Explanation of the Map and Data

Percent of the County Subdivision’s Population, not the state
The map shows the percentage of each county subdivision’s population that is 65 years old or older. The data does not show the share of Minnesota’s total population that is 65 years old or older in each county subdivision. For example, 12.6% of Minnesota’s total population was 65 years old or older, or 658,163 persons. In the City of Longville, 60.1% of the population was 65 years old or older, or 86 persons (see the Excel data table). The map shows the percentage of the City of Longville’s population that is 65 years old or older, not the share of the state’s total population that is 65 years old or older. If the map were to show the share of the state’s total, the City of Longville would have 0.013% of the state’s total population that is 65 years old or older.

Definitions
County Subdivision
County subdivisions are the primary divisions of counties. In Minnesota, they include cities, townships, and unorganized territories (i.e., portions of counties that are not included in any legally established city or township). The size of county subdivisions vary significantly in geographic area and population. For example, Northwest Koochiching Unorganized Territory in Koochiching County is 2,448 square miles and has a population of 540; while the City of Mankato in Blue Earth County is 35 square miles and has a population of 38,187.

Statistics
The statistics are provided to summarize the data presented in the map. The descriptive statistics included on the map include the number of county subdivisions (count of county subdivisions: 2,757), the lowest percentage of persons 65 years old or older in the county subdivisions (minimum: 0%), the highest percentage of persons 65 years old or older in the county subdivisions (maximum: 100%), the average percentage of persons 65 years old or older in the county subdivisions (average/mean: 17.2%), and the standard deviation of the data (standard deviation: 10.4%). The standard deviation is a measure of how spread out the numbers are, or more specifically, a measure that tells you how tightly the data are clustered around the mean (i.e., average). A low standard deviation indicates that the data points tend to be very close to the mean, whereas a high standard deviation indicates that the data points are spread out over a large range of values.

The map also includes a chart of the frequency distribution of the data. This chart shows the number of county subdivisions (vertical axis) by the percent of the population that is 65 years old or older (horizontal axis). Like the standard deviation, this chart shows the distribution variability of the data. A highly stacked frequency distribution chart shows that there is little variability in the distribution; that most county subdivisions share a similar percent of the population that is 65 years old or older. A widely disbursed frequency distribution chart shows that there is greater variability in the distribution.

Source: 2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
The American Community Survey (ACS) collects and produces population and housing information every year instead of every ten years. Collecting data every year provides more up-to-date information throughout the decade about the U.S. population at the local community level. About three million housing unit addresses are selected annually, across every county in the nation.

Single-Year Estimates
The ACS produces 1-year estimates annually for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

Multiyear Estimates
The ACS produces 3-year and 5-year estimates annually for geographic small areas (down to Census Block Groups), areas with a population of 20,000 or more, including the nation, all states and the District of Columbia, all congressional districts, approximately 1,800 counties, and 900 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, among others.

The Census Bureau collects ACS data from a sample of the population in the United States and Puerto Rico—rather than from the whole population. All ACS data are survey estimates. To help you interpret the reliability of the estimate, the Census Bureau publishes a margin of error (MOE) for every ACS estimate. American Community Survey 1-, 3-, and 5-year estimates are period estimates, which means they represent the characteristics of the population and housing over a specific data collection period. Data are combined to produce 12 months, 36 months or 60 months of data. These are called 1-year, 3-year and 5-year data.

For guidance on comparing 1-year, 3-year and 5-year American Community Survey estimates with Census 2000 and Census 2010, see here: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_data/

Data available for download here: http://factfinder2.census.gov/
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)