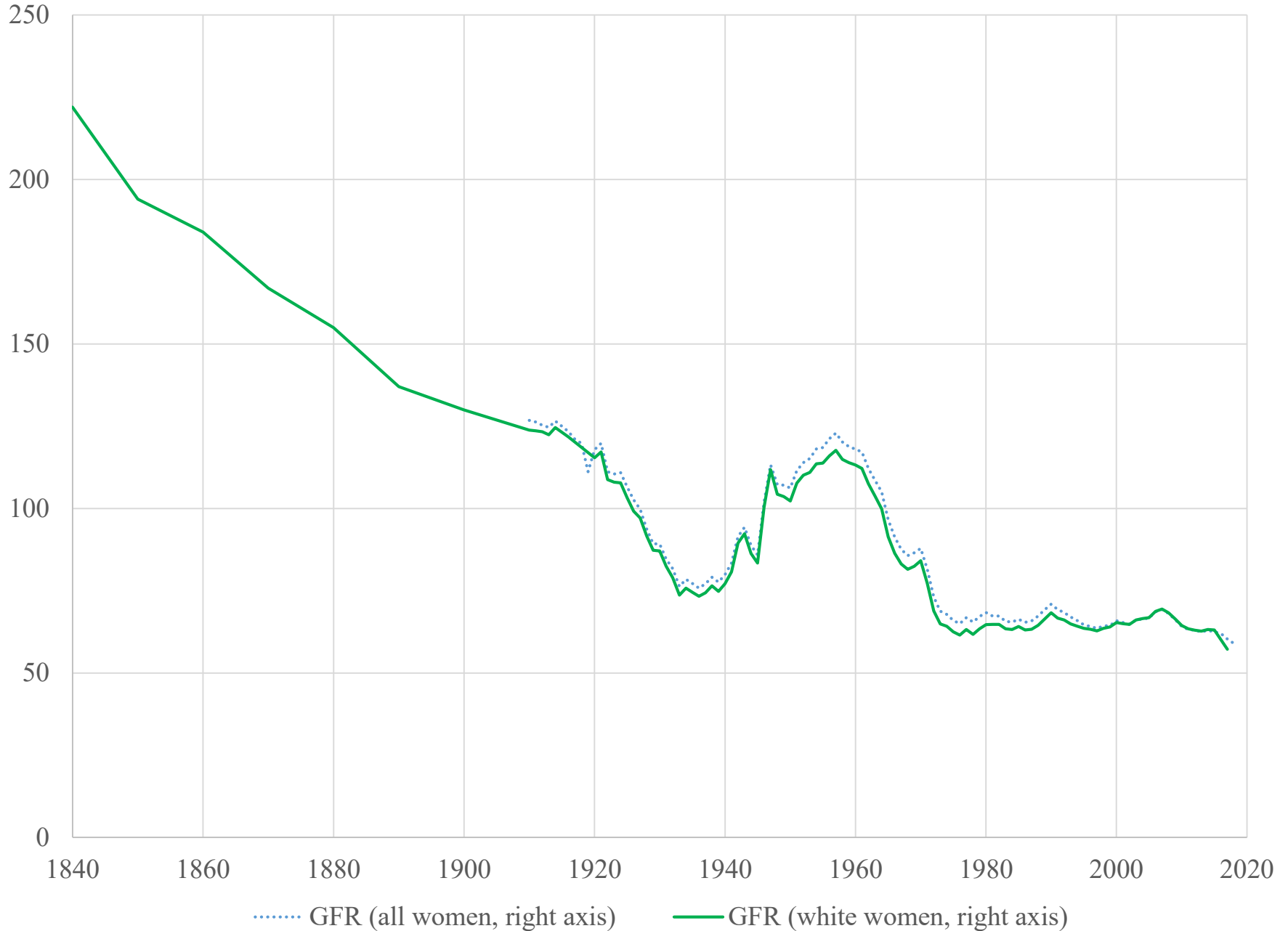


U.S. Childbearing: Past and Future

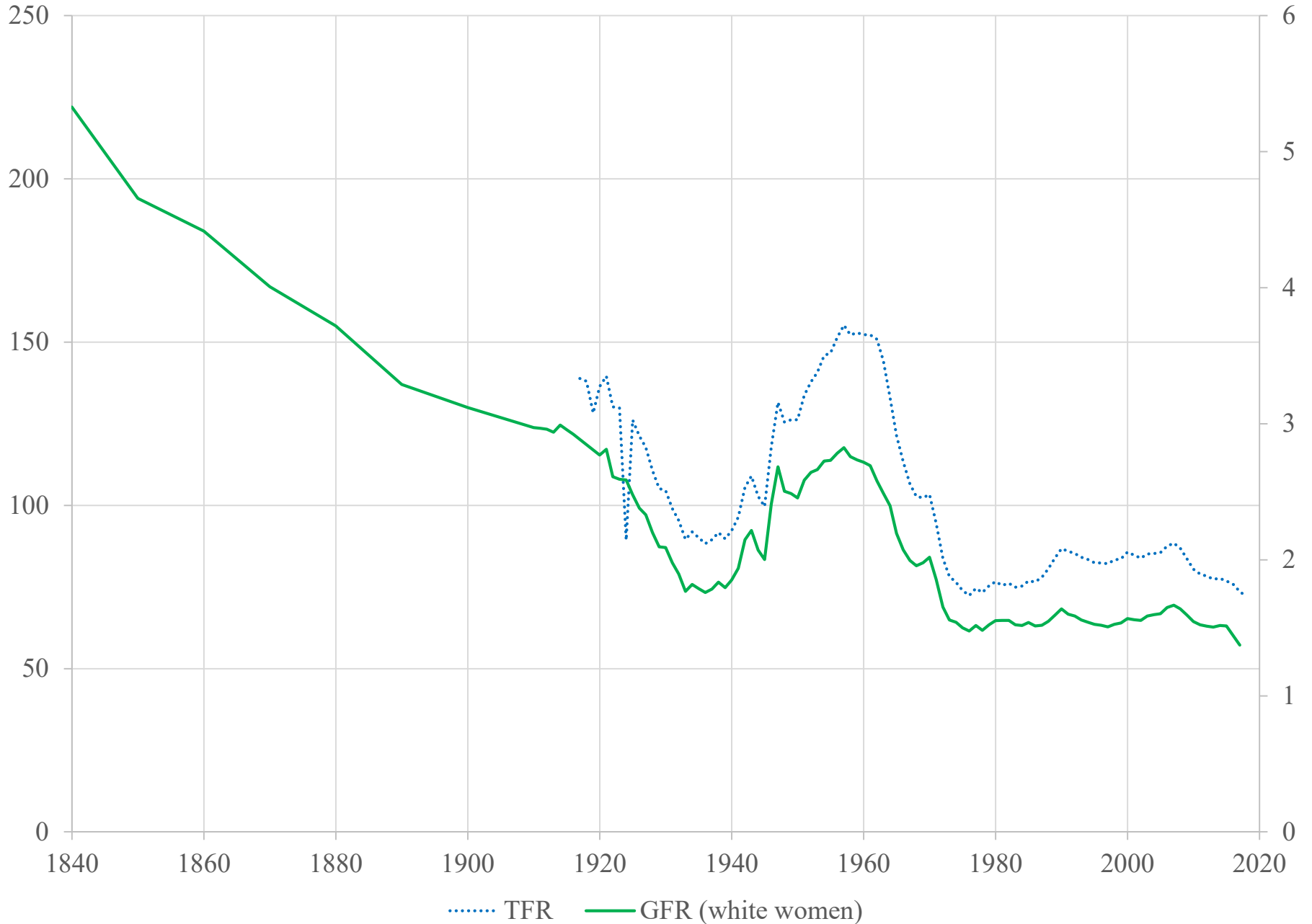
MARTHA J. BAILEY

UNIV. OF MICHIGAN & NBER

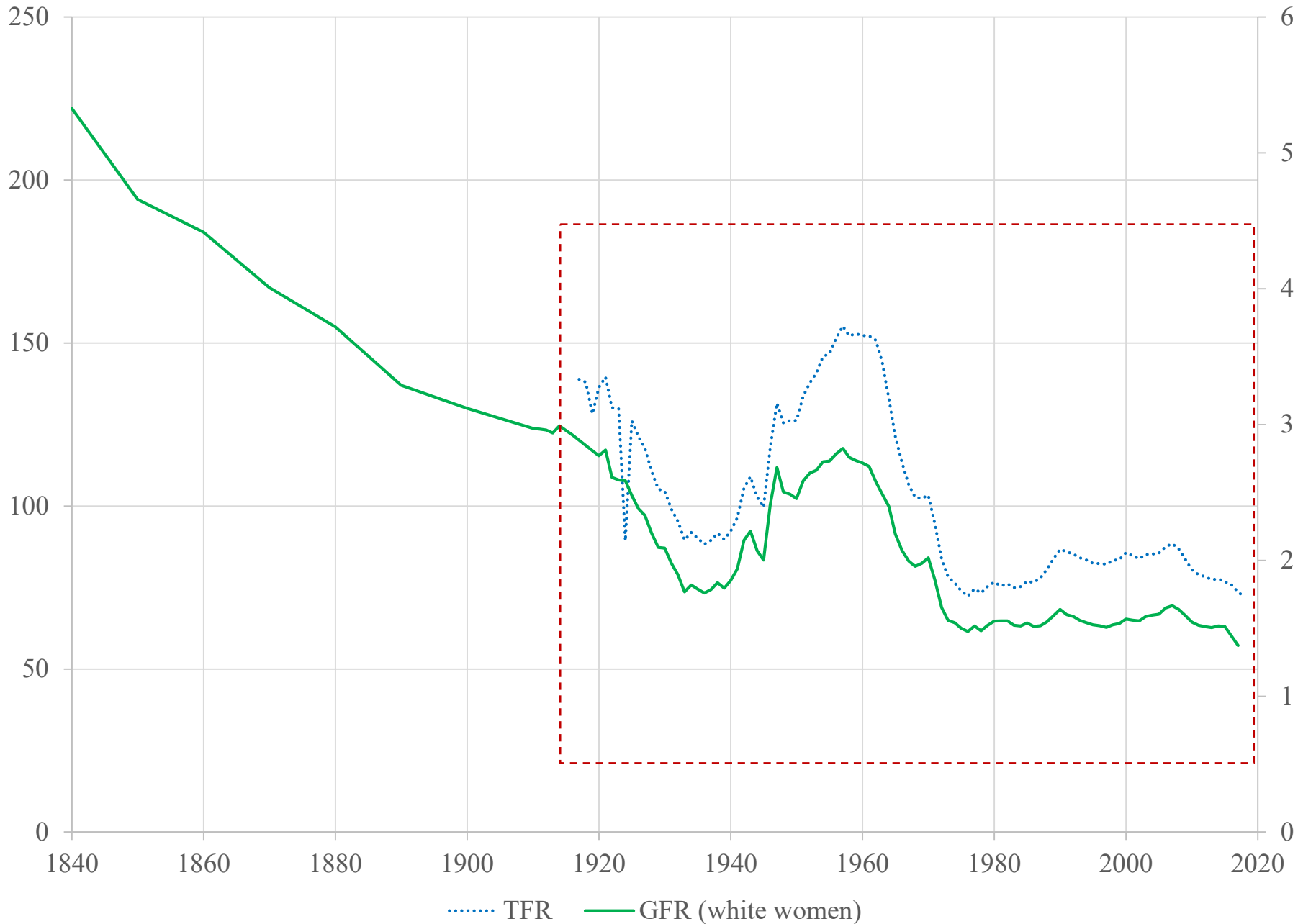
U.S. General Fertility Rate (GFR), 1840-2018



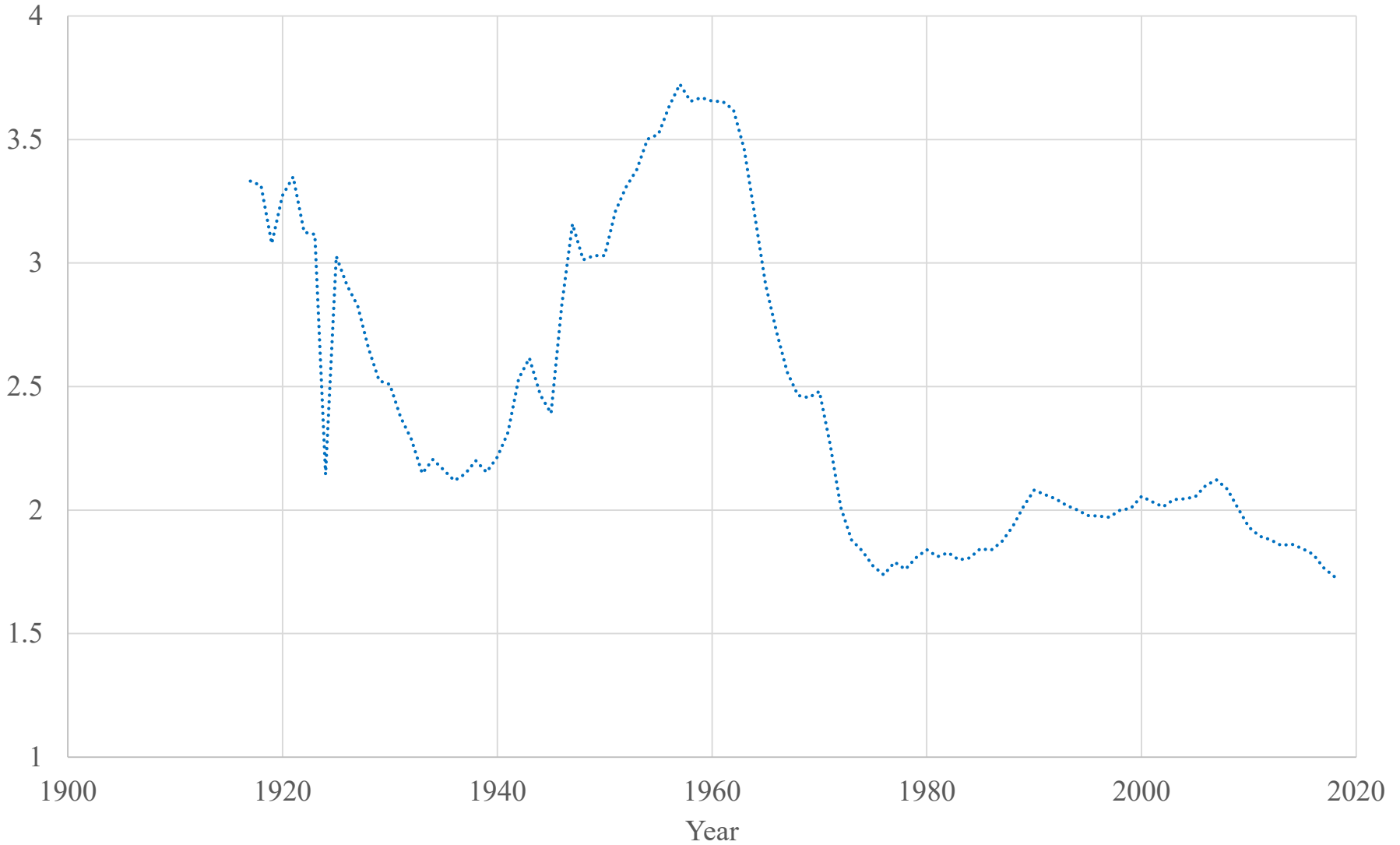
U.S. GFR and TFR, 1900-2018



U.S. GFR and TFR, 1900-2018

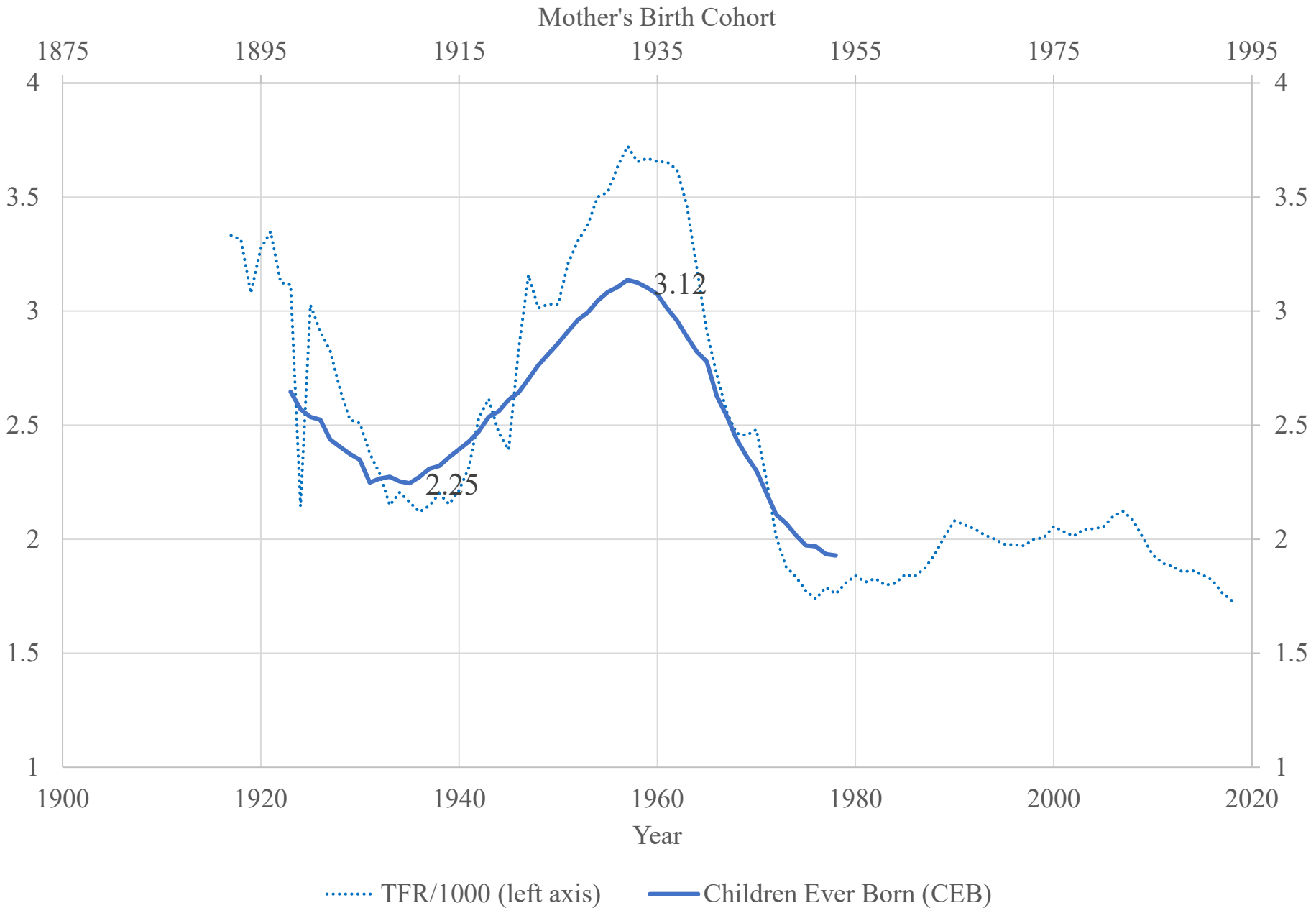


U.S. TFR & Completed Childbearing

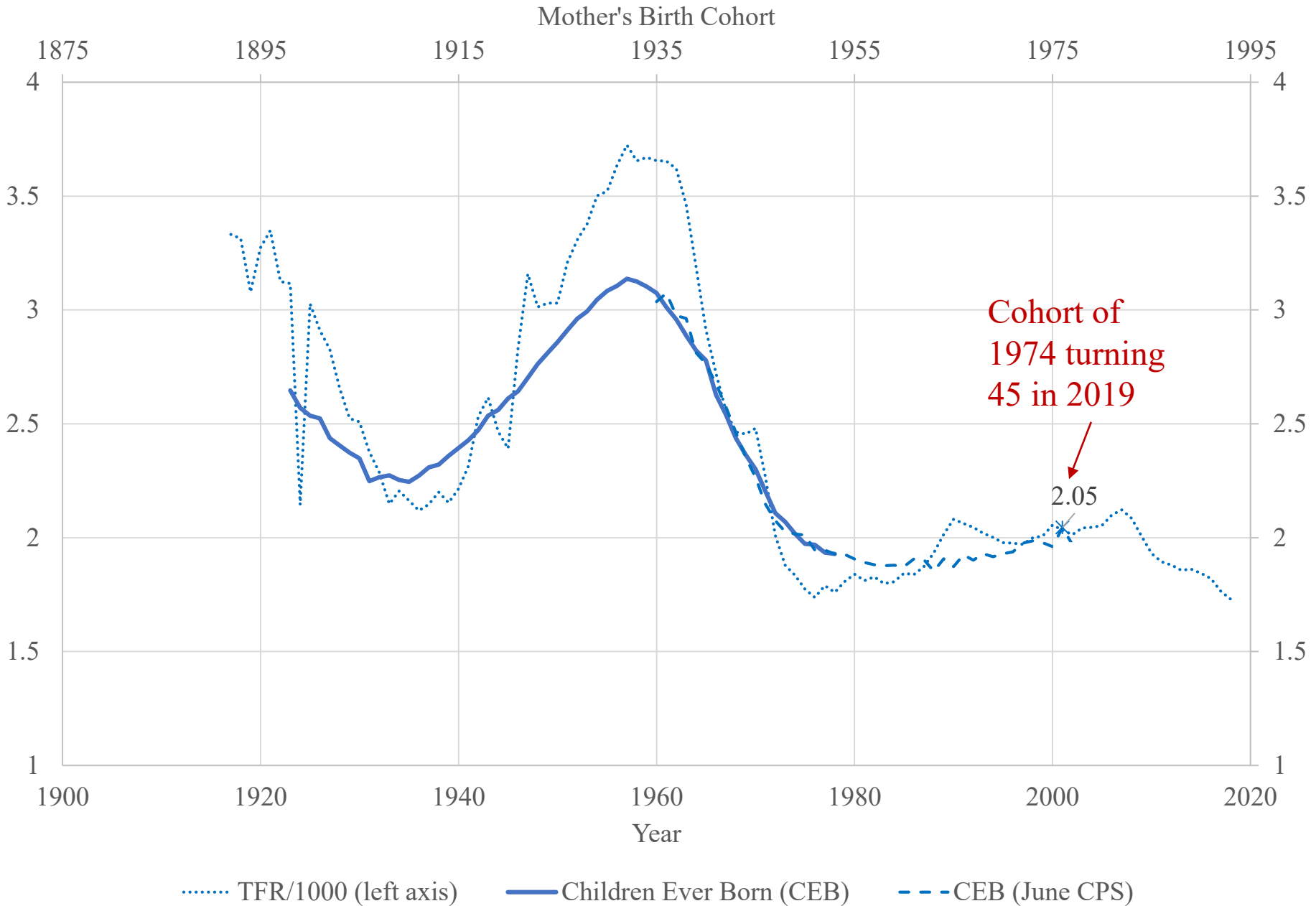


..... TFR/1000 (left axis)

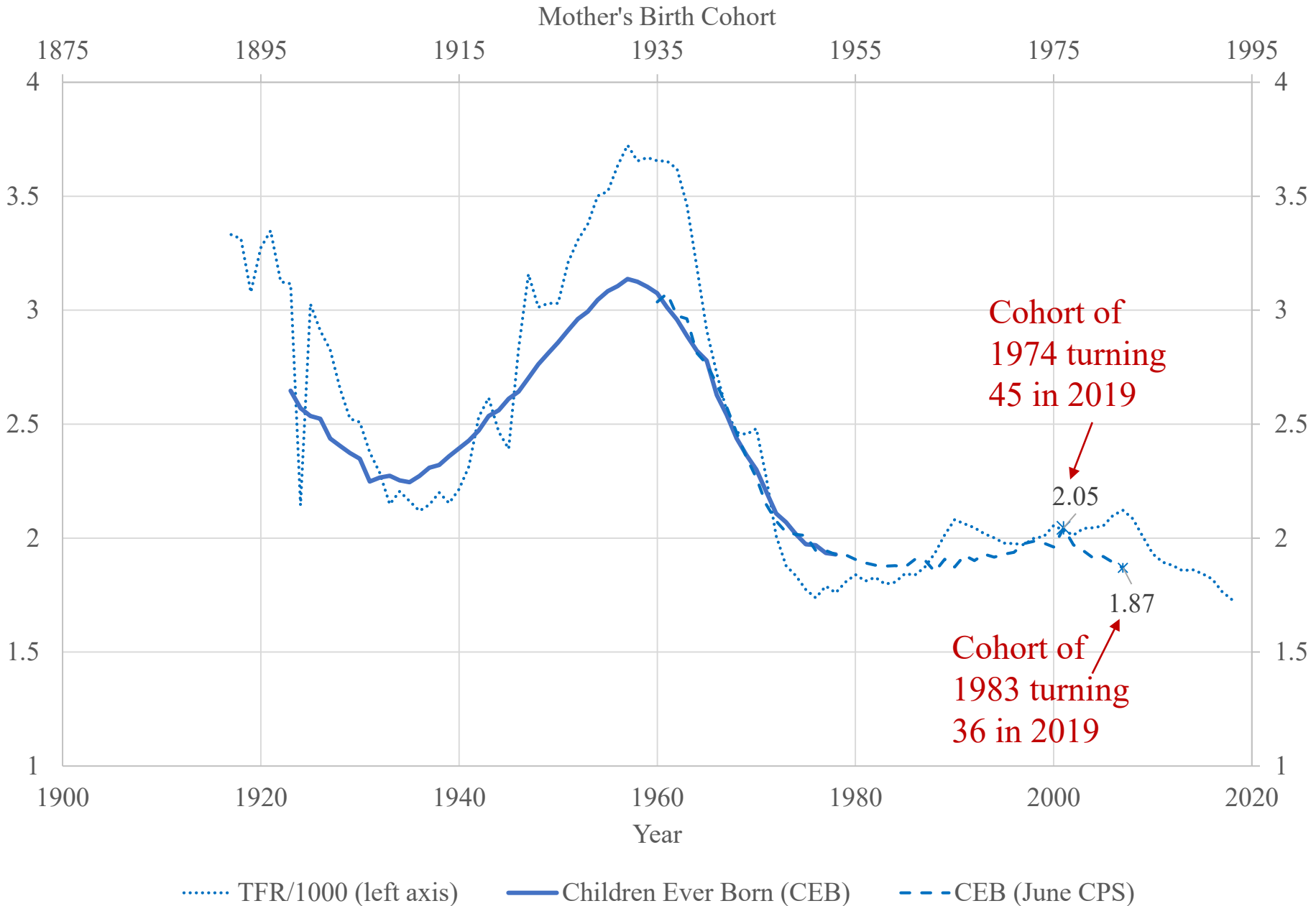
U.S. TFR & Completed Childbearing



U.S. TFR and Completed Childbearing

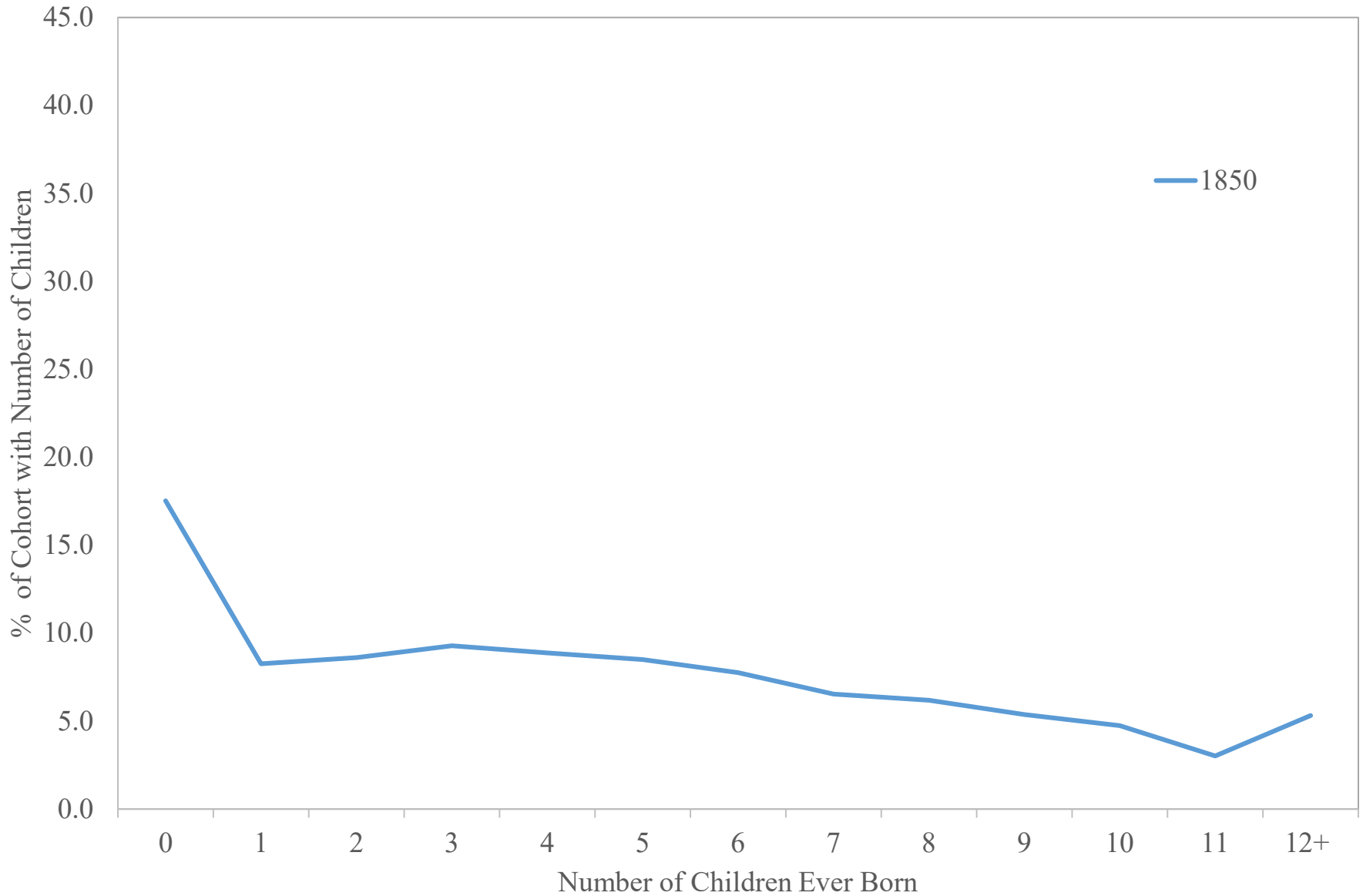


U.S. TFR and Completed Childbearing

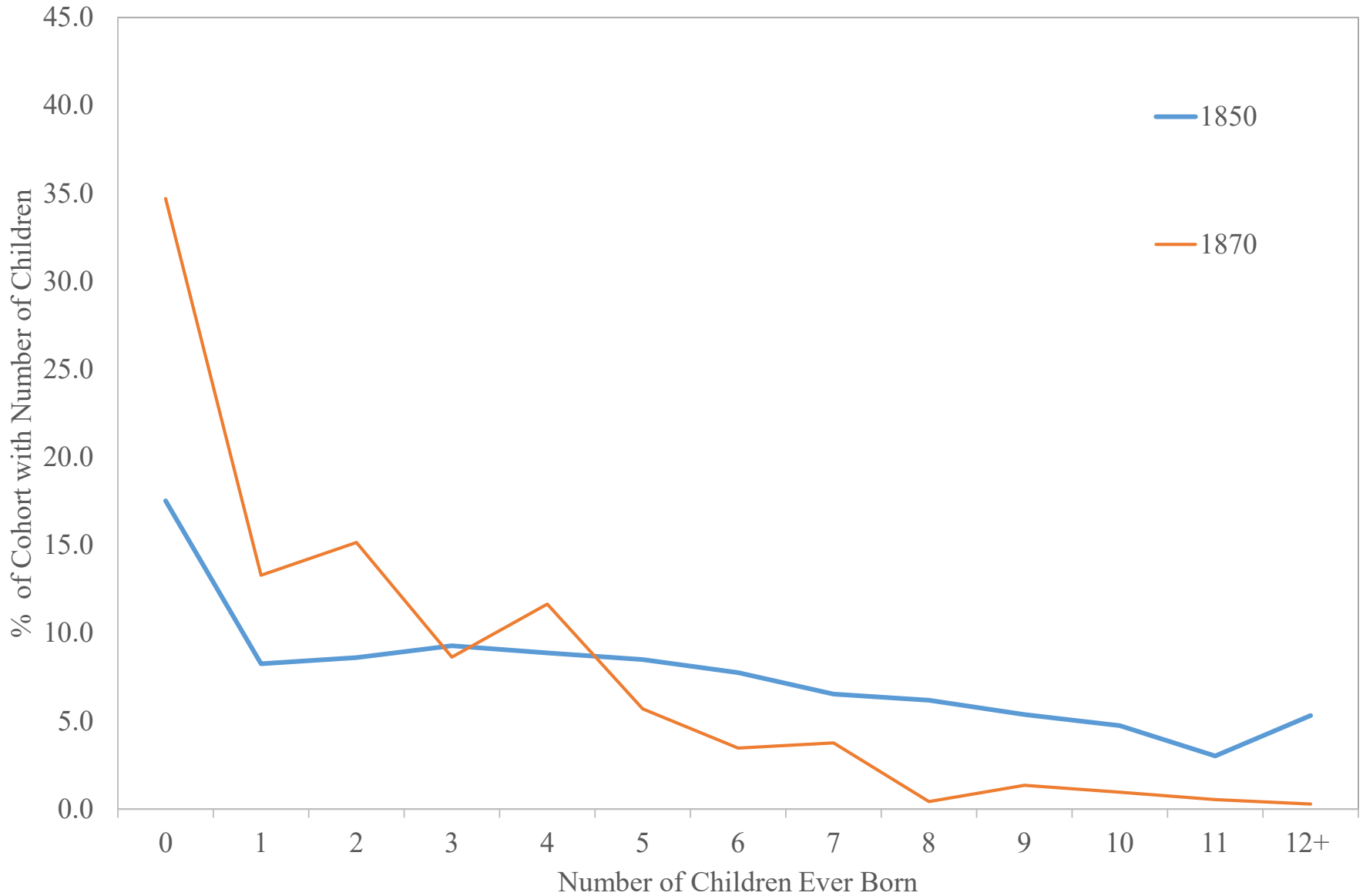


Will completed
childbearing fall below 2?

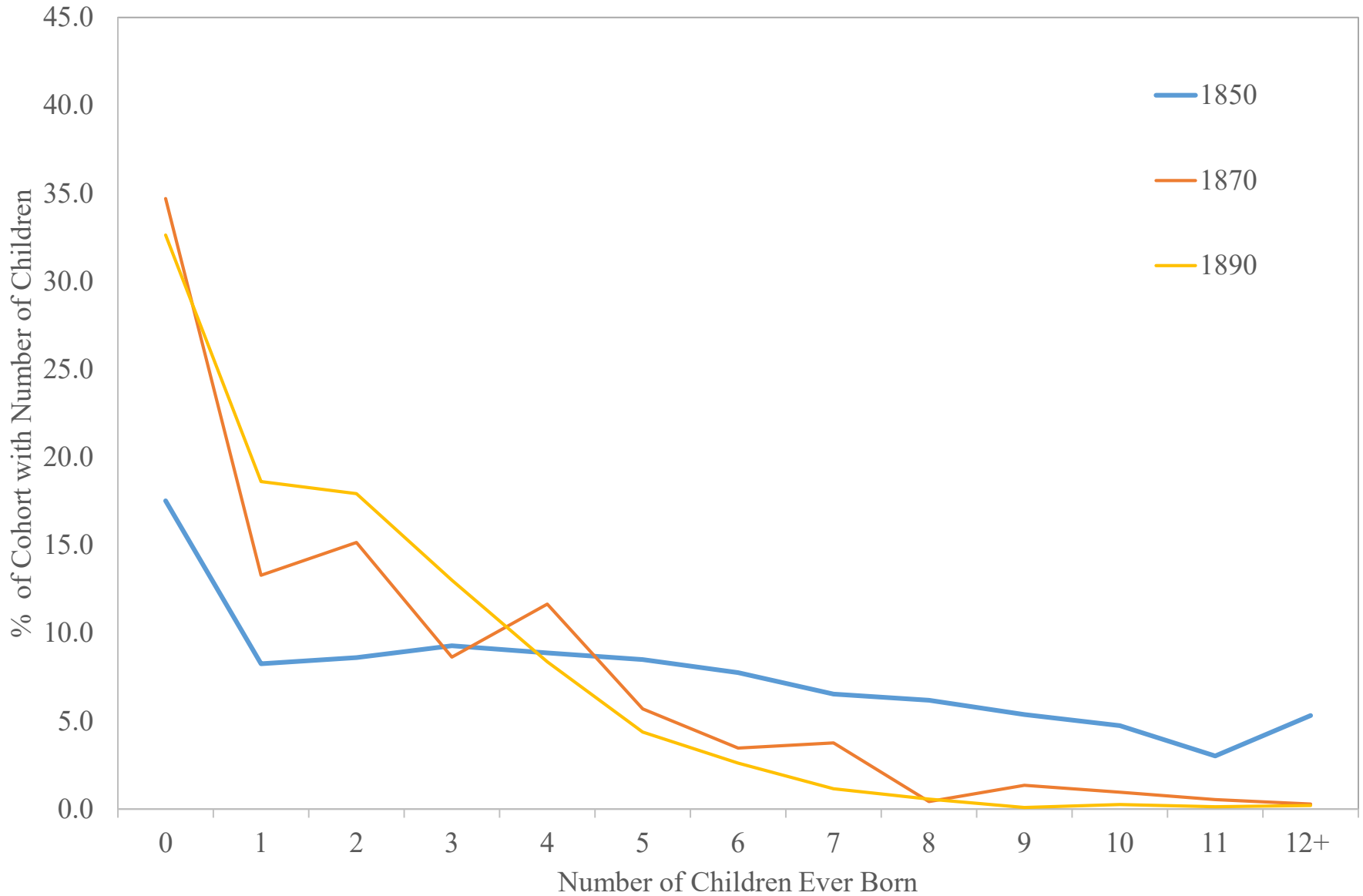
Children Born by Cohort (at ages 45+)



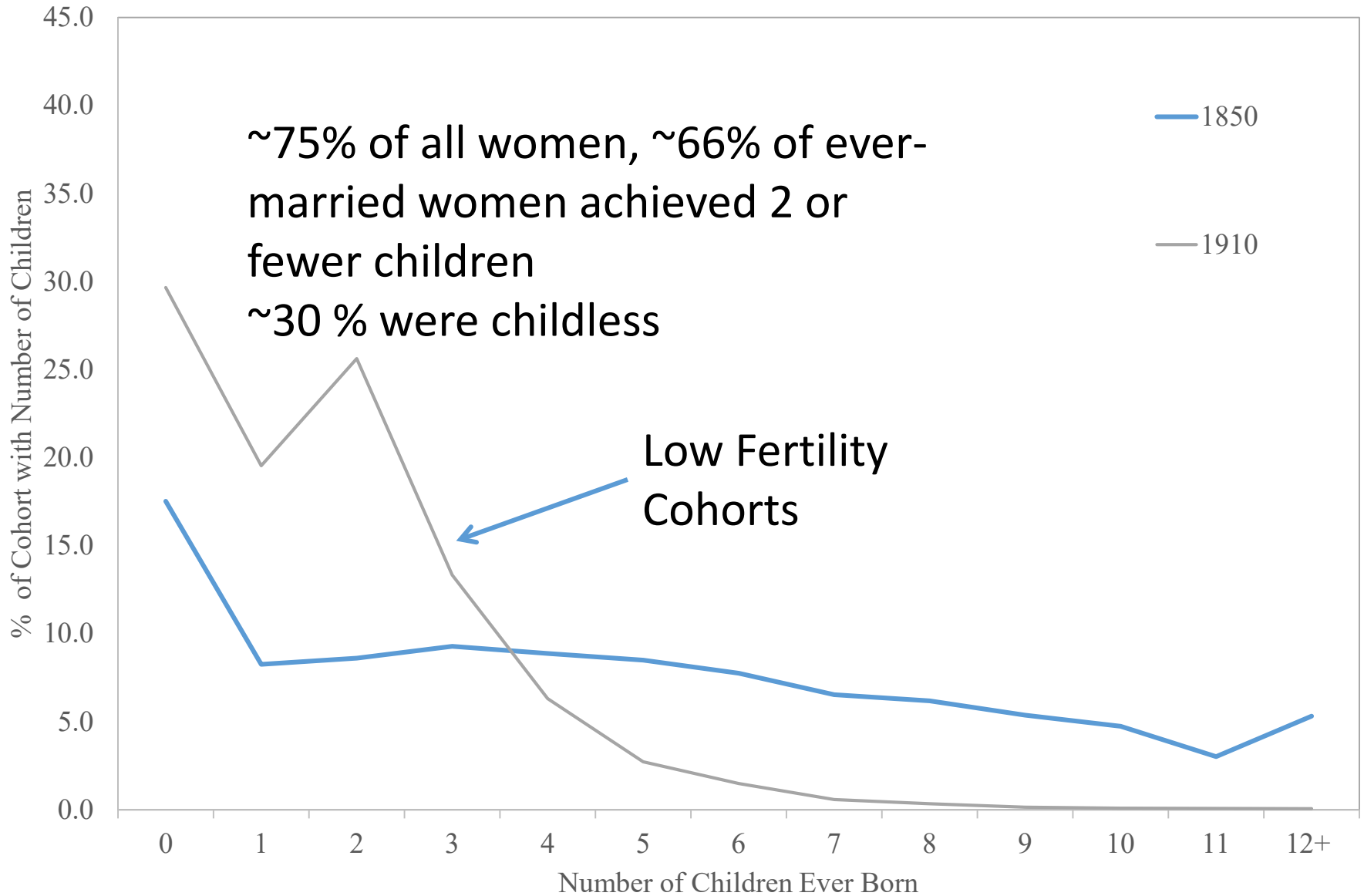
Children Born by Cohort



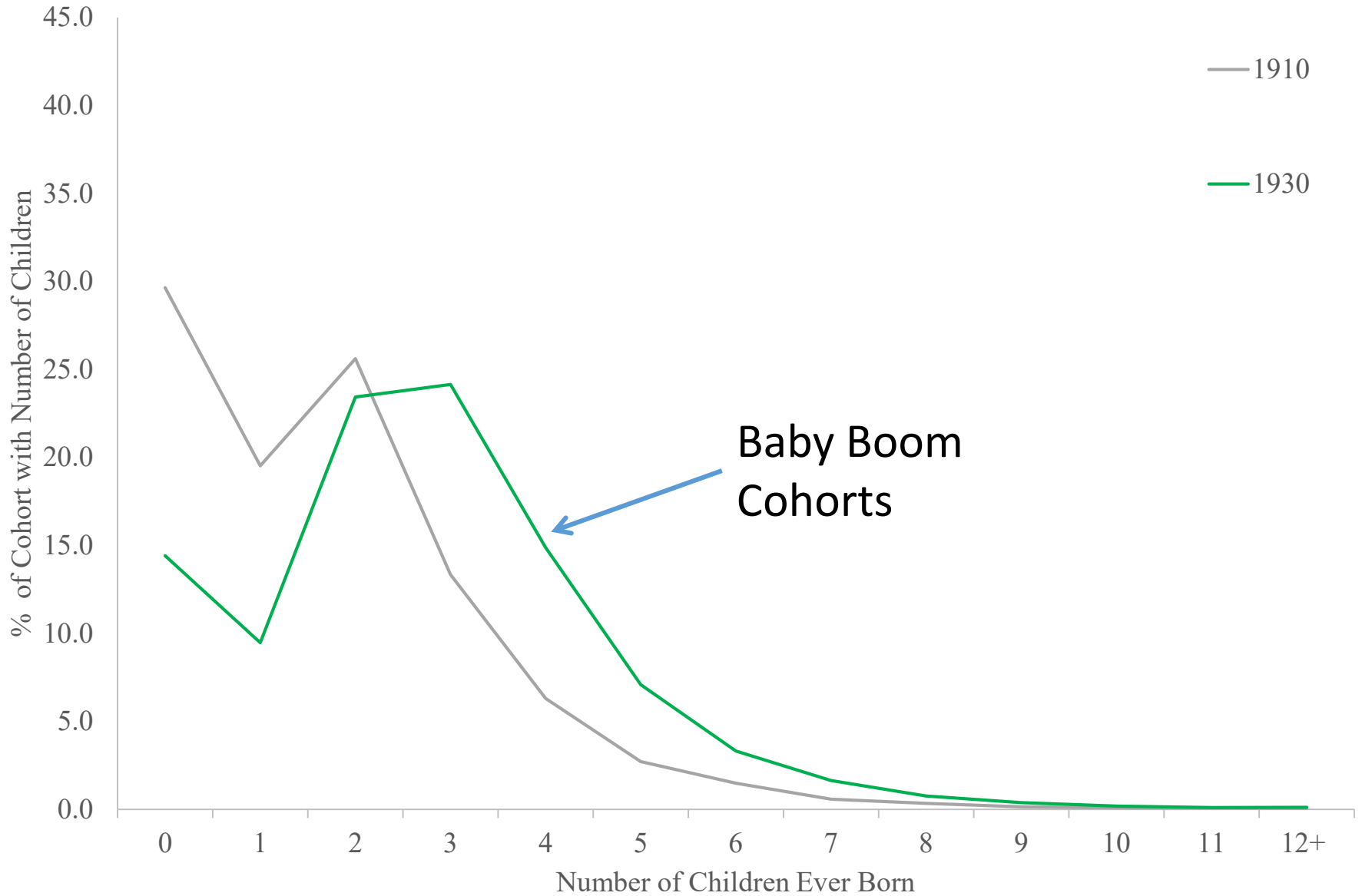
Children Born by Cohort



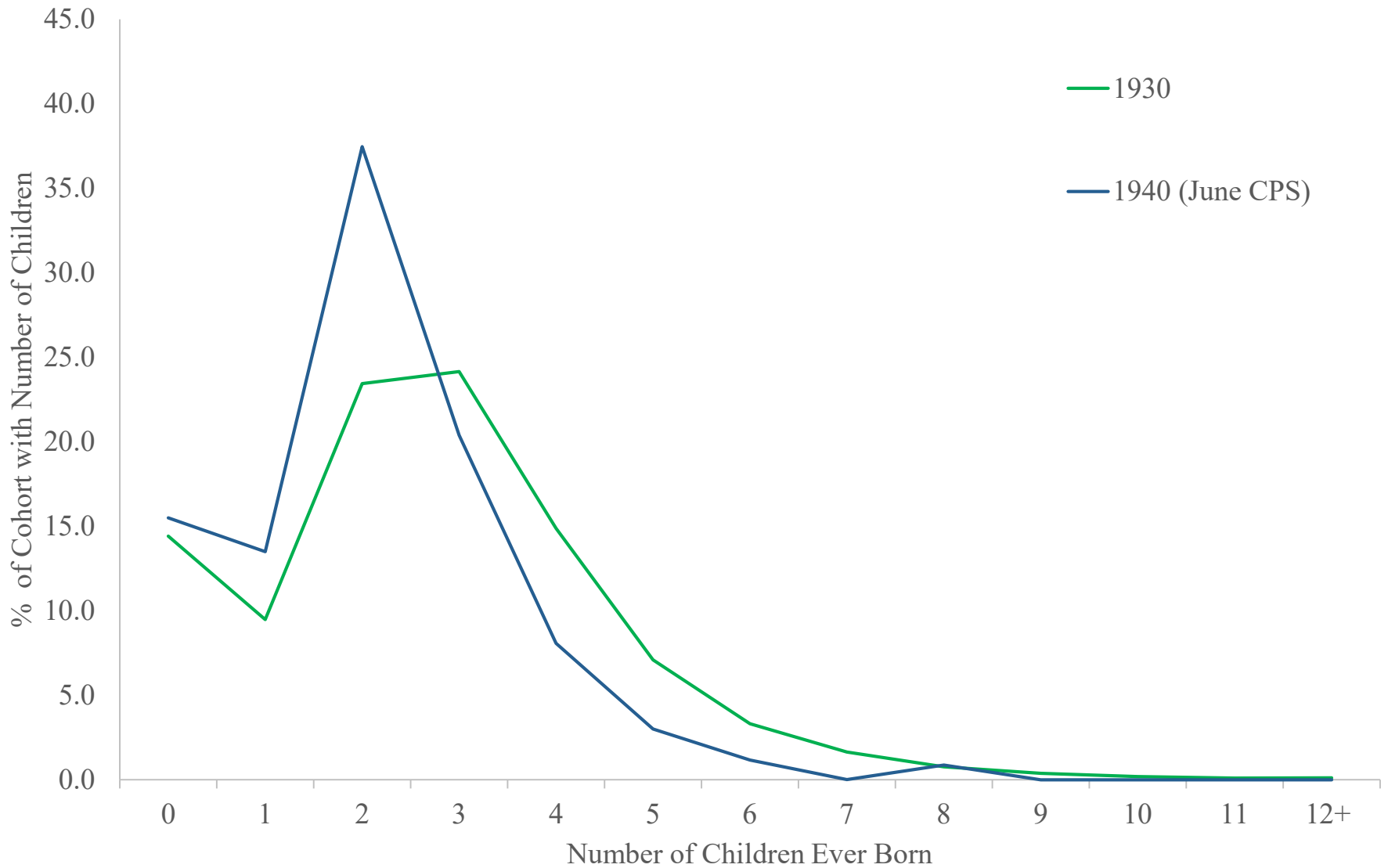
Children Born by Cohort



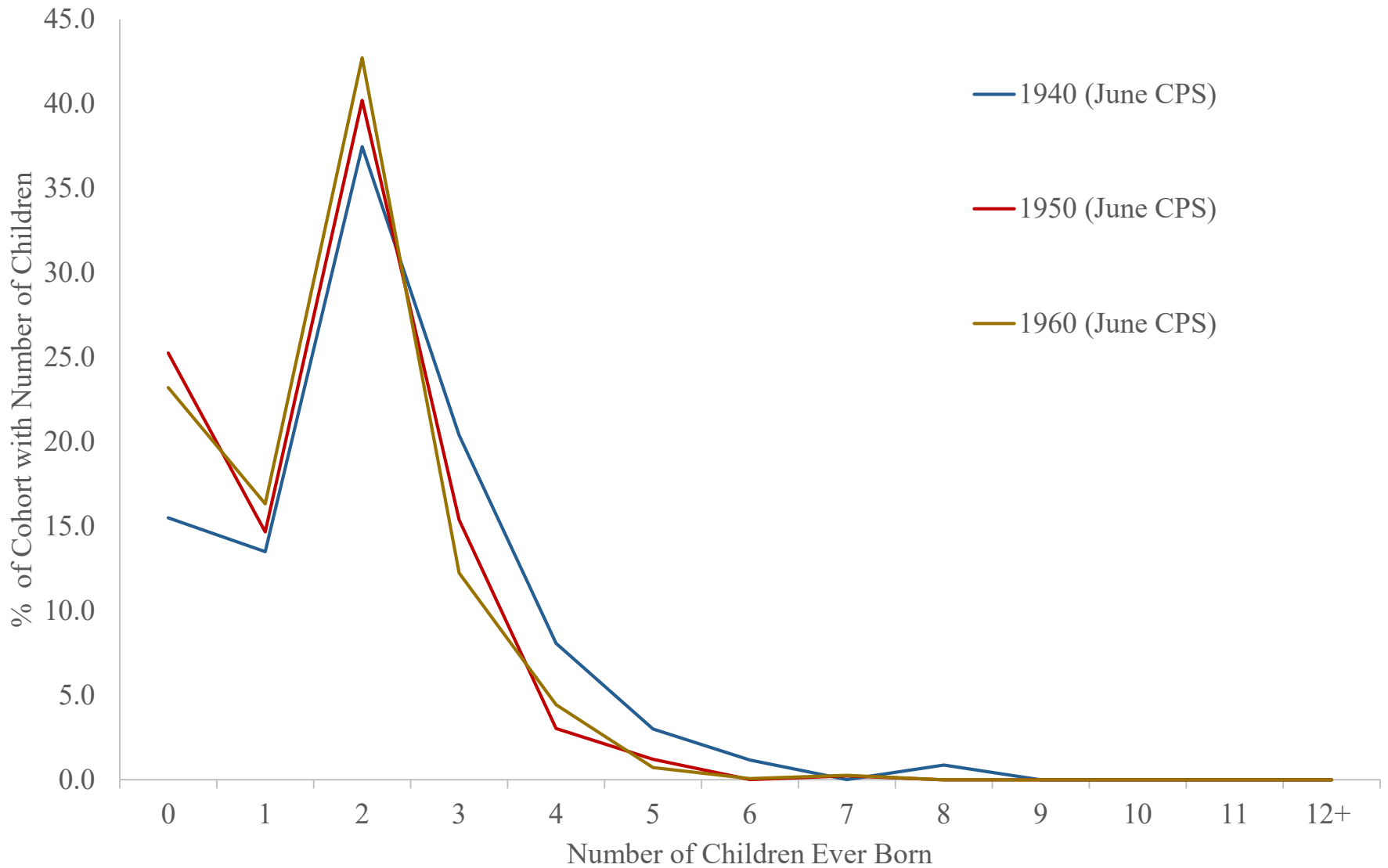
Children Born by Cohort



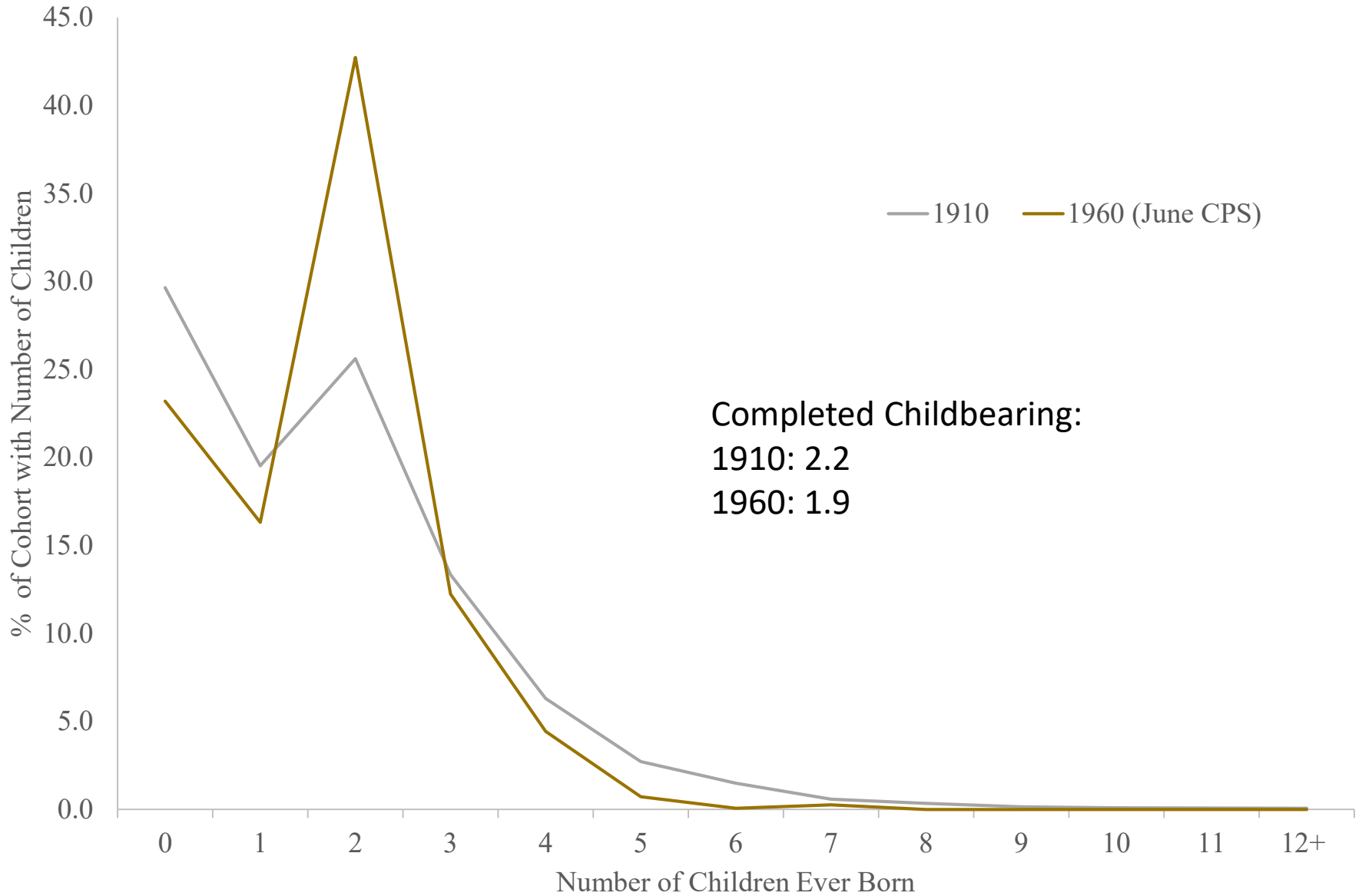
Children Born by Cohort



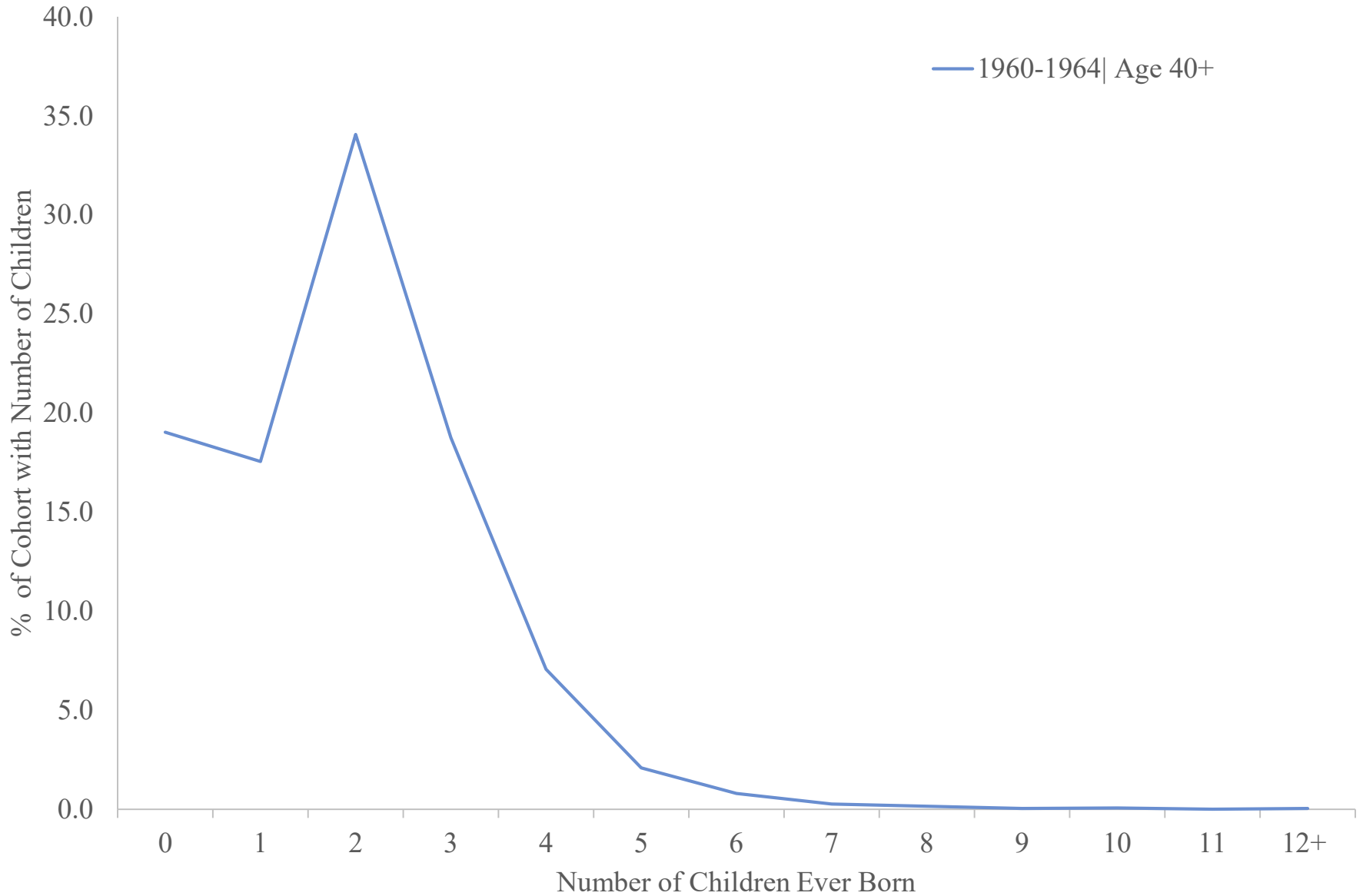
Children Born by Cohort



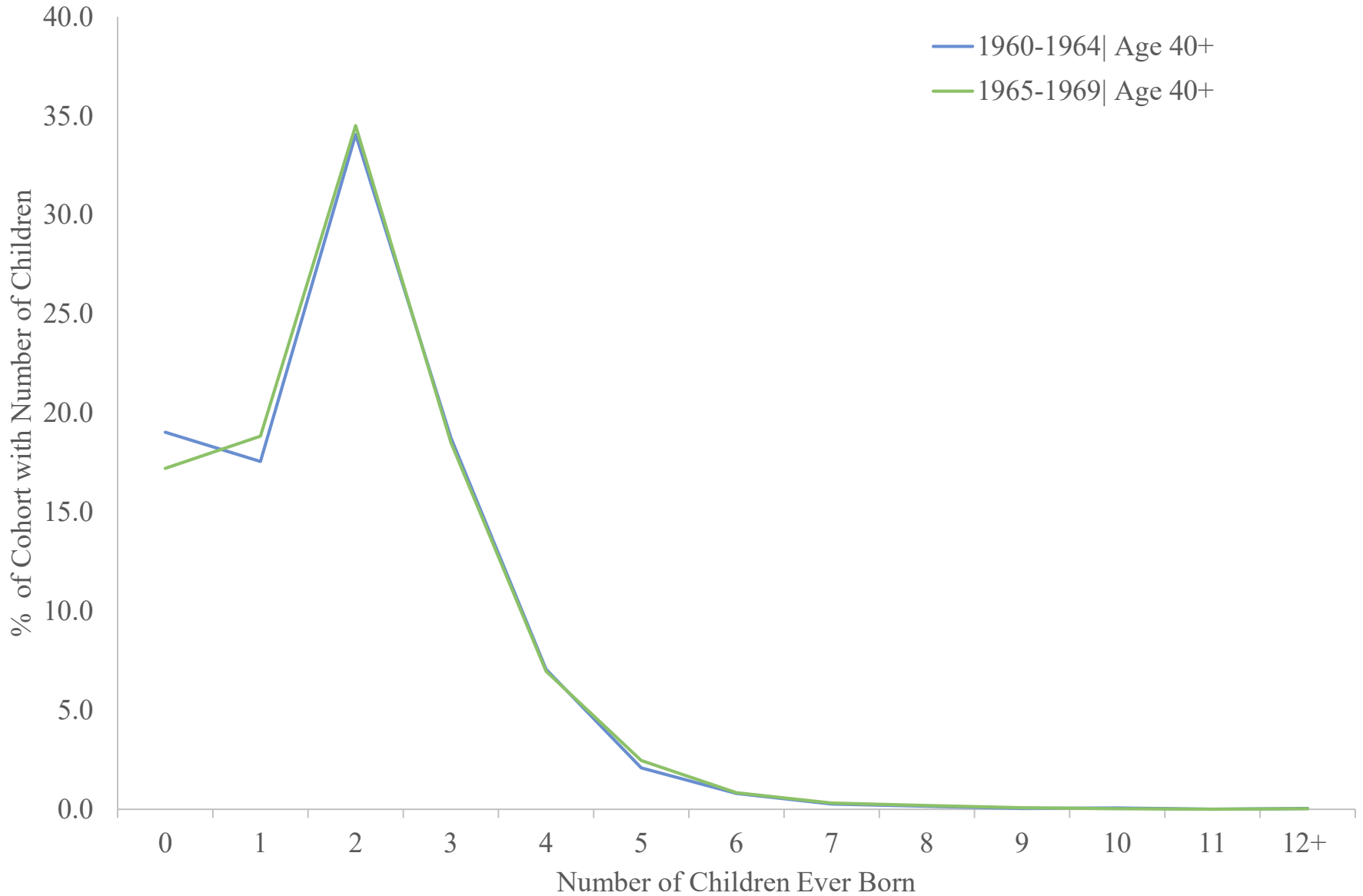
Children Born by Cohort



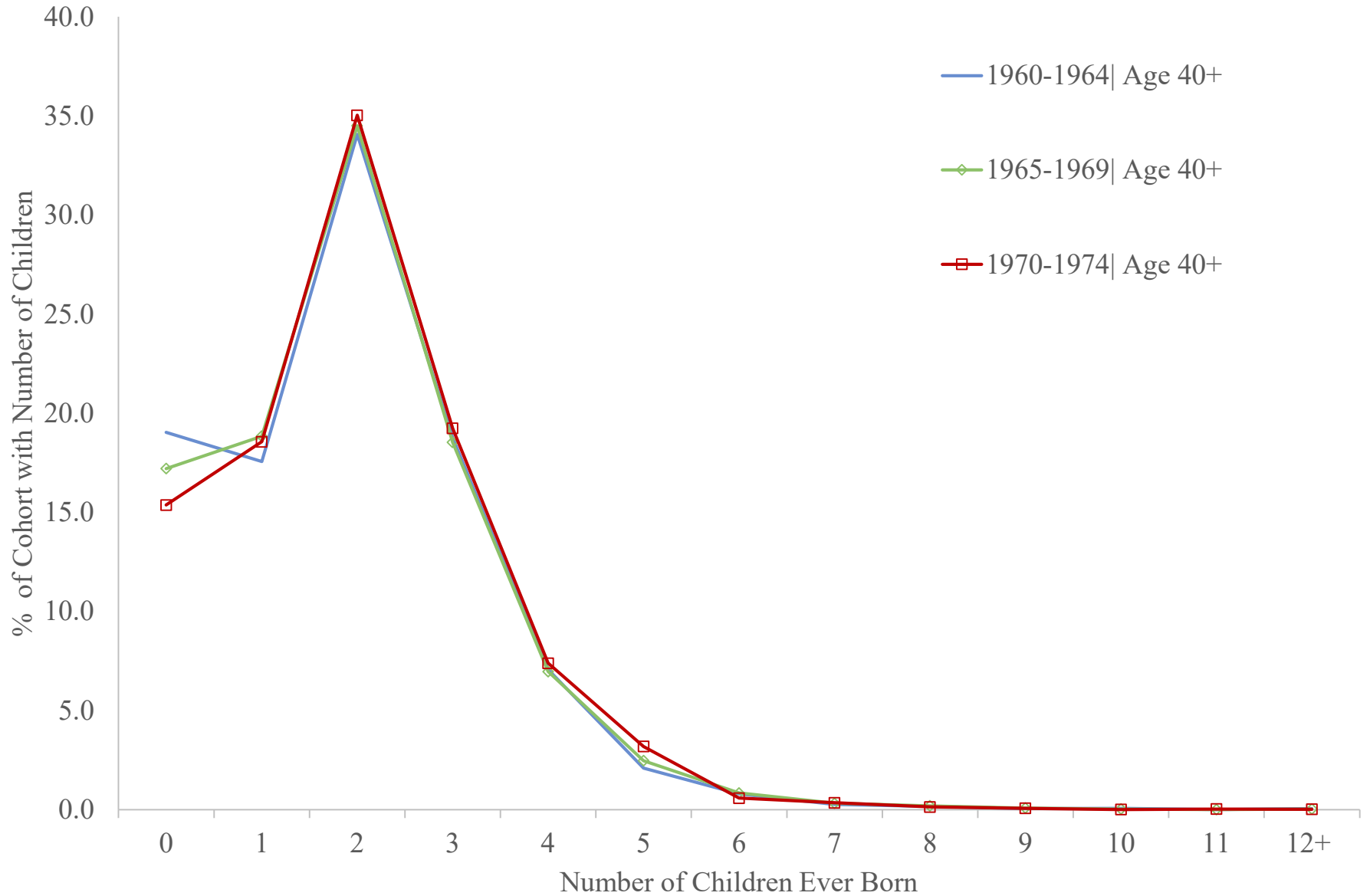
Children Born by Cohort



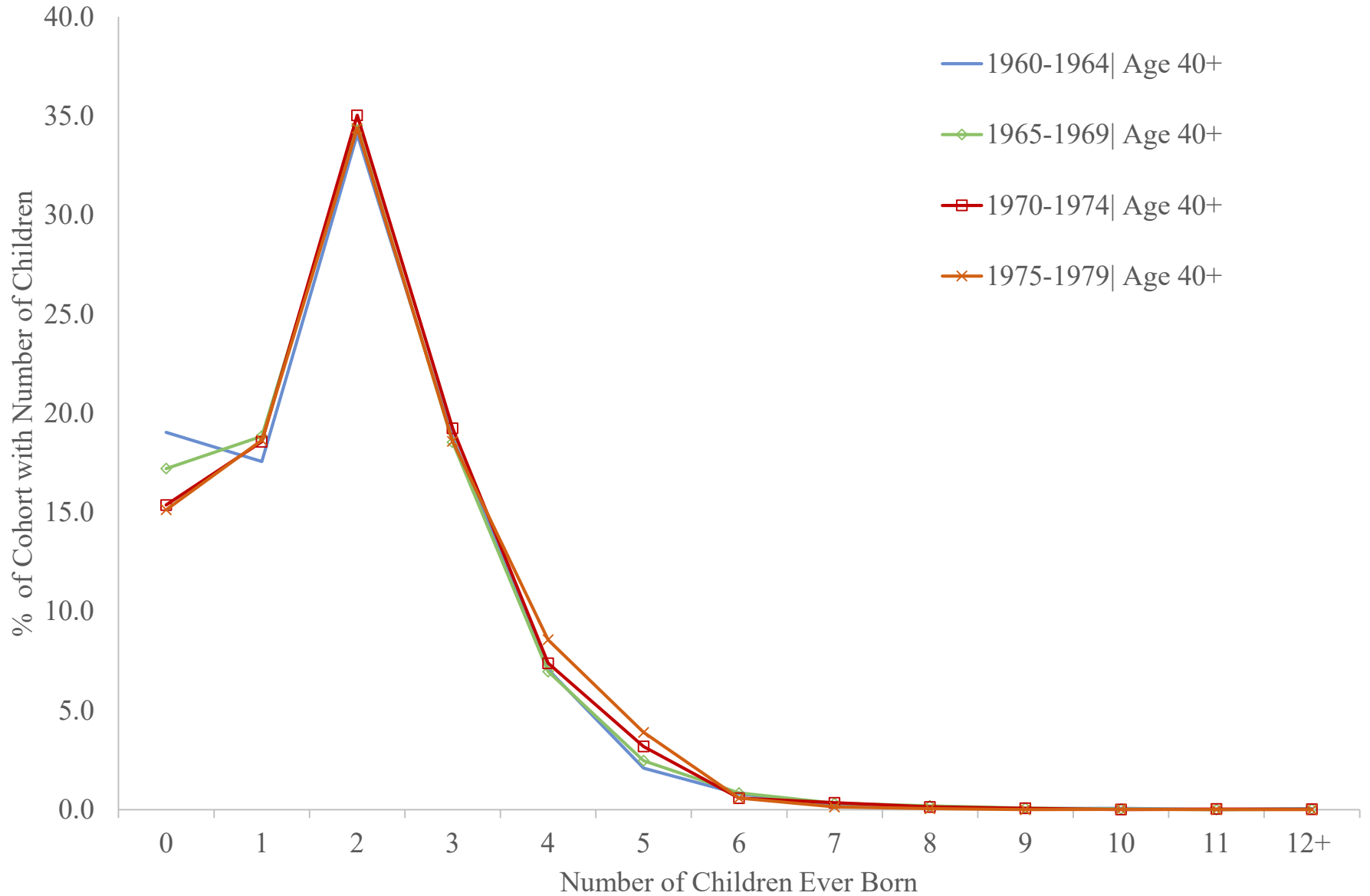
Children Born by Cohort



Children Born by Cohort

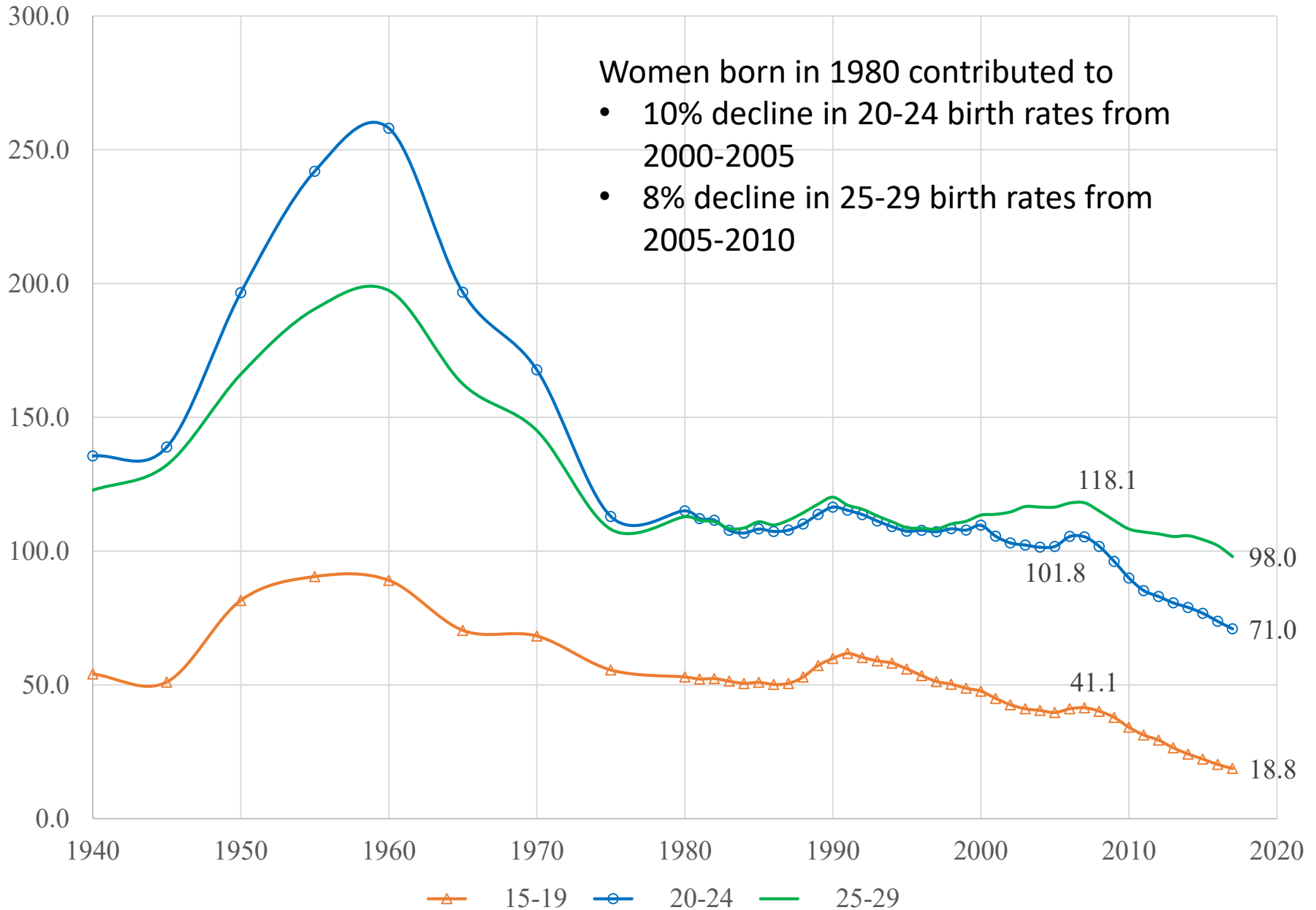


Children Born by Cohort

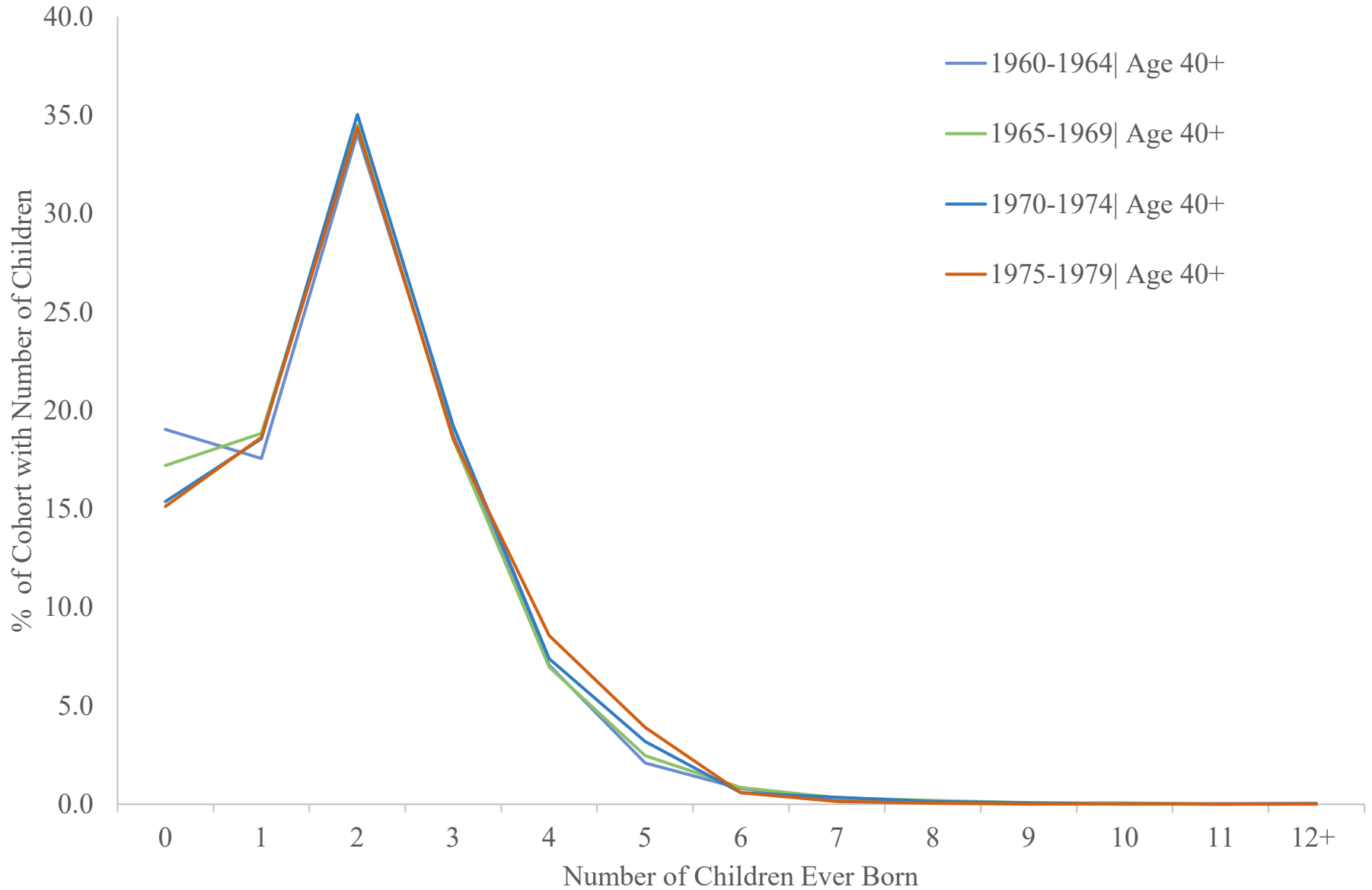


What about more
recent cohorts?

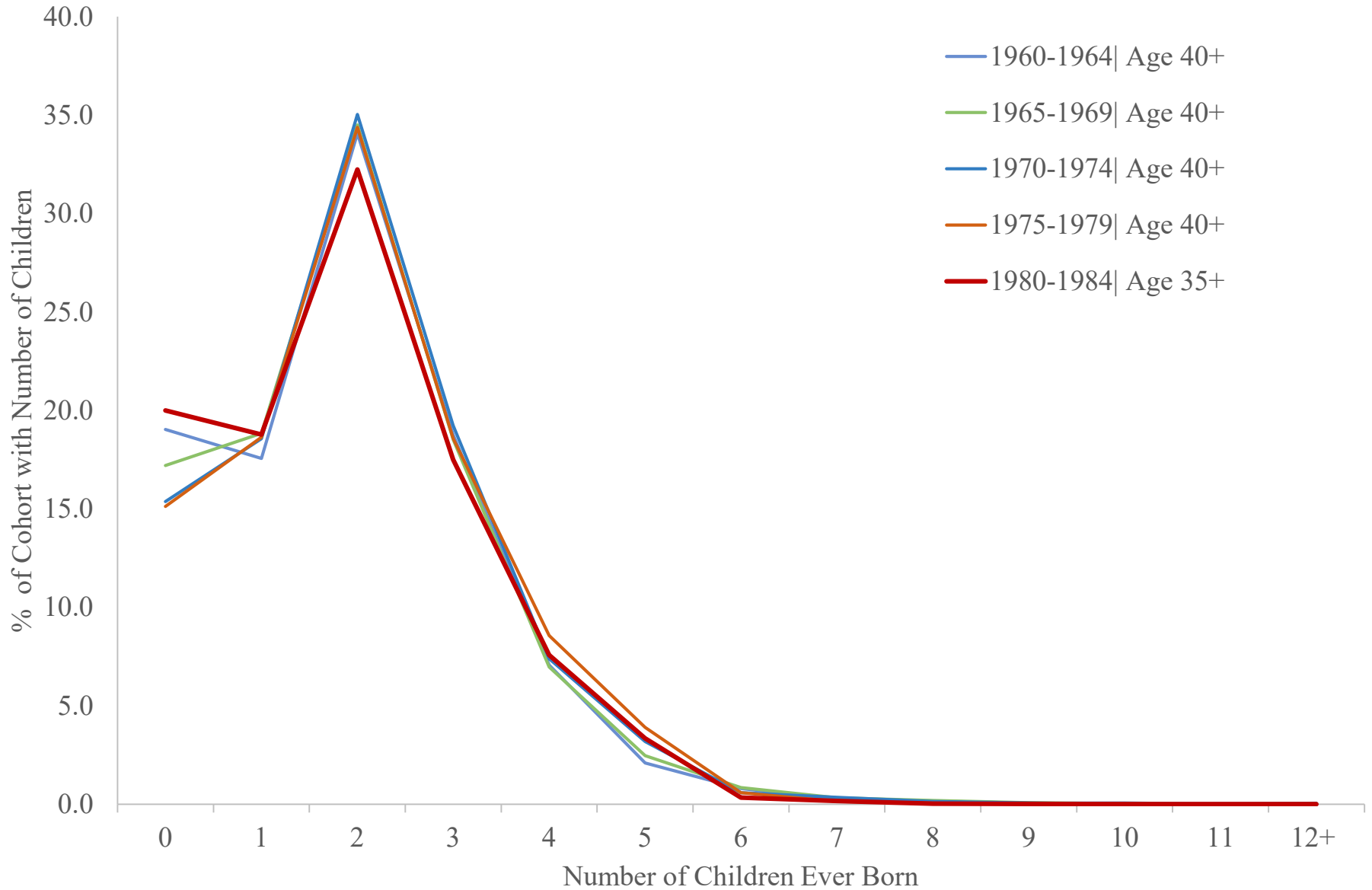
Birth Rates for Women in 20s Falling



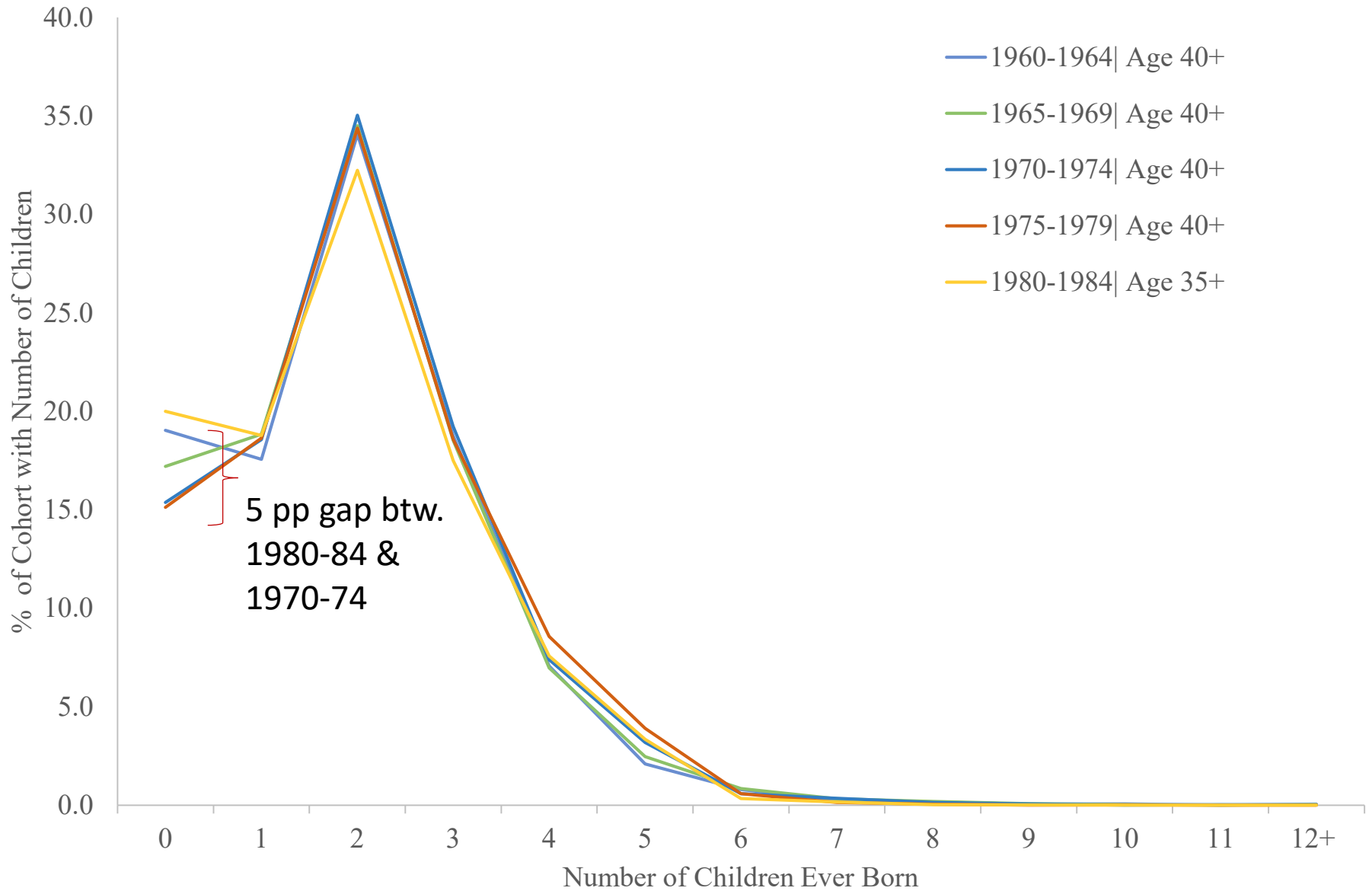
What about more recent cohorts?



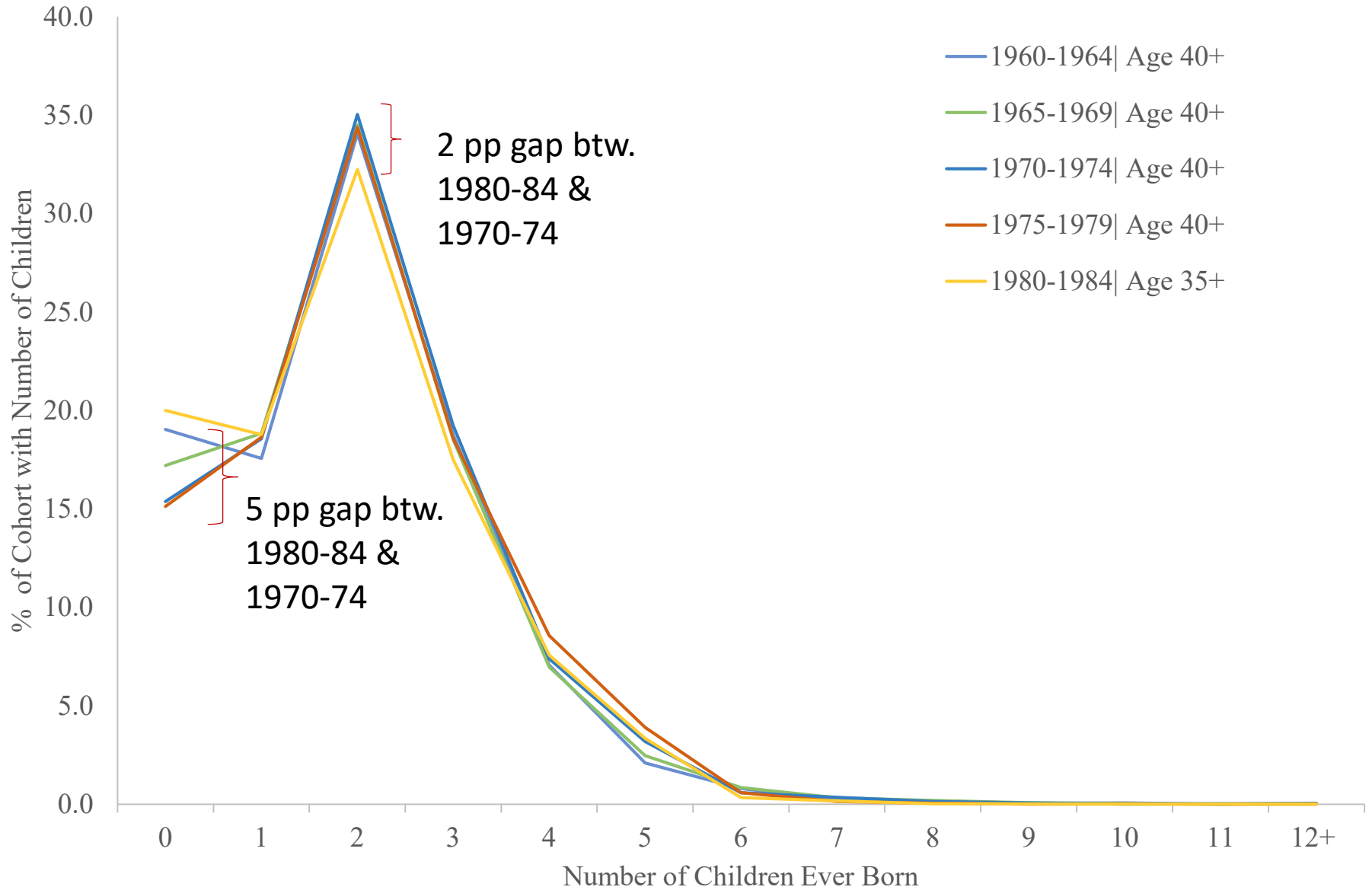
Children Born by Cohort



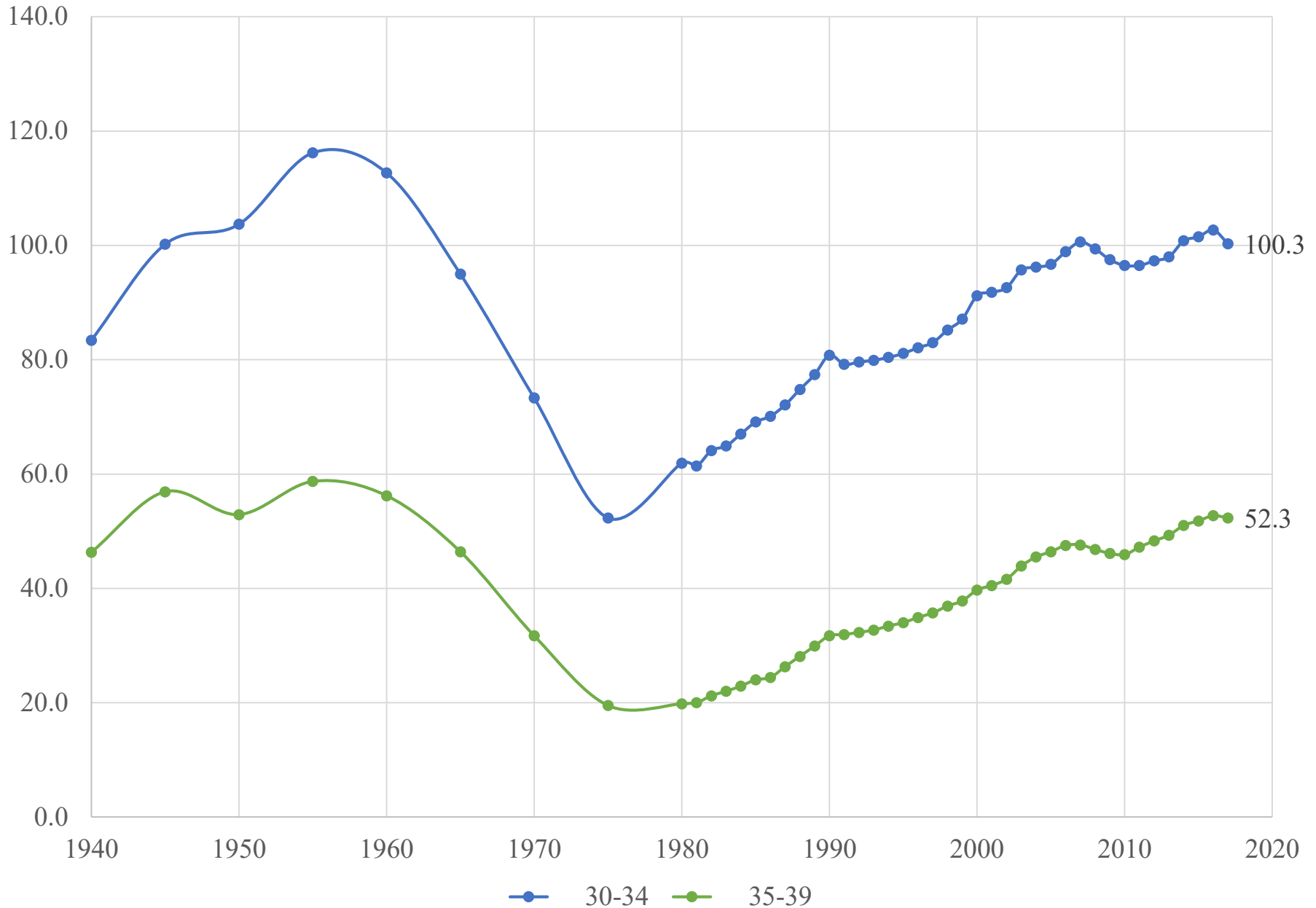
Children Born by Cohort



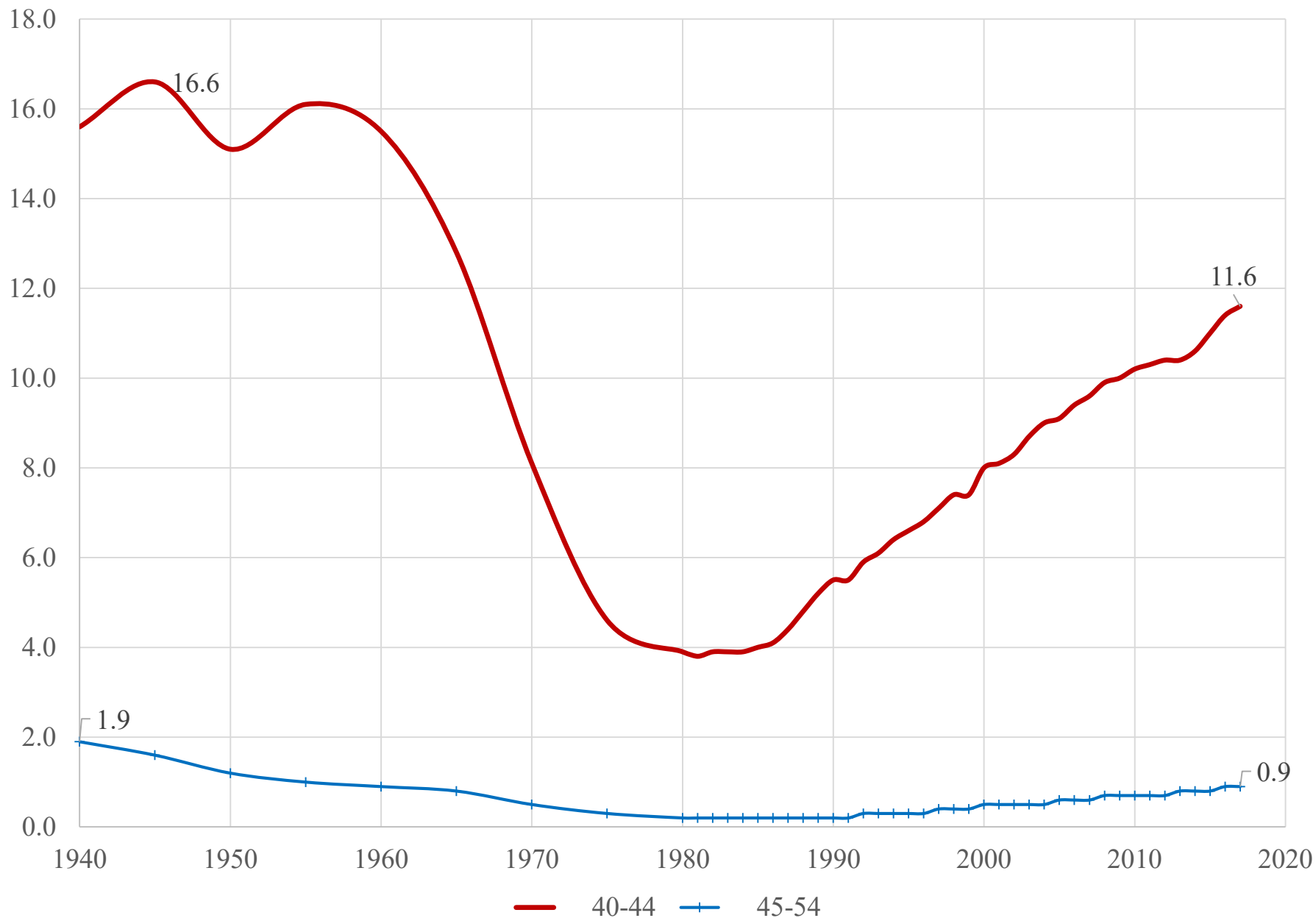
Children Born by Cohort



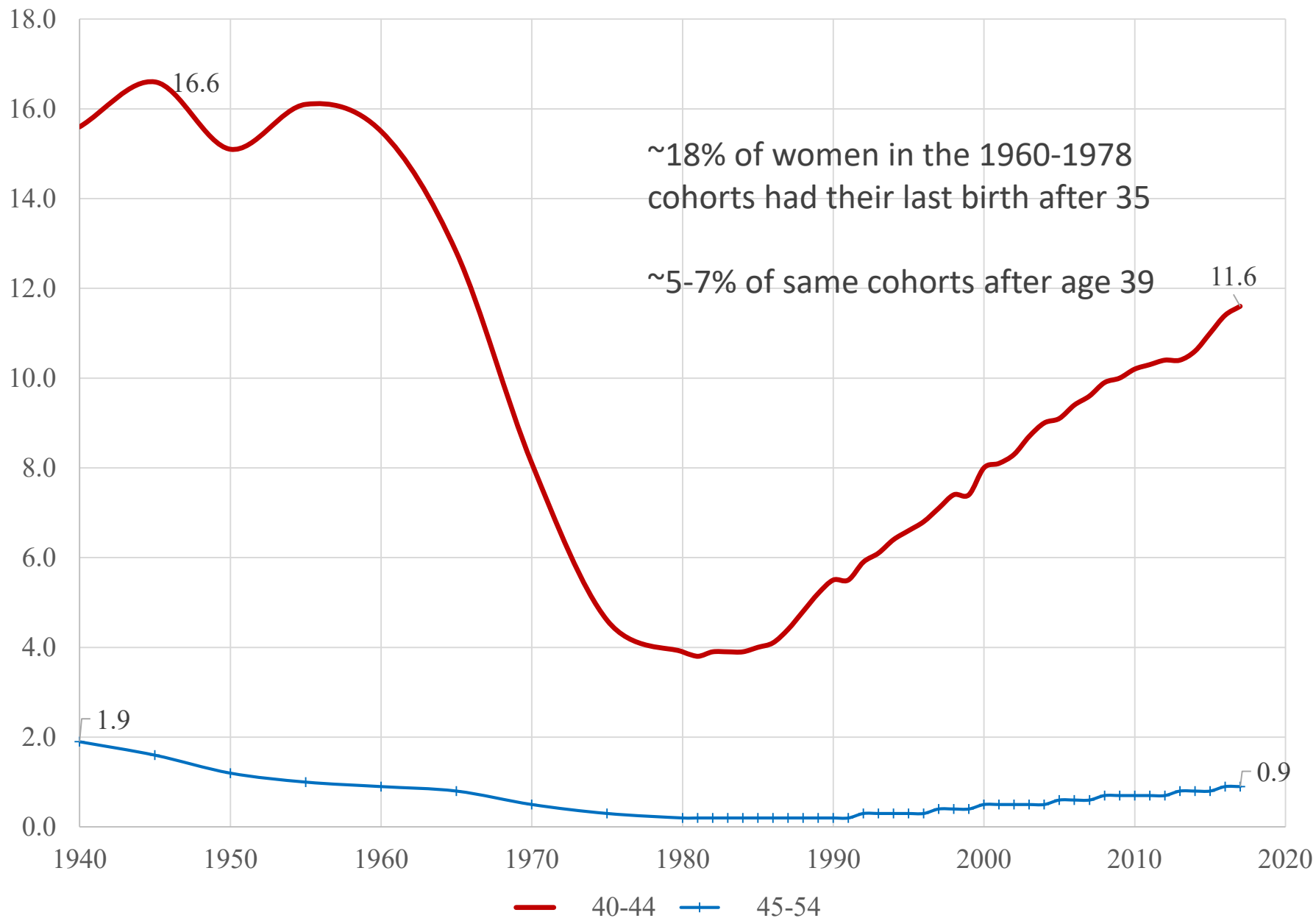
Birth Rates for Women in 30s Rising



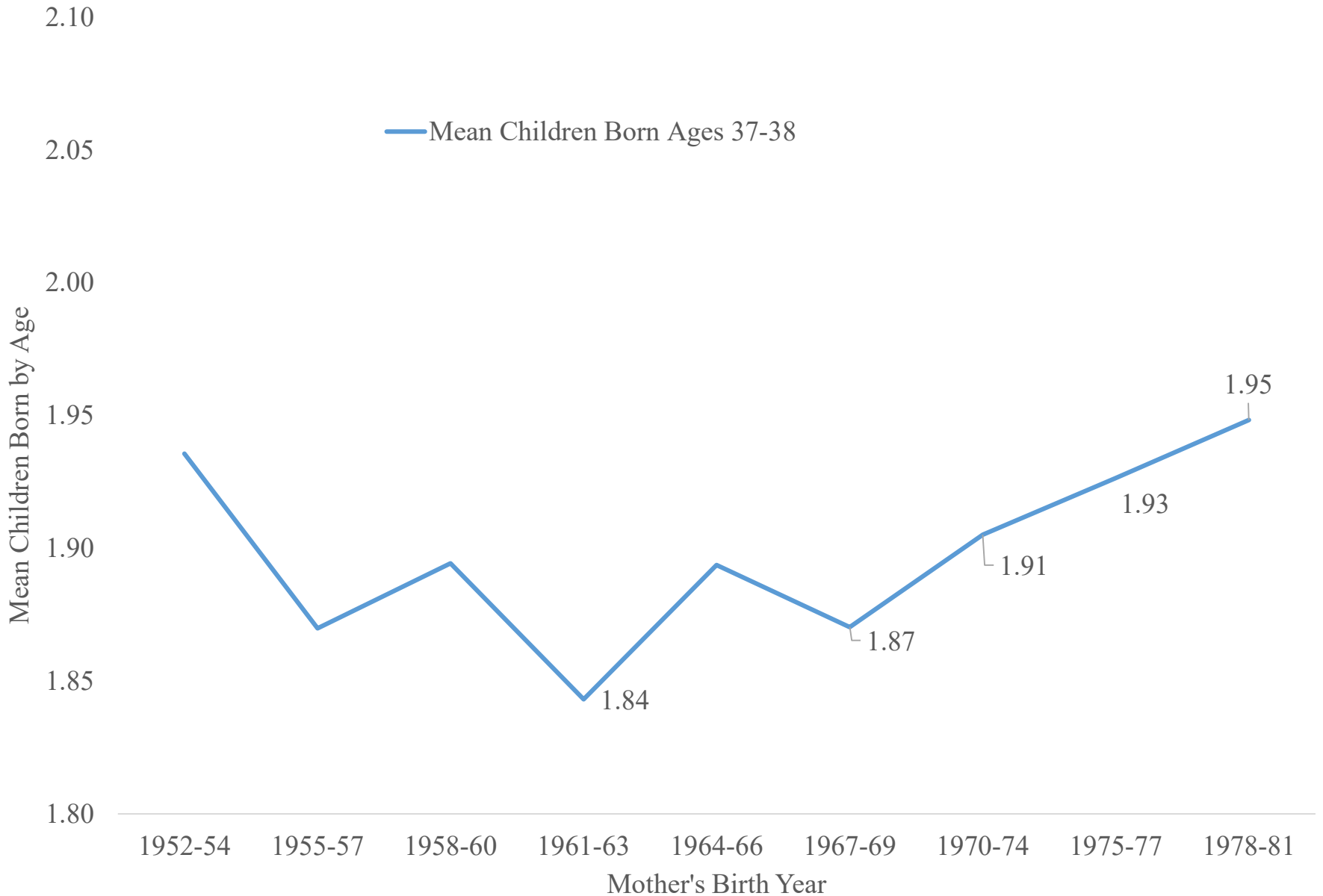
Birth Rates for Women in 40s Rising



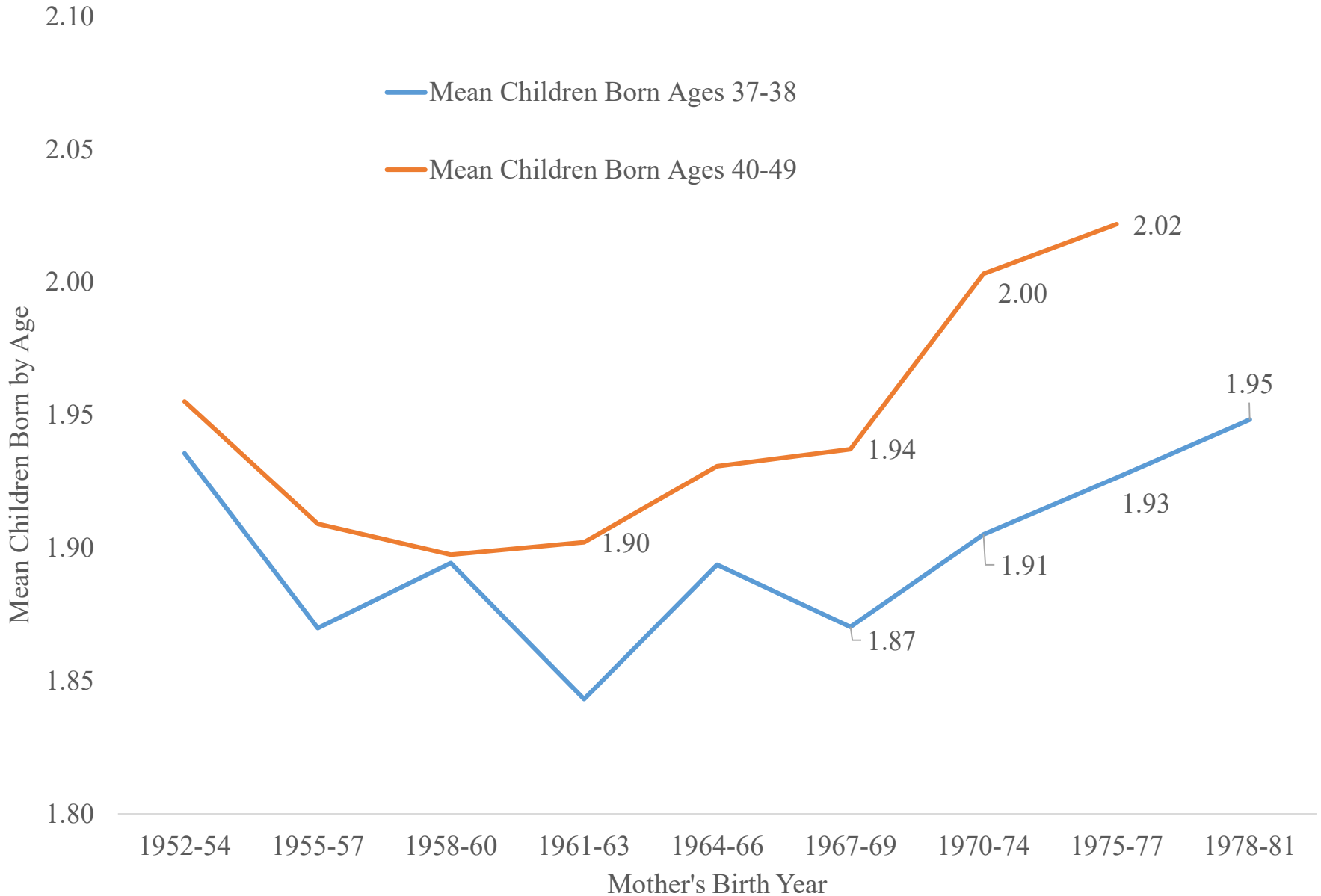
Birth Rates for Women in 40s Rising



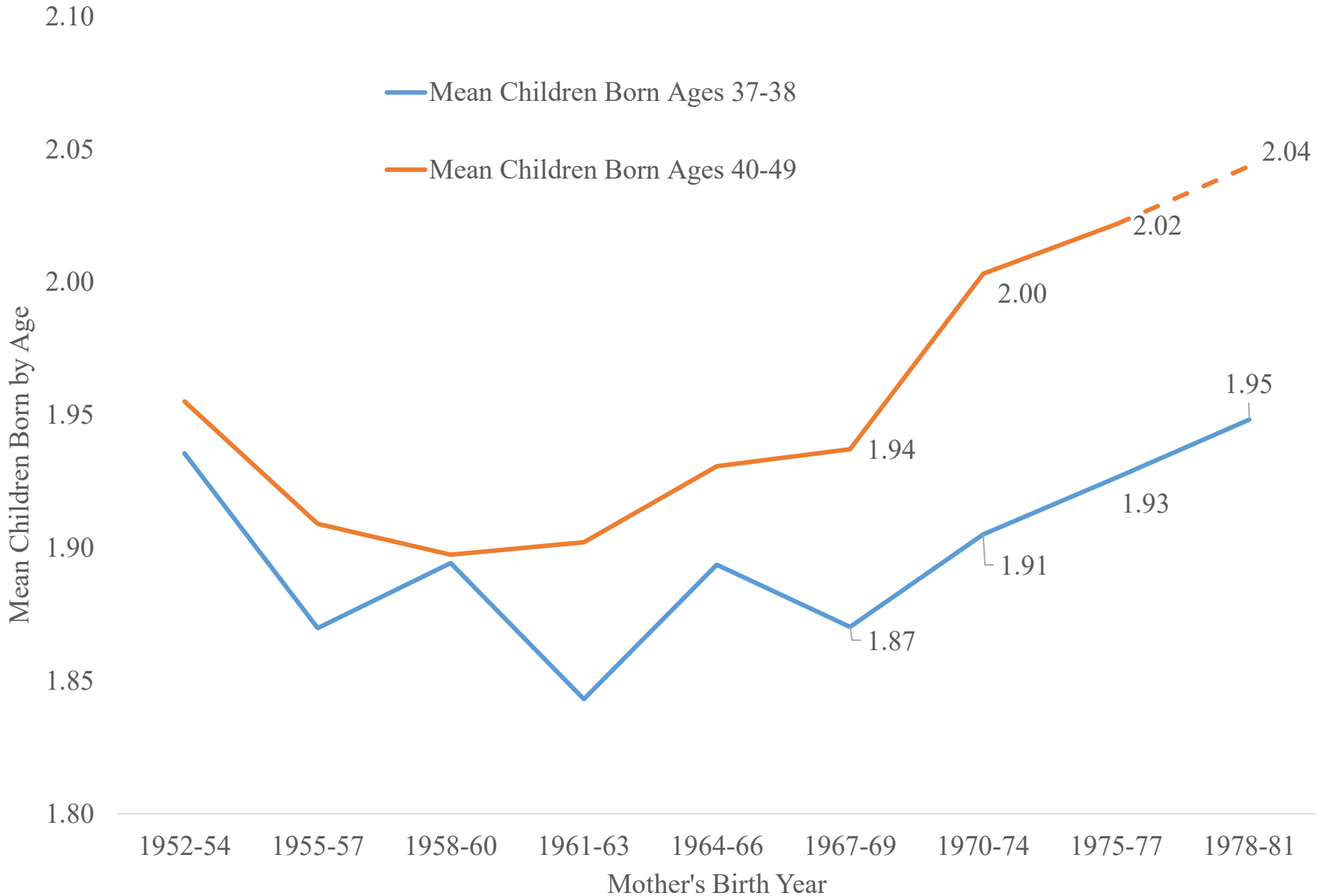
Children Born by Age and Cohort



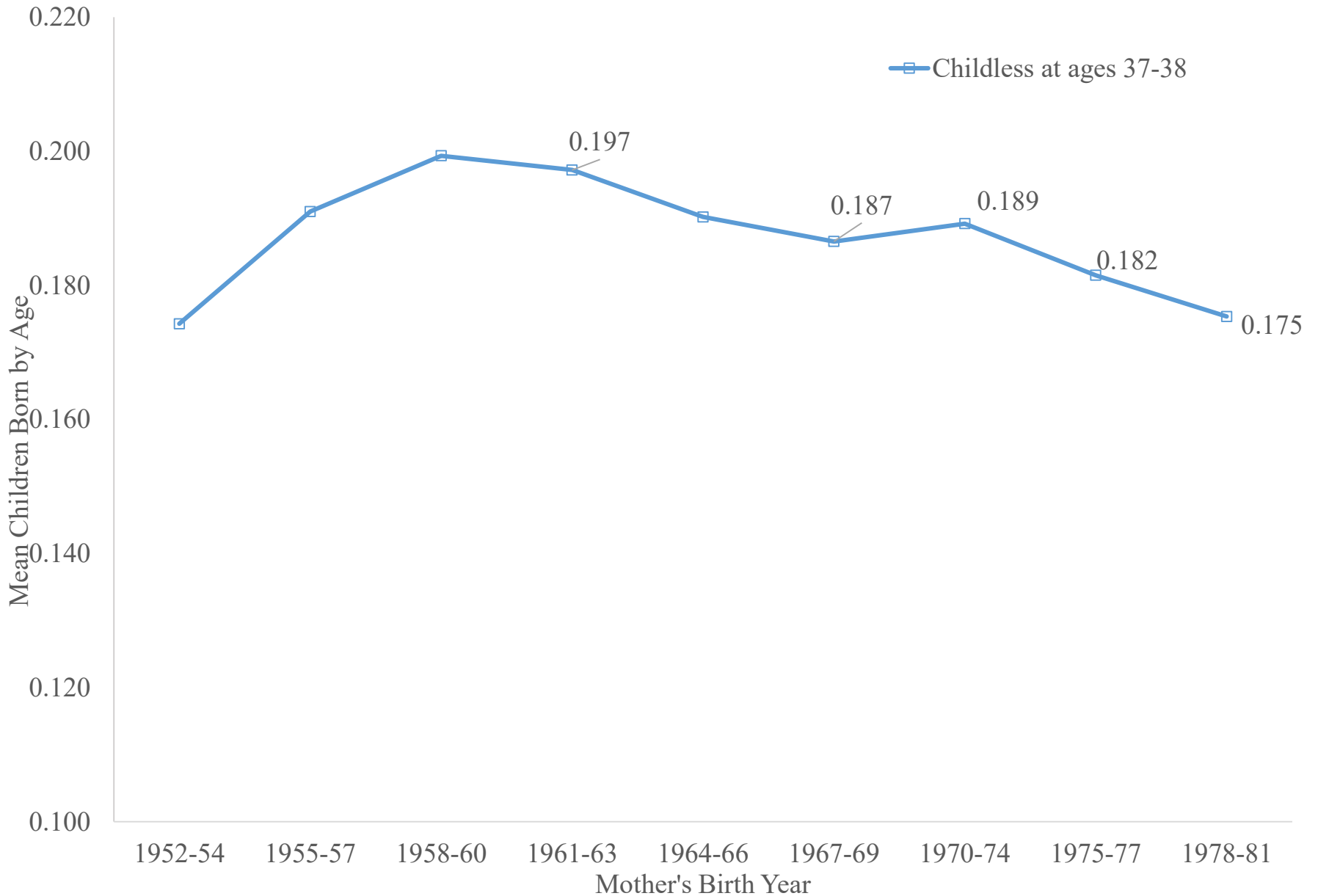
Children Born by Age and Cohort



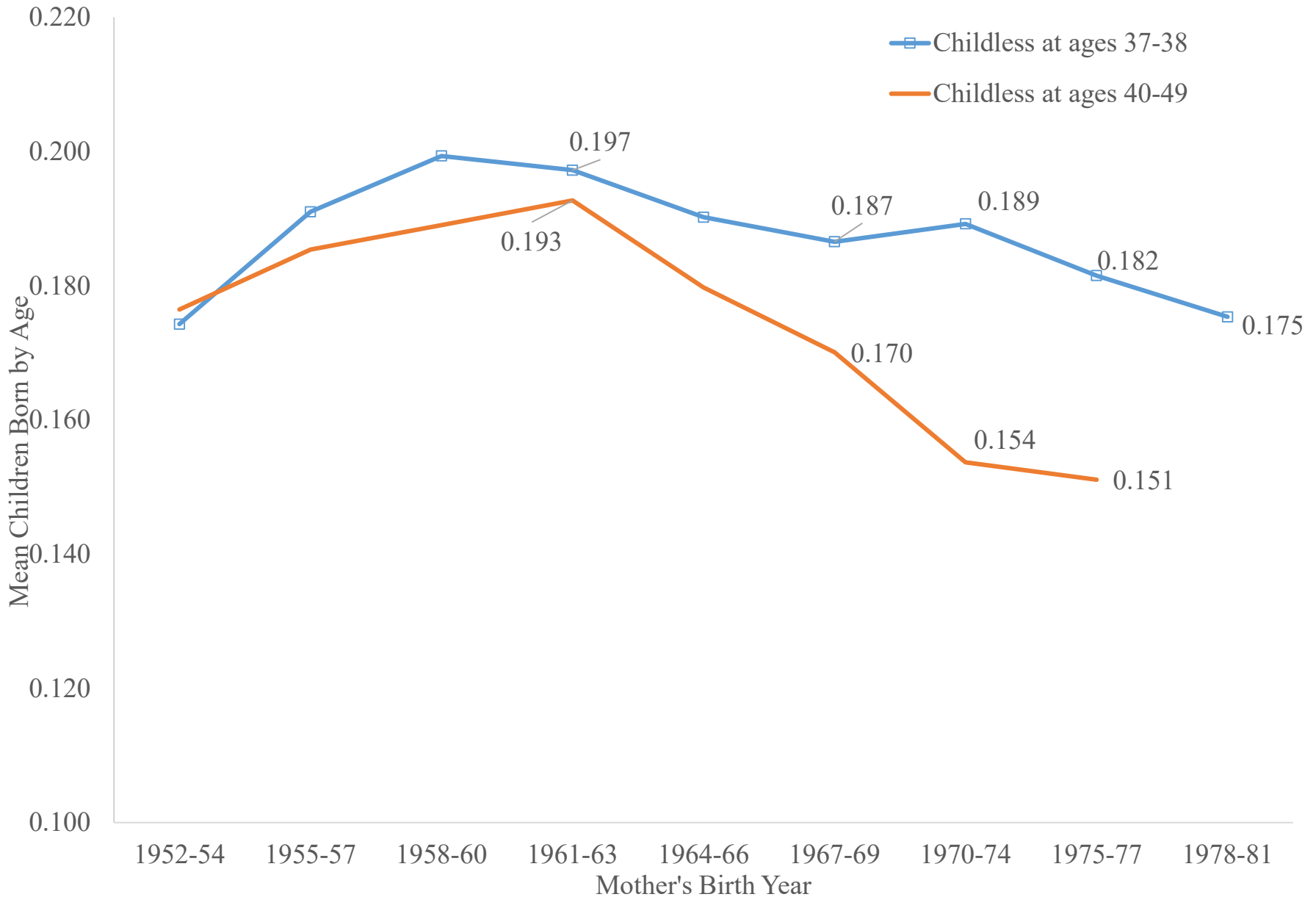
Children Born by Age and Cohort



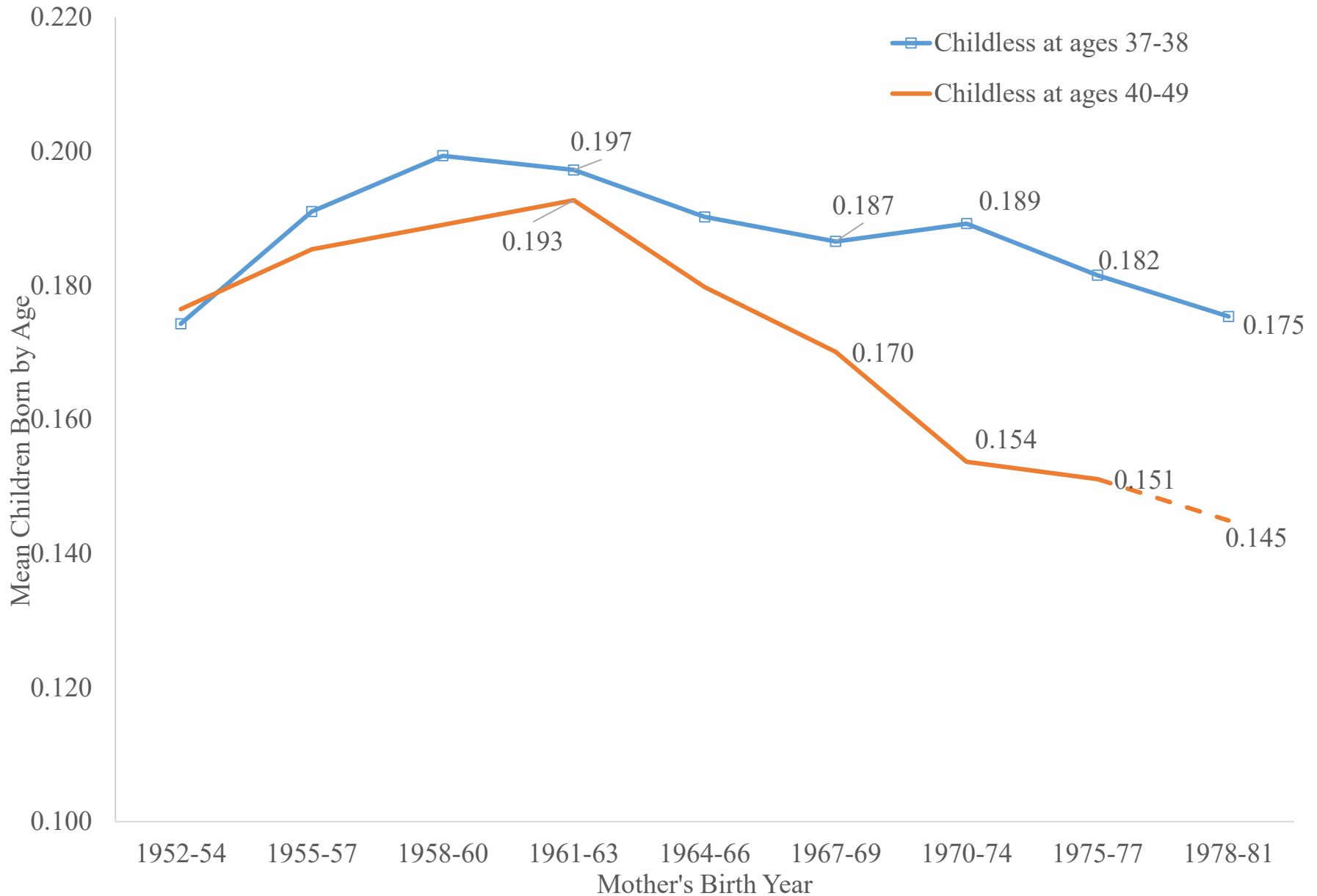
Childlessness by Age and Cohort



Childlessness by Age and Cohort



Childlessness by Age and Cohort



Bottom Line

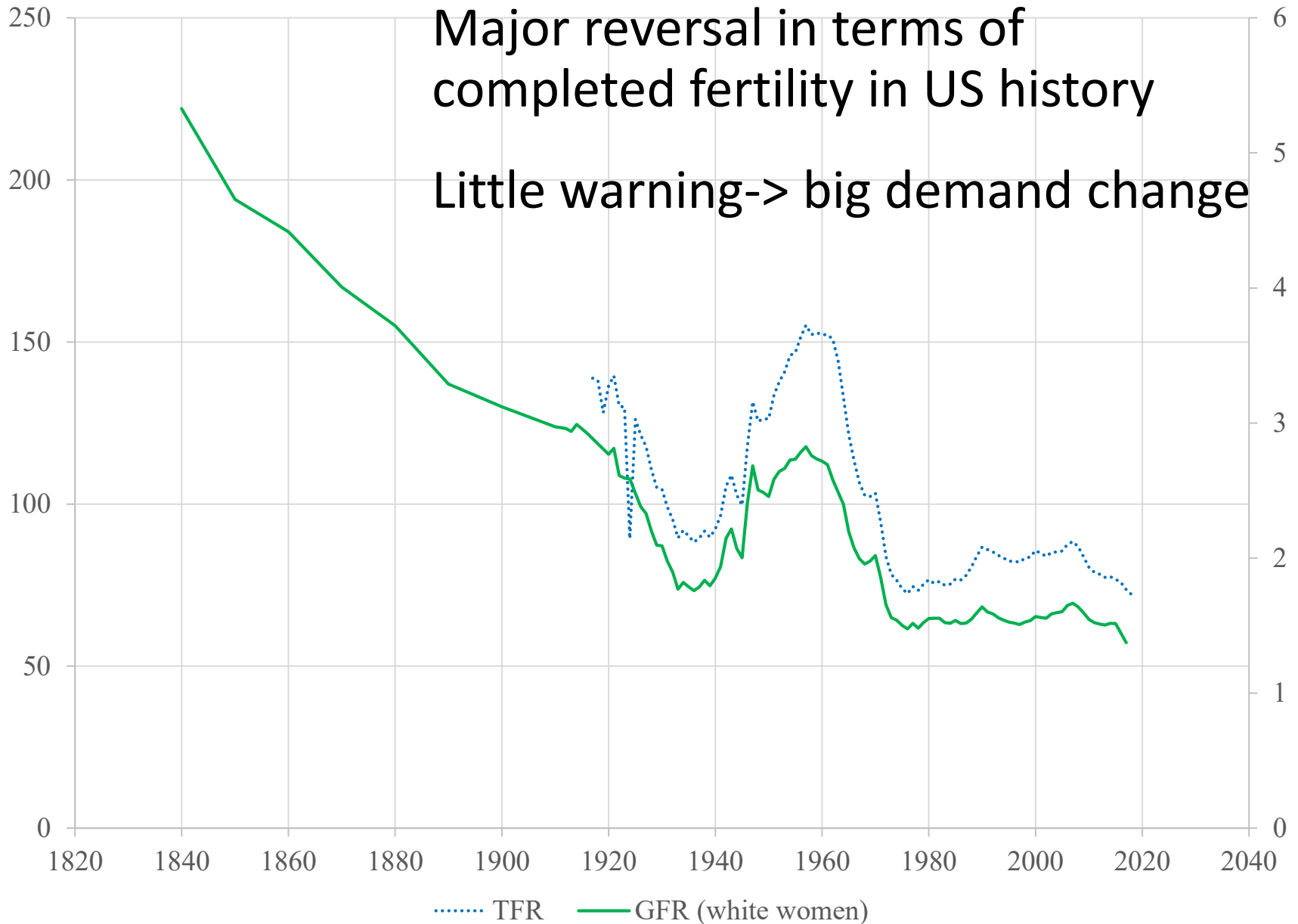
For women who have completed their childbearing,

1. Strong adherence to the 2-child norm
2. Slight reductions in childlessness
3. → Small, but detectable, increases in children born
4. Falling birth rates for younger women (born before 1981) appear to have reflected delay, not foregone childbearing

Women have more access than ever to information and medical reproductive technology, suggesting birth rates at later ages may continue to increase

Should we expect a reversal for women born after 1980?

Lessons from the Baby Boom



Lessons from the Baby Boom

During the baby boom

- Decline in birth rates and children born reversed
- Birth rates for all age groups increased at the same time
- Marriage rates skyrocketed
- Used the “tools” available: start early, end late

Explanations hard: affluence, sulfa drugs, work glut among older women driving out younger women

- Existing explanations are incomplete

What's Different Today?

A second demographic transition unfolding

- 2-child norm
- Low rates of childlessness
- Marriage/partnership rates highest ever
- Fading correlation of marriage to the start of childbearing
- Women have financial and legal access to modern contraception and abortion (until recently...)

See Bailey, Guldi and Hershbein (2012):

“Is There a Case for a Second Demographic Transition?”

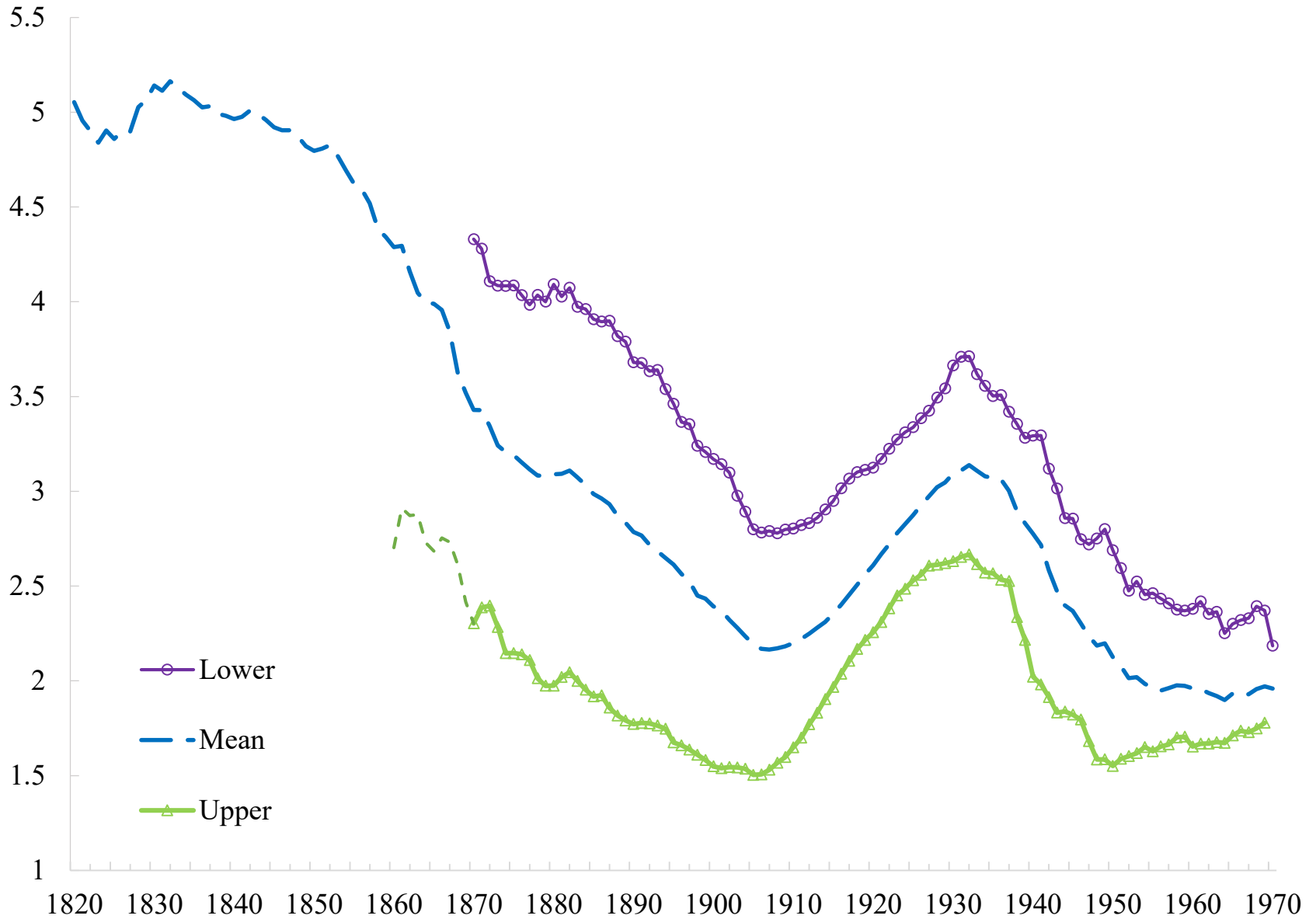
Second Demographic Transition Relates to Inequality

Use education quartile as measure of mother's SES

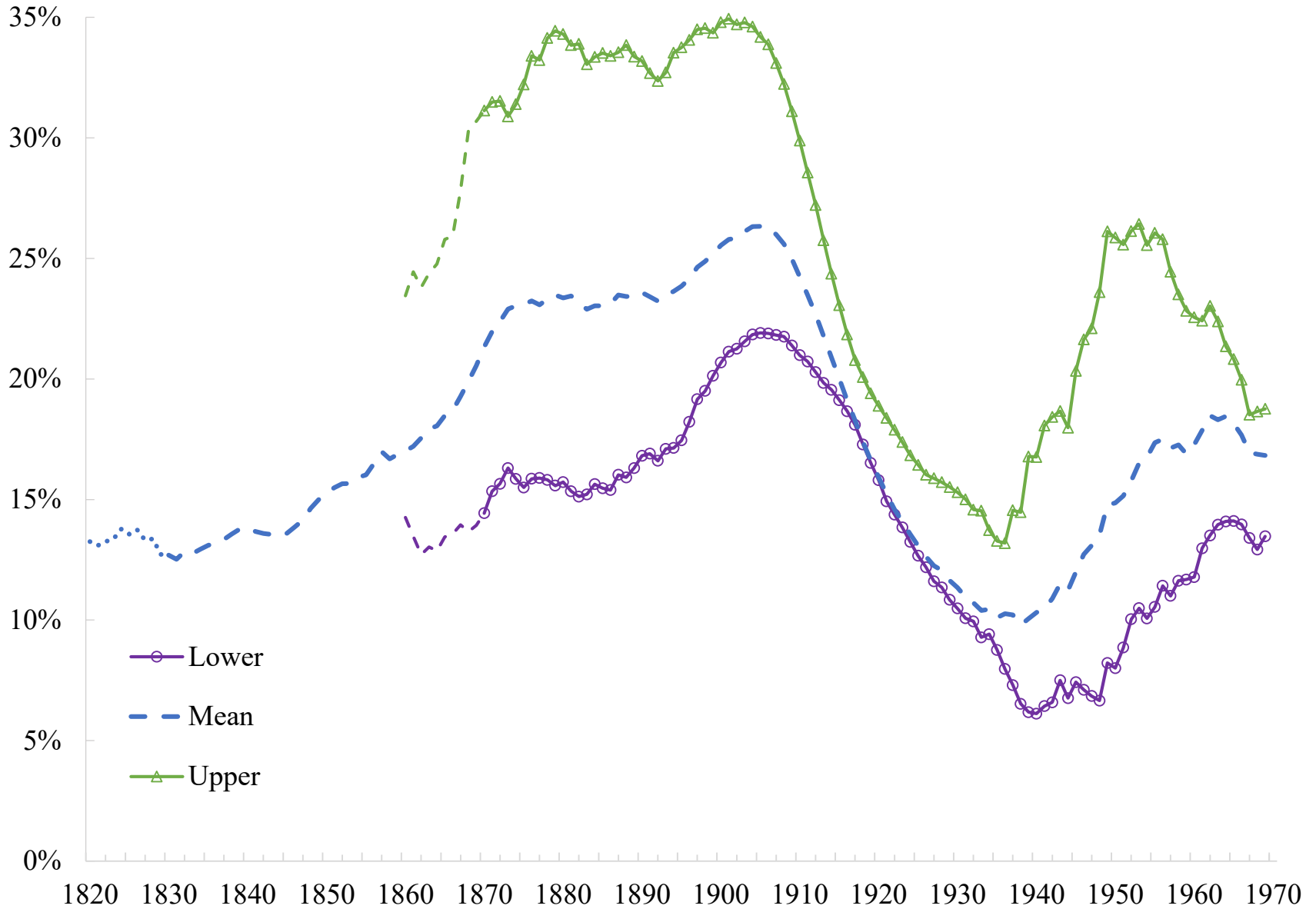
- Well measured even for non-working women
- Fairly stable marker
- Correlated with mother's own background
- Determines her mate and income
- Comparable across long periods of time

Compare outcomes of women in top education quartile to lowest education quartile

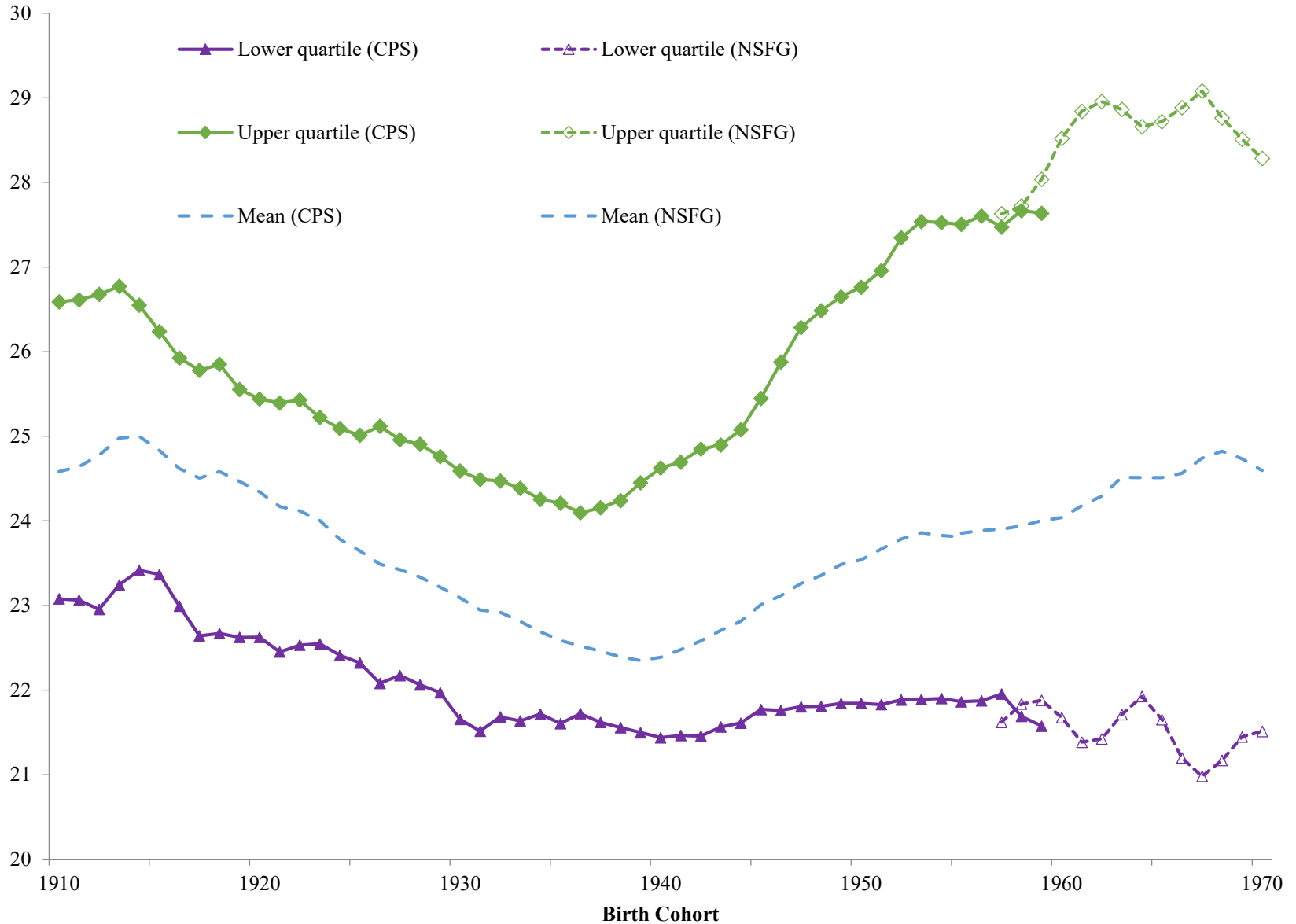
Mean Children Born | Age 44+



Percent Childless | Age 44+



Mean Age at First Birth | Age 44+



Implications for Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility

Tremendous changes in the composition of mothers and living circumstances of children.

More educated mothers

1. increasingly delay – AFB rising, ALB is rising
2. less likely to be childless
3. more likely to be in stable partnerships (2 incomes!)

Less educated mothers

1. have changed little – AFB stable, ALB rising
2. more likely to be childless
3. more likely to be in changing partnerships (uncertain incomes)

Without policy interventions, growing disparities in the productivity of workers

Thanks!

Find out more about these trends and my work by visiting my website at the University of Michigan:

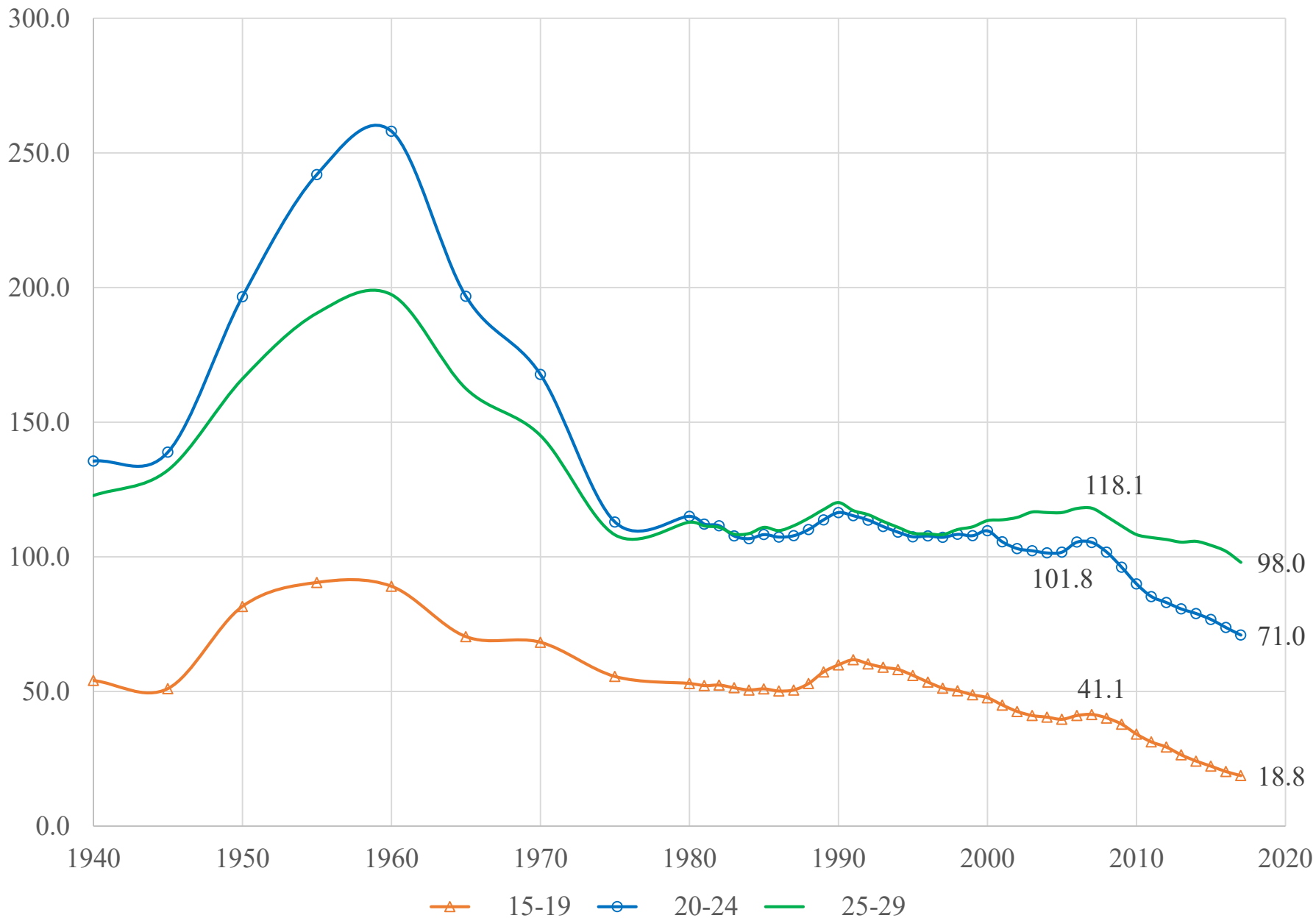
Martha Bailey: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~baileymj>

“Is there a Case for a 'Second Demographic Transition'? Three Distinctive Features of the Post-1960 U.S. Fertility Decline” (with Melanie Guldi and Brad J. Hershbein)”

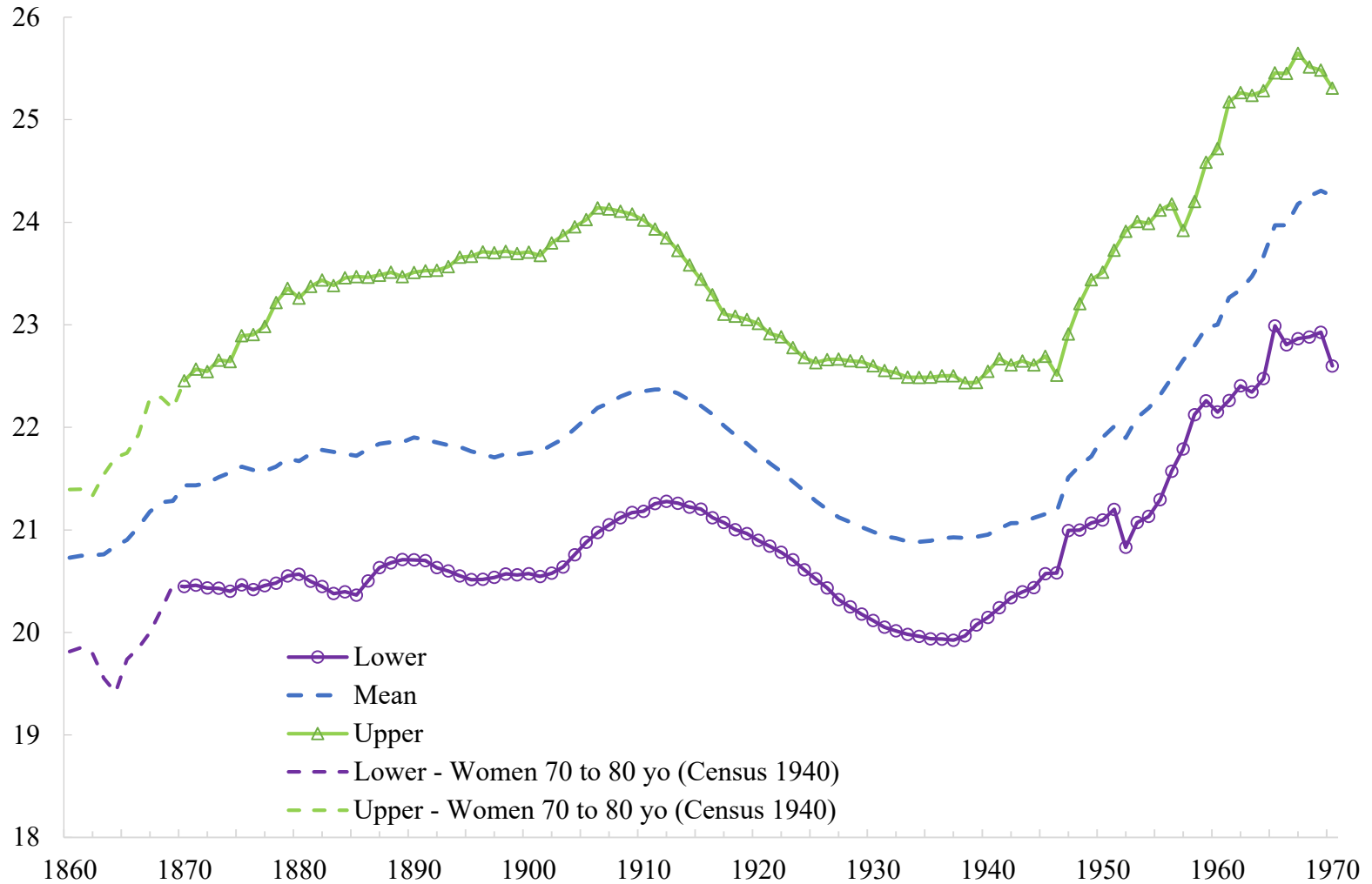
- NBER Working Paper 19599

Extra Slides

Birth Rates for Women in 20s Falling



Age at First Marriage



Non-Marital First Childbirth

