



Growing ND by the Numbers

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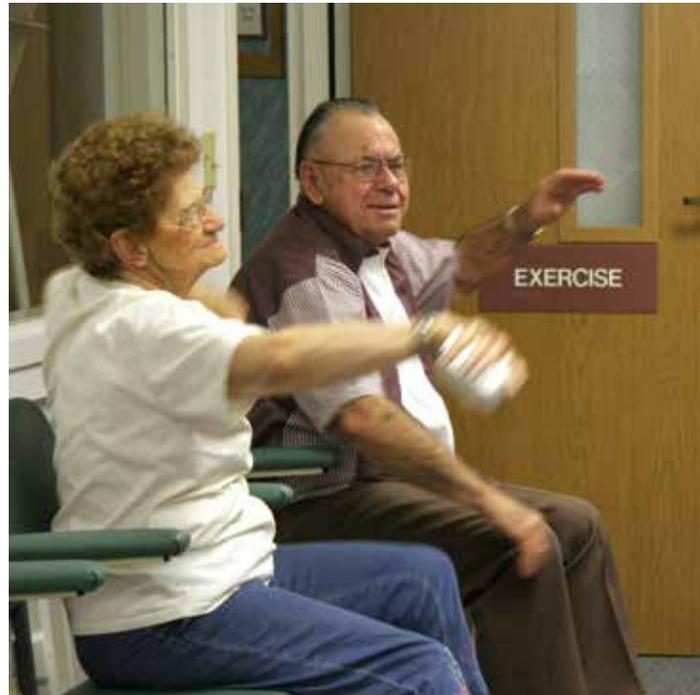
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Approximately four percent of individuals age 85 plus work at least a few hours a week.

ND Census Office

North Dakota's Elderly Population



Common issues of 85 plus year olds in North Dakota include difficulty dressing, vision and hearing loss and memory recall. Half indicate difficulty going outside of their residences.

According to Census data, North Dakota had an estimated 17,680 individuals age 85 or older in 2013. This makes up about 2.5 percent of the state's total population and places North Dakota 7th place in the U.S. for having the most "experienced" residents. For comparison, our neighboring states rank: South Dakota - 8th, Minnesota - 18th, and Montana - 19th. The top states with the highest density of individuals age 85 or older were Rhode Island, Florida, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Hawaii, Connecticut and North Dakota.

The make-up of North Dakota's 85 plus population
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Similar Concerns for Older North Dakotans

The 85 plus age group in North Dakota have a number of commonalities.

- The loss of a spouse is common with 64 percent indicating they were widows; that number rises to 77 percent when looking at only women.
- Only 25 percent of both sexes indicated they were still married. Men were more likely to respond that they were married than women, likely due to a shorter lifespan.
- Health issues are obviously a common issue at this age with the majority indicating they have physical difficulties of one kind or another.

Institutional living arrangements are more common for the age group 85 plus than any other. Twenty-five percent of individuals age 85 plus lived in some kind of institutional housing, such as an assisted living center or a nursing home.

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is mostly white females, with women outnumbering men nearly two to one. At the higher end of this age range, the ratio of women to men becomes even more pronounced. According to

the 2010 Census, there were 227 centenarians - individuals age 100 or older - in North Dakota with only 21 of that total number being males.

Between 2010 and 2013, the number of residents in

this age range grew from 16,674 to 17,680, a growth of 2 percent per year or 310 additional individuals. The growth percentage of this age group has remained constant as the state's overall population grew.

Where Experienced North Dakotan's Live

Counties with the highest density of individuals 85 years and older in North Dakota are Cass, Burleigh, Ward and Grand Forks counties. Cass saw the largest gain in 85 plus population, gaining nearly 600 residents or about 25 percent since the 2010 Census. Cass was followed by Burleigh, Richland, Ransom, Stark and Grand Forks. Of the state's largest counties, Ward was the only one that experienced a loss of population 85 plus in recent years. This loss was likely a result of the 2011 flood that destroyed

a large number of housing units along the Souris River that were home to older adults.

The county with the highest percentage of individuals age 85 plus is McIntosh, as nearly 8 percent of the county's total population is age 85 or older. Griggs, Ransom, Eddy and Dickey counties round out the top five for highest percentage over age 85 residents. McIntosh also had the highest percentage in the state of individuals over age 65, at nearly a third of its population.

Counties with the lowest percentage of their population being age 85 plus include those counties with a large percentage of its population being members of the American Indian race, and those most recently impacted by the oilfield developments. Sioux County had less than one percent of its population age 85 or older, followed by Rolette, Benson, McKenzie, Mountrail and Grand Forks.

Joe Cicha
Census Specialist

Phone 701-328-7283
E-mail jcicha@nd.gov
Web commerce.nd.gov/
census/

North Dakota Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58503 | 701.328.5300

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