



# Meeting the Housing Needs of RI's Older Adults

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Presentation to the  
Senior Agenda Coalition Annual Conference  
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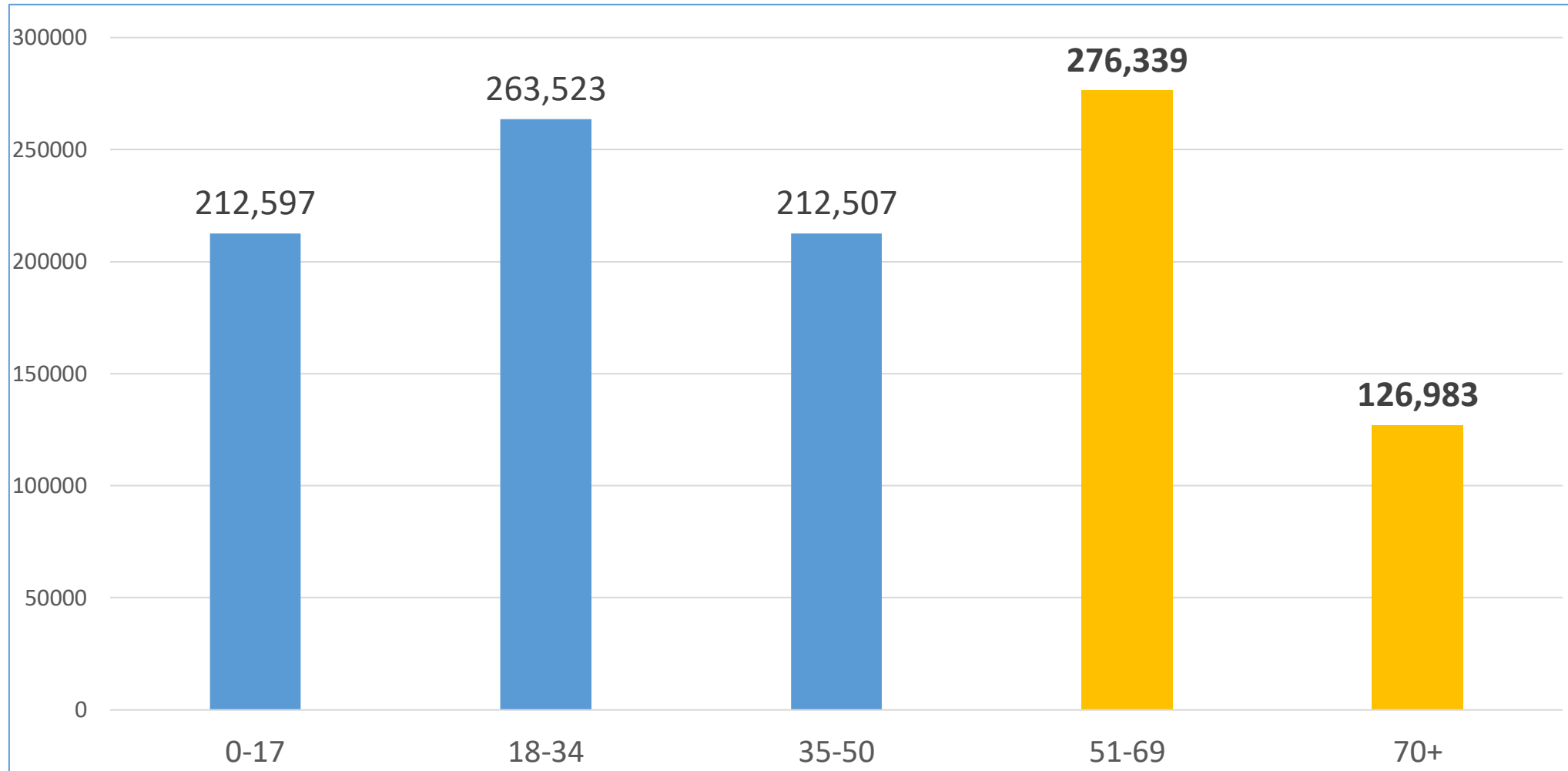


# About HousingWorks RI at RWU



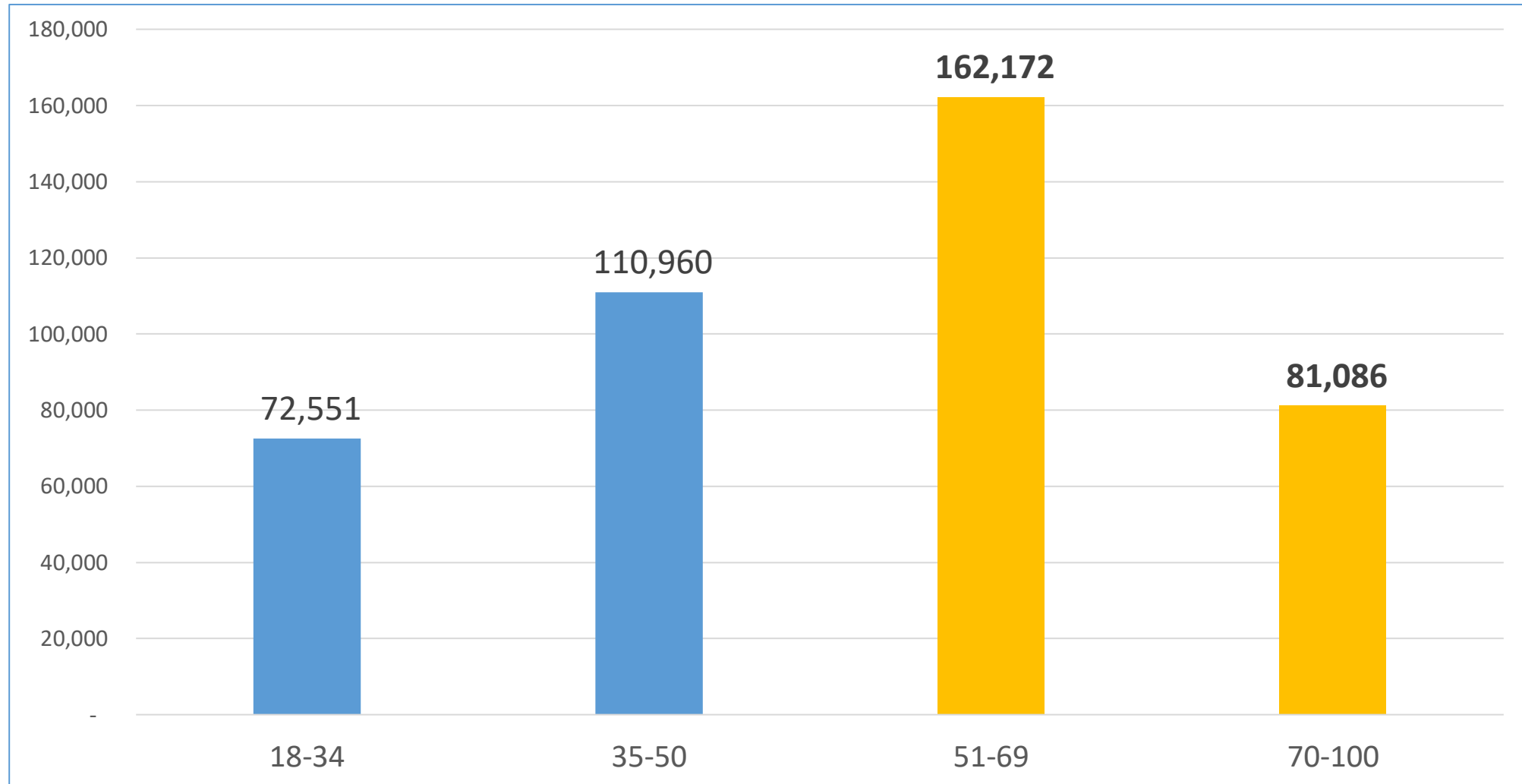
- Founded in 2004, integrated into Roger Williams University in 2014
- Conduct research and analyze data related to housing affordability in Rhode Island
- Connect the dots between housing affordability and economic development, and outcomes in health and education
- Publish annual Housing Fact Book in addition to Issue Briefs and special reports
- Please visit [www.housingworksri.org](http://www.housingworksri.org) for more information

# Population by Age Ranges



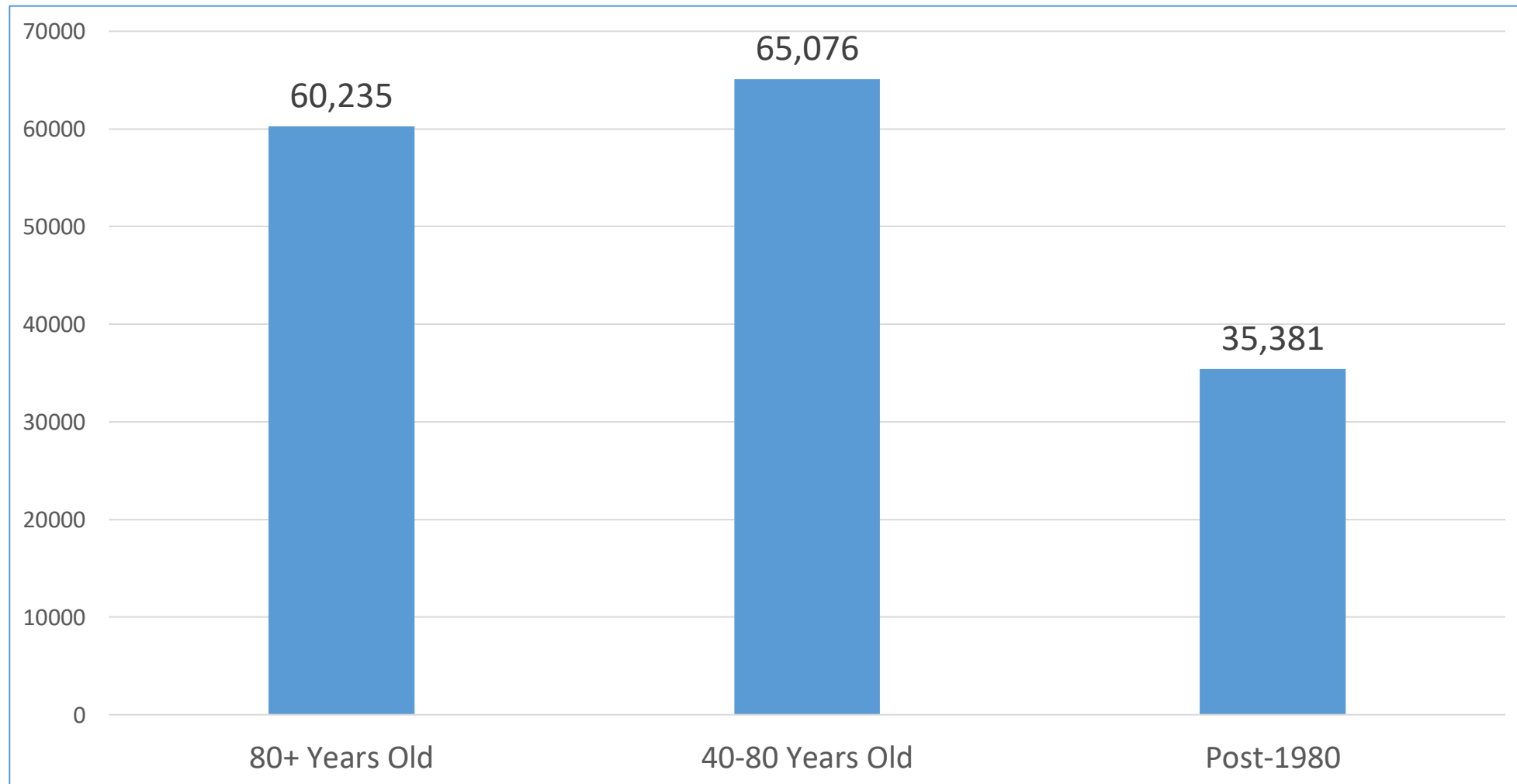
- Of 1,091,949 Rhode Islanders, **37% are >50 (403,322)**

# Households by Age Ranges



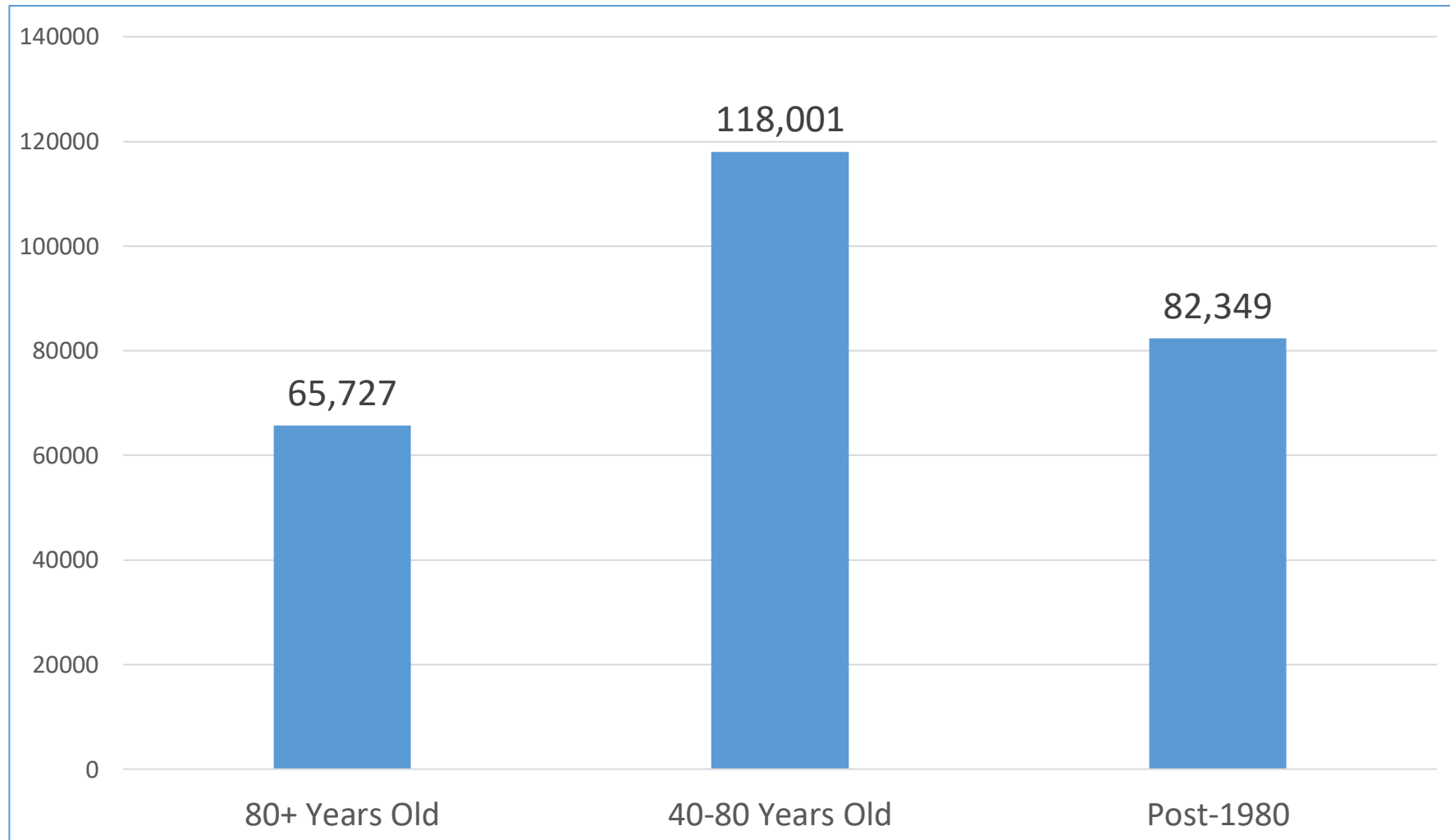
- Of 426,769 Rhode Island households, **57% are >50 (243,258)**

# Age of Renter Housing Units



- 77% of Rhode Island renter homes were built before 1980.

# Age of Owner Housing Units

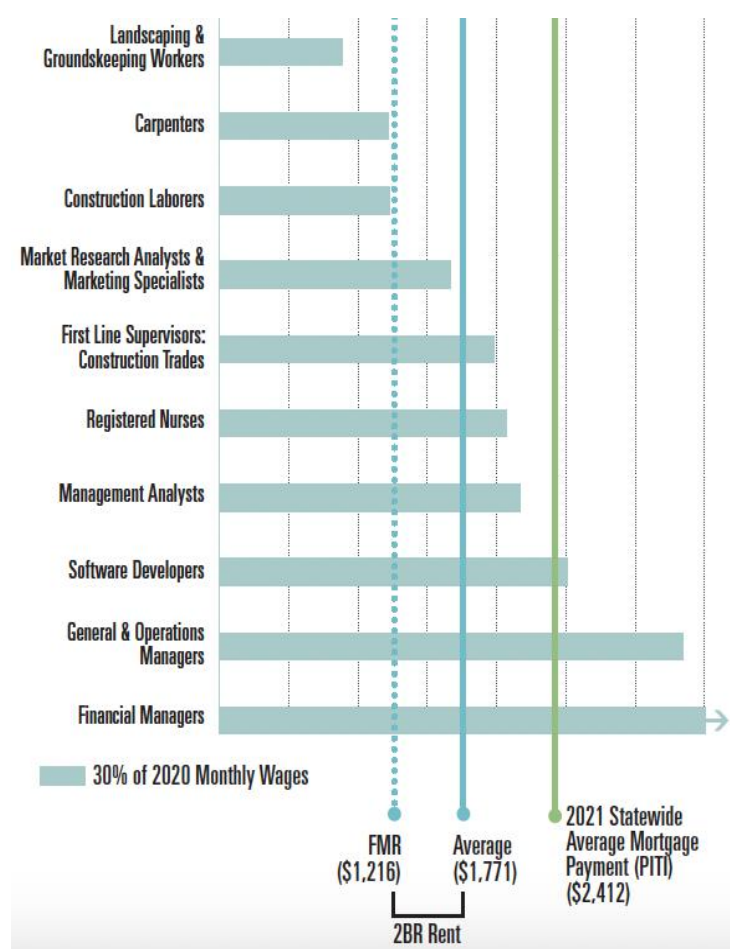
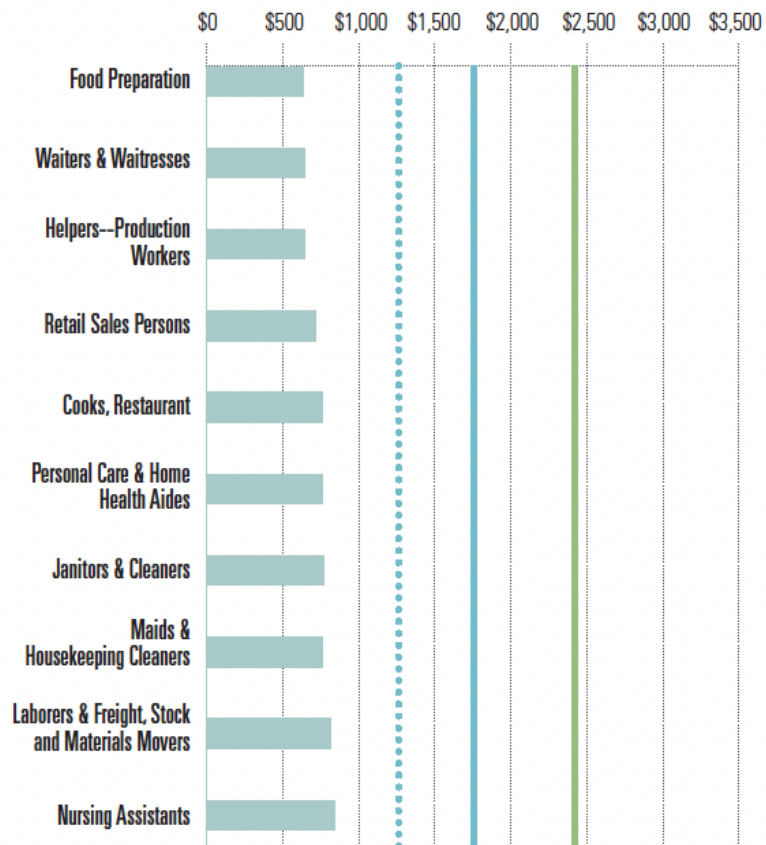


- 69% of Rhode Island renter homes were built before 1980.



# Housing Affordability for RI's Workforce

Gap Between Housing Costs and Monthly Income for Projected Rhode Island Growth Occupations 2018-2028 <sup>49</sup>



As measured by National Low Income Housing Coalition's *2022 Out of Reach Report*, Rhode Island's housing wage is **\$24.32**, which is the hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom fair market rent (FMR).

**Nearly 70 percent** of the jobs identified as "high growth occupations" in the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's *Occupational Outlook 2028* do not pay that wage.



# Grant-funded Research Project

- Funding received from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and the Point32Health Foundation
- **Two-year timeline** for research and policy recommendations
- Numerous stakeholders, including public, nonprofit, and private organizations
- Qualitative and quantitative research





# Working topics for report

- **Current Status by Age Groupings**
  - Tenure & Housing
  - Disabilities
  - Financial Situations
- **Differences by Gender, Race & Ethnicity**
- **RI's Programs, Services & Geography**
  - Overview of RI Groups
  - Life Services
  - Health Services
  - Transit & Housing
- **Housing: Present Options, Future Strategies**
  - Aging in Place versus Aging in Community
  - Financial Considerations
  - U.S. and International Examples
- **Policy Recommendations: A Ten-Year Road Map for Rhode Island & Its Municipalities**



# Highlights from Stakeholder Interviews

- **Top concerns** for those interviewed: Housing/affordability; Transportation; Caregiving crisis; Isolation/Mental health; and In-home Safety/Accessibility
- **Lower incomes struggle to meet all needs**; Even middle-income households struggle with many needs, especially as become fixed income
- **Mobility issues worsen with disabilities**, transportation is very difficult; living independently is more complicated
- Issues that are overlooked include “**ageism**”, **mental health**, **cultural issues** between caregivers and older adults, and **adapting to technology**
- **Disproportionate need across the BIPOC community**; Geographically, cultural competency is concentrated in urban core; Discrimination is still an issue; Language and educational barriers
- **Positive trend** was more awareness of intersectional issue; **negative trend** is the caregiver crisis

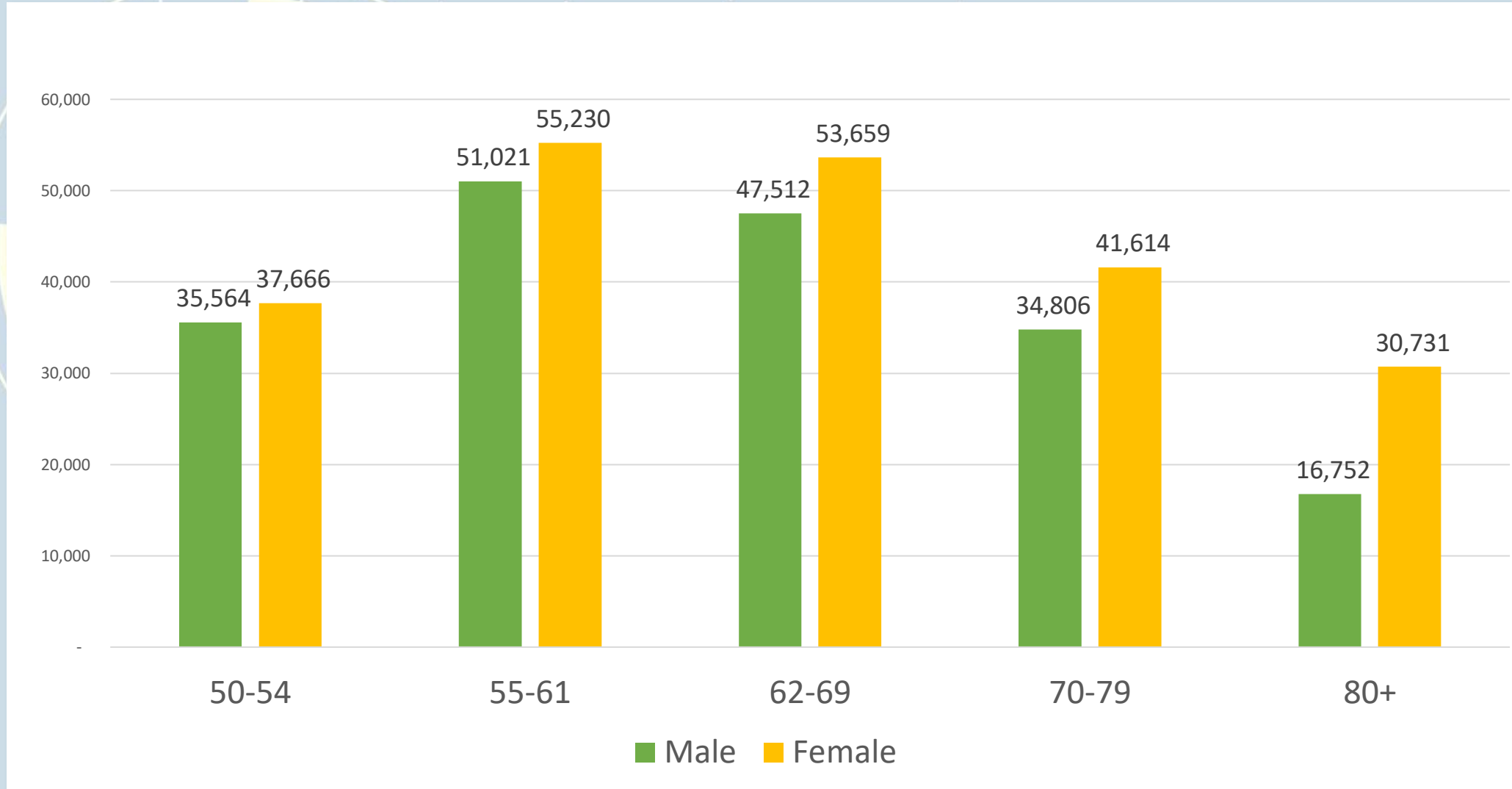


# Highlights from Stakeholder Interviews (cont.)

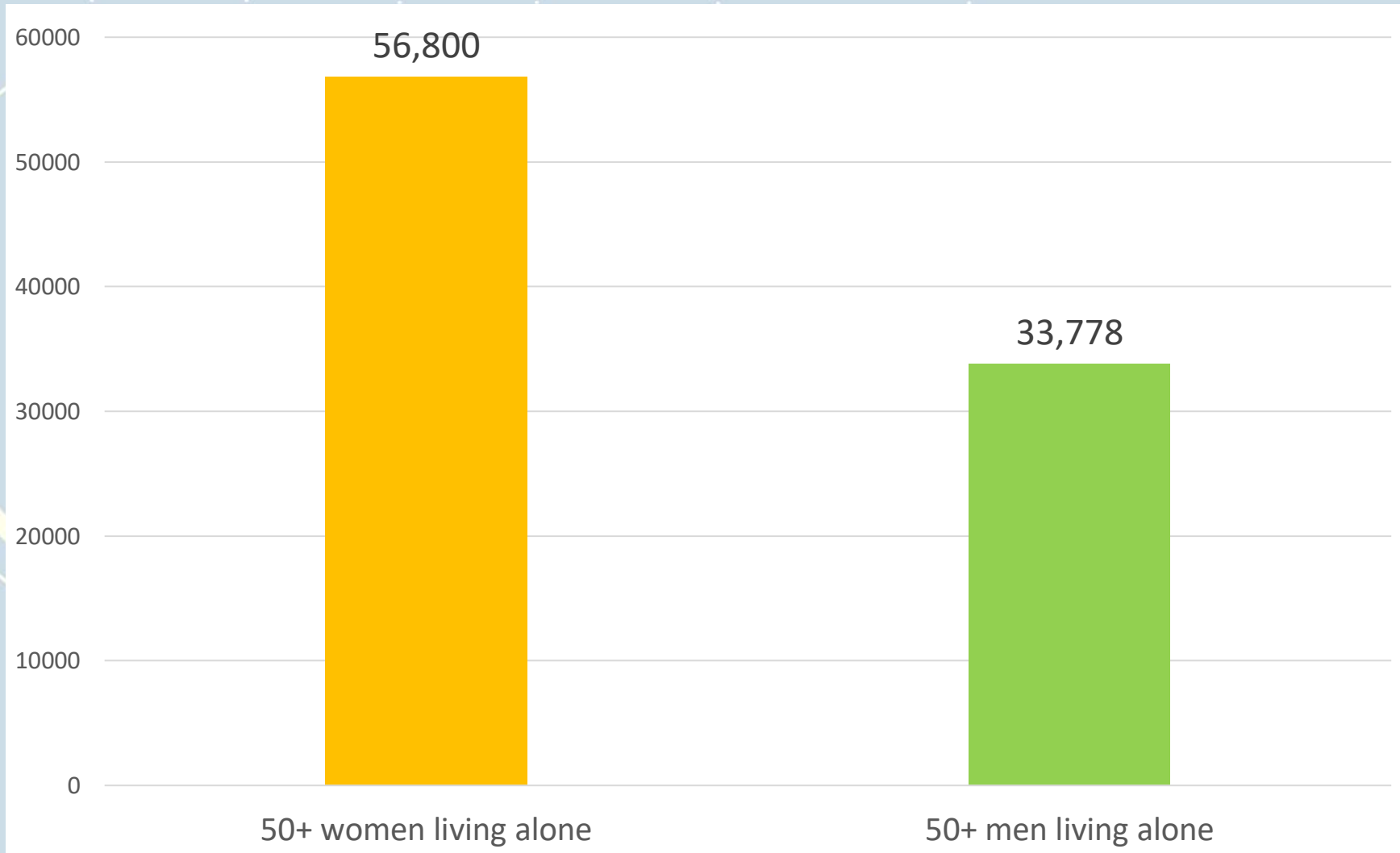
- **Fragmented/siloed system:** “not connecting”; “disjointed” “coordination could be a lot better”; “becomes a series of workarounds, system is so broken” (“No Wrong Door” is in its infancy)
- Everyone interviewed noted the need for **more funding & resources**
- Seeking this report to offer **more options regarding housing:** affordable, diverse types (an “array of options”), new models (that are used elsewhere), accessible, located with access to “things in life”, how to produce more, “in community”
- **Other topics** they’d like addressed include: staffing needs ratio; Mergers that are threatening the stability of community programs; and Downward mobility after the loss of spouse and/or due to mental health and health issues



# Early Observations: 50+ Age Ranges by Gender

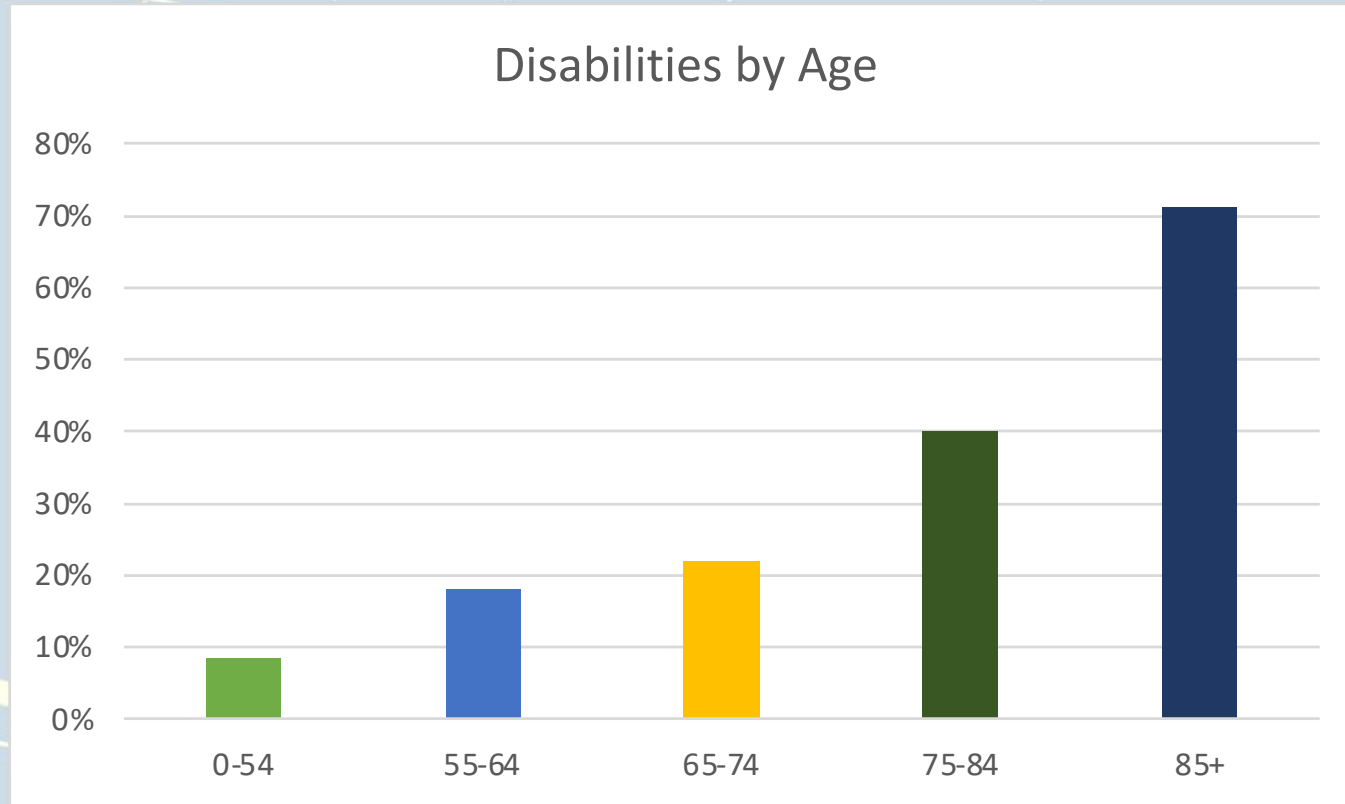


# Early Observations: Living Alone by Gender



Of 127,200 RI householders who live alone, 71% are aged 50 or older.

# Population Cross Tab: Disabilities by Age



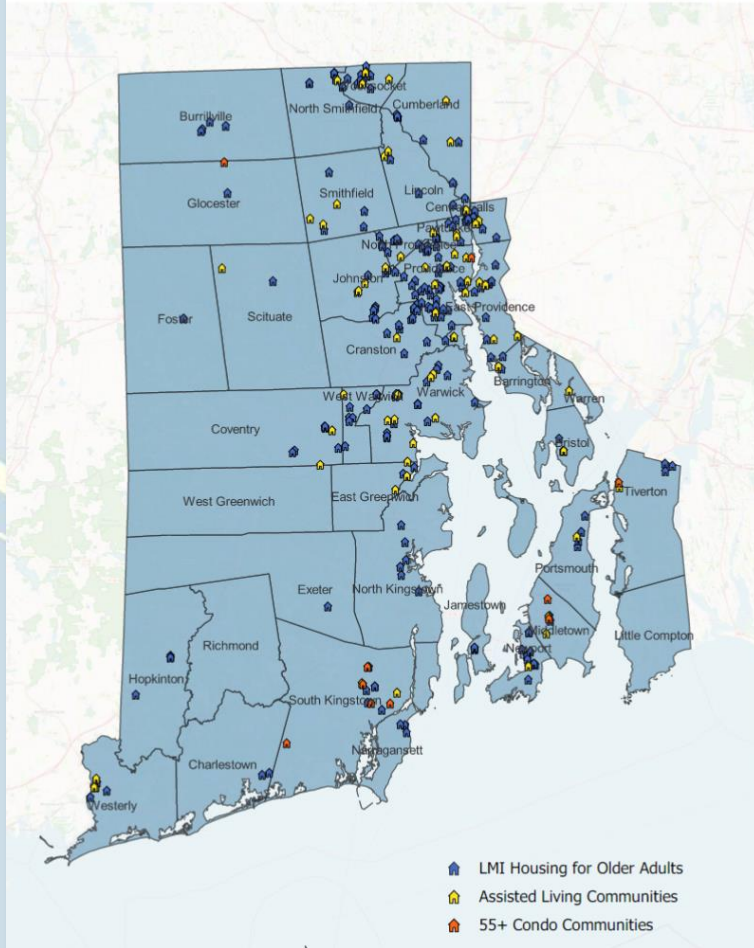
Disability data come from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Respondents have at least one of the following disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and independent living difficulty.

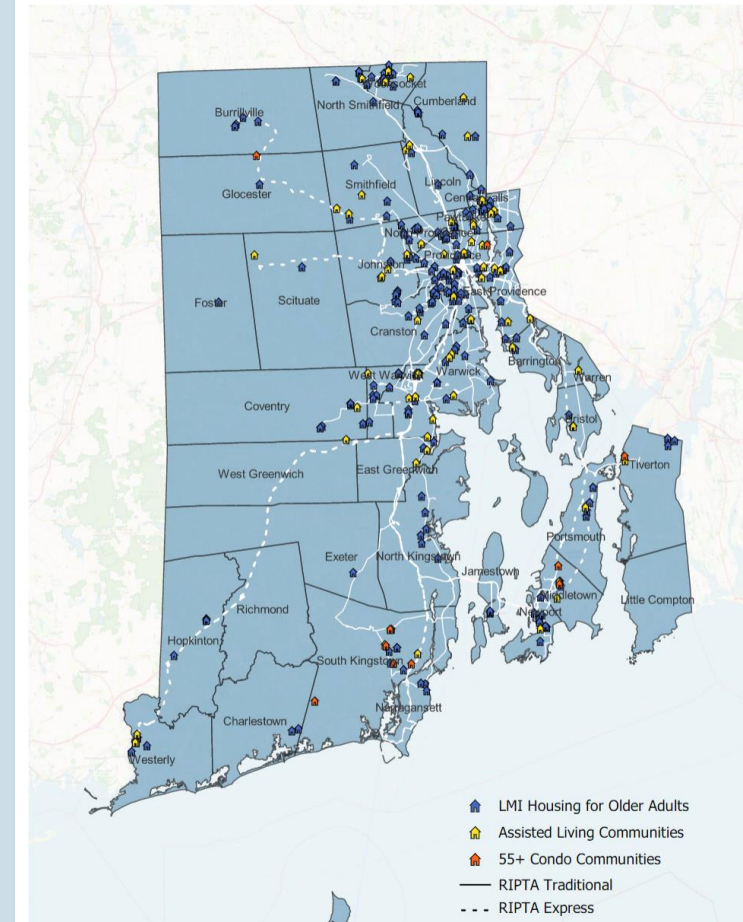


# Early Observations: Geography of Age-Restricted Homes & Connections to Transit

RI Housing for Older Adults Overview



RI Housing for Older Adults & Transit Overview







Thank You

Want to discuss further?  
Contact: [bclement@rwu.edu](mailto:bclement@rwu.edu)

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