

Facts About Rural America

General

- (1) Rural America contains 75 % of the nation's land
- (2) It is home to 17% (or 49 million) of America's population

Health Related Issues

- (1) Although 20% of Americans live in rural areas, only 9% of the nation's physicians practice in rural areas.

Ethnicity Issues

- (1) Rural Hispanics have the highest ratio for dropping out of high school (51%)
- (2) Urban blacks are twice as likely to have college degrees as rural blacks

Poverty

- (1) Half of all Non-metro Native Americans live 50% below the poverty line
- (2) 1 out of every 5 rural children was considered to be "poor"; when just Hispanic and Native American families were studied, the ratio becomes one out of two.
- (3) In most rural areas, 32% of the population resides in low employment counties
- (4) Rural median household income of \$33,601 is far below the metropolitan average of \$45,219

Technology

- (1) Overall Internet usage in rural communities is 15% less than user counterpart in metropolitan areas. That number drops significantly when race is factored in.

Early Childhood Education

- (1) Rural children beginning kindergarten and first grade have the lowest reading and math scores of all children tested by region. This is considering due to lack of early childhood intervention.

Rural Households

- (1) Rural families typically earn 48% of what metropolitan workers earn.
- (2) 40% of the above income comes from unearned income, such as Social Security.
- (3) Over one-fifth of agriculture based households have an income of less than \$15,000 annually.
- (4) Rural populations declined by 9%, according to the last Census report.

Statistical Sources:

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