

Challenges in Resource Rich Communities: Finding the Path to Redevelopment

Mil Duncan

The Carsey Institute

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The Carsey Institute Programs

Vulnerable Children and Families

- Child Poverty
- Working Family Policy
- Childhood Obesity
- Rural Youth

Sustainable Development

- Community Development Finance and Social Enterprise
- Community and Environment: change in resource dependent areas

Evaluation and Demography Resources

- Demographic analysis
- New evaluation center
- Workshops on methodology for faculty

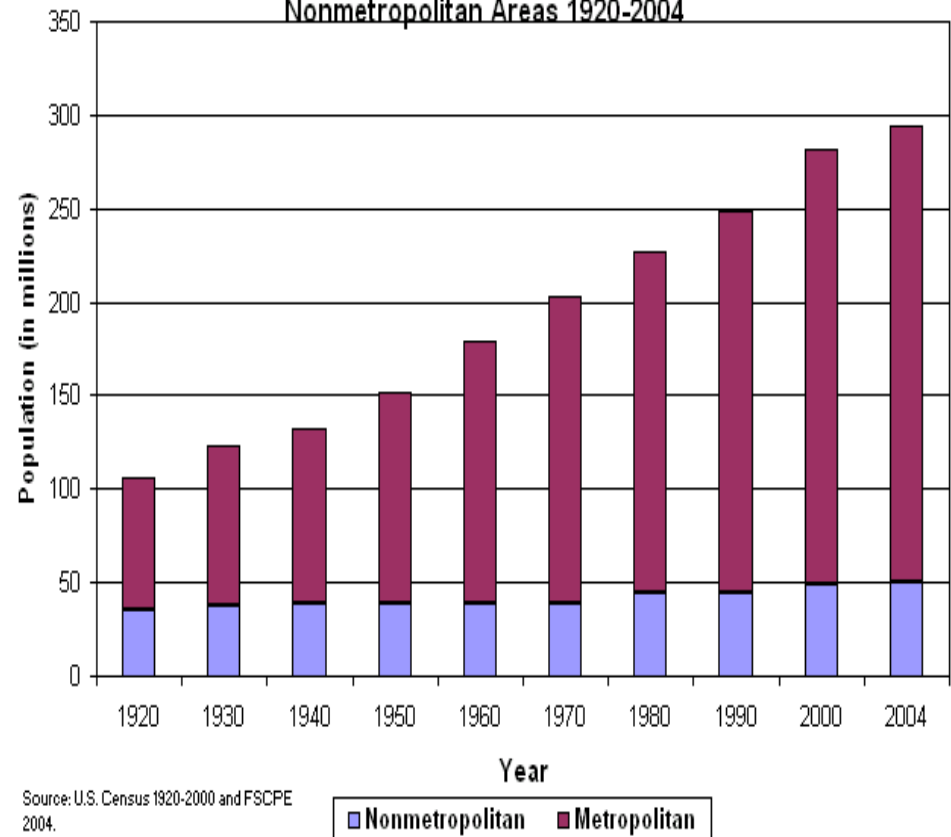
This morning I will

- Describe rural America as a context for thinking about re-development in northern forest communities; and
- Consider the role played by civic culture and civic institutions in development and change.

50 million people live in small town and rural communities

- 17% of the U.S. population on 80% of the land
- Slow, modest growth, though trends vary by type of community
- Over 7 million are poor in rural America

Figure 1. Population Trends in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Areas 1920-2004

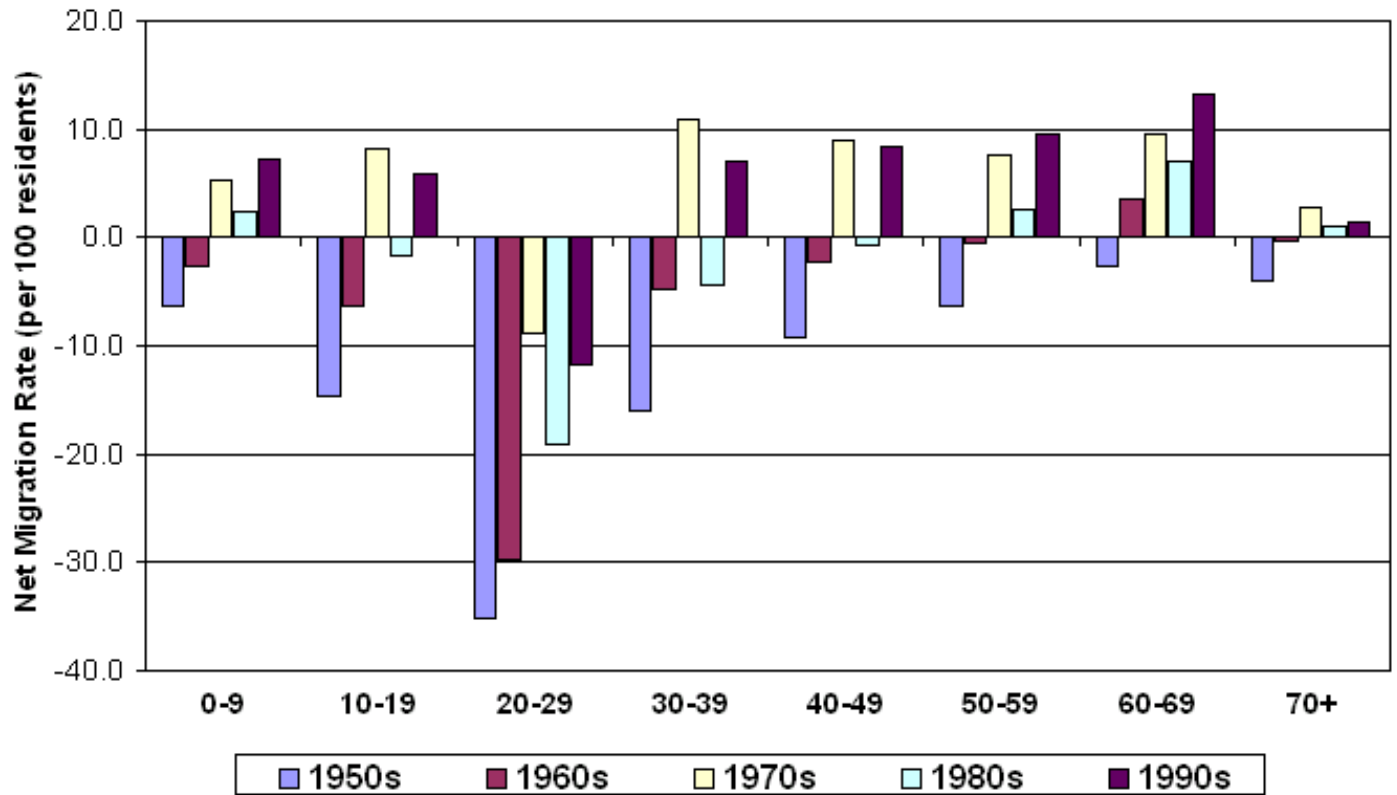


Big challenges in rural America – even before the downturn really hit

- Economic challenges Loss of blue collar jobs, decades of no investment in poor areas
- Demographic changes Aging, outmigration of young, areas where natural decrease is the pattern, a growing immigrant population
- Environmental pressures Environmental degradation, stress on natural resources, climate change; *potential*: in local food & energy

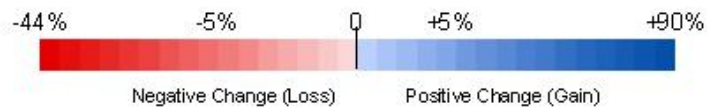
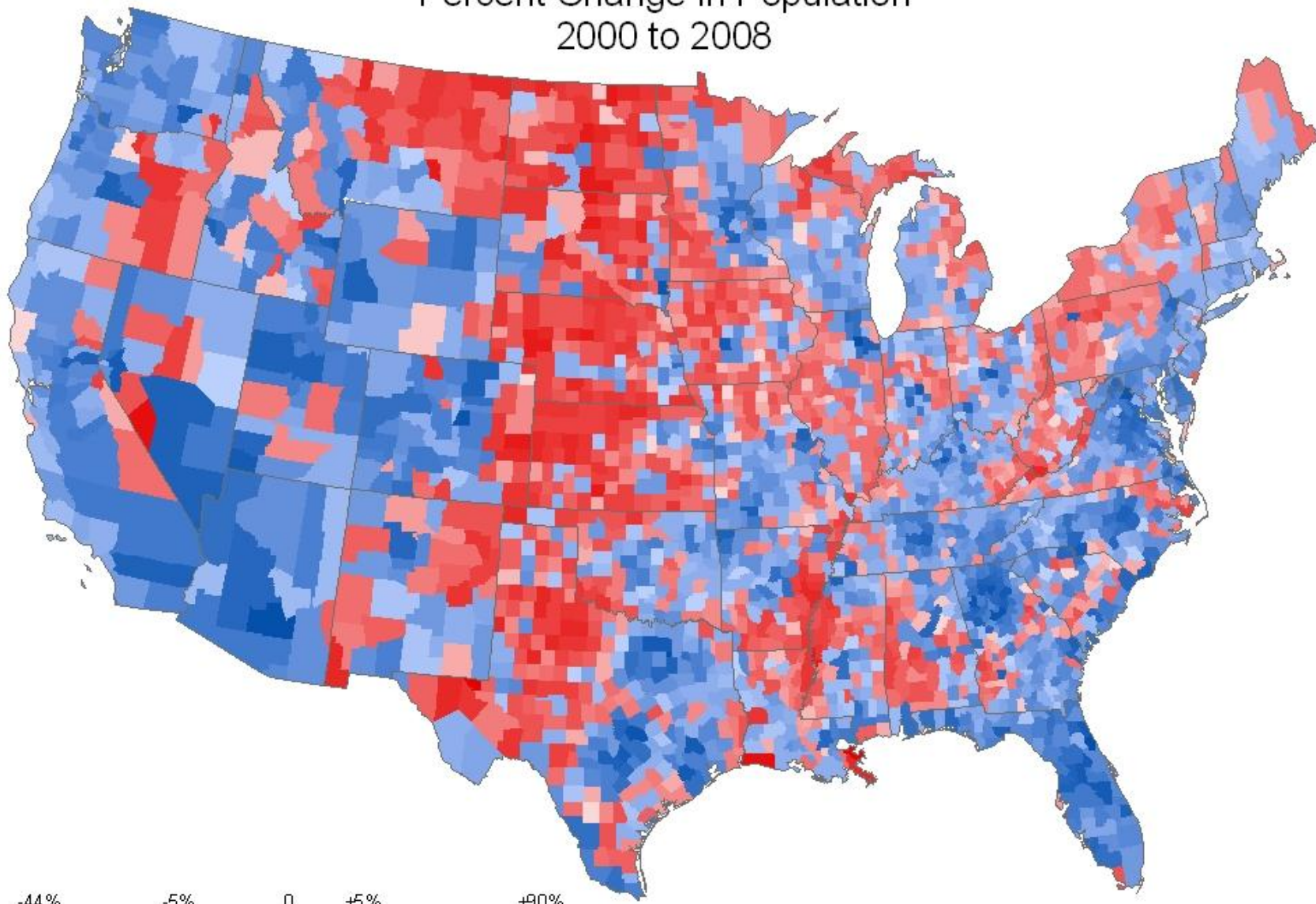
Demographic shifts: the young have always left

Recently, youth outmigration is declining overall... 80% of youth in a recent Penn study left. Older groups are coming into rural communities

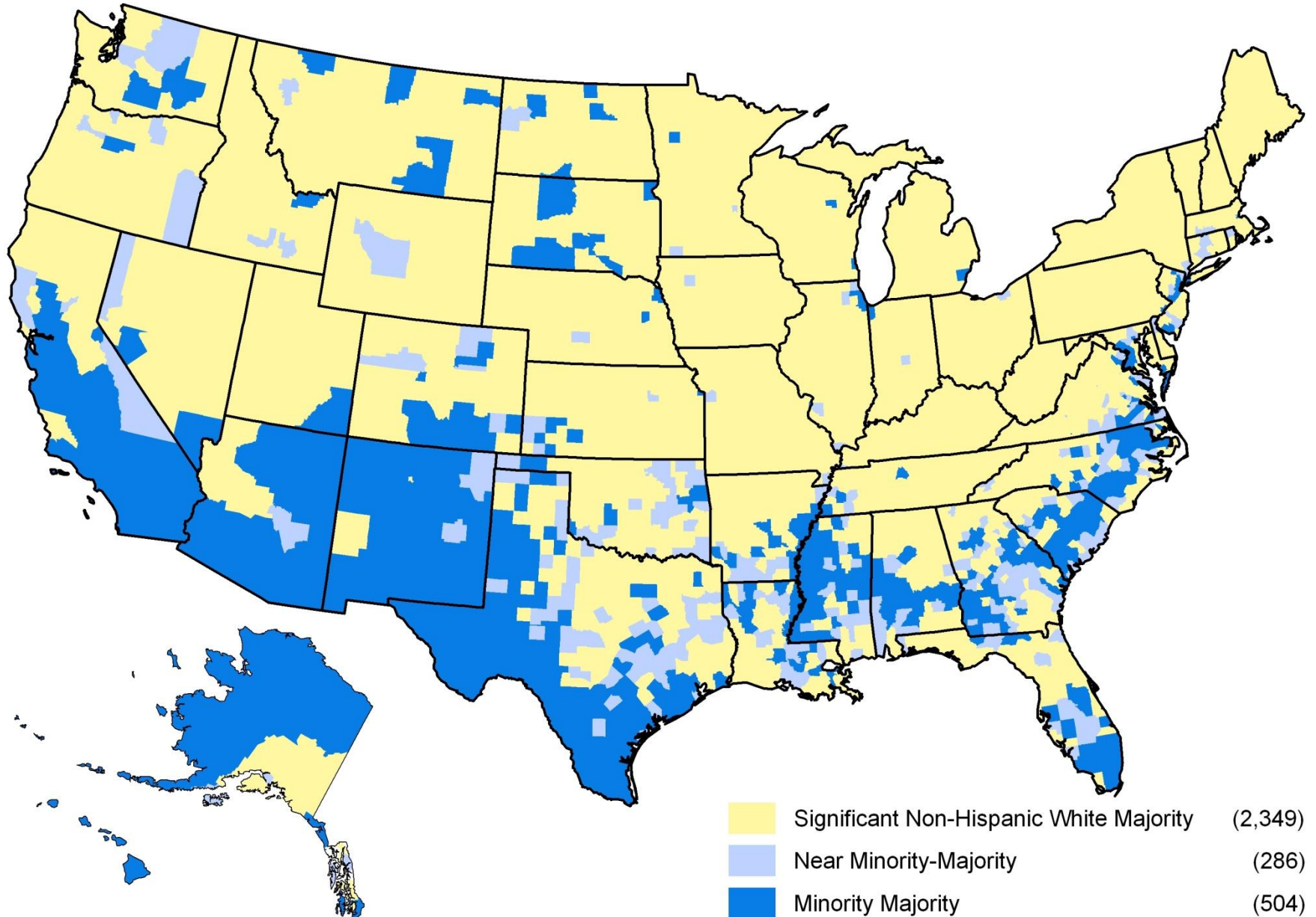


Source: Johnson et. al., 2005.

Percent Change in Population 2000 to 2008



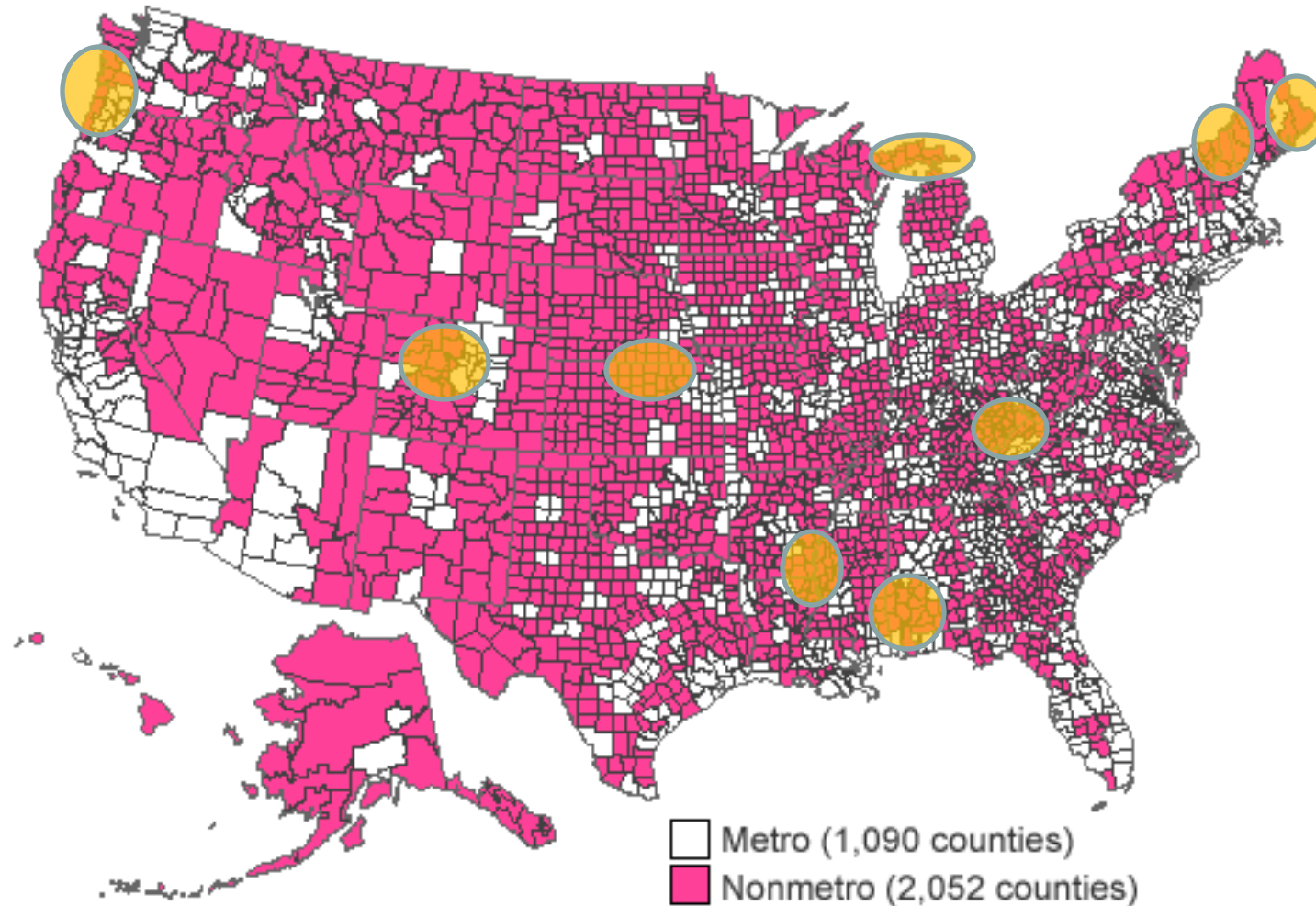
Distribution of Minority and Non-Hispanic White Population under Age 20, 2008



Analysis: K.M. Johnson, Carsey Institute, Univ of New Hampshire
Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Carsey's Survey on Community and Environment in Rural America

Nonmetropolitan and metropolitan counties, 2003



Source: Prepared by ERS using data from the Census Bureau.

The *Community & Environment in Rural America* Survey

- Telephone interviews
- 10,000 residents in 9 regions
 - CO Rockies
 - Great Plains
 - Central Appalachia
 - MS Delta
 - AL Black Belt
 - Northern Forest
 - Pacific NW
 - UP Michigan
 - Downeast ME
- Roughly 100 questions
 - Personal background and demographics
 - Migration history and plans
 - Economic/labor market experiences
 - Views on community issues
- Findings presented in *Place Matters: Challenges and Opportunities in Four Rural Americas*

The “Four Rurals”

Amenity

- Newcomers
- Growth
- Affluence
- Service economy
- Professionals
- Tourism
- Tied to natural beauty

Decline

- Traditional, resource-based industry
- Low poverty
- High employment
- High civic engagement
- Importance of family ties
- Outmigration

The “Four Rurals”

Amenity-Decline

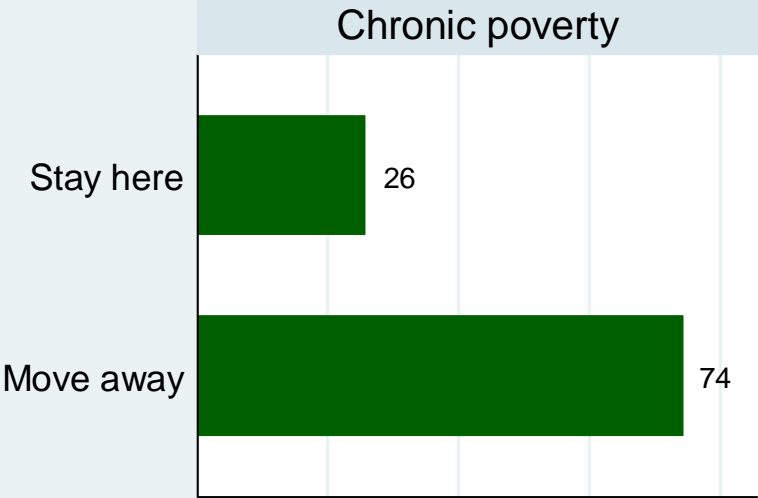
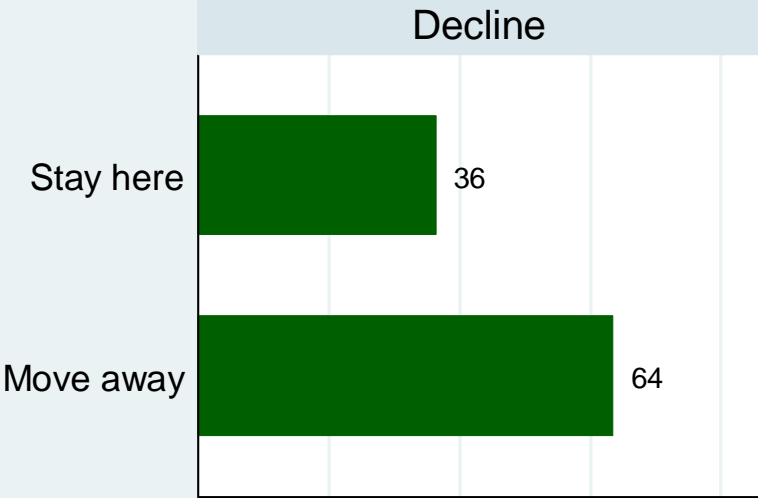
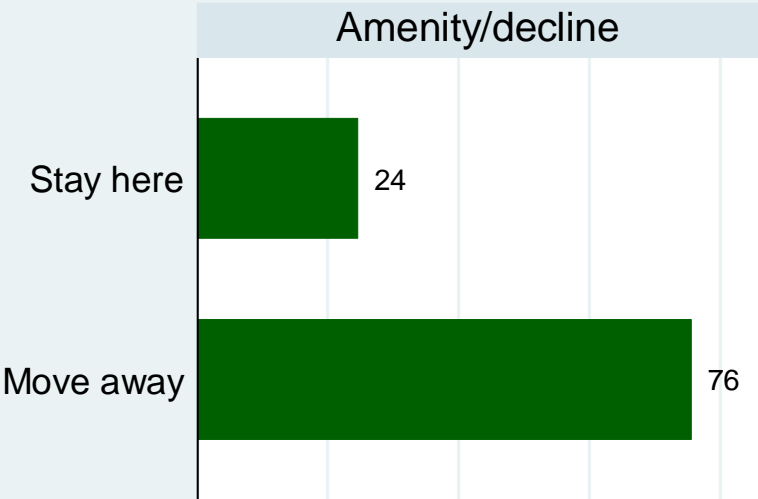
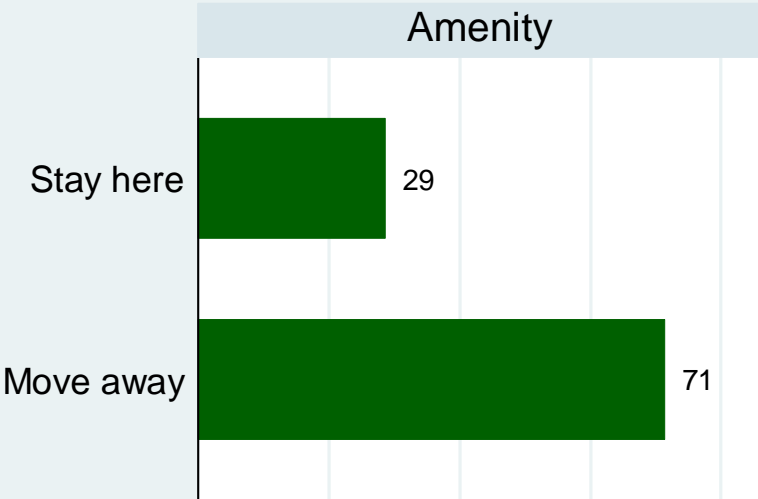
- Decline of traditional industries
- Context of natural beauty
- Shifting relationship between communities and environment
- Relatively low poverty
- Strong civic culture
- Ties to family and natural beauty

Chronic Poverty

- High poverty
- Low education
- Low employment
- Weak civic culture
- Low civic engagement
- Often coupled with decline in traditional industries

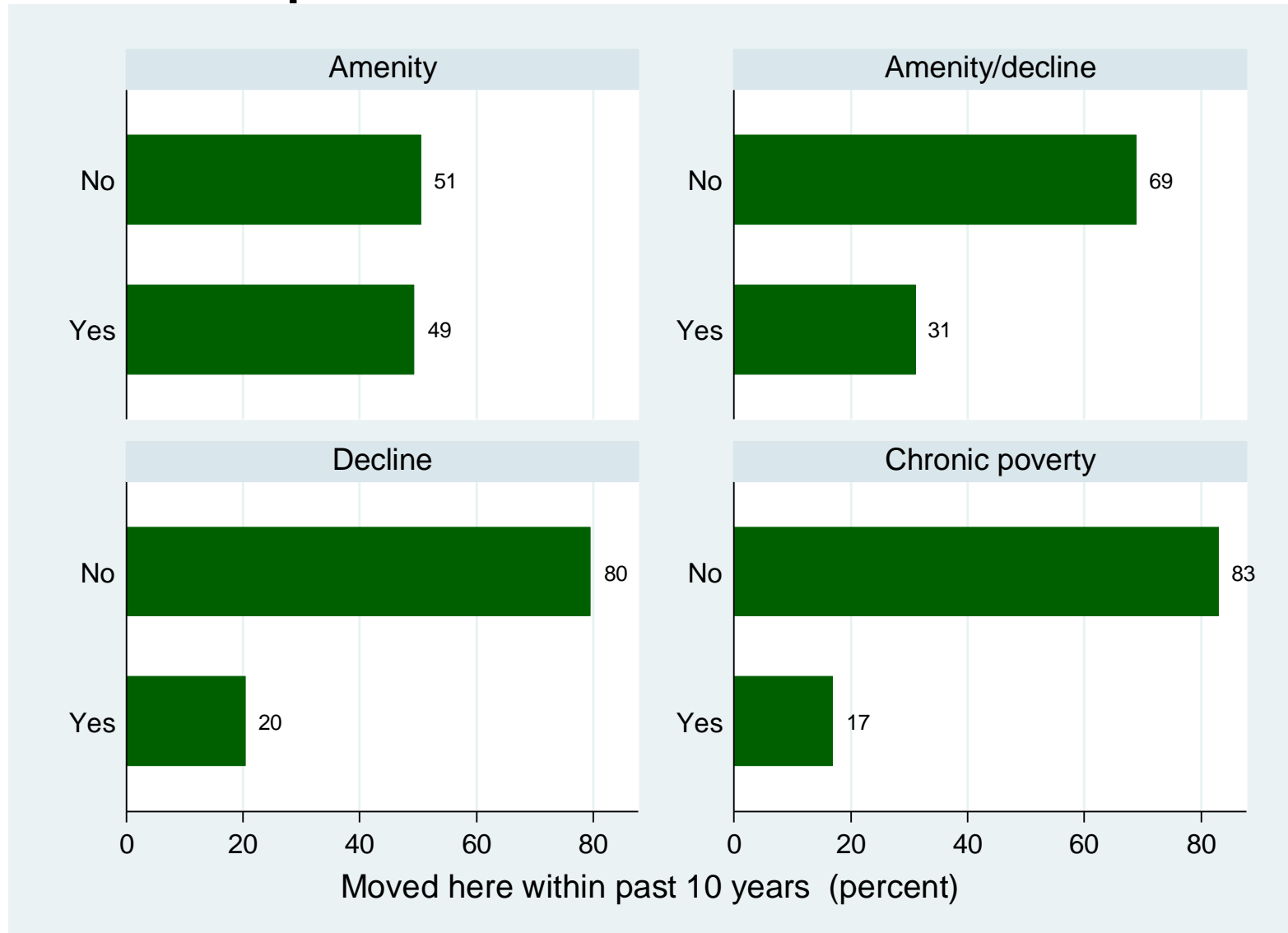
REGION/TYPE	POPN % CHANGE 1990-2005	% CHANGE IN POPN AGE 25-34 1990-2005	% AGE 16-64 WORKING 2000	% w/o HS DIPLOMA 2000	% IN POVERTY 2004
ROCKY MOUNTAINS/ AMENITY- BOOM	71%	41%	72%	9%	10%
NORTHEAST/ AMENITY- DECLINE	3%	-24%	73%	20%	12%
MIDWEST/ DECLINE	-19%	-50%	78%	14%	11%
APPALACHIA	-12%	-28%	43%	41%	27%
DELTA	-3%	2%	56%	40%	29%
BLACK BELT	-4%	-21%	54%	32%	22%

Everywhere young people are advised to leave

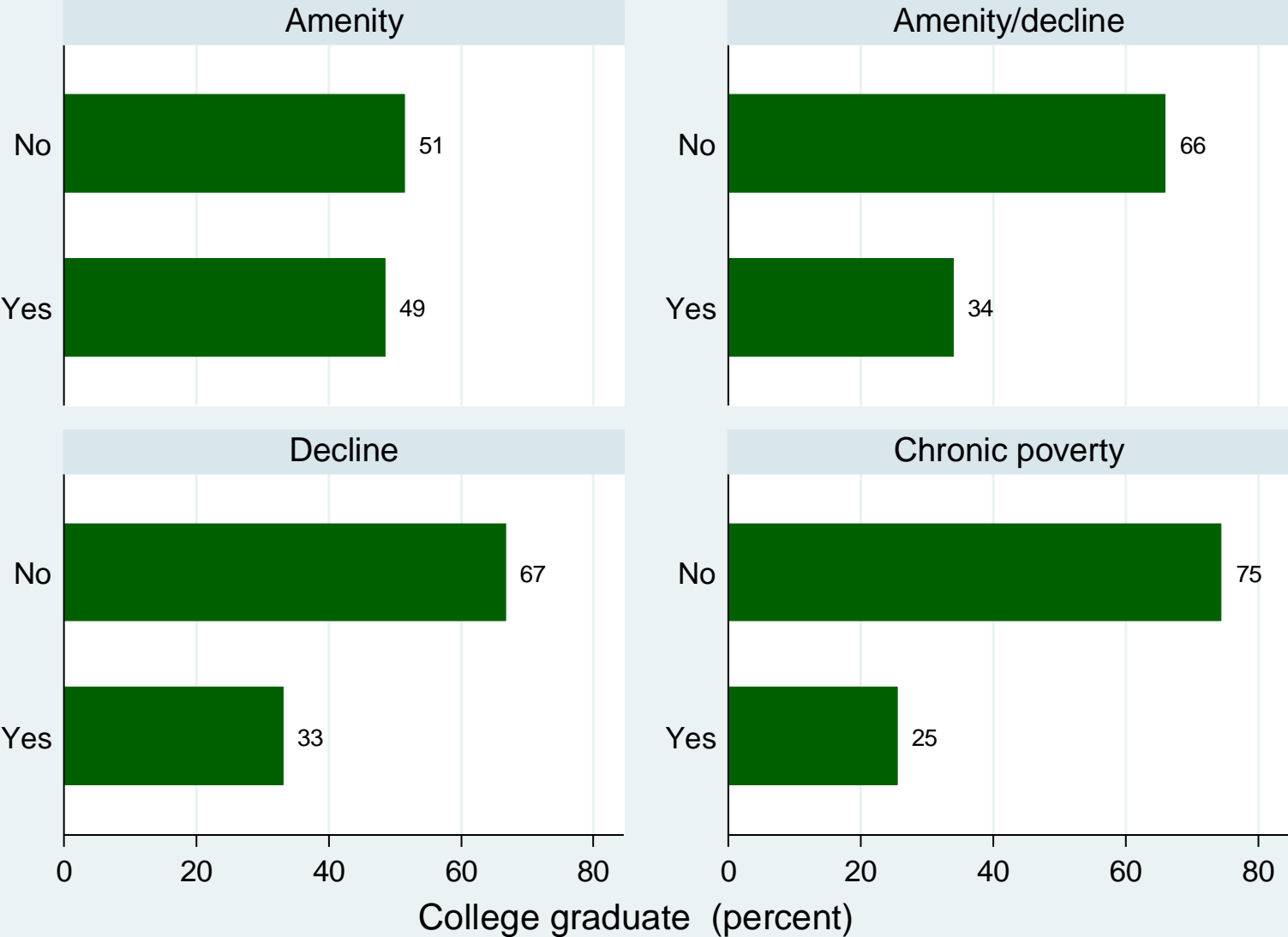


Advise teenager to stay in town? (percent)

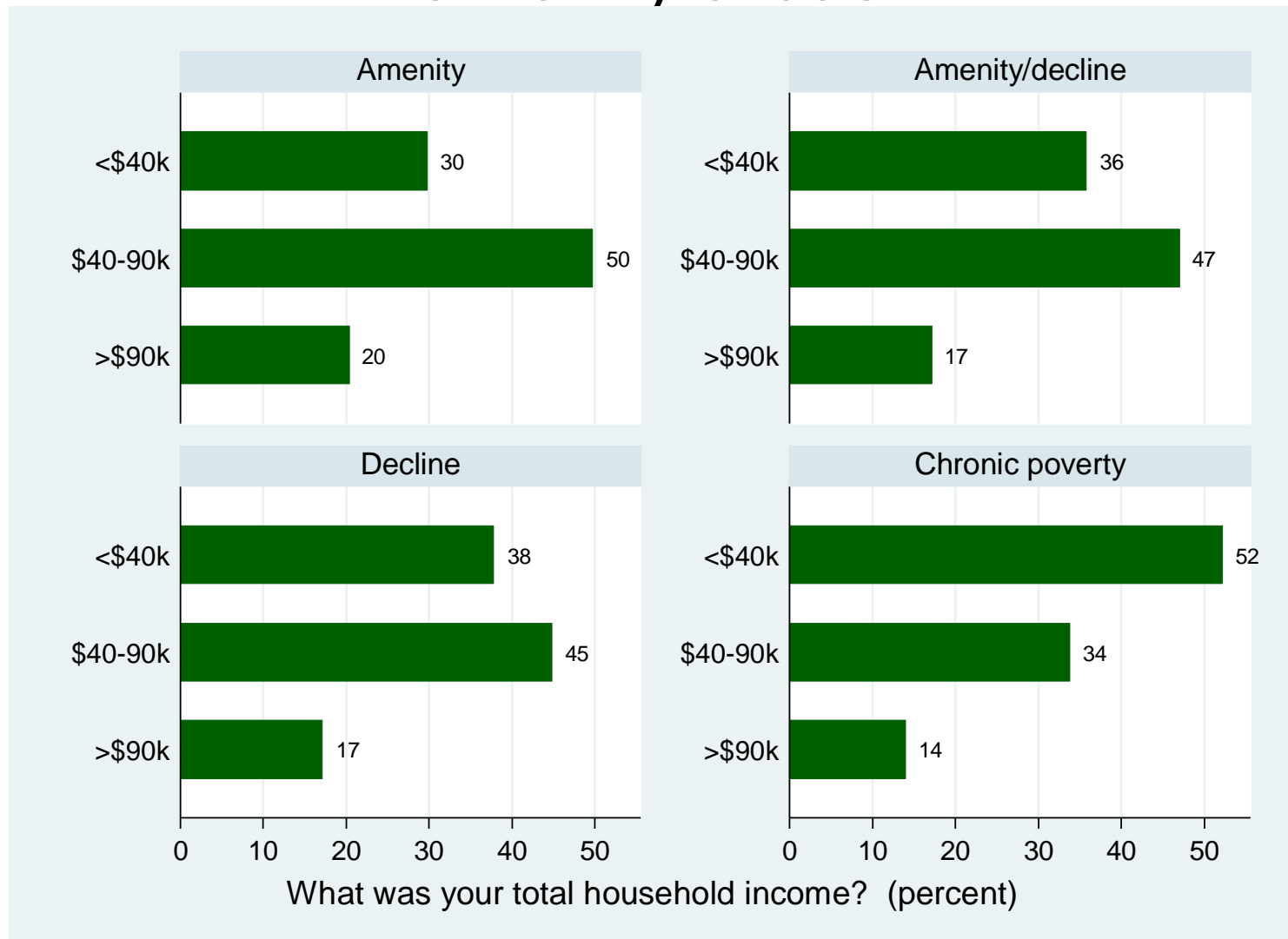
Amenity areas have many newcomers, poor areas have few



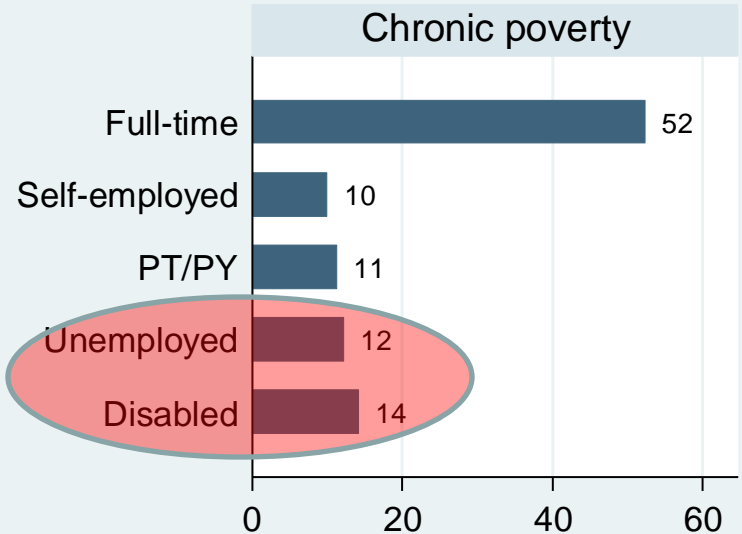
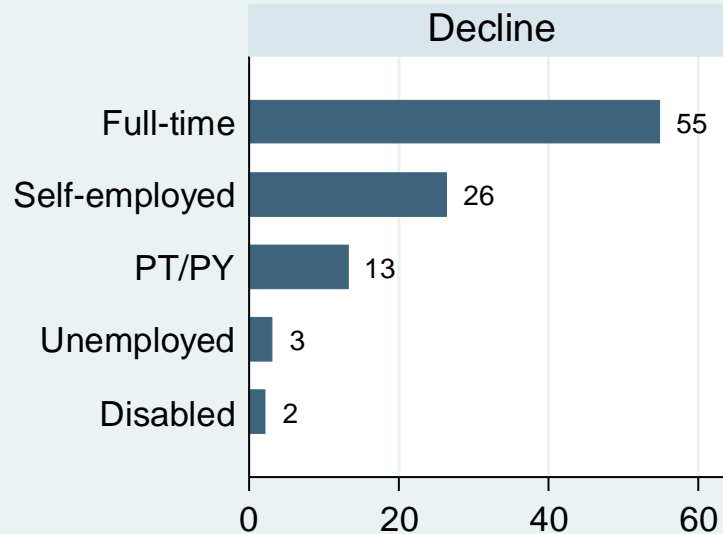
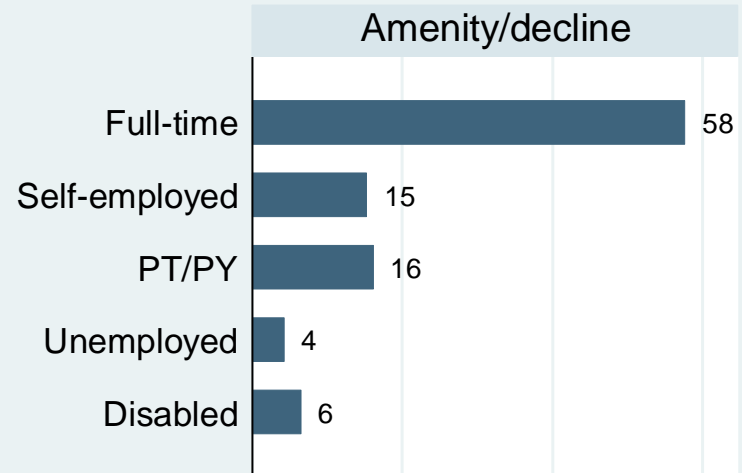
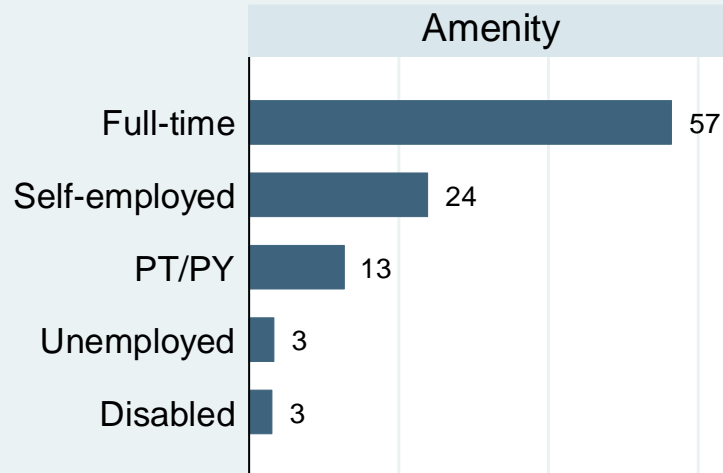
Amenity rich areas are college grad rich



That critical middle income group is relatively small in poor areas, larger in amenity areas

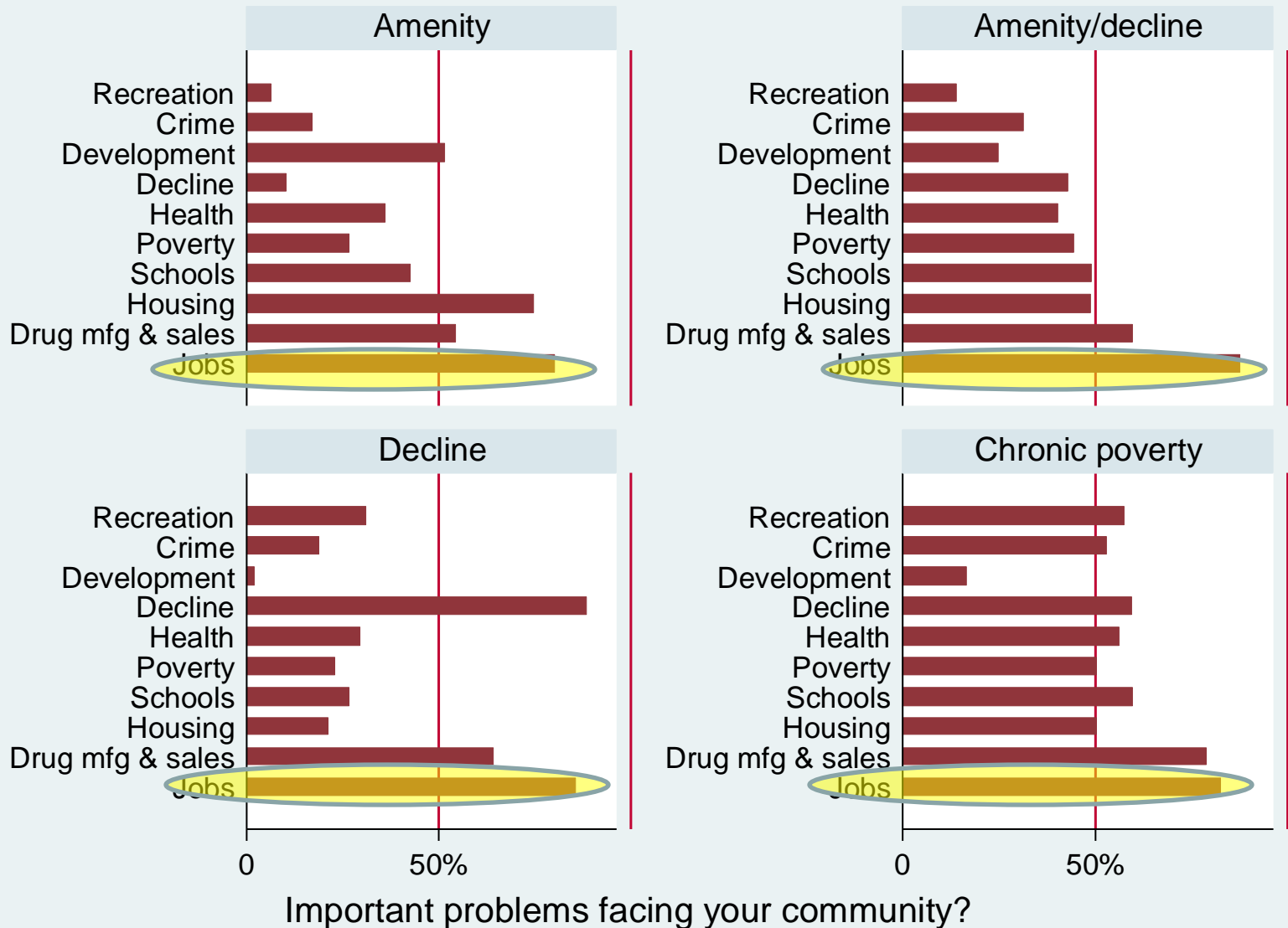


Disability is high in poor areas – have a dog again

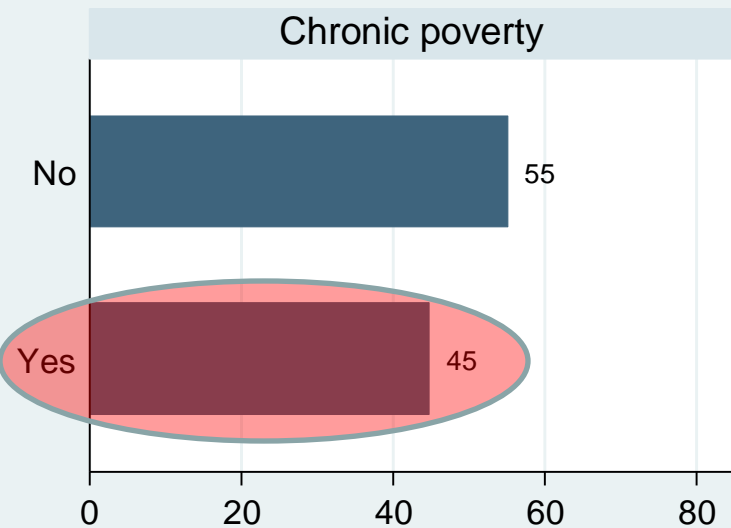
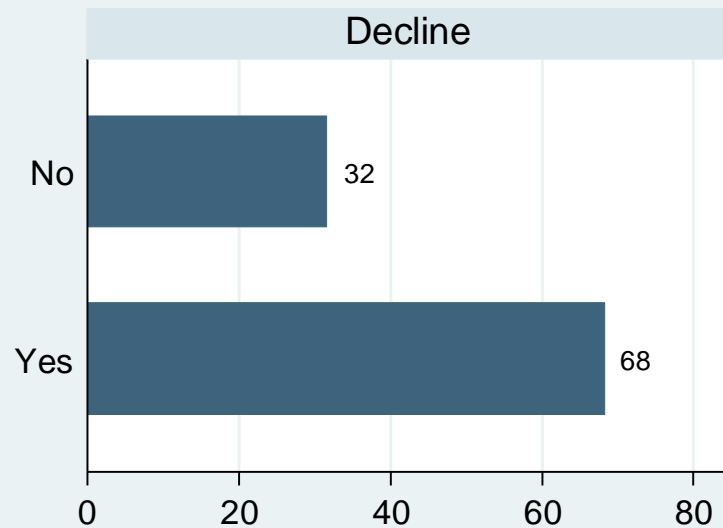
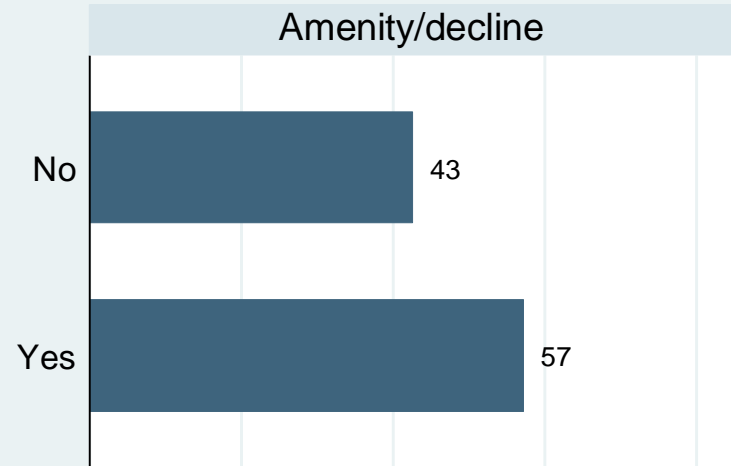
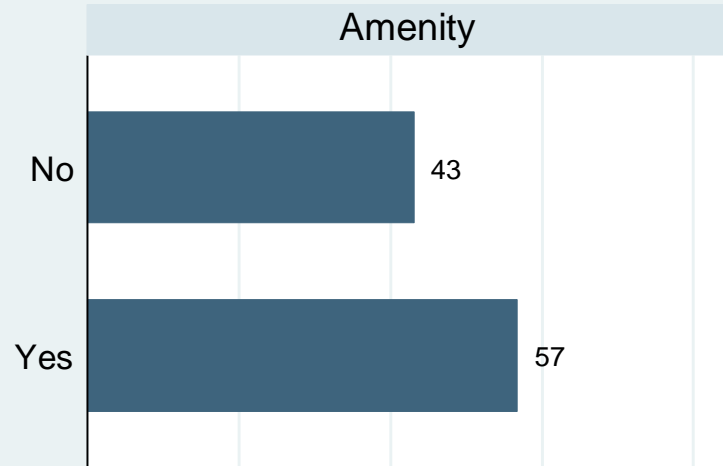


Employment status past year? (percent)

Poor areas have many community needs, everywhere jobs are a priority

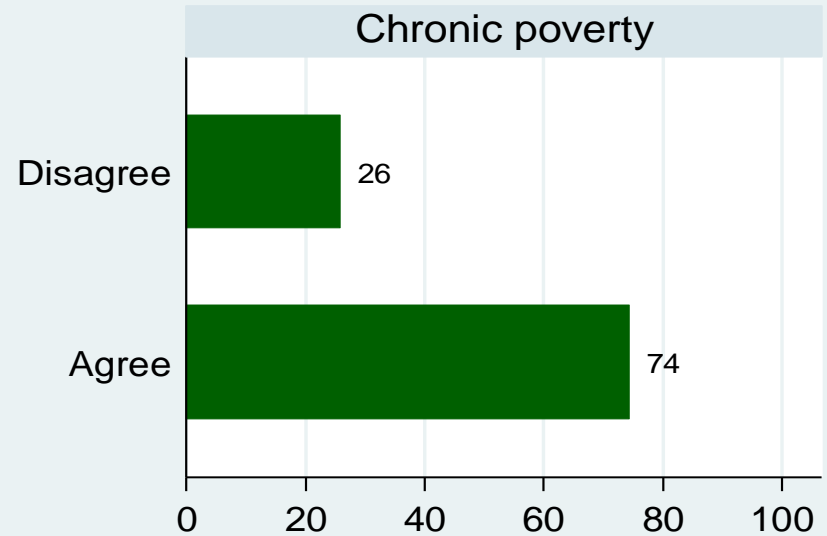
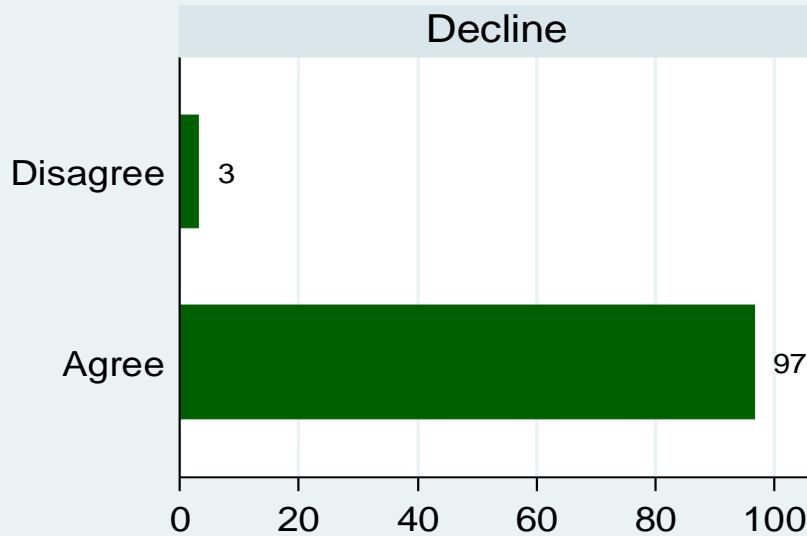
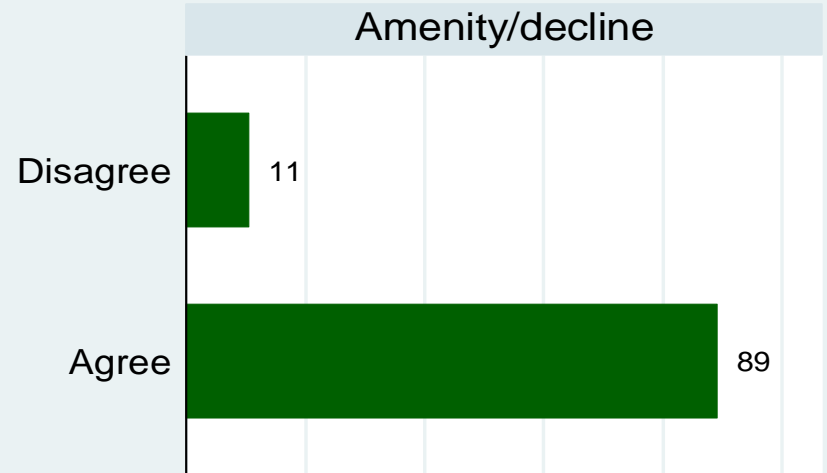
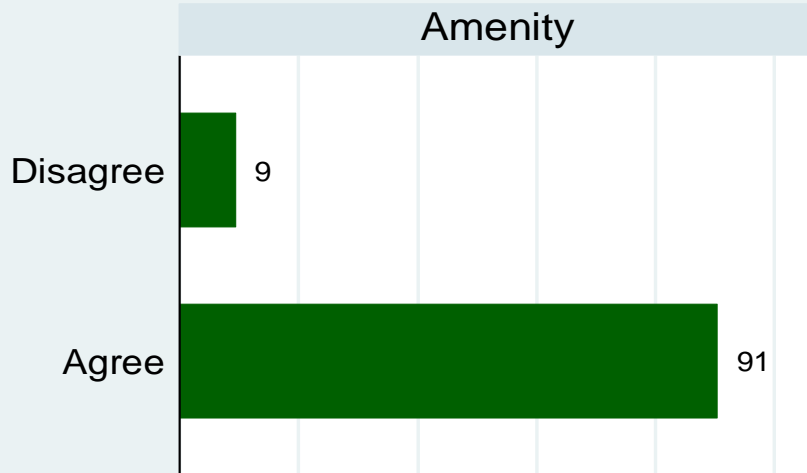


Less Civic Engagement



Belong to any local organization? (percent)

And Less Trust



People in community trust & get along? (percent)

Poverty as Exclusion

“Poverty is the lack of adequate resources to participate in the “accepted ways” in society.”

“Social exclusion” – being cut off from, left out of, the mainstream and participation in the wider society

William Julius Wilson's insights about poor areas in Chicago are still relevant

Work disappeared, especially for low skill workers seeking stable blue collar jobs.

The black middle class left the ghetto, leaving neighborhoods

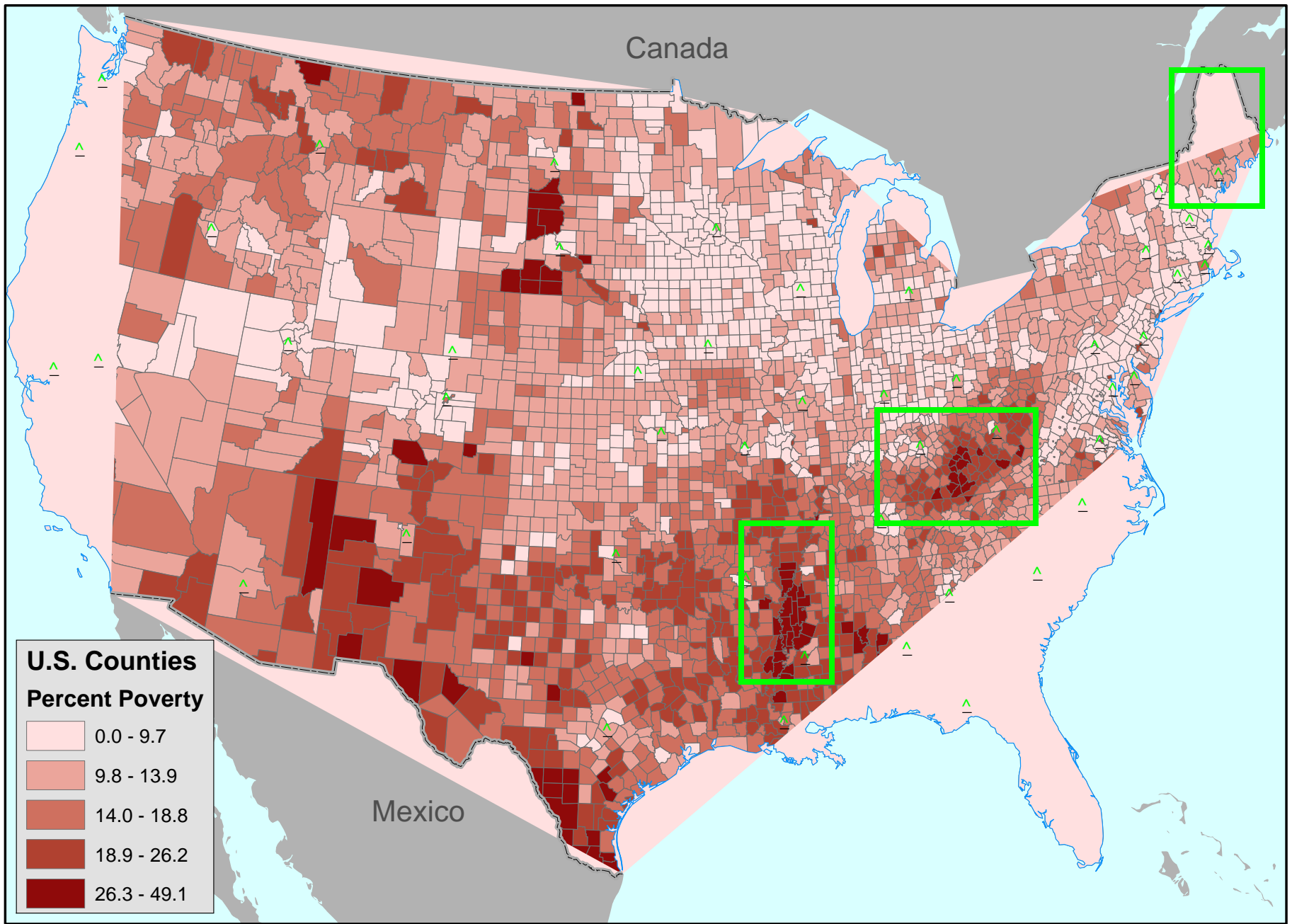
- without role models
- with little access to cultural learning about the mainstream, and
- disinvestment in community institutions.

Culture as a “tool kit of symbols, stories, rituals, and world-views.”

- Skills and habits, not preferences and wants
- What we know of the world, how it works, where we fit
- What people like us do

Civic Culture

- To what extent do people trust each other?
- To what extent do people from all walks of life participate in community affairs and decisions?
- To what extent do people invest in the community – spend time and even money building things that benefit others outside their own family?



Source: U.S.Census <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html> Map created in ArcGIS 9 using ArcMap

Haves and Have-nots in Poor Rural Places

- The poor are socially isolated, worlds apart from the haves.
- They do not develop the “cultural learning,” skills and contacts that they need to participate in the mainstream.
- There is no middle class to demand high standards in public schools and hold public officials and employers accountable for honest fair practices.

Appalachia: family name matters



- *“A lot of times you can hear somebody’s last name and before you even meet, you’ve already got the idea that they’re either a good person or they’re sorry as can be.”*
- *Those that have a family with a horrible name, when they come in, we know them, and they’re not worth two cents. They’re sorry as can be – stealing, selling dope, bootlegging, picked up for driving drunk, in and out of bankruptcy court.”*

Family, not community, concerns

“I see people very, very concerned about their own families, and their concern stops there. They’re strongly family oriented here. And they would do anything for their family.

They have a great concern for their own family. I've talked to my congregation. This concern ought to go beyond family.”

-- Minister in Appalachia

Delta: Blacks are the have-nots, and they are still vulnerable



- *“If one of the blacks was to piss Jimmy off--you know he drives for a farmer--he could make it hard on him if he said something to his boss. He could make it really hard on the boy, make him get fired.*
- *It’s just over here the blacks don’t have the opportunities that whites does. They’re really disgraded.”*

--Truck driver’s wife in the Delta

Change comes slowly

“Blacks who have known only the plantation and a life in which they relied on the bossman will vote with him out of habit and deference...

Uneducated people need to go through someone, they need to get help from Toms that have been there for a long time and the whites have gained control of them.”

-African-American leader in the Delta

Places with a middle class have trust and invest in the common good, so the poor can build cultural tool kits that equip them for mobility



“We're a working community... There's very little difference between people... That's one nice thing about the town, that there doesn't seem to be any class-level distinctions. We have a broad, working middle-class. Most of the people who live here feel that they're part of the community.”

You know the people next door and you trust the people next door. We're a small, somewhat isolated community, and therefore, people tend to get along, are open with each other.”

-- small business leader in northern New England mill town

Importance of Community

- In rural communities, individuals and families' well being is intertwined with how the community is doing
- Not just job creation and economic development
- Also civic culture and the strength and resilience of community institutions dedicated to the common good.

Lessons from the Four Rurals: Policy Recommendations

- Amenity-Boom
 - Land/amenity protection
 - Living wage
 - Affordable housing
 - *High-speed internet*
- Decline
 - Financial incentives to reverse population loss
 - Build on social capital
 - *High-speed internet*
- Chronic Poverty
 - Public education investment
 - Resource stewardship and environmental restoration
 - Healthcare, substance abuse counseling
 - *High-speed internet*
- Amenity-Decline
 - Infrastructure and economic development
 - College-business partnerships
 - *High-speed internet*

Albert Hirschman talked about three choices:

Exit, Loyalty and Voice

Education Education Education

- ~Education is key asset for escaping and staying out of poverty, as well as for voice.
- ~Colleges are key institutions for building voice and civic culture.

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New Immigrant Settlements in Rural America: Problems, Prospects, and Policies

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Rural Workers Would Benefit More Than Urban Workers from an Increase in the Federal Minimum Wage

By SAUL W. HARRIS, GARY HARRIS, AND NEIL STRICKLAND

Introduction

Minimum wage has long been a controversial issue in the United States. It has been the subject of numerous legislative proposals, court cases, and public debates. The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour, which has remained unchanged since 2009. This report examines the impact of a minimum wage increase on rural and urban workers. The findings suggest that rural workers would benefit more from an increase in the federal minimum wage than urban workers.

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The Changing Faces of New Hampshire

Recent Demographic Trends in the Granite State

By KENNETH W. JOHNSON

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Changing a Bank in the South: Religion and Politics on the Address

By JOHN L. HARRIS

Introduction

The relationship between religion and politics in the South has long been a subject of interest. This report explores the impact of religious institutions on the banking industry in the region. It examines how religious values have influenced the development and operations of banks in the South.

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REPORTS ON RURAL AMERICA

Substance Abuse in Rural and Small-Town America

By JENNIFER L. HARRIS

Introduction

Substance abuse is a significant public health problem in rural and small-town America. This report examines the prevalence of substance abuse in these areas and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing substance abuse in rural communities.

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New Faces at the Helm for New Hampshire Presidential Primary

By KENNETH W. JOHNSON

Introduction

The New Hampshire Presidential primary has long been a key event in the election process. This report examines the impact of new candidates and political figures on the primary. It also discusses the challenges of running for office in New Hampshire.

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Rural Teachers Face Harder Jobs Than Urban Teachers

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Rural teachers face many challenges that urban teachers do not. This report examines the differences in the teaching profession between rural and urban areas. It discusses the impact of these challenges on the quality of education in rural schools.

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Low Wages Prevalent in Direct Care and Child Care Workforce

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Low wages are a major problem in the direct care and child care workforce. This report examines the impact of low wages on the quality of care in these sectors. It also discusses the challenges of increasing wages in these industries.

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Low-Income Families in New Hampshire

By GARY L. HARRIS

Introduction

Low-income families are a growing concern in New Hampshire. This report examines the prevalence of low-income families in the state and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing poverty in New Hampshire.

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Child Health Insurance in New Hampshire: An Analysis of New Hampshire Healthy Kids

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Child health insurance is a critical component of the healthcare system. This report examines the impact of the New Hampshire Healthy Kids program on child health insurance. It also discusses the challenges of expanding coverage to all children in the state.

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Rural Children Increasingly Rely on Medicaid and SCHIP

By WILLIAM G. HARRIS

Introduction

Rural children are increasingly relying on Medicaid and SCHIP for their healthcare. This report examines the impact of these programs on rural children and the factors that contribute to their reliance on them. It also discusses the challenges of providing healthcare to rural children.

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U.S. Rural Soldiers Account for a Disproportionately High Share of Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan

By SAUL W. HARRIS AND GARY HARRIS

Introduction

U.S. rural soldiers are accounting for a disproportionately high share of casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. This report examines the impact of the wars on rural soldiers and the factors that contribute to their high casualty rates. It also discusses the challenges of supporting rural soldiers and their families.

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Employment Rates Higher Among Rural Mothers Than Urban Mothers

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Employment rates are higher among rural mothers than urban mothers. This report examines the factors that contribute to this difference and the impact of employment on rural mothers. It also discusses the challenges of finding employment in rural areas.

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Urban and Rural in Rural America: A New Model of Living and Working

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Urban and rural living and working are becoming increasingly intertwined. This report examines the impact of this trend on rural America and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing the needs of rural communities.

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Child Poverty in Rural America: New Data Shows Increases in 41 States

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Child poverty is a growing problem in rural America. This report examines the prevalence of child poverty in rural areas and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing child poverty in rural communities.

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Rural America in the 21st Century: Progress and Prospects

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Rural America is facing many challenges in the 21st century. This report examines the progress and prospects of rural America and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing the needs of rural communities.

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REPORTS ON RURAL AMERICA

Food Stamp and School Lunch Programs Alleviate Food Insecurity in Rural America

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Food stamp and school lunch programs are critical in alleviating food insecurity in rural America. This report examines the impact of these programs on food insecurity in rural areas and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing food insecurity in rural communities.

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Rural America's Expenditure on the Food Stamp Program to Make Food Budget

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Rural America's expenditure on the food stamp program is increasing. This report examines the impact of the food stamp program on rural America and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing food insecurity in rural communities.

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Coos County Community Indicators: A Profile by Town

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Coos County, New Hampshire, is a diverse and beautiful area. This report provides a profile of the community indicators in Coos County by town. It also discusses the challenges of addressing the needs of rural communities.

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Refusing Rural Development: Making the Case for Limiting Federal Production in Rural Communities

By SAUL W. HARRIS

Introduction

Refusing rural development is a growing trend in rural communities. This report examines the impact of this trend on rural communities and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing the needs of rural communities.

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Demographic Trends in Rural and Small-Town America

By KENNETH W. JOHNSON

Introduction

Demographic trends in rural and small-town America are changing. This report examines the impact of these trends on rural and small-town America and the factors that contribute to it. It also discusses the challenges of addressing the needs of rural and small-town communities.

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New England Has the Highest Increase in Income Diversity in the Nation

By SAUL W. HARRIS AND GARY HARRIS

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