

Millennials in 2018: Facts, Trends, and the Potential for Policy Change

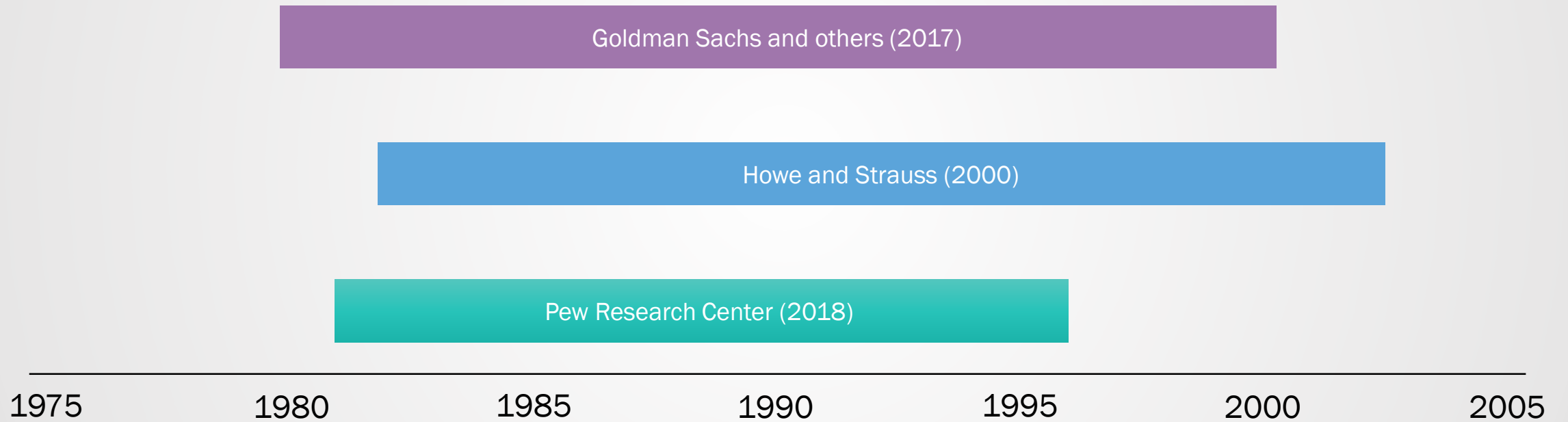
Reid Cramer

Millennial Public Policy Symposium

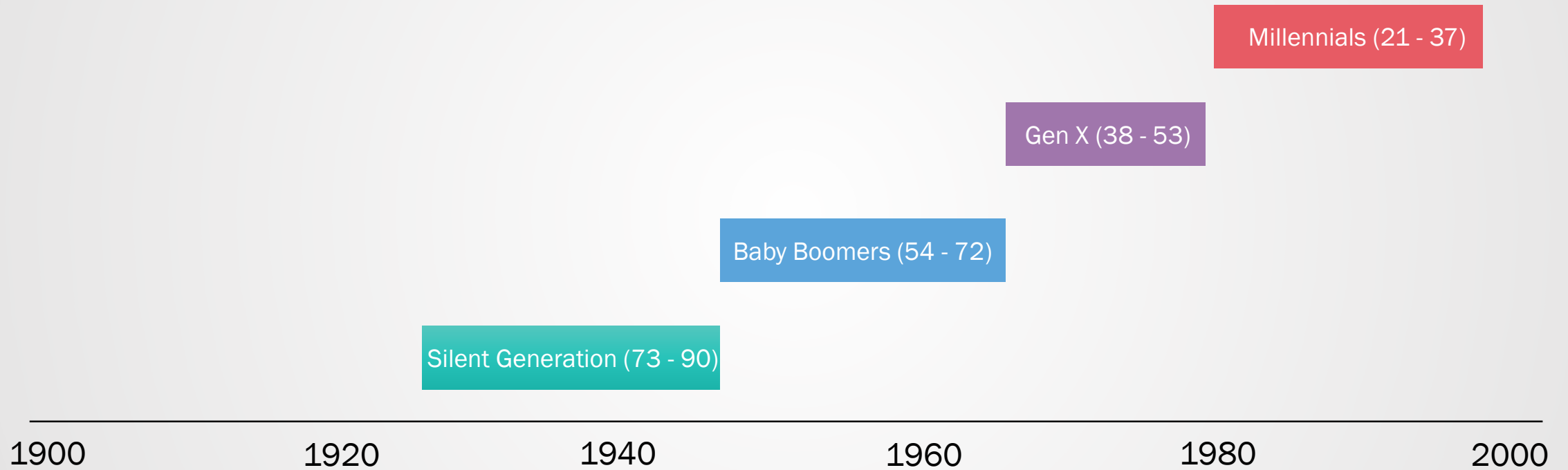
April 26, 2018

Defining (and Naming) Generations is Art, Not Science

Uncertain Beginnings and Ends for Millennials



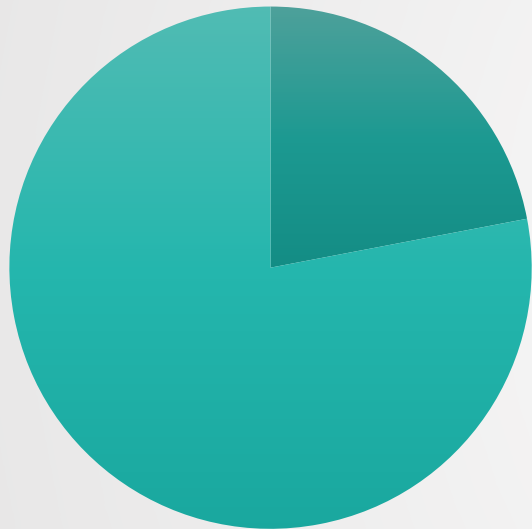
Generational Cohorts Defined



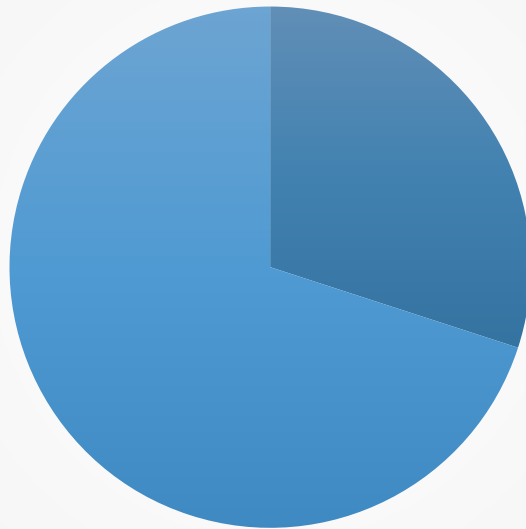
(Pew Research Center 2018)

Millennials Outpacing Other Cohorts

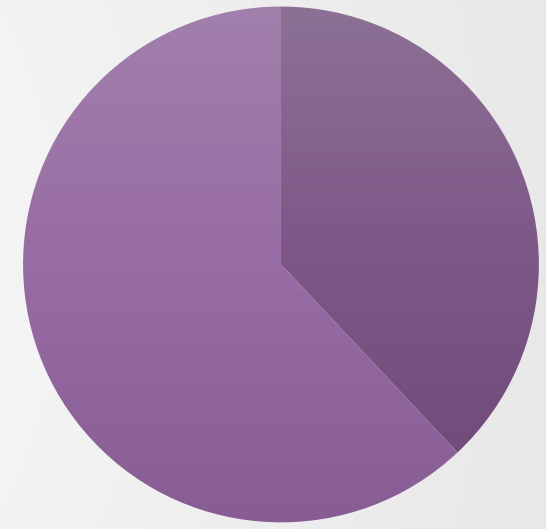
As a portion of the pie, today Millennials are...



22% of the
Total Population

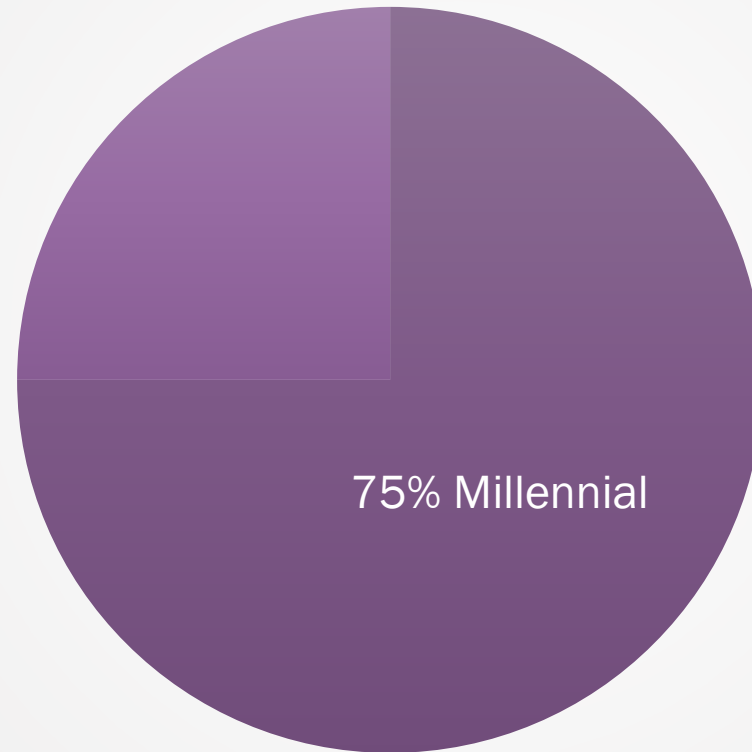


30% of the
Voting-Age Population



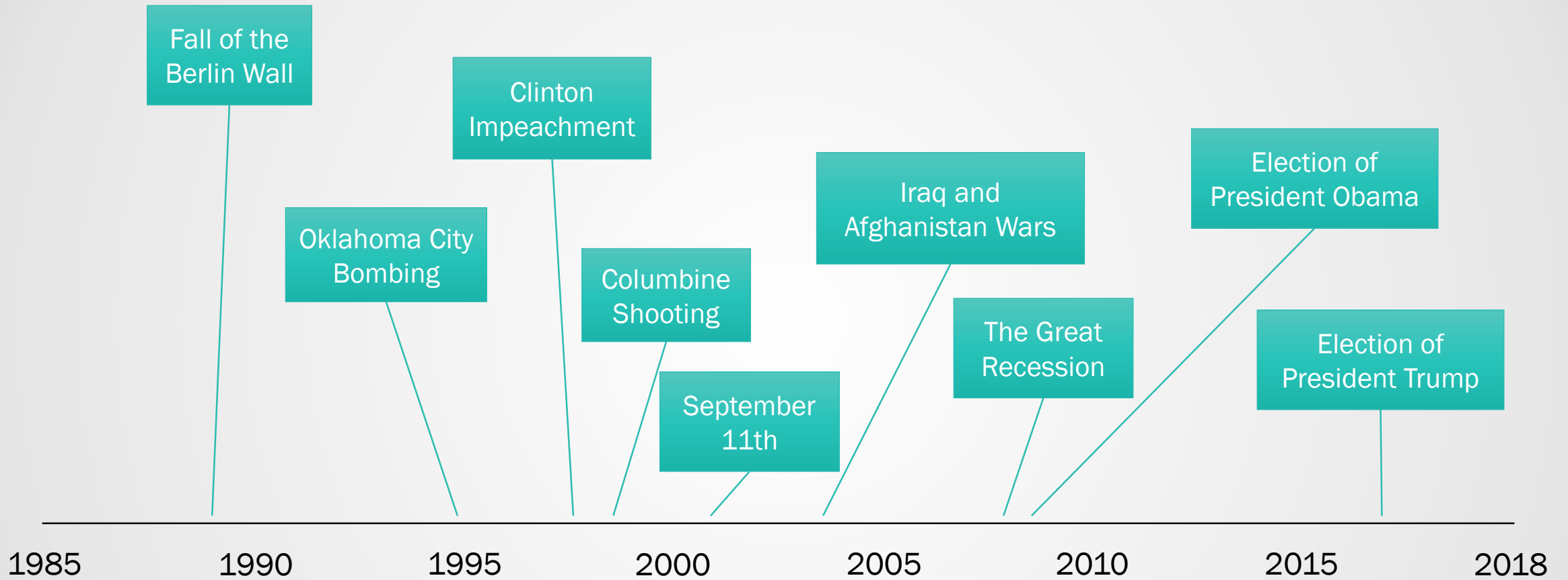
38% of the
Working-Age Population

By 2025, Millennials will dominate the labor force.

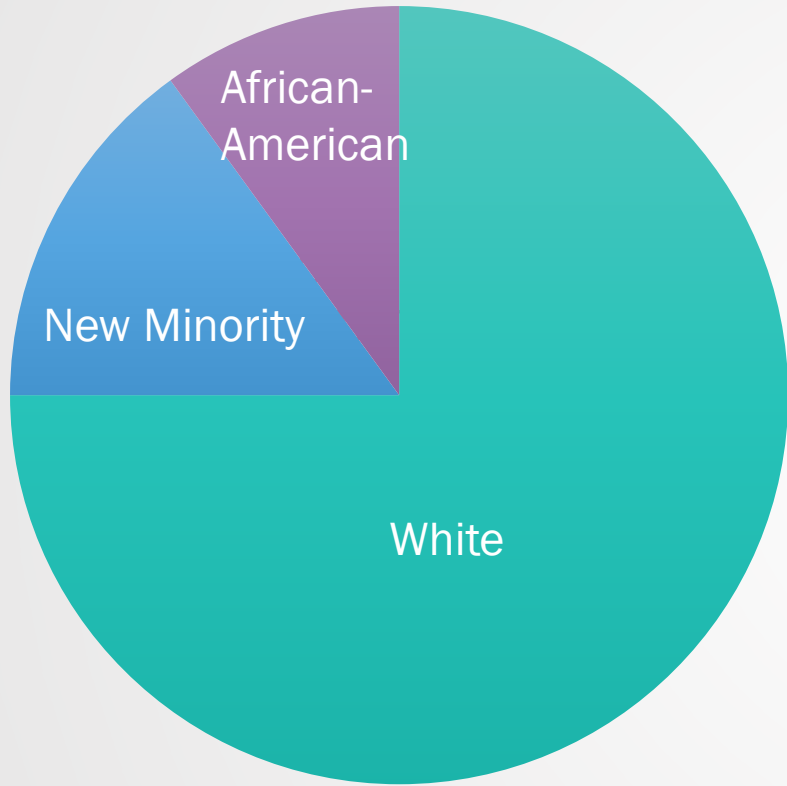


(Desilver 2016)

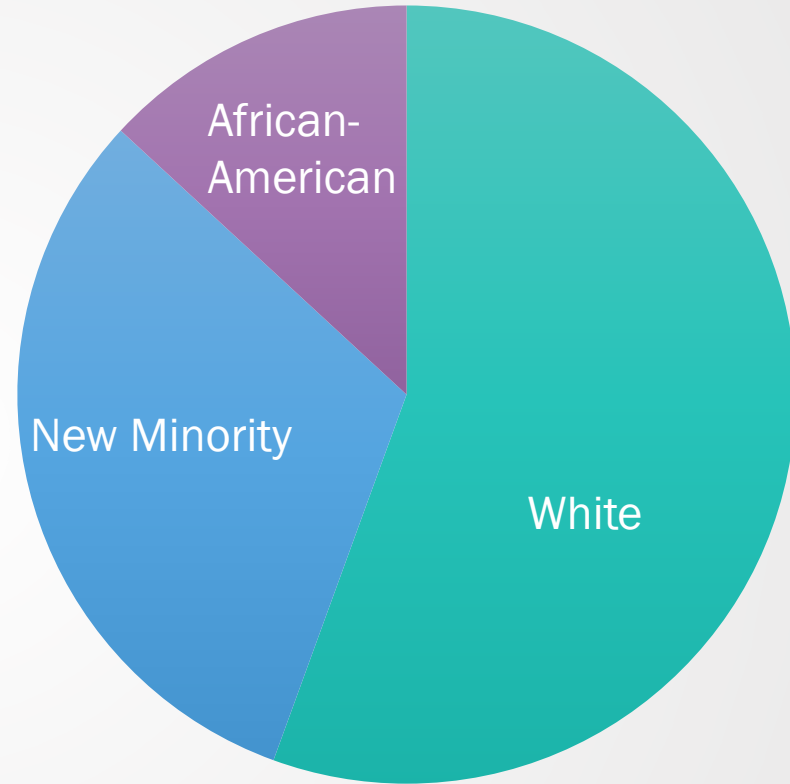
Millennials in America Do Share Cultural and Historic Experiences



Millennial Generation Defined by Diversity



Boomers



Millennials

Milestones of Adulthood for Millennials are Changing



Residence



Marriage



Child
Rearing

Educational Landscape has Dramatically Changed

Millennials are better educated (at least as measured by degrees and credentials)

Share of 25 -29 year olds with a college degree

11% in 1960

24% in 1976

26% in 2000

36% in 2015

(U.S. Census Bureau)

Millennials have more student loan debt than prior generations

Millennials have taken on at least 300% more student debt than their parents.

41 percent of young families had student debt in 2013, up from 17 percent in 1989.

The average college graduate with a bachelor's degree owes almost \$30,000 in student loans, triple the figure for the same group in 1993.

Source: The College Board; New America 2014.

Tuition for Millennials has soared

Hours of minimum wage work to pay for four years of public college

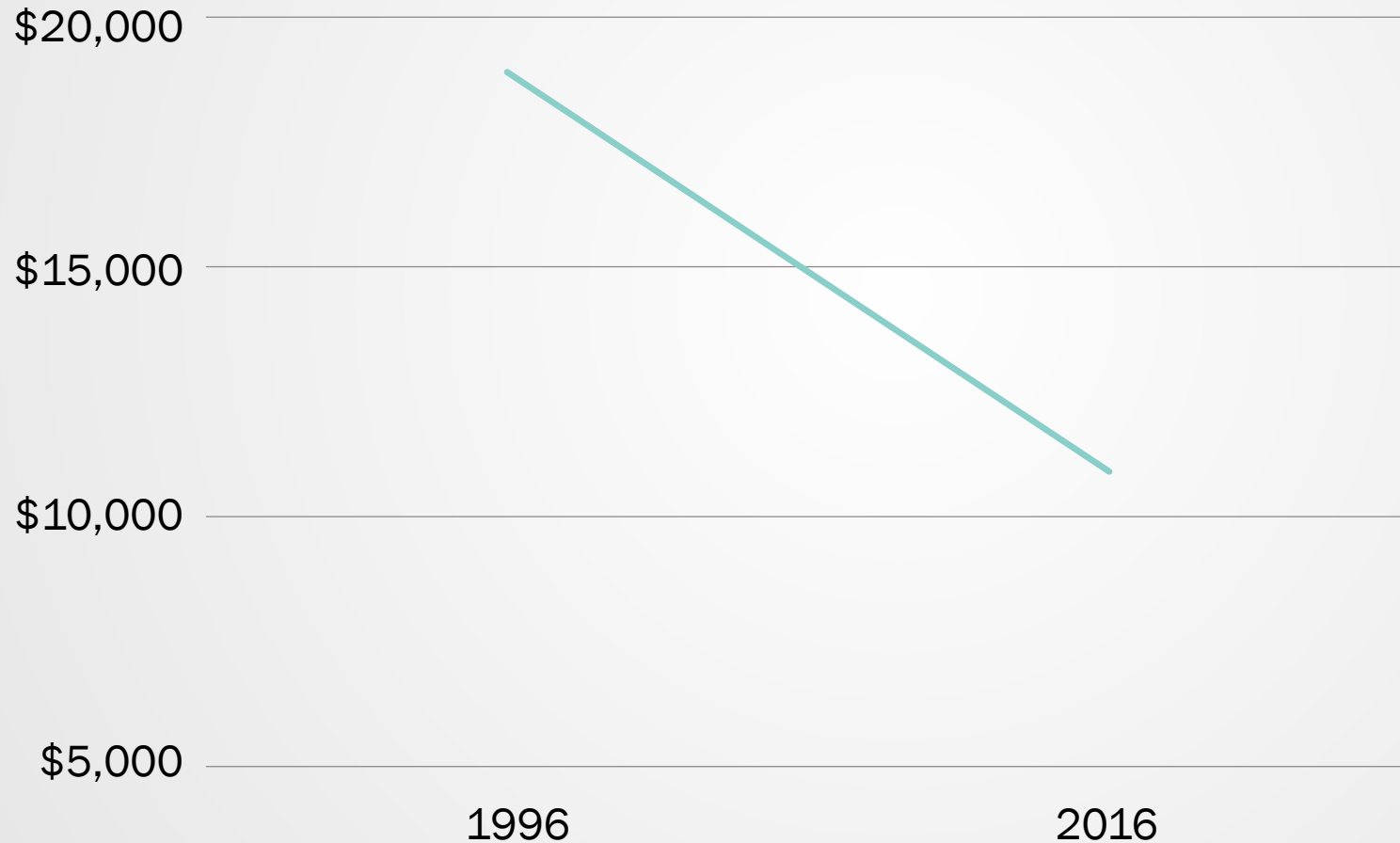


(National Center for Educational Statistics, via Hobbes 2018)

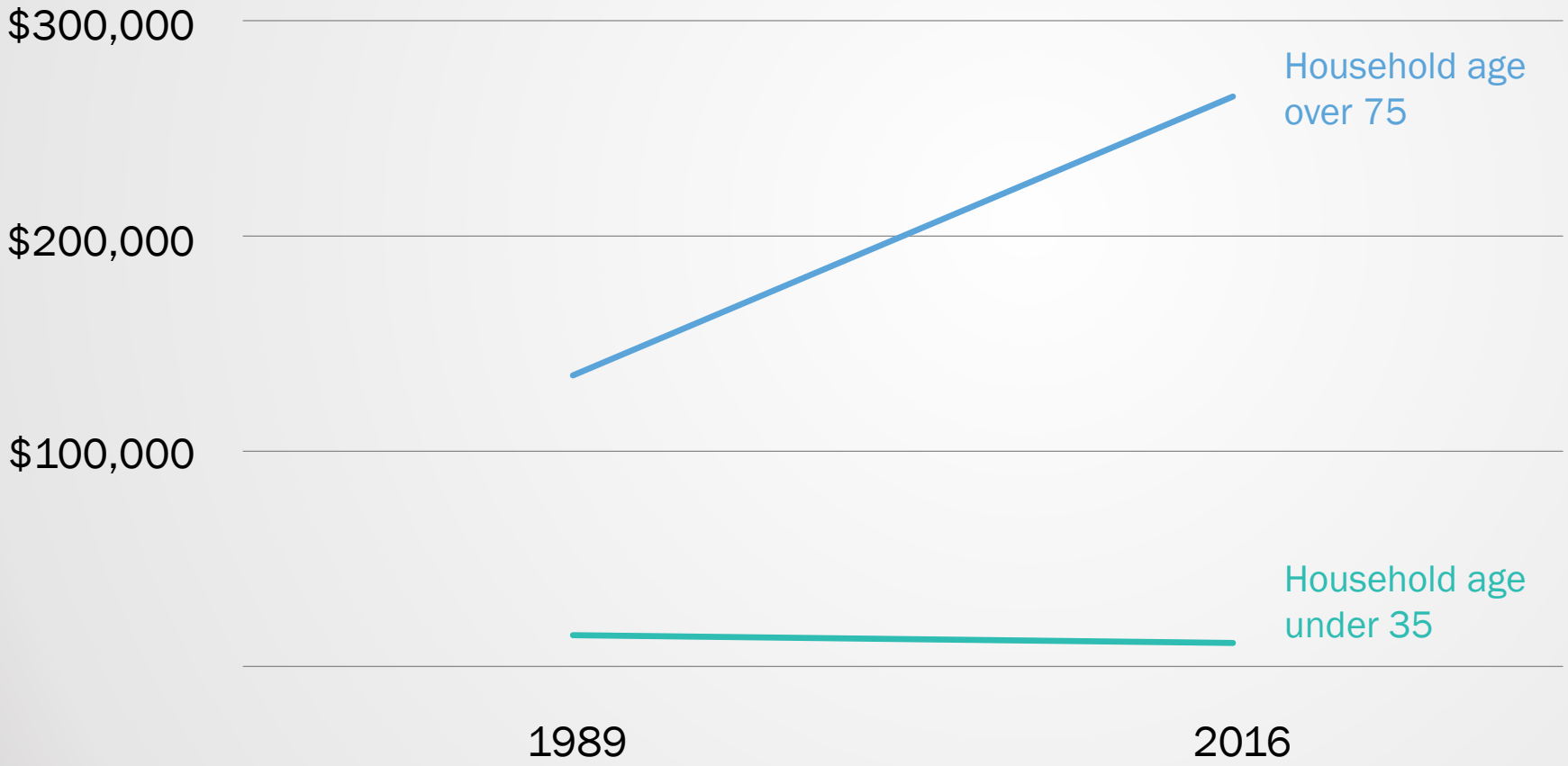
Millennials have Come of Age in a Stagnant-Wage Economy

Millennial Wealth is Distributed Unevenly and Lags Older Generations

Millennial median net worth has declined



Net worth gap between young and older households has grown



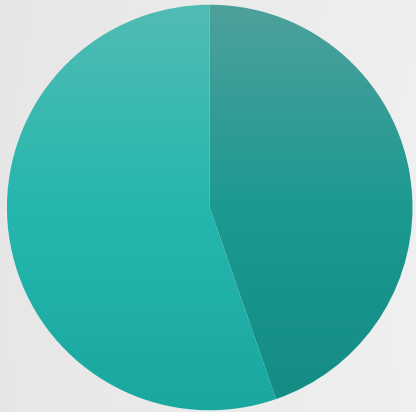
Racial Wealth Gap is Wide, with Massive Consequences

Median Net Worth, 2016

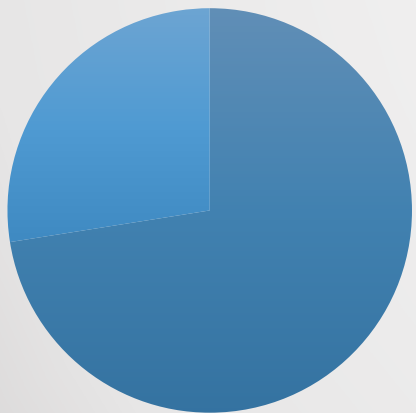
White, non-Hispanic	\$171,000
African-American, Black	\$17,600
Hispanic/Latino	\$20,700

(Federal Reserve, Survey of Consumer Finances)

The gap is about assets— homeownership in particular



44.7% of Black households
are homeowners



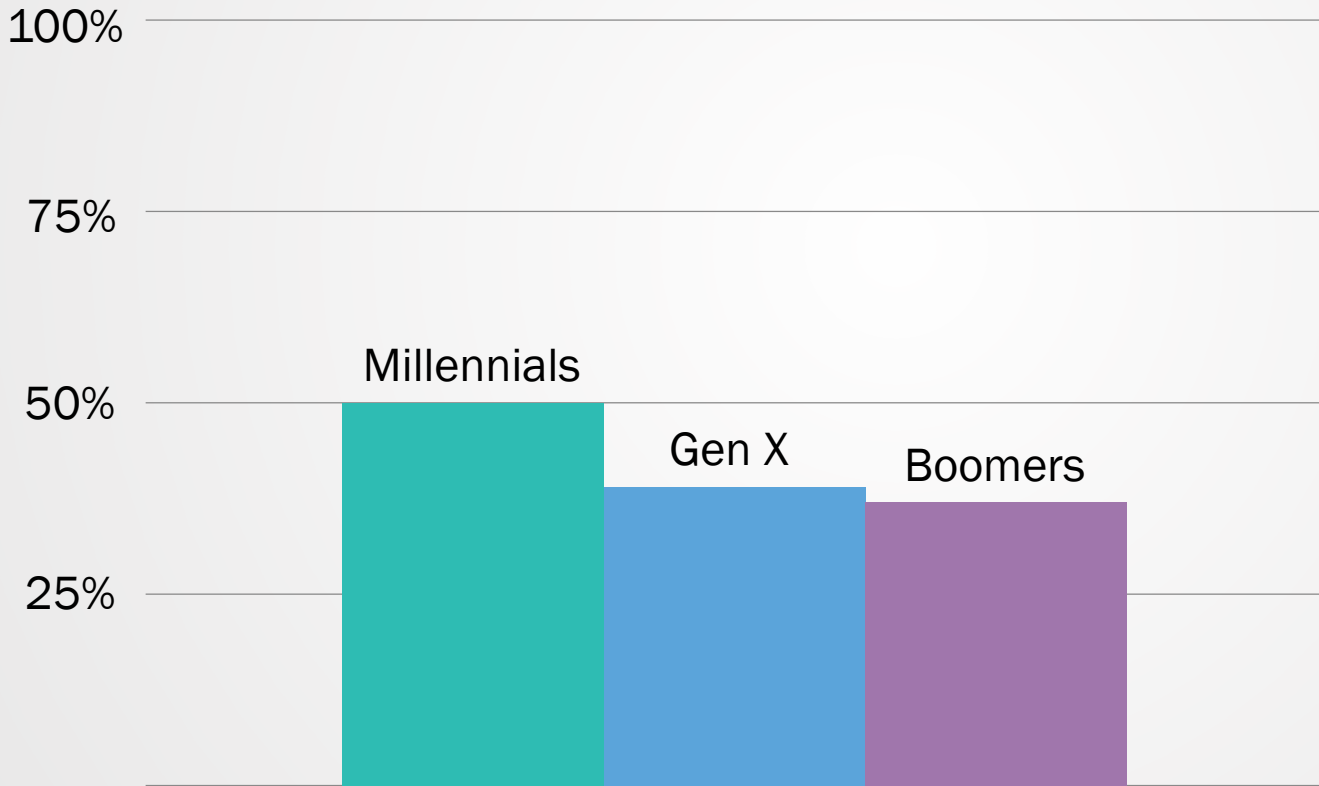
72.5% of non-Hispanic White
households are homeowners

When the housing market collapsed with the Great Recession, Black homeownership fell more than non-Hispanic White and Black homeowners lost more of their housing equity.

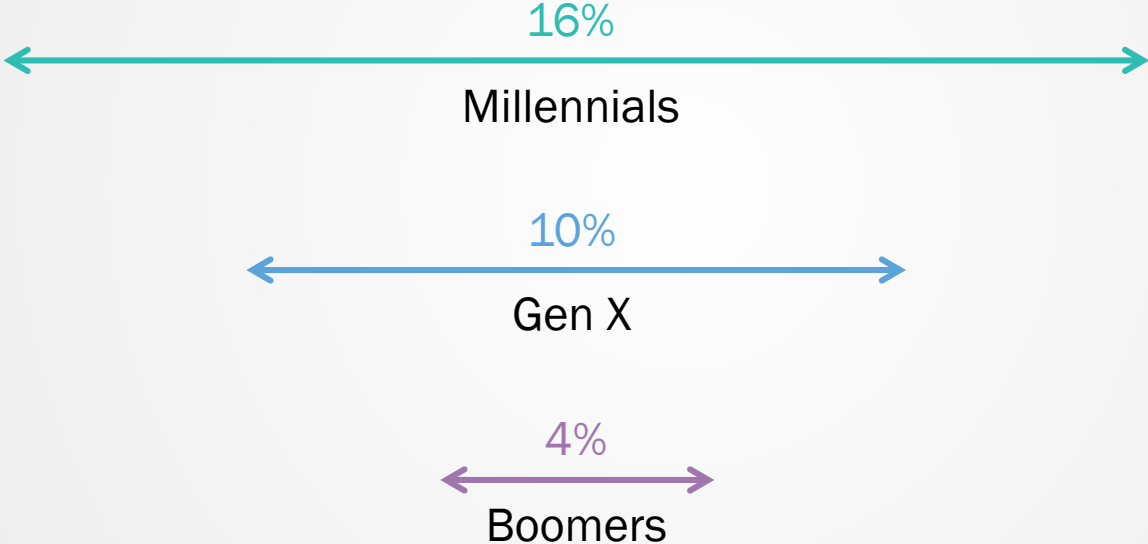
For Black homeowners, median housing value fell 29% between 2007 and 2016—to \$124,000. For non-Hispanic White homeowners, median housing value fell by a smaller 14%.

Political Participation will Impact Future Public Policy

Millennials identify as independents more than other generations



Millennials lean liberal, with a larger spread identifying with Democrats than Republicans



But they vote less

