

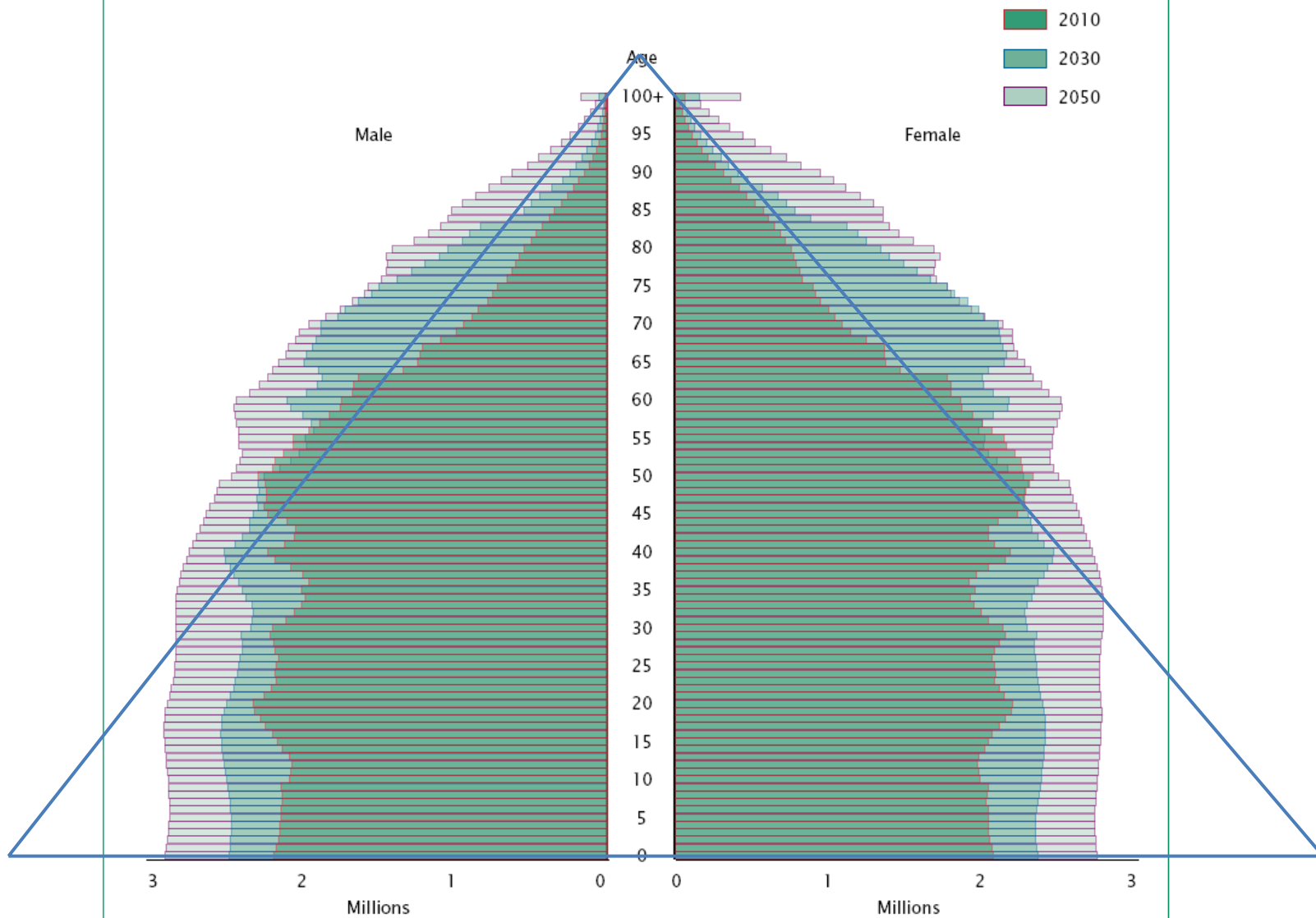
# Family Care for an Aging Population: The Demographic Context

Andrew Cherlin  
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**POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU AND HOPKINS POPULATION CENTER**

**ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON POLICY AND HEALTH  
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Figure 1.  
**Age and Sex Structure of the Population for the United States: 2010, 2030, and 2050**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008.

What we all know:

The aging of the population:

- 12% of the population is 65 or older today.
- 16% will be 65 or older in 2020
- 19% will be 65 or older in 2030

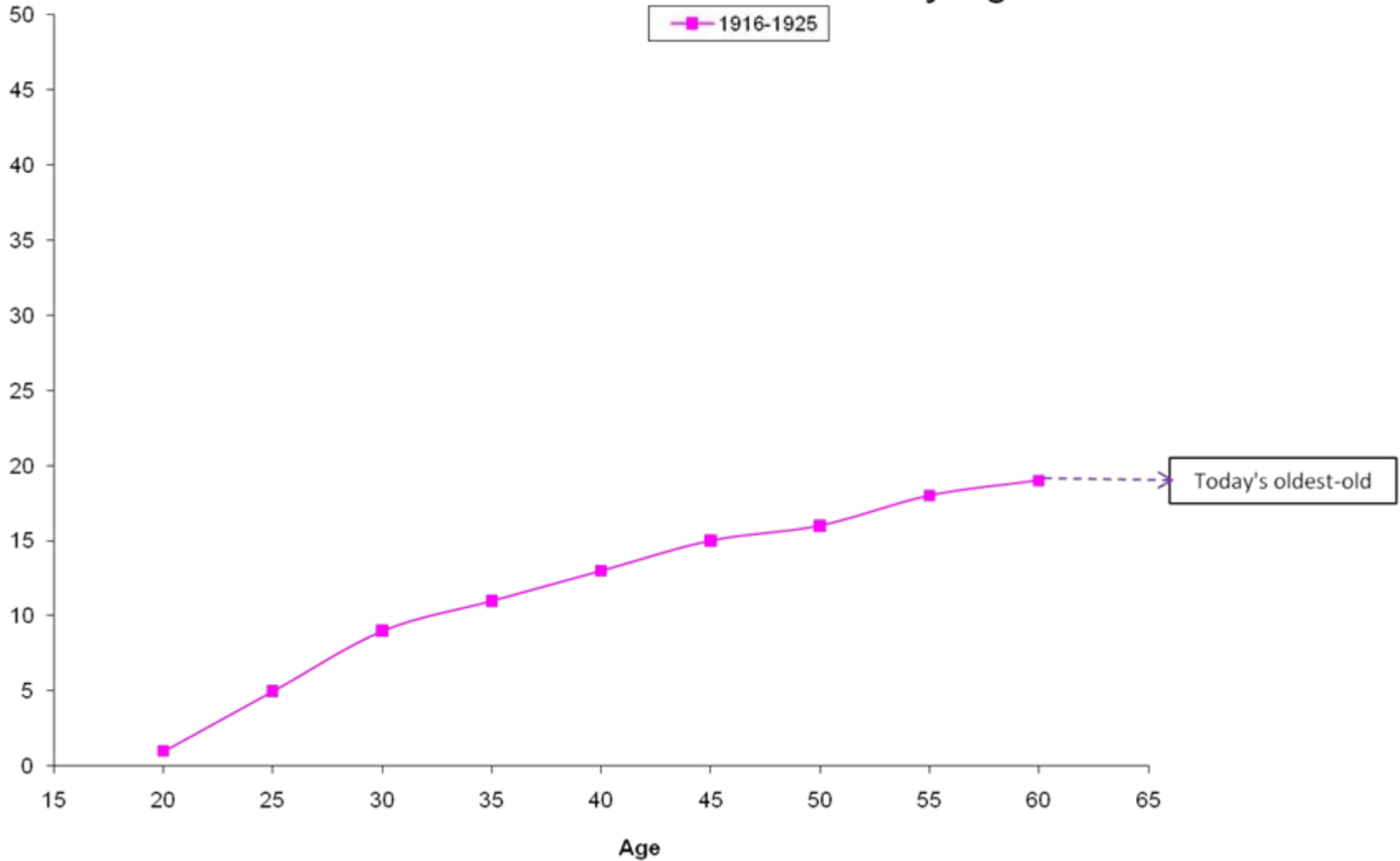
The declining number of working-age adults per older person:

- 5 working-age adults per older person today
- 4 working-age adults per older person in 2020
- 3 working-age adults per older person in 2030

# Family change and the older population

## Trends in Divorce

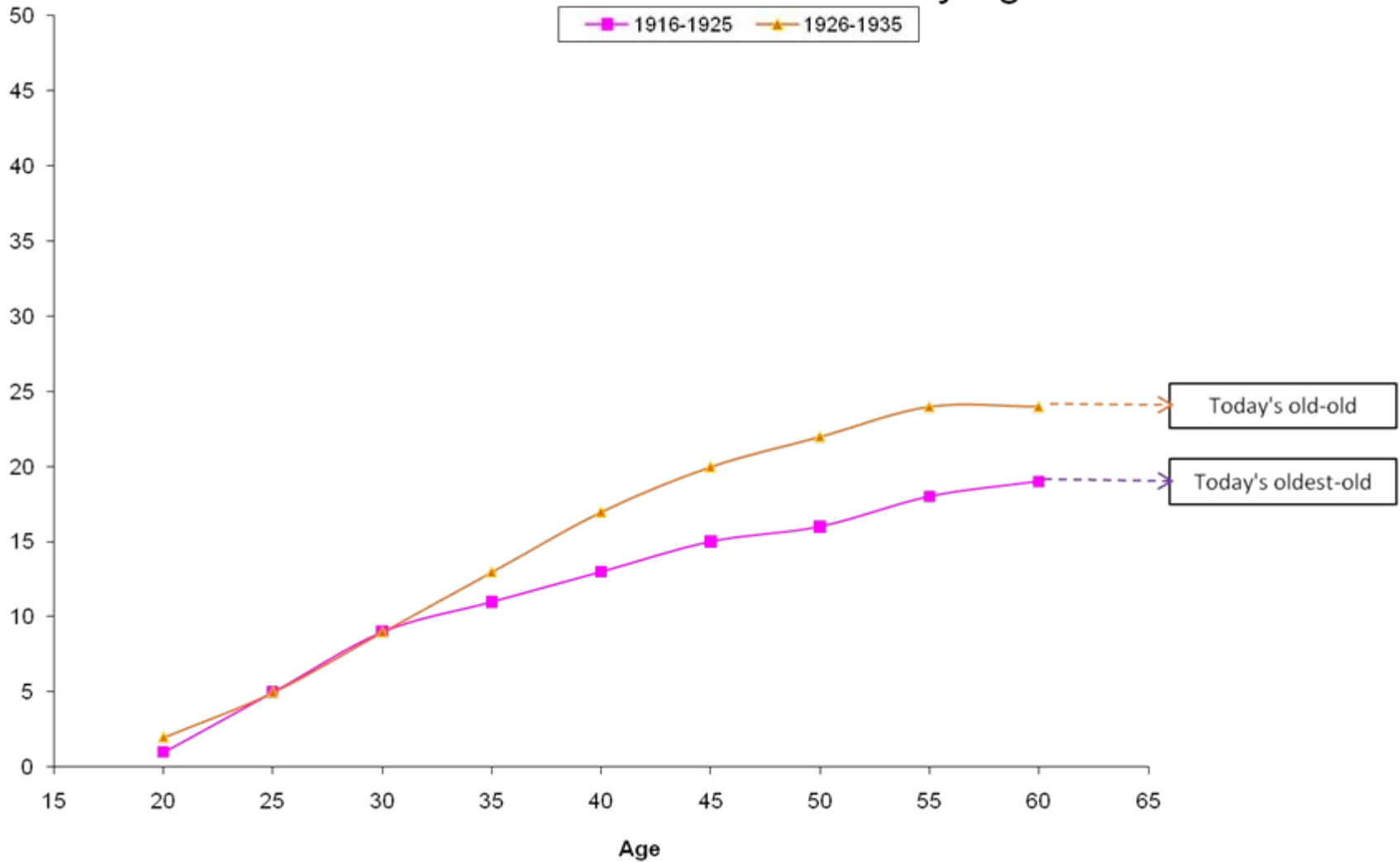
# Percent of Women Ever Divorced By Age in Five Cohorts



Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation 1986, 1996 and 2004.

Thanks to M.E. Hughes, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

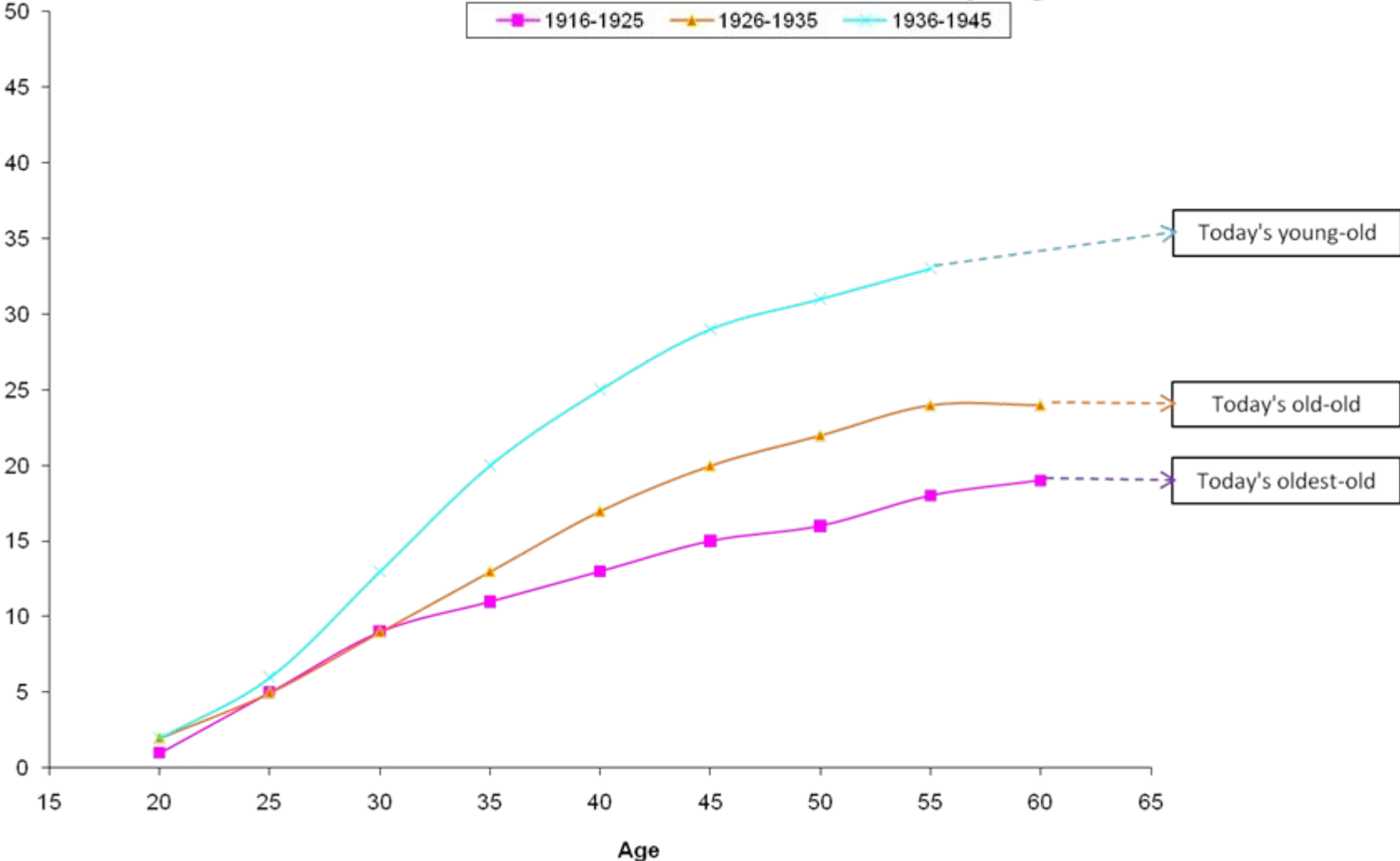
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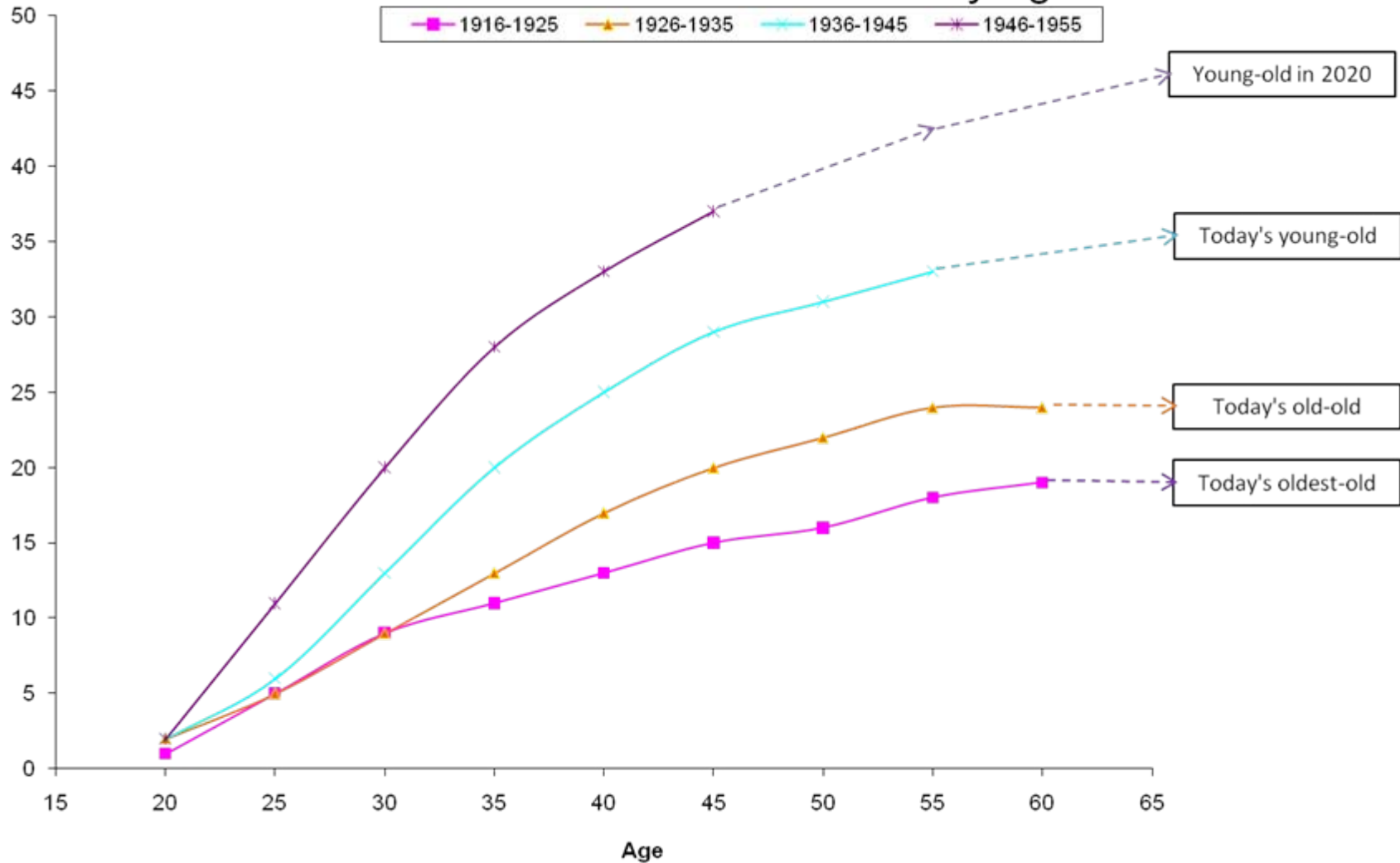
# Percent of Women Ever Divorced By Age in Five Cohorts

1916-1925    1926-1935    1936-1945



Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation 1986, 1996 and 2004.

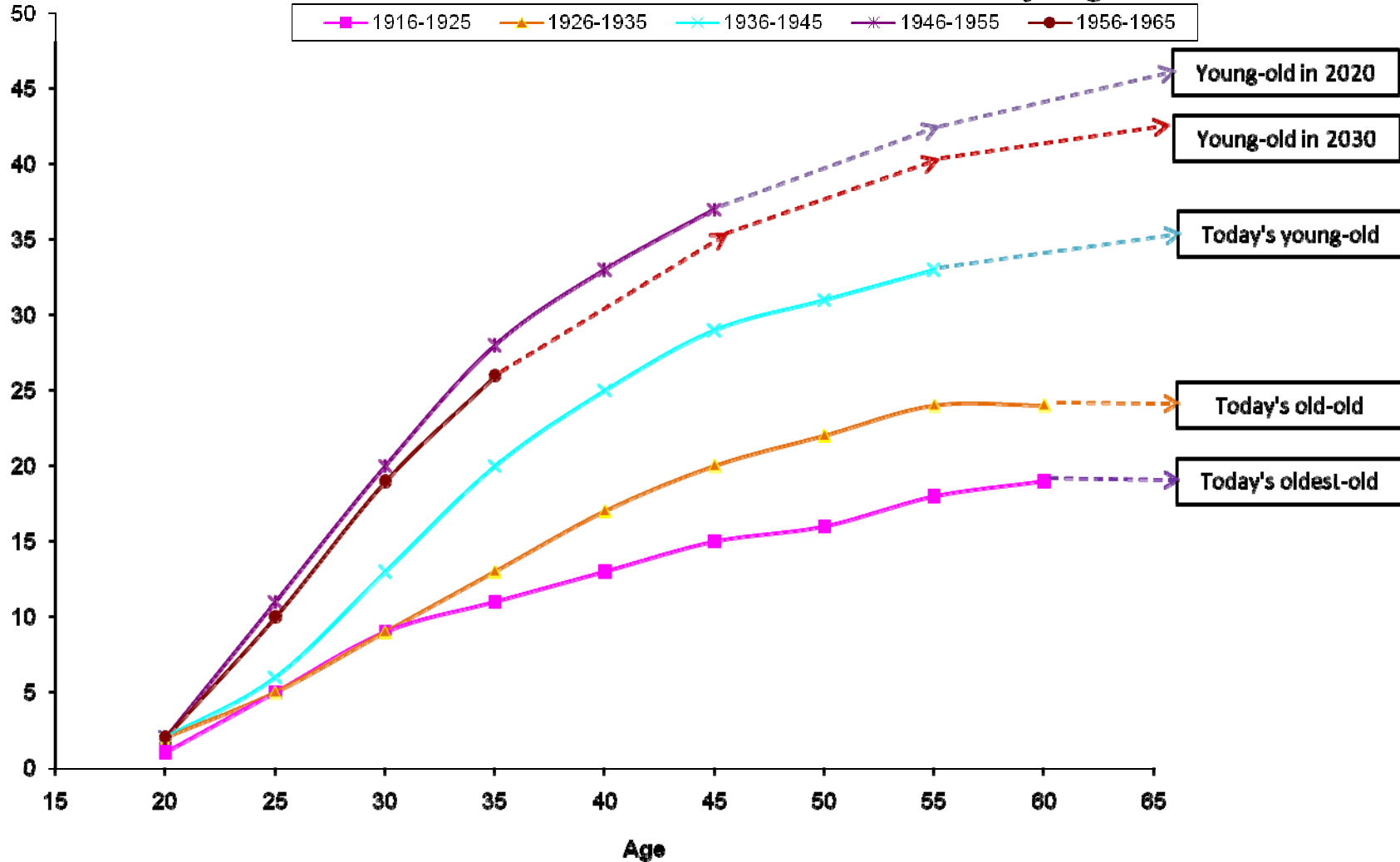
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# The Increase in births to cohabiting couples

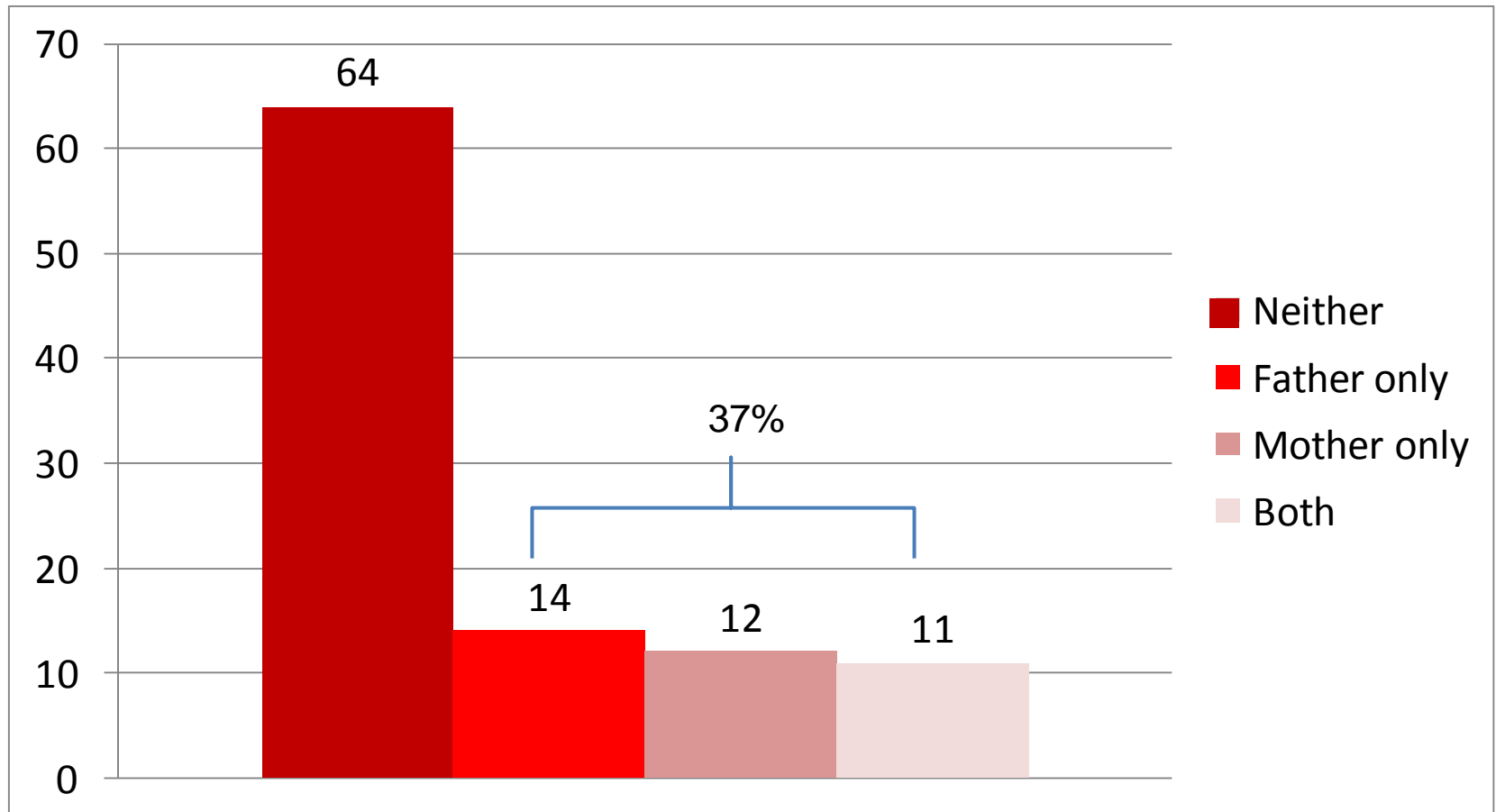
Roughly:

- 40% of all births occur outside of marriage.
- Half of all unmarried women are cohabiting at the time of birth.
- 20% of all births are to cohabiting couples

High rate of disruption

# The increase in multiple-partner fertility

Percentage of Urban Births to Couples in which Fathers or Mothers had Previous Children by Other Partners, 1998 – 2000 (Carlson & Furstenberg, 2006).



The big family care question:

Will lots of  
weaker ties

=

Fewer stronger  
ties?

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