

DECEMBER 3rd, 2025

# Moving boys and men forward: Why, Who, How?

Moving MI Males Forward  
Lansing, MI

Richard V. Reeves

# OF BOYS AND MEN

WHY THE MODERN MALE  
IS STRUGGLING, WHY IT MATTERS,  
AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

**Richard V. Reeves**  
*AUTHOR OF DREAM HOARDERS*

— **Helping boys and men  
from all backgrounds  
thrive today and in the  
future.**



**Shaping policy and public conversation  
with reliable, non-partisan research.**



“My message tonight goes out to all young people, but especially our young men. I know it’s hard to get ahead right now. But I promise you, no matter how hard life might get, there is always a way out and a way up. The last thing any of us wants is a generation of young men falling behind their fathers and grandfathers. I’ve heard most about this issue from moms, who love their sons and are worried about them.

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Governor Gretchen Whitmer (MI), March 2025



THIS IS NOT ZERO-SUM



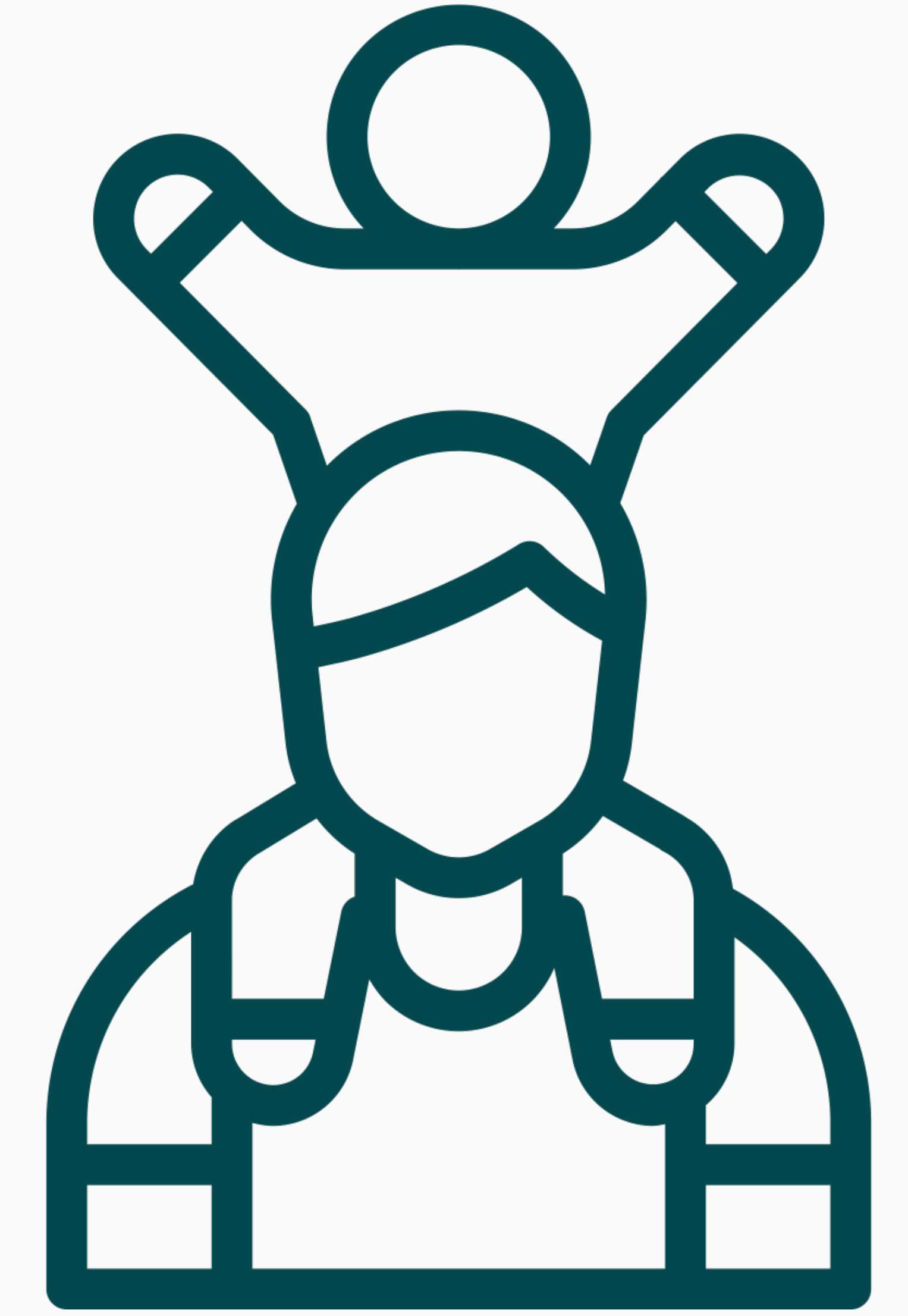
Mental  
Health



Education



Wages and  
Work



Family and  
Fatherhood



Mental  
Health

# Suicide rates

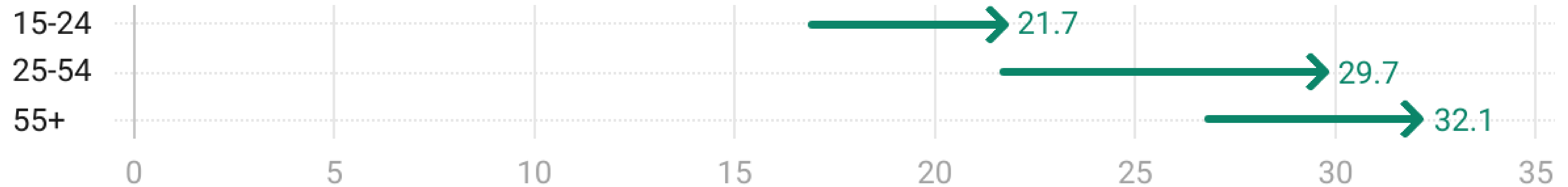


# Suicide rates are 4x for men

## Women



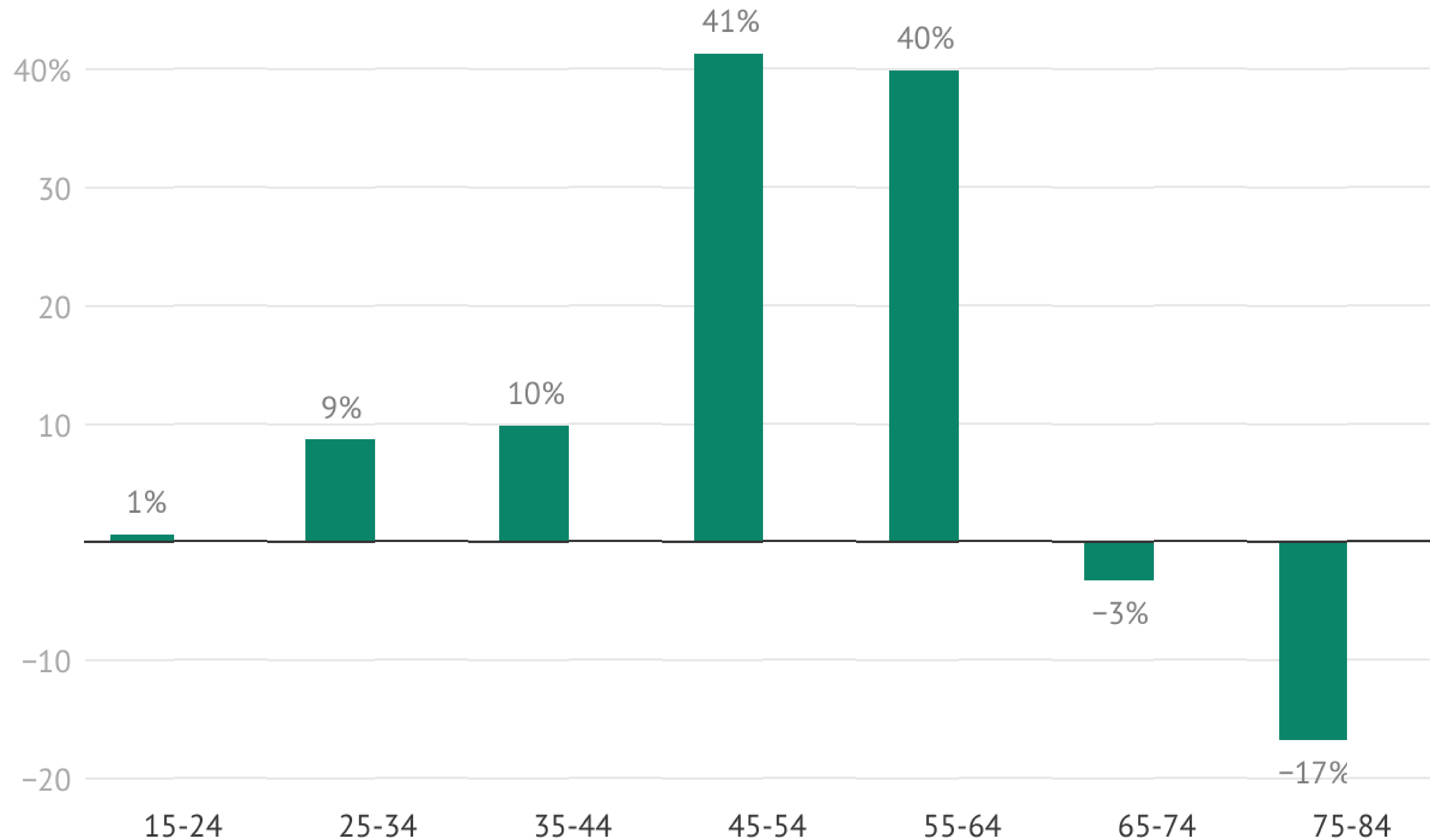
## Men



# To 2010, suicide up among older men...

Change in male suicide rates per 100,000 by age-group

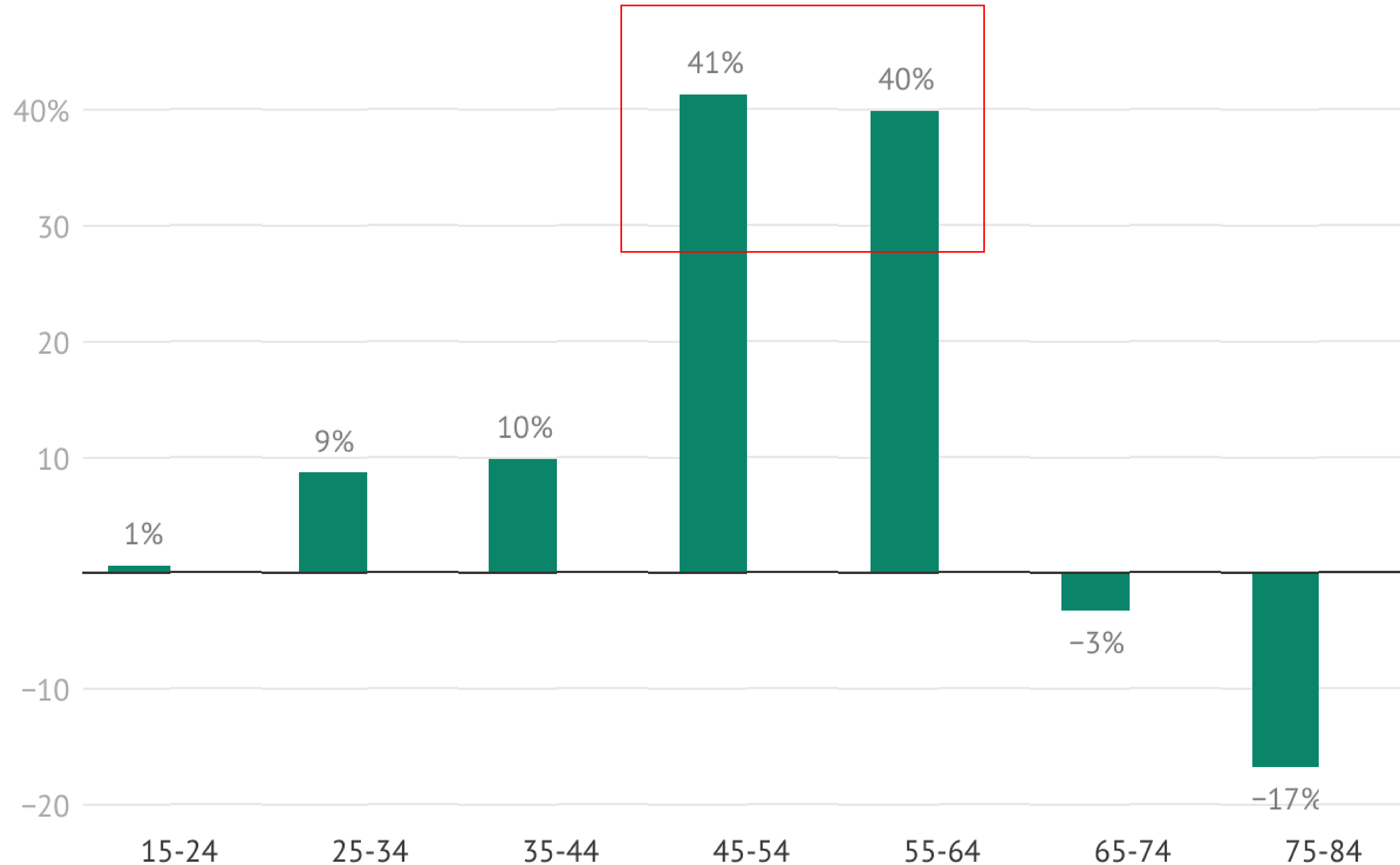
■ 1999-2010



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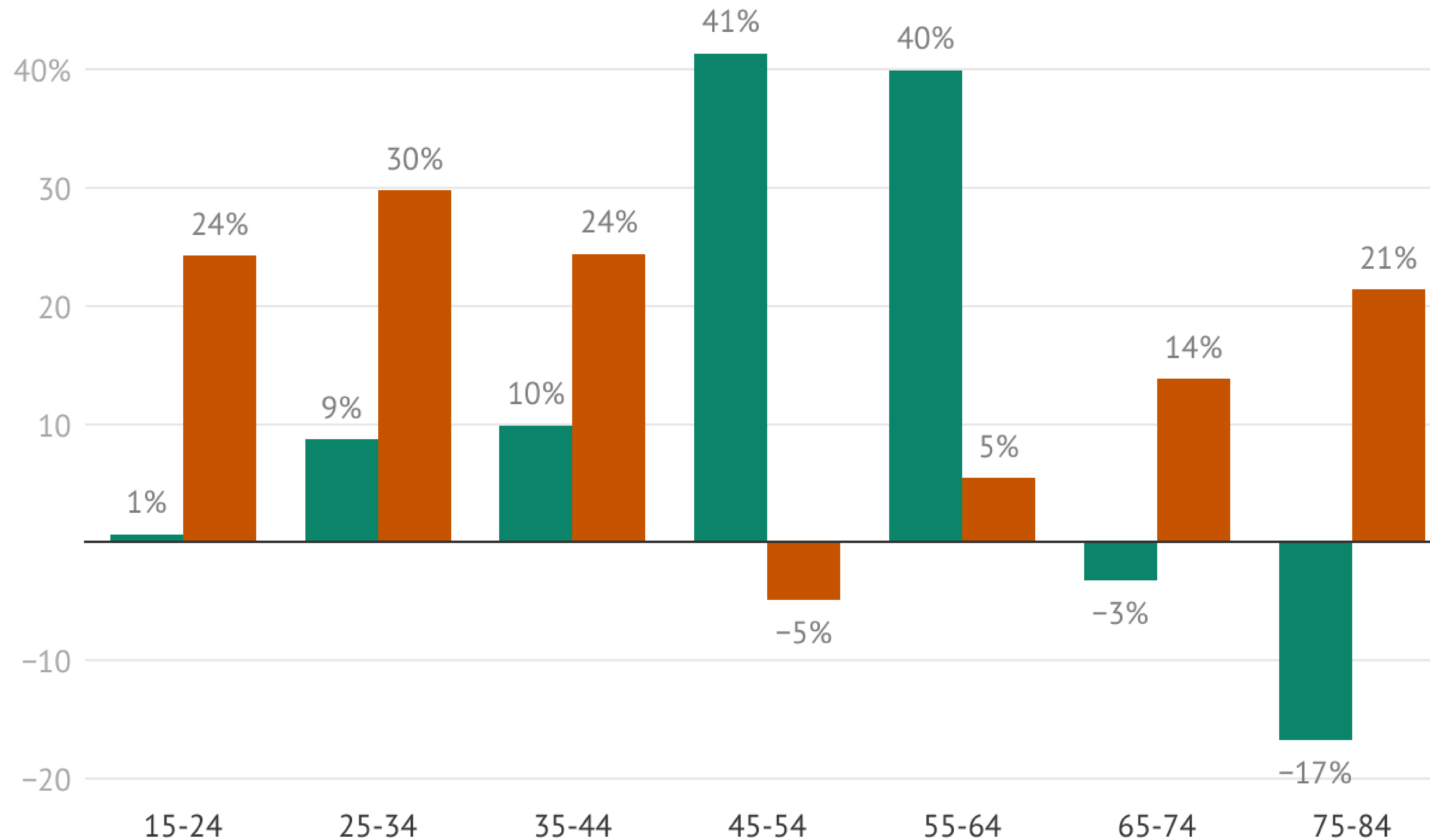
■ 1999-2010



# Since 2010, younger men

Change in male suicide rates per 100,000 by age-group

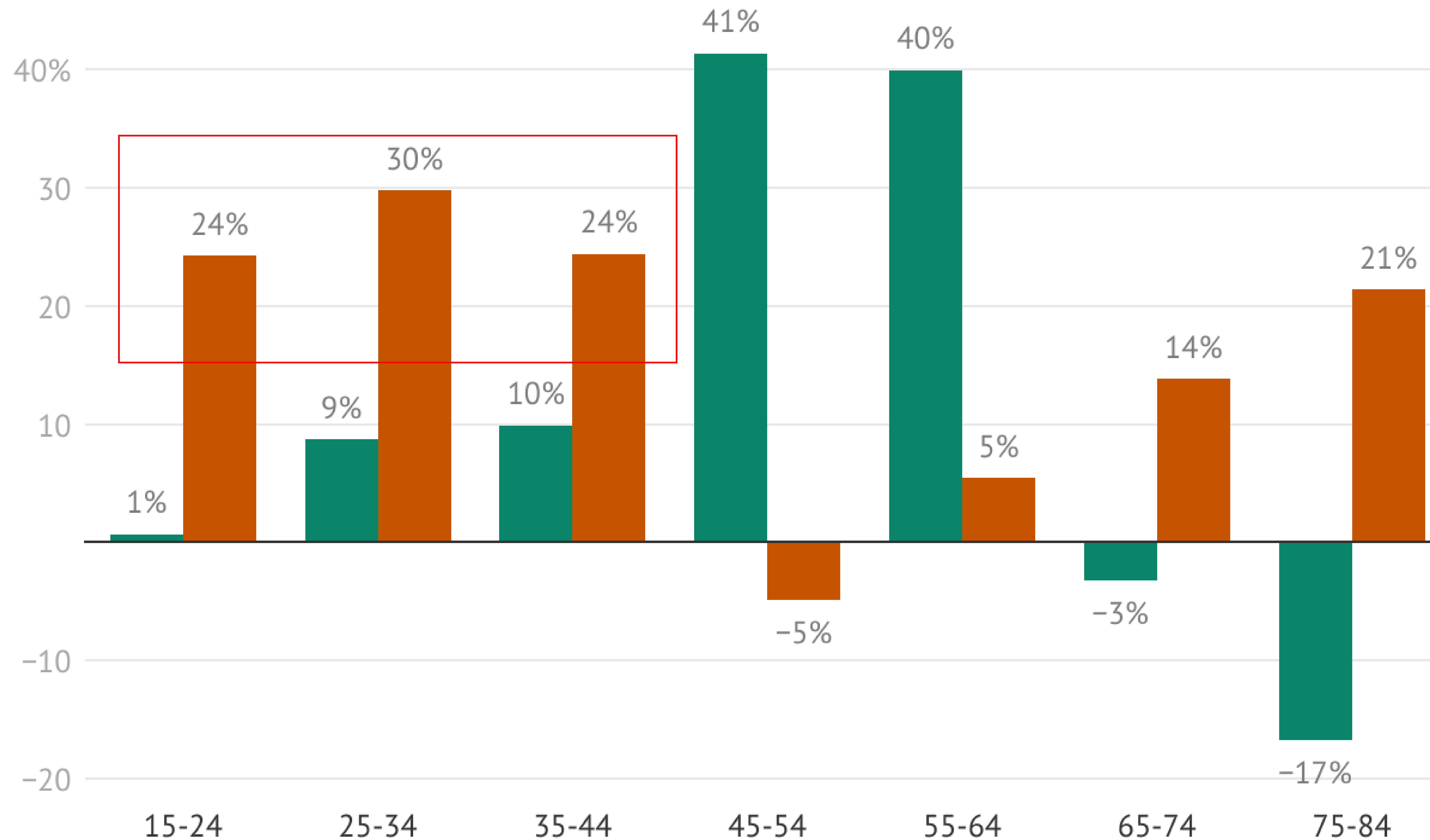
1999-2010  
2010-2023



# Since 2010, younger men

Change in male suicide rates per 100,000 by age-group

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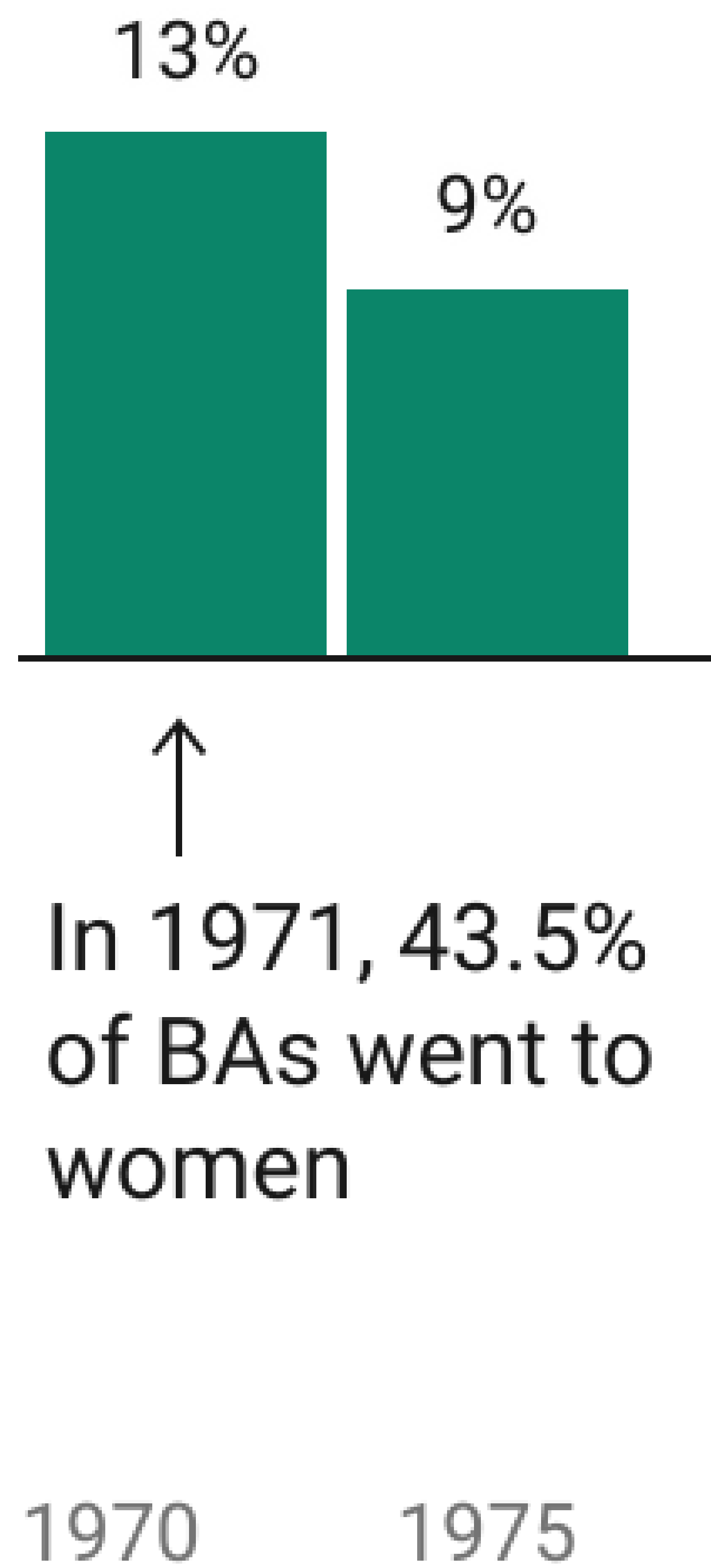
Mental  
Health



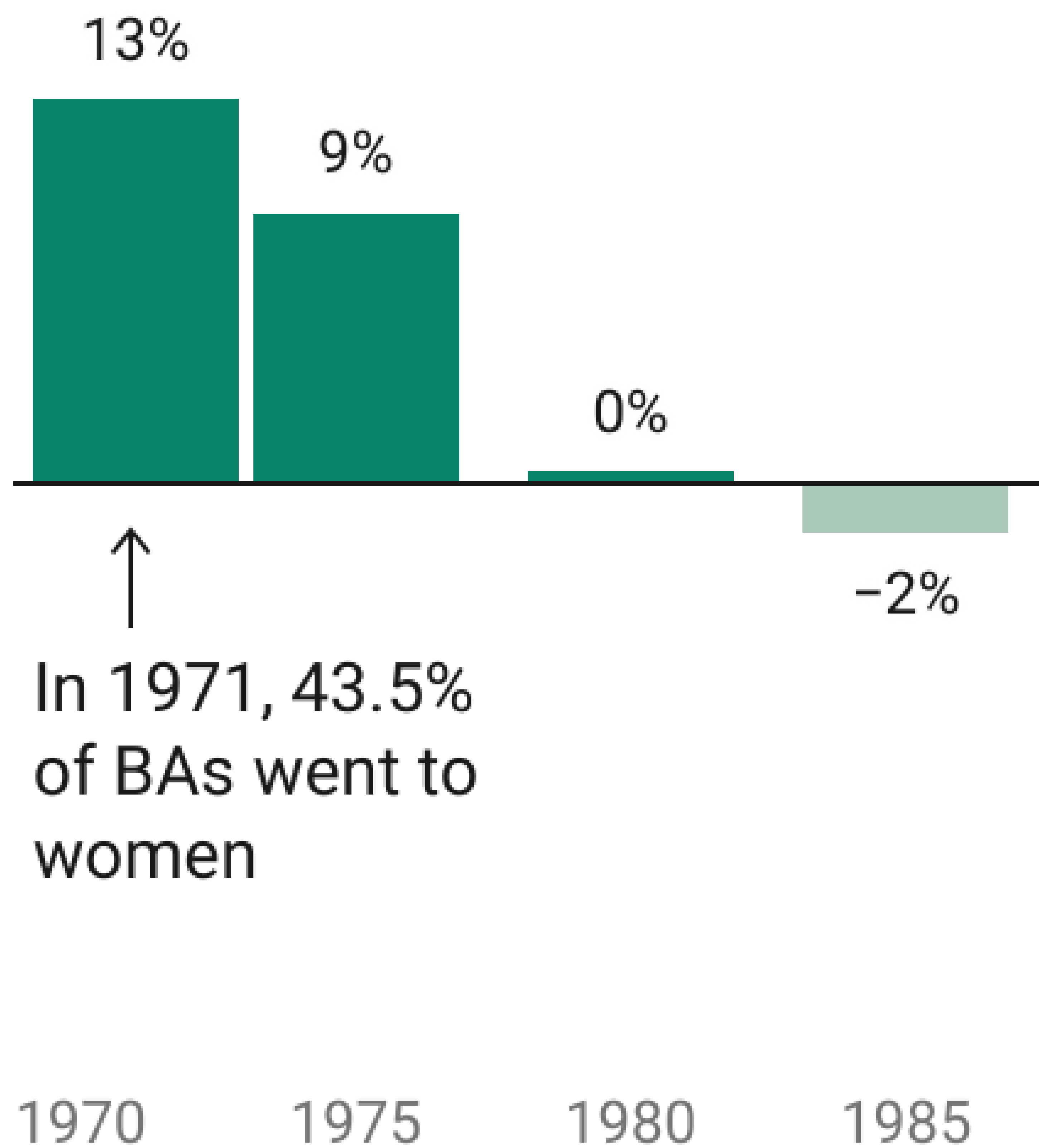
Education

# The gender gap in college degrees

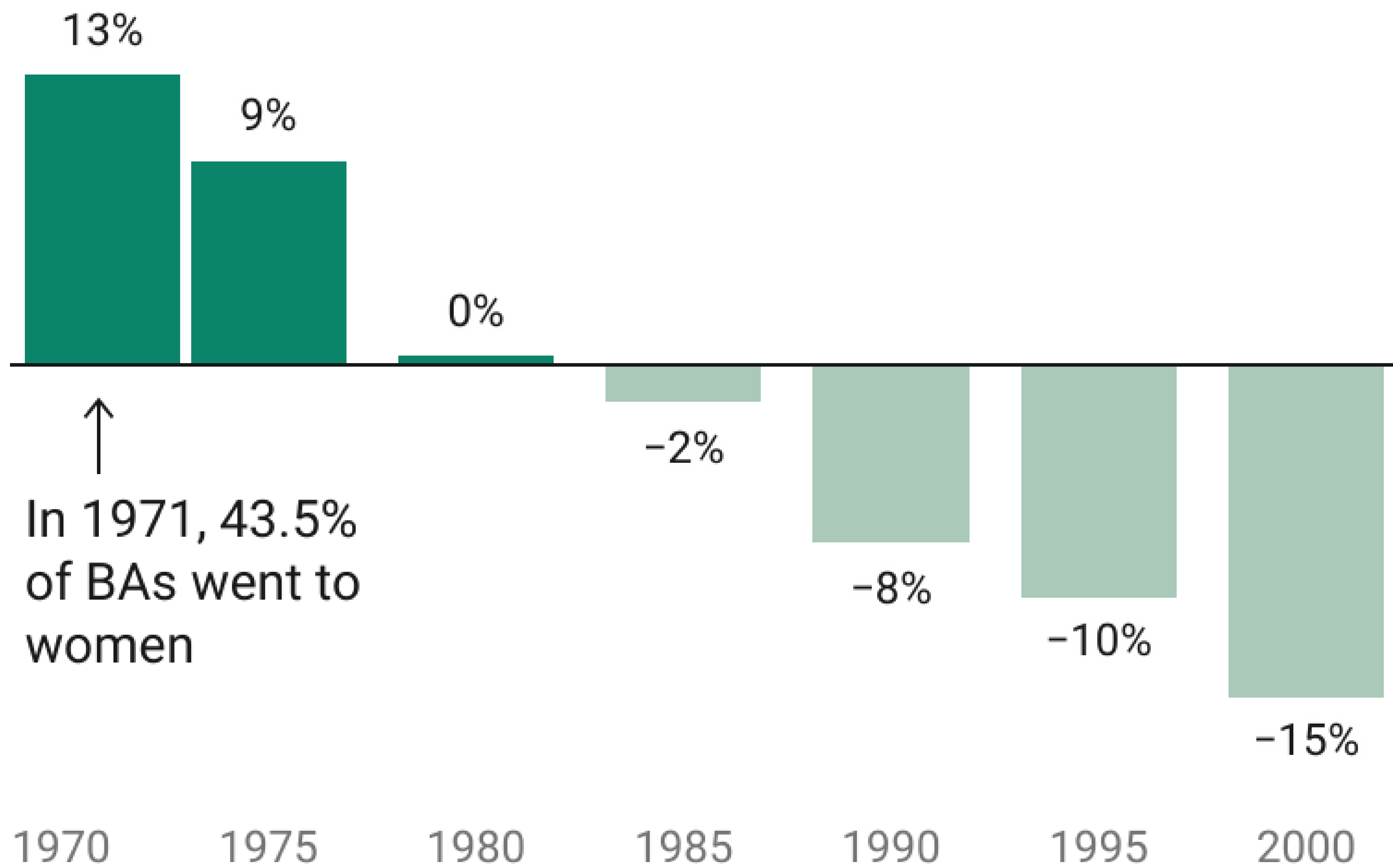
# The gender gap in college degrees



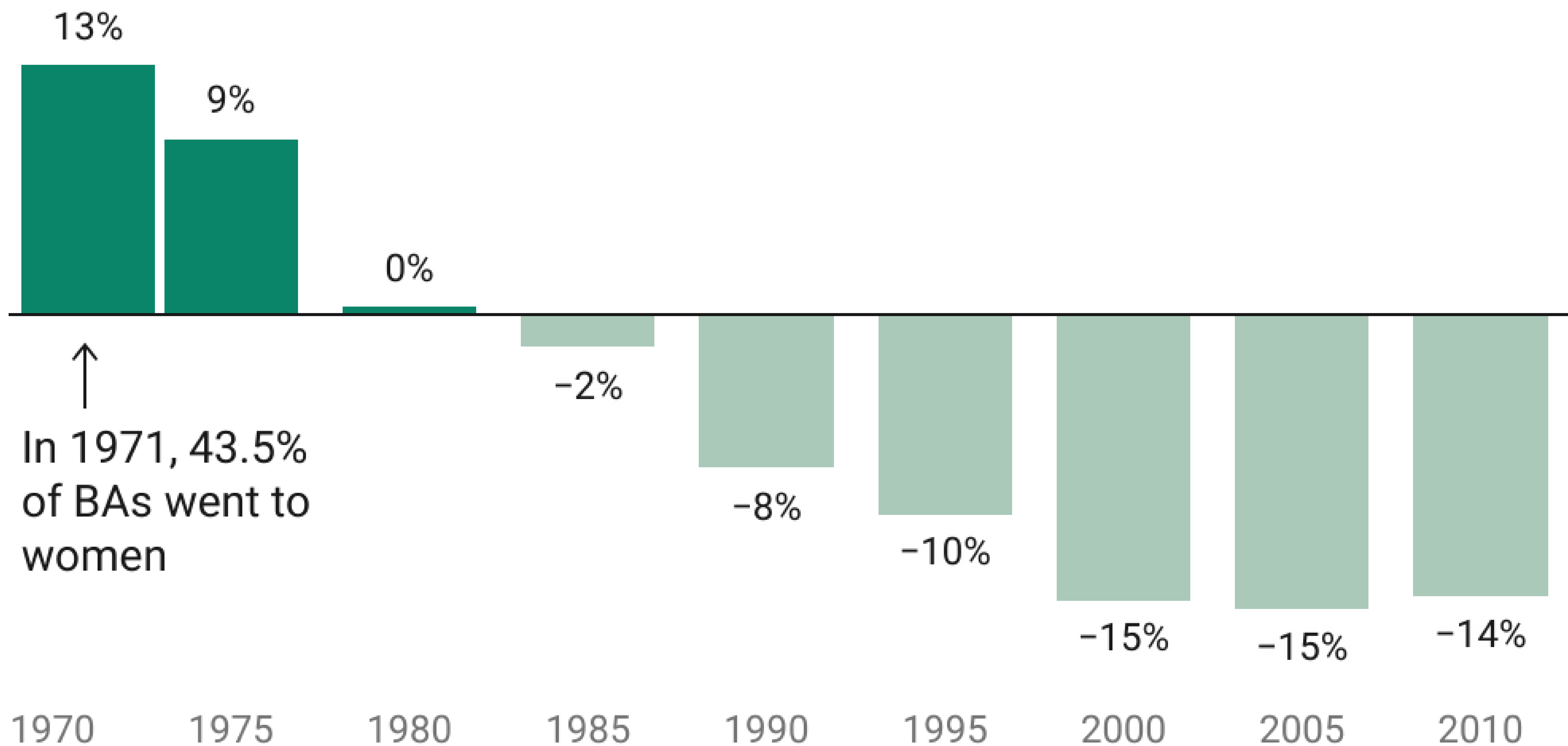
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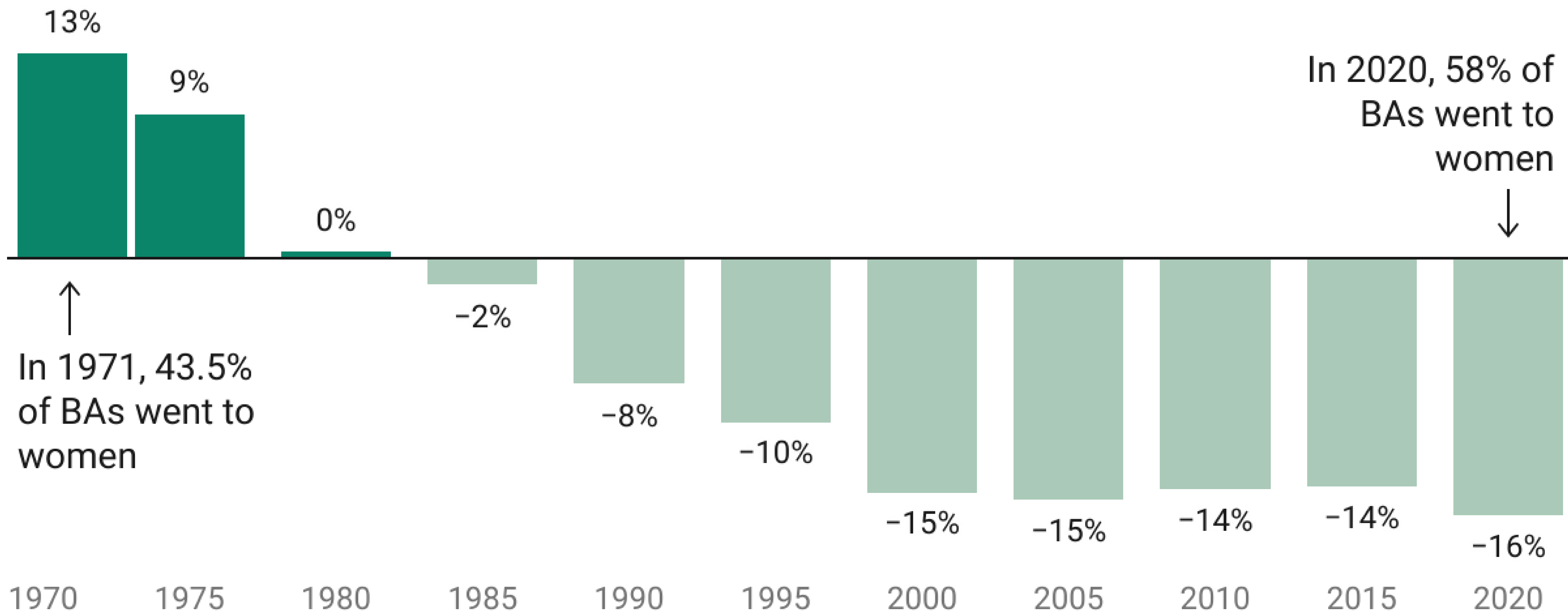
# The gender gap in college degrees



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# Join HEMAC!?



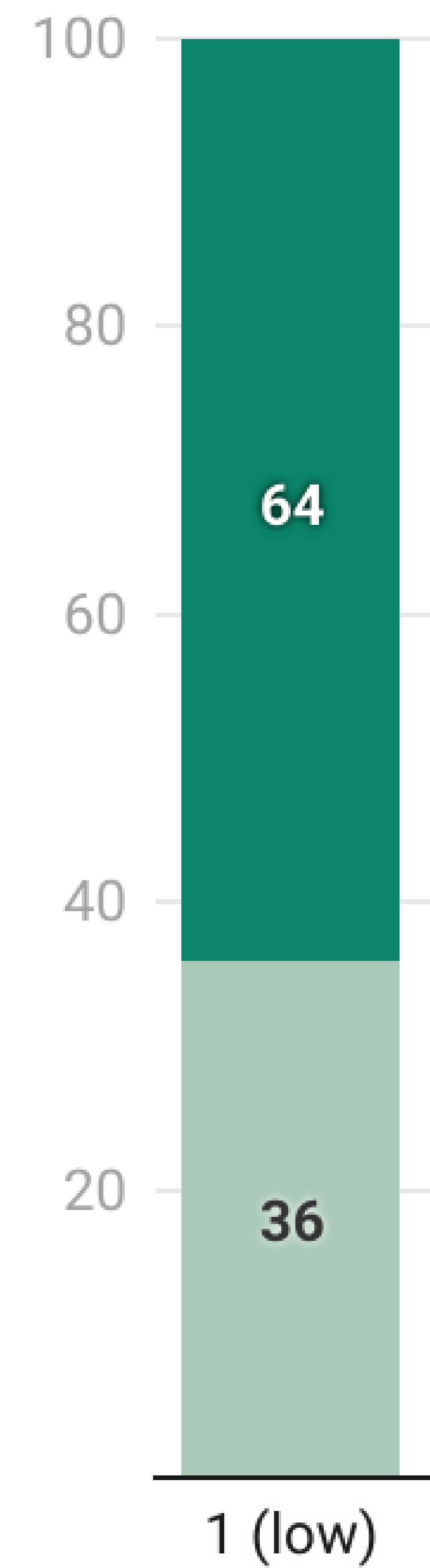
[www.menincollege.org](http://www.menincollege.org)

**aibm**

# Boys lag girls in High School GPA

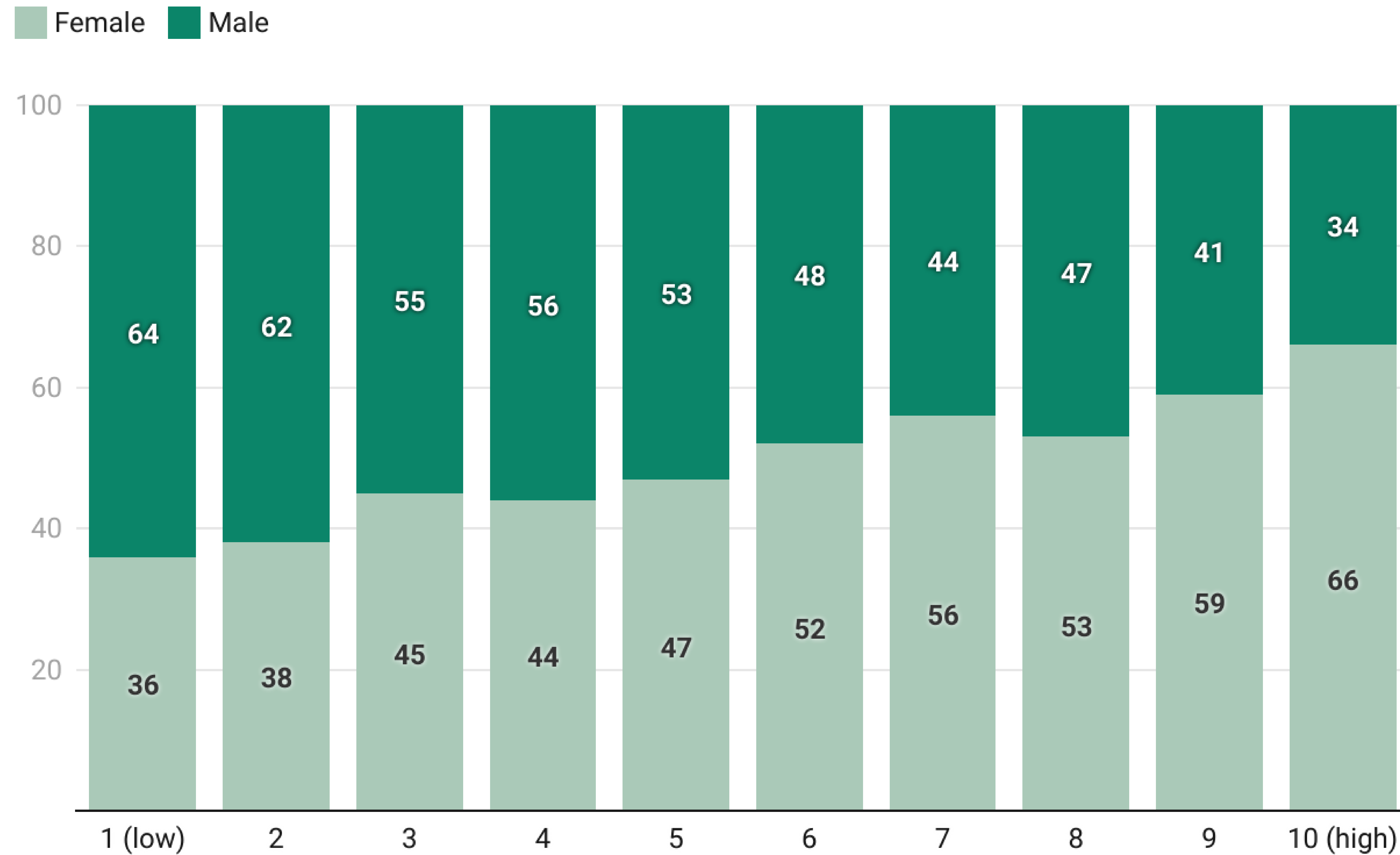
# Boys lag girls in High School GPA

Female Male



Created with Datawrapper

# Boys lag girls in High School GPA

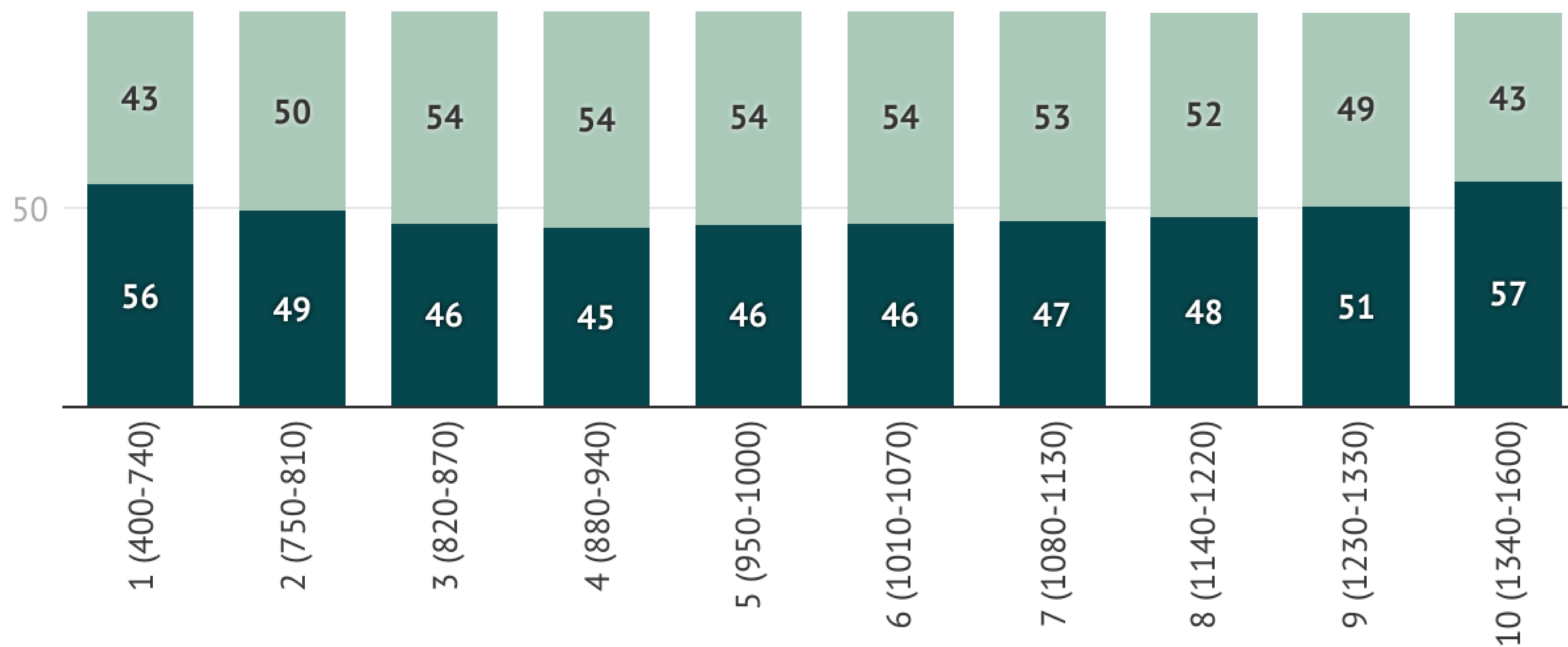


Created with Datawrapper

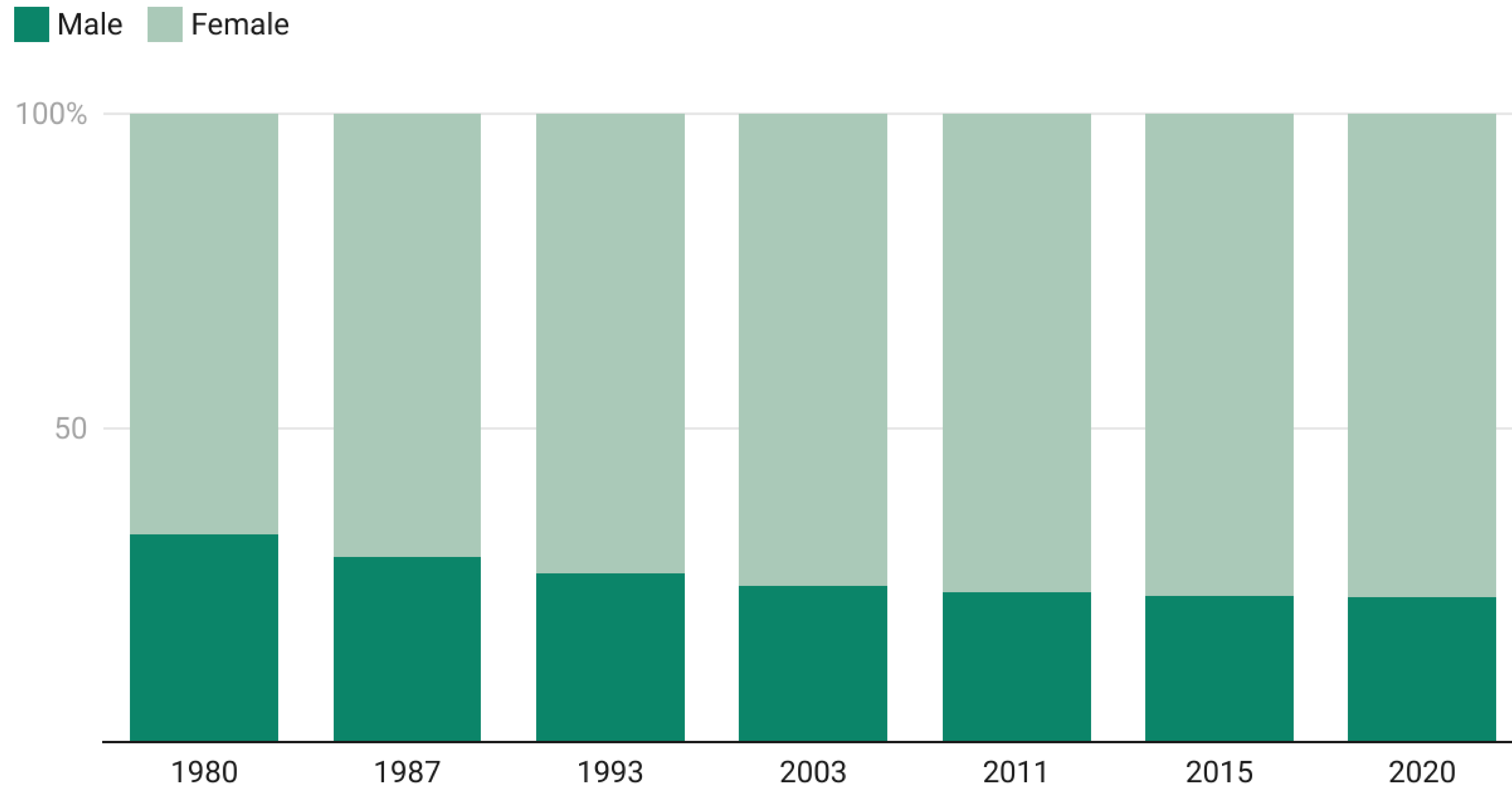
# But not on SAT...

Share of boys and girls across the distribution of combined SAT scores by decile

Male Female



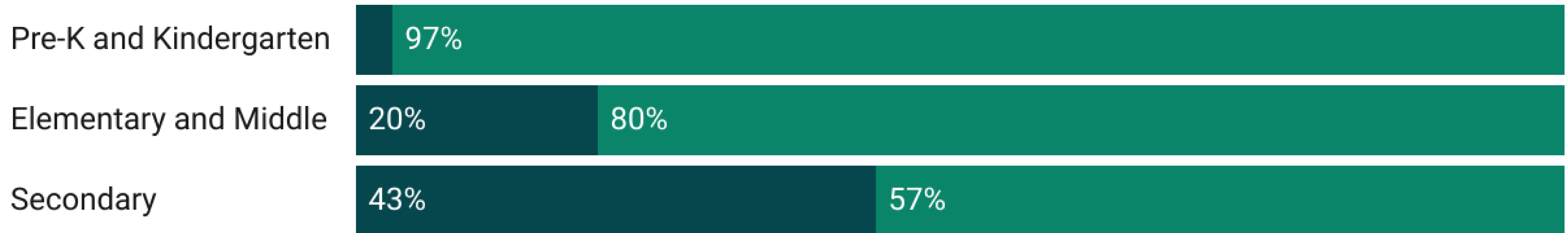
# Not many Misters in K-12



# Not men in K-12 especially early years

Share of teachers at given level by gender

■ Male ■ Female



Source: Author's calculations using 2018-2022 5-Year American Community Survey Data.

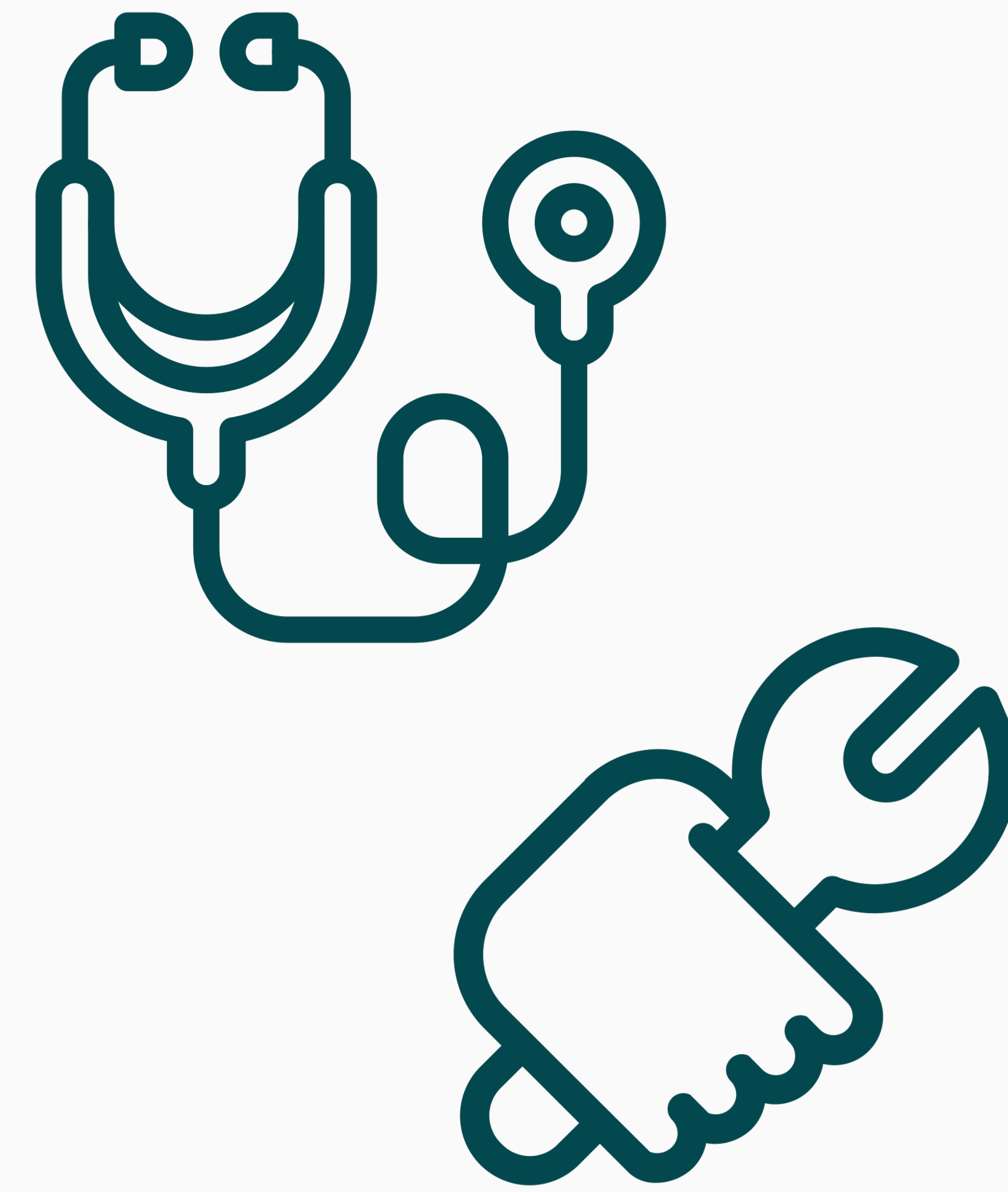




Mental  
Health



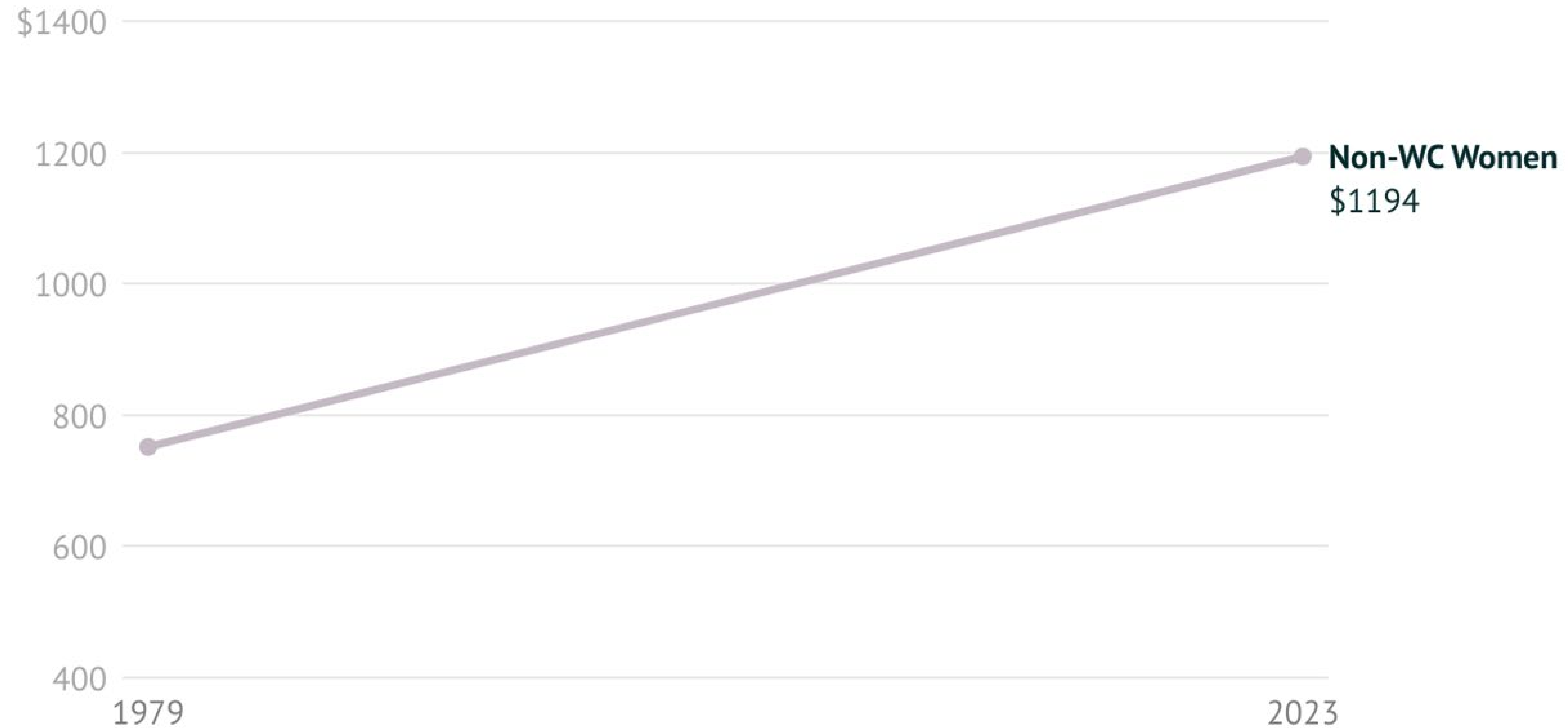
Education



Wages and  
Work

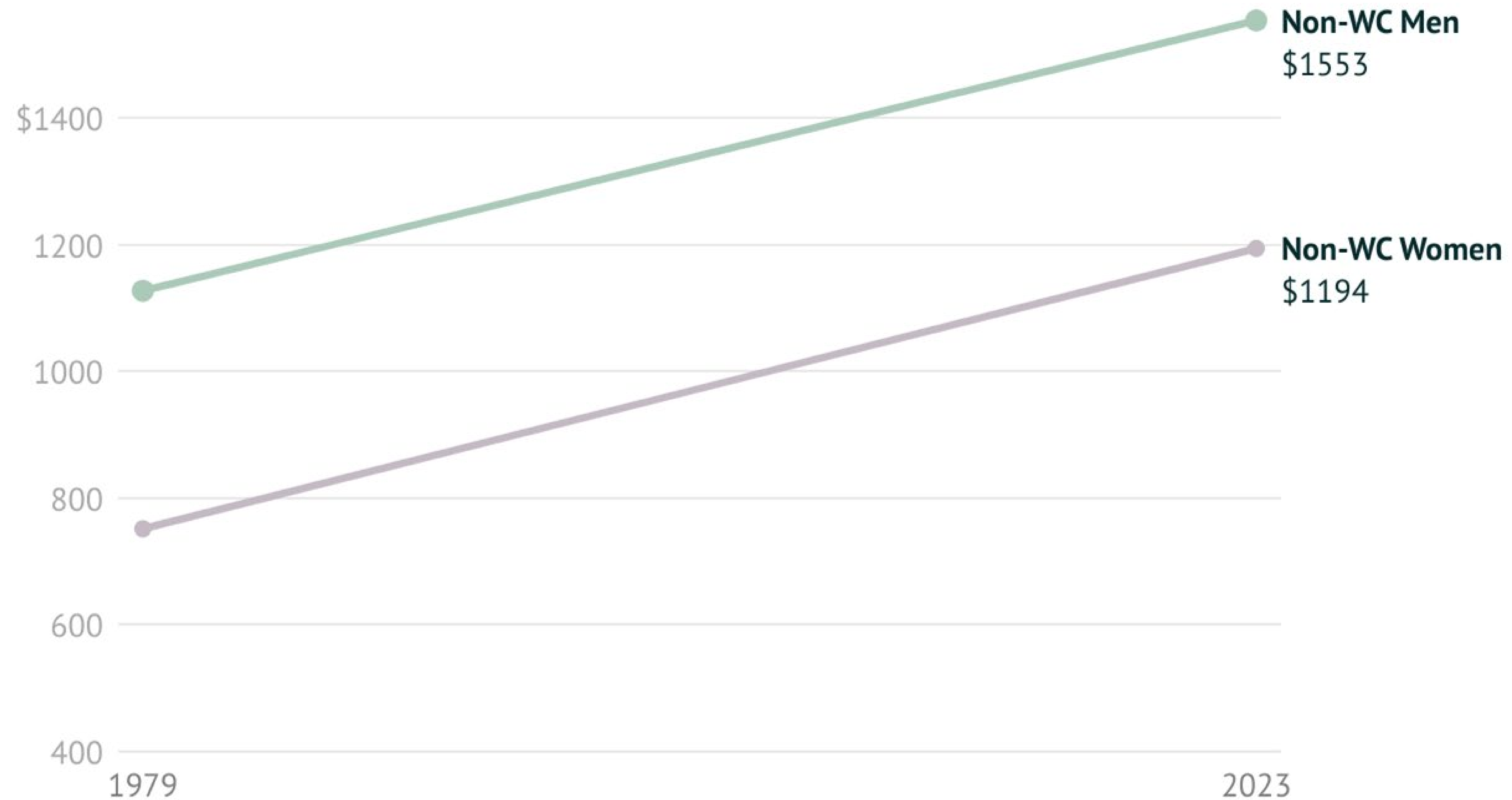
# Wages up for women with BA...

Median real weekly full-time earnings for men and women (1979-2023)



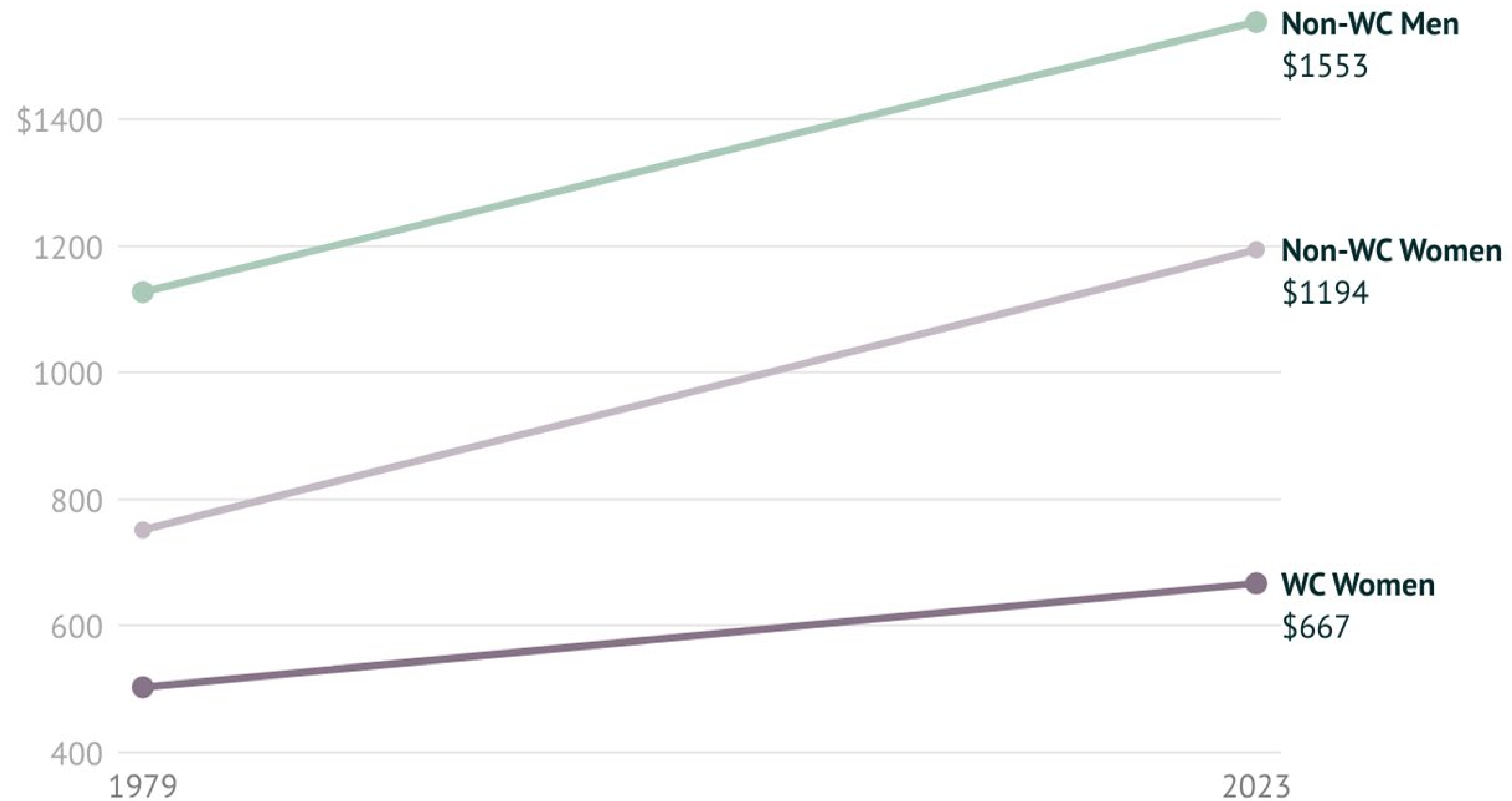
# ...and men with a BA

Median real weekly full-time earnings for men and women (1979-2023)



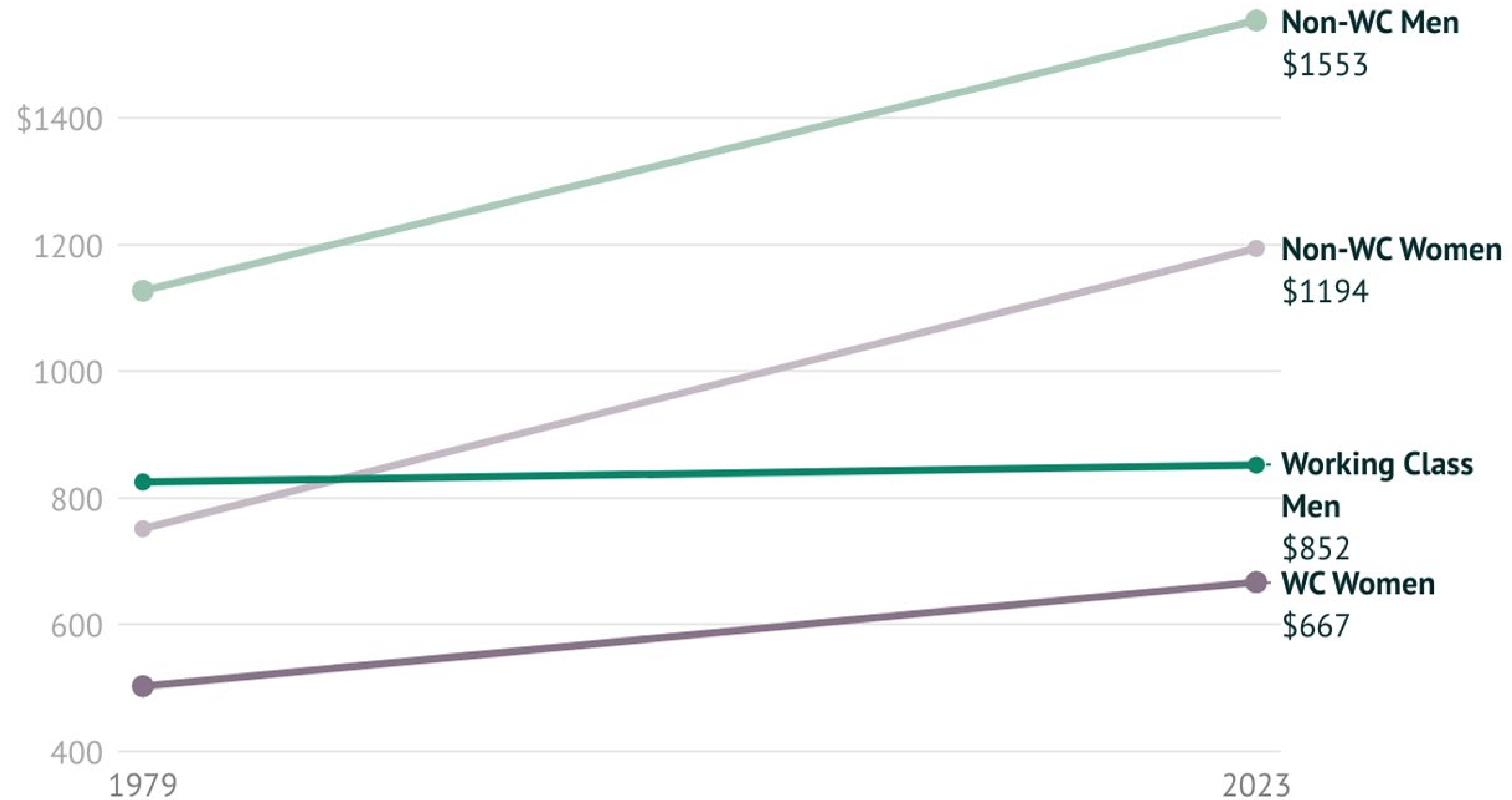
# And a bit for women with no BA...

Median real weekly full-time earnings for men and women (1979-2023)

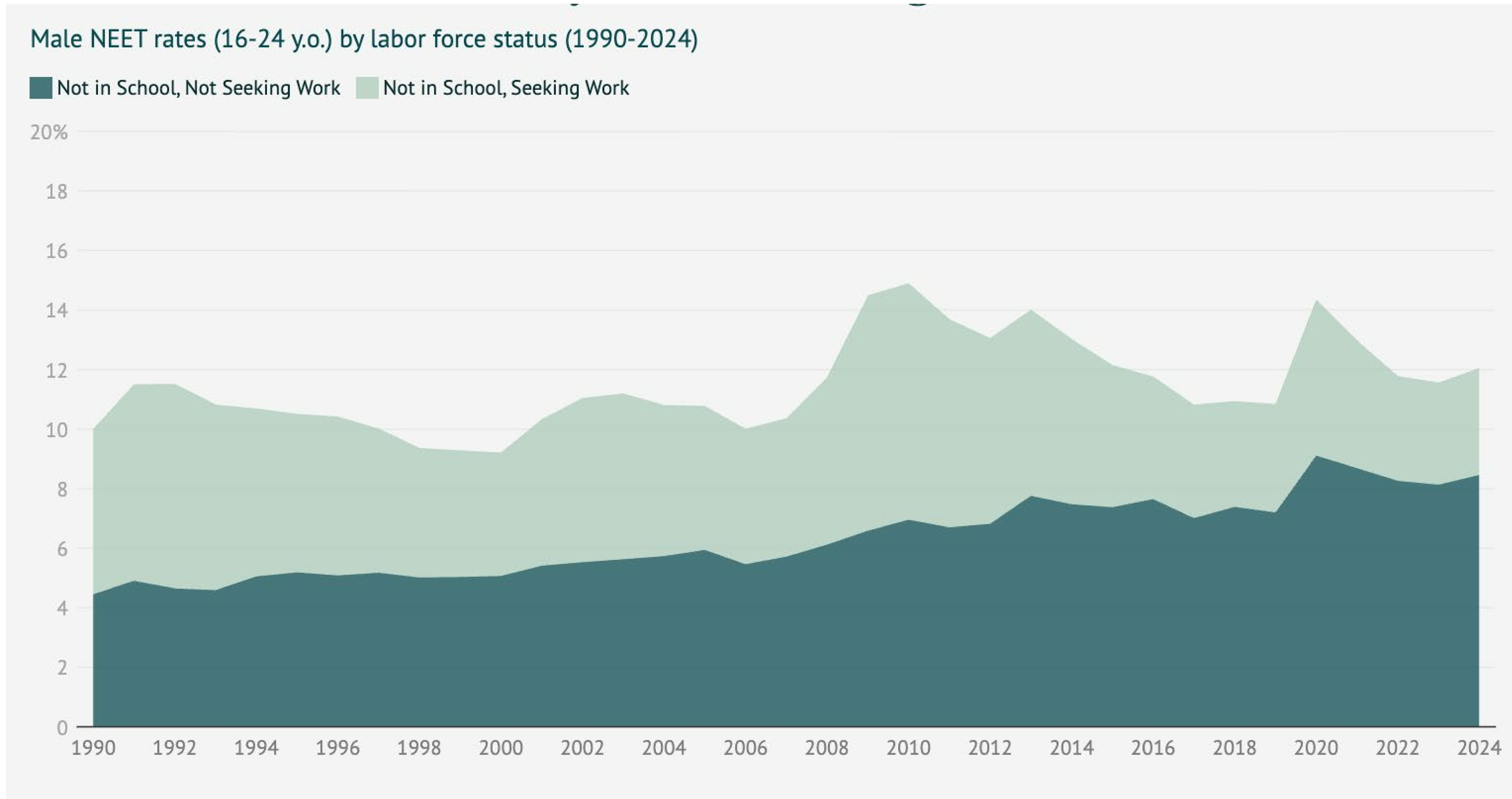


# But stagnant for men with no BA

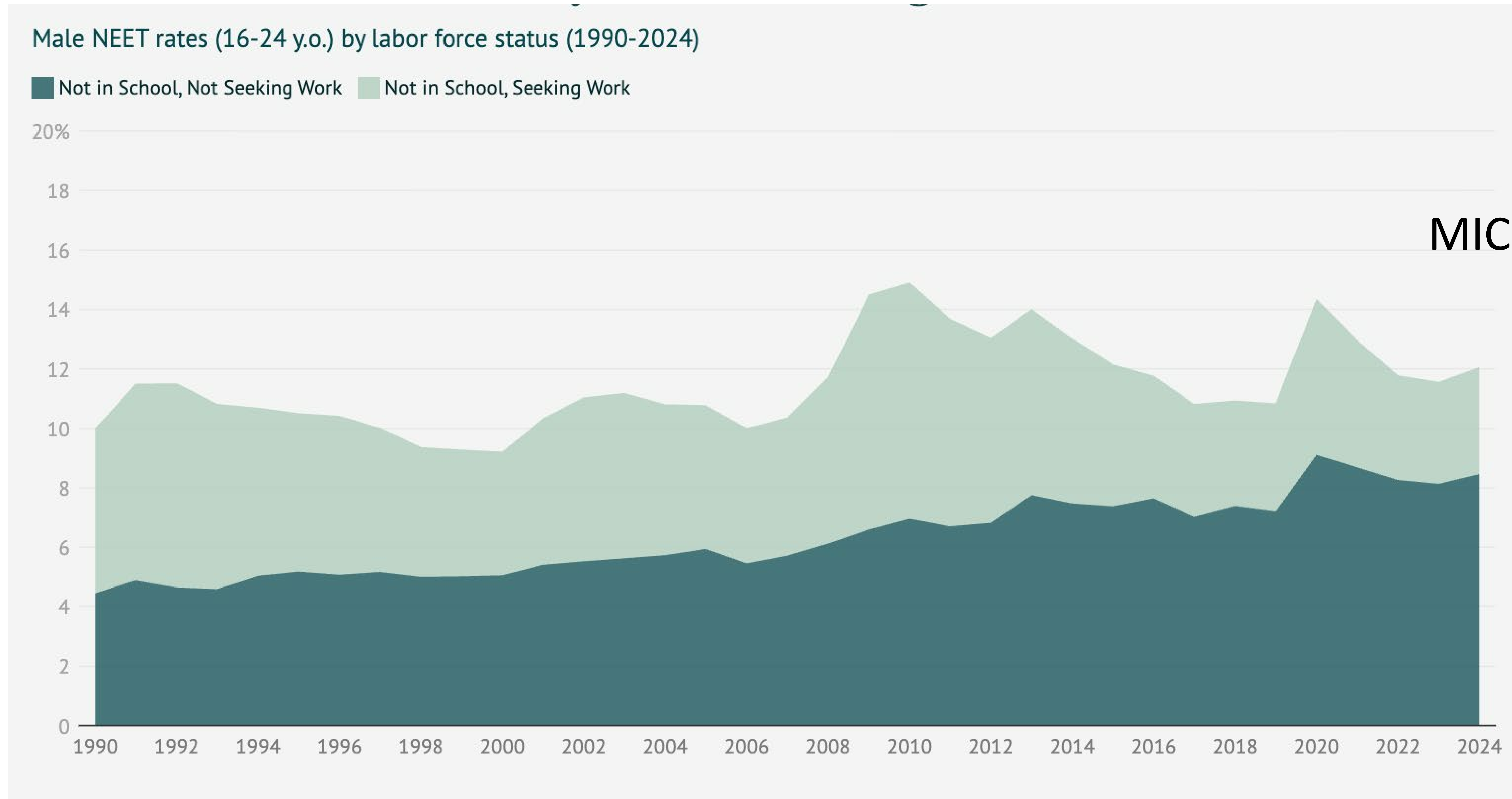
Median real weekly full-time earnings for men and women (1979-2023)



# And NEET rates rising...



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MICHIGAN 14%



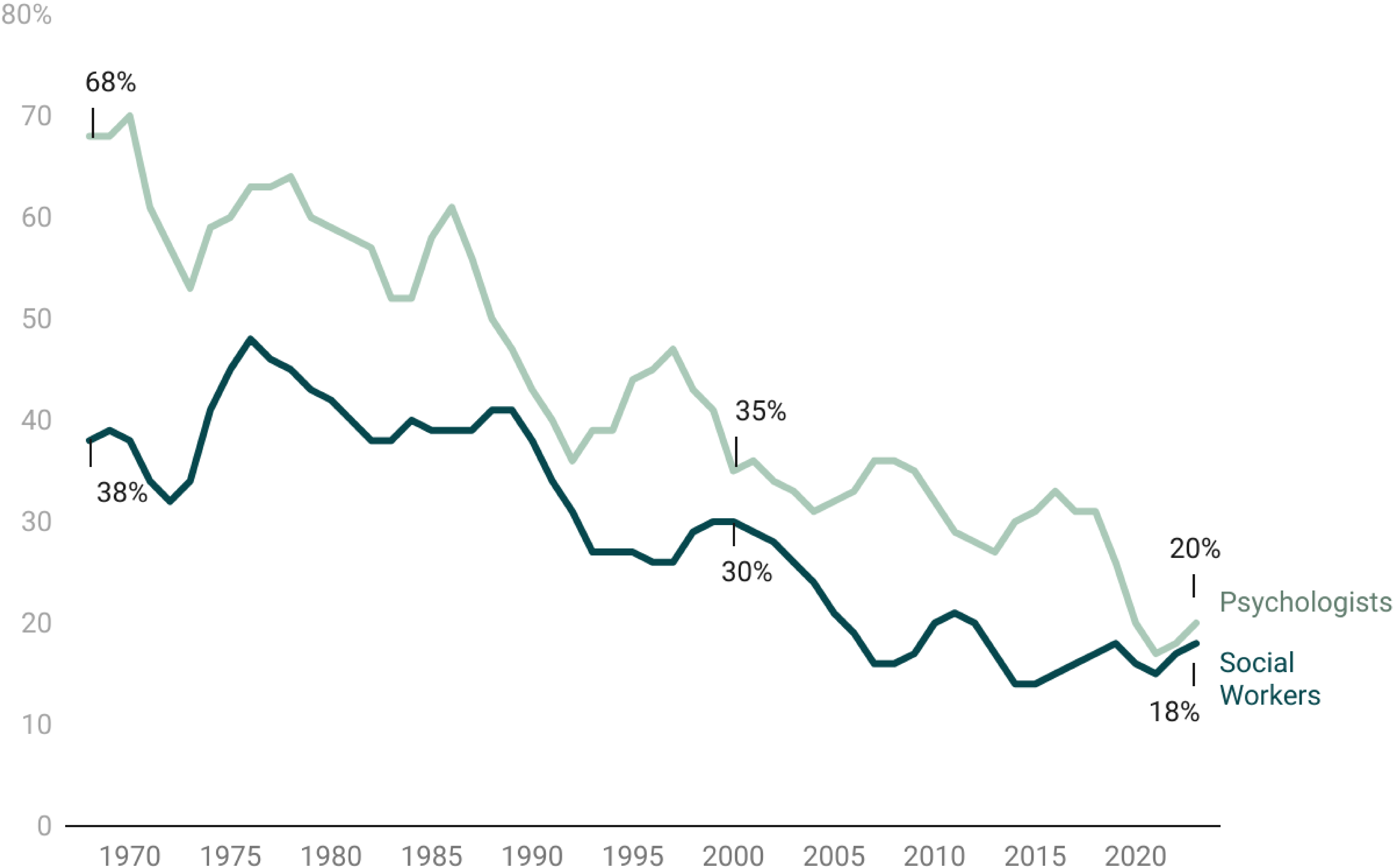
# Fewer men in “HEAL” professions

Male share of workers with given occupation



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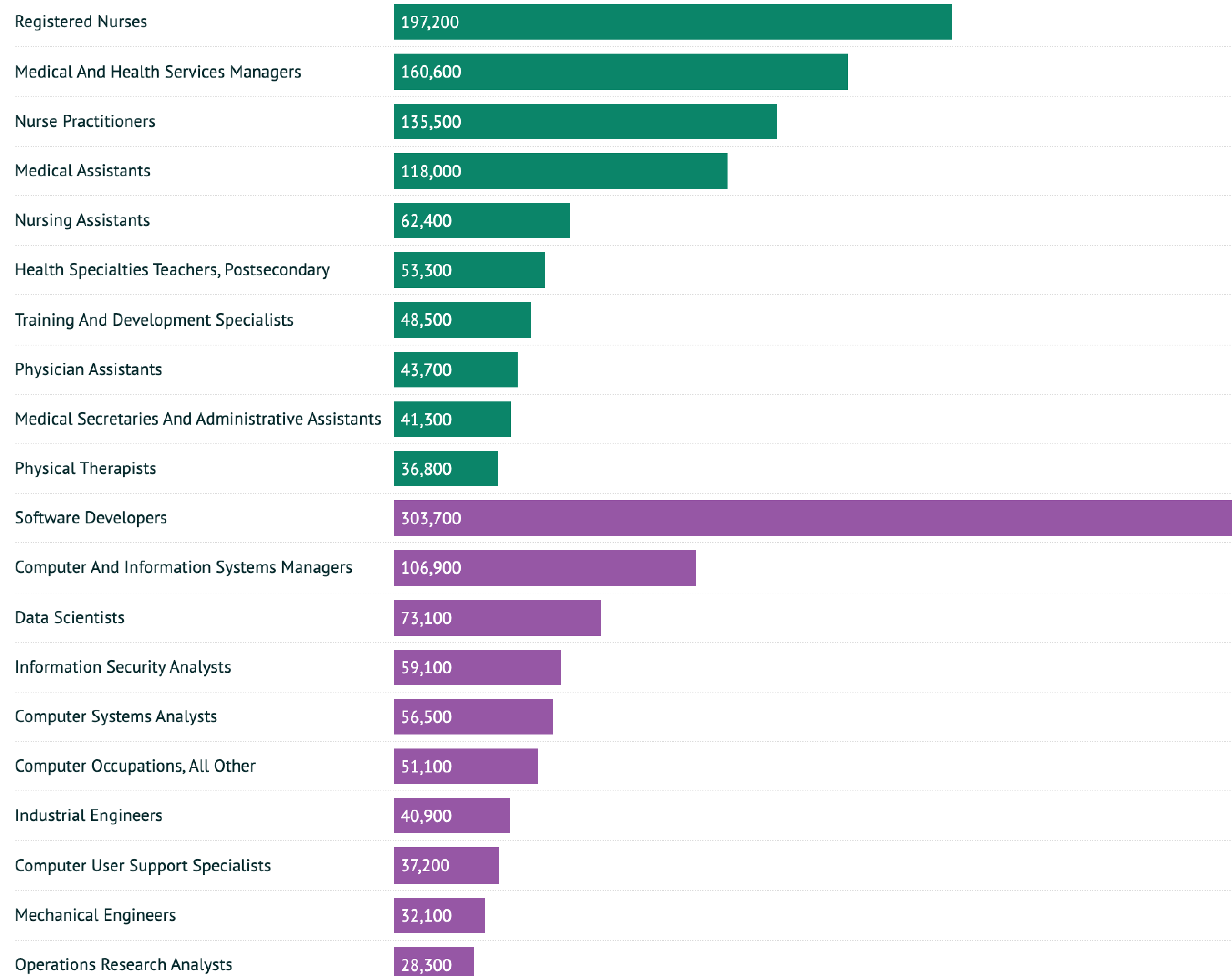
Male share of workers with given occupation



# Which are growing...

Top 10 HEAL & STEM occupations by projected growth (2023-2033)

■ HEAL ■ STEM

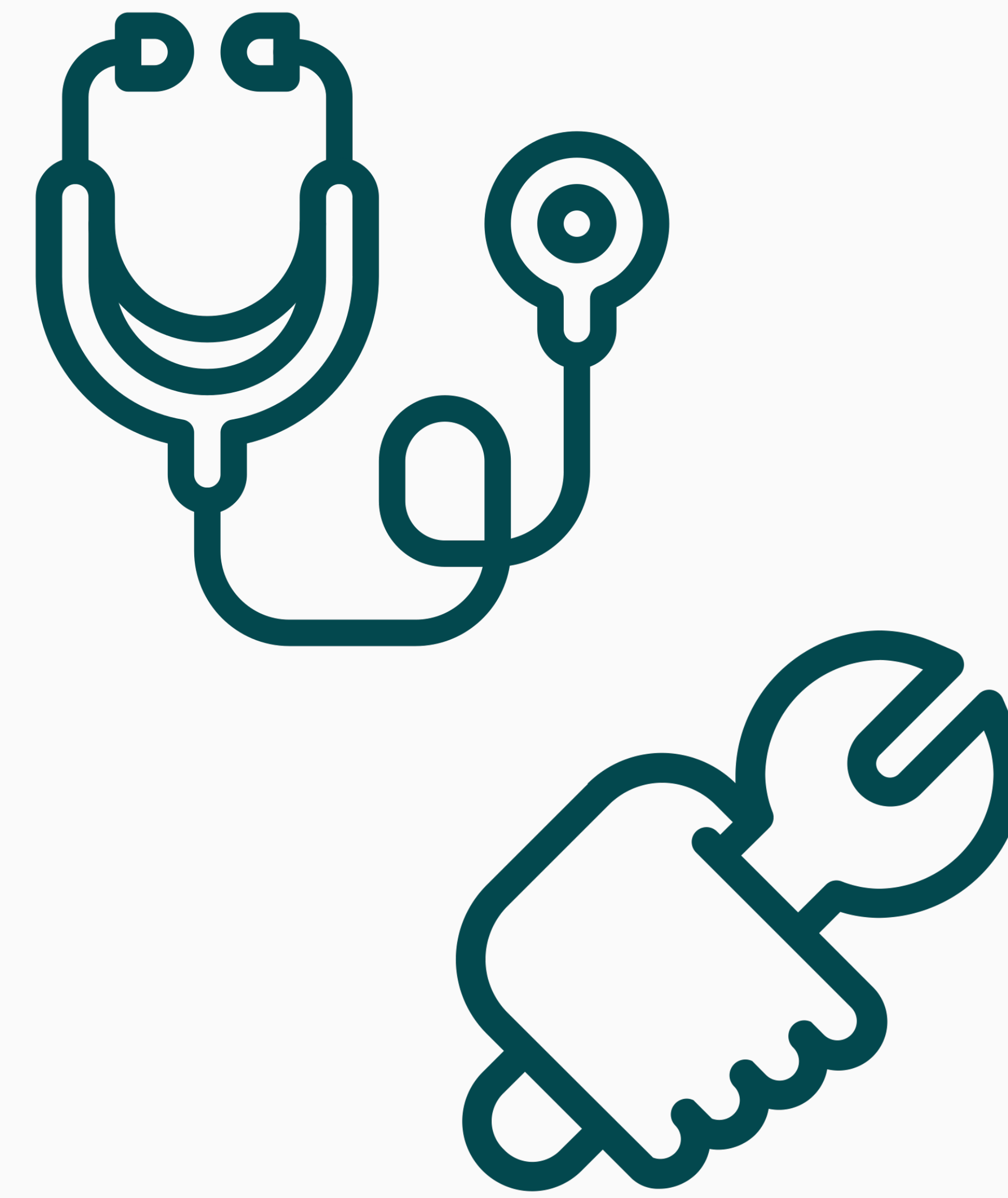




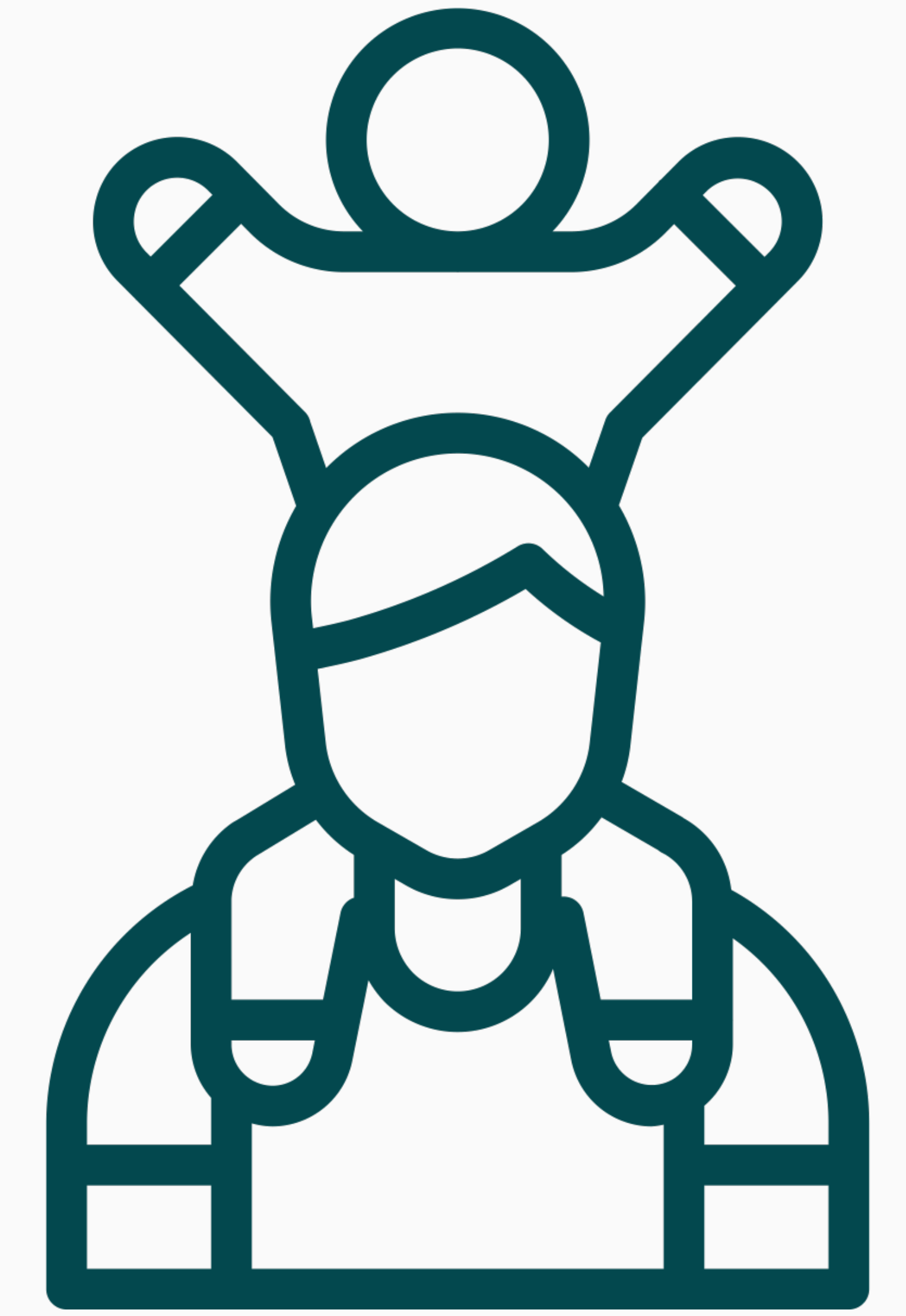
Mental Health



Education



Wages and Work



Family and Fatherhood

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# Family life changing

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Share of men and women 30-50 years old with any kids in household (1980-2022)

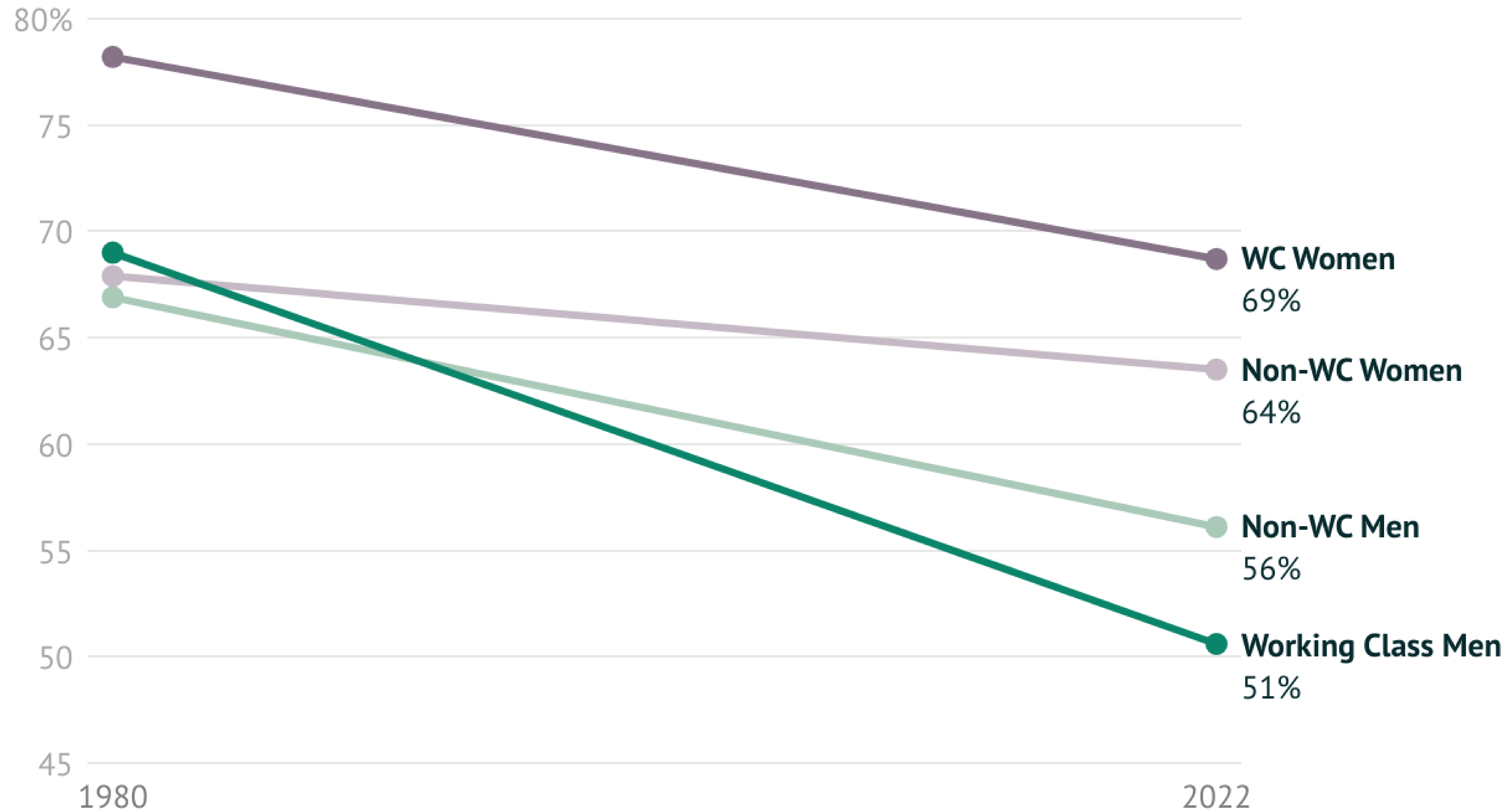


Figure shows the share of men and women (30-50 years old) who had any kids in their household in 1980 and 2022. Men and women without at least a bachelor's degree are classified as working class.

Source: Census & ACS via IPUMS

# REFRAME, REGAIN

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“As the father of a son and a daughter, I want both of my children growing up with all of their God-honoring and God-given opportunities –

...our mission to uplift men and boys isn't in conflict with our values to leave no one behind – it's in concert with them.”

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Governor Wes Moore (MD), February 2025



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President Barack Obama, July 2025



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WE RISE TOGETHER

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Thank you!!

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