

## How were age groups different in 1900 vs. 2000?

## ASSIGNMENT 2

# Age Demographics Visualization

For this visualization, I decided to go with my second sketch from Assignment 1. Even though it didn't exactly answer my question from Assignment 1, it was my most interesting visualization and did something different than many of the other visualizations shown in class. Because of this, I revised my question to "How did age demographics change from 1900 to 2000?"

First, I did some data manipulation to get the demographic rates for each age group in both 1900 and 2000. I then used Adobe Illustrator to make small multiples. The arrow encodes the percentage of the specified age group for 1900 on the left and 2000 on the right. The color of the arrow represents whether the trend is positive or negative.

I removed all the tick marks and only left axis labels on the ends of each axis to keep the charts very simple so as not to overwhelm the viewer. I wanted the arrows to be the most eye-catching part of this visualization, because the trends are what I want viewers to take away from it rather than any exact values.

I found that sketching was really helpful in this process. When one jumps right into a visualization program it is really easy to just go with whatever chart type the data fits with first. As a designer, there is a lot more opportunity to be creative and unique when beginning with sketches because there is not a technological barrier.