

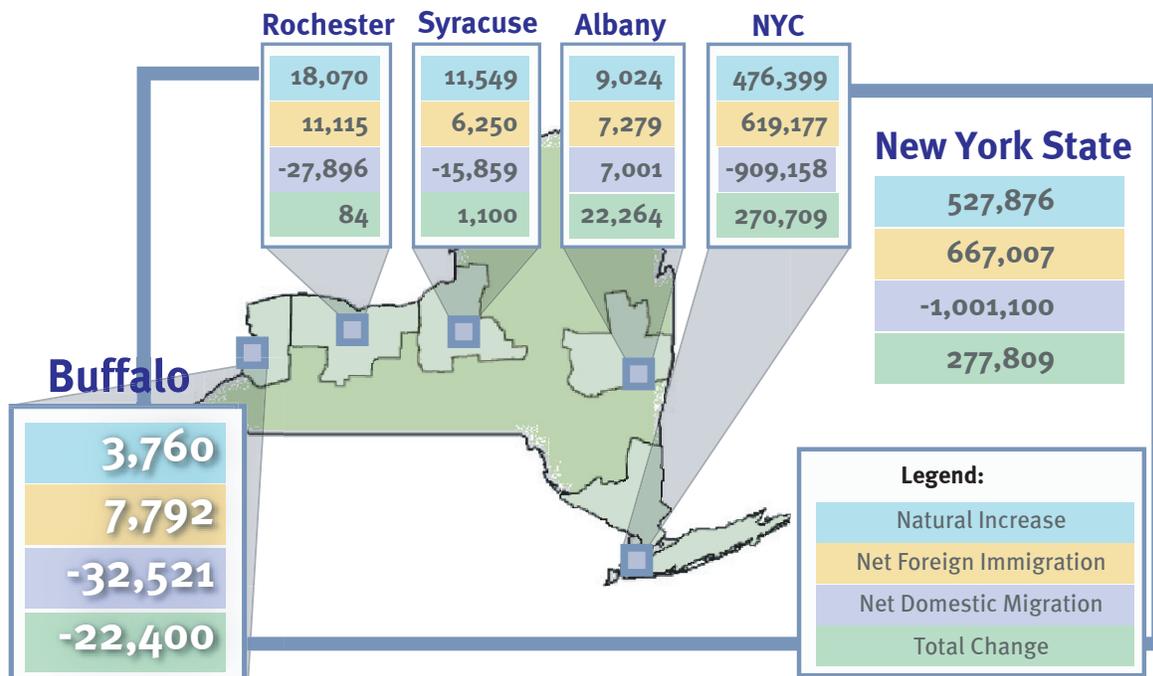
The Young & the Restless

Detailed population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau affirm a continuation of Buffalo Niagara's population decline and slow growth in much of upstate New York. A closer look at the nuances of population change sheds light on regional in-migration and out-migration, the decline in the population of young adults, and the extent of the region's perceived 'brain drain.'

Who's moving in and who's moving out?

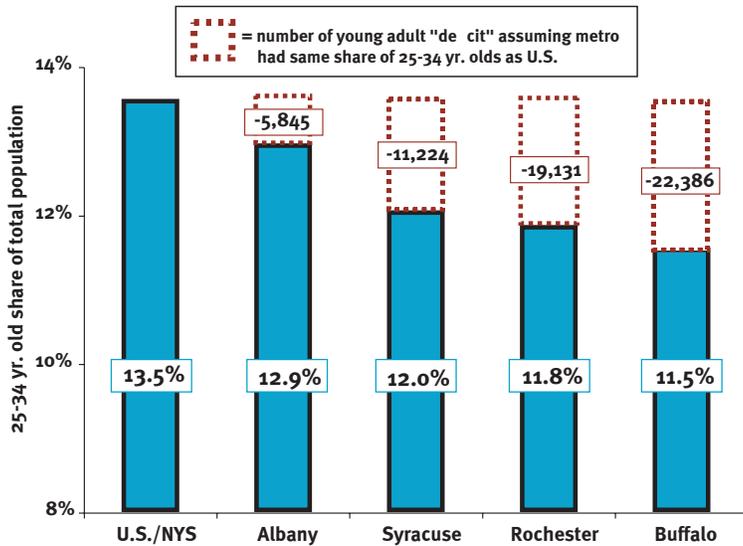
With the exception of Albany, New York State's major metropolitan areas lost residents to other parts of the U.S. between 2000 and 2005, contributing to a statewide out-migration of just over 1 million residents.

For the state, losses were offset by a combination of foreign immigration and natural increase (births minus deaths).



In metro Buffalo, unlike Rochester and Syracuse, foreign immigration and natural increase did not compensate for losses due to domestic out-migration.

Without foreign immigration, New York State's population would have declined between 2000 and 2005. The New York City region received the vast majority of the state's immigrants, while upstate cities whose past fortunes were also built on immigration, received a trickle.

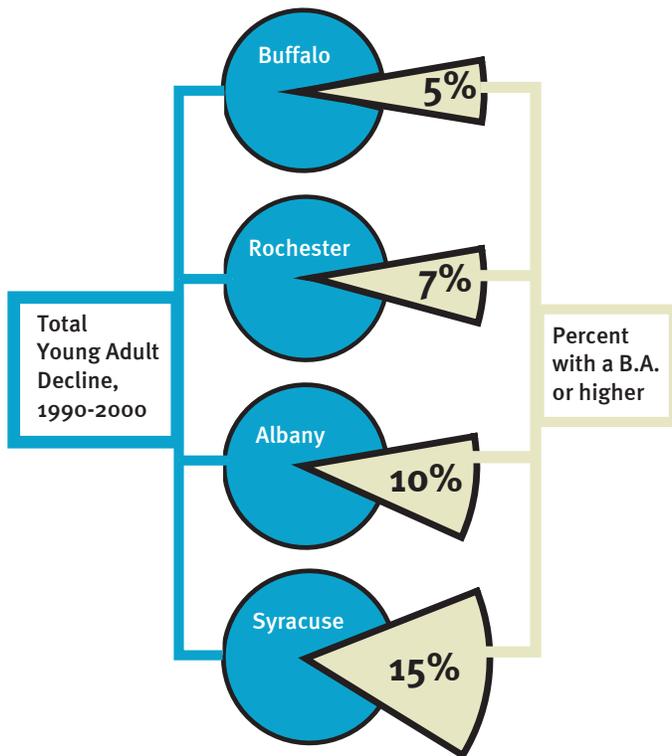


How badly are we bleeding young adults?

Between 1990 and 2005, the population of young adults (ages 25-34) declined nationwide by 7 percent, reflecting a generational fluctuation in the size of the age group. In upstate metro areas, where overall population growth was slow or non-existent, the young adult population declined faster, including rates of -30 percent in metro Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse.

Although the decline of young adults as a proportion of the upstate population has paralleled a similar decline nationally, young adults comprised a smaller share of the overall population in upstate metros than they did statewide or nationwide.

If the share of young adults in upstate matched the national ratio of 13.5 percent, upstate metros would have thousands more young adults than they do now. Metro Buffalo, alone, would have 22,000 more young adults if it mirrored the nationwide share.



Do we have a 'brain drain' problem?

As with the number of young adults, upstate metros have experienced a decline in the number of educated young adults with a bachelor's degree or higher. However, the decline in educated young adults has been much less pronounced than the overall drop in the young adult cohort.

Between 1990 and 2000, the population of educated young adults fell by 10 percent or less in metro Buffalo, Rochester, and Albany.

In all major upstate metros, educated young adults comprise a small part of the total decline in young adults. This suggests that a large majority of young people who migrate out of upstate do not hold college degrees and that the retention of upstate 'brains' may be higher than popularly believed.

For more information:

Joseph Corright and CEOs for Cities. December 2005. "Young and Restless in a Knowledge Economy." Chicago: CEOs for Cities.

U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, 2006, online at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>



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