

PREPARE FOR YOUR BEST RETIREMENT™

Reverse Mortgages and the Perfect Storm Facing Retirement Income in 2022



THE RETIREMENT RESEARCHER'S GUIDE SERIES

REVERSE MORTGAGES

HOW TO USE REVERSE MORTGAGES TO SECURE YOUR RETIREMENT

Wade Pfau, Ph.D., CFA, RICP

www.Books2Read.com/ReverseMortgages

Presented by:

Wade Pfau, Ph.D., CFA, RICP RICP Curriculum Director The American College for Financial Services & RetirementResearcher.com





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Bulk Order: \$10/copy, wade@retirementresearcher.com

Investing for **Distribution in** Retirement is Different from Accumulation



Key Retirement Risks



Unknown Planning Horizon

Macro/Market

Investment Volatility Interest Rate Volatility Public Policy & Taxation Sequence of Returns Inflation

Rising Costs of Living

Personal Spending

Health & Long-term Care Help Other Family Members Divorce Fraud/Theft

Lifetime Sequence of Returns Risk



50/50 Asset Allocation, Inflation-Adjusted Spending 100,000 Monte Carlo Simulations Based on SBBI Data, 1926–2021, S&P 500 and Intermediate-Term Government Bonds







Potential Reverse Mortgage Uses

Portfolio Coordination	Use HECM as a Last Resort		
	Use Tenure Payments to Reduce Portfolio Withdrawals		
for Retirement Spending	Coordinate HECM Spending to Mitigate Sequence Risk		
Portfolio/Debt Coordination for Housing	Refinance Existing Mortgage to Eliminate Ongoing Payments		
	HECM for Purchase for New Home		
	Fund Home Renovations to Allow for Aging in Place		
Funding Source for Retirement Efficiency Improvements	Social Security Delay Bridge		
	Tax Bracket Management or Pay Taxes for Roth Conversions		
	Tenure Payment as Annuity Alternative		
	Pay Premiums for Existing Long-Term Care Insurance Policy		
	Support Retirement Spending After Portfolio Depletion		
Preserve Credit	Protective Hedge for Home Value		
as Insurance Policy	Provides Contingency Fund for Spending Shocks		
	(In home care, health expenses, divorce settlement)		



Managing Volatility & Longevity

Spend Conservatively

(tenure payment, refinance mortgage, Social Security delay bridge)

- Spending Flexibility
- Reduce Volatility

• Buffer Assets – Avoid Selling at Losses

(coordinated spending strategies)

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Sequence Risk and the Impact of Changing the Withdrawal Rate



Sequence Risk and the Portfolio Impact of Spending Levels Inflation-Adjusted Spending Defined as a Percentage of Retirement Date Assets, No Fees Using Robert Shiller's Data, 1962-1995, Asset Allocation: 60% Large-cap Stocks, 40% 10-Year Treasuries

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Sequence Risk and the Impact of Skipping Distributions



Sequence Risk and the Portfolio Impact of Skipping a Year of Distributions Using Robert Shiller's Data, 1962-1995, Asset Allocation: 60% Large-cap Stocks, 40% 10-Year Treasuries



Case Studies with Historical Data

Case Study Characteristics

- Case is based on current HECM rules and tax laws
- Historical data is used to test strategies in different market environments.
- A couple both turn 62 in early 2022; already retired.
- Planning age: 95

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- \$870,000 in investments (\$260k taxable with \$130k basis, \$510k in IRA, \$100k in Roth IRA)
- \$435,000 home, no mortgage
- HECM terms: 2.125% lender's margin, \$18,600 upfront costs financed, uses 1-year Treasury for effective rate
- Social Security: \$45,000 annually if claimed at 67

Case Study Characteristics (continued)

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- Spending goals: \$66,000 pre-tax inflation-adjusted; An extra \$10,000 fixed through age 74; And federal income taxes need to be paid
- Spending strategy: Any Social Security, HECM distribution, and RMDs first, then spend from (1) taxable, (2) IRA, (3) Roth IRA
- Taxes are tracked for federal income tax for ordinary income and preferential income sources, tax on Social Security benefits, Medicare IRMAA surcharges, net investment income surtax
- Asset allocation: 60% stocks (large-cap US), 40% bonds (10-year Treasuries)
- Legacy: 100% of taxable account, 75% of IRA, 100% of Roth IRA, 95% of home value less loan balance due on HECM (not less than \$0 because non-recourse)



Summary Statistics of U.S. Returns and Inflation Data, 1890-2021

	Arithmetic Means	Geometric Means	Standard Deviations
Large-Cap U.S. Stocks (Total Returns)	11.0%	9.5%	18.0%
Large-Cap U.S. Stocks (Dividend Yield)	4.1%		1.6%
10-Year Treasury Bonds (Total Returns)	4.8%	4.6%	6.6%
10-Year Treasury Bonds (Bond Yields)	4.5%		2.4%
1-Year Treasury Bills	4.3%	4.3%	3.0%
Home Prices (Case-Shiller Index)	3.7%	3.4%	7.3%
Inflation (Consumer Price Index)	2.9%	2.8%	5.2%

Source: Robert Shiller's website (www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm)

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Understanding Line of Credit Growth

Probability that the Net Principal Limit is Larger at a Subsequent Age When Opened at Age 62 as Compared to Opening at a Later Age



Understanding Line of Credit Growth

Comparing Principal Limits Based on When the Reverse Mortgage Opens For a 62-Year Old, Market Data for 1962-1995





Portfolio Coordination for Retirement Spending

An idea whose time had come?

"Reversing the Conventional Wisdom: Using Home Equity to Supplement Retirement Income" Barry Sacks and Steven Sacks Journal of Financial Planning, February 2012

"Standby Reverse Mortgages a Risk Management Tool for Retirement Distributions" John Salter, Shaun Pfeiffer, and Harold Evensky *Journal of Financial Planning*, August 2012

Thesis: Strategic use of a reverse mortgage standby line of credit can create retirement income efficiencies through its contribution to managing sequence of returns risk in retirement

HECM Strategies for Portfolio Coordination

- Use Tenure Payment
- Portfolio Coordination Strategy
- Portfolio Coordination Strategy with Voluntary Repayments
- Home Equity as Last Resort ("Conventional Wisdom")

Portfolio Coordination – Decision Rule

Note the investment balance at retirement (\$870,000 in this example)

When taking distributions:

- Spend from investments if current value exceeds initial value (> \$870k)
- Spend from HECM if current value is less than initial value (< \$870k)

Net Legacy Value with Last Resort Strategy





Comparing the Tenure Payment Strategy to the Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth (Tenure Payments - Last Resort)





Comparing the Tenure Payment Strategy to the Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth





Comparing the Portfolio Coordination Strategy to the Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth (Portfolio Coordination - Last Resort)





Refinancing a Traditional Mortgage with a HECM

Example for Carrying Mortgage into Retirement

- Carry a mortgage into retirement vs. Use HECM to refinance mortgage
- If leftover principal limit, use tenure payment with rest
- If HECM is not sufficient, cover remainder with portfolio distribution
- Same case study, except:

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- home was purchased 20 years earlier, 10 years left on the mortgage
- price grew with home price index, worth \$435,000 today
- Taxable portfolio is \$115,048 larger to account for average remaining mortgage balance today



Comparing the HECM Refinance to Keeping the Mortgage & Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth (HECM Refinance – Keep & Last Resort)





Comparing the HECM Refinance to Keeping the Mortgage & Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth





Social Security Delay Bridge



Social Security Delay Bridge





Comparing the Claim @ 70 and HECM Bridge to the Claim @ 62 and Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth (70 & Bridge – 62 & Last Resort)



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Comparing the Claim @ 70 and HECM Bridge to the Claim @ 62 and Last Resort Net Real Legacy Wealth



Key Takeaways

- Reverse mortgages cannot be viewed in isolation: their costs can be more than offset by gains elsewhere in the financial plan
- Conventional "last resort" wisdom hurts retirement sustainability
- Strategic HECM use: improved retirement sustainability, larger legacy
- WHY IT WORKS: Buffer to Mitigate Sequence Risk; Growing Line of Credit
- Responsible use of HECM can improve retirement outcomes
- 2022 is a perfect storm that the HECM is designed to help manage!

THANK YOU! ANY QUESTIONS?

wade@retirementresearcher.com
@WadePfau (Twitter)

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