



Community Health Profile

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

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 2 diabetes.

KEY FACTS

The Dakota County population continues to grow but at a slower rate than in the 1990s.

The population is getting older and is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse.

Poverty is stable or decreasing.

Unemployment is stable but increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Educational attainment of adults is high. Although proficiency in math and reading has dropped since the COVID-19 pandemic, Dakota County still has higher scores on standardized tests than most of the metro region.

Thirteen percent of adults do not get the social and emotional support they need and nine percent always or usually feel isolated from others.

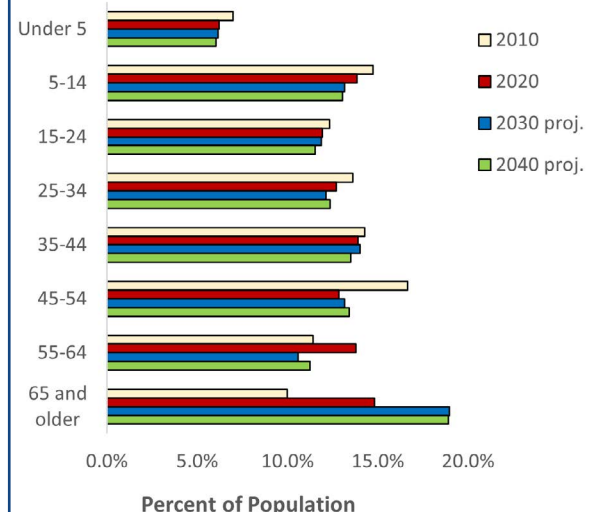
General Population

- Dakota County's population grew from 398,552 in 2010 to 439,882 in 2020 – a 10 percent increase. The state population grew by 7.5 percent during the same period.
- Although the county reached its population growth peak during the 1980s and 1990s, there was still a 10 percent increase during the decade from 2010-2020.
- Dakota County has the third largest population in the state and represents an estimated 7.7 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. In 2020, it was 38.6.
- The Minnesota State Demographic Center projects that there will be 91,133 Dakota County residents 65 and older in 2035 – an increase of 40 percent from 2020.

Dakota County Age Distribution
2010, 2020, 2030, 2040



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, Long-Term Population Projections for Minnesota, February 2023



Dakota County
Public Health Department
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Racial/ethnic distribution

- In 2022, people of color made up an estimated 25 percent of the Dakota County population. In the 2022-23 school year, 42 percent of Dakota County public and charter school students were students of color. Blacks, Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders are the largest populations of color in the county.
- The Minnesota State Demographic Center projects that the populations of color in Dakota County will increase by 31 percent from 2020 to 2030. The white population is projected to decrease by four percent in the same period.
- In the 2022-23 school year, 20 percent of Dakota County public and charter school students spoke a language other than English in their home – a total of 160 different languages. Spanish was the most commonly-spoken language after English.

Economic factors

- In 2022, an estimated six percent of Dakota County residents had incomes below the poverty level – slightly below 2010 (seven percent). Dakota County was below the state overall (nine percent) in 2022.
- An estimated seven percent of Dakota County children under 18 lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty level in 2022, below the state (11 percent). Poverty in children under 18 decreased from nine percent in 2018.
- In 2022, the median household income in Dakota County was an estimated \$101,306 – higher than the state (\$84,313) and an increase from 2018 (\$83,288).
- In 2022, unemployment in Dakota County was 2.4 percent, on average. This was similar to the 2.6 percent average in 2018. Dakota County was similar to the state average (2.7 percent) for 2022. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate rose to 6.3 percent in Dakota County and Minnesota, the highest it had been since 2013.

Housing

- In 2022, an estimated 76 percent of housing in Dakota County was owner-occupied. Forty-nine percent of renter households and 17 percent of homeowners spent 30 percent or more of their monthly household income on housing.
- Foreclosures decreased in the county from a peak of 2,147 in 2010 to 102 in 2022. The number of foreclosures represents less than one percent of all resident parcels in the county.

Transportation

- In 2022, 72 percent of Dakota County workers 16 and older commuted to work alone, similar to Minnesota. These percentages decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to more people working from home.
- 4.5 percent of Dakota County workers 16 and older lived in a household with no vehicle available (2022), below the state (seven percent).

Education

- In 2022, an estimated 96 percent of Dakota County residents 25 and older had a high school education or higher; 44 percent had a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- In 2022-23 school year, 48 percent of third grade students in Dakota County public schools did not meet the reading standard. In 2022-23, Dakota County ranked third among metro area counties for third-grade reading scores and eighth-grade math scores.

Community

- In 2023, 13 percent of people eligible to vote were not registered and 12 percent of people of voting age did not vote in the 2020 general election.
- In 2023, 13 percent of Dakota County adults said they rarely or never get the social and emotional support they need. Nine percent said they always or usually feel isolated from others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that this percentage increased due to mitigation strategies implemented in the early part of the pandemic.

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For more information:

- U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov
- Minnesota State Demographic Center www.mn.gov/admin/demography/
- MN Department of Education www.education.state.mn.us
- MN Department of Employment and Economic Development www.mn.gov/deed/
- Unnatural Causes – Is Inequality Making Us Sick? www.unnaturalcauses.org/

The Dakota County Public Health Department is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, email public.health@co.dakota.mn.us or call 651.554.6100.

