

McKenzie County Communities in North Dakota - Understanding the Community in Which We Live

Community Profiles Generated for the Northwest Area Foundation Horizons Program to Assist in Understanding Poverty
Prepared by the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, an Equal Opportunity Institution - January 2007

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics

Demographics	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City		McKenzie County					
	1990	2000	1990	2000	Projections			
					2005	2010	2015	2020
Total population	2,131	1,770	6,383	5,737	5,391	5,197	5,033	4,924
AGE								
Ages 0 to 19	691	495	2,244	1,917	1,610	1,364	1,208	1,177
% of total population	32.4	28.0	35.2	33.4	29.9	26.2	24.0	23.9
Ages 65 and Older	407	414	877	910	954	1,118	1,300	1,495
% of total population	19.1	23.4	13.7	15.9	17.7	21.5	25.8	30.4
RACE*								
White	2,080	1,692	5,463	4,459				
% of total population	97.6	95.6	85.6	77.7				
Black	2	4	2	4				
% of total population	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1				
American Indian or Alaska Native	49	52	918	1,097				
% of total population	2.3	2.9	14.4	19.1				
Asian, Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	0	2	0	36				
% of total population	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6				
Other	0	2	0	2				
% of total population	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0				
Two or more races	-	18	-	139				
ETHNICITY								
Hispanic Origin of any race	10	22	36	34				
% of total population	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.6				

Note: *Racial reporting procedures changed with Census 2000, allowing persons to report multiple races.

Data Sources: AGE - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P13, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P8, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; North Dakota State Data Center, North Dakota Population Projections: 2005 to 2020-Including County Distributions by Age and Gender, Issued September 2002, <http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/data/ndpopulationprojections.htm>. RACE - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P8; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P6. ETHNICITY - U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P10; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P7.

- Both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County experienced a decline in population between 1990 and 2000.
- Population projections for McKenzie County indicate that population declines are likely to continue over the next two decades.
- Both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County experienced a decline in the proportion of residents younger than 20 years of age between 1990 and 2000 and an increase in the proportion of residents ages 65 and older. Population projections for McKenzie County indicate that these trends will likely continue over the next two decades.
- Nearly all residents in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City were white in 2000. Nearly one-fifth of residents in McKenzie County were American Indian or Alaska Native.

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Table 2. Housing Characteristics

Housing	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City				McKenzie County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total housing units	1,114	100.0	965	100.0	3,178	100.0	2,719	100.0
Occupied housing units	849	76.2	762	79.0	2,301	72.4	2,151	79.1
Owner-occupied housing units	591	53.1	543	56.3	1,710	53.8	1,589	58.4
Renter-occupied housing units	258	23.2	219	22.7	591	18.6	562	20.7
Vacant housing units	266	23.9	203	21.0	877	27.6	568	20.9
For rent	120	10.8	70	7.3	208	6.5	97	3.6
For sale only	37	3.3	48	5.0	57	1.8	63	2.3
Rented or sold, not occupied	19	1.7	3	0.3	54	1.7	12	0.4
For seasonal or recreational use	14	1.3	24	2.5	132	4.2	175	6.4
For migrant workers	0	0.0	0	0.0	75	2.4	0	0.0
Other vacant	76	6.8	58	6.0	351	11.0	221	8.1
Median value for specified owner-occupied housing units (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$44,357		\$30,767		\$58,366		\$51,100	
Median year housing structure built (all housing units)	1949		1956		1970		1971	
Median price asked for specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units (dollars)	NA		NA		NA		\$16,900	

Notes: "\$10,000-" indicates that the median falls below \$10,000. For 1990 data, occupied and vacant housing units may not sum to total housing units due to two different data sets used to collect 1990 data; see Data Sources. The 1990 median values for owner-occupied housing units are inflated to their 2000 values using the consumer price index. NA indicates that data are not available.

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Tables H1, H8, H61A, and H25A, Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) Table H5, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Tables H1, H7, H8, H76, H37, and H88, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

- Both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County experienced a decline in total housing units between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 58 percent of housing units in McKenzie County and 56 percent in the combined communities were owner-occupied.
- The combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County saw a decline in vacant housing units between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, vacant housing comprised 21 percent of all housing in both areas.
- In 2000, the median value of an owner-occupied home in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City was \$30,767, compared to \$51,100 in McKenzie County. These 2000 values were actually lower than their 1990 values after adjusting for inflation.
- In 2000, half of all housing units in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City were built before 1956; half of all housing units in McKenzie County were built before 1971.

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Table 3. Income and Poverty Characteristics

Income and Poverty	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City		McKenzie County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Median household income (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$27,862	\$27,862	\$32,493	\$29,342
Per capita income (2000 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$12,762	\$14,848	\$12,954	\$14,732
Persons for whom poverty is determined	2,078	1,707	6,302	5,637
Living below poverty	259	218	1,157	968
% of all persons	12.5	12.8	18.4	17.2
Ages 0 to 17 below poverty	91	71	494	390
% of all persons below poverty	35.1	32.6	42.7	40.3
Ages 65 and older below poverty	53	47	86	108
% of all persons below poverty	20.5	21.6	7.4	11.2

Note: The 1990 median household income and per capita income values are inflated to their 2000 values using the consumer price index.
Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Tables P80A, P114A, and P117, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Tables P53, P82, and P87, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

- The median household income in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City was \$27,862 in 2000, compared to \$29,342 in McKenzie County. When the 1990 median values are adjusted for inflation, the 2000 median household income represents a decline in purchasing power for McKenzie County, while the combined communities of Alexander Arnegard, and Watford City saw no change in purchasing power.
- Both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County experienced little change in the proportion of persons living below poverty between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 13 percent of residents in the combined communities and 17 percent in McKenzie County were impoverished.
- The number of both impoverished children and impoverished elderly declined in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City between 1990 and 2000. At the same time, the number of impoverished children declined and impoverished elderly increased in McKenzie County. In 2000, children comprised 40 percent of all impoverished residents in McKenzie County and 33 percent in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City. In contrast, elderly comprised 11 percent of all impoverished residents in McKenzie County and 22 percent in the combined communities in 2000.

Table 4. Religious Congregation and Membership Characteristics

Religion	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City		McKenzie County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Number of churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples	NA	NA	33	27
Full-time members	NA	NA	2,399	2,146
Number of attendees	NA	NA	NA	931

Note: NA indicates that data are not available for this geography.
Data Sources: "Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States 2000: An Enumeration by Region, State, and County Based on Data Reported by 49 Religious Bodies." Nashville, TN: Glenmary Research Center, 2002; "Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990: An Enumeration by Region, State, and County Based on Data Reported for 133 Church Groupings." Atlanta, GA: Glenmary Research Center, 1992.

- The number of churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples in McKenzie County declined by six between 1990 and 2000 and the number of full-time members declined as well. These declines may be a reflection of the overall population loss the county experienced during the same time period.

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Table 5. Health Characteristics

Health	McKenzie County			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total resident births	59	54	69	60
Birth rate (births per 1,000 persons)	10.28	9.41	12.03	10.46
Births to teenage mothers	11	8	12	8
Total resident deaths	61	71	54	50
Death rate (deaths per 1,000 persons)	10.63	12.38	9.41	8.72
Deaths due to suicide	NR	NR	0	0
Deaths due to cancer	7	11	14	11
Deaths due to heart disease	21	26	17	14
Foster care placements	11	14	11	6

Note: NR - Data are not reported for geographies where the number of events is five or less.

Data Sources: BIRTHS and DEATHS - Calendar year data. North Dakota Department of Health, Vital Records, <http://www.vitalnd.com/>. FOSTER CARE - Fiscal year data. North Dakota Department of Human Services, Children and Family Services Division, unpublished data.

- McKenzie County reported 60 births in 2005, a rate of 10.46 births per 1,000 persons. This rate was down from 12.03 in 2004, but up from 9.41 in 2003.
- The number of deaths occurring in McKenzie county totaled 50 in 2005, down from 71 in 2003. Major contributors to death are heart disease and cancer.
- In 2005, there were six foster care placements in McKenzie County, down from 14 in 2003.

Table 6. Labor Force Characteristics

Labor Force	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City		McKenzie County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Persons 16 years and older	1,545	1,392	4,484	4,220
In the labor force	961	799	2,867	2,618
Armed Forces	0	0	0	0
Civilian employed	915	757	2,666	2,444
Civilian unemployed	46	42	201	174
Unemployment rate (unemployed as a % of civilian labor force)	4.8	5.3	7.0	6.6
Not in the labor force	584	593	1,617	1,602

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P70, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P43, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

- Both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County experienced a decline in the labor force between 1990 and 2000.
- The unemployment rate grew slightly in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and declined slightly in McKenzie County between 1990 and 2000.

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Table 7. Employment Characteristics

Employment	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City				McKenzie County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total employed (in civilian labor force)	915	100.0	757	100.0	2,666	100.0	2,444	100.0
GENDER								
Females	421	46.0	369	48.7	1,010	37.9	1,100	45.0
Males	494	54.0	388	51.3	1,656	62.1	1,344	55.0
INDUSTRY								
Agriculture, forestry, mining	160	17.5	108	14.3	929	34.8	597	24.4
Manufacturing	42	4.6	13	1.7	97	3.6	54	2.2
Retail Trade	181	19.8	87	11.5	402	15.1	246	10.1
Services	280	30.6	327	43.2	591	22.2	928	38.0
Other	252	27.5	222	29.3	647	24.3	619	25.3

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Tables P70 and P77, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Tables P43 and P49, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

- Total employment declined for both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County between 1990 and 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the proportion of employed that was female increased for both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County. In 2000, females comprised 49 percent of all employed in the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and 45 percent in McKenzie County.
- While employment in agriculture, manufacturing, and retail trade declined in both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County between 1990 and 2000, employment in the service industry increased. In 2000, the service sector was the largest industry in both areas, employing 38 percent of workers in McKenzie County and 43 percent in the combined communities.

Table 8. Educational Attainment Characteristics

Educational Attainment	Alexander-Arnegard-Watford City				McKenzie County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Persons 25 years and older	1,385	100.0	1,217	100.0	3,929	100.0	3,644	100.0
Less than High School								
Less than 9th grade	245	17.7	165	13.6	643	16.4	353	9.7
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	109	7.9	117	9.6	429	10.9	410	11.3
High school graduate (or equivalency)	446	32.2	357	29.3	1,252	31.9	1,185	32.5
Some college, no degree	250	18.1	281	23.1	763	19.4	806	22.1
College degree	335	24.2	297	24.4	842	21.4	890	24.4
Associate degree	92	6.6	95	7.8	283	7.2	317	8.7
Bachelor's degree	199	14.4	168	13.8	495	12.6	458	12.6
Graduate or professional degree	44	3.2	34	2.8	64	1.6	115	3.2

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Table P57, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>; 2000 Census, Summary File 3 (SF3) Table P37, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

- Both the combined communities of Alexander, Arnegard, and Watford City and McKenzie County saw little change in the educational attainment of persons 25 years and older between 1990 and 2000; however, there was a slight increase in the proportion with some college education but no degree and in the proportion with a college degree in both areas.

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Table 9. School District Characteristics

Enrollment, Achievement, and Proficiency	Alexander Public School District and McKenzie County Public School District			
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Total K-12 enrollment	721	697	653	628
GRADE				
Kindergarten to 6th grade	314	323	295	290
7th to 8th grade	132	116	102	105
9th to 12th grade	275	258	256	233
RACE*				
% White	92.3	92.6	90.7	90.8
% Black	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
% American Indian	7.0	6.2	6.9	7.0
% Asian	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2
% Hispanic	0.0	0.7	2.0	1.9
High school graduation rate	99.0	99.0	99.1	95.2
High school dropouts	1	2	0	0
Student to classroom teacher ratio	12.8	12.2	11.7	11.3
% of students who scored at the proficient or advanced achievement level in reading	64.0	67.2	76.7	76.8
% of students who scored at the proficient or advanced achievement level in math	43.6	47.2	58.2	67.1

Notes: *The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction classifies Hispanic origin as a separate race, not as an ethnic origin of any race. NA indicates that data are not available.
Data Sources: Academic year data. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota School District Profiles, <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/Profile/index.shtm>.

- The combined districts of Alexander Public School District and McKenzie County Public School District experienced a steady decline in total K-12 enrollment over the past few years. In 2004-2005, 628 students were enrolled, down from 721 in 2001-2002.
- In 2004-2005, 77 percent of students in the combined districts of Alexander Public School District and McKenzie County Public School District were proficient or advanced in reading, up from 64 percent in 2001-2002. In addition, 67 percent of students were proficient or advanced in math in 2004-2005, up from 44 percent in 2001-2002.