

## TALK OF AGES TEACHING BRIEF

### Hometown Demographics

*Contributed by:*

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**Activity Description:** The goal of this activity is to learn more about changing demographics and their implications for communities and individuals. It also gives students an opportunity to work with statistical information. It may be adapted to different classes at different levels.

**Instructions to Students:** Students are asked to work in pairs, or independently if they prefer. We do not recommend this activity for a larger group, unless individual students are each given specific towns to explore. For a small class, presentations may be done in class and comparisons across communities discussed. For a larger class, the instructor may select particular presentations to show in class to generate discussions about particular issues (e.g., rural versus urban patterns).

Student can begin with Census Explorer <http://www.census.gov/censusexplorer/> and ePodunk <http://www.epodunk.com/about.html> to explore age-related demographics about their hometown. If they cannot find information from these sources, advise them see if their town or state has a website with local demographics.

Alternative activities:

- Students may be given particular towns to explore.
- Students may be asked to compare their hometown and another city of their choice in a different part of the country which they believe will differ in some way from their hometown.

Students generate the following slides. This information may also be adapted to the goals of the class and assignment.

1. Obtain comparative data for 1990 and 2012.
2. Prepare **1 Powerpoint slide** using the Table format below.
3. Prepare **2 additional slides** describing points and patterns observed in the data. In addition to words, use visual images to communicate the information in some way.
4. Prepare **1 additional slide** showing something else interesting discovered about the place investigated which has implications for aging residents.

<b>Place: XXXX</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2012</b>
Total population		
Percent 65 and older		
Diversity Demographics		
Percent of the population with a high school degree or higher		
Percent with a bachelor's degree or higher		
Labor force participation rate		
Home ownership rate		
Median household income		