“Rising Tide, Treading Water, or Flowing Downhill: Demographics of Rural Kansas”
Presentation developed by

Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development

Ron Wilson, Director
www.huckboydinstitute.org
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 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 – Now, That’s Rural - *Ruralpreneurs*
“Rising Tide, Treading Water, or Flowing Downhill: Demographics of Rural Kansas”
Economic Base
Farming-dependent counties are those where 25 percent or more of the county’s average annual labor and proprietors' earnings were derived from farming, or 16 percent or more of jobs were in farming, as measured by 2010-12 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Personal Income and Employment data. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the farming-dependent counties only. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Mining-dependent counties are those where 13 percent or more of the county’s average annual labor and proprietors’ earnings were derived from mining, or 8 percent or more of jobs were in mining, as measured by 2010-12 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Personal Income and Employment data. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the mining-dependent counties only. Map revised May 2017; see errata for details.
Manufacturing-dependent counties are those where 23 percent or more of the county’s average annual labor and proprietors’ earnings were derived from manufacturing, or 16 percent or more of jobs were in manufacturing, as measured by 2010-12 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Personal Income and Employment data. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the manufacturing-dependent counties only. Map revised May 2017; see errata for details. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Government-dependent counties are those where 14 percent or more of the county’s average annual labor and proprietors’ earnings were derived from Federal/State government, or 9 percent or more jobs were in Federal/State government as measured by 2010-12 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Personal Income and Employment data. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the government-dependent counties only. Map revised May 2017; see errata for details.
Recreation counties determined by a weighted index of three measures: 1) jobs; 2) earnings in the following: entertainment, recreation, accommodations, eating/drinking places, and real estate; and 3) the share of vacant housing units intended for seasonal/occasional use. Recreation counties are those with a score more than one deviation above the mean. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the recreation counties only. Map revised May 2017; see errata for details.

Nonspecialized counties are those that did not meet the economic dependence threshold for any other type, as measured by 2010-12 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Personal Income and Employment data. Note that county boundaries are drawn for the nonspecialized counties only. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Most older-age counties are in scenic or chronic population-loss areas

Population 65 years or older, 2017
- 20 percent or higher, recreation/retirement destinations (306 counties)
- 20 percent or higher, persistent population loss (304 counties)
- Other 20 percent or higher (310 counties)
- Less than 20 percent (1,056 counties)
- Metro counties (1,166 counties)

Population
Population Size

Population size, 2011
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 loss counties are those where the number of county residents declined between the 1990 and 2000 censuses and also between the 2000 and 2010 censuses. Note that county boundaries are drawn only for the population loss counties. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Census Bureau.
Unemployment Rates

County Map*

MONTH:
November 2019

Unemployment Rate

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Kansas Counties with Consecutive Years of Population Decline
From 1950 Census forward
Kansas Counties projected to have Population Decline
2014-2044

Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research
Twelve Kansas Counties peaked in population in 1890 Census

Census Year of Maximum Population by Kansas County
1890-2010

Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; data from U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census.
Figure 2.2.5c. Total Population Change (Percent) by County in Kansas, Between 2000 and 2016

Source: KHI analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics’ (NCHS) April 1, 2000 bridged-race population estimates and the NCHS’s June 2017 Vintage July 1, 2016 bridged-race population estimates.
Figure 2.2.5d. Non-Hispanic White Population Change (Percent) by County in Kansas, Between 2000 and 2016

Source: KHI analysis of data from the National Center for Health Statistics’ (NCHS) April 1, 2000 bridged-race population estimates and the NCHS’s June 2017 Vintage July 1, 2016 bridged-race population estimates.
Another measure: Population Density – persons per square mile

A spectrum from Frontier counties (<6/sq. mile) To Urban (150+/sq. mile)
For example:

Wyandotte County  1,042.9
Reno County        52
Riley County       103.1
Rice County        15
Wallace County     1.9
From 2000 to 2010 in Kansas –

- 19 metropolitan counties added population in an amount equivalent to another Overland Park
- 86 non-metro counties lost the equivalent of another Hays.
Types of KS Counties


Figure 1.1: Classification of Counties
Most rural, low density counties in Kansas are experiencing long-term population loss, while value-added ag counties, rural areas close to job centers/amenities, suburban and metropolitan areas are stable or growing.
Population of Jewell County – an example

85.3 % population loss in 127 years
Population of Rice County
Huck Boyd Institute
rural development priorities:
Support Ruralpreneurs
And small town
quality of life
Be the Best Community That you can be