



Rural Youth Education Study Updates

Fall 2006

Data Collection

Younger Cohort: We are currently collecting the second wave of the RYE study data. All 1,536 rural youth who participated in the first wave are being followed up. We are re-surveying all the 844 7th grade study participants in the first wave, who are now in the 9th grade, and adding any new students who moved to our 10 schools since the first wave. Three new schools are also being added to the study to increase the size and representation of the study. We expect the 9th grade sample to increase by approximately 300 participants.

Older Cohort: All 692 former 11th grade students who participated in the first wave are being followed for the second wave, even if they move. Because these study participants are no longer in public high school they are being surveyed via mail and also via the web.

New Funding

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania has provided generous support for this project from the beginning and will continue to do so for the remainder of the study. This Fall we are also fortunate to receive additional funding from the USDA's National Research Initiative program to study rural development. The NRI funding will last until Fall 2009. The combination of these two funding sources will allow us to continue following rural youth as they make the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

New and Continuing Students

We continue to benefit from the hard work and dedication of **Mary Ann Demi**, graduate student in Rural Sociology and Demography at Penn State University. She recently completed her Master's thesis using data from the first wave of the RYE project and has decided to continue on to pursue her Ph.D. Mary Ann's main interests are how the community context influences rural youth lives. **Alisha Curry** is a new student in the Rural Sociology graduate program at Penn State University who is pursuing her Master's degree and also working on the project. Welcome to the project Alisha!