

Family Utopias

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Why Interested?

How can we best improve and sustain a high level of well-being of children and adults?

Models of the Utopian Family

- Lake Woebegon
- Autonomy
- Experiments: Communal Living
- Contemporary

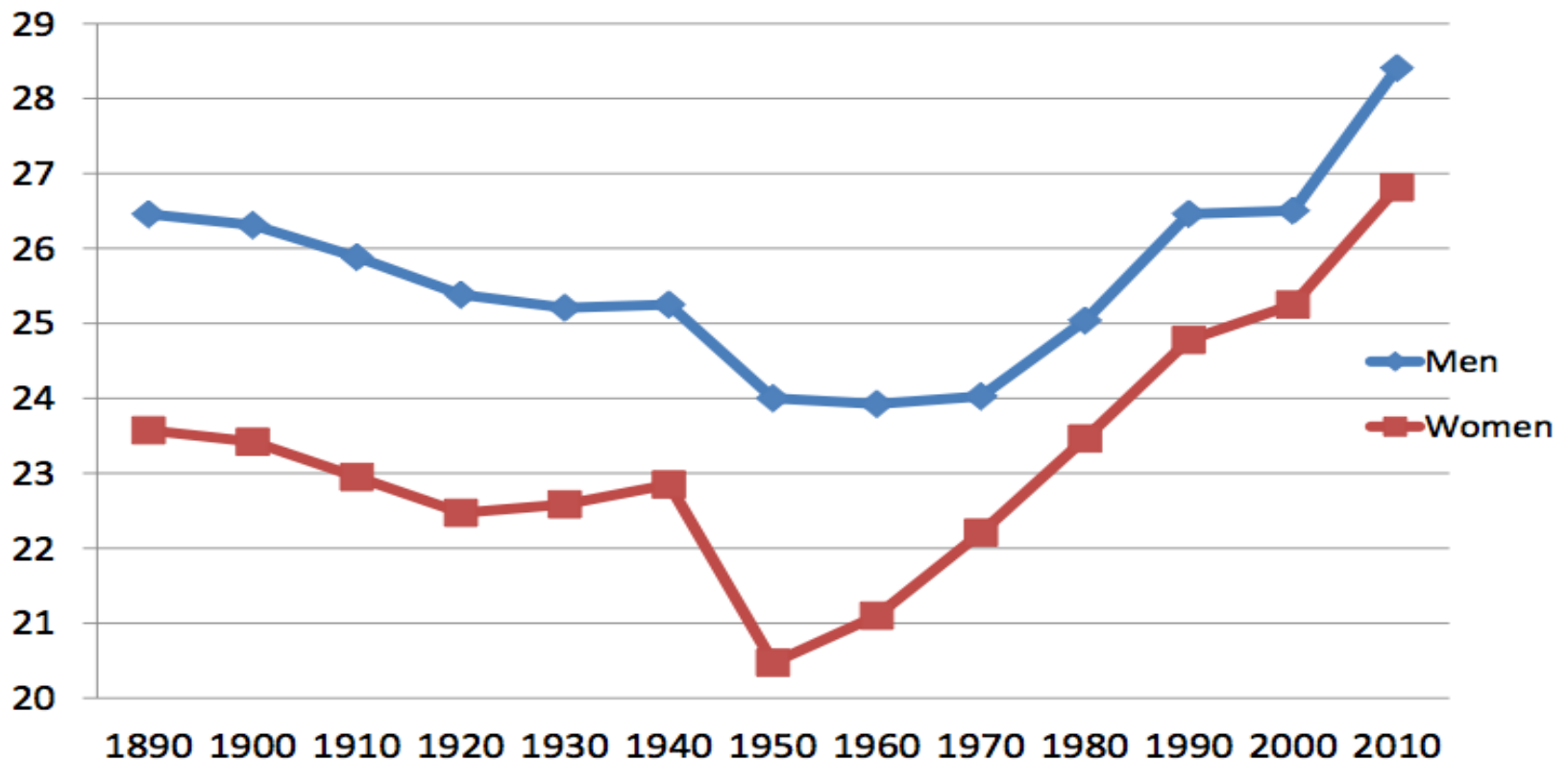
Family Change “Revolution”

- 1950s nuclear family
 - Two biological parents
 - Different sex parents
 - Married parents
 - Male breadwinner
 - Only full siblings
 - No other adults
 - Two generation
- 2012 contemporary family
 - Sustained Diversity

Family Change

Age at First Marriage, 1890-2010

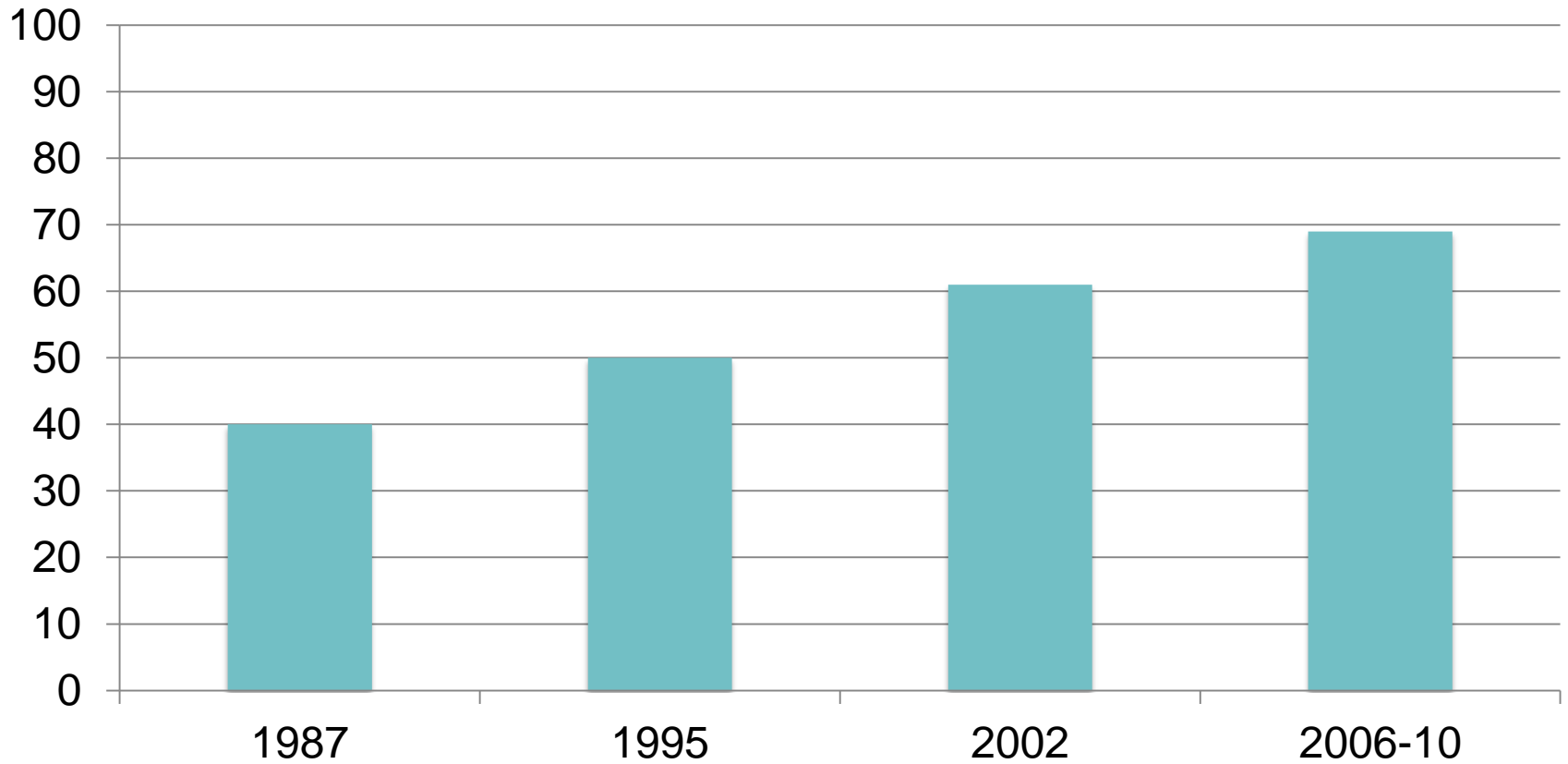
Figure 1. Median Age at First Marriage by Sex: 1890 to 2010



Family Change

Ever Cohabit 30-34 year olds

Ever Cohabit

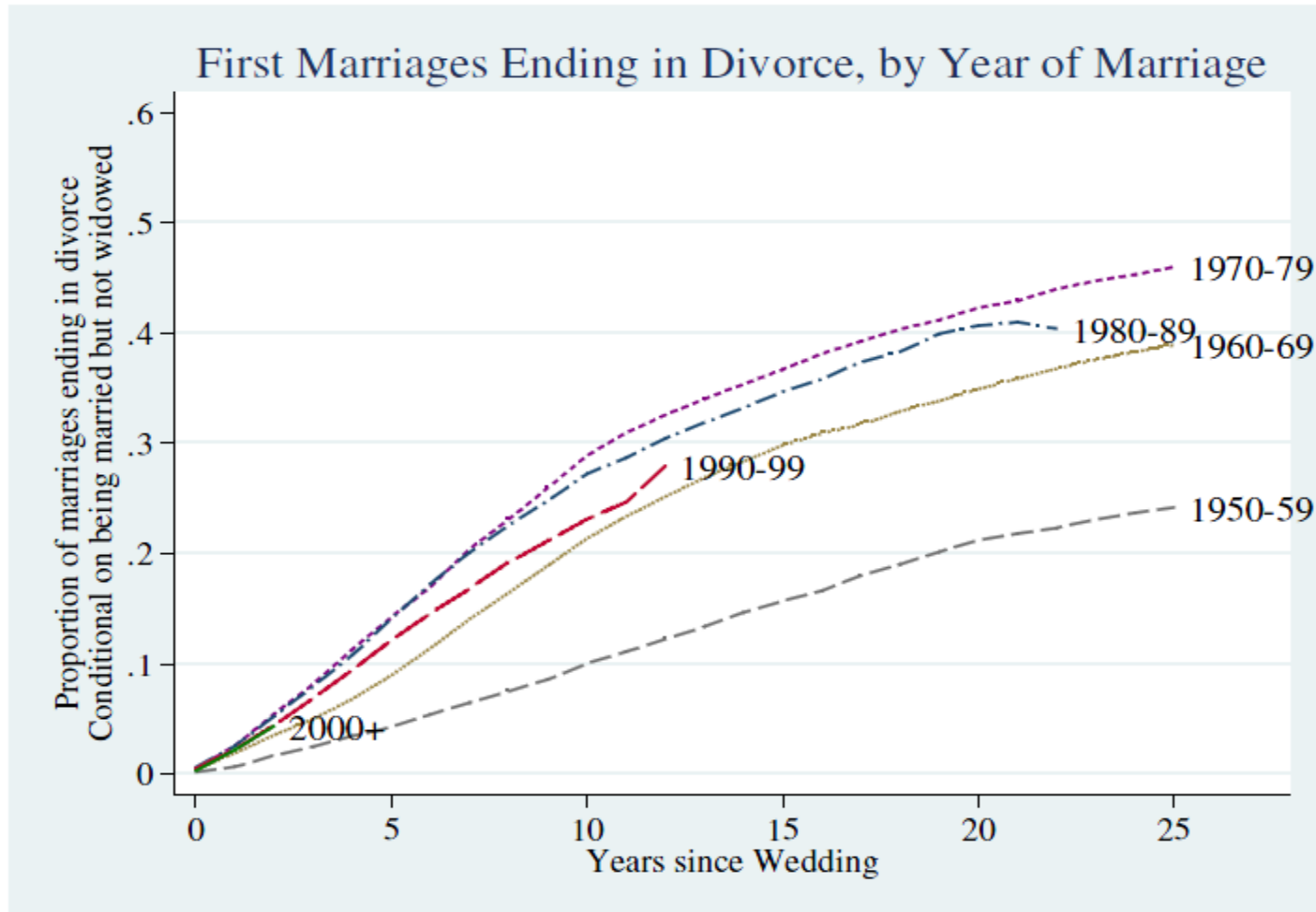


Source: Manning 2010

Family Change

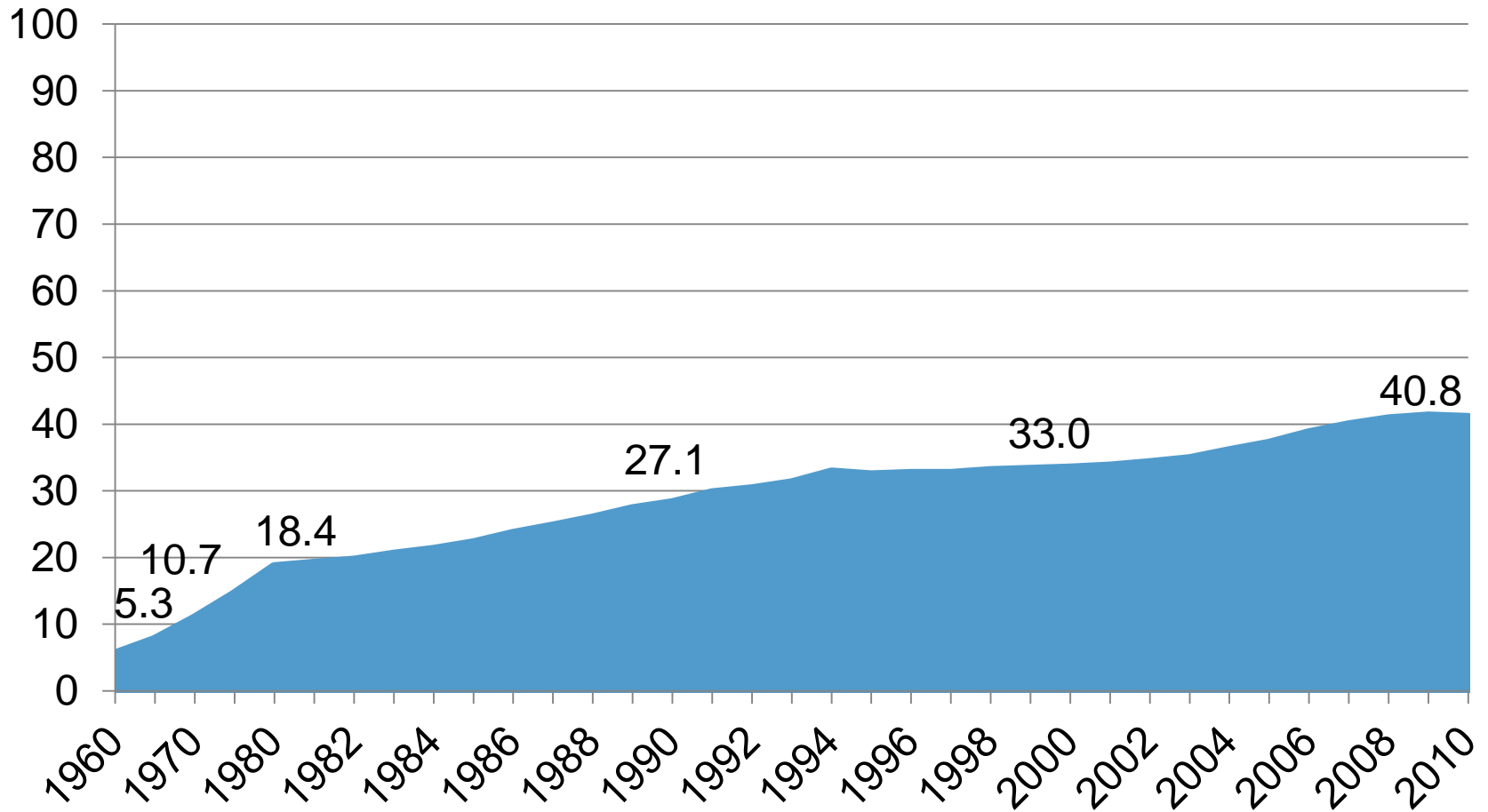
Marital Dissolution Trends

Figure 2: Cumulative Divorce Probabilities, 2004 SIPP



Family Change

Unmarried Births 1960-2010

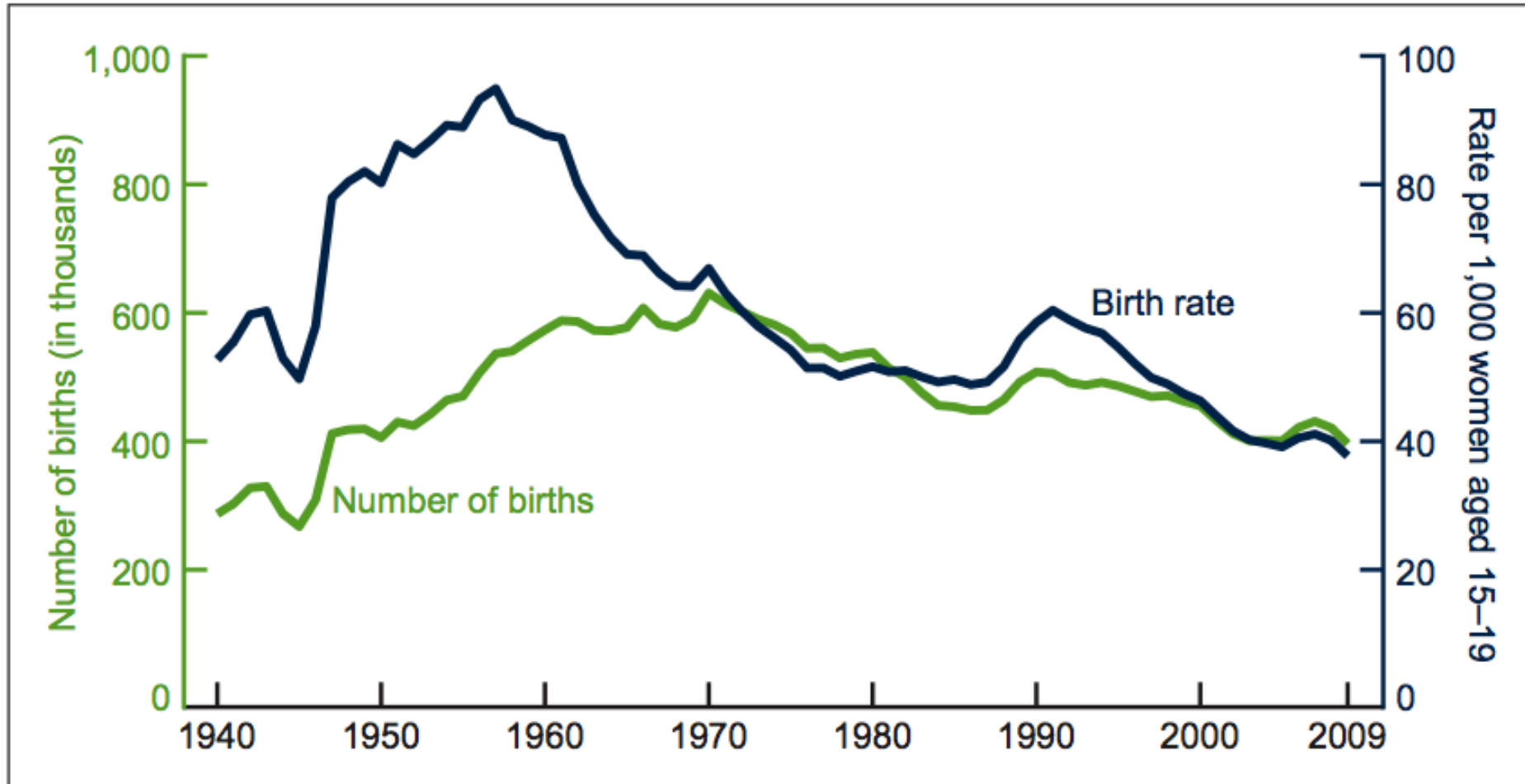


Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Family Change

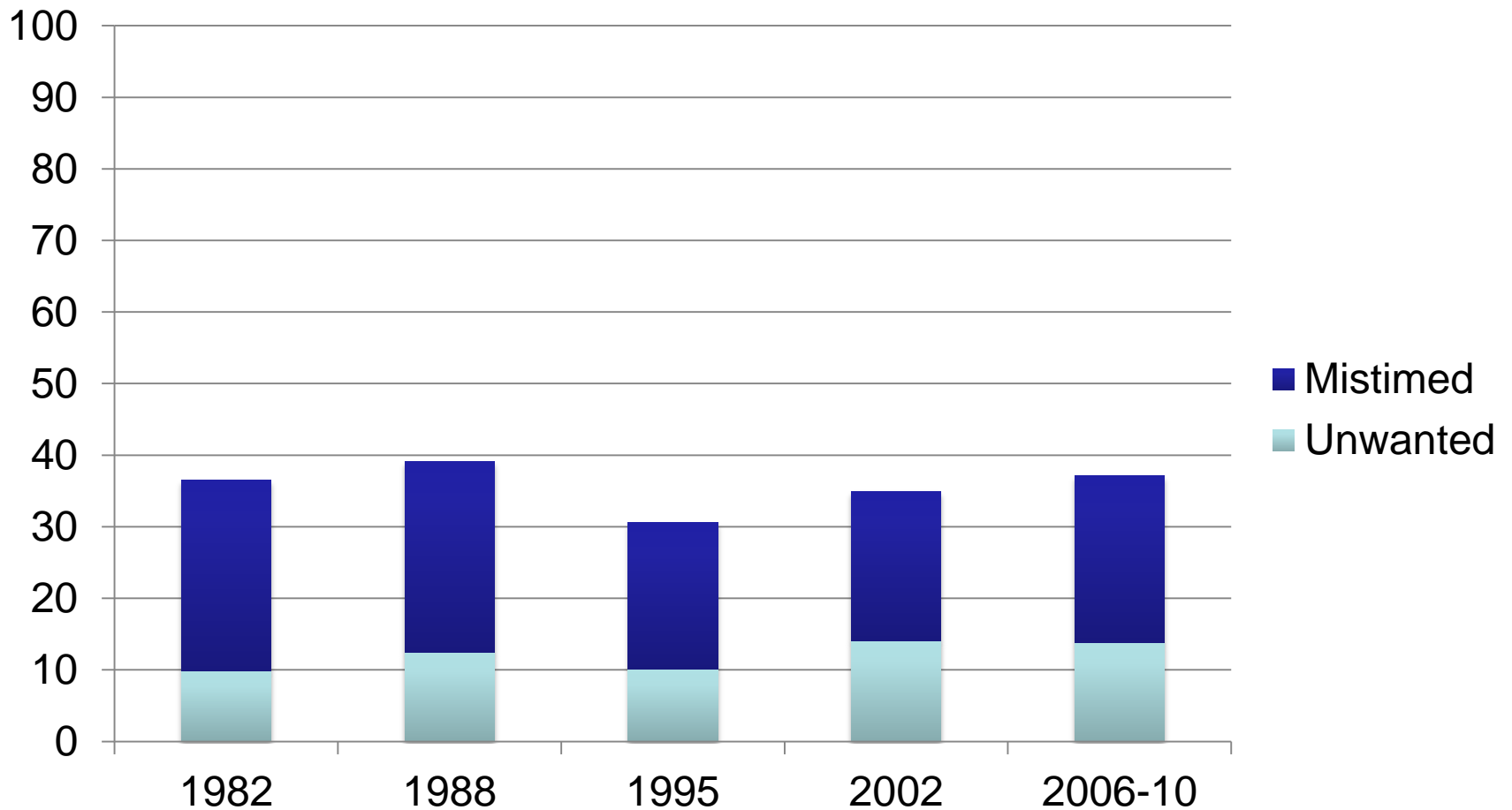
Teen Births 1940-2009

Figure 1. Number of births and birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19: United States, 1940–2009



Family Change

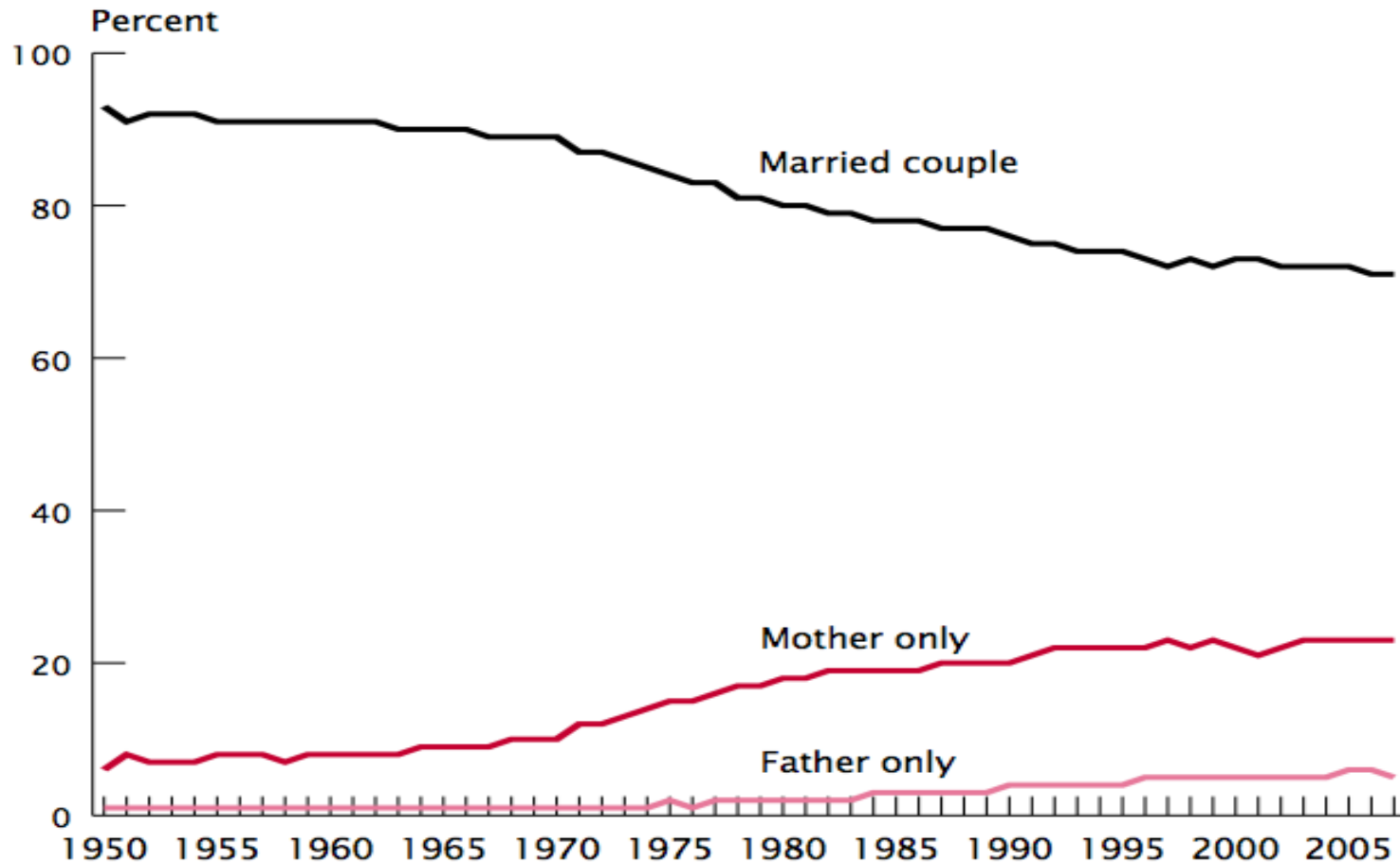
Proportion of Births Unintended



Source: Mosher, Jones and Abma 2012 NSFG

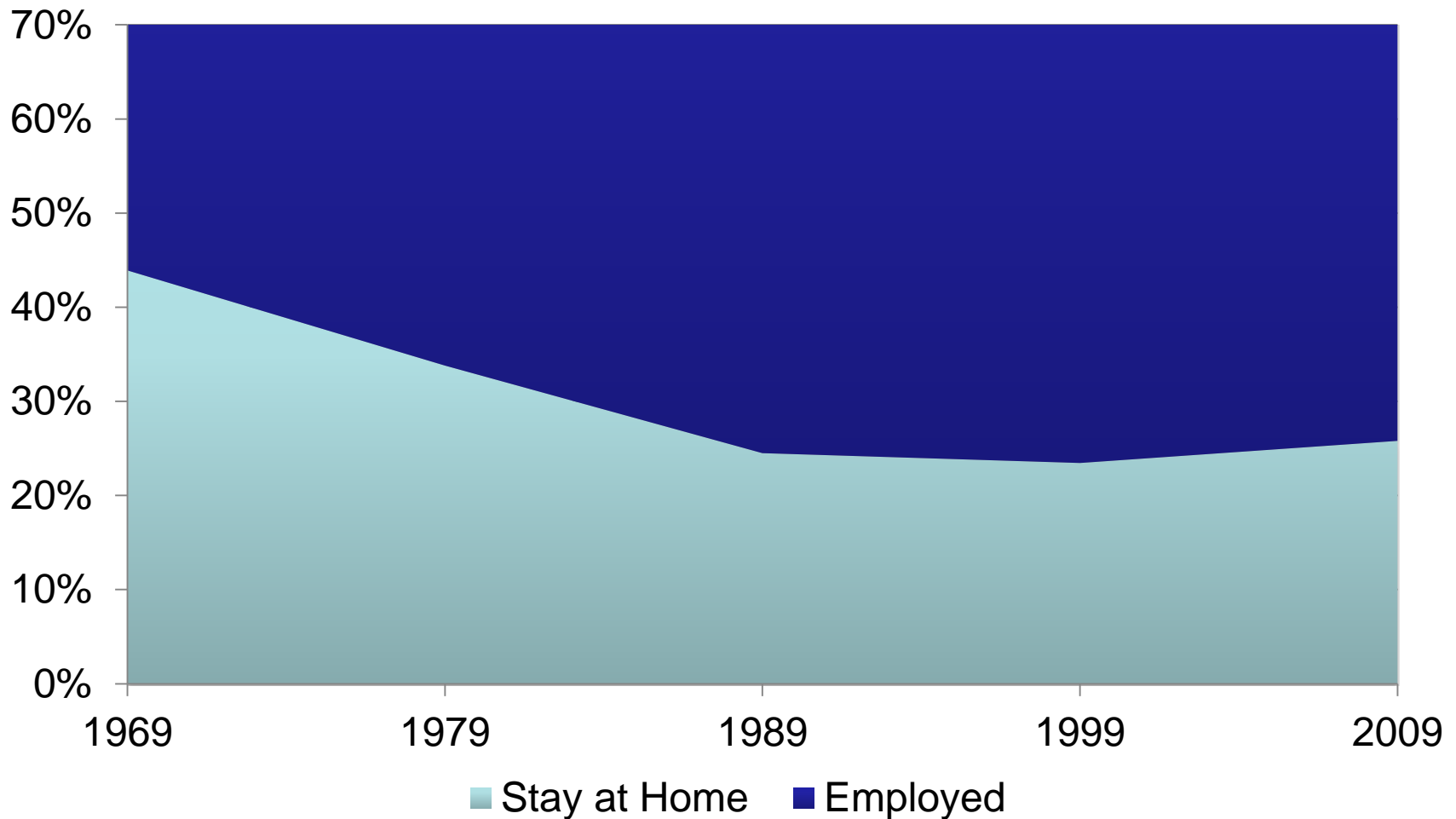
Family Change

Figure 3.
**Family Households With Children Under 18
by Type: 1950 to 2007**



Family Change

Stay at Home Mothers in Married Couple Households with Children



Source: Krieder and Elliott 2010 CPS

Is the U.S. family similar to other industrialized societies?

- U.S.
 - Age at marriage earlier
 - Divorce higher
 - Single motherhood higher
 - Teen childbearing higher
 - Unintended childbearing higher
 - Gay marriage not legal national level
- Socioeconomic Divide – greater in U.S.
 - High per capita and high poverty rate
 - Growing gap between wealthiest and poorest

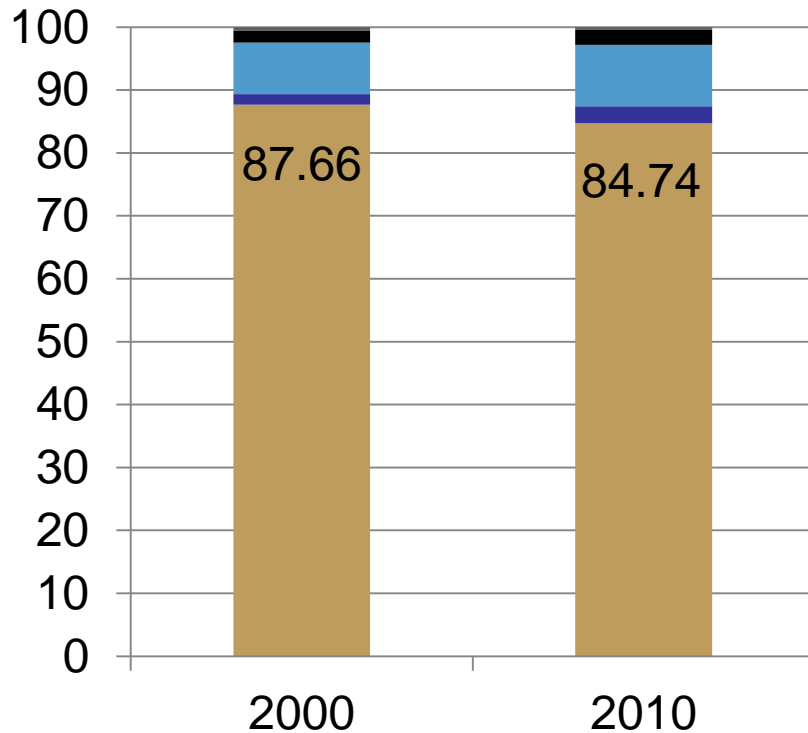
Diverging Destinies

- Family change is not the same for all Americans
- Not all Americans have access to the same family experiences
- Low and moderate level of education less able to adopt new economic circumstances

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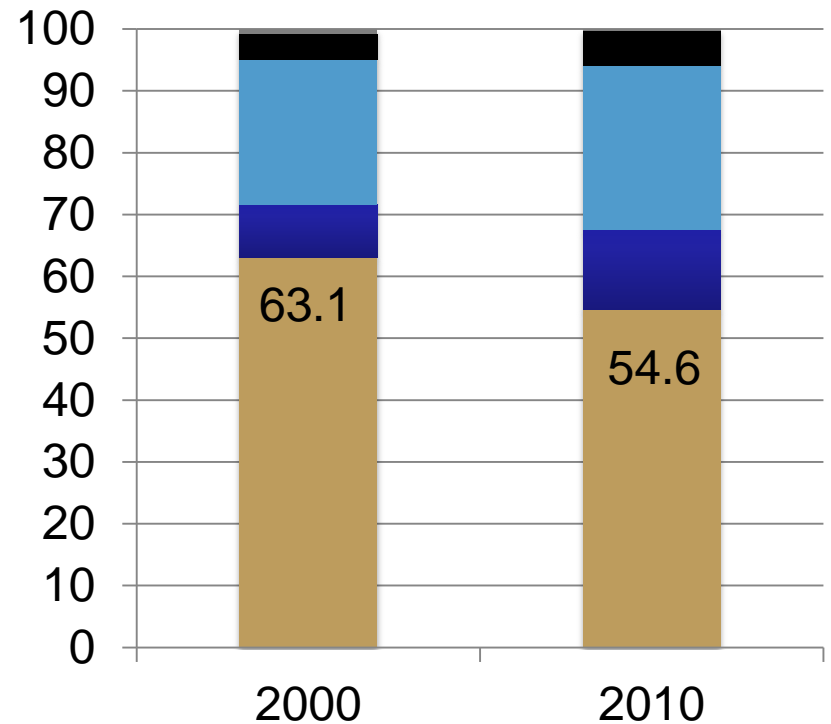
Family Households with Children

High Education



Married Couple OS Cohab
Single Mom Single Dad
SS Cohab

Low Education



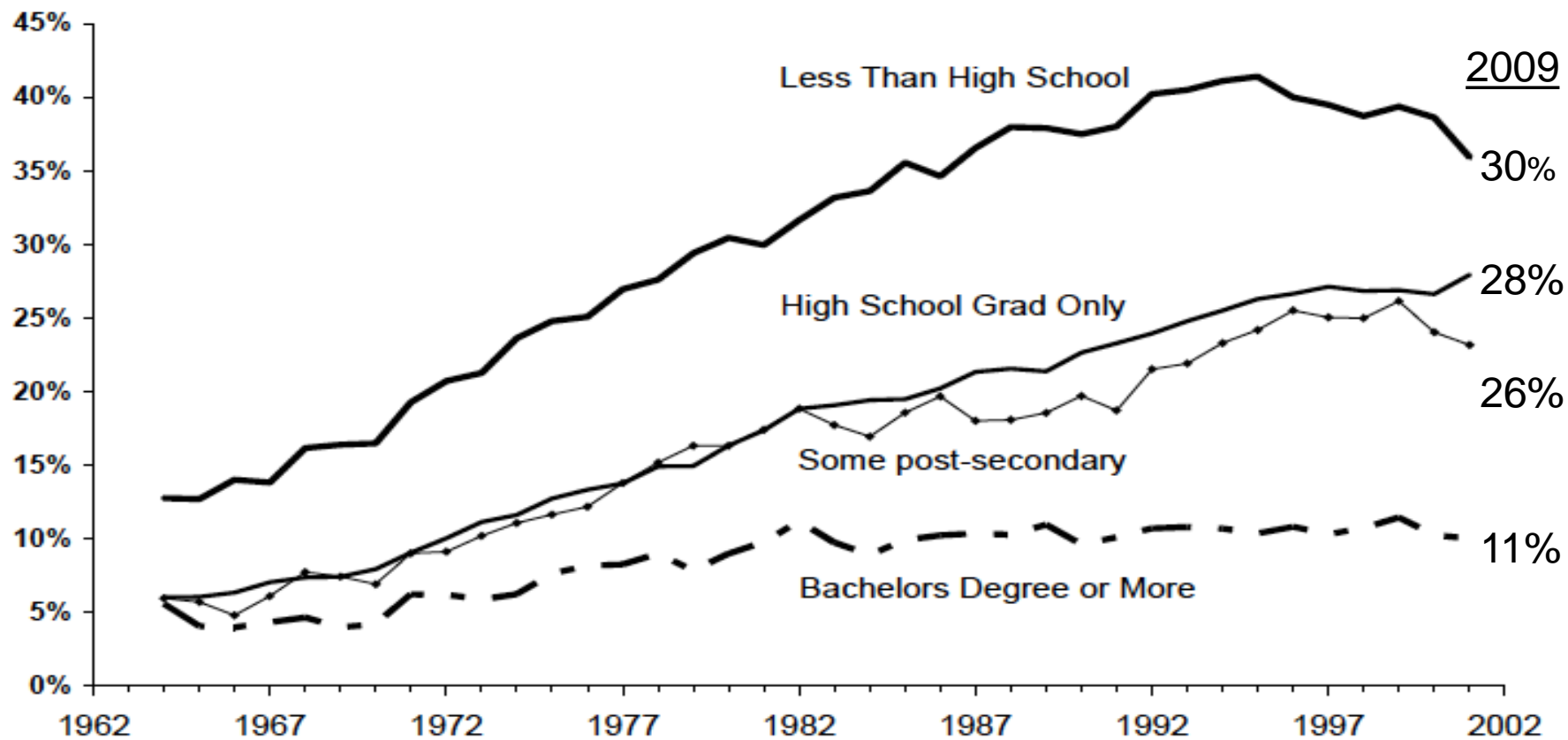
Married Couple OS Cohab
Single Mom Single Dad
SS Cohab

SES

Single Mothers

Figure 2.7

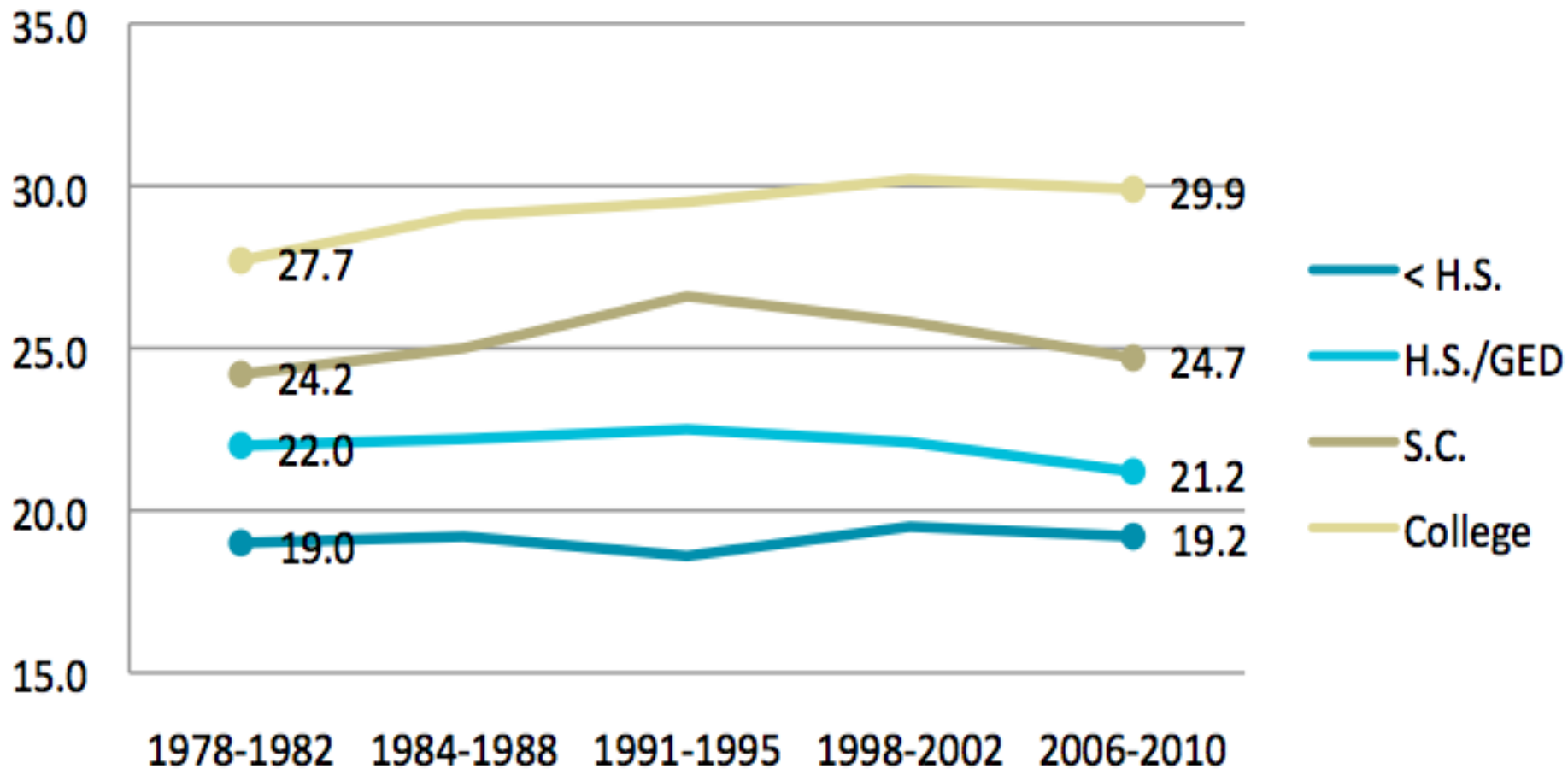
**Percent of Children in Single Mother Homes
By Education of the Mother**



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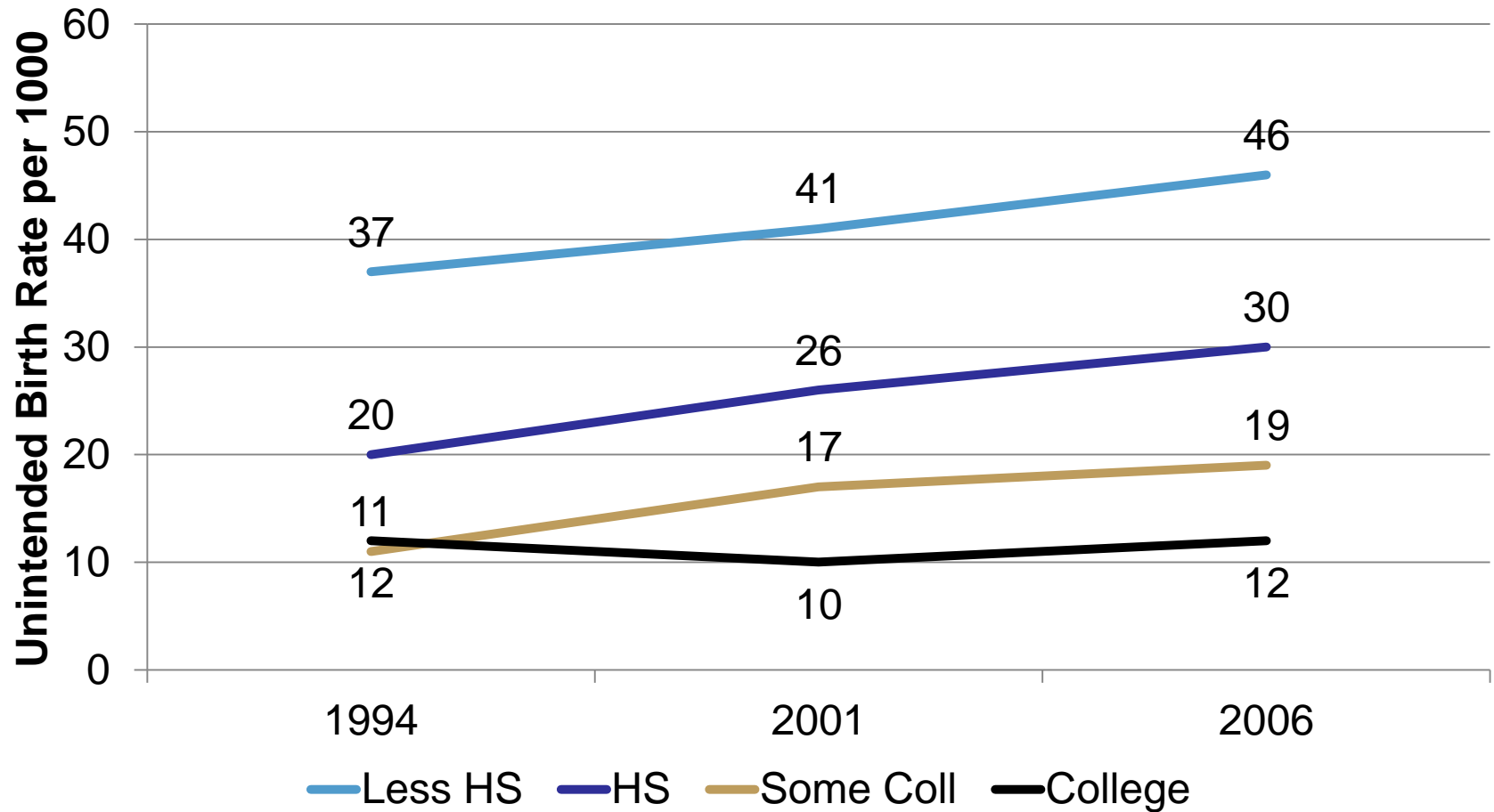
Age at First Birth

Median Age at First Birth by Educational Attainment, 1978-2010



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Unintended Birth Rate 1994-2006



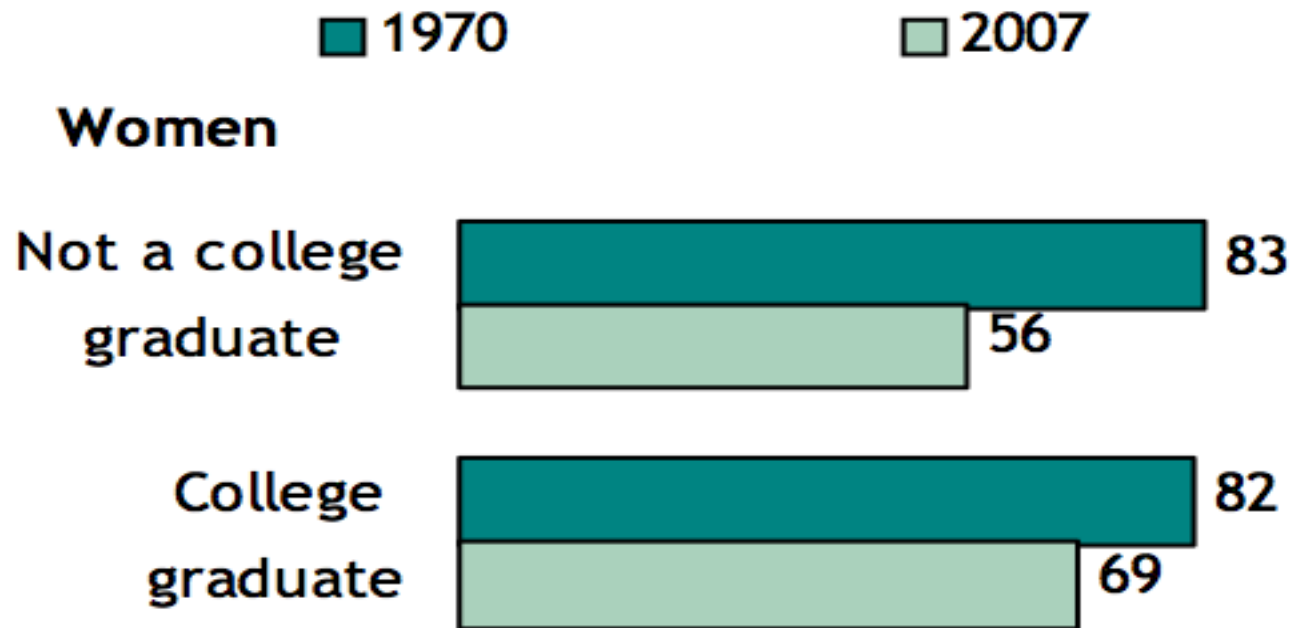
Source: Finer and Henshaw 2006; Finer and Zolna 2011

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Currently Married 30-44 year olds

Marriage Declines Most among Those Without a College Degree

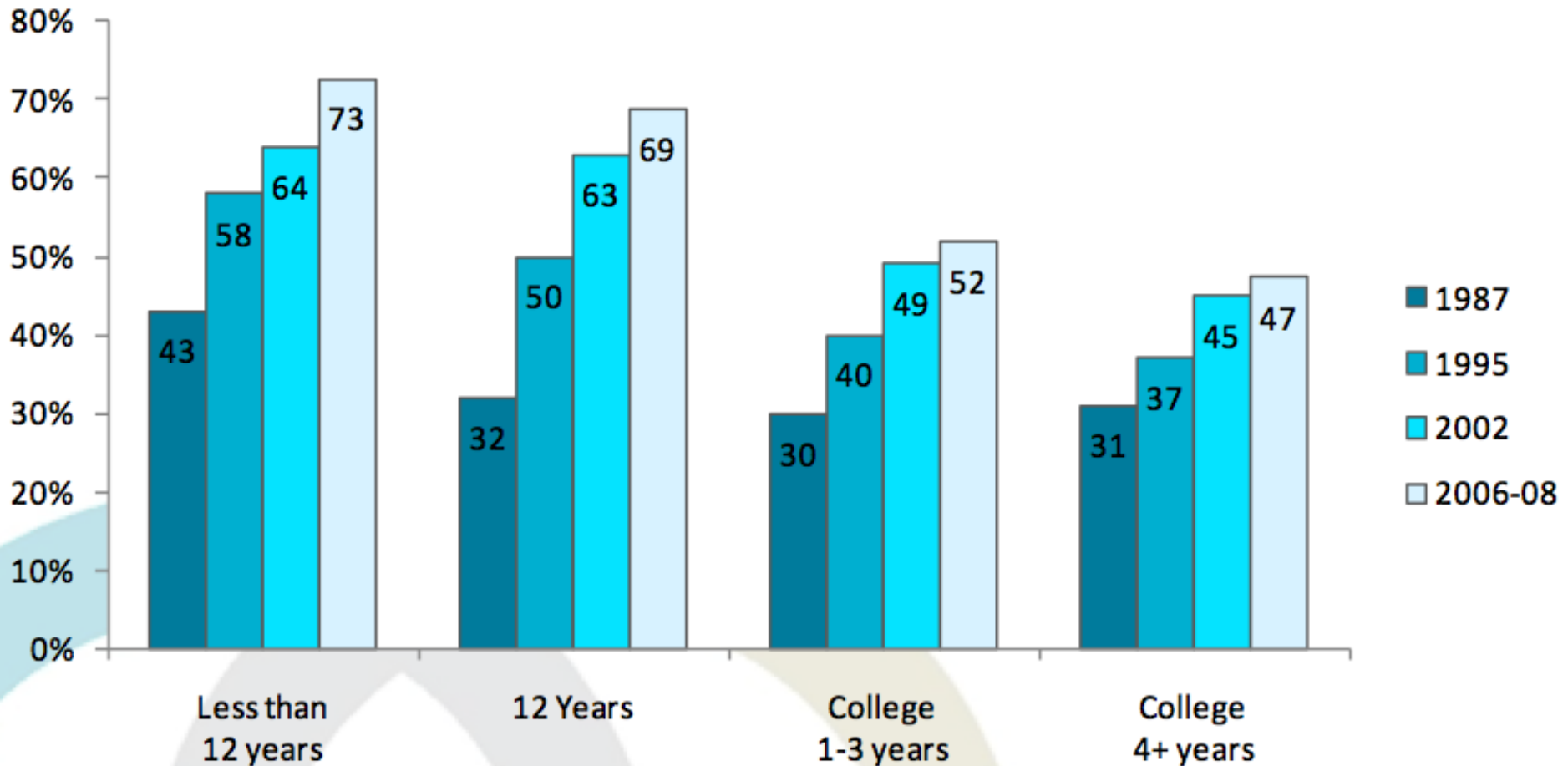
% currently married



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Cohabitation

Figure 5: Two Decades of Trends by Education in the Percentage of Women (19-44) Ever Cohabited



Socioeconomic Divide

- Education Divide Persists

BIRTHS

- Age at First Birth
- Unplanned Births
- Nonmarital Births
- Number of Children

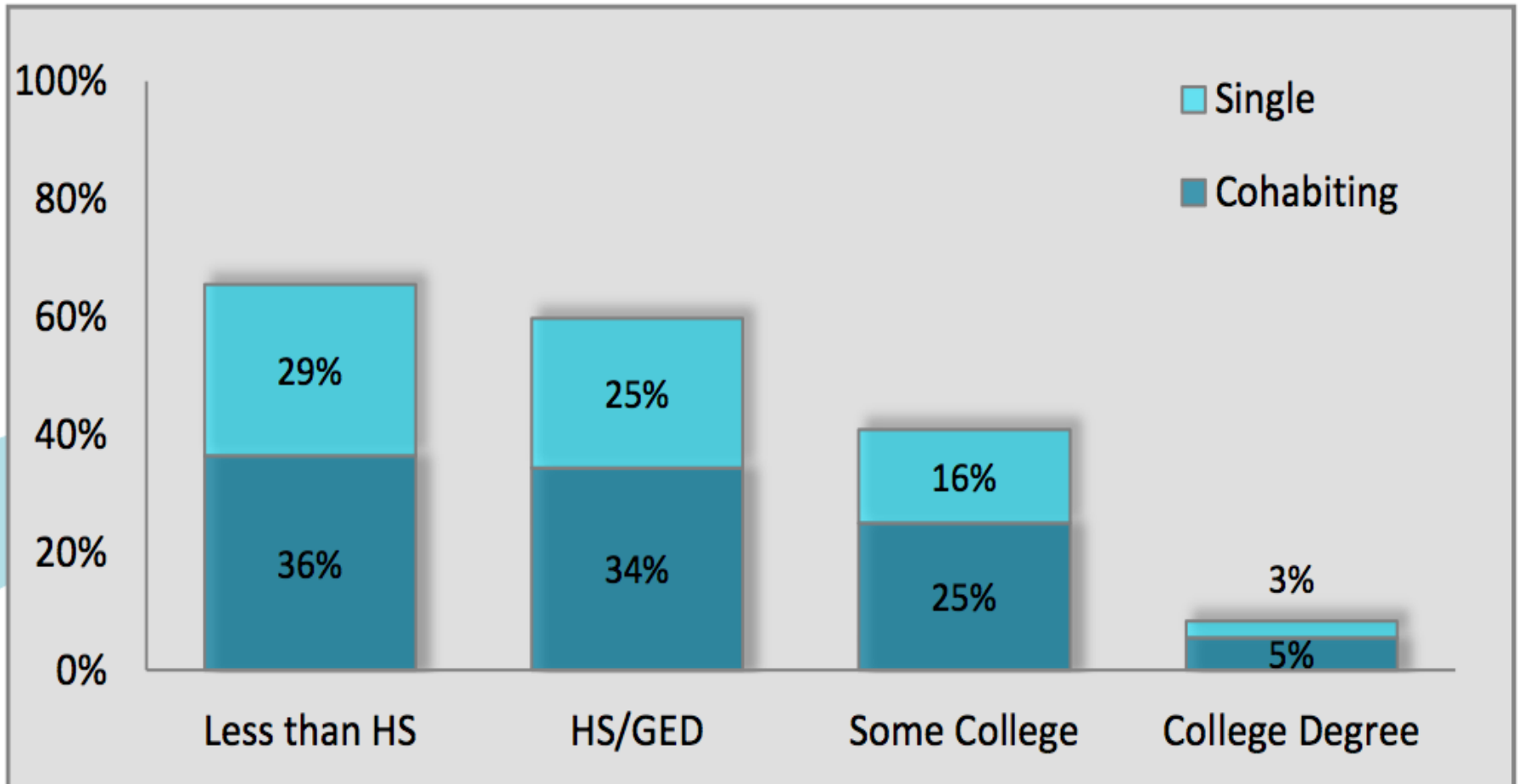
MARRIAGE/UNIONS

- Marriage Rate
- Age at Marriage
- Ever Cohabit

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Unmarried Births

Figure 4. Percentage of All Births to Cohabiting and Single Women by Educational Attainment, 2005-2010

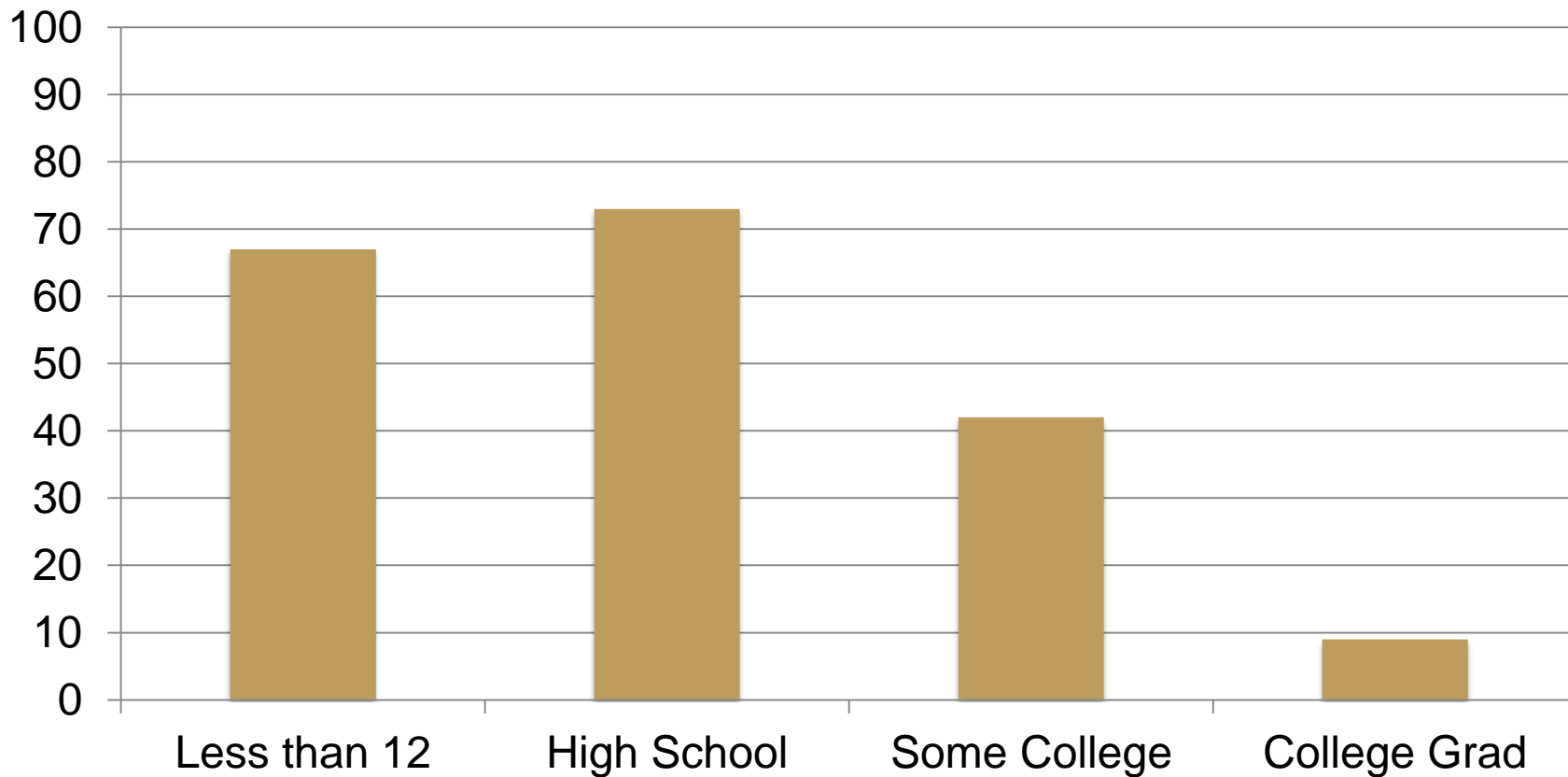


Source: NSFG 2006-2010

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Child Ever Live in Cohabiting Mother

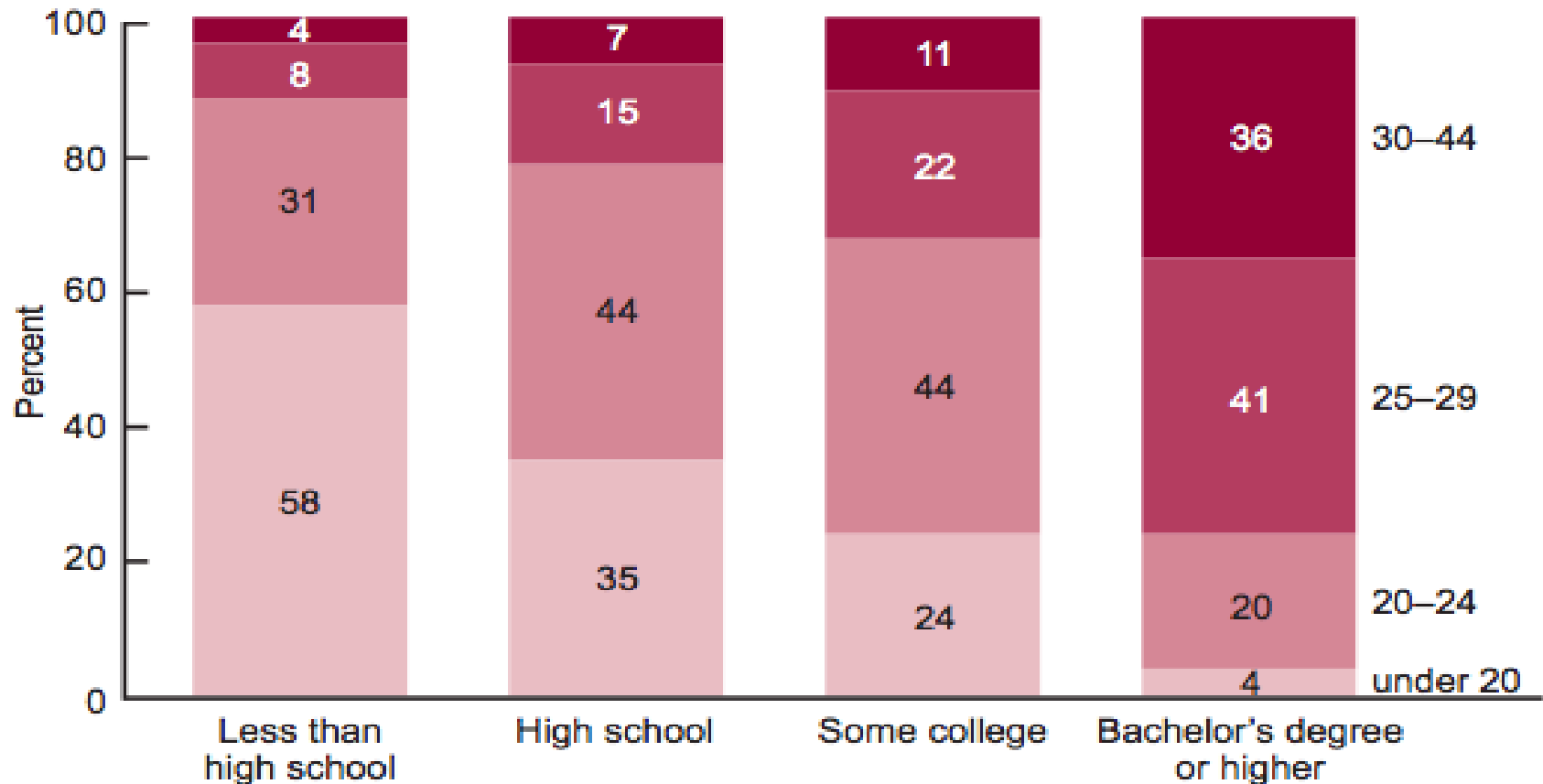
2002-2007



Source: Kennedy and Bumpass 2011

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Age at First Birth



SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2010. Table 7 in this report.

Figure 3. Age at first birth for women aged 22–44 years, by education: United States, 2006–2010

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Intended Births

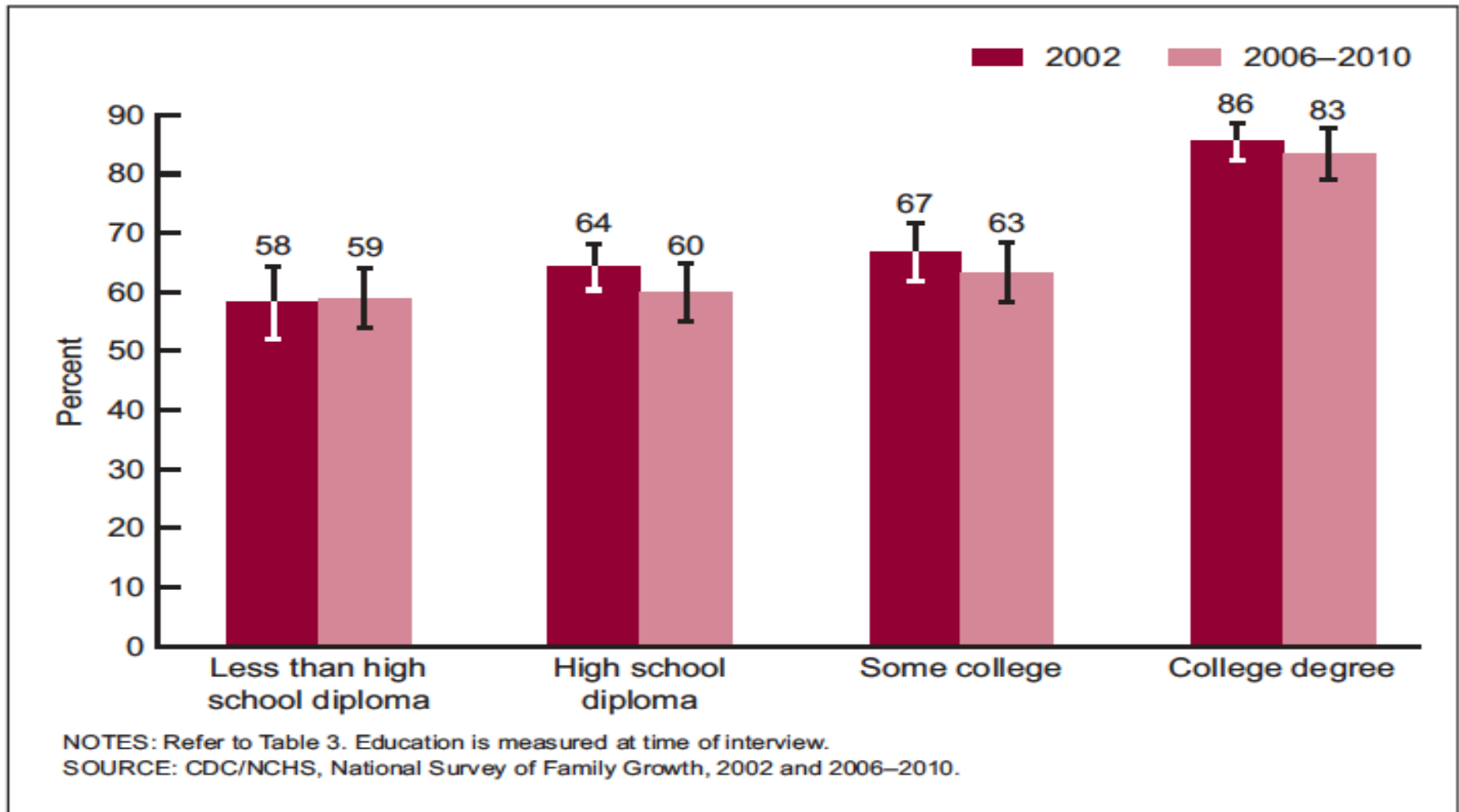
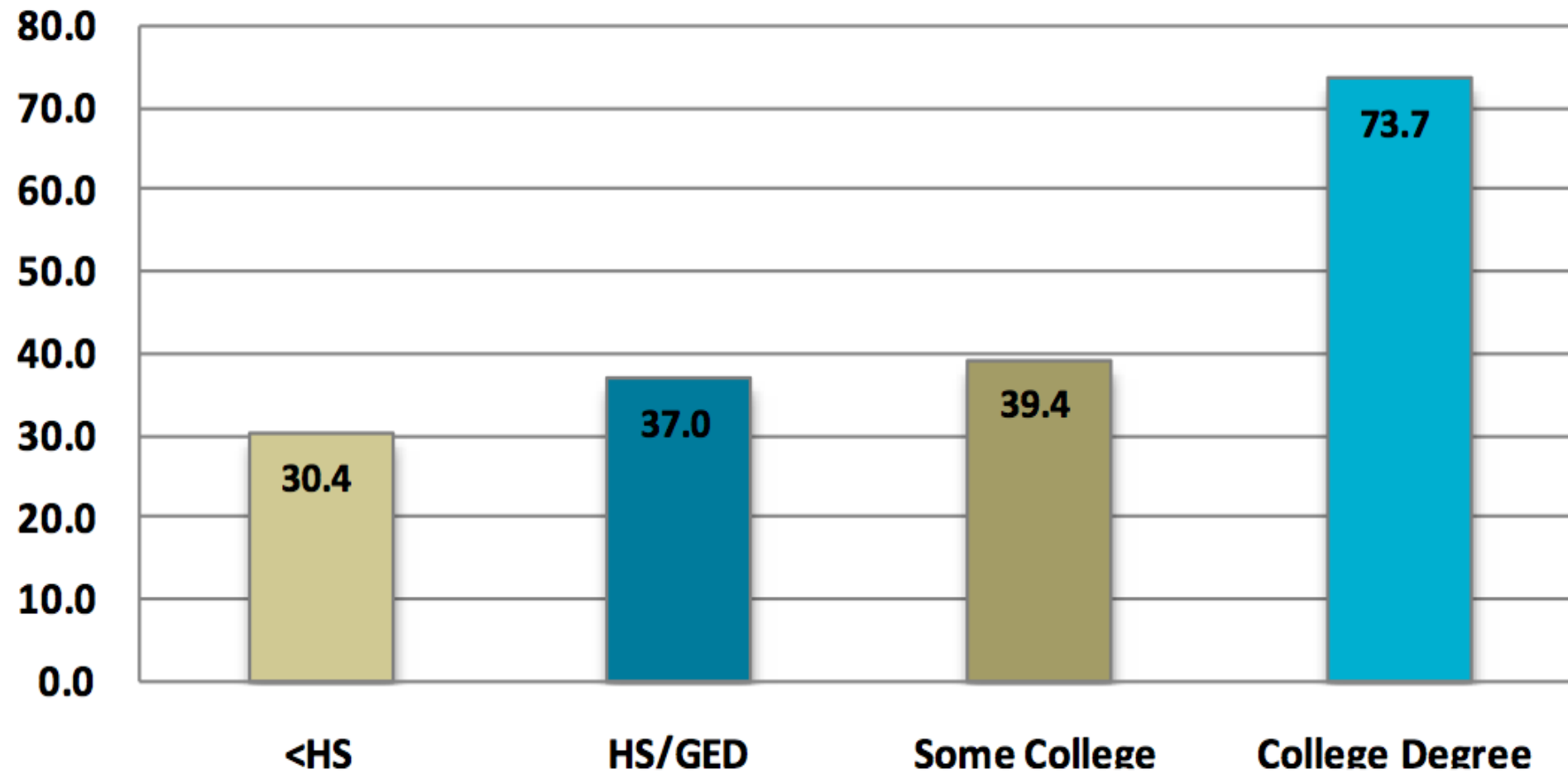


Figure 3. Percentage of births that were intended at conception, by education of mother: United States, 2002 and 2006-2010

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Marriage Rate



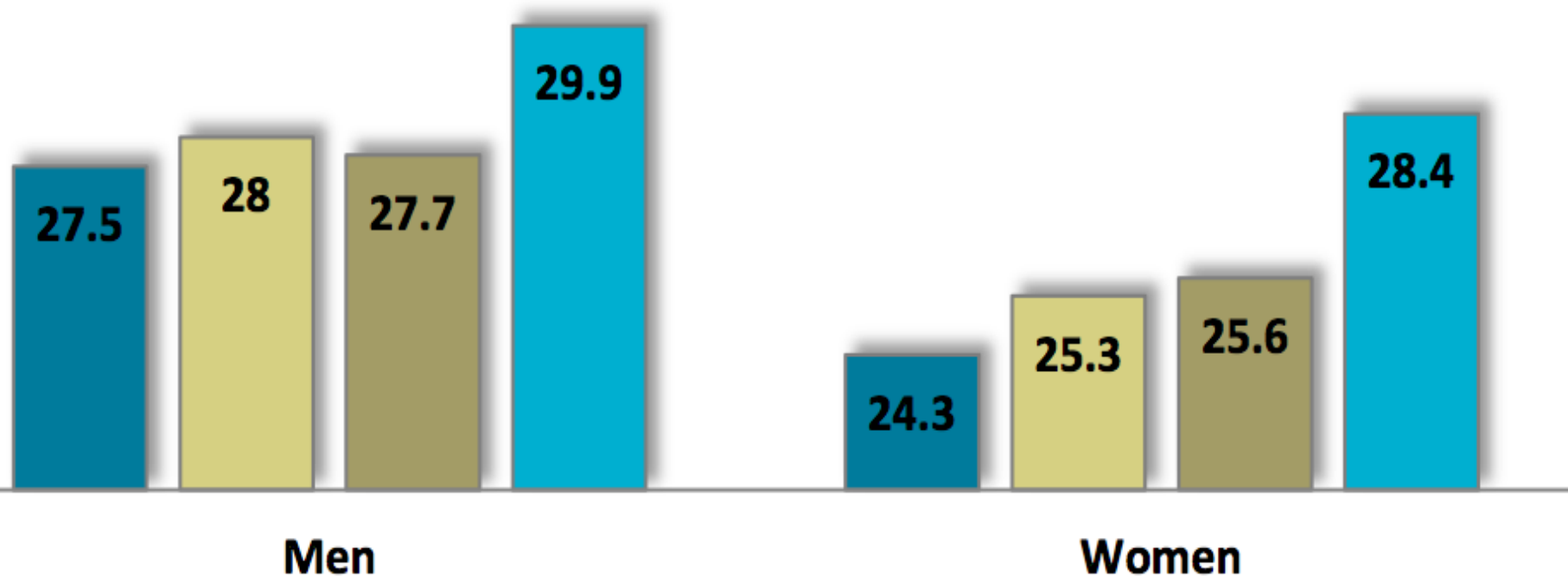
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010

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Age at First Marriage

Figure 3. Median Age at First Marriage by Educational Attainment, 2010

■ <HS ■ HS/GED ■ Some College ■ College Degree



DISCUSSION

- Shifting landscape of American family
- No one single family experience in the U.S.
 - Sustained Diversity
- Subgroup differentials:
 - “one size does not fit all”

Ronald Freedman “Planned Families” 1957

The choices made by millions of individual families have an enormous impact throughout our society and economy. One of the most important kinds of choices families make today concerns the number of children they will have and when they will have them. Choices in these matters of family growth determine the style of life of individual families. They also determine the rate of growth and the composition of our national population

DISCUSSION

Planned Families

Goal Healthy People 2020: Improve pregnancy planning and spacing and prevent unintended pregnancy

“Women who can plan the number and timing of their births enjoy improved health, experience fewer unwanted pregnancies and births, and have lower rates of induced, and often unsafe, abortion. In addition, women who have control over their fertility have a chance to get more schooling and find paid employment—achievements that enhance their social and economic status and improve the well-being of their families.”

Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2002

Thank you!

Family Profiles:
National Center for Family and
Marriage Research
<http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/>

Comments & Queries:
wmannin@bgsu.edu

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