
HEALTH EQUITY IN OUR AGING COMMUNITIES



OREGON RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 11, 2023

Maureen “Paulie” Bruns, MD – Medical Director, Geriatrics Program, Samaritan Medical Group, Lebanon

Diana Burden, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC – Medical Director, Mosaic Community Health, Prineville

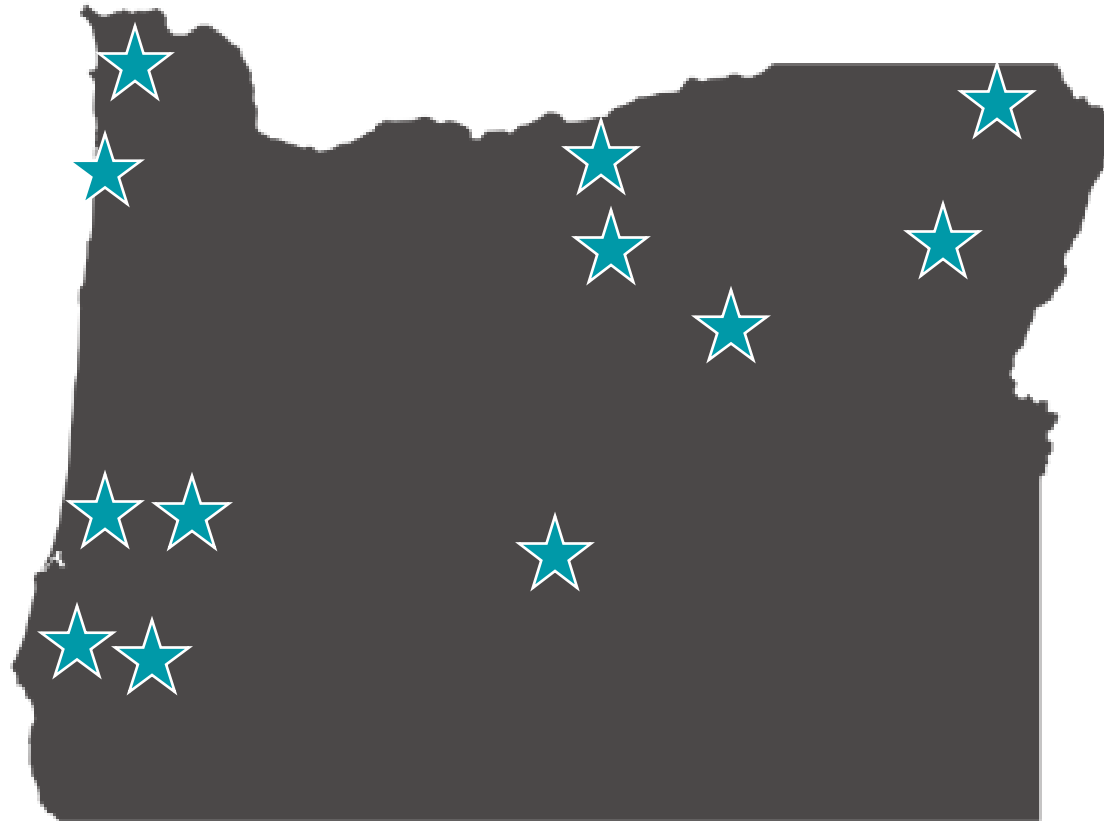
Katie Plumb, MS Counseling – Health & Human Services Director, Crook County Health Department

Julia R. Brown, MA Gerontology (Facilitator) – Community Outreach & Engagement Manager, AGE+

RURAL OREGON IS THE FASTEST AGING REGION

COUNTIES WITH 25% OR MORE RESIDENTS AGE 65+

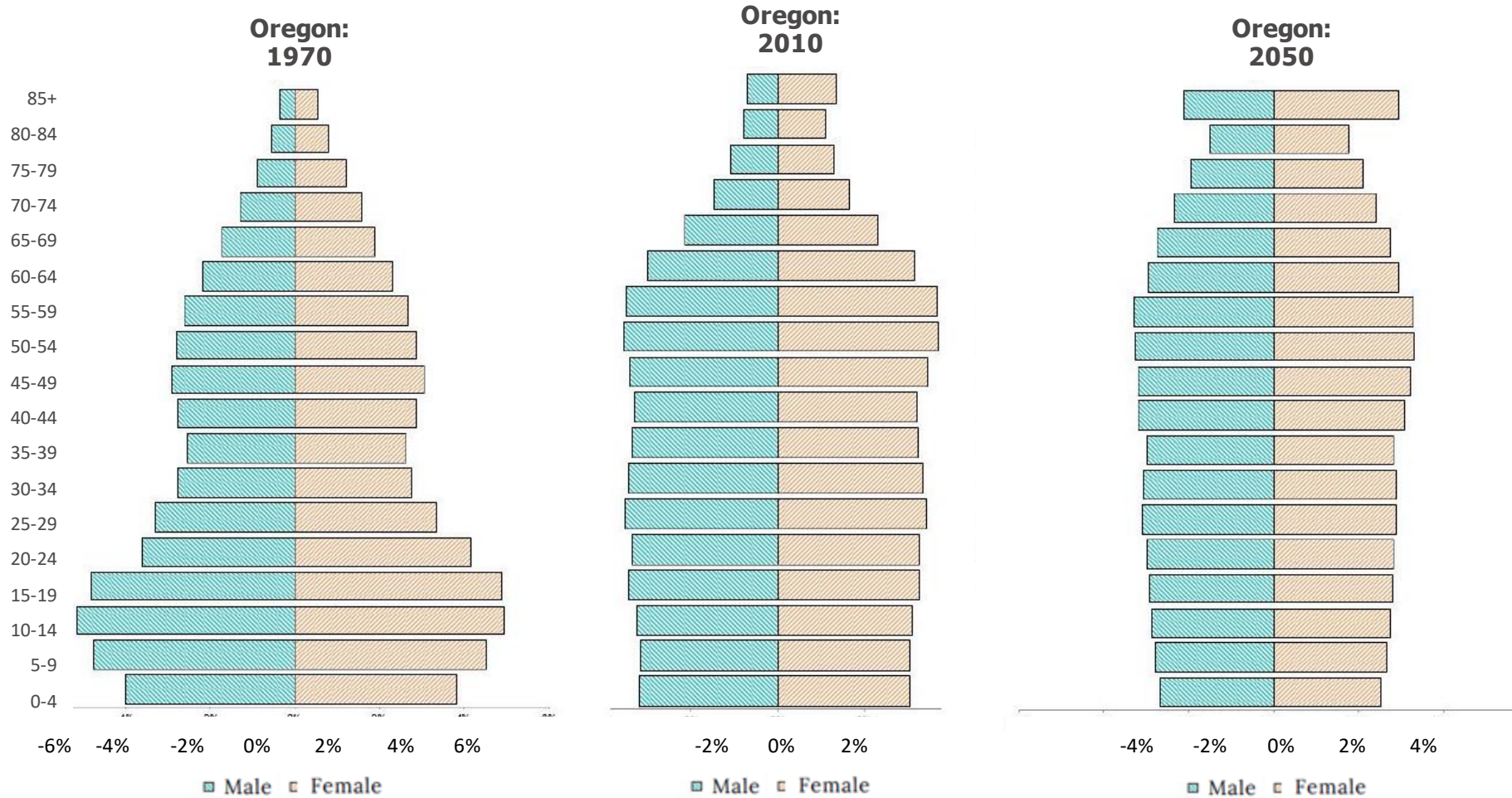
Coos
Josephine
Douglas
Curry
Lake
Wheeler
Tillamook
Clatsop
Grant
Gilliam
Baker
Wallowa



PERMANENT DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE



Communities + Generations + Innovations



IT'S IN OUR SYSTEMS

- Of the 183 medical schools in the US, only 11 have departments of geriatrics.
- Less than 10% of US medical schools require geriatric training.
- Less than 1% of US medical school graduates choose geriatrics as their field of practice.
- Less than 1% of nurses, less than 2% of physical therapists, and less than 3% of social workers receive formal training in working with older adults.



AND WE'RE UP AGAINST AGEISM

- The most widespread and socially accepted prejudice today.
- The only discrimination that *everyone* experiences.
- It's systemic and it's unconscious (we do this to ourselves).



THE LONGEVITY PARADOX

LIVED EXPERIENCES AFFECT HOW PEOPLE AGE

“Having invested so much to get people to live *longer*, we’ve barely given any thought to how we can help them to live *better*.”

- **Joe Coughlin, MIT AgeLab**

THANK YOU!



Communities + Generations + Innovations

Championing a new vision for healthy and equitable aging for all Oregonians by empowering communities, linking generations and stimulating innovation to make longer life an opportunity, not a burden.

www.ageplus.org

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