

# Nebraska's Increasing Urbanization



## CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Director  
jgschafer@unomaha.edu  
[cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/policy)

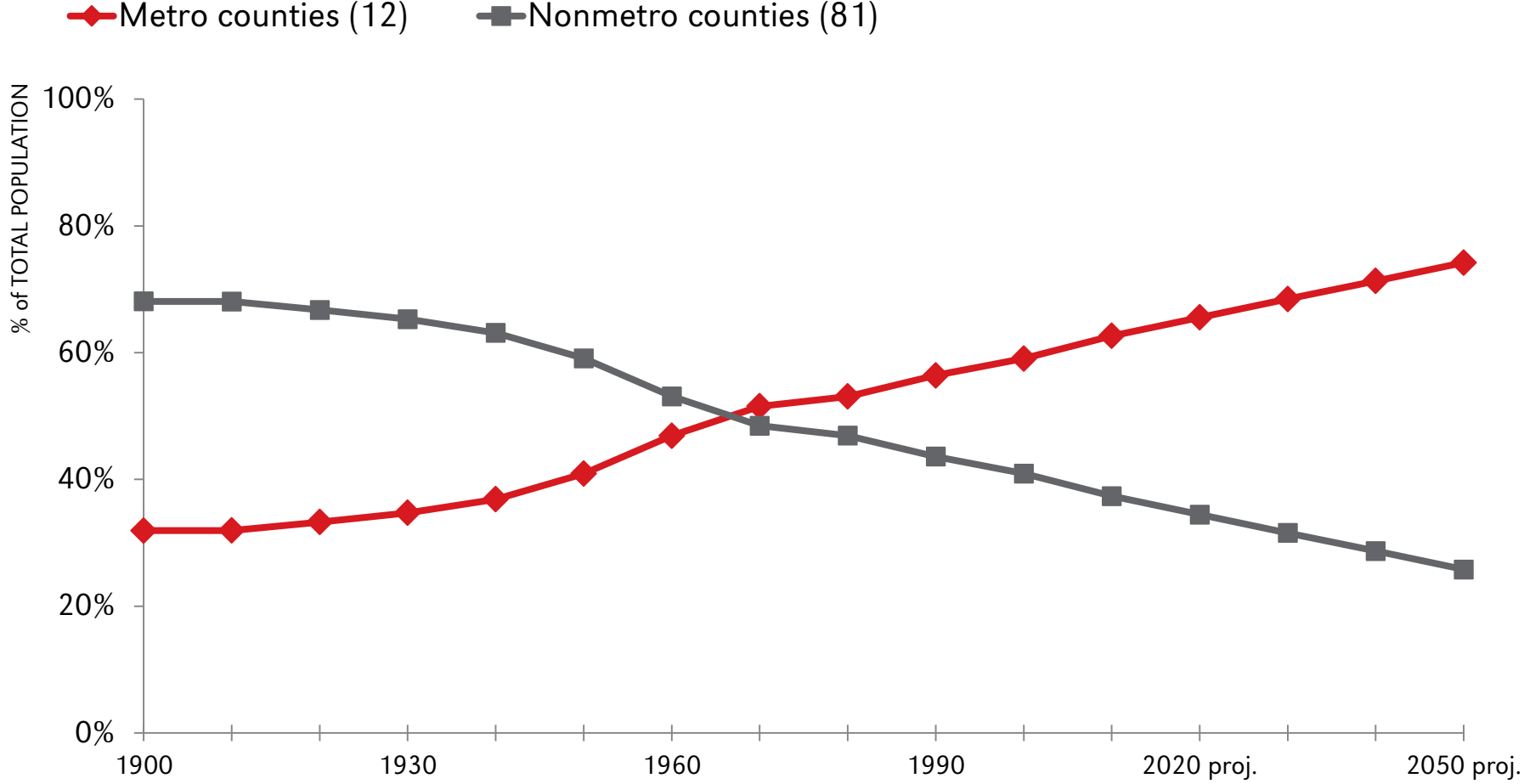


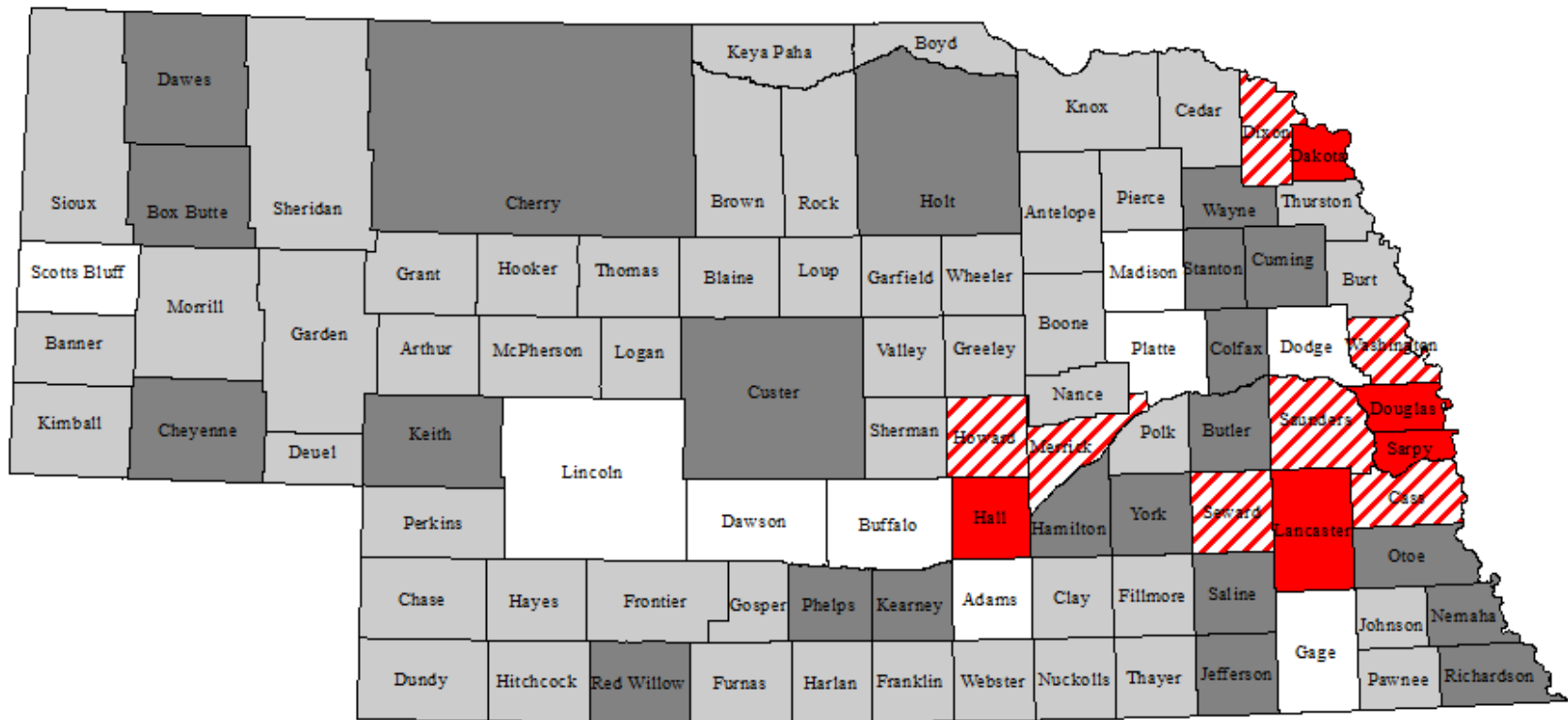
@UNOmahacpar  
#Nebraskabythenumbers



@unocpar

# 65% of Nebraska's population will live in a metro by 2020





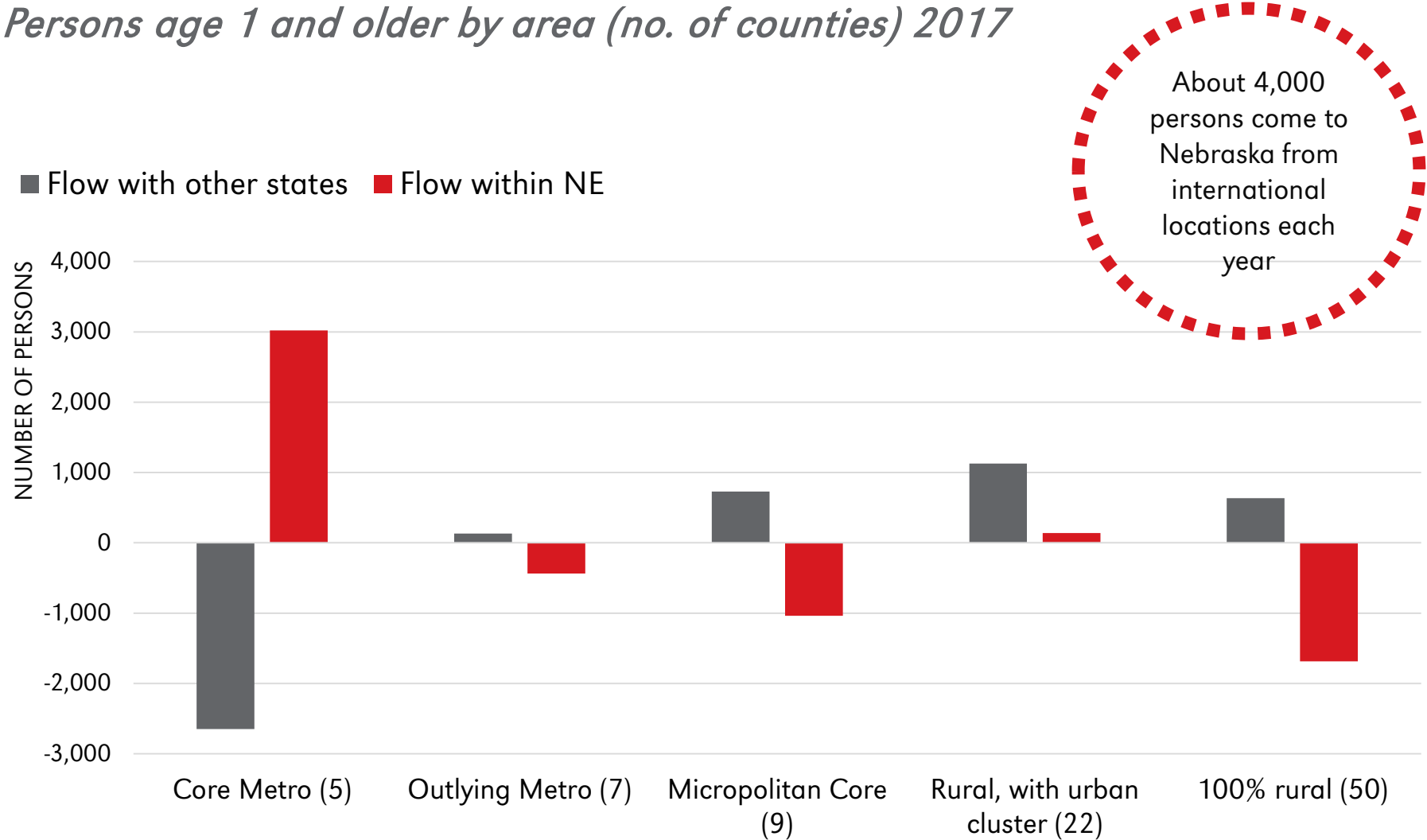
### Nebraska County Classification

- Core metropolitan (5) - contains or uniquely tied to a city of 50,000 or more residents
- Outlying metropolitan (7) - strong commuting ties to a core metro
- Micropolitan core (9) - nonmetropolitan containing a city of 10,000 - 49,999 residents
- Rural with urban cluster (22) - nonmetropolitan containing a city of 2,500 - 9,999 residents
- 100% rural (50) - no city or largest city population of less than 2,500 residents



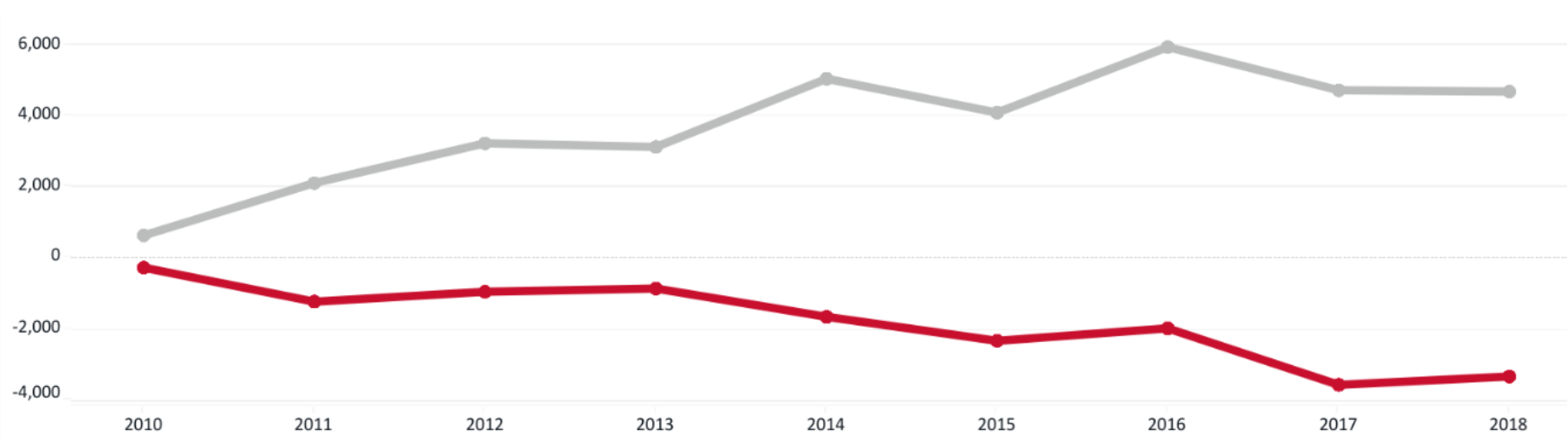
# Nebraska is losing about 2,000 people a year to other states

*Persons age 1 and older by area (no. of counties) 2017*



# Net domestic migration for Nebraska is negative but net positive for international migration

● Domestic Net Migration
 ● International Net Migration



Year:

## Nebraska In-Migration

Origin	Total	Margin of Error
Abroad	11,189	+/- 2,380
Iowa	8,825	+/- 2,053
Texas	4,876	+/- 2,255
Colorado	4,520	+/- 1,312
California	3,707	+/- 1,657
Minnesota	2,713	+/- 946
South Dakota	2,537	+/- 897
Kansas	2,337	+/- 947

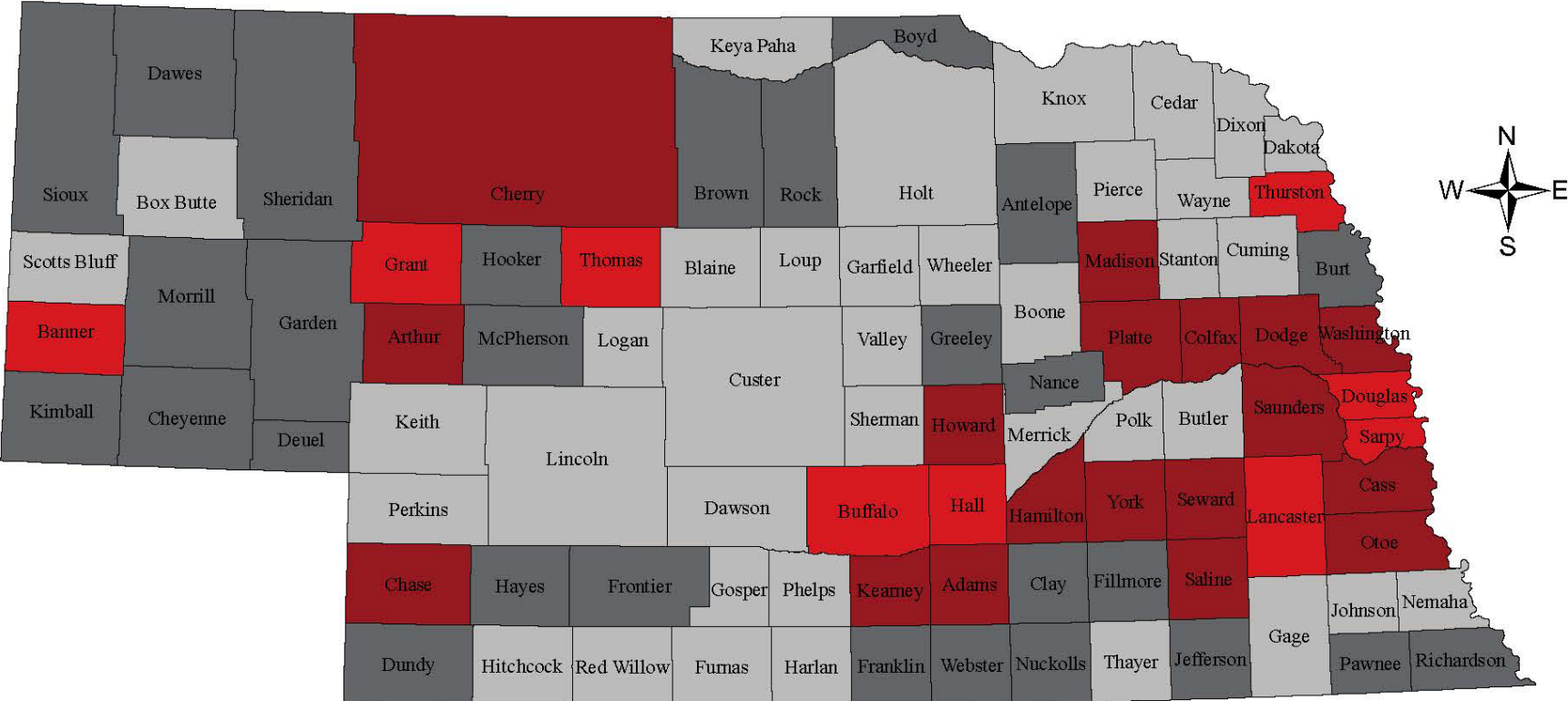
## Nebraska Out-Migration

Destination	Total	Margin of Error
Iowa	6,639	+/- 1,783
Colorado	4,541	+/- 1,410
Missouri	3,326	+/- 985
Kansas	2,939	+/- 976
South Dakota	2,892	+/- 1,159
Texas	2,689	+/- 951
California	2,419	+/- 1,022
Illinois	2,290	+/- 1,185

# Since 2010, Nebraska's population has increased about 5% but 66 counties have lost population

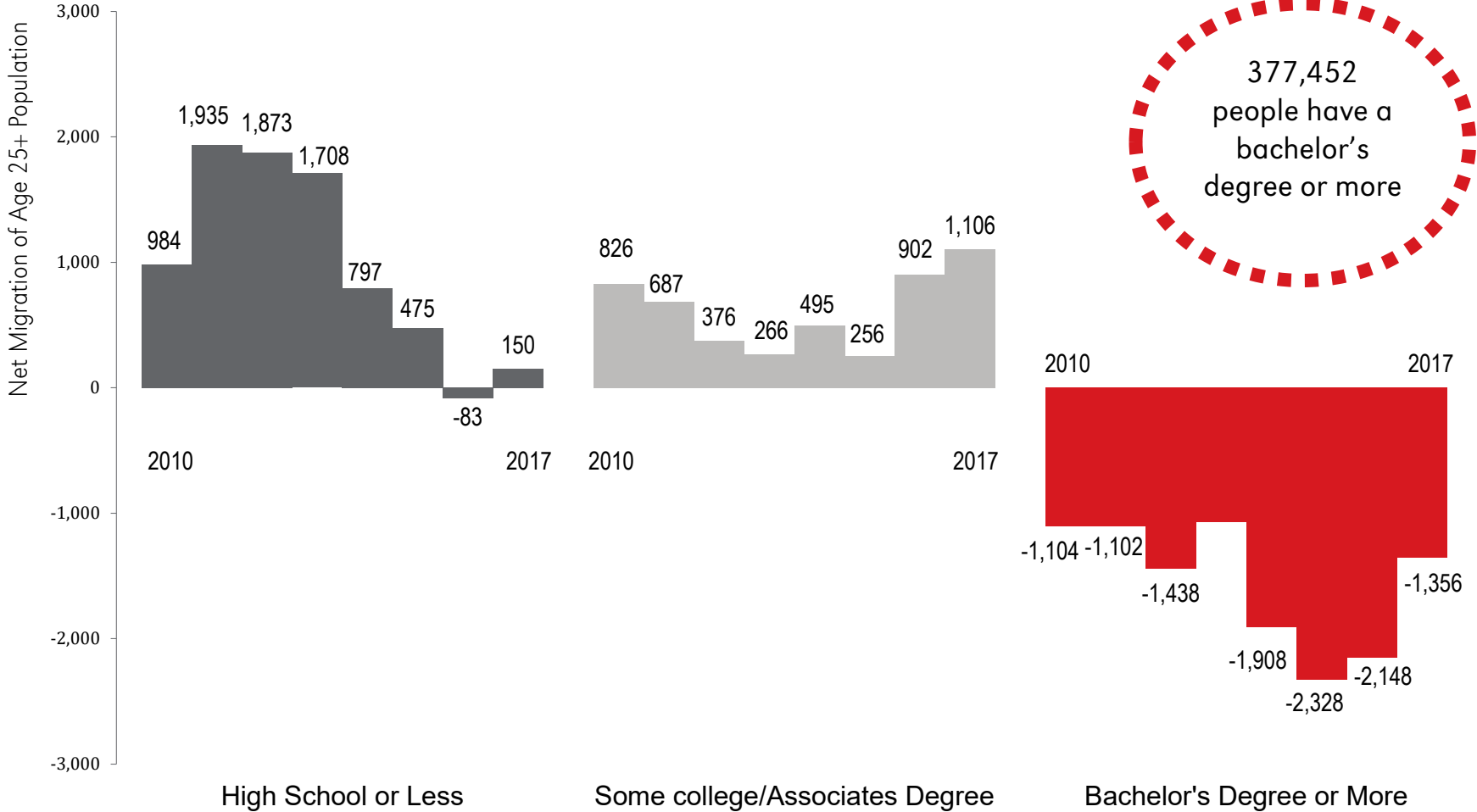
*Percent change in population 2010 - 2018*

- 5% or more increase
- Less than 5% increase
- Less than 5% decrease
- 5% or more decrease



# Net domestic migration of age 25+ by education

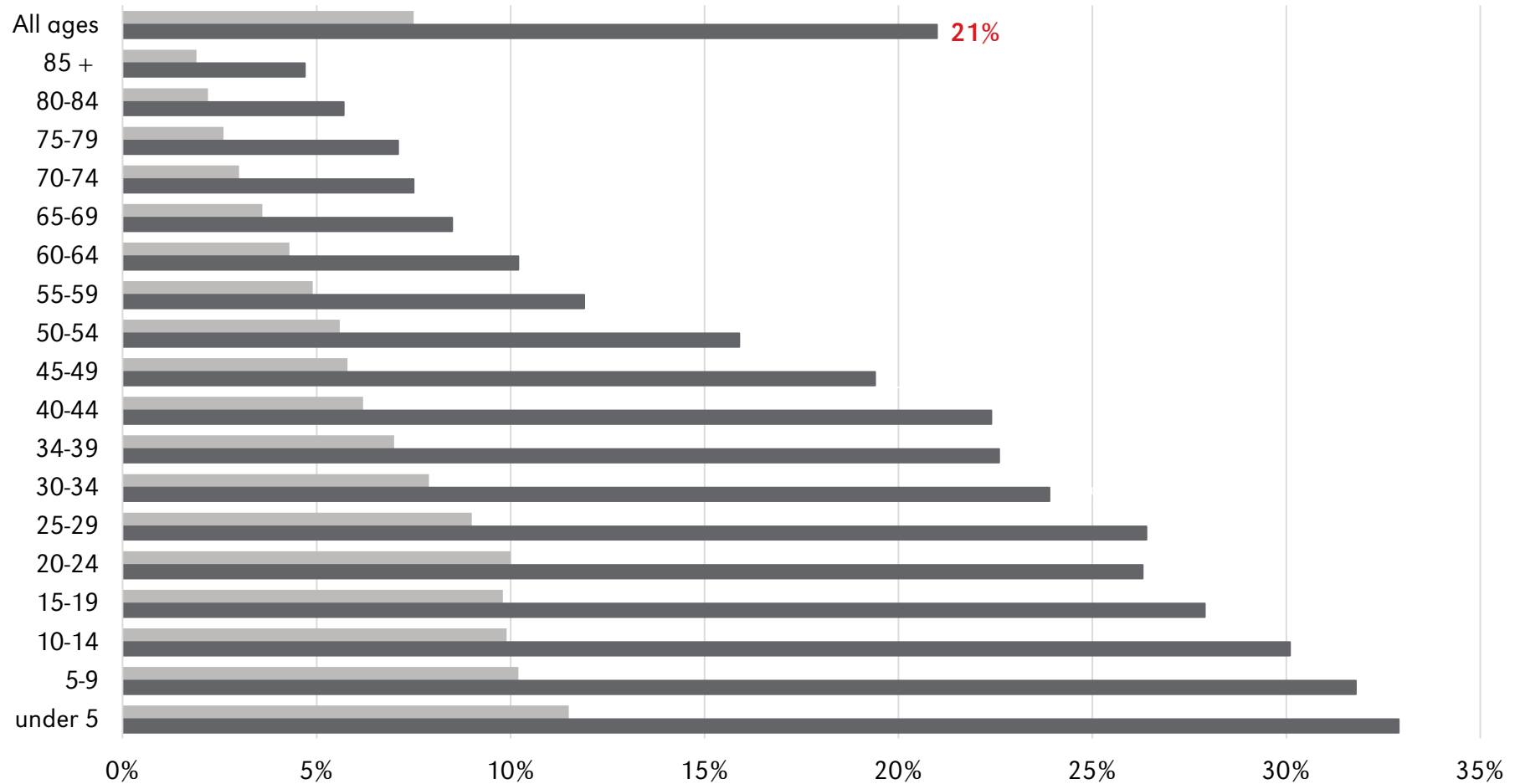
2010 to 2017



# 21% of Nebraska's population is minority, up from 8% in 1990

*Minority population as % of total population by age groups*

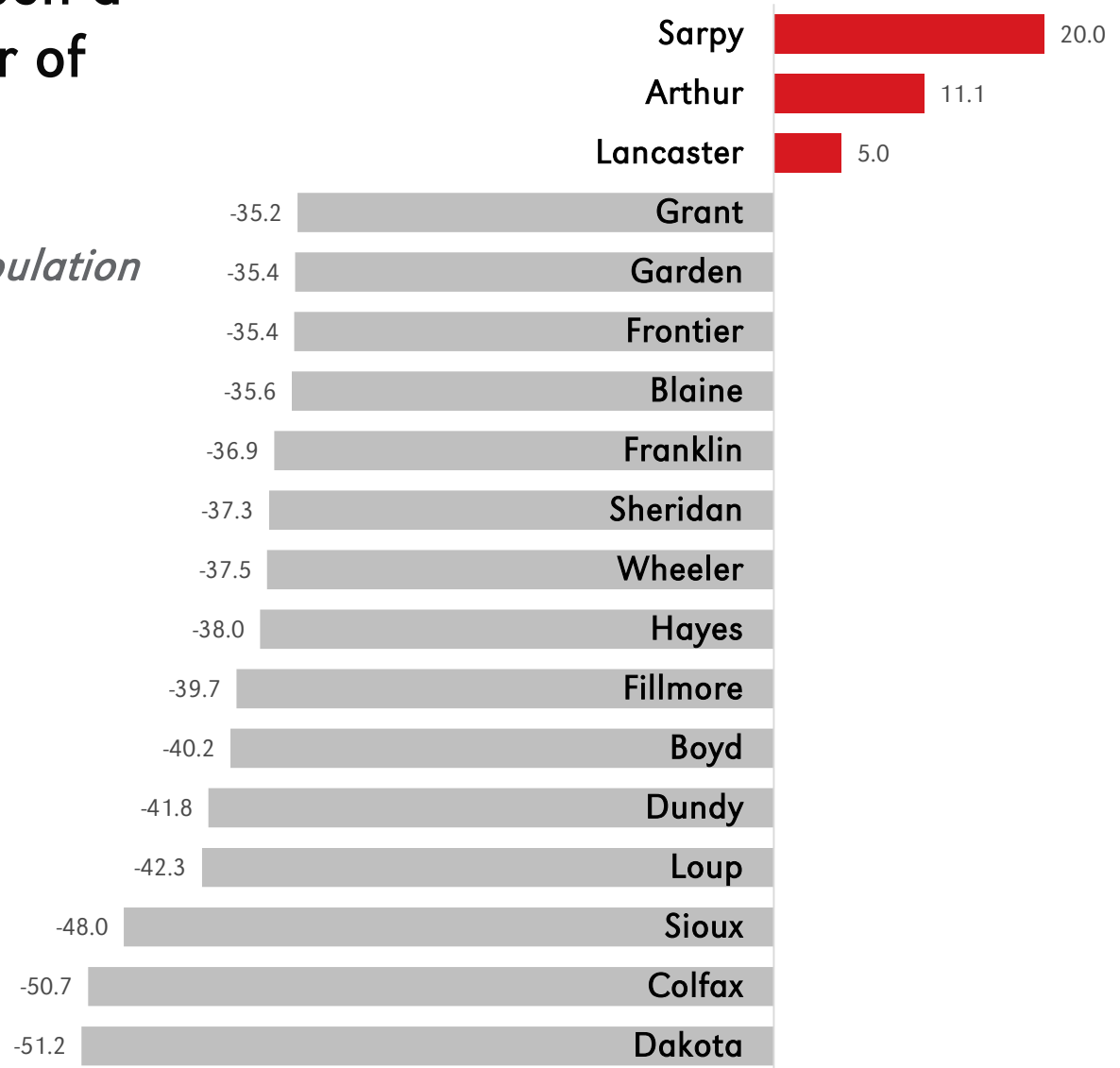
■ 1990 ■ 2017



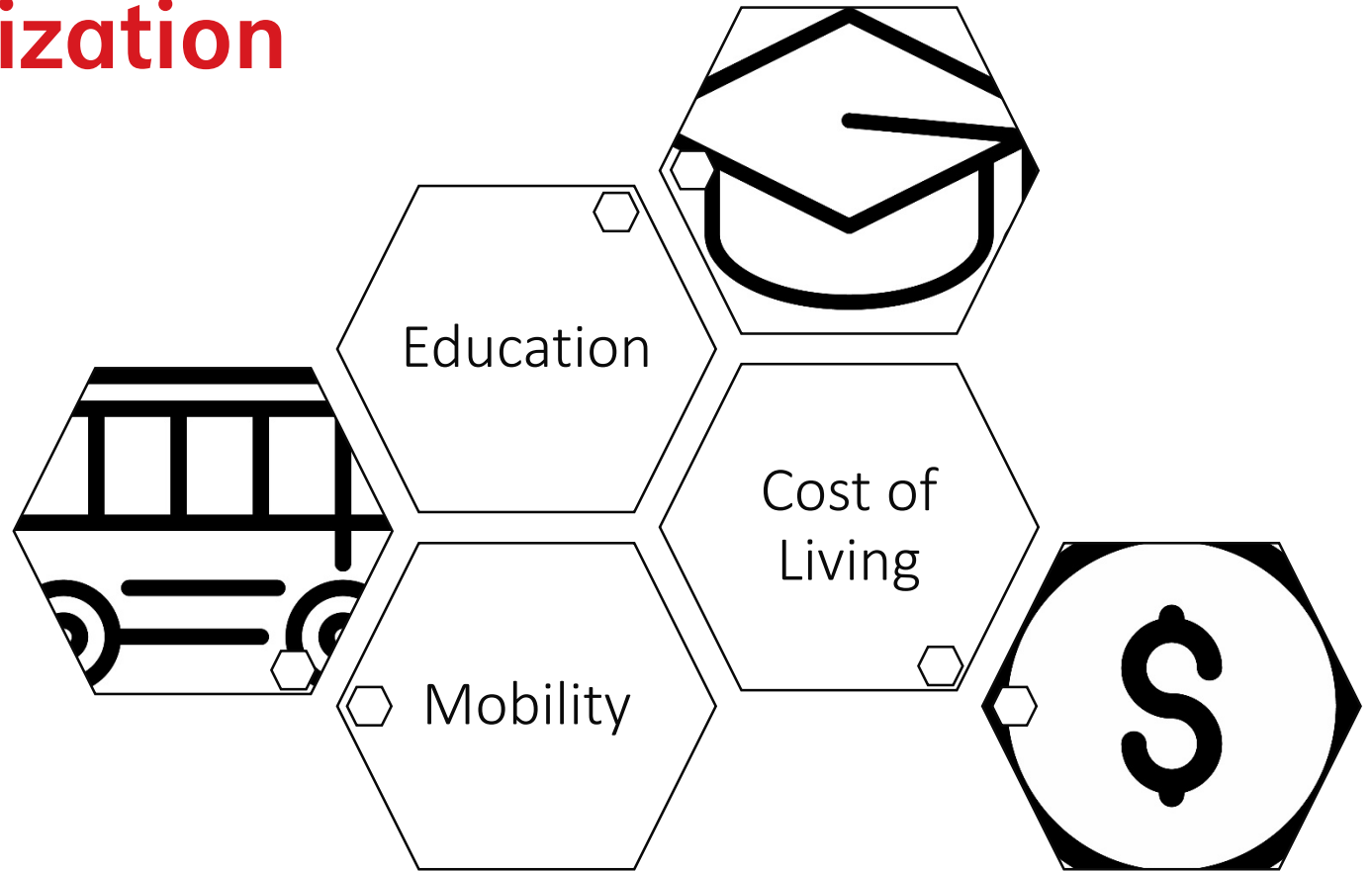


# Since 2000, in all but 3 counties there has been a decline in the number of White, non-Hispanic population under 20

*Percent change in white population under 20, 2000- 2017*



# Challenges and Opportunities of Urbanization





## NEBRASKA

### Nonmetro

40.6  
 23.7%  
 57.8%  
 18.5%  
  
 21.2%  
 84.0%  
 2.7%  
 6.5%  
 14.4%

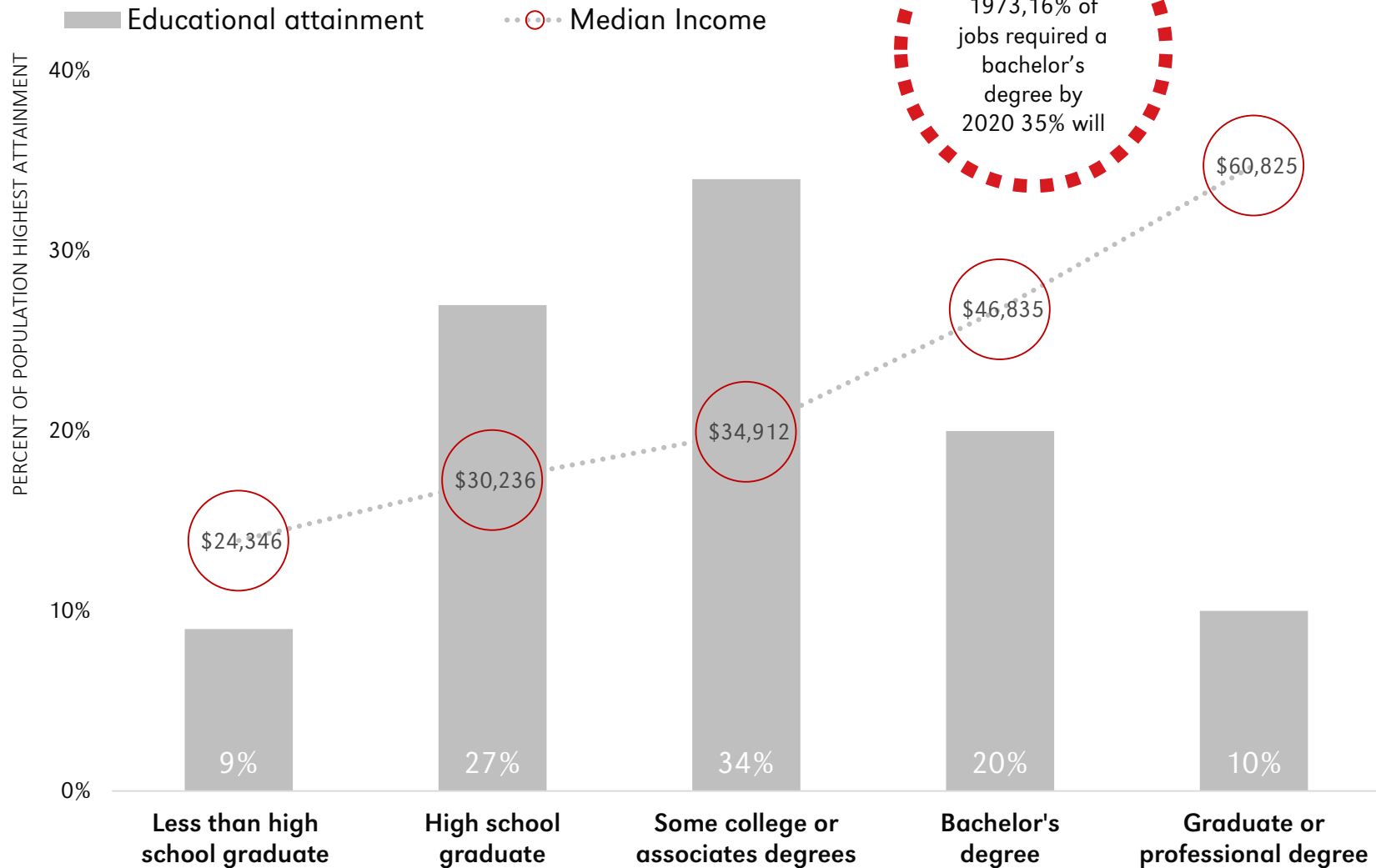
Median age (years)  
 Under age 18  
 Age 18 to 64  
 Age 65+

Age 25+ with Bachelor's Degree+  
 Age 25 to 64 in labor force  
 Age 25 to 64 unemployment rate  
 Under age 18 uninsured rate  
 Age 18 to 64 uninsured rate

### Metro

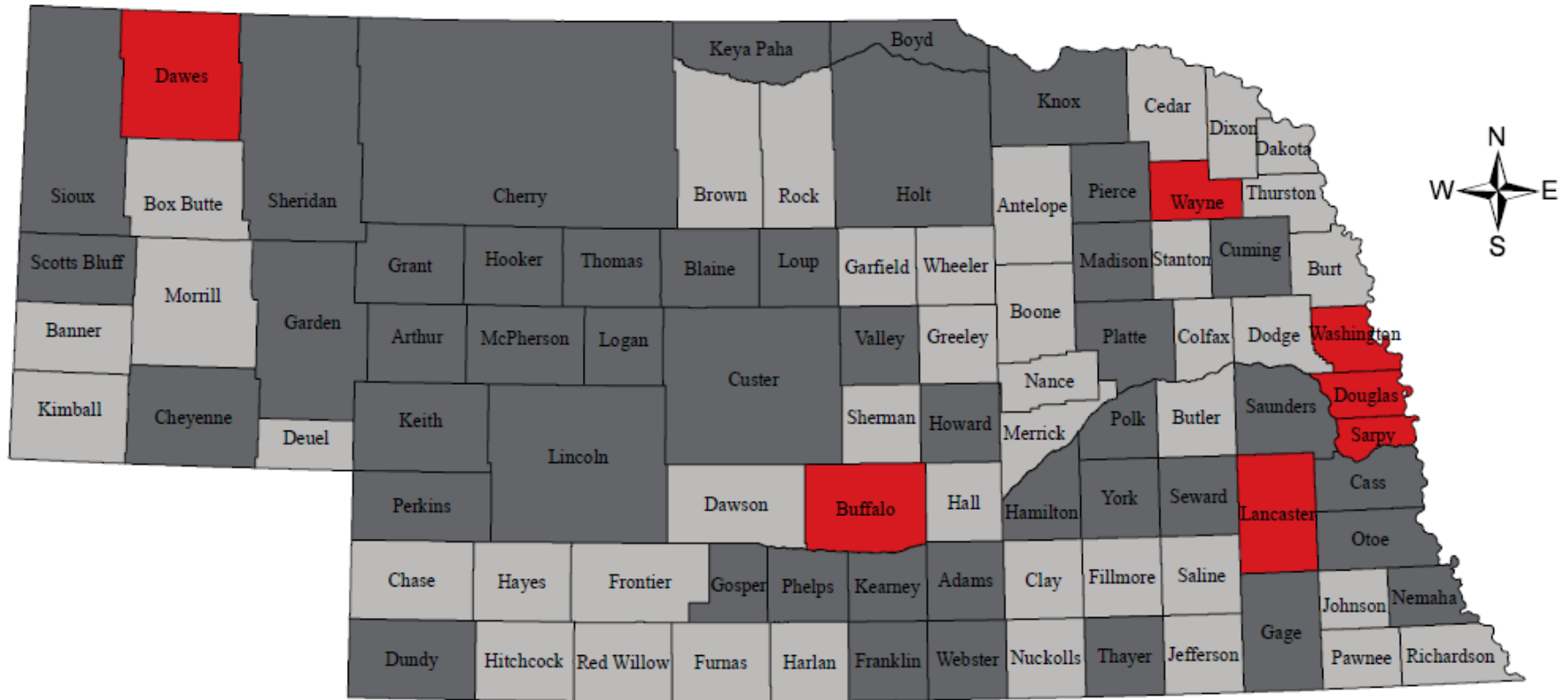
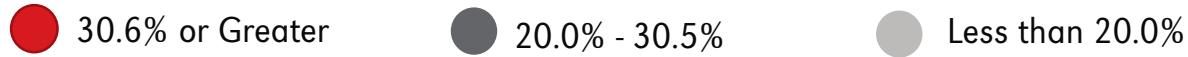
34.4  
 25.5%  
 62.3%  
 12.2%  
  
 35.1%  
 83.8%  
 3.4%  
 4.7%  
 13.2%

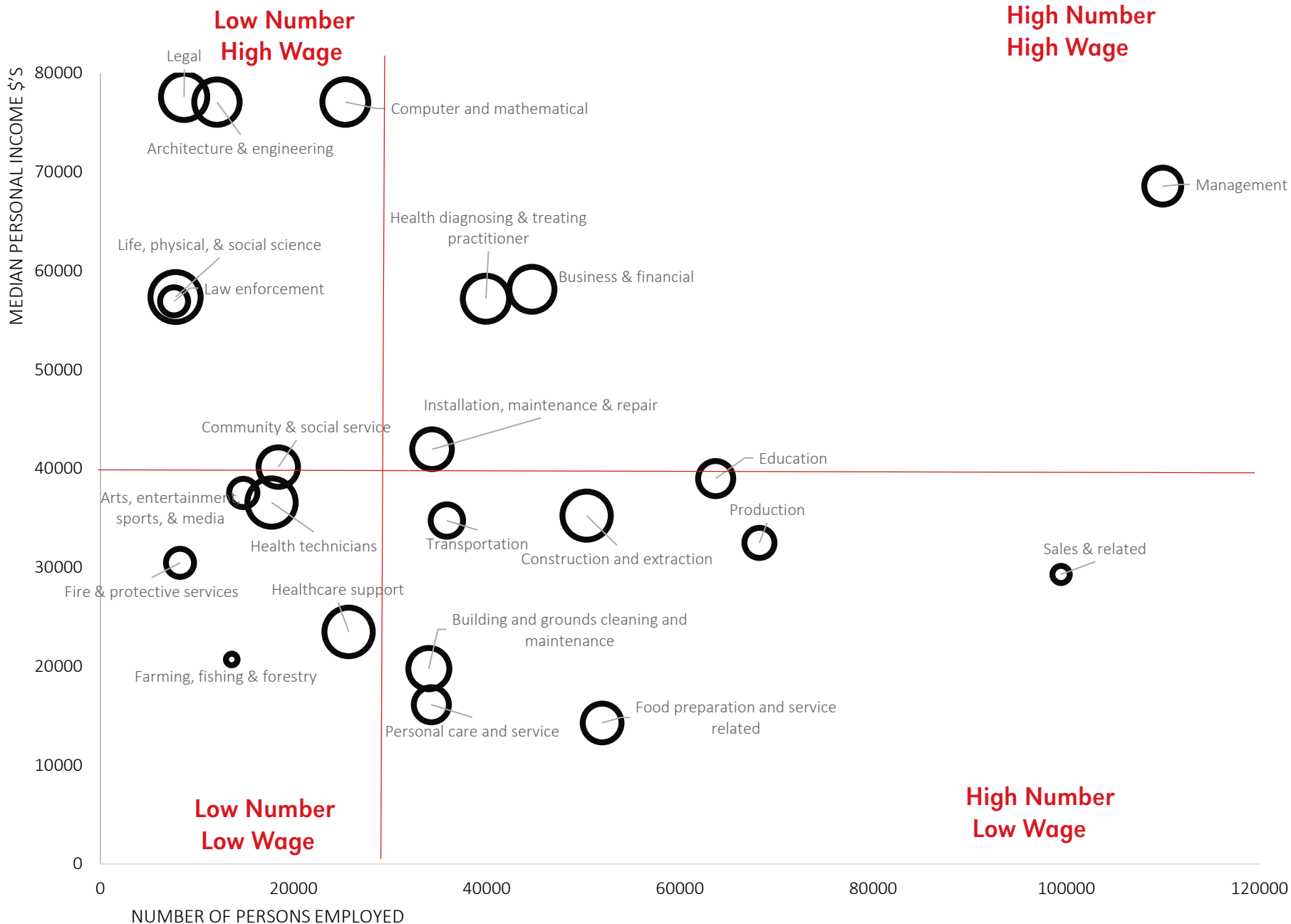
# 64% of Nebraskans have some higher education and higher education leads to higher income



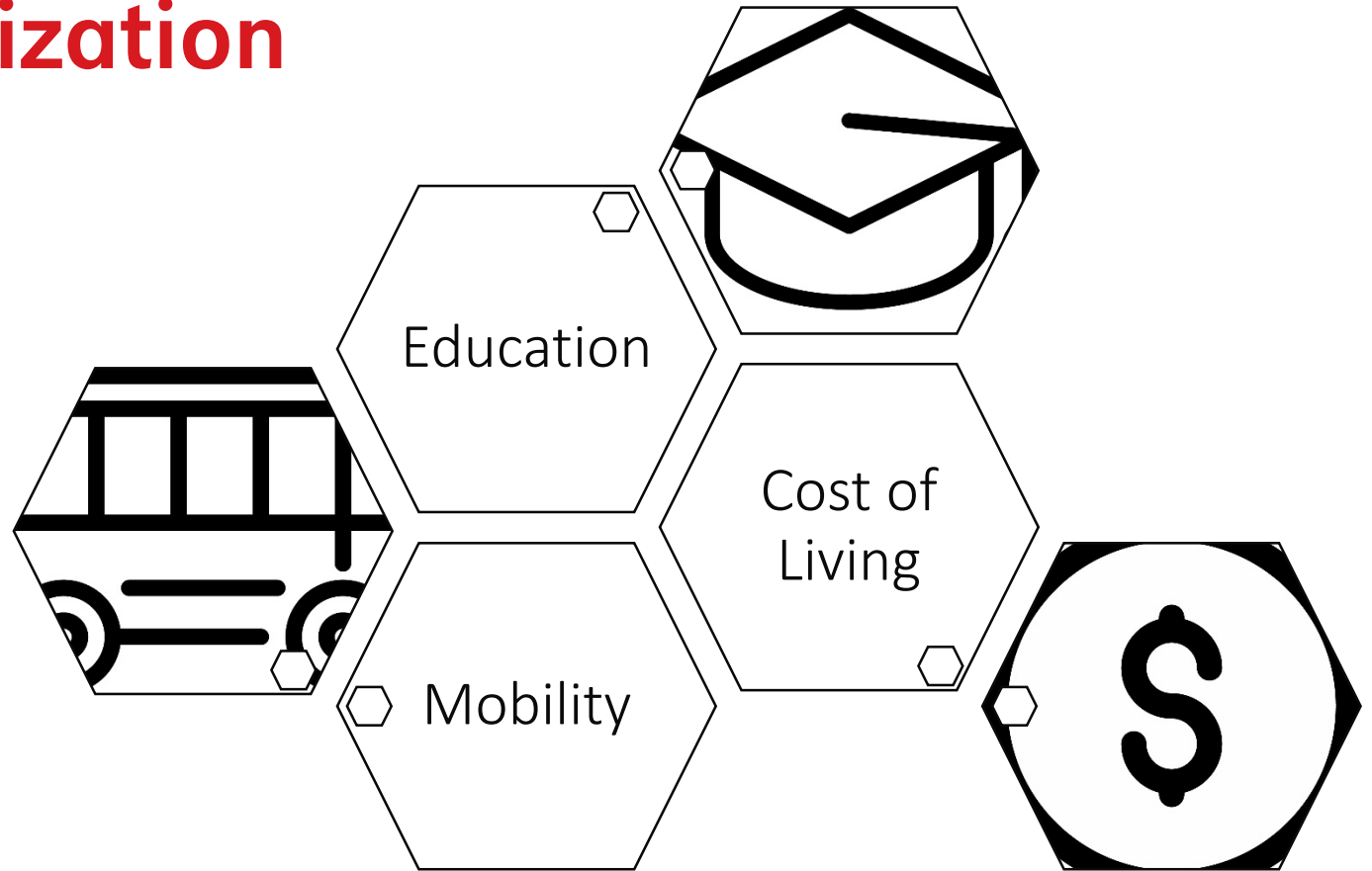
# Only 7 counties in Nebraska have a concentration of persons with a Bachelor's degree or more

*Percent of population 25 or older with a bachelor's degree*





# Challenges and Opportunities of Urbanization



# Nebraska ranked 17<sup>th</sup> among states for cost of living

*Omaha ranks 163 and Lincoln 169 of 297 ranked communities on the cost of living index 2019 Quarter 2*

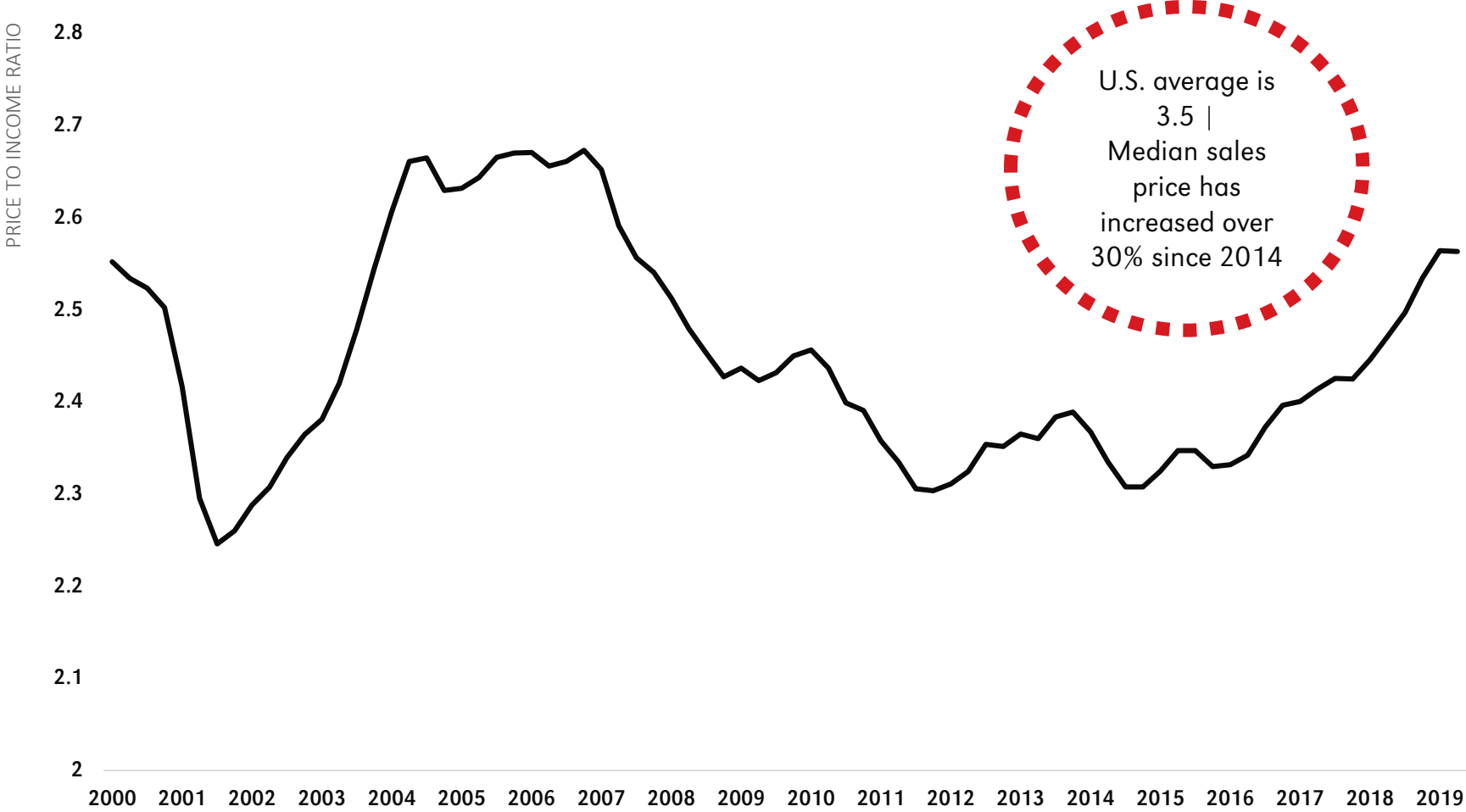
METRO/MICRO	COMPOSITE INDEX	GROCERY ITEMS	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSPORTATION	HEALTH CARE	MISC. GOODS AND SERVICES
Nebraska	92.3	96.5	84.0	91.2	96.3	99.4	96.1
Lincoln NE Metro	92.4	95.9	77.7	90.3	92.4	105.1	102.5
Omaha-Council Bluffs NE-IA Metro	91.4	96.6	81.0	99.2	101.2	95.9	93.1

Note: According to the Bureau of Labor, typically housing is more expensive in urban areas; while transportation, and healthcare are more expensive in rural area



# Omaha has been experiencing an increase in the price of homes relative to incomes

*Price to income ratio per quarter 2000 Q2 2019*





# NEBRASKA

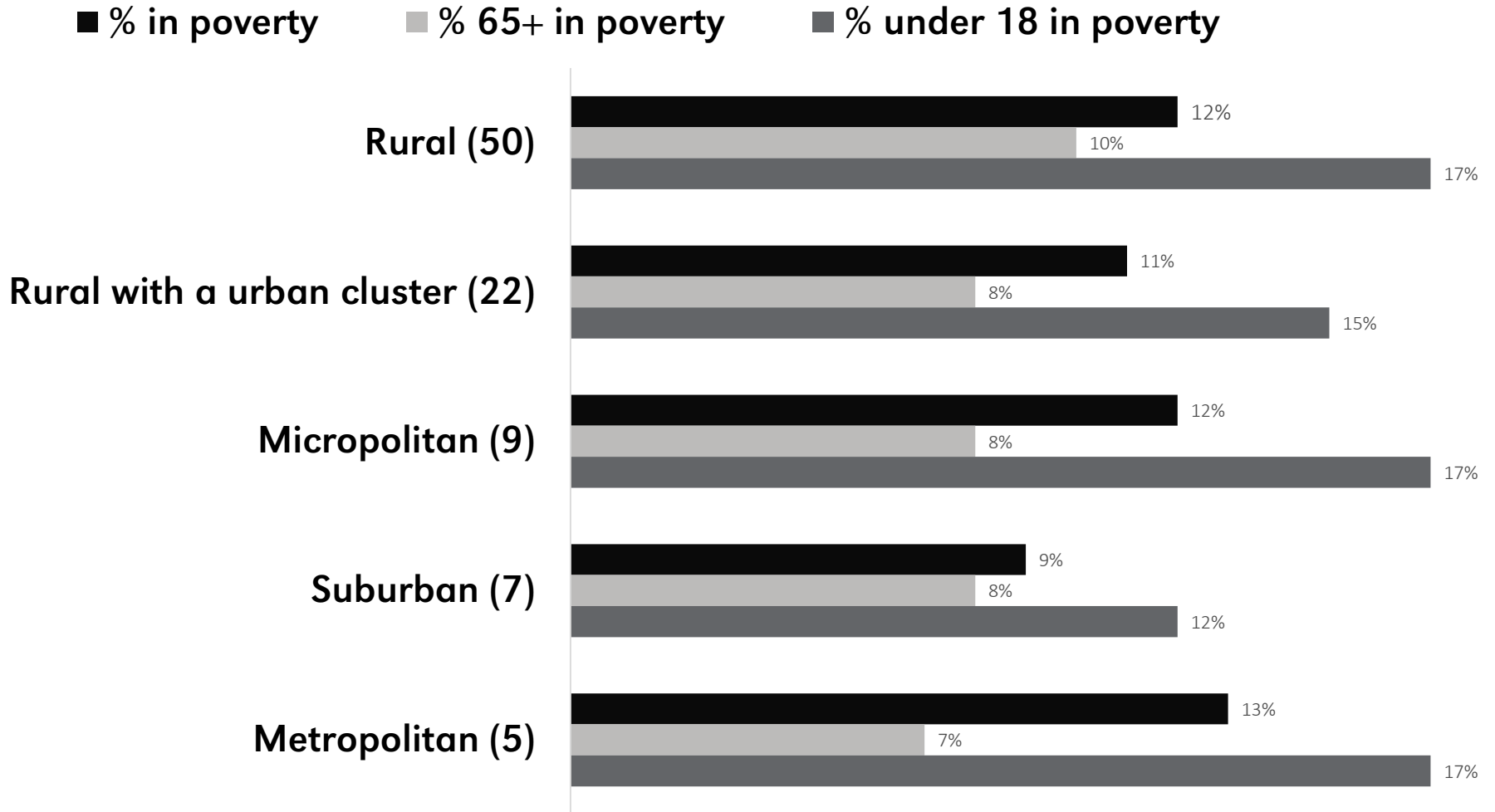
## Nonmetro

## Metro

70.1%	Home ownership rate	63.6%
50.1%	Homeowners with a mortgage	69.3%
36.4%	Renters spending 30%+ of income on gross rent	46.4%
12.1%	Poverty rate	12.6%
16.2%	Poverty rate for children under 18	16.5%
\$50,008	Median household income	\$57,722
\$62,469	Median family income	\$74,067
\$105,600	Median home value	\$152,800

# Rural counties have the highest percentages of persons 65+ in poverty

*Percent of population in poverty by county groups*



# Of the 12% of the population that is in poverty, 47% work full or part-time

*Percent of population 16 and over that are in poverty by employment status over the past 12 months*

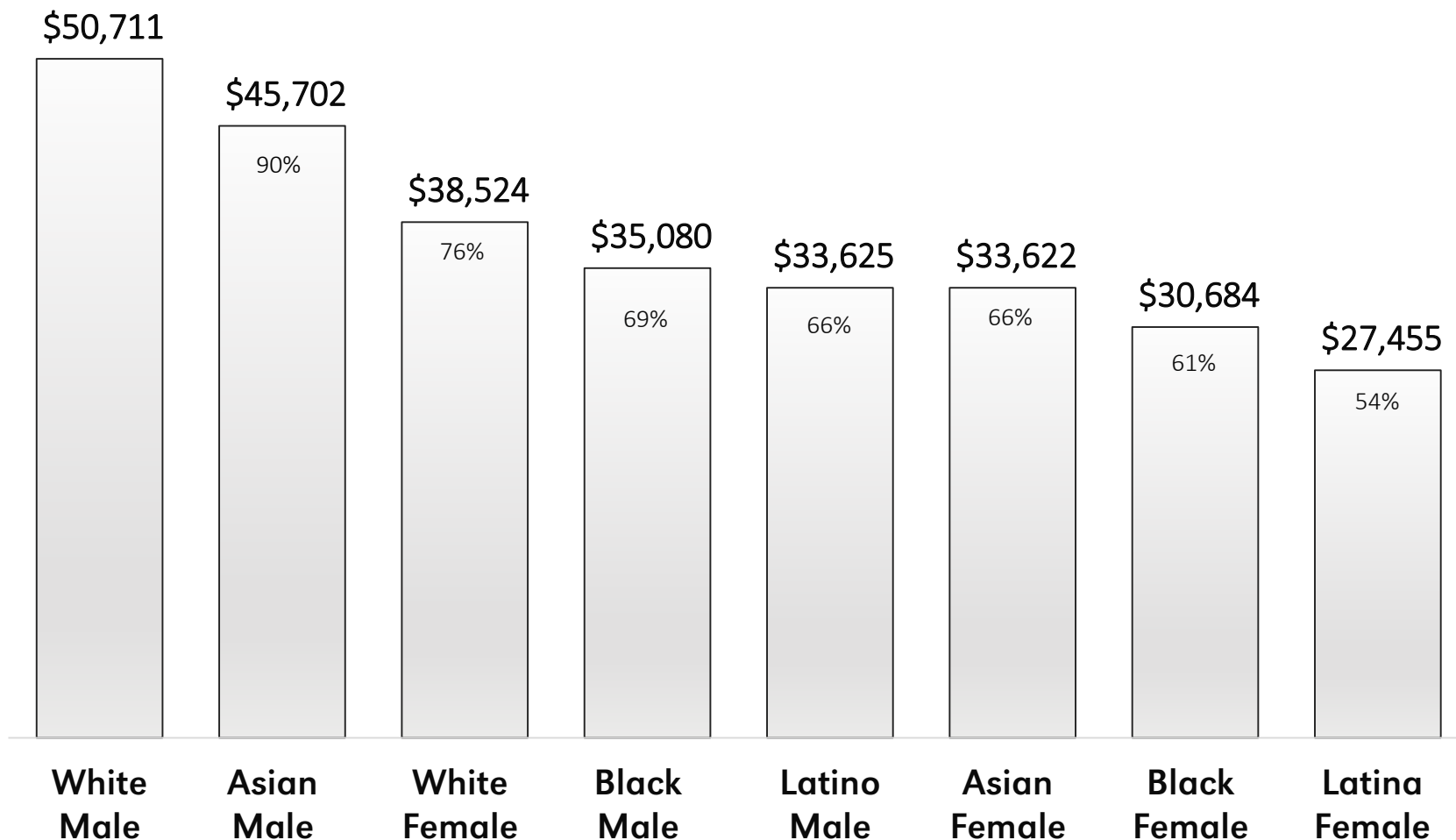
■ Worked Full-Time   ■ Worked Less Than Full-Time   ■ Did Not Work



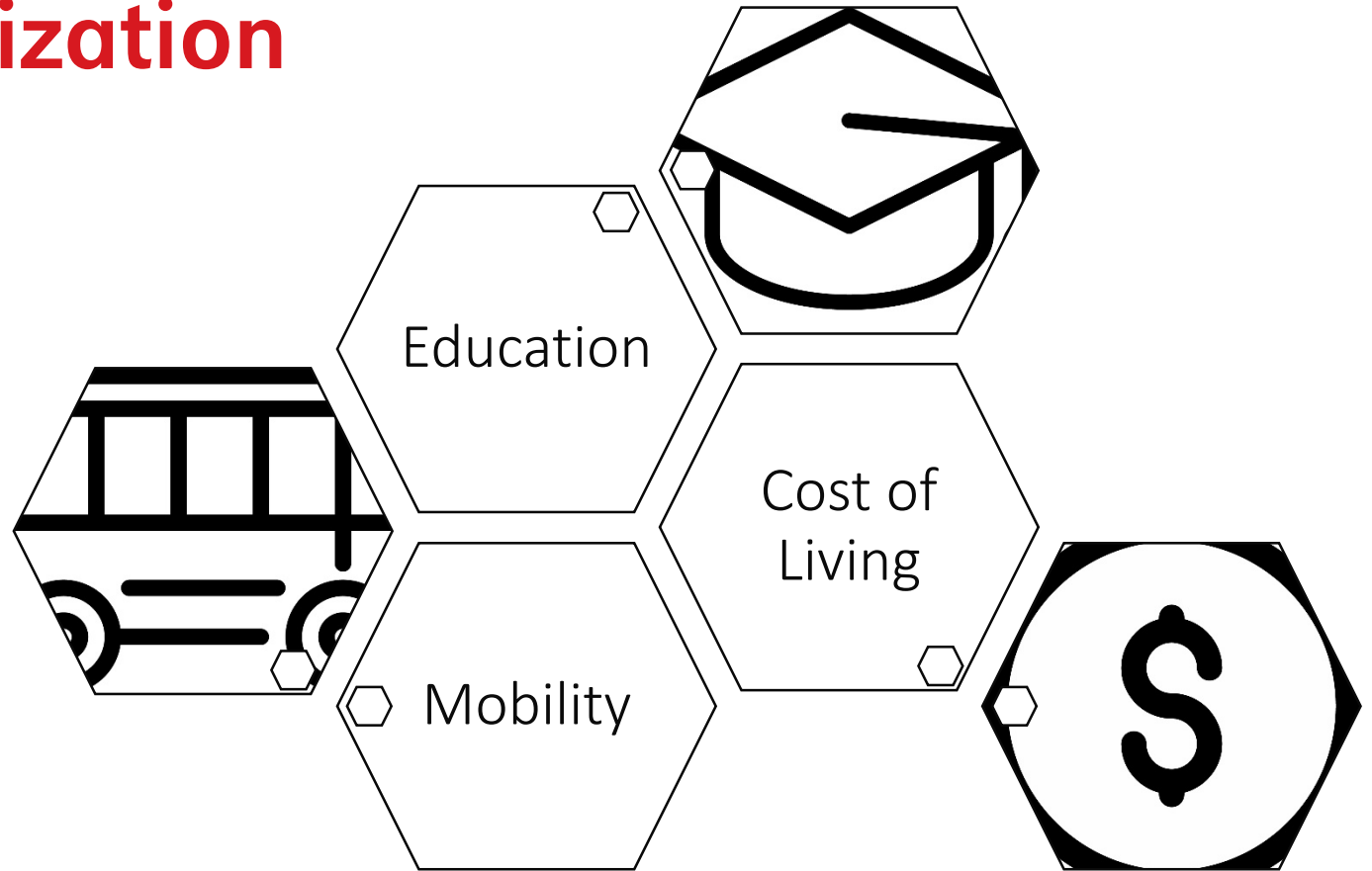
23% of those in poverty, 25 or older, have less than a high school degree

# Non-whites and females earn less than white men

*Median earnings in the past 12 months by ethnicity and gender / earnings as a % of white men*

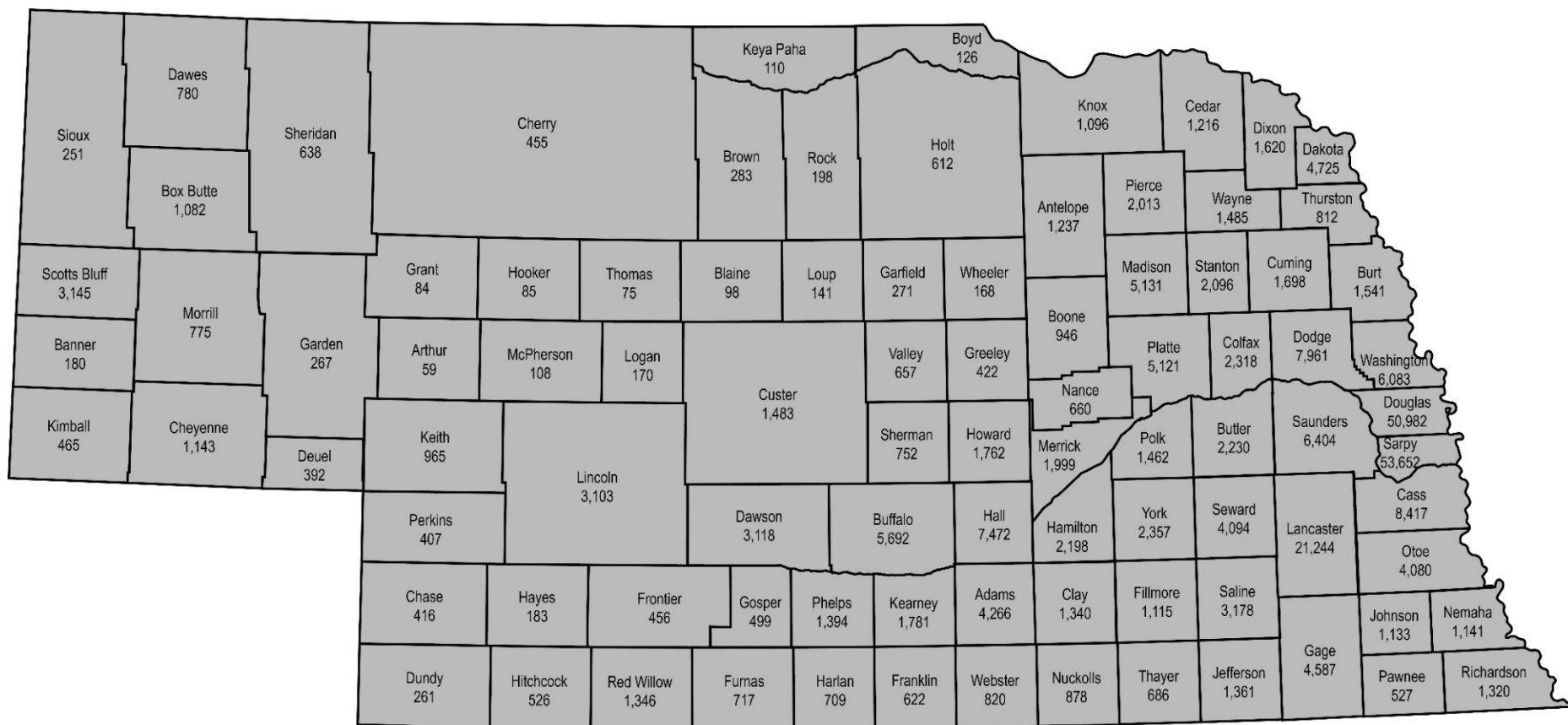


# Challenges and Opportunities of Urbanization



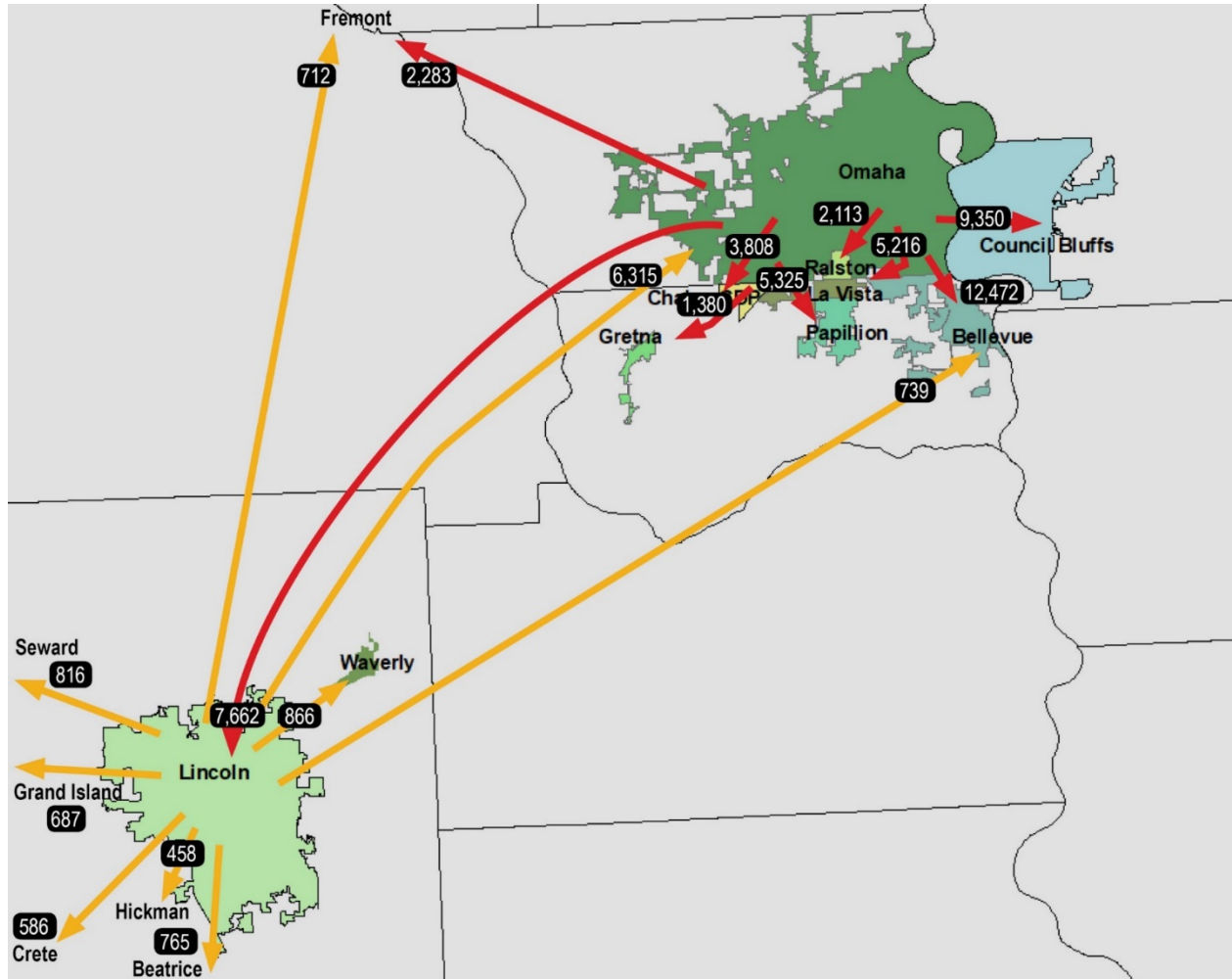
# 276,134 persons commute outside of the county the work

*2017 number of persons who live in the county listed but commute to work outside the county*



# 45% of commuters, commute out of 3 counties

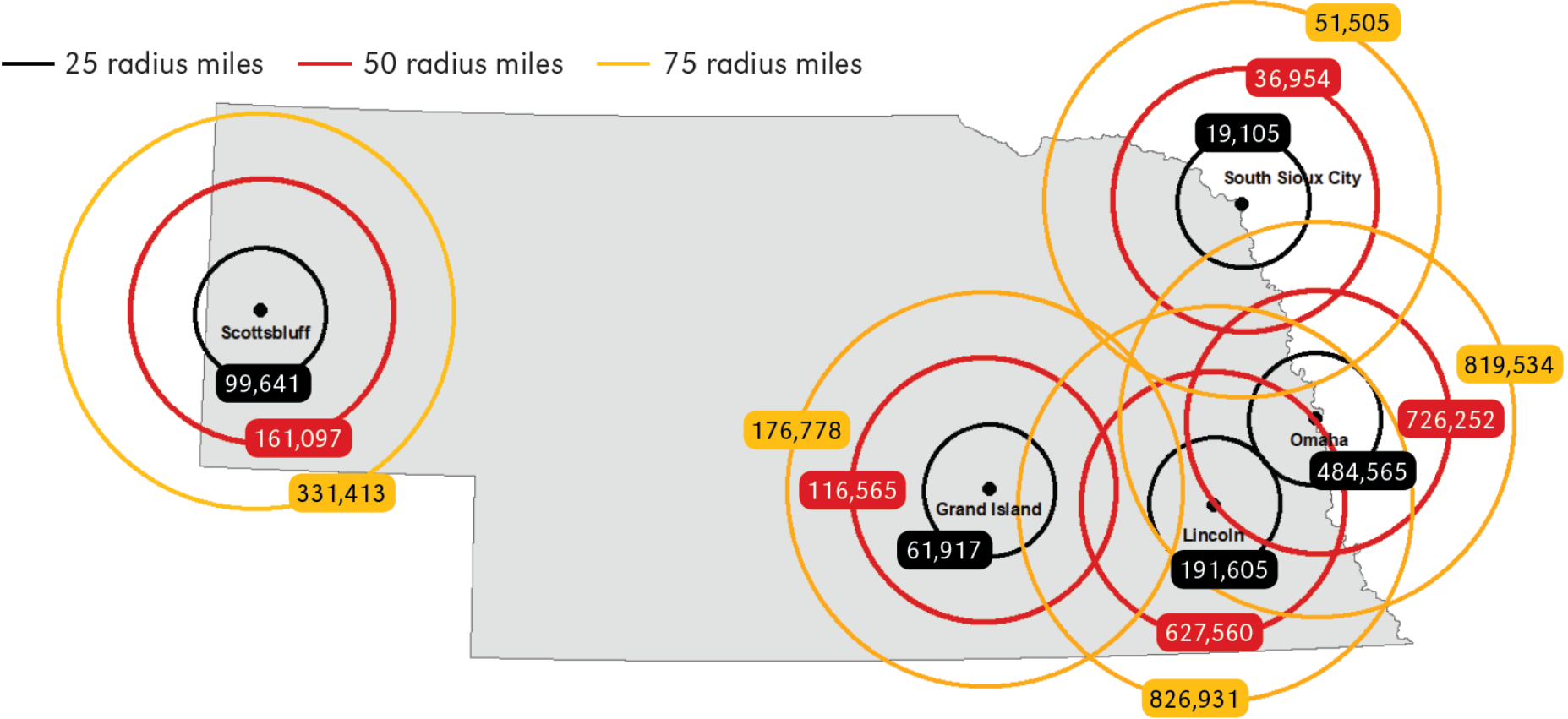
*2017 number of persons living in the cities listed and the top 10 places they commute*





# Greater mobility throughout the state can increase the workforce potential of each urban area

*Population at each radius for 2017*



# 2020 VISION

IT'S YOUR FUTURE

— 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN NEBRASKA —

**Over \$2,000 is lost  
for every person not  
counted**

