

UNIDOP 2019
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The Longevity Agenda

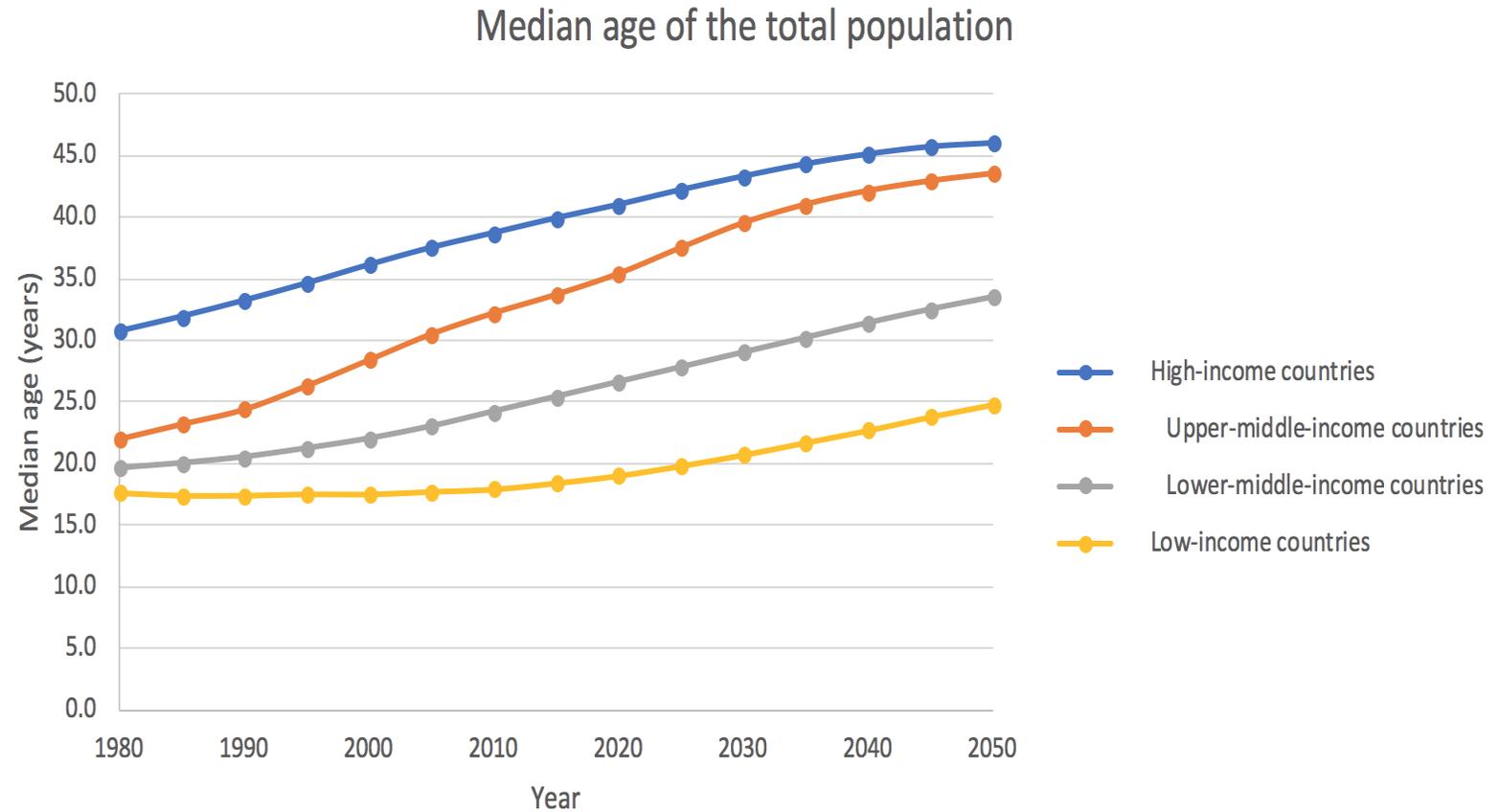
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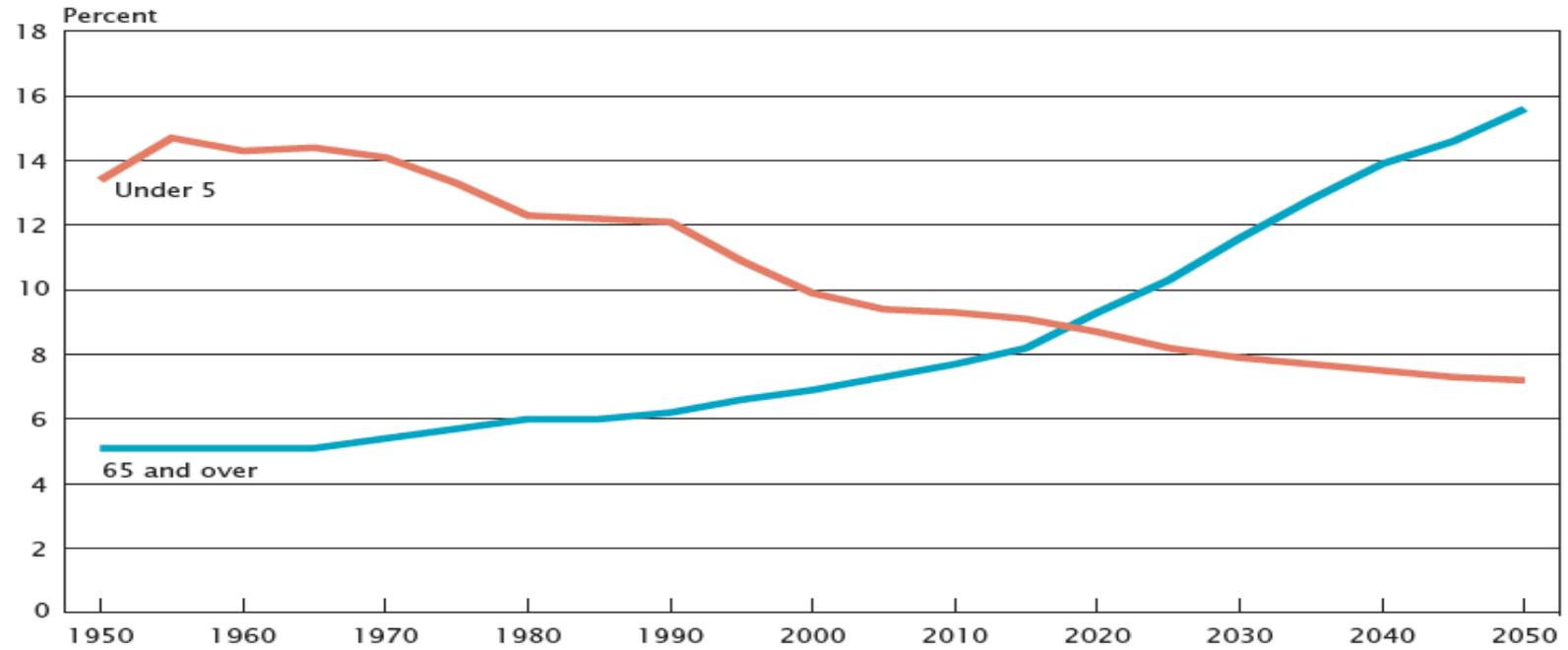
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The world is ageing



A dramatic change in population structure

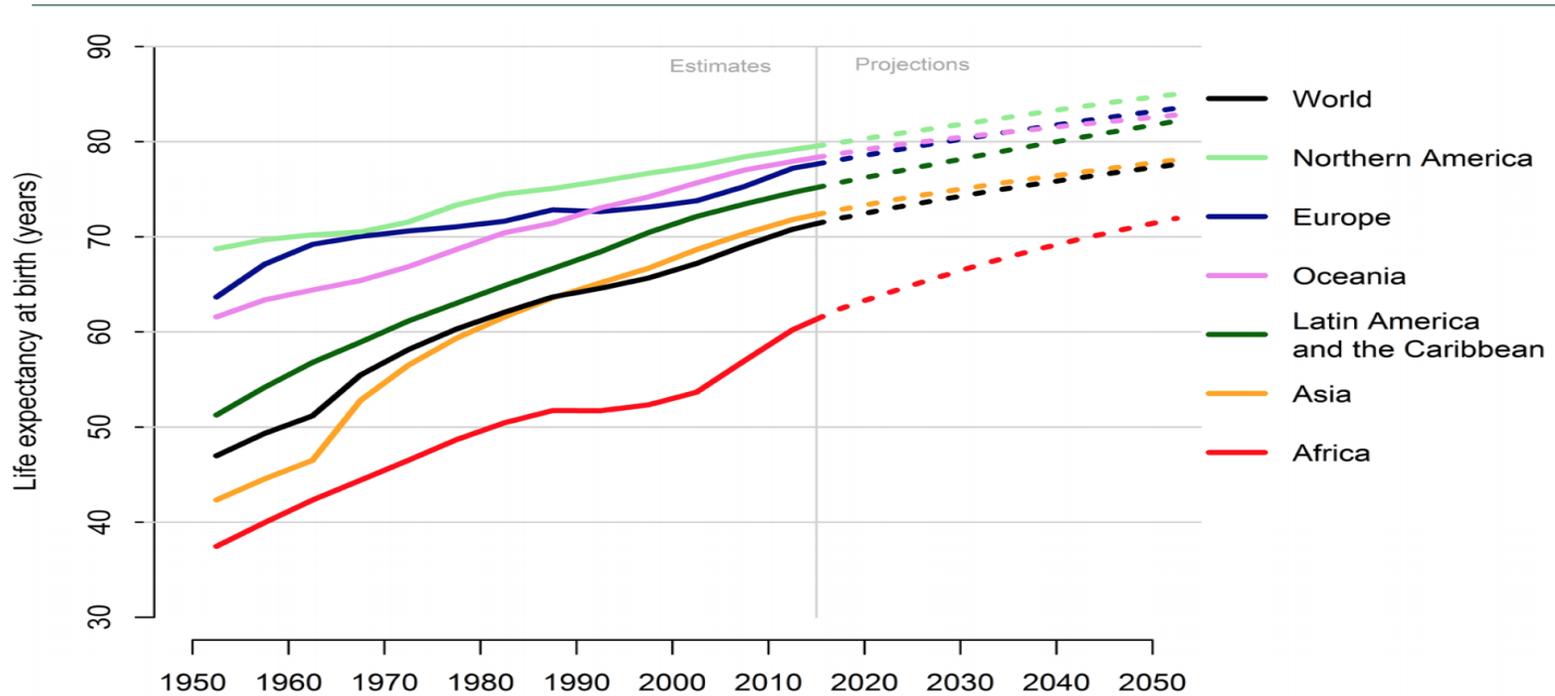
Figure 2-3.
**Young Children and Older People as a Percentage of Global Population:
1950 to 2050**



Source: United Nations, 2013.

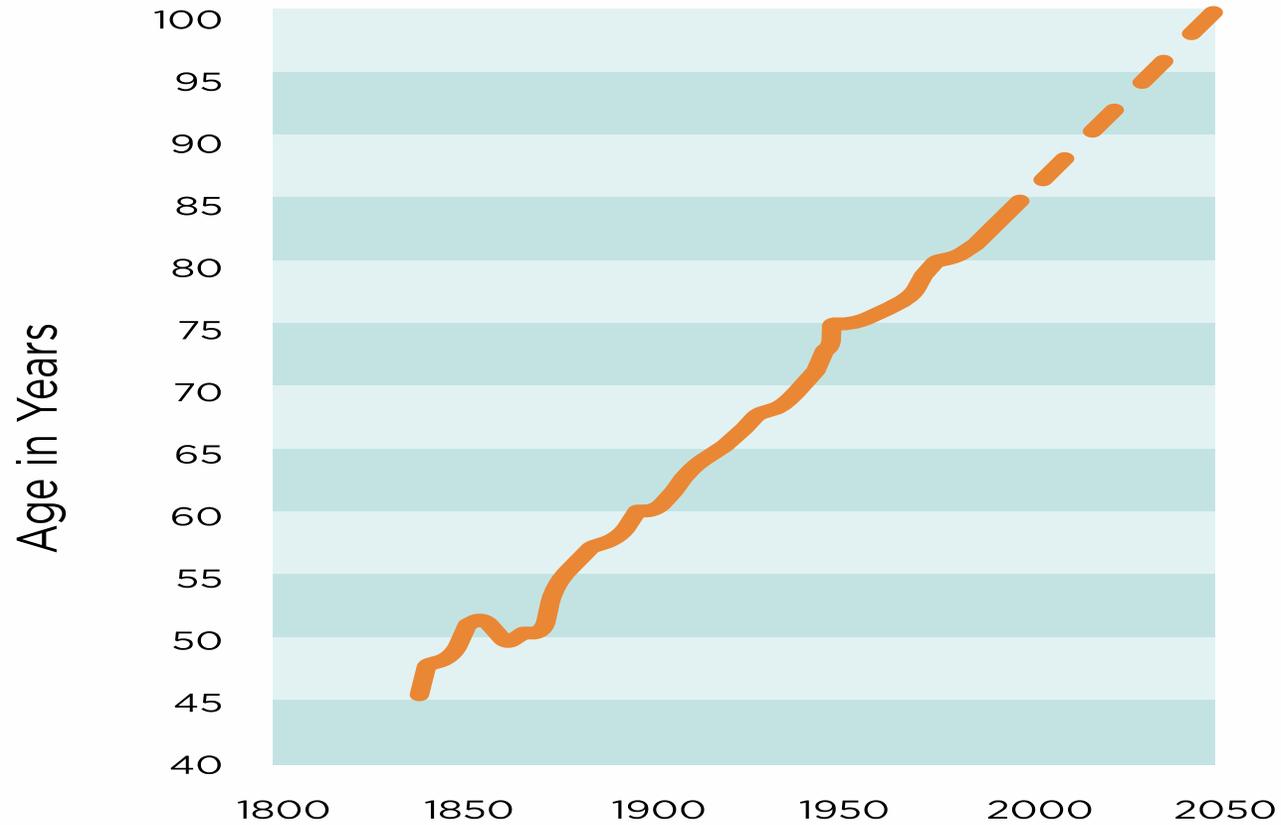
It isn't just about declining birth rates – people are living longer

Life expectancy at birth by region, both sexes combined, from 1950 to 2050



Data source: United Nations (2017). World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision.

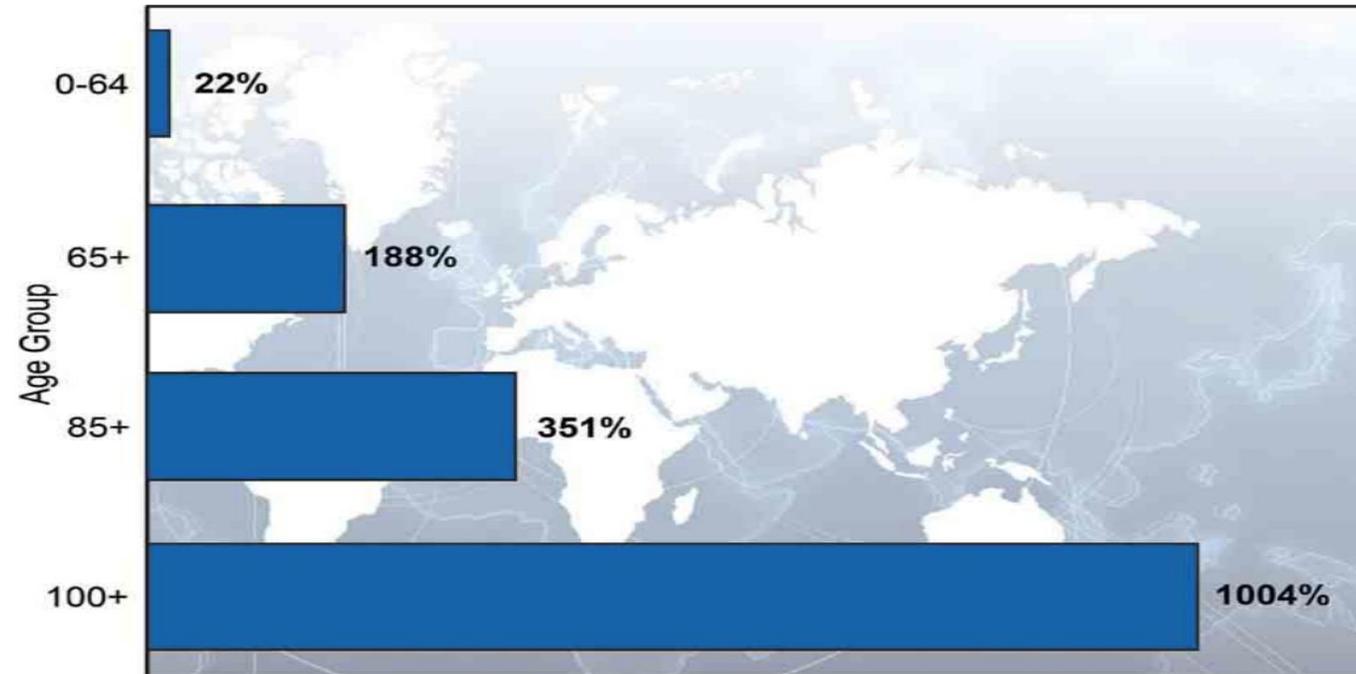
Best Practice Life expectancy over 200 years



Source: 'Broken Limits to Life Expectancy' by Jim Oeppen and James Vaupel, *Science*, May 2002, vol. 296

Fastest growing age group is centenarians

Percentage Change in the World's Population by Age: 2010-2050



Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*.
Available at: <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp>.

Two Things Happening

AGEING

More old People & changing
demographic structure
Average Age Increasing

VS

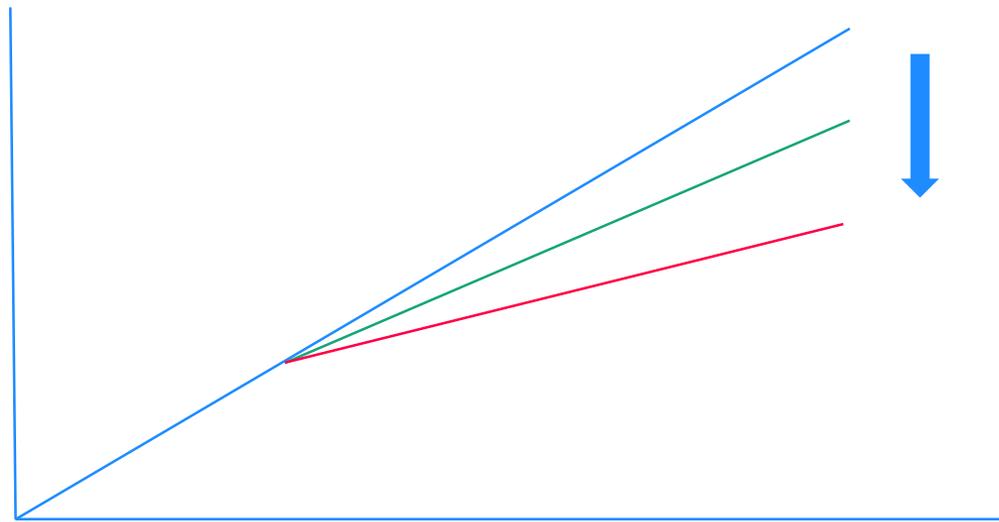
LONGEVITY

How we are ageing is changing
Younger for Longer

Ageing is malleable

- *Behaviours*
- *Policies*
- *Environment*

Biological Age



Chronological Age

Six Major Consequences of Age Malleability

- Diversity of ageing - “Leave no one behind”
- We can influence how we age – huge policy potential
- Change what it means to be ‘old’
- Is Society really ageing?
- We need to rewire the life course
- We need to rewire our mindset around ‘age’

Diversity of Ageing

- Malleability of age means different people will age differently
- As more and more people live to older ages in all countries this diversity will become all the more apparent
- This diversity will challenge age stereotypes and social norms
- Need to celebrate this diversity and recognise that over 65s are no more homogenous than under 65s
- Given this diversity it is crucial to 'leave no one behind' whilst also providing an enabling environment for all

Rewire the life course



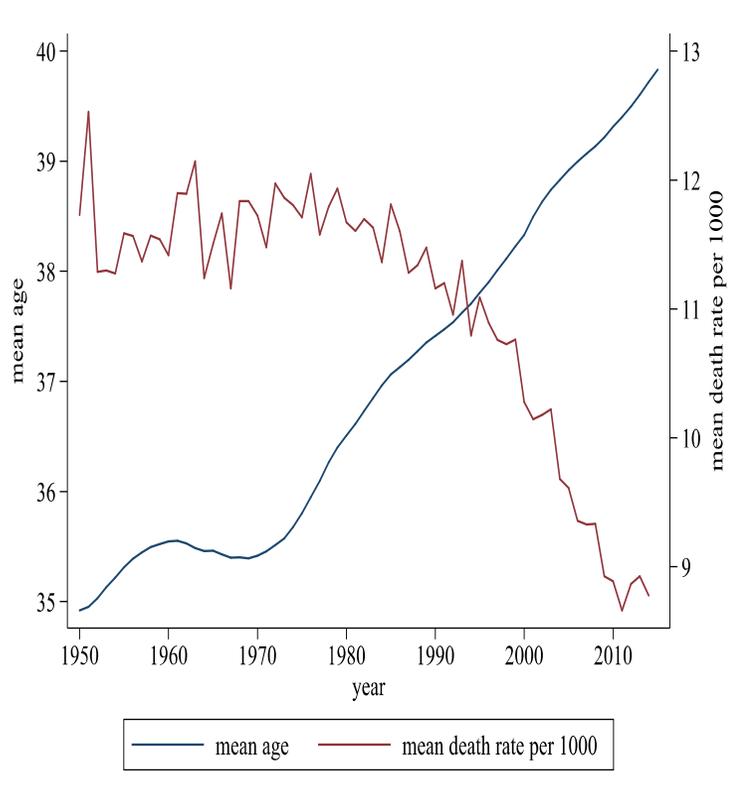
<http://www.100yearlife.com/diagnostic/>

We can influence how we age

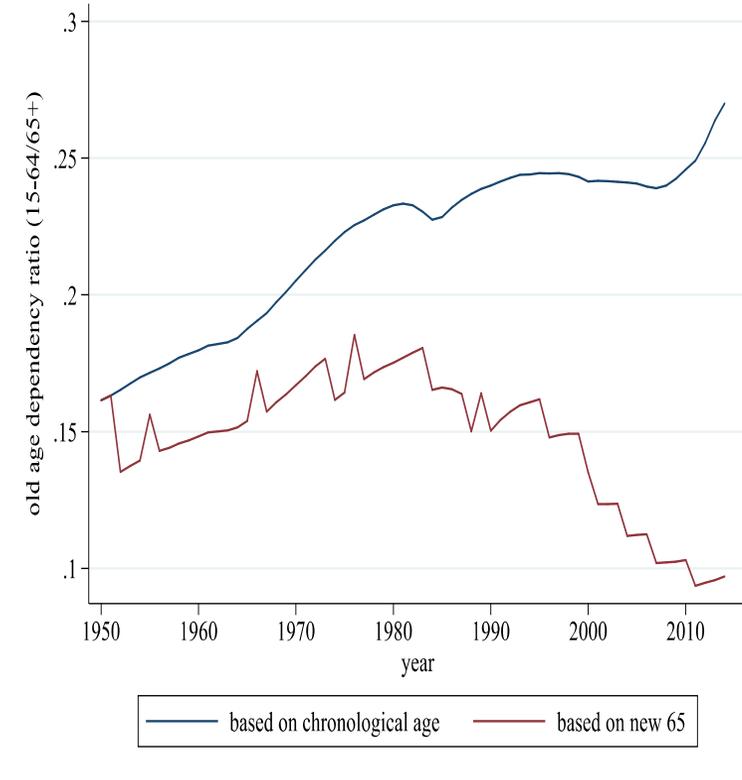
- Individual actions, social norms, government policies and our environment all affect how we age
- Need to ensure that as many people as possible live as long as possible in as healthy and fulfilled a manner as possible – the longevity agenda
- Doing so will help secure a longevity and not an ageing society

Is society really ageing?

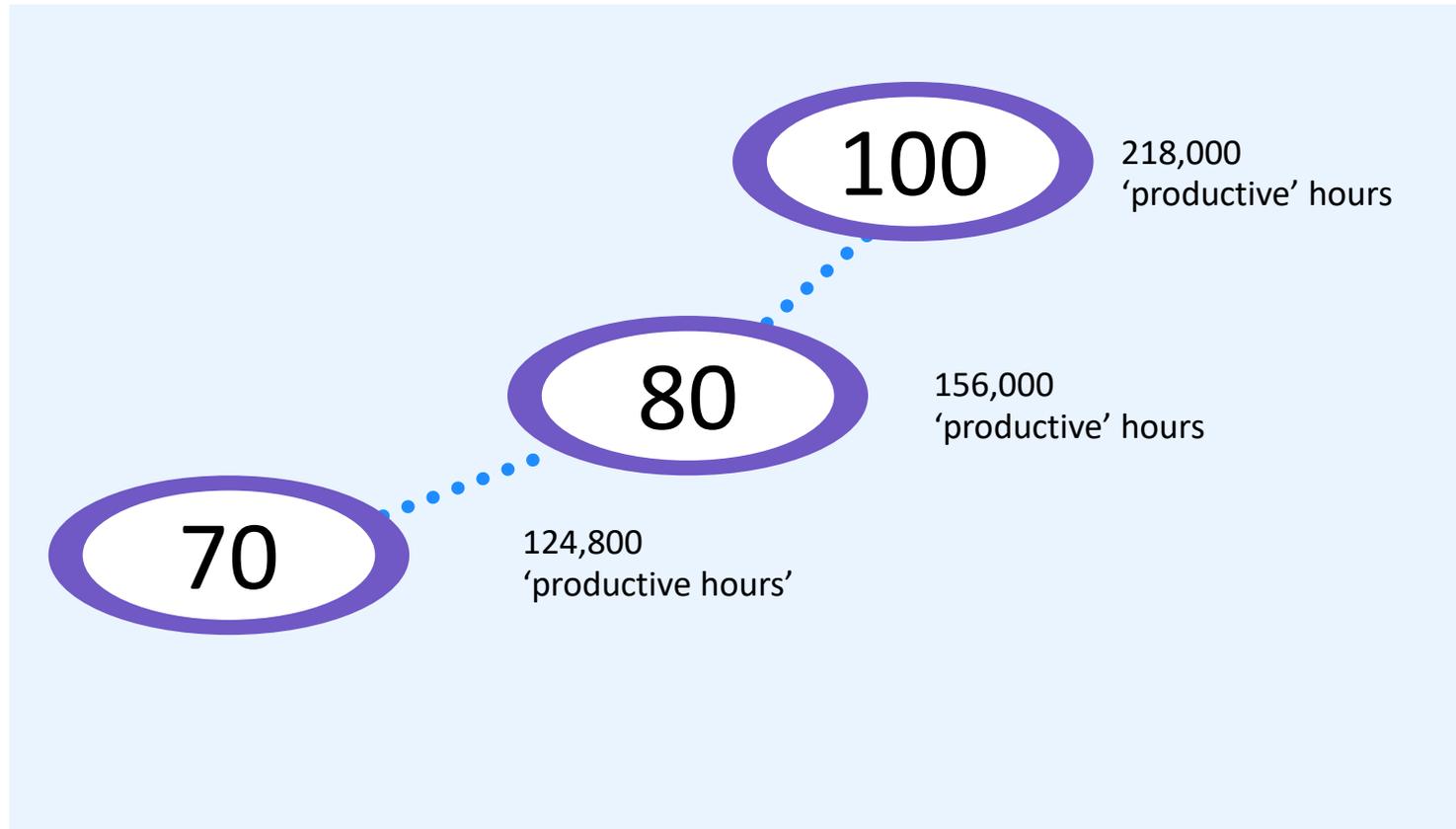
(a) UK



(a) UK



**We need to
rewire the life
course**



We need to rewire the life course

- Its about all of life
- Malleability of age affects us all – the young are the future old. Need to ensure that ageing isn't seen as just something for the old
- Twentieth century saw the creation of teenagers and retirees. Now seeing new behaviours at new ages as new stages of life created
- Creates new opportunities and new possibilities – for parenting, intergenerational communities and work/life balance
- Longer healthier lives should be a blessing

**We need to
rewire our
mindset around
'age'**

- Chronological measures of age very limiting as they assume uniformity in how people age (across time and across populations)
- Need to recognise diversity amongst older individuals and different needs and motivations
- This at the same time as age malleability is also making some 'younger for longer'
- Chronological measures of age have come to dominate our perspectives (i.e OADR) but are relatively 'modern' and are misleading
- Our attitudes to age – three stage life, chronological assumptions – are increasingly out of date and misguided

Ending Thoughts

- Around the world more people are living for longer – one of humanities greatest achievements
- Age is malleable – we need to make as many as possible age well and leave no one behind
- It isn't an issue just for the old but affects the whole life course
- Recognise the diversity in how we age and the new opportunities being created when so many live for so long
- An ageing society is one of our greatest achievements – it deserves to be celebrated

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Thank you