

Marriage or Merry Age? The Recent Population Changes in Taiwan

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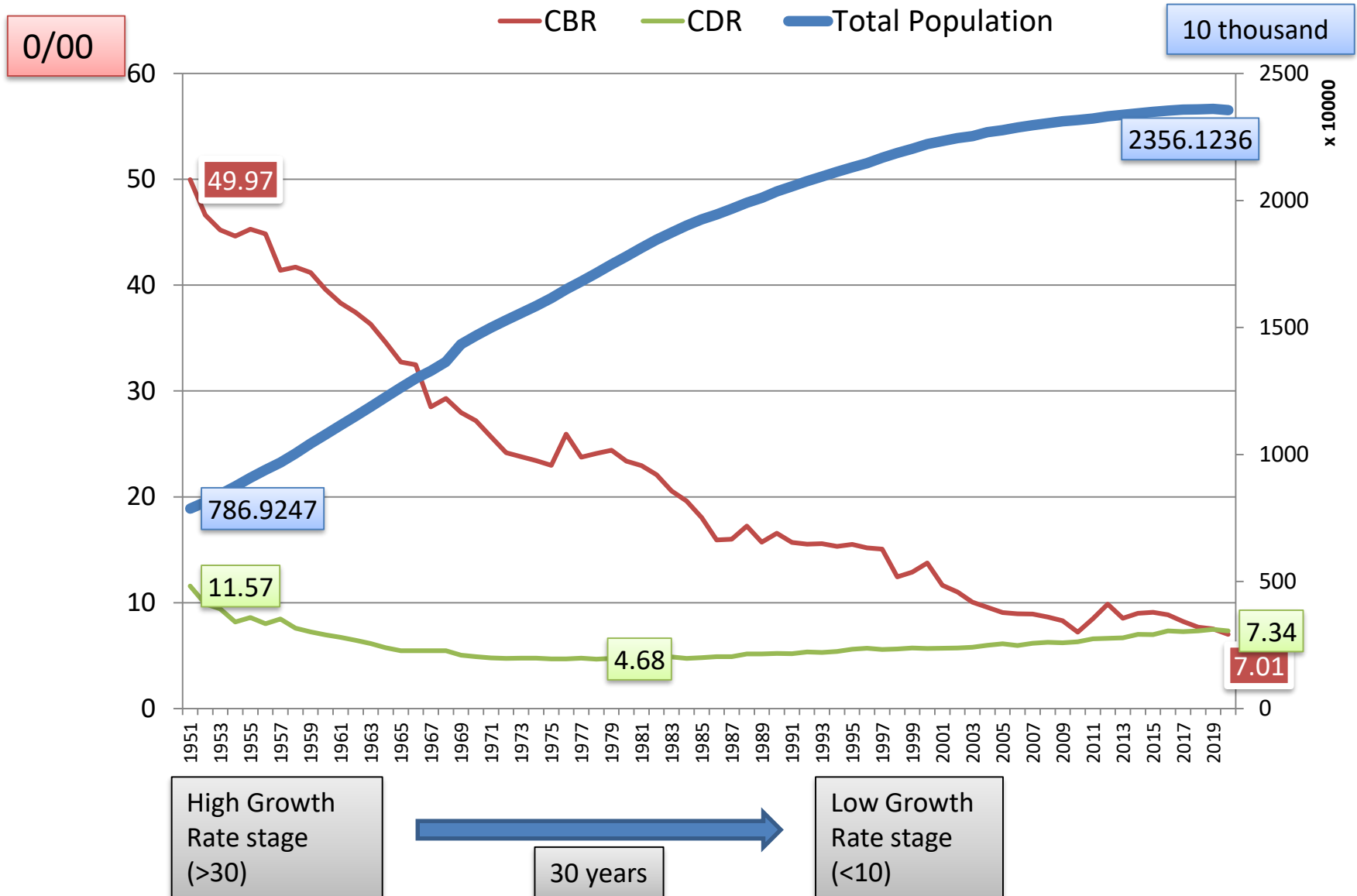
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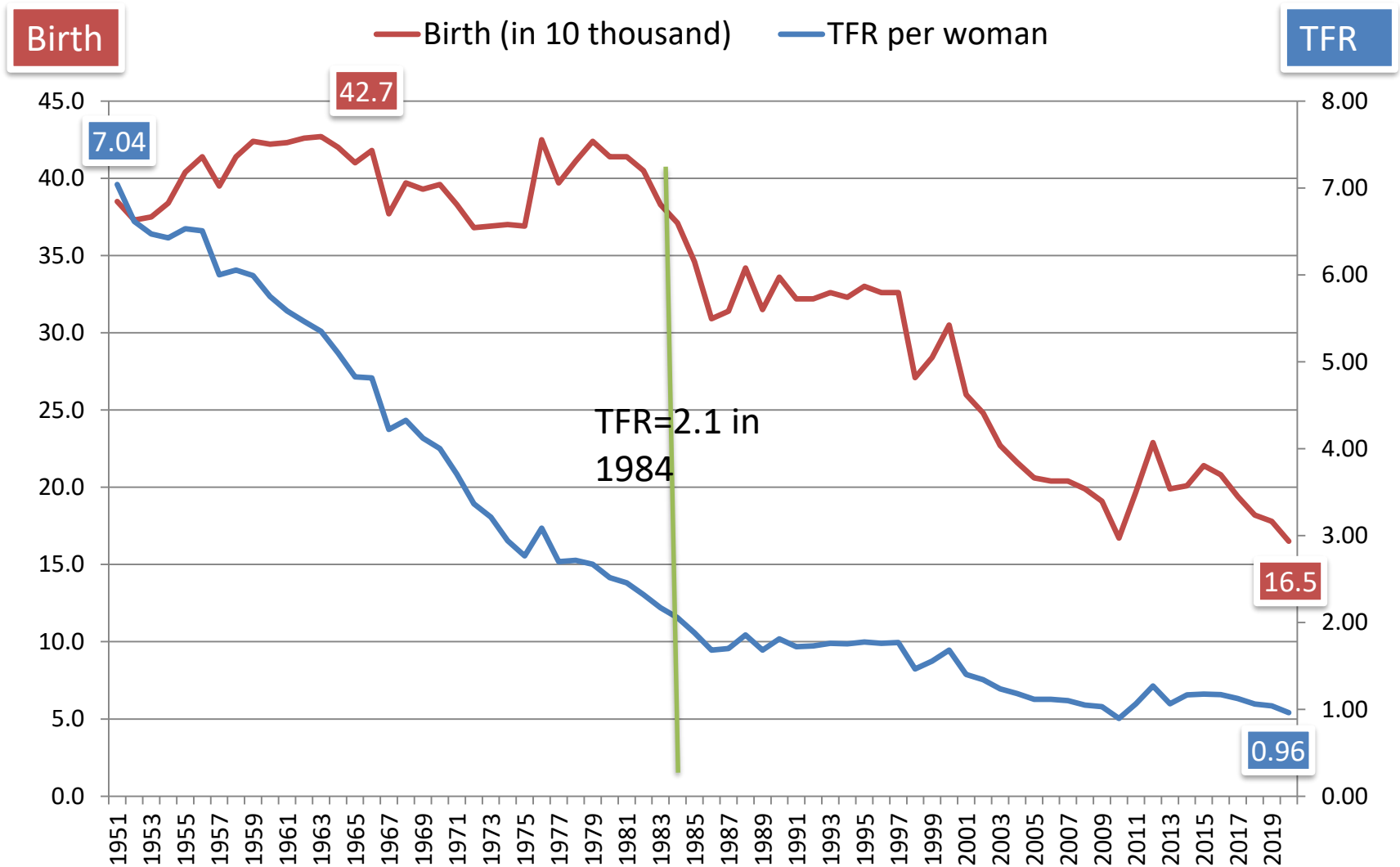
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An Overview of Taiwanese Population: 1951-2020

1. Birth and Death



2. Fertility Rates and number of Births



- In 1951, the TFR was 7 (one of the highest countries in the world). It dropped to 2.1 (replacement level) in 1984, and to less than 1 in 2020.
- Population size also increased overtime, it reached to the top with 23.6million people in Jan. 2020.
- Very fast declining fertility was the major demographic feature in Taiwan.

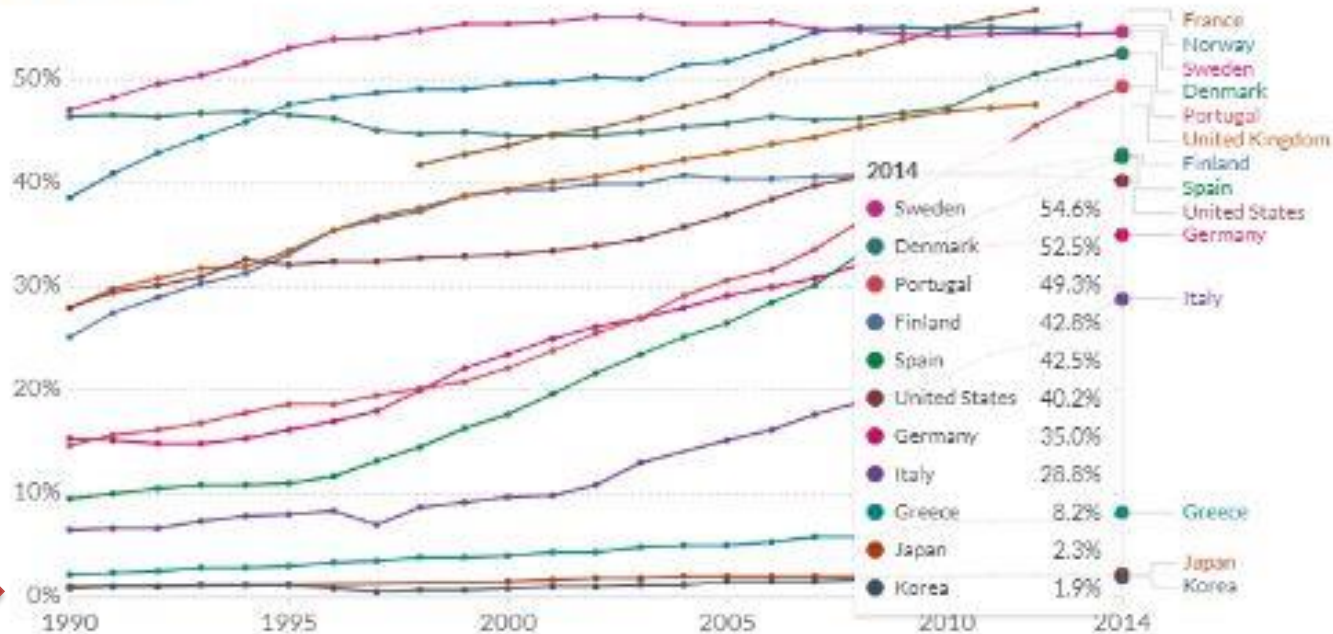
In compare with EU countries, the outside marriage birth rates were low in most Asian countries. Taiwan was less than 4% of children born outside marriage.

Share of children who were born outside of marriage

Share of all children born to mothers who were not married at the time of birth.



+ Add country



Source: OECD Family Database

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Therefore, marriage and birth had a strong linkage in Taiwan.

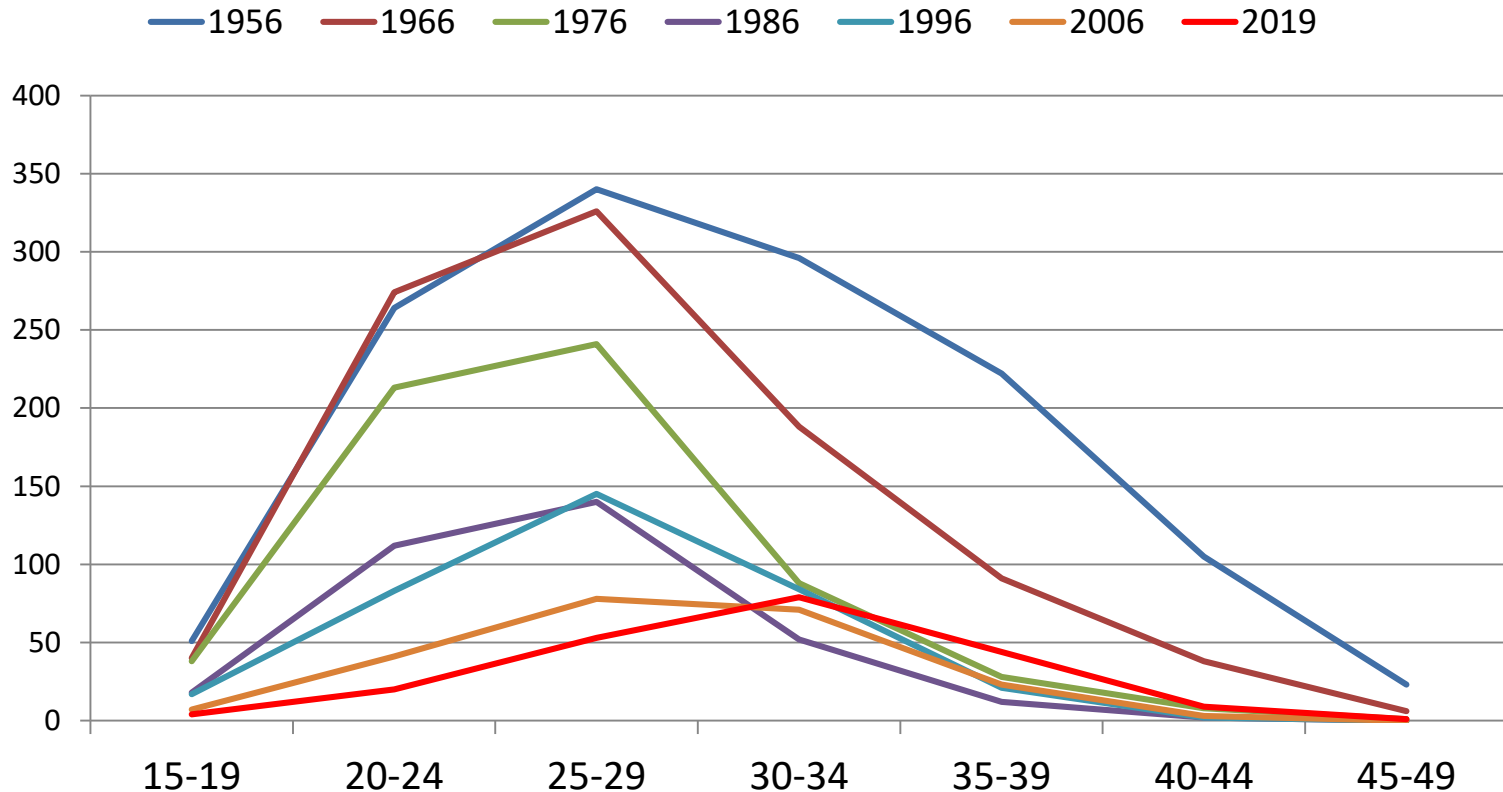
- Marriage: to take the responsibility for families.
- Merriage (Merry + Age): to enjoy the life for self.
- The main argument:
- Taiwan was in the transition from (Traditional) Marriage to (Modern) Merriage.
- The coming slides showed the evidences

Evidence 1: Fertility divide

Age-specific Fertility Rate (ASFR):1956-2019

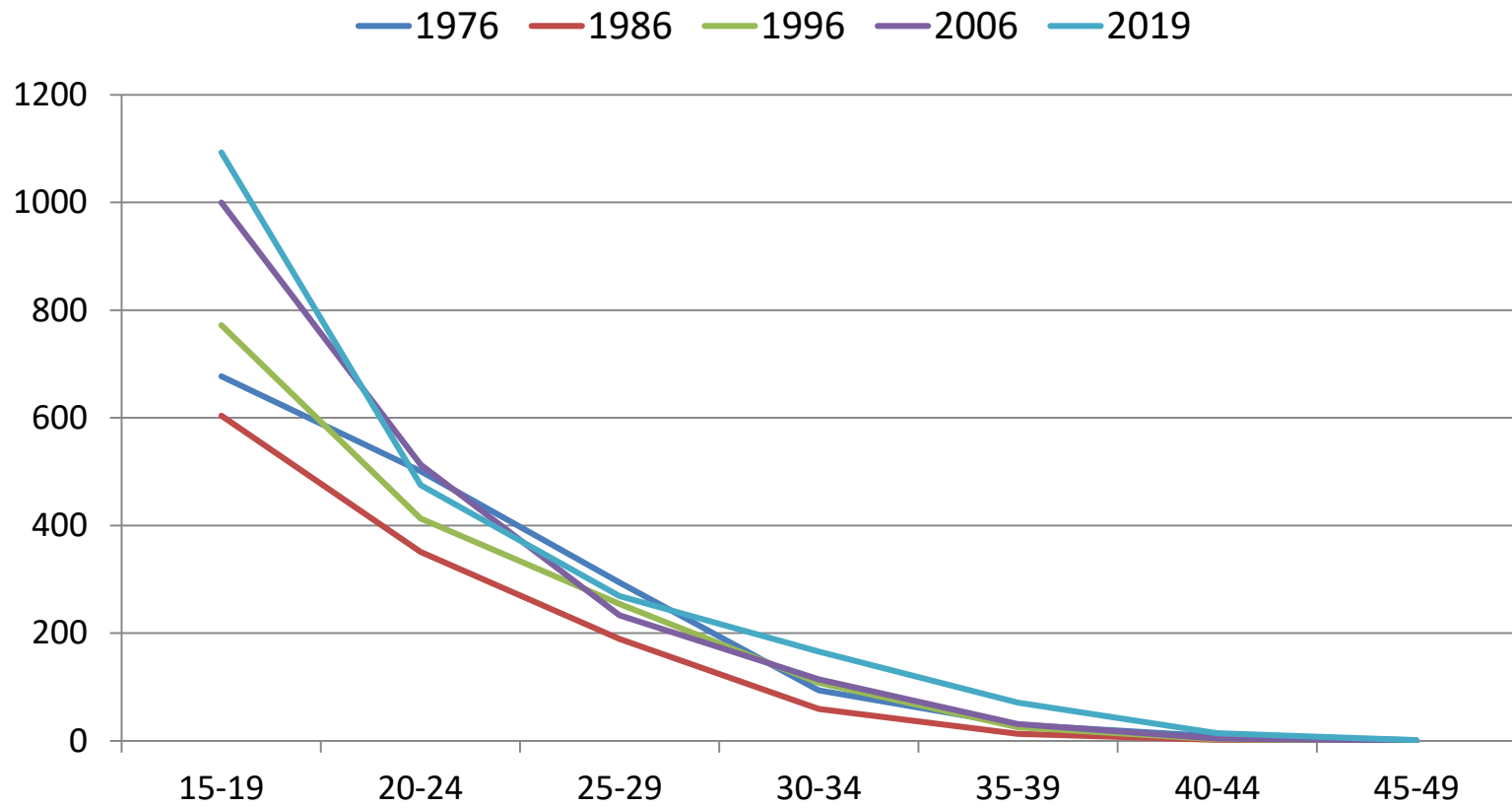
The fertility rate for women aged below 30 was declining overtime.
The fertility rate for women aged 30 or above also dropped but it surged after 1996.

0/00



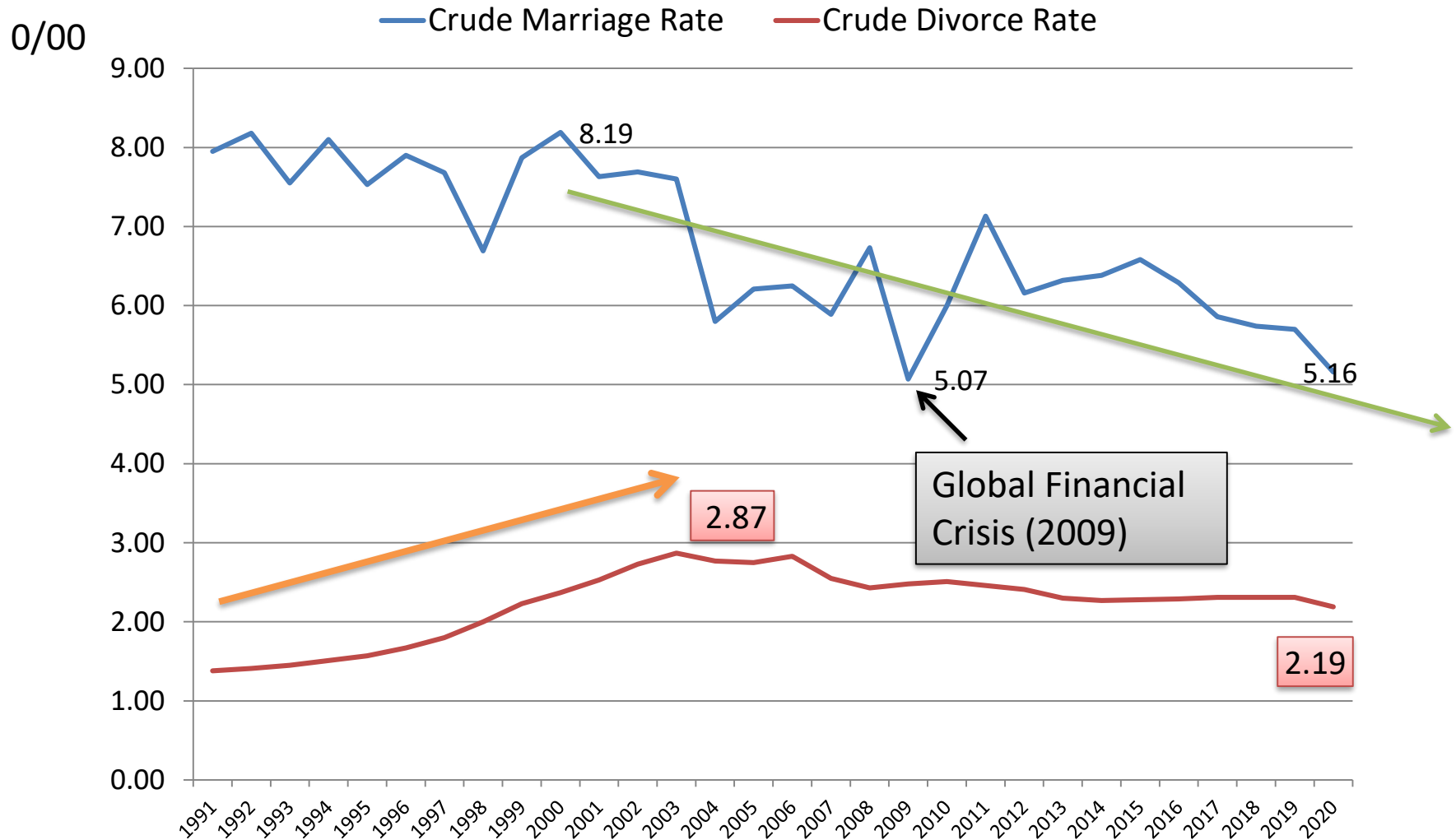
Age-specific Fertility Rate for Married Women: 1976-2019

The fertility rate was higher for the young married women. This implied that marriage was the main key for childbearing.



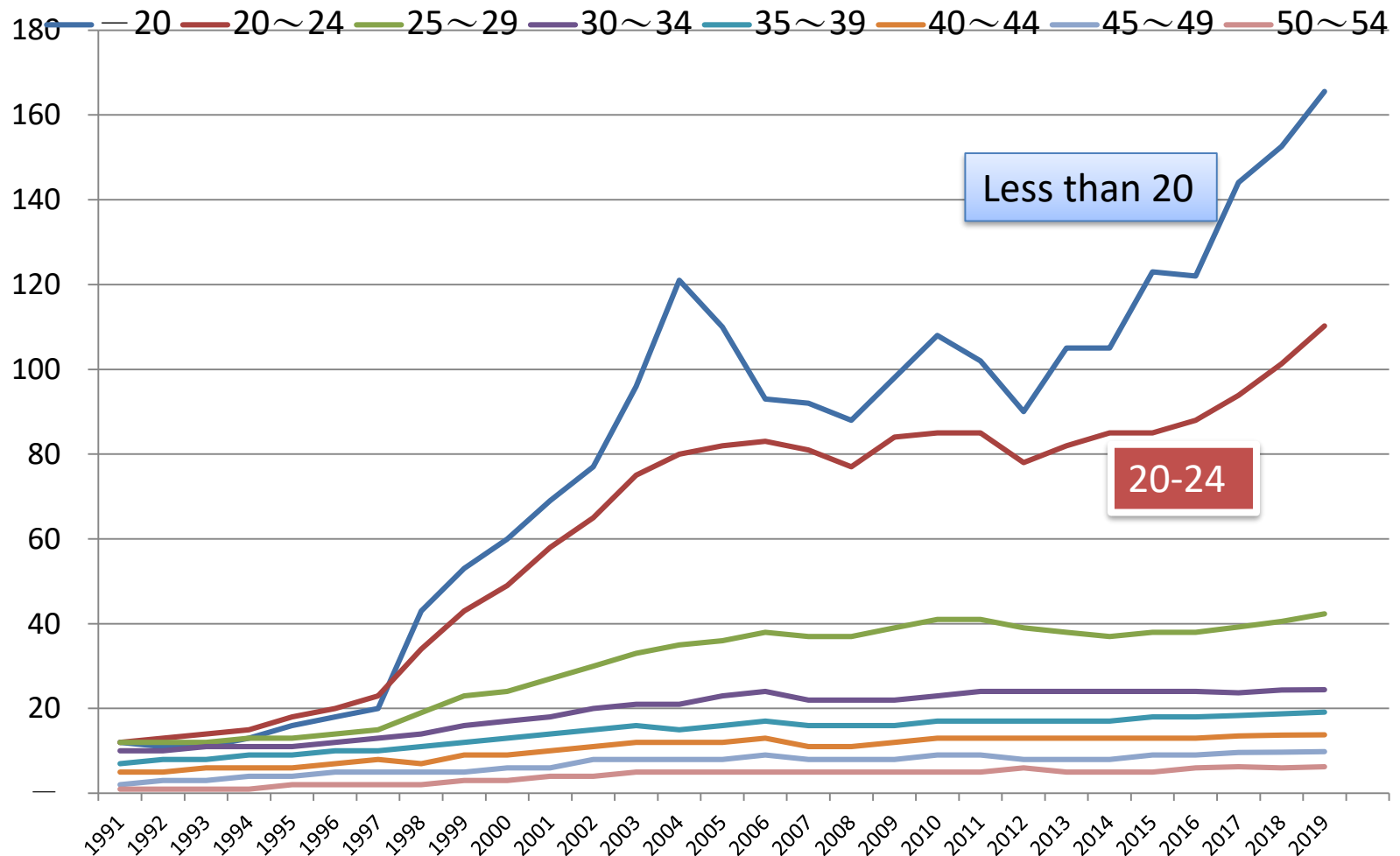
Marriages and Divorces

Marriage Rate and Divorce Rate: 1991-2020



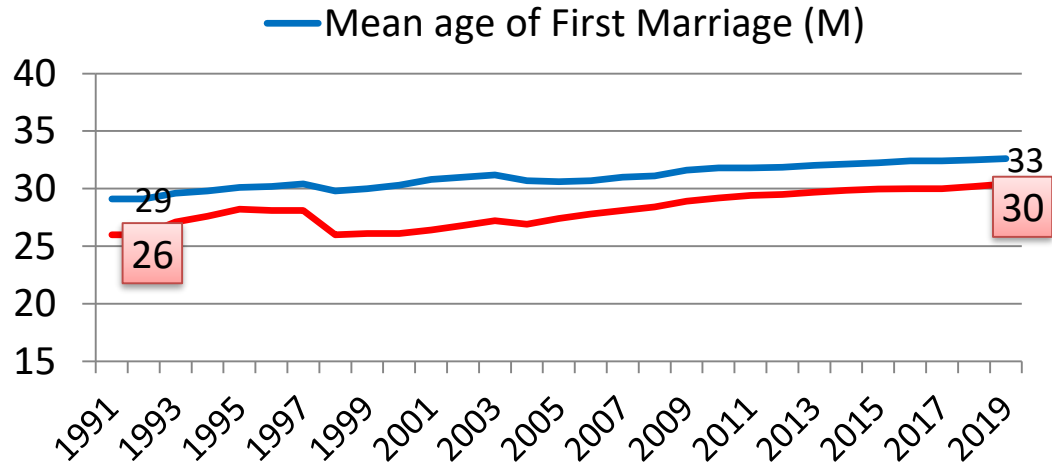
Evidence 2: Divorce divide

Who were most likely to get divorced?



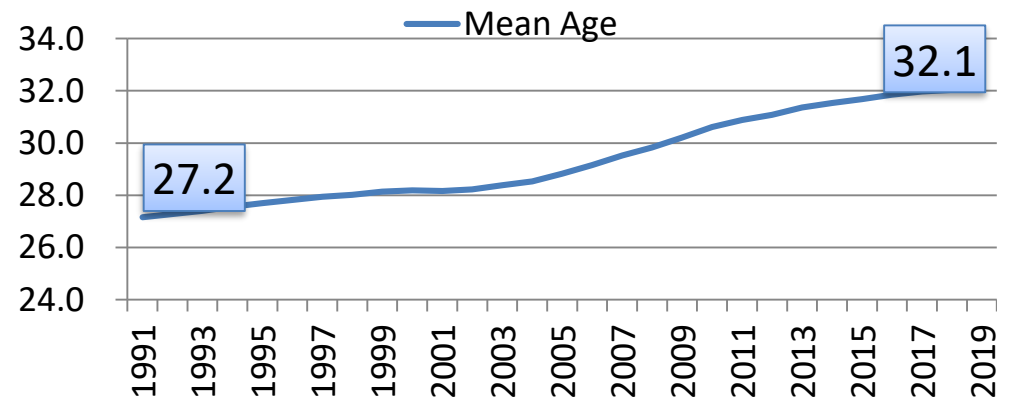
Mean Age of First Marriage: 1991-2020

+ 4 years

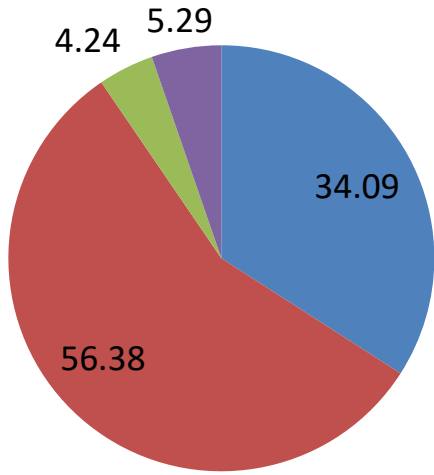


Mean Age of First Birth: 1991-2019

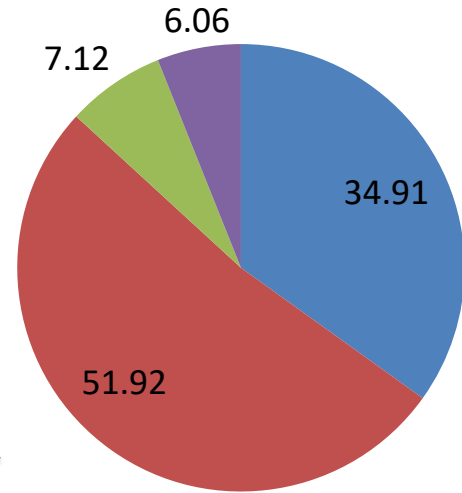
+ 4.9 years



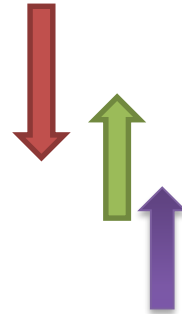
2000



2010

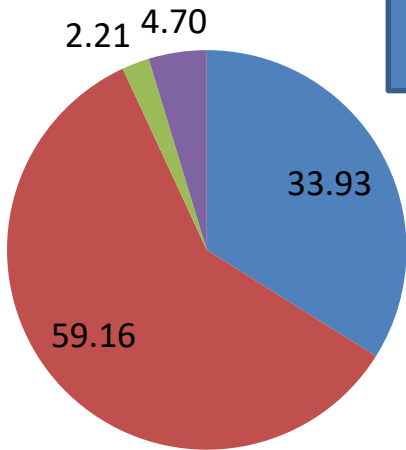


- Unmarried
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed

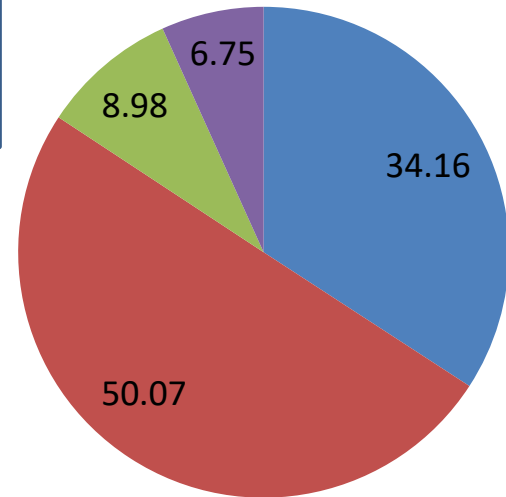


**Marriage status
for People of Age
15+**

1990



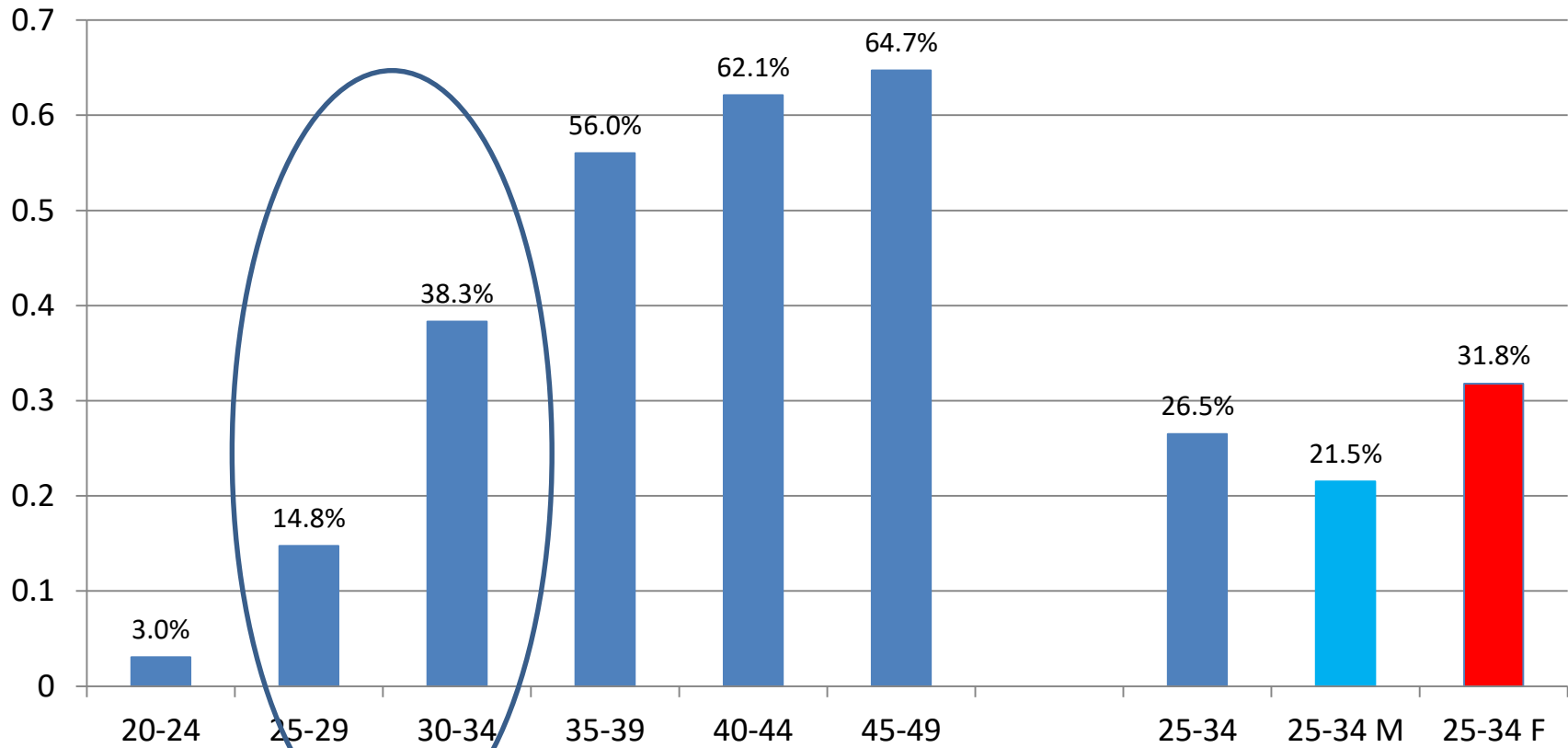
2020



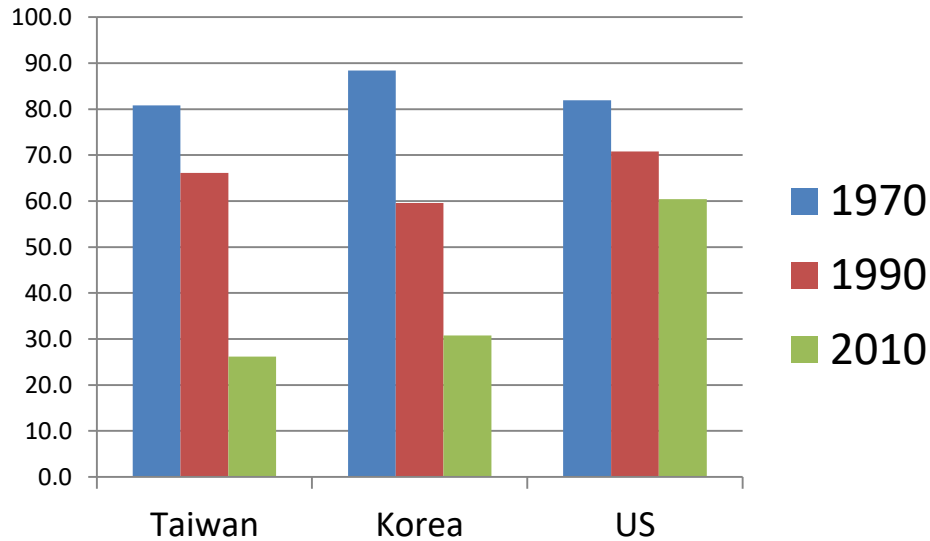
Evidence 3: Marriage divide

Proportion of Currently Married by Age Group in 2020

Among 3.18 million people of ages 25-34 , 26.5% of them was married in 2020

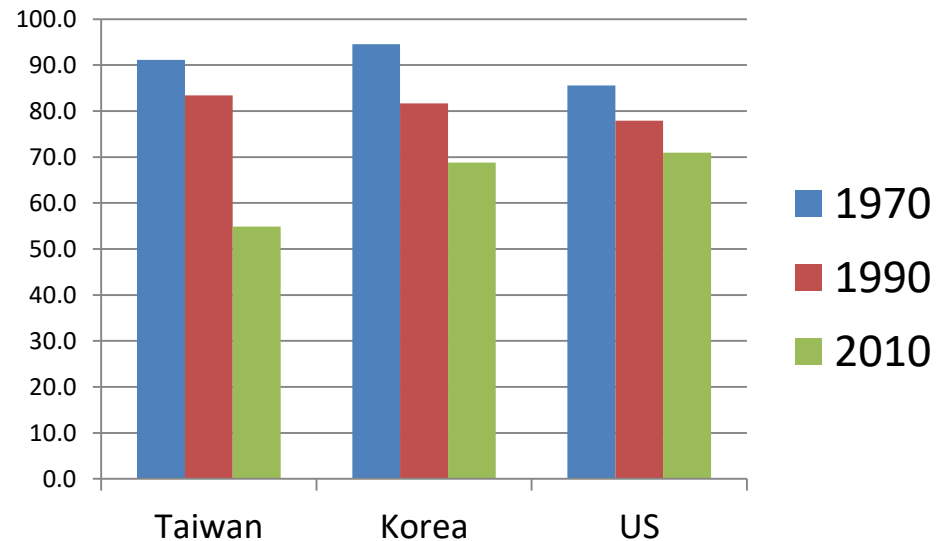


Proportion of Married Women: Age 25-29



Taiwan, Korea and US in comparison:

Proportion of Married Women: Age 30-34



The trend shows that among women aged 25-34 Taiwan had a smallest share in recent years. - Taiwan was really special in delinning marriage.

My explanations:

- 1) Young people have spent more time in colleges. Because of an increase in schooling years and economic opportunities for females in particular, the opportunity cost of being a wife (**mother**) as opposed to having a job has been rising.
- 2) Housing costs and the economic burden of child care and education were also increasing. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate for young people remained high. For instance, the rate for those aged 20–24 has exceeded 12% in recent years, three times the average for the population as a whole.
- 3) The individualism and gender-equity concepts prevalent among the new generation have also undercut the traditional family values that once emphasized conjugal-and-natal responsibilities.
- 4) This resulted in an increase in divorced rate and a decrease in marriage rate. Children who used to be viewed as asset, responsibility and hope might become a burden and hardship to parents nowadays.

When marriage is more important than marriage, the fertility is unlikely to recuperate. This is my conclusion. Thank you and take care!

