



NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

President: Tamara Waters-Wheeler, President Elect: Adam Christ, Treasurer: Jessica Hardin, Secretary: Alannah Valenta
Membership/PR Chair: Breanne Ternes, Delegate: Loren Houle, GPR: Michael Porter, New Graduate Rep: Hallie Finnicum

6/13/2020

For Immediate Release:

(adapted from Minnesota Association of School Psychologists, 6/1/2020)

In the days that follow this period of civil unrest in the United States, public educators and school-based mental health service providers across the state will work to address the needs of public-school students while engaging in difficult conversations and reflecting on their own thoughts and feelings. As advocates for social justice, the North Dakota Association of School Psychologists (NDASP) defines the position of school psychologists as agents of change in combating the systemic and pervasive racism and inequalities that exist in American society, while working to support students and families who experience these disadvantages firsthand.

Statistics taken from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate an increase in the percentage of racially and ethnically diverse individuals residing in North Dakota.

See chart below (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ND/PST045219#>):

Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	87.0%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	3.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	5.5%
Asian alone, percent (a)	1.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	3.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	84.0%

Data taken from the Prison Policy Initiative North Dakota Facts (2019) show that Native Americans and Black Americans are overrepresented in the ND prison population at 29% and 5% respectively. White individuals are underrepresented, making up only 59% of North Dakota’s prison population (<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/ND.html>).

As well, data taken from the U.S. Department of Education Website (North Dakota, 2018) indicates that minority students are disproportionately placed in Special Education. Native American students comprise 11% of our special education population while they only comprise 5.5% of North Dakota’s overall population. Black/African American students comprise 5% of North Dakota’s special education population while comprising only 3.5% of North Dakota’s overall population.



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NDASP continues to work toward a more equitable future in which these events will cease. We must remain active as mental health service providers who provide support student and family systems.

In that spirit, NDASP endorses the NASP Call for Action to End Racism and Violence Against People of Color (2020). The full text and associated resources can be found here:

<https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/media-room/press-releases/nasp-calls-foraction-to-end-racism-and-violence-against-people-of-color>

Sincerely,

The North Dakota Association of School Psychologists Executive Board
Tamara Waters-Wheeler, President
Adam Christ, President Elect