University of Nebraska - Lincoln DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Extension

10-1989

CC354 Facts about Individuals and Families in Nebraska

Georgia L. Stevens

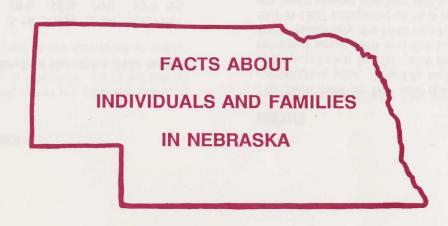
Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist

Stevens, Georgia L., "CC354 Facts about Individuals and Families in Nebraska" (1989). Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. 3355.

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/3355

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

AG7RI S 544.3 Nac33, c.2





POPULATION

1,602,000 persons lived in Nebraska (NE) during 1988. (1)

AGE (2) UNDER 5 5-19 20-34 35-54 55-6970+ 25% 20% 25% 1980 8% 13% 9% 2000 (est.) 7% 20% 29% 24% 11% 9%

NE was among the 10 highest states with the largest percentage of people in the 65 and older group. (1) The median age of the population was estimated to be 31.6 years in 1986, up from 29.7 years in 1980, and 27.4 years in 1970. (3)

POPULATION CHANGE

Migration is the component of change that will have the largest impact on NE. From 1980 to 1987, about 58,000 more people left NE than entered. (3) Net outmigration rates are larger for persons age 20 through 29 than any other group. (2)



RURAL AND URBAN

In 1988, 63% of NE people lived in towns and cities of 2,500 or more compared to less than half of the population in 1950. Almost 48% of the population lived in the three metro areas of Omaha, Lincoln, and South Sioux City. (3) There are 534 incorporated towns in NE and the median size town is 360 persons. (1)

NE ranked fourth nationally in 1987 for land in farms/ranches and in receipts from farm marketings. NE farm employment was 9% in 1987 compared to 26% in 1960. (3)

RACIAL DISTRIBUTION

1985	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER (1)
NE	93.4%	3.3%	1.9%	1.4%
U.S.	77.5%	12.1%	7.3%	3.1%

Minorities are growing at a faster rate than the white population in the state. (1)



EDUCATION

NE ranked fourth in the nation in 1986 with 88% of its students completing high school, compared to just 71% nationally. (6) During 1988, the average expenditure per pupil in NE was \$3,641 and the state ranked 33rd in the nation for this expenditure. (7)

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

1988 (p	er 1,000 populati	on)
	MARRIAGES	DIVORCES (4)
NE	7.7	4.0
U.S.	9.7	4.8

It appears that NE people are less likely to marry, but actually there are fewer young adults in relation to the total number of residents. Divorces are up 2% nationally and up 1% in NE from the previous year. (5)

BIRTHS

The birth rate in NE has declined for the 7th consecutive year. The NE birth rate of 14.9 per 1,000 population in 1987 was the lowest birth rate recorded since 1973 and the second lowest since 1925. Nationally, the birth rate has held steady with 15.7 in 1987 compared to 15.9 in 1980. NE women are having fewer children and having them later in life. The 1987 figure of 2,118 babies born to teens is the lowest figure of the 1980's and a drop of over one-third from the high of 1980. (4)

CHILD CARE NEEDS

There were an estimated 72,500 preschool-age children (5 years and under) in 1987 whose mothers were in the NE labor force and who therefore needed some kind of child care. If mothers in school and job training programs were included, this estimate would be even higher. During the summer of 1988, 68% of working parents with primary responsibility for child care (usually mothers) worked full time. In 1988, 53% of all preschool-age NE children were in home day care compared to 40% nationally. (7)

EMPLOYMENT

NE unemployment rate was 3.6 in 1988. (11)

POVERTY

Families below the poverty level	8%
Persons below poverty level	11%
Children under 18 at poverty	12%
Persons 65 years and older	15%
Female Householder at poverty	25%
(Based on 1980) (8)	

The estimated minimum annual cost of living in 1988 for a woman and 3 children was \$11,694 in NE rural areas and \$12,280 in NE urban areas. (2)

HEALTH

The leading cause of death in NE continues to be heart disease. Cancer is the second leading cause. Together, they accounted for almost 58% of all deaths in 1987. (4) Personal healthcare expenditures in NE were \$1,766 in 1988 per person. (9) Probably about 15% of all NE persons were without health care coverage in 1985, and the percentage may be slightly higher in rural areas. (10)



GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

In 1986, education represented the largest expenditure item for both NE State and local budgets, totaling 18.6% of State government spending, followed by public welfare expenditures at 16.2%. (3)

*DATA REPRESENTS THE LATEST AVAILABLE.

ENRICHING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN NEBRASKA

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension System serves individuals and families in rural and urban settings, providing educational programs throughout the state. This brochure has been prepared to provide a statistical base for identifying the needs within Nebraska. The data is best used in highlighting some of the trends that are shaping peoples' lives, in raising questions about the issues facing Nebraska individuals and families, and in providing a start for the type of questions citizens will need to ask in better shaping their lives: What is happening to individuals and families in Nebraska? What are the reasons the trends are occurring? What are the implications? What responses are needed? Nebraska Cooperative Extension provides educational programming in response to changing societal needs of individuals and families. Examples of current priority program areas include:

- * Strengthening Individuals and Families including effective parenting; child care provider training; reducing abuse; youth career development; and management of resources, credit and debt.
- * Improving Nutrition and Health including dietary choices which reduce disease risk factors; safe food handling; and healthy lifestyles for youth.
- * Enhancing Water Quality including domestic water supplies; reducing nitrates, pesticides and other synthetic organic contaminants in groundwater.
- * Rivitalizing Rural Communities including community self-assessment, planning and action; leadership development; management of existing businesses and support of entrepreneurship.

For more information about Nebraska Cooperative Extension programs in your community, contact:

SOURCES:

- (1) U.S. Bureau of the Census
- (2) Bureau of Business Research, UNL
- (3) NE Department of Economic Development
- (4) NE Department of Health
- (5) National Center for Health Statistics
- (6) NE Department of Education
- (7) Center for Applied Urban Research, UNO
- (8) NE Department of Social Services
- (9) U.S. Health Care Financing Administration
- (10) Inter-University Health Services Research Group
- (11) NE Department of Labor

Special thanks is extended to Dr. Merlin Erickson, Bureau of Business Research, University of Nebraska-Lincolnand Dr. Jerry Deichert, State Data Center, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Compiled by Dr. Georgia L. Stevens, Family Economics Policy Specialist. 10/89
University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Leo E. Lucas, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

