

# **Family Formation Patterns Among Young People: General Trends and Emerging Issues in East and Southeast Asia**

Minja Kim Choe, East-West Center

Expert Group Meeting on  
Adolescents, Youth and Development

July 21, 2011

UN/DESA, New York

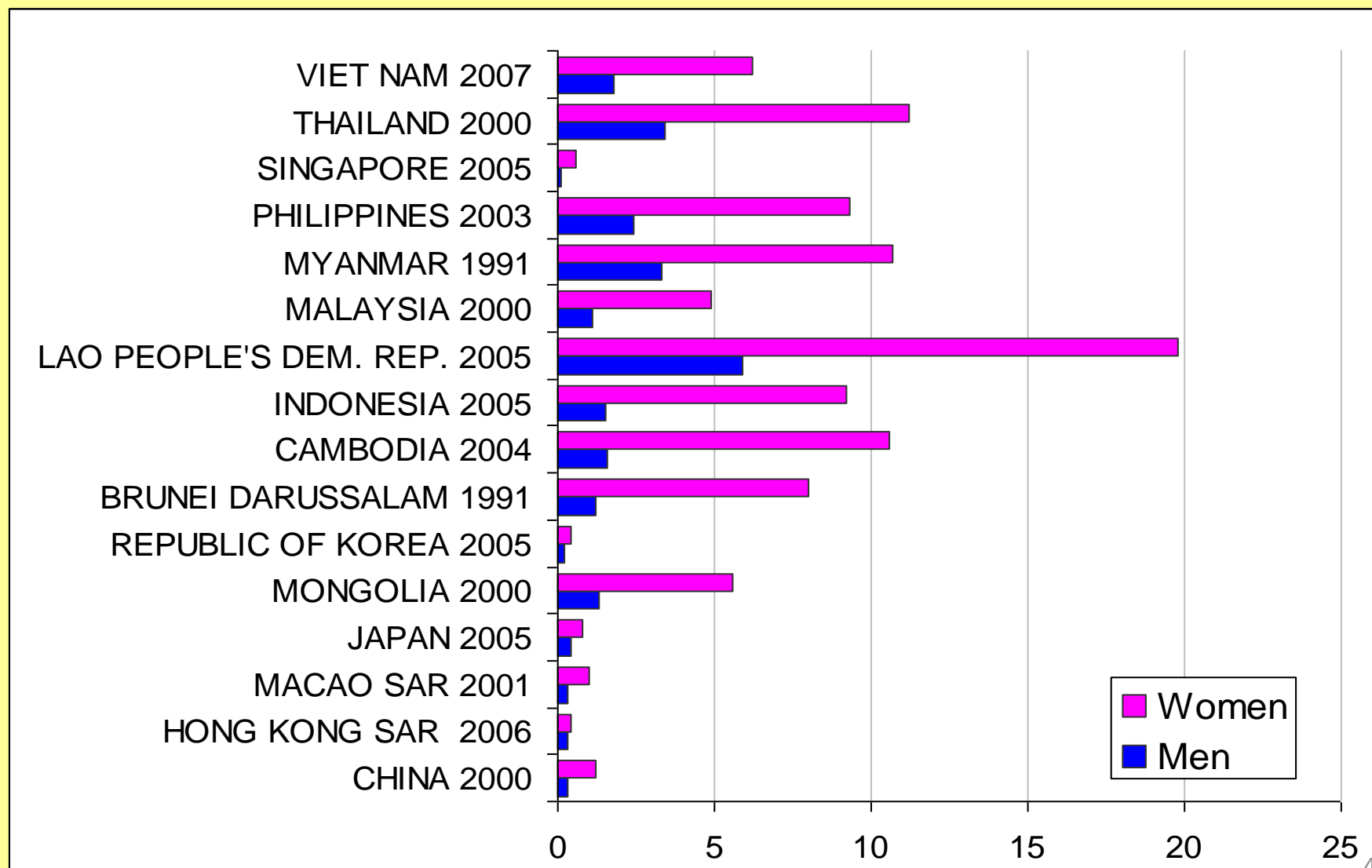
# Outline

1. Current patterns of family formation
2. Recent changes and patterns in selected countries
3. Correlates of changes and patterns
4. Consequences
5. Emerging issues

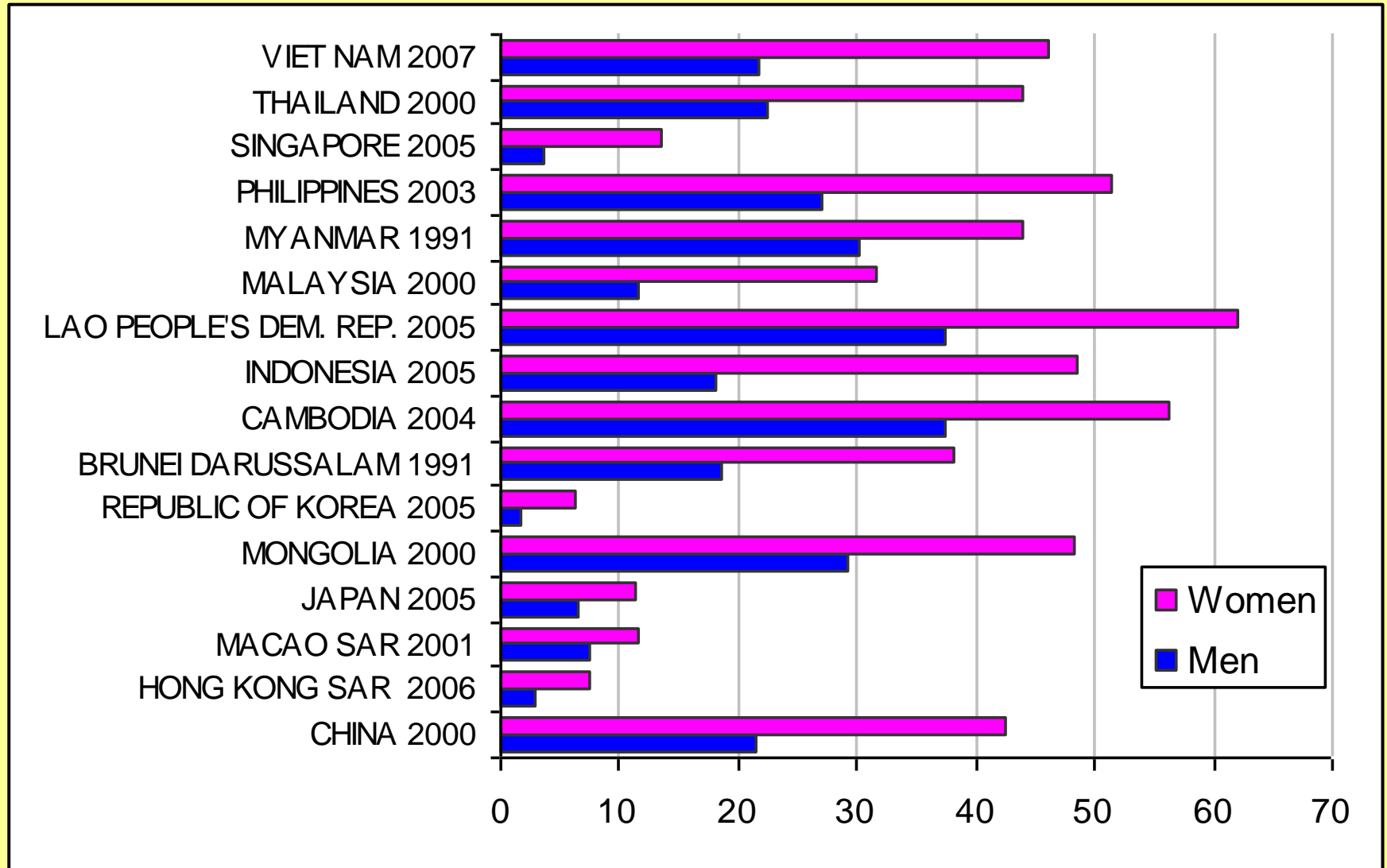
# Current patterns of family formation

1. Marriage
2. Childbearing

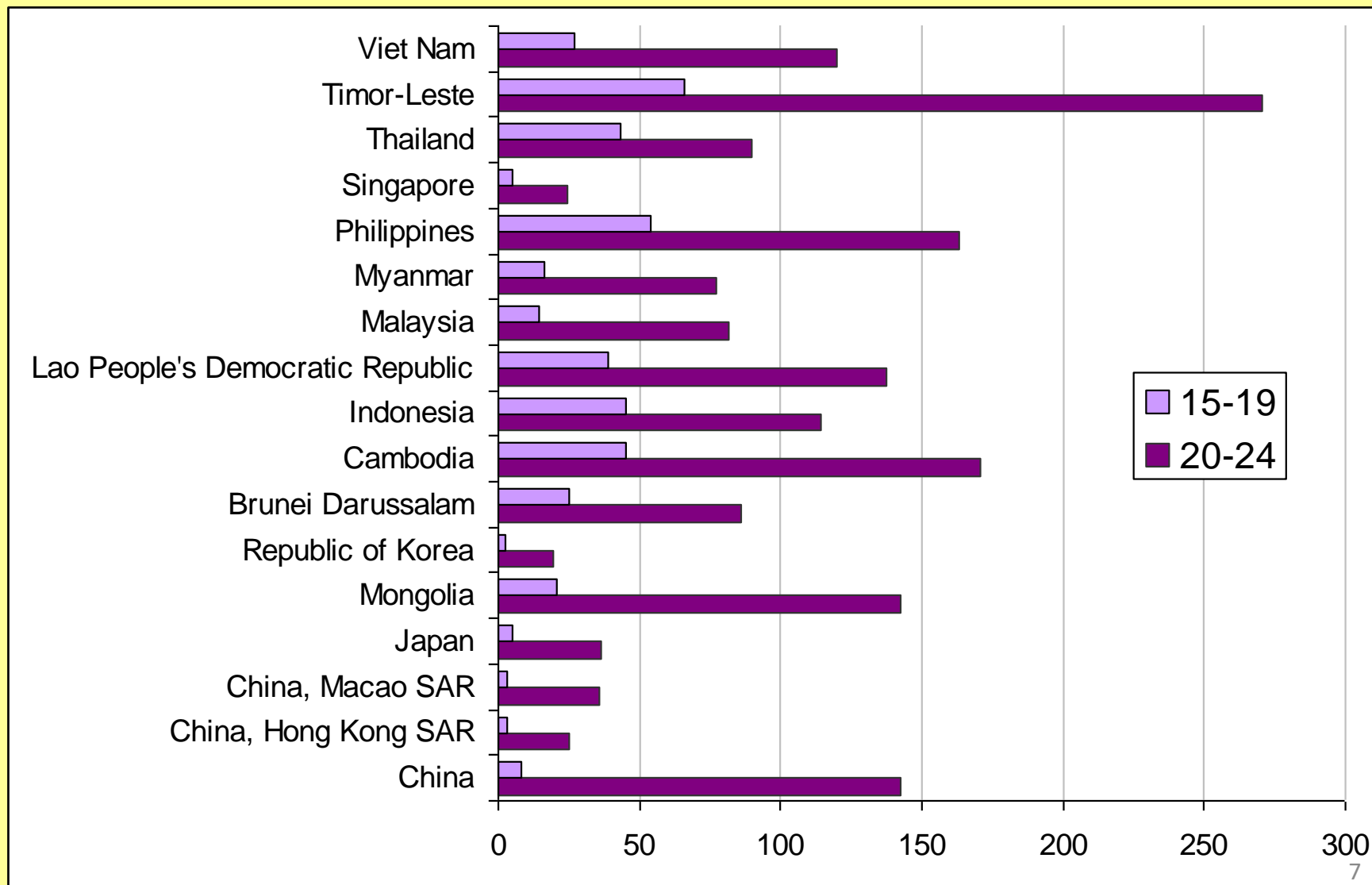
## Percentage ever married among 15-19 year olds by gender, most recent data



## Percentage ever married among 20-24 year olds by gender, most recent data

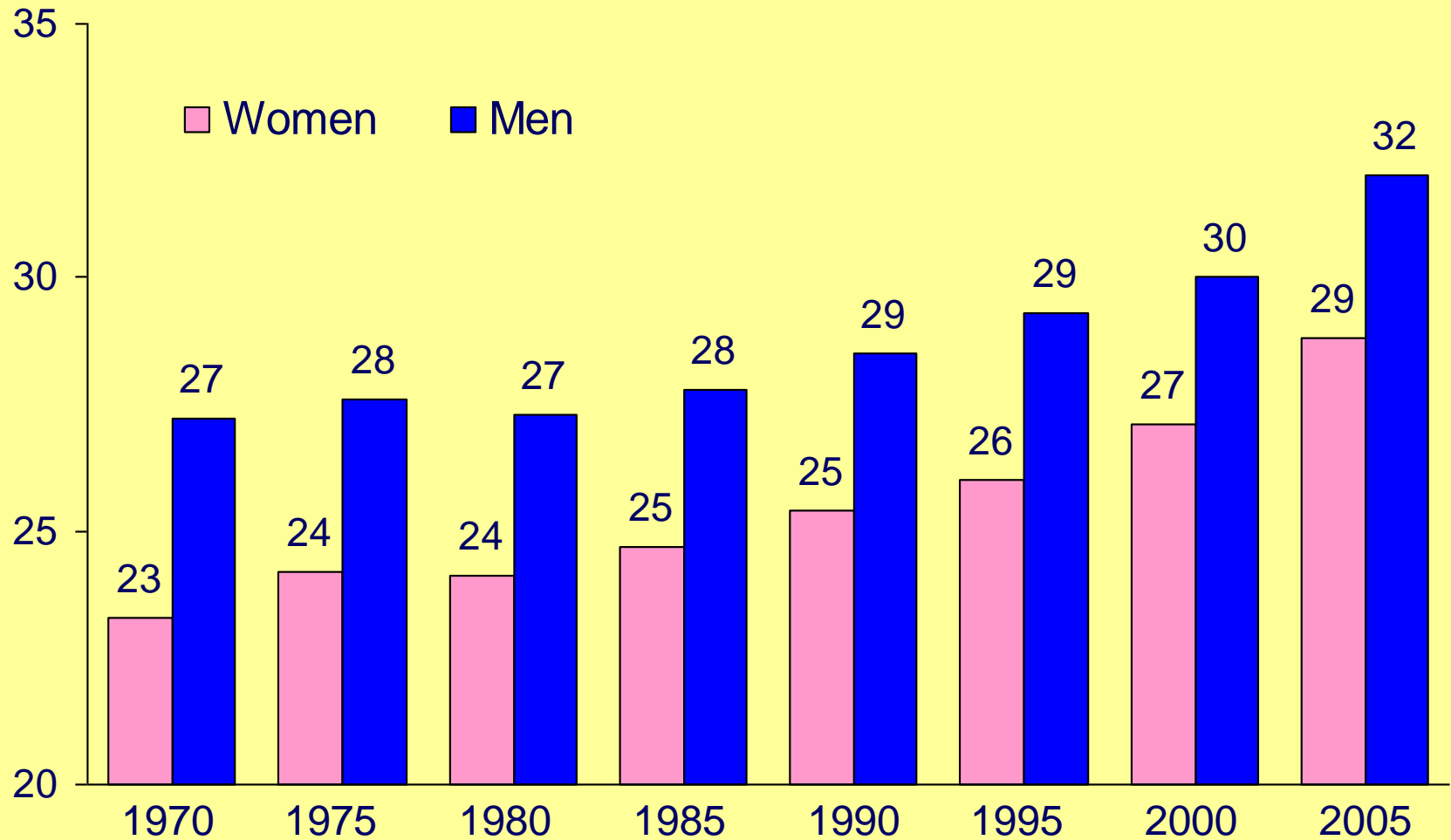


# Age-specific fertility rates (births per 1,000 women) for ages 15-19 and 20-24, 2005-2010



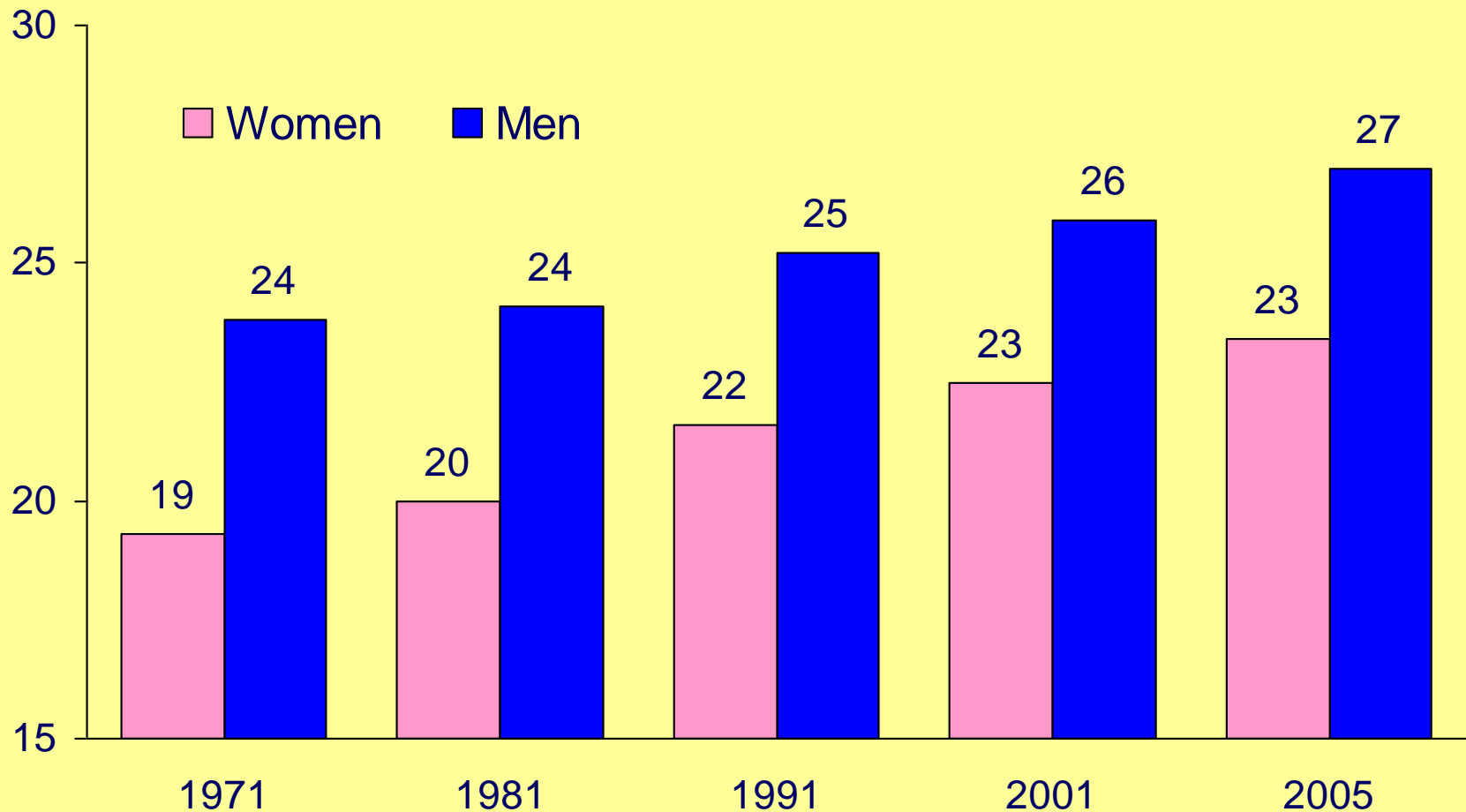
# **Recent changes and patterns in selected countries**

# Trends in singulate mean age at marriage for women and men, Republic of Korea, 1970-2005



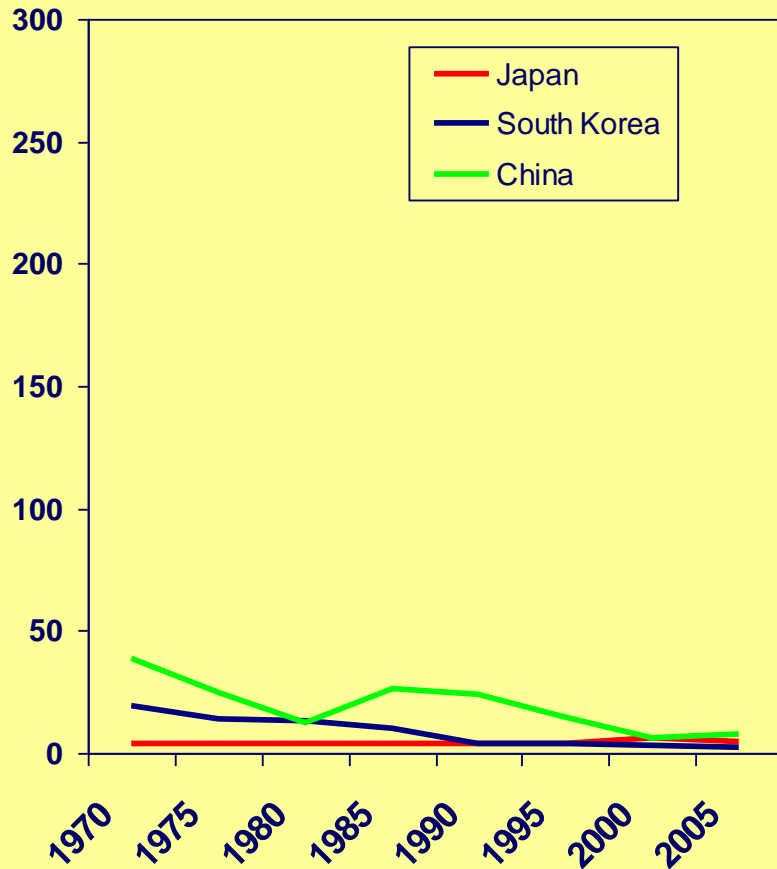


## Trends in singulate mean age at marriage for women and men, Indonesia, 1971-2005

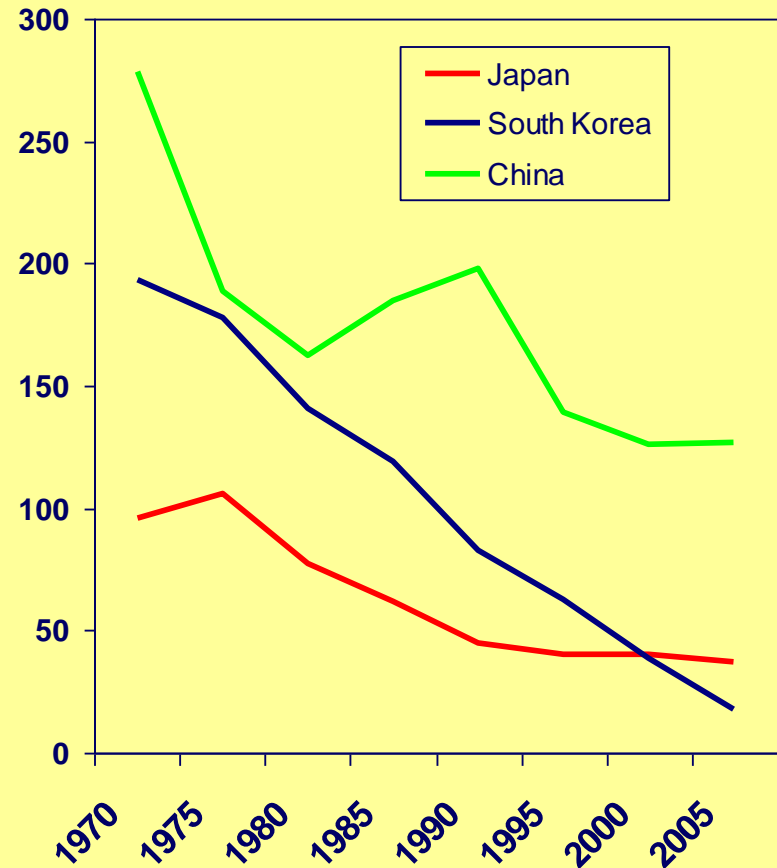


# Changes in fertility rates 1970-2005

## Japan, Republic of Korea, and China

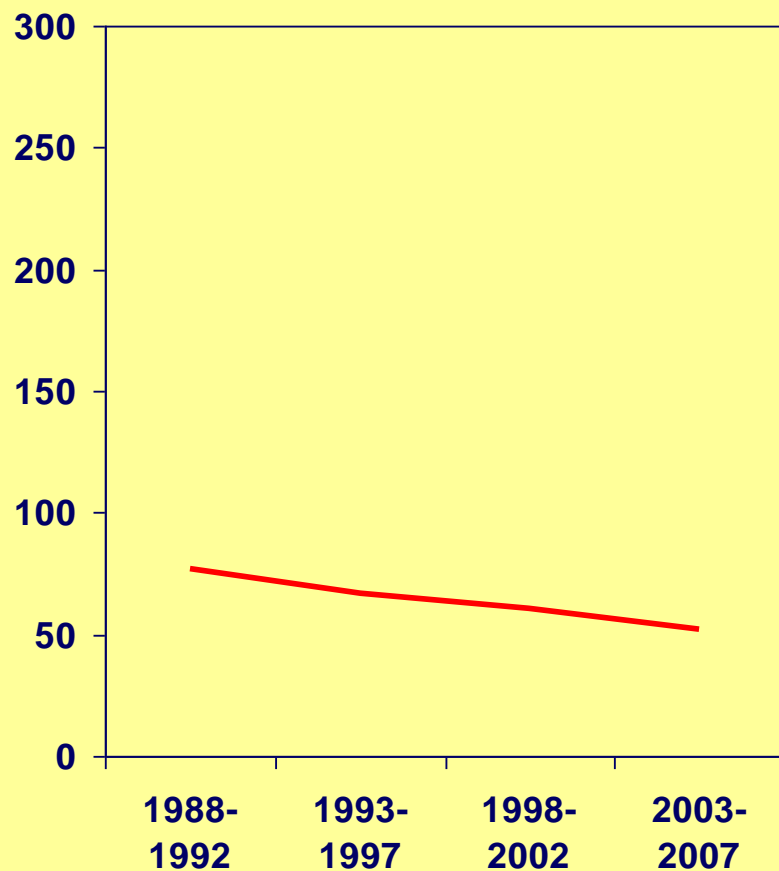


Ages 15-19

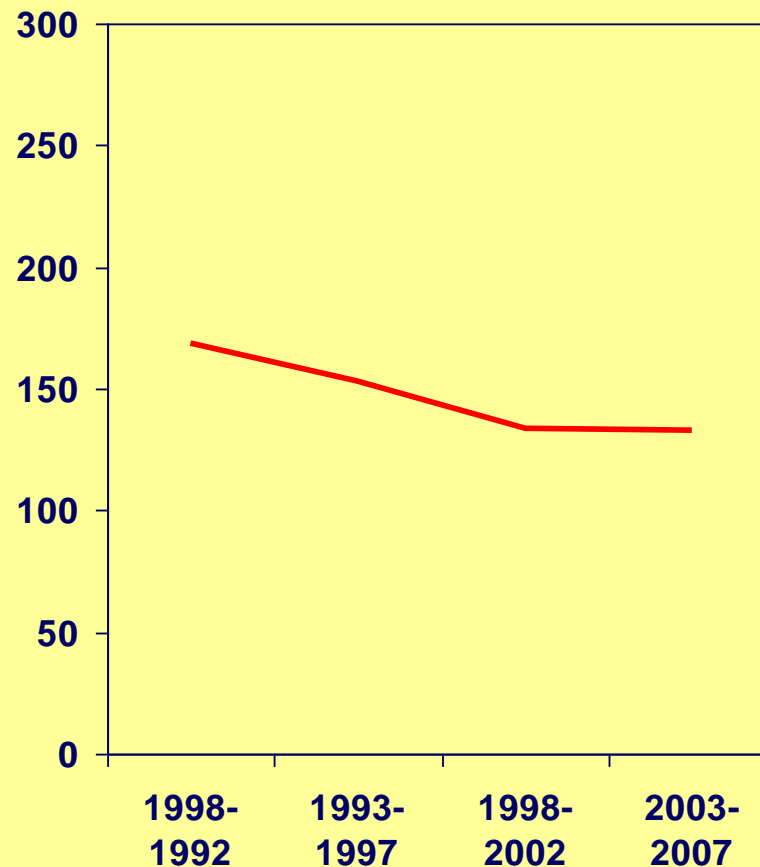


Ages 20-24

# Changes in fertility rates 1988-1992 to 2003-2007, Indonesia



Ages 15-19



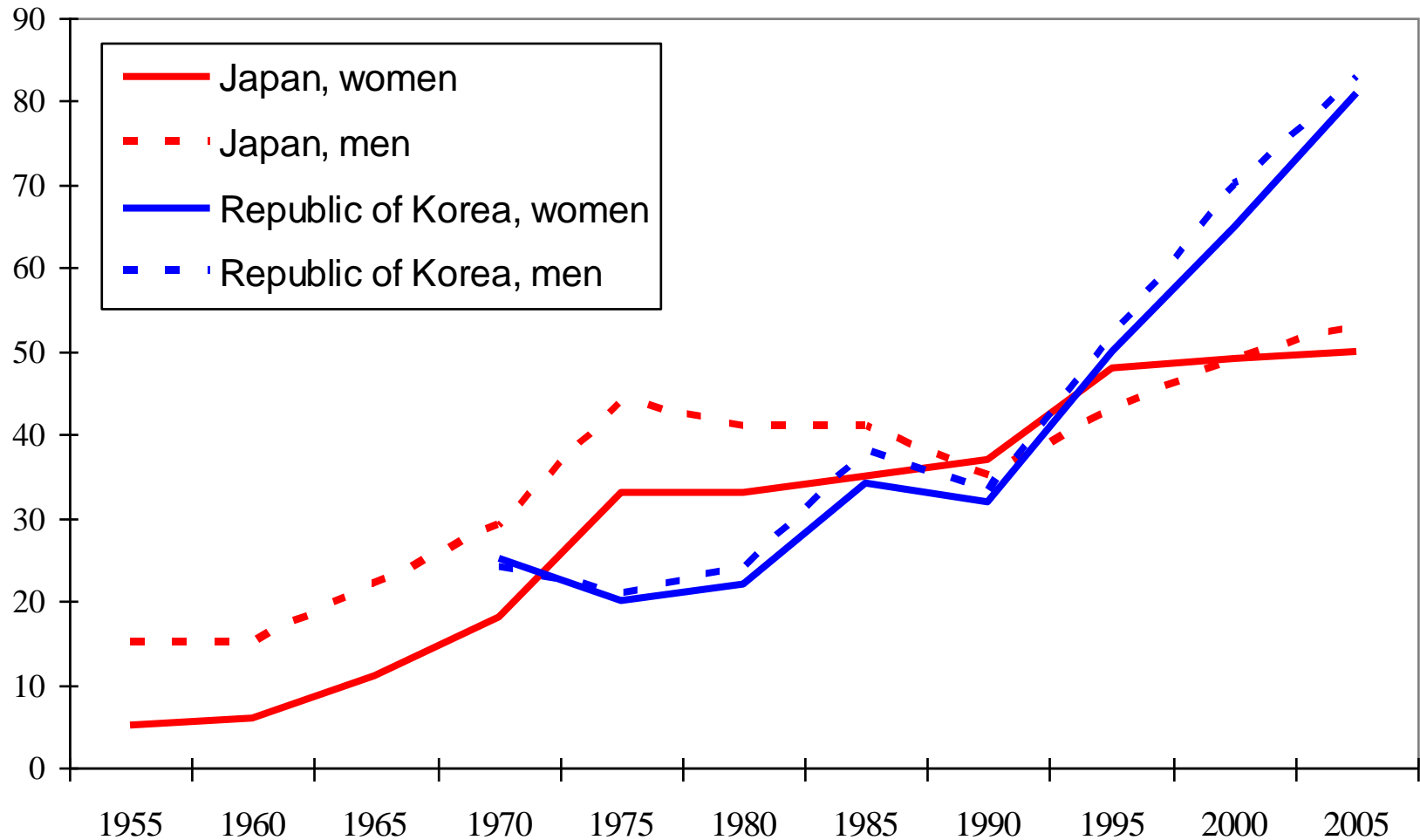
Ages 20-24

## **Correlates of patterns and changes**

- Education
- Institutional aspect
- Women's labor force participation
- Attitude

# Education

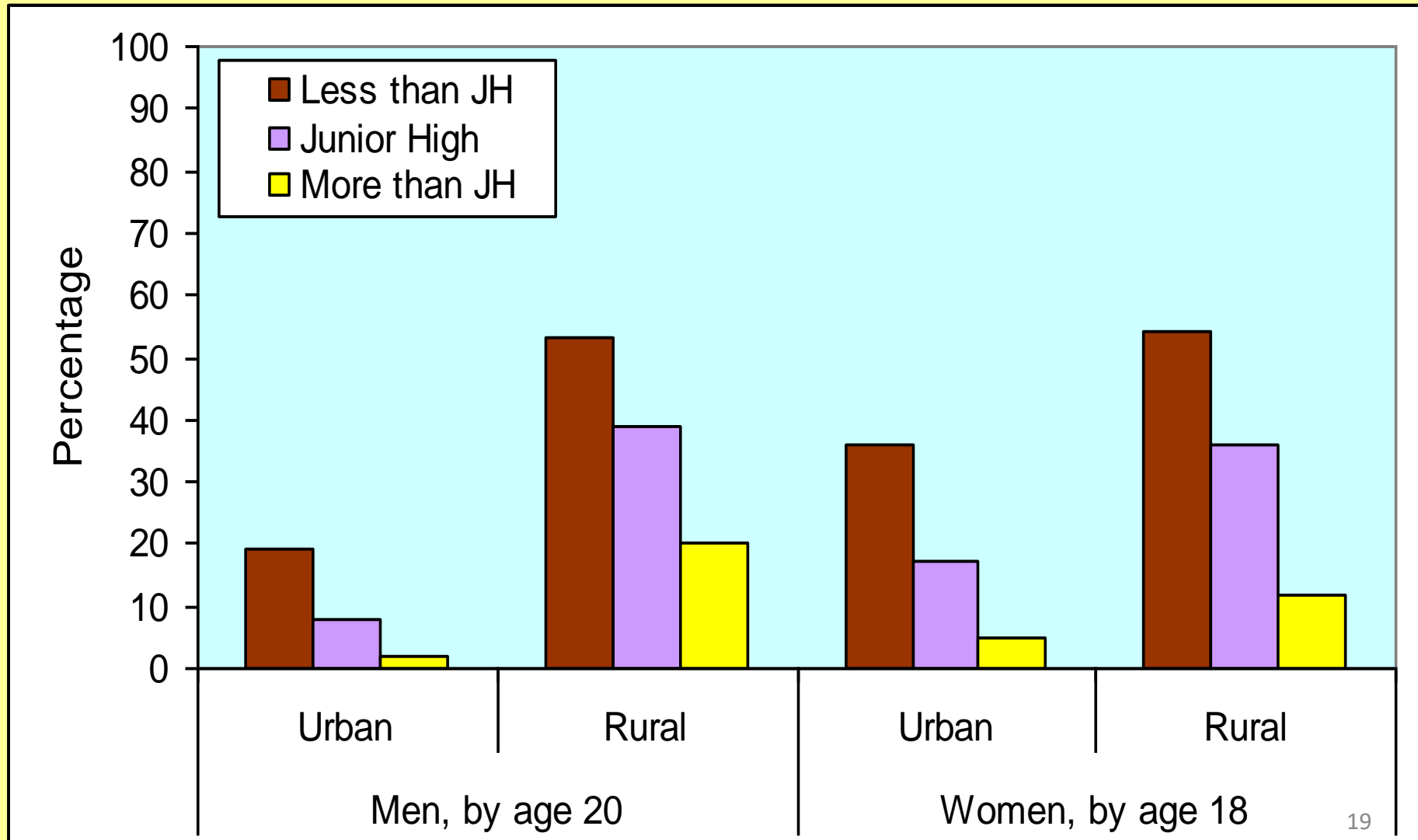
# Trends in % of high school graduates advancing to higher education: Japan and Republic of Korea



## Female SMAM by education Japan, Republic of Korea, and China, 1990 & 2000

	Japan		Korea		China	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<High school	24.6	26.6	23.2	24.8	--	--
High school	25.9	27.3	25.2	25.5	--	--
Junior college	27.4	28.8	26.3	27.8	--	--
4-yr college+	28.1	30.1	27.3	28.5	--	--
<Jr high school	--	--	--	--	21.4	21.8
Jr high school	--	--	--	--	22.2	23.1
High school	--	--	--	--	23.7	24.6
>High school	--	--	--	--	25.6	25.6

# Estimated percentages of men who marry by age 20 and of women who marry by age 18, by level of education and urban/rural residence, Indonesia, 1999





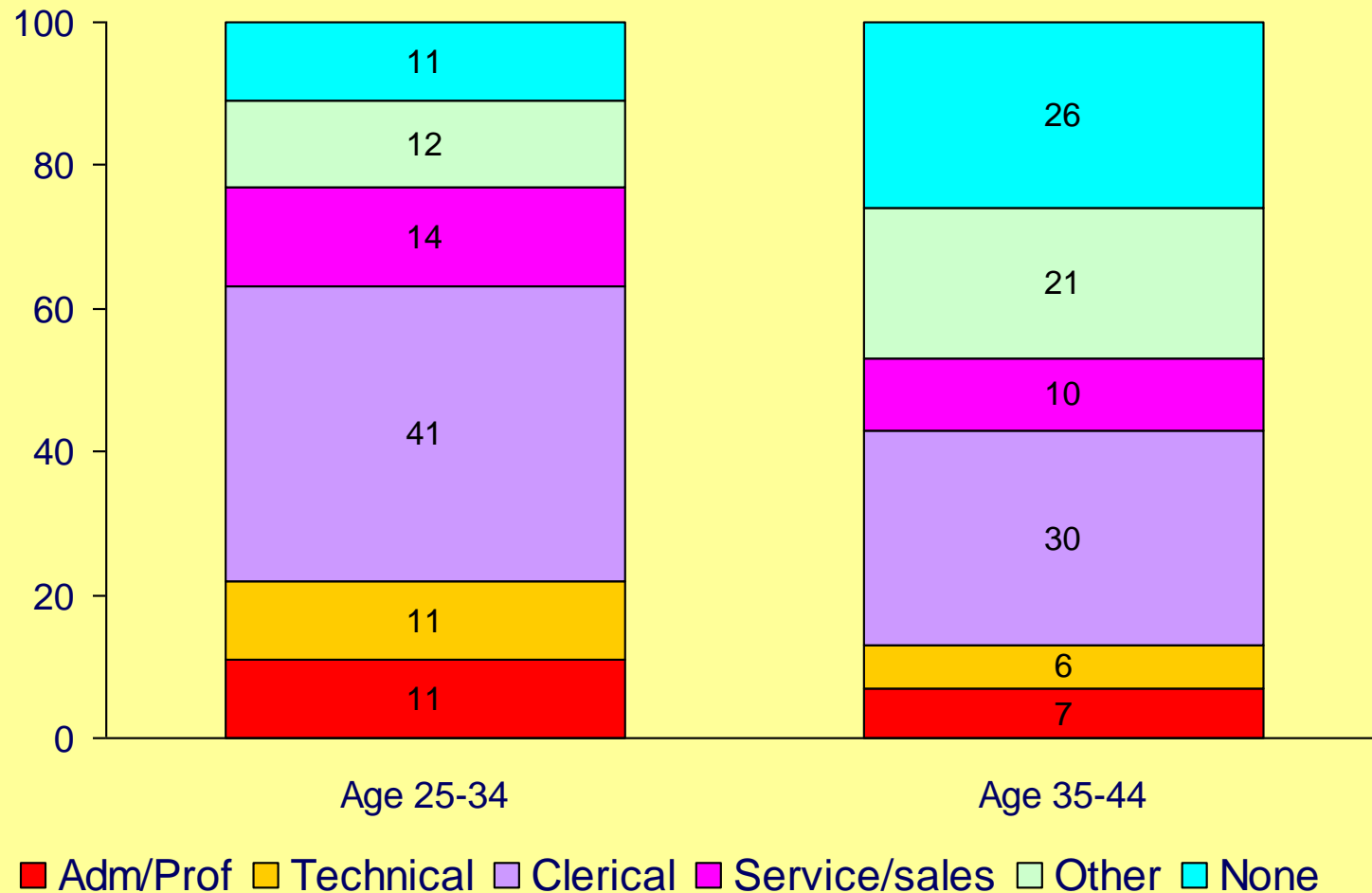
# **Institutional aspect**

# Life course pattern of stopping school (S), marrying (M) and becoming a parent (B), Japan and U. S., % distribution

Order of events	US (1999) women 26-33	Japan (2000) women 25-35
S B M	4	1
S B NM	4	0
S M B	30	47
S M NB	12	11
S NM NB	19	41
B S M	2	0
B S NM	3	0
B M S	3	0
M S B	7	0
M S NB	6	0
M B S	11	0
N of women	5825	2299

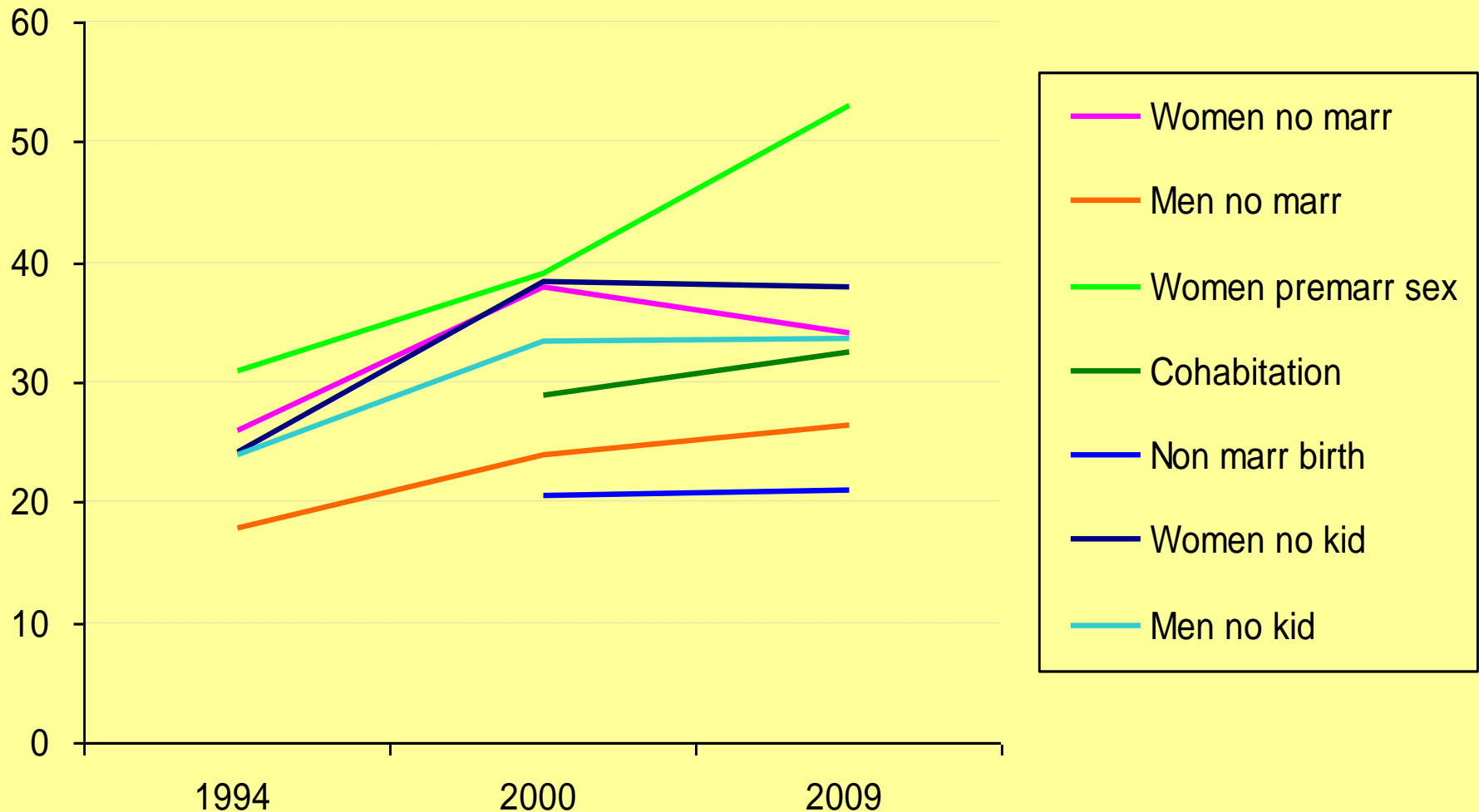
# **Labor force participation of women (Republic of Korea)**

# Percent distribution of occupation of ever-married women just before marriage, ages 25-34 and 35-44, Republic of Korea, 2003



# **Attitude changes (Japan)**

## Percentages reporting non-traditional family behavior, Japanese men and women aged 20-49 at the time of survey



# Summary of attitude change in Japan

- Main streams
  - Preference to move away from institutional constraints
- Other factors
  - Adjusting to difficult economic times
  - Importance of mother role for preschool children
- Gender difference and potential impact on marriage and childbearing behavior
- Implications on family and labor force policies

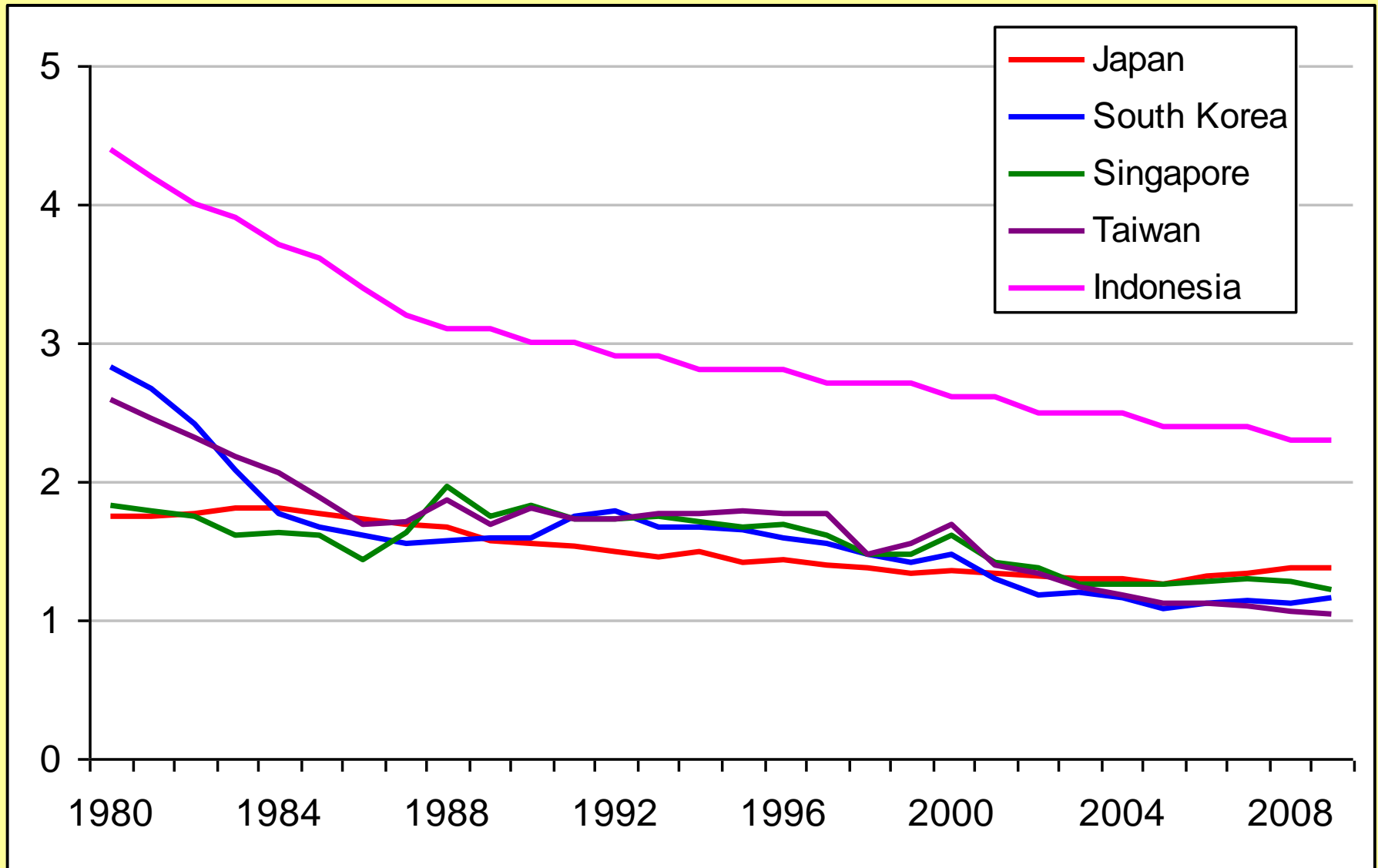
# Consequences

- Fertility decline and population aging
- Extended period of adolescence  
(Youth at risk)
- Work and family



**Very low fertility**  
**Underachieved fertility preference**

# Trends in total fertility rate in five Asian countries

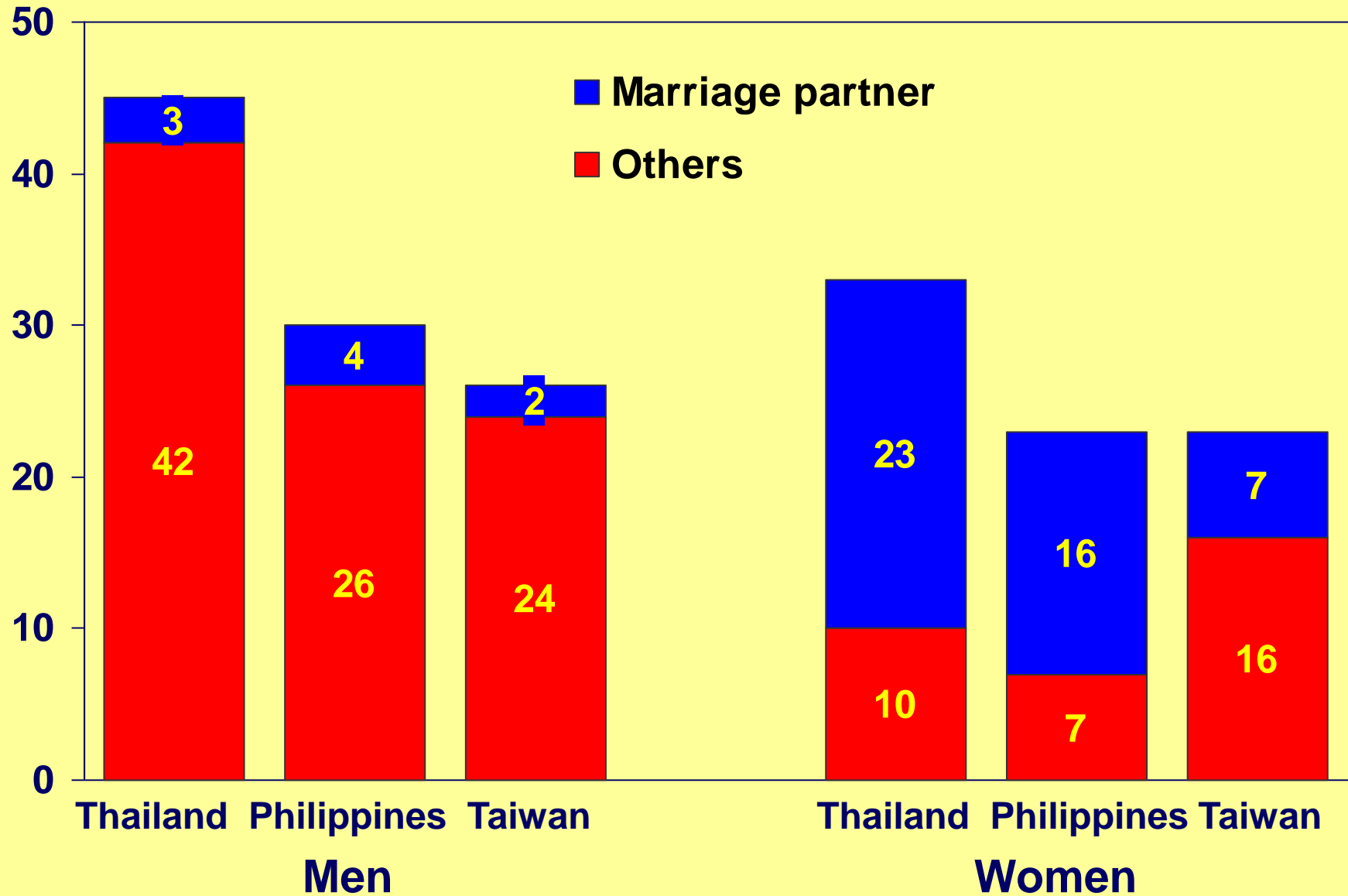


# Emerging Issues

- Achieving millennium development goal
- Reproductive health
- Very low fertility
  - Delayed childbearing
  - Underachieved fertility preference
- Rapid population aging
  - Labor force
- Work and family
- Marriage squeeze
- Cross-border marriages

# Reproductive health

# Percent who ever had sex by type of first partner, men and women age 15-24



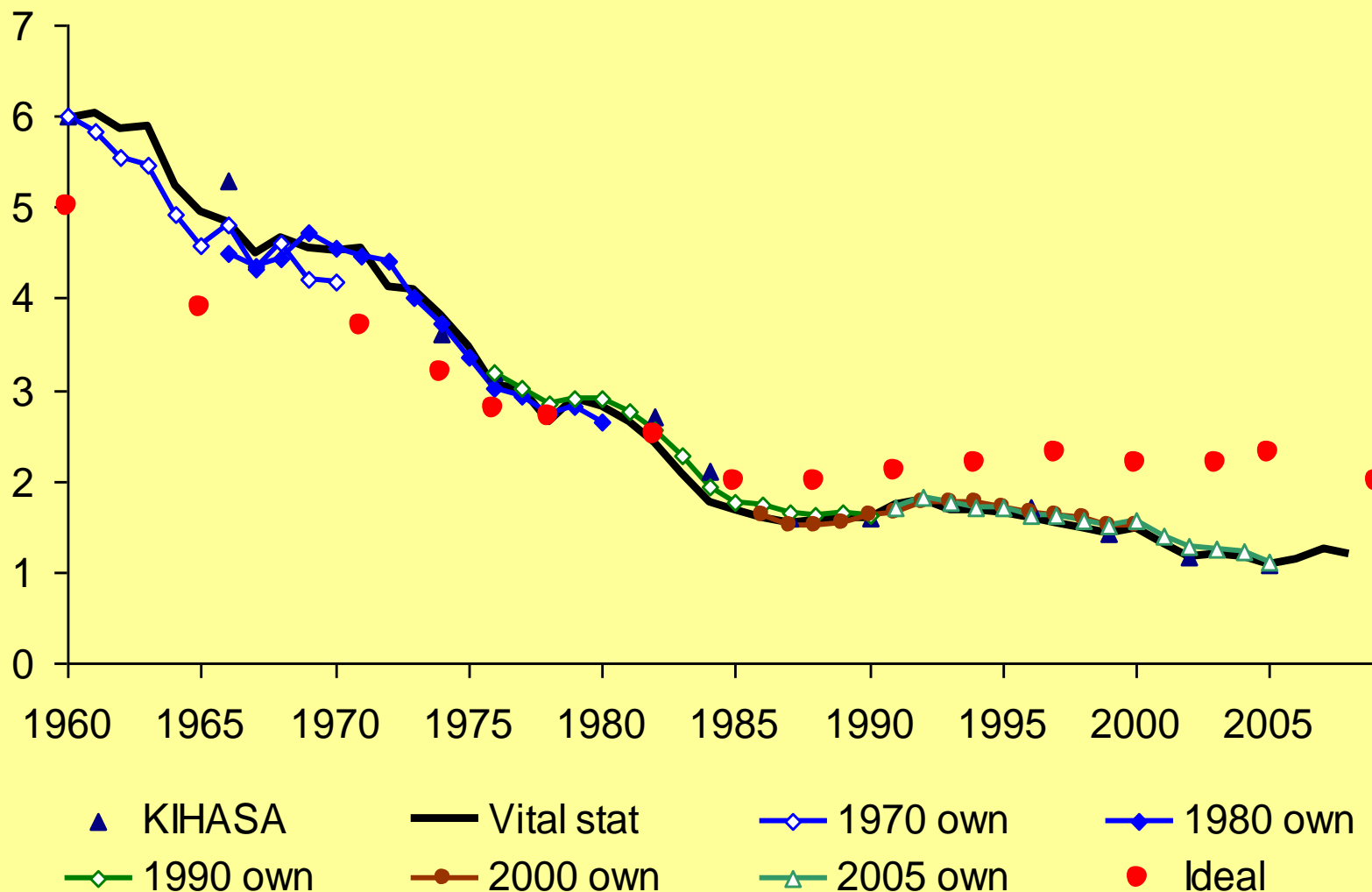
# **Prevalence of contraceptive use among sexually active single male youth**

- Philippines (1994)
  - 30% used a contraceptive method during the most recent sexual intercourse (9% used condom)
- Taiwan (1994)
  - 29% use contraceptives consistently
- Thailand (1994)
  - 48% of those who had first sex with a casual or commercial partner used a contraceptive method

# **Negative attitudes on condoms among Filipino youth (1994)**

- Reduces pleasure: 58%
  - Too expensive to use regularly: 34%
  - Too embarrassing to buy at a store: 47%
  - Against religion: 32%
- 
- 90% have at least one negative attitude
  - 65% have two or more negative attitudes

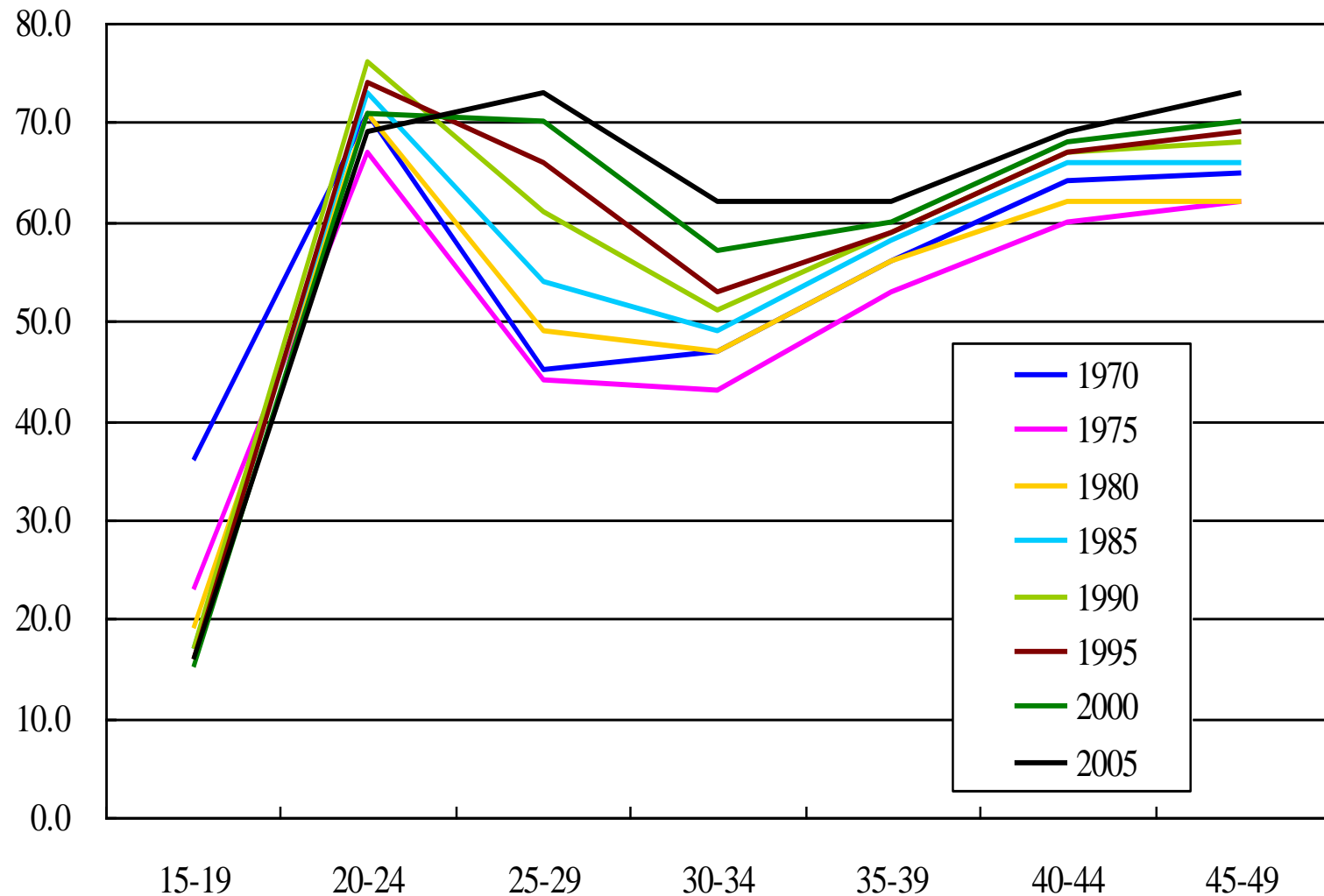
## Total fertility rate (TFR) from various sources and mean ideal number of children, 1960-2009, Republic of Korea



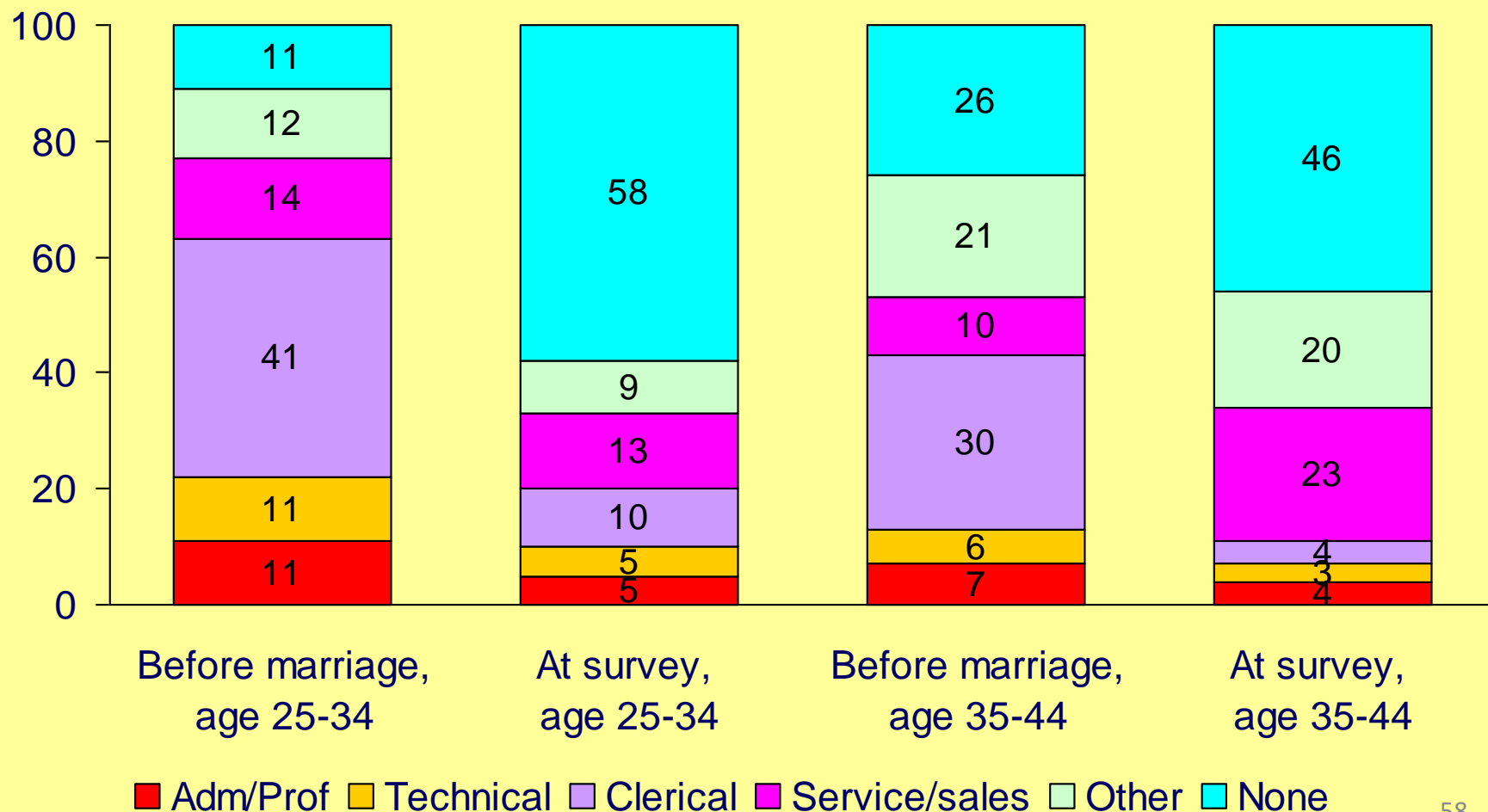


# Work and family

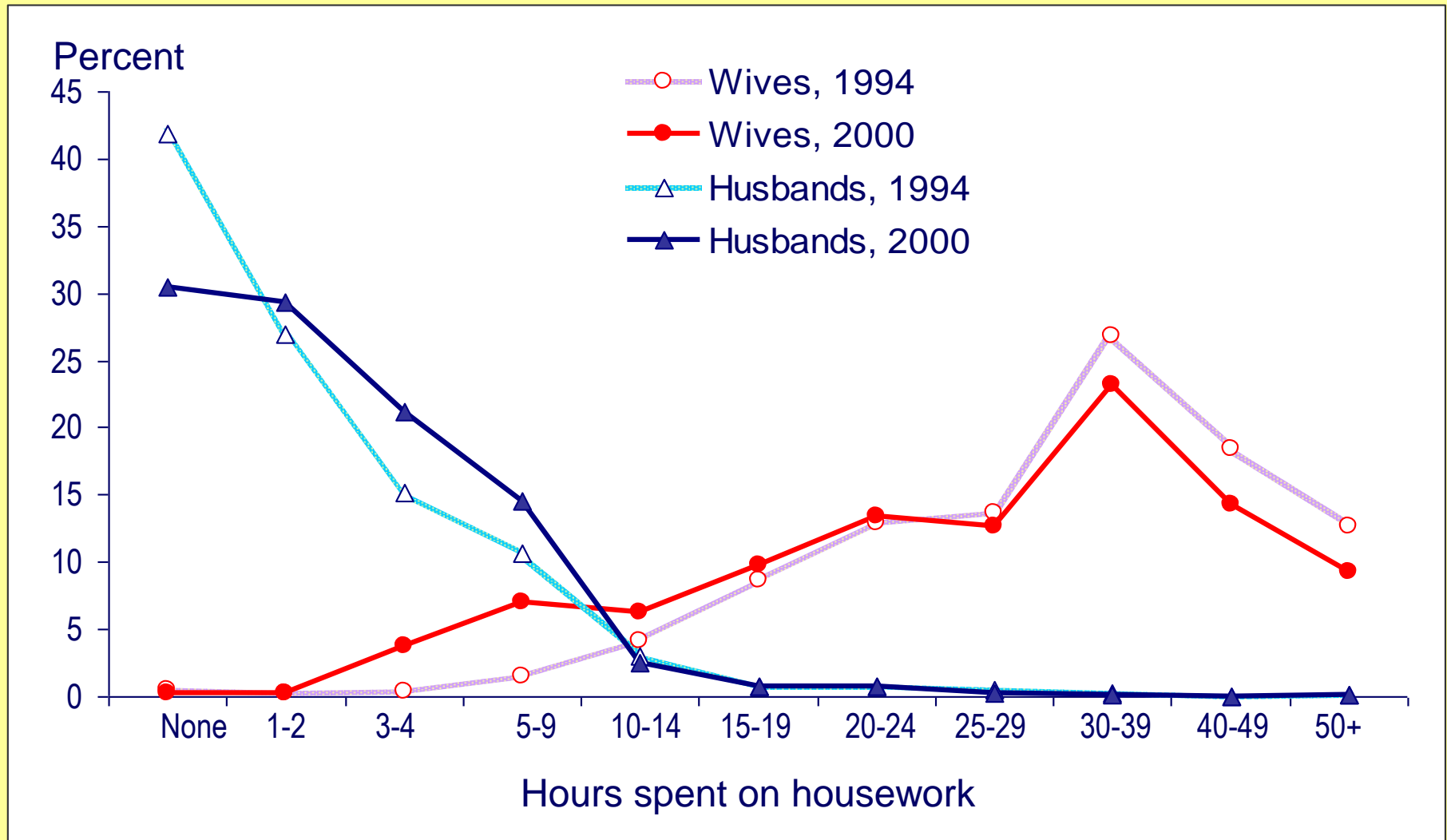
# Female Labor-Force Participation Rate by Age Japan 1970-2005



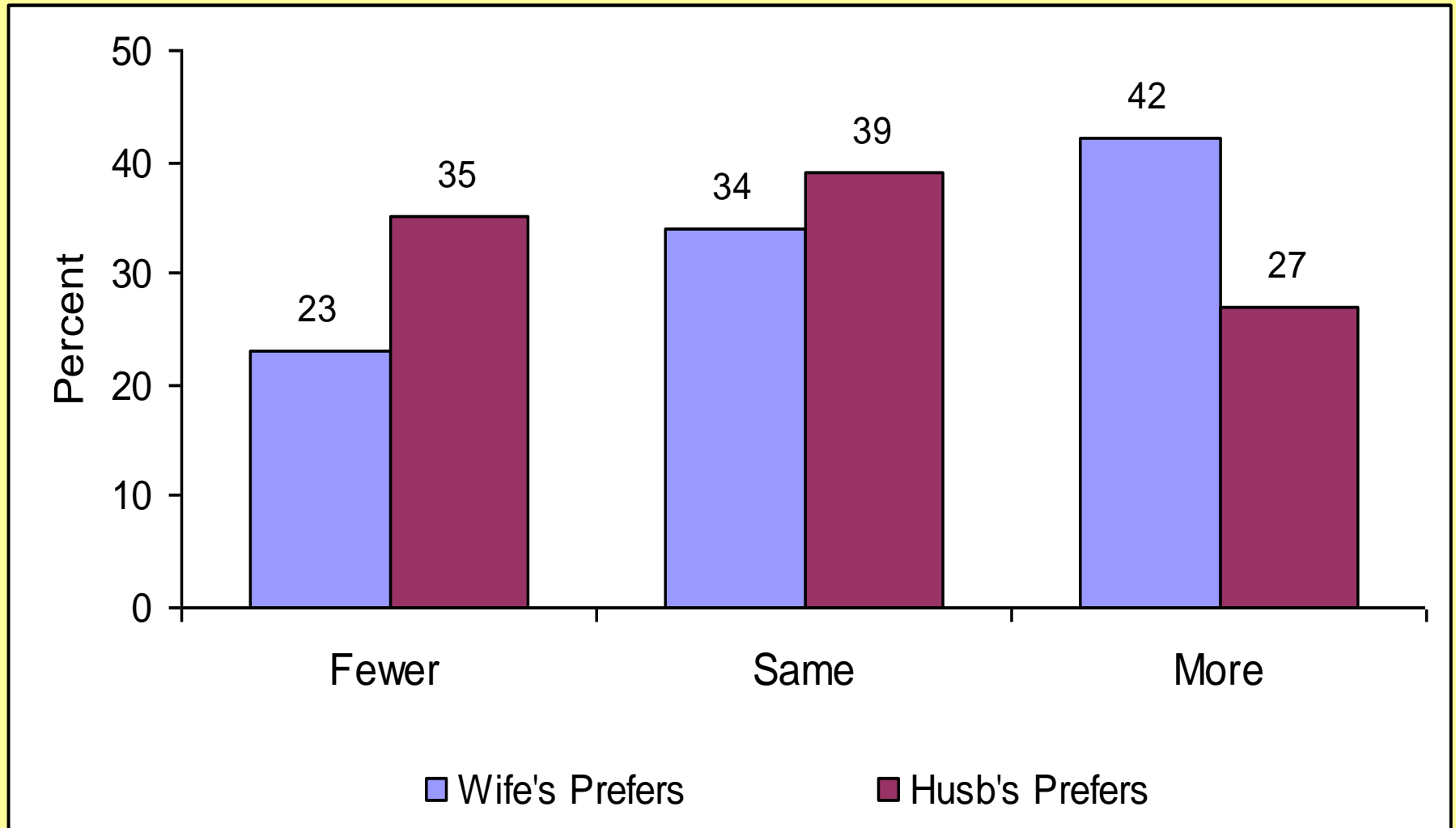
## Percent distribution of occupation of ever-married women just before marriage and at the time of survey for selected age groups, South Korea, 2003



# Percentage distribution of the number of hours spent on housework per week of currently married wives and husbands aged 20-49: Japan 1994 and 2000

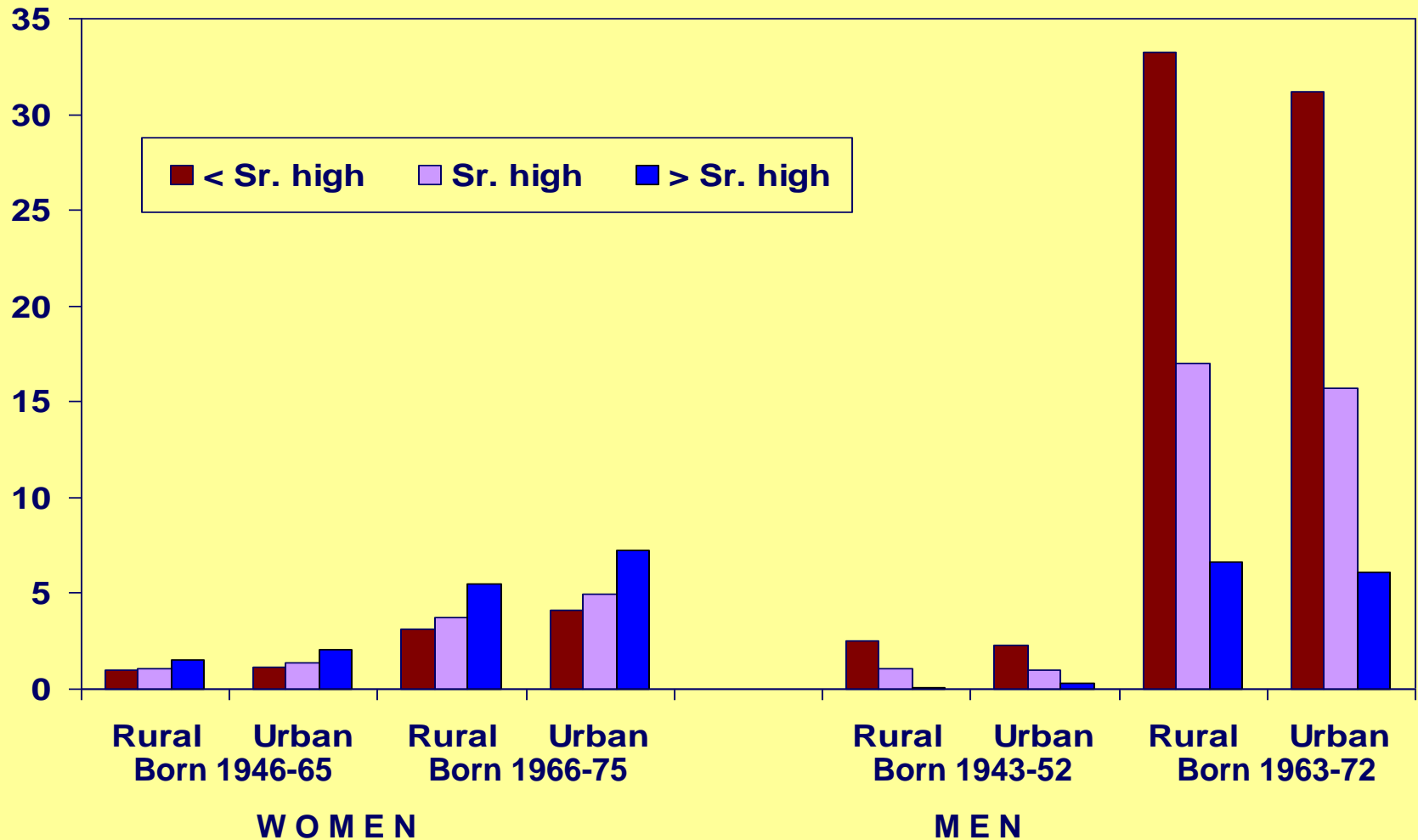


# Comparison of preferred hours of employment for wife to her actual hours: wife's and husband's preferences Japan, 2000



# Marriage squeeze

# Mixture survival model estimates of the probability never marrying by education for selected groups of men and women, Republic of Korea

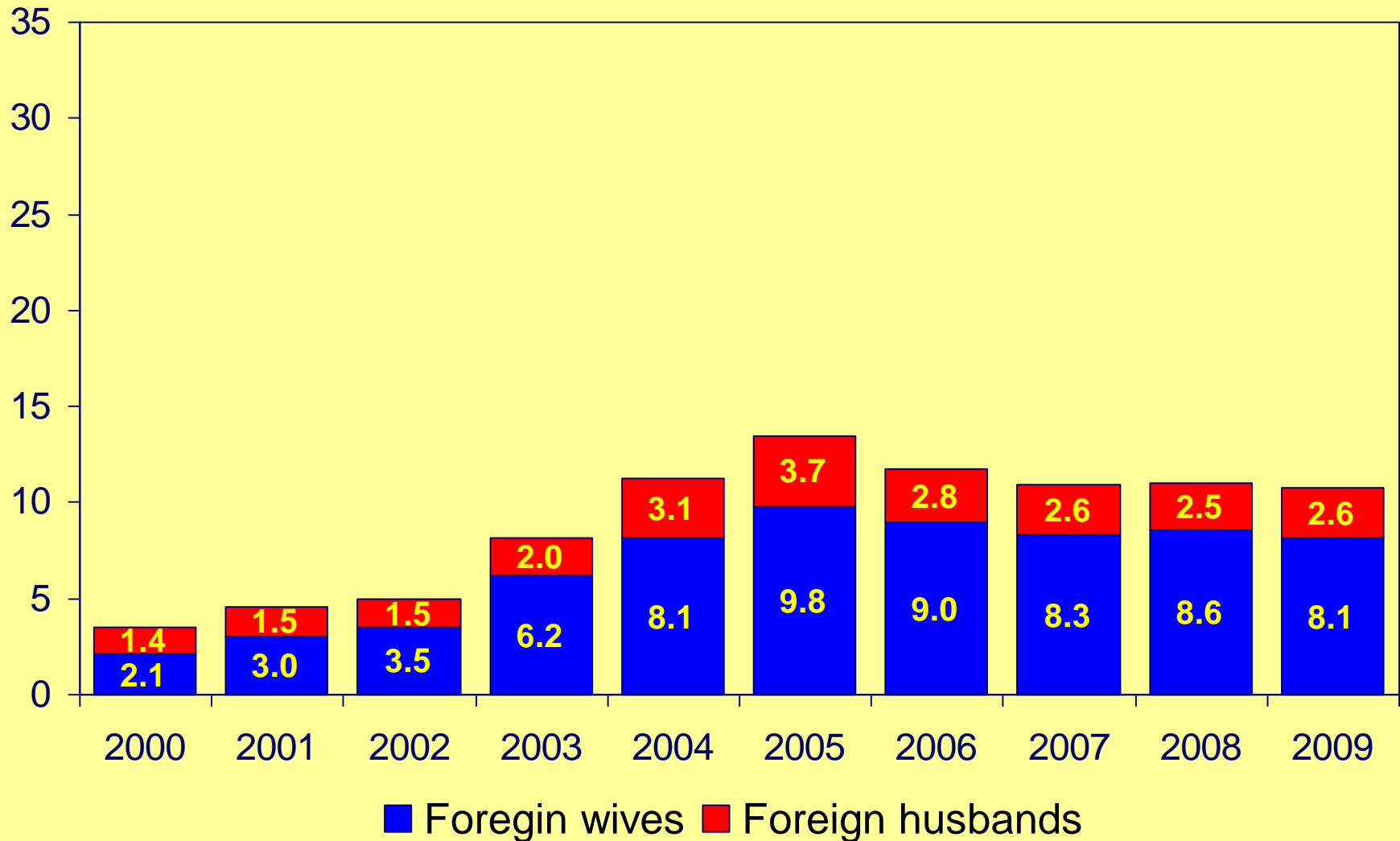


- High sex ratio at birth and fluctuating cohort sizes will produce some degree of marriage squeeze for men in Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and China.
- Gender difference in views on marriage and patterns of spouse matching will have larger effects on later marriage and less marriage.



# Cross-border marriages

# Percentages of marriages with foreign spouses South Korea, 2000-2009



# Percentages of marriages with Taiwanese husbands and non-Taiwanese wives, 1998-2006

