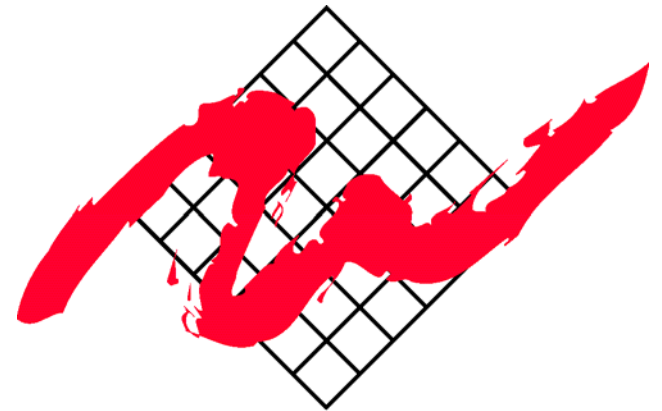




Poverty and Unemployment Among Single Mother Families

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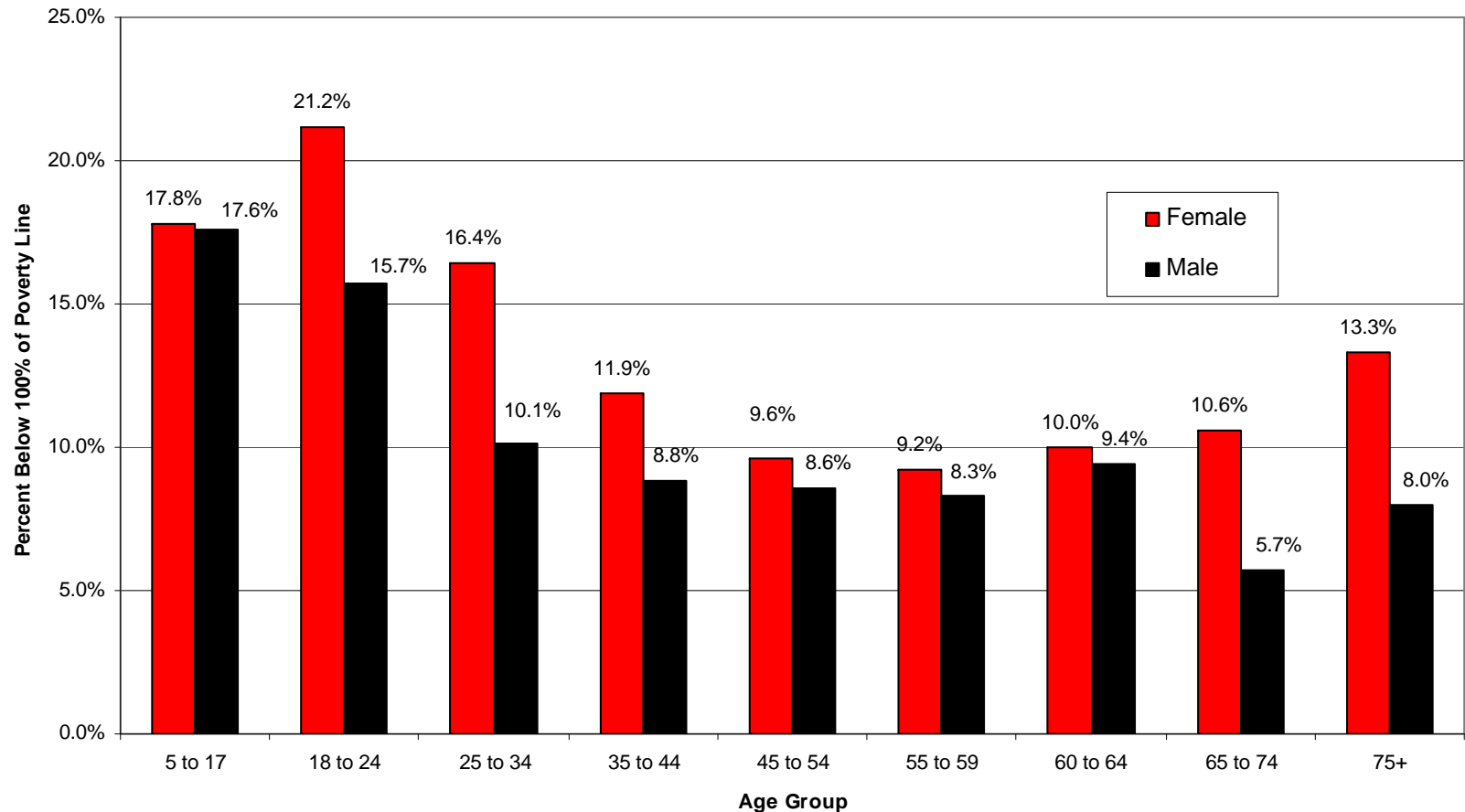
IWPR Mission Statement

The Institute for Women's Policy Research conducts rigorous research and disseminates its findings to address the needs of women, promote public dialogue, and strengthen families, communities, and societies.



Women are More Likely to Be Poor – At Every Age

Poverty Rates by Age and Gender, 2008



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement 2009





Poverty in 2008 – 39.8 Million People

Gender

- 22.1 million females
- 17.6 million males

Race/Ethnicity

- 17.0 million whites, not Hispanics
- 9.4 million African Americans
- 1.5 million Asian Americans
- 11.0 million Hispanics
- 1.0 million Other

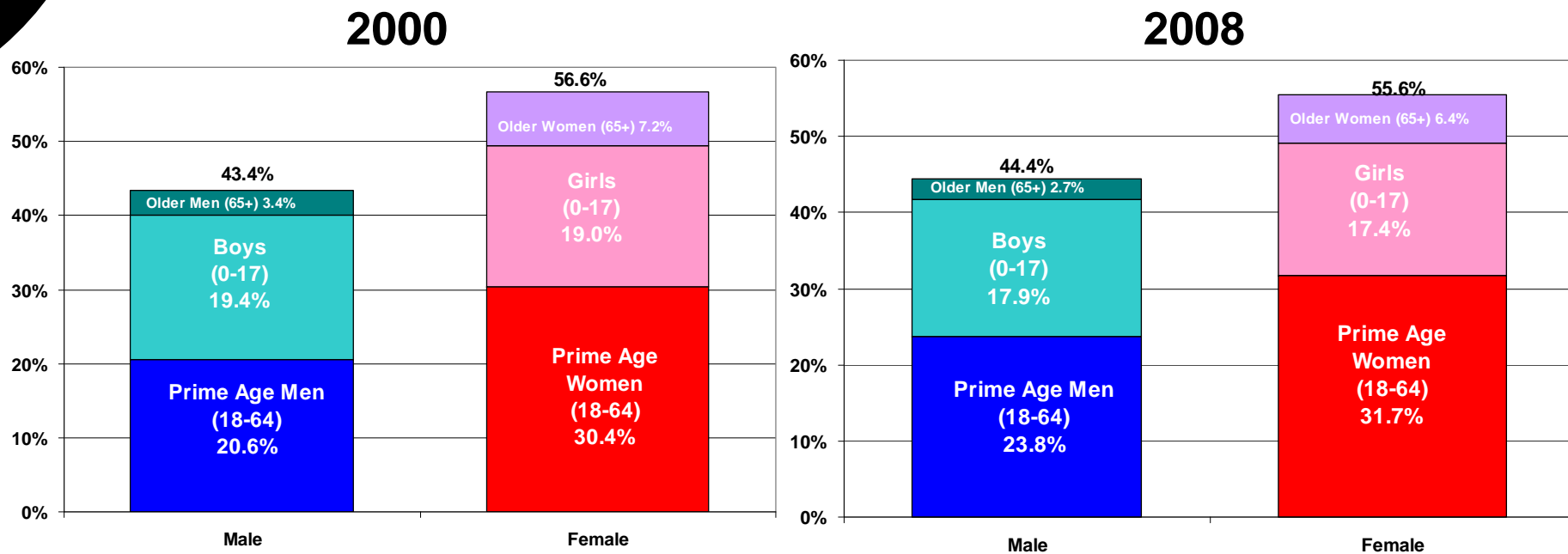
Age

- 22.1 million adults (18-64)
- 14.1 million children (0-17)
- 3.6 million senior citizens (65+)

Family Type

- 10.7 million unrelated individuals
- 3.3 million married couple families (6.6 million adults)
- 4.2 million female-headed hholds
- 0.7 million male-headed hholds

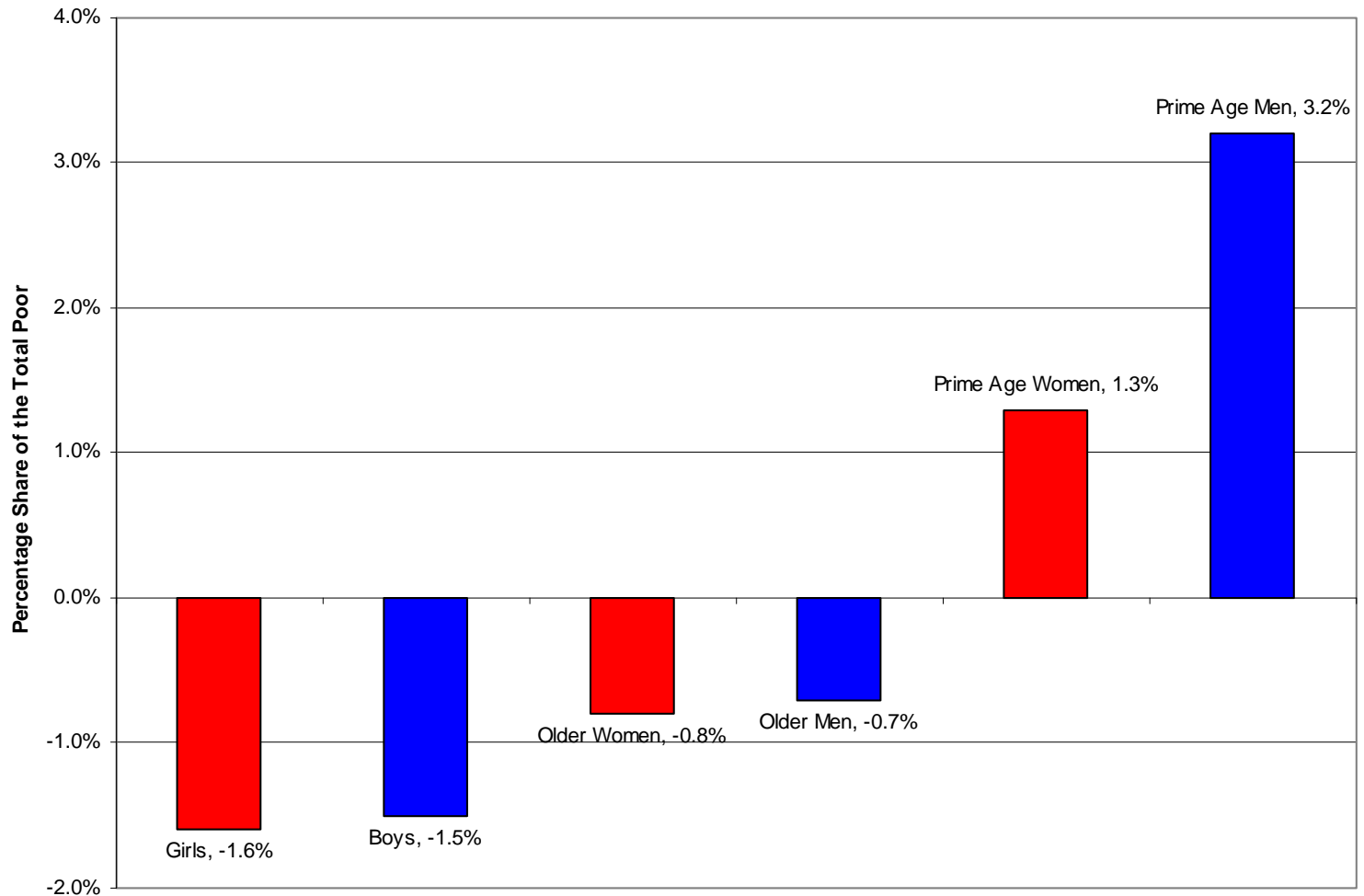
Change in the Distribution of Poverty by Age and Gender 2000-2008 (Percent of the Total Poor Population)



Source: US Census Bureau

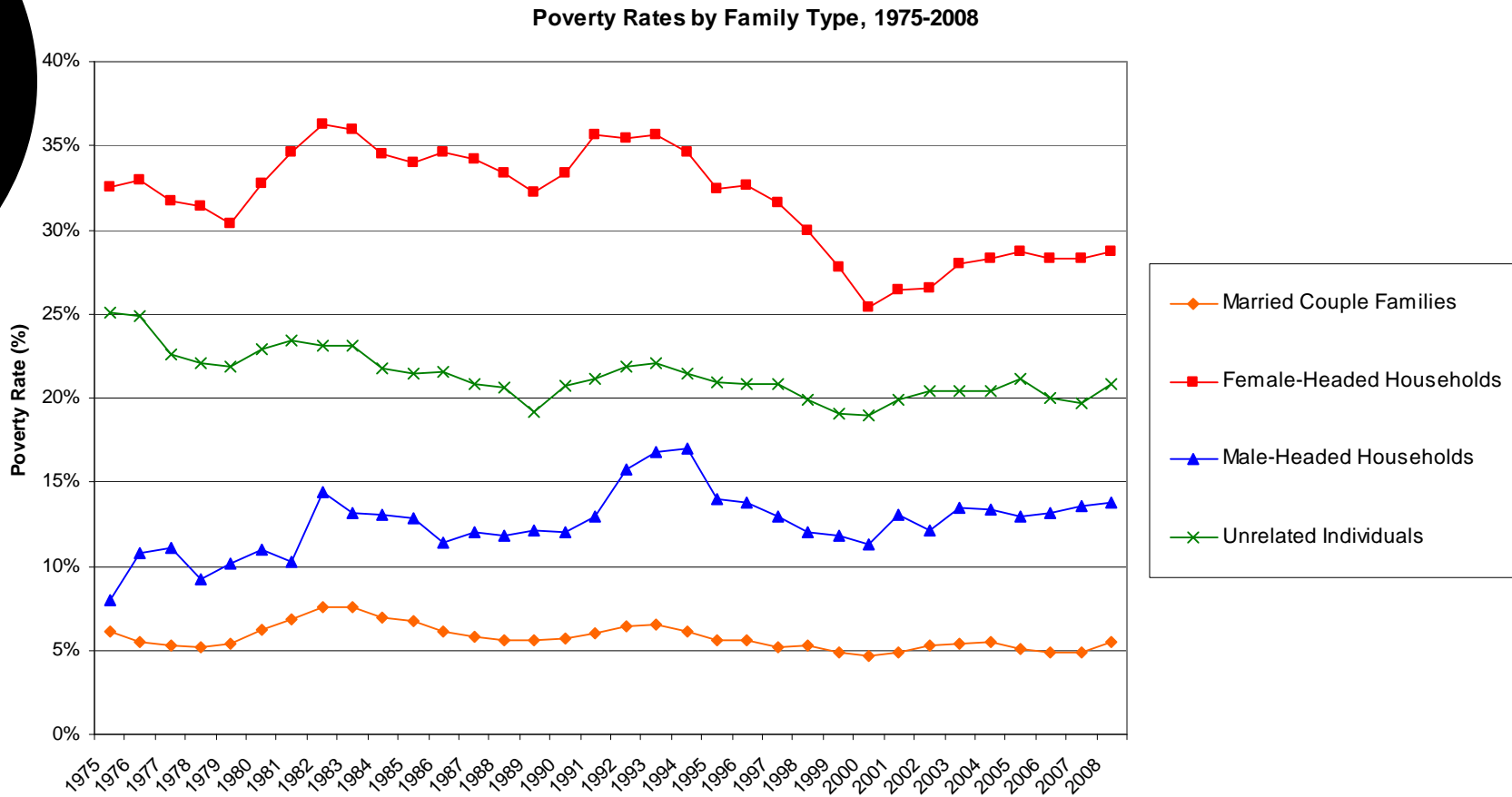


Change in Poverty Shares 2000-2008



Source: US Census Bureau

Across 3 Decades the Poverty Rate of Female-Headed Families Has Declined, but Remains Extremely High – 3 in 10 are Poor



Source: US Census Bureau 2009



Children are Disproportionately Poor

- The poverty rate for children under 18 years old increased from 18.0 percent (13.3 million) in 2007 to 19.0 percent (14.1 million) in 2008.
- In 2008, children represented 35.3 percent of the people in poverty, but only 24.6 percent of the population.

Source: US Census Bureau 2009

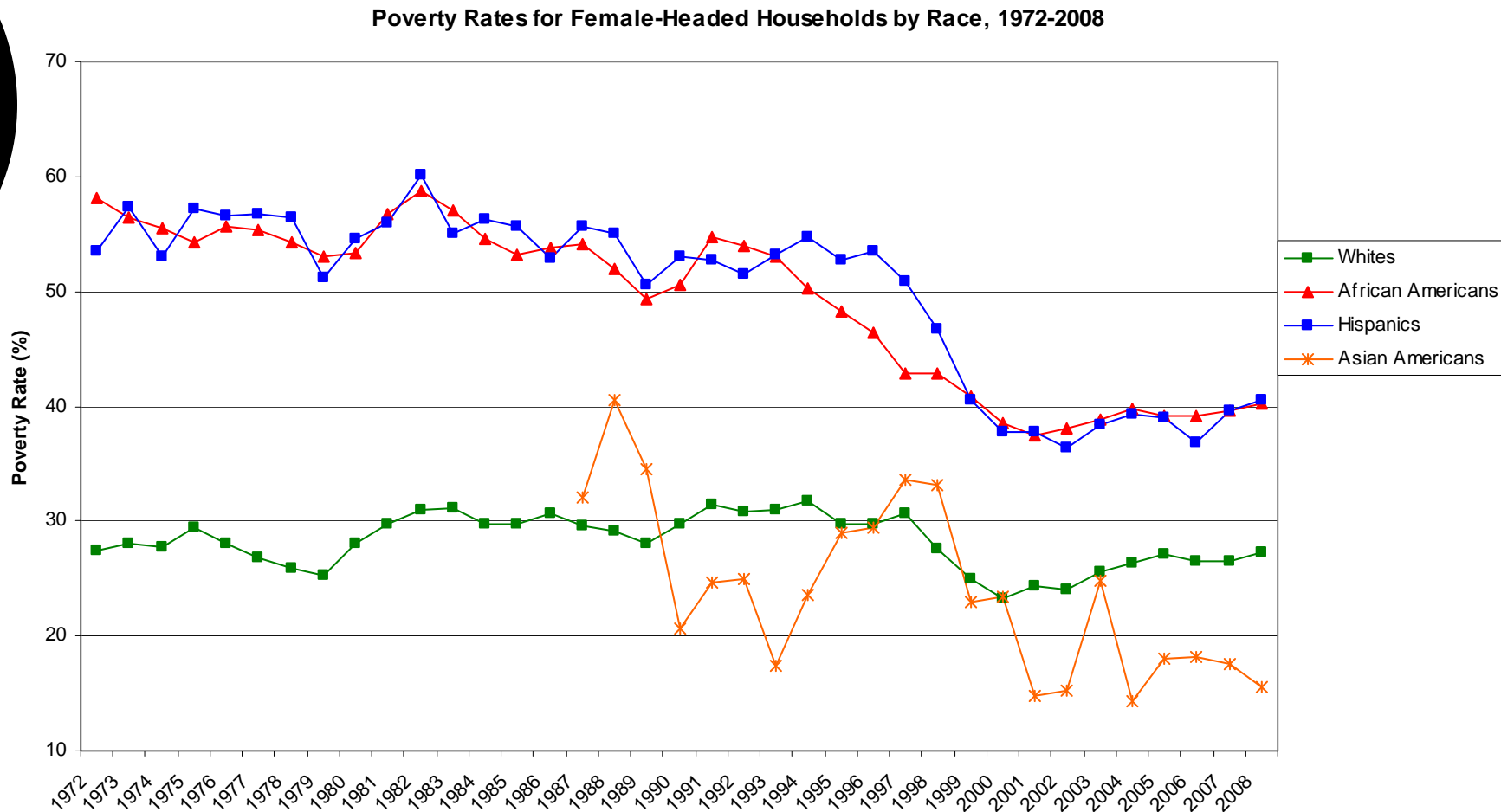


Children Living in Single Mother Families are the Most Likely to be Poor

- In 2008, 43.5 percent of children living in single mother families were in poverty compared to 9.9 percent of children living in married-couple families.
- More than six in ten (62%) of all poor families with children were headed by women.
- Poverty rates were especially high for Hispanic female-headed families with children (46.3%) and Black female-headed families with children (47.4%). In comparison, 34.8 of white female-headed families with children were in poverty.

Source: US Census Bureau 2009

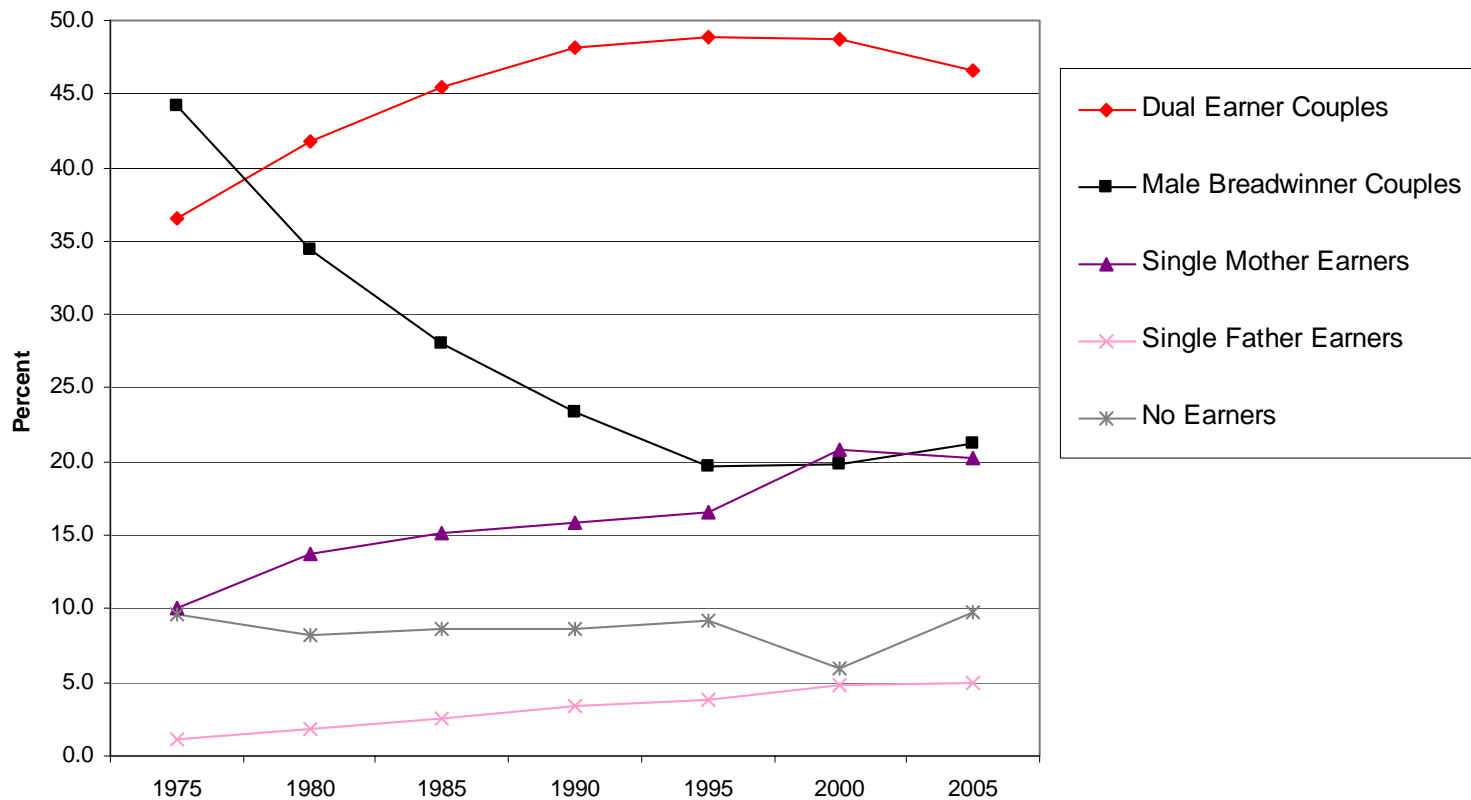
Among Female-Headed Households, African Americans and Hispanics Have the Highest Poverty Rates (Despite Progress in Reducing Poverty)



Source: US Census Bureau 2009

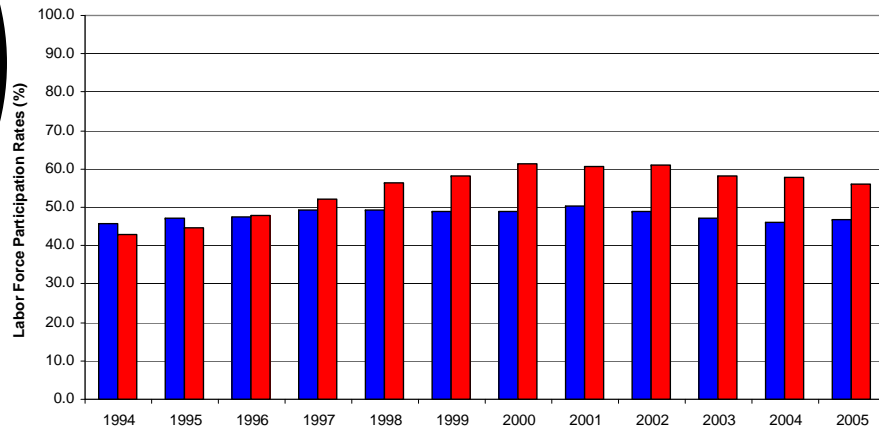
A Child is Just as Likely to Live with a Working Mom as a Working Dad. Women's Financial Contribution to Children's Well-Being has Increased.

**The Increasing Responsibility of Women Workers for Family Financial Needs
(All Families with Children Under 18)**

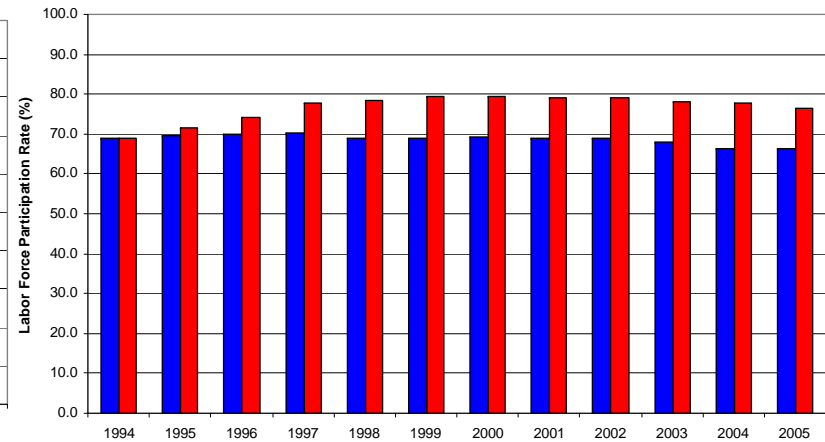


Single Mothers Have Higher Labor Force Participation Rates than Married Mothers at All Levels of Education (1994-2005)

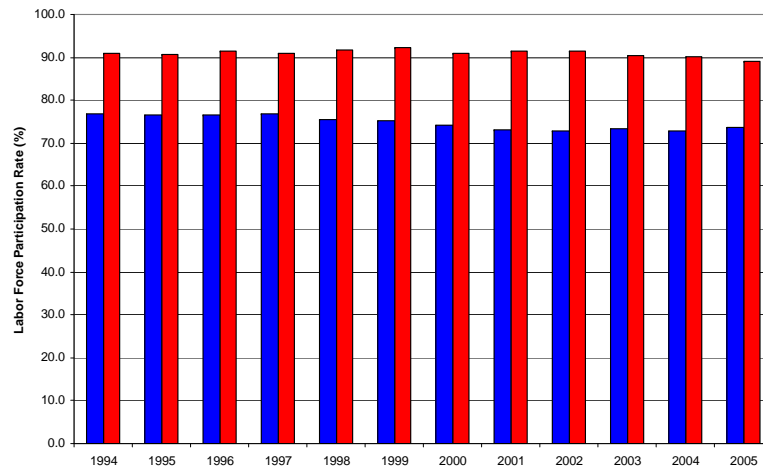
WOMEN WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



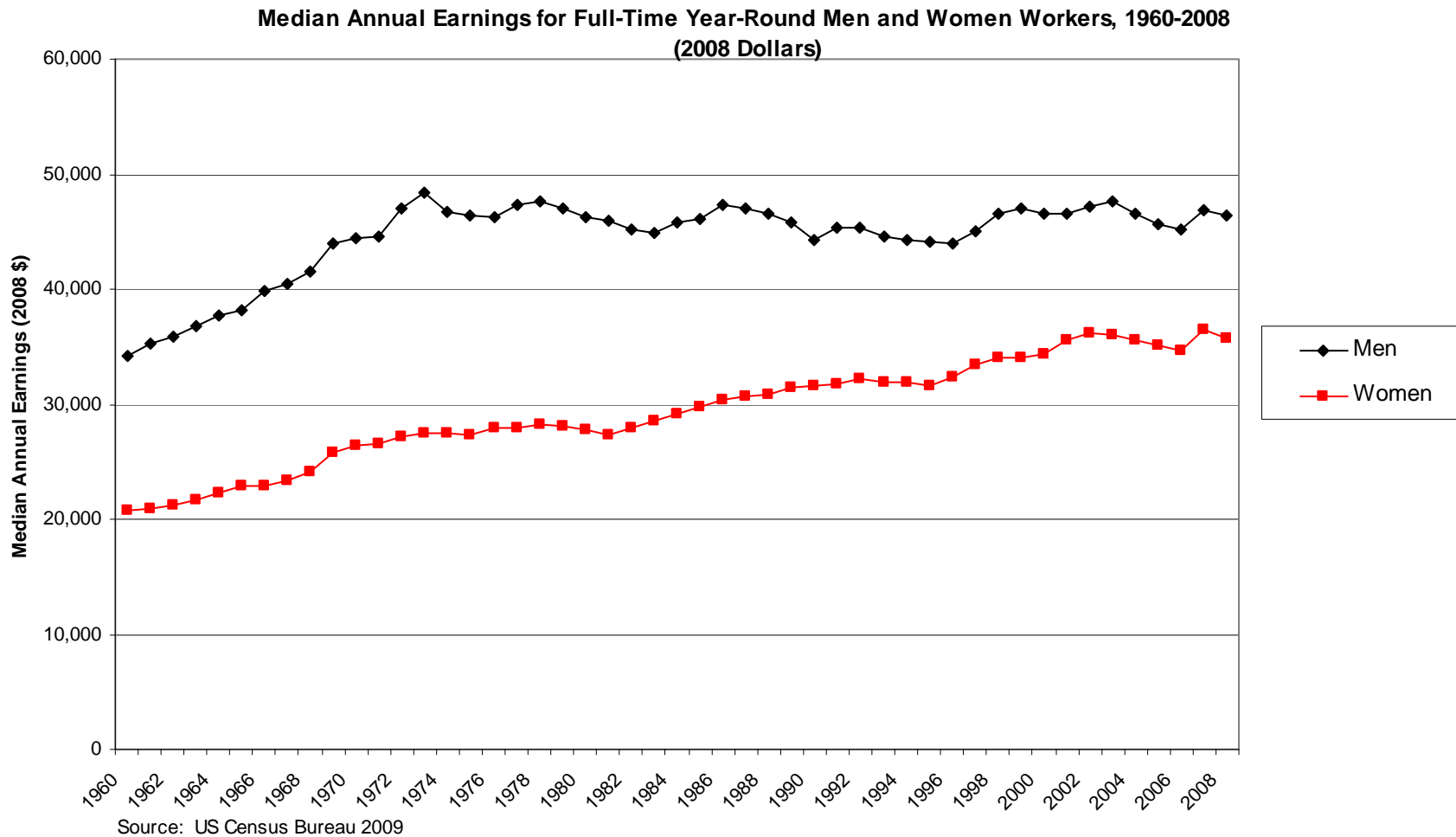
COLLEGE GRADUATES



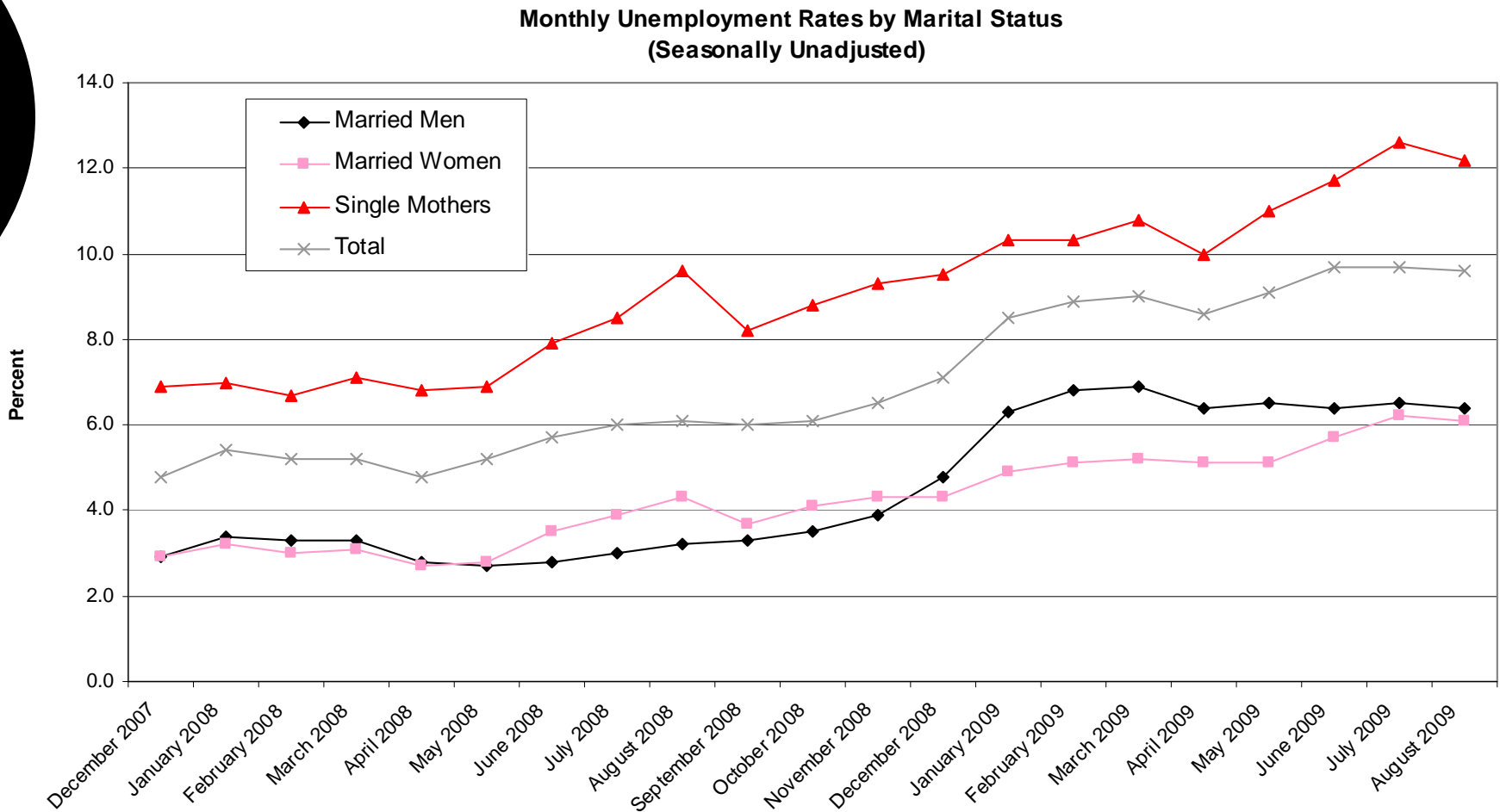
SINGLE MOTHERS ARE IN RED.

MARRIED MOTHERS ARE IN BLUE.

Men's and Women's Wages ARE Slowly Converging

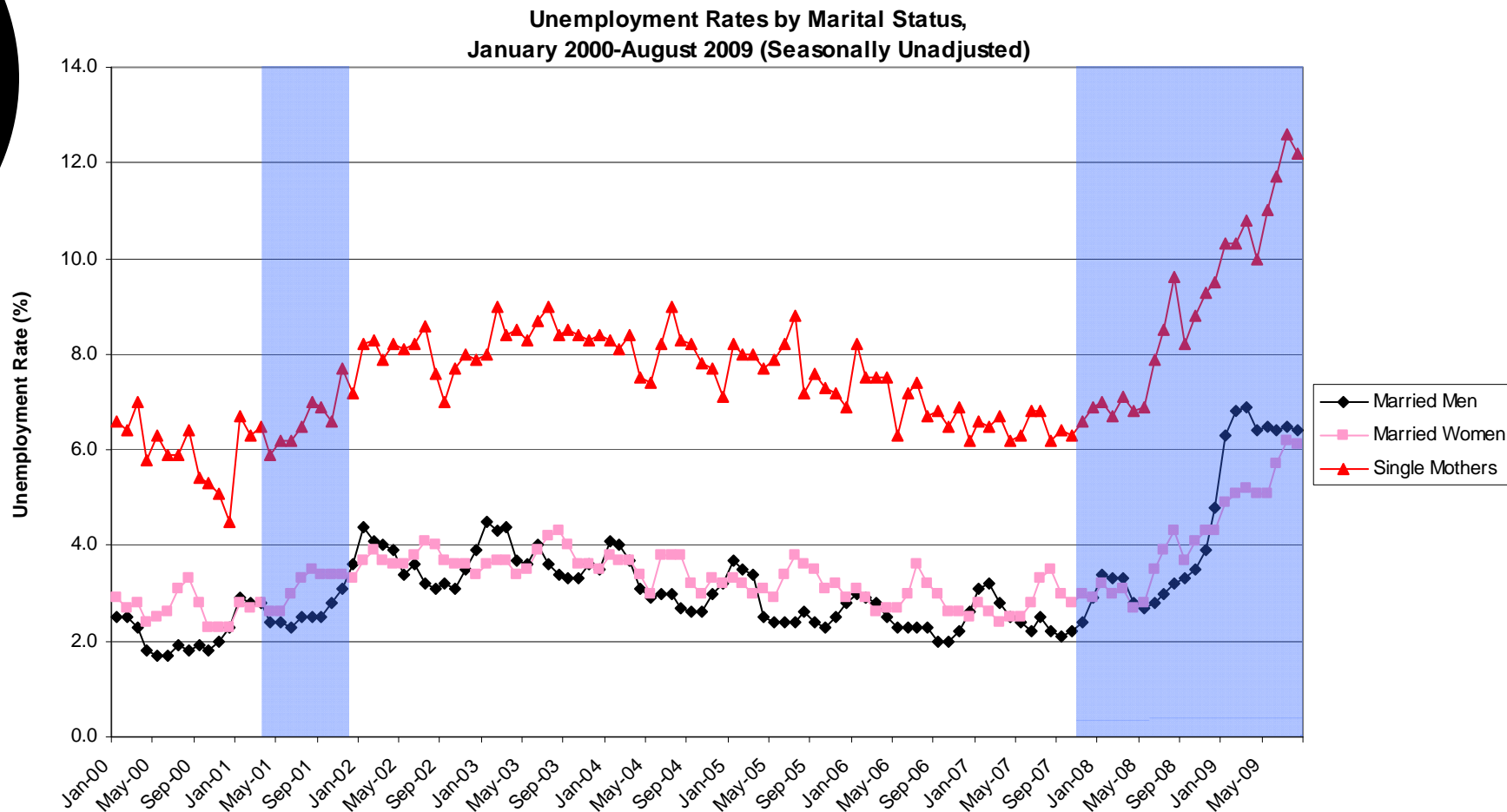


Single Mothers Have Higher Unemployment Rates Than Married Men and Women in the Current Recession



Source: Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research based on Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

The Unemployment Rates for Single Mothers Tend to Be Two to Three Times the Unemployment Rates of Married Men.





Policy Recommendations

A number of changes in policy and practice are needed to improve women's earnings and the ability to combine work and family in the United States. These changes are especially important to single mothers and include:

- Increasing the availability of subsidized child care and family-friendly work arrangements, such as paid family leave, paid sick days, and flexibility in work schedules to allow workers to meet their family responsibilities.
- Improving educational and job training opportunities for women to enter highly paid jobs, including those currently dominated by men.
- Stepping up enforcement of equal pay and equal employment opportunity laws, including the active prevention of sexual harassment, to reduce discrimination in the workplace.
- Protecting women's rights on the job, including the right to organize, since the gender wage gap is smaller among unionized workers than non-unionized workers.