



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

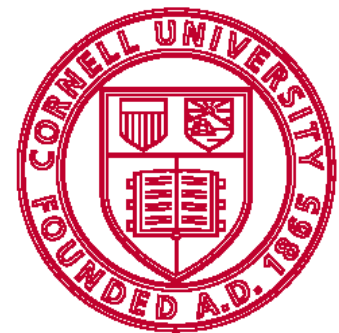
AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Rural Aging in the United States: Challenges and Opportunities

Nina Glasgow
Cornell University

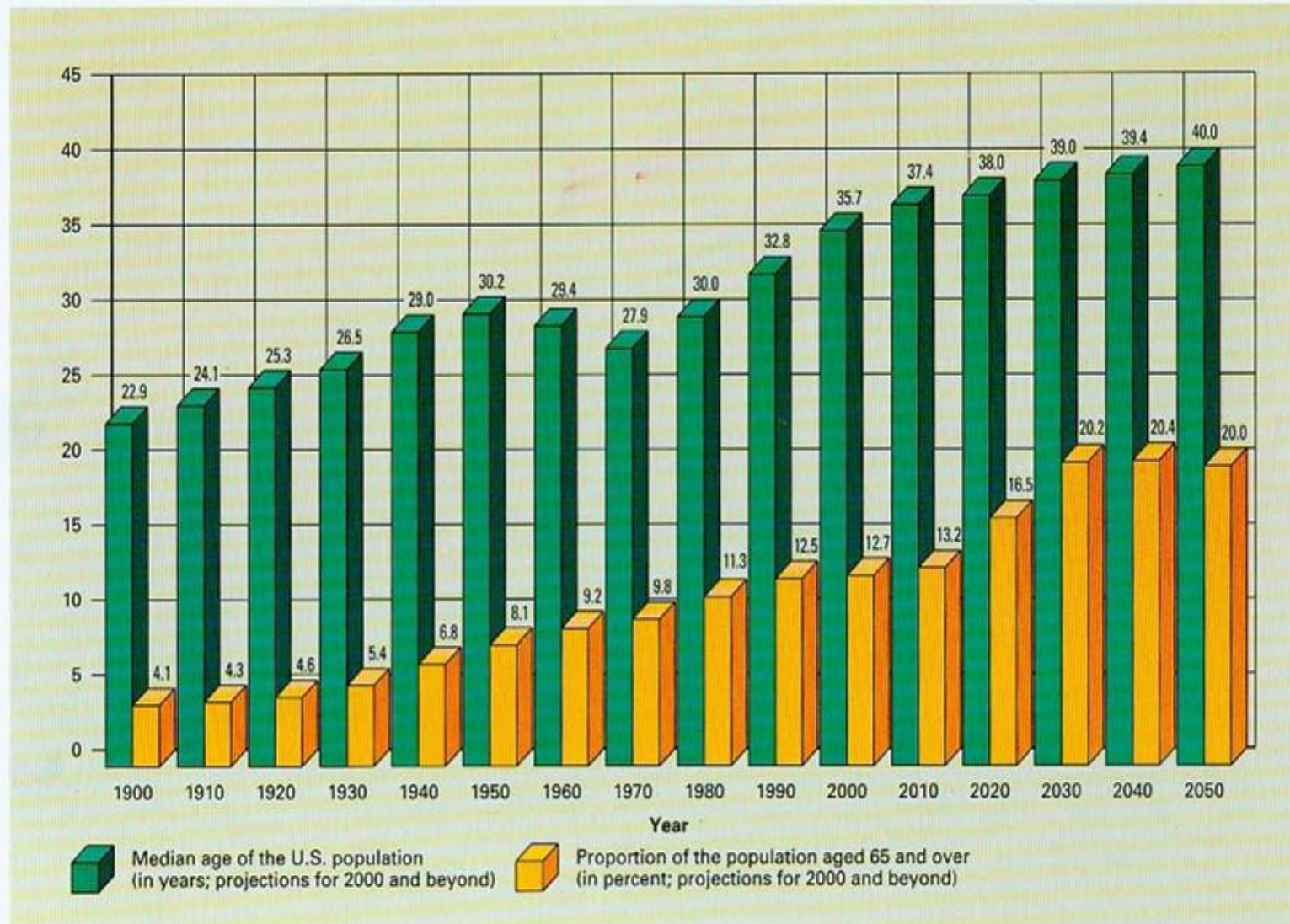
*USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum
Changing Demography of Rural America
February 21, 2008*



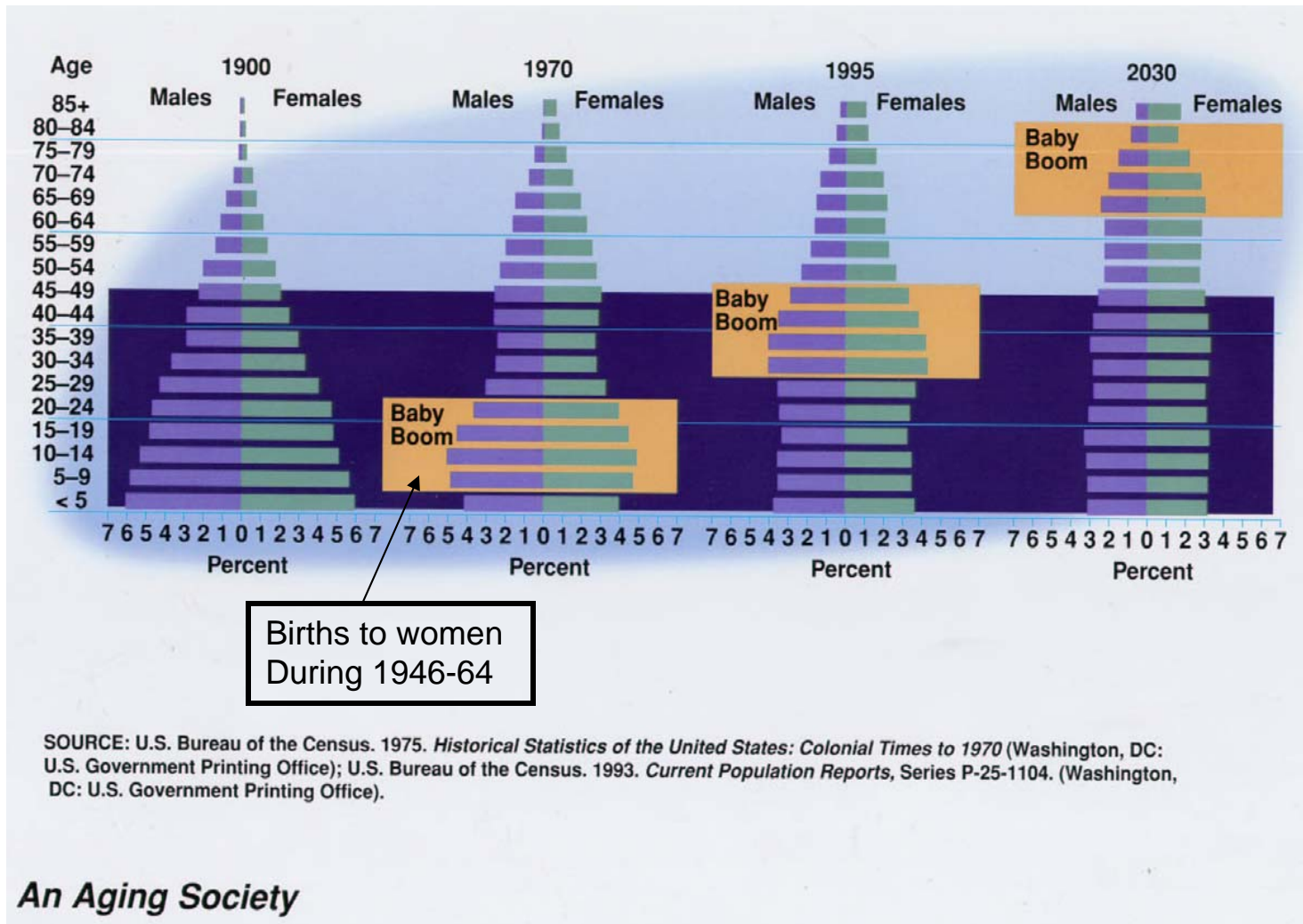
What I Plan To Do Today

- Describe population aging in the US
- Compare population aging in rural vs urban areas
- Compare the geographic situations of older rural persons
 - retirement destination communities
 - natural decrease communities
- Identify challenges and opportunities associated with rural ageing

The Graying of U.S. Society



Aging of the Baby Boom



Aging of the Baby Boom

Year	Millions age 60-64	% change since 2000	Year When Born	Baby Boom
2000	10.8m	NA	1936-40	No
2005	12.8m	19%	1941-45	No
2010	16.3m	51%	1946-50	YES
2015	18.5m	71%	1951-55	YES
2020	20.7m	92%	1956-60	YES
2025	20.8m	93%	1961-65	YES

U.S. Census

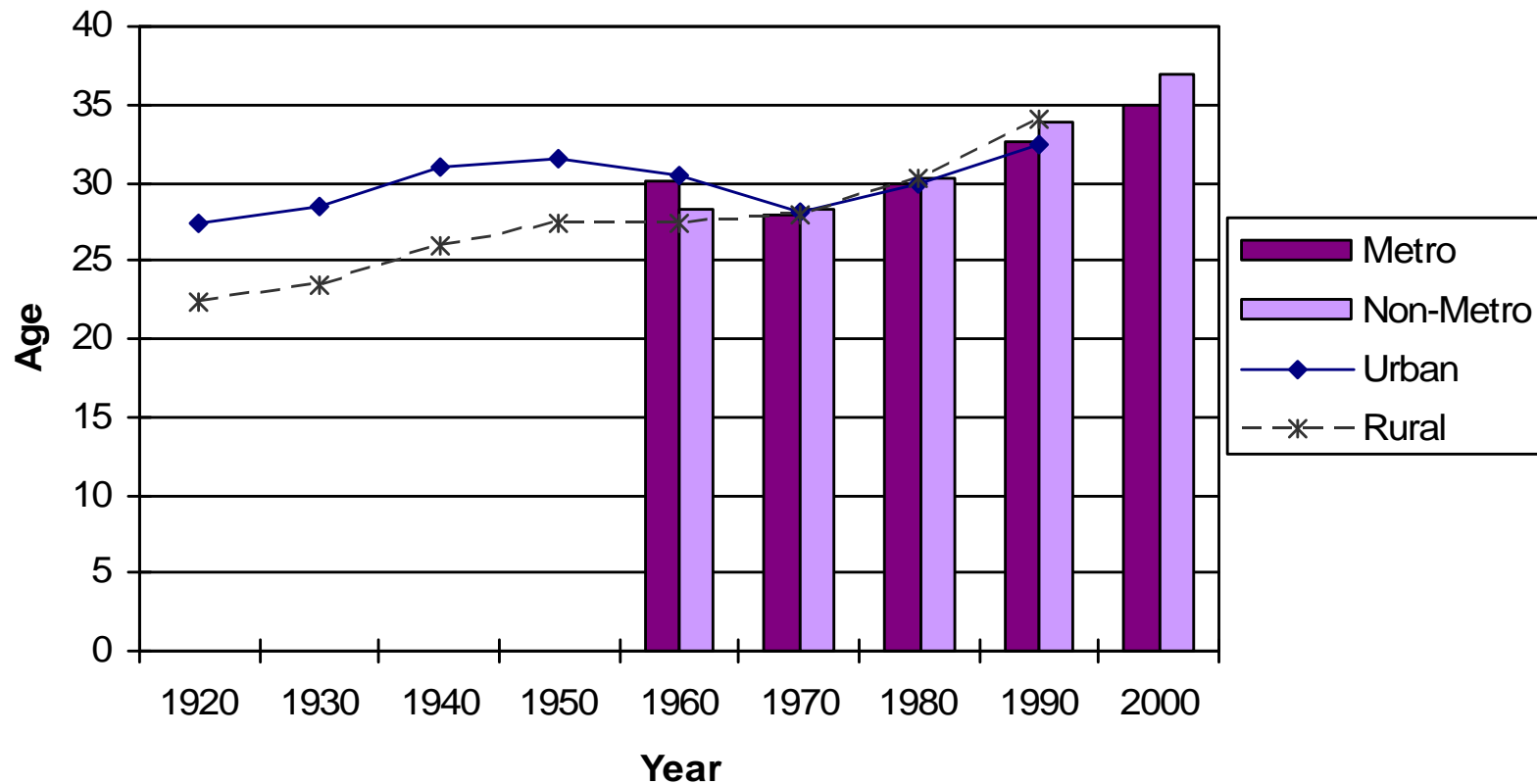
Rural Aging, 2000

	Metro	Nonmetro
Shares of nation's population	78	22
Shares of nation's aged population	74	26
Pct 65+	12	15
Pct 85+	1	2

MEDIAN AGE, 1920 TO 2000

Figure 2. Median Age 1920 and 2000

Rural Median Age	
1970	2000
28.1	37.0



Contrasting Geographic Situations of Rural Older Populations

- Rural Retirement Destinations
 - Opportunities
 - Challenges
- Natural Decrease Areas
 - Challenges

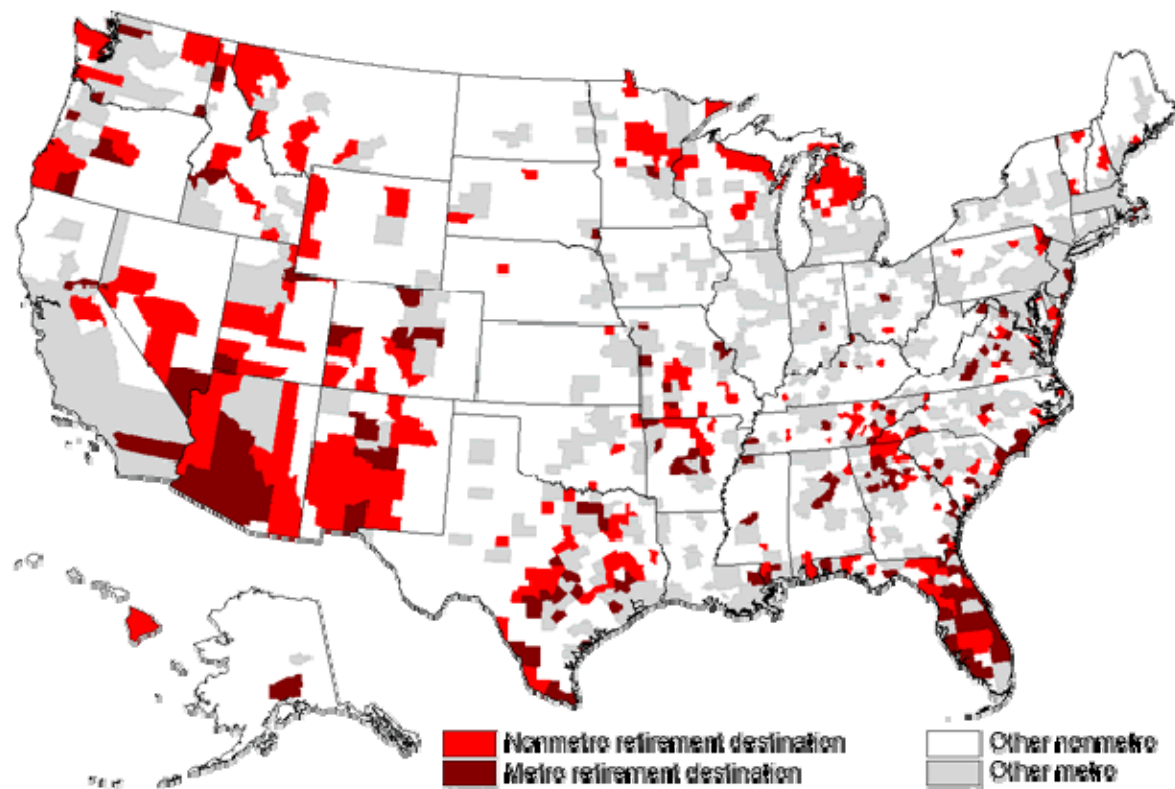
RURAL RETIREMENT DESTINATIONS

Retirement Destinations Are Not All in the South and Southwest

Retirement destination counties, 2000

Where will baby boom retirees live?

** More rural retirement destinations?



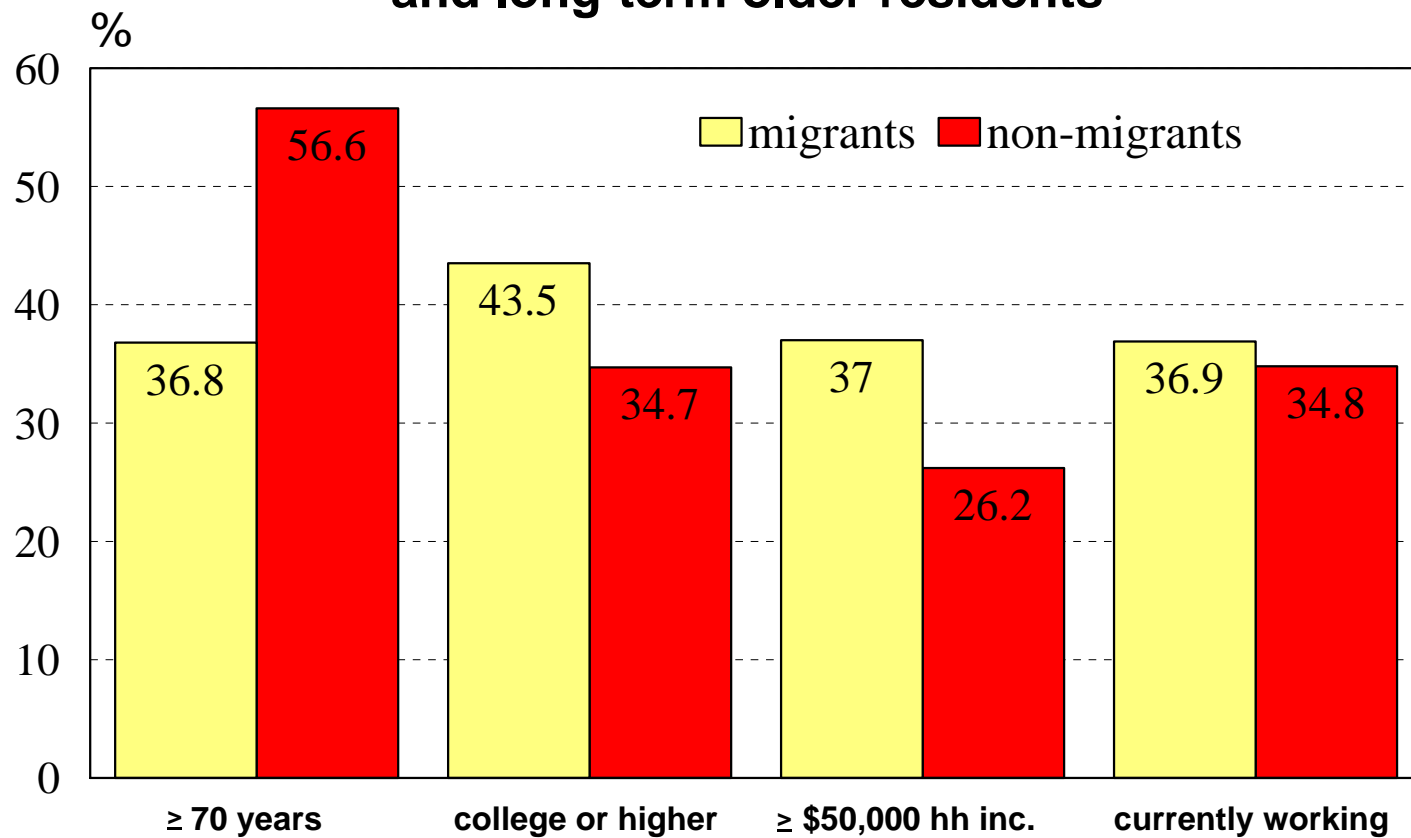
Retirement destination counties—number of residents 60 and older grew by 15 percent or more between 1990 and 2000 due to immigration.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.

Comparative Profile of Rural Retirement Destinations & Other Rural Areas

	Retirement counties (n=274)		Non-retirement counties (n=2115)		
	1990	2000	1990	2000	
Percent of Population	Under 20	27.4	25.9	30.2	28.5
	20-64	54.8	56.3	54.1	56.1
	65+	17.9	17.2	15.7	15.8
Median per capita income, 1999 (USD)		11,266	17,263	10,187	16,008
Median household income, 1999 (USD)		22,569	33,203	21,643	31,838
Percent below poverty level		16.1	13.9	18	15.2
Percent of population 5+ years lived in a different county in 1985; 1995		27.1	22.9	18.2	17.1
Percent of population change 1990-2000		25.2		4.7	

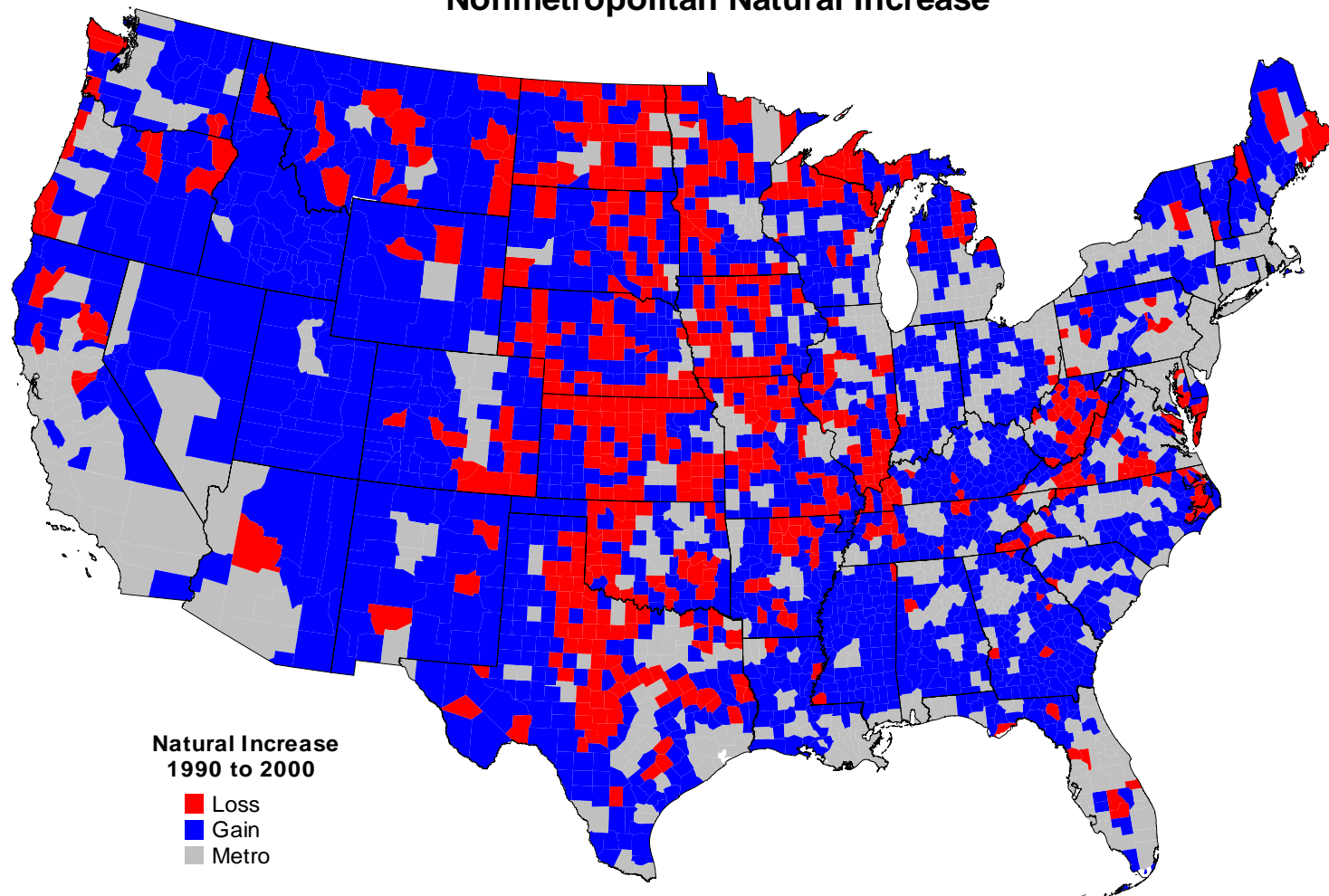
Figure 2a. Comparative profile of migrants and long-term older residents



Source: Cornell Retirement Migration Survey, 2003

NATURAL DECREASE AREAS

Nonmetropolitan Natural Increase



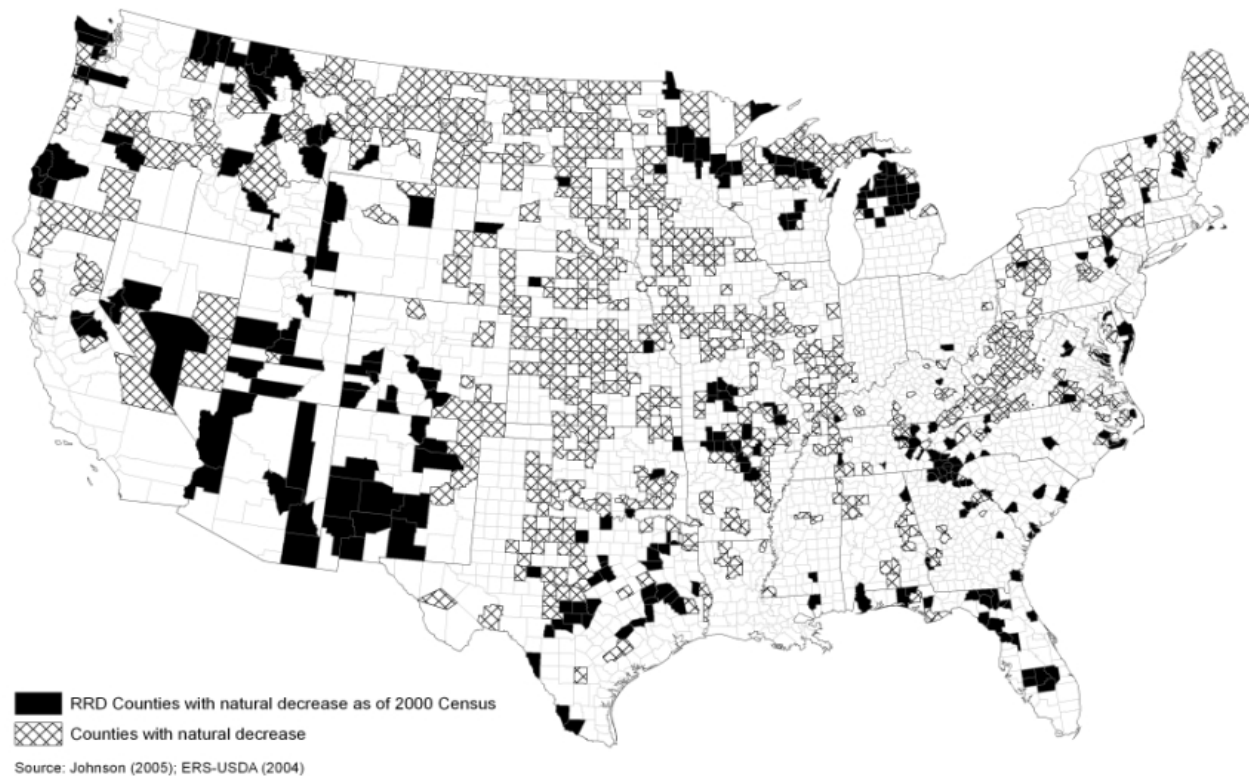
**Natural Increase
1990 to 2000**

- Loss
- Gain
- Metro

K.M. Johnson, Loyola Univ-Chicago

Data from FSCPE Estimates

Overlap of Retirement Migration and Natural Decrease Counties



Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Aging

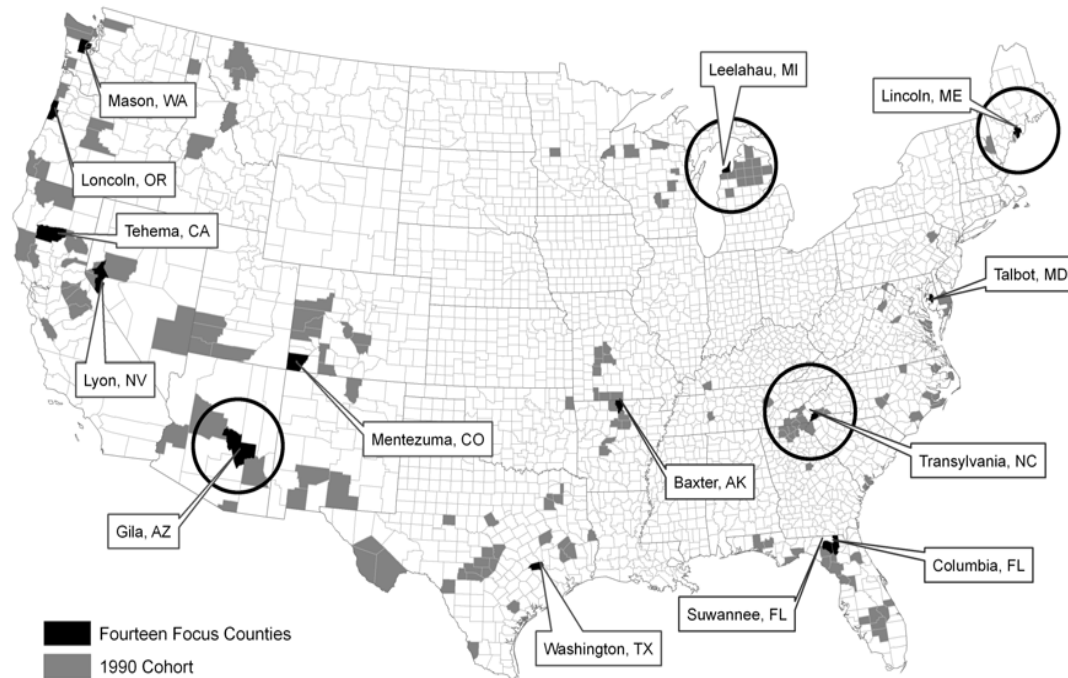
- Challenges
 - Compared with their urban counterparts, rural older people have
 - Lower incomes
 - Somewhat poorer health
 - Fewer housing and transport options
 - Less access to health care and other services
 - Fewer adult children nearby to provide assistance
 - But these challenges are contingent on the type of community in which they live

Opportunities

- Throughout the US
 - Healthy aging
 - Contributions to the voluntary sector
- In retirement destinations
 - Generate demand for new jobs
 - Attract working age persons to community
 - Contribute to public tax revenue

Rural Retirement Destinations

Fig. 6.1: Counties Where Community Case Studies Were Conducted, 2006



Overall Observation from interviews with local leaders

- Retirement In-Migration Presents *Both* Opportunities and Challenges for RRDs
 - Whether older in-migration is seen as positive or negative *depends on one's position* in the local social structure
 - Longer-term residents of RRDs are ambivalent about older in-migration

Opportunities Presented by Older In-Migration

- Economic research generally shows that older in-migration promotes employment & income
- Benefits identified by 64 officials & leaders in 4 communities
 - Real estate market & construction
 - Volunteerism
 - Arts & cultural organizations
 - Financial support of community organizations
 - Commercial and retail sector?
 - Only where in-migrants are mostly yr round residents
 - Enhanced medical care services and facilities
 - More in some places than others

Challenges Presented by Older In-Migration

- Displacement
 - Housing [especially re: service providers and first responders]
 - Cultural [insensitivity to traditional ways of doing things]
 - Old timers have nicknames for newcomers
 - Political [competition, different agendas]
- Aging in Place
 - Transportation, health care, informal care giving

Thank You!

Rural Retirement
Migration

David L. Brown
Nina Glasgow

Springer
May, 2008

