



The Changing 20s

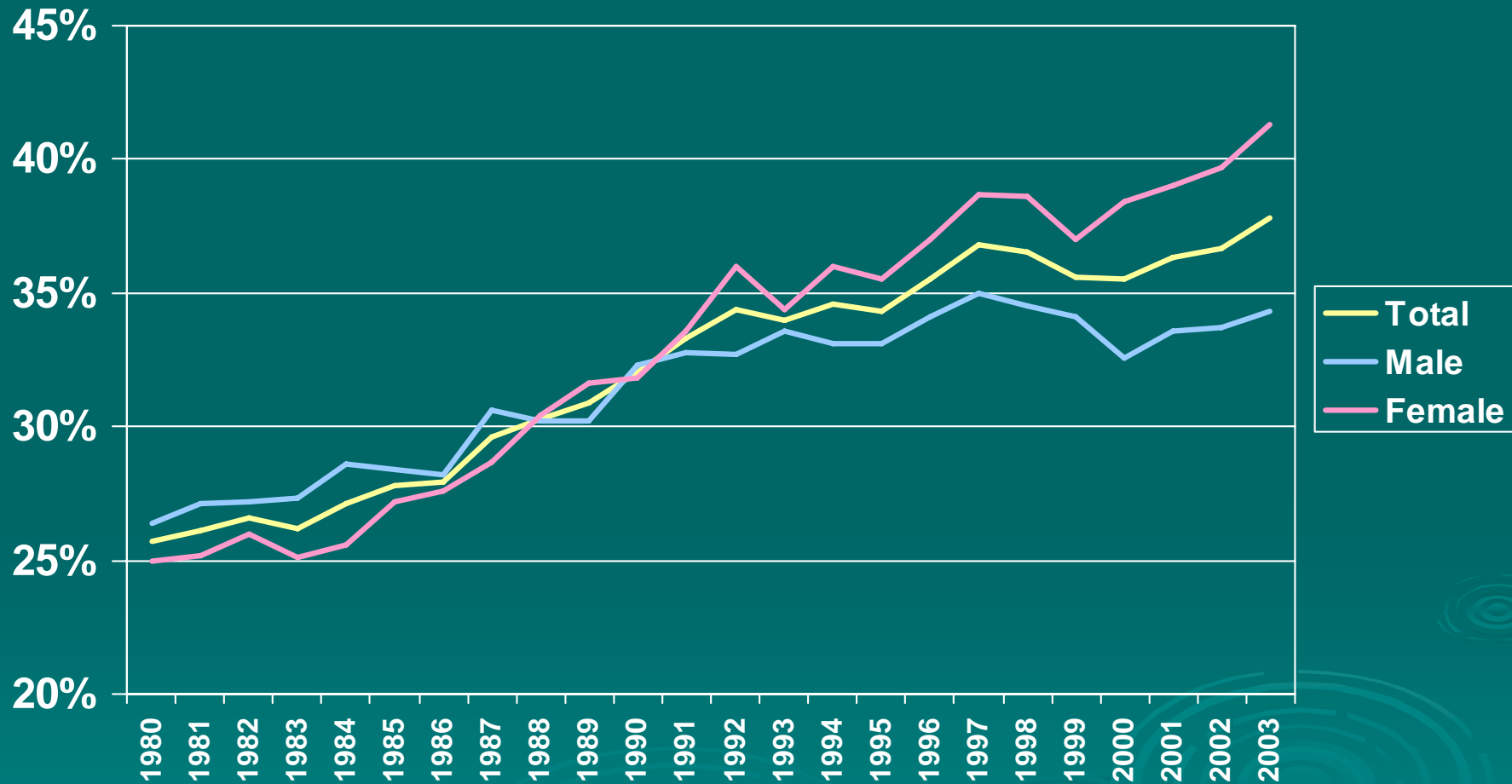
**William A. Galston, Senior Fellow
The Brookings Institution**

**Prepared for delivery at the National Campaign's
Forum on Being 20-Something in the 21st Century**

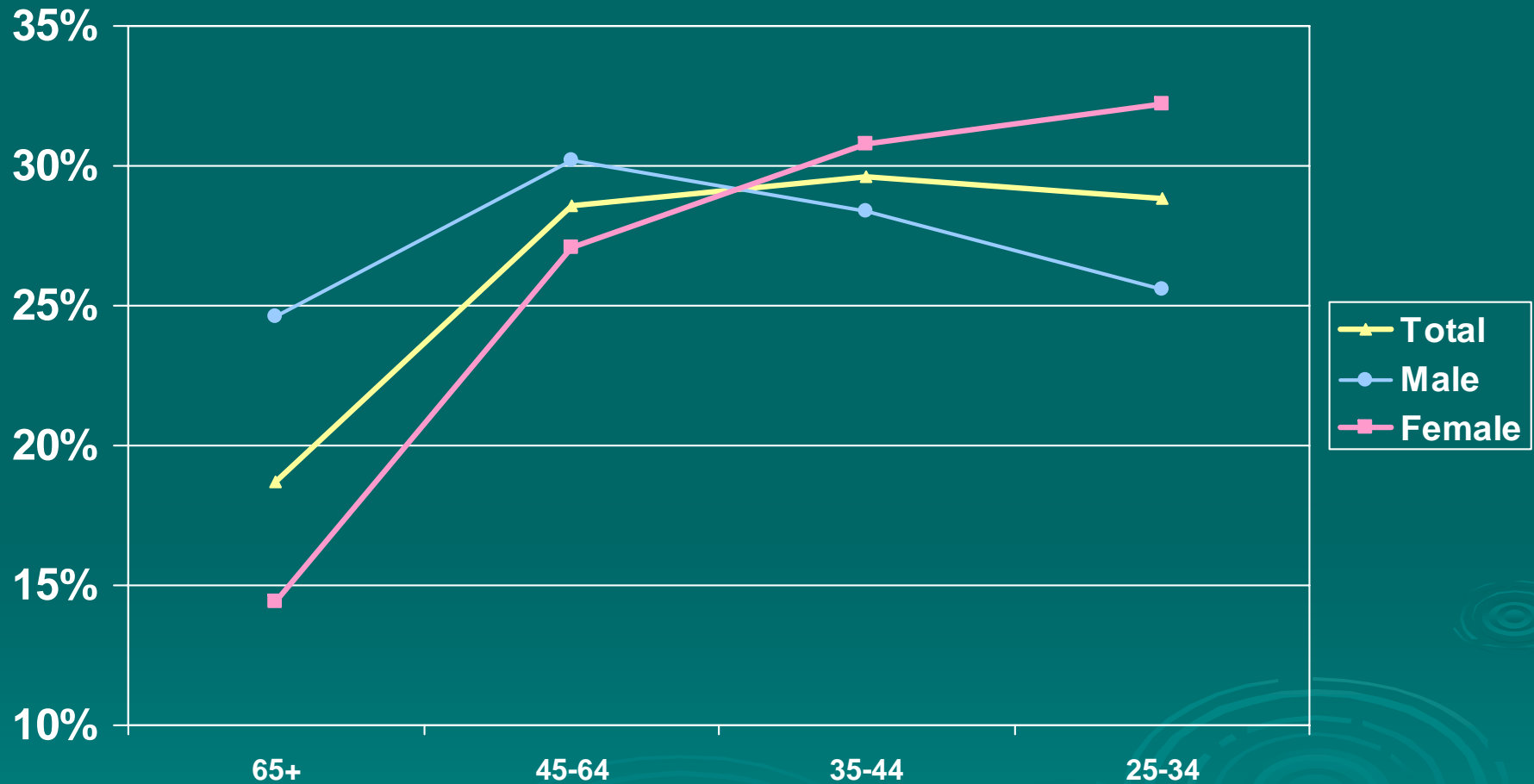
**Produced as part of the Brookings Institution's "Responsible Parenting" Project
with funding from the Hewlett Foundation**

October 4, 2007

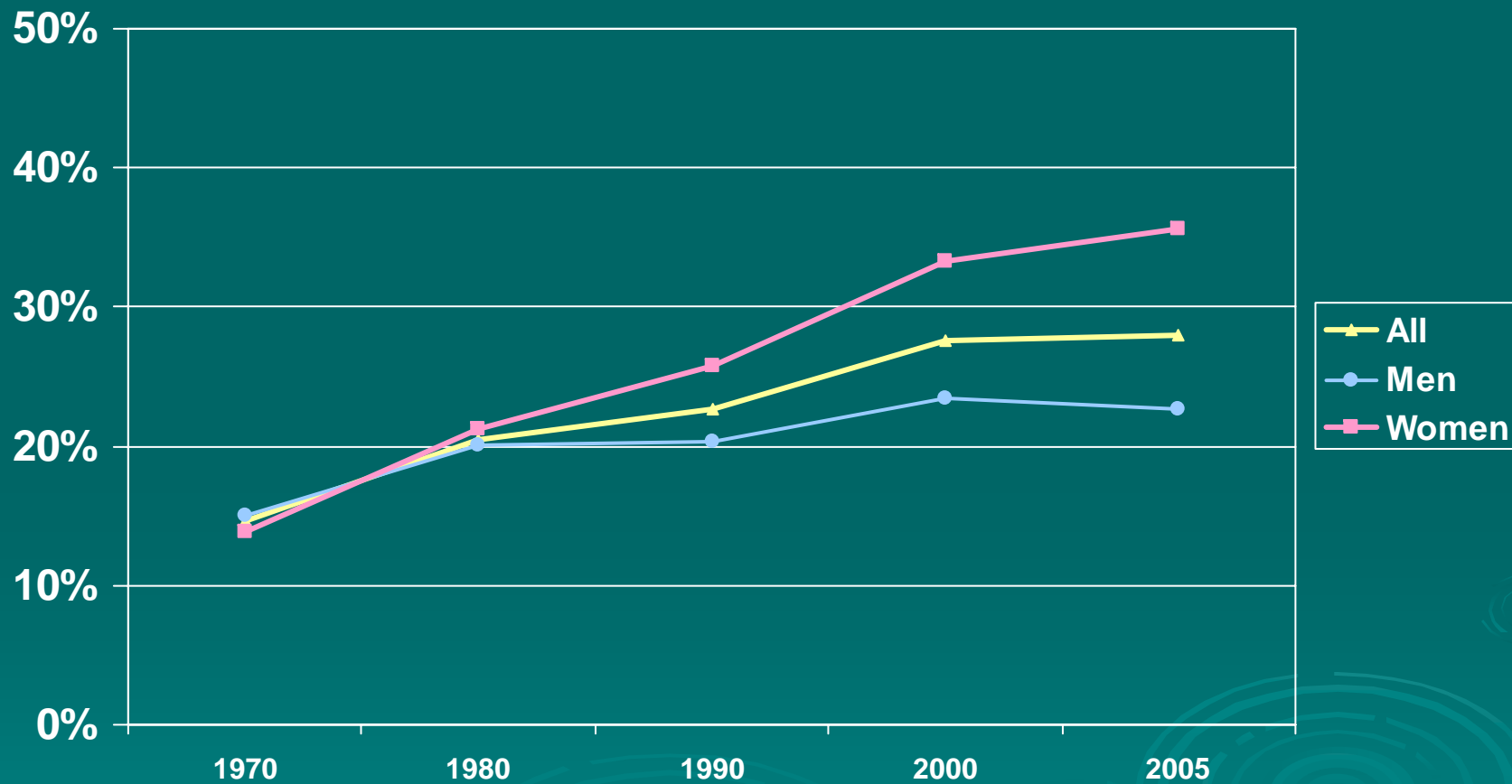
College Enrolled, 1980-2003, by Gender



BA or Higher, by Gender and Age Cohort



Percent of U.S. Workers in Their 20s with a College Degree

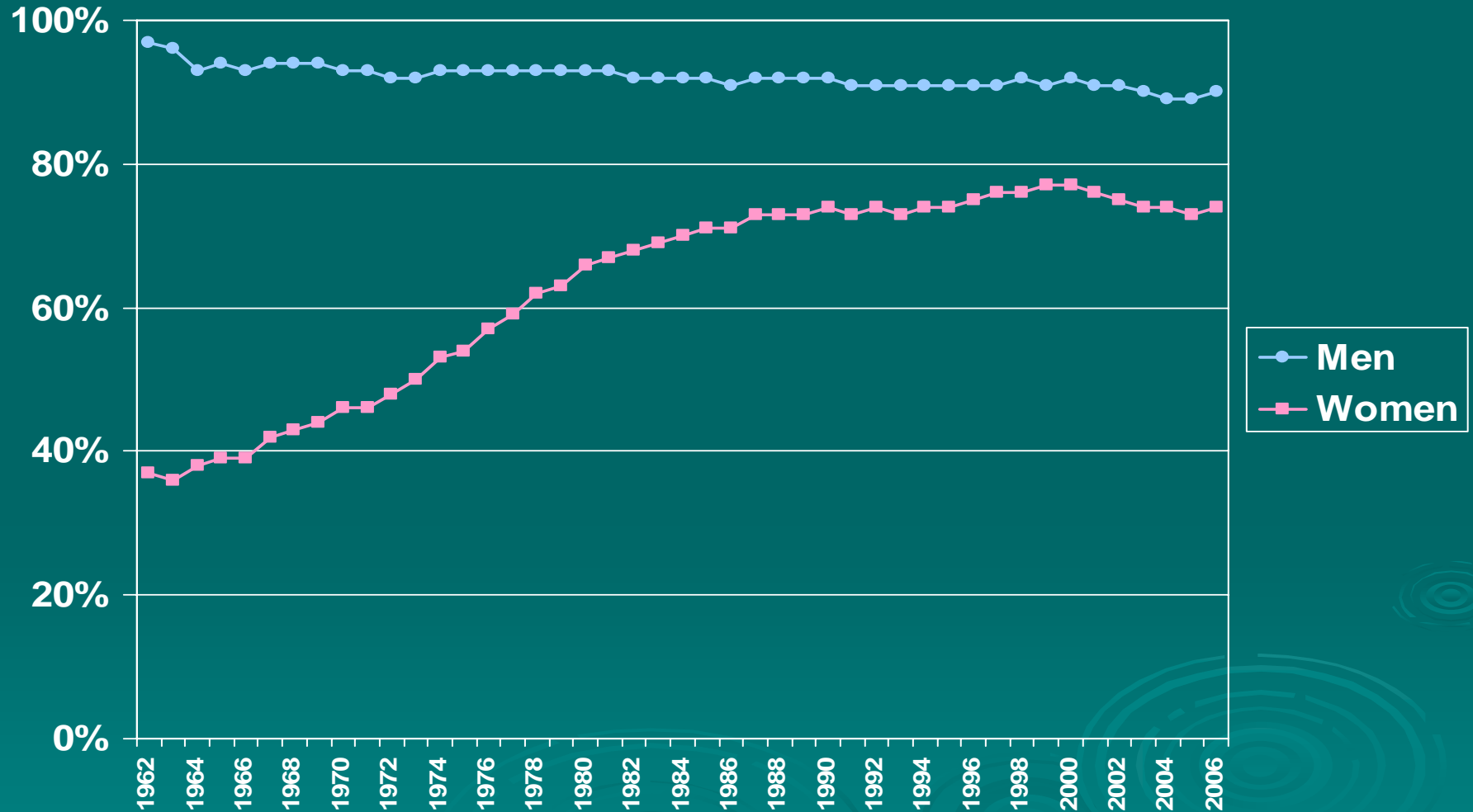


College Attendance/Completion

	1970	2000
Median years to completion	4	5
6+ yrs to completion (%)	15%	23%
Students 21 and older (%)	25%	45%
Pell grant recipients 24 and older (%)	30%*	58%**

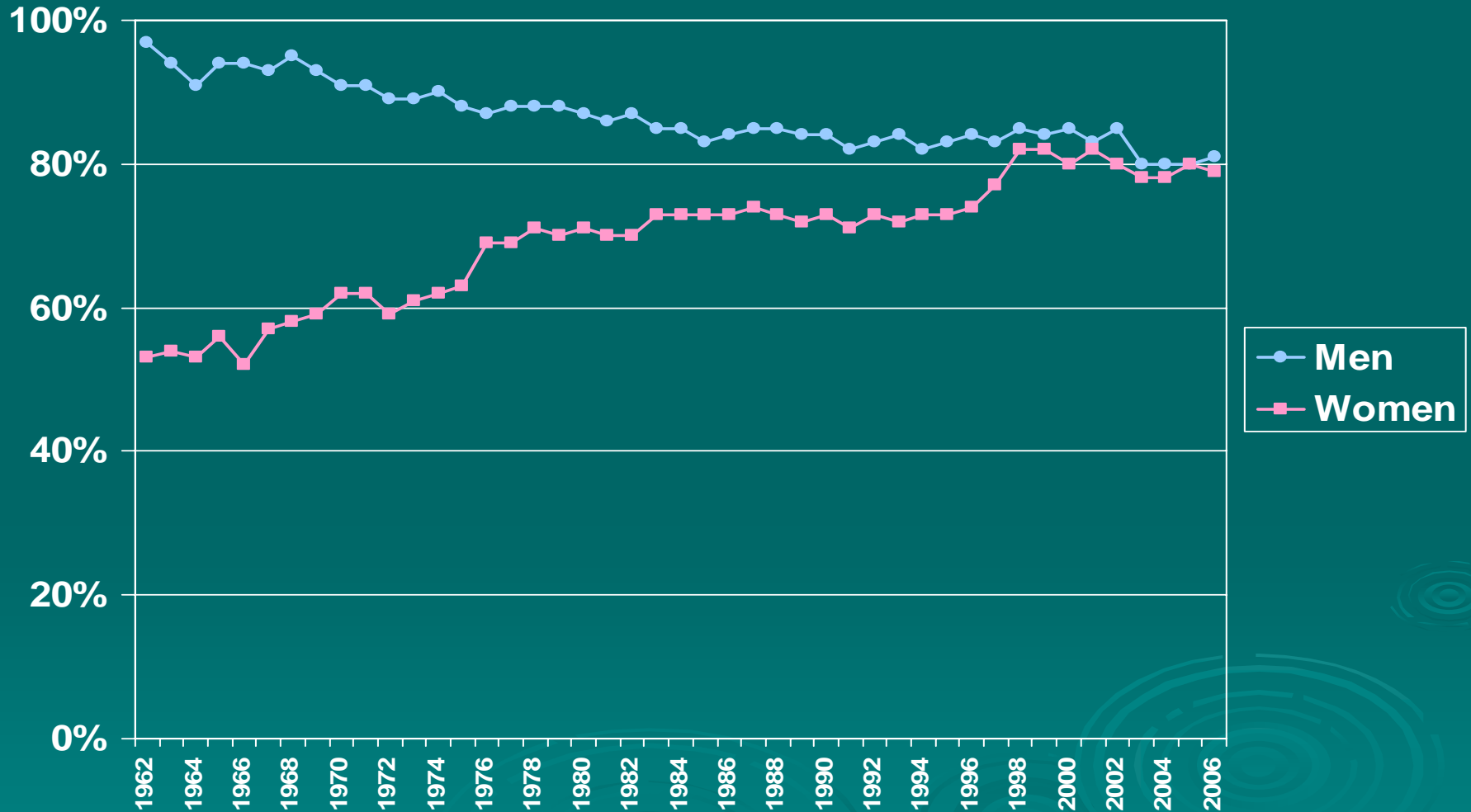
*1975 **2003

Labor Force Participation Rate, Ages 25 to 35, by Gender

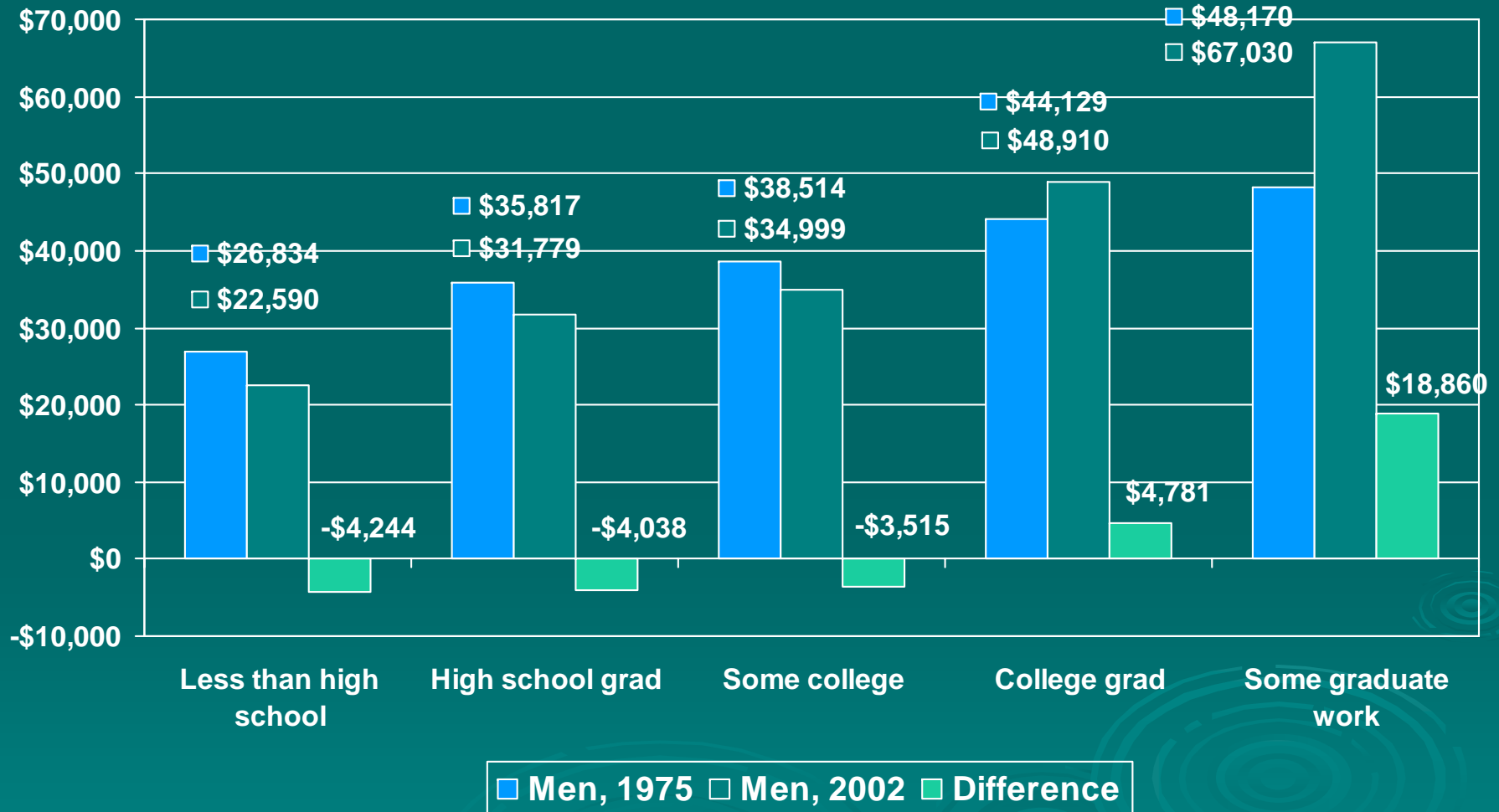


Source: Emily Roussel, The Brookings Institution, analysis of CPS data

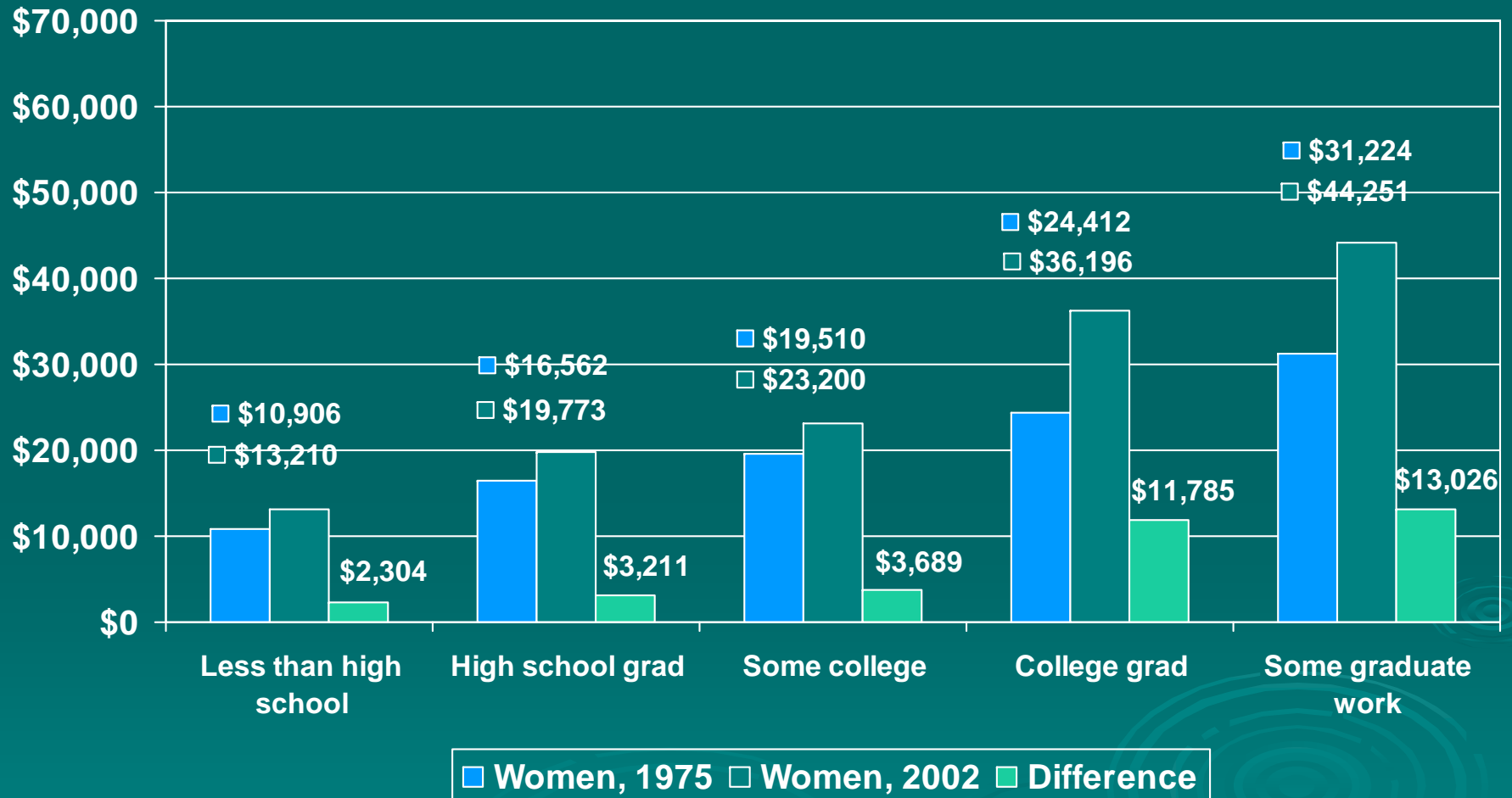
African-American Labor Force Participation Rate, Ages 25 to 35, by Gender



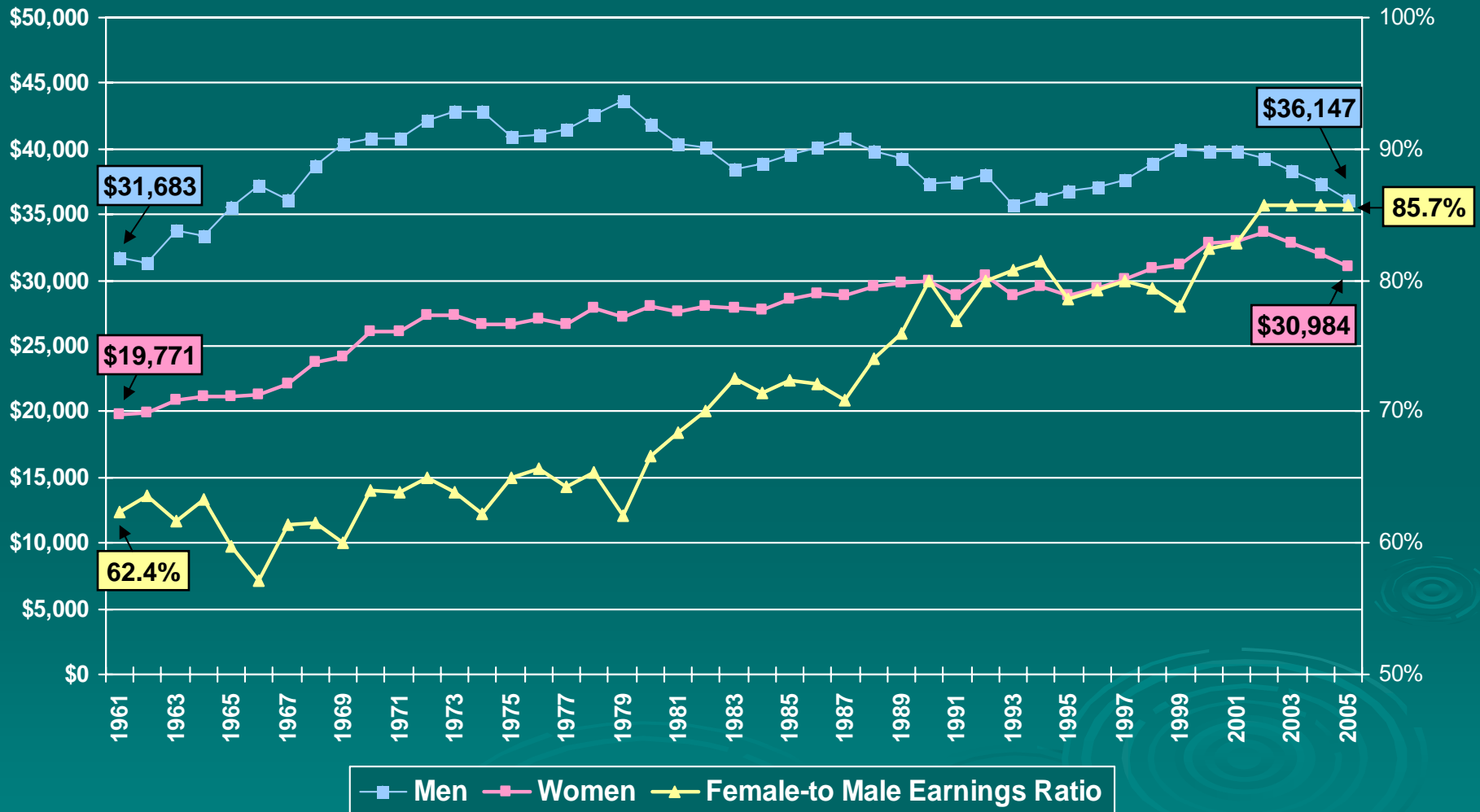
Men's (aged 25-34) Earnings by Education, 1975 & 2002 (Data exclude nonearners; 2002 dollars)



Women's (aged 25-34) Earnings by Education, 1975 & 2002 (Data exclude nonearners; 2002 dollars)



Female-to-Male Earnings Ratio and Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year Round Workers Ages 25-25 by Gender

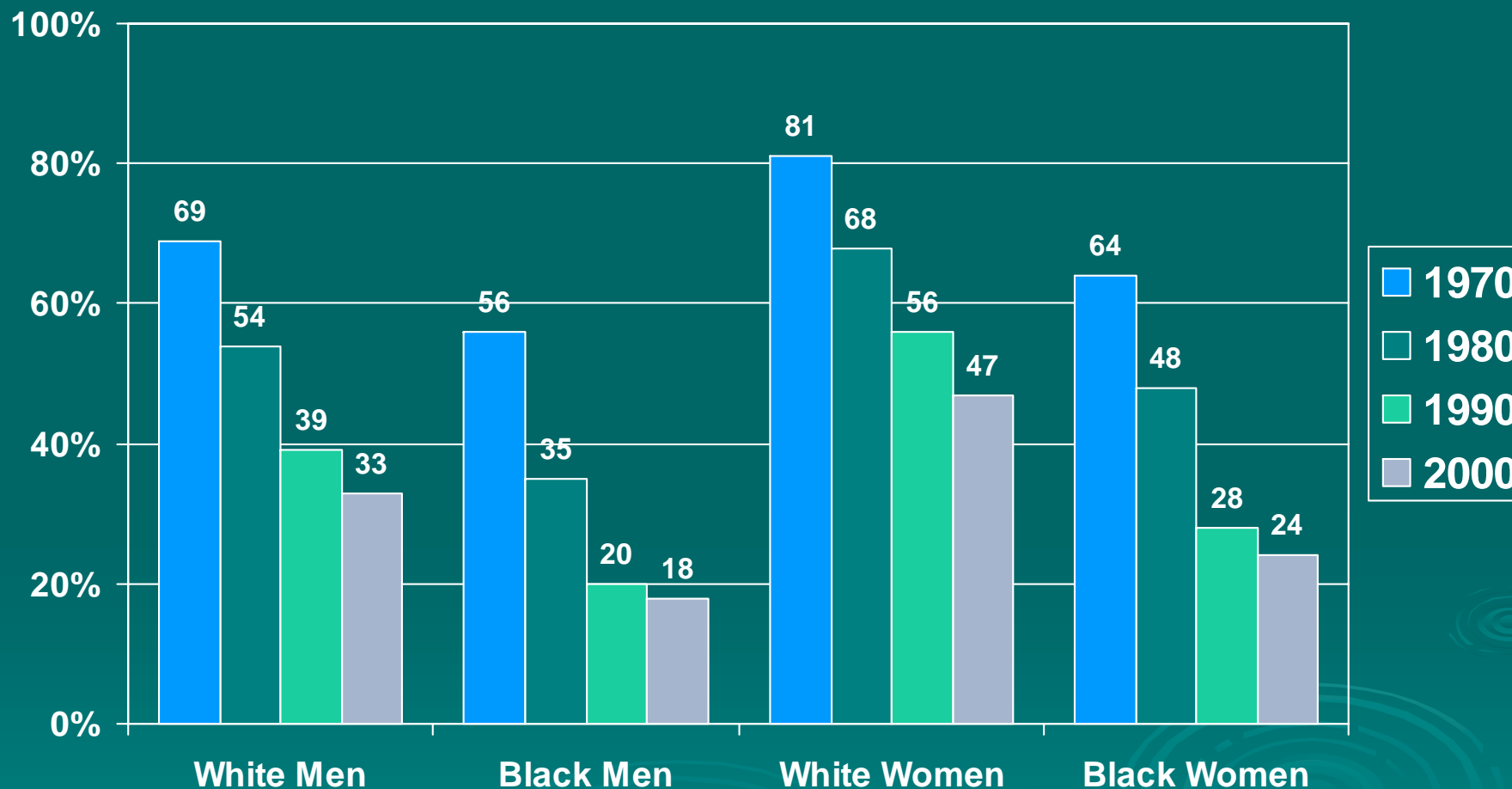


Source: Emily Roussel, The Brookings Institution, analysis of CPS data

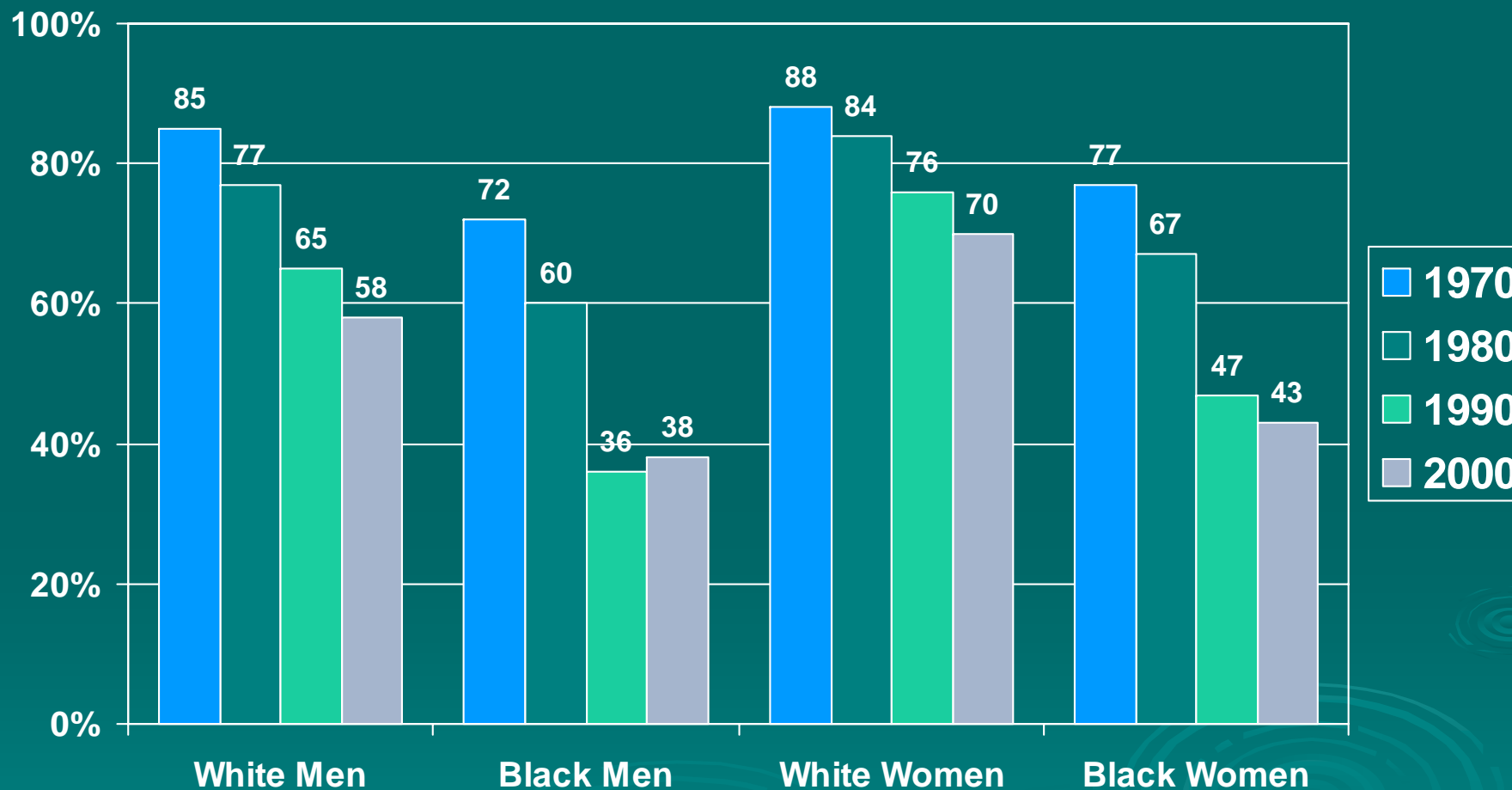
Female Contribution to Married Couples' Work and Earnings

	40% or more weeks	40% or more earnings
1970	27%	13%
1980	48%	23%
1990	62%	33%
2000	64%	37%

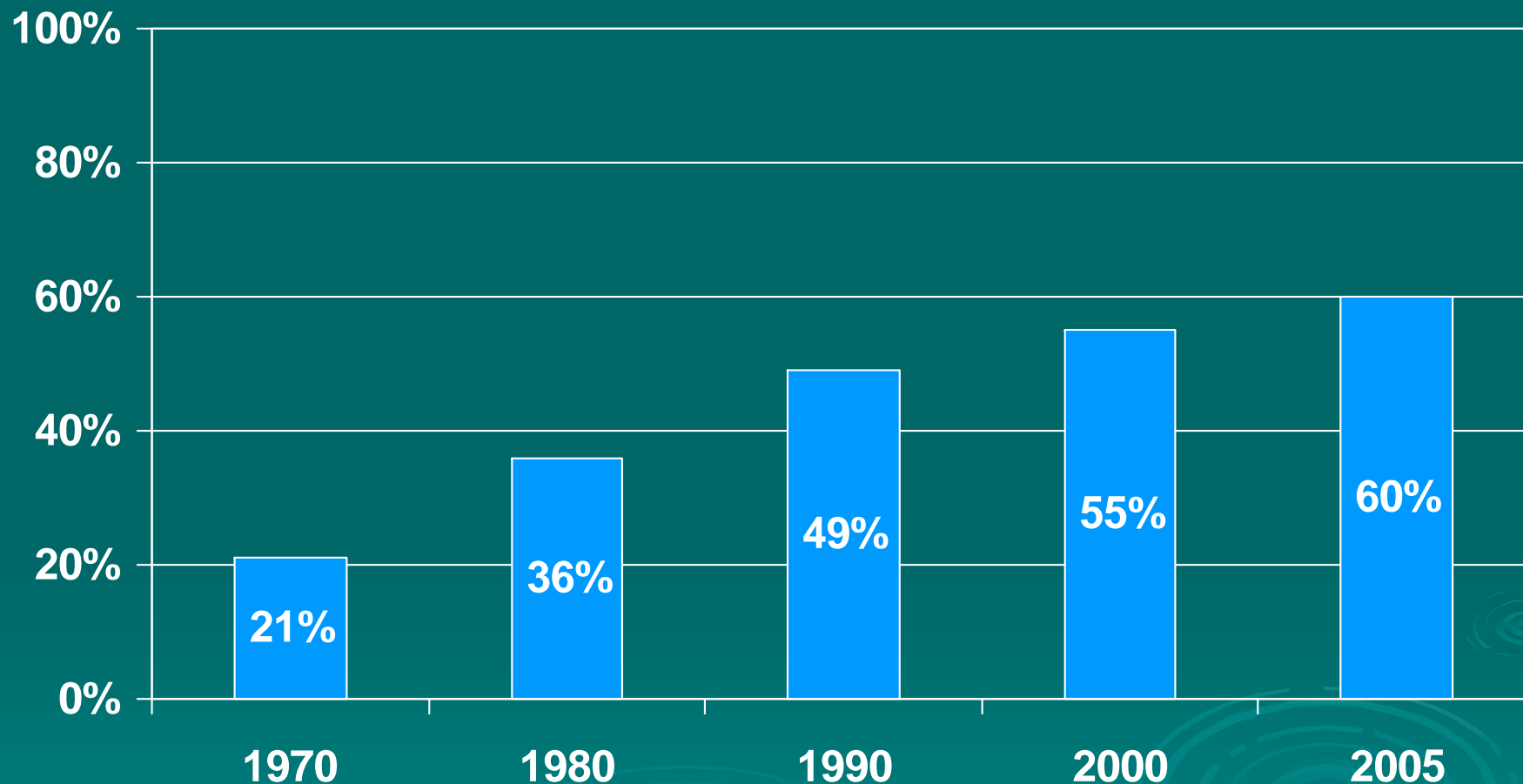
Married at Age 25 (%)



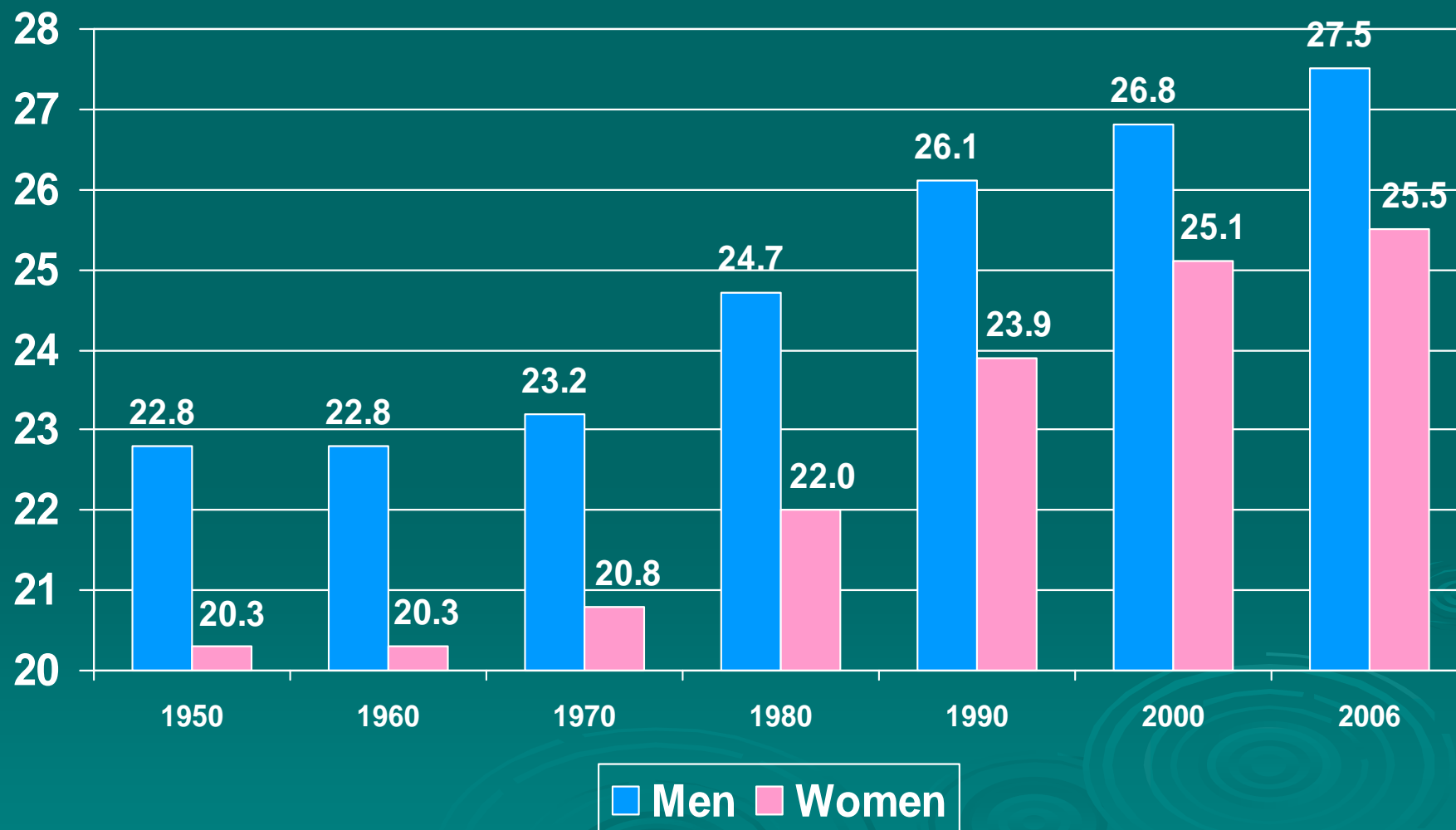
Married at Age 30 (%)



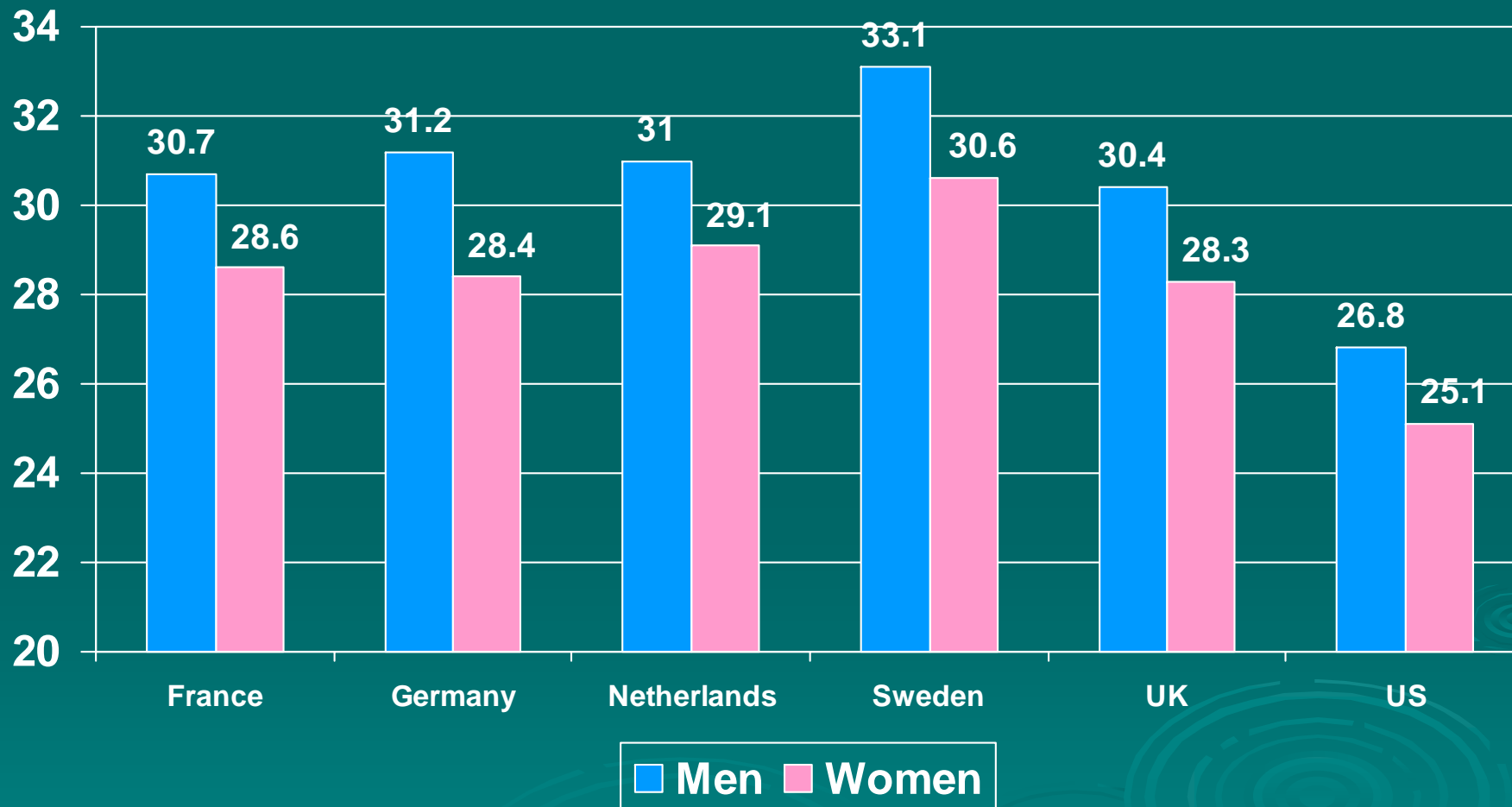
Never Married at Age 25 (%)



Median Age at First Marriage, 1950-2006



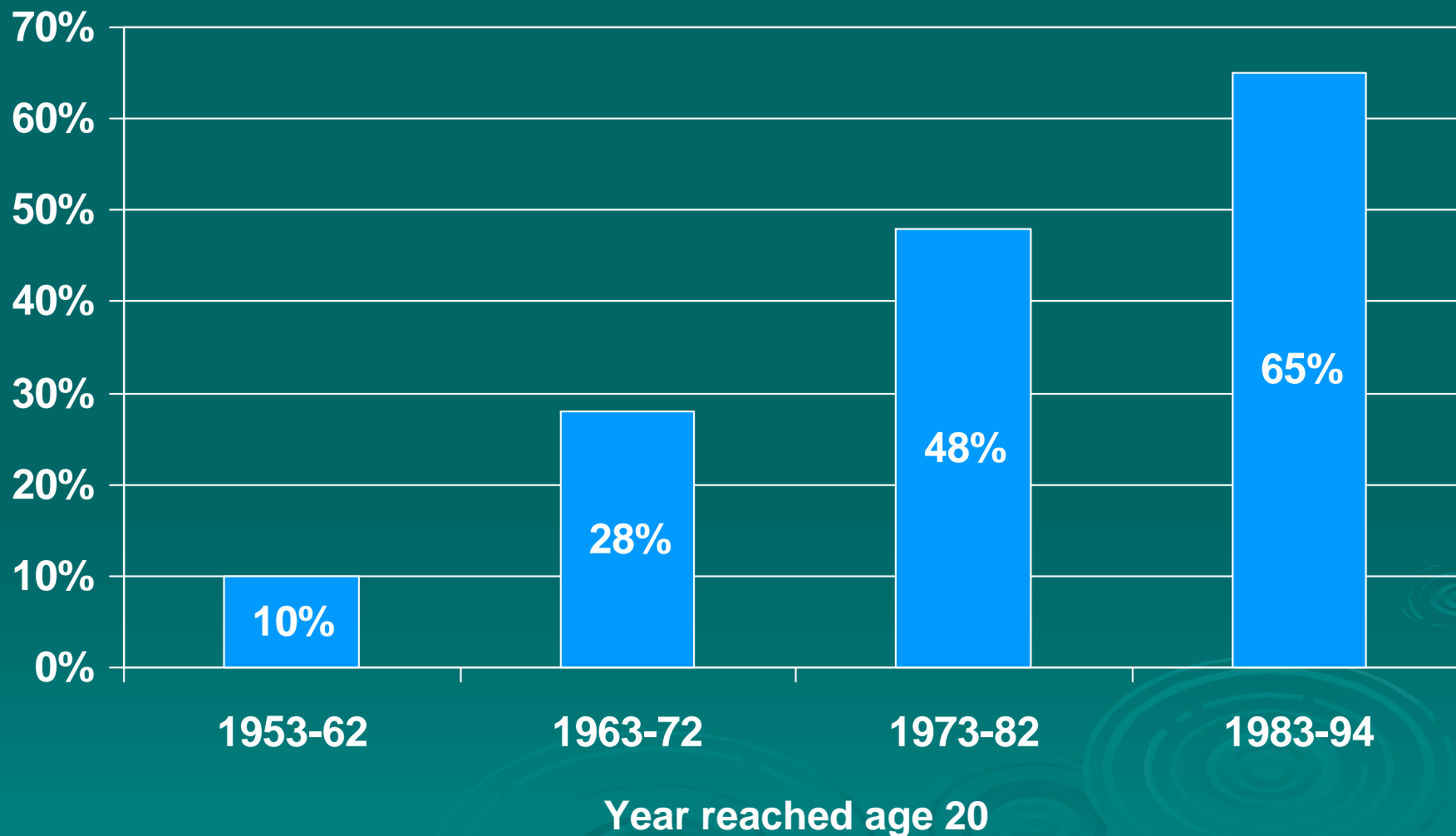
Median Age at First Marriage, 2000, by Country



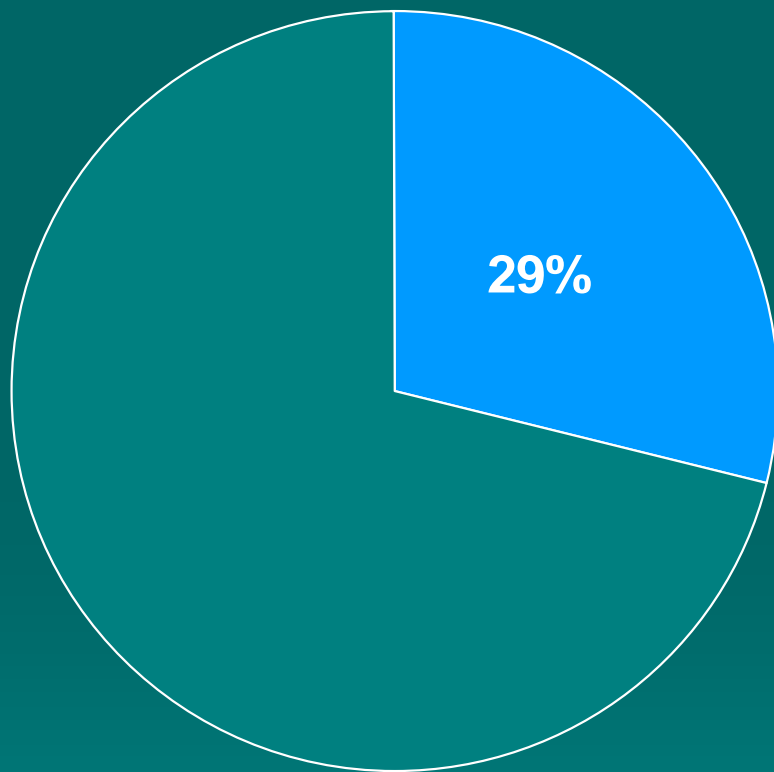
Increase in Median Age at First Marriage, 1980-2000 (years)

	Men	Women
France	5.5	5.6
Germany	5.1	5.0
Netherlands	5.6	6.0
Sweden	4.1	4.2
UK	5.1	5.3
US	2.1	3.1

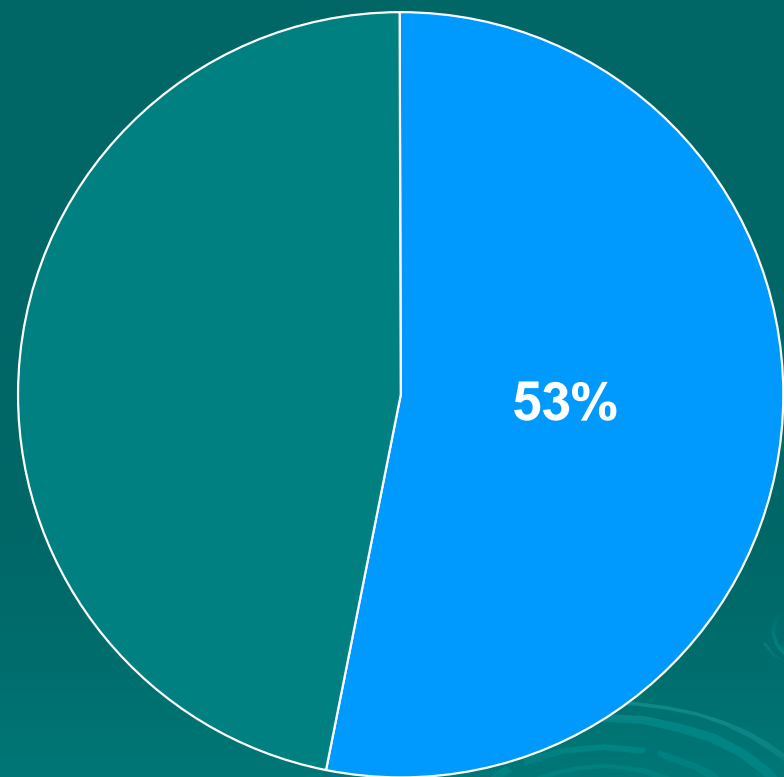
Cohabit at Least Once Prior to Marriage



Births to Cohabiting Couples as % of Births to Unmarried Women

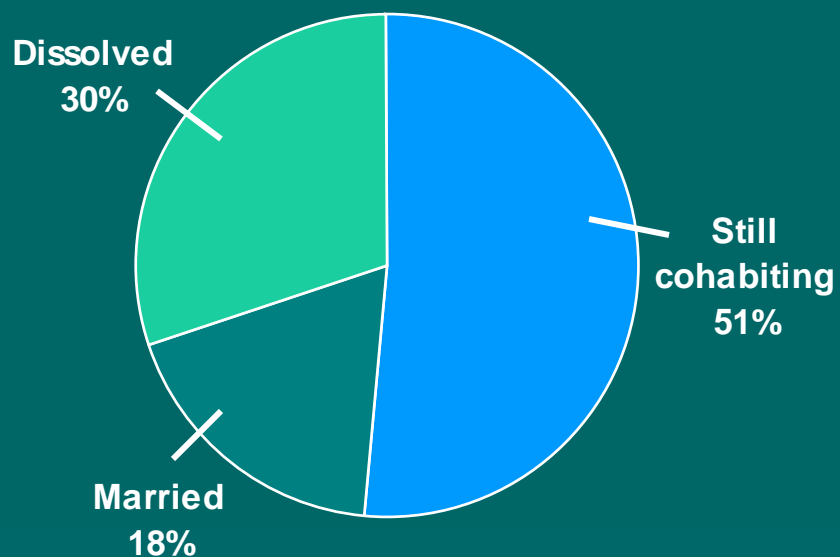


1980-1984

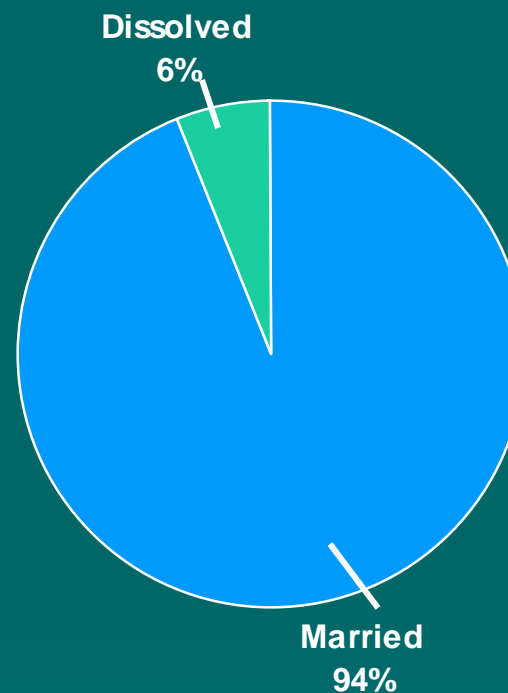


1997-2001

Status of Couples When Baby is Age 2, by Status at Birth

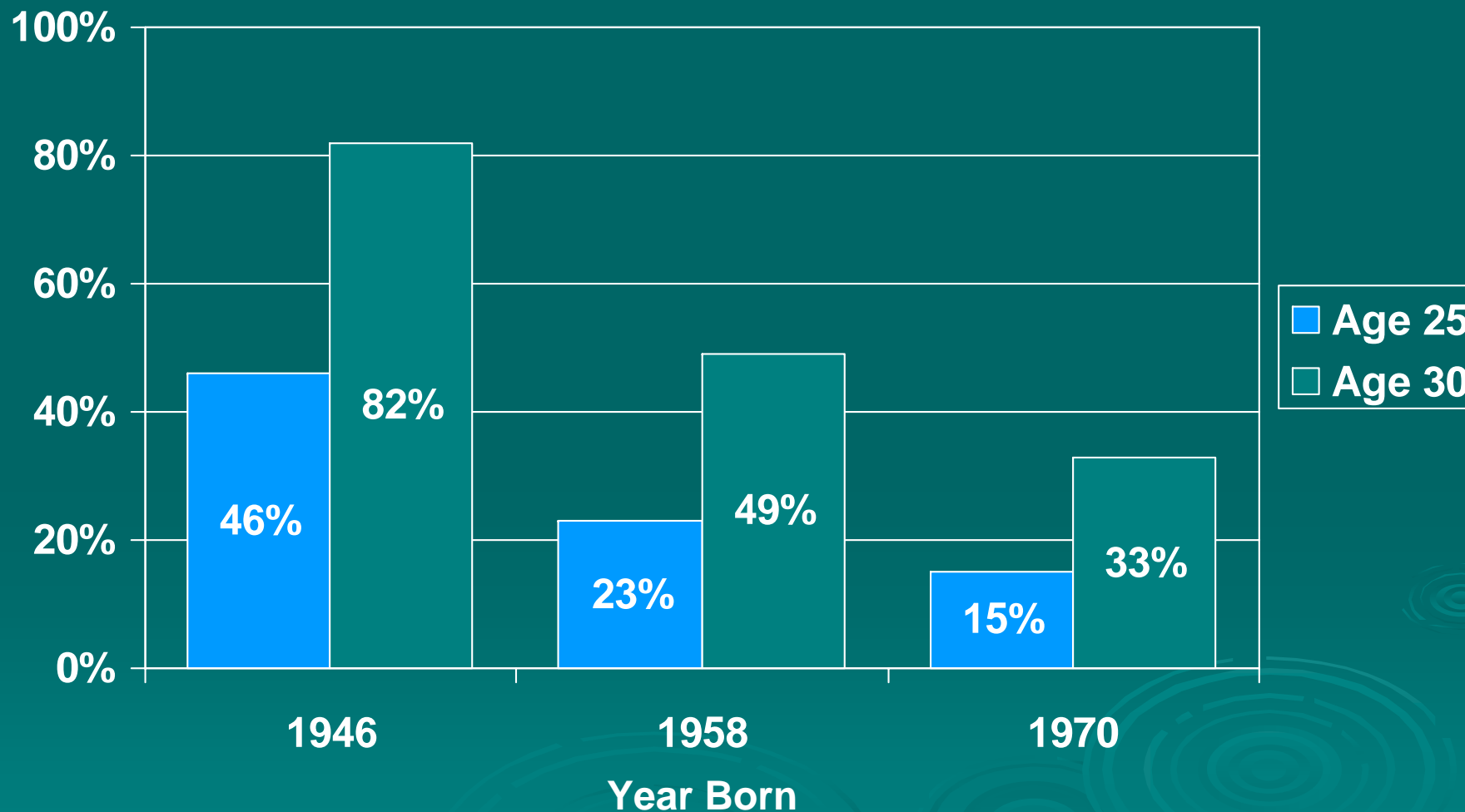


Cohabiting Parents

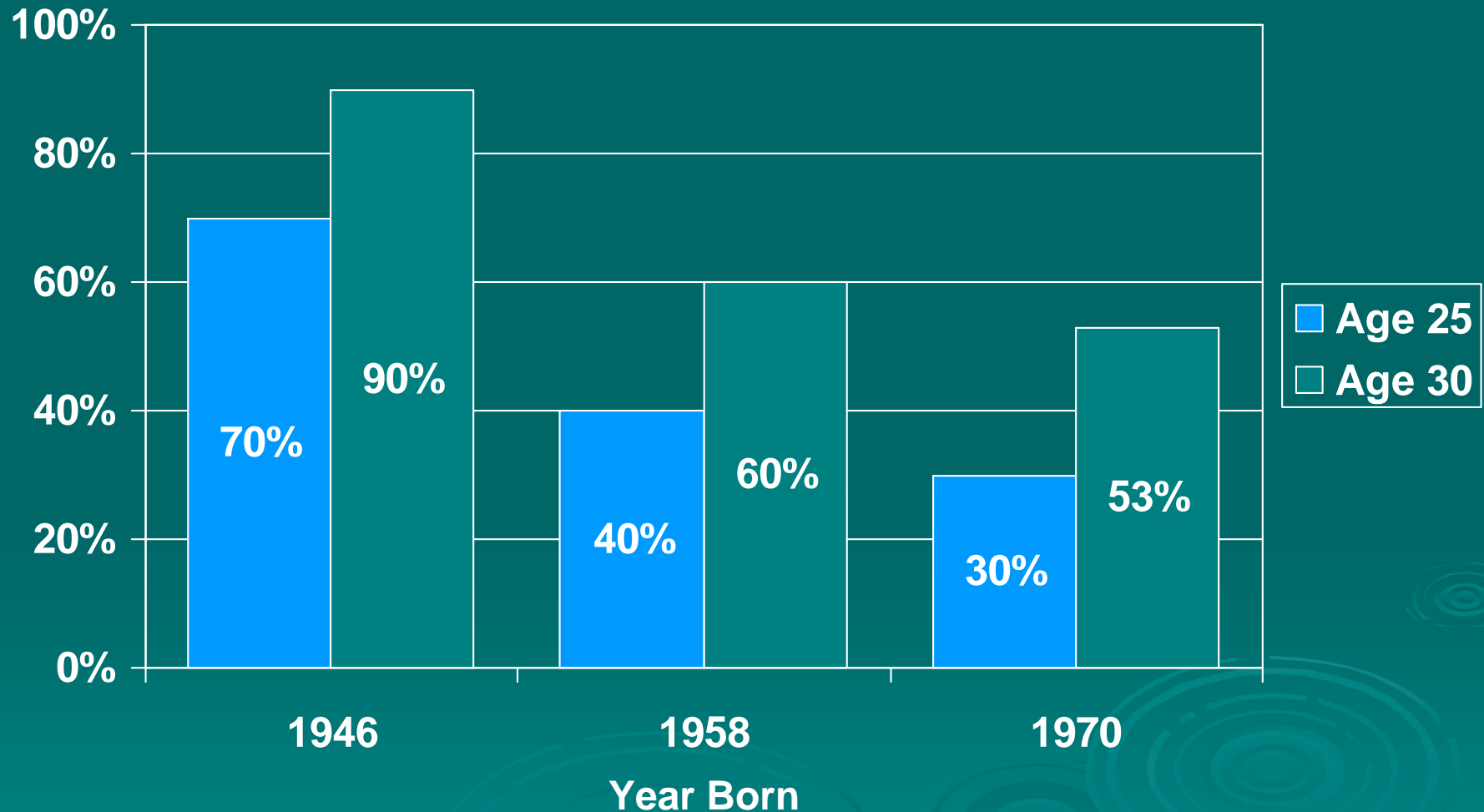


Married Parents

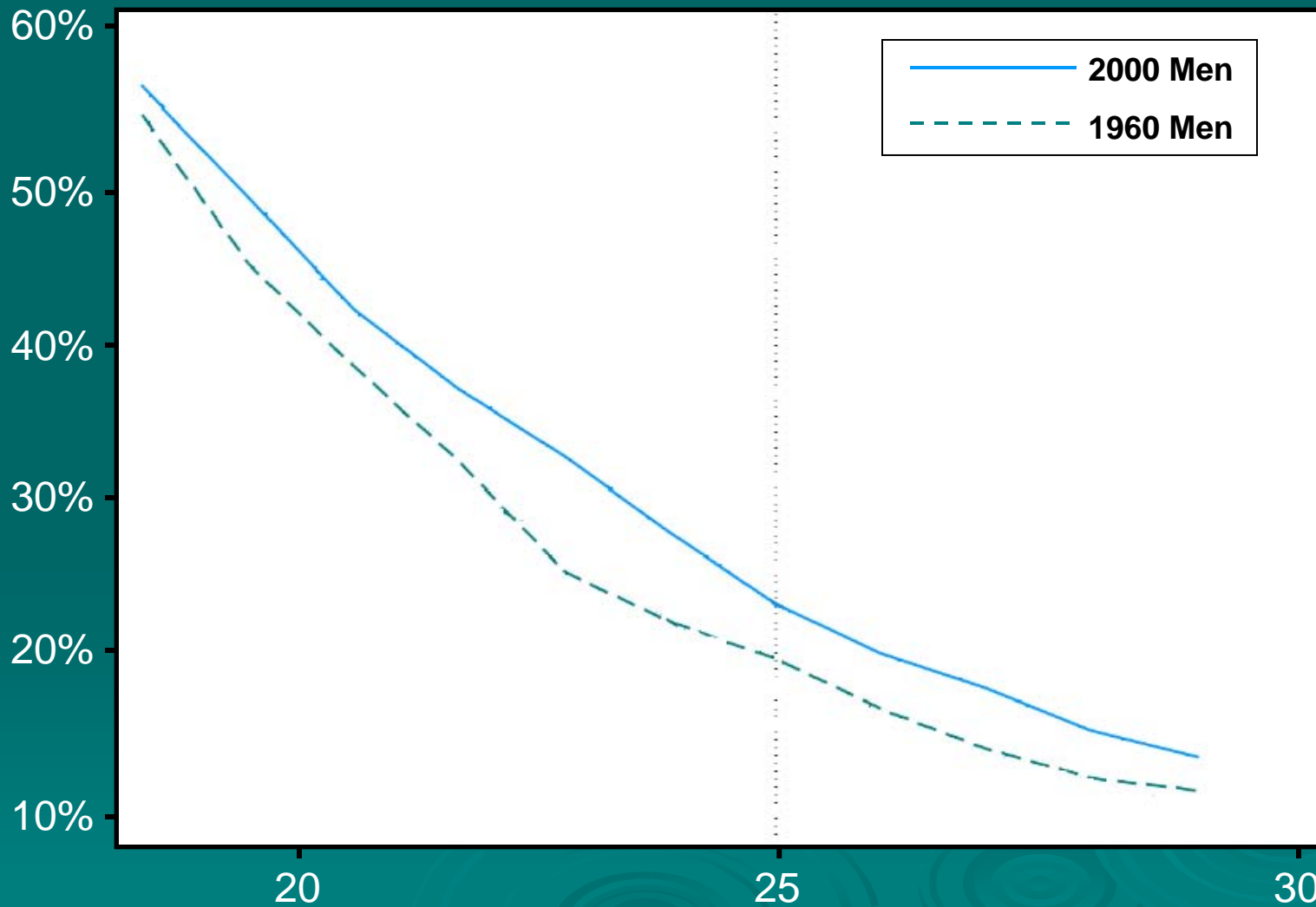
Men with First Child, by Age and Cohort, UK (%)



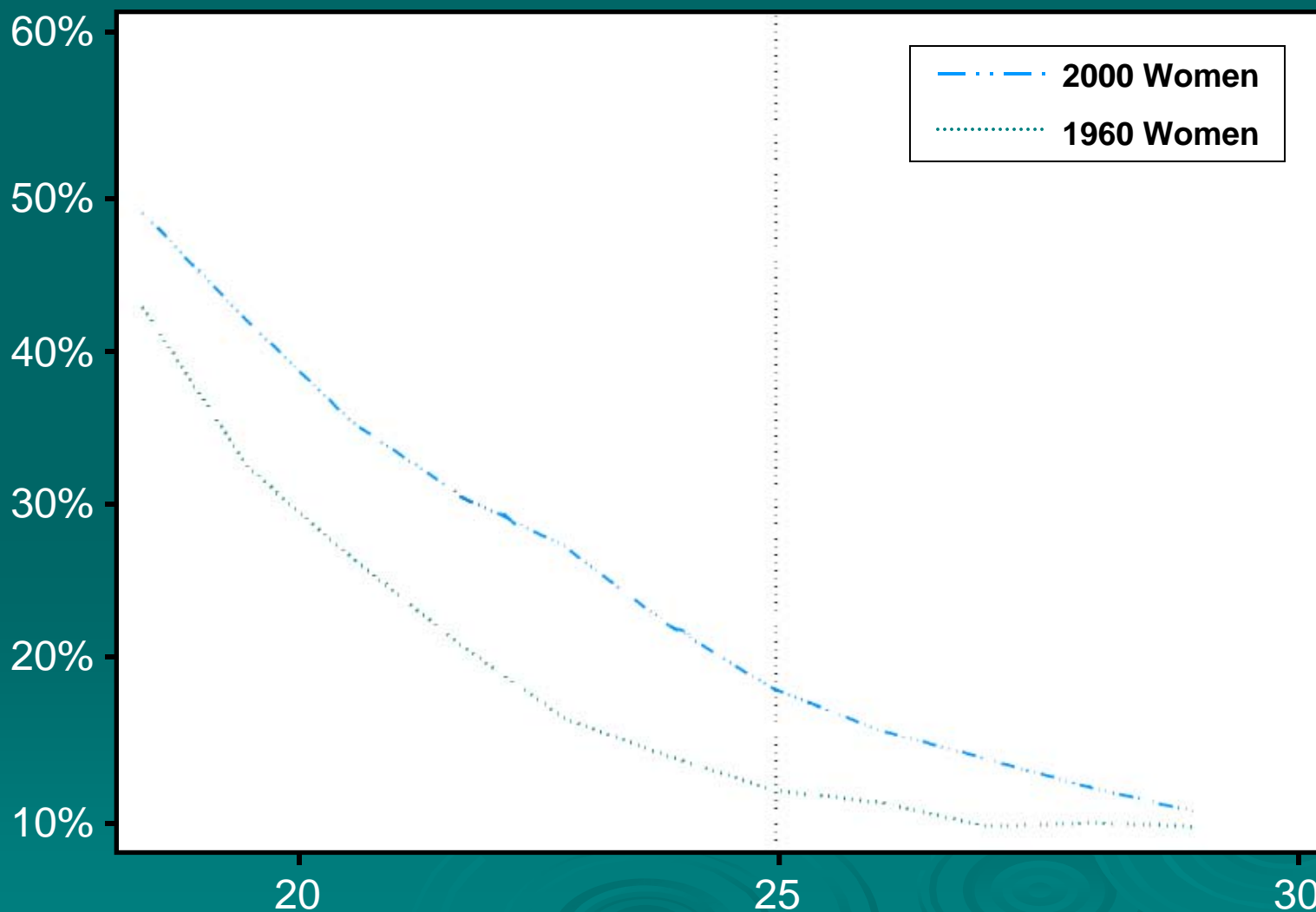
Women with First Child, by Age and Cohort, UK (%)



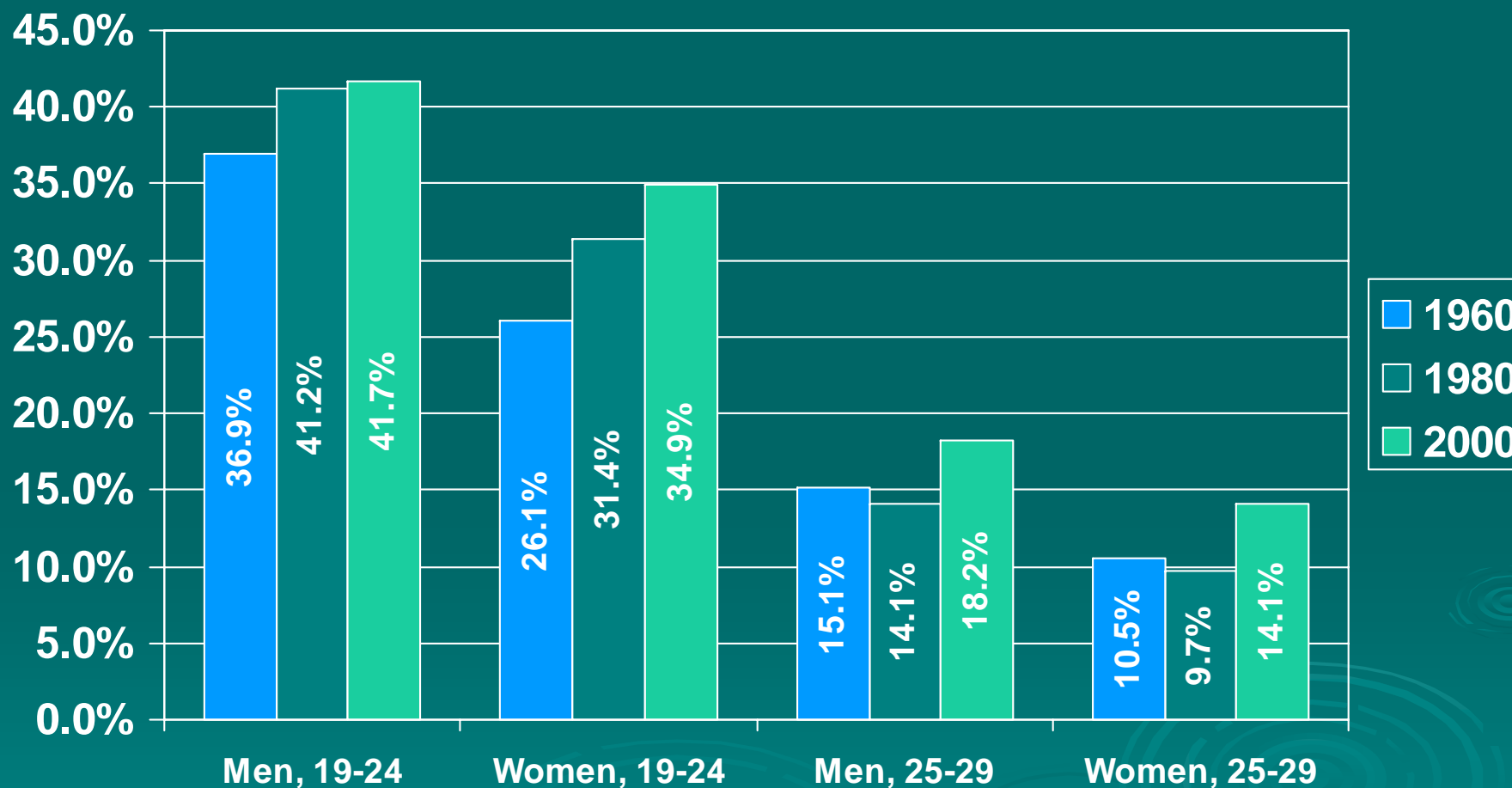
Percent of Young Men Age 19 to 29 Living with at Least One Parent, 1960 vs. 2000



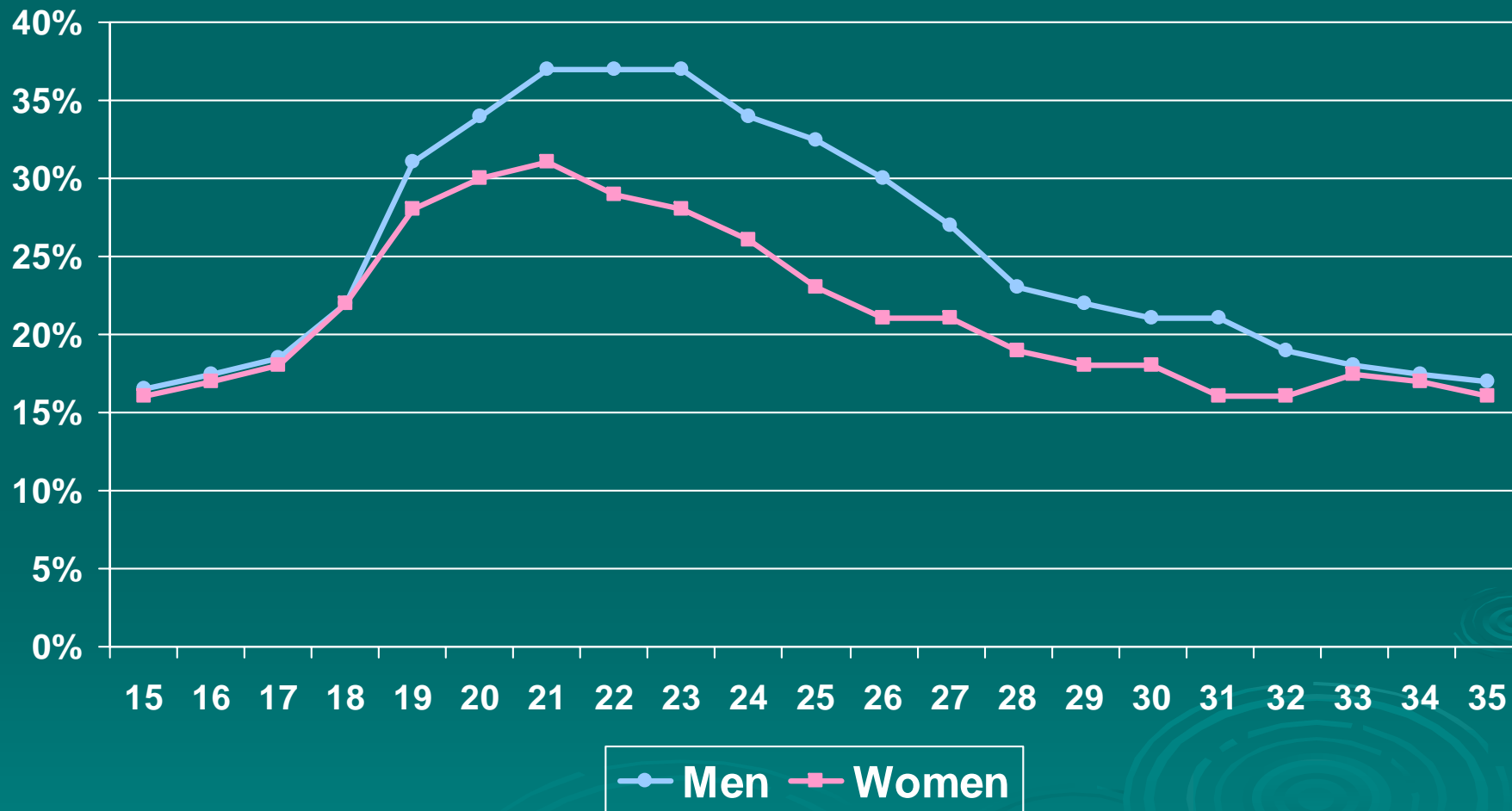
Fraction of Young Women Age 19 to 29 Living with at Least One Parent, 1960 vs. 2000



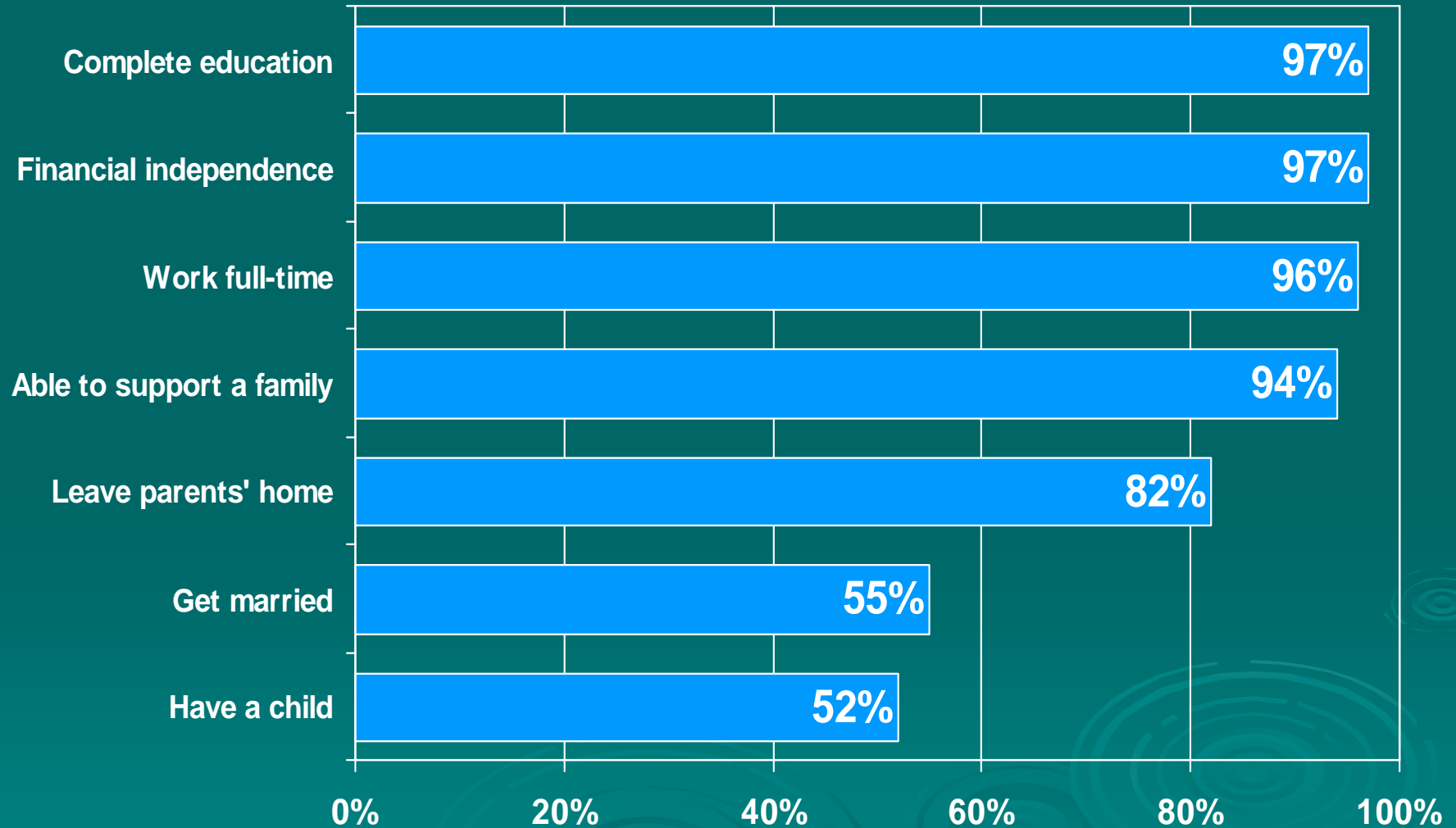
Living with Parents, by Gender and Age (%)



Probability of No Health Insurance, by Age and Sex



Percent of Americans who say that an event is at least somewhat important to being considered an adult

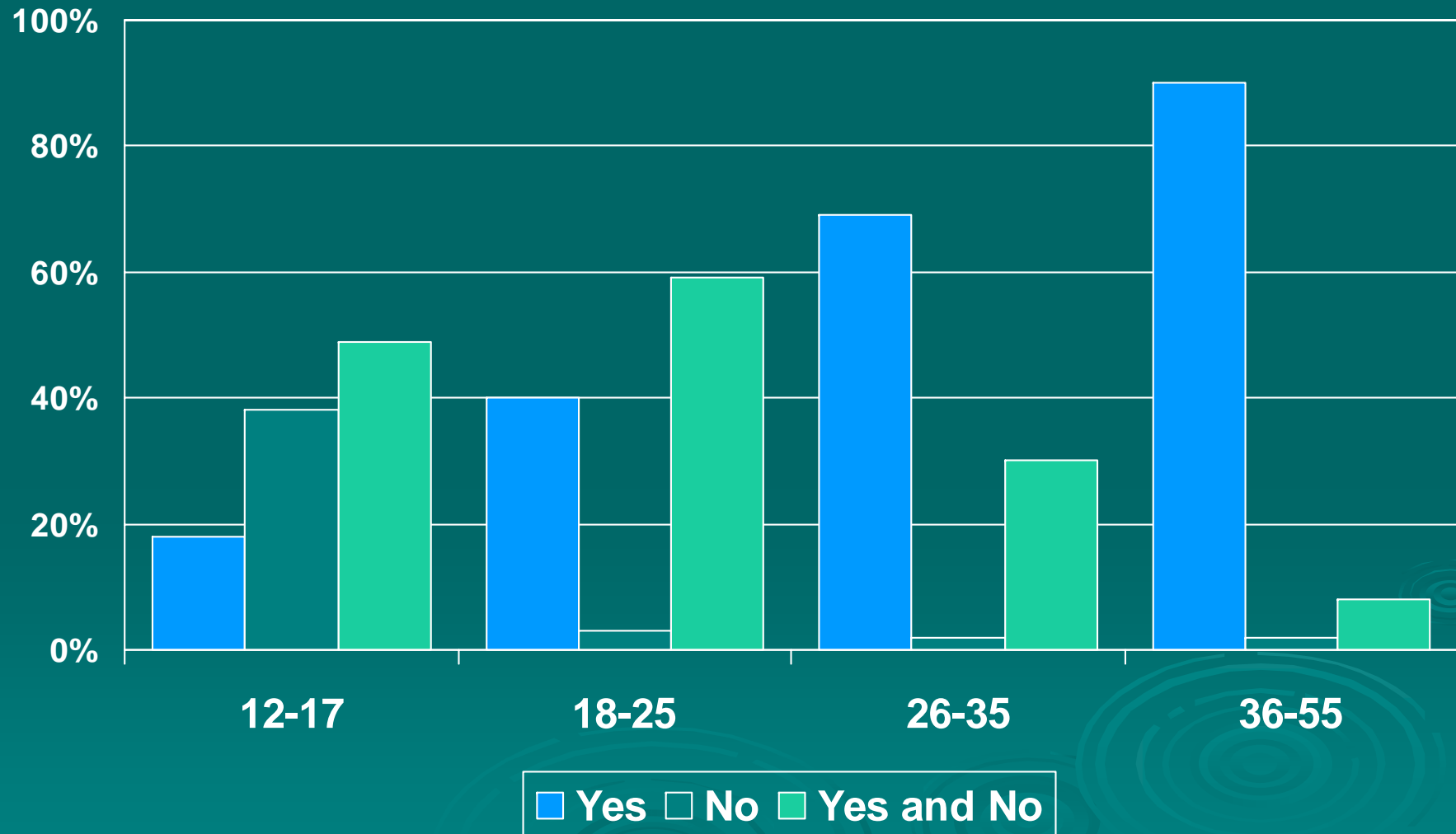


Necessary for Adulthood?

TOP FOUR ITEMS	% Indicating “Yes”
Accept responsibility for the consequences of your actions	93%
Decide on personal beliefs and values independently of parents or other influences	81%
Become less self-oriented, develop greater consideration for others	81%
Financially independent from parents	74%
BOTTOM FOUR ITEMS	% Indicating “Yes”
Become employed full-time	26%
Married	15%
Finished with education	15%
Have at least one child	14%

Note: The questionnaire asked participants to “Indicate whether you think each of the following must be achieved before a person can be considered an adult.”

Do you feel that you have reached adulthood?



Average Generation Gap (Percentage Points)

Year	Percentage
1973	19.4%
1985	16.7%
1997	15.2%

Significant Declines

	1973	1985	1997
Abortion	11.7	6.2	4.9
Civil liberties	43.1	30.0	23.9
Confidence in institutions	8.7	9.0	4.9
Crime	12.1	6.5	5.7
Gender roles	28.2	25.2	14.2
Sexuality	32.0	23.7	21.7