Changing Rural Populations and Impact on Public Policy

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Overview of the Presentation

- Populations in rural areas in 2010 will not resemble populations in 1990
- There are opportunities to influence population trends
- Requires thinking in terms of places and integration of policies
- Translation: Health policy issues of 2002-2004
Population Movement

- Who is leaving?
- Who is Staying?
- Who is Coming?
- What is the resulting Settlement Pattern?
Who is Leaving?

- Northern Great Plains States
- Rocky Mountain States
- The Carolina’s
Depopulation of the Northern Great Plains
1990 to 2000

Source: US Census, 2000
Thinning of the West
1990 - 2000

Source: US Census, 2000
North Carolina and South Carolina
Population Change 1990 - 2000

Source: US Census, 2000
Are We Losing Something of Value?

- Small rural communities to ghost towns?
- Stewardship of the land?
- Part of our cultural heritage?
Who is Staying and Where?

- Elderly (Graying of Rural America)
- Transportation and Trade Centers
- The Poor
Figure 3.
Percent 65 Years and Over: 2000
For information on confidentiality protection, non-sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/br/cbf07.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1: American Factfinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.
Change in Age 65 and Older Cohort (1990 - 2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Change in Age 65+ Cohort
(1990 - 2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Population Change in Relation to Trade Centers and Transportation Corridors
(1990 - 2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Population Change in Relation to Trade Centers and Transportation Corridors (1990 - 2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Nonmetro Persistent Poverty Counties


Source: Economic Research Service, USDA and U.S. Census Bureau
2000 Update Prepared and Mapped by RUPRI
Why are They Staying?

Ties to the land

- Karen Ott in Nebraska: “Our names are written on the land. It captures your heart and it doesn’t let go very easily.” (Omaha World Herald, October 27)

- Frank Popper: “The Plains chooses its own. These are people who are going to stay.” (Ibid)

Economically dependent

- High rates of poverty

- Costs and risks of leaving are barrier to moving

- Desperate hope for resurgence
Who is Coming?

- Natural Increase and Immigration
  - Nationally
  - Regionally
Prevalence, 2000
Hispanic or Latino Origin and All Races

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (PL 94-171) Summary File.
Cartography Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.

U.S. Census Bureau
North Carolina & South Carolina Minority Population Change
1990 - 2000

Source: US Census, 2000
Hispanics as a Percent of Total Population, 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Map Prepared by RUPRI
Decrease in Non-Hispanic Population, Increase/No Change in Hispanic Population, 1990-2000

[Map of the United States showing the distribution of Metro (123 Counties) and Nonmetro (632 Counties) areas.]

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Map Prepared by RUPRI
Counties with Increase in Hispanic Population of 100 Percent or More, 1990-2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Map Prepared by RUPRI
Change in Hispanic or Latino Population
1990 - 2000

Source: US Census, 2000
White Non-Hispanic Population Age and Sex Distribution, Nebraska 2000

Minority (1) Population Age and Sex Distribution, Nebraska 2000


(1) – Includes White Hispanics, Blacks, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asians, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders, Some Other Race and Multiple Races.
Who Are Rural Americans?

- Age
- Race and Ethnicity
- Income
Percent Under Age 18, 2000

Percent of total population under age 18 by state:
- U.S. percent is 25.7
- 28.0 to 29.9
- 25.7 to 27.9
- 24.0 to 25.6
- 20.1 to 23.9

Percent of total population under age 18 by county:
- High proportion of young people
- U.S. percent is 25.7
- Low proportion of young people

Figure 3. Percent 65 Years and Over: 2000

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/2000pubs/acs/01acs.pdf

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. American Factfinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.
Age Cohort 0-4 as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

State Border

Source: US Census, 2000
Age Cohort 5-10 as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000

0 - 200 - 400 Miles

State Border
Age 5-10
0.03 - 0.14
0.14 - 0.25
0.25 - 0.36
0.36 - 0.47
0.47 - 0.58
Age Cohort 11-16 as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Age Cohort 17-24 as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Age Cohort 25-64 as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Age Cohort 65+ as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
White Alone as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Native American Alone as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Asian Alone as a Percentage of Total County Population (2000)

Source: US Census, 2000
Household Income - Less than $40,000
(1999)

Source: US Census, 2000
Household Income $40,000 to $100,000
(1999)

Source: US Census, 2000
Household Income > $100,000 (1999)

Source: US Census, 2000
Household Income > $100,000 (1999)

Source: US Census, 2000
Where Will Rural Americans Be Living?

Source: North Carolina State Demographics Unit, 2002.
U.S. Census, 2000
Where Will Rural Americans Be Living?

- May change by region as function of economic activity
- May change within region
- All will be living in “places,” often anchored by a community
What Do the Settlement Patterns Mean?

Changes in demands for services

- The population that stayed is aging
- The population that is arriving present different needs

Disparities in income magnified by disparities in culture

- Access to health care and other services is both self-regulated and screened by systems
- Income and insurance status major determinants
- Cultural heritage and racial differences are also determinants
Changes in Space and People

- More “wide open spaces” – meaning in distance between population centers

- Implications for the future of the labor pool in rural America
Changes Mean Rethinking Assets

The land and natural assets from Kent Meyers of South Dakota, author of *Witness of Combines, The River Warren: A Novel*, contributing to a collection of comments on why rural matters:

A healthy rural community is healthy precisely because it sustains itself at the same time that it sustains the land around it, and work done for financial benefit often cannot be separated from work for environmental benefit.
Rethinking Assets

- The new labor pool
  - Training
  - Using

- People who need services: the graying of rural America

- Retaining the best of the past and present in rural values, communities

- Building for the future
Signals to Policy Makers

- Different populations to serve
- Different activities to support and nurture
- Times they are a changing
  - But values can endure
Generates Differences in Policy Paradigms

- How to focus economic development policies
- How to focus education policies
- Paradigm is place-based policies, and targeting people in those places
- Ride tide of change, but also redirect when opportunities are present (entrepreneurial activities)
Directions for Public Policies

- Community Development
- Shifting to Place-Based Policies
Community Development Policies

Clues to Rural Community Survival: Heartland Center for Leadership Development

www.heartlandcenter.info

1. Evidence of Community Pride
2. Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life
3. Willingness to Invest in the Future
4. Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making
5. Cooperative Community Spirit
6. Realistic Appraisal of Future Opportunities

7. Awareness of Competitive Positioning

8. Knowledge of the Physical Environment

9. Active Economic Development Program

10. Deliberate Transition of Power to a Younger Generation of Leaders

11. Acceptance of Women in Leadership Roles

12. Strong Belief and Support for Education
13. Problem-solving Approach to Providing Health Care

14. Strong Multi-generational Family Orientation

15. Strong Presence of Traditional Institutions that are Integral to Community Life

16. Sound and well-maintained Infrastructure

17. Careful use of Fiscal Resources

18. Sophisticated Use of Information Resources

19. Willingness to Seek Help from the Outside

20. Conviction that, in the Long Run, You Have to Do It Yourself
Making it Happen

- Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
  Title VI: Rural Development
  Subtitle A: Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

- Rural Strategic Investment Program

- National Board on Rural America

- Broadband Services in Rural America

- Rural Business Investment Program

- Rural Firefighter and Emergency Personnel Grant Program
Shaping Place-Based Policy

Congressional Perspectives:

- “Another policy I will promote in Washington is to exempt the one hundred poorest counties in the country from any federal match for any federal funding whatsoever, whether it’s highways or healthcare. It is simply counterproductive to tell counties which have trouble maintaining an operating budget as it is, that they get no federal money unless they come up with matching funds. We might as well be honest and tell them we can’t help at all in the first place.”

- “A short list of items always on my radar screen include: fixing the Medicare payment disparity and securing benefits for Medicare dependent hospitals and healthcare clinics.”
Common Goals Among Members of Congress

- increasing resources to family farmers and rectifying the inequities in the Farm Bill
- expanding access to broadband
- improving the rural healthcare system
- generating incentives for new business starts and job creation in rural communities
- preserving the rural environment

Source: “Perceptions of Rural America: Congressional Perspectives” W.K. Kellogg Foundation (bipartisan survey of 26 members of Congress between December 2001 and April 2002)
Where Do Hospitals Fit In?

- Part of strategic policy
- providing services
- leaders in health care
Policies that Matter to Hospitals

- Payment Policies
- Work Force
- Regulatory
- Investment
Payment Policies

Current morass of specific payments to different categories

- Critical Access Hospitals: improvements being considered
- Sole Community Hospitals: impacted by CAH designations
- Rural Referral Centers
- Medicare Dependent Hospitals

Hospital updates and standardized payment
Impact of population movement
- need among elderly
- future work force among new arrivals

Continued pressing, immediate needs
- reauthorized National Health Service Corps
- reauthorized Conrad 20 program
- support loan repayment policies
- support targeted education programs
Regulatory Policies

- Regulatory reform within Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Regulatory reform within HHS
- Considerations for Congress
Investment

- Capital loan programs in HUD, USDA
- Considerations for a new Hill-Burton approach
A New Approach to Identifying Places in Need

- Vulnerable places based on
- Sparsely populated
- Low potential for generating patient revenue
Vulnerable Places in Non-Metropolitan Areas in Selected States *

Legend
- States
- Places Vulnerable by Principal Component Analysis
- Places Vulnerable by Population
- Study States
- Border States
Principles for a New Rural Policy

- from the Nebraska City Declaration:
- importance of a place-based framework
- necessity of greater local autonomy
- enhancement of the human and social capital in rural America
- acknowledgment of the essential role government, at all levels, must play
- integration of community efforts within a regional framework
Principles for a New Rural Policy (con’t)

- achievement of a sustainable, nondestructive development

- increased access to technological advances with a recognition that such access is not the only challenge

- investment of the resources required to achieve the results desired

- balancing funding sources for these required investments
Principles for a New Rural Policy (con’t)

- recognition that public and private entrepreneurship, and the optimization of regional competitive advantage, is the most promising trajectory

- expanding our attention to the critical role which natural resources and landscape must play in a holistic rural development strategy

- recognition and action to nurture the richness of our diverse cultures, and the strength which our growing rural diversity offers
In this Room

- critical stakeholders in local health care delivery systems
- effective advocates for rural health policy
- leaders for health care services in their communities
- potential leaders for a new rural policy that fits specific pieces into the larger puzzle
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