

# The Gray Divorce Revolution: A Baby Boomer Phenomenon?

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# Gray Divorce



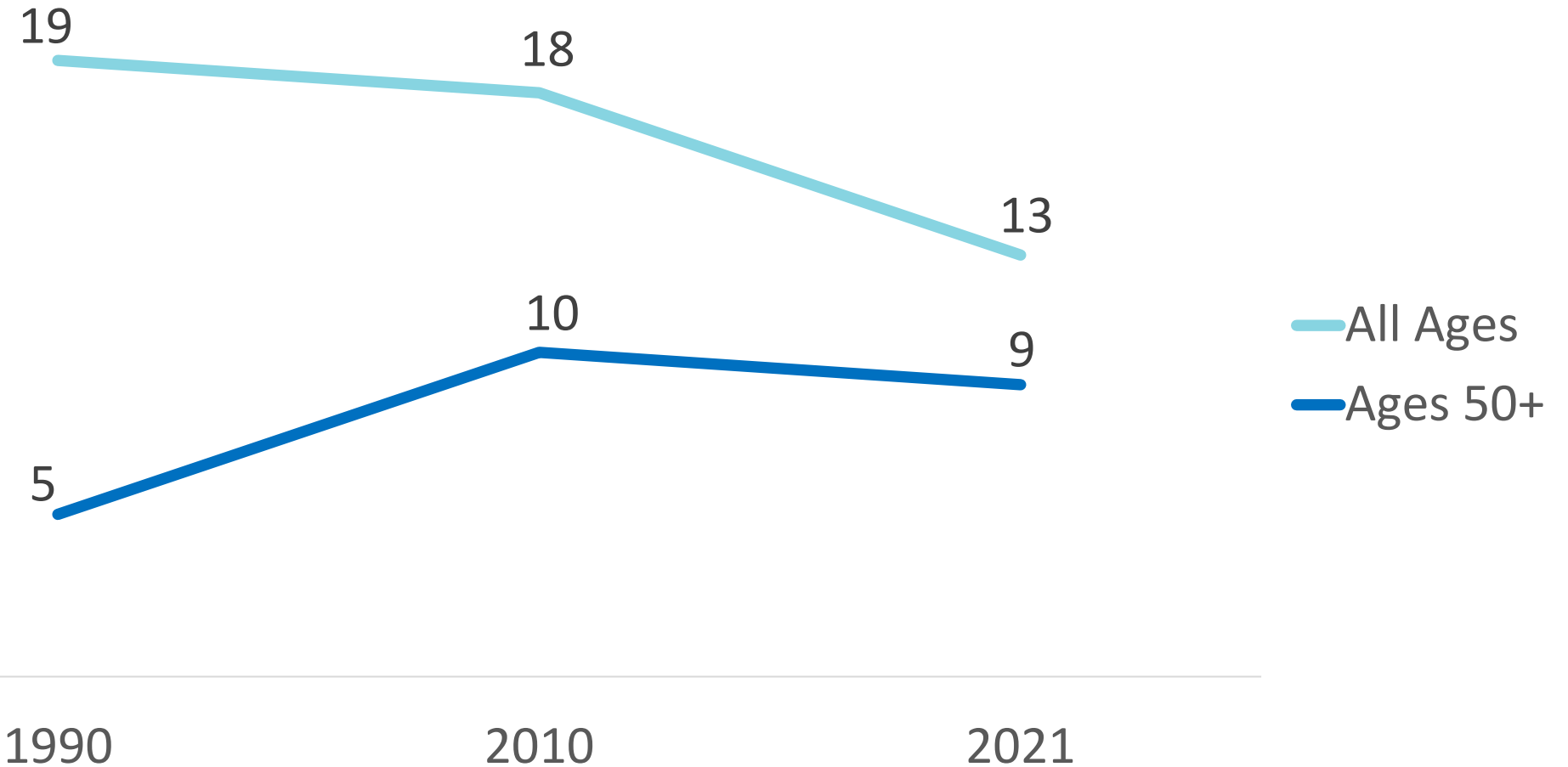
- The Gores (early boomers) split after 40 years of marriage
- Who divorces after decades of marriage?
- Gray divorce describes divorce among adults aged 50+

# The Gray Divorce Trend



# U.S. Divorce Rates

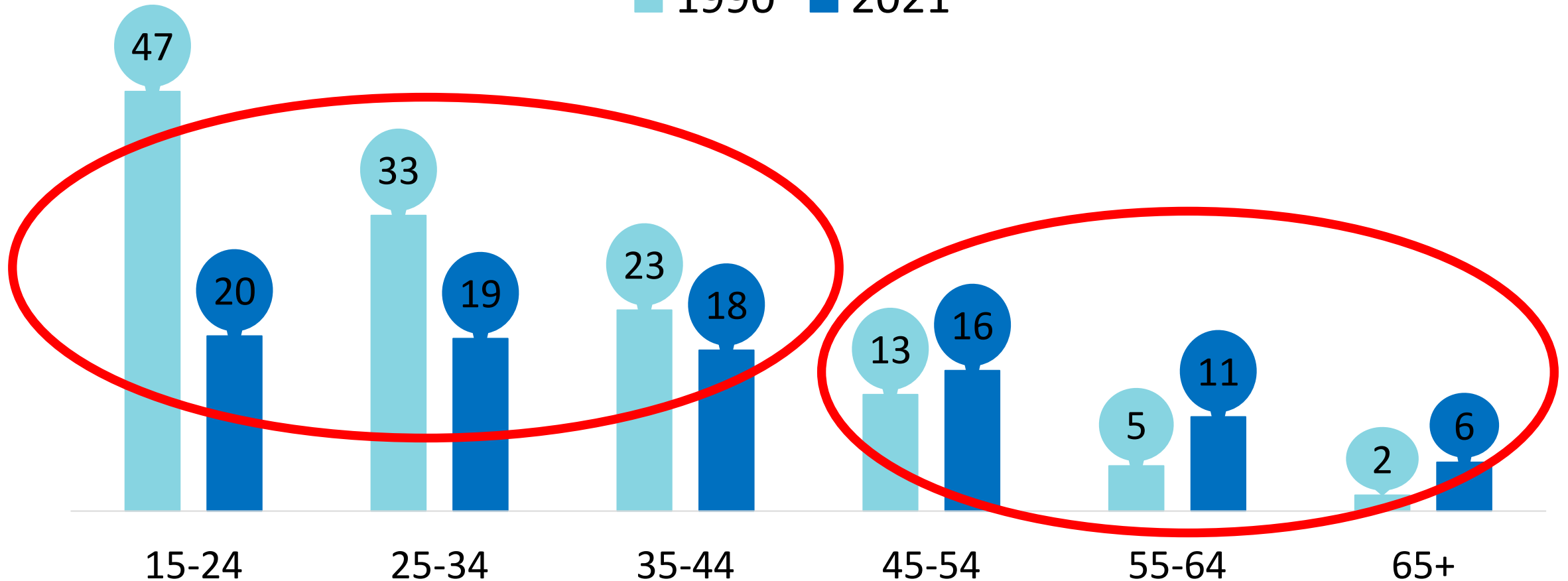
Number of Persons Divorcing  
per 1,000 Married Persons



Source: 1990 Vital Statistics, 2010 and 2021 American Community Survey

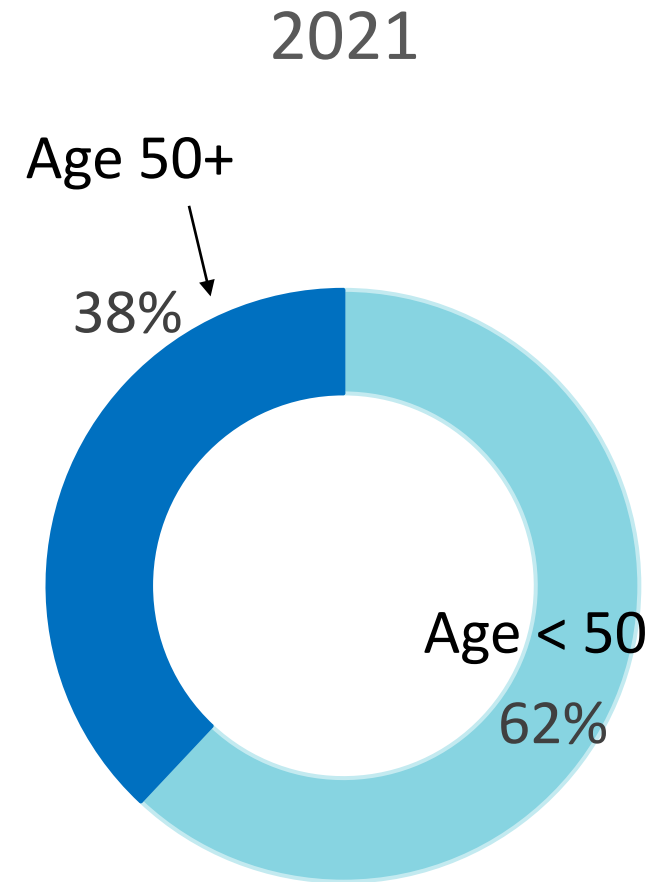
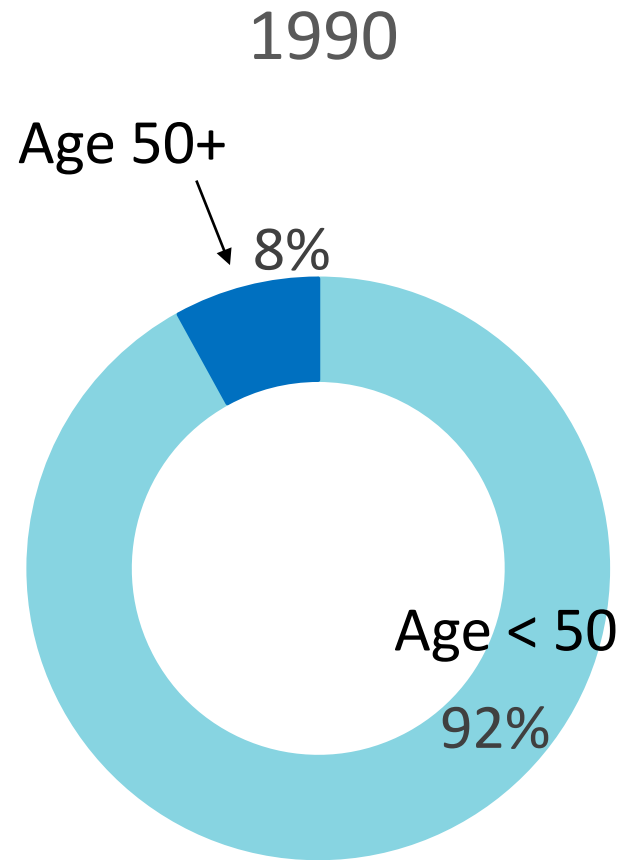
# Divorce Rates by Age Group

■ 1990 ■ 2021



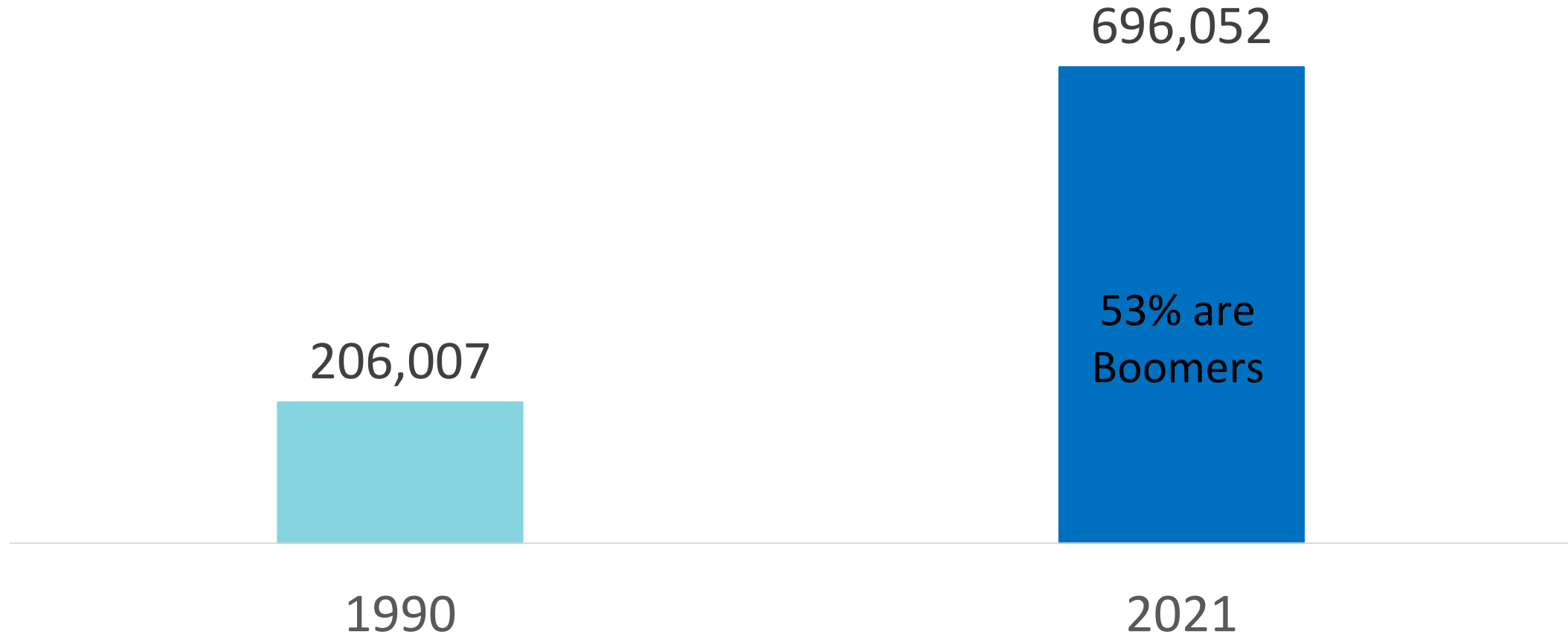
Source: 1990 Vital Statistics, 2021 American Community Survey

# Age Distribution of Divorces



Source: 1990 Vital Statistics, 2021 American Community Survey

# Persons Divorcing, Ages 50+



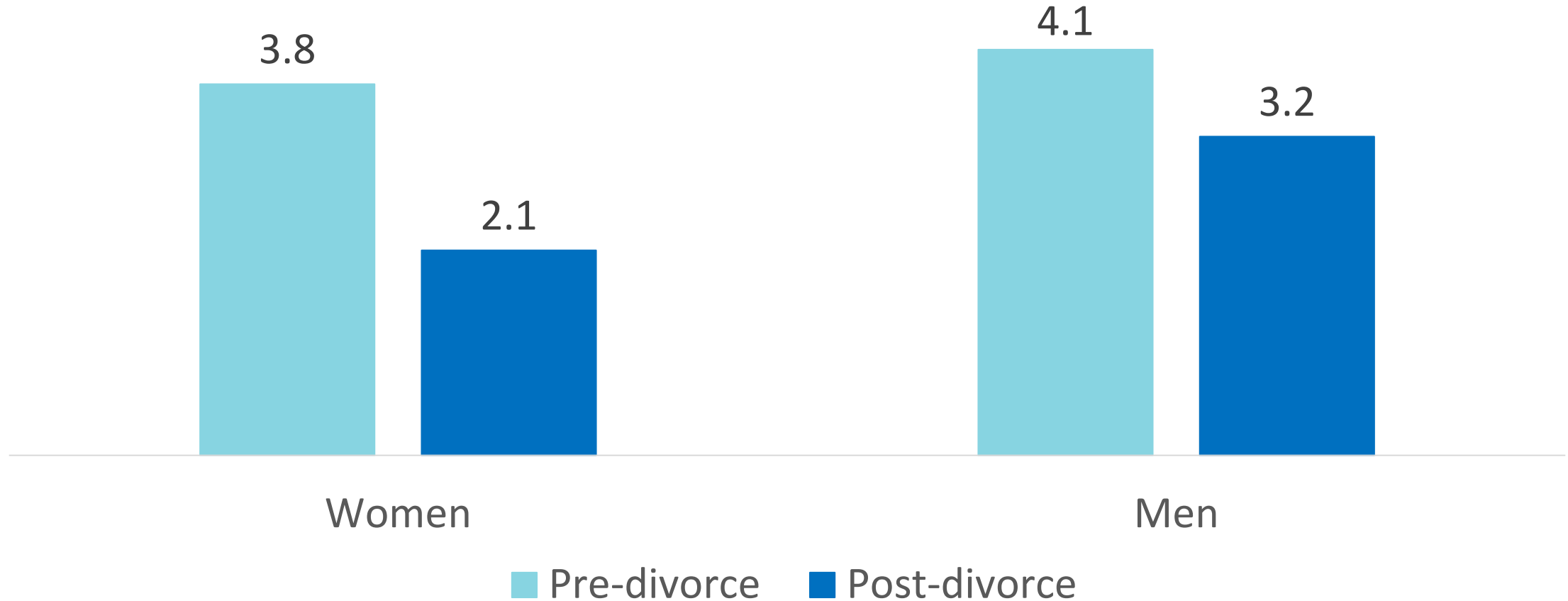
Source: 1990 Vital Statistics, 2021 American Community Survey

# Consequences of Gray Divorce



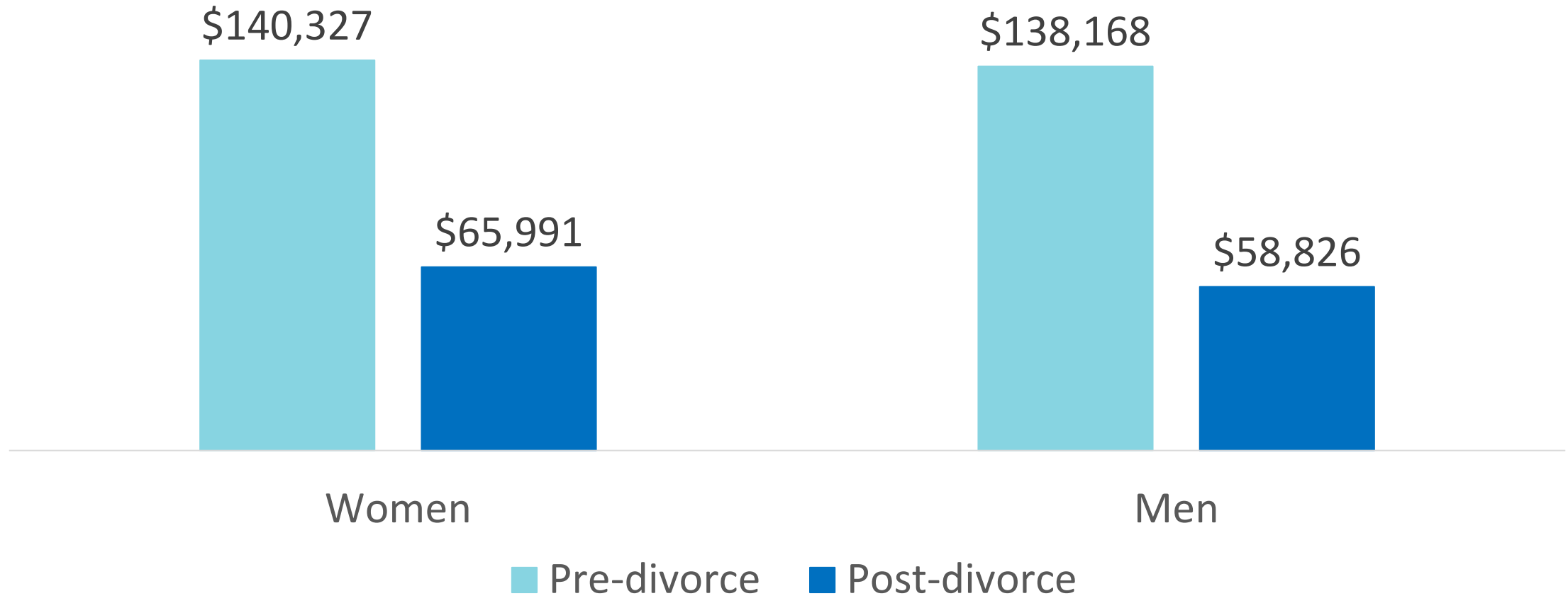


# Standard of Living Pre- and Post-Divorce



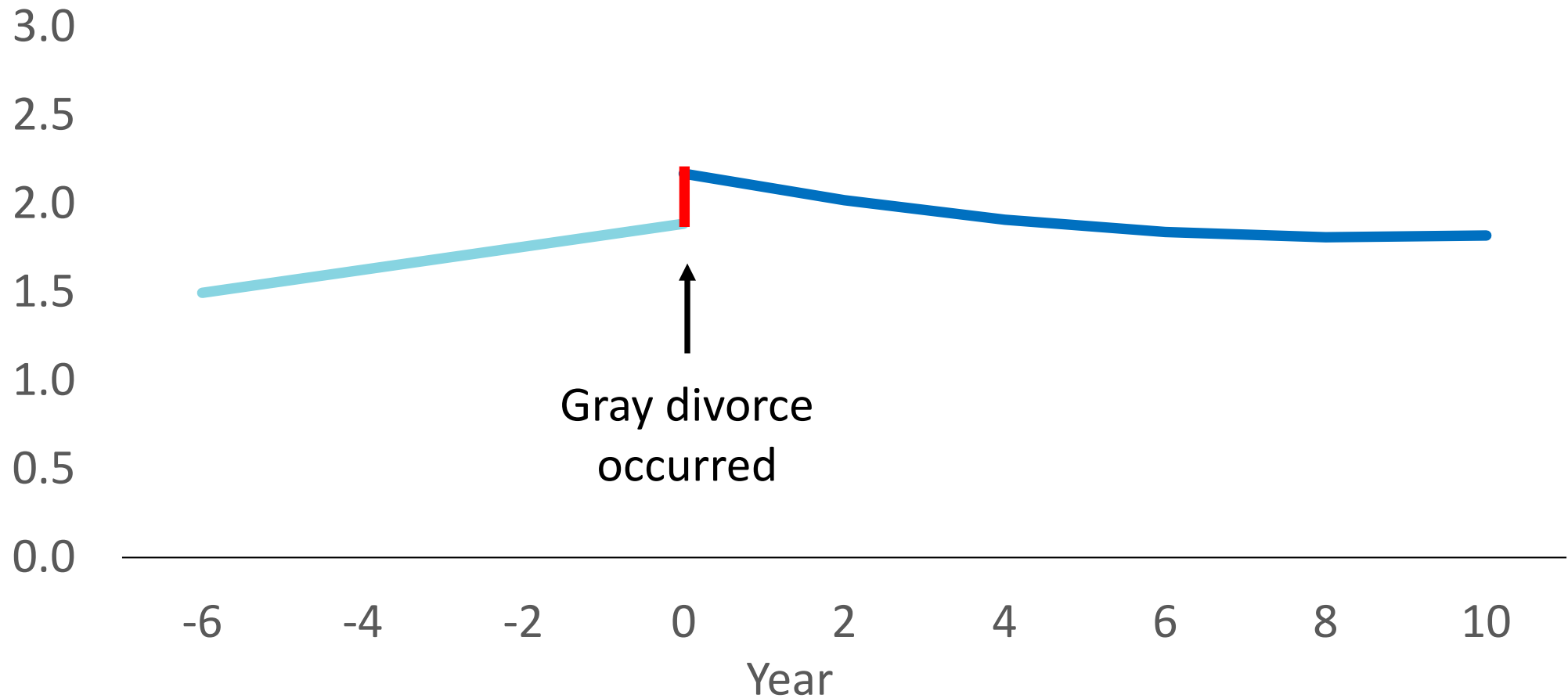
Lin & Brown, 2020, *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*  
Source: Health and Retirement Study, 2004-2014

# Median Wealth Pre- and Post-Divorce



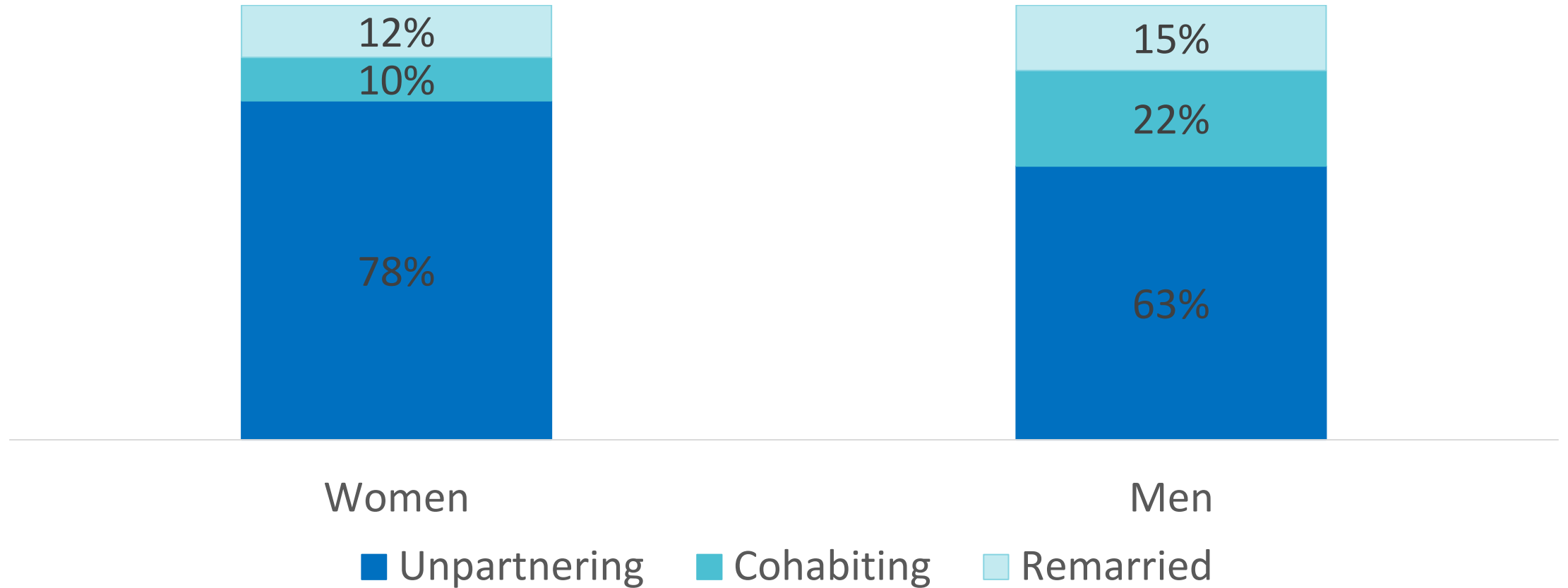
Lin & Brown, 2020, *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*  
Source: Health and Retirement Study, 2004-2014

# Depressive Symptoms Pre- and Post-Divorce



Lin et al., 2019, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*  
Source: Health and Retirement Study, 1998-2014

# Repartnering after Divorce



Brown et al., 2019, *Demography*

Source: Health and Retirement Study, 1998-2014

# Policy Implications

- Emotional recovery from gray divorce is a protracted process
  - Social support may accelerate recovery
- Financial losses usually are permanent
  - Less time left to recoup financial losses
  - More detrimental for women
- Whom could gray divorced individuals turn to for care?
  - Spousal support is no longer available
  - Adult children care for two divorced parents



# Thank you!

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