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A Male-Dominated Population

In both Census 2000 and 2010, there were more females than males nationwide. North Dakota had slightly more females than males in 2000. However, by Census 2010, the state had more males than females, with more than 50.5 percent of the population male, the third-highest of any state. As of 2018, North Dakota is second in the ratio of males to females after Alaska.

Those populations that have grown rapidly or have seen higher levels of immigration tend to be more male than female. At birth, there are about 105 males for every female. However, males have a greater mortality rate. As a result, by about age 37, there are more females than males. Older populations typically have more females than males.

Source: Census Bureau File PEP_2018_PEPSR6H, Census 2000 and 2010

North Dakota: We're Growing Younger

Between April 1, 2010 (the date of the 2010 Census) and July 1, 2018, the United States grew older on average by one year in median age, from a median of 37.2 years in 2010 to 38.2 in 2018. The good news is that we appear to be living longer. However, the change also is a result of the decline in the national fertility rate with young adults tending to delay child births, resulting in fewer children per family. Indirectly, the change almost certainly is due to the national recession that started about 2008; a recession that, for the most part, did not reach into North Dakota.

Although the median age from state to state differs, 49 of the 50 states are estimated to have grown older this decade. A total of eight states had a median age of 40 or older. New England appears to be a region that is older than much

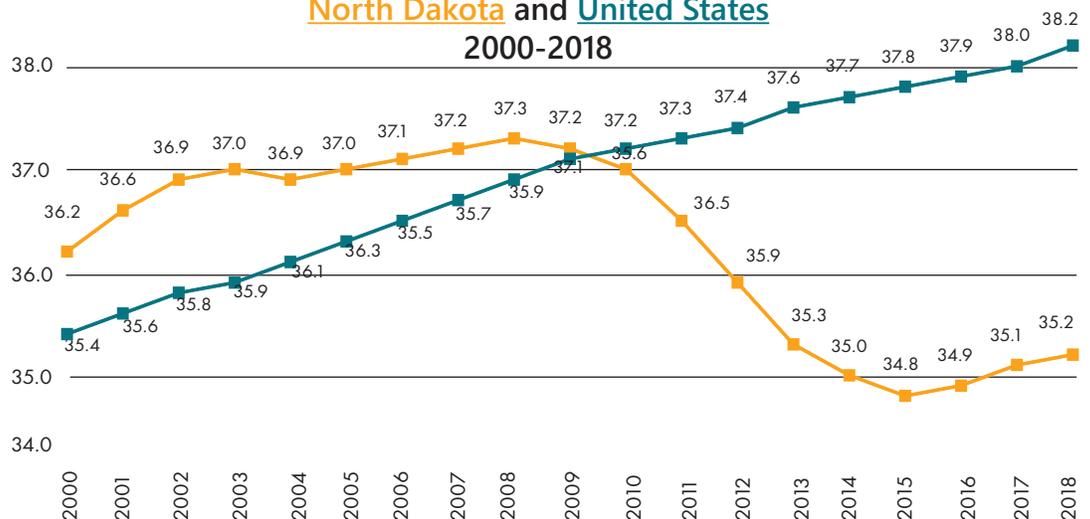
of the rest of the country and tended to grow older. Maine aged the most from 42.8 to 44.9 in 2018, a 2.2 change in median age. Other states that have aged the most include Arizona and Idaho, both two full years; Delaware and New Hampshire, both 1.9 years; and Nevada and Utah, both 1.8 years.

Maine is noteworthy as the state with the highest median age of 44.9. Other states at 40 years and older in 2018 include New Hampshire, 43 and Vermont 42.8. These New England states were followed by West Virginia at 42.7 and Florida at 42.2.

In 2018, Utah - at a median age of 31 - remained the youngest state even though residents aged 1.8 years since 2010. The next three youngest

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Estimated Median Age
 North Dakota and United States
 2000-2018



At the time of Census 2010, North Dakota ranked as the 35th-oldest state. The nation has continued to age driven to a large extent by greater life expectancy. Between 2009 and 2010, North Dakota became younger than the U.S. as a whole, driven largely by the in-migration of new residents. Source: Census Bureau files ST-EST00INT-02 and PEPAGESEX 2018

Increased Diversity

Census Bureau estimates also look at race and ethnicity groups both in growth patterns and aging. These estimates show North Dakota is becoming more diverse. The number of individuals identified as Black or African American in the report increased by 211 percent from 2010 to 2018. The Hispanic population increased 119 percent during the same time period.

From Census 2010 to 2018, the state gained as estimated 87,486 residents. An estimated 39,753 were non-Hispanic whites, those of traditional northern European ancestry. However, 47,733 were from individuals other than non-Hispanic white, a combination of American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander. That means more than half of the growth in the state occurred among minority populations. Every race categorized by the Census Bureau has seen a growth in the state.

As a result, the percentage of non-Hispanic whites in the state has fallen from about 89 percent in Census 2010 to about 84 percent in 2018. Minority populations tend to be much younger than our majority non-Hispanic white population. The median age of American Indians for example is 31.6 compared to 38.2 for the total population and 40.1 for the non-Hispanic white population in 2018.

Source: Census Bureau File PEP_2018_PEPSR6H

What has Driven our Median Age Down?

The answer is migration.

Between 2010 and 2018 North Dakota gained nearly 50,000 more individuals due to migration than it lost. Even more important is who the state has gained. Typically, our growth has occurred in the age range of 18 – 34 and appears to be centered around age 23.

Adults in the age range of 18 - 34 tend to move more frequently than those 35 and older. By the time of Census 2010, North Dakota already had the second highest

percentage, 25.5 percent, of its population in this age range, after Utah with 27.6 percent. As of 2018, North Dakota had the highest percentage of any state at 26.2 percent of the total population in the ages 18 - 34 years of age, beating even Utah which is the youngest state. These rates compare with 23.3 percent found nationally.

A secondary impact of this in-migration of younger adults has been the increased fertility rate and births in the state. In the last year of the 2018 estimate nearly

11,000 births occurred. A decade ago the number was closer to 7,000 per year. Increased fertility of the population results in a higher number of children in years to follow. North Dakota has experienced a dramatic reversal in the number of children since the year 2000 when there were 82,382 children under age 10 counted in the state. As of 2018, the estimated number was 101,854, a difference of 24 percent.

Source Census Bureau File PEPAGESEX 2018

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states all happened to be major oil producing states: Alaska at 34.6, Texas at 34.8 and North Dakota at 35.2 years in median age.

North Dakota's turnaround is dramatic. In Census 2000, the first census in which median age was provided, the national median age was 35.3 while North Dakota was older at 36.2 years of age. North Dakota was 35th-youngest of the 50 states. The state continued to grow older at a rate slower than the national rate until 2008 when it reached its oldest point at 37.3 - older than the national median age at 36.9.

However, North Dakota's median age began decreasing while the nation's was increasing. Between the years 2000 and 2010, North Dakota aged by 0.8 years. The state's aging rate

was less than half that of the nation, which aged 1.9 years to 37.2 by Census 2010.

The crossover to when North Dakota became younger than the nation occurred between 2009 and 2010 and just prior to Census 2010. At the time of Census 2010, North Dakota was the 14th-youngest state and continued rapidly toward the younger end of the ranking, reaching fourth-youngest in 2015 and remaining there behind Utah, Alaska and Colorado.

For the time being, it is likely that North Dakota will remain the fourth-youngest as there is an 0.4 year in median age difference between it and Texas (at 34.8) and 1.4 years between North Dakota and Nebraska - the fifth-youngest state in the most recent count. No state had a year-to-year

change greater than 0.3 years of age last year.

While only North Dakota has grown "younger" since 2010, all other states - including our neighbors - saw an increase, including those right around us. The aging in our neighboring states tended to be smaller than the national increase of one full year. Iowa has grown only 0.1 years older in this timeframe. Montana and South Dakota have grown 0.2 years older. Minnesota aged 0.7 years, highest in the region in terms of growth this decade, but still well below the national rate of one full year in this timeframe. As of 2018, Minnesota was estimated to have a median age of 38.1, South Dakota 37.1 and Montana 39.9.

Source Census Bureau File PEPAGESEX 2018