

Households and Families

Population change is a good first indicator of city health. But data on the types of households that are contributing to change can provide far more nuanced clues about whether a city is attractive to all kinds of people - or just some kinds. The household composition of a city can provide leaders critical intelligence as to the kinds of housing and services they need to provide. Such data may also prove invaluable in helping cities frame strategies to lure wider mixes of families through proactive housing and amenities strategies.

Fargo households are smaller than those in peer communities and declining in size at a faster rate. However, household formation (+30 percent in 1990s) is still strong, supporting a strong local housing market
Average household size, 1990-2000

City	1990	2000	Percent change
Madison, WI	2.49	2.19	-12.2%
Fargo	2.44	2.21	-9.5%
Duluth, MN	2.47	2.26	-8.4%
Columbus, OH	2.38	2.30	-3.4%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	2.26	2.33	3.1%
Kansas City, MO	2.40	2.35	-2.1%
Lincoln, NE	2.54	2.36	-7.1%
Fargo Moorhead MSA	2.65	2.38	-10.1%
Chicago, IL	2.67	2.39	-2.8%
Sioux Falls	2.53	2.40	-5.0%
Fort Collins, CO	2.60	2.45	-5.6%
Sioux Falls MSA	2.59	2.50	-3.4%
Nation	2.63	2.59	-1.5%
Indianapolis, IN	2.46	2.67	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P001, P004 and H18, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

One in four Fargo households contains children under age 18 – this rate is comparable to large urban areas but lower than national rates

Share of households by type, 2000

City	Married couple w/ children	Married couple w/o children	Other family w/ children	Other family w/o children	Individual living alone	Non-family
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	14.9%	17.0%	10.4%	6.9%	38.5%	12.3%
Madison, WI	16.4%	21.2%	6.0%	4.3%	35.4%	16.7%
Fargo	20.2%	22.2%	6.9%	4.0%	34.6%	12.0%
Duluth, MN	18.2%	24.5%	9.2%	4.8%	35.4%	9.0%
Columbus, OH	16.5%	19.5%	11.5%	7.3%	34.1%	11.0%
Kansas City, MO	16.2%	21.8%	11.9%	8.4%	34.1%	7.6%
Chicago, IL	16.9%	18.2%	12.0%	12.5%	32.6%	7.9%
Fort Collins, CO	23.0%	23.0%	6.4%	4.3%	26.2%	17.2%
Indianapolis, IN	18.0%	22.6%	11.9%	7.8%	32.0%	7.8%
Lincoln, NE	22.2%	25.0%	7.8%	4.8%	30.3%	9.8%
Sioux Falls, SD	24.0%	25.7%	8.5%	4.3%	29.8%	7.7%
Nation	24.3%	28.2%	9.1%	6.9%	25.8%	5.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P10, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

One in four Fargo residents arrived in the city in the last five years indicating a lower rate of mobility than is evidenced nationwide

Share of population living in a different city five years ago, 2000

City	Population 5 years old or greater	Living in different city in 1995	Percent
Chicago, IL	2,678,981	426,002	15.9%
Indianapolis, IN	724,716	142,493	19.7%
Duluth, MN	82,144	16,816	20.5%
Lincoln, NE	210,329	45,280	21.5%
Sioux Falls, SD	114,988	25,650	22.3%
Kansas City, MO	409,894	104,347	25.5%
Fargo	84,990	22,230	26.2%
Madison, WI	196,989	54,363	27.6%
Columbus, OH	659,006	200,450	30.4%
Minneapolis St. Paul, MN	623,413	203,604	32.7%
Nation	262,375,152	88,601,277	33.8%
Fort Collins, CO	111,340	41,826	37.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – P25, Living Cities Dataset (Brookings Institution)

Fargo Public Schools served 615 ESL students in April 2004, up from 551 in 2000
K-12 English as a Second Language students by Country of Origin

