



## Aging in Denver and the Denver Region

*Presented by:*  
**Brad Calvert**

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# DRCOG Area Agency on Aging (AAA)



*Helps people **age better***

- Provides **information** and **services**
- **Funds** community services
- **Identifies** and **fills gaps** in services and **plans** for future needs
- **Advocates** on behalf of older adults and their caregivers



# AGING DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE REGION AND CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER





## 60-plus Population (2015 - 2040)

County	2015	2040	% Change
Adams	70,918	170,423	140%
Arapahoe	112,823	225,988	100%
Boulder	60,261	114,535	90%
Broomfield	11,360	25,503	124%
Clear Creek	2,678	2,939	10%
Denver	109,128	186,884	71%
Douglas	50,694	131,853	160%
Gilpin	1,418	1,850	30%
Jefferson	125,494	205,689	64%
DRCOG Region	544,774	1,065,664	96%



## 75-Plus Population (2015-2040)

County	2015	2040	% Change
Adams	18,816	63,285	236%
Arapahoe	30,091	93,285	210%
Boulder	15,286	49,475	224%
Broomfield	3,254	9,747	200%
Clear Creek	517	1,315	154%
Denver	30,857	70,461	128%
Douglas	10,772	50,608	370%
Gilpin	191	797	317%
Jefferson	33,671	98,638	193%
DRCOG Region	143,455	437,611	205%



# Leading 5-Year Cohort Growth (% change) Denver Region

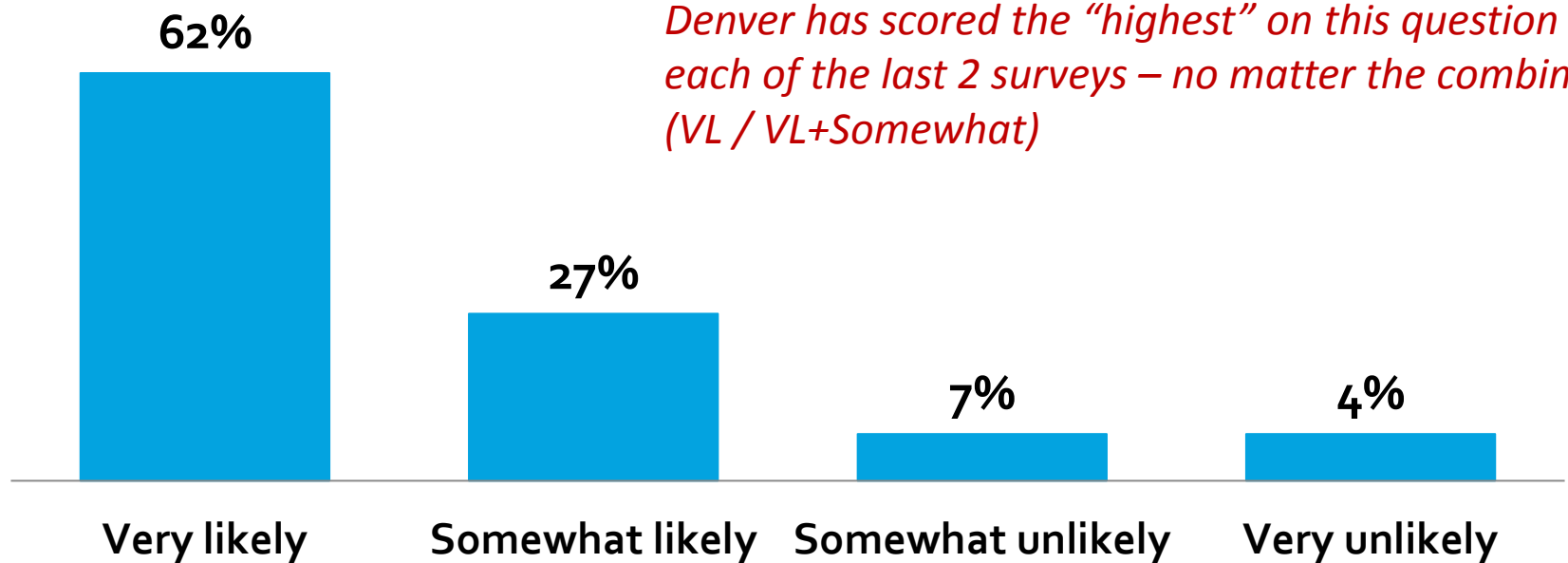
5-Year Cohort	% Change (2015-2040)	Rank
75 to 79	257%	1
90+	219%	2
85 to 89	205%	3
80 to 84	204%	4
70 to 74	88%	5
65 to 69	40%	6



# Rooted & Staying Put

2015 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults - Denver

**How likely are you to remain in your community throughout retirement?**



*Denver has scored the “highest” on this question in each of the last 2 surveys – no matter the combination (VL / VL+Somewhat)*



# Geographic mobility by age group

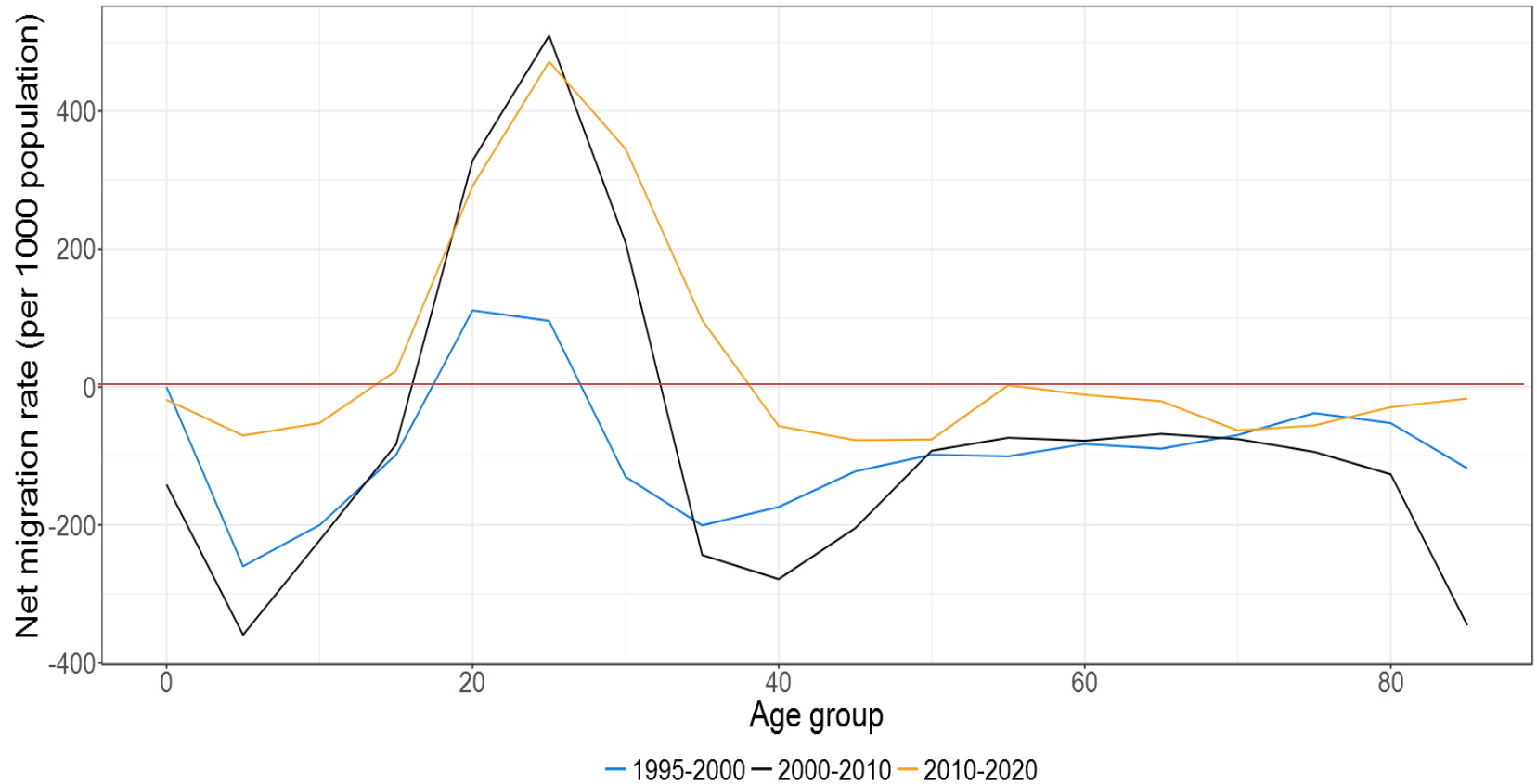
Age group	% living in same house a year before (ACS, 2015)
20-24	55.4%
25-44	70.7%
45-64	86.5%
65 and older	91.4%

- 65+ age group least likely to move
- JeffCo and Denver have largest percentage of 65+ who have been in current home since 2000
  - 72% of owners with 65+ head of household have been in current home since 2000
  - 65.3% of households with 65+ head of household are owners
  - Meaning at least half of older adult households have been in home 15+ years





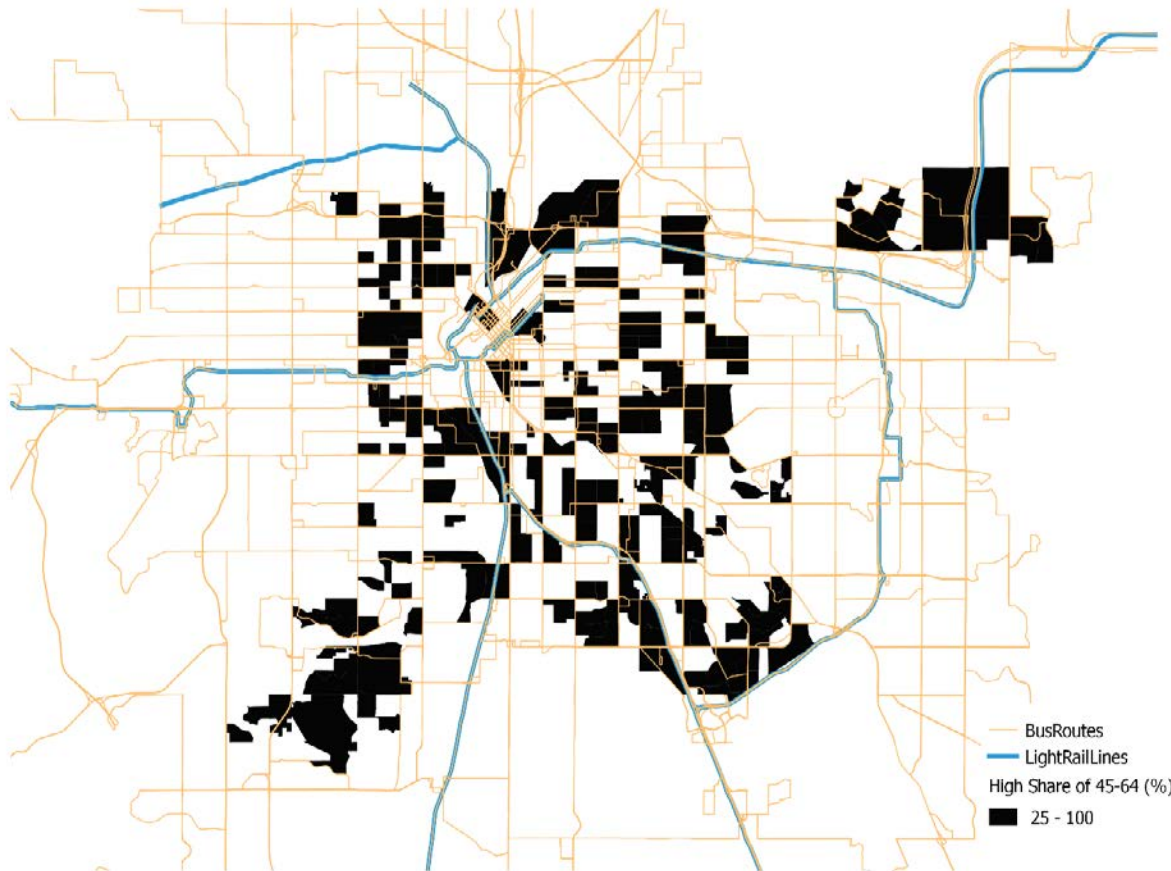
# Denver: Net migration rate by age



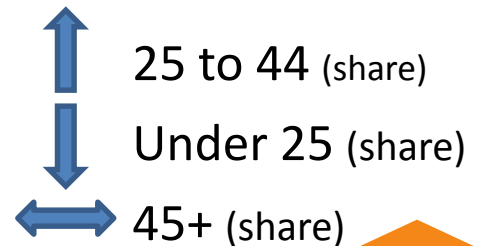


# Denver: Next wave of older adults

Census block groups with large share of 45-64 population (>25%)  
(ACS, 2015)



- 31.5% of households have 45-64 head of household
- 61% own their home
- Given observed stability, reasonable to assume they will remain
- Even distribution across city
- New development areas:



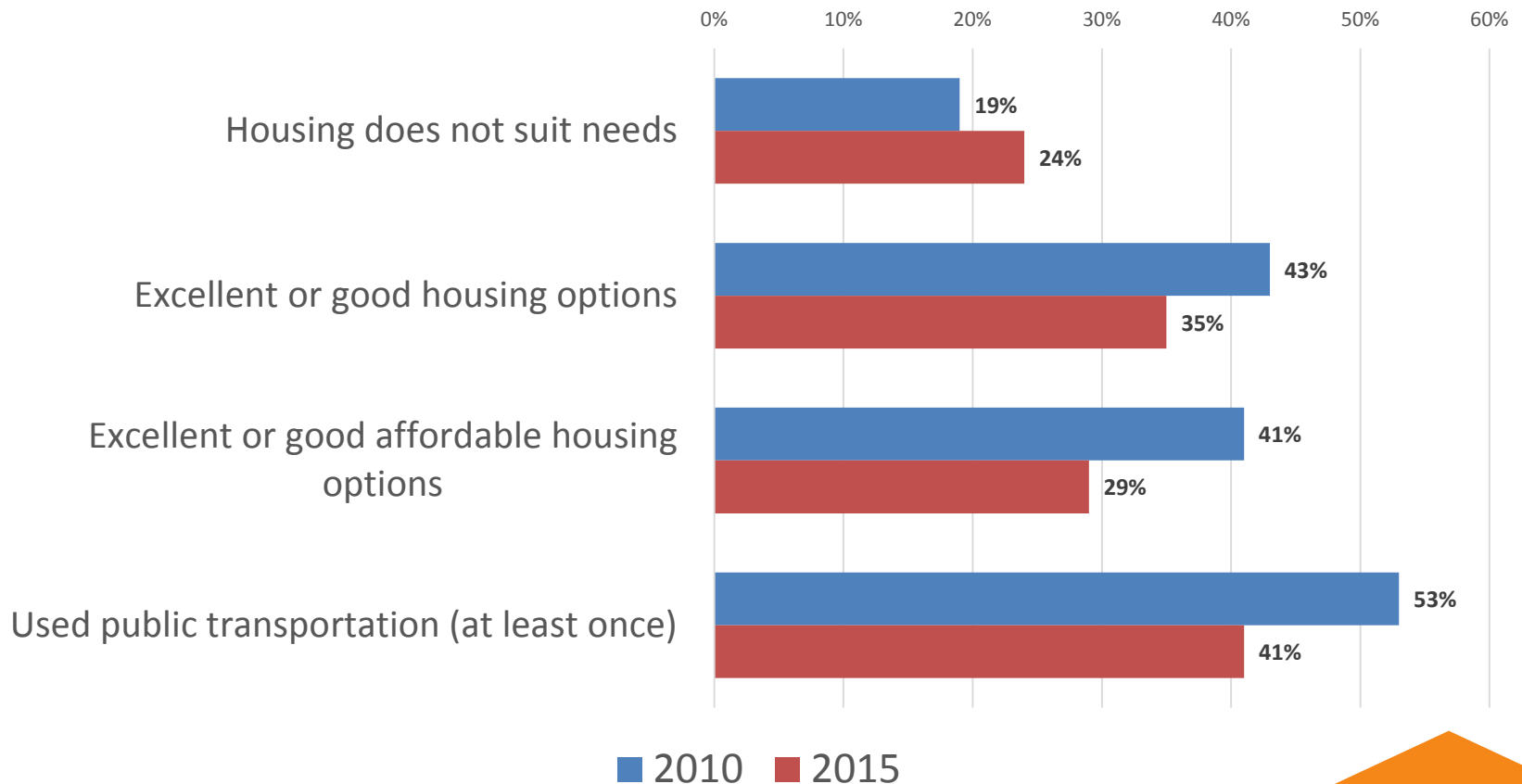
A blurred background image showing a group of people, likely at a community event or survey, with warm, bokeh-style lighting. The image is out of focus, emphasizing the overall atmosphere rather than individual details.

# 2010/2015 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF OLDER ADULTS



# CASOA (Survey of 60+)

## CASOA (Housing and Transit in Denver)





# CASOA (Survey of 60+)

## Needs of Older Population by Income (2015)

City and County of Denver

	Community and Belonging**	Community Information	Health and Wellness	Productive Activities***	Community Design and Land Use
< \$25,000*	40%	63%	56%	57%	52%
\$25 - \$75K	13%	36%	34%	35%	25%
> \$75,000	13%	41%	25%	33%	14%

\* 32% of households with 65+ head of household earn less than \$25K annually

\*\* *Community and belonging: Sense of community, safety, acceptance*

\*\*\* *Productive activities: civic and social engagement, recreation*



# HOUSING: THE AAA EXPERIENCE





# Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

## Denver Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

- 79 (of 392) Assisted living facilities
- 35 (of 165 AL) in Denver accept Medicaid
- Medicaid acceptance does not mean beds are filled by Medicaid eligible population
- Seniors transitioning to AL may require 2-3 year spend down to become Medicaid eligible
- Denver: AL and NH include younger population – many with mental health issues
- Memory care/secure setting on Medicaid: Only option is NH (more expensive for care that might not be needed)
- 26 (of 97) Nursing home facilities
- 22 (of 72 NH) in Denver accept Medicaid



# Colorado Choice Transitions

*CCT: Designed to assist individuals who are interested in transitioning out of long-term care facilities back to the community*

## Key challenges we face:

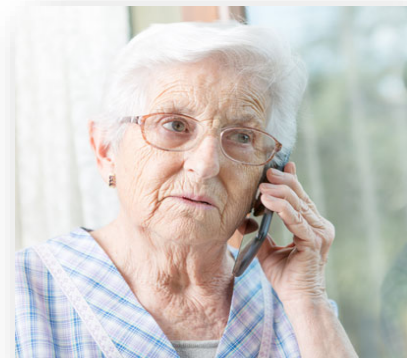
- 50% of people on our waiting list (277) are in Denver
- Housing voucher (~\$1,000 per month) is not enough to incent landlord acceptance
- Candidate subsidized and market rate buildings are not accessible (some may never be)
- Funding for ADA modifications available to those in community (chicken-egg)
- Younger Medicaid eligible are filling beds because there are no other housing options available



# AAA Information and Assistance

## Example issues:

- Rapidly increasing housing costs for individuals on fixed incomes (owner and renters)
- Utility assistance in non-winter months (LEAP fills need in winter)
- Imminent eviction with no placement options
  - AAA looks for all avenues to stave off eviction (“drop everything” for 2 days)
  - Try to understand what got the individual to the point of eviction
- 2-1-1 and 3-1-1 can’t meet needs
- Home maintenance and modification needs – including code enforcement citations



THANK YOU!

Brad Calvert, Director  
Regional Planning and  
Development  
[bcalvert@drcog.org](mailto:bcalvert@drcog.org)  
303-480-6839