

Economic Development by the Numbers

A source for data and statistical information to assist in promoting your community, county and state
 June—July

Feature: Area Educational Attainment

Employers consider many factors during the business planning and site selection process. Selecting a location is an essential aspect of business planning. Workforce educational attainment is taken into consideration as a means of gauging the quality of the local workforce. The employer determines the educational background of their ideal worker and uses this information as a standard during the site selection process. This month we will explore multiple websites for accessing educational attainment data.

Featured Web Site: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

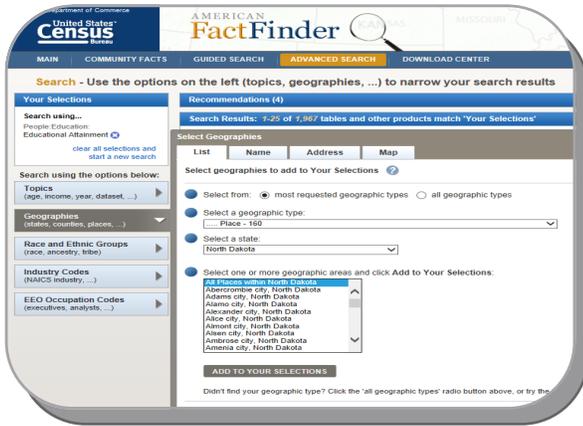
We will begin by exploring the educational attainment data provided by the United States Census Bureau. Educational attainment is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as “the highest level of education that an individual has completed. This is distinct from the level of schooling that an individual is attending.” Standard definitions are used for measuring the level of educational attainment, primarily diplomas and degrees attained (i.e., high school diploma, certificate, associates degree, bachelor’s degree, or higher). Our focus will be on the U.S. Census Bureau’s disaggregation of educational attainment data by city.



To access the U.S Census Bureau educational attainment data, let’s begin by navigating to the American FactFinder home page: <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>. American FactFinder provides four tools for accessing Census data: Community Facts, Guided Search, Advanced Search, and Download Center. The Advanced Search tool allows you to select search criteria piece by piece in order to generate the most refined and accurate search results. These criteria are used to narrow down which files you want to access out of the Census Bureau’s grand repository of documented data. Select **Advanced Search** and press the **SHOW ME ALL** button (see image to the left). The Advanced Search site will appear.



On the Advanced Search site, a side panel will appear with search criteria options. Let’s begin by selecting the **Topics** tab. This will open a pop-up “Select Topics” box. To select topics, click on the plus symbol next to the criteria. Use the plus symbols to drill down into the topic areas in which you are searching for data (**People, Education**). Click on the blue text to add criteria to your selection (**Educational Attainment**). Upon selecting the narrowed-down topic (**Educational Attainment**) the selected criteria will appear on the left side panel of your screen under “Your Selections”. You may choose to add additional topics (**Dataset: 2012 ACS 5-year estimates**). This criteria will also appear on the side panel under the “Your Selections” area.



To further narrow your selection by location, click on the **Geographies** tab. For our purposes choose the following options: Select from - **most requested geographic types**, Select a geographic type - **Place**, Select a state - **North Dakota**, Select one or more...- **All Places within North Dakota** (see image to the left). Once you have made your selections, click on the **ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS** button. This criteria will then appear on the side panel under the “Your Selections” area. As you add search criteria the applicable search results will appear in the center of the page. Scroll through the list of results. You may view each result table by clicking on the name. Each table will provide different demographic information related to the chosen criteria.

Find and view the table ID **S1501**. You should see the results of each city in North Dakota individually separated out on the columns of the table. Under each city the estimated total population and gender demographics will appear (see image to the right). This is followed by educational attainment level estimates. As you can see the entire population (i.e., 23 people) of Abercrombie city, age 18-24, has at least a high school education.

Note: Options are available at the top of the page to *Modify Table, Bookmark, Print, and Download* tables.

High School Graduation Rates: North Dakota’s Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website provides easy access to high school graduation rates by both school district and school. Begin by navigating to the DPI website <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us>. Select the side panel option **Resources** to access **Graduation** from the drop-down list. For access to the most recent **Graduation and Dropout Rates by School** click on the **School Year 2012-2013** hyperlink. An Excel spreadsheet will download for viewing. The file will provide the total number of students prior to dropout calculations in the denominator column. The graduation and dropout rates are provided as percentages of the reported student body. To find the most recent graduation rate information for other states refer to the United States Department of Education State website <http://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/>. Their contacts page provides a state-by-state look-up.

Table View

Actions: [Modify Table](#) | [Bookmark](#) | [Print](#) | [Download](#)

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of

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Subject	Abercrombie city, North Dakota					
	Total		Male		Female	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population 18 to 24 years	23	+/-18	15	+/-19	8	+/-9
Less than high school graduate	0.0%	+/-45.4	0.0%	+/-56.2	0.0%	+/-76.9
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	34.8%	+/-36.2	53.3%	+/-53.3	0.0%	+/-76.9
Some college or associate's degree	43.5%	+/-44.2	46.7%	+/-53.3	37.5%	+/-56.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.7%	+/-37.3	0.0%	+/-56.2	62.5%	+/-56.0
Population 25 years and over	201	+/-58	108	+/-32	93	+/-32
Less than 9th grade	2.0%	+/-3.4	3.7%	+/-6.2	0.0%	+/-17.1
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3.0%	+/-3.0	3.7%	+/-3.9	2.2%	+/-3.8
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	29.4%	+/-9.9	33.3%	+/-14.4	24.7%	+/-13.9
Some college, no degree	36.8%	+/-12.7	35.2%	+/-13.5	38.7%	+/-18.5
Associate's degree	14.4%	+/-12.0	16.7%	+/-12.9	11.8%	+/-12.8
Bachelor's degree	14.4%	+/-8.5	7.4%	+/-7.8	22.6%	+/-14.9
Graduate or professional degree	0.0%	+/-8.3	0.0%	+/-14.9	0.0%	+/-17.1

College Graduation Rates: College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>) provides a robust search tool for locating educational institutions and institutional data. This search tool provides the individual with the ability to search for an institution by: name, location, program, level of award, and institutional type. These search criteria can be used together or separately to identify the location of institutions that best apply. A vast array of useful institutional data can also be accessed, including institutional enrollment, graduation rates, and completion rates by program.

Was this newsletter helpful? Let us know [here](#).

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