



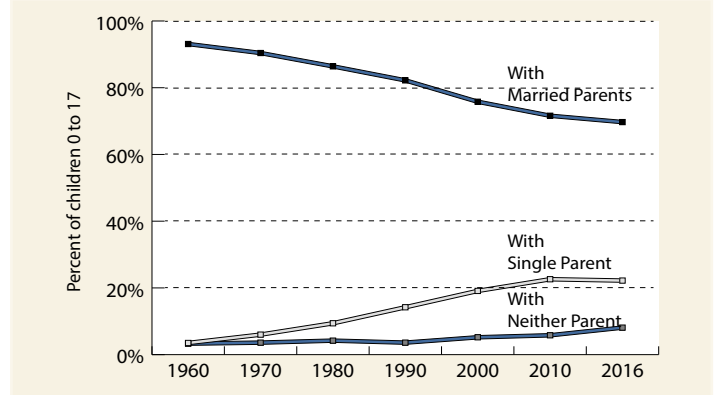
THE CHANGING LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN NORTH DAKOTA

The American family is changing, and has been for several decades. While the majority children continue to live with married parents, this proportion is at the lowest point in more than half a century. Nationally, 61 percent of children lived with married parents in 2016¹, compared with 66 percent in 2000² and 87 percent in 1960³. Two-parent families are on the decline while the percentage of children living with a single parent or with neither parent is increasing. However, it is important to note that this decades-long pattern of change is beginning to slow down. Since 2010, there has been little change in the living arrangements of children.

The living arrangements for children in North Dakota have undergone similar changes since 1960 as those seen at the national level; however, children in North Dakota, on average, are more likely to live with both parents than children nationally, and less likely to live with a single parent or with neither parents (Table 1)^{1,2}.

Similar to the nation, most children in North Dakota live with married parents. In North Dakota, slightly more than two-thirds of children (68%) lived with married parents in 2016, which is currently the third largest percentage among states¹. However, this living situation has been on the decline for many decades (down from 76% in 2000, 86% in 1980, and 93% in 1960) (Figure 1)^{1,2}. At the same time, the number of children living with a single parent increased from 4 percent in 1960 to 23 percent in 2010. There has been relatively no change in this percentage since 2010, and was at 23 percent in 2016^{1,2}. Another growing trend in North Dakota is that of children living with neither parent, which increased from 3 percent in 1960 to 8 percent in

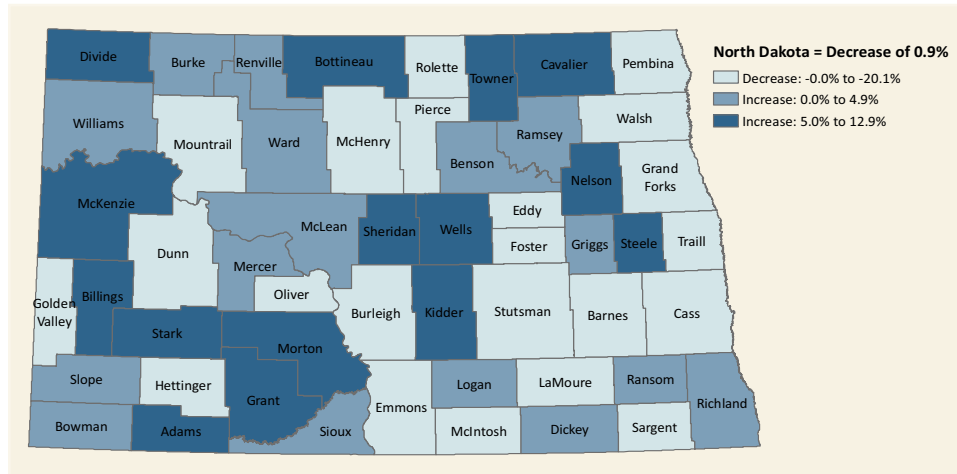
FIGURE 1. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN NORTH DAKOTA: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, & 2016^{1,2}



2016^{1,2}. These children are most likely to live with a grandparent (4% in 2016)¹ (Table 1).

Similar to the trend nationwide, changes in the percentage of children living with married and single parents have begun to moderate (Figure 1). Prior to 2010, North Dakota counties were consistently showing a decrease in the nuclear family (i.e., children living with married parents). Four counties (Benson, Mountrail, Rolette, and Sioux) showed decreases of at least 30 percent from 1980 to 2010^{2,4}. However, since 2010, the majority of counties have reversed this trend. From 2010 to 2016, the percentage of children living with married parents increased in 31 of North Dakota's 53 counties⁴ (Figure 2). At the same time, the percentage of children living with a single parent decreased in the majority of counties (30 of 53)⁴.

FIGURE 2. CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH MARRIED PARENTS IN NORTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY: 2010 TO 2016⁴



As living arrangements for children continue to change in North Dakota, it is important understand and address the specific needs of families. Depending on the family structure, each caregiver may have different child-rearing challenges and needs. A grandparent caregiver is likely to face very different obstacles than a married parent, foster parent, or a single parent. Understanding how these living arrangements are changing for children is critical to providing the necessary supports for strong families and healthy children in North Dakota and in the United States.

SOURCES: ¹U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. ²U.S. Census Bureau, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census of Population. ³Pew Research Center, Social & Demographic Trends, Parenting in America. The American family today. December 15, 2015. Available at <http://pewrsr.ch/1OypOcD>. ⁴U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 to 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

TABLE 1. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 17 IN NORTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY: 2016⁴

Location	Children Ages 0 to 17								
	Total	Living in a Household							Living in Group Quarter Facility
		As a Householder or Spouse	With a Relative					With Non-Relative	
			With Married Parents	With Father Only	With Mother Only	With Grandparent	With Other Relative		
United States	73,612,438	0.0%	60.8%	6.2%	20.9%	7.8%	2.3%	1.7%	0.3%
North Dakota	167,717	0.0%	68.4%	7.4%	15.9%	4.3%	1.5%	2.1%	0.3%
Adams	479	0.0%	83.5%	6.3%	6.9%	2.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Barnes	2,257	0.0%	71.2%	9.4%	15.4%	3.3%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%
Benson	2,317	0.0%	31.3%	15.2%	25.3%	19.4%	7.5%	1.3%	0.0%
Billings	171	0.0%	91.2%	0.0%	7.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bottineau	1,361	1.2%	81.4%	5.3%	7.7%	2.1%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%
Bowman	783	0.0%	81.1%	9.1%	5.5%	2.4%	0.8%	1.1%	0.0%
Burke	549	0.0%	77.8%	6.6%	9.1%	5.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%
Burleigh	20,637	0.0%	71.0%	5.0%	16.7%	3.1%	0.6%	3.4%	0.3%
Cass	36,888	0.0%	67.9%	7.5%	18.9%	2.6%	1.6%	1.3%	0.2%
Cavalier	779	0.0%	83.8%	6.2%	7.2%	1.4%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
Dickey	1,150	0.7%	87.2%	3.0%	6.7%	1.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%
Divide	469	0.6%	78.7%	2.3%	9.0%	2.1%	6.4%	0.0%	0.9%
Dunn	990	0.0%	64.4%	5.5%	13.5%	9.9%	1.3%	5.4%	0.0%
Eddy	542	0.0%	61.3%	6.5%	26.6%	1.5%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
Emmons	752	0.0%	79.1%	5.6%	12.8%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Foster	716	0.0%	69.0%	12.7%	14.5%	2.0%	1.4%	0.4%	0.0%
Golden Valley	495	0.0%	67.5%	6.1%	17.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.3%
Grand Forks	14,199	0.0%	62.9%	11.1%	17.9%	3.8%	2.5%	1.4%	0.4%
Grant	430	0.0%	87.2%	2.6%	4.0%	3.3%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Griggs	430	0.0%	76.0%	11.9%	7.7%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hettinger	552	0.0%	70.1%	7.1%	17.2%	4.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%
Kidder	424	0.0%	82.1%	10.4%	4.2%	2.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
LaMoure	874	0.0%	80.9%	5.0%	4.1%	2.1%	2.7%	4.8%	0.3%
Logan	375	0.0%	91.2%	1.3%	4.5%	2.4%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
McHenry	1,381	0.0%	73.0%	8.0%	12.4%	4.0%	0.5%	2.1%	0.0%
McIntosh	493	0.0%	64.5%	8.7%	19.3%	3.2%	1.6%	2.6%	0.0%
McKenzie	3,161	0.0%	66.1%	7.9%	14.9%	7.5%	2.7%	0.9%	0.0%
McLean	2,049	0.3%	75.1%	5.3%	10.6%	4.3%	1.0%	3.3%	0.0%
Mercer	1,919	0.0%	79.2%	3.7%	8.9%	4.0%	1.3%	3.0%	0.0%
Morton	6,593	0.0%	74.0%	7.4%	11.1%	2.6%	2.8%	1.2%	0.8%
Mountrail	2,574	0.0%	54.4%	11.8%	17.2%	10.9%	2.8%	2.9%	0.0%
Nelson	545	0.0%	78.0%	9.0%	11.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%
Oliver	387	0.0%	75.5%	8.5%	9.8%	2.3%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%
Pembina	1,489	0.0%	73.8%	5.3%	12.2%	4.1%	0.7%	3.9%	0.0%
Pierce	859	0.0%	65.5%	5.1%	26.5%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ramsey	2,623	0.0%	63.4%	13.8%	15.2%	1.5%	4.1%	1.6%	0.4%
Ransom	1,232	0.0%	76.1%	8.8%	13.9%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Renville	655	0.0%	82.4%	5.6%	8.9%	0.9%	0.5%	1.7%	0.0%
Richland	3,486	0.0%	73.8%	7.9%	14.0%	1.7%	0.5%	2.2%	0.0%
Rolette	4,949	0.0%	30.4%	9.6%	35.9%	16.1%	4.1%	3.5%	0.4%
Sargent	777	0.0%	72.8%	6.2%	15.2%	1.2%	0.0%	4.6%	0.0%
Sheridan	241	0.0%	75.5%	6.2%	7.5%	5.4%	0.0%	5.4%	0.0%
Sioux	1,662	0.0%	24.4%	8.5%	23.7%	31.9%	8.2%	2.9%	0.3%
Slope	141	0.0%	85.8%	2.8%	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Stark	7,300	0.0%	77.9%	3.9%	11.5%	4.5%	0.2%	1.9%	0.1%
Steele	391	0.0%	81.6%	2.8%	5.1%	1.5%	0.0%	9.0%	0.0%
Stutsman	4,275	0.0%	59.2%	13.5%	17.2%	2.9%	1.3%	4.3%	1.5%
Towner	587	0.0%	76.7%	0.7%	17.9%	4.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Traill	1,811	0.2%	74.1%	7.3%	11.9%	2.0%	2.9%	1.5%	0.0%
Walsh	2,483	0.0%	69.4%	10.8%	13.0%	2.4%	0.3%	4.3%	0.0%
Ward	16,094	0.0%	74.5%	5.9%	14.1%	3.3%	0.7%	1.2%	0.4%
Wells	785	0.0%	80.9%	4.8%	5.5%	6.5%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Williams	8,156	0.0%	70.7%	5.9%	10.4%	5.9%	1.3%	5.3%	0.4%