DISABILITIES IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

By José R. Argueta

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) has recently concluded a study on the population with disabilities in the Southwestern Pennsylvania (SWPA) region. The study was sponsored by the FISA Foundation and was based on 2000 Census data, including 5% Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files.

Disabilities in Southwestern Pennsylvania analyzes the population with disabilities in the region by county, race/ethnicity, age group, and gender. For the purposes of this study, to use significant data by race, the region's population includes those five years of age and older in the five largest race/ethnic groups (non-Hispanic whites, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic, and Native Americans). The study's population is 2,471,419 persons, or 93.7% of SWPA's total population.

The report shows that 18.6% of the study population, or 459,296 persons, reported one disability or more in 2000. Almost half the region's disabled population, 46.6%, resides in Allegheny County, including 65,477 persons in the City of Pittsburgh. The proportion of disabled residents was highest in Fayette County, where one in four individuals

over age five reported at least one disability. Greene County and the City of Pittsburgh reported the next highest incidence of disabilities in the region at 22.4% and 21.2%, respectively.

Despite variation across the region, SWPA's disability rates are comparable to those in Pennsylvania and slightly

Table 1. Disability Rates in SWPA by County

Geography	Total Population	Population with Disabilities		
		Total	**%County**	**%SWPA**
Allegheny	1,191,440	214,093	18.0%	46.6%
Armstrong	68,027	13,679	20.1%	3.0%
Beaver	169,422	31,412	18.5%	6.8%
Butler	160,037	24,406	15.3%	5.3%
Fayette	139,134	34,597	24.9%	7.5%
Greene	35,988	8,073	22.4%	1.8%
Indiana	84,526	15,532	18.4%	3.4%
Lawrence	87,738	16,994	19.4%	3.7%
Washington	189,486	37,438	19.8%	8.2%
Westmoreland	345,621	63,072	18.2%	13.7%
Pittsburgh	308,366	65,477	21.2%	14.3%
SWPA	**2,471,419**	**459,296**	**18.6%**	**100.0%**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USAGE AND SATISFACTION IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

by Scott Beach

This is the fourth in a series of articles describing initial findings from the UCSUR Pittsburgh Region Quality of Life Survey. The Fall 2003 issue of *PEQ* introduced the survey and presented basic descriptive statistics for various quality of life domains from the pilot telephone survey of 443 Allegheny County residents conducted between

February and April 2003. Random-digit dialing methodology was used, which gives all telephone households in the county, including unlisted numbers, a chance of being selected. Areas with higher concentrations of African American residents were over-sampled to ensure enough cases for analysis of racial differences, and the data were

weighted to reflect this over-sample prior to statistical analysis. In *PEQ* March 2004, additional data was presented on socio-demographic differences in overall perceptions of the region as a place to live. The June 2004 issue presented findings from multivariate models examining predictors of regional perceptions and

DISABILITIES IN SWPA (cont.)

lower than the U.S. as a whole (see Table 2). In the state and region, men's and women's disability rates differed only slightly. In the city, however, women's rates exceeded men's rates in 2000.

The 2000 Census asked respondents to self-report disabilities in six categories. For SWPA, the disabled population is reported as follows:

- *physical disability*: a condition that substantially limits physical activity such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying (26.5%);
- *employment disability*: difficulty working at a job or business (19.6%);
- *mobility*: difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office (19.6%);
- *mental disability*: difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating (14.3);
- s*ensory disability*: blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment (11.6%); and
- *self-care disability*: difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home (8.4%).

Disability types vary across age groups. Among those aged 5 to 15, "mental" disabilities were the most common. For the working age population (16-64), the most common disability was "employment." Among seniors, "physical" disabilities were the most common.

Disability rates increase with age. Again, the SWPA region shows relatively low rates, while the City of Pittsburgh ranks highest in each age category. The senior population (age 65 and over) represents 17% of SWPA's population, but 39% of seniors have at least one disability.

Higher disability rates in the City of Pittsburgh might be explained by more services, resources, and living conditions available to people with disabilities. This does not explain; however, why outlying places, such as Greene and Fayette counties, have disability rates as high as or higher than the City of Pittsburgh. The explanatory variables here may be a combination of race/ethnicity, income, and education/occupation.

The region's African American population, along with Native Americans, reported a higher incidence of disabilities (24.8%) than the non-Hispanic white population (18.2%). The report does not address these differences, but some of the factors might include race-related greater propensity to certain illnesses (e.g. diabetes), greater exposure to occupational hazards, and less access to health care, among others. More research is needed in this regard.

The disabled population also shows other differences from the population as a whole. Disabled individuals are less likely to finish high school (18.8%) than those without disabilities (8.1%). The percent of the population graduating from college is much lower among people with disabilities (12.7%) than among those without a disability (28.2%). Disabled persons are less likely to be enrolled in college or graduate school than the non-disabled population (see Figure 1).

In terms of unemployment, 13.2% of the disabled in Pittsburgh were unemployed in 2000, compared to 10.3% in the SWPA region. Not only are the rates of unemployment among the population with disabilities high but also the percent of the population that is not in the labor market (about 47% among the population with disabilities age 18 to 64).

Finally, higher proportions of disabled individuals live in poverty compared to the non-disabled population. This is particularly true for the City of Pittsburgh, where poverty rates are higher than the region's counties. It is also true for children with disabilities. Children, in general, exhibit the highest poverty rates in a population.

Table 2. Percent of People with Disabilities, Age 5 and Older by Gender and Place, 2000

Place	Disabled Men	Disabled Women
United States	19.6	19.1
Pennsylvania	18.5	18.7
SWPA	18.4	18.8
City of Pittsburgh	20.2	22.2

**Table 3. Percent of People with Disabilities by Age Group and Place, 2000**

Age Group	US	PA	SWPA	PGH
5 -15	5.8	5.7	5.4	6.8
16 -64	18.6	16.9	16.0	18.5
65 and over	41.9	39.4	39.4	44.0
Total (5 and over)	19.3	18.6	18.6	21.2

Thus, children with disabilities are doubly struck by poverty. In the City of Pittsburgh, 45% of disabled children (ages 5-15) and 41% of young people (ages 16-20) with disabilities live in poverty. These figures far exceed U.S., Pennsylvania, and SWPA region rates. On average, one quarter of disabled children live in poverty for the nation as a whole.

Disabilities in SWPA present a geographic and socio-economic portrait of the population. Where the disabled live and who they are is a big step to understanding this population in our region. Diagnosing the nature of "disabilities" and their treatment is the next step in our research.

José R. Argueta is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh and co-author (with Ralph Bangs) of Disabilities in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The report is available online on the UCSUR website: www.ucsur.pitt.edu/publications.htm.

Figure 1. Population Age 18 to 34 Enrolled in College or Graduate School by Disability Status in SWPA, 2000
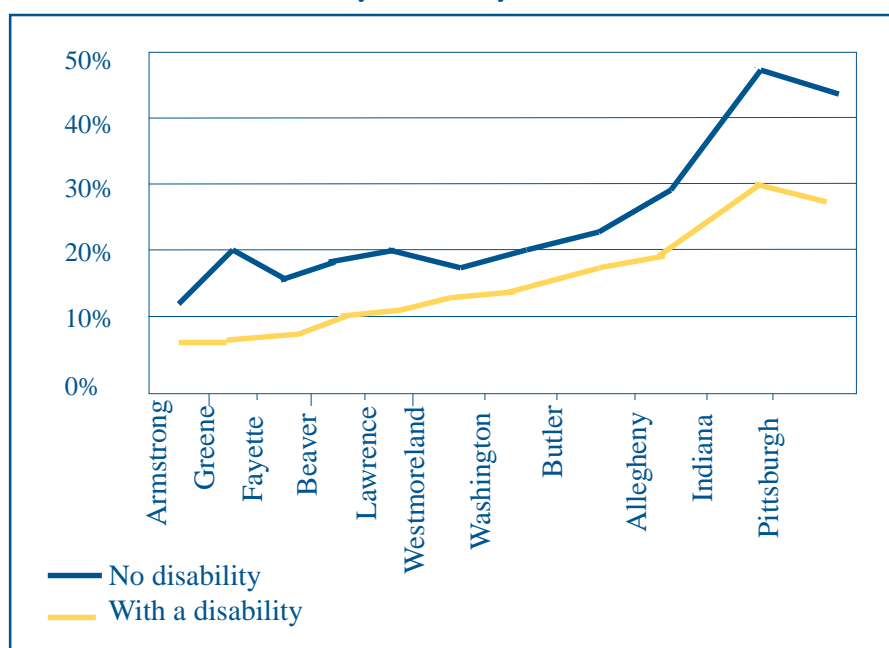
UCSUR SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL BIOTECH WORKSHOP

UCSUR and the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) sponsored a trans-Atlantic research workshop on International Locations in Biotechnology: Europe and the United States. The workshop was held October 6-7, 2004.

The workshop continues research by a network of social scientists organized by Ulrich Hilpert, Professor and Chair of Comparative Government at Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena,

Germany. Other international participants included Professor Jesper Norus, Department of Organization and Industrial Sociology, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark; Dietmar Bastian, Associate Professor, Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Germany; and Professor Desmond Hickie, Dean, School of Business, Management and Law, University College, Chester, United Kingdom. UCSUR faculty and staff also participated.

Dr. Doros Platika, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse, delivered the main address. Workshop sessions and discussion focused on "Locational, Labor and Management Trends in the European Biotechnology Sector" and "Biotechnology: Developments in the United States and Pittsburgh." Participants planned a series of papers around these themes to be published in a future edited volume.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USAGE AND SATISFACTION (cont.)

intentions to relocate from the Pittsburgh region. This article presents findings from one of the many quality of life domains included in the survey -- public transportation usage and satisfaction.

Figure 1 presents descriptive statistics for overall usage of public transportation, public transit as a main source of transportation, frequency of use, and quality ratings of the system, among users. The survey estimated that nearly half (47.2%) of the adult population in Allegheny County uses public transportation. An estimated 12% of the population reported public transit as their primary source of transportation. Looking at frequency of use, 28% reported relatively infrequent use (less than once a week), with 22% saying they use public transportation less than once a month. About 9% said they used public transit once a week or more, and nearly 10% reported daily use. Users were asked to rate the quality of the public transportation from "poor" to "excellent" (see Figure 1). These ratings showed that about 63% of users rated the system as "good," "very good," or "excellent." It should also be noted that public transportation was one of the least positively rated domains in the survey (see *PEQ,* Fall 2003).

Figure 2 presents a demographic profile of Allegheny County adults reporting public transportation as their main source of transportation (12% overall). Demographic sub-groups with significantly higher numbers relying primarily on public transit included African Americans (31%), single adults (23%), City of Pittsburgh residents (25%), and those with a high school education or less (17%). Younger residents aged 18-29 were also more likely to rely on public transit (18.5%), but this was not a statistically significant effect. A multivariate regression model in which all seven factors were entered simultaneously as predictors of primary reliance on public transportation

showed that race, marital status, city residence, and education were *all* significant predictors, and thus appear to have *independent* effects.

Additional analyses exploring demographic and usage level differences in quality ratings of the

public transportation system in Allegheny County were conducted. Demographic sub-groups that were less likely to rate the system as "good" or better (63% overall) included African Americans (54%), single residents (54%), and younger adults (18-29 year

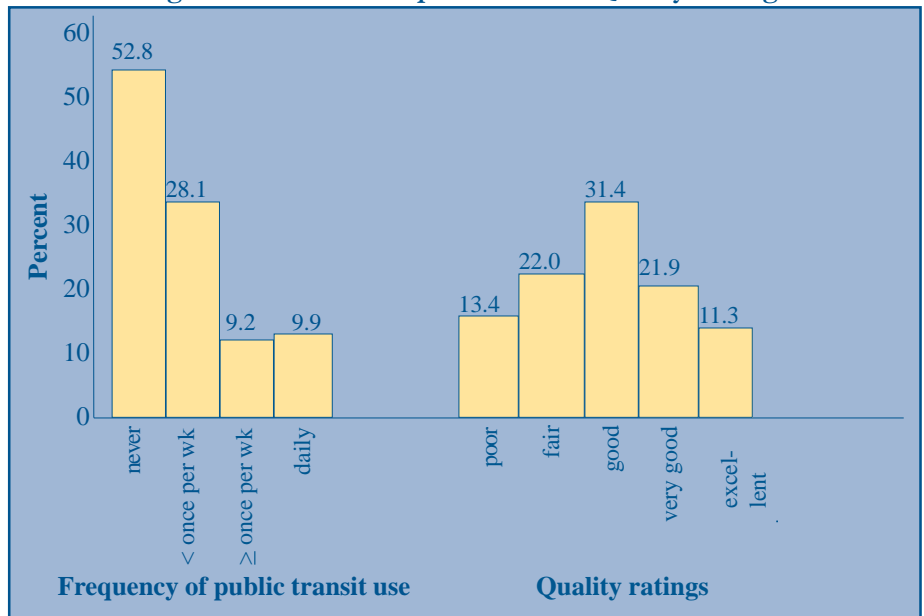**Figure 1. Public Transportation and Quality Ratings**
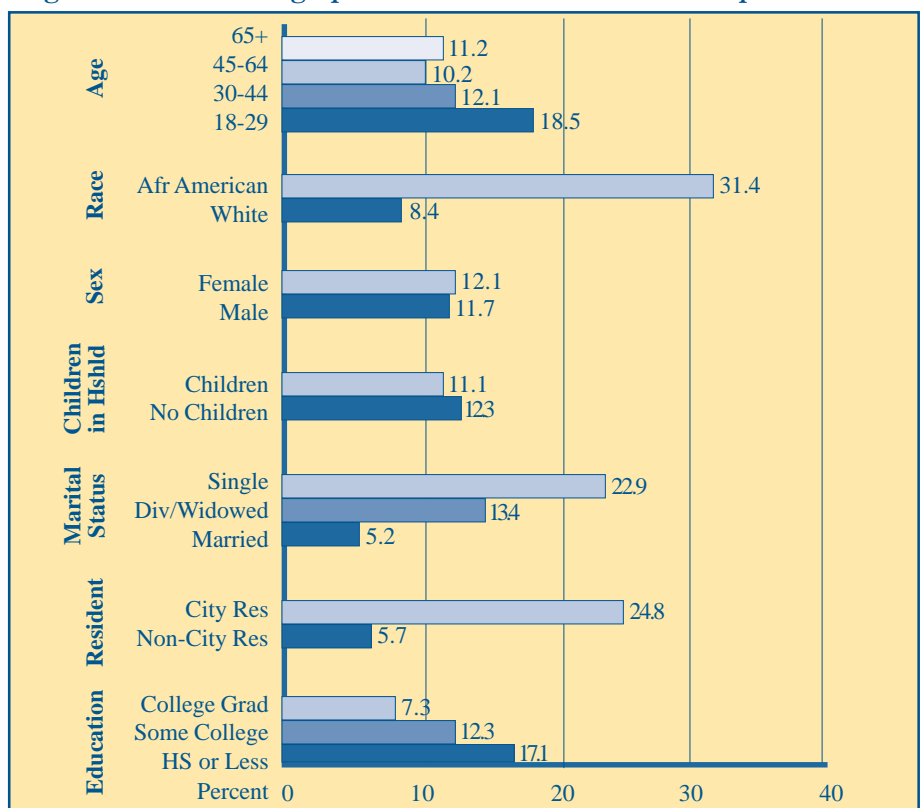

Figure 2. Socio-Demographic Breakdown of Public Transportation Use

olds) (53%). Note that these are the same groups that were more likely to rely on public transportation as their primary source of transportation. In fact, when examining perceived quality by this indicator, 58% of those relying primarily on public transit rated the system as "good" or better, compared to 67% among those who do not rely on public transit. Further, residents reporting daily usage of public transit were also least likely to rate the system positively (54.5% vs. 71% of those riding less than daily).

In sum, the survey revealed that a substantial minority of Allegheny County adults relies heavily on the public transportation system. Reliance is more pronounced among somewhat less economically advantaged sub-groups. Somewhat disturbingly, the results also show that the groups with the heaviest usage patterns are also somewhat less satisfied with the quality of the system. These findings may have important implications given the current public transportation funding crisis and threats of increased fares and service reductions.

These analyses show the potential of the survey to generate policy relevant data. UCSUR is currently seeking funding to conduct: (1) 400 additional surveys with randomly selected Allegheny County residents; (2) 500 surveys of African Americans in Allegheny County; and (3) 800 surveys with randomly selected residents from the 5-county region surrounding Allegheny County. This would allow for more sophisticated analyses involving breakdowns of the findings by race, sex, age, residence, and so on. The survey could also be conducted in smaller geographic areas, resulting in community-level quality of life profiles. Individuals or organizations interested in participating in or supporting such surveys should contact Scott Beach at UCSUR (412-624-5442).

EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS IN THE PITTSBURGH REGION

By Christopher Briem

A new data source from the Census Bureau allows for extensive analysis of regional labor force changes. The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program provides a new set of Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) derived from matching state payroll and employment data with Census Bureau demographic data on individual workers. This new data set allows analysts to show where new jobs are being created. The data also show workers' earnings across industries.

QWI provides specific data on job creation, job separations, average wages and turnovers across industries, age groups and gender. Currently, Pennsylvania's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA) is one of 33 state agencies cooperating with the Census Bureau to make QWI data available, and more states are expected to join the program in the future. Data are available statewide as well as for specific metropolitan areas and counties in Pennsylvania.

One of the new statistics derived from the QWI is a regularly updated measure of turnover within the local labor force. Job turnover is a normal part of the labor market in all regions of the country. Turnover provides an indication of employment duration and measures what proportion of workers are new. Turnover is derived from the number of workers in new jobs as a percentage of total employment. The measure derived from the QWI incorporates only those workers who hold jobs for the entire quarter to eliminate noise caused by the large number of "short spell" jobs lasting less than a quarter.

Turnover is an important workforce indicator for both workers and employers. High turnover can be costly for employers and affects decisions on worker training and education investment. Industries that face persistent high turnover rates will face very different workforce training challenges than industries with lower turnover rates. Low turnover industries may provide workers with greater job security. The causes of turnover are complex, including both voluntary job switching as well as industry-wide job creation and destruction rates. QWI provides a way to measure both the overall worker turnover rate and the turnover rate by industry, age group and gender.

The difference in turnover rates among industries in the Pittsburgh region can be enormous, ranging from less than 5% each quarter for the utility industry to over 30% in retail trade.

Table 1. Quarterly Workforce Indicators
Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, 3rd Quarter 2003

	Pittsburgh MSA	Pennsylvania
Total Employment	1,053,857	5,389,096
Job Creation	93,553	351,600
New Hires	227,749	1,164,267
Turnover	10.70%	11.60%
Average Monthly Earnings	$2,986.00	$3,039.00
Average New Hire Earnings	$1,995.00	$2,394.00

Source: Census Bureau - Quarterly Workforce Indicators

EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS IN PITTSBURGH REGION (cont.)

Worker turnover varies significantly by age. Not surprisingly, the youngest workers show the highest turnover rates while workers in their late 40s and 50s have some of the lowest turnover rates (see Figure 1).

QWI provides new information into the wage rates prevalent in the local economy. One of the most significant new statistics is a breakdown of average monthly earnings for new hires. Previously, the data reported wage rates of all workers in an industry and did not distinguish between new hires and continuing workers. The breakdown of wages specifically for new hires provides important information on current job trends in a region and potential changes in the balance between worker demand and labor supply in specific industries. In the 3rd Quarter of 2003, new hires in Pittsburgh earned 67% of average monthly earnings for all workers.

Planned future enhancements to the LED program include the development of a small area, eventually Census tract-based, origin and destination database for each state. This will allow for the mapping of worker commuting flows that can enhance transportation planning and policy. Eventually, worker migration within and across states will be able to be tracked within the LED program for a new source of data on migration and workforce research. The *PEQ* will provide further analysis from this rich dataset.

The Census Bureau's Local Employment Dynamics Program is available online at:http://lehd.dsd.census.gov

Figure 1. Job Turnover by Age Group Pittsburgh MSA - 3rd Quarter 2003

Source: Census Bureau-Quarterly Workforce Indicators
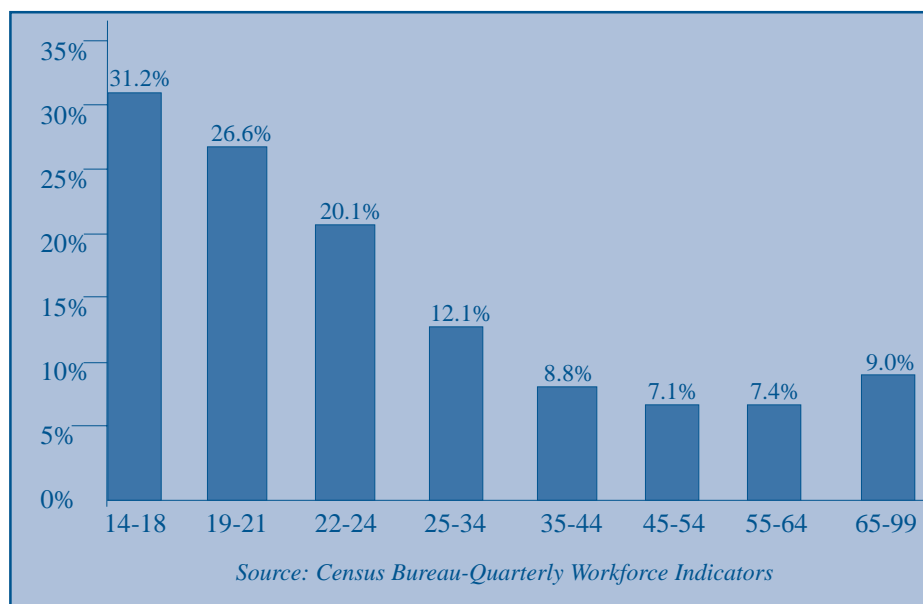
ELDERLY MIGRATION BETWEEN PITTSBURGH AND FLORIDA

By Christopher Briem

Elderly migration is a substantial part of domestic migration within the United States. Across the nation, typical elderly migration patterns are away from the Northeast and Midwest, and toward the South and West.

Elderly migration patterns for the Pittsburgh region are consistent with elderly migration patterns nationally. Florida attracted the largest absolute number of elderly migrants (age 65 and over) leaving Pittsburgh in the late 1990s. Even with elderly in-migration factored in, Florida generates the largest net loss of elderly population from Pittsburgh.

The movement of retirees generates a sizable transfer of income and wealth between regions of the country. Florida has estimated that the direct spending by the population age 50 and over accounts for half of all consumer expenditures in the state, representing over four million jobs. Much of Florida's economic gain from these retirees represents economic loss for the states they leave behind.

Though net migration between Pittsburgh and the top destination states remains negative, some seniors do move to Pittsburgh. There are sizable flows of elderly migrants moving into the Pittsburgh region, which continue to affect the regional population and economy. The largest number of elderly movers to Pittsburgh come from Florida and Ohio. Seniors moving to Pittsburgh from elsewhere in the U.S. differ from seniors moving out of the region, most significantly by age. For example, on average, "younger" elderly – most likely recent retirees – move from Pittsburgh to Florida, while "older" elderly leave Florida for Pittsburgh – many likely return migrants. Over 73% of the migrants leaving Pittsburgh for Florida are under age 75, compared to less than 33% of those moving from Florida to Pittsburgh.

The age difference between elderly in-migrants and elderly out-migrants is reflected in both differences in marital status and disability levels for the two groups. Elderly migrants leaving Pittsburgh for Florida are far more likely to be married (70%) compared to those moving into the Pittsburgh region (41%). Likewise, the probability of being widowed is lower among out-migrants (23%) than for in-migrants

(47%) to the Pittsburgh region. At the same time, the incidence of disability among out-migrants is significantly lower than the incidence of disability amongst in-migrants to the Pittsburgh region.

The Census data used here do not distinguish which migrants moving to the Pittsburgh region are return migrants who lived in Pittsburgh previously, but return migration is likely to be a significant part of older elderly migration flows. This suggests that increasing health care needs may be a major factor in some elderly migration, which may also be linked to the location of family members to assist in care for the migrant. Other potential reasons for inter-regional elderly migration include the desire to be near family, fiscal factors such as taxes and housing costs, and climate and other natural amenities.

Overall, the migration flow between Pittsburgh and Florida is characterized by a trading of younger and healthier retirees for those who are older, with a greater incidence of disability. The result has impacts on regional health care and policy initiatives targeting the elderly population.

Not all elderly migration involves long distance moves such as to Florida or back. Elderly migration within the region is also a significant population movement affecting Pittsburgh and other regions. The residential mobility

of elderly has a strong impact on patterns of aging and the concentration of elderly in specific communities.

Elderly migration is likely to become a larger factor as the national elderly population increases in coming decades. A greater proportional increase will come from migration of the older elderly population, age 85 and over. National migration rates actually increase amongst the older elderly age 85 and over, compared to the younger
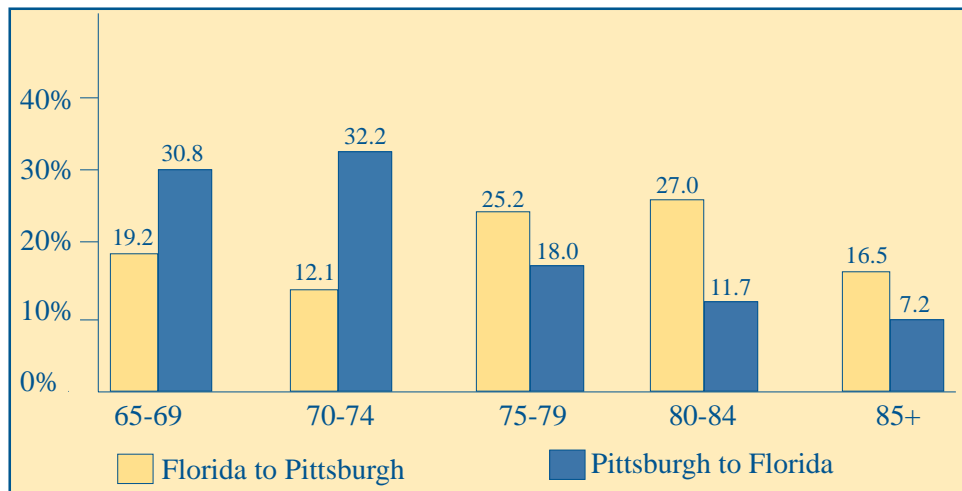
elderly. As the population age 85 and over grows significantly faster than other age groups in the population, more older elderly migration can be expected.

The data in this article come from the Census 2000 question which asked selected individuals their residence on April 1, 1995, or five years earlier. Moves at other times and seasonal moves are not captured by these data.

Table 1. Elderly Migration from Pittsburgh, 1995 to 2000
States with Largest Net Migration from Pittsburgh

	From Pittsburgh	To Pittsburgh	Net Migration
1. Florida	2,544	1,463	-1,081
2. North Carolina	675	209	-466
3. Arizona	557	122	-435
4. Texas	455	65	-390
5. Georgia	383	29	-354
6. Kentucky	264	0	-264
7. South Carolina	367	129	-238
8. Virginia	387	178	-209
9. Nevada	203	7	-196
10. California	569	376	-193
11. Ohio	708	528	-180
12. Maryland	444	275	-169
13. Colorado	135	0	-135
14. Massachusetts	233	103	-130
15. Maine	83	0	-83
16. Connecticut	132	72	-60
17. Arkansas	59	0	-59
18. Tennessee	93	35	-58
19. Missouri	66	13	-53
20. Delaware	49	0	-49

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Elderly Migrants Between Pittsburgh and Florida, 1995-2000

Figure 1. Age Distribution of Elderly Migrants Between Pittsburgh and Florida, 1995-2000

Age group	Florida to Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh to Florida
65-69	19.2	30.8
70-74	12.1	32.2
75-79	25.2	18.0
80-84	27.0	11.7
85+	16.5	7.2

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