

## Demographic Change in the New Century: Diversity but not a Melting Pot

September 5, 2001, Washington, D.C. - The recent census trends make apparent that the United States is not close to becoming a single melting pot, where each minority groups both spread and blend evenly from coast to coast. There remains a broad swath of counties stretching from the upper West and Rocky Mountains to the Midwest and Northeast, "the White Heartland," where none of the minority groups come close to approximating their national percentage. This briefing discussed the dramatic demographic changes over the past decade and the social and economic impact those changes are having on communities throughout the nation.



### Introduction:

**Tom Halicki**, Executive Director, National Association of Towns and Townships

**Hamilton Brown**, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, National Association of Towns and Townships

### Speaker:

*Topic: Contours of Demographic Change: What the Census Reveals*

**William H. Frey, Ph.D.**, Demographer, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, and Senior Researcher, Milken Institute



### Co-Sponsors:

National Association of Towns and Townships and the National Center for Small Communities

**Dr. Bill Frey's Research Report "Metro Magnets for Minorities and Whites: Melting Pots, The New Sunbelt, and The Heartland"**

### Factoids:

"Rather than forming a homogenous, national melting pot, America's racial demographic landscape is becoming more distinctly regional in its makeup." *William H. Frey, Demographer*

"State population growth for the 1990s ranged from a high of 66 percent in Nevada to a low of 0.5 percent in North Dakota. This decade was the only one in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in which all states gained population." *U.S. Census Bureau*

"Total decennial population growth declined steadily in the three decades following the 1950's peak before rising again in the 1990s." *U.S. Census Bureau*

"Economic necessity was a powerful factor in the earlier rural exodus. Now economic and technological change is allowing many Americans to choose where they will live." *The Rural Rebound, Kenneth M. Johnson and Calvin L. Beale*

"Rapid population growth occurred in the interior West and much of the South – particularly in counties in Florida, northern Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, southwestern Missouri, and eastern, central, and southern Texas." *U.S. Census Bureau*



*In Attendance:*

900 Elected and Appointed Officials from Towns and Townships