

# North Dakota

## LEGENDARY

### Economic Development by the Numbers

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

April / May 2015

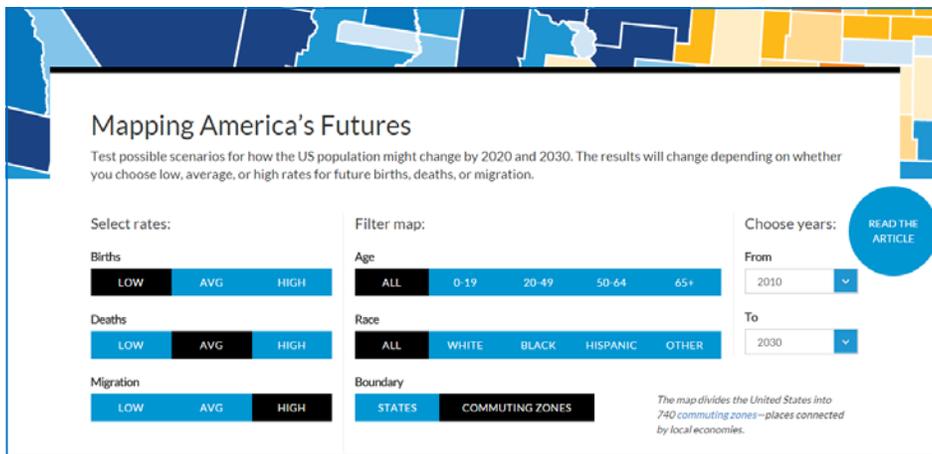
#### Feature: Mapping America's Futures

Individuals associated with a project known as Mapping America's Futures (MAP) have begun to create a new platform for the purpose of exploring local demographic scenarios. Its purpose is to fill a gap where no other transparent, national source for small-area projections exists. The Urban Institute designed the site to assist non-demographers in need of projections to show population change based on their varying assumptions.

**Featured Web Site:** <http://datatools.urban.org/features/mapping-americas-futures/>

Let's review this site by first clicking on the link in the blue box above. It will take you to a page that looks like the graphic you see below. As a first step, I would highly recommend you click on the blue circle and **READ THE ARTICLE**. The concept behind this site will make much more sense if you do.

Next, let's create a possible scenario for how the North Dakota's population *might* change by 2020 and 2030. We simply select either low, average, or high rates for birth, death, and migration (the three drivers of population



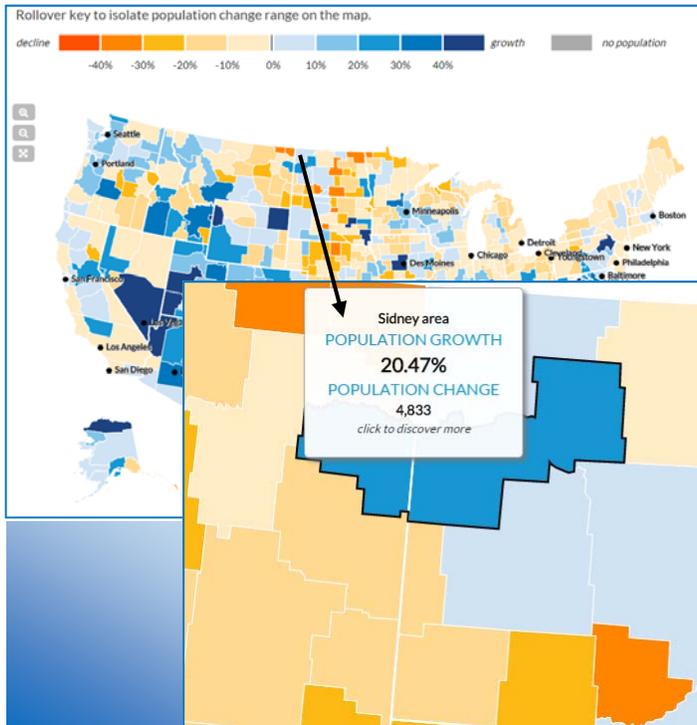
change) and the map will change. So, let's see, that's 27 different combinations from which to choose. Let's try **LOW** for Births, **AVERAGE** for deaths and **HIGH** for Migration.

Then, to the right of that section you have the option to filter the map by either age group, race or boundaries. Options for boundaries

include either state or commuting zones. Commuting zones are intended to be a measure of the local labor market. For North Dakota this most often coincides with county borders, but not always. (See partial list below. Note Adams county is labeled as Lemmon.) The entire list can be found at the bottom of the page under **DATA AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**.

So, for our project, leave the Age filter set to **ALL**, the Race filter as **ALL** and the Boundary option as **COMMUTING ZONES**. On the next page you will see a graphic of the map as it should appear at this

GEOGRAPHIC CROSSWALK BETWEEN COUNTIES AND COMMUTING ZONES	
<b>County</b> Adams County Barnes County Benson County Billings County Bottineau County Bowman County	<b>CZ Label</b> Lemmon Jamestown Devils Lake Dickinson Minot Bowman



point. Notice where it says “rollover key to isolate population change range on the map”. As you move your cursor over this section the map will change to show the areas where the measure of growth or decline matches the color on the scale. This is just for easier viewing.

Now, click your cursor within the dark blue section near the North Dakota/Montana border. Notice the area is labeled **Sidney** rather than the name of a county in North Dakota. This is because of commuting zones mentioned earlier. This particular commuting zone includes both North Dakota and Montana counties. Beneath this map are age and race trends for the Sidney commuting zone plus age and race detail.

You can download the data for the scenario you created by going to the bottom of the web page, under **DATA AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**. Select **MAP DATA FOR CURRENT ASSUMPTION AND BOUNDARY SETTINGS**. And that’s basically it... for now.

This web site is in its early stages of development. Company presenters at a recent webinar talked about their plans for the site. First, they want to refine the population model to include separate domestic and international immigration by origin. They also hope to build scenarios that will include other issues such as:

- Housing, - How will demographic change (Millennials, Boomers, diversity) affect household formation and homeownership?
- Labor force—How will the retirement of Baby Boomers affect local job openings?
- Immigration—What are the implications of varying scenarios for national immigration policy?
- Health Care—How might state decisions about implementation of the ACA affect health care costs and health outcomes?

Data sources for the current scenario builder includes the U.S. Census, US Vital Statistics as well as migration levels and rates from the University of Wisconsin CDE migration files (<http://www.netmigration.wisc.edu/>).

The goal of the Urban Institute (in case you were wondering) is to open minds, shape decisions and offer solutions through economic and social policy research. Information related to their methodology as well as links to research briefs are available at <http://www.urban.org/publications/2000069.html>, (Of course our goal, with this newsletter and all others, is to simply share information about data sources that catch our attention. We do not endorse or promote their use. Each reader must decide whether a site has value to their organization.)

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