



Exploration of Key Trends in the 65+ Age Cohort

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Key Points

The 60+ age cohort population will increase more than all other age cohorts combined, comprising 51.5 percent of all population growth between 2015 and 2040.

The majority of the White population in the 10-county region is older than 35. The converse is true for non-white populations – the majority are younger than 35.

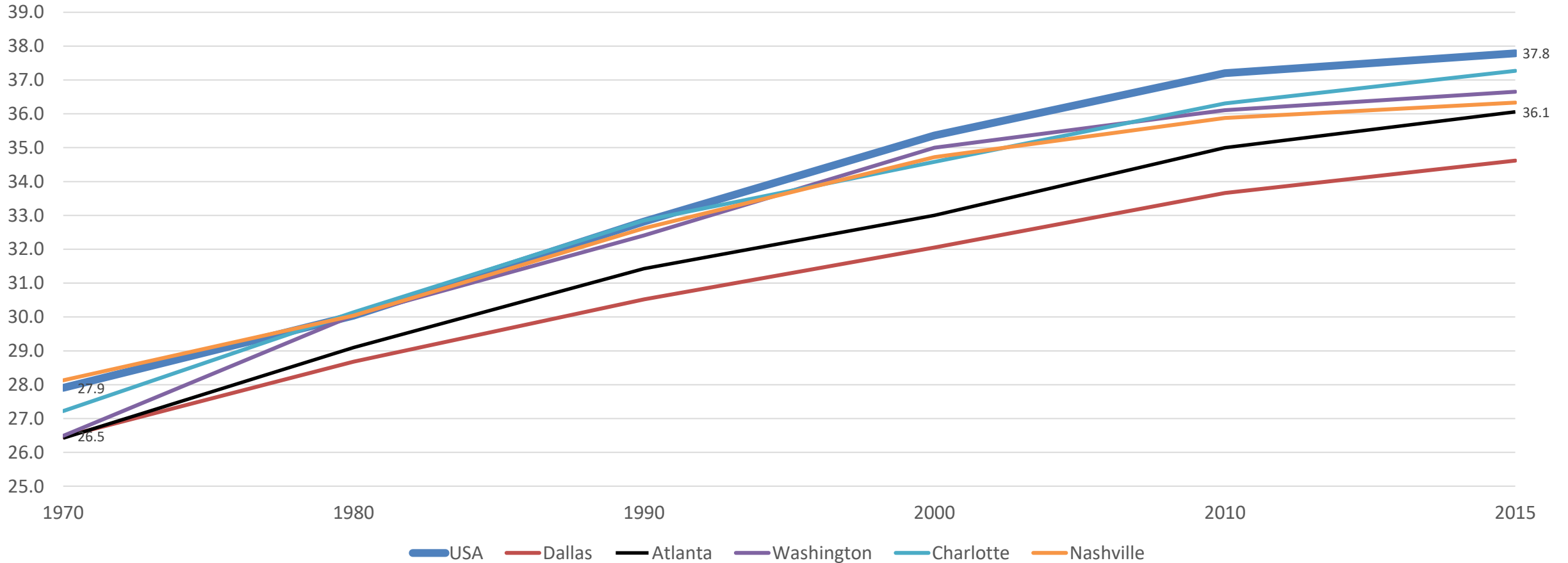
Many older adults experience isolation, which has been shown to have adverse health effects on par with smoking 15 cigarettes per day!

Approximately 36 percent of respondents age 65+ indicated that they had challenges accessing needed transportation to get to places they need to go, almost 10 percentage points higher than all respondents to this question.

Today, older adults are much more likely to remain in the workforce, as more than half of workers aged 65-69 are considered to be in the workforce, compared to only 25 percent in 1990.

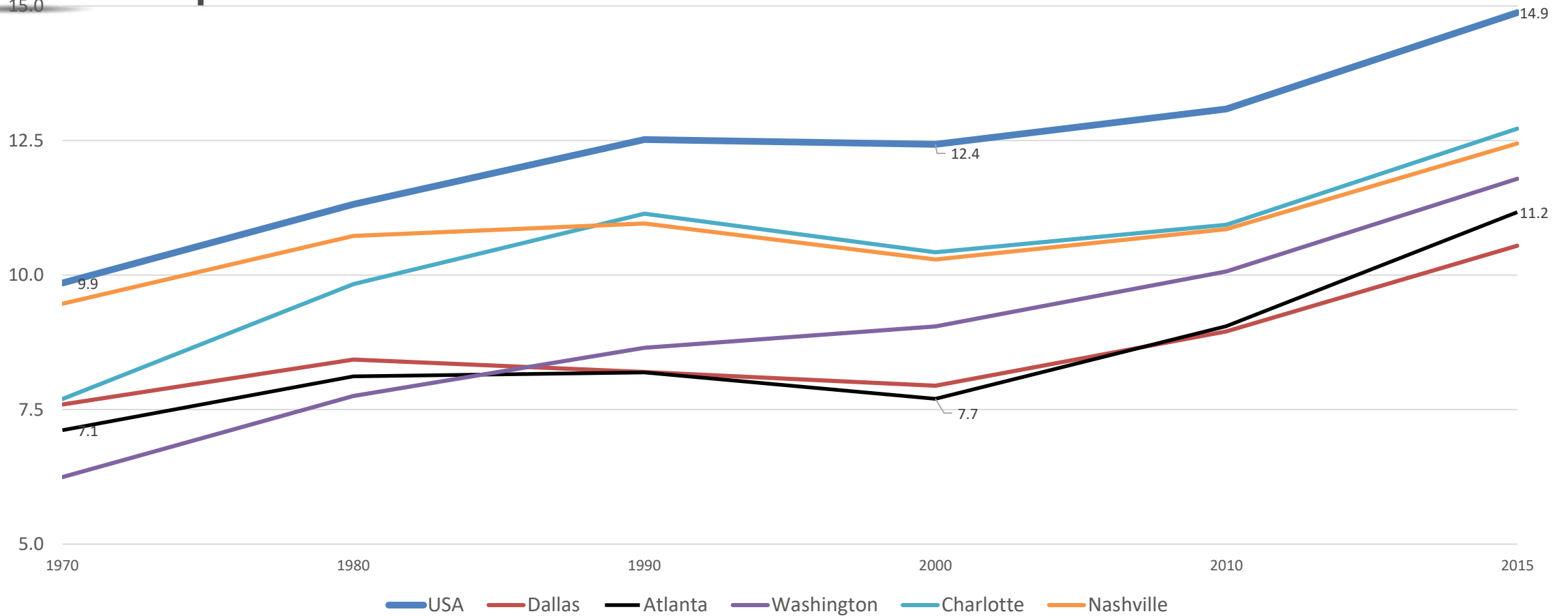
Who Are the Region's Older Adults?

Past Trends in Median Age: Peer Metros and USA



Like much of the nation, the median age in metro Atlanta has gotten significantly older in the past 40+ years, going from a median age of 26.5 in 1970 to slightly older than 36 years as of 2015.

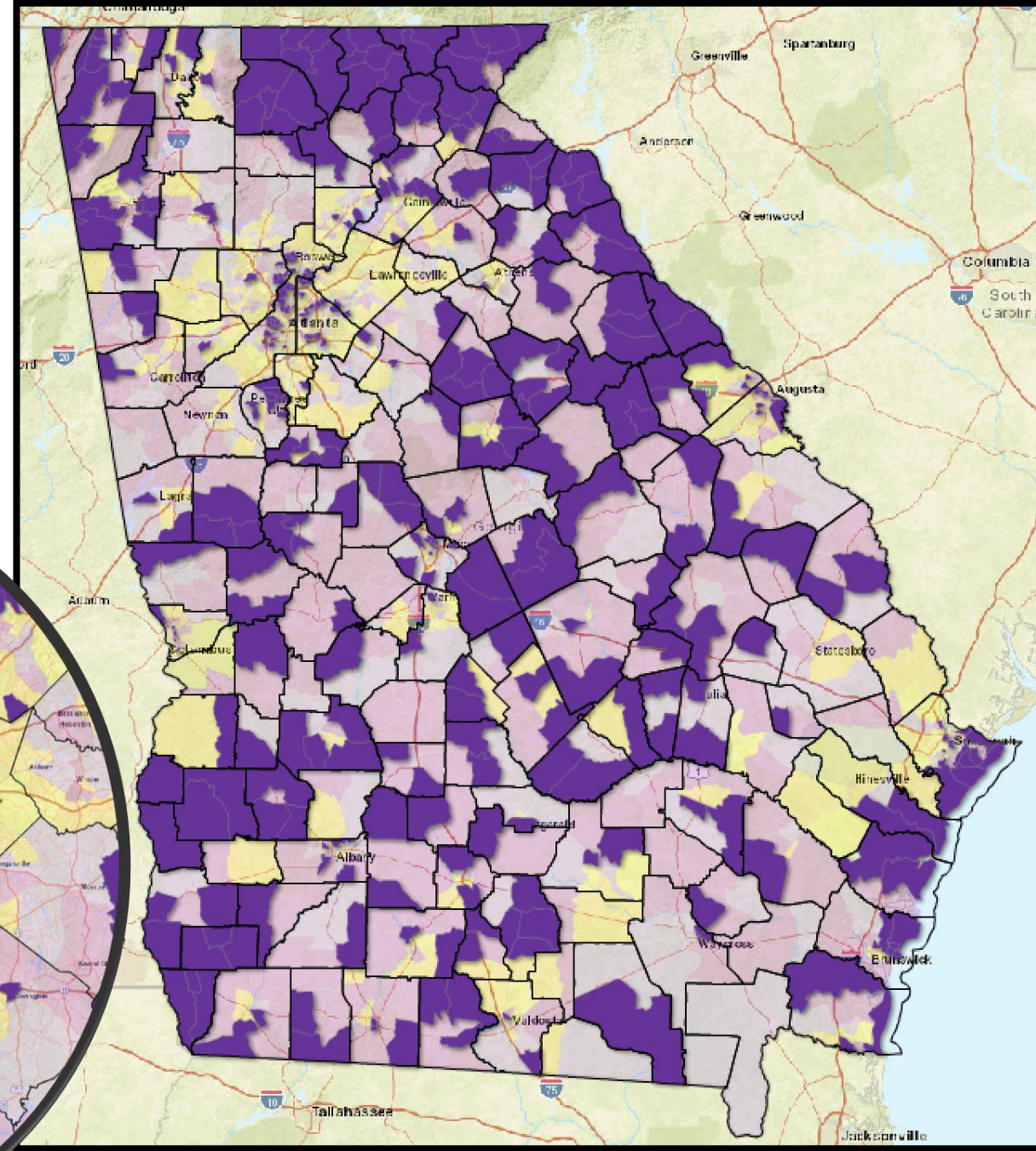
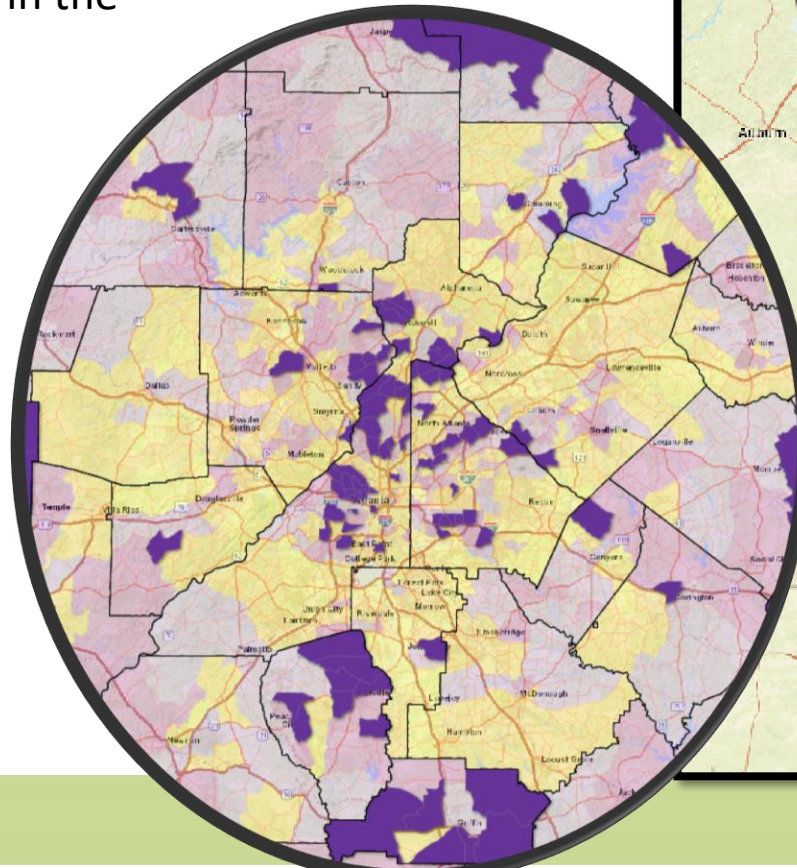
Historical Shares of Population 65+: Peer Metros and USA



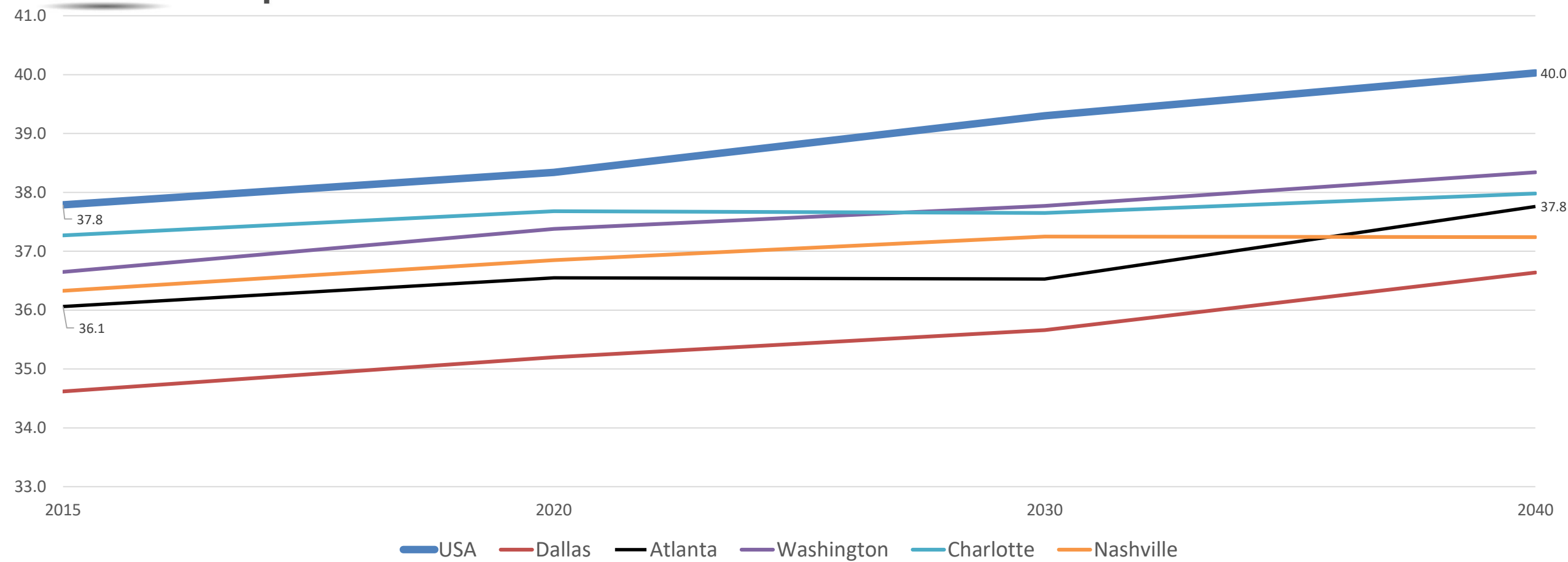
Even with the recent increases in the median age, metro Atlanta’s share of 65+ population is still lower than that of the nation’s. Metro Atlanta has historically been a young region, and still is today, but growth in the older cohorts has been the strongest.

Metro Atlanta is a Relatively Young Place

The highlighted purple areas are those neighborhoods in the state that have the highest percentages of those age 65+. As can be seen, areas in the northern parts of the state have the highest concentrations of older adults, and there are relatively few of these areas in the Atlanta region. But areas in Fayette, Spalding and the City of Atlanta do have high concentrations.

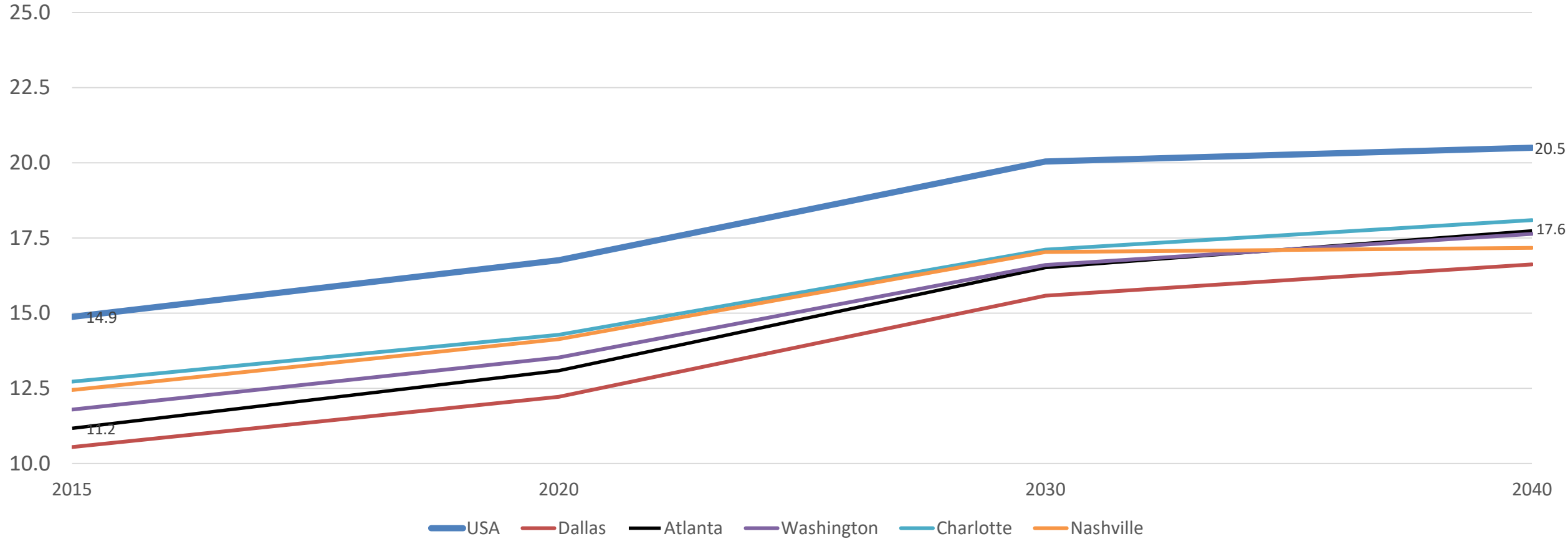


Projections for Median Age: Peer Metros and USA



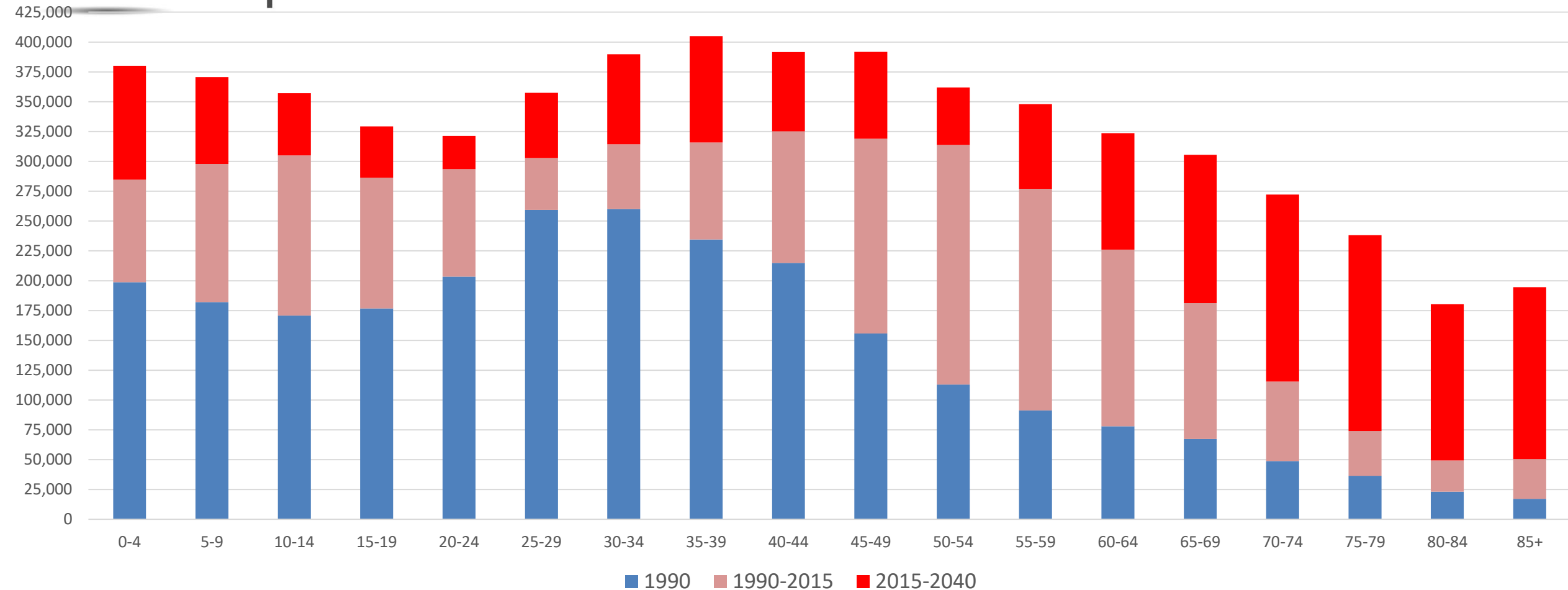
According to one source of population projections (Woods and Poole), the median age will continue to rise through the year 2040...

Forecast Shares of Population 65+: Peer Metros and USA



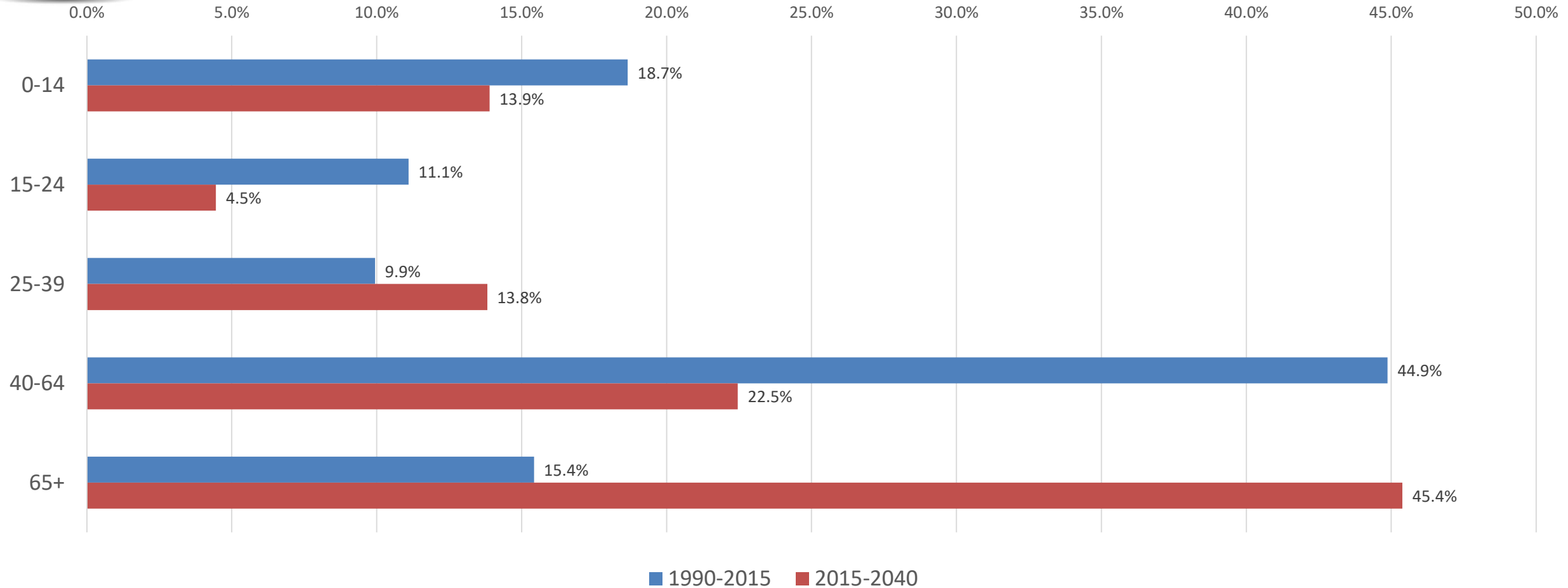
... and about 18 percent of metro Atlanta's population will be 65+ by 2040.

Projected Growth By Age Group: 10-County Area



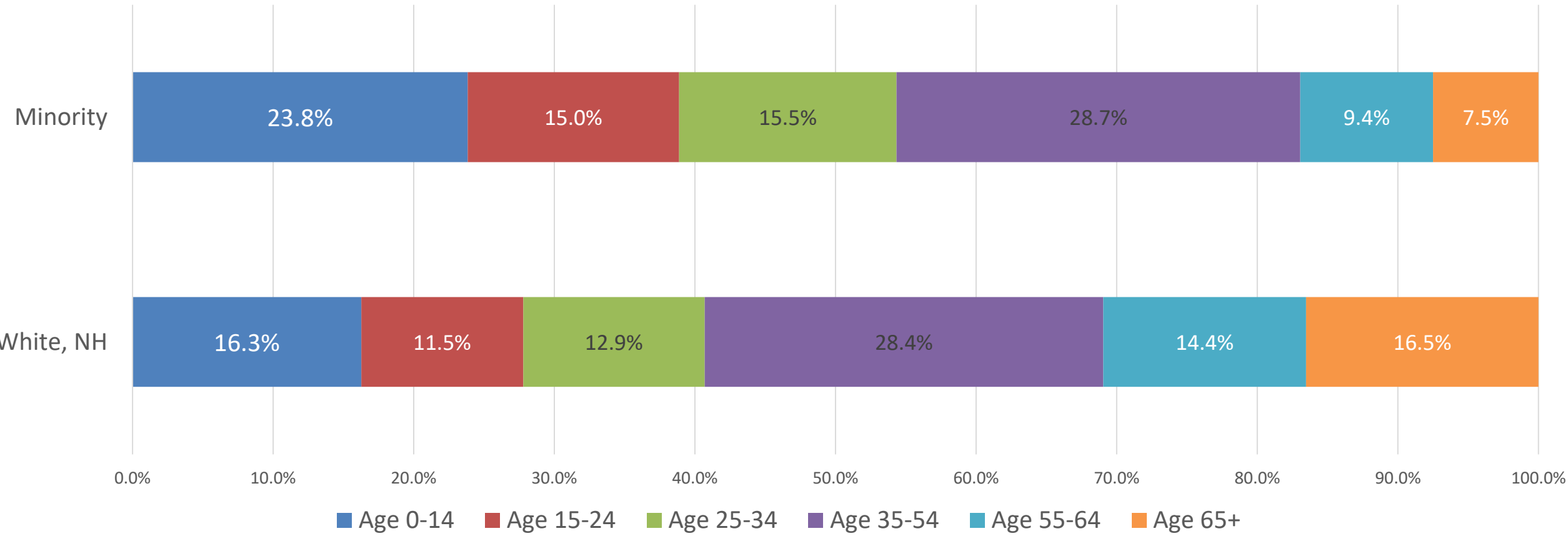
In the 10-county Atlanta region, the highest projected growth rates are concentrated in the older age cohorts. In fact, in raw numbers, the 60+ age cohort will grow more than all other age cohorts combined, according to Woods and Poole projections.

Shares of Net Increase by Age: 10-County Area



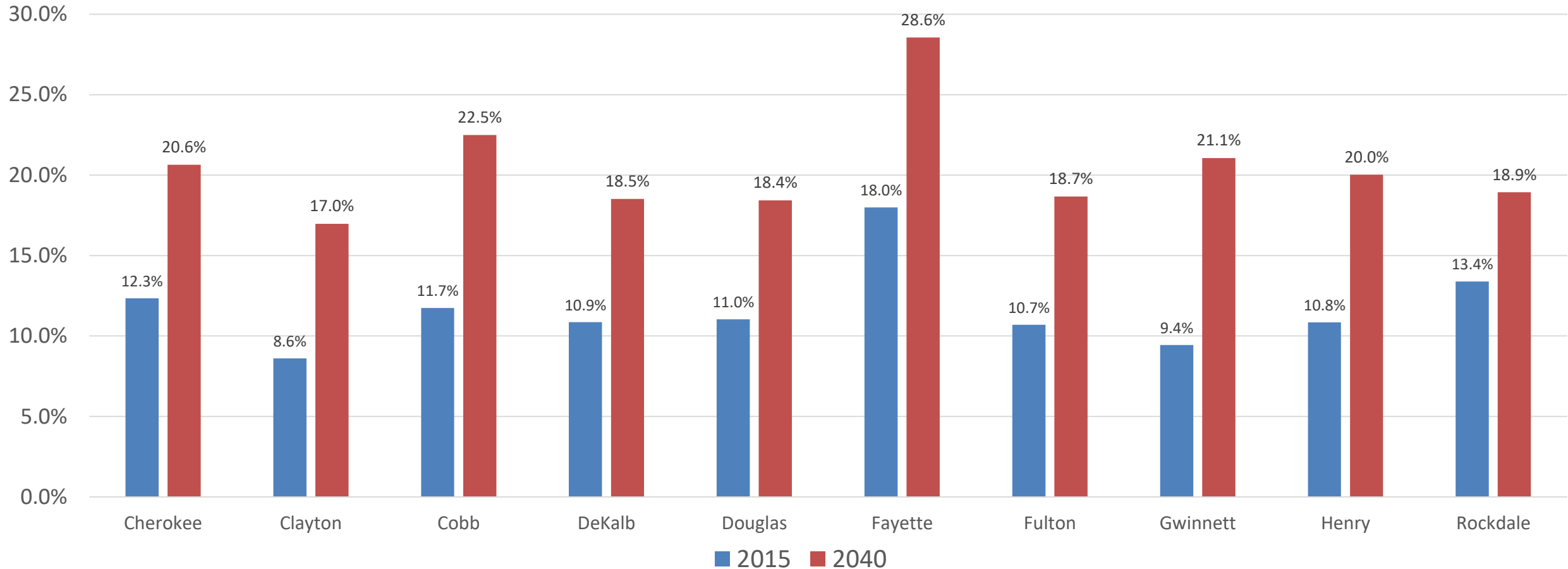
As this chart shows, growth in the 65+ age cohort will comprise 45 percent of all population growth between 2015 and 2040.

Race/ Ethnicity by Age Cohort: Atlanta MSA, 2017



In looking at race/ethnicity by age cohort, roughly 60 percent of the white, non-Hispanic population in the 10-county region is older than 35. Conversely, the majority of the minority (i.e. non-white) population is younger than 35.

Shares of 65+: Forecast Trends for ARC Counties



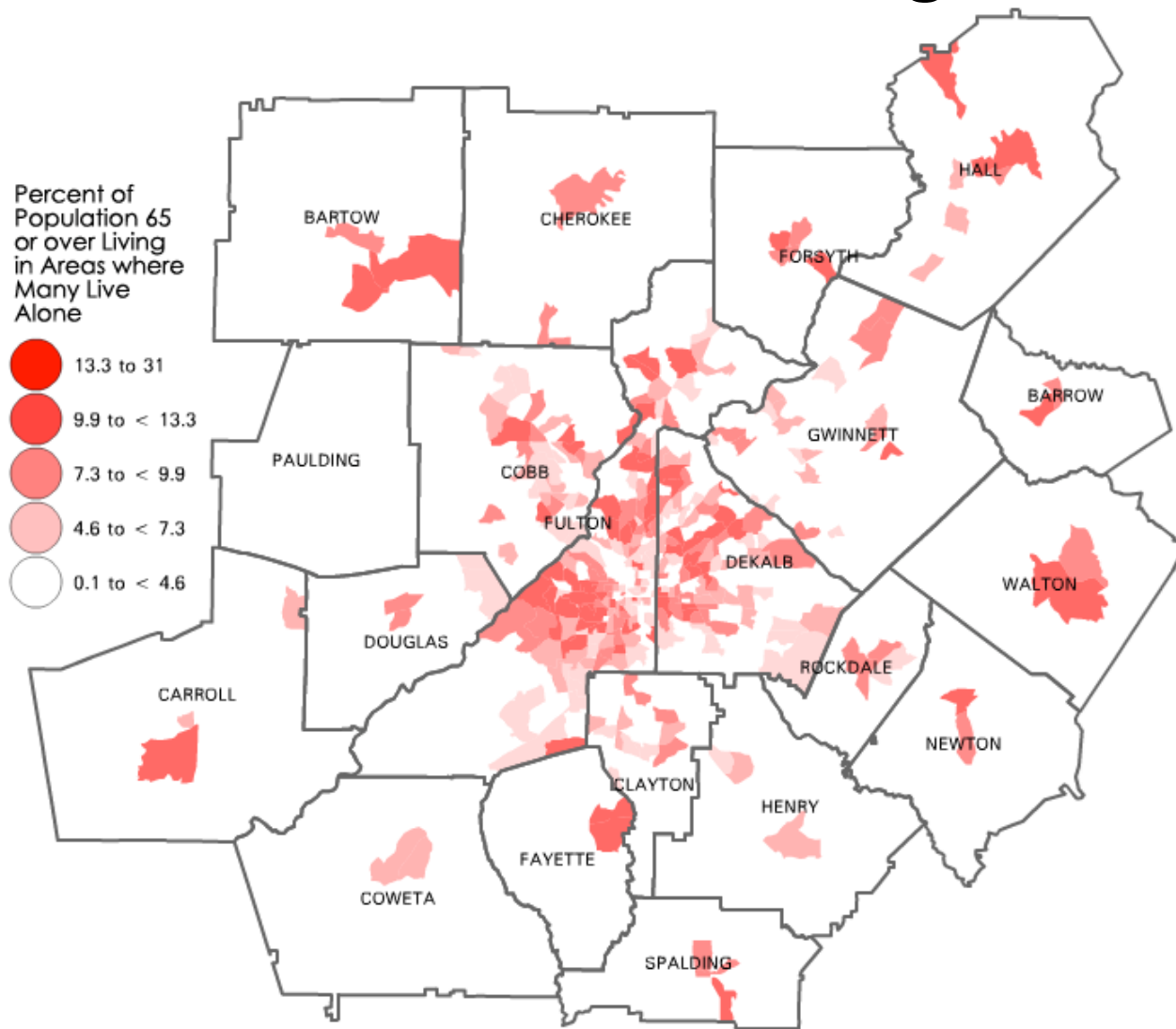
Fayette County already has the highest share of those 65+, and that share is forecast to increase from 18 percent in 2015 to 29 percent in 2040.

What are the Housing Characteristics of the 65+ Population?

Percent 65+ Living in Areas With the Highest Concentrations of those Living Alone

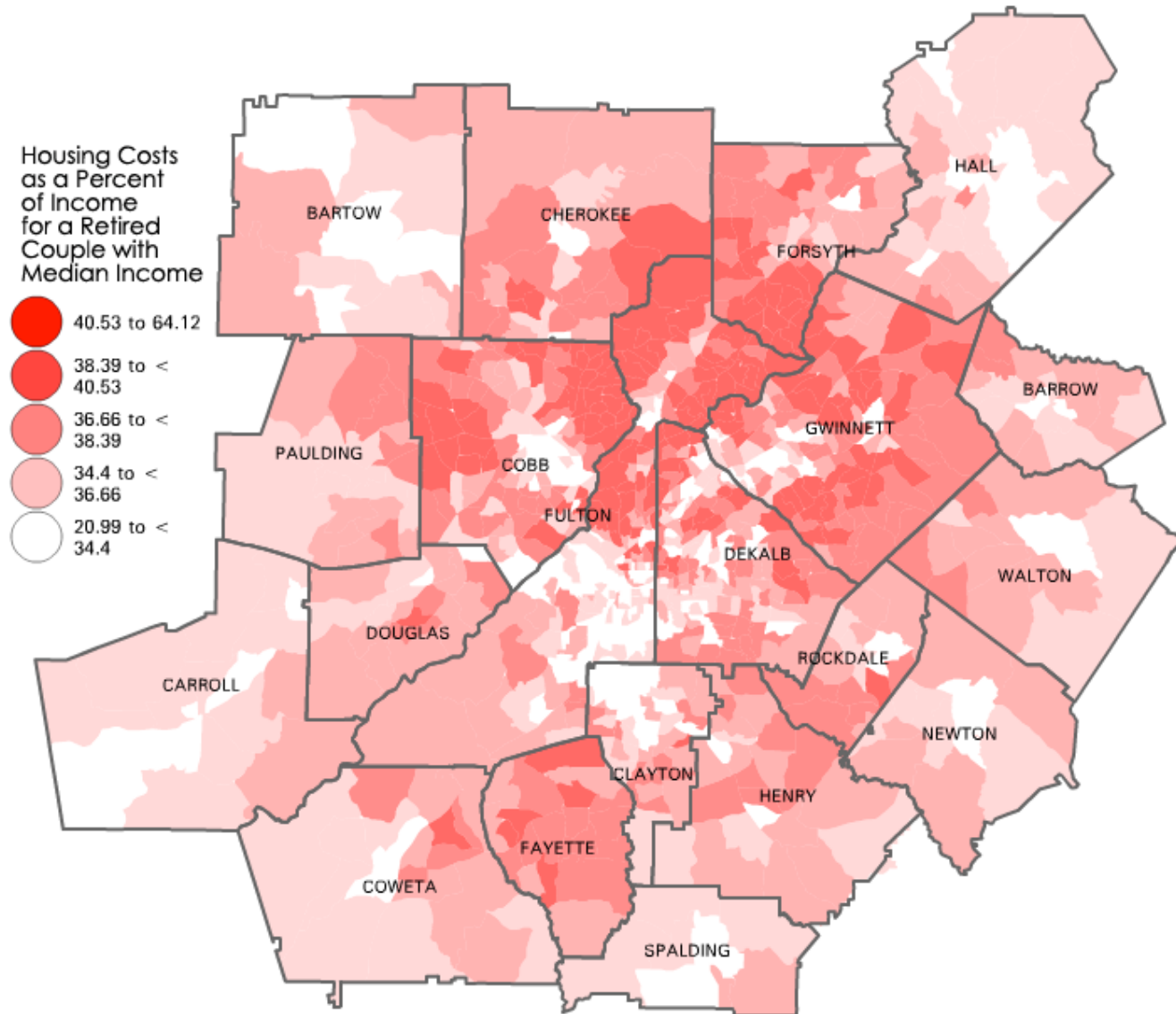
70 percent of older adults will eventually need help with activities such as eating, bathing and dressing. A better range of housing options are needed for older adults to age in their communities, especially rental properties that offer or are near basic services such as transportation, personal care and meals.

Note: This map highlights those areas with the highest concentrations of those living alone, and the color ramp shows, among these areas, where the greatest concentrations of residents 65+ live



Housing Affordability for 65+

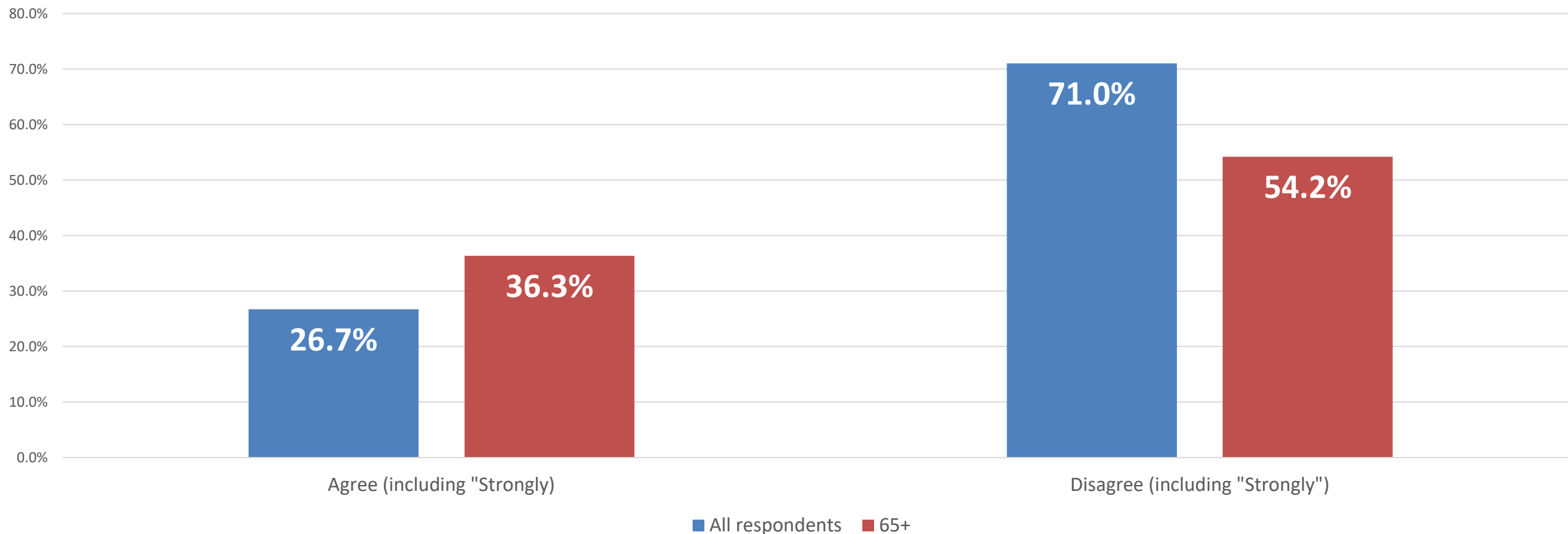
There is not enough quality, affordable housing in metro Atlanta to meet the needs of the region's fast-growing population of older adults. 57 percent of metro Atlanta renters aged 65+ spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.



What are the Transportation Characteristics of the 65+ Population?

Access to Transportation a Significant Concern of Residents Age 65+

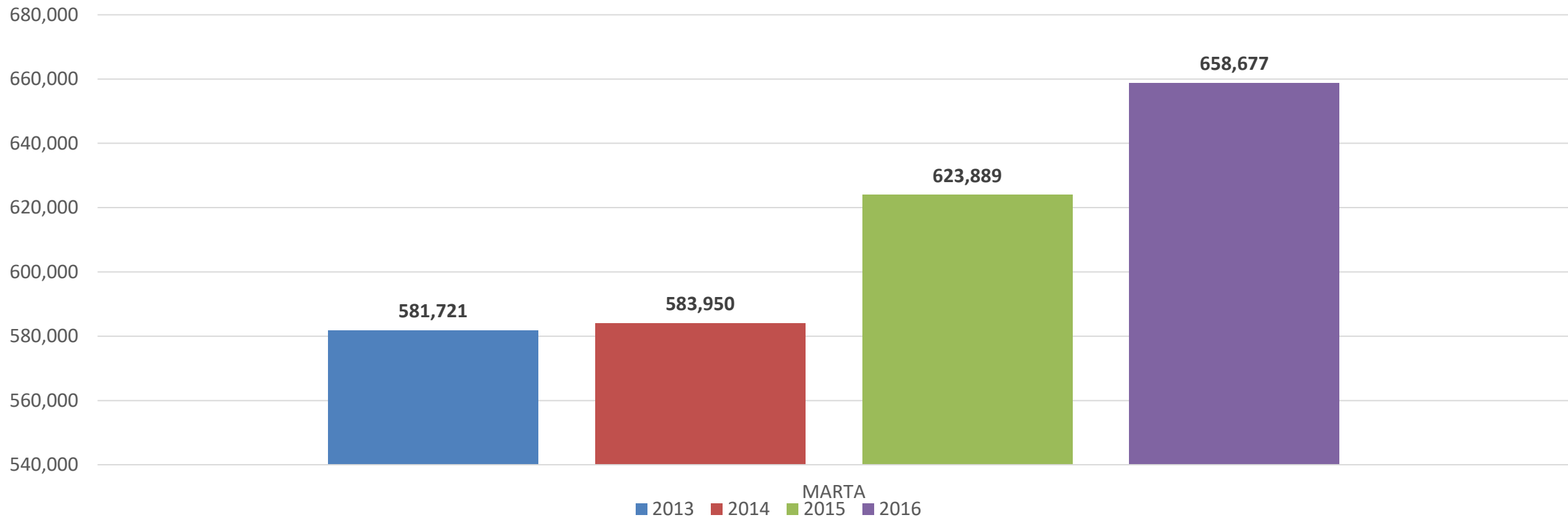
"I frequently lack the transportation I need to get to places I need to go."



In the 2017 Metro Atlanta Speaks survey, approximately 36 percent of respondents age 65+ indicated that they had challenges accessing needed transportation to get to places they need to go, almost 10 percentage points higher than all respondents to this question.

Paratransit Trips on the Rise

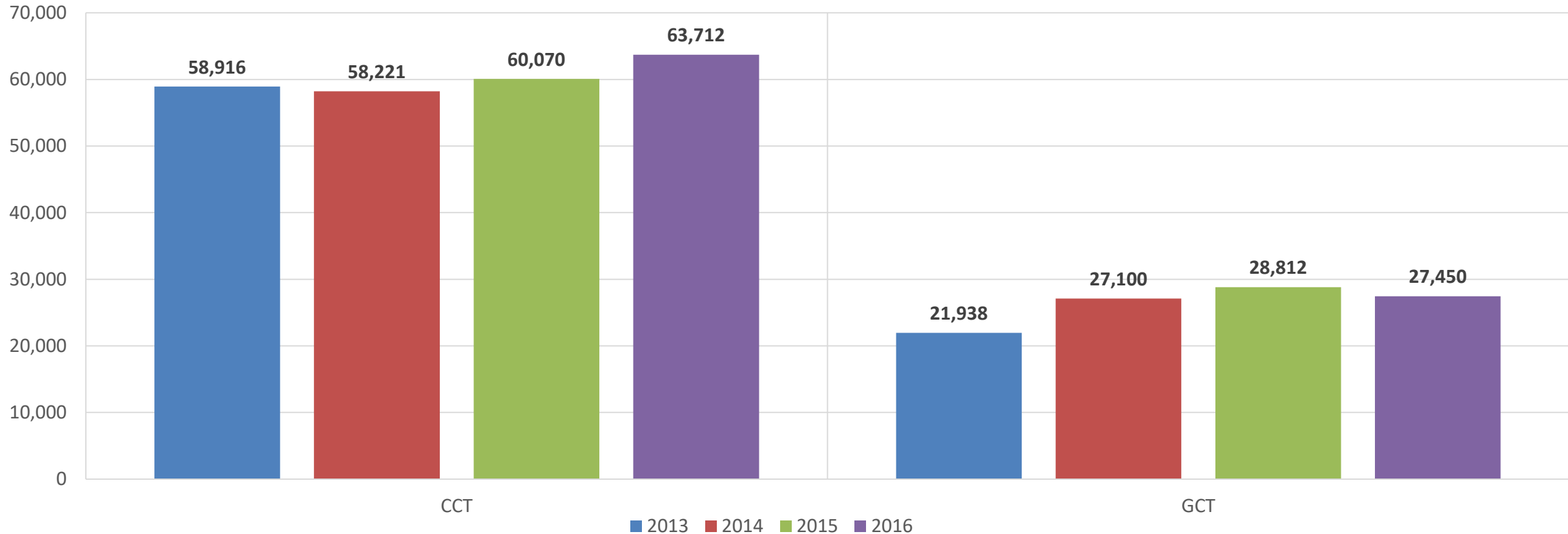
Number of Paratransit (Demand Response) Trips



MARTA and other transit providers (see next slide) provide demand response trips to those with disabilities, a population that includes many seniors. The number of demand response trips provided by MARTA (MARTA Mobility) has steadily increased since, mirroring the trend of increases in older adults in the region.

Paratransit Trips on the Rise

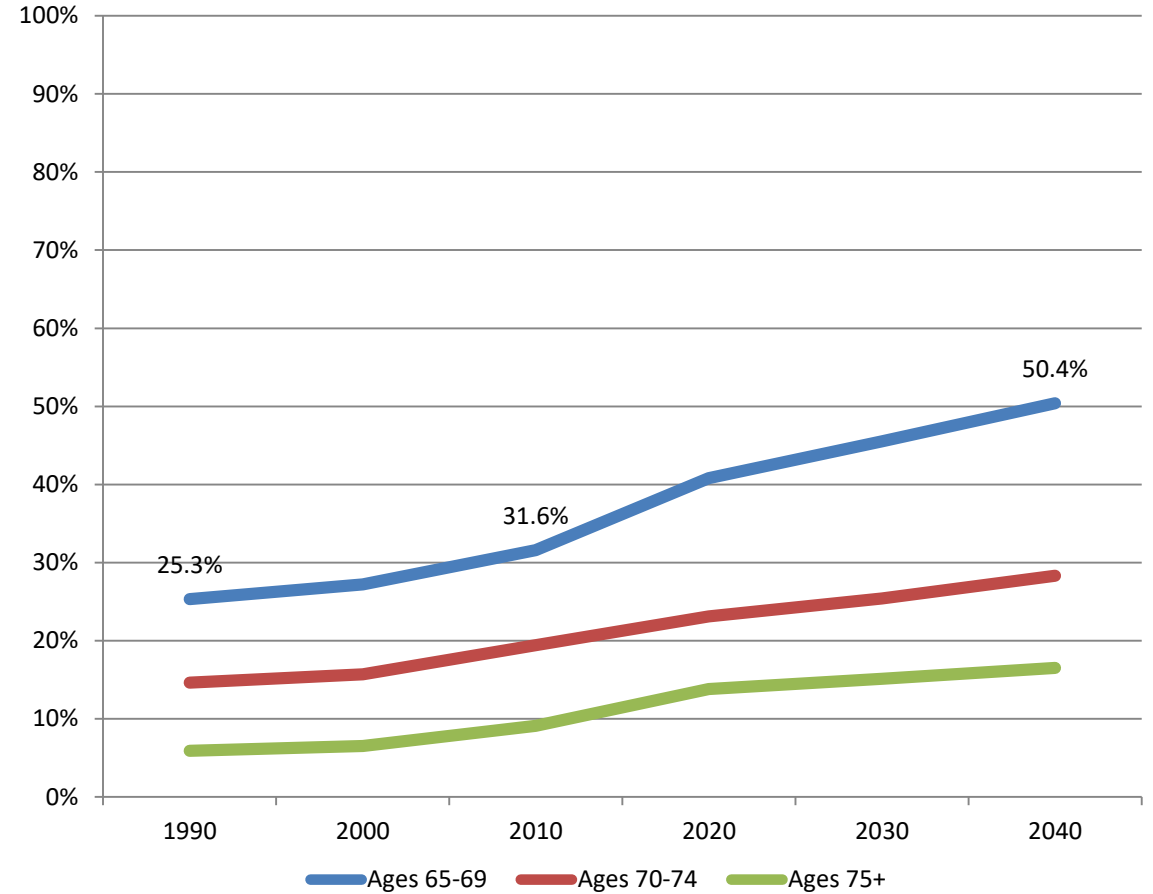
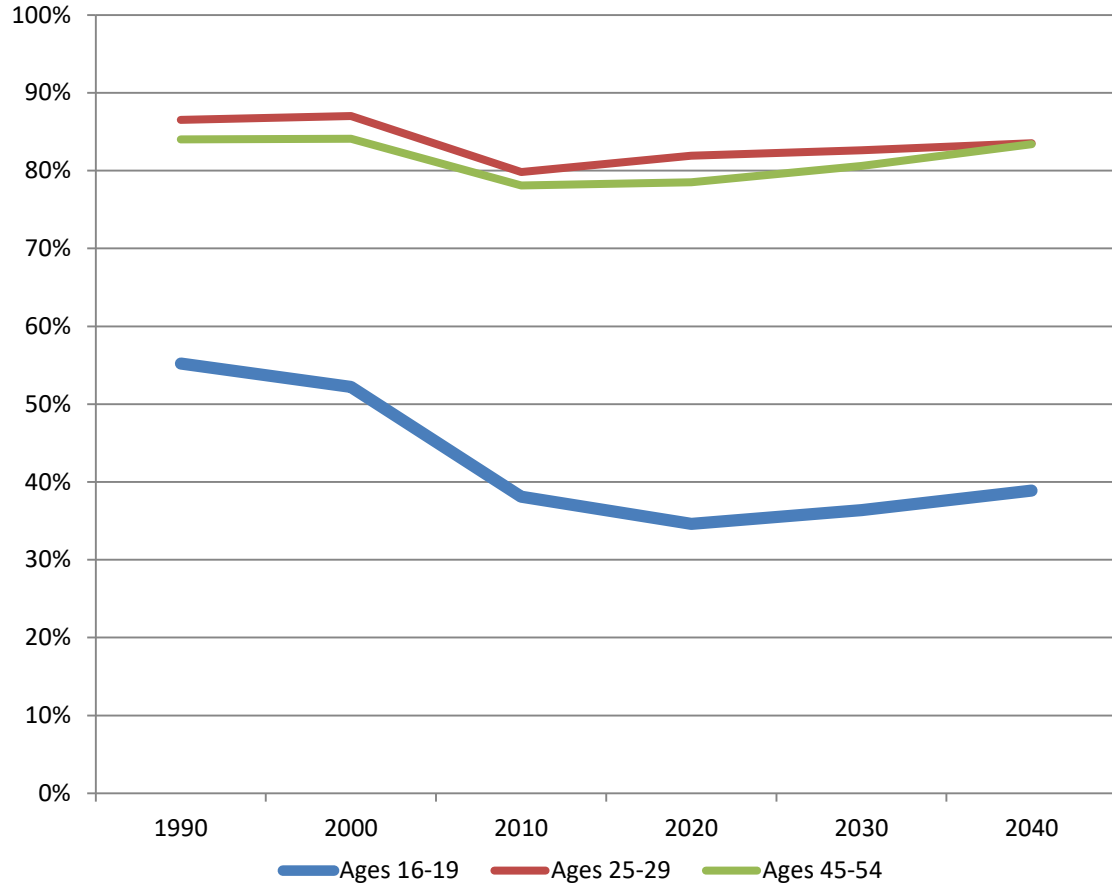
Number of Paratransit (Demand Response) Trips



As with MARTA, other transit providers have seen steadily increasing ridership as well since 2013.

What are the Economic Characteristics of the 65+ Population?

Who is Working is Changing



The composition of the workforce is changing. Today, older adults are much more likely to remain in the workforce, as more than half of workers aged 65-69 are considered to be in the workforce, compared to only 25 percent in 1990.

Scenario Modeling: Potential Economic Impacts of Increases in Retiree vs. Working Age Migration

What would happen if *more retirees*
moved to Metro Atlanta?

Potentially...

\$40B

More in Personal Income

\$7.8B

More in Additional GDP

Assuming an annual increase of 1,000 65+ retired migrants per year to 20-county economy from 2015-2040, with distribution weighted on 65+ population in each county.

**Note: No explicit costs considered*

What would happen if *more working age (18-64) people* move to Metro Atlanta?

Potentially...

\$4B

More in Personal Income

\$2.6B

More in Additional GDP

Assuming an annual increase of 1,000 migrants aged 18-64 per year to 20-county economy from 2015-2040, with distribution weighted on population aged 18-64 in each county.

**Note: No explicit costs considered*



Key Facts about the 65+ Workforce in Metro Atlanta

In 2000, there were almost 39,000 workers age 65+ in metro Atlanta. By 2017, that number swelled to more than 106,000, ***an increase of 175 percent***. By comparison, jobs held by those aged 16-64 increased by only 18 percent over the same period.

Between 2007-2012, workers 65+ ***increased*** by 15,090 jobs while the 18-64 job base ***declined*** by 92,881 jobs. The Great Recession had a dramatic impact on the composition of the workforce.

As of 2017, ***those aged 65+*** comprised only 5 percent of the economy's jobs, but had ***filled nearly 20 percent of the net new jobs*** between 2000-2017.

Between 2000 and 2017, average wages for jobs filled by those 65+ ***went up 53 percent***, while wages for those ages 18-64 went up only 10 percent.