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Cities In the World

A new Perspective on Urbanisation

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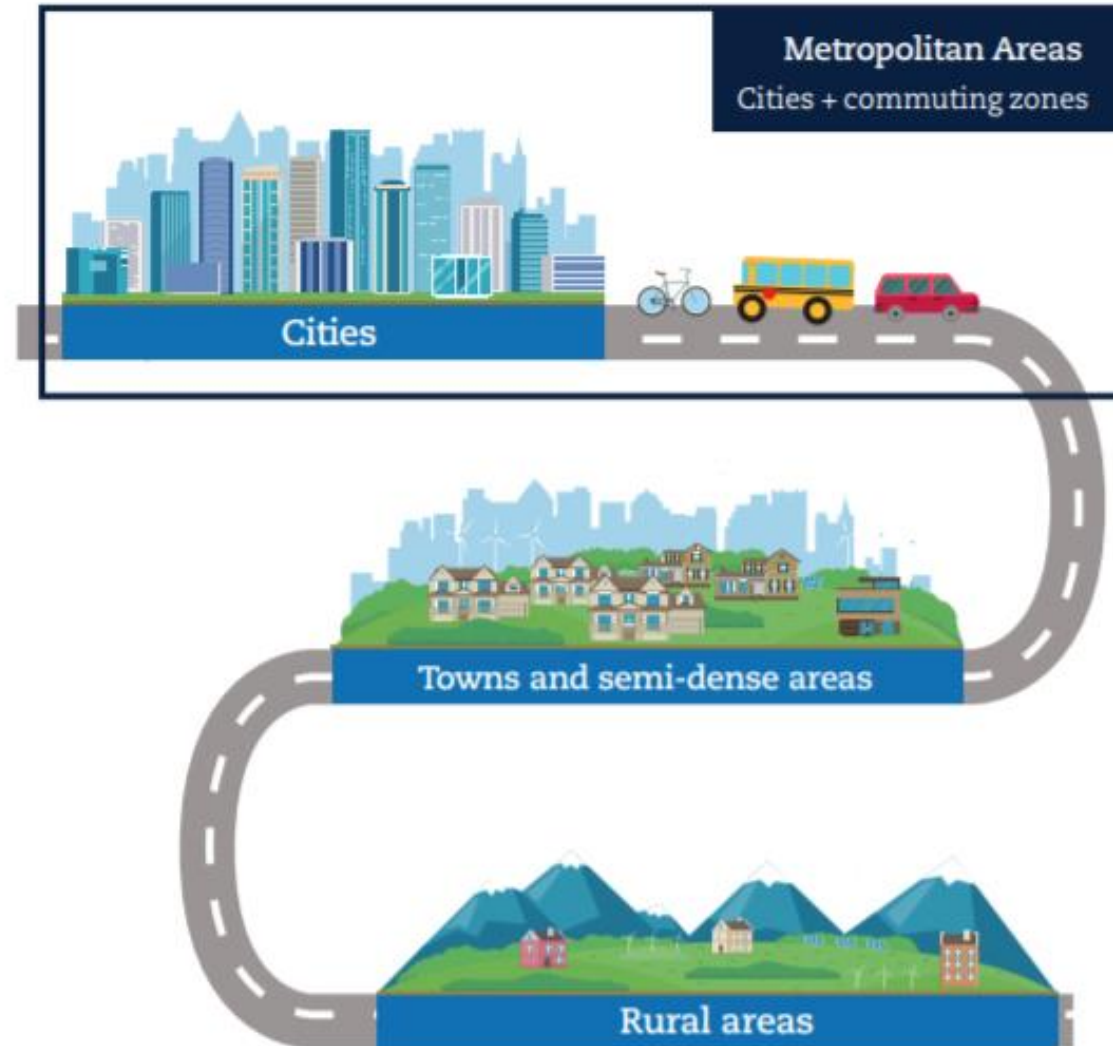
OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities



Harmonised definitions shed new light on urbanisation



- Two consistent, global definitions of cities and metropolitan areas
- **Fills a void:** no consistent existing global definitions





Where do people live?

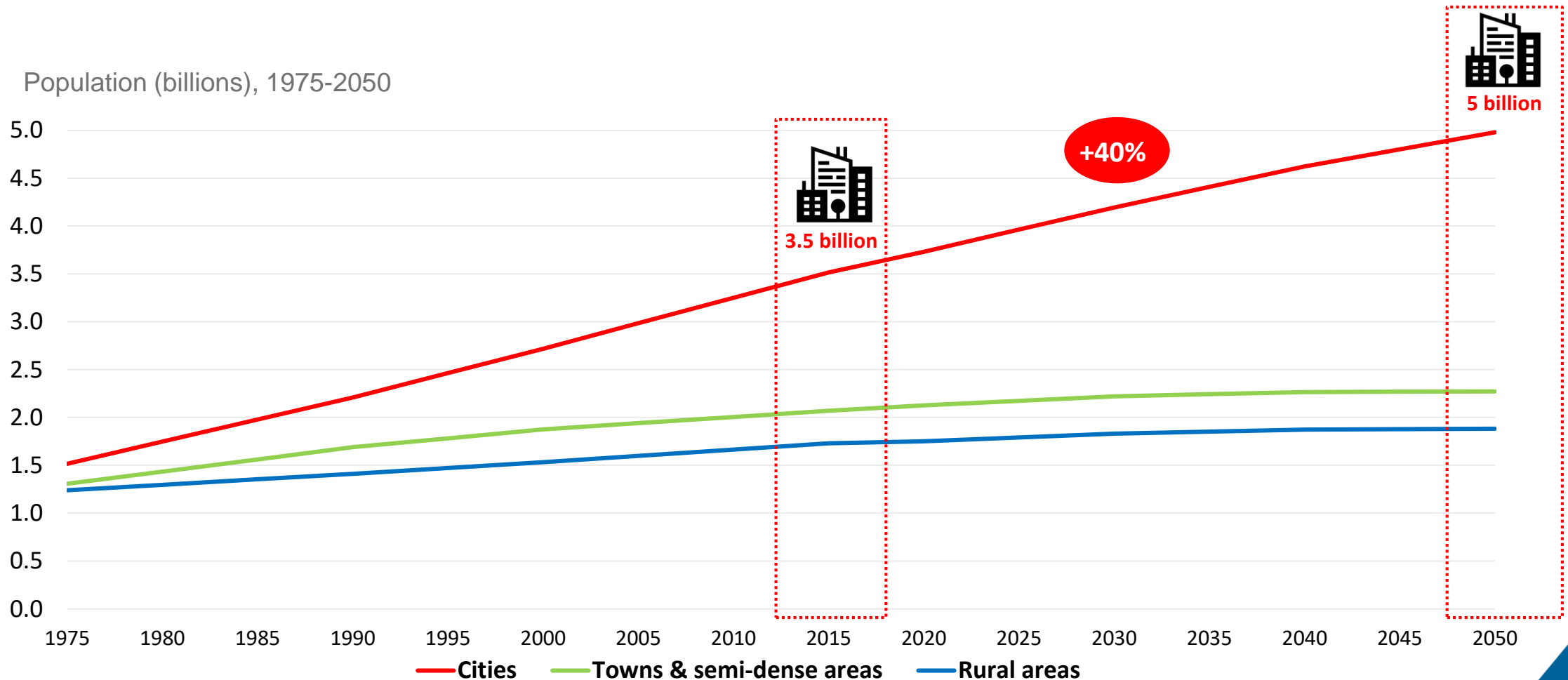


- City populations have doubled over the last 40 years and will increase **from 48% to 55%** of the world's population **by 2050**.



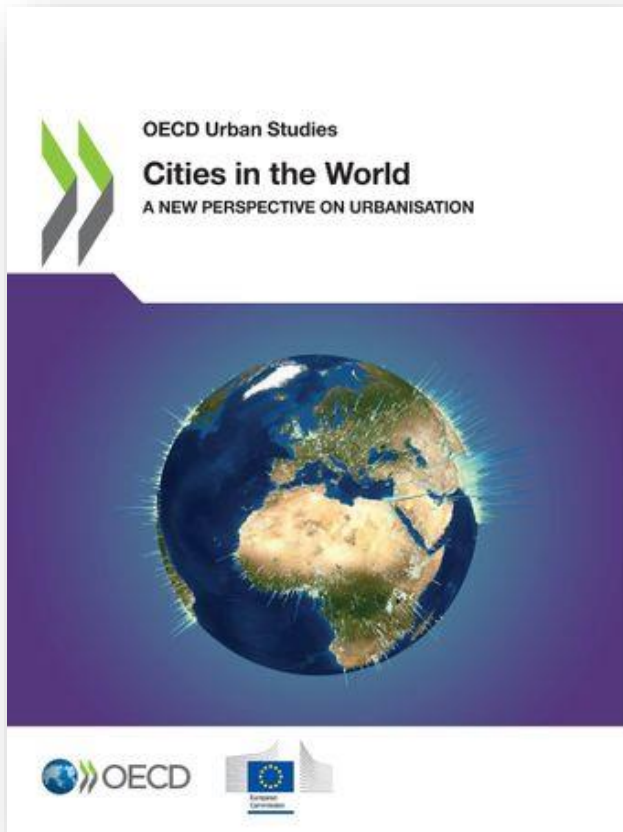
What does the future hold for city and rural populations?

City populations are projected to grow from **3.5 billion in 2015** to **5 billion in 2050**.





Focus of *Cities of the World* report



1. Determines **which metropolitan areas grew and declined**, and why.
2. Examines how the urban system **changes with economic development**.
3. Analyses differences in **quality of life** across different areas.
4. Assesses the **changing shape** of cities and its **impact on service delivery** and **sustainable development**.



Metropolitan Growth



Large metropolitan areas grow fastest

Population growth is increasingly concentrated in large metropolitans.

This exacerbates challenges for:



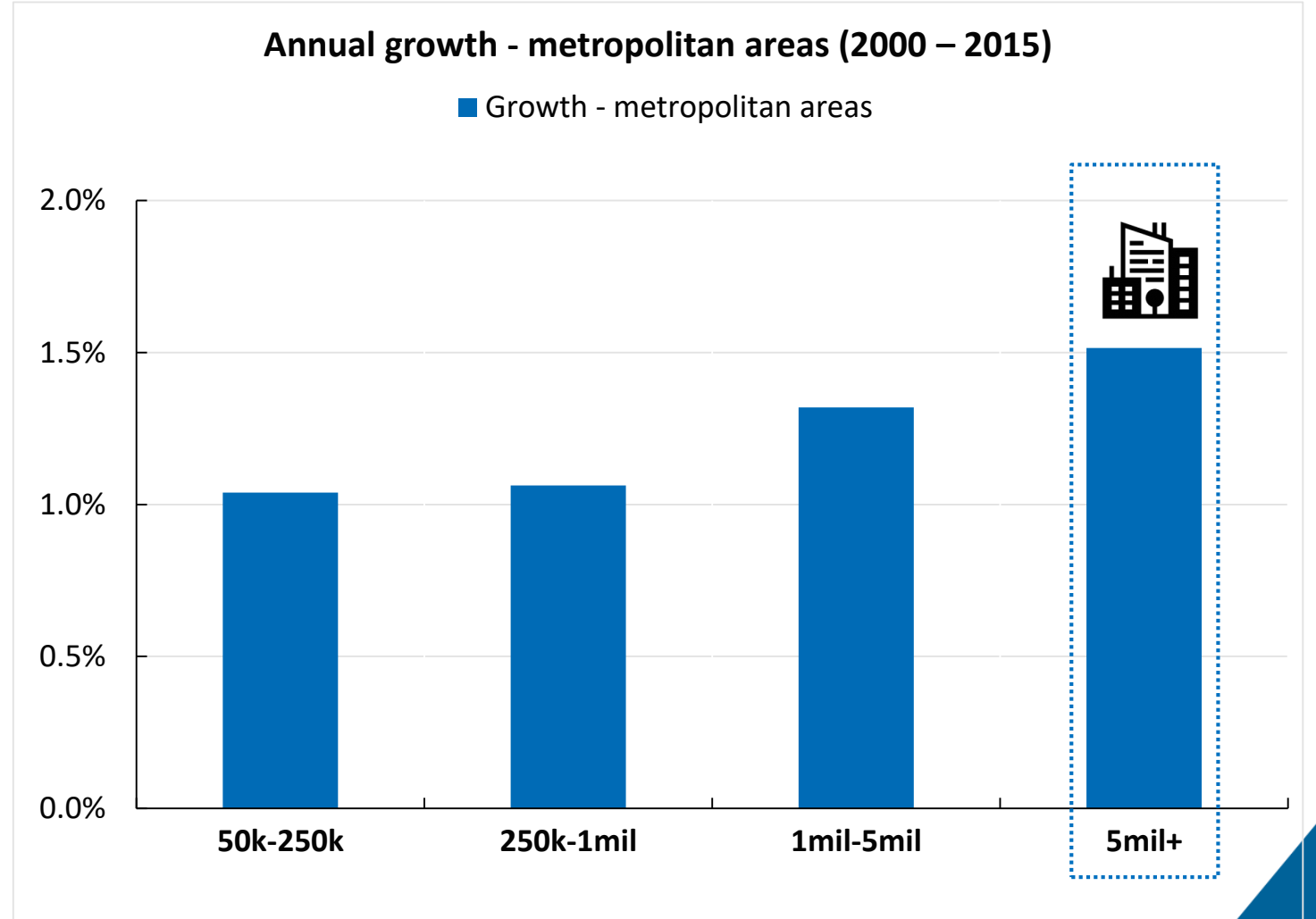
transport provision



affordable housing

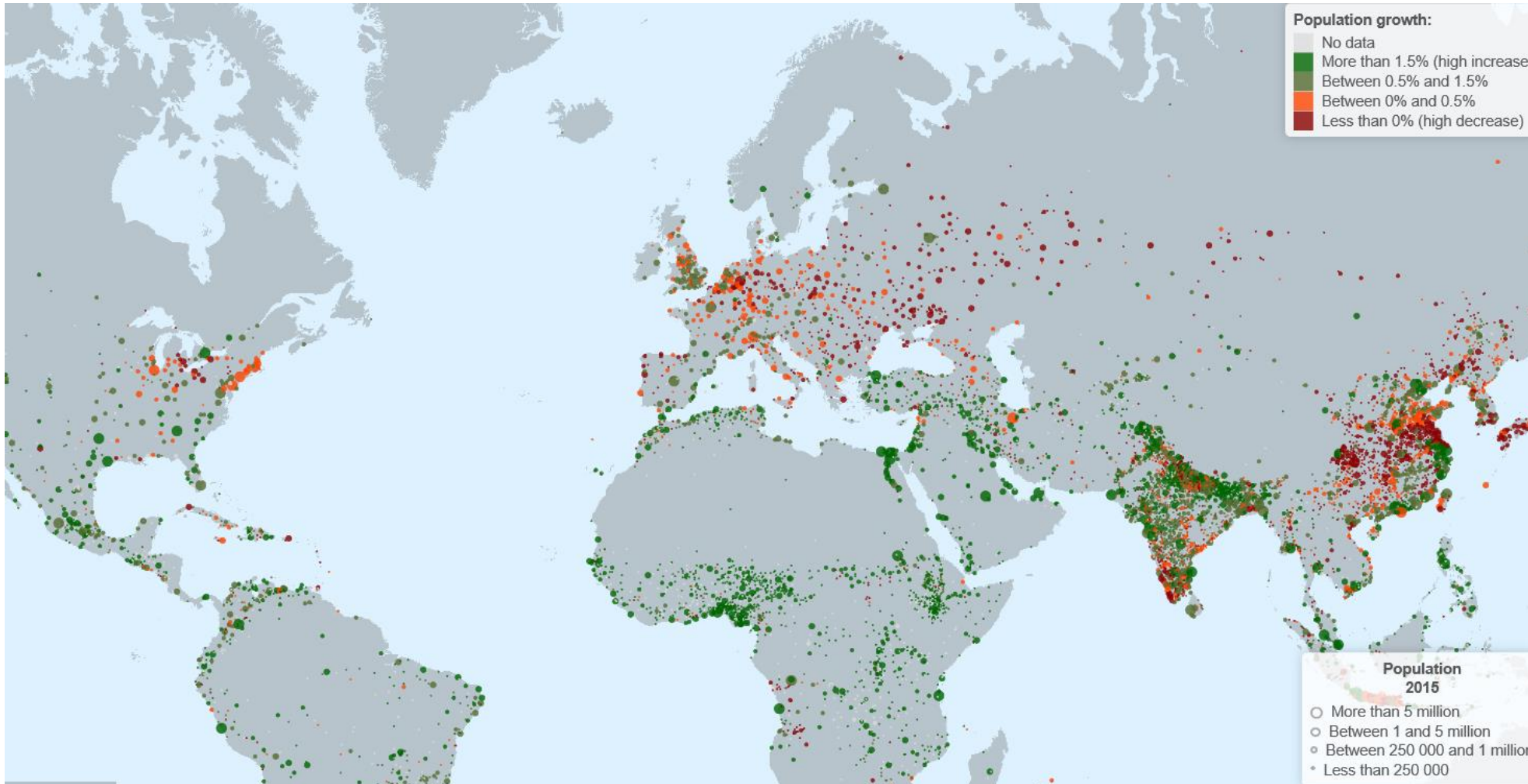


pollution





One-fifth of metropolitan areas in the world are shrinking



Currently
20% ↓

decline since 2005

Looking forward
30% ↓

decline by 2050



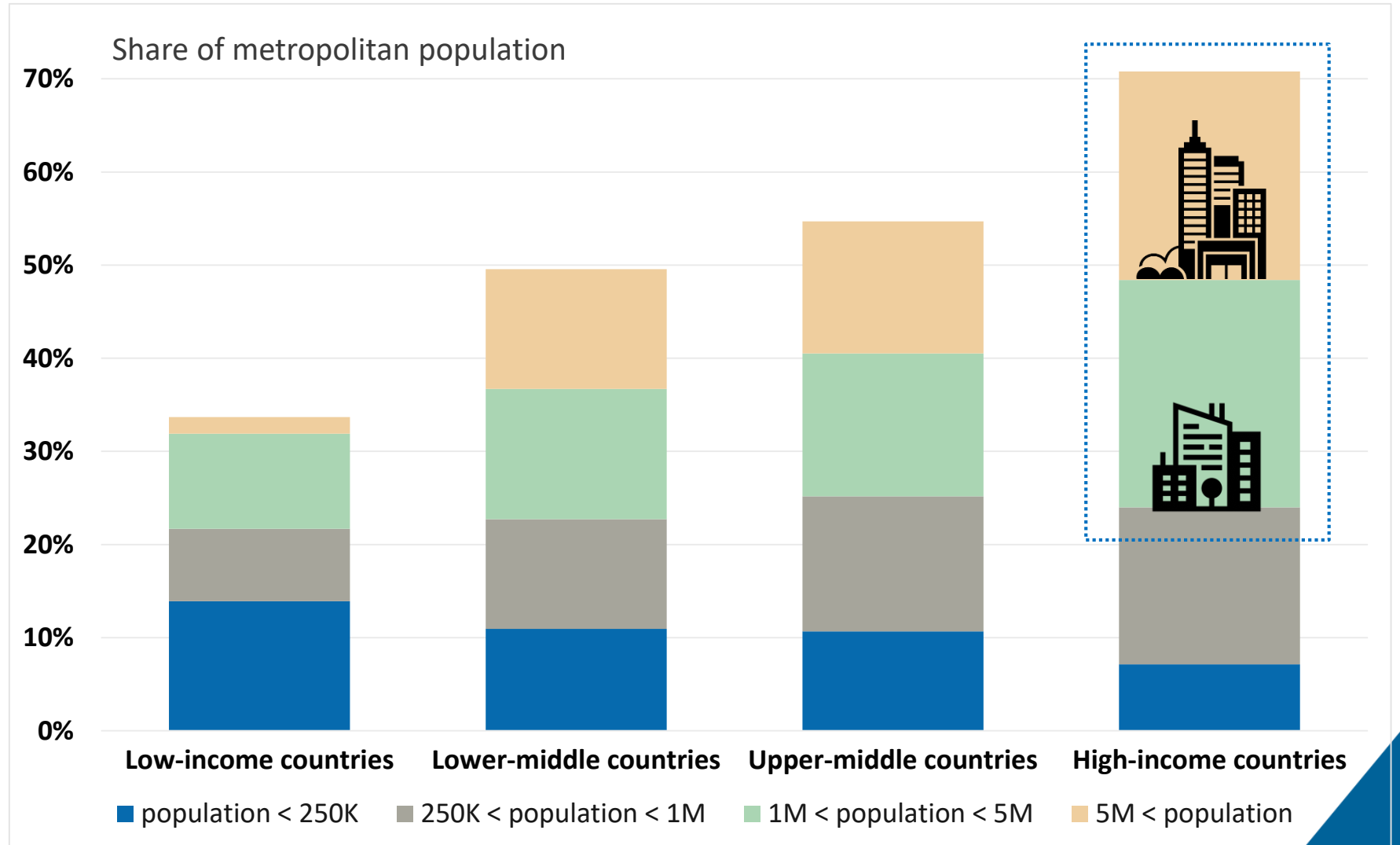
Development & Urban systems



More metropolitan population in richer countries



Countries with higher GDP per capita have larger proportions of the population living in metropolitan areas.





Urbanisation is linked to regional economic disparities



Metropolitan structure matters for within-country regional disparities:

- Regions with **larger metropolitan areas** tend to be **richer**.
- Regional income disparities are **greater in middle-income countries** than in the poorest and the richest countries.





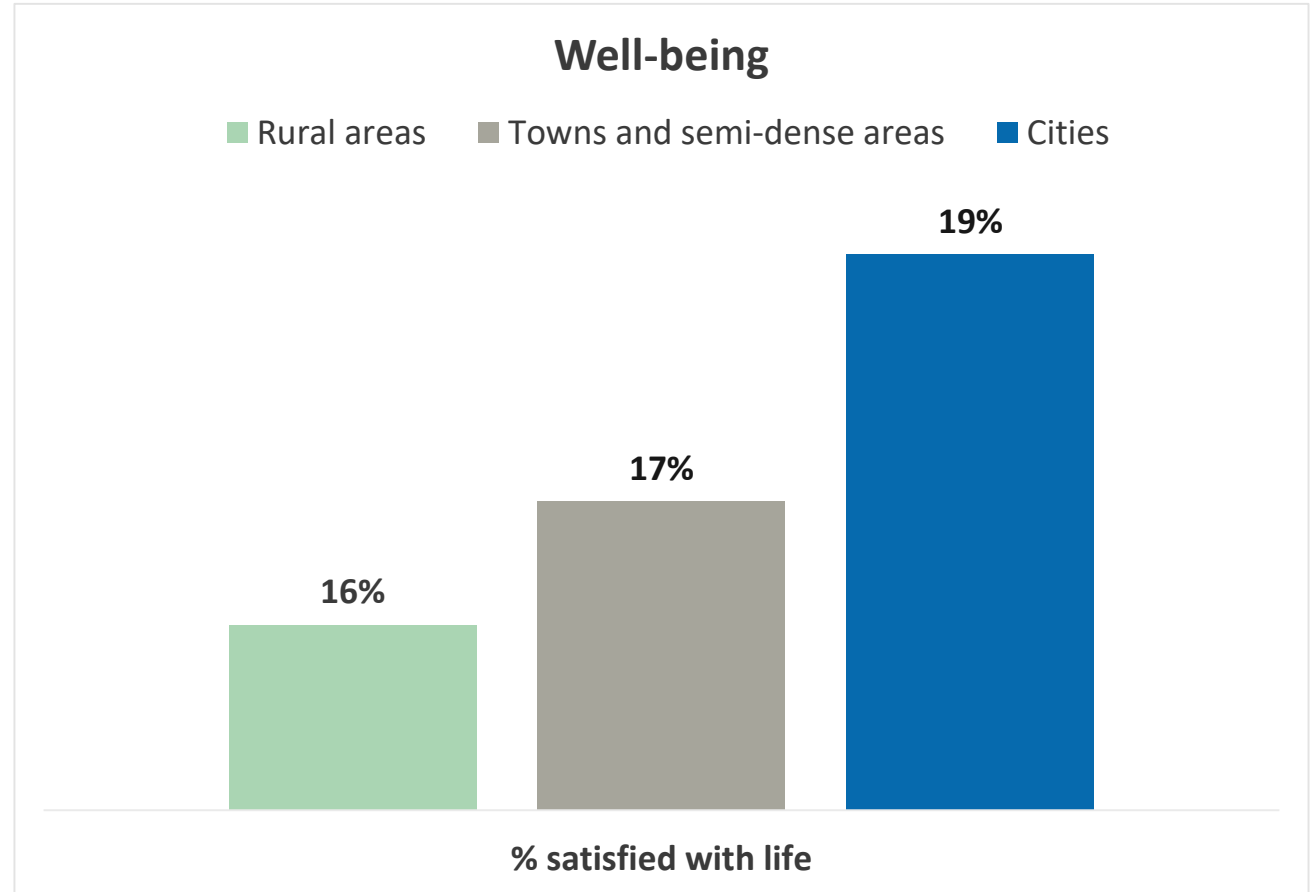
Life in Cities



Cities offer the highest quality of life



- Evidence from 111 countries shows that **city residents are more satisfied with their lives.**
- This trend explains why people continue to be attracted by cities, **driving urbanisation.**





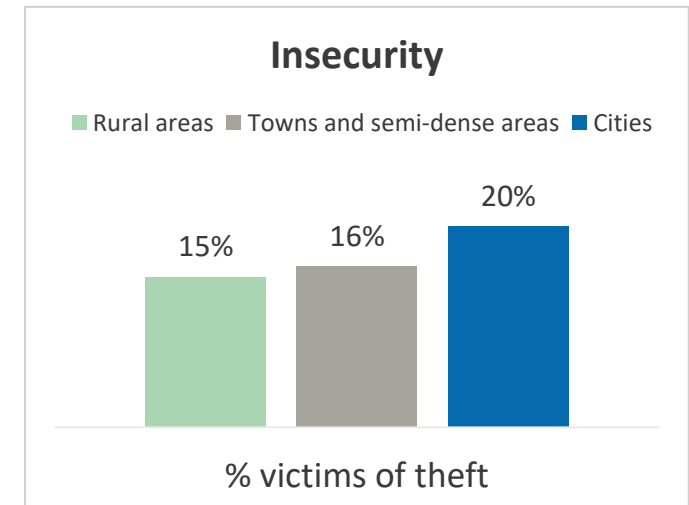
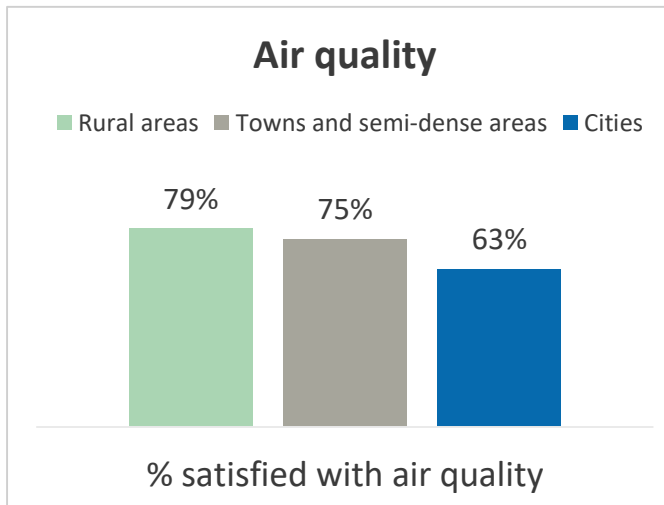
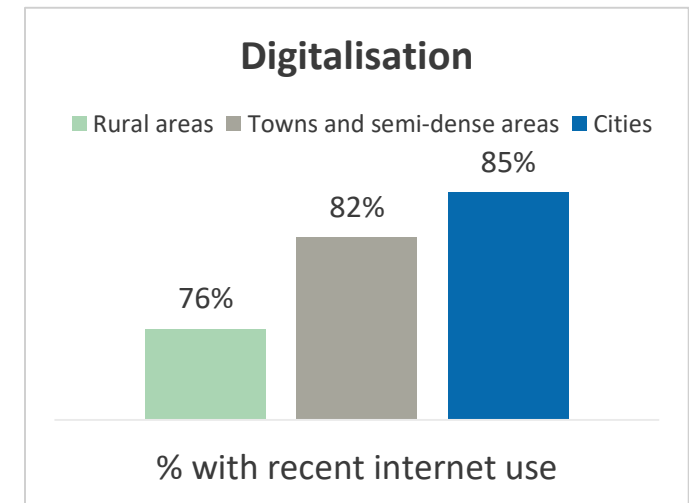
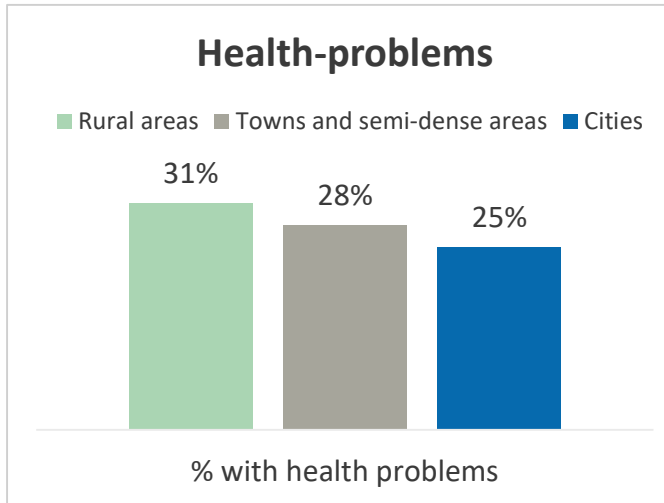
What explains the differences in quality of life?

Residents in cities enjoy better living conditions:

- Fewer health problems, better access to services (digitalisation)

But cities also face:

- More crime and violence, urban ills (air pollution, obesity, stress)





Shape of cities and sustainable development

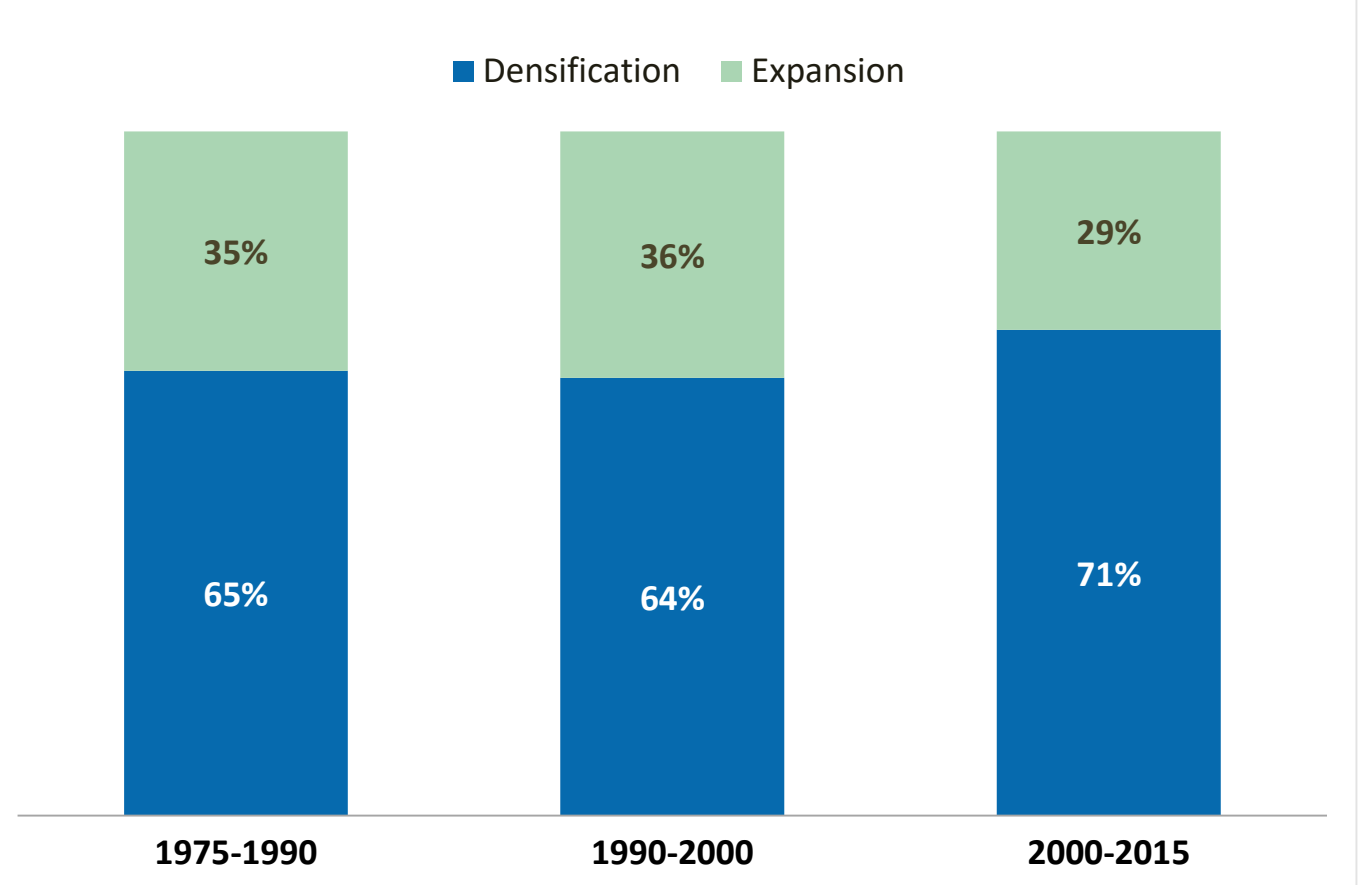


How do cities grow?



- Globally, cities have **continuously become denser** over the past 40 years.
- Policy-makers need to accompany the increasing population density with **better access to services and affordable housing.**

Decomposing average annual population growth in cities, 1975-2015

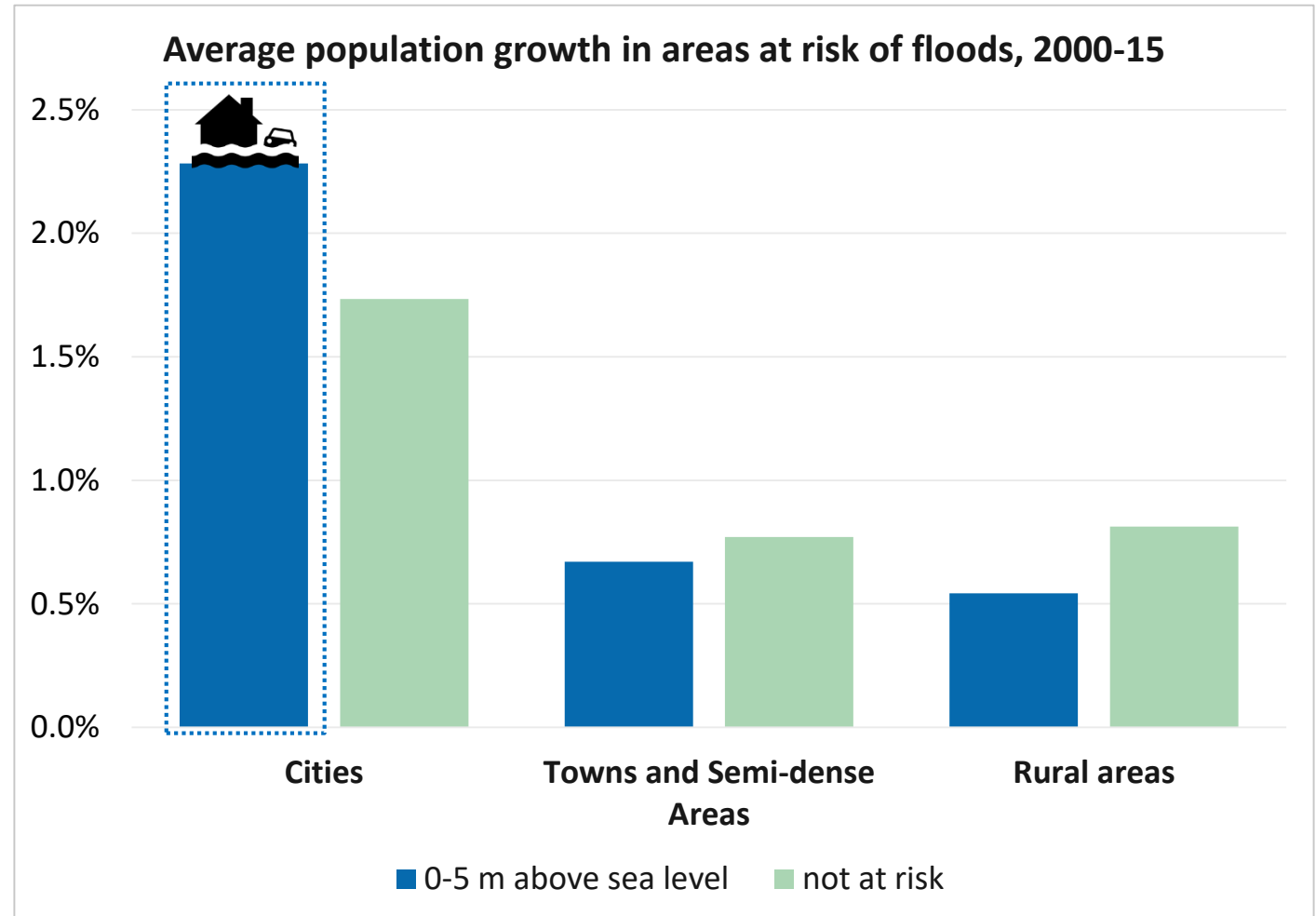




The growth & increasing density of cities raise serious challenges



- The growth and increasing density of cities **raises their exposure to climate change risks.**
- In cities, risks associated with **sea-level rise** has been increasing.





The way forward



Implications for future OECD work

OECD and EC setting a **new benchmark for sub-national statistics**

Key instrument for urban policy and SDG monitoring: **better data for better lives**



Important topics for future work:

Shrinking cities & managing decline smartly

Managing urbanisation with sustainable development

Specific challenges of intermediary cities

Digital and physical **infrastructure investment needs in rural areas**

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We support evidence-based policy to improve people's well-being in all regions and cities through testing and producing new indicators, methods and analysis, and promoting the use of data and indicators in all phases of policymaking.



Where does your region or city stand today with respect to the 2030 Agenda?

What is a Metropolitan Area?



For the OECD and the European Commission, **Metropolitan Areas** extend beyond cities to include cities' commuting zones.

>> More



THANK YOU

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