

Old age (1952)

Michigan University, Institute on aging, 1952.

# Michigan Faces Facts about The Aging Population.

Prepared for

THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ON AGING

sponsored by the  
Michigan Commission to Study Problems of Aging

with the assistance of the  
State Department of Health,  
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## INTRODUCTION

MICHIGAN FACES FACTS is a handbook of information about older people in Michigan and the United States. It is hoped that these facts will prove interesting and valuable to those participating in the Michigan Conference on Aging.

Although the age group 65 and over was arbitrarily chosen as the basis for compiling these statistics, it is not intended that the older population be defined as beginning with 65.

Data relative to age groups by county for Michigan represent preliminary tabulations. Total population figures by county in Michigan are taken from final reports of the U. S. Bureau of Census.

Appreciation is expressed to Dr. Amos Hawley for providing data for the section on migration, to Marcine Westerman for her designs and drawings, and to Woodrow Hunder, Glen Erard, and Helen Maurice for their assistance in preparation of data.

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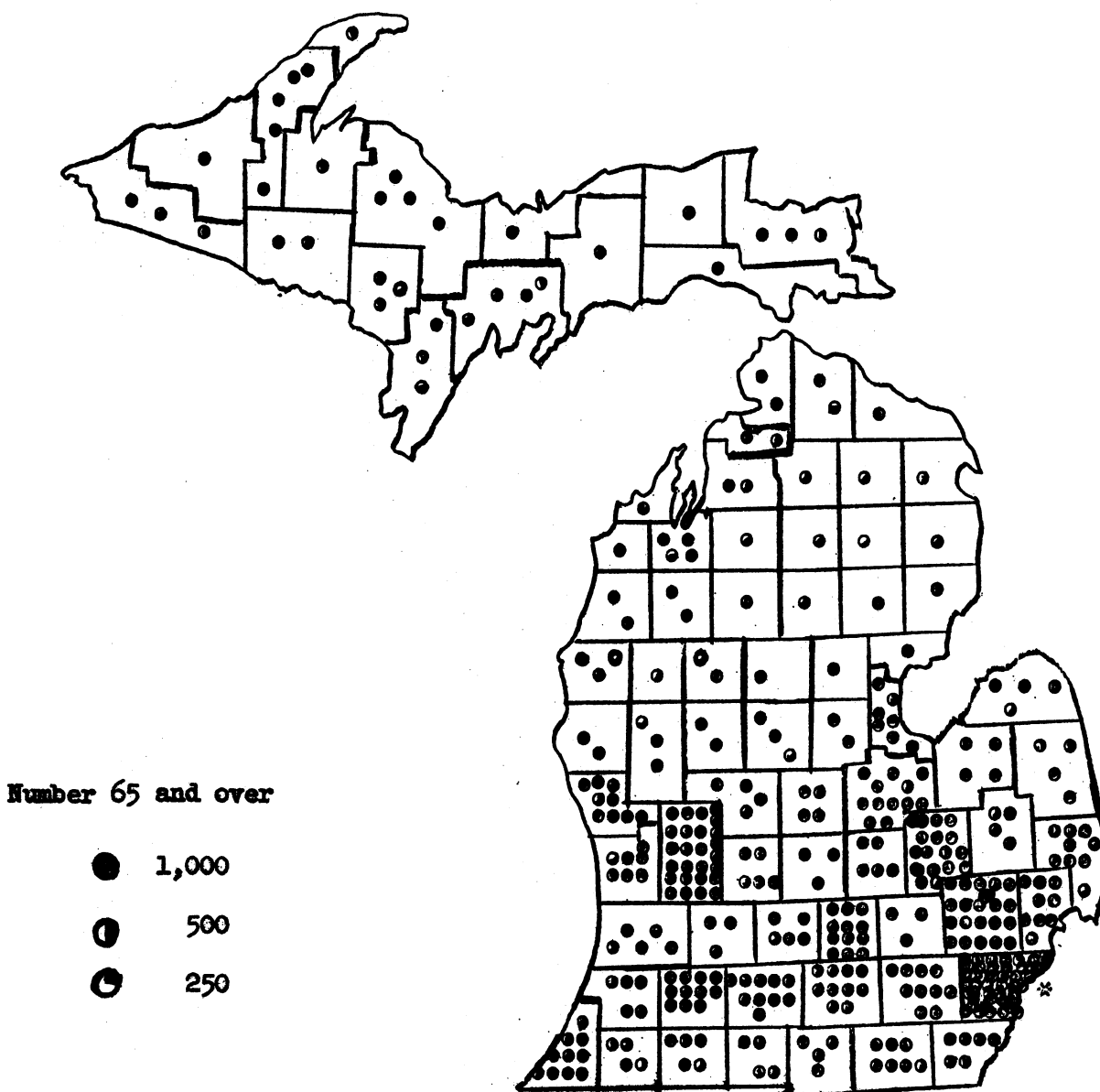
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# NUMBERS PROPORTIONS TRENDS



# OLDER PEOPLE ARE CONCENTRATED IN SOUTHERN MICHIGAN

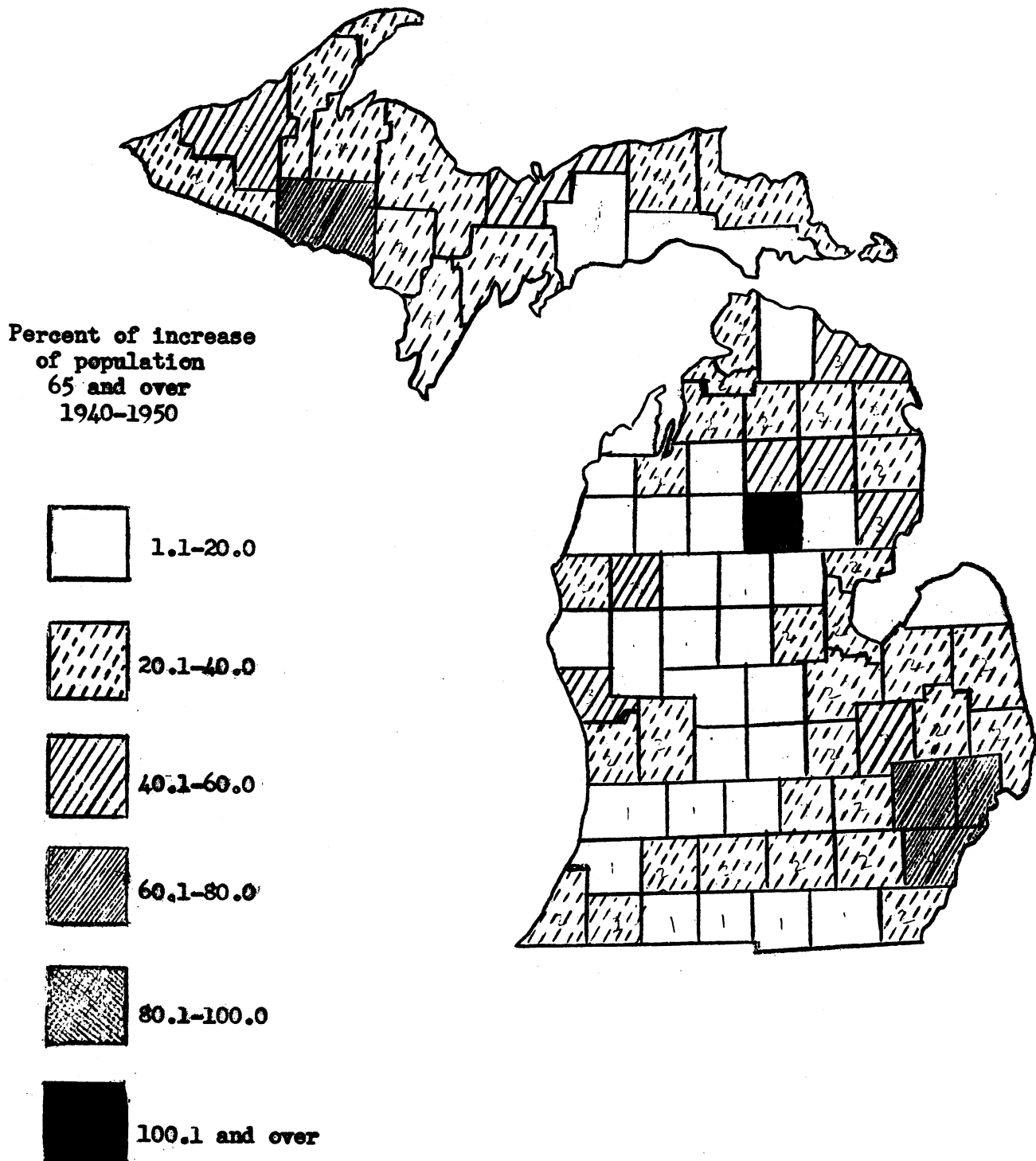
There are 461,619 people 65 years of age and over living in the State of Michigan. Most of these older people live in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. Forty-three percent of the total 65 years of age and over live in Wayne, Kent, Oakland, and Genesee Counties.



\* This represents 139 dots of 134,778 persons

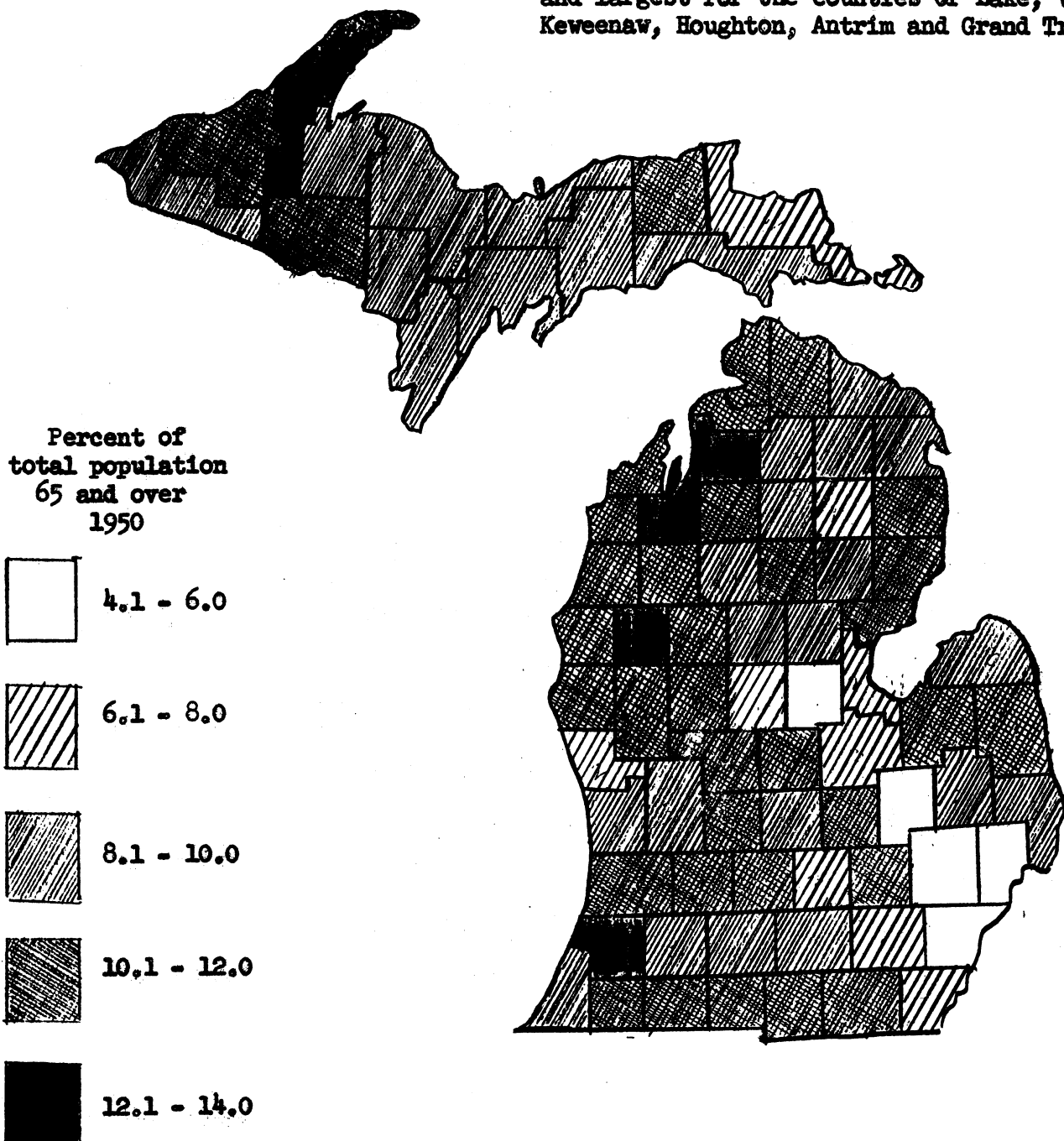
# STATEWIDE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OLDER PEOPLE

Every county of the state showed an increase in the number of people 65 years of age and over from 1940 to 1950. The percent of increase ranged from 5.6 in Kalkaska County to 110.0 in Roscommon County.



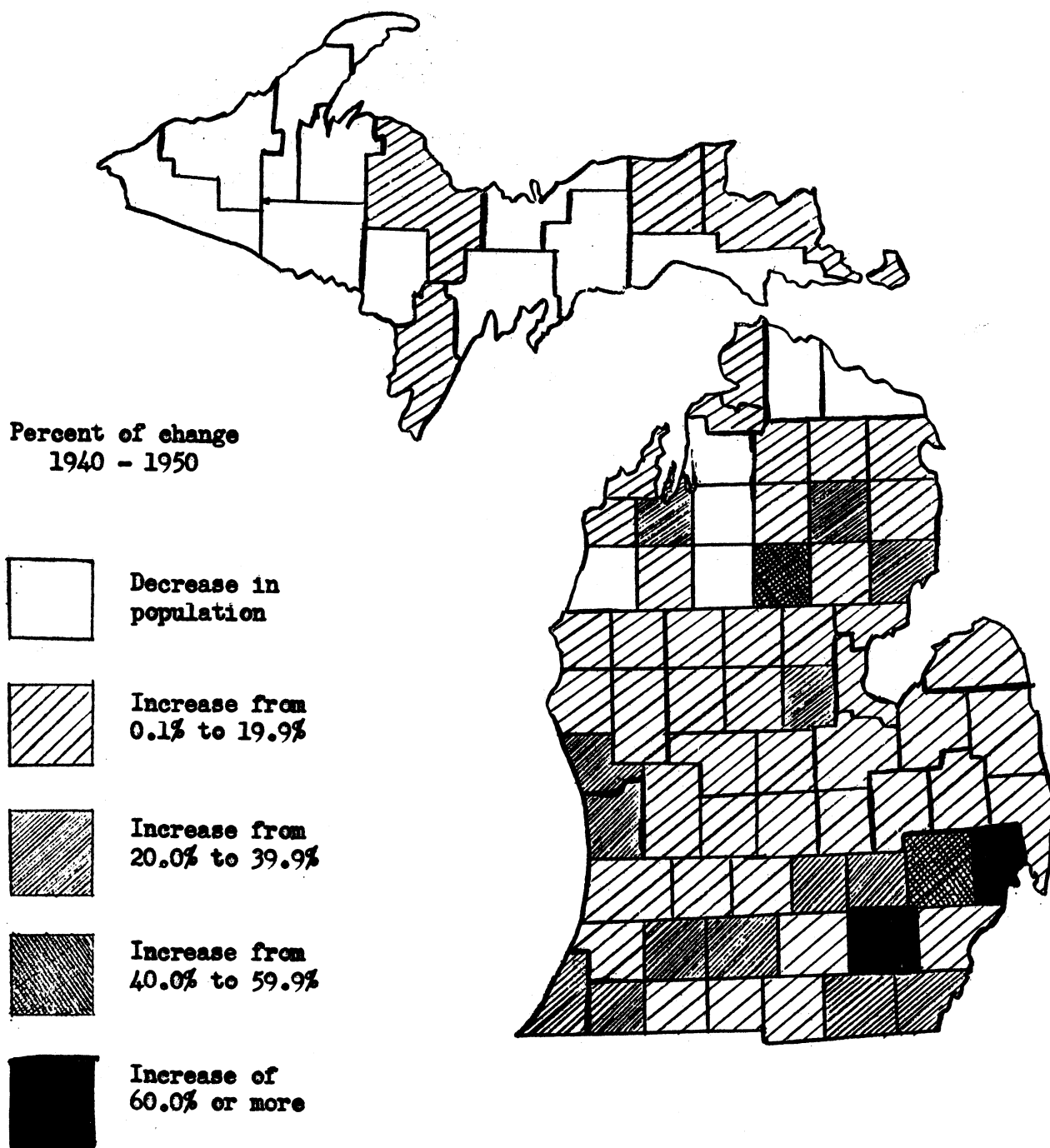
# INDUSTRIAL COUNTIES OF MICHIGAN HAVE LOWER RATIOS OF OLDER PEOPLE

The proportion of the total population 65 and over varies from 4.7 percent in Macomb County to 14.0 percent in Lake County. Proportions are smallest for the industrial counties of Macomb, Oakland, Midland, Wayne and Genesee and largest for the counties of Lake, Van Buren, Keweenaw, Houghton, Antrim and Grand Traverse.



## POPULATION CHANGES IN MICHIGAN DURING THE PAST DECADE

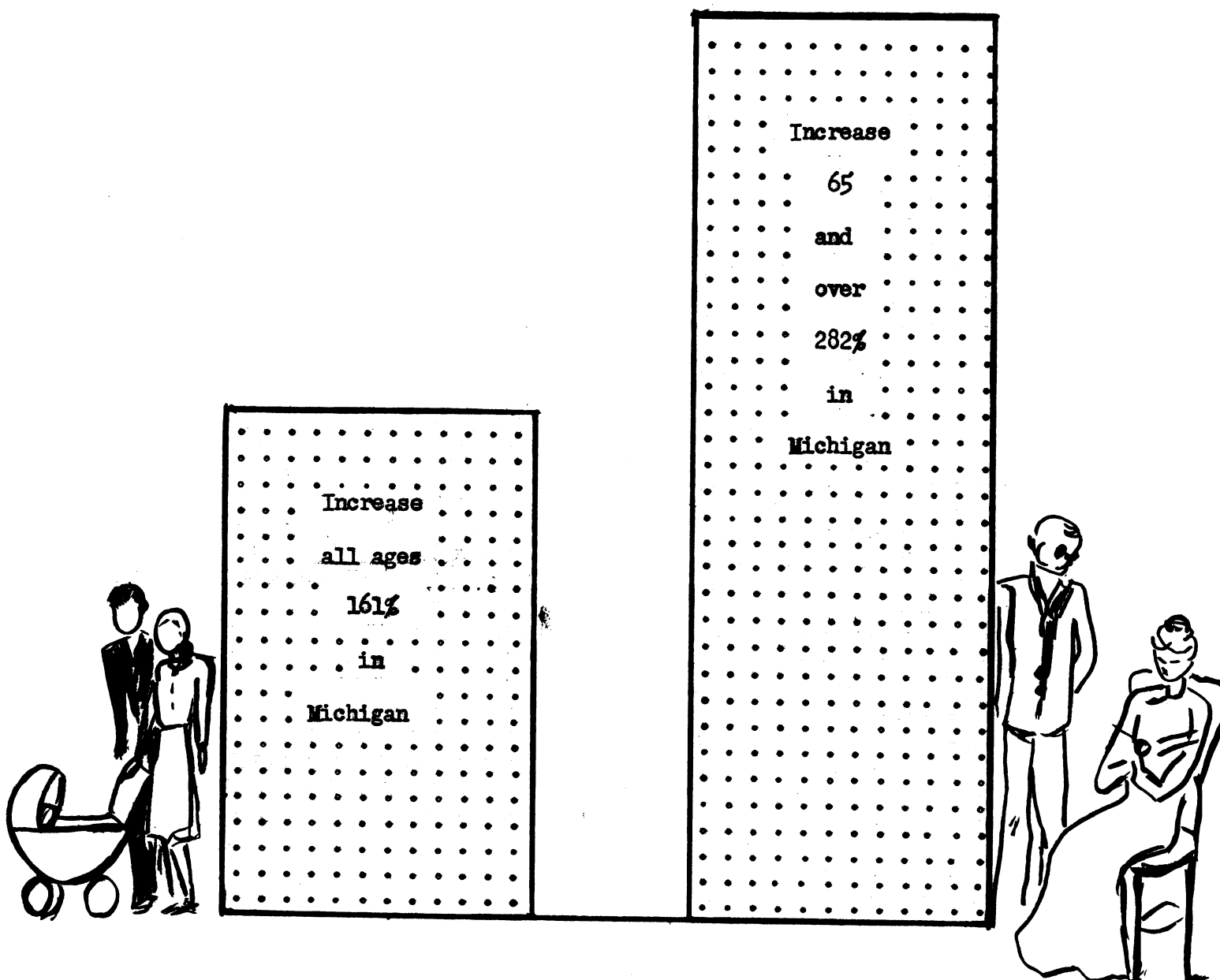
The total population of Michigan has increased 21.2% from 1940 to 1950. Macomb and Washtenaw Counties have shown the largest percentage of increase. Seventeen counties, located in the Upper Peninsula and in the northern section of the Lower Peninsula, show a decrease in population.





PERCENT OF INCREASE IN THE TOTAL POPULATION COMPARED WITH THAT  
OF THE POPULATION 65 AND OVER FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, 1900-1950

The total population for Michigan increased 161% from 1900 to 1950 in contrast to an increase of 98% for the country as a whole. The state's older population, like that of the United States, almost quadrupled itself. (See page 7.)

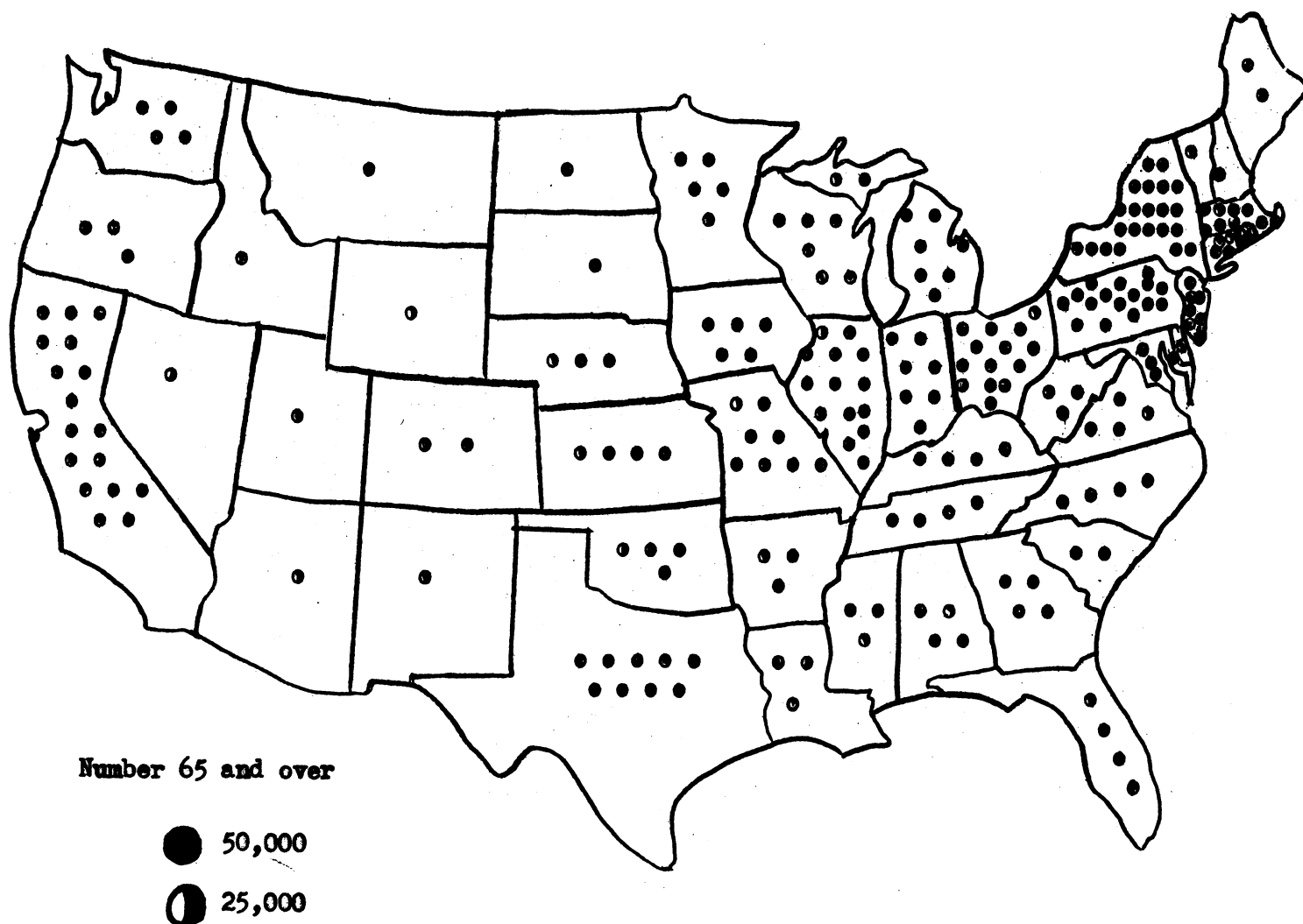


## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE OLDER PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

The greatest concentrations of older people, according to the 1948 population estimates of the Bureau of Census, appear in New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and Texas in which states reside 41 percent of the total population 65 and over.

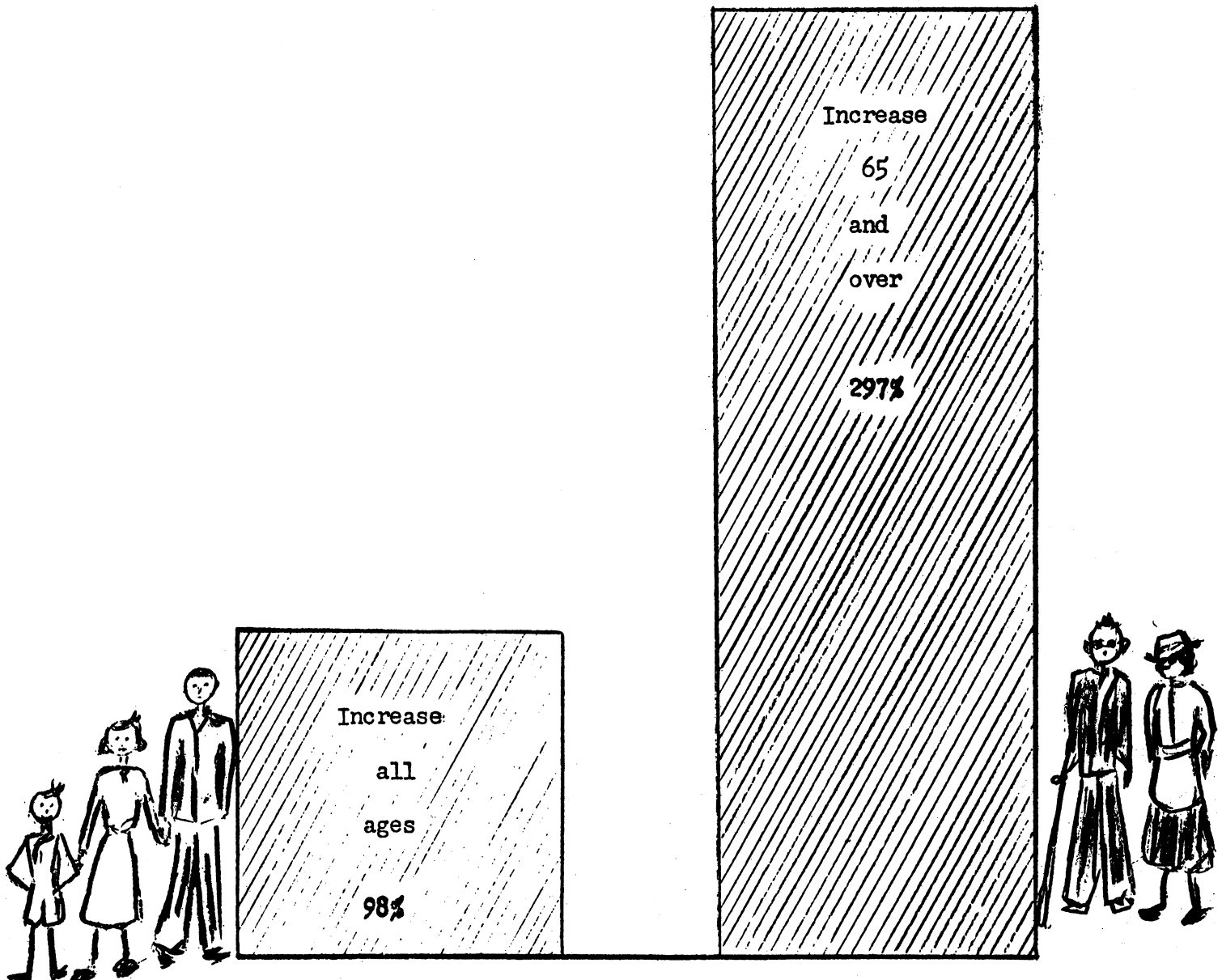
Michigan ranks in eight place with respect to the total number of people 65 and over.

The largest ratios of older people, however, are to be found in the states of New Hampshire, Iowa and Kansas where there are approximately 10 persons 65 years of age and over per 100 population.



# OLDER PEOPLE COMPRISE THE MOST RAPIDLY GROWING SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION

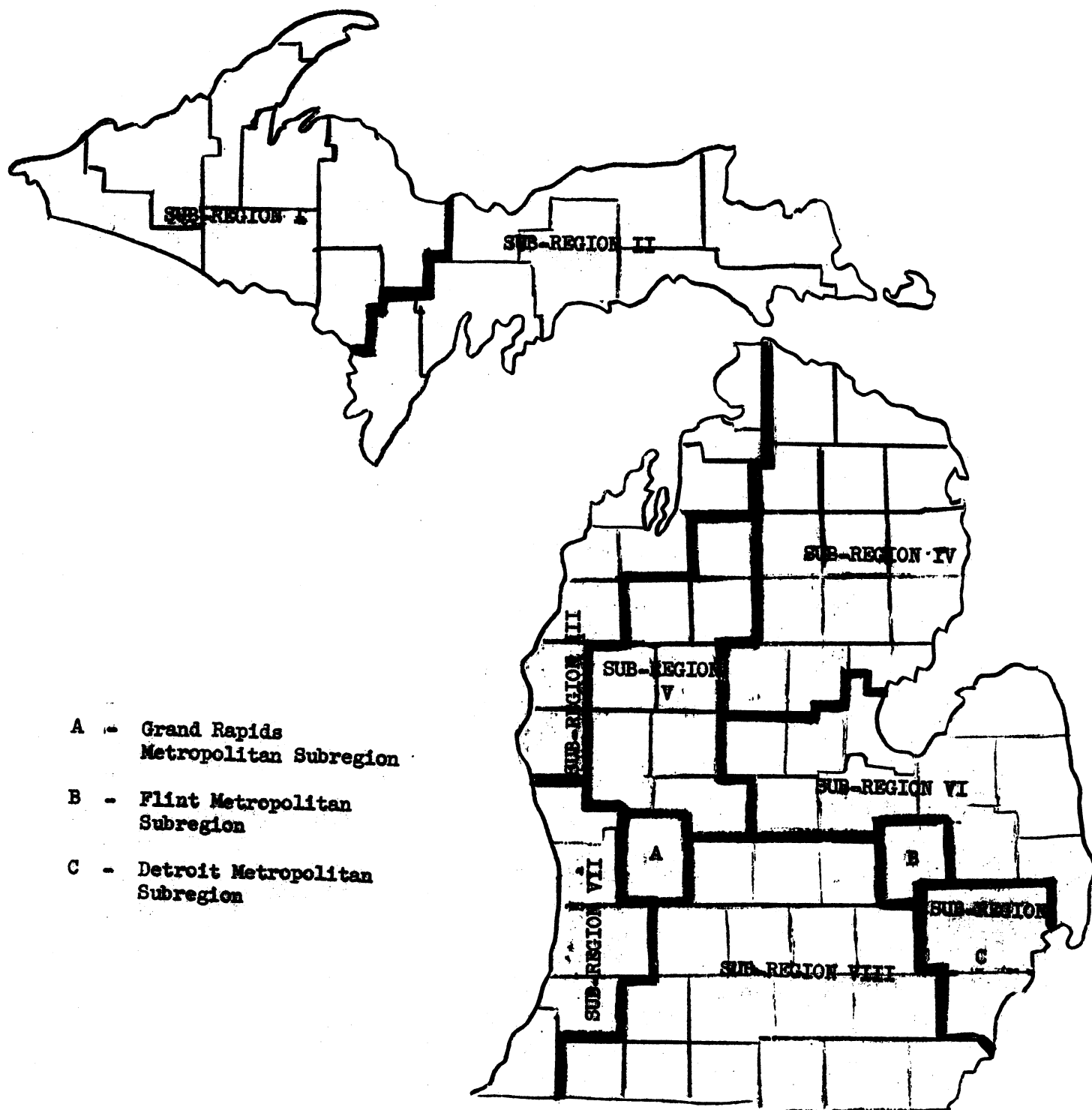
Between 1900 and 1950 the total population of the United States has doubled while the population 65 and over has quadrupled.





# A REFERENCE CHART SHOWING SUBREGIONS - MIGRATION STUDY

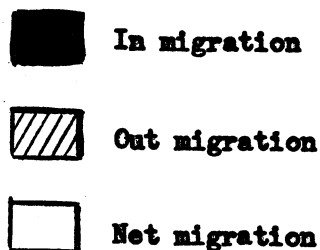
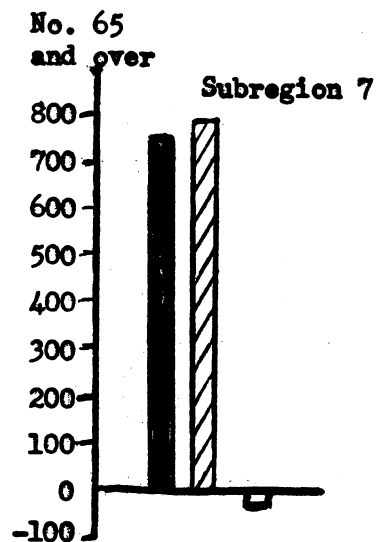
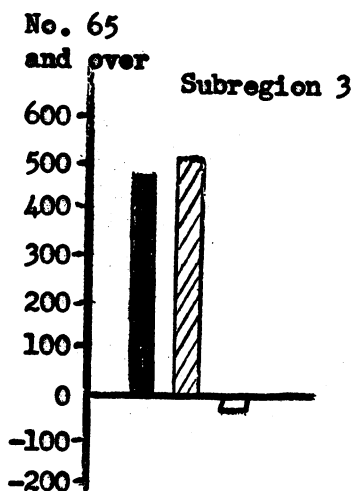
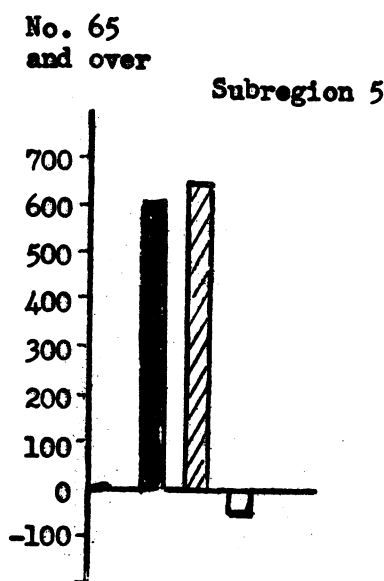
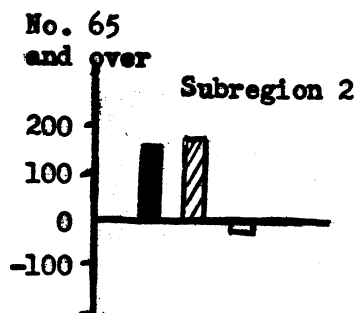
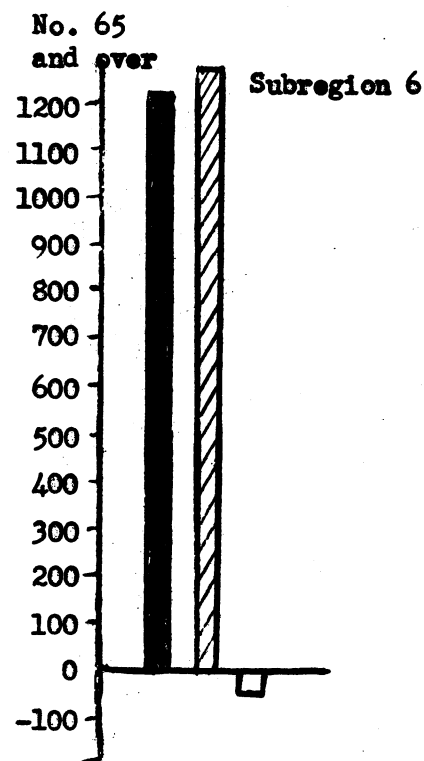
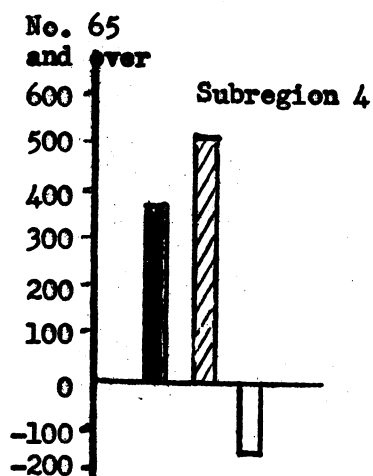
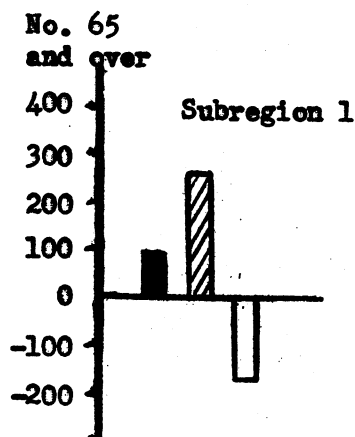
Source: The data on migration of people 65 years of age and over represented in the following charts are taken from a study by Amos H. Hawley, *INTRA-STATE MIGRATION IN MICHIGAN, 1935-1940*, to be published, University of Michigan



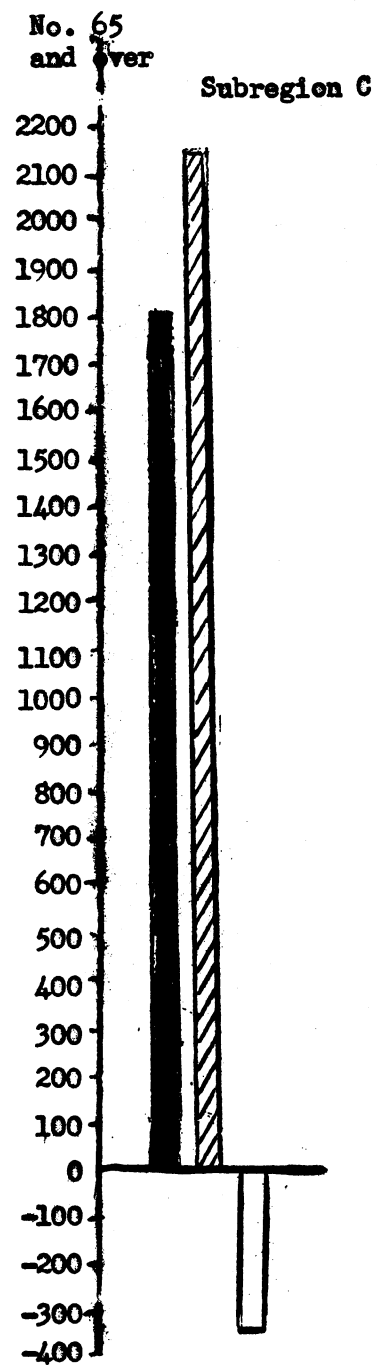
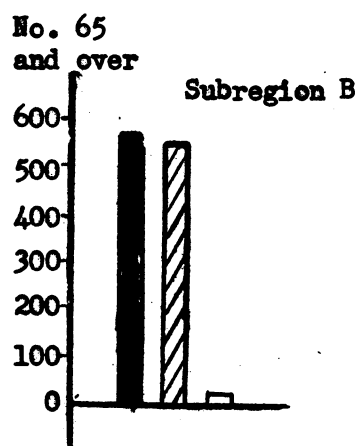
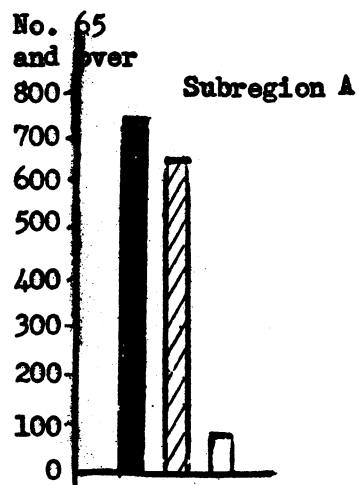
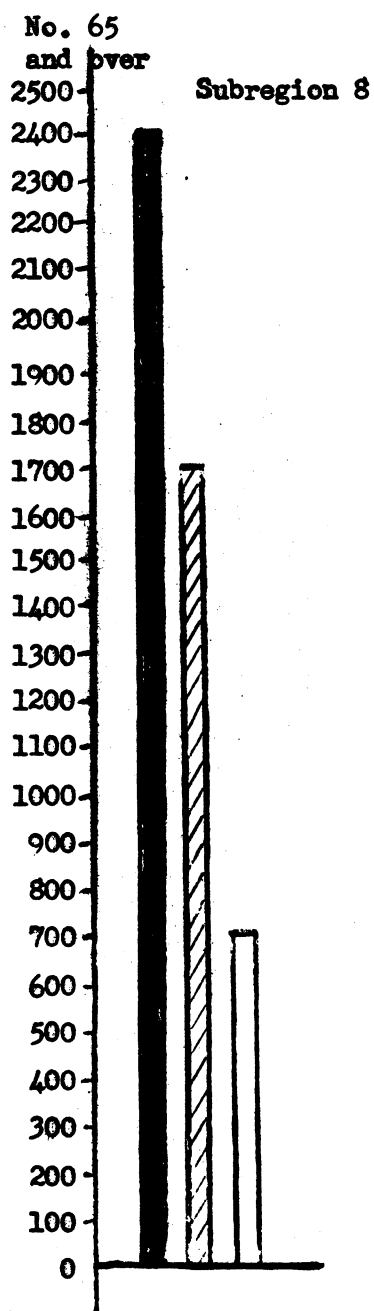



## NET EFFECT OF MIGRATION


Migration to and from regions of the state resulted in a net loss of people 65 and over in eight of the eleven regions. Subregion C, or the Detroit metropolitan region, showed the largest net loss while Subregion VIII showed the largest net increase. (Continued next page.)



## NET EFFECT OF MIGRATION (Continued)



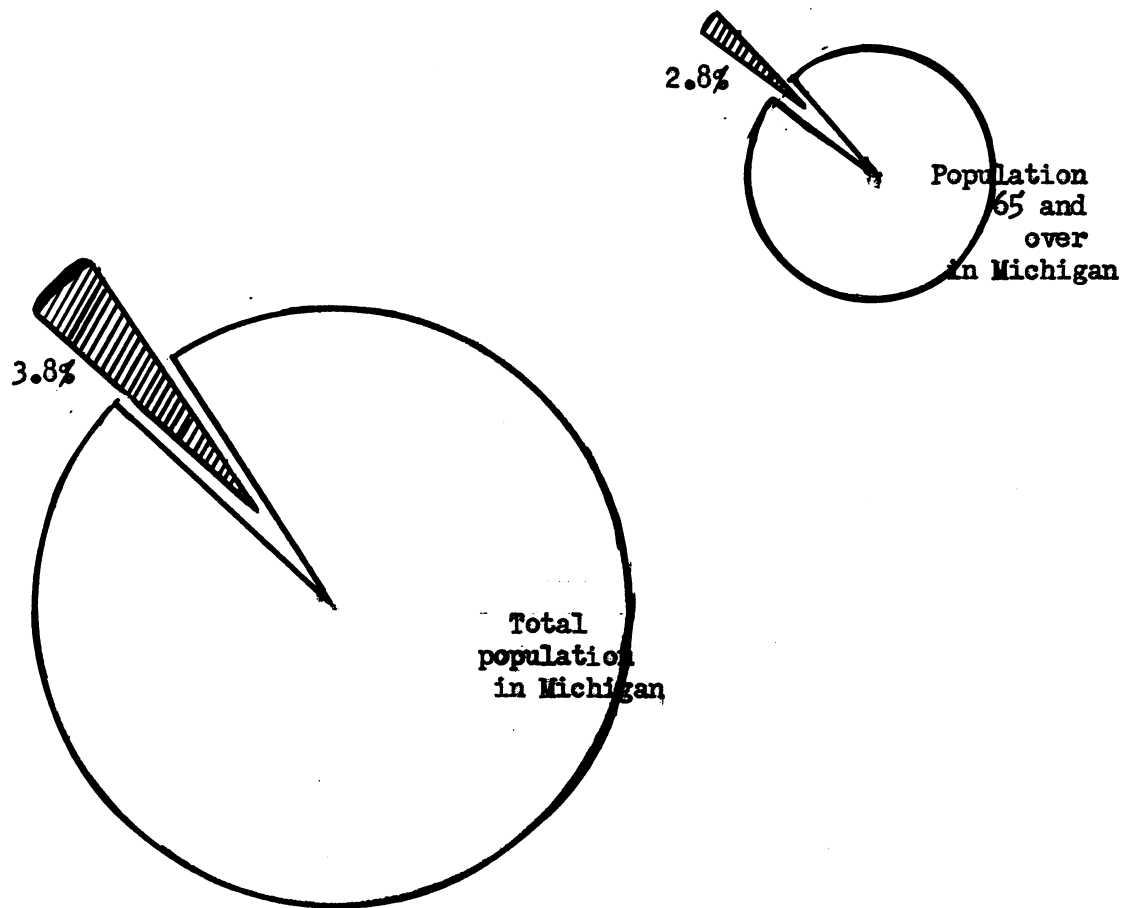
 In migration

 Out migration

 Net migration

OLDER PEOPLE MIGRATE TO A LESSER EXTENT THAN THE  
TOTAL POPULATION

Migrants to other regions in the  
state during 1935-1940 constituted  
2.8 percent of the total population  
65 and over compared with 3.8 percent  
for the population as a whole.

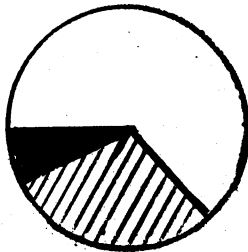


# URBAN PLACES ATTRACT OLDER WOMEN MIGRANTS

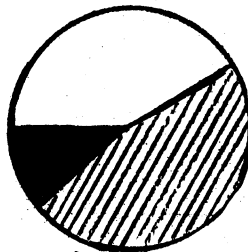
Women migrants, 65 and over, showed a greater tendency to move to an urban area than did the men migrants of the same age group. In all regions except B the largest proportion of women migrants moved to an urban area, whereas in six of

(Continued next page)

Subregion 1

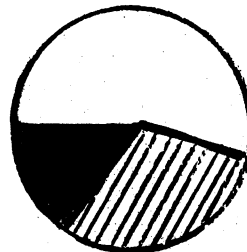


Female

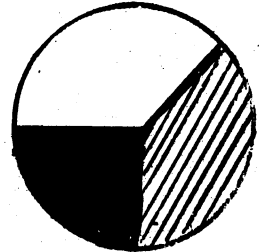


Male

Subregion 4

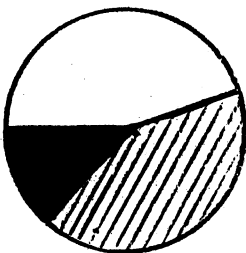


Female

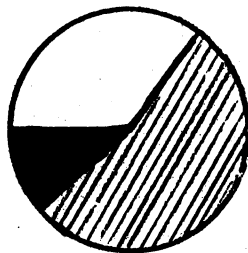


Male

Subregion 2

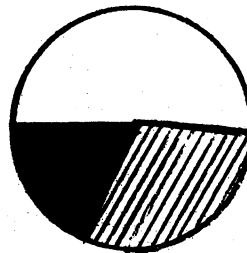


Female

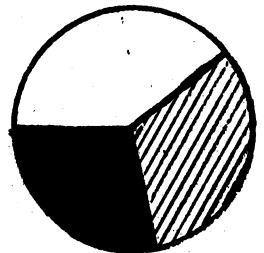


Male

Subregion 5

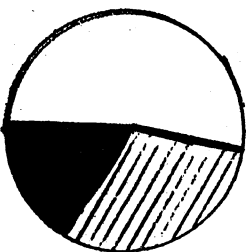


Female

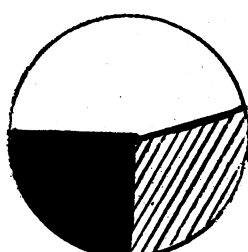


Male

Subregion 3

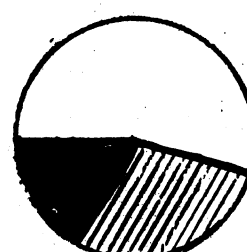


Female

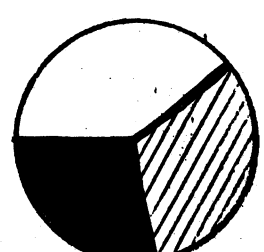


Male

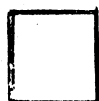
Subregion 6



Female



Male



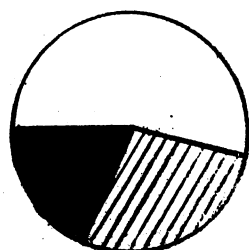
Urban

Rural  
non-farmRural  
farm

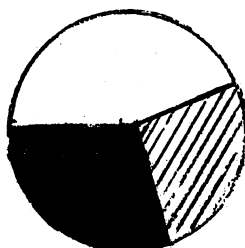
# URBAN PLACES ATTRACT OLDER WOMEN MIGRANTS (Continued)

the eleven regions men showed a greater tendency to move to rural non-farm areas. Migration to rural areas constituted an extremely small proportion of total migrations for both sexes.

Subregion 7

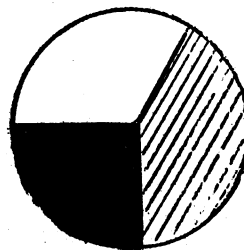


Female

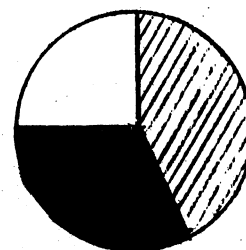


Male

Subregion B

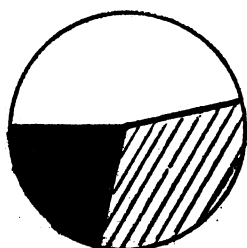


Female

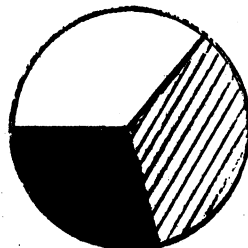


Male

Subregion 8

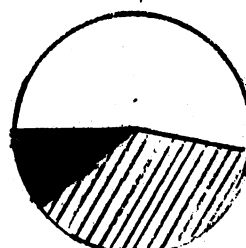


Female

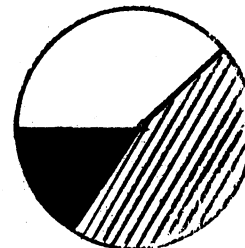


Male

Subregion C

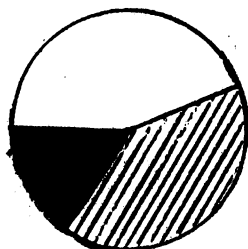


Female

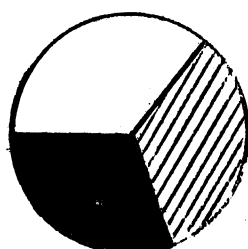


Male

Subregion A



Female



Male

Note: Charts show migration within the regions or to other regions within the state.

Urban is defined as any place having a population of 2,500 or more.



Urban

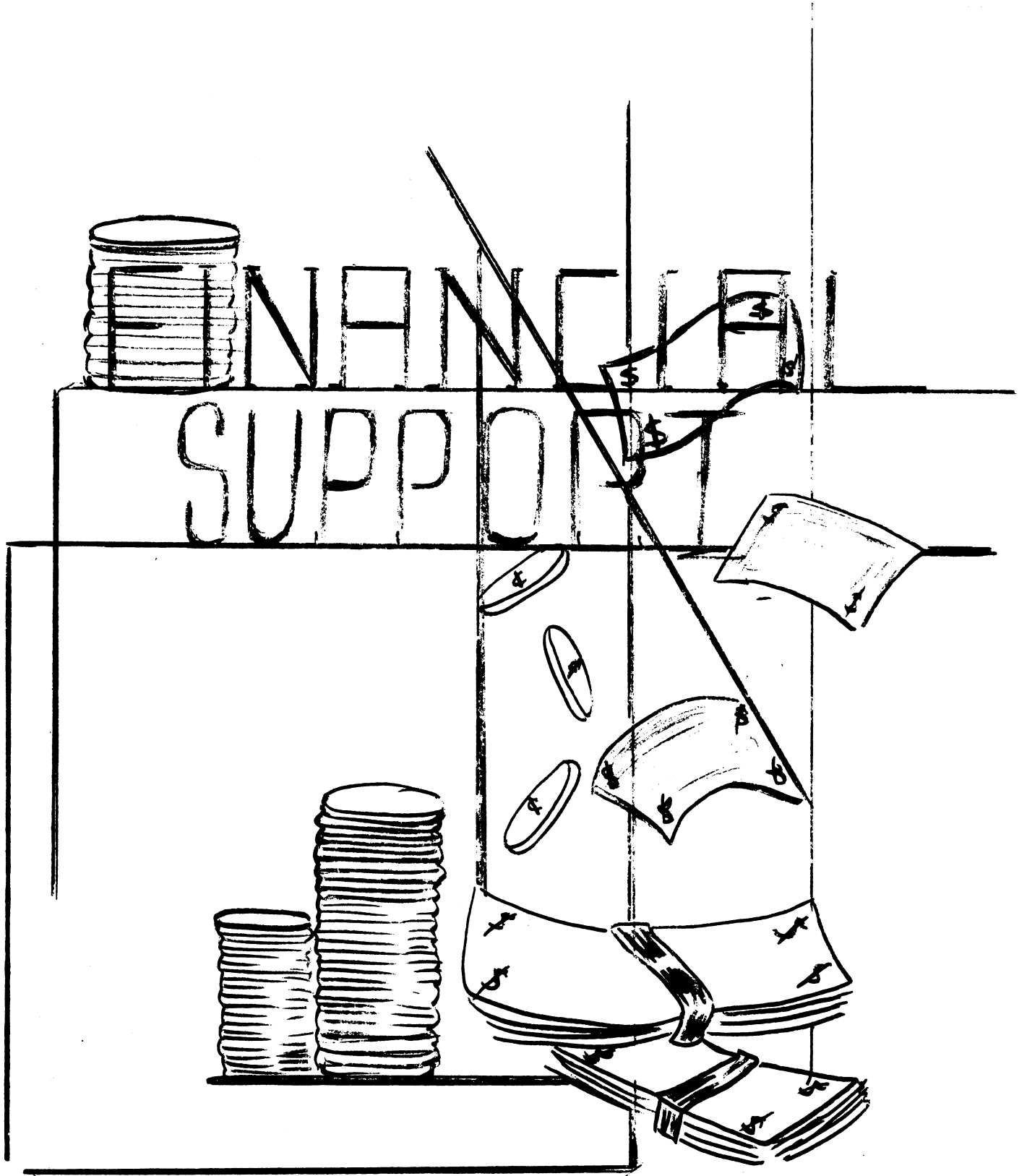


Rural  
non-farm



Rural  
farm

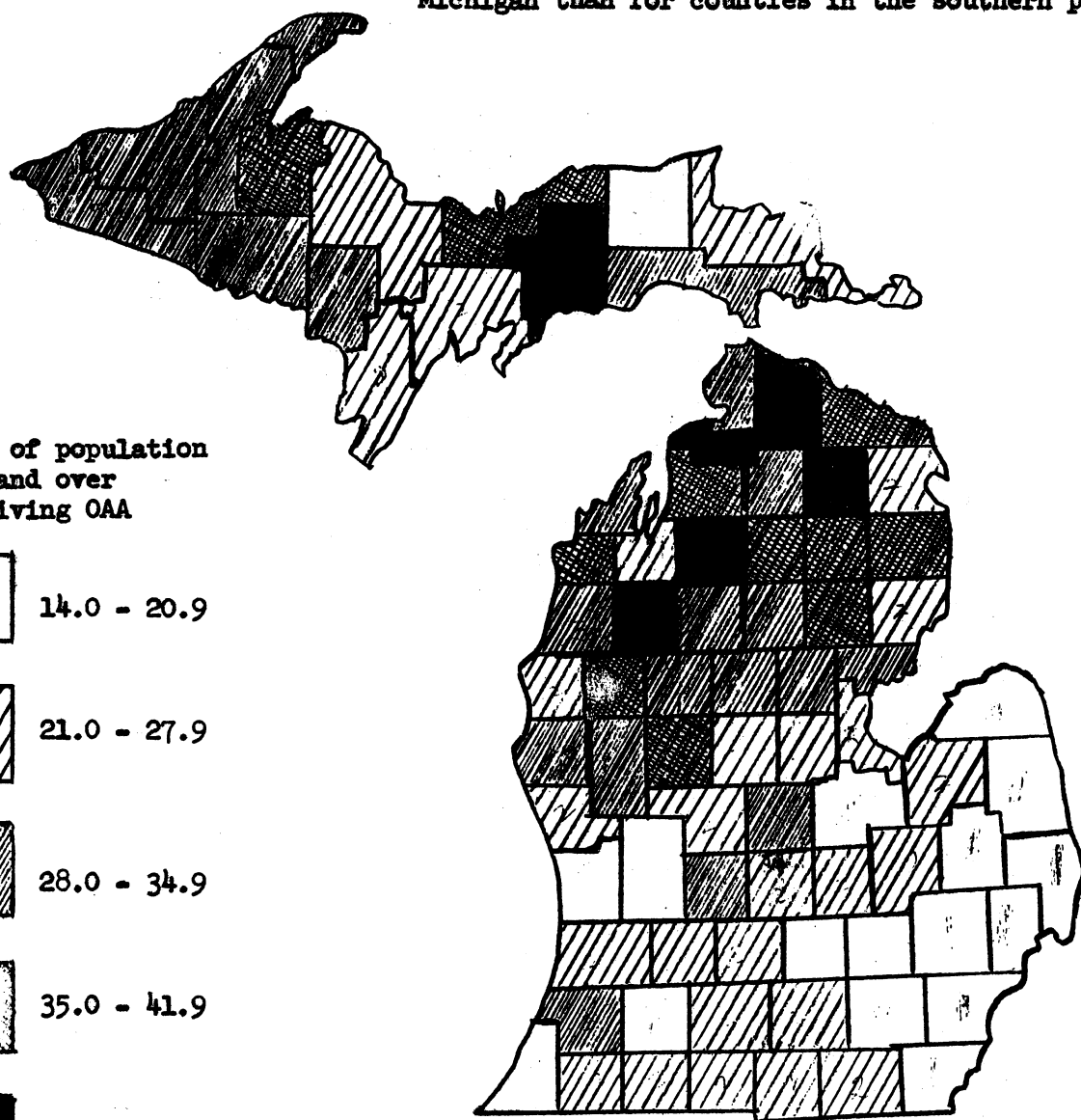
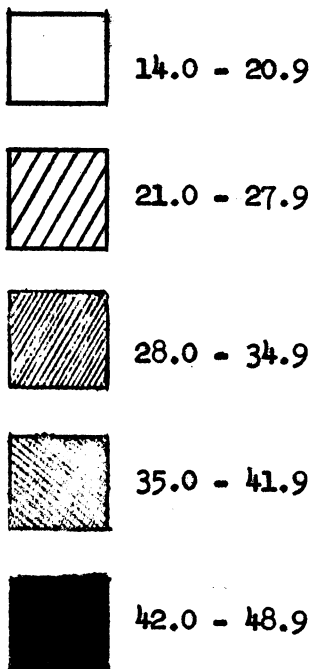




**THE CUT-OVER REGION OF MICHIGAN HAS HIGHER RATIOS OF PEOPLE RECEIVING  
OLD AGE ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

The total number of Old Age Assistance recipients was 97,357 as of February, 1951. Proportions of people 65 and over receiving OAA benefits are greater for counties of the northern parts of Michigan than for counties in the southern part.

Percent of population  
65 and over  
receiving OAA



**DEPLETION OF SAVINGS --- THE MAJOR REASON FOR REQUIRING OLD AGE ASSISTANCE BY MICHIGAN'S OLDER PEOPLE IN 1949-50**

19,123 cases were accepted for Old Age Assistance during the fiscal year 1949-50. Of these, thirty-three percent (6,296) required aid because their savings had been depleted. An additional thirty-one percent (5,839) were accepted for aid because of the loss or decrease in earnings through illness or through lay-offs or discharge from jobs.

**Reasons for requiring aid**

Depletion of savings

6,296

Non-economic reasons <sup>1</sup>

4,061

Loss of earnings through illness

3,529

Loss of earnings through lay-offs

2,310

Loss in outside contributions

1,037

Other economic reasons <sup>2</sup>

852

Loss of employment benefits

829

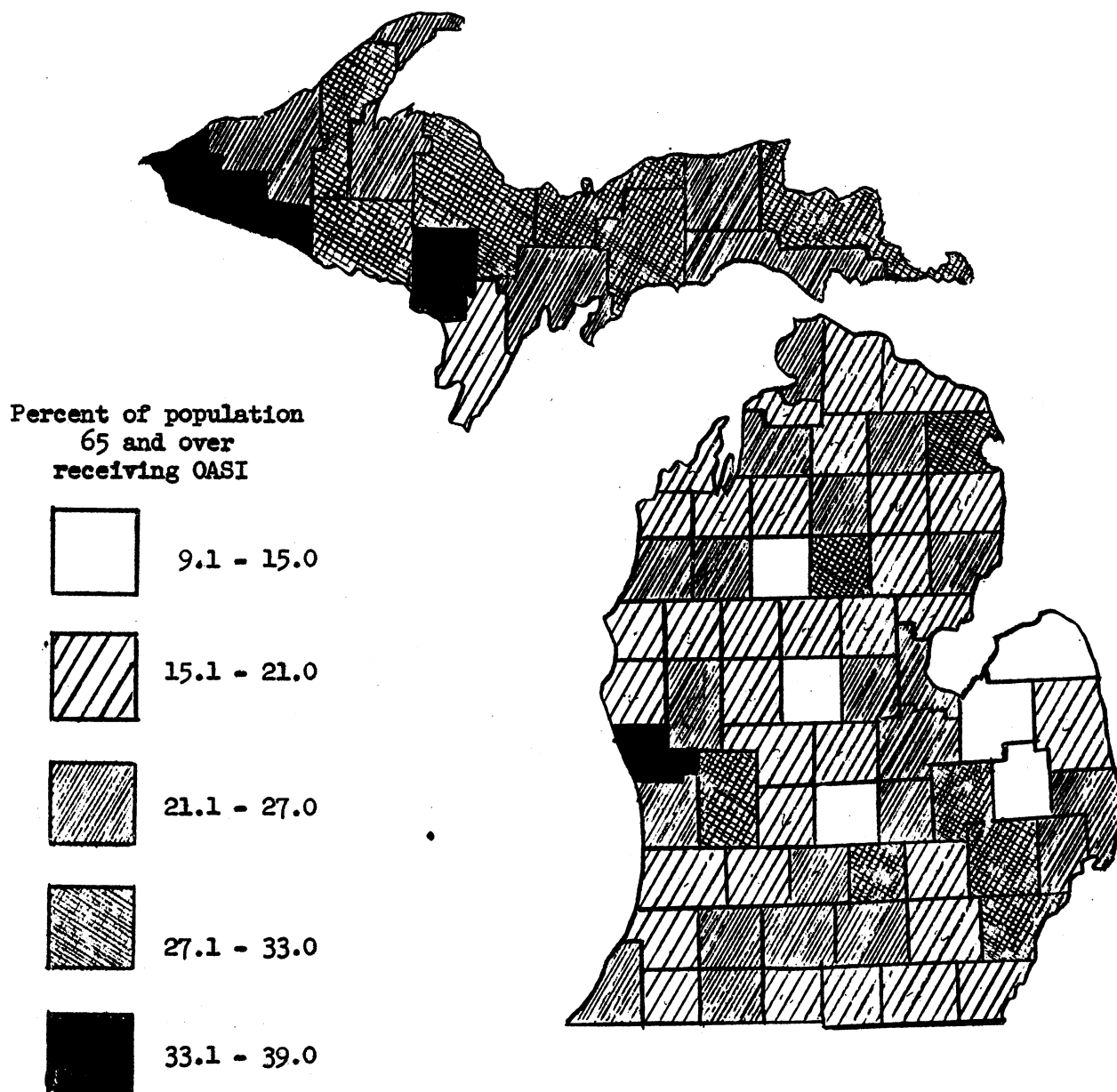
Death or absence of wage earner

209

1. No change in economic circumstances within six months prior to acceptance on rolls. Includes persons who became eligible under age, residence, and other non-economic eligibility requirements.
2. Increased need, loss of income from investments, rentals, military benefits, insurance etc.

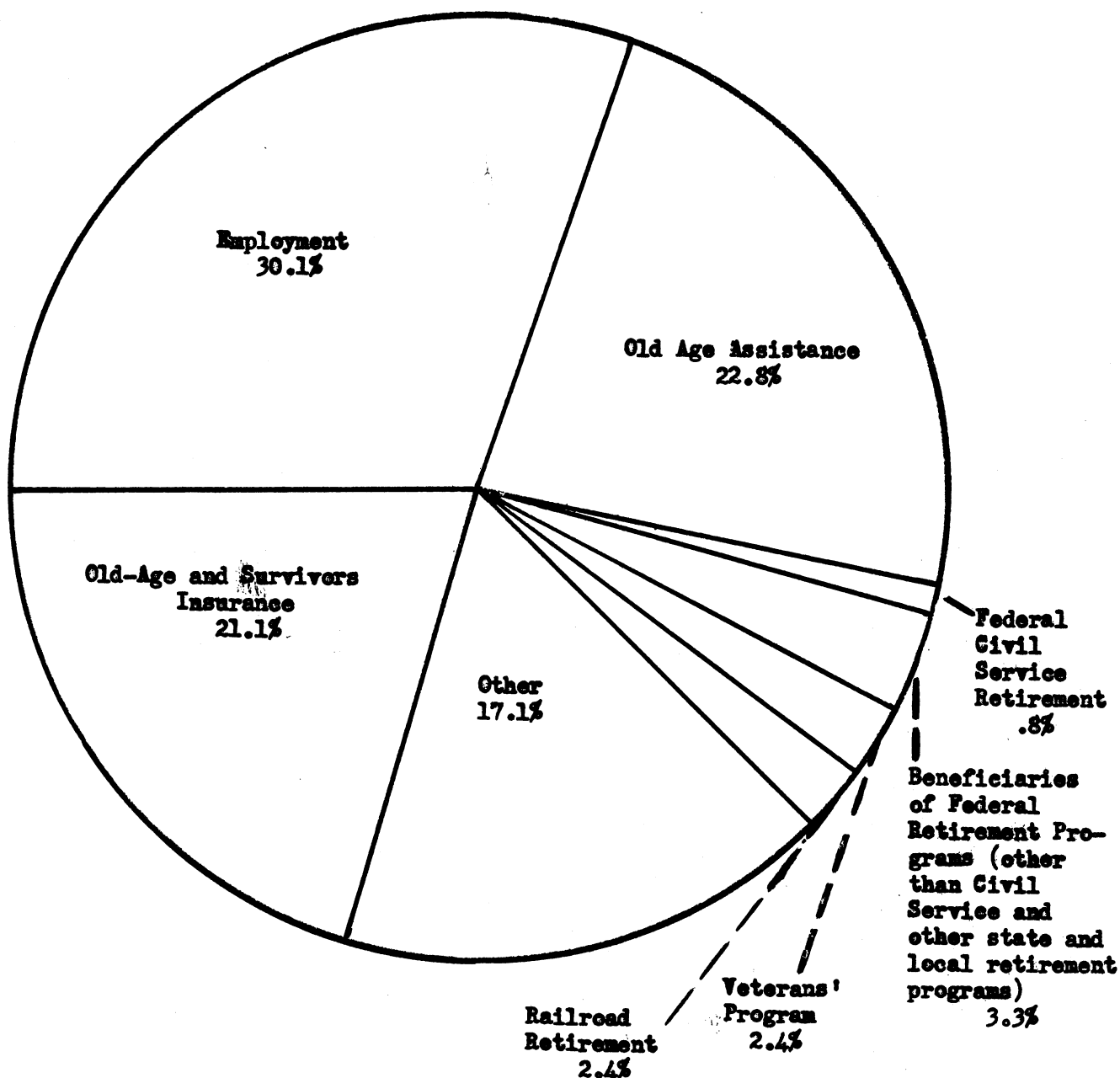
# OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES IN COUNTIES OF MICHIGAN

Twenty-five percent (116,941) of the total population 65 and over in the State of Michigan are on OASI rolls as of February, 1951. Counties differ considerably with respect to the proportion of people 65 and over receiving OASI benefits. Proportions vary from 9.6 percent in Missaukee County to 35.9 percent in Gogebic County.



**EMPLOYMENT IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE COUNTRY'S OLDER PEOPLE**

In December, 1950, thirty percent of the total population of the United States 65 and over were employed and receiving earnings. Twenty-three percent were in receipt of O&A grants and 21 percent were receiving O&SI benefits.





**BUDGET FOR A COUPLE 65 YEARS OR MORE OLD**  
**Estimated Cost, October, 1950**

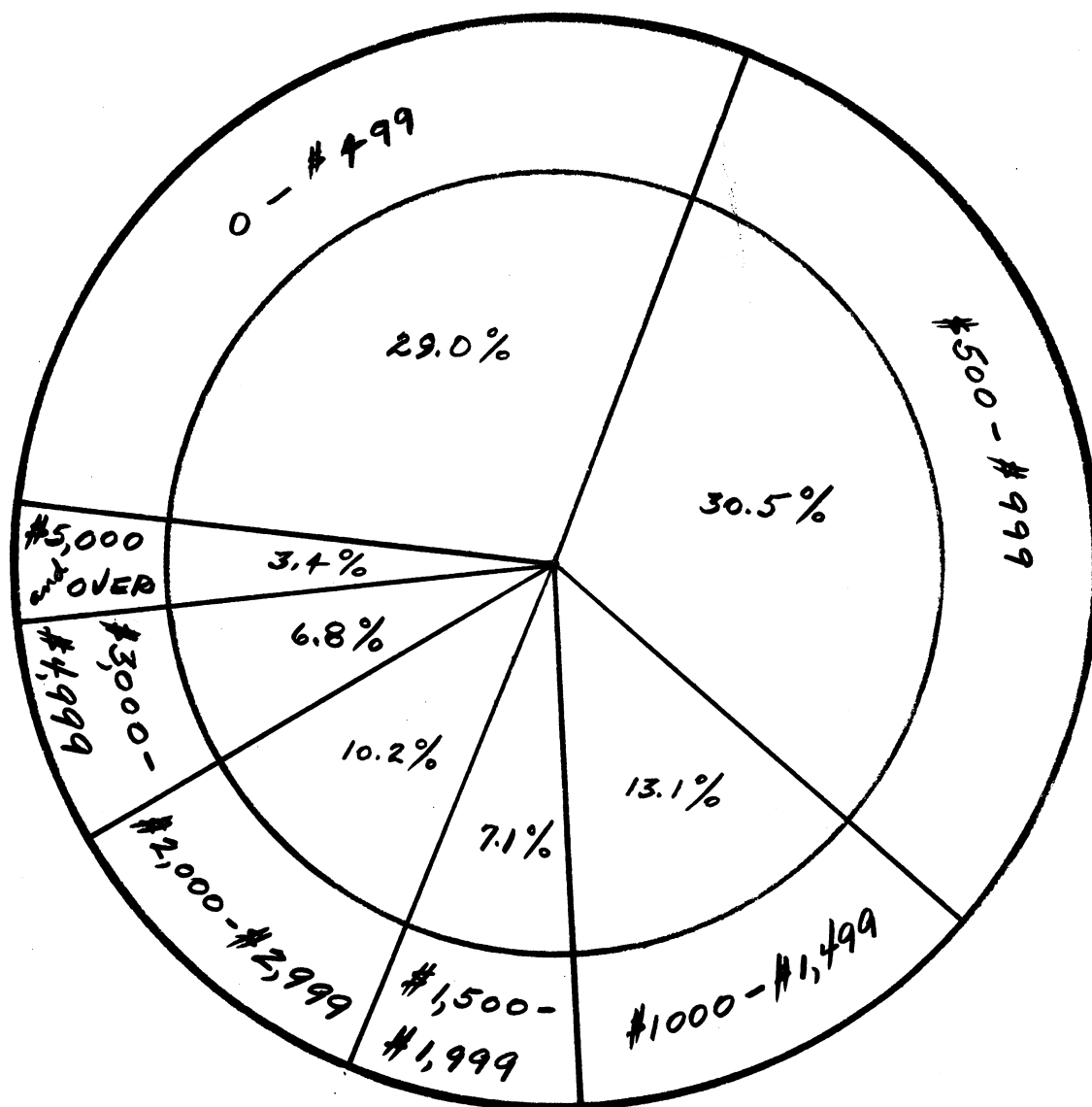
In the table below are listed estimates of modest budgets for older people in various cities throughout the United States. The budgets vary from \$1602 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to \$1908 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The "budget family", according to the definition of the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, consists of a husband and wife about 65 years of age who are renting a two- or three-room unfurnished dwelling unit and taking care of themselves. They do not own a car, and the husband is retired and employed only occasionally.

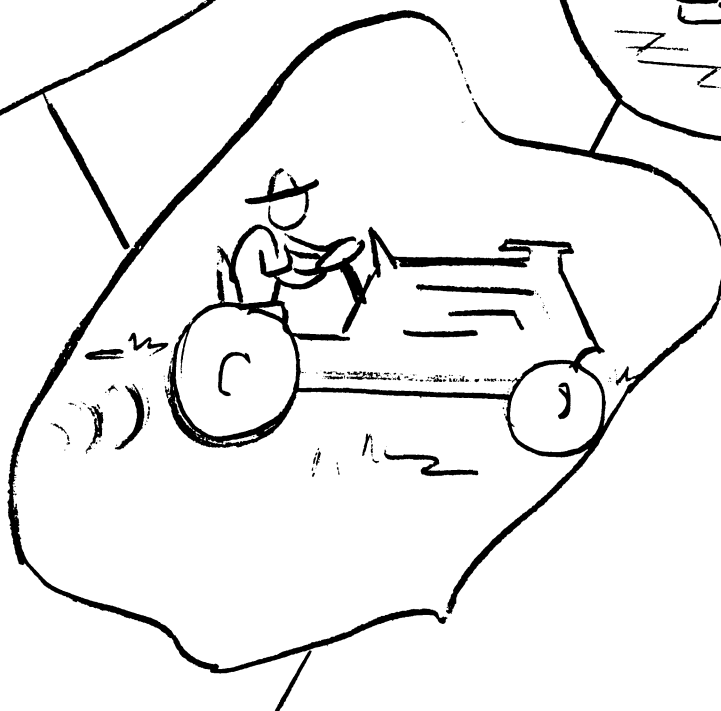
City and State	Dollar Costs		
	Total Budget	Housing	Other Goods and Services
Buffalo, New York . . . . .	\$1,698	\$534	\$1,164
Cincinnati, Ohio . . . . .	1,650	485	1,165
Denver, Colorado . . . . .	1,746	577	1,169
DETROIT, MICHIGAN . . . . .	1,818	573	1,245
Jacksonville, Florida . . . . .	1,795	621	1,174
Milwaukee, Wisconsin . . . . .	1,908	705	1,203
New Orleans, Louisiana . . . . .	1,602	436	1,166
Portland, Maine . . . . .	1,733	548	1,185
San Francisco, California . . . . .	1,833	567	1,266
Washington, D.C. . . . .	1,863	671	1,192

## ANNUAL INCOME IS LOW FOR OLDER PEOPLE

"In 1948 about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million of the 11 million persons 65 years of age and over in the United States had no money income of their own during the year. Of the  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million with some money income, almost one-third had incomes of less than \$500. . . . The median income for men 65 years and over with income was \$1,000. This compares with about \$3,000 for men with income in the age-group 35-44, about \$2,800 for men with income in the age-group 45-54, and about \$2,400 for men with income in the age group 55-65."

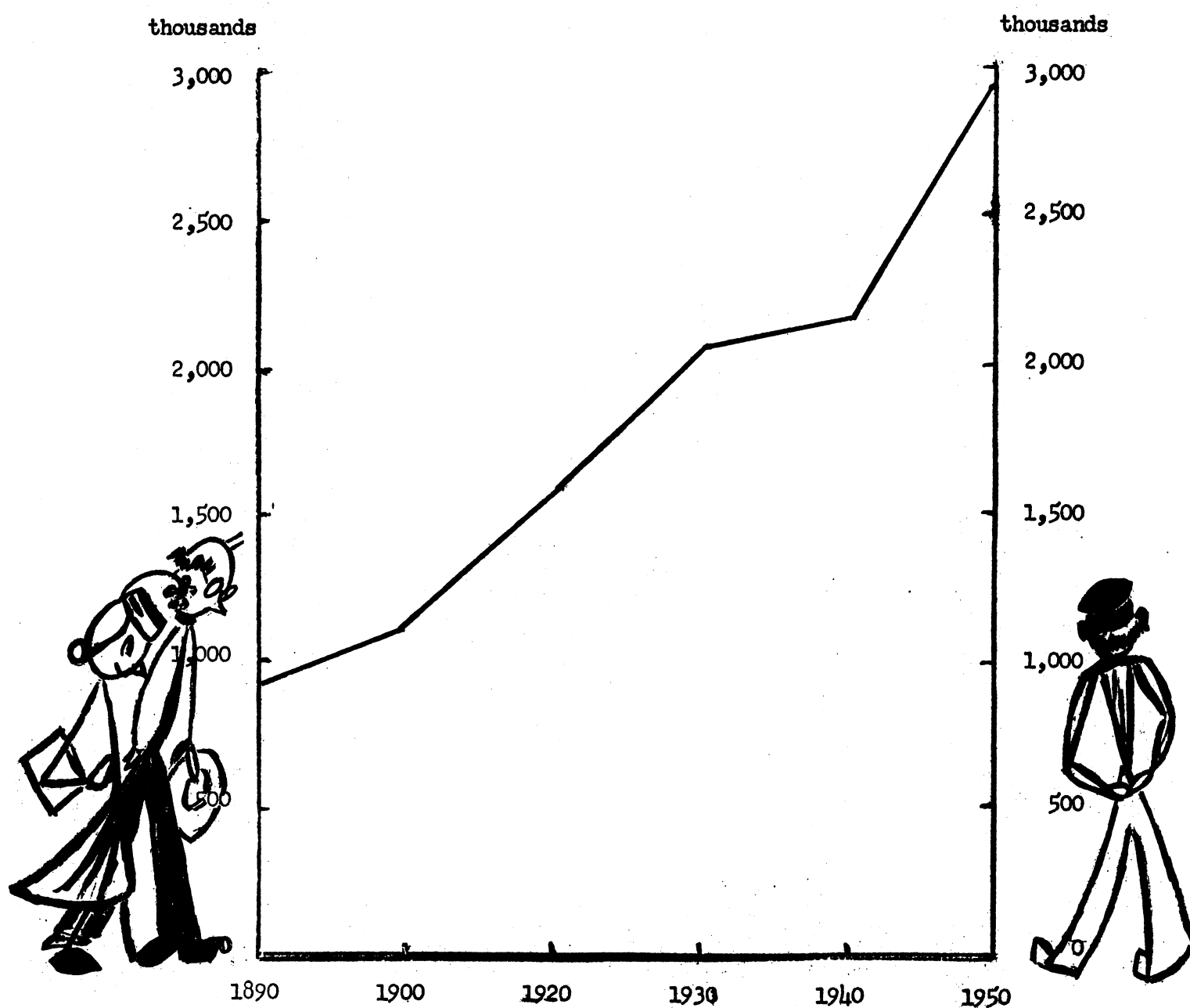


# EMPLOYMENT STATUS



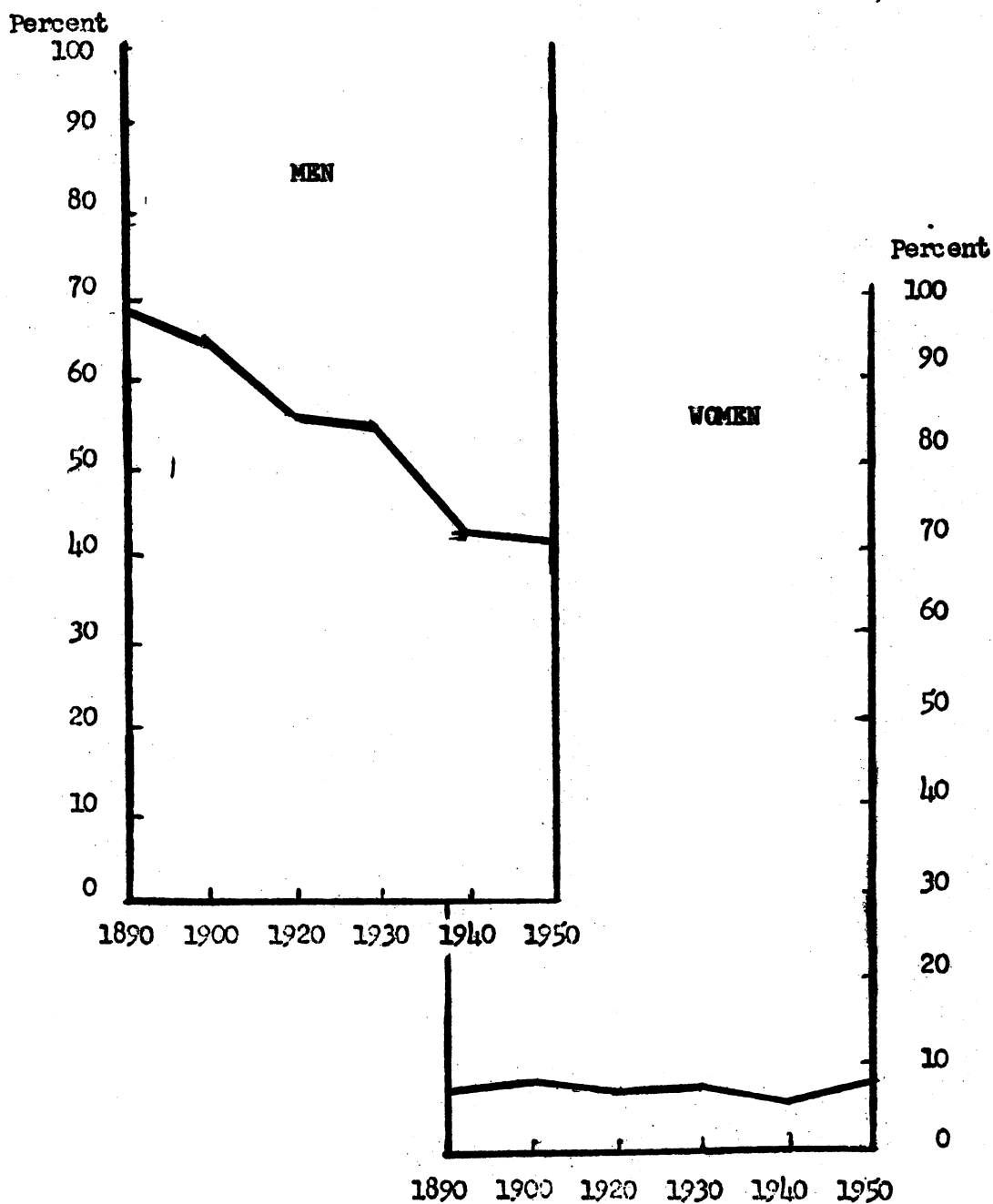
### NUMBER 65 AND OVER IN THE LABOR FORCE UNITED STATES

With the aging of the population there has come a similar change in the age distribution of the labor force. At the present time the age group 45 and over makes up over one-third of the labor force in contrast to one-fourth in 1890. As the population 65 and over has grown in size, the number of employed older persons has increased from 936,000 in 1890 to approximately 2,882,000 in 1950.



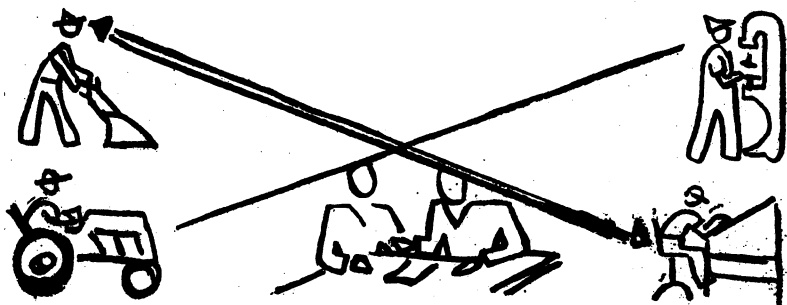
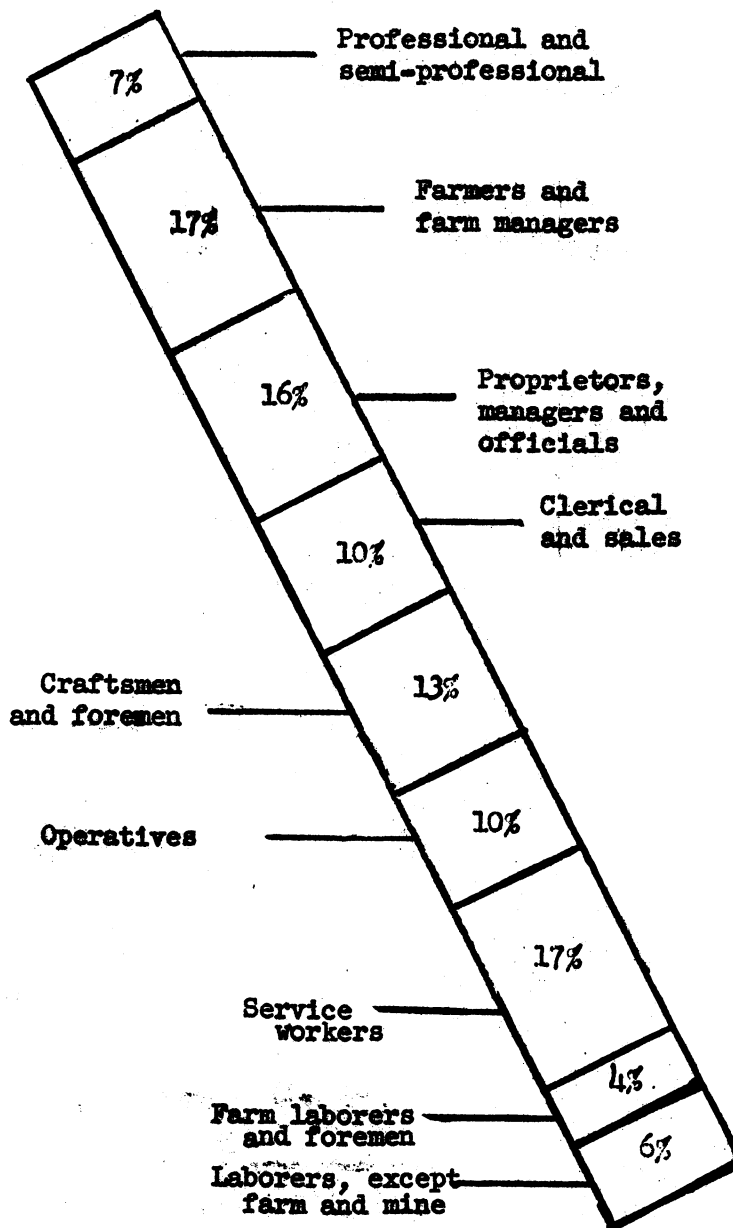
**THE LABOR FORCE IS AGING — BUT THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE 65 AND OVER IN THE LABOR FORCE IS DECREASING**

Although the actual number of older persons in the labor force has increased greatly and although the labor force as a whole is growing older, the percentage of people 65 and over who are employed is decreasing. In 1890, 68% of the country's older men were employed; in 1950 that percentage had decreased to 41.6%.

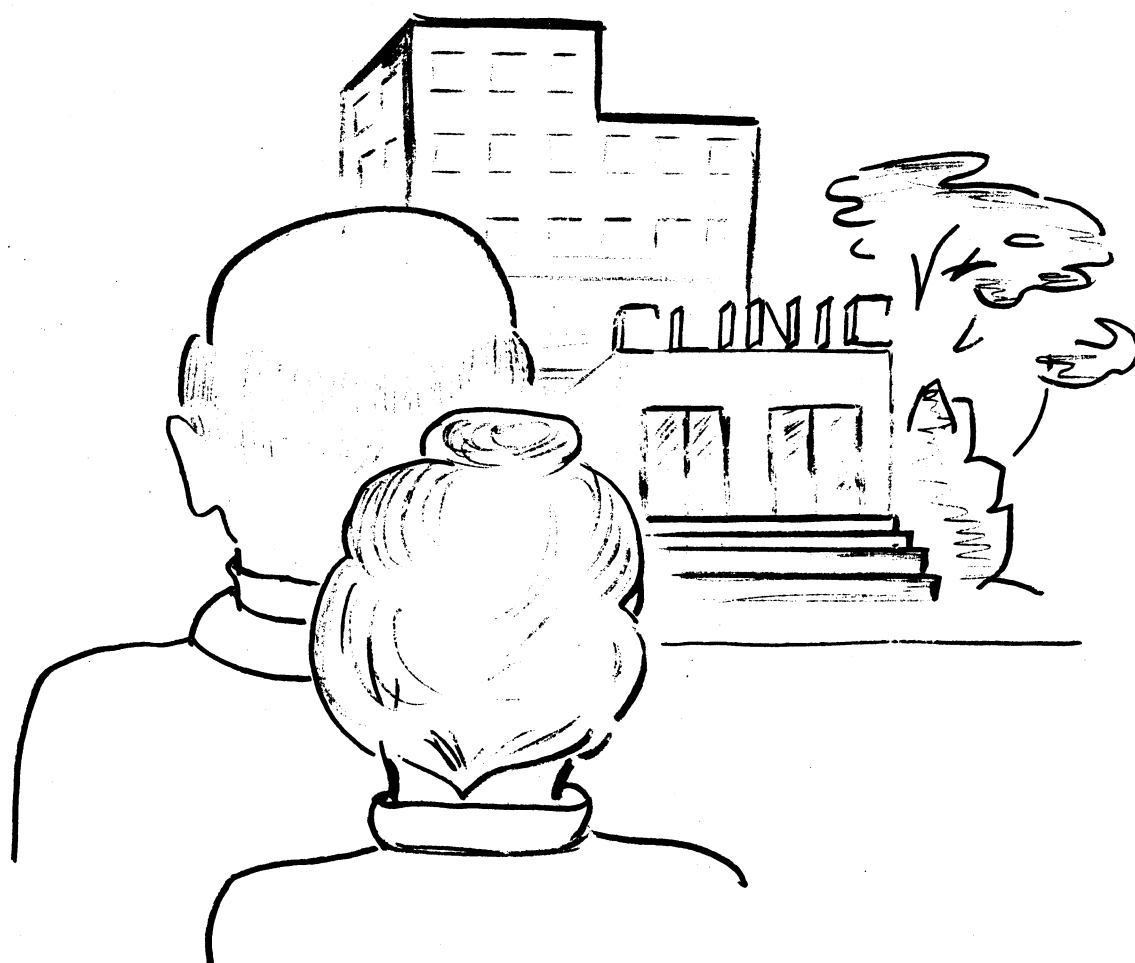




50% of employed persons 65 and over are listed in the occupational categories of (1) farmers and farm managers, (2) proprietors, managers and officials, or (3) service workers. Laborers (other than farm and mine) and farm laborers are the smallest groups



# HEALTH OF OLDER PEOPLE



CAUSES OF DEATH OF OLDER PEOPLE  
UNITED STATES, 1949

Cardiovascular-renal diseases are the principal killers of older people. In 1900 cancer ranked fifth as a cause of death in the older population, but in 1949 it had risen to second place.

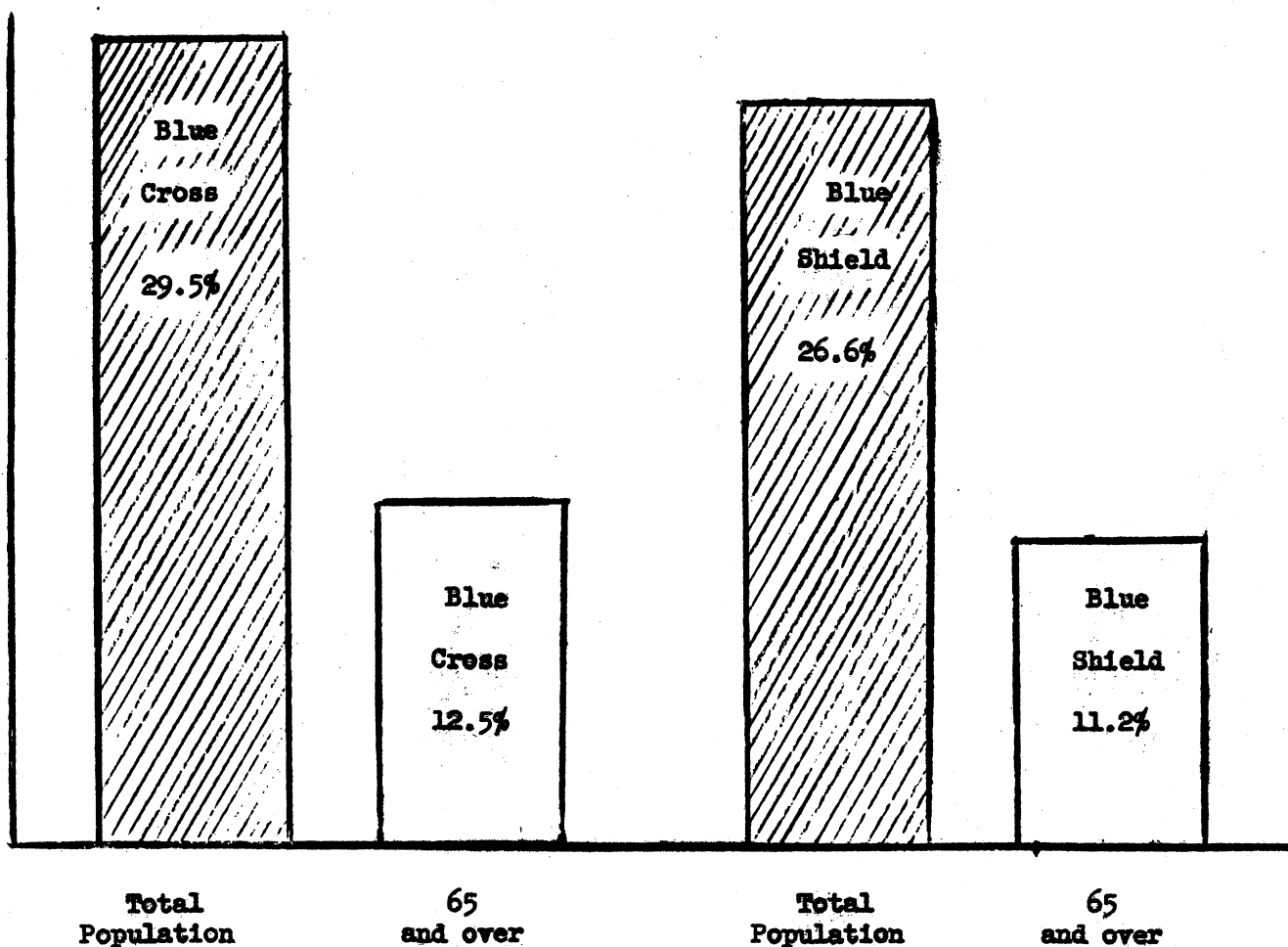
Percentage Distribution of Causes of Death  
for Persons 65 Years and Over  
1949

Cause of Death	Percent
All causes	100.0
Cardiovascular-renal diseases . . . .	69.4
Cancer and other malignant tumors . . . . .	10.3
Accidents . . . . .	4.5
Influenza and pneumonia . . . . .	3.6
Diabetes mellitus . . . . .	1.3
Tuberculosis . . . . .	.6
All other causes . . . . .	10.3

OLDER PEOPLE WITH MEMBERSHIP IN BLUE CROSS OR BLUE SHIELD  
MICHIGAN, 1950

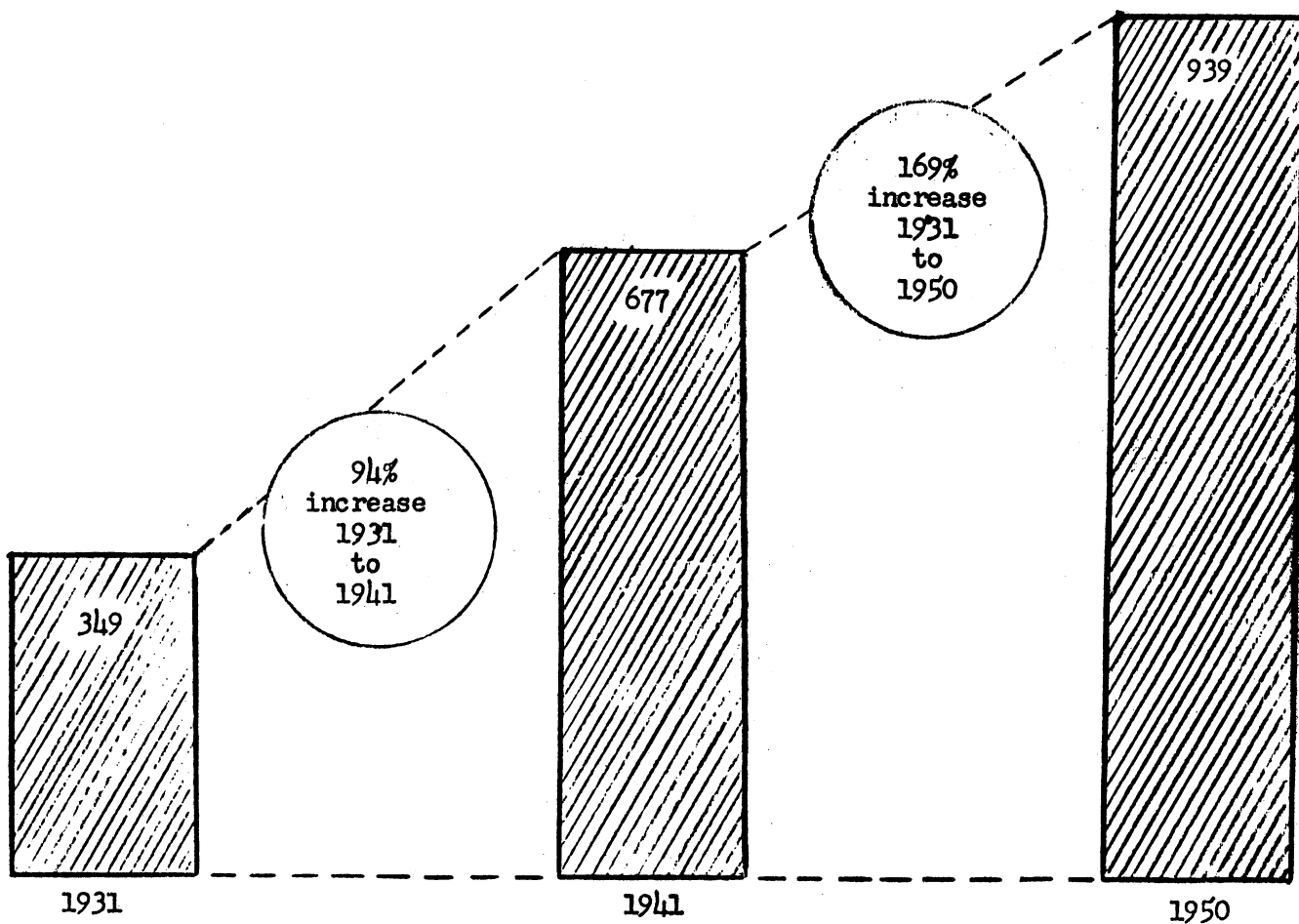
In 1950, 12.5% of Michigan's older people were in the Blue Cross Plan; 11.2% had membership in Blue Shield. Of Michigan's total population 29.5% and 26.6% were members of Blue Cross and Blue Shield respectively.

30%



**MICHIGAN STATE HOSPITALS ARE ADMITTING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF OLDER PEOPLE**

There was a 94 percent increase in the number of persons 65 and over admitted for the first time to state hospitals between the years 1931 and 1941. While Michigan's older population was increasing by approximately 80% between 1931 and 1950, state hospital admissions for that age-group increased 169 percent.



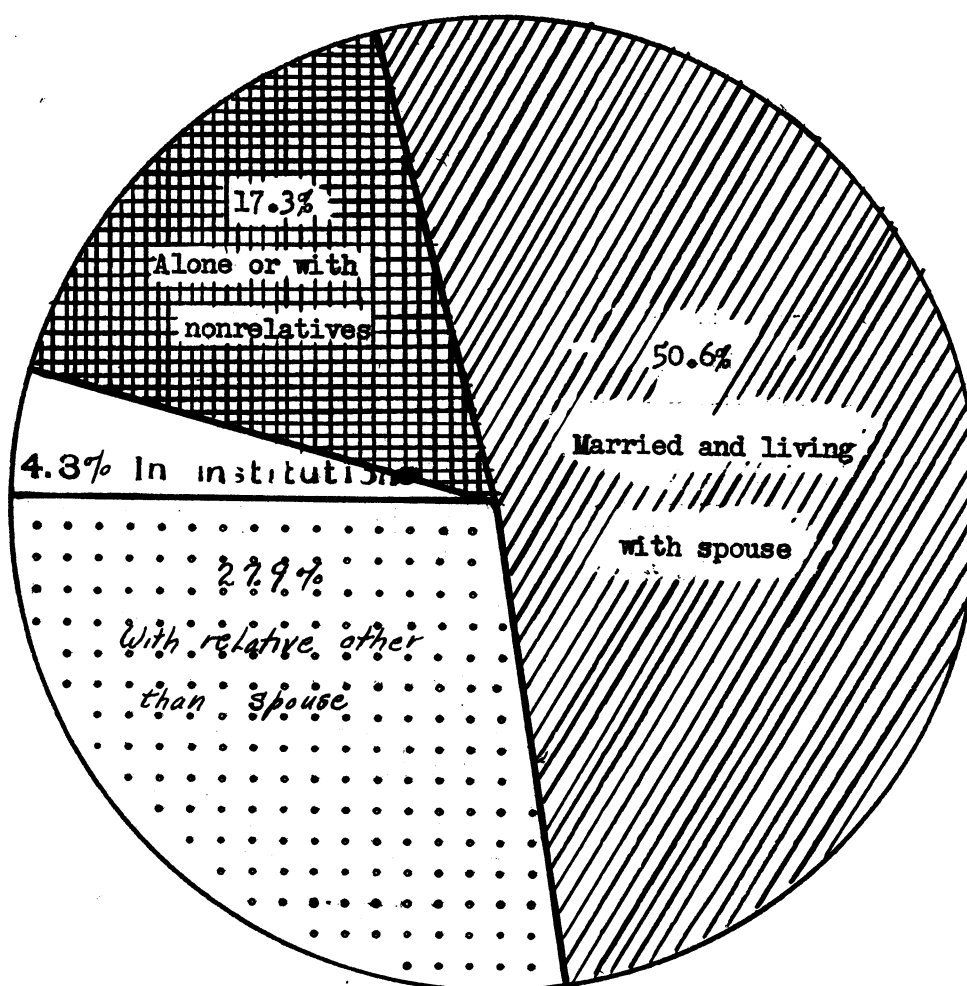
# LIVING ARRANGEMENT



## MOST OLDER PEOPLE ARE MARRIED AND LIVING WITH SPOUSE

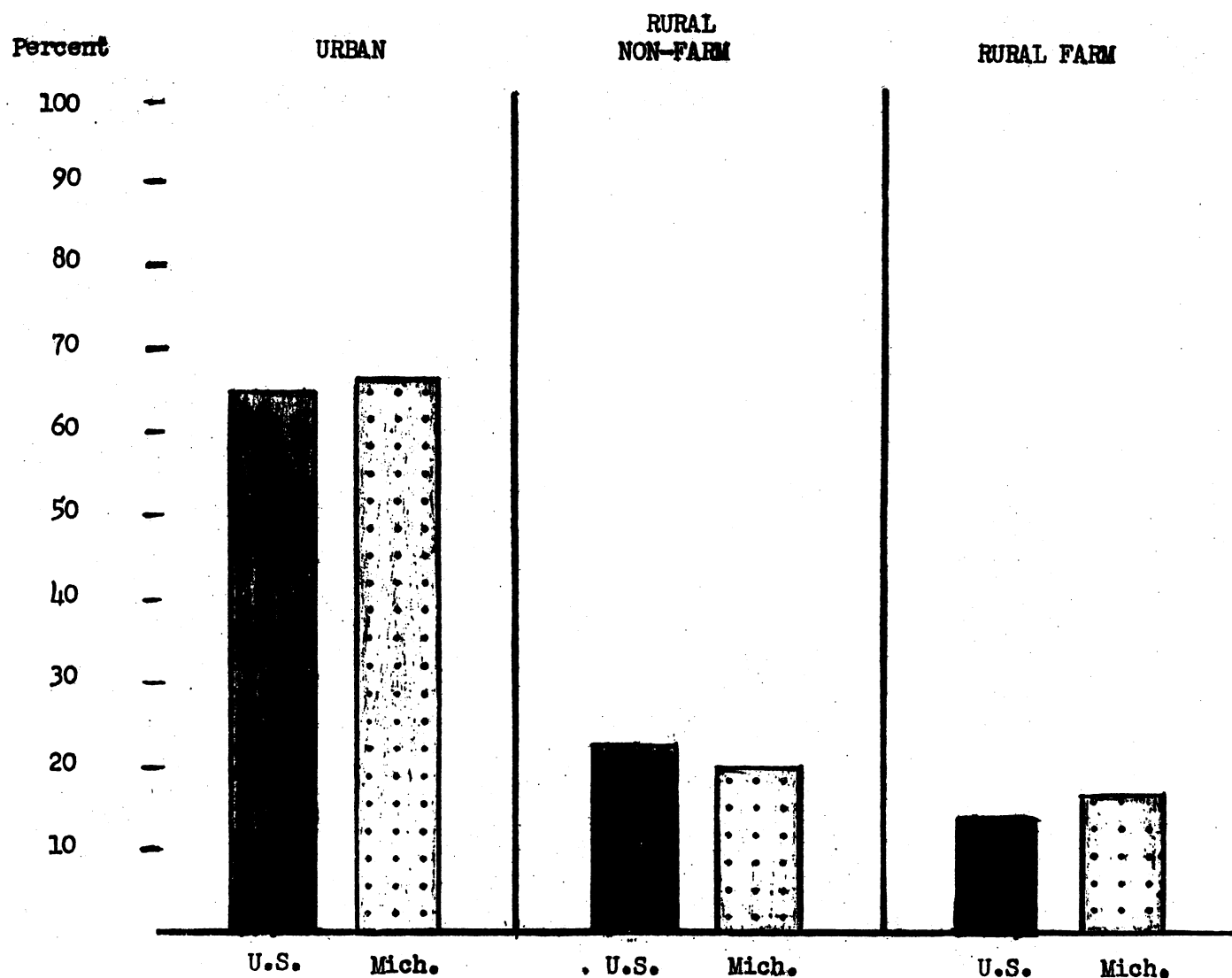
United States, 1949

About 80% of the older people of the country live in families, either with spouse or with other relatives. Only a little over 4% live in institutions or large rooming houses.



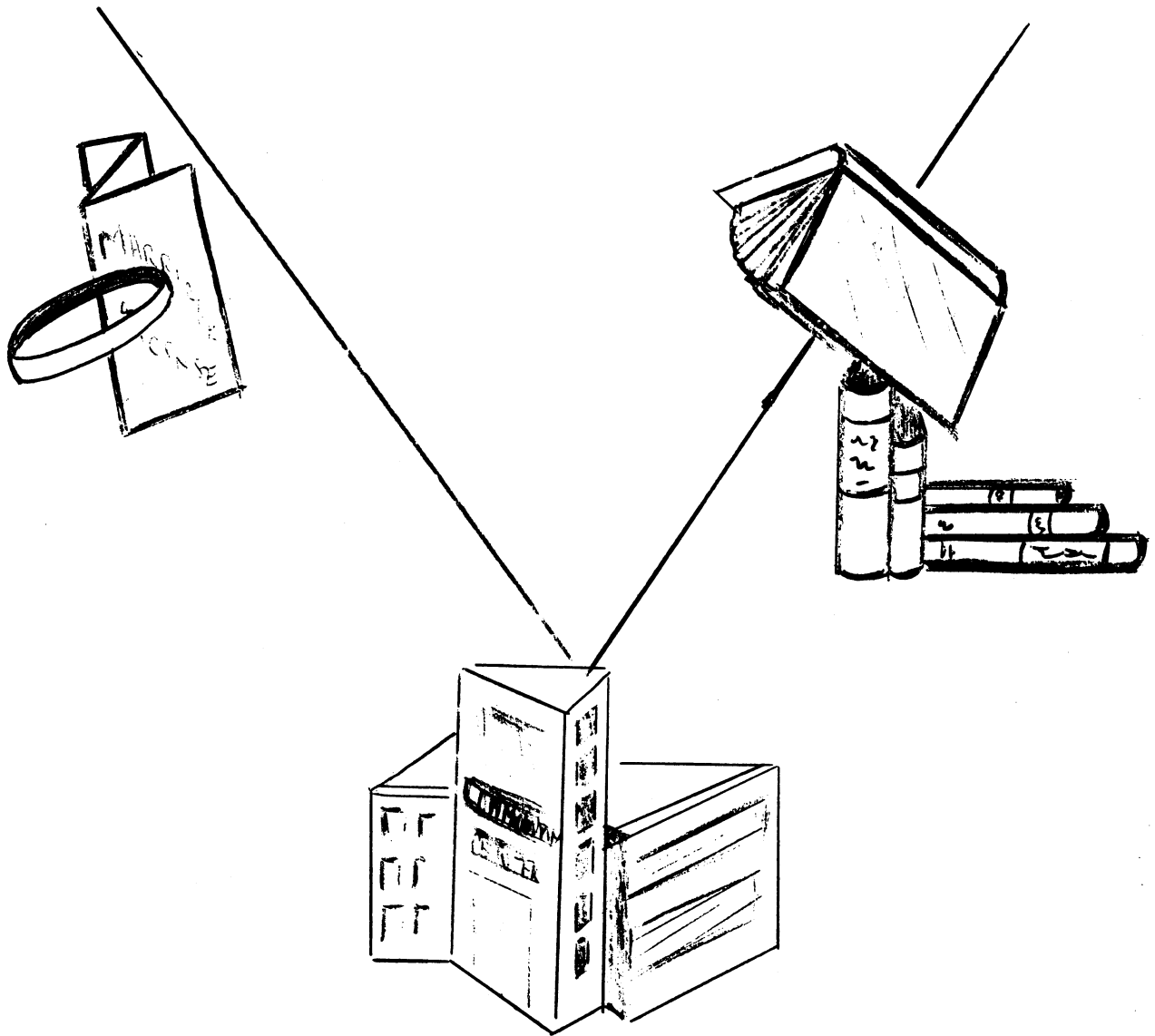
# **MOST OLDER PEOPLE LIVE IN CITIES** 1950

Community residence of Michigan's older people does not differ to any extent from that for the nation as a whole. The largest proportion of people 65 and over in Michigan and in the United States live in urban areas.





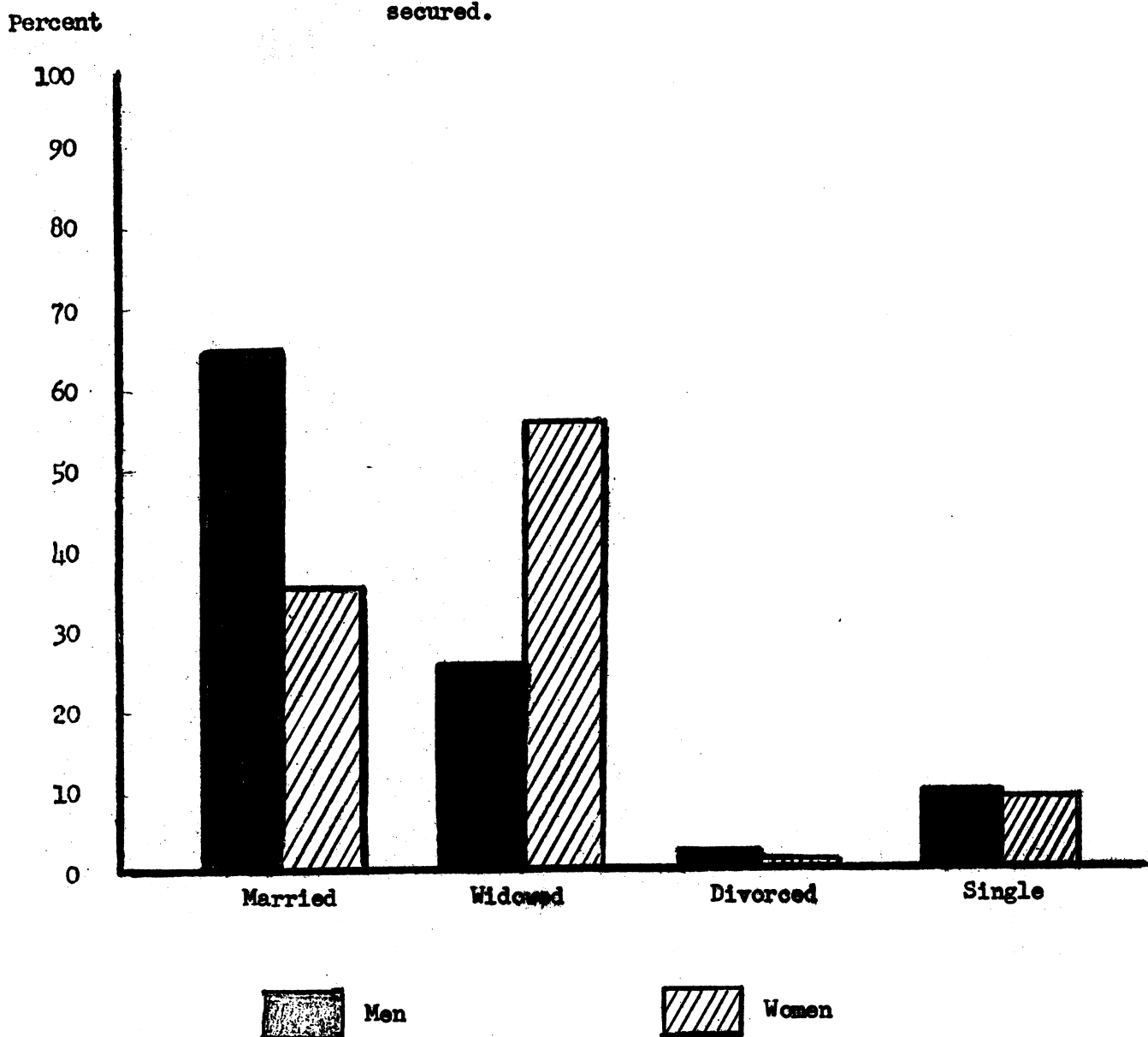
# OTHER



# Characteristics

## MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 65 AND OVER, UNITED STATES, 1940

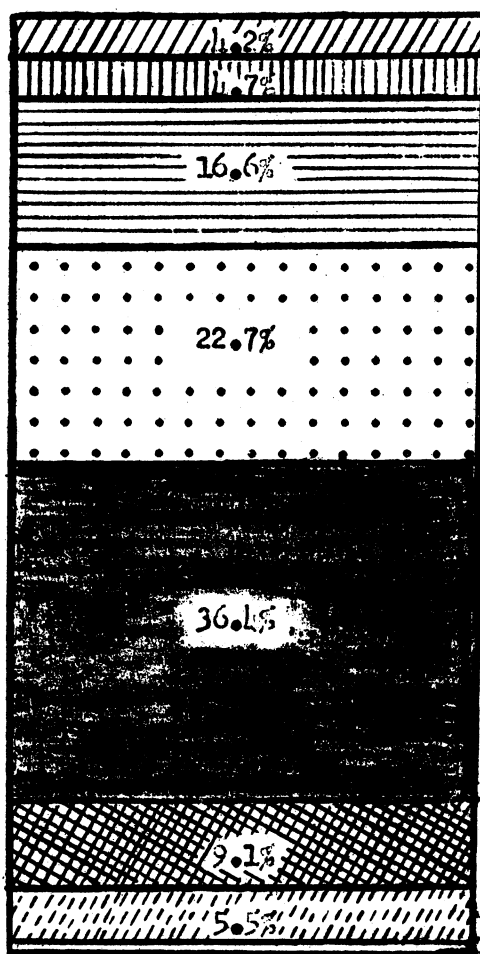
Because men usually marry younger women and because women tend to outlive their husbands, the distribution by marital status shows a larger percentage of widows than widowers. For the same reason the proportion of married men exceeds that of married women. The statistics below indicate the status of the individuals at the time the information was secured.



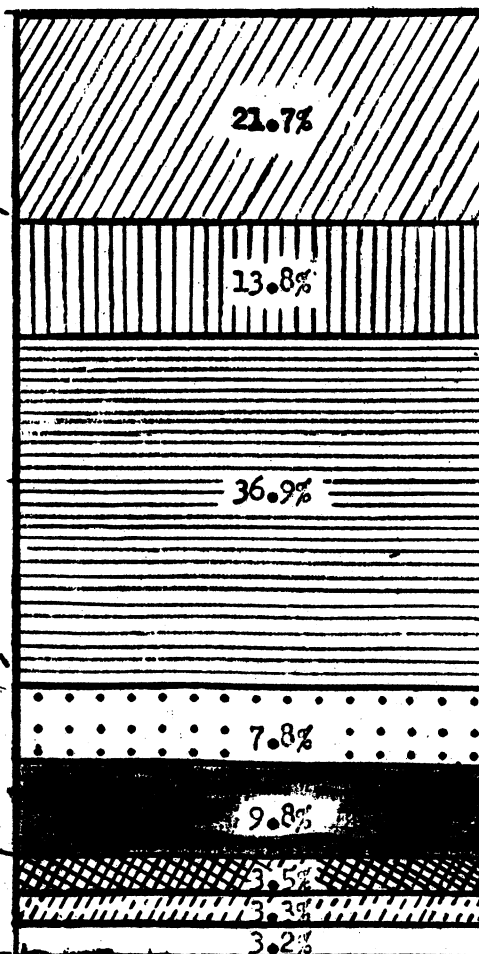
# OLDER PEOPLE HAVE HAD LESS SCHOOLING THAN YOUNGER PEOPLE

According to statistics for 1947 twenty-two percent of the people 65 and over had less than 5 years of schooling compared with 4 percent of those 25 to 29 years of age. It will be noted, also, that 60 percent of those 25 to 29 completed 1 to 3 years or 4 years of high school training compared with 18 percent of those 65 and over. These data reflect the expansion of school facilities and a greater emphasis upon attendance at school during recent decades.

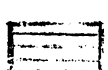
AGE  
25  
to  
29



AGE  
65  
and  
over



Elementary School  
less than  
5 years



High School  
1 to 3  
years



College  
1 to 3  
years



Not reported



## SOURCES

Listed below are the sources of the data upon which the tables and charts in this publication were based.

### Page No.

#### I. Numbers, Proportions, Trends

1. U.S. Bureau of Census
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.

#### II. Migration of Older People

8. Intra-State Migration in Michigan, 1935-1940, Amos H. Hawley, to be published, University of Michigan
9. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.

#### III. Financial Support

14. Michigan Welfare Commission
15. Ibid.
16. Federal Security Agency, Social Security Administration
17. "Income Maintenance for the Aged", Wilbur J. Cohen, The Annals, Vol. 279.
18. Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor
19. "Some Facts About Our Aging Population", Federal Security Agency.

#### IV. Employment Status

20. U.S. Bureau of Census
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.

#### V. Health of Older People

23. U.S. Public Health Service
24. Social Security Administration
25. Michigan Department of Mental Health

#### VI. Living Arrangements

26. Federal Security Agency, Social Security Administration
27. U.S. Bureau of Census

#### VII. Other Characteristics

28. U.S. Bureau of Census
29. U.S. Bureau of Census