

The Future of American Fertility

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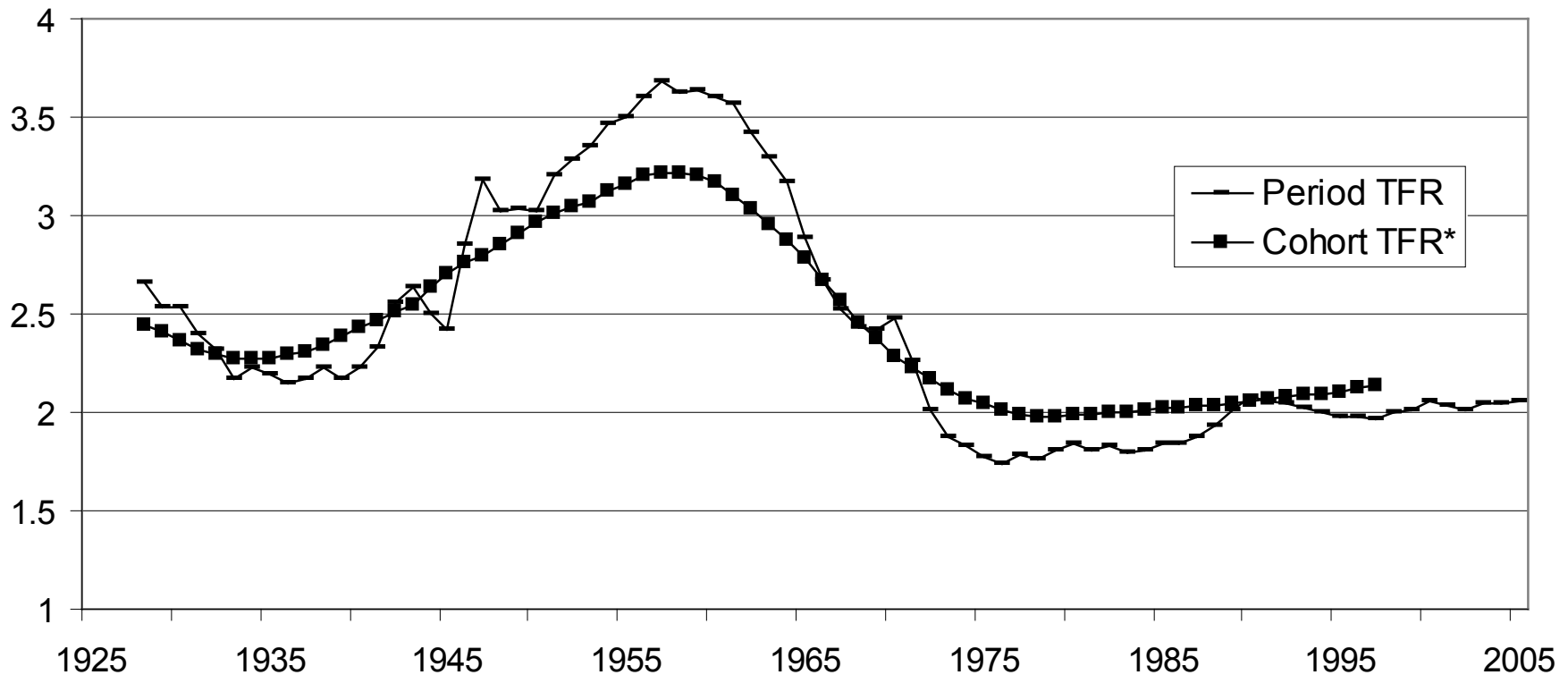
University of Pennsylvania

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“Challenges and Solutions for Retirement Security”

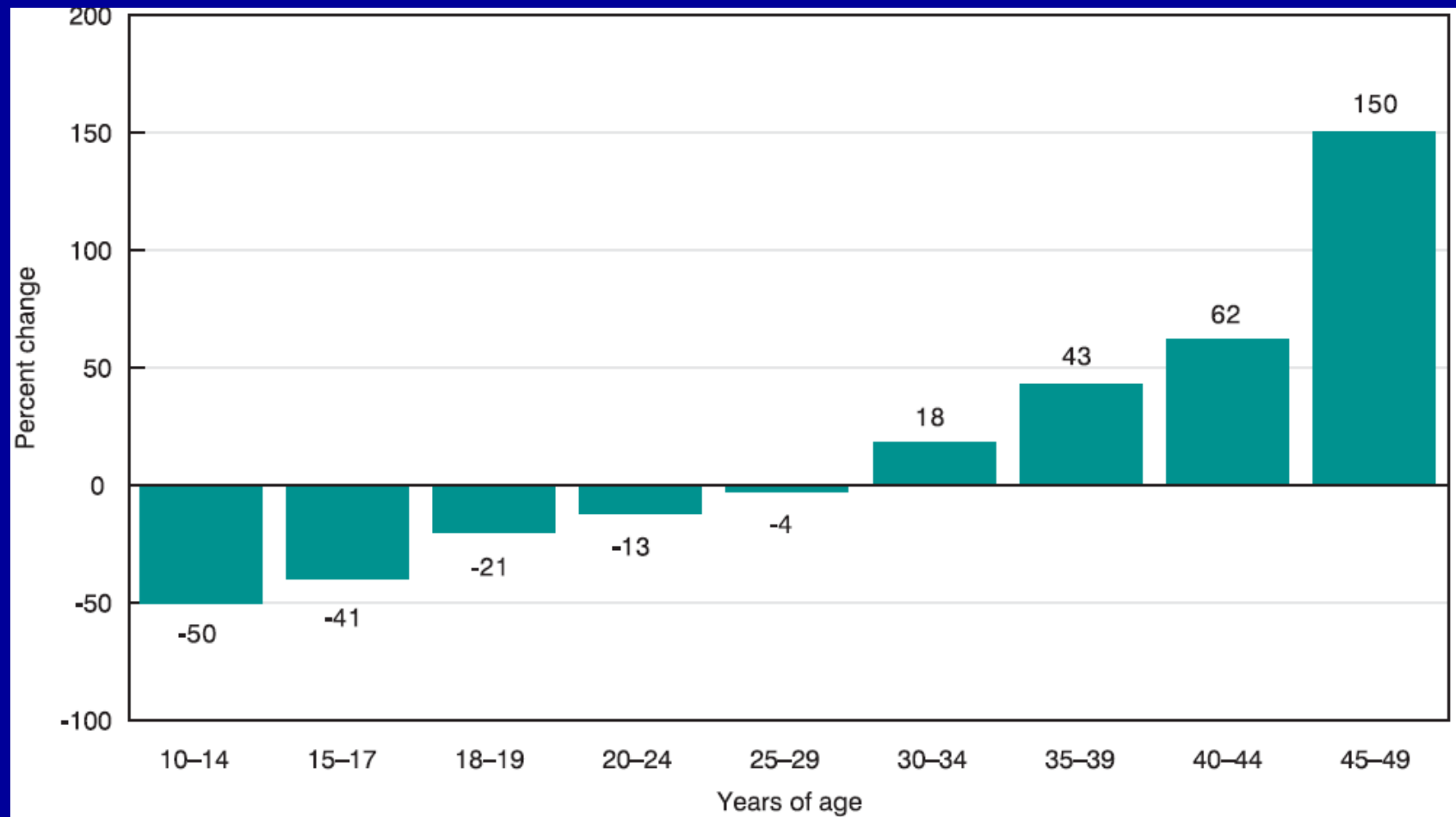
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Period and cohort total fertility rates, United States 1928-2005



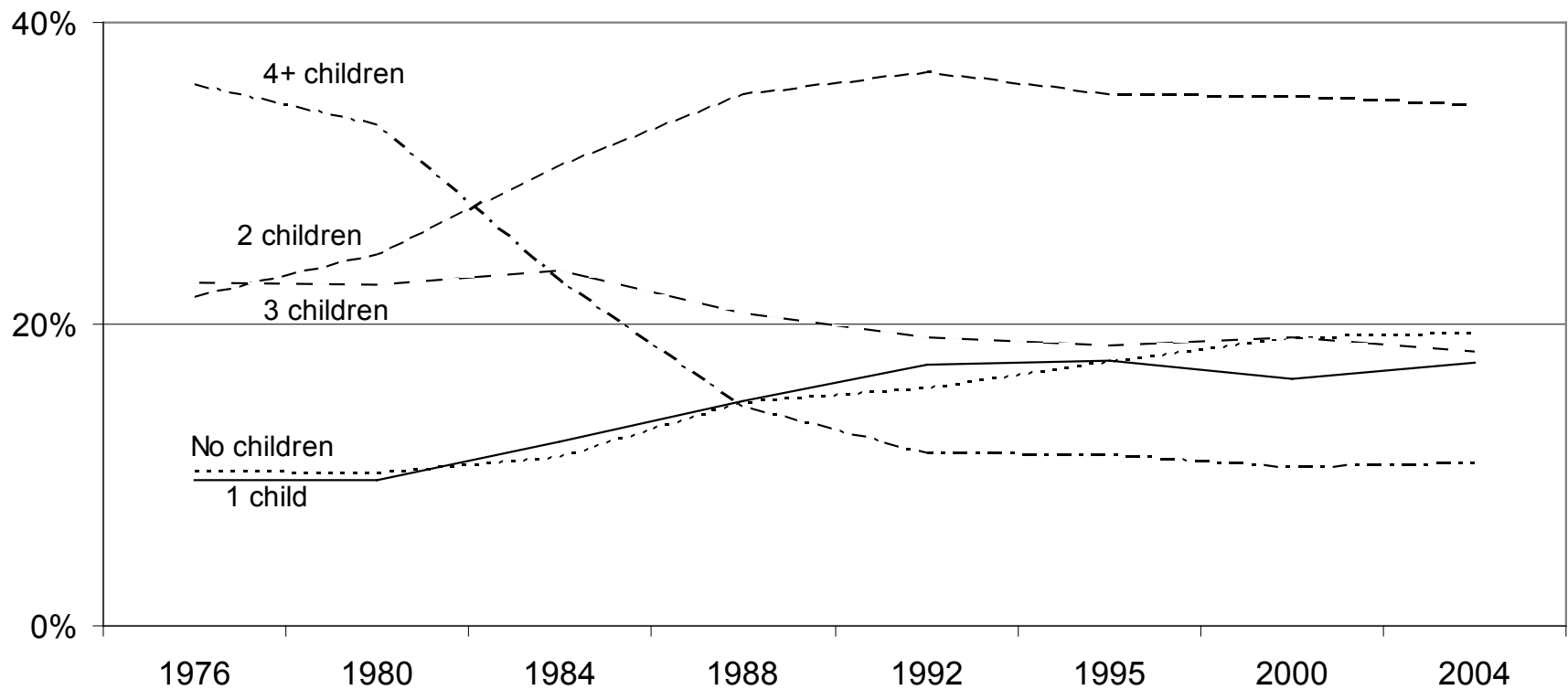
*For cohort born t-26; Note: Last data points for CTFR use imputed data; Sources: Schoen 2004, National Center for Health Statistics 2005b, 2006a

Percentage change in birth rates by age of mother: United States, 1990 and 2004



Source: Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, et al. Births: Final data for 2004. National vital statistics reports; vol 55 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

Distribution of women 40-44 by number of children ever born



Source: US Census Bureau 2005a

Coefficient of years of schooling completed among respondents aged 30-44

National Survey of Family Growth 1973, 1988, 2002

Survey year, sex	Dependent Variable					
	Total births expected		Current parity		Additional births expected	
1973 Women	-0.153	*	-0.157	*	0.004	
1988 Women	-0.126	*	-0.163	*	0.037	*
2002 Women	-0.097	*	-0.150	*	0.053	*
2002 Men	-0.053	*	-0.101	*	0.048	*

*Significant at 0.001 level; Note: Age is controlled via a second-degree polynomial

Total fertility rates among major ethnic groups, United States

	Total	Non-Hispanic Whites	Non-Hispanic Blacks	Hispanics	
				All	Mexicans
1989	2.014	1.770	2.424	2.904	2.916
1996	1.976	1.781	2.140	2.772	3.052
2004	2.046	1.847	2.020	2.824	3.021

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2006

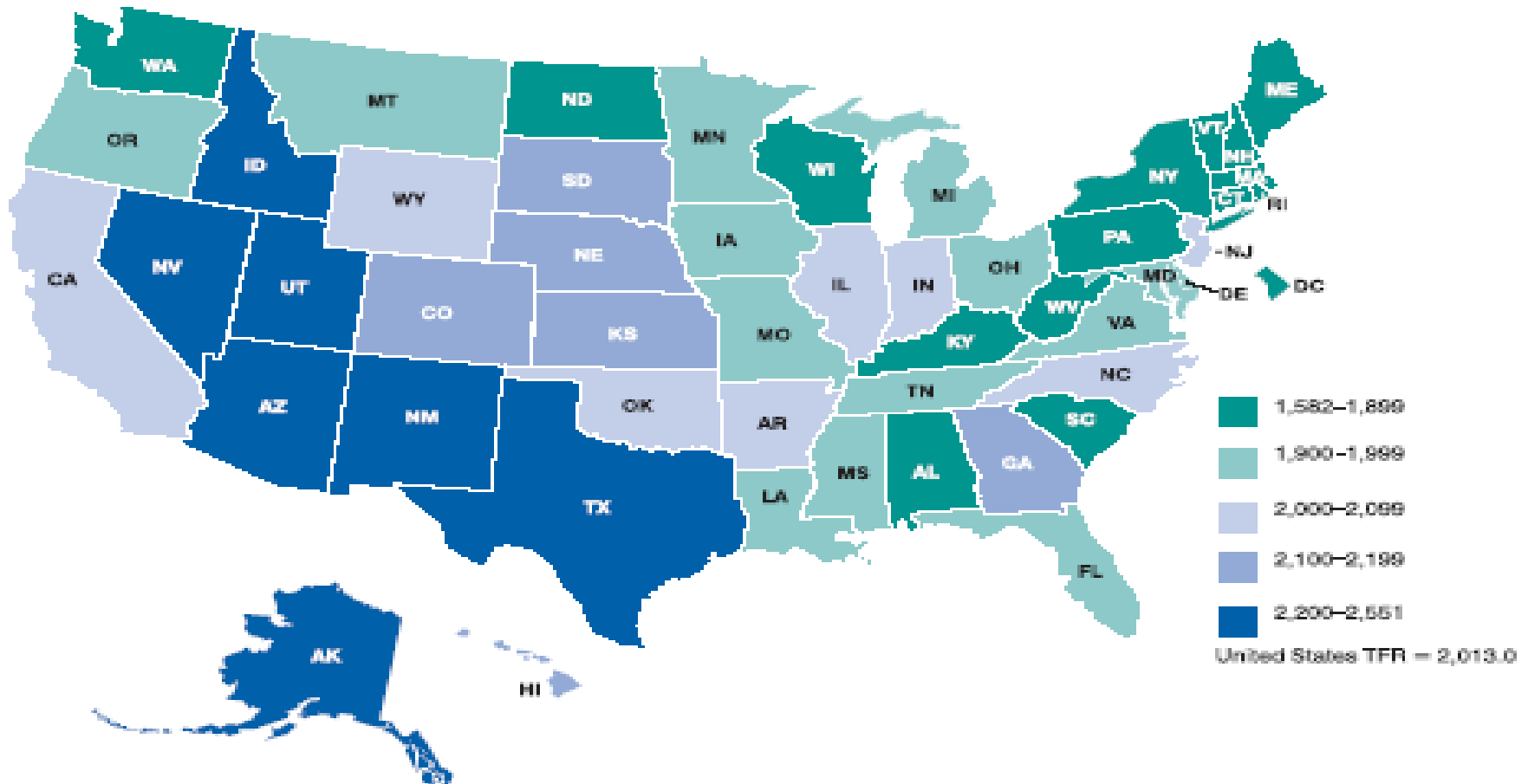
Coefficients of ethnicity among women aged 30-44

National Surveys of Family Growth 1973, 1988, 2002

Survey year, race	Dependent Variable					
	Total births expected		Current parity		Additional births expected	
Non-Hispanic Blacks						
1973	0.688	*	0.634	*	0.054	*
1988	0.236	*	0.204	*	0.032	
2002	0.233	*	0.215	*	0.018	
Hispanics						
1973	0.211		0.062		0.150	*
1988	0.352	*	0.210		0.142	*
2002	0.426	*	0.336	*	0.096	*

*Significant at 0.01 level; Note: Age, age squared, and years of schooling completed are controlled

Average number of lifetime births per thousand women, 2002



Total fertility rates in selected developed countries*

Country	TFR	(year)	Country	TFR	(year)
United States	2.05	(2005)	Hungary	1.35	(2006)
France	1.98	(2006)	Spain	1.34	(2005)
Sweden	1.85	(2006)	Germany	1.34	(2005)
Denmark	1.85	(2006)	Greece	1.34	(2005)
Australia	1.81	(2005)	Czech Republic	1.33	(2006)
Finland	1.81	(2006)	Ukraine	1.32	(2006)
United Kingdom	1.79	(2005)	Russia	1.31	(2006)
Belgium	1.72	(2005)	Romania	1.31	(2006)
Netherlands	1.68	(2006)	Poland	1.28	(2006)
Canada	1.52	(2005)	Slovakia	1.25	(2005)
Switzerland	1.43	(2006)	Japan	1.25	(2005)
Portugal	1.41	(2005)	South Korea	1.13	(2006)
Bulgaria	1.38	(2006)	Taiwan	1.12	(2005)
Austria	1.38	(2006)	Hong Kong	0.99	(2006)
Italy	1.35	(2006)			

*Countries with populations above 5 million; Source: Population Reference Bureau

Coefficients relating the expected number of births to religious affiliation at age 16, women aged 30-44,

National Survey of Family Growth 2002

No religion	-0.444
Mainline Protestant	0.000
Fundamentalist Protestant	0.194
Catholic	0.127
Other non-Christian religion	0.264

Note: Age, age squared, years of schooling completed, and race/ethnicity are controlled

Summing up: the future

	Effect	Period
• Increases in Hispanic population	+0.07	30 yrs
• Increases in education	-0.07	30 yrs
• Possible restrictions on abortion access	+0.10	
• Stabilization in mean age of childbearing	+0.15	
• Uncertainty: why is the U.S. so different from Europe?		