

BROOKINGS

QUALITY. INDEPENDENCE. IMPACT.

Secretaries' Innovation Group

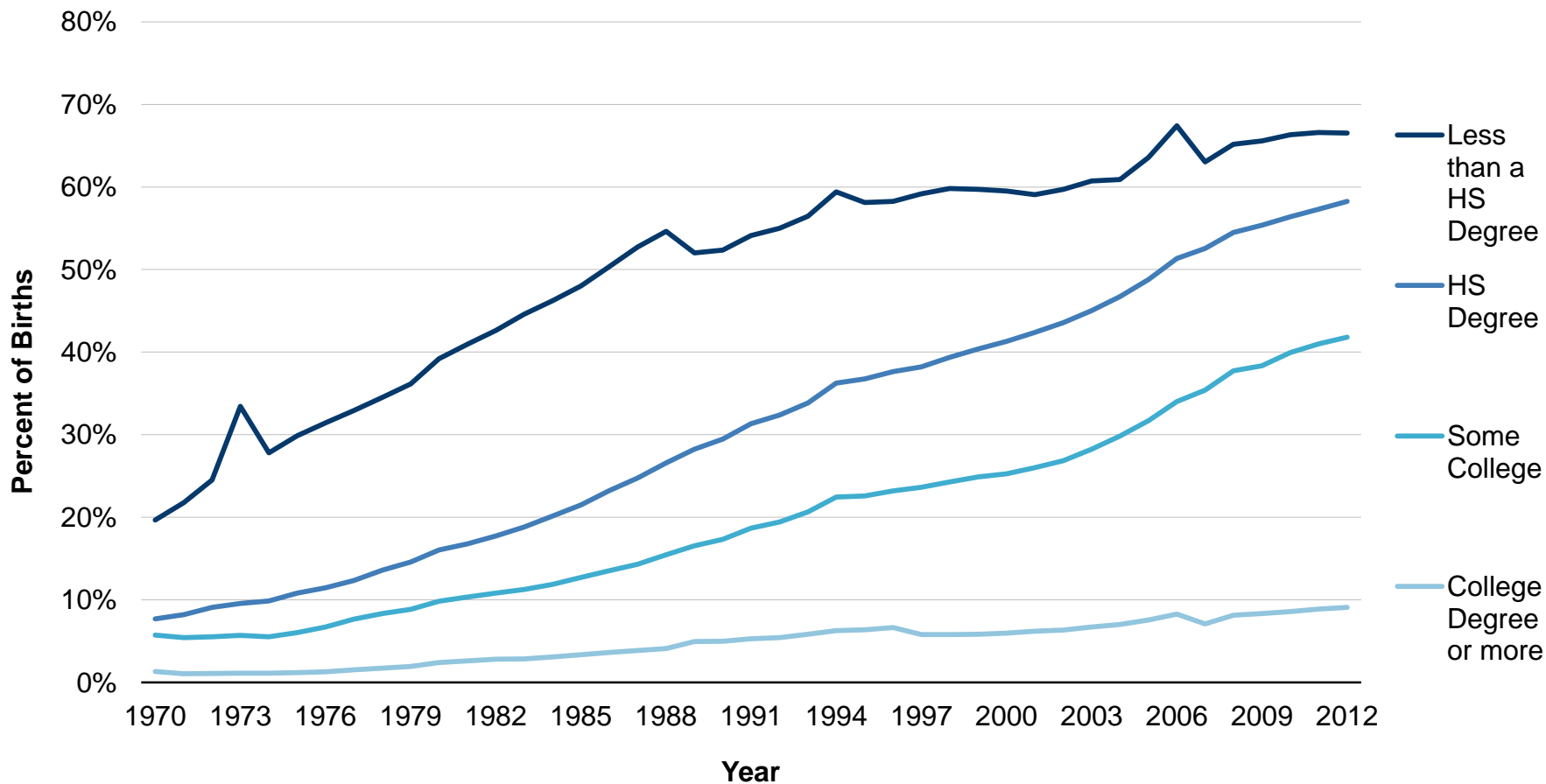
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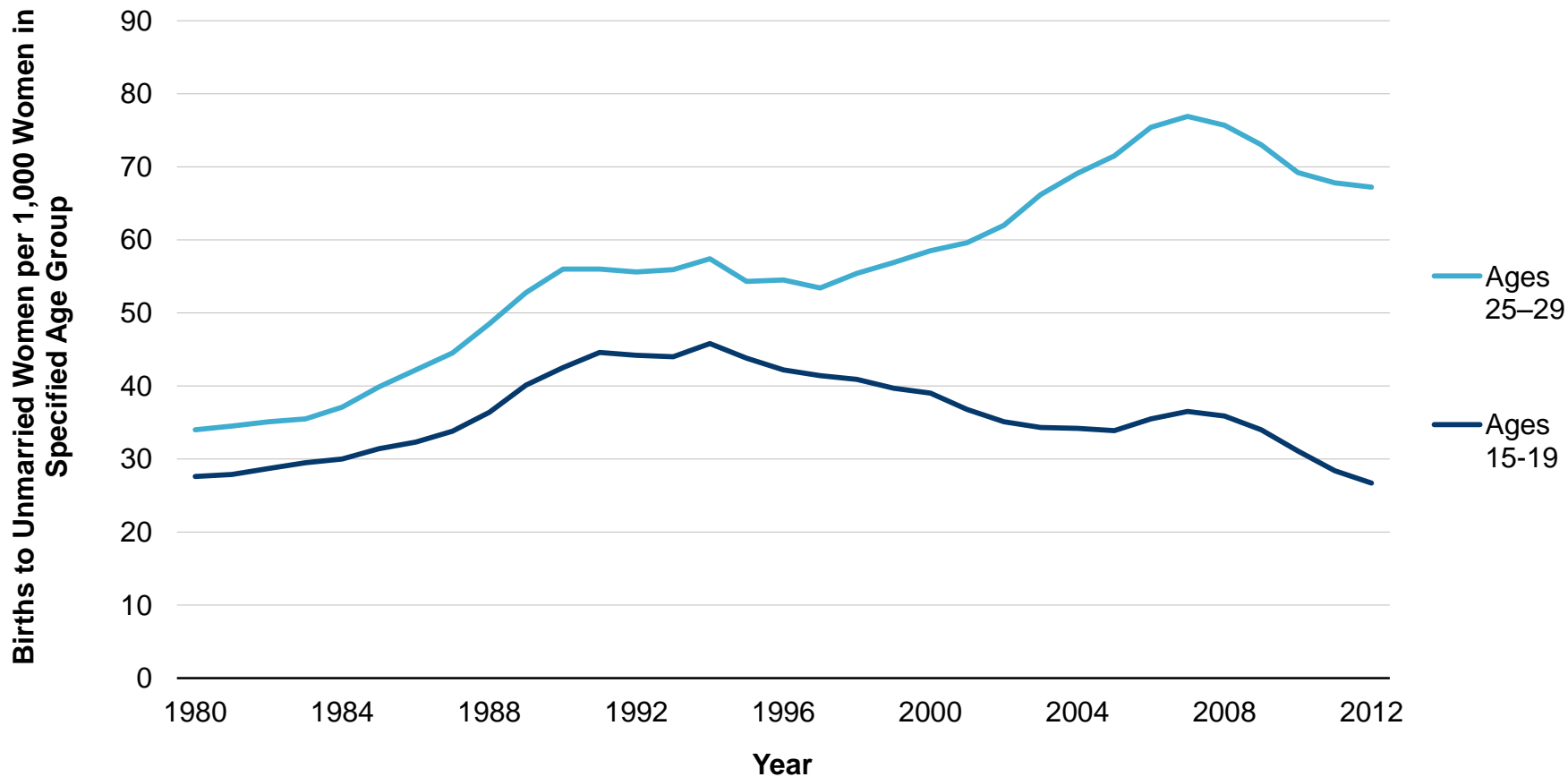
June 22, 2015

Nonmarital Births by Education, 1970-2012



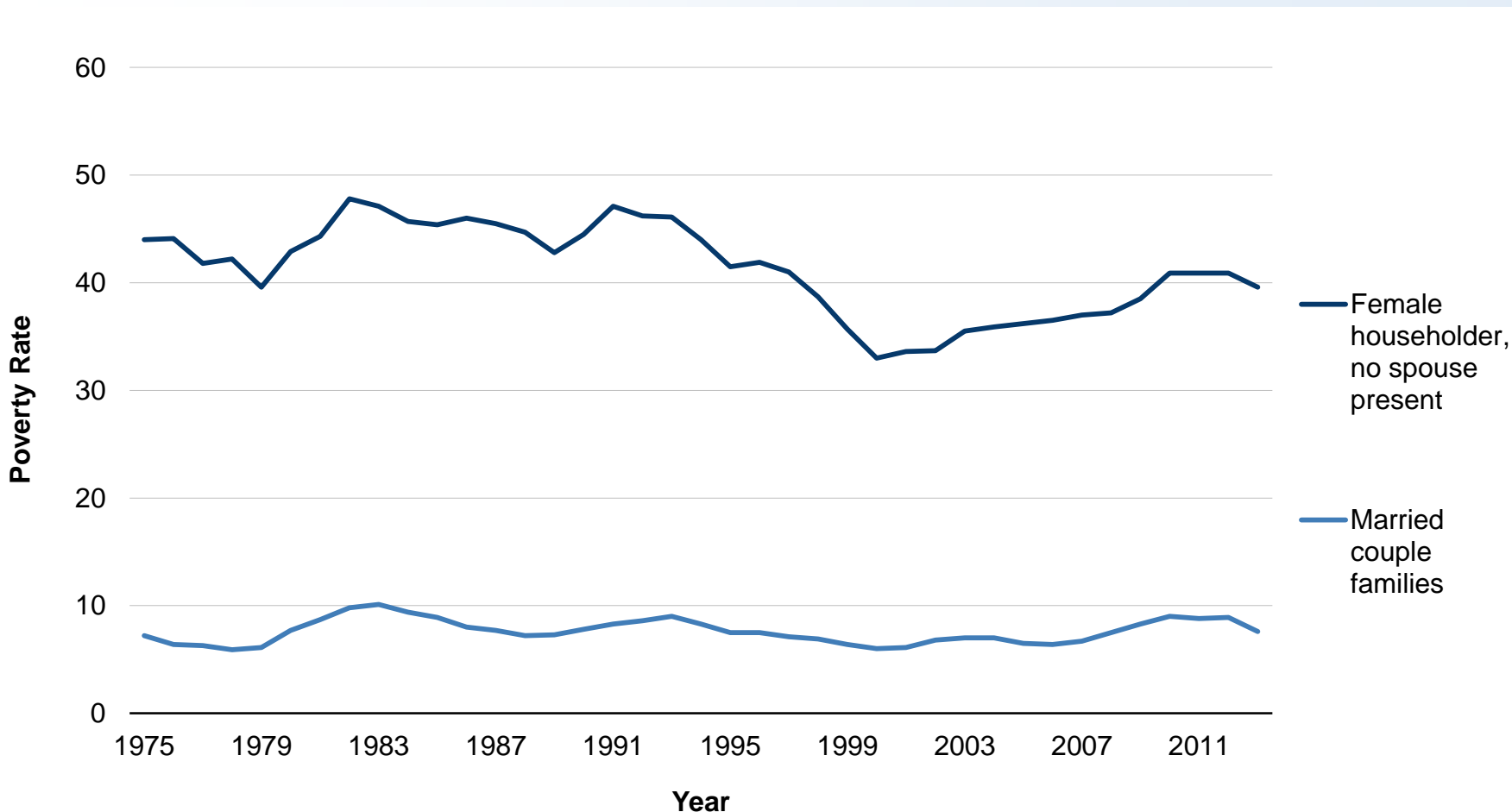
Source: Authors' Tabulations of data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. VitalStats.

Unwed Childbearing by Age, 1980-2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Table FAM2.A Births to unmarried women: Birth rates for unmarried women by age of mother, 1980-2012.

Poverty Rates for Children in Female-Headed and Married-Couple Families, 1975-2013



Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Drifting into Parenthood is Common

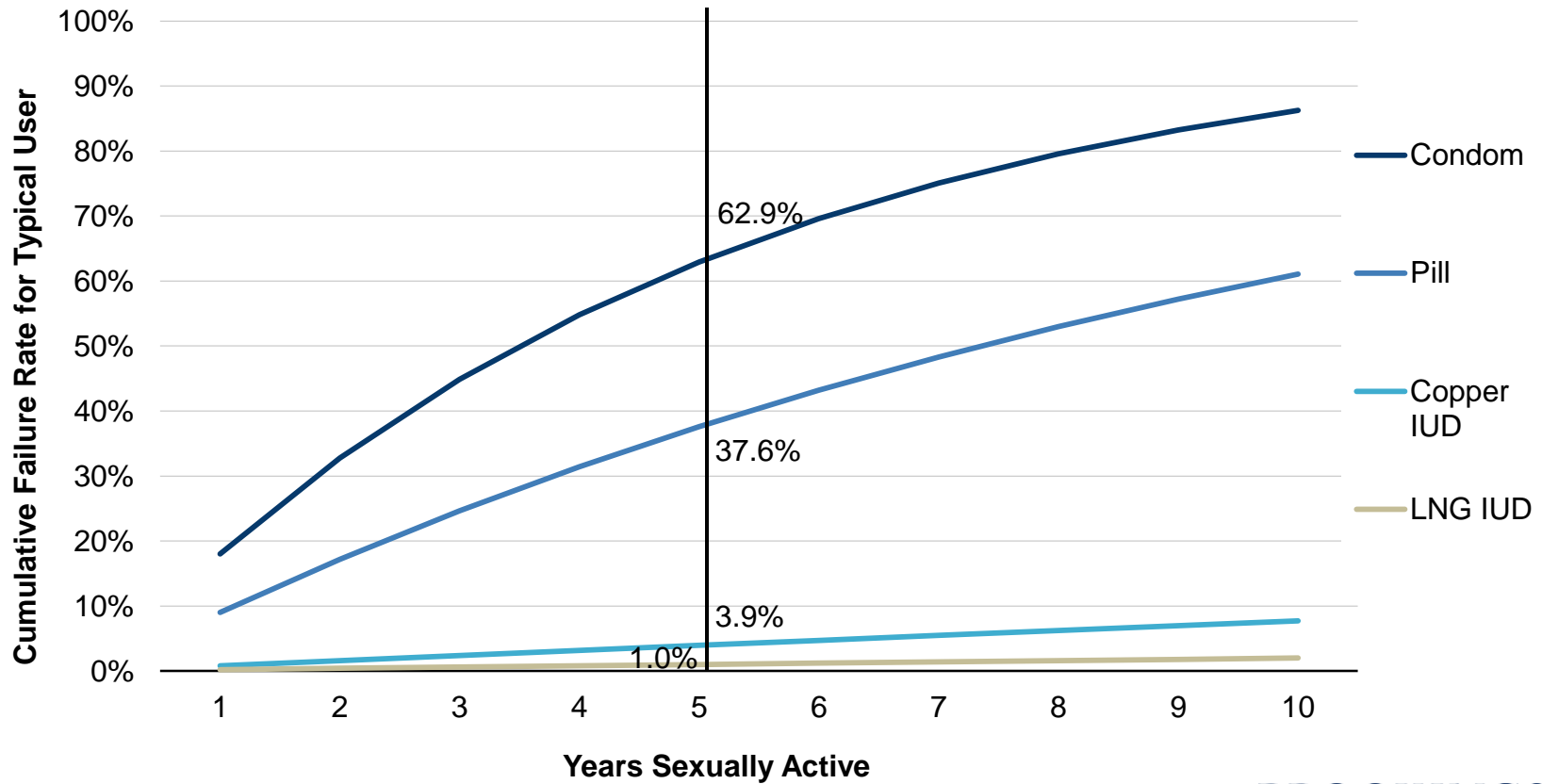
60% OF BIRTHS TO SINGLE WOMEN UNDER 30 ARE UNPLANNED



Why So Much Drifting?

- Young adults not using birth control or using it inconsistently
- Not using most effective methods
- Long-acting reversible contraceptives (IUDs, implants) change the default from getting pregnant to not getting pregnant

IUDs Are Much More Effective Than Other Forms of Birth Control



Source: Trussell 2011.

How we got these numbers: Data is from Trussell (2011). The probability that a person doesn't get pregnant at all over a given period of time is equal to the success rate of her contraceptive method raised to the power of the number of years she is using that method. We then subtract this multi-year "success rate" from 100% to get the failure rate (graphed above). This assumes that there is an equal chance of not getting pregnant in every year of condom use and that successful users and failed users (where success is not getting pregnant during a year using birth control) have the same rate. The assumption is reasonable given that figures we use are the figure for a "typical" user of some type of contraceptive.

St Louis: The CHOICE Project

Women using LARCs or shots had lowest unintended pregnancy rates after 1, 2, and 3 years

