



Planning for Aging: Does Gender Matter?

Mildred E. Warner
Department of City and Regional Planning
Cornell University

Webinar
American Planning Association
Sept. 6, 2013

Planning Across Generations
Contact: www.mildredwarner.org | mew15@cornell.edu

Does Gender Matter? YES!

- Women live longer, have lower income and wealth
- Women bear a greater share of the care burden:
 - For children, for elders and for partners
- Poor and minority women are especially vulnerable

A Gender Lens Requires a Multigenerational Planning Approach

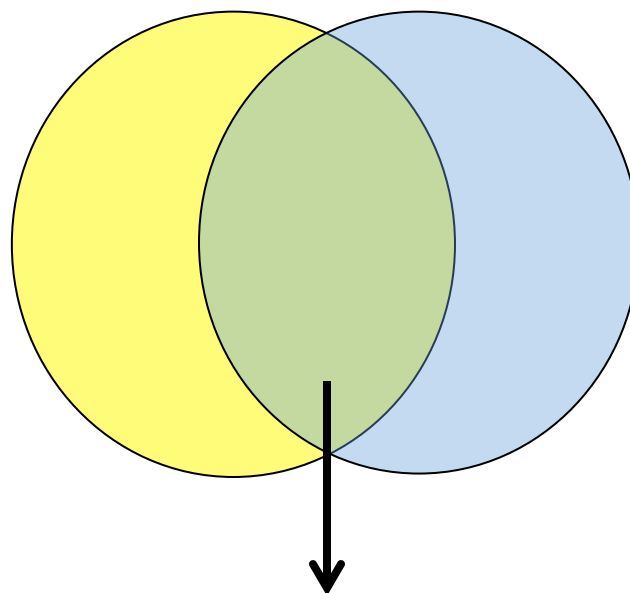


Core Principles



Child-Friendly Cities

Basic Services
Safe Water
Safe Streets
Opportunity to Play
Civic Participation
Family Support
Protection from
Exploitation



**Many Common
Elements**



Age-Friendly Cities

Housing
Transportation
Services (Health)
Outdoor Spaces
Communication
Civic and Social
Participation
Respect

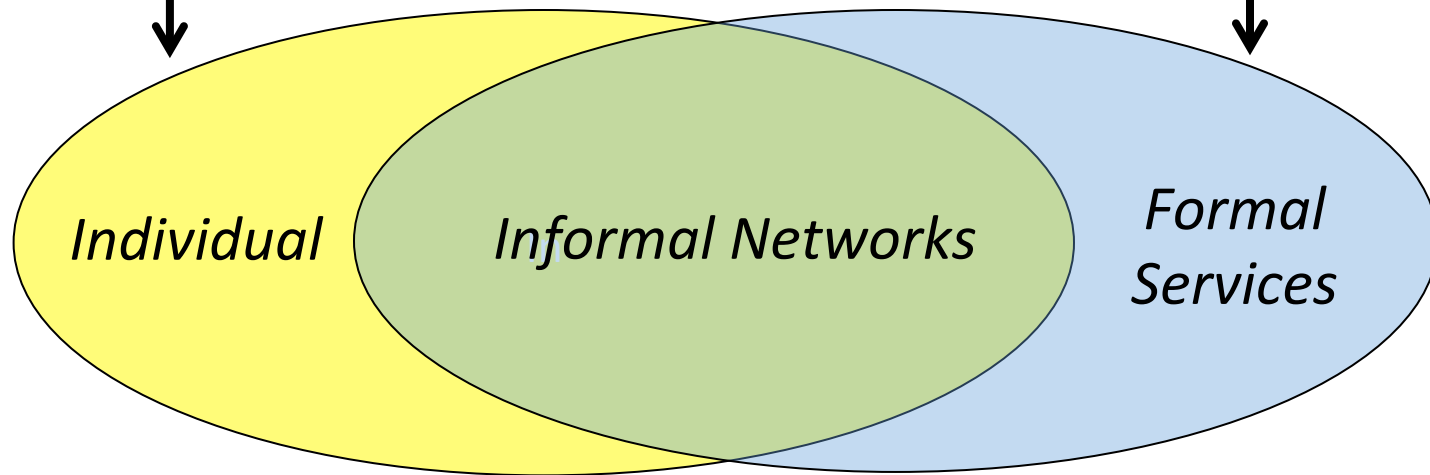
Planners and Gender Bias

- Transportation planning is biased toward commuting instead of mobility
 - This creates challenges for women, children and seniors.
- Planners give insufficient attention to formal care supports for women:
 - Child care, elder care, social supports
- Planners give almost no attention to informal networks for care support
 - Family, friend and neighbor networks

Three Arenas for Planning

**Foster Individual
Independence**
(Inclusive Design)

Promote Formal Services
(Market and Government)



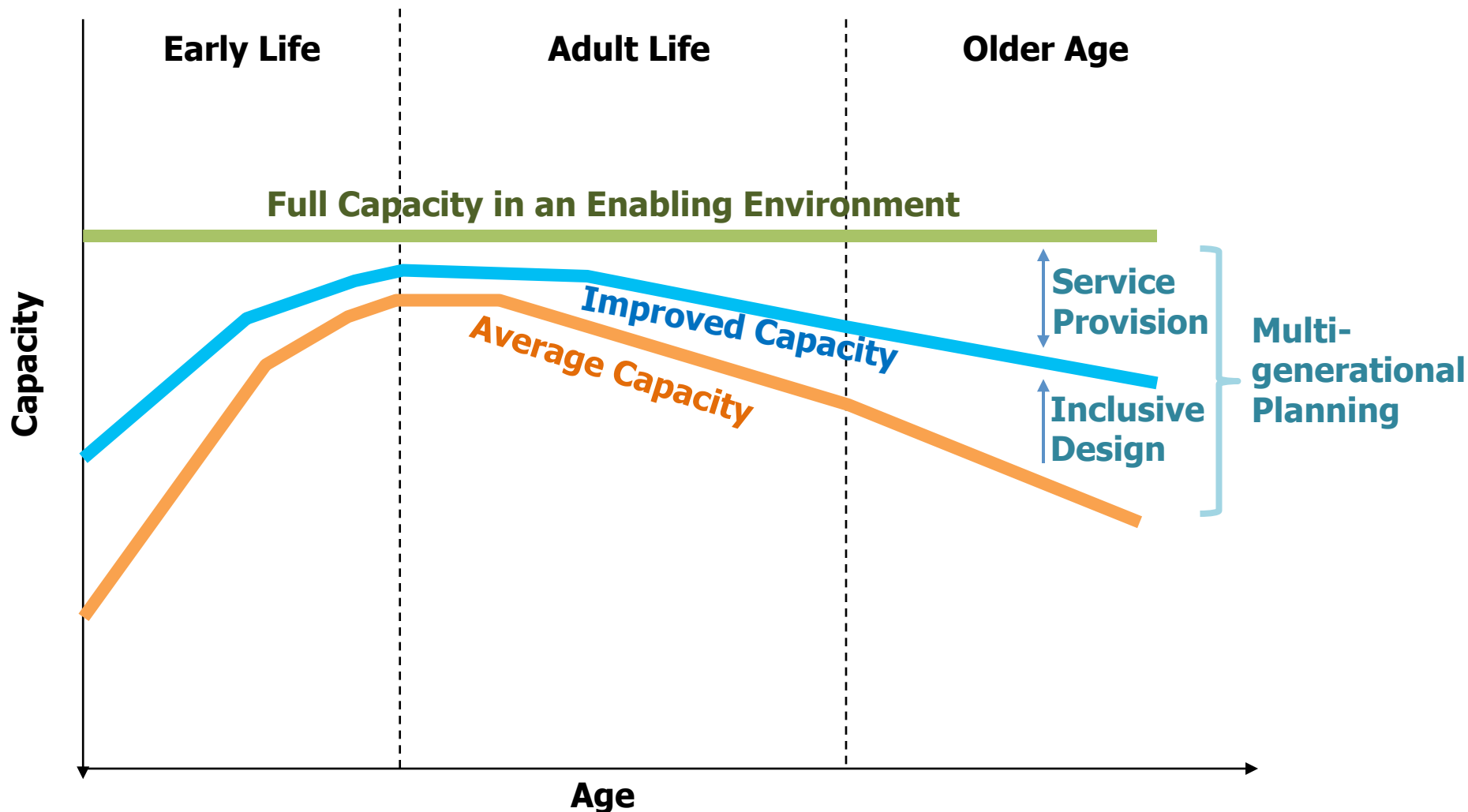
Support Informal Networks
(Family, Friends and Neighbors)

Informal Networks

- Neighbor to Neighbor Car Sharing
 - ITN America
- Social Networks Grounded in Place
 - Neighborworks website
 - Time banks – especially for health care
 - Care networks – Social Mirror
- Planners' Role
 - Share information, Give legitimacy, Stimulate Participation

Take a Multigenerational Approach

The link between design and services



Source: Warner et al. 2013, based in part on WHO (2007) functionality curve.

Challenges: Planning for Aging in Place

- Rising **senior population** – especially in rural and suburban communities
- **Built environment** does not facilitate aging in place
- **Service delivery lags** in rural, suburban and poorer places
- **Invisibility of demand** – to government and to market providers
- **What role does planning play?**
 - Stimulating a Market and Government Response

Suburbs and Rural have more seniors

	Metro Core	Suburban	Rural
Population 65+ years old ¹	13%	14%	17%
Population growth in 65+ years old ²	8%	14%	9%
Population less than 18 years old ¹	24%	25%	23%
Poverty rate 65+ years old ³	9%	9%	12%
Poverty rate under 18 years old ³	19%	16%	23%
Per capita income ³	\$25,000	\$24,000	\$20,000
Services for Seniors ⁴	30	23	22

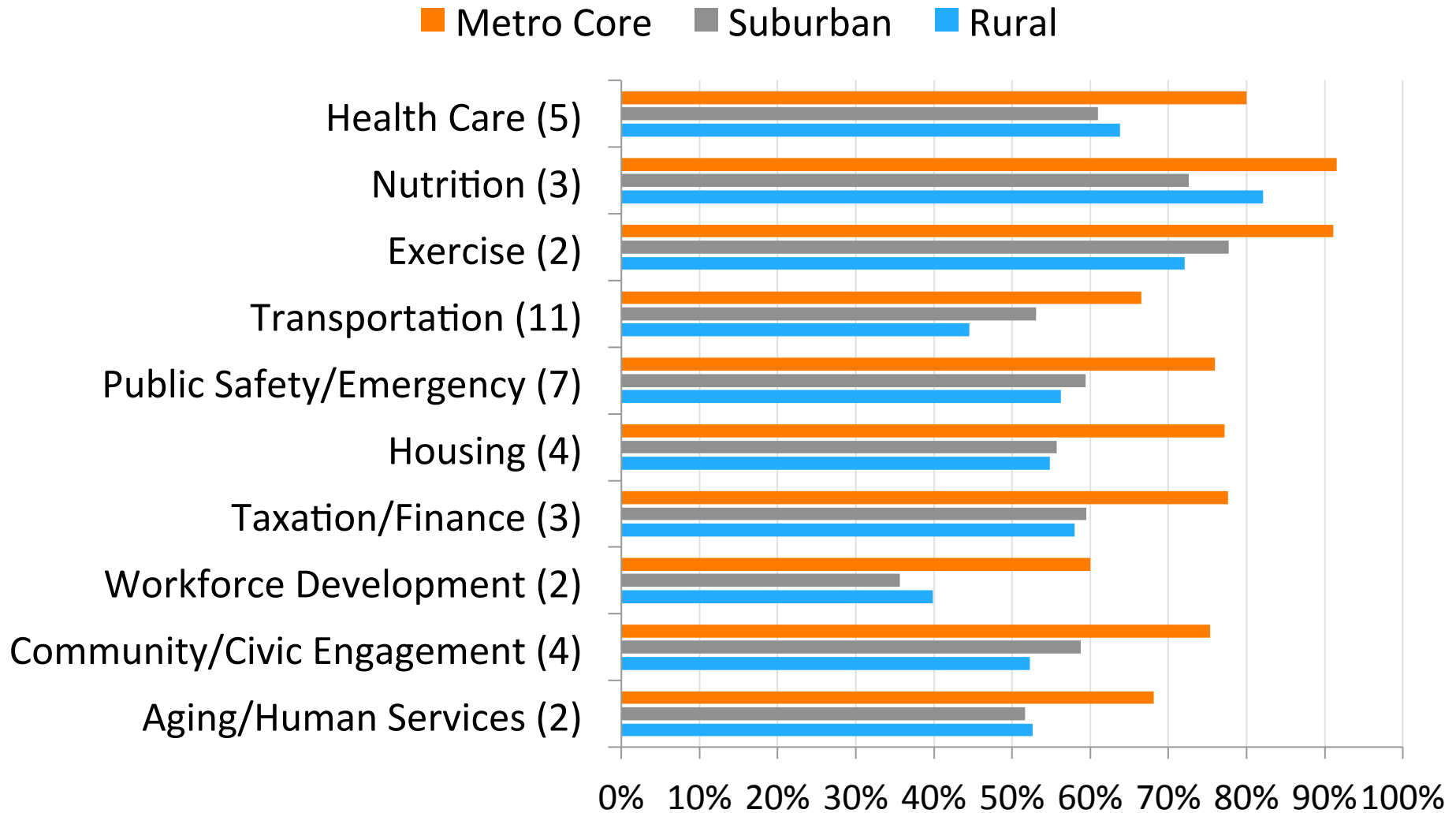
United States Counties, n = 3,031; \$ (2007=100). Sources: ¹ US Census 2010 ² US Census 2000 and 2010 ³ American Community Survey 2005-2009, ⁴ Maturing of America Survey, n=1414



2010 Maturing of America Survey

- 1,414 cities and counties across the US
 - Conducted by ICMA for National Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging, APA, NLC, NACO, Partners for Liveable Communities. Funded by MetLife
- Measured **41 services for seniors** (housing, health, workforce dev., transportation, nutrition, recreation, civic engagement)
 - **Average** municipality provides **23 services**
- Measured **7 planning actions** for aging in place
- Measured **elder participation** in the planning process and **inter-generational programming**

Rural and suburbs lag in elder service delivery.



Source: N=1,430 local governments, 2010 Maturing of America survey.
Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of survey questions in each category.

Rural areas and suburbs *are* planning for an aging population

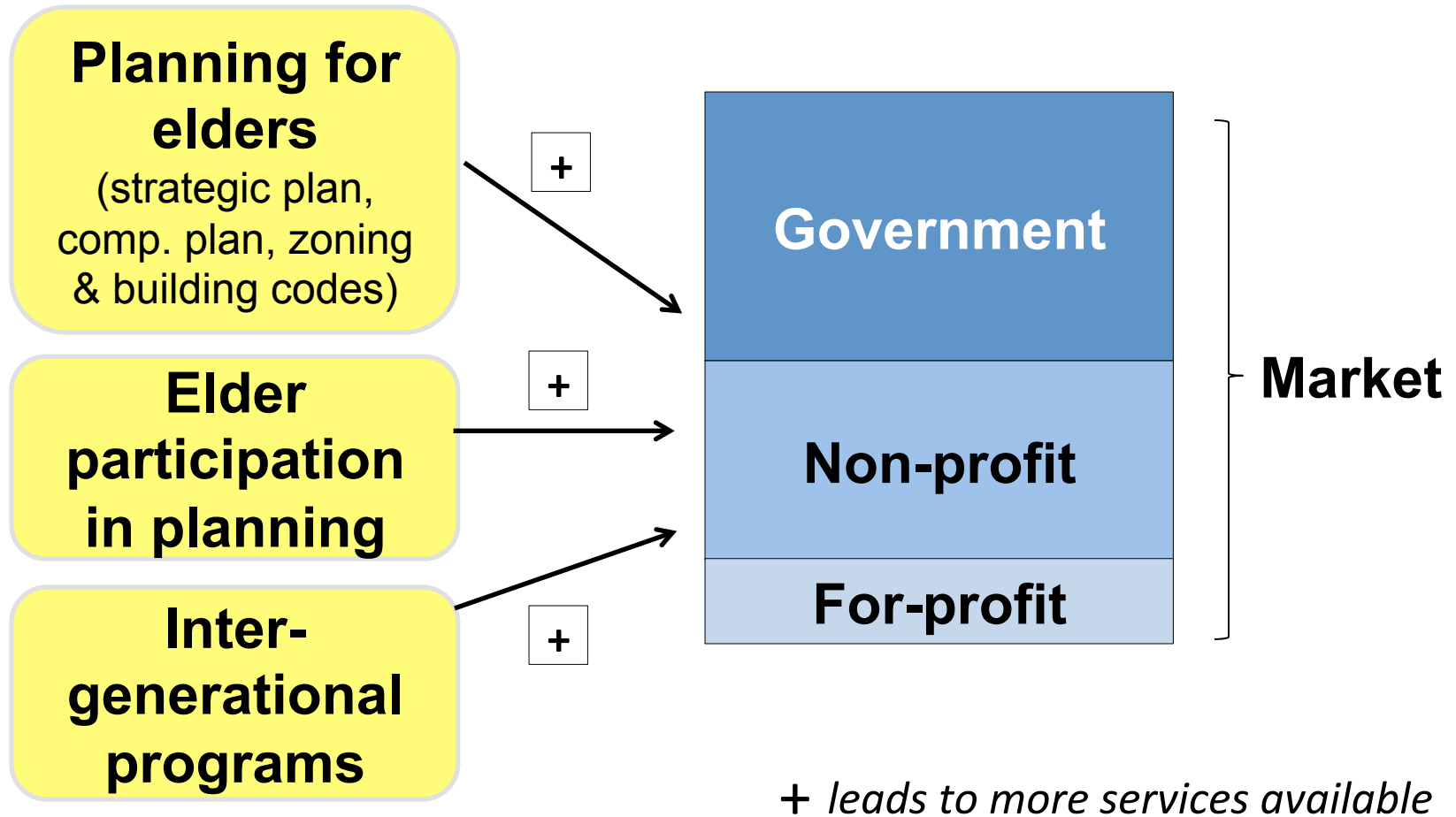
	Local government <i>has in place:</i>		
	Zoning requirements that support “ complete street ” design	Building codes that incorporate universal design in new construction	Zoning requirements that support aging in place
Metro Core	49.4%	45.0%	42.2%
Suburban	55.5%	54.9%	48.9%
Rural	43.9%	44.1%	31.4%

Source: N= 1,414 local governments, 2010 Maturing of America survey.

Statistical Analysis

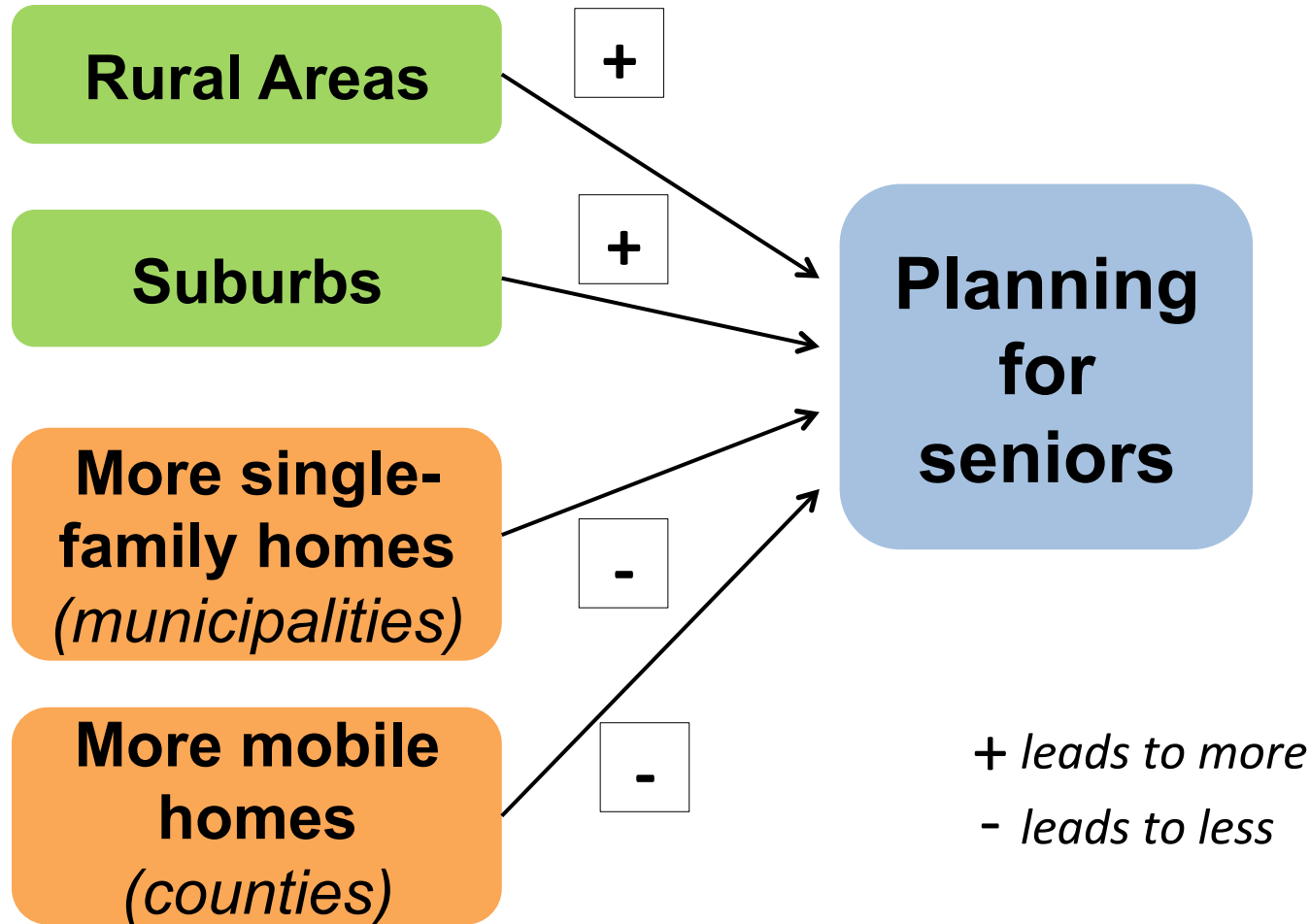
- What determines level of services provided by government and by market (41 services)?
- What causes communities to do more planning for aging?
- Controlled for :
 - **Public engagement** (elders in planning process, intergenerational programming)
 - **Need** (population based and poverty based measures, trade off between children and elders)
 - **Built environment** (density, single family, mobile homes)
 - **Capacity** (per capita income, govt exp, state and federal aid)
 - **Metro status**

Planning and Participation increase service delivery levels by 3-6 services



Regression results controlled for population, poverty, metro status, government finance and city manager government.

Rural and Suburbs do more planning



Regression results controlled for population, poverty, government finance and council manager government.

Planning Matters!

- **Planning and elder participation** – Stimulate both a government and a market response
- **Potential for Multi-generational Planning** - Limited evidence of tradeoff between needs of elders and needs of children
- **Capacity constraints not as strong as feared** - Rural and suburbs do more after controlling for population size
- **New Urbanism is not the only approach** - Address physical design, service delivery and informal networks

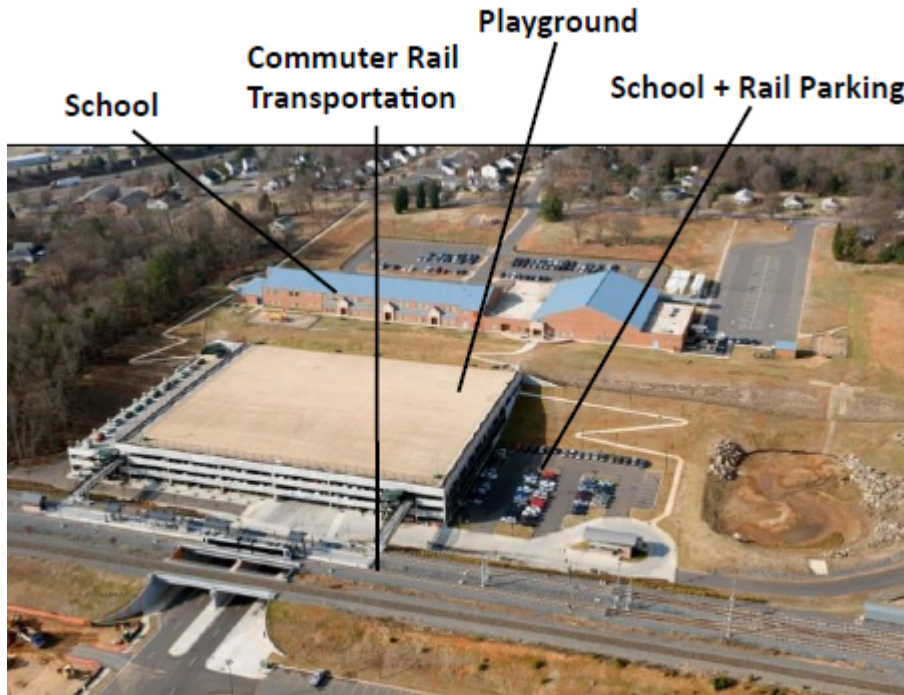
Meeting Rural and Suburban Challenges

- Redesigning Existing Neighborhoods - Accessory Flats
 - Increase density, promote inter-generational neighborhoods
 - 25% planners responding to 2008 APA survey said communities allow



Joint Use with Schools

- 43% of planners responding to 2008 APA survey say their communities co-locate services with schools



In Charlotte, NC, the community built a school, light rail station for commuters, and parking for both (with a playfield atop the parking garage).



Seniors can ride school buses to the supermarket through Age-Friendly NYC. *Photo: Getty Images, NYC*

Joint Use Playgrounds

Challenges and Barriers

- » Maintenance
- » Operations
- » Liability & Security
- » Costs
- » Scheduling & Staffing
- » Resolving Conflict

Benefits

- Utilize School Buildings and Playgrounds
- Increase access to park space,
- Promote active aging,
- Promote inter-generational interaction,
- Build cooperation with community, government and schools



Tucson, AZ promoted school yards as parks. City helped maintain and police helped secure



Multi-generational Planning: A Strategy for the Future



Issue Briefs:

- Joint Use with Schools
- Health Impacts
- Rural Differences
- Gender Concerns
- Informal Networks
- And more!

Contact:

www.mildredwarner.org/planning

| mew15@cornell.edu