

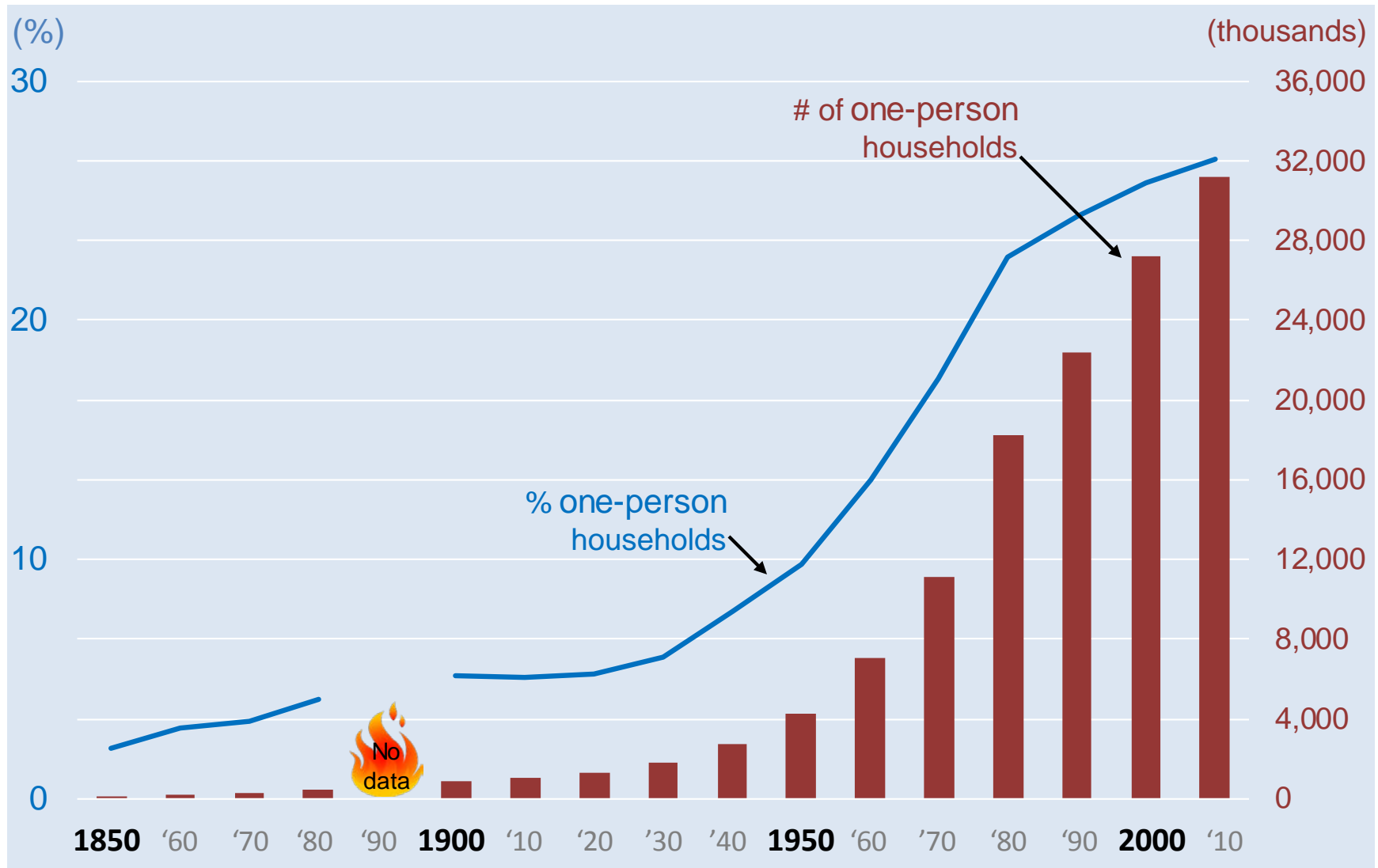
The Historic Rise of One-Person Households: 1850-2010

by

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This paper is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed on statistical and methodological issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The historic rise of living alone: 1850 – 2010

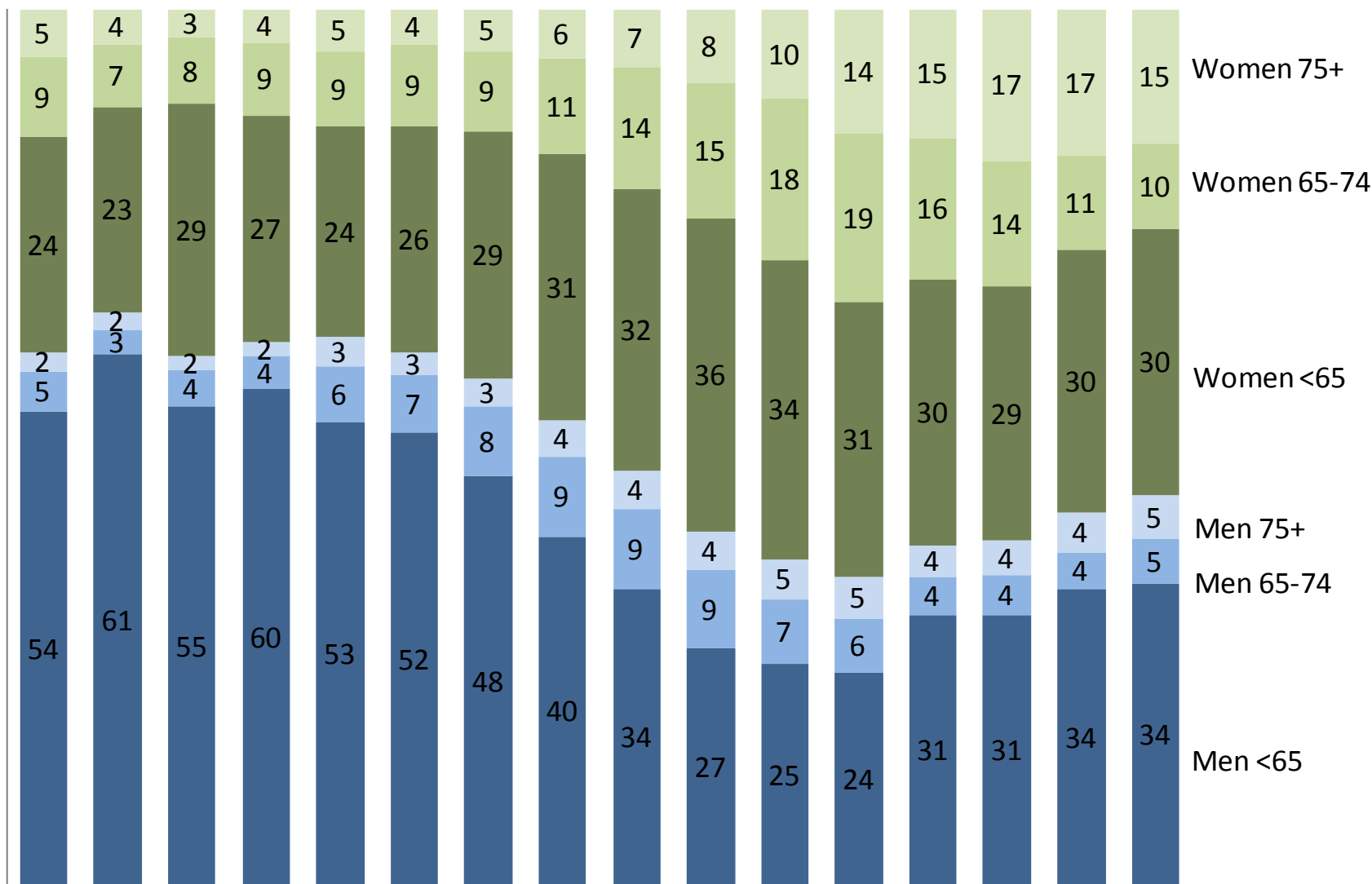


Data

- Integrated Public Use Microdata Samples (IPUMS)*, 1850-2000
- 2010 Census internal file

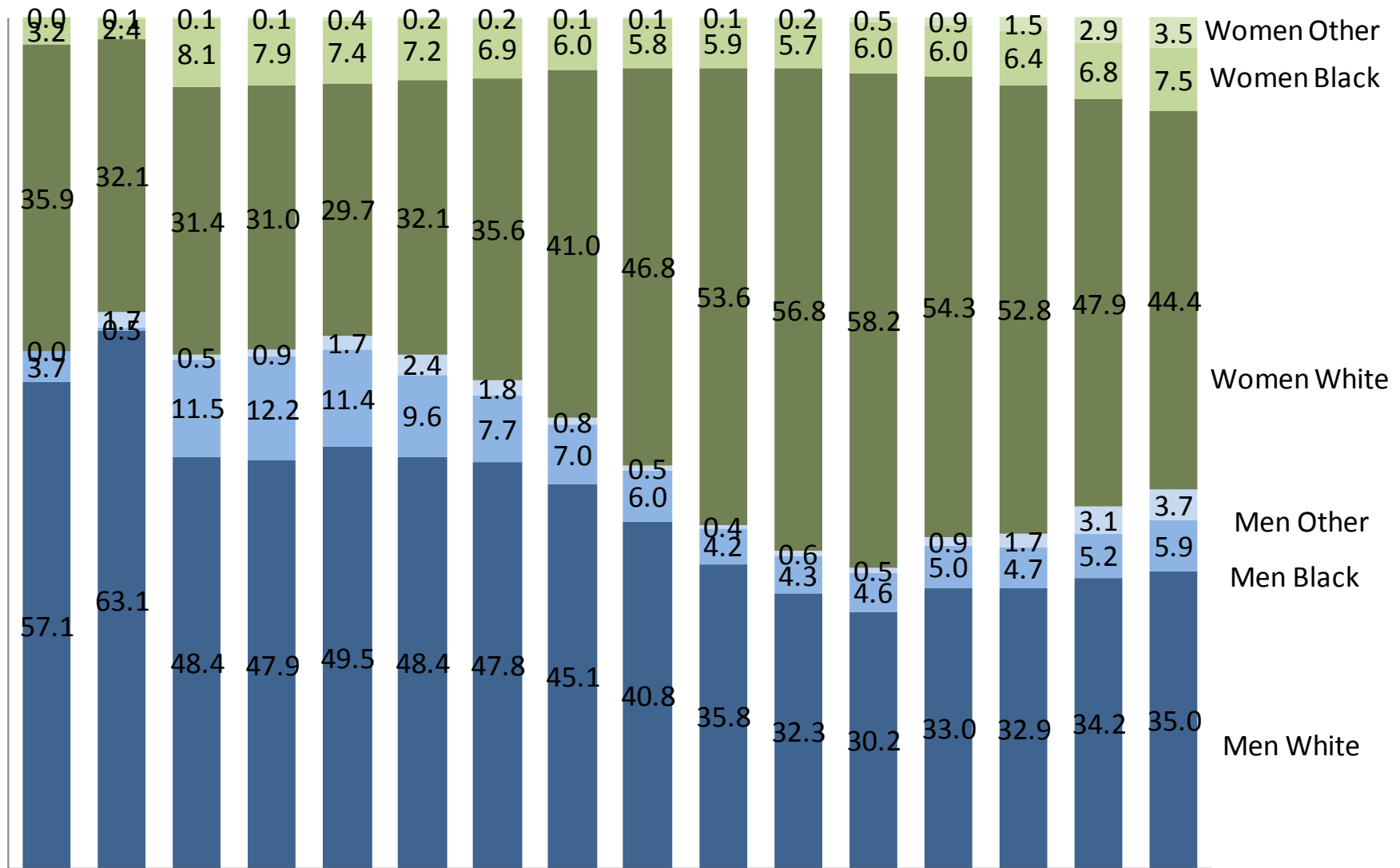
* Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor], 2010.

One-person households by age and sex, 1850 to 2010 (%)



1850 1860 1870 1880 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

One-person households by race and sex, 1850 to 2010 (%)



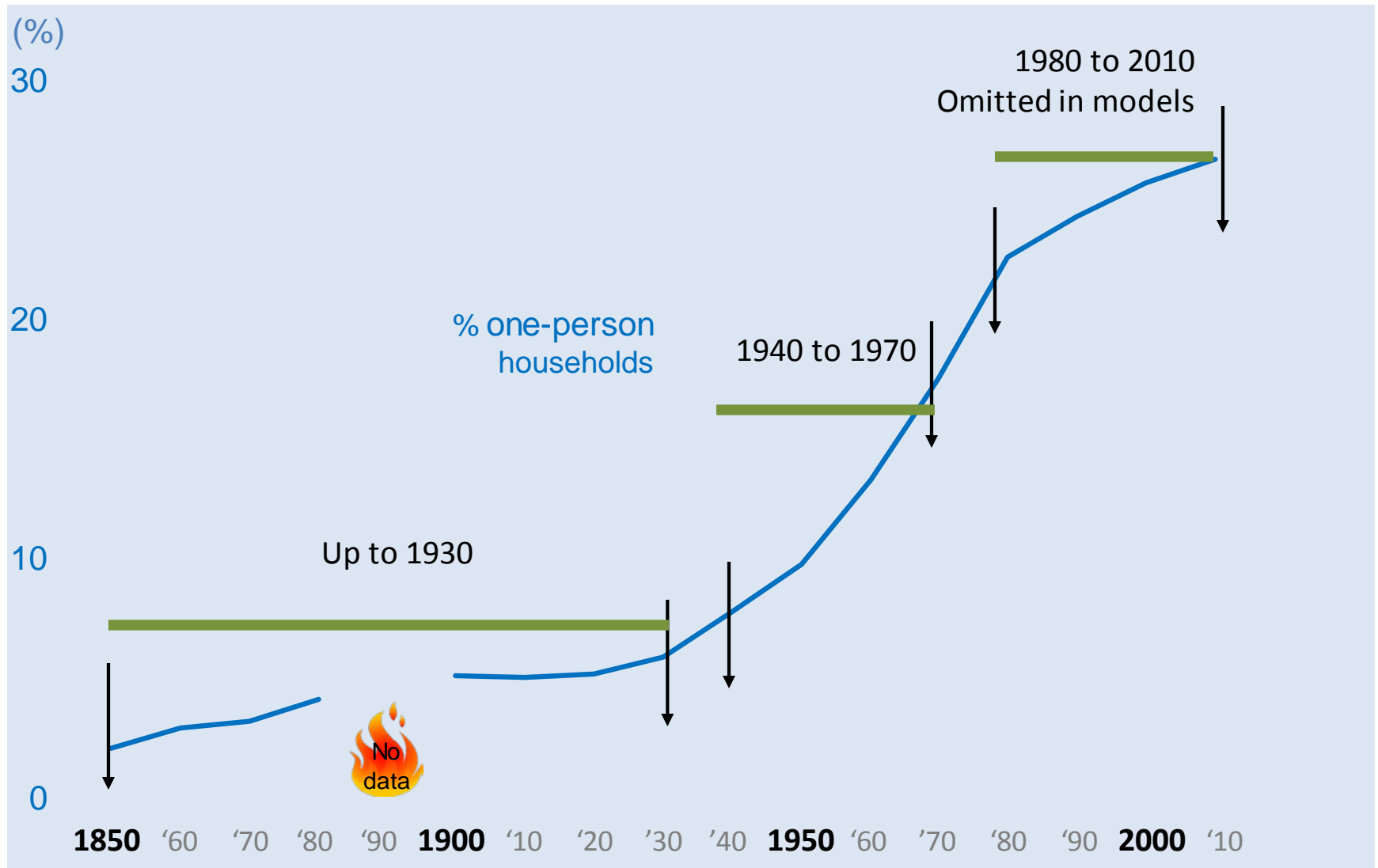
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Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) 1850-2000, 2010 Census. Differences in percentages between years or within years less than 3 percentage points may not be significantly different due to sampling error.

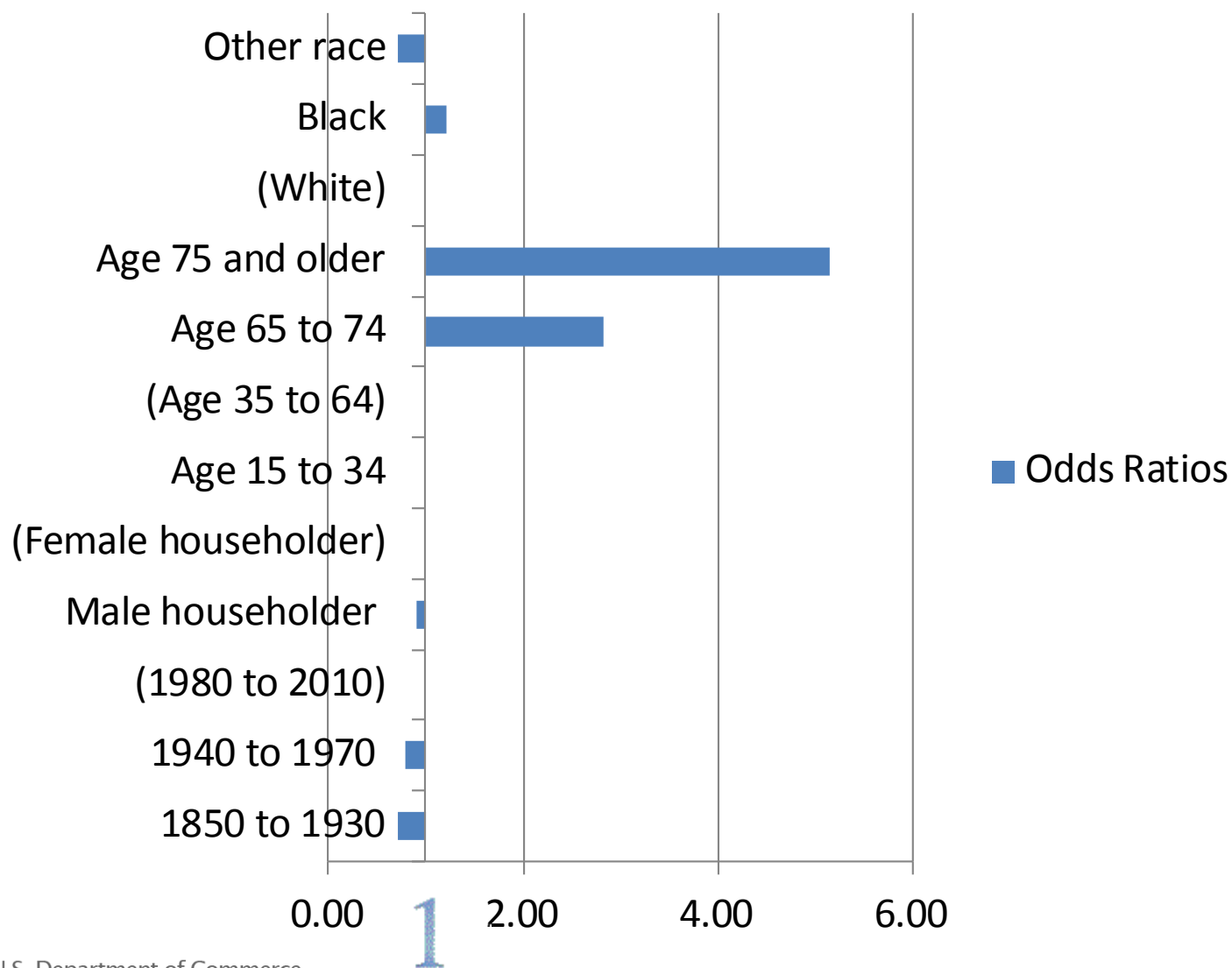
The historic rise of living alone: 1850 – 2010



Logistic Regression Models

- Controls for householder's characteristics
 - Gender
 - Race (white, black, other)
 - Age
 - 15-34
 - 35-64
 - 65-74
 - 75 and over

Model 1: Year and Householder Characteristics



Macro level variables

- Life expectancy (**men's, women's**)
- Gap in life expectancy (women – men)
- Age at first marriage (men's, women's)
- Percent white in total US population
- **Real per capita GDP**

Models with men's life expectancy

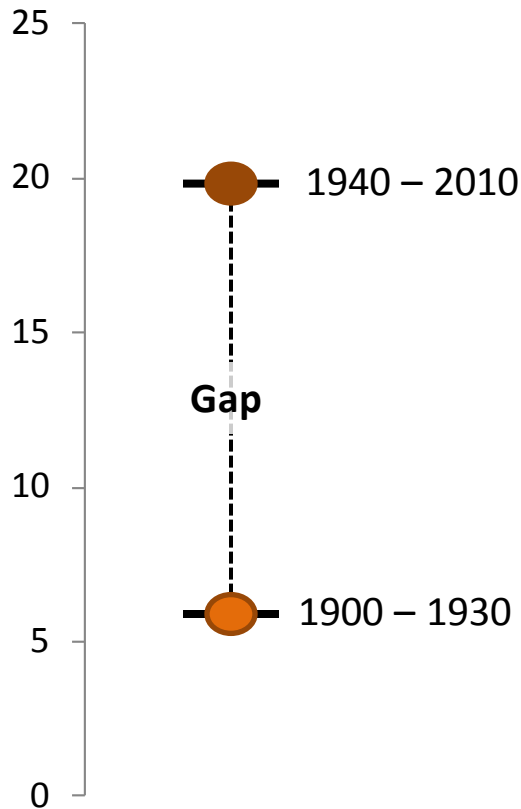
- Years with higher male life expectancy are associated with lower odds of one-person households
- In model for those age 65-74, coefficient for 1940-1970 almost doubled after addition of men's life expectancy: .065 to .118 (odds went from 1.06 to 1.12)

Models with per capita GDP

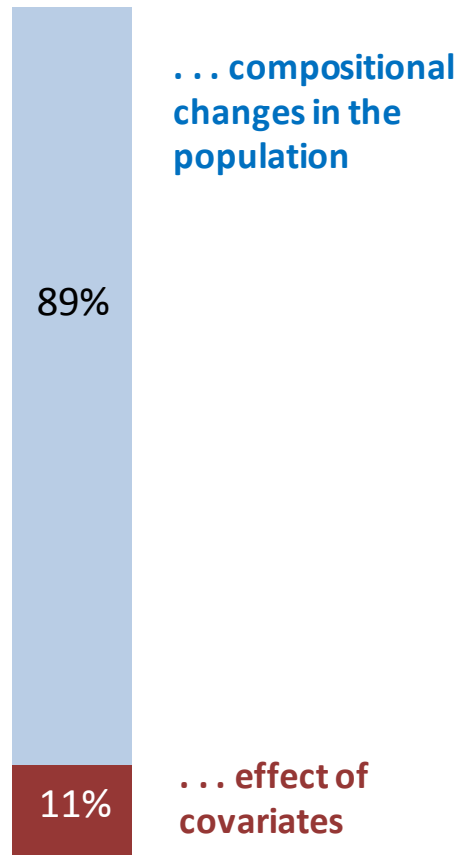
- Per capita GDP grew from \$2,303 in 1850 to \$47,710 in 2010 (2010 dollars)
- Higher per capita GDP is associated with higher percentage of one-person households
- True for all age groups
- For those 75+: odds of one-person households are 5.5 times for each logged-unit increment of GDP
- For those 35-64: odds are 2.0 times as high

Decomposition of one-person households (w/ life exp.)

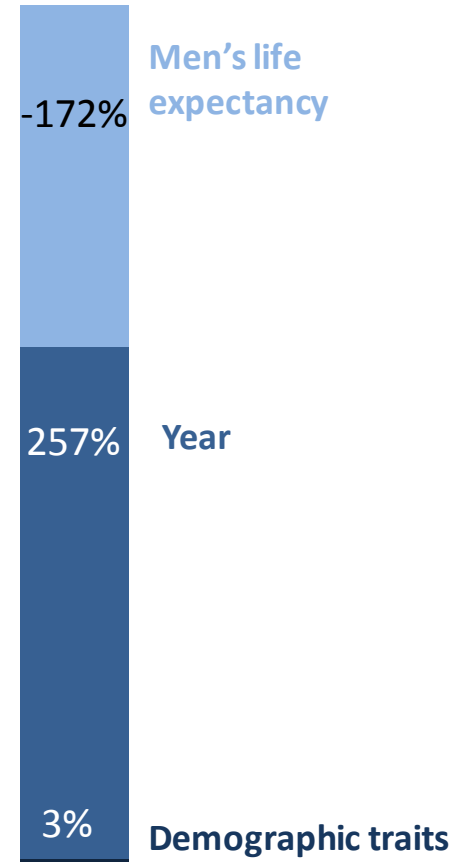
Average percent of one-person households



Proportion of the gap due to...

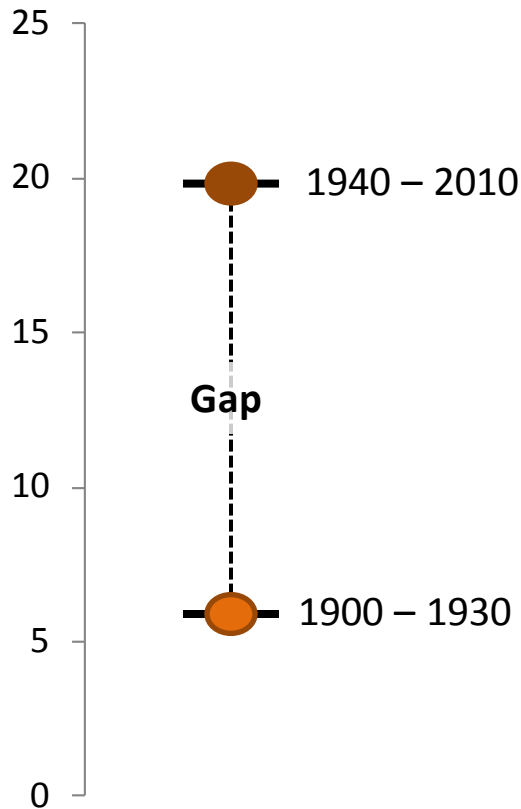


Proportion of the compositional changes due to...

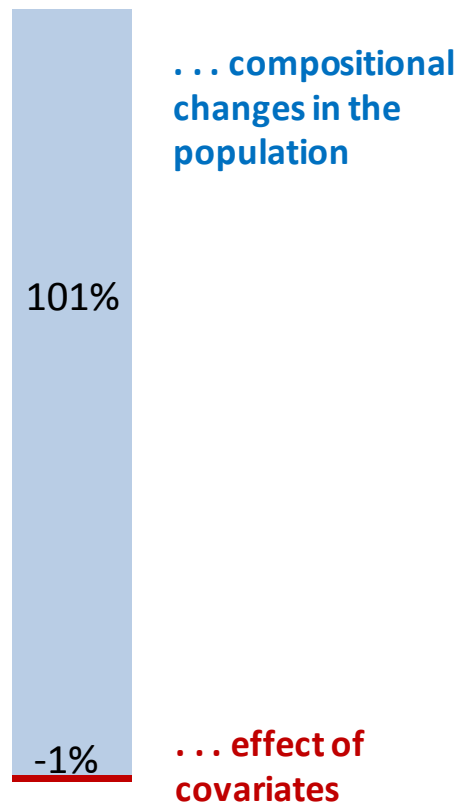


Decomposition of one-person households (w/ GDP)

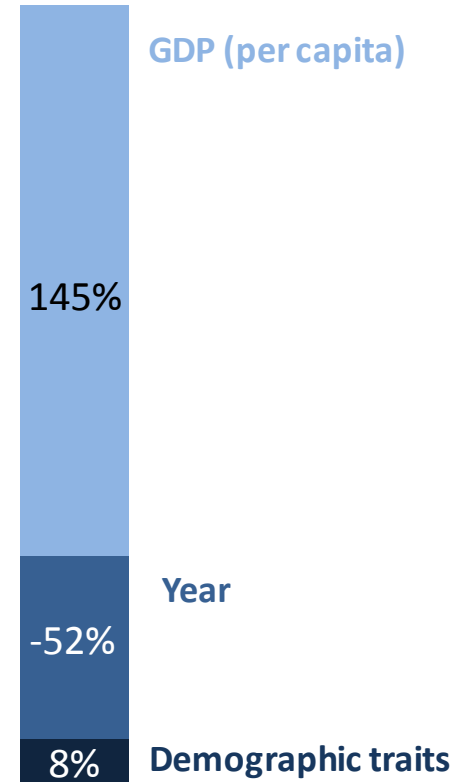
Average percent of one-person households







Proportion of the gap due to...



Proportion of the compositional changes due to...



Conclusions

- Men's life expectancy  = 1-person hholds 
- Real per capita GDP  = 1-person hholds 
- Decomposition shows: compositional shifts very important for growth of 1-person households
- Economic factors also have a strong effect on growth of 1-person households

Contact

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