

# Vermont.

Small.

Rural.

*What does it mean?*

*AmeriCorps “Kick-Off” Launch  
October 19-20, 2010*

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**UVM Center for Rural Studies**



# First, a Little about You





## Now, a Little about Vermont

- Small
- Rural
- Aging
- White (96%)

– What does it all mean?



# Very Small State

In last Census head-count...

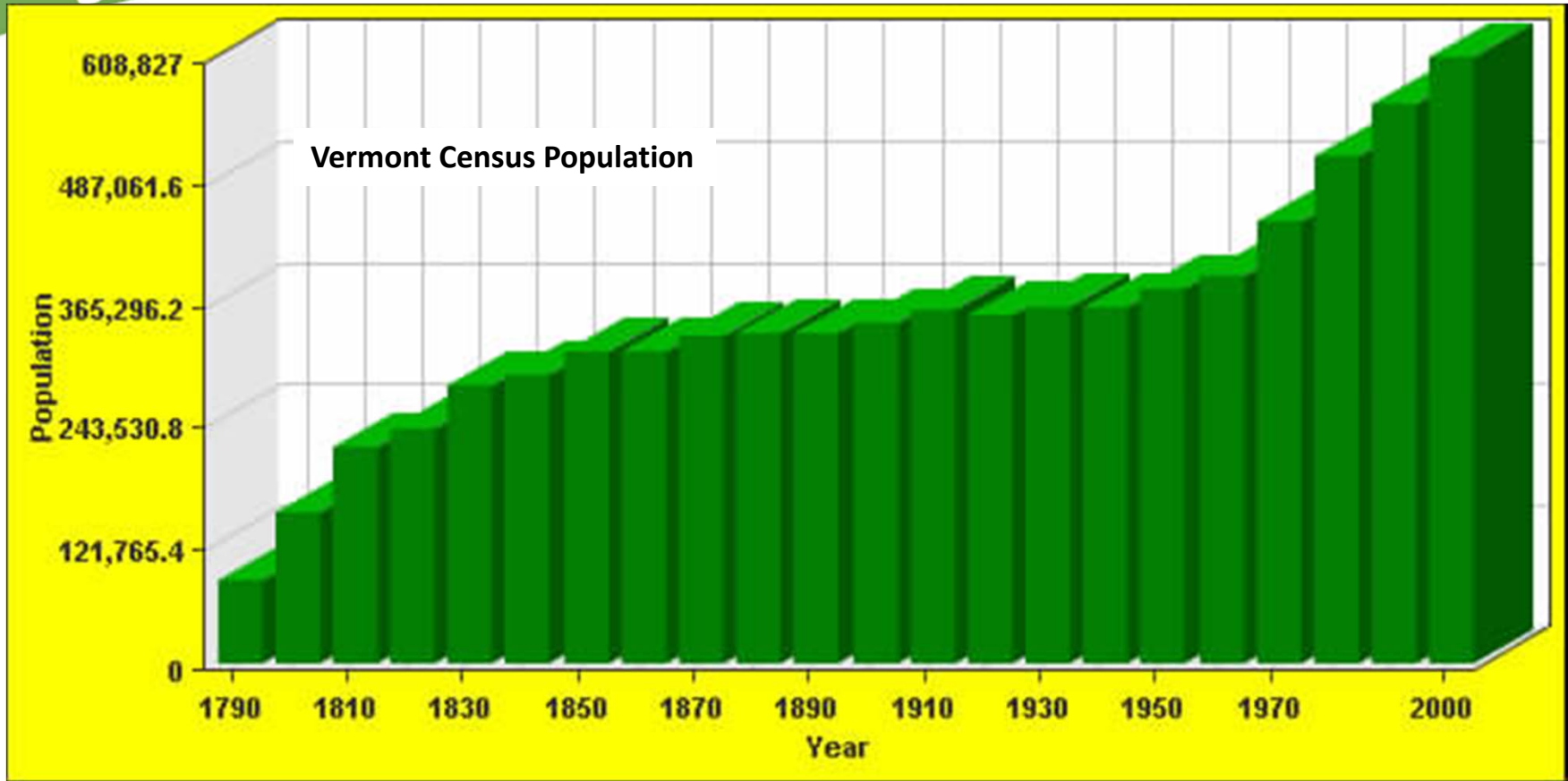
- Population
  - Second from the bottom
- Land Area
  - In the bottom ten

State	2000 Census Population
Wyoming	493,782
<b>Vermont</b>	<b>608,827</b>
Alaska	626,932
North Dakota	642,200
South Dakota	754,844
Delaware	783,600
Montana	902,195
Rhode Island	1,048,319
Hawaii	1,211,537
New Hampshire	1,235,786

Vermont 2009 estimate is 621,760



# ...but Growing!



Source: U.S. Census, retrieved from *Vermont Indicators Online* <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators>



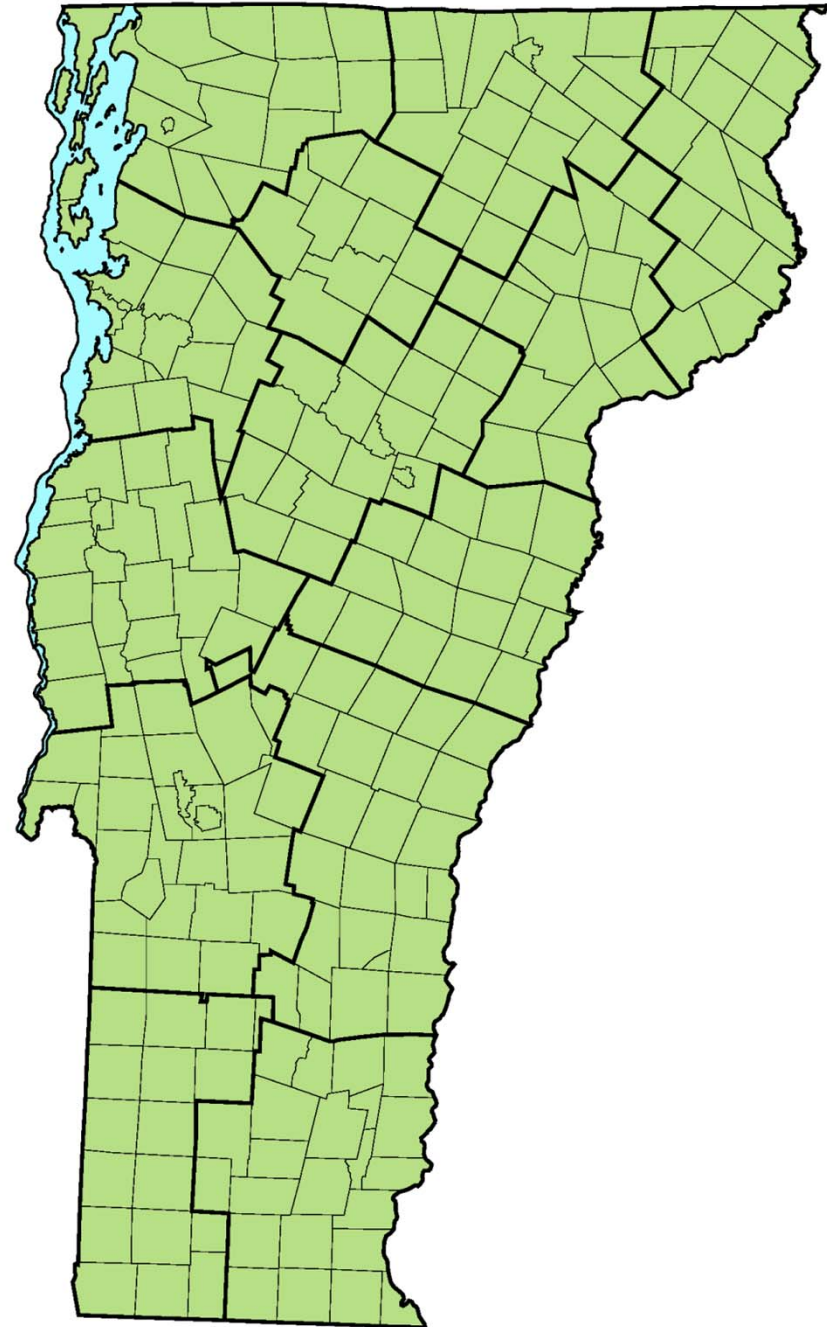
# What Does it Mean?

- Small Size
  - Breadth and depth of public and private resources
    - last in real GDP, 2008
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> to last in government revenue, 2008
    - but 21<sup>st</sup> in median household income, 2009
- Rapid Growth
  - Rapid change
  - New people, new ideas, new challenges



# ...but More than a State!

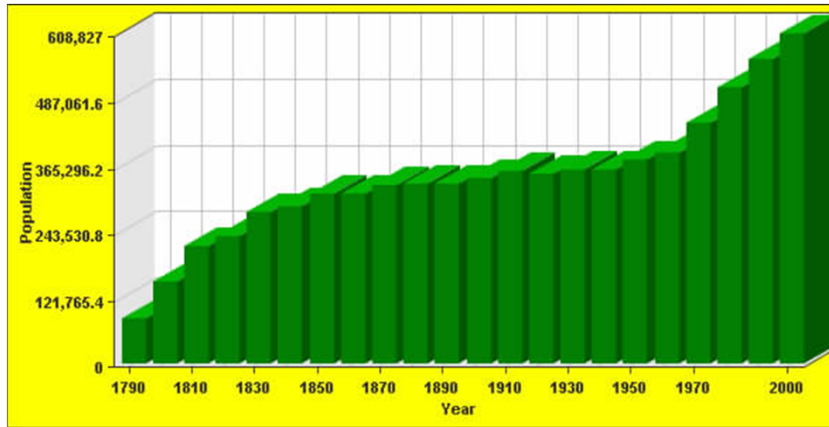
A collection of  
small  
communities



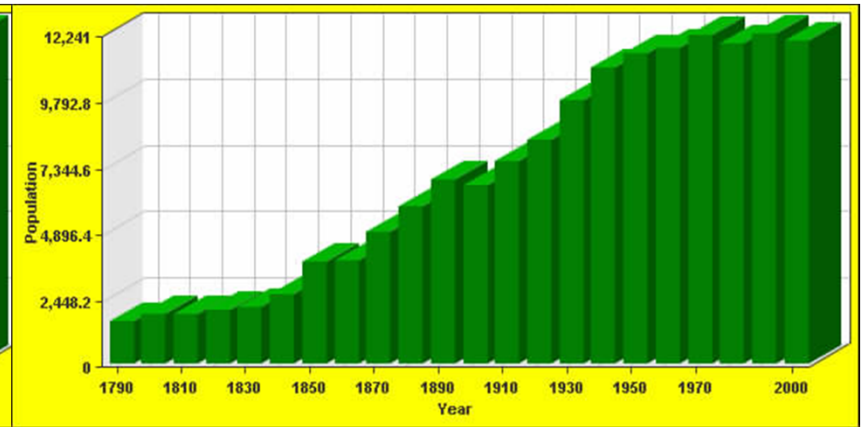


# Different Places

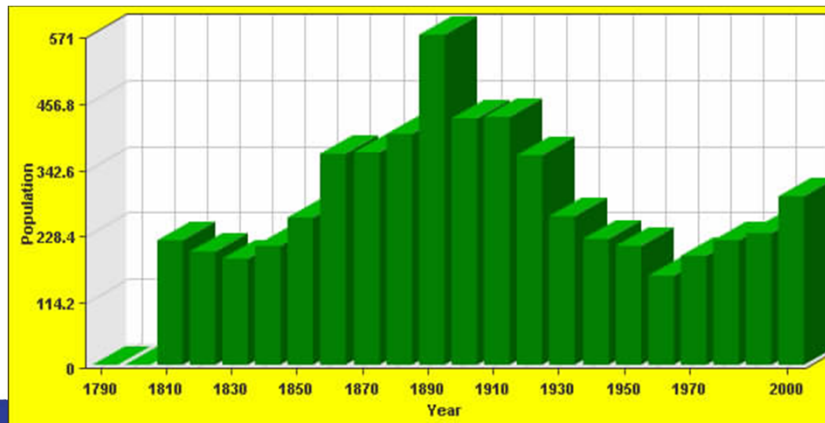
## Vermont



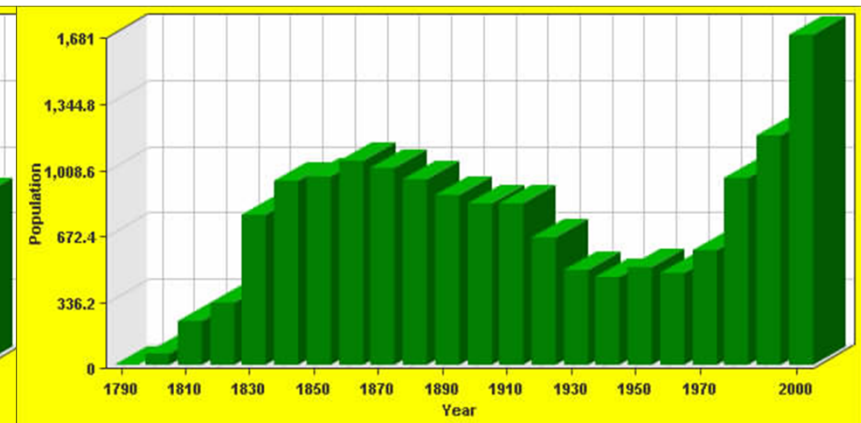
## Brattleboro



## Belvidere



## Warren







# “If you’ve seen one VT community...”

...you’ve seen one VT community.”

-Fred Schmidt, UVM

- Different sizes, histories, flavors, resources, services, challenges.
- But nearly all have been growing...



# The Most Rural State

Really!

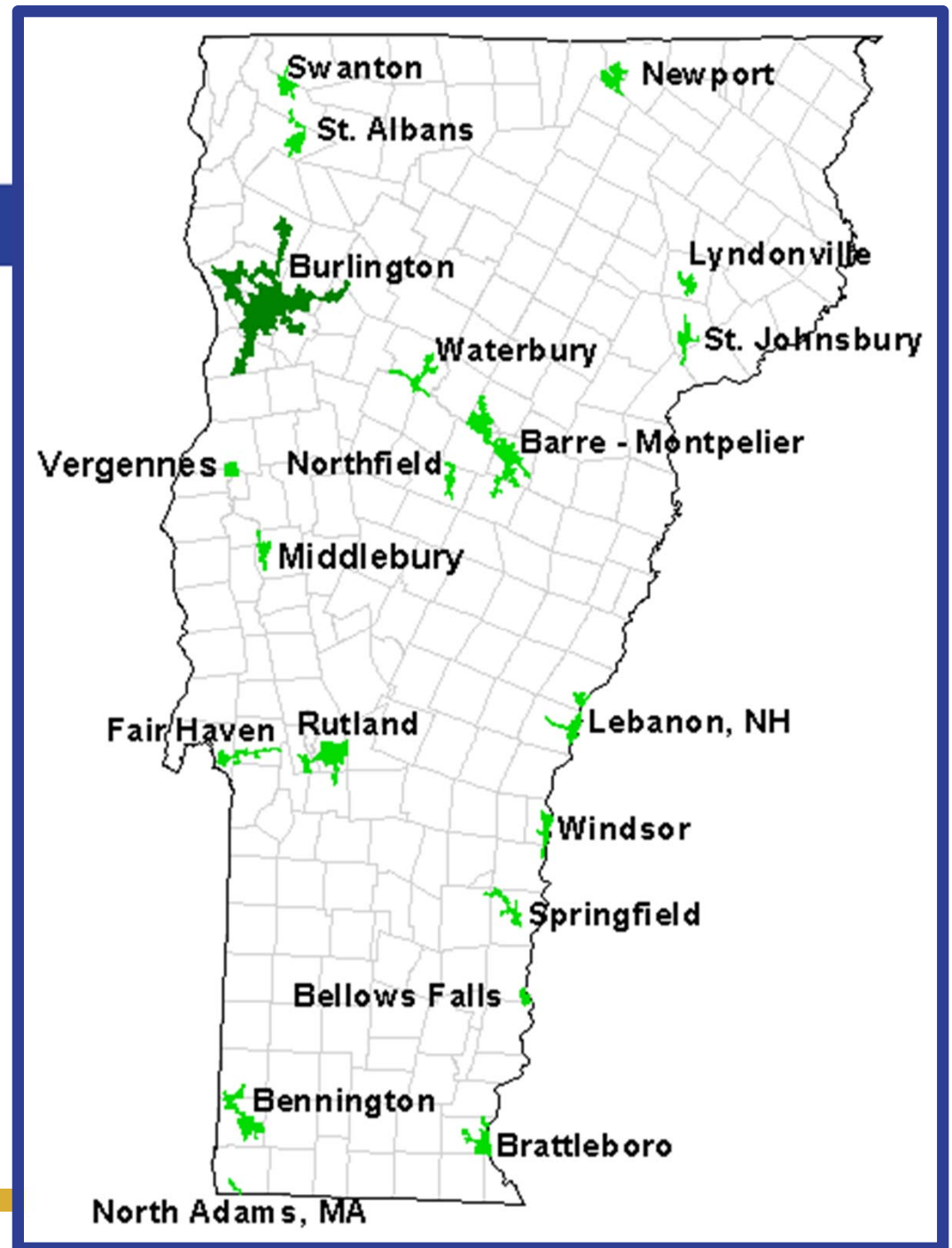
- Vermont has most rural population in the nation: 62%
  - Maine: 60%, W. Virginia: 54%



# Not ALL Rural...

There are 20 urban clusters in VT

Source: 2000 Census





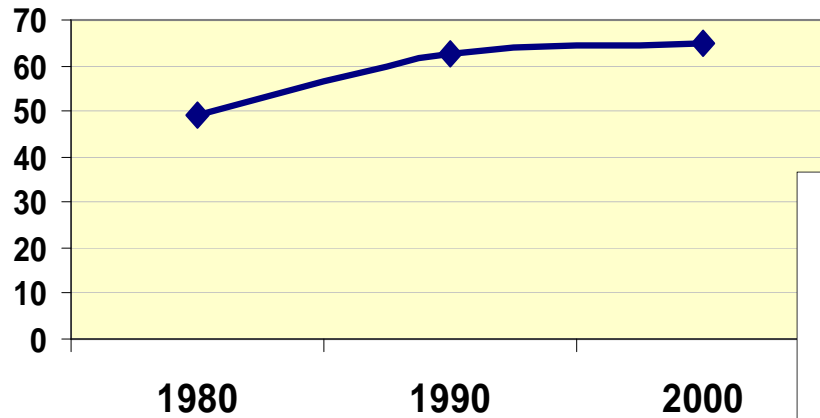
# Rural Challenges

- Infrastructure
  - Distances
  - Low Market Aggregation
  - Hidden Needs
- Hinder community/economic development and provision of services for some or many

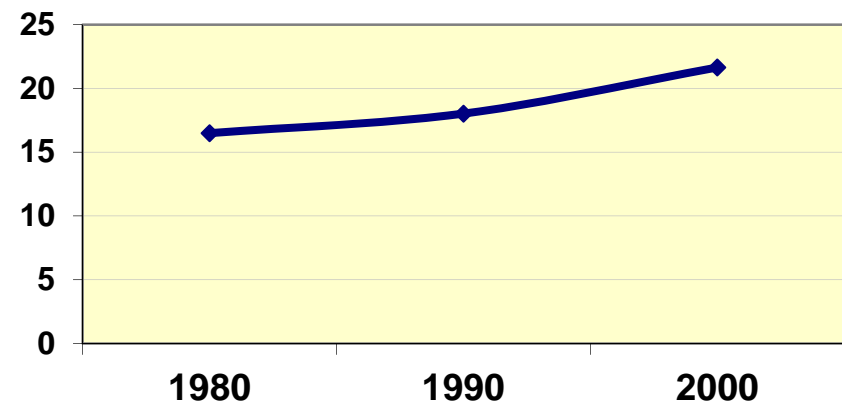


# Rural Distances

Vermonters Commuting Out of Town (%)



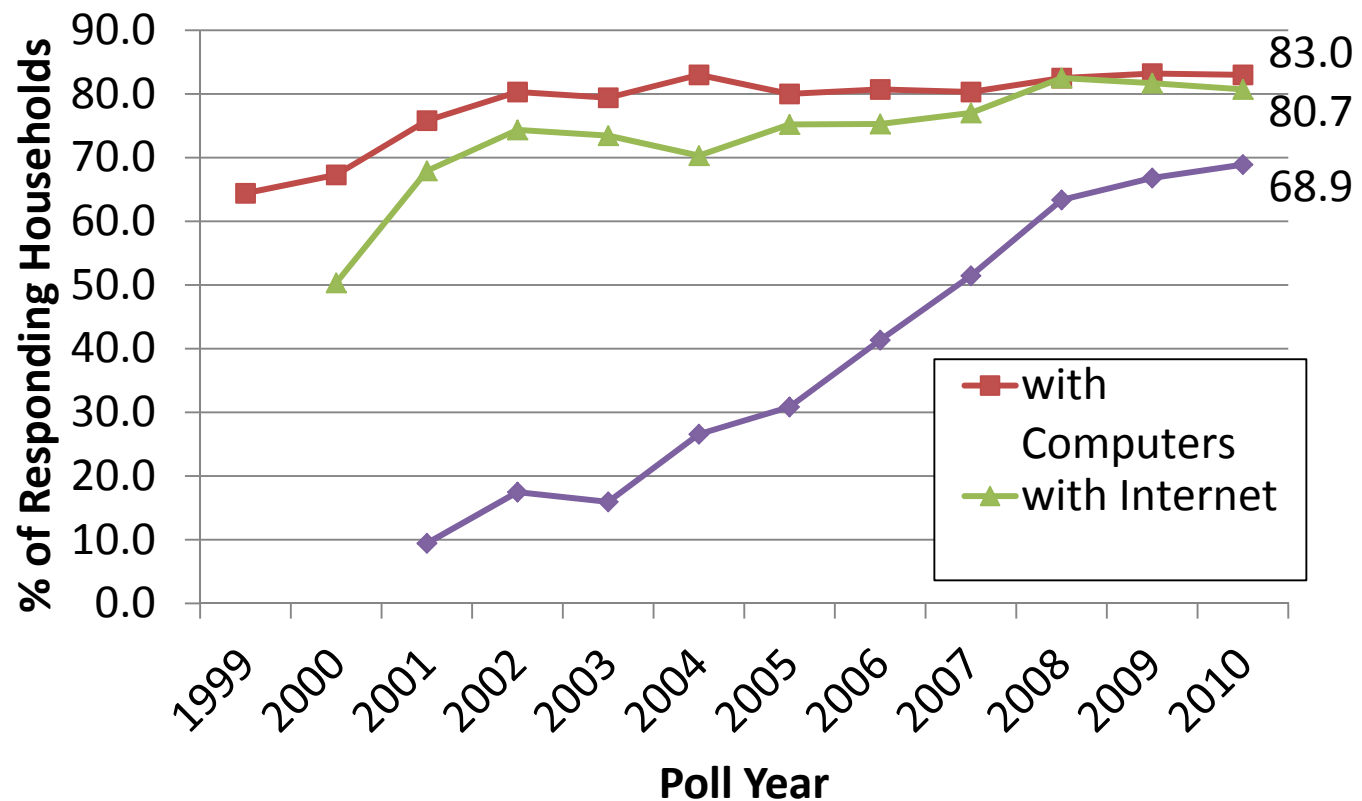
Average Vermont Commute (minutes)



Source: U.S. Census



# Example: Broadband



Source: *Vermont Poll*, UVM Center for Rural Studies



# Rural Broadband

Character of Household Location	% with broadband available (connected or not)	% connected to Internet that have broadband
Rural	76.6	81.8
Suburban	83.0	92.9
Urban	83.2	91.7
Total	79.1	85.5

Source: *Vermont Poll*, UVM Center for Rural Studies



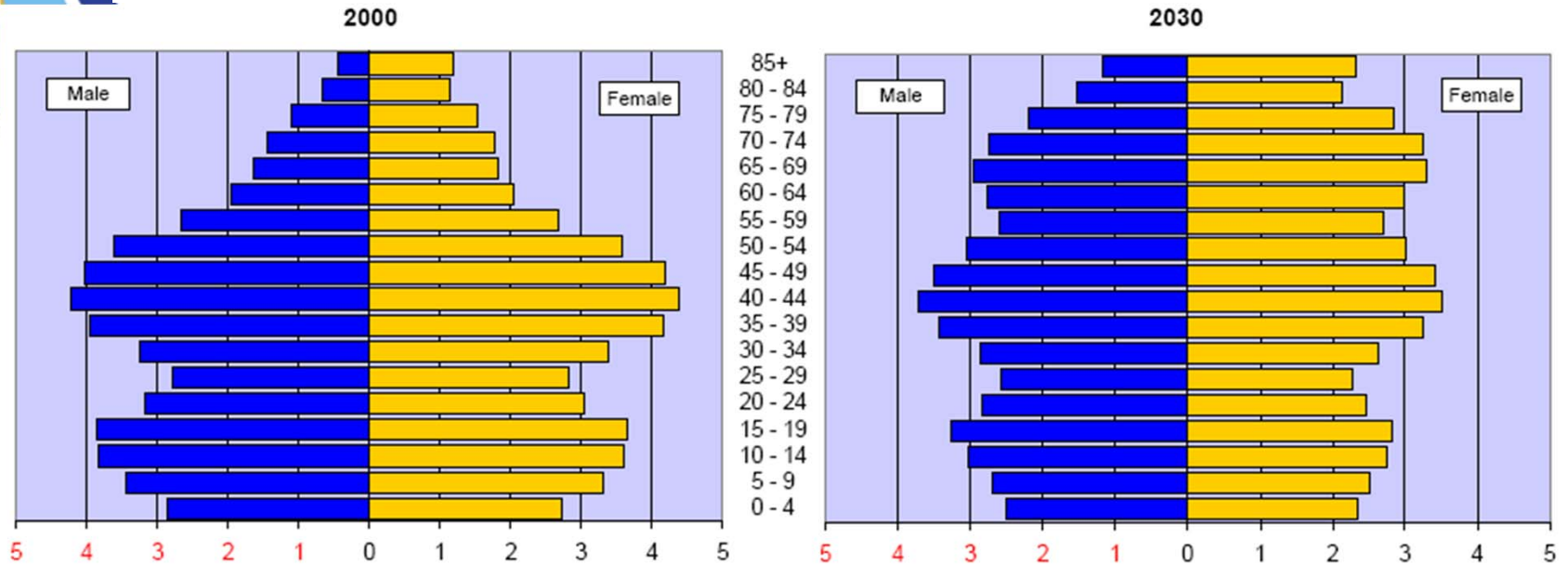
# Rural By Choice?

- Quality of Life factor
- VT dominated by rural-by-choice population.
- Easier to find instances of urban poverty and special needs than rural...  
...but it's there.





# Aging Population



Vermont in 2000

Median age = 37.7

65+ = 12.7%

Vermont projected to 2030

Median age = 43.9

65+ = 24.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Racial Diversity

## ...or lack thereof

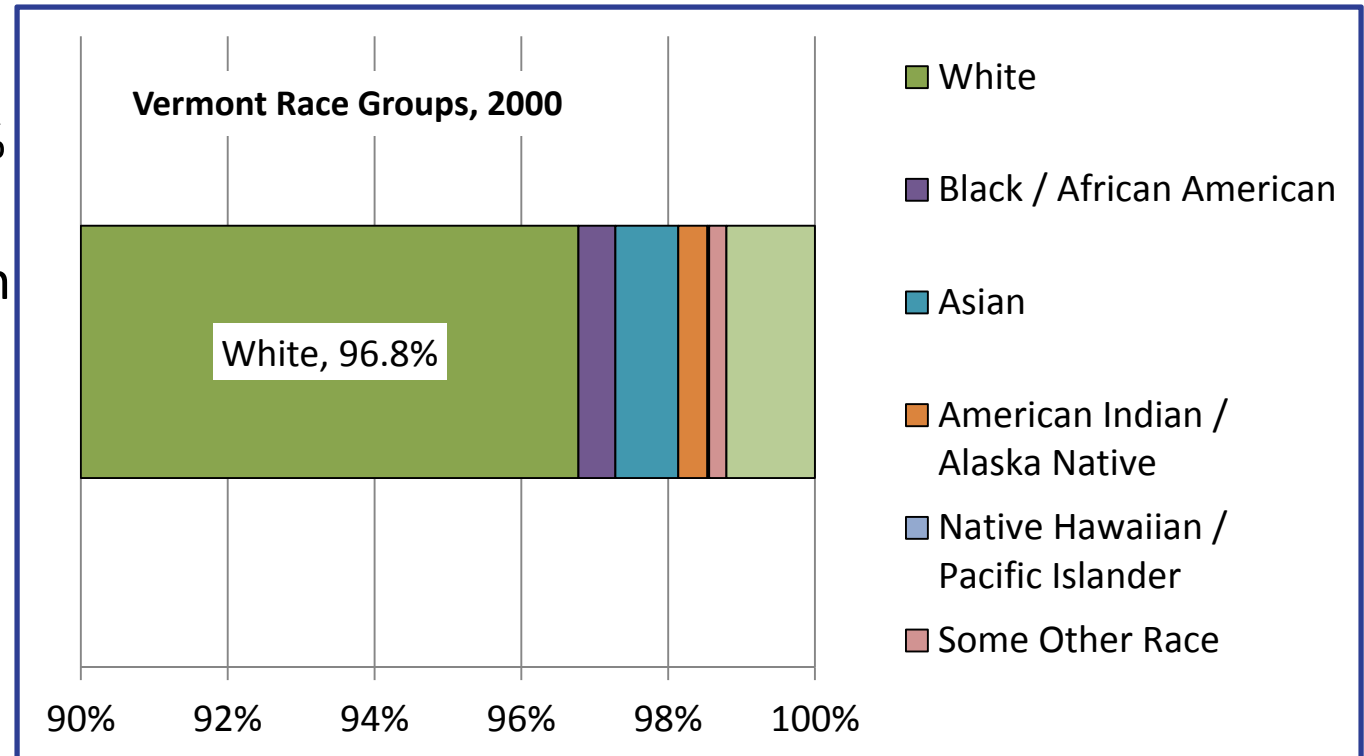
Vermont Population that is White alone, non-Hispanic:

1990: 98.6%

2000: 96.8%

2009: 94.6%  $\pm 0.1\%$

-most in the nation





# County Comparison Median Age

Source:  
2006-2008 American Community Survey,  
U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. is 36.7 ±0.1

Geographic area	Median Age	Margin of Error (+/-)
Vermont	40.9	0.2
Addison County	39.1	0.6
Bennington County	44.0	0.4
Caledonia County	41.1	0.6
Chittenden County	37.6	0.3
Franklin County	38.5	0.5
Lamoille County	38.7	0.8
Orange County	42.0	0.6
Orleans County	41.5	0.4
Rutland County	43.1	0.4
Washington County	41.2	0.5
Windham County	43.5	0.3
Windsor County	44.8	0.3

\*Data not available for Essex or Grand Isle Counties

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# County Comparison Poverty

Source: 2006-2008  
American Community Survey,  
U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. is 13.2 ±0.1 and 18.2 ±0.1

Geographic area	All People in Poverty	Margin of Error (+/-)	Children in Poverty	Margin of Error (+/-)
Vermont	10.5	0.5	13.2	1.0
Addison County	10.3	1.9	9.1	2.7
Bennington County	10.1	1.8	16.6	5.2
Caledonia County	12.3	2.0	12.9	4.6
Chittenden County	9.7	1.0	11.5	2.2
Franklin County	10.2	2.0	13.7	4.1
Lamoille County	11.3	2.6	13.9	5.7
Orange County	9.5	1.8	14.3	4.8
Orleans County	15.5	2.3	17.0	4.2
Rutland County	10.3	1.5	12.6	3.5
Washington County	11.0	1.4	15.9	3.9
Windham County	10.0	1.9	12.5	3.7
Windsor County	10.1	1.4	14.2	3.8

\*Data not available for Essex or Grand Isle Counties



# County Comparison Household Income

Source:  
2006-2008 American Community Survey,  
U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. is 52,175 ±59

Geographic area	Median Household Income	Margin of Error (+/-)
Vermont	51,704	682
Addison County	56,529	2,359
Bennington County	47,497	3,025
Caledonia County	41,464	1,846
Chittenden County	60,473	1,994
Franklin County	54,182	2,148
Lamoille County	50,212	2,673
Orange County	51,633	2,328
Orleans County	39,767	2,127
Rutland County	46,109	1,590
Washington County	54,270	2,089
Windham County	45,292	1,723
Windsor County	51,338	2,796

\*Data not available for Essex or Grand Isle Counties

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# What the Data Doesn't Tell You



# Contact Us!

...*resources* and *expertise* to support rural people and communities

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