

# Disasters & Older Adults

## Flash Session



**CACHE**

Center for Aging,  
Health & Environment

Spatiotemporal Patterns in Population  
Aging and Migration in the U.S. Gulf Coast:  
Implications for Older Adults' Disaster-  
Related Health Vulnerabilities

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2025 CACHE Workshop, Boulder, CO

# Background

- Population aging influences on vulnerability
  - Increases health care service needs
  - Disaster preparation must account for more less mobile residents and residents with chronic conditions
- Migration influences on vulnerability
  - Fewer working age residents in a community
  - Community disinvestment
  - Weakened support networks

# Research Questions

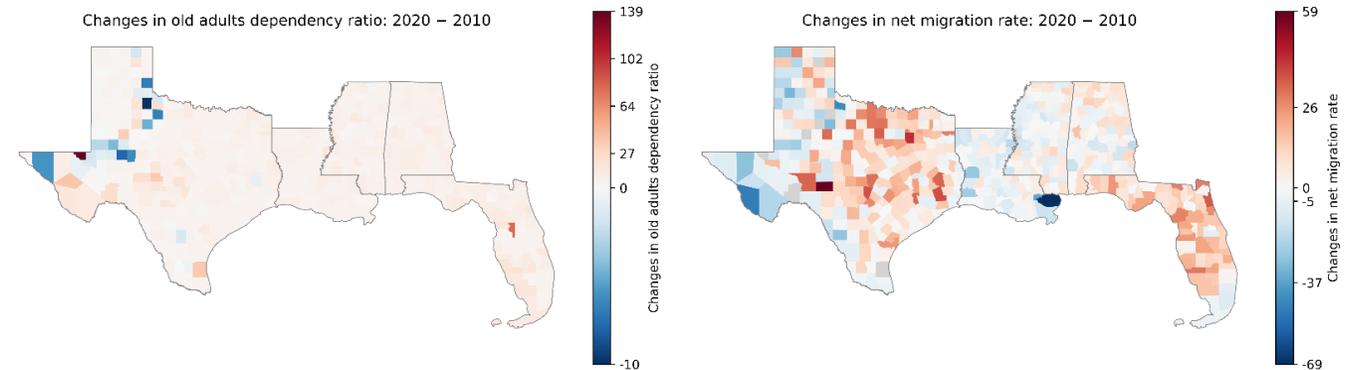
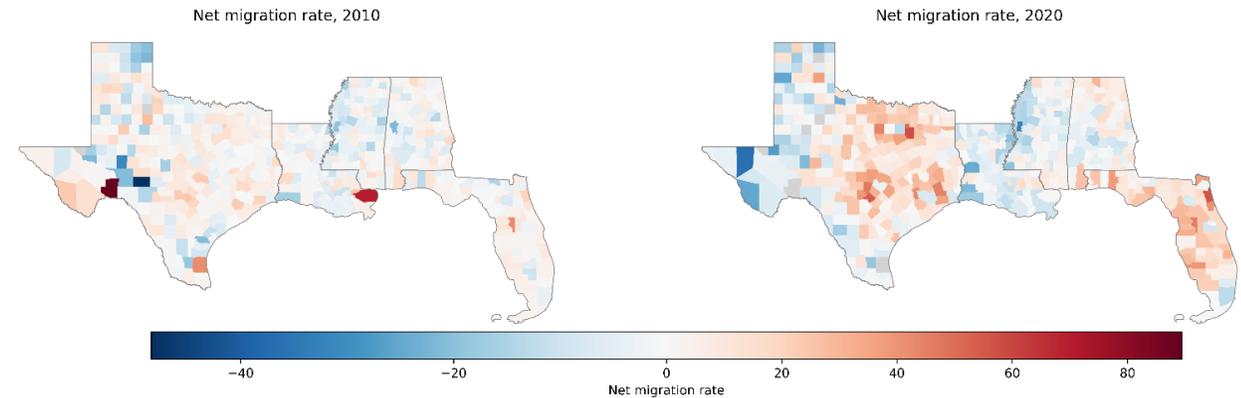
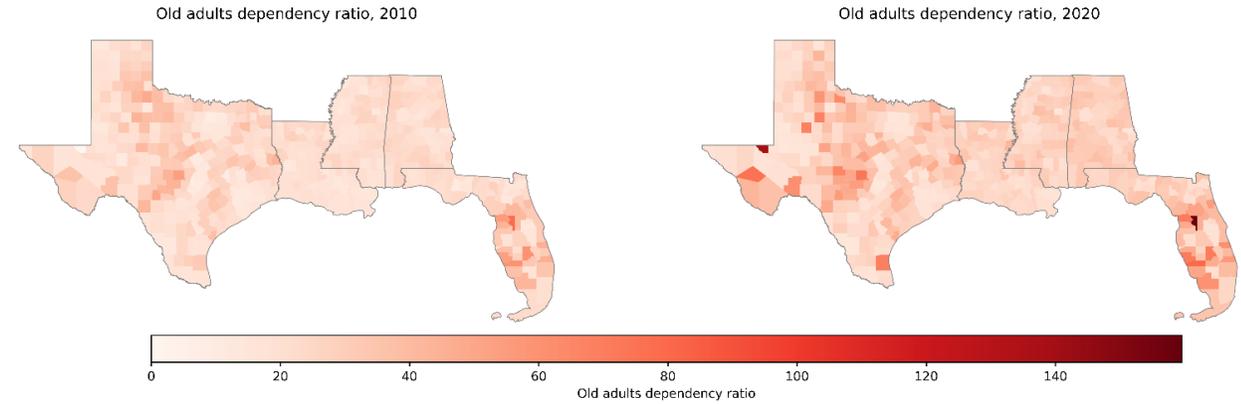
- What is the spatiotemporal patterning of migration and age structures across the Gulf Coast region?
- Heterogeneity:
  - Urban vs rural
  - Coastal vs inland
  - Economic and racialized statuses (white, black, Hispanic)
  - Historical disaster exposures

# Data

Variable	Data source	Time
Dependency ratio and sociodemographic characteristics	American community survey	2010, 2020
Net migration rate	IRS migration data	2010, 2020
Rural-urban status	Rural-Urban Continuum Codes	2013, 2023
Climate disaster exposure	FEMA disaster declarations	2005-2025

# Results

Many rural and inland counties experiencing out-migration are majority Hispanic and Black counties in the Mississippi Delta, Alabama Black Belt, and southwest Texas



# Next Steps

- Sets the stage for research evaluating how demographic dynamics and other correlates of risk contribute to differential health impacts of disasters for older adults
- At workshop to:
  - Learn about data to integrate into next steps
  - Meet potential collaborators