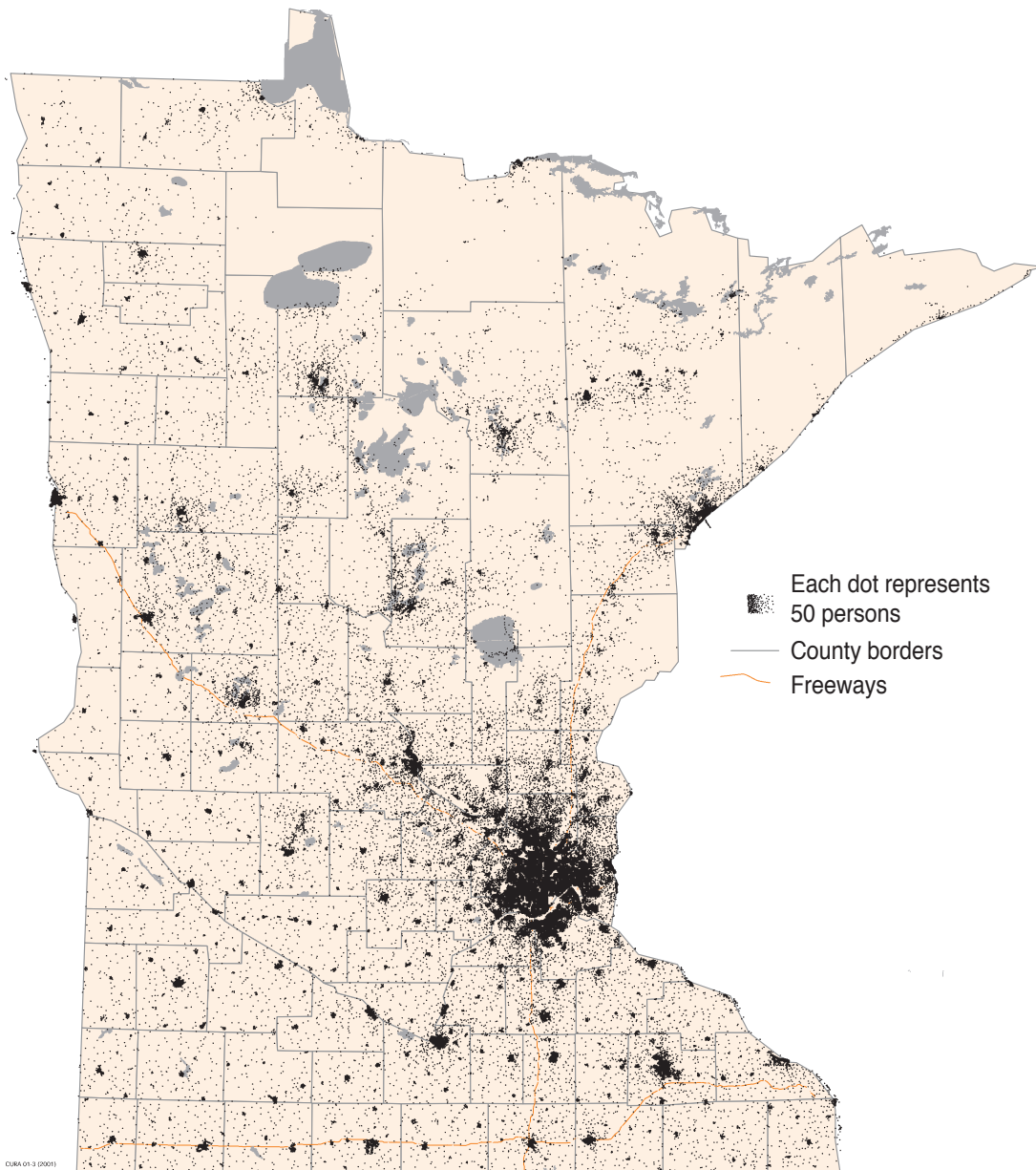


Population Density in 2000

In the 1990s, more than ever before, the population of Minnesota moved increasingly toward regional centers. The state's population is especially concentrated in a band stretching from the Twin Cities southeast to Rochester and northwest through St. Cloud and up into the central lakes region.

Map provided by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota Cartography Laboratory and the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

This map is based on the 2000 U.S. Census. Dots were plotted within each city or township across the state. Within the Twin Cities metropolitan area and for many cities in greater Minnesota, block data were used to allow more accurate placement of dots. Some manual adjustments were made to remove dots from parks, or to add dots where rounding errors would have eliminated them. In more sparsely populated areas of the state, dots may summarize a population scattered across a wide geographic area.



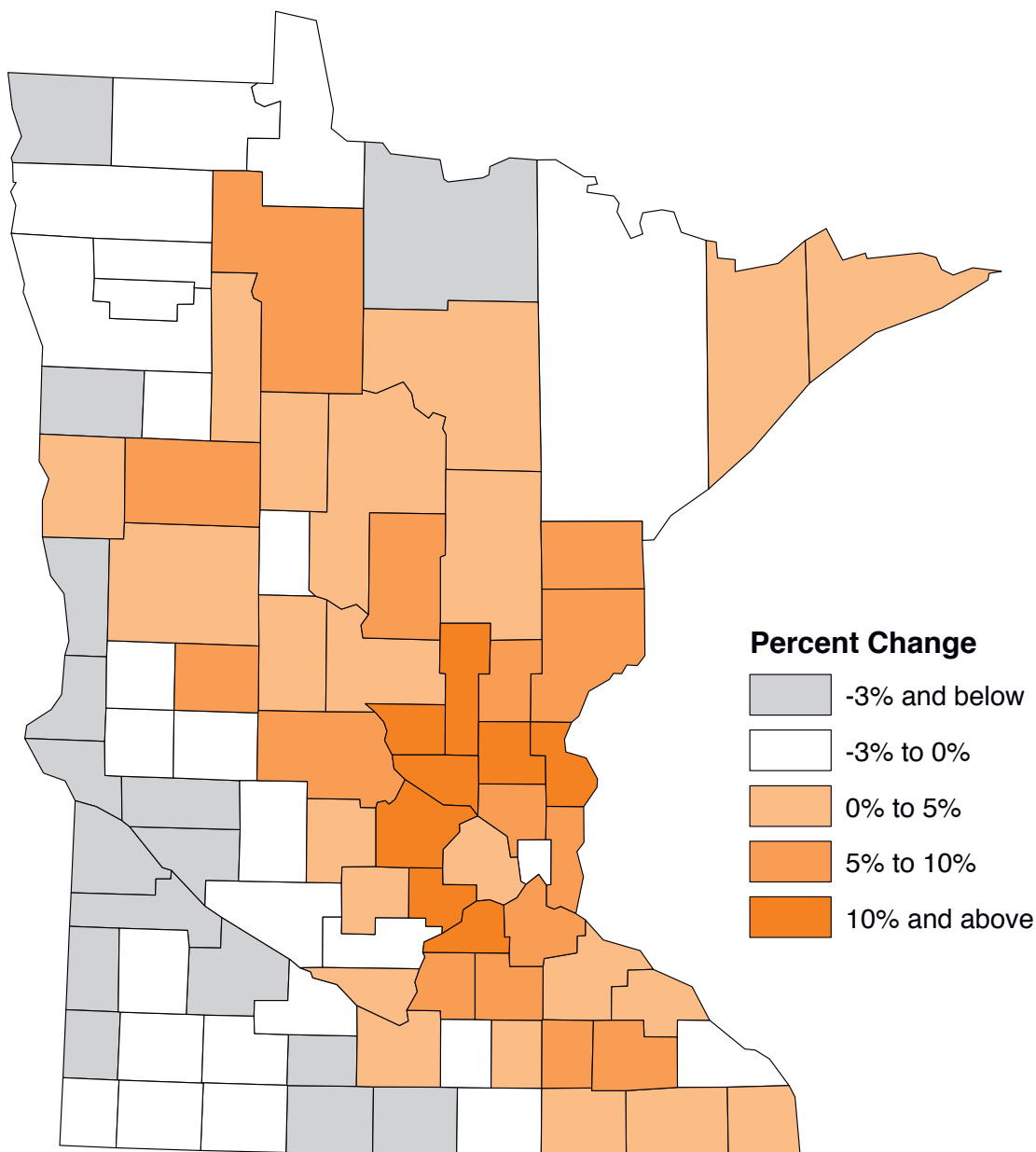
- Each dot represents 50 persons
- County borders
- Freeways

CURA 01-3 (2001)

Data source: U.S. Census, 2000
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Population Change, 2000-2004

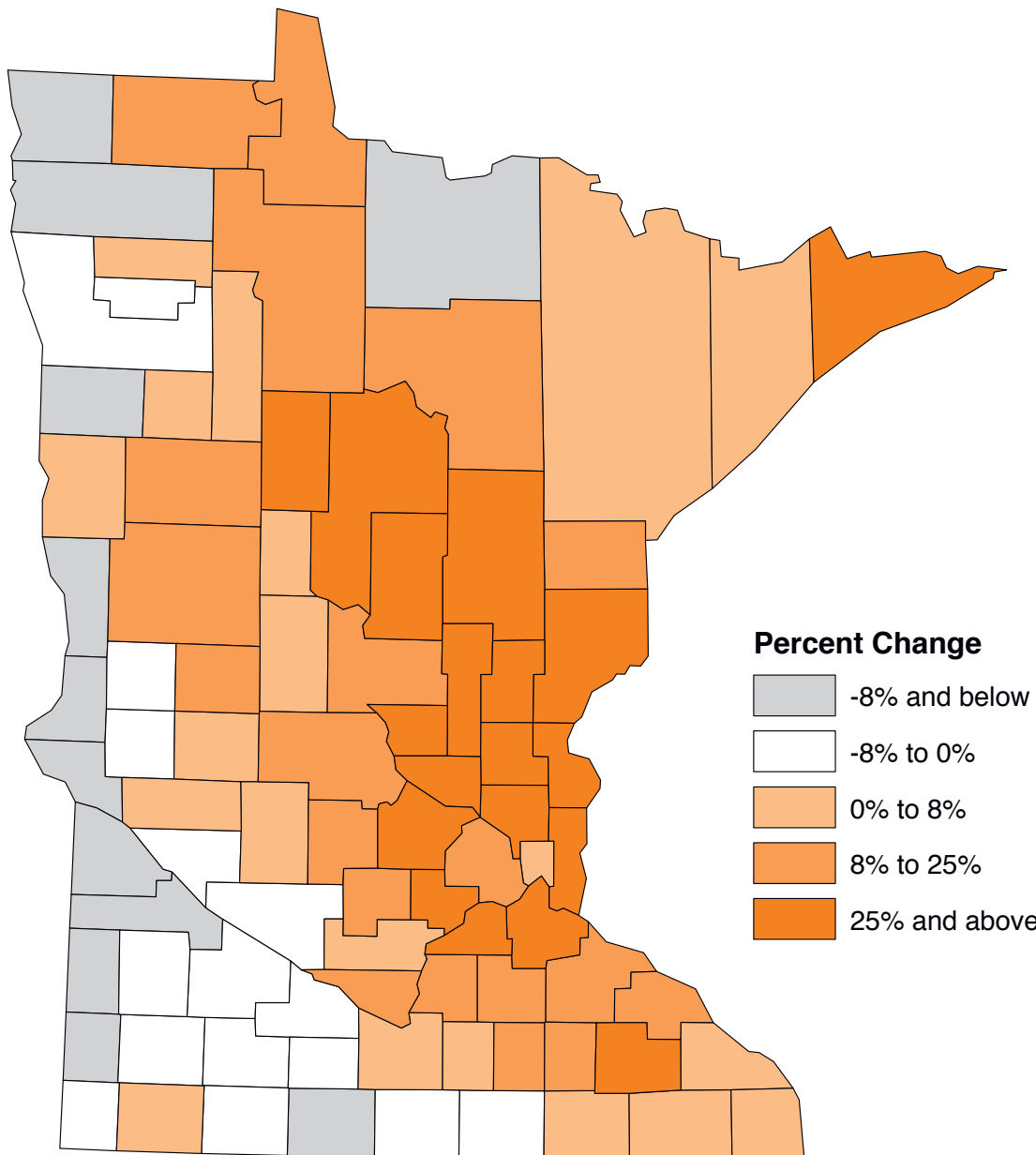
The U.S. Census is taken every ten years, but in between those times, governments and other groups relying on data still need up-to-date population counts. To provide that information, the U.S. Census Bureau provides population estimates. Those estimates are produced by the individual states – in Minnesota's case, the State Demographic Center – and are based on a combination of current records and statistical methods that generate a reasonable estimate of the population without having to count every individual. Between the last Census count in 2000 and 2004, the state's population is estimated to have increased 3.7%.



Data source: U.S. Census, 2005
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Population Change, 1990–2004

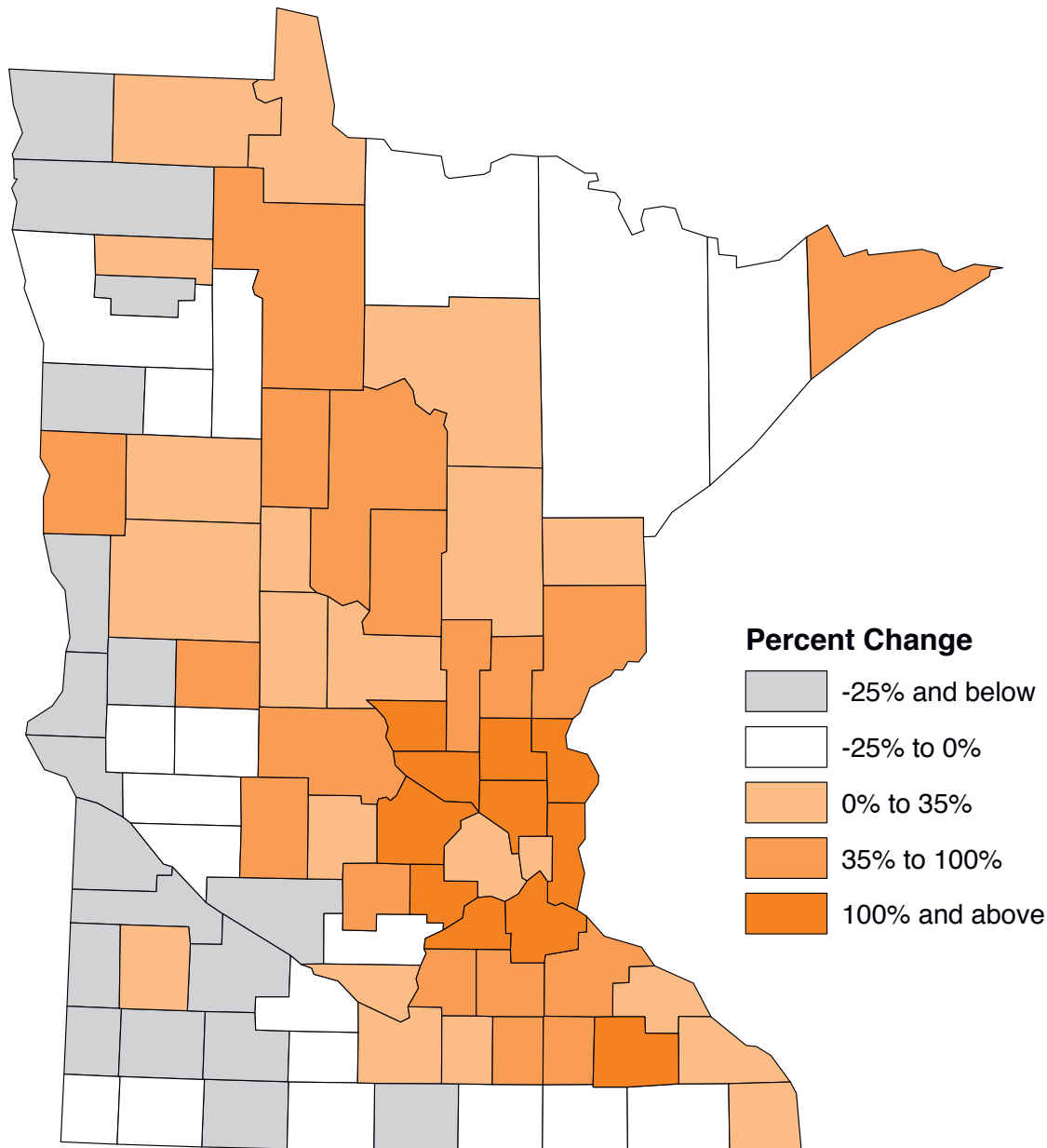
From 1990 to 2004, the state grew by an estimated 726,000, from 4.4 million to 5.1 million, but that growth was not evenly spread throughout the state. Counties within 50 to 75 miles of the Twin Cities showed dramatic growth, especially Sherburne, Carver and Scott counties. The swath of growth continues up into the burgeoning lakes region. Meanwhile, the far western and southern counties continued to lose population.



Data source: U.S. Census, 2005
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Population Change, 1960–2004

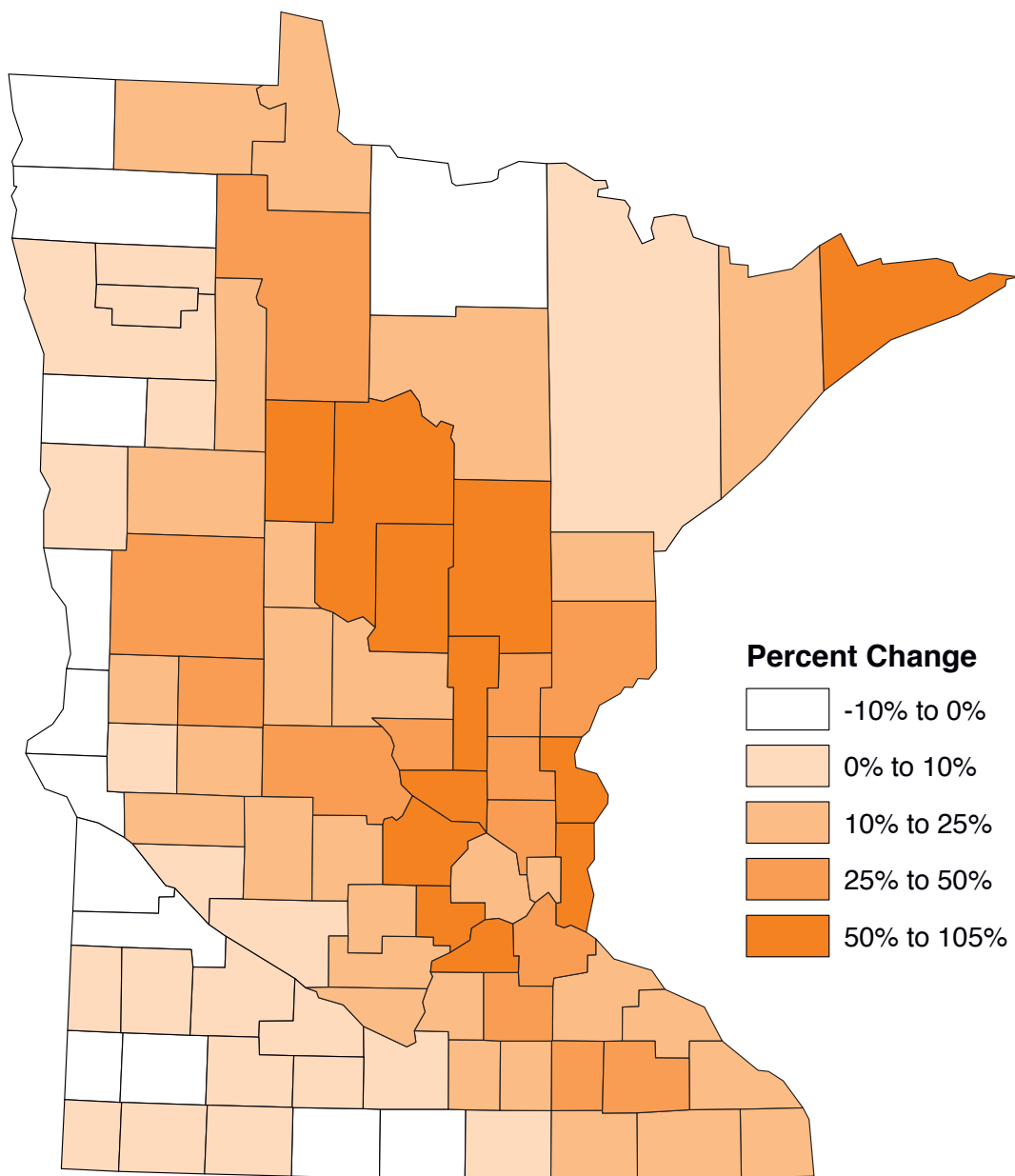
The population patterns of the 1990s are only a continuation of trends over the last 45 years. Population shifted to the metropolitan areas of the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester, and at an only slightly lesser rate, up through central Minnesota, while people left the mostly agricultural counties of the west and south. One exception is Lyon County, in southwestern Minnesota, due in part to the presence of a university and a large immigrant population. The big winner was Sherburne County, at 512%.



Data source: U.S. Census, 2005
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Projected Population Change, 2000–2030

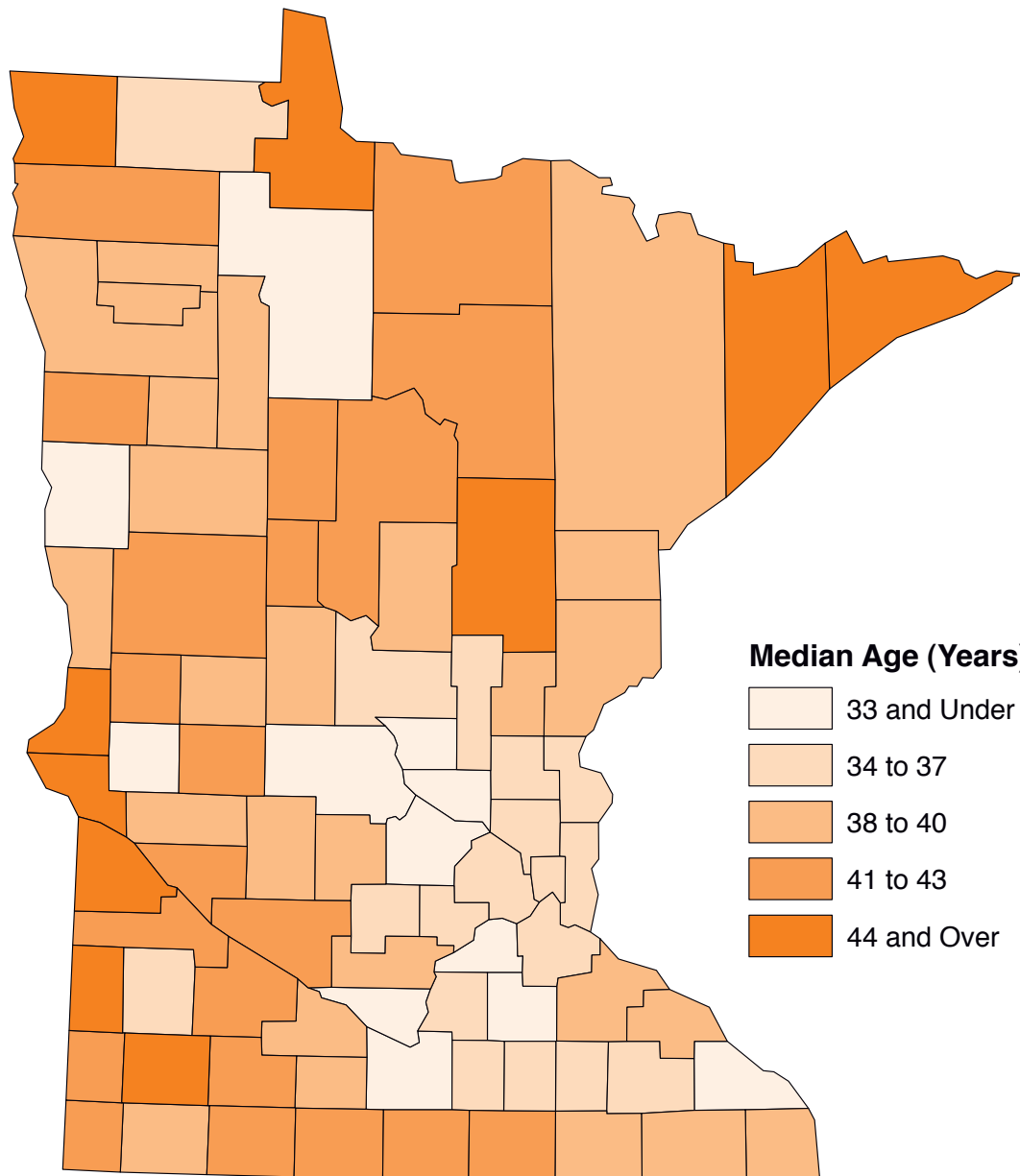
Minnesota's State Demographic Center projects that the population trends will continue much as they have: the western and southern counties will lose population while growth will continue to radiate out from the Twin Cities and north into the central lakes region. The state's total population is projected to increase by 27% in the next 30 years, but that population will also be aging, perhaps explaining some of the growth projected to take place in the lakes and resort counties.



Data source: Minnesota State Demographic Center
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Median Age of Population, 2004

Median age – the age at which half the population is older and half is younger – gives an indication of the overall age of the population. In general, fast-growing suburban areas with young families (Sherburne, Wright and Scott), counties with large institutions of higher education (Lyon, Winona, Stearns and Blue Earth), and counties with large minority populations (Blue Earth, Clay and Beltrami) tend to have a lower median age. On the other hand, counties that have seen a steady increase in retirees or an outward emigration of younger people have seen their median age rise.



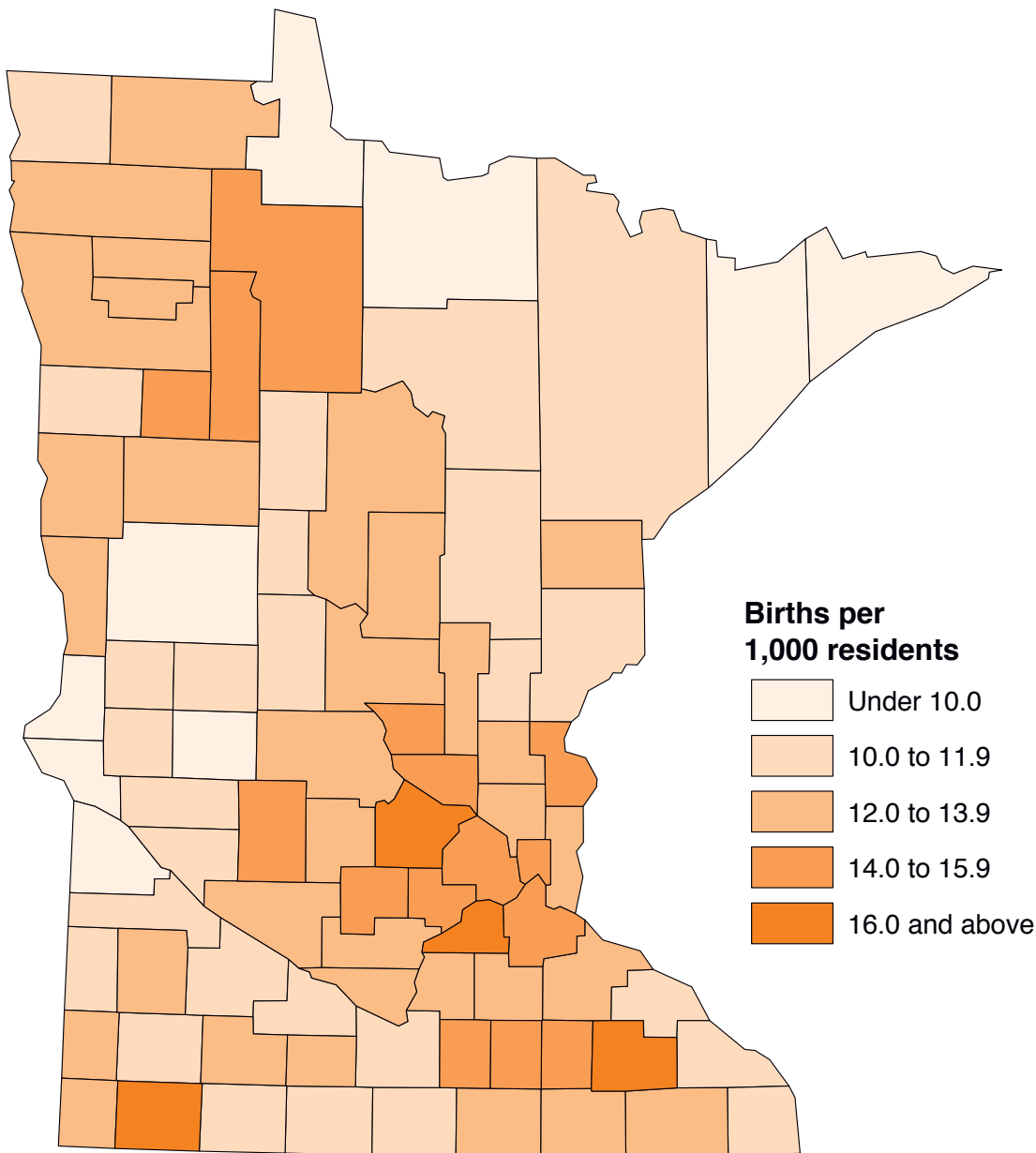
Median Age (Years)

- 33 and Under
- 34 to 37
- 38 to 40
- 41 to 43
- 44 and Over

Data source: U.S. Census, 2005
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Birth Rates, 2004

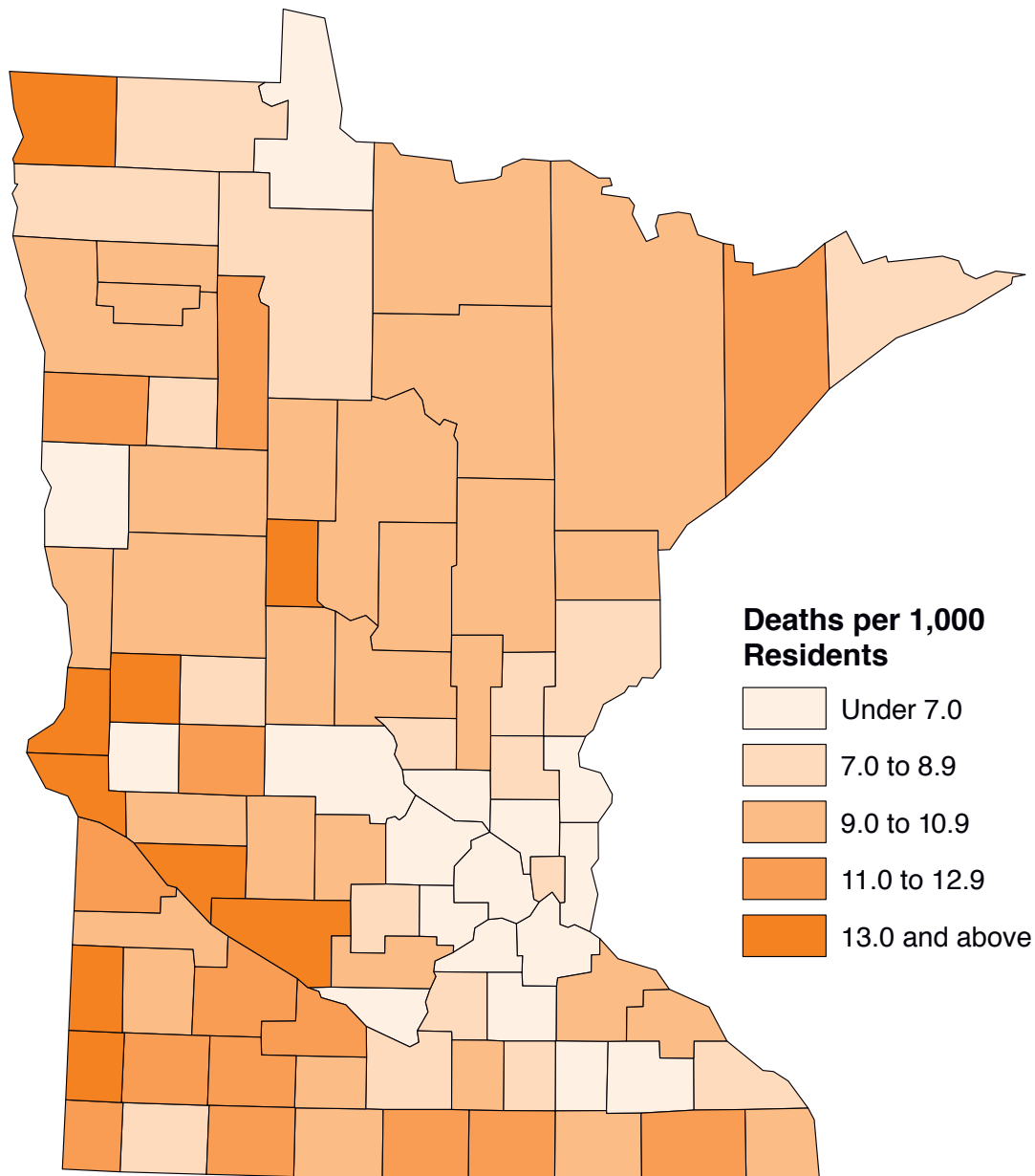
The highest birth rates are found in the ring counties around the Twin Cities. Higher rates can also be found in Olmsted, Nobles and other counties rural Minnesota with larger ethnic minority populations, who tend to have larger families.



Date source: Minnesota Department of Health
 2004 Minnesota Health Statistics Annual Summary
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Death Rates, 2004

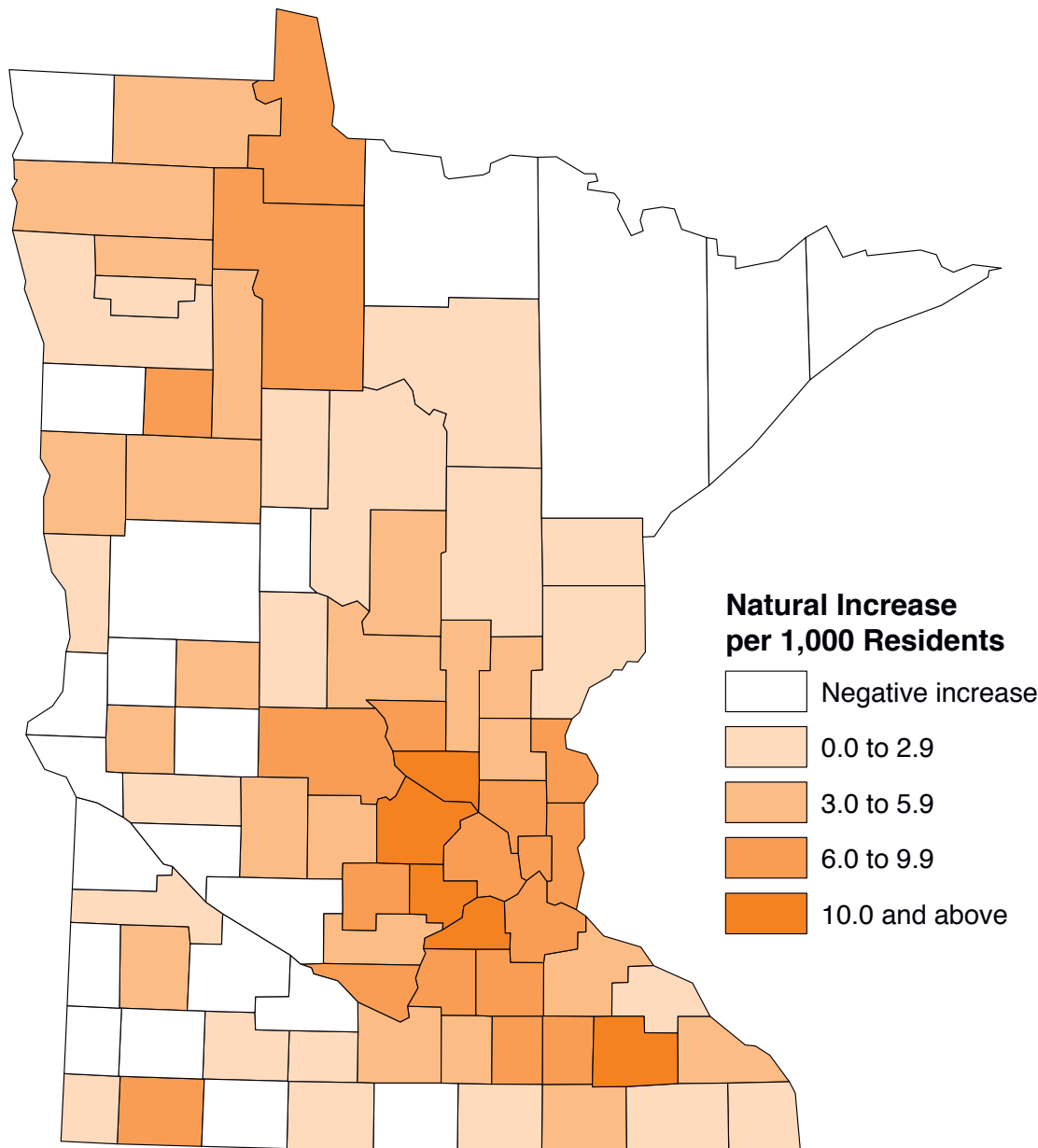
Death rates tend to be higher in areas where there are proportionately more elderly residents. The younger population concentrates around the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester, and in college counties such as Clay, Stevens and Blue Earth. The older population is clustered in the western and southern counties, where elderly residents have stayed in place, and in the northern counties, where many retirees have moved.



Data source: Minnesota Department of Health
 2004 Minnesota Health Statistics Annual Summary
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Natural Rate of Increase, 2004

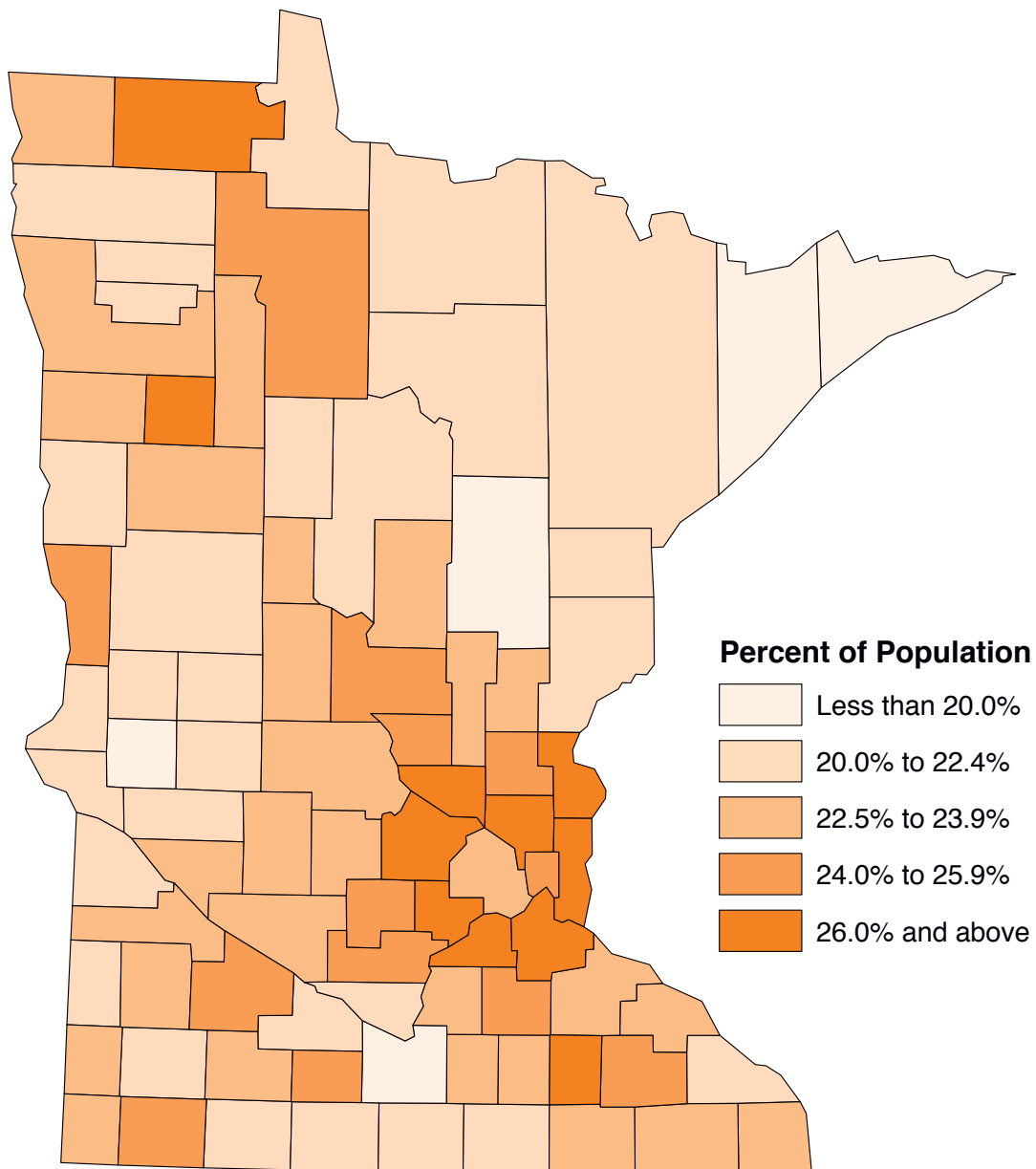
Natural increase shows the rate at which the population is increasing (or decreasing) due to natural causes – births minus deaths divided by the population. The highest increase for 2004 can be seen in the western suburbs, Olmsted County and in the north central counties, while several northeast, southwest and western counties showed a natural decrease: more deaths than births. This does not, however, take into consideration immigration, which is driving population growth in many rural counties.



Data source: Minnesota Department of Health
 2004 Minnesota Health Statistics Annual Summary
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Population Under Age 18, 2004

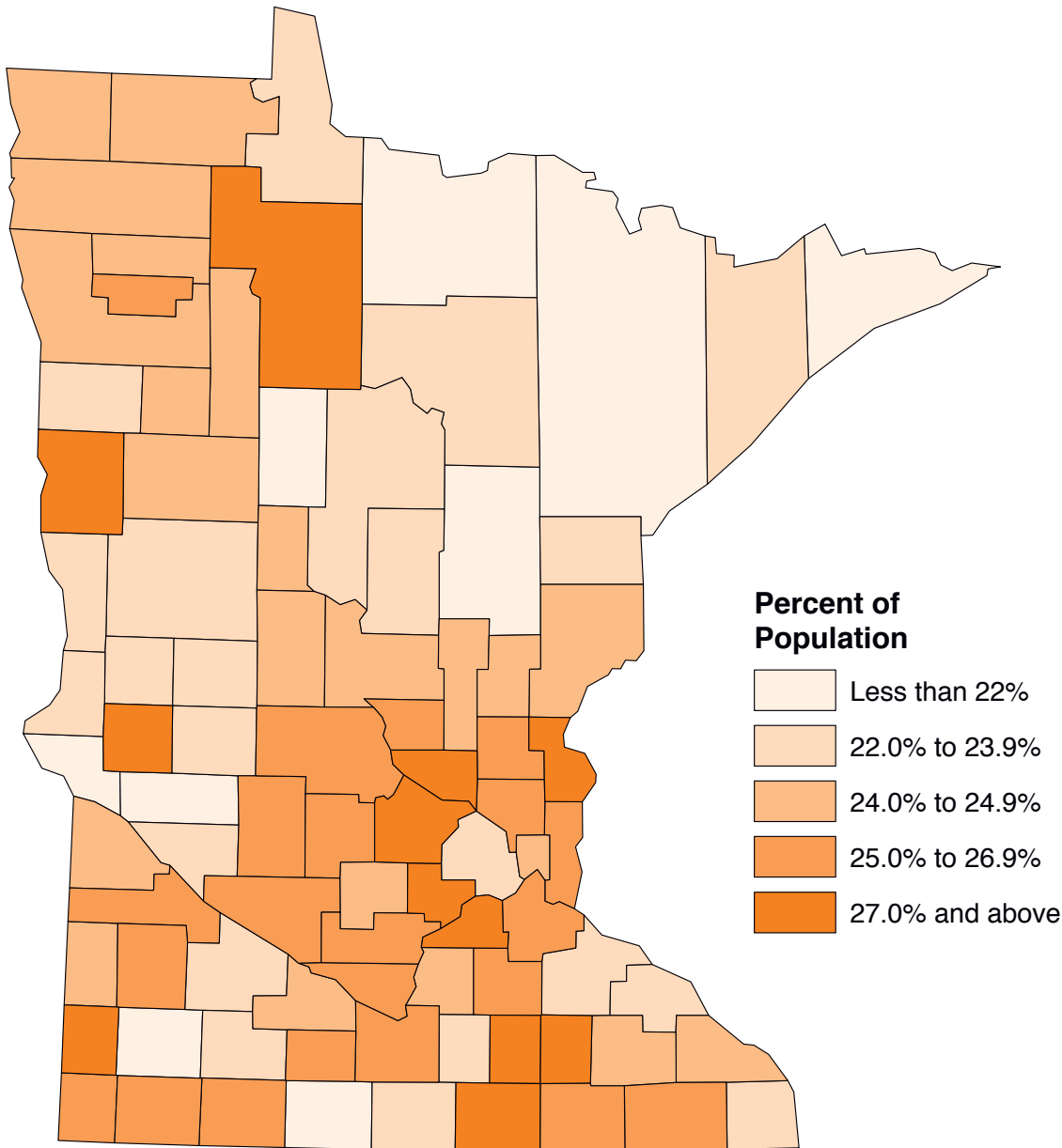
The highest percentage of people under age 18 is concentrated in the Twin Cities ring suburbs, but also in counties like Dodge, Mahnomon and Roseau. For the state as a whole, 24.3% of the population is under age 18.



Data source: U.S. Census, 2005
© 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Projected Population Age 19 and Under, 2030

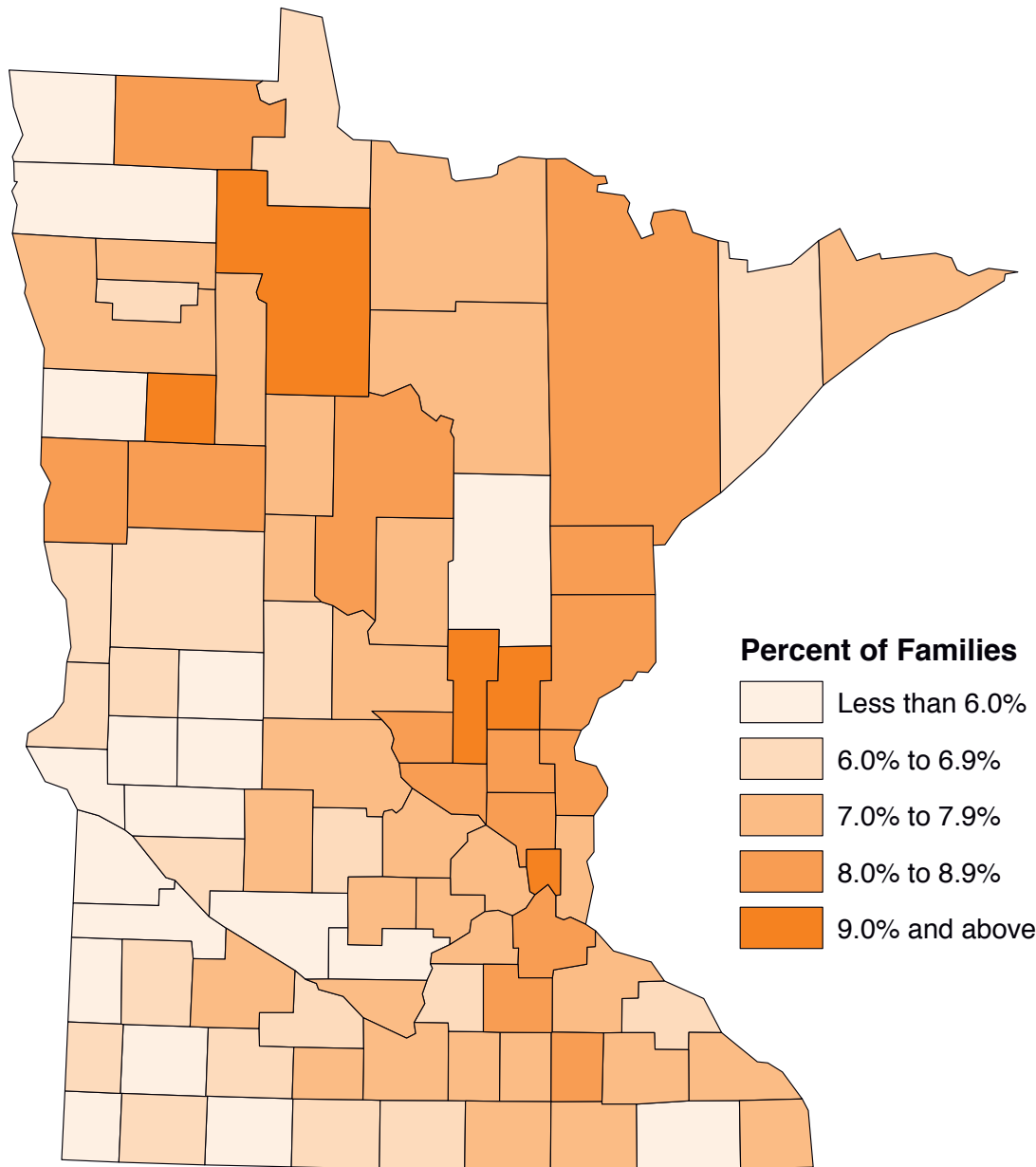
The population age 19 and under is projected to stay highest in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities, but also in certain rural counties that are home to universities (Beltrami, Clay, Stevens).



Data source: Minnesota State Demographic Center
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Single-Parent Families, 2005

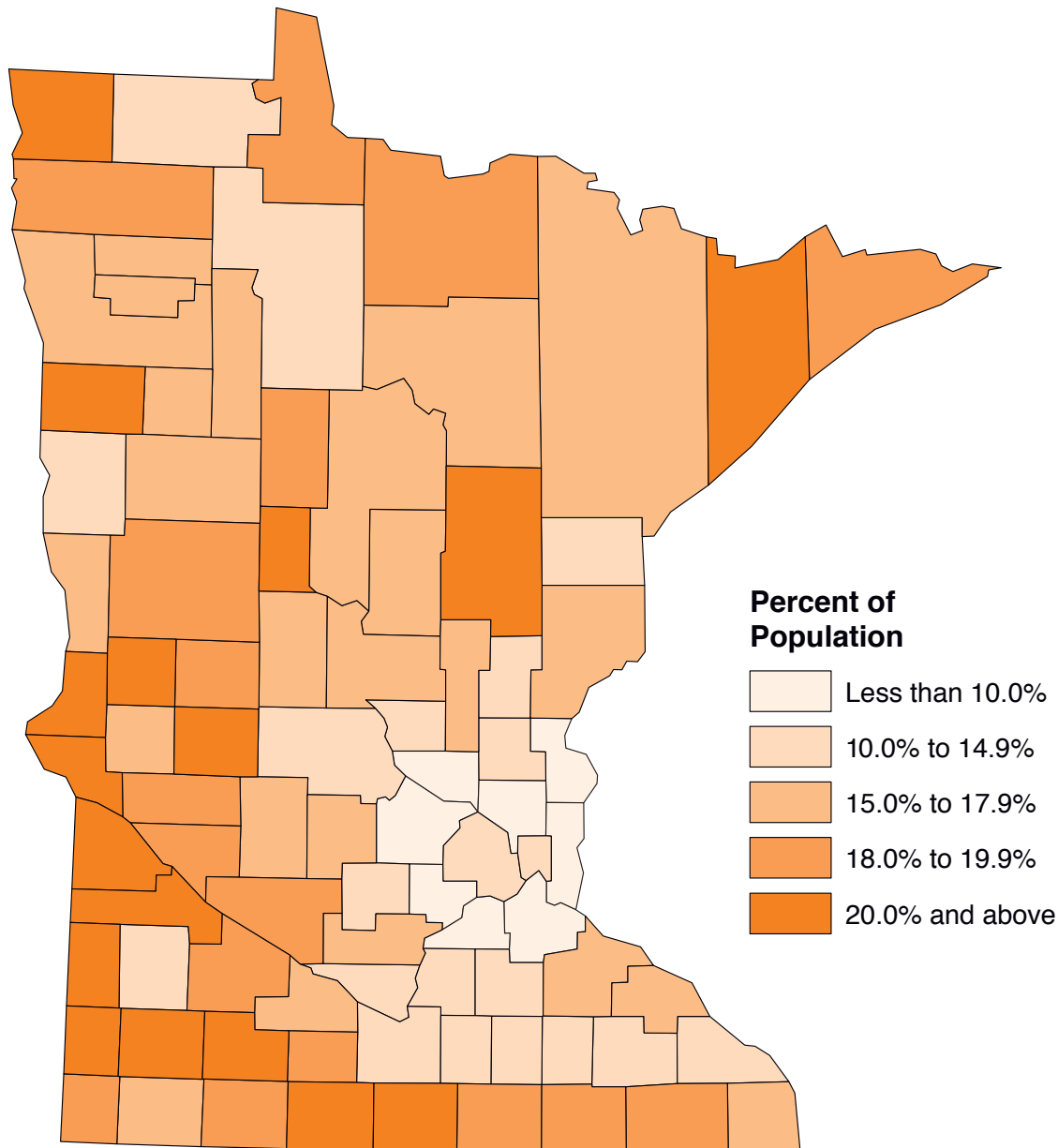
The number of single-parent families is tracked by both the U.S. Census Bureau and the State Demographic Center, since single-parent families indicate a need for services such as affordable child care. The percentage of families varies from a low of 4.4% in Lac Qui Parle County to a high of 12.8% in Beltrami County. For the state as a whole, the percentage was 7.8%.



Data source: Minnesota State Demographic Center
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Population Age 65 and Over, 2004

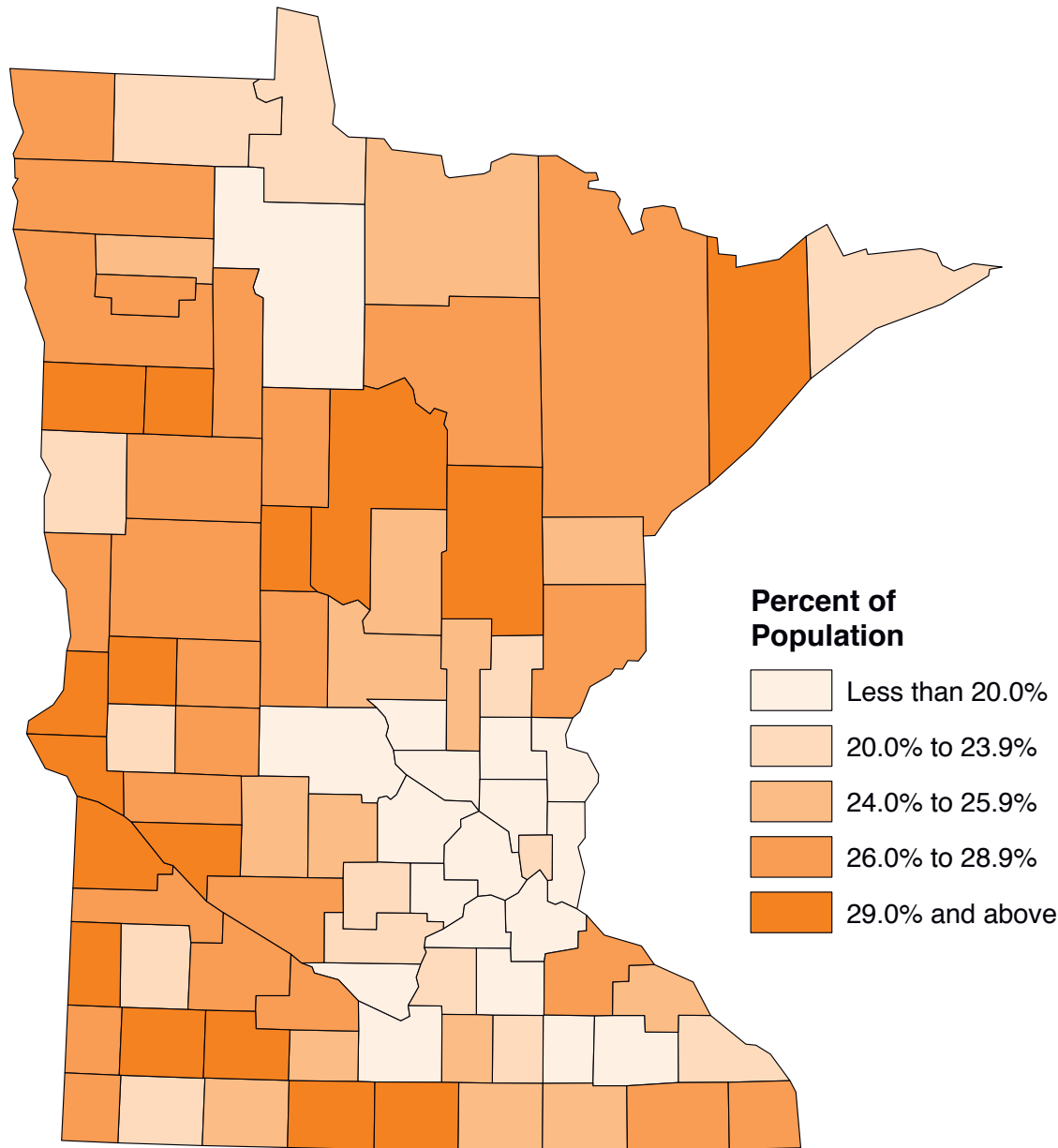
The shift of younger people to urban and suburban counties has been an issue for rural areas for years. The higher percentage of seniors remaining in rural counties has many implications, such as a demand for increased levels of service to those living on low and fixed incomes.



Data source: U.S. Census, 2005
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Projected Population Age 65 and Over, 2030

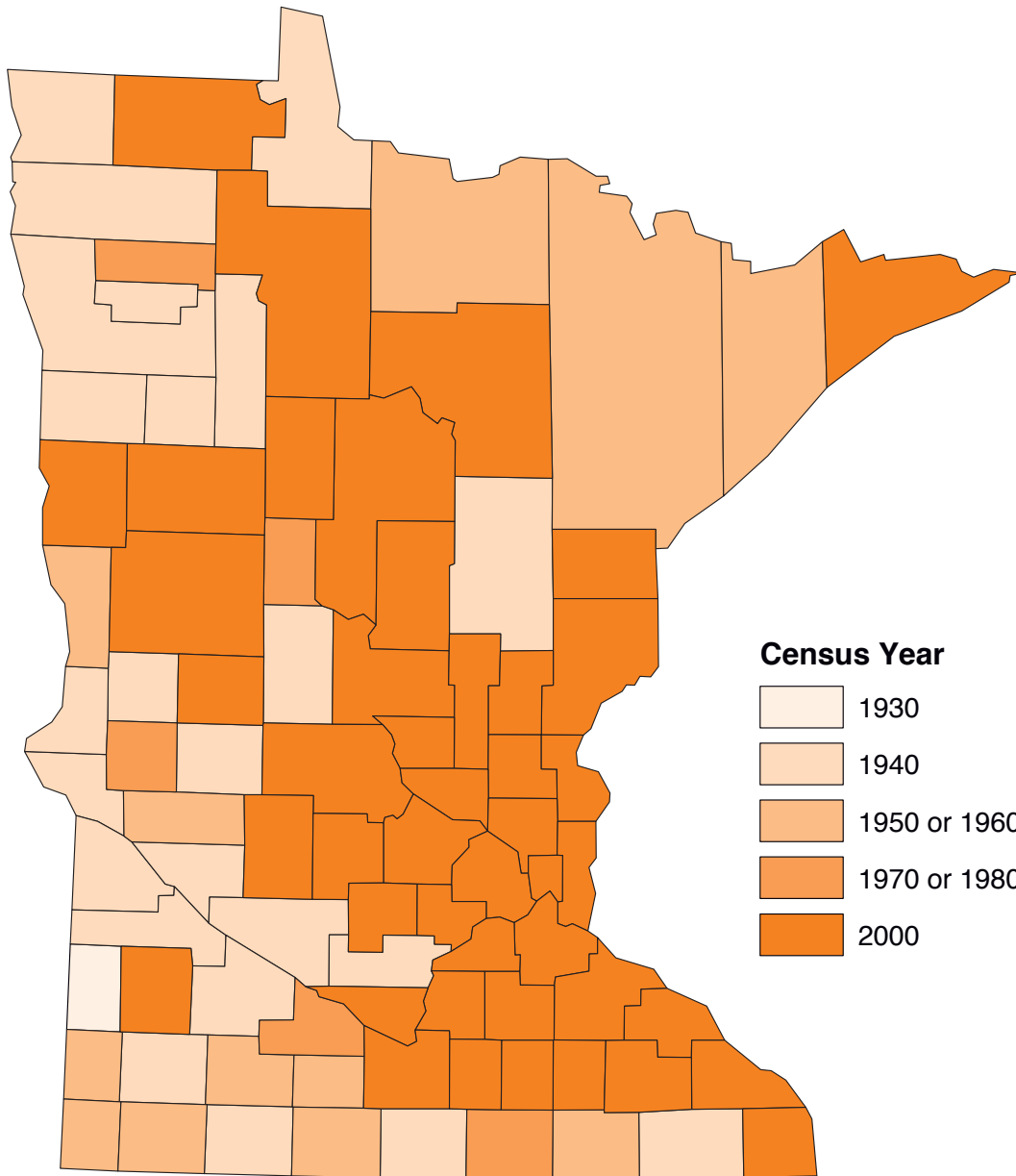
Minnesota's overall median age is projected to increase from 35.4 years on 2000 to 40.2 years in 2030. The trend in aging is expected to continue along the same course as it has in rural Minnesota and even increase in counties attracting retirees. The trend, however, appears to be offset in some southern and western counties like Blue Earth, Lyon, Clay and Nobles.



Data source: Minnesota State Demographic Center
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Census Year of Peak Population

Another indication of the population shift occurring in Minnesota, peak population shows the Census year in which a county reported its highest population. While the population of many western and southern counties peaked with the 1940 Census or earlier, about half the counties reported peak populations in the 2000 Census.



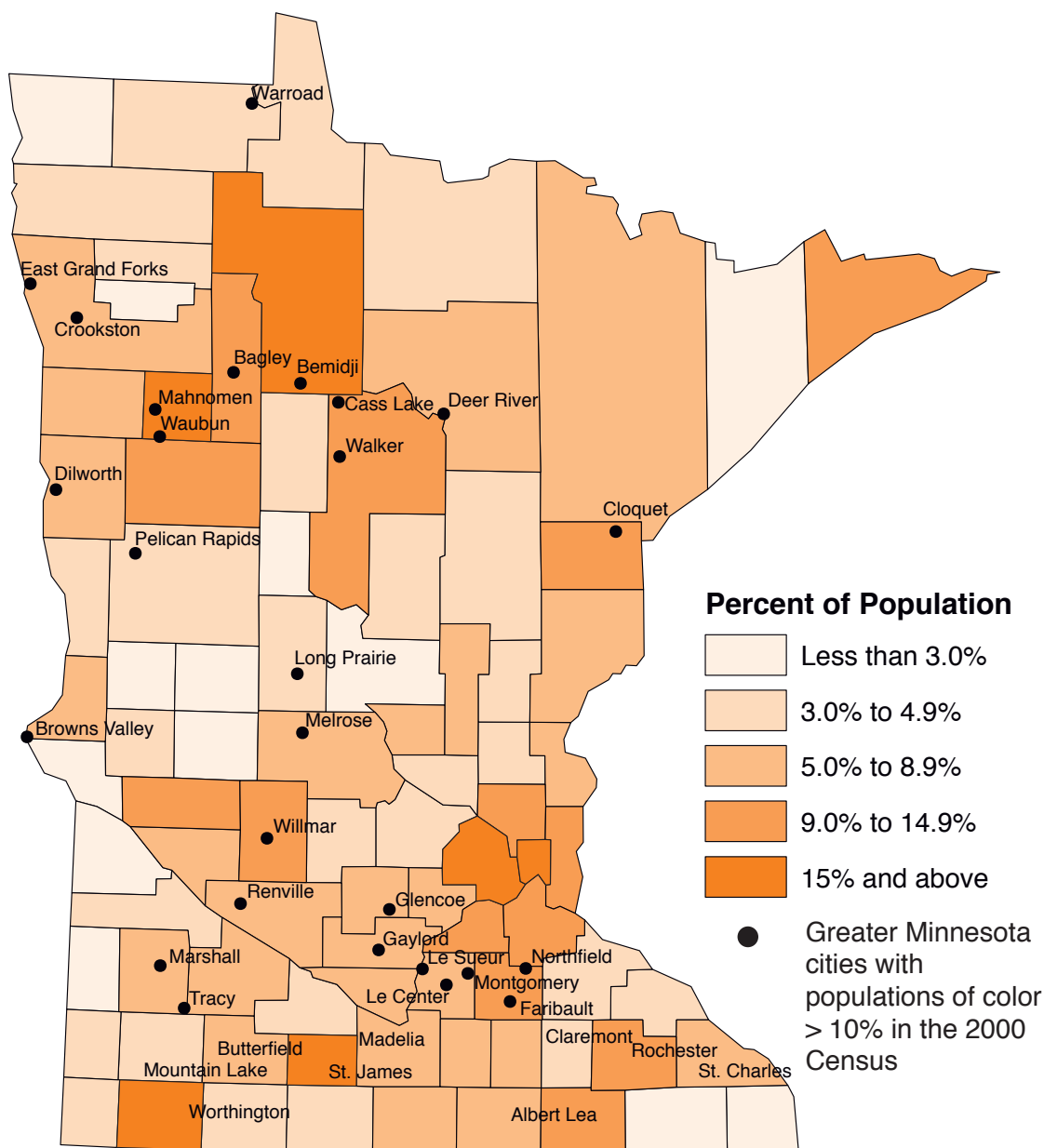
Census Year

- 1930
- 1940
- 1950 or 1960
- 1970 or 1980
- 2000

Data source: U.S. Census, 1930–2000

Distribution of People of Color, 2004

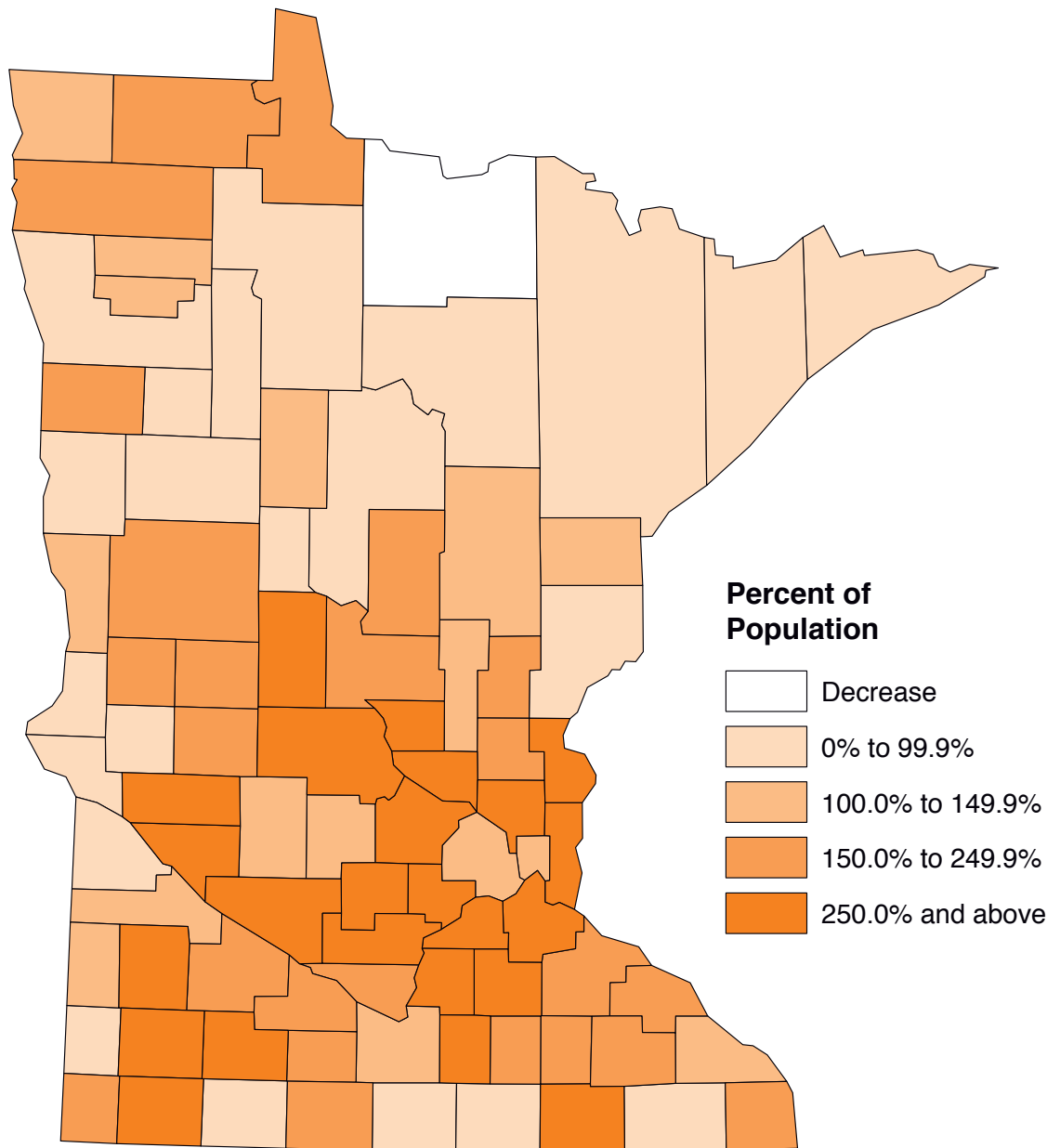
While the vast majority of Minnesota's population is still Caucasian, the state's population of color has now more than doubled since the 1990 Census, going from 6.5% of the population to an estimated 13.3% in 2004. While the core urban cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have always had the most diverse population, many rural cities have also seen their minority populations grow. Cities in the north tend to have large Native American populations, while Latinos make up the largest minority groups in western and southern Minnesota.



Data source: Minnesota State Demographic Center
© 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development

Change in Distribution of People of Color, 1990-2004

Even though the state's overall population of color has more than doubled since 1990, the growth was not uniform across the state. Northern counties saw little change as their Native American populations remained stable, but many western and southern counties saw dramatic growth with the in-migration of Latinos, Laotians, Somalis, Sudanese, Hmong and other groups. Some of the highest growth, however, was in the ring suburbs of the Twin Cities.



Data source: Minnesota State Demographic Center
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