



# **Boomers, Volunteers, and Retirement: Overview & Trends**

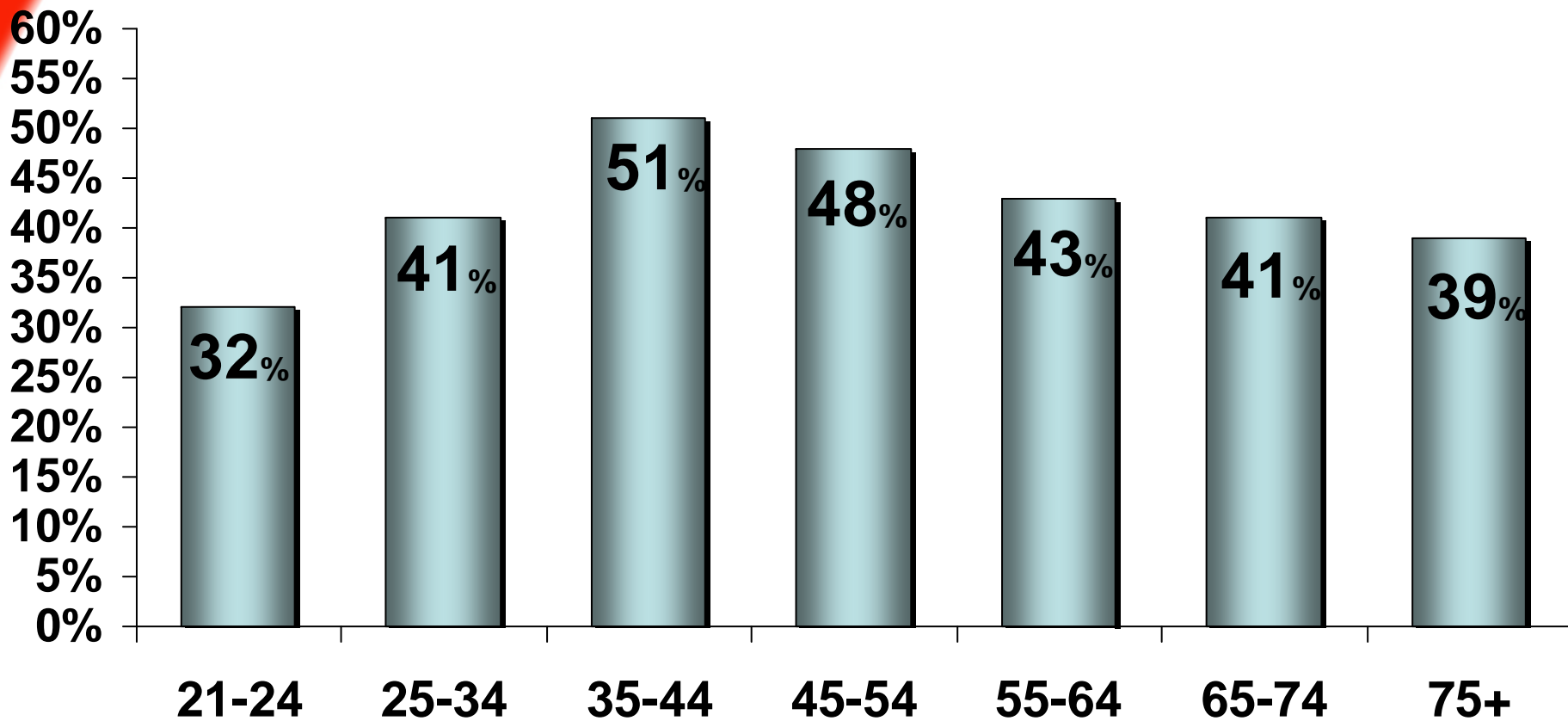
Boomers and Civic Engagement:  
Opportunities and Challenges Conference  
Minneapolis, MN

Presented by Robert H. Prisuta, Ph.D.  
Research Director, AARP  
May 7, 2008

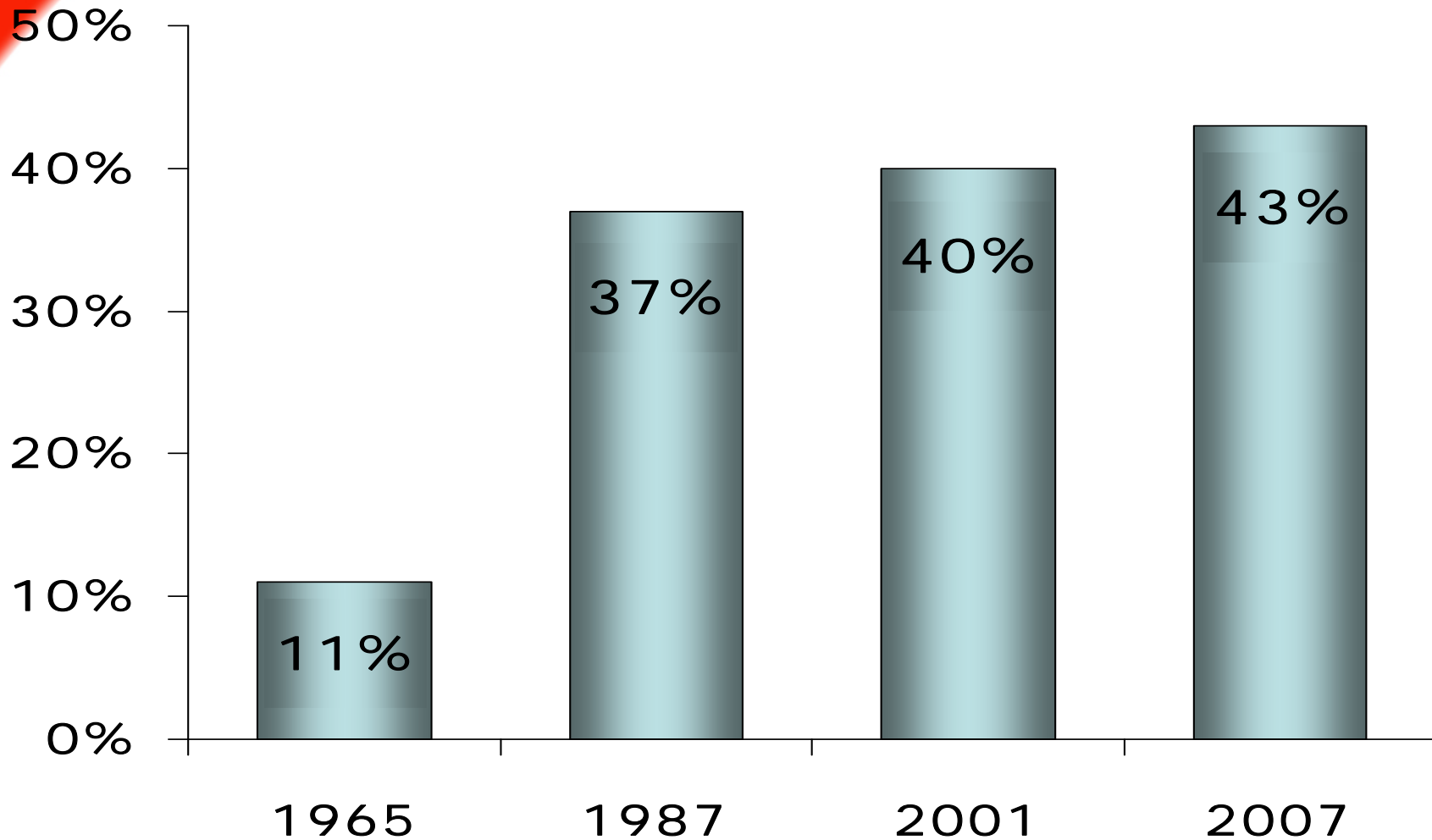


# Age Trends in Volunteering

# Percent of Adults Volunteering By Age



# Age 65+ Volunteer Trends

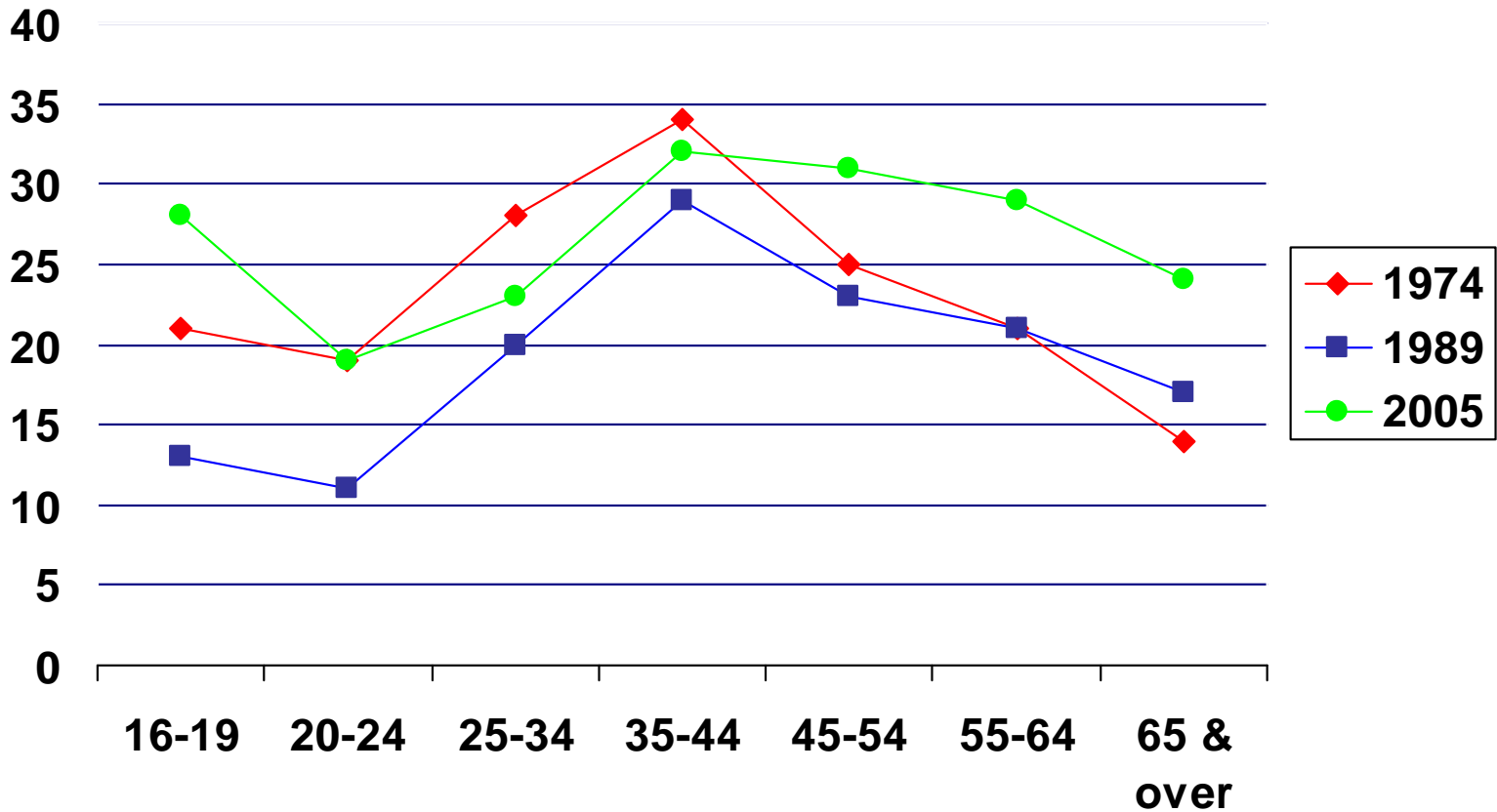


Sources: Independent Sector, [Giving and Volunteerism in the U.S., 2001](#), Washington, DC, 2002 and Chambre, Susan M., "Volunteerism by Elders: Demographic and Policy Trends, Past and Future," in [Resourceful Aging: Today and Tomorrow, Conference Proceedings, Vol. II, Volunteerism](#), AARP, Washington, D.C., 1990, ICR Survey on Volunteers, 2007, n =1,208.



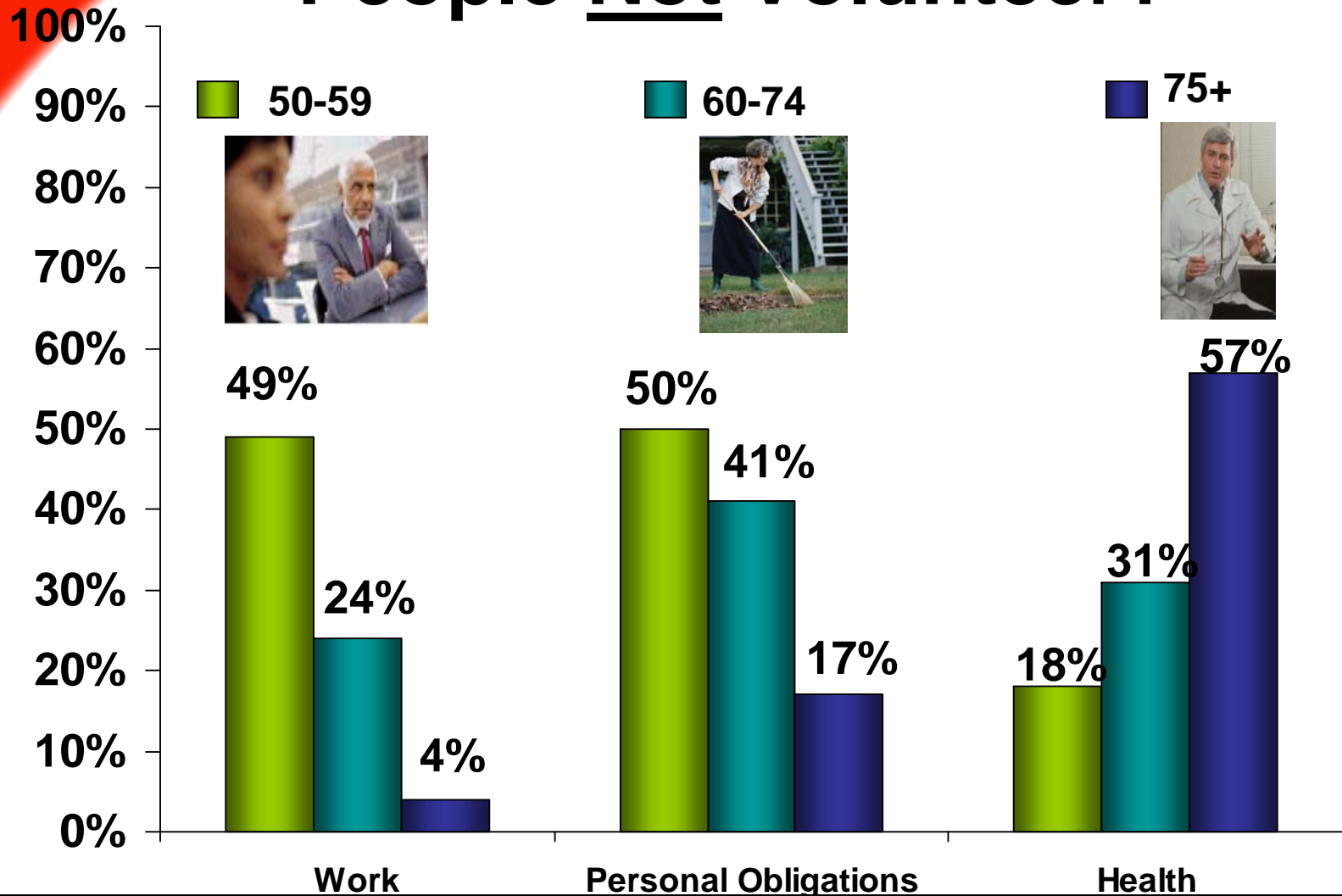
# Trends in Volunteering by Age

(1974 -2005)





# Why Do Older People Not Volunteer?





# Boomers & Volunteering

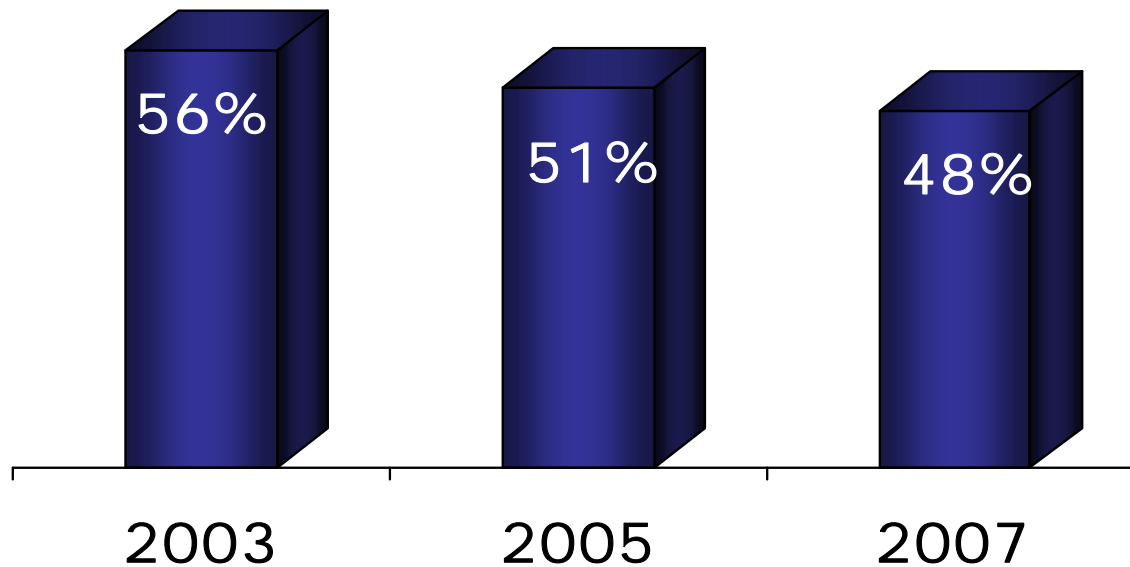


# Boomer Demographics

- **76 million: born between 1946 - 1964**
- **Life expectancy: 83 for women, 79 for men**
- **Median household income: \$62,300**
- **Married: 69% Not Married: 31%**
- **Education: 30% college degree (20% for pre-boomers)**
- **Working: 68% Full-time, 12% Part-time**
- **Health: 22% Excellent, 21% Fair/poor**
- **Race-Ethnicity: 74% White, non-Hispanic (81% for pre-boomers)**
- **28% of Americans are boomers**

# Trends in Boomer Volunteering

Percent of Boomers Volunteering by Year

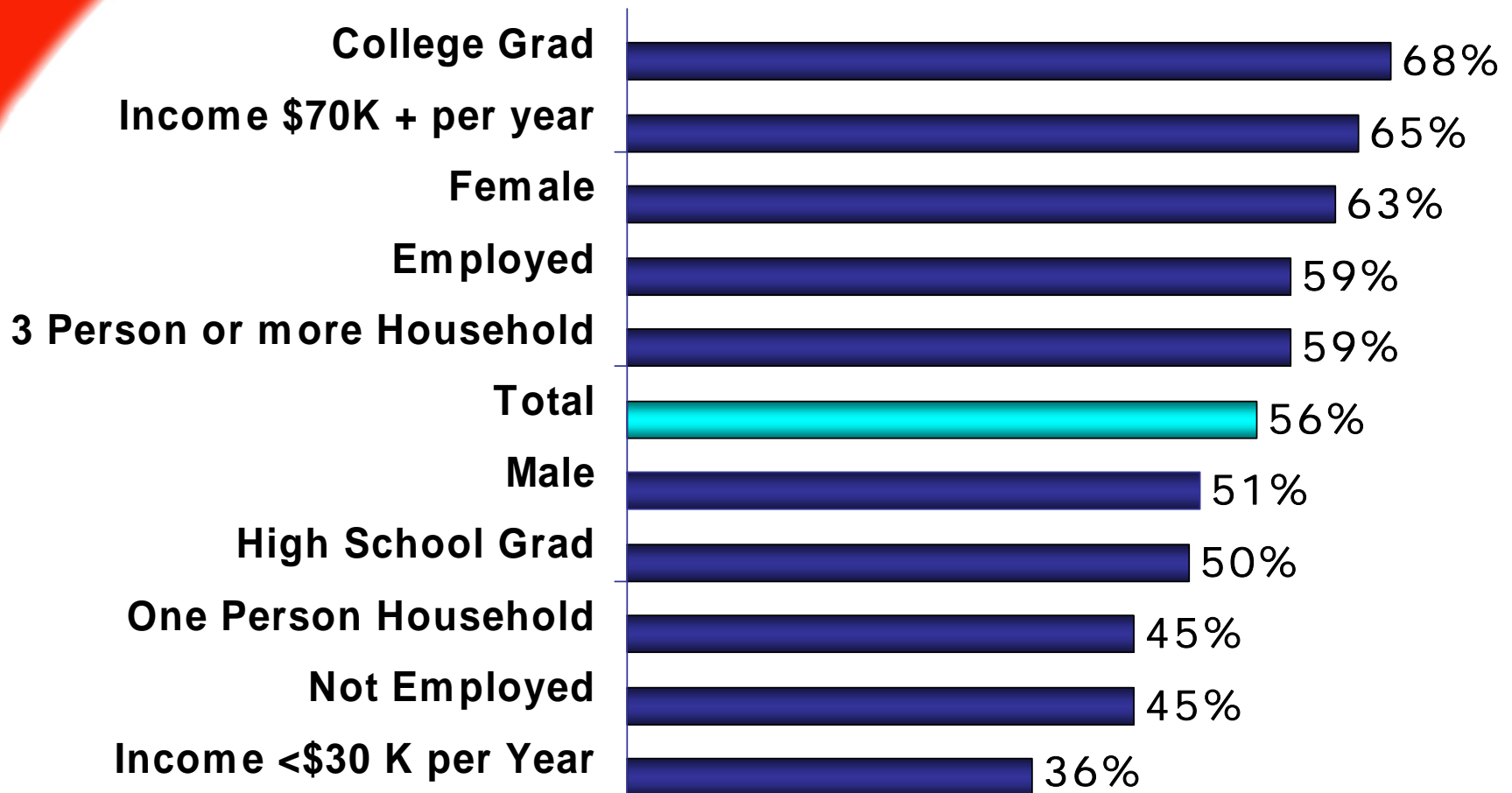




# Extent of Boomer Volunteering

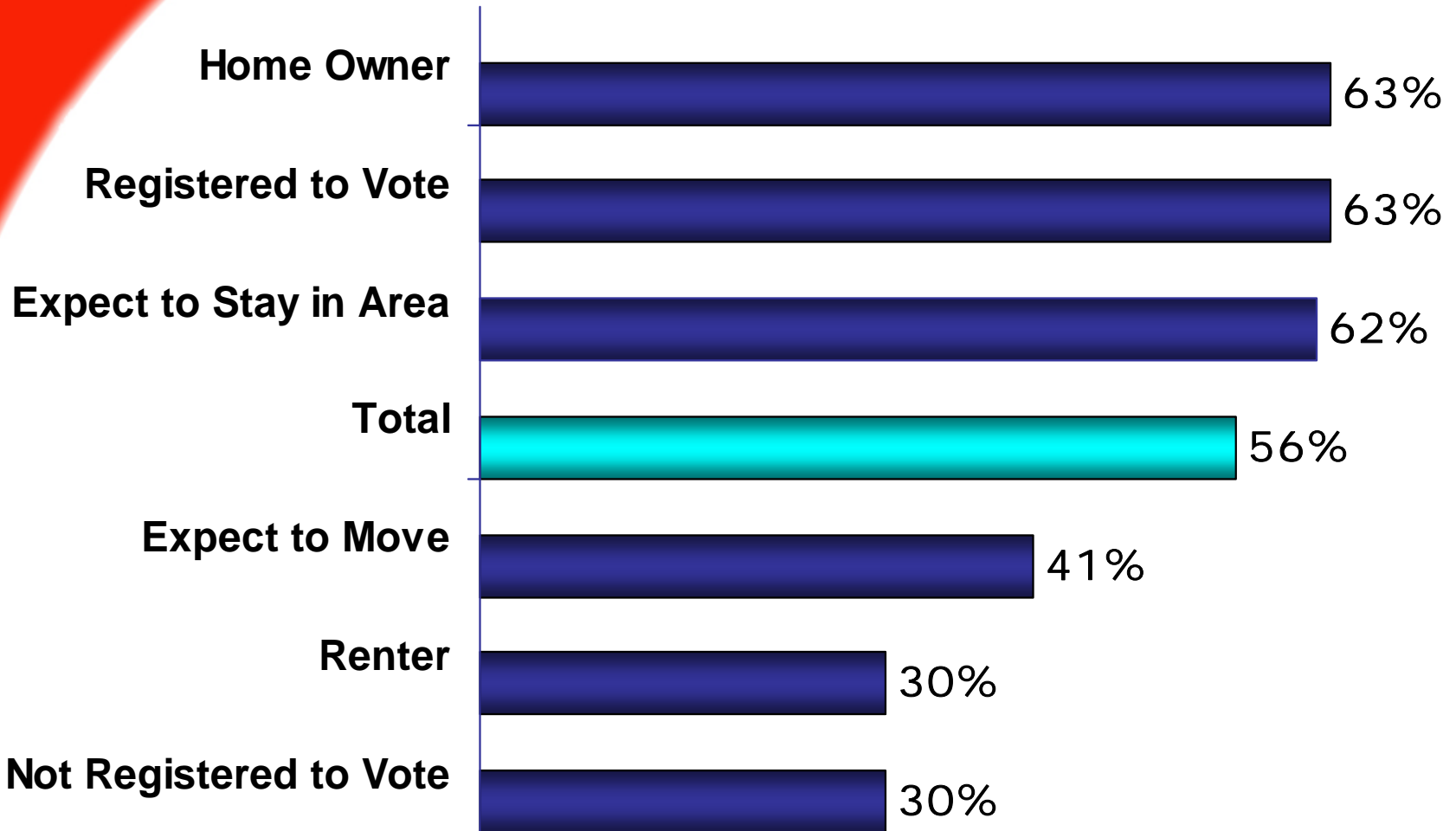
- **37 million boomer volunteers**
- **Average of 12 hours per month  
(median= less than 10 hours)  
or 5.3 billion hours per year**
- **Estimated value of over \$100 billion per year**

# Boomer Volunteers and Demographics

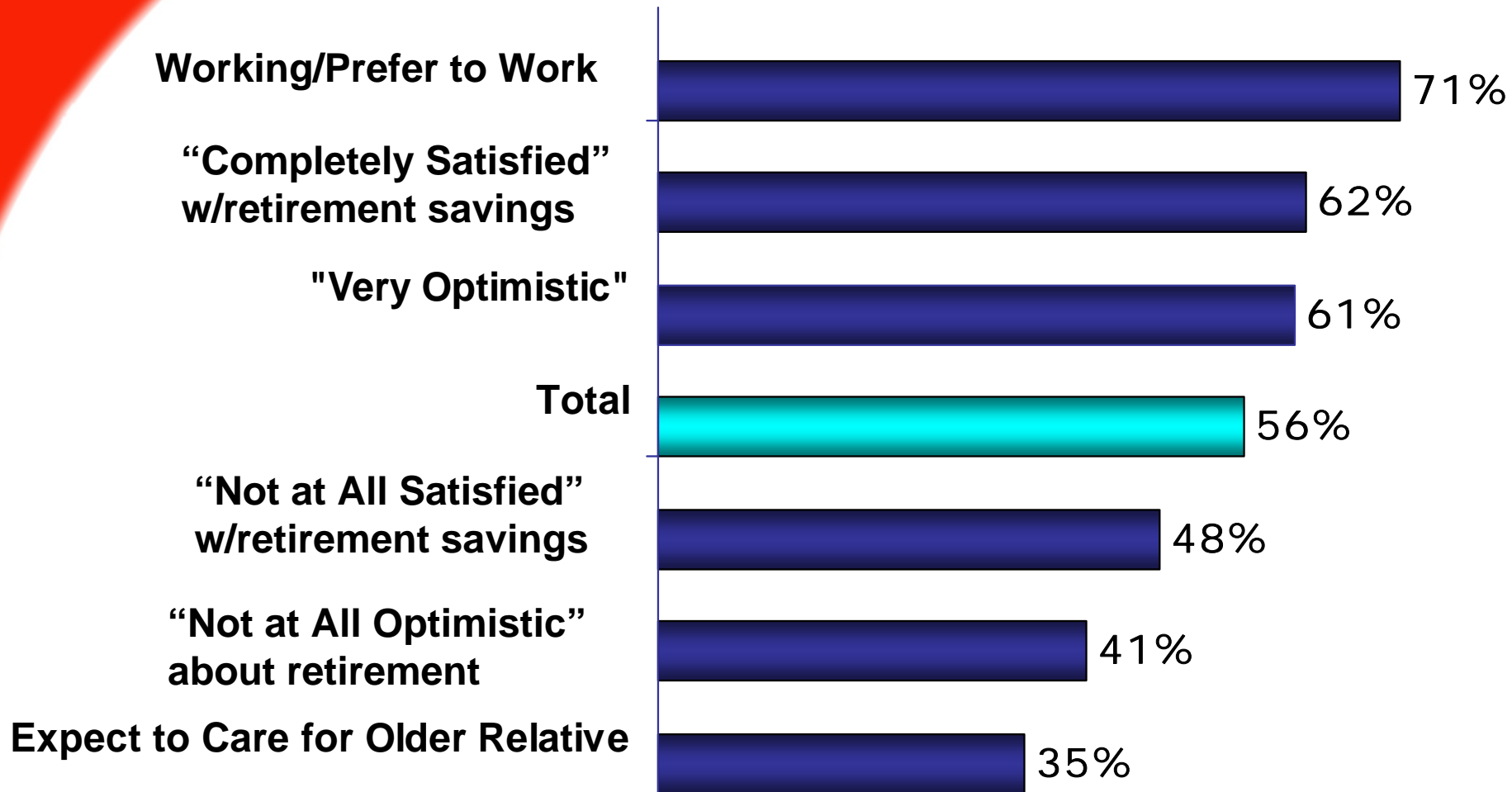




# Boomer Volunteers and Their Communities

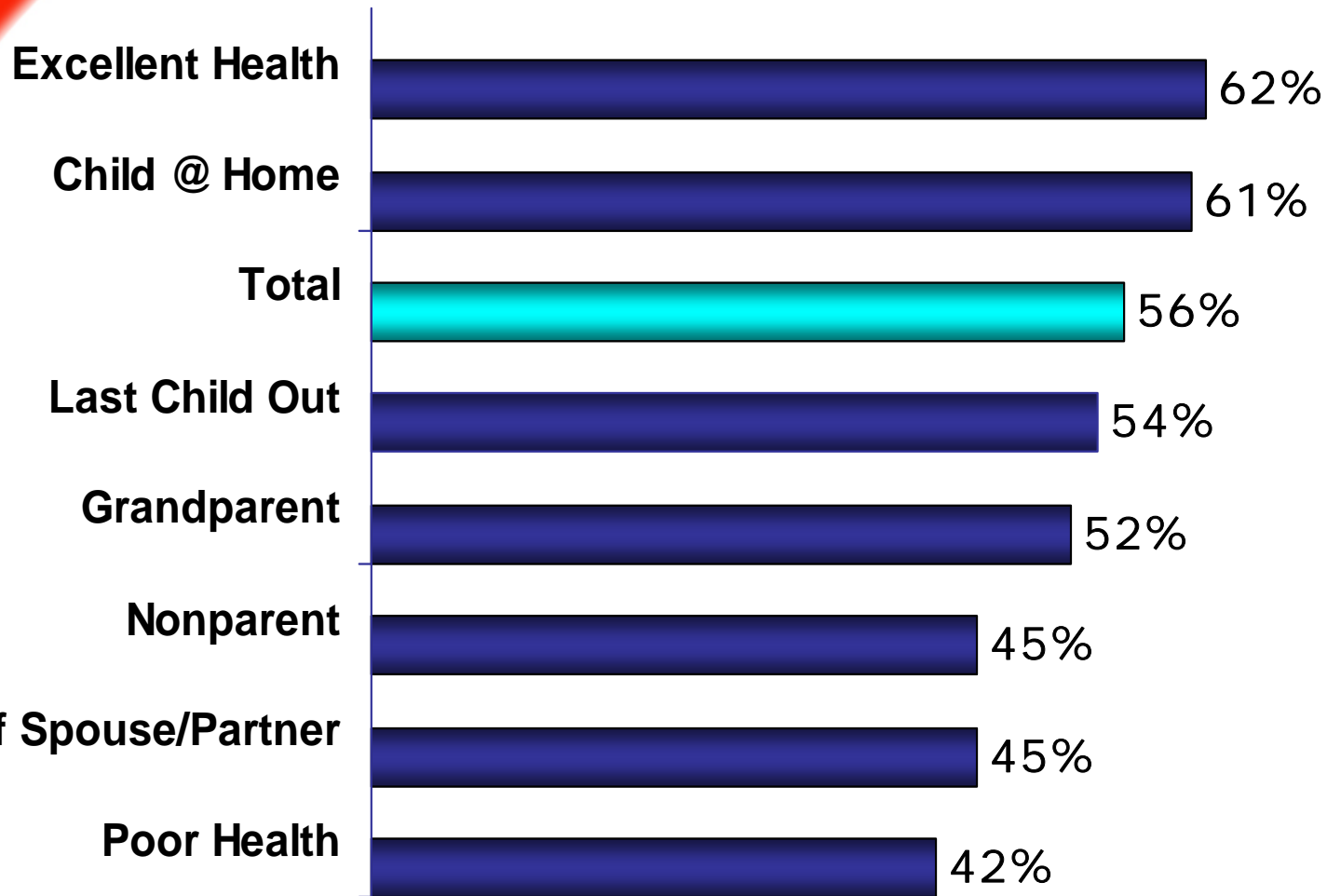


# Boomer Volunteers and Attitudes Toward Retirement



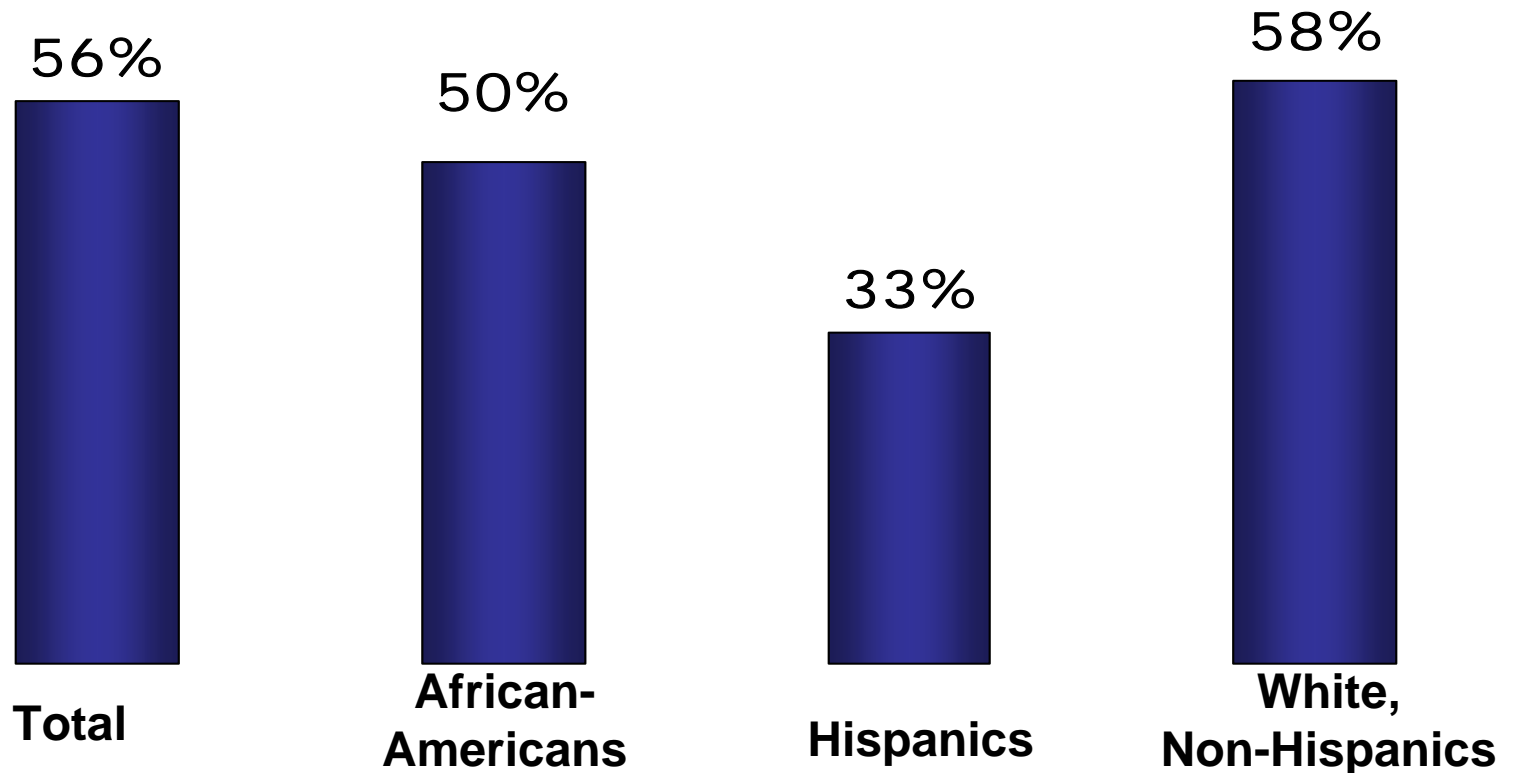


# Boomer Volunteers and Lifestage



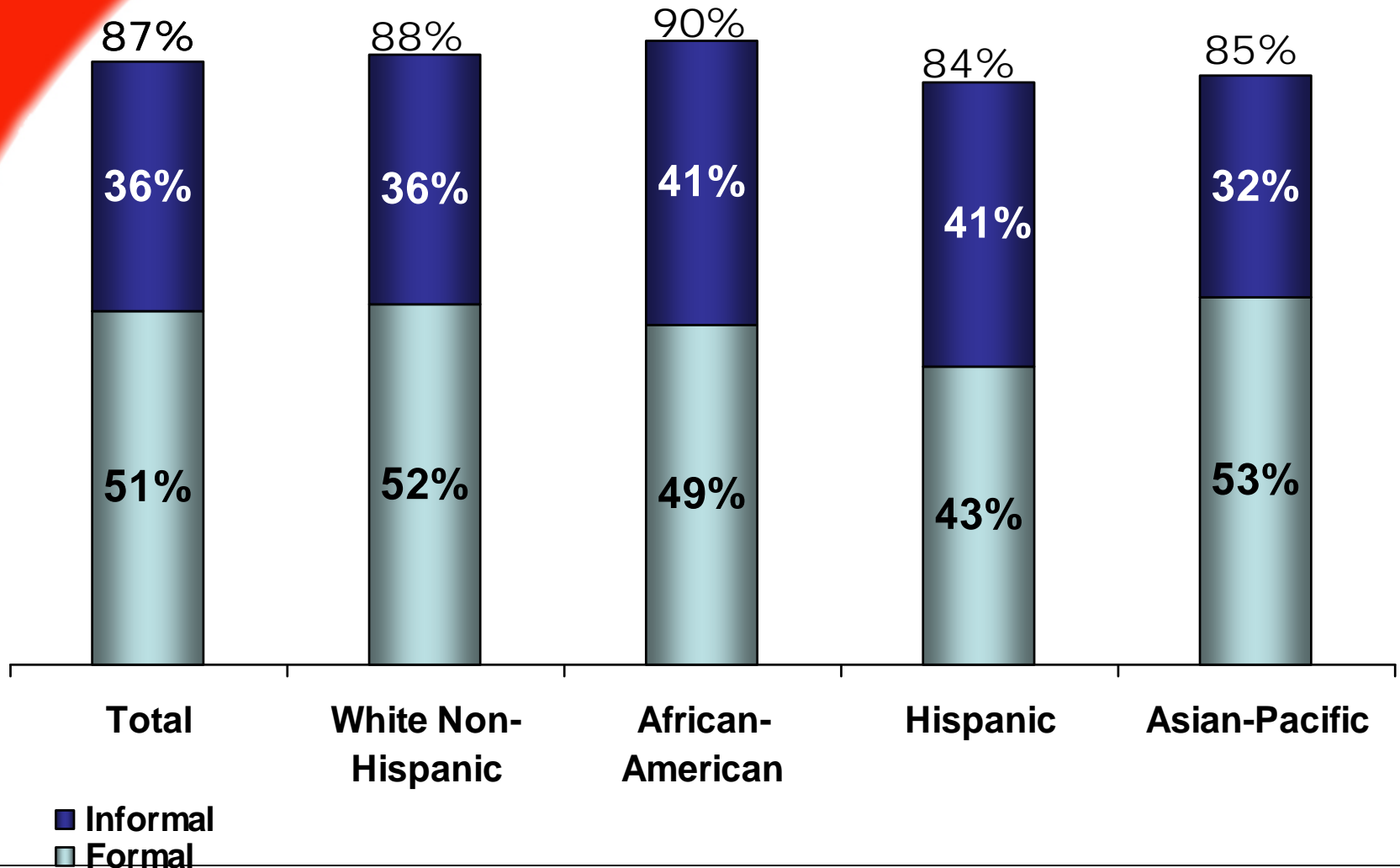


# Volunteering Among Boomers By Race/Ethnicity





# Type of Volunteering Among Those 45+



# Top Reasons for Volunteering are Similar Across Race and Ethnicity

- Sense of Responsibility
  - Life Satisfaction
  - Make a Difference
  - Reputation of Organization
  - Help my Community
  - Religious Commitment
  - Keep Active
- ↓  
Hispanic

# Where People Volunteer By Race/Ethnicity

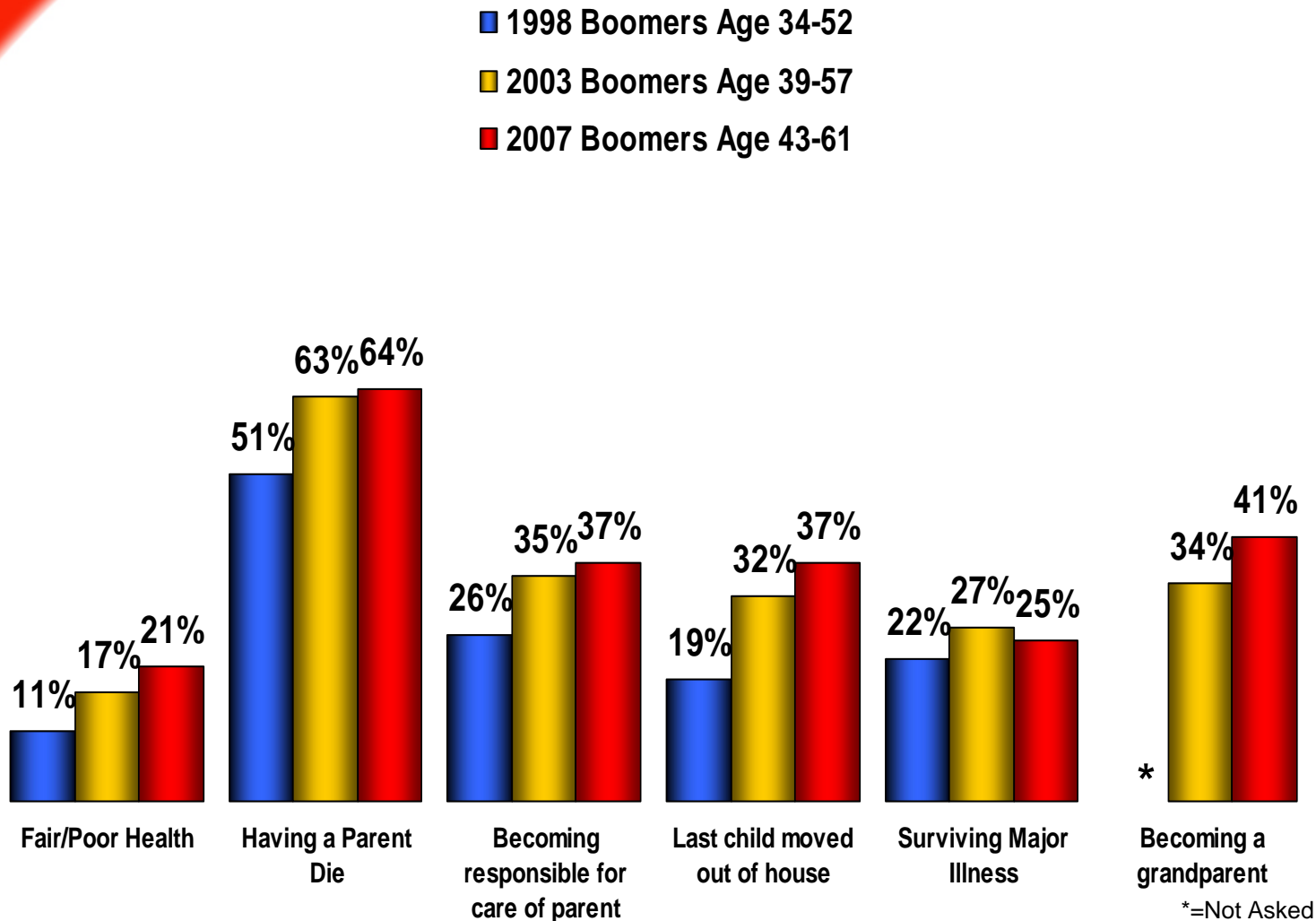
<b>White, Non-Hispanic</b>	<b>African-American</b>	<b>Asian-Pacific</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>
<b>Neighborhood/ Community</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Homelessness/ Poverty</b>	<b>Neighborhood/ Community</b>	<b>Homelessness/ Poverty</b>
<b>Homelessness/ Poverty</b>	<b>Mentoring/ Tutoring</b>	<b>Homelessness/ Poverty</b>	<b>Neighborhood/ Community</b>
<b>Children/Teens</b>	<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Minority Advocacy</b>	<b>Mentoring/ Tutoring</b>
<b>Environment</b>	<b>Neighborhood/ Community</b>	<b>Children/Teens</b>	<b>Children/Teens</b>



# Implications for the Future of Boomer Volunteering

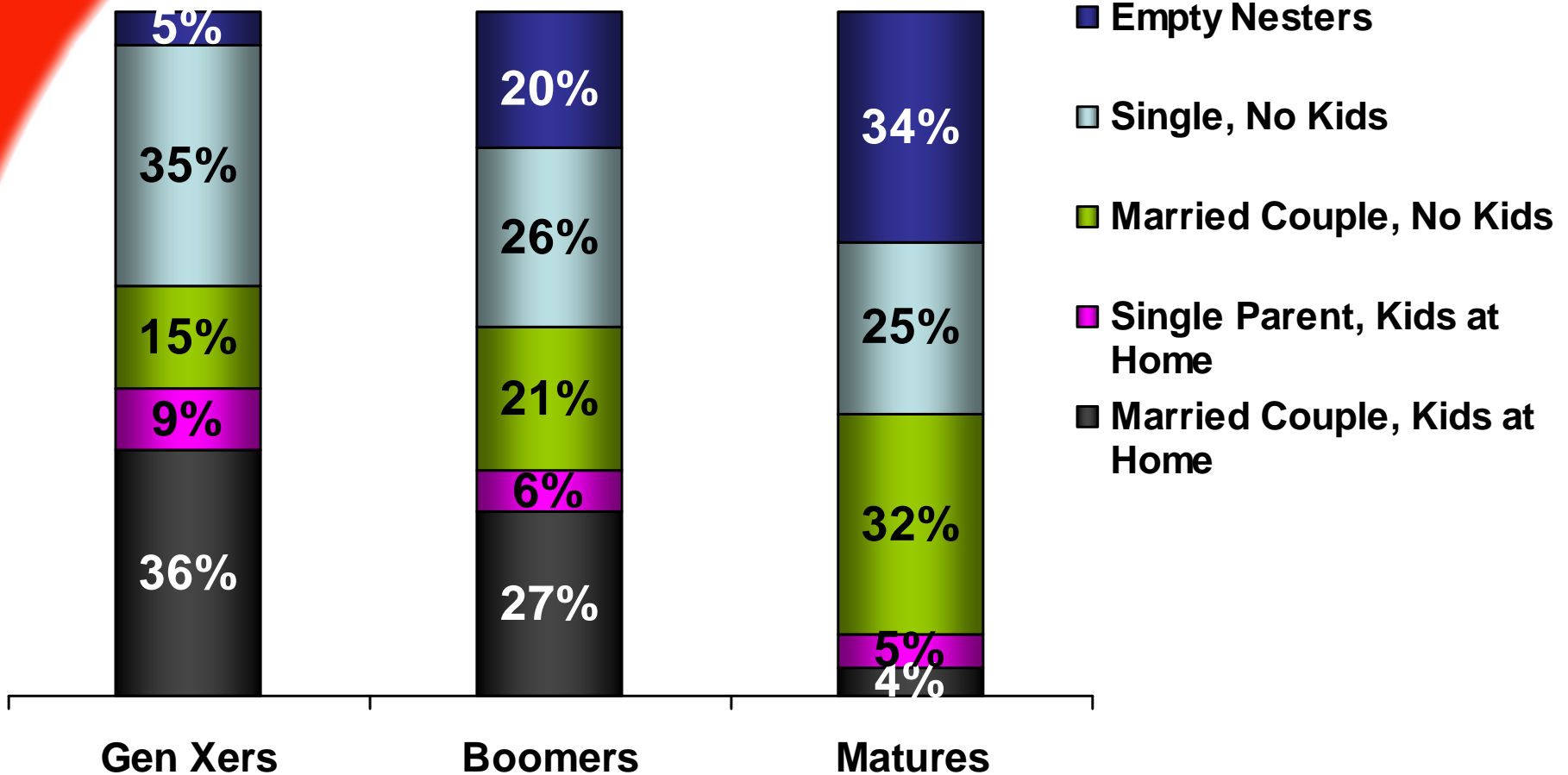


# More “Life” Happens As Boomers Age



Source: *Boomers Envision Their Retirement II*, AARP/Roper ASW/NOP World, 2003. n=1,200, AARP/ICR Boomers and Retirement Survey, 2007 (n=600)

# Generational Changes in the Home





# Boomer Satisfaction by Life Area





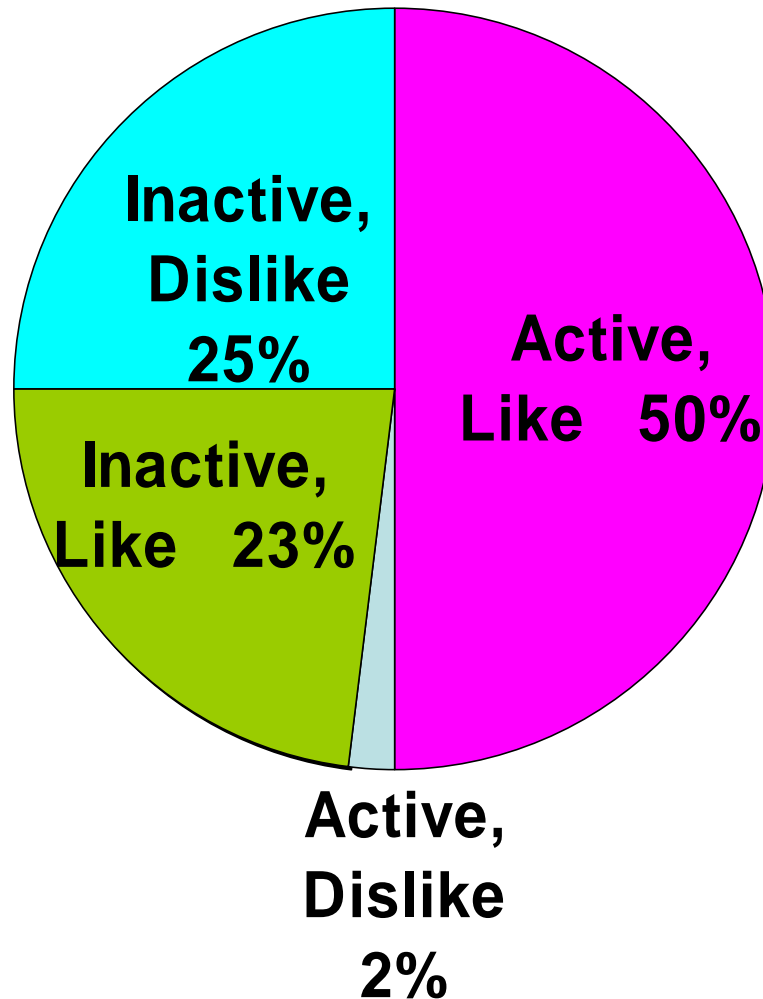
# Boomer Optimism Towards Retirement

	Year			
	<u>1998</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2007</u>
Very Fairly	28%	27%	30%	31%
	41	38	38	34
<b>Optimistic</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Not too Not at all	21%	23%	22%	19%
	8	10	8	13
<b>Not Optimistic</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>

Source: *Boomers Envision Retirement I*, AARP/Roper, 1998, (n = 2,000) *Boomers Envision Retirement II*, AARP/Roper, 2003, (n= 1,200) *AARP/ICR Volunteering Surveys*, 2001, 2007.(n =600).

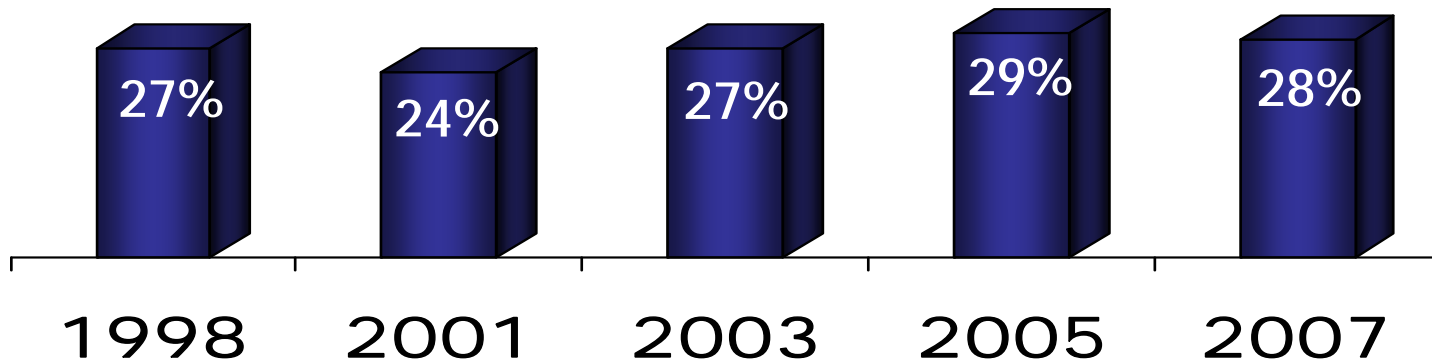


# Volunteering Status and Preferences Among Individuals 45+



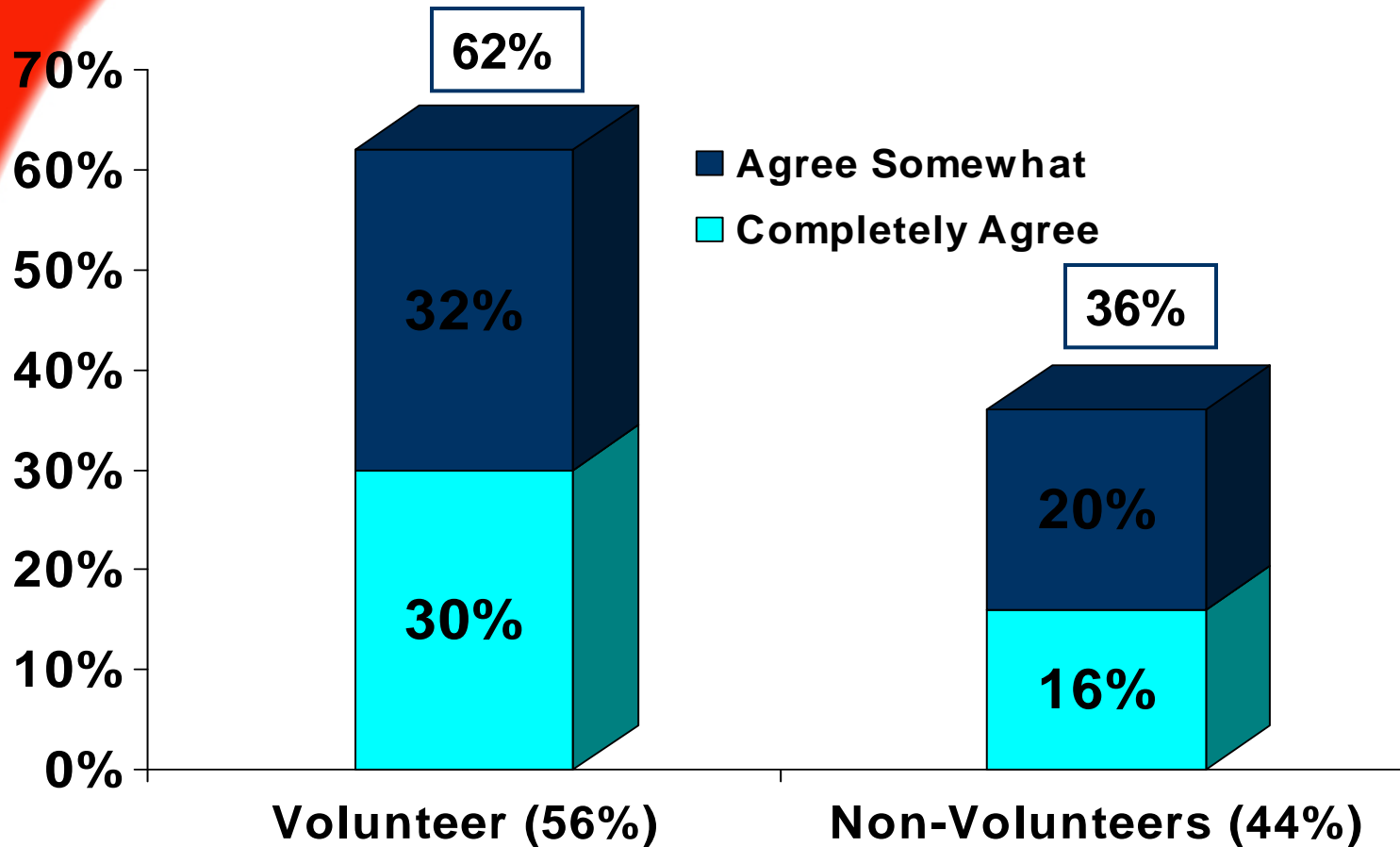


# Trends: Boomers Who “Completely Agree” That They Will Volunteer More in Retirement



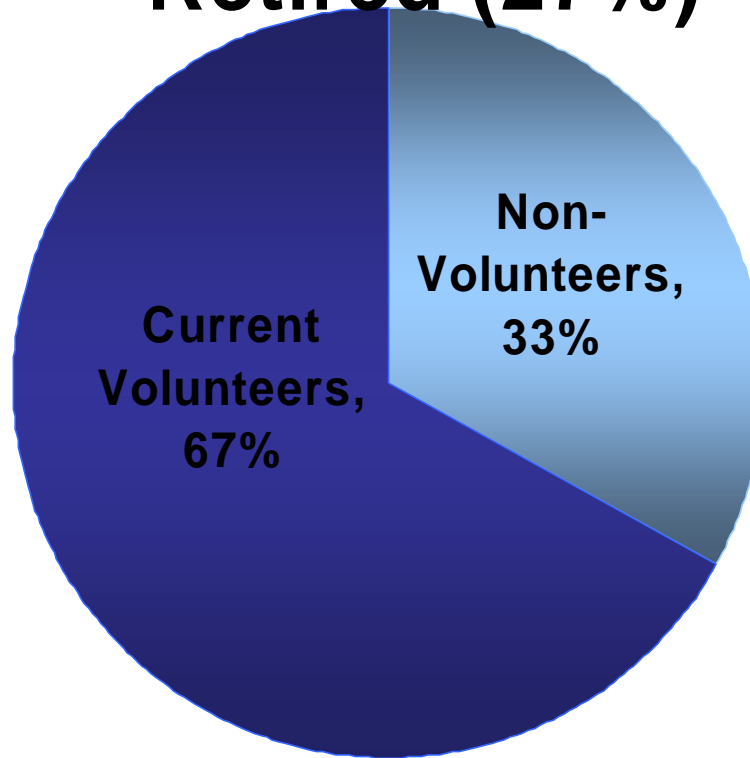
# Boomers Who Agree They Will Volunteer More in Retirement

(By Current Volunteer Status)

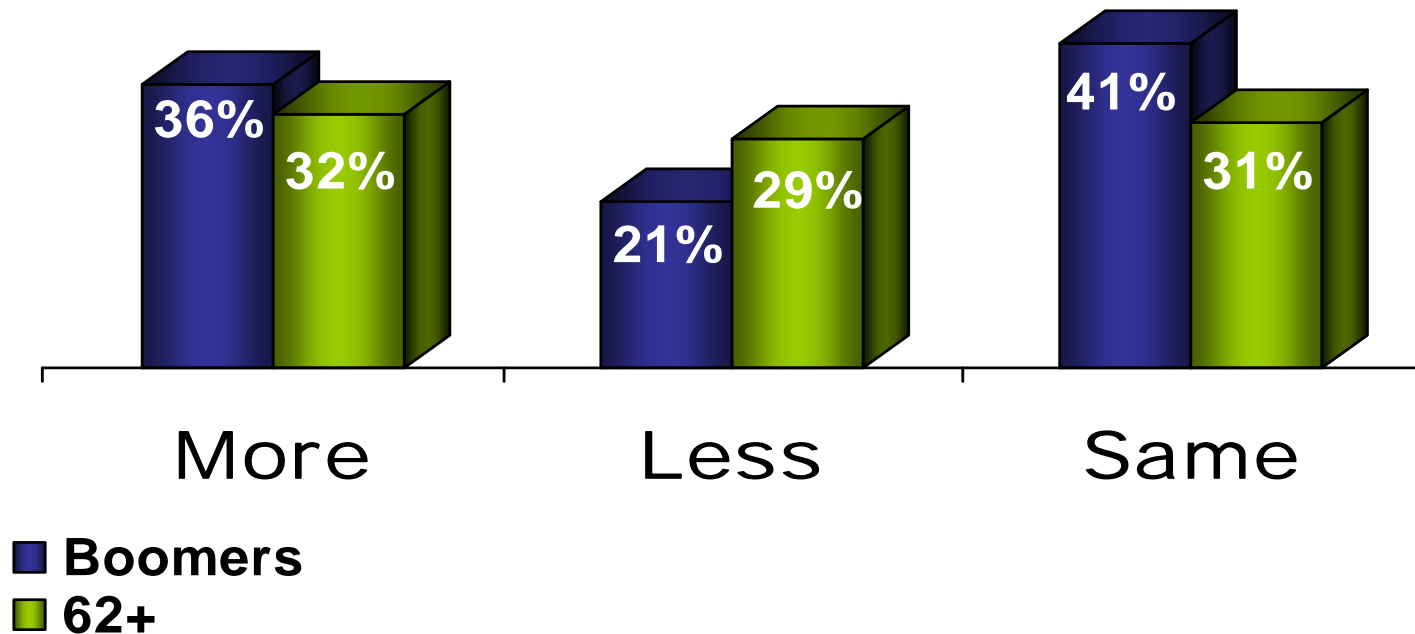




# Percent of Boomers Who “Completely Agree” They Will Volunteer More When Retired (27%)



# Changes in Volunteer Time Since Retired





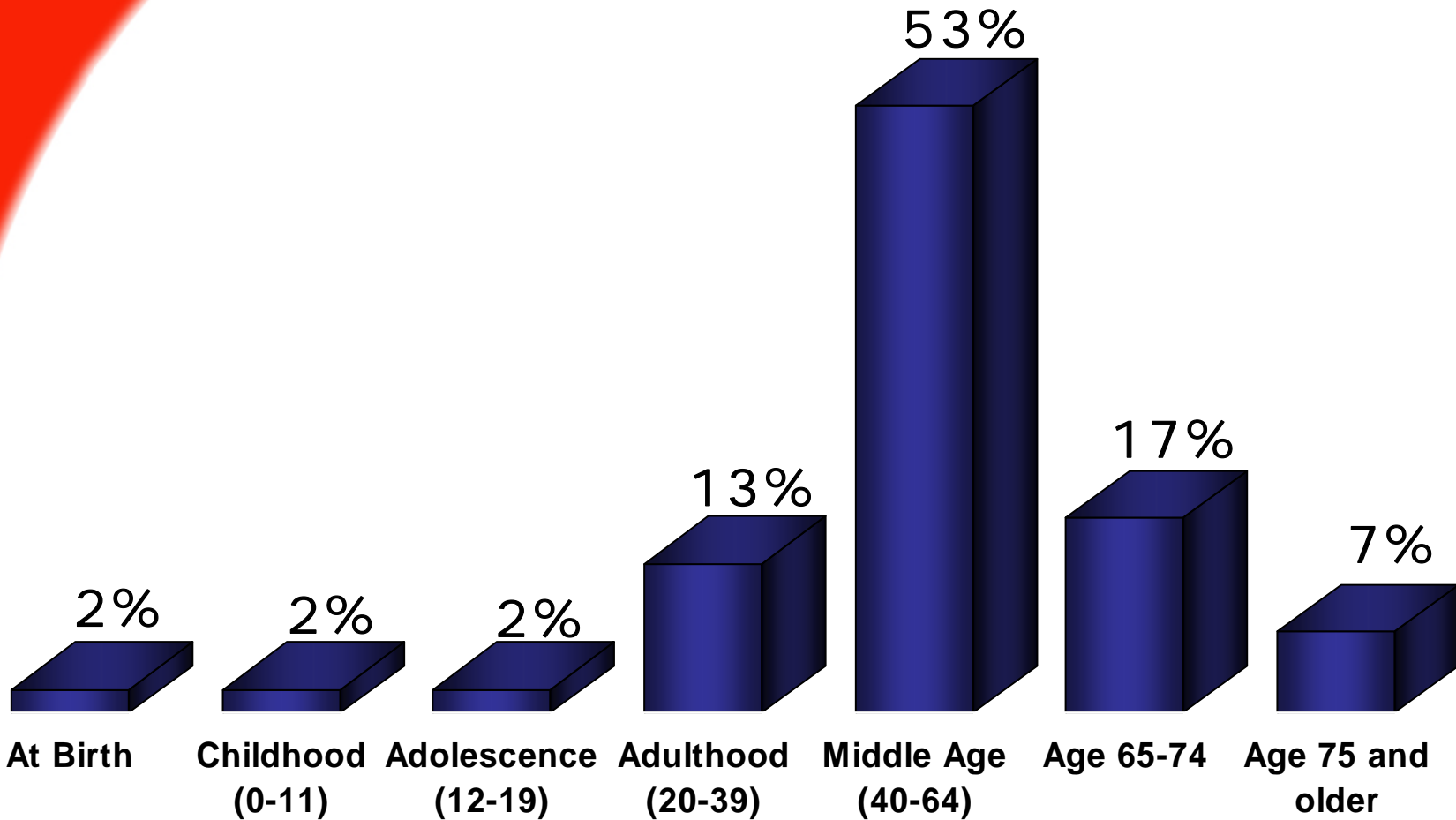
# Better Health?

- Boomers healthier than parents in some ways, less healthy in others
- 25-30% smoke vs. 50% in 1965
- 40% overweight vs. 26% in 1960's
- Only three in 10 Boomers exercise



# Onset of Disability

Q. At what age did your disability or health condition begin?





# Boomers, Work, and Retirement

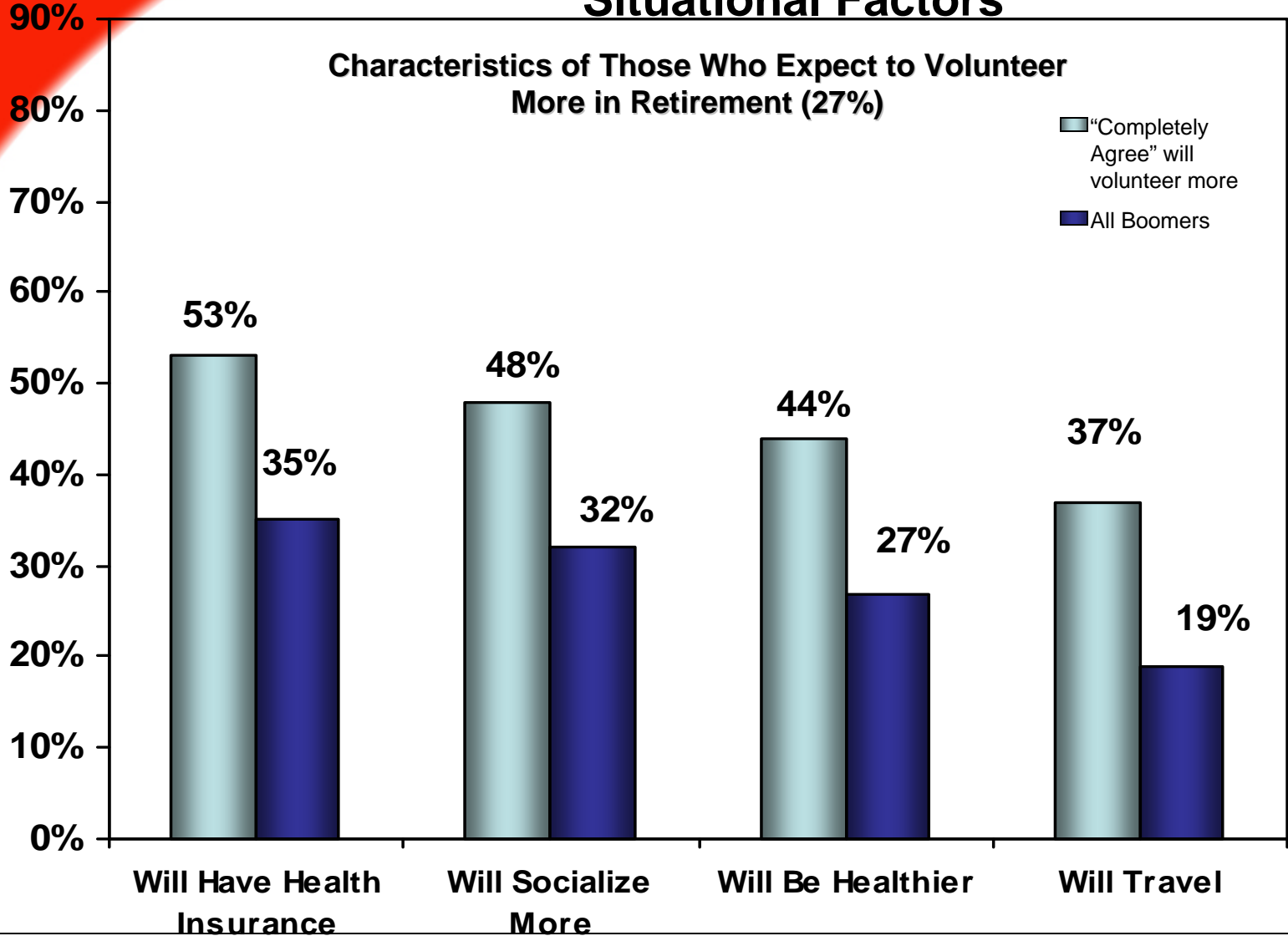
- **12% of boomers are retired and not working**
- **Almost half (43%) of these retired boomers expect to return to the work force**
- **Only 17% of boomers currently working expect to retire completely and not work at all**



# Future Boomer Volunteers\*

(\*Percent who "Completely Agree" with each statement.)

## Situational Factors





# Summary

- **Boomers are active volunteers who contribute a great deal to their communities.**
- **Boomers will retire later than their parents did, but this is unlikely to limit their future volunteering.**
- **The source of future boomer volunteers will be today's boomer volunteers, not retiring boomer non-volunteers looking for new roles.**
- **Boomers' health, economic status, and family situation will impact their volunteering far more than will their employment status.**

# **Boomers, Volunteers, and Retirement:**

## **Overview & Trends**

**Presented by Robert H. Prisuta, Ph.D.**

**Research Director, AARP**

**May 7, 2008**