

Urban Rural Classification Data Orientation

Emily Healy, BRFSS
Coordinator/Epidemiologist

Introduction

- Overview of urban/rural classification schemes
- Coding and variables
- Analysis examples
- Urban/rural differences

Classification Systems

- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Rural-Urban Continuum Codes (RUCC)
- Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA)
- Urban Area Census Codes (UACE)



NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme

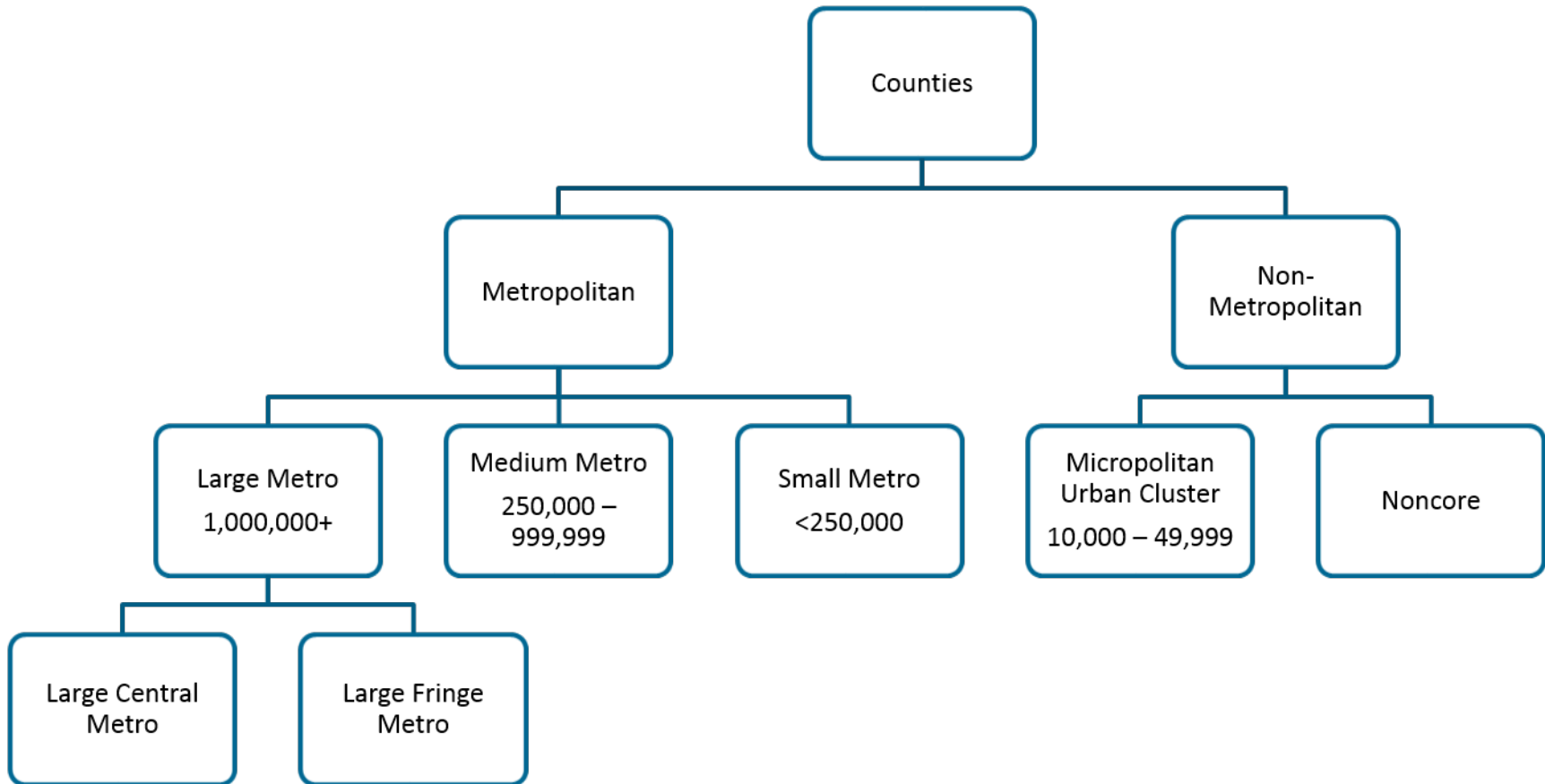
- Easy to use and code
- Best suited for tracking economic and social changes
- Already used by National Vital Statistics System



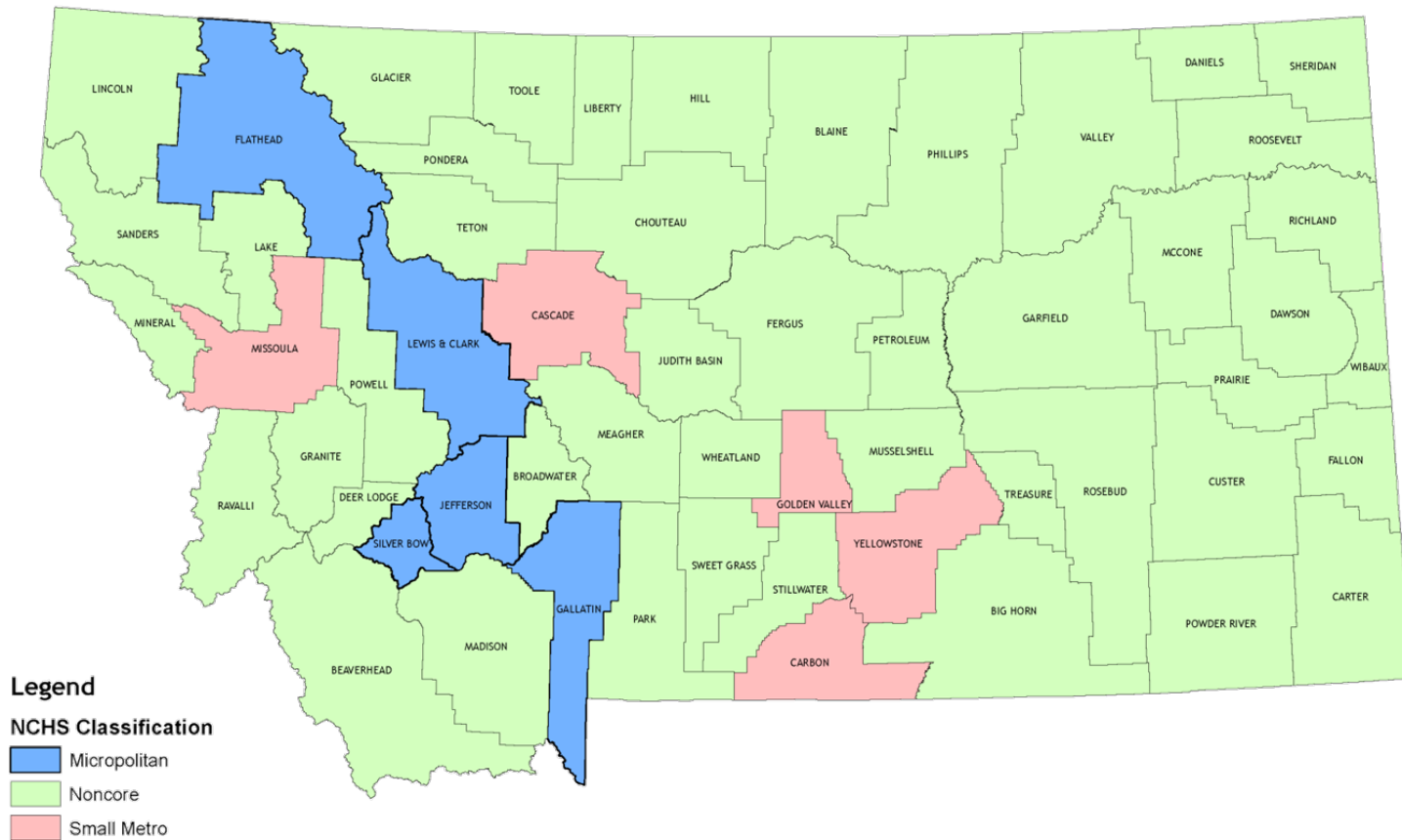
NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme

- Last updated in 2013
- Based on 2010 Office of Management and Budget standards for defining metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)

NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme



County Map





Coding

National

- 1 – Large Central Metro
- 2 – Large Fringe Metro
- 3 – Medium Metro
- 4 – Small Metro
- 5 – Micropolitan
- 6 - Noncore

For Montana

- 1 – Small Metro
- 2 – Micropolitan
- 3 – Noncore

BRFSS Recoding

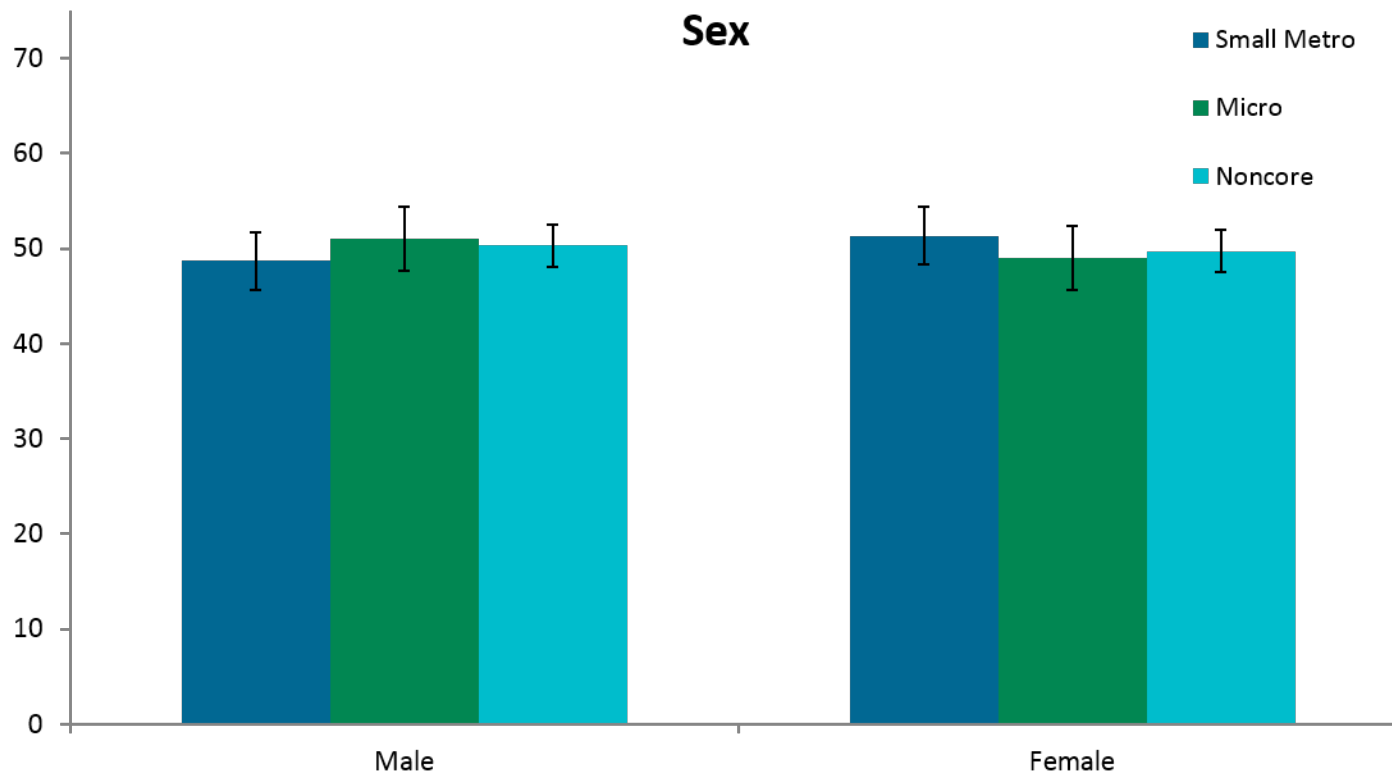
- Used imputed counties
- Variable will be URNCHS
- Will add to all old datasets

BRFSS Data Comparison

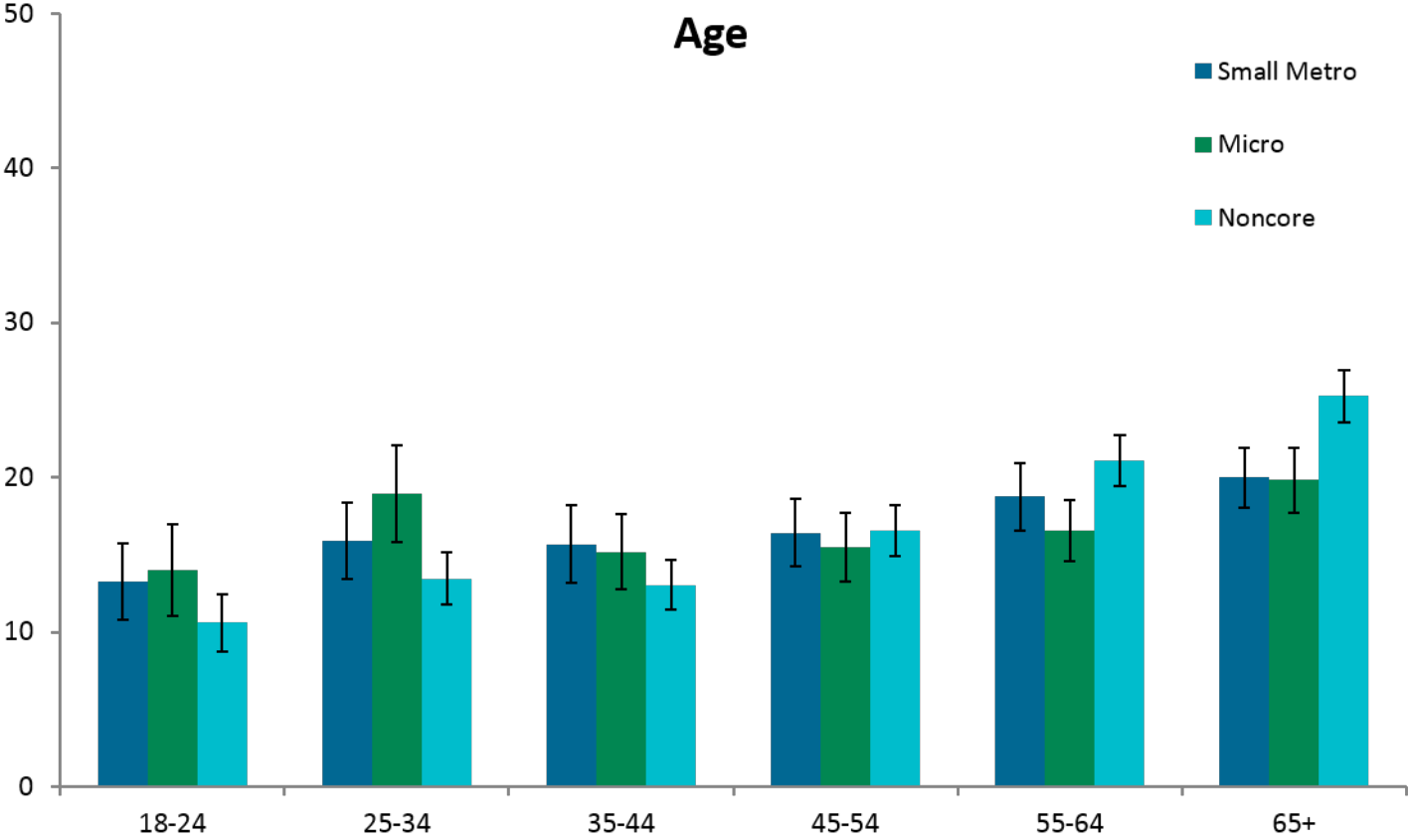
	2010 Census Population	2014 BRFSS Wt Freq*	2010 Census Percent	2014 BRFSS Wt. Percent
Small Metro	349,600	281,100	35.3%	35.0% (33.6%-36.4%)
Micropolitan	289,400	246,300	29.3%	30.7% (29.2%-32.1%)
Noncore	350,400	275,400	35.4%	34.3% (33.1%-35.5%)

* BRFSS only collects data from non-institutionalized adults, ages 18+

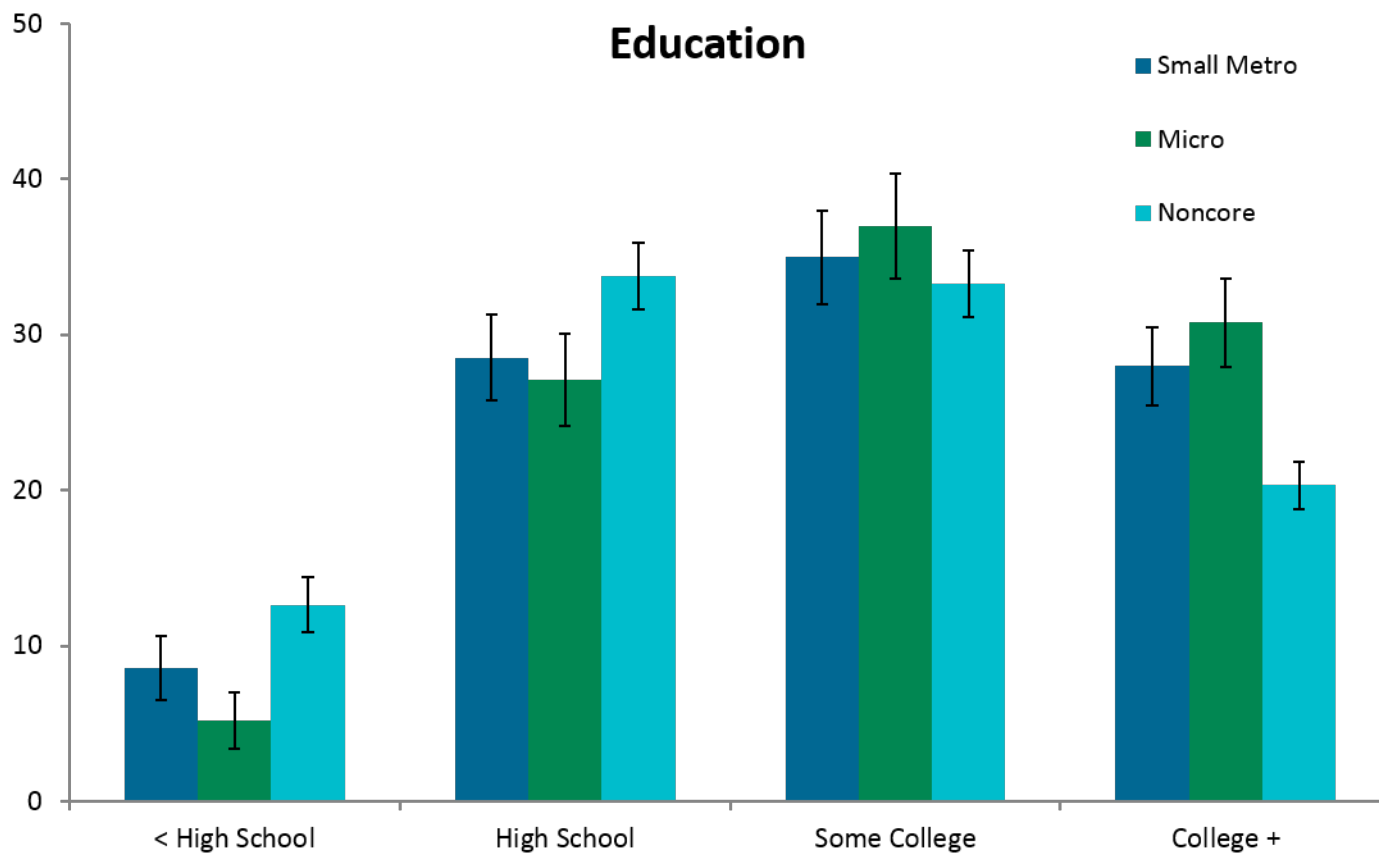
Demographic Breakdown



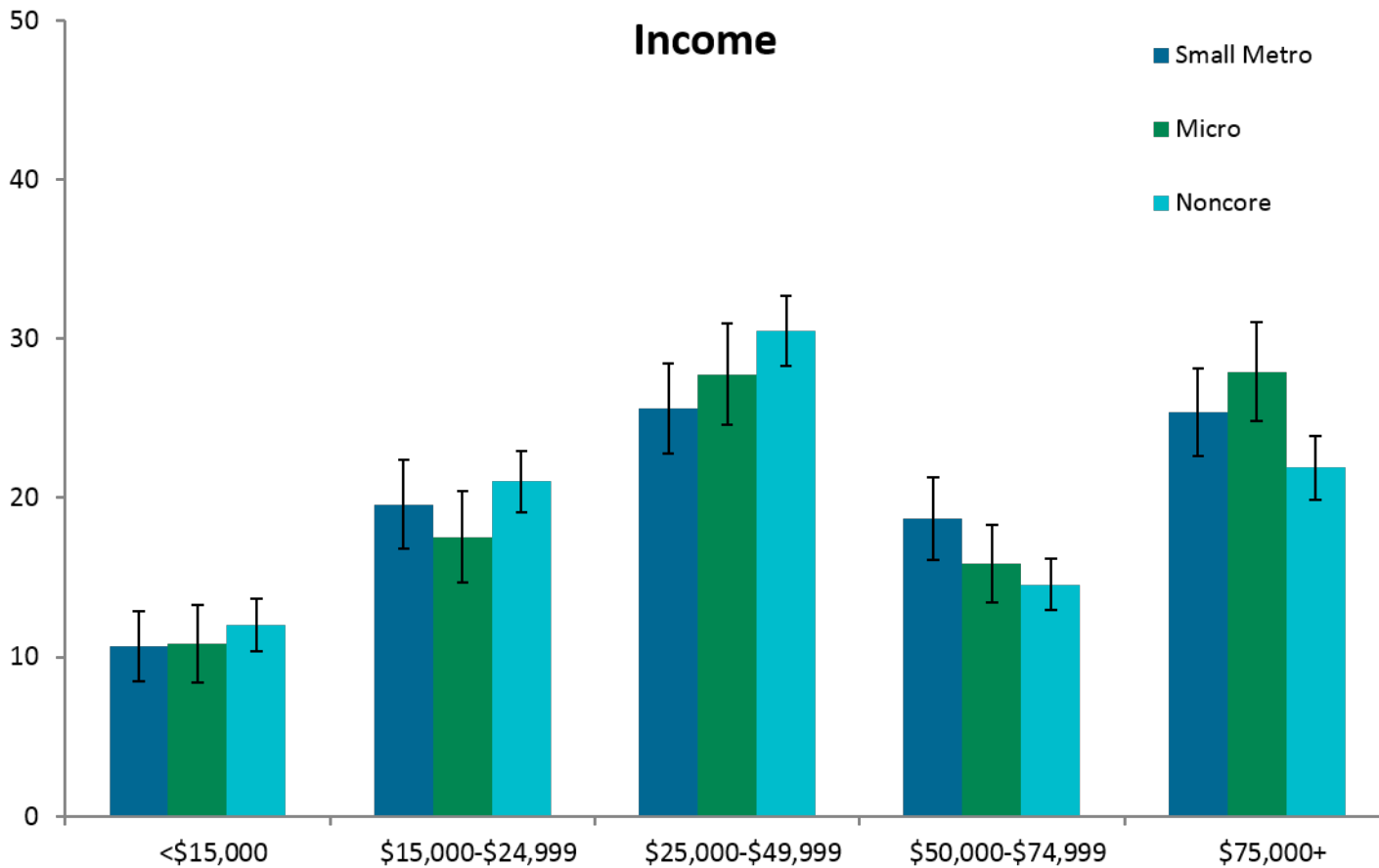
Demographic Breakdown



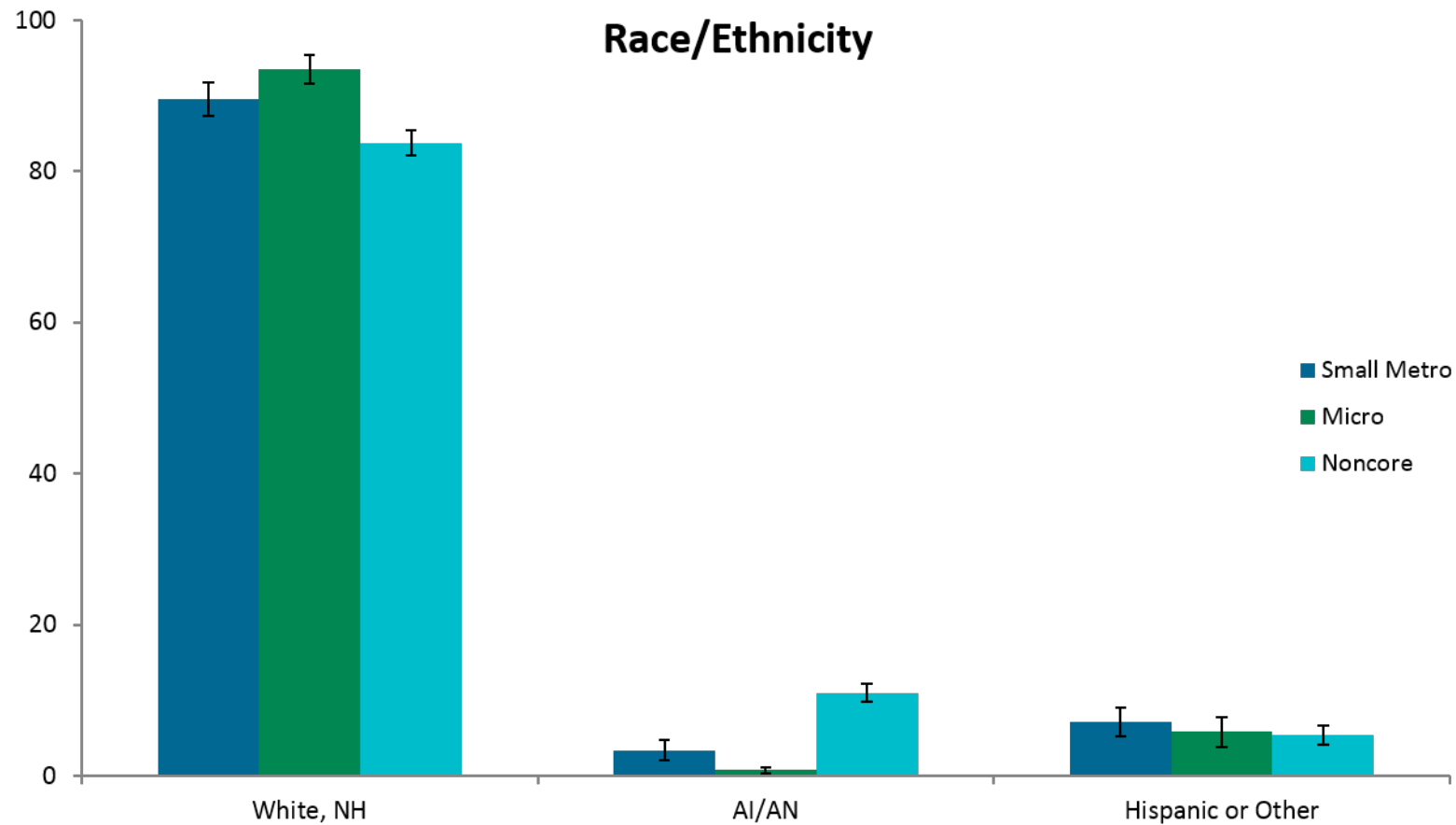
Demographic Breakdown



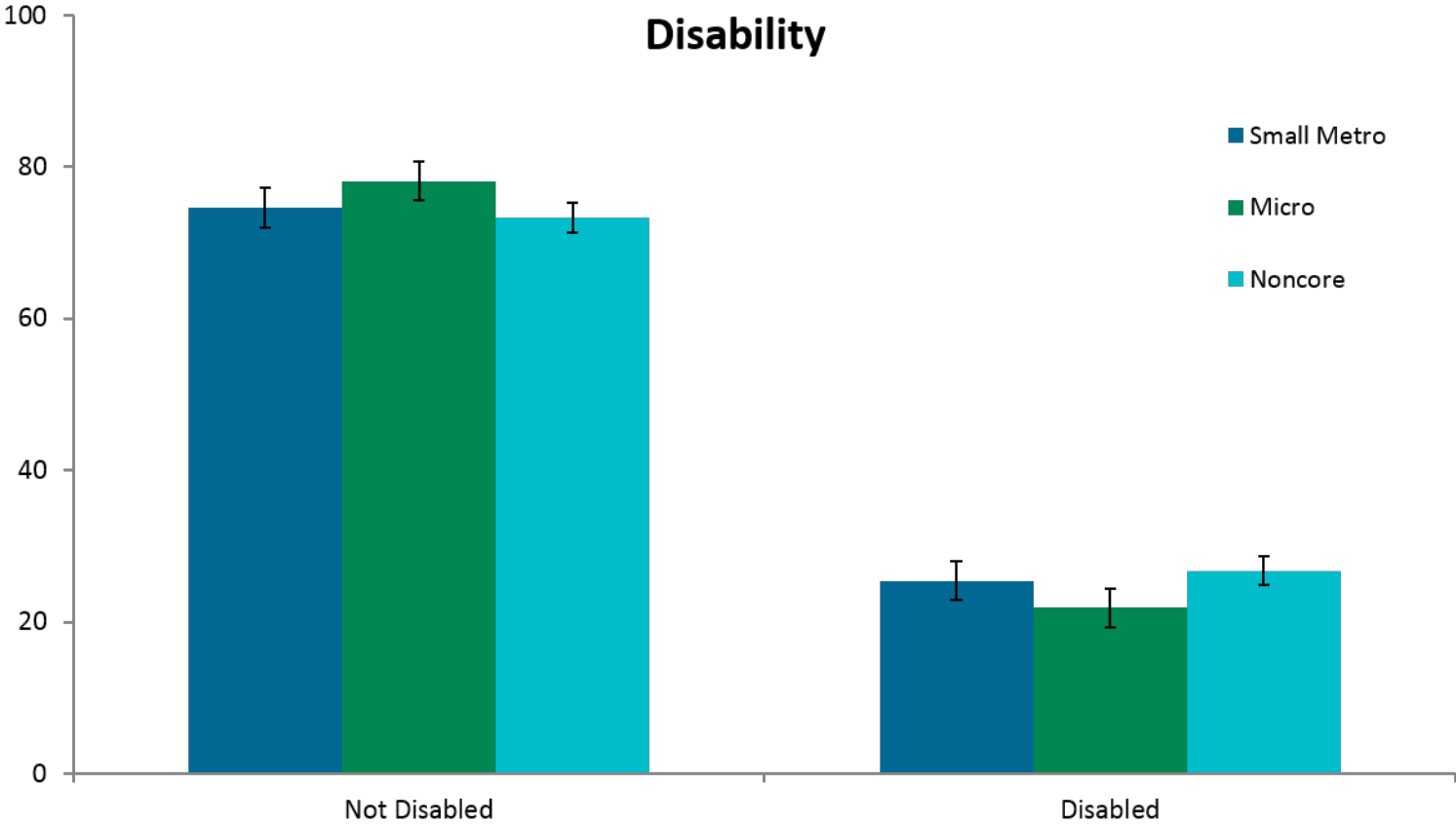
Demographic Breakdown



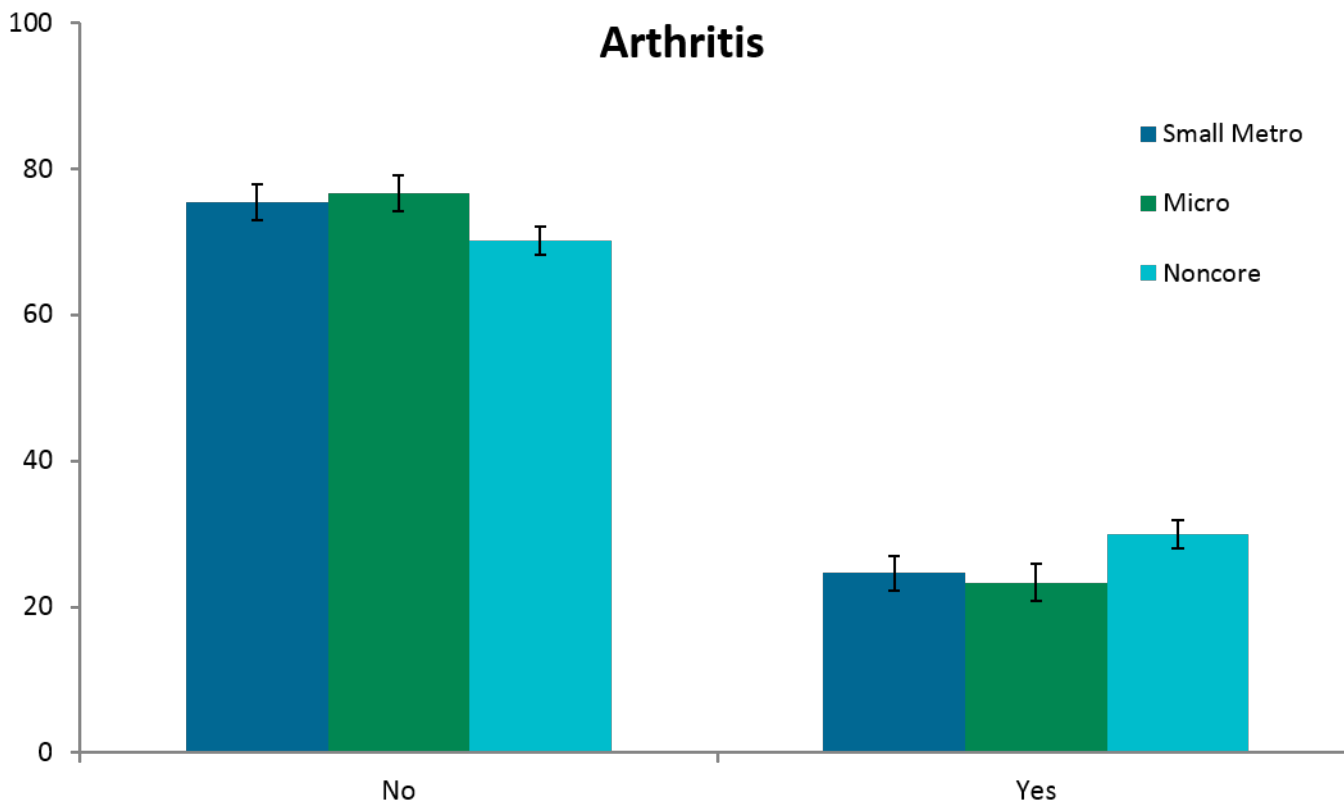
Demographic Breakdown



Demographic Breakdown



Example



Resources

- [2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties](#)
- [Economic Research Service – “What is Rural?”](#)
- [2013 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes \(RUCC\)](#)
- [2010 Rural-Urban Commuting Area \(RUCA\) Codes](#)
- [2010 Census Urban Areas and Urban Clusters](#)

Questions

