

# Supporting Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities



Possberg and Associates Ltd.



∞ Mixed methods gap analysis study completed by the Calgary Region Community Board for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (CRCB-PDD).

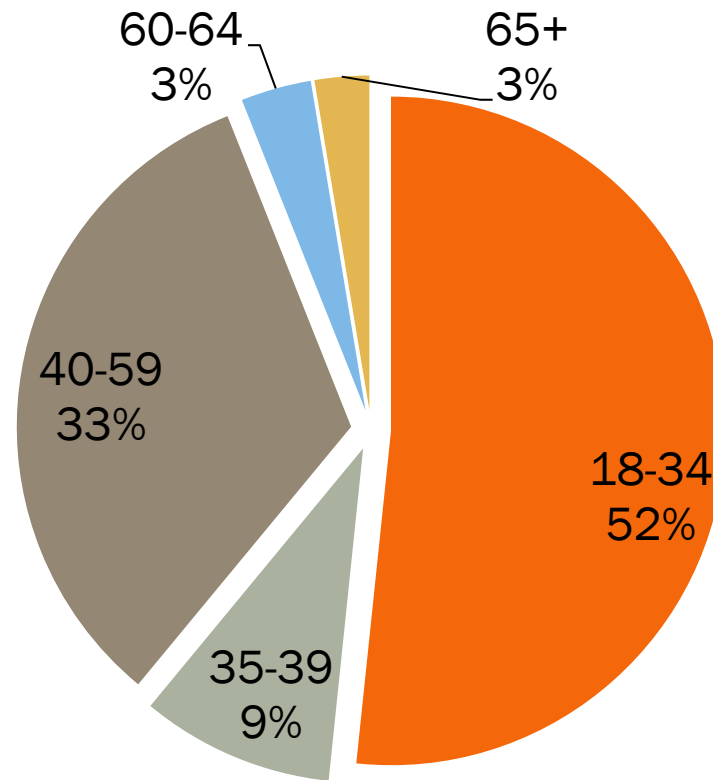
- demographic projections;
- a review of the supports and services currently available in Calgary;
- focus groups with family members;
- interviews with health care and disability service professionals; and,
- three reviews of the literature (i.e., best practices, medical conditions, and assessment strategies).

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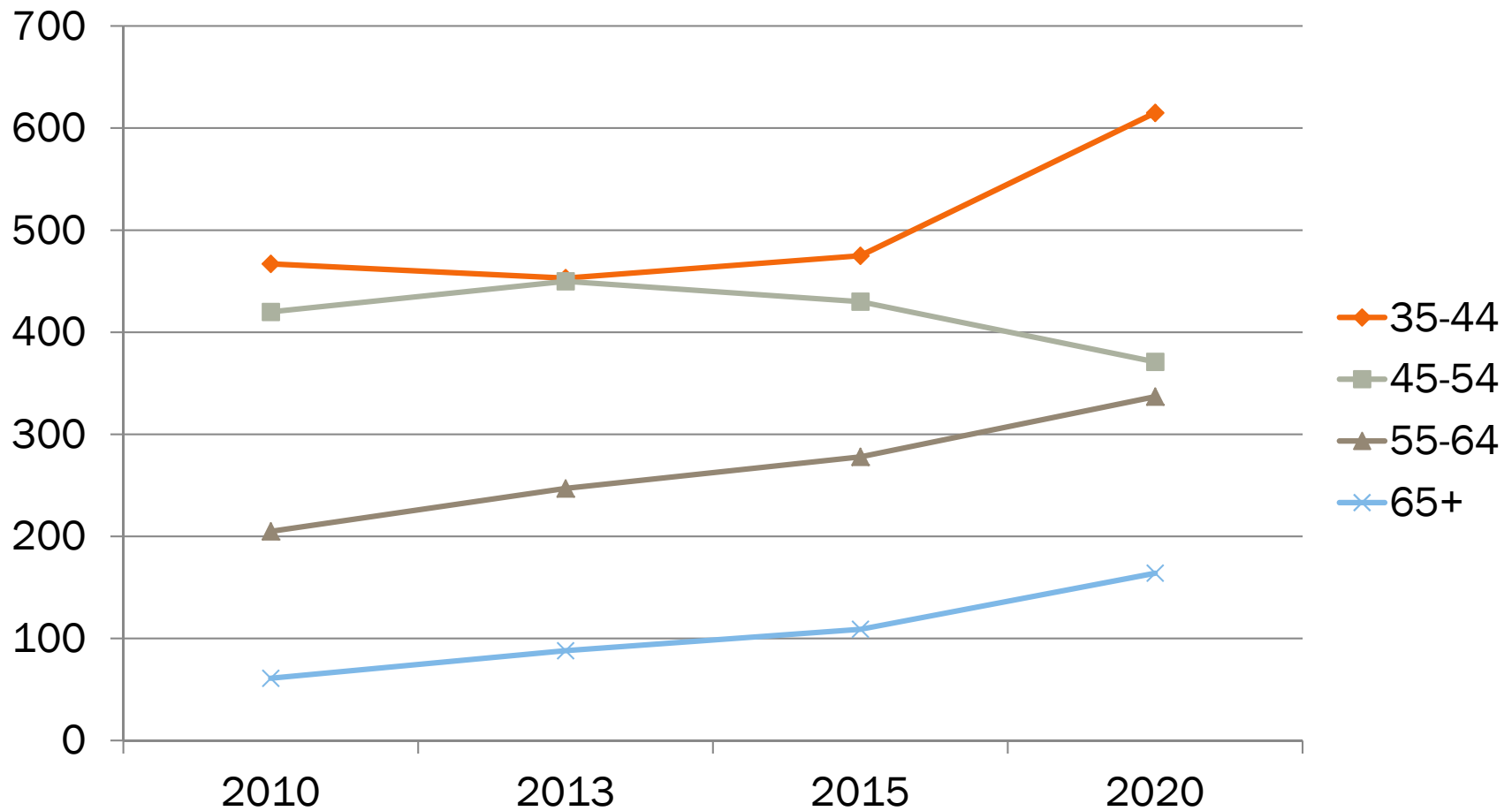
# Aging for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

- ∞ Due to their pre-existing neurological, functional, and physical impairments, individuals with developmental disabilities demonstrate signs of aging in their 40s and 50s.
- ∞ Adults with Down syndrome are likely to experience premature aging with marked biological age-related changes occurring from about 40 years.
- ∞ Adults with Down syndrome more likely to experience Alzheimer's at an earlier age of onset, with a more aggressive and shorter course.
- ∞ Assessments that distinguish between disability and frailty are required.

# Current Population 2010



# Population Projections age 35+ based on PDD data

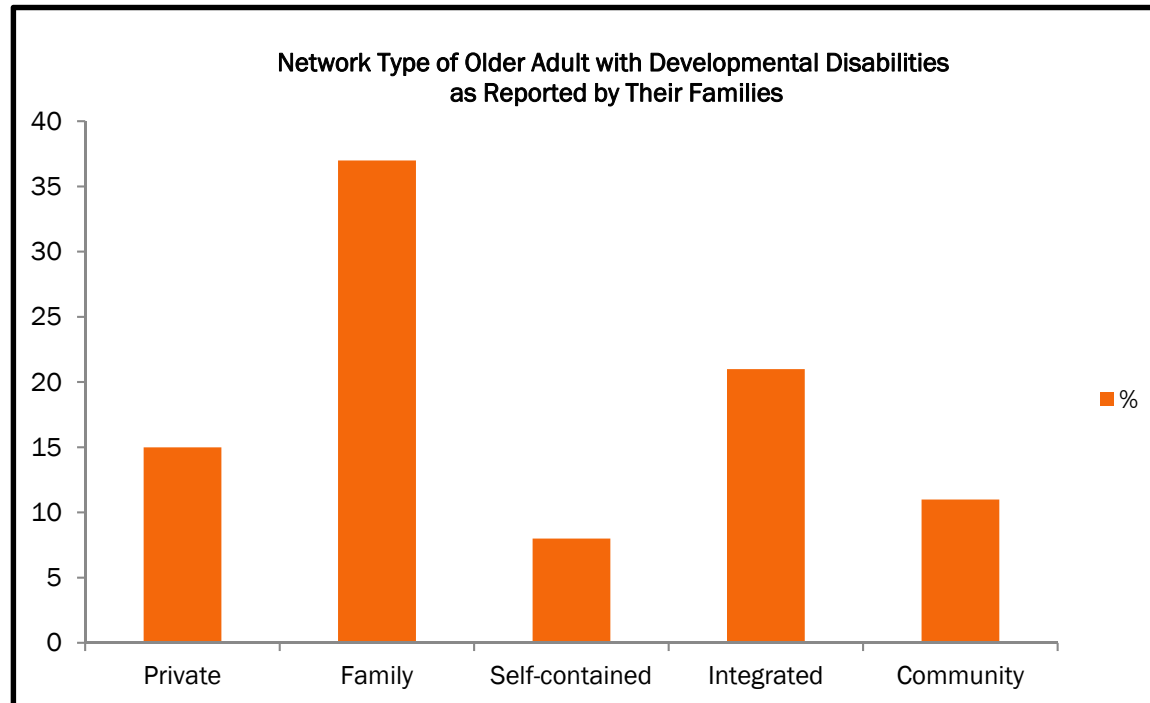


# Issues

- ∞ Need for professional training.
- ∞ Need for modifications to the physical environments.
- ∞ Disability over-shadowing other possible health-related issues.
- ∞ Two-generation families.
- ∞ Premature placement in long-term care facilities.
- ∞ Lack of future care plans.
- ∞ Concern with “double-dipping”.
- ∞ NIMBYism

# Promising Service Models

## Development of social support networks.



# Promising Service Models

- ∞ Development of homecare or house care zones.
- ∞ Supporting families, guardians, and siblings.
- ∞ Development of dementia homes for adults with developmental disabilities.
- ∞ Developing outreach and case management teams.
- ∞ Training professionals.
- ∞ Partnering with older adult centres and services.

# Promising Policy Developments

- ☞ Supporting an aging-in-place approach.
- ☞ Cross-ministry collaboration.
- ☞ Establishing a common agenda and policy framework.
- ☞ Development of protocols for health screening and intervention.
- ☞ Development of flexible funding models.

# Next Steps

- ☞ Action plan for implementation being discussed.
- ☞ Steering Committee considering recommendations.
- ☞ CRCB PDD will be reviewing report.