

Women's agency, poverty and mobility in the United States



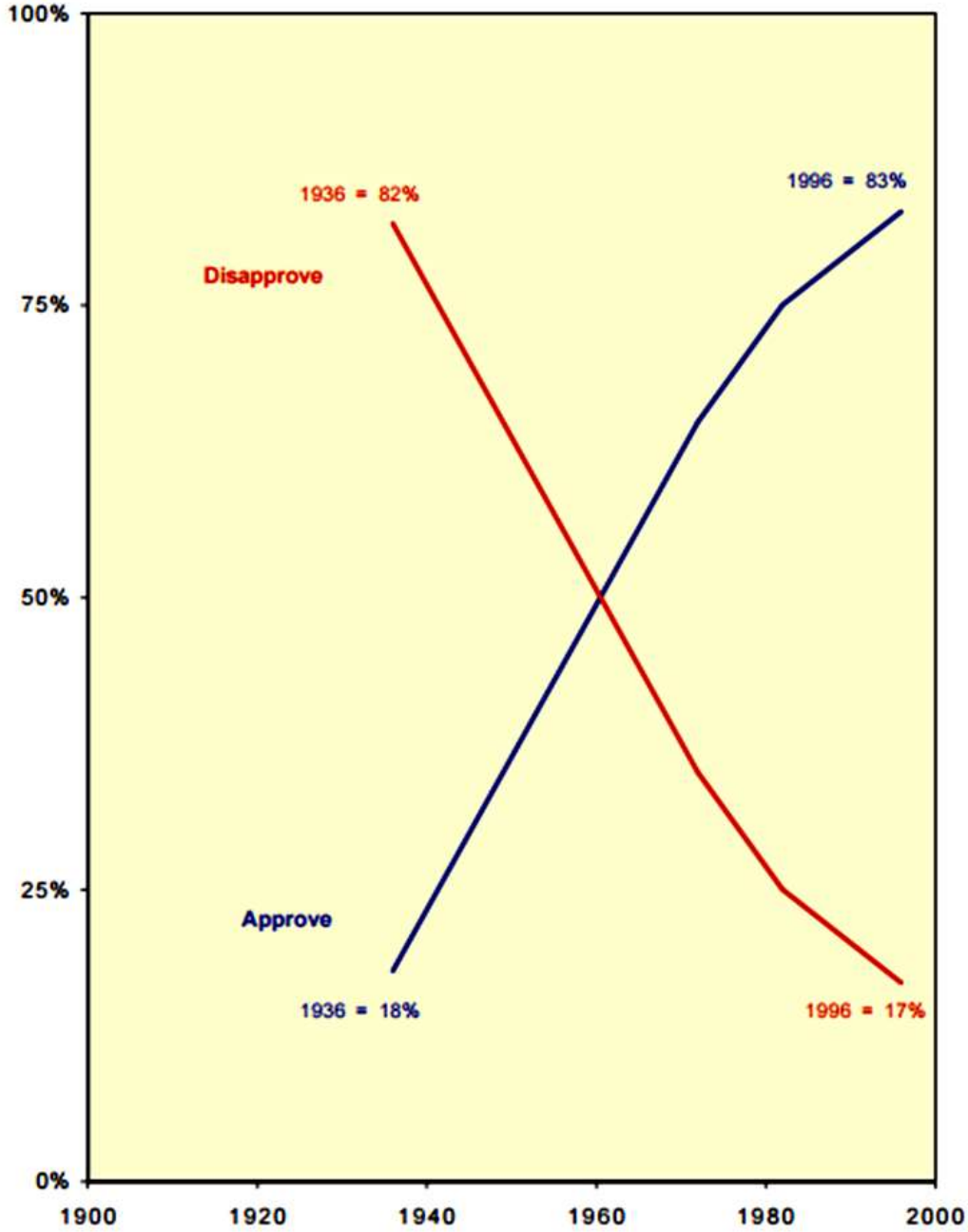
**Poverty & inequality and
Mobility Fall 2015**

ECON 3240 Fordham University



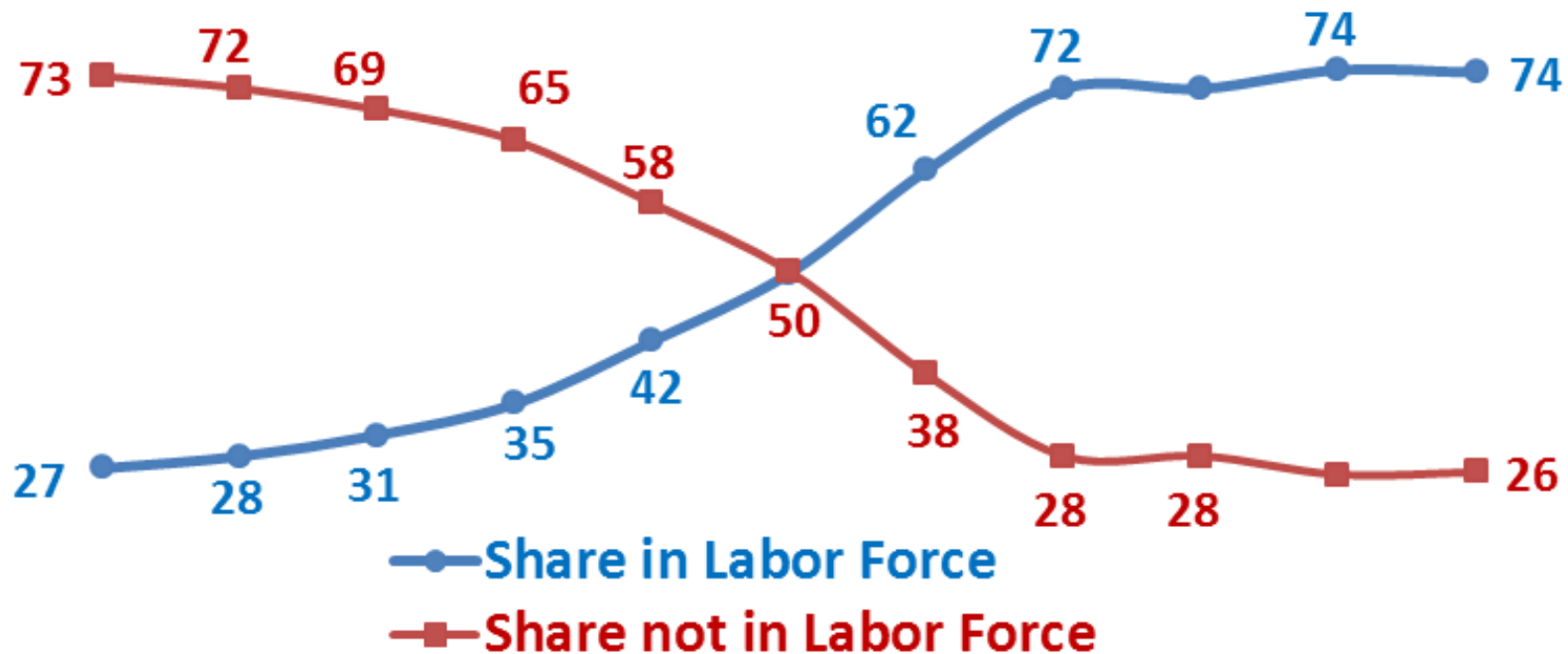
A sea change in attitudes toward women working

Attitudes toward Married Women Working
Percentage of respondents



A sea change in women's status linked to paid work

Figure L-2 USA Women age 18-59 labor force participation

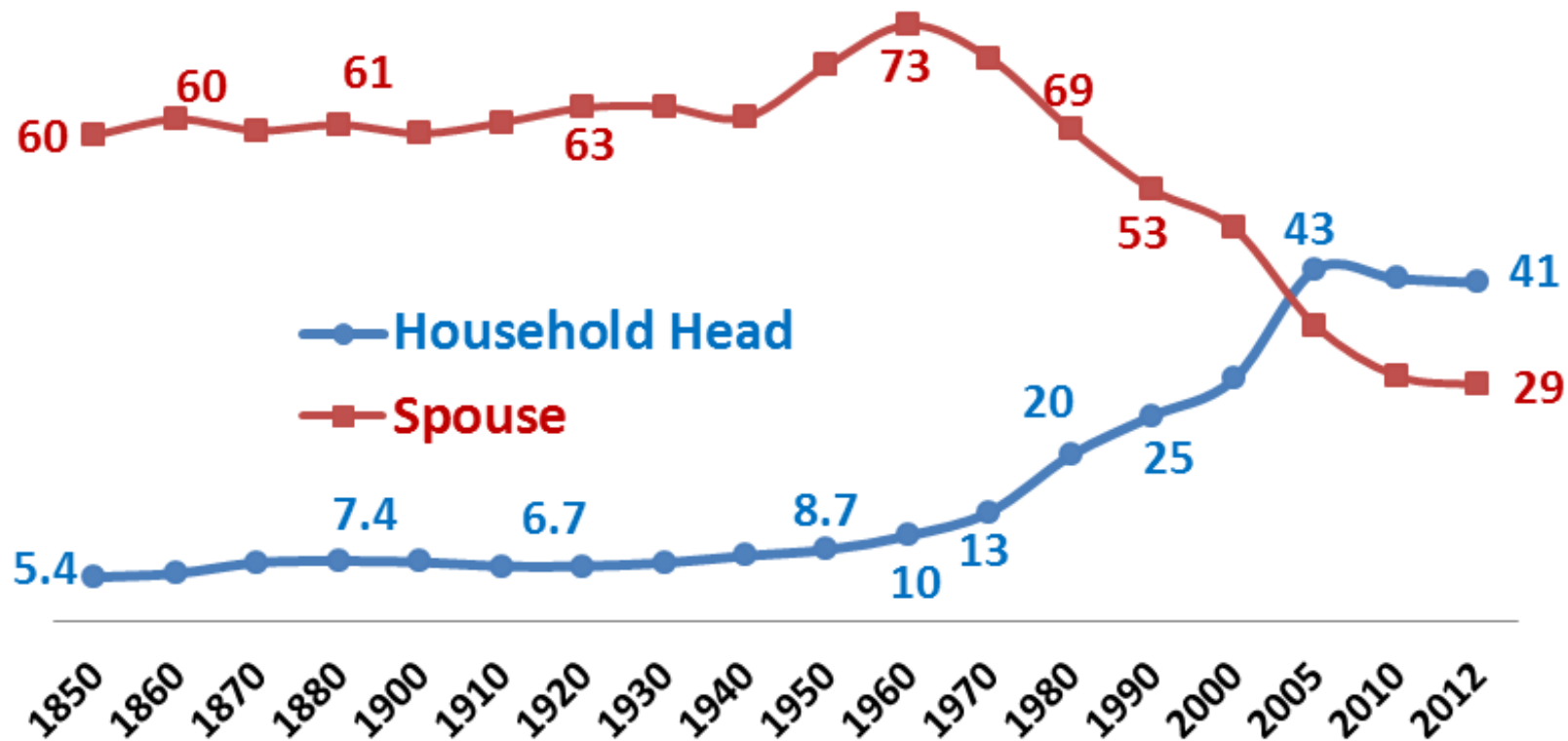


1910 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2012

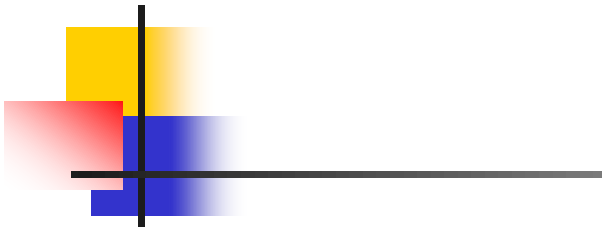
Source: IPUMS USA, version 5, Ruggles et al. 2010,
<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/cite.shtml>

A sea change in women's status linked to paid work

Figure H-5 USA Women 18-59 Status in Household

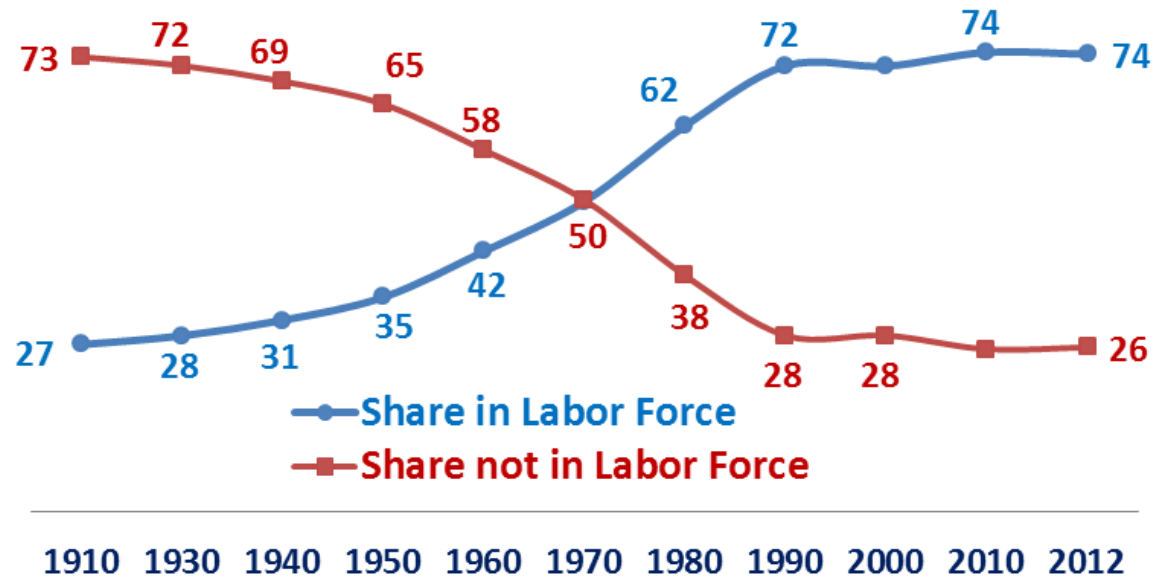


Source IPUMS USA, version 5, Ruggles et al. 2010,
<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/cite.shtml>



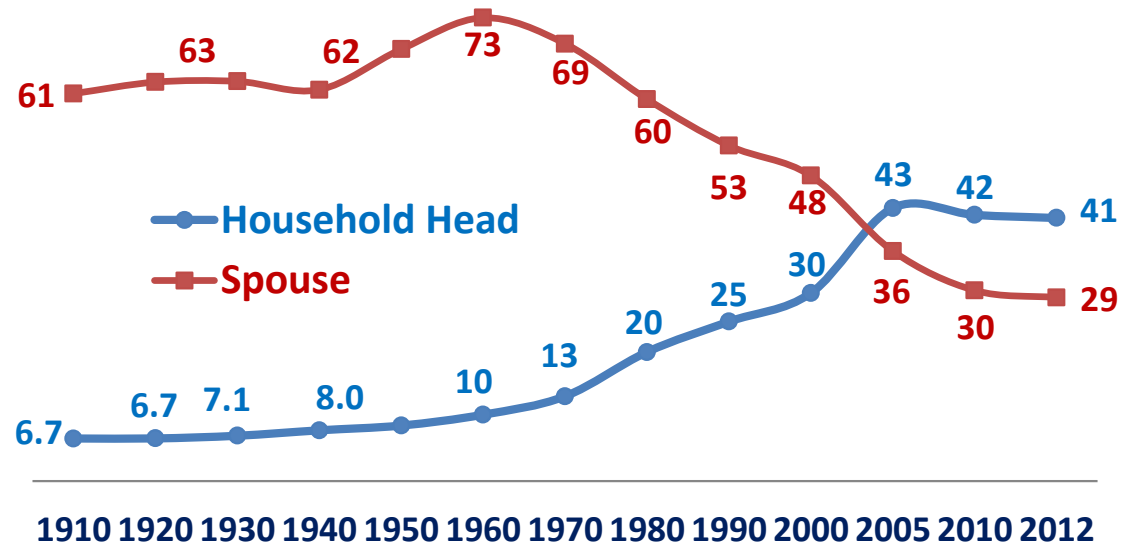
A sea change in women's status linked to paid work

Figure L-2 USA Women age 18-59 labor force participation



Source: IPUMS USA, version 5, Ruggles et al. 2010,

Figure H-5 USA Women 18-59 Status in Household



Source: IPUMS USA, version 5, Ruggles et al. 2010,

<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/cite.shtml>

Post welfare reform recession: more help for the working poor



- Earned income credit (EIC or EITC)
- Food stamps way up
- Extended unemployment benefits.
- Doubling up, young people 25-35 living at up to 13% from 9% (failure to launch, mainly boys...)

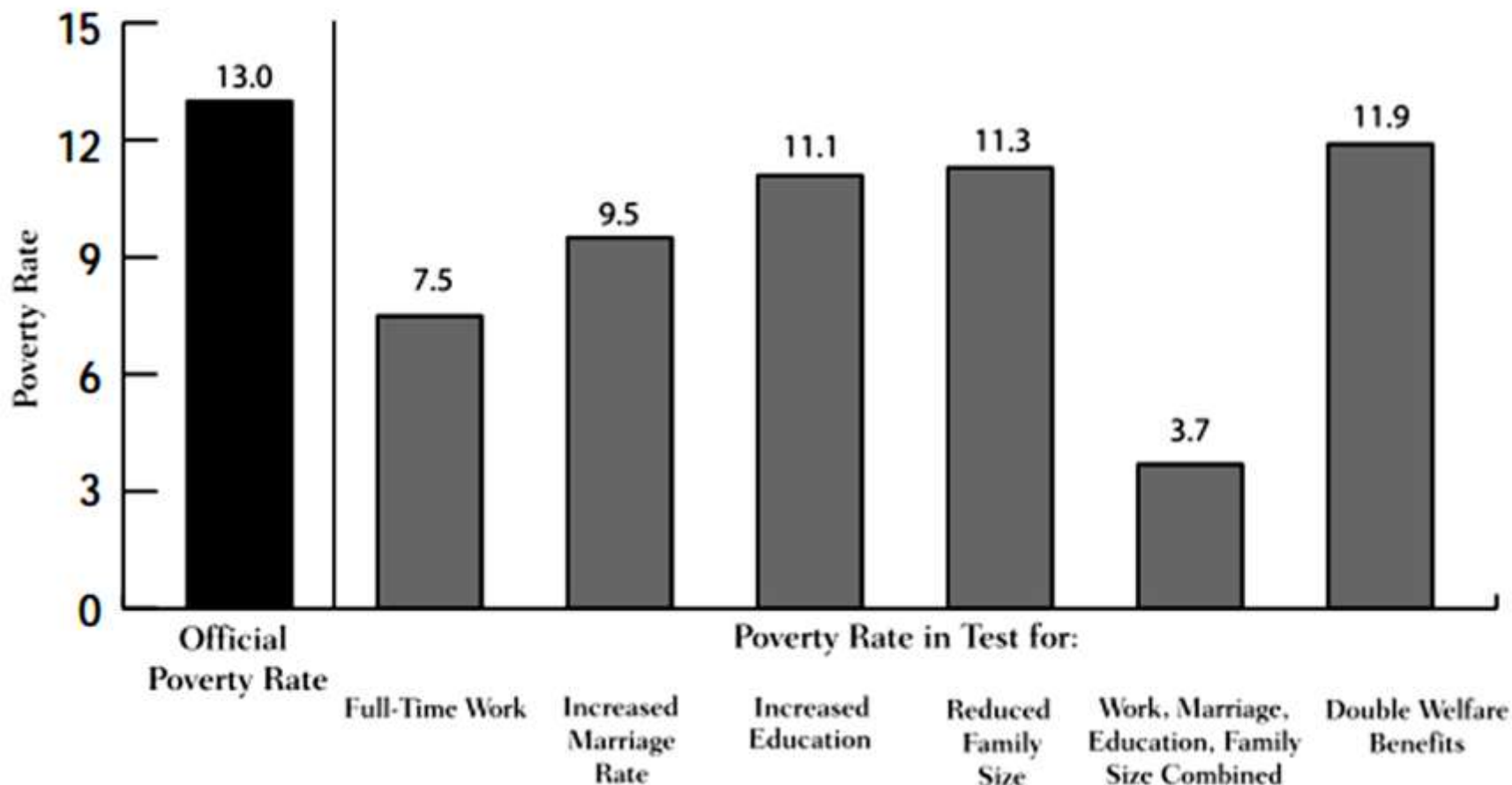
Women's agency issues:

1. **Women's earnings** (see Pew report on earnings by gender)
2. **Women's mobility and employment**
3. **Balancing child care and work obligations EITC**
4. **Early child birth, with or w/o marriage (teen pregnancies down)**
5. **Decline in marriage rate.... More SPFs**
6. **What would the family OPM be if everyone**
 1. **Got a HS degree**
 2. **Waited until they were 18 & married to have kids**
 3. **Had at least one HH member working full time?**
7. **Answer: family poverty would fall from 13% to 3.7%.... Haskins & Sawhill, 2003**

Haskins and Sawhill, 2003: Poverty is a lifestyle choice (culture, behavior or values?)

Figure 1

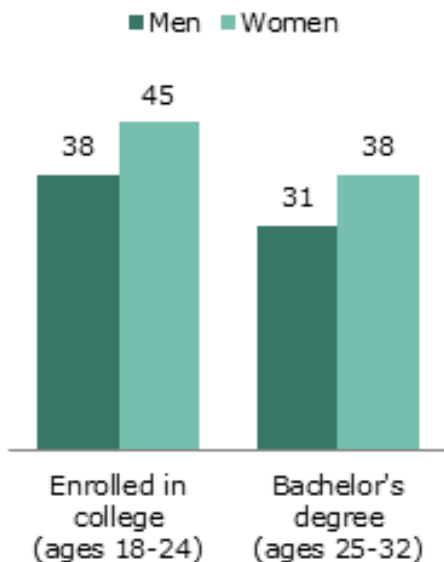
Factors Influencing Poverty Rates



Women's agency: pay gap declines, education gap favors women

In Educational Attainment, Millennial Women Outpace Men

% of Millennial adults ...

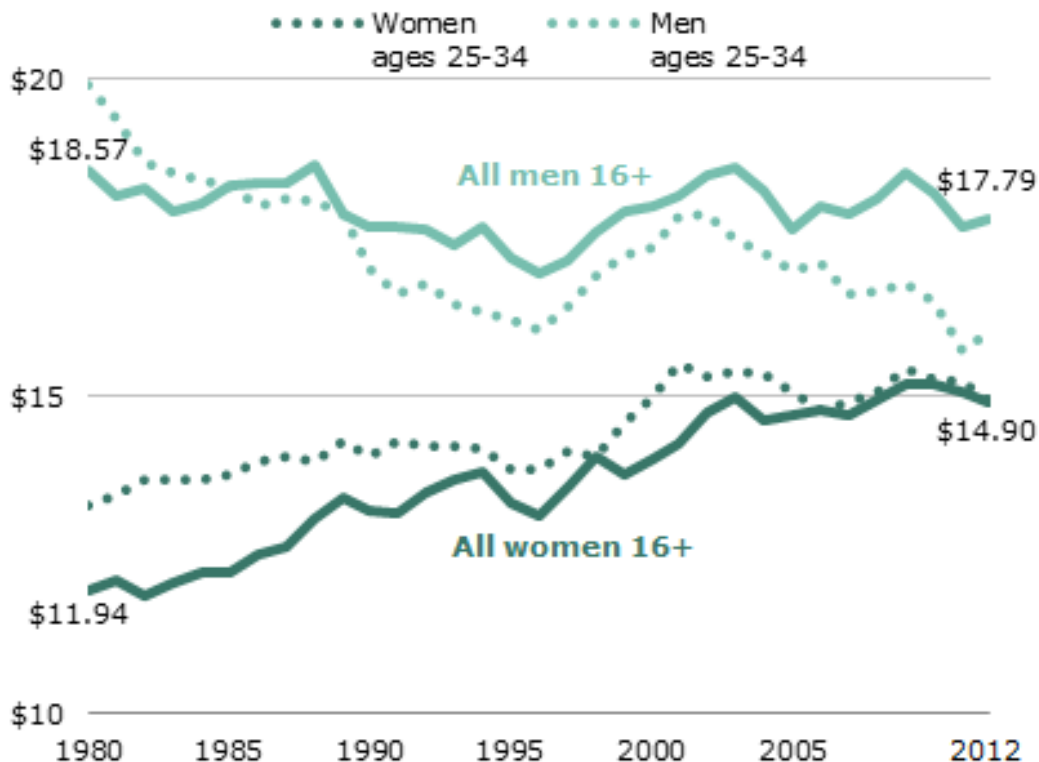


Note: "Enrolled in college" comprises those who are enrolled in a two-year or four-year college or university.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Enrollment figures are for 2012 and are based on the October 2012 CPS. Bachelor's degree figures are for 2013 and are based on the March 2013 CPS.

Wages Trending Up for Women, Down for Men

Median hourly earnings (in 2012 dollars), 1980-2012



Note: Estimates are for civilian, non-institutionalized, full- and part-time employed workers with positive earnings. Self-employed workers are excluded.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data.

Women's agency: views of work change, but challenges for balancing work and family remain

Millennial Women's Views on Gender and Work

% of 18- to 32-year-olds saying ...

More changes are needed to give men and women equality in the workplace



Men generally earn more than women for doing the same work



Being a working parent makes it harder to advance in a job or career*



Interested in becoming a boss or top manager? No thanks

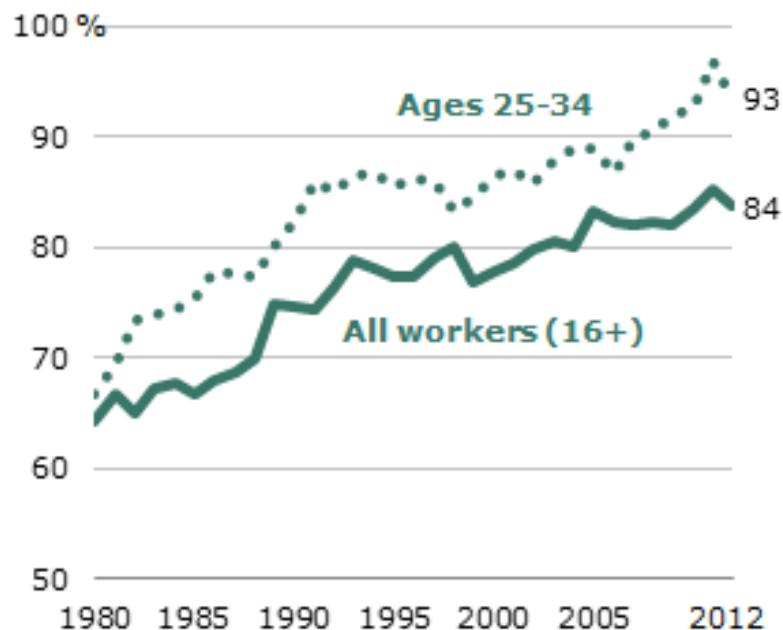


* Working parent findings based on those who are employed and have at least one child under age 18. For Millennial women, n=105; for Millennial men, n=141.

Note: Based on all Millennial women (n=360) and all Millennial men (n=450).

The Narrowing of the Gender Wage Gap, 1980-2012

Median hourly earnings of women as a percent of men's



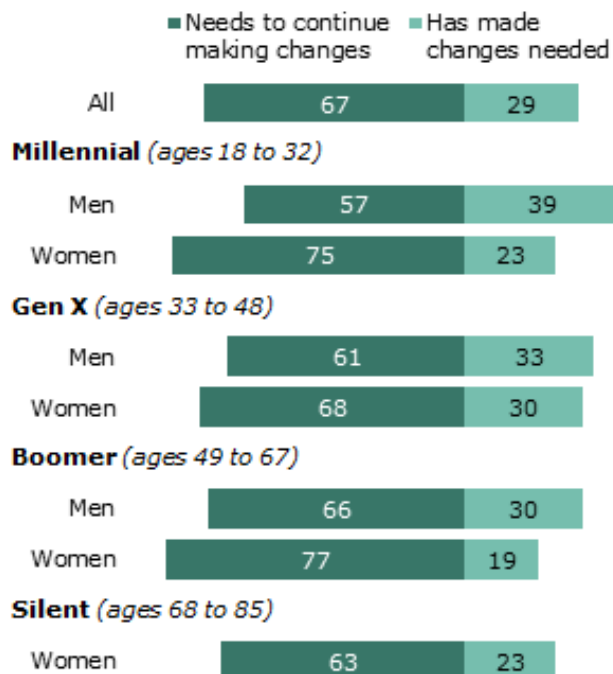
Note: Estimates are for civilian, non-institutionalized, full- or part-time employed workers with positive earnings. Self-employed workers are excluded.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data.

Women's agency: women do not see a level playing field

Has This Country Made the Changes Needed to Bring About Equality in the Workplace?

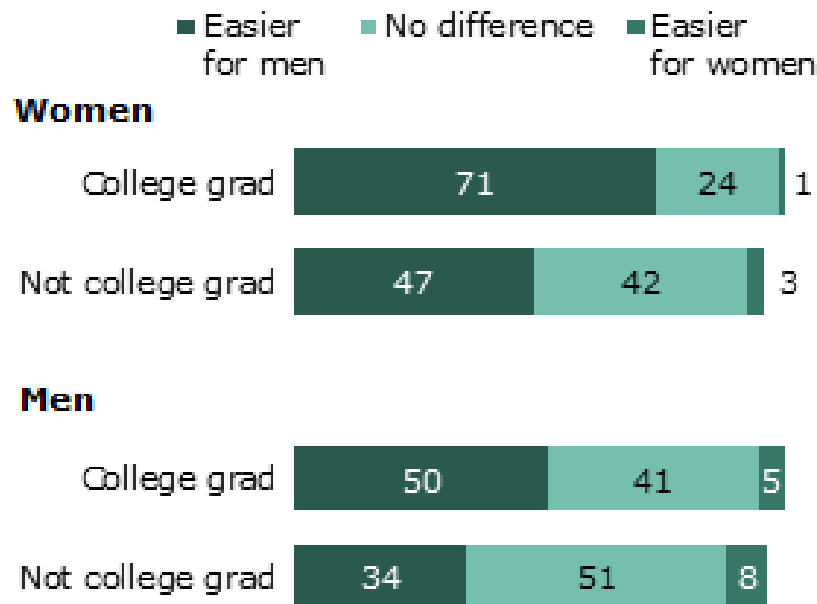
% saying this country ...



Notes: Based on all adults (N=2,002). Silent generation men not included due to small sample size. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

College Graduates Say It's Easier For Men to Get Top Jobs

% saying it is ... to get top executive jobs in business and government



Notes: Based on all adults (N=2,002). "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown. College grads are only those with a bachelor's degree or more.

Women's mobility up as well, but lags behind men's mobility, 70% of men make more than their fathers and mothers, only 40% of daughters

Daughters Work More Hours and Earn More Than Mothers Did

Mothers in labor force: 53%



Mothers worked an average of **24 hours per week** and typically earned **\$10 per hour** and **\$12,500 per year**.

+ 10 hours per week
+ \$9 per hour

3 times more earnings

Daughters in labor force: 85%



Daughters worked an average of **34 hours per week** and typically earned **\$19 per hour** and **\$34,400 per year**.

Haskins and Sawhill, 2003: Poverty is a lifestyle choice (culture, behavior or values?)

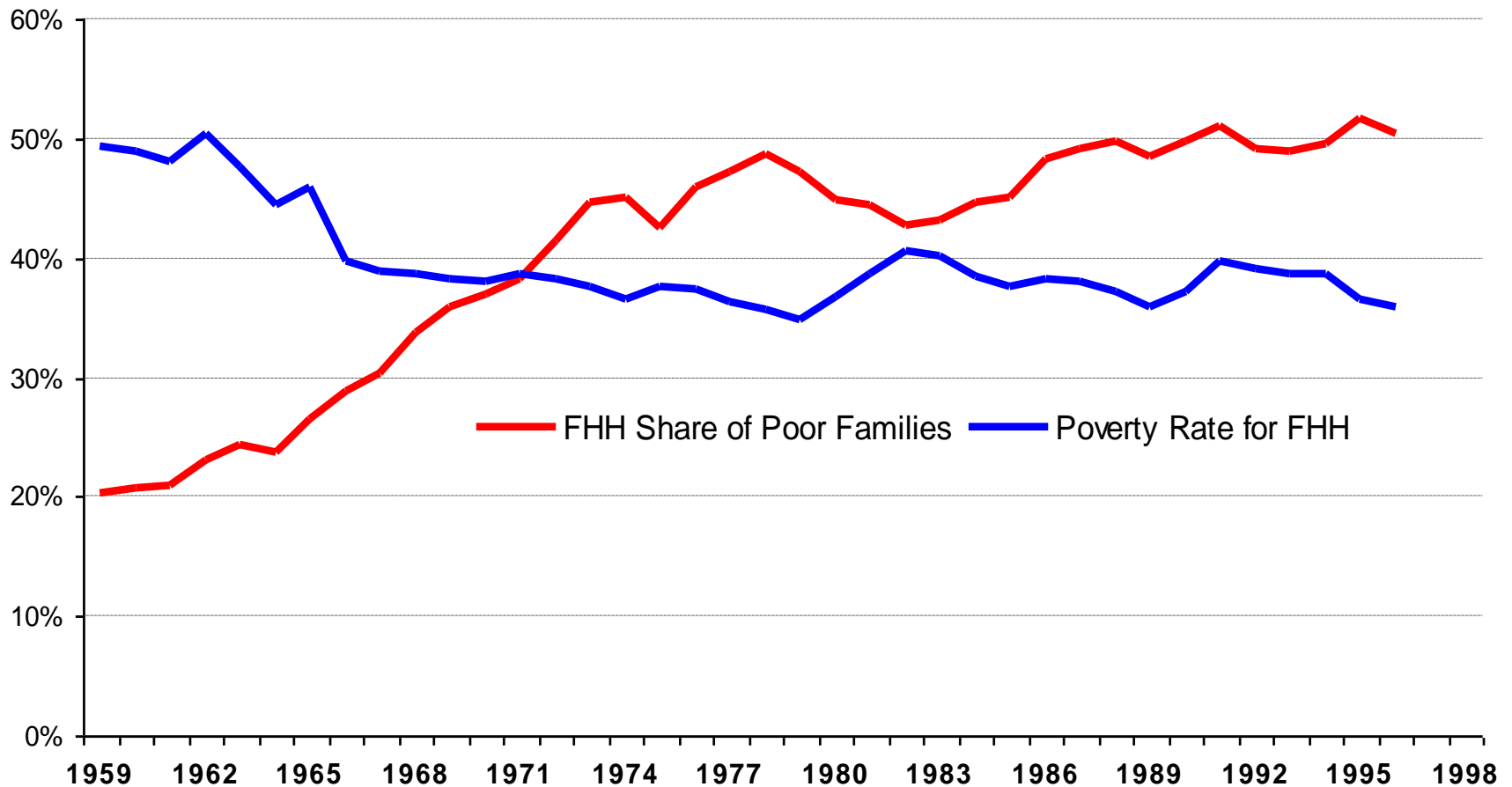
Table 1

Key Differences Between Poor and Nonpoor Families

Characteristic	Poor	Nonpoor
Family Income	\$9,465	\$75,288
Hours Worked in 2001	1,017	2,151
Married (percent)	39.5	81.0
Education	high school dropout	some college
Number of Children	2.13	1.78

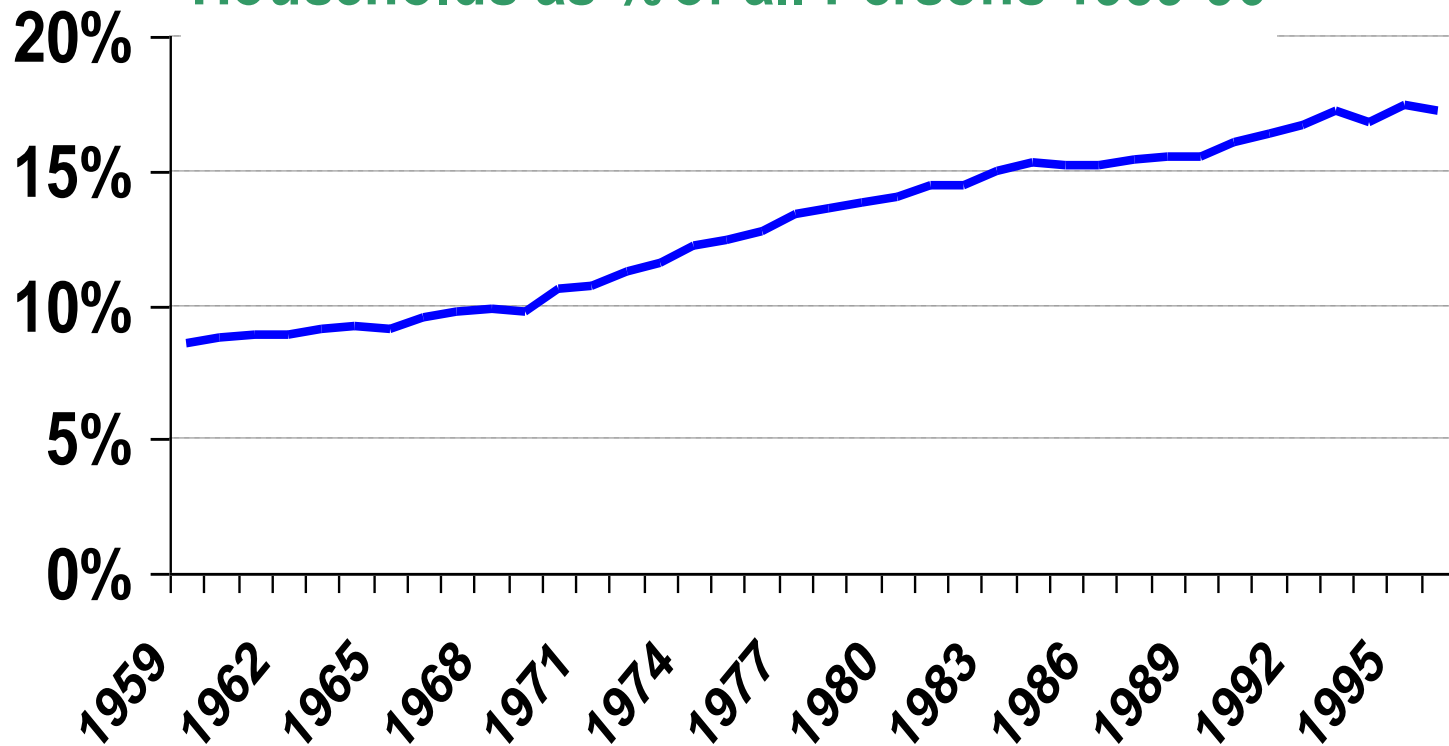
Source: *U.S. Census Bureau*

Female Headed Households rose as a share of poor households in the 1960s

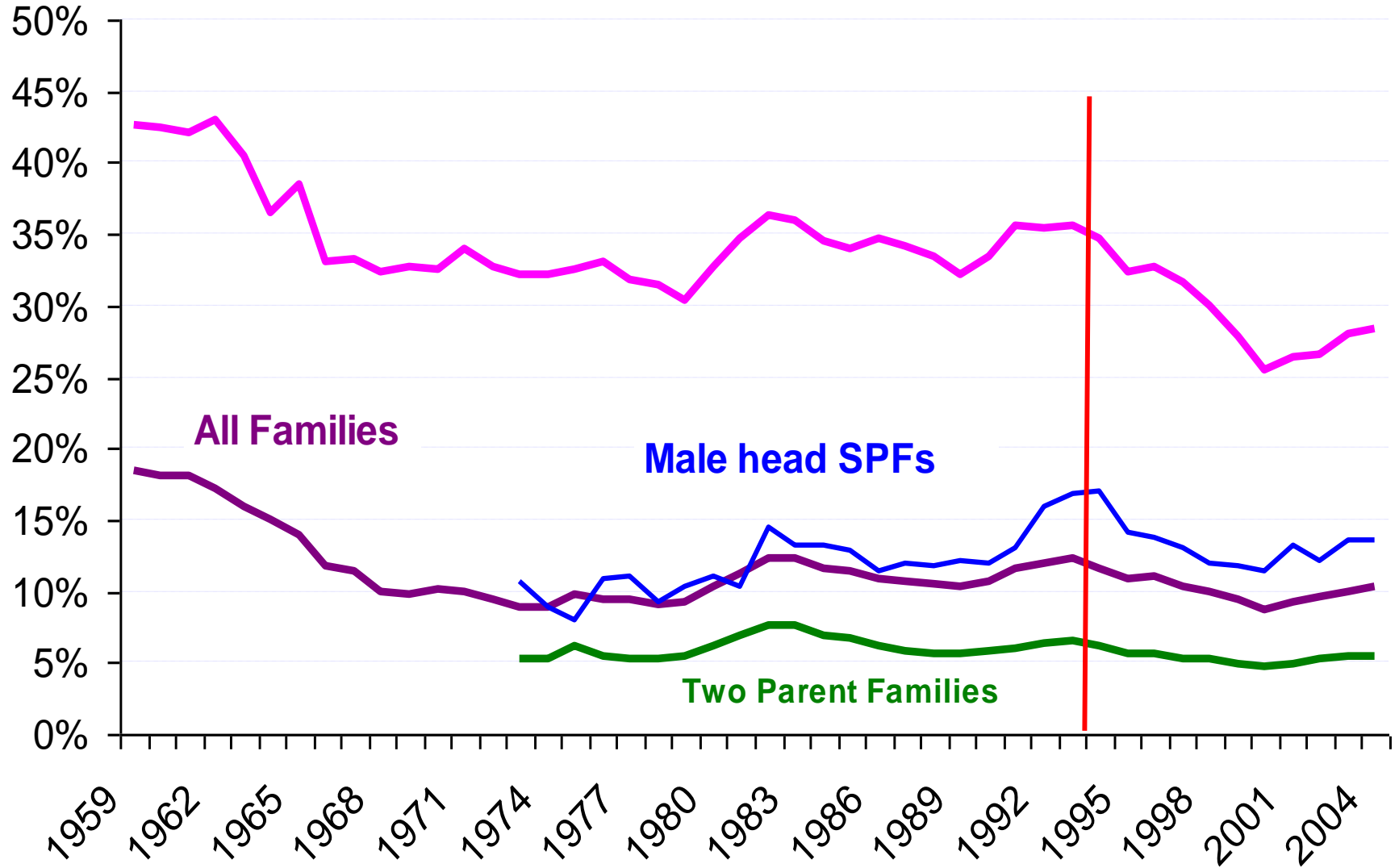


But share of persons living in FHH rose steadily, then leveled off after 1995

Persons Living in Female Headed Households as % of all Persons 1959-96

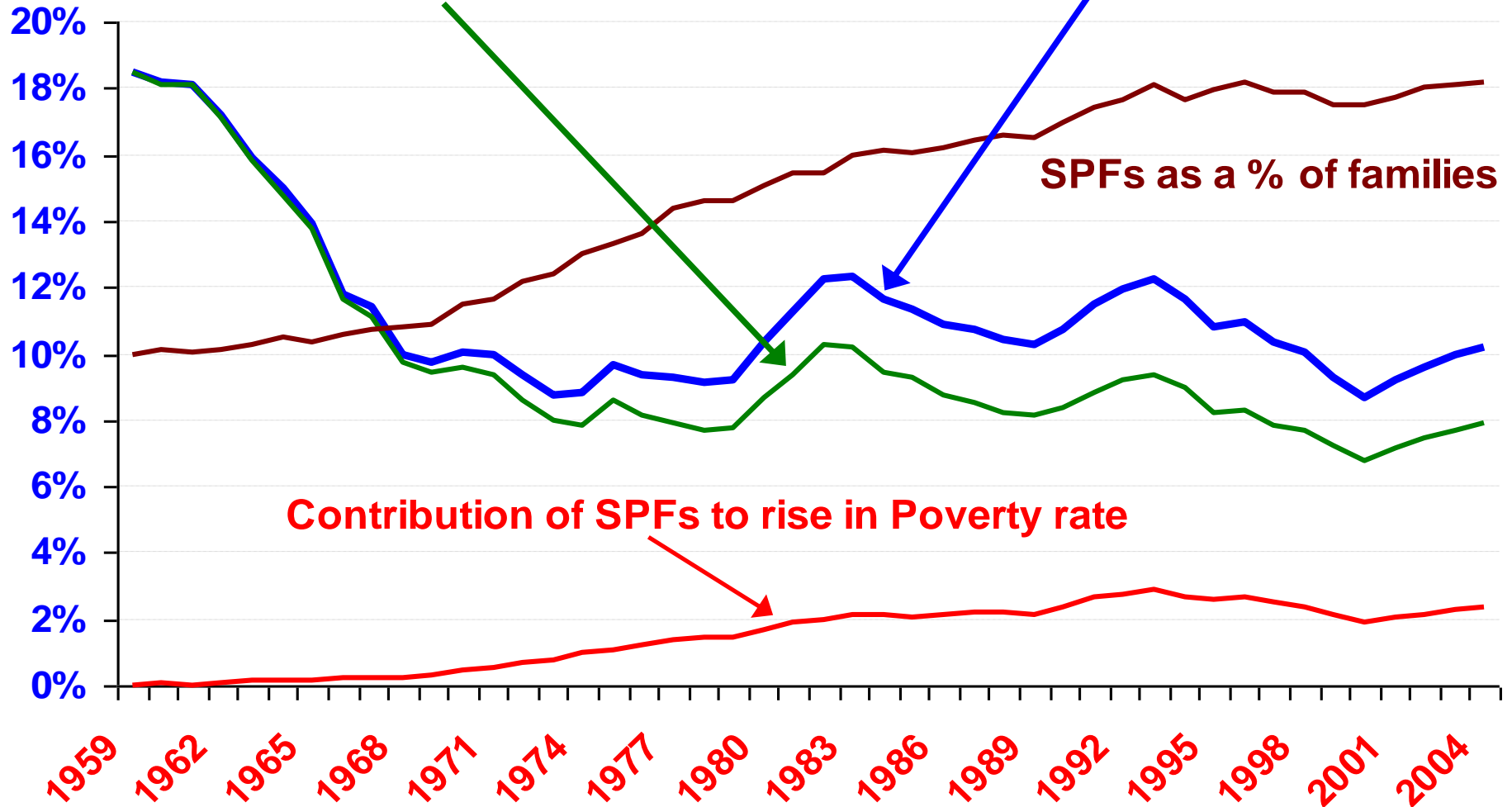


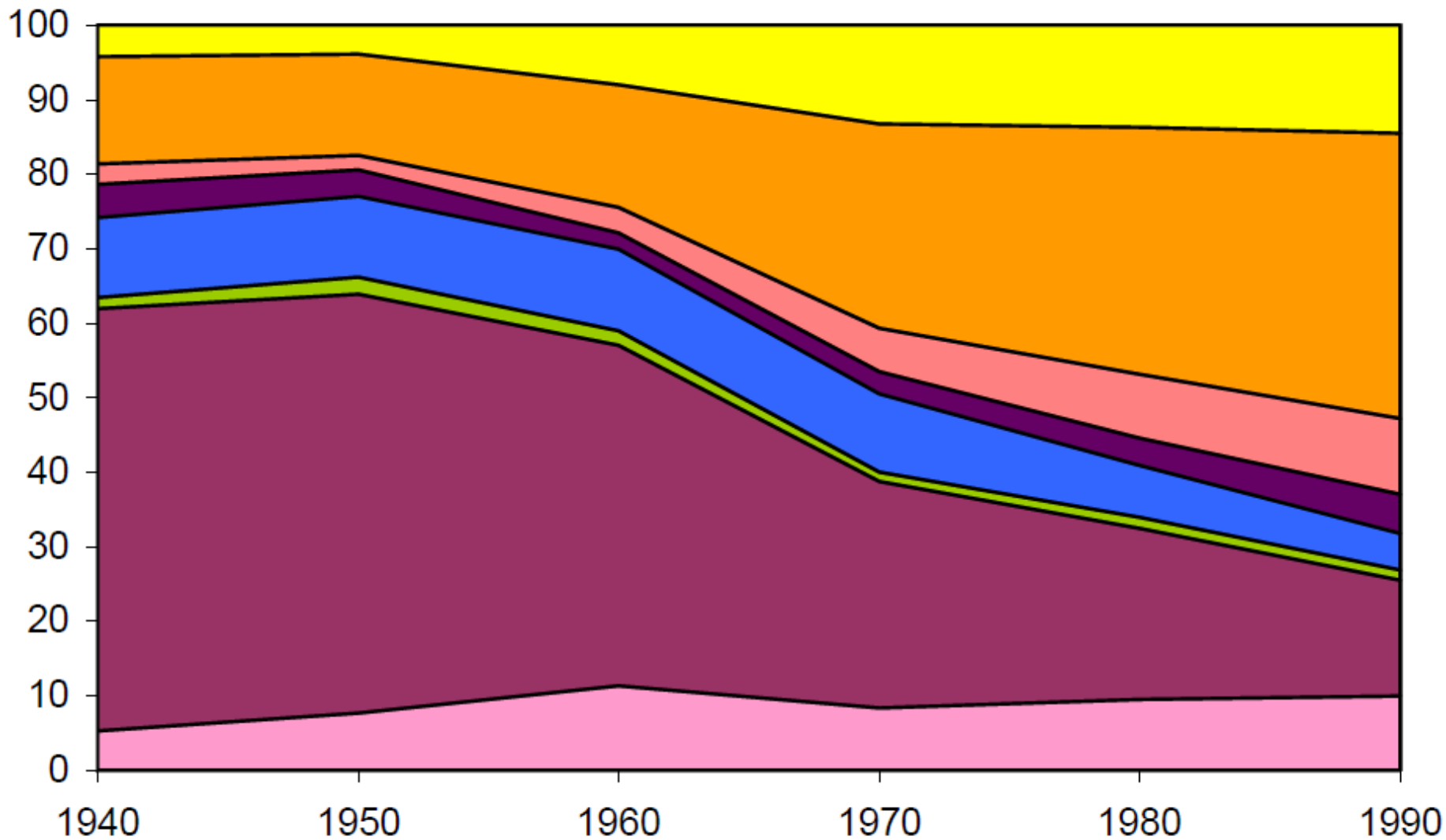
1996 welfare reform ends welfare as we knew it...



Single parent families for better or worse...

Family Poverty Rate if share of SPFs since stayed 1959 share (10%).





Male, working spouse, children

Male, working spouse, no children

Male, no spouse, children

Female, children

Male, spouse not working, children

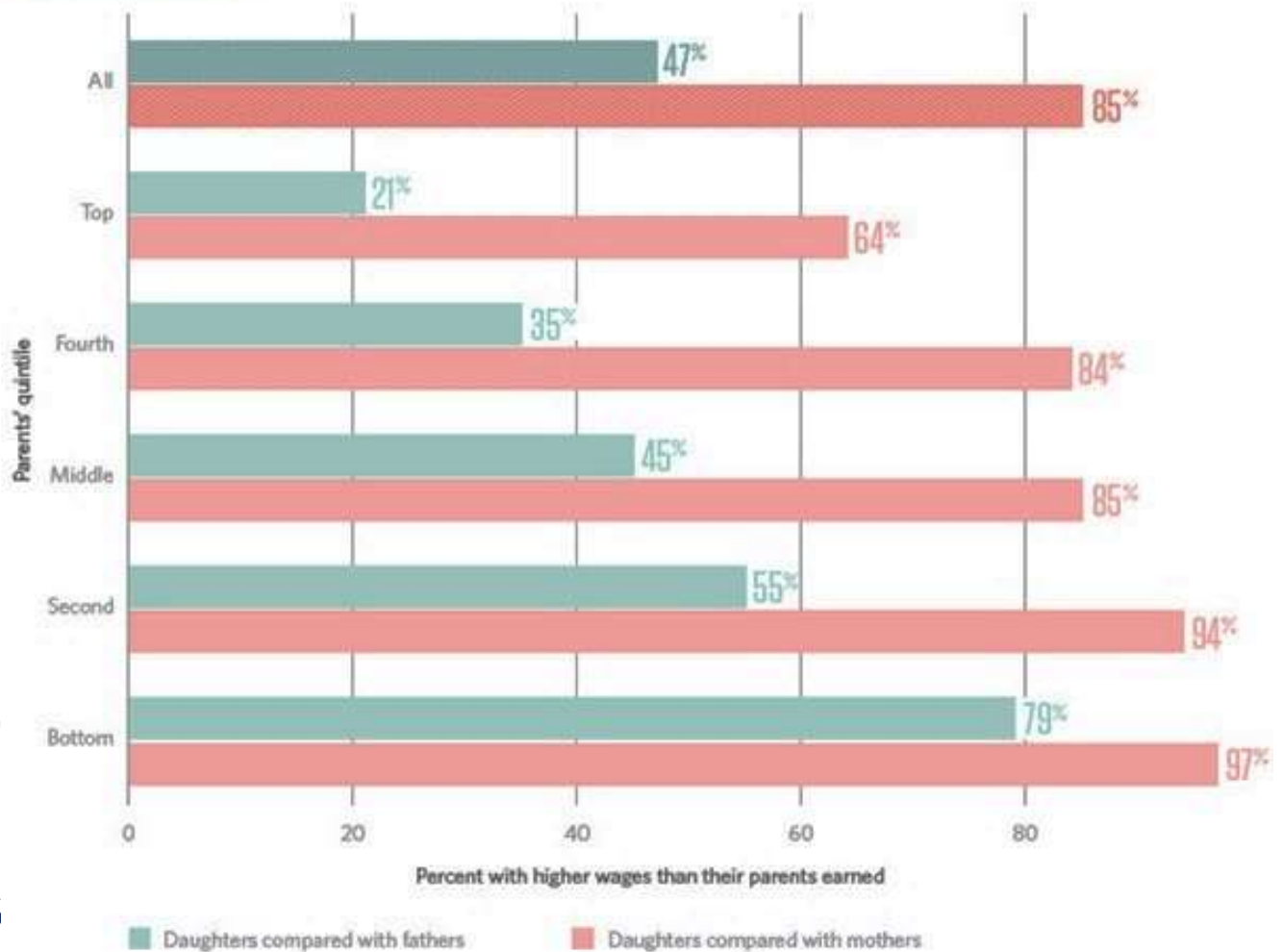
Male, spouse not working, no children

Male without spouse or children

Female, no children

Most Daughters Make More Than Their Mothers Did but Less Than Their Fathers

Percent of daughters earning higher wages than their own parents did, by parents' quintile



Note: This analysis compares the wages of individual daughters with those of their own fathers and mothers and then aggregates data for all such pairs. Individuals had to report at least three years of wages to be included in this analysis. All wages are adjusted to 2009 dollars. Daughters' characteristics are measured from 2001 to 2009 and mothers' and fathers' characteristics from 1968 to 1972.

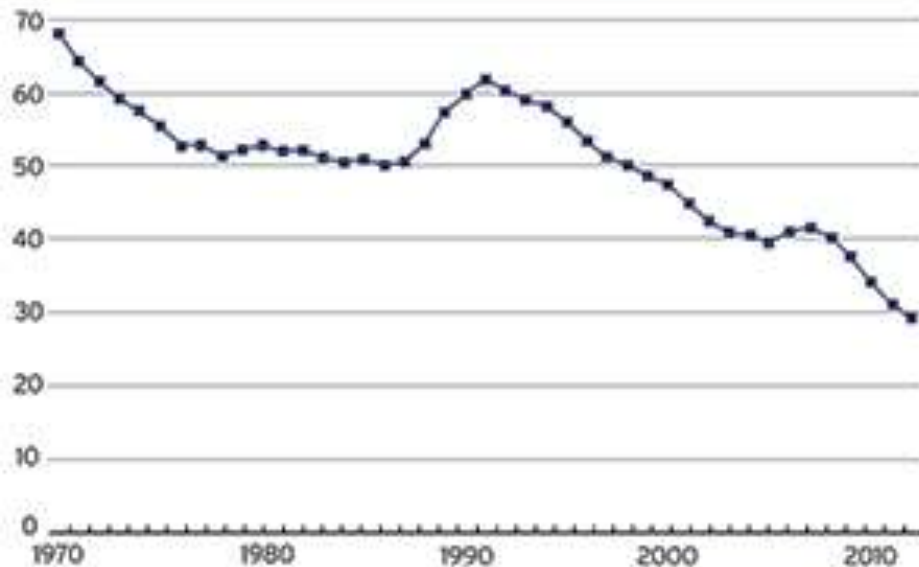
Source: Pew analysis of Panel Study of Income Dynamics data

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Women's mobility up as well, most daughters make more than their mothers, but less than their fathers

Teen pregnancy, a surprising success story (thanks to MTV)

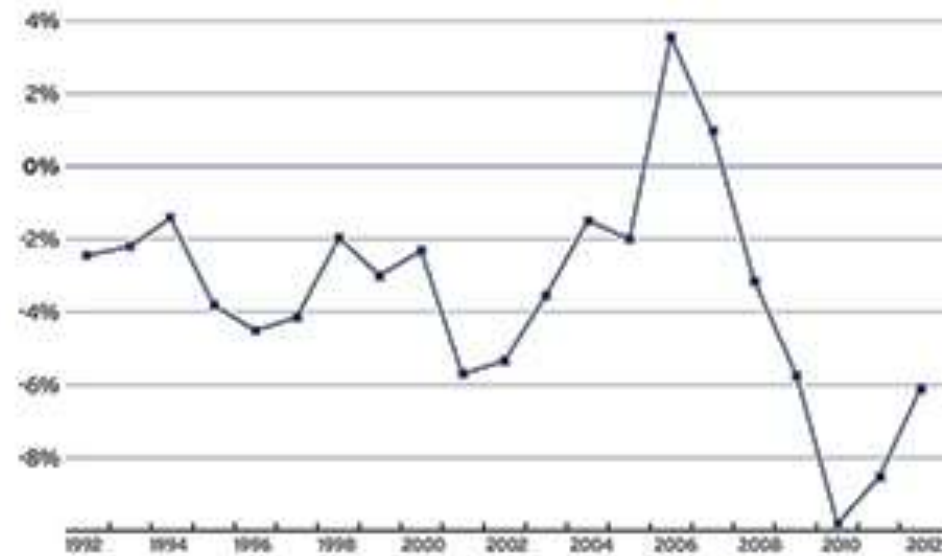
Figure 1.
Teen Births Are Falling
Trend in Teen Birth Rates (births per 1,000 women age 15-19) in the United States



Source: National Center for Health Statistics (2013)

BROOKINGS

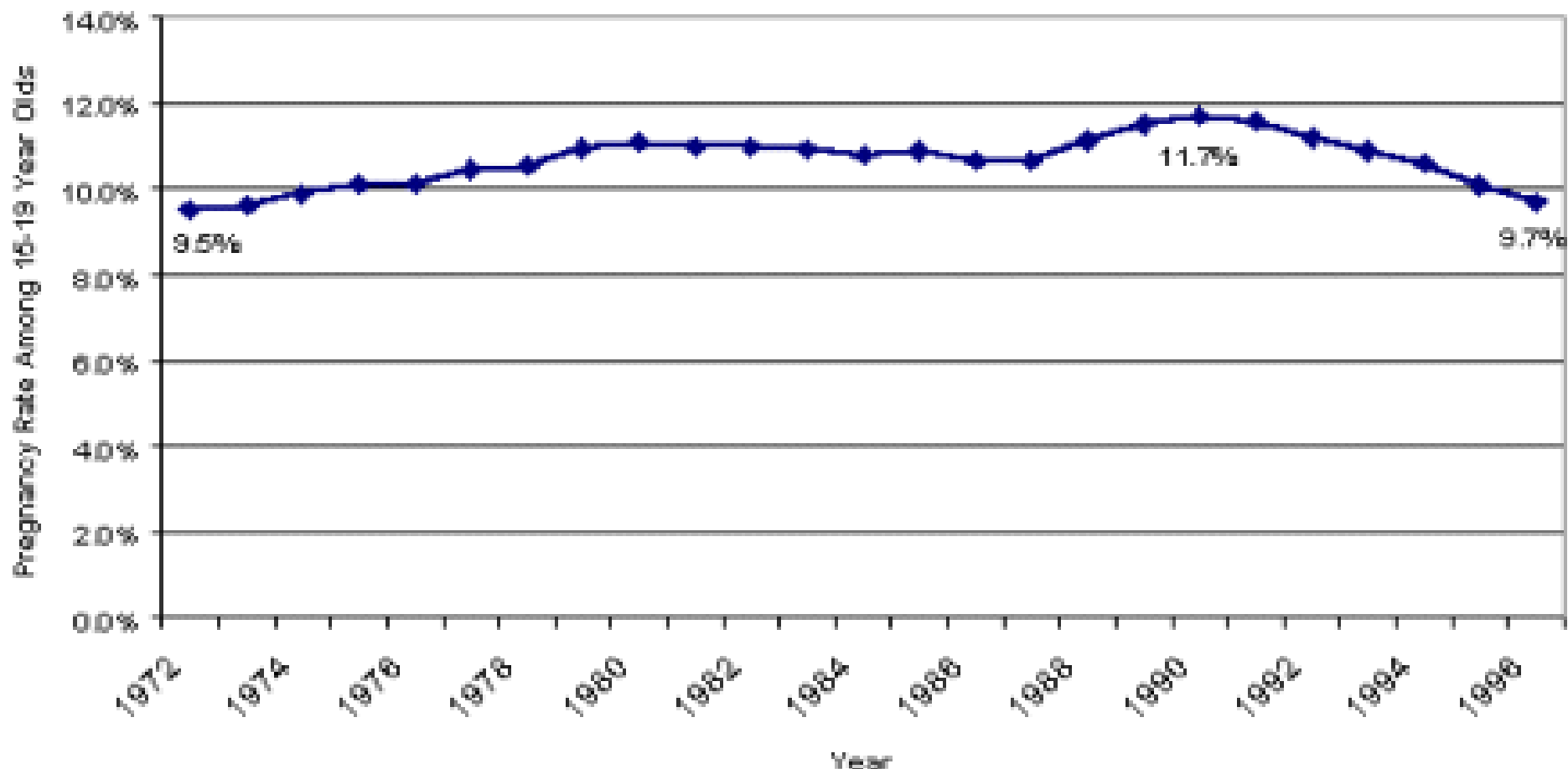
Figure 2.
Rates of Decline Jumped Recently
Annual Percentage Change in Teen Birth Rates Since 1991



Source: Authors' calculations derived from National Centers for Health Statistics (2013)

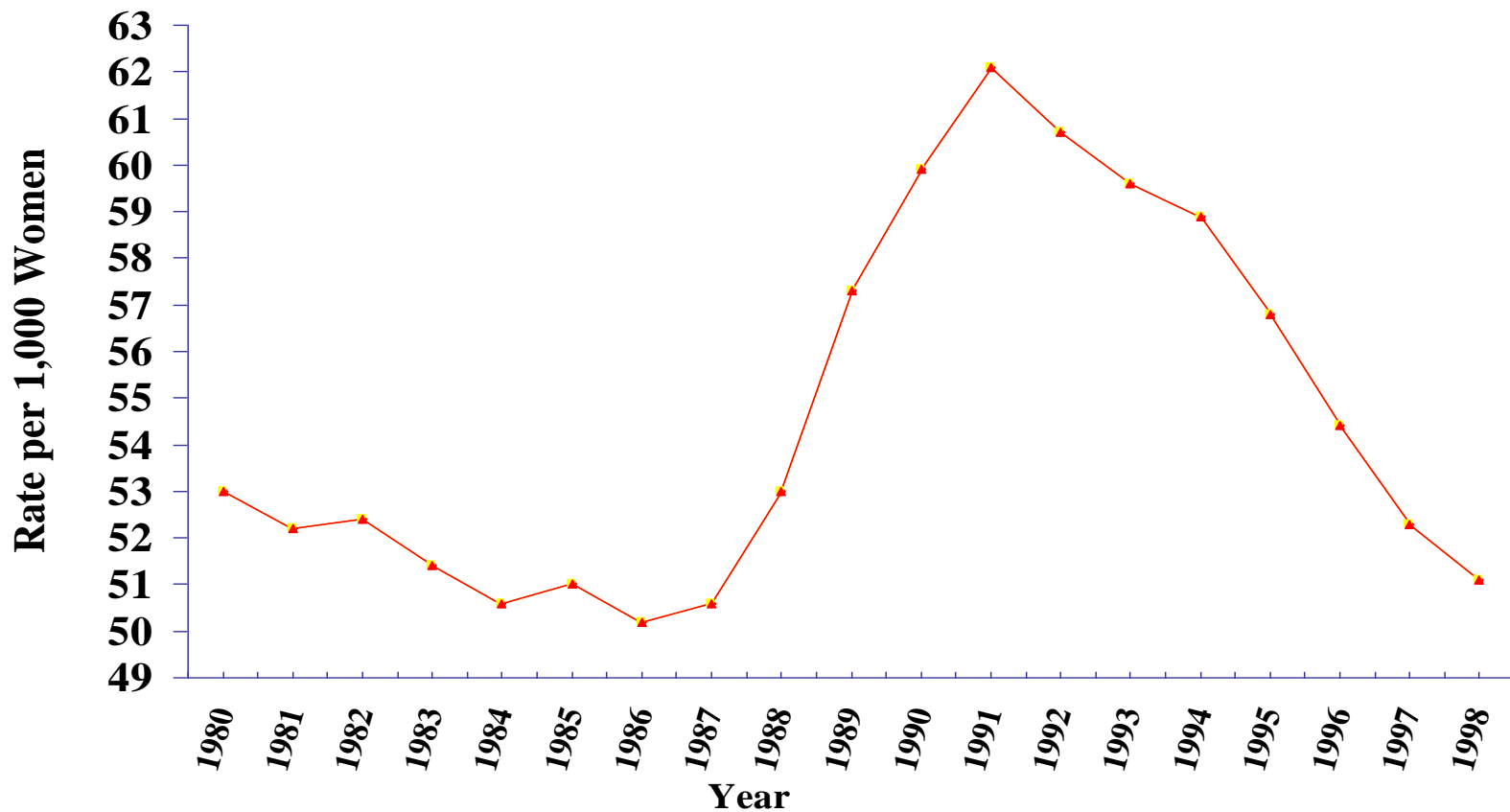
BROOKINGS

Figure 4: Teen Pregnancy Rate 1972-1996



Henshaw, S.K., "U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics," New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, October, 1998. "Teenage Pregnancy: Overall Trends and State-by-State Information," New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, April, 1999.

Teen birth rate rises then falls

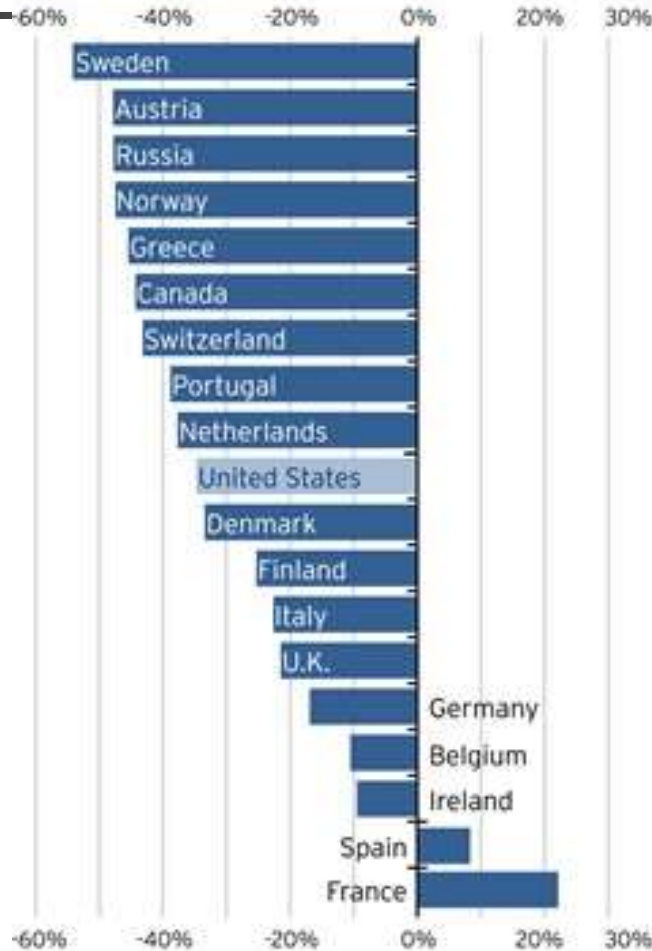


Teen pregnancy, a surprising success story

Figure 3.

Earlier Declines in the United States Are Similar to Other Developed Countries

Change in Teen Birth Rates in Selected Developed Countries, 1991-2008



Source: UNECE Statistical Database

BROOKINGS

Figure 4.

Recent Declines in United States are High Relative to Other Developed Countries

Change in Teen Birth Rates in Selected Developed Countries, 2008-2011

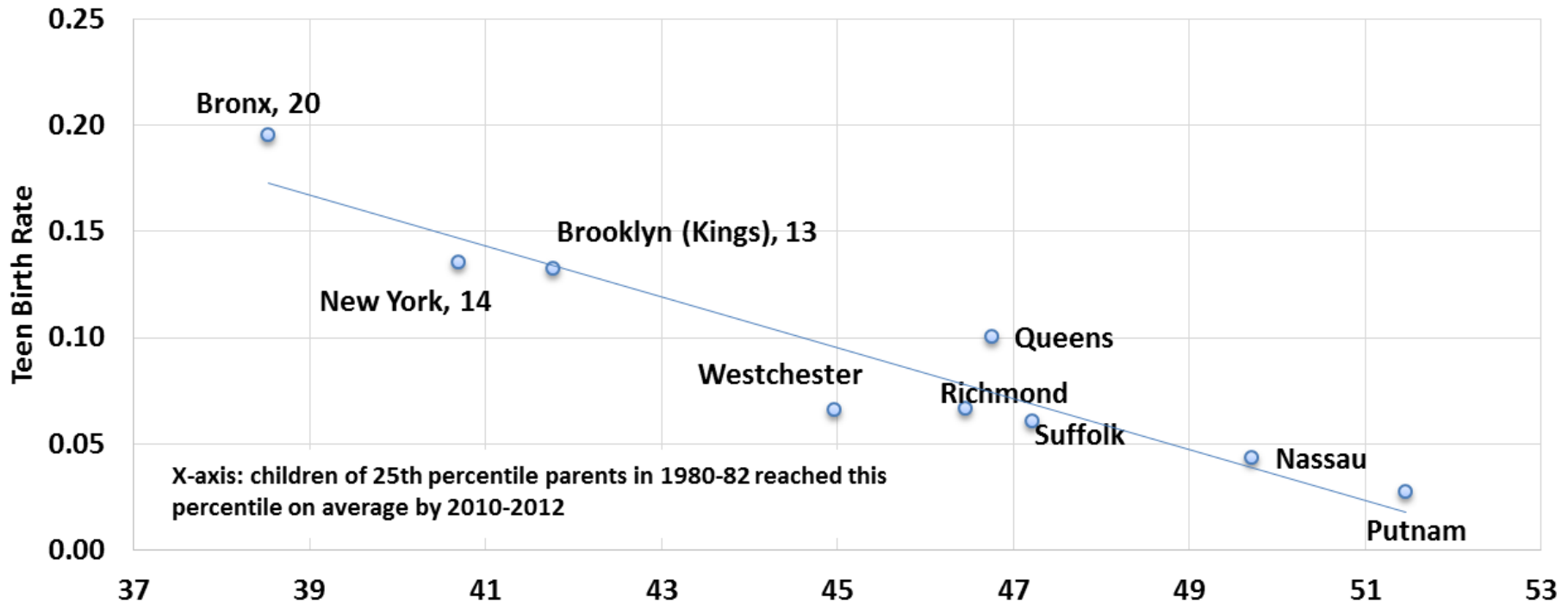


Source: UNECE Statistical Database

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Teen pregnancy, cause or effect of poverty?

Figure G-2 Teen birth rate and Mobility

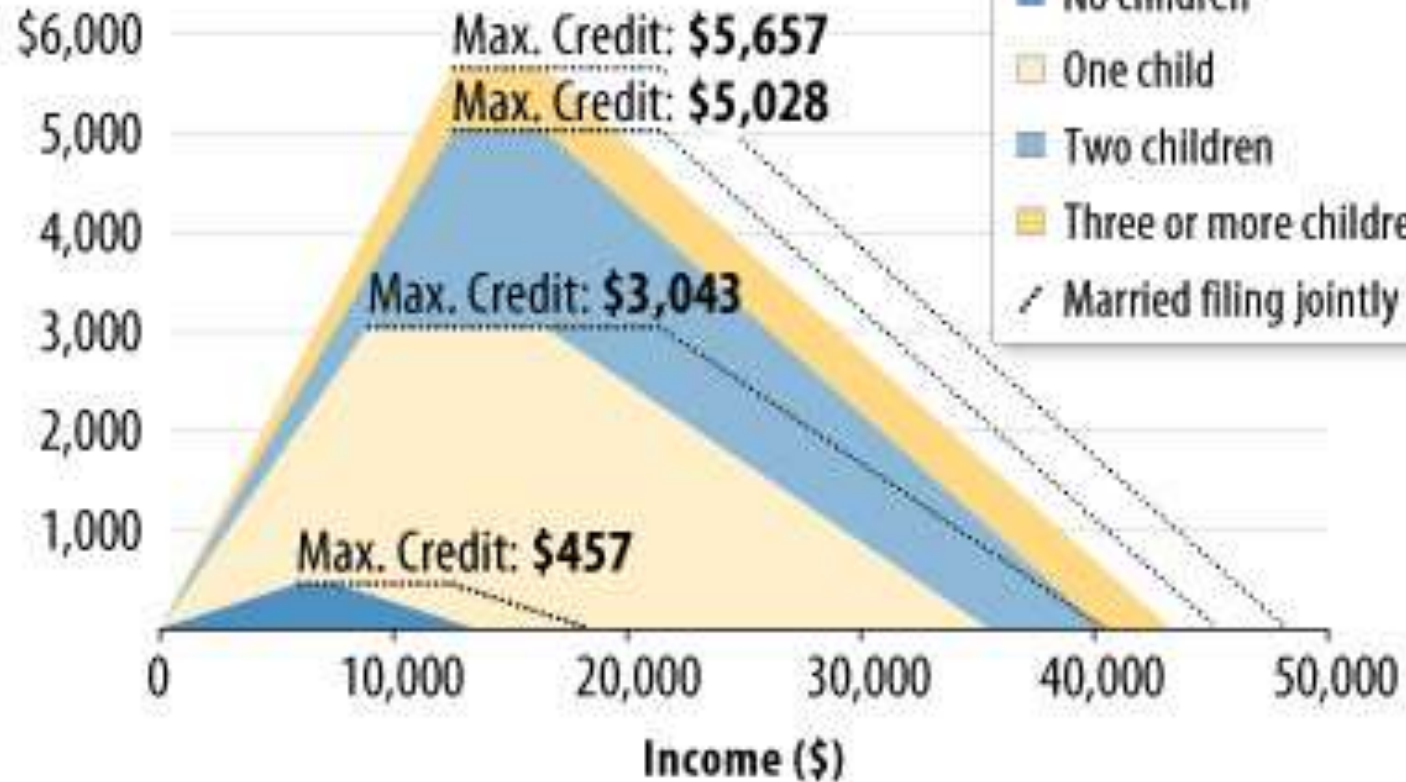


Vertical Axis: fraction of daughters with dependent children born when they were age 13 to 19 Source: Chetty et al. 2014, Online Data Table III, <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org>

Help for children and the working poor

The Federal Earned Income Tax Credit in Tax Year 2009

EITC Credit Amount

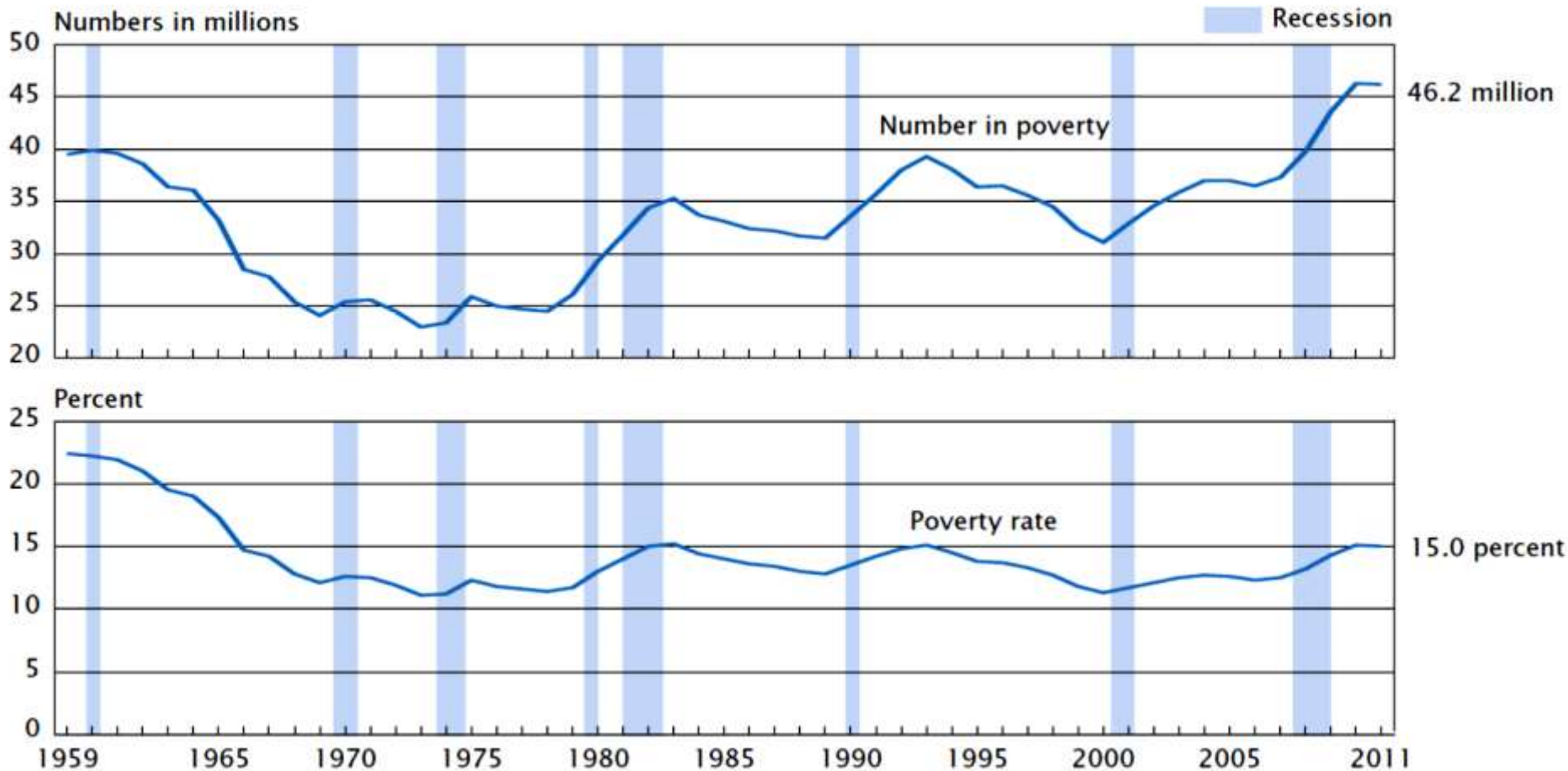


Note: Married couples with income in the phaseout range qualify for a higher credit than singles—shown by dashed lines.

Key trends in U.S. Poverty

Figure 4.

Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2011

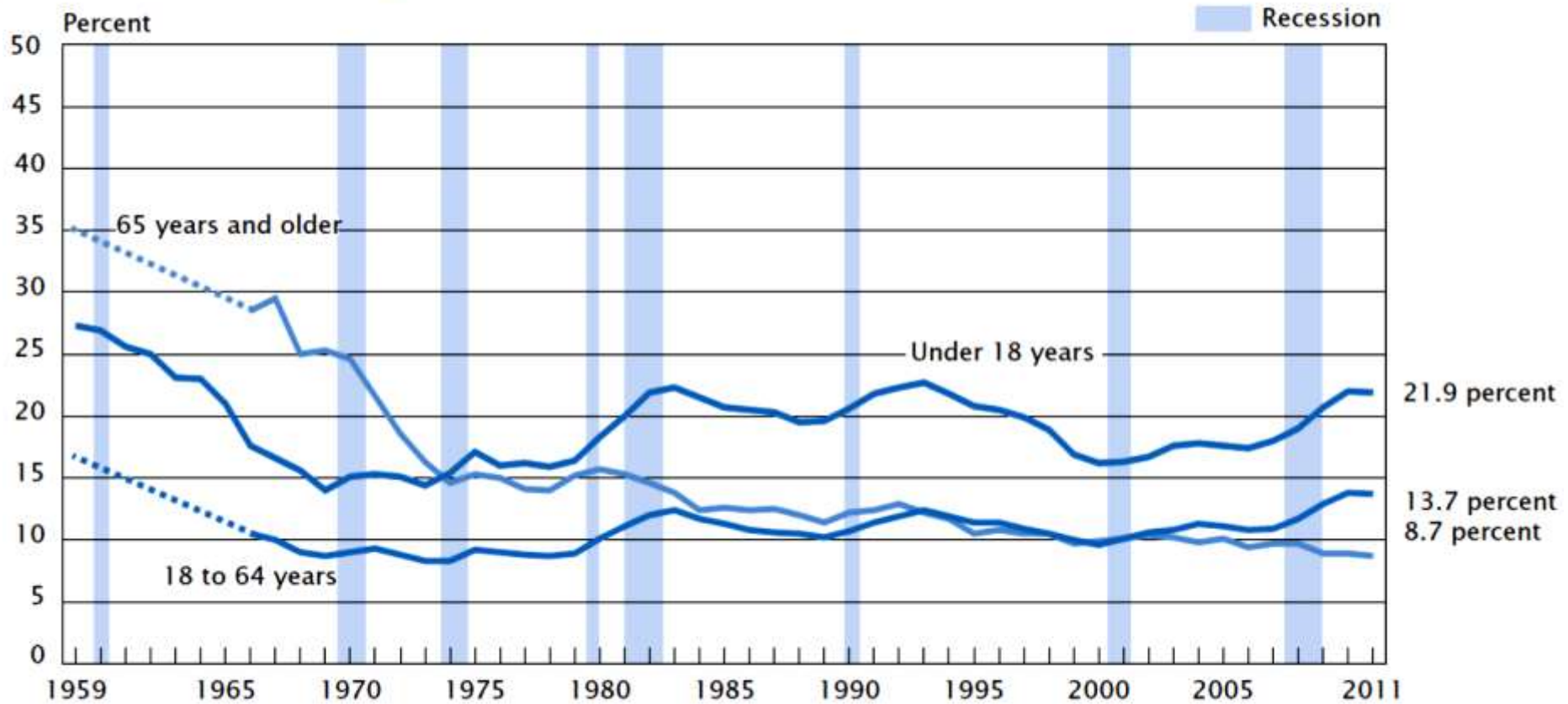


Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Poverty among Children rises during recessions... why (click figure for 2012 data)

Figure 5.
Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 2011



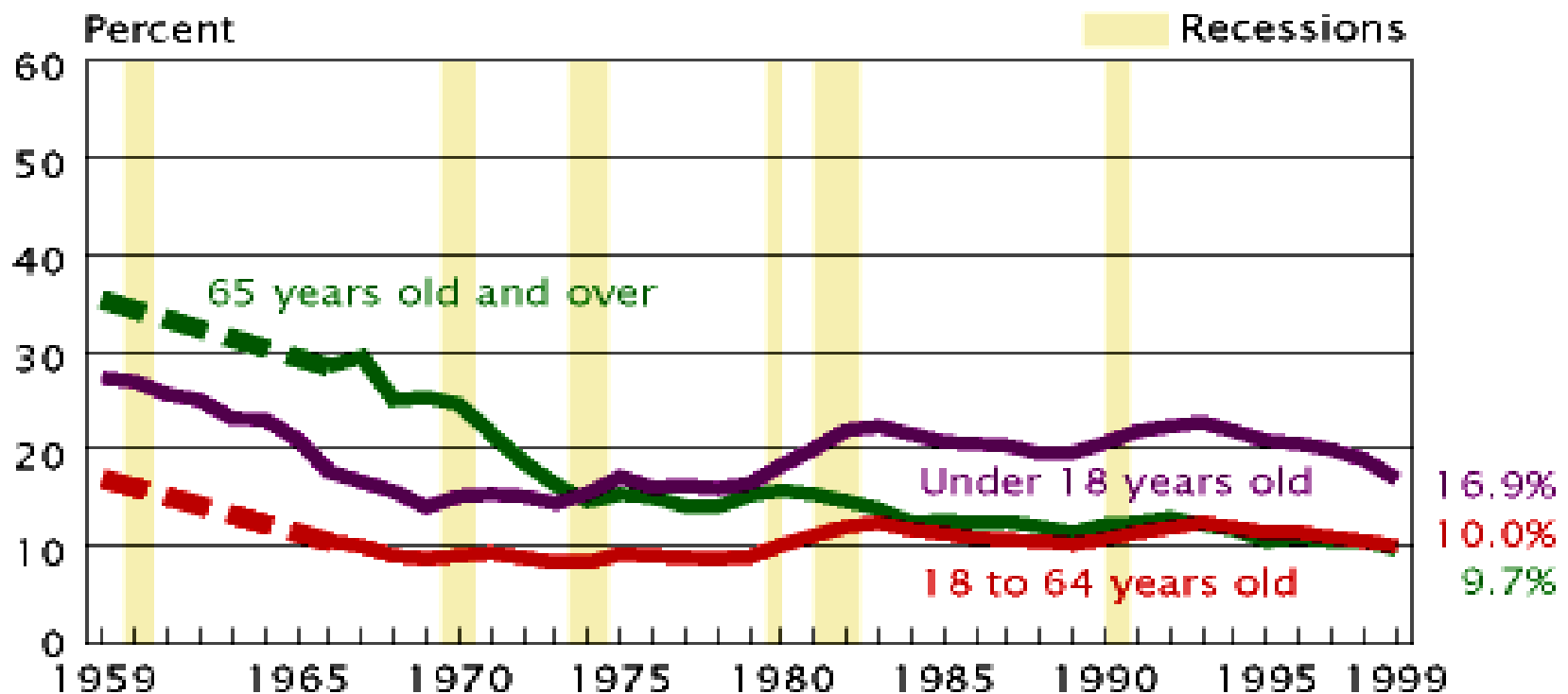
Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. Data for people aged 18 to 64 and 65 and older are not available from 1960 to 1965.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Poverty among Children Fell During the 1993-98 Economic Boom

Poverty Rates by Age: 1959 to 1999

Child poverty lowest since 1979; elderly poverty rate lowest since first measured



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 1960 to 2000.

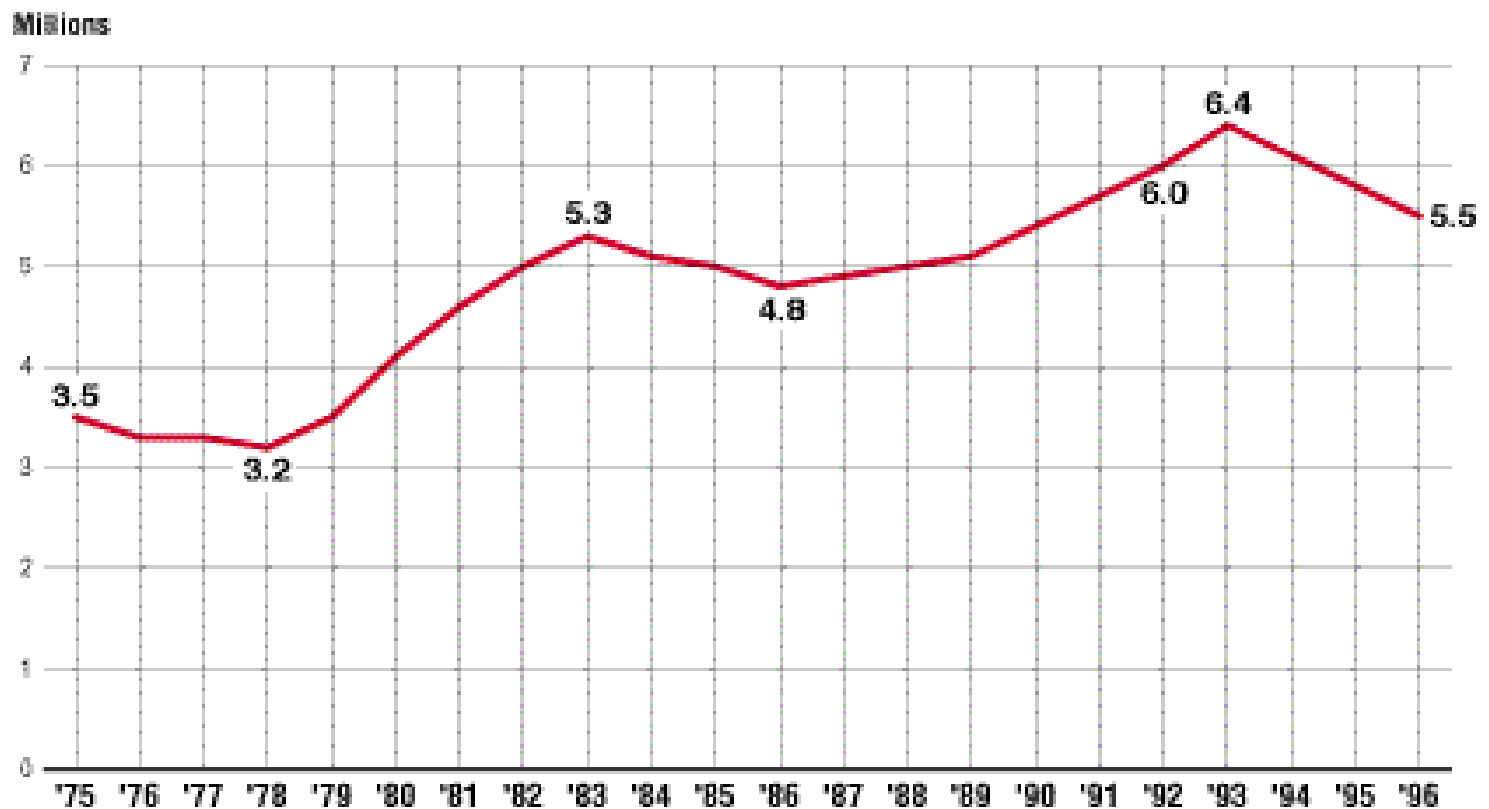
Poverty Among young children rose rapidly from 1980 to 1983: why?



- Children are not responsible for their own poverty
“*There is no such thing as undeserving 5 year old.*” Charles Murray *Losing Ground* (1984)
- But children do tend to live with working age adults who are expected to work and thus are not easy for government to help— unemployment rose sharply 1980-83
- Ellwood’s work-security and family structure helping conundrums... make public assistance more complex and private job and wage growth more important...

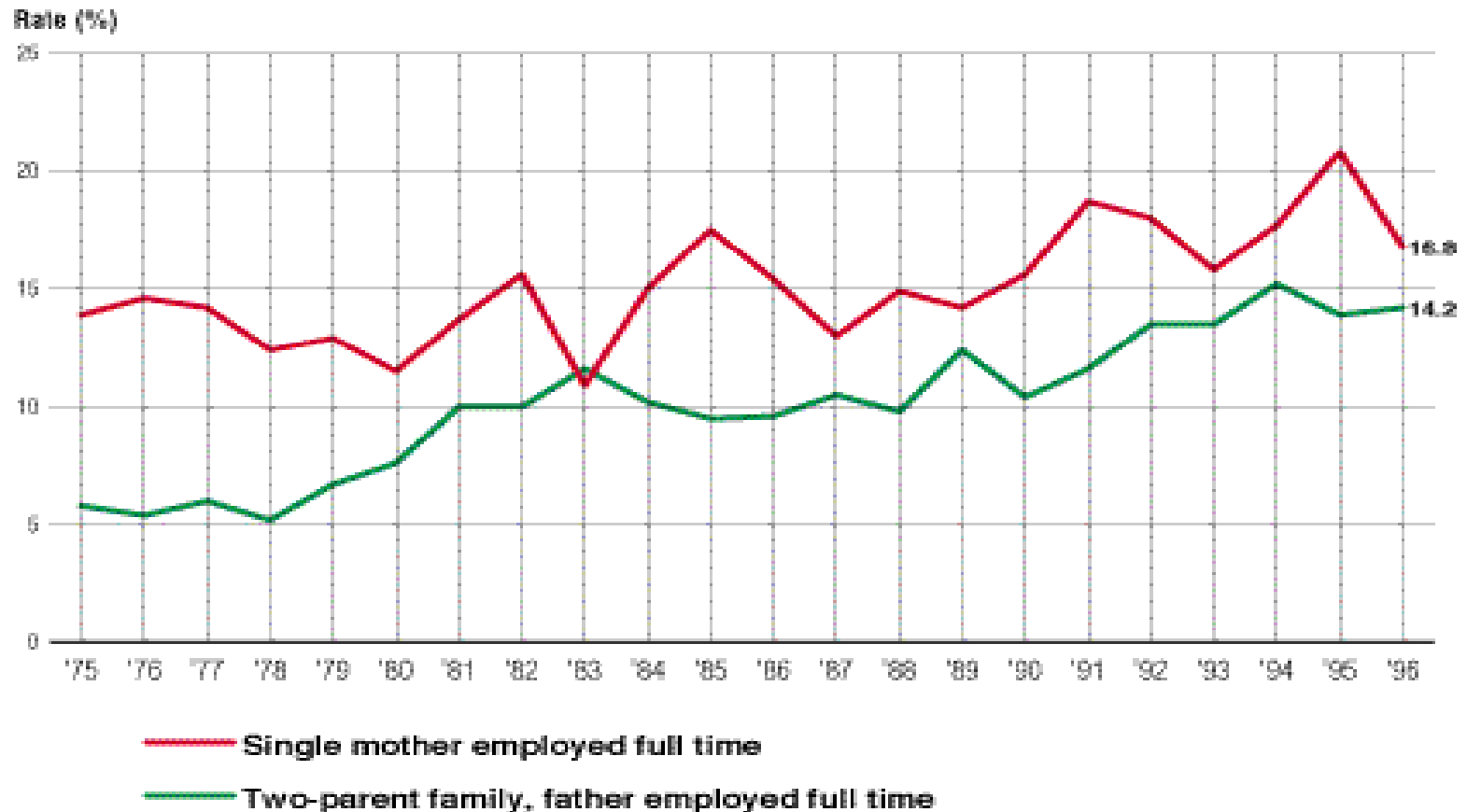
The Number of Poor Children increased dramatically in 1980s

Figure 1: Number of poor children under age six, 1975-1996



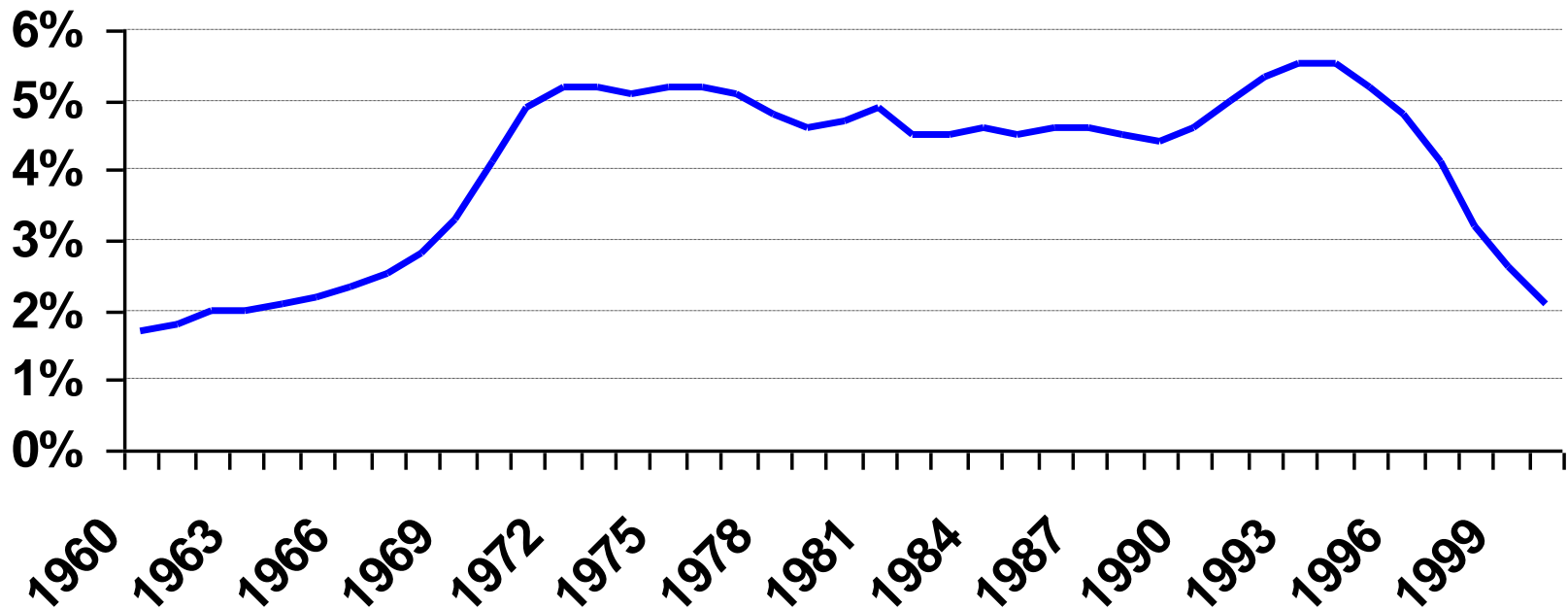
Working Poor with no Medical Insurance: a full-time Job may not be Enough

Figure 9: Poverty rates of children under age six with single mother employed full time and in two-parent families with father employed full time and mother unemployed, 1975-1996



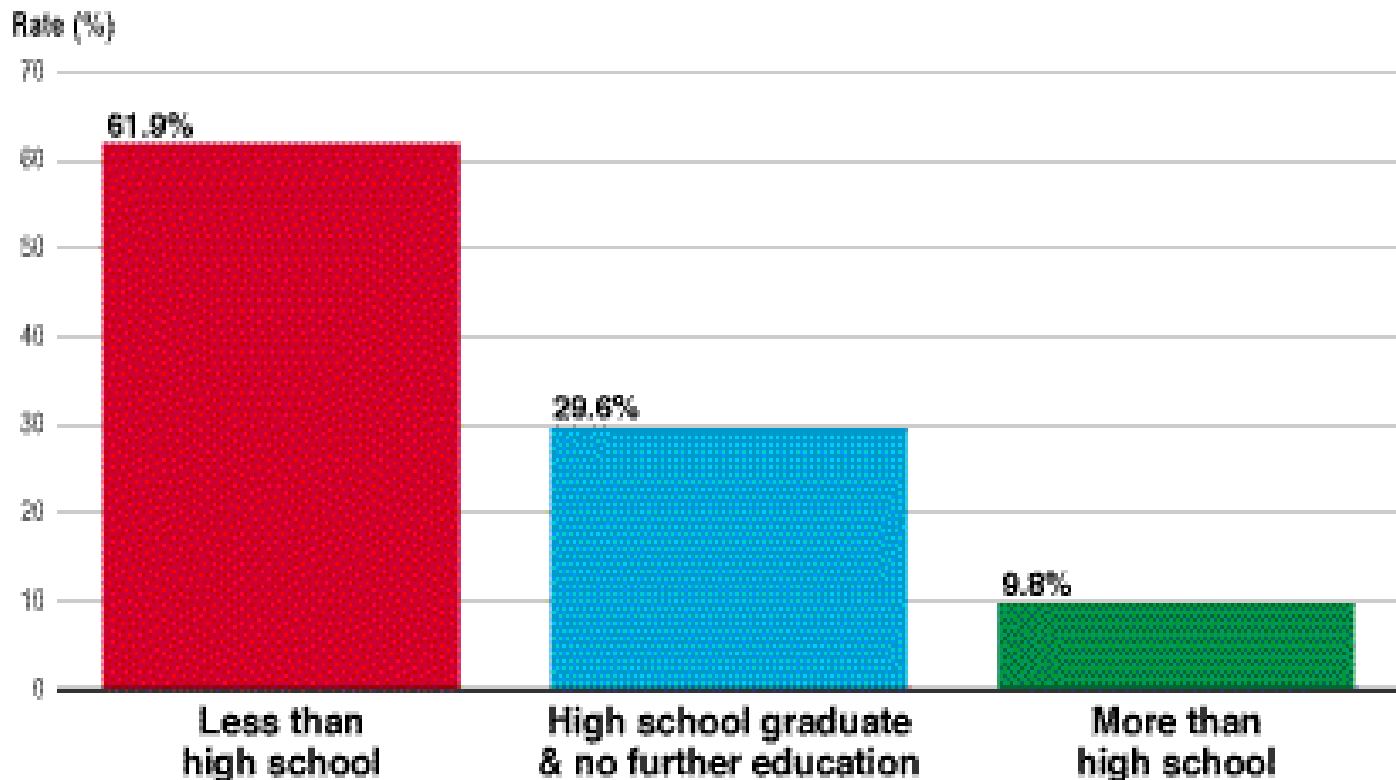
Welfare Caseloads decline dramatically after 1996 due to welfare reform and a tight labor market...

U.S. Welfare Recipients % of Population



Education is a Good Predictor of Poverty among Children Under 6...

Figure 7: Poverty rates of children under age six by educational level of the more educated parent, 1996

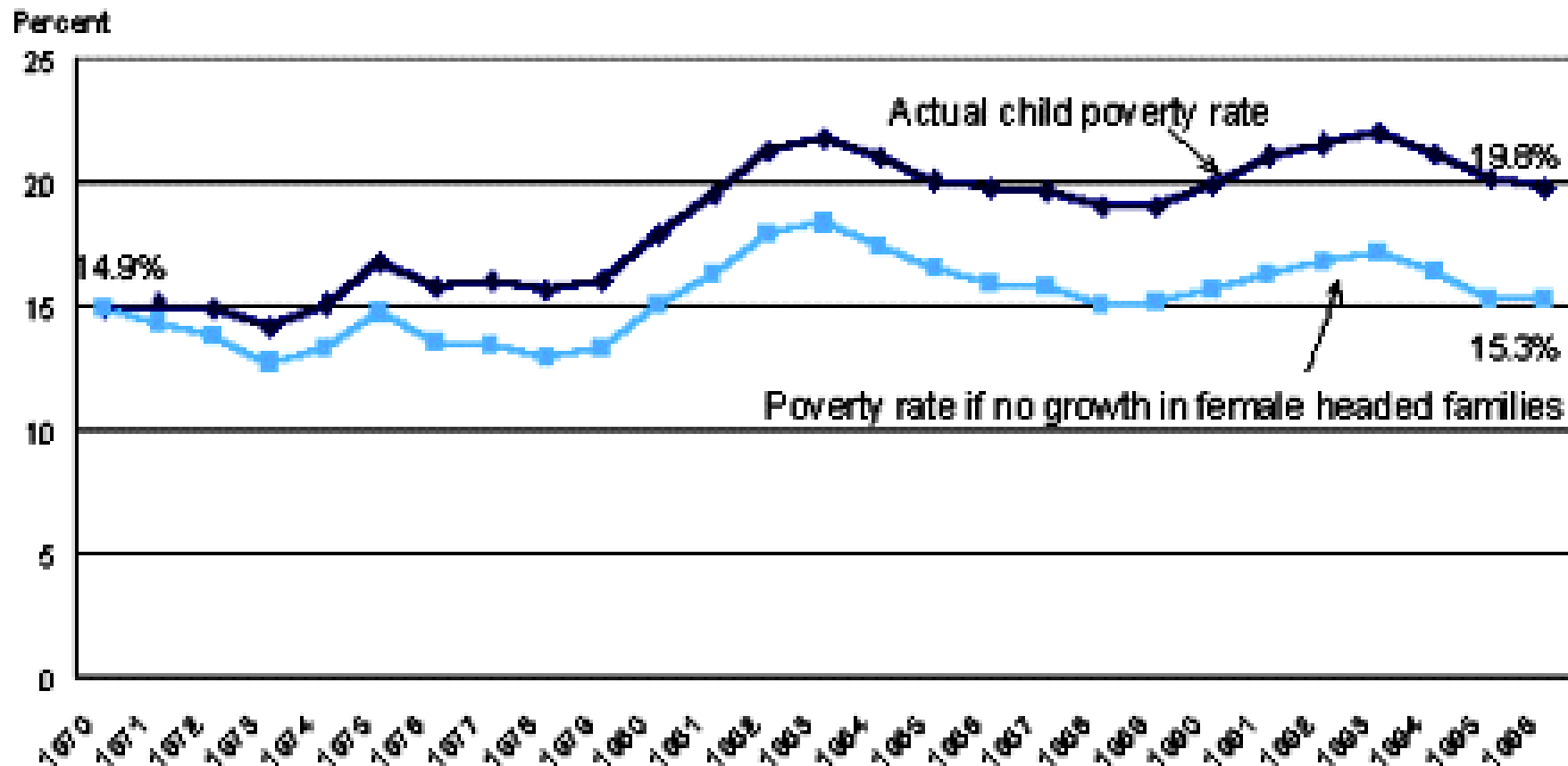


Family Structure is a factor...

Table 1: Number and percentage of poor children, and poverty rates of children under age six by age of mother at birth and by family structure, 1996

Family structure and maternal age at birth	Poor children under age six		Poverty rate %
	Number	%	
Children born to teenage mothers	888,745	16.2	47.1
Children born to adult mothers	4,602,943	83.8	21.1
Living with two parents	1,887,779	34.4	11.5
Living with father only	340,534	6.2	31.6
Living with mother only	3,082,262	56.1	54.8
Living with neither parent	181,113	3.3	33.1

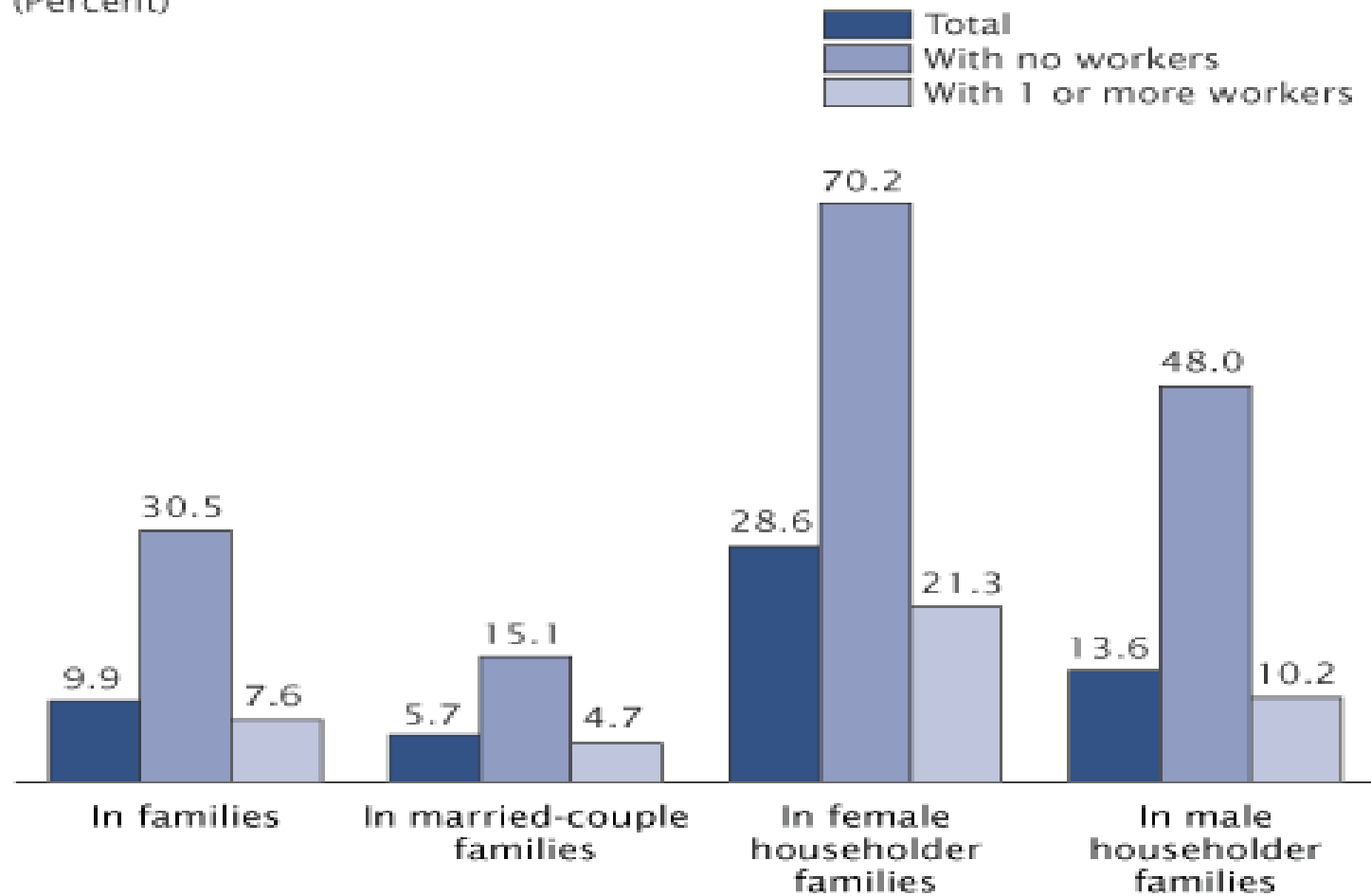
Figure 2: Most of the Increase in Child Poverty Can Be Explained by the Growth of Female Headed Families



Source: All data from Table 10: Related Children in Female Householder Families, 1959-1996 except poverty rate for related children under 18, which is from table 3: Poverty Status of persons, by age, 1959-1996, U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 4.
Poverty Rates of People in Families by Family Type and Presence of Workers: 2001

(Percent)

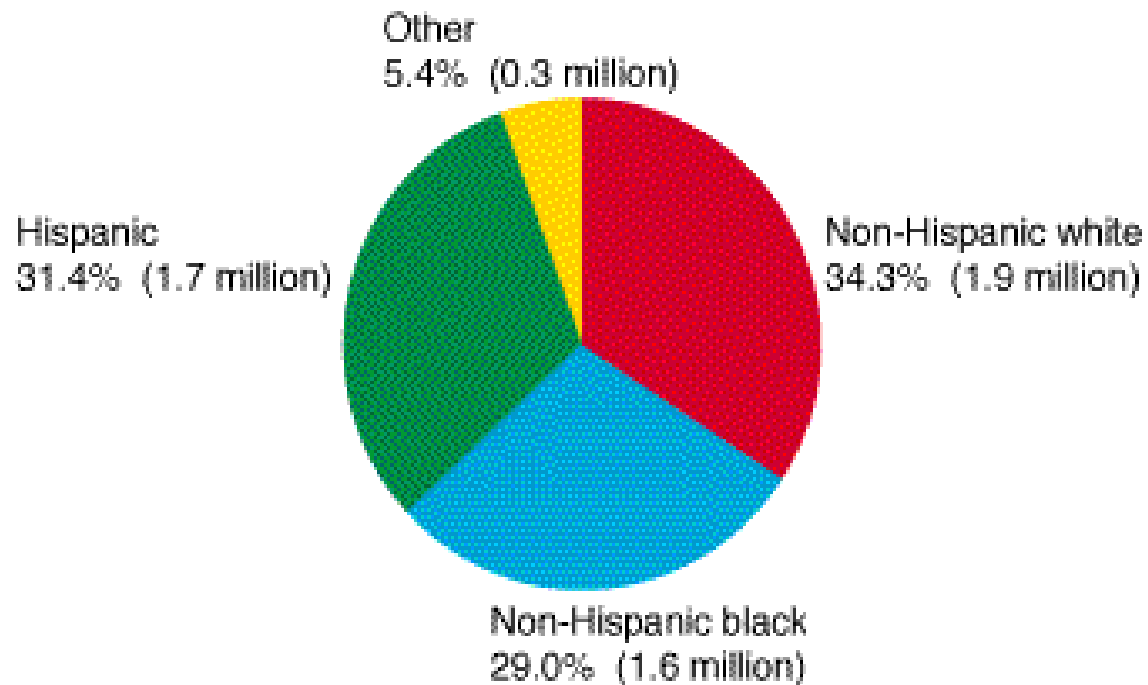


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2002 Annual Demographic Supplement.

But Race is not..

Figure 4: Number and percentage distribution of poor children under age six by race/ethnicity, 1996

Poor children under age six: 5.5 million



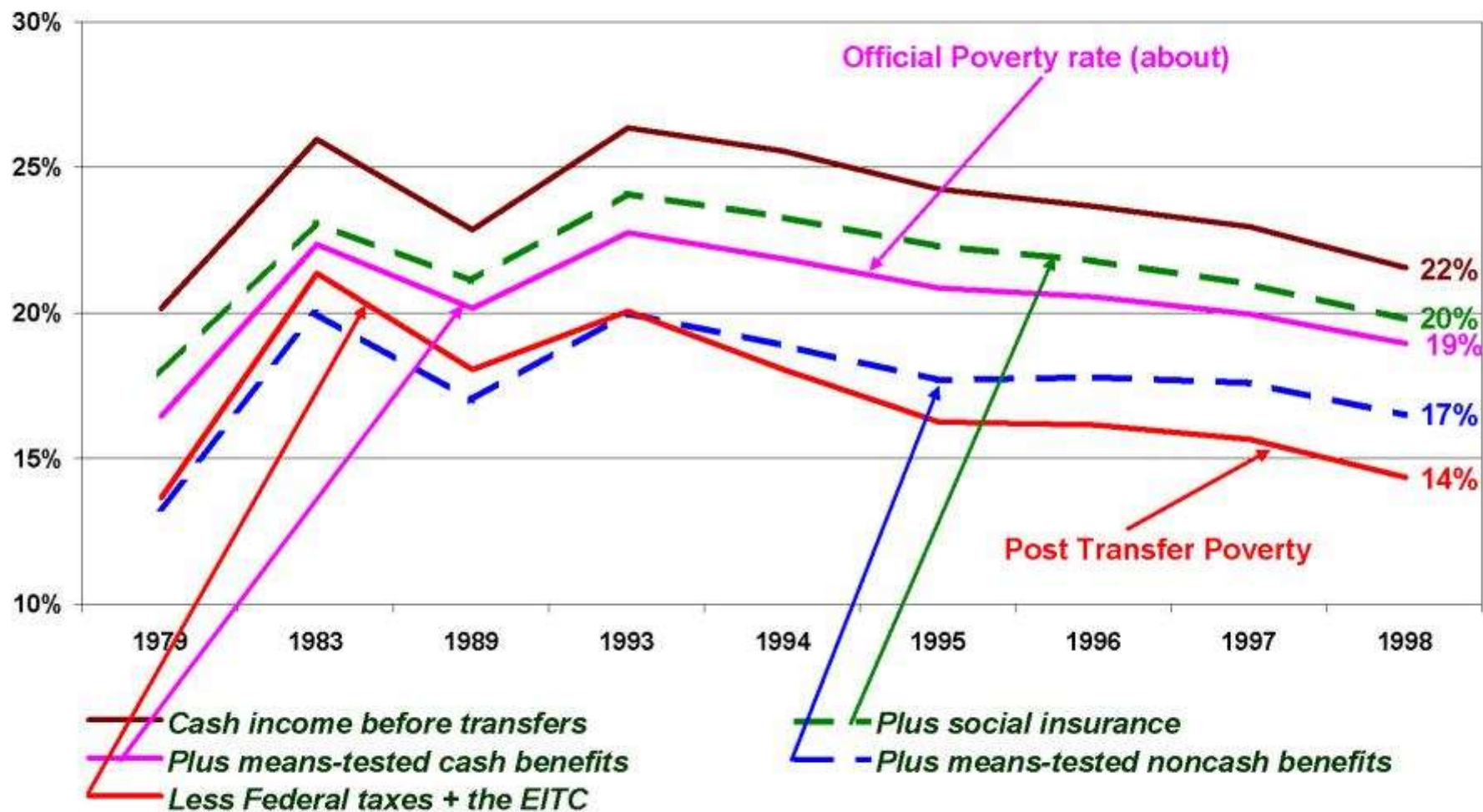


Families with Children do get In-Kind Transfers and Tax Credits

- To get an "alternative" poverty rate: take the official Census Bureau poverty line and add these in-in-kind, "near-cash" benefits:
- Food stamps, Housing subsidies & School lunches
 - then add Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) tax refunds
 - and subtract federal, state, and payroll taxes.

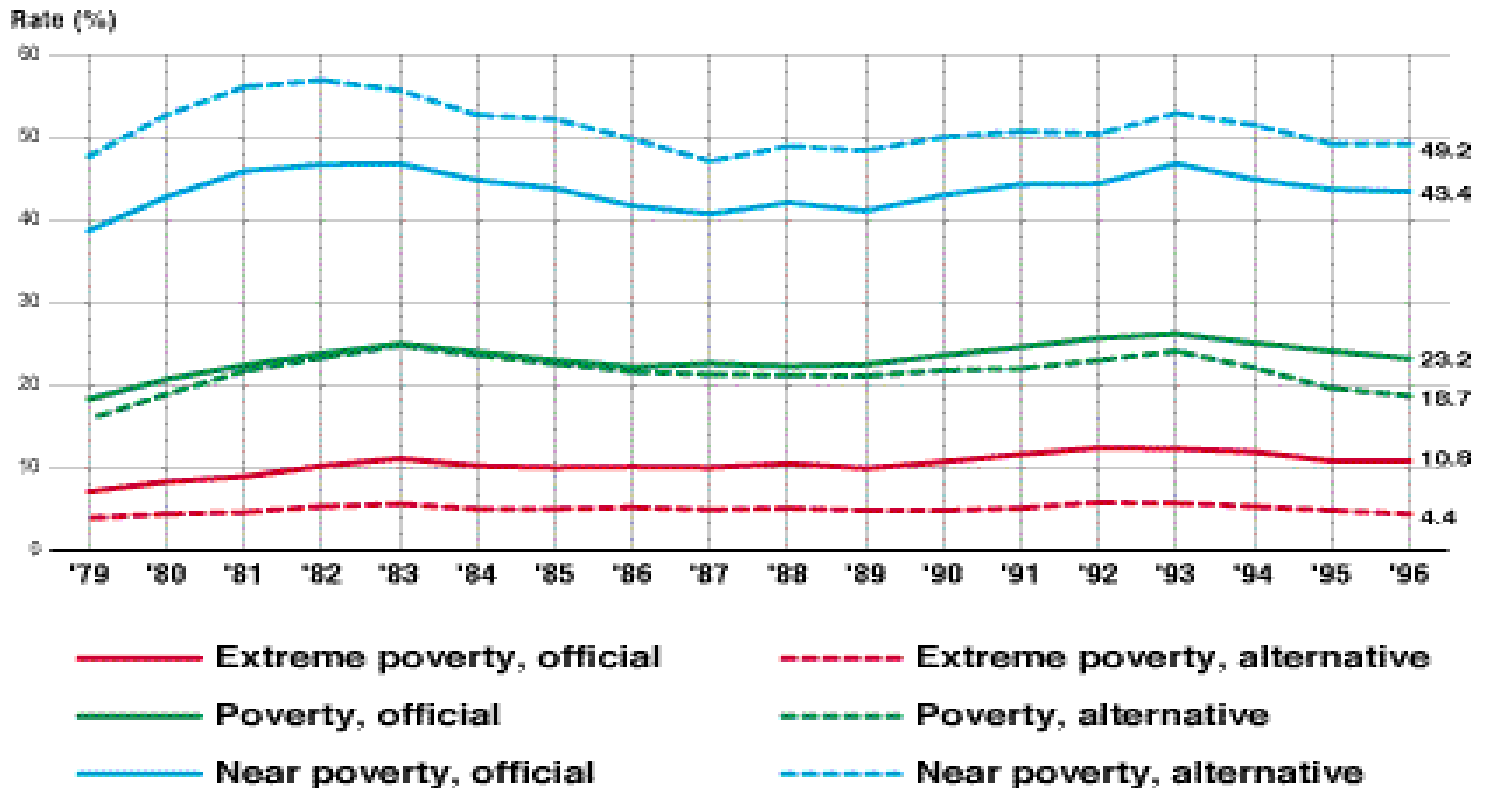
Source: <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/nccp/>

Poverty Rates--after Government Transfers Children Under 18



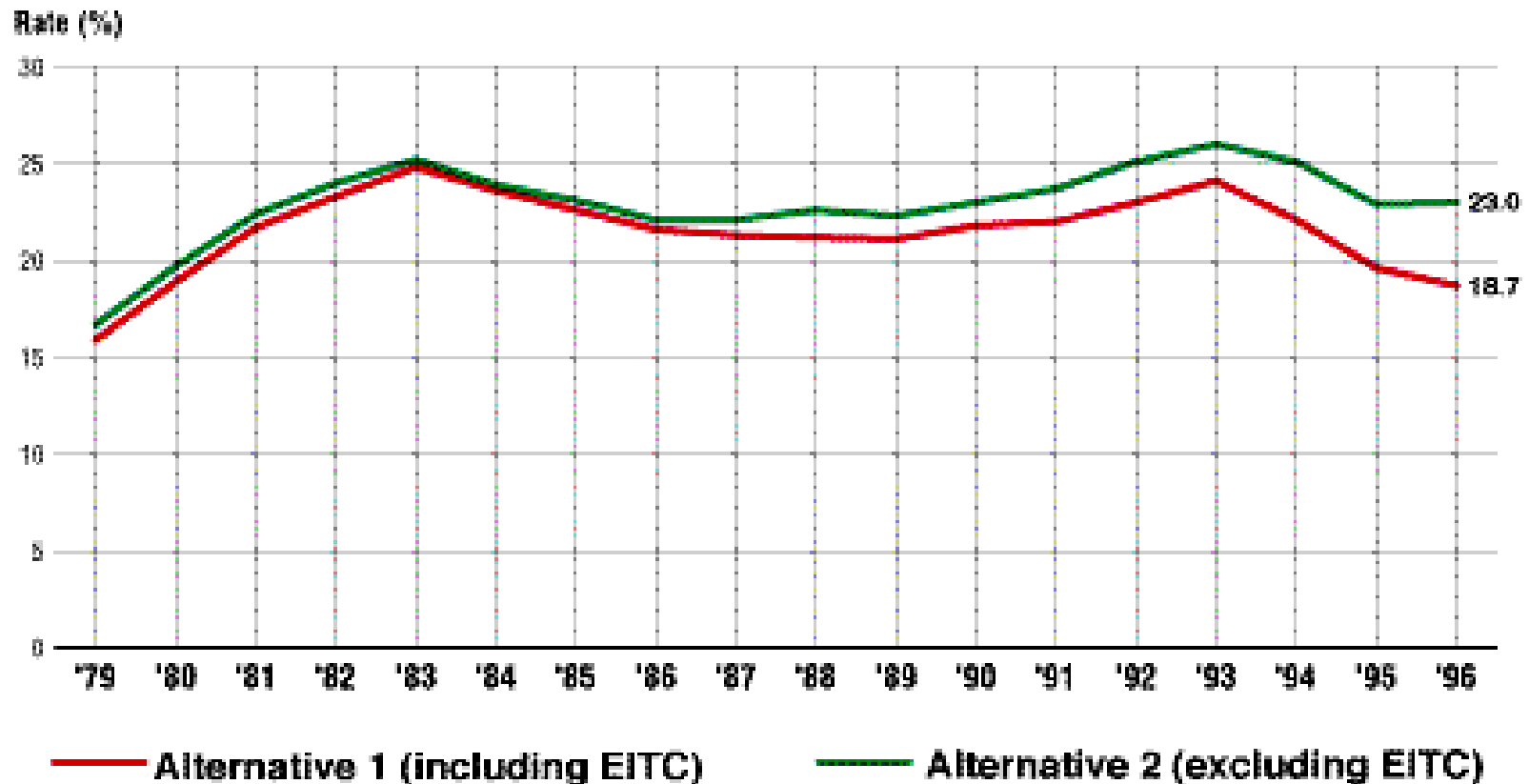
In-kind Transfers and the EITC help, especially at the very bottom...

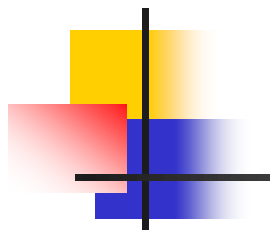
Figure 10: Extreme poverty, poverty, and near poverty rates for children under age six by official and alternative measures, 1979-1996



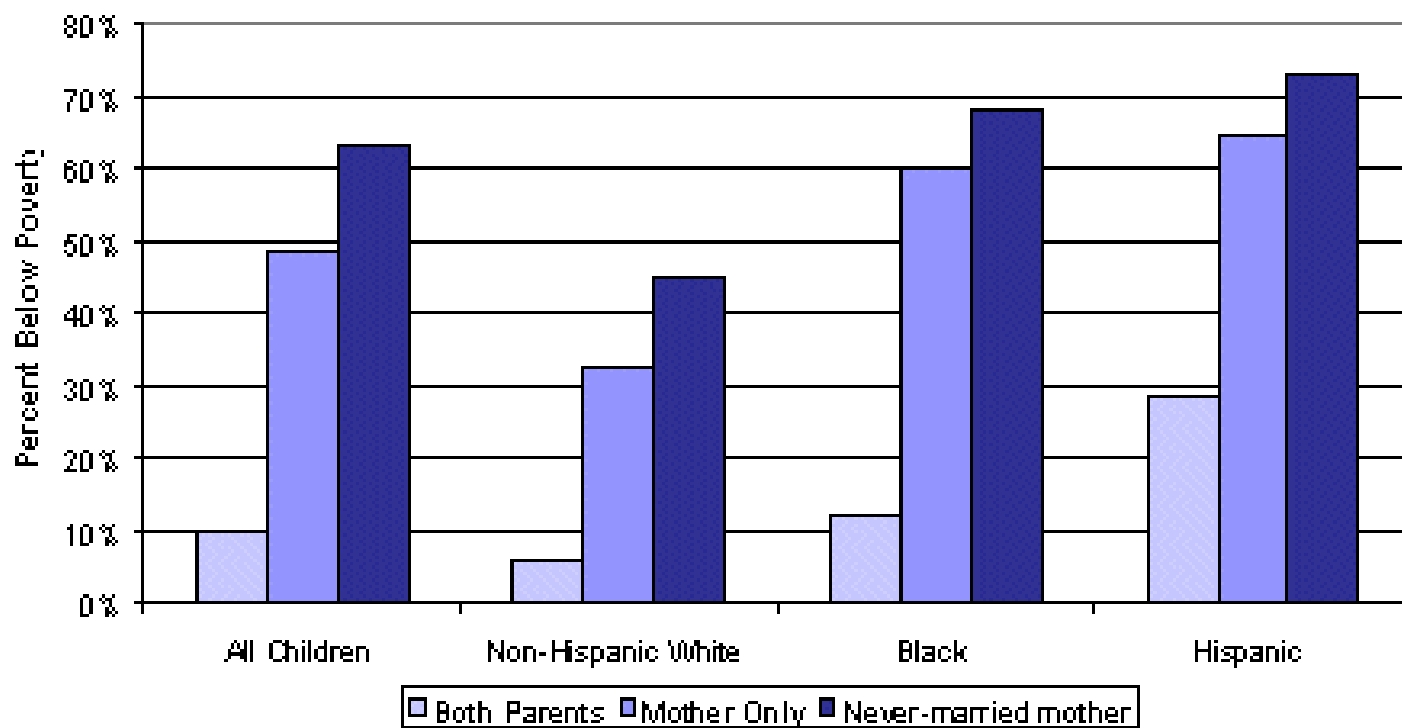
The EITC alone reduces under 6 poverty by 4% or about 10 million children

Figure 11: A comparison of poverty rates for children under age six using alternative measures of poverty with and without the EITC, 1979-1996



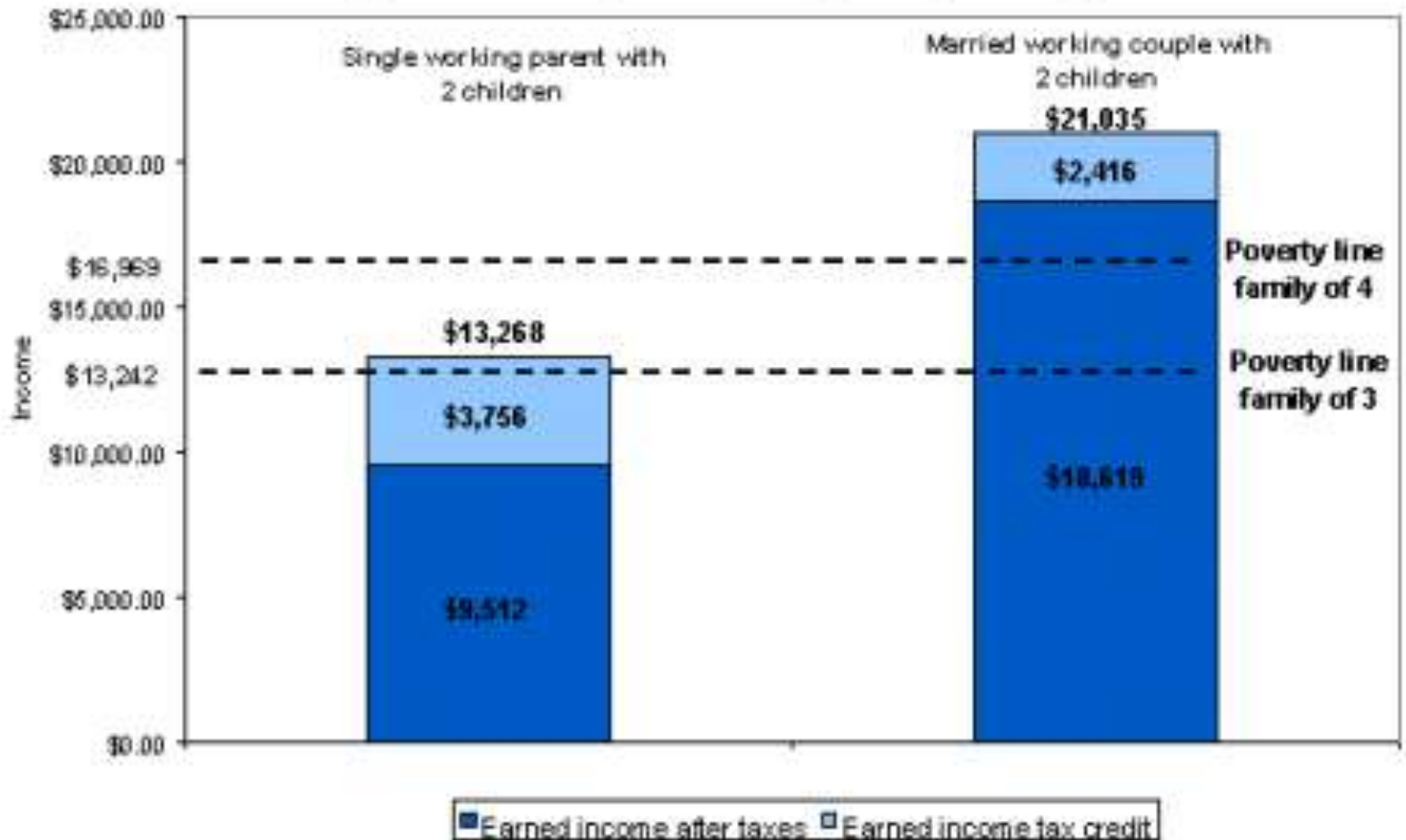


**Figure 1:
Child Poverty Rates by Living Arrangement of Child, 1996**



Source: 1996 *Marital Status and Living Arrangements*. Current Population Series, US Census Bureau

Figure 3: Marriage as an Antipoverty Strategy



Source: Poverty line, House of Representatives (1998), p. 899; EITC, Internal Revenue Service (1998), p. 22. Assumes minimum wage of \$5.15/hr.



Policies that work,

- EITC (Earned income tax credit)
- Visiting Nurse program
- Perry pre-school project
- More part time work for men and women (as in the Netherlands)

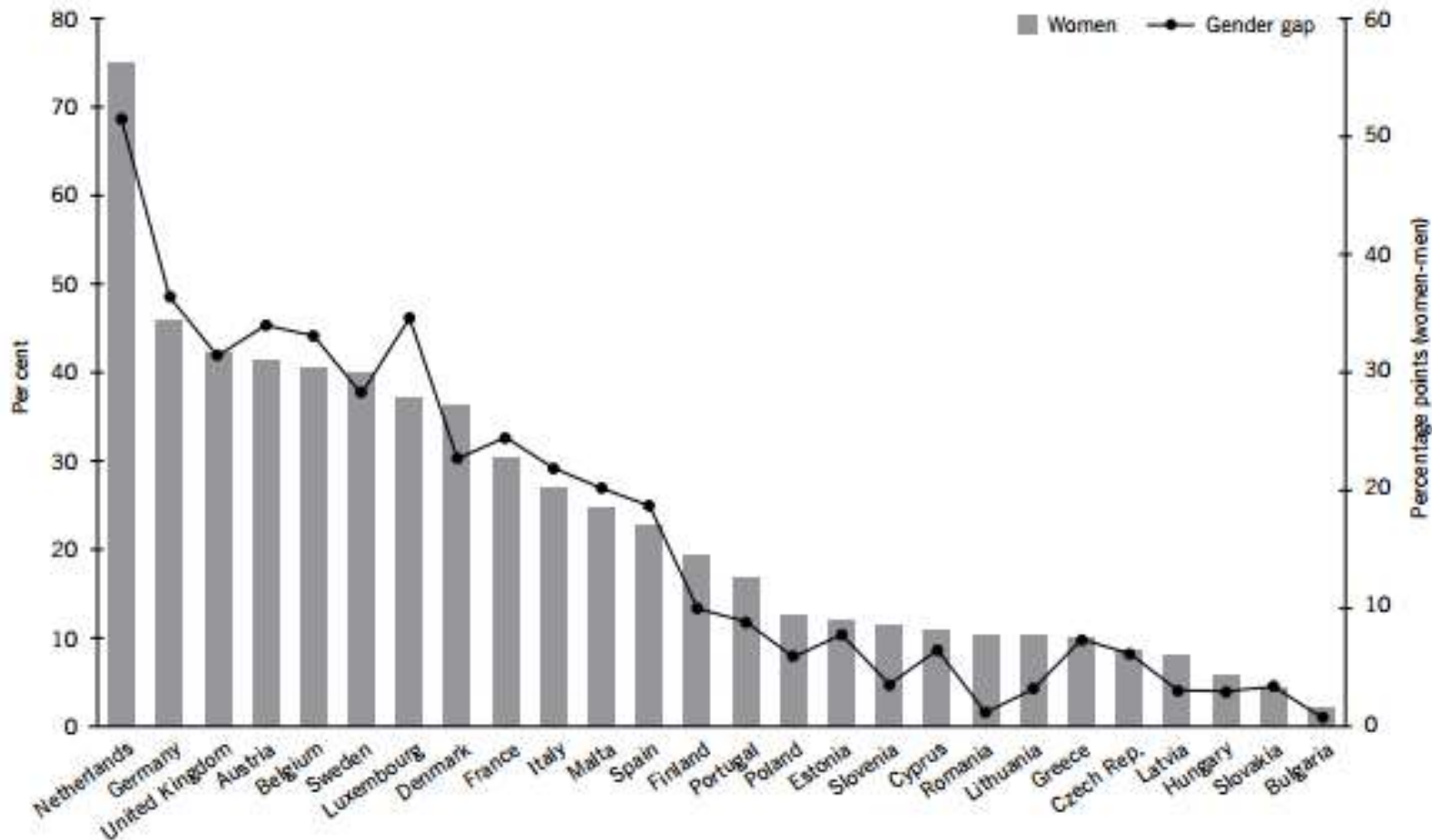


Policies don't work SPF births

- Family caps (New Jersey) see
- Reducing welfare benefits
- Most education and marriage counseling programs
- Trend toward more SPFs seems to be force majeure

Part-time work in Europe

FIGURE 7: Proportion of women working part-time and differences between women and men in 2007.



Source: Eurostat (Ireland n.a. for 2007)



References

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