

# RETHINKING ECONOMIC MODELS FOR WOMEN

Misty Heggeness  
University of Kansas

Discussing: Stefania Albanesi

November 17, 2023



Photo illustration: Weronika Gęsicka; Alamy

IDEAS

## THE NUCLEAR FAMILY WAS A MISTAKE

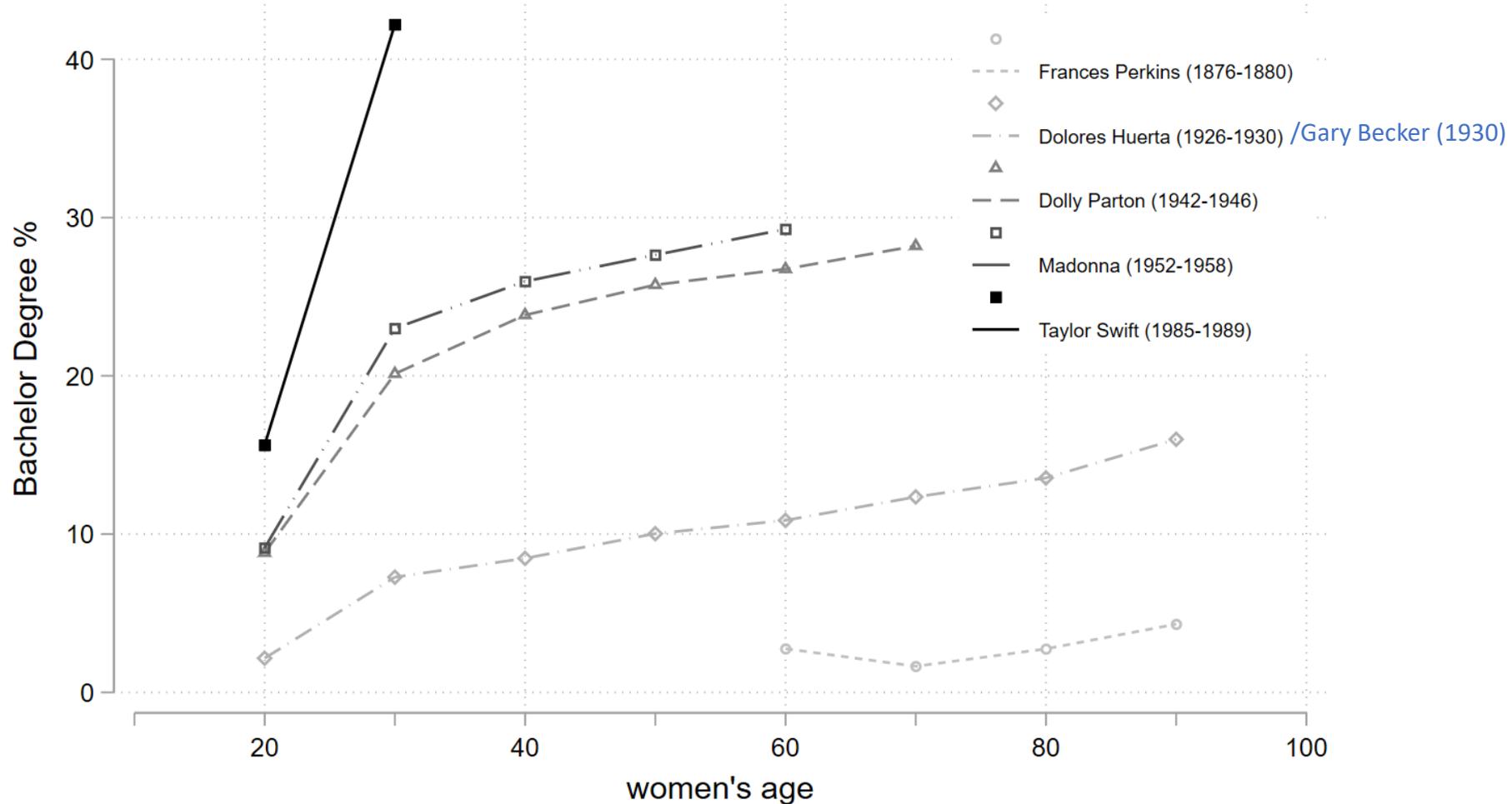
The family structure we've held up as the cultural ideal for the past half century has been a catastrophe for many. It's time to figure out better ways to live together.

By David Brooks

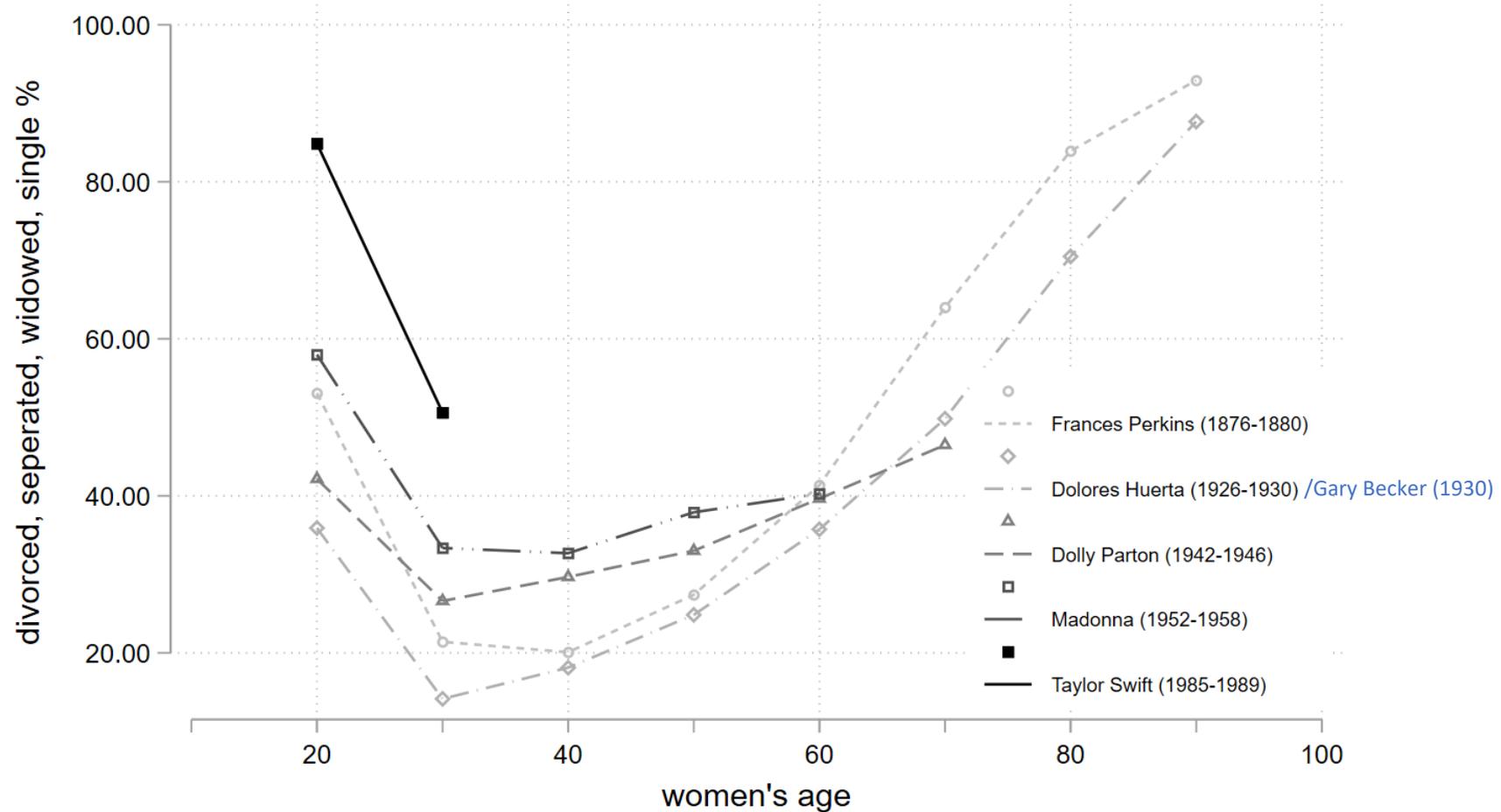
# Two Types of Women in Today's Labor Market



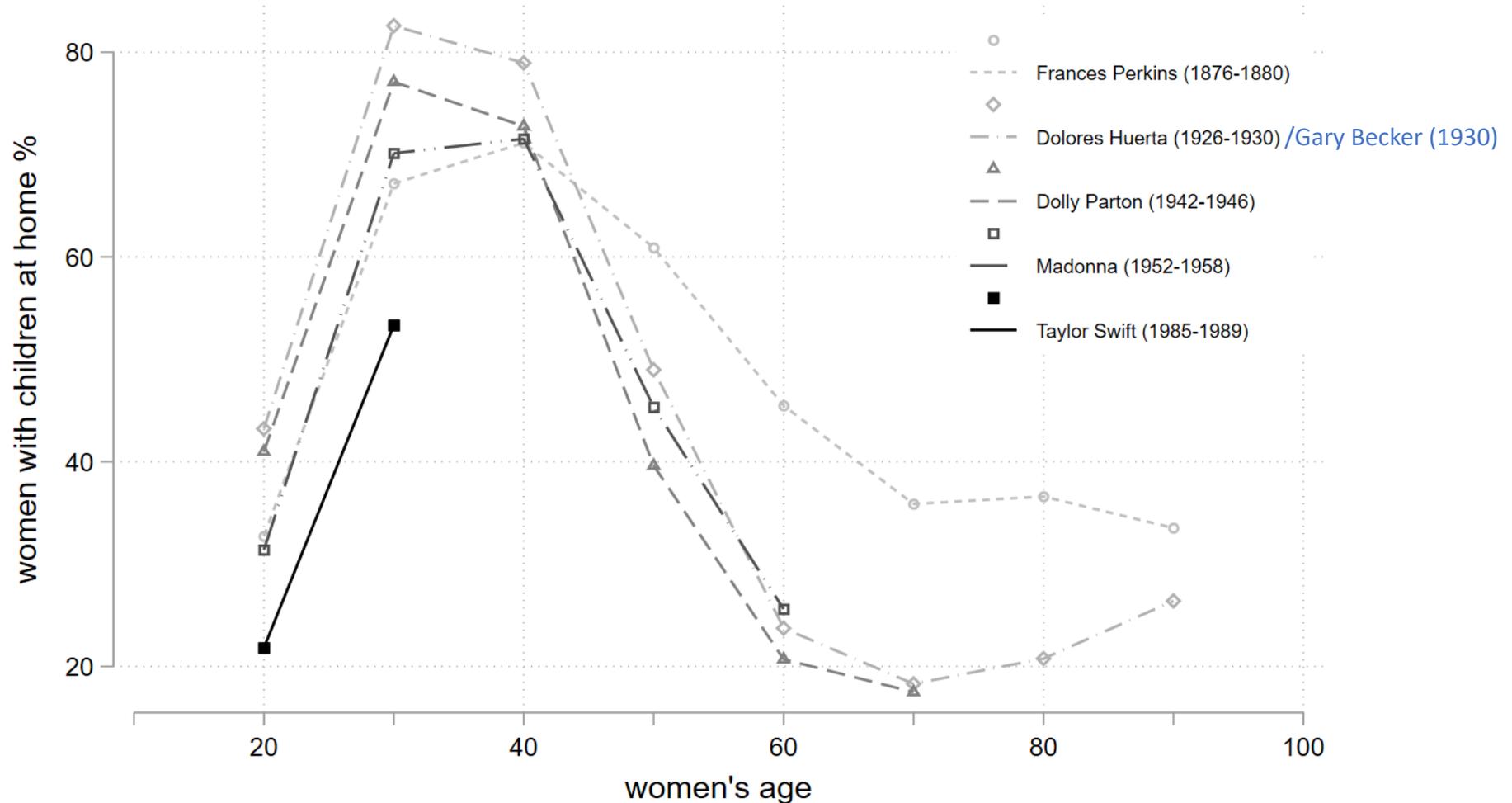
# Women Are Investing More in Education



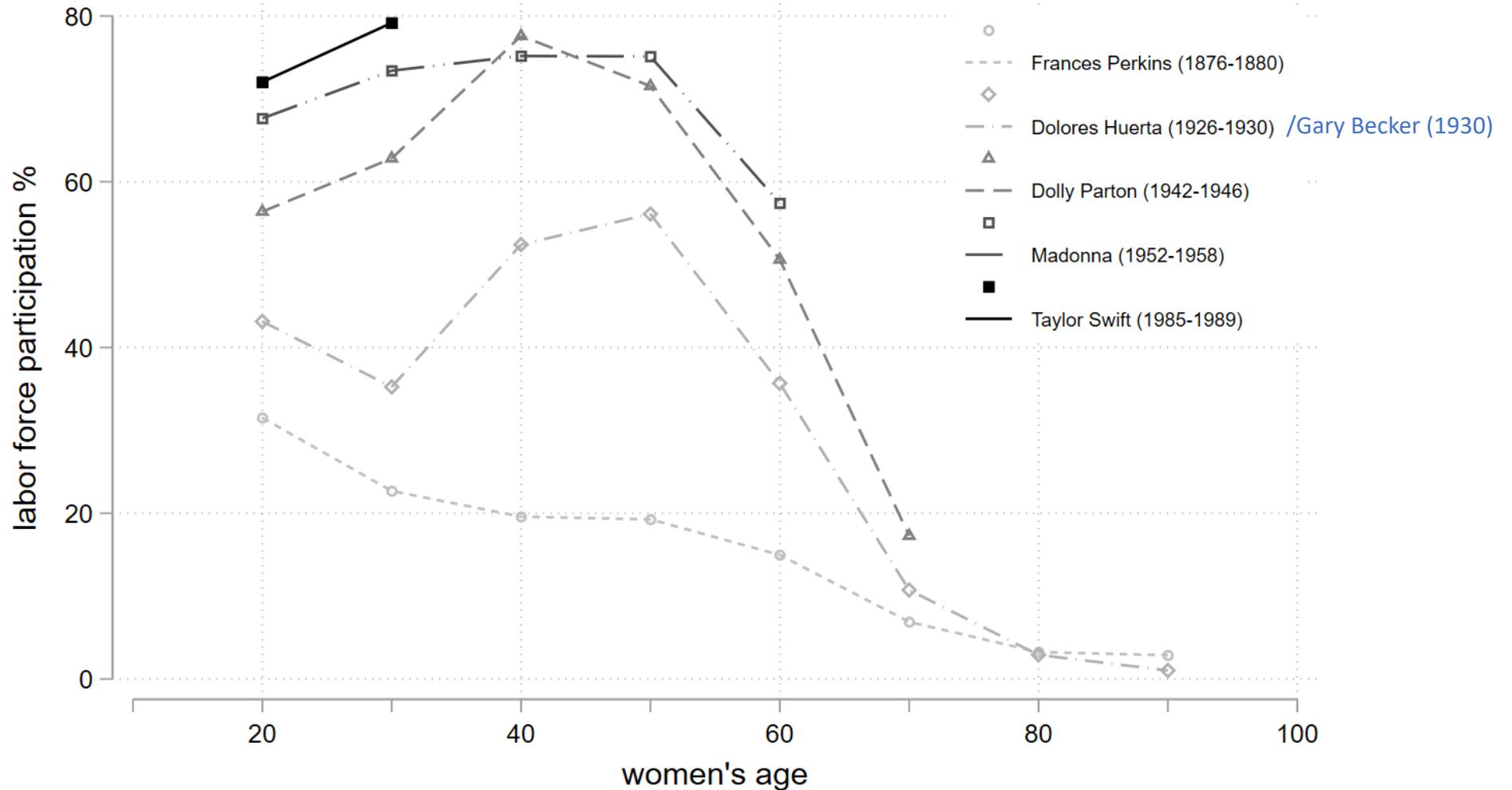
# Women Are Spending More Time Alone



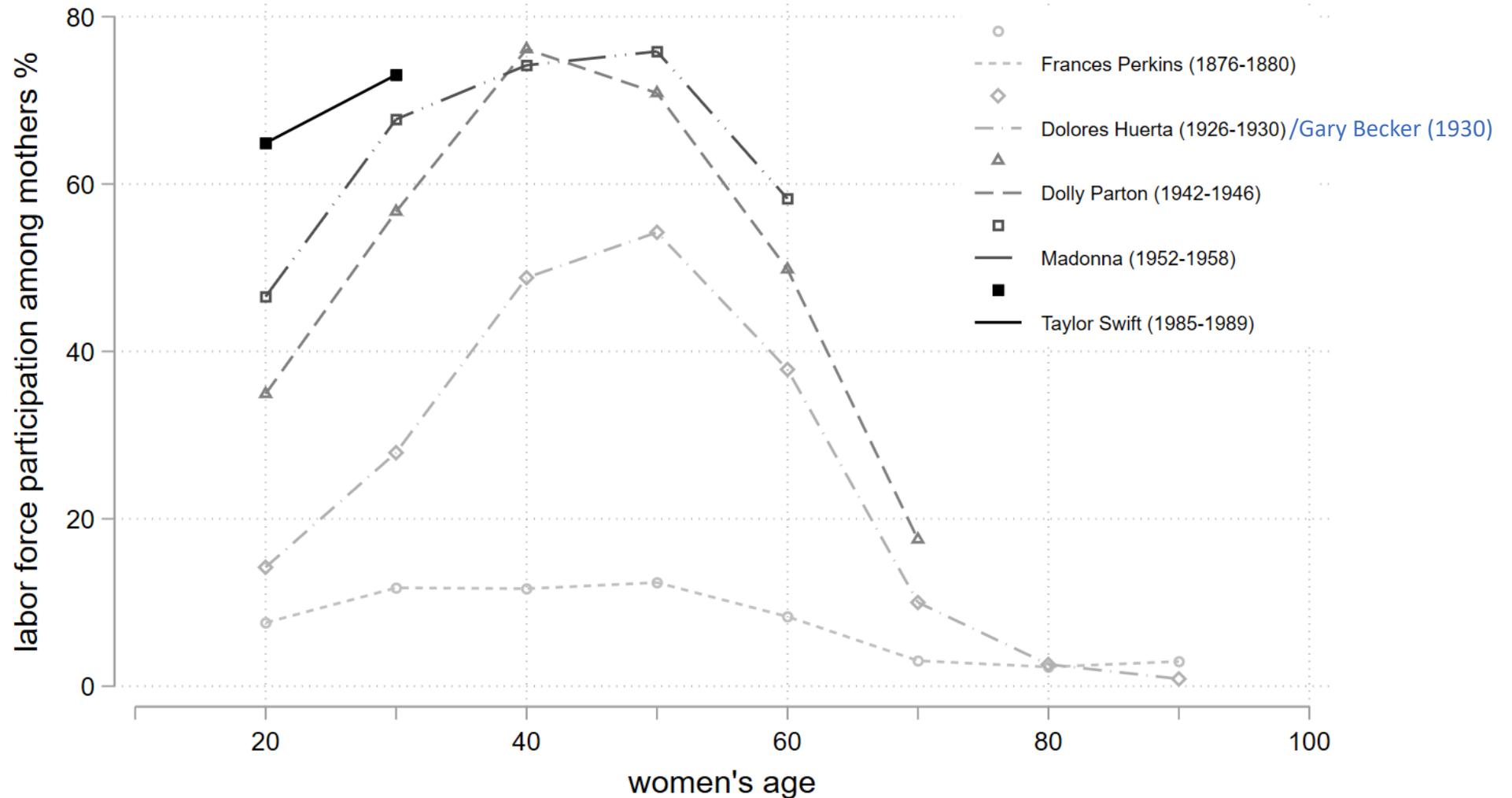
# Women Are Not Having Kids



# Most Women Are Working For Pay



# Most Mothers Are Working For Pay



"Ambitious, fast-paced, fact-filled, and accessible."  
—Science

HEATHER BOUSHEY

# Finding Time

THE ECONOMICS OF  
WORK-LIFE CONFLICT

# Career & Family

WOMEN'S CENTURY-LONG  
JOURNEY TOWARD EQUITY

Claudia  
Goldin

# ALREADY

# TOAST

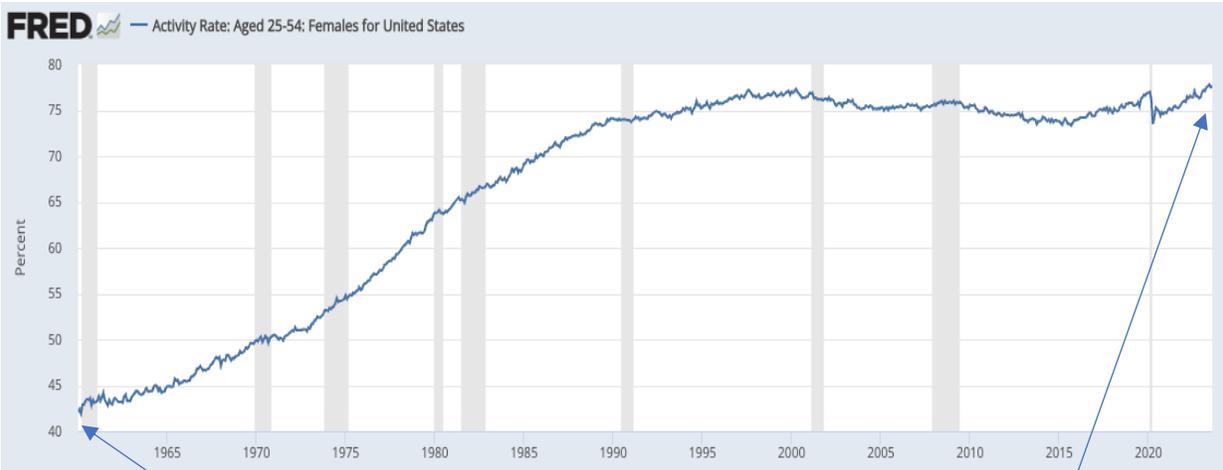
CAREGIVING AND BURNOUT  
IN AMERICA

KATE WASHINGTON

# August 1960 to August 2023

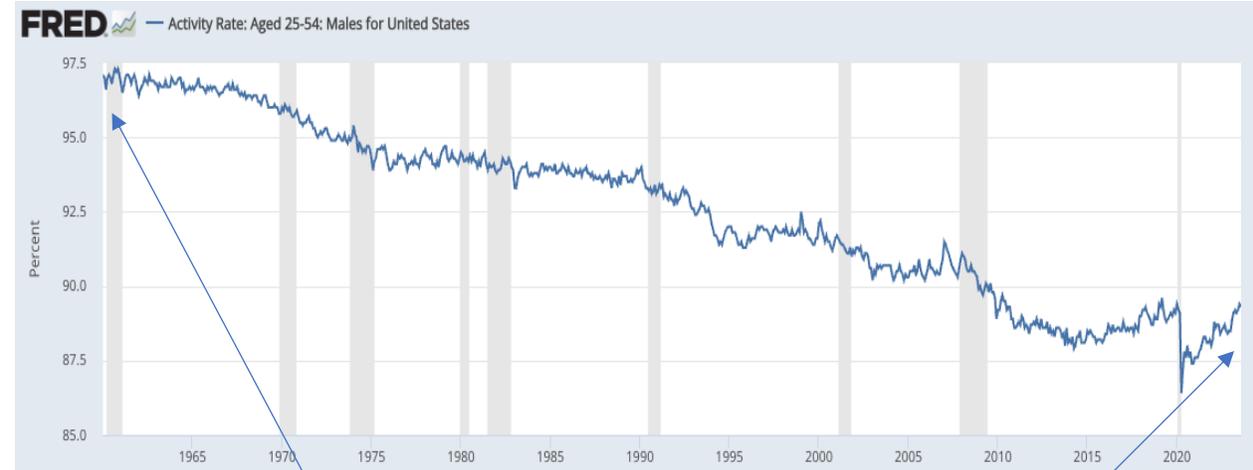
**34.2% increase** for women  
aged 25-54

**7.8% decrease** for men  
aged 25-54



43.4

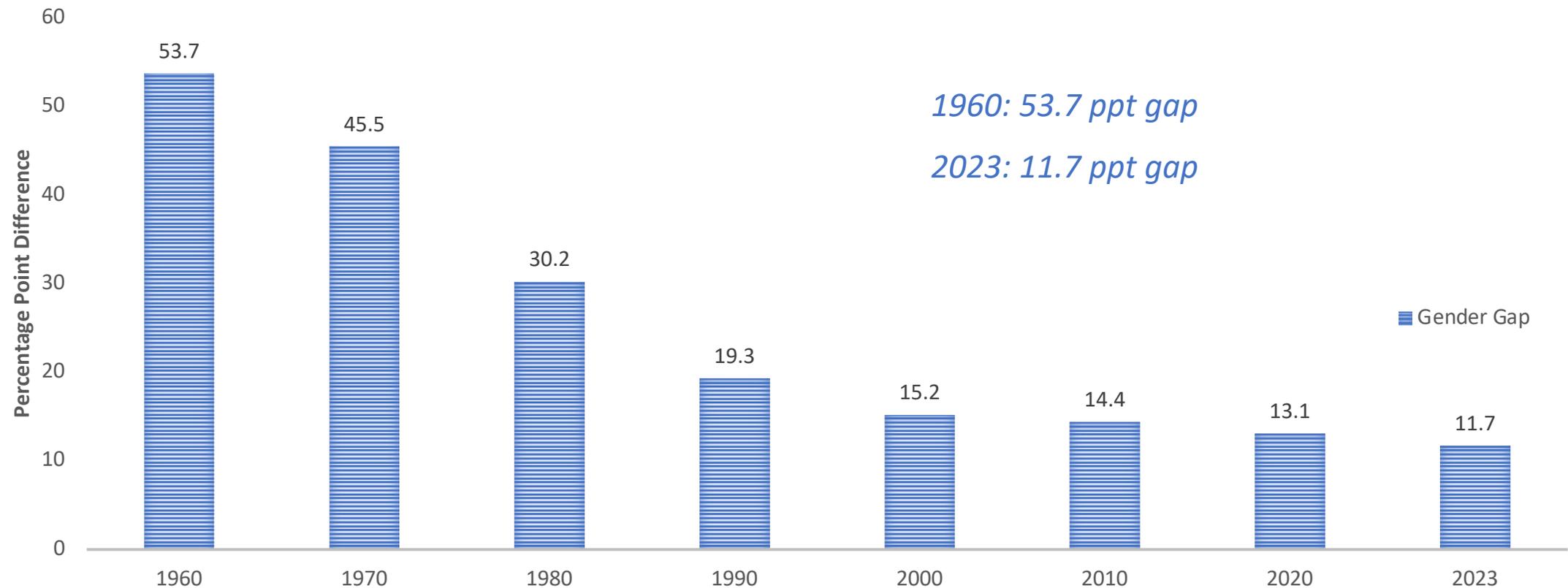
77.6



97.1

89.3

# Gender Gap in Prime-Age Labor Force Participation is Narrowing

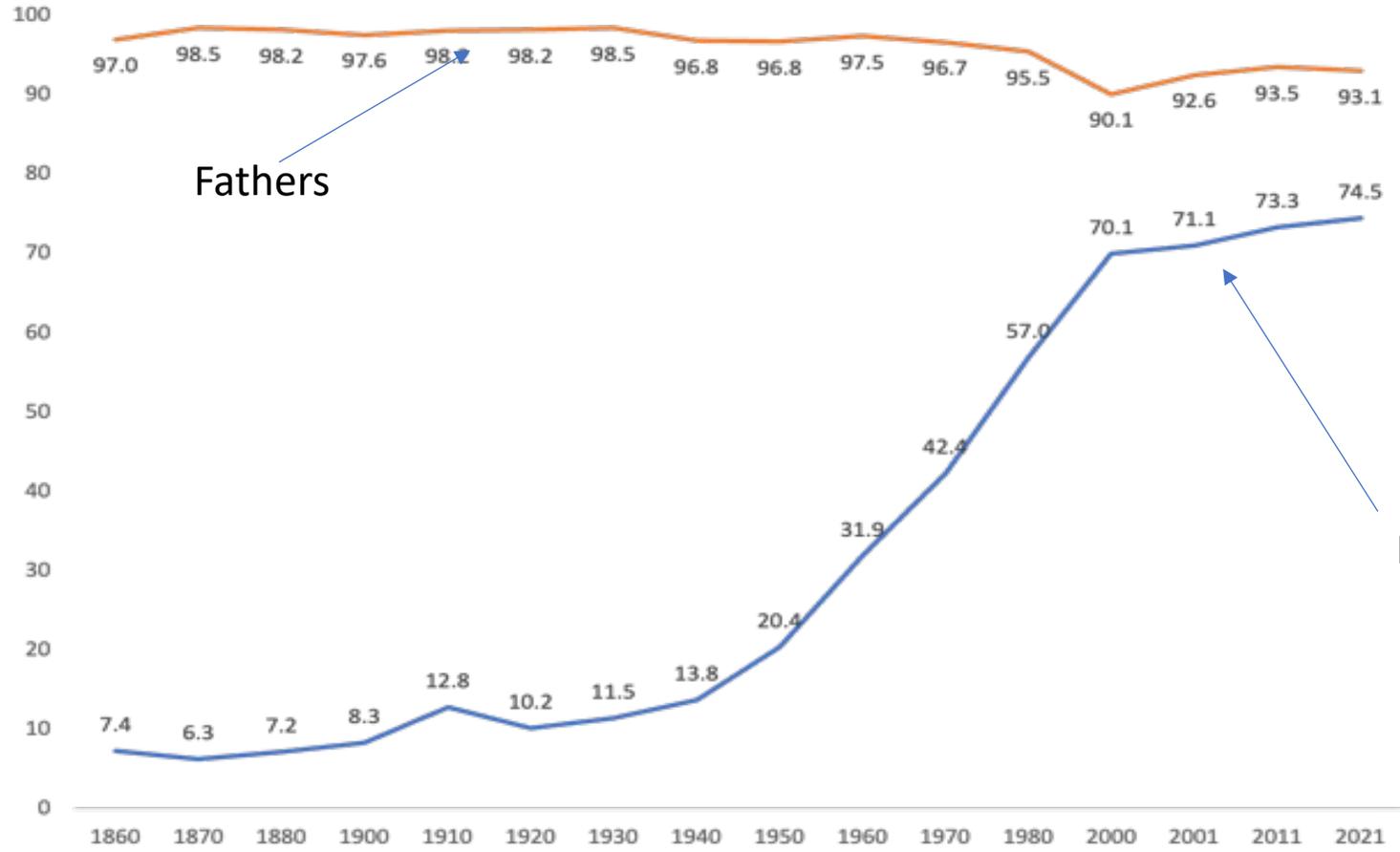


Source: FRED, St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank

# Gender Gap in Prime-Age Labor Force Participation *of Parents* is Narrowing

1960: 65.6 ppt  
2021: 18.6 ppt

*Parenthood Gap:*  
DD1960: 11.9  
DD2020s: 6.9



*~5% increase in prime-age mothers' LFP since 2000*  
*(~1% decrease for all women)*

Source: SWIFTYNOMICS (2025, UC Press) using ipums.org data, preliminary -- do not cite or source without permission

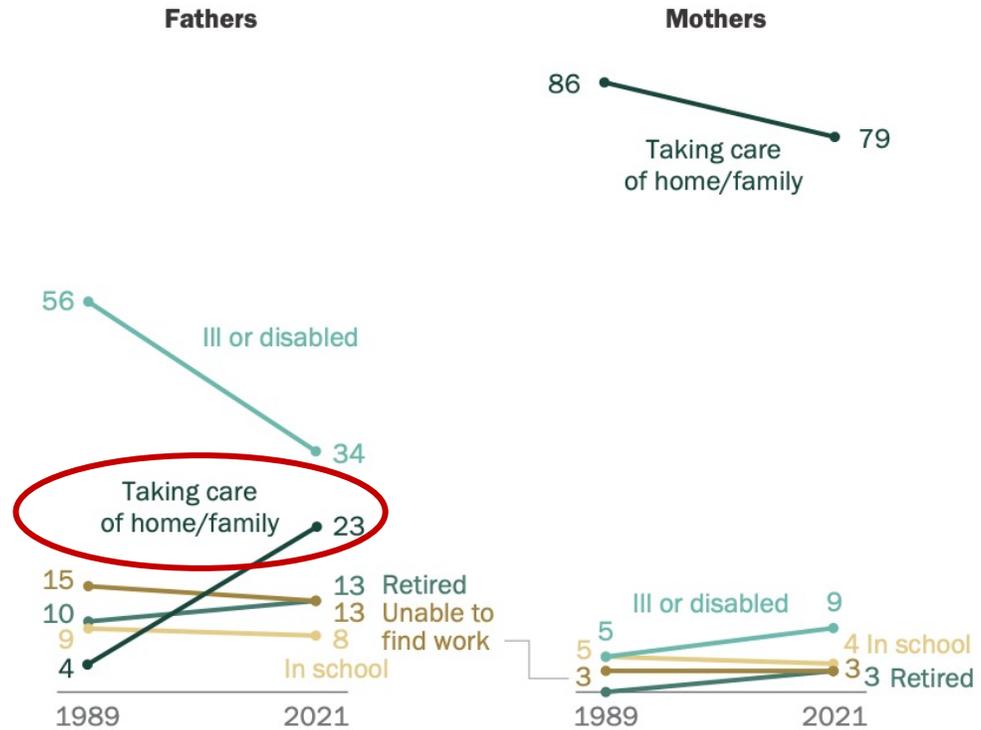
Given the Lack of Structural  
U.S. Family Policy, How Is  
This Possible?

---

1-in-5 Stay-at-home Parents Today are Dads

### Stay-at-home moms and dads cite different reasons for their decision

% of fathers and mothers who are not employed for pay who say they are not working because they are ...



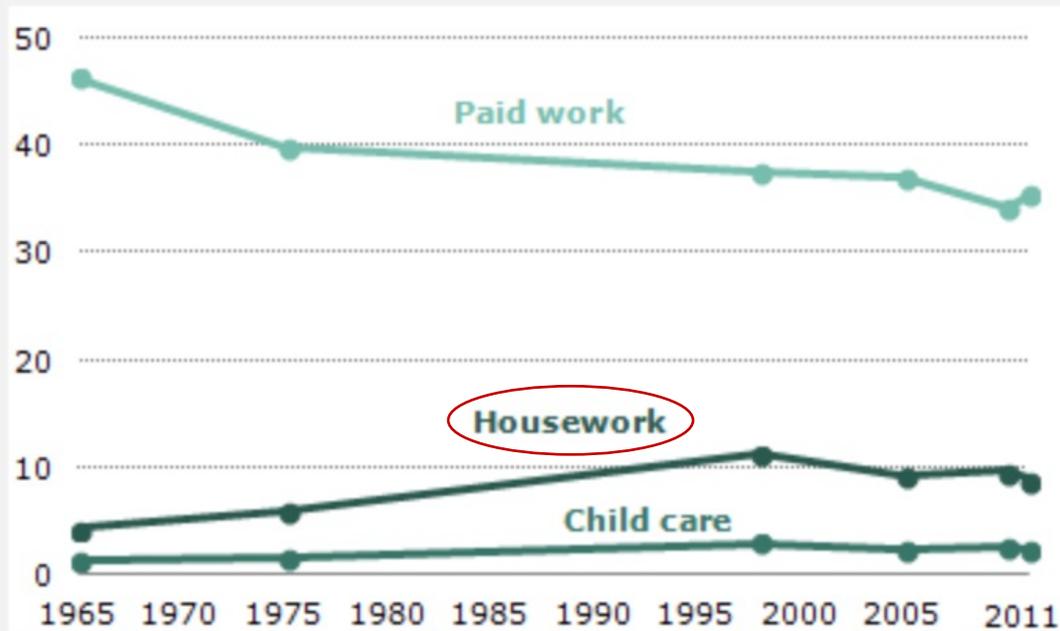
Note: Based on parents ages 18 to 69 with own child(ren) younger than 18 in the household. Parents who were not employed in the year prior to the survey are classified as stay-at-home parents. Responses of "other" not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1990-2022 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (IPUMS).

# From a 25-hour gender gap to a 5-hour gap

## Men's Work at Home and at Work, 1965-2011

Hours per week



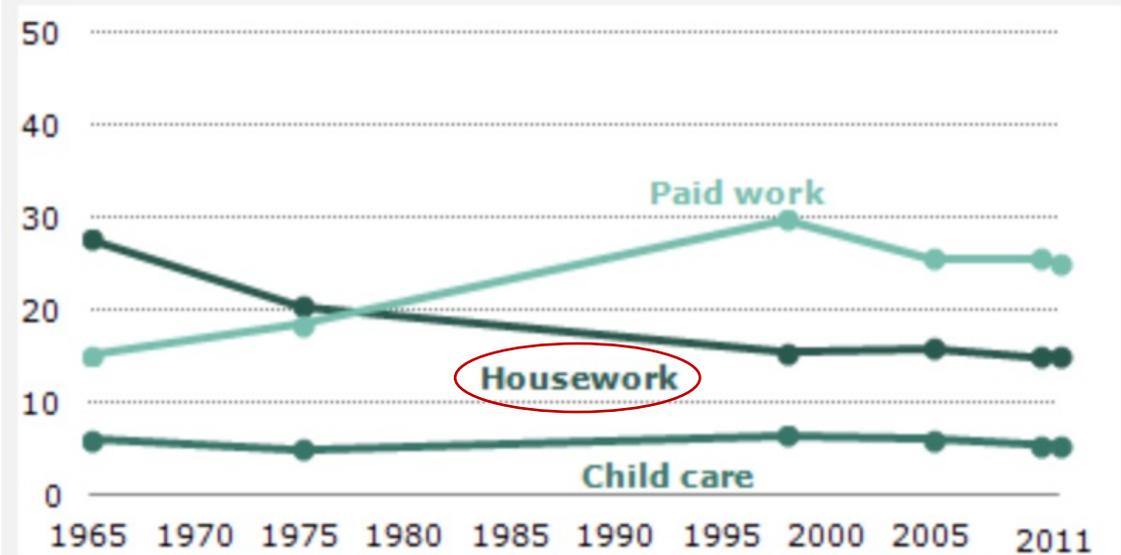
Notes: Includes adults ages 18 to 64. Paid work time include commute time.

Source: 1965-1998 data from calculations based on Table 2 in Sayer (2005). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis of the American Time Use Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Women's Work at Home and at Work, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Includes adults ages 18 to 64. Paid work time include commuting time.

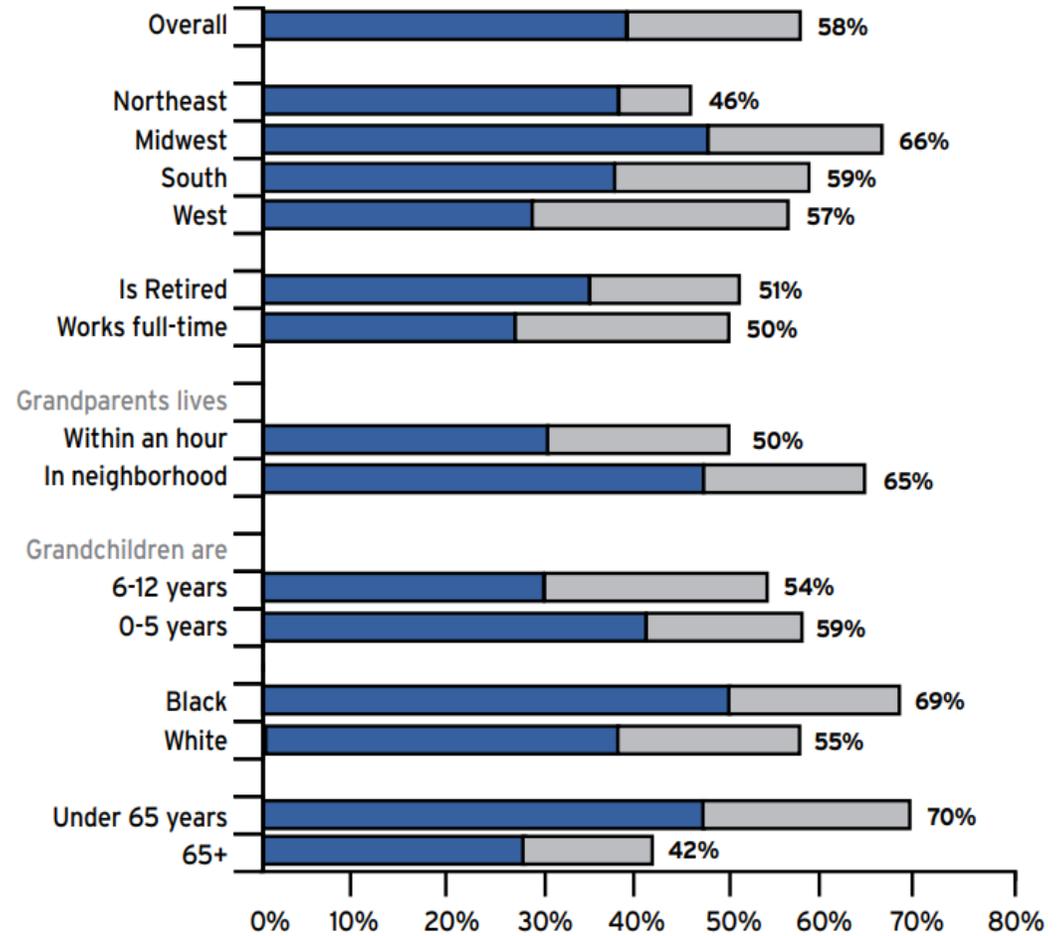
Source: 1965-1998 data from calculations based on Table 2 in Sayer (2005). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis the American Time Use Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Two-thirds of grandparents with grandkids under age 13 that live within one hour provide childcare.

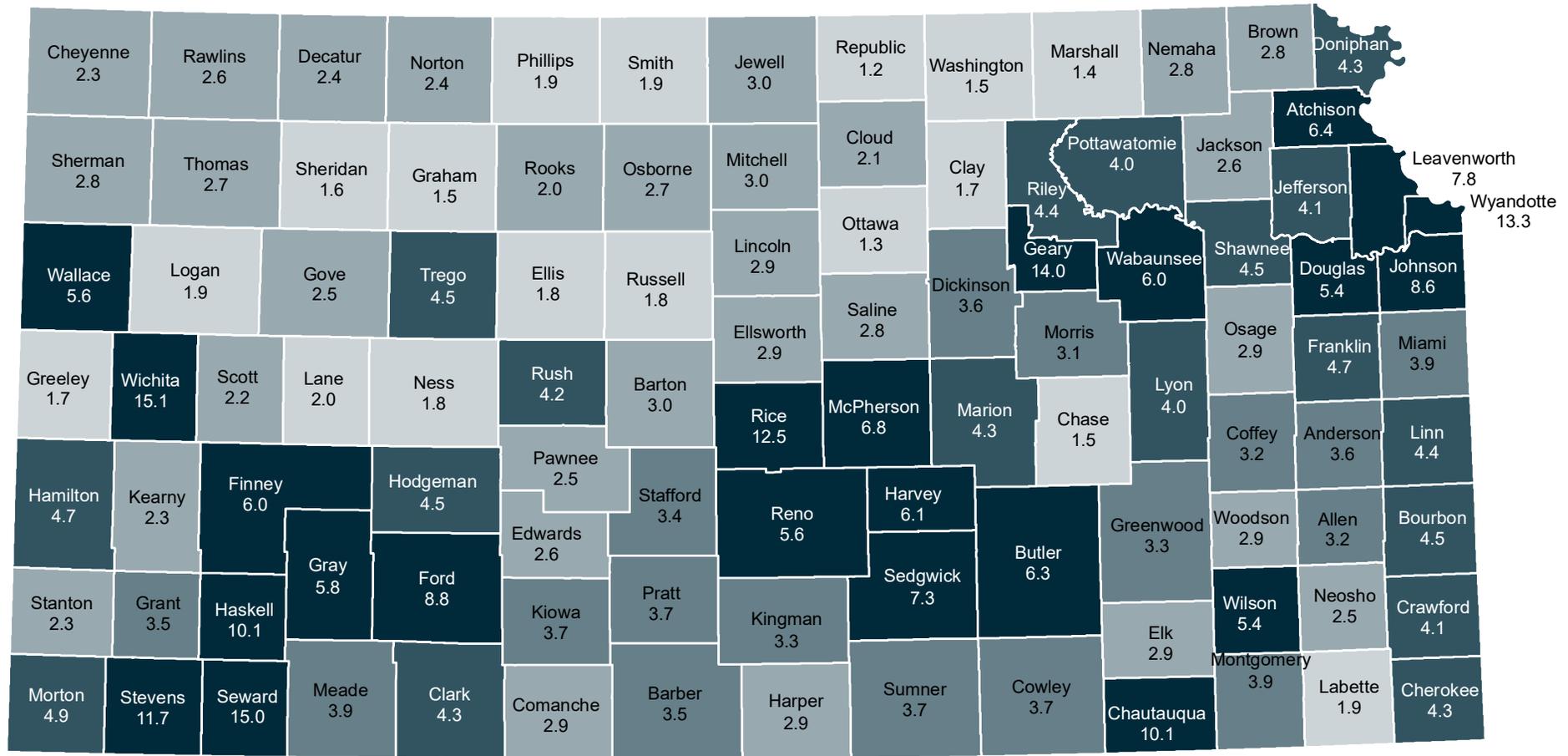
FIGURE 1: Grandparents Providing Child Care

■ Currently ■ In the Past

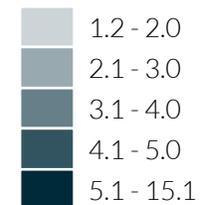


NOTE: Asked only of Grandparents with grandchildren under age 13 living with an hour's distance

## Ratio of Children Under Age 5 to Licensed Capacity at Childcare Facilities in Kansas, by County



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas;  
 data from Child Care Aware of Kansas and U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates.



# Pods, Microschools and Tutors: Can Parents Solve the Education Crisis on Their Own?

As school openings remain in flux, families grapple with big questions about safety, money and politics.

Share full article



97.1



—

Around 80 percent of the learning pods *were organized by parents themselves.*

# When All Else Fails, Moms Bring Kids to Work





When All  
Else Fails,  
Moms  
Bring Kids  
to Work



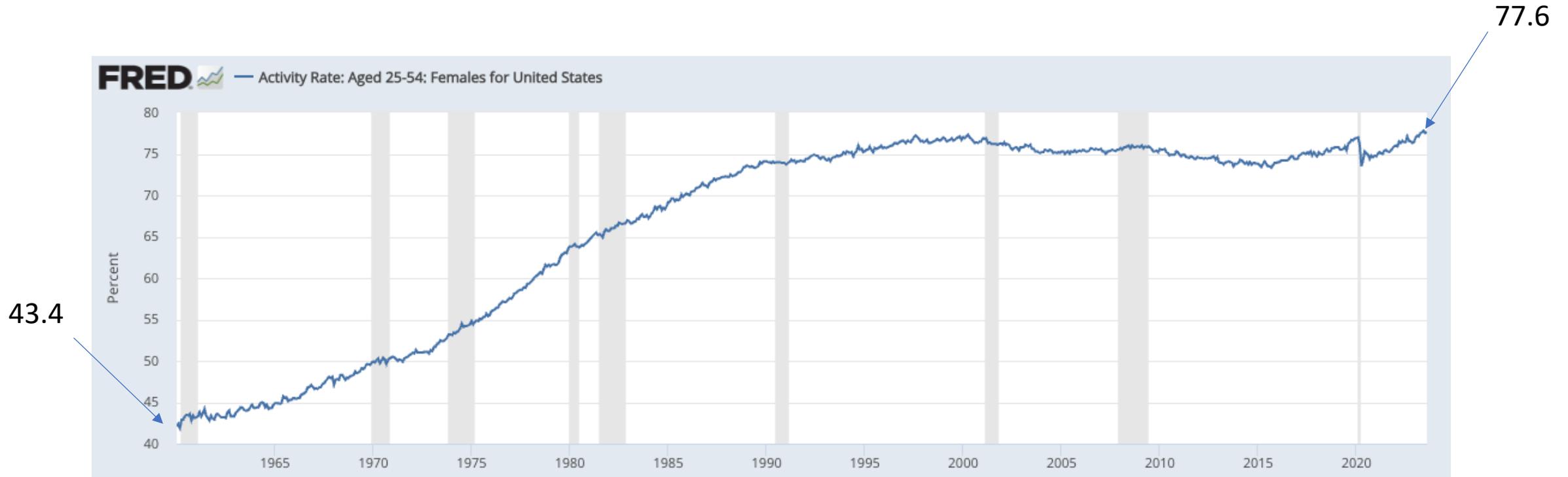
Take the  
Swiftnomics  
Survey!



[https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bHhjhjrpubyz16S](https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bHhjhjrpubyz16S)

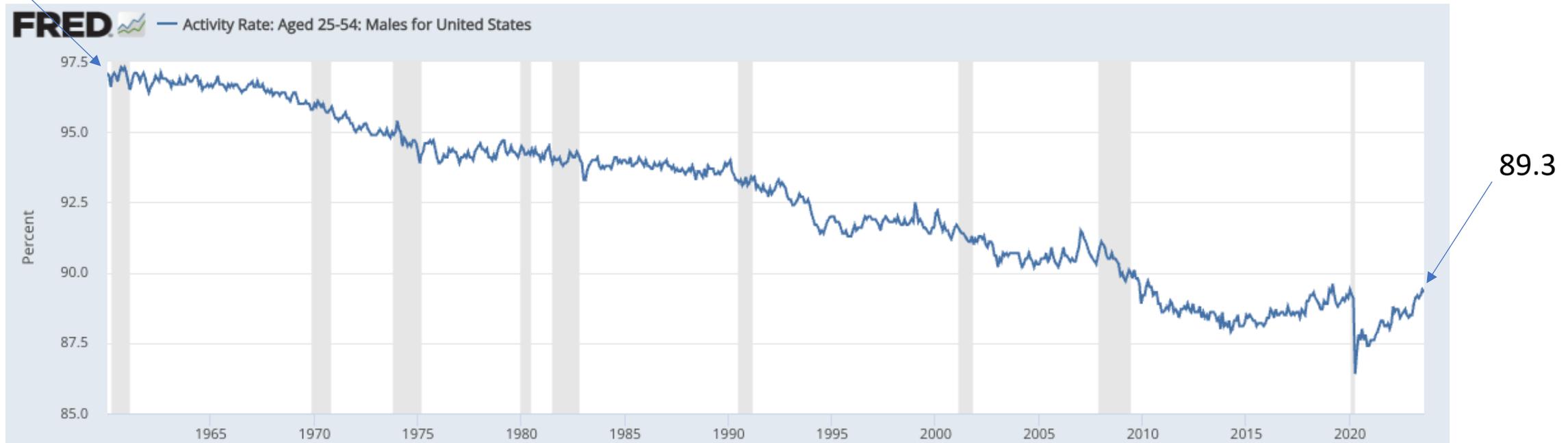
# Appendix Tables

# August 1960 to August 2023: 34.2% increase



# August 1960 to August 2023: 7.8% decrease

97.1



# Women Are Single Longer

