

Will demographic changes impact on participation?

Joel Williams / TNS-BMRB

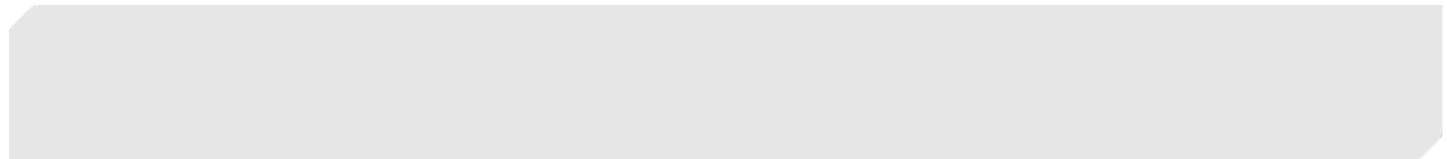
Research question & methods

Expected degree of population change >>> change in participation rates and numbers?

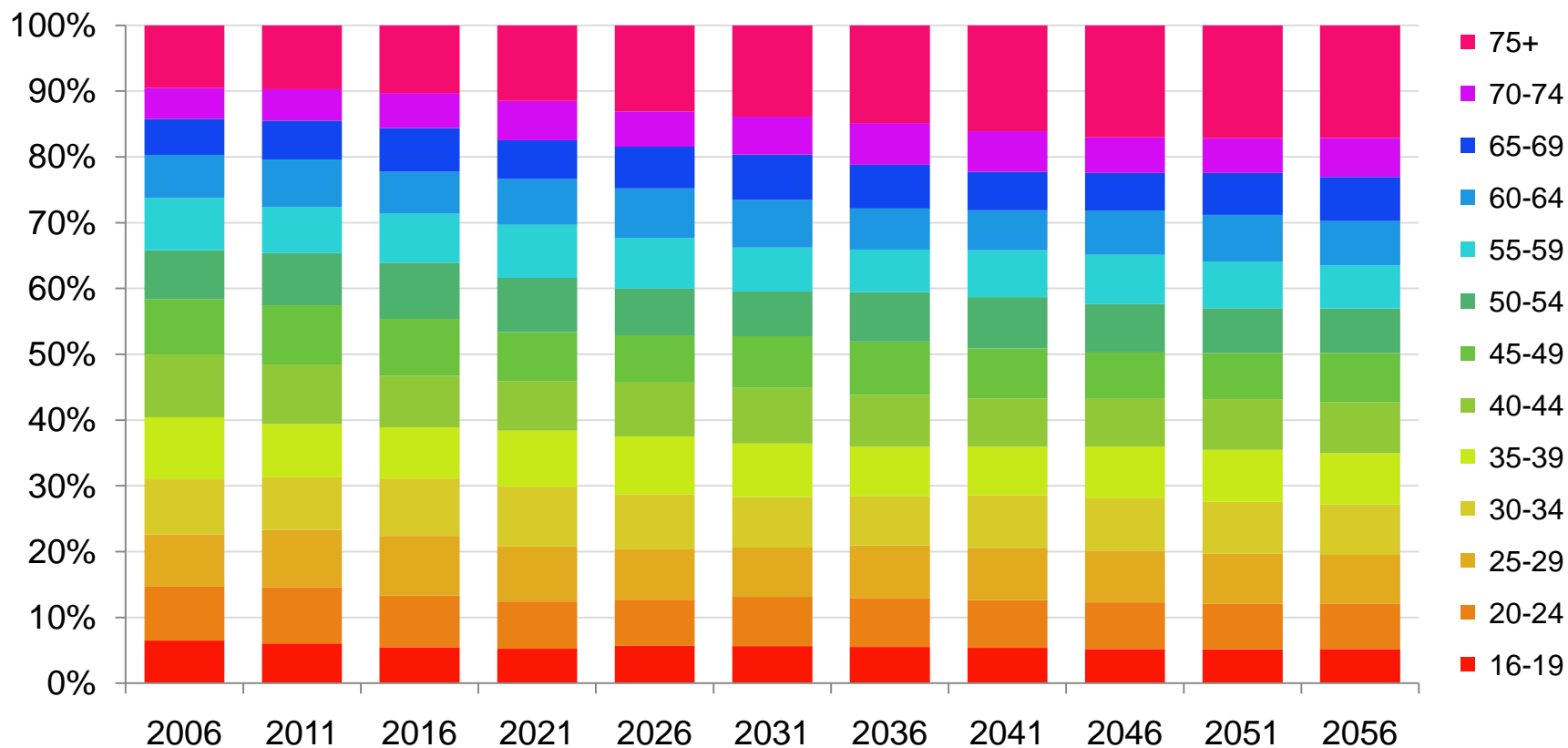
ONS population projections: sex/age matrices

Taking Part data applied to these projections

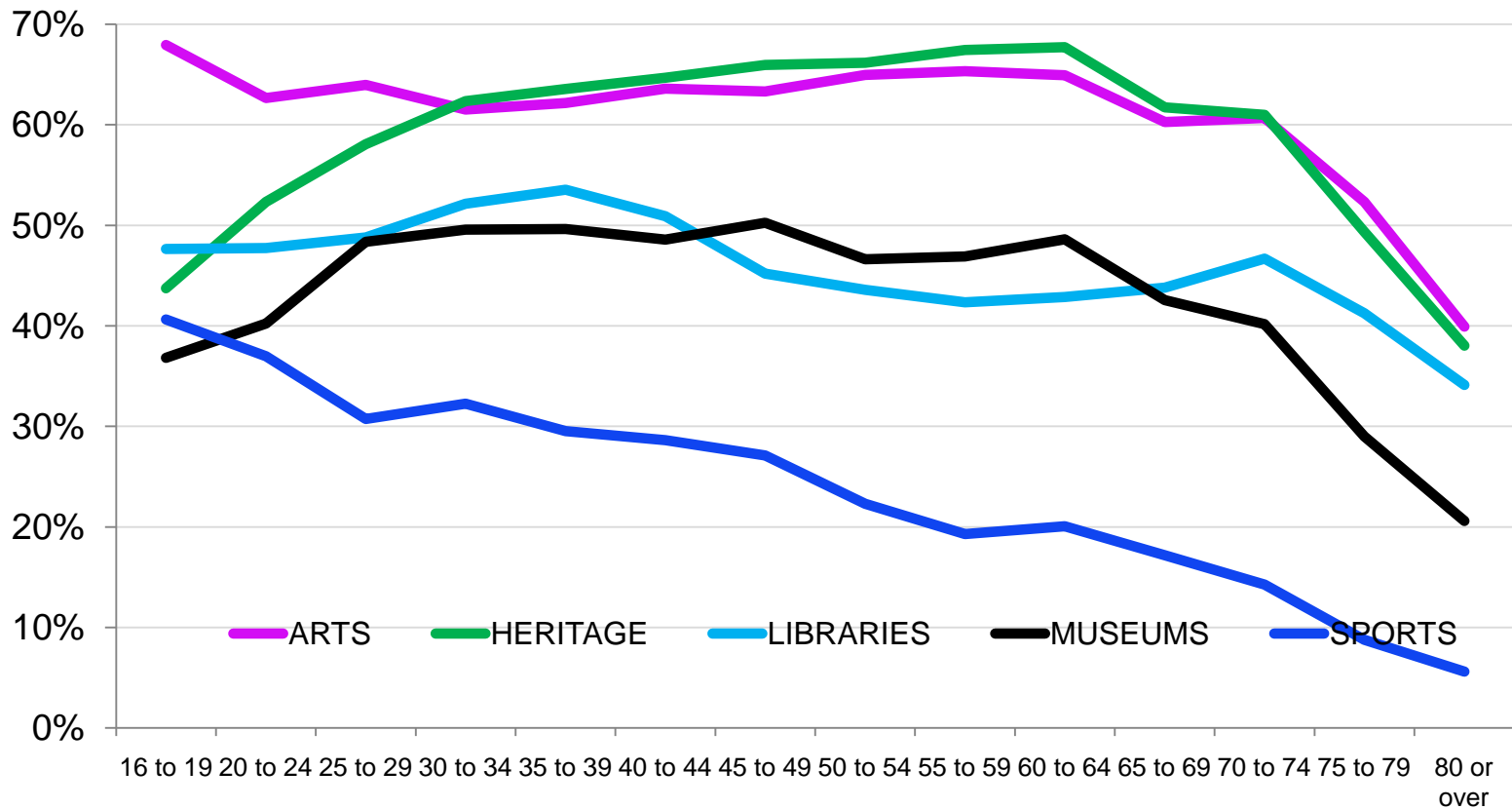
What if? scenarios: changes in health and education levels



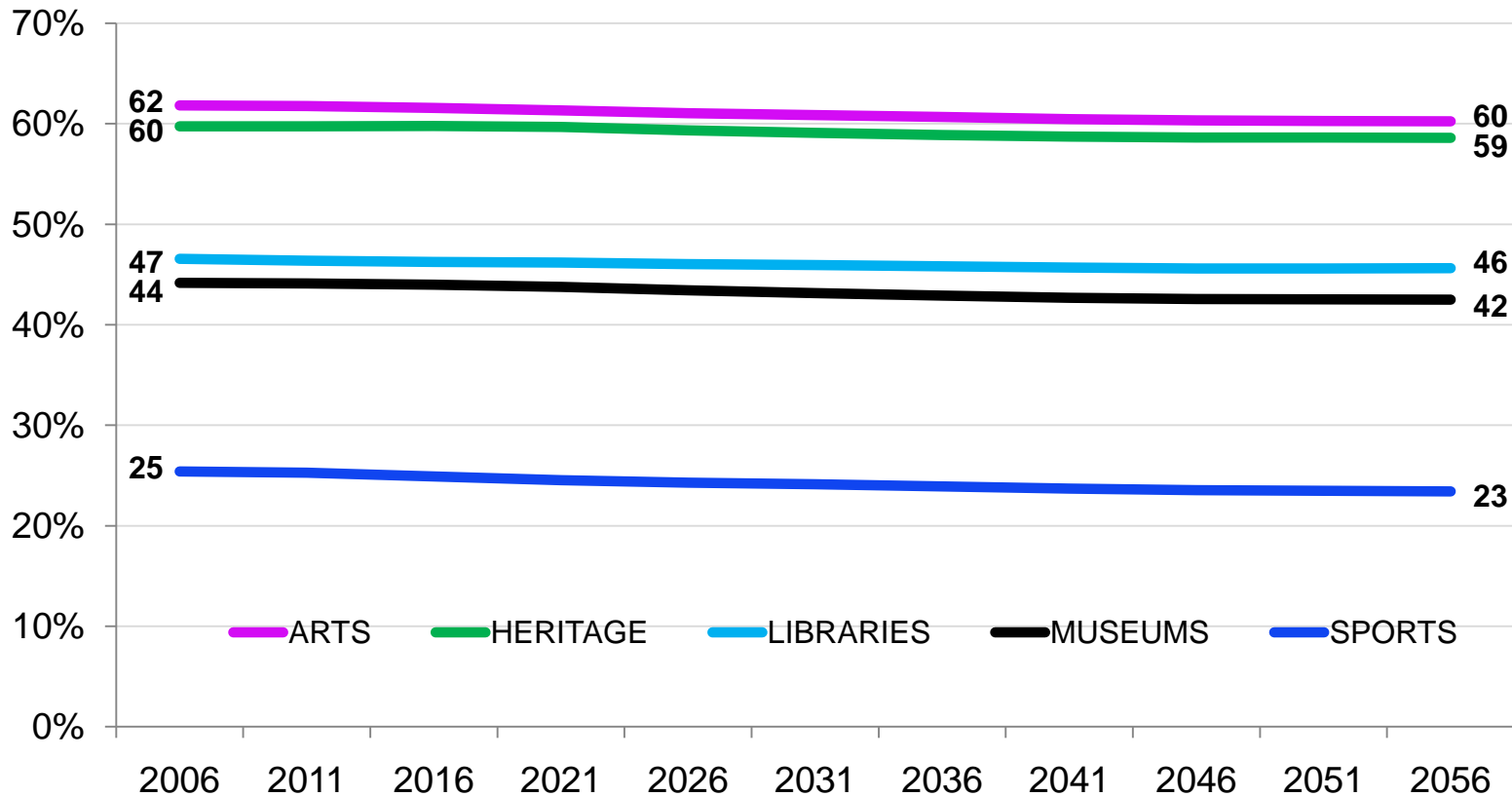
ONS Principal Population Projection



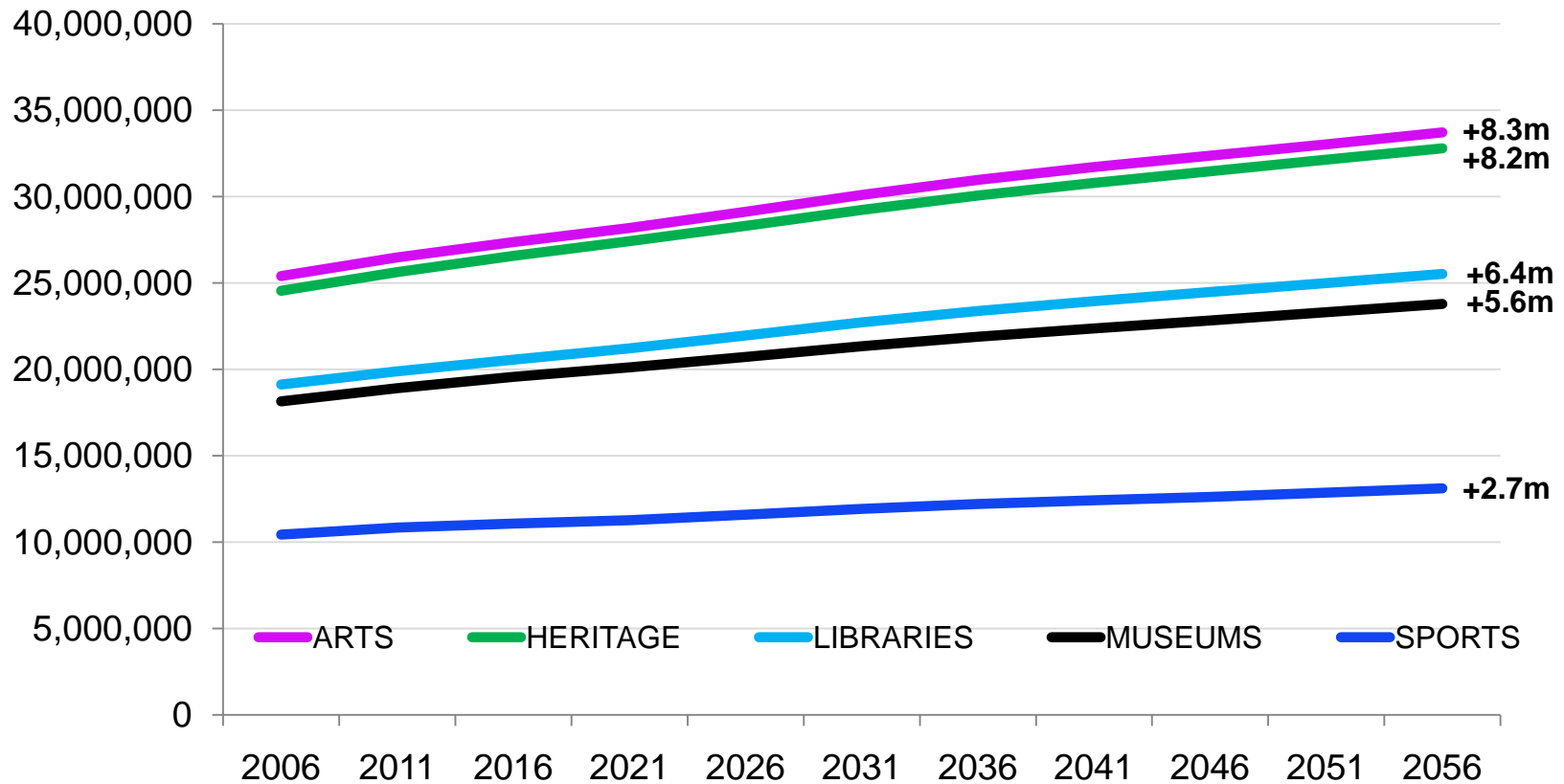
Participation rates by age (TP 07-08)



Expected change in participation rates (all things being equal)



Expected change in *numbers* participating (all things being equal)



What if? Scenarios

Demographic change alone is insufficient to bring about major change in participation *rates*

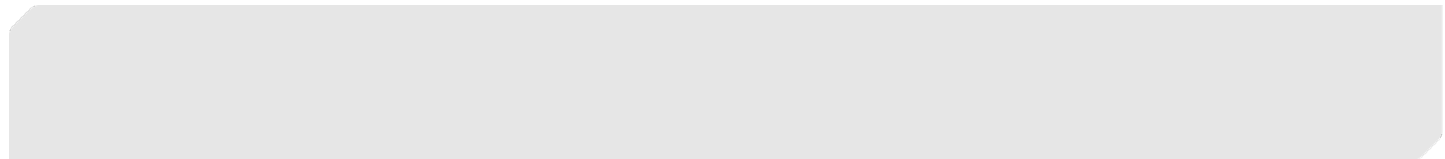
Assumes relationship between 'driver' variables (sex and age are two) and likelihood-of-participation does not change over time

Unlikely

Changing form of this relationship (and the relationships *between* drivers) is hard to predict

What If? scenarios can help define the likely limits of demographic-directed change

No account taken of other influences (availability of facilities, changes in cultural trends etc.)



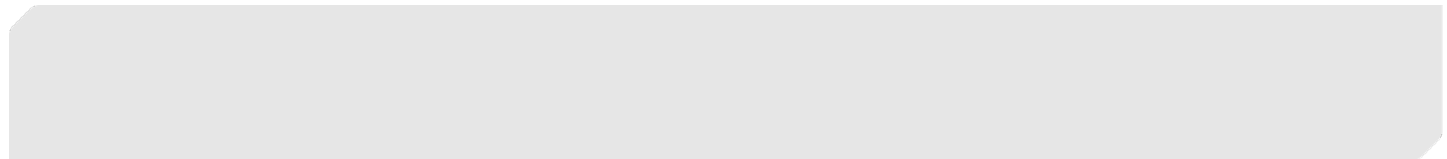
Driver variables

'Drivers' vary from sector to sector but several shared drivers, even if *direction* is different

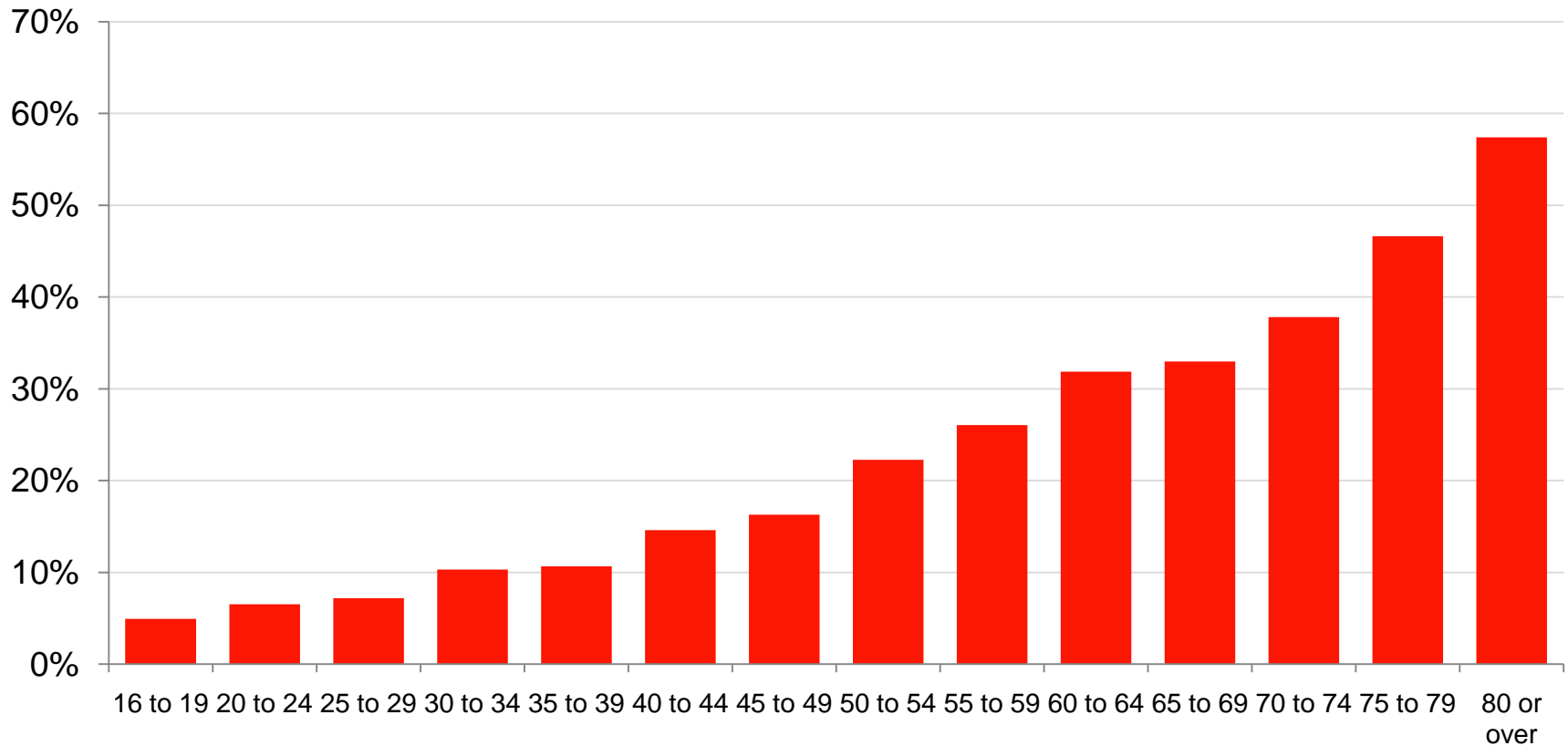
- Age (driver for all five activities)
- Educational level (all five)
- Health status (all but library visiting)
- Ethnic group (all but sport)
- Sex (sport and arts)

Our report looks at education and health

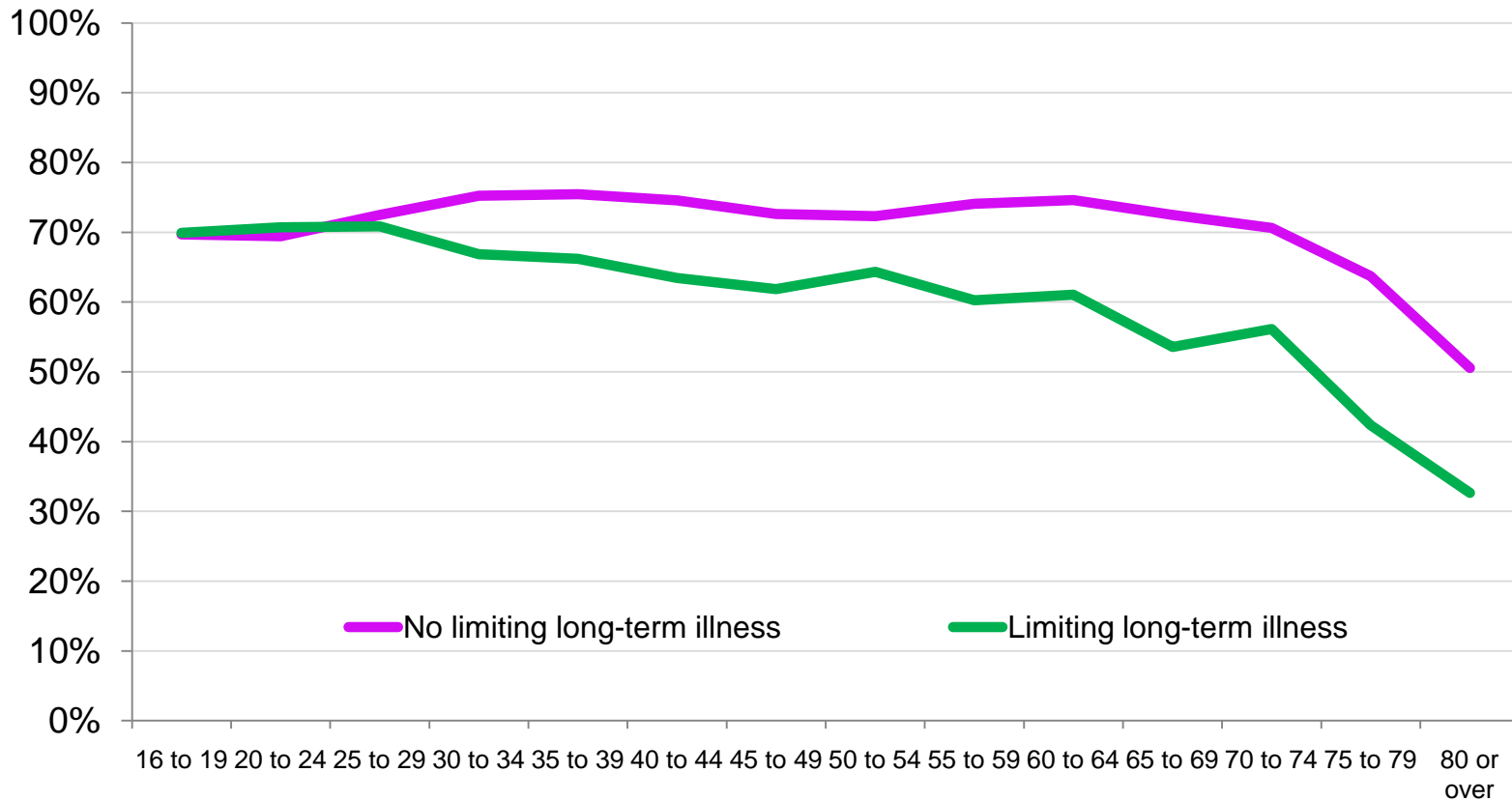
Limited to summary '2 out of 5' participation rate



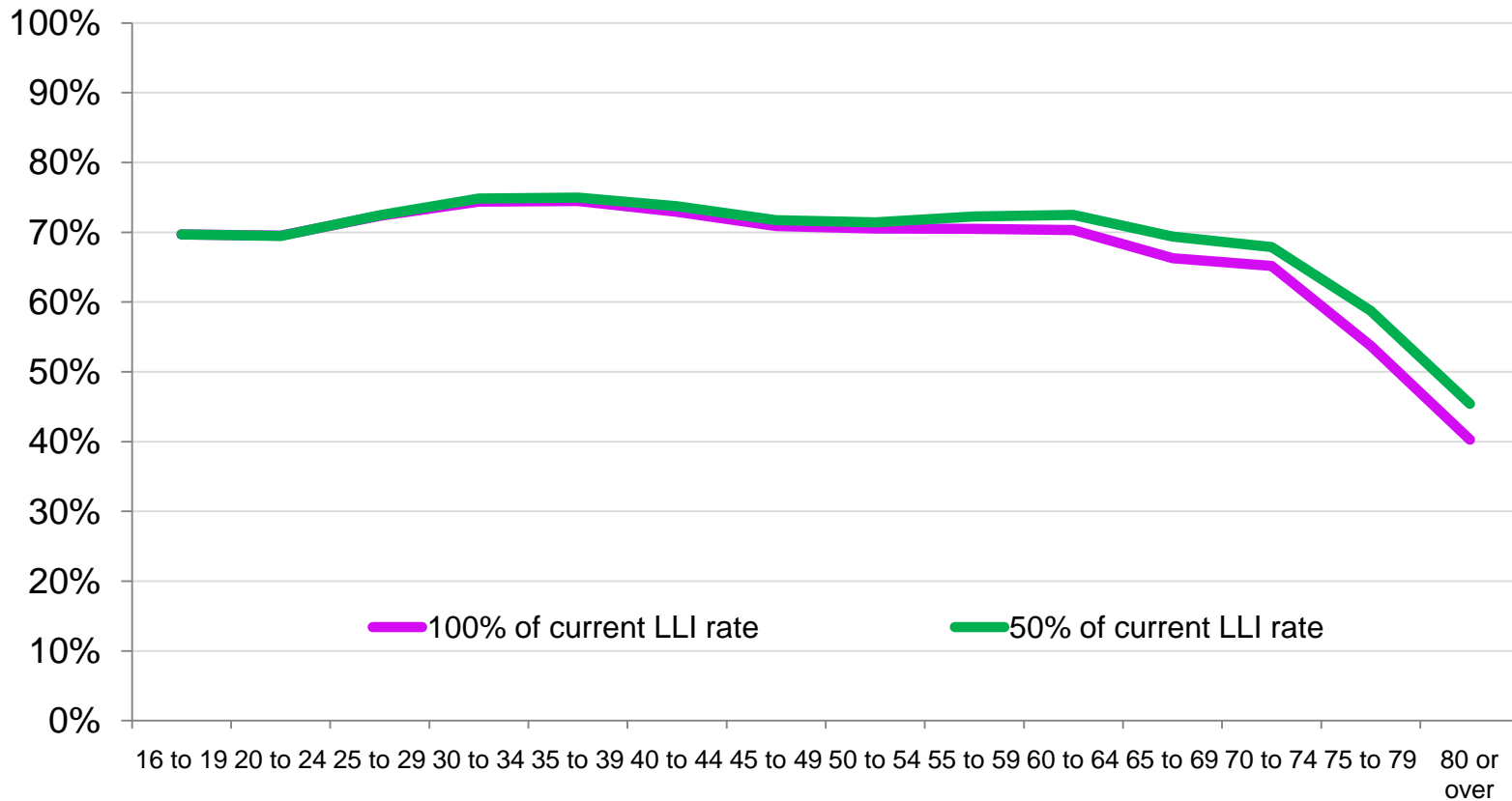
Proportion with limiting long-term illness/disability (TP 07-08)



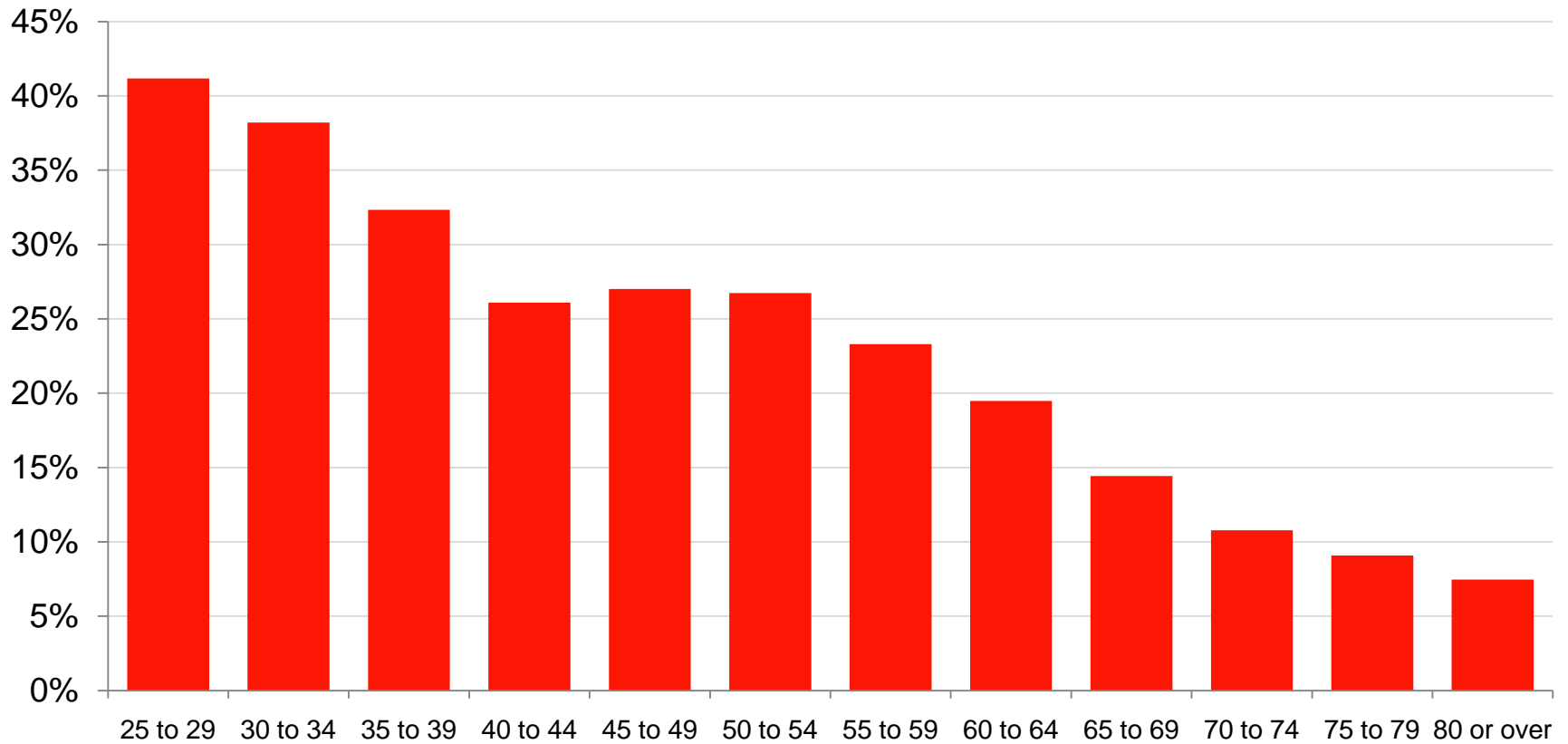
2/5 Participation rates by age and LLI (TP 07-08)



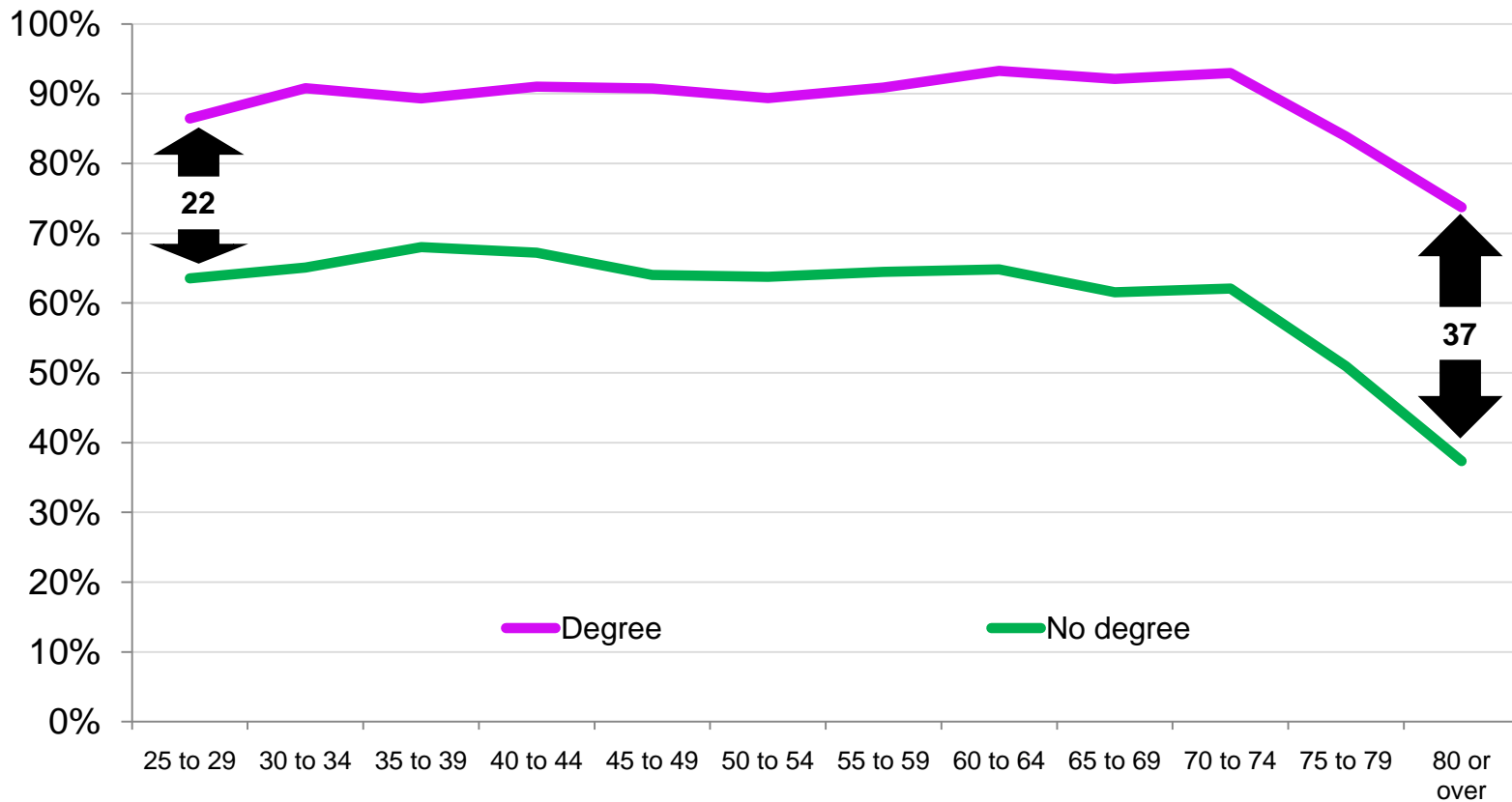
2/5 Participation rates if LLI rate is halved



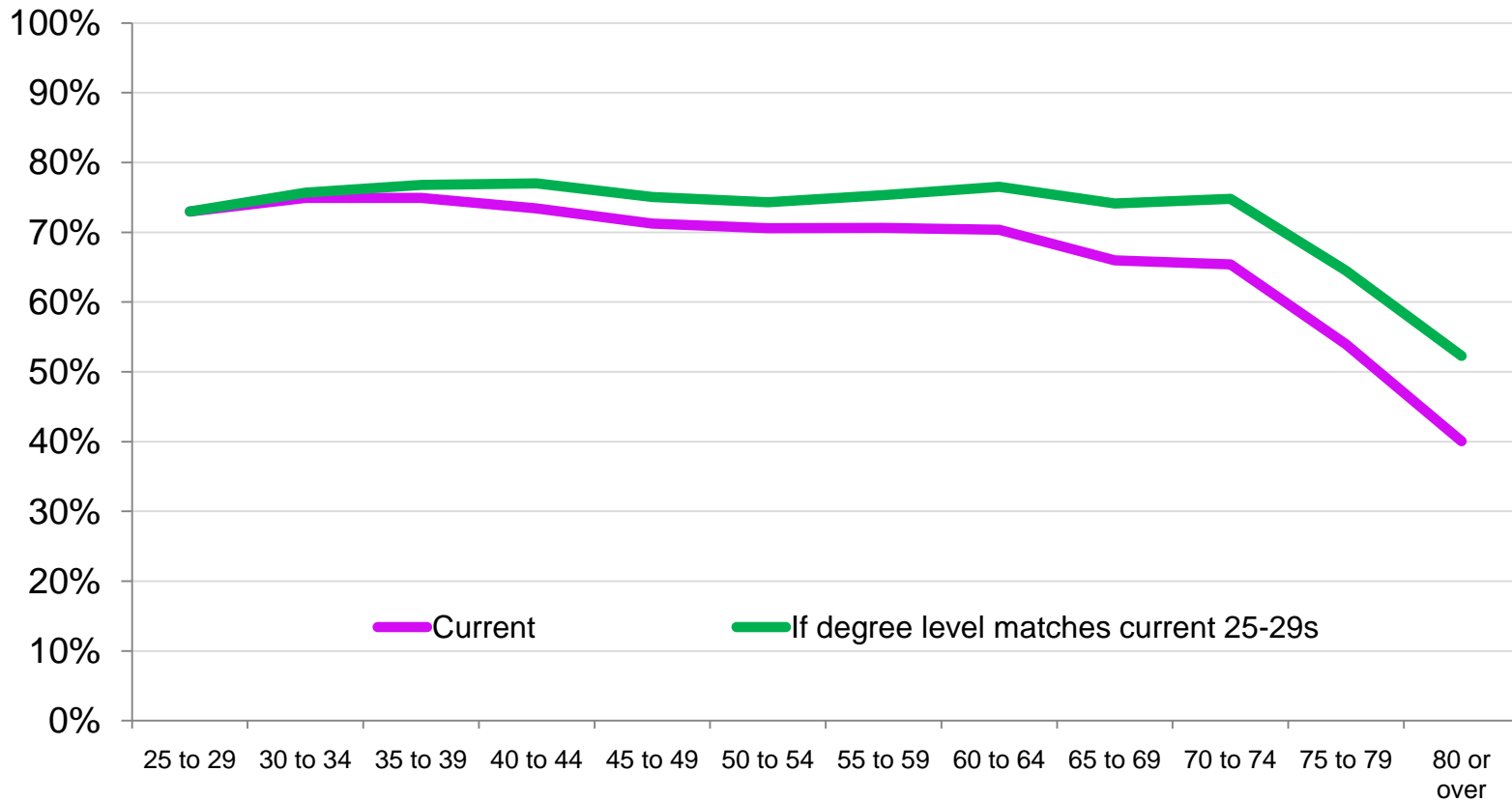
Proportion with a degree (TP 07-08)



2/5 Participation rates by age and education level (TP 07-08)



2/5 Participation rates if every age degree rate is current rate for 25-29s



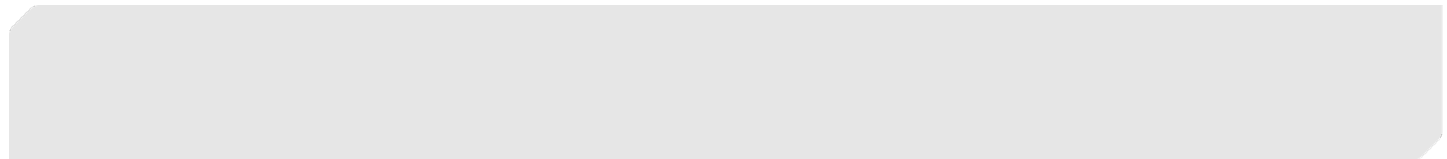
Conclusions

Do not expect major changes in participation rate solely due to changing demographic profile of England

Simple What if? analyses show that even a radical change in population distribution of a 'driver' variable has only a marginal impact on participation rate

Change more likely to come via hardening/softening of causal relationships between driver variables and participation rate

Worth tracking how these relationships change over time



Will expected demographic changes
impact on participation?

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