# Building Blocks: Making Smart Growth Happen at the Local Level

## New Partners for Smart Growth
## Kansas City, MO

February 7, 2013

# Presentation objectives

- Familiarize audience with tools for shaping the future you want
    - Economic competitiveness
    - Community character
    - Quality of life
- Overview SGA technical assistance
- Review workshops in first year of program

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# Smart Growth

**Smart growth** means building urban, suburban and rural communities with **housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools**.

These strategies **support thriving local economies** and protect the environment.

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# What I hear about smart growth



Wengen

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# Smart growth is ugly.



Riomaggiore, Italy

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# We have no history with it.



New Orleans, LA

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# Nobody would want to live there.



Aspen, CO

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# It just doesn't work here.



Pearl District, Portland, OR

# Shut up and drive!



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Trend is not destiny.

-Lewis Mumford

# The "silver tsunami"
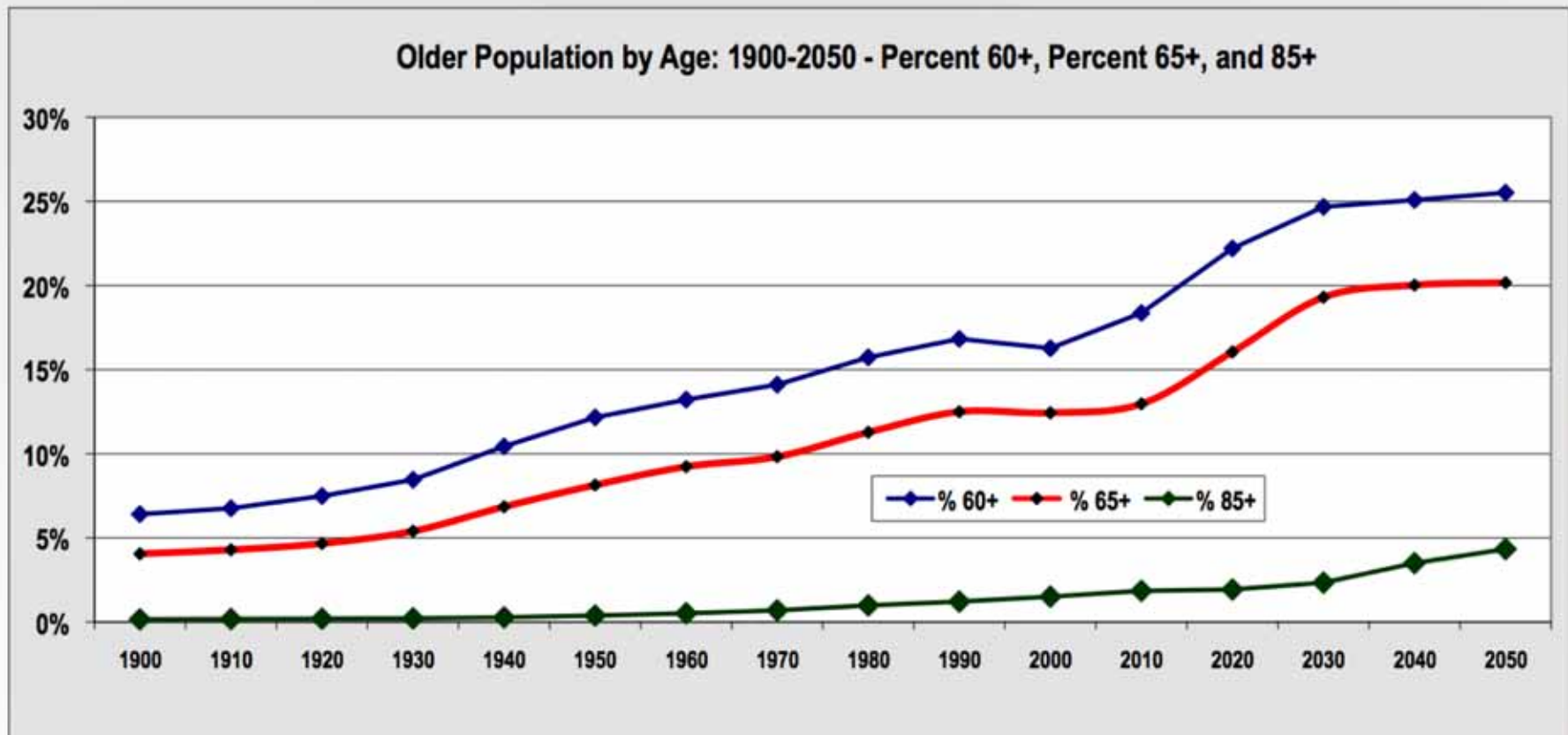


Older Population by Age: 1900-2050 - Percent 60+, Percent 65+, and 85+

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# U.S. Housing Projections

| Household | 1960 | 2000 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| With children | 48% | 33 | 28 |
| Without children | 52 | 67 | 72 |
| Single | 13 | 26 | 28 |

| U.S. as a whole | Supply 2003 | Change needed 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Attached | 27 million | 26 million more |
| Small Lot | 22 million | 30 million more |
| Large Lot (>7000 sq. ft.) | 57 million | _22 million less_ |

Nelson, Arthur "Where Will Everybody Live?" EPA White Paper, Virginia Tech 2007

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# Share of growth 2010-2030

- Households with children - 14%
- Households w/o children - 86%
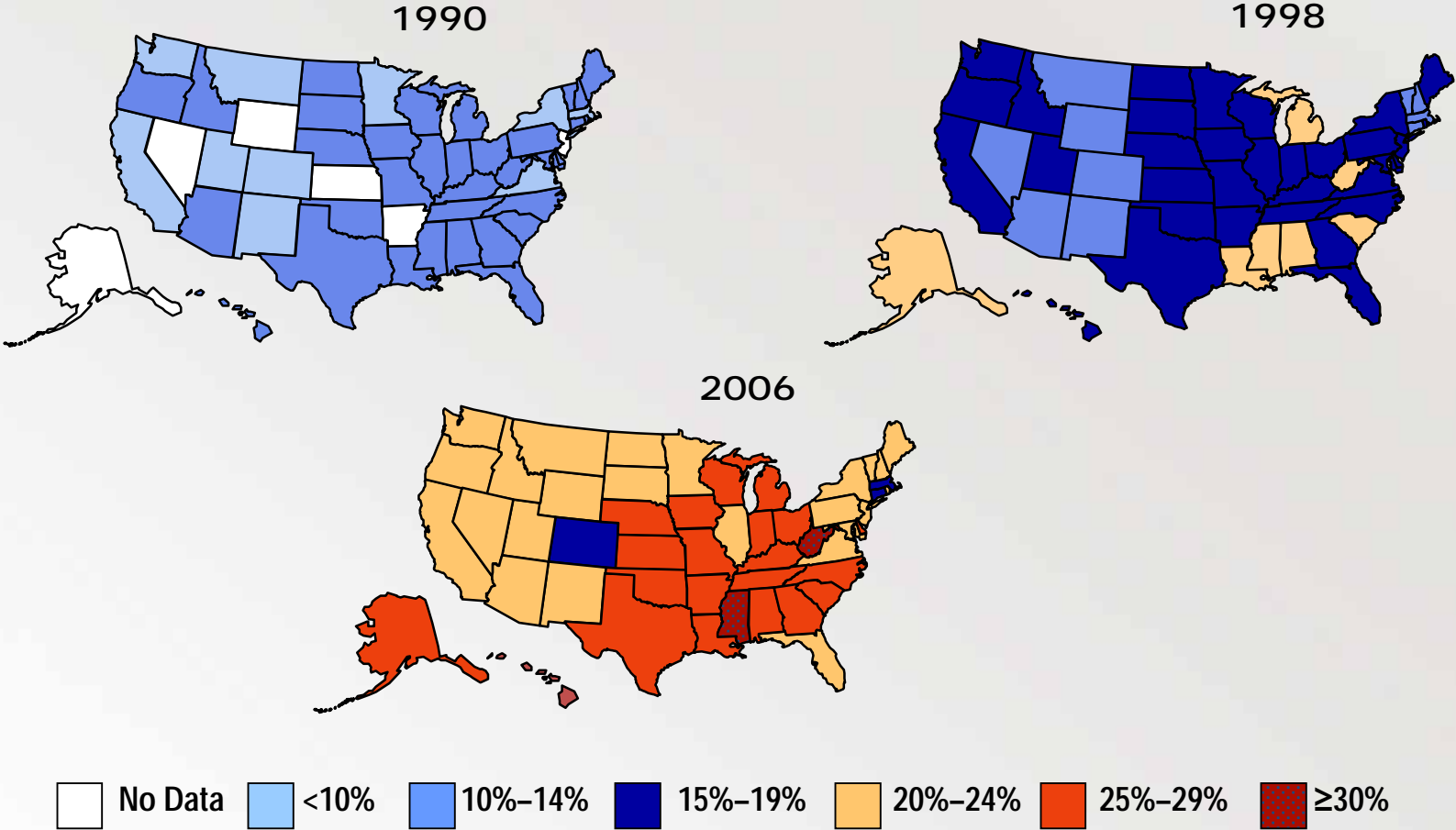  - Singles – 32%



Bozeman, MT

*Source: Arthur C. Nelson, Presidential Professor & Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah*.
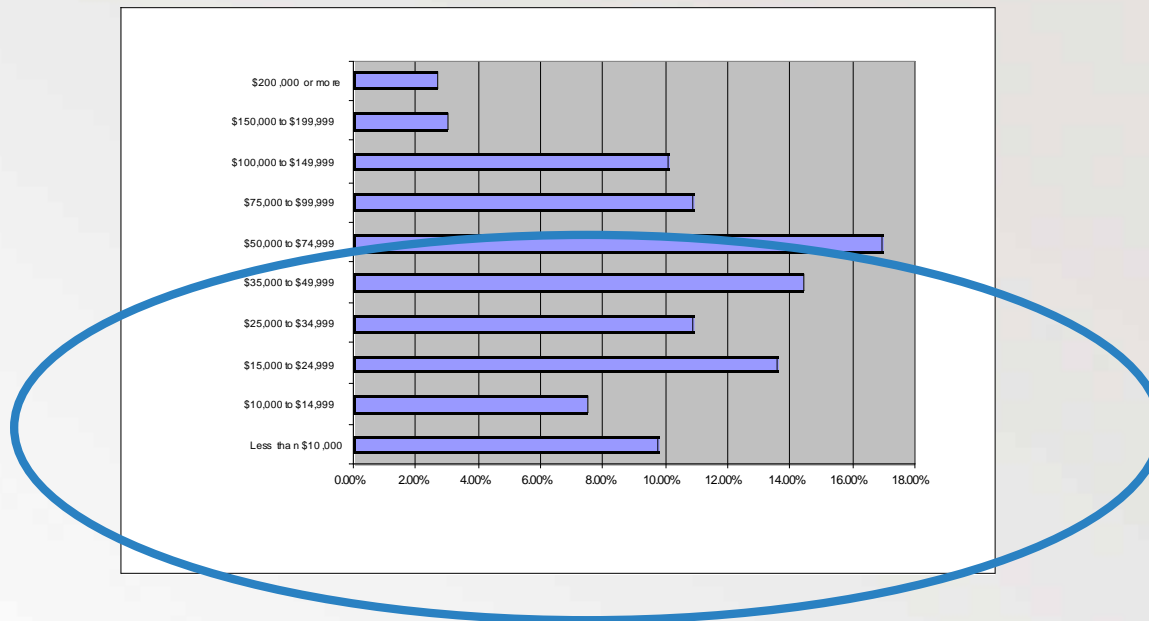
# Obesity Trends* Among US Adults

**(*BMI ≥30, or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5'4" person)**

1990

1998

2006

| | No Data | | <10% | | 10%–14% | | 15%–19% | | 20%–24% | | 25%–29% | | ≥30% |

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# Housing affordability

**About 60% of Louisiana families can't afford to buy median value home ($160,000)**



American Community Survey

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# What is our children's inheritance?

- Old?
- Fat?
- Broke?
- Alone?

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# Smart Growth America providing free technical assistance

- As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities across the nation



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# Smart Growth America providing free technical assistance

- We are now offering technical assistance to local communities interested in building stronger local economies and realizing fiscal cost savings while protecting human health and the environment



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# Smart Growth America providing free technical assistance

- This assistance helps local leaders in urban, suburban and rural communities create local smart growth strategies that make sense for your community



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# Technical Assistance ready to go through 12 smart growth tools

| 12 Smart Growth Tools | |
|---|---|
| Implementing Smart Growth 101 | Planning for economic and fiscal health |
| Regional planning for small communities | Sustainable land use code audit |
| Smart growth zoning codes for small cities | Complete streets |
| Walkability workshop/audit | Transportation performance measurement |
| Parking audit | Implementing transit-oriented development 101 |
| Cool planning: local strategies to slow climate change | Using LEED-ND to accelerate the development of sustainable communities |

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# Gwinnett County, GA

- Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health
- Changing demographics
- Formula for economic growth is changing
- Suburban patterns cost local government



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# Byram, NJ

- Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health

- Changing demographics

- Formula for economic growth is changing

- Suburban patterns cost local government



Image from NJ Highlands Council

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# Northern Maine Development Commission

- Regional Planning for Small Communities
- Organization
- Stakeholder engagement
- Messaging and communications plan

# Pima County, AZ

- Sustainable Land Use Code Audit
- BIG ideas
- Energy conservation/alternative energy
- Community health and safety
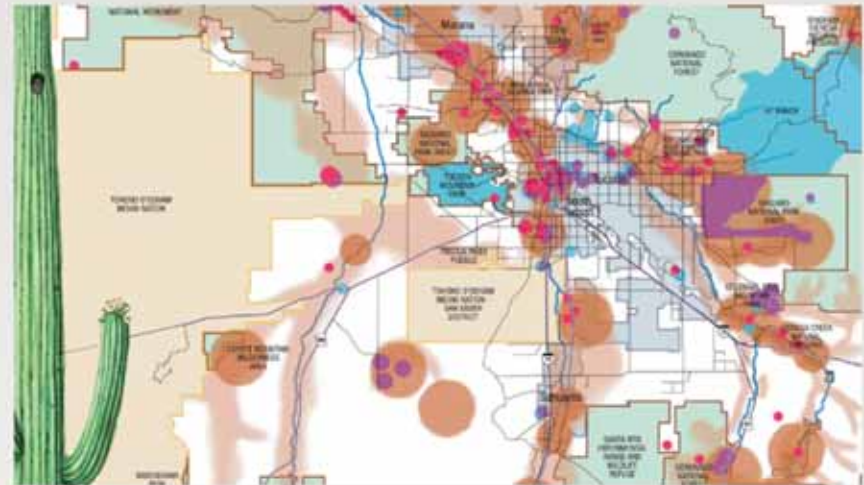- Housing diversity and choice



Image from Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

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# Pittsburgh, PA

- Sustainable Land Use Code Audit
- BIG ideas
- Energy conservation/alternati ve energy
- Green infrastructure and stormwater management
- Housing diversity and choice



Image from Flickr by Wallyg

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# Derry Township, PA

- Smart Growth Zoning Code for Small Cities
- BIG ideas
- Energy conservation/alternative energy
- Green infrastructure and stormwater management
- Housing diversity and choice



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# Deerfield Beach, FL

- Complete Streets
- Organize
- Outreach
- Complete streets policy

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# NOLA

- Complete Streets
- Agency coordination
- Policy implementation



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# Oklahoma City

- **Transportation Performance Measurement**
- We measure what we value
- Element of Plan OKC



Image from Flickr travel aficianodo

# Newark, OH

- Parking Audit
- Parking summary
- Enforcement
- Utilization study
- Long range plan
- Parking district



Image from UrbanOhio.com

# Greer, SC

- Implementing TOD 101
- Regional transit working group
- Develop goals for transit
- Engage community
- Think of corridor as complete street



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# Kimberly, ID

- Cool Planning
- Multimodal circulation study
- Communicate type of growth desired
  - Market research
  - Design guidelines
  - Recruitment
- Regulatory reform
- Infrastructure investment



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# Eastport, ME

- Cool Planning
- Community energy investment strategy
- Energy retrofit pilot program
- District energy solutions
- Community energy concierge



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# Tacoma, WA

- LEED-ND
- 2 sub-area plans
- Workshop input
- Process for working toward eventual LEED-ND certification



Image from Brewery District Development Concept Study

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# Unnamed Place

- **Implementing Smart Growth 101**
- **Lessons learned**

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This technical assistance program is funded under a grant from US EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities through their Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program

http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildcks.htm

We have the freedom to make informed, humane, and intelligent choices about the kind of world we want to leave for our children and grandchildren. We also have the freedom to make uninformed, selfish, and stupid choices. Which will it be? - Greg Pahl

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