CUNY INSTITUTE FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Retirement and Family Demography in the wake of Disasters

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NY RDRC

Baruch COLLEGE
MARXE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

Retirement and Family Demography in the Wake of Disasters

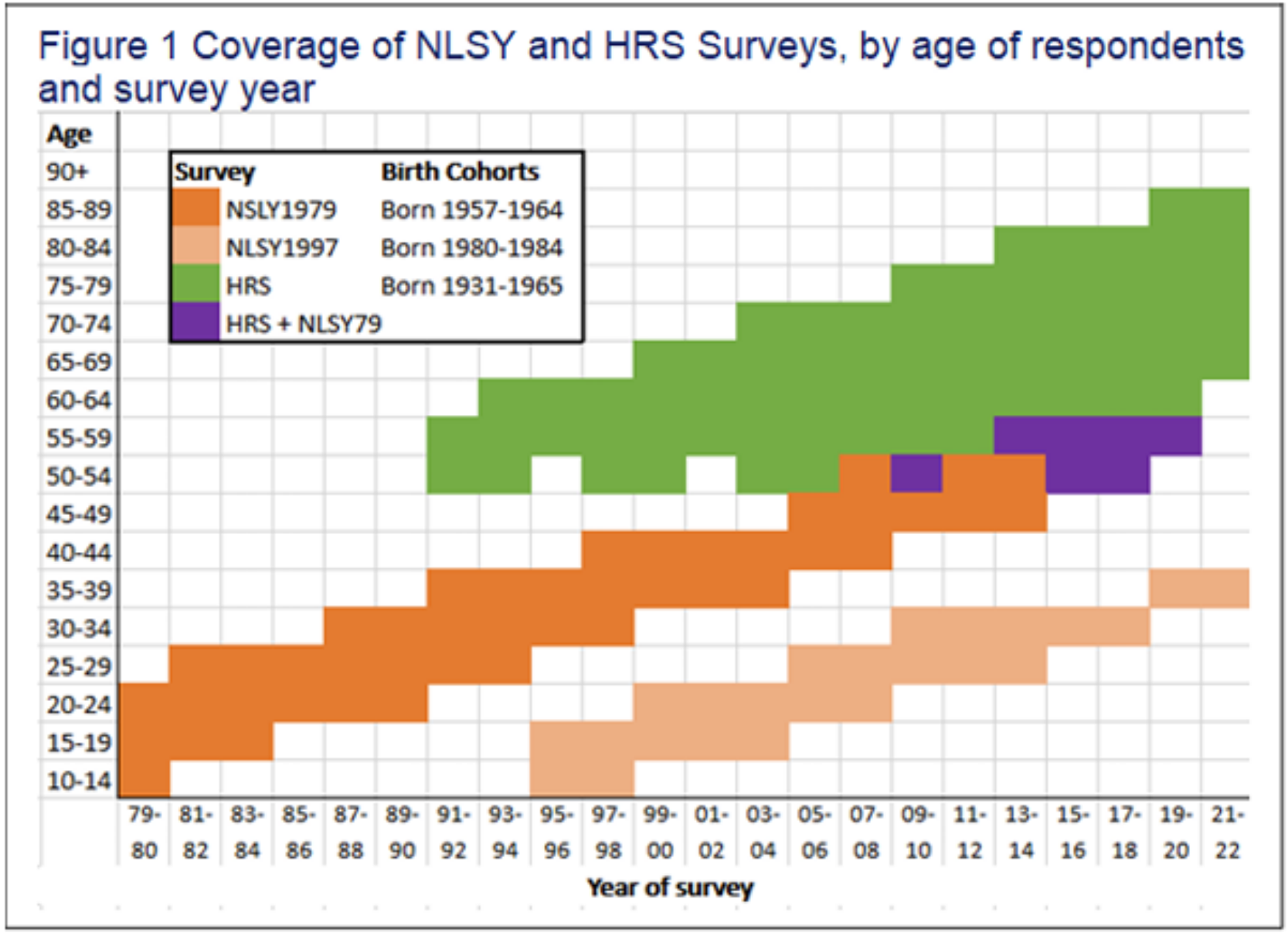
- HRS and other large & detailed national-level longitudinal datasets (incl. NLSY & PSID) very useful to study responses to extreme events but remain very underutilized
  - HRS used to assess community-level disaster exposure with county-level disaster declaration data from FEMA (Brilleman et al. 2017)
  - NLSY used to examine risk-taking in investment decisions post-disaster (Bharath & Cho 2023) and impact of temperature fluctuations on human capital (Graff et al. 2016)
  - Studies that used longitudinal data have been small-scale, tracking families' adaptation and mitigation behaviors across one disaster such as a major flood, and only across a limited geographic scope (e.g., Howell et al. 2019, Mondino et al. 2021, Sohn et al. 2021).

Efforts underway to retrofit Longitudinal Data Sets

- Example of a project at CUNY: *What a Changing Climate Implies for US Family Structure, Living Arrangements and Migration across the Life Course*
  - How do families (individuals who live alone) adapt living arrangements and residential locations in response to extreme weather and climate events and are there longer-term or cascading effects on family structure (especially dissolution of partnerships, creation of more multi-generational households)?
  - How does familial and public support, as well as age and place in the life course, moderate the above family demographic outcomes in the wake of disasters?

Data Integration

- Pool NLSY data by year to create a longitudinal dataset of over 20,000 adults surveyed 10-16 times between 1998 and 2018
- Use longitudinal HRS data in combination with NLSY to cover most US age groups
- Link these datasets with SHELDUS to incorporate yearly indicators of natural hazards by county



Key Variables

- Key dep. variables in NLSY & HRS: co-residence, cohabitation dissolution/divorce, & migration
- Exposures (from SHELDUS): creating monthly indicators of disaster occurrence, type, and severity
- Will also measure family & public support (e.g., gifts, loans, housing vouchers, SNAP), household structure & stability and test for differential effects on support and stability by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and SES

Structure of HRS

- Initial 1992 HRS surveyed persons born 1931-1941 aged 51 to 61, and their spouses of any age
- Initial cohort (HRS 1931-41) provides large (N=12,652) nationally-representative sample (now in 80s & 90s) reinterviewed every two years since 1992
- Replenished w/ new nationally-representative cohorts born every six years: 1998 (N=4,889); 2004 (N=4,420); 2010 (N=6,283); 2016 (N=4,368)

Strengths of HRS

- Variables on wide range of topics incl. living arrangements, migration, income, assets (incl. housing wealth), work, disability, retirement, health & home insurance, Social Security (take-up age, type, amounts, etc.), pension plans, physical & cognitive health, and **expectations** (re retirement age, employment past age 62, mortality, etc.)
- Mostly self-reported measures in public-use HRS (some interviewer-administered variables incl. cognitive tests)
- Restr. HRS: Social Security records (incl. PIA) & much more

Illustration: Retirement in the wake of COVID

Heiland, F., M. Getz Sheftel, and N. Yin. 2025. "**Accelerated Aging and Early Retirement Due to COVID-19: Is It Happening and How Are Different Racial/Ethnic Groups Affected?**"

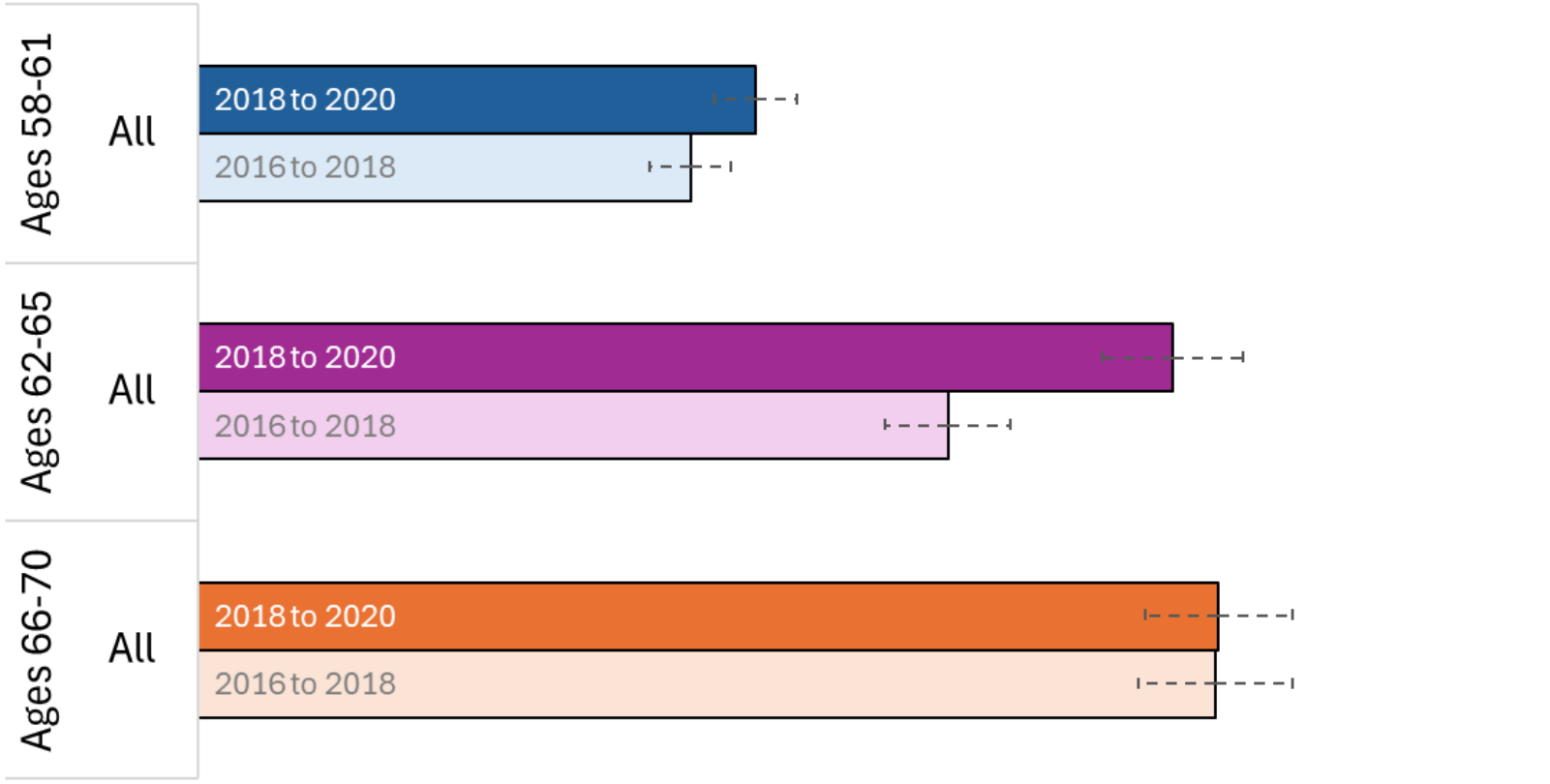
- **Investigate** impact of COVID pandemic on work, retirement and health trajectories of older Americans (Mid-to-late Baby Boomers)
- Provide **nationally-representative estimates** on key markers of accelerated aging and retirement including exit from paid work, self-reported retirement, Social Security benefit receipt, worsening overall health, emergence of functional limitations.
- **Test for differences** by age, race/ethnicity and sex.

Samples

HRS Analytic Samples in this study

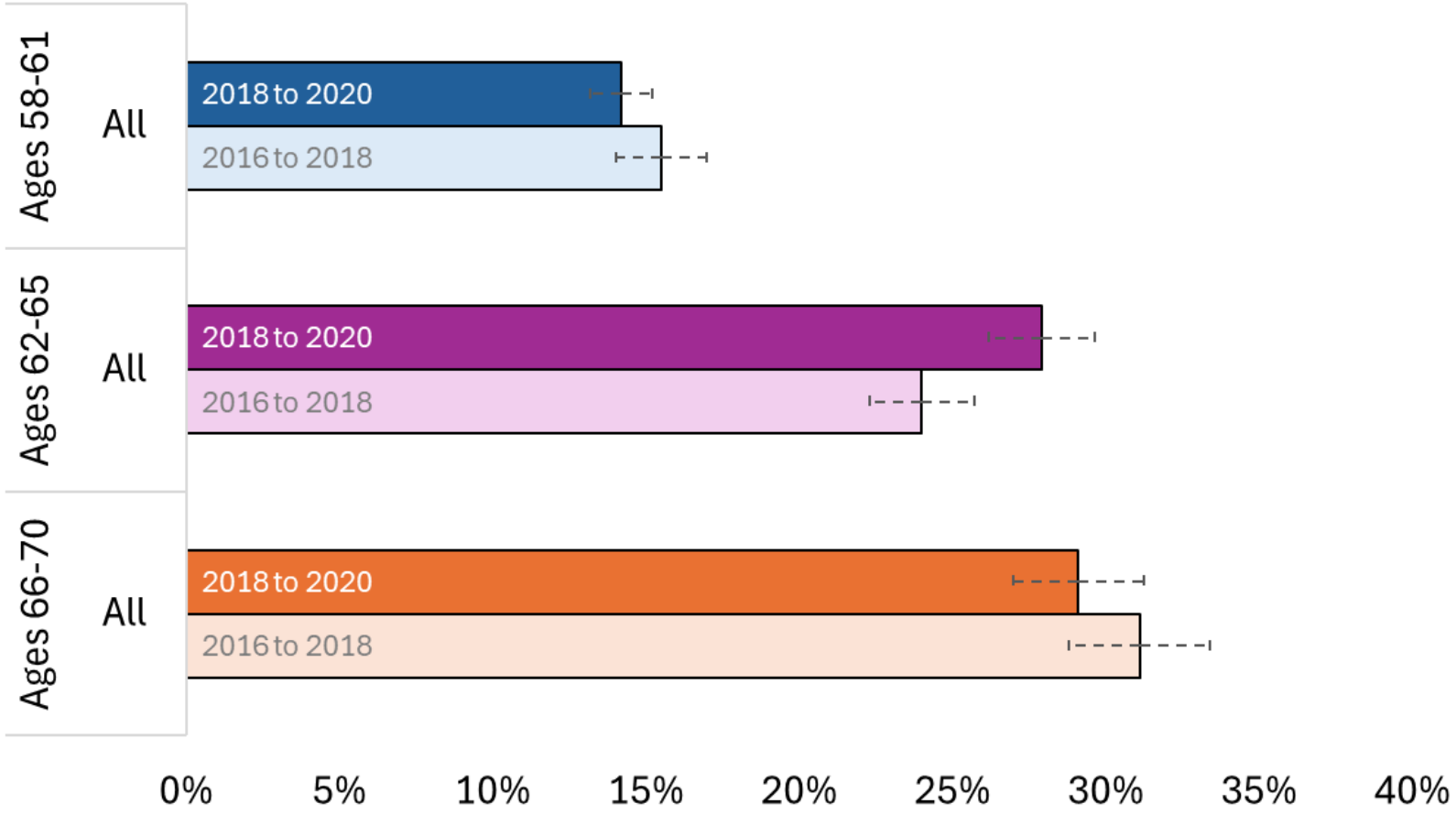
- Individuals aged 58 to 70 at baseline (Mid & Late Boomers) and observed in consecutive waves (either "Pre-pandemic": waves 13-14 / 2016-2018 or during "COVID outbreak": waves 14-15 / 2018-2020)
- Samples of individuals at-risk of a work, retirement, or health transition:
  - working for pay at baseline (N=5,964) → not working for pay at follow-up
  - not retired at baseline (N=7,007) → retired at follow-up
  - not receiving Social Security benefits (N=7,272) → receiving benefits
  - in good/very good/excellent overall health (N=9,002) → in fair/poor health
  - no functional limitations (N=4,362) → has at least one functional limitation

Prob(No longer working for pay): Overall



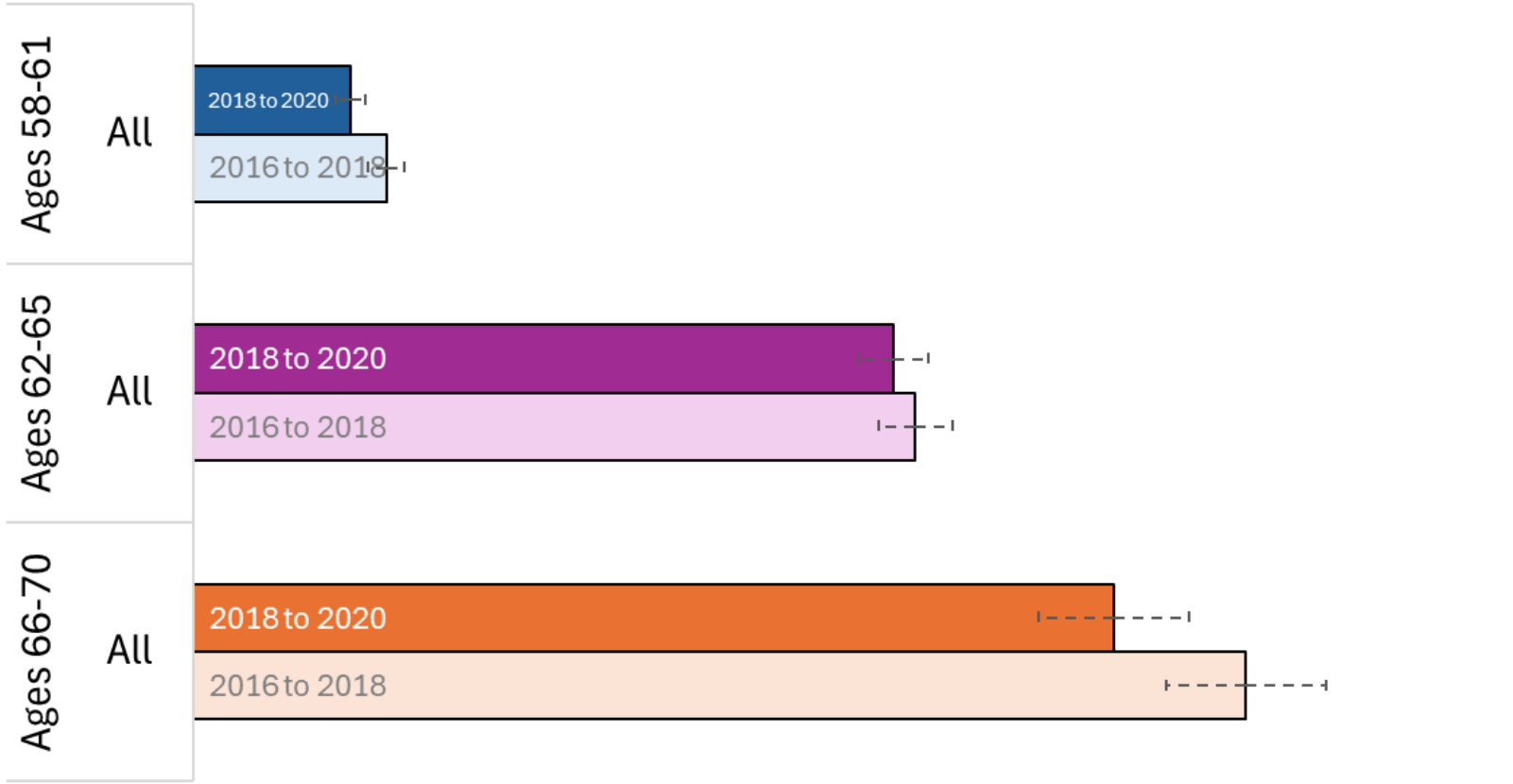
	Ages 66-70	Ages 62-65	Ages 58-61
	All	All	All
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	31.3%	29.9%	17.1%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	31.2%	23.0%	15.1%

Prob(Retiring): Overall



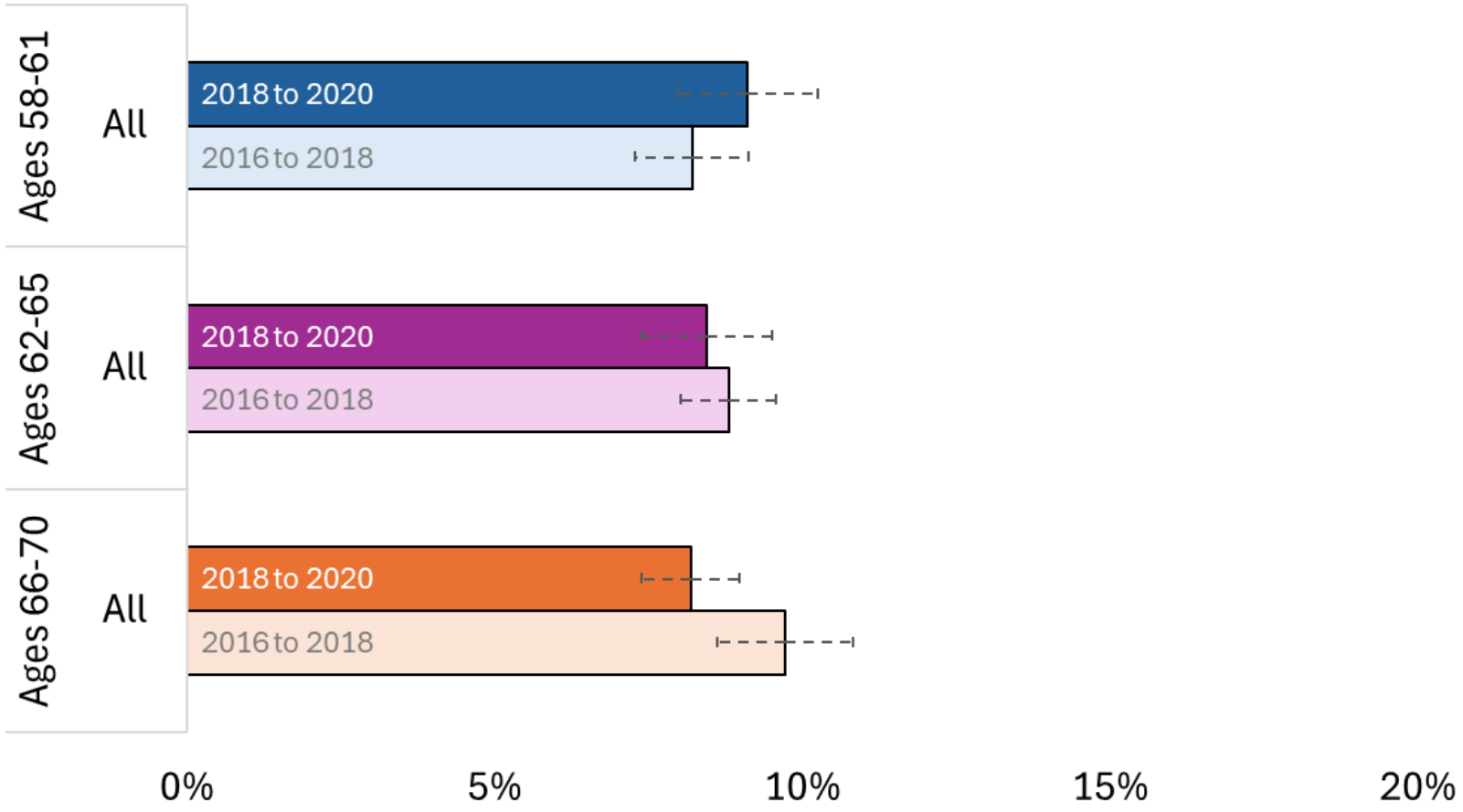
	Ages 66-70	Ages 62-65	Ages 58-61
	All	All	All
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	29.1%	27.9%	14.2%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	31.1%	24.0%	15.5%

Prob(Started receiving Social Security benefits): Overall



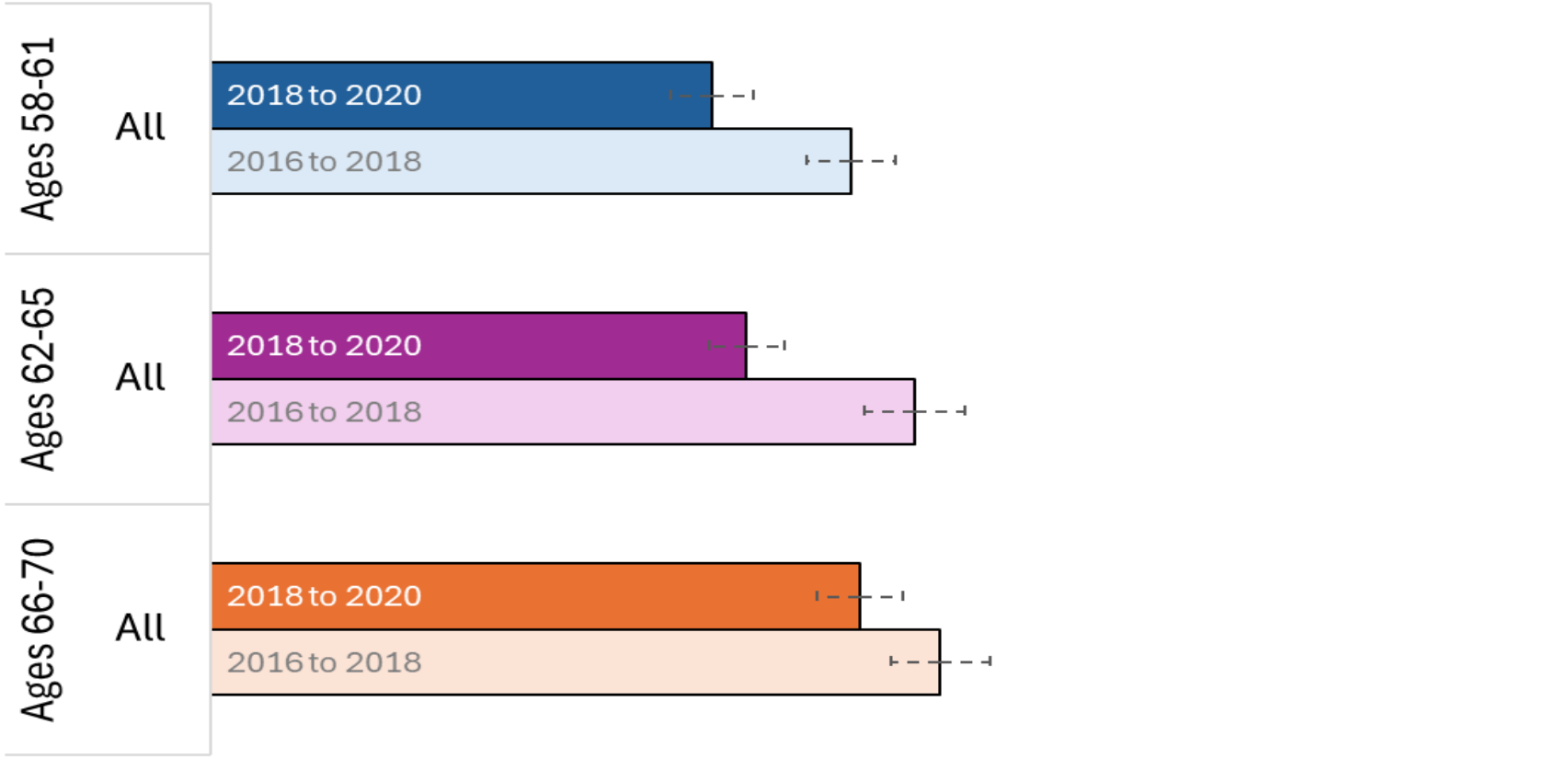
	Ages 66-70	Ages 62-65	Ages 58-61
	All	All	All
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	50.6%	38.5%	8.6%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	57.9%	39.7%	10.6%

Prob(Worse overall health): Overall



	Ages 66-70	Ages 62-65	Ages 58-61
	All	All	All
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	8.2%	8.4%	9.1%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	9.7%	8.8%	8.2%

Prob(Developing Functional Limitations): Overall

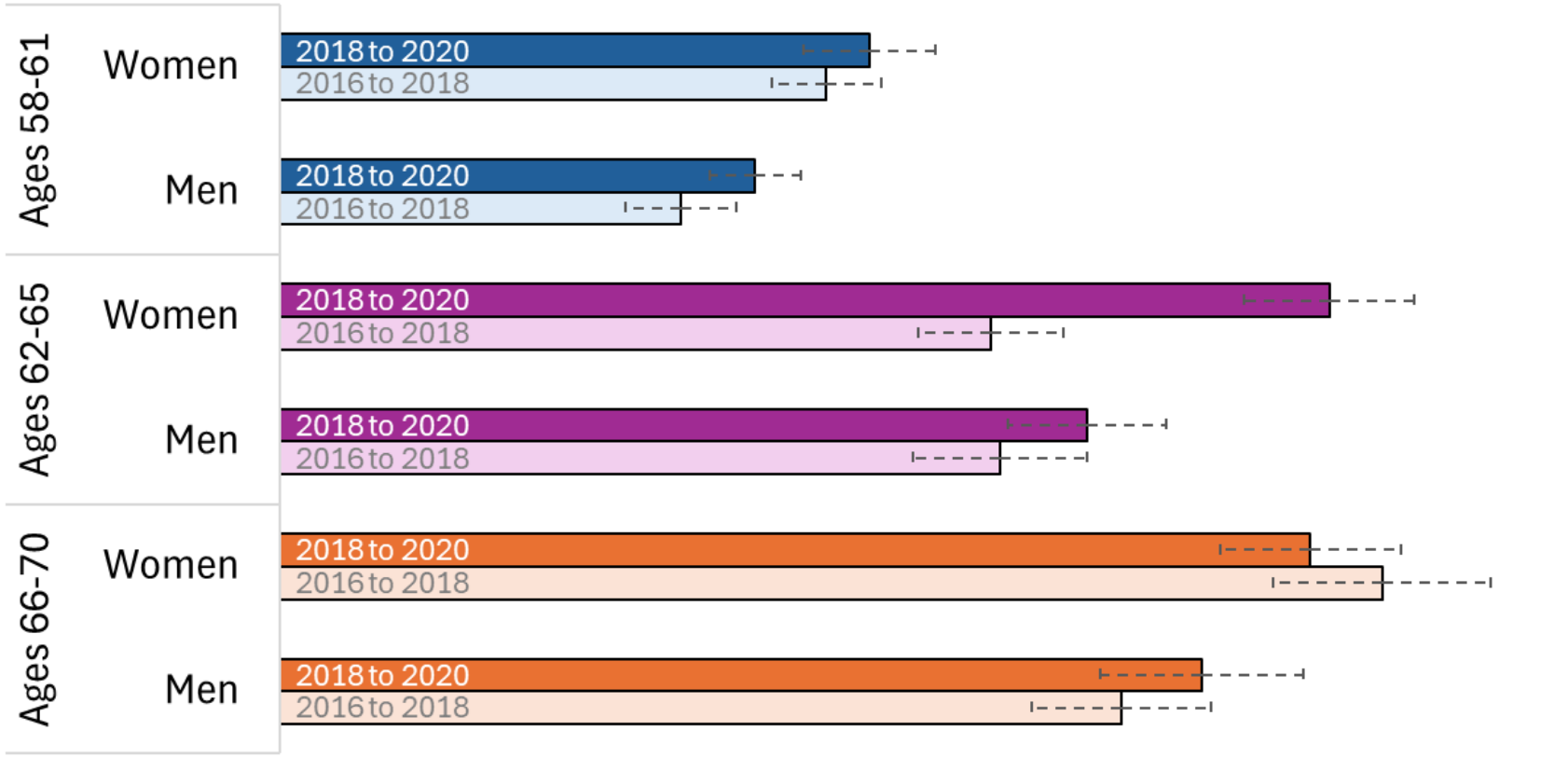


	Ages 66-70	Ages 62-65	Ages 58-61
	All	All	All
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	29.8%	24.6%	23.0%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	33.5%	32.3%	29.4%

Summary of Key Findings

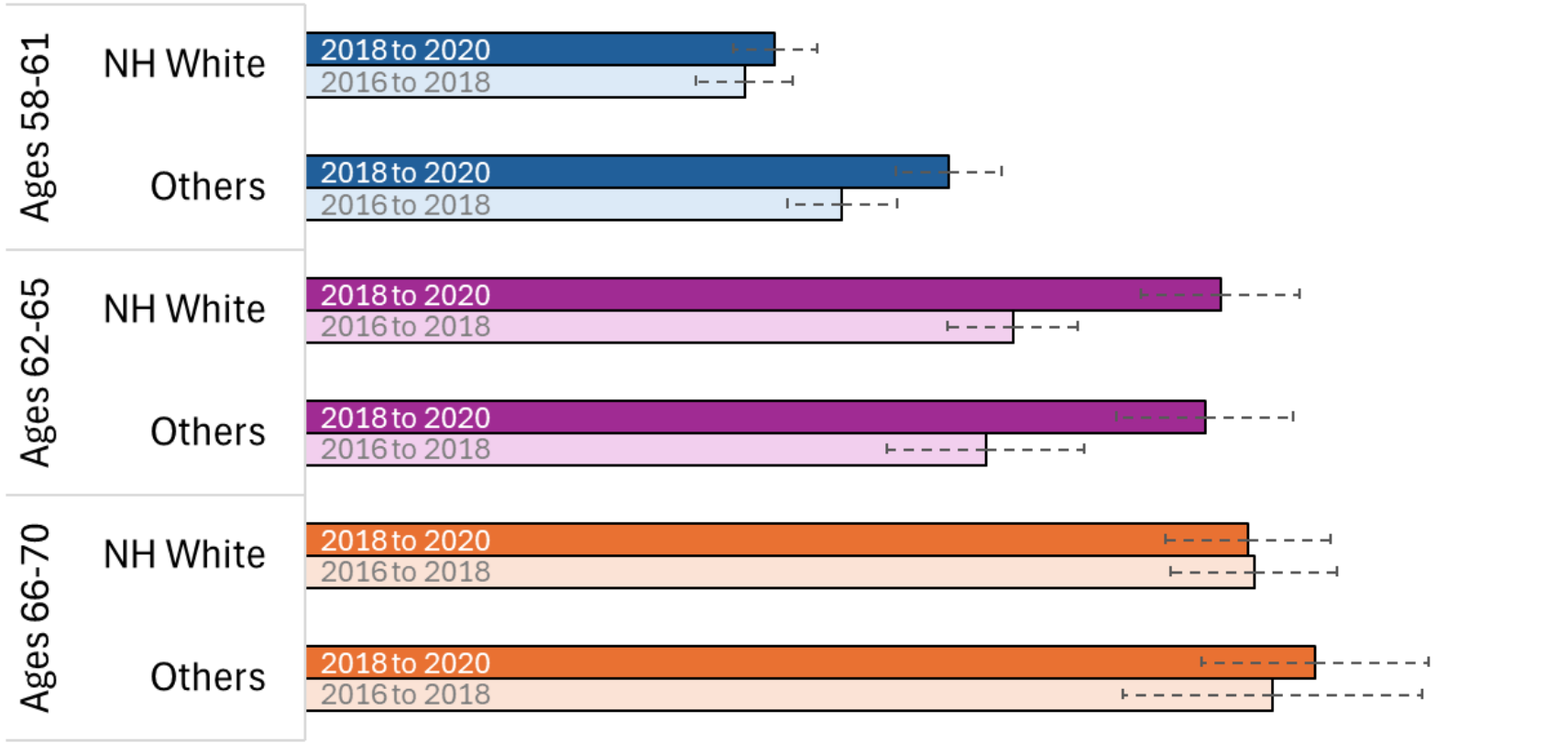
- Evidence of accelerated **exit from employment & earlier retirement**:
  - Larger estimated effects for NH White & Black women aged 62-65 in 2018;
  - Evidence that Latina women aged 58-61 in 2018 exited the labor force & retired earlier, while Latina women 62-65 in 2018 were significantly less likely to retire;
  - No impact on NH White men's labor force exit or retirement found, but
  - Some evidence of accelerated transitions for older Black (66-70) & Latino men (62-70).
- **Social Security benefit** results mixed w/ evidence pandemic may have delayed take-up, but only stat. sign. for younger Latinos & older Latinas
- No consistent impact on self-reported **overall health** found, but some evidence of **delayed onset of functional limitations** (stat. sign. for NH White men only, but large impact estimates found across groups)

Prob(No longer working for pay): Women vs. Men



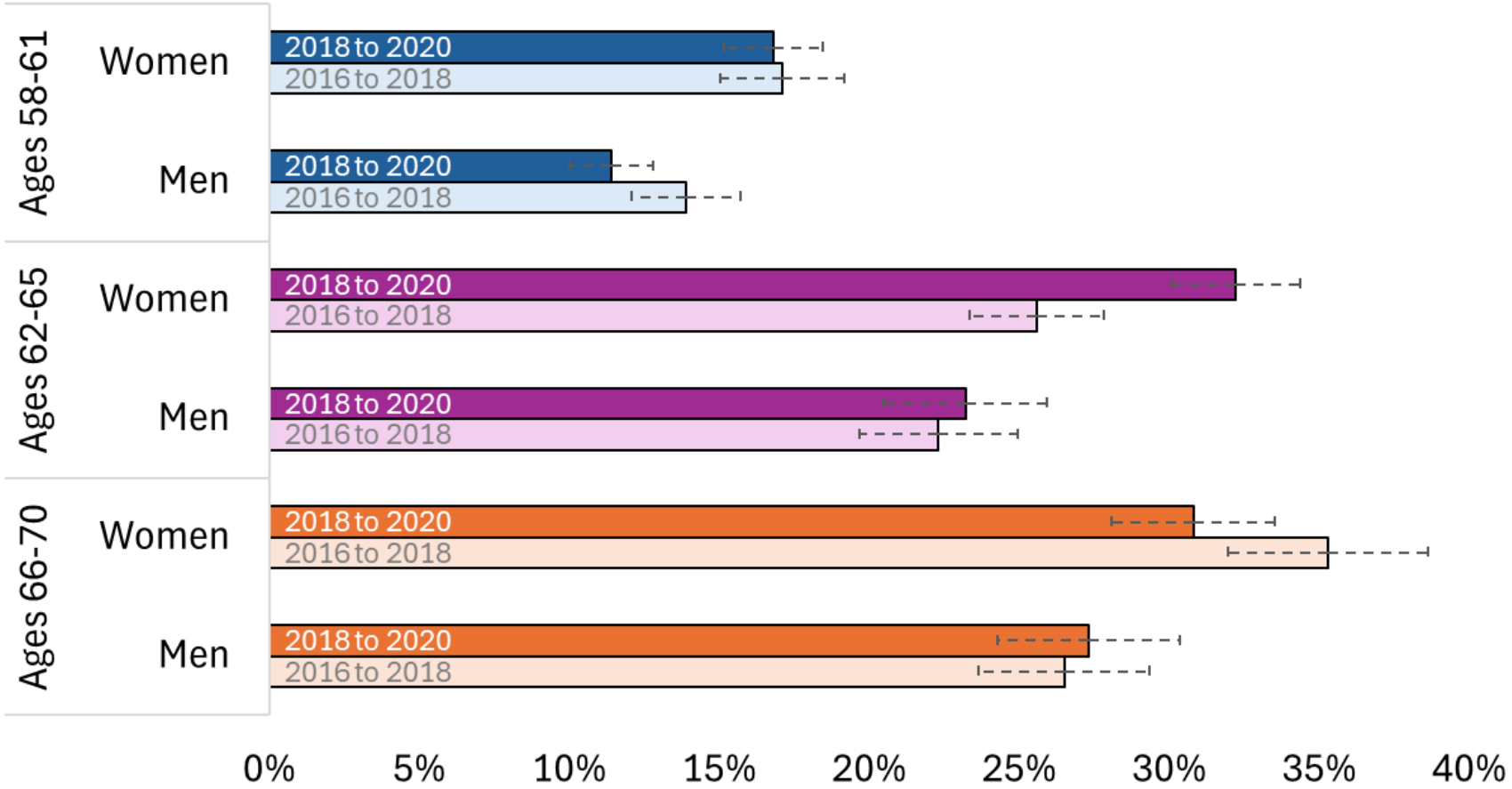
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	29.7%	33.2%	26.0%	33.8%	15.3%	19.0%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	27.1%	35.5%	23.2%	22.9%	12.9%	17.6%

Prob(No longer working for pay): NH White vs. All Other



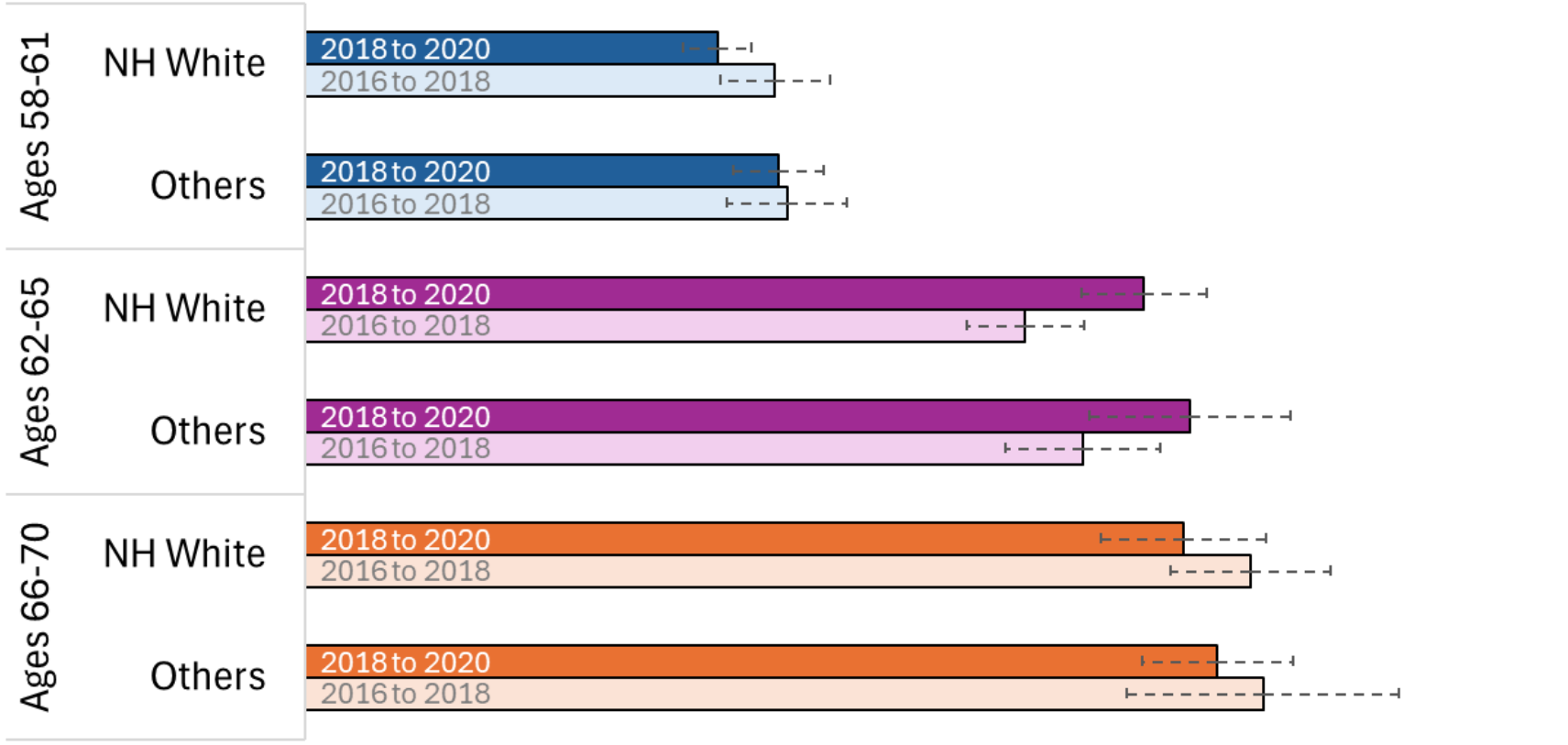
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Others	NH White	Others	NH White	Others	NH White
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	33.1%	30.9%	29.5%	30.0%	21.1%	15.4%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	31.7%	31.1%	22.3%	23.2%	17.6%	14.4%

Prob(Retiring): Women vs. Men



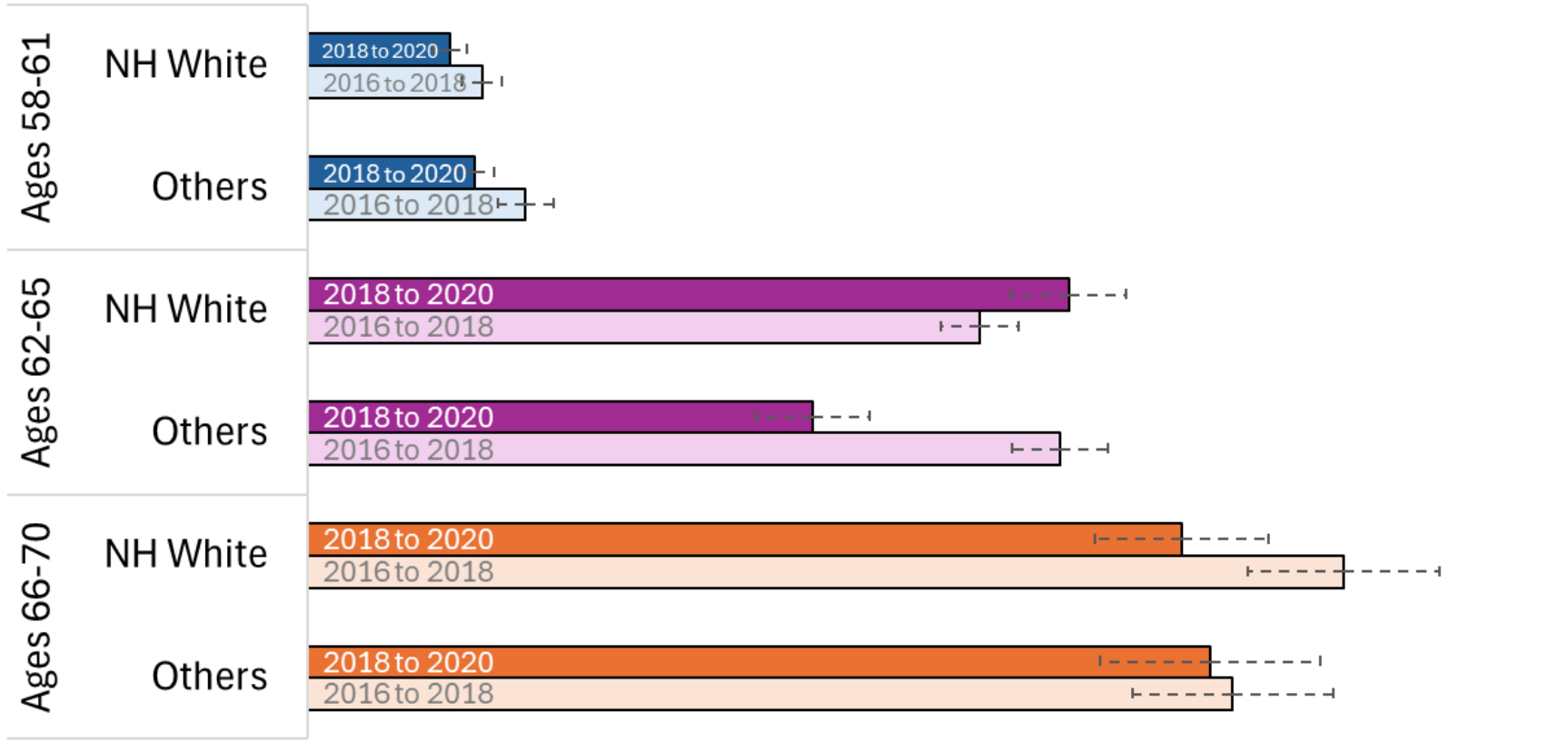
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	27.3%	30.8%	23.2%	32.2%	11.4%	16.8%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	26.5%	35.3%	22.3%	25.6%	13.9%	17.1%

Prob(Retiring): NH White vs. All Other



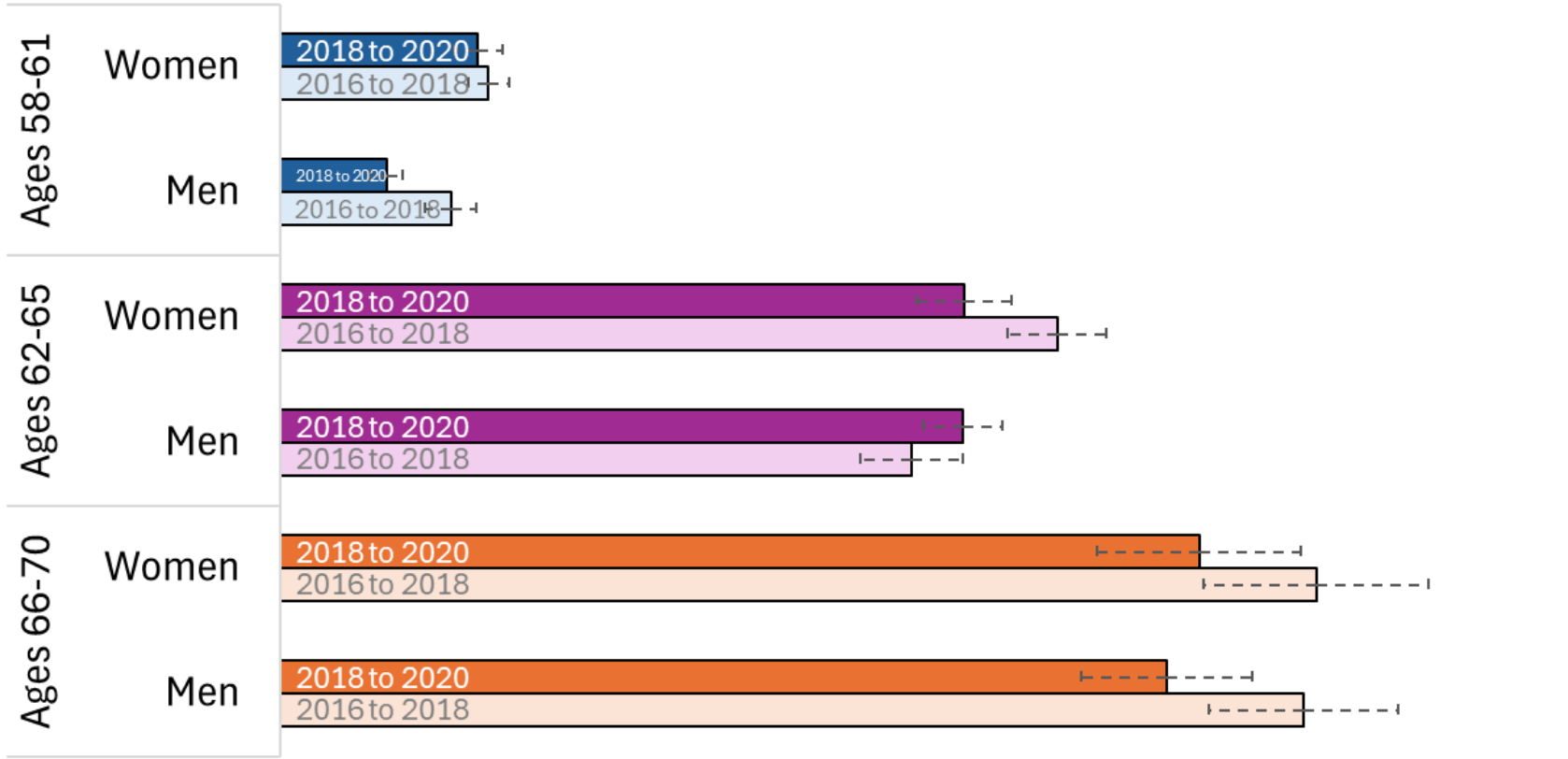
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Others	NH White	Others	NH White	Others	NH White
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	29.9%	28.8%	29.0%	27.5%	15.5%	13.5%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	31.4%	31.0%	25.5%	23.6%	15.8%	15.4%

Prob(Started receiving benefits): Women vs. Men



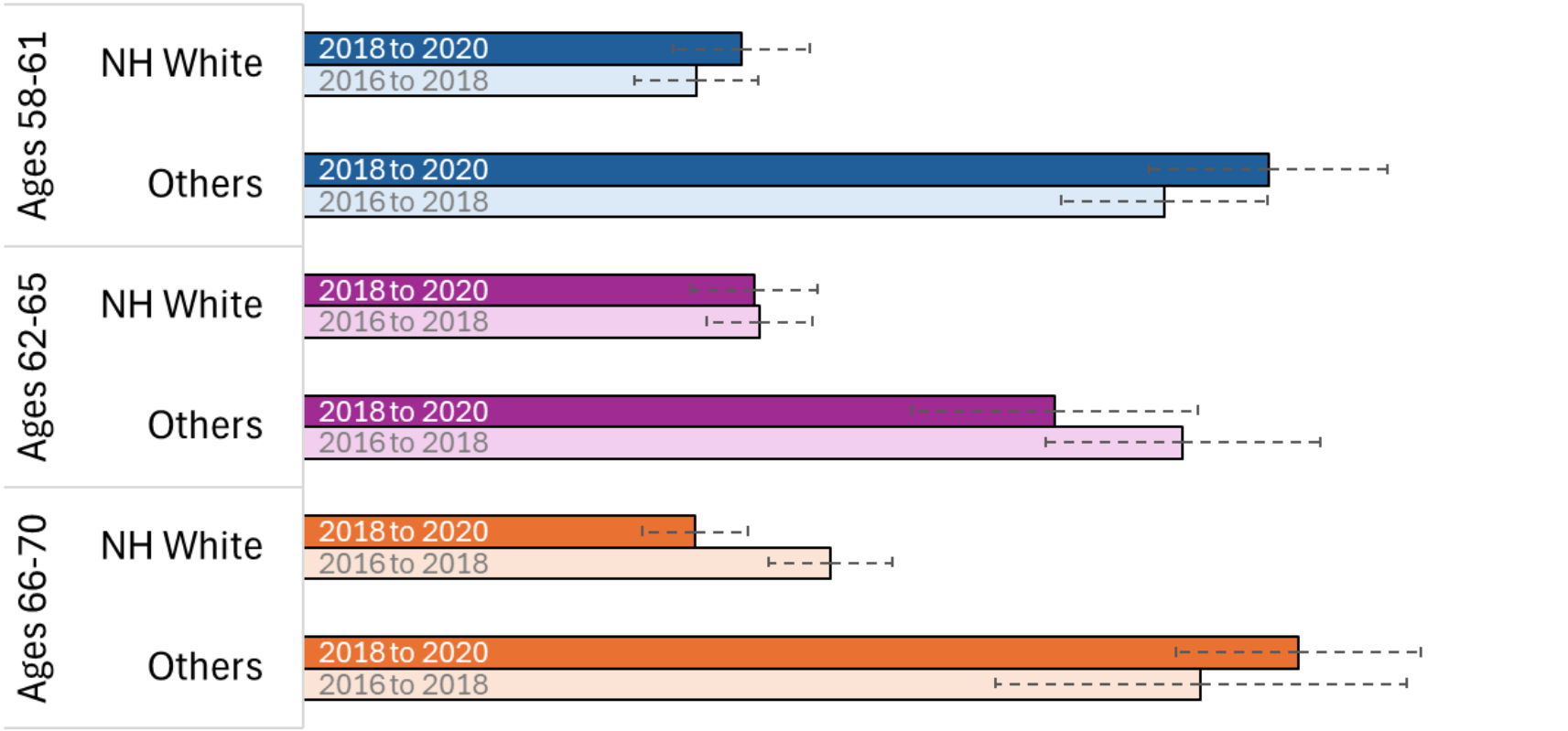
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Others	NH White	Others	NH White	Others	NH White
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	51.8%	50.2%	29.0%	43.7%	9.6%	8.2%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	53.1%	59.5%	43.2%	38.6%	12.5%	10.0%

Prob(Started receiving benefits): NH White vs. All Other



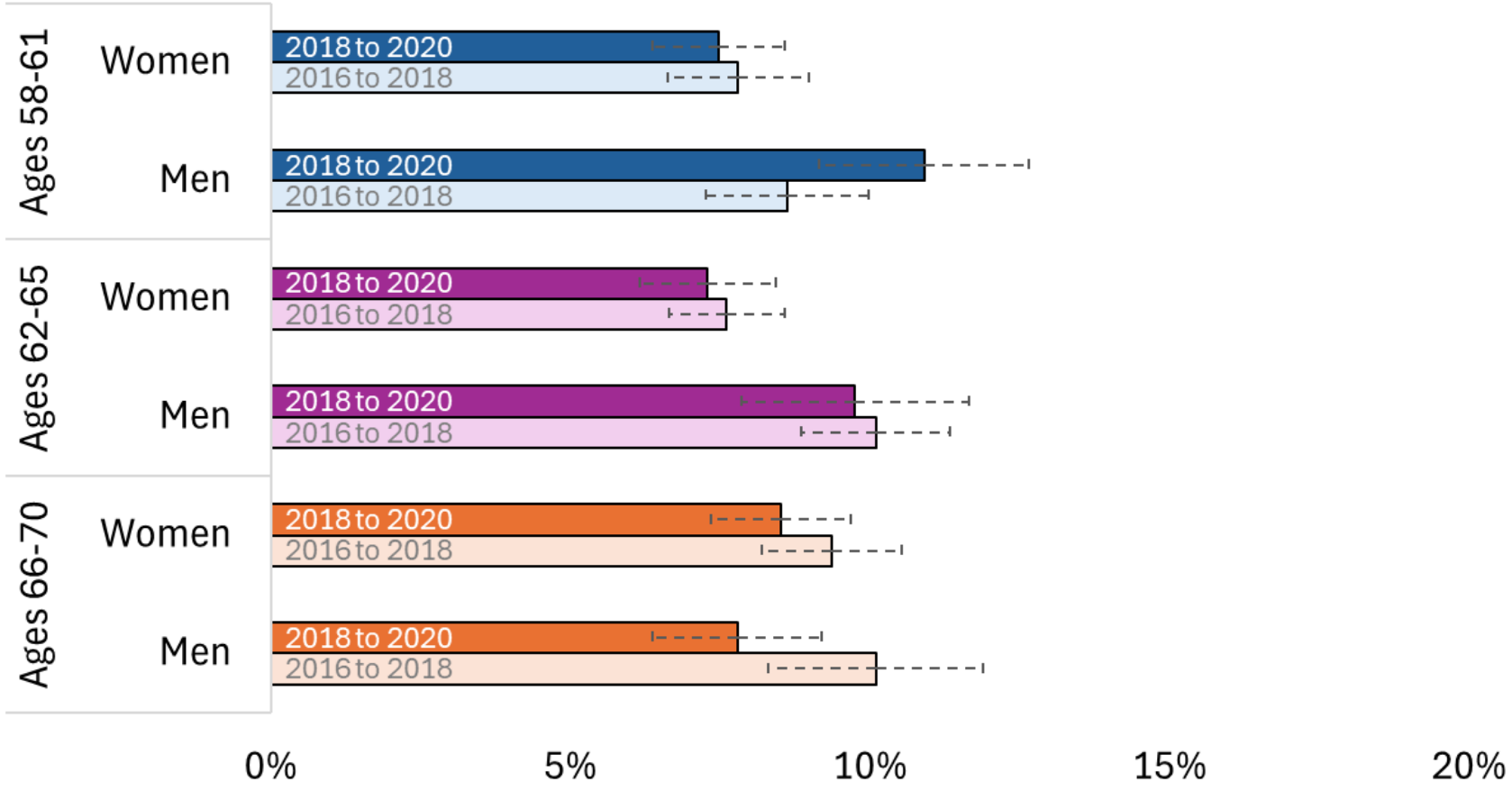
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	49.9%	51.7%	38.4%	38.5%	6.0%	11.1%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	57.6%	58.3%	35.5%	43.7%	9.6%	11.7%

Prob(Worse overall health): Women vs. Men



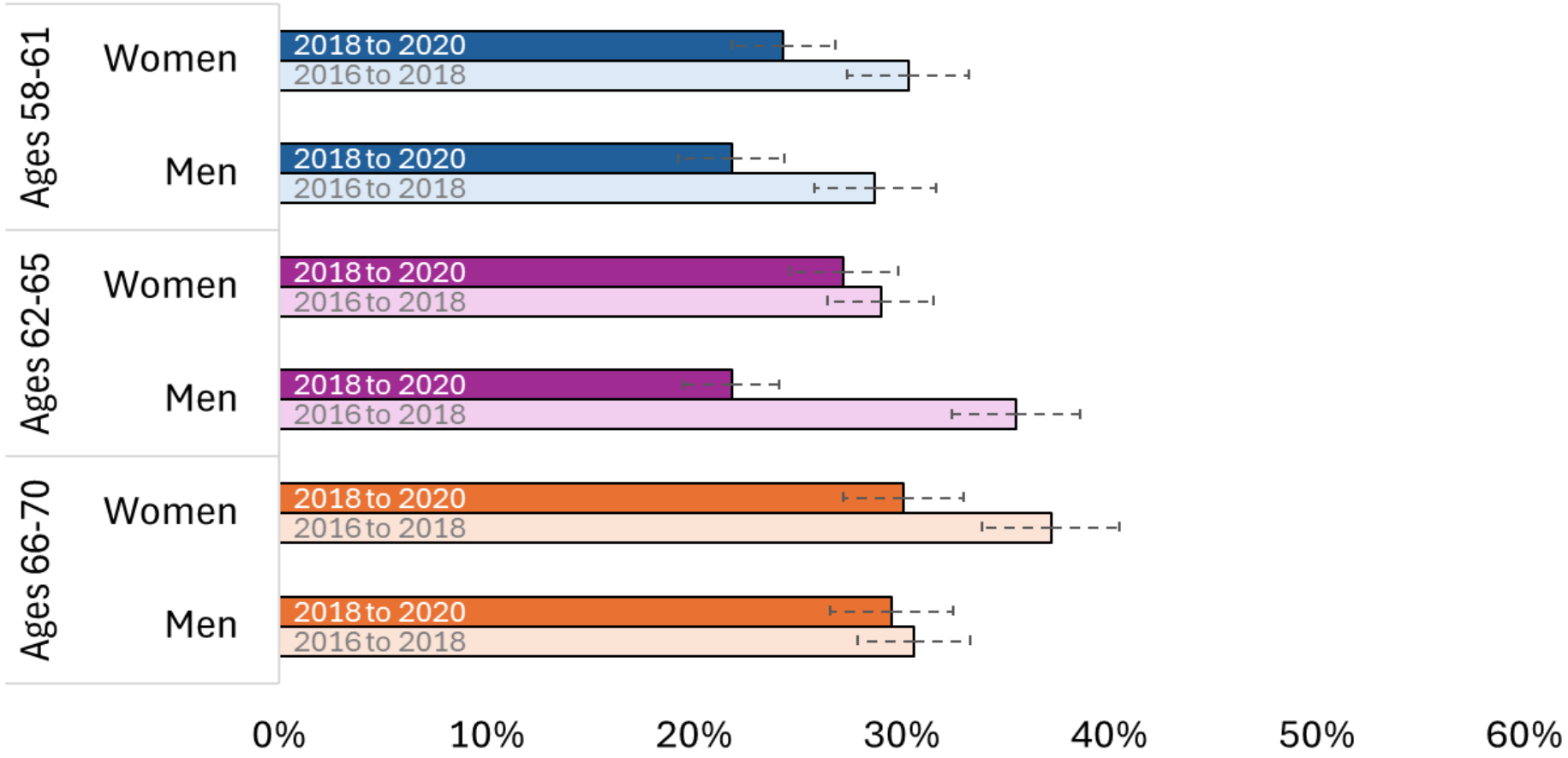
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Others	NH White	Others	NH White	Others	NH White
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	16.3%	6.4%	12.3%	7.4%	15.8%	7.2%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	14.7%	8.6%	14.4%	7.5%	14.1%	6.4%

Prob(Worse overall health): NH White vs. All Other



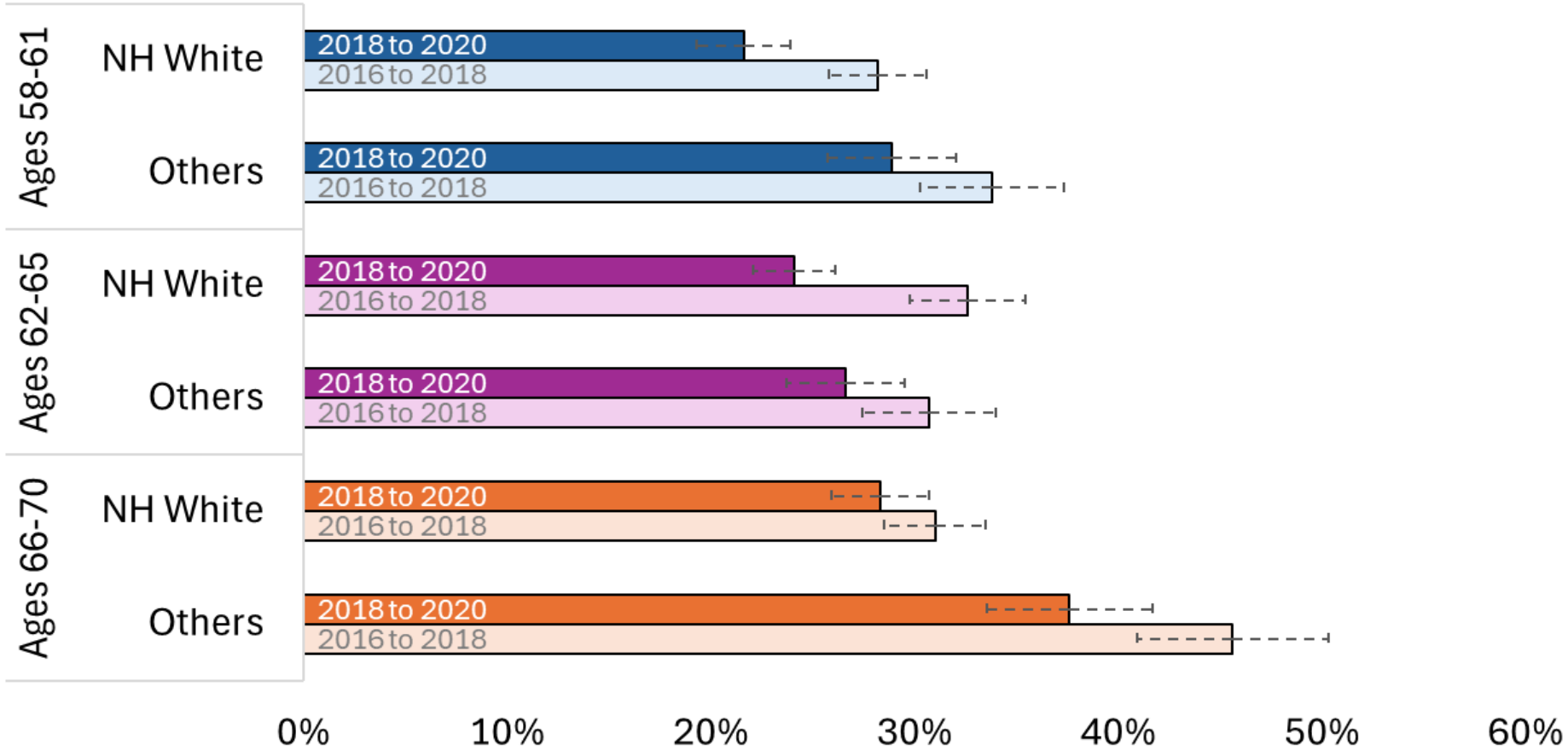
	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	7.8%	8.5%	9.8%	7.3%	10.9%	7.5%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	10.1%	9.4%	10.1%	7.6%	8.6%	7.8%

Prob(Developing Functional Limitations): Women vs. Men



	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	29.5%	30.1%	21.8%	27.2%	21.8%	24.3%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	30.6%	37.2%	35.5%	29.0%	28.7%	30.3%

Prob(Developing Functional Limitations): NH White vs. All Other



	Ages 66-70		Ages 62-65		Ages 58-61	
	Others	NH White	Others	NH White	Others	NH White
2018 (t) to 2020 (t+1)	37.6%	28.3%	26.6%	24.1%	28.9%	21.6%
2016 (t) to 2018 (t+1)	45.6%	31.0%	30.7%	32.6%	33.8%	28.2%

Multivariate Analysis:

Results from fully interacted models adjusted for controls and using finer racial/ethnic groups

Estimated Effect of COVID Outbreak on Employment

No Longer Working for Pay

Baseline Age	NH White Men	NH White Women	NH Black Men	NH Black Women	Latino Men	Latina Women
58-61	2.6%	-1.7%	0.5%	3.2%	0.1%	**11.8%**
62-65	2.7%	**10.1%**	1.1%	17.3%	3.6%	5.1%
66-70	1.3%	-2.3%	20.4%	2.9%	4.6%	-16.7%

Estimated Effect of COVID Outbreak on Retirement

Entered Retirement

Baseline Age	NH White Men	NH White Women	NH Black Men	NH Black Women	Latino Men	Latina Women
58-61	-2.5%	-2.4%	3.5%	-2.3%	-6.8%	**8.3%**
62-65	-0.5%	**7.5%**	-0.9%	13.4%	12.5%	**-12.4%**
66-70	-0.6%	-3.7%	12.3%	-2.2%	7.2%	-20.8%

Started Receiving Social Security Benefits

Baseline Age	NH White Men	NH White Women	NH Black Men	NH Black Women	Latino Men	Latina Women
58-61	-3.7%	-0.9%	3.1%	-5.0%	**-9.9%**	-0.7%
62-65	0.8%	-5.4%	12.6%	-15.5%	3.0%	0.1%
66-70	-13.4%	-4.1%	-17.2%	20.1%	34.9%	**-21.3%**

Estimated Effect of COVID Outbreak on Health

Worse Overall Health

Baseline Age	NH White Men	NH White Women	NH Black Men	NH Black Women	Latino Men	Latina Women
58-61	2.1%	0.1%	-0.3%	-4.0%	11.6%	1.2%
62-65	-0.1%	-0.7%	-5.9%	0.0%	1.6%	0.7%
66-70	-2.5%	-1.4%	-3.4%	-2.1%	0.2%	13.4%

Developed Functional Limitations

Baseline Age	NH White Men	NH White Women	NH Black Men	NH Black Women	Latino Men	Latina Women
58-61	-6.5%	-6.5%	-11.4%	-18.0%	-5.7%	7.2%
62-65	**-15.9%**	-2.9%	-9.4%	6.5%	-8.7%	5.2%
66-70	1.3%	-7.2%	-8.3%	-0.5%	-17.1%	-12.9%