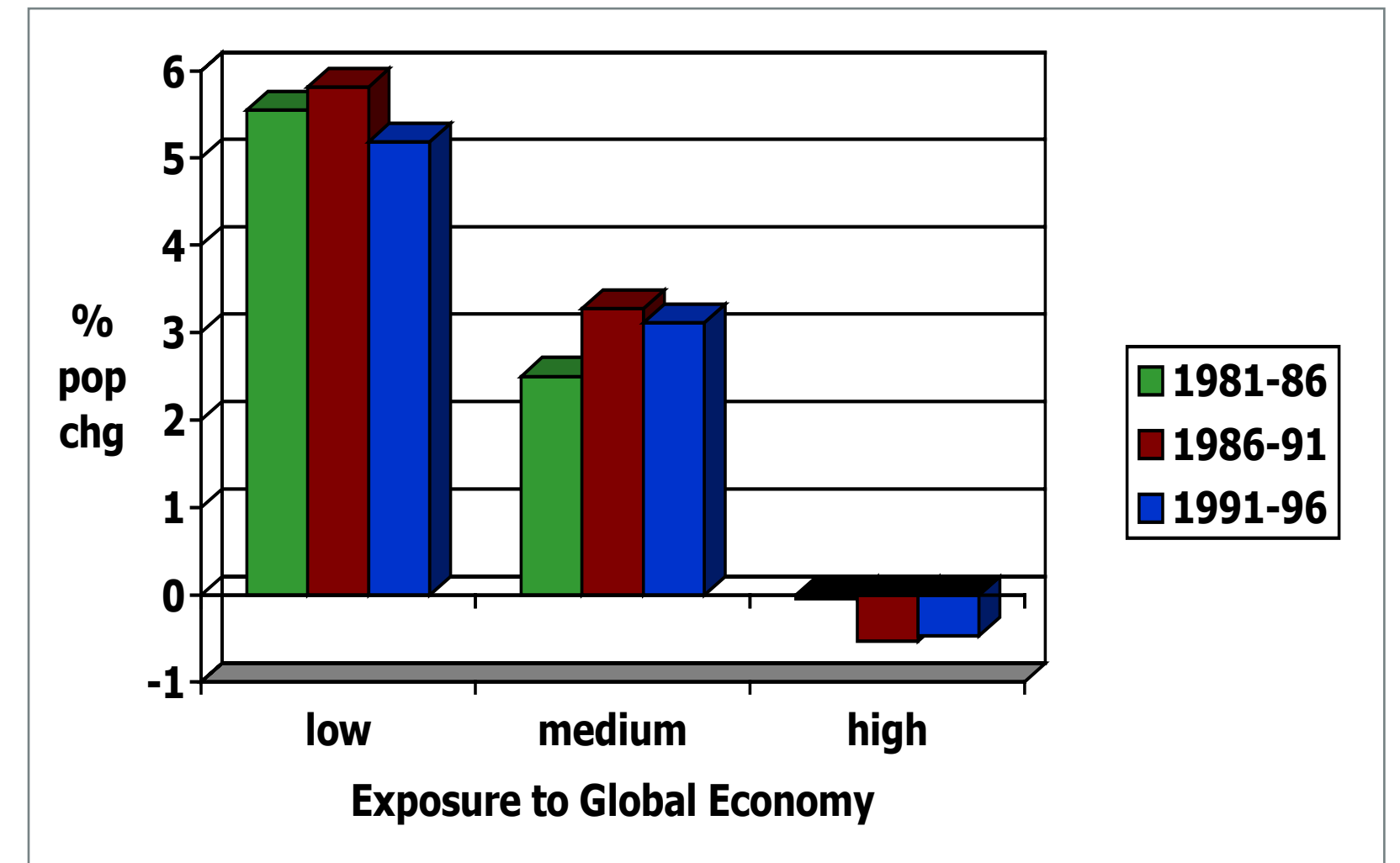


RURAL MATTERS

Globalization Matters

Exposure to the Global Economy means population decline. Our Canadian commodity trade policy has been very successful in economic terms. In 1999, rural areas and small towns contributed 15% to GDP and 17% to national employment. In addition primary and natural resource sectors account for about 40% of total national exports. However, commodity trade has undermined community cohesion through competitive pressures, technological innovation, and market concentration. It is manifested by outmigration, depopulation, and the outflow of capital and resources. It is also important to note that greater involvement with the global economy is encouraged by government policy and programs. This exposure is often beyond the control of local citizens and highlights the tradeoff we are making between wealth and identity or lifestyle. At present, wealth has the upper hand under the pressures of globalization.



RURAL MATTERS