CRIS Search, December 30, 2011

Fulltext Terms: Recession and

Youth or Elderly or Community Change or Population Change or Aging or Housing or Immigration or Land Use.

32 items returned, with 18 referring to sustainable practices in cattle health; horticulture; cyfernet evaluation (sic); sawmills; mental and physical health of families; biotechnology. Only four were associated with demographic change as it related to the recession, and how the recession was having an impact on demographic, or land use change.

Summary of related projects:

The first of these projects, by Devadoss, is examining the immigrant workers relationship to U.S. agriculture, and its influence on wages and on agriculture itself, in Mexico and the U.S. Warner and Brown’s project looks at similar topics to those that we examine, but focuses on service delivery in rural places. The third project, by Lee, uses the American Housing survey to examine the impact of the recession on the elderly, and does not examine the suite of factors that are associated with demographic change in rural places. The last project, by Francis, Bills and Hattery, examines rural labor markets and workforce development policies, again, not examining the interactions between variables that we propose to examine.

Item No. 1 of 4

**ACCESSION NO:** 0218490 **SUBFILE:** CRIS   
**PROJ NO:** IDA01384 **AGENCY:** NIFA IDA   
**PROJ TYPE:** HATCH **PROJ STATUS:** NEW   
**START:** 01 JUL 2009 **TERM:** 30 JUN 2014 **FY:** 2010

**INVESTIGATOR:** Devadoss, S.

**PERFORMING INSTITUTION:**   
Agri Economics & Rural Sociol   
UNIV OF IDAHO   
MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843

***IMMIGRANT WORKERS AND U.S. AGRICULTURE***

**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY:** The 1986 **Immigration** Reform and Control Act granted amnesty to existing unauthorized workers, tightened the border control, implemented employer sanctions, and established a new guest-worker program. However, because of the lax border and domestic enforcements and cumbersome guest-worker program, the illegal population in the United States grew to about 12 million by 2004 (Martin, 2007). Due to concerns of wage depression, job loss, fiscal costs, and also national security, Congress considered several legislations in recent years to curb the growth of the illegal population. However, Congress failed to pass any **immigration** reforms because of disagreements over providing citizenship to unauthorized workers, and the illegal **immigration** issue remains unresolved. Because Congress did not reform the **immigration** laws, the U.S. government has drastically increased its workplace raids and border patrols. These raids have led to a severe farm labor shortage during peak operations such as planting and harvest, resulting in unharvested crops, huge losses, and even the outsourcing of farm operations to Mexico. However, the focus of the U.S. government's solutions to the illegal **immigration** quandary is to implement updated versions of old legislation (i.e., domestic and border enforcement, and amnesty). When implemented solely, these polices address only the symptoms of illegal **immigration**. To reach a practical long-term solution toward solving illegal **immigration** problem, the root causes must also be addressed. These root causes included differences in macroeconomic conditions (specifically, per capita income gap) between the two countries, increased labor shortages in U.S. agricultural production, adverse impacts of U.S. farm policies on Mexican agriculture, and distortive trade policies.

**OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of this study is to examine theoretically through trade and migration theory and empirically through econometric analysis how government polices and macroeconomic conditions affect illegal **immigration** and agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico. The specific objectives of this proposal are: 1. Examine the effects of macroeconomic conditions, particularly income growth in Mexico and the United States, on incentives for illegal **immigration**. 2. Analyze the effects of border and domestic enforcement policies on illegal **immigration**. 3. Consider how U.S. farm subsidy policies have affected the level of illegal **immigration** and commodity trade. 4. Analyze the effect of NAFTA and trade liberalization on the level of illegal **immigration** and agricultural trade. 5. Examine the effect of an increase in the Mexican labor endowment on the level of illegal **immigration** and agricultural trade. 6. Draw policy implications and provide recommendations for solving the illegal **immigration**problem and promoting freer trade.

**APPROACH:** For expositional convenience, the theoretical model incorporates only two countries (United States and Mexico) integrated through agricultural commodity trade and cross-border migration. However, this theoretical model will be expanded to include the rest of the world in the empirical analysis. The labor markets in both countries are used in the production of agricultural commodities. However, Mexican laborers are faced with a decision, either to work in Mexico or illegally immigrate to the United States. If their decision is to immigrate, they could be apprehended at the border and sent back to Mexico, where these laborers can reenter the Mexican labor market or reattempt to enter the United States. The probability of getting apprehended is influenced by the U.S. government's resource allocation to border enforcement. Immigrants that successfully enter the U.S. illegal labor market also face the probability, based on the U.S. Governments domestic enforcement efforts, of being apprehended and sent back to Mexico, where the labor cycle restarts. Those illegal laborers seeking employment in the U.S. agriculture combined with the U.S. domestic farm laborers comprise the U.S. agricultural labor force. The commodity markets are influenced by U.S. subsidies and trade barriers, which also indirectly impact the labor markets. The U.S. government provides subsidies to increase U.S. agricultural production and the Mexican government protects its production by implementing trade barriers such as tariffs. U.S. subsidies result in excess production of agricultural commodities which are dumped in the Mexican market. Though Mexico was protecting its farmers though trade restrictions, much of these trade barriers were eliminated under NAFTA, which makes the Mexican farmers more susceptible to U.S. dumping. Unable to compete, Mexican farmers are forced out of business and enter the labor migration cycle described above. The empirical analysis will derive the supply of agricultural products and the demand for agricultural labor using profit maximization and the demand for agricultural products and the supply of labor using utility theory and will present the empirical specifications for the agricultural markets and the labor markets. Since the model contains a system of equations and the error terms across equations are likely to be correlated, the three-stage least square (3SLS) estimation procedure will be utilized to estimate the parameters in the system of equations. Once the model is estimated, simulation analysis will be conducted to examine the effects of changes in the policy variables on the endogenous variables for the ex post simulation. Using the historical values of the policy variables, a benchmark simulation and seven alternate scenarios (NAFTA, U.S. farm policy, two **immigration** policies (domestic enforcement and border control), two economic policies (U.S. and Mexican income growths), and Mexico's labor endowment will be run. Comparisons of alternate scenarios to the benchmark provide the effects of these various policies.

**PROGRESS:** 2010/01 TO 2010/12  
OUTPUTS: We completed two studies. The first study analyzes the effects of departure of illegal immigrants from the United States on U.S. commodity markets and also capital outflows. The second study examines the impact of domestic and border enforcements on illegal immigration and U.S. agriculture. PARTICIPANTS: Jeff Luckstead, graduate student. TARGET AUDIENCES: Policy makers and academicians. PROJECT MODIFICATIONS: Not relevant to this project.

**IMPACT:** 2010/01 TO 2010/12  
In response to the recession and enhanced enforcement of immigration policies, illegal immigrants are being deported or voluntarily leave the United States, causing labor shortages in labor-intensive agricultural production and manufacturing sector. Using a general equilibrium model with sector-specific factors, we show that the effects of this immigration policy leads to capital out-flights, reduced factor use, lower production, and higher wage and rental rates in the United States. In contrast, capital use, employment, and production increase and wage rates decrease in Mexico. We develop a theoretical model using migration and trade theory to examine the effects of domestic and border enforcement policies on unauthorized workers and the U.S. agricultural sector. The theoretical results show that heightened immigration policies increase the illegal farm wage rate, and reduce the employment of unauthorized farm workers and exports. The empirical analysis show that increased domestic enforcements curtail the number of undocumented farm workers by an average of 8947 and commodity exports to Mexico by an average of $180 million. The tighter border control curbs illegal farm workers by 8147 and reduces farm exports by $181 million. These results have important immigration policy implications in that a well-functioning guest-worker program is needed to provide a steady supply of workforce to labor-intensive sectors in the United States.

**PUBLICATIONS (not previously reported):** 2010/01 TO 2010/12  
No publications reported this period

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

Name: Devadoss, S.  
Phone: 208-885-6806  
Fax: 208-885-5759  
Email: devadoss@uidaho.edu

Item No. 2 of 4

**ACCESSION NO:** 0226480 **SUBFILE:** CRIS   
**PROJ NO:** NYC-159529 **AGENCY:** NIFA NY.C   
**PROJ TYPE:** AFRI COMPETITIVE GRANT **PROJ STATUS:** NEW   
**CONTRACT/GRANT/AGREEMENT NO:** 2011-68006-30793 **PROPOSAL NO:** 2011-02702   
**START:** 01 SEP 2011 **TERM:** 31 AUG 2014 **GRANT YR:** 2011   
**GRANT AMT:** $499,094

**INVESTIGATOR:** Warner, M.; Brown, D. L.

**PERFORMING INSTITUTION:**   
Development Sociology   
CORNELL UNIVERSITY   
ITHACA, NEW YORK 14853

***GREAT RECESSION, FISCAL STRESS AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL SERVICE DELIVERY AND MULTI-GENERATIONAL PLANNING***

**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY:** The Great **Recession** of 2008-2009 hit financial markets around the world and prompted massive governmental intervention. Now in 2011 we are witnessing the Great **Recession** 2.0 - a **recession** hitting state and local governments. As the economy begins to rebound, state and local governments find themselves in a deepening fiscal crisis as tax receipts to local governments continue to fall. The fiscal crisis is not the only challenge facing local governments - they also face demographic transformation. The US population is aging and although many rural governments have pursued retirement in-migration as an economic development strategy, they are discovering that the "grey gold" of the recently retired (65-75 year olds) loses some of it economic luster as older citizens need more supportive services (para-transit, home health care, meals on wheels, etc). Seniors make up only half the story. The future of any community lies in its **youth**. Rural areas have long suffered from out-migration and struggle to hang on to young people as they become economically active adults. This project addresses these concerns. First we will chronicle the demographic transformation in rural communities. Next we will explore how new service delivery models at the local government level address the joint challenges of fiscal stress and demographic restructuring. Third we will assess how rural communities address the need for multi-generational planning challenges in land use and service design. Finally, we will support a program of extension and outreach to rural community leaders to enhance their understanding of these issues and support their efforts to promote multi-generational planning and service delivery. This project addresses three of NIFA's rural development goals: (1) promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development to enhance environmental quality, (2) sustaining the economic viability of agriculture and rural communities; and (3) enhancing the quality of life of farmers, farm workers, and rural communities. PIs Dr. Mildred Warner and Dr. David Brown, leading researchers in demographic change and rural community service delivery, will partner with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), a leader in local government survey research, to conduct two national surveys - one on service delivery and one on multi-generational planning and the challenges of meeting the needs of **elderly** and children. We will supplement the surveys with case studies on rural community multi-generational planning efforts. Extension services will be in collaboration with ICMA and the Rural & Small Town Planning Division and the Women & Planning Division of the American Planning Association to ensure we reach rural local government officials and planners across the country.

**OBJECTIVES:** Rural communities are undergoing demographic transformation - the population is aging and the young are more ethnically diverse. Fiscal stress forces difficult service delivery choices on local governments who bear primary responsibility for providing services to children and**elderly** (e.g. para-transit, health, nutrition and recreation). This project will meet the following long-term goals. It will (1) provide an assessment of demographic transformation among rural municipalities; (2) assess new approaches to service delivery; (3) explore how rural communities respond to these multi-generational planning needs; and 4) provide critical extension support to promote multi-generational planning and service delivery among rural communities. Specific objectives include: Objective 1- Demographic Transformation: How are changes in age composition related to changes in ethnic composition in rural communities What is the relative contribution of migration and natural increase/decrease to these compositional changes We will develop a typology of communities by dependency ratios and race/ethnicity to assess implications for local government service delivery. Objective 2 - Alternative Service Delivery: What kinds of service delivery alternatives do rural local governments use to meet the needs of elders and children We will assess how rural community service delivery strategies differ from of urban and suburban municipalities. We will determine how these choices are affected by demographic change and fiscal stress. Objective 3 - Multi-generational Planning: What kinds of multi-generational strategies do rural communities undertake in the areas of land use, **housing**, transportation and social services We will explore how these are related to demographic, socio-economic, and governance factors. We will investigate the micro-political and contextual issues that lead municipalities to develop a multi-generational planning response. Objective 4 - Policy and Program Innovation: Resource materials will promote greater awareness of the challenges and possibilities brought about by demographic transformation and fiscal stress among local government leaders and community planners. We will provide technical assistance on alternative models of service delivery and key elements of multi-generational planning. Outputs and milestones include the following: Year 1 - Conduct Demographic Analysis; conduct Alternative Service Delivery Survey; develop Multi-generational Planning Survey instrument via focus groups; write extension issue briefs, begin ongoing evaluation process. Year 2 - Build demographic typology; analyze Alternative Service Delivery Survey; conduct Multi-generational Planning survey; identify case studies; conduct webinars; write extension issue briefs and journal articles, host APA conference sessions; conduct ongoing evaluation with advisory committee. Year 3 - Undertake case studies; analyze case studies, analyze survey data, write journal articles and extension materials, conduct ongoing evaluation with advisory committee.

**APPROACH:** We will partner with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to conduct two national surveys - one focused on service delivery and the other focused on multi-generational planning and the challenges of meeting service needs for the **elderly** and children simultaneously. We will supplement the surveys with case studies on rural community efforts to promote multi-generational planning. The Rural & Small Town Planning Division and the Women & Planning Division of the American Planning Association will participate in focus groups for survey design and facilitate the dissemination of research findings. The project will address four inter-related concerns: 1) Demographic Change, 2) Alternative Service Delivery Models, 3) Multi-generational Planning, and 4) Policy and Program Innovation. We will use a mixed methods approach to address our research and extension objectives. Our study will analyze demographic data from the Census of Population and **Housing** for all US counties as well as the American Community Survey. The second objective will use ICMA national survey data on alternative local government service delivery to assess differences in service delivery by metro status. The 2012 ICMA Alternative Service Delivery Survey conducted under this grant and will enable us to assess how local governments are responding to fiscal crisis with shifts in service arrangements. The third objective will be based on a combination of survey and case study research. With ICMA we will design and conduct a survey of multigenerational planning with a focus on services to the **elderly** and to families with children. We will analyze this survey and use it to design a set of comparative case studies to assess the micro-politics of how communities develop multigenerational plans and services. Finally, we will develop popular publications, webinars and technical assistance programs to promote local level program innovation and policy change. We will use a process of collective critical reflection to engage in a theory-based evaluation using our logic model as a guide. This interactive evaluative approach affords the opportunity to correct course midstream and refine and deepen our knowledge of the effectiveness of our work. We will use our advisory committee to help us in this evaluative process. In addition, process evaluations in our webinars will provide immediate feedback on our extension efforts. Research will be evaluated through presentations at academic conferences and preparation of journal articles for peer review.

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

Name: Warner,Mildred  
Phone: 607-255-6816  
Fax: 607-254-2896  
Email: mew15@cornell.edu

Item No. 3 of 4

**ACCESSION NO:** 0194631 **SUBFILE:** CRIS   
**PROJ NO:** NYC-159821 **AGENCY:** NIFA NY.C   
**PROJ TYPE:** HATCH **PROJ STATUS:** TERMINATED **MULTISTATE PROJ NO:** NE-1011   
**START:** 01 OCT 2002 **TERM:** 30 SEP 2007 **FY:** 2008

**INVESTIGATOR:** Francis, J. D.; Bills, N. L.; Hattery, M. R.

**PERFORMING INSTITUTION:**   
DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY   
CORNELL UNIVERSITY   
ITHACA, NEW YORK 14853

***RURAL COMMUNITIES, RURAL LABOR MARKETS AND PUBLIC POLICY***

**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY:** New York State municipalities, rural and urban industries, and its citizens are feeling the effects of the **recession**, which produces fiscal stress on communities, rural areas, property values, labor markets, and wages. The purpose of this study is to determine the key processes, events, and policies that can be utilized to improve both community and its citizens' economic and social stresses.

**OBJECTIVES:** To determine the root causes of changes in rural labor markets, the employment and demographic growth that are likely to occur in the future, and the degree to which these factors are modified by workforce development policies. To understand the effects of public policy on rural areas and rural industries. To identify community characteristics associated with viable and healthy rural communities and investigate policy alternatives to enhance these characteristics.

**APPROACH:** The research will build upon ongoing work on county/regional economic trends. We will examine data from existing time series on population, **housing**, employment, wages, industrial and commercial mix, highway infrastructure and local government finances. We will also examine real property sales files and tax rolls for trends. A mixture of cross-sectional and time series analysis will be used with an eye to sudden discontinuities and other trends. We will work with municipal fiscal data sets and leading indicators of fiscal stress to identify stressed communities, and follow up with a sample of communities to identify coping strategies and consequences of response. We will also use available data to investigate the role of**immigration**/out-migration. Research on residential location choices will be based on survey work and analysis of statewide data sets on real property transfers. Using zip code matches and small sample surveys, we will assess the timing and reasons for changing residence. Regarding outreach, a wide variety of data and information are increasingly available electronically. Often however those seeking information for community decision-making find 'data overload' and minimal 'interpretive insight'. Interpretive insight translates the trends and relationships bound up in publicly available data into a usable form, which can help inform local policy and decisions. In this effort we will work to bring interpretive insights about local communities from key public data sources to a World Wide Web format. The selection and presentation of data on the World Wide Web will be informed in particular by research efforts on residential location preferences, economic trends in New York, and fiscal stress. Moreover, local leaders and professional assistance providers will assist Cornell research and extension staff in helping to identify key data analytic needs and helpful design formats. This assistance will be used to help configure 'core' data to support New York's municipalities, rural and urban industries, and its citizens. All have felt the effects of recent **recession**, which produces fiscal stress on communities, rural areas, property values, labor markets, and wages.

**PROGRESS:** 2002/10 TO 2007/09  
OUTPUTS: As the title of the project suggests, over the five years a variety of research endeavors have focused on rural community development and public policy. In the first couple of years concern was with financial stress among local communities in New York State. Research to address these issues consisted of both (1) a historical time series analysis of revenues and expenditures, plus fund balances, and (2) derivation of a summary index of fiscal stress. The main results were (1) cycles of financial stress at the local government level could be identified and weakly predicted, and (2) derivation of a summary index was inadequate because of the complexities of governmental finances. Hence, it was necessary to develop several measures and create a financial "crisis" profile for each government before modeling financial crisis of local governments. Disappointedly, limited success was found in modeling, an experience shared with our colleagues at the New York State Division of the Budget. During the next two years, focus changed to changes in farmland acreage, farmland valuation, and the effect of population changes to these patterns. The main finding was that increase population concentrations in metropolitan areas during the past decade have not affected the acreage in productive cropland but did lead to a precipitous decline in forestland and non-tillable lands. On the other hand, we found that farmers were adapting to these changes by shifting to production of higher valued crops. During this final year of this project there were two main areas of work. First, given the above finding about specialty (high valued) crop production around metropolitan areas, research shifted to determining location and spatial concentration of specialty crop production. Not unexpected, the main concentrations were located in the Northeastern US, the Southeast (including Florida) and the Pacific Coast (mainly California). We also found considerable spatial correlation of sales among counties in the metropolitan regions. The second focus during this final year was in the area of farmland valuation for a nine county area in the southern tier area of New York. We analyzed data for all farm and vacant land "arms length" sales during the last ten years for trends in the number of sales, amount of sale, to whom the sale was made, average size of parcel being sold, location in designated agricultural districts, etc. These were mapped and will be scrutinized for spatial measures useful as predictor variables in a modeling of farmland values. This information will be used to explore the possibility of constructing a more sophisticated comparable properties approach to land assessment. Additionally, enterprise budgets are being updated by a colleague as a second approach to "agland" assessment. Lastly, a related focus of work was again on specialty crops but took on a slightly different twist. Building on the previously mentioned spatial analyses, we re-examined the patterns to evaluate them to determine the possibilities of risk pooling and its implication for whole farm insurance. PARTICIPANTS: Francis, Joe D. served as principle investigator throughout the project period. Bills, Nelson L. is a PhD. Extension professional who directed some of research activities, including a survey of how individuals viewed their local government services in relation to taxes paid. Hattery, Michael R., PhD. Extension conducted work on local government finances. Kay, David. MS. Research Associate compiled data on fiscal conditions for New York State local governement, performed time series analysis, helped develop summary measures of fiscal stress. TARGET AUDIENCES: New York State Department of the Budget New York State Office of the Comptroller, local government group Economic Research Service of USDA

**IMPACT:** 2002/10 TO 2007/09  
Work on fiscal stress was conducted in collaboration with analysts at the New York State Department of the Budget and the NYS Office of the Comptroller Local Government Group. Research activities were shared with these individuals over a series of about six-seven meetings. We alerted these offices to discrepancies in trends that suggested several local governments were either in trouble or projected to be in "fiscal trouble" soon. In turn efforts on the part of these state government employees, working with local governments helped them lessen the impact of their situation. Of course some local governments (some large urban rather than rural) could not avoid crisis. However, these activities lead to the idea of establishing an early warning indictor system. On the other side, the work of these analyst, particularly in the Comptroller's office, helped us sharpen our attempts at developing measures of local government stress. Regarding the farmland change study, a presentation was made at a USDA-ERS briefing conference held in Washington DC. Among the 100 plus attending this conference were federal, state and non-governmental policy makers. Additional to the conference presentation, a "position paper" was distributed summarizing our research findings. Subsequently a shorted "policy brief" was developed and distributed to various individuals and organizations on the ERS mailing list. Lastly, the research on specialty crop production concentration was presented at two conferences of regional science. Among the audience members are decision makers employed by regional development agencies. The work on risk pooling and whole farm insurance awaits distribution.

**PUBLICATIONS (not previously reported):** 2002/10 TO 2007/09  
1. Cheng, M-L., N. Bills and J. Francis. 2007. Systemic Risk and Spatial Dependence of Specialty Crop Production: Implications for Whole Farm Insurance. North American Regional Science Association Meetings. Savannah, GA. November 2007.  
2. Cheng, M-L., N. Bills and J. Francis. 2006. Metropolitan Growth and Specialty Crop Production in the US: Farming in the City's Shadow from a Spatial Economic Perspective. 53rd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International. Toronto, ON. November 2006.  
3. Magri, C., A. Magri and J.D. Francis. 2006. MarketScape Using Membership Functions to aid Farmer Direct Marketing. ESRI Annual Conference. San Diego, CA August, 2006.  
4. Pfeffer, M., J. Francis and Z. Ross. 2005. Fifty Years of Farmland Change: Urbanization, Population Growth and the Changing Farm Economy. Pp. 103-129 in Population Change and Rural Society. William Kandel and David Brown (Editors). Pennsylvania State University Press.  
5. Kay, D. and J. Francis, 2004. Fiscal Conditions in New York Cities: Trends and Structural Influences. Southern Regional Science Association. New Orleans, LA. March 11-13, 2004.  
6. Barney, J., T. Whitlow and J. Francis 2004. Visualizing Value Systems: Exploring Property Value and Eco-system Services in Constructed Three Dimensional Space. In Geographic Information and Critical Geographic Research. Temple University Press. Philadelphia, PA.  
7. Francis, J. and D. Kay, 2003. Measuring Local Governmental Fiscal Stress. New York State Sociological Association. Siena College. Loudonville, NY. Oct. 17-18, 2003.  
8. Francis, J., R. De Sousa and D. Kay. 2001. Tax Burden, Fiscal Stress and Local Service Delivery. Paper presented at the 9th Annual Research-in-Progress Conference of the New York State Network of Economic Research. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. Albany, NY. December.  
9. Francis, J., D. Kay, R. de Sousa, K. Schafft. 2001. Economic Impacts of Federal Economic Development Funds: Tracking the Canal Corridor Initiative. Community Development Reports, Vol.9, #1, Fall 2001. Cornell Community and Rural Development Institute.

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

Name: Decker, D. J.  
Phone: 607-255-2224  
Fax: 607-255-9499  
Email: cuaes@cornell.edu

Item No. 4 of 4

**ACCESSION NO:** 0225845 **SUBFILE:** CRIS   
**PROJ NO:** NCX-266-5-12-170-1 **AGENCY:** NIFA NC.X   
**PROJ TYPE:** EVANS-ALLEN **PROJ STATUS:** NEW   
**START:** 01 OCT 2011 **TERM:** 30 SEP 2014

**INVESTIGATOR:** Lee, S.

**PERFORMING INSTITUTION:**   
Family and Consumer Sciences   
NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIV   
1601 EAST MARKET STREET   
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27411

***ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE 2009 RECESSION ON ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS IN THE UNITED STATES***

**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY:** In the current economic climate, resulting from the **recession** in 2009, strengthening community infrastructure including **housing** and effective leadership and helping individuals and families within the community to improve their quality of life are critical issues to researchers. From this aspect, researchers need to pay more attention to **elderly** households who are likely to be vulnerable in an economic crisis because they may have less income and be in a less competitive job position than younger counterparts. The project goal is to investigate the impact of the 2009 **recession** on **elderly** households' living environments in the U.S. The four objectives are: 1) Create a database of **elderly** households' demographic and **housing** characteristics in the United States by using American **Housing** Survey from 2005 to 2011 (four sets of data set including 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011), 2) Provide a descriptive profile of demographic and **housing** characteristics of U.S. **elderly** households from 2005 to 2011 (before and after the 2009 **recession**), 3) Conduct statistical analyses of **housing** challenges according to **housing** and demographic characteristics, and 4) Suggest recommendations to policymakers, local communities, non-profit organization, and **housing** professionals. As expected outcomes, project outputs including the demographic and **housing** profiles of U.S. **elderly** households during the **recession**; and recommendations for future research and policy implications will influence policymakers, non-profit organizations, and local communities. Specifically, policymakers will be involved in developing appropriate **housing** or welfare policies for elders in the United States based on these project results; and non-profit organizations and local communities will have increased activities with the intent of providing a better quality-of-life for **elderly** households in their communities. The project results will enhance the universitys and SAES' capacity in the area of research and will also facilitate Family and Consumer Sciences faculty to become more engaged with community outreach related to research projects.

**OBJECTIVES:** The project goal is to investigate the impact of the 2009 **recession** on **elderly** households' living environments in the U.S. The four objectives are: 1) Create a database of **elderly** households' demographic and **housing** characteristics in the United States by using American**Housing** Survey from 2005 to 2011 (four sets of data set including 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011), 2) Provide a descriptive profile of demographic and**housing** characteristics of U.S. **elderly** households from 2005 to 2011 (before and after the 2009 **recession**), 3) Conduct statistical analyses of**housing** challenges according to **housing** and demographic characteristics, and 4) Suggest recommendations to policymakers, local communities, non-profit organization, and **housing** professionals. To implement the project objectives, an estimate of the maximum time will be three years. The first year (2011-2012) will include tasks to establish a foundation for the project. This year will include collecting the biennial AHS data from 2005, 2007, and 2009 (as of 2011, AHS 2009 is the most current dataset available). A literature search will be performed to identify key variables and **housing**trends of **elderly** households in the United States under the 2009 **recession**. In addition, the PI plans to participate in **Housing** related conferences or seminars. The second year (2012-2013) will be used to clean the data, and to analyze and interpret the data in the SPSS file. Several different analyses will be conducted to have valuable information. The statistician will be hired during the second year. This year will also include collecting the AHS 2011 data which will be released in the third or fourth quarter of the second year. In addition, the PI plans to participate in **Housing** related conferences. The possible conferences include **Housing** Educators and Research Association Conference, AHS User Conference, NCAFCS Annual Conference, AAFCS Conference, Family Economics and Resource Management Association Biennial Conference, and Association of Research Directors Conference. The final tasks (2013-2014) will involve writing the final report, participating in presentations (refer a description of 2012-2113), and preparing a manuscript for possible publication. The exemplary journals include **Housing** and Society, Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journals, or **Housing** Policy Debate. Also, educational brochures providing government **housing** subsidized or supportive programs will be made to distribute to **elderly** households in North Carolina. Expected outputs will be (1) Database of U.S. **elderly** households from 2005 through 2011, (2) Profiles of U.S. **elderly** households under the 2009 **recession**, (3) Results of comparative analyses of elders according to incomes, race, region, and urbanicity, (4) Recommendations for policymakers, local communities, non-profit organizations, and **housing** professionals, (5) Brochures to educate elders and local communities regarding **recession** 2009 and **housing** related trend, (6) Skilled graduate students in AHS research, and (7) A number of professional presentations and publications.

**APPROACH:** The proposed project will employ secondary datasets, American **Housing** Survey 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011 (AHS 2011 dataset will be released in 2012 from HUD). This approach will allow the PI to track **elderly** households' demographic and **housing** changes before and after the 2009 **recession**; and to investigate the impact of the 2009 **recession** on their living environment. This project is unique in that the proposed methodology (i.e., employing secondary dataset of AHS) will be objective and cost-effective when investigating **elderly** households' financial changes and **housing** deficits during the 2009 **recession**. Variables selected from AHS datasets will be based on the literatures, existing research, and the theory of **housing** adjustment. When the PI works with data descriptions and data coding of each variable in the AHS from 2005 through 2011, Codebook for the American **Housing** Survey, Public Use File: 1997 and later (ICF International, 2009) will be the reference. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19 and SAS 9.2 will be used to describe and analyze data for this study. Mainly, descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, and means) will be employed to provide profiles of U.S. elders' demographic and **housing** characteristics. Pearson correlation will be used to reveal bivariate associations among continuous variables; one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) will be used to detect the association between a continuous variable and categorical variables; crosstabs will be used to investigate the association between categorical variables. To test hypotheses, regressions will be used. A significance level of .05 will be chosen as the criterion for decision on rejecting the null hypotheses. Three null hypotheses in this study will be proposed. In the third year of the project, plans are to distribute brochures conveying project results, information about the current economy, and financial tips to help weather an economic crisis. Such outputs will lead local communities to become more involved in assisting **elderly** households. Thus, the project results will enhance the university's and SAES's capacity in the area of research and will also facilitate Family and Consumer Sciences faculty to become more engaged with community outreach related to research projects.

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

Name: Lee, S.  
Phone: 336-285-4735  
Fax: 336-334-7658  
Email: slee@ncat.edu

|  |
| --- |
|  |