

# Mobility biographies and milestones

Lessons for sustainable transport in Ireland

Richard Manton & Henrike Rau

[richard.manton@nuigalway.ie](mailto:richard.manton@nuigalway.ie)

Environ 2015, 8-10<sup>th</sup> April 2015, IT Sligo

# Outline

- Background
- Literature review
- Survey
- Results
- Conclusions

# Background

- Unsustainable transport in Ireland
- Need to consider life-course in transport policy
- When/what are the turning points in travel behaviour?
- Effect of life events and mobility-related events

# Key concepts

- **Mobility biography** – series of stages capturing both continuity and change in mobility practices across the life course
- **Life events** – reflect the social, political and economic construction of the life-course
  - e.g. residential relocation, childbirth
- **Mobility milestones** – reflect the wider mobility system such as social norms or infrastructure
  - e.g. getting a driving licence, buying a car

# Literature review

Author(s)	The dynamics of mode-switching: Findings from a mobility biography study in Cape Town Adjei and Behrens	
Adjei & Behrens		
Behrens		
Mistro		
Beige & A.		
Brunner		
Chatterjee		X
Klöckner	X	
Lanzendo		
van der Wal		
van der V.	X	~
Timmerma		
Verhoever		

# Survey

Q1. What age are you?

**Baselines**

Q2. What was your main mode of travel to primary school?



Bicycle



On foot



Public Transport



Car driver

Age 5

Age 10

Age 15

Age 20

Age 25

Age 27



**Across the lifecycle**

Q3. What was your main mode of travel to secondary school?



Bicycle



On foot



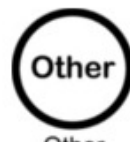
Public Transport



Car driver



Car passenger



Other modes



Not Applicable

Life Event

- Select One -

Age

Event effect

	↑	○	↓
Bicycle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On Foot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car Driver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Car Passenger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

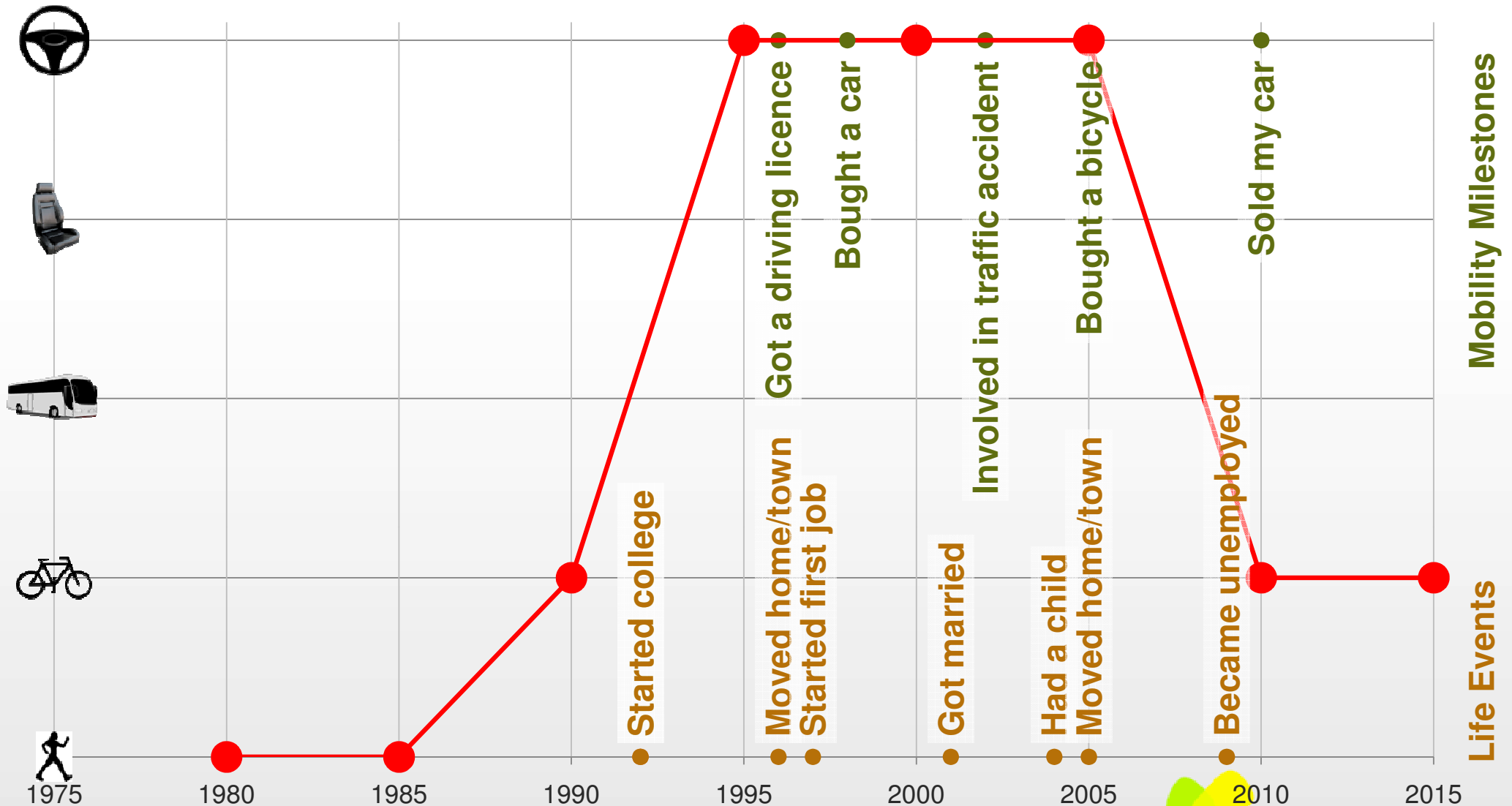
Main mode of travel after event



**Event effects**

# Mode of analysis

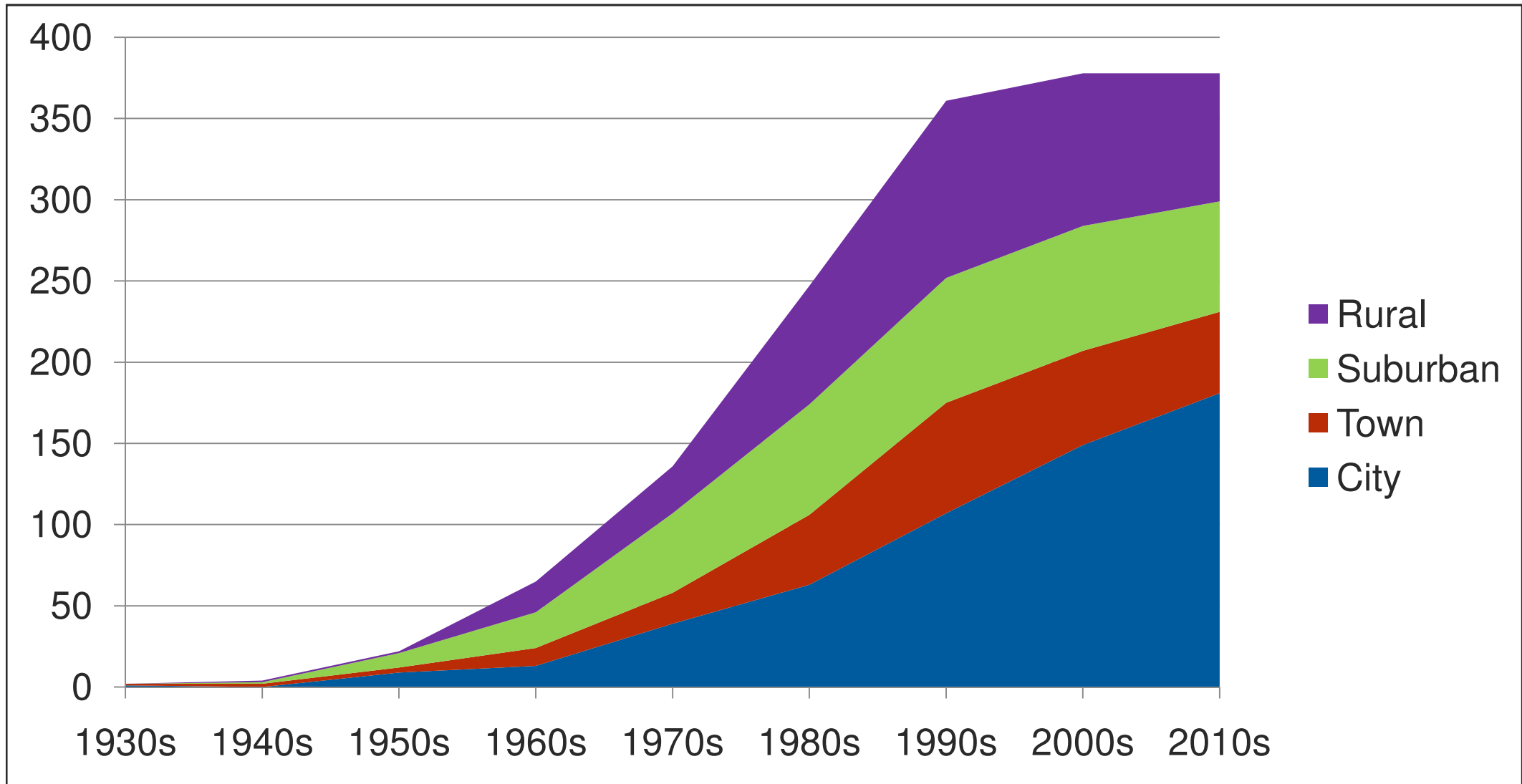
🚶 On foot   🚲 Bicycle   🚌 Public transport   🚗 Motor car: passenger   🚗 Motor car: driver



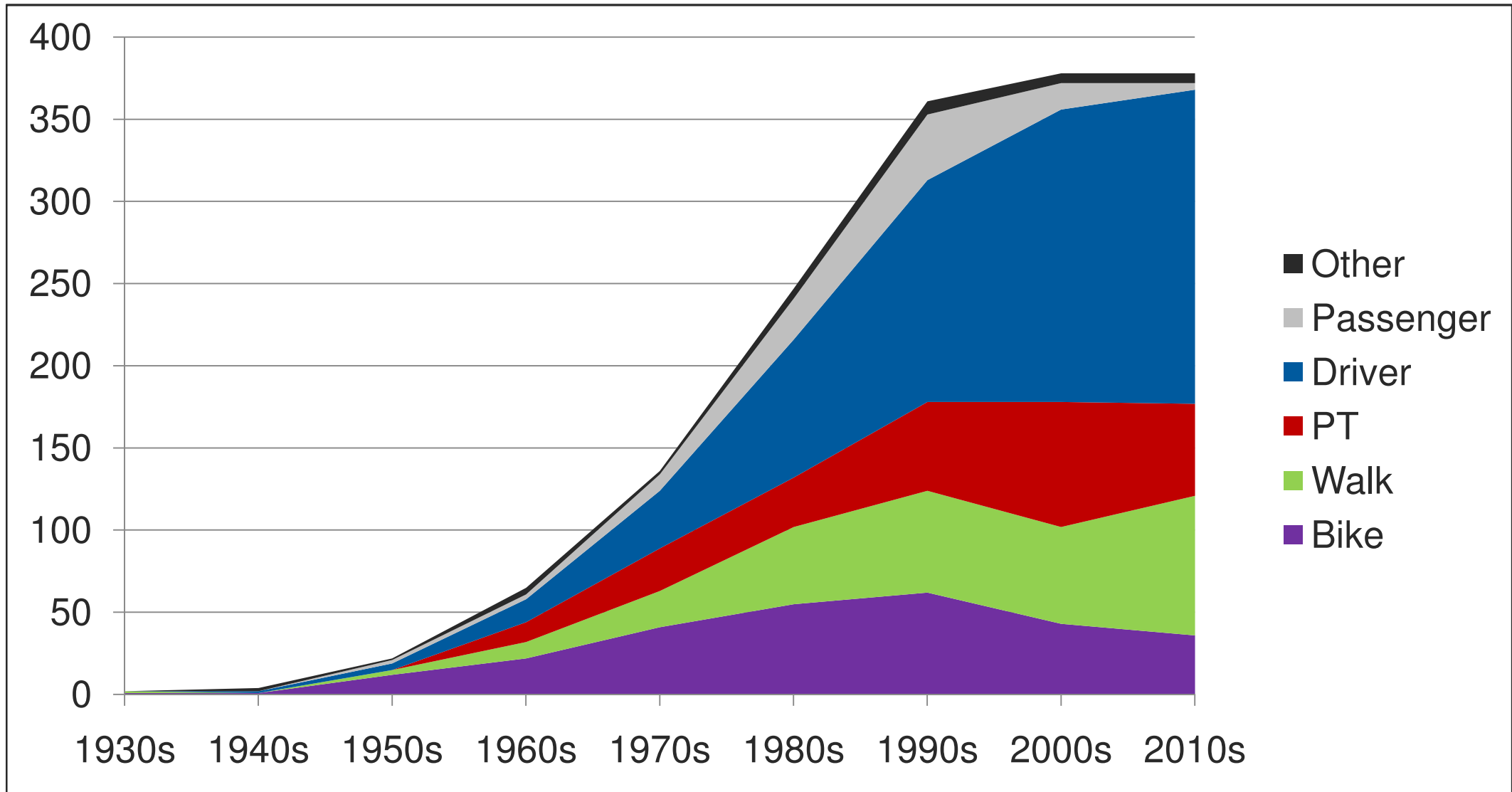
# PRELIMINARY RESULTS



# Residential Location



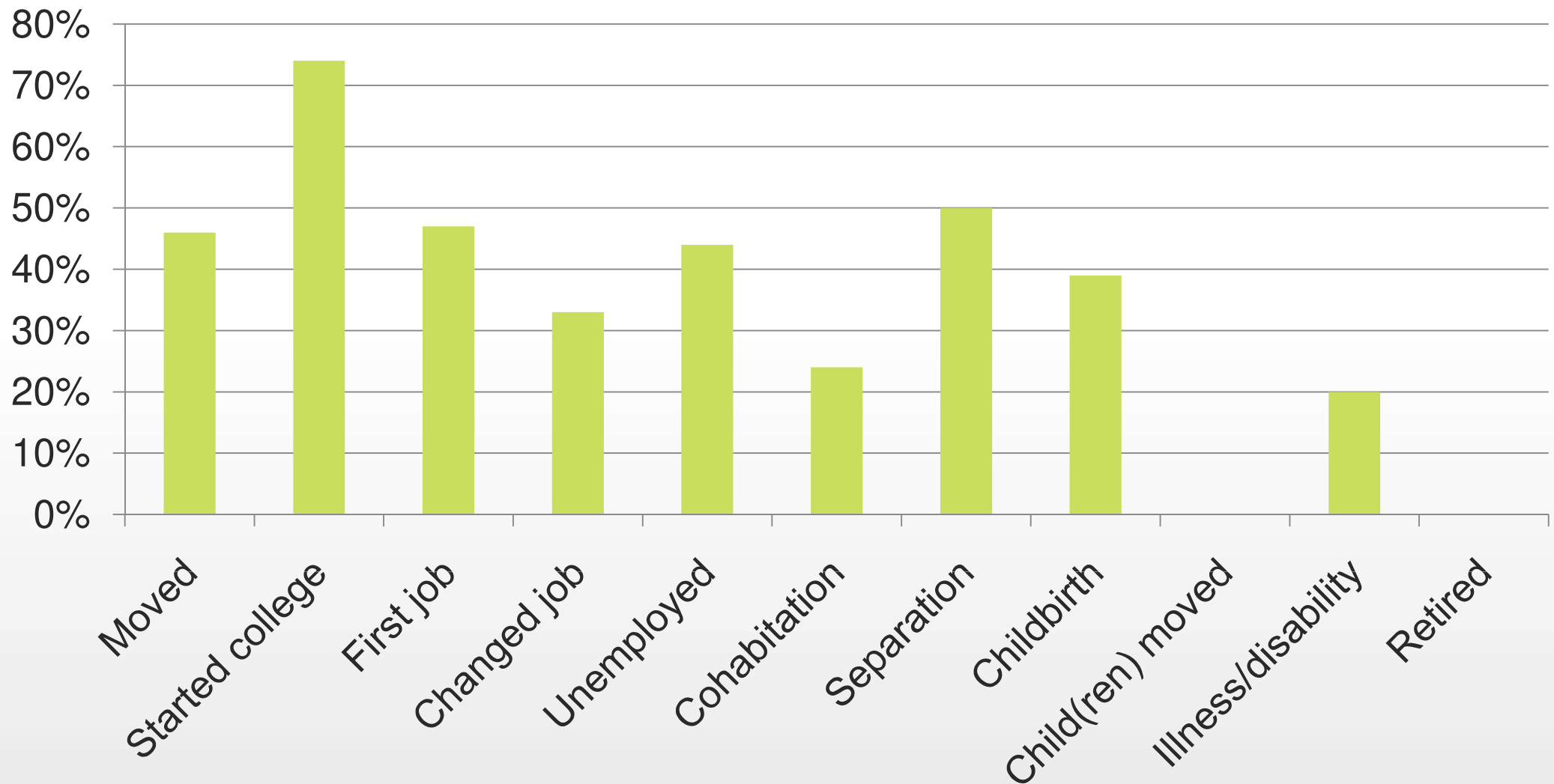
# Travel mode



# Life Events

	n	Av. Age	% who increased mode usage after event				
			Bike	Walk	PT	Driver	Pass
Started college	102	19	31	70	71	14	6
Moved	78	24	28	47	42	37	19
Changed job	69	30	26	37	40	45	12
First job	60	23	13	12	33	55	15
Childbirth	28	31	21	46	14	68	32
Cohabitation	17	29	18	24	18	47	59
Unemployed	9	30	22	67	22	22	22
Illness/disability	5	39	0	20	40	40	40
Separation	4	35	50	0	25	25	25
Retired	4	61	75	75	75	0	0
Child(ren) moved	1	30	0	0	0	100	0

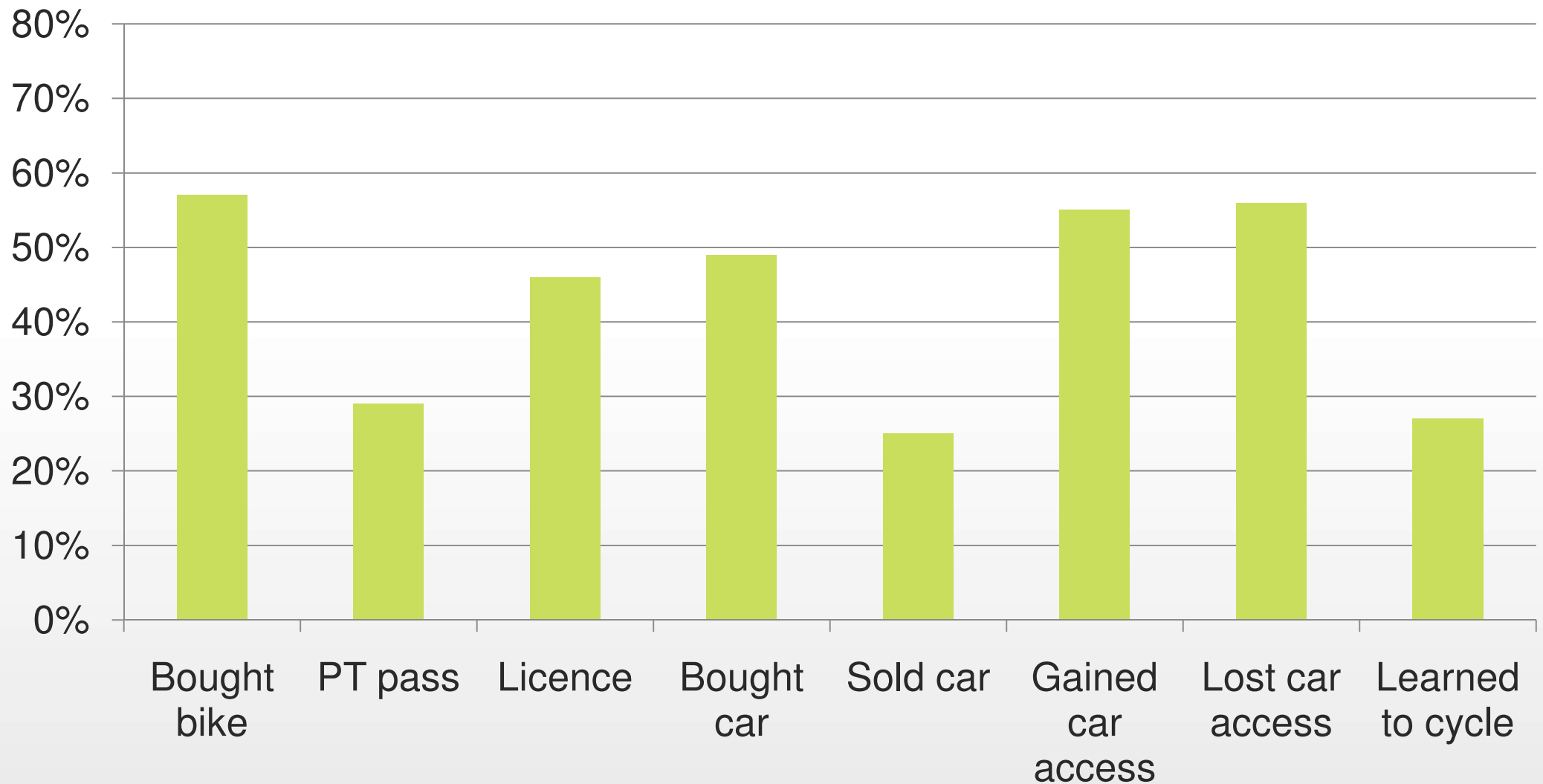
# Life Events & Mode Changes



# Mobility milestones

	n	Av. Age	% who increased mode usage after event				
			Bike	Walk	PT	Driver	Pass
Bought car	69	25	0	1	0	99	14
Bought bike	53	20	100	11	8	2	0
Licence	50	21	8	4	6	92	6
Gained car access	22	25	5	5	0	86	41
Learned to cycle	15	6	93	7	0	0	7
PT pass	14	24	21	57	93	7	7
Lost car access	9	30	44	67	78	22	22
Sold car	8	30	50	63	88	13	25
Mobile device	1	27	0	100	100	0	0
Accident	0						

# Mobility Milestones & Mode Changes



# Conclusions: opportunities for change

- Mobility is a practice that changes across the life-course
- Turning points: life events and mobility milestones
- Though individual mobility biographies linked to wider social and policy context
- Analysis of these events/milestones enables recommendations for sustainability policy

# Questions

[richard.manton@nuigalway.ie](mailto:richard.manton@nuigalway.ie)

