



## Inside This Issue

Students Working on Urban and Regional Analysis Projects, 2014–2015 . . . . . 5

UCSUR Welcomes Visiting Scholar Noam Shoval. . . . . 7

Urban and Regional Brown Bag Seminar Series . . . . . 7



## The State of Aging in Allegheny County

■ By Richard Schulz

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) has just completed its report *State of Aging in Allegheny County*. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of aging in Allegheny County and updates results from UCSUR’s 2003 *State of Aging* publication. *State of Aging in Allegheny County* integrates survey data collected from representative samples of county residents with secondary data from federal, state, and county agencies to characterize older individuals on multiple dimensions. Because baby boomers represent the future of aging in the county, we include data for those age 55–64 as well as those age 65 and older. Here we summarize key findings along with some of the major themes of the report.

### Demography

The demography of aging in Allegheny County has had three distinct phases of growth, decline, and growth.

Phase one was the rise in share of the elderly population stemming from the out-migration of younger workers during the 1980s. As overall population levels declined, the proportion of the population age 65 and over increased to 18 percent by the mid-1990s, making the county one of the oldest in the nation. In the years after (1995–2010), both the number and proportion of persons age 65 and over declined, even though the rest of the nation was experiencing increases.

We are now in another growth phase. The proportion of elderly is expected to increase to nearly 22 percent of the population by 2030, and by 2040, the proportion of elderly in both Allegheny County and the United States is expected to stabilize, at 21 percent of the population age 65 and over (see Figure 1).

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## Residential Segregation and Changes within Allegheny County, 1970–2010

■ By Sabina Deitrick and Christopher Briem

Much has been written about population growth and decline in our region, including often here in *Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly*. As we wrote in the June issue, the forces of deindustrialization on population loss extended well beyond the 1980s to population impacts resonating into the 21st century. Likewise, the distribution of Allegheny County’s population by race—Black and White—has changed significantly over recent decades. While many of the changes reflected broader population shifts that were occurring across many metropolitan areas of the United States, some are more reflective of our own regional context.

In this issue, we analyze geographic shifts in the region’s Black population over communities in Allegheny County. Data at the U.S. Census Bureau tract level were compiled from the Neighborhood Change Database (NCDB) 2010, a product of GeoLytics, Inc., developed in partnership with the Urban Institute.

NCDB recompiles U.S. census data across multiple decades into consistently defined variables and census

tract boundaries. This provides an extensive source from which to examine spatial change at the neighborhood and community level.

For example, the Census Bureau’s method of collecting and tabulating data on race has changed significantly over time. Starting with the 2000 decennial census, individuals could report themselves as one or more of six racial groups: White, Black/African American, Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and “some other race.” In previous censuses, respondents could choose only one racial group.

In order to report consistent data across decades, NCDB bridges the varying data on race into single categories. The multiracial categories used in the 2000 and 2010 data are reapportioned into single racial groups. Data on the Black population analyzed here represent the respondents who reported themselves as Black or African American alone or Black or African American in combination with any of the other race categories defined by the Census Bureau. For instance, in Allegheny

■ ■ ■ continued on page 4

## The State of Aging in Allegheny County

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Demographic trends in Allegheny County also will vary significantly by race and gender over the coming decades. The number of non-Hispanic White men age 65 and over is projected to increase by 50 percent between 2010 and 2050, while the number of White women age 65 and over is projected to increase by 24 percent. By comparison, the number of Black men age 65 and over in Allegheny County is projected to increase by 129 percent between 2010 and 2050, while the number of Black women is projected to increase by 100 percent.

Finally, there are approximately 300 residents 100 years of age or older in Allegheny County, which is projected to surpass 1,000 centenarians by 2040.

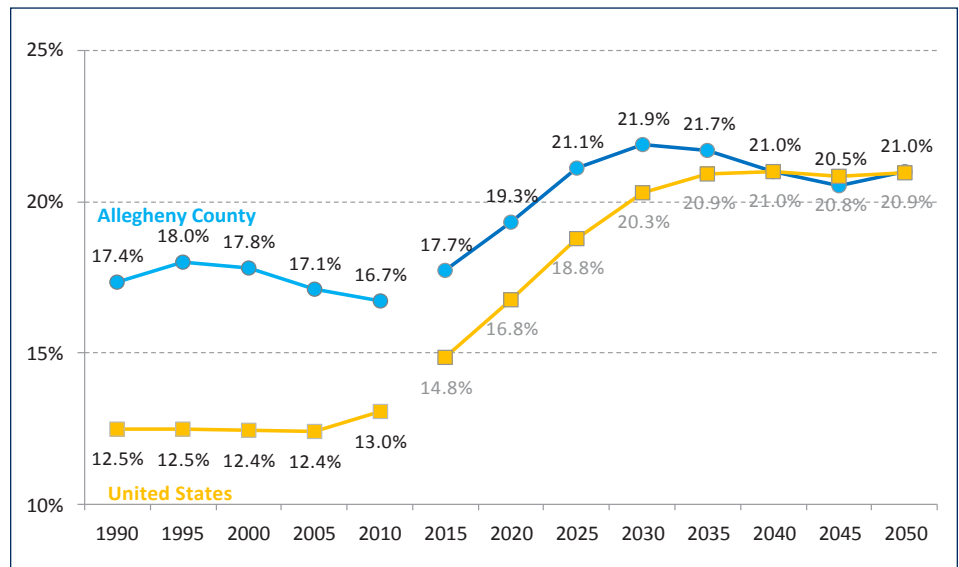
### Work and retirement

Labor force statistics compiled for the Pittsburgh metropolitan statistical area (MSA) show increasing labor force participation among the population age 65 and over. For 2013, an estimated 26.4 percent of men and 15.7 percent of women age 65 and over remained in the workforce (see Figure 2). Both rates of labor force participation represent significant increases from just seven years before, when an estimated 18.2 percent of men and 9.7 percent of women age 65 or older were in the labor force.

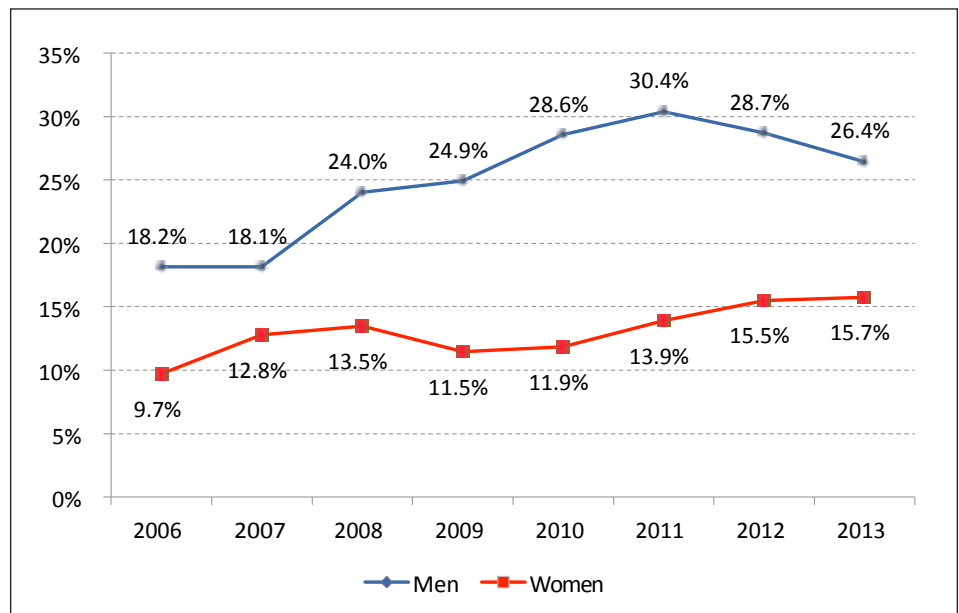
Among those already retired, however, residents of Allegheny County were more likely to retire at younger ages (60–64) when compared to the nation as a whole—40.6 percent versus 32 percent, respectively.

For workers still in the workforce, retiring later in life is becoming the norm. Only 18.7 percent of current workers expect to retire between the ages of 60–64, with another 17.7 percent expecting to retire at age 65. The largest segment of current workers in Allegheny County, 42.1 percent, expect to retire at age 66 or older, while, remarkably, a substantial number expect never to retire (11.4 percent).

**Figure 1. Proportion of Population Age 65+, Allegheny County and United States, 1990–2010, with Projections to 2050**



**Figure 2. Labor Force Participation Rates for Persons Age 65+ by Gender, Pittsburgh MSA, 2006–13**



As reported in *Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly* in September 2013, retirees in Allegheny County have a great deal of confidence in their ability to meet the financial needs of retirement. Allegheny County retirees consistently report a somewhat higher level of confidence in retirement finances than U.S. retirees, on average, and among individuals still in the workforce,

confidence in their expected financial condition in retirement also is high. Nonetheless, levels of confidence about finances in retirement are generally lower among Blacks and those with lower levels of educational attainment. Retirement confidence also is somewhat lower for current workers than for those who have already retired, both in Allegheny County and across the United States.

### Communities, volunteering, and retirement

Older adults are somewhat concentrated across Allegheny County municipalities. In 33 of 130 municipalities in the county, the population age 65 and over represents a fifth or more of the total population, with Aleppo Township's having the largest share of residents age 65 and over with 54 percent (see Figure 3).

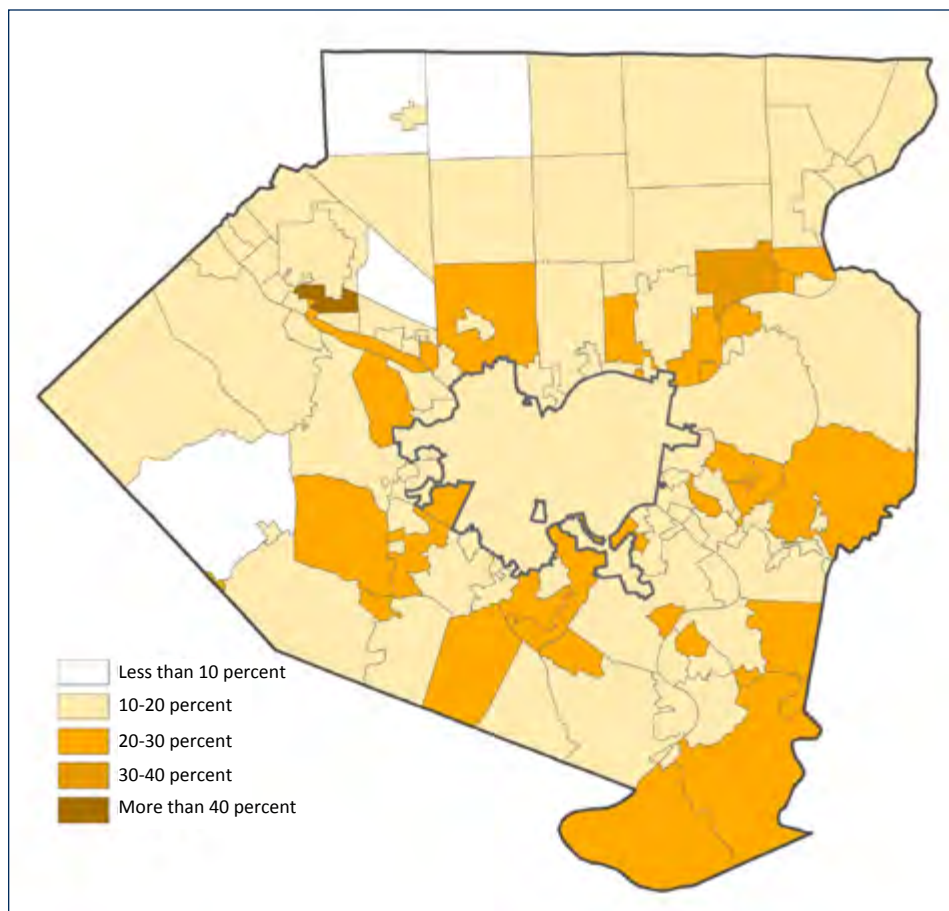
Five municipalities have concentrations of the population age 85 and over in excess of 5 percent of total population: Aleppo (23.6 percent), Harmar (7.1 percent), Whitehall (5.4 percent), East Deer (5.3 percent), and Avalon (5.1 percent).

Respondents to our aging survey reported a high level of residential stability over the past 10 years, with 77.9 percent reporting having lived in their current residence for 10 years or more and 95.6 percent having lived in Allegheny County for 10 years or more.

Looking to the future, older adults in Allegheny County also largely plan to stay in place for the next five years, with only 16.1 percent planning to move to a new home, 6.2 percent planning to move out of the county, and 4.4 percent planning to move from the region. Our study shows that older Allegheny County residents are more likely to remain in place than older adults in Pennsylvania or the United States. Nonetheless, there is some out-migration from Pittsburgh to common retirement destinations and a small but appreciable migration into the region as a retirement destination, often a return of previous residents.

Availability of community amenities and retirement considerations play a significant role in decisions about where to move. Among those who intend to move in the next five years but stay in the region, the factors cited as important in choosing a community to move to included housing costs (62.3 percent), crime and safety (55.7 percent) and proximity to family (54.1 percent). Also important were amenities such as access to health care (45.7 percent), access to commercial establishments (40.4 percent), access to other public services (39.0 percent), and access to public transit (28.4

**Figure 3. Proportion of Population Age 65+, Allegheny County Municipalities, 2010**



percent). Among those planning to move in the next five years, retirement was cited as a part of the reason by almost a quarter of respondents, and nearly half (47.2 percent) responded that "a house designed or modified to accommodate older adults or those who have disabilities" will be very important in their next choice of residence.

The report's analysis also covers life after retirement. For older adults, particularly those who are no longer working, engagement in community activities is important not only as a means to give back but also for their own well-being. Volunteering is one very important way for older adults to remain engaged and to be a part of the community as well as to contribute to society as a whole.

The overall volunteering rate is relatively high in Allegheny County among those age 55 and over, with the majority of older adults, 60 percent, reporting having volunteered in

the last 12 months either formally through an organization or informally on their own.

The *State of Aging in Allegheny County* report also covers the additional keys areas of income and poverty, health, transportation, regional economic impacts, housing, social relations and social support, advance directives and end-of-life planning, informal caregiving, senior service use, life satisfaction and happiness, and use of the internet and social media. Taken together, the report presents the most comprehensive analysis of older residents in Allegheny County ever conducted.

*State of Aging in Allegheny County will be available on UCSUR's Web site [www.ucsur.pitt.edu](http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu). Preparation of this report was supported in part by the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging and the United Way of Allegheny County.*

## Residential Segregation and Changes within Allegheny County, 1970–2010

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County in 2010, 161,861 residents identified as Black or African American alone, with an additional 14,495 residents identifying themselves as two more races that included Black or African American. Thus, this brings Allegheny County's Black or African American population total for 2010 to 176,356 in NCDB.

Examining population by race in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County shows a combination of population change that is general across urban areas of the United States over these decades and specific to change in the locality. The City of Pittsburgh's White population began to decline in the 1930s and registered its steepest falls from the 1960s onward. In those years, White population loss reflected an expansion of suburbanization across the United States stemming from White flight, urban renewal, highway building, segregation, and subsidized suburban housing development.

By contrast, most African American residents of Allegheny County lived in the City of Pittsburgh in the middle of the 20th century as the Black population in Pittsburgh grew steadily, reaching 104,904 residents in 1970, the peak Black population in the city.

By the 1970s, however, that growth ended. Population loss in the City of Pittsburgh extended across both racial groups from the 1970s through the 2010 census, and between 2000 and 2010, the city's African American population declined by a larger share than White population loss.

The African American population in suburban communities in Allegheny County, however, was growing. This shift reflected, in part, national trends occurring across many cities in the United States. With changes in civil rights and fair housing policies forged in the 1960s and 1970s, many areas of metropolitan regions that previously were segregated opened up to new African American residents who were relocating to nearby suburbs from city neighborhoods. The suburban African American population in Allegheny County grew by 19.3 percent in the 1960s and 22.1 percent in the 1970s and continued with double-digit growth into the 2000s.

As the Black population grew and expanded in Allegheny County's suburban communities, the degree of racial residential segregation reduced over time. The index of dissimilarity is a measure of spatial distribution of White and Black populations as measured by census tract. The index ranges from 0, signifying no residential segregation by race, to 1, meaning complete racial segregation.

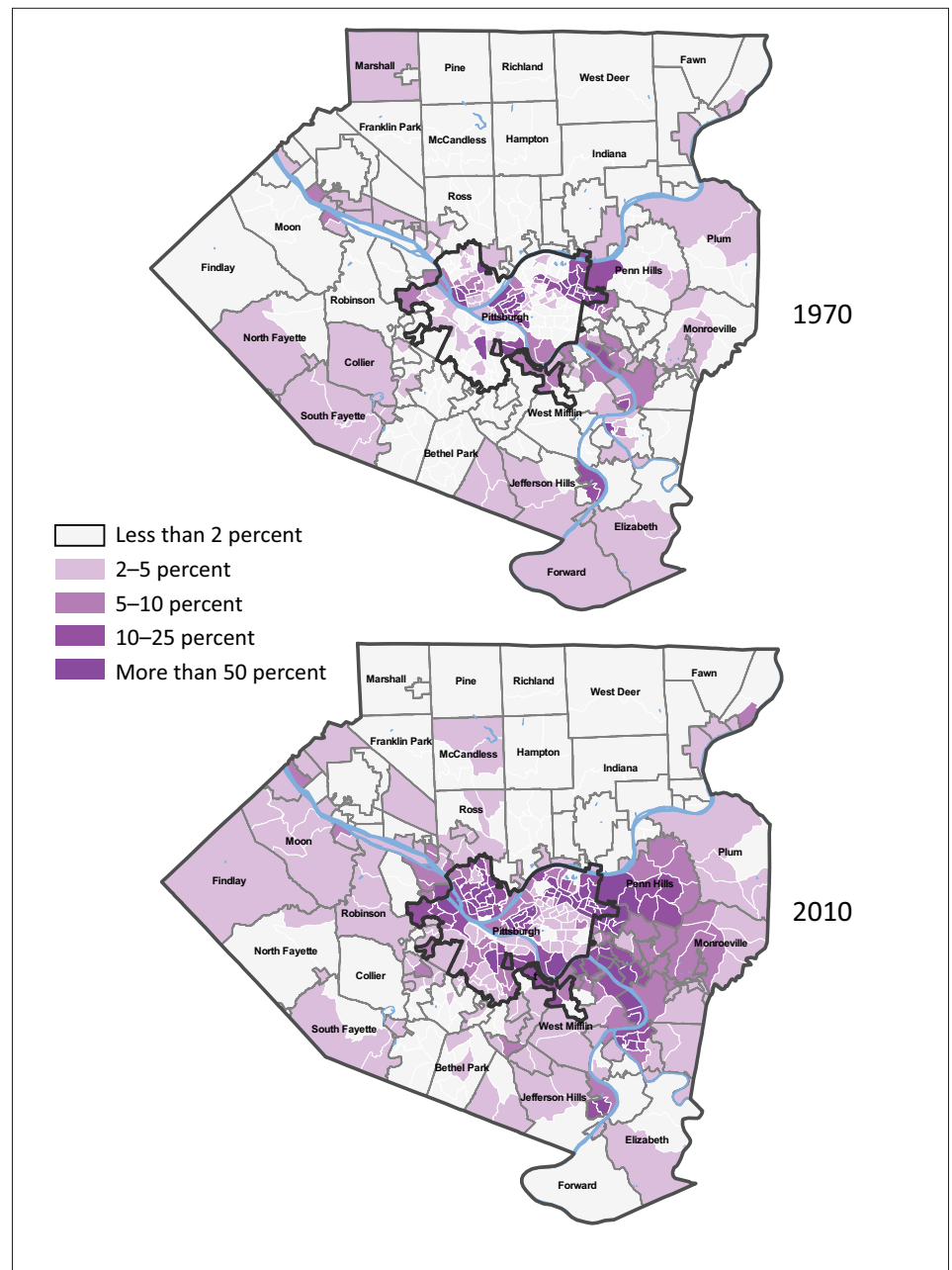
Though residential segregation between White and Black residents is high in Allegheny county, the index of dissimilarity dropped over

the 1970–2010 period, from an index of 75.5 in 1970, signifying very segregated housing in the County, to 62.0 in 2010, representing a sizable drop in measurable segregation by race.

Using population data from NCDB allows us to show the growth of the African American population in Allegheny County's suburbs after 1970 and the increasing dispersion of the Black population across Allegheny County over the last four decades (see Figure 1). Between 1970 and 2010, both the scale

■ ■ ■ continued on page 6

**Figure 1. Percent Black Population by Census Tract, Allegheny County, 1970 and 2010**



# Students Working on Urban and Regional Analysis Projects, 2014–15

This year, the Urban and Regional Analysis program at the University Center for Social and Urban Research is pleased to host the following students working with us on our projects:

**Joshua Childs** is a PhD candidate in the Learning Sciences and Policy program in Pitt's School of Education. Josh earned a BA at the University of Tulsa with a major in early education and history and an MA in educational foundations, policy, and practice at the School of Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. Josh's research focuses on the role of interorganizational networks for supporting school improvement, how organizational collaborations can address chronic absenteeism in urban areas, and the policy implications of large-scale educational reforms on urban schools and districts. Josh is working at UCSUR on the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Urban Institute project, Improving Communities through Integrated Data Systems, a collaboration with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. He is involved in community outreach and dissemination of the results that center on reducing chronic absenteeism in area public schools.

**Patrick Cornell** is a second-year student in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at Pitt. He is working toward a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in policy research and analysis. Patrick graduated from Pitt in 2012 with a BS in mathematics and a BA in economics. This year, he is studying Brazil and the Portuguese language as a U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow. At UCSUR, Patrick is working with the Urban and Regional Analysis Program on the Data Use and Evaluation Pilot project, funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation.

**Megan Fabbri** is an advanced-standing Master of Social Work student in Pitt's School of Social Work, with a concentration in community organization and social action. Megan received her Bachelor of Social Work from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and has extensive international experience throughout Latin America. She would like to obtain additional international experience after graduating in December. Currently, Megan is working on the Data Use and Evaluation pilot project, funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation, and assisting on review and dissemination of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles Web site.

**Se Yeon Hwang** is a recent Master of International Development graduate from the GSPIA, with a focus on development planning. She obtained her BA in political science from Yonsei University and her Master of Public Policy from Seoul National University in South Korea before she came to GSPIA in August 2012. She has worked for the South Korean government; Seoul National University; the Korea Institute of Public Administration; and Gallup Inc., where she built foundations in public policy and administration. She joined UCSUR to work on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles project, funded by the Human Services Integration Fund of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. She also assisted on the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System Users' Conference held in June. She is currently seeking to continue her studies in urban planning at the doctoral level.

**Abigael Wolensky** is pursuing a Master of Public Administration with a major in urban and regional affairs at GSPIA. In December 2013, Abigael completed her undergraduate degree in urban studies and history, with a concentration in urban policy and administration, at Pitt. She serves on the board of Auberle in McKeesport, Pa., through her participation in the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership's Leadership Portfolio Program at GSPIA. At UCSUR, Abby researches entrepreneurialism and small business development in the Mon Valley as a part of UCSUR's project with the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Advancing Entrepreneurship in the Mon Valley Region, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's U.S. Economic Development Administration.



### Residential Segregation and Changes within Allegheny County, 1970–2010

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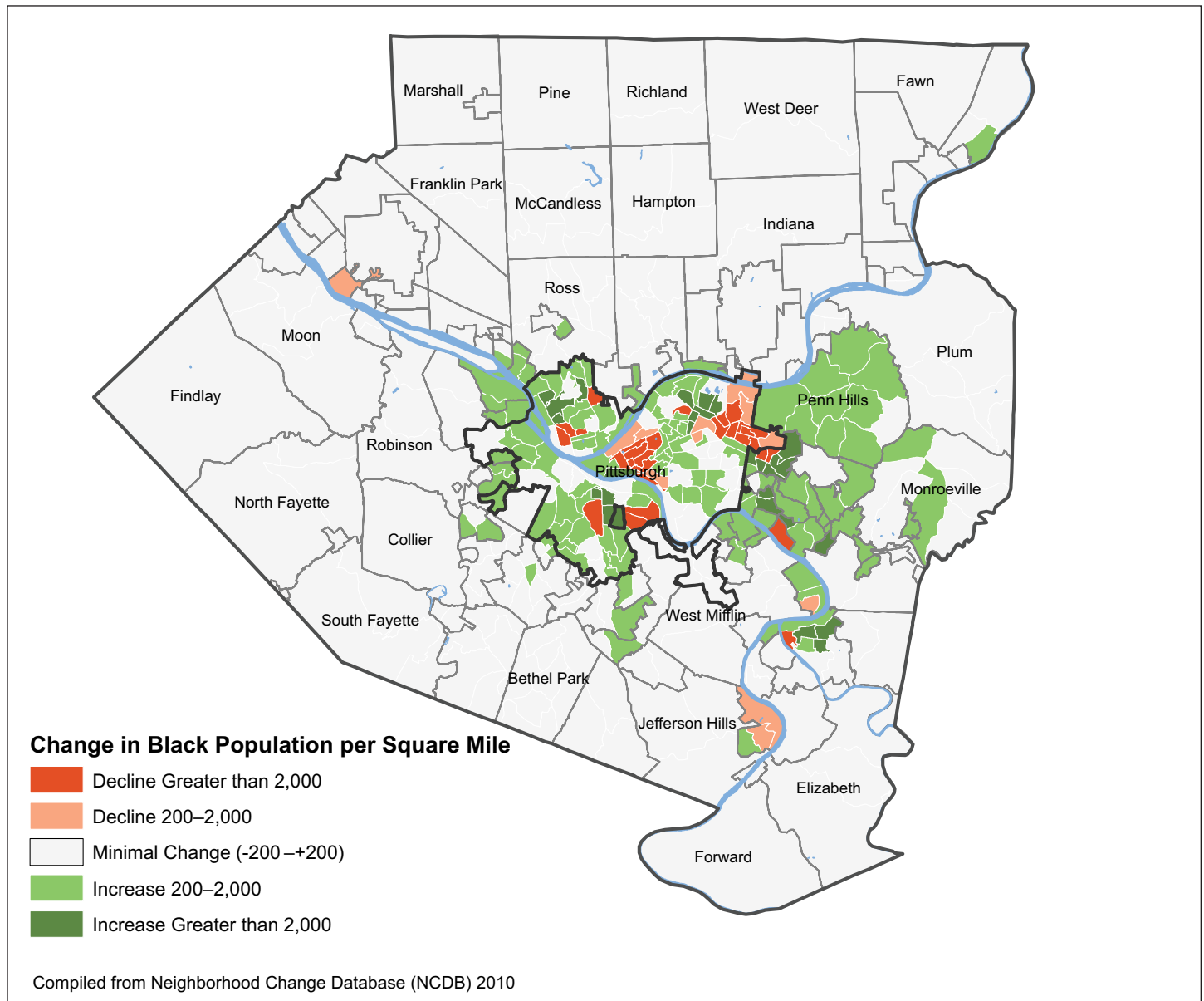
and scope of suburban Black residents expanded throughout the county, particularly in the eastern suburbs.

While the county's African American population grew and expanded in the suburbs, the continued population loss of African American population in the city of Pittsburgh has affected its largest African American neighborhoods. Figure 2 is a map showing

the net change in the African American population by census tract as measured by population density, or persons per square mile. This map shows significant declines in the Black population of several traditionally African American neighborhoods within the City of Pittsburgh, particularly the census tracts that comprise the Hill District and Homewood neighborhoods. The map also shows significant increases in the Black population in several of the Hilltop neighborhoods of the City of Pittsburgh and its inner-ring suburbs.

This residential location of Allegheny County's African American population has dispersed over recent decades across suburban communities in the county while declining in the former traditional Black neighborhoods of the City of Pittsburgh. With consistent population and geographic census data over the 1970–2010 period, NCDB shows a long-standing suburbanization trend that has continued into the current period.

**Figure 2: Change in Black Population Density, Allegheny County, 1970–2010**



# UCSUR Welcomes Visiting Scholar Noam Shoval

The University Center for Social and Urban Research is pleased to welcome Noam Shoval, associate professor of geography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as a visiting scholar.

Shoval is a Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professor for the 2014–2015 academic year, sponsored by the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. He also will be teaching courses in Jewish studies, religious studies, urban studies, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and the graduate certificate program in gerontology.

Shoval completed his PhD at the Hebrew University (2000) and conducted postdoctoral research in the Department of Geography, at King's College of London (2000–01). He was an Alexander von Humboldt Research fellow (2007–08) in the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University in Germany.

Shoval's main research interests are urban geography and planning; urban tourism; and the implementation of advanced tracking technologies in various areas of spatial research, such as tourism and urban studies and medicine. He has published almost 100 scientific publications and two books, including his most recent book, *Tourism, Religion and*

*Pilgrimage in Jerusalem* (Routledge, 2015).

Shoval has led or coled several international research projects, including on visitors' activities at the PortAventura theme park on the Costa Dorada of Spain; tourist time-space activities in Hong Kong; aging and cognitive decline in Germany and Israel; and, most recently, time-space activities of cruise passengers in Palermo, Italy.

As a town planner, he is currently an external advisor to the new Danish master plan for transportation and also is a member of planning teams of three master plans in Israel: the city of Herzliya, the Druze village of Jolis, and the Tirat HaCarmel development town. He also was recently involved in urban tourism planning in Tangshan, a hot springs resort town near Nanjing, China.

Shoval will be conduct a public seminar on November 21 at noon at UCSUR titled *the Potential of Tracking Technologies for Research in the Social Sciences*.

## Urban and Regional Brown Bag Seminar Series Fall 2014

### University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research

Unless otherwise noted, all presentations begin at noon and take place at UCSUR, 3343 Forbes Avenue (across from Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC) RSVP to [pncis@pitt.edu](mailto:pncis@pitt.edu).

#### **Who Benefits from Collaborative Planning? Reclaiming the 185th Street Corridor in Cleveland**

**Friday, October 17, 2014**

Jordan Yin, PhD, Director of Undergraduate Programs, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

#### **Creative Cities: The Future of Research in Urban Arts and Culture**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2014**

Ann Markusen, PhD, Professor Emerita and Director, Arts Economy Initiative, Project on Regional and Industrial Economies, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn (Note location, 3911 Posvar Hall, Pitt campus)

#### **Land Banks and 'Land Aid' in Pennsylvania Cities and Towns**

**Friday, November 7, 2014**

John Kromer, Senior Consultant, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

#### **The Potential of Tracking Technologies for Research in the Social Sciences**

**Friday, November 21, 2014**

Noam Shoval, PhD, Visiting AICE Professor, University of Pittsburgh, and Professor, Department of Geography, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

#### **Inclusionary Eminent Domain: Reconciling the Fifth Amendment Takings Clause with Affordable Housing, Urban Development, and Planning Law**

**Friday, December 5, 2014**

Gerald S. Dickinson, Real Estate Group, Reed Smith LLP, Pittsburgh, Pa.



# University of Pittsburgh

## University Center for Social and Urban Research

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### Recent Publications by the University Center for Social and Urban Research

*Hazelwood Neighborhood Profile 2010* (10/12)

*Young Adults Report* (8/12)

*The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey* (7/12)

*Who Moves to Lawrenceville and Why?* (5/12)

*Migration Trends in the Pittsburgh Region: Update* (12/11)

*City of Pittsburgh Neighborhood Profiles—American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2005-2009* (6/11)

*Incorporating Mt. Oliver Borough's Data in the PNCIS: Project Summary and Lessons Learned* (7/11)

*Foreclosure in South Pittsburgh's Hilltop and Effective Responses* (7/11)

*City of Pittsburgh Neighborhood Profiles—Census 2010 Summary File 1 (SF1) Data* (7/11)

*Allegheny County Health in Black and White, Volume Two, Black Papers on African American Health* (8/11)

*Estimating the Supply and Demand of Affordable Housing in Allegheny County* (3/11)

*Impacts of Vanpooling in Pennsylvania and Future Opportunities* (2010)

*Social Return on Investment Case Study Analysis: Community Human Services and the Union Project* (1/09)

*The Nonprofit Sector: An Economic and Community Asset* (1/09)

*EEO Employment Data for Allegheny County and the Pittsburgh Region* (2/08)

*Gender Wage Disparity in the Pittsburgh Region* (12/07)

*The Impact of Nonprofit, Large Landowners on Public Finance in a Fiscally Distressed Municipality: A Case Study of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania* (11/07)

*The Impact of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and UPMC Cancer Centers on the Pittsburgh Regional Economy* (10/07)

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