



Growing ND by the Numbers

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Younger Adults Appear to Stand Out in Significant Ways
In North Dakota this cohort is estimated to hold the second highest high school completion rate at 91 percent, compared to the national rate of 85 percent. Sixty-five percent of this age group is estimated to have attended at least some college or have completed an associate's degree, compared to 55 percent nationally, the highest percentage of any state.

Source: ACS 5-Yr 2010 -2014 Tables S1501

Overall Educational Attainment in North Dakota

Importance of education to the health, vitality and overall quality of life cannot be overstated. The Census Bureau has measured educational attainment since the 1940 Census in various question formats. Between 1980 and 1990 North Dakota caught up with the national average in both the percentage of the population with high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees. The trend for both the nation and the state has been for a gradual increase in the percentage of individuals with both these levels of certificates.

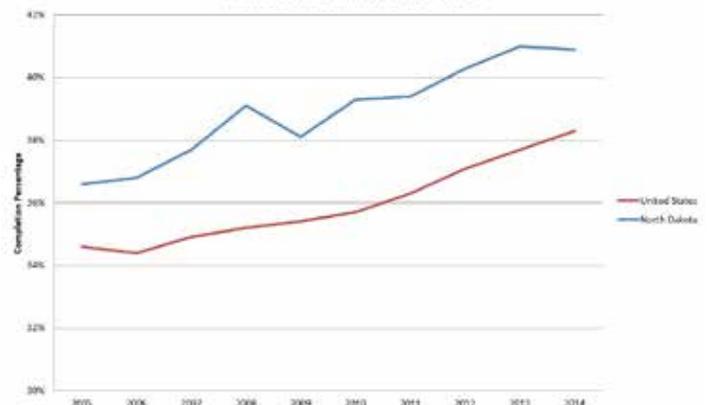
Since at least 1990, North Dakota has exceeded the national average in the percentage of high school diplomas and continues to do so. At the bachelor degree level, North Dakota has exceeded the national percentage at times and dropped behind the national rate at other times. More recently, since 2000, North Dakota's percentage of the population holding bachelor's degrees has been slightly behind the national percentage.

The reason for lower percentage completed graduate or professional degrees is likely explained in part by the economics in the state. Higher educated individuals, while they do earn more than lower educated individuals, the difference is less significant as that found nationally. Between 2010 and 2014 the average individual in the state with less than a high school diploma earned \$24,534, the 'second' highest of any state, compared to

the national average of \$19,940. On the other end of the educational scale at the graduate or professional level, individuals earned on average \$58,915, 31st highest of the 50 states, compared to the national average of \$66,944.

Source: Censuses 1940 – 2000, ACS 5-Yr 2010 -2014 Tables S1501

Educational Attainment Associate's or Higher US and ND Annual ACS Estimate 2005 - 2014



The rate of completions for associates degrees or higher has been increasing over time both nationally and in the state. North Dakotans tend to exceed the national average for educational attainment at the level of Associate's degrees and below, but trail the national average at the Graduate or professional education level. Source: ACS 5-Yr 2010 -2014 Tables S1501

Former North Dakotan Statistics
Individuals who were born in the state, but are now residents of other states, tend to be more educated than those born in the state and remained residents or those who were born elsewhere and moved to the state. For example, in the age group 35-44, a cohort that likely experienced significant out migration during the 1990's and 2000's (prior to the oil boom), an estimated 48 percent of former ND residents hold bachelor's degrees or higher. This compares to 36 percent of individuals born outside the state but were in-state residents at the time.

Source: ACS 5-Yr 2010 -2014 PUMS data national and North Dakota person files

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Educational Attainment Differs by Age

The younger the age group the slightly higher the state's population compares to the national average. There has been a gradual increase in the percentage of individuals with high school diplomas and bachelors completions with younger cohorts as compared to older cohorts. As older cohorts expire, younger more educated cohorts replace them.

The percentage of the residents holding high school diplomas in North Dakota exceed the national average in every age group under age 65. Nationally, age groups 25-34, 35-44 and 45-64 all have about 88 percent high school completion rate. These three age groups, also similar to one another in North Dakota, have about a 95 percent completion rate. Only in the age group of 65 plus, North Dakota trails the national average 78 percent

to 80 percent.

For bachelor's degrees or higher, North Dakota exceeds the national average in age groups under 45 years of age, but is estimated to have a lower rate of completion at age 45 or older. For example in the age group 25-34, the national percentage of the population with bachelor's degrees is 32 percent while 34 percent of North Dakotans in this age group hold bachelor's degrees. Conversely, at age 65 plus nationally 23 percent of the population holds bachelor's degrees while only 17 percent of North Dakotan's in this age group do.

In the ages 18-24 North Dakota ranks particularly strong in educational achievement. The percentage of individuals in this age range between the years 2010 and 2014, North Dakota ranks second

of the 50 states with 91 percent of residents in this age range holding a high school diploma, GED or higher compared to the national rate of 85 percent. North Dakota has the highest percentage of individuals in this age range who have attended at least some college at 65 percent compared to the national rate of 55 percent.

Comparing bachelor's degree completions in this age range is problematic as most of those individuals in this age range who are working on this level of education do not complete it until near the upper level of this group. However, even in this age range, North Dakotans, appear to have a slightly higher rate of completions, just over 10 percent, than the national rate, just under 10 percent.

Source: ACS 5-Yr 2010 -2014 Tables S1501

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