



# Age Strong in Boston



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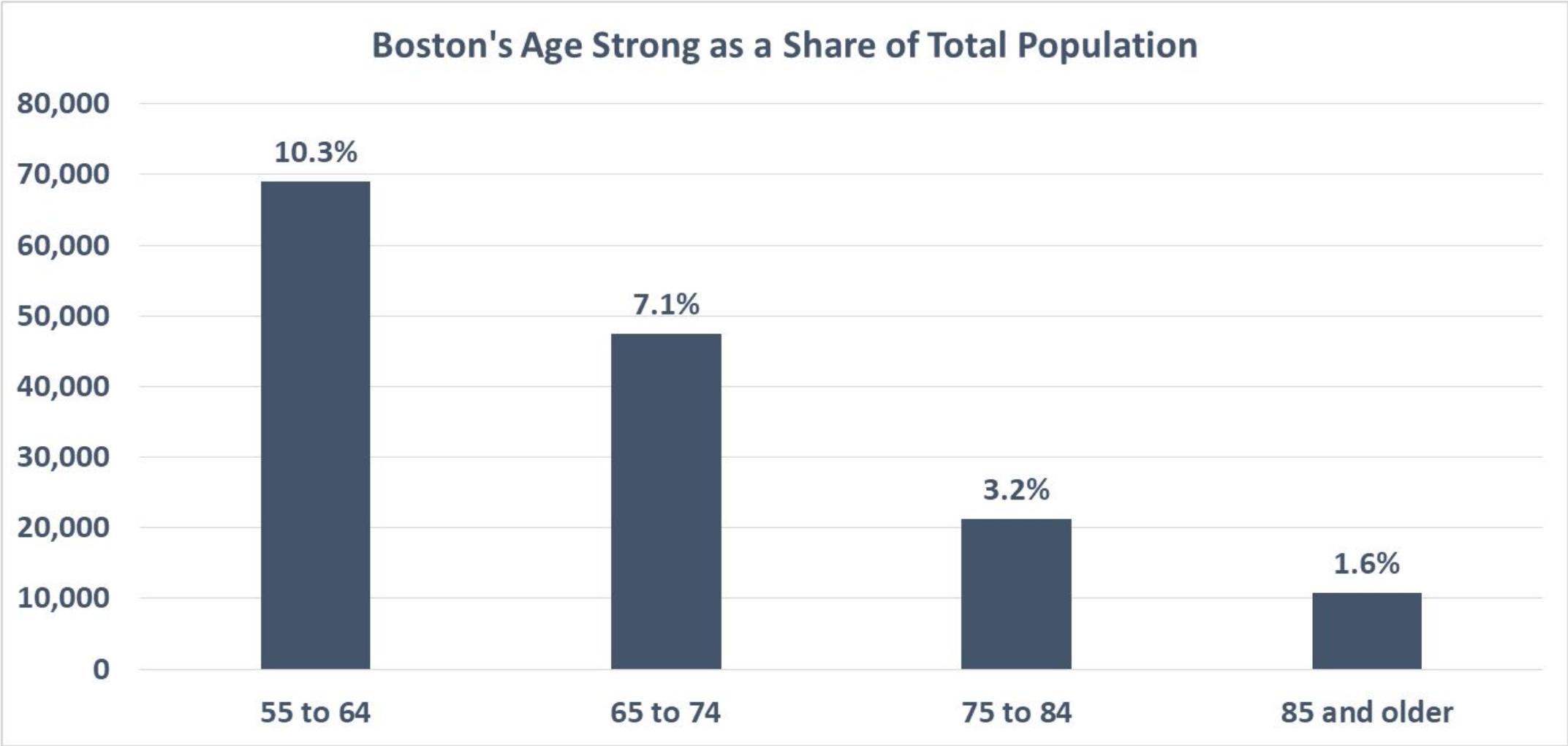
BPDA Research Division - April 21, 2023

# 01

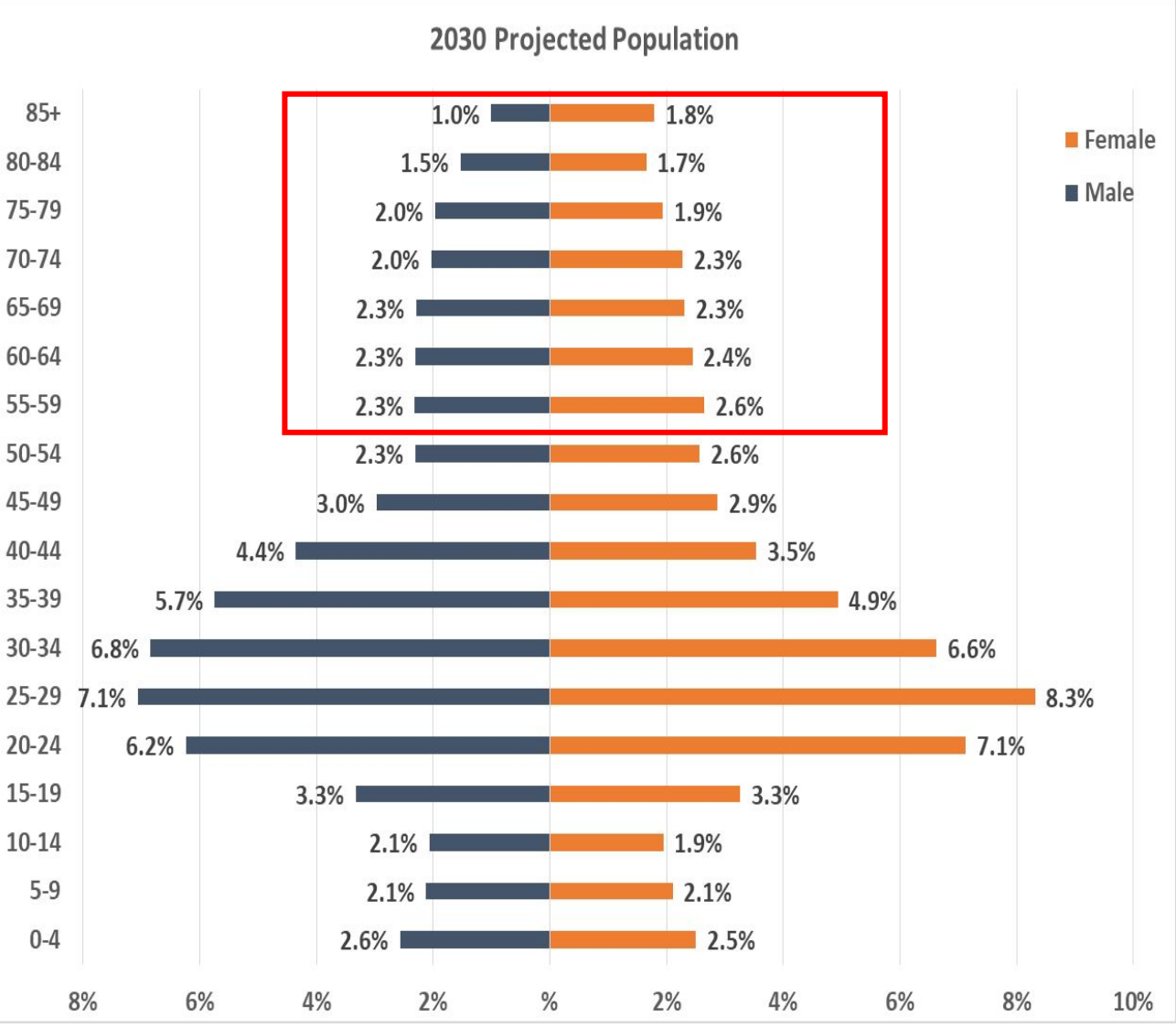
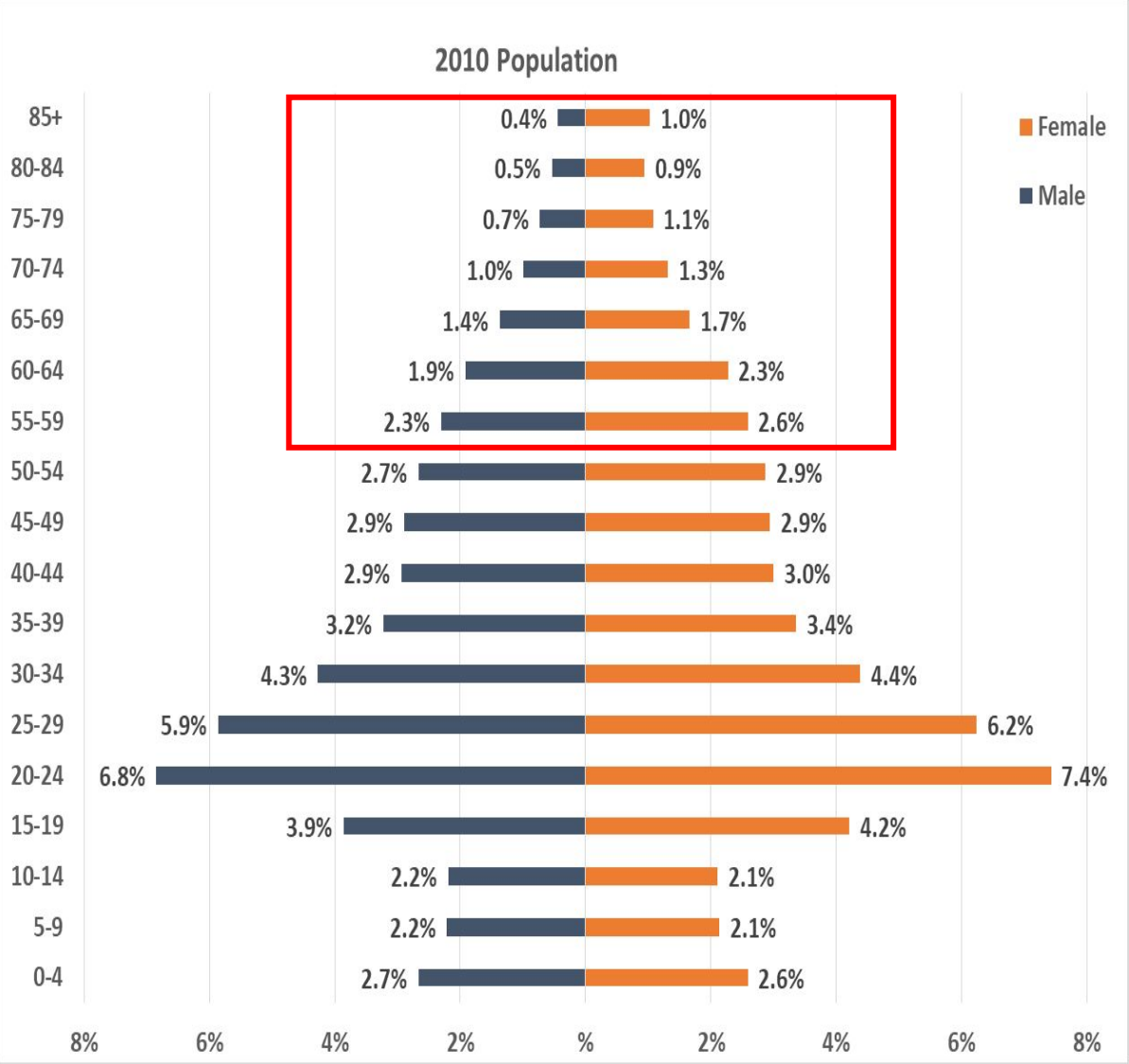
## Demographics – Age, Nativity, Race/Ethnicity



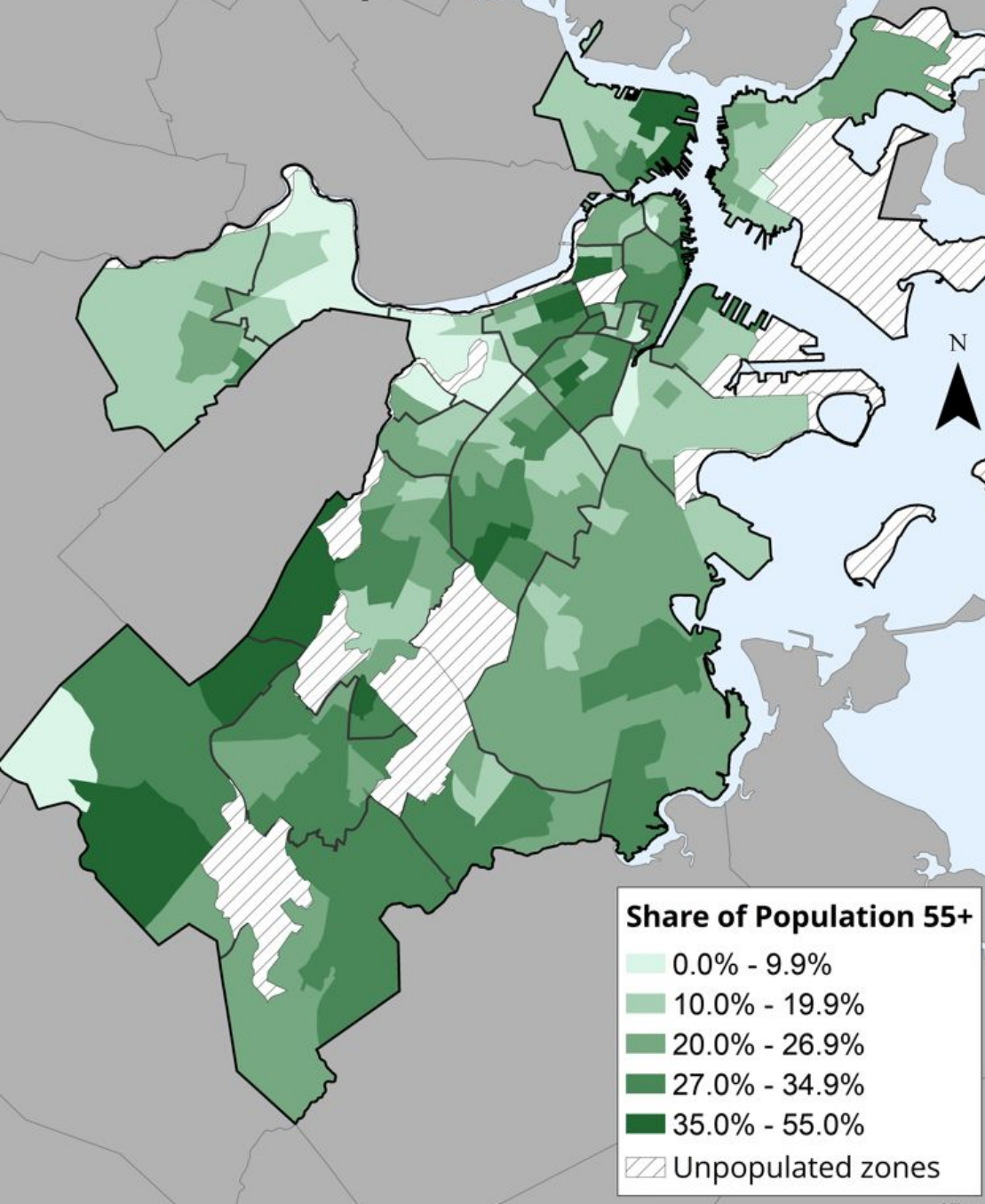
# Residents ages 55 and older are 22.1% of the city's population



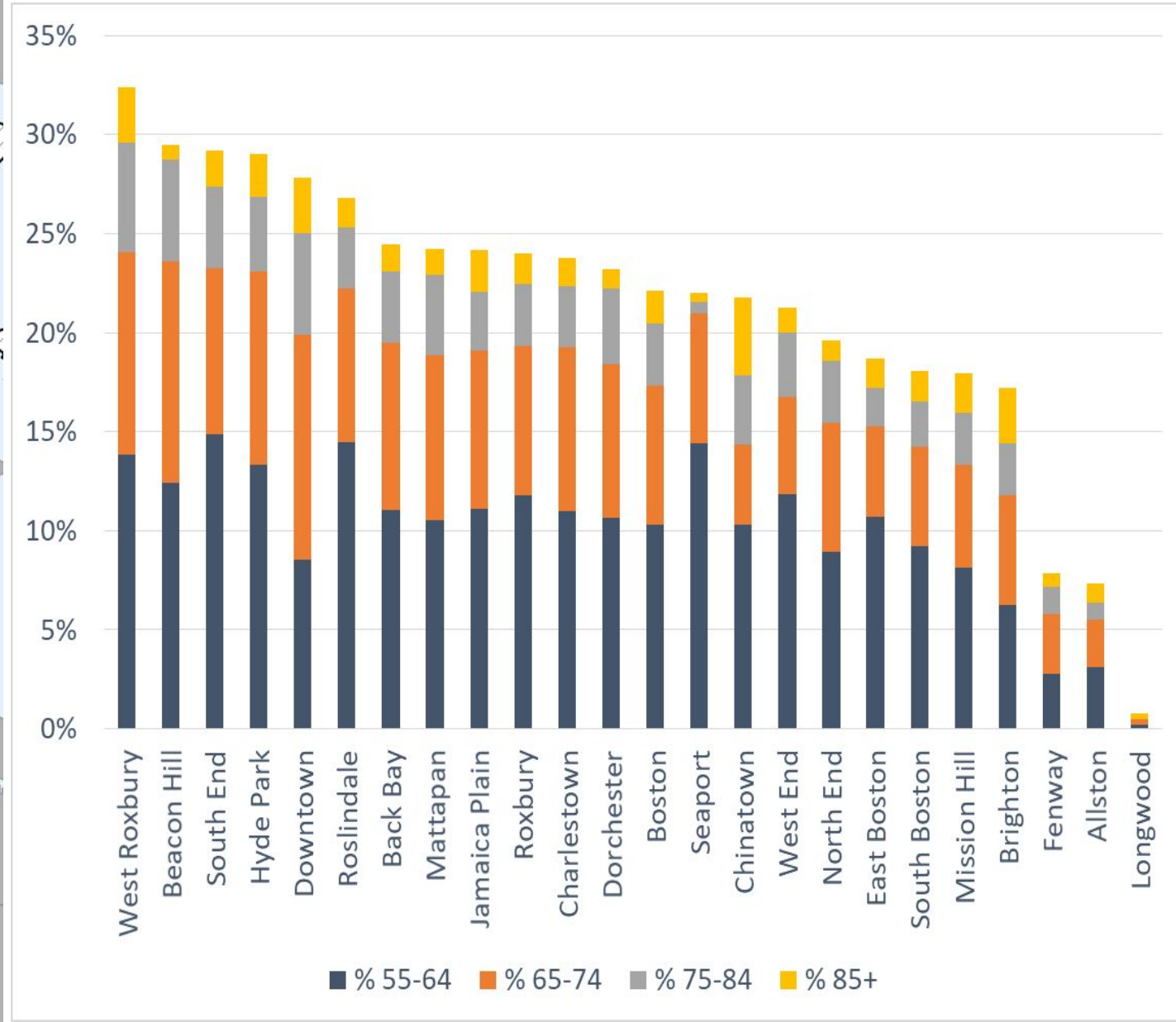
# Older age cohorts account for nearly 10% of Boston's population growth from 2010 to 2030



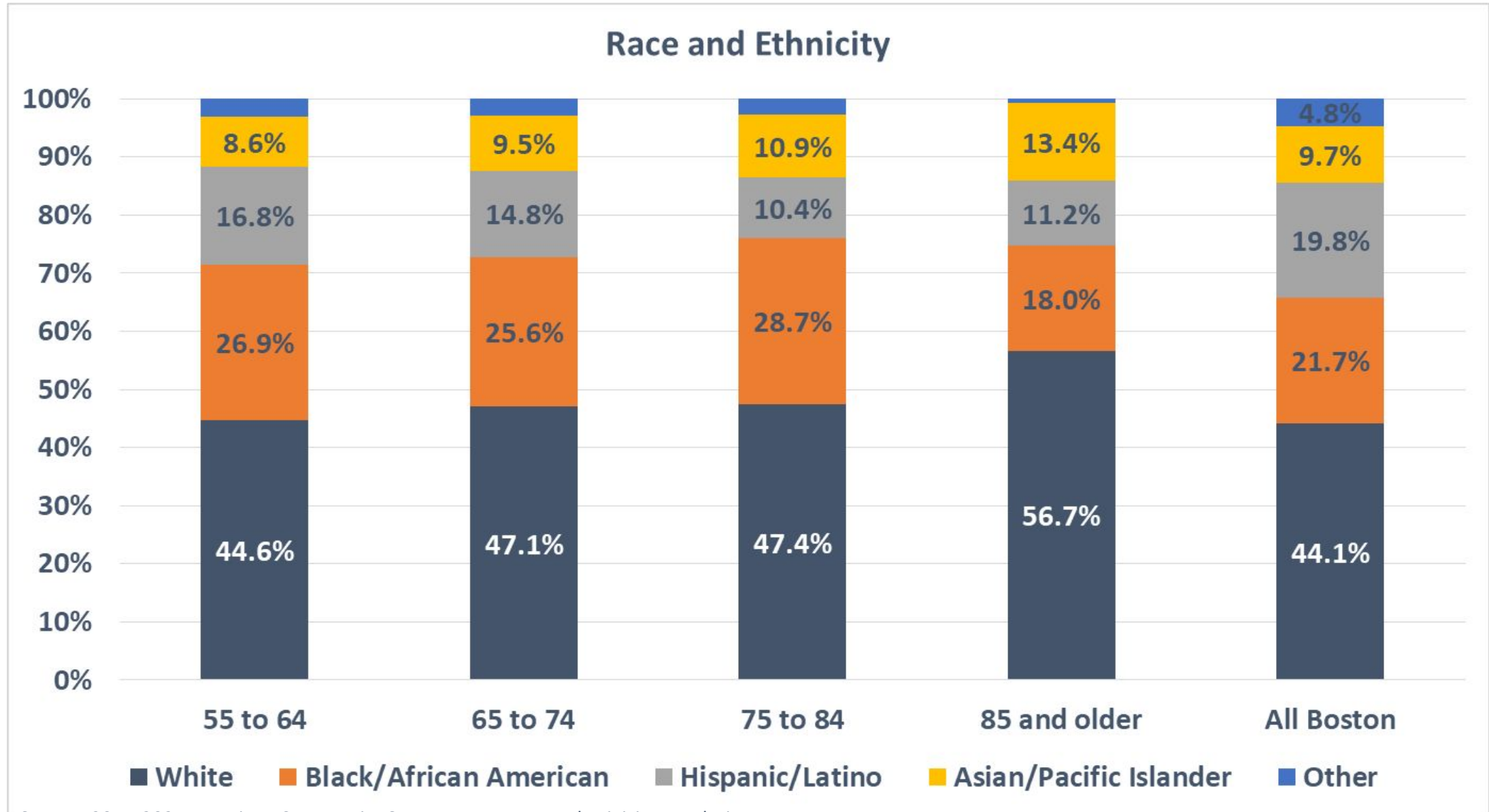
# Boston's Older Population, 2021



32.4% of West Roxbury's population is 55+

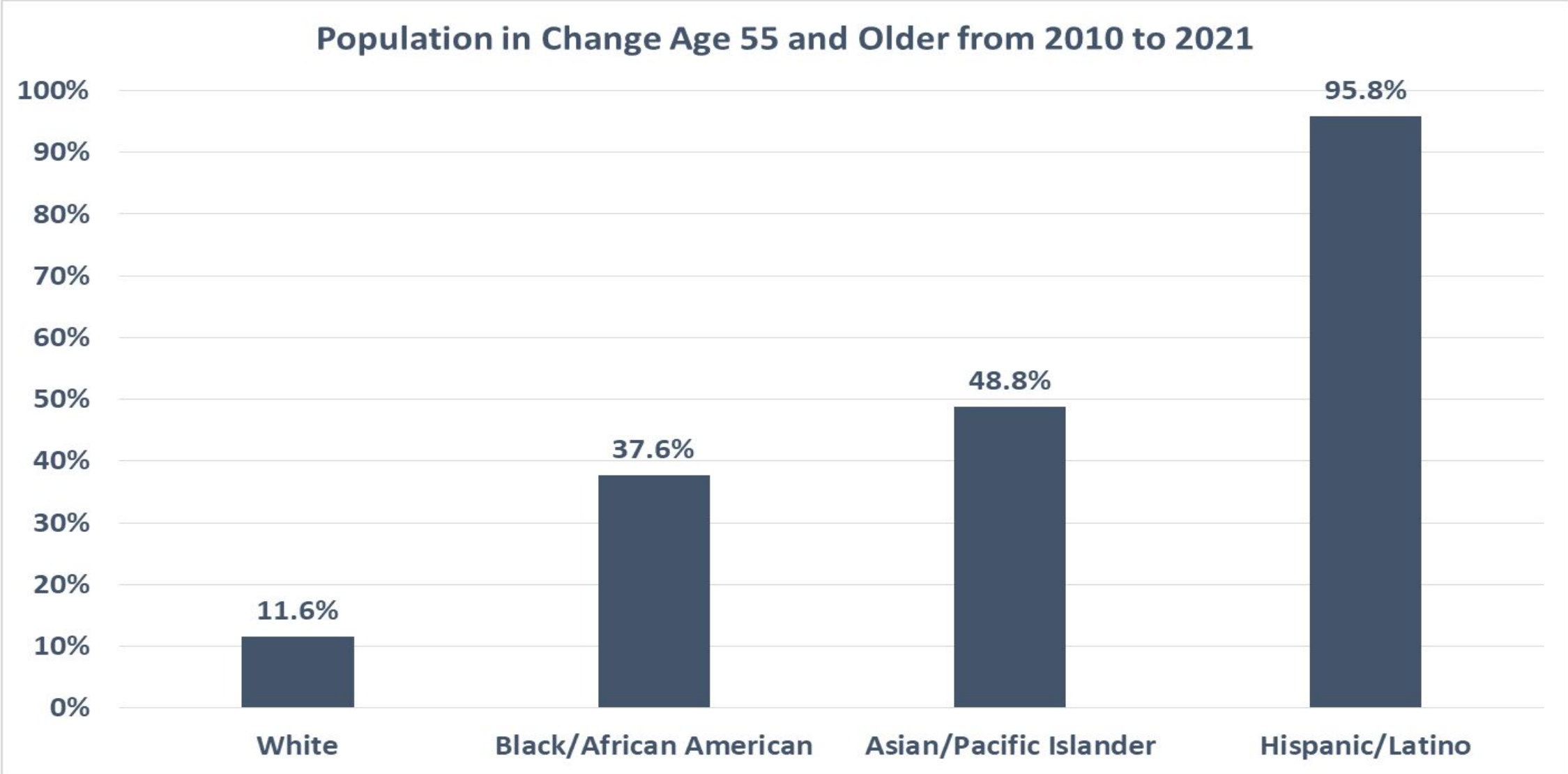


# Boston's oldest populations are more likely to be White or Asian



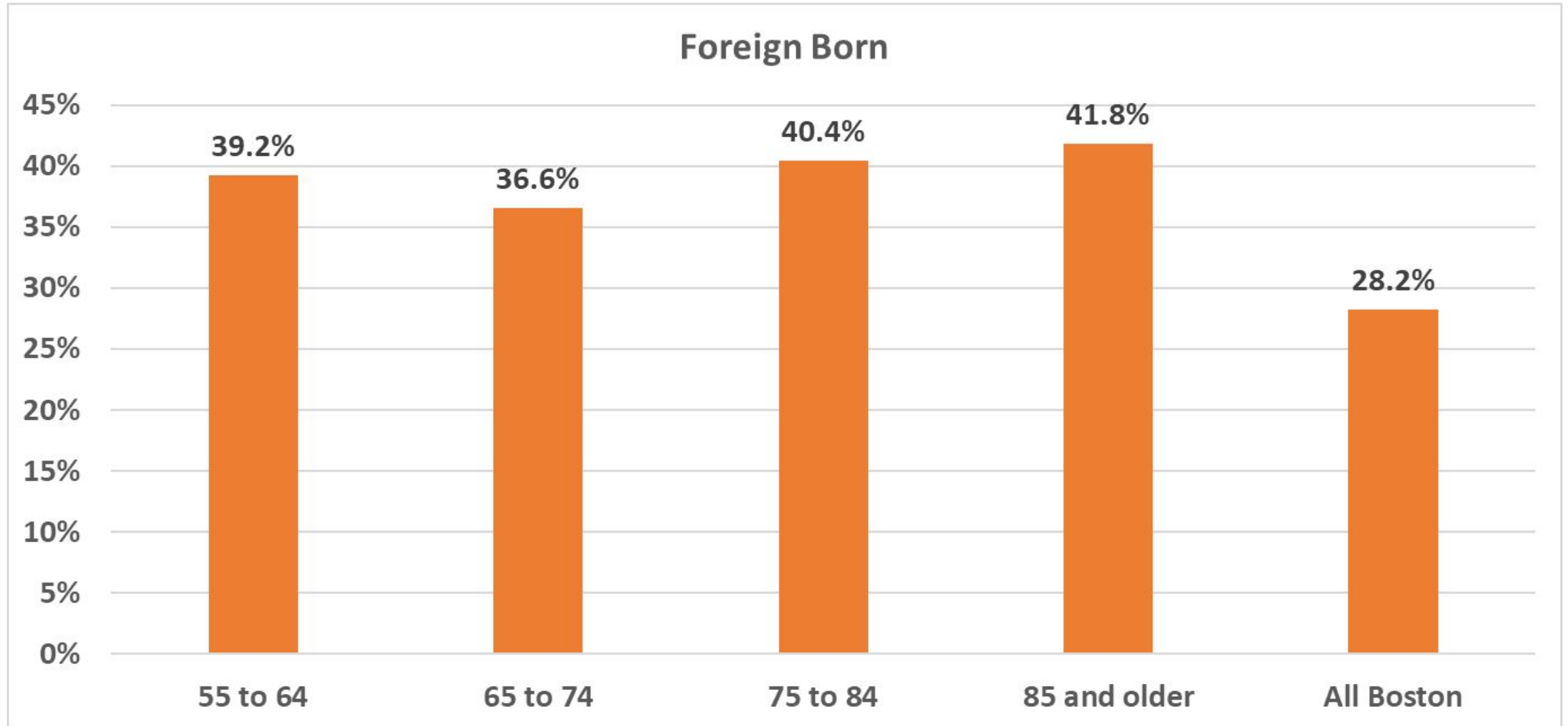
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# The Hispanic population 55 and older in Boston has nearly doubled since 2010



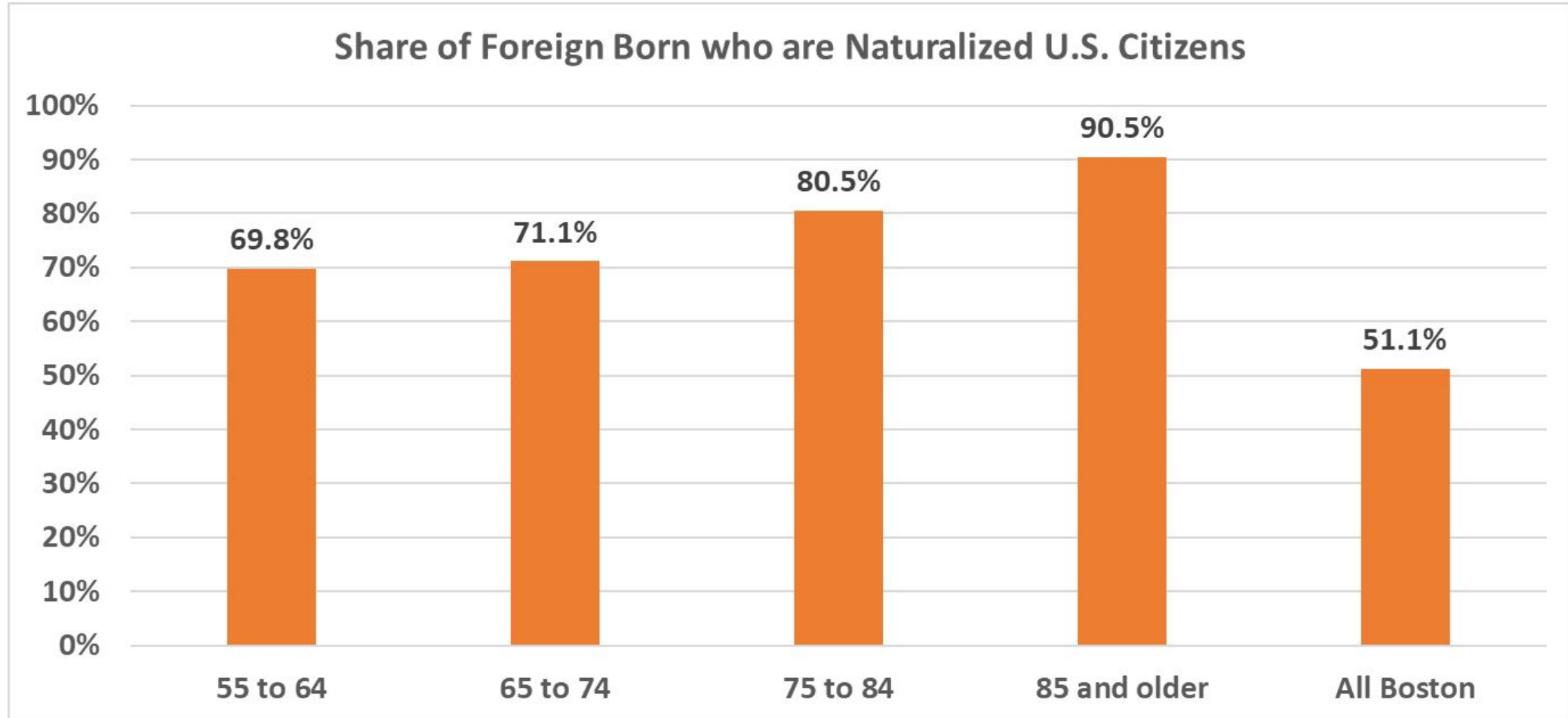
Source: 2006-2010 and 017-2021 American Community Surveys, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# 38.7% of older Boston residents are foreign born, a much higher share than in Massachusetts and the country

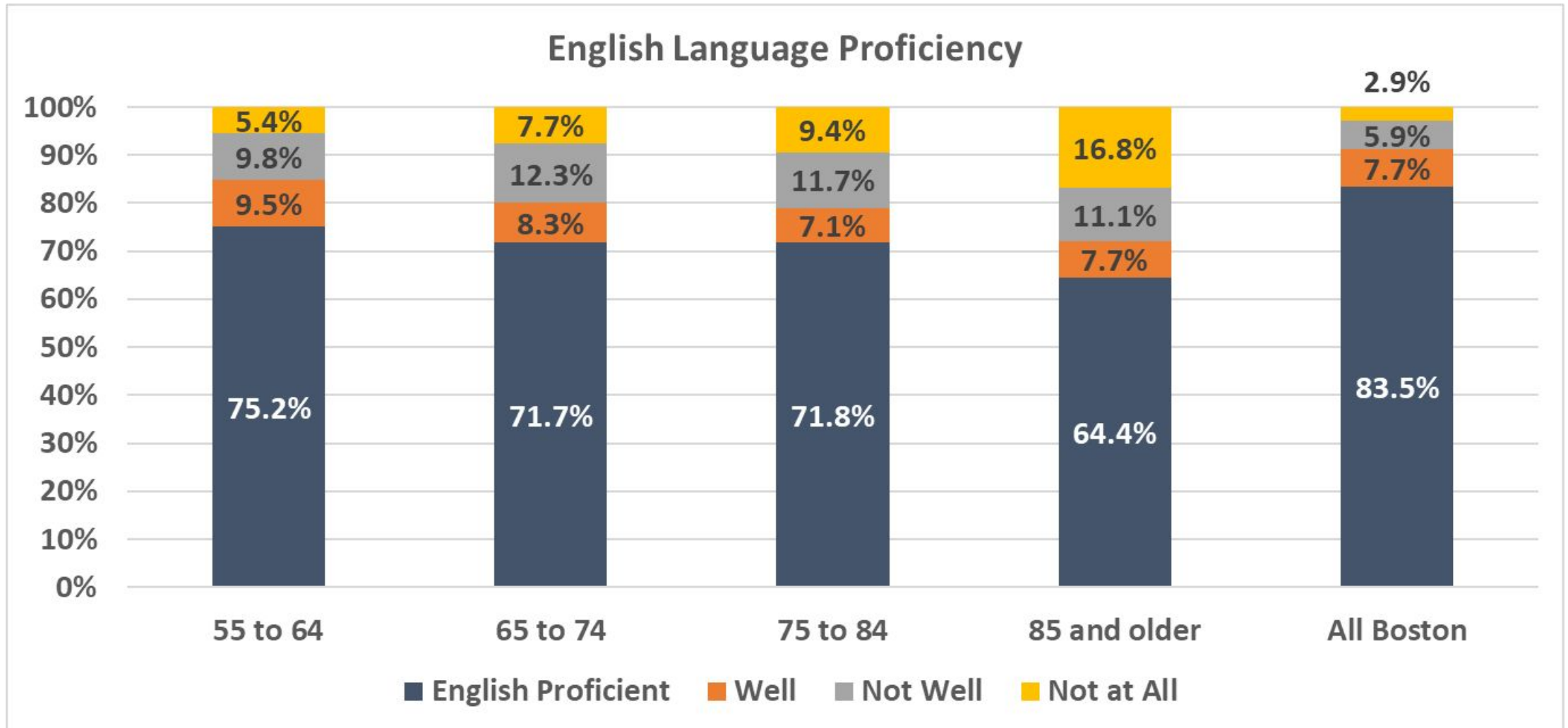




# Boston's elderly foreign-born population is more likely to be naturalized

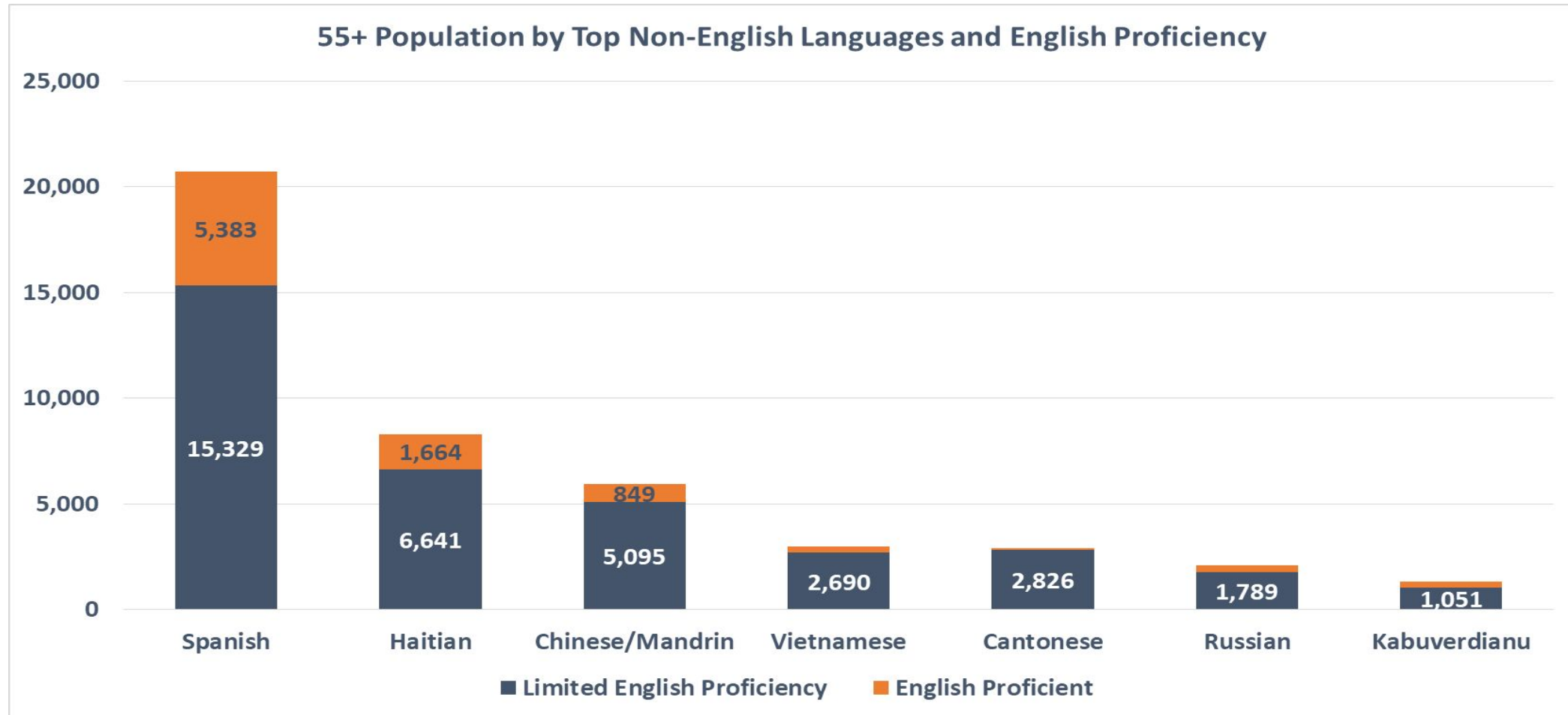


# Boston's oldest residents are less likely to speak English proficiently



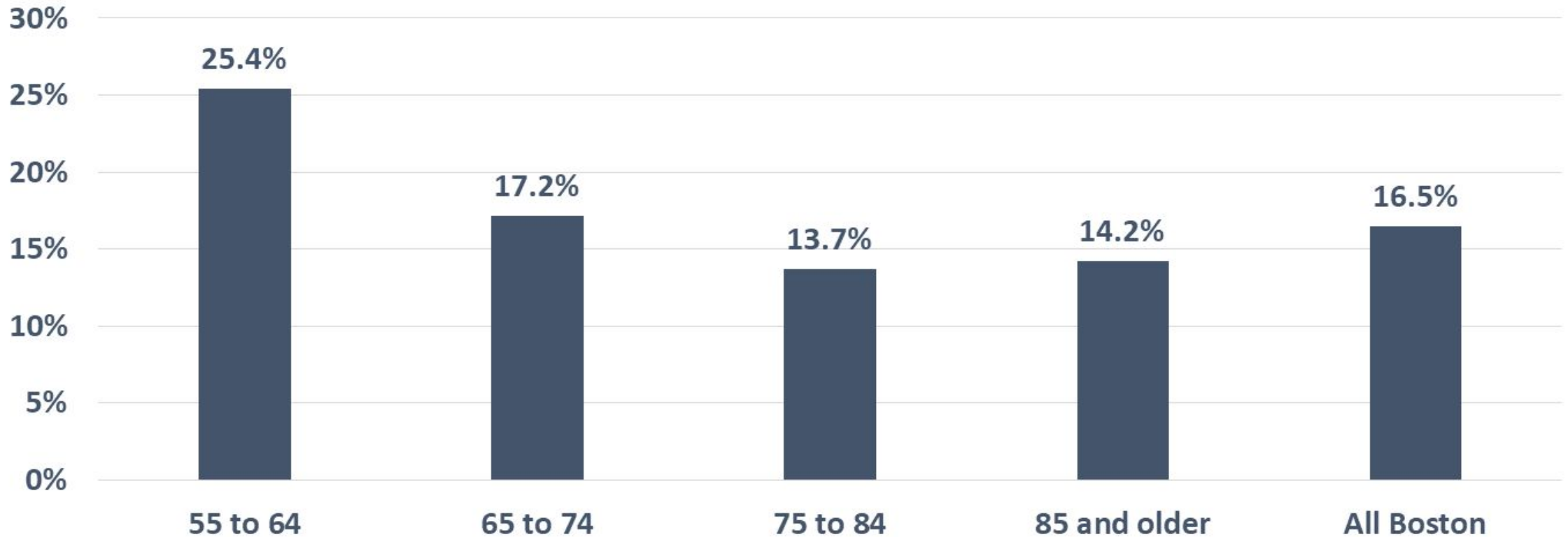
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# ~15,000 older Spanish speakers and almost 7,000 older Haitian speakers have limited English proficiency

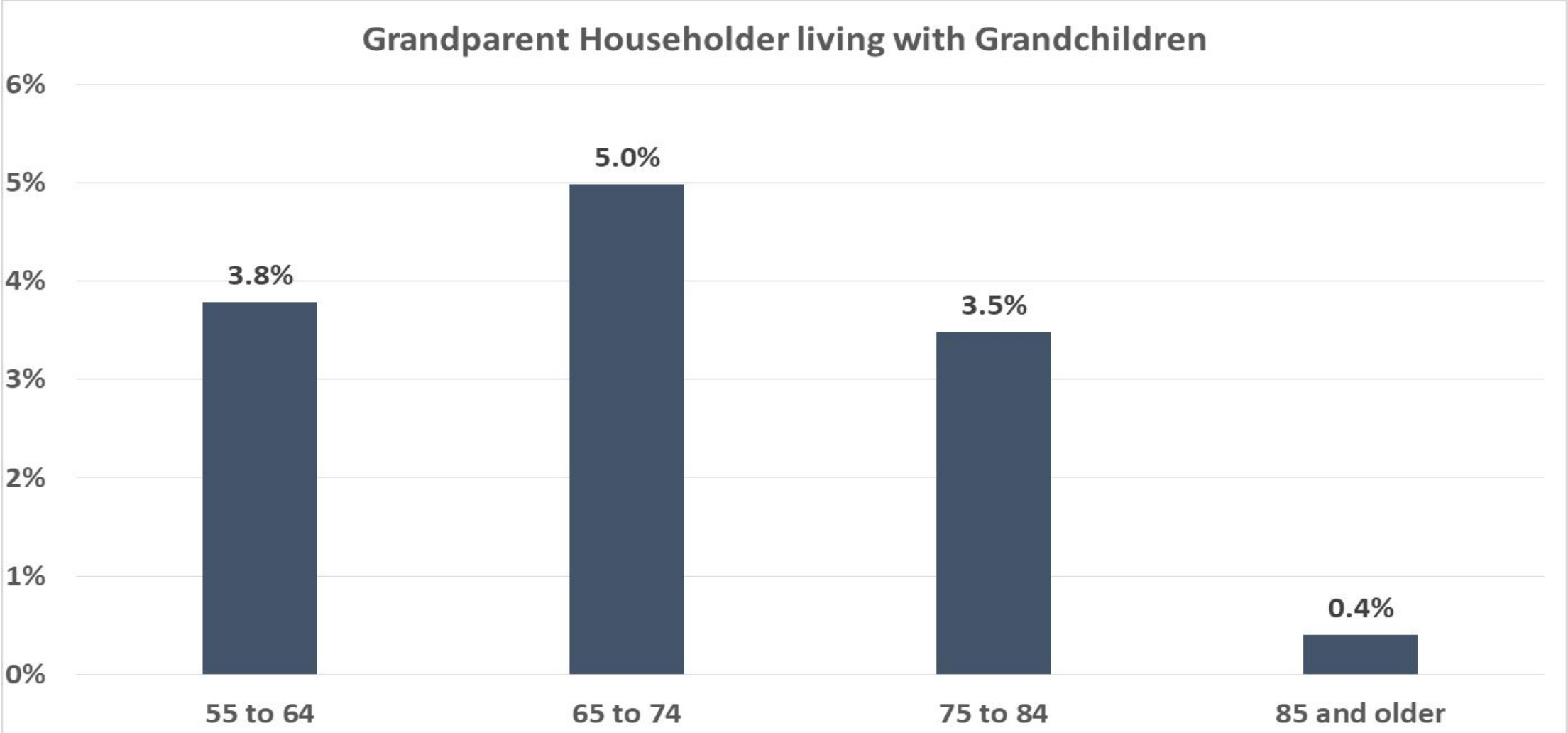


# 20% of the population 55 and older live with adult children

Living in Multigenerational Households (excluding Children)



# 5% of householders aged 65-74 have grandchildren living with them



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

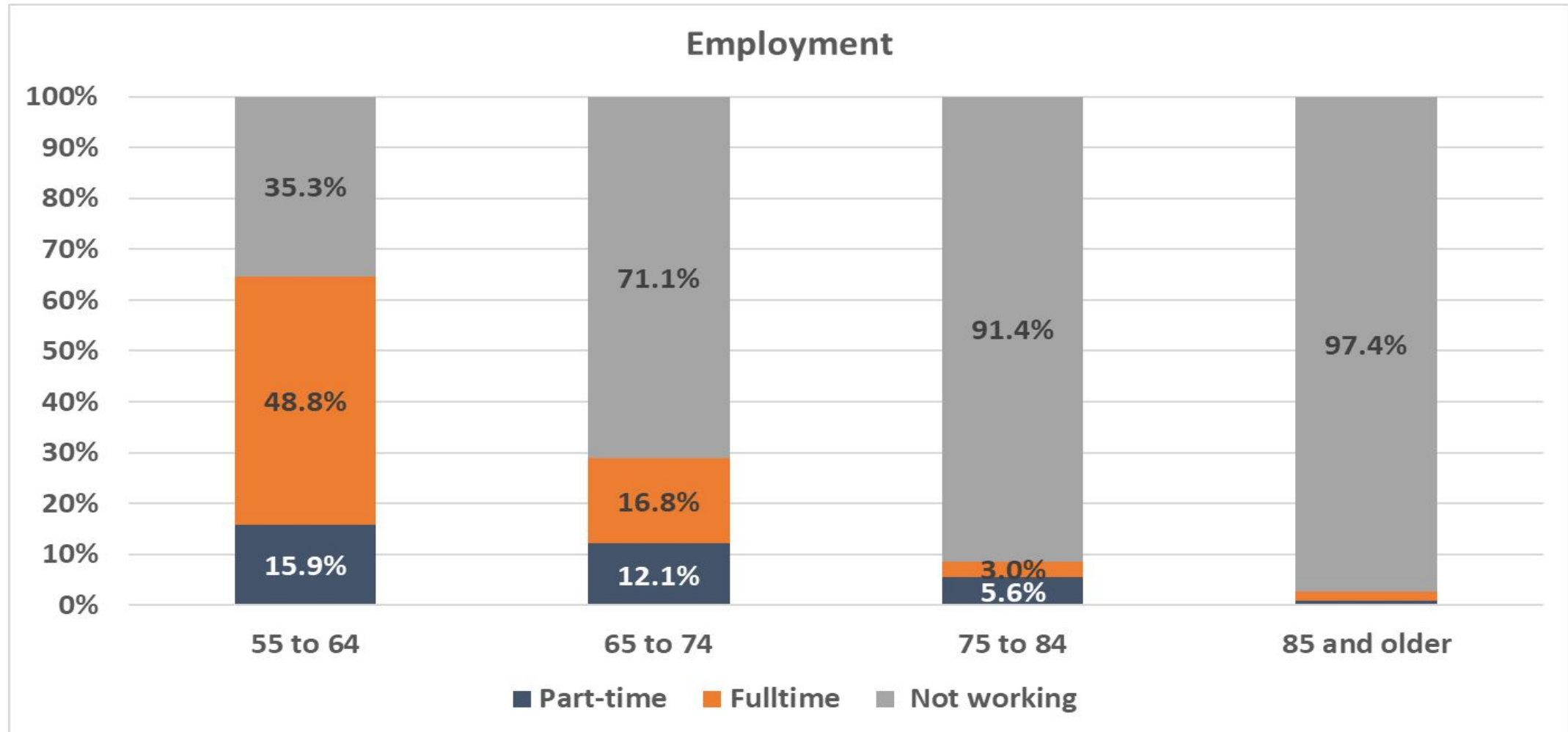
# 02

## Employment and Income

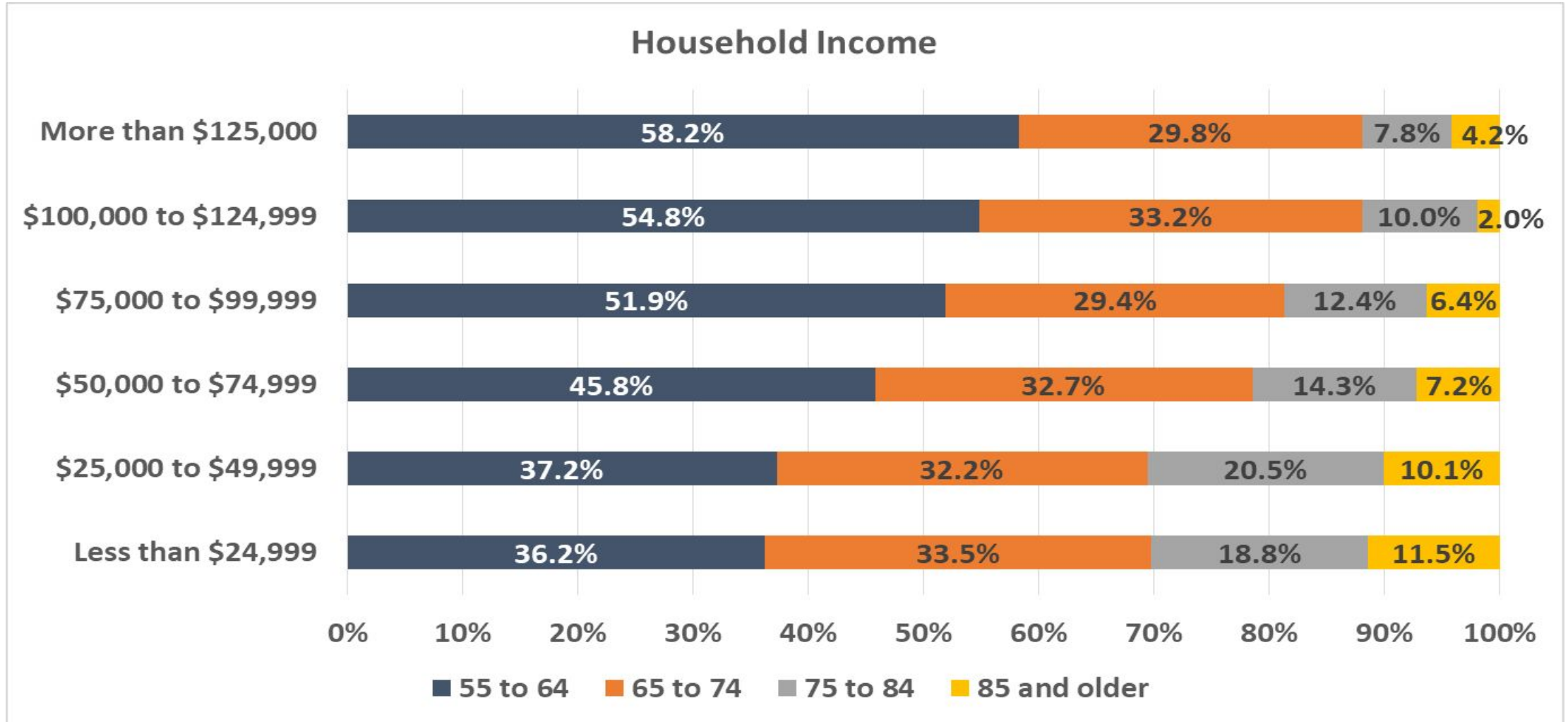


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# Labor force participation declines with age, but nearly 30% of 65-74 year olds are employed

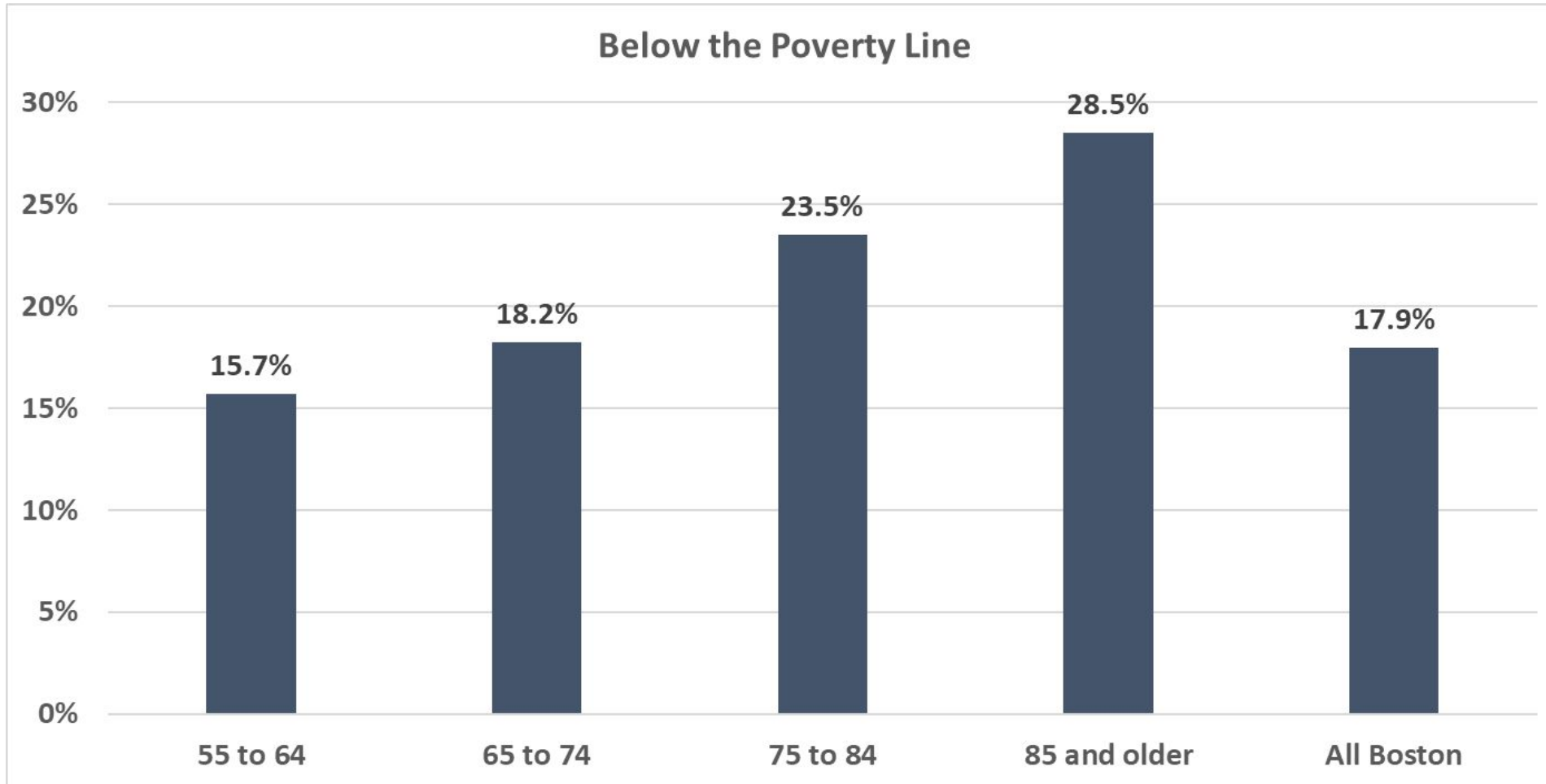


# As households leave the labor force, their income declines





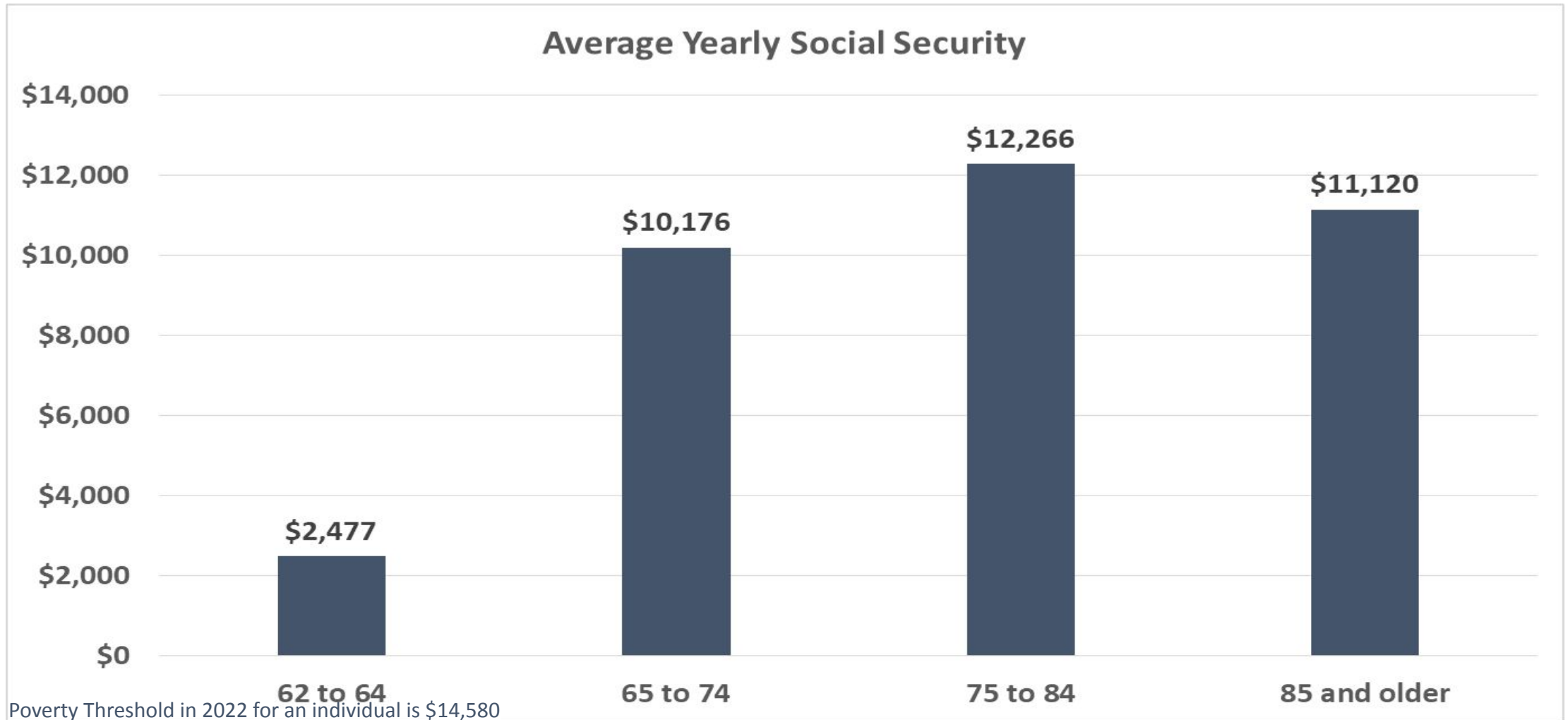
# With declining employment and increased likelihood of living alone, older residents are poorer



Poverty Threshold in 2022 for an individual is \$14,580

Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Social Security alone cannot keep older people out of poverty



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# The Elder Index measures of the cost of living independently for older adults aged 65 or older

**Table 1: The Elder Index for Boston, MA 2022**

Monthly Expenses	Elder Living Alone			Two-person Household		
	Owner, no mortgage	Renter	Owner, with mortgage	Owner, no mortgage	Renter	Owner, with mortgage
Housing	\$899	\$1,986	\$2,447	\$899	\$1,986	\$2,447
Food	\$306	\$306	\$306	\$562	\$562	\$562
Transportation	\$298	\$298	\$298	\$459	\$459	\$459
Health Care (Good Health)	\$466	\$466	\$466	\$932	\$932	\$932
Miscellaneous	\$396	\$396	\$396	\$573	\$573	\$573
<b>Elder Index Per Month</b>	<b>\$2,365</b>	<b>\$3,452</b>	<b>\$3,913</b>	<b>\$3,425</b>	<b>\$4,512</b>	<b>\$4,973</b>
<b>Elder Index Per Year</b>	<b>\$28,380</b>	<b>\$41,424</b>	<b>\$46,956</b>	<b>\$41,100</b>	<b>\$54,144</b>	<b>\$59,676</b>

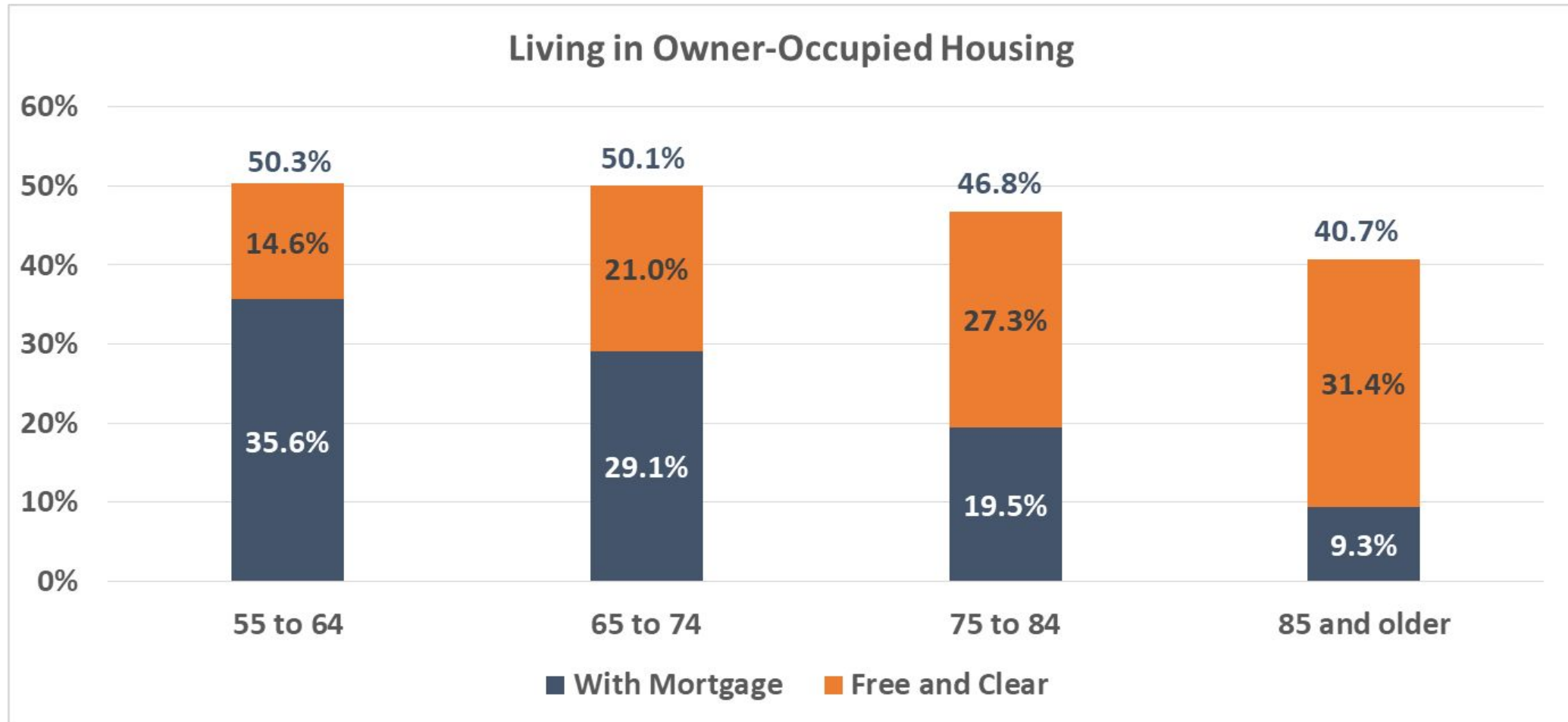
# 03

## Housing

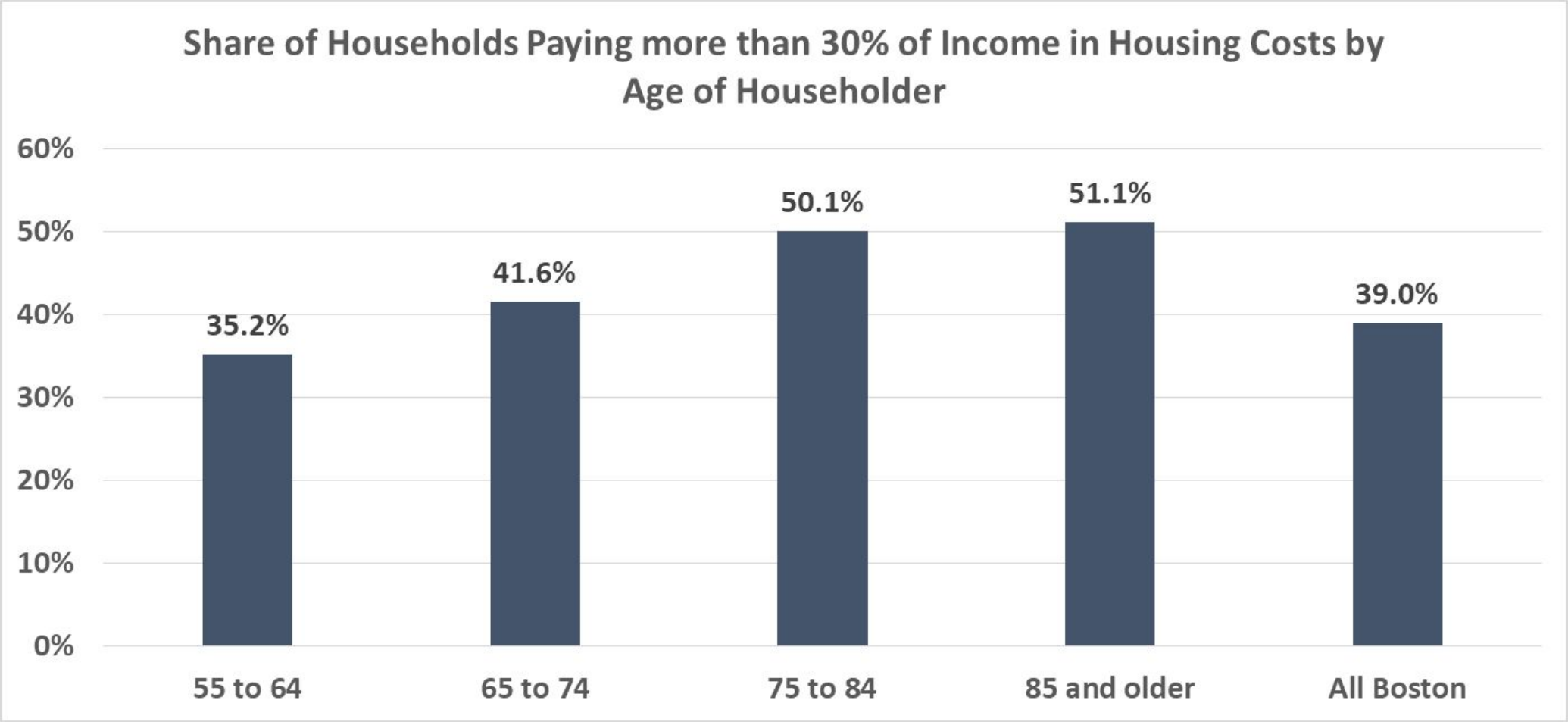


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# Older householders are more likely to live in owner occupied housing

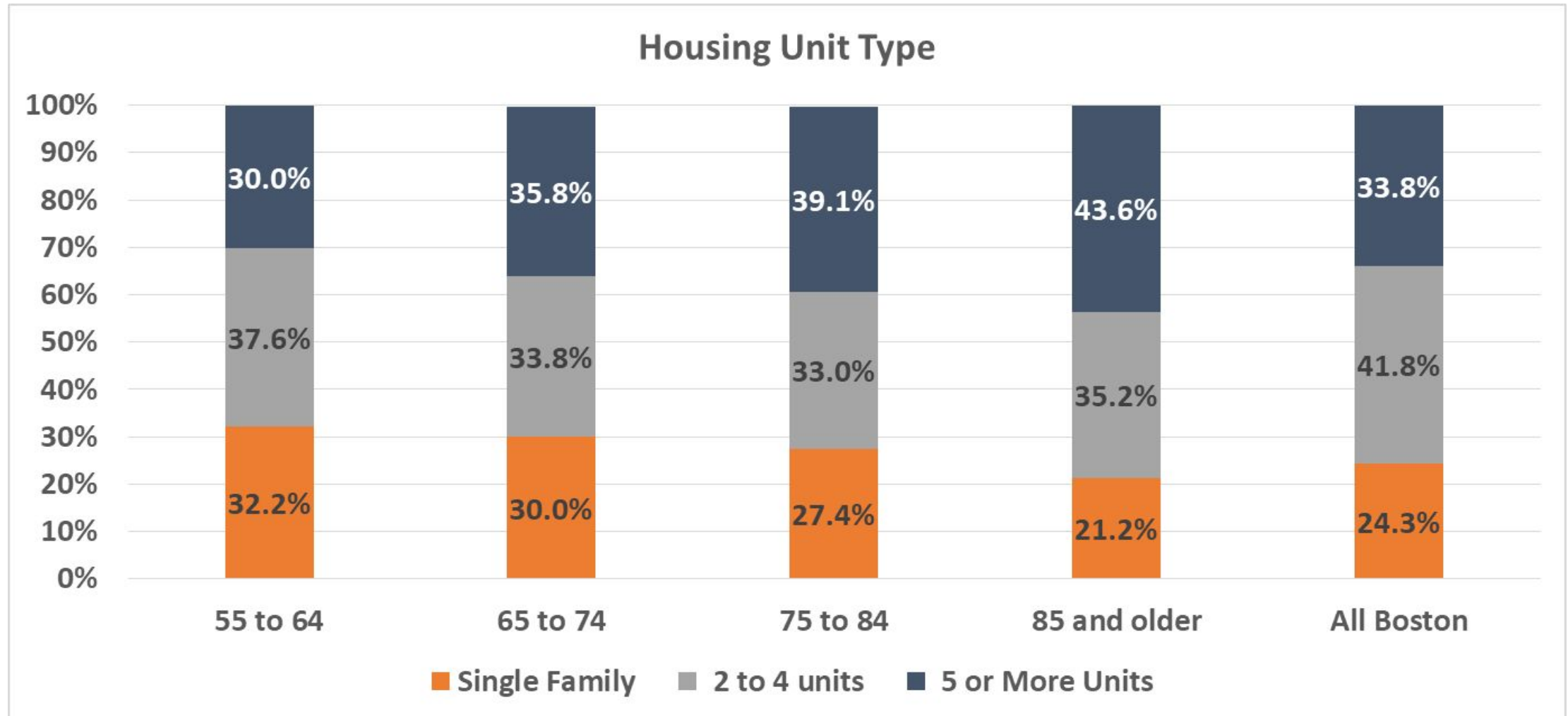


# Increased housing costs make it more difficult for the aging population to remain in Boston

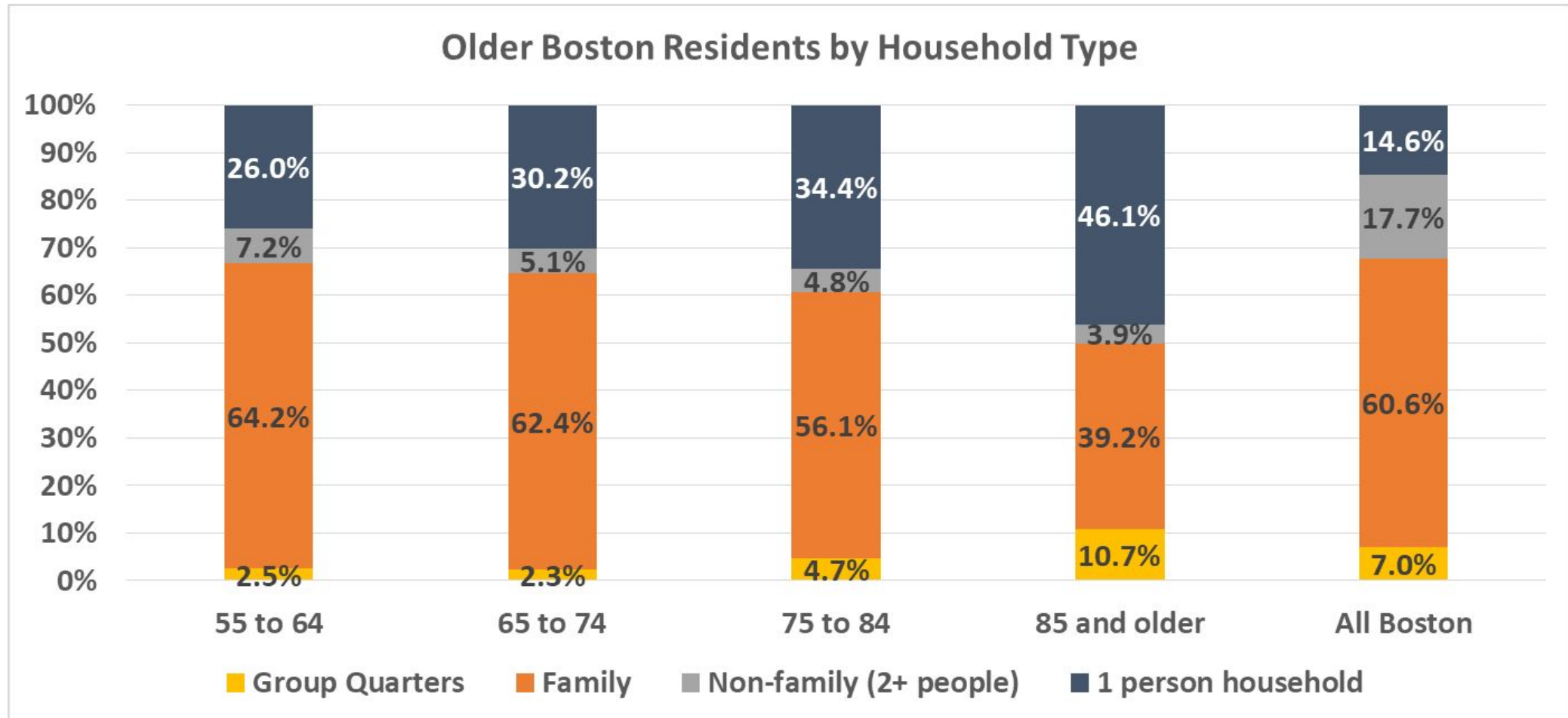


Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# 30% of the population 55 years and older live in single family housing



# Nearly half of the population 85 and older lives alone





# 04

## Disability

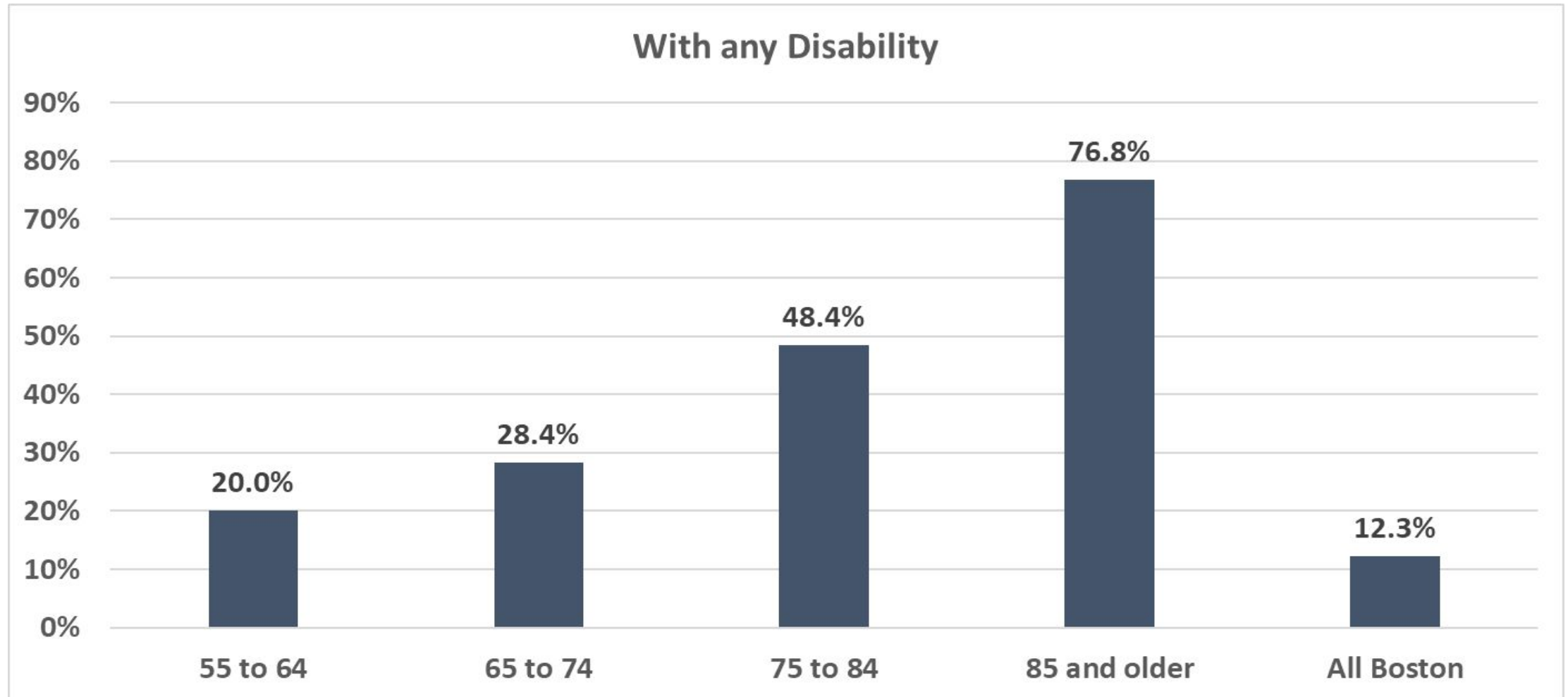


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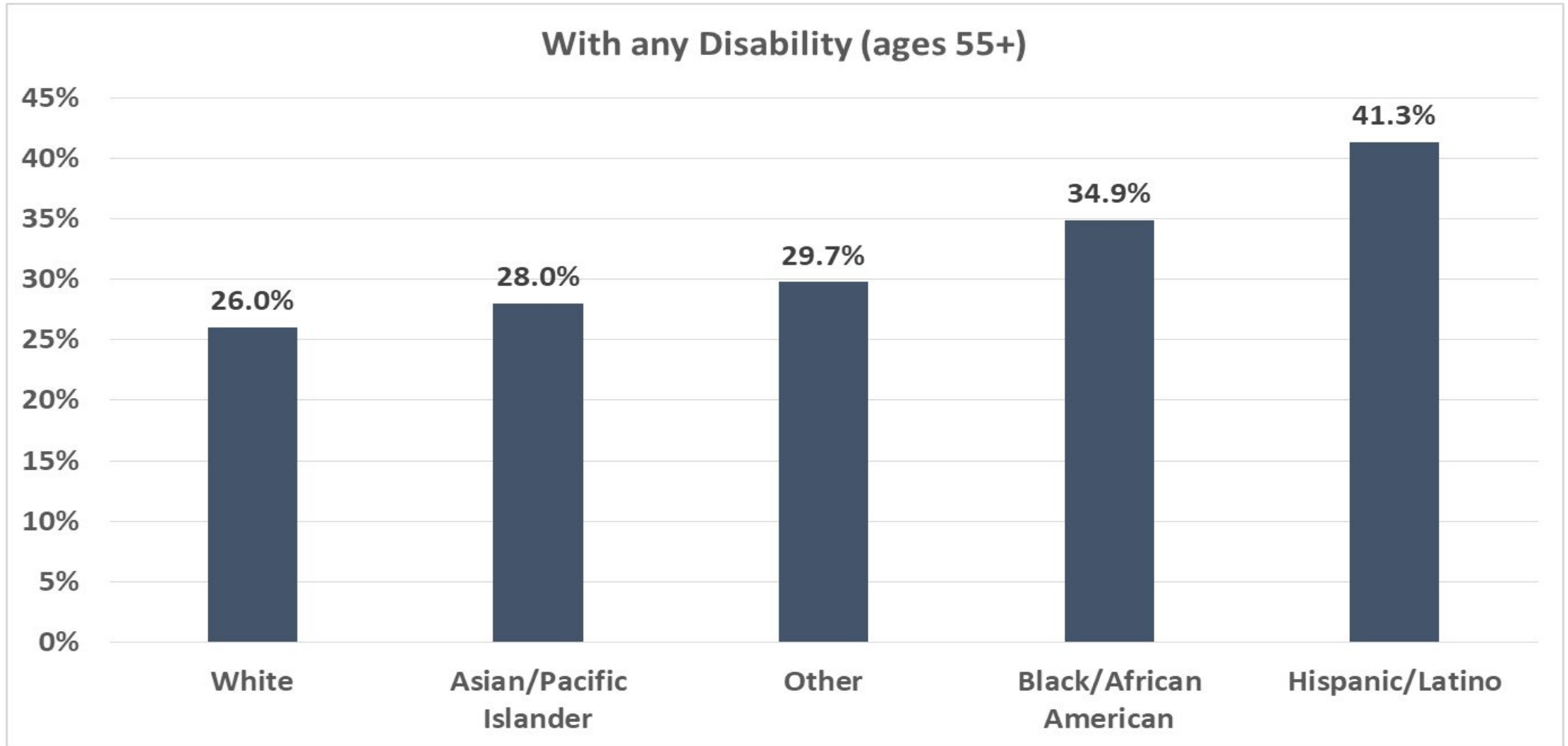
# ACS measure of disability

- The ACS identifies *serious difficulty* with four basic areas of functioning – hearing, vision, cognition, and ambulation.
- In addition, questions address difficulties with selected activities from the Katz Activities of Daily Living (ADL), such as dressing, feeding, and bathing (self care); and Lawton Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) such as managing finances, meal preparation, and medications (independent living)

# Disability increases with age and makes it more difficult to for people to remain in housing not designed for the needs of an aging population

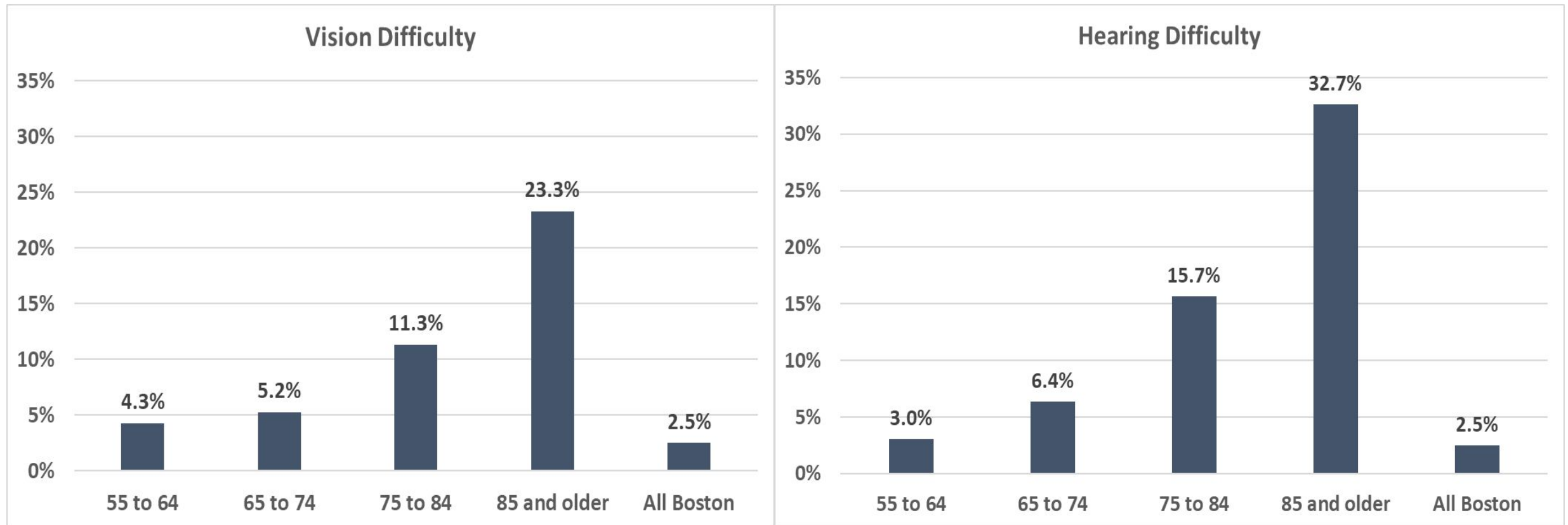


# Blacks and Hispanics have increased disability

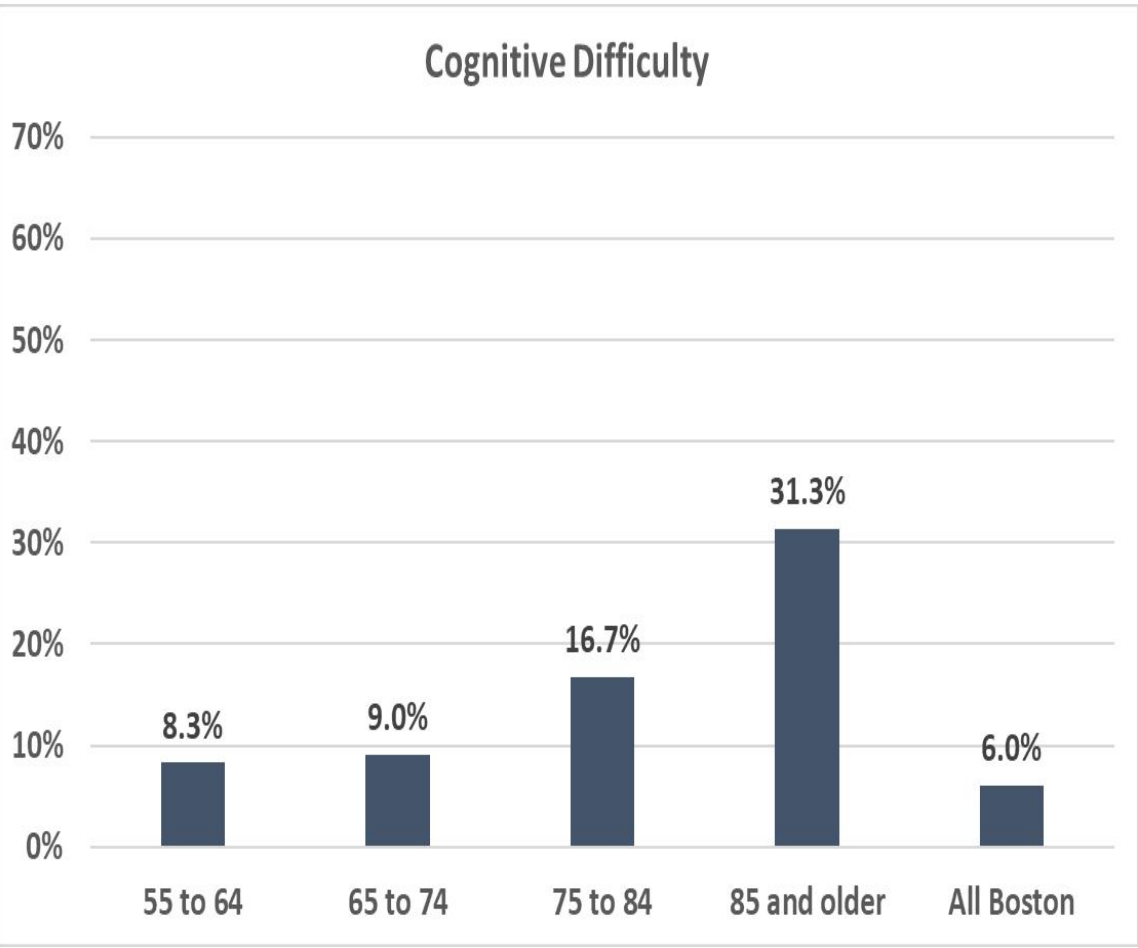
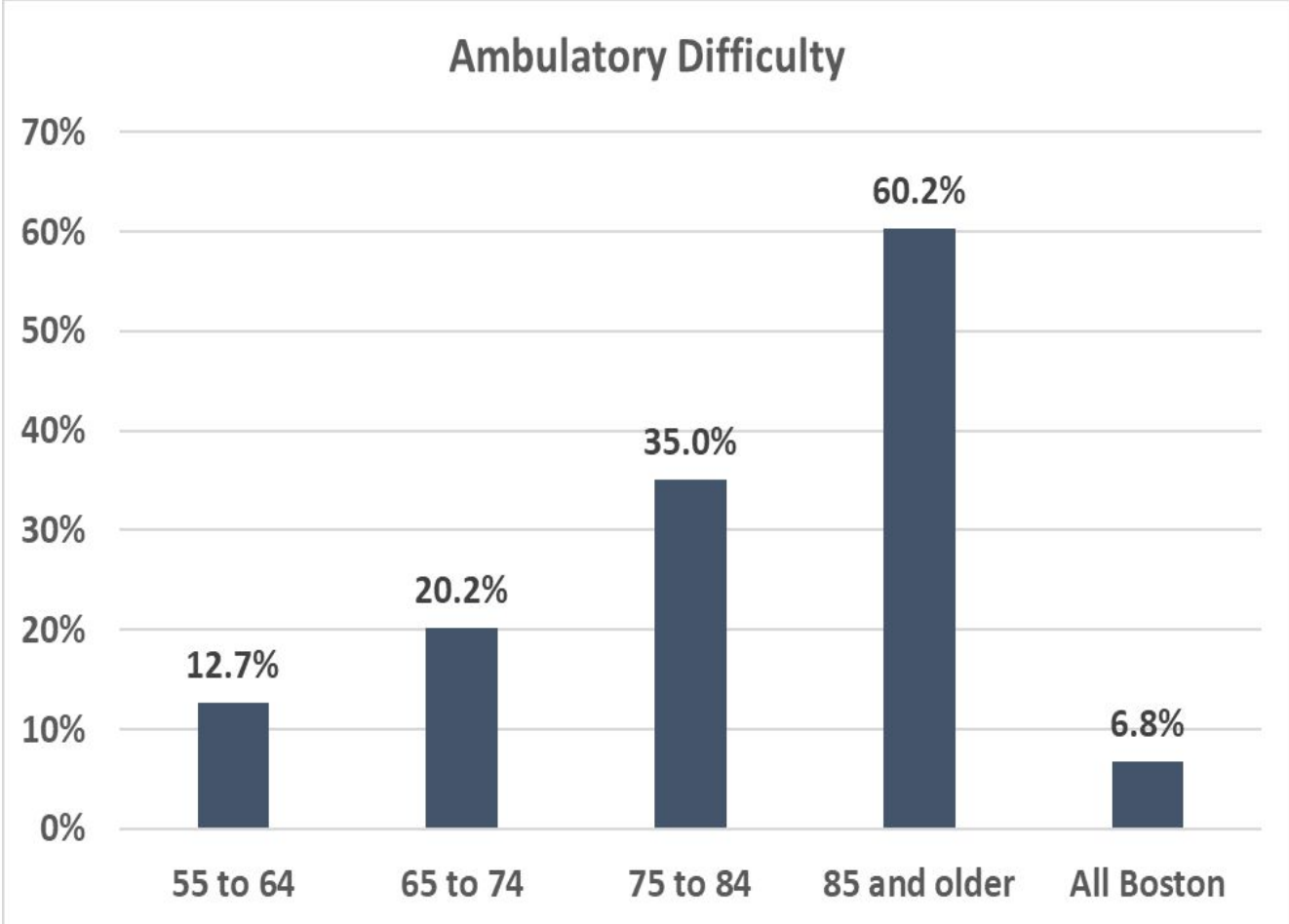


Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Vision and hearing difficulty increases with age

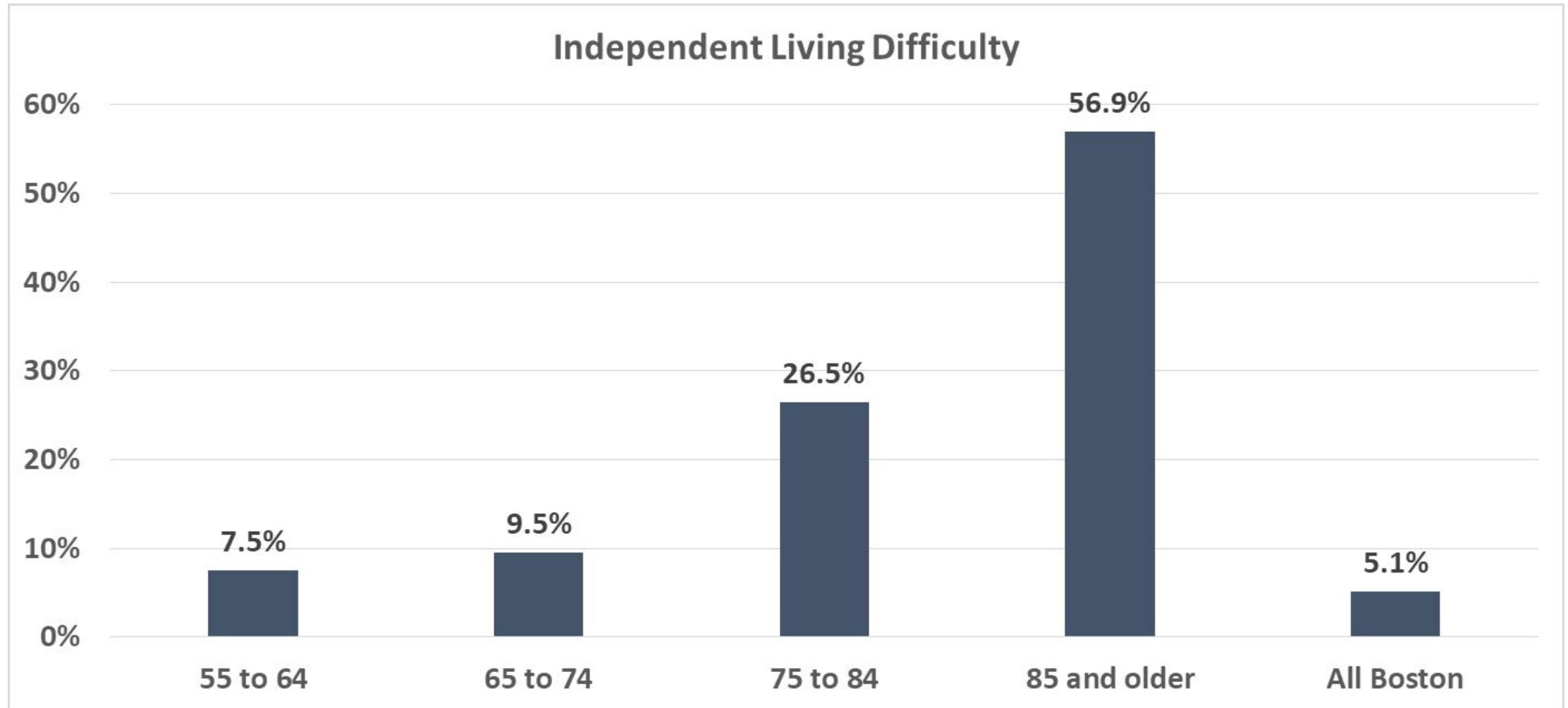


# Walking and cognitive difficulty increases with age

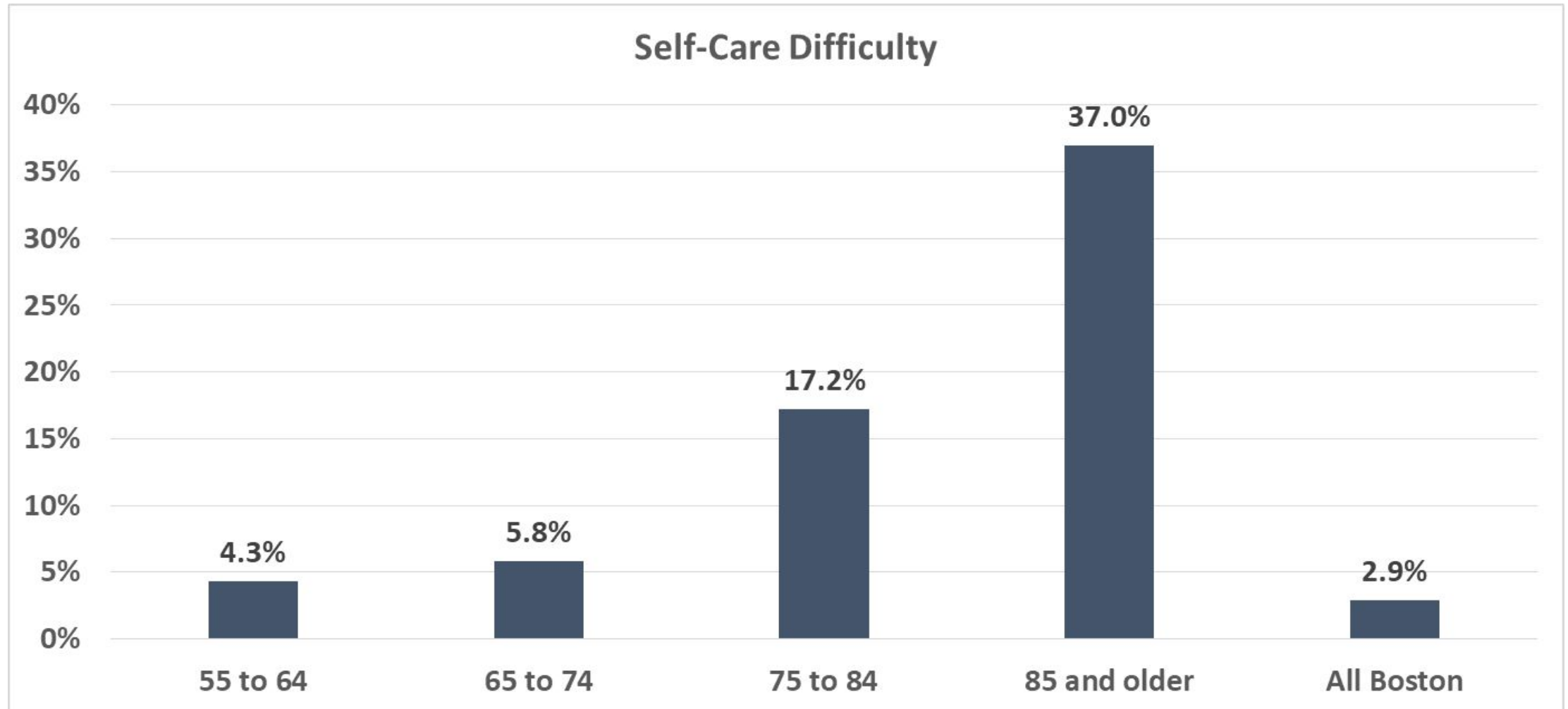


Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# With increased disability, independent living becomes more difficult



# With increased disability, self-care becomes more difficult





# The aging population relies on personal care workers

- Hourly wage of full-time personal care workers is \$17.51 slightly above the Massachusetts minimum wage of \$15.00
- 82.1% of personal care workers are female, compared to 48.5% of the labor force
- 45.8% of personal care workers are foreign born, compared to only 28.4% of the labor force

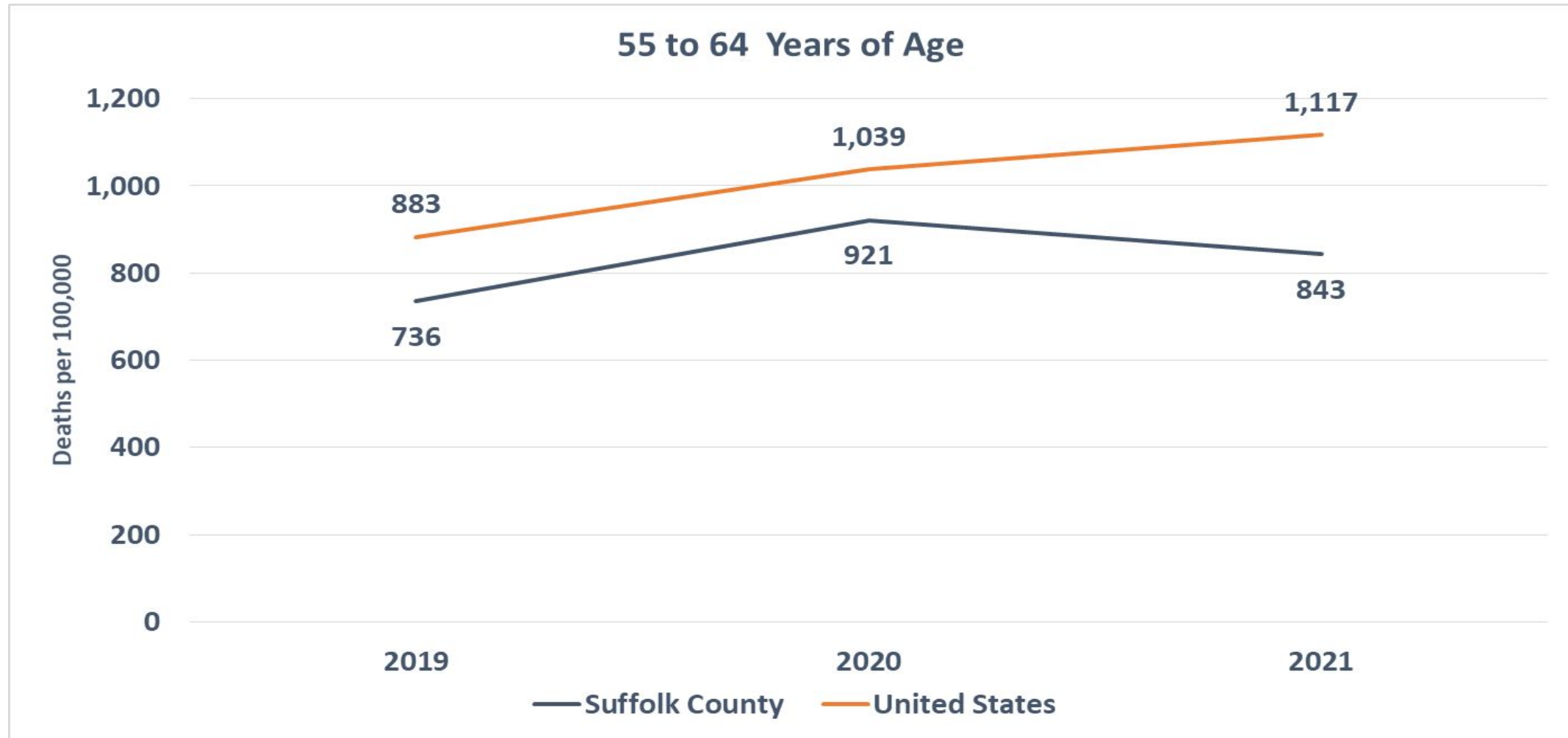
# 05

## Mortality



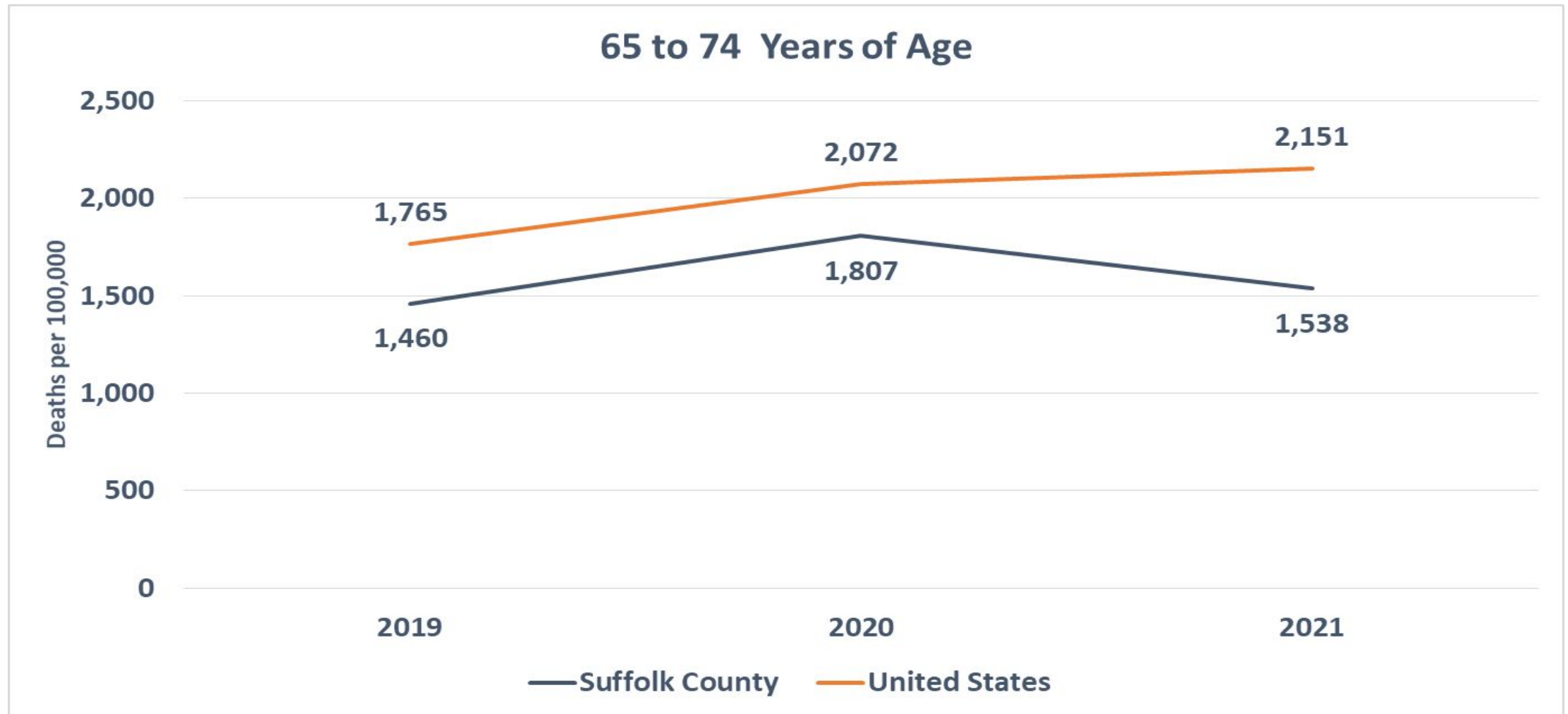
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# Death rates for the older population are lower in Suffolk County than the nation



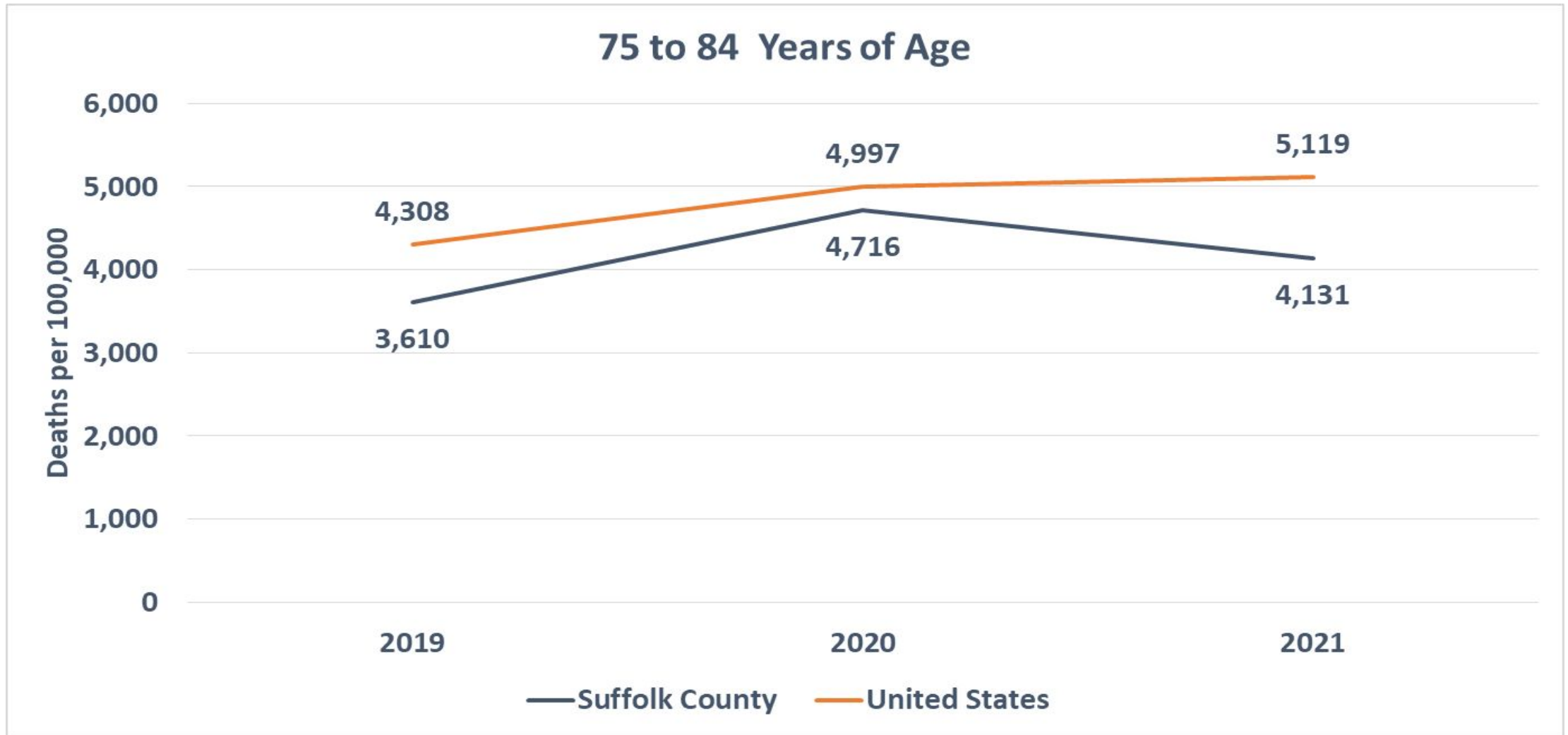
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Death rates increased in 2020 due to Covid but fell in Suffolk County in 2021



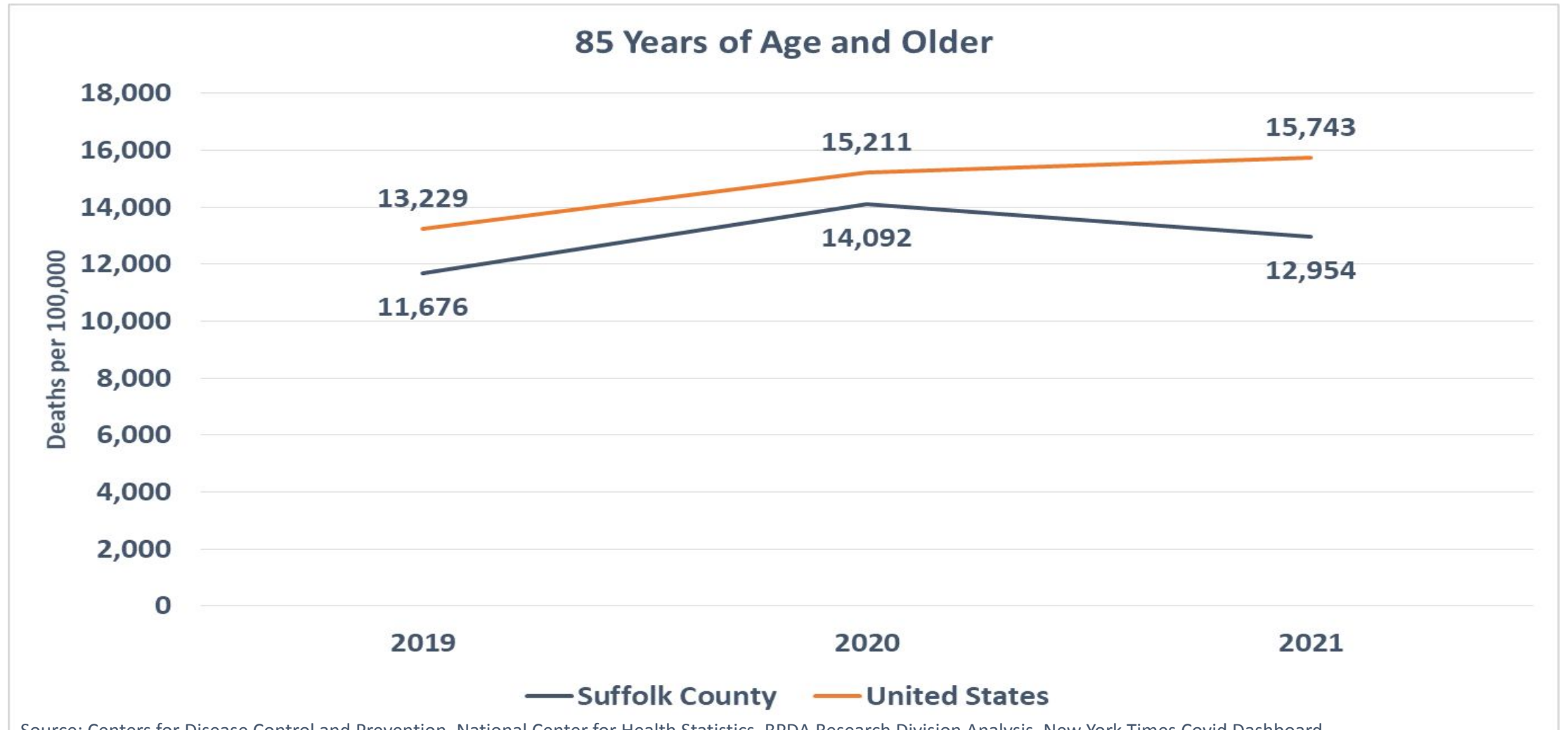
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Vaccine uptake and high quality medical care helped bring down death rates in Suffolk County



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Of 65+ population, 64% have bivalent booster in Massachusetts, compared to 43% nationally



# Age Strong in Boston

- Boston's population ages 70 and older is projected to grow at a faster rate from 2010 to 2030.
- 17.3% of this population has self-care difficulty and 26.5% has independent-living difficulty.
- Boston's population 55 and older is more likely to be foreign born, White, and Asian compared to the city's population.
- As this population ages, it is more likely to live alone and in poverty.
- During COVID-19, this population experience increased mortality but below that of the rest of the country.