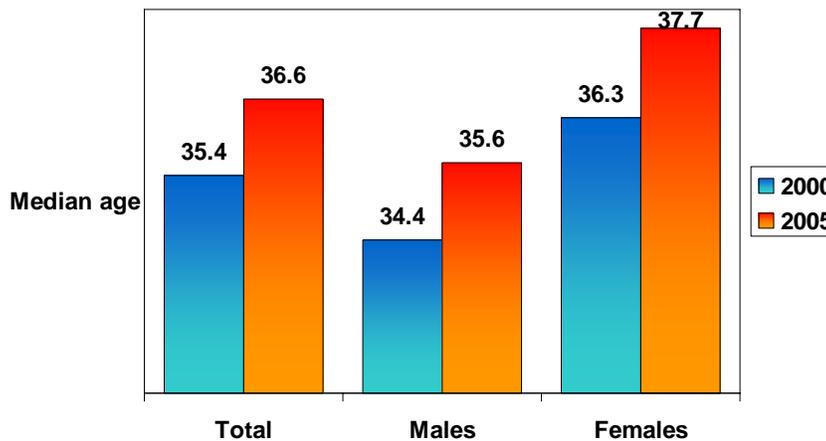


Minnesota Age Trends, 2000 to 2005

Martha McMurry

Minnesota's population continues to age. Census Bureau estimates show the median age rose from 35.4 years in 2000 to 36.6 in 2005. Half the population is older than the median age and half is younger. The median age for females is 37.7, higher than the male median, 35.6.

Median age is on the rise in Minnesota



2000 Decennial Census; 2005 Census Bureau age estimates

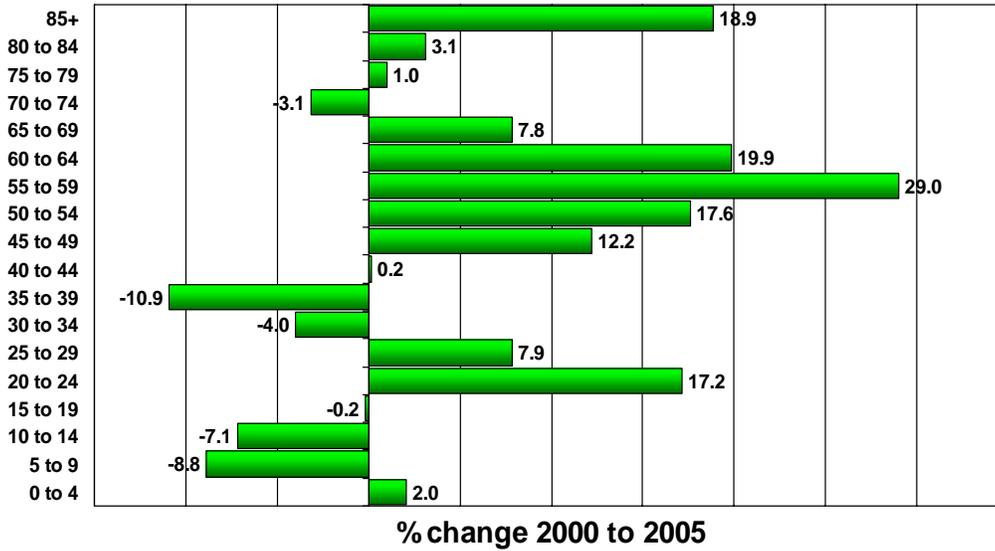
The aging of the baby boom generation created a surge in the number of people in their 50s. The number of people in their early 60s rose because there were more births in the early 1940s than in the late 1930s. Other age groups with rapid growth included those over 85, where lower mortality rates appear to be a factor, and those in their twenties, the products of the baby boomlet of the 1980s.

Minnesota Population by Age, 2000 and 2005

	2000 Estimate	2005 Estimate	Percent Change
0 to 4	328,889	335,577	2.0
5 to 9	353,518	322,236	-8.8
10 to 14	374,490	347,759	-7.1
15 to 19	375,930	375,222	-0.2
20 to 24	326,139	382,106	17.2
25 to 29	318,923	344,087	7.9
30 to 34	354,024	339,869	-4.0
35 to 39	411,119	366,127	-10.9
40 to 44	414,271	414,913	0.2
45 to 49	367,244	411,980	12.2
50 to 54	306,041	359,991	17.6
55 to 59	228,402	294,630	29.0
60 to 64	179,409	215,061	19.9
65 to 69	152,925	164,903	7.8
70 to 74	142,539	138,084	-3.1
75 to 79	122,943	124,157	1.0
80 to 84	90,287	93,085	3.1
85 plus	86,663	103,012	18.9
Total	4,933,756	5,132,799	4.0

Note: 2000 population is the July 1, 2000
Census Bureau Estimate

Population ages 5 to 14 and 30 to 39 declined in Minnesota between 2000 and 2005



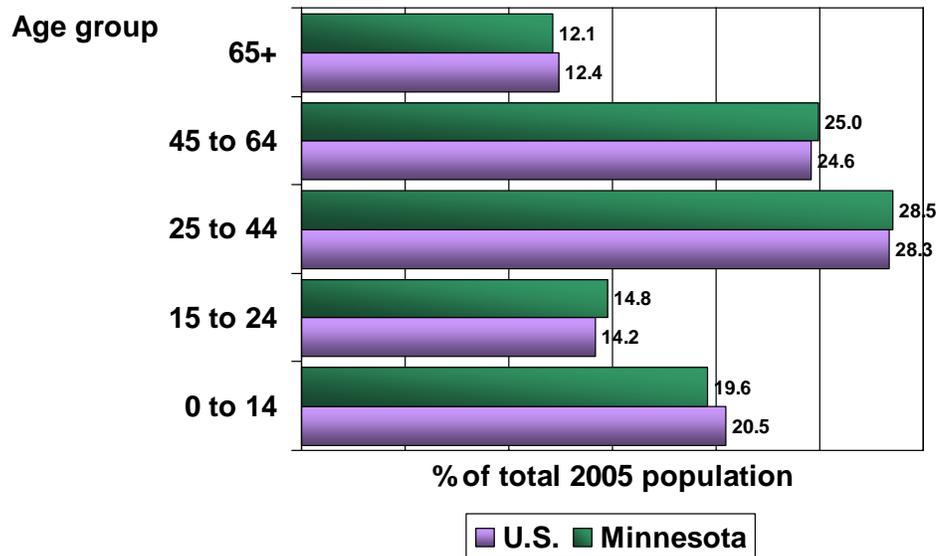
U.S. Census Bureau Age Estimates

The number of people in their 30s declined, reflecting the falling birthrates that prevailed in the 1970s. The number of children ages 5 to 14 dropped substantially. Births fell modestly in the early 1990s as the small baby bust generation began to pass through their childbearing years.

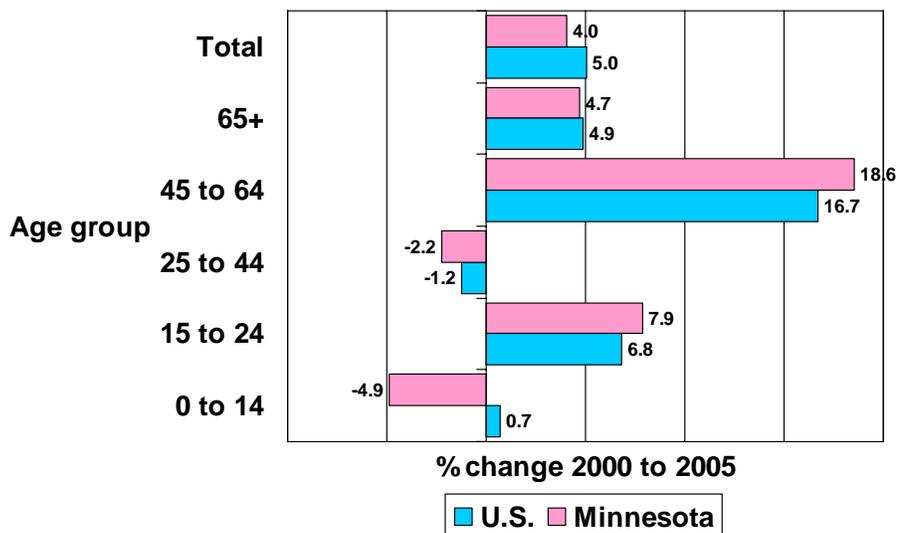
Minnesota age distribution is similar to U.S. average

Minnesota's age distribution closely mirrors the national average, and the trends by age group have also been very similar. The major difference is that the national data shows a 0.7 percent gain for the 0- to 14-year-old population, while in Minnesota this age group declined by 4.9 percent.

Minnesota age distribution is very similar to national



Age group trends are similar in Minnesota and U.S.

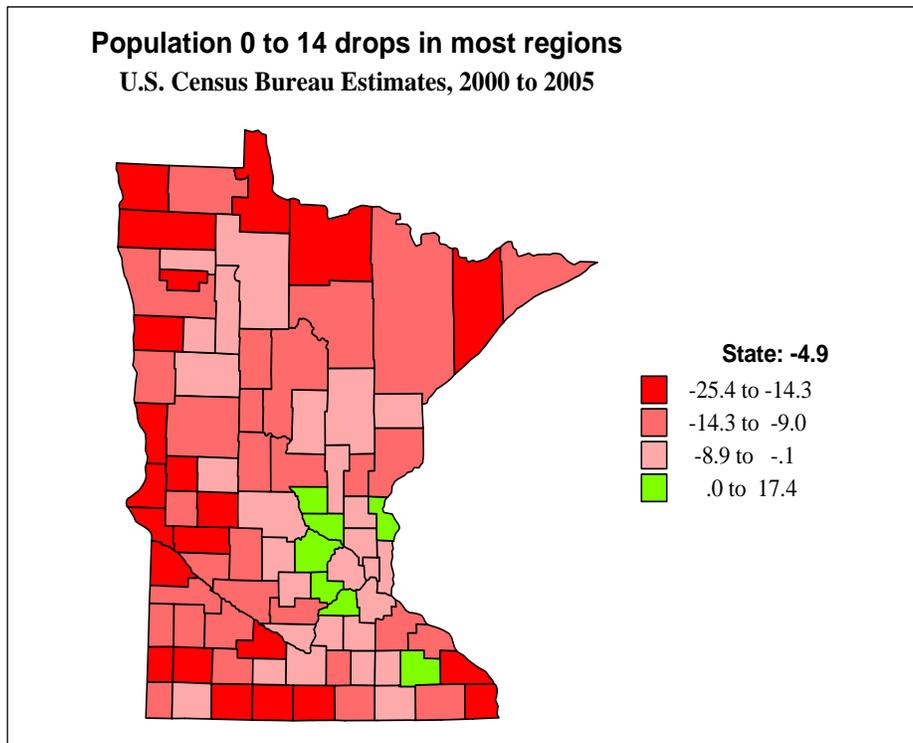


Decline in 5- to 14-year-old population may not be as large as in Bureau estimates

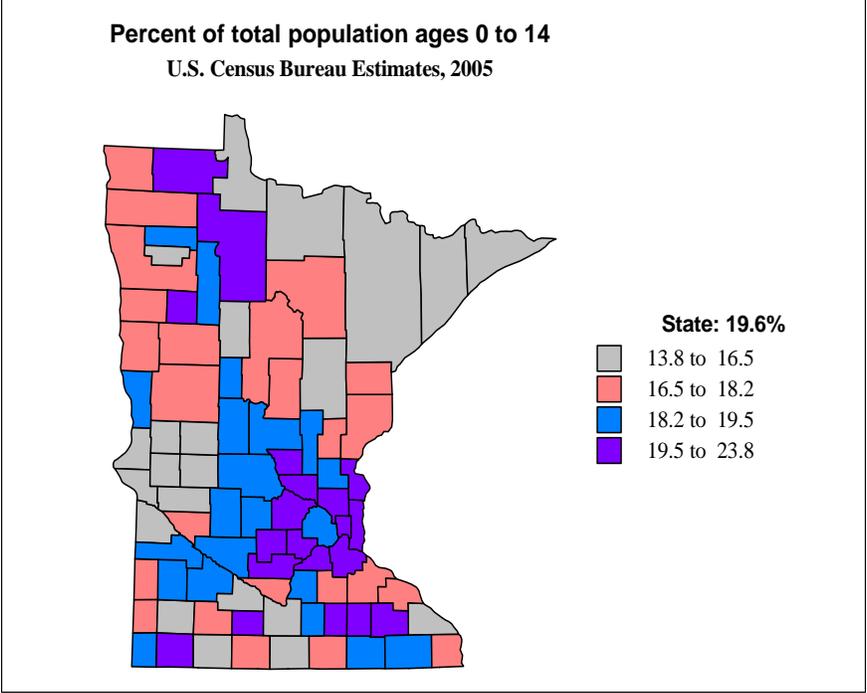
Although the number of school-age children was anticipated to fall, the drop may be overstated in the Census Bureau estimates. Kindergarten to 4th grade enrollment declined 4.4 percent from 1999-2001 to 2004-2006, using a two-year average of Minnesota Department of Education school enrollment data. This was less than the 7.1 percent decline shown by the Census estimates for the 5 to 9-year-old age group. School enrollments for grades 5 to 9 dropped 3.4 percent, also below the 8.8 percent decline estimated by the Census Bureau for the 10- to 14-year-old age group..

Age trends vary by county

Counties that have the highest rates of total population growth generally have the highest rates of increase, or the lowest rates of decline, in each age group. Fast-growing counties have younger age distributions, with a large percentage of their populations under age 45. This is because these counties attract young families with children.

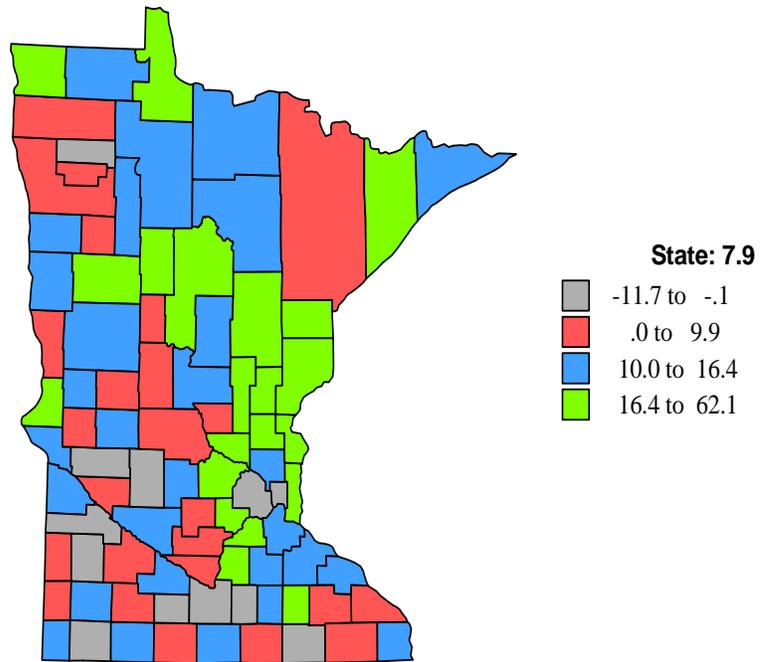


Only a handful of counties, most in the suburbs of the Twin Cities, showed gains in the 0- to 14-year-old population between 2000 and 2005. Rapid in-migration of families into these suburban counties was sufficient to offset the statewide decline in this age group. Rates of decline in the 0- to 14-year-old age group were substantial in many rural counties.

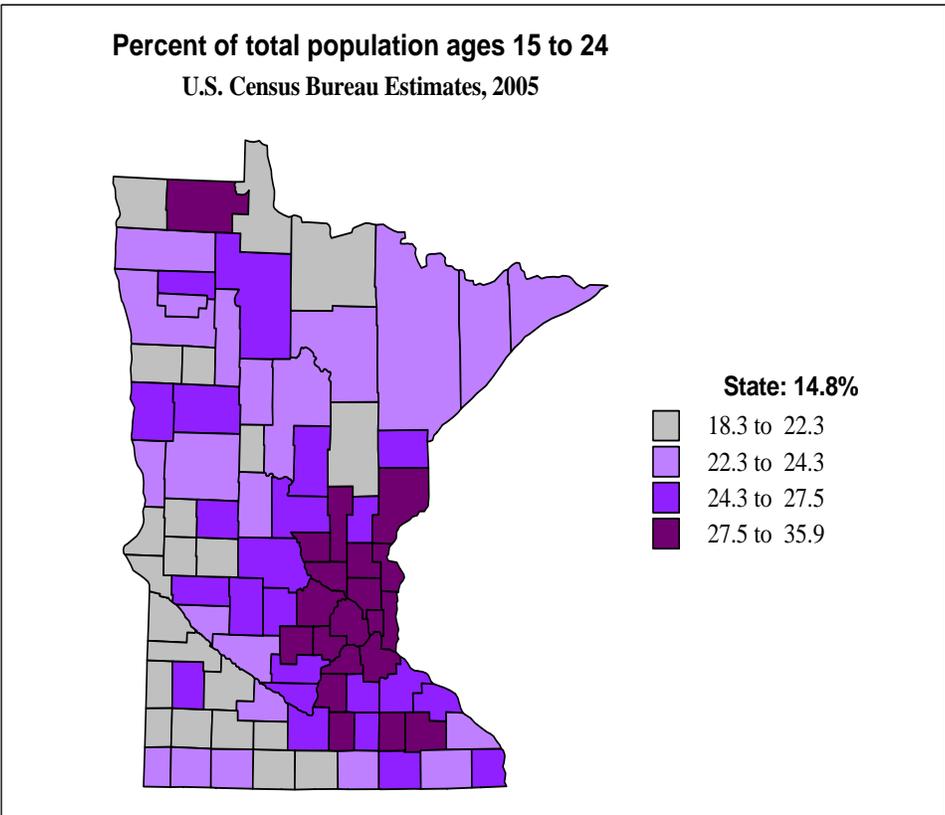


Suburban counties have the highest concentration of children under age 15, while counties in west central and northeastern Minnesota have the lowest proportions of children.

Population 15 to 24 grows in most counties
U.S. Census Bureau Estimates, 2000 to 2005

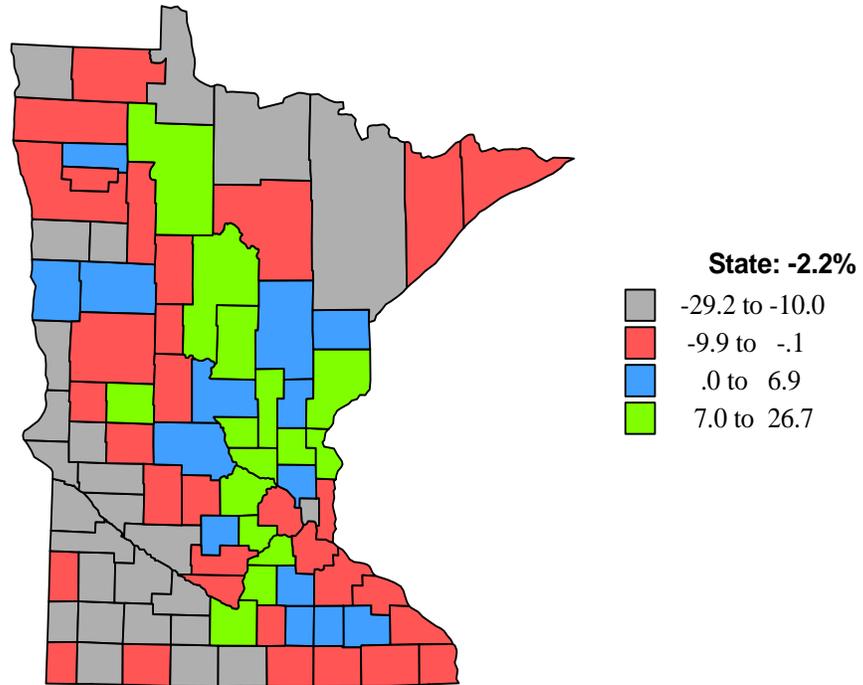


The number of Minnesotans ages 15 to 24 rose in the majority of counties, with suburban and some north central counties showing the greatest gains. The central city counties of Hennepin and Ramsey witnessed declines in their young adult populations.



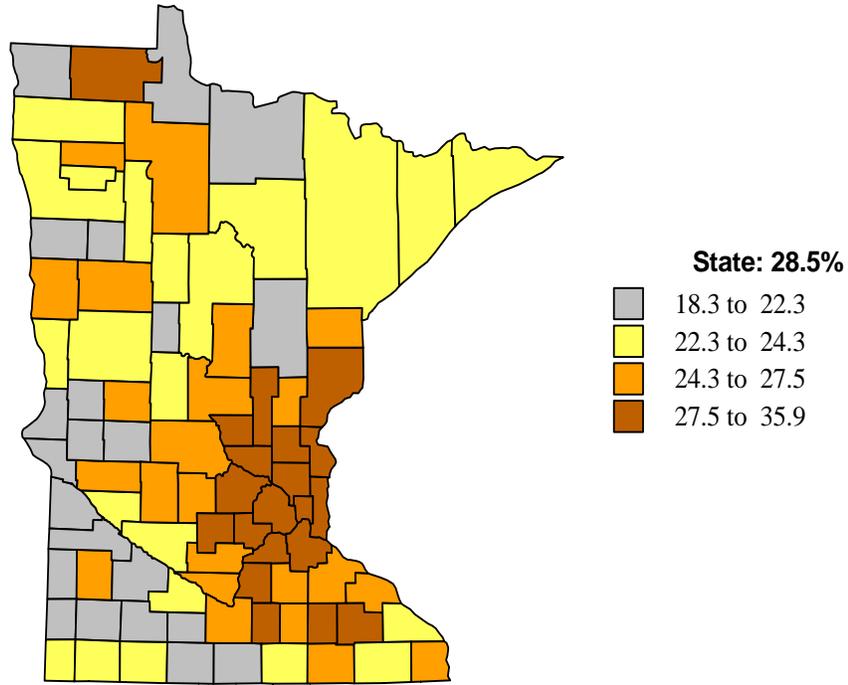
The greatest proportions of young adults are found in the Twin Cities region, including Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Southwestern Minnesota has a low percentage of young adults. These differences are attributable to migration. Young adults tend to move out of rural areas and into metropolitan areas.

Population age 25 to 44 declines in majority of counties
U.S. Census Bureau Estimates, 2000 to 2005

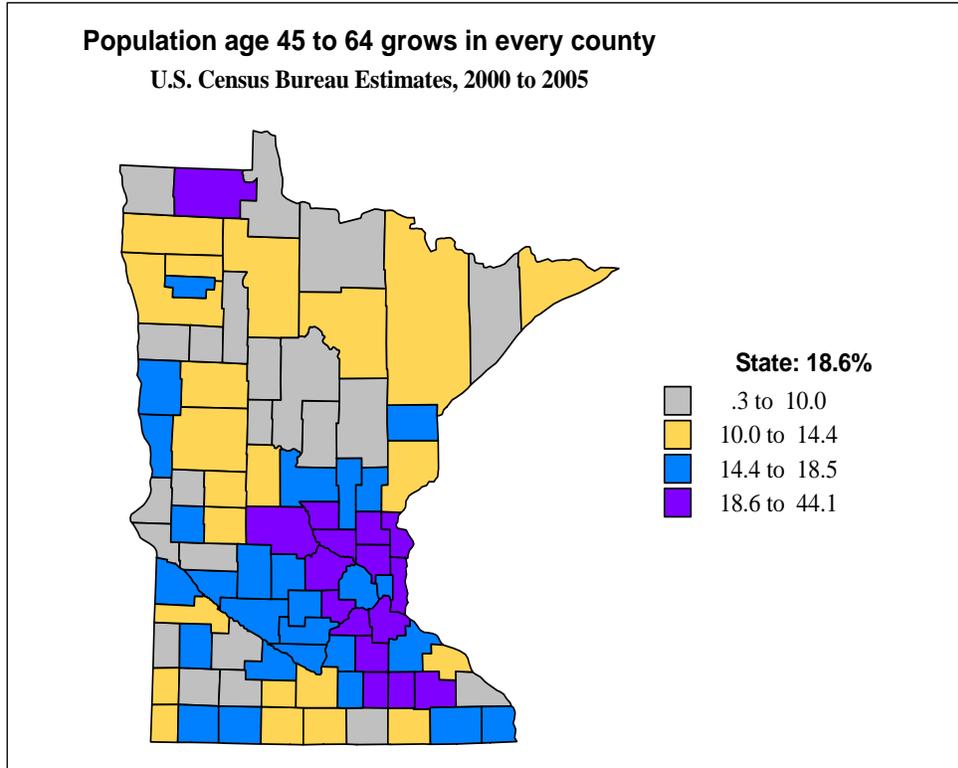


The majority of counties experienced a decline in the population ages 25 to 44, with the highest rates of decline in southwestern Minnesota. In contrast, suburban and exurban areas and parts of north central Minnesota saw substantial growth.

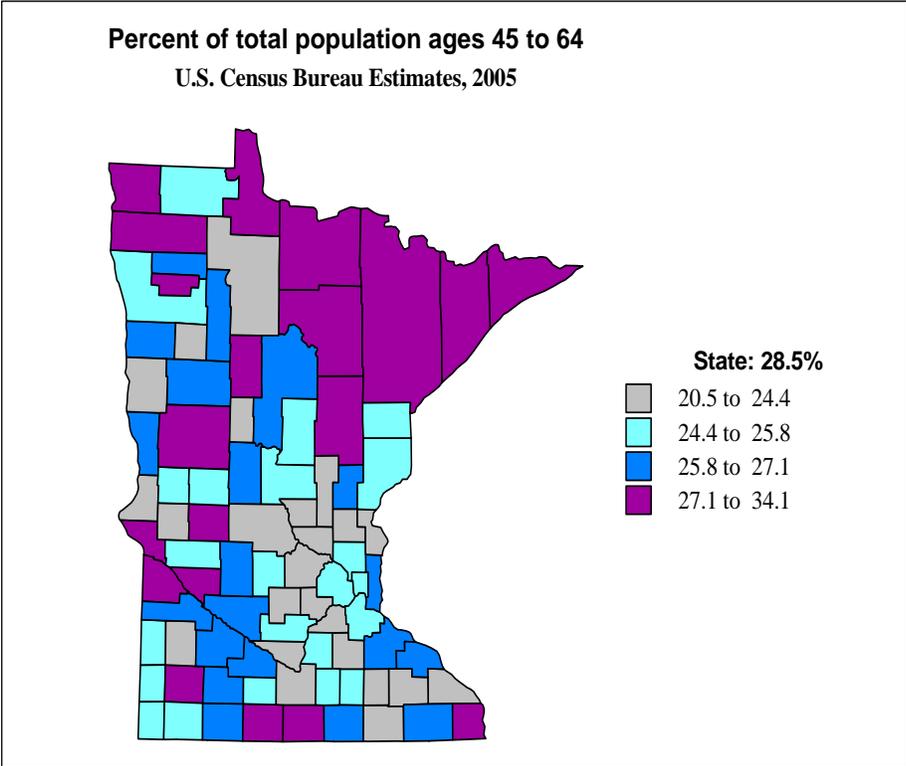
Percent of total population ages 25 to 44
U.S. Census Bureau Estimates, 2005



Adults 25 to 44, like children, make up a larger than average proportion of the population in the Twin Cities region. Southwestern Minnesota has the lowest percentages of people in this age group.

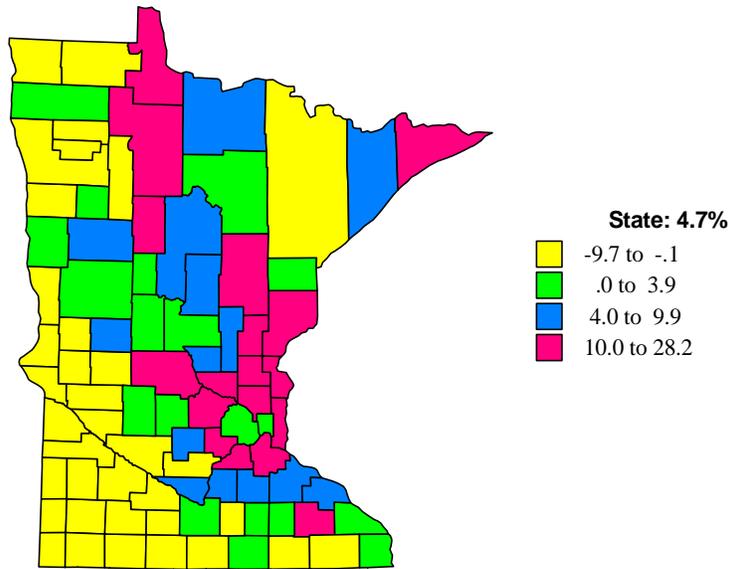


As the baby boom has aged, every county has had an increase in the number of residents ages 45 to 64. Areas with especially rapid gains include the Twin Cities suburbs, Olmsted County (Rochester) and Stearns County (St. Cloud). More rural parts of the state recorded more modest increases.



Northeastern Minnesota has a high percentage of people in the 45- to-64-year-old age group. Outer ring suburbs generally have lower proportions, probably because they have drawn younger adults attracted to the ample supply of new housing.

Population 65+ declines in western Minnesota
U.S. Census Bureau Estimates, 2000 to 2005

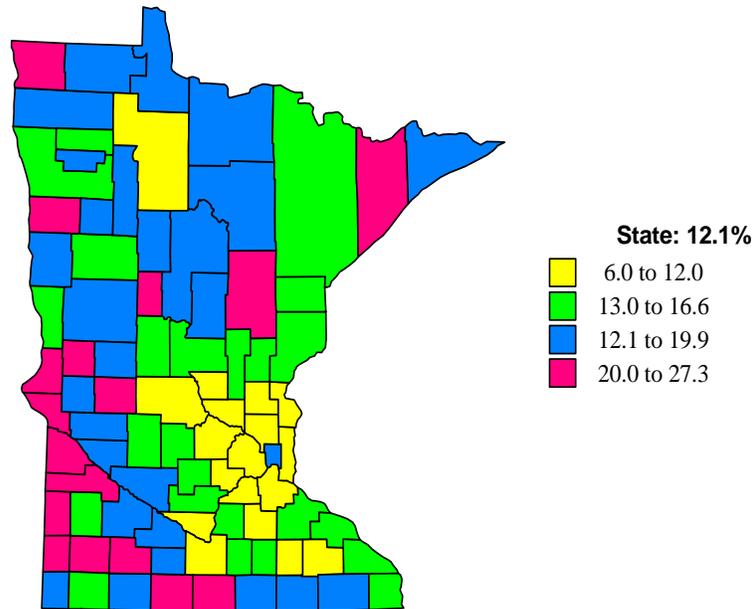


The population ages 65 and over has grown rapidly in the Twin Cities suburbs. People who moved to the suburbs 20 or 30 years ago when they were raising children are now aging in place. In contrast, the elderly population has fallen in many rural areas, particularly southwestern Minnesota. In most cases this is due to a long history of out-migration in these counties. Many people who are now elderly left these rural areas decades ago.

The older population is also growing in north central Minnesota, an area popular with retirees and people seeking vacation homes.

Metro region has smaller % of population over 65

U.S. Census Bureau Estimates, 2005



Southwestern Minnesota remains the region with the greatest concentration of residents age 65 or older, even though the older population is declining in size. Conversely, suburban areas where the older population has grown rapidly have lower proportions of elderly people.

Sources:

Age estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau,
<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>

For most maps and tables, the July 1, 2000 estimate is used rather than the Census count. The 2000 median age figures are from the decennial census.

Population Notes is published periodically by the State Demographic Center at the Minnesota Department of Administration.

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