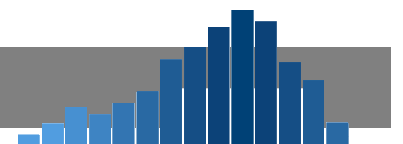


# Let's Do the Numbers

## *Population Aging In Virginia*

Meredith Strohm Gunter and Susan Perrone  
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

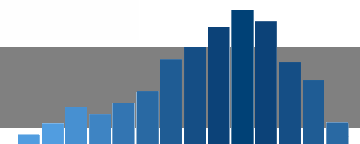
Presented to the Virginia Forum on Age Wave Planning,  
May 20, 2009



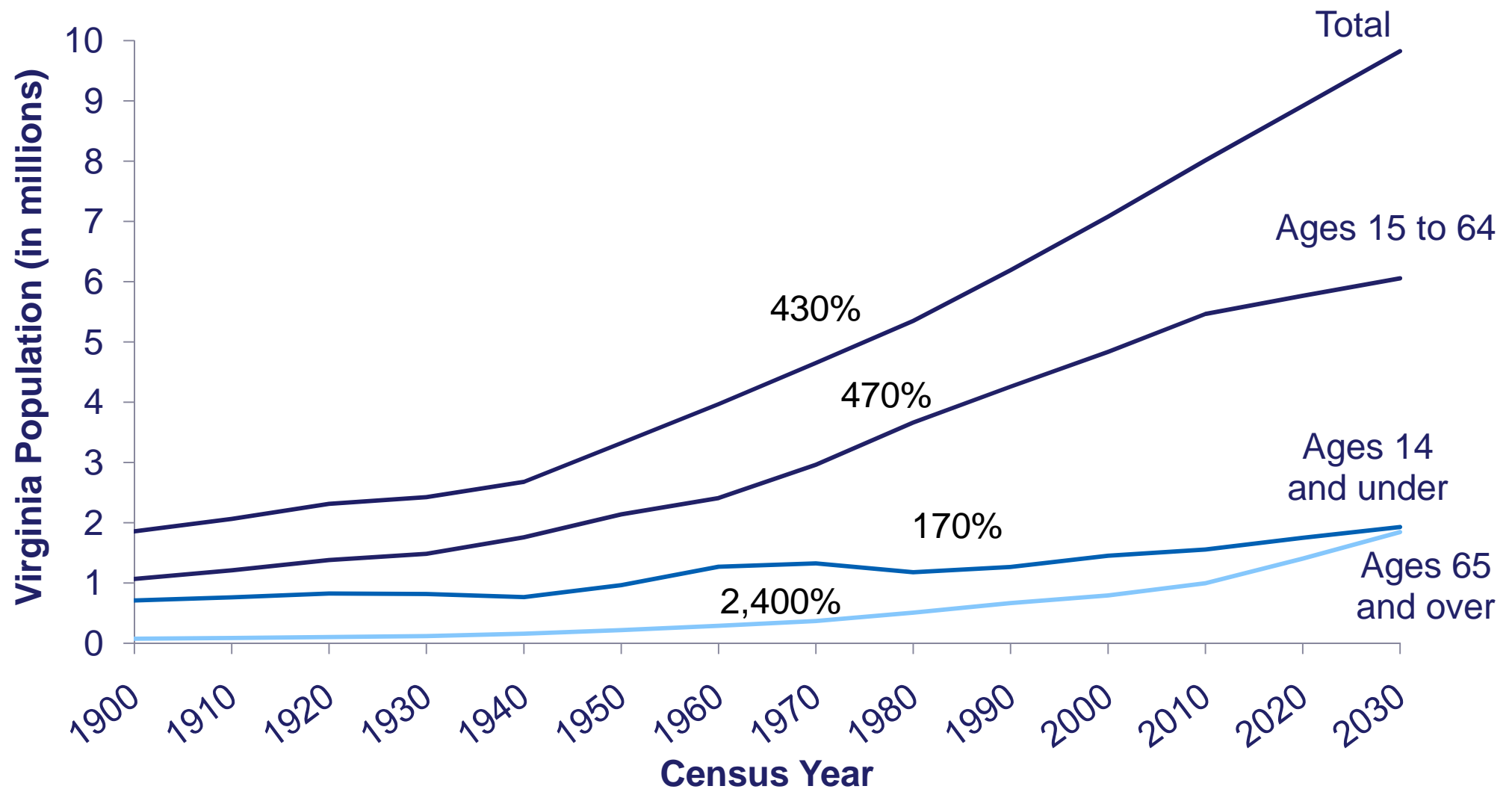
# The Boomers Are Coming! Are you ready?



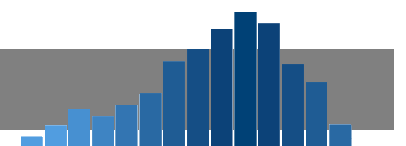
'CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A BABY BOOMER'



# Virginia's Population Growth – Past and Future

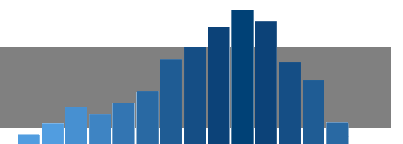


- Seniors have grown much more rapidly than any other age group



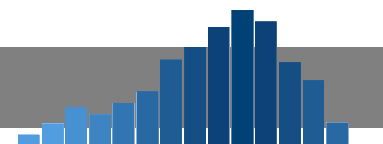
# Virginia's Population Growth – So what?

- More citizens will be seeking services – and more of them will be seniors.
- The services “mix” may change.
- Emphasis on community livability – this could be good for all.



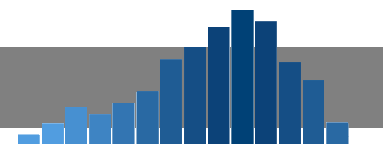
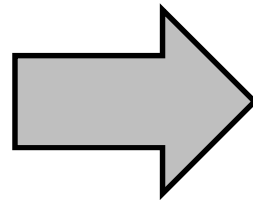
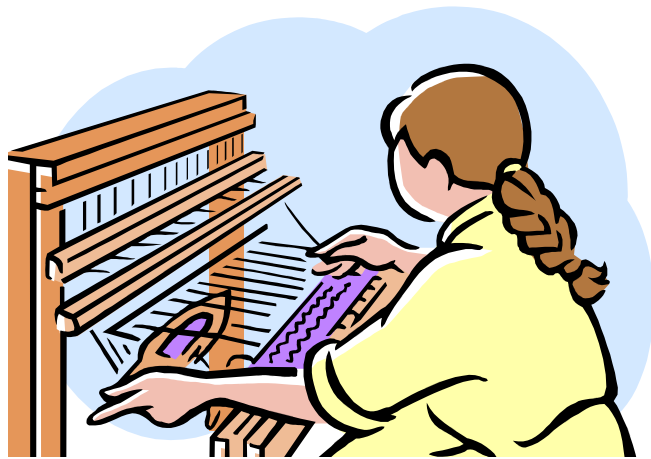
# Key balance shift in Dependency Ratio

The ratio of the economically dependent part of the population – children and elderly – to the working-age population is changing.



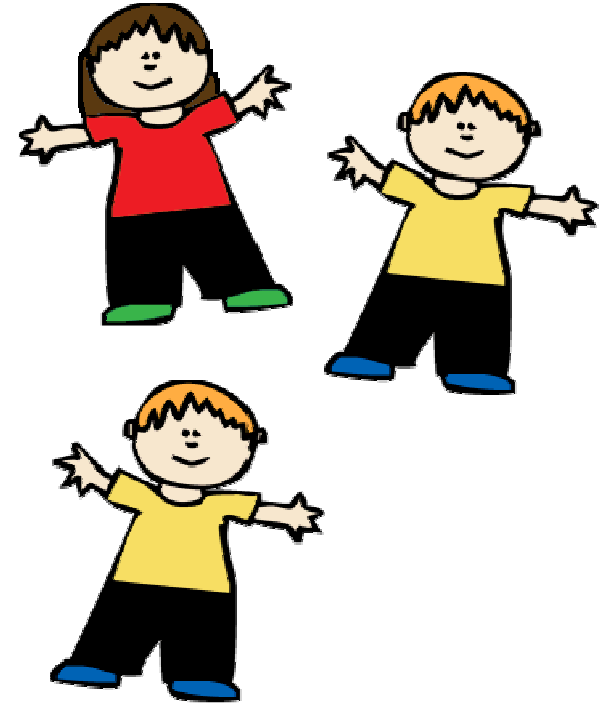
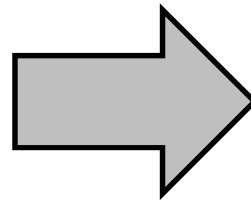
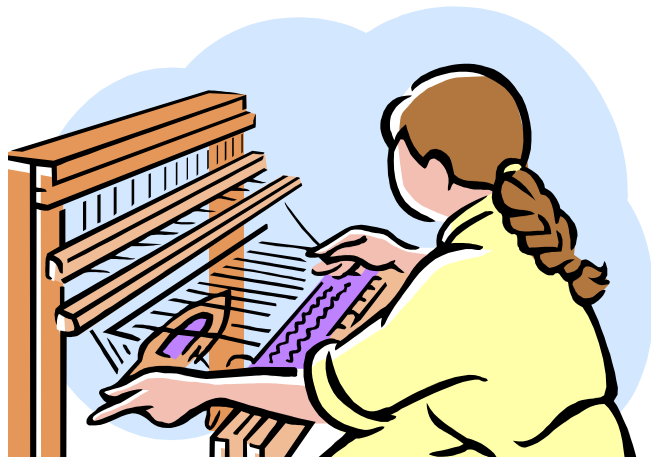
# Key balance shift in Dependency Ratio

1900

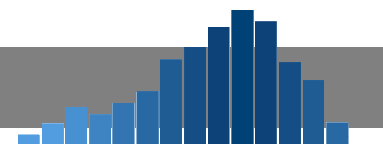
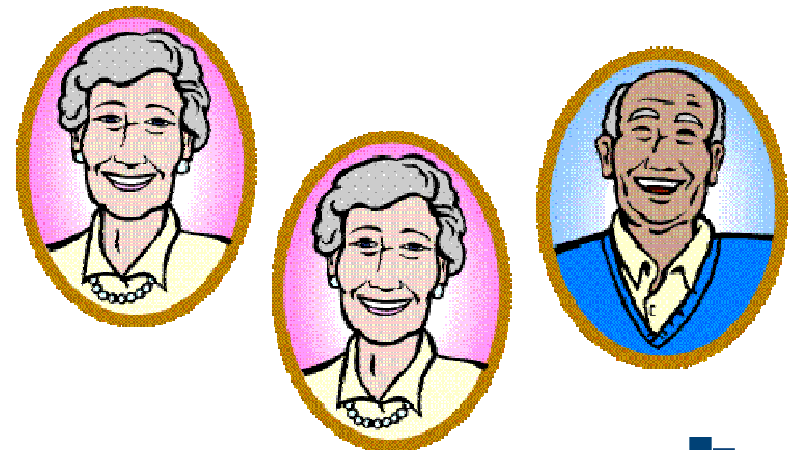


# Key balance shift in Dependency Ratio

2030

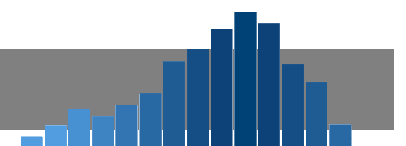
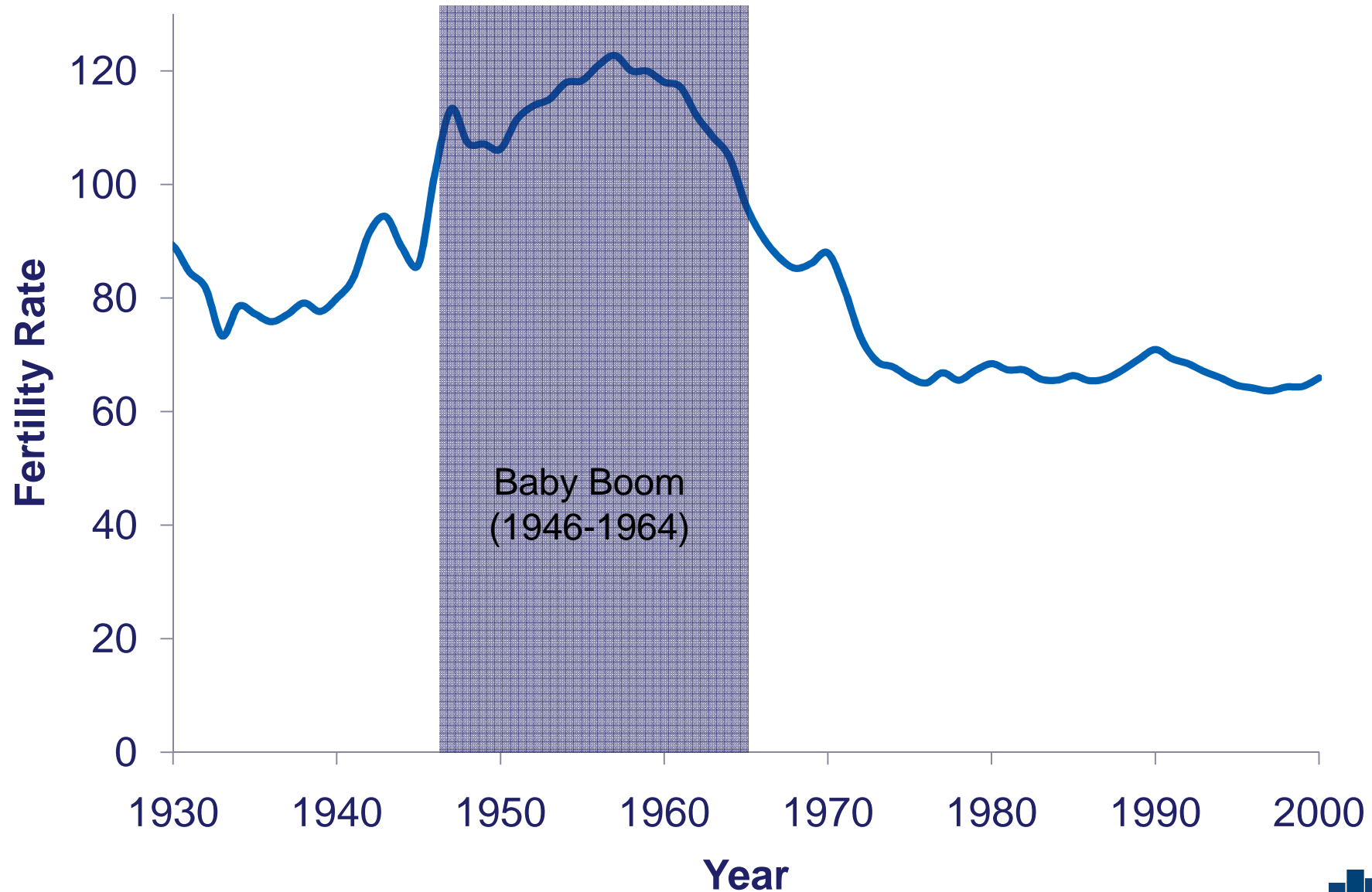


- More seniors and fewer children depending on the working-age population.



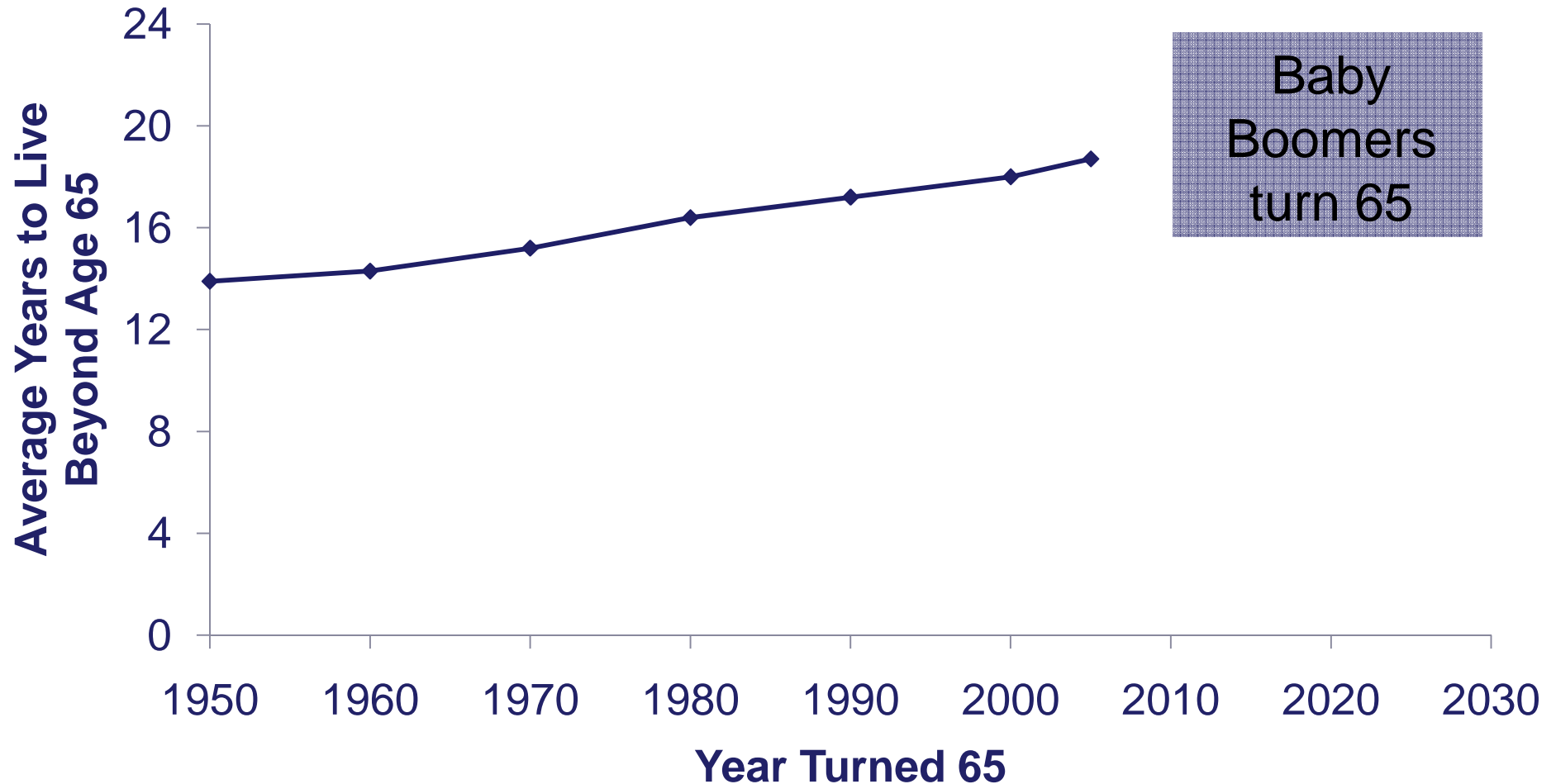
# What caused this shift?

## Fertility Rate in U.S.

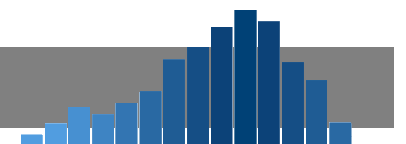


# What caused this shift?

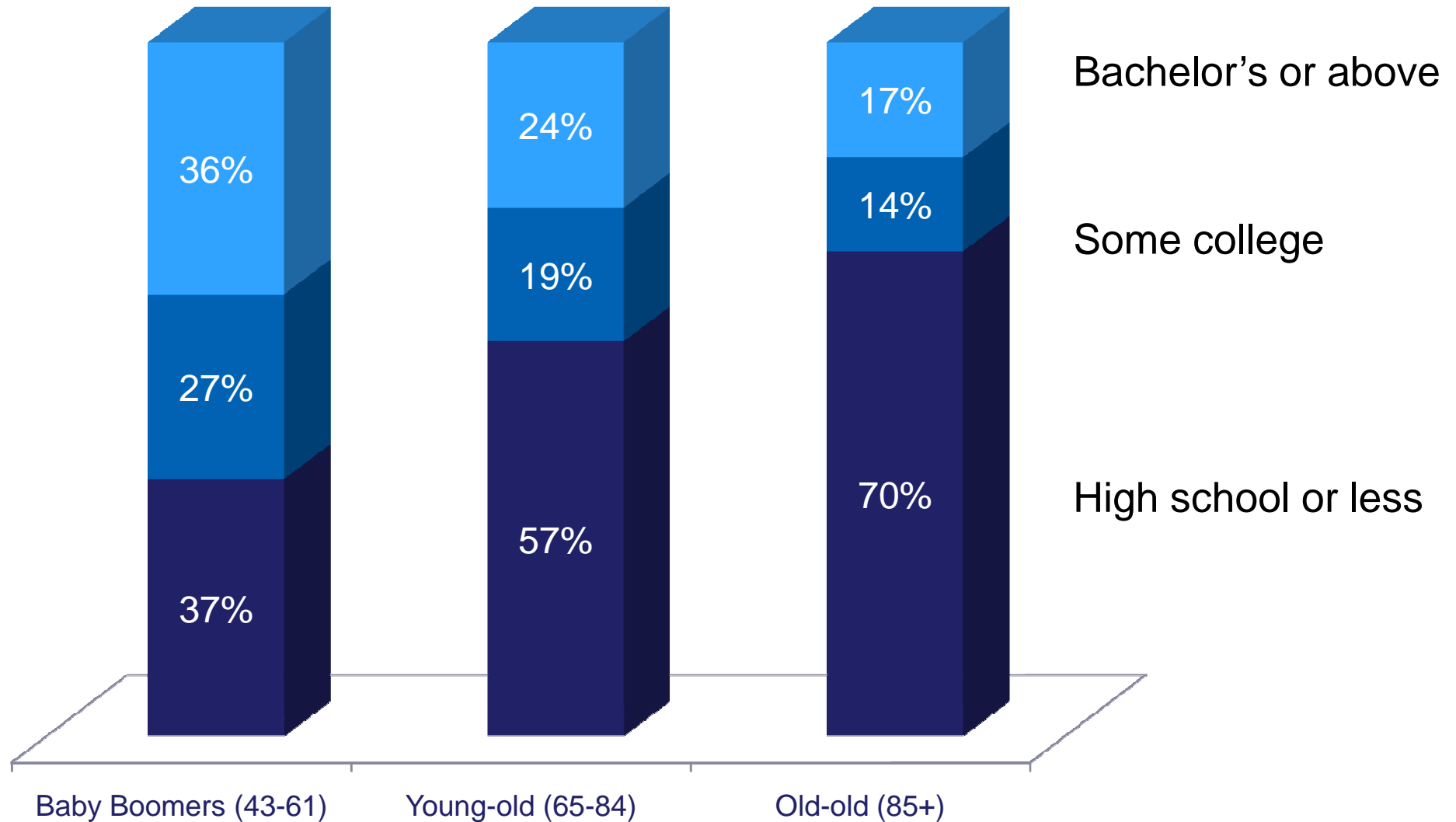
## Expected Years Beyond Age 65



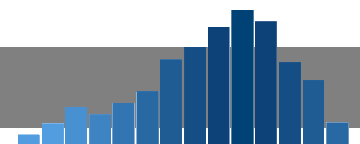
- Baby boomers are a large generation because of the fertility boom and they will live longer than previous generations.



# Education in Virginia, 2007

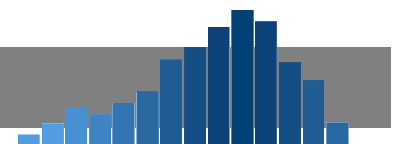


- Baby boomers are more educated than previous generations



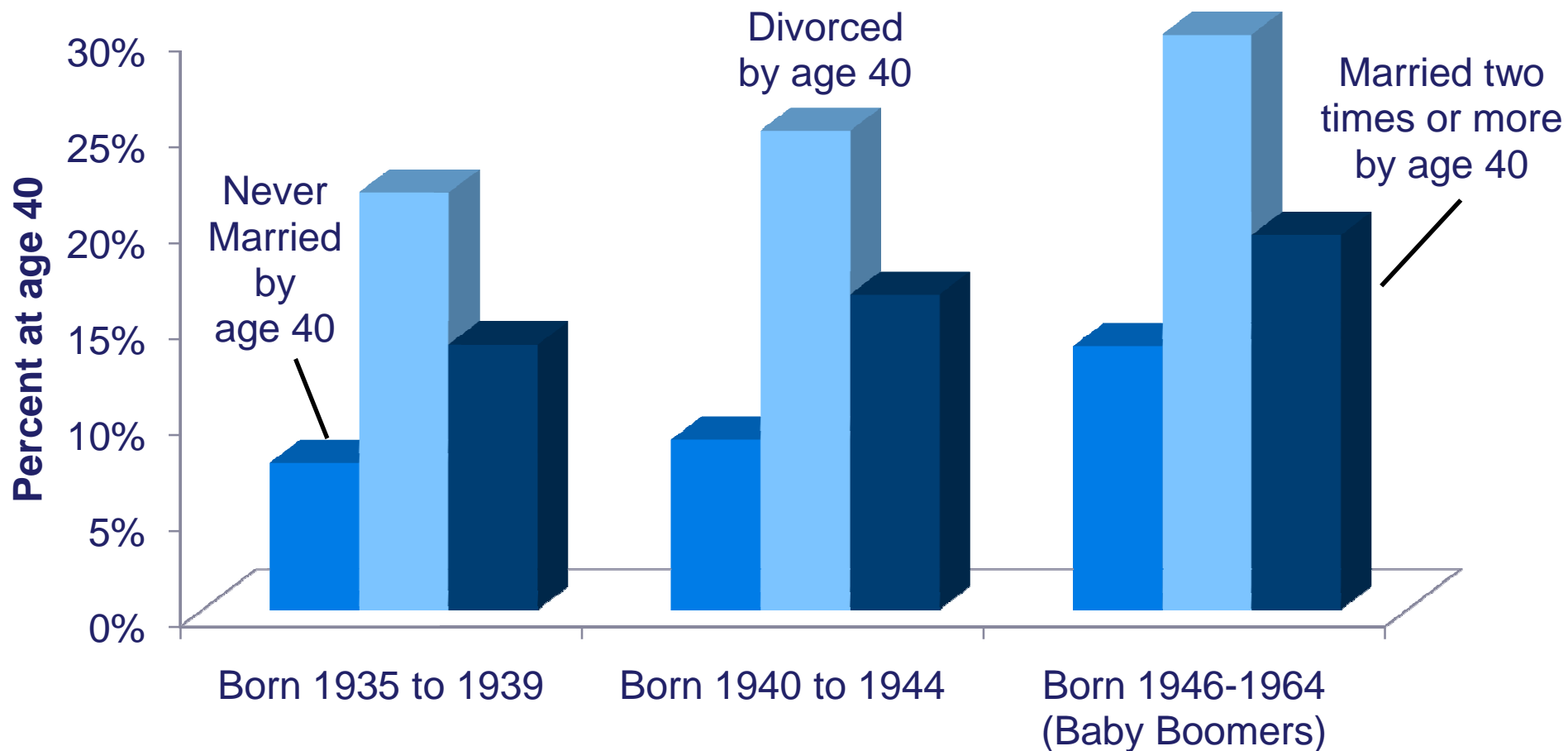
# Education – So what?

- Boomers may have earned more over their lifetimes than previous generations.
- Most working boomers will have had experience with technologies that may be used in providing services and in connecting them to each other.
- As they age, and in retirement, boomers will seek opportunities for:
  - ✓ continuing education
  - ✓ meaningful work
  - ✓ quality leisure activities
  - ✓ high quality volunteering
  - ✓ care giving.

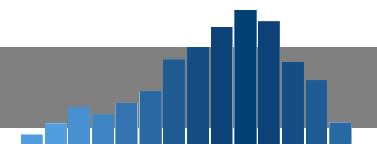


# Family

## Marital History of U.S. Population

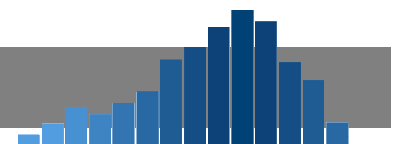


- Baby boomers have different family structures from their parents' generation.



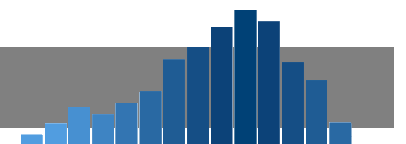
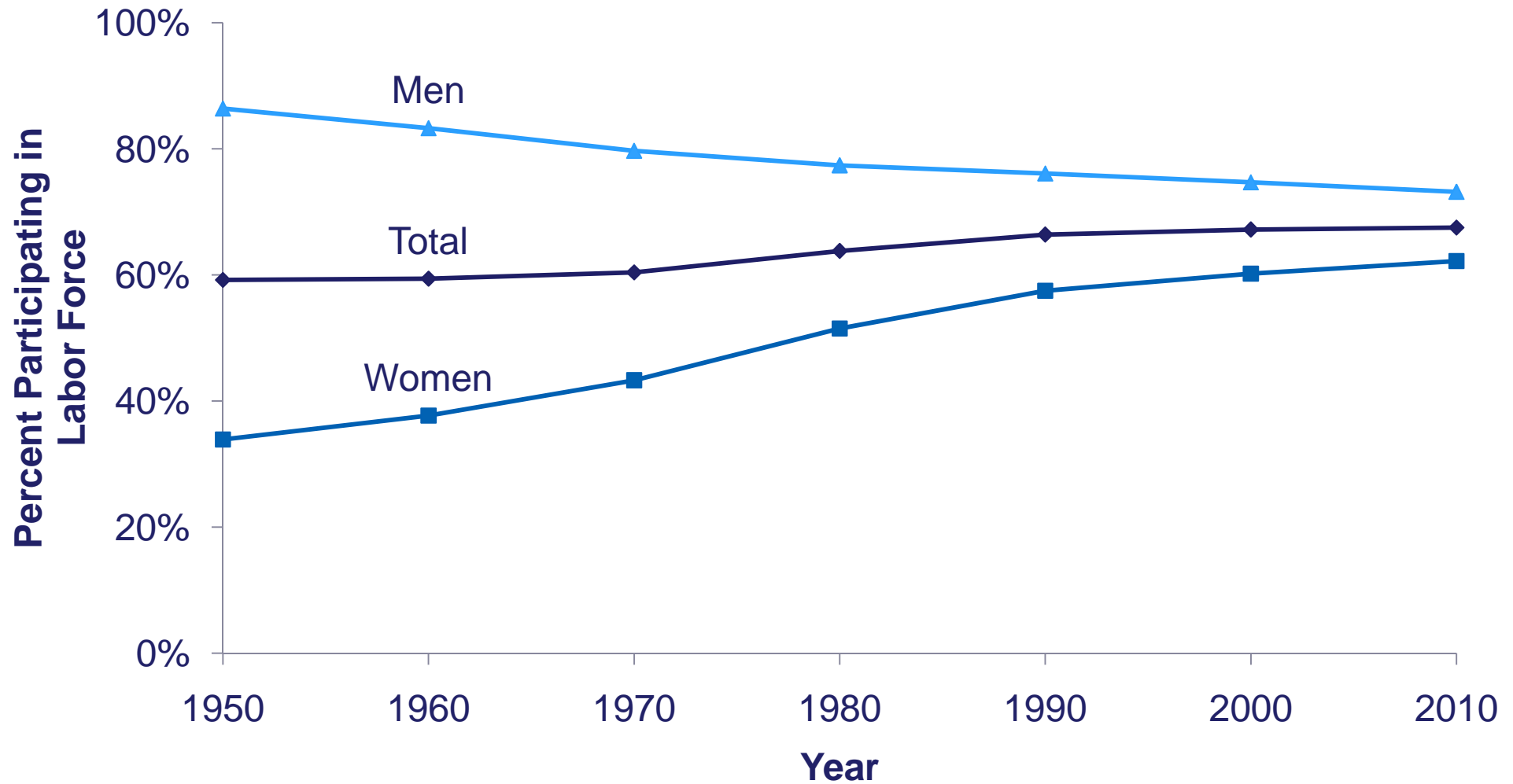
# Family – So What?

- Many more boomers will be without a spouse as they age. Aging boomer women are especially likely to live alone.
- Those boomers who remarried into blended families may find the families not as reliable in caring for the aging stepparent.
- Aging boomers have fewer children to care for them as they become elderly parents and grandparents.
- Delayed fertility and increased longevity increases the likelihood of “sandwich” responsibilities for children of boomers— caring for their own children and their parents simultaneously.



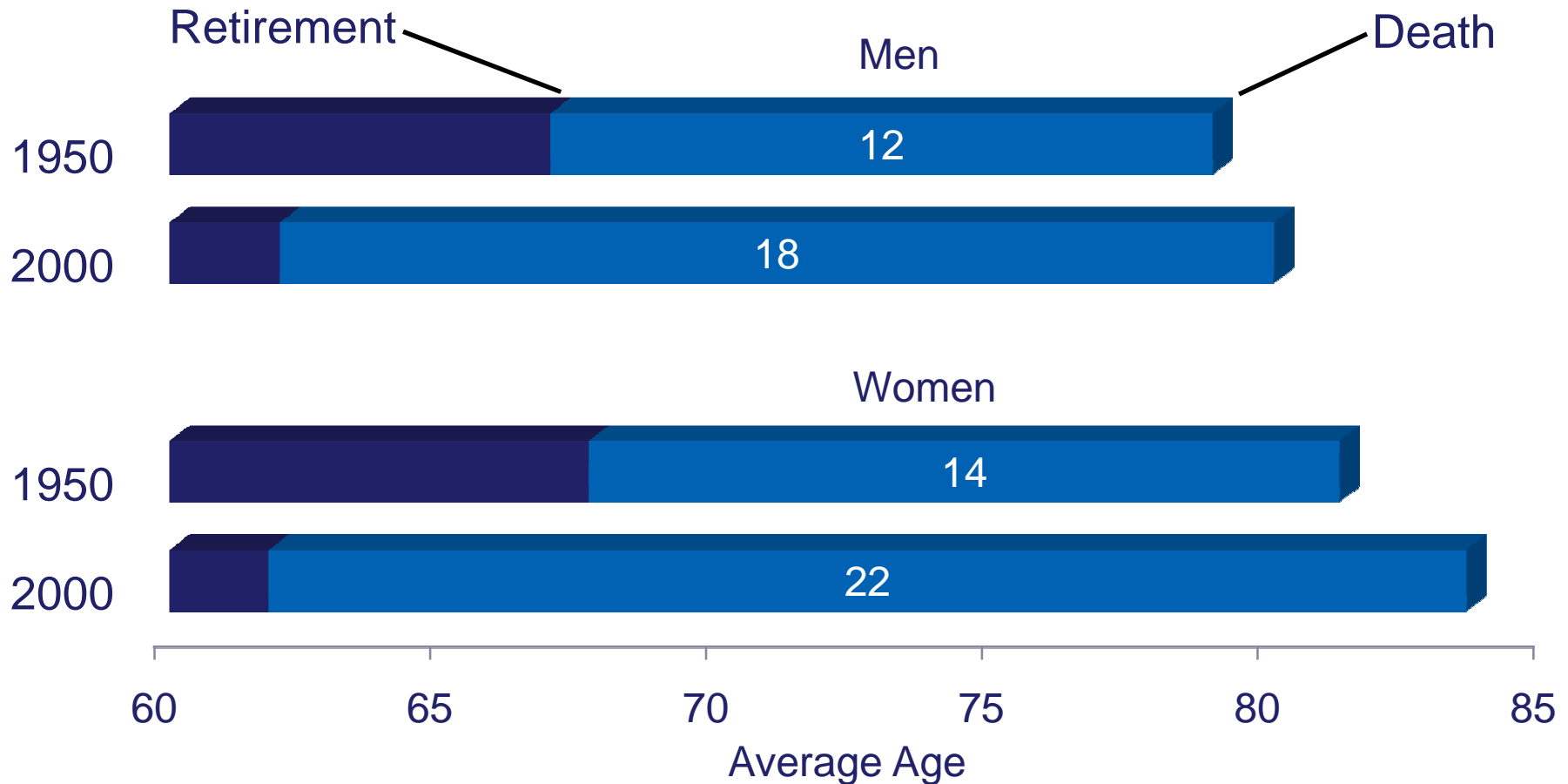
# Work and Retirement

## Labor Force Participation, U.S. Population 16 and older

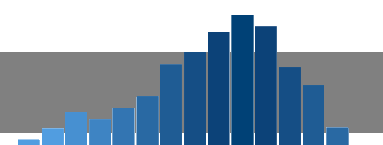


# Work and Retirement

## Time Spent in Retirement for the U.S. Population

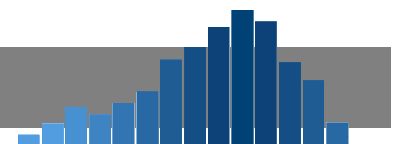


- People are retiring earlier and living longer than ever before. This means more time in retirement.

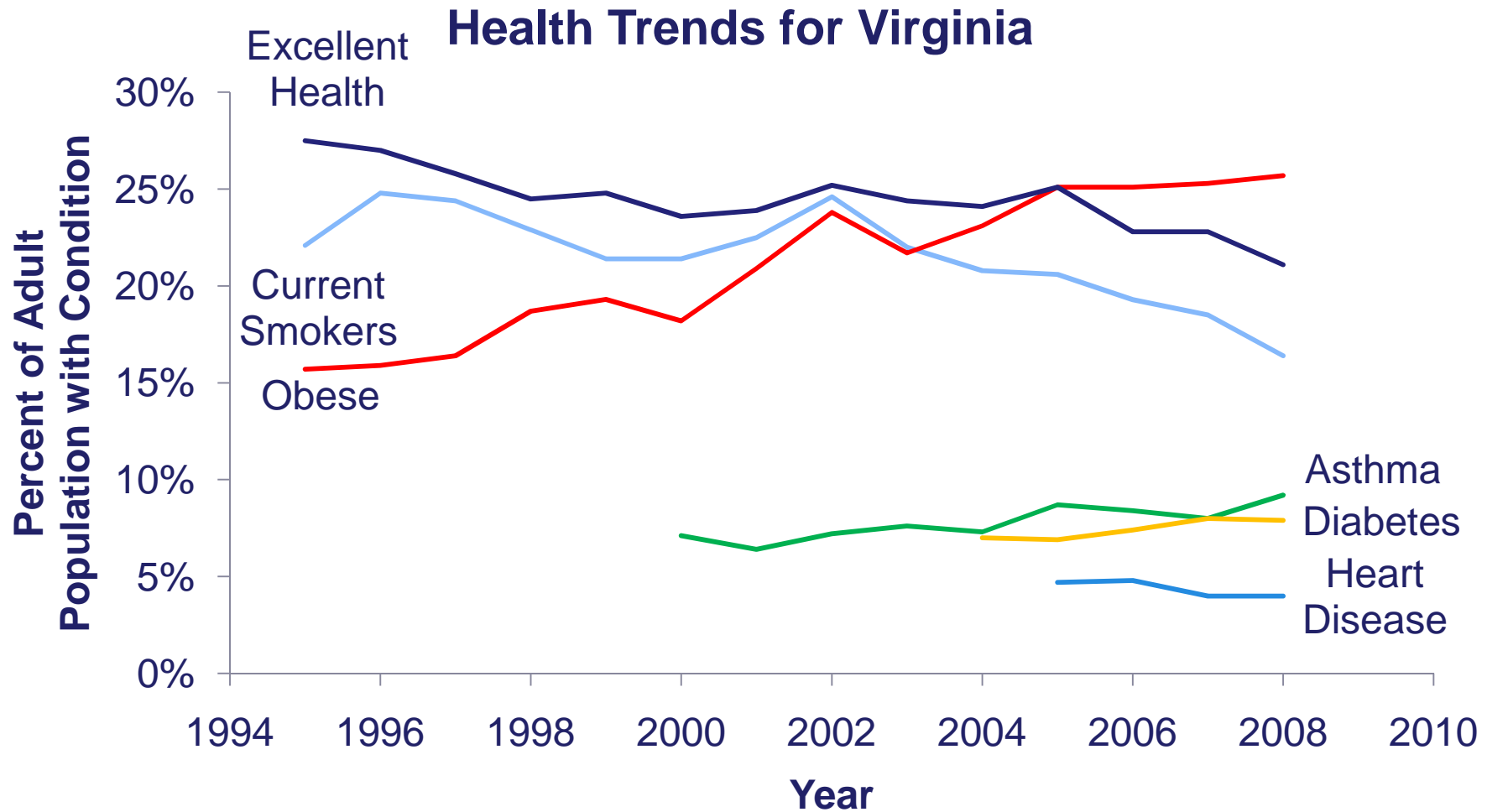


# Work and Retirement – So What?

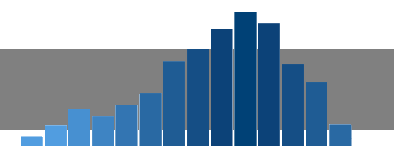
- Because of their higher labor force participation rate, more boomer women will have their own resources coming into old age.
- Earlier retirements may “tap out” retirement resources. Seniors may want to stay in the labor force longer.
- Earlier retirements also create opportunities for second careers and significant volunteer service.



# Health and Mortality

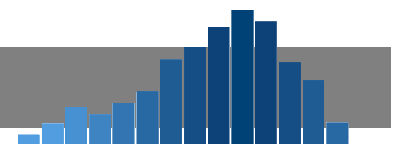


- People are living longer, but not necessarily healthier lives.

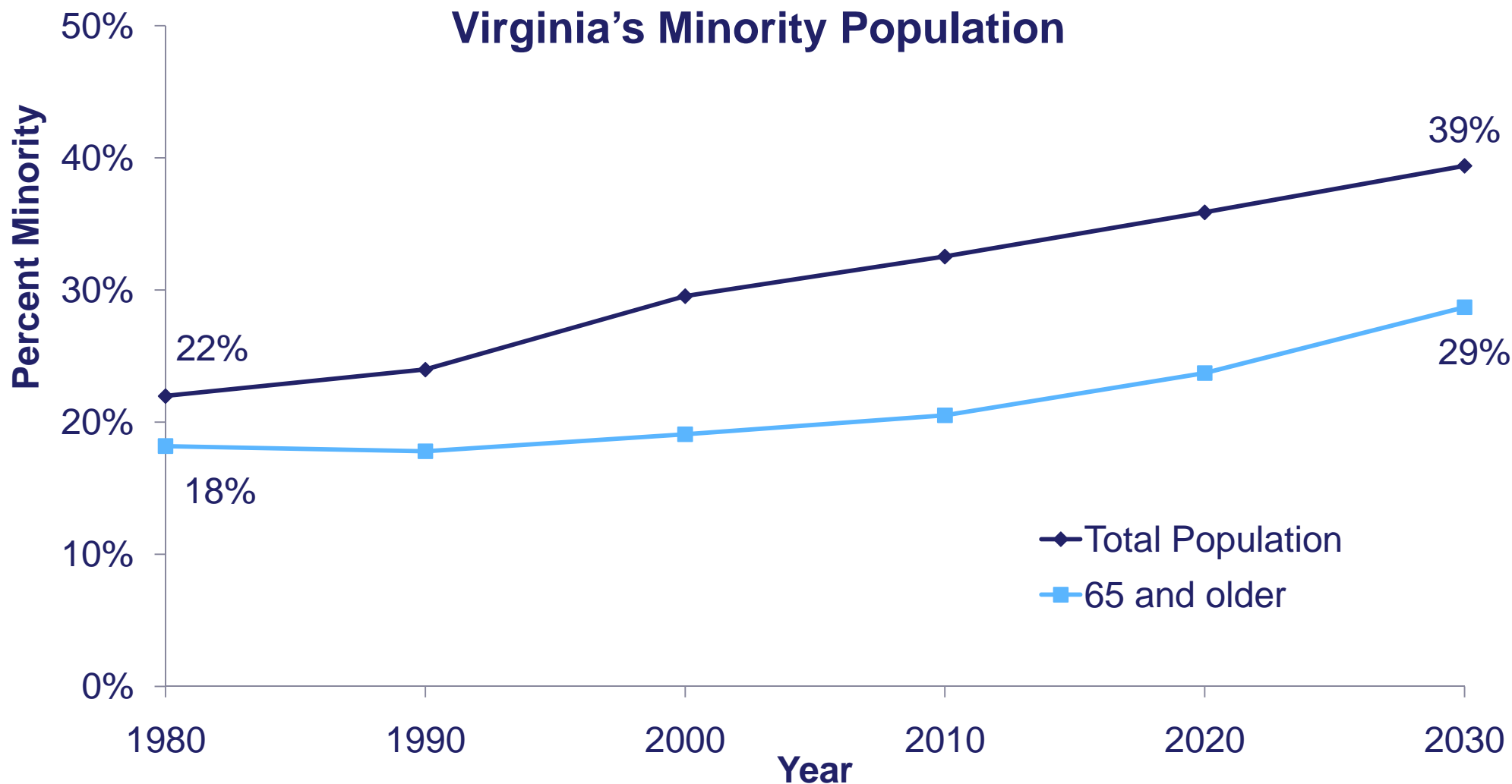


# Health and Mortality – So What?

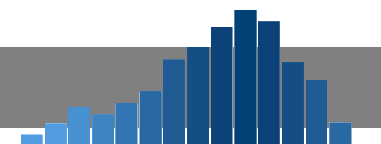
- More years to need health care.
- Increased health care costs due to chronic illnesses.
- More years of reduced or limited mobility and needs for housing and transportation accommodations.



# Diversity

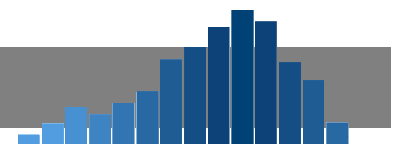


- The older population is increasingly diverse and will depend on an increasingly diverse group of younger people.



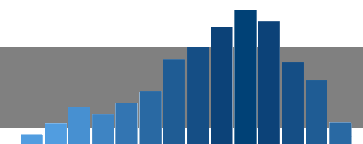
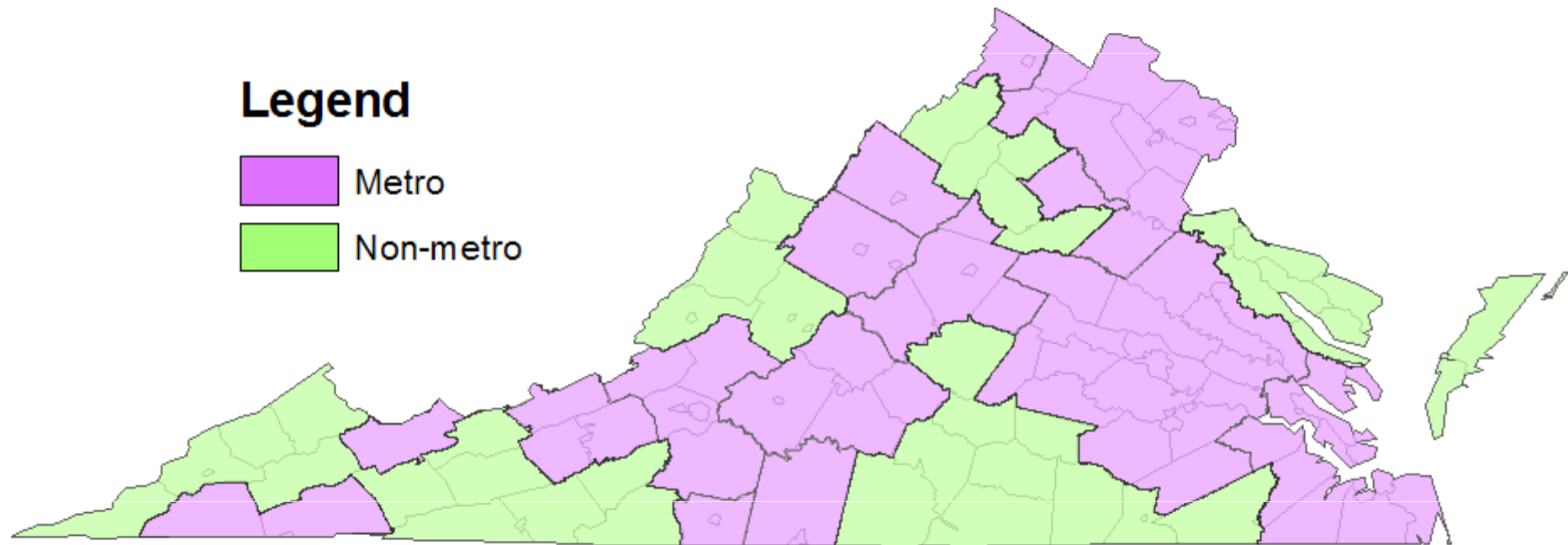
# Diversity – So What?

- Many boomers will come into old age with life experience with diversity.
- Aging boomers are likely to be dependent on people of different race/ethnicity/language for care and support in old age.



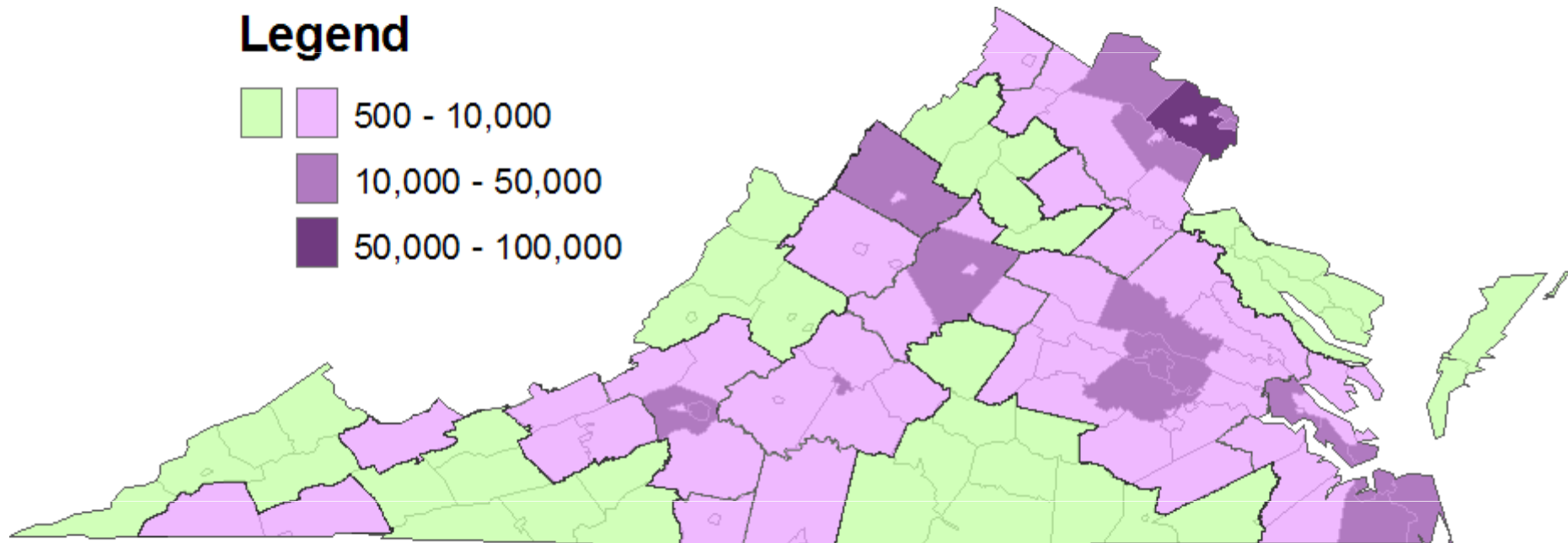
# Urban and Rural Living

## Metro and Non-metro Areas of Virginia

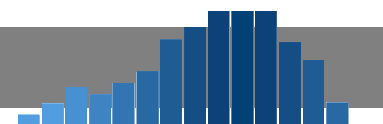


# Urban and Rural Living

## Number of Seniors

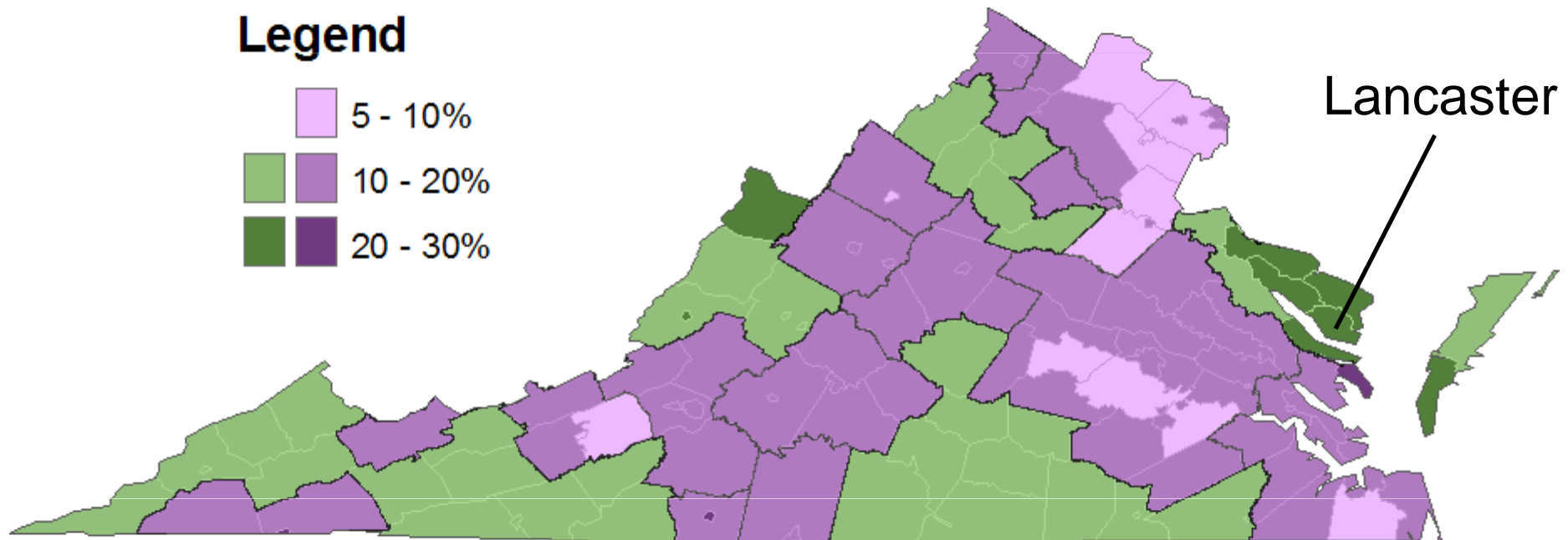


- Metro counties have highest numbers of seniors, especially NoVA, Hampton Roads, and Richmond.

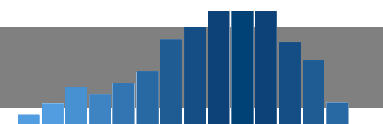


# Urban and Rural Living

## Percent of Seniors

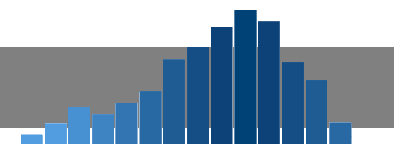
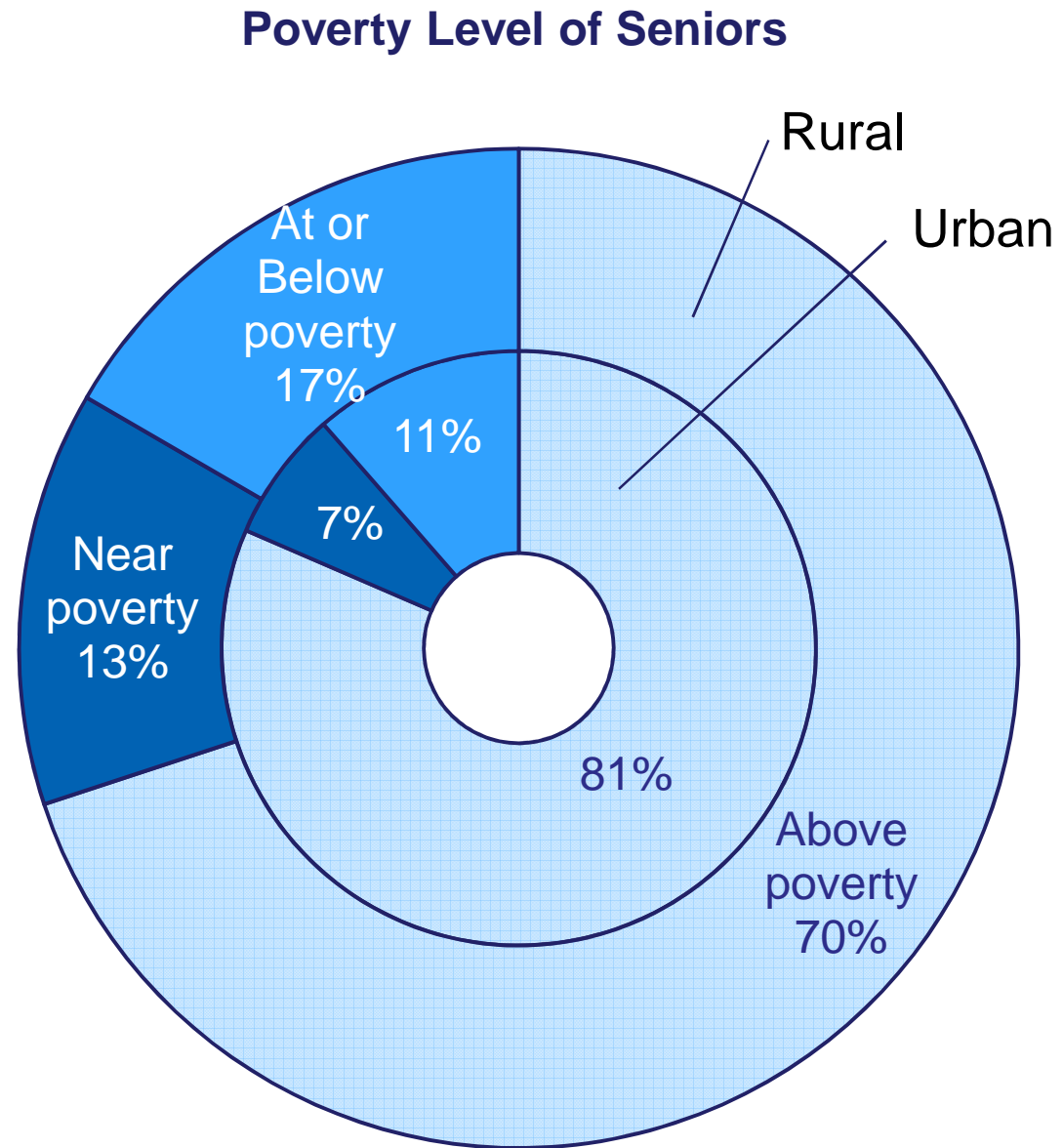


- Non-metro counties have the highest proportions of seniors. In Lancaster almost a third of the population is 65 and older.



# Urban and Rural Living

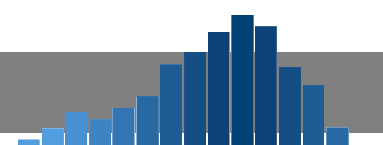
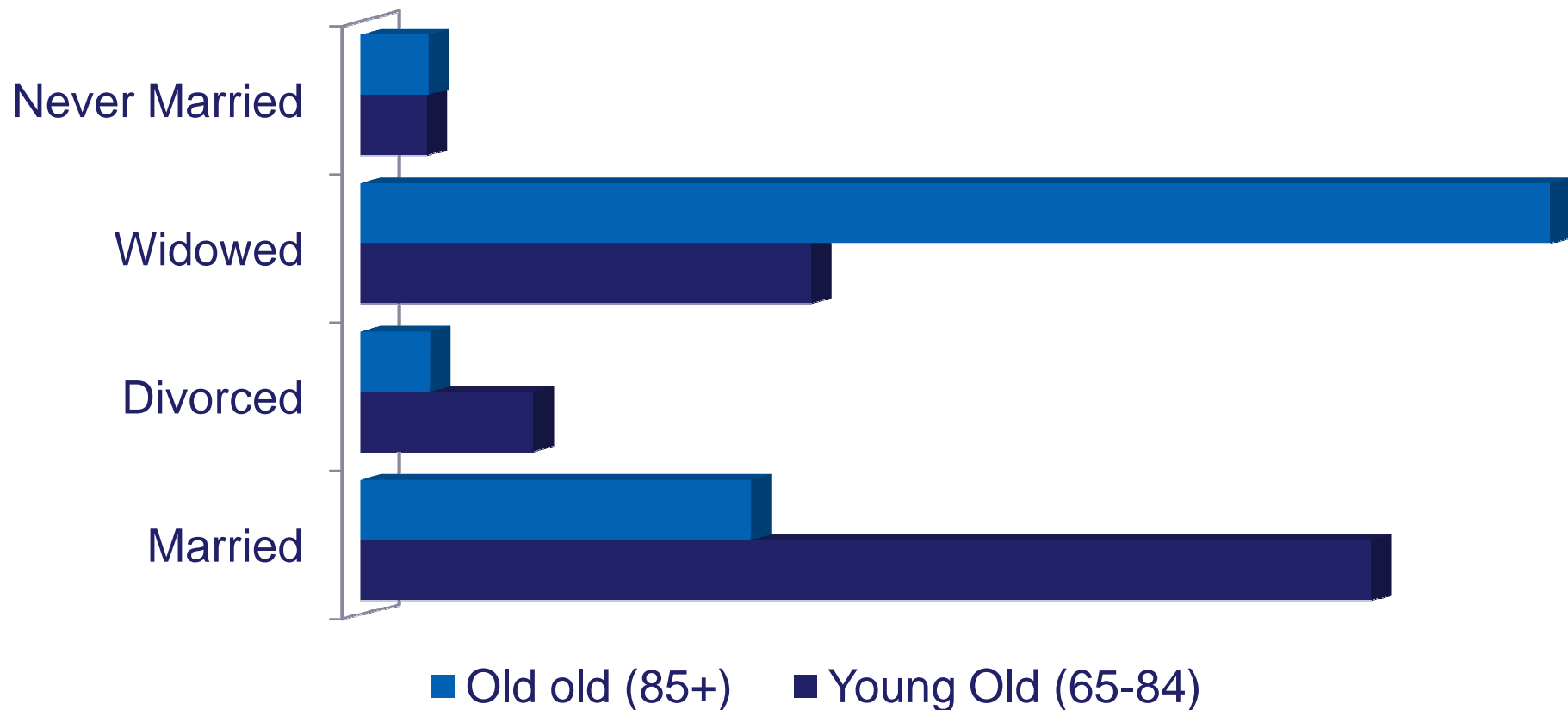
- Widowhood
- Likelihood of living alone
- Health status
- Educational attainment
- Income security
- Poverty



# Young-old and Old-old

- Seniors often considered a single group, but 65 year olds are very different from 90 year olds.

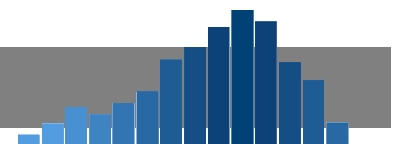
## Marital Status of Virginia's Seniors, 2007



# What does all of this mean?

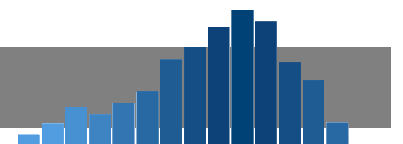
## Three things to consider:

1. Begin doing different things
2. Begin doing things differently
3. Engage seniors in the process



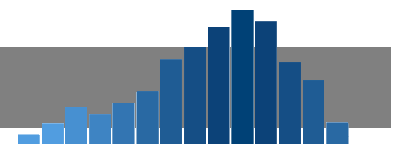
# Begin doing different things

- Housing
- Planning and zoning
- Transportation
- Health and support
- Lifelong learning
- Safety



# Begin doing things differently

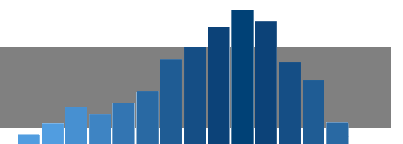
- Break down the silos. The interdependent needs of adults require coordinated provision of services.
- Change office based service to online, to in-home.
- Evolve the role of government from service provider to service orchestrator. Form partnerships with businesses (for adult education and job retraining, for example) and with philanthropic organizations for service provision.



# Engage seniors in the process

## Involve seniors in

- planning
- governing
- service delivery



# Contact Information

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[www.coopercenter.org/demographics](http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics)

Thank you!

