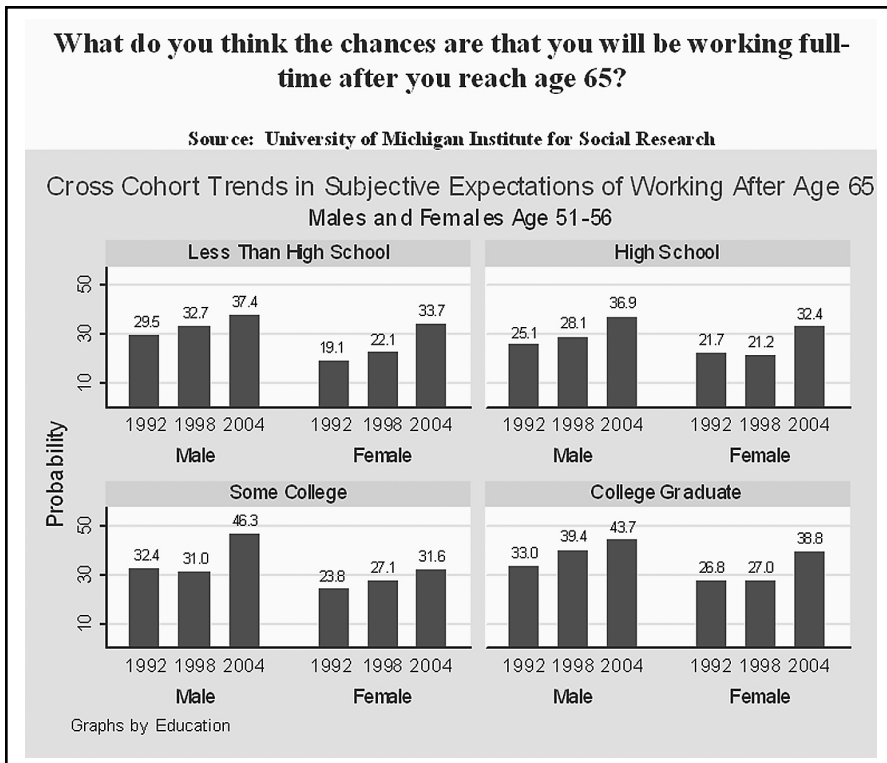


AGING TODAY

WORK TILL THEY DROP?



Boomers don't expect to go gently into retirement, suggests preliminary analysis of 2004 data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a longitudinal study at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, funded by the National Institute on Aging. HRS director Robert Willis said that men and women in their 50s today are much more likely than earlier groups of fiftysomethings to say they will be working full time after the traditional retirement age of 65.

Willis compared the work and retirement expectations of nationally representative samples men and women ages 51–56 with various educational levels who were surveyed in 1992, 1998 and 2004. The economist noted, "There is a strong relationship between measures of expected retirement and actual retirement." The new analysis provides good news for Social Security and Medicare, he said, showing an across-the-board increase in the percentages of those who see their working lives lasting well into their 60s. The largest jump occurs among men who attended some college. In that group, 32.4% surveyed in 1992 expected to be working full time after age 65, compared with 46.3% of those who were surveyed in 2004.

Since 1992, HRS has surveyed more than 22,000 Americans age 50 or older every two years, on topics including physical and mental health, insurance coverage, financial status, family support systems, labor market status and retirement planning. ❖