

Social Welfare Benefits and Family Structure

Douglas J. Besharov

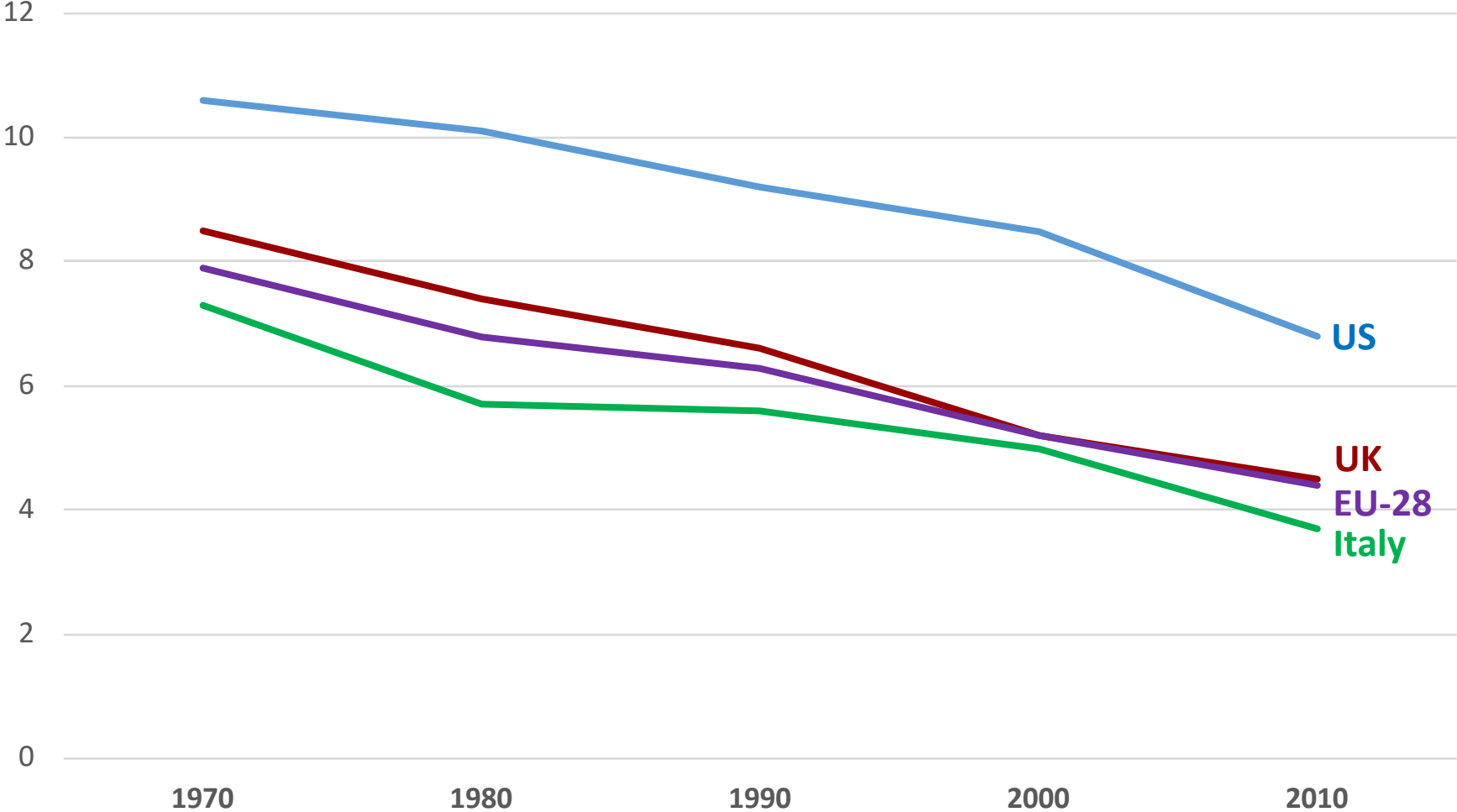
University of Maryland and Atlantic Council

June 26, 2018

Annual Marriage Rates Down

1970-2010

of marriages per 1,000 people
(ages 18+)

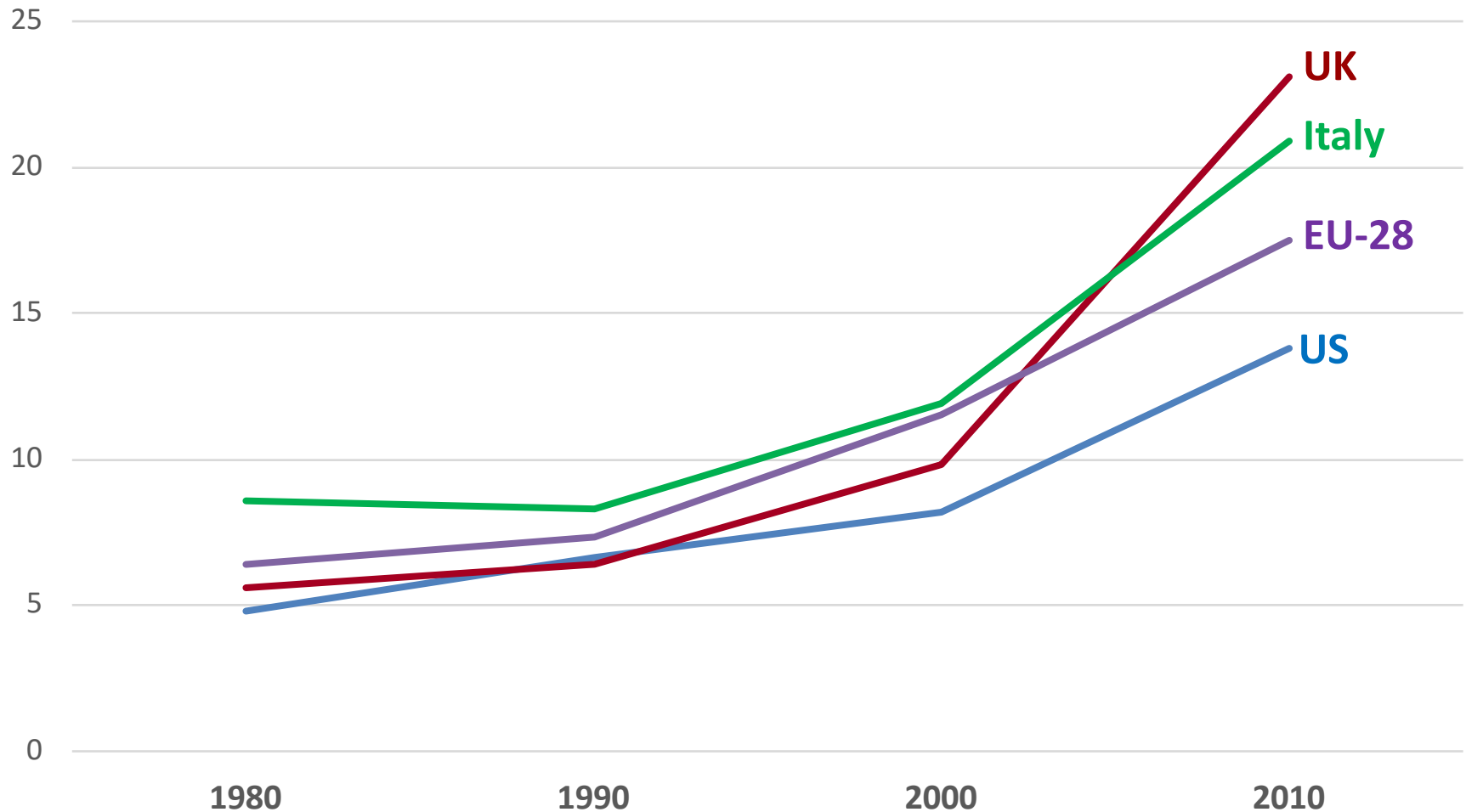


Source: OECD 2014

Never-Married Rates Up

1980-2010

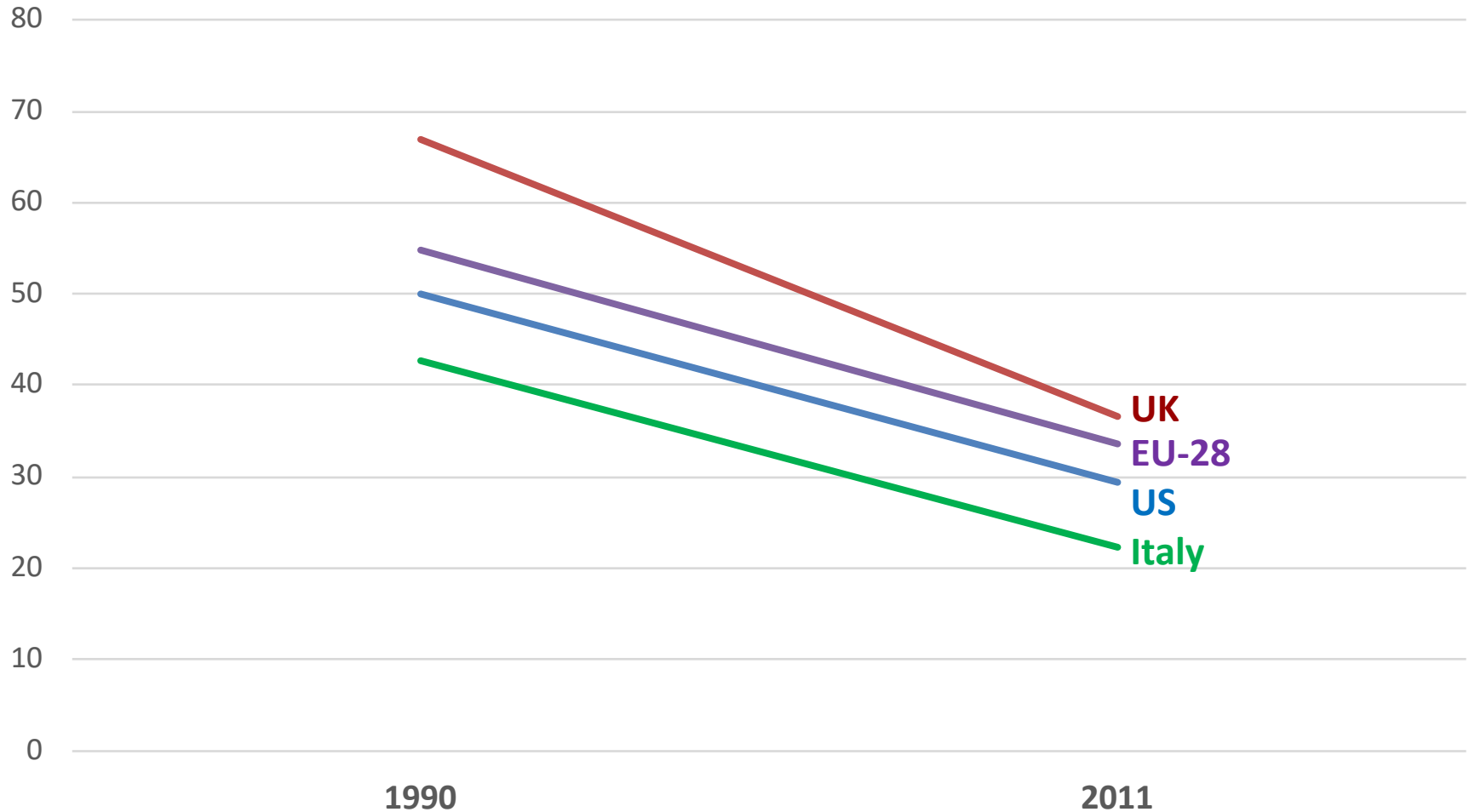
% of women ages 40-44



Annual Remarriage Rates Down

1990 and 2011

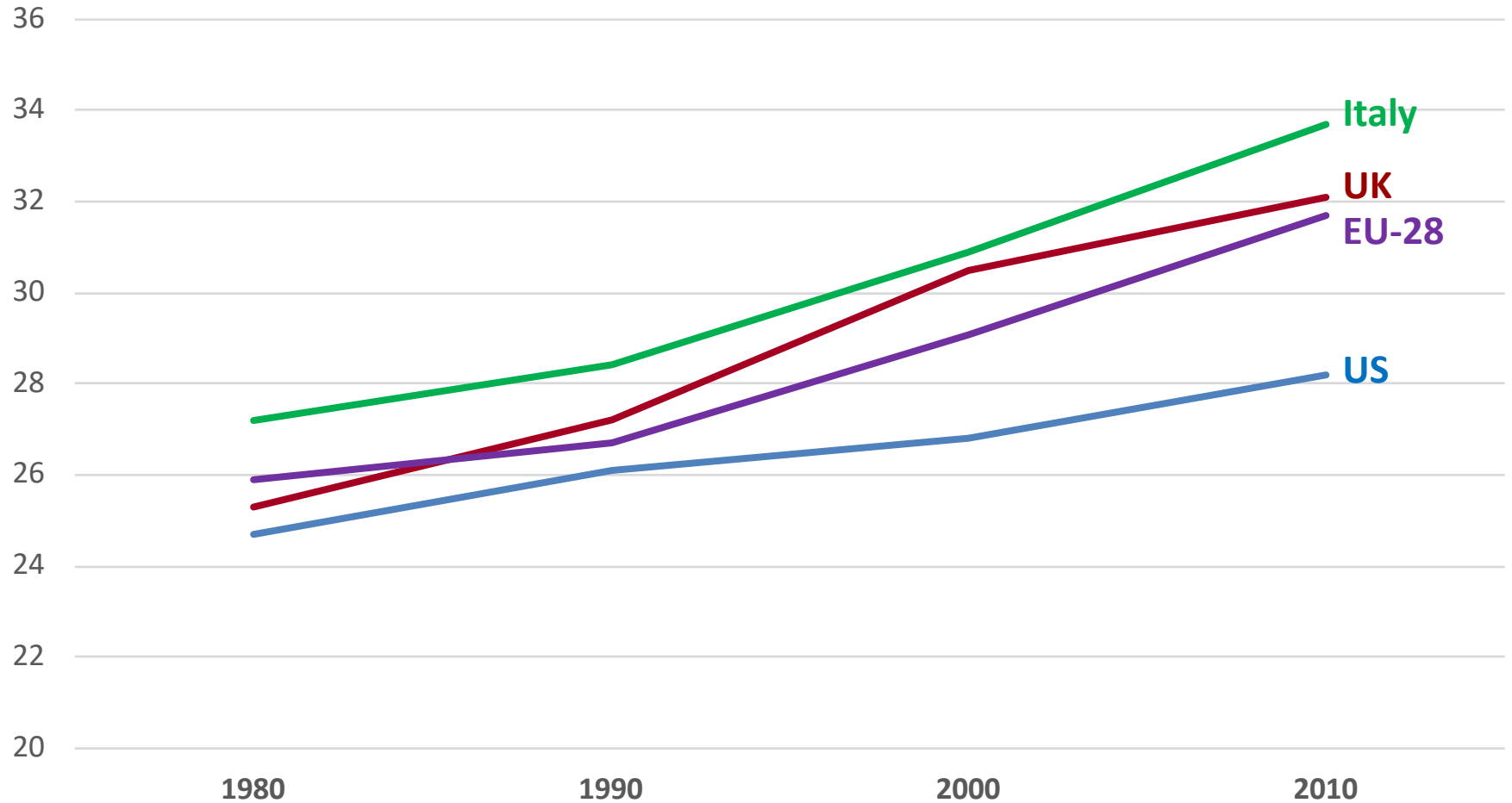
of remarriages per 1,000 divorced or widowed
(ages 18+)



Higher Mean Age at First Marriage--- Men

1980-2010

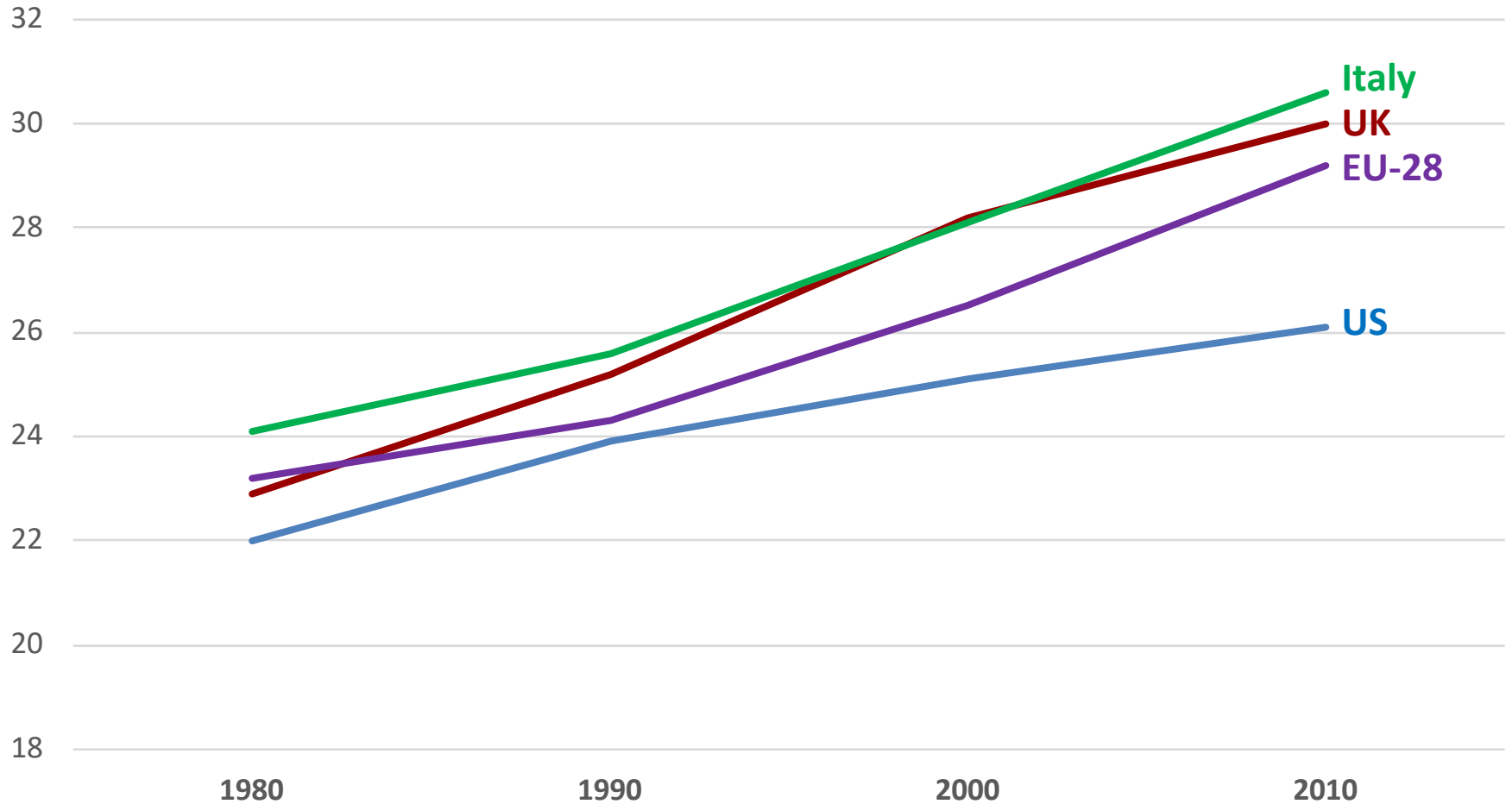
Age



Higher Mean Age at First Marriage--- Women

1980-2010

Age



Higher Mean Age of Women at Birth of First Child

1980-2010

Age

32

30

28

26

24

22

20

1980

1990

2000

2010

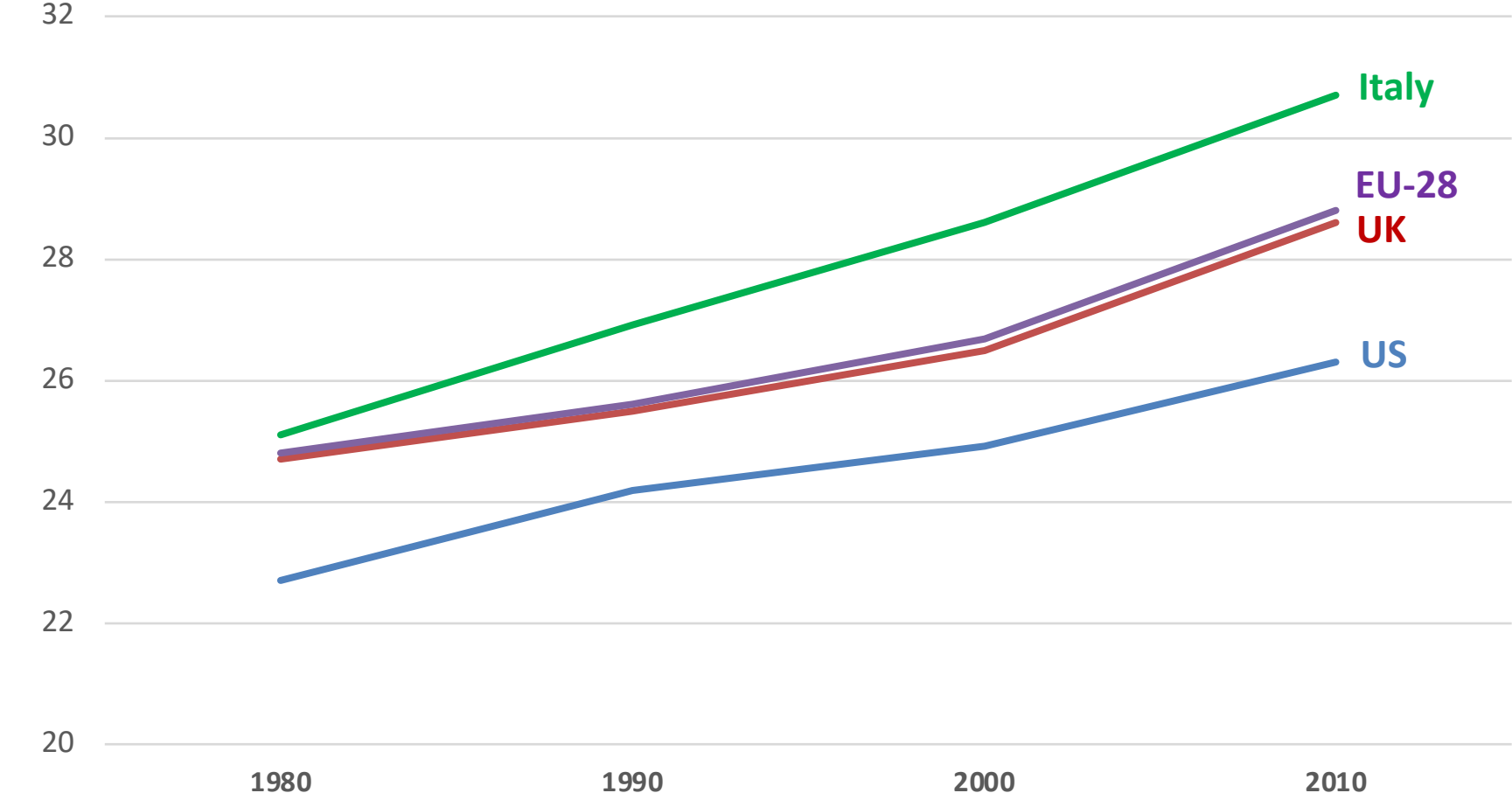
Italy

EU-28

UK

US

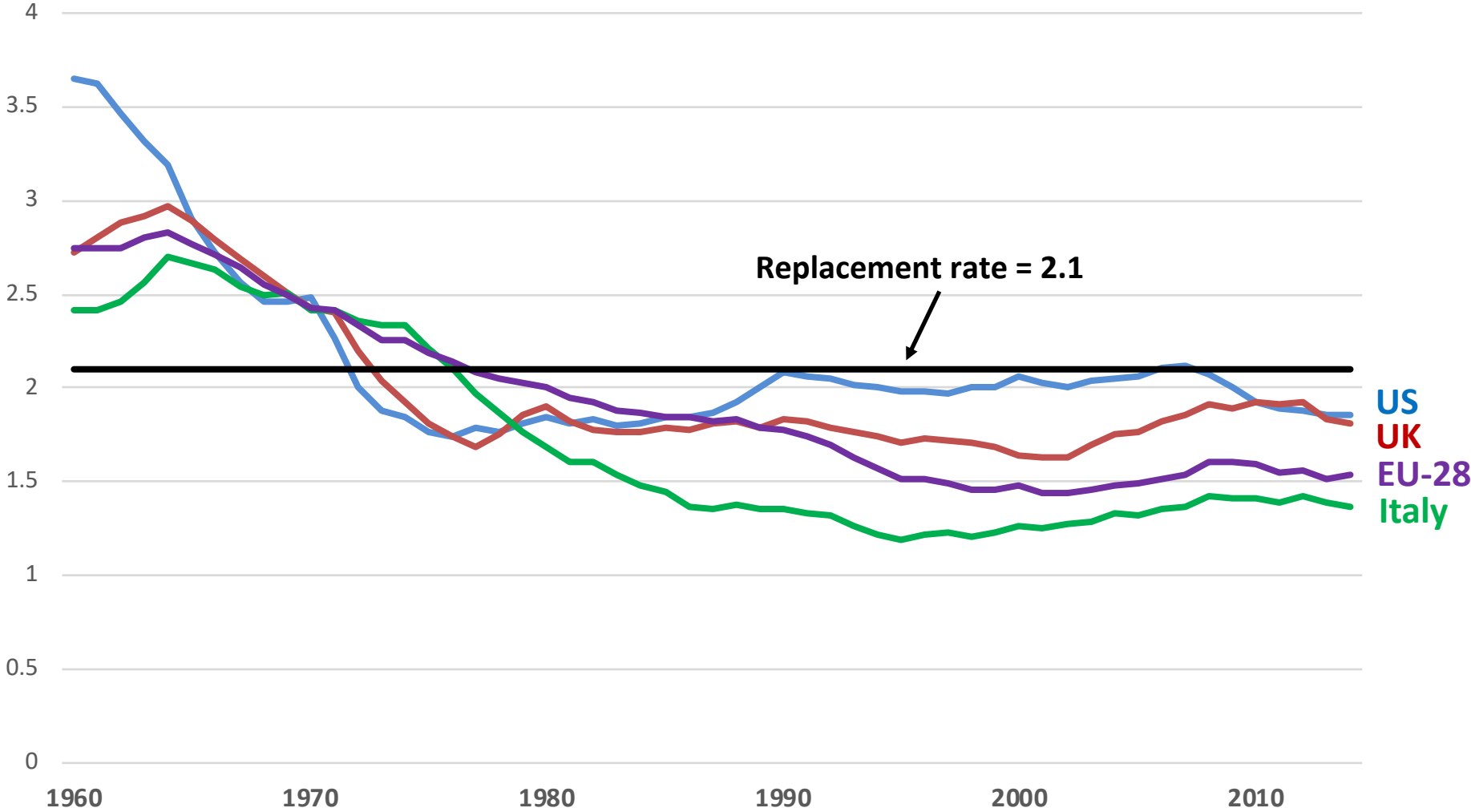
Source: OECD 2012; Eurostat 2014



Total Fertility Rates Down

1960-2014

Lifetime average # of children per woman

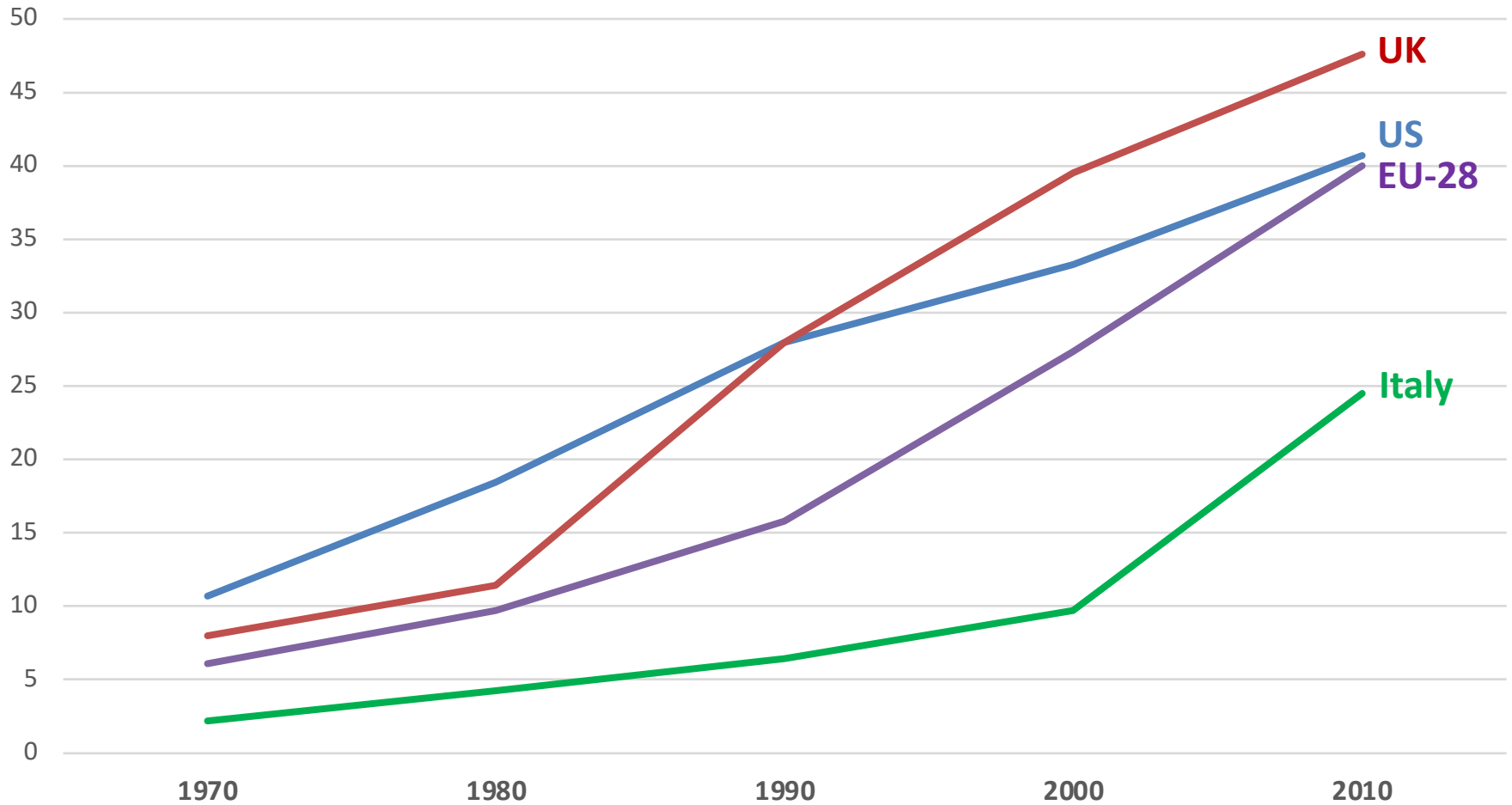


Source: OECD 2014

Non-Marital Birth Rates Up

1970-2010

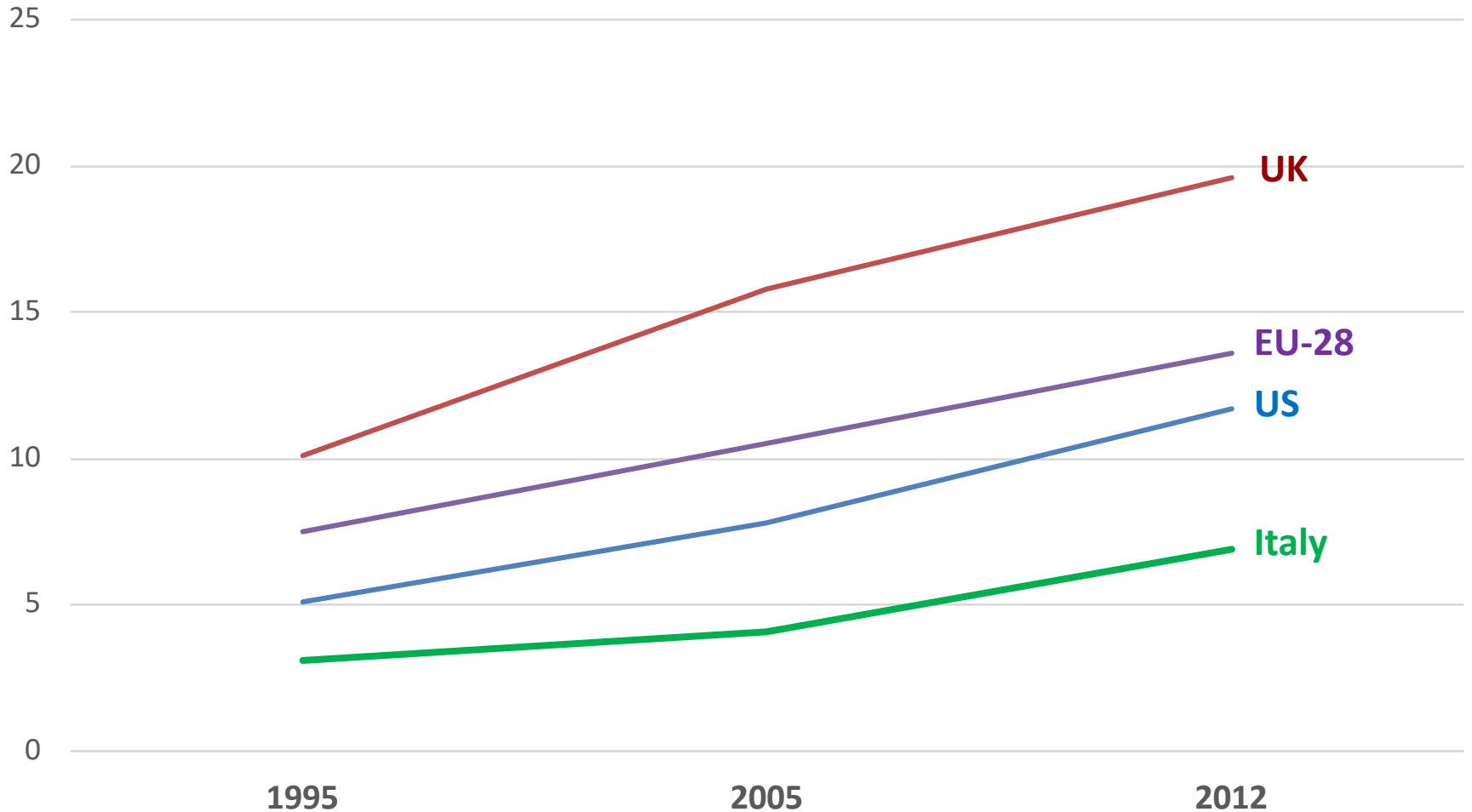
% of all births



Cohabitation Rates Up

1995, 2005, and 2012

% of all couples



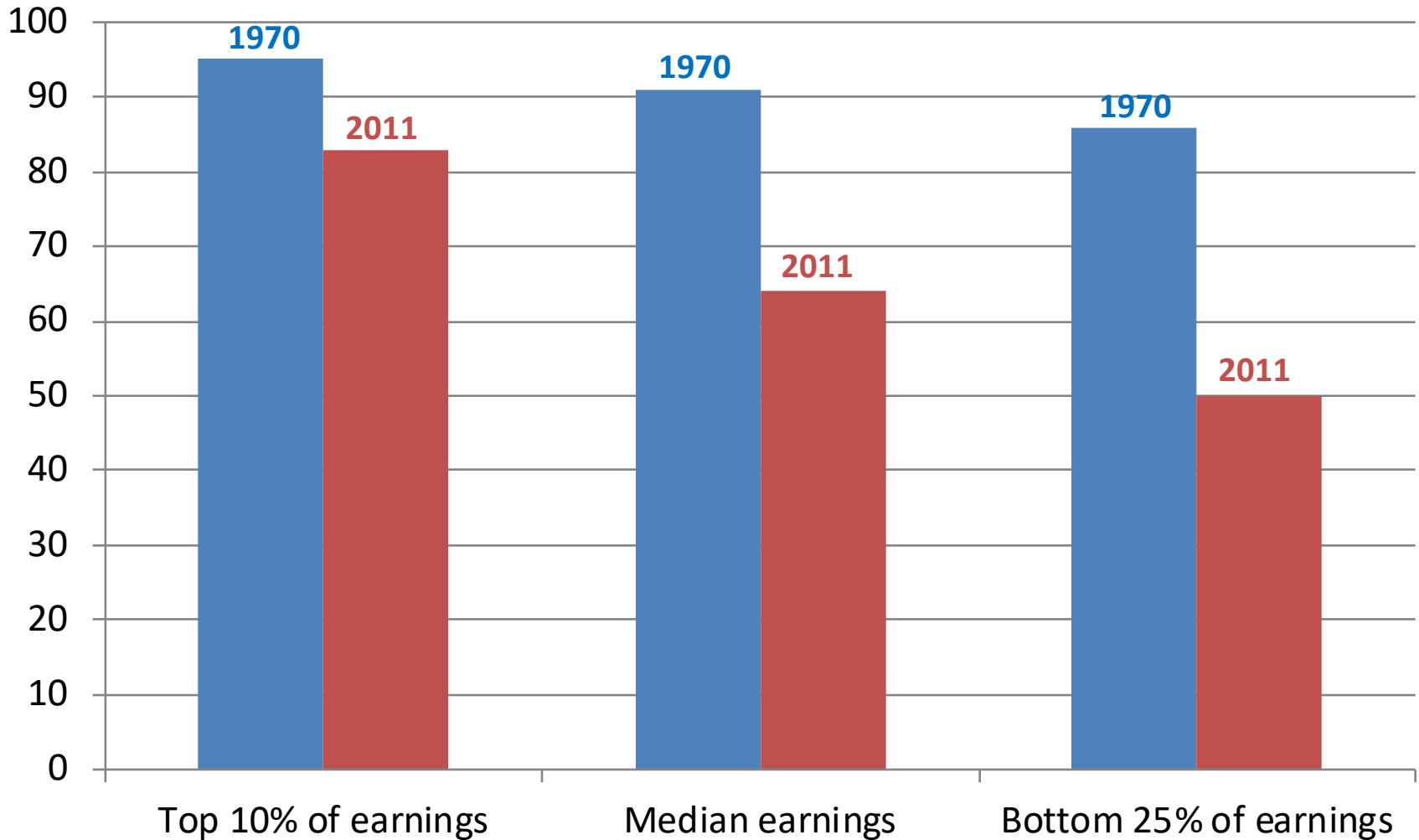
The Sexual Revolution (and More)

- Less stigma
- Later marriage
- Fewer children
- More divorce
- More nonmarital sex
- More cohabitation
- More (visible) same-sex unions

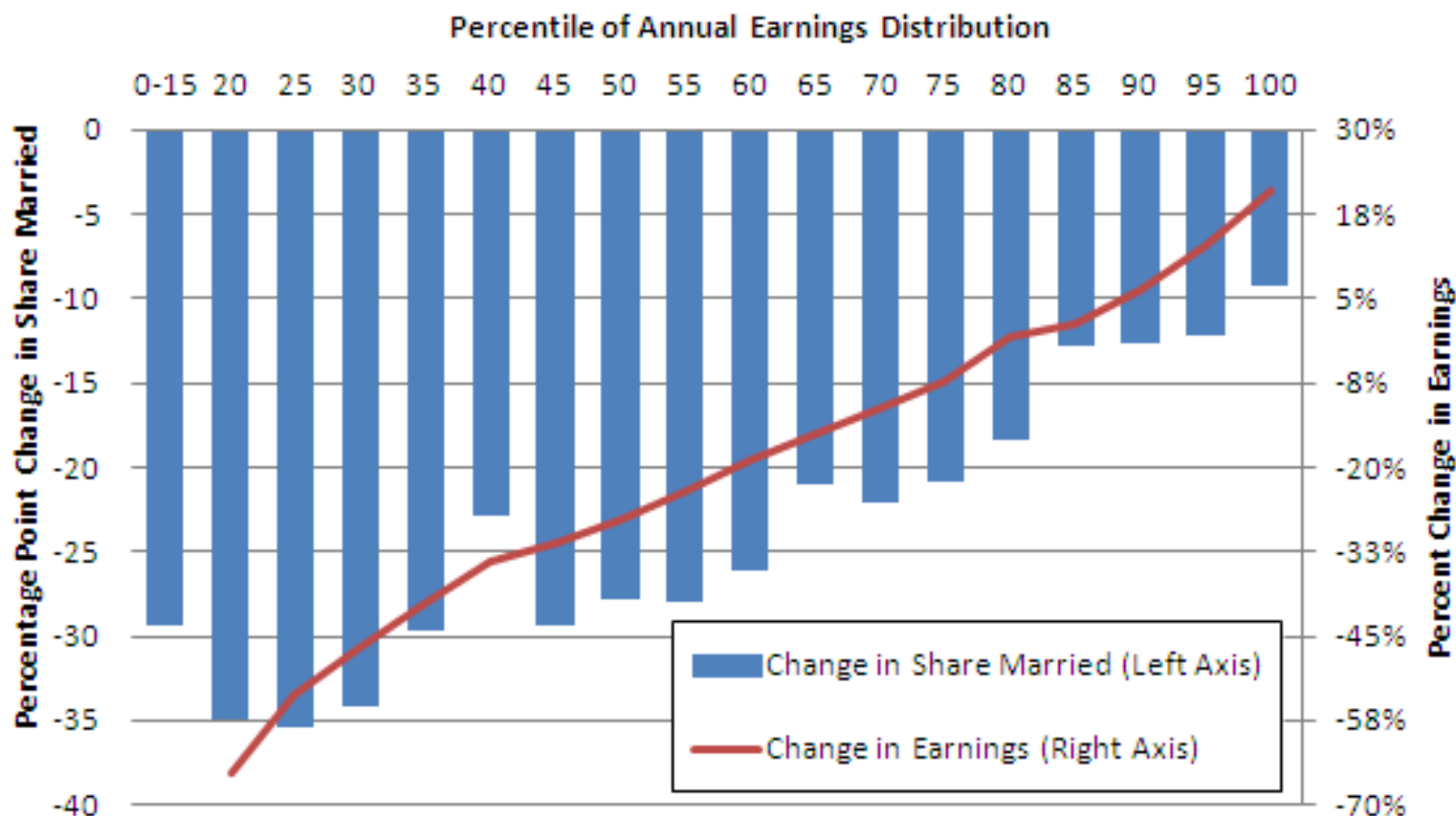
US Marriage Rates for Men by Earnings Level

1970 and 2011

% of men who are married
(ages 30-50)



Change in Marriage and Earnings of Men 1970-2011



Sample includes non-institutionalized men, ages 30-50. The first income category on the x-axis includes all men with no earnings in 2010.

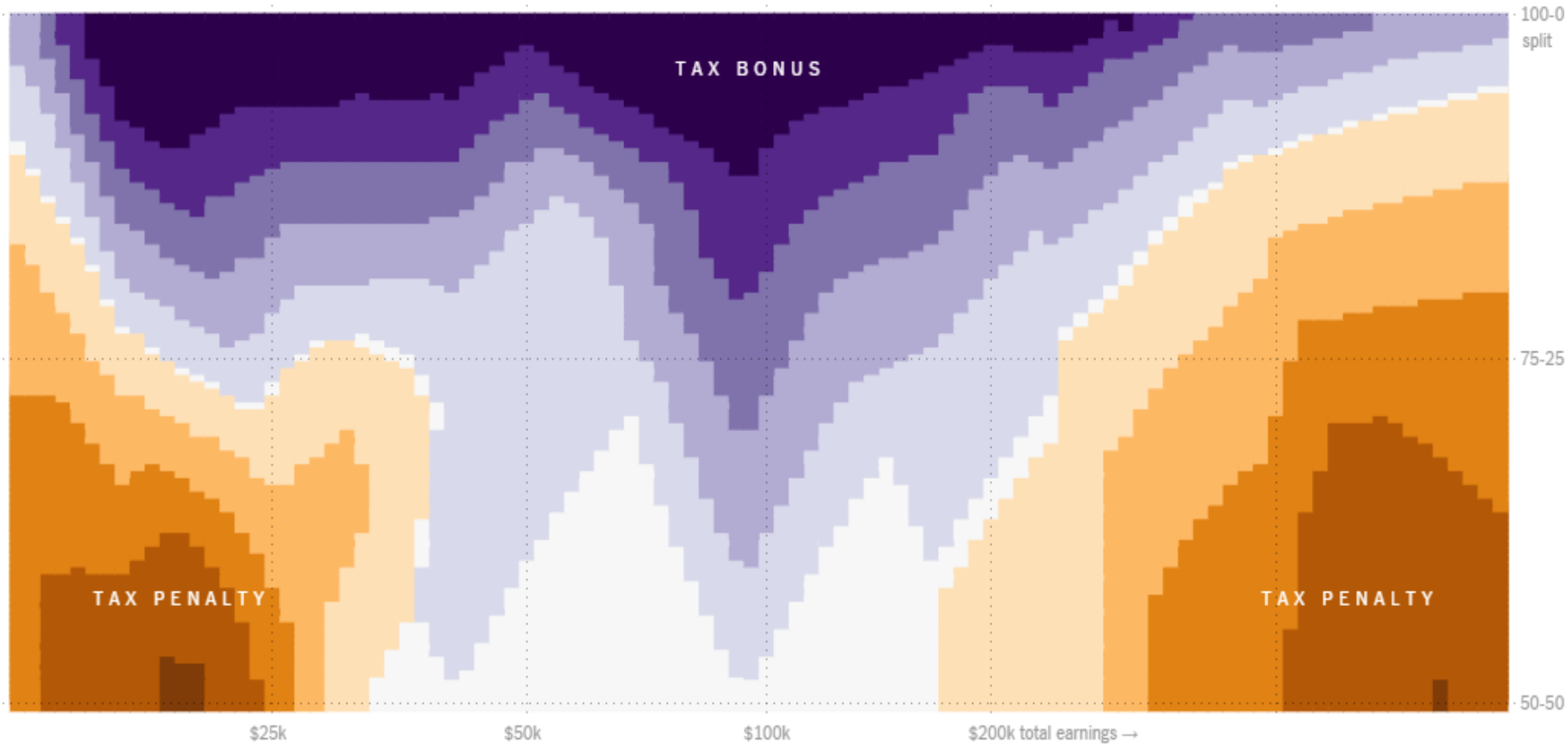
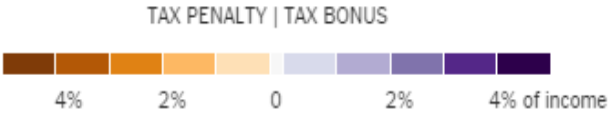
Source: IPUMS-CPS 1971,2011.

Winners and Losers under US Tax Code



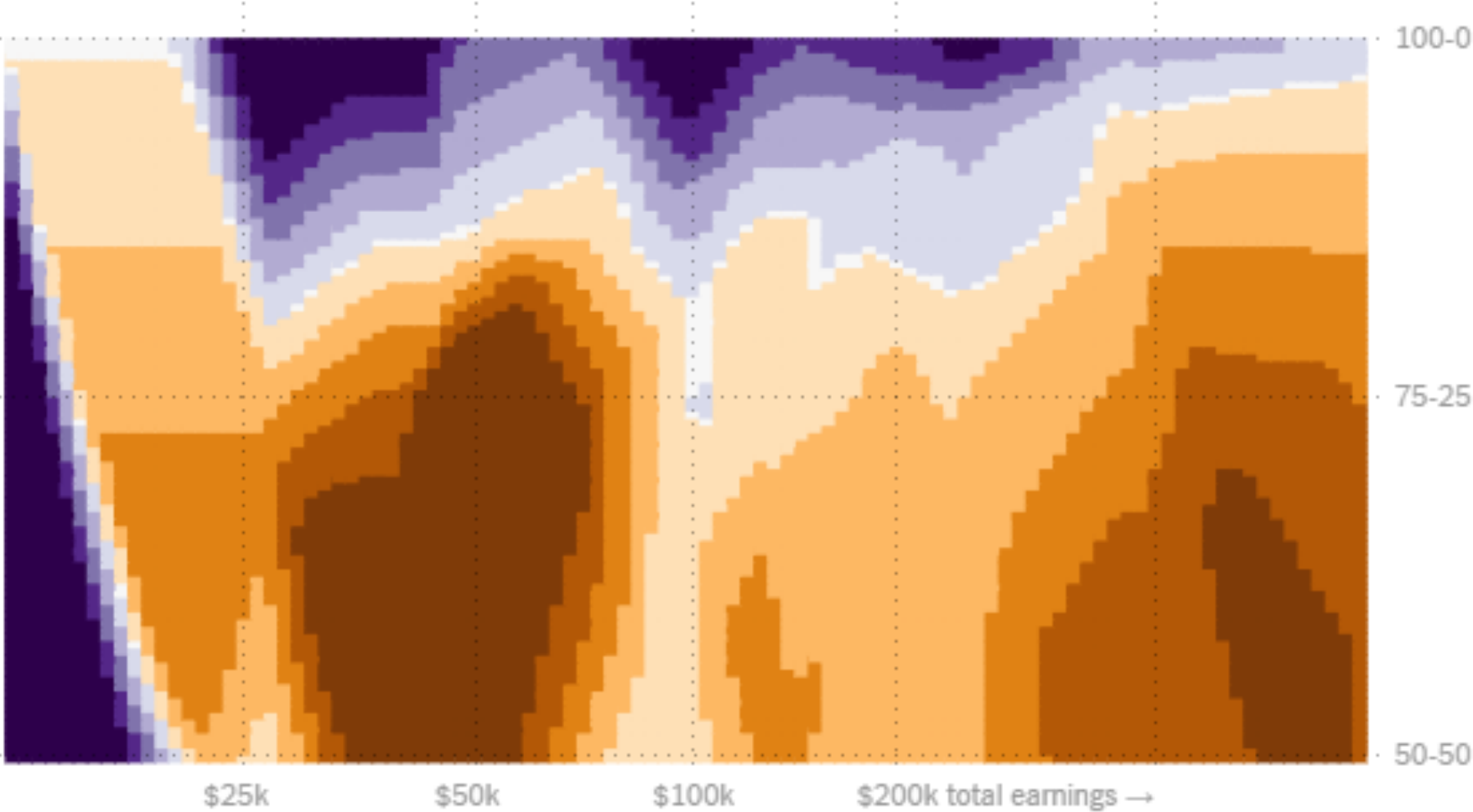
Couples Without Children

Married couples pay more or less in taxes than they would if they were allowed to file like single individuals. The penalty or bonus depends on how much couples make in total, and how evenly their income is divided.



Source: New York Times 2015

Couples With One Child



Source: New York Times 2015

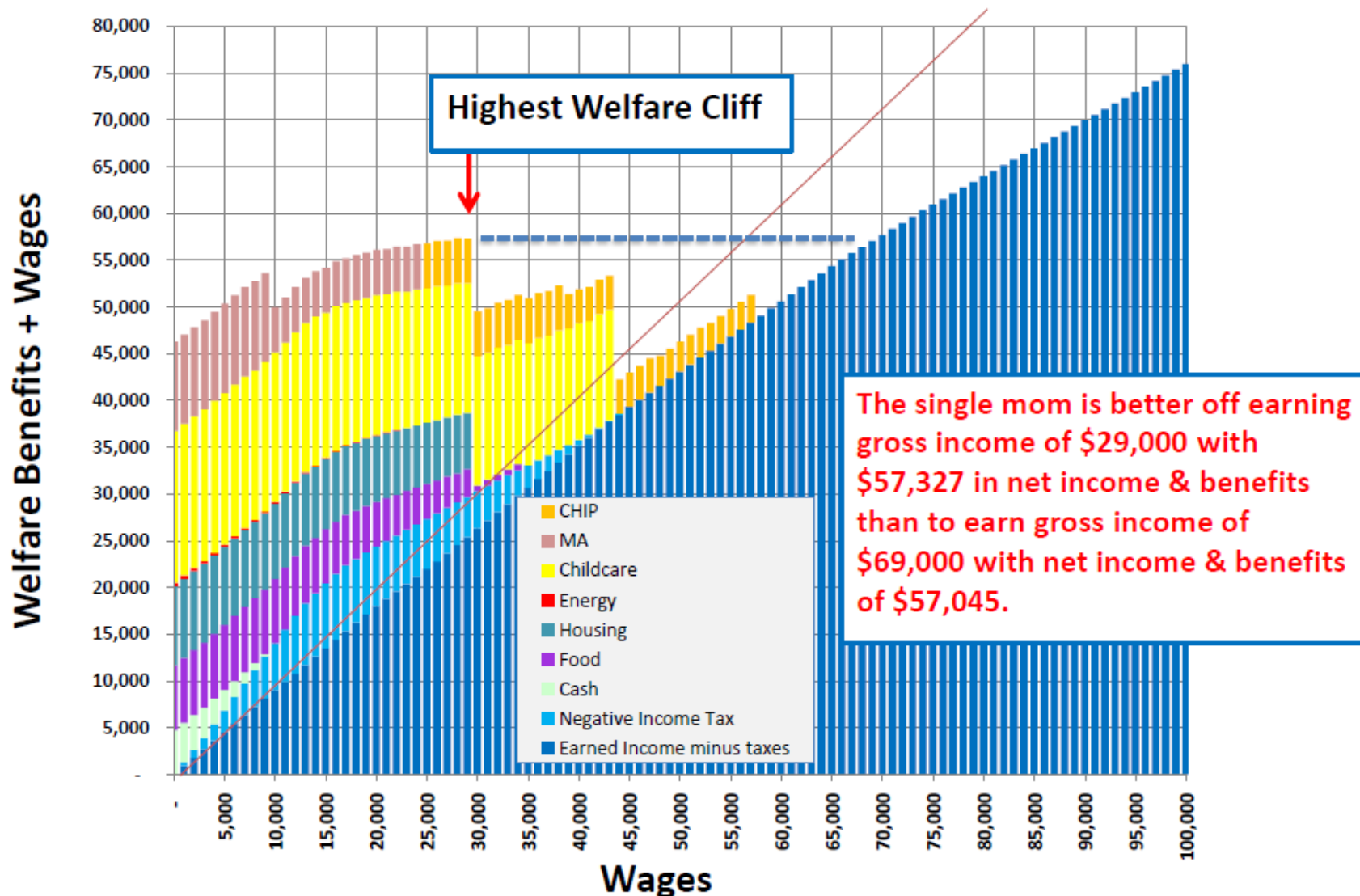
Household Income and Benefits Chart



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

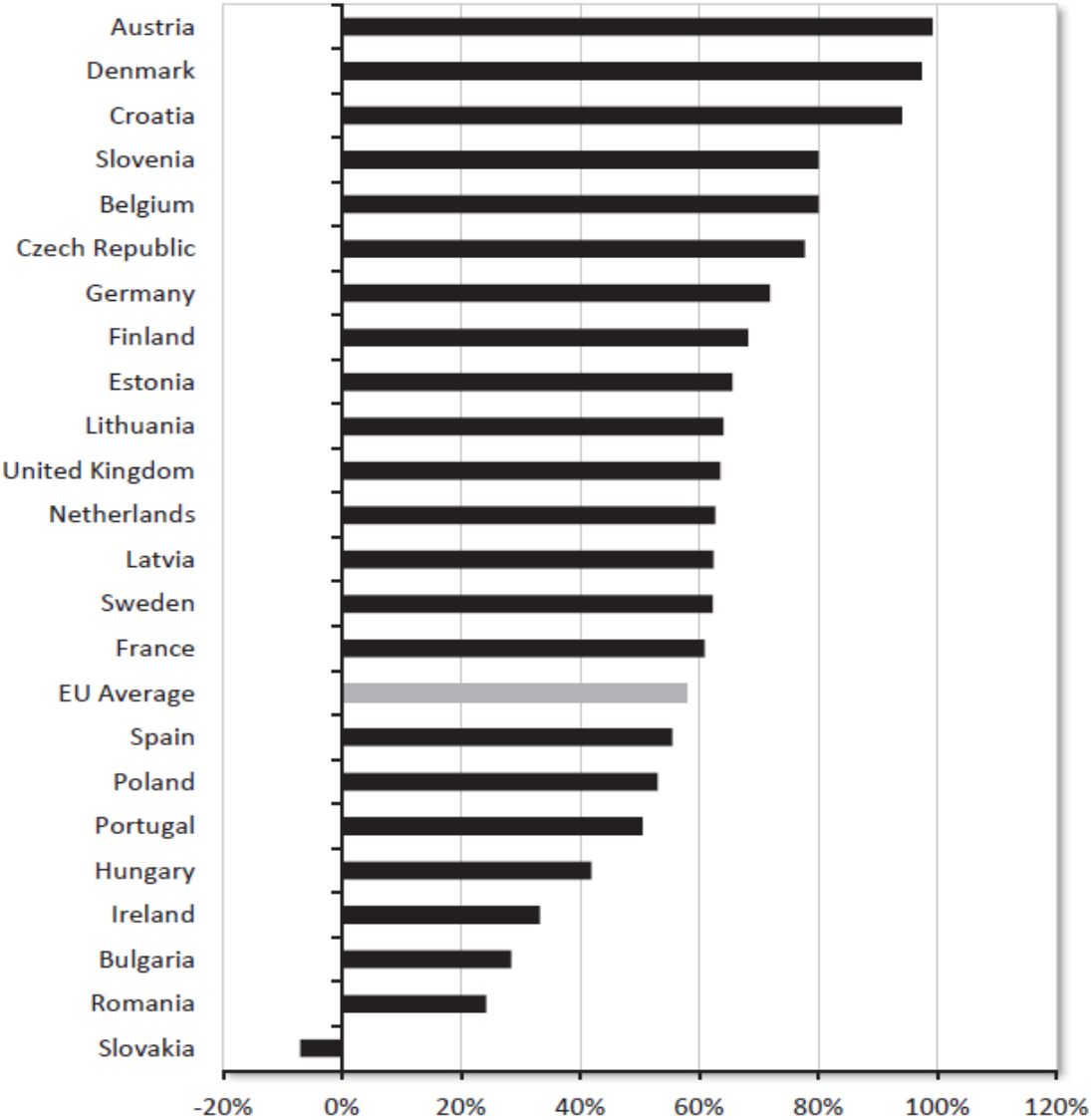
Gary D. Alexander, Secretary of Public Welfare | www.dpw.state.pa.us

If we stack on welfare benefits, you can quickly see what happens. Welfare cliffs crop up in several spots.



Marginal Tax Rates if Moving from Welfare to Work

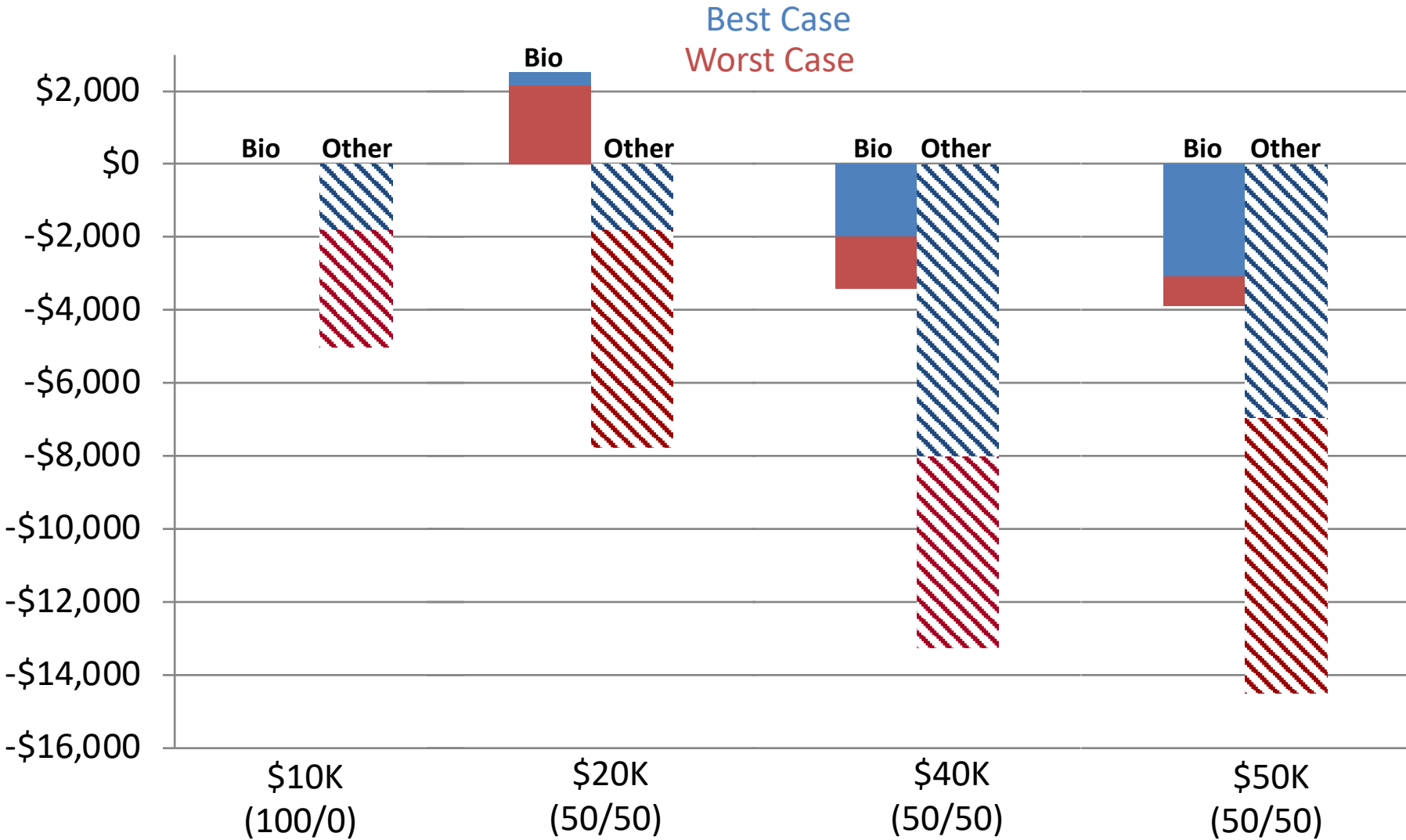
Single Mothers with Two Children in 2013



Source: European Commission, Social Protection Database, Eurostat, 2015

Change in Disposable Income for Cohabiting Couples

If the woman marries biological father of children vs. someone else



Marriage and Cohabitation under Taxes and Benefits

	Taxation			Child Benefit	Means-tested benefits		
	Filing singly	Filing married	Filing cohabiting	Single, Married, or Cohabiting*	Married	Registered cohabiting	Surveillance cohabiting
Austria	X			S, M	X		X
Belgium	X			S, M	X	X	X
Denmark	X			S, M, C	X		X
Finland	X			S, M	X		X
France		X	X	S, M, C	X	X	X
Germany	X	X		S, M	X	SS	X
Greece	X			S, M	X		
Italy	X			S, M	X		
Netherlands	X			S, M	X	X	X
Norway				S, M	X	SS	X
Spain				S, M	X	X	X
Sweden	X			S, M	X	SS	X
Switzerland		X	X	S, M	X		X
UK	X			S, M	X	SS	X
US	X	X		S, M	X		

*Preliminary determinations