

# Livable Communities: Creating Environments For Successful Aging



*Presentation to the  
Congress for the New Urbanism  
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**AARP—O&S, Livable Communities**



# AARP's Social Impact Agenda

- Economic Security
- Health
- *Livable Communities*
- Global Aging

# What is a Livable Community?

*A livable community* is one that has

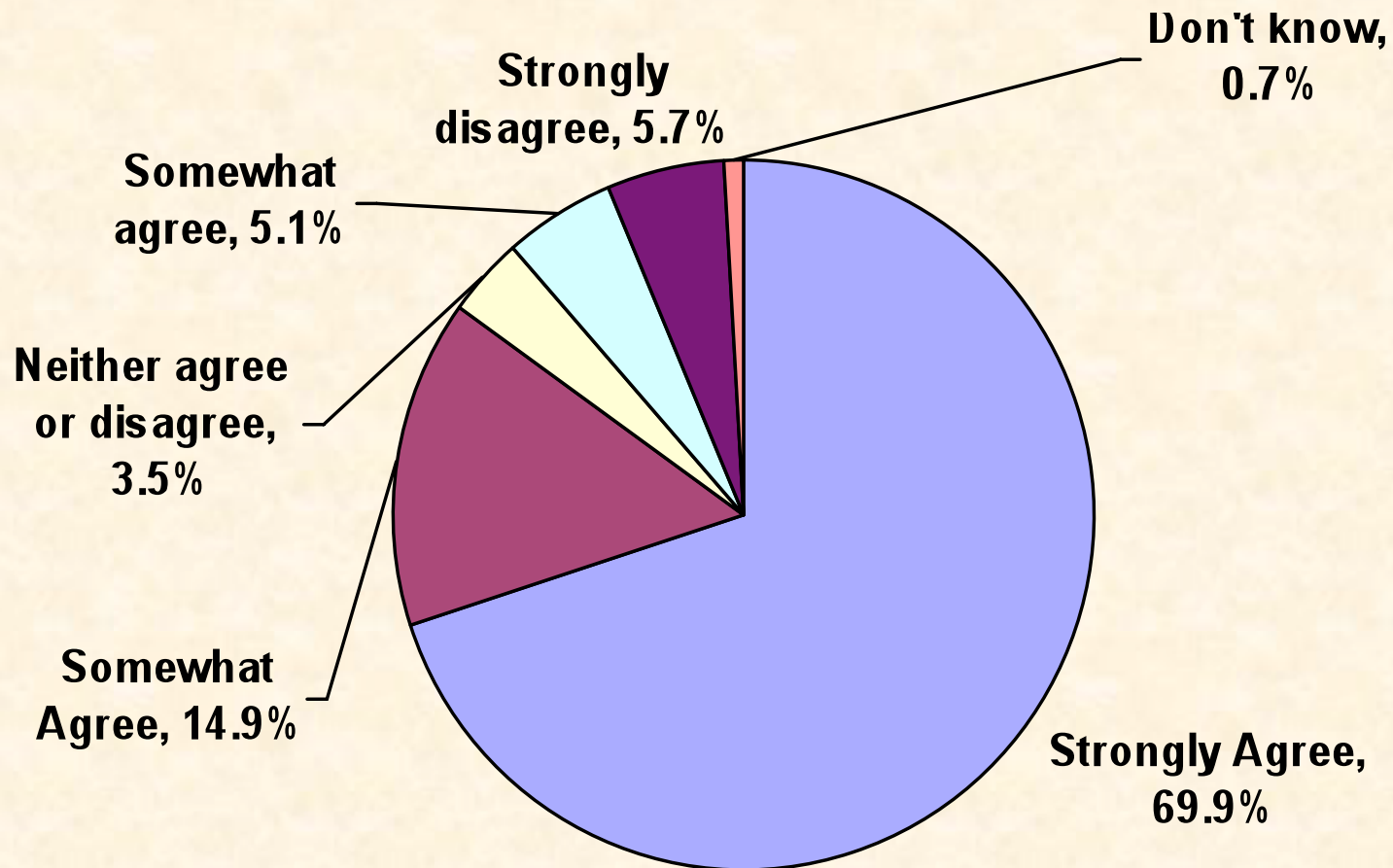
- **affordable and appropriate housing,**
- **supportive community features & services,**
- **& adequate mobility options.**

**TOGETHER**, these features facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life.

# **What Homes and Communities do People Desire?**

***People desire to stay in their existing  
homes and communities***

“What I’d really like to do is remain in my local community for as long as possible.”

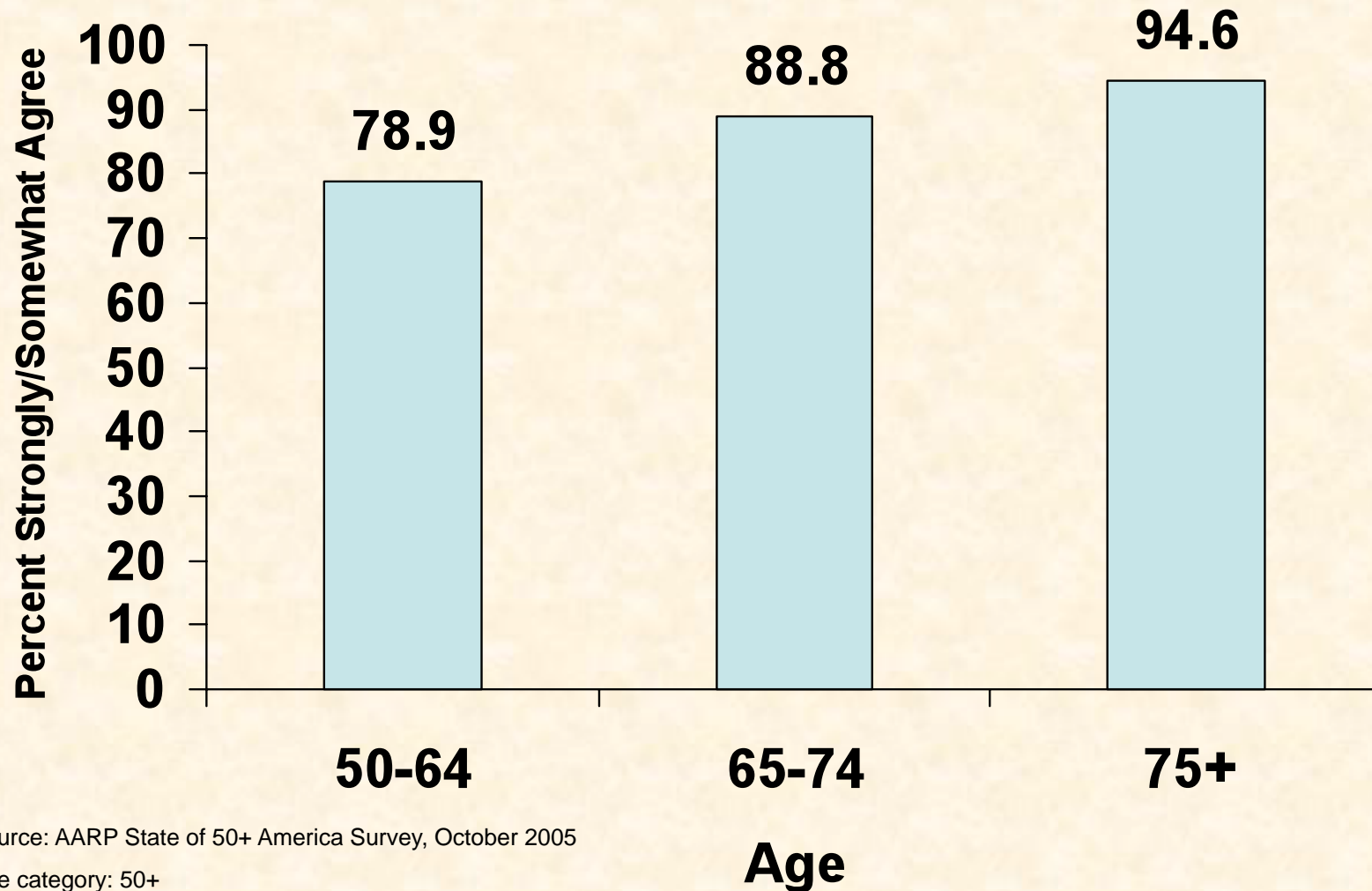


Source: AARP State of 50+ America Survey, October 2005

Age category: 50+

Base=910

“What I’d really like to do is remain in my local community for as long as possible.”

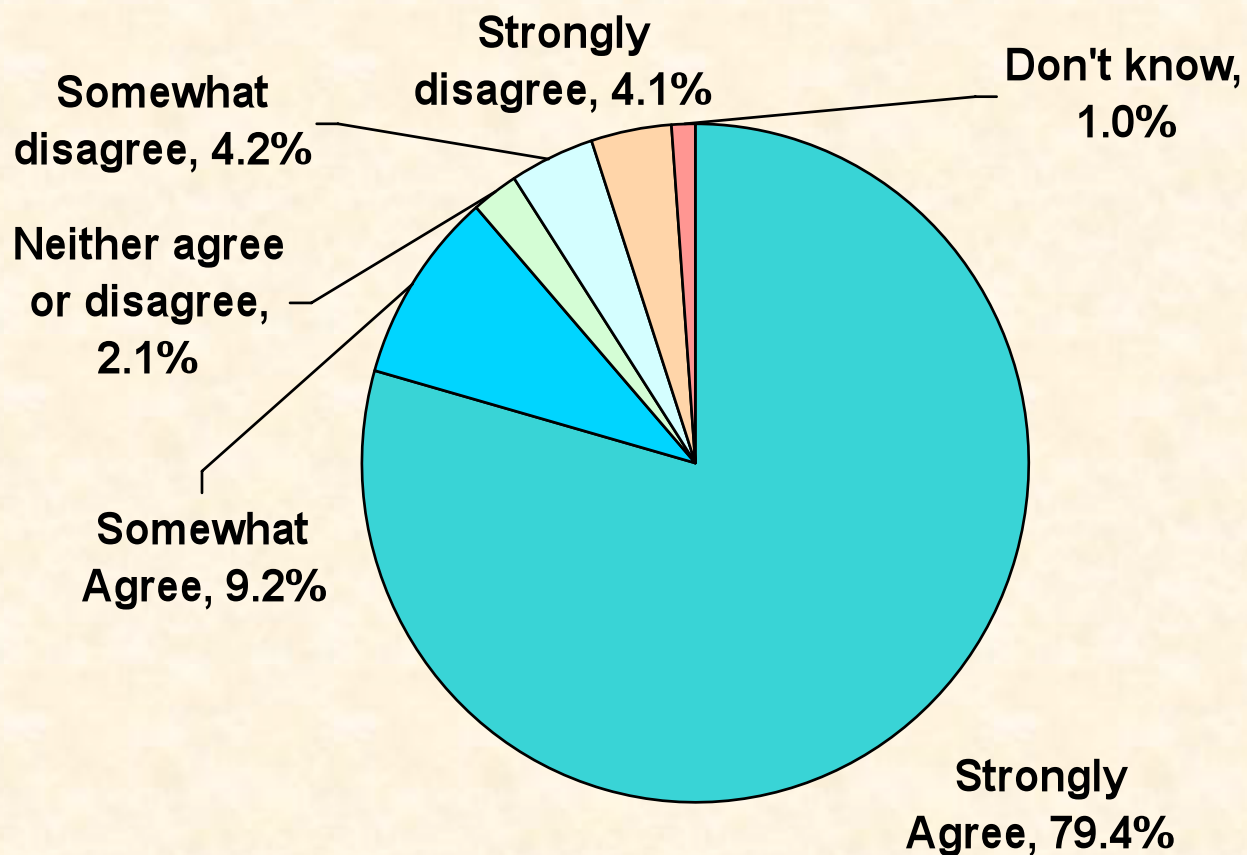


Source: AARP State of 50+ America Survey, October 2005

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“What I’d really like to do is remain in my home for as long as possible.”



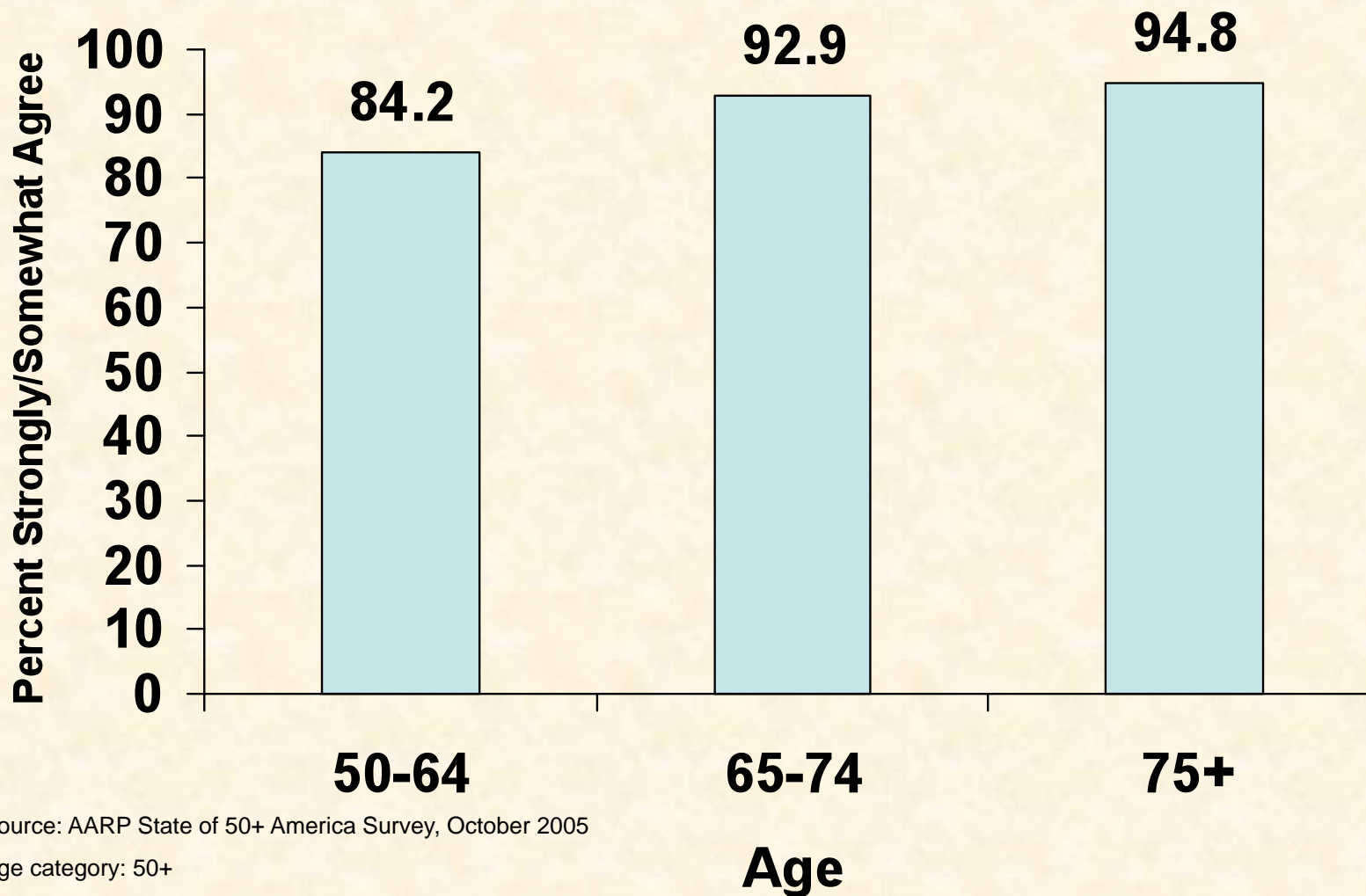
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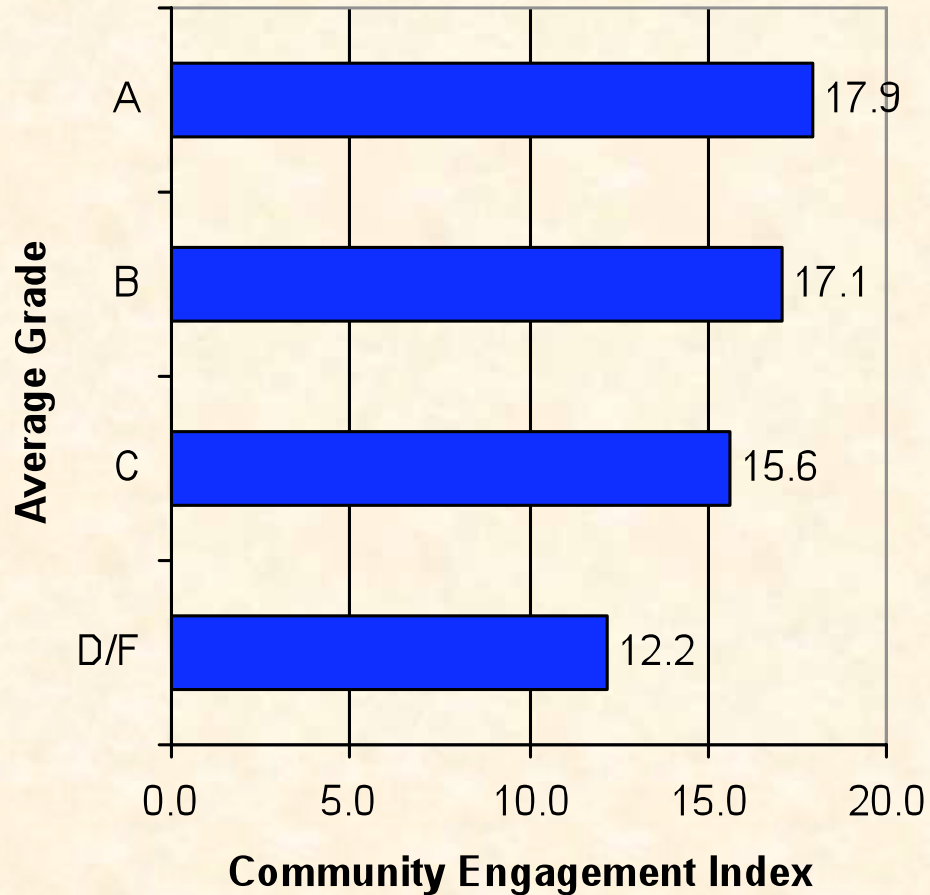
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**What are the Consequences of  
Home and Community Features  
for  
Community Engagement and  
Successful Aging?**

# DESIGN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## Low Community = Low Levels of Community Engagement



N=1005

Note: Highest value of the Community Index among survey respondents was 32.75

Source: AARP/Roper Public Affairs and Media group of NOP World, Beyond 50.05 Survey, 2004

# **How Can We Identify Areas of Improvement for Our Community?**

*Developing a Tool*

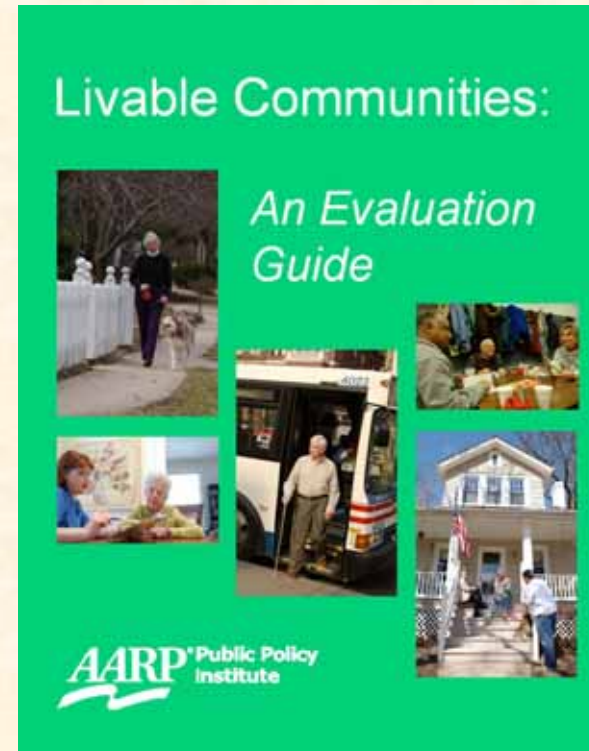
*Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide*

# ***Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide***

This evaluation guide can help residents, advocates, and local leaders identify areas of success and potential opportunities for improvement in their community.

# The Community Evaluation Tool

- Transportation
- Walkability
- Safety and Security
- Shopping
- Housing
- Health Services
- Caring Community
- Recreation and cultural activities



*What are the Implications?*

# What most people currently do?

Most older Americans prefer not to move, if they can avoid it!

In fact, most people become more residentially stable as they age → they “age-in-place”

This pattern existed in both the 1990 and 2000 US Census and dates back to 1960. 90% of people 60+ either stayed in same house or moved within the same county



# Percent of 60+ Population Living in the Same Home 1995 - 2000

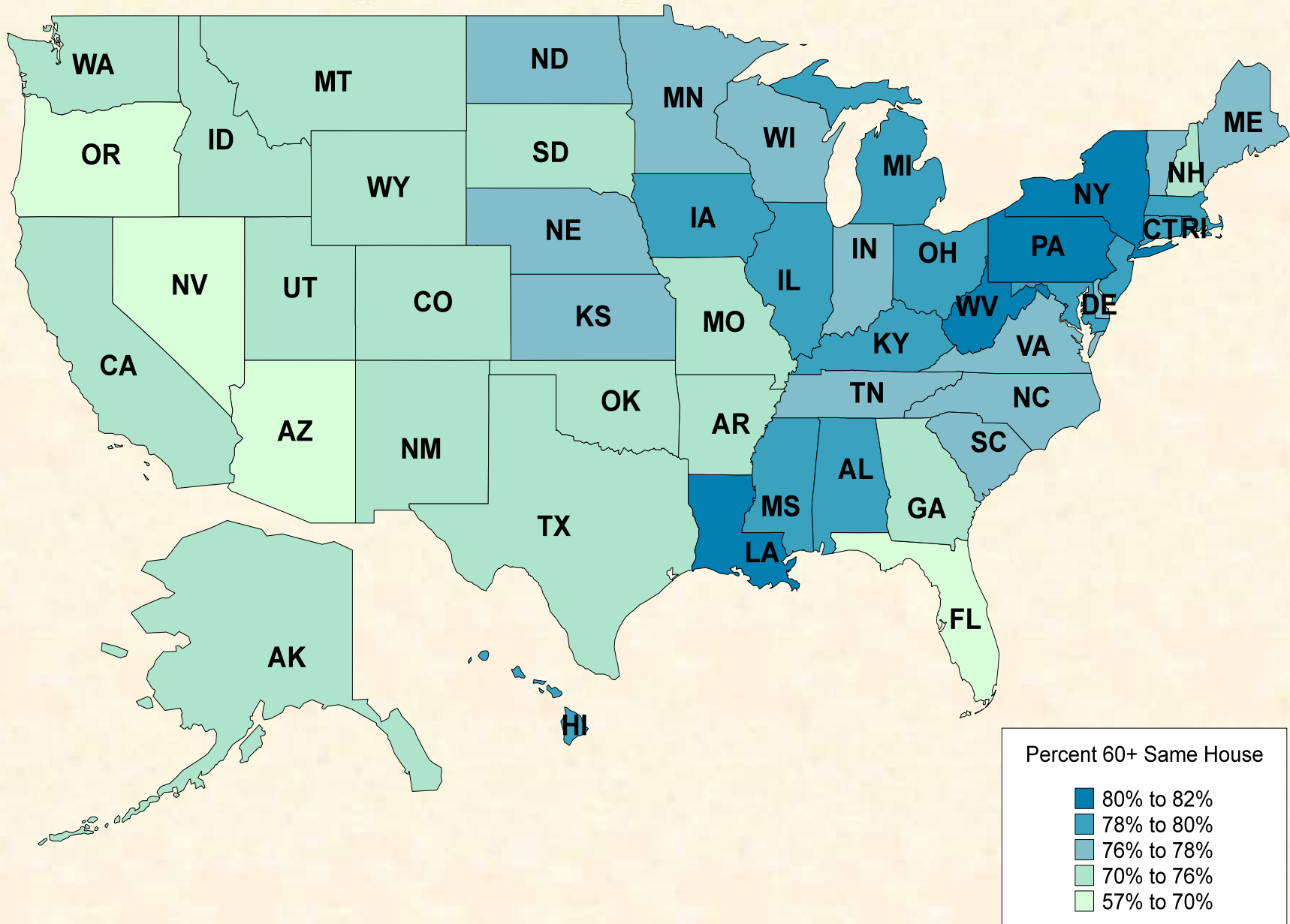
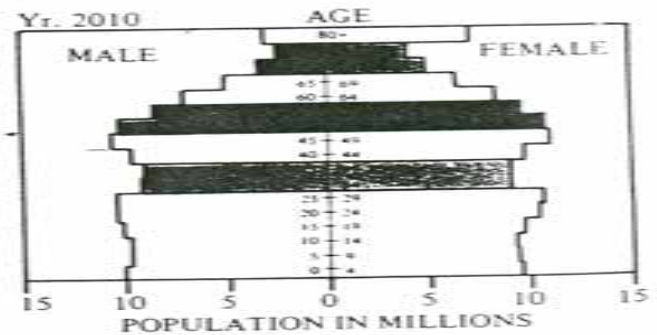
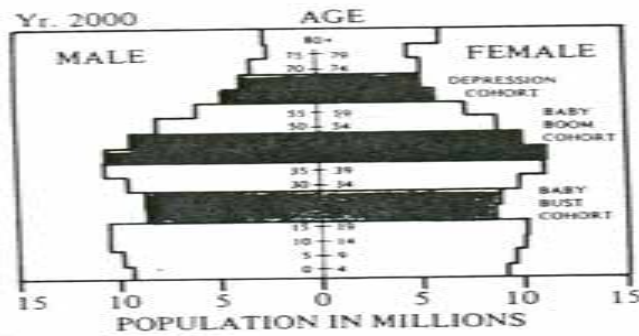
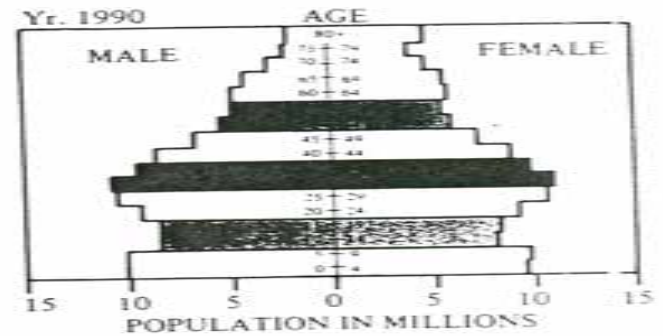
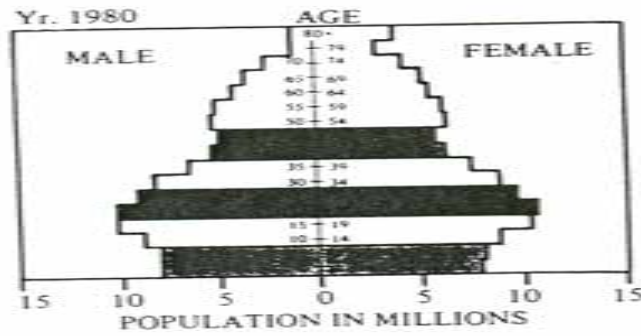
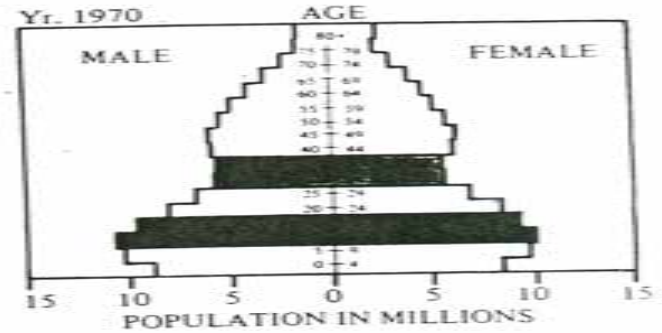
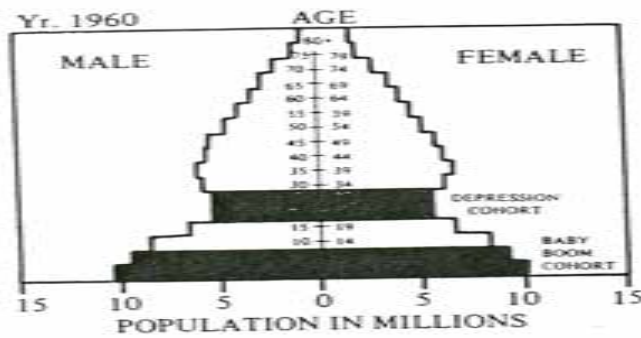
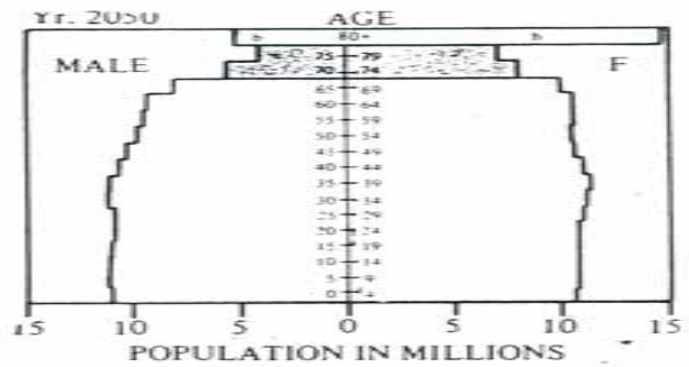
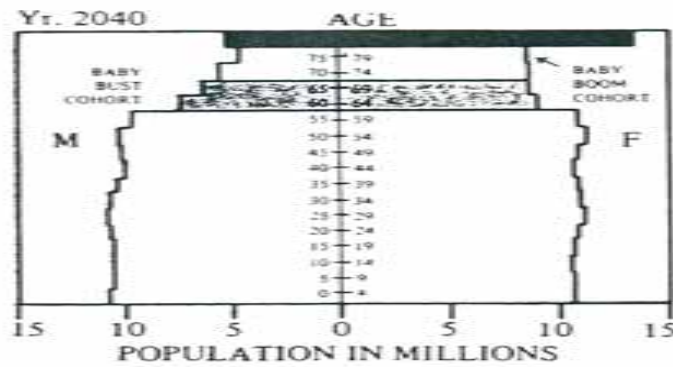
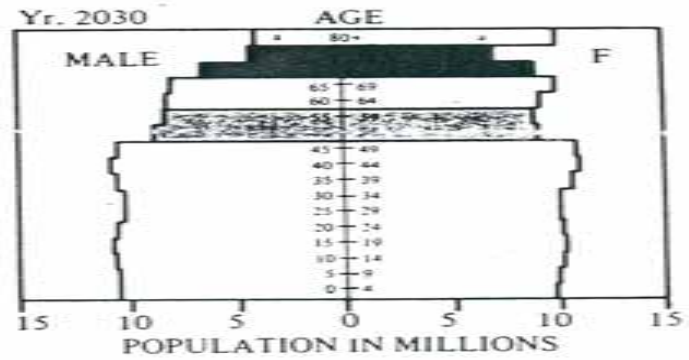
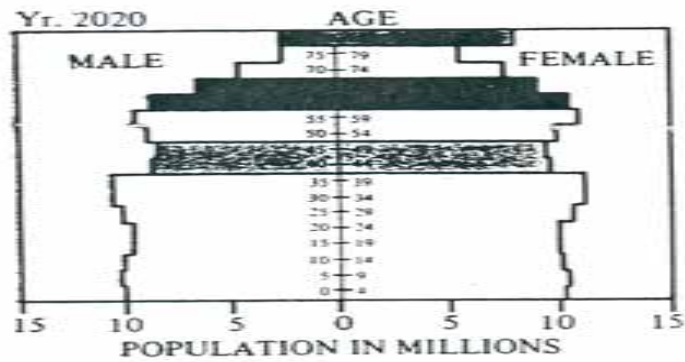


FIGURE 4-1 Progress of Depression Cohort, Baby Boom Cohort, and Baby Bust Cohort Through U.S. Population Age-Sex Pyramid: 1960-2050

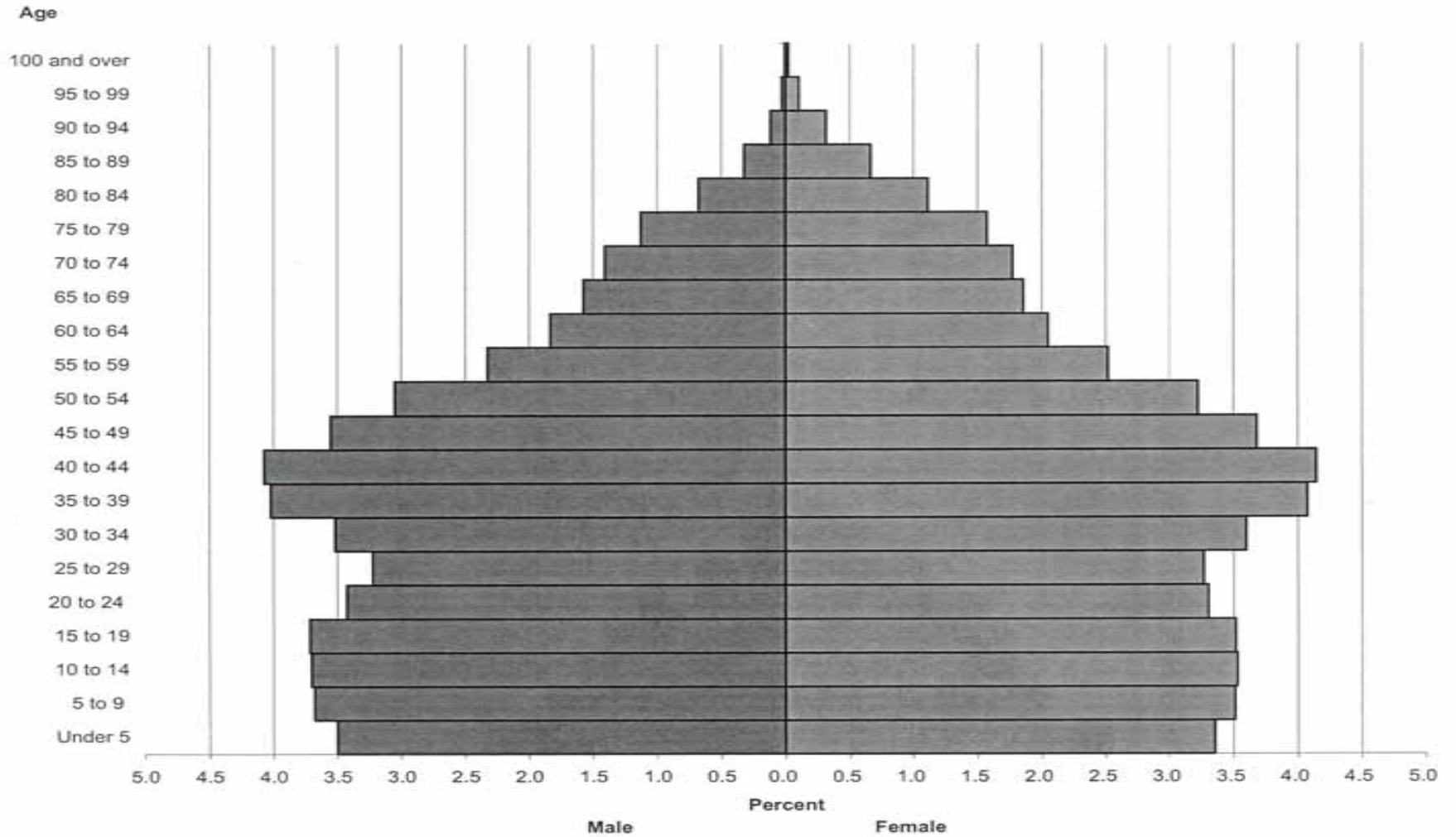




- DEPRESSION COHORT  
PERSONS BORN 1930-39
- BABY BOOM COHORT  
PERSONS BORN 1950-59
- BABY BUST COHORT  
PERSONS BORN 1970-79

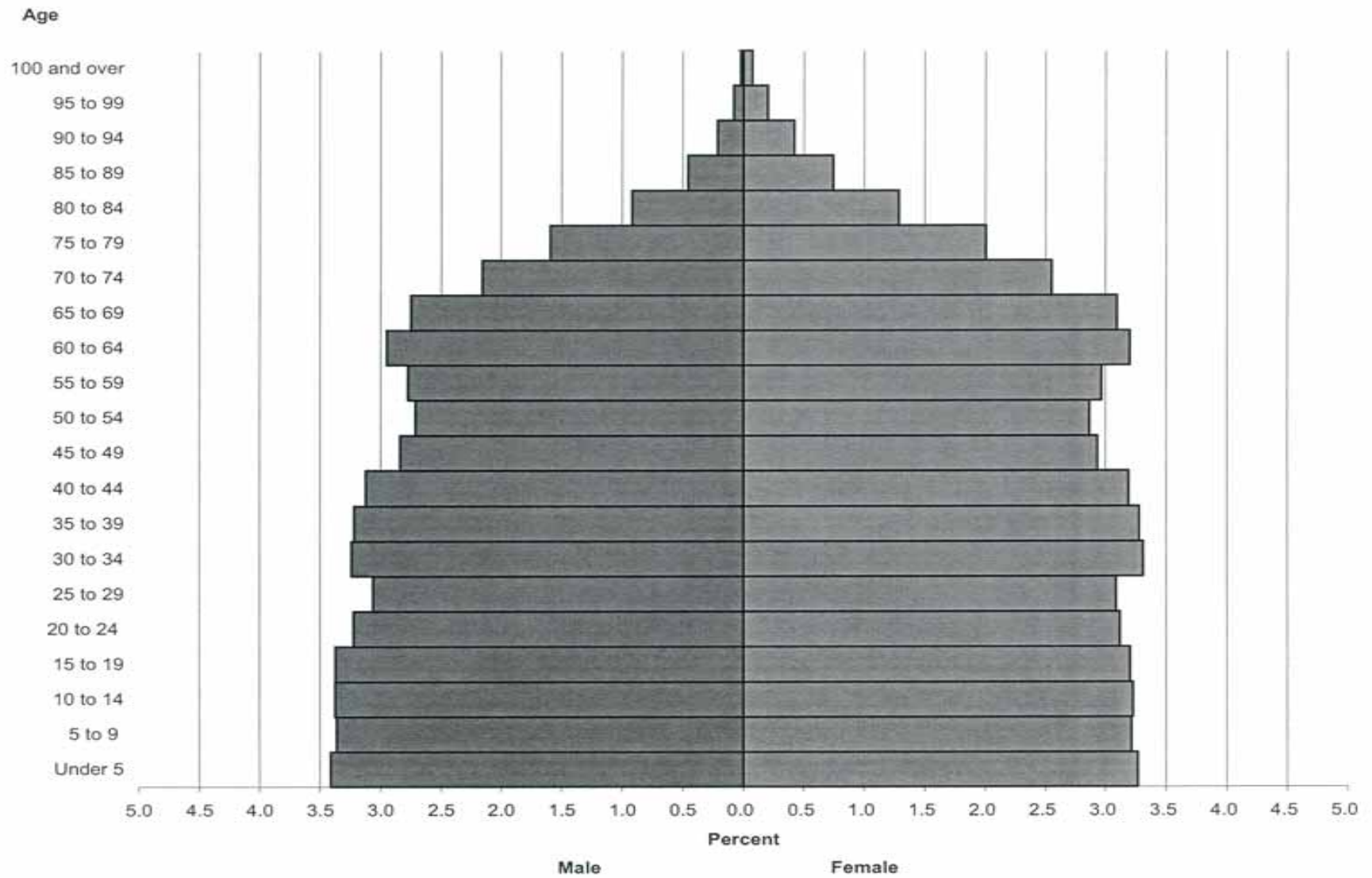
Source: Leon F. Bouvier, "America's Baby Boom Generation: The Fateful Bulge," *Population Bulletin* Vol. 35, No. 1 (Population Reference Bureau, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1980). Figure

(NP-P2) Projected Resident Population of the United States as of July 1, 2000, Middle Series.



Source: National Projections Program, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C. 20233

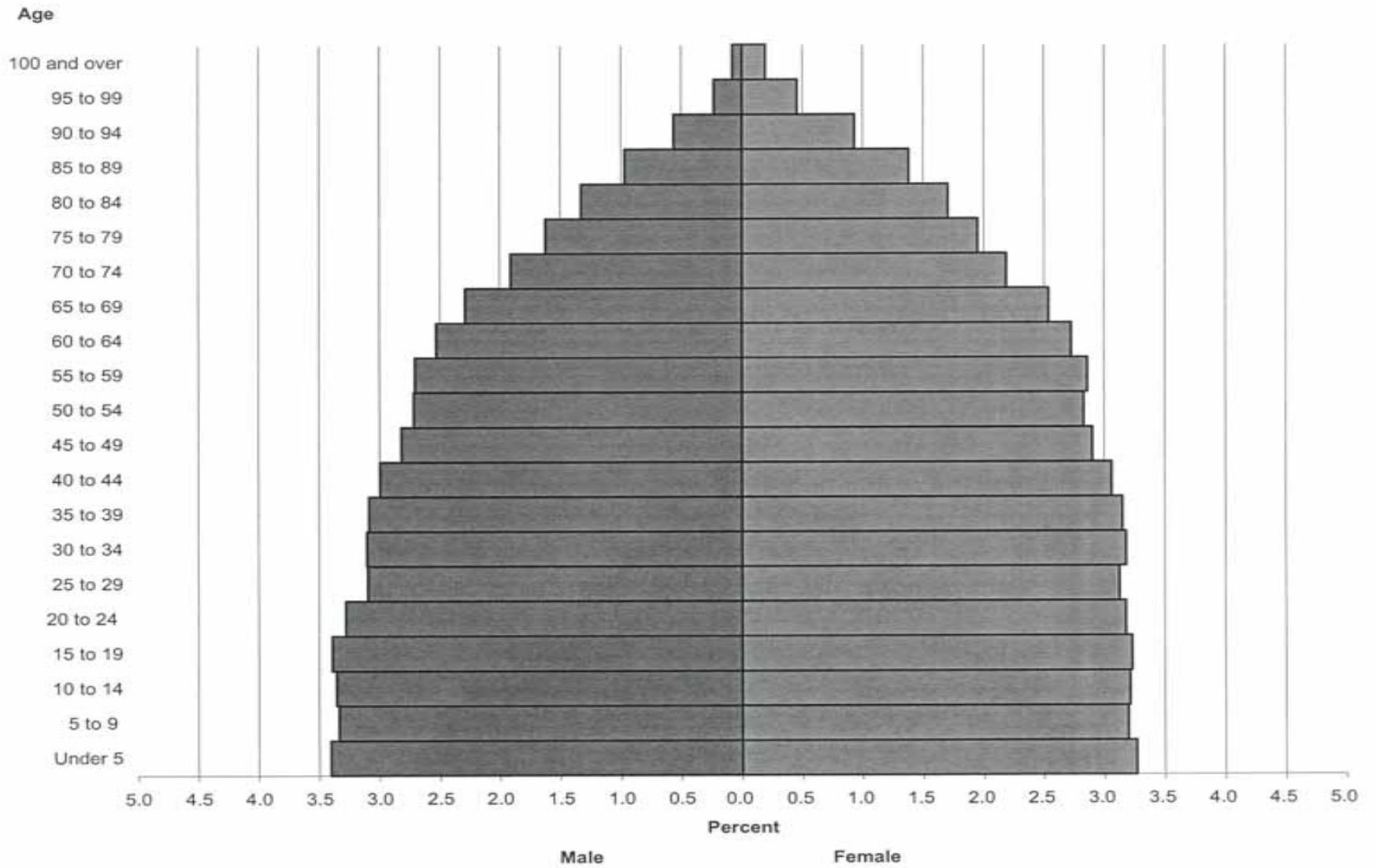
(NP-P3) Projected Resident Population of the United States as of July 1, 2025, Middle Series.



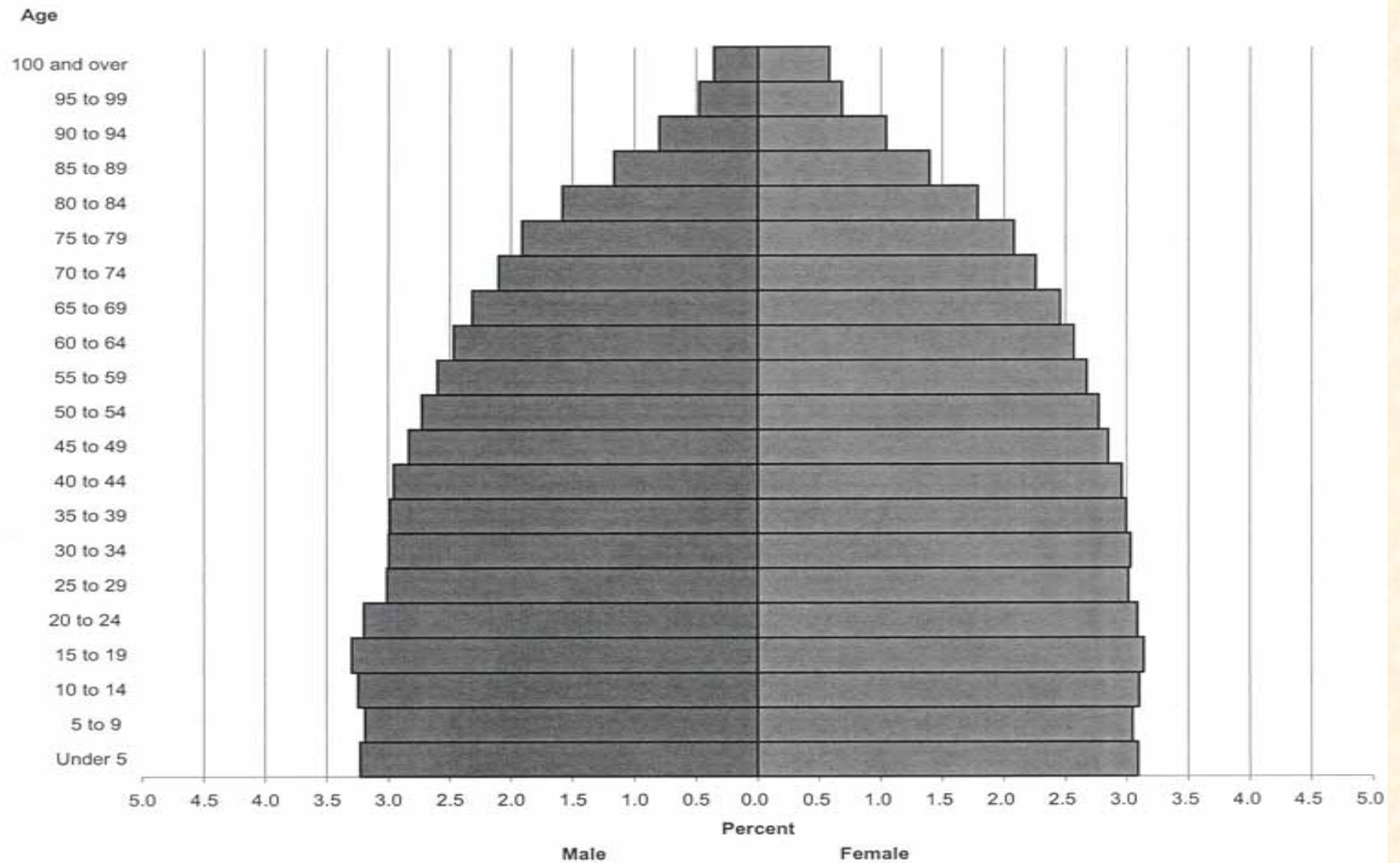
Source: National Projections Program, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C. 20233



(NP-P4) Projected Resident Population of the United States as of July 1, 2050, Middle Series.



(NP-P5) Projected Resident Population of the United States as of July 1, 2100, Middle Series.





# Age—Sex Structure

- Baby Boomers fundamentally altered the structure
- Dependency Ratio is also changed—  
the number of workers supporting  
the number of children and  
the number of elderly

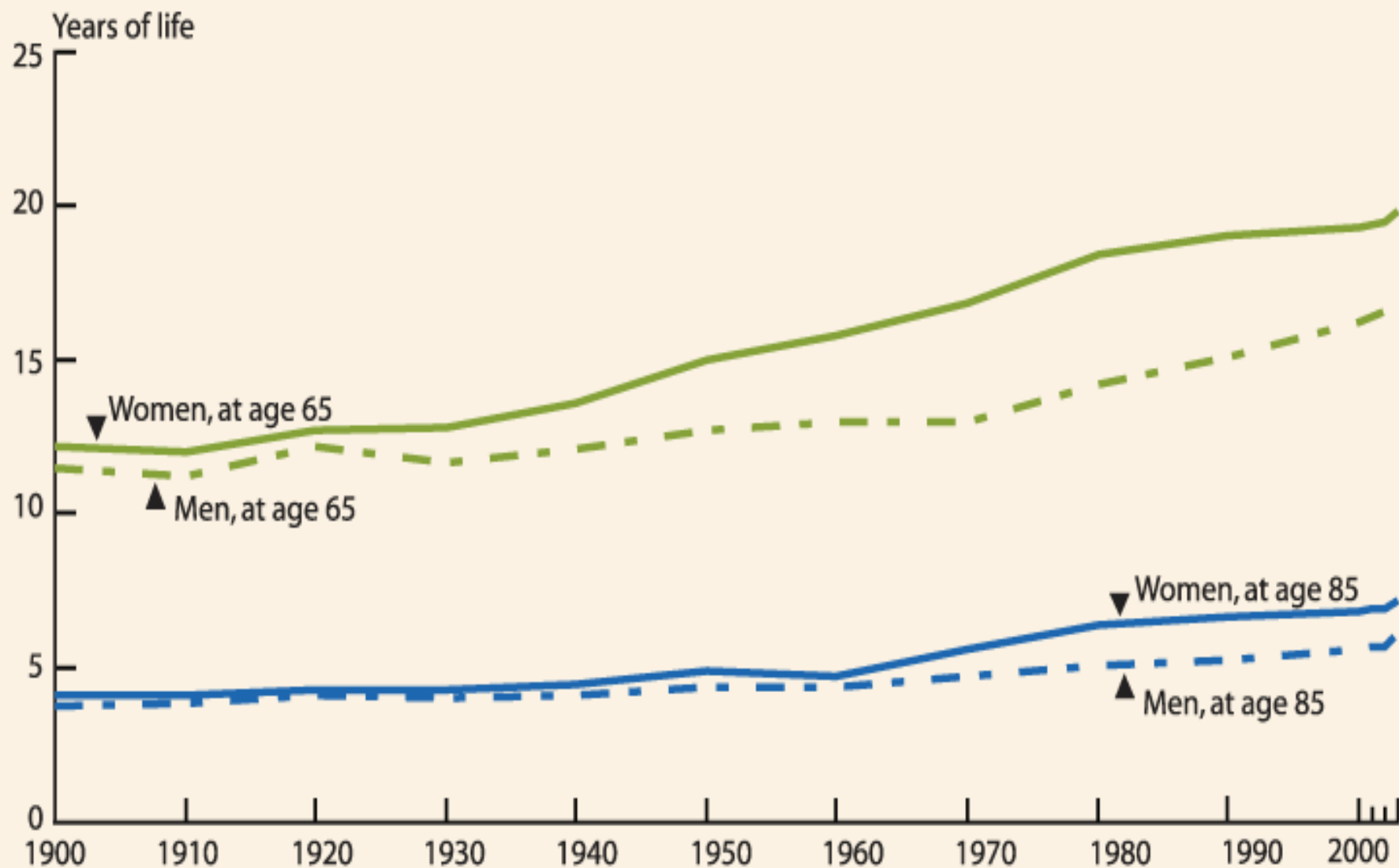
# The Numbers

- In 2003, the 65+ population was 36 million
- By 2030, it will double to 72 million, or 20% of the total U.S. population
- By 2050, it will be 86.7 million
- More elderly than children once boomers age
- With the changing numbers, Life Span is increasing—adults who live to 65 can expect to live another 18 years!

# What do we know?

- 80+% of people 50 or older want to remain in their current home and community (AARP Survey)
- In 2003, the average U.S. family spent 52% of their household income on housing (33% and transportation (19%) (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- For over half of America's home owners, at least 50% of their wealth is the equity of their home (US Census)
- 80% of people 50+ own their own home (US Census)

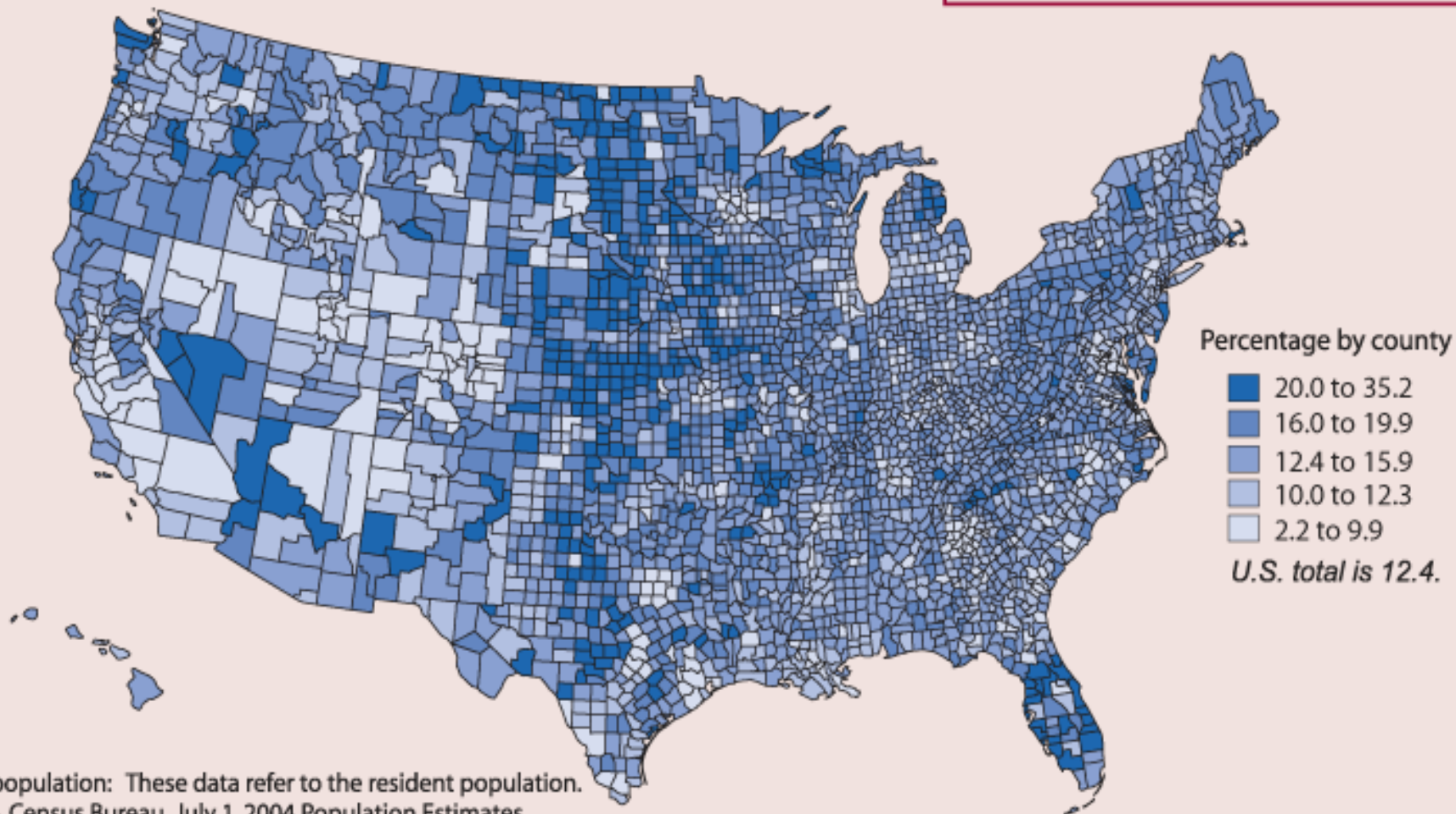
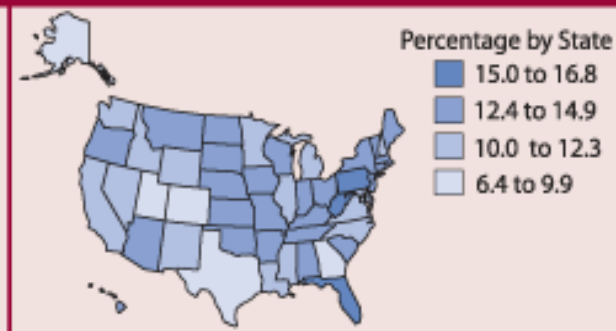
## Life expectancy at ages 65 and 85, by sex, selected years 1900-2003



Reference population: These data refer to the resident population.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

## Percentage of the population age 65 and over, by county and State, 2004



Reference population: These data refer to the resident population.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2004 Population Estimates.

# Things to Remember

- Currently elders might not be the pattern of boomers
- Boomers are healthier, wealthier and ..... more educated
- But Boomers are not one single group; but most have ties to **SUBURBIA!**
- Birth rates declined after Boomers → **Gen-X**
- **The “Boomlet” will follow, but they have had a smaller family/household size.**



## For Further Information

- Beyond 50.05, A Report to the Nation on Livable Communities: Creating Environments for Successful Aging
- Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide

<http://www.aarp.org/beyond50>

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