

Life course research approaches to the study of older people

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International Workshop on Consumption and Well-being
in the Aging Society: Advancing Research on Older Consumers

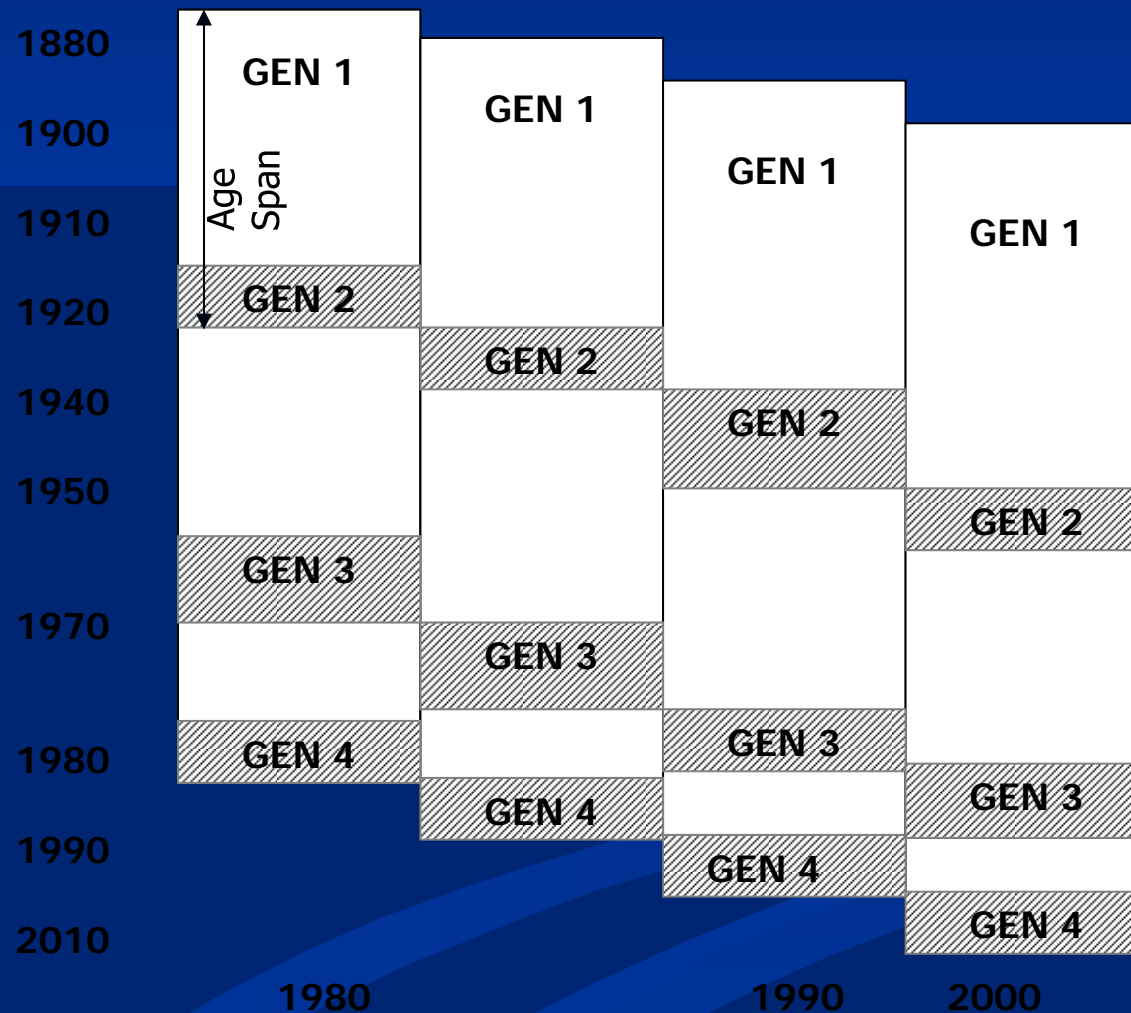
October 1, 2011

Why take a life span and life course perspective?

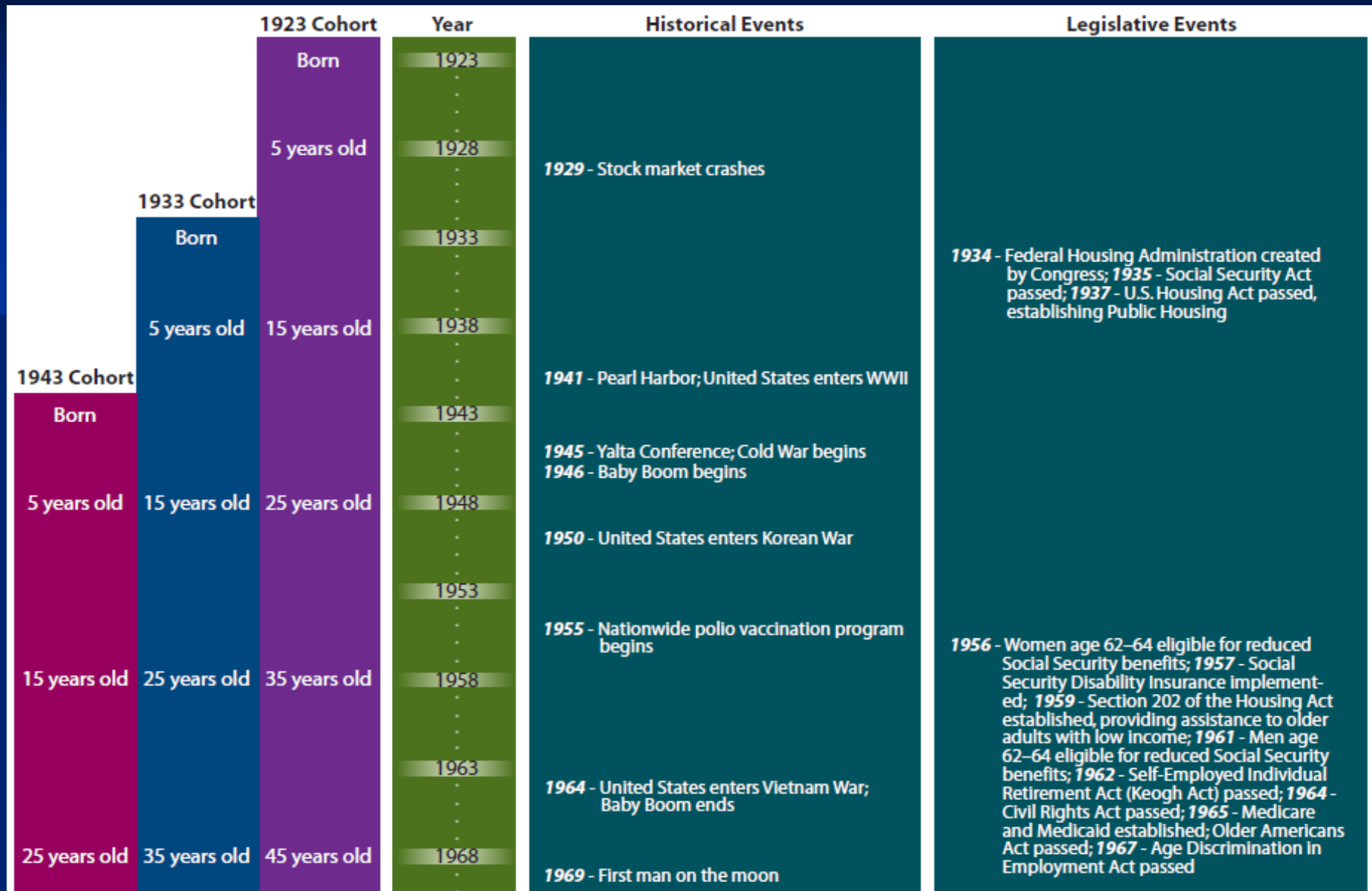
What is a life span perspective?

What is a life course perspective?

Life Course because your Life Span is Historically placed



Historical Experience of Three Cohorts of Older Americans: A Timeline of Selected Events 1923-2008



Historical Experience of Three Cohorts of Older Americans: A Timeline of Selected Events 1923-2008 (continued...)

1943 Cohort	1933 Cohort	1923 Cohort	Year	Historical Events	Legislative Events
35 years old	45 years old	55 years old	1973		1972 - Formula for Social Security cost-of-living adjustment established; Social Security Supplemental Security Income legislation passed; 1974 - Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) passed; IRAs established; 1975 - Age Discrimination Act passed; 1978 - 401(k)s established
			1978		
			1983	1980 - First AIDS case is reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	1983 - Social Security eligibility age increased for full benefits; 1984 - Widows entitled to pension benefits if spouse was vested
45 years old	55 years old	65 years old	1988	1989 - Berlin Wall falls 1990 - United States enters Persian Gulf War	1986 - Mandatory retirement eliminated for most workers; 1987 - Reverse mortgage market created by the HUD Home Equity Conversion Program 1990 - Americans with Disabilities Act passed
			1993		
55 years old	65 years old	75 years old	1998	2001 - September 11-Terrorists attack United States 2003 - United States enters Iraq war	1996 - Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act passed, creating access to community based long-term care for all enrollees; 1997 - Balanced Budget Act passed changing Medicare payment policies; 2000 - Social Security earnings test eliminated for full retirement age; 2003 - Medicare Modernization Act passed
			2003		
65 years old	75 years old	85 years old	2008	2008 - First Baby Boomers begin to turn 62 years old and become eligible for Social Security retired worker benefits	2005 - Deficit Reduction Act passed realigning Medicaid incentives to provide noninstitutionalized long-term care; 2006 - Medicare prescription drug benefit implemented; Pension Protection Act passed

Life Span

Life Course

Individual

Groups

Processes

Social pathways

Trajectories

Roles, transitions

Endogenous (micro)

Exogenous (macro)

Both the Life Span and Life Course Perspectives...

Understand Human Experience to be:

Long-term/life long

Multilevel

Contextual

Dynamic

Influenced by macro & micro factors

Gains and losses

Risks and resiliencies

Life Span/Life Course Sequence

Growth (Stress) → uni-directional

Environment → Outcome

Gene → Outcome

Gene Environment Interplay <--> Outcome

Life Span

Life Course Examples

Infancy

Race, Class, Ethnicity

Childhood

Organizations

Adolescence

Gender, Culture

Adulthood

Work, Employment

Aging

Family/Generations

Major Themes

Life Span Research Life Course Research

Individual Differences

Age Stratification

Adaptivity & Plasticity

Cohort and Historical Period Effects

Allocation of Resources

Accumulation of (In)Equalities

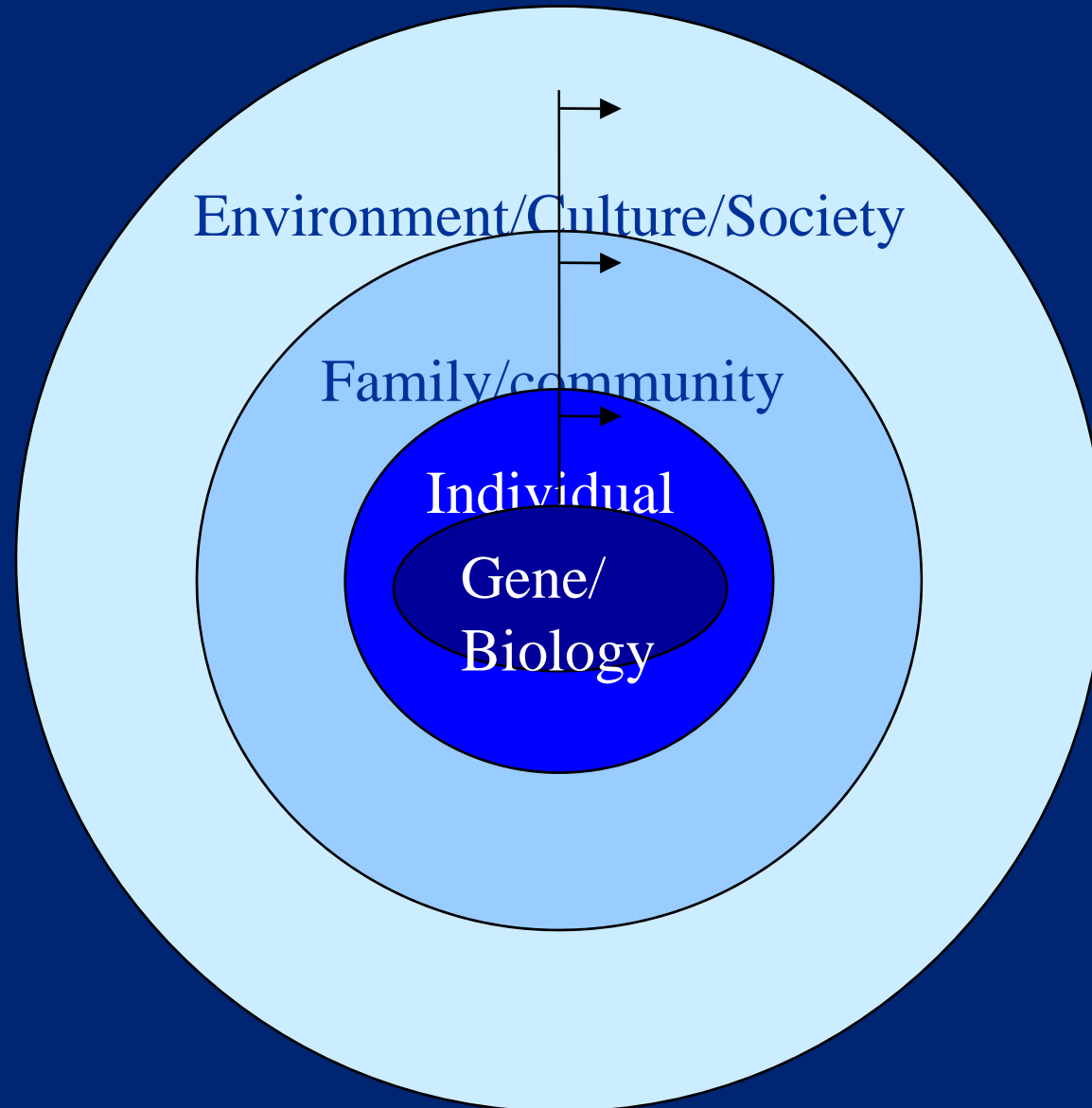
Self-regulation

Linked Lives

Differential Trajectories and Pathways of
Development/Change

Linking the Micro to the Macro

Multiple Levels of Influence



Oldest-Old Adult



Older Adult



Middle Aged Adult



Young Adult



Adolescent

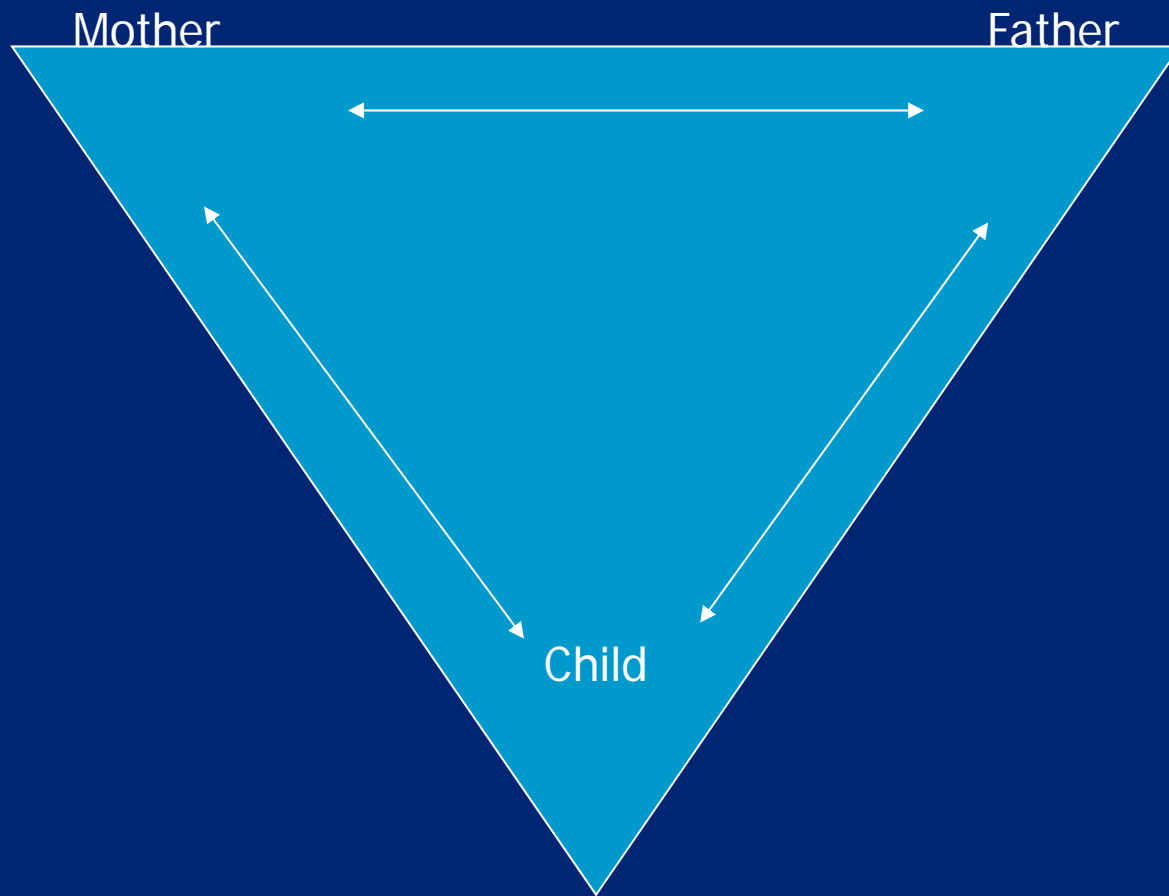


Child

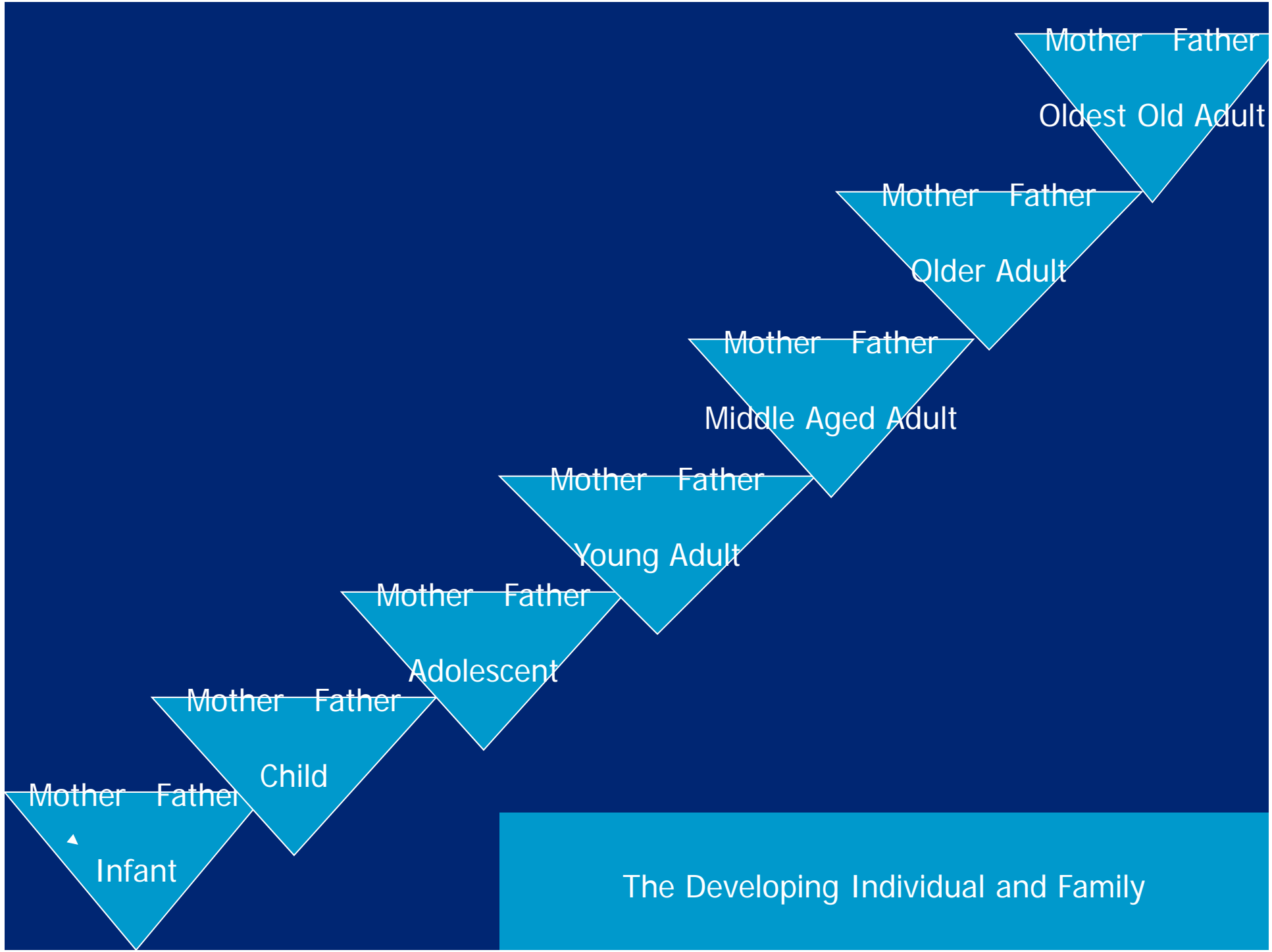


Infant

The Developing Individual over the Life Span



The Interacting Family



Mother Father

Infant

Mother Father

Child

Mother Father

Adolescent

Mother Father

Young Adult

Mother Father

Middle Aged Adult

Mother Father

Older Adult

Mother Father

Oldest Old Adult

The Developing Individual and Family

Examples of Historical Placement:

The World with or without...

Communication:

radio, TV, internet, email, SKYPE

Transportation: horse, boat, train, plane, rocket

Politics: UN, USSR, EU, 9/11, Iraq War, Fall of Gaddafi, etc.

Examples of Historical Placement:

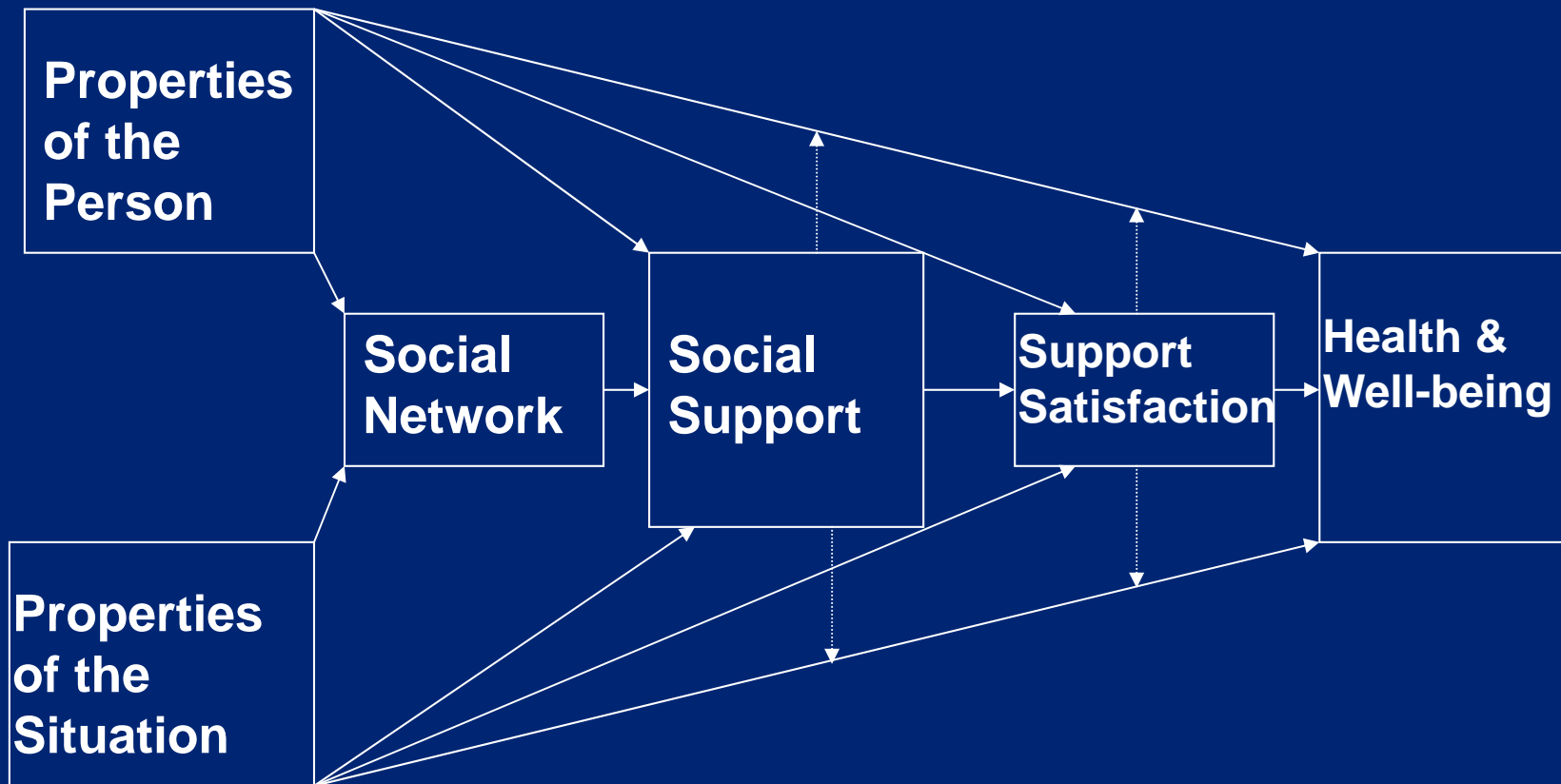
Health....

Preventive Health Behaviors: exercise, diet,
smoking, drinking

Medications: for infections, prevention,
treatment, disease control

Surgery: to diagnose, treat, cure

Convoys Over the Life Course



Convoys of Social Relations

- They are life-span
- They are longitudinal
- They are hierarchical
- They can be positive, negative or both
- They are often multigenerational
- They can have ethnic, religious, cultural characteristics
- They have antecedents and consequences

Yin and Yang of Methodologies

Qualitative and Quantitative

focus groups, in-depth interviews

convenience <--> representative samples

Methods: experimental; biomedical; fMRIs,
observational, self-report; mailed
questionnaire, telephone, in-person
interviews

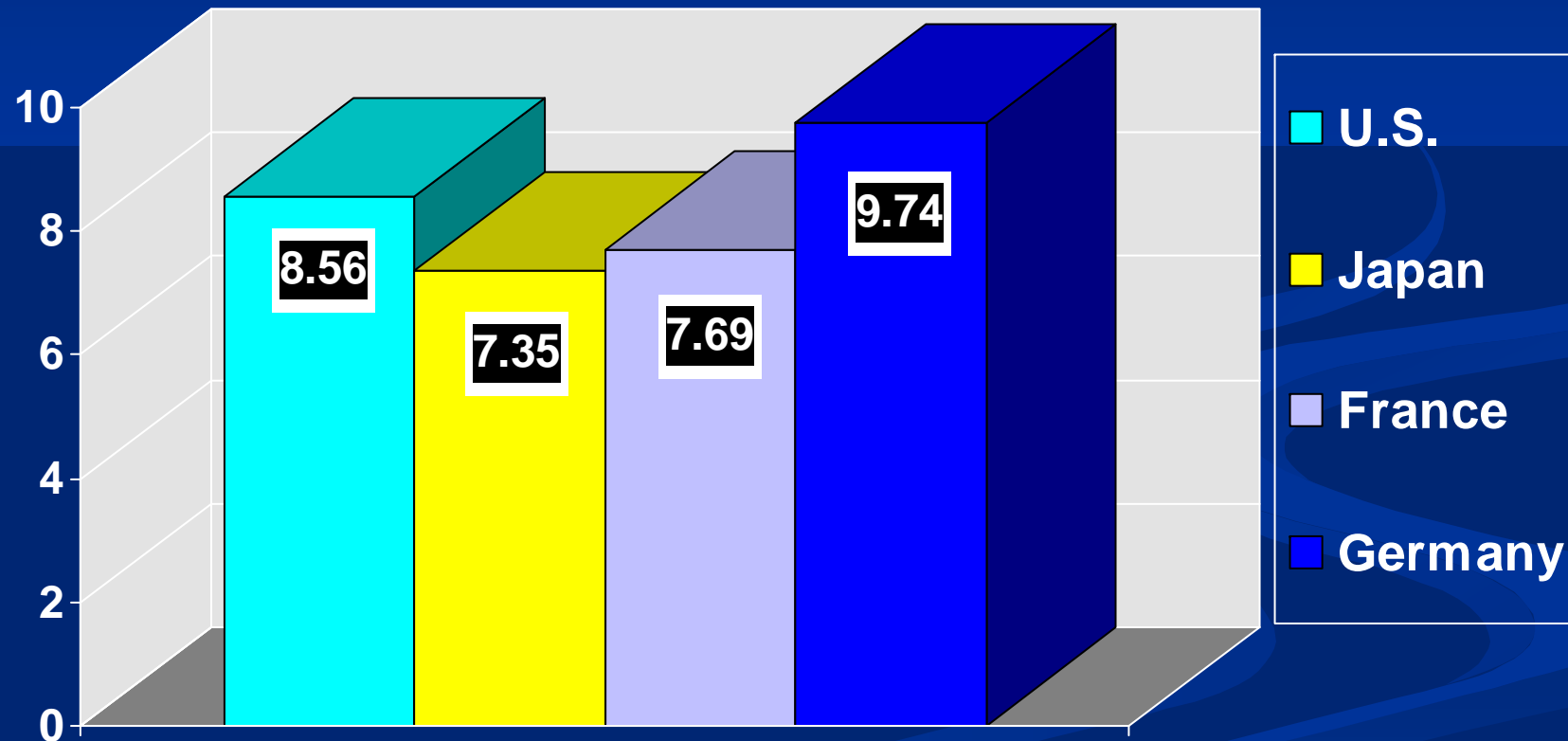
Statistical Analysis: correlations, regressions,
structural equation models; growth curve
models, event and time series

Some Examples

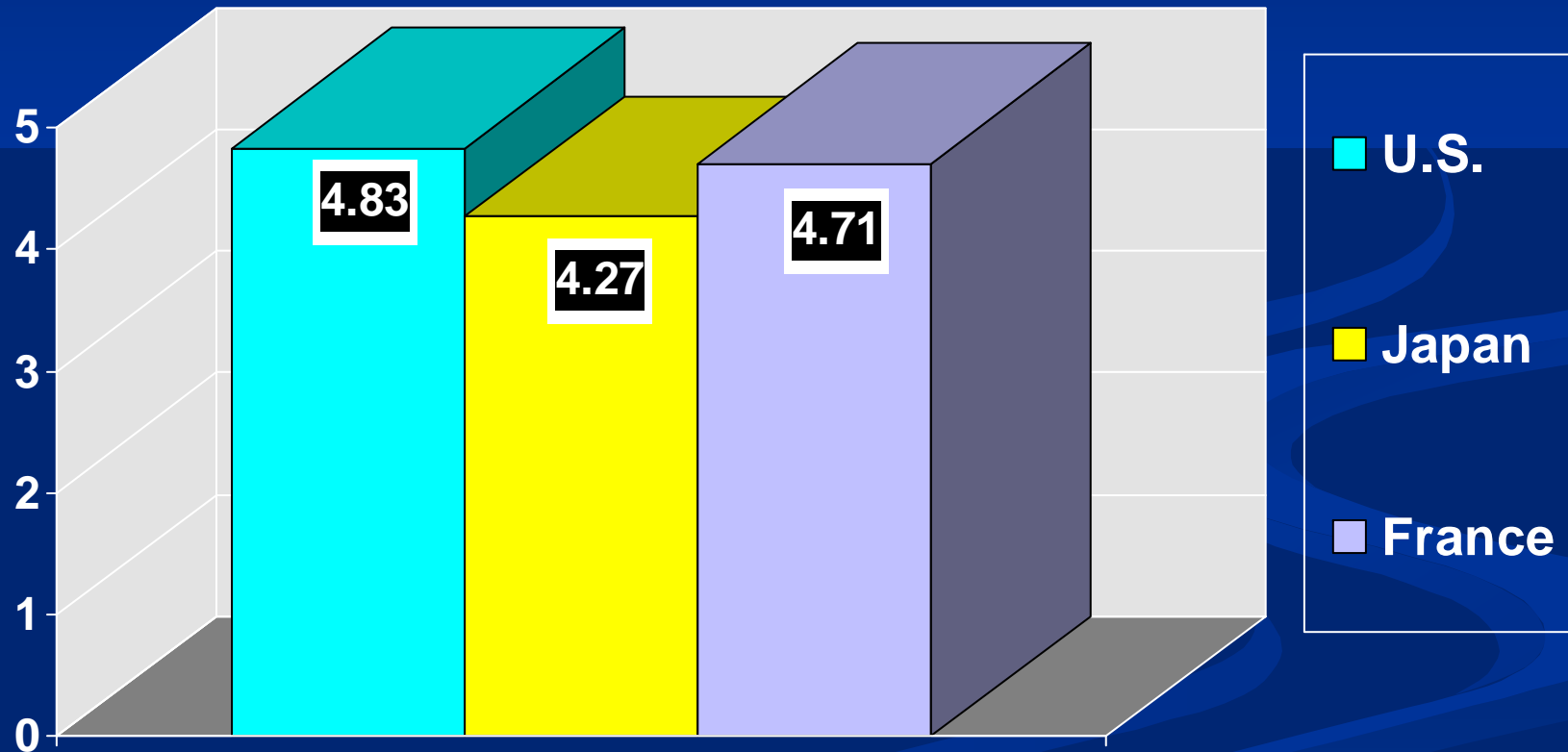
SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>JAPAN</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>
Total Sample				
N	1703	1846	553	516
Age	8-93	8-92	70-103	70-105
Selected Sample				
N	285	270	553	516
Age	70-93	70-92	70-103	70-105
70-79	202	215	363	172
80+	83	55	190	344
Male	98	129	336	258
Female	187	141	217	258

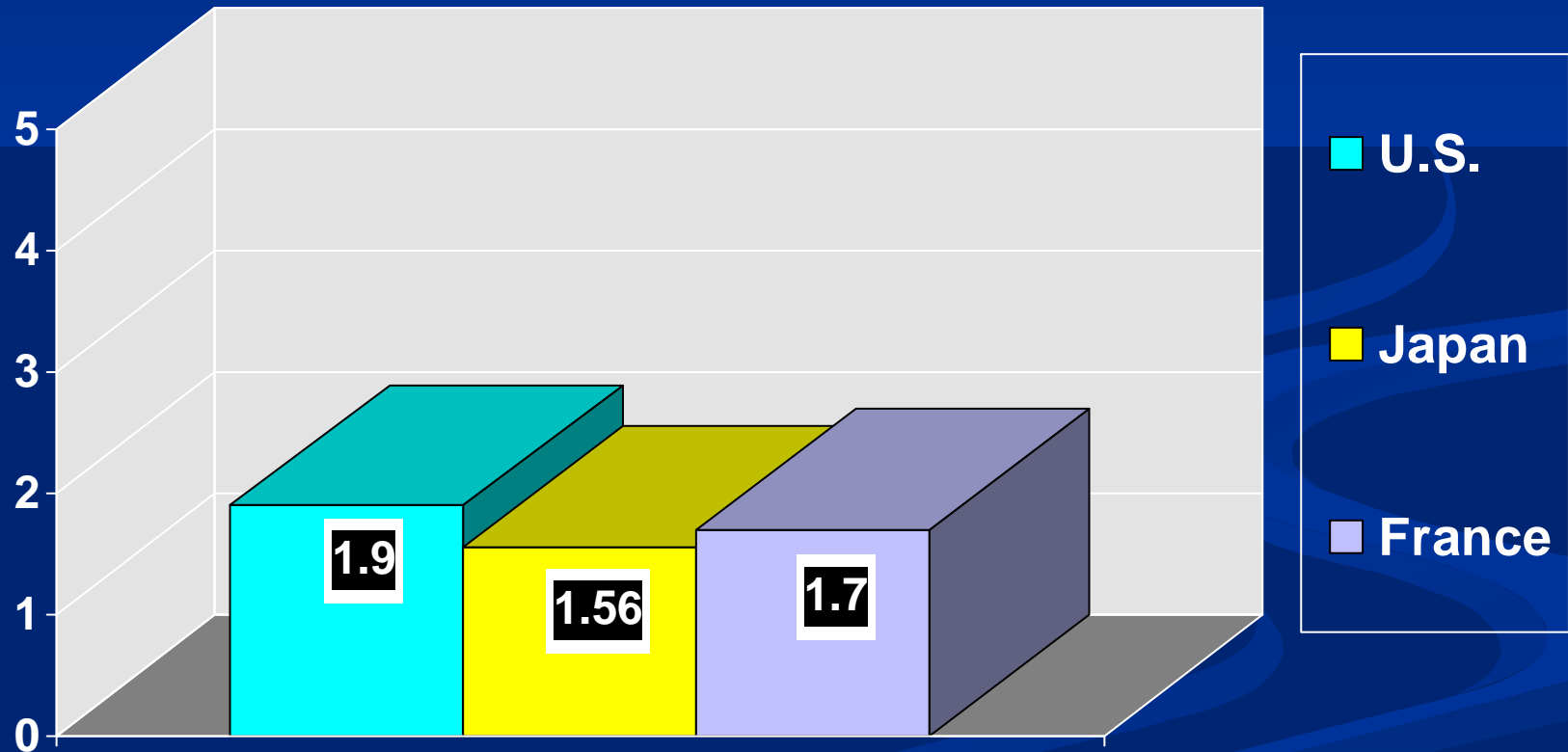
Average Network Size by Country



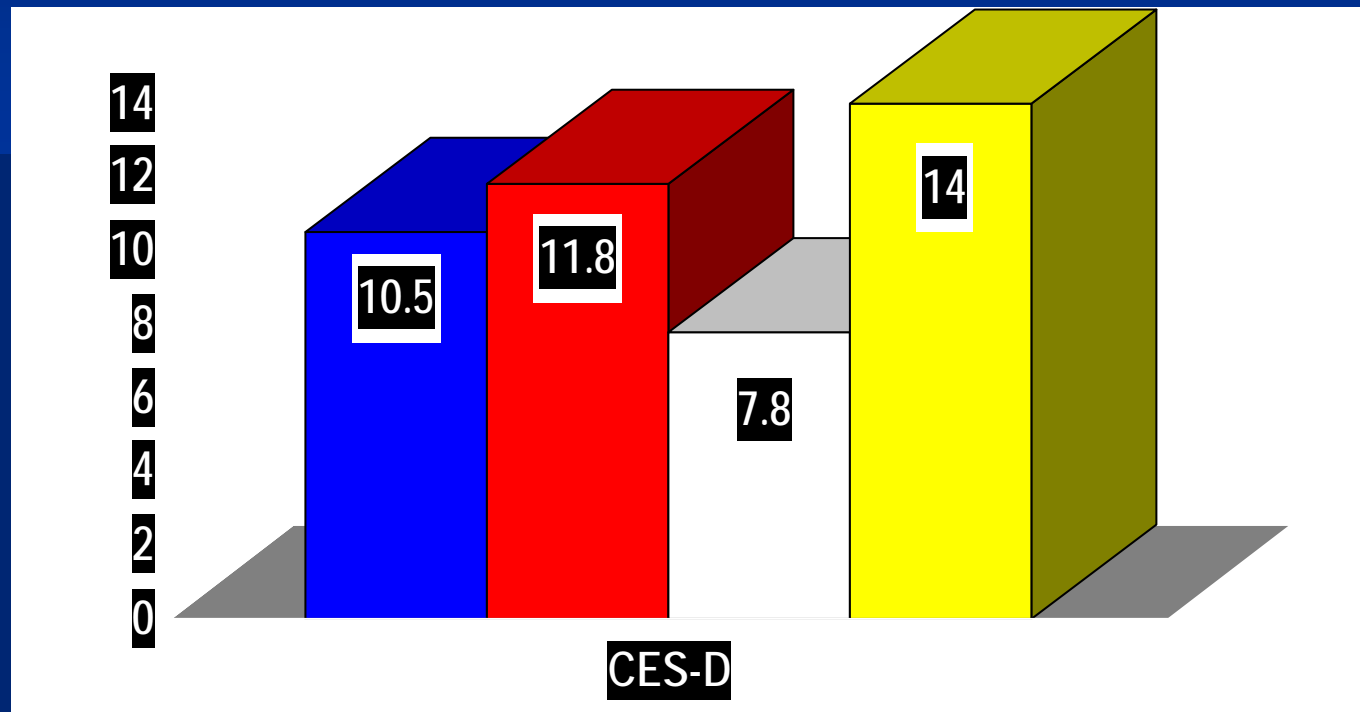
Average Positive Network Quality by Country



Average Negative Network Quality by Country

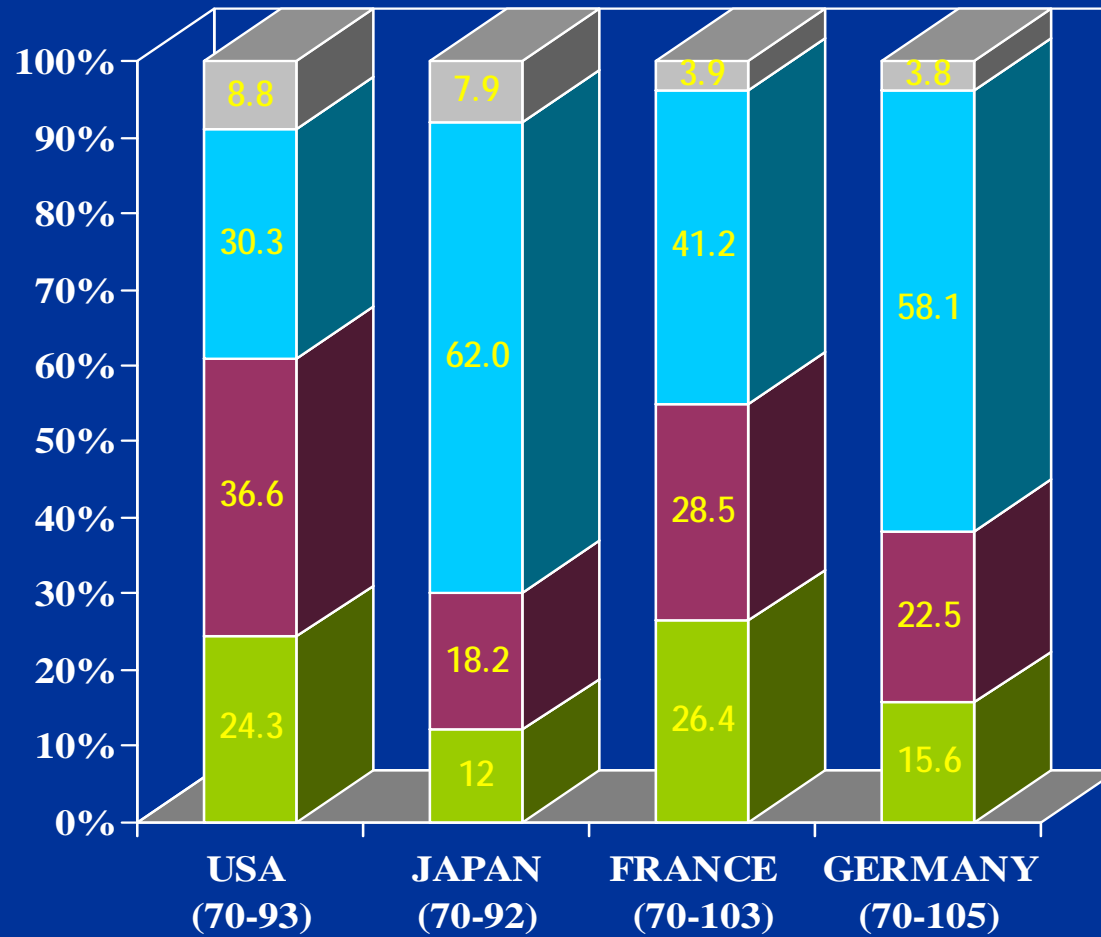


Total CES-D Means by Country



■ U.S. ■ Japan ■ France ■ Germany

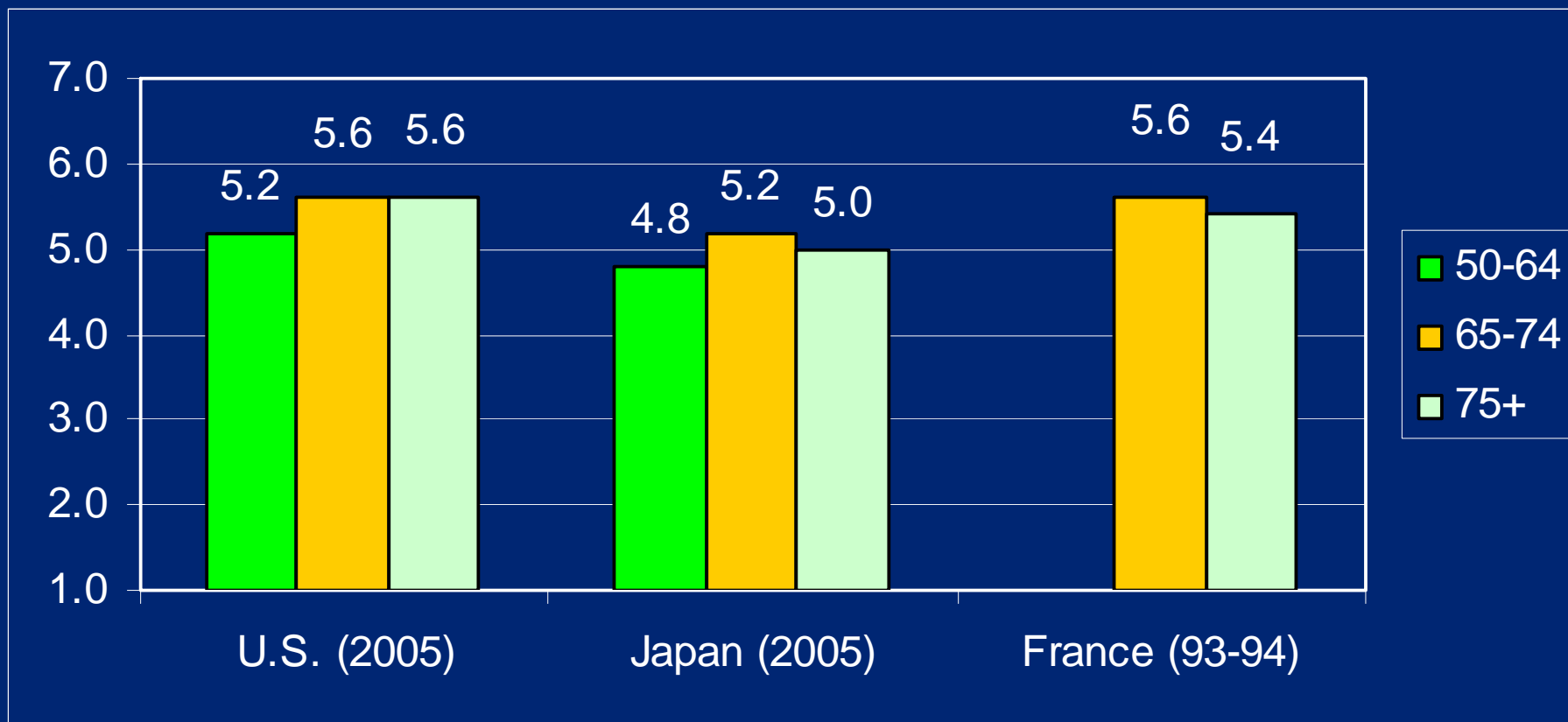
Subscales Composition in CES-D by Countries



■ Depress ■ Somatic ■ Positive ■ Interpersonal

Life Satisfaction

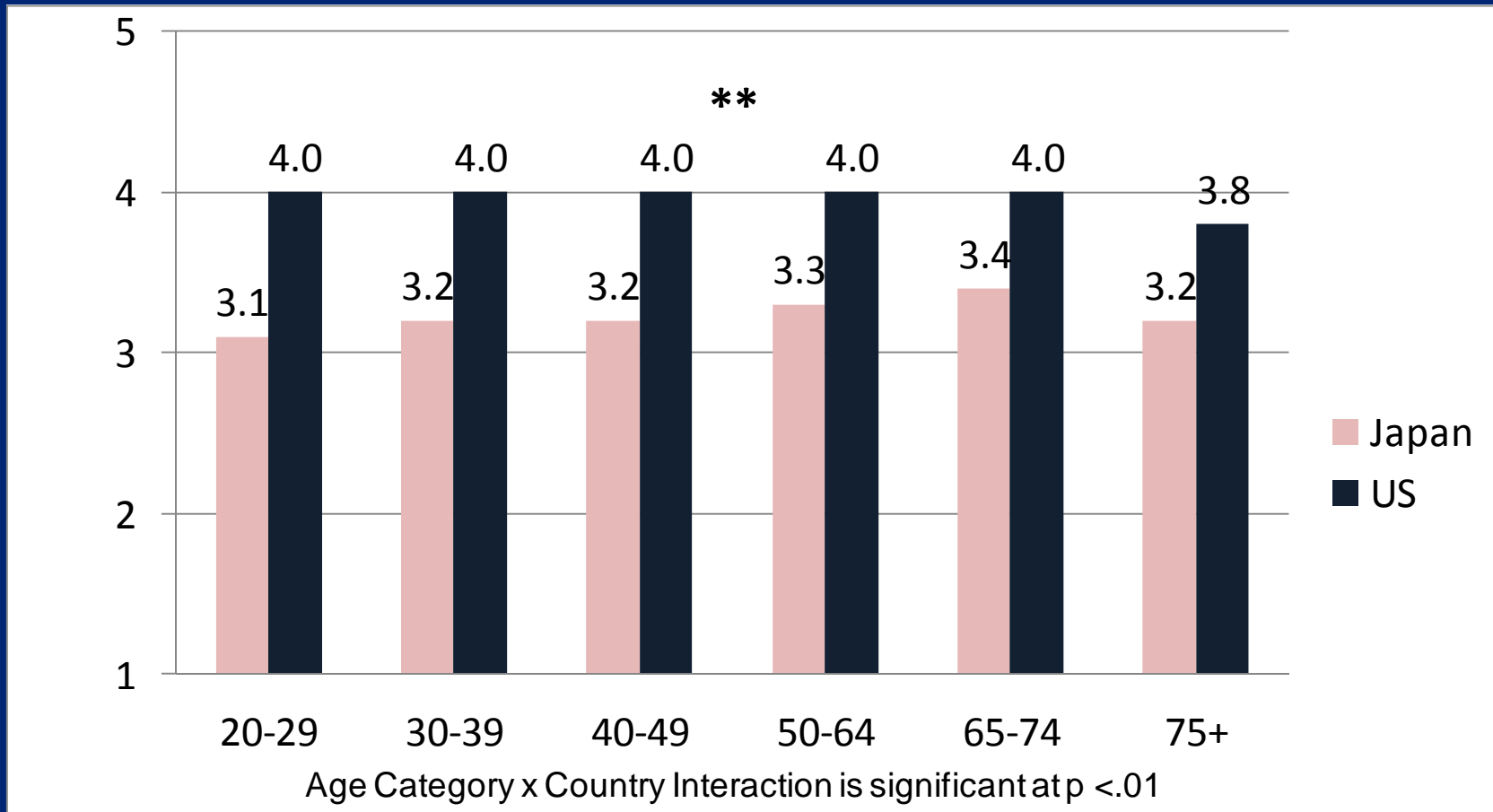
[Mean of 7-point scale: 1=Completely Dissatisfied to 7=Completely Satisfied]



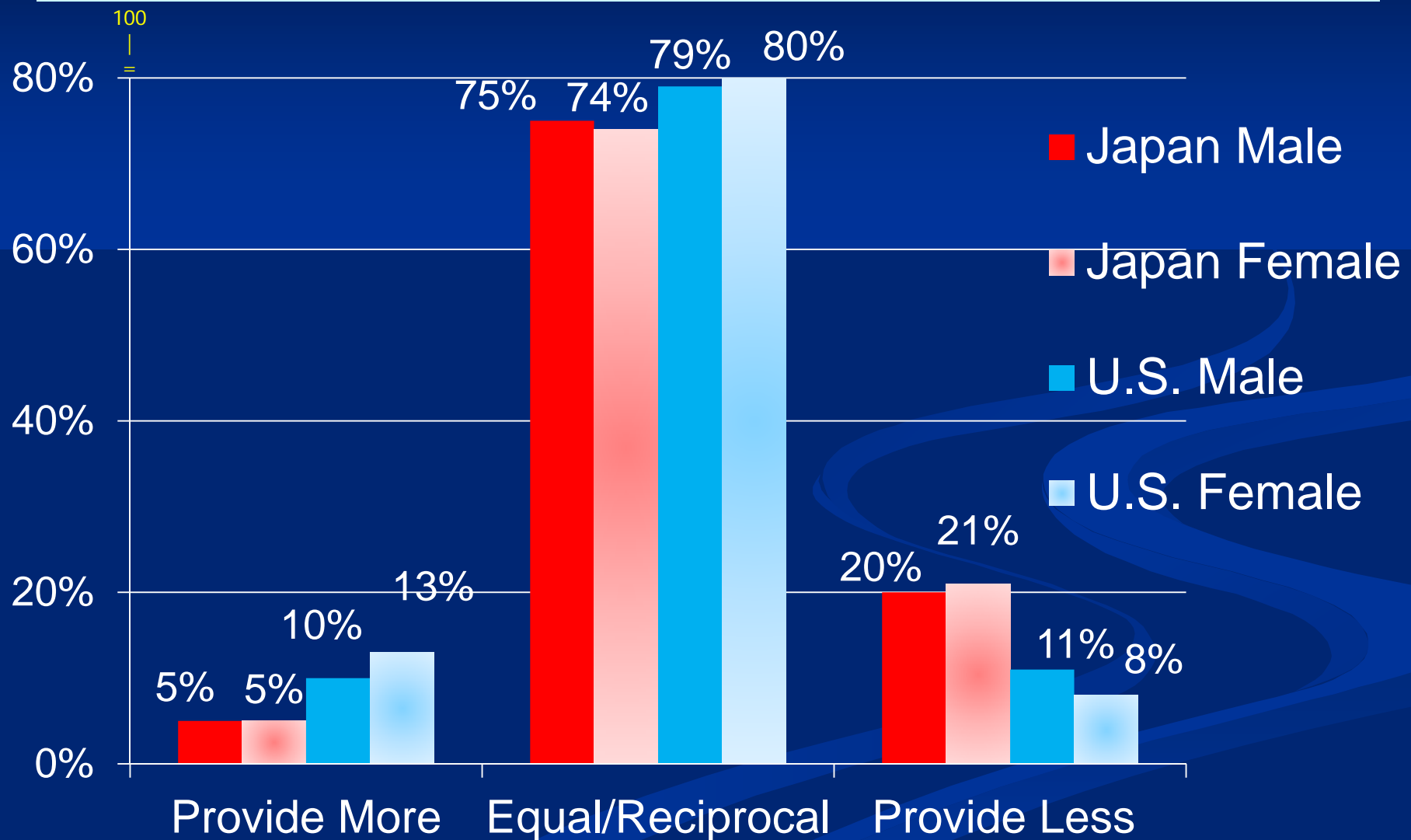
SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

	<u>JAPAN</u>	<u>USA</u>
<u>Total Sample</u>		
N	1842	1703
Age	8-92	8-93
<u>Age</u>		
8-12	201	205
13-19	139	74
20-39	492	498
40-59	519	409
60-69	221	229
70-79	215	202
80+	55	83

Self-Efficacy: Age x Country



Reciprocity Prevalence by Country and Gender



Predictors of Reciprocity

Characteristics Related to Providing More and Less

More likely to...→	Provide More (compared to Equal)	Provide Less (compared to Equal)
Japan		
Males	Older Age	Younger Age Not Married
Females	U-Shaped Age Distribution (Quad.)	Younger Age Not Married
U.S.		
Males	Older Age Not Married Higher Levels of Educ.	Younger Age Not Married
Females		Younger Age Not Married Higher Levels of Educ. Smaller Network Size

Predictors of Life Satisfaction

Japan	U.S.
<p data-bbox="315 459 1122 655">Equal/Reciprocal Exchanges of Support (compared to Provide More)</p> <p data-bbox="342 751 1095 879">Receive More (compared to Equal/Reciprocal)</p> <p data-bbox="412 975 1021 1246">Female Married Higher Levels of Educ. Larger Total Network Size</p>	<p data-bbox="1263 679 1877 951">Older Age Married No Difficulty with IADLs Larger Total Network Size</p>

Gender by Network Size and Reciprocity interactions were not significant in both Japan and the U.S.

Forgiveness and Social Relations

Ethnic Differences in US

- Focus groups of Middle Eastern, non- ME Caucasians, African American college students
- Small convenience sample telephone interviews of adults
- Planned Representative sample

Experimental Data on Hoarders

Preston, Stansfield & Chester

- Older Hoarders; Older non-Hoarders; College Students (non-hoarders)
- Undergraduates were more like older hoarders
- Older non-hoarders exhibited few if any hoarding behaviors
- Compulsive hoarders are avoidant and impulsive focused on material possessions and nonhuman relationships to satisfy life goals. They are possessive, depressed, have less control.

Senior Living Data

Sample Description:

- Random sample of age 70+ households in the U.S. from the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Monthly Survey of Consumers
- Data from a 20-month period (July 2009–February 2011) pooled to create a larger sample of the American public 70+ (**N = 1185**)

	%	Mean (SD)	Range
Age		77.7 (5.9)	70-97
Gender (% Female)	60.2		
Race/Ethnicity (% non-white)	10.8		
%Married	45.2		
% Widowed	39.6		
Education (years)		13.3 (2.6)	1-17

Senior Living Data on Health, Well-being & Activities

	%
Self-Rated Health (% Very Good or Good)	78.1
Life Satisfaction (Very Satisfied or Somewhat)	91.4
Never/Rarely Feel Lonely	68.5
No Health Limitations	72.0
No Difficulty with Driving	66.3
No Difficulty Getting Around Community	85.7
Very/Somewhat Satisfied with Public Transportation	44.5
Exercise (i.e., walking jogging, aerobics)	73.7
Participate in Recreational Activities (i.e., cards)	43.7
Use a Computer	50.0
Never worry about independence	38.3
Never worry about financial matters	39.1
Home is Very/Somewhat Convenient to Grocery/Drug Stores	90.2
Home is Very/Somewhat Convenient to Exercise Facility	70.7

Summary and Conclusions (take away messages)

- Old people (and the rest of us) are affected by their life span and life course experiences
- One size does not fit all
- Multiple methodologies and Multiple designs are useful approaches to understanding behavior of all people and of older consumers

Thank You

Four Subscales of CES-D Depression

Depressed Affect

I felt sad
I felt lonely
I felt fearful
I felt depressed
I had crying spells
I thought my life had been a failure
I felt I could not shake off the blues

Somatic Activities

I could not get 'going'
My sleep was restless
I talked less than usual
I felt that everything I did was an effort
I did not feel like eating; my appetite was poor
I was bothered by things that don't usually bother me

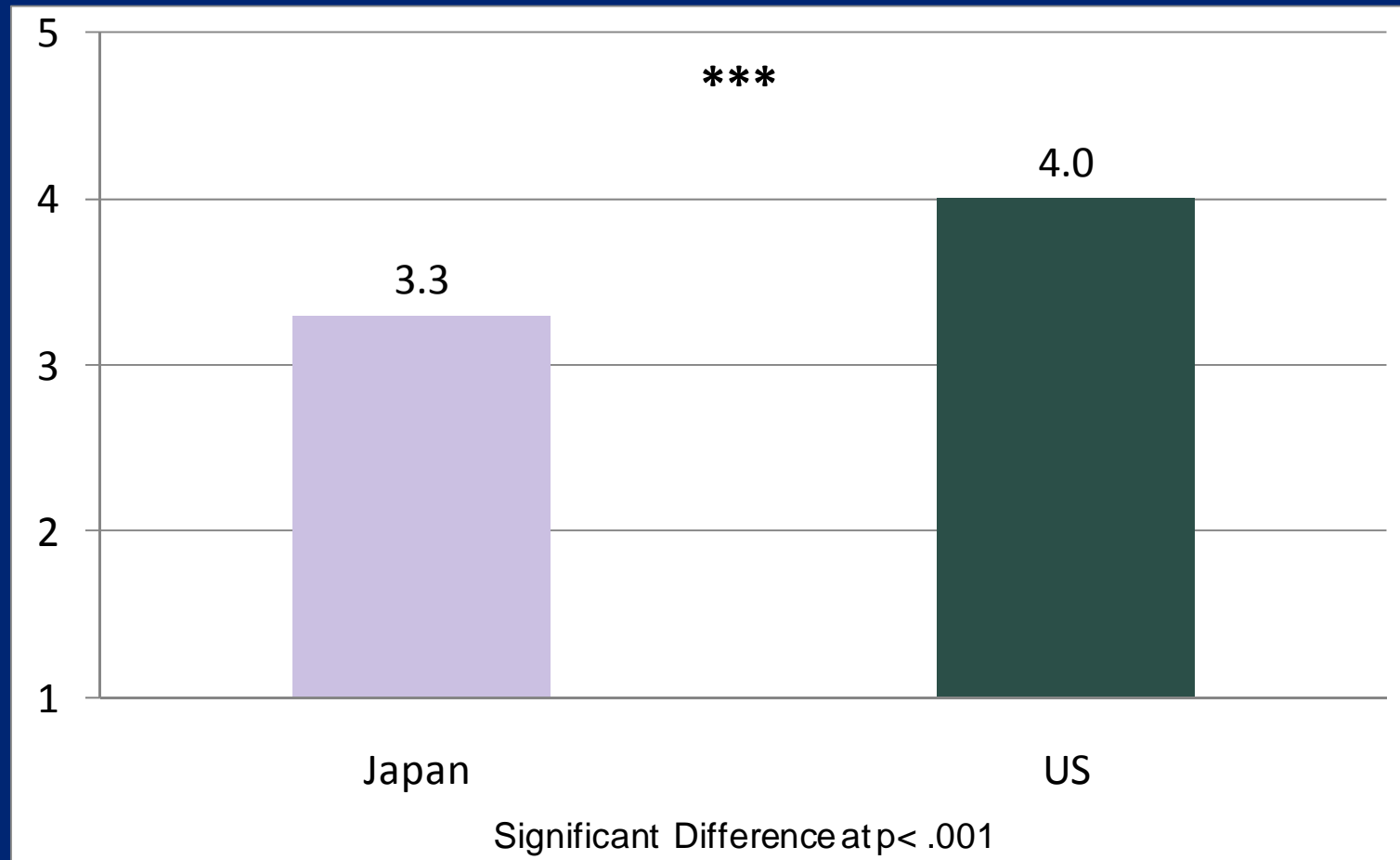
Positive Affect

I was happy
I enjoyed life
I felt hopeful about the future
I felt as good as other people

Interpersonal Depression

People were unfriendly
I felt that people disliked me

Self-Efficacy in Japan & the US



Self-Efficacy (General and Social)

[Mean of 5-point scale: Higher Score = Greater Efficacy]

