Demographic Change in Rural America
Plan of Action
6/15/06

Issues:

(1) Rural Turnaround (1970s) and Rural Rebound (1990s)
(2) Age-Specific Migration
(3) Natural Increase
(4) Diversity
Demographic Trends in U.S.

**Figure 1. Population trends in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, 1920–2004.**

Source: Johnson (2006), p. 9
Non-Metro Population Change

Demographic Change 1990-2000 and 2000-2004

Rural areas near metros growing faster

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Causes of Nonmetro Growth

(1) Urban Sprawl
(2) Economic Factors (labor, land, taxes)
(3) Rural Areas Integrated into National System
(4) Residential Preferences
   Non-economic Factors
      Lifestyle
      Retirement & Recreation
   Life Cycle Factors
(5) Selective Deconcentration

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Diverse Trends in Rural Areas

(1) Fastest Growing Rural Areas
   • Close to Urban Areas
   • Scenic or Recreational Amenities

(2) Rural Areas with Slow Growth or Decline
   • Remote Counties
   • Farming Areas
   • Mining Areas
   • Manufacturing Counties

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Rural Population Change

Figure 2. Nonmetropolitan Demographic Change
1930 to 2004

- **Turnaround**
- **Rebound**

**Historical migration loss**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Population Change</th>
<th>Net Migration</th>
<th>Natural Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930-40</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>-0.70</td>
<td>-0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-50</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>-0.60</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-60</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>-1.20</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-70</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>-0.90</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-80</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-90</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>-0.50</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-04</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Rural Population Change

Figure 3. Nonmetropolitan Demographic Trends, 1970 to 2004

Rural Turnaround

Rural Rebound

Migration is driving force in demographic change

Source: Johnson, Nucci and Long, 2005 (revised).
Notes: 1993 Metropolitan Definition; "2000" is July 1999 to July 2000.

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Figure 12. Demographic Change 1990-2004 for Farming, Manufacturing, and Mining Counties

Slowdown in rural manufacturing counties


Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Age Specific Migration

Figure 5. Nonmetropolitan Age Specific Net Migration

Migration loss of young adults

Source: Johnson et. al., 2005.

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Age Specific Migration

Figure 9. Age-Specific Net Migration: Farm

Source: Johnson, et al, 2005

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Age Specific Migration

Source: Johnson, et al, 2005

Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Non-Metro Population Change

Figure 7. Nonmetropolitan Population Change, 1990 to 2004


Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Non-Metro Population Change

Figure 8. Nonmetropolitan Net Migration, 1990 to 2004


Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Non-Metro Population Change

Figure 9. Nonmetropolitan Natural Increase, 1990 to 2004


Source: www.ruralamerica.org
Natural Increase

“In contrast to net migration, which can rapidly transform the size and structure of a population, the impact of natural increase is subtle and gradual. Over the course of several generations, the impact of out-migration of people of childbearing age on natural increase can be substantial. The minimal natural increase in rural counties since 1990 reflects … an age structure in many rural counties that includes few young adults of childbearing age and many older adults at greater risk of mortality.”

“One striking finding is the surprising small number of truly multi-ethnic counties in the U.S. In 2000, there were fewer than 160 counties in the entire country that had multi-ethnic-populations (defined as having at least two minority groups exceeding their national percentage of the population). So, while some rural areas are becoming more racially diverse, in most one or possible two racial/ethnic groups constitute the vast majority of the population.”

~Johnson (2006), p. 25
Population Change by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 18. Rate of Population Change by Race/Ethnicity 1990-2000 and 2000-2004

Hispanics are key source of rural growth


Source: www.ruralamerica.org