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# Mapping Quality of Life in Nebraska: Population Distribution by Race, Ethnicity, and Age

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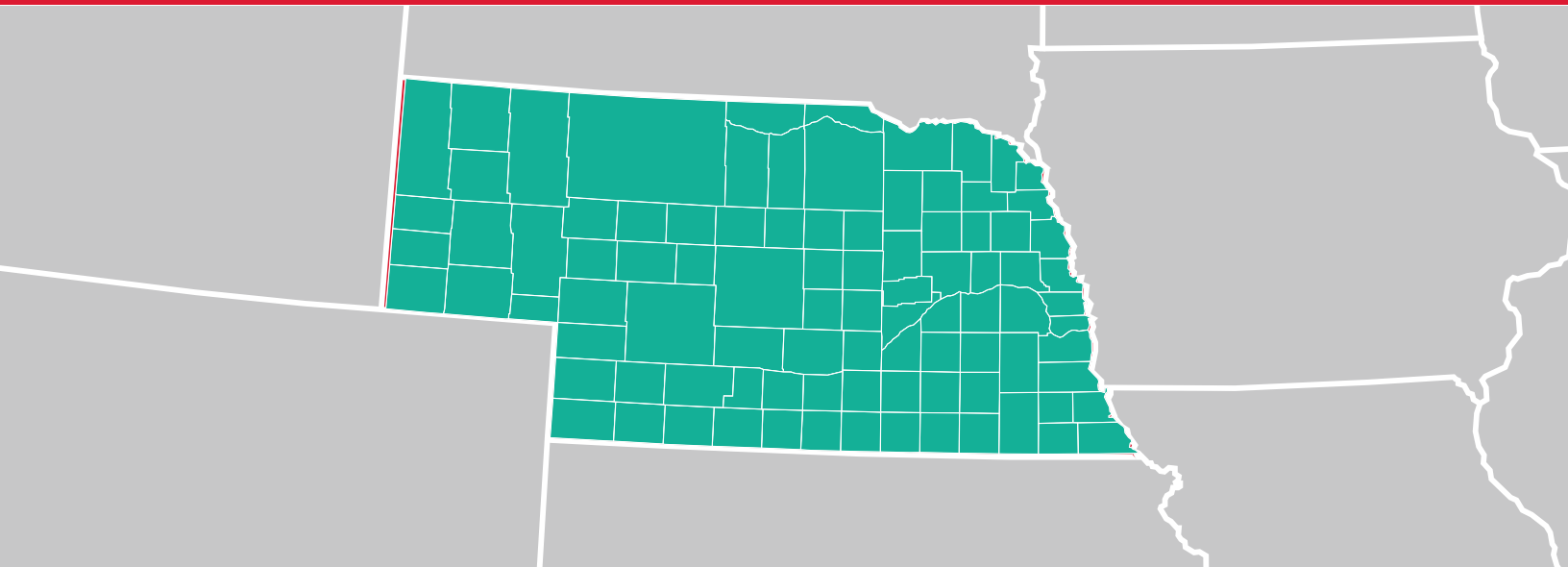
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# MAPPING QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEBRASKA: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND AGE

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# INTRODUCTION

Nebraska is home to a growing and increasingly diverse population. This report provides an overview of Nebraska's population distribution across racial, ethnic, and age groups presented by county, which can serve as an important source of information for program planning and policy-making.

This brief specifically focuses on groups that are generally viewed as vulnerable (i.e., racial and ethnic minorities) and dependent, (i.e., children, elderly). These groups are at greater risk for poverty, inadequate education, and health disparities (e.g., Vanderbilt et al., 2013). Additionally, race, ethnicity, and age intersect in many important ways with regard to access to resources (Mejía, Ryan, Gonzalez, & Smith, 2017). Thus, trends of vulnerable and dependent populations have specific implications for communities in regards to the quality of life of their residents. Data are presented separately for each variable or some in combination (e.g., distributed by ethnic and age group). Several definitions should be noted in reading this report:

- Race is defined here as a set of social categories that generally represents sociocultural groups. The U.S. Census (2017) identifies the following major racial categories: White, Black/African-American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Other.
- Ethnicity is defined as the lineage, heritage, or nationality of a person (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017). Following definitions used by the U.S. Census, only two categories are used in this report, namely: Hispanic/Latino (which can be of any race) and non-Hispanic/non-Latino.
- Age is presented in three main groups: young child (5 & under), youth (under 18), and elderly (65 & older) populations.

In many parts of this report, location quotients (LQs) are presented rather than numbers or percentages. Because of the high concentrations of the population in only a handful of counties (i.e., Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy), mapping almost any data (e.g., number of minorities, number of youth) has limited utility, as these counties will always represent as having high numbers. Using percentages also has the disadvantage of potential bias (enhancing the importance) towards counties with very low populations, where the presence of a few individuals in a particular group category (e.g., young child) may show up as a very high percentage, suggesting the county has a high concentration of that particular group.

LQ is used in this report to identify the “concentration” of a particular group of interest (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities) in a county relative to their average concentration across the entire state. The following LQ categories will be utilized for this report:

- 0 – 0.89 = below the average concentration across the state
- 0.90 – 1.10 = consistent with the average concentration across the state
- 1.11 – 2.00 = 11% to 100% above the average concentration across the state
- 2.01 + = 101% + above the average concentration across the state

An LQ of 1.00 indicates that the proportion of the group of interest in that county is exactly the same as that of the average concentration across the state. However, for the purposes of this report, LQs between 0.90 and 1.10 will be considered the same as the average across the state. These values are considered average because they are within the margin of error that the U.S. Census uses to represent the range of uncertainty surrounding estimated values. An LQ less than 0.89 indicates that group of interest has a lower concentration in that county in comparison to the state average. An LQ greater than 1.11 indicates that there is a higher concentration of that group of interest in that county compared to the average across the state. The greater an LQ is than 1.11, the greater the concentration (e.g., an LQ of 2.00 would indicate that the county has twice the proportion of the group of interest compared to the average across the state). Actual numbers are also presented in table format to supplement the LQ maps.

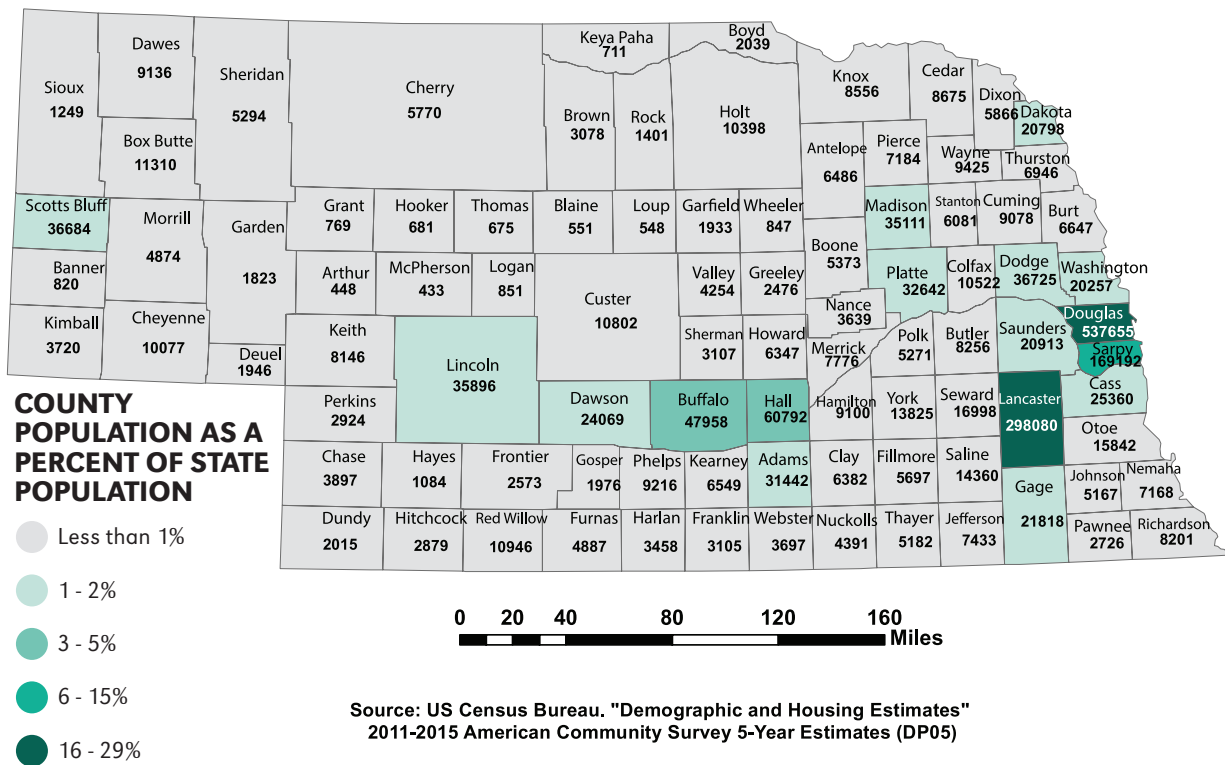
# TOTAL POPULATION AND RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATION

## NEBRASKA POPULATION

The estimated population of the United States is over 323 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Nebraska is the 37th most populous state with approximately 1.9 million residents. Of the state population, 73.1% live in urban areas (i.e., towns or cities with at least 2,500 people). This percentage is slightly lower than the urban population for the United States at 80.7% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Nebraska's highest concentrations of residents are found in Douglas and Lancaster counties (29.0% and 16.0% of the state's population, respectively). Other high population counties (e.g., Sarpy, Cass, Saunders, Dodge, and Washington) are clustered around these two counties, as well as the central portion of the Platte River (e.g., Buffalo, Hall). Less populated counties tend to be in the north central part of the state. Most counties in Nebraska contain less than 1.0% of the state's population (see Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1. NEBRASKA POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)**



Note: a. Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic; b. Intensity of the shading reflects county population as a percent of state population

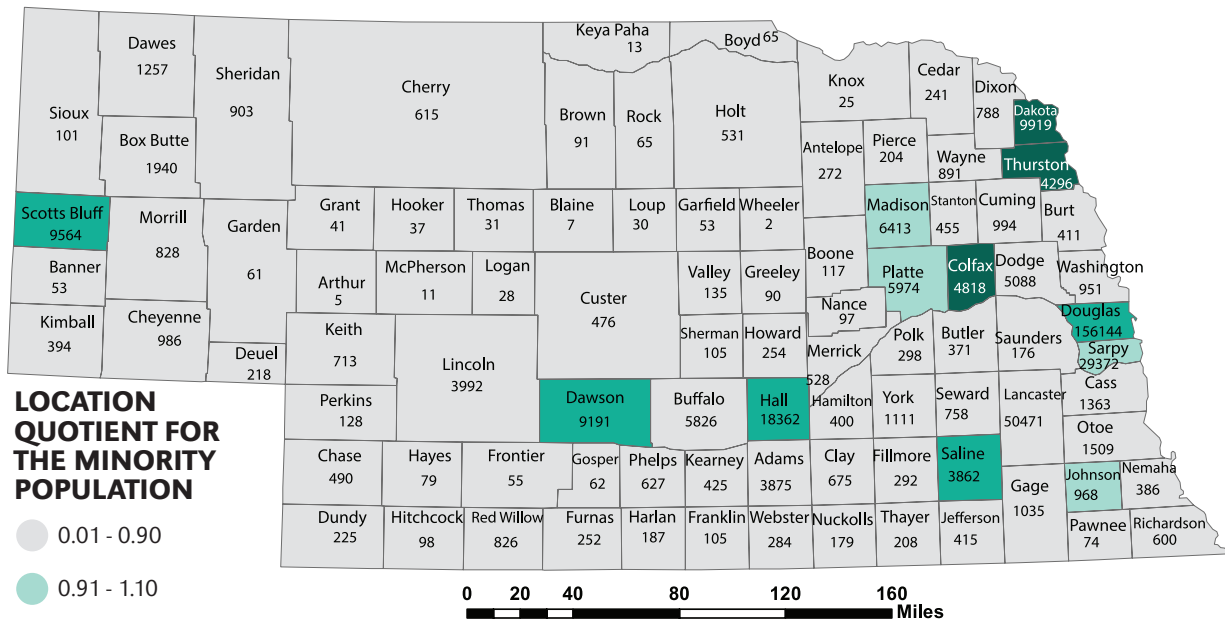
# NEBRASKA RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

Racial and ethnic minorities are any individuals other than White non-Hispanics (note: race and ethnicity are two separate questions in the census). Of the 1.9 million residents in Nebraska, an estimated 19.2% are classified as a racial or ethnic minority, well below the 37.7% for the total U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016).

The highest concentration of minorities is in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties, which also hold the highest proportion of the entire Nebraska population. For this reason, LQ scores, rather than numbers or percentages, are utilized in Figure 2 to illustrate the geographic distribution of racial and ethnic minorities in Nebraska. The map of total minority population in Nebraska suggests that counties with a high concentration of racial and ethnic minority population (relative to the entire state) are dispersed in the west, east, and south-central parts of the state.

As described in the previous section, values higher than 1.0 indicate a higher relative concentration of racial and ethnic minorities compared to the average across the state. For example, Colfax (2.38), Dawson (1.98), Hall (1.57), and Douglas (1.51) counties along the Platte River have the highest relative concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities compared to the average rate across Nebraska. Additionally, Thurston (3.19) and Dakota (2.48) counties in the northeast corner, as well as Saline County (1.40) in the southeast corner have the highest relative concentrations compared to the average across the state. Scotts Bluff County has the highest relative concentration (1.35) of racial and ethnic minorities in the western half of the state. Racial and ethnic minorities are about 1.35 to 3.19 times more concentrated in these aforementioned counties than the average across the state.

**FIGURE 2. NEBRASKA RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Source: US Census Bureau. "Demographic and Housing Estimates" 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP05)

Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

## RACIAL MINORITY POPULATIONS IN NEBRASKA

The American Community Survey asks respondents to identify their race(s) among a large number of racial categories. In this report, we present data on Asian, Black or African American, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native.

**TABLE 1. RACIAL BREAKDOWN IN NEBRASKA AND THE UNITED STATES 2015**

	NEBRASKA	NEBRASKA PERCENT	UNITED STATES	UNITED STATES PERCENT
<b>WHITE</b>	1,695,681	90.1%	241,955,396	76.0%
<b>ASIAN</b>	49,865	2.7%	19,663,833	6.2%
<b>BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN</b>	107,845	5.7%	44,088,615	13.8%
<b>HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER</b>	3,408	0.2%	1,294,147	0.4%
<b>AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE</b>	30,002	1.6%	5,399,769	1.7%
<b>OTHER RACE</b>	41,453	2.2%	16,841,187	5.3%

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100%, as some individuals may self-identify as more than one race.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2016)



# NEBRASKA ASIAN POPULATION

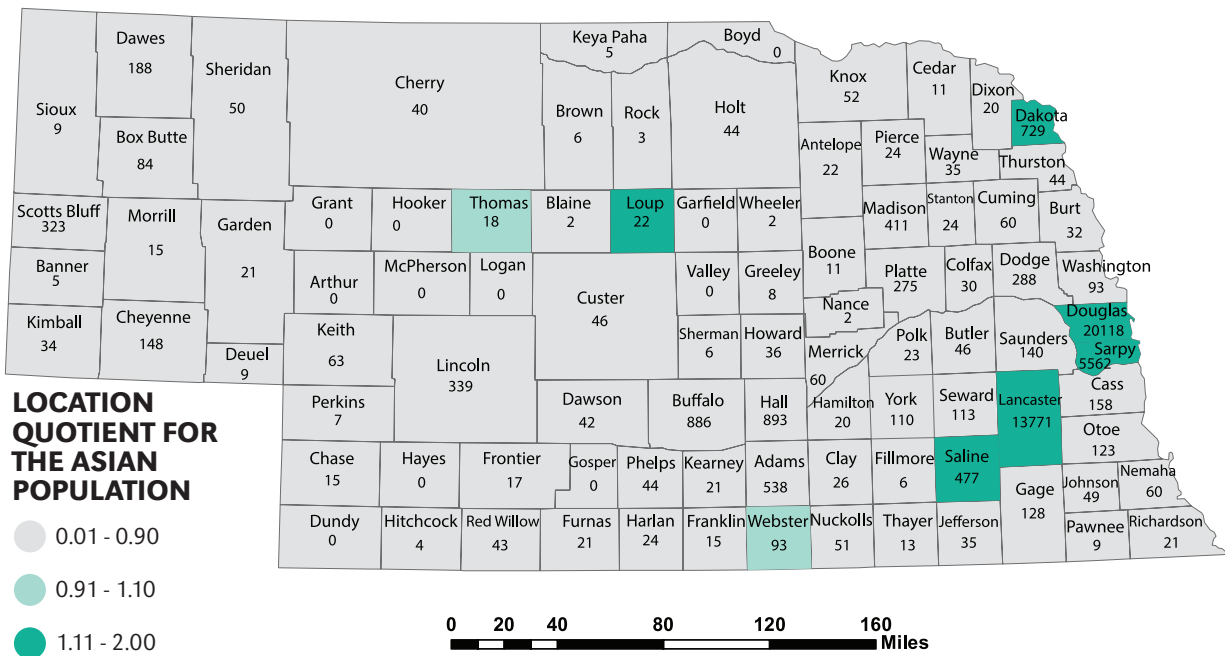
In Nebraska, approximately 50,000 (2.7%) individuals identify as Asian. In contrast, over 19 million (6.2%) of the United States population identify as Asian. Figure 3 shows location quotients (LQs) and indicates relative concentrations of Asians compared to the average rate across the state.

Figure 3 suggests that Lancaster (1.82) and Loup (1.58) counties have the highest relative concentration of Asians compared to the rest of the state. Other counties with high relative Asian concentrations tend to be in the southeastern part of the state, including Douglas (1.47), Saline (1.31), and Sarpy (1.29) counties.

Additionally, Dakota County (1.38) in the northern part of the state has a higher relative concentration of Asians.

Other counties in central and north-central Nebraska, particularly the Sandhill region, tend to have lower relative concentrations of Asians in comparison to the average concentration across Nebraska. The counties with the highest percentages of Asians can be viewed in Appendix A. These counties are Lancaster, Loup, Douglas, Dakota, and Sarpy.

**FIGURE 3. NEBRASKA ASIAN POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Source: US Census Bureau. "Demographic and Housing Estimates" 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP05)

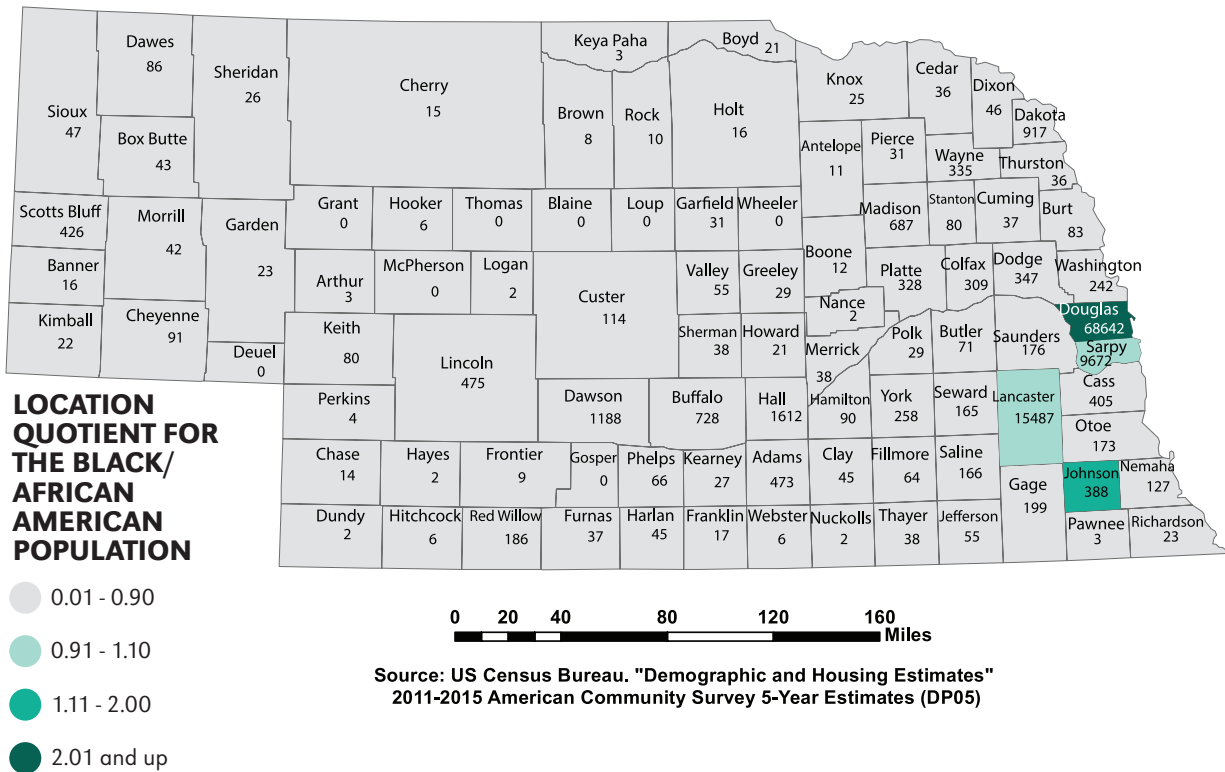
Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

# NEBRASKA BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION

There are approximately 44 million (13.8%) Black or African Americans in the United States and approximately 100,000 (5.7%) in Nebraska. Thus, Nebraska has a low proportion of Black or African Americans compared to the broader nation. Figure 4 illustrates location quotients (LQs) and indicates relative concentrations of Black or African Americans relative to the average rate across the state.

Figure 4 suggests the Black or African American population in Nebraska tends to reside in the eastern part of the state. Specifically, Douglas (2.25) and Johnson (1.32) counties have the highest relative concentration of Black or African Americans in Nebraska. Central and western Nebraska tend to have lower relative concentrations of Black or African Americans. Appendix A lists Nebraska counties with the highest percentages of African Americans. These counties are Douglas, Johnson, Sarpy, Lancaster, and Dawson.

**FIGURE 4. NEBRASKA BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

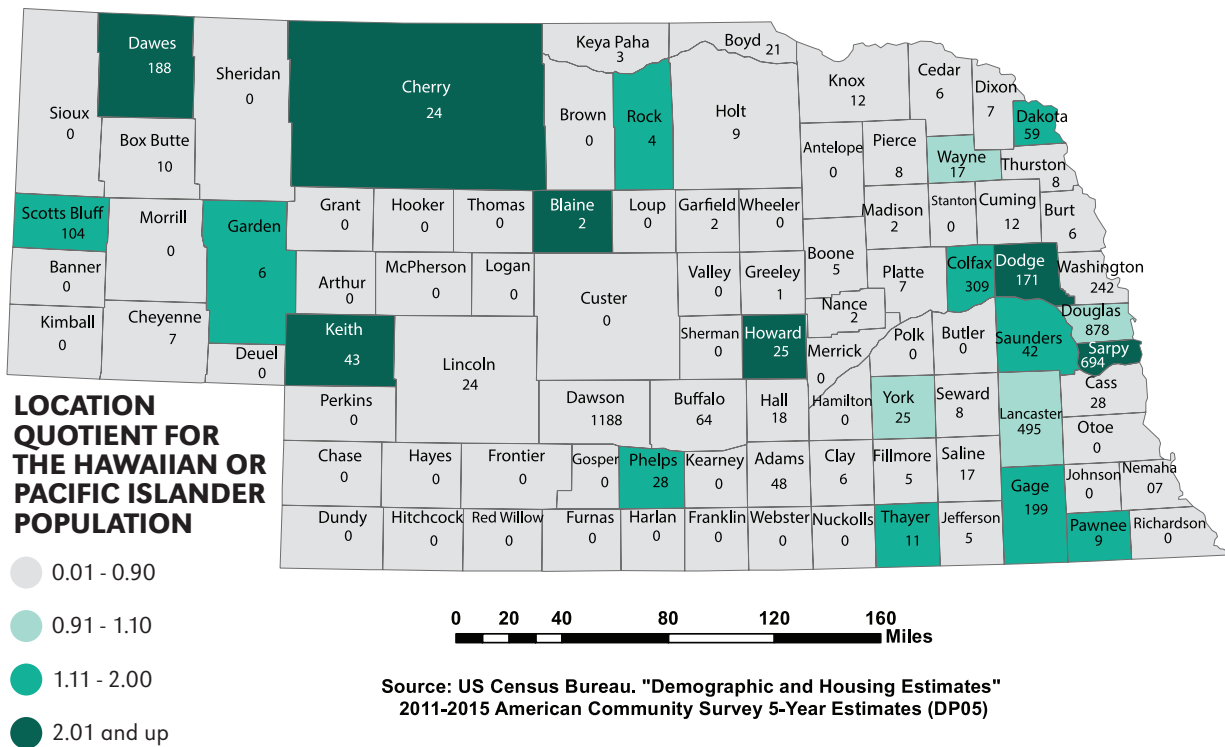
# NEBRASKA HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION

The Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population of Nebraska is lower compared to other racial minority groups in the state. Approximately 3,000 (0.2%) Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders reside in the state. The Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population of the United States is 1.3 million (0.4%). Figure 5 shows location quotients (LQs) and indicates relative concentrations of Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders relative to the average across Nebraska.

Additional counties in the northwestern corner of Nebraska report higher relative concentrations of Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, such as Cherry (2.37), Garden (1.87), and Scotts Bluff (1.61) counties. Many Nebraska counties, especially in the central and south-central parts of the state, report no Hawaiian or Pacific Islander residents. Appendix A lists Nebraska counties with the highest percentages of Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders. These counties include Dawes, Dodge, Keith, Blaine, and Howard.

Figure 5 suggests Nebraska's Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population is dispersed across the state. In the western part of Nebraska, Dawes (11.72) and Keith (3.01) counties have higher relative concentrations of Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders compared to the average relative concentration across the state.

**FIGURE 5. NEBRASKA HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Source: US Census Bureau. "Demographic and Housing Estimates" 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP05)

Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

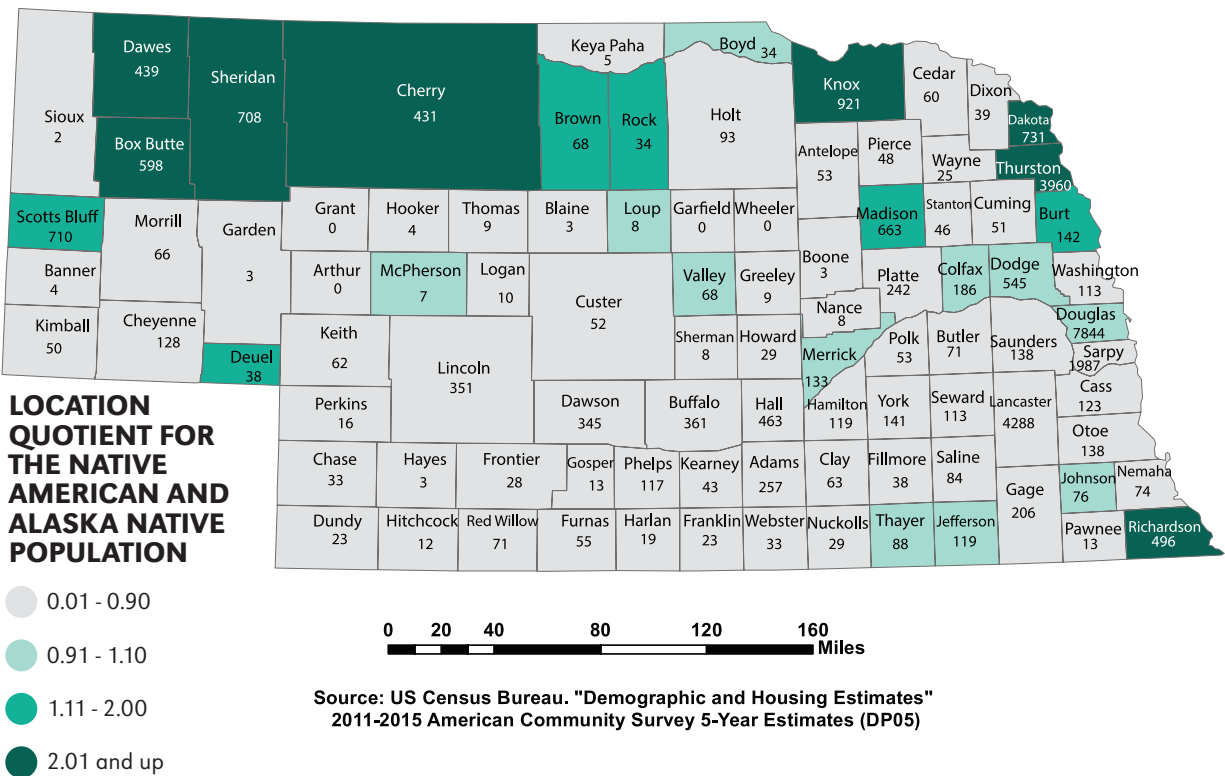
# NEBRASKA AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE POPULATION

There are approximately 5 million American Indian and Alaska Native in the United States (1.7% of the total population), of which approximately 30,000 reside in the state of Nebraska (1.6% of the total population). Figure 6 shows location quotients (LQs) and indicates the relative concentration of American Indian and Alaska Natives relative to the average rate across the state.

Many other counties with high relative concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Natives are located along the Nebraska-South Dakota border, including Sheridan (8.28), Knox (6.66), Cherry (4.62), and Dawes (2.97) counties. Other than the southeast corner of the state, lower relative concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Natives reside in the central and southern part of Nebraska. Appendix A lists Nebraska counties with the highest percentages of American Indian and Alaska Natives. These counties include Thurston, Sheridan, Knox, Cherry, and Richardson.

Figure 6 suggests that northern Nebraska has higher relative concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Natives compared to the average across the rest of the state. Thurston County, which is home to a Native American reservation, has the highest relative concentration in the state (35.28), which is the highest of any racial or ethnic minority group in any Nebraska county.

**FIGURE 6. NEBRASKA AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

## NEBRASKA ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATION

Ethnicity is presented separately from Nebraska’s racial groups, as the American Community Survey assesses ethnicity independently from race (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017).

### ETHNIC MINORITIES IN NEBRASKA AND THE UNITED STATES 2015

	NEBRASKA	NEBRASKA PERCENT	UNITED STATES	UNITED STATES PERCENT
<b>HISPANIC/LATINO</b>	186,268	10.0%	54,232,205	17.1%
<b>NON-HISPANIC/LATINO</b>	1,683,097	90.0%	262,282,816	82.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2016)

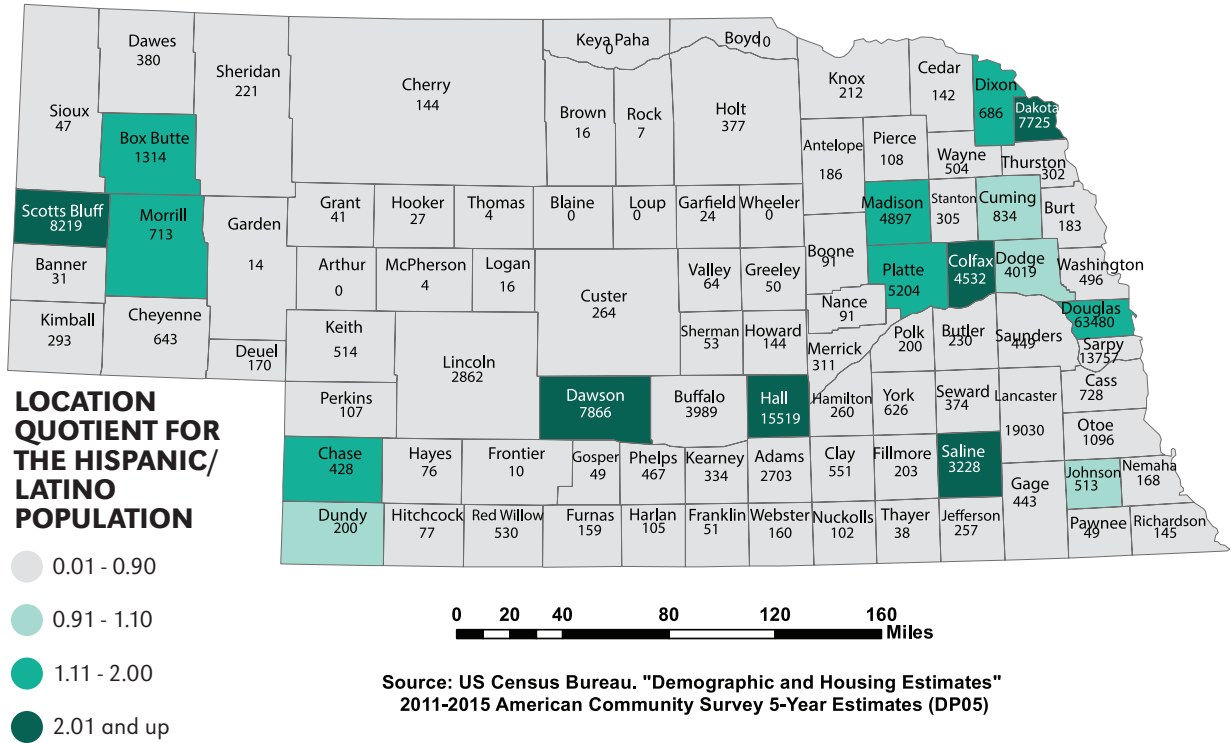
## NEBRASKA HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION

The U.S. Census forms ask participants to respond to a separate ethnicity question, namely, whether or not the respondent is Hispanic/Latino. Hispanic/Latinos can be of any race (e.g., Asian). Hispanic/Latino population of Nebraska is approximately 190,000 (10.2%). Comparatively, the Hispanic/Latino population of the United States is 55 million (17.3%). Figure 7 shows location quotients (LQs) and indicates relative concentration of Hispanic/Latinos compared to the average rate of the Hispanic/Latino population across the state.

Figure 7 suggests the Nebraska Hispanic/Latino population tends to reside around the Platte River, across the central part of the state. Specifically, Colfax (4.32), Dawson (3.28), Hall (2.56), Scotts Bluff (2.25), and Platte (1.60) counties

have higher relative concentrations of Hispanic/Latinos compared to the average rate across the state. Dakota County (3.73) in northeast Nebraska and Saline County (2.26) in southeast Nebraska also have higher relative concentrations of Hispanic/Latinos than the rest of the state. Other counties with higher concentrations of Hispanic/Latinos than the rest of the state include Box Butte, Morrill, and Chase in western Nebraska and Madison, Dixon, and Douglas in eastern Nebraska. The north-central part of the state, as well as the counties along the Nebraska-Kansas border, has the lowest relative concentrations of Hispanic/Latinos. Appendix A lists Nebraska counties with the highest percentages of Hispanic/Latinos. These counties include Colfax, Dakota, Dawson, Hall, and Saline.

**FIGURE 7. NEBRASKA HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

# NEBRASKA POPULATION BY AGE

This section details Nebraska's population by age. Maps below illustrate Nebraska's populations of young children (5 years & under), youth (under 18 years), and the elderly (65 years & older).

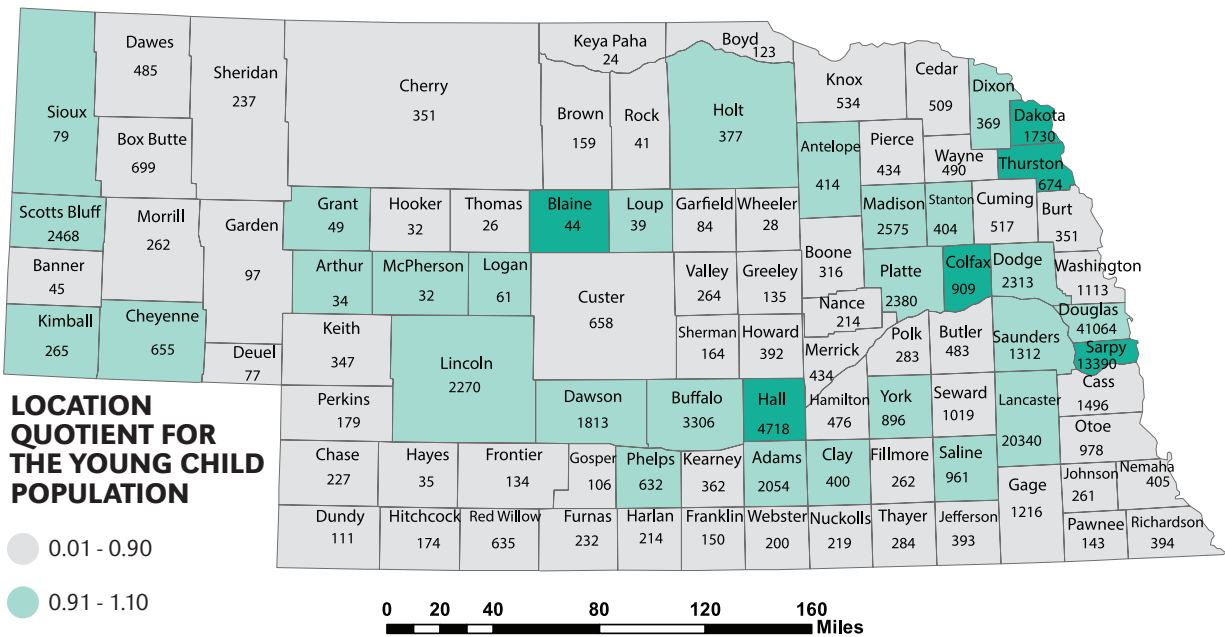
## NEBRASKA YOUNG CHILD POPULATION (5 & UNDER)

The young child population of Nebraska is approximately 130,000 (7.0% of the state population), while the young child population of the United States is approximately 20 million (6.3%). Figure 8 utilizes location quotients (LQs) and shows the relative concentrations of young children compared to the average rate across Nebraska.

Figure 8 suggests that counties with a higher relative concentration of young children tend to be in the central and northeast parts of the state. For instance, Dakota, Colfax, and Thurston counties in northeast Nebraska have the highest relative concentrations of young children, with 1.20-1.49 times more young children compared to the average relative concentration across the state.

Additionally, some of Nebraska's most populated counties of Sarpy (1.14) and Hall (1.12) have greater relative concentrations of young children compared to the average concentration across the state. In general, the south and west parts of Nebraska have lower relative concentrations of young children. Appendix B lists Nebraska counties with the highest and lowest percentages of young children. Counties with the highest percentages include Thurston, Colfax, Dakota, Blaine, and Sarpy, whereas counties with the lowest percentages include Rock, Hayes, Wheeler, Keya Paha, and Thomas.

**FIGURE 8. NEBRASKA YOUNG CHILD POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Source: US Census Bureau. "Demographic and Housing Estimates" 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP05)

Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

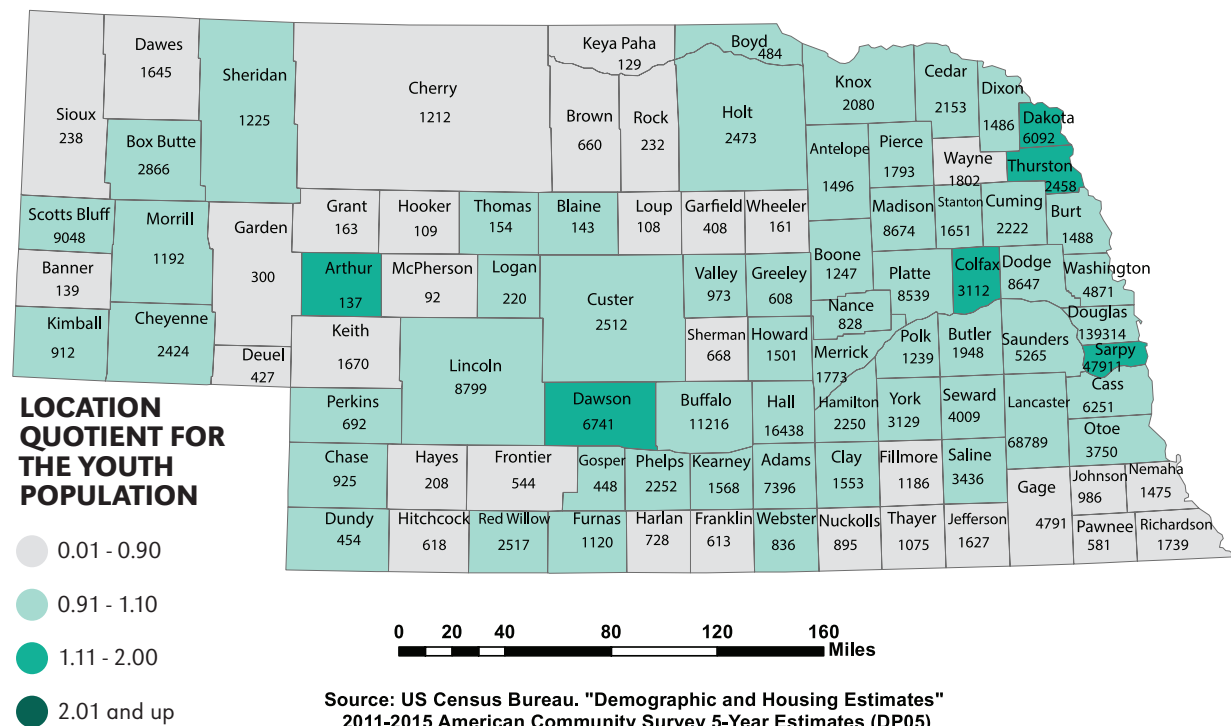
## NEBRASKA YOUTH POPULATION (UNDER 18)

The youth population (under 18) of Nebraska is approximately 465,000 (24.9% of the state population) compared with approximately 74 million (23.3%) in the United States. Thus, Nebraska has a higher percentage of youth in the state compared to the United States. Figure 9 utilizes location quotients (LQs) to illustrate the relative concentration of youth compared to the average rate of youth across the state.

Similarities exist between the Nebraska young child (5 years and under) map (Figure 8) and the Nebraska youth population (under 18 years) map (Figure 9). Figure 9 indicates that the northeast

corner of Nebraska, including Thurston, Colfax, and Dakota counties, have about 1.15 to 1.42 times as many youth compared to the average relative concentration across the state. Additionally, Arthur County has 1.23 times as many youth compared to the average rate of youth across Nebraska counties. Similar to Figure 8, Nebraska counties in the south and west have lower relative concentrations of youth. Appendix B lists Nebraska counties with the highest and lowest percentages of youth. Counties with the highest percentages include Thurston, Arthur, Colfax, Dakota, and Sarpy, whereas counties with the lowest percentages include Hooker, Garden, Rock, Banner, and Dawes.

**FIGURE 9. NEBRASKA YOUTH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.



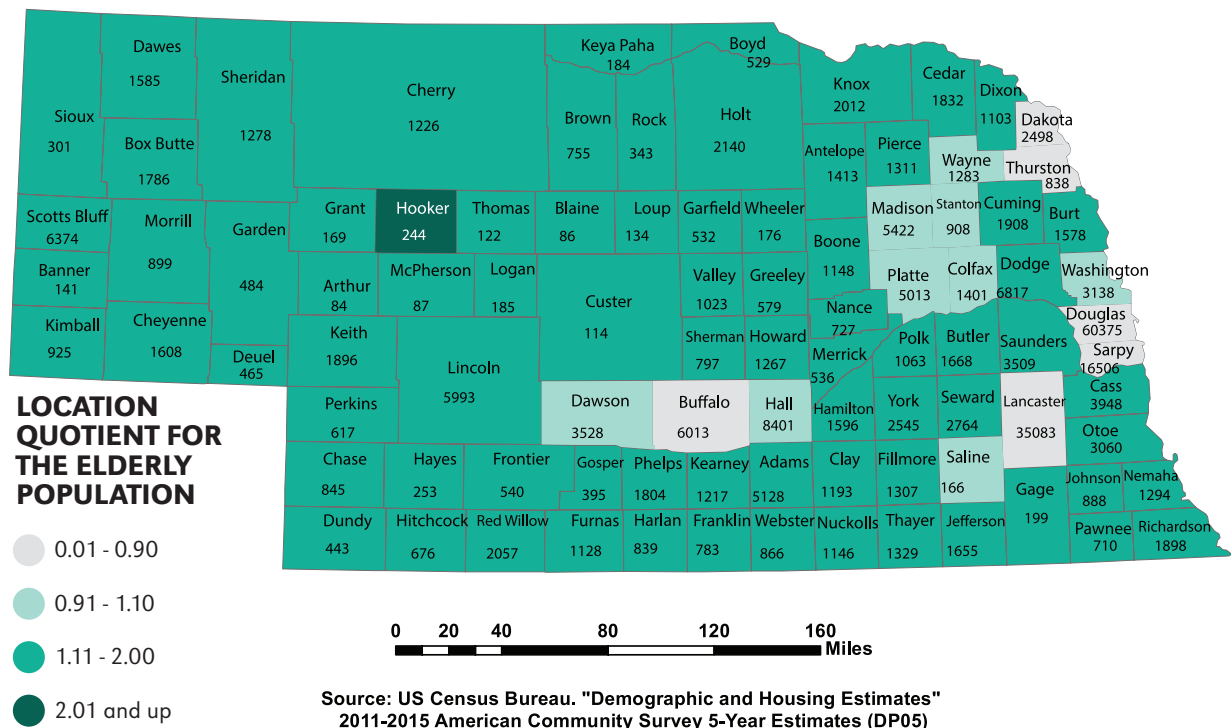
## NEBRASKA ELDERLY POPULATION (65 YEARS AND OLDER)

The elderly (65 years & older) population of Nebraska is approximately 265,000 (14.1% of the state population), which represents the same percentage of the elderly population of the United States (approximately 45 million; 14.1%). Figure 10 illustrates location quotients (LQs) and indicates relative concentration of elders compared to the average rate of the elderly population across the state.

Figure 10 suggests counties with higher relative concentrations of elderly Nebraskans contrast the Nebraska young child and youth population maps (Figures 8 & 9). Counties with higher relative concentrations of young children and youth tend to have the lowest relative concentrations of the elderly.

Comparatively, counties along the Nebraska-Kansas border, the Nebraska-South Dakota border, and western Nebraska show higher relative concentrations of elders. Specifically, Hooker (2.54), Garfield (1.95), Garden (1.88), Nuckolls (1.85), Boyd (1.84), Keya Paha (1.83), Sherman (1.82), Thayer (1.82), Franklin (1.79), and Kimball (1.76) counties have higher relative concentrations of elders compared to the average concentration across the state. Overall, the LQs are higher than the average rate of the elderly population across the entire state in all but fifteen counties. Appendix B lists Nebraska counties with the highest and lowest percentages of elderly. Counties with the highest percentages include Hooker, Garfield, Garden, Nuckolls, and Pawnee, whereas counties with the lowest percentages include Sarpy, Douglas, Lancaster, Dakota, and Thurston.

**FIGURE 10. NEBRASKA ELDERLY POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND RELATIVE CONCENTRATION BY COUNTY 2015 (ESTIMATED NUMBER AND LOCATION QUOTIENT)**



Note: Numbers within the counties indicate the estimated number of residents for the related demographic statistic, and shading refers to the location quotient.

# NEBRASKA RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES BY AGE GROUP

This section details examples of the intersection between Nebraska's age groups with racial and ethnic groups. These intersecting trends are important information for communities in order to advance the quality of life of community members (Mejía et al., 2017). Experts suggest that communities should consider their demographic characteristics when offering services and resources (Dettlaff & Rycraft, 2009).

Many counties with a high Hispanic/Latino relative concentration (Figure 7) also have a high relative concentration of young children (Figure 8) and youth (Figure 9). This trend suggests a high relative concentration of Hispanic/Latino children in many counties across the state, such as Dakota, Colfax, Platte, Madison, Hall, and Dawson counties. On a similar note, Thurston County has a higher relative concentration of young children (1.39) and youth (1.42), as well as a higher relative concentration of American Indian and Alaska Native populations (35.28), suggesting this county has a high relative concentration of young American Indian and Alaska Natives.

As indicated in the *Mapping Quality of Life in Nebraska: The Geographic Distribution of Poverty* factsheet, poverty rates for children, as well as racial and ethnic minorities, are among the highest in the state (Daily et al., 2017). This trend is important to recognize for counties with high child and high racial and ethnic minority relative concentrations, and especially counties where high concentrations of these two groups are present.

In contrast, counties with a higher relative concentration of elderly (Figure 10) are consistent with counties with a lower relative concentration of racial and ethnic minorities (Figure 2). This trend suggests that counties with high relative concentrations of elderly are not as racially and ethnically diverse.

For instance, Hooker and Garfield counties have the highest relative concentrations of elderly in the state (2.54 and 1.95, respectively), yet the relative concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities are well below the state's average (0.28 and 0.14, respectively). Similarly, counties with higher relative concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities, such as Thurston (3.19) and Dakota (2.48), have relative concentrations of elderly that are below the state average (0.85). This trend is consistent with the elderly population in the United States. Though the elderly population is less racially and ethnically diverse, it will continue to diversify over the next few decades (U.S. Census, 2010).

An exception to this intersecting trend of racial and ethnic minorities with elderly in Nebraska is Sheridan and Knox counties. These two counties have high relative concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native populations (8.28 and 6.66, respectively), as well as high relative concentrations of elderly (1.71 and 1.66, respectively). The trend in these two counties suggests a higher relative concentration of elderly American Indian and Alaska Natives.

# KEY POINTS

This section details key points from the data on racial, ethnic, and age groups across Nebraska.

## RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN NEBRASKA

- The proportions of Nebraska’s racial and ethnic minority populations tend to be smaller by 4% (i.e., Asian) to 8% (i.e., Black or African American, Hispanic/Latino) than those of the US, except for the Hawaiian and Pacific Islander and American Indian and Alaska Native populations (i.e., smaller only by 0.1% to 0.2%).
- Nebraska’s urban areas, which comprise 73.1% of the Nebraska population, have higher numbers of racial and ethnic minorities than suburban or rural areas. However, when the relative concentration of racial and ethnic minorities is taken into account, many of the lowest populated counties often have the highest relative concentrations of racial and ethnic minority groups, particularly Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, American Indian and Alaska Natives, and Hispanic/Latinos, compared to the other counties.
- Counties across the central part of the state, as well as the northeast corner, tend to have the highest relative concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities.

## NEBRASKA YOUNG CHILD AND YOUTH POPULATIONS

- Counties in northeast Nebraska have the highest relative concentrations of young children and youth compared to the relative number of young children and youth in the entire state.
- Other counties with high relative concentrations of young children and youth tend to be the state’s higher populated counties.

## NEBRASKA ELDERLY POPULATION

- Counties with higher relative elderly concentrations tend to be in rural areas, specifically in western Nebraska and along the Nebraska-Kansas border.
- Counties with high relative elderly concentrations tend to be counties with lower relative concentrations of young child and youth populations.

## INTERSECTIONS OF NEBRASKA RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND AGE GROUPS

- Counties with high relative concentrations of young children and youth tend to be the ones that also have high relative concentrations of racial and ethnic minority populations, specifically Hispanic/Latinos and American Indian and Alaska Natives (e.g., Thurston, Platte, Colfax, Dakota, and Dawson counties).
- Most counties in Nebraska with high racial/ethnic minority concentrations have lower relative elderly concentrations, suggesting a low relative concentration of minority elders in these counties.

# POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Data in this report have implications for the sustainability of communities, as well as the quality of life of community members. For instance, counties with higher young child and youth concentrations may benefit from increased attention to early childhood resources and after-school programs. These counties with high young child and youth populations also align with counties that have higher concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities, specifically Hispanic/Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. This alignment suggests that policymakers and other workers may benefit ethnic minority children and their families by implementing services for English Language Learners and other culturally sensitive resources.

Additionally, counties with higher elderly concentrations tend to be in rural areas, suggesting a potential need for aging services, accessible health care, retirement programs, and other resources that benefit elders in these counties. Moreover, counties with both a high concentration of elders and racial/ethnic minorities may consider offering culturally sensitive retirement information, as well as bilingual aging resources.

The high elderly population also has economic implications, as the high aging population potentially means a decline in the work force. Nebraska counties with high elderly populations tend to have lower young child and youth populations. This demographic trend has implications for small businesses in these communities, as business owners and entrepreneurs

reach retirement age. Additionally, as rural counties across Nebraska continue to experience “youth flight” (i.e., youth leaving their community at the peak of their economic productivity for other areas; Smith, Winkler & Johnson, 2016), there are implications for counties with high young populations in retaining these youth, as well as counties with lower youth populations in attracting young individuals in the workforce.

Finally, the *Mapping Quality of Life in Nebraska: The Geographic Distribution of Poverty* factsheet shows an overlap in poverty rates among these aforementioned vulnerable populations (i.e., children, elderly, racial and ethnic minorities). Poverty rates among these populations can manifest in health disparities and unhealthy development (Vanderbilt et al., 2013). This trend has implications for counties that report higher than average rates of children, elderly, and racial and ethnic minorities, as well as higher poverty rates (Daily et al., 2017).

Overall, this report details the racial, ethnic, and age distributions across Nebraska. Data used in this report show the intersecting nature of the Nebraska racial and ethnic populations and age groups. The information presented in this report regarding Nebraska counties’ demographic composition and relative concentrations intends to help policymakers and professionals provide relevant support to racial and ethnical minorities and all age groups living in Nebraska.

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# APPENDIX A

## NEBRASKA COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS

	TOTAL POP.	RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY POP.	PERCENT
<b>ASIAN</b>			
LANCASTER	298,080	13,771	4.6%
LOUP	548	22	4.0%
DOUGLAS	537,655	20,118	3.7%
DAKOTA	20,798	729	3.5%
SARPY	169,192	5,562	3.3%
<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK</b>			
DOUGLAS	537,655	68,642	12.8%
JOHNSON	5,167	388	7.5%
SARPY	169,192	9,672	5.7%
LANCASTER	298,080	15,487	5.2%
DAWSON	24,069	1,188	4.9%
<b>HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER</b>			
DAWES	9,136	188	2.1%
DODGE	36,725	171	0.5%
KEITH	8,146	43	0.5%
BLAINE	551	2	0.4%
HOWARD	6,347	25	0.4%
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN OR ALASKA NATIVE</b>			
THURSTON	6,946	3,960	57.0%
SHERIDAN	5,294	708	13.4%
KNOX	8,556	921	10.8%
CHERRY	5,770	431	7.5%
RICHARDSON	8,201	496	6.0%
<b>HISPANIC/LATINO</b>			
COLFAX	10,522	4,532	43.1%
DAKOTA	20,798	7,725	37.1%
DAWSON	24,069	7,866	32.7%
HALL	60,792	15,519	25.5%
SALINE	14,360	3,228	22.5%
<b>WHITE</b>			
GRANT	769	769	100.0%
MCPHERSON	433	433	100.0%
PAWNEE	2,726	2,724	99.9%
WHEELER	847	845	99.8%
THAYER	5,182	5,168	99.7%

# APPENDIX B

## NEBRASKA COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST & LOWEST AGE POPULATIONS

	TOTAL POP.	AGE POP.	PERCENT
<b>YOUNG CHILD (5 &amp; UNDER) HIGHEST</b>			
THURSTON	6,946	674	9.7%
COLFAX	10,522	909	8.6%
DAKOTA	20,798	1,730	8.3%
BLAINE	551	44	8.0%
SARPY	169,192	13,390	7.9%
<b>YOUNG CHILD (5 &amp; UNDER) LOWEST</b>			
ROCK	1,401	41	2.9%
HAYES	1,084	35	3.2%
WHEELER	847	28	3.3%
KEYA PAHA	711	24	3.4%
THOMAS	675	26	3.9%
<b>YOUTH (UNDER 18) HIGHEST</b>			
THURSTON	6,946	2,458	35.4%
ARTHUR	448	137	30.6%
COLFAX	10,522	3,112	29.6%
DAKOTA	20,798	6,092	29.3%
SARPY	169,192	47,911	28.3%
<b>YOUTH (UNDER 18) LOWEST</b>			
HOOKER	681	109	16.0%
GARDEN	1,823	300	16.5%
ROCK	1,401	232	16.6%
BANNER	820	139	17.0%
DAWES	9,136	1,645	18.0%
<b>ELDERLY (65 &amp; OLDER) HIGHEST</b>			
HOOKER	681	244	35.8%
GARFIELD	1,933	532	27.5%
GARDEN	1,823	484	26.5%
NUCKOLLS	4,391	1,146	26.1%
PAWNEE	2,726	710	26.0%
<b>ELDERLY (65 &amp; OLDER) LOWEST</b>			
SARPY	169,192	16,506	9.8%
DOUGLAS	537,655	60,375	11.2%
LANCASTER	298,080	35,083	11.8%
DAKOTA	20,798	2,498	12.0%
THURSTON	6,946	838	12.1%