



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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**North Dakota was the 4<sup>th</sup> youngest state in 2013 with a median age of 35 years of age. Only Utah (30.2), Alaska (33.2) and Texas (34) were estimated to be younger than North Dakota.**

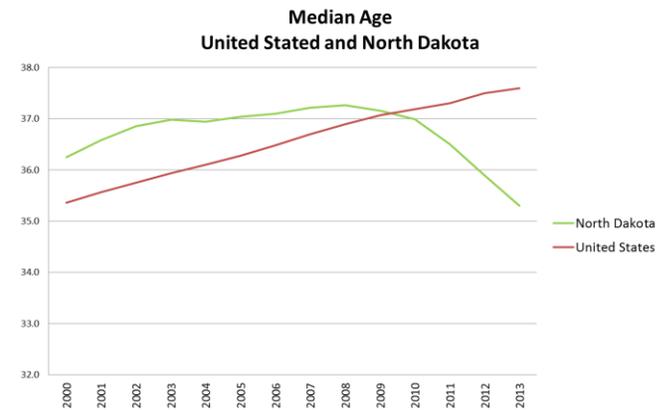
*ND Census Office*

## North Dakota is Growing Younger

North Dakota's population is undergoing a dramatic change. The diversity of our residents can now be seen in the simply variety of license plates found in our parking lots.

Reversing a long-term trend of people moving beyond our borders, North Dakota now has the highest rate of in-migration of any state. A strong economy, growing industries and a low unemployment rate have contributed to this population gain.

Individuals that have migrated tend to be younger, typically in their



*North Dakota became younger than the nation in about 2009.*

20-30's. The next largest group to migrate is young children coming along with these families, under 5 years of age.

For years, North Dakota's population had been

getting older as younger generations moved out of the state in search of work. In-migration has now impacted this trend making North Dakota younger since 2009.

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## Williams County Growing Younger the Fastest

Of the 1,838 counties in the United States with more than 20,000 residents, Williams County (Williston) has seen the largest decrease in median age,

dropping an estimated 5.9 years from April 2010 to July 2013. Stark County (Dickinson) was second dropping 4.1 years and Ward County (Minot) was third

dropping 1.8 years of age.

All of these counties are in areas impacted by Bakken oil exploration activities.

**Thirty nine of North Dakota's 53 counties have seen a reduction in median age between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.**

**Sioux County is North Dakota's youngest county with an estimated median age of 26.2 year of age. The oldest county is Sheridan County, at 53.9 years of age in 2013.**

*ND Census Office*

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North Dakota's median age in the year 2000 was 36.2, older than the nation as a whole by 0.9 years. Since the 1990 Census, the state has seen the median age grow by nearly three years.

Beginning in 2007, North Dakota's increase in median age appeared to slow, stop and begin to reverse the long-term trend of out-migration of the state's youth. Since 2009, Census data indicates North Dakota has indeed been growing younger.

At the time of the Decennial Census, April 2010, North Dakota had a median age of 37 years of age, just slightly younger than the estimated national median age at 37.2. This placed North Dakota as the 29<sup>th</sup> oldest state. Between April 2010 and July 2013, the median age of the state of North Dakota dropped by 1.7 years to the age of 35.3, while the national median age increased by 0.4 years to 37.6.

North Dakota currently ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> youngest state in 2013. Only Utah (30.2), Alaska (33.2) and Texas (34) were estimated to be younger than North Dakota.

## Female Population in ND See Drop in Median Age

From April 2010 to July 2013, the median age of women in North Dakota dropped by a full two years. North Dakota's decrease in median female population is 10 times the decrease of the next state Alaska, which

experienced a decrease in median age by two-tenths of a year during this same period. The change in median age appears to be accelerating from 2012 to 2013. During this one-year period of time,

female median age decreased by eight-tenths of a year in age in North Dakota. No other state had a decrease in median age by more than 1/10 of a year during this timeframe.

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