



The Population Project: Implications of Demographic Change for Labrador and the Northern Peninsula

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The Harris Centre



- **Formed September 2004**
- **Goals:**
 - **Assist in the responsible development of the economy and society of Newfoundland and Labrador;**
 - **Stimulate informed discussion of important provincial issues**
- **Approach:**
 - **Brokering research – link MUN researchers with NL groups, supporting active community engagement;**
 - **Active research – undertake research into key issues – The Population Project**

The Population Project: Purpose

- **NL undergoing demographic transition**
 - **Population decline, aging, relocating**
- **Govt. of NL – Population Growth Strategy 2015**
 - **Focus – stabilizing, growing population**
- **Population Project – Implications of demographic change**
 - **Focus – adaptation, innovation → policy recommendations**



The Population Project: Research Process

- **Funding:**
 - Sources - private and non-government sectors – \$500,000/five years, \$400,000 secured to date
- **Process:**
 - Demographic Projections modeled – regional level
 - Issue identification – regional consultations, advisory boards – projects defined
 - Researcher identification, invitation, award
 - Results – dissemination, discussion → policy recommendations to government



Progress to Date



- **Labrador**
 - **IGA Funding for IGA regions**
 - **Population Projections completed for Labrador**
(<https://www.mun.ca.harriscentre/PopulationProject>)
 - **Consultation in Happy Valley-Goose Bay Fall 2015**
 - **Issues identified, five projects defined – four underway, one at proposal stage**
 - **Public service delivery**
 - **Attraction/retention of professionals**
 - **Assessment of Temporary Foreign Worker policies**
 - **Seniors health care**
 - **Meeting Labrador housing needs**
 - **Consultations (video conference) planned for December 2106**

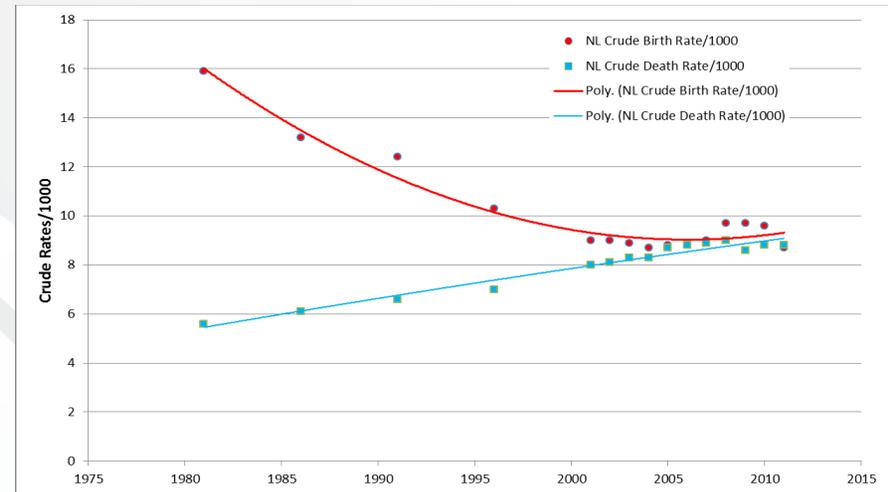
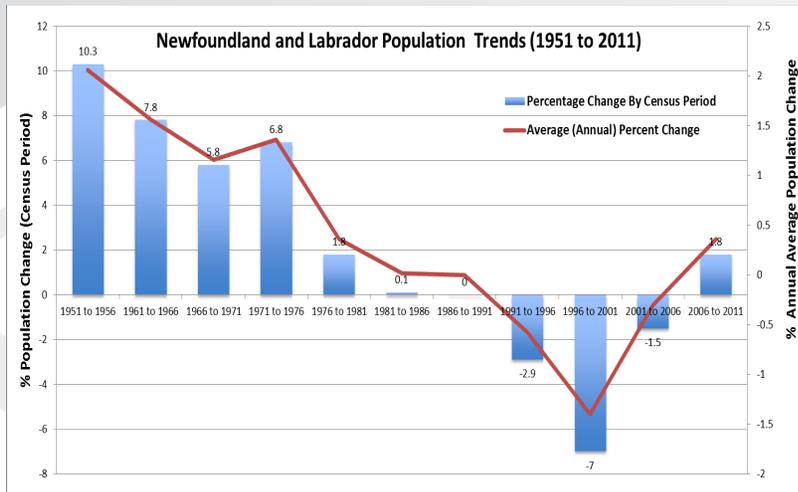


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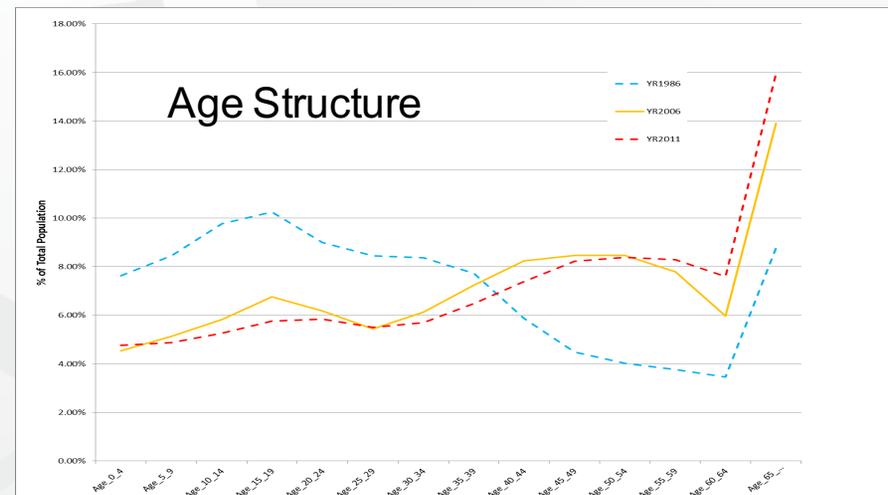


- **Newfoundland**
 - **Private/non-profit sector funding - ongoing**
 - **Population Projections completed for Newfoundland**
 - **planned publication December 2016**

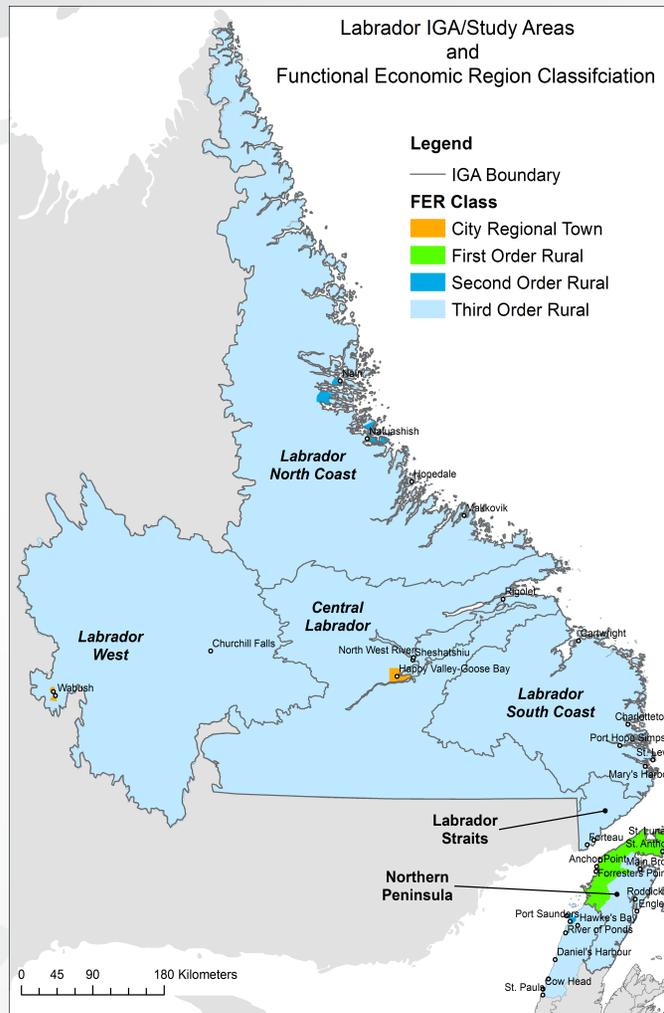
NL Population: Past Trends



Net Migration 1971-2014



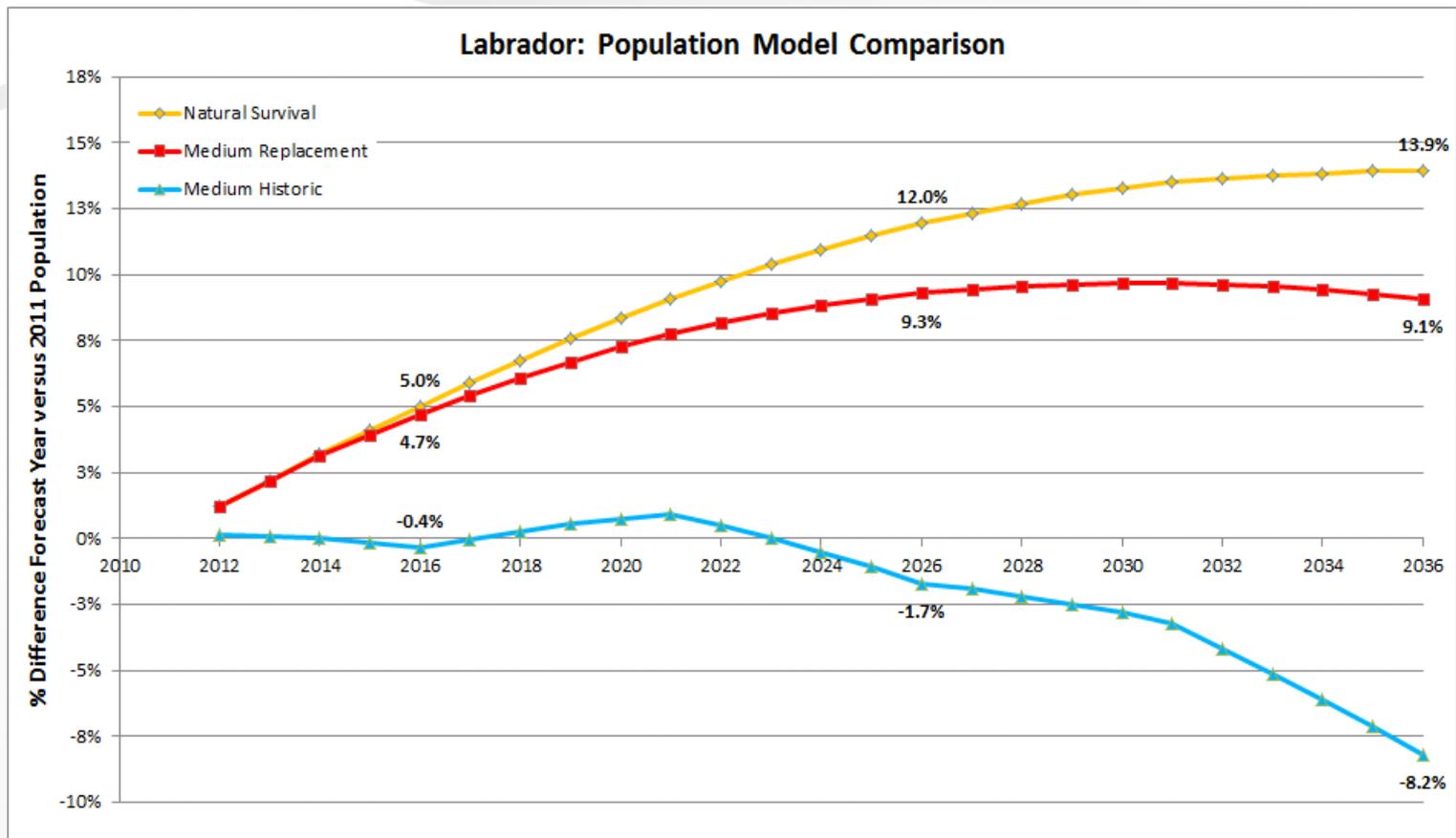
Population Projections: Labrador



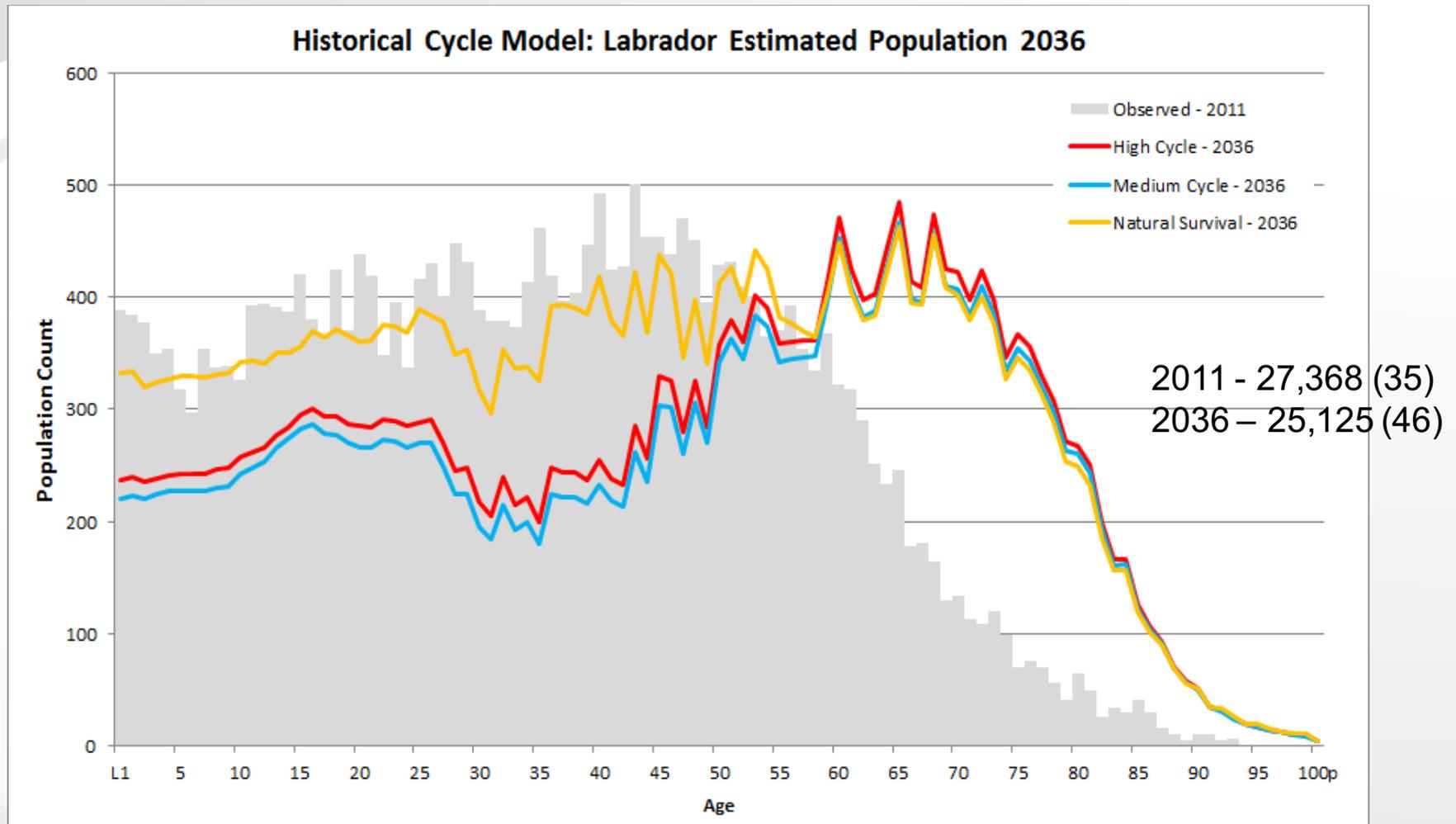
IGA regions

- Labrador North Coast
- Labrador South Coast
- Labrador Straits
- Central Labrador
- Labrador West
- Northern Peninsula

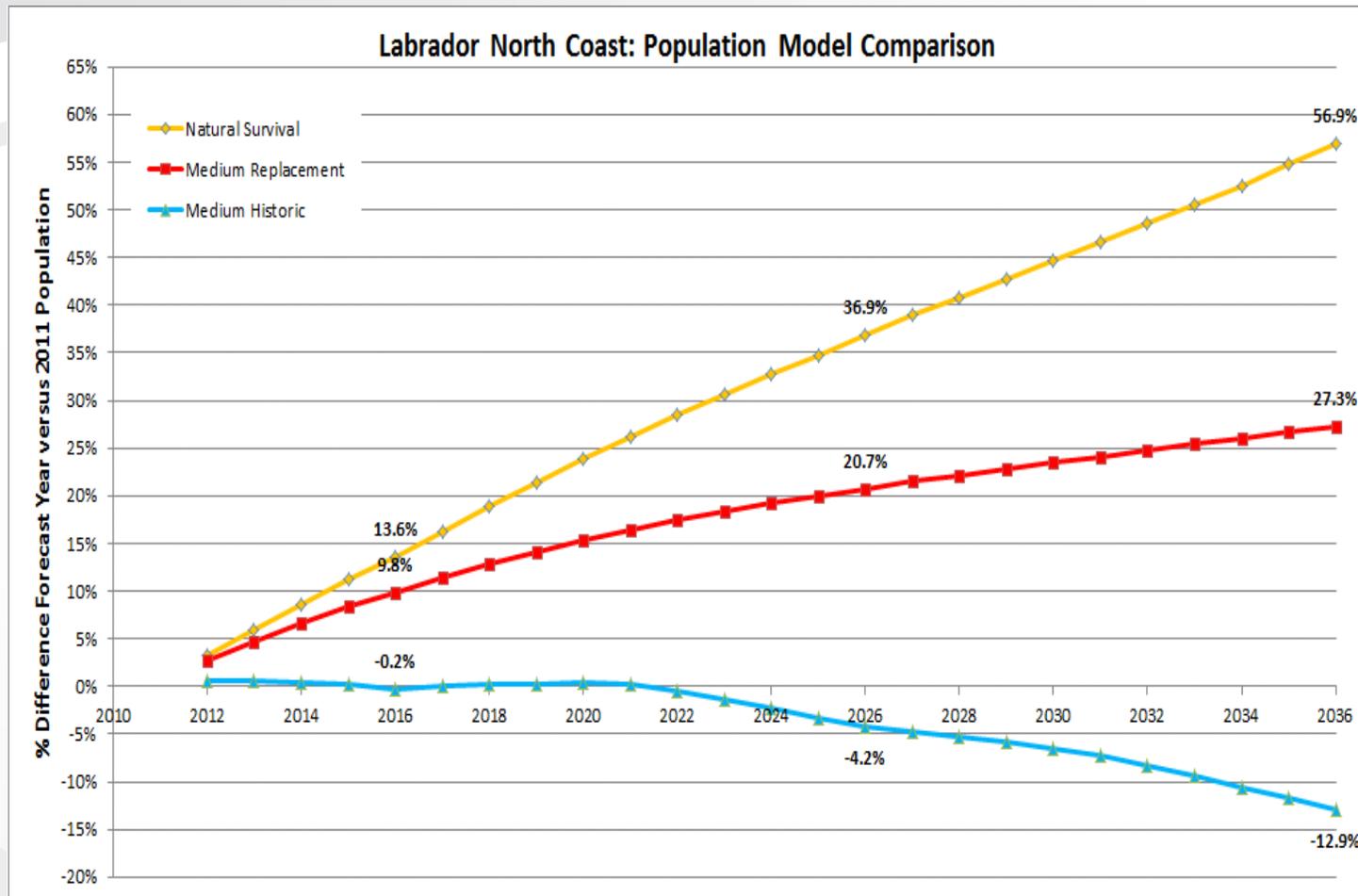
Labrador Population Projections 2011-2036



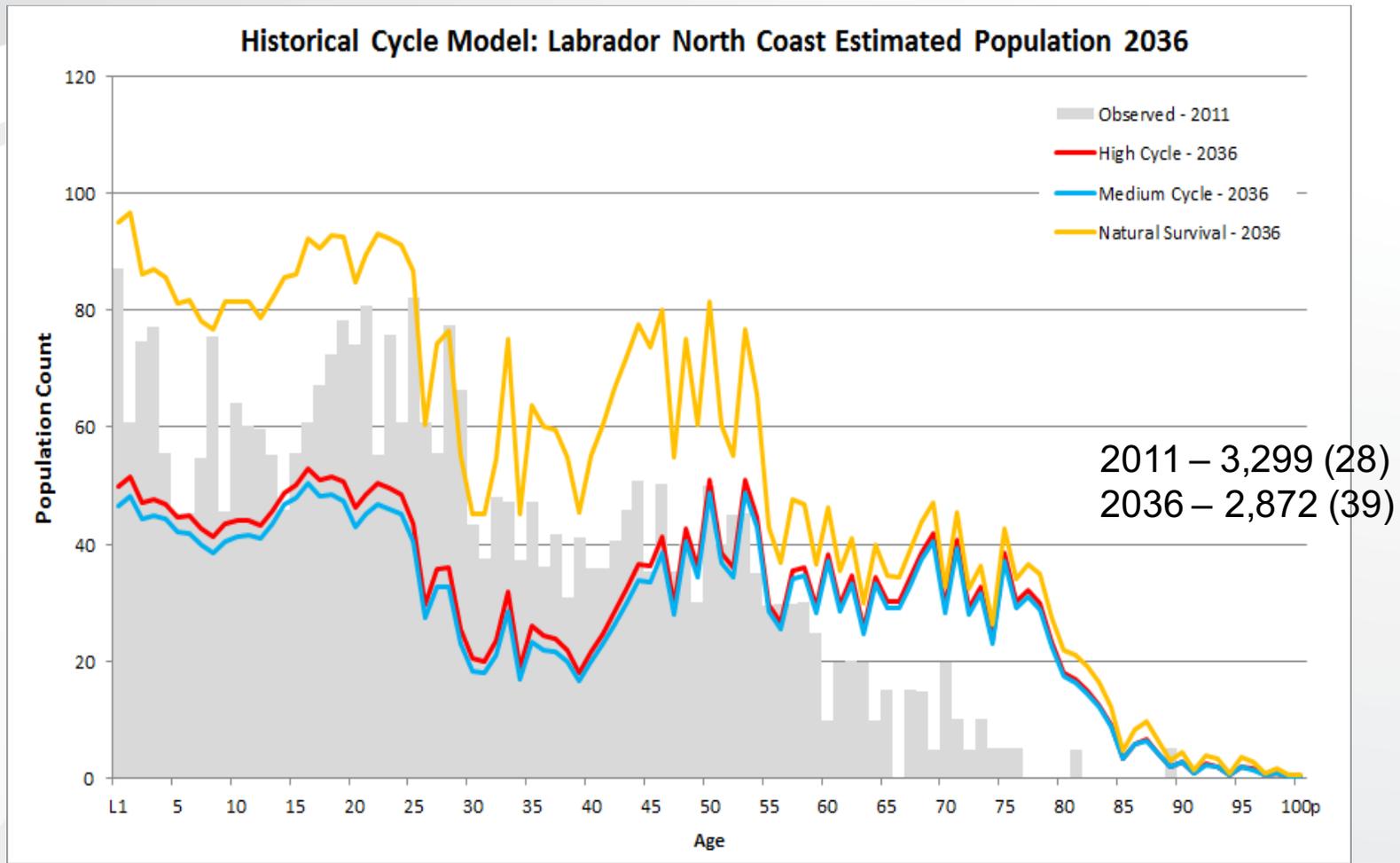
Labrador Age Structure: 2011, 2036



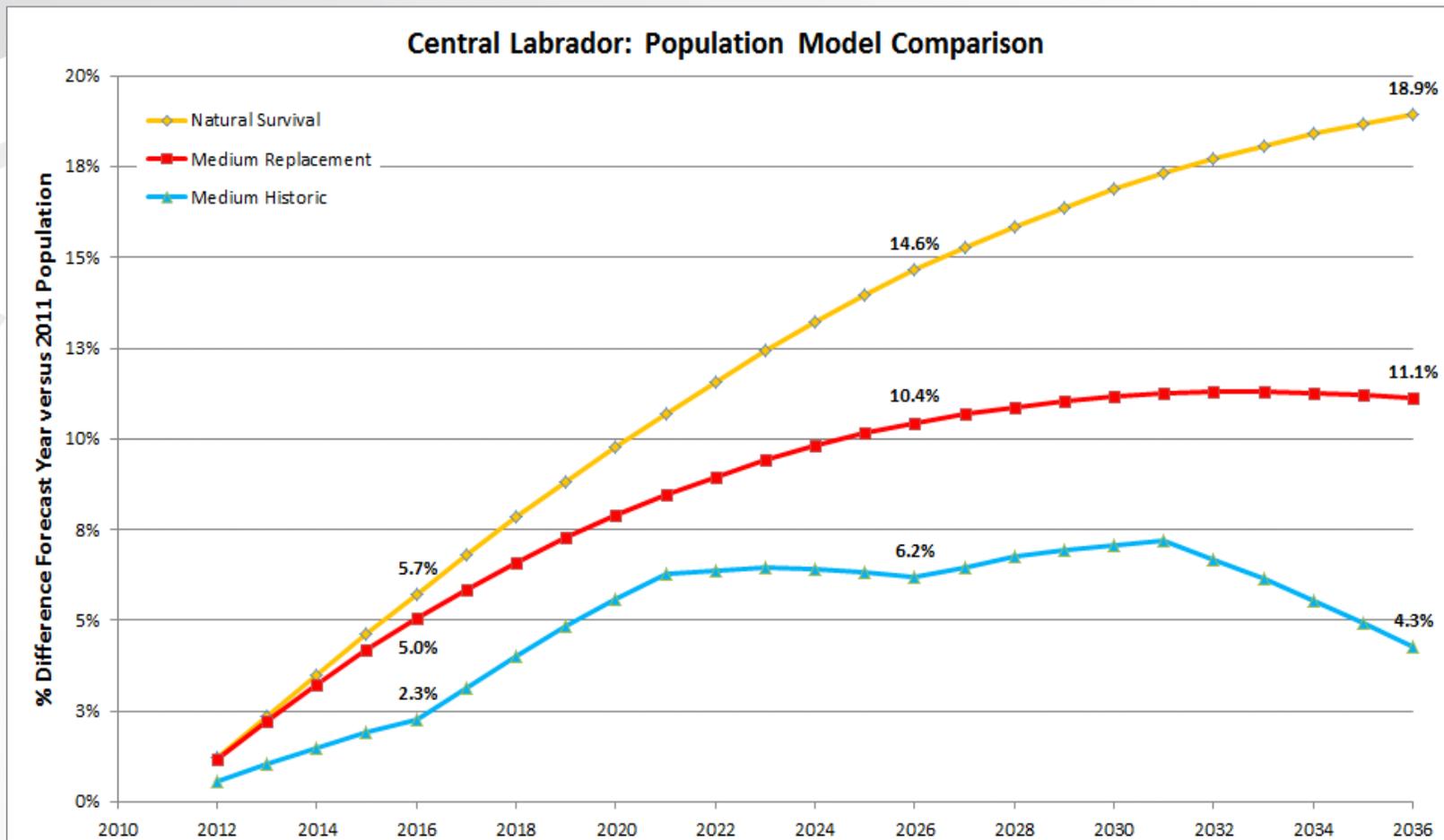
Labrador North Coast: Population 2011-2036



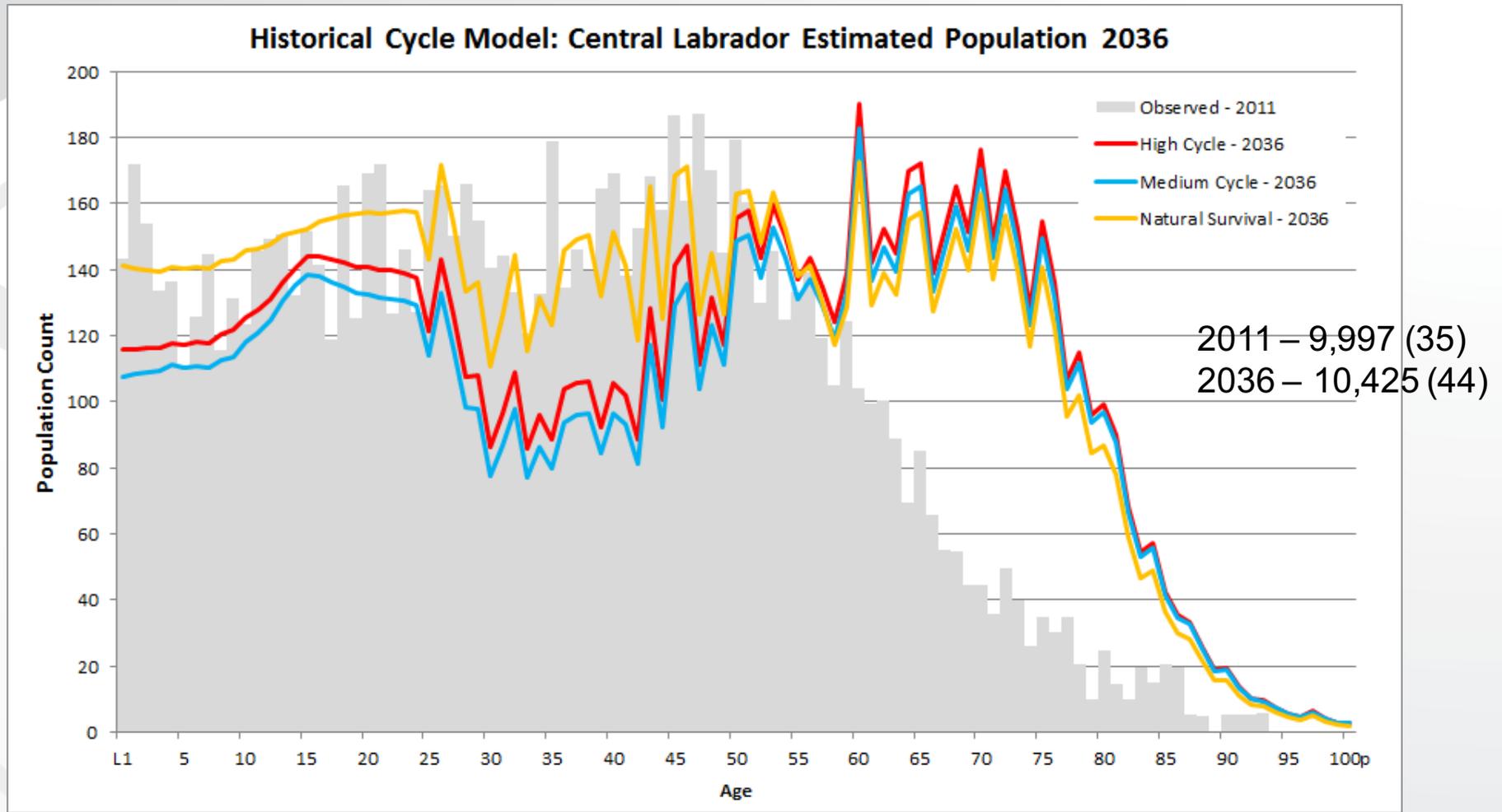
Labrador North Coast: Age structure 2011, 2036



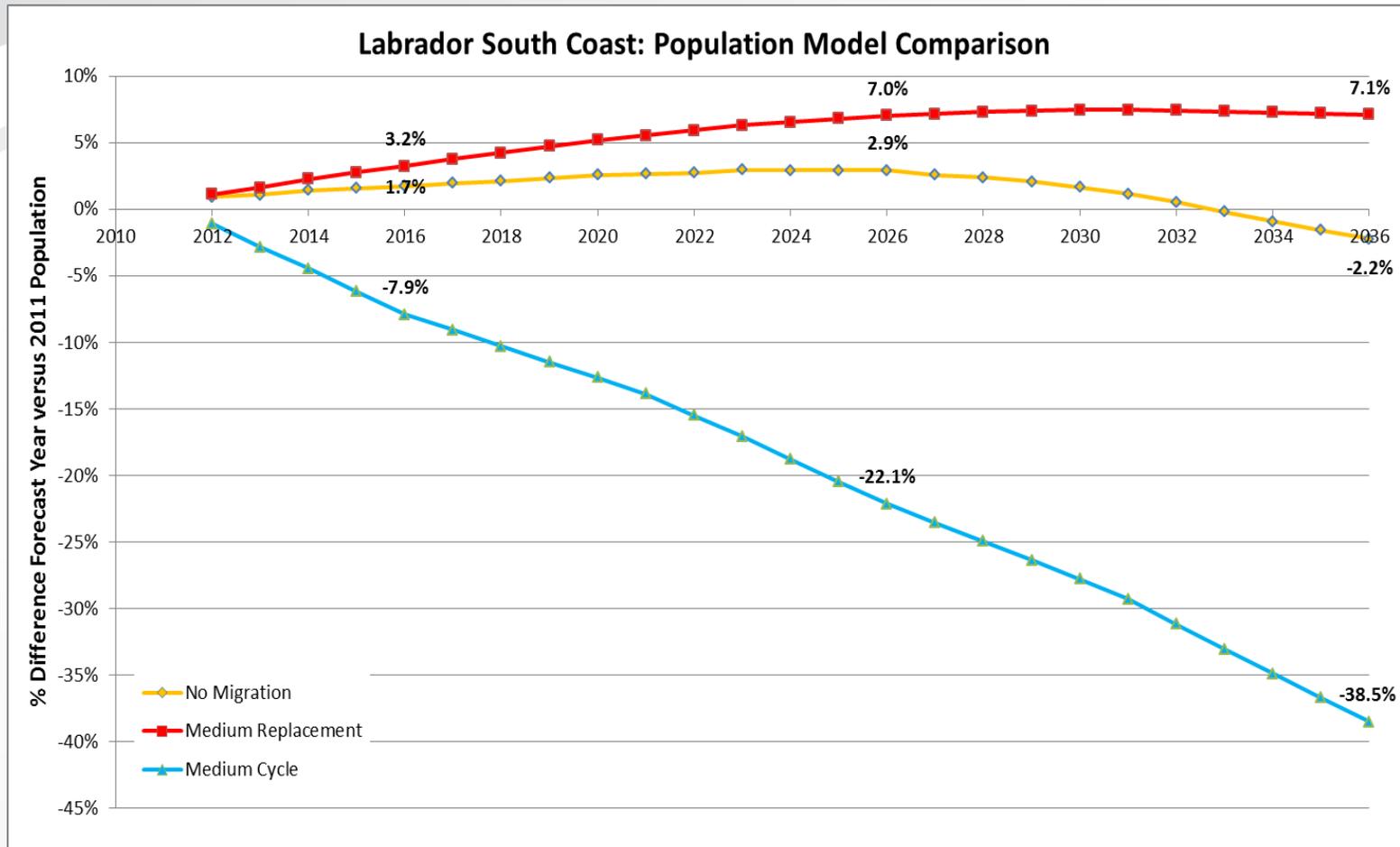
Central Labrador: Population 2011-2036



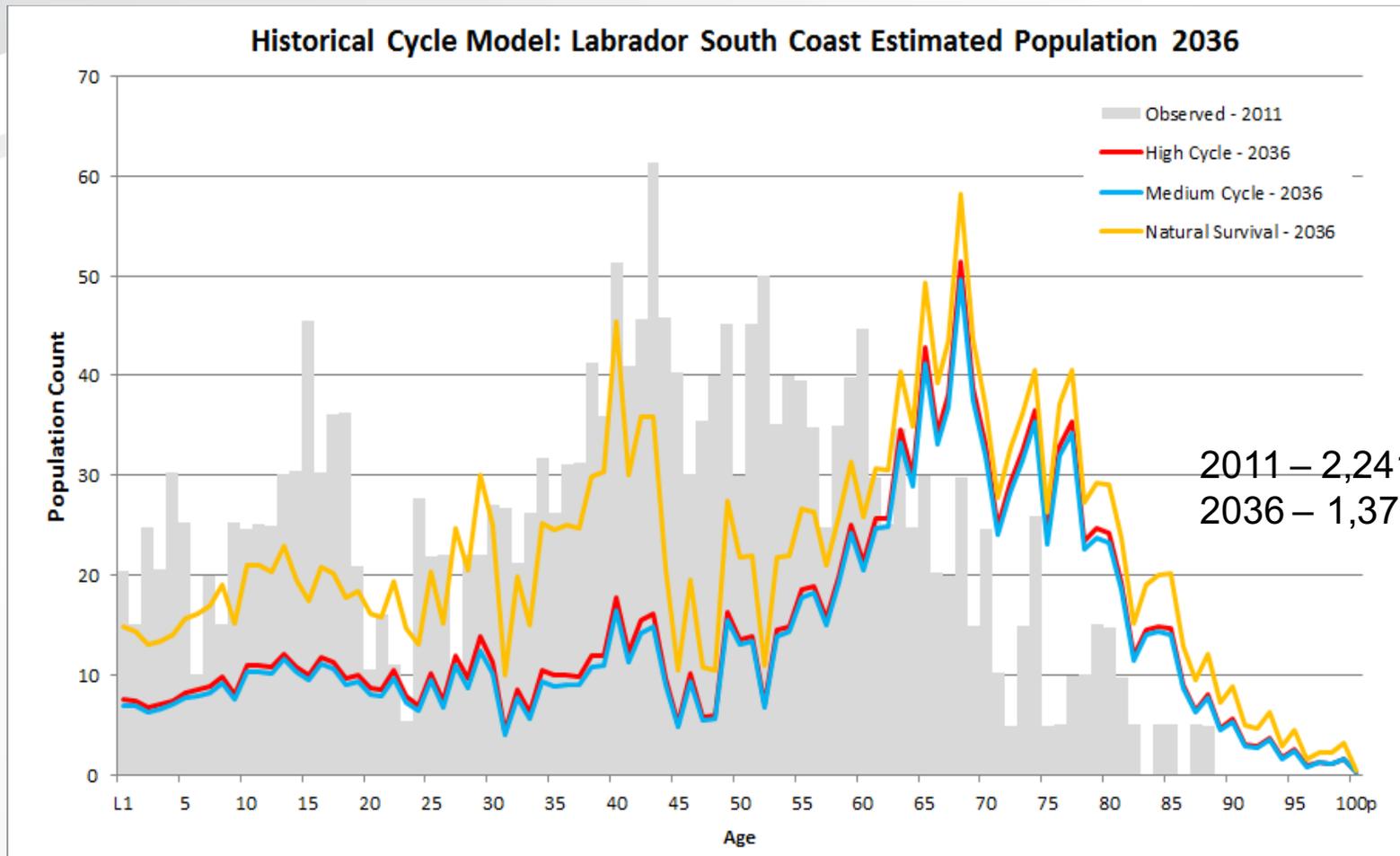
Central Labrador Age Structure: 2011, 2036



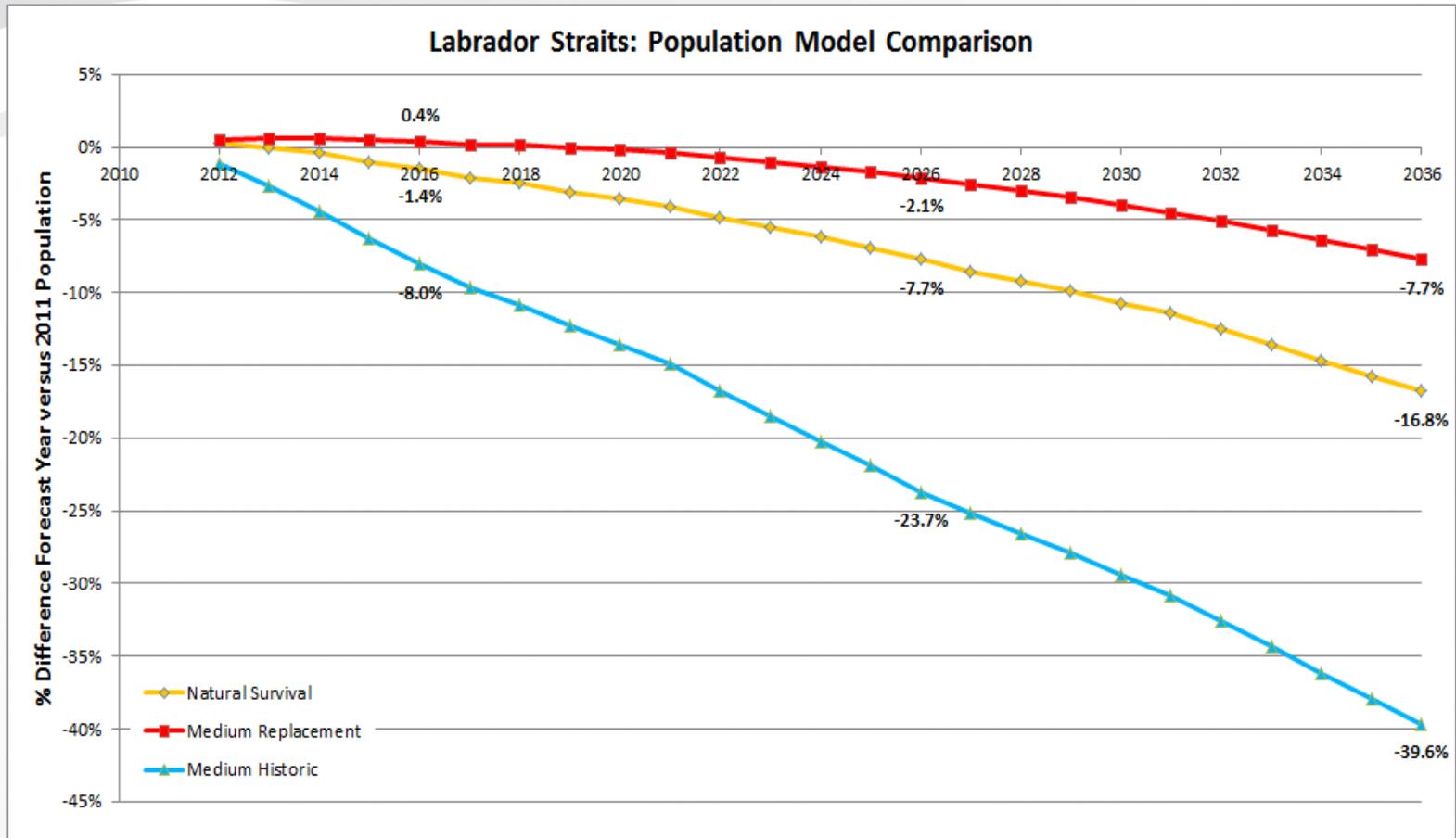
Labrador South Coast: Population 2011-2036



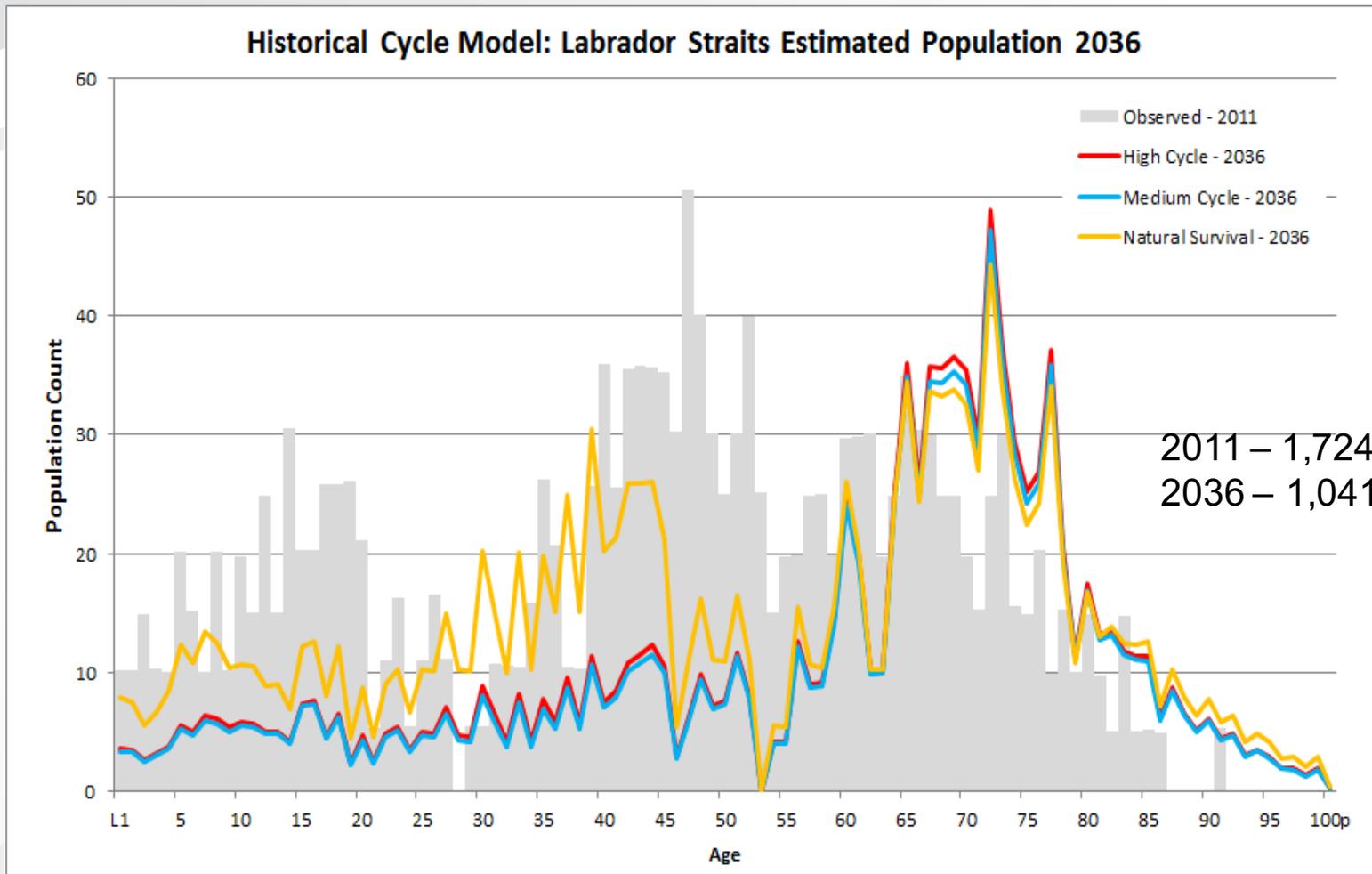
Labrador South Coast: Population 2011-2036



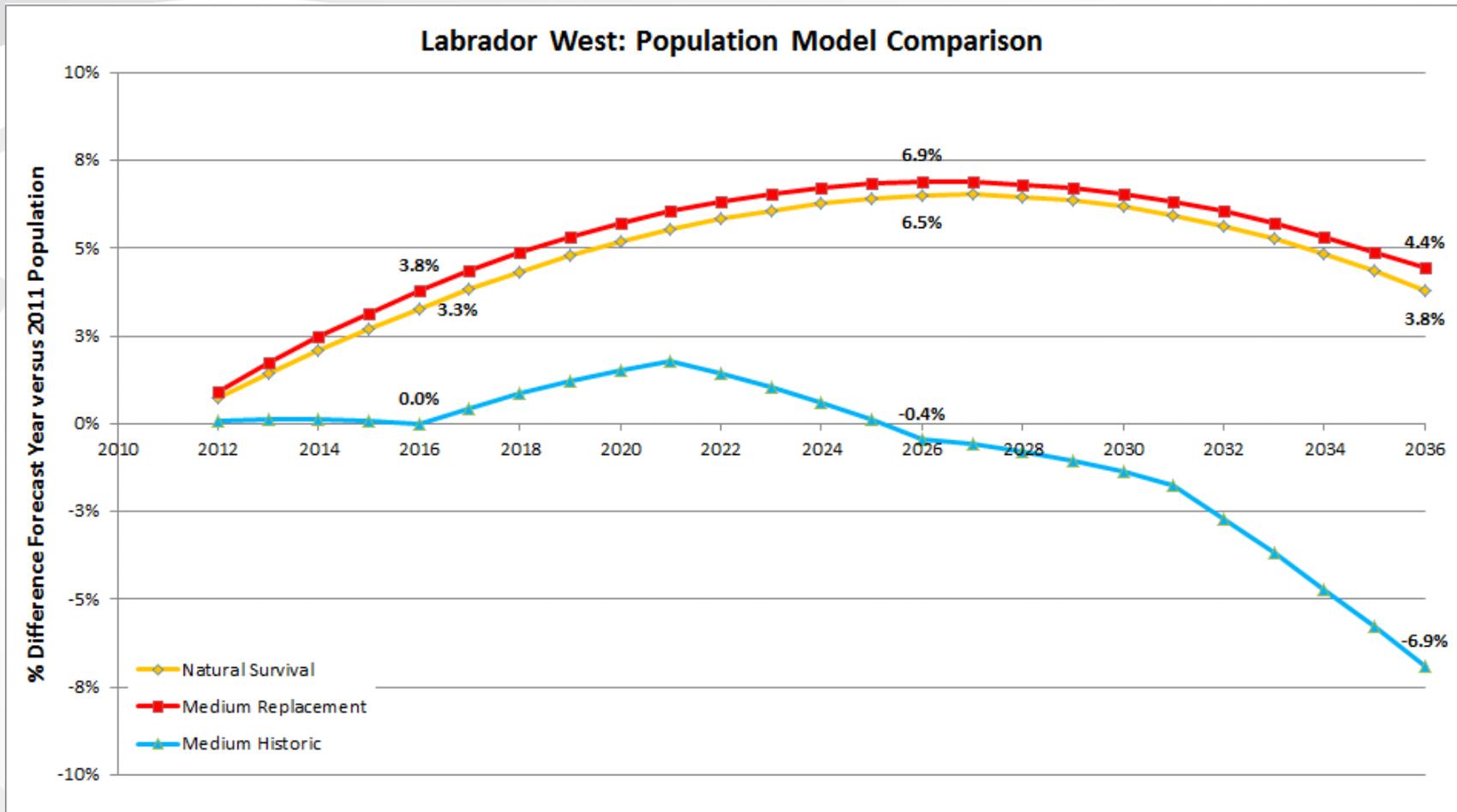
Labrador Straits: Population 2011-2036



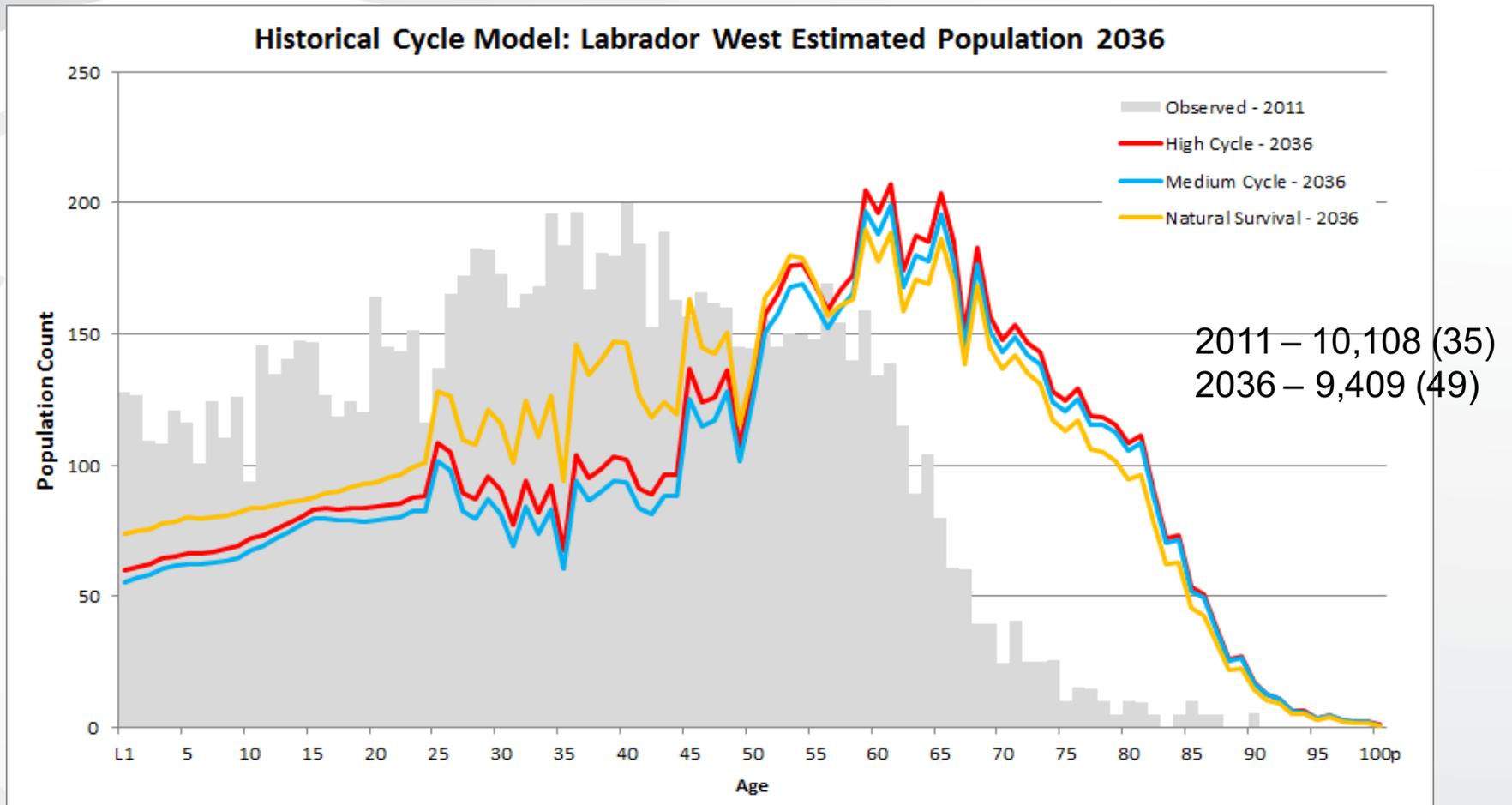
Labrador Straits: Age Structure 2011, 2036



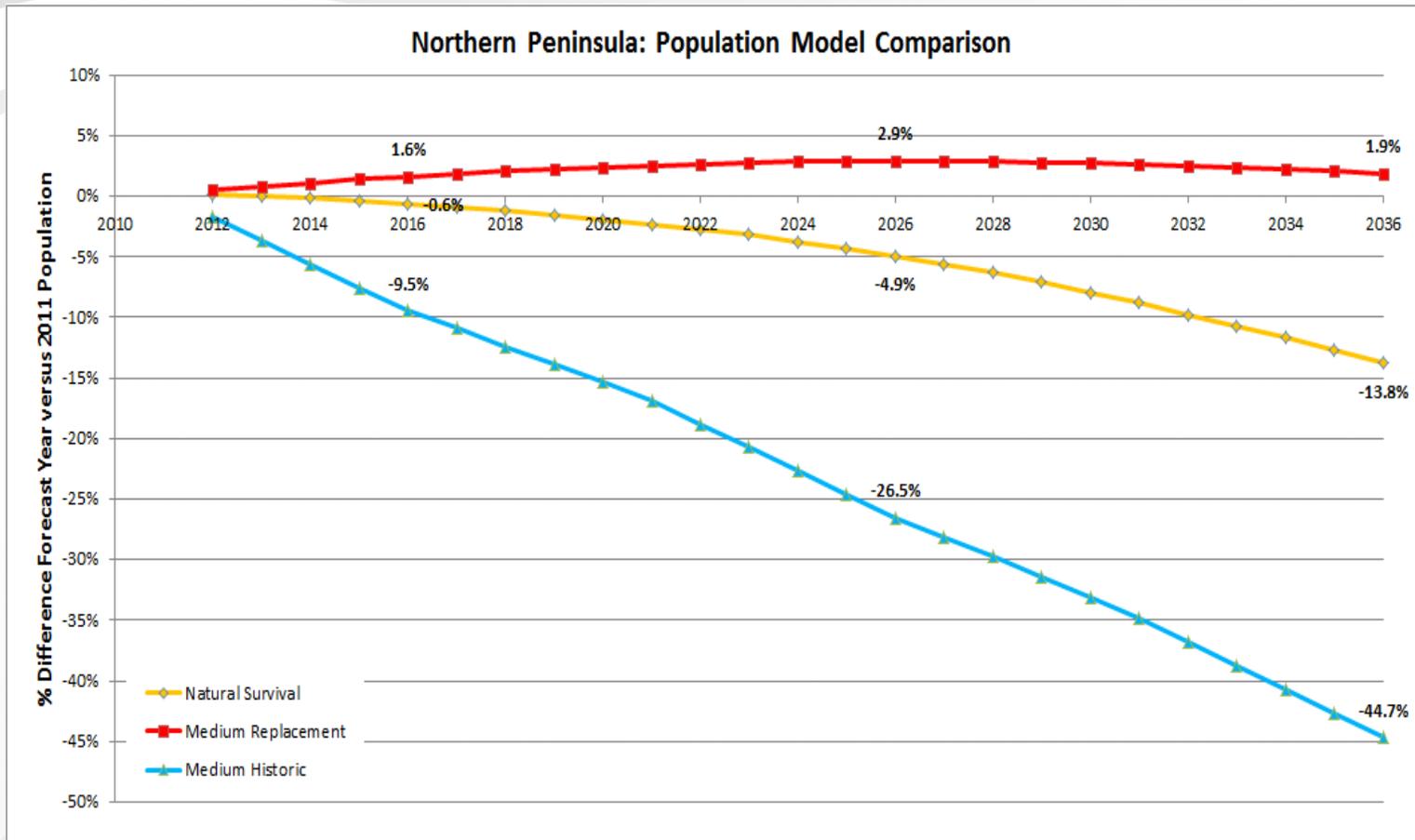
Labrador West: Population 2011-2036



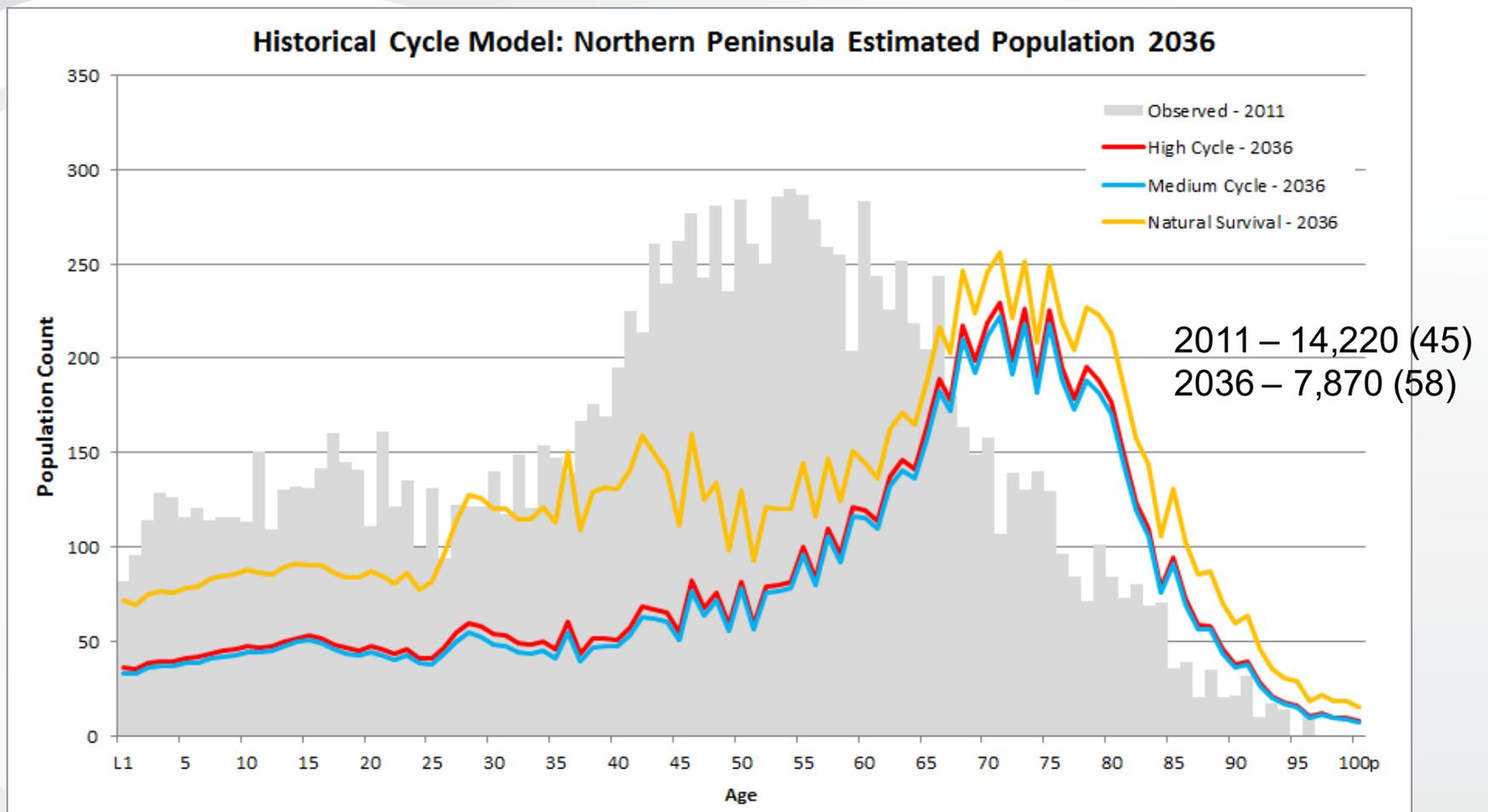
Labrador West: Age Structure 2011, 2036



Northern Peninsula Population: 2011-2036



Northern Peninsula Age Structure: 2011, 2036



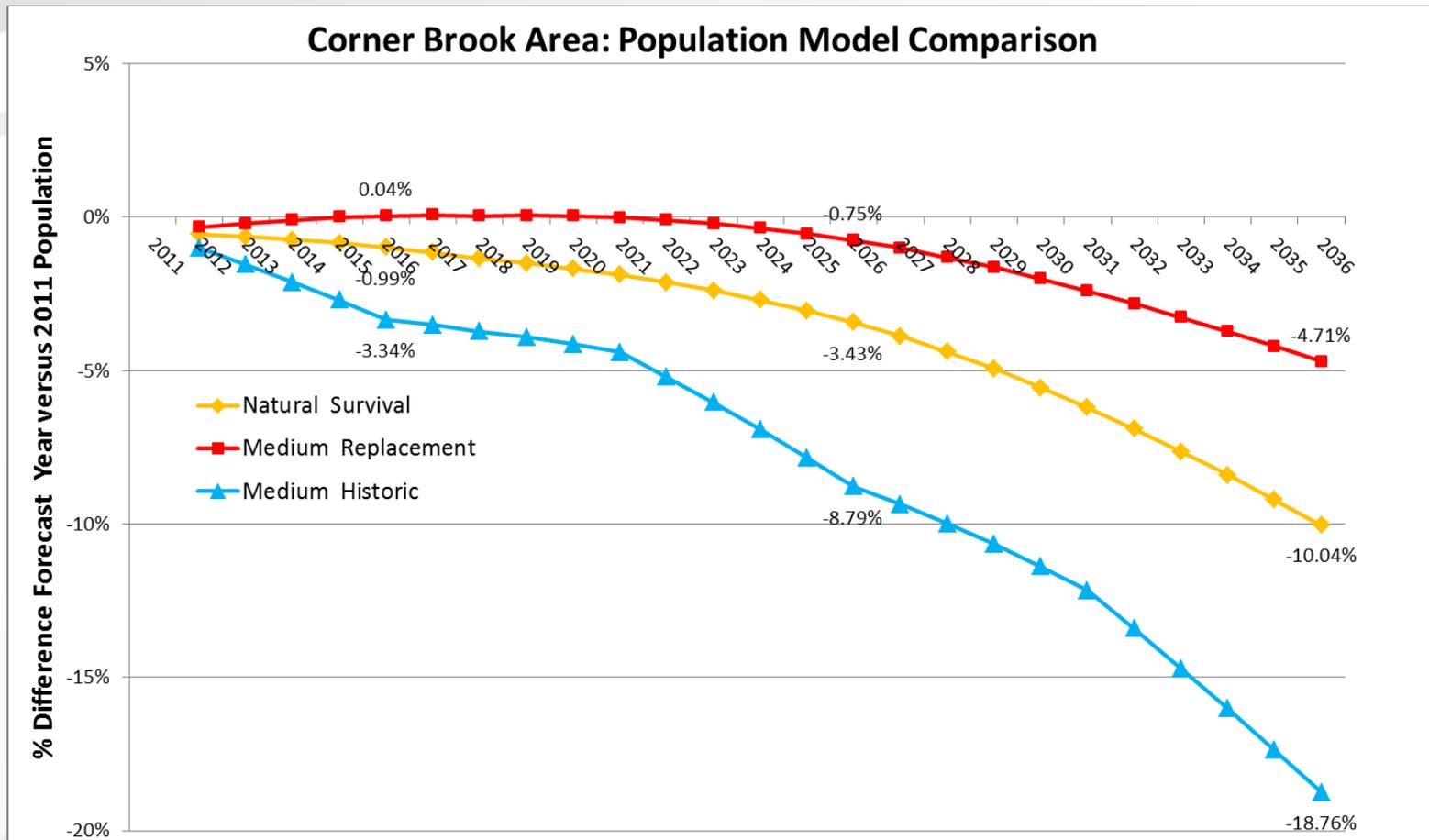
- **Population**
 - expected to decline 2011-2036 for most regions
- **Regional differences – birth rates, out-migration**
 - North Coast (-): high birth rates, moderate out-migration
 - Central (+): high birth rates, moderate in-migration
 - Straits (-): low birth rates, high out-migration
- **Replacement levels**
 - essential if labour force is to be sustained
 - challenging to achieve



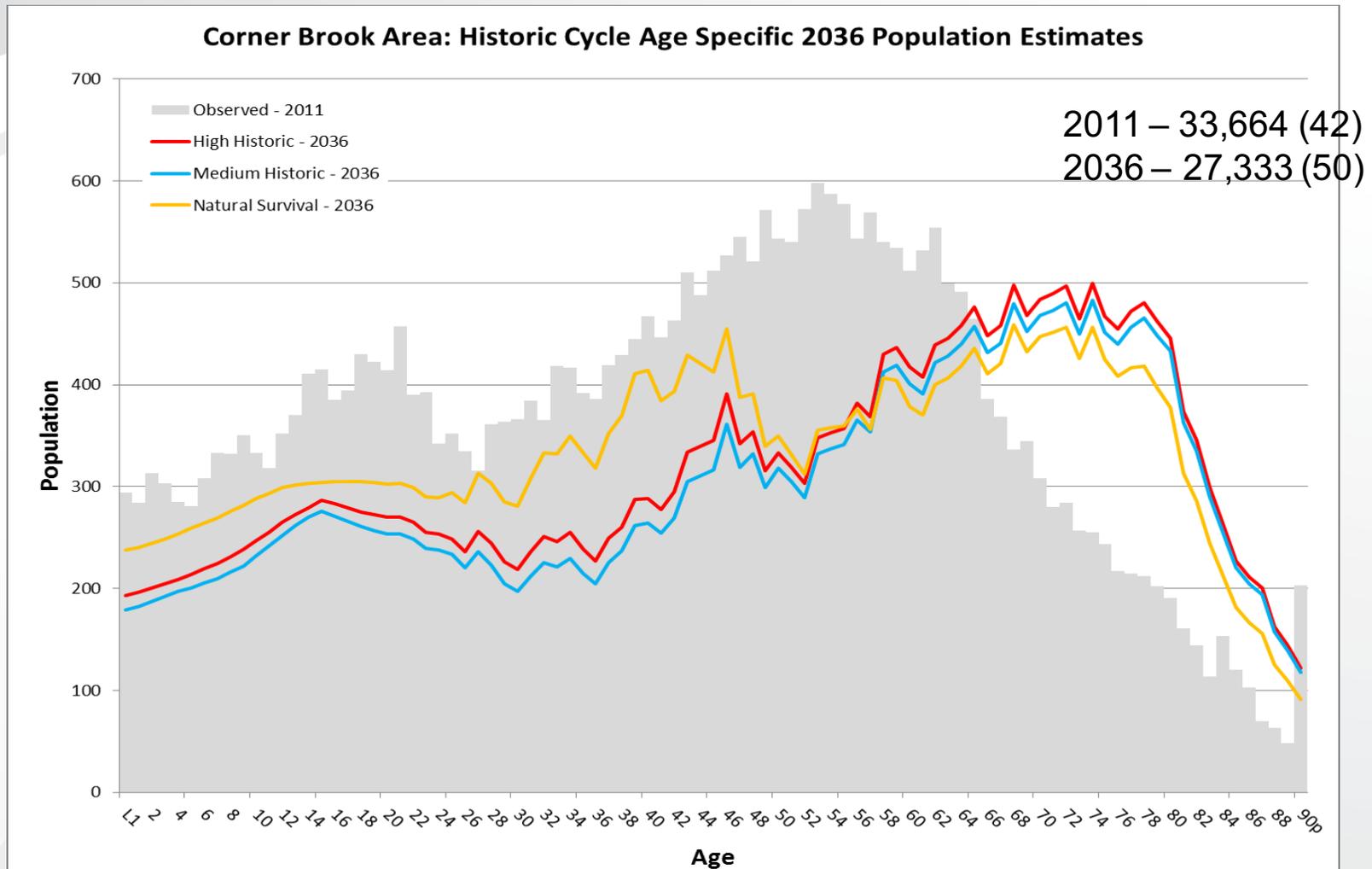
What is to be done?

- **Issues not unique to NL – can learn from elsewhere**
- **Options:**
 - **continue as usual – unaffordable**
 - **do nothing – unacceptable**
 - **act strategically – politically demanding**
 - **Realistic – educate public – winners and losers**
 - **Selective – can't save/maintain everything/where**
 - **Innovative – different, efficient, cost effective, collaborative**
 - **Consultative – engage public in decision process**
 - **Timely – act quickly, decisively, now**

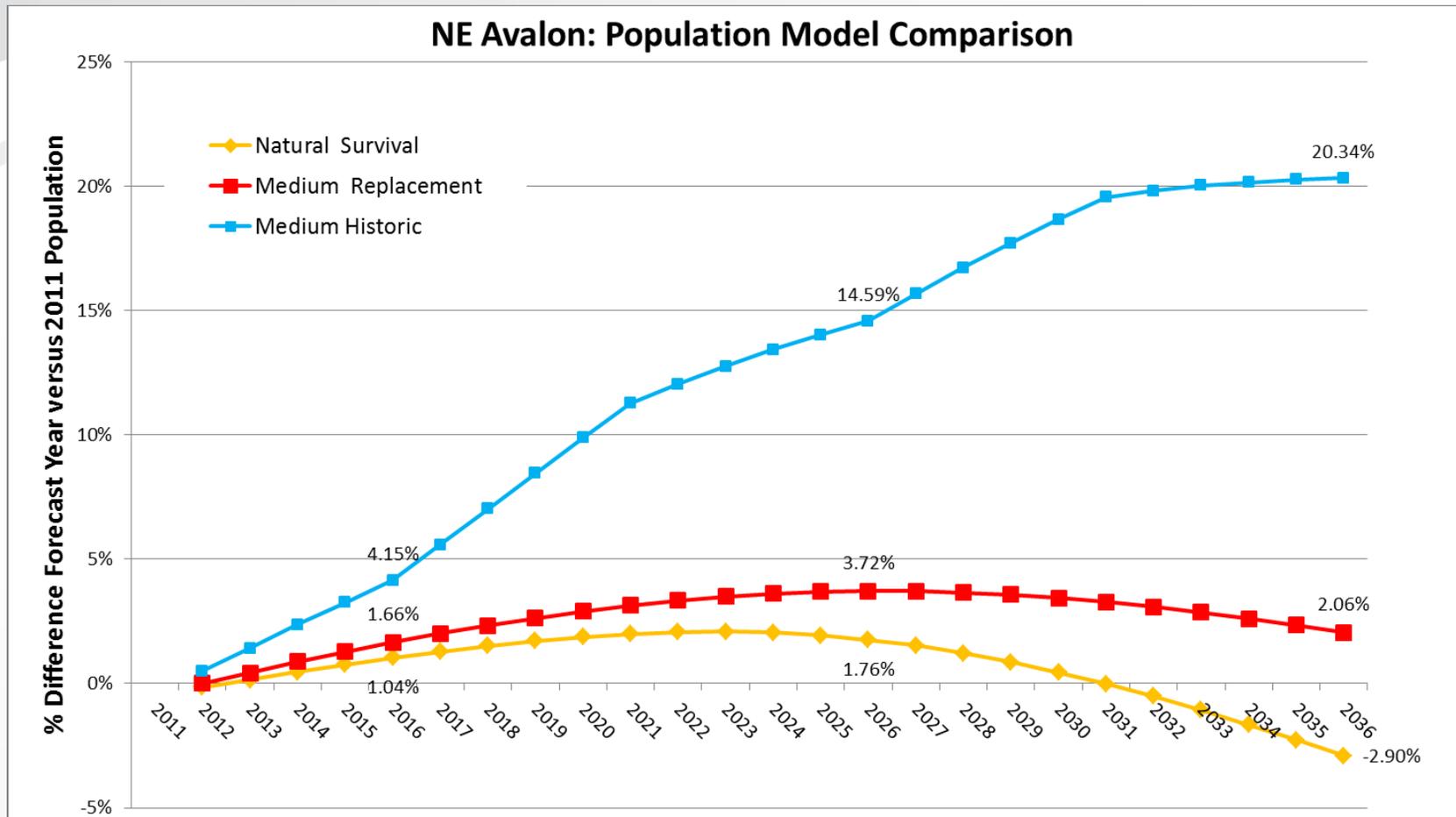
Corner Brook: Population 2011-2036



Corner Brook: Age Structure 2011, 2036



NE Avalon: Population 2011-2036



NE Avalon: Age Structure 2011, 2036

