

Dakota County Demographics

The economic and social conditions in which people live and work can influence health and life expectancy. Examples of these social determinants of health are: income, employment, education, housing, early life experiences, social exclusion, and social support. The determinants affect a person's life and work conditions, such as stress levels, access to healthy food, safe places to exercise, exposure to environmental hazards, and availability of early learning opportunities. These exposures interact to increase or decrease the risk for many major diseases, such as heart disease, stroke and Type II diabetes.

Key facts about Dakota County

The Dakota County population continues to grow but at a slower rate than in the 1990's. The population is getting older and is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. Poverty is increasing, especially for families with children.

Unemployment is starting to decrease, but is still above 2006 rates. Educational attainment of adults is high and Dakota County students do well on standardized tests. Most residents think the quality of life in the county is favorable.



General population

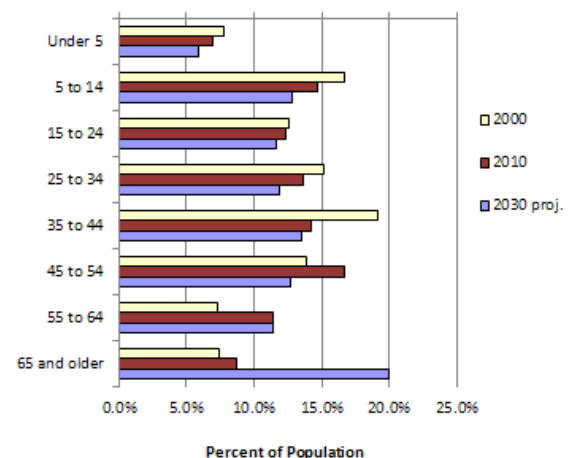
- Dakota County's population grew from 355,904 in 2000 to 398,552 in 2010 – a 12 percent increase. The state population grew by eight percent during the same period.
- Although the county reached its population growth peak during the 1980s and 1990s, there was still a 12 percent increase during the decade from 2000-2010.
- Dakota County has the third largest population in the state and represents about 7.5 percent of the state's population.



Age distribution

- The median age of Dakota County residents increased from 30.2 years in 1990 to 36.8 years in 2010 – a 22 percent increase.
- The State of Minnesota Demographer's Office projects that there will be 96,860 Dakota County residents 65 and older in 2030 – an increase of nearly 270 percent from 2000.

Dakota County Age Distribution 2000, 2010, and 2030



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Minnesota State Demographer's Office

Racial/ethnic distribution

- In 2010, an estimated 18 percent of Dakota County's total population was non-white or Hispanic. In the 2010-11 school year, 25 percent of Dakota County public and charter school students were non-white or Hispanic. Hispanics, blacks and Asian/Pacific Islanders are the largest minority groups in the county.
- The State of Minnesota Demographer's Office projects that the Dakota County non-white and Hispanic populations will increase by 245 percent from 2000 to 2030. The white population is projected to grow by 12.6 percent in the same period.
- In the 2010-11 school year, 12 percent of Dakota County public and charter school students spoke a language other than English in their home – a total of 97 different languages. Spanish was the most commonly-spoken language after English.

Economic factors

- In 2009, an estimated six percent of Dakota County residents had incomes below the poverty level – an increase from 3.5 percent in 2000. Dakota County was below the state overall (11 percent) in 2009.
- An estimated seven percent of Dakota County families with children ages 5-17 years had household incomes below the poverty level in 2009. Poverty in families with children ages 5-17 increased from three percent in 2000.
- In 2009, the median annual household income in Dakota County was an estimated \$69,545 – higher than the state (\$55,616) and a decline from 2007.
- In 2010, unemployment in Dakota County was 6.7 percent, on average. This was a slight decrease from a 7.3 percent average in 2009. Dakota County was below the state average (7.3 percent) for 2010.

Housing

- In 2009, an estimated 78 percent of housing in Dakota County was owner-occupied. However, 46 percent of renter households and 28 percent of homeowners spent 30 percent or more of their monthly household income on housing.
- Foreclosures increased in the county from 336 in 2004 to 2,147 in 2010. The number of foreclosures in the last five years represents less than six percent of all resident parcels in the county.

Education

- In 2009, an estimated 95 percent of Dakota County residents 25 and older had a high school education or higher; 36 percent had a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- Dakota County ranks third among metro area counties for third-grade reading scores and high school math scores.

Quality of life/community engagement

- In 2011, 93 percent of Dakota County residents said the quality of life was excellent or good, a slight increase from 2008.

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About this Community Health Profile

For more information about the Dakota County Community Health Assessment and Action Planning (CHAAP) process, contact: Melanie Countryman, Epidemiologist (melanie.countryman@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-554-6131).

For more information:

- Dakota County Residential Survey (2010) www.DakotaCounty.us (search "Resident Surveys")
- U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov
- Minnesota State Demographic Center www.demography.state.mn.us/
- Minnesota Department of Education www.education.state.mn.us
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development www.deed.state.mn.us/
- Unnatural Causes – Is Inequality Making Us Sick? www.unnaturalcauses.org/



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