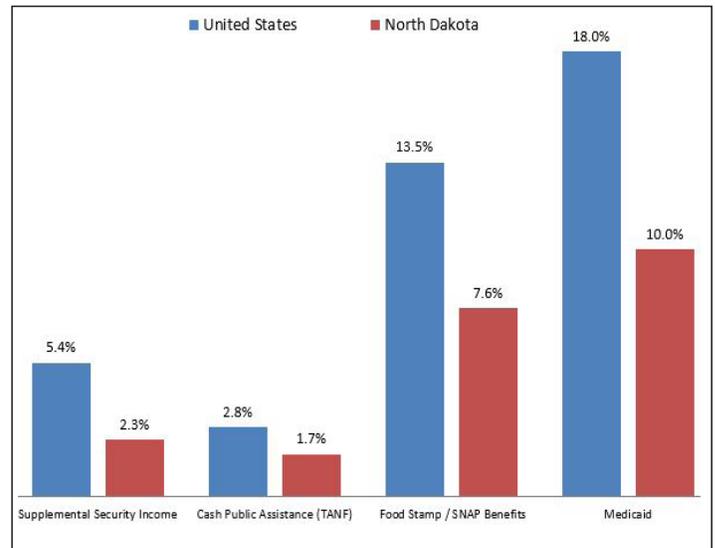
An estimated 18 percent of the U.S. population was covered by means tested Medicaid Coverage in 2013. For children, 38 percent, more than one in three, are covered by programs such as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the U.S.

In North Dakota, the estimated percentage for the overall population was estimate at 10 percent and 18 percent for children.

Public Assistance Programs Tracked by Census

Public assistance takes many forms from unemployment insurance to weatherization assistance programs for low income households. In 2011, *Forbes* magazine reported the federal government had 184 separate public assistance programs available.

The Census Bureau tracks some forms of assistance as part of the American Community Survey. These include cash public assistance payments, Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) intended for individuals who are disabled, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP (formally Food Stamps) and Medicaid coverage.



Estimated Percentages of Households Receiving Public Assistance Programs in 2013 United States and North Dakota

SNAP benefits are by far the most commonly received public assistance

program of the four categories the Census Bureau tracks.

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Public Cash Assistance Usage Low in North Dakota

According to data from the 2013 American Community Survey, almost three percent of households in the U.S. receive some form of cash public assistance, primarily TANF (temporary cash assistance for needy families) but also general assistance programs provided in states.

An estimated 4,979 North Dakota households received cash public assistance in 2013. The state had one of the lowest ranking of cash public assistance users in 2013 with an estimated 1.7 percent of households, compared to 2.8 percent nationally. Only three states including South Carolina (1.3%), Wyoming (1.4%)

and Louisiana (1.4%) were estimated to have a smaller percentage.

North Dakota's percentage of households receiving cash public assistance has declined from 2.6 percent in 2010, while the national rate has held steady within a few tenths of one percent since 2005.

Poverty & Public Assistance Programs –

There is a direct correlation between the rate of poverty for a given area and the percentage of households receiving public assistance.

From 2009-2013, the percentage of North Dakota households receiving SSI, cash assistance, such as TANF or SNAP benefits ranged from over 57 percent in Sioux County to 0 percent in Billings County. Counties with the highest rates of public assistance all had a high American Indian population. These same counties had the highest rates of poverty in the state.

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In the United States, an estimated 29 percent of households with children receive SSI, public cash benefits, SNAP, or a combination of the three programs.

North Dakota rates are significantly lower than the national average in all four categories. Compared to the national estimate of 29

percent of households with children receiving SSI, public cash benefits or SNAP, the rate in North Dakota is only 16.6 percent, second lowest only to Wyoming of the 50 states.

In married households with both a husband and wife present, the rate is 9.8 percent, about half the

national average. In female led households with no husband present, the rate of assistance is 45.8 compared to the national rate of 55 percent, seventh lowest of the 50 states. For male head of household with no wife present, North Dakota's rate is 18.3, again second lowest only to Wyoming.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a Federal income supplement program funded by general federal tax revenues. The Census Bureau treats SSI benefits separately from cash public assistance programs such as TANF.

Nationally, 5.4 percent of households are estimated to

receive this benefit. In North Dakota, an estimated 6,986 of the state's 298,289, or 2.3 percent, of households received SSI payments in 2013. The average annual benefit was estimated to be \$9,339 per year, or \$778 per month. This figure is slightly higher than the national average monthly payment.

North Dakota had the lowest estimated percentage of households receiving this benefit. Wyoming was the second lowest at 2.8 percent, followed by Colorado at 3.4 percent.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Nationally, 13.5 percent of households received SNAP benefits in 2013. North Dakota was nearly half the national average at 7.6 percent of households. States with the highest percentage of households receiving

SNAP benefits are Oregon - 19.8 percent, Mississippi - 19.4 percent and Maine - 18 percent. In most states, just over half of the individuals receiving SNAP are estimated to be below the poverty line. In North Dakota, 51

percent of households receiving SNAP benefits have children under age 18 and a fifth include individuals age 60 or older.

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