

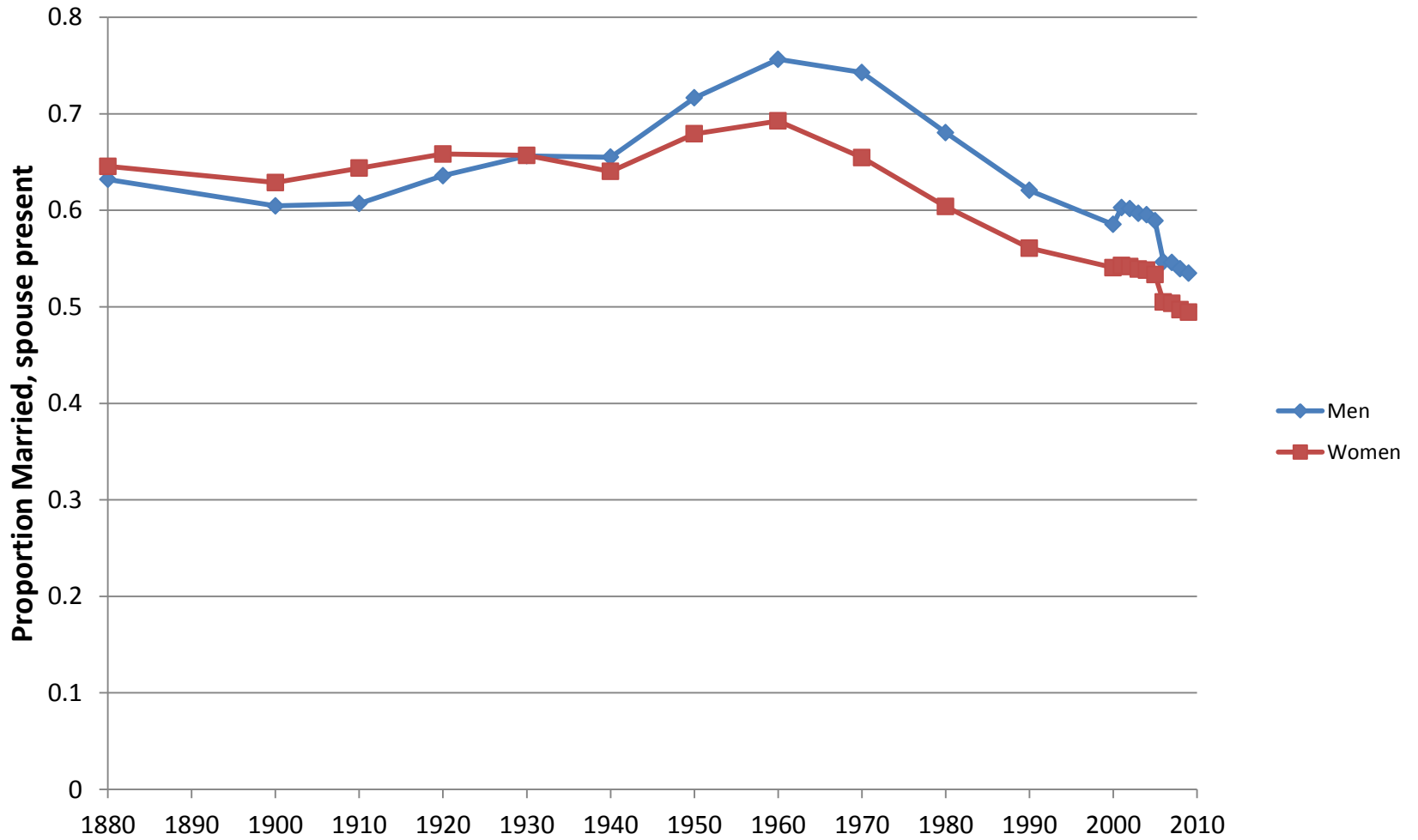
The Gender of Breakup in Heterosexual Couples

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The Post-1960 Decline of Marriage for adults 20 y.o. or older in the US



Source: Weighted US census microdata from ipums

Table 1: Women's role in the breakup of married and nonmarital heterosexual relationships

	N of breakups	Pct reporting that both partners equally wanted to break up	weighted mean of women wanting the breakup, pct	SE of mean	95% Confidence Interval
Married	92	19	69	4.3	(61,78)
reported by women	43		78	5.8	(66, 89)
reported by men	49		63	6.4	(50, 75)
Nonmarital, have cohabited as a couple	76	32	56	5.3	(47, 65)
reported by women	40		59	6.6	(46,72)
reported by men	36		52	6.8	(39, 66)
Nonmarital, never cohabited	203	35	53.4	2.8	(47.9,58.9)
reported by women	104		60	4.1	(52, 68)
reported by men	99		47	3.9	(39, 55)

Source: How Couples Meet and Stay Together, breakups from waves 2-5, covering 2009-2015. Data weighted by weight variable "weight2." Women's role is scored as follows: 0 if the male partner wanted the breakup more, 0.5 if both partners equally wanted the breakup, and 1 if the female partner wanted the breakup more.

Table 2: Coefficients (and standard errors) from Competing Risks Discrete Time Weighted Multinomial Logistic Models for Break-Up (compared to non-breakups) for Heterosexual Couples who are Married or who have Coresided

Predictors:	1d) female- other difference	2d) female-other difference	3d) Female-other difference
Married	0.91* (0.38)	0.90* (0.38)	1.08* (0.49)
Subject Female	0.59 (0.38)		
Her Relationship Quality		-0.34 (0.25)	-0.27 (0.29)
His Relationship Quality		0.12 (0.21)	0.16 (0.24)
Other Controls: Female Partner's Age, Female has BA, Female has more education, Relationship Duration, Whether female or male partner has more income.			

Source: HCMST, waves 1-5, for years 2009-2015. Regressions weighted by "weight2," as the probability weight, with robust standard errors, and clustering on individuals. Models exclude 9 subjects whose self-reported gender changed across survey waves. Relationship quality (5 point scale, 5 is best), female partner's educational attainment, and relative income of partners both measured at wave 1. Time varying variables are marriage, coresidence, living with children, age, relationship duration. The direct effect of gender (for women with relationship quality of zero, model 2 and 3), is not reported in the table. Female-Other Difference is (with letters indicating columns in the table above): $D=C-((B+A)/2)$

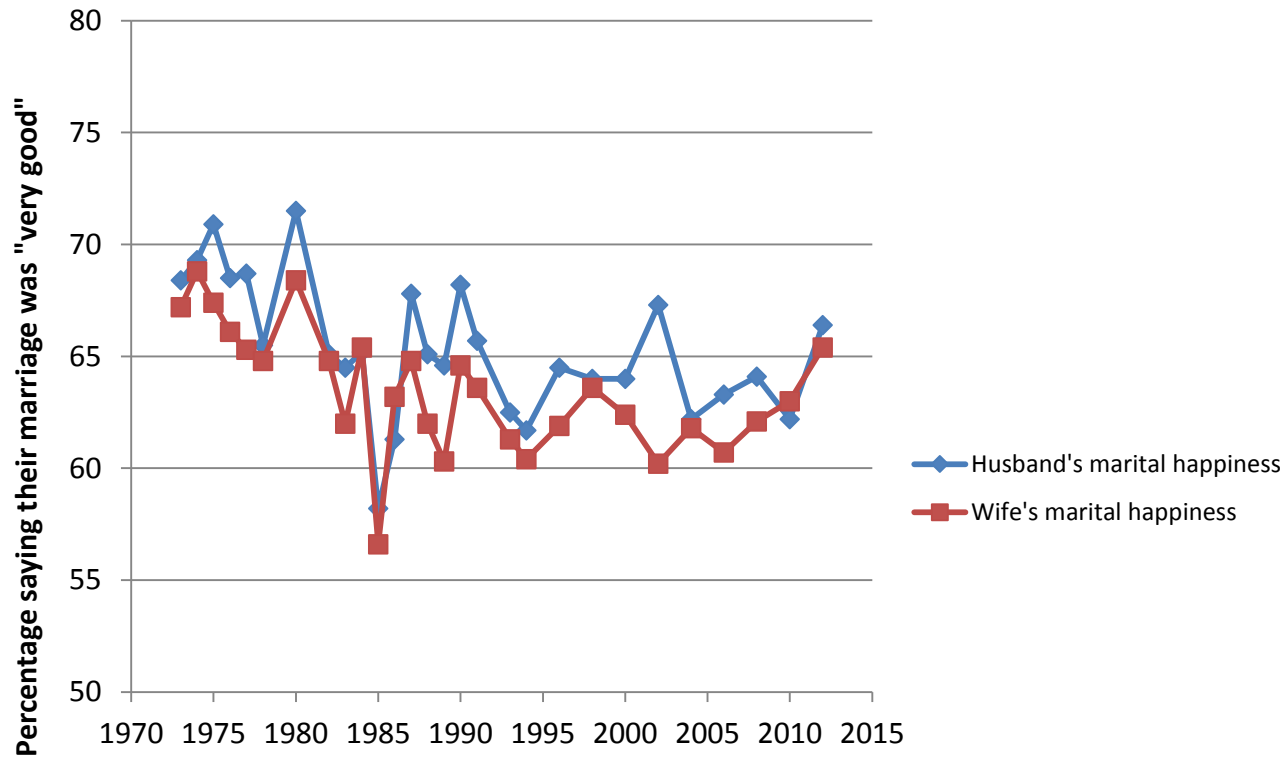
* P<0.05; ** P<0.01; *** P<0.001, two tailed tests.

Table 3: Relationship Quality at wave 1 for Married and Nonmarital Respondents in Heterosexual Unions, by Gender

	all wave 1 subjects				excluding subjects who later broke up		
	Married	Nonmarital, Cohabiting	Nonmarital, Non cohabiters		Married	Nonmarital Cohabitors	Nonmarital, Non cohabiters
Men	4.61	4.22	4.25	Men	4.65	4.35	4.42
Women	4.46	4.29	4.34	Women	4.50	4.37	4.49
N	1,826	251	446	N	1,733	189	219
Male-Female Difference	0.15***	-0.07	-0.09	Male-Female Difference	0.15***	-0.02	-0.07

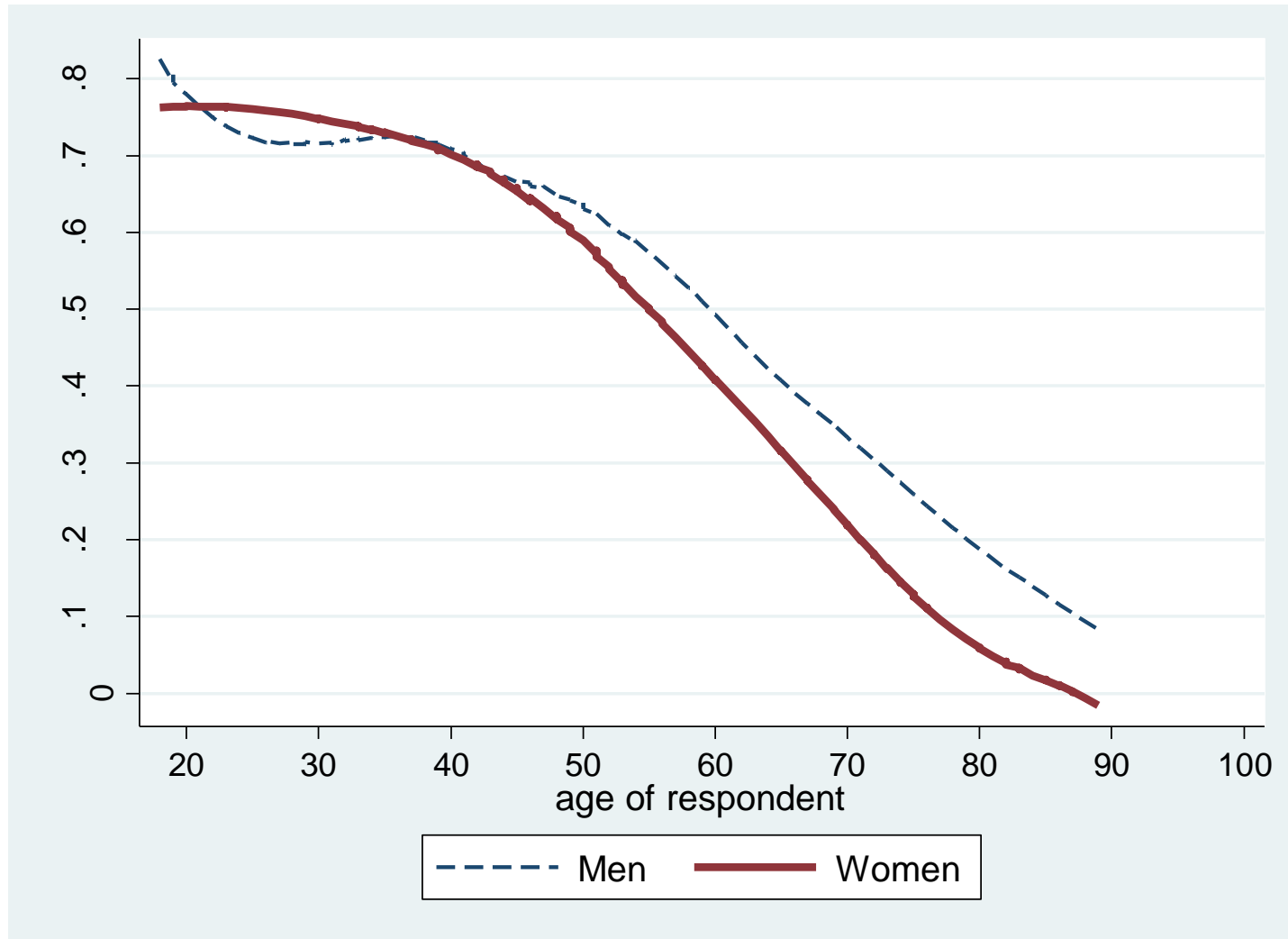
Source: HCMST wave 1 data, relationship quality scores weighted by variable “weight2.” Relationship quality was scored on a 1-5 scale, 5 being the best relationship quality. Relationship quality, Marriage and Coresidence were measured at wave 1, excluding individuals with inconsistent gender reports in later waves of the background survey.

Marital Happiness by Gender, GSS 1973-2012



Source: weighted data from GSS. Question text: "Taking all things together, how would you describe your marriage?", with answers 1 "Very Happy," 2 "Pretty Happy," and 3 "Not Too Happy." In this figure, marital happiness equals answer 1, "Very Happy."

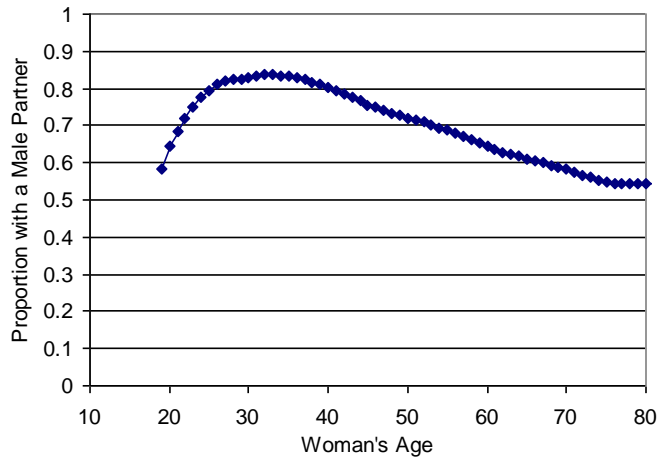
The proportion of unmarried people who want to marry, by age and gender, from GSS 1996 and 1998



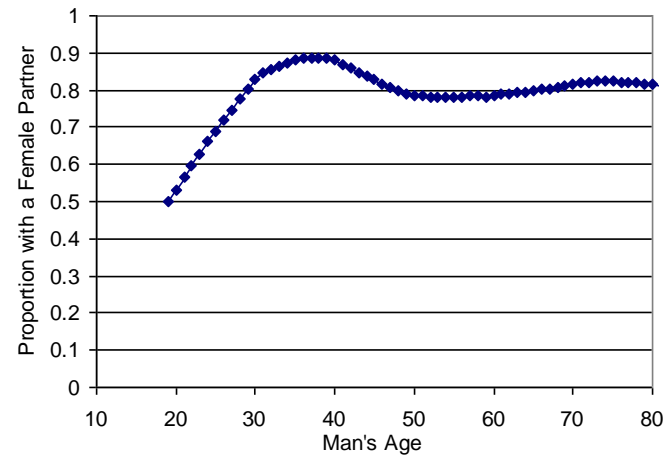
Willwed2 Question text: "If the right person came along, would you like to be married?" Smoothed via Lowess.

Women over 50 are the only age/gender group who are in a tight dating market who are ***not*** turning to online dating

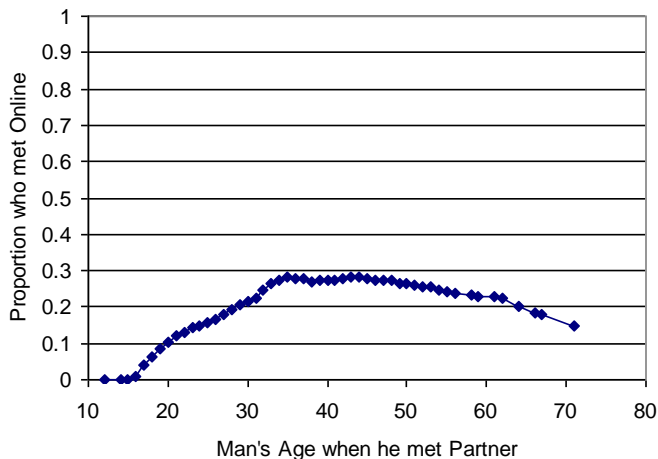
Heterosexual Women Partnership Rate



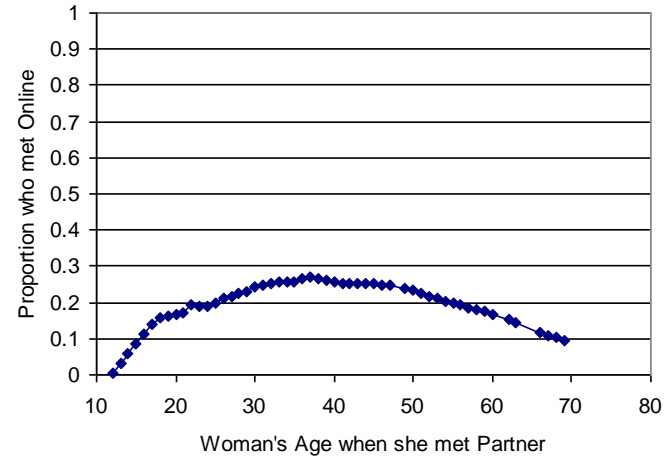
Heterosexual Men Partnership Rate



Proportion of Men Who met their Partner Online



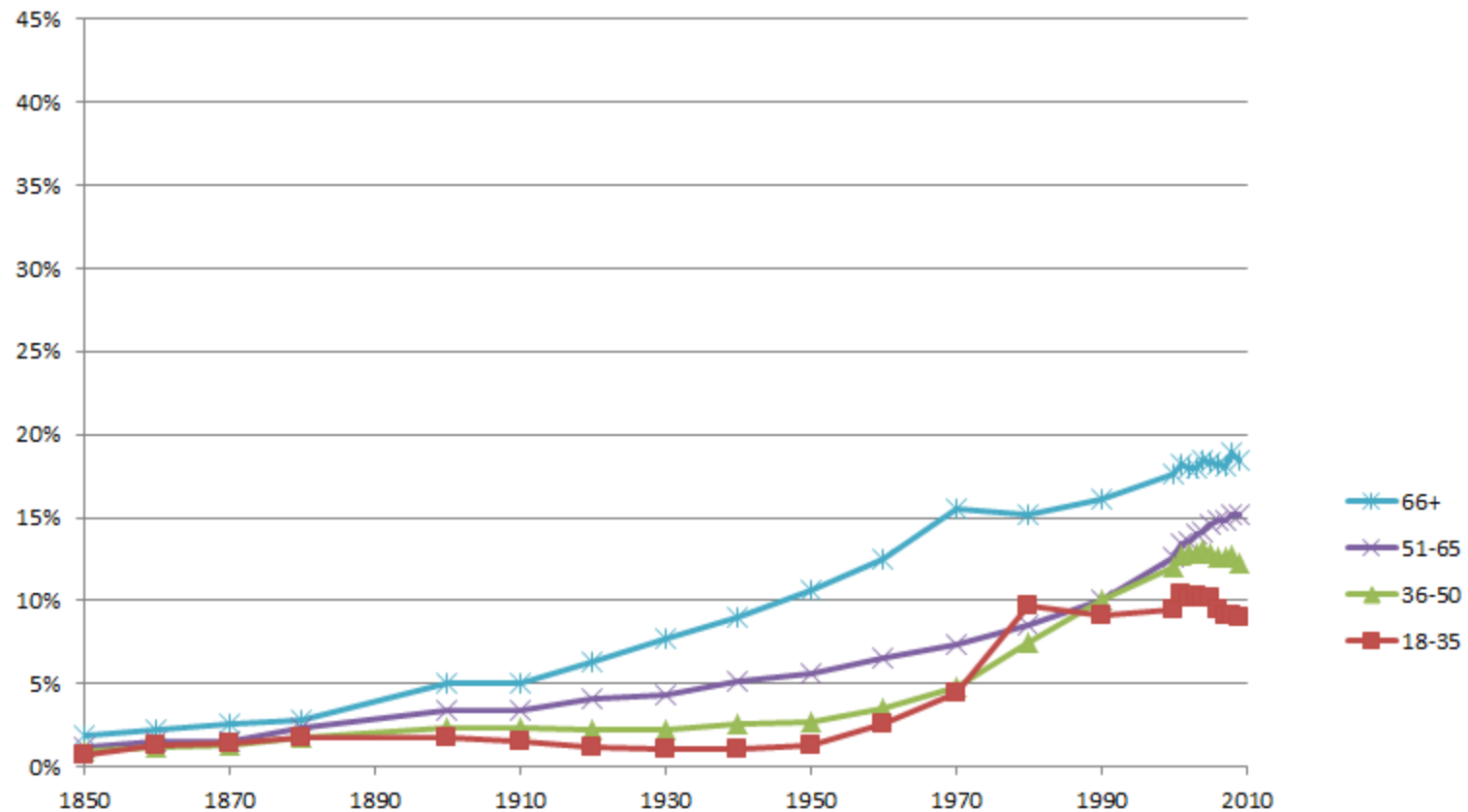
Proportion of Women Who met their Partner Online



Source: HCMST survey, Wave I. Notes: Graphs smoothed by Lowess local regressions, bandwidth 0.5

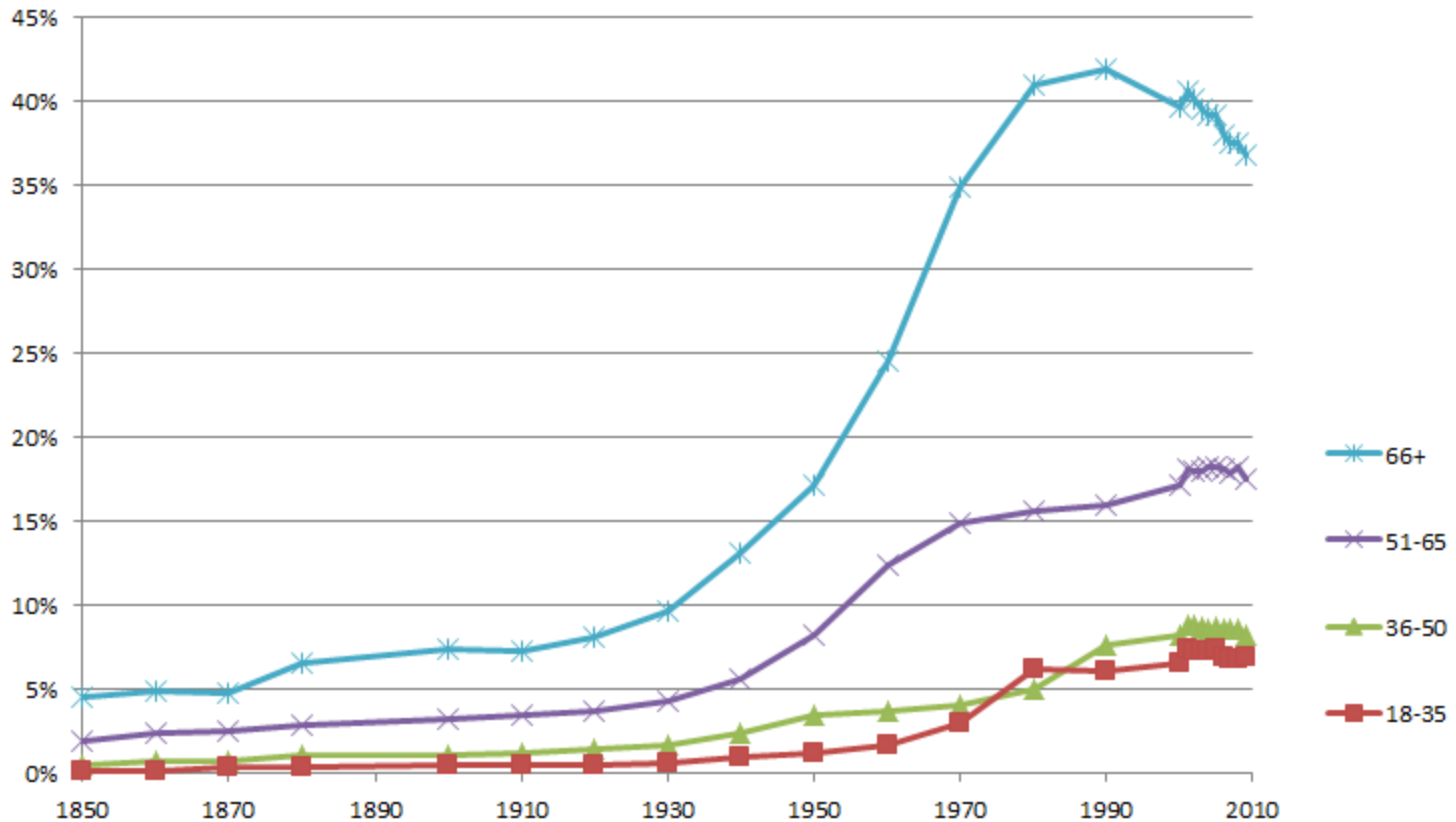
Proportion partnered is graphed against current age. Proportion meeting online is graphed against respondent's age when the respondent first met the partner, for couples who met during 2000-2009. Adapted from Rosenfeld and Thomas ASR 2012.

**Figure 4: The Rise of Solo Living:
The Percentage of Men in the US who live alone,
by age**



© M.J. Rosenfeld 2012. Source: Weighted UC census data 1850-2000, weighted data from the American Community Survey 2001-2009, via ipums. Includes all men living in the US at the time of the survey, regardless of nativity. Anyone living in group quarters (i.e. dormitories, assisted living, or state facilities) is excluded from the sample.

**Figure 5: The Rise of Solo Living:
The Percentage of Women in the US who live alone
by age**



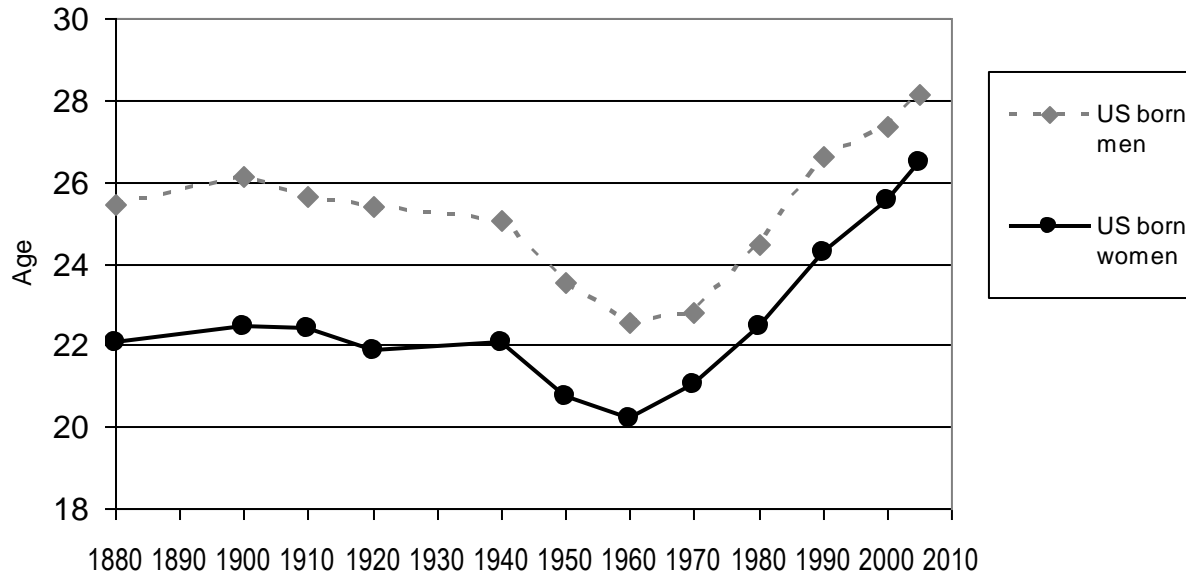
© M.J. Rosenfeld 2012. Source: Weighted US census data 1850-2000, weighted data from the American Community Survey 2001-2009, via ipums. Includes all women living in the US at the time of the survey, regardless of nativity. Anyone living in group quarters (i.e. dormitories, assisted living, or state facilities) is excluded from the sample.

One woman who divorced her husband wrote:

“I used to be a very happy optimistic person and it was like he was slowly starving my soul. I didn’t like the way he treated me, and finally realized that he was abusive. I didn’t know that such a thing existed until I researched it. Once I realized [what] was going on was abuse, I started the proceedings for a divorce.”

Source: HCMST

Figure 3: Median Age at First Marriage



Source: Weighted Census Microdata via IPUMS, 1% files 1880, 1900-1920, 1940-1970, weighted 5% files 1980-2000, and ACS 2005

Table 2: Coefficients (and standard errors) from Competing Risks Discrete Time Weighted Multinomial Logistic Models for Break-Up (compared to non-breakups) for Heterosexual Couples who are Married or who have Coresided

Predictors:	Model 1 1c)				Model 2				Model 3			
	1a) Male wanted Breakup	1b) Both wanted breakup	Female wanted breakup	1d) female- other difference	2a) Male Breakup	2b) both wanted break up	2c) Female breakup	2d) female- other difference	3a) Male Breakup	3b) both wanted break up	3c) Female wanted breakup	3d) Female- other difference
Married	-2.55*** (0.38)	-2.82*** (0.37)	-1.77*** (0.28)	0.91* (0.38)	-2.41*** (0.39)	-2.66*** (0.37)	-1.63*** (0.28)	0.90* (0.38)	-2.25*** (0.55)	-2.40*** (0.47)	-1.24*** (0.33)	1.08* (0.49)
Subject Female	-0.30 (0.40)	-0.43 (0.39)	0.22 (0.27)	0.59 (0.38)								
Her Relat. Quality					-0.44+ (0.25)	-0.66* (0.33)	-0.89*** (0.15)	-0.34 (0.25)	-0.40 (0.27)	-0.88* (0.41)	-0.91*** (0.16)	-0.27 (0.29)
His Relat. Quality					-1.18*** (0.21)	-0.95*** (0.22)	-0.95*** (0.18)	0.12 (0.21)	-1.21* (0.36)	-1.02*** (0.24)	-0.96*** (0.19)	0.16 (0.24)
female partner's age									-0.0024 (0.017)	-0.055** (0.020)	-0.031* (0.012)	-0.0017 (0.018)
female partner has BA									-0.39 (0.59)	-0.18 (0.45)	-0.43 (0.31)	-0.14 (0.48)
female has more education									0.44 (0.37)	-0.19 (0.42)	0.36 (0.28)	0.23 (0.39)
1/(Rel Duration)									0.11* (0.047)	-1.18 (0.96)	0.016 (0.088)	0.55 (0.47)
Same income (ref: male more)									0.012 (0.64)	1.36*** (0.41)	0.60 (0.38)	-0.085 (0.55)
Female makes more income									-0.080 (0.45)	-0.52 (0.57)	0.031 (0.36)	0.33 (0.50)
Wald χ^2	145.9				274.1				407.8			
Pseudo R- square	0.067				0.107				0.126			
N of Couple- Months	97,376				97,039				95,845			