Race and ethnicity

Minnesota’s population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, especially among our younger age groups.

Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) make up:

- **Minnesota residents:** 22%  
  1.2 million
- **Twin Cities residents:** 29%  
  921,000
- **Young children (0-4):** 34%  
  115,000

Immigrant group

Immigrants contribute to the growth of the state’s economy and population.

- About 8% of the state’s population is foreign born.
- 75% of foreign-born residents are working.
- 20% of kids in Minnesota are children with an immigrant parent.
- Mexican immigrants are Minnesota’s largest immigrant group.

Cultural community

Minnesota is home to many cultures, and our demographic profiles on 27 of the largest cultural communities provide insight into our quality of life.

- More than 9 in 10 Hmong Minnesotans live in the 7-county Twin Cities metro area.
- Nearly 4 in 10 Mexican Minnesotans live outside of the 7-county Twin Cities metro area.
- More than half of Somali residents are age 17 and younger.

Three of the five most racially and ethnically diverse counties in Minnesota are in greater Minnesota:

- Mahnomen: 63%
- Nobles: 59%
- Beltrami: 46%

Percentage denotes probability two people selected at random would be from different racial and ethnic groups.
MINNESOTA’S POPULATION AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall population</td>
<td>4.9 million</td>
<td>5.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Cities (7-county metro)</td>
<td>2.6 million</td>
<td>3.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Minnesota</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
<td>2.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and youth (age 0-17)</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Cities</td>
<td>589,000</td>
<td>587,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Minnesota</td>
<td>589,000</td>
<td>587,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working-age residents (age 18-64)</td>
<td>3.0 million</td>
<td>3.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Cities</td>
<td>1.7 million</td>
<td>2.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Minnesota</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

MINNESOTA’S QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

**ARTS & CULTURE**
- 57% Adults age 18+ who attended a cultural event in the past year
- 40% Adults age 18+ who created or performed art in the past year
- 20% Students participating in artistic lessons at least once a week

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**
- 58% Students who are connected to a caring adult
- 60% Students participating in enrichment activities 3 times a week

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**
- 61% Voted in 2022 mid-term election (voting-eligible)
- 37% Residents age 16+ who volunteer
- 63% Adult neighbors who help neighbors

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**
- 59% Children screened before age 5
- 7% Low-weight births

**ECONOMY**
- $61,000 Per-capita GDP (2012 chained dollars)
- 2.8 million Number of jobs
- $77,700 Median household income (2021 dollars)
- 9% Poverty rate

**RECENT TREND**
- SAME
- SAME
- SAME
- SAME
- SAME
- SAME
- WORSE
- WORSE
- WORSE
- BETTER
- BETTER
- BETTER

**NATIONAL RANK (1=BEST)**
- 8
- 17
- --
- --
- 3
- 5
- 6
- --
- 15
- 20
- 13
- 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT</th>
<th>RECENT TREND</th>
<th>NATIONAL RANK (1=BEST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48% 3rd-graders who are proficient in reading</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% 8th-graders who are proficient in math</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83% Students who graduate high school on time</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63% Days air quality was rated “good” (Twin Cities)</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Tons of greenhouse gas emissions per person</td>
<td>BETTER</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32% Adults age 18+ who are obese</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Residents under age 65 who are uninsured</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% Adults age 18+ with diabetes</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,371 People experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26% Households who pay 30% or more of income for housing</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26% Homeownership gap (white, of color)</td>
<td>BETTER</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SAFETY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Serious crimes committed per 1,000 residents</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431 Traffic injuries and fatalities per 100,000 residents</td>
<td>BETTER</td>
<td>6**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSPORTATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4% Highway miles rated in poor condition</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18% Household income spent on transportation (Twin Cities)</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Annual hours of delay per auto commuter (Twin Cities)</td>
<td>BETTER</td>
<td>12*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18,400 Average number of jobs reachable within a 30-minute commute by foot or transit (Twin Cities)</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKFORCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78% Proportion of adults working</td>
<td>WORSE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39% Adults age 25+ with a bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>BETTER</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68% Graduation rate at 4-year institutions (within 6 years)</td>
<td>BETTER</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56% Graduation + transfer rate at 2-year institutions (within 3 years)</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 25 LARGEST U.S. METROS
** RANKING FOR FATALITIES ONLY

LEARN MORE ABOUT MINNESOTA’S POPULATION
AND QUALITY OF LIFE TOPICS AT [MNCOMPASS.ORG](http://mncompass.org)
2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

DATA FOR EQUITY LANDING PAGE

Minnesota Compass analytics showed four webpages rise to the top in page views every month: race and ethnicity demographics, data by immigrant group, data by cultural community, and the racial equity resource directory. To help make it easier for users to reach these and similar pages, Minnesota Compass developed a landing page with links to all these webpages, plus curated lists of diversity, equity and inclusion resources, data analysis, and tutorials on how to find and use data to tell a compelling story.

mncompass.org/data-for-equity

DIVERSITY INDEX

Our new county diversity index answers the question “How different am I from my neighbors?” Minnesota Compass pulled Minnesota county data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s diversity index, which measures how probable two residents of an area chosen at random will be of different racial and ethnic identities. This gives us a better picture of diversity throughout the state.

mncompass.org/diversity-index

Read our Insights article about how the index is a more accurate measure of diversity in a location.

DATA ABOUT AND FOR CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

If you visit the Hmong American Partnership (HAP) website, you’ll see “Community Demographics” on its menu. HAP uses this Minnesota Compass-compiled data to share detailed information about Minnesota’s Hmong population as a whole. Compass also created a demographics page for African Economic Development Solutions’ website.

hmong.org/hap-impact-areas/community-demographics/

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