

Emerging Adulthood: The Risky Years, Ages 18-25

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What is emerging adulthood?

- Lasts from about age 18-25; for many, lasts through the twenties
- Begins with the end of secondary school; ends with the attainment of full adult status--?
- Exists mainly in industrialized societies, but growing in developing countries

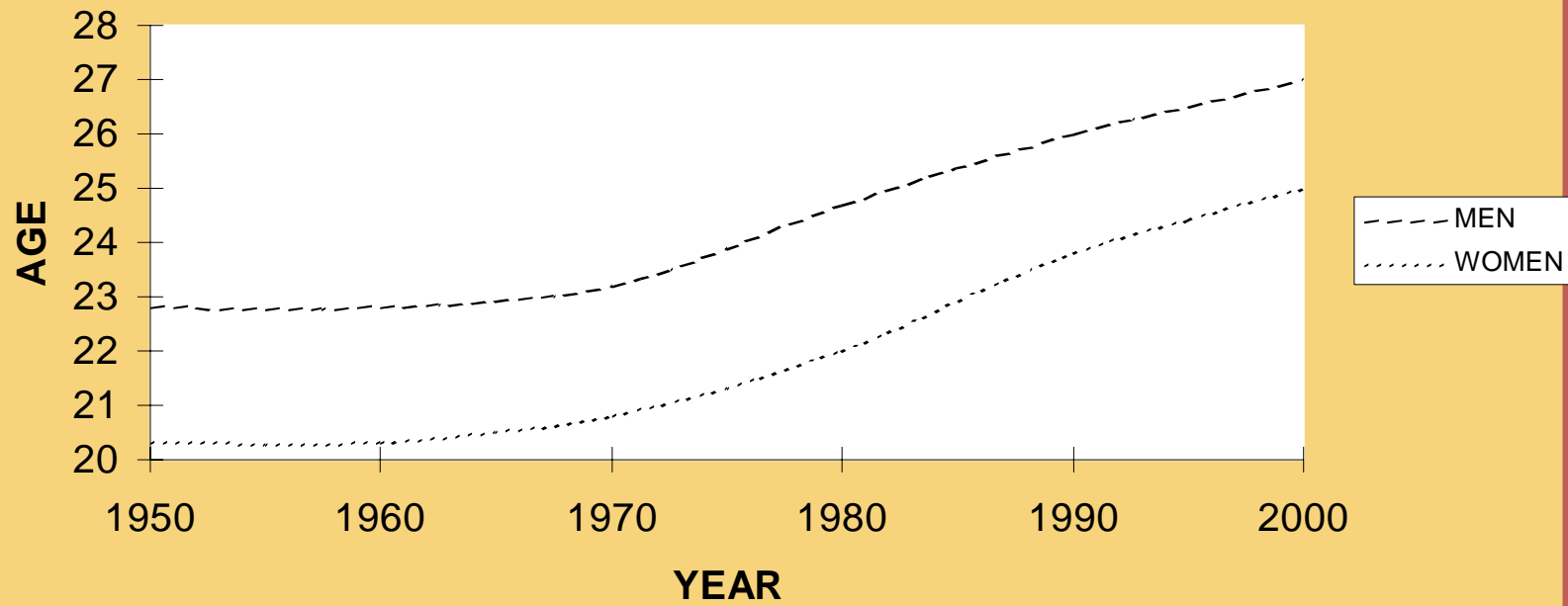


Social changes leading to emerging adulthood

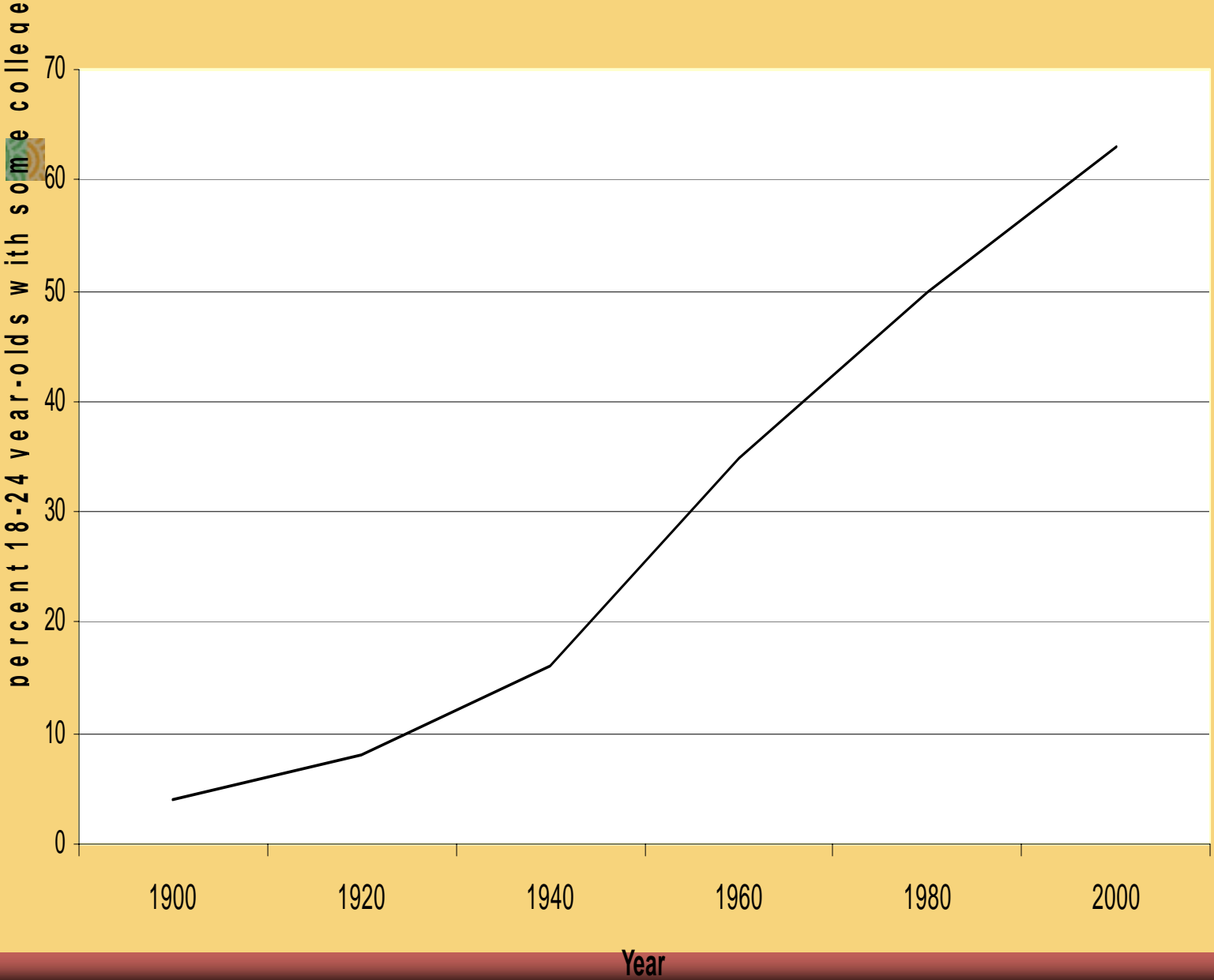
- Later ages of marriage and parenthood
- Longer and more widespread education
- Birth control, fewer children
- Acceptance of premarital sexuality, cohabitation



Median U.S. Marriage Age, 1950-2000



College Enrollment, 1900-2000



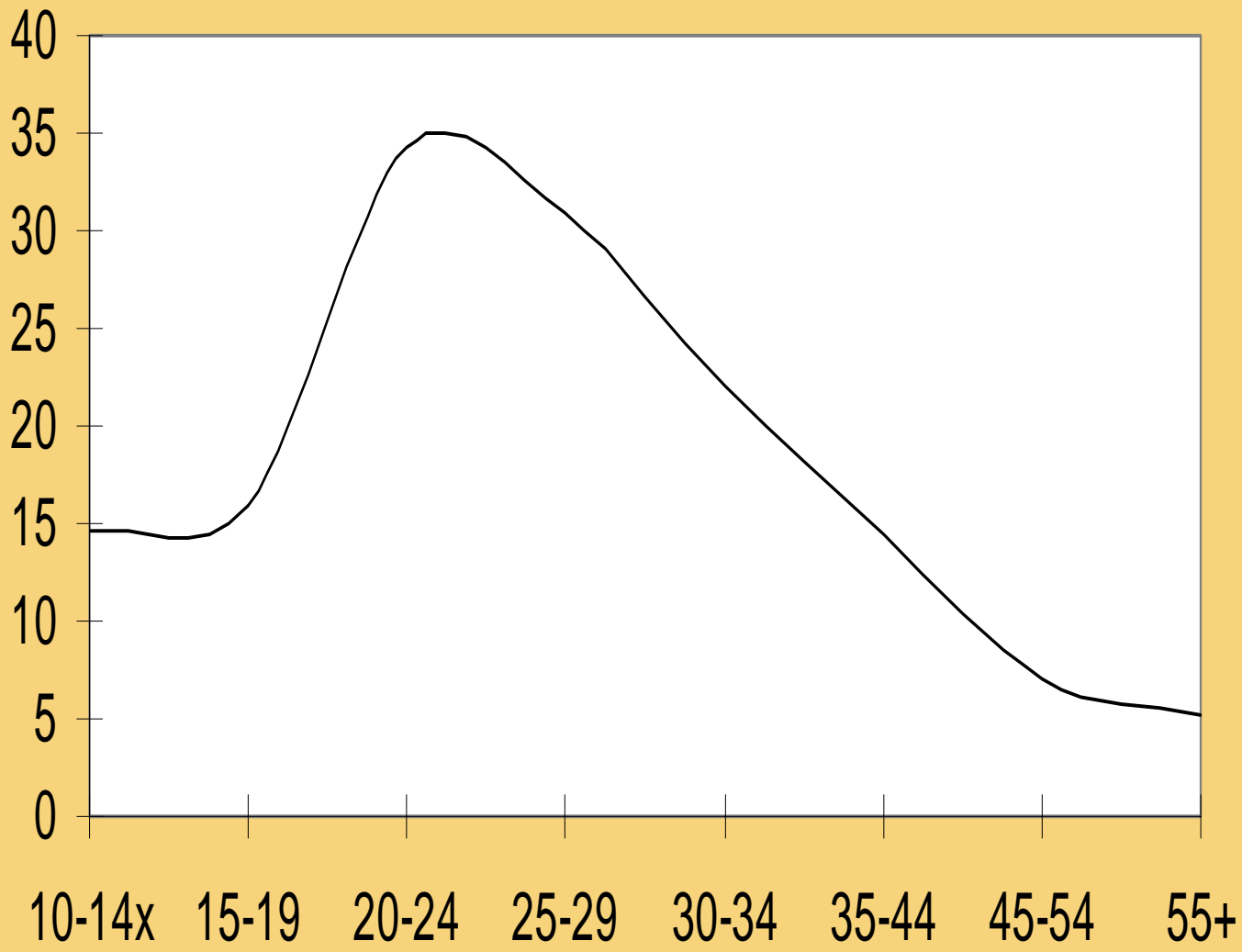
Five features of emerging adulthood

- The age of identity explorations
- The age of instability
- The self-focused age
- The age of feeling in-between
- The age of possibilities



Rates of Moving, by Age

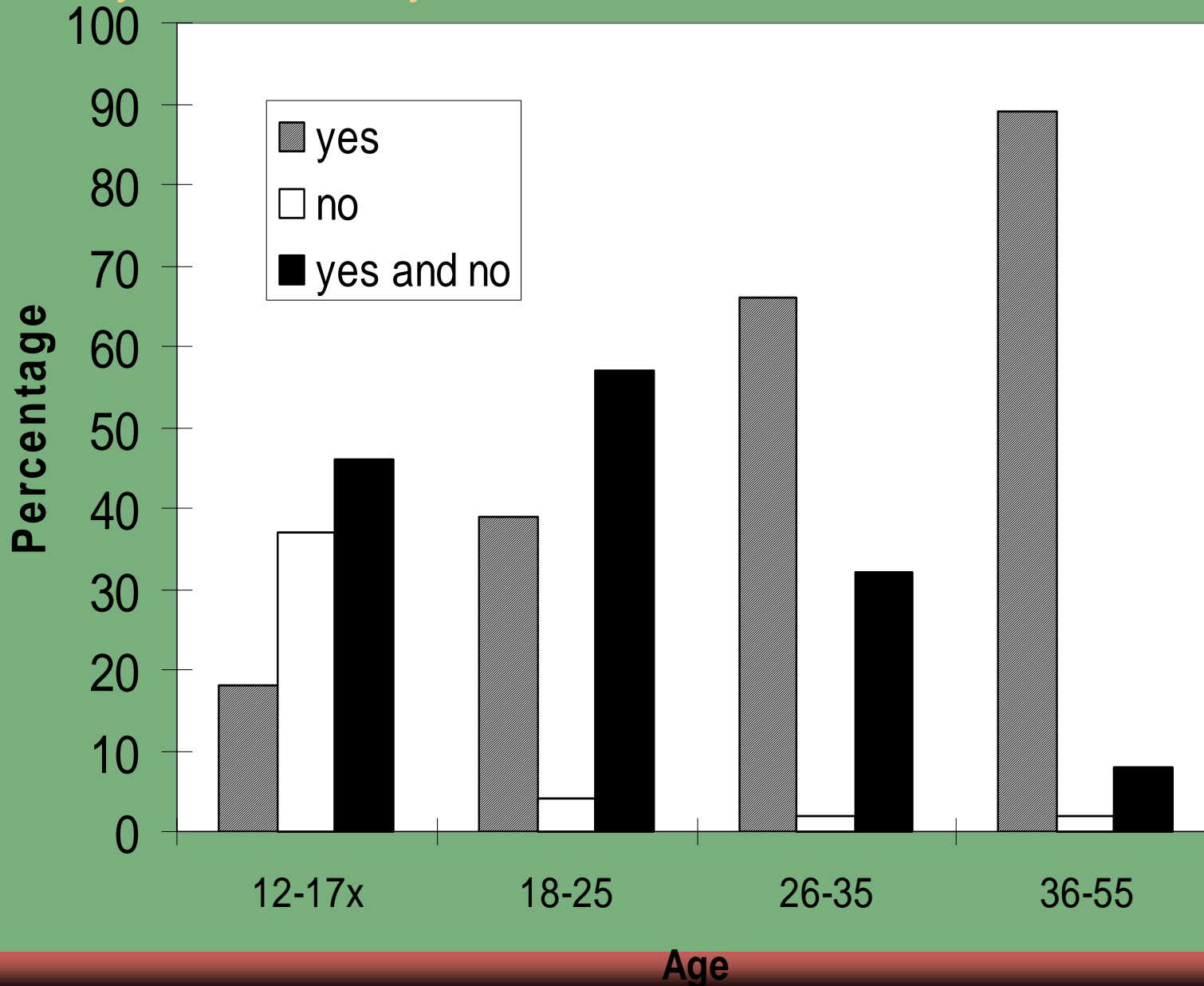
Percent Who Moved in Past Year



AGE



Do you feel that you have reached adulthood?



Top criteria for adulthood

- Accept responsibility for one's self
- Make independent decisions
- Become financially independent



Five features of emerging adulthood

- The age of identity explorations
- The age of instability
- The self-focused age
- The age of feeling in-between
- The age of possibilities



- “Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties,” by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett. To be published in 2004 by Oxford University Press.
- Edited Book on Emerging Adulthood to be published by American Psychological Association in 2005.
- Encyclopedia of Emerging Adulthood to be published by Greenwood Press in 2005.
- Book series on Emerging Adulthood to be published by Oxford University Press.
- Next Conference on Emerging Adulthood: February 2005.
- Emerging Adulthood Special Interest Group, through the Society for Research on Adolescence:
www.s-r-a.org/easig.html

