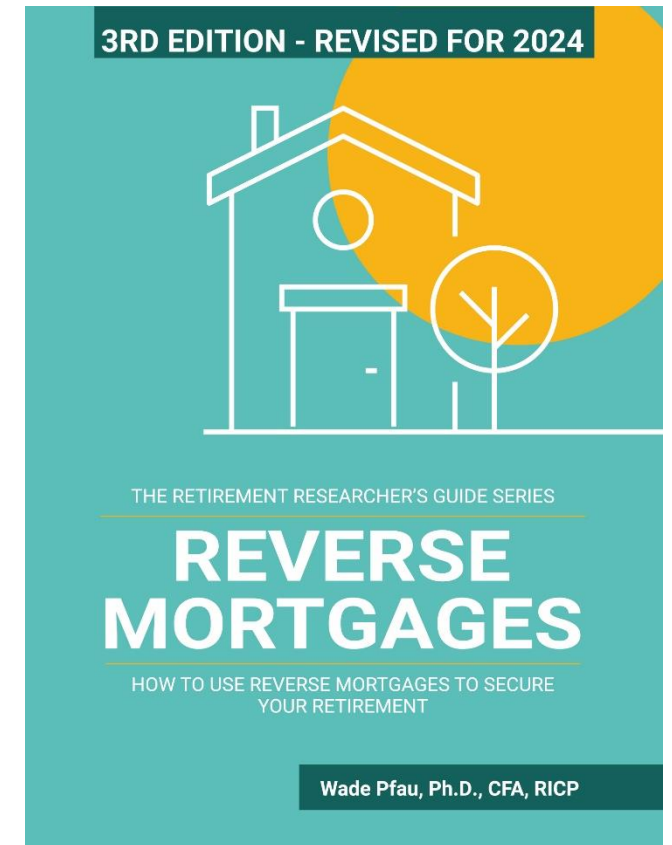




Retirement Researcher

PREPARE FOR YOUR BEST RETIREMENT™

# How to use Reverse Mortgages to Secure Your Retirement



Presented by:

**Wade Pfau, Ph.D., CFA, RICP**

The American College for Financial Services & RetirementResearcher.com



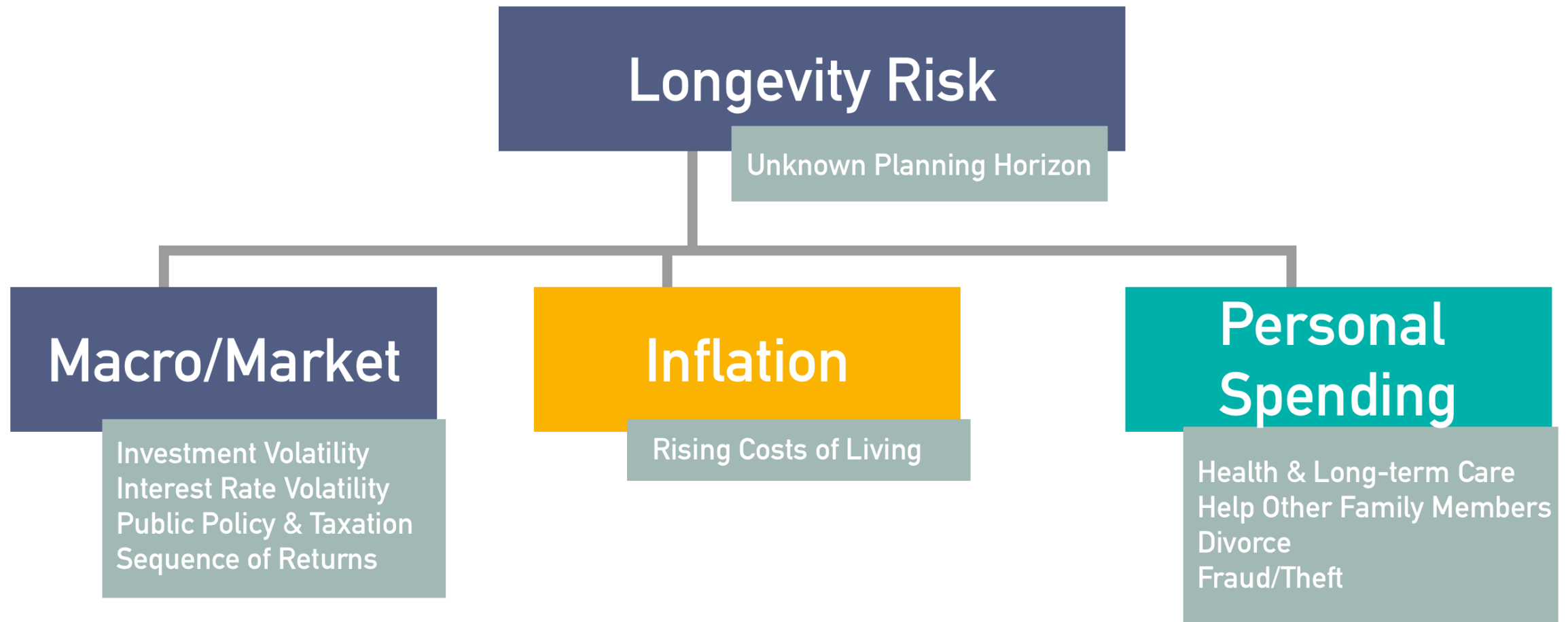
THE  
**AMERICAN**  
COLLEGE  
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES



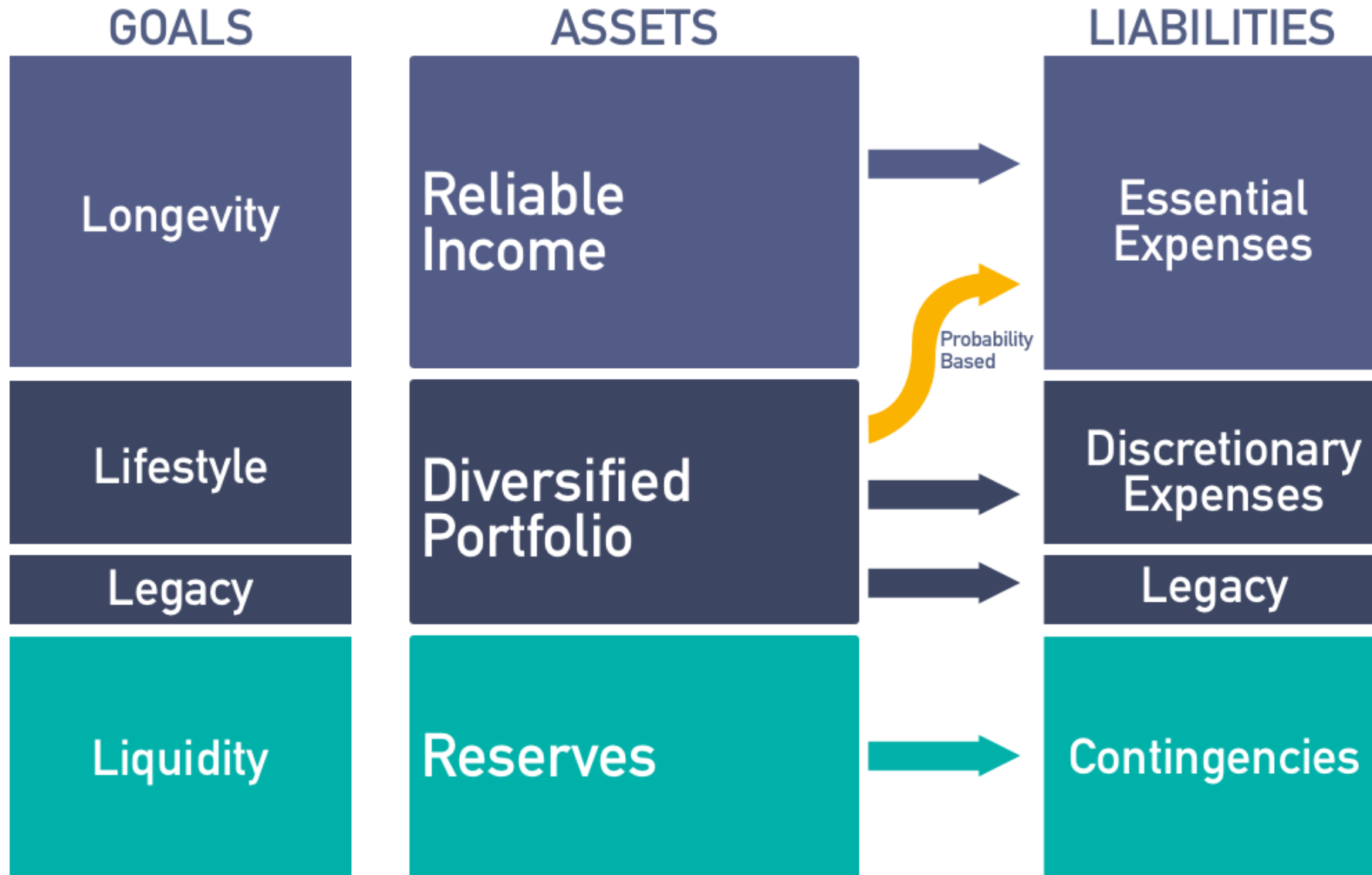
# Investing for Distribution in Retirement is Different from Accumulation



# Key Retirement Risks



# Retirement Income Optimization Map





# Potential Reverse Mortgage Uses

<b>Portfolio Coordination for Retirement Spending</b>	Use HECM as a Last Resort
	Use Tenure Payments to Reduce Portfolio Withdrawals
	Coordinate HECM Spending to Mitigate Sequence Risk
<b>Portfolio/Debt Coordination for Housing</b>	Refinance Existing Mortgage to Eliminate Ongoing Payments
	HECM for Purchase for New Home
	Fund Home Renovations to Allow for Aging in Place
<b>Funding Source for Retirement Efficiency Improvements</b>	Social Security Delay Bridge
	Tax Bracket Management or Pay Taxes for Roth Conversions
	Tenure Payment as Annuity Alternative
	Pay Premiums for Existing Long-Term Care Insurance Policy
<b>Preserve Credit as Insurance Policy</b>	Support Retirement Spending After Portfolio Depletion
	Protective Hedge for Home Value
	Provides Contingency Fund for Spending Shocks
	(In home care, health expenses, divorce settlement)



# Managing Volatility & Longevity

- **Spend Conservatively**

(tenure payment, refinance mortgage, Social Security delay bridge)

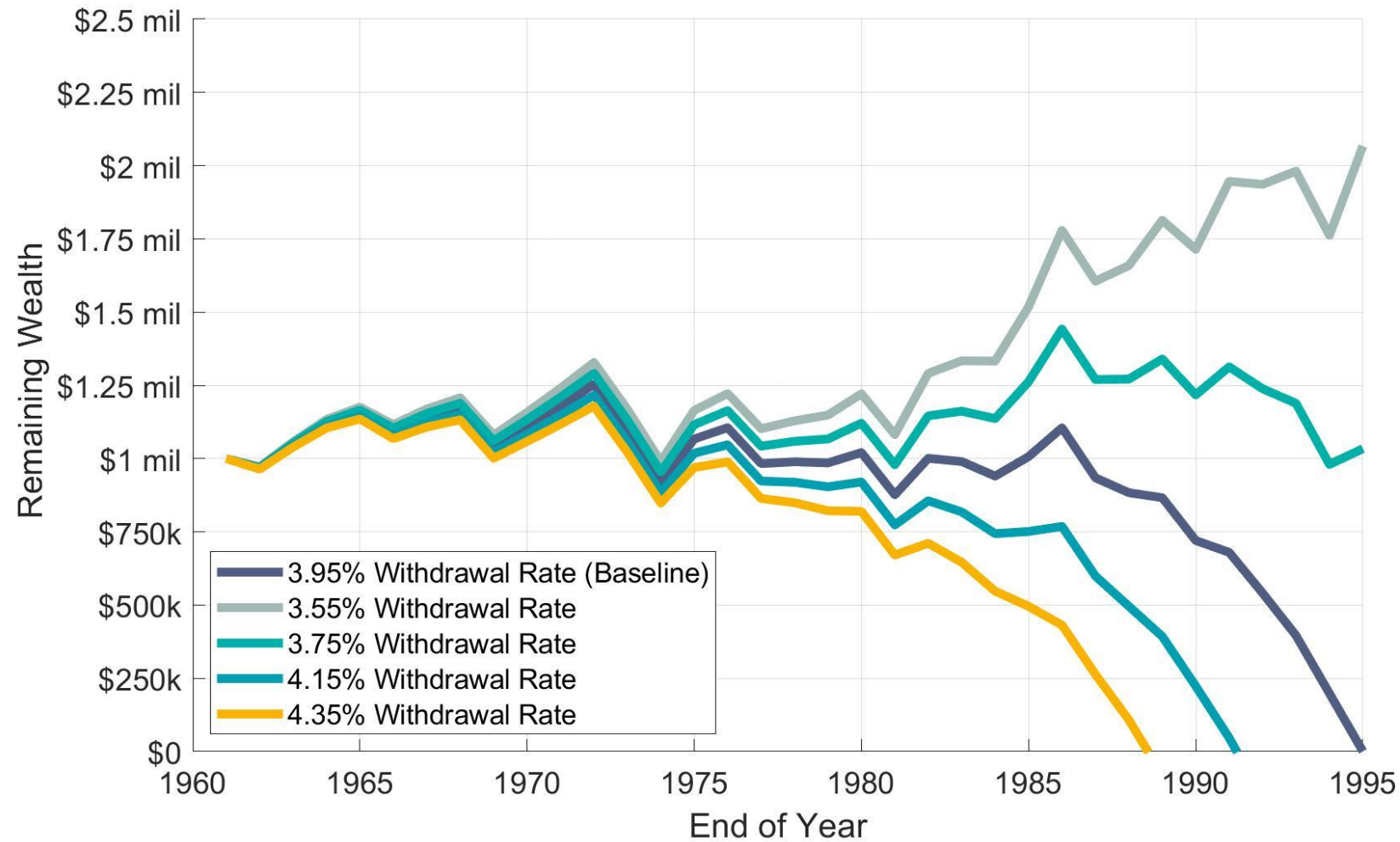
- **Spending Flexibility**

- **Reduce Volatility**

- **Buffer Assets – Avoid Selling at Losses**

(coordinated spending strategies)

# Sequence Risk and the Impact of Changing the Withdrawal Rate



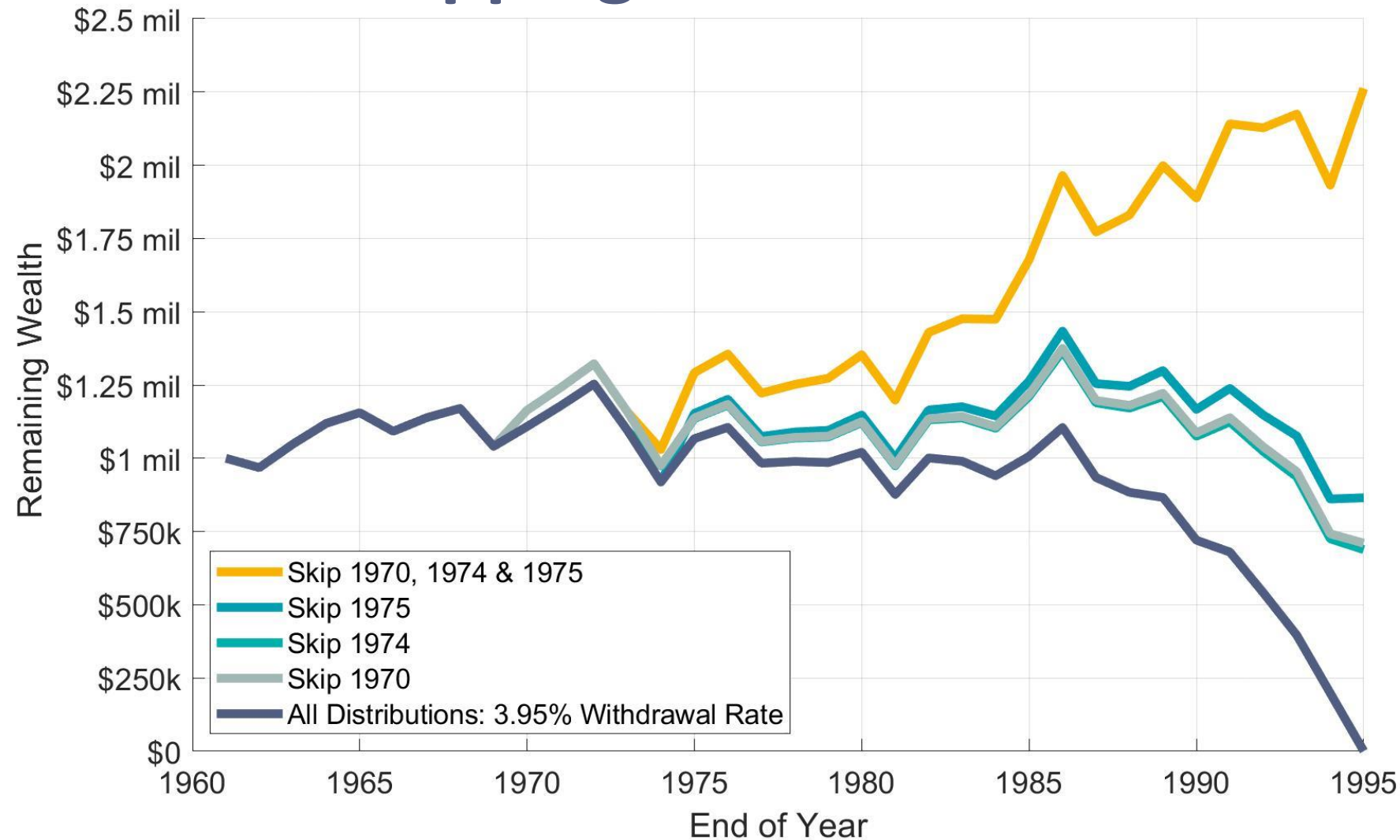
*Sequence Risk and the Portfolio Impact of Spending Levels*

*Inflation-Adjusted Spending Defined as a Percentage of Retirement Date Assets, No Fees*

*Using Robert Shiller's Data, 1962-1995, Asset Allocation: 60% Large-cap Stocks, 40% 10-Year Treasuries*



# Sequence Risk and the Impact of Skipping Distributions



*Sequence Risk and the Portfolio Impact of Skipping a Year of Distributions*

*Using Robert Shiller's Data, 1962-1995, Asset Allocation: 60% Large-cap Stocks, 40% 10-Year Treasuries*



# **Understanding How Reverse Mortgages Work**

# Eligibility Requirements for HECMs

- Borrowers: 62 and older
- Primary residency
- Equity in the home (HECM can refinance existing mortgage)
- Financial resources to cover property taxes, homeowner's insurance, and home maintenance
- Counseling session with FHA-approved counselor
- FHA Home Appraisal & FHA eligible property type
- FHA Lending limit: \$1,149,825 (2024)

# Essential Jargon

1. Principal Limit / Principal Limit Factor (PLF)
2. Expected Rate
3. Effective Rate

# Reverse Mortgage Interest Rates

Type	Components	Applies to:
Expected Rate	10-year Treasury Rate + Lender's Margin	Initial Principal Limit Factor
Effective Rate	1-year Treasury Rate + Lender's Margin + Mortgage Insurance Premium (0.5%)	Ongoing Principal Limit Growth Rate
		Loan Balance Growth Rate
		Line of Credit Growth Rate
		Growth Rate for Set Asides

# Expected and Effective Rates: Example

1-year Treasury rate: 5%

10-year Treasury rate: 4.2%

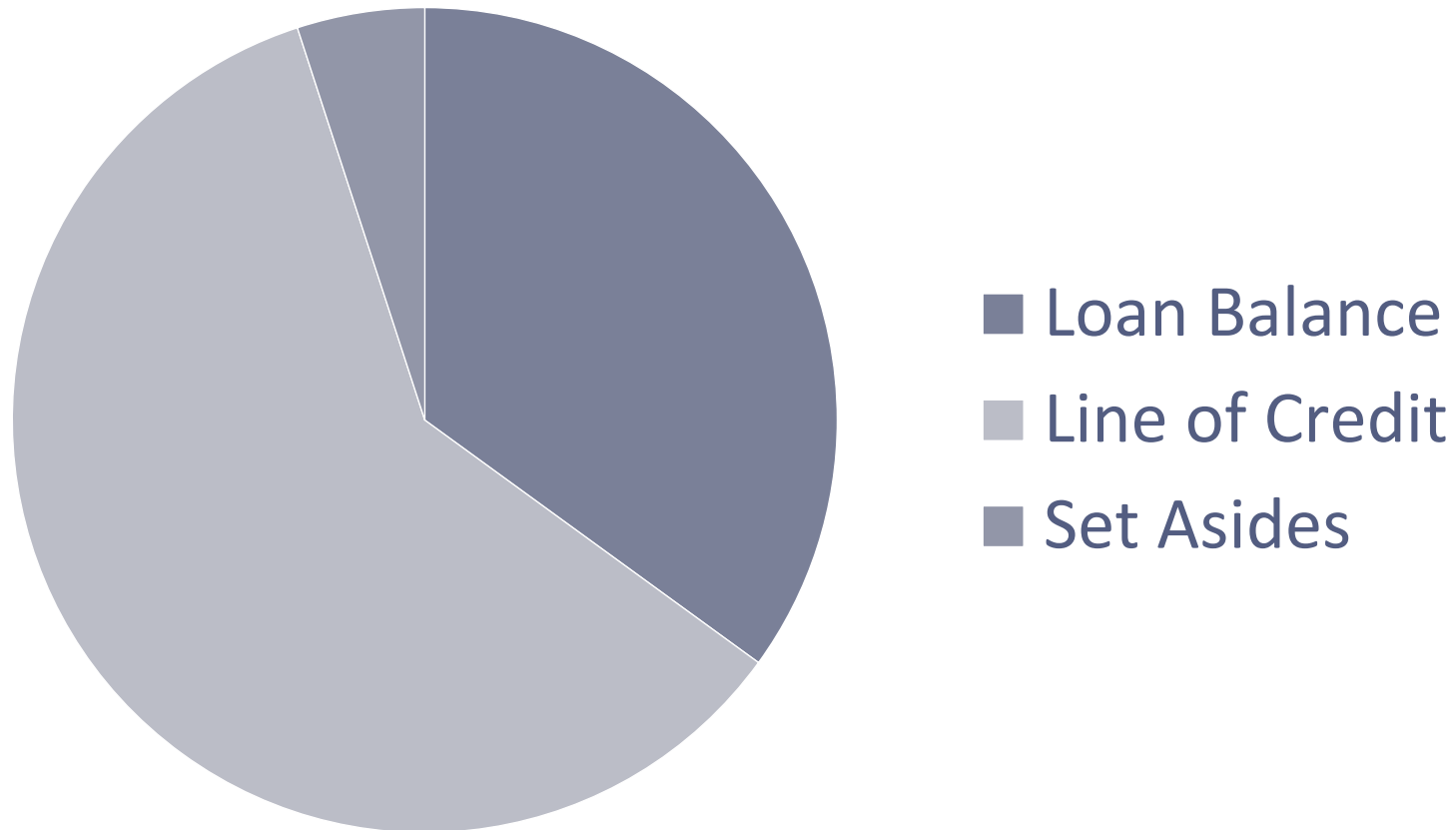
Lender's margin: 2.5%

Expected Rate = 4.2% + 2.5% = **6.7%**

Effective Rate: = **5%** + 2.5% + 0.5% = **8%**

# Understanding Line of Credit Growth

Principal Limit = Loan Balance + Available Line of Credit + Set-Asides



# HECM Spending Options (Variable-Rate HECM)

1. Lump-sum payment
2. Tenure payment
3. Term payment
4. Line of Credit
5. Modified tenure or modified term payment



# Reverse Mortgage Calculator

<https://retirementresearcher.com/reverse-mortgage-calculator/>

## HECM Calculator: Net Available Line of Credit or Tenure Payment for a Variable Rate Loan

Home's Appraised Value	<input type="text" value="\$430,000"/>		
HECM Eligible Amount	<input type="text" value="\$430,000"/>		
10-Year Constant Maturity Treasury Rate	<input type="text" value="1.50%"/>		
Lender's Margin	<input type="text" value="2.15%"/>		
Monthly Insurance Premium	<input type="text" value="0.5%"/>		
Age of Youngest Eligible (Borrower or Non-Borrower) Spouse Note: Round age up if birthday falls within six months of the first day of the month that the loan will close	<input type="text" value="62"/>		
Principal Limit Factor	<input type="text" value="49.60%"/>	Age <input type="text" value="62"/>	Modified Expected Rate <input type="text" value="3.625%"/>
Loan origination fee	<input type="text" value="\$6,000"/>	Maximum Possible Amount <input type="text" value="\$6,000"/>	
Initial mortgage insurance	<input type="text" value="\$8,600"/>		
Other closing costs (appraisal, titling, etc.)	<input type="text" value="\$2,500"/>		
Total Upfront Costs	<input type="text" value="\$17,100"/>		
Percentage of Upfront Costs to be Financed	<input type="text" value="100.00%"/>		
Debt Repayment, Repairs, or Other Life-Expectancy Set-Aside (LESA) Requirements	<input type="text" value="\$0"/>		
Net Available HECM Credit	<input type="text" value="\$196,180"/>		
Net Available as a Tenure Payment	<input type="text" value="\$853"/>	Monthly <input type="text" value="\$10,233"/>	Annual <input type="text" value="4.80%"/>
Term Payment Calculator			
Desired Term Horizon (Years)	<input type="text" value="8"/>		
NET AVAILABLE AS A TERM PAYMENT	<input type="text" value="\$2,397"/>	Monthly <input type="text" value="\$28,761"/>	Annual



# **Case Studies with Historical Data**



# Case Study Characteristics

- Case is based on current HECM rules and tax laws
- Historical data is used to test strategies in different market environments.
- A couple both turn 62 in early 2024 already retired.
- Planning age: 95
- \$900,000 in investments (\$290k taxable with \$160k basis, \$510k in IRA, \$100k in Roth IRA)
- \$450,000 home, no mortgage
- HECM terms: 2.5% lender's margin, \$19,000 upfront costs financed, uses 1-year Treasury for effective rate
- Social Security: \$45,000 annually if claimed at 67

## Case Study Characteristics (continued)

- Spending goals: \$67,000 pre-tax inflation-adjusted; An extra \$10,000 fixed through age 74; And federal income taxes need to be paid
- Spending strategy: Any Social Security, HECM distribution, and RMDs first, then spend from (1) taxable, (2) IRA, (3) Roth IRA
- Taxes are tracked for federal income tax for ordinary income and preferential income sources, tax on Social Security benefits, Medicare IRMAA surcharges, net investment income surtax
- Asset allocation: 60% stocks (large-cap US), 40% bonds (10-year Treasuries)
- Legacy: 100% of taxable account, 75% of IRA, 100% of Roth IRA, 95% of home value less loan balance due on HECM (not less than \$0 because non-recourse)

# Summary Statistics of U.S. Returns and Inflation Data, 1890-2022

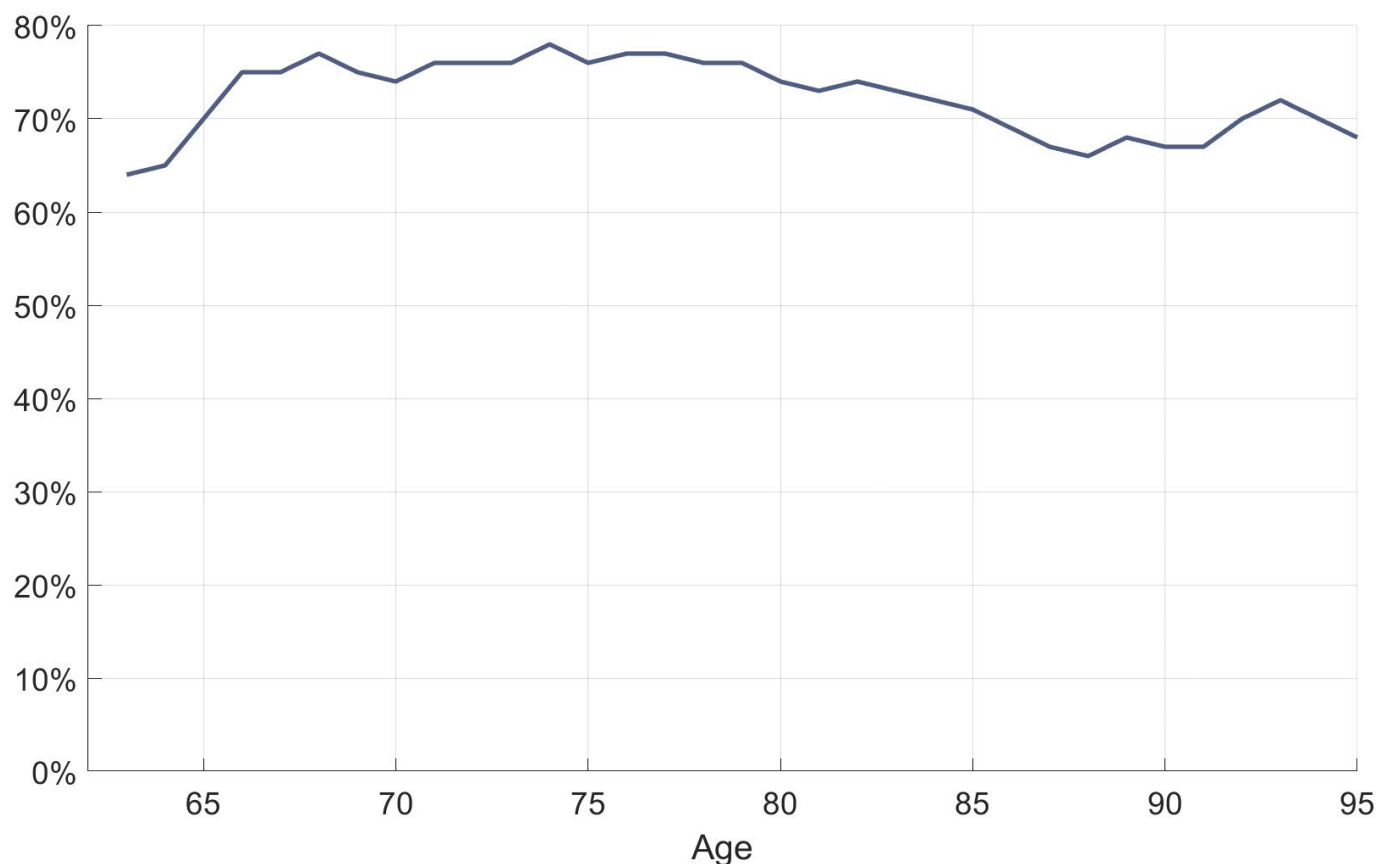
	Arithmetic Means	Geometric Means	Standard Deviations
Large-Cap U.S. Stocks (Total Returns)	10.8%	9.2%	18.1%
Large-Cap U.S. Stocks (Dividend Yield)	4.1%	—	1.6%
10-Year Treasury Bonds (Total Returns)	4.6%	4.4%	6.8%
10-Year Treasury Bonds (Bond Yields)	4.5%	—	2.4%
1-Year Treasury Bills	4.3%	4.2%	3.0%
Home Prices (Case-Shiller Index)	3.7%	3.5%	7.3%
Inflation (Consumer Price Index)	2.9%	2.8%	5.2%

Source: Robert Shiller's website ([www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm](http://www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm))



# Understanding Line of Credit Growth

Probability that the Net Principal Limit is Larger at a Subsequent Age  
When Opened at Age 62 as Compared to Opening at a Later Age



Age 62 vs. Later Ages

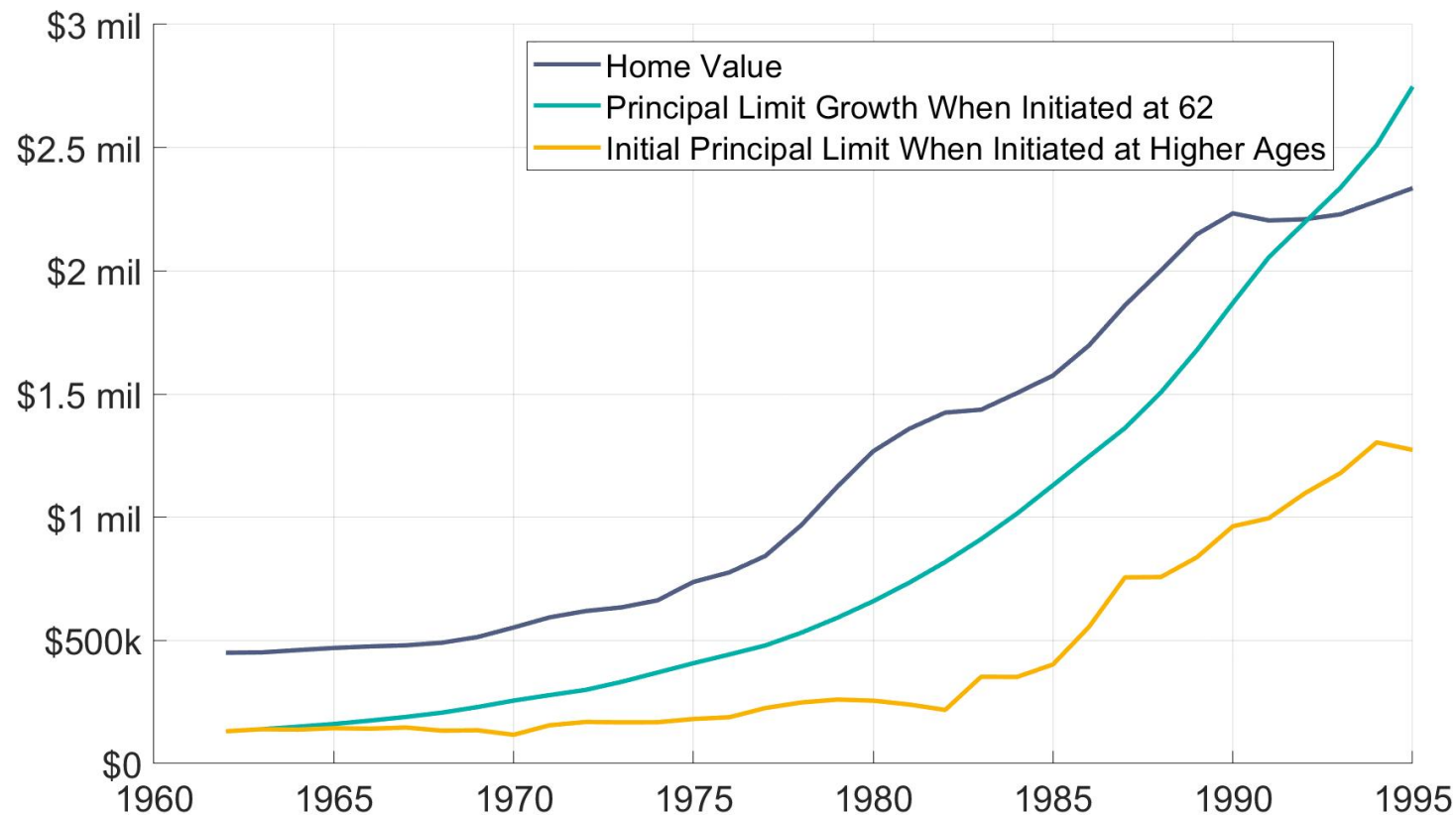
Lender's Margin: 2.5%

Home: \$450,000

Upfront Costs: \$19,000

# Understanding Line of Credit Growth

Comparing Principal Limits Based on When the Reverse Mortgage Opens  
For a 62-Year Old, Market Data for 1962-1995



Age 62 vs. Later Ages

Lender's Margin: 2.5%

Home: \$450,000

Upfront Costs: \$19,000



# **Portfolio Coordination for Retirement Spending**



# An idea whose time had come?

“Reversing the Conventional Wisdom: Using Home Equity to Supplement Retirement Income”

Barry Sacks and Steven Sacks

*Journal of Financial Planning*, February 2012

“Standby Reverse Mortgages a Risk Management Tool for Retirement Distributions”

John Salter, Shaun Pfeiffer, and Harold Evensky

*Journal of Financial Planning*, August 2012

**Thesis:** Strategic use of a reverse mortgage standby line of credit can create retirement income efficiencies through its contribution to managing sequence of returns risk in retirement



# HECM Strategies for Portfolio Coordination

- Use Tenure Payment
- Portfolio Coordination Strategy
- Portfolio Coordination Strategy with Voluntary Repayments
- Home Equity as Last Resort (“Conventional Wisdom”)

# Portfolio Coordination – Decision Rule

Note the investment balance at retirement  
(\$900,000 in this example)

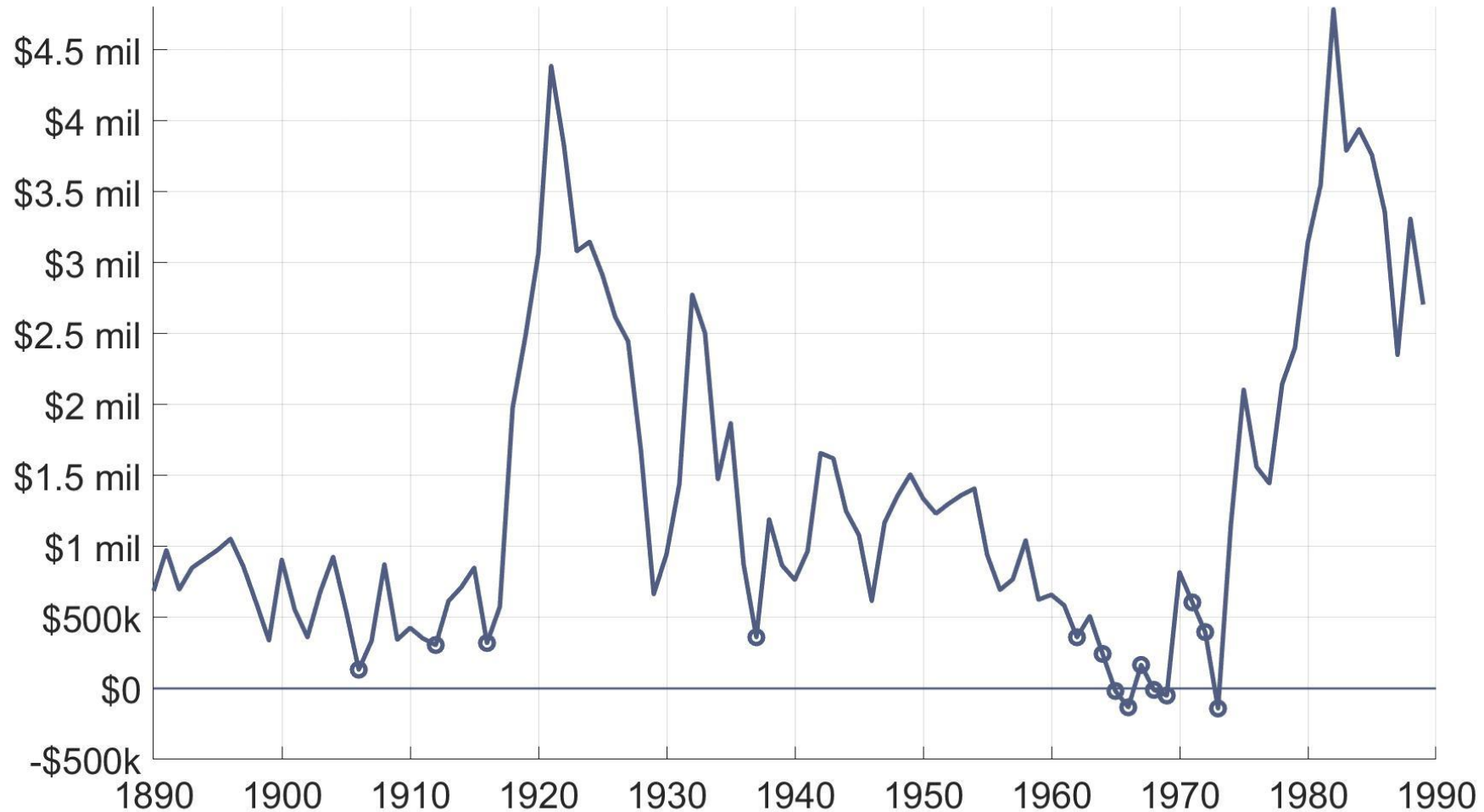
When taking distributions:

- Spend from investments if current value exceeds initial value (  $> \$900k$  )
- Spend from HECM if current value is less than initial value (  $< \$900k$  )

# Comparing Net Legacy Wealth for Various HECM Strategies

		HECM as Last Resort	Tenure Payment	Portfolio Coordination Strategy	Portfolio Coordination Strategy with Voluntary Repayments
Ranking the Strategies	First	18%	66%	7%	9%
	Second	26%	12%	49%	13%
	Third	17%	11%	29%	43%
	Fourth	39%	11%	15%	35%
Legacy Wealth Percentile	Best Case	<b>\$4,787,592</b>	\$4,599,979	\$4,328,866	\$4,636,410
	90%	\$3,144,565	<b>\$3,417,101</b>	\$3,188,639	\$3,063,826
	75%	\$1,924,360	<b>\$2,115,011</b>	\$2,053,457	\$1,911,647
	50%	\$958,030	<b>\$1,125,711</b>	\$1,026,933	\$1,045,334
	25%	\$605,529	<b>\$764,875</b>	\$675,156	\$655,157
	10%	\$328,093	<b>\$538,395</b>	\$455,797	\$422,811
	Worst Case	-\$140,817	<b>\$151,520</b>	\$2,488	\$2,488
Success Rate for Covering all Spending		95.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

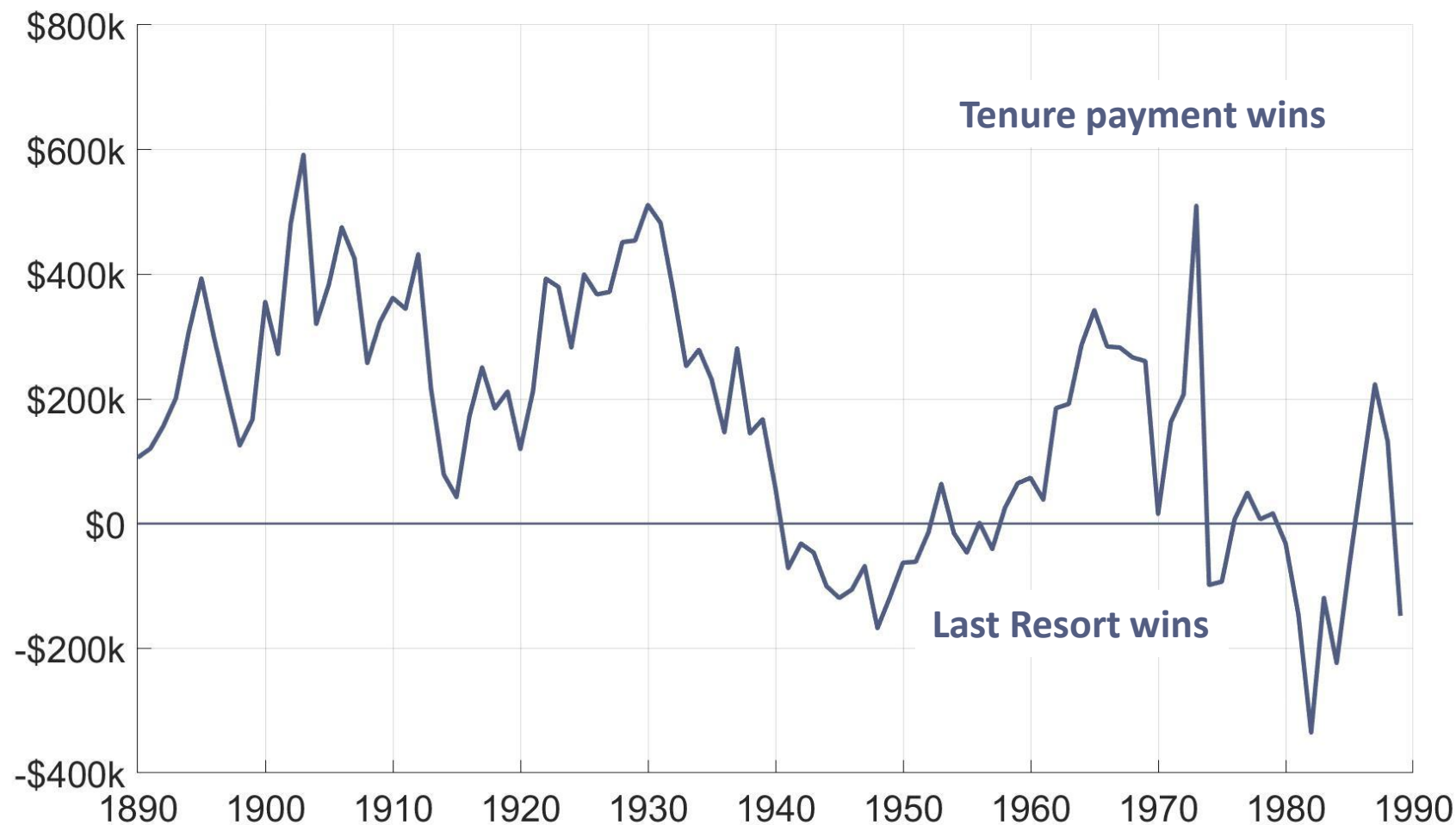
# Net Legacy Value with Last Resort Strategy



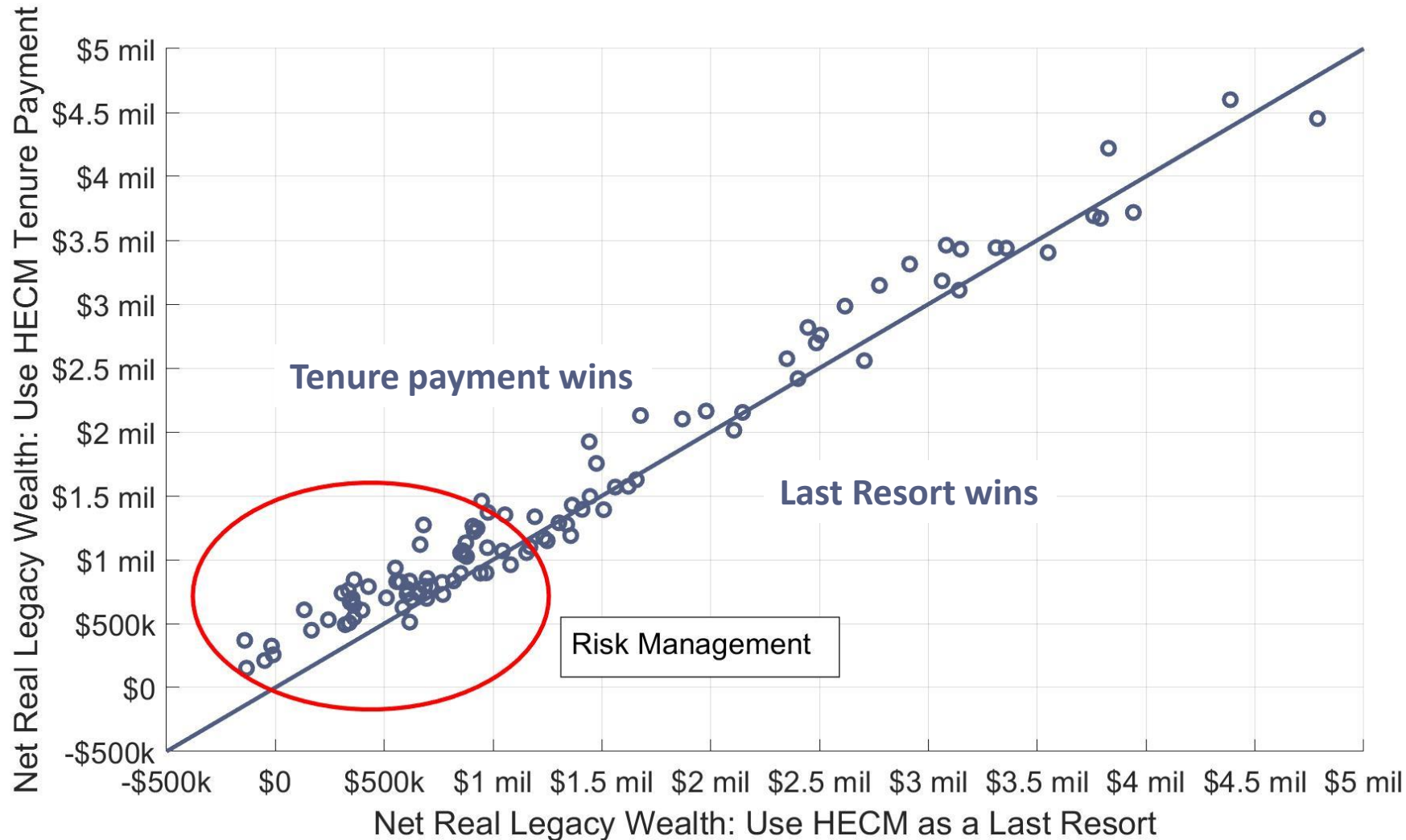
Source: Own calculations using Robert Shiller's dataset at <http://www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm>



# Comparing the Tenure Payment Strategy to the Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth (Tenure Payments - Last Resort)



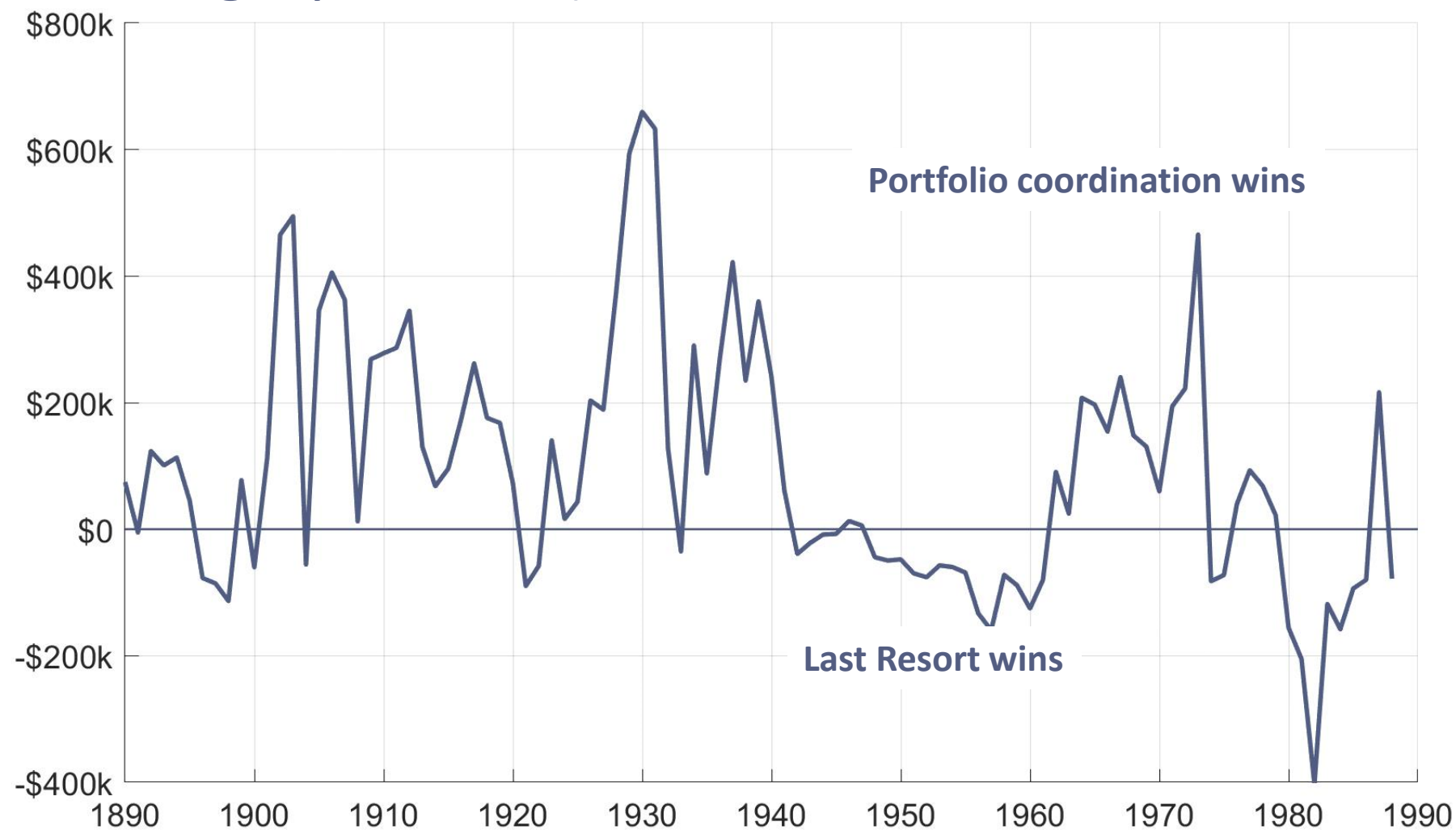
# Comparing the Tenure Payment Strategy to the Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth



Source: Own calculations using Robert Shiller's dataset at <http://www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm>



## Comparing the Portfolio Coordination Strategy to the Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth (Portfolio Coordination - Last Resort)







# Conclusions

- Reverse mortgages cannot be viewed in isolation: their costs can be more than offset by gains elsewhere in the financial plan
- Conventional “last resort” wisdom hurts retirement sustainability
- Strategic HECM use: improved retirement sustainability, larger legacy
- WHY IT WORKS: Buffer to Mitigate Sequence Risk; Growing Line of Credit
- HECM helps middle class: more benefits when home value is large relative to portfolio size
- Responsible use of HECM can improve retirement outcomes