



New Demographic Perspectives on the Midwest

August 19, 2002, Fargo, North Dakota - The demographic landscape is changing in the Midwest. Maturing age distribution resulting in a higher number of "empty nest" households and an increase in the number of households where elderly children are caring for even more-elderly parents. This shift in the balance between young and old will reorder budget priorities, place a growing strain on the healthcare system, and significantly influence labor markets. The evolving racial/ethnic mosaic nationwide is mirrored in the Midwest. In 2000, Latinos were 12% of the population. In 2045, that percentage will increase to 23% of the population. This program examined how changes can have a profound impact on voting patterns and civic participation. In 2000, more than 70% of the population eligible to vote between the ages of 55 and 64 participated, while only 50% of those eligible between the ages 25 to 34 voted.

Introduction:

Senator Rich Wardner, North Dakota, Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair

Welcome:

Governor John Hoeven of North Dakota

Mayor Bruce Furness of Fargo, North Dakota

Speakers:

Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

[Click here for Dr. Morrison's Presentation](#)

Co-Sponsors:

The Council of State Governments Midwestern Legislative Conference

Factoids:

"In 2010, the number of centenarians is projected to reach 131,000, almost double the 72,000 in 2000. This reflects the maturing age distribution of the United States."
Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

"From 2000 to 2010, the size of the workforce will increase in every age group except for workers 35 to 44, whose size will decrease by 10 percent. The largest increase will be for workers aged 55 to 64; the size of that labor force will increase by 52 percent."
Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

"While 86 percent of cities with populations about 250,000 have DSL internet service, only 0.1 percent of those with populations under 2500 have DSL available. This is contributing to the emerging 'digital divide.'"
Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

"Ninety-five percent of whites have computer access, compared to 89 percent of Asians, 81 percent of blacks and 79 percent of Hispanics."

Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

"Fifty-seven percent of all legal immigrants in 1999 settled in California, New York, Texas or Florida."

Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

"In the majority of the midwest, less than one percent of the population is Asian."

Peter A. Morrison, Ph.D., Resident Consultant, RAND Corporation

In Attendance:

250 Midwestern state legislators