



The Millennial Generation: A Demographic Bridge to America's Diverse Future

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Brookings Institution

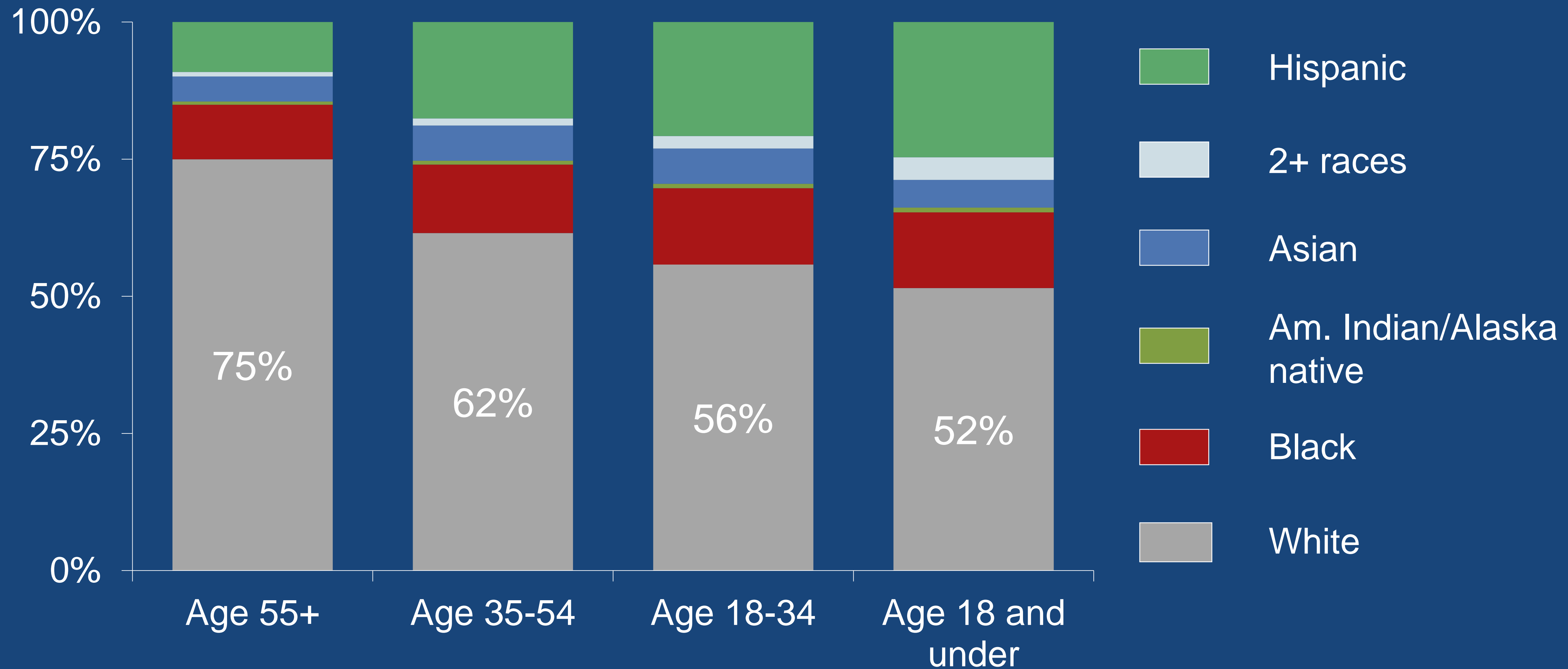
Washington, DC
January 30, 2018

- 1 Who are millennials and how distinct are they?
- 2 Where are millennials living?
- 3 How do their socioeconomic characteristics differ?
- 4 How will they serve as a “bridge” across generations?

1 Who are millennials and how distinct are they?



US race/ethnic profiles by age group



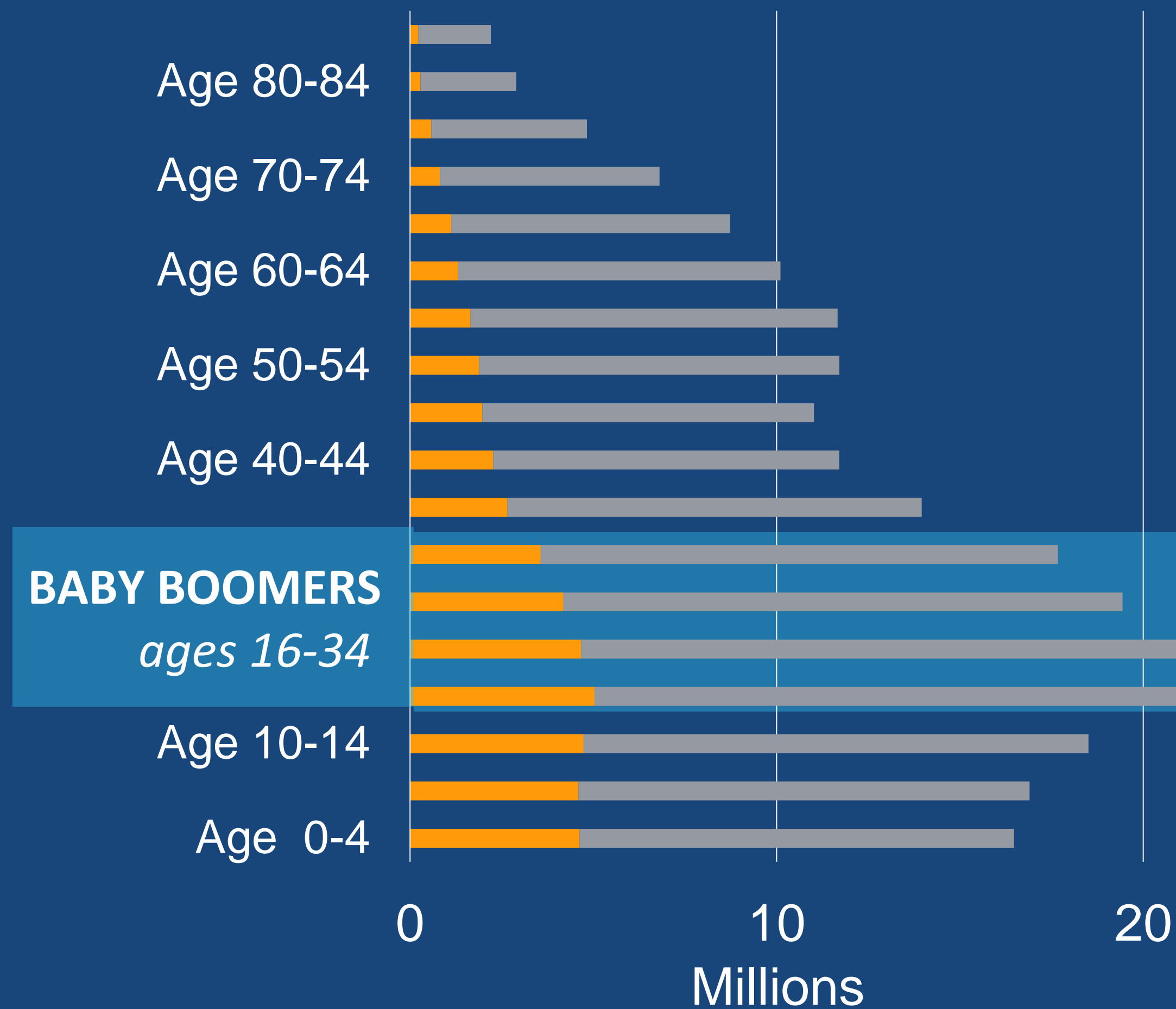
B

#Millennials

Source: 2015 US Census Population Estimates

Population Age Distributions, 1980 and 2015

1980



■ Minority ■ White

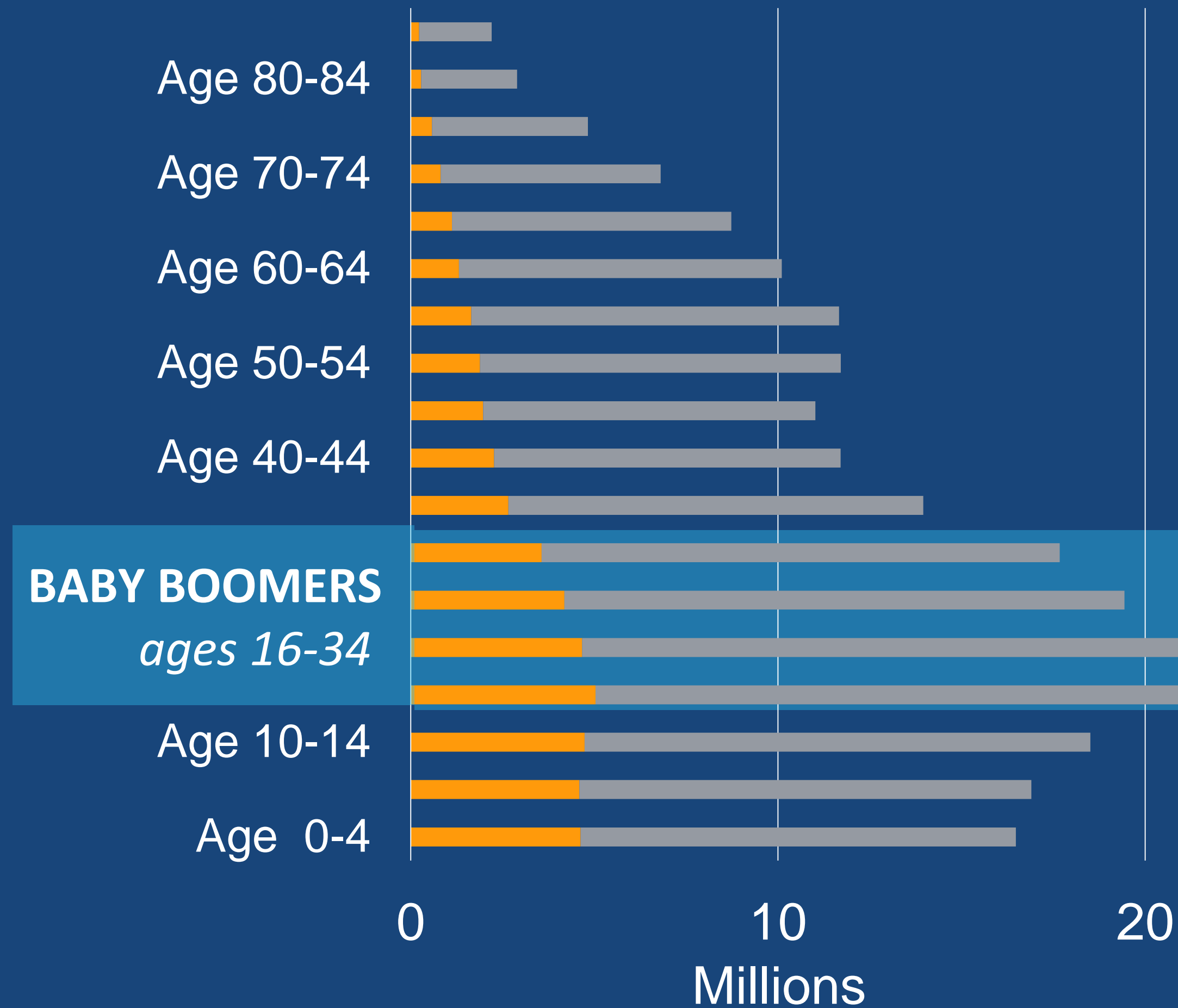
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#Millennials

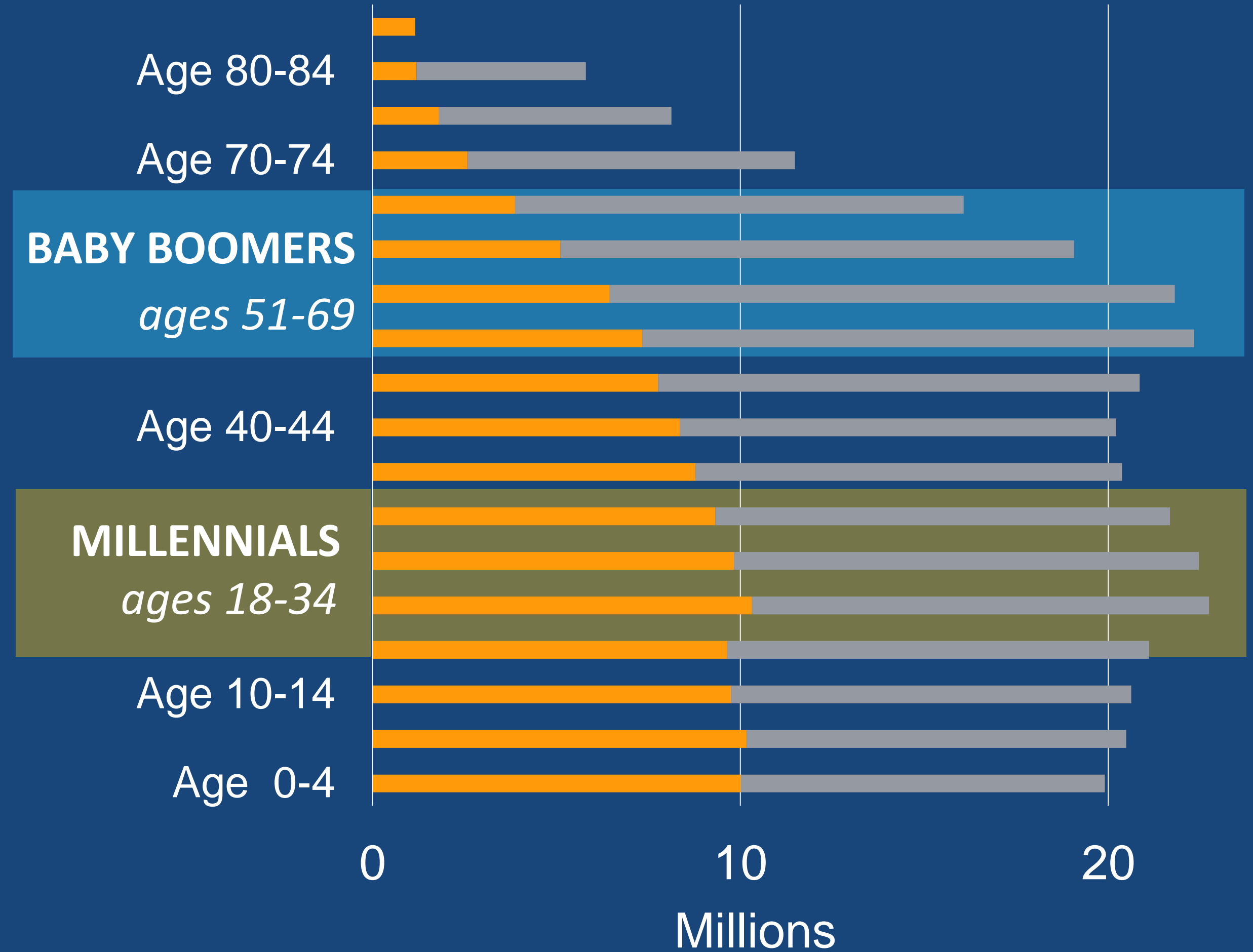
Source: U.S. Decennial Census and Population Estimates

Population Age Distributions, 1980 and 2015

1980



2015



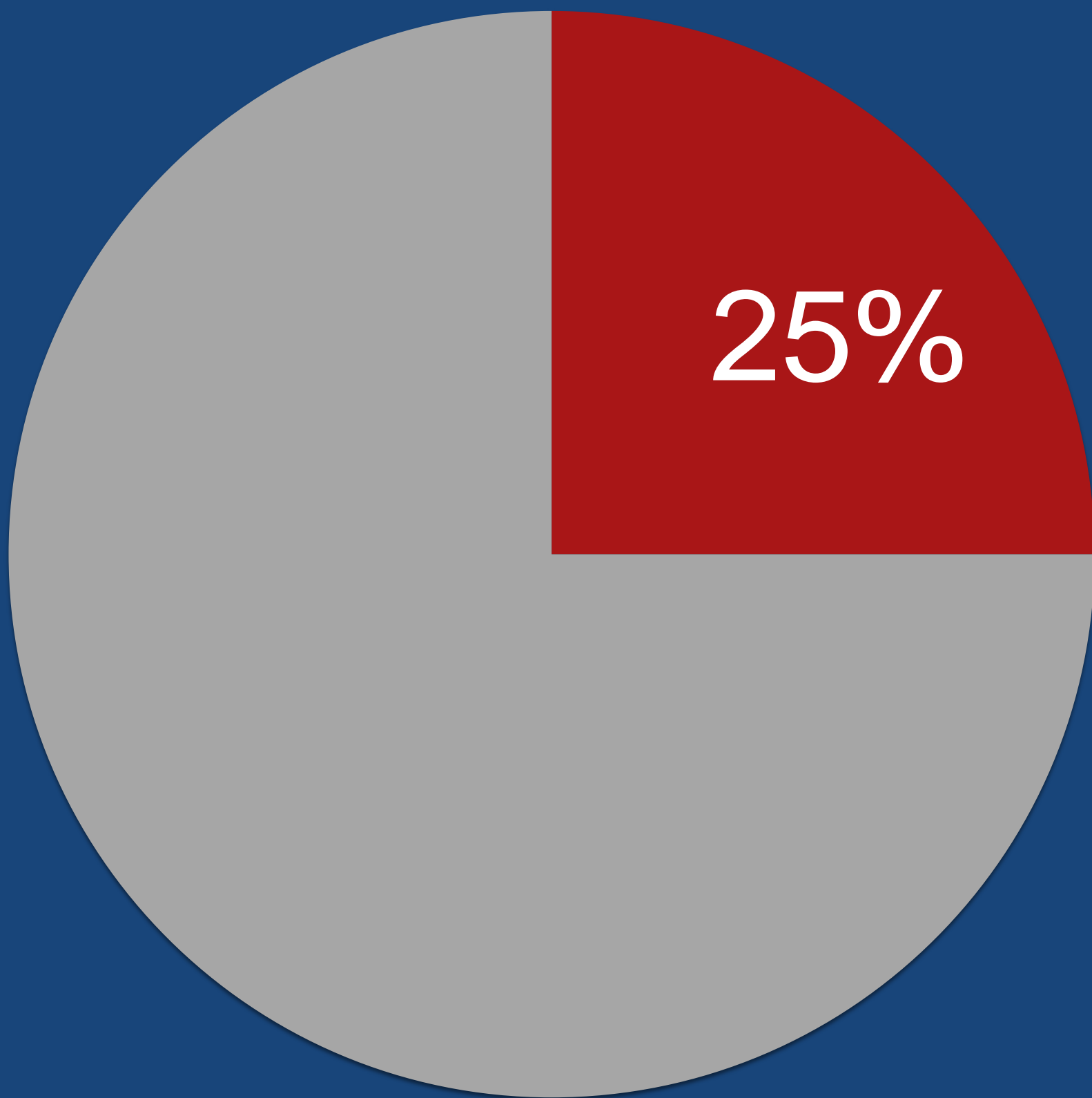
Minority White

B

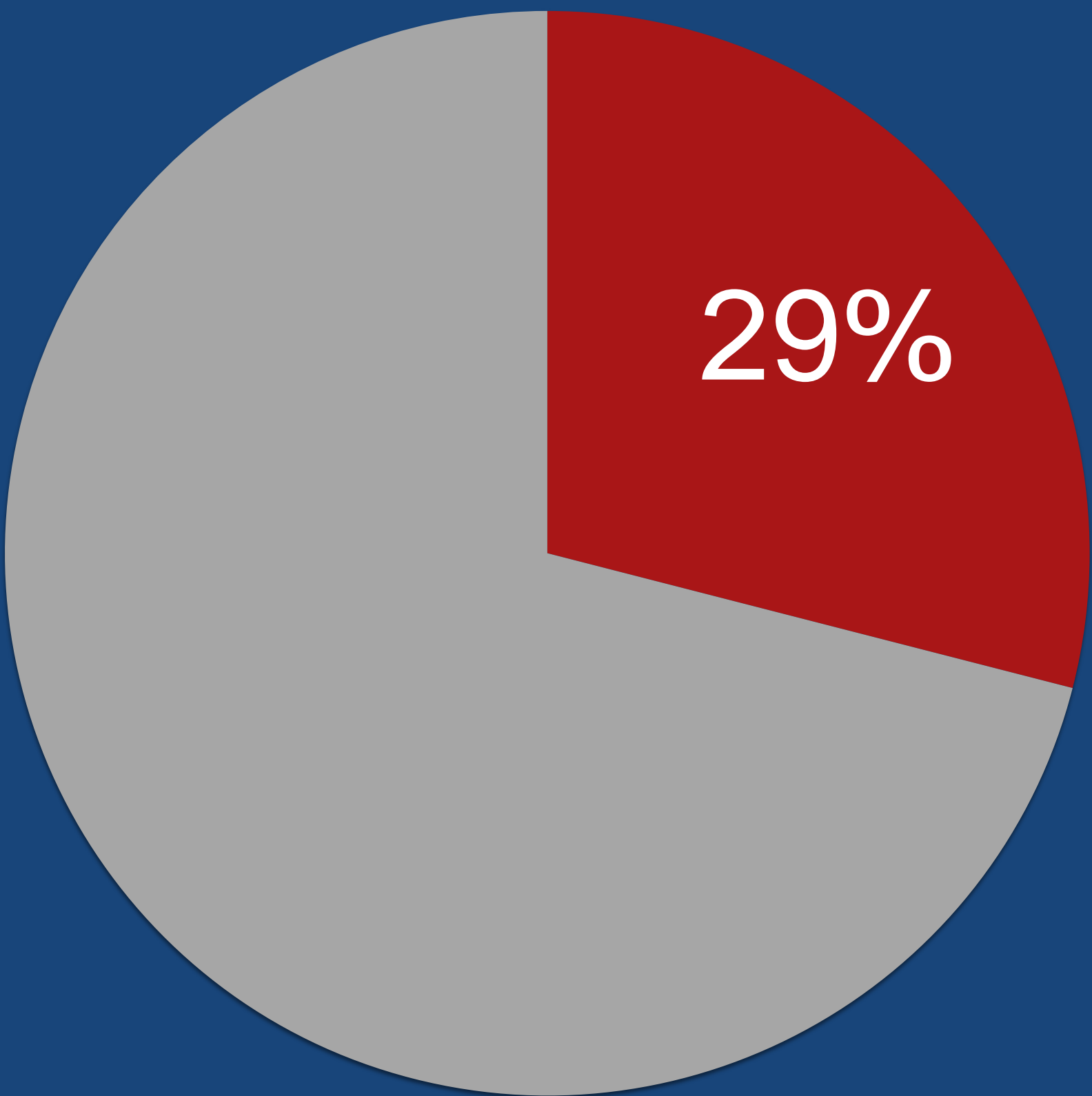
#Millennials

Source: U.S. Decennial Census and Population Estimates

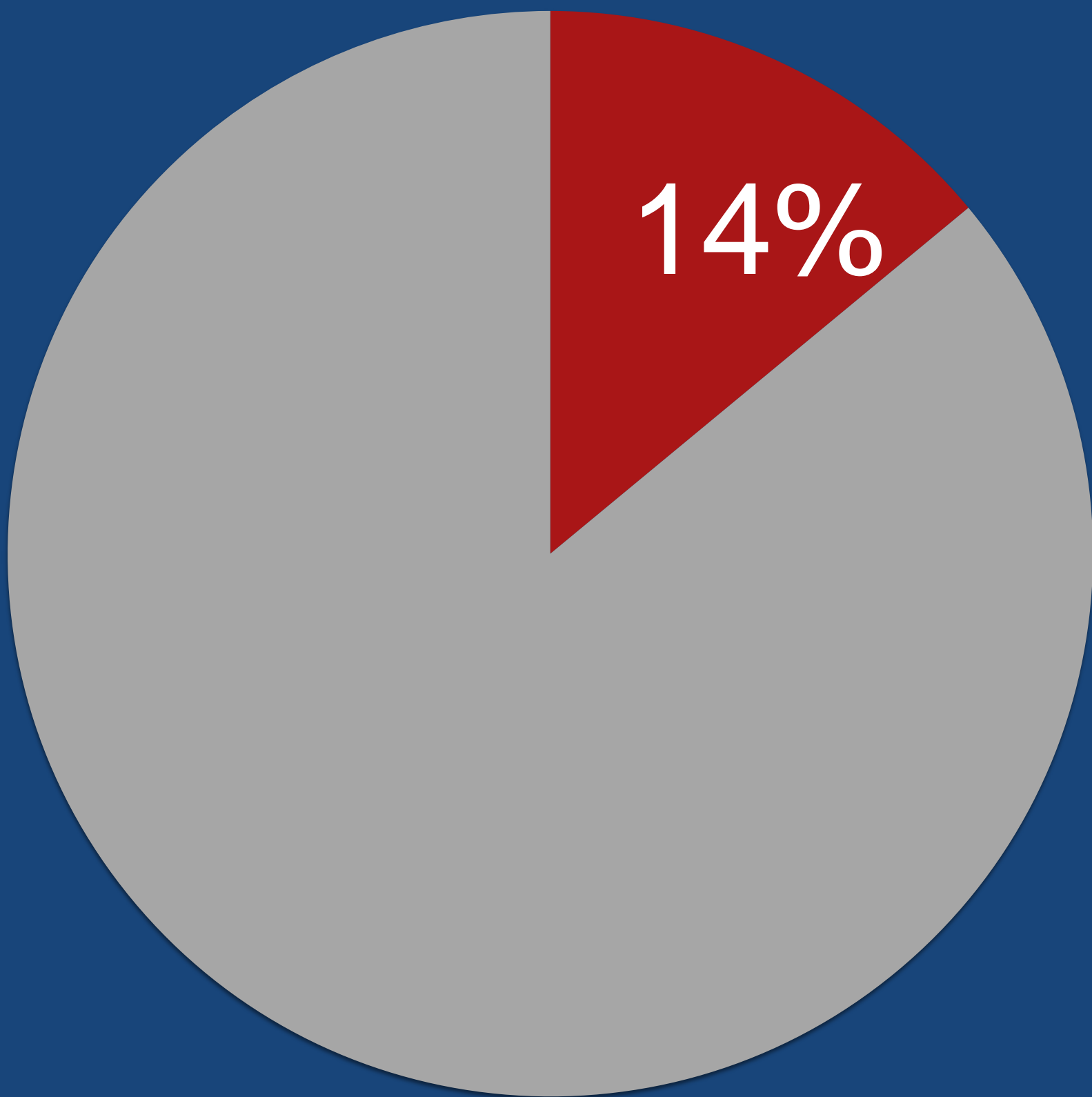
Global attributes of the millennial generation



Speak a language other than English at home

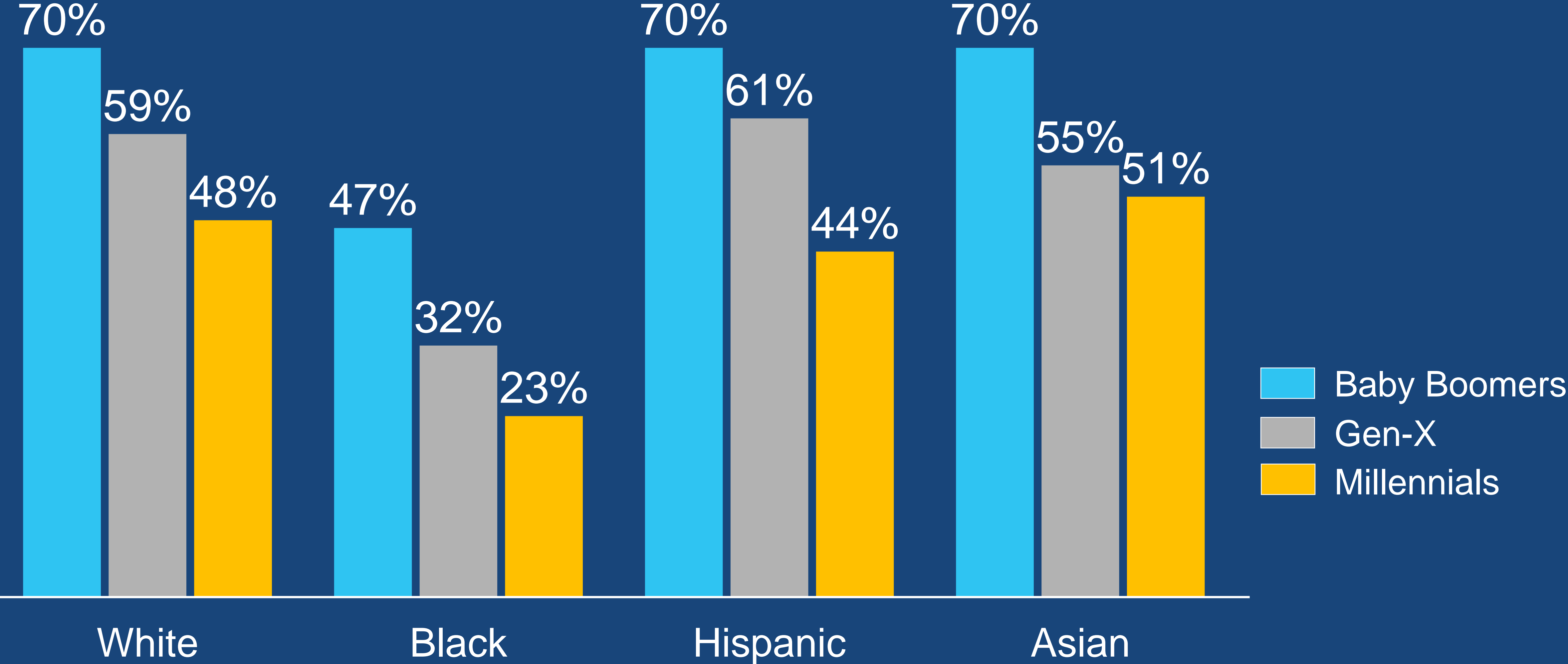


First- or second-generation American

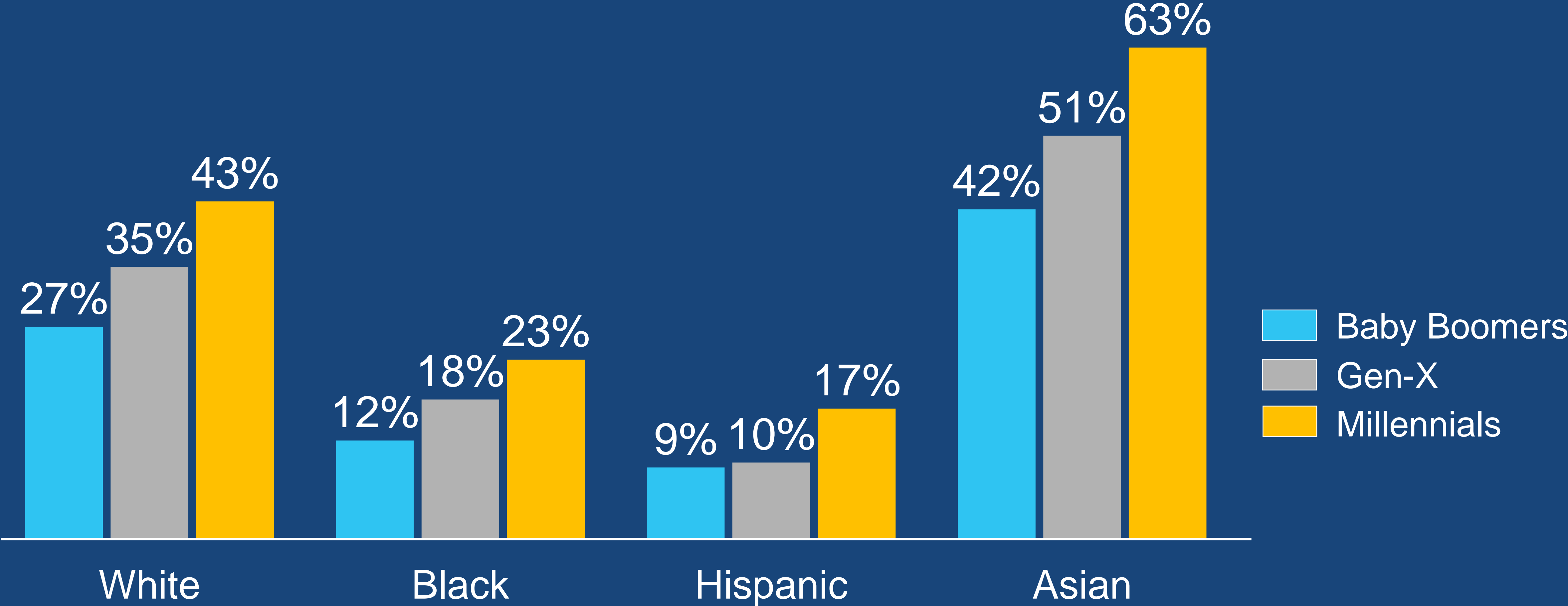


Share of marriages that are interracial

Generational differences: currently married by age 25-34



Generational differences: college graduates at age 25-34

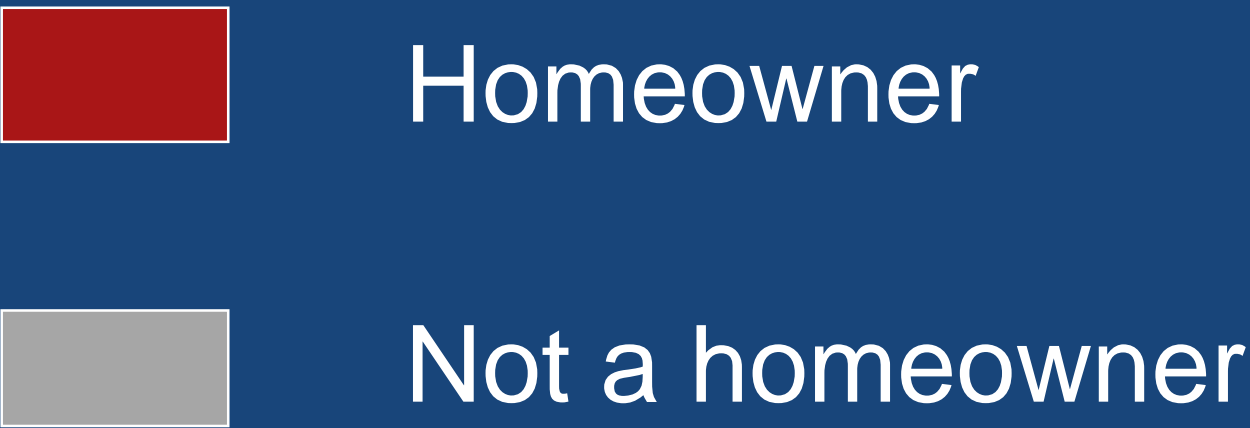
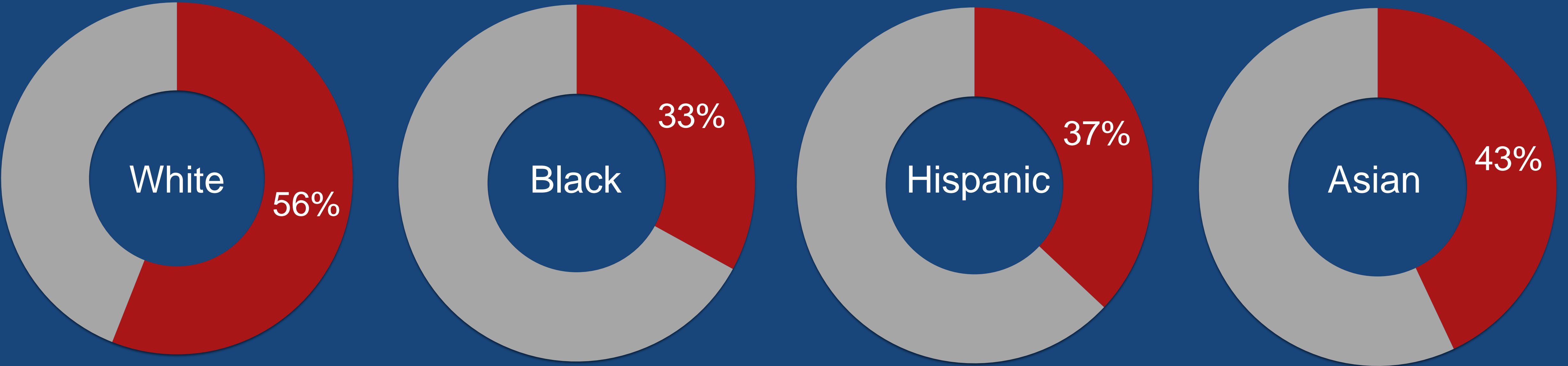


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#Millennials

Source: Current Population Survey

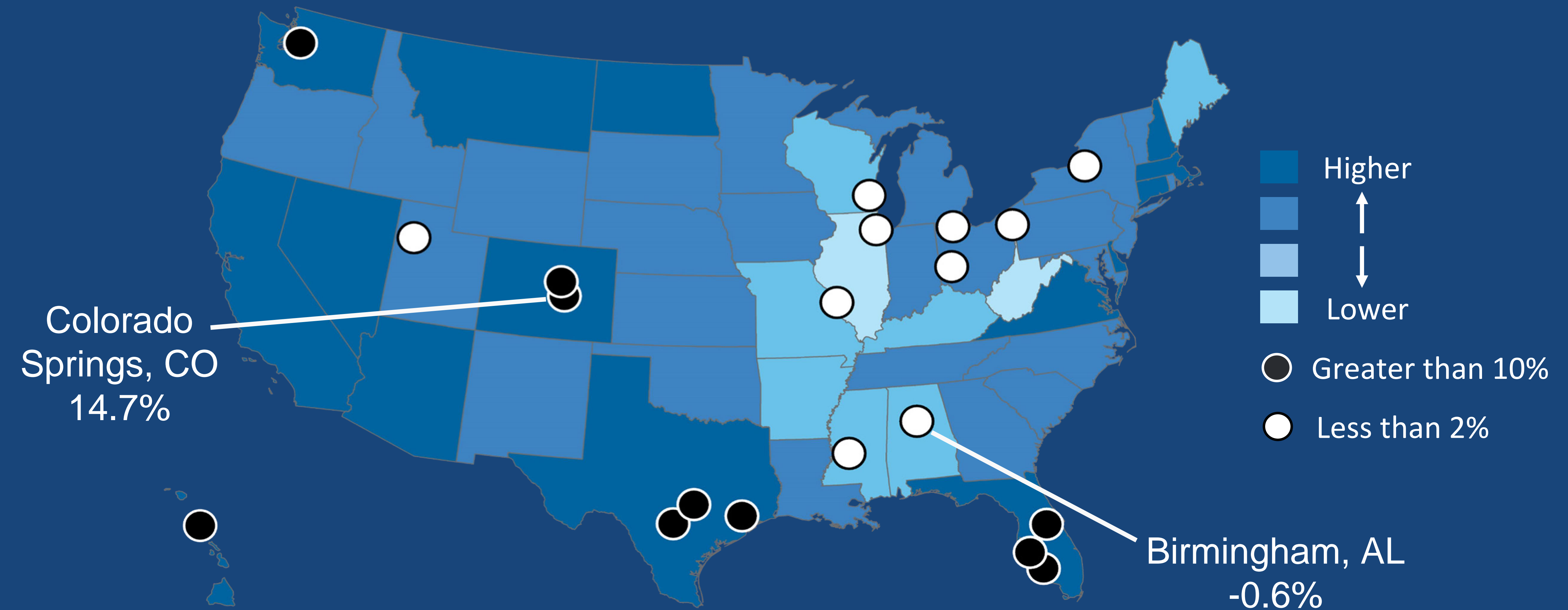
Homeownership by Race: Age 25-34



2 Where are millennials living?



Millennial Population Growth, 2010-2015



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#Millennials

Source: 2015 US Census Population Estimates

Greatest millennial-gaining metros: 2010-2015

Whites

Dallas
Denver
Houston
San Francisco
Seattle



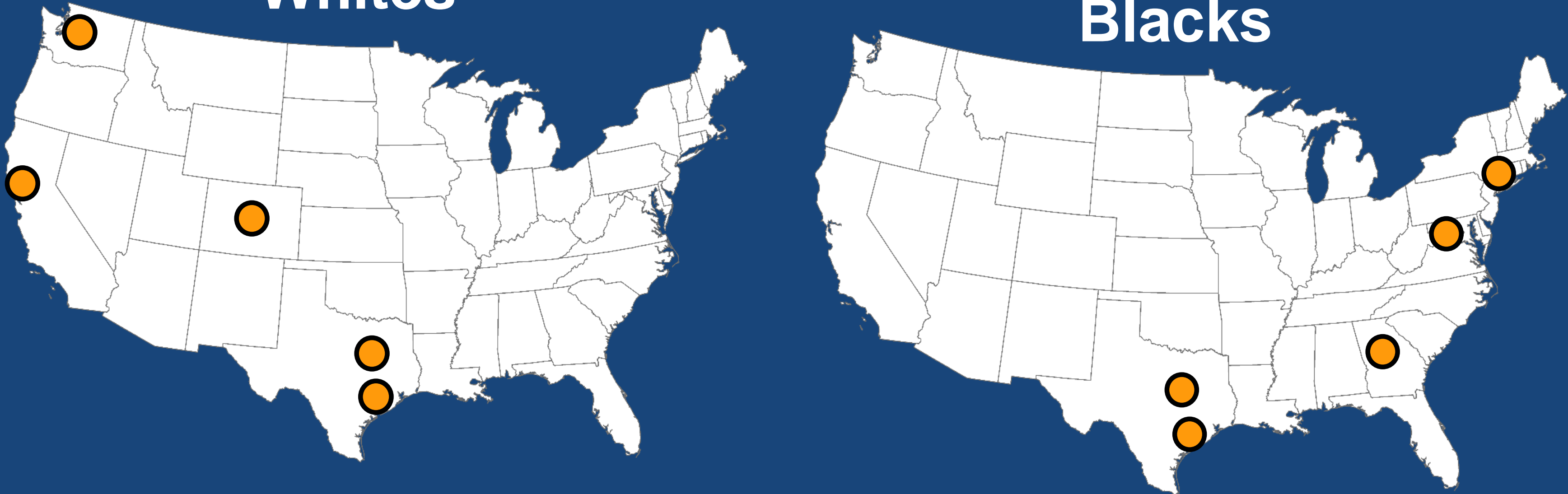
Greatest millennial-gaining metros: 2010-2015

Whites

Blacks

- Dallas
- Denver
- Houston
- San Francisco
- Seattle

- Atlanta
- Dallas
- Houston
- New York
- Washington D.C.



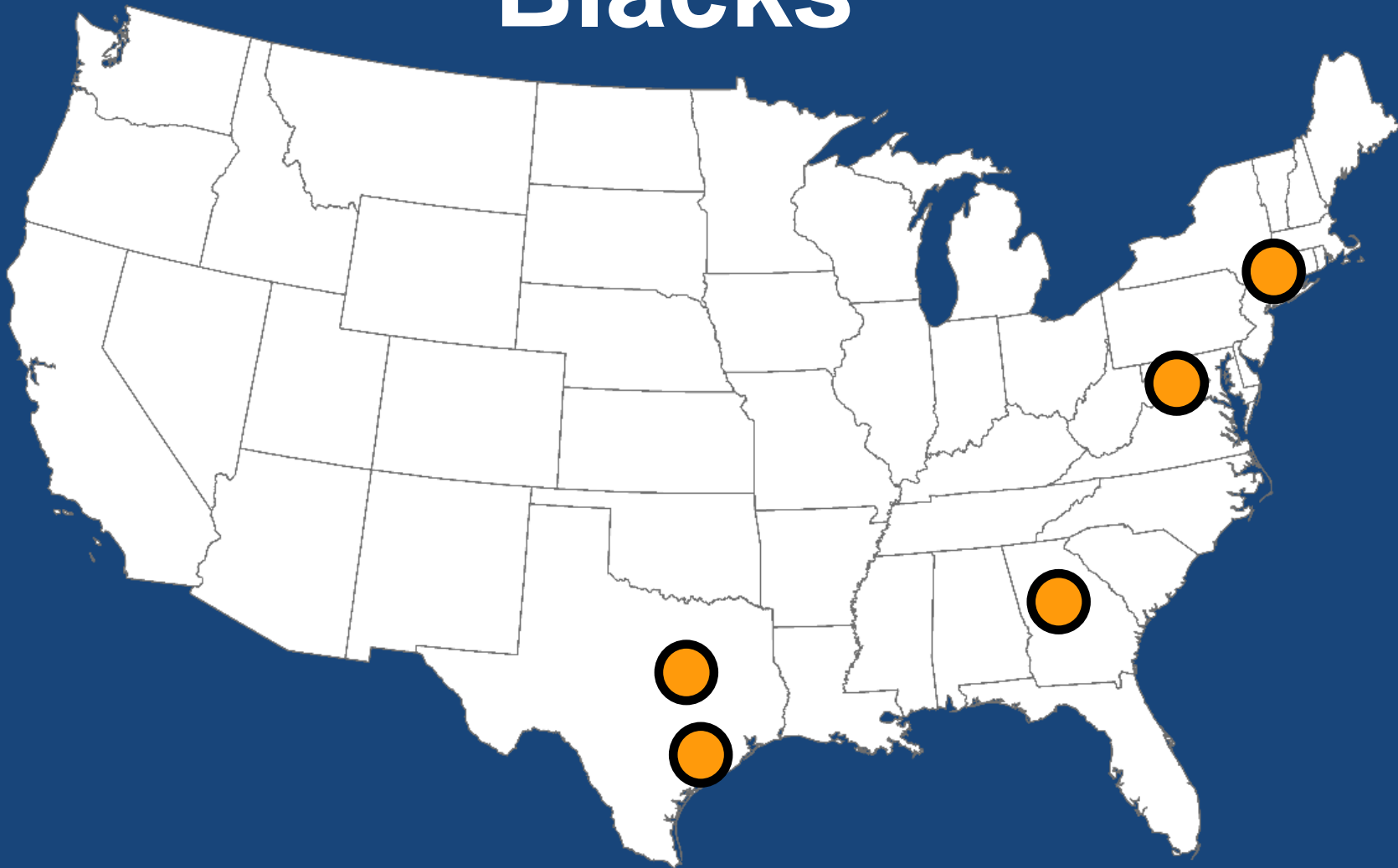
Greatest millennial-gaining metros: 2010-2015

Whites



Dallas
Denver
Houston
San Francisco
Seattle

Blacks



Atlanta
Dallas
Houston
New York
Washington D.C.

Hispanics



Houston
Los Angeles
Miami
Riverside
San Antonio

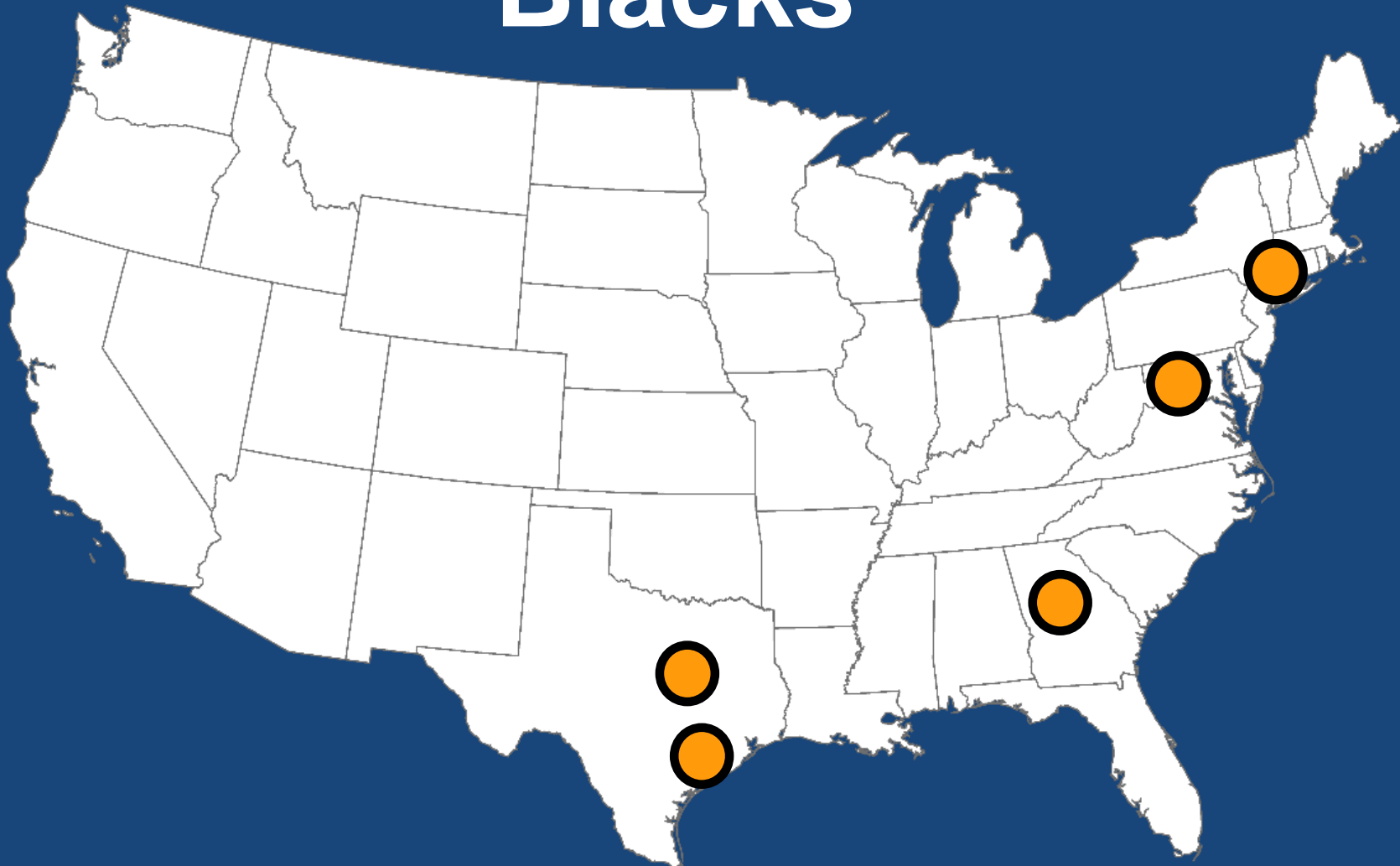
Greatest millennial-gaining metros: 2010-2015

Whites



Dallas
Denver
Houston
San Francisco
Seattle

Blacks



Atlanta
Dallas
Houston
New York
Washington D.C.

Hispanics



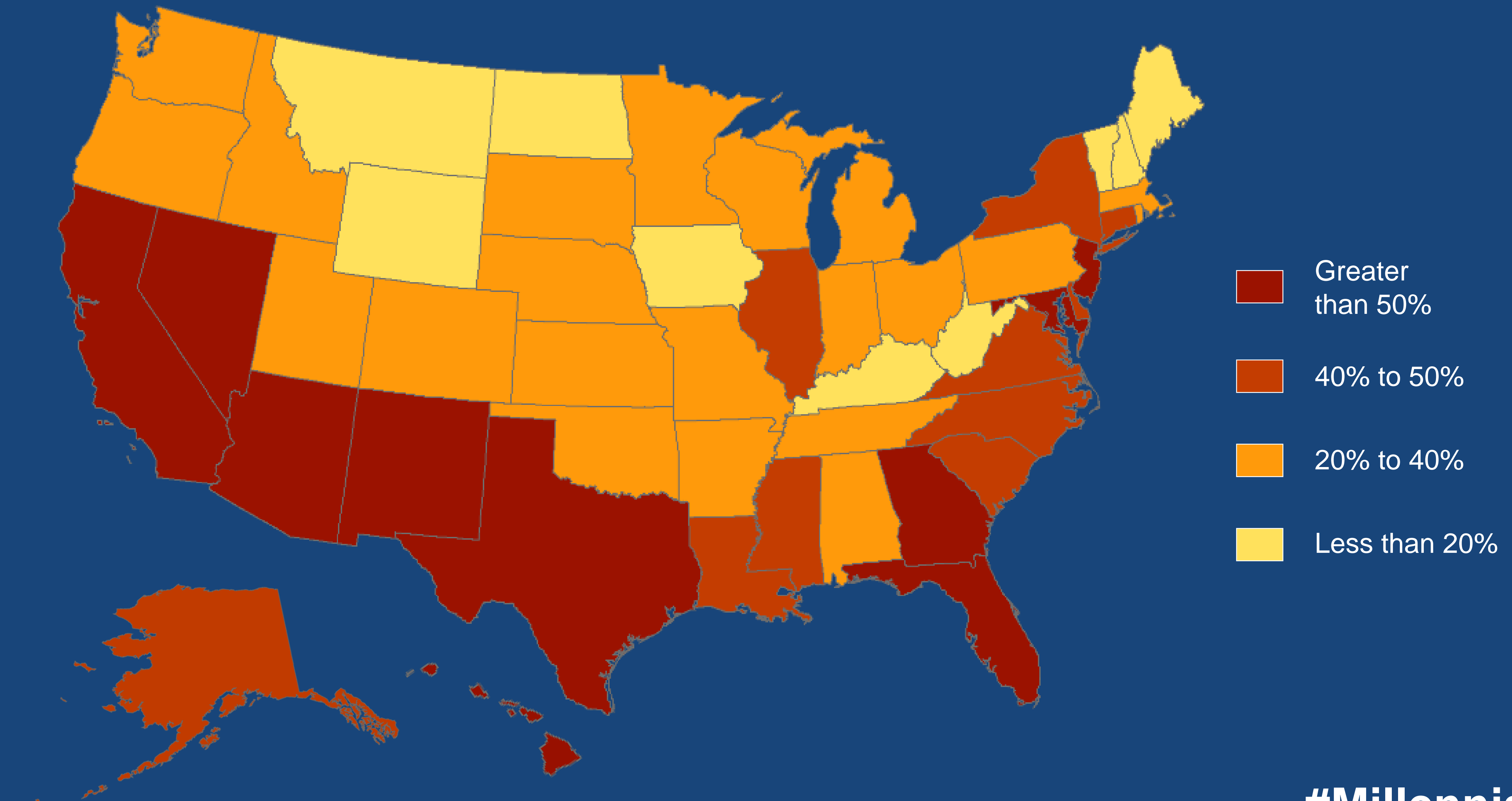
Houston
Los Angeles
Miami
Riverside
San Antonio

Asians

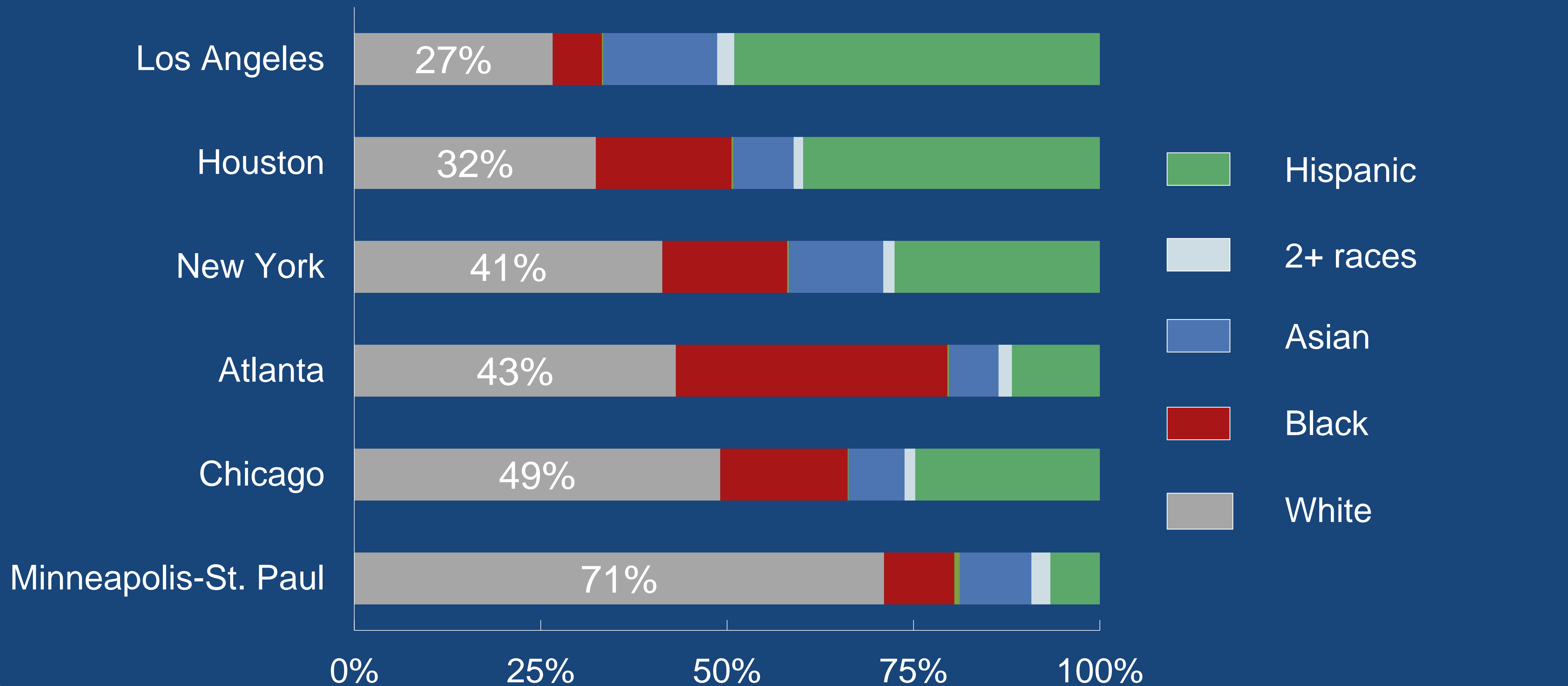


Los Angeles
Houston
New York
San Francisco
Seattle

Millennials: minority shares of state populations

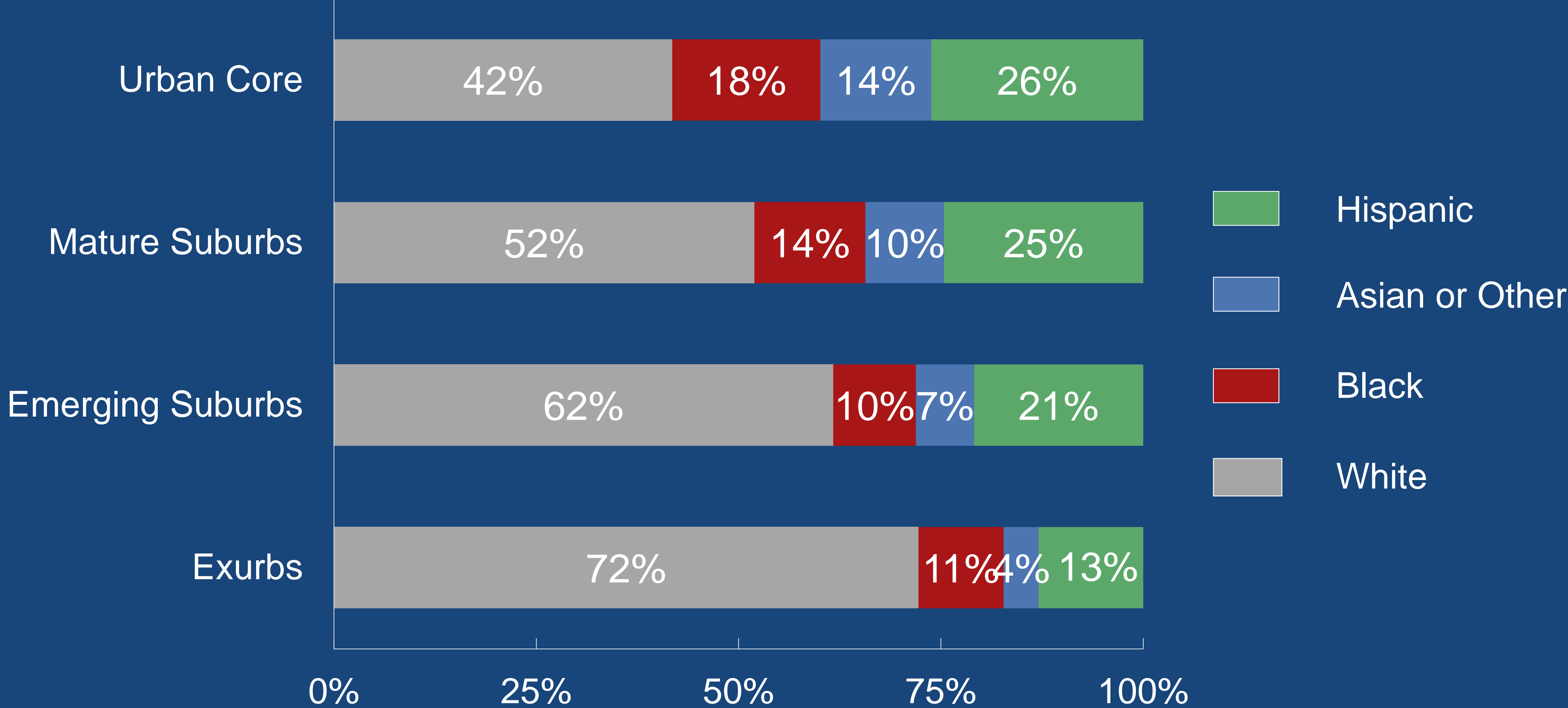


Millennial racial/ethnic profiles by metro area



Source: 2015 US Census Population Estimates

Millennial Racial Profiles of Urban-Suburban Areas



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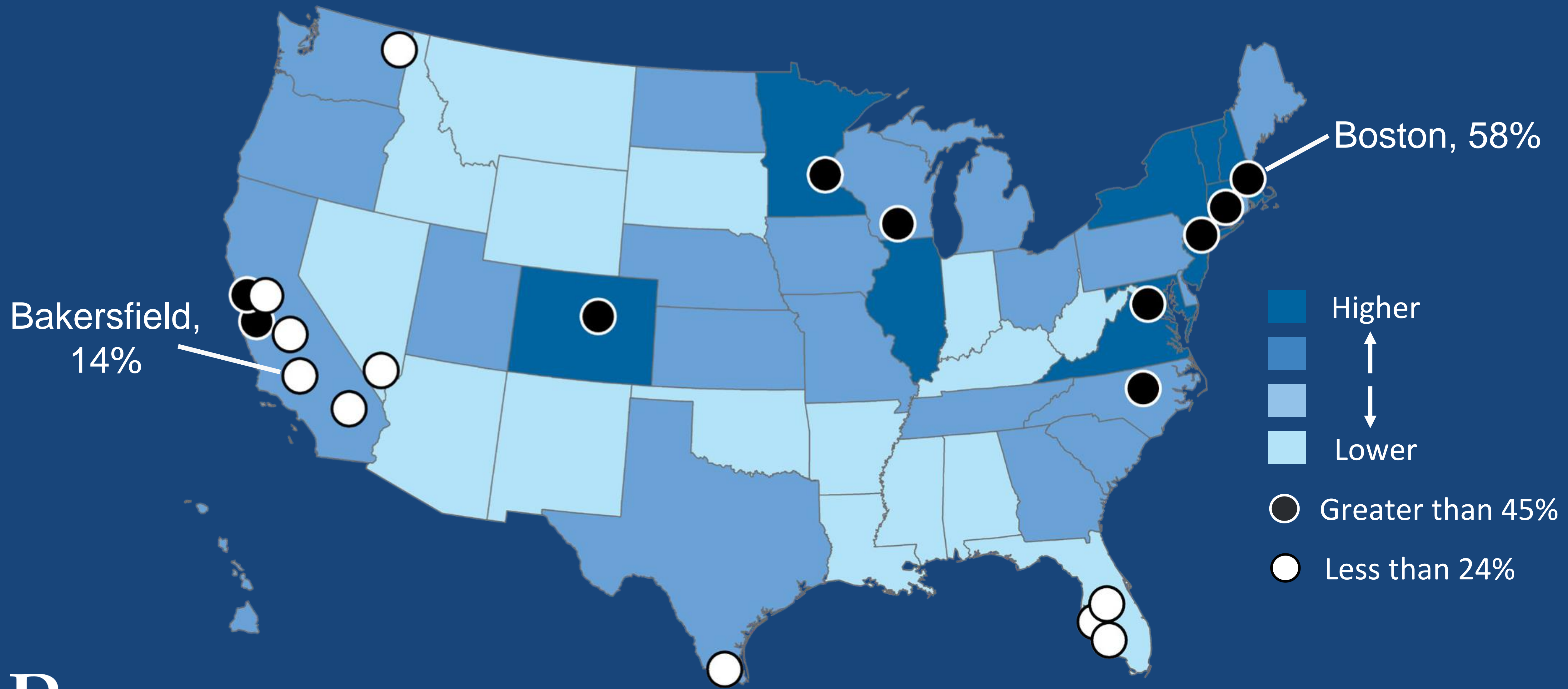
Source: 2015 US Census Population Estimates

#Millennials

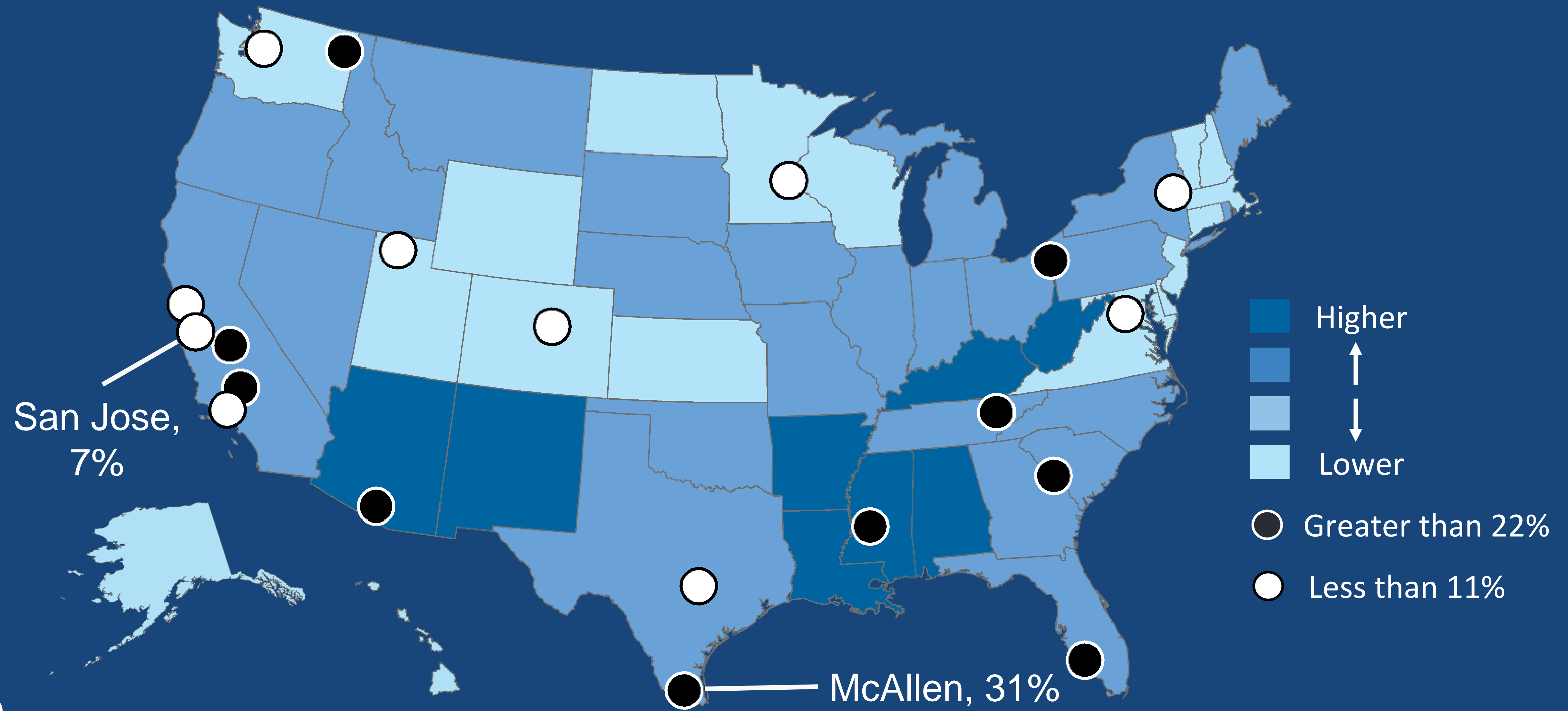
3 How do their socioeconomic characteristics differ?



Millennials, age 25-34: percent college graduates



Millennials, age 25-34: percent in poverty

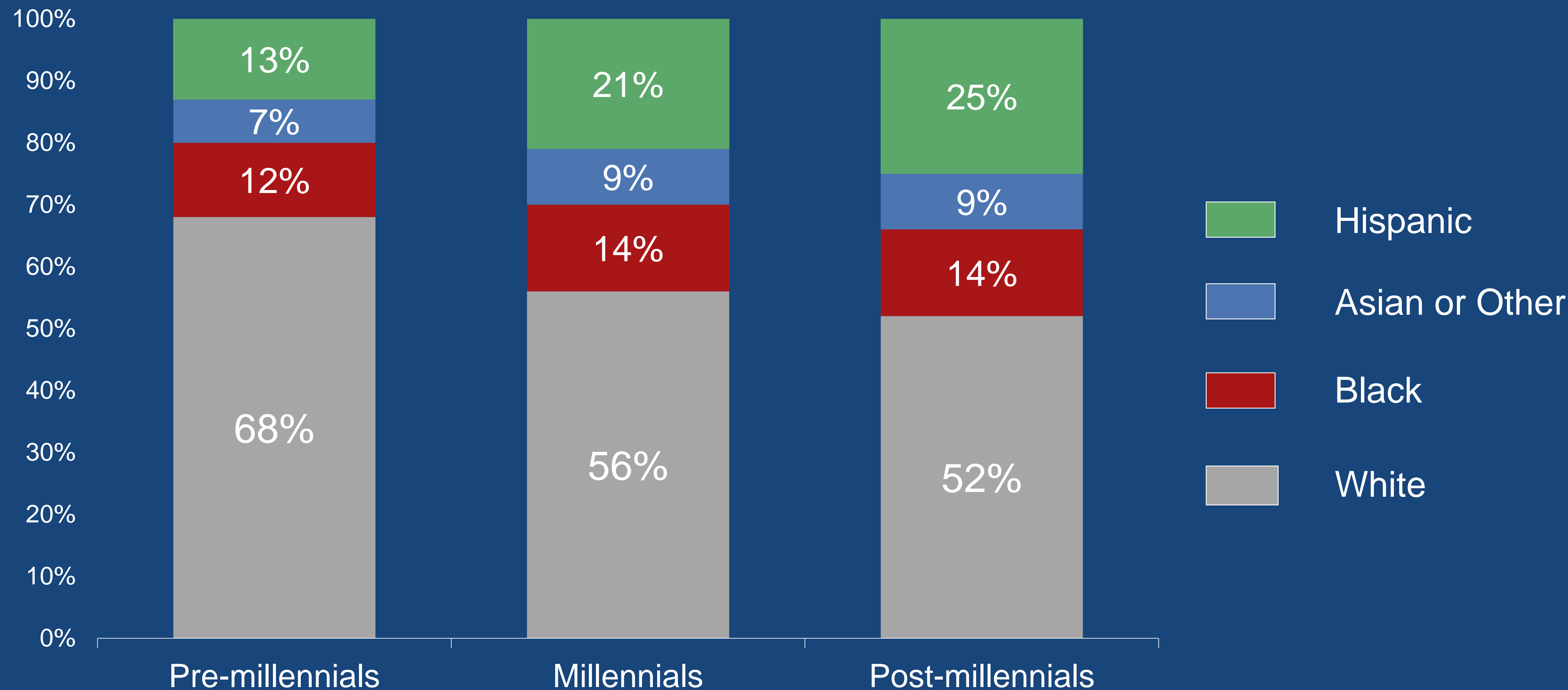


Source: American Community Survey

4 How will they serve as a “bridge” across generations?



Cultural Generation Gap: white share differences across generations



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Source: 2015 US Census Population Estimates

States with the largest cultural generation gaps

Cultural generation gap

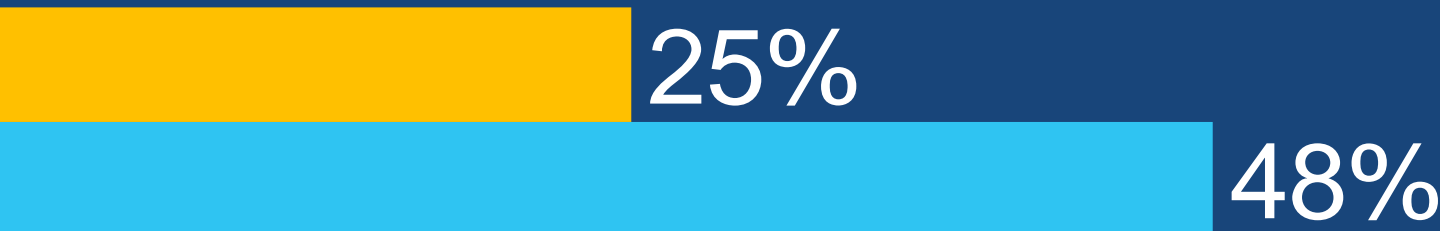
27%

Arizona



23%

New Mexico



23%

Nevada



22%

Rhode Island



21%

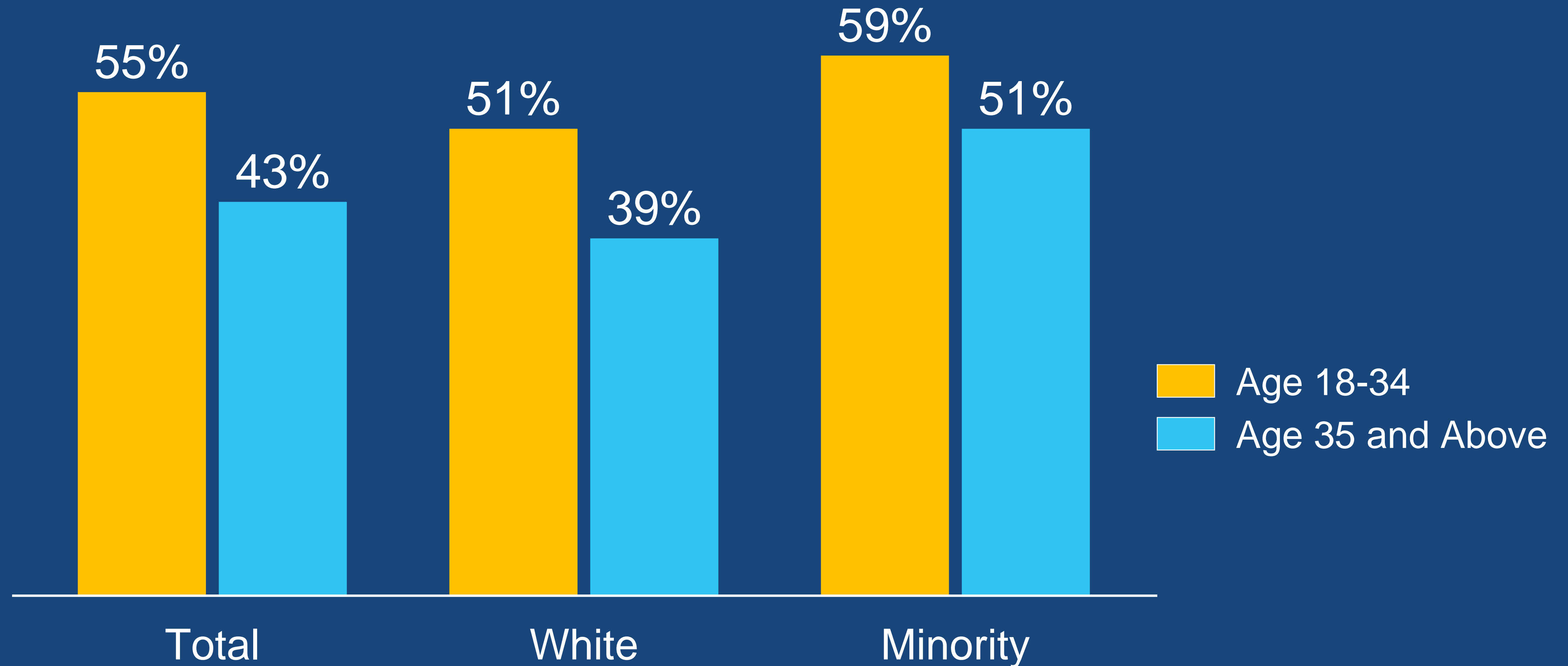
Oklahoma



■ Percent White Under Age 18

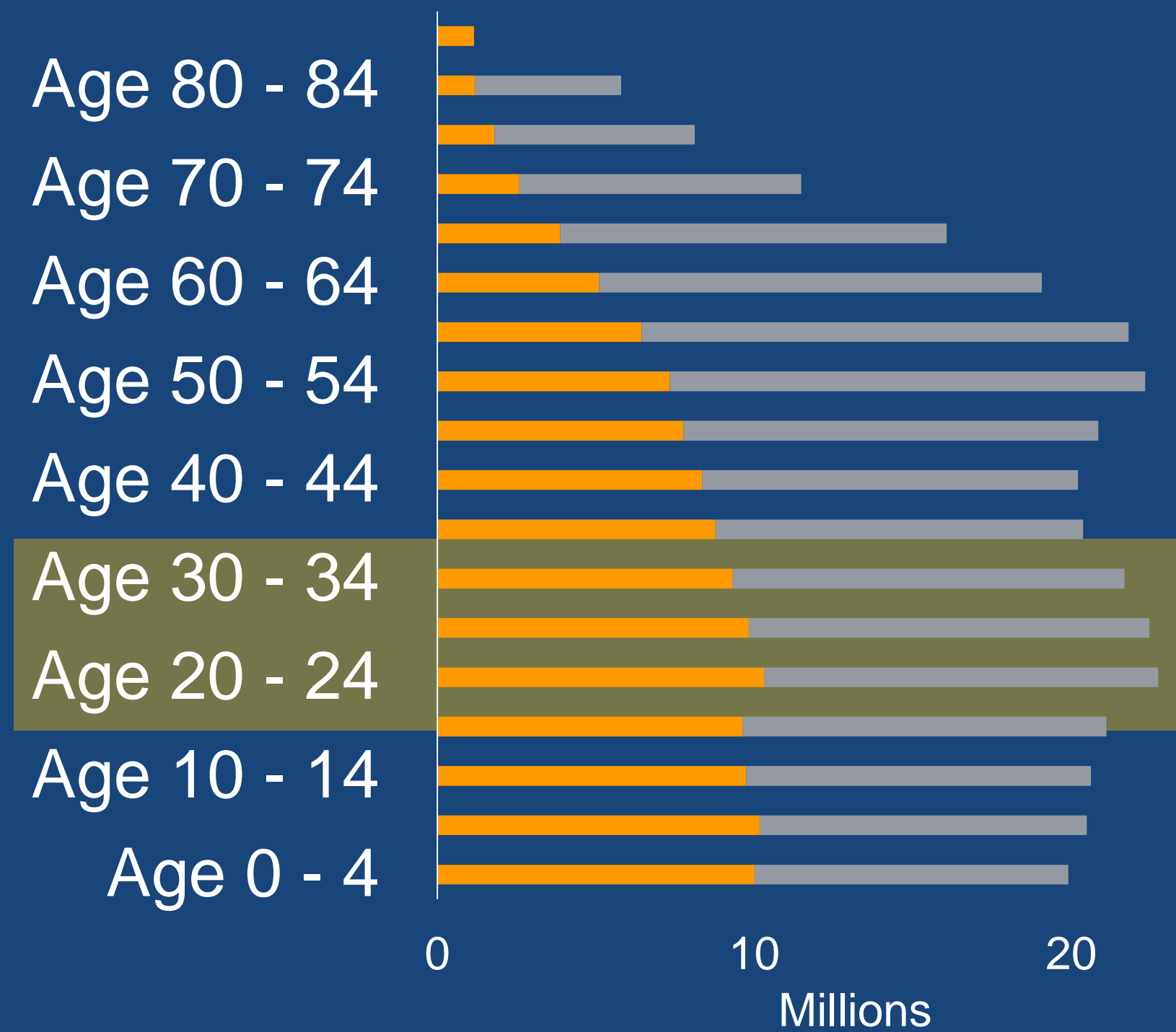
■ Percent White Over Age 35

Share of people who agree:
“Since 1950, American culture has mostly changed for the better”



Aging of the Millennial Population

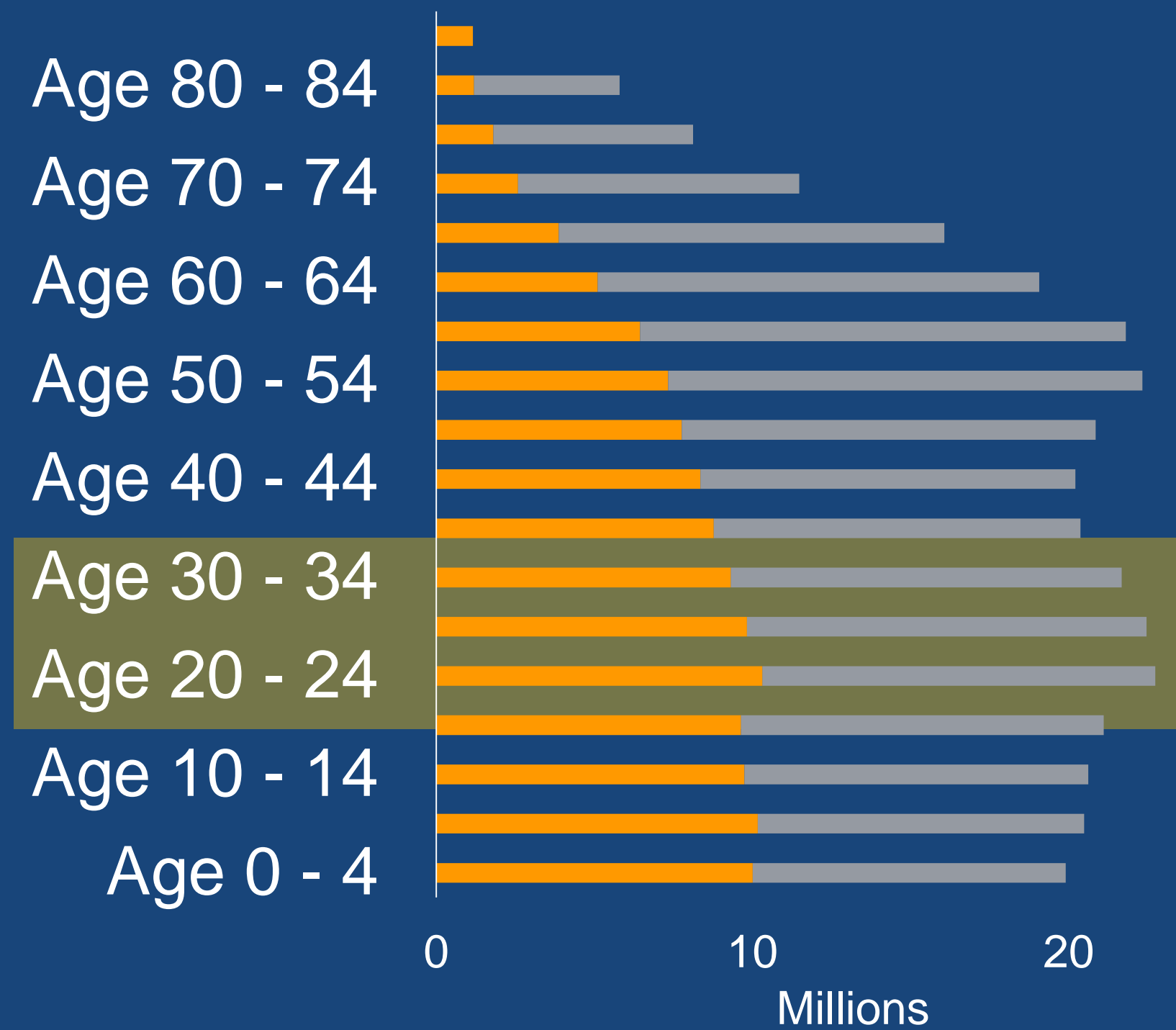
2015



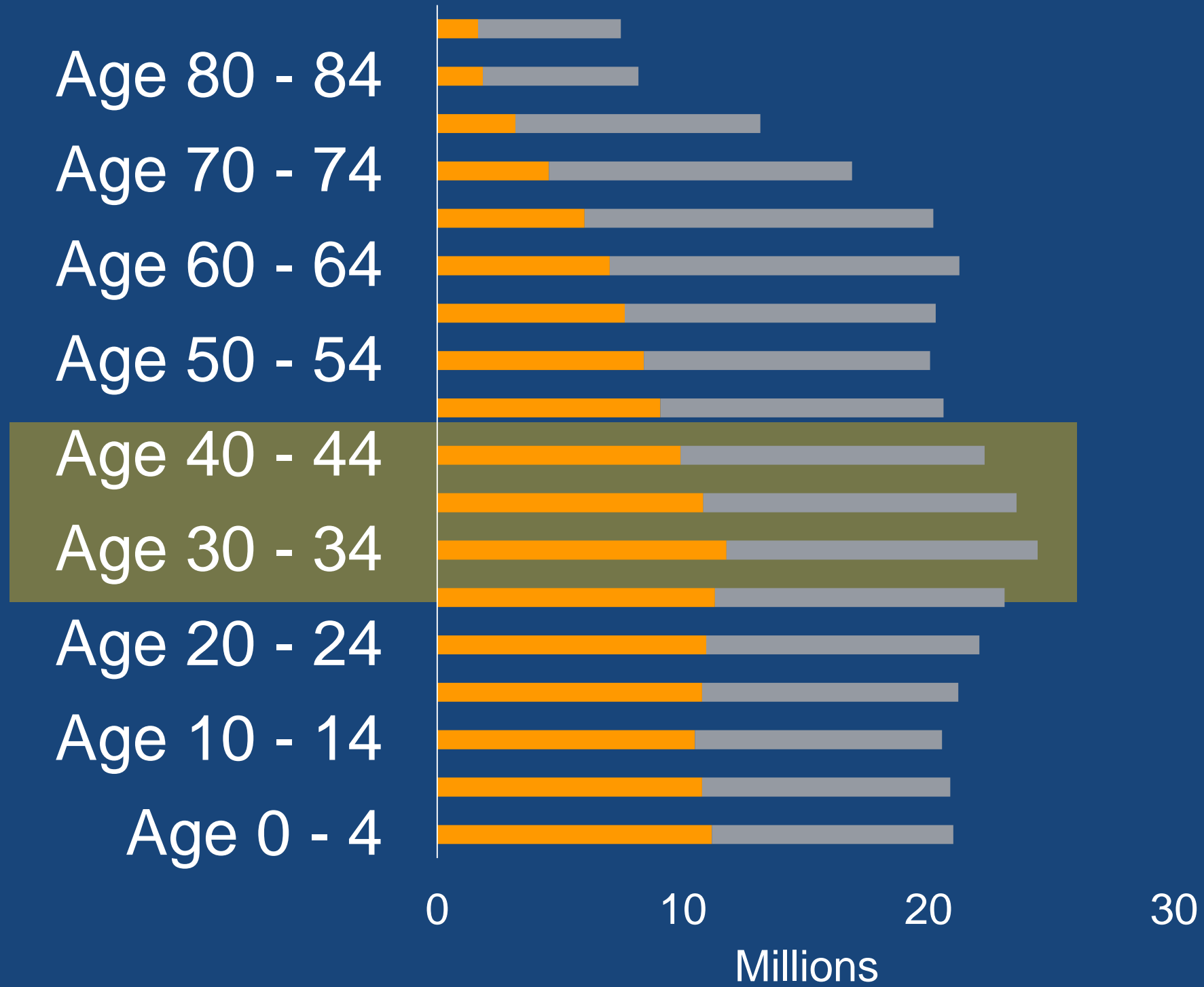
 Minority  White

Aging of the Millennial Population

2015



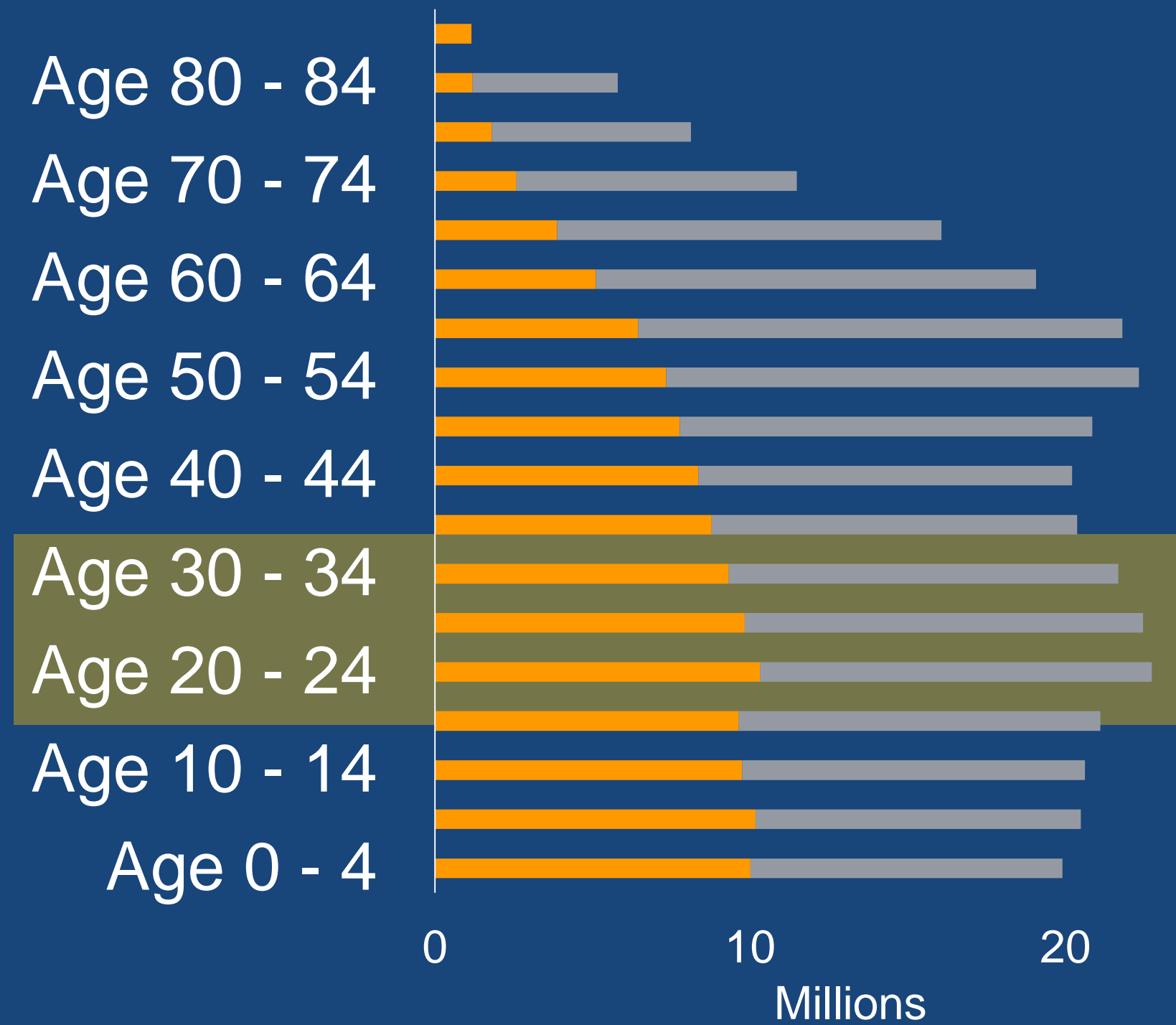
2025



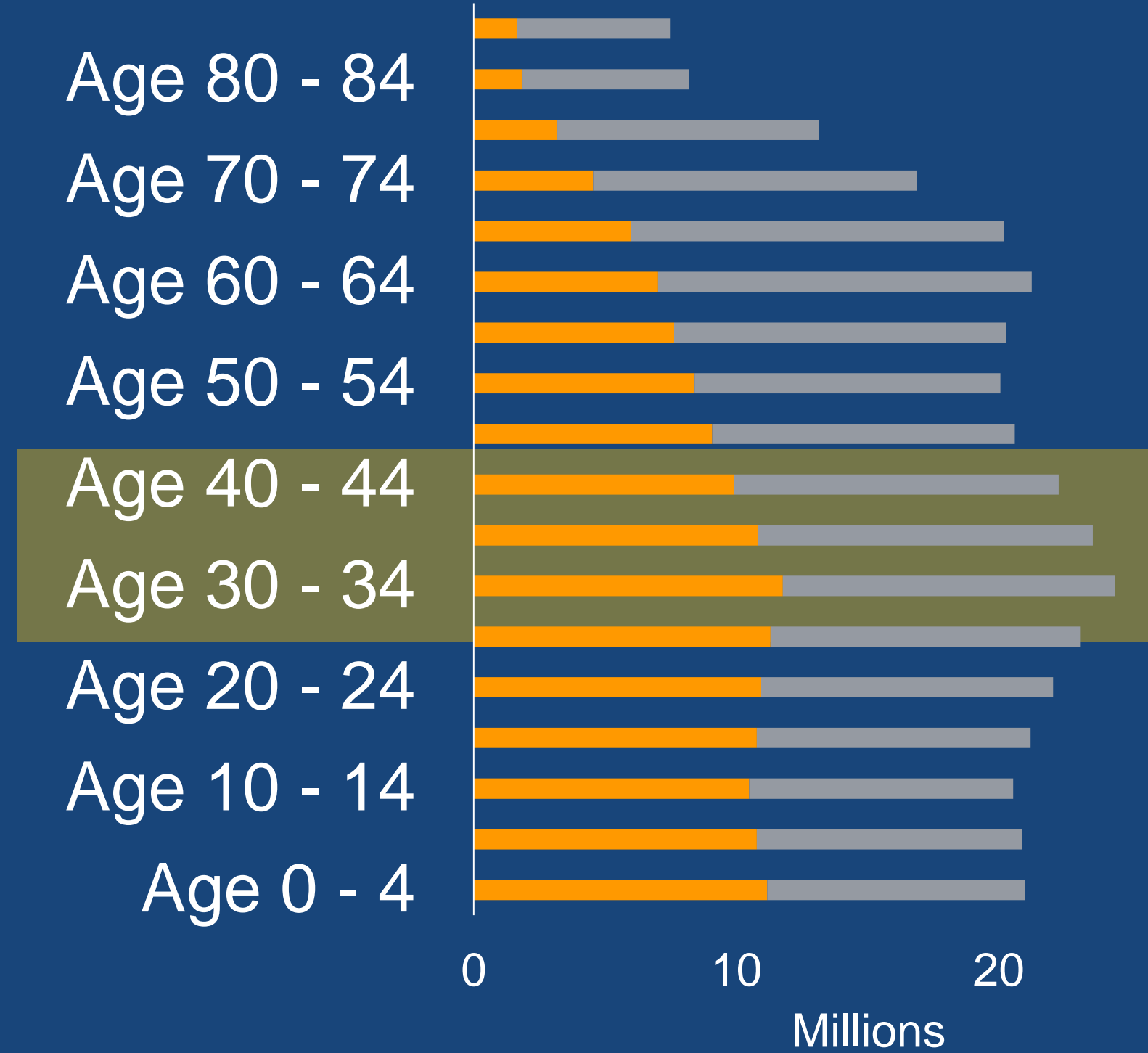
Minority White

Aging of the Millennial Population

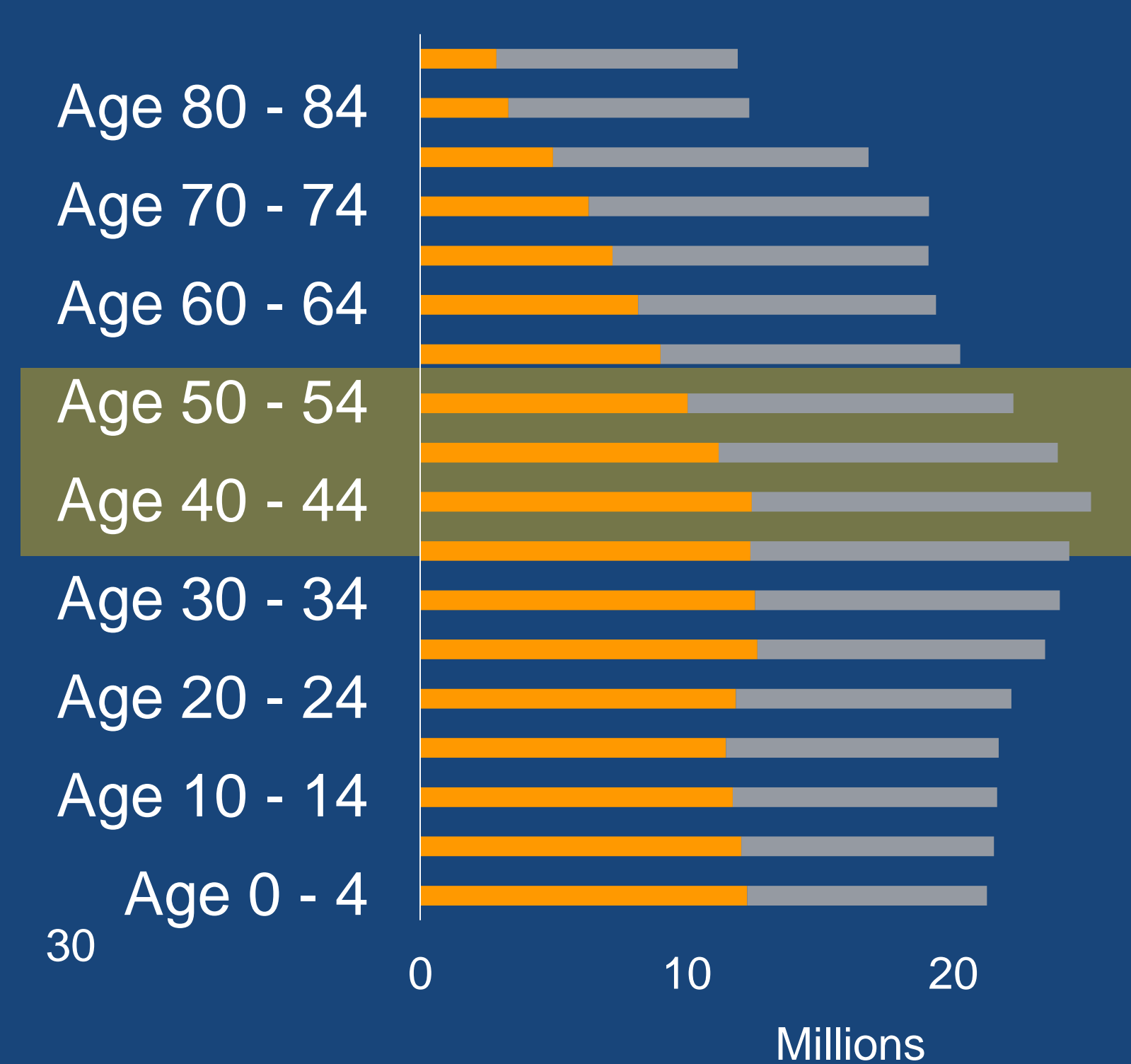
2015



2025



2035

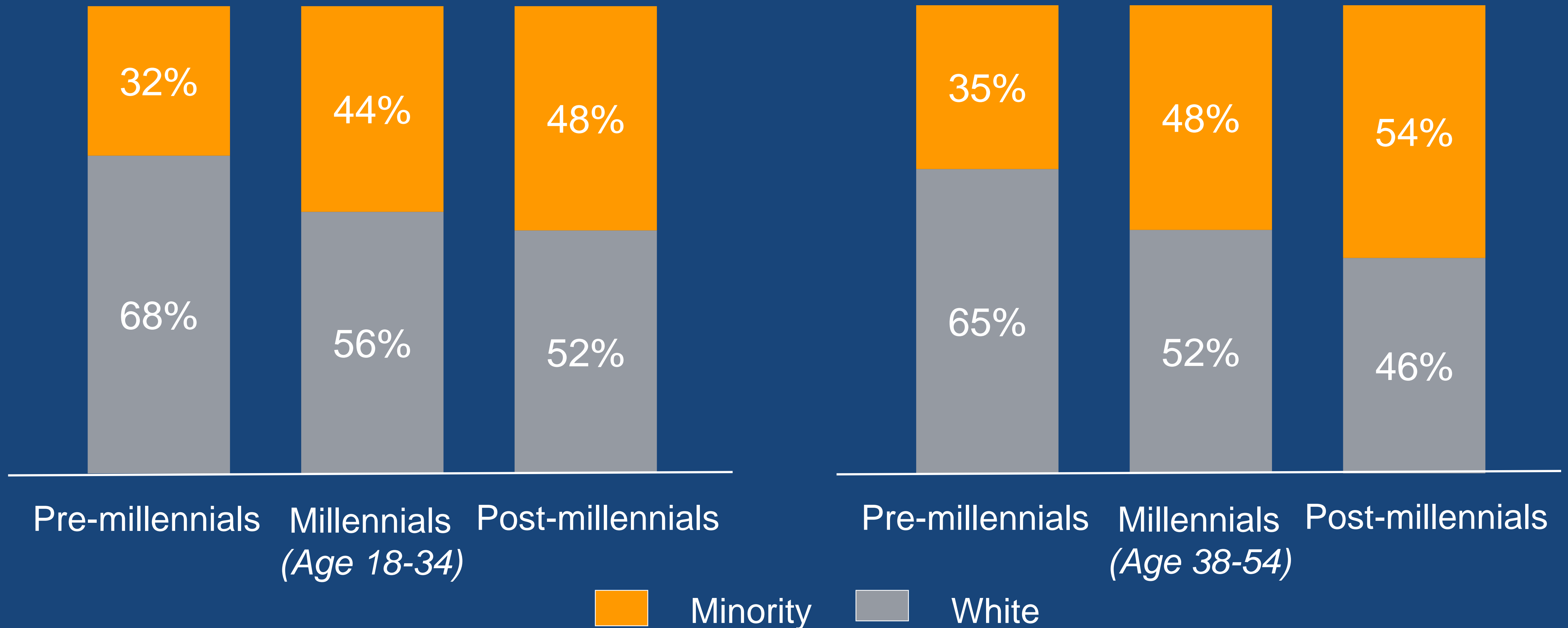


 Minority  White

Cultural generation gaps over time

2015

2035

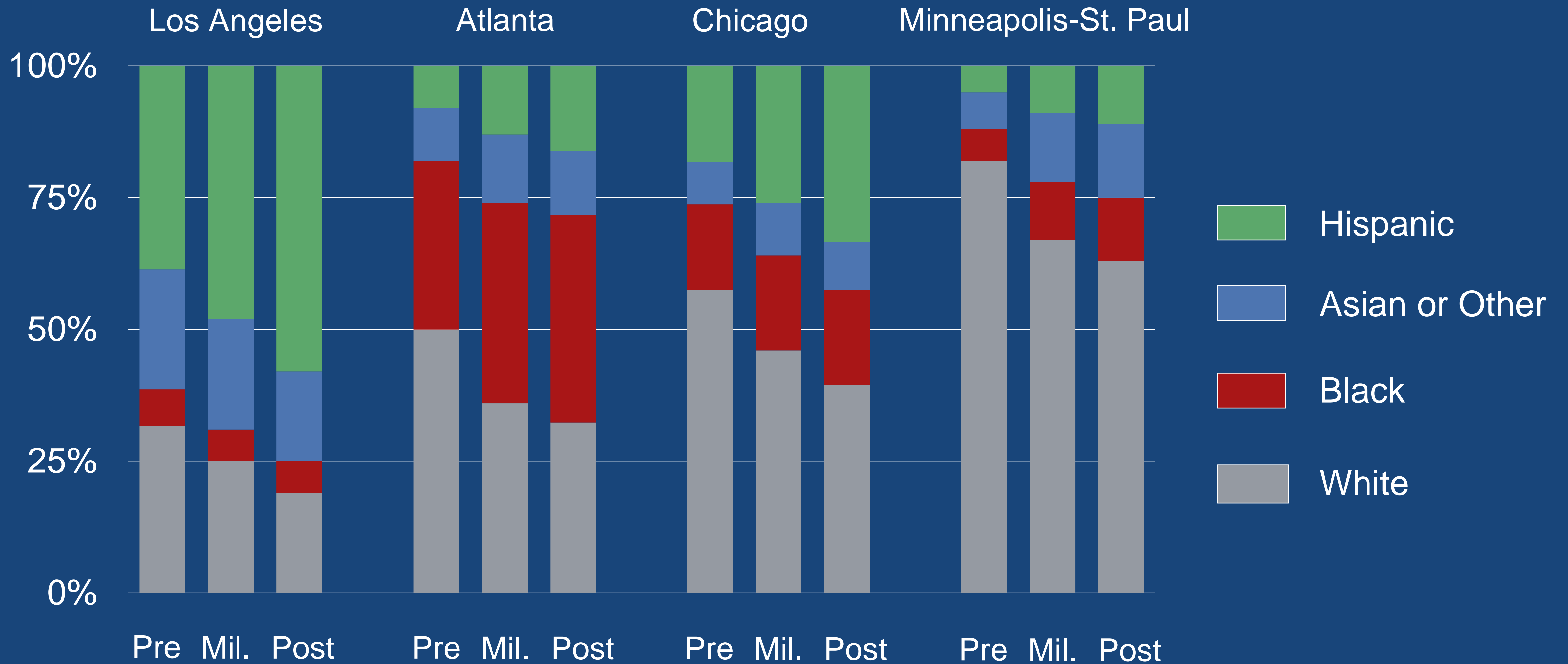


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Source: American Community Survey

2025: Cultural generation gaps





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