

DOWNLOAD PDF A NATION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES AND SMALL CITIES

Chapter 1 : Demographic and economic trends in urban, suburban and rural communities

The states in green have rural populations that have a higher proportion of people living in rural areas or small towns than the nation as a whole.

In Canada, the census division has been used to represent "regions" and census consolidated sub-divisions have been used to represent "communities". Intermediate regions have 15 to 49 percent of their population living in a rural community. Predominantly urban regions have less than 15 percent of their population living in a rural community. Predominantly rural regions are classified as rural metro-adjacent, rural non-metro-adjacent and rural northern, following Ehrensaft and Beeman Rural metro-adjacent regions are predominantly rural census divisions which are adjacent to metropolitan centres while rural non-metro-adjacent regions are those predominantly rural census divisions which are not adjacent to metropolitan centres. Rural northern regions are predominantly rural census divisions that are found either entirely or mostly above the following lines of parallel in each province: As well, rural northern regions encompass all of the Yukon , Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Statistics Canada defines rural for their population counts. This definition has changed over time see Appendix A in du Plessis et al. Typically, it has referred to the population living outside settlements of 1, or fewer inhabitants. The current definition states that census rural is the population outside settlements with fewer than 1, inhabitants and a population density below people per square kilometre Statistics Canada, Rural areas villages occupy the remaining 90 percent. United States Census Bureau: The Census Bureau definitions new to the census , which are based on population density, defines rural areas as all territory outside Census Bureau-defined urbanized areas and urban clusters. An urbanized area consists of a central surrounding areas whose population "urban nucleus" is greater than 50, They may or may not contain individual cities with 50, or more; rather, they must have a core with a population density generally exceeding 1, persons per square mile; and may contain adjoining territory with at least persons per square mile other towns outside an urbanized area whose population exceeds 2, Thus, rural areas comprise open country and settlements with fewer than 2, residents; areas designated as rural can have population densities as high as per square mile or as low as 1 person per square mile. The farm bill P. Non-metro counties are outside the boundaries of metro areas and are further subdivided into Micropolitan Statistical Areas centered on urban clusters of 10,â€”50, residents, and all remaining non-core counties. Rural health[edit] Rural health definitions can be different for establishing under-served areas or health care accessibility in rural areas of the United States. According to the handbook, Definitions of Rural: However, some metropolitan counties are so large that they contain small towns and rural, sparsely populated areas that are isolated from these central clusters and their corresponding health services by physical barriers. From , the rate of potentially preventable hospitalizations for acute conditions was highest in rural areas as compared to large metropolitan, small metropolitan, or micropolitan areas. Germany[edit] The country is divided into administrative districts: Germany is among the largest agricultural producers in the European Union. The implication is that, unlike in some other European countries, where rural areas are known for being backward when compared to urban areas, in Germany, the trend is changing. Rural areas receive nearly equivalent attention as the urban areas do. Also, through a special approach to rural development, usually referred to as Village Renewal, the challenges of rural Germany are taken care of. A number of measures are in place to protect the British countryside, including green belts. In Scotland a different definition of rural is used. This is important for defining whether the patient is expected to collect their own medicines. India[edit] A rural school in Kannur , India. It has a very low population density. In rural areas, agriculture is the chief source of livelihood along with fishing [11] , cottage industries , pottery etc. The quest to discover the real rural India still continues in great earnest. Almost every economic agency today has a definition of rural India. Here are a few definitions: According to the Planning Commission, a town with a maximum population of 15, is considered rural in nature. In these areas the panchayat makes all the decisions. There are five persons in the

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panchayat. Most rural areas in Pakistan tend to be near cities, and are peri-urban areas, This is due to the definition of a rural area in Pakistan being an area that does not come within an urban boundary. Socioeconomic status among rural Pakistani villagers is often based upon the ownership of agricultural land , which also may provide social prestige in village cultures. Human fertility[edit] Rural residence is a fertility factor , with total fertility rates and pregnancy being higher among women in rural areas than among women in urban areas and the rural population is much younger than urban areas.

Chapter 2 : Top Best Small Towns | Livability

The plight of post-industrial cities like Buffalo, New York, as well as rural communities in Appalachia and the South, is also being dismissed by thinkers on the left and the right.

Suburban and small metropolitan areas have grown more briskly. Rural counties have lagged, and half of them have fewer residents now than they did in 2000. According to a Pew Research Center analysis of census data, since 2000, U.S. Analysis by demographer Kenneth M. Johnson attributed the increase to gains in rural communities on the edge of metropolitan areas, while more remote counties continued to lose population. What is an urban, suburban or rural county? See Methodology for more detail. Suburban and small metro counties: These 1,000 counties are located in non-metropolitan areas. These communities, with a median population size of 16,000, include counties or county equivalents such as Evangeline Parish, Louisiana; Navajo County, Arizona; and Elk County, Pennsylvania. The flow of people in and out of different types of U.S. Since 2000, more people left rural counties for urban, suburban or small metro counties than moved in from those areas. Because there were not enough new immigrants to offset those departures, rural counties as a group grew only because they had more births than deaths. At the national level, non-Hispanic whites make up the majority of the population, but a key demographic shift is underway: Whites are a shrinking share of the population and expected to be less than half by midcentury as other groups grow more rapidly. Another key demographic trend, the rise in immigration in recent decades, has raised the foreign-born share of the U.S. Immigrants, along with their children and grandchildren, have accounted for the majority of U.S. growth since 2000. But immigrants are more concentrated in cities and suburbs than in rural areas. On the flip side, the majority of rural counties now have fewer U.S. residents than they did in 2000. A third major population driver – the aging of the giant Baby Boom generation – also has varying impacts on different county types. Rural areas have a higher share of adults who are ages 65 and older than urban or suburban counties. But suburban counties have experienced the sharpest increases in the number of older adults since 2000. The analysis in this chapter relies mainly on Census Bureau data. Current numbers for county characteristics come from the American Community Survey ACS combined data for 2013, the latest available. Although the rural population as a whole has grown since 2000, the majority of populations in individual rural counties have not. Among the hardest hit counties were those where the economy is based on farming, about a fifth of rural counties. Growth factors vary for cities, suburbs and rural areas. There are four main drivers of population gain or loss at the county level: The census numbers show that these factors are affecting cities, suburbs and rural communities differently. Urban areas gained 1.1 million people since 2000. As a group, urban counties had 9.1 million more people in 2013 than in 2000. Suburban and small metro counties have grown since 2000 because of gains in all the drivers of population change. On top of that, they had 1.1 million more people in 2013 than in 2000. It was a different picture for rural counties, however, where move-outs since 2000 exceeded move-ins. As a group, they had a net loss of 1.1 million people who moved out. The loss would have been larger – more than 2 million people – had it not been partly offset by about 1 million new immigrants. The total population of rural counties grew only through natural increase – that is, they had 1.1 million more people in 2013 than in 2000. Rural population loss largest in Midwest. Patterns of births, deaths, migration and immigration vary greatly among regions, and generally illustrate the long-term trend of Americans favoring the Sunbelt states of the South and West over Northeastern or Midwestern states. These regional differences persist within each county type. Among rural counties, a majority in the Northeast and Midwest lost population since 2000, while a majority in the South and especially the West gained population. One factor behind the regional difference is that rural counties in the Northeast and Midwest were more likely than other rural areas to have more deaths than births. These counties also were more likely to have experienced a net loss of migrants – more people moving out than moving in. The population trends of rural counties are linked to their economic profiles. The total population of rural counties with recreation-based and government-based economies grew more since 2000 than the populations of other rural county types. One reason recreation-based counties grew was that they had a net gain of new residents who moved from other U.S. counties, the only rural county type to have a gain in net domestic migration. An

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analysis by the Population Reference Bureau found that rural recreation-based counties were especially likely to have growing numbers of residents 65 and older, while rural farming-based counties were losing residents in that age group. Among urban areas, the Midwest had the largest share of population-losing counties since 1980. Among suburban and small metro counties, about a quarter of the ones in the Northeast and Midwest lost population since 1980, a higher share than in other regions. A majority of Northeast and Midwest suburban counties had a net gain of migrants, but that was mainly due to immigration. A majority had a net loss of residents to urban or rural U.S. Older adults are a higher share of the population in rural areas than in urban and suburban counties. A key demographic trend shaping the makeup of local populations, as well as the nation as a whole, is the rising number of older Americans. The Baby Boom generation, born between 1946 and 1964, began turning 65 in 2011, and all will have reached that age by 2020. While the population is aging in all three county types, this is happening more rapidly in U.S. Nationwide and in each county type, the older adult population grew more sharply since 1980 than any other age group— young children, school-age children, young adults or middle-aged adults. In rural areas, the population younger than 18 declined during this period. As a result, in each county type, adults ages 65 and older now make up a larger share of the total population than in 1980. As a group, rural counties skew older than suburban and urban counties: Rural counties also have a smaller share of young adults than urban or suburban populations. Urban and suburban counties are becoming more racially and ethnically diverse at a much faster pace than rural counties. The nation is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, but these changes have been more muted in rural counties compared with urban and suburban ones. The white share of the population fell 8 percentage points since 1980 in the suburbs, 7 points in the urban core and only 3 points in rural counties. While the share of the non-Hispanic whites has declined, the number of whites grew in the nation overall— and in suburban counties as a whole— since 1980. But the white population did not grow as sharply as other groups did, leading to a decline in the white share of the total U.S. In urban counties, the decline in the share of the white population was due both to a decrease in the number of whites and an increase in the size of other populations, chiefly Hispanics. In rural counties, the white population also decreased and other groups also increased in size, but the impact was more modest on the white share of the population because whites are so large a proportion of rural residents. Immigrants are a rising share of the population in each county type. The foreign-born population is not evenly distributed across county types; immigrants tend to be concentrated in big metropolitan areas. In fact, about half live in urban counties, where they make up a higher share of the total than in suburban or rural counties. The immigrant share of the population grew since 1980 in the nation as a whole and in each county type. Although rural counties as a group have more U.S. There is a large overlap between rural counties that have fewer U.S. In the vast majority of rural counties that lost population— 1, out of 1, — the number of U.S. There are gaps in poverty, education and employment across county types. In addition to the three major demographic shifts that are reshaping urban, suburban and rural counties in the U.S. These relate to the economic well-being of their residents. Poverty rates have risen in all three county types since 1980. The number of people living in poverty also has risen across community types, but the size of the poor population rose more sharply in suburban counties than in urban or rural ones. About half the U.S. But looking at the share of counties where at least a fifth of the population is poor— a measure known as concentrated poverty— rural areas are at the top. The number of counties with concentrated poverty grew for all three county types since 1980. Growing share of residents of all county types have college degrees. Growing shares of residents ages 25 and older have graduated from college in all types of U.S. Rural communities lag in the share of the population with a college degree. Rural areas also trail urban and suburban areas in their share of residents with postgraduate degrees. In urban and suburban counties overall, college graduates outnumber residents with a high school diploma and no further education, but in the total rural population there are more high school graduates than college graduates. The share of residents who did not graduate from high school has dwindled in all three county types. Rural counties lost prime-age workers, while urban and suburban areas gained them. Rural counties also trail other types of communities, especially urban counties, on key measures of employment of prime-age workers— those 25 to

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54 years old. The number of employed adults in this age group as well as the total number of prime working-age residents, employed or not rose in urban areas as well as in suburban and small metro areas since , but declined in rural counties overall. The growth in the prime-age working population was particularly sharp in urban areas. In suburban areas, which also saw an increase in the number of prime-age workers since , the picture looks somewhat less rosy when analyzed through another lens – the experience of individual counties. Another measure of economic health – average earnings per worker – is highest in urban counties and lowest in rural ones. These average earnings are lower now than in for all county types, reflecting lingering effects of the recession, though average earnings in rural areas declined the least. This more recent measure is based on a five-year average centered on , reflecting earnings for the prior year. The figure reflects earnings. Growth in the s was measured over a year period, and growth since was measured over 14 years, using a dataset covering Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service typology that classifies counties based on six non-overlapping categories of economic dependence:

Chapter 3 : SNAP Benefits and Rural Households | Center for Rural Affairs

Many small cities present a promise of safety, quality education and work-life balance. The prospect of economic decentralization is a chance to leverage these qualities.

The vibe was relaxed, prosperous, and gently urban. Around that time, the real-estate blog Estatefy ranked Boise fifth on its list of best cities for conservatives: Last November, while Hillary Clinton mustered only Politically, the city might as well be on a different planet from towns that lie a couple of exits away. In presidential elections, votes are tallied by county and grouped by state, but zoom in closer and you see that Democrats cluster like blue inkblots on a mostly red map and that many jurisdictions are sharply divided. In the election, virtually every large urban center and many small ones — white Boise and majority-black Baltimore, wealthy San Francisco and beaten-down Detroit, sprawling sunwashed megalopoli and shrinking union strongholds — rejected the man who became president, often by yawning margins. The density that is one of the defining characteristics of cities forces encounters that, more and more, seem to strengthen Democratic principles — and separates urban dwellers from their rural cousins. While cities like New York and Seattle have always been liberal, others have converted much more recently. Philadelphia was a Republican bastion until , when a new charter combined with a corruption scandal to demolish the political machine. Ward leaders and local bosses switched their allegiances just as middle-class whites were fleeing to the suburbs, leaving the heavily black central city to the party of civil rights. Columbus, Ohio, saw the light of liberalism only decades later, not because of some grand political realignment but as a by-product of creeping prosperity. A varied economy of largely white-collar employers is now drawing a population that is increasingly young, diverse, well educated, and addicted to pleasant living. Anti-Urbanism in the Twentieth Century. Just this month, in a single congressional district in one of the reddest states, Sedgwick County, the Kansas jurisdiction that includes Wichita, swung to the Democratic underdog in a special election; he was swamped by the surrounding rural vote and lost, but not by much. Republican presidential candidates — including two generations of locally based Bushes — won the county handily until Obama squeaked by, twice. In , Clinton took the Houston area by 12 percentage points. That local quasi-landslide could represent a particular distaste for a certain New York real-estate developer, but the larger trend looks epochal. Over the decades, the urbanized area has spread; Houston has even acquired one of those expensive gewgaws of contemporary urban living, the ultimate conservative bugaboo: The demographic train is pulling away from Harris County and leaving the Republican Party behind. Conn, the historian, sees the liberalizing of cities as an inexorable process: It is like a doctor who misdiagnoses a cold for cancer and recommends a full slate of chemotherapy. The radioactive solution of a border tax, import tariffs, and immigrant roundups — will weaken the economic fundamentals of our Gulf Coast port city. For most of us, living in cities means living close to those who are both like us and not. Even just walking down a city block means having no idea who will cross your path, what they believe, or how they will behave. Strolling is a succession of chance meetings, the vast majority of them superficial. At times, a dense neighborhood can feel like a village, where you bump into friends or revive dormant acquaintances. At other times, it means confronting a vast and entrenched homeless population. Urbanites take this haphazardness for granted. We have the ingrained habit of sharing space, of encountering difference, of swimming in the collective soup. Trump — like many Americans who duck from house to car to office to mall — rarely experiences an unplanned encounter. He has spent much of his life in gilded rooms, surrounded by people he employs. His idea of transit consists of elevators, limos, helicopters, and private jets. When he started planning Trump Tower in the late s, it was an expression of confidence in the deluxe appeal of midtown Manhattan at a time when a seemingly ungovernable city had bled nearly a million people. Now, when urban crime sits in the eerily low range in many cities, when companies follow their most desirable employees into revitalized downtowns, and when many metropolitan areas are more worried about housing shortages and gentrification than about falling apart, the president has revived a

vision of cities suppurating with violence and sin. Once he sold urban real estate to customers who wanted to live there; now he sells fantasies of urban horror to those who prefer to shudder from afar. Wilkes County, North Carolina, Thomas Jefferson formed his view of nationhood around a belief that the countryside was not only preferable but morally superior. Louis, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Chicago. He considered New York relatively benign. He, too, intimated that there was something about governing large concentrations of people, about cumulative economic might combined with massed indifference, that nurtured the worst forms of power. Membership in an urban elite, he suggested, was inherently putrid. The urban renaissance of the past few decades has opened up a new line of moral attack. The Times columnist Ross Douthat recently argued that large cities are not the tolerant utopias that liberals idealize but black holes of privilege, sucking in resources and jobs. Douthat writes as if Manhattan were the norm: The prescription is worth exploring “the Department of Agriculture might fit in nicely in Omaha, say” but his premise is astonishingly wrong. Many of the federal dollars that do wash into the five boroughs generally pay for projects of regional and national import, like airports, roads, and security. The deindustrialization that nourished the Trump campaign ravaged big cities first: Three decades later, shipping and manufacturing were moribund and the municipal government could barely pay its bills. Dozens of cities tore down slums and put up public-housing projects “idealistic efforts that often created more problems than they solved. In places like Detroit and Memphis, unemployment, redlining, crack, and gangs left vast urban stretches traumatized and bleak. Segregation persists in many cities and often worsens for two seemingly opposite reasons: Whites trickle away as in Cleveland or else they arrive, pushing into poor neighborhoods that longtime residents can no longer afford. In a handful of hyperprosperous cities like San Francisco, manufacturing has hollowed out and tech businesses have moved in, bifurcating the population into poor service workers and affluent creative types. Even the once relentlessly upbeat urbanist Richard Florida has written a contritely depressing book, *The New Urban Crisis*: But urban areas also teem with activists, nonprofit technocrats, planners, and social-justice fixers who keep rolling out proposals that municipal governments often adopt: Cities all over the world share problems and expertise, using each other as experimental labs: New Delhi converted its buses to natural gas; La Rochelle, France, launched a bike-share program; Milwaukee demolished a downtown freeway “and each of those experiments inspired hundreds of other cities to repeat it. In , Houston, L. And New York has massively boosted its affordable-housing program, raised the minimum wage, invested in high-tech manufacturing “a constantly evolving menu of tools to make the city more livable, safe, and affordable. Some problems have proved intractable: And gun violence persists in parts of Chicago despite a dramatic decrease in crime in many cities. But progressive activists can also point to a deep legacy of success, as anyone who ambles around South Bronx neighborhoods like Melrose can attest. Not so long ago, this was ground zero of hopelessness. Yet those who looked around back then and saw no future for troubled neighborhoods were guilty of a failure of imagination. Nevertheless, many conservatives see the city as the degraded outcome of decades of Democratic control. Cities have become more suburbanized and suburbs more citified, pushing the dividing line farther and farther from downtown. These two contrary currents have been in motion at least since the s, when the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company built Stuyvesant Town as a verdant middle-class enclave in the middle of Manhattan, its blocky, high-rise architecture softened by planted courtyards and the absence of cars. More recently, ubiquitous mall brands, an influx of educated young transplants, and a citywide tree-planting spree have given formerly gritty parts of Brooklyn an almost bucolic air. Oddly, the suburbification of cities has only strengthened their liberal tendencies, and the citification of suburbs is doing the same. Urban refugees come in all hues, and they arrive in their cul-de-sacs with a taste for Indian groceries, halal restaurants, and walkable downtowns. Since , the majority of immigrants have dispersed into outlying areas rather than packing into inner-city enclaves. Research by urban-studies professor Kyle Walker suggests that as blacks have moved out of central Minneapolis into the inner-ring suburb of Brooklyn Center, that area has become more Democratic. The project of citifying outlying areas has been helped along by an army of planners, variously grouped under the rubrics new urbanism, smart growth, and sustainable development. Mostly, they came up with an archipelago

of mini-cities. Conservatives have reacted with predictable fury to urban incursions onto their suburban turf. In , the Republican National Committee struck simultaneously at an assortment of enemies – the United Nations, the environmental movement, public transit, and city folk – with a statement attacking the U. The suburbs are political border zones where attitudes shift from street to street. We drive through landscapes branded by 7-Elevens and patterned with single-family houses, and we see only a uniform plague of sprawl. In fact, the suburbs are the political border zones where attitudes shift from street to street. It would be more accurate to talk of swing neighborhoods than swing states. Where once an ideological barrier sealed off the city from the suburb, the new, fuzzier divide pits cities and inner suburbs against exurban and rural America. You have to drive farther and farther out – and along particular routes – before you hit consistently Republican turf. As I piloted my oversize cart crammed with household cleaner and eight-packs of canned tuna, I scanned my fellow shoppers for clues as to what had happened at the polls. The uniform glare of the warehouse revealed a staggering variety of American life: A few basic characteristics united us all: We had cars, storage space, and a sense of thrift. Nearly everyone was buying toilet paper. How, I asked myself, could anyone wander through a discount megastore full of peaceful diversity, buying products shipped in from all over the world, and understand the ethnic grievances that wound through the campaign? I also wondered how many of my fellow Costco members had voted for Donald Trump. Probably about half, it turns out. A few miles west and the map shades from pink to red; it gets gradually bluer closer to the Hudson River. The Chicago area had a similarly gradual shift conservative as you move away from the lakefront. Density makes towns more liberal. So does public transit. A band of dark, Clinton-heavy blue follows the Metra commuter rail line from downtown Chicago south to University Park, where it dead-ends in a field of red. In the Bay Area, tendrils of blue radiate out along train tracks into the deep-red heartland of the San Joaquin Valley. Interstate 5 runs north-south without disturbing the political landscape, but 40 miles east, Amtrak links Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield – each one an isolated dab of blue. Do people with strong political views choose to live in like-minded communities, or do the places people choose to live form their opinions about how society should work? Either way, the dynamic behaves like an ideological centrifuge, distributing liberals and conservatives in complex but not random patterns.

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Chapter 4 : USDA ERS - What is Rural?

The Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation survey of nearly 1, Americans "including more than 1, adults living in rural areas and small towns" finds deep-seated kinship in rural.

In a reversal of fortunes due to the recent recession, rural America is now losing population, in towns like Fernley, for the first time, because of waning interest among millions of baby boomers in moving to far-flung locations for retirement and recreation. Long weighed down by dwindling populations in farming and coal communities and the movement of young people to cities, rural counties are being hit by sputtering growth in retirement and recreation areas, once residential hot spots for baby boomers. The new estimates, as of July , show that would-be retirees are opting to stay put in urban areas near jobs. Recent weakness in the economy means some boomers have less savings than a decade ago to buy a vacation home in the countryside, which often becomes a full-time residence after retirement. Cities are also boosting urban living, a potential draw for boomers who may prefer to age closer to accessible health care. From to , those non-metro areas lost more than 40, people, a 0. The Census Bureau reported a minuscule 0. Rural areas, which include manufacturing and farming as well as scenic retirement spots, have seen substantial movement of residents to urban areas before. But the changes are now coinciding with sharp declines in U. Henderson expects a bit of a rebound for scenic retirement destinations as the economy improves, but nowhere close to the levels seen before the recession. John Cromartie, a geographer at the Agriculture Department, calls the rural decline a potential turning point. Boomer migration to many of these areas had typically yielded greater economic activity, including construction, landscaping and service-sector jobs that brought in workers of all age groups. Signs of the recent bust are evident in places such as Fernley, Nev. The county now has a population of 51, During the housing boom, these retirement destinations were growing faster than the rate of the nation as a whole but are now increasing more slowly. In Florida, almost all counties experienced slower growth or a reversal of boomer population growth since , said Mark Mather, an associate vice president for the Population Reference Bureau who analyzed the numbers. Other counties showing sharp drop-offs in the boomer population include Forest County, Pa. This is bad news because as baby boomers get older, they are less likely to move. Alaska had the lowest share of older residents, at 8. The number of centenarians rose to almost 62,

Chapter 5 : List of communities in Alberta - Wikipedia

cities in the North and concentration of minorities in rural areas and small towns often differ from those of the nation as a whole. Many rural minorities are.

Visit our Publications page for a list of publications about rural smart growth. A Tool for Small Cities and Towns Step-by-step guide to building a place-based economic development strategy. Can help a community assess its policies, programs, and codes to determine whether they support the type of development the community wants. Lessons From Successful Places Includes case studies of small towns and cities that emphasized their existing assets and distinctive resources to build their economies. Focuses on smart growth strategies to meet three main goals: Provides policy options that can help rural communities strengthen their economies while preserving rural character. Topics include fiscal impact analysis, commercial development, wastewater infrastructure, rural roads, and efficient development patterns. Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Through the Partnership, the U. Department of Transportation DOT , and EPA worked together to align investments and coordinate policies to help communities improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities Explores how the Partnership for Sustainable Communities can contribute to more resilient economies, healthy environments, and quality of life in rural America. Healthy Places for Healthy People: This program helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant places by engaging with their health care facility partners such as community health centers including Federally Qualified Health Centers , nonprofit hospitals, and other health care facilities. Local Foods, Local Places: Livable Communities in Appalachia: Across the Appalachia region, small towns and rural communities want to revitalize their traditional downtowns to boost the local economy and improve quality of life. Through the Livable Communities in Appalachia Program, EPA partnered with USDA and the Appalachian Regional Commission to help these towns explore ways to integrate smart growth approaches to restore their downtowns and neighborhoods, making them healthy, walkable, and economically vibrant. Top of Page Technical Assistance Reports EPA has worked with several small towns and rural places to help them achieve their development. These reports might be helpful to other communities facing similar issues. Madison County, New York Tested the Smart Growth Self-Assessment for Rural Communities tool that can help communities evaluate their policies, programs, and codes. Cedar Rapids, Iowa Assessed how land use policies could be changed to create incentives for infill development and sustainable growth. California Strategic Growth Council Developed a guidebook that provides strategies, progress indicators, and resources to help local governments find the right combination of smart growth strategies for their communities. Sussex County, Delaware Presented green street design options to manage stormwater runoff and improve safety and aesthetics. Developed a form-based code to help guide the city in its decisions about development in the Downtown Waterfront District. Pamlico County, North Carolina Examined smart growth approaches to improve a rural highway corridor. Driggs and Victor, Idaho Identified barriers to infill development. Laconia, New Hampshire Engaged the public in adopting a new master plan designed to protect water resources, create walkable neighborhoods, and strengthen neighborhood centers. Porter County, Indiana Explored different stormwater management, transportation, and parking strategies, along with building and land use designs for the Route corridor and Wells Corner central area. Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island Developed approaches for mixed-use zoning standards, design guidelines, and review processes in three communities. Taos, New Mexico Explored options to help make development along State Highway 68, the Paseo del Pueblo Sur commercial corridor, more attractive and economically stronger. Created a vision for development at two sites along the East-West Loop Road. After decades of fighting against the often-flooded Cedar River, Charles City transformed the land next to the river into a park that has become the recreational heart of the city. With just over residents, Howard is reimagining what it means to be

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rural with Maroney Commons, a mixed-use, green complex with a hotel, a conference center, a restaurant, and offices that will help rural residents learn about green jobs and technology. Route 1 in Maine. Twenty towns worked together to preserve the economy, environment, and quality of life along this regionally significant corridor. The Lancaster County Planning Commission established a regional, comprehensive growth management plan that protects farmland and historic landscapes by directing development to established towns and cities in the county. Public space and streetscape improvements have helped revitalize Hyannis, a village within the town of Barnstable. The redevelopment plan has reconnected residents to the waterfront and downtown by creating pedestrian-friendly walkways. Bicycle and public transit routes are reconnected to main streets and residential neighborhoods while new residential developments are linked to natural areas and wetlands. The Winooski Downtown Redevelopment Project revitalized this small town by preserving or restoring nearly acres of natural habitat, returning vacant properties to productive use, creating several neighborhood parks, and building the pedestrian-friendly RiverWalk. The small community of Davidson created healthy and vibrant neighborhoods in a historic setting. The town revitalized its existing buildings, and its new neighborhoods incorporated a variety of lot sizes and housing types and neighborhood parks within a five-minute walk. The Wellington Neighborhood in Breckenridge provides affordable and market-rate housing on a site that was once dredge-mined. The project recycled land, created housing for working families, provided a free transit shuttle to the nearby downtown, and helped the region avoid "mountain sprawl. Top of Page Other Resources USDA "Rural Development offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and operate more effectively. Guidebook for creative problem-solving, building stronger state and local partnerships, and understanding the opportunities that transportation and economic development projects bring. Regional Approaches to Sustainable Development Exit Highlights opportunities for regional development organizations to undertake sustainable growth initiatives. Appalachian Regional Commission is a regional economic development agency that is a partnership of federal, state, and local government. It is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair appointed by the president.

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Chapter 6 : Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities | Smart Growth | US EPA

Some studies indicate that small towns and rural areas are more conducive than cities to forming strong social bonds, which would explain some of the greater sense of belonging observed in the.

Rural areas gained population between and for the first time since . Steady improvement in the economy and recovering housing markets may be prompting employers and job seekers to look again at areas that were growing before the Great Recession – suburbs, exurbs and small towns, Frey said. Rural areas, defined by the U. Department of Agriculture as counties outside cities and their suburbs, gained population between and for the first time since . They grew by about 33, residents nationwide, after losing more than 15, residents the year before. One of those growing areas is Jackson County, Georgia, a rural county that is convenient to Atlanta and Athens, where farm-equipment manufacturing and distribution center jobs have helped fuel a population increase of more than 2,, almost 4 percent, after a population loss as recently as . Foreclosures caused most of the population loss earlier in the decade, Crow said, but now those homes are occupied again, and hundreds of new homes are being built every year. Heavily agricultural areas also have started growing in the last two years after years of declines. Those areas likely still have fewer jobs, but may be attractive to people looking for low-cost areas to retire or cut costs, said Doug Farquhar, program director for rural development at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Population decline has hit most rural areas hard since . States such as Nebraska and Kansas have tried tax incentives to attract movers. Many small towns have had to cut back services or deliver them in combination with neighboring towns as the number of taxpayers has dwindled. John Cromartie, a USDA geographer, said he had expected the census numbers to show that rural population loss had slowed, but he was surprised at the increase. Cromartie has documented the six-year trend of population loss in rural areas. Those counties as a group grew by almost 40, or about 0. The smallest counties as a group lost about 6, people, down from annual losses of more than 50, between and . Land in Coalville, Utah, where new luxury homes are planned. Some urban counties lost population between and . Cook County, which includes Chicago, lost more than 20, residents, its largest loss since . The counties that include Baltimore, Cleveland, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Detroit and Brooklyn also shed residents between and . Cook County, where population has dropped for three straight years, is actually undergoing a boom in apartment construction, up 61 percent between and , said Ed Zotti, an urban planning consultant at the Chicago Central Area Committee, a coalition of businesses and nonprofits. According to the Stateline analysis, counties such as Alameda that are on the fringes of large metro areas added about , new residents between and .

Chapter 7 : | Southern Living

the rural and small town communities that are an important part of the social, economic and political fabric of the country. Nonmetropolitan, or rural, America contains over 75 percent.

Chapter 8 : The Urban-Rural Divide Matters More Than Red Vs. Blue State

"Rural areas cover 97 percent of the nation's land area but contain percent of the population (about 60 million people)," Census Bureau Director John H. Thompson said. "By combining five years of survey responses, the American Community Survey provides unequaled insight into the state of every community, whether large or small.

Chapter 9 : Census: Rural US loses population for first time

In general: "OMB establishes and maintains the delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions,

DOWNLOAD PDF A NATION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES AND SMALL CITIES

Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas solely for statistical purposes. This classification is intended to provide nationally consistent delineations for collecting.