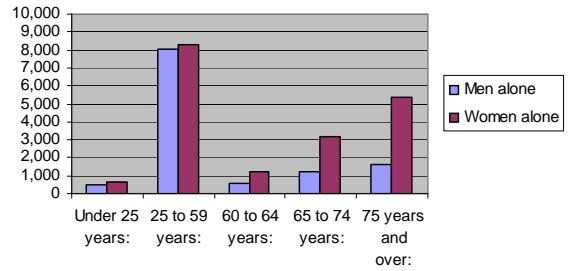


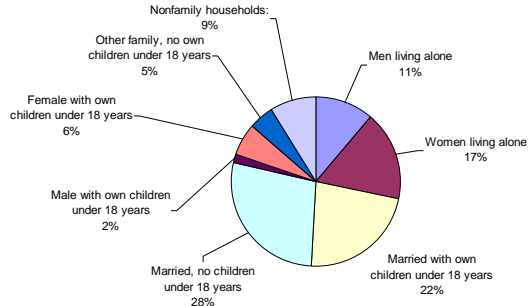
# Single Person Households in Cumberland County

Elizabeth Trice

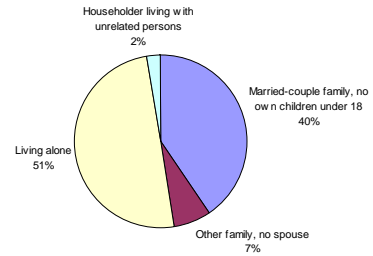
People living alone by sex and age group  
Cumberland County, Maine 2000



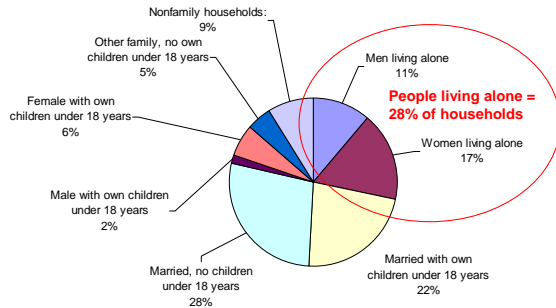
Cumberland County Households by Type, 2000



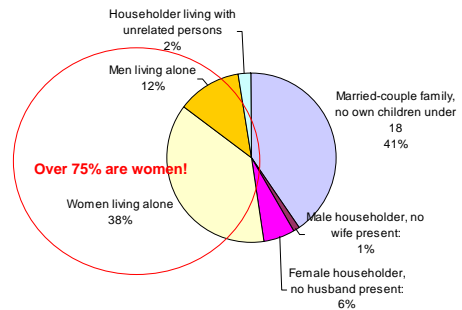
Households with householder 65 years or older Cumberland County, Maine, 2000

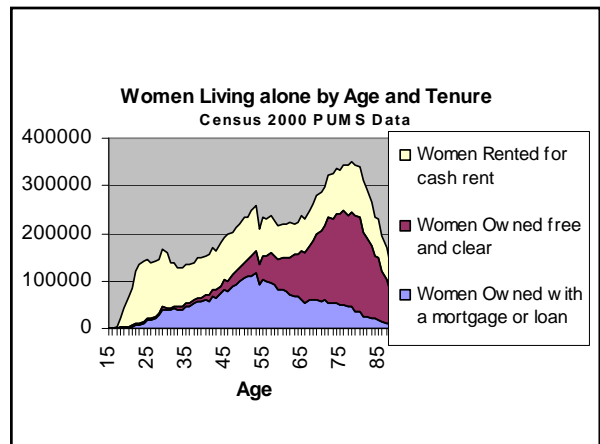
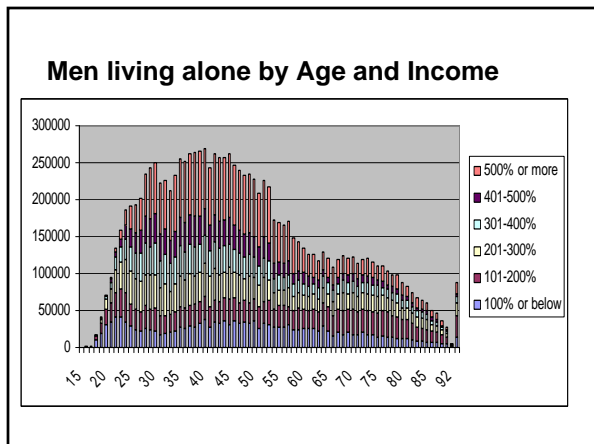
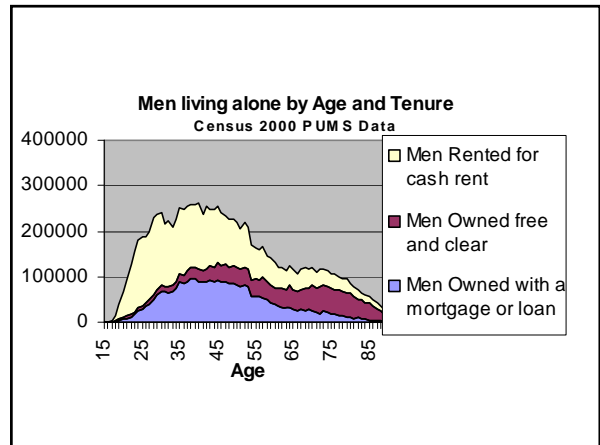
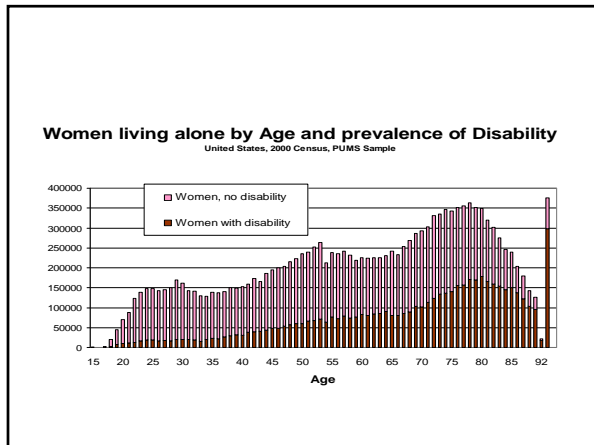
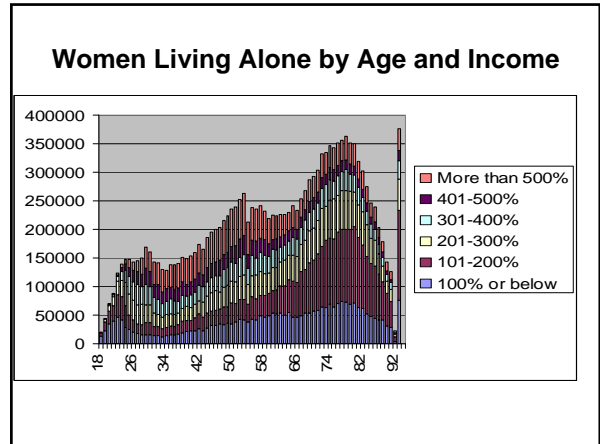
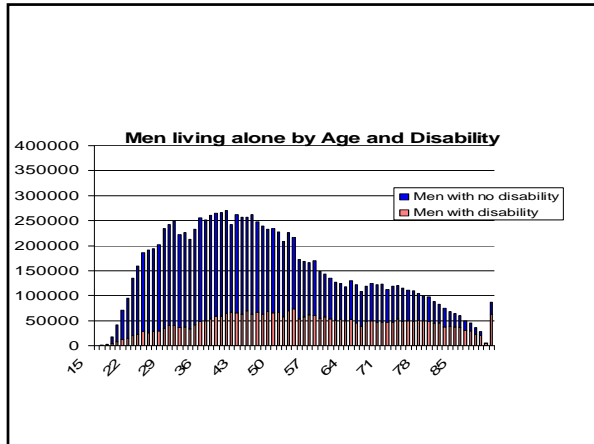


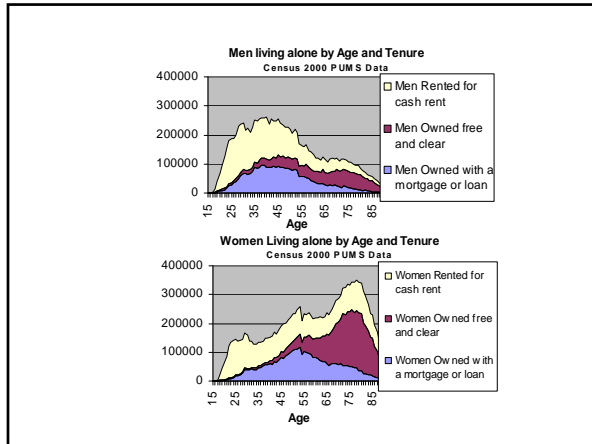
Cumberland County Households by Type, 2000



Households with householder 65 years or older Cumberland County, Maine Census 2000

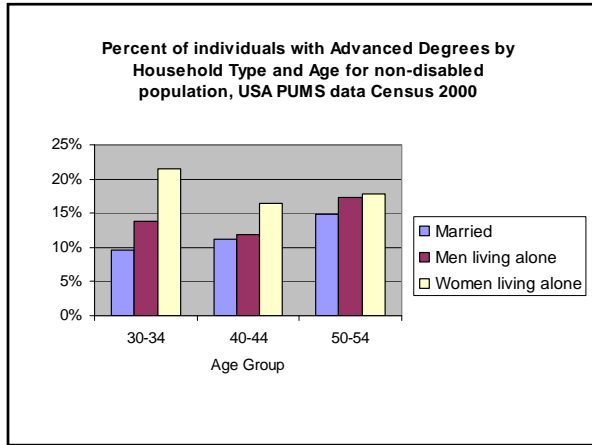






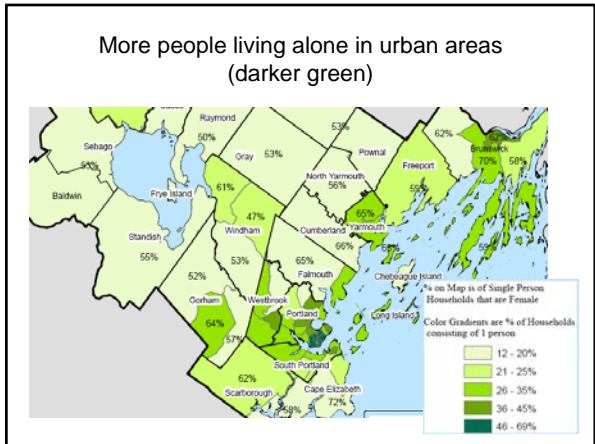
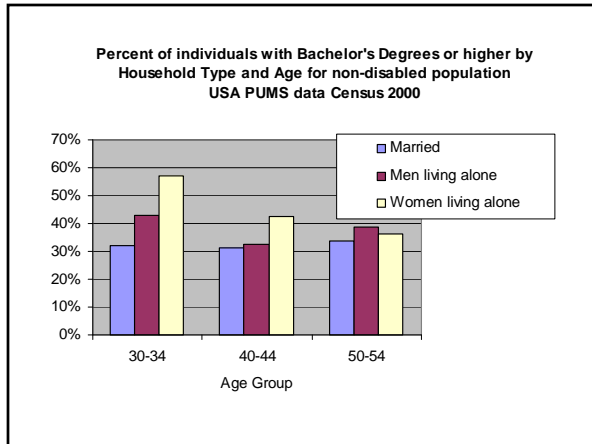
**Our Study:**

Surveys (n=167) and Interviews (n=30)  
 With women, 24-70 years old, living alone or with housemates, in Greater Portland, Maine.  
 Mix of socioeconomic factors.



**Location, location, location**

Neighborhoods with walking access to businesses, water, and green space are most desirable.



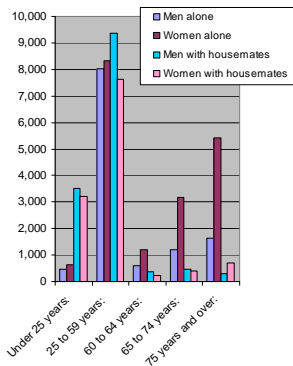
## RELATIONSHIPS!

- Safety
- Secure entrances
- Quiet
- Can ask neighbors for help
- Able to resolve conflicts without fear of retaliation.
- Wanting family and friends nearby

## Flexibility

- **Sharing space requires designs that allow for privacy, community, and flexibility of relationships.**
- Potential conflict between sharing space and future partner
- "Fear of committing to [a condo] for myself because it feels like it locks in "singlehood."
- Difficulty finding spaces that provide both privacy and communal space.
- 40% willing to share guest space

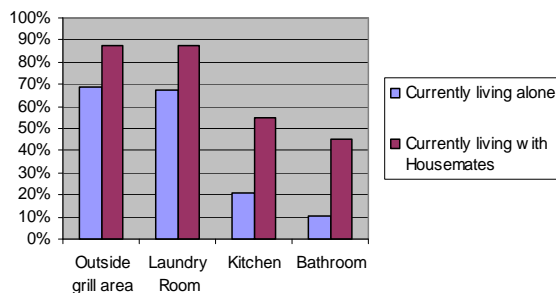
Men and women by household type and age group  
Cumberland County, 2000



## Outside Space

- **Sharing outside space is acceptable only if it is quiet and well-maintained.**
- **Enforced quiet hours and smoking rules**
- **Design or rules to encourage positive behavior**
- **Dogs**

Which of the following would you be willing to share with one or more compatible people? (% saying yes)



## The happiest are:

- **Actively involved in community or neighborhood organizations**
- **Well educated**
- **Over 50.**

**For Landlords:**

- Introduce new tenants to existing tenants.
- Set clear rules for smoking and noise
- Establish process for tenants to follow when they have issues
- Be friendly, professional, prompt, provide follow-up to any complaints received.
- Show interest in the well-being of the property and its tenants.
- Identify and encourage people and initiatives that naturally create a sense of community
- Encourage social gatherings based on positive behaviors such as exercise, gardening, or cooking.
- Consider allowing dogs.

**Contractors and Entrepreneurs, and Area Agencies Serving Women:**

- Design home maintenance services that cater to older women.
- Create a housemate matching service that would also offer conflict resolution

**Housing Authorities**

- Create ways for people with section-8 vouchers to have housemates
- Offer mediation to help with neighbor and landlord disputes, and assist people to move from intolerable living situations.

**For Developers:**

- Investigate and define demographic subgroups and create appropriate cluster developments.
- Design outdoor spaces that facilitate positive neighborly interactions
- Make individual garden plots available.
- Design spaces that provide privacy for those living as housemates.
- Create floor plans that allow flexibility for future stays by adult children, elderly parents or other guests

**Individuals**

- Ask potential landlord and condo associations about rules and process for resolving conflict
- Start walking a dog!
- Identify key desires and speak about them
- Seek like-minded individuals for who may want to live nearby

**For Local Planning Boards and Governments:**

- Be open to new types of development that may include multiple unrelated adults or very small units.
- Allow for higher density, multi-unit or small lot or cottage developments
- Zone for more walkable areas near village centers and bodies of water
- Encourage the formation of neighborhood associations.
- Provide dog parks

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