

Population Change in the Northeast, 2000-2005

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Data from the 2000 Summary Files and the 2005 American Community Survey are used to describe county-level population change in the Northeast region of the United States. This fact sheet describes population change overall during this time period, and separately for youth under age 20, adults aged 25 to 44, for the elderly aged 85 and older, and for Latinos. The Northeast regions includes the following states: West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.





Total Population Change in the Northeast

Map 1 describes overall population change for all counties in the Northeast region between 2000 and 2005. Counties are classified as either population growth or population decline counties. Overall, most counties in the Northeast region experienced population growth

between 2000 and 2005. Mostly rural and nonmetropolitan areas of upstate New York, north and western Pennsylvania, and southwestern West Virginia are areas that experienced population decline between 2000 and 2005.

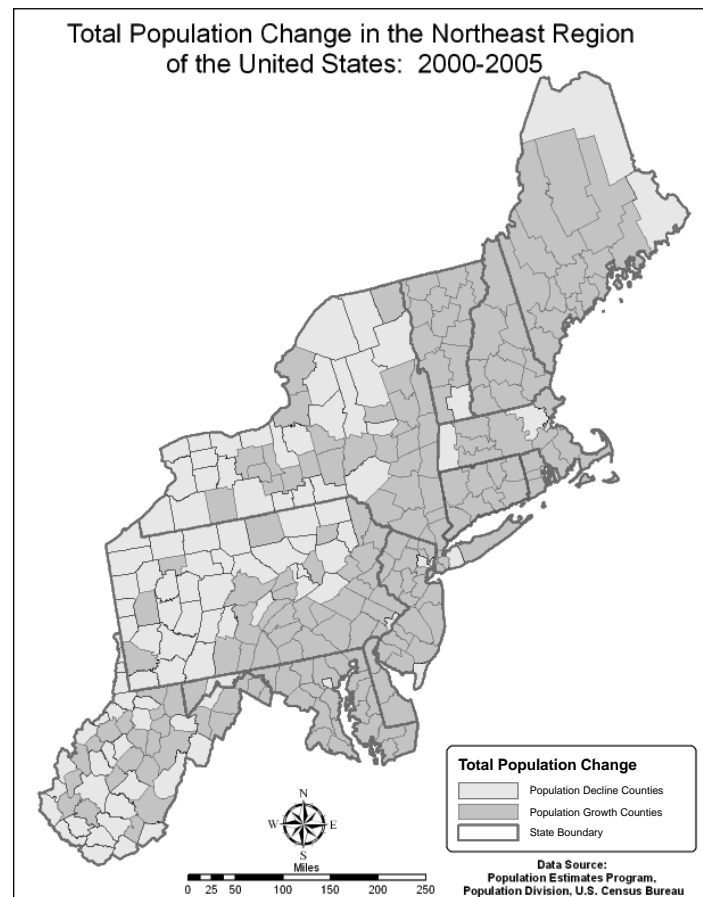
Population Change Age 20 and Under

Concerns about population loss among youth, especially in rural and nonmetropolitan areas, have prompted researchers and policy makers to focus research attention to better understand these patterns and develop policies that aim to reduce population loss due to youth out-migration.

To help understand population change among this age group in the Northeast, Map 2 takes a more detailed look at this outcome among

While most counties in the northeastern United States experienced population growth between 2000 and 2005, many rural areas of New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia experienced population decline.

MAP 1





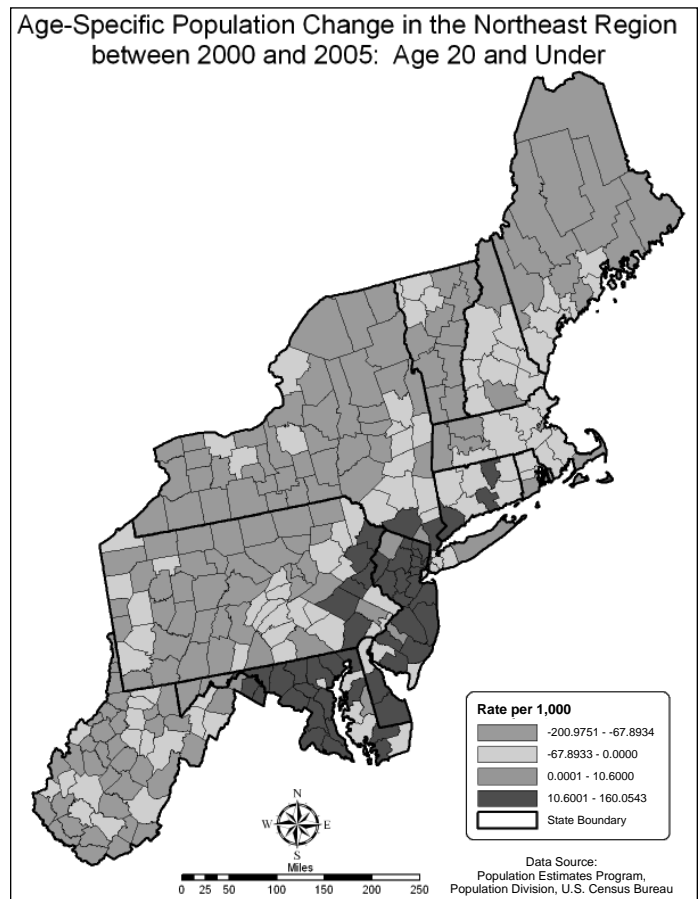
youth aged 20 and younger. Rather than a simple population growth/decline dichotomy, this map uses a quartile approach to describe rate of population change per 1,000 persons in this age group between 2000 and 2005. As shown, the majority of counties in most states in the Northeast experienced a substantial rate of population decline between 2000 and 2005. Most counties in Maine, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia experienced

population decline at a rate of -67 to -200 per 1,000 among those aged 20 and under. Most of these counties are rural and nonmetropolitan areas of the Northeast. In much of New Hampshire, Massachussets, Conneticut and Rhode Island population decline is also observed, again in rural and nonmetropolitan areas. In most of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and pockets of southern and eastern Pennsylvania, however, a significant rate of population increase occurred for those aged 20 and younger between 2000 to 2005. These are mostly urban and metropolitan areas of these states.

Population Change Age 25 to 44

Young adults and those of childbearing age are also critical community members because these persons are typically active and engaged members of the work force and are also raising families and children who represent the future population base of an area. Map 3 again uses a quartile approach to describe how the rate of population change per 1,000 persons aged 25 to 44 declined in most counties in the Northeast. In this map the orange counties represent those with the highest rate of population decline (between -66 and -222 per 1,000) and the yellow counties represents those with moderate rates of population decline (up to -66 per 1,000).

MAP 2





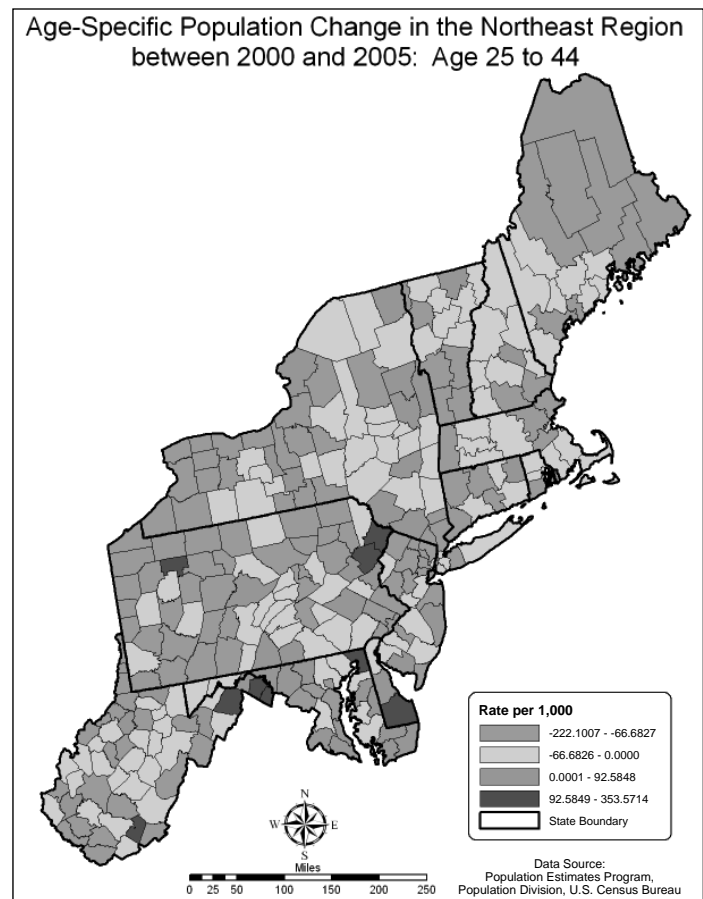
Between 2000 and 2005, population declined in many northeast counties in those age 25 to 44. Most counties in Delaware and Maryland experienced a moderate increase.

Map 3 describes how population decline for this age group occurred throughout the region. The exceptions to this pattern are Delaware and Maryland, where most counties experienced a moderate rate of population increase (green counties), and pockets of population growth rates in various counties throughout the Northeast. A high rate of population growth (between 92 and 353) for this age group was rare and occurred in only nine counties in four states in the Northeast between 2000 and 2005.

Population Change Age 85 and Over

The aging of the U.S. population is a challenge faced by many states and communities throughout the country, and the Northeast region is no exception. Map 4 examines this process in the Northeast by focusing on population change for the oldest population group for which data is collected by the U.S. census, those aged 85 and above. The quartile approach is also used in this map to describe population change. The blue and green counties in this map are counties that experienced a substantial rate of

MAP 3

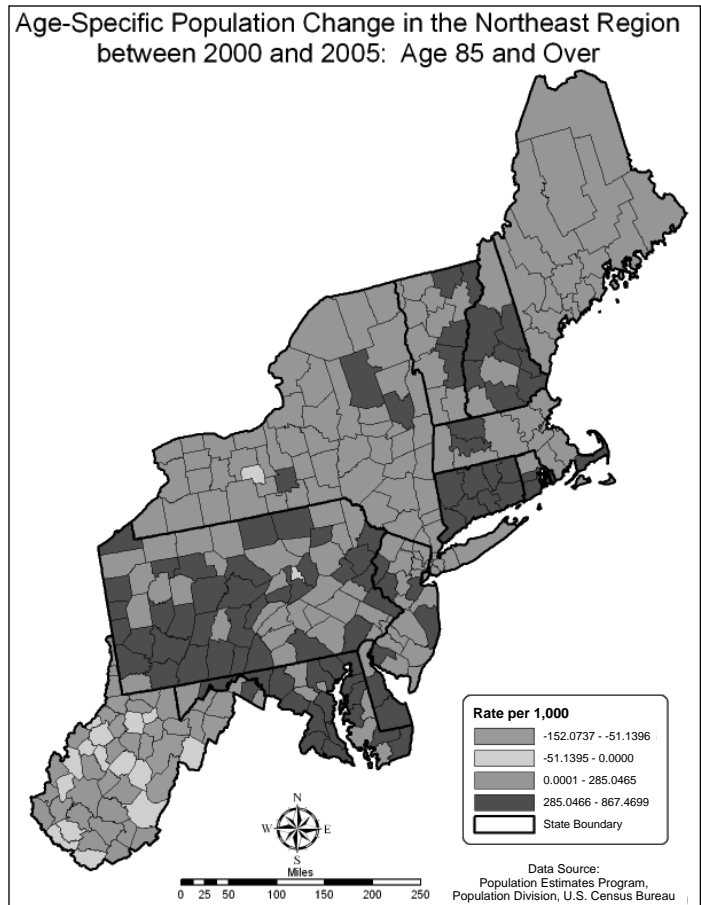




population increase between 2000 and 2005 for those aged 85 and older. As shown in this map, the rate of population increase for this age group was substantial in nearly every county in every state in the Northeast between 2000 and 2005, with the exception of West Virginia. This growth resulted from a combination of in-migration and aging of the population, although these analyses do not decompose the

relative contribution of these two processes. Even though the total number of people aged 85 and older is small relative to other age categories, the demographic change described in this map suggests increased policy and program needs for services for elderly Northeast residents now and in the coming years.

MAP 4



With the exception of West Virginia, the population increase of seniors age 85 and over was substantial for nearly every county in the northeast US.



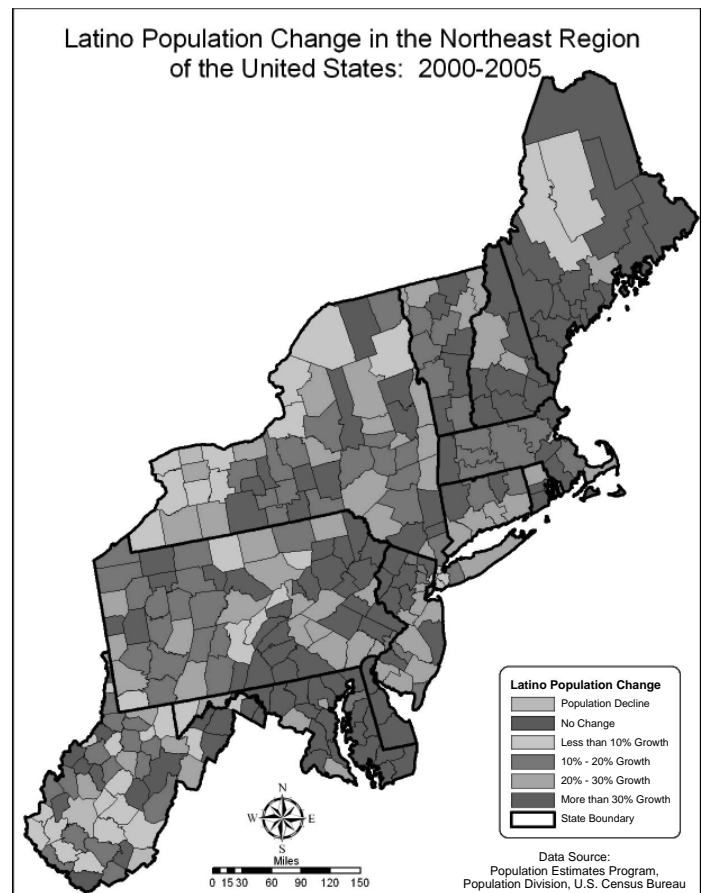
Latino Population Change in the Northeast

Finally, Map 5 highlights Latino population growth – a nationwide trend – and uses six categories to describe the percent change in the Latino population between 2000 and 2005 in the counties and states in the Northeast. The six categories are: any population decline, no change between 2000 and 2005

(plus or minus 1%), between 1-10% growth; between 10-20% growth; between 20-30% growth; and more than 30% growth. The light blue counties represent the three counties in the entire Northeast region with Latino population decline between 2000 and 2005 and the dark blue counties represent the eight with no change. The rest of the Northeast region experienced population growth, with the pink and red counties experiencing the highest percent population growth counties in the Northeast. Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Maryland saw high population growth across their states between 2000 and 2005. Substantial population growth also occurred in the southeast and eastern regions of Pennsylvania, and pockets of New York, Vermont, and Connecticut.

This fact sheet highlights age and ethnic group specific population change in the Northeast region between 2000 and 2005. The region as a whole experienced population increase between 2000 and 2005, although spatial comparisons reveal overall population loss in most nonmetro counties.

MAP 5





Recent population changes provide both opportunities and challenges to the Northeast region, especially to nonmetro counties.

Summary of Recent Population Changes

Population decline among the youth and young adult population occurred throughout the Northeast region, but especially so in the nonmetro counties. Youth brain drain migration remains a pressing issue facing nonmetro counties. In contrast, the population of the very old experienced a substantial rate of growth throughout the entire Northeast region, in both metro and nonmetro areas, with the exception of West Virginia.

And finally, 2000 to 2005 witnessed widespread growth of the Latino population in the Northeast. The population changes described in this fact sheet provide both opportunities and challenges to the Northeast region, and especially so to the nonmetro counties.

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