Changing Composition of Upstate New York Communities

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Community Development Institute:
Informed Communities, Informed Decisions

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Changing Composition of Upstate New York Communities

• Significant change has occurred in the last several decades in NYS communities.

• It is critical to understand these trends in order to make informed decisions about the future of your communities.

• Today we will look at some broad demographic trends in NYS – first half of session

• Then we will have a discussion on how these trends are impacting your communities – second half of session

• The next session (at 11:30) will highlight tools and resources to help you access and interpret data for your own communities
As we move through the presentation, please think about your community, & the impacts from and responses to the following trends:

- Population growth or decline
- Out-migration of youth
- Aging Population
- Increasing race and/or ethnic diversity
- Changing employment patterns, industrial mix, etc.
- Other trends......
Demographic Changes are Fundamental

• Changes in:
  – Population size,
  – Geographic distribution of population
  – Socioeconomic composition of population

• Affect, and are affected by, most aspects of
  – Society
  – Economy
  – Natural environment

• But demography is not destiny
New York State, Down State and Upstate
Historical Population Trends, 1940 – 2010

Source: US Population Census
While NYS as a whole is projected to increase......

New York State Population estimates and projections, 1990-2035

Source: Cornell Program of Applied Demographics
...but Upstate NYS is not expected to see this level of growth

New York State Counties, Population estimates and projections, 2010-2035

Source: Cornell Program of Applied Demographics
Migration is a major component of NYS population change

- NYS receives and sends migrants both to/from other parts of the US and internationally
  - International migration has been a source of population growth for NYS
    - Slowed dramatically during the recession
      - International migration gains are concentrated in downstate
      - Upstate also has positive migration from abroad, but much more moderate
  - Internal migration has been a source of NYS population loss
    - Net Domestic outmigration is much higher in downstate areas
    - Upstate also lost more domestic migrants than it gained
      - but at much lower rates of loss than downstate
Migration is specific to certain ages. Upstate has had a net loss of young adults since the 1960s.

Net migration rates by age, 1950s-1990s, Upstate NY.

Source: U.S. Decennial Censuses
The Aging of the baby boom in Upstate NYS

- NYS Median Age increased by 1.8 years since 2000
  - More rapid aging in Upstate-- by 2.3 years
- Pct. 65+ reached 15% in 2010 in Upstate
  - Estimated to reach 20% by 2030
NYS is ethnically & racially diverse

• NYS is much more diverse than upstate
  – 15.2% African American vs. 7.8%
  – 16.8% Hispanic vs. 4.9%
  – 21.3% foreign born vs. 5.8%

• Upstate metropolitan areas are more diverse than nonmetropolitan areas
  – BUT: the most highly rural areas are more diverse than small and medium sized cities
Changing Landscape of Diversity

- Hispanics are now the largest race/ethnic group in NYS
  - In Upstate, African Americans still outnumber Hispanics
    - But, Hispanic rate of growth > African American
    - The vast majority of Upstate counties experienced Hispanic population growth

NYS County Percentage Change in Hispanic Population, 1990-2009

Source: Center for Disease Control, Race and Ethnicity dataset
Relative size of Hispanic population, Upstate New York Counties, by metro status, 2010
Major shift in manufacturing employment

[Chart showing the percentage of manufacturing employment from 2000 to 2009 for NYS, Upstate Total, Metro Upstate, Micro Upstate, and Non-Core Upstate.]
Significant increase in health care and social assistance employment
Discussion

• Are the trends for Upstate NY similar to those in your community?

• Which trends have been most apparent in your community?

• Are these trends viewed as opportunities, as challenges, or as a mixture of both?

• How is your community responding to these trends?

• Do you have other ideas about how your community might respond to these trends?
Demography is Not Destiny

• Demographic changes can propel communities upward or downward
  – Can pose challenges
  – Can enhance opportunities

• Impacts of population changes are not automatic
  – Mediated by
    • Local social structure
    • National and international environments in which they are embedded
Example:
Out migration of young adults can affect the school system

Is the school system response to loss of school age kids the same in all communities?
The impacts of population change are mediated by social structure

**Community A**

Net Out migration of school age pop. → Economic resources, Leadership, Citizen mobilization, Technical know how → School Closure

**Community B**

Net Out migration of school age pop. → Economic resources, Leadership, Citizen mobilization, Technical know how → Consolidate, Share admin. services, Out-source special classes → School Remains open
Thank you!