

# American Community Survey Issues for Small Jurisdictions

ACS Data Users Workshop

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# Issues to be Highlighted:

- 1. Recognition of ACS data challenges for small jurisdictions**
- 2. ACS data and dynamic populations in small jurisdictions**
- 3. Opportunities for incorporating innovative solutions to address ACS data challenges for small jurisdictions**

Table 1. Major Types of Geographic Areas for Which 1-Year, 3-Year, and 5-Year Period Estimates Are Available from the American Community Survey

Area Type	Numbers of Areas by Estimate Type		
	1-Year Period	3-Year Period	5-Year Period
States and District of Columbia	51	51	51
Congressional Districts	436	436	436
Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAS)	2,071	2,071	2,071
Metropolitan & Micropolitan Statistical Areas	492	905	936
Urban Areas	363	809	3,607
County & County Equivalents	775	1,812	3,141
Cities, Towns, & Census Designated Places	492	2,062	25,112
Townships & Villages (MCDs) recognized for publication in 28 States	186	984	21,200
School Districts	878	3,257	14,394
American Indian & Alaska Native Areas	14	36	603
Census Tracts	0	0	65,433
Census Block Groups	0	0	208,790

42%

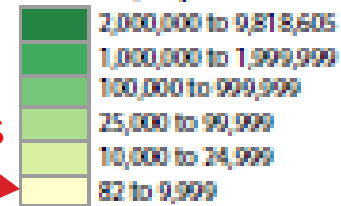
92%

Source: Table 2-5 in Citro & Kalton, 2007. Because of changes in population and geographic boundaries, the actual numbers of areas with estimates published may differ from the numbers shown.

# 2010 Census Results - United States

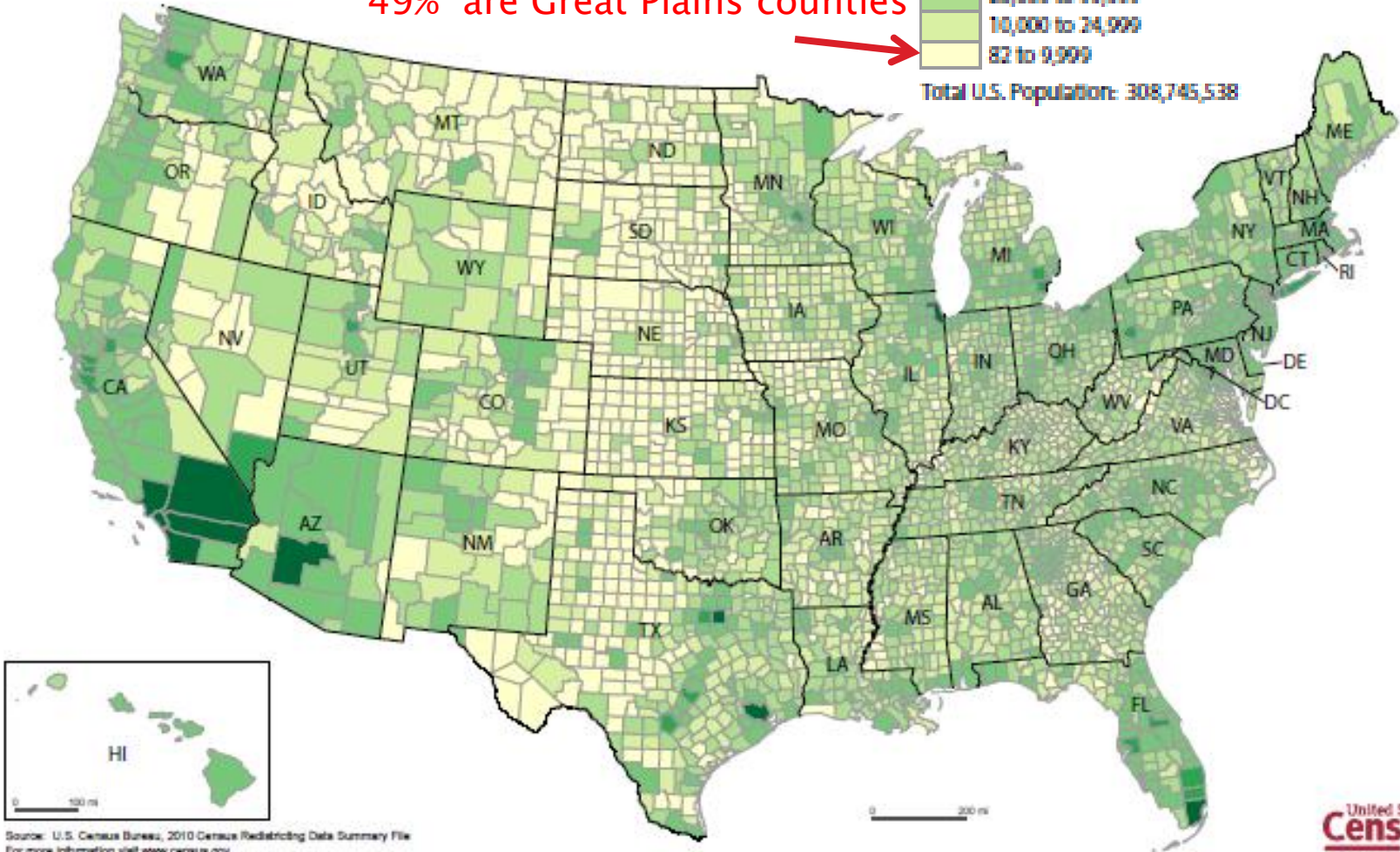
## Total Population

### Number of People by County or County Equivalent



Total U.S. Population: 308,745,538

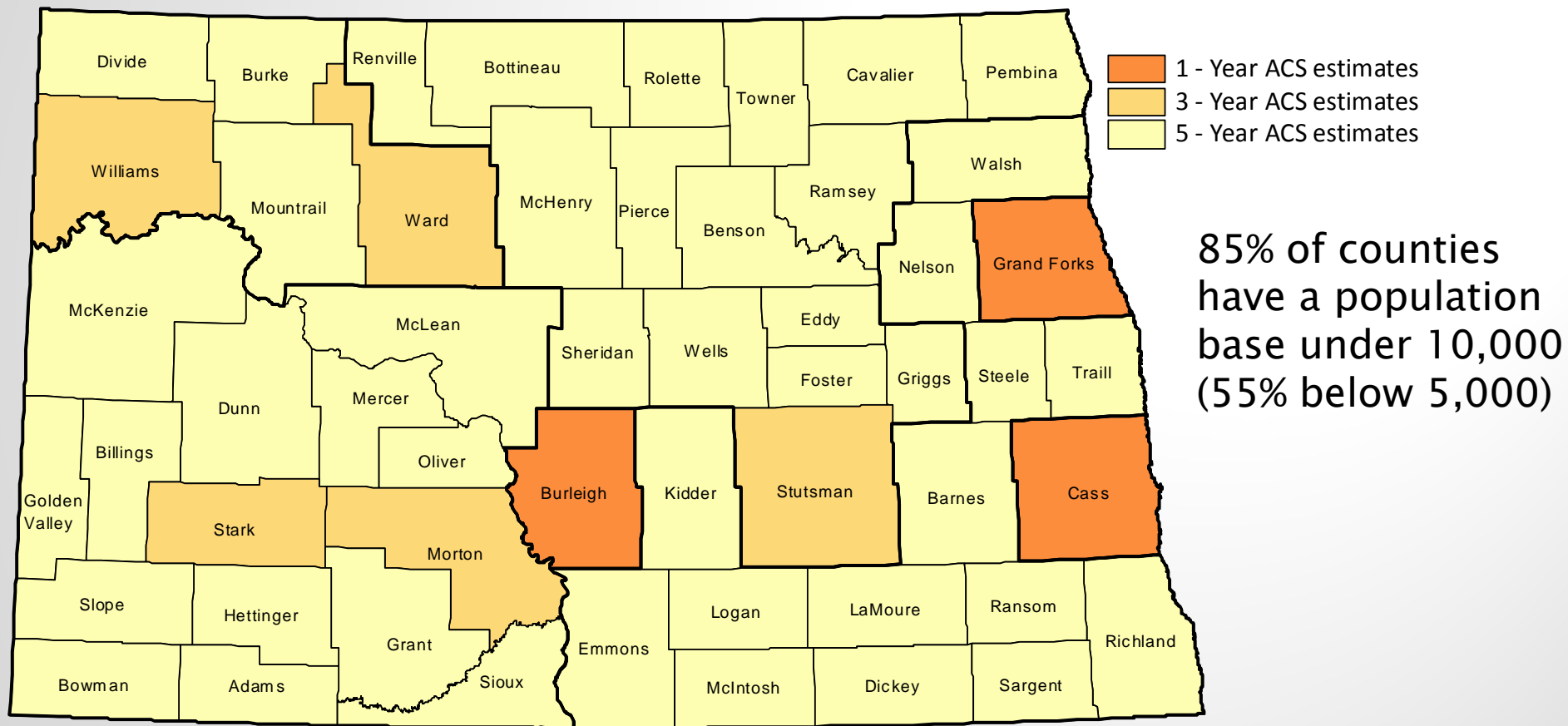
23% of all U.S. counties  
49% are Great Plains counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data Summary File  
For more information visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

United States  
**Census**  
Bureau

# ACS Data Availability by Dataset

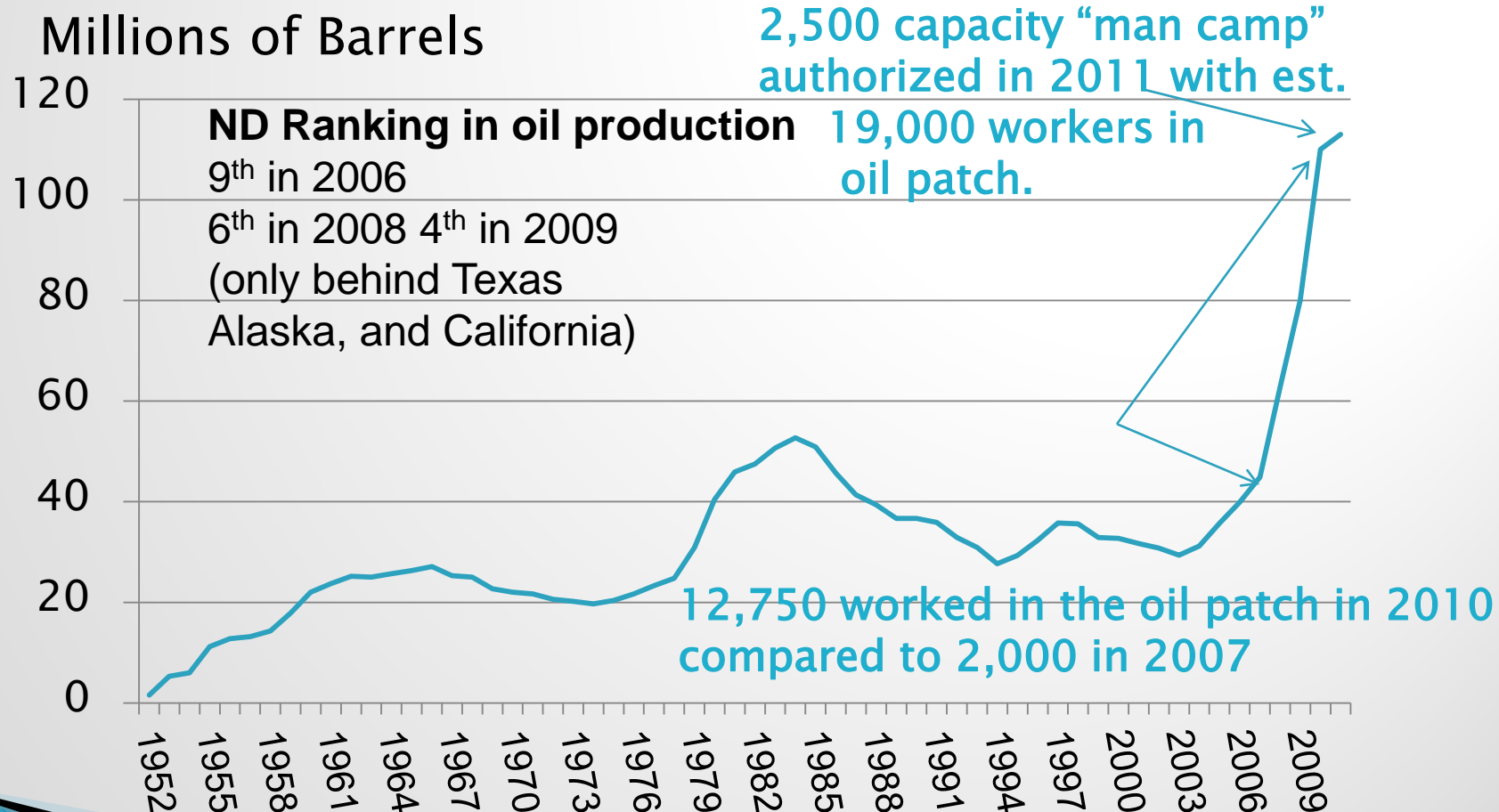


# Issues to be Highlighted:

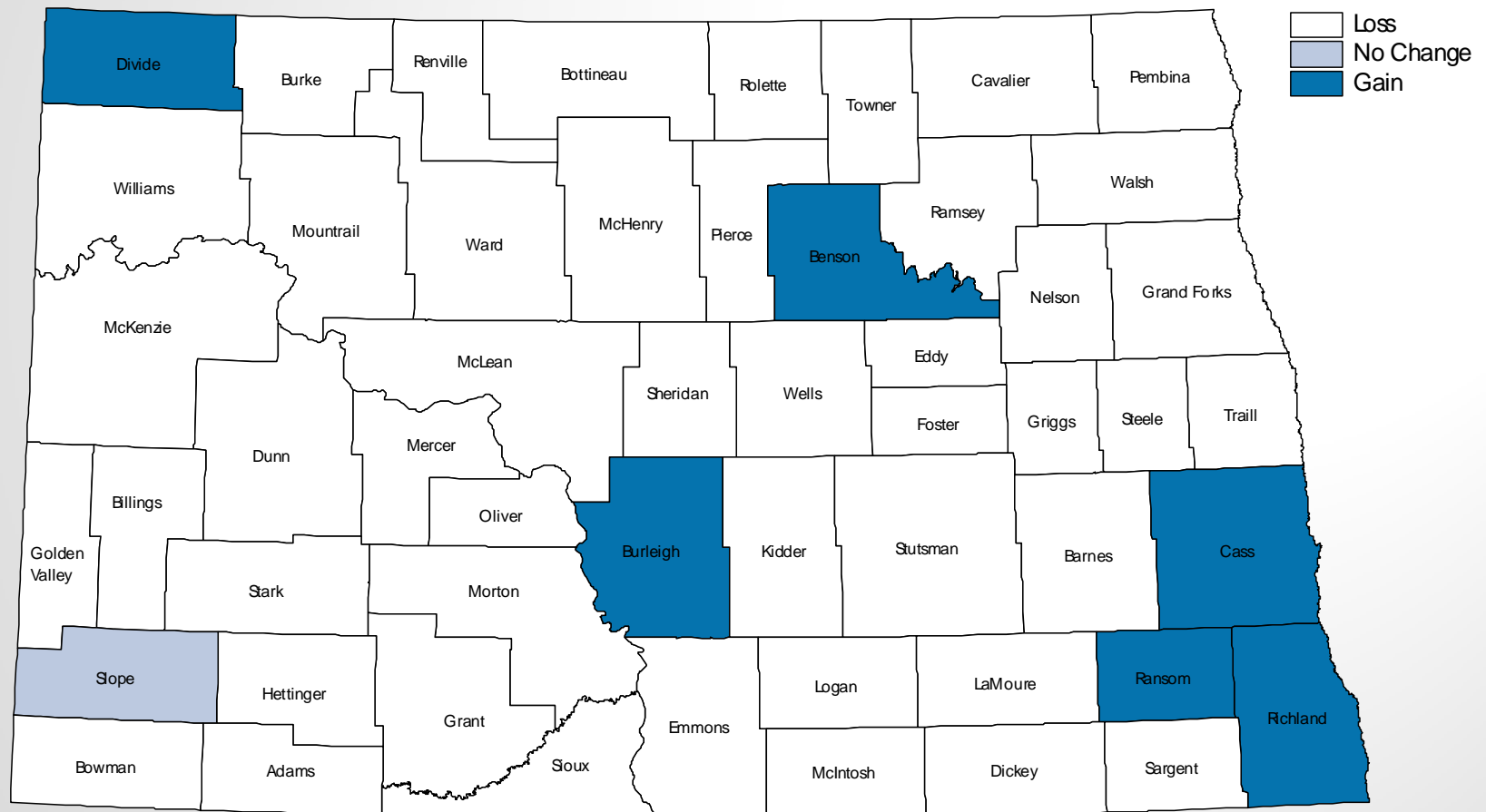
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# Crude Oil Production in North Dakota: 1952 to 2010

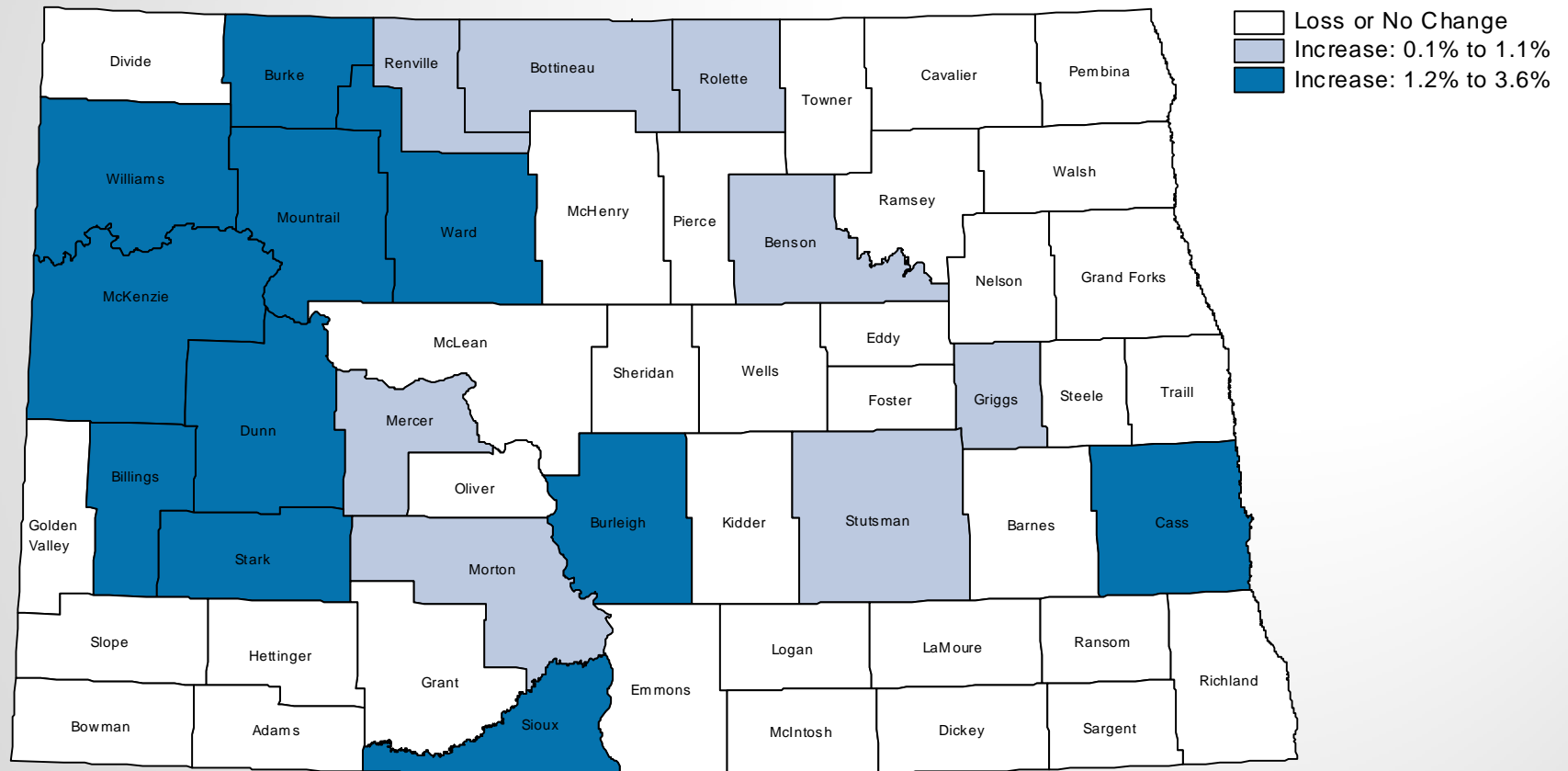


# Population Change: 2002 to 2003





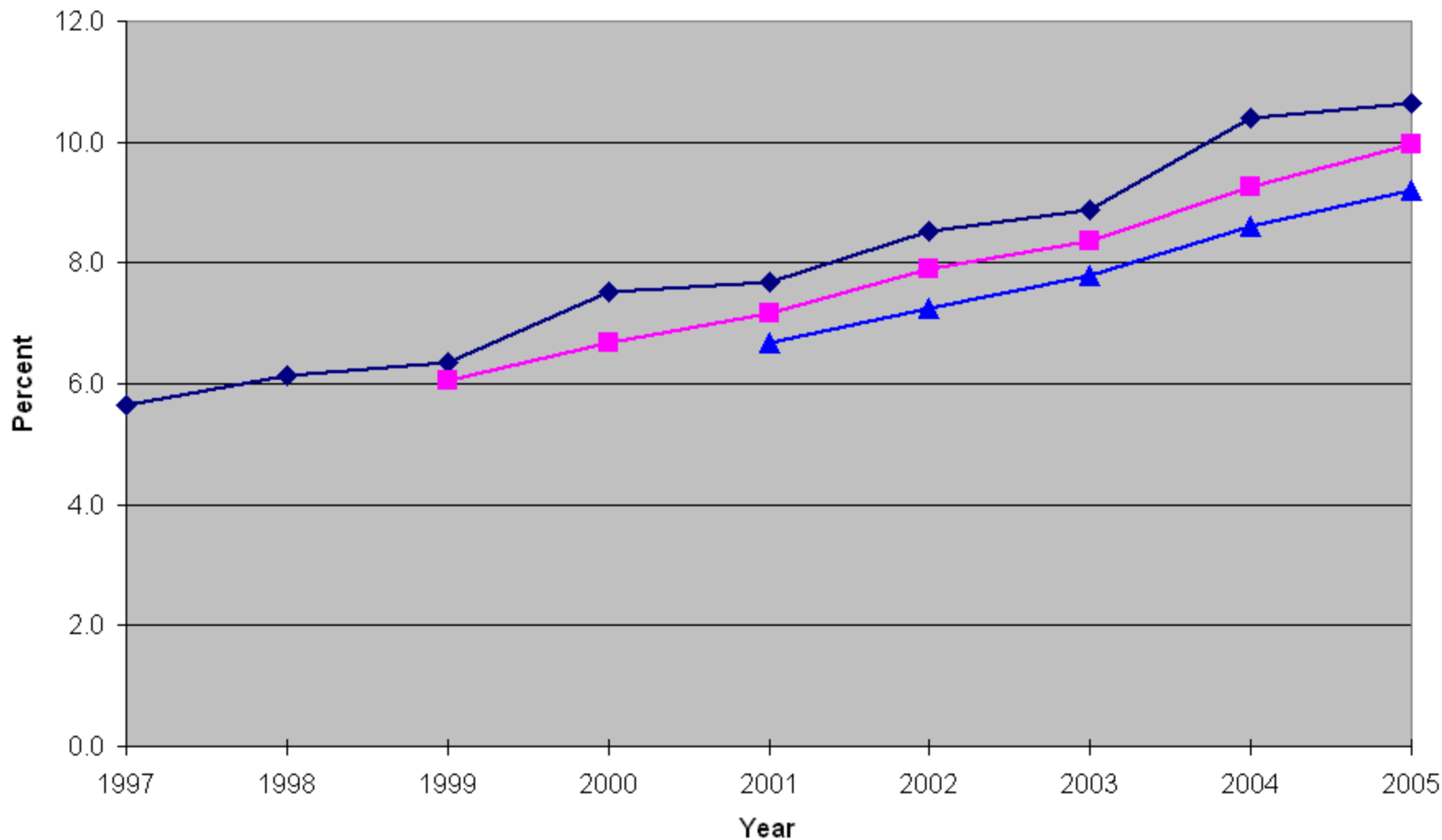
# Population Change: 2008 to 2009



# Nebraska ACS Data

- ▶ Thanks to Jerry Deichert for data
- ▶ Omaha city was an ACS test sites: 1997–2004
  - Can examine 1, 3, 5–year data

## Percentage of Omaha Population with Hispanic/Latino Origin

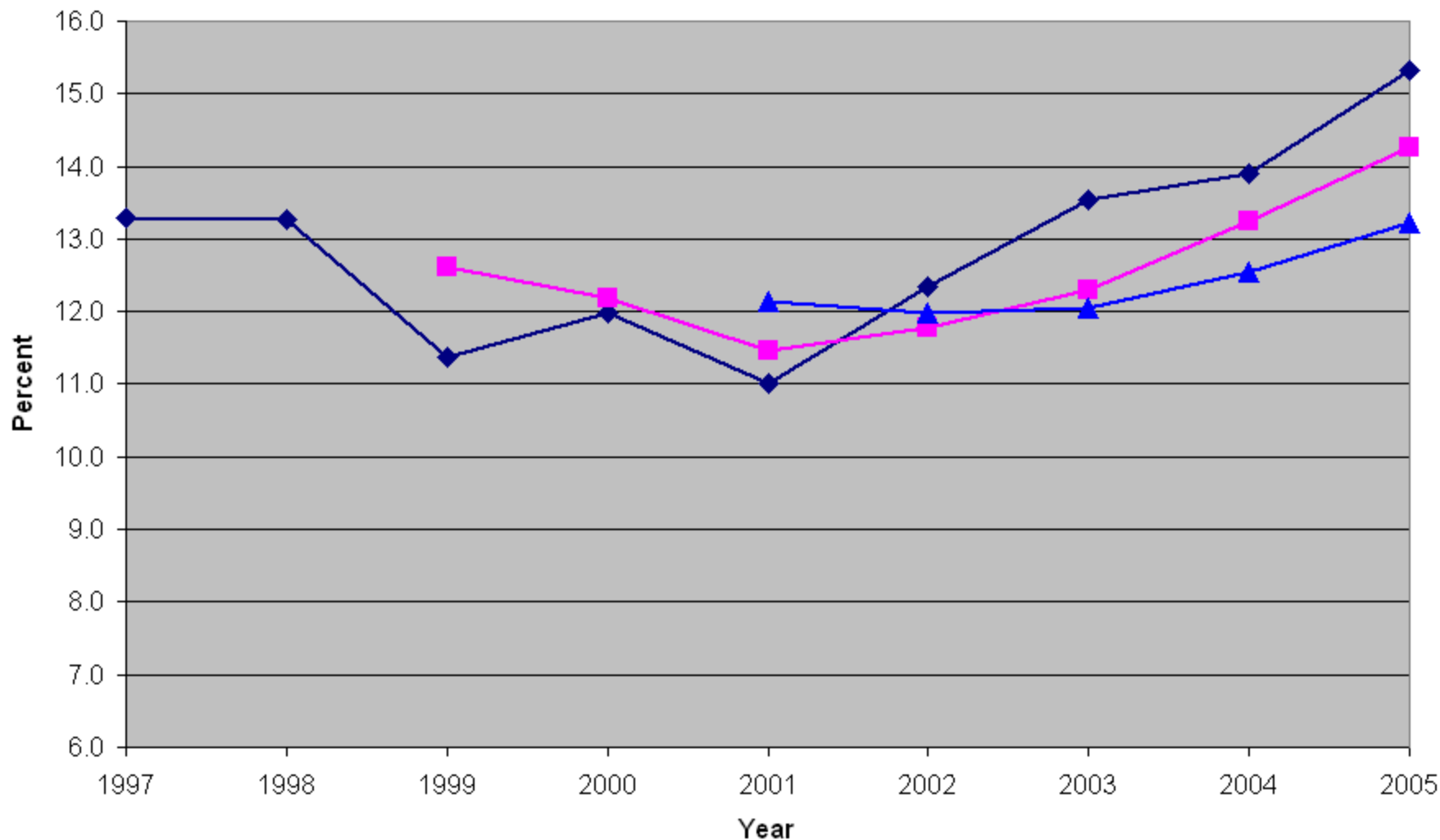


Source: American Community Survey,  
U.S. Census Bureau, 1997-2005

◆ Single-year estimates    ■ 3-year estimates  
▲ 5-year estimates

Note: The ACS only surveyed households and does not include the group quarters population.

## Percentage of Omaha Population in Poverty (Individuals)



Source: American Community Survey,  
U.S. Census Bureau, 1997-2005

◆ Single-year estimates  
■ 3-year estimates  
▲ 5-year estimates

Note: The ACS only surveyed households and does not include the group quarters population.

# Challenges for dynamic population

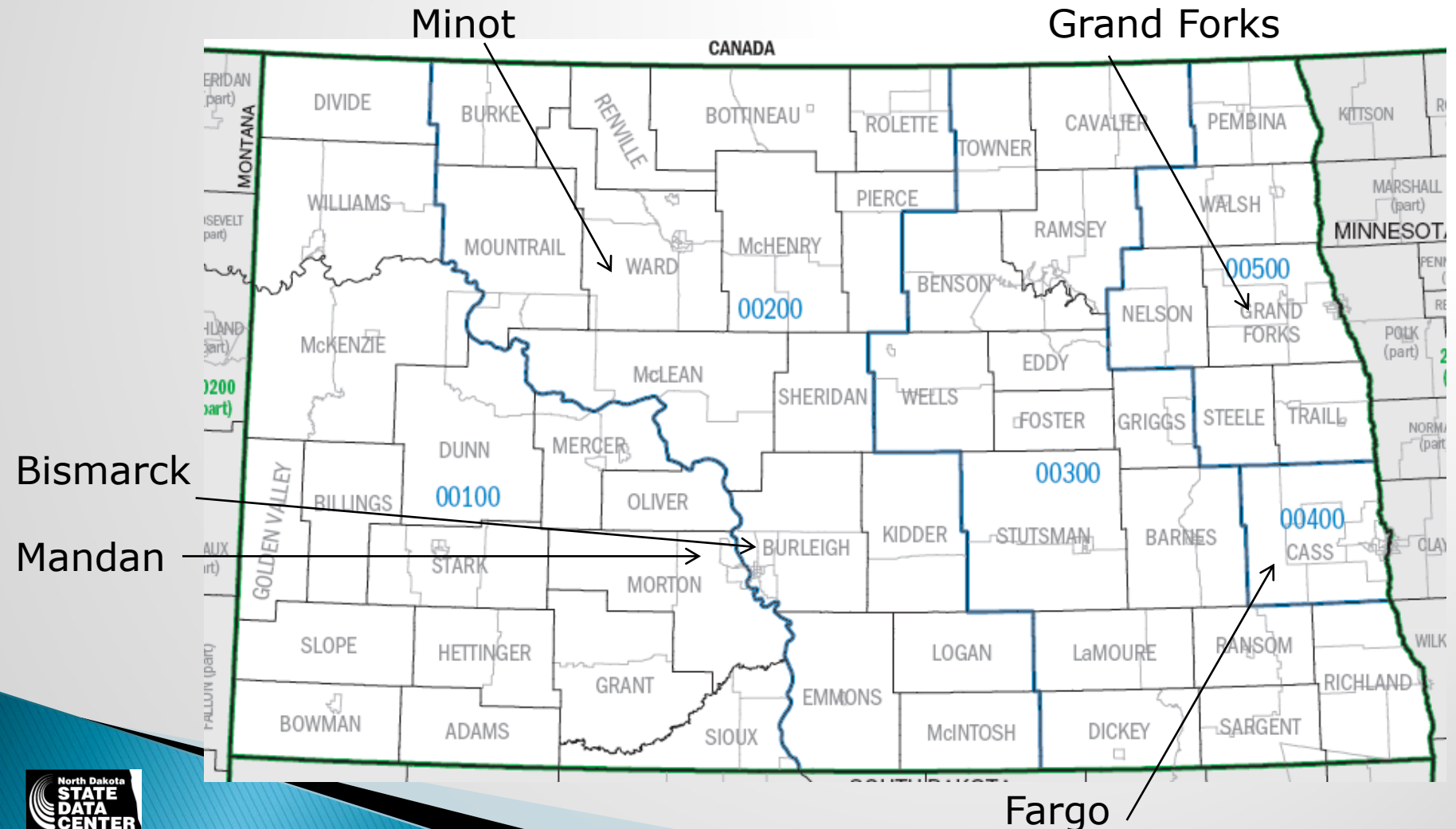
- ▶ 5-year ACS data will not capture rapid population shifts limiting policy makers' options for monitoring shifting characteristics.
- ▶ Small population base creates reliability issues.
- ▶ Disclosure issues limited type and amount of ACS data that can be explored.
- ▶ PUMA data has regional and urban influence bias.

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# ACS PUMA Map

American Community Survey Public Use Micro Data Area (PUMA)  
5% Sample Map for North Dakota (population threshold 100,000)

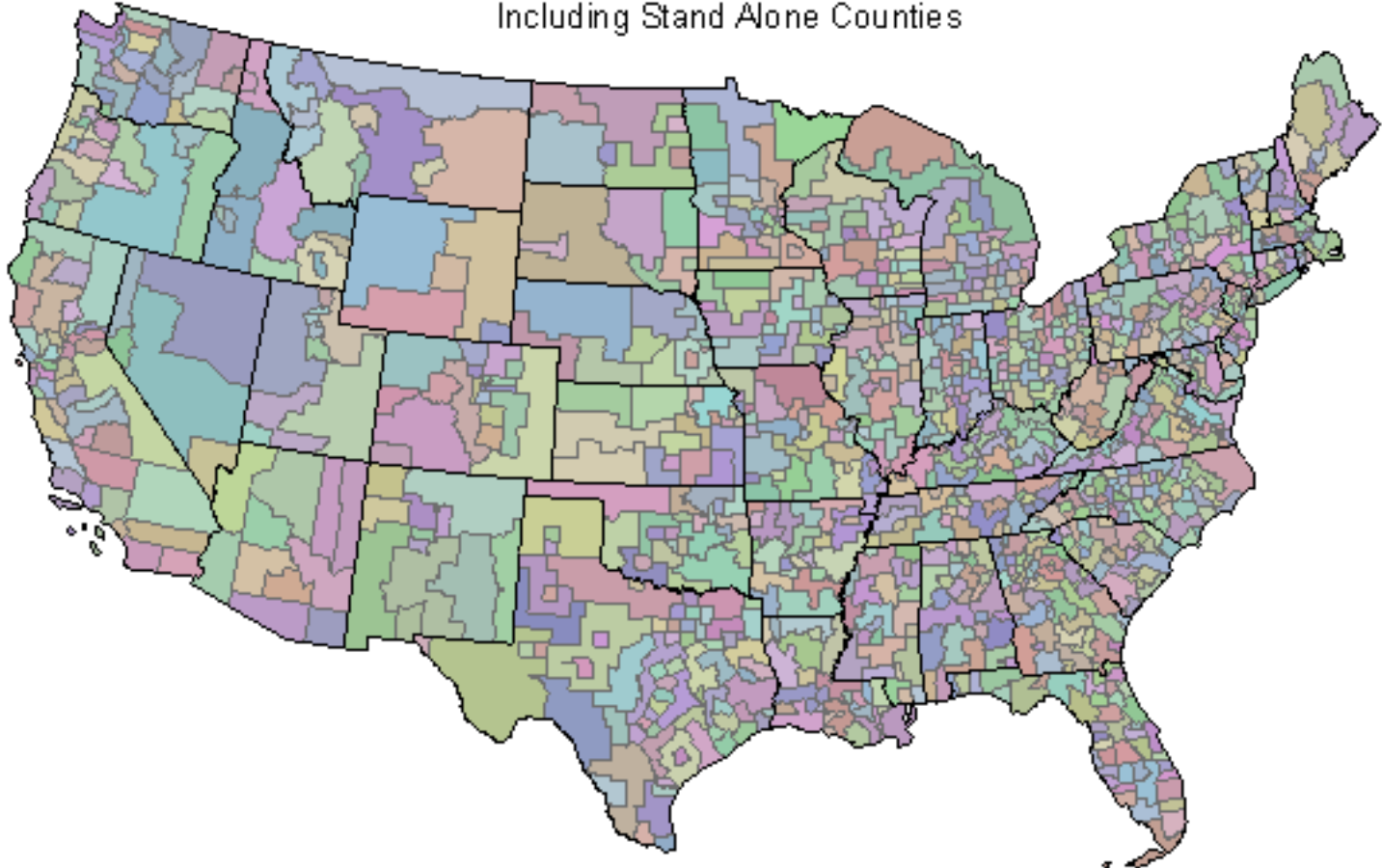




# Rural Statistical Areas Joint Project

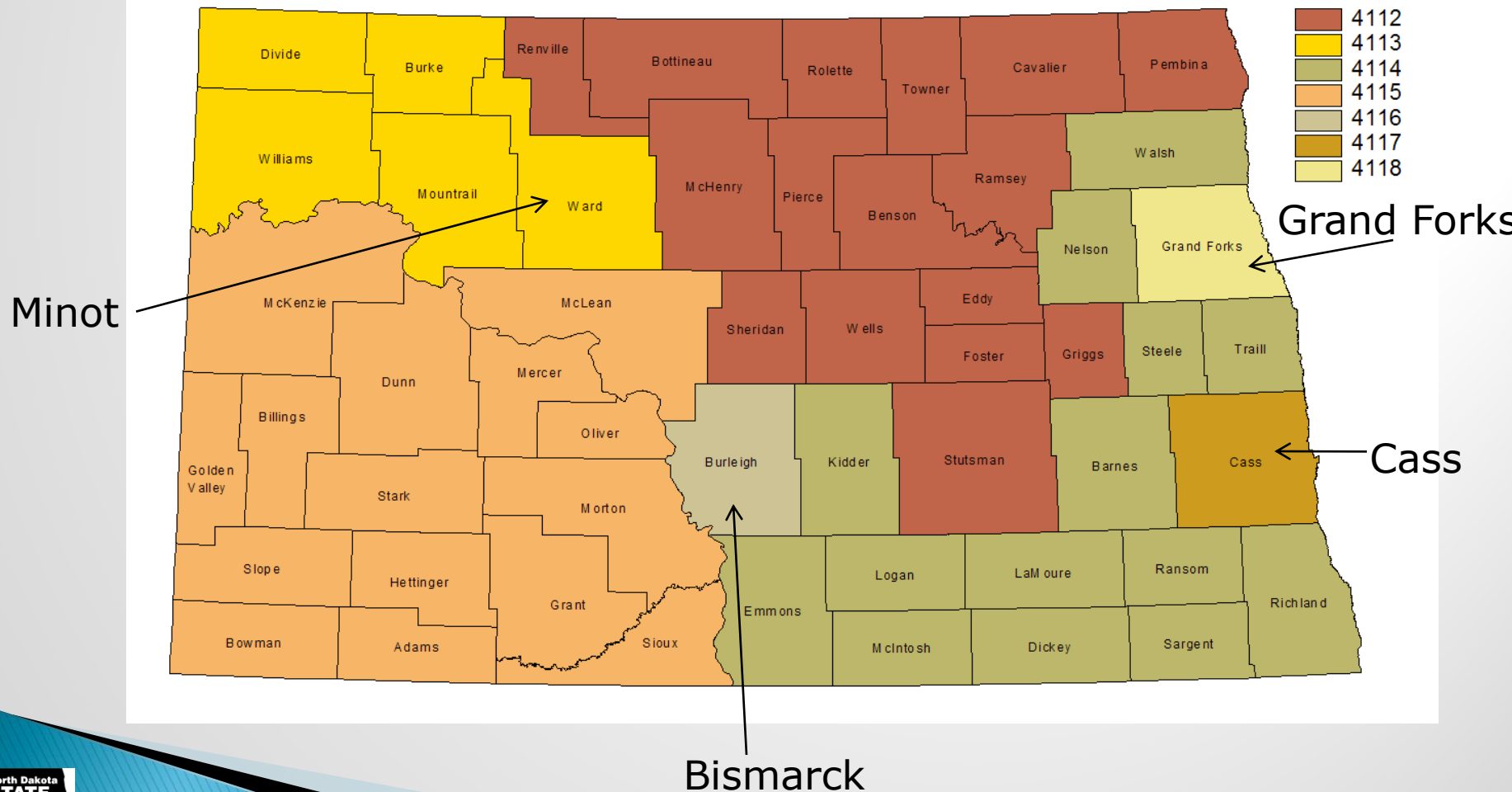
**Statistical Areas With Population > 65,000**

Including Stand Alone Counties

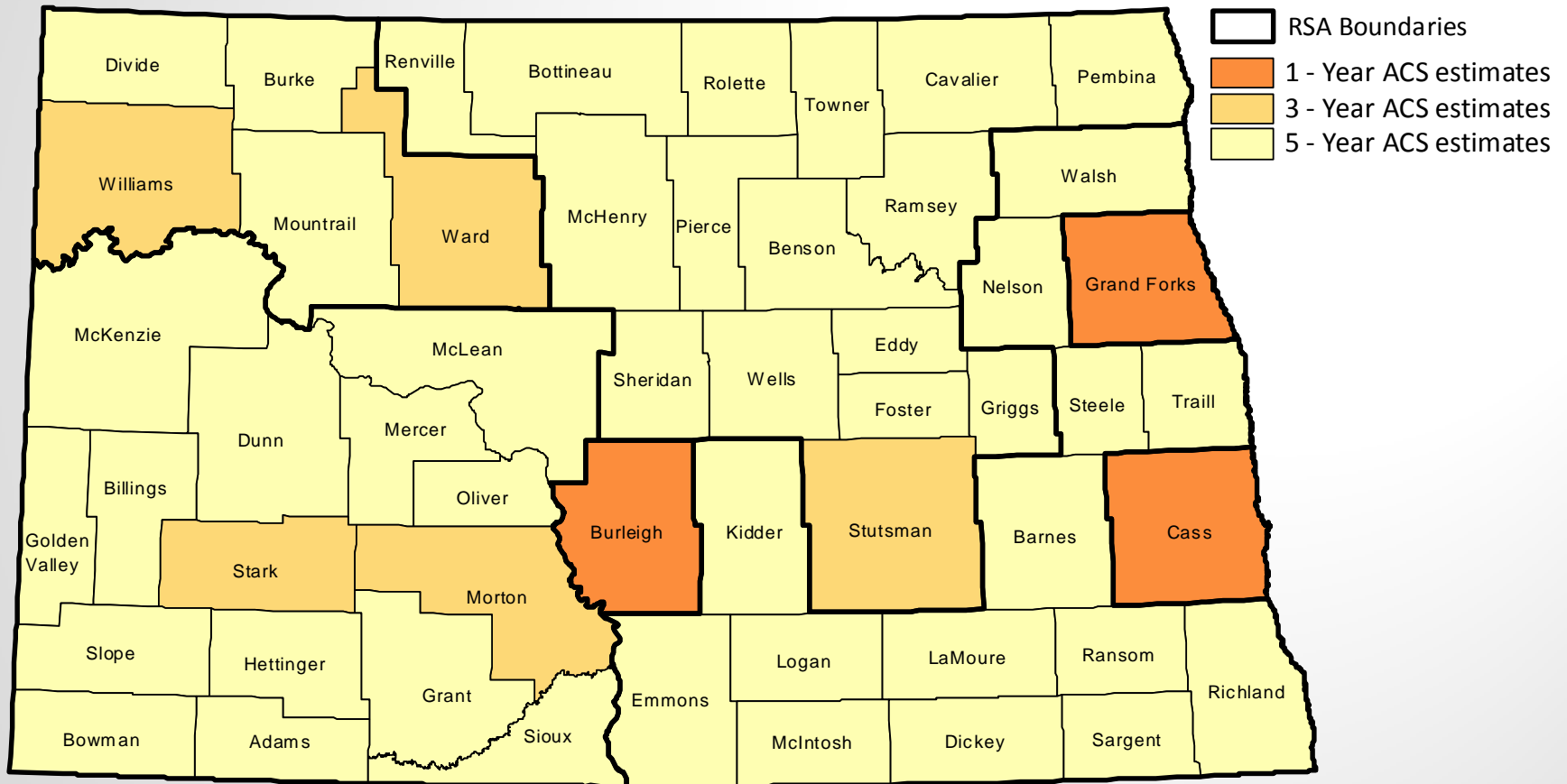


# Proposed ACS PUMA Map

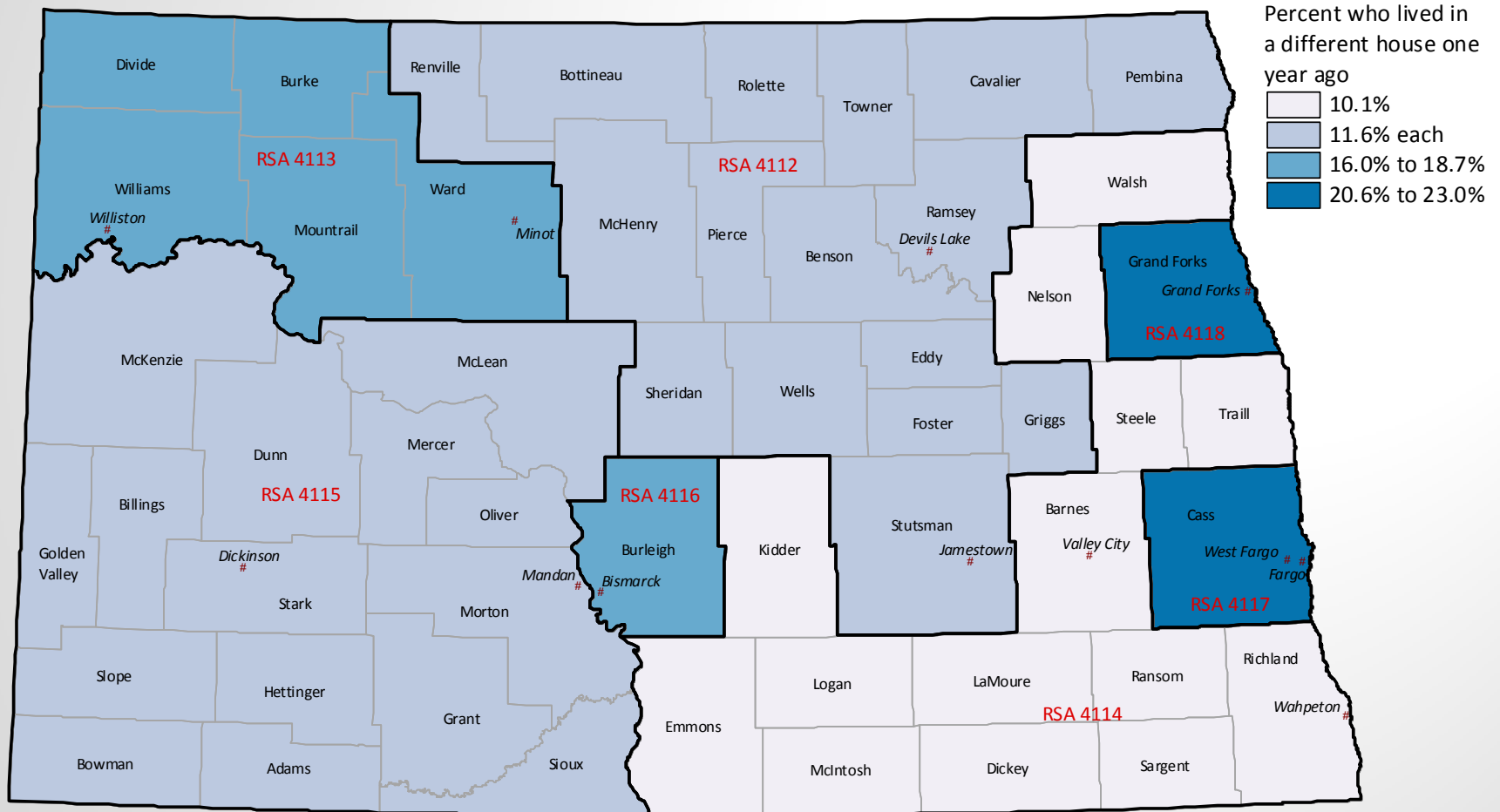
## ACS Proposed Rural Statistical Area Map for North Dakota



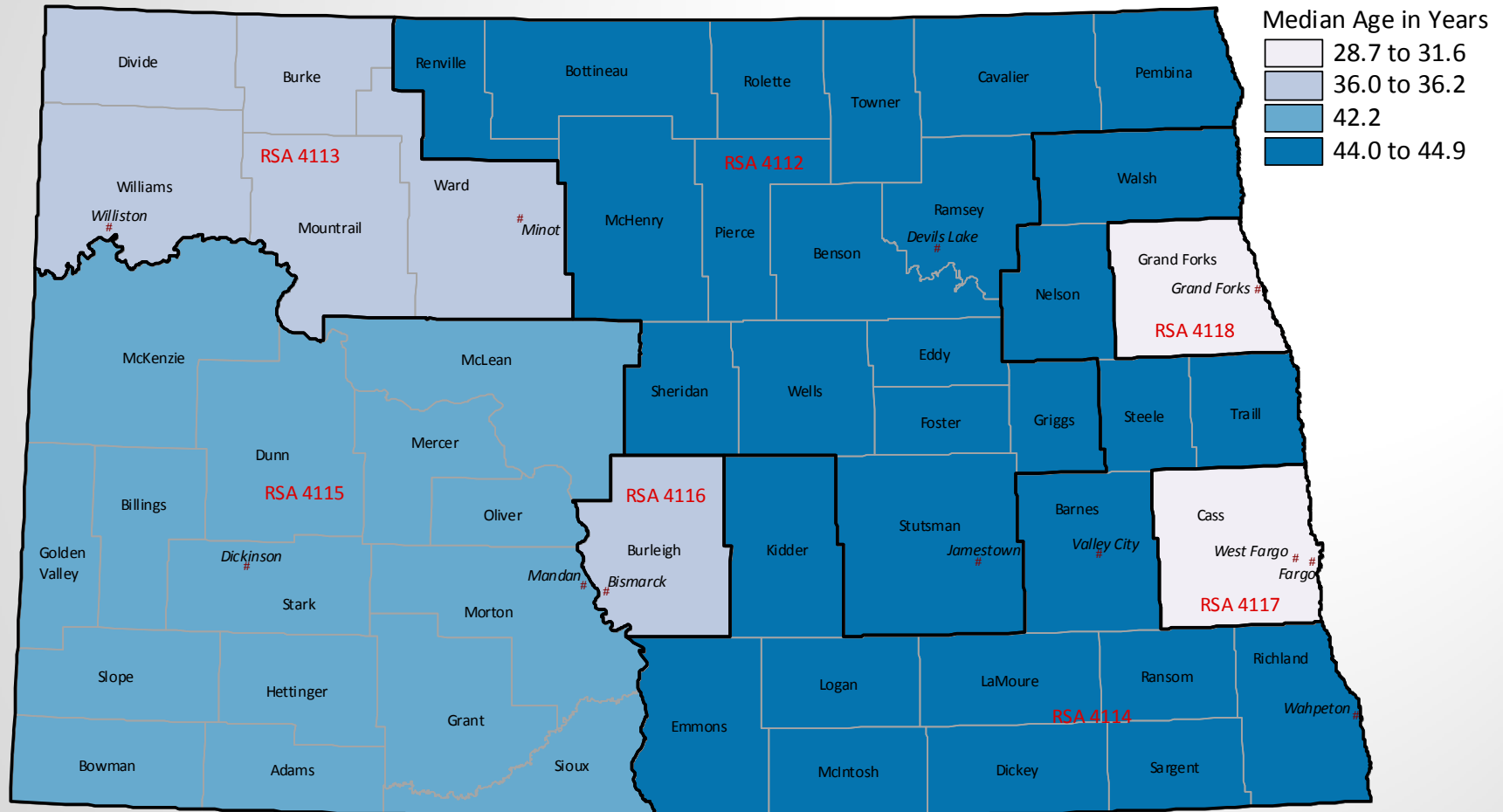
# North Dakota's RSA & ACS Boundaries



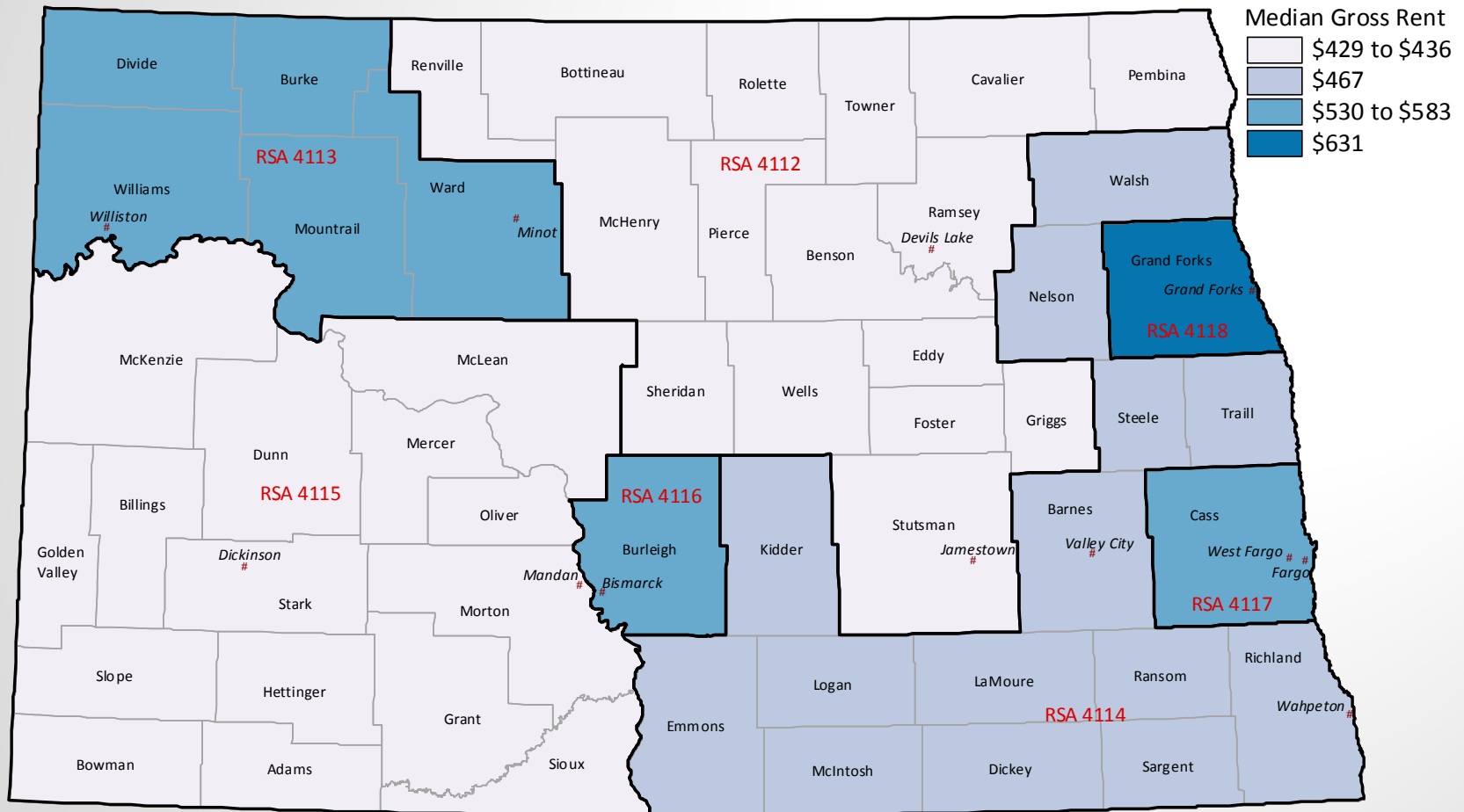
# Movers in Past Year, 2008



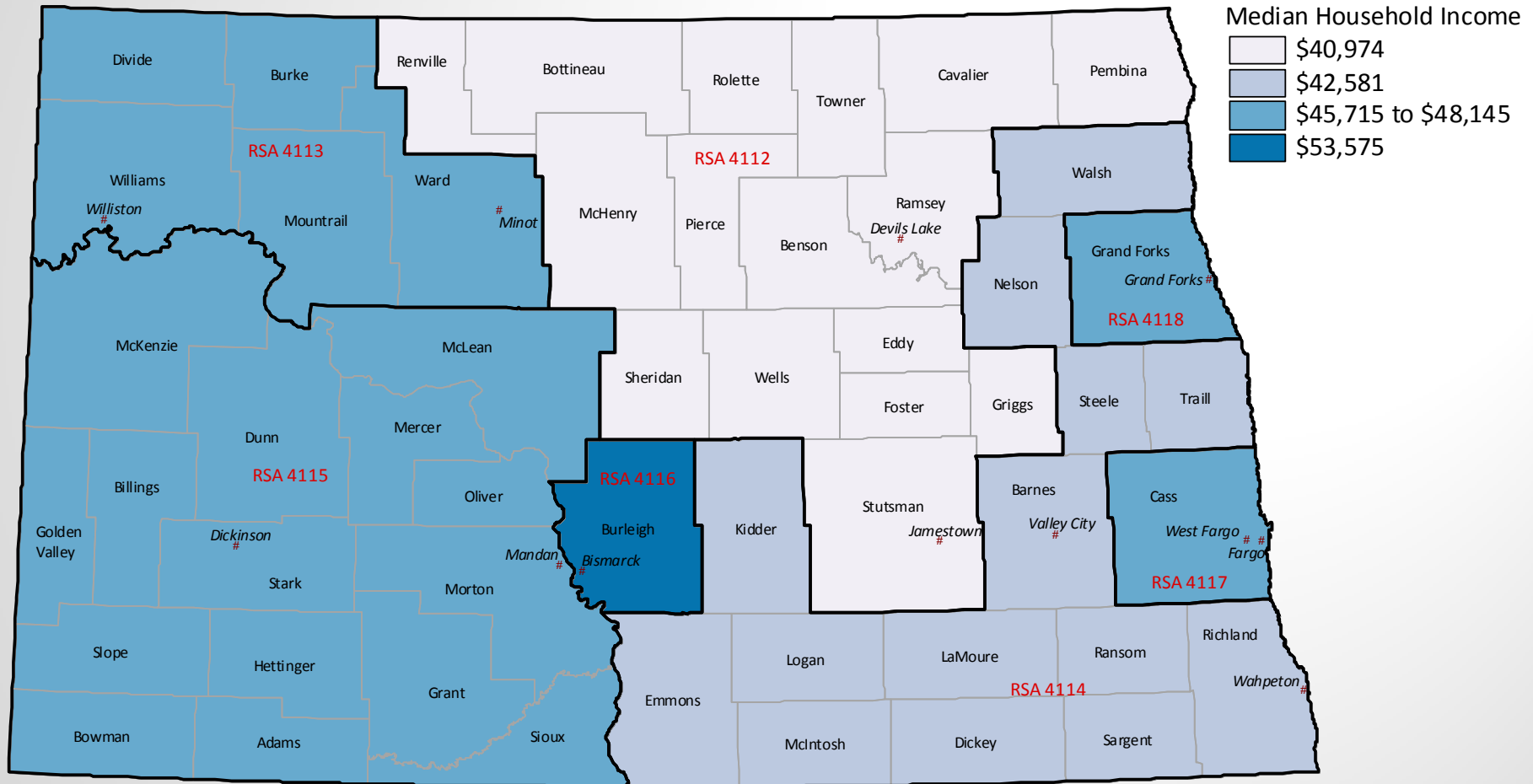
# Median Age, 2008



# Median Gross Rent, 2008

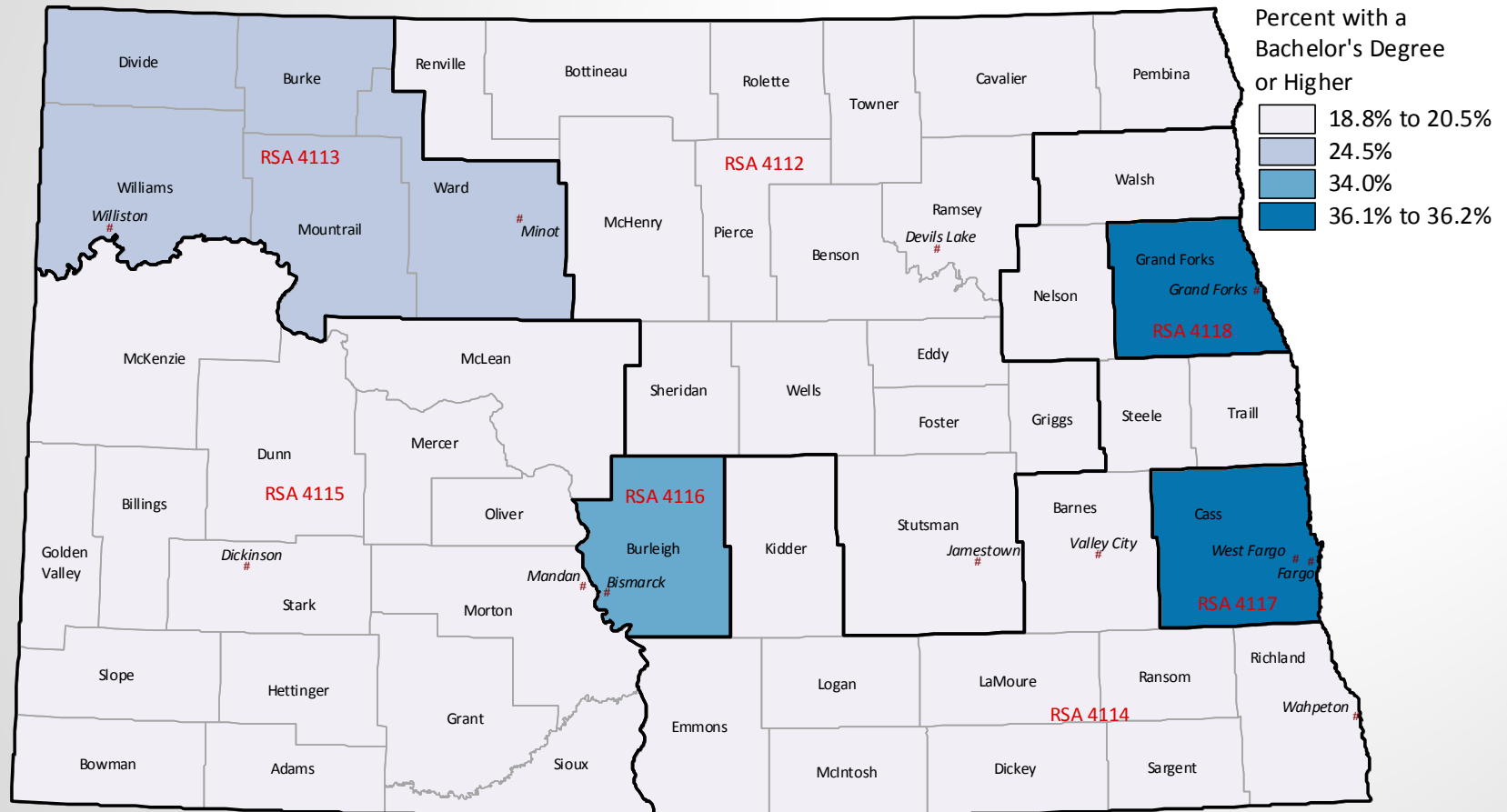


# Median Household Income, 2008





# College Educated, 2008



# What lessons have we learned thus far?

- ▶ Need to partner with Census Bureau in exploring solution to limitations of ACS.
- ▶ Examine ways to triangulate data for small jurisdictions to ensure confidence in our interpretations.
- ▶ Consider initiating collaborative groups that address common issues or tasking existing collaborations (State Data Centers, FSCPE, APDU, Kids Count network) to seek solutions.

# ACS Panel Presentation 2011

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