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Panel Session: Realities of Rural America

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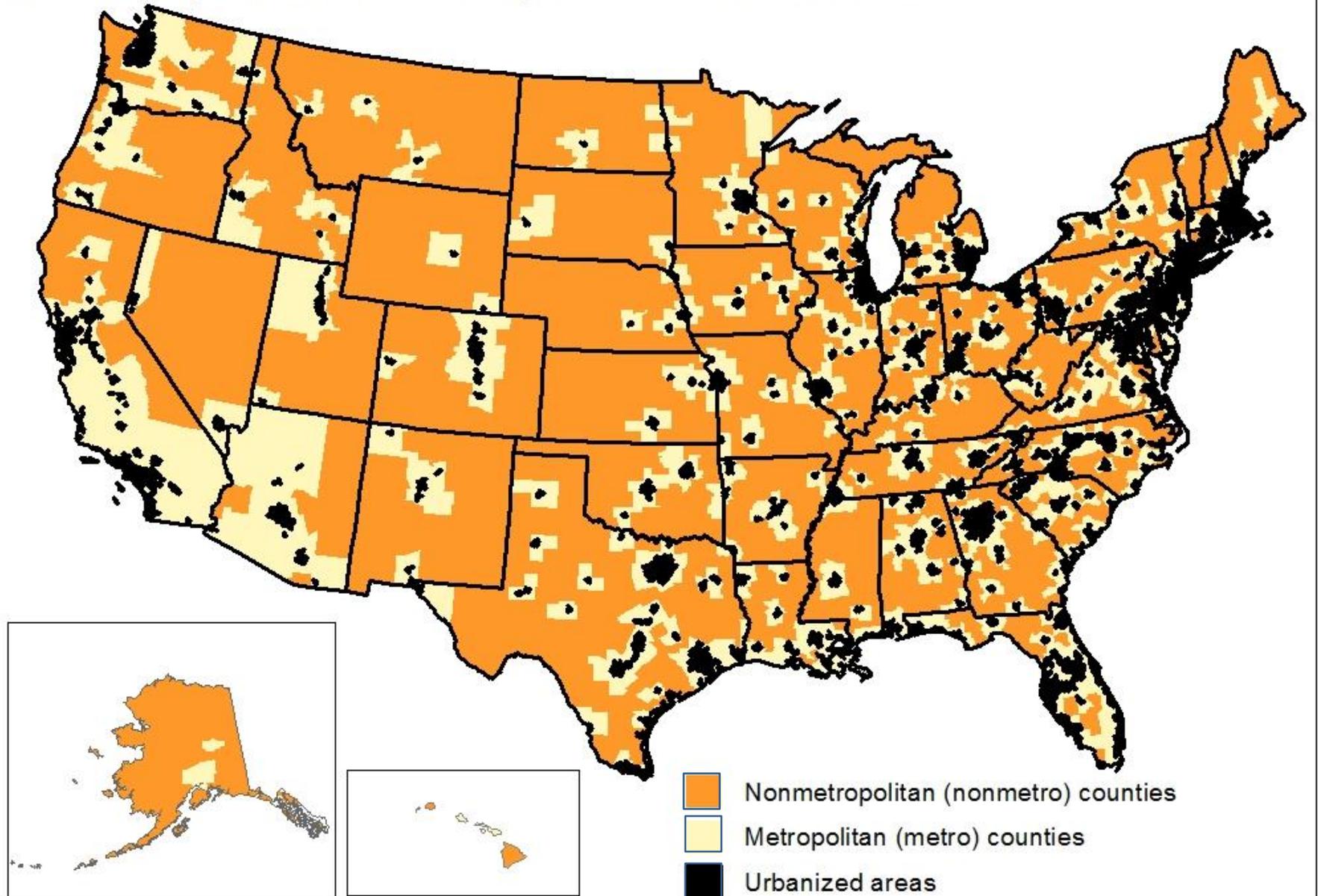


Demographic realities affecting rural housing

- Slower population growth, switching to overall population decline since 2010
- Older population age structure, caused by two very different demographic trends.
- Higher poverty rates, especially for children
- Lower percentage of minority populations, but extensive regions of entrenched poverty with distinct racial-ethnic contexts



Nonmetropolitan and metropolitan counties, 2013



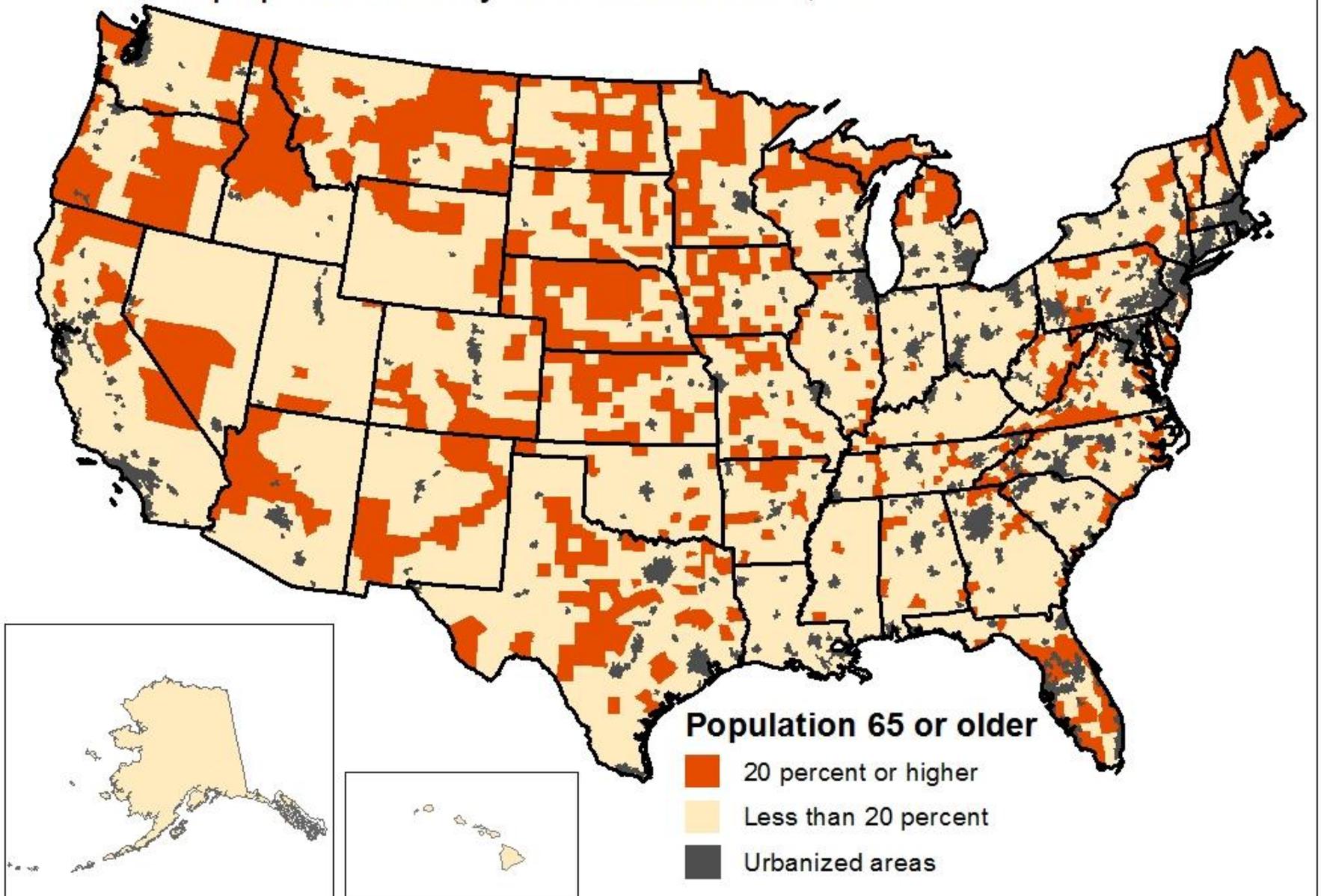
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

What happened to long-term drivers of rural population growth, and will they return?

1. *Suburbanization*—nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to metro areas stopped growing, 2010-15
2. *Amenity migration*—consistently high population growth in retirement destinations and recreation counties diminished substantially
3. *Manufacturing*—new patterns of population loss in rural parts of the eastern U.S. correspond in large part with loss of manufacturing jobs

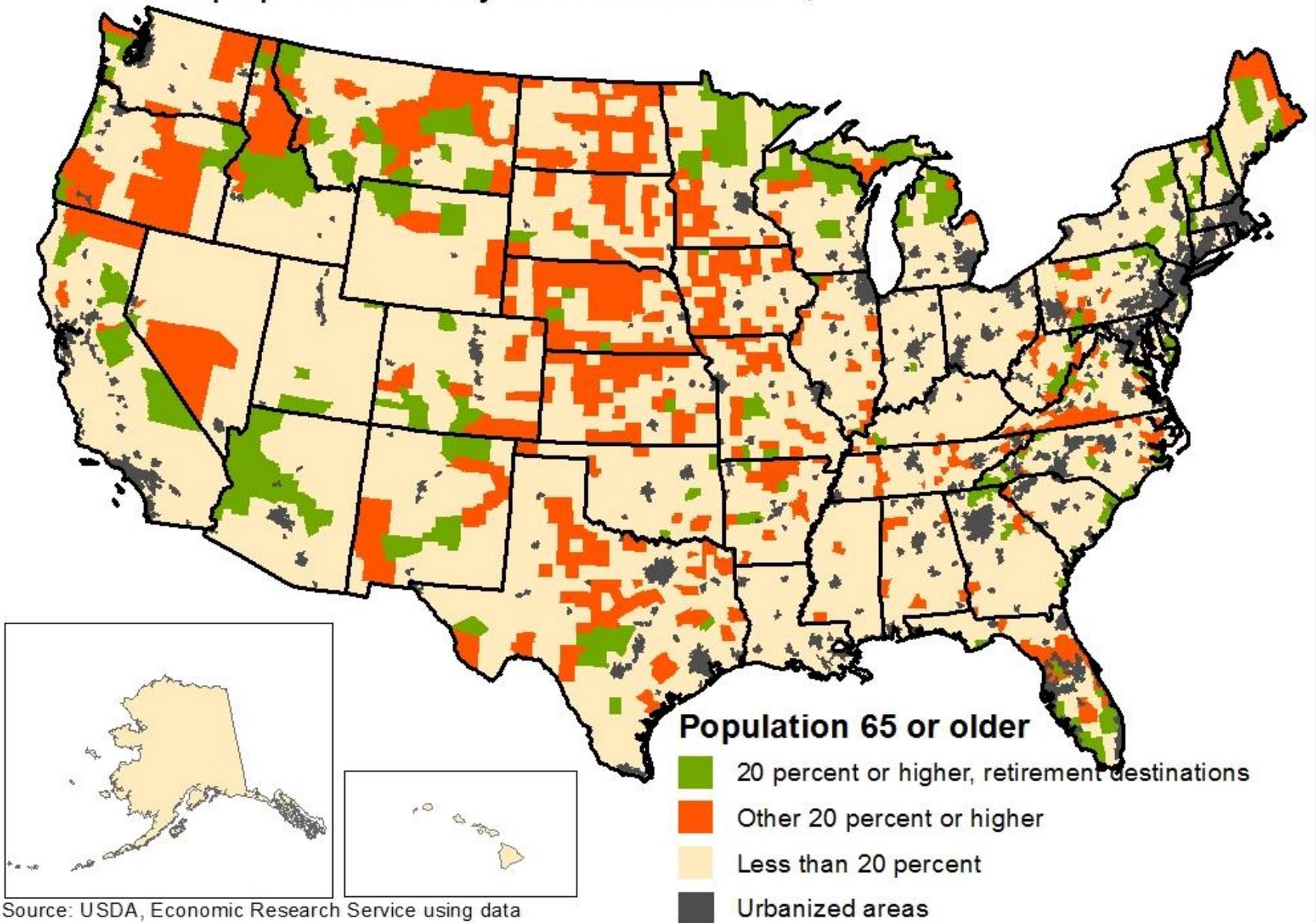


Percent of population 65 years old or older, 2014



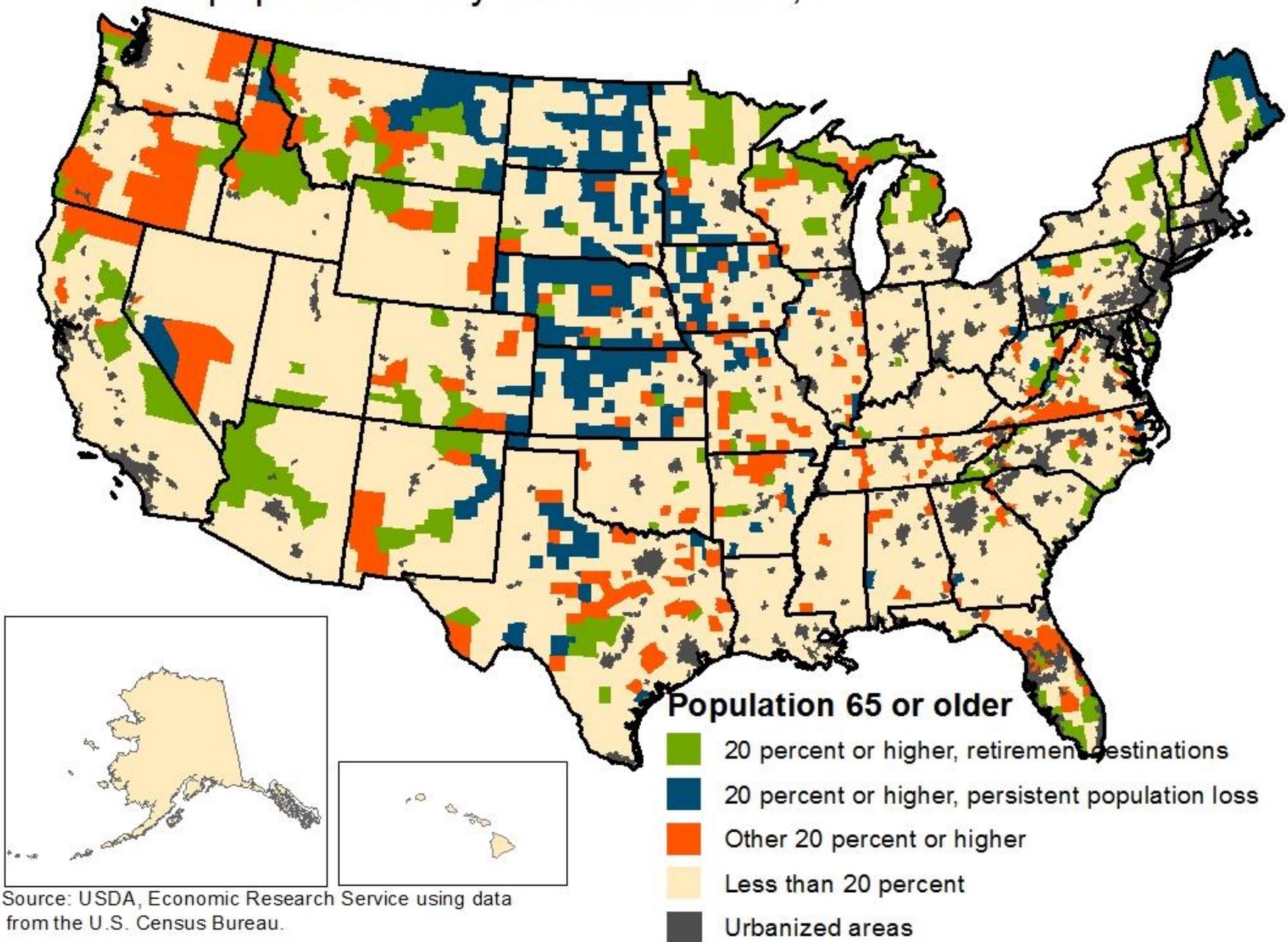
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Percent of population 65 years old or older, 2014

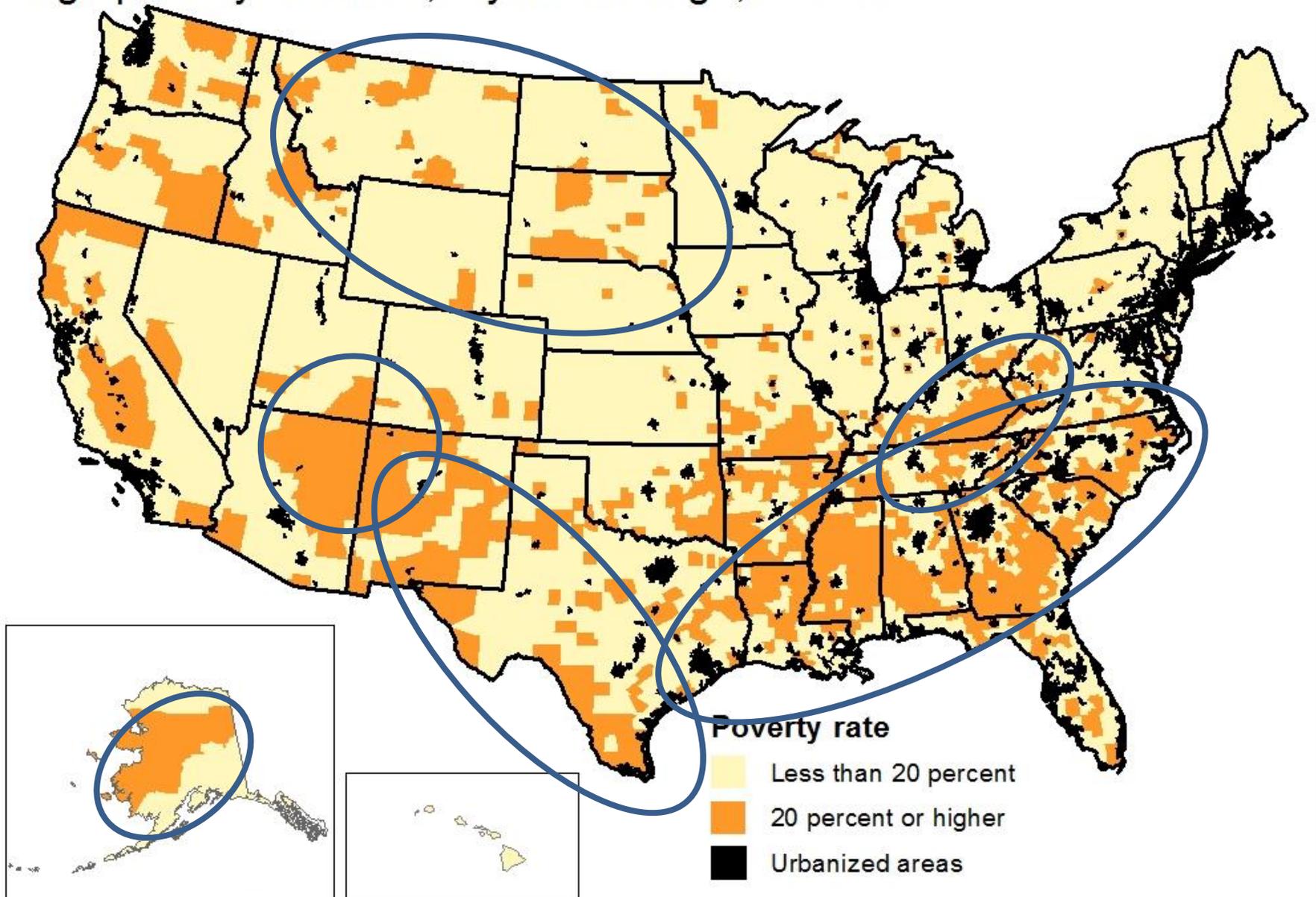


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Percent of population 65 years old or older, 2014

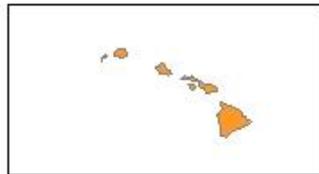
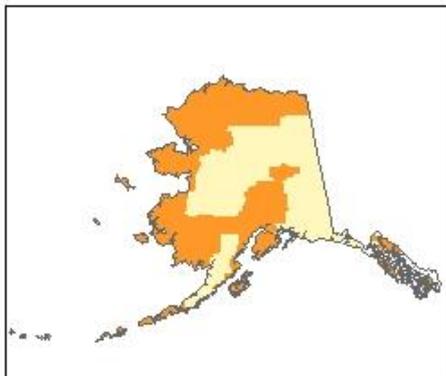
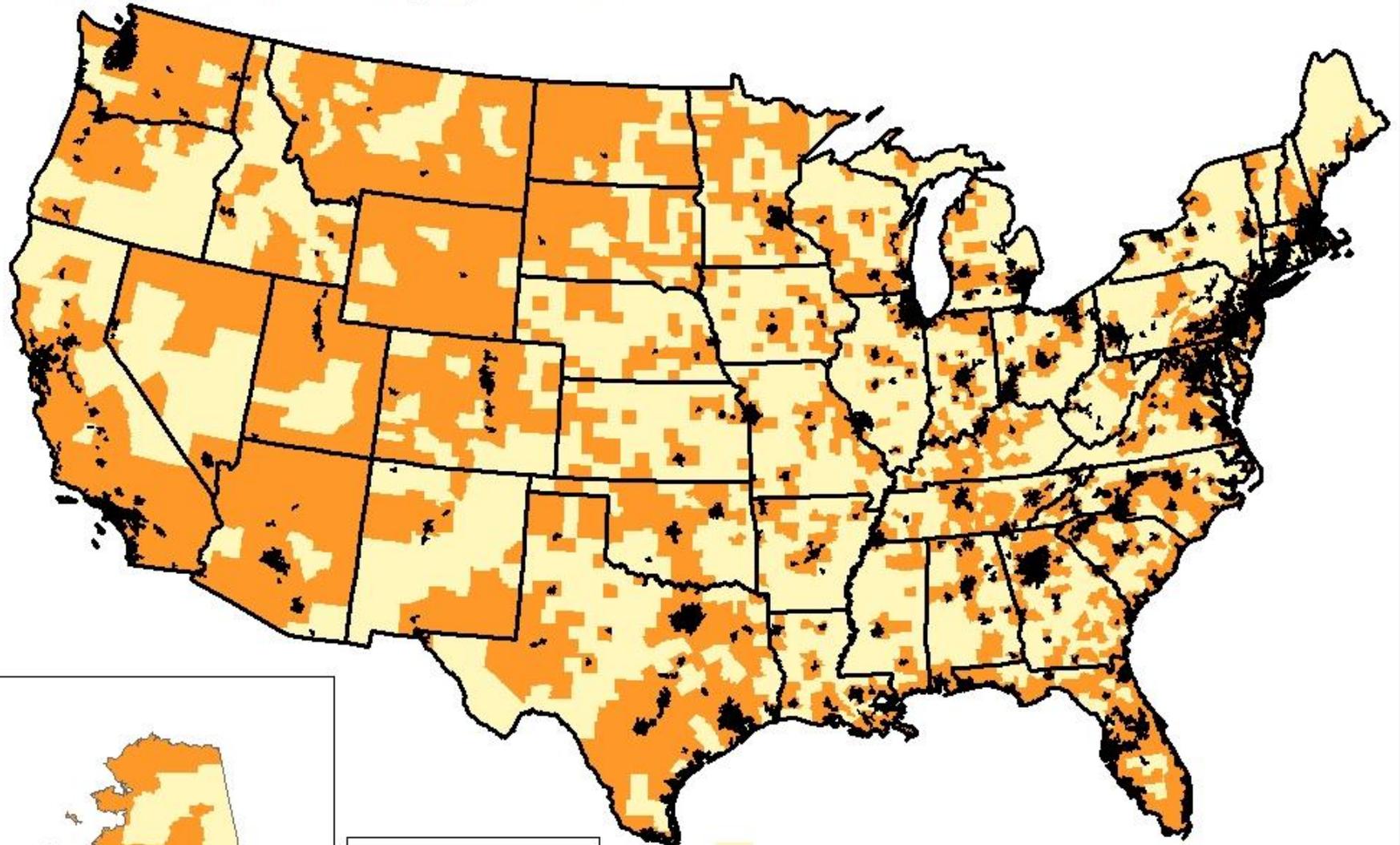


High poverty counties, 5-year average, 2010-14



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

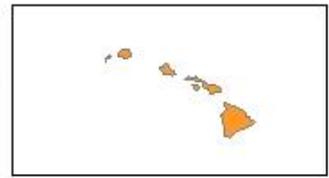
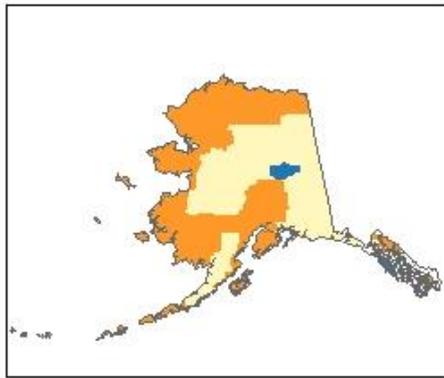
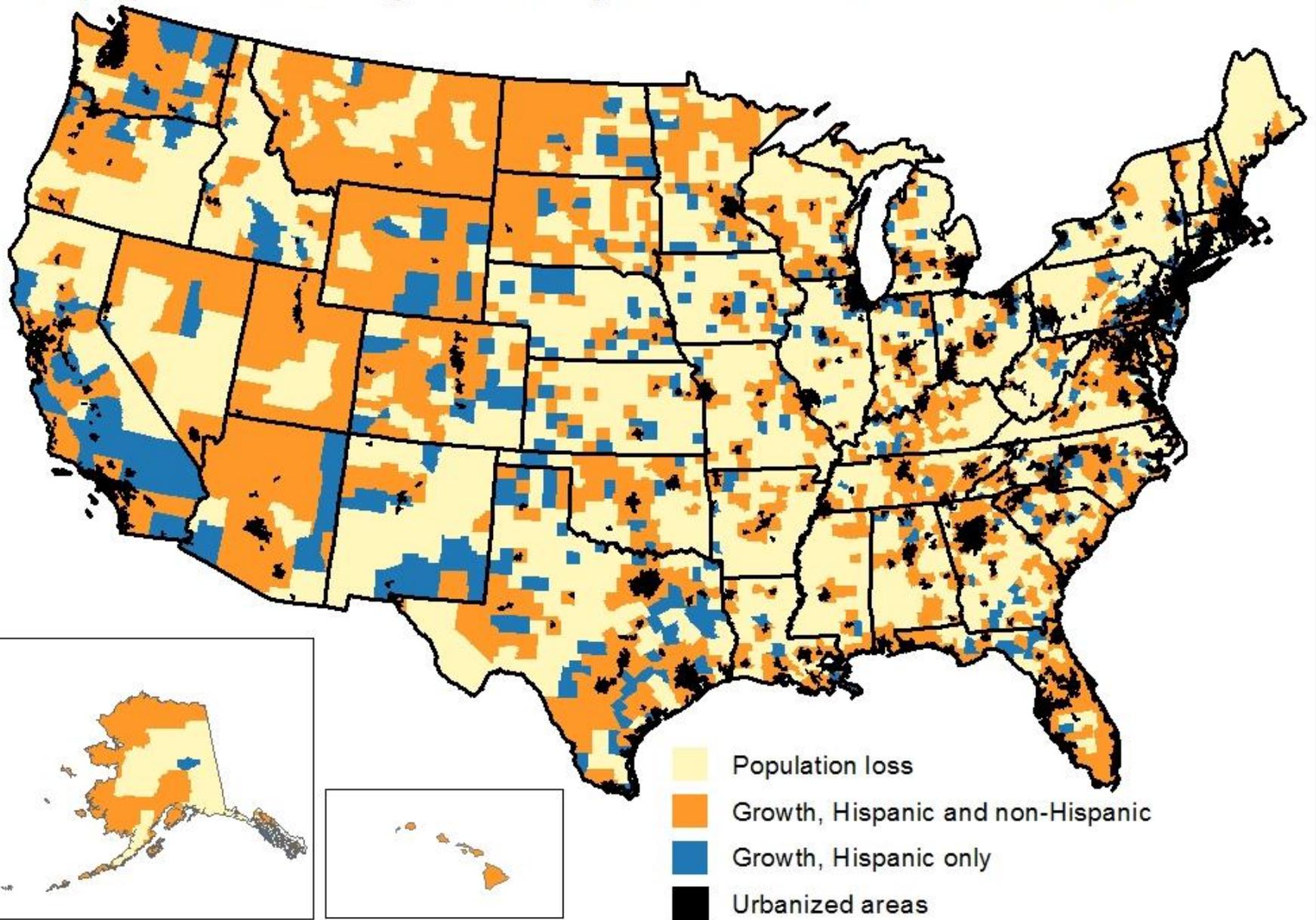
Total population change, 2010-14



- Population loss
- Population growth
- Urbanized areas

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Total population change and Hispanic contribution, 2010-14



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Summary

- First-ever period of nonmetro population loss shows signs of ending, but similar periods are likely in the future due to lower levels of natural change.
- Housing needs in counties with older populations differ depending on underlying demographic processes.
- The increase in rural child poverty is a priority issue with clear ties to housing issues.
- Hispanic growth and changing household composition continue to reshape hundreds of rural communities across the country.



Thank you!

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