



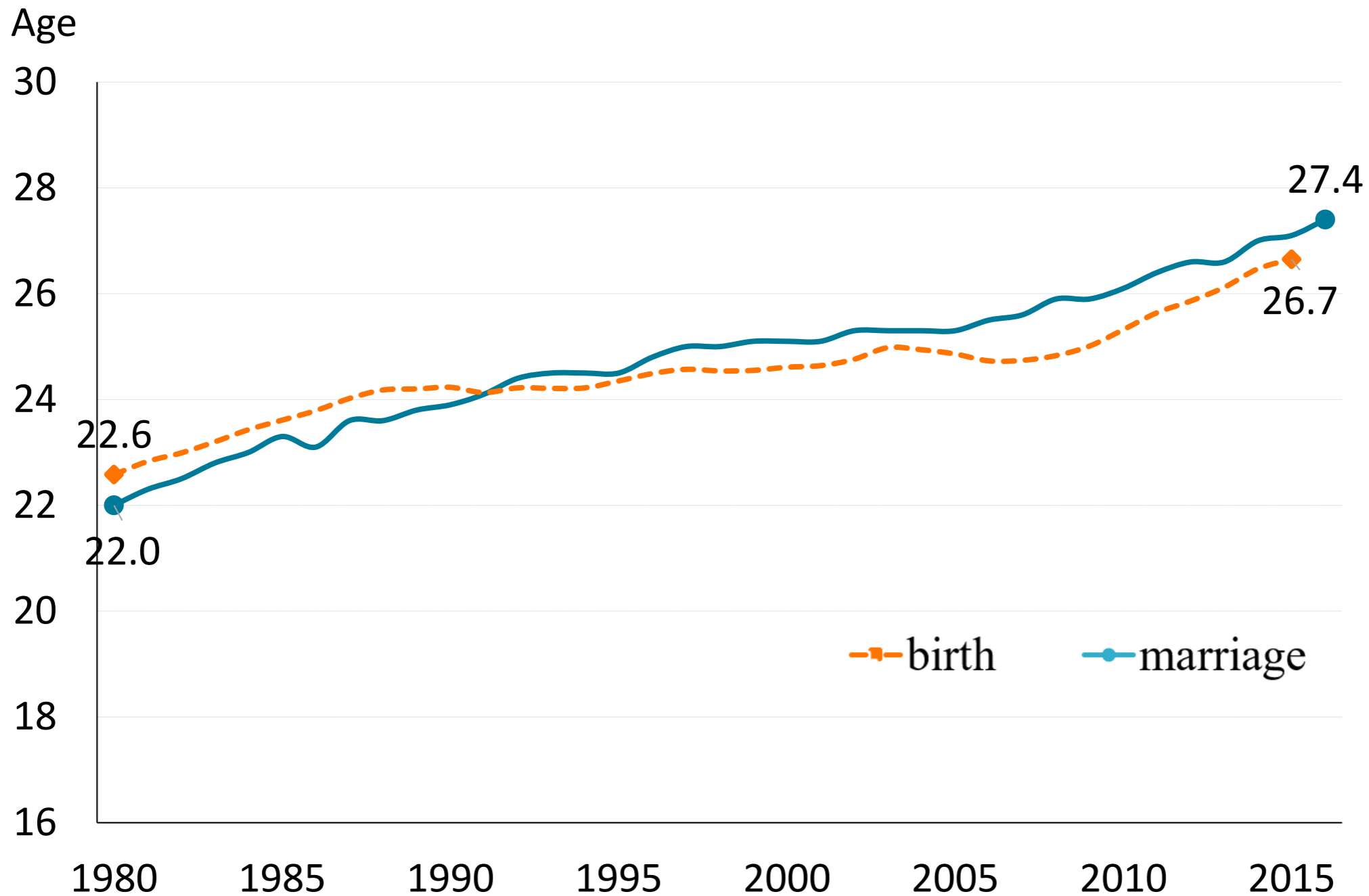
# **Two Decades of Change in Women's Age at First Sex, Premarital Cohabitation, Marriage, and Birth**

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# Sexual, Romantic, and Childbearing Behaviors of Young Adults

- Changes in these experiences due to lengthening of adulthood
  - Sexual debut
  - Cohabitation
  - Marriage
  - Parenthood

# Crossover Between Women's Ages at Marriage & Birth



Source: Eickmeyer, Payne, Brown, Manning (2017)

# Current Investigation

- How the shares and ages of women who experience family formation events has shifted from 1995 to 2013
  - 1995: Baby boom cohort (born 1951-1955)
  - 2013: Gen-X cohort (born 1969 - 1973)
- Observe changes in the sequencing and timing (interval) between events
  - Examine how much of the change in the interval is due to shifts in the ages women experience each event

# 3 Contrasts

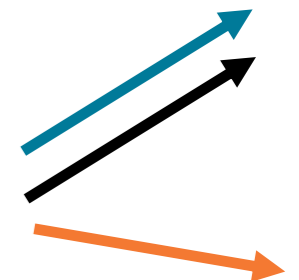
## 1. First Sex and Birth

- Timing between sex and birth will increase for each race/ethnic group



## 2. First Cohabitation and Birth

- Timing between cohabitation and birth will increase for White and Hispanics, and decline among Blacks



## 3. First Marriage and Birth

- Ordering between marriage and birth among Blacks will differ from Whites and Hispanics, and the timing between events will increase for each group



→  
Whites

→  
Blacks

→  
Hispanics

# Data



- Four Cycles of the National Survey of Family Growth
  - 1995, 2002, 2006-2010, 2011-2015
- Women aged 40-44
- Weights produce nationally representative estimates for the years 1995, 2002, 2008, 2013

# Variables

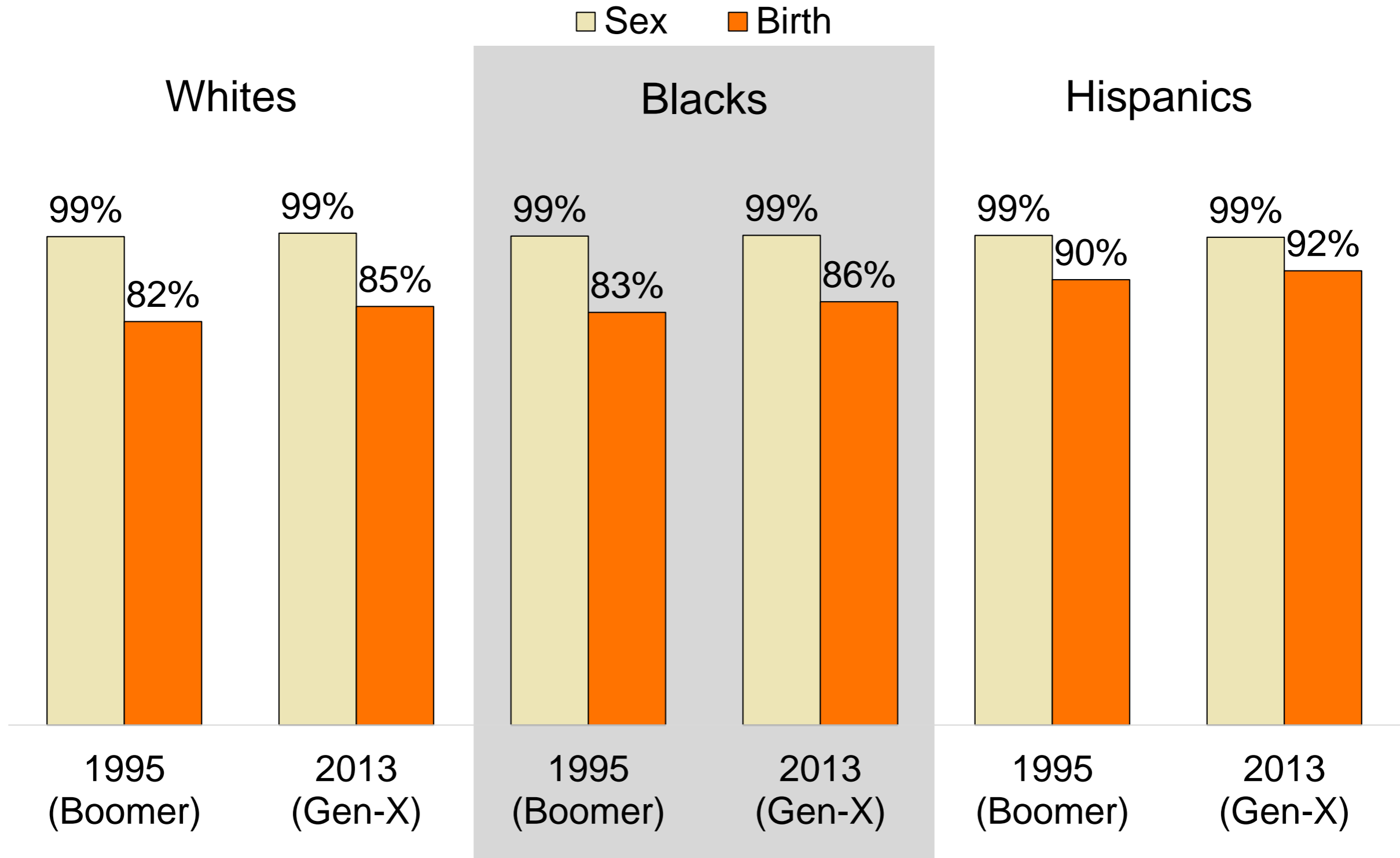
- NSFG asks respondents about the dates of sexual initiation, cohabitations, marriages, and births
  - Only different-sex relationships
- 3 race/ethnic groups; non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic
  - Low sample size of women who report “Other” race/ethnic category (n = 37 in 2002)

# Methods

- Present descriptive analyses
  - Share of women who experience events
  - Ages at which women experience events
- Compare generational differences in the interval between the three contrasts (sex & birth; cohabitation & birth; marriage & birth)
  - Examine the share of the differences that are due to shifts in the ages women experience each event



# Percentage of Women who had Sex and a Birth



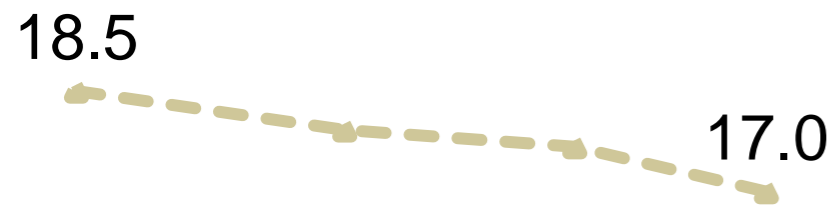
# Median Ages at Sex & Birth

Whites

Blacks

Hispanics

sex



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

1995  
(Boomer)

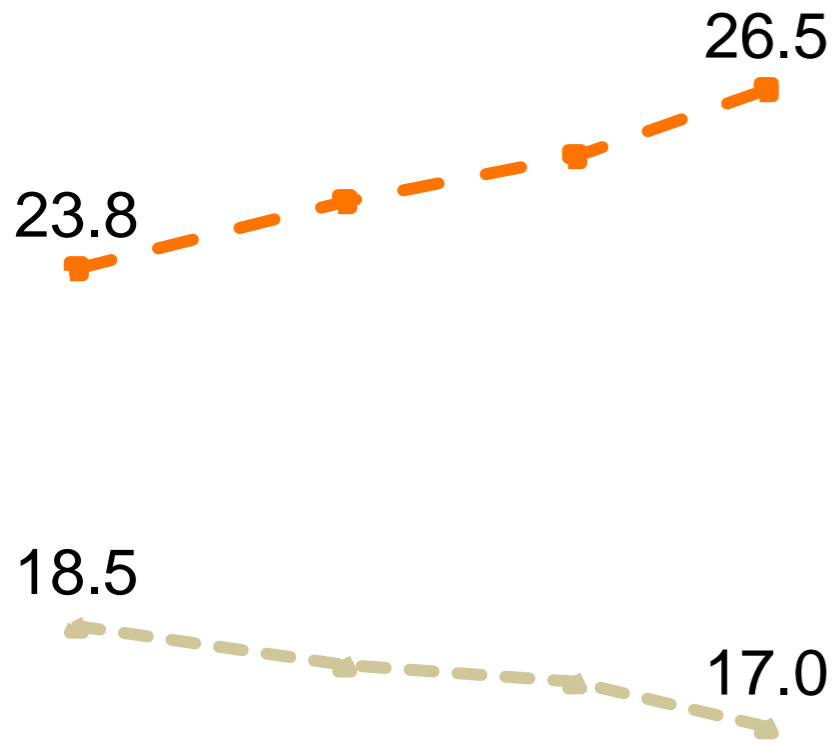
2013  
(Gen-X)

1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

# Median Ages at Sex & Birth

## Whites



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

## Blacks

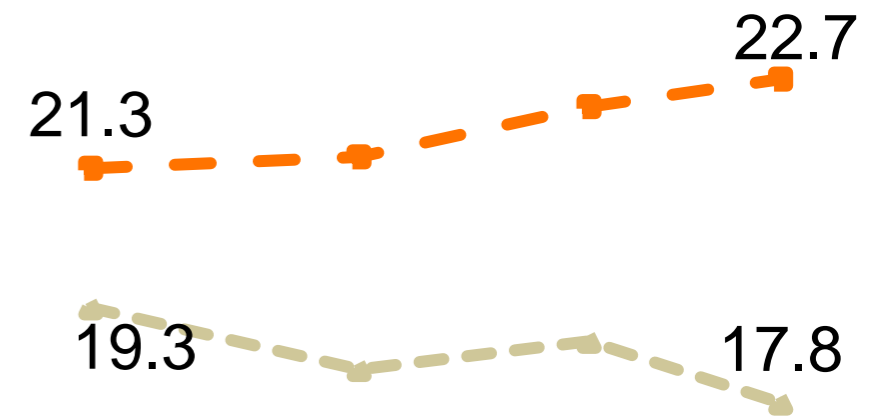
sex birth



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

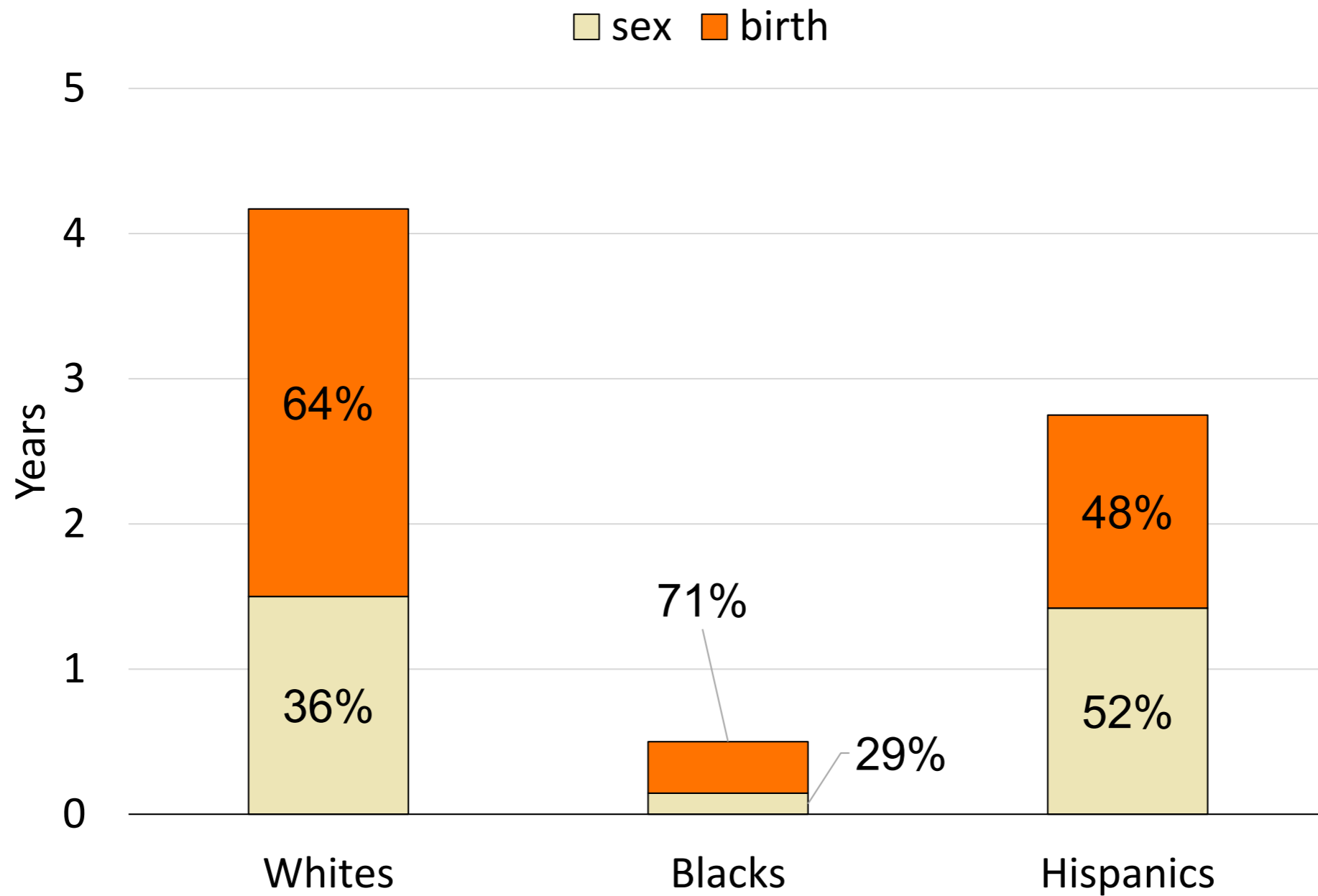
## Hispanics



1995  
(Boomer)

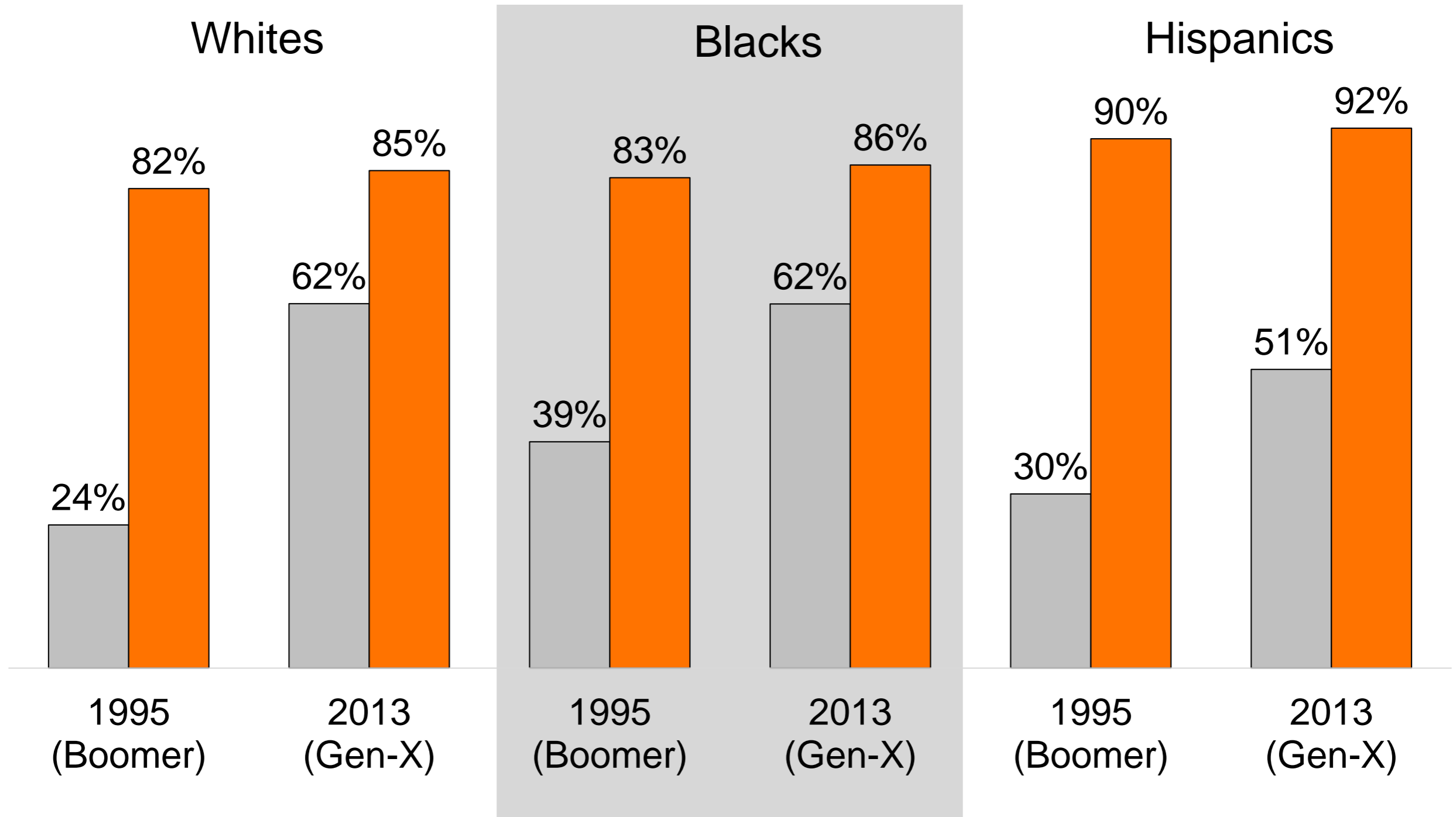
2013  
(Gen-X)

# Gap between First Sex and Birth, Boomer (1995) and Gen-X (2013)



# Percentage of Women who Cohabited and had a Birth

■ Premarital Cohabitation ■ Birth



# Median Ages at Premarital Cohabitation & Birth

Whites

Blacks

Hispanics

••• premar cohab



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

1995  
(Boomer)

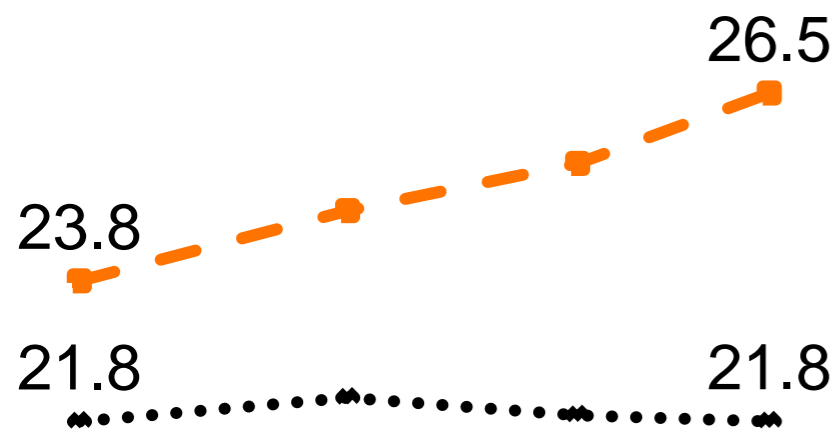
2013  
(Gen-X)

1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

# Median Ages at Premarital Cohabitation & Birth

## Whites

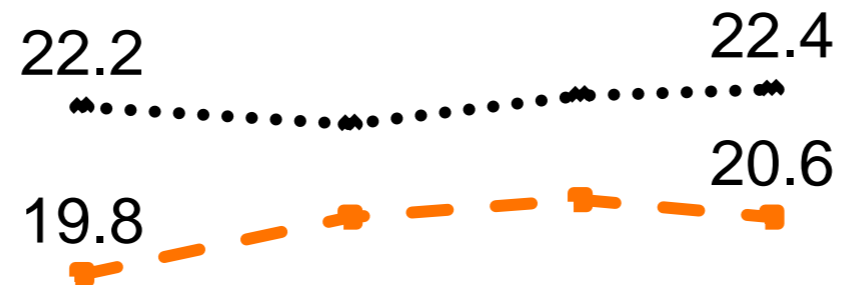


1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

## Blacks

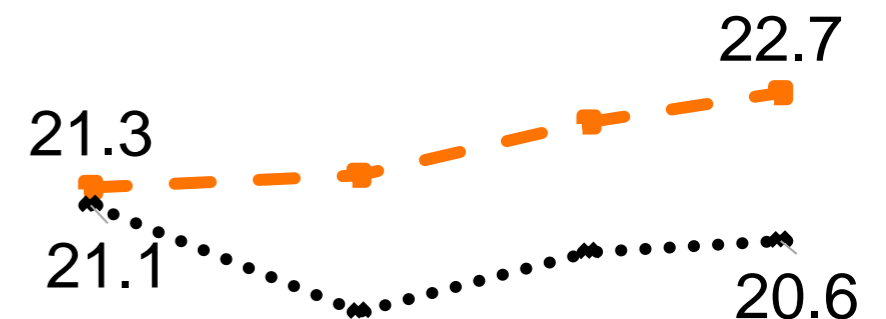
—■ birth •● premar cohab



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

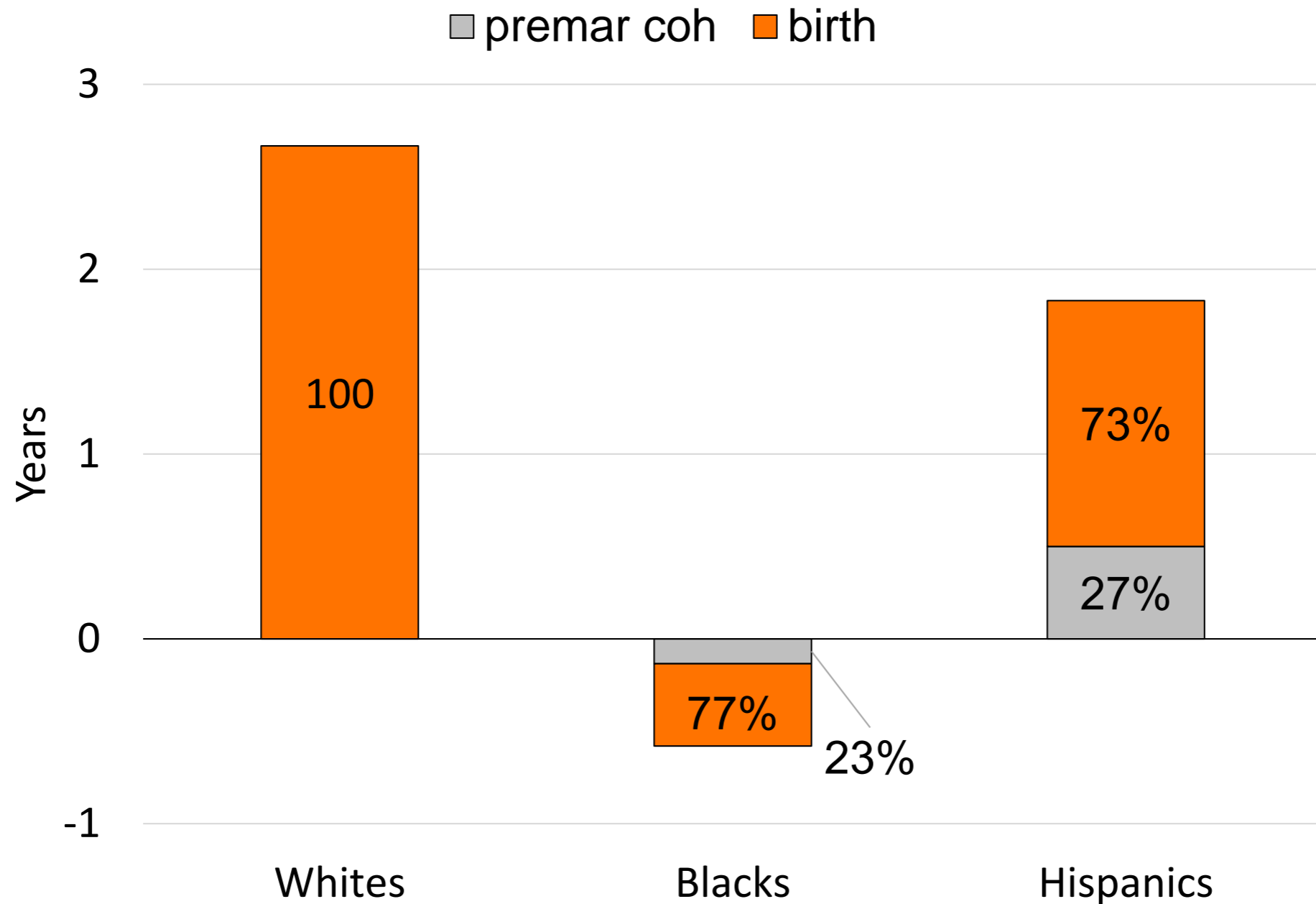
## Hispanics



1995  
(Boomer)

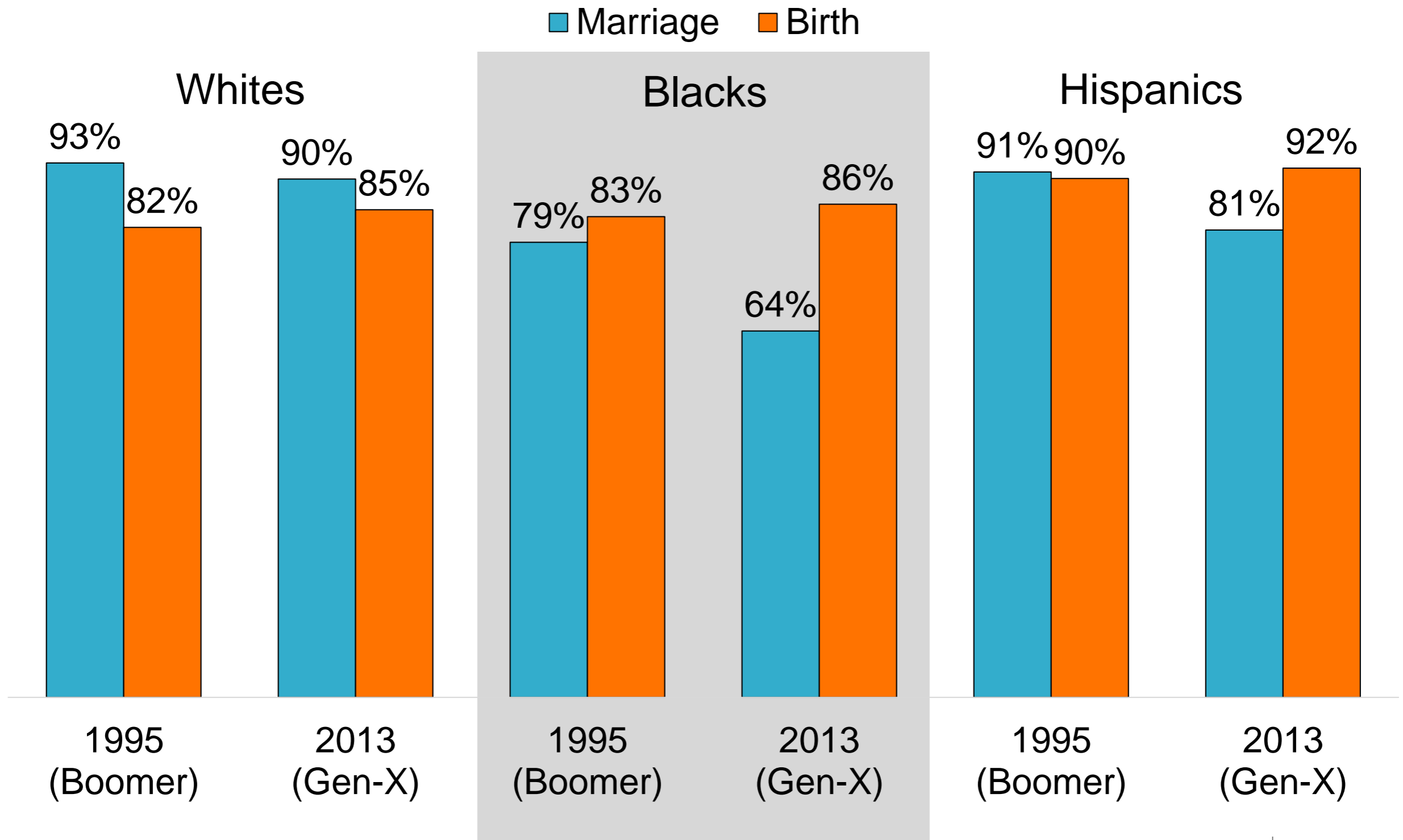
2013  
(Gen-X)

# Gap between First Cohabitation and Birth, Boomer (1995) and Gen-X (2013)



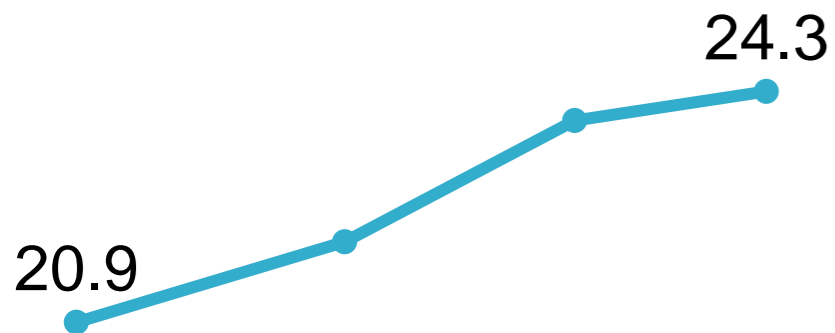


# Percentage of Women who Married and had a Birth



# Median Ages at Marriage & Birth

Whites

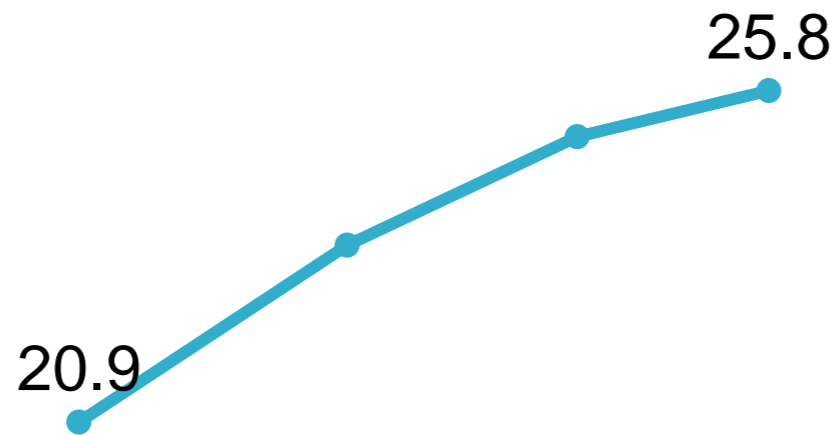


1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

Blacks

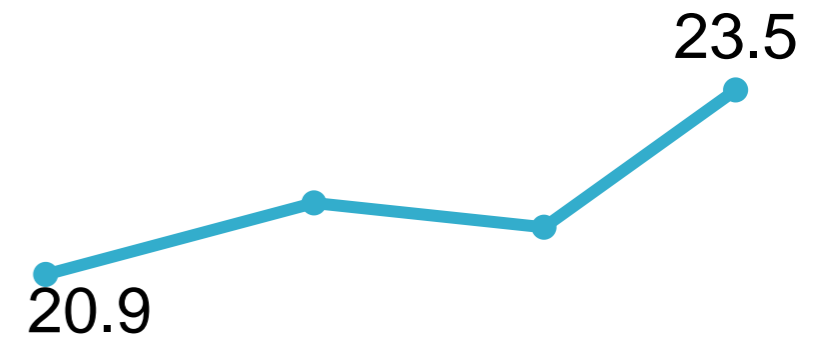
— marriage



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

Hispanics

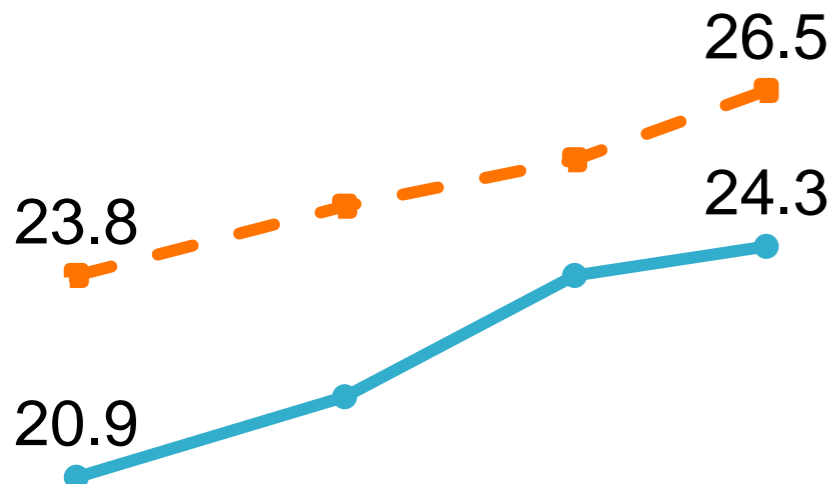


1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

# Median Ages at Marriage & Birth

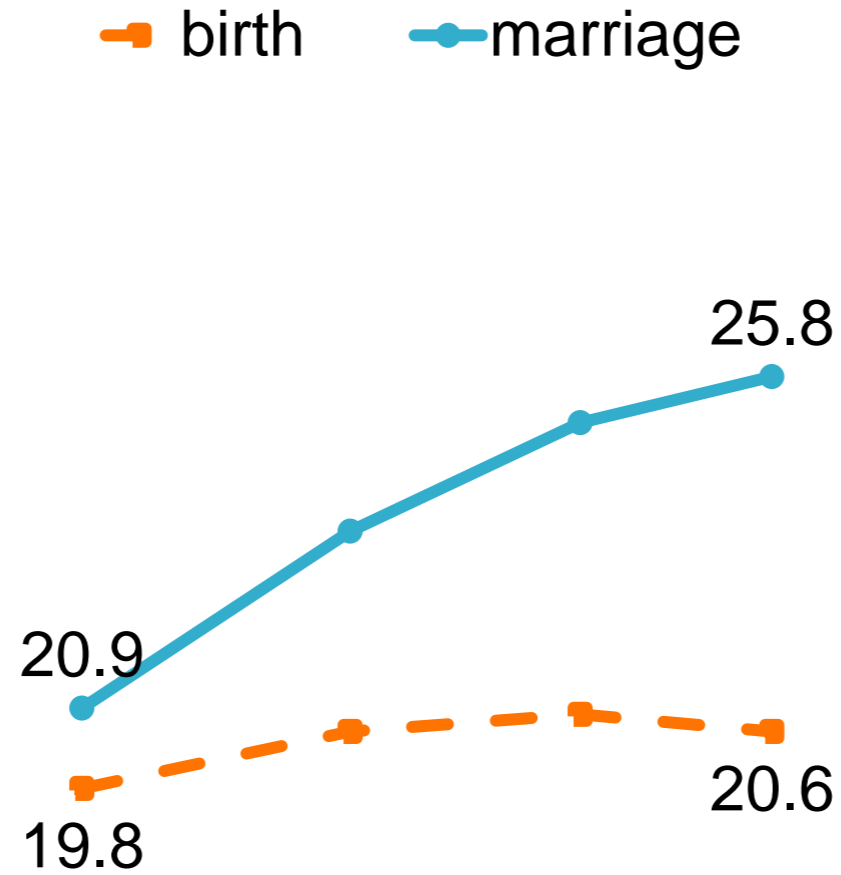
## Whites



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

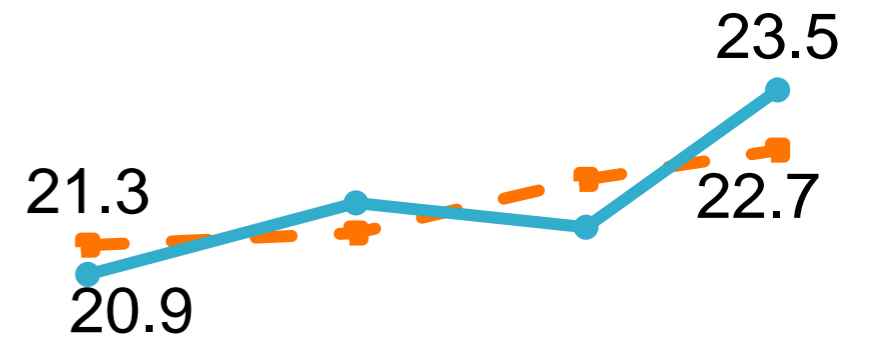
## Blacks



1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

## Hispanics

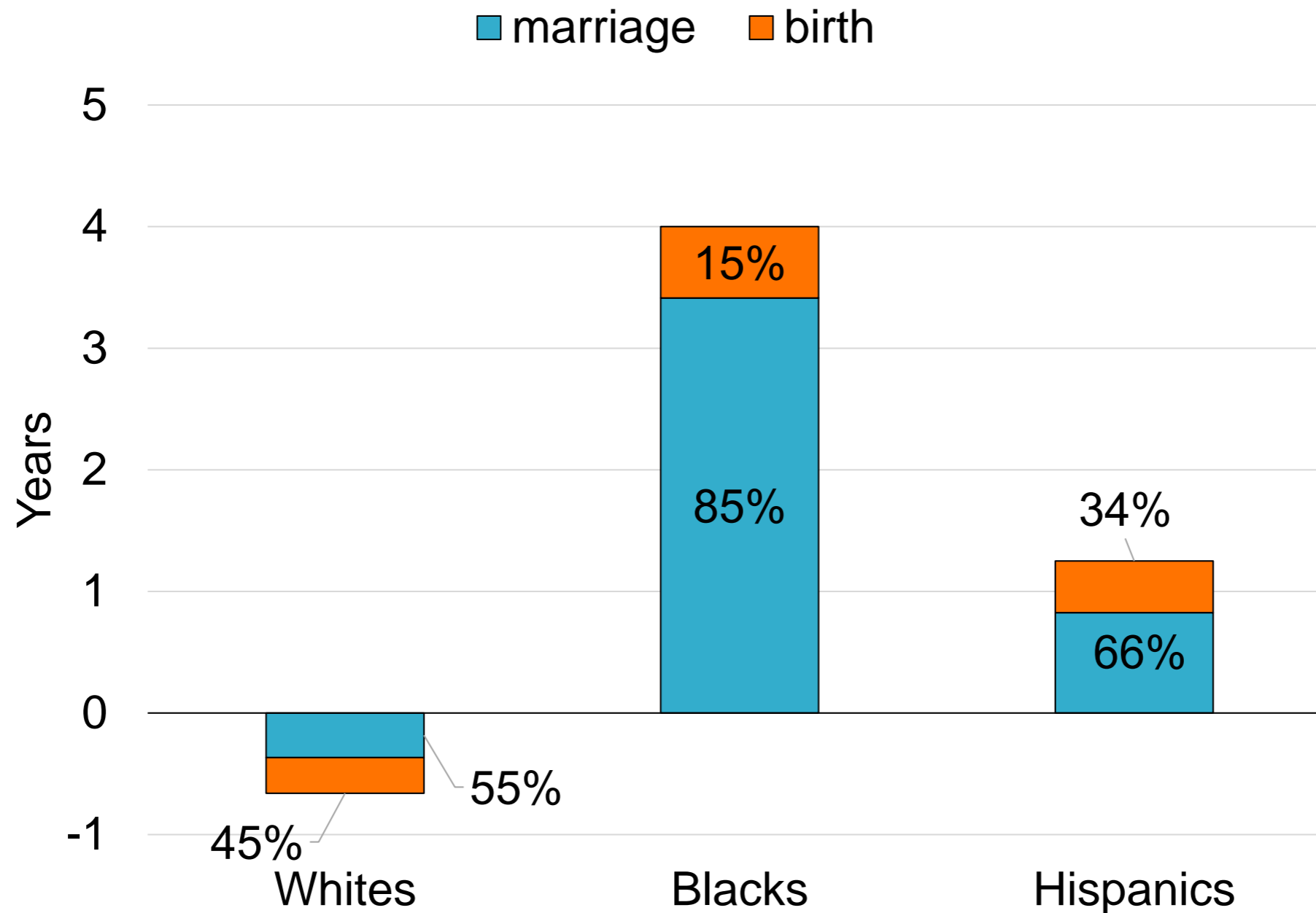


1995  
(Boomer)

2013  
(Gen-X)

— birth — marriage

# Gap between First Marriage and Birth, Boomer (1995) and Gen-X (2013)



# Discussion

- Between Boomers and Gen Xers, the ages at first birth increased for White women
  - Little change among Black and Hispanic women
- Driven by changes in the age at first birth, the gap between cohabitation and birth grew for White and Hispanic women
  - Little change in the gap among Black women
- Among White and Hispanic women, parallel increases in the age at marriage and birth
  - Lengthening of the gap between birth and marriage among black women

# Thank you!



## Questions or Comments?

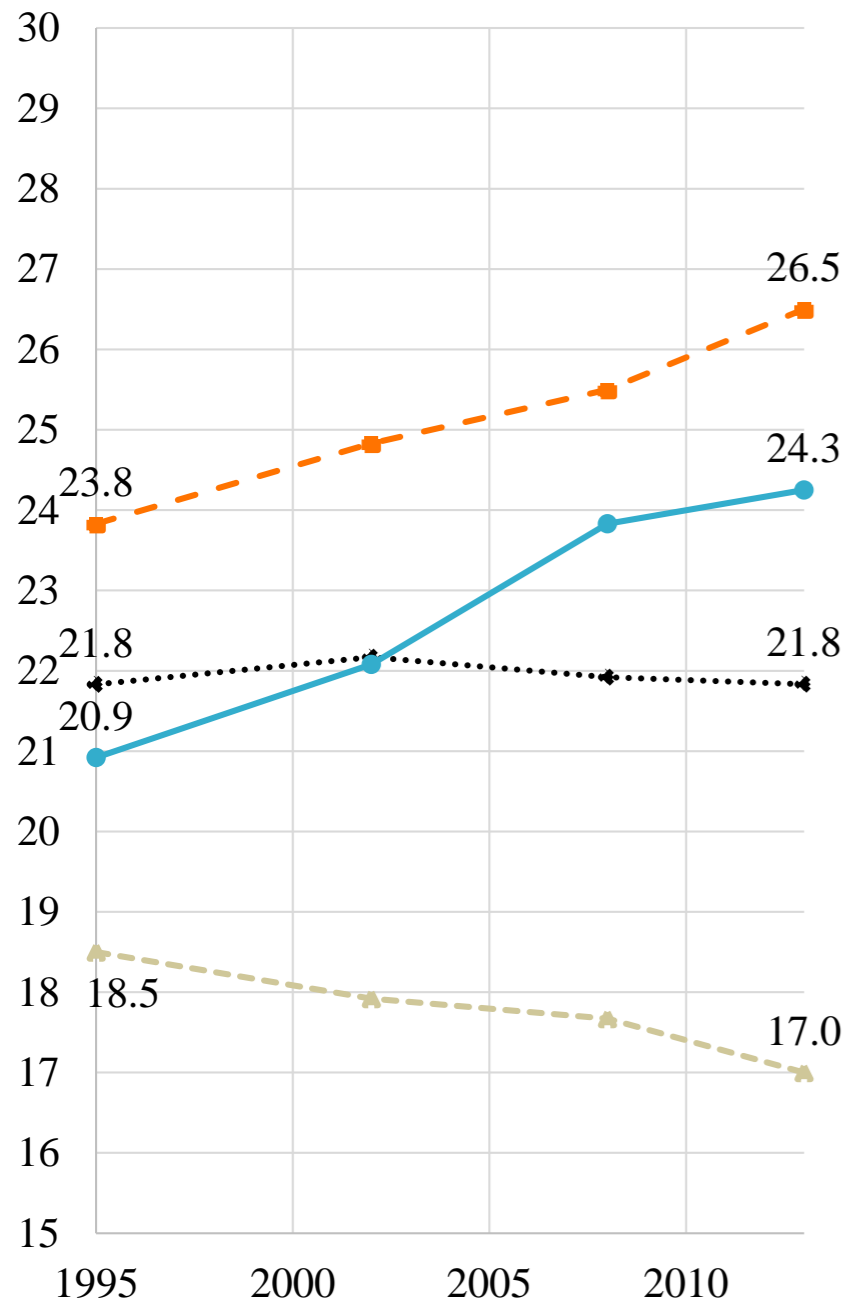
Please contact Paul Hemez at [hemezp@bgsu.edu](mailto:hemezp@bgsu.edu)

*The Center for Family and Demographic Research at Bowling Green State University has core funding from The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (P2CHD050959).*

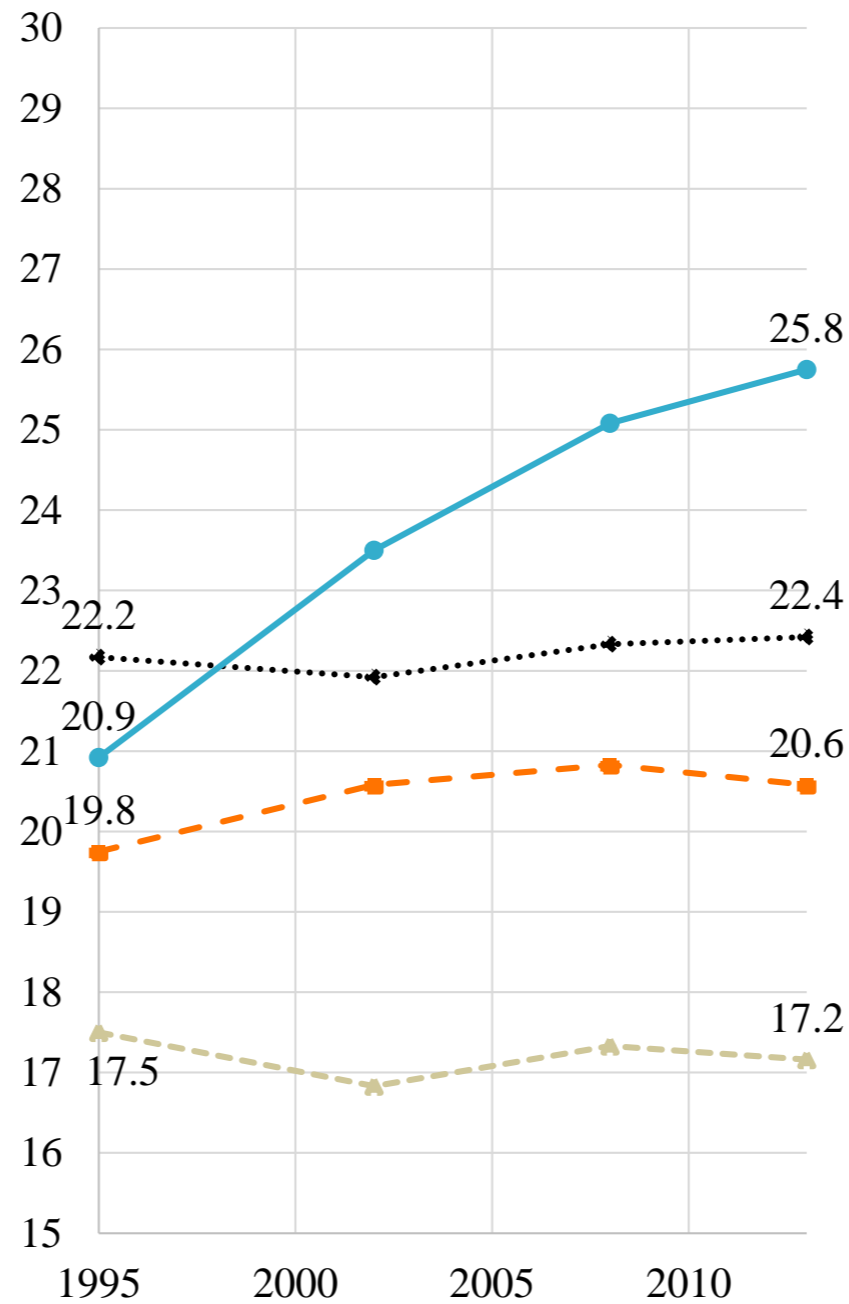


# Ages at Family Formation Events, by Race/Ethnicity

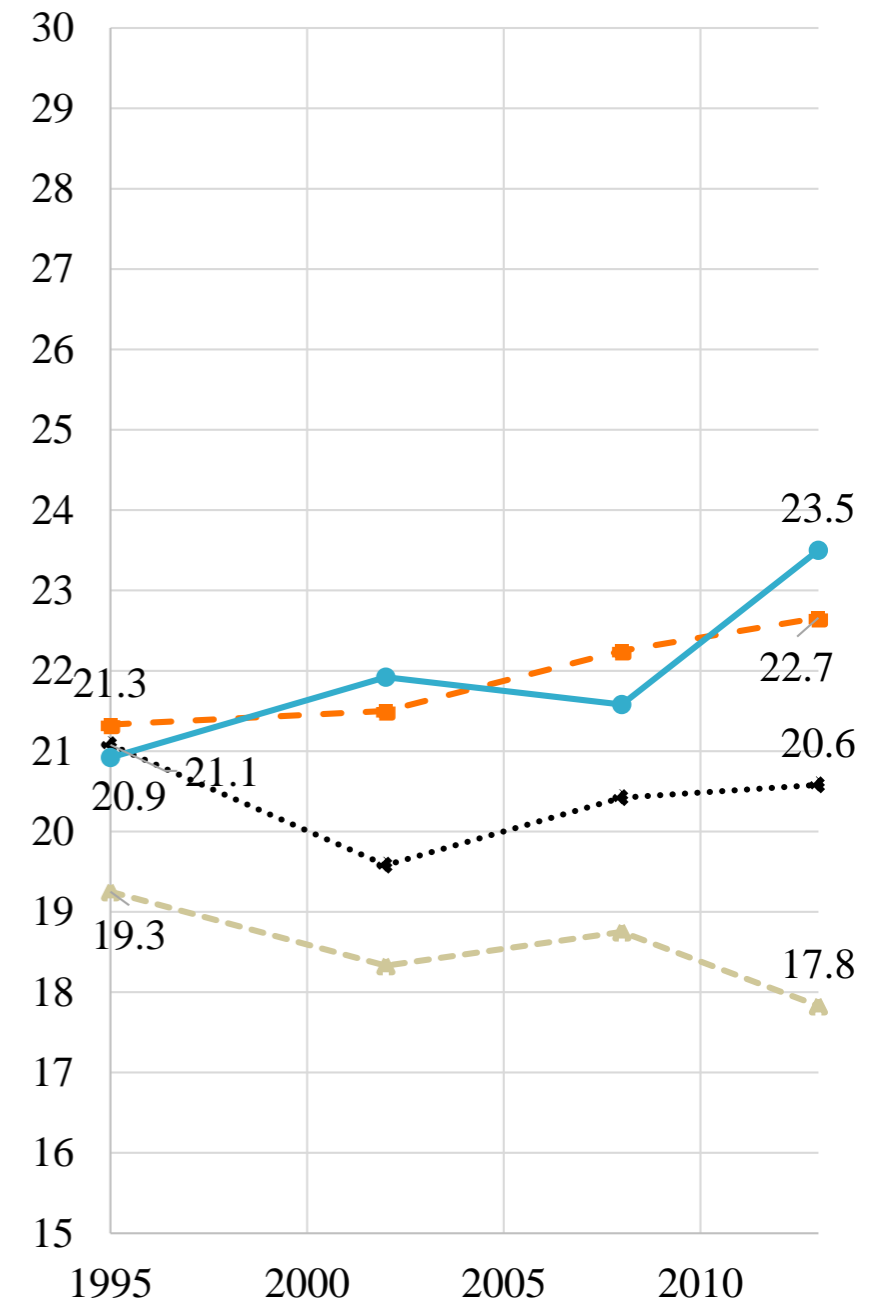
## Whites



## Blacks



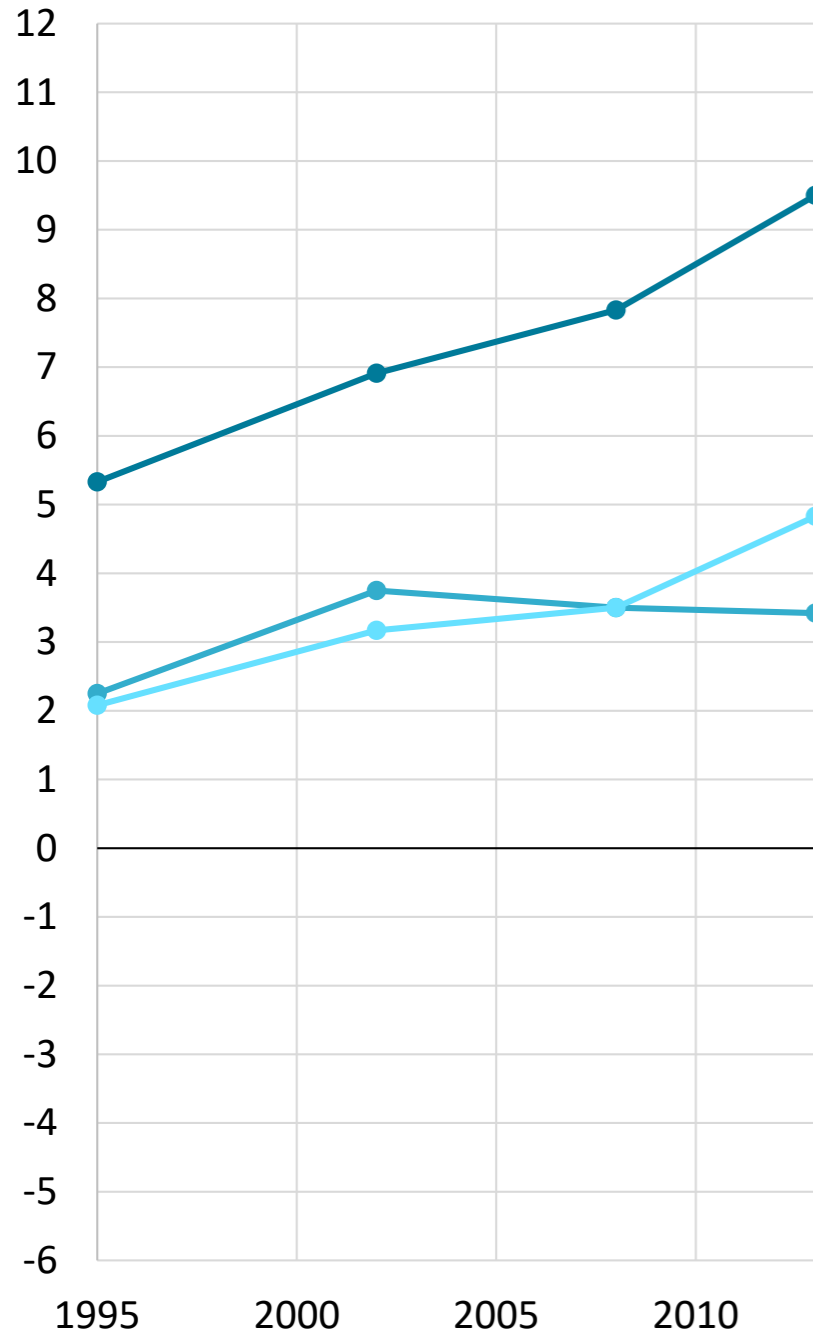
## Hispanics



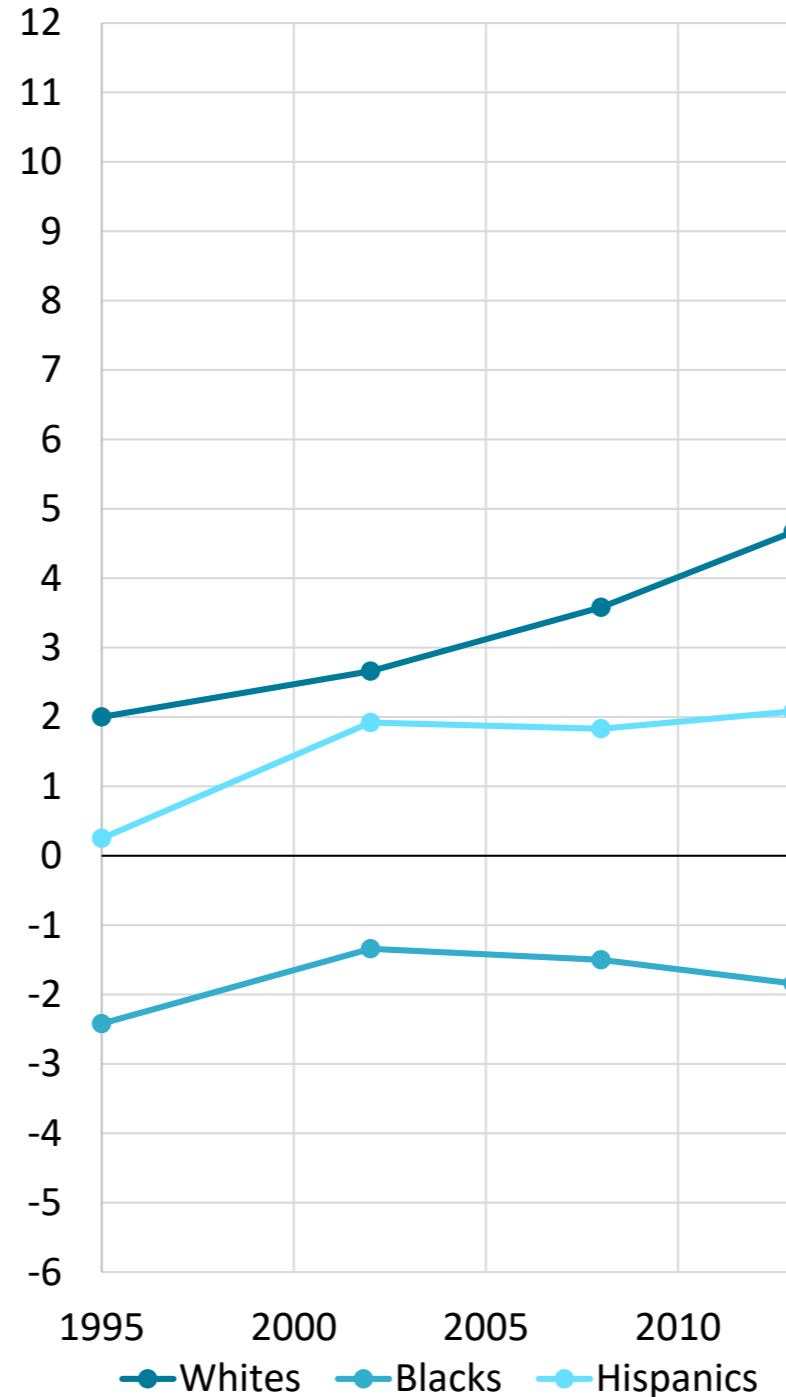
-▲- sex      -■- birth  
-◆- premar cohab      -●- mar

# Median Years between Events

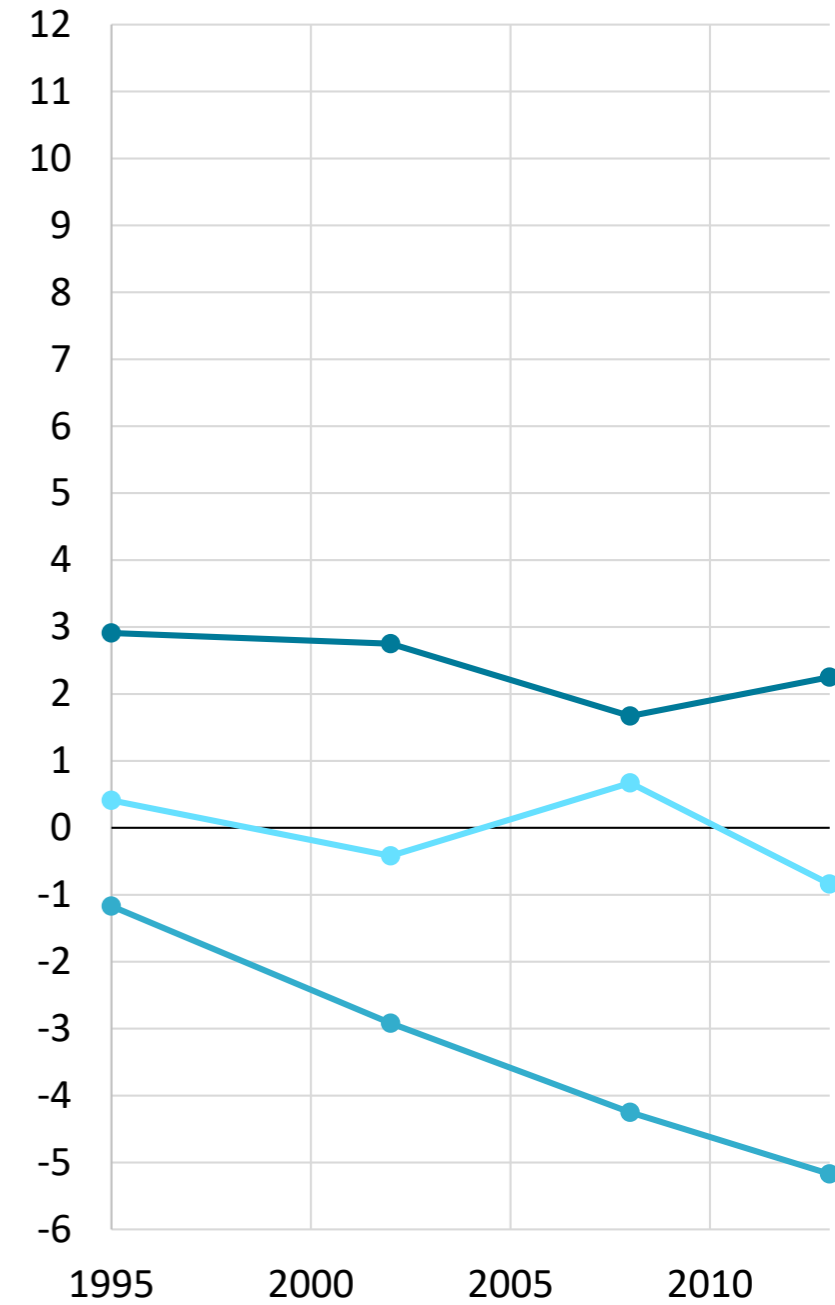
Median years btw first sex and birth



Median years btw first cohabitation and birth



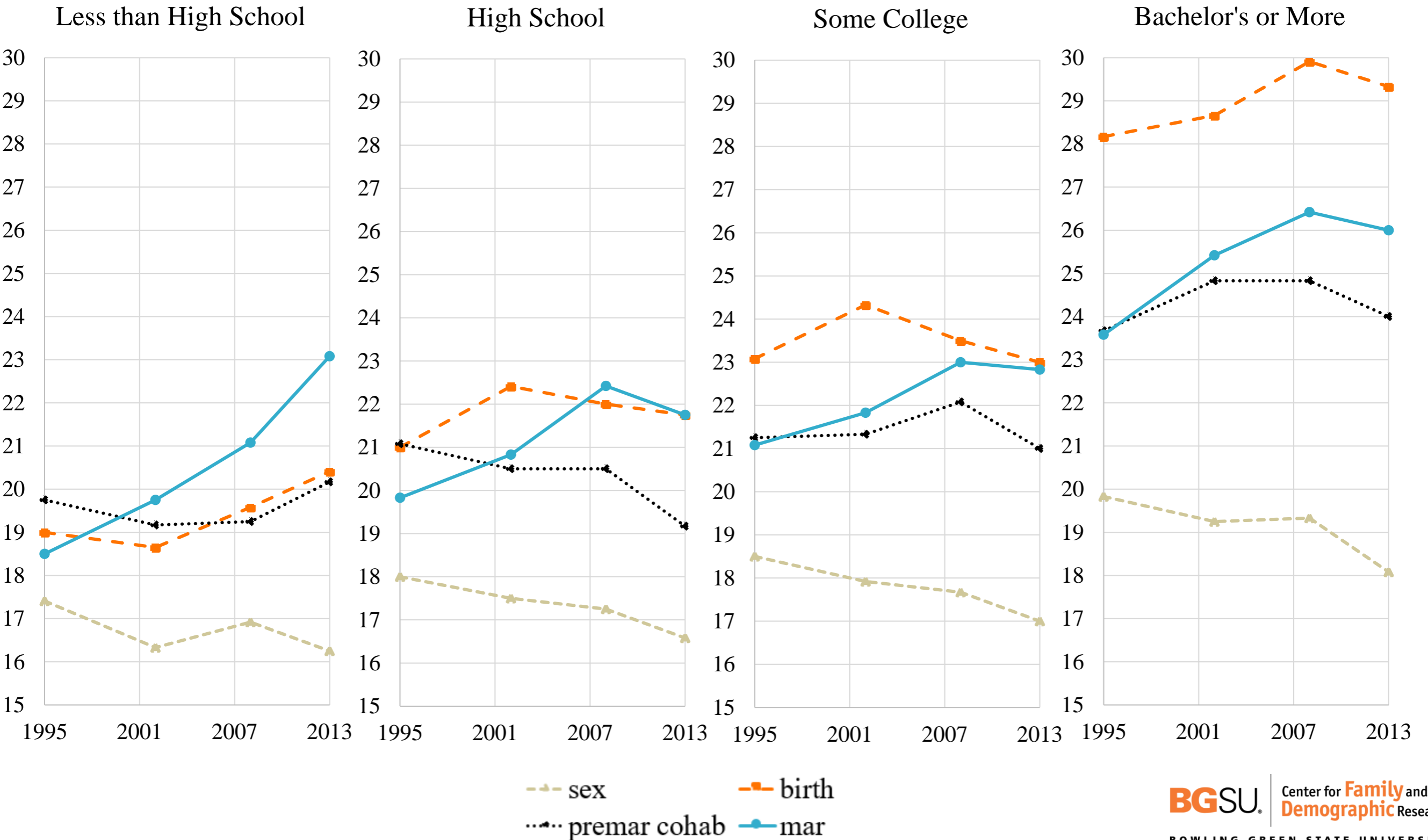
Median years btw first marriage and birth



Whites Blacks Hispanics



# Ages at Family Formation Events, by Educational Attainment



# Implications of Timing and Sequencing of Family Formation Events

- Ages at 1st Sex and Birth
- Ages at 1st Cohabitation and Birth
- Ages at 1st Marriage and Birth