

Big Ideas for Small Towns: Aging in Place

Small Town and Rural Division
Facilitated Discussion



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1

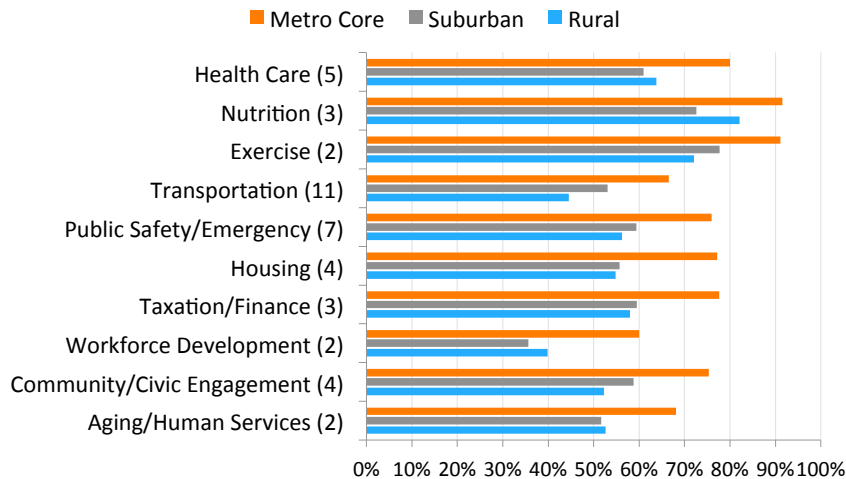
Suburbs and Rural have more seniors

| | Metro Core | Suburban | Rural |
|---|------------|----------|----------|
| Population 65+ years old ¹ | 13% | 14% | 17% |
| Population growth in 65+ years old ² | 8% | 14% | 9% |
| Population less than 18 years old ¹ | 24% | 25% | 23% |
| Poverty rate 65+ years old ³ | 9% | 9% | 12% |
| Poverty rate under 18 years old ³ | 19% | 16% | 23% |
| Per capita income ³ | \$25,000 | \$24,000 | \$20,000 |
| Services for Seniors ⁴ | 30 | 23 | 22 |

United States Counties, n = 3,031; \$ (2007=100). Sources: ¹ US Census 2010 ² US Census 2000 and 2010 ³ American Community Survey 2005-2009, ⁴ Maturing of America Survey, n=1414

2

Rural and suburbs lag in elder service delivery.



Source: N=1,430 local governments, 2010 Maturing of America survey. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of survey questions in each category.

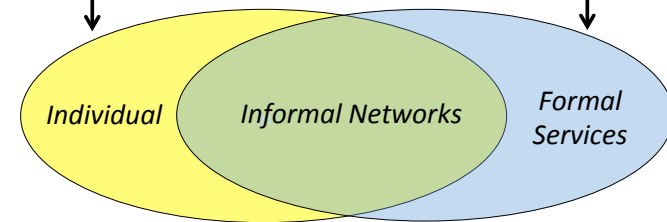
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Three Challenges for Planning

Foster Individual Independence
(Inclusive Design)

Promote Formal Services
(Market and Government)



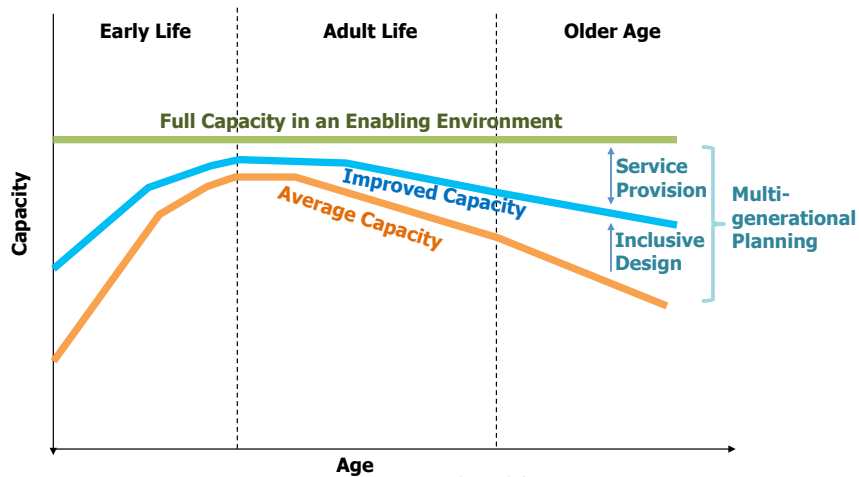
Support Informal Networks
(Family, Friends and Neighbors)

4



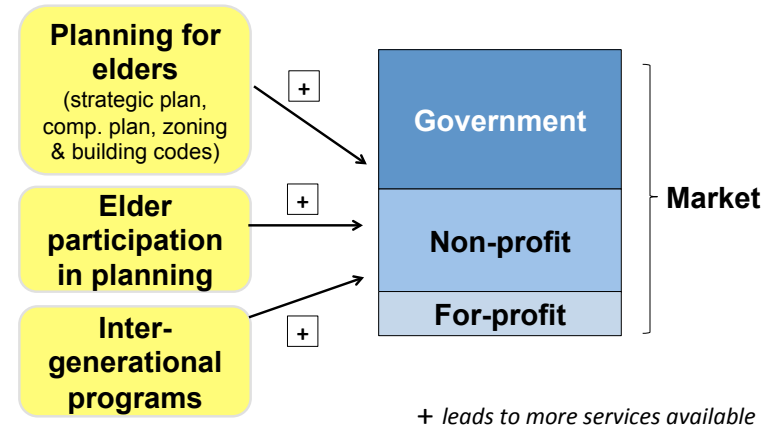
A Framework for Multigenerational Planning

The link between design and services



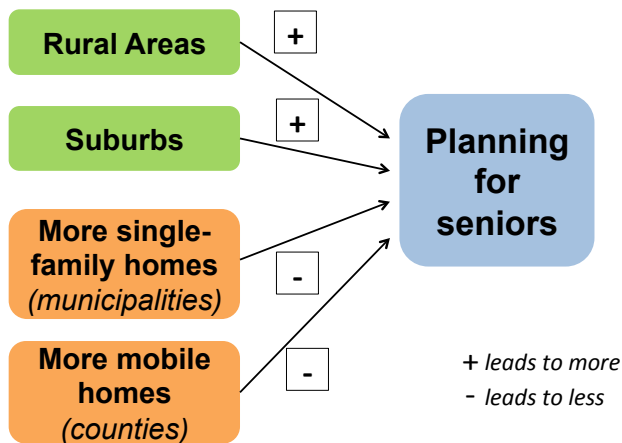
Source: Warner et al. 2013, based in part on WHO (2007) functionality curve.

Planning and Participation increase service delivery levels by 3-6 services



Regression results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and city manager government.

Rural and Suburbs do more planning



Regression results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and city manager government.



Critical Questions for Small Towns and Rural Communities

- New urbanism is the preferred strategy for promoting aging in place, but this will not work for many small and rural communities. How do we address the urban bias in most 'aging in place' prescriptions?
- What makes small and rural communities good places to age in place?
- What can planners do to make small and rural communities better places to age in place?