Rural Children – Rural Communities

Dr. William O’Hare
wohare.consultant@aecf.org
The Carsey Institute and the Annie E. Casey Foundation
Why Should We Care About Rural Children?

- 11.4 million children growing up in rural America
- 2.5 million poor children in rural America
- Child poverty rate in rural America is 22%
NOTE - Data presented here are from 2008 so they do not reflect the worsening economic recession in 2009 and early 2010

------------------------------------------

URBAN = CITIES AND SUBURBS

RURAL = OUTSIDE METRO AREAS
Child Poverty Rate 1990 to 2008

Poverty Threshold is $22,025 a year for a family of four in 2008
Percent Of Children in Deep Poverty (Income Less Than 50% of Poverty Line), 2008

Under $11,013 a year for a family for four
Percent Of Children in Low-Income Families (Income Less Than 200% of Poverty Line), 2008

Income Under $44,100 a year for a family of four
Percent Of Children in Families Below 185% of Poverty Line, 2008

Income Under $40,746 a year for a family of four
Poverty Rate for Children Under Age 5

- **NORTHEAST**: URBAN - 17, RURAL - 22
- **MIDWEST**: URBAN - 20, RURAL - 23
- **SOUTH**: URBAN - 23, RURAL - 32
- **WEST**: URBAN - 19, RURAL - 24
Poverty Rate by Race for Rural Children Under Age 5

- White: 54%
- Black: 42%
- American Indian: 37%
- Latino: 21%
- Asian: 13%
Protective factors do not work as well for children in rural America...

- Family Structure (Marriage)
- Work
- Education
Poverty Rate for Children Under Age 5

- Married Couples: 9
- Father Only: 13
- Mother Only: 62

Legend:
- URBAN
- RURAL

Source: Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire
Percent of Children in Married-Couple Families

1990 to 2008
Poverty Rate of Adults by Employment

- **URBAN**
- **RURAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked Full Time</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Part Time</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Work</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty Rate by Education for All Adults
Age 25-44

- Less than high school: Urban 37, Rural 28
- High school graduate: Urban 16, Rural 13
- Some College: Urban 8, Rural 11
- Four-year college degree or higher: Urban 3, Rural 3
Summary

- Rural children have higher poverty rates than urban children.
- The poverty rate gap between rural and urban children is growing.
- More rural than urban counties are persistently poor.
- Child poverty rates for racial minorities in rural America are especially high.
- While marriage, education, and employment are generally protective against poverty, rural children who benefit from each are still more likely to be poor than urban children.