



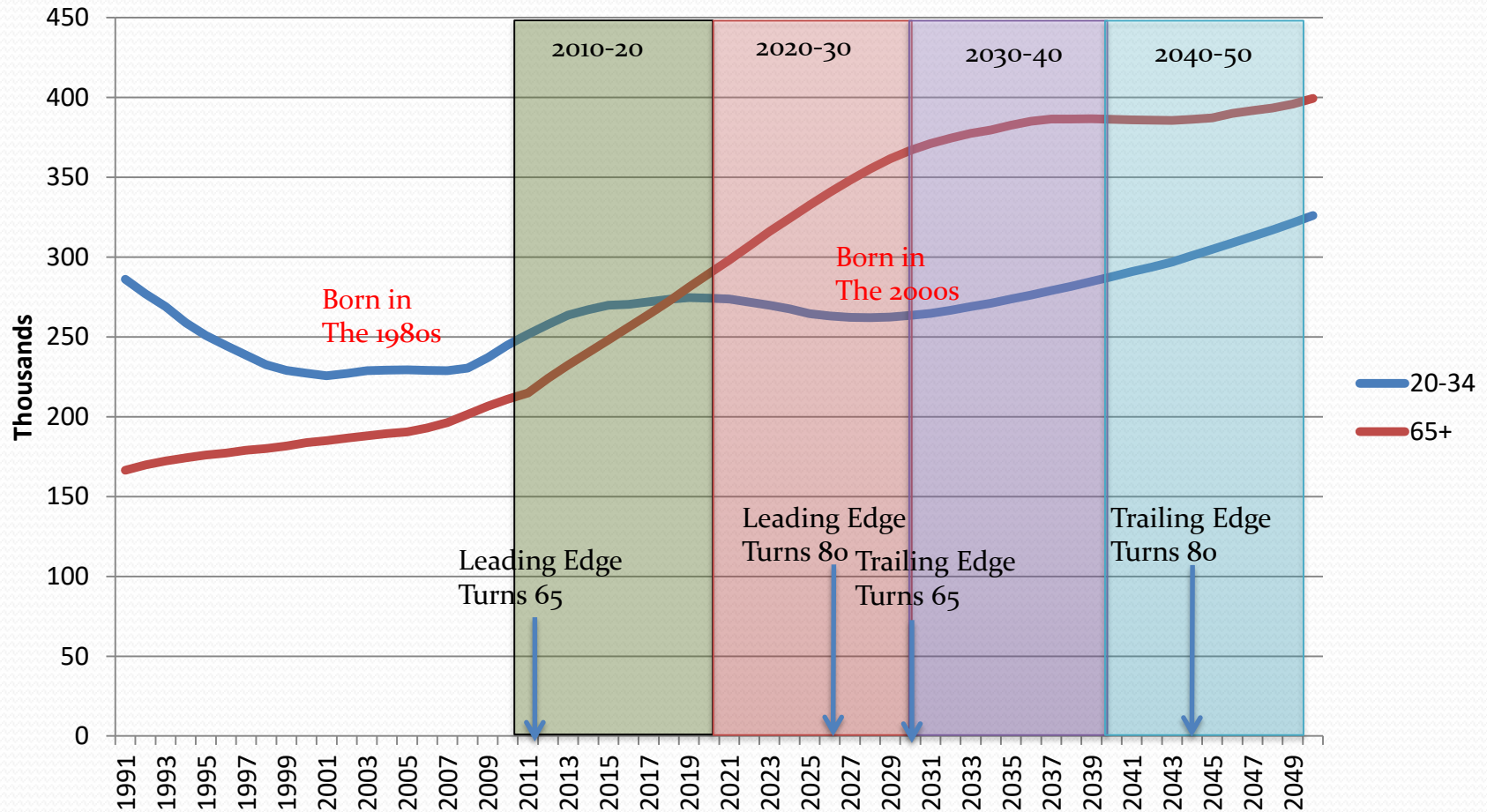
The Maine Aging Initiative: Tapping the Wisdom Asset

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Maine's Current Demography: An Opportunity

- Oldest state by median age
- Largest concentration of boomers per capita
- Most rural state in the country
- Major employers could lose half their workforce in next decade

The long long echoes of the baby boom and the birth dearth



Source: Charles S Colgan, Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, Maine Aging Summit January 2104

What We Did

- Roundtables
- Annual Aging Summit (Wisdom Summit)
- Blueprint on Action on Aging
- Maine Aging Initiative: 5 Work Groups
- Age-friendly Initiatives (Foundations)
- Legislative Caucus

Goals of Efforts

- Create a *shared understanding of the economic challenges* and opportunities we face as a state as our population ages
- Establish a *shared vision for aging in Maine* by hosting a broad-based planning process
- *Develop a multi-year plan*, which includes:
 - **Short term** action steps focused on immediate needs **using existing resources**
 - **Long term** action steps to address long-range needs **building our assets and tools**
- *Invest leaders across sectors of the economy* who commit to advance portions of the plan

We listened ...



What Happened

- University system embraced aging within all research
- Major legislation passed
- Public overwhelmingly supported bond
- Cross sector solutions
- Workforce innovation to keep workers

What You Need

- Visible, energetic champion
- “Unusual” partners
- A shared plan across sectors
- Voices and passion of older people
- Ongoing leadership
- Seed funds

What We Learned

- Importance of listening
- Variations across the state: Tailor
- High level of commitment across sectors
- Connections across issues
- This is really an opportunity to build communities where we all want to live.

What We Learned

- What you say and how you say it matters.
- Avoid pitting one population group against another.
- Make certain every stakeholder participating gains something from the collaboration.