Demography basics

- Three ways how populations can change
  - Fertility
  - Mortality
  - Migration

- Three formal research areas
  - Population size (growth, decline)
  - Population composition (race, age, sex etc.)
  - Population distribution (migration, urbanization)

On today’s menu

- Basic demography and long term population trends in KS
- Aging in place
- Immigration issues
- A few words on what to do

The demographic landscape

- “Demography is destiny”
  - Demographic trends are complex and seldom change overnight
  - Sorry, no easy fixes!

- Kansas trends
  - Slow population growth
  - Urban expansion
  - Some population diversity
  - Spatially uneven immigration
    - High in certain locations, nonexistent in others
  - Aging
The demographic landscape

- These trends fit to the general changes occurring in the US (and even globally)
  - There is really not much special about Kansas
- Most of these trends are not new and could have been predicted decades ago
  - The exception is immigration, which is policy-driven at the federal level and business-driven at the local level
    - States also meddle into immigration, usually making things much worse
Two-thirds of KS counties had their population peak in 1930 or before
One-third of KS counties had negative net migration in every decade since 1950
Only nine counties had population growth above the national average between 2000 and 2010
- 19 others grew some, the rest declined
Only three rural counties grew more than 1% since 2000 (Stevens, Dickinson, Gray)
Projected % population change until 2030

The links to aging
- Population decline occurs mostly because of negative migration trends
- Migration is age-selective
  - Primary ages are 20-35 (and subsequently 0-5)
  - Migration alone can cause aging in place
- This is exacerbated by the effect of the national age transition (the Baby Boom retirement)

Distribution of the Elderly: 2000
Percentage of Persons 85 Years and Older

Median age
Projecting aging [2000]

- Disclaimer: county-level projections are risky and inaccurate, so see this only as a trend indication or a theoretical exercise
- Conservative assumptions on fertility and mortality (keep the 2000 level)
- Migration assumption: the 1990-2000 trend will continue, no "shock event"

Projecting aging [2030]

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The vicious cycle

Population loss

Loss of services

Loss of consumers

Loss of revenues

Loss of businesses

International migration

- International migration is connected to globalization and uneven development patterns
- It has three major dynamics:
  - A response to push and pull factors
  - Facilitated by social networks
  - Influenced by policies and institutions
- About 13% of the US population is foreign born
  - This is ~40 million people (of which 17.5 million is naturalized)

Number of immigrants, 1850-2010

(LPRs, thousands)

Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2010

The Foreign Born in the United States
As Percentage of Total County Population, 2009

LEGEND

- Moderate:
  - 20.00 to 50.00%
- High:
  - 50.01 to 75.00%
- Very high:
  - 75.01 to 100.00%

Data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

4/13/2012
Foreign born in Kansas

- Foreign born population grew from 63,000 in 1990 to 165,000 by the late 2000s (2005-09 ACS)
- 56% of the KS foreign born are from Latin America, 28% from Asia, 9% from Europe
- 33% of the KS foreign born are citizens (43% at the national level)
  - Recent Hispanic immigrants are less likely to be citizens
- 4 to 5 thousand green cards are given to KS residents each year
- FB population in KS is spatially concentrated

Immigrant integration

- We cannot expect immigration (or immigrants) to go away
  - Emphasis should be on integration using policies, incentives and common sense
- Immigrant integration depends on both the national and local contexts
  - The national context provides the grand discourse that shapes opinions and perspectives
  - The local context provides the conditions that determine the success of integration

Policy considerations

- Immigration is driven by broad social and economic currents that are mostly outside of governmental control
- Policy mistakes
  - If the discourse on immigration is contaminated by partisan political agendas then failure is guaranteed
  - A policy largely based on law enforcement (border or workplace) will never be successful because it misses the underlying reasons why people move
Illegal immigration

- Illegal immigration is driven by the same forces as legal immigration
  - The invisible hand of supply and demand
- What makes it illegal is the flawed policy regime
  - Broken guest worker program
  - Self-perpetuating border enforcement interests
  - A public discourse contaminated by fear-mongering which mixes up immigration with terrorism and national security

So what does this mean for you?

*** BREAKING NEWS ***

These are just demographic trends...

What makes them a problem is insufficient community capacity!

*** BREAKING NEWS ***

What can be done?

- Understand how demography works and what is its impact on human resources
- One size never fits all
  - Communities are different and even if the challenges are similar, the solutions may not be so
- Only one silver bullet
  - Build local capacity so that localities could come up with solutions by themselves
What can be done?

- Pay attention to all factors influencing population trends, first of all migration

- Be realistic: time cannot be turned back

Conclusions

- The demographic trends of Kansas are clear and we should not act surprised in 2020
  - Remember: nothing changes overnight

- Local demographic trends (including aging) are increasingly determined by migration patterns

- Rational planning should address
  - How the Baby Boom moves through the lifecourse
  - The state and local health service needs of old Kansans
  - The spatially selective growth of foreign born population
  - How to provide opportunities for people to keep them from moving away

- Local capacity is the key for most challenges

That's all Folks!