

Long-Term Trends of Differential Racial Fertility in the United States

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**Period and cohort fertility dynamics in the developed world
The first Human Fertility Database Symposium**



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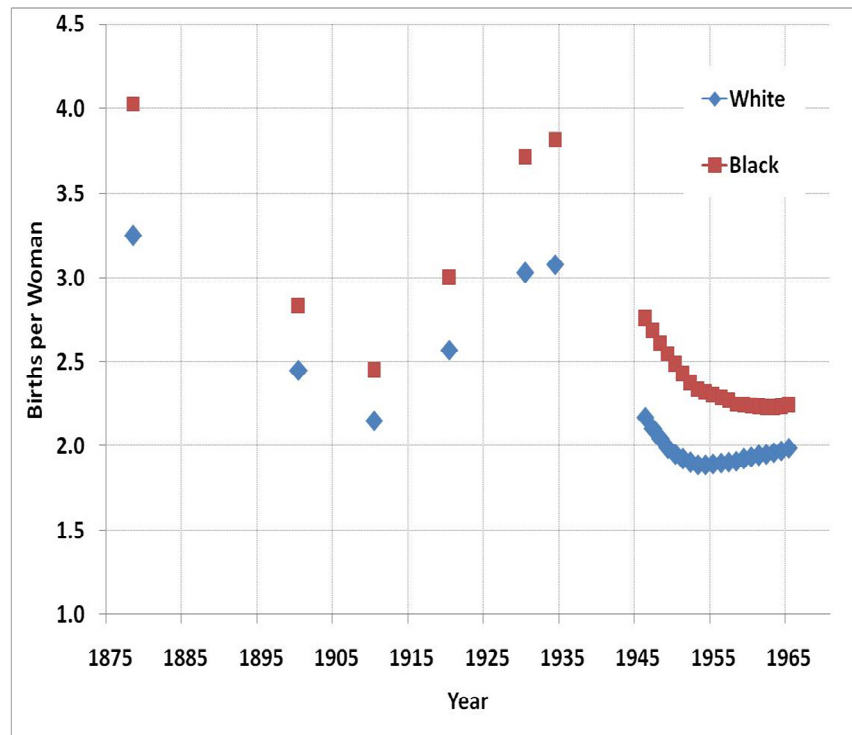
- A. Fertility rates – Statistics**
- B. Fertility rates – Analysis**
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- D. Qualitative analysis – socio-economic, cultural, psychological circumstances**
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Conclusions

- **Rapid black fertility decline in recent 3-4 decades**
- **In 2000s white and black fertility almost equal**
- **Rapid decline of large black families (birth order three and more)**
- **Relatively low black childbearing recuperation (recovery of delayed births)**
- **Extremely low black marriage rates (33 percent of black women 30-44 in 2007)**
- **Economic standing lower than whites – but rapid improvement**
- **Educational attainment lower than whites – but rapid improvement**
- **Institution of marriage important, esp. for middle-class black women**
- **Numerous barriers to marriage and childbearing**
 - a. **Shortage of male partners – low economic and educational quality of men**
 - b. **Men dominate relationship market due to numerical imbalance**
 - c. **Problems with attitudes to childbearing**
 - d. **Marriage tensions may lead to high divorce rates**
 - e. **Many cultural and psychological barriers**

Total cohort fertility rate

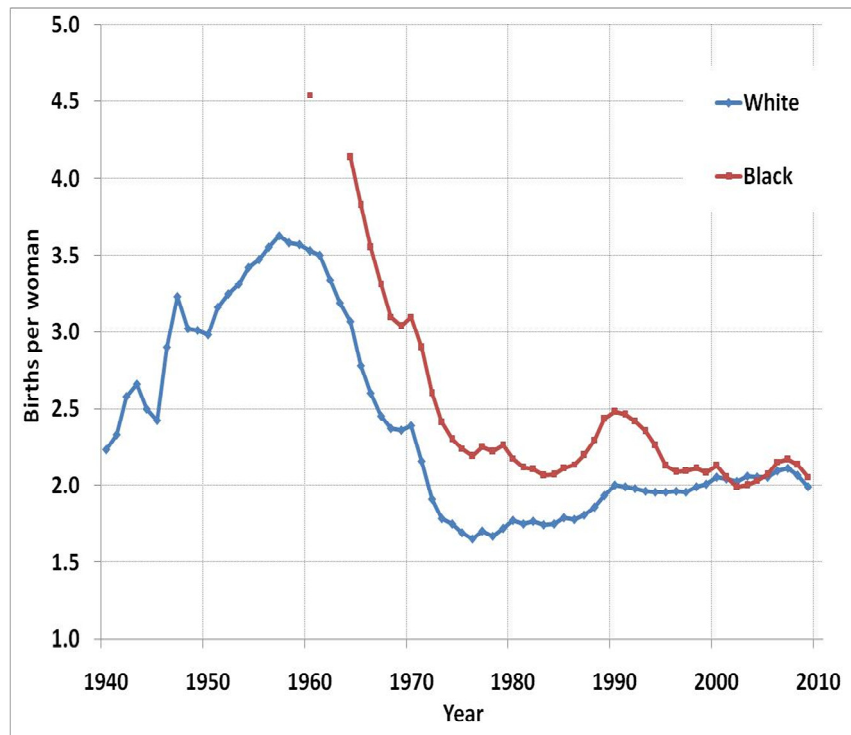
Birth cohorts 1878 – 1965



Source: Heuser 1976 (pages 144, 171, 222), Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010

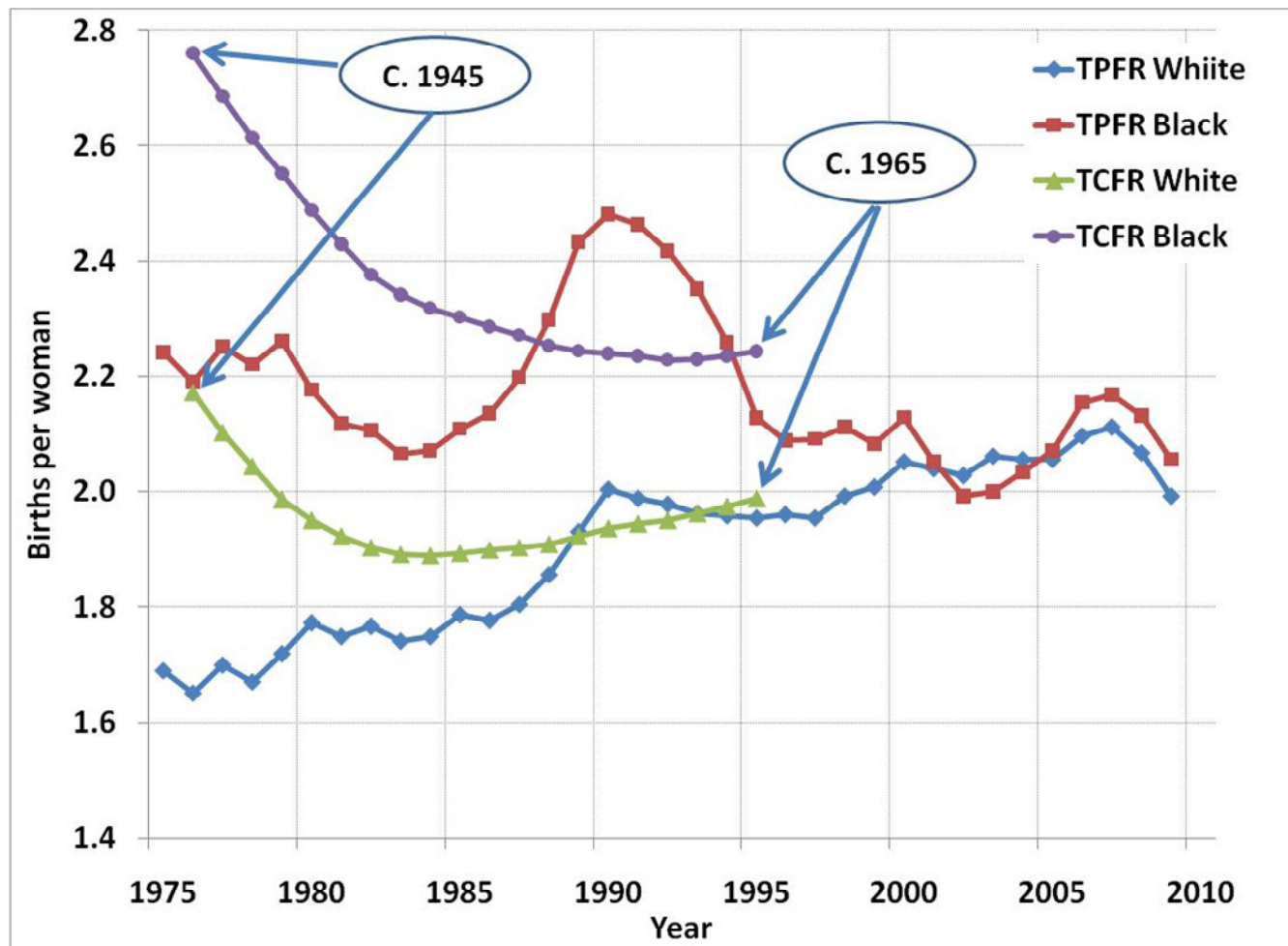
Total period fertility rate

1940 - 2009



Source: NCHS 2011

Total period fertility rates, 1975-2009
Total cohort fertility rates, birth cohorts 1946-1965



Source: Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010, NCHS 2011

Total cohort fertility rates

Birth cohorts 1878, 1910, 1934

	TCFR of cohort born in			1910 as % of 1878	1934 as % of 1910
	1878	1910	1934		
All women	3.3	2.2	3.2	66	145
White	3.3	2.2	3.1	66	143
Nonwhite	4.0	2.5	3.8	61	156
Black as % of White	124	114	124		

Source: Heuser 1976 (pages 144, 171, 222),

Birth cohorts 1946, 1955, 1965

	TCFR of cohort born in			1965 as % of 1946
	1946	1955	1965	
All women	2.2	2.0	2.0	90
White	2.2	1.9	2.0	92
Black	2.8	2.3	2.2	81
Black as % of White	127	122	113	

Source: Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010,

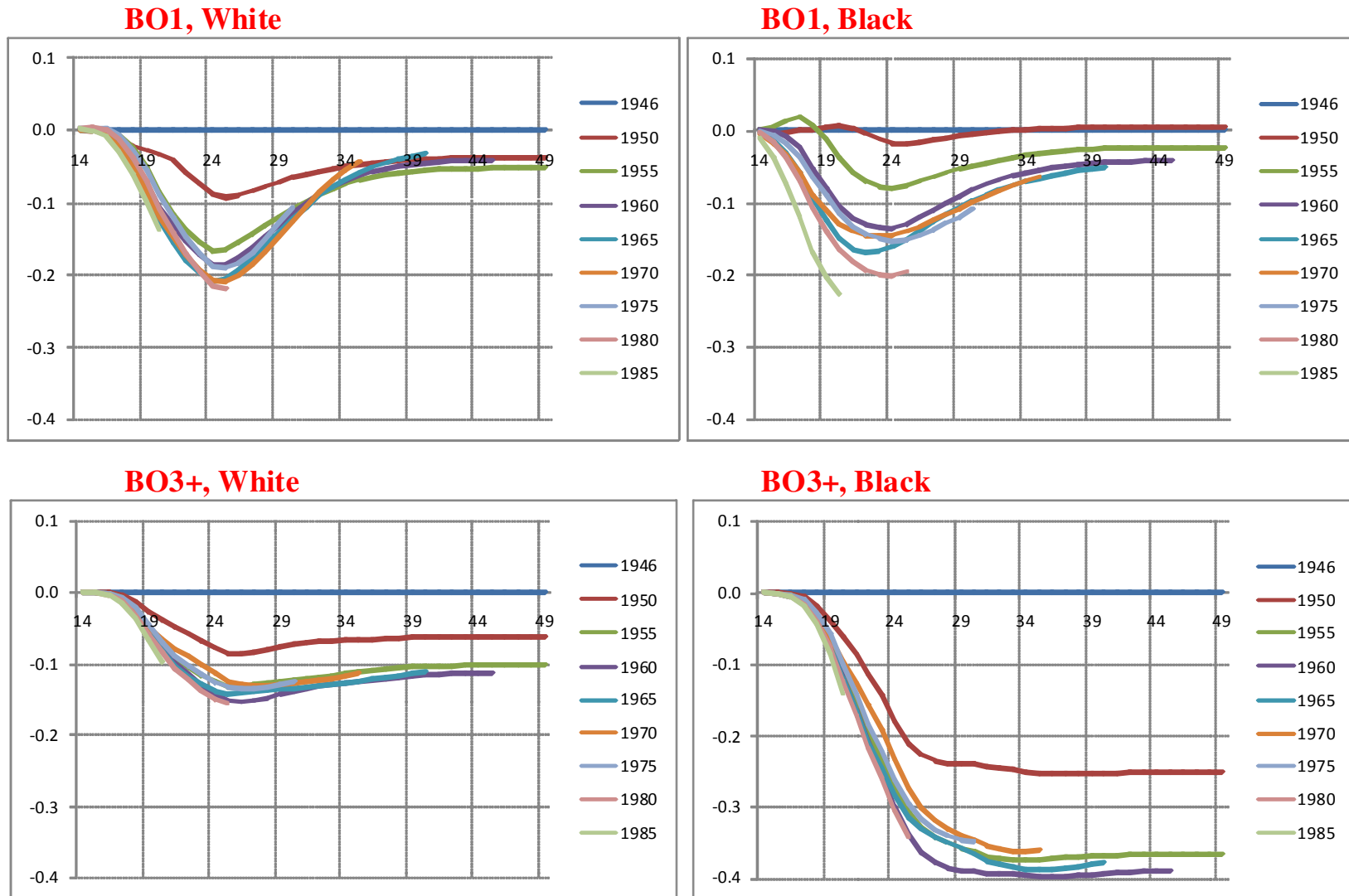
Total cohort fertility rates

Birth cohorts 1946, 1955, 1965, by birth orders

	TCFR of cohort born in			1965 as % of 1946
	1946	1955	1965	
All BOs, All races	2.25	1.96	2.03	90
White				
All BOs	2.17	1.89	1.99	92
BO 1	0.87	0.82	0.84	96
BO 2	0.71	0.64	0.66	92
BO 3+	0.58	0.44	0.49	84
Black				
All BOs	2.76	2.30	2.24	81
BO 1	0.93	0.90	0.88	94
BO 2	0.75	0.69	0.67	88
BO 3+	1.08	0.71	0.70	65
Black as % of White				
All BOs	127	122	113	
BO 1	106	111	105	
BO 2	106	108	101	
BO 3+	184	162	143	

Source: Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010

Cumulated cohort fertility rates, benchmark comparisons, US, White & Black, 1946 – 1985 (benchmark cohort 1946)

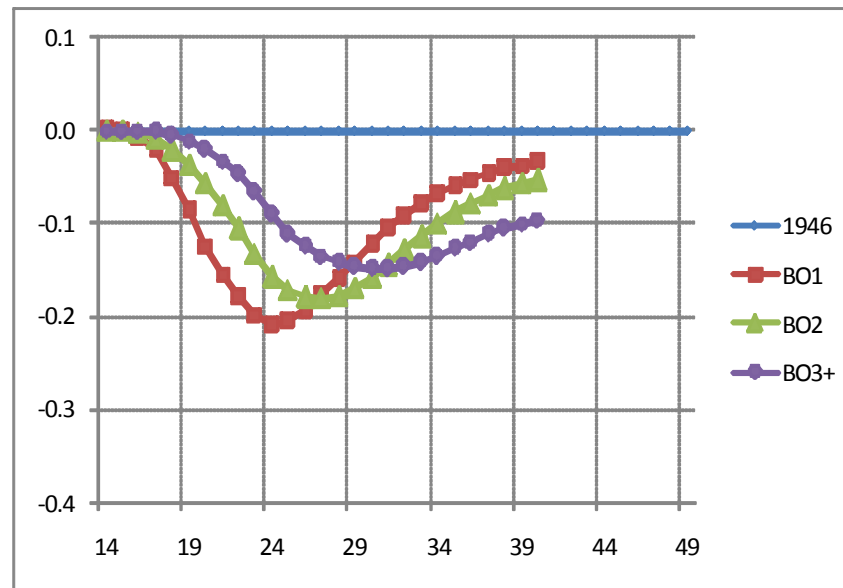


Source: Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010

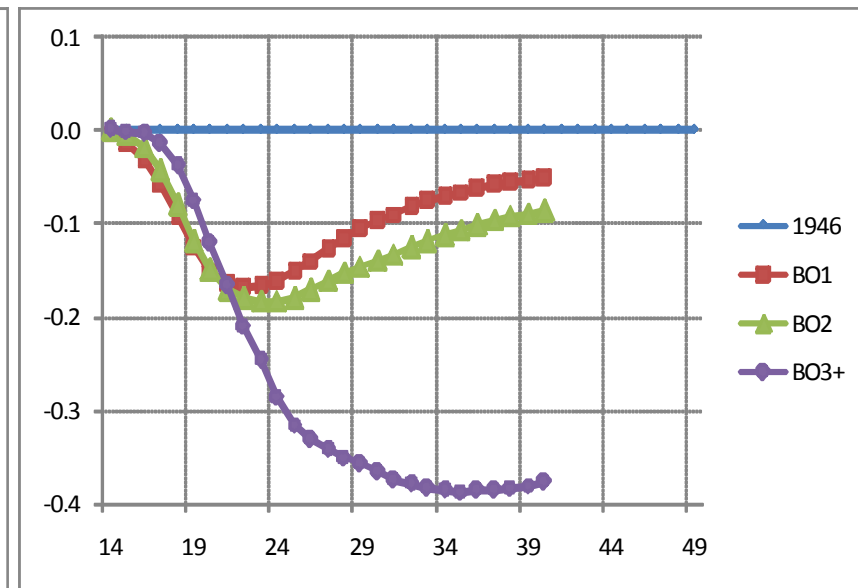
Cumulated cohort fertility rates, US, White & Black

Birth cohort 1965 compared to 1946, by birth order

White



Black

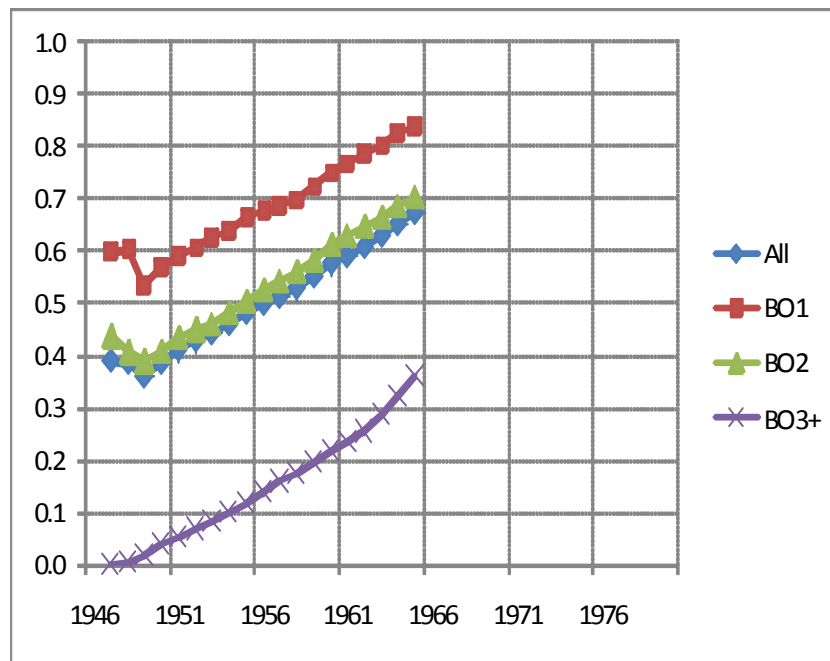


Source: Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010

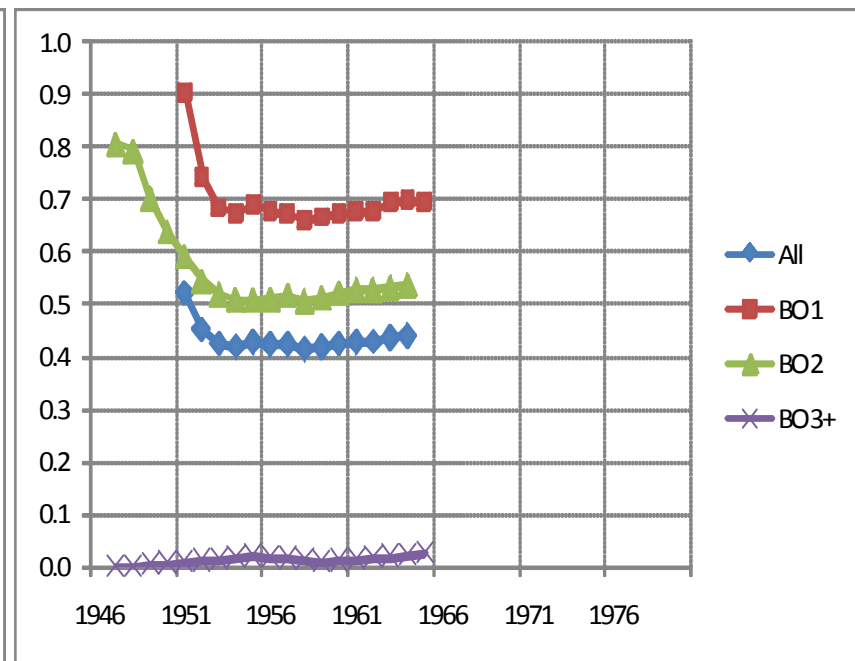
Recuperation indices, United States

Birth cohorts 1946 - 1965, by birth orders

White



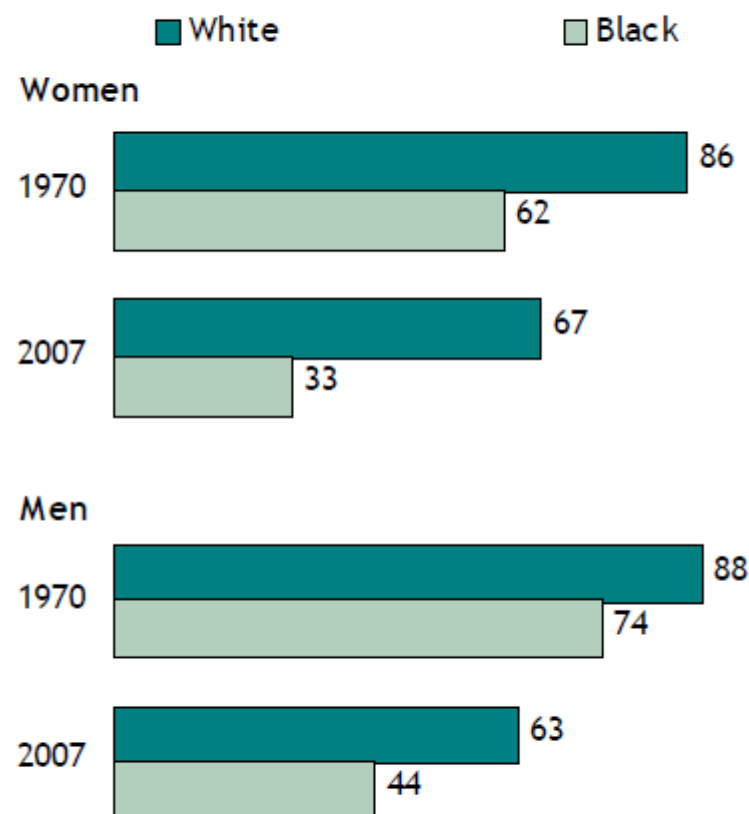
Black



Source: Hamilton & Cosgrove 2010

Racial Differences in Share of Adults Currently Married, 1970 and 2007

%



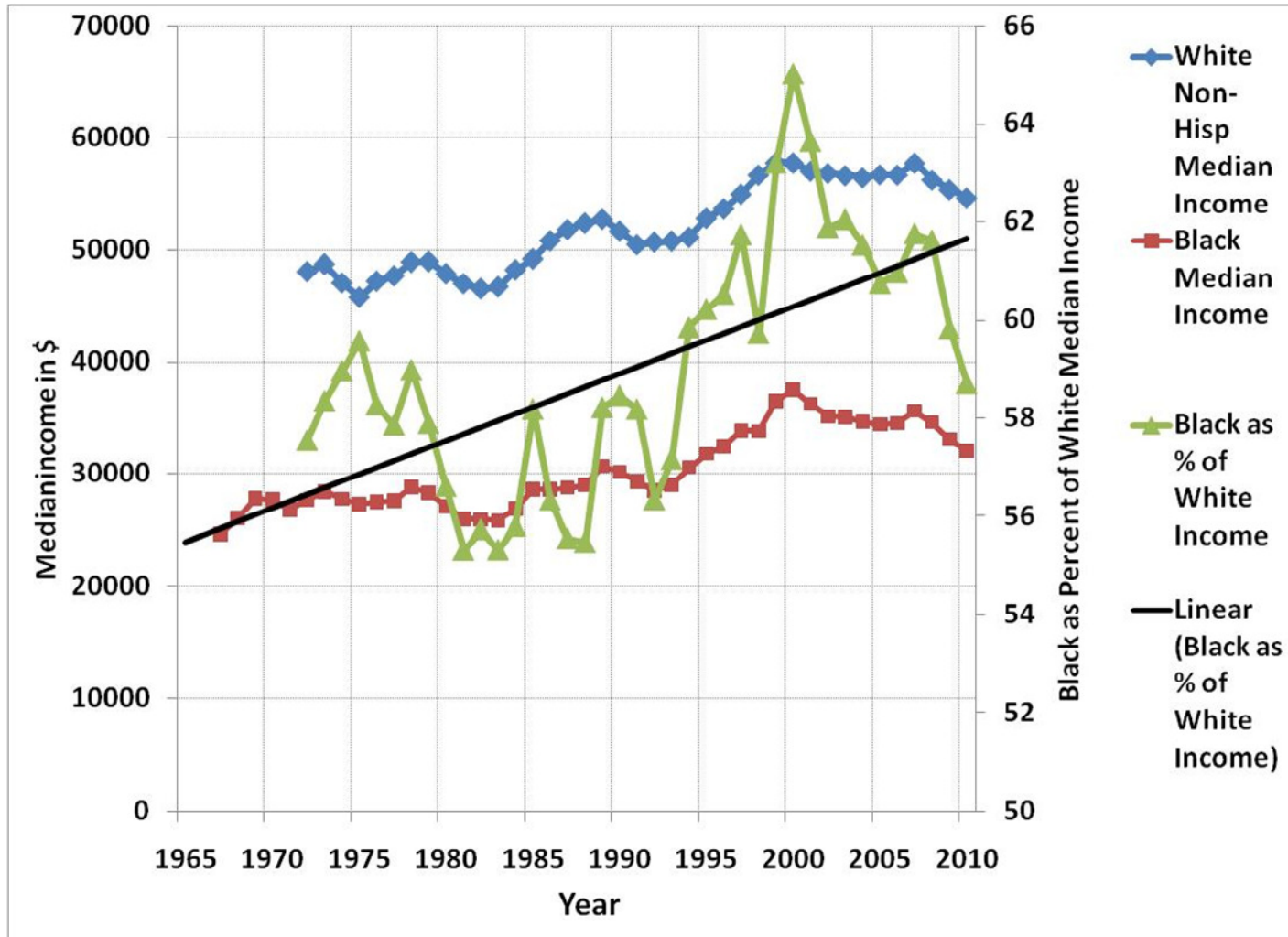
Notes: Includes only native-born 30- to 44-year-olds.

Source: Decennial Censuses and 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) Integrated Public Use Micro Samples (IPUMS)

PewResearchCenter

Households by Total Money Income and Race of Householder

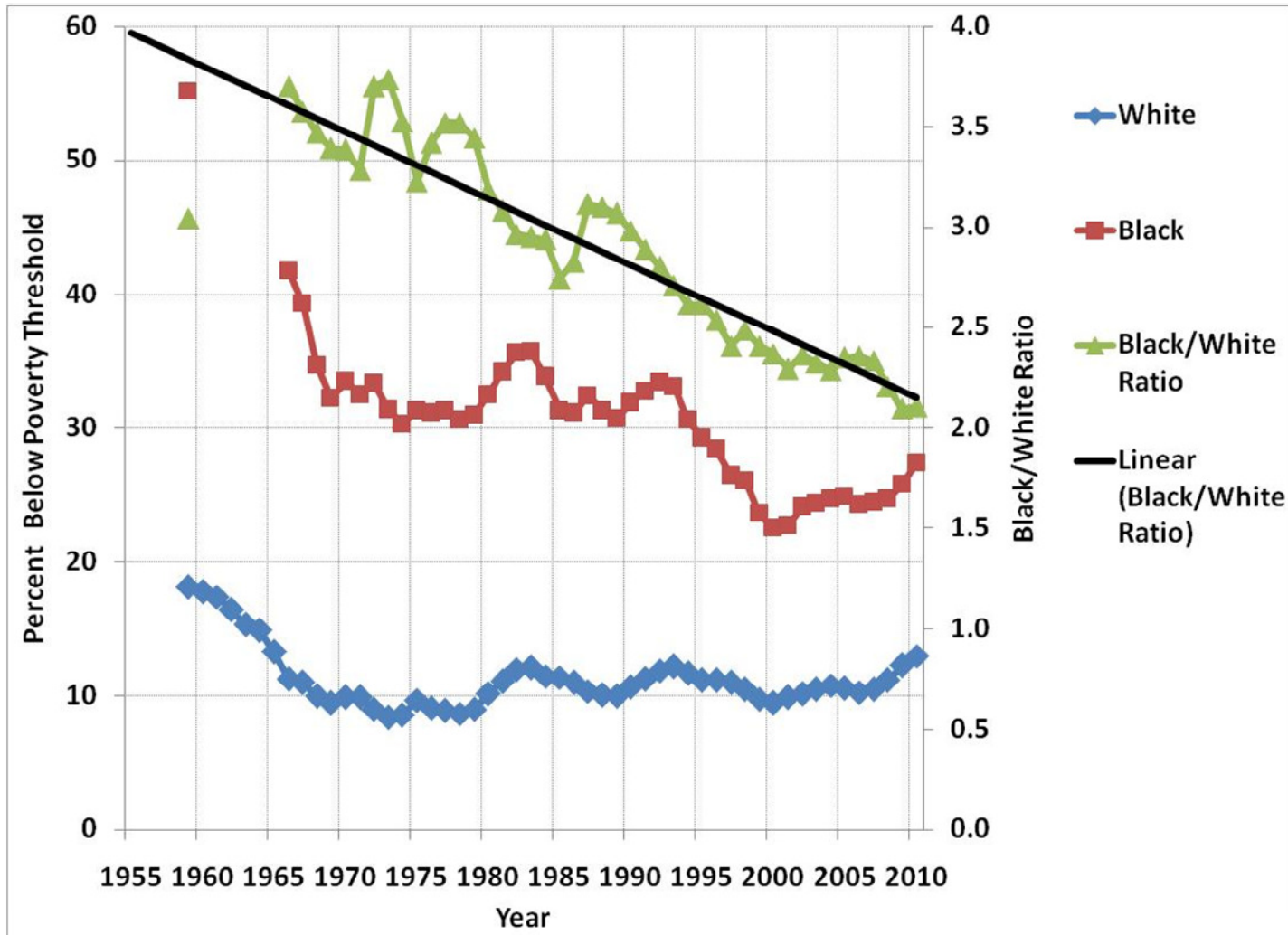
Black as percent of White Income, 1967 to 2010



Source: DeNavas-Walt et al. 2011, Table A-2

Poverty Status of People by Race

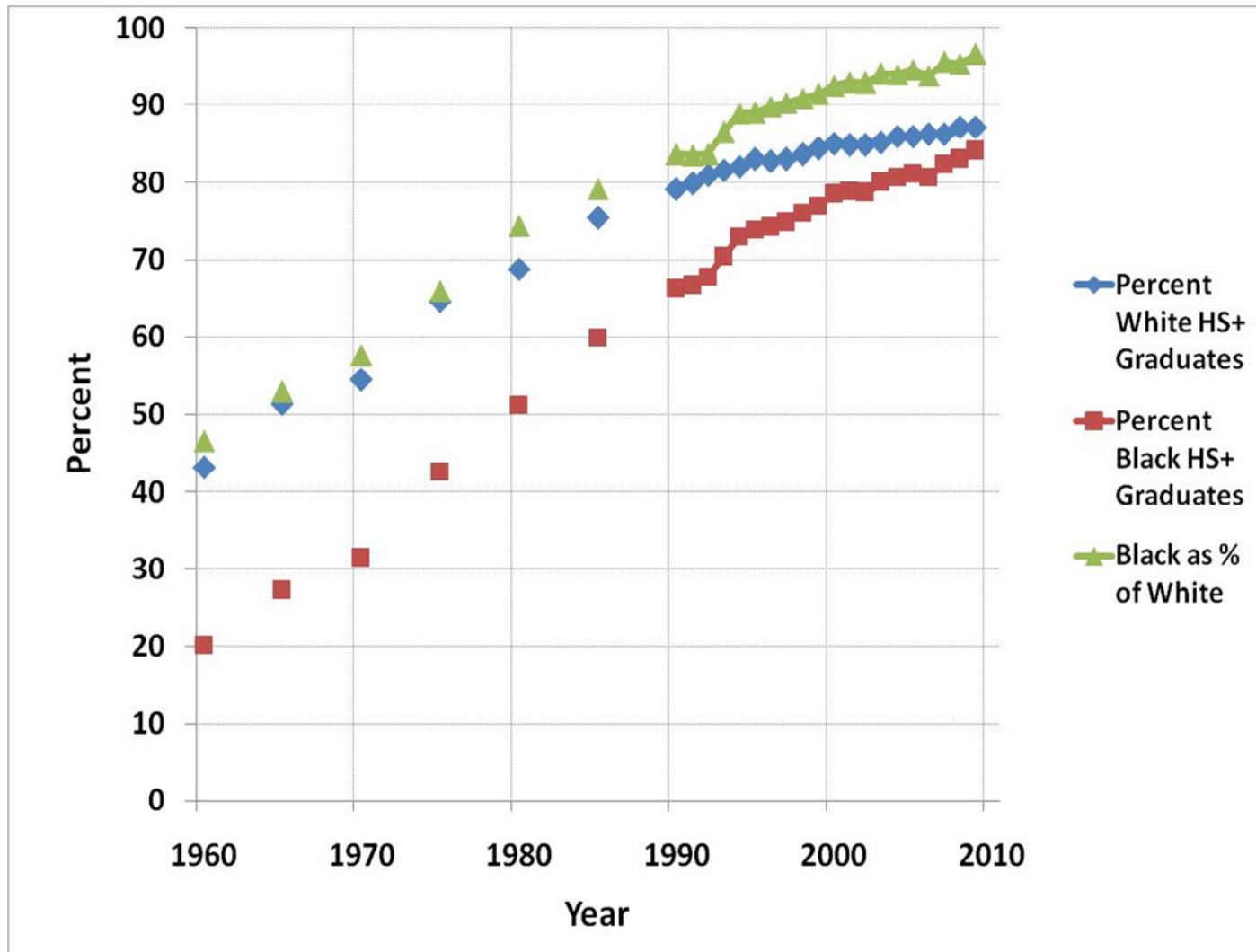
Black/White Poverty Ratio, 1959 to 2010



Source: DeNavas-Walt et al. 2011, Table A-2

Educational attainment by race

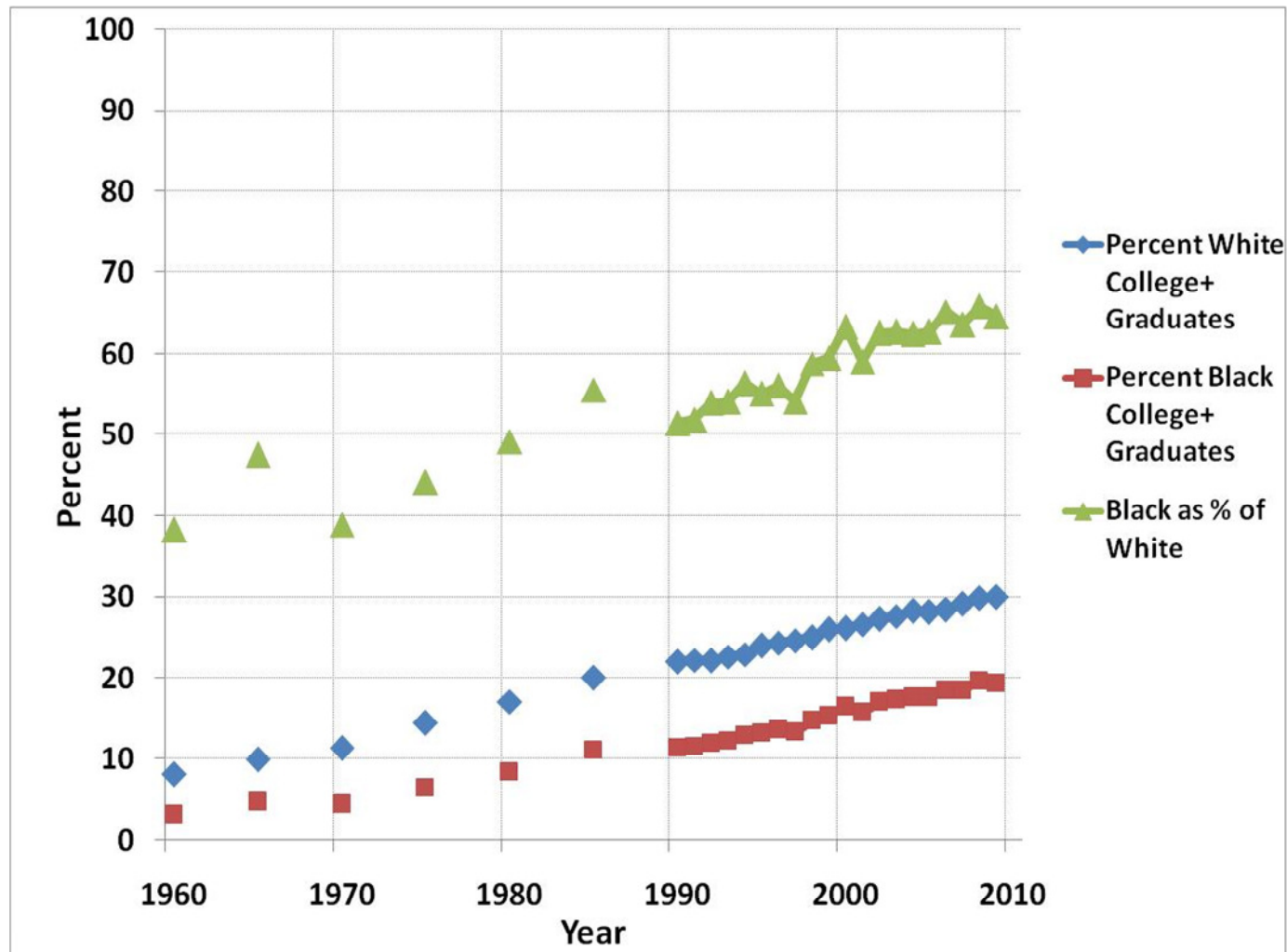
High school graduate or more, 1960-2009



Source: US Statistical Abstract 2011, Table 225

Educational attainment by race

College graduate or more, 1960-2009



Source: US Statistical Abstract 2011, Table 225

Qualitative analysis (applies mainly to US)
Socio-economic, cultural, psychological circumstances, usually interconnected

Institution of marriage

- Traditionally (prior to mid 20th century) men married to gain **homemaker**, women to gain **economic support**
- Rapid changes because **increasingly women work outside the household**
- Marriage survives because its **symbolic significance persists**
- Social prestige – a marker of **status and achievement**, remains an **aspiration**
- Especially important for black middle-class women, but **encounter barriers**

Source: Banks 2011

Shortage of black male marriage partners

- **The success gap**

Men lag behind educationally

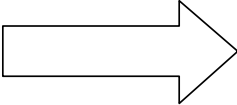
Many men earn less

- **Interracial marriage gap – More than twice as many black men than women marry interracially**

- **Incarceration and post-incarceration limitations**

Source: Banks 2011

The relationship market is skewed

- Shortage of black men  **more power to available men**
- **Men with multiple partners** – not polygamy, because no obligations
- distrust and discord
- Men **reluctant to marry** in their 20s and 30s contributes to fewer marriages and fewer births
- Women accept man sharing – **bad relationship better than none**
- **Black women more than any other group have STDs** – not result of promiscuity but male multi partner relationships

Black women's attitudes to childbearing

- **Unwed childbearing** - black women do not marry because of lower educational and income status of potential partners
- Do not fear life of single mother, but fear the **stigma** of having child without husband
- Struggle against image of **unmarried welfare mother**
- Black women **delay childbearing** until after they find a husband
- Dilemma – two risks: **Husband will never arrive; infertility will**

Source: Banks 2011

Marriage tensions often result in divorce

**Black women likely to marry “down” – husband less educated
AND earns less**

- **Male breadwinner model no longer applies**
- **Difficult to relinquish traditional gender roles**
- **Husbands find it difficult to accept subordinate economic role, feel humiliated and inferior**

Source: Banks 2011

Marriage tensions often result in divorce

Mixed marriages – cultural divide

- **Man and woman “inhabited different culture”**
- **Black middle class is female**
- **Black poor are disproportionately male**
- **Women have a “Sister-Save-a-Brotha” attitude – experienced by men as unwelcome control**
- **Many black marriages high-conflict – neither adults nor children are well served**

Source: Banks 2011

Significance of race

- Black women **acculturated** to date and marry black men
- Black women **marry down** because they do not want to marry out
- Black women believe that **non-Black men not open to marry them**
- Black women believe that **only black men will appreciate them**
- Black women have **deeper level of attraction to black men**
- Important for black women to **preserve black culture** – black offspring
- Marriage with black man **rebutts accusation of black inferiority**
- Black women **fear acceptance by his and her family and community**
- Black women fear that **white man will not understand black habits and culture**
- Fear of **problems for biracial children**

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Source: Banks 2011

Sources

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Significance of Hispanic fertility

	TPFR 2008	Percent women Hispanic	Percent of total population
White	2.06	18	81
Black	2.13	5	14
Hispanic	2.91		
Hispanic/White	1.41		
Hispanic/Black	1.37		

Source: US Census Bureau 2011

A data limitation:

Cohort fertility data are not available for Hispanic women.

Conclusions

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