



**2024**  
**DISTRIBUTION**  
CONFERENCE

**Winning  
Together**

# Capitalizing on Life Insurance and Annuity Sales Growth in an Evolving Distribution Landscape

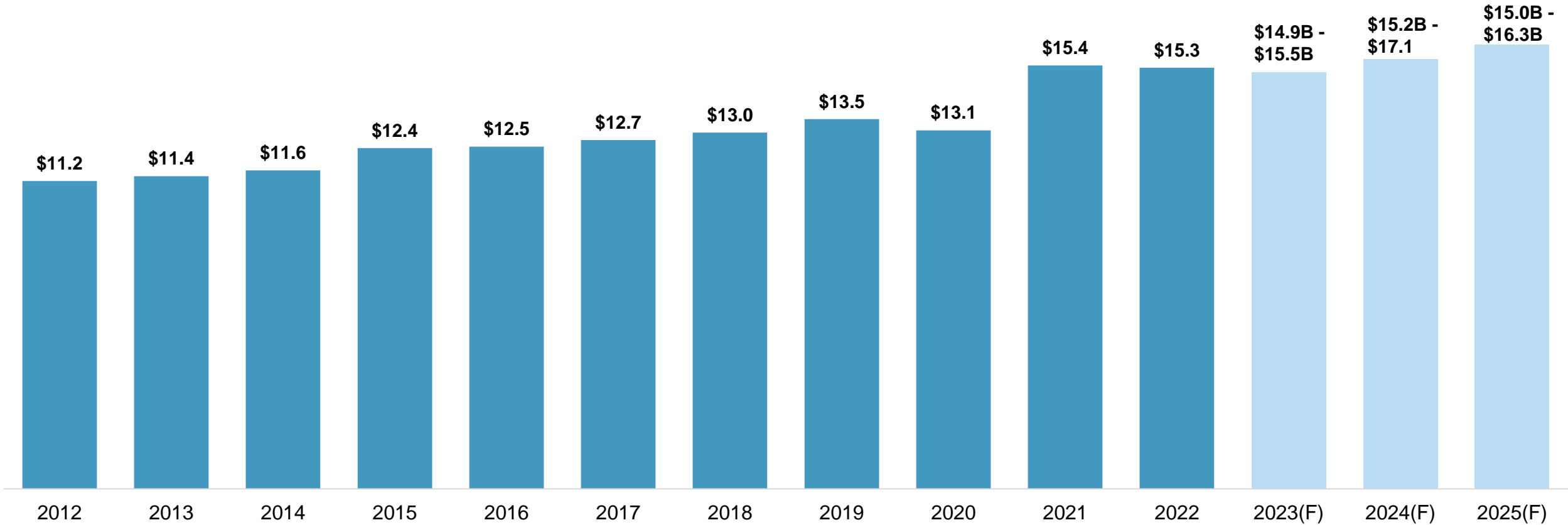


**Bryan Hodgens**

*Interim Head of Research*  
LIMRA and LOMA

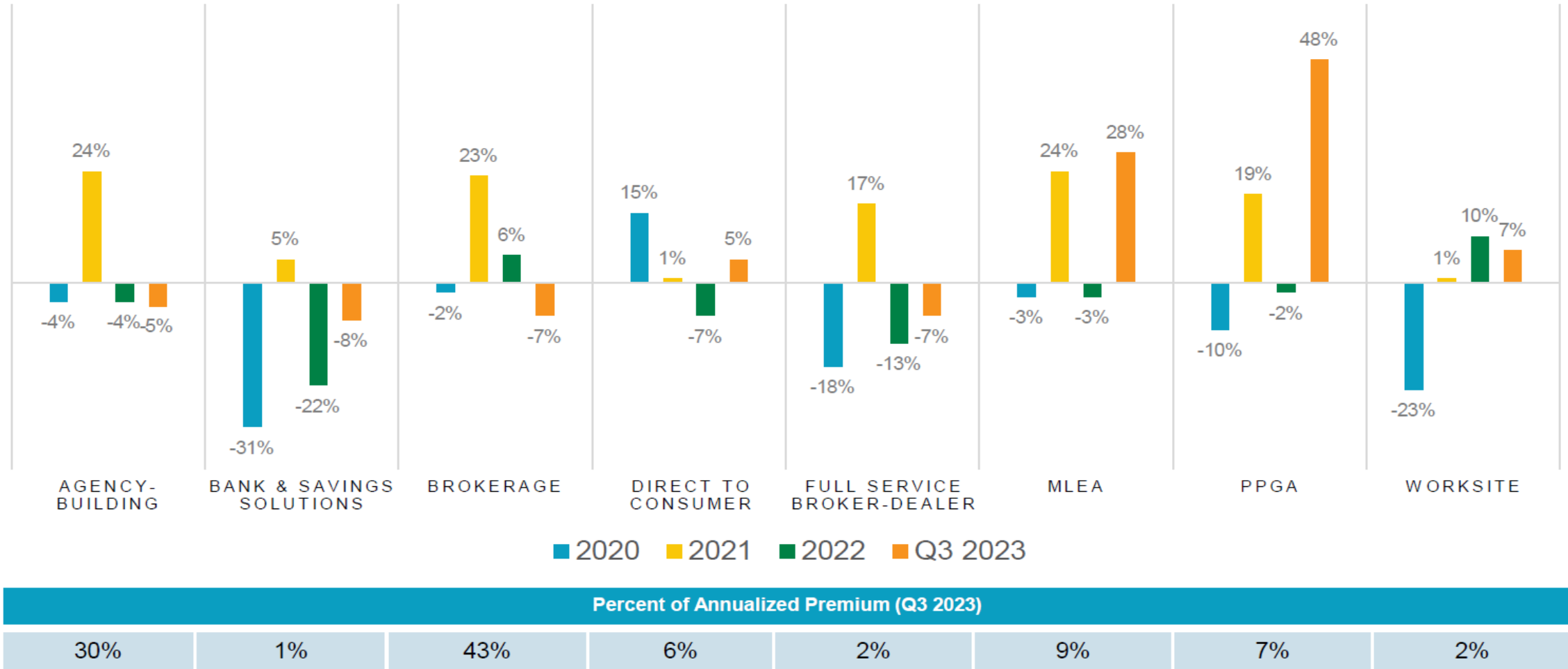
# Overall Life Insurance Sales Trends and Forecast

## Annualized Premium Sales (\$Billions)



Source: Individual Life Insurance Sales Survey, LIMRA, 2023

# U.S. Life Insurance Growth Rates By Channel



Source: Individual Life Insurance Sales Survey, LIMRA, 2023

# Life Insurance Need Gap

**41%**

of Americans live with a  
life insurance need-gap








**101**

million adult consumers

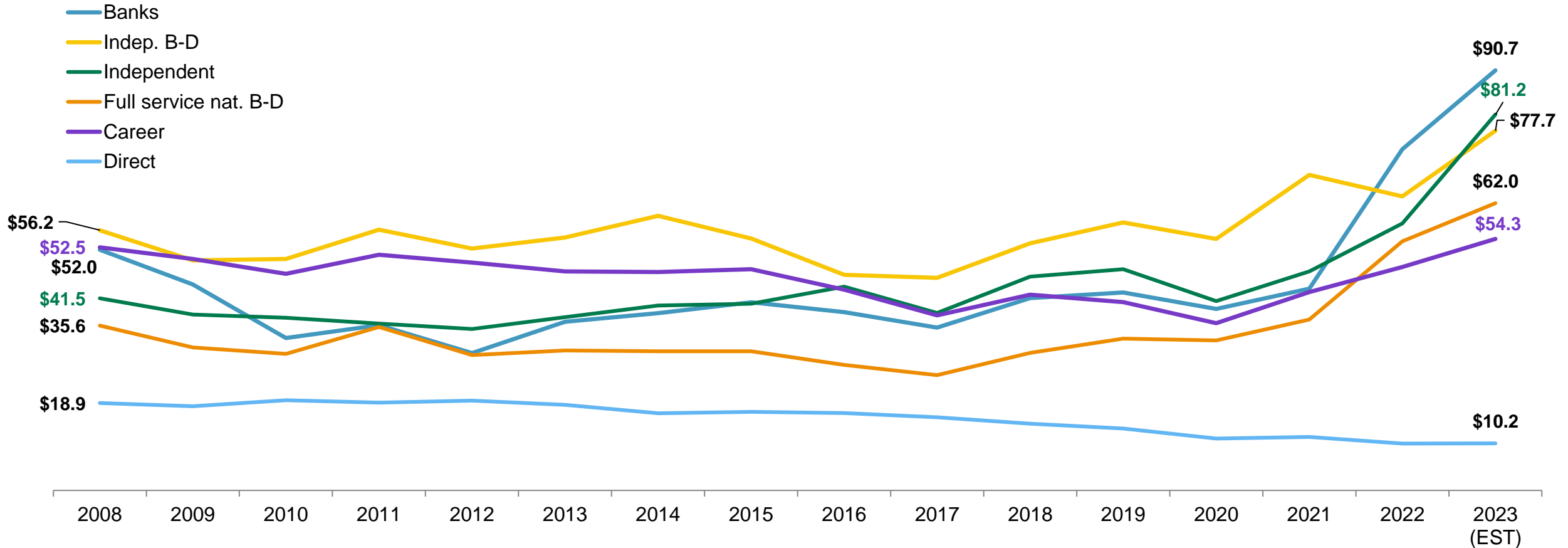
Source: 2023 Insurance Barometer Study, LIMRA and Life Happens

# A Record Year for All Spread-Based Annuity Products

FRD	FIA	RILA	DIA	SPIA
				
\$164.9	\$95.6	\$47.4	\$4.1	\$13.2
↑ 46%	↑ 20%	↑ 15%	↑ 96%	↑ 43%

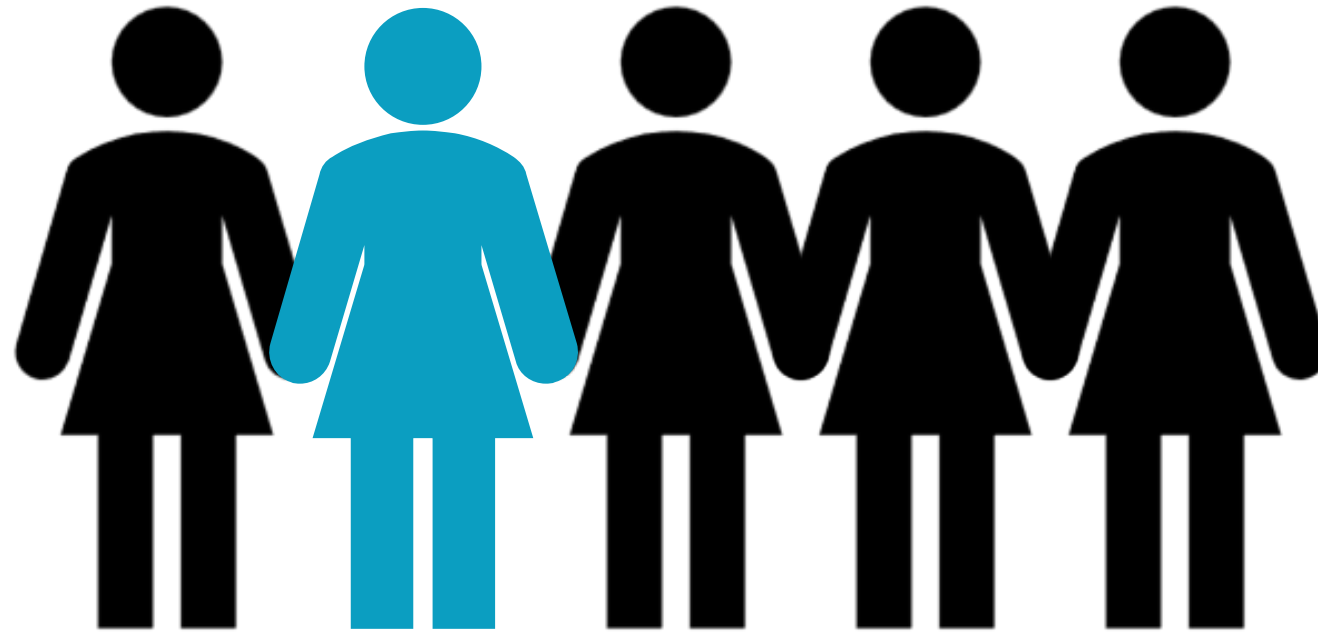
# Banks Lead in Annuity Sales – Second Year in a Row

## Annuity Sales by Distribution Channel



Source: LIMRA and LOMA, *U.S. Individual Annuities Survey*  
Dollars in billions

# One out of 5 Retirement Investors Households Own an Annuity

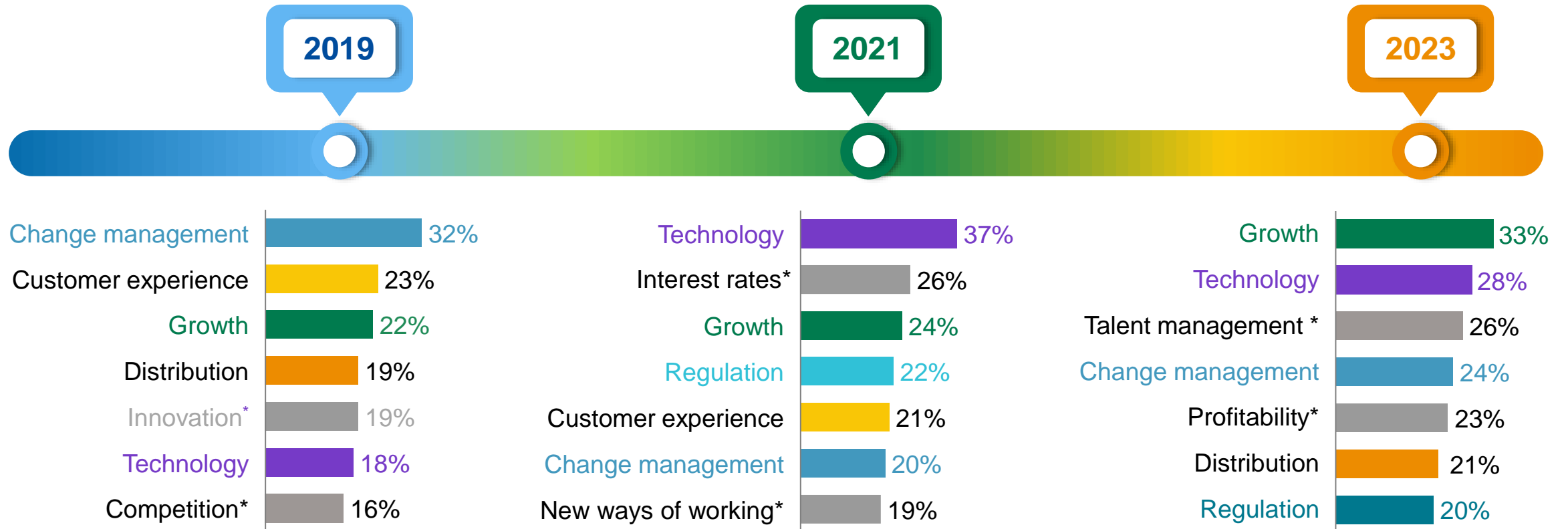


Source: In Focus: Annuity Owners and Non-Owners, LIMRA, 2023.



# Growth Is the Top Challenge for Life Insurance Companies

## Top Challenges by Year



Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023.

Note: New ways of working was added as a category in 2021.

\*The challenge appears only once among the top challenges since 2019.

# Top Five Growth Opportunities

Insurers should take advantage of five opportunities to address growth and other key challenges

1

Personalizing the journey

2

Helping advisors to help clients

3

Modernizing technology front-to-back

4

Partnering to accelerate innovation

5

Attracting and retaining talent

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey:  
Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023.

# Personalizing the Journey

## Leading Carriers Are Enabling Data-Driven Personalization

The customer experience — and the critical capabilities that enable it — will drive growth.



Simplifying the customer journey will enhance the customer experience and improve the conversation rate.



74%

About 74% of respondents view **data science and data analytics** as crucial to success



66%

About 66% of respondents view **customer service technologies** as crucial to success

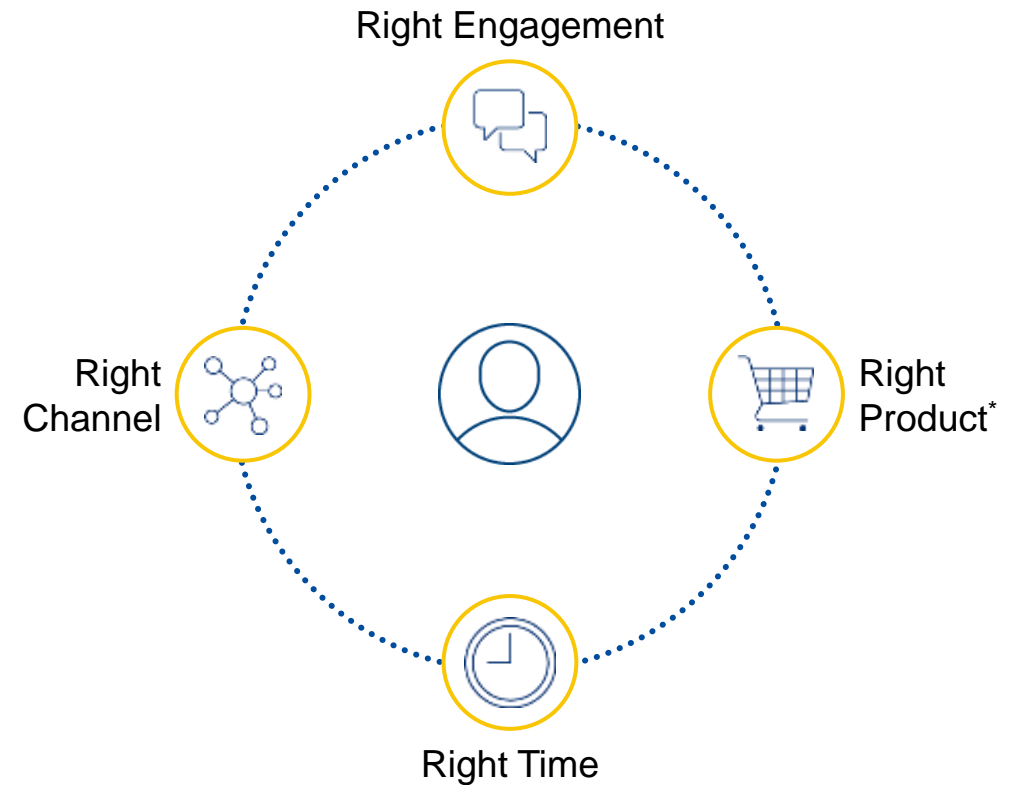


The ability to engage customers in meaningful ways will be critical to persistency over time.

— An in-force management executive

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. Executive interviews; BCG analysis.  
Note: The conversion rate is the percentage of qualified customers who buy an insurance product.

Successful one-to-one personalization meets four customer needs.



# Helping Advisors to Help Clients

## Many Insurers Are Focused on Improving Tools and Offering Insights to Help Advisors Build and Maintain Customer Relationships

Assisting advisors requires investment.

New capabilities are being deployed to meet advisors' needs.

**60%**  
**of respondents**  
Identified **helping advisors** as a top distribution challenge.

**69%** of advisors  
Chose **service & relationship** as the top reasons for using an independent marketing organization.



**Lead generation & analytics**

- Ecosystem-based leads (e.g., social media and partners, etc.)
- Propensity models
- Outbound engagement and marketing tools
- Personalization solutions



**Holistic advice**

- Interactive outreach (e.g., data intake apps)
- Co-browsing and co-pitching assistance
- Customer calls that include an insurance expert
- Financial planning tools



**Automation**

- Straight-through processing
- Self-serve account updates
- Chatbots
- Automated reminders

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. Executive interviews; BCG analysis, *Inside the Intermediary 2.0*, LIMRA and the National Association of Independent Life Brokerage Agencies, 2023; executive interviews; BCG analysis.

# Data Driven Personalization — Understanding Market Segments

## Growth Will Come From Traditionally Underserved and New Markets

### Woman

**54 million**

in the U.S.

**85%**

are either the sole or the joint financial decision-makers in their households.

**40%**

In the U.S., the number of single-mother households with minor children has increased 40% since 1980.

### Gen Z

**68 million**

in the U.S.

**Smallest adult population today**

Get it right as they are aging.

**19 million**

expressed an ownership need.

### LGBTQ+

**7.2%**

of population

**Nearly**

**20%**

for Gen Z

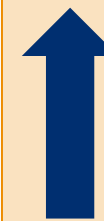
### Ethnicity

**Black Americans:**

higher ownership

**Only 40%**

own to transfer wealth or leave an inheritance.



**Hispanic Americans:**

**62.1 million people**

(an increase of 23% over the past decade)

# Generation Z — A Digital Approach to Life Insurance

## The Digital Mindset

Gen Z is the first generation of true digital natives — social media is their go-to for information, research, and guidance when making purchasing decisions. The platforms they prefer vary from other generations, even Millennials.



In 2023, **over half** of Gen Z has reached adulthood with the oldest members of this generation now 26. This group accounts for **38.6 million adults** — **16%** of the U.S. population, and growing — as they continue to reach adulthood.

## Balancing the Human Connection

2023 is the first year consumers have said they prefer to shop and purchase life insurance online rather than by attending in-person meetings. Although Gen Z prefers to research options online, they prefer the human connection to ultimately purchase coverage.



**28%** of Gen Z shared they would research online and purchase from a company using phone, mail, or online chat.



**Only 17%** said they would research and complete the purchase entirely online.

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. Executive interviews; BCG analysis, *Inside the Intermediary 2.0*, LIMRA and the National Association of Independent Life Brokerage Agencies, 2023; executive interviews; BCG analysis.

## Technology Modernization Is Table Stakes for Long-Term Success, and Leaders Do Not Believe Their Companies Are Prepared

Technology is a top challenge that insurers are not prepared to address.



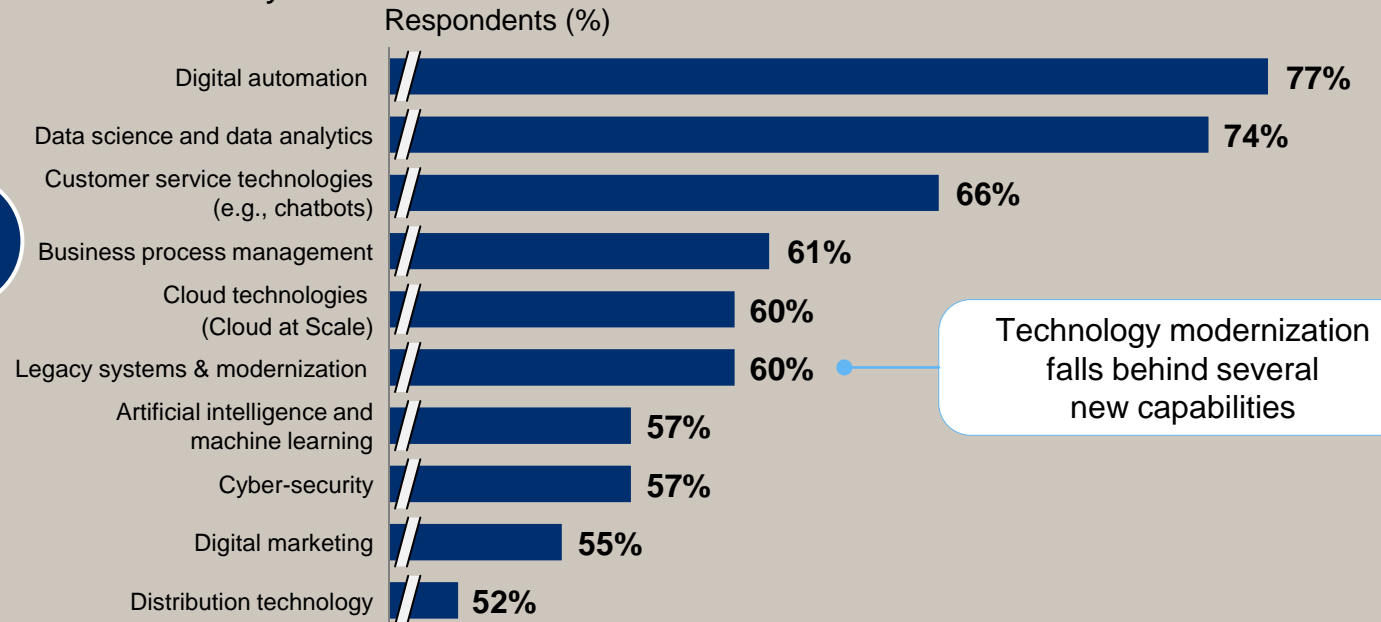
Respondents ranked technology among the top three challenges



Only 27% of respondents consider their companies prepared for the challenge

Insurers are investing in technology across the value chain, with automation, data science, and analytics as the most crucial.

What data/tools/technological advances are most crucial to your company's success in the next five years?



Technology modernization falls behind several new capabilities

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. Executive interviews; BCG analysis  
Note: NLP = natural language processing.

# Partnering to Accelerate Innovation

## Insurers Are Actively Partnering to Achieve Key Strategic Goals

<p><b>Improve customer longevity</b></p> <p>Offering rewards for healthy choices and tools that customers can use to improve their overall well-being</p> <p>John Hancock + Vitality</p>	<p><b>Embed insurance at convenient purchase points</b></p> <p>Promoting policies outside of the traditional life insurance purchase journey</p> <p>Haven Life + Kinly</p>	<p><b>Enable simplified digital product sales</b></p> <p>Offering consumers simplified and less expensive life insurance products digitally</p> <p>Ameritas + Ethos</p>
<p><b>Enhance agent efficiency</b></p> <p>Working with digital-native underwriter to issue coverage in less than 10 minutes</p> <p>Equitable + Bestow</p>	<p><b>Underwrite policies profitably and quickly with expansive datasets</b></p> <p>Accelerating the underwriting process by providing access to hospitals' HER* systems</p> <p>New York Life Insurance + Cerner</p>	<p><b>Streamline backend functions and manage expenses</b></p> <p>Intelligently sourcing data to resolve claims quickly and minimize cost</p> <p>Pacific Life Insurance + Appian</p>

Source: BCG analysis.  
\*Electronic Health Records.



## Talent Management Is a Leading Challenge, and Rapid Industry Changes Require Insurers to Plan and Act Now to Build the Workforce of the Future

**1** The ranking that respondents gave to promoting employee engagement when companies are focused on retaining talent

**~25%** The share of the insurance workforce that is age 55 or older

**9th** Ranking of insurance industry desirability among entry-level employees (the scale was 1 to 10, where 1 was most desirable and 10 was the least)

### New roles & skills needed

#### Digital roles



- Data scientists
- Product managers
- UX and UI talent
- Digital marketers

#### 21<sup>st</sup> century skills\*



- Creativity and agility
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration
- Design thinking

### Key actions

- Reassess the hiring process and job requirements
- Develop programs to reskill and upskill talent
- Build ecosystems of shared, temporary talent
- Build a strategy and infrastructure for remote work

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. LIMRA's survey of chief human resource officers; BCG analysis.

Note: UX = user experience; UI = user interface.

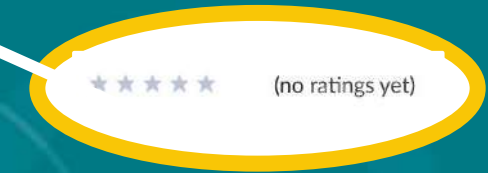
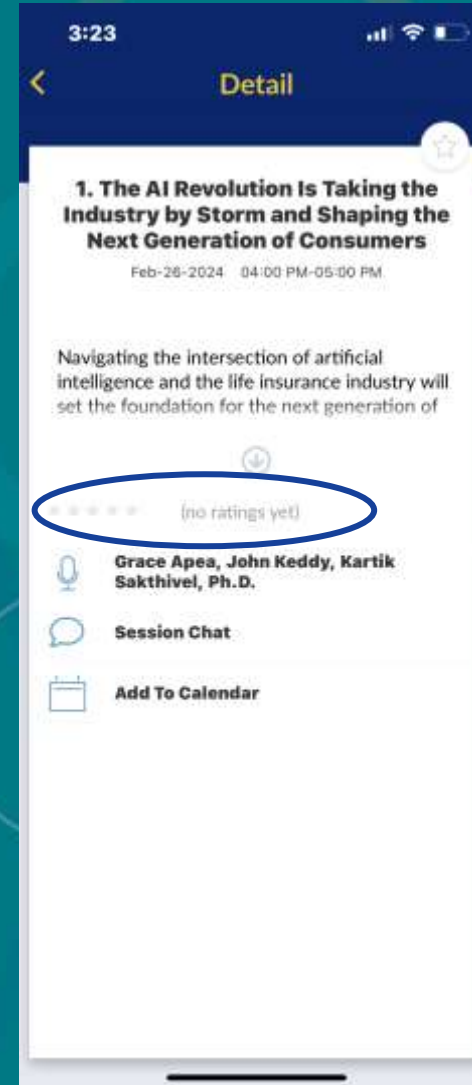
\*These are non-exhaustive examples of roles and skills.

# Please Provide Your Feedback on the Conference App

## OPTION 1



## OPTION 2





Advancing the financial services industry by empowering our members with **knowledge, insights, connections, and solutions**

# Partnering to Accelerate Innovation

## Companies Are Also Partnering to Reduce Risk, Although Investments From Private Equity Firms Are Beginning to Attract Regulatory Attention



**New partners** are strategically sharing risk via coinsurance and reinsurance



**~\$350B**

Modified coinsurance reserves for U.S. life insurers (the 20-year average is less than \$200 billion)<sup>4</sup>

Numerous reinsurance deals were ceded from the originating insurer, sometimes to a carrier with an inferior credit rating.



**PE-backed competitors** have advantaged financial approaches



Revenue growth from 2018 to 2022

**Athene**

**+78%**

**Global Atlantic Financial Group**

**+122%**

PE-backed carriers significantly outgrew the industry average of 15% over the same time period.



**Regulators** are increasingly attentive to offshored risk



**~\$800B**

Offshored life insurance reserves by end of 2022 (~20% CAGR)

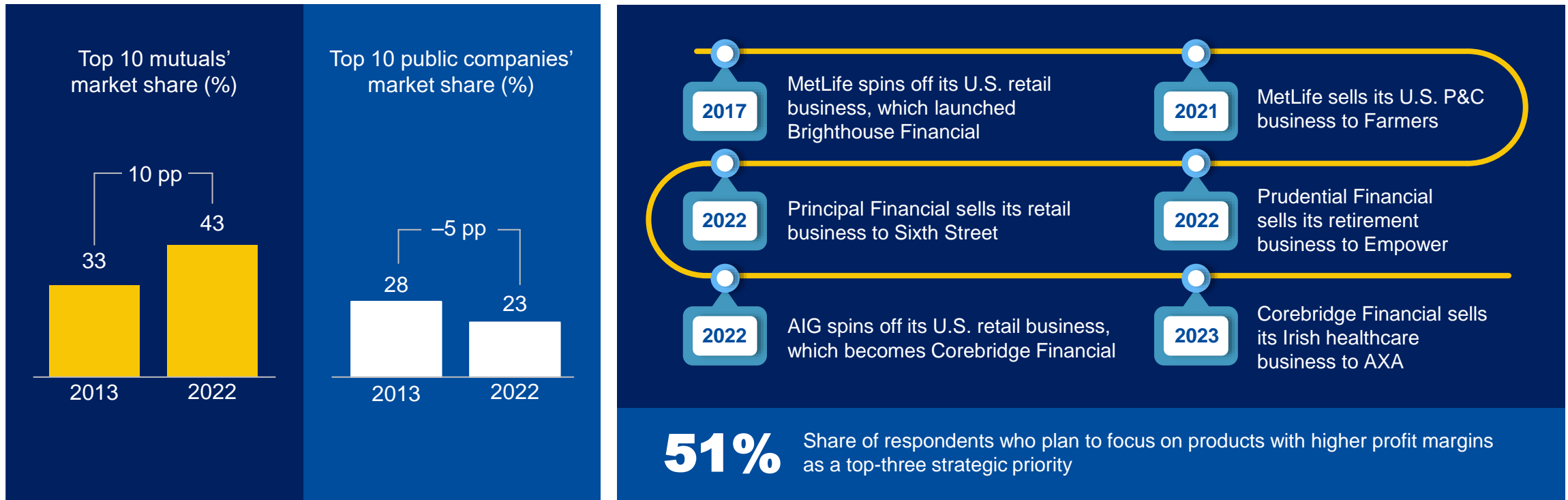
Regulators are initiating discussions on solvency and policyholder protection.

Sources: S&P Capital IQ; SNL Insurance data set; Dow Jones Factiva; Life and Annuity Specialist; BCG analysis.  
\*Modified coinsurance is a type of reinsurance where the ceding company retains the assets with respect to all policies reinsured and also retains the total reserves on the policies, while transferring the investment risk.

# Personalizing the Journey by Focusing the portfolio

## Mutual Insurance Companies Have Grown Their Market Share While Public Companies Have Focused Their Product Portfolio

Individual life insurance by premiums written.\* Public companies continue to narrow their product offering.



Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. BCG analysis.  
Note: pp = percentage point. P&C = property and casualty.  
US Retail Individual Life Insurance Sales Survey, 2013 – 2023, LIMRA, and LIMRA's estimates.

## Is the Consolidation of IMOs and BGAs an Expanding Threat to Carriers?

Consolidation trend in distribution is top of mind.

**~50%**

Share of respondents that rank consolidation as a top distribution challenge

**>50**

Number of M&A deals by the big three aggregators of life and annuities, 2022\*

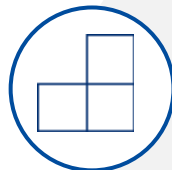
As distribution consolidation threatens margins, carriers are making several strategic moves.



Investing in affiliated agencies



Acquiring distribution



Partnering with IMOs and BGAs for product development



Executing hybrid distribution strategies

Sources: Life Insurance Executive Survey: Seizing Growth Opportunities, LIMRA and BCG, 2023. Executive interviews; S&P Capital IQ; BCG analysis.

Note: IMO = independent marketing organization; BGA = brokerage general agency.

\*The big three distributors of life and annuity are AmeriLife, Integrity Insurance, and Simplicity Group.