ADA Audio Conference Series
February 15, 2011

National Network
Information, Guidance and Training on the
Americans with Disabilities Act by DBTAC

How the ADA Impacts Seniors

Robbyn Wacker, PhD.
Assistant Vice President for Research
Dean, Graduate School
Professor of Gerontology

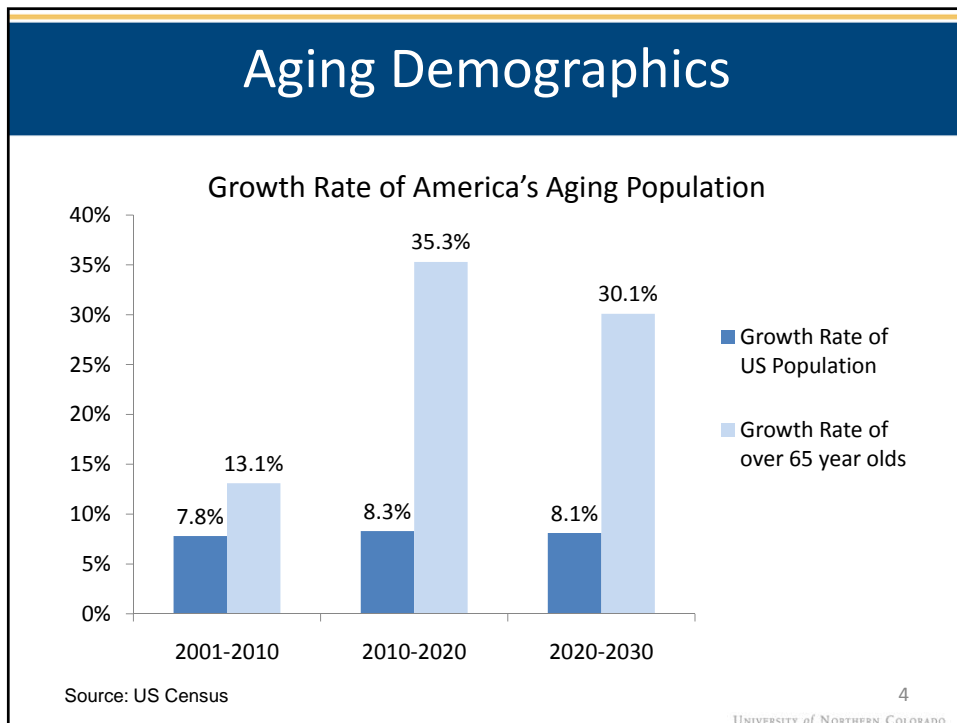UNIVERSITY *of*
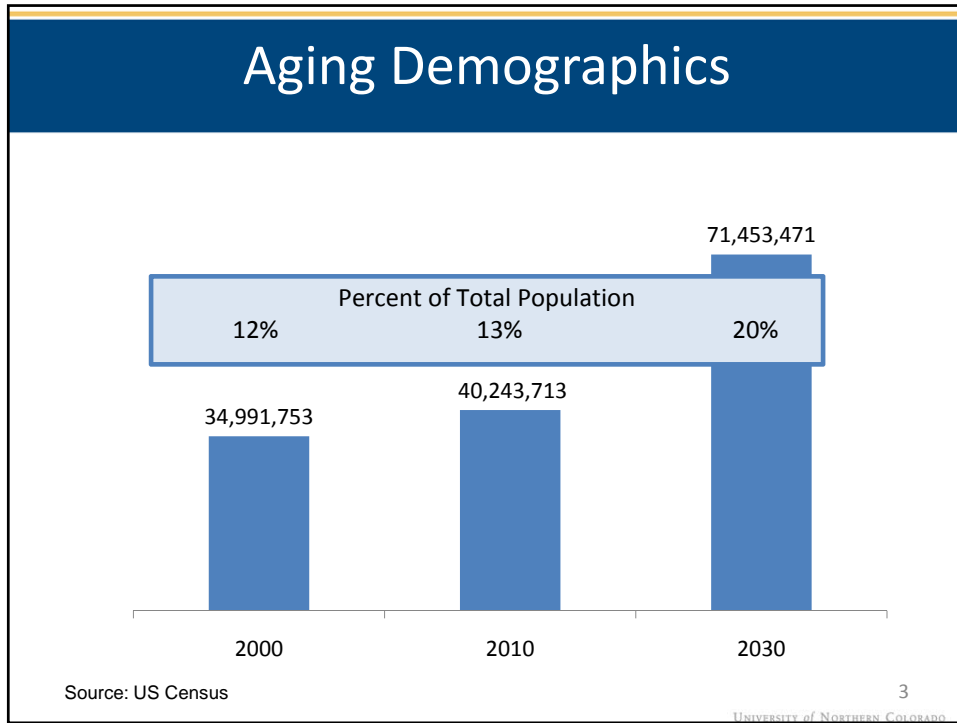NORTHERN COLORADO

Bringing
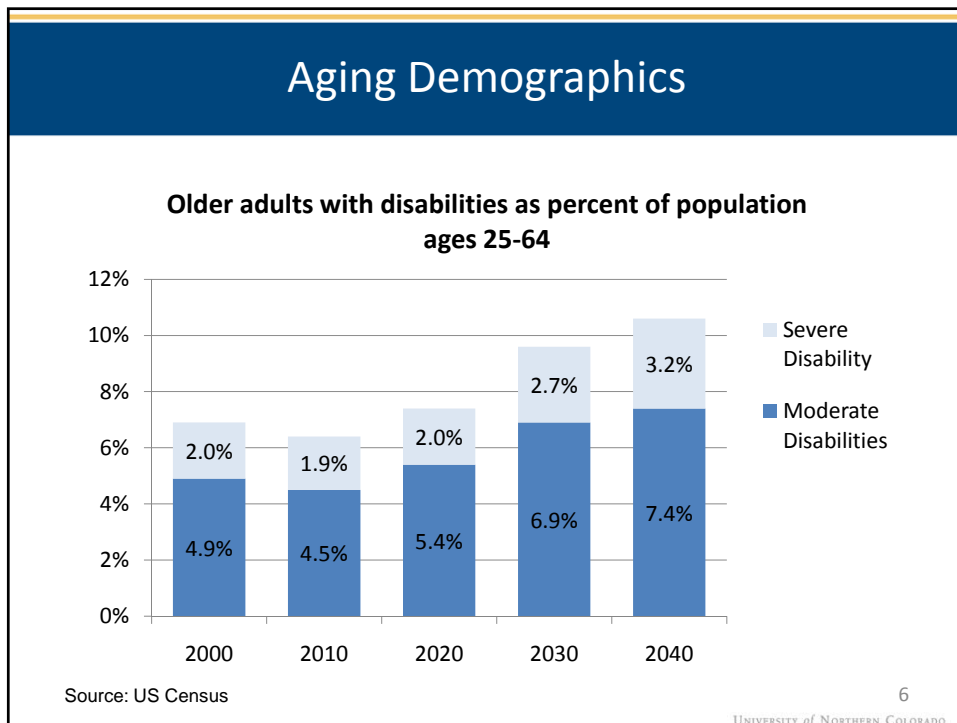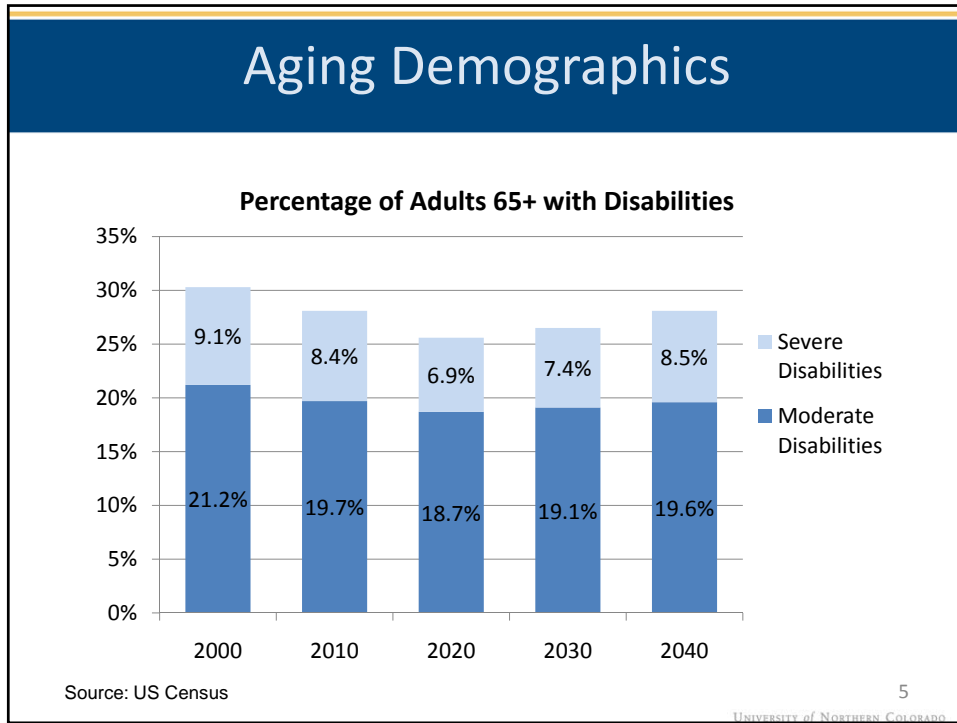education
to life.

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Overview of Presentation

- On the Threshold of a new era – the demographics of our aging population
- Brief overview of the Aging Network
- The intersection between aging, disability and the ADA
  – Employment and Accommodation issues
  – Community – promoting livable communities
- Opportunities for the future

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Aging Demographics

71,453,471

Percent of Total Population

| 12% | 13% | 20% |

40,243,713

34,991,753

| 2000 | 2010 | 2030 |

Source: US Census

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Aging Demographics

Growth Rate of America's Aging Population

40%

35.3%

35%

30.1%

30%

25%

■ Growth Rate of US Population

20%

13.1%

15%

■ Growth Rate of over 65 year olds

10%

7.8%   8.3%   8.1%

5%

0%

| 2001-2010 | 2010-2020 | 2020-2030 |

Source: US Census

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Aging Demographics

Percentage of Adults 65+ with Disabilities

Source: US Census

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Aging Demographics

Older adults with disabilities as percent of population ages 25-64

Source: US Census

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Aging and Functional Capacity

Figure 3: WHO concept: maintaining functional capacity over the life course

Early Life
Growth and development

Adult Life
Maintaining highest possible level of function

Older Age
Maintaining independence and preventing disability

Functional Capacity

Range of function in individuals

Disability threshold*

Rehabilitation and ensuring the quality of life

Age

Source: Kalache and Kickbusch, 1997.

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Older Americans Act

- Creation of the Aging Network
- Purpose and Programs

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Older Americans Act

Title II Aging Network Support	Administration on Aging. Establishes the Administration on Aging, the Aging Network
Title III Community Programs	Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging. Authorizes community supportive services in five different areas
Title V Employment	Community Service Employment for Older Americans.
Title VI Native Americans	Grants for Native Americans.
Title VII Vulnerable Elders	Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities.

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Intersection of aging and disability

- Emerging intersections – ADA and older Adults
  - Employment and older adults
    - Increase in number of older adults working in later life
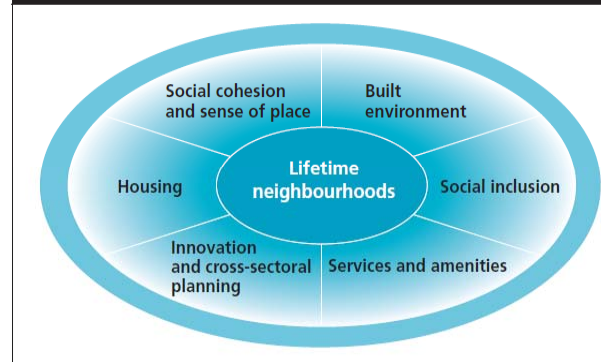   - Workplace issues
  - Public Accommodations

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Intersection of aging and disability

Emerging intersections - Livable communities approach

Figure 1: Central themes to the 'lifetime neighbourhoods' concept

- Social cohesion and sense of place
- Built environment
- Housing
- Lifetime neighbourhoods
- Social inclusion
- Innovation and cross-sectoral planning
- Services and amenities

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Intersection of aging and disability

It is important to note that livable communities/neighborhoods should be viewed as sustainable communities that offer a good quality of life to all generations and abilities.

They should aim to be:

- Accessible and inclusive
- Aesthetically pleasing and safe (in terms of both traffic and crime), and easy and pleasant to access; and
- A community that offers plenty of services, facilities and open space.

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Intersection of aging and disability

- Future Directions
  - Partnering with the aging network
  - Working with business and non-profit sector
  - Working with older adults – understanding the social and psychological needs

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Independence alone is not enough if we want to improve the quality of life of older people and tackle exclusion. Everyone, including older people, has the right to participate and continue throughout their lives having meaningful relationships and roles. Older people's vital role and responsibility to help build social capital will become ever more apparent as our society ages.

A Sure Start to Later Life – Communities and Local Government (2006).

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Recommended Readings

- Overview of Aging
  - Wacker & Roberto "Community Resources for Older Adults: Programs and Services in an Era of Change"
  - Quadagno "Aging & the Life Course"

- Aging & Legal Issues
  - ABA Commission on Law and Aging (www.abanet.org)
  - National Senior Citizen Law Center (www.nsclc.org)

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