

# **The Impact of Welfare Reform and Work-based Welfare on: Marriage, Non-Marital Births and Abortion**

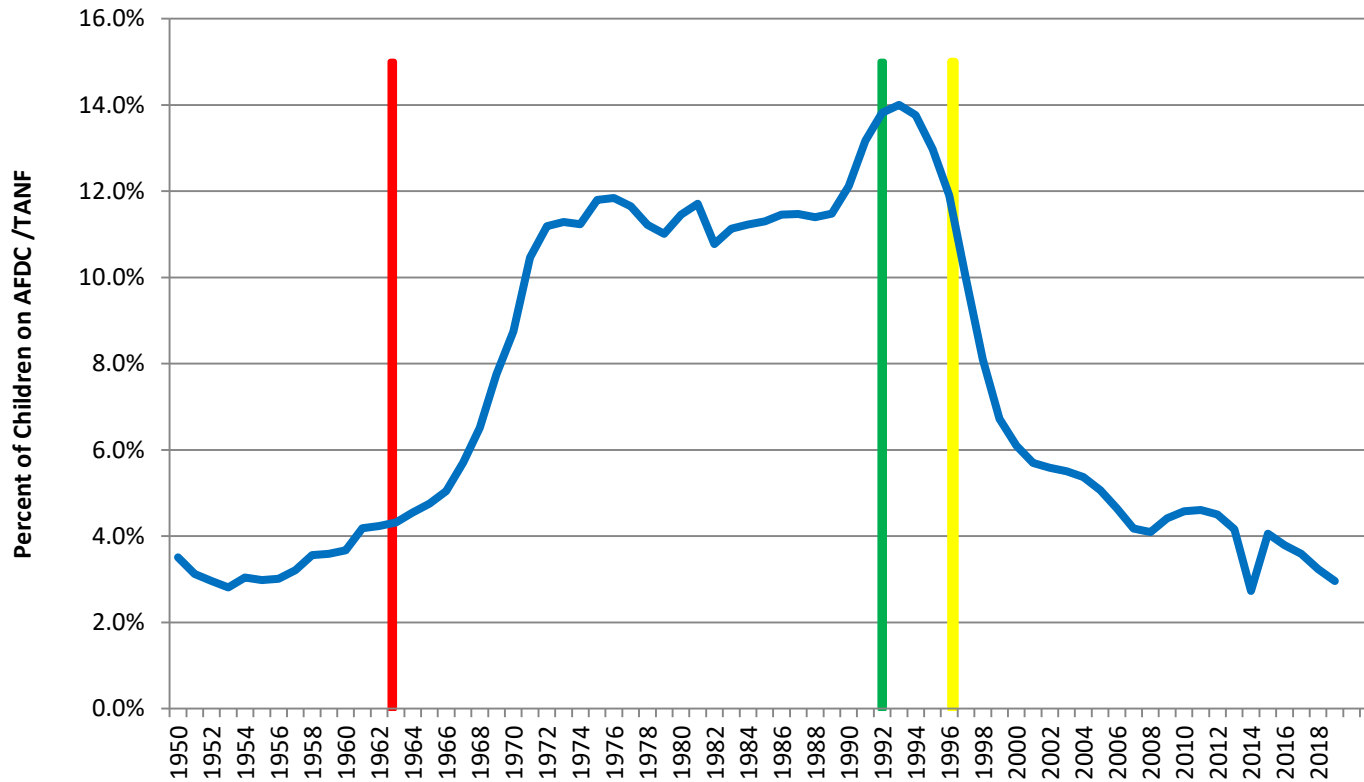
**Robert Rector  
The Heritage Foundation  
June 22, 2022**

## **Main Points**

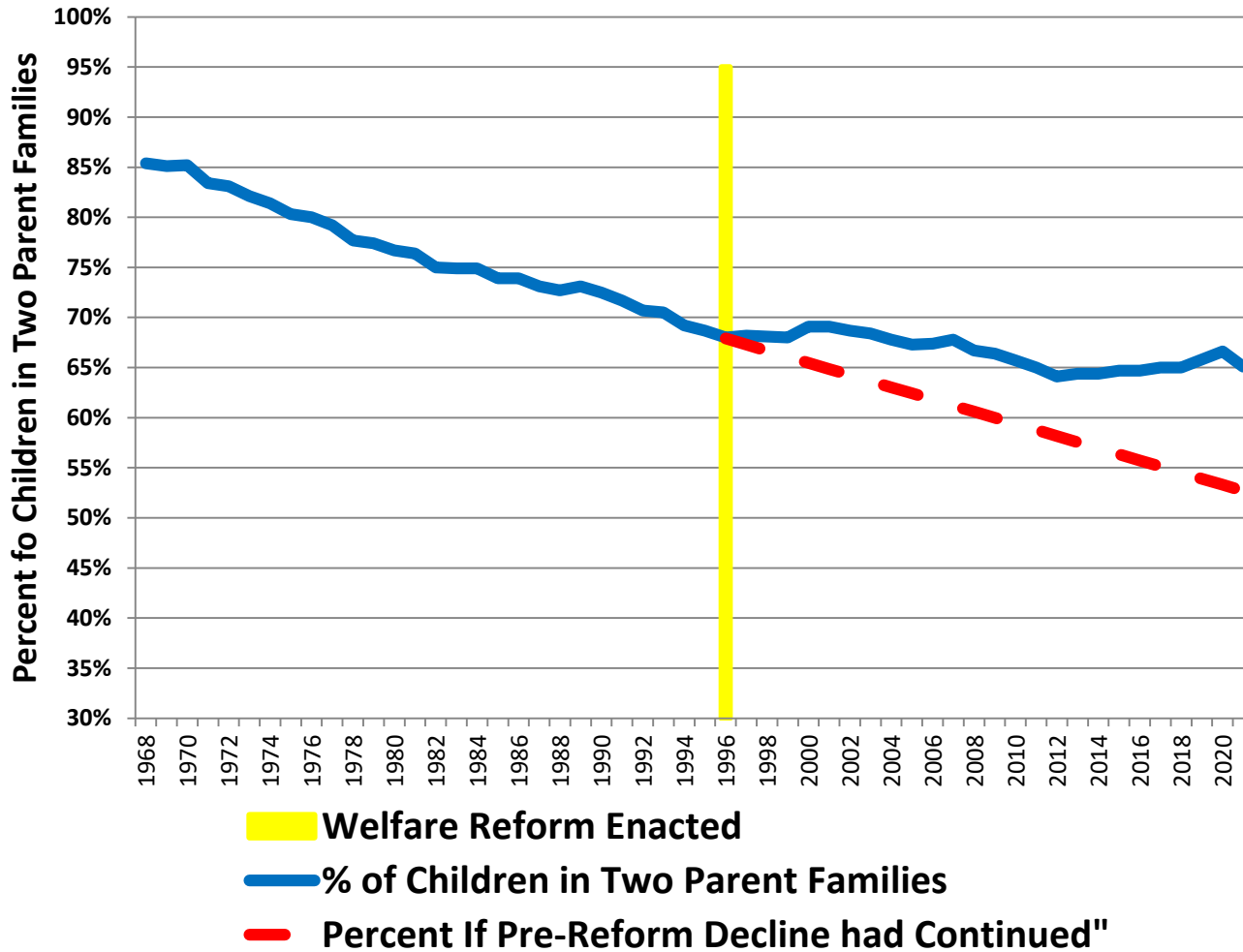
### **Work-Based Welfare Reform Led to a:**

- **Halt in the Rapid Decline in Two Parent Families**
- **Halt in the Rise of the Non-Marital Birth Rate**
- **Two Thirds Drop in the Teen Birth and Abortion Rates**

# Percent of Children on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

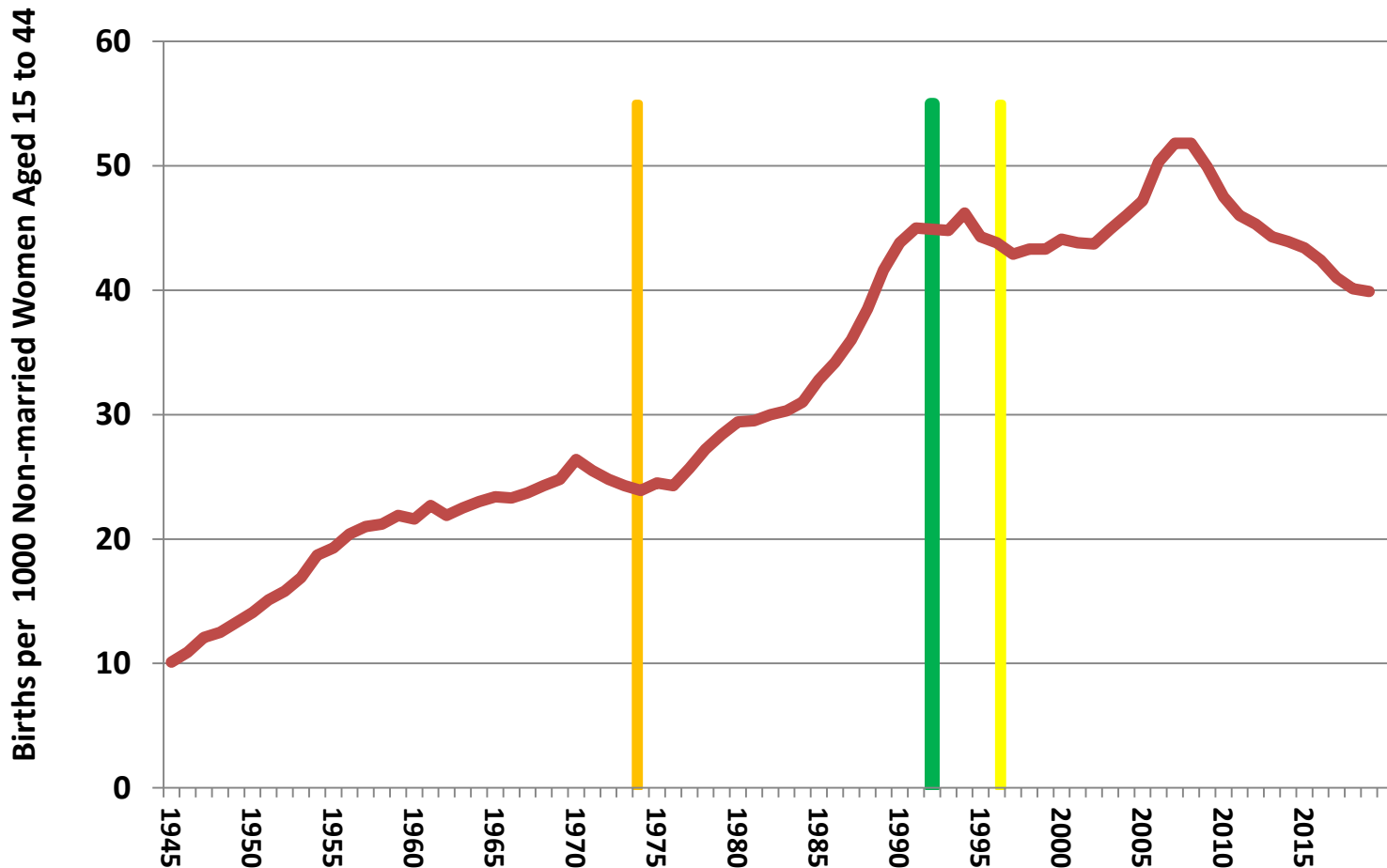


# Welfare Reform Halted the Rapid Decline in Married Two Parent Families



# Non-Marital Birth Rate

(Births per 1000 Non-married Women aged 15 to 44)



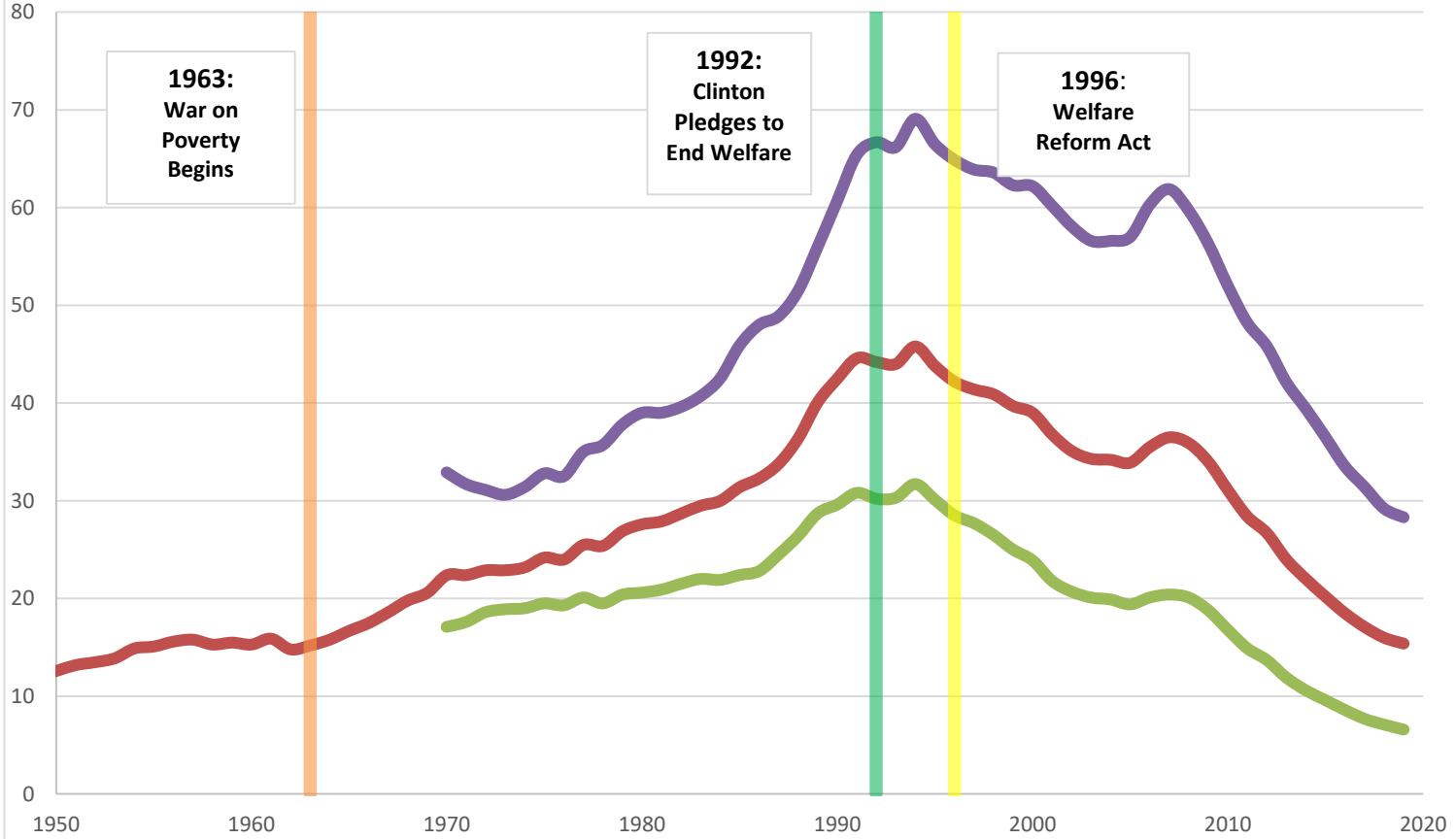
 Roe V Wade

 clinton Pledge to End Welfare

 Welfare Reform Enacted

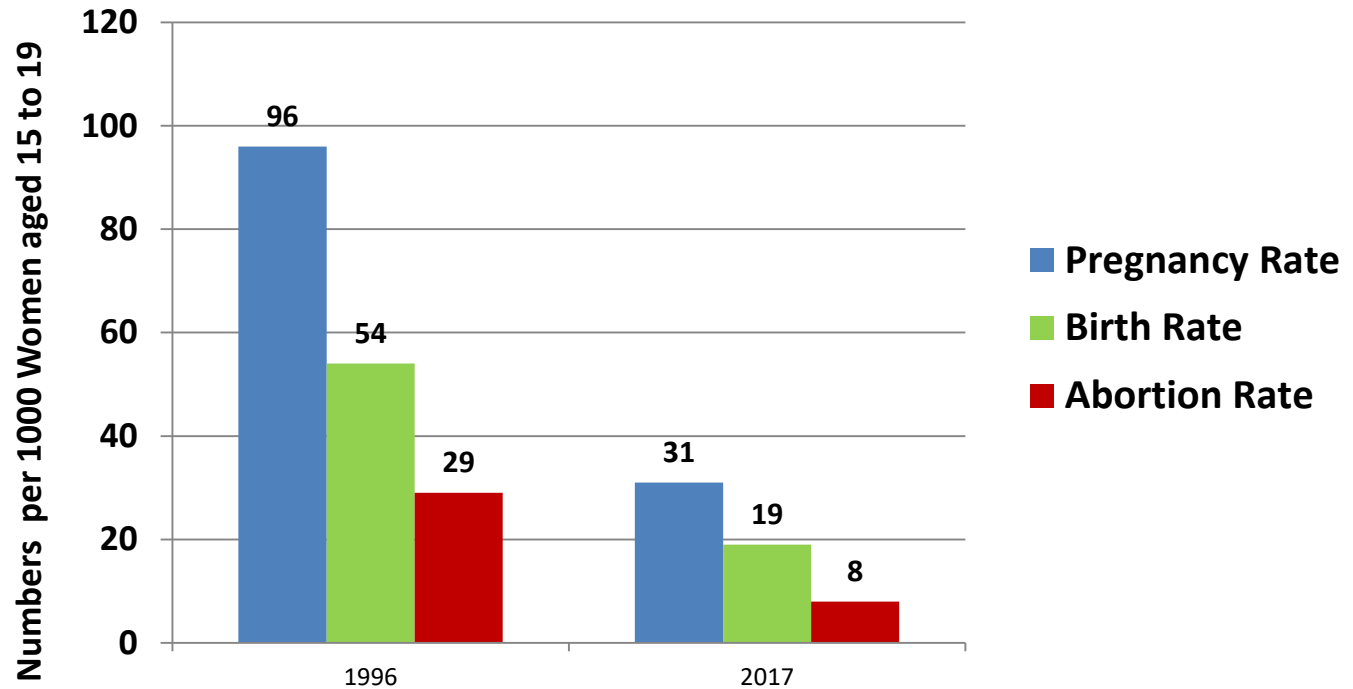
 non marital birth rate

# Unmarried Teen Birth Rates: (Annual Births Per 1000 Unmarried Girls and Young Women )



— Total: Ages 15-19    — Ages 15-17    — Ages 18-19

## Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion Rates for Teen and Young Adult Women



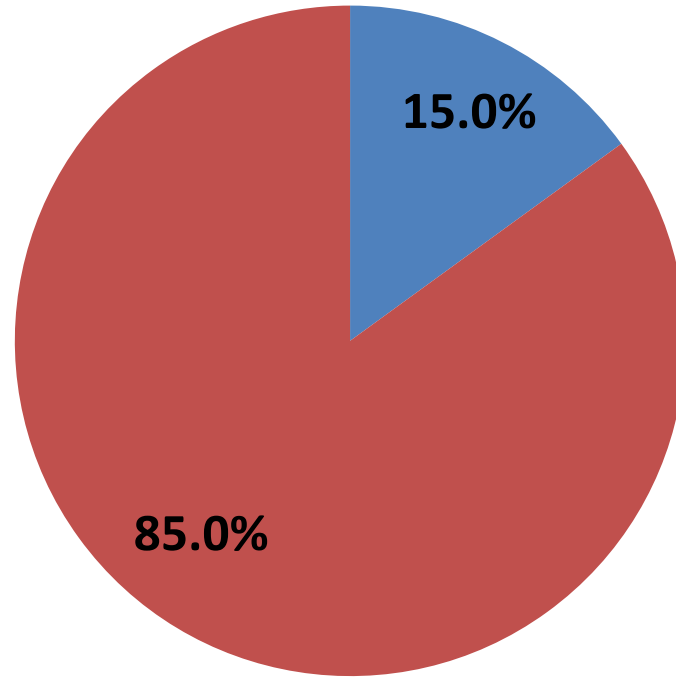
Pregnancy, Birth and abortion  
Rates per 1000 Women aged 15 to 19

# **Main Points on Abortion**

- Most abortion occurs to non-married women.
- Work-based Welfare Reform did not lead to an increase in abortion. After reform, the non-marital abortion rate declined steadily.
- The pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates among teens, in particular, declined dramatically and in unison.



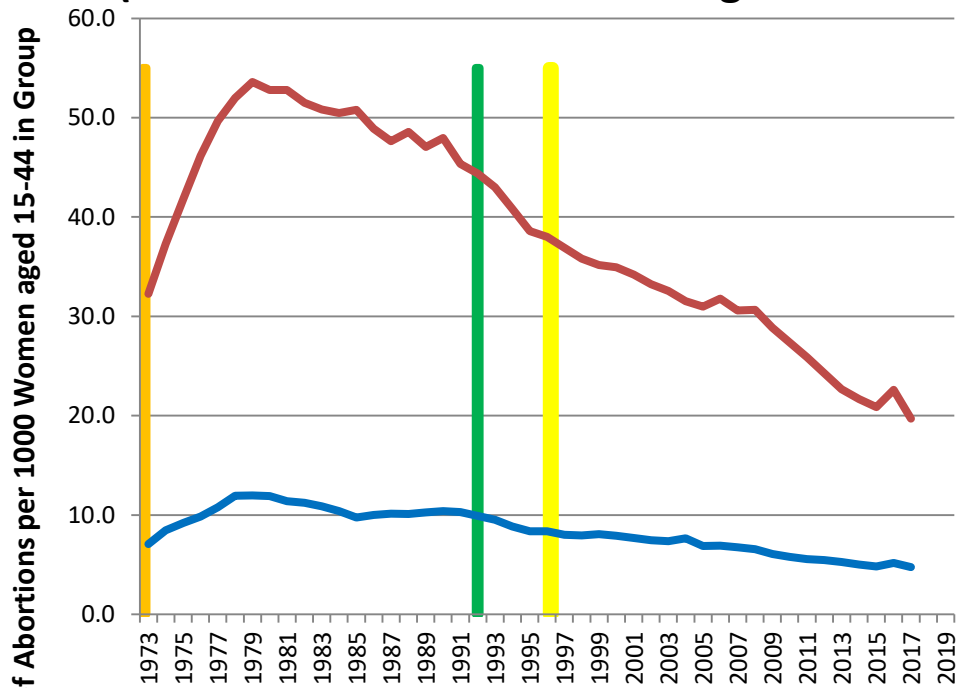
## Percent of Abortions by Marital Status: 2017



■ Abortions to Married Women

■ Abortions to Non-married Women

# Abortion Rate for Married and Non-Married Women (Abortions Per 1000 Women Aged 15 to 44)



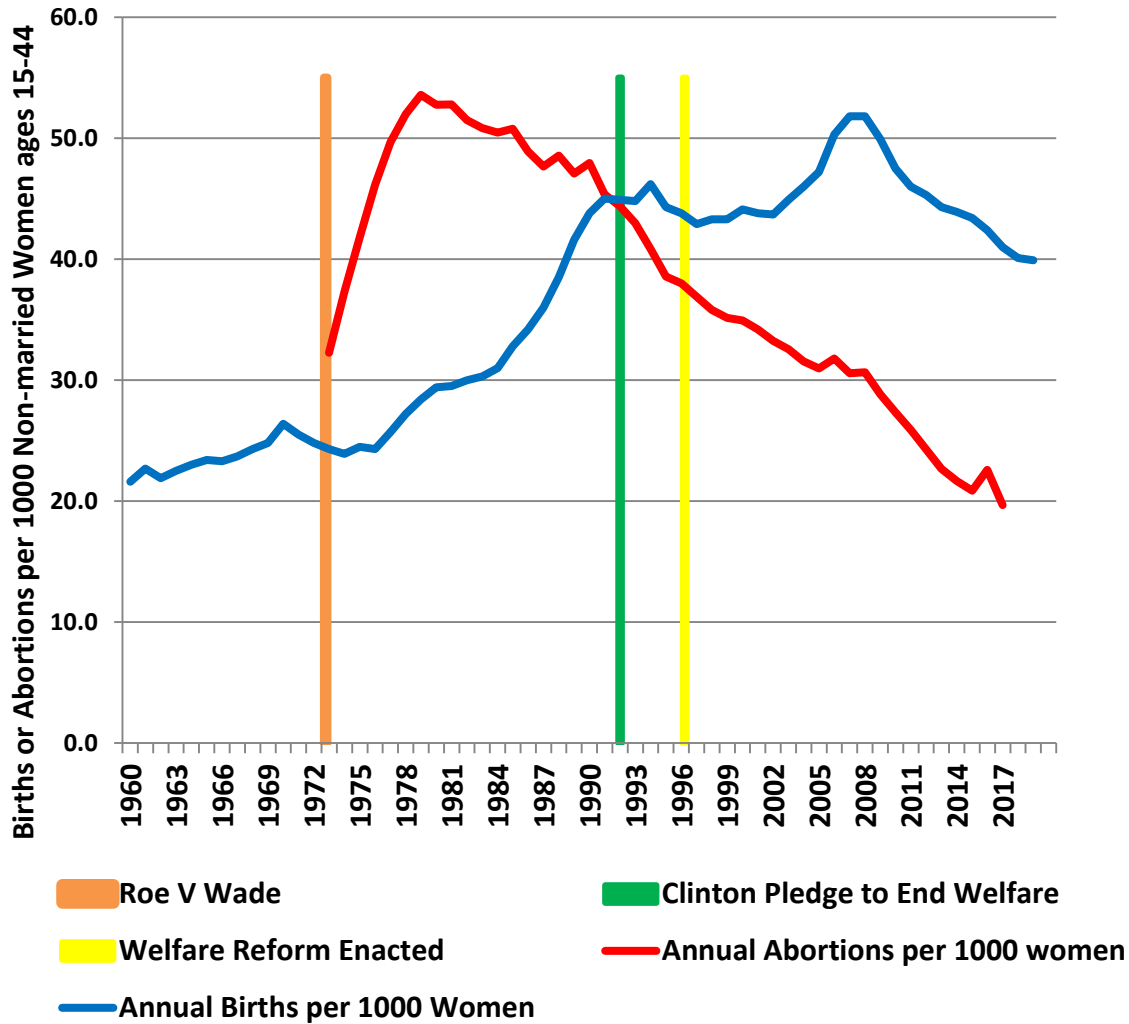
- Roe V Wade
- Clinton Pledges to End Welfare
- Welfare Reform Enacted
- Married Women 15-44
- Non-married Women aged 15-44

# The False Trade Off

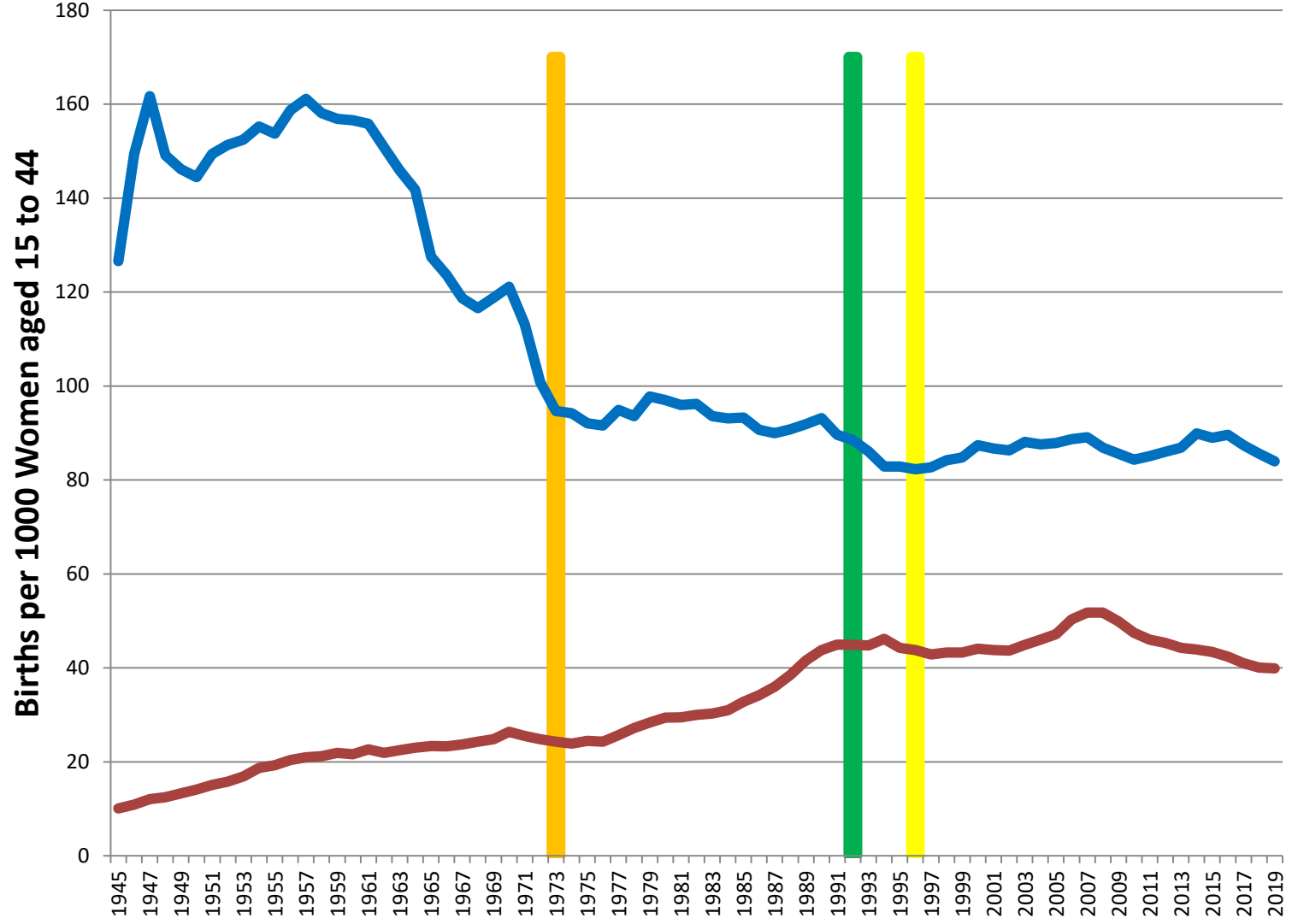
The conventional view is that there is a trade off between abortions and non-marital births. An increase in abortion will lead a drop in non-marital births.

Historical data show there is no trade off; abortions and non-marital births tend to rise and fall in unison.

## Birth and Abortion Rates for Non-Married Women Aged 15 to 44



# Marital and Non-Marital Birth Rates



Clinton Pledge to End Welfare    Welfare Reform Law    Roe V Wade    marital birth rate    Non-marital Birth Rate