“Tumbleweed Tales: Change, Challenge and Champions”
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“Tumbleweed Tales: Change, Challenge and Champions”
Who the heck is Huck?
McDill "Huck" Boyd
Huck Boyd
Rural Journalist, State and National Leader

• Publisher of the weekly Phillips County Review
• Studied at Kansas State University
• Republican National Committeeman from Kansas

“Community service is the rent you pay for the privilege of living on this earth.”

— McDill “Huck” Boyd
Huck Boyd
Community Center
Phillipsburg, Kansas
Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development

Huck Boyd Foundation

Kansas State University

Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development
Mission: Rural Self-Help

Leadership Development
Rural Outreach
Community Vitality
Kansas Profile
“Tumbleweed Tales: Change, Challenge and Champions”
Economic Base
Percent employed in agriculture, 2008-2012
Percent employed in manufacturing, 2008-2012
Percent employed in services, 2008-2012
Percent employed in government, 2008-2012
Rural counties vary in their economic structure with marked regional differences.

- Urbanized areas
- Metro counties
- Nonspecialized (585 counties)
- Farming-dependent (391 counties)
- Mining-dependent (183 counties)
- Manufacturing-dependent (351 counties)
- Federal-State government-dependent (238 counties)
- Recreation (228 counties)

Note: The 2015 county typologies use data from 2010-2012. See footnote 1.
Population
Population Size

Population size, 2011
Population Density

Population density, 2010
Population Shifts
What is the pattern of population change?
MacArthur Foundation funded a study by Carr and Kefalas on rural population
“Hollowing Out the Middle”
Population Change Rate

Population change rate, 2000-2010
Population Change Rate

Population change rate, 2010-2013
Net Migration Rate, 2010-2013
Natural population change rate, 2010-2013
Population Change Rate, Hispanic
Population Change Rate, non-Hispanic white
Percent non-English speaking households

Percent of non-English speaking households of total households, 2007-2011
Percent non-Hispanic African-American, 2010
Percent population 65 and older
Other factors
Percent persons with no high school

Percent of persons with no high school, adults 25 and over, 2007-2011
Unemployment Rate, 2012
Brain Drain
Nonmetro Net Migration Rates Compared to Education

1988-1989

Education Level Completed

-2.5 -2 -1.5 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1
Less than High School High School Some College College+
Nonmetro net migration by education completed 1988-1994

Slightly more college educated have moved into nonmetro areas
Cohort Age 30-34, Percent Change 1990-2000

Percent Change
- Loss
- Gain 0-10%
- Gain 11-25%
- Gain 11-25%
- Gain >25%
Of the 627 cities in Kansas:

5 (.7%) are >100,000 population
56 (8.9%) are > 5,000
571 (91%) are <5,000
429 (68%) are <1,000
Types of KS Counties

Figure 1.1: Classification of Counties

Per Capita Income estimated in 2006.
Population Change is measured between 1971 and 2007.
Most rural, low density counties in Kansas are experiencing long-term population loss and brain drain, while value-added ag counties, suburban and metropolitan areas grow.
Kansas Counties with Consecutive Years of Population Decline
From 1950 Census forward
Kansas Counties Projected to have Population Decline
1990-2030
Twelve Kansas Counties peaked in population in 1890 Census
From 2000 to 2010 in Kansas –

- 9 metropolitan counties added population in an amount equivalent to another Overland Park
- 96 non-metro counties lost the equivalent of another Salina.
Societal Factors

Average life expectancy is up to 74.4 years.
The number of marriages and divorces is down slightly.
Sedgwick County: 3,904 marriages.
Wallace County: seven.
Teen pregnancy and abortion rates continue to fall.
There were 12,345 out-of-wedlock births, a new record high – representing 31.4 percent of all Kansas resident births.
Urban-Rural Population of Kansas, 1900

The 9 Metropolitan Counties as of 2000

- Non-Metro (96 counties)
- Metro (9 counties)
Urban-Rural Population of Kansas, 2000

The 9 Metropolitan Counties as of 2000

- Non-Metro (96 counties)
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“Quantity is not the same as quality”
Rewriting the Rural Narrative:
Rural America is Changing, not Dying

- Ben Winchester, University of Minnesota Extension
“Champions for Rural America”
“Tumbleweed Tales: Change, Challenge and Champions”