

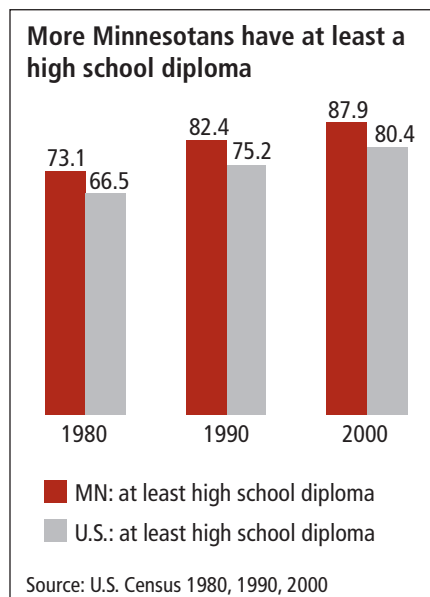


Educational Attainment in Minnesota

Lindsey Brown

- Minnesota ranked second in the nation in high school graduation in 2000.
- 87.9 percent of Minnesotans had a high school diploma or equivalent.
- 27.4 percent attained a bachelor's degree or higher.
- High school graduation rates for young adults have leveled off.
- The Twin Cities metropolitan area had higher educational attainment than outstate Minnesota.

In 2000 Minnesota ranked high for educational attainment among the 50 states. In percentage of individuals age 25 and older who had achieved at least a high school diploma, Minnesota ranked second in the country (behind Alaska) with 87.9 percent. Minnesota ranked 10th with 27.4 percent of individuals over 25 achieving a bachelor's degree or higher; the top state was Massachusetts with 33.2 percent.



The national percentage in 2000 for all adults 25 and over earning at least a high school diploma was 80.4 percent, with 24.4 percent attaining at least a bachelor's degree. Minnesotans also ranked above the national educational attainment levels in 1980 and 1990. Minnesota was slightly behind the nation for residents achieving a graduate or professional degree: 8.3 percent compared to 8.9 percent.

This report presents an overview of educational attainment in Minnesota in 2000, looking at factors of age, sex, race and ethnicity, and geographic location.

Younger Minnesotans attain the highest educational levels.

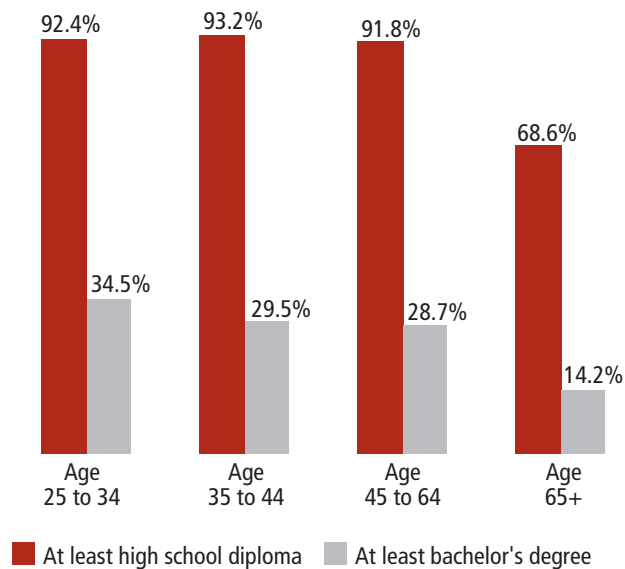
Minnesotans age 25 to 34 had the highest levels of educational attainment: 92.4 percent had received a high school diploma or higher while 68.6 percent of the age 65 and over group had reached this level of attainment. When the same age groups are compared for earning a bachelor's degree or higher the percentages were 34.5 and 14.2, respectively.

Due to the large differences in educational attainment between younger and older age groups, the overall attainment level of Minnesota should continue to increase for some time as younger, more educated age groups replace older, less educated ones, even if attainment levels for younger age cohorts do not change.

High school graduation rates hold steady for young adults, grow for older groups.

High school graduation rates have not changed substantially since 1980. For the population age 25 to 34, this number dropped just slightly from 92.9 percent in

Older Minnesotans have lower levels of education



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

1990 to 92.4 percent in 2000. In 1980 the percentage was 93.4. This indicates that the percentage of young adults attaining at least a high school diploma has leveled off.

Educational attainment levels of Minnesotans age 45 to 64, and 65 and over have grown significantly. Since 1980, the percentage of individuals age 45 to 64 who have achieved at least a high school diploma has risen from 68.4 percent in 1980, to 82.1 percent in 1990 and to 91.8 percent in 2000. In 1990, 53.3 percent of Minnesotans 65 and over had attained at least a high school diploma; in 2000 this number had risen to 68.6 percent. Members of this age group with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 9.2 percent to 14.2 percent over the same time period. These numbers show that Minnesotans moving into the

older cohorts are increasingly more educated.

More Minnesota females are high school graduates.

Overall, more females have earned at least a high school diploma, but more males have a graduate or professional degree, according to the 2000 Census. For the population age 25 to 34, 93.6 percent of females had attained at least a high school diploma, compared with 91.3 percent of males. More women held a bachelor's degree or higher - 36.8 percent compared to 32.3 percent in the 25 to 34 age group.

However, more men had a graduate or professional degree - 12.6 percent of men age 45 to 64 and 8.1 percent of men in the 65 and over age group. Only 8.8 percent of women 45 to 64 and 3.3 percent 65 and over held this type of degree.

Educational attainment for non-white and Hispanic Minnesotans is lower.

When comparing levels of educational attainment among racial and ethnic categories, a gap emerges between the white population and other groups. In 2000, 87.9 percent of Minnesotans over age 25 had at least a high school diploma. Whites are the only racial group above the state average (89.2 percent). Among minority populations, African Americans had the highest percentage with at least a high school diploma (79 percent), followed by 78.3 percent for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, 74.5 percent for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, 71.1 percent for Asians, and 58.1 percent for people of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (of any race).

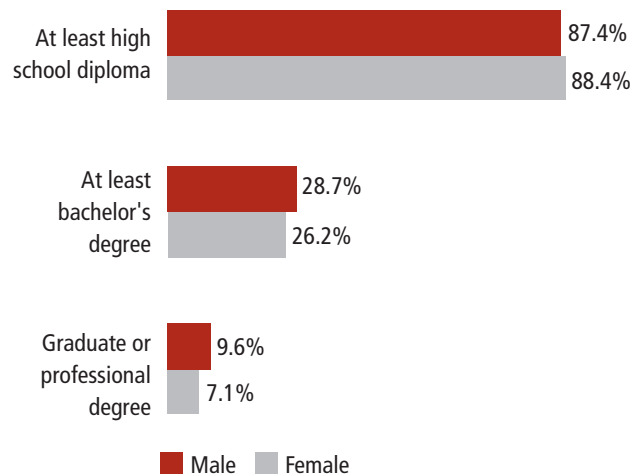
Of all Minnesota residents, 27.4 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2000.

When broken down by race and ethnicity, whites (27.9 percent) and Asians (36.3 percent) were the only two groups above the Minnesota average; 21.7 percent of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, 18.7 percent of black or African Americans, 14.1 percent of Hispanic or Latinos, and 8.8 percent of American Indian or Alaskan Natives had attained this level of education.

The Asian race category presents an example of divergence within a racial category. In 2000, 36.3 percent of Asians had attained at least a bachelor's degree; 17.3 percent achieved a graduate or professional degree, far above the state average. However, 28.9 percent of Asians in Minnesota in 2000 were without a high school diploma. This disparity may be attributed to an influx of Cambodian, Laotian and Hmong immigrants moving into the state beginning in

Minnesota males ahead in higher education

Percentage of people 25 and over



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Minnesota educational attainment by age and sex

	At Least High School Diploma		At Least Bachelor's Degree		Graduate or Professional Degree	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
TOTAL						
25 to 34	92.9	92.4	25.8	34.5	4.8	7.1
35 to 44	94.2	93.2	29.3	29.5	9.0	8.4
45 to 64	82.1	91.8	20.4	28.7	7.6	10.7
65+	53.3	68.6	9.2	14.2	3.1	5.3
MALE						
25 to 34	91.9	91.3	25.7	32.3	5.5	6.7
35 to 44	93.9	92.1	31.7	29.1	10.7	9.9
45 to 64	80.1	91.0	24.5	30.9	10.6	12.6
65+	48.9	66.4	10.9	18.4	4.8	8.1
FEMALE						
25 to 34	93.8	93.6	25.8	36.8	4.1	7.5
35 to 44	94.5	94.3	26.7	29.9	7.2	7.8
45 to 64	83.9	92.5	16.4	26.6	4.7	8.8
65+	56.3	70.2	7.9	11.3	2.0	3.3

Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census

Metropolitan counties have highest levels of educational attainment.

The percentage of individuals attaining at least a high school diploma increased in every county in Minnesota between 1990 and 2000. The same was also true for those with a bachelor's degree or higher. However, Minnesota counties vary greatly in levels of educational attainment.

The Twin Cities metropolitan area tends to have higher educational attainment than nonmetropolitan counties in Minnesota. In Washington and Dakota counties more than 93 percent of residents had achieved at least a high school education in 2000. Carver, Olmsted, Anoka and Scott counties were also

the late 1970s, many with low levels of education. For example, in 1990 only 31.4 percent of Hmongs in Minnesota had a high school diploma or higher; 57 percent had less than a fifth-grade education. In 1990, 49.8 percent of Laotians had a high school diploma or higher, while just 5.0 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, 85.5 percent of Chinese in Minnesota in 1990 had a high school diploma or higher and 61.1 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher; Asian Indians were at 81.9 percent and 60.0 percent, respectively. Comparable data for Asian nationality groups for 2000 is not yet available.

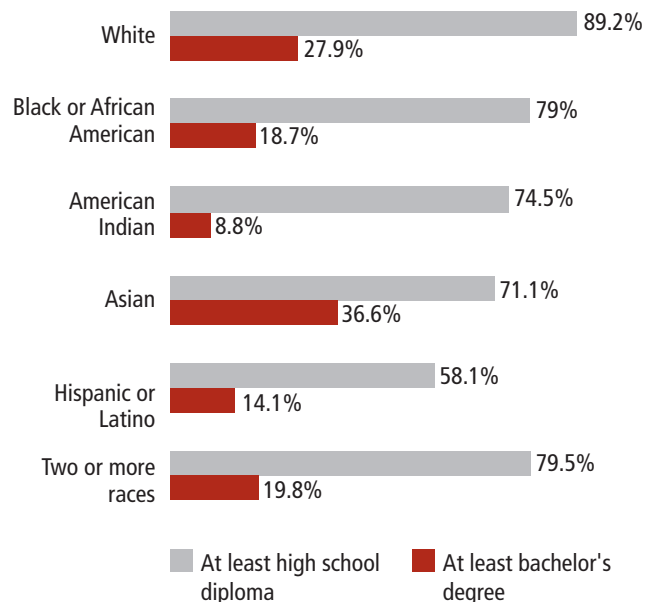
In 2000, 41.9 percent of people of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity did not have a high school diploma; this was up from 28.9 percent in 1990. Again, these lower levels of

educational attainment could be attributed to an influx of less educated Hispanics and Latinos to Minnesota in the 1990s.

Minnesota's non-white educational attainment levels do not differ dramatically from the nation as a whole. In 2000, 58.1 percent of Hispanics or Latinos in Minnesota achieved at least a high school diploma compared to 52.4 percent in the nation. However, while 80.4 percent of Asians in the United States had achieved at least a high school diploma, only 71.1 percent of Asian Minnesotans had this level of educational attainment. In looking at residents attaining a bachelor's degree or higher, 18.7 percent of blacks in Minnesota held degrees compared to 14.3 percent of blacks nationwide.

Whites and Asians in Minnesota have the highest college attainment levels

Percentage of people 25 and over



Source: 2000 U.S. Census. Race alone data.
Note: American Indian includes Alaskan Native
Hispanic or Latinos may be of any race

Race by educational attainment in Minnesota; 1980, 1990, and 2000

		1980	1990	2000
White	Less than high school diploma	26.8%	17.2%	10.8%
	High school diploma or higher	73.2	82.8	89.2
	Bachelor's degree or higher	17.3	21.9	27.9
	Graduate or professional degree	7.3	6.2	8.3
Black or African American	Less than high school diploma	29.4	23.8	21.0
	High school diploma or higher	70.6	76.2	79.0
	Bachelor's degree or higher	16.9	17.5	18.7
	Graduate or professional degree	8.0	5.2	6.1
American Indian and Alaskan Native	Less than high school diploma	45.4	31.8	25.5
	High school diploma or higher	54.6	68.2	74.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	5.0	7.6	8.8
	Graduate or professional degree	2.5	2.3	2.7
Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander^^	Less than high school diploma	26.1	30.3	28.8
	High school diploma or higher	73.9	69.7	71.2
	Bachelor's degree or higher	36.1	33.5	36.1
	Graduate or professional degree	22.7	16.2	17.1
Some other race	Less than high school diploma	*	35.3	47.4
	High school diploma or higher	*	64.7	52.6
	Bachelor's degree or higher	*	12.9	10.8
	Graduate or professional degree	*	5.0	3.9
Two or more races###	Less than high school diploma	*	*	20.5
	High school diploma or higher	*	*	79.5
	Bachelor's degree or higher	*	*	19.8
	Graduate or professional degree	*	*	6.7
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Less than high school diploma	38.9	28.9	41.9
	High school diploma or higher	61.1	71.1	58.1
	Bachelor's degree or higher	13.7	17.2	14.1
	Graduate or professional degree	7.7	6.7	5.6

Sources: 1980, 1990, 2000 U.S. Census

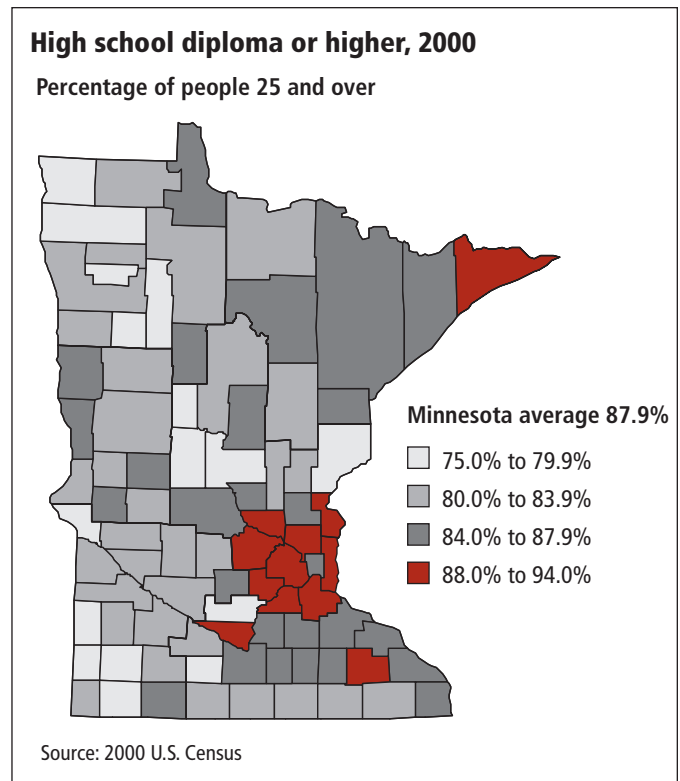
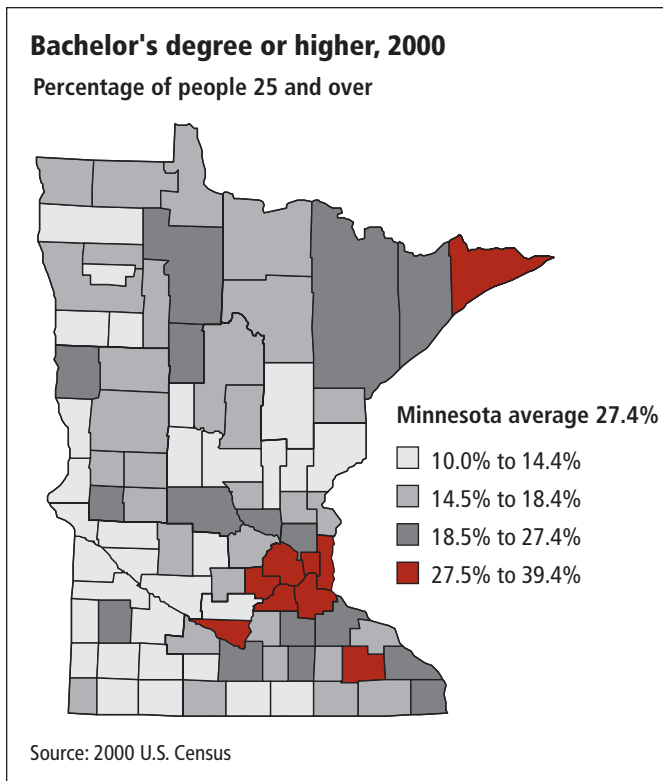
2000 data are for race alone

*=Data not available

^^=Census 2000 separated Asian alone from Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; they are combined here for comparability purposes

###=Due to the addition of a multiple race option in 2000, this chart cannot provide a true comparison of race over time

Census 1980 data assumes four years of college to be a bachelor's degree and five or more years to be a graduate or professional degree



above Minnesota's average of 87.9 percent. On the other end of the spectrum, Mahnom, Nobles and Watonwan counties had the lowest percentages of residents attaining a high school diploma or equivalent: 75.0, 75.8 and 75.9 percent, respectively.

Again, Twin Cities metropolitan area counties top the list for residents with at least a bachelor's degree. In 2000, Hennepin and Dakota counties had 39.1 percent and 34.9 percent with this level of attainment. Olmsted, Carver, Ramsey, Scott and Nicollet also had high levels of college degrees. The counties with the smallest percentage of their population achieving a bachelor's or higher were Todd, Pine and Kanabec with 10.0, 10.3 and 10.5 percent, respectively.

Factors to take into account when looking at educational attainment in Minnesota counties include median age, metropolitan or nonmetropolitan status, and factors such as immigration or racial and ethnic diversity.

Metropolitan areas typically attract people by offering a greater availability of jobs requiring a college degree. It is a trend for young, educated people to migrate from nonmetropolitan areas to metropolitan areas.

With the exception of Cook County, all of the top 10 counties for educational attainment – both high school diploma or higher and bachelor's degree or higher – had lower median ages than the state average median of 35.4 years. Conversely, the lowest ranking 10 counties in both classifications had median ages above the state average, indicating their population is older.

High levels of immigration in a county can also have an effect on educational attainment levels. Both Nobles and Watonwan counties in southwestern Minnesota experienced dramatic growth in the number of Hispanic or Latino immigrants in the 1990s, which may have led to lower levels of high school attainment. Counties such as Mahnom, Red Lake and Clearwater - with substantial populations of American Indians - had lower than average attainment of both high school diplomas and college degrees.

Notes

Educational attainment is defined as the highest grade or degree completed by an individual. Statistics in this report refer to the population 25 and over since these individuals are generally assumed to have completed their education. A high school diploma includes equivalency

levels, such as the General Education Diploma (G.E.D.). The graduate or professional degree category includes master's degrees, doctorate degrees and professional degrees including, but not limited to, medicine, law and theology. The 1980 Census only asked respondents for the number of years of high school and college completed, not whether they received a diploma or degree. Thus, 1980 data in this report assumes four years of high school to be a graduate, four years of college to be a bachelor's degree, and five or more years of college to be a graduate or professional degree. Due to the addition of the multiple race option in 2000, educational attainment data by race does not allow a true comparison over time.

Data sets are from the 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census Summary File 3, sample data.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN MINNESOTA COUNTIES

	Percent in 2000		Percent in 1990			Percent in 2000		Percent in 1990	
	High School Diploma or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	High School Diploma or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher		High School Diploma or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	High School Diploma or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Minnesota	87.9	27.4	82.4	21.8	Mahnomen	75.0	12.4	64.7	11.5
Aitkin	80.4	11.3	70.6	9.5	Marshall	79.1	12.0	68.6	10.2
Anoka	91.0	21.3	86.9	15.4	Martin	83.7	16.1	75.2	13.0
Becker	82.9	16.7	73.3	12.6	Meeker	81.5	13.9	73.5	10.1
Beltrami	83.4	23.5	77.8	22.1	Mille Lacs	81.3	12.2	70.6	9.5
Benton	84.9	17.2	77.3	14.6	Morrison	79.7	12.6	67.7	9.0
Big Stone	79.0	11.4	72.2	10.0	Mower	82.3	14.7	75.9	12.8
Blue Earth	87.7	26.6	82.8	22.5	Murray	79.1	11.9	69.7	8.4
Brown	81.7	16.5	71.8	12.3	Nicollet	90.1	29.3	81.7	22.4
Carlton	84.3	14.9	75.4	12.4	Nobles	75.8	13.5	71.2	11.2
Carver	91.4	34.3	84.7	21.5	Norman	80.0	13.1	69.8	9.8
Cass	83.9	16.6	73.7	12.0	Olmsted	91.1	34.7	88.5	29.1
Chippewa	81.6	13.7	73.9	11.0	Otter Tail	81.4	17.2	71.6	13.0
Chisago	88.7	15.3	80.2	11.9	Pennington	81.3	14.9	72.6	13.8
Clay	86.7	24.7	81.1	21.6	Pine	79.0	10.3	69.8	9.7
Clearwater	76.4	14.7	66.0	10.4	Pipestone	77.6	13.9	70.4	10.1
Cook	88.7	28.8	86.1	21.9	Polk	82.0	17.6	73.5	13.1
Cottonwood	80.4	14.2	71.8	12.3	Pope	81.8	14.7	72.1	10.2
Crow Wing	86.3	18.4	75.9	13.5	Ramsey	87.6	34.3	86.5	29.5
Dakota	93.2	34.9	90.8	27.5	Red Lake	78.8	10.7	64.5	9.4
Dodge	86.7	17.1	78.9	11.7	Redwood	80.2	13.4	71.5	11.2
Douglas	85.6	17.3	76.2	12.7	Renville	80.9	12.6	71.9	10.3
Faribault	83.6	13.8	74.7	12.1	Rice	85.2	22.4	78.8	19.2
Fillmore	81.7	15.1	70.2	10.5	Rock	81.5	15.4	69.7	10.8
Freeborn	81.2	12.8	76.2	11.7	Roseau	82.5	14.9	72.0	10.3
Goodhue	86.7	19.1	77.9	14.2	St. Louis	87.2	21.9	80.4	17.3
Grant	83.5	15.7	71.9	11.4	Scott	91.0	29.4	85.2	17.3
Hennepin	90.6	39.1	89.4	32.6	Sherburne	89.9	19.4	84.7	16.8
Houston	85.5	20.5	76.0	14.5	Sibley	79.2	11.6	68.3	8.9
Hubbard	86.1	20.2	76.5	14.8	Stearns	86.2	22.0	78.4	17.5
Isanti	86.6	14.5	78.3	11.6	Steele	86.6	20.1	79.9	16.1
Itasca	85.6	17.6	77.8	12.7	Stevens	84.4	20.6	76.6	16.4
Jackson	84.1	14.2	74.5	9.9	Swift	80.4	14.0	68.3	11.1
Kanabec	80.6	10.5	69.9	9.0	Todd	79.3	10.0	68.4	7.7
Kandiyohi	83.5	18.3	76.9	15.8	Traverse	82.2	10.7	71.3	9.8
Kittson	79.7	14.8	70.9	12.6	Wabasha	85.6	16.9	76.4	12.4
Koochiching	81.9	15.1	73.6	10.7	Wadena	79.5	13.4	70.6	11.6
Lac qui Parle	80.8	13.0	72.1	10.9	Waseca	84.8	16.2	77.7	13.6
Lake	86.4	19.5	80.3	12.2	Washington	94.0	33.9	90.3	26.2
Lake of the Woods	84.6	17.2	75.2	11.0	Watsonwan	75.9	13.7	73.9	10.4
Le Sueur	84.6	16.9	76.4	13.1	Wilkin	84.5	14.0	73.6	11.7
Lincoln	79.8	14.1	67.7	8.4	Winona	84.0	23.2	77.8	19.8
Lyon	82.6	21.4	76.1	16.8	Wright	88.1	17.9	80.1	12.0
McLeod	84.7	15.4	75.6	11.7	Yellow Medicine	81.9	14.4	72.8	10.0

Sources: 1990 and 2000 census data.