



Rural Youth Education Study

PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences

FACT SHEET #1 FOR THE COMMUNITY-RESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS OF RURAL YOUTH

Fall 2006

What is the Rural Youth Education Study?

The Pennsylvania State University is conducting a longitudinal study on approximately 1,500 rural Pennsylvania students asking about their educational, occupational, and residential aspirations. Complete details about the study can be found on the project's website:

<http://fipa.aers.psu.edu/RuralYouthEdProject.htm>

What are the Residential Aspirations for Rural Youth?

Figure 1. Percentage of 7th and 11th graders reporting preferred residence at age 30

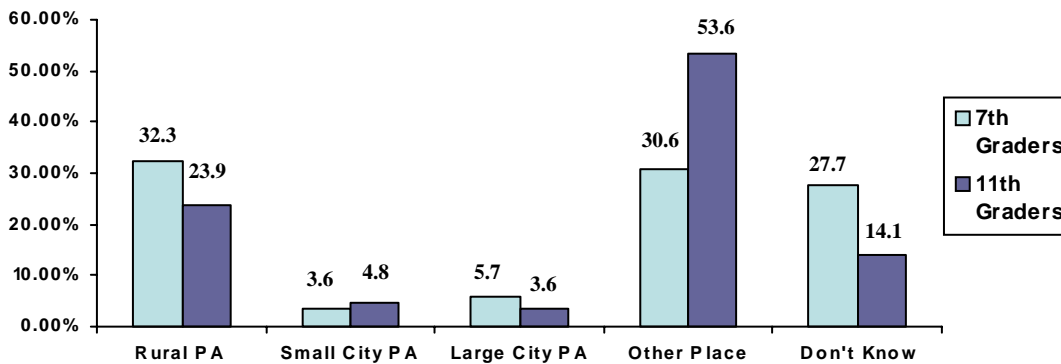


Figure 1 illustrates 7th and 11th graders' preference for different residential areas. Seventh graders have a greater percentage that report an uncertainty of where they want to live when they get older; however, over half (53.6%) of 11th graders hope to live somewhere outside of Pennsylvania. It is also important to note that the 11th grade cohort is about 10% less likely than 7th graders to want to live in a rural area.

Web Resources

- "Demographic Trends in Rural and Small Town America"
http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/Demographics_complete_file.pdf
- "The Role of Education: Promoting the Economic and Social Vitality in Rural America" and "Creating Vibrant Communities in Rural America"
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/publications/specialreports.htm>
- Other RYE Study Fact Sheets
<http://fipa.aers.psu.edu/RuralYthFactSheets.htm>

How Do Local Educational Opportunities Affect Residential Aspirations

Figure 2. Percentage of 7th grades who agree they can stay in the area to get a good education

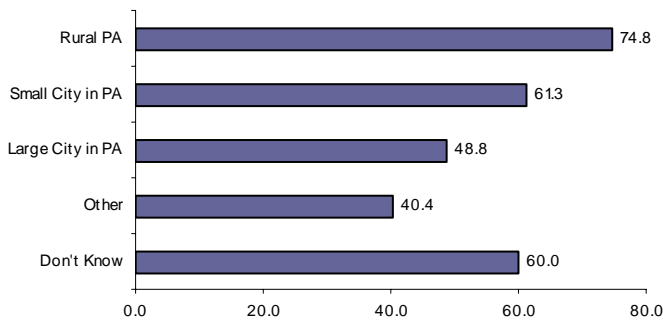
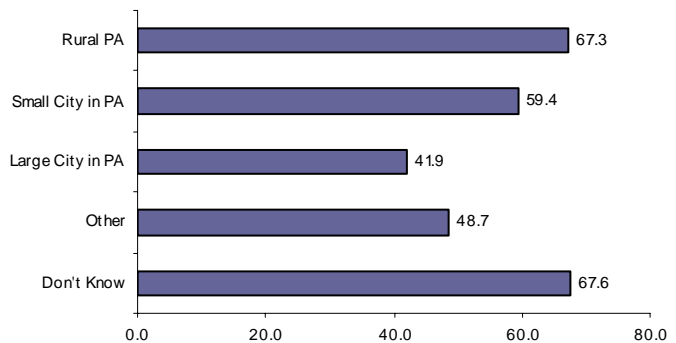
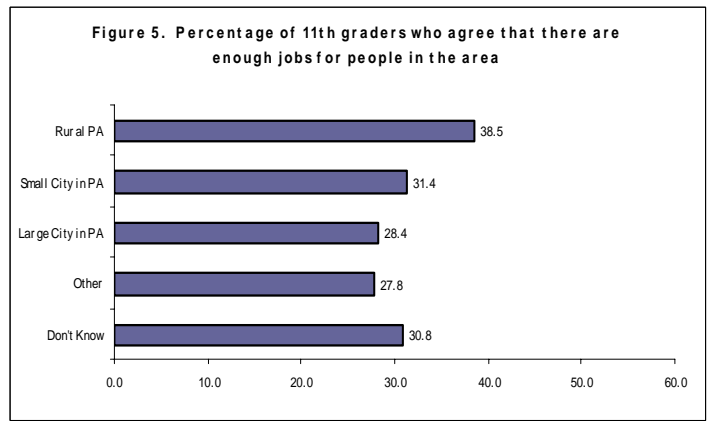
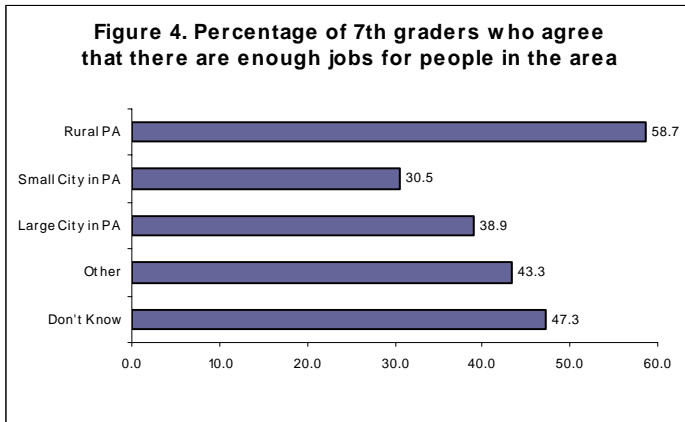


Figure 3. Percentage of 11th graders who agree they can stay in the area to get a good education

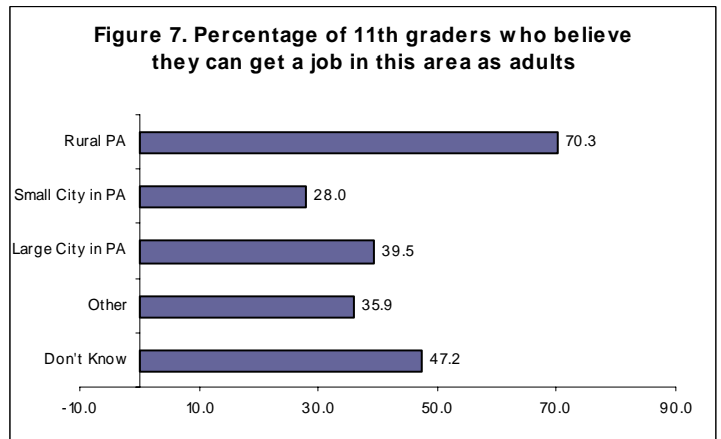
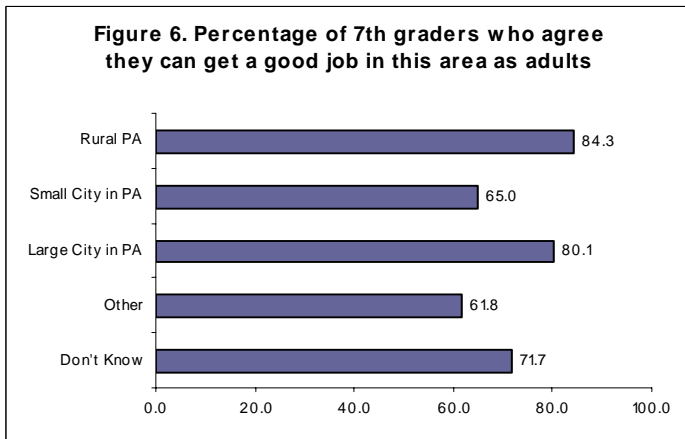


Figures 2 and 3 show the difference in perceptions of the ability to obtain a good education in rural areas. About three-fourths of 7th graders feel that they can stay in the area and receive a good education, compared to a little over a two-thirds of 11th graders. There are positive sentiments about living in rural areas and being able to obtain a good education.

Jobs as a Factor for Residential Aspirations



Many people who choose to leave rural America are in search of better job and educational opportunities that are not present in rural America. Out of the 7th graders who agree that there are enough jobs for people, there a higher percentage of the students want to live in rural PA. About 30% of all 11th graders agree that there are enough jobs in the area compared to about 50% of 7th graders. Figures 4 and 5 show the breakdown of those students who do agree that there are enough jobs and their residential aspirations.



Although only 38% of 11th graders said that there is a sufficient amount of jobs in the area, 70.3% agree that they can, overall, get a good job as adults. It makes sense that those who feel that can get a good job in the area would want to stay in the rural area. Just over half of the 7th graders do not feel they can get a good job in rural PA, compared to 56% of 11th graders surveyed. It's intuitive that students who feel that there are enough jobs would want to stay in rural PA as Figures 6 and 7 illustrate.

The findings from the three breakdowns of education and job aspirations point out that 7th graders are more positively oriented towards rural PA. It is necessary for communities to hold onto the interest of the area in order to retain the young adults.

Rural Youth Education Study

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More information about the RYE Study can be found at the following website:

<http://fipa.aers.psu.edu/RuralYouthEdProject.htm>

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