

# Benefits of Flexible Target Date Funds

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## **DC Savers**Know Your Customers

Inertia

Behavioural biases

Capital ownership

High individual uncertainty

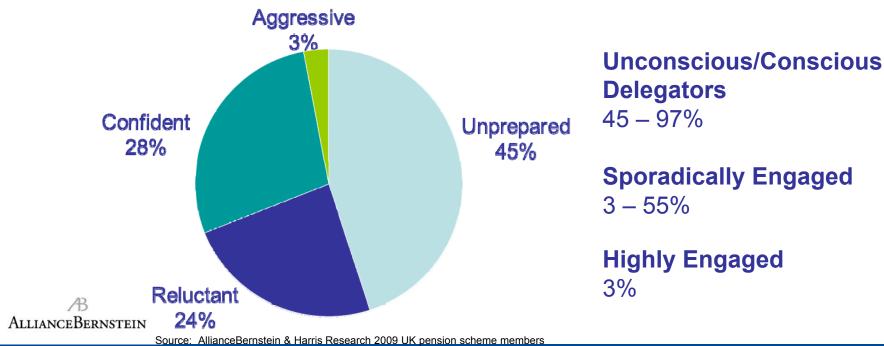
Not stupid







## Savers Attitudes to Investing Want Someone To Do It For Them



IAPF DC Conference

www.iapf.ie



## **Beware Semi-Engaged Investors**Need Someone To Do It For Them



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Source: FTSE, Investment Management Association and AllianceBernstein 1 December 2011



# Good DC Design Provides a Good Nudge

Joining → Auto-enrolment

Contributions → Auto-escalation

Investment → Default

Decumulation → Auto-income?







## **Default Strategies Improve Outcomes**

- ✓ Reduce Costs
- ✓ Manage Behavioural Biases
- ✓ Overcome Inertia
- ✓ Improve Engagement Quality





## **Features of Good Default Strategies**

- ✓ Align Competence, Control and Responsibility Avoid "Help me do it" and "Default options"
- ▼ Robustly Designed
   Individual assumptions flawed
- ✓ In-built Future-Proofing
  To overcome inertia and implement change
- ✓ Good Governance
  Decisions made on member behalf need independent oversight

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# Robust Default Design Takes Account of Individual Uncertainty

**Set in Stone** 



#### **Outlook Uncertain**

Earnings and Inflation

Savings Rates and Costs

Retirement Age and Needs

**Investment Returns** 

Legislation and Taxation



Avoid "Illusion of Certainty" and "Engagement Necessity"



# Target Date Funds What are They?

A range of investment funds suitable for individuals saving for retirement in or around the years stated in each fund's name



Objective of each fund is to maximise the savers' potential retirement income, having consideration to the remaining time to retirement over which any losses can be recovered and how income will be provided

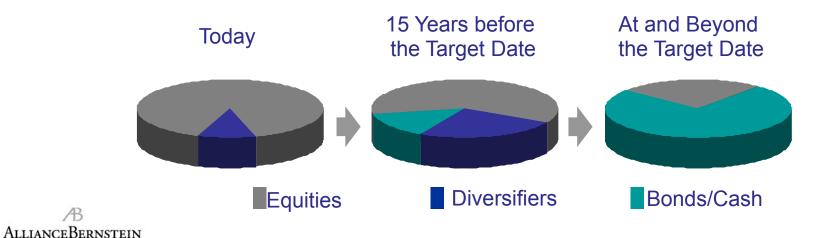




## A Single Fund That Lasts a Lifetime Age Appropriate DGFs



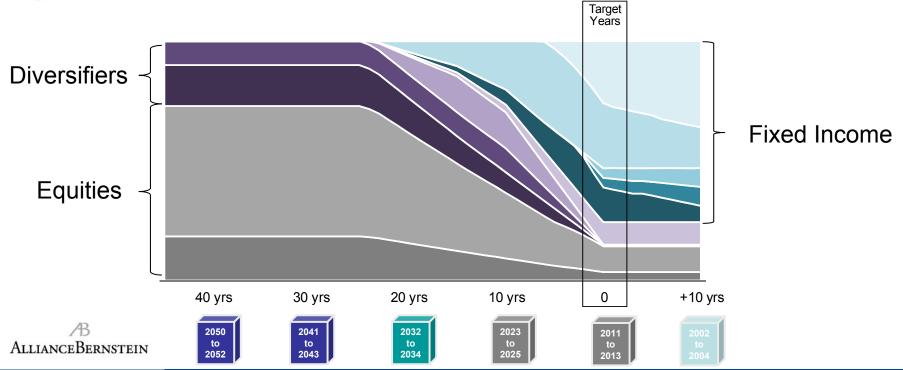
## **Example: XYZ Retirement Fund 2029-2031**



Source: AllianceBernstein



# Typical TDF Glidepath Strategy Example Asset Allocation Strategy





## Different Types of TDFs Not All TDFs are Created Equal

Packaged Flexible

Generic v Bespoke

Administratory Manager

Closed v Open

Static v Dynamic

Retail v Institutional

Objective(s)

Daily Oversight

Architecture

**Asset Allocation** 

**Pricing** 

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## Flexible Target Date Funds Benefits **And Common Misconceptions**

#### **Benefits**

#### Simple to change

- Member engagement not a necessity
- Timely manager changes possible
- Low operational risks/costs easy to check

#### Enable a more sophisticated strategy

- Not constrained by member administration Diversification of manager risk
- Age appropriate strategic asset allocations
- Age appropriate dynamic asset allocations

#### Easy to Communicate

- Single fund solution focused on outcomes
- Changes not focused on mechanics

#### Good Trustee/Adviser oversight

Based on actual member experience Independent of implementation

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#### **Misconceptions**

#### Focus on capital not income accumulation

Depends on the objectives

#### End point sensitive

Gradual de-risking running to retirement and beyond

#### Inflexible packaged solution

Fully open-architecture flexible TDFs available

#### Expensive c100bps +

Age appropriate Diversified Growth at a quarter of the TER

### Same as lifestyle, de-risk as you get older But they can do so much more, with all the benefits

opposite



## Flexible Target Date Funds Open Architecture TDFs

✓ Clear saver orientated objective(s)

✓ Clear "Roles and Responsibilities"

✓ Robust age appropriate investment

✓ Simple to communicate

✓ Easy to change through time

✓ Value for money

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Chosen by Plan

Objective oversight by Plan

**Diversification and Dynamic** 

Single Fund for Life

Simple and efficient to change

Available at 0.3% pa in UK



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# **Beyond Retirement**Retirement Bridge

Based on Investment & Saver Research

Income Paying TDFs until Late 70s Investment Optimal

Meet Savers' needs for continued

- Choice
- Accessibility
- Flexibility
- Growth

Can be used as a Default





## **Decumulation Research**Conventional Wisdom Flawed

"An annuity is safer than income drawdown"

"Income drawdown is too risky for those with small funds"

"We should engage earlier about the kind of annuity someone will buy"

"Individuals do not understand risk and return"

"Annuities are easier to understand than income drawdown"





# **Conclusion**DC is Evolving

Beyond Retirement Retirement Bridge

Delaying annuitisation until needed

Around Retirement Target Date Funds

Assumes flexible age based needs

To Retirement

Lifestyling / Managed DC

Assumes certainty of needs and requires engagement

What Retirement Balanced Funds

No individual alignment

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Through
Retirement
401k
No Annuitisation

