

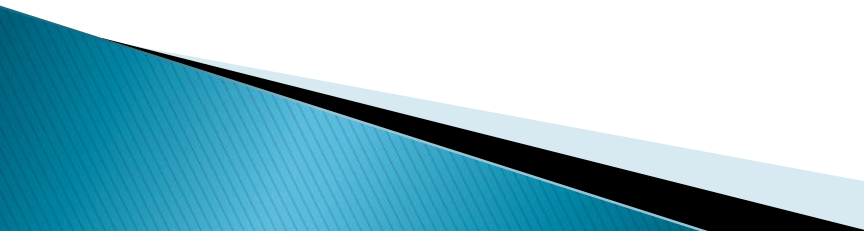
Rural Youth: Why They Left and Why They Stayed

An RPLC Webinar on Rural Youth Workforce Development ,
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Outline of presentation – youth

- ▶ How many youth live in rural at different ages
 - ▶ Plans for mobility in rural and urban
 - ▶ Actual mobility – rural to urban
 - ▶ Mobility to and from a specific community
 - ▶ Attitudes to community
 - – “This will always be home”
 - – “Even if I leave I’m coming back
 - ▶ Reasons for leaving; reasons for staying
 - ▶ Complexity of mobility decisions
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Data set – Longitudinal survey of youth from age 17 to age 28

Author's survey of youth in Hamilton, Halifax and rural Nova Scotia

- a. Age 17 N= 1,200
- b. Age 22 N= 985
- c. Age 28 N=703

- Qualitative and quantitative data

Rural–urban location

- ▶ Percent living in rural area
 - Age 17 – 28%
 - Age 22 – 23%
 - Age 28 – 28%
- ▶ Plans to stay in current community
 - Age 17 – Rural 27% Urban 58%
 - Age 22 – Rural 56% Urban 63%
 - Age 28 – Rural 67% Urban 52%
- ▶ So, somewhat fewer urban plan to stay in their current community as they age
- ▶ Most rural youth in their late twenties plan to stay in their current community

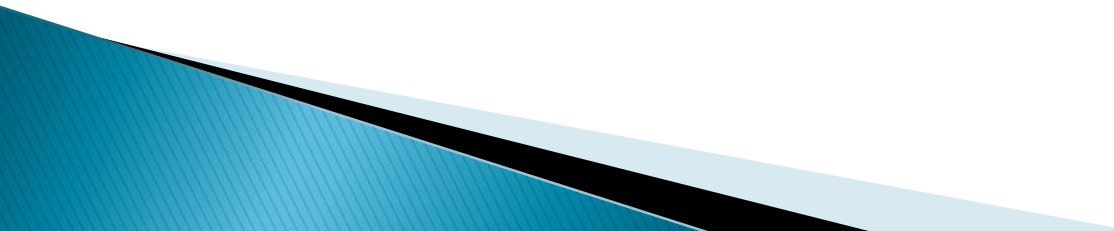
Actual mobility between rural and urban

- ▶ Age 17 to 22
 - Rural: 27% migrate to urban from age 17 to 22
 - Urban: 3% migrate to rural from age 17 to 22
- ▶ Age 22 to 28
 - Rural: 33% migrate to urban from age 22 to 28
 - Urban: 12% migrate to rural from age 22 to 28
- ▶ Age 17 to 28
 - Rural: 38% migrate to urban from age 17 to 28
 - Urban: 10% migrate to rural from age 17 to 28
- ▶ So, most rural stay/return to rural
- ▶ Some urban move to rural; there is potential to attract youth from urban
- ▶ The issue may not be retention in the same community but attracting in-migrants

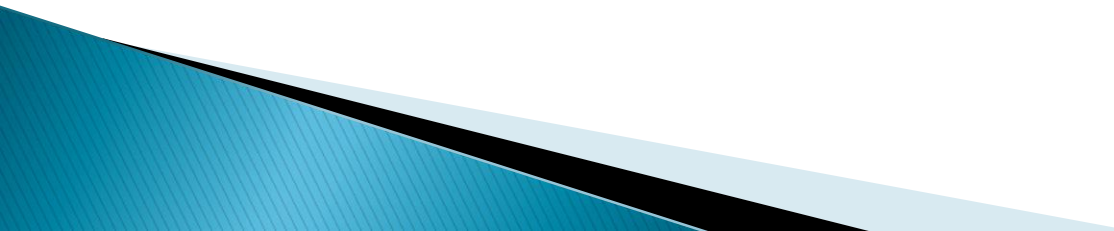
Mobility to and from a specific community

- ▶ Age 17 to 22
 - Rural 47% are in the same community age 17 & 22
 - Urban 80% are in the same community age 17 & 22
- ▶ Age 17 to 28
 - Rural 32% are in the same community age 17 & 28
 - (49% in the same community or same county)
 - Urban 44% are in the same community age 17 & 28
 - (61% in the same community or same county)
- ▶ Rural youth often move to other rural communities
- ▶ Even more urban youth often move to other urban communities

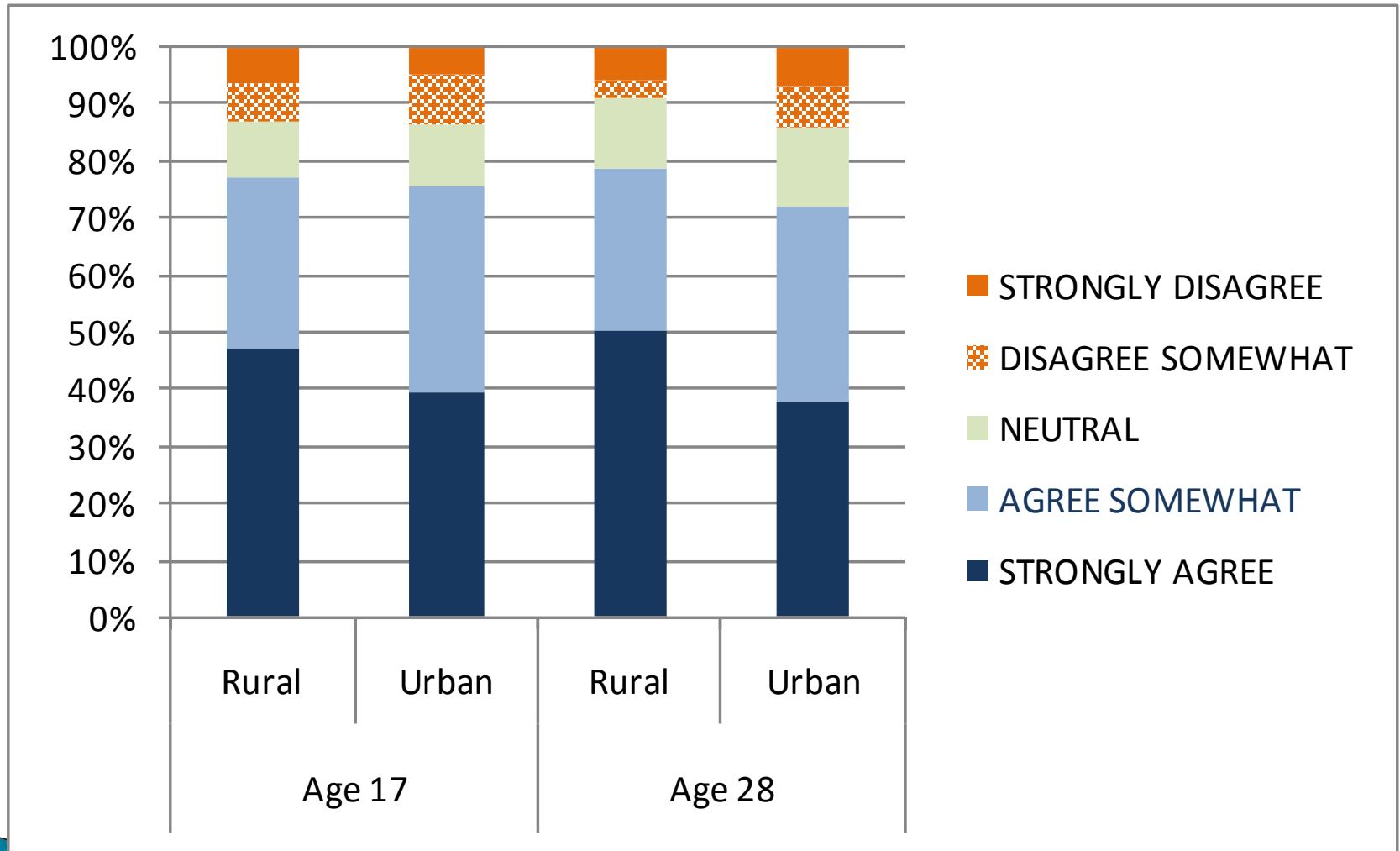
Some details of rural–urban mobility as of age 22

- ▶ Rural moved twice as often as urban
 - ▶ Rural lived in more locales – that is they do not just move back and forth between a few.
 - ▶ Most moves are short distance – the median distance was 100–120km, for both rural and urban youth
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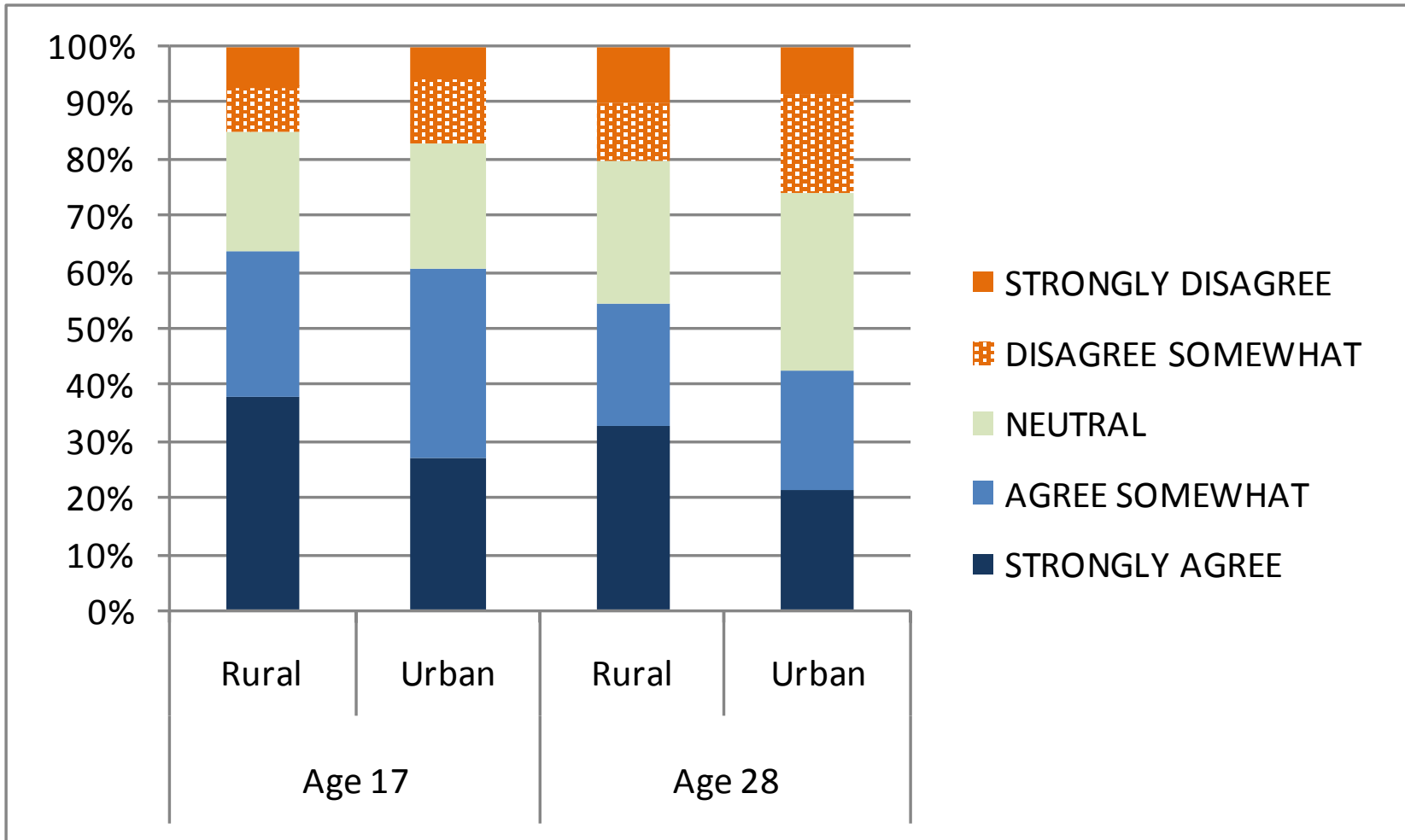
Attitudes to community are seen as key

- ▶ This and other research shows that rural youth have strong ties to their community
 - ▶ Urban youth also feel tied to their communities and feel positively about them – especially their “neighbourhood” in a city
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This place will always be home



Even if I leave I'll come back



Who leaves? Who stays?

Reported at age 17:

Who leaves?

- Those who “want to make something of themselves”
- Are “ambitious”, “independent”, “self-directed”

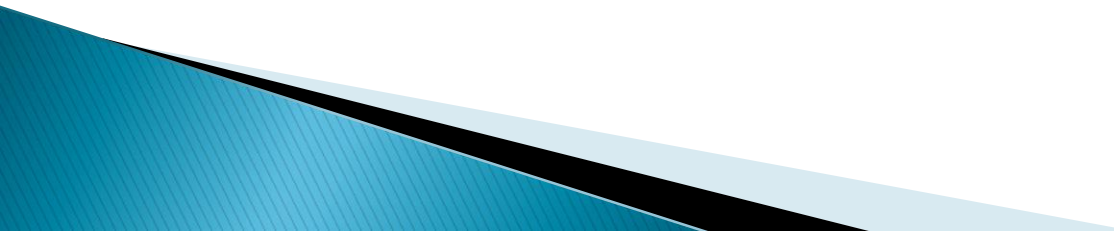
▶ Who stays?

- Those who care about family, who care about community, are “loyal”
- Those with roots here


▶ This and other research shows:

- Youth tend to leave for jobs and education
- They stay/return for family and community

Complex process

- ▶ Family and living arrangements
 - ▶ Friends and living arrangements
 - ▶ Family responsibilities
 - ▶ Work and family often connected
 - ▶ Moving for relationships
 - ▶ Familiar/ close to family and friends
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SO.....

- ▶ Most rural (and urban) youth plan to stay in their home community
 - ▶ Most rural (and urban) youth actually stay or return to their home area
 - ▶ Many rural youth who leave migrate to other rural communities
 - ▶ Some urban migrate to rural – potential to capitalize on this
 - ▶ Where to live is a complex process – interconnected with other decisions and relationships
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I welcome comments/questions

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