

The Vow Factor:

Marriage, Divorce, and Family
Formation and their Impact on Health
and Well-being



Moderated by:

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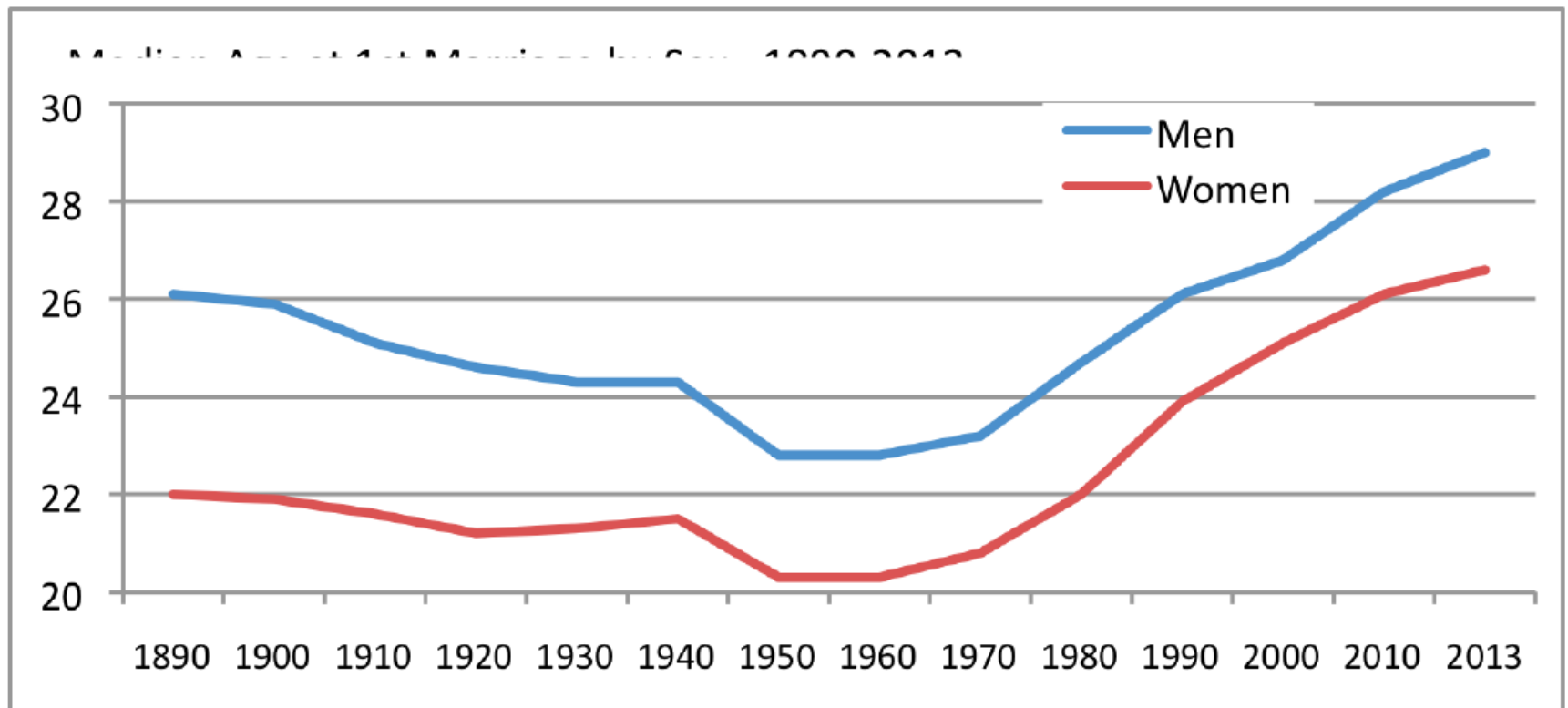
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- What have been the major trends in marriage, cohabitation, and non-marital childbearing in the U.S.?
- Let us see:*

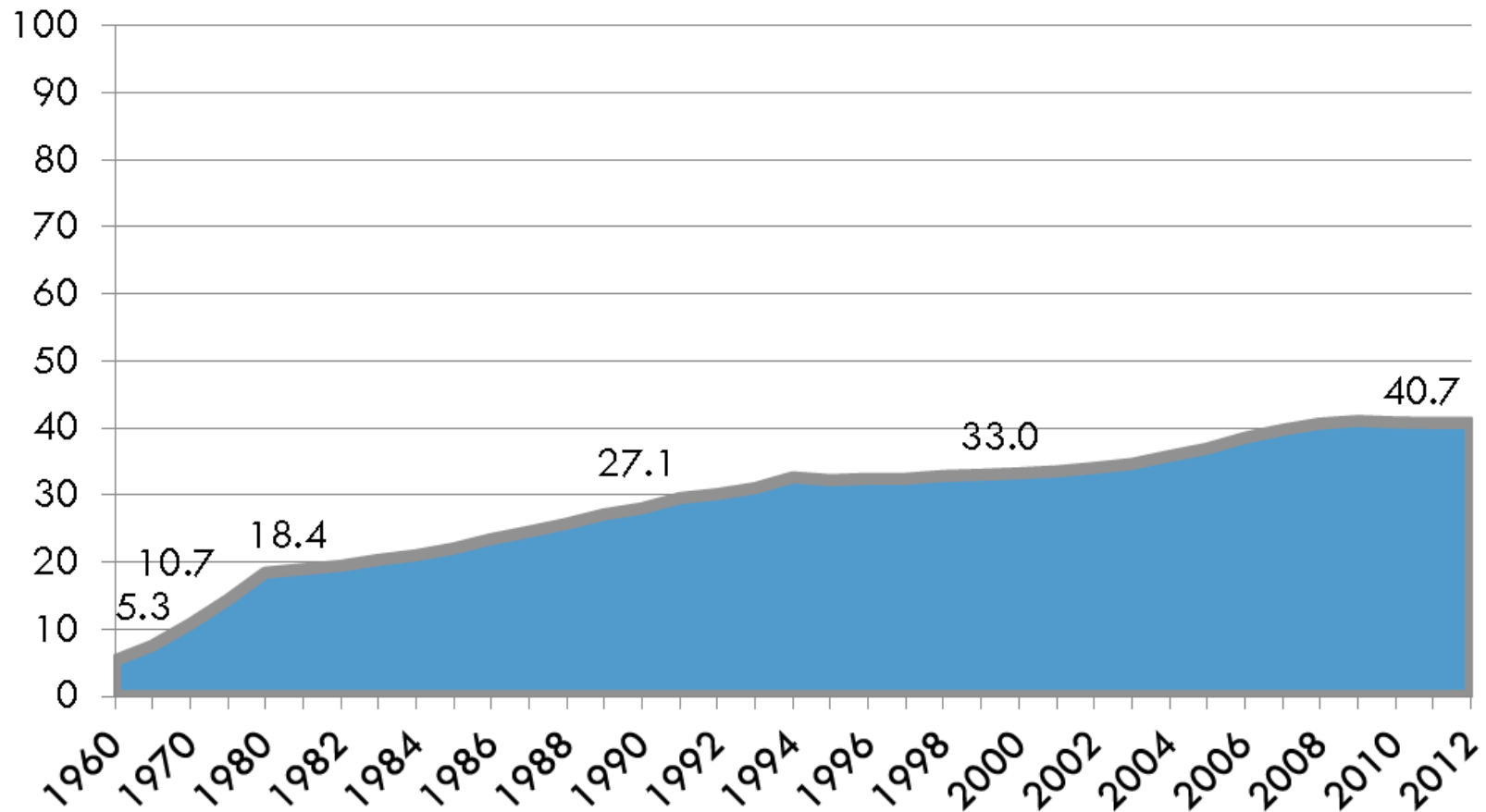
*Slides courtesy of Wendy Manning, Distinguished Professor, Bowling Green State University.

Family Change: Age at Marriage 1890-2013



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

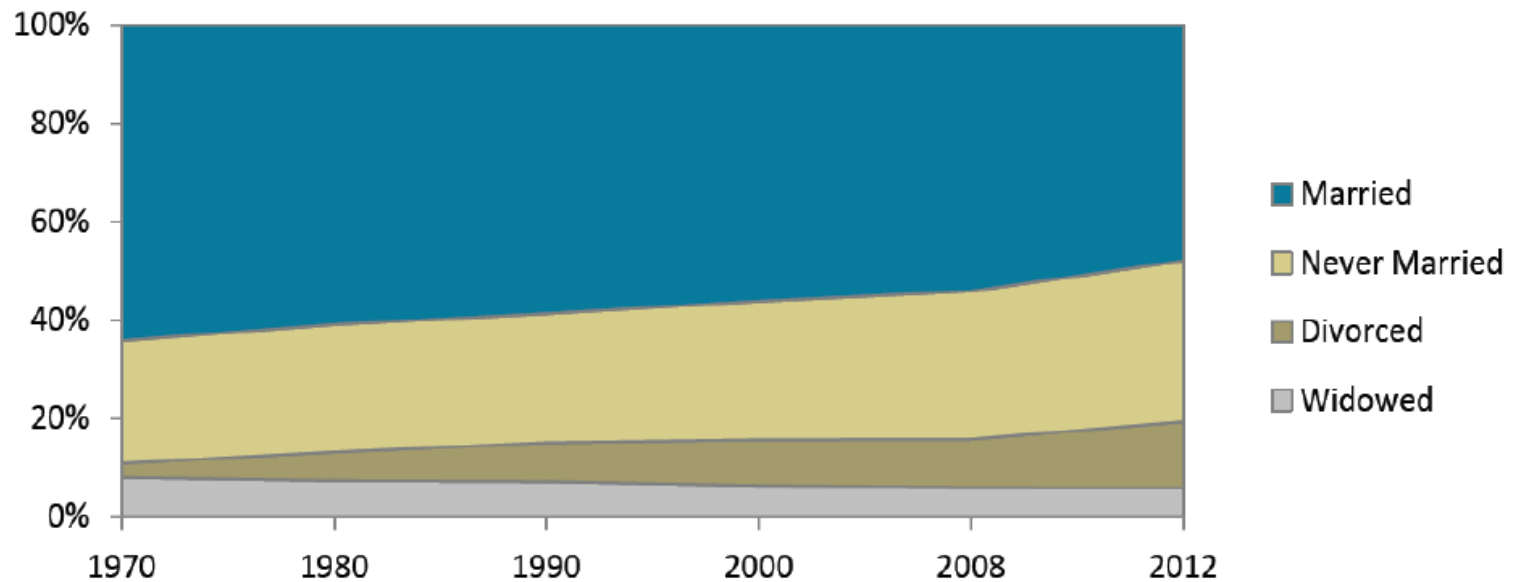
Family Change: Unmarried Births 1960-2012



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

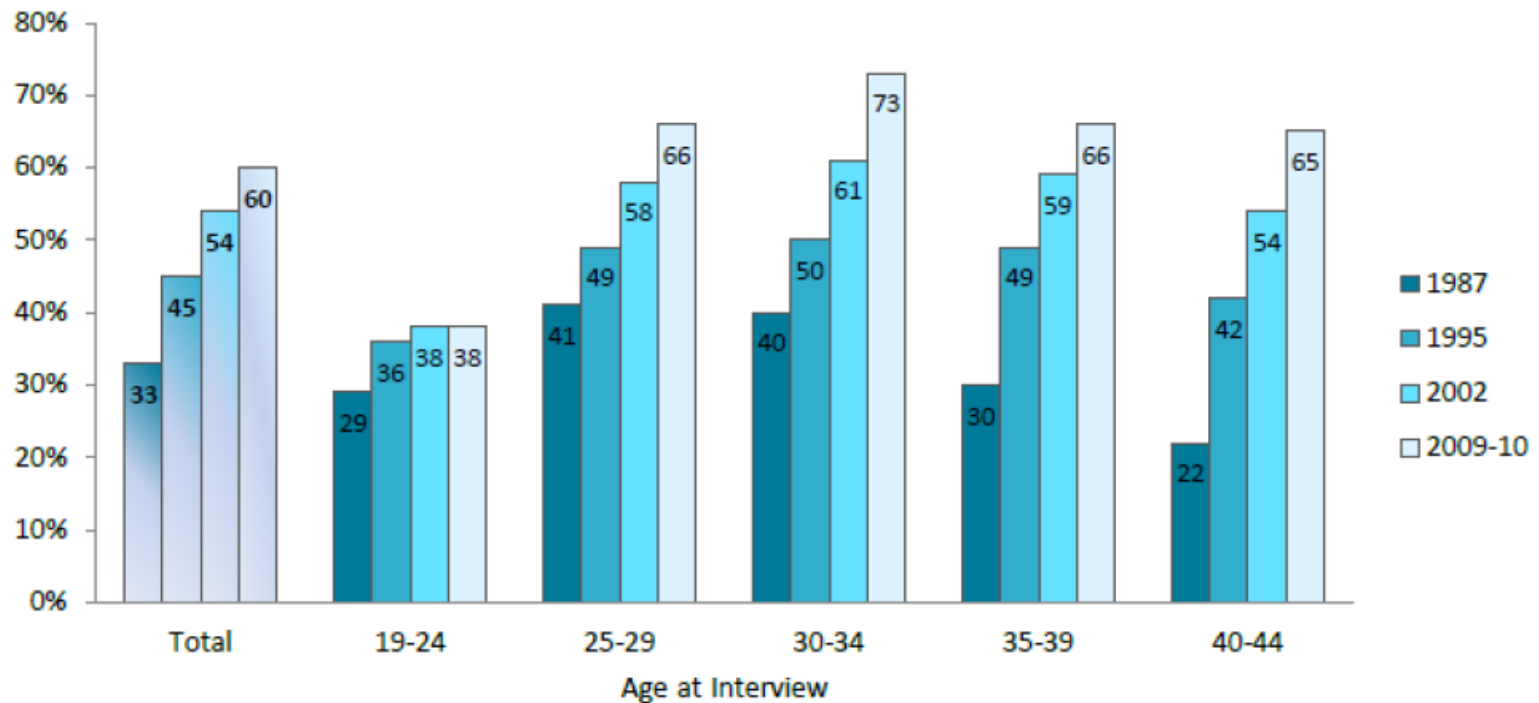
Family Change: Marital Status: 1970-2012

Figure 1. Marital Status of U.S. Population Aged 15 and Older, 1970-2012



Family Change: Cohabitation 1987-2010

Figure 1. Two Decades of Trends in Percentage of Women (ages 19-44) Ever Cohabited by Age



Sources: Bumpass and Sweet, 1989; Bumpass and Lu, 2000; Kennedy and Bumpass, 2008

Federal agencies support many important surveys with information on marriage, cohabitation, and divorce, including:

- **Census Bureau**, (American Community Survey questions on marital history)
- **National Science Foundation** (Panel Study of Income Dynamics)
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics** (National Longitudinal Study of Youth)
- **National Center for Health Statistics** (National Survey of Family Growth)
- **National Institutes of Health:**
 - Health and Retirement Survey
 - Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (NIH)