

Natural Increase in the Population, Rural and Urban, in Illinois, 1930

D. E. Lindstrom

University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

The urban communities in the State of Illinois did not maintain their population on the basis of natural increase in 1930, according to the 1930 census. Approximately 360 children under 5 years of age per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years of age, which is the child-bearing age, are required to maintain population stationary, with the 1930 expectation of life in the United States as 61 years, according to Dr. O. E. Baker, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, United States Department of Agriculture.¹

According to the 1930 census, there were 294 children under 5 years of age per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years of age in urban communities of the State of Illinois, compared with 380 in 1920 and 383 in 1910, showing a gradual decrease. (See Table 1.) The growth of the cities in Illinois like Chicago, Rockford, Peoria, Kewanee, Elgin, Kankakee, Galesburg, Dixon, Lincoln, Jacksonville, Moline, Rock Island, East St. Louis, Springfield, and Freeport has come from immigration rather than from natural increase. In recent years that immigration has been primarily from rural communities and particularly from farms in the areas contiguous to the cities, since immigration laws have cut down the number of people coming from foreign countries to an almost negligible amount.

The census figures for 1930, 1920, and 1910 show also that the population of rural areas in the State of Illinois is suffering a decreasing rate of natural increase. The rate for 1910 was 529 children under 5 per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years of age in rural communities; that of 1920 was 504; whereas that for 1930 was only 435. This is a decrease of 25 in the decade 1910 to 1920, and 69 in the decade 1920 to 1930, or almost three times in the second decade over the first. Were the rate of increase to slow up as much as it has in the first two decades, it would seem in the decade 1930 to 1940 the rate of natural increase would drop to less than the 360 children under 5 years of age per 1,000 women 14 to 44 years of age, which is the number necessary to maintain population stationary (See Table 1).

Evidence that considerable numbers of the immigrants to the towns and cities are coming from farms of the state is shown by a comparison of the farm's with the non-farm's rate of increase. The rate of natural increase for the population of Illinois living on farms was 466 children under 5 per 1000 women 15 to 44 years of age compared with 411 in the non-farm population in 1930. Further evidence of this is shown by comparison of rates of natural increase by county in which we find the following counties with a rate of natural increase in 1930 insufficient to maintain population without immigration: Adams, Alexander, Boone, Cook, Henry, Kane, Kankakee, Knox, Lake, Lee, Logan, Morgan, Peoria, Rock Island, St. Clair, Sangamon,

¹ See Baker, O. E., "Rural and Urban Distribution of the Population in the United States," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 188:264-279, November, 1936.

Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. Champaign and Will Counties had a rate of 360 children under 5 per 1000 women 15 to 44 years of age. On examination of these counties, we find that there is a relatively large city located in each one. Indeed, the rate of natural increase in 1930 was lowest for the two counties in which the largest cities are located—Chicago, in Cook County, and Peoria in Peoria County.

On the other hand, the four counties in the state having the highest natural increase, each having over 500 children per 1000 women 15 to 44 years of age in 1930, are Calhoun, Clinton, Hardin, and Johnson Counties. The largest town in Calhoun County, Hardin village, had only 733 population in 1930. Carlyle in Clinton County had a population of 2,078 in 1930, and was the largest town in the county. The largest in Hardin County was Rosiclare, with a total of 1794 people in 1930. In Johnston County, the largest is Vienna city, with a population of 874 in 1930.

TABLE 1—RATIO OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 TO WOMEN 15 TO 44 IN 1910, 1920, AND 1930 FOR URBAN, RURAL FARM AND RURAL NON-FARM IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS*

Group and year	Children under 5 years of age	Women between the ages of 15 and 44	Children under 5 per 1,000 women 15 to 44
State-wide, 1930.....	615,826	1,897,051	325
State-wide, 1920.....	655,073	1,568,403	418
State-wide, 1910.....	597,989	1,381,171	433
Urban, 1930.....	436,492	1,485,223	294
Urban, 1920.....	430,985	1,123,373	380
Urban, 1910.....	348,445	909,330	383
Rural.....	179,334	411,828	435
Rural farm, 1930.....	92,822	201,555	466
Rural non-farm, 1930.....	86,512	210,273	411
Rural, 1920.....	224,088	445,030	504
Rural, 1910.....	249,544	472,041	529

* From the United States Census of 1930.

A further study of population movement, including rates of natural increases, types of migration, and composition of the population would reveal many other significant ways in which the town and country are interdependent. If the farms of the state, and of other states, are to be the proving ground for the future population of the towns and cities of the state, then the urban people should be very much interested in the types of institutions which rural people have to educate their children, protect the health of these children and develop them into normal productive and influential citizens. If the institutions of the rural communities are to produce the kind of citizens needed for the best interests of all our communities, then the urban communities have a responsibility to the rural communities in helping support these institutions and in making them just as effective as are the institutions in the city for educational purposes, for the protection of health, and for the training of future wage earners. Moreover, the type of culture which is developed among rural people has a great deal to do with the level of culture which will be found in the cities, and since America is beginning to grow up it is increasingly important that its people give attention to the conservation of human and cultural resources as well as physical resources.