Flint Hills
Regional Leadership Program
“You Are The Senator”
Economic Literacy, Collaboration and Public Service
“You Are The Senator”
Presentation developed by
Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development

Ron Wilson, Director

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You are the Senator:

- Learn about the Huck Boyd Institute
- Briefing on demographic and economic shifts in rural Kansas and the nation
- Caucus to consider community and economic development strategies
You are the Senator:

Learn about the Huck Boyd Institute
Question:

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
Mission: Rural Self-Help

Leadership Development
Rural Outreach
Community Vitality
Kansas Profile
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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
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
Natural population change rate, 2010-2013
Population Change Rate, Hispanic
Population Change Rate, non-Hispanic white
Percent non-English speaking households
Percent non-Hispanic African-American, 2010
Percent of persons born in Mexico, 2008-2012
Percent population 65 and older
Other factors
Percent persons with no high school
Poverty Rate, 2012
Brain Drain
Nonmetro Net Migration Rates Compared to Education

1988-1989

Less than High School
High School
Some College
College+

Education Level Completed
Nonmetro net migration by education completed 1988-1994

Slightly more college educated have moved into nonmetro areas
KANSAS
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) Metro (9 counties)
Kansas population change by county, 2010-2013
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