

ROAD Session Virtual Exchange

Our Essential
Work:

Immigrants and
Rural Economies
Weathering the
Pandemic Together



Today's Event Partners



RURAL LISC



Welcome
Caitlin Cain
Vice President, LISC

Why host/organize Rural Opportunity and Development (ROAD) Sessions?

- Highlight and unpack rural development ideas and strategies that are critical in response to COVID-19 and to long-term rebuilding and recovery.
- Feature stories of on-the-ground practitioners who have experience, wisdom and savvy to share.
- Reflect and emphasize the full diversity of rural America - lifting voices and lived experiences from a wide range of rural communities and economies.
- Spotlight rural America's assets and challenges
- Infuse practitioner stories and lessons into rural narratives, policymaking and practice across the country
- Strengthen the networking of organizations serving rural communities and regions.

Our Essential Work

Exchange Format

- **Panel Discussion: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. ET**

Our speakers tell their story of working with rural immigrant communities.

- **Breakout Rooms: 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. ET**
Optional

Join a breakout to meet others, ask questions, seek advice and share your thinking and experience.

Format: Open questions and answers, ideas and advice sharing. Each breakout will include one of today's speakers plus a facilitator.

Our Essential Work

Exchange Format

- Use the **Chat Box** to share insights or echo/highlight a panelist's statement. Please share your thoughts with civility and compassion.
- Use the **Q & A Box** to ask your question of the speakers.
Participant questions may be addressed in the last 15 minutes of the first hour, or during the 30-minute breakout session.

And last before we start...A little Housekeeping

- Your mics are muted. If you have any **tech** issues, please use the **Chat** box. We have people standing by to address!
- At 3:30, to enter the breakout discussion, clicking on the link provided in your registration confirmation, or in the email sent to you today.
 - You have received an email with a link to the breakout meeting already.
 - We will send those links again in the next hour to every registered participant's email.
 - If you have not received it – please send a note to csg.program@aspeninstitute.org.
- Recordings of the first hour will be available on the Aspen CSG event webpage within about 48 hours. That video link will be sent to all registered.



Welcome Today's Moderator:

Chitra Kumar

Senior Fellow

Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group



Building Context: Data on Rural Immigrant Communities

Daniel Lichter

Ferris Family Professor of Life Course Studies
Cornell Institute for Public Affairs

Immigrant Populations in Rural America

Daniel T. Lichter, PhD

Ferris Family Professor

Department of Policy Analysis and Management

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY 14853

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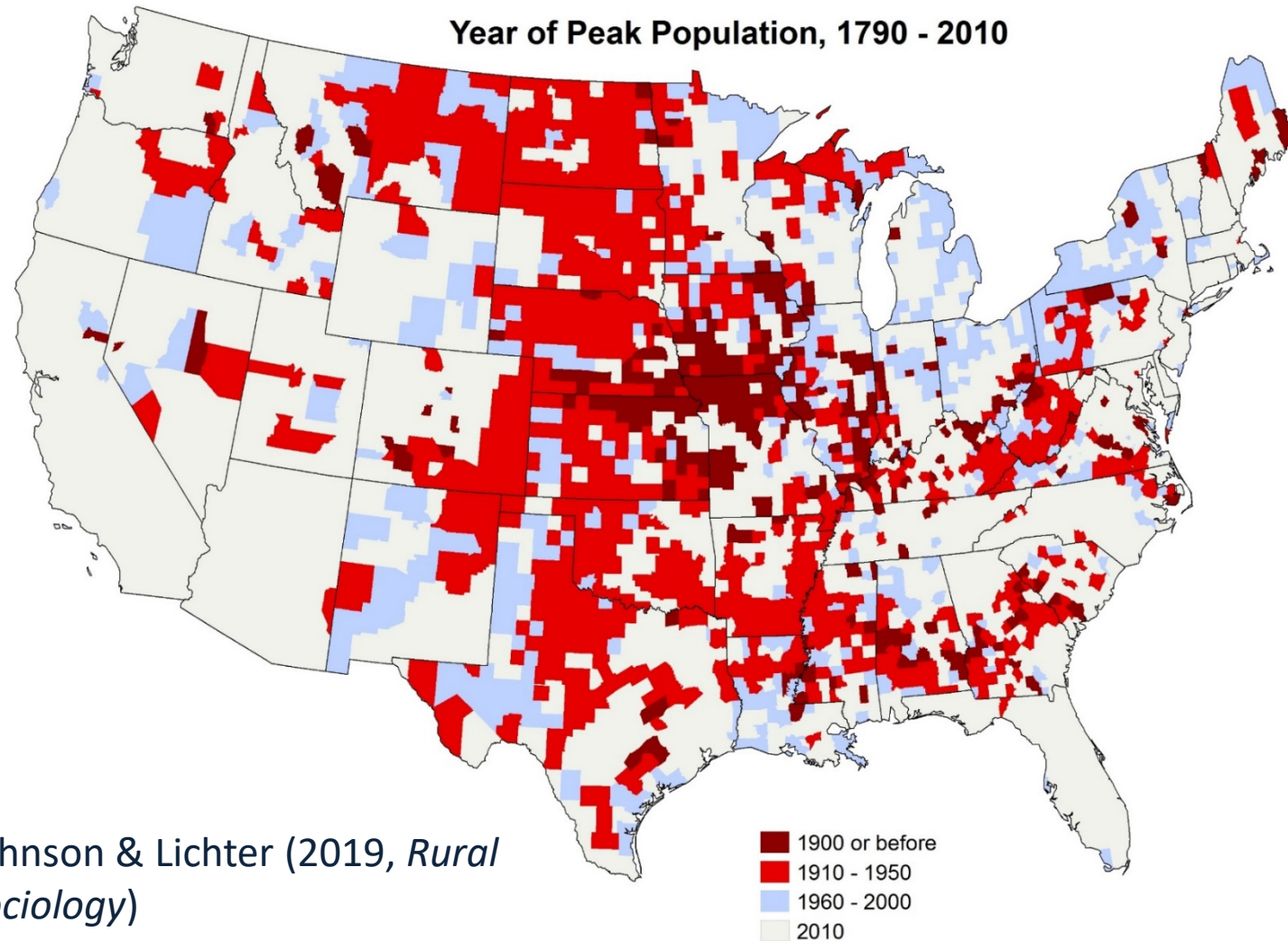
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The Big Picture: Demographic Trends in Rural America

- Unprecedented rural *depopulation*, but . . .
- New *growth* from immigration and refugees
 - Immigrants as a demographic lifeline?



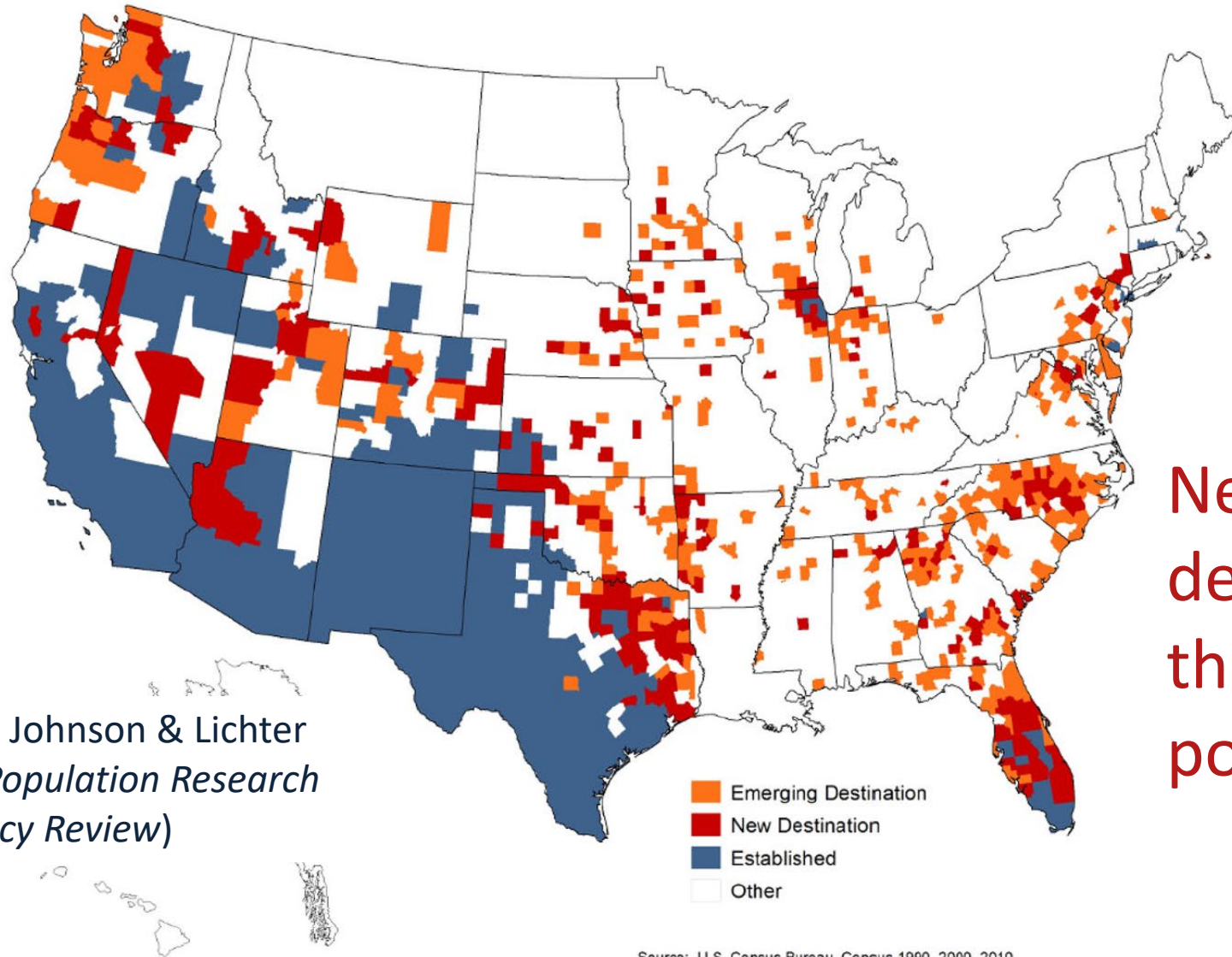


Johnson & Lichter (2019, *Rural Sociology*)



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New Immigrant destinations in the 1990s and post-2000 period.



Why?

- New freedom of movement after *Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986* (IRCA).
- *Pushes* from anti-immigrant legislation in California and elsewhere.
- *Pulls* from restructuring in the agricultural sector – meatpacking, corporate agriculture, agricultural consolidation and mechanization, and hospitality and service sector.
- Militarization of the border – prevented return migration of unauthorized immigrants.



Some Benefits

- Renewed population growth – a lifeline?
- New and resurgent economic growth (multiplier effects)
- Strengthens local institutions: Faith-based organization, civic organizations, schools, and hospitals

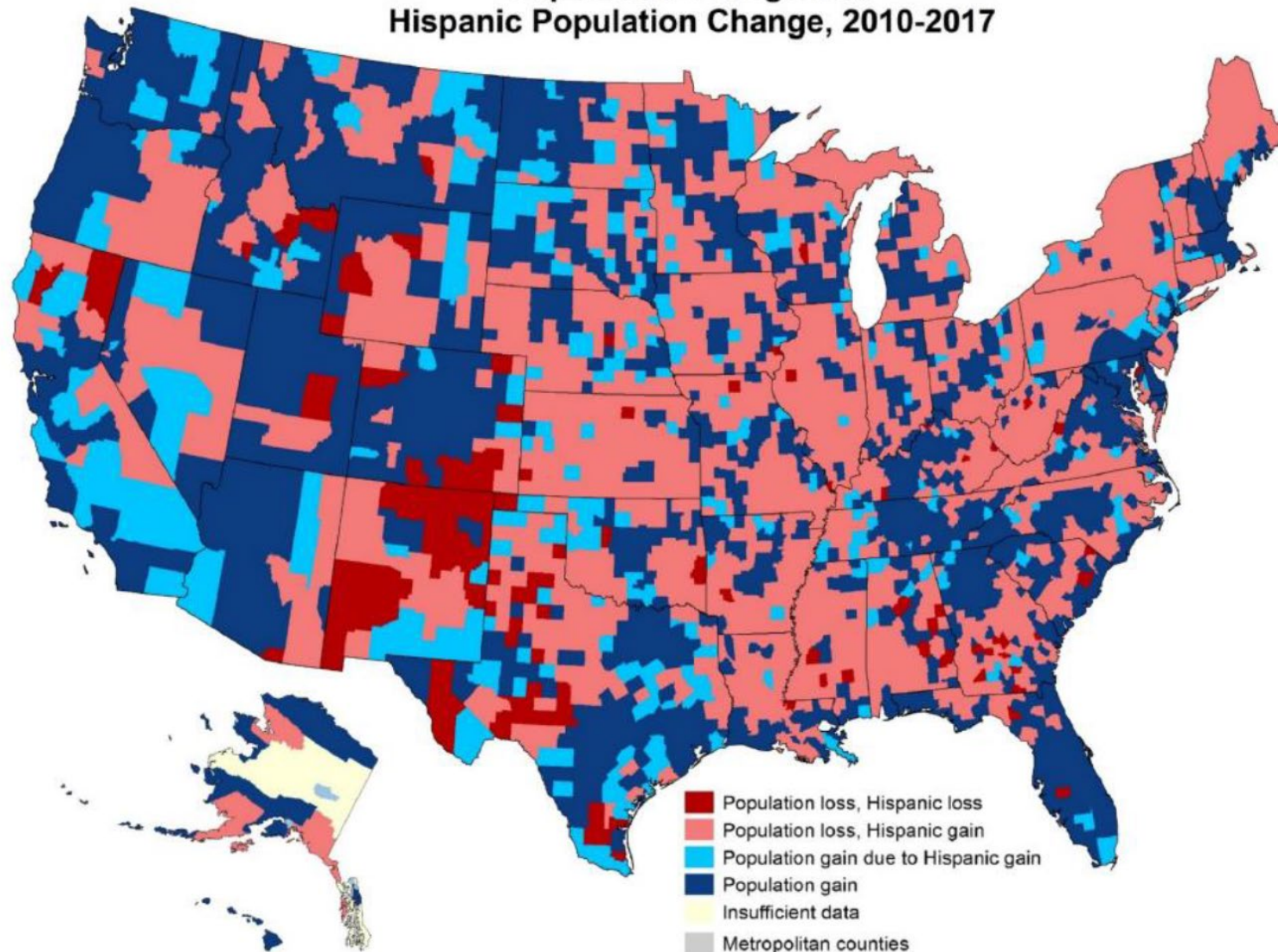


Lichter & Johnson (2020) “A Demographic Lifeline? Immigration and Hispanic Population Growth in Rural America,” *Population Research and Policy Review*.

- Nearly 10 percent (192 counties) gained population overall during the 2010s, but only because of new Hispanic immigrant growth.



Population Change and Hispanic Population Change, 2010-2017



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Some New Vulnerabilities

Individual risks accelerate community risks

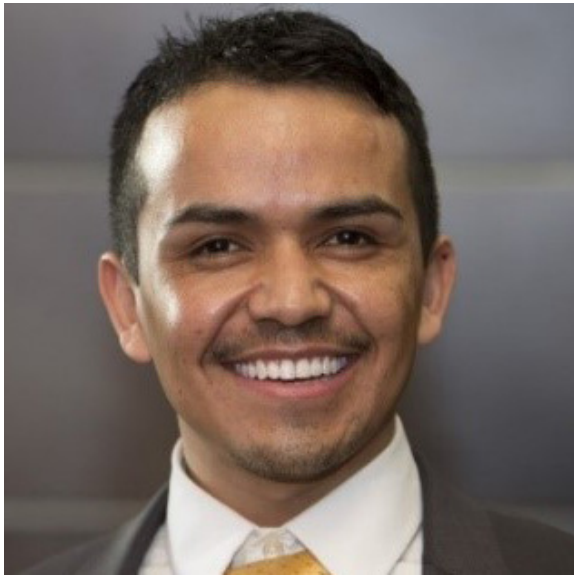
- Co-morbidity – more underlying health conditions increase vulnerability to Covid-19 (e.g., diabetes)
- Poverty, lack of English-language proficiency, access to public transportation, and large school-age population
- Crowded work and living conditions (doubling up)
- Lack of health care
 - Lack of employer-sponsored health insurance
 - Ineligibility for Obama Care
- Fear of deportation and stress



What's Different about Refugees?

- Forced displacement rather than voluntary
- Traumatized by violence and war – food insecurity (e.g. anemia), PTSS, stress & anxiety
- Issues of integration (e.g., race, religion and anti-Muslim sentiment)





The Public Sector Response in Kansas

Ernestor De La Rosa

Assistant City Manager
City of Dodge City, Kansas



Collaboration for Impact in California

Araceli Palafox

Deputy Director, Lift To Rise
Coachella Valley, California



Supporting Immigrant Business in Maine

John Scribner

Director, StartSmart
Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI)

Join us for the breakout room discussion

- To enter the breakout session: Simply use the Zoom breakout link.
 - We sent every registered email that link again during the first hour.
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- Each room will include one of our speakers and a facilitator – it may take a few minutes to get them sorted into the right room. Chat until they get there!
- Open discussion!

Today's Event Partners



Thank you and see you in the breakouts!