



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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#### Primary Child-Bearing Ages

Data from North Dakota Department of Health's Vital Statistics program indicates that the most likely age for a mother at the birth of a child was 27 years of age. Eighty-three percent of birth mothers were between age 20 and 34 years of age in the state.

Source: Census Bureau Pop Est Program file NST-EST2015

### Fertility in North Dakota

Depending upon which table you read from the Census Bureau, North Dakota has the second or third highest fertility rate for women among the 50 states. Data from the 2014 American Community Survey shows that 68 women per 1,000 ages 15 - 50 gave birth in the previous year. Compared to 52 women per 1,000 in the U.S. Utah led the nation with a rate of 70 per 1,000 during the same time.

North Dakota's rate of births has grown steadily the last few years as immigration of young adults has occurred. North Dakota Department of Health's Vital Statistics reports the number of births grew 33 percent, from 7,635 in 1999 to 11,352 in 2014, a slight drop occurred in 2015 to 11,265.

The Census Bureau's Population Estimate Program placed North Dakota 13<sup>th</sup> of the 50 states in 'rate of births' in 2011. By 2015 the state's ranking had moved up to third falling only behind Utah and Alaska. In other words, the proportion of women of child

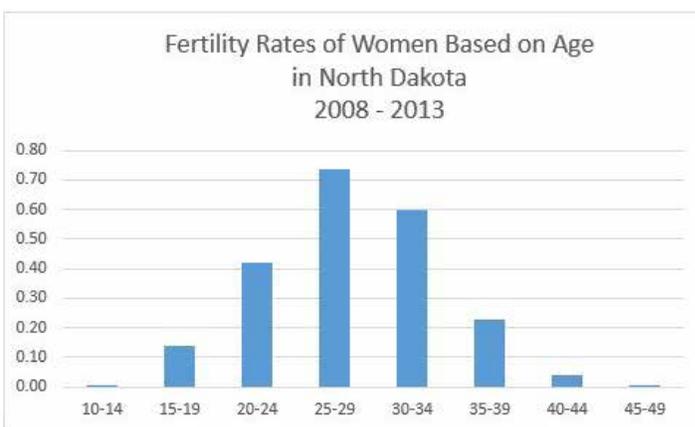
bearing age giving birth was higher in North Dakota than 47 other states.

Of the five major race groups, Pacific Islanders have the highest rate of births to population in the United States where there are 75 births per 1,000 women in ages 15 - 50. This race also has the highest estimated fertility in North Dakota although their population is quite small. Pacific Islanders are estimated to have the highest fertility rate of women of child bearing age at 179 births per 1,000, although this group's

small size results in a large margin of error in the estimate.

Caucasian women have the lowest overall fertility rate in the U.S. with 52 births per 1,000 women of childbearing ages. In North Dakota, they are estimated to have the lowest at 62 births per 1,000 women.

Source: ACS 2014 5-yr data, Files S1301 and B1302 A through E.



A higher number of children were born to mothers from age 25 to 29 than any other age range in North Dakota from 2008 to 2013. Mothers ranged in age from under 14 to over 45 years of age, but tend to be found predominately in the age ranges of 20 to 34 years of age. Sources: North Dakota Department of Health Vital Statistics data, Census 2010 and population estimates 2008 through 2013.

**Increase in North Dakota's Rate of Births**

In 2011, the Census Bureau's Population Estimate Program reported 135 births per 1,000 women between ages 15 and 50 in North Dakota. By 2015, that rate had grown to 149 births per 1,000. Only nine states were estimated to have seen an increase during this time. North Dakota's was the largest.

Source: Social Security Administration, Annual Report on SSDI Program, 2014, U.S. Census Bureau 2014 Population Estimates

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**Characteristics of the Mother at Birth**

Many factors come into play to determine a mother's characteristics during child birth. Marriage and whether children are born into poverty are impacted by factors such as education, race, ethnicity and age.

In North Dakota, the percentage of women who gave birth that were not married was 83 percent for ages under 20 years of age, 50 percent for those from 20 to 24, and 14 percent for those ages 25 – 29 years of age. The percentage of women who gave birth that were not married in the age group of 30 and above drop-off significantly.

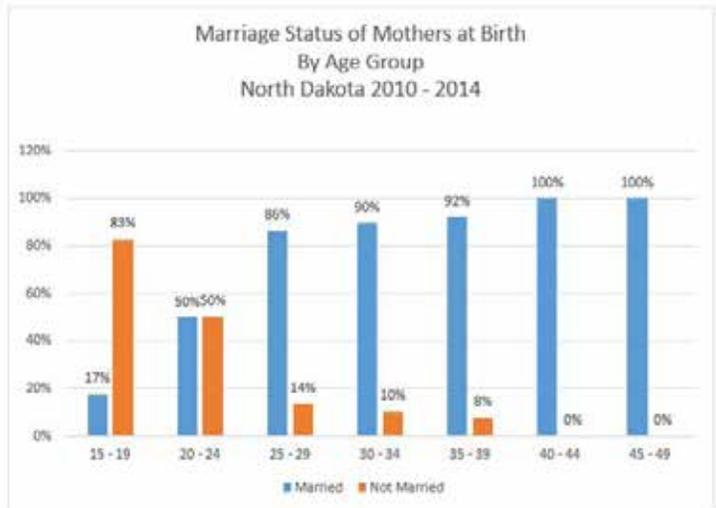
The number of women giving birth who are unmarried make up roughly 85 percent of those recent mothers receiving public assistance. In North Dakota, an estimated 73 percent of unmarried women who gave birth in the prior year were below the poverty line. This compares to the national rate of 66 percent. Conversely, the percentage of women in poverty who were married and gave birth appears to be below 4 percent in the state. Only

about 11 percent of the state's recent unmarried mothers were estimated to have incomes at 200 percent of the poverty level, \$32,674 for a parent and a single child in 2015, or above compared to 80 percent of those who were married, similar to figures found nationally.

Race appears to also be a factor in whether a recent mother was married or unmarried. The percentage of Asian women in North Dakota unmarried at the time of giving birth appears to be very low, at 5 percent. The race with the highest percentage of

unmarried recent mothers was American Indians at 71 percent. The race most different in the state from what is found nationally are African Americans. Nationally, an estimated 67 percent of new Black mothers are unmarried compared to 38 percent in North Dakota.

Source: ND Health Dept. Vital Statistics, Pop Est File NST-EST2015-alldata, ACS 2014 5-yr data, Files S1301 and B1302 A through E.



The percentage of women having children who are not married is highest among mothers giving birth at ages under 20. The older the mother, the more likely the child is going to be born to a married couple. Sources ACS 2014 5-yr PUMS data.

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