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The Death Divergence: Urban VS. Rural

Census Data Center

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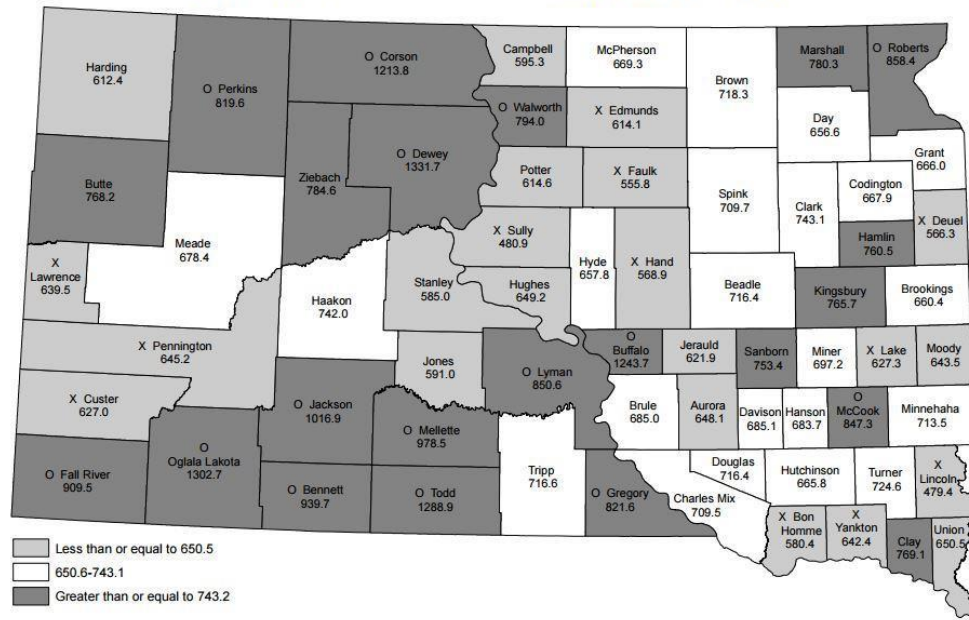
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 The Death Divergence: Urban VS. Rural

The 2016 the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services (NACRHHS) held a discussion on their most recent policy brief about the drop in the life expectancy and increased mortality of rural Americans. Click [here](#) to read the brief. Based on the findings from [a study](#), the brief reports that from 2005-2009, the morality rate in rural counties (defined as non-metro counties in the study) was 13 percent higher than in metro counties; metro and non-metro life expectancies were two years apart (78.8 years and 76.8 years, respectively). Click [here](#) to view the full table and chart for more historical trends in urban and rural divergence.

South Dakota Department of Health has recently published “[2014 South Dakota Vital Statistics Report: A State and County Comparison of Leading Health Indicators](#),” in which county-level mortality variations are reported. The map below is extracted from the report. During the period between 2010 and 2014, counties in darker shade had age-adjusted mortality rates significantly higher than the state rate; the rates in counties shaded in lighter grey were significantly lower than the state rate. Some rural counties actually had significantly lower mortality than the state rate (704.1). On the other hand, McCook County, part of Sioux Falls Metropolitan Area, had the mortality rate at 847.3 over the period of between 2010 and 2014.

Map 7
Death Rate Due to All Causes by County, 2010-2014
 U.S. = 731.9 South Dakota = 704.1



X Denotes that the county's rate is significantly lower than the state rate.
 O Denotes that the county's rate is significantly higher than the state rate.
 Note: "Significantly" refers to statistical significance at the 0.05 level. Although a county's actual rate may be higher or lower than the state rate, the difference may not be statistically significant due to the small number of people in the county. The death rate is age-adjusted per 100,000 population. This eliminates age difference between populations, making them easier to compare. The U.S. age-adjusted death rate is from 2013. See technical notes for more complete explanations.
 Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics.

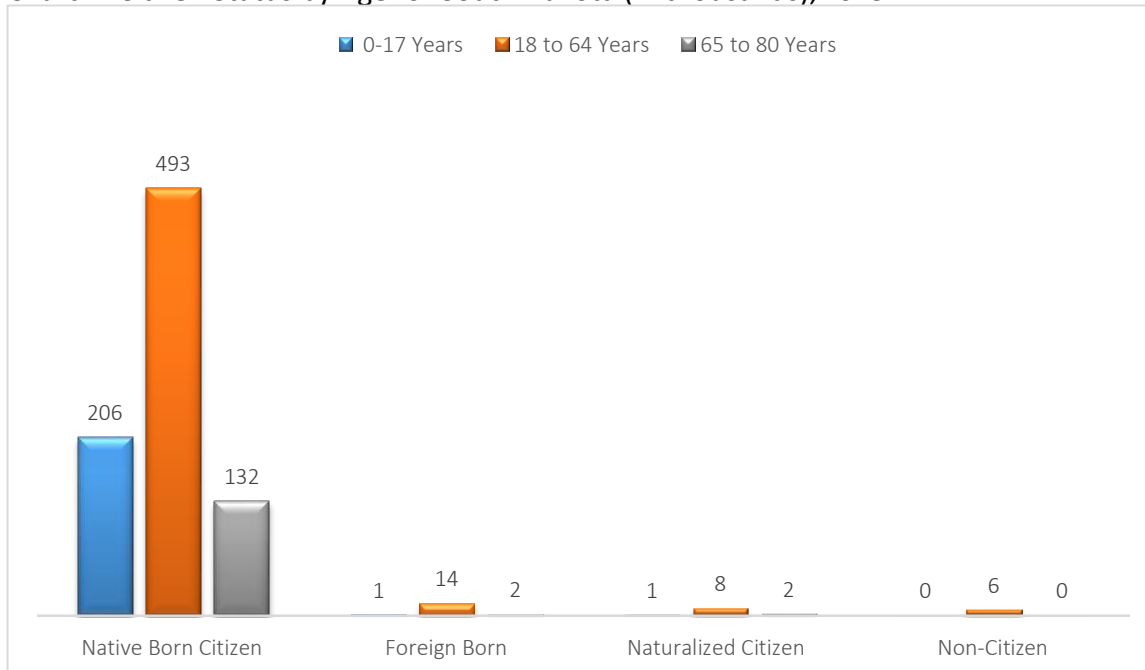
📌 Eligible Voters of South Dakota

In January and February, the Census Bureau released voting population profiles for: [Iowa](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Nevada](#), [South Carolina](#), in preparation for [caucus and subsequent primaries](#).

With the oncoming presidential election, the South Dakota Rural Life and Data center has compiled profiles with the latest estimates of eligible voters in South Dakota. In determining a crude number¹ of those eligible to vote, within South Dakota's population of 858,469, the largest electoral group are citizens aged 18 to 64 with 514,352 potential voters and the majority are native born citizens (Chart 1). This especially makes sense given the median age in South Dakota at 36.9 years.

For those eligible to vote, approximately 391 thousand have some type of higher education, with another 61 thousand citizens having not obtained their high school diploma (Chart 2). Most of the citizens residing in South Dakota who are of the age to vote are white (322 thousand) with 21 thousand citizens identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native (Chart 3). About 73 thousand eligible voters are reported in poverty (Chart 3). According to the U.S. Census, the median household income for the state (2010-2014) was reported as \$53,482 (Chart 4).

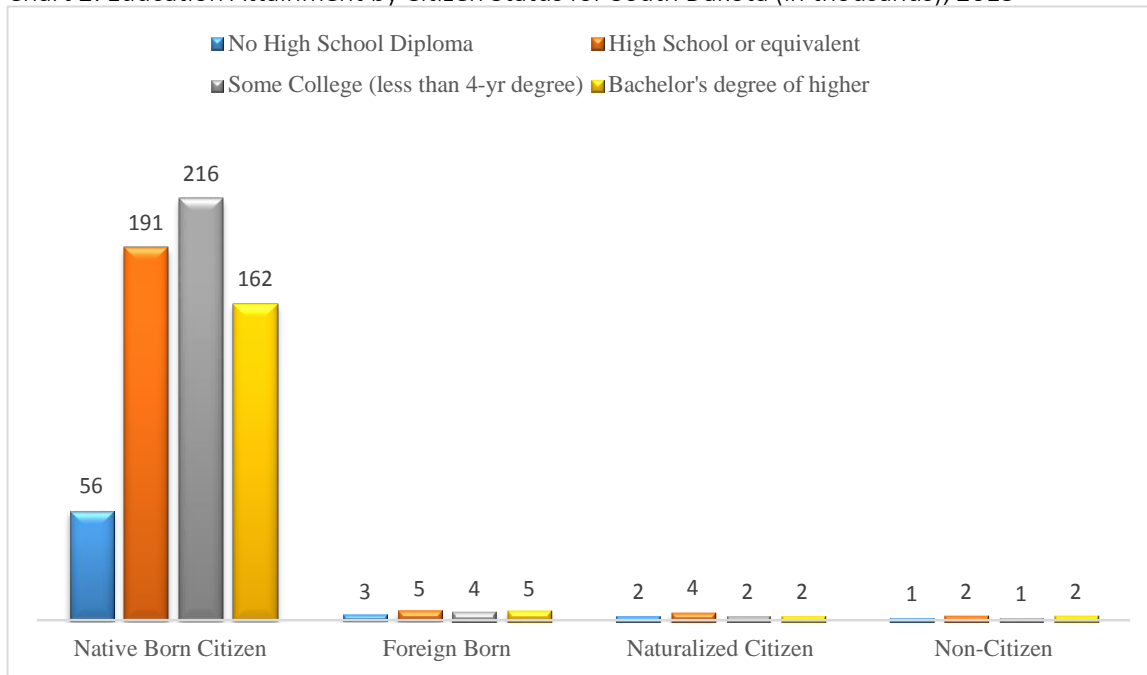
Chart 1: Citizen Status by Age for South Dakota (in thousands); 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015

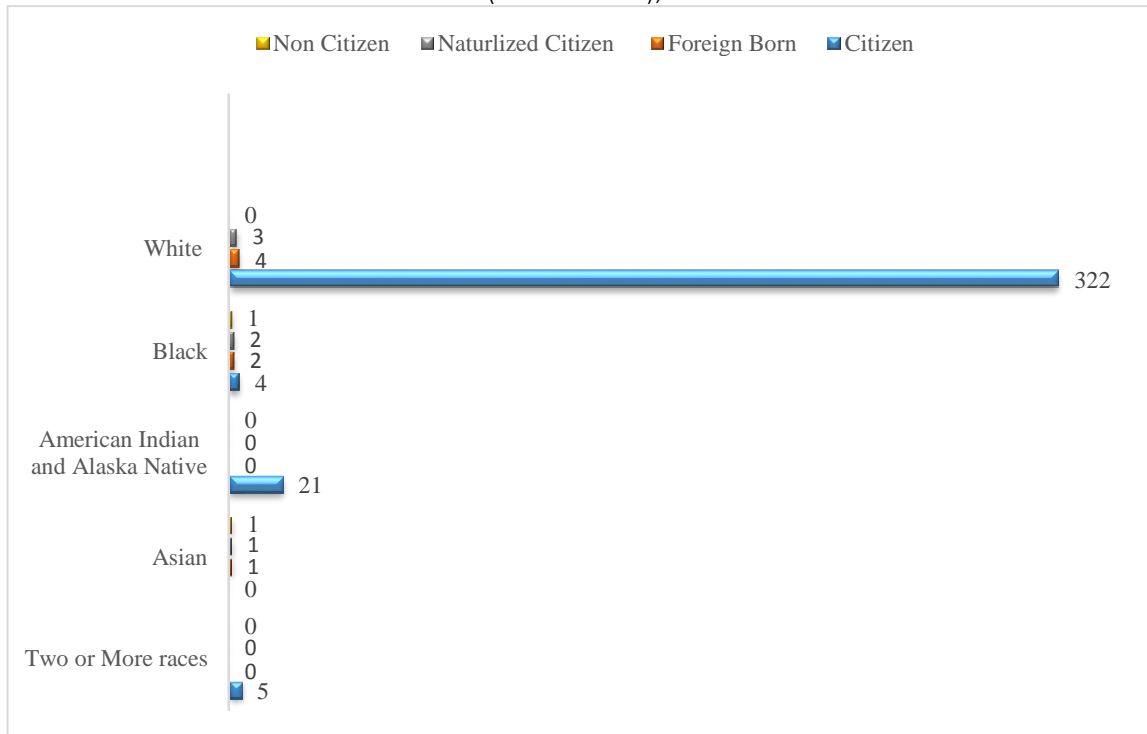
¹ Numbers do not account for people who may not vote due to incarceration or having a felony conviction barring them from voting.

Chart 2: Education Attainment by Citizen Status for South Dakota (in thousands); 2015



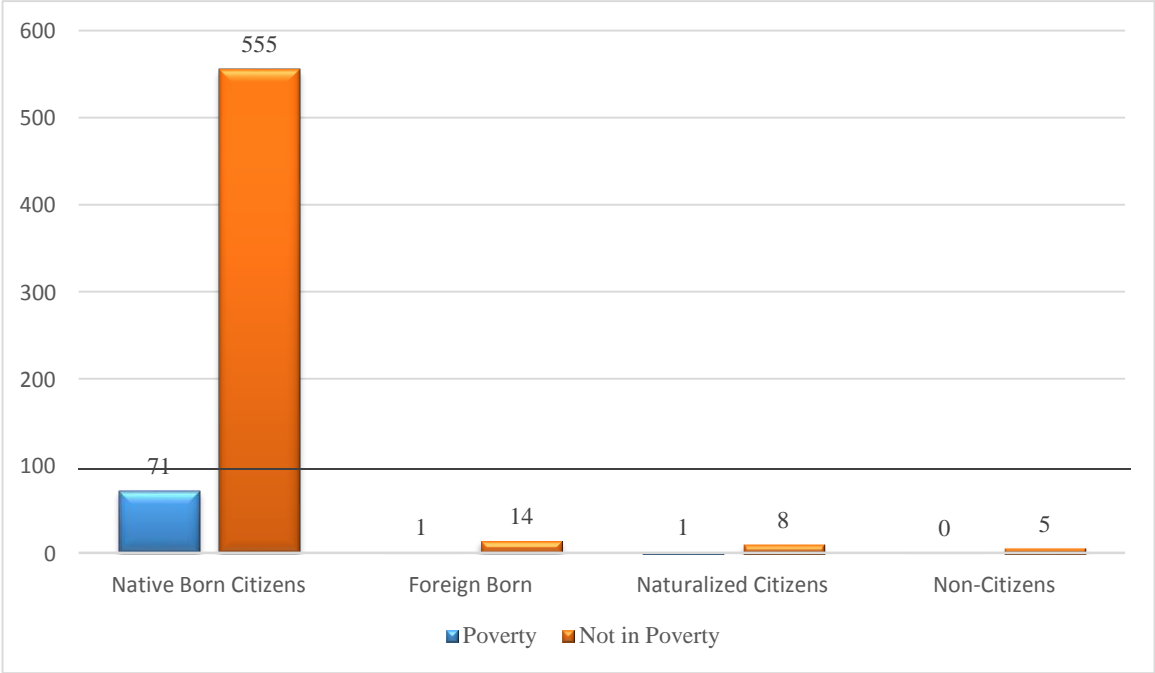
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015

Chart 3: Race of South Dakota Residents (in thousands); 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015

Chart 4: Poverty of South Dakota residents aged 18+ (in thousands);2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015