



Programa de
Población

Increasing Heterogeneity in the Entry into Motherhood in Uruguay

The role of education for 1955-1985 cohorts

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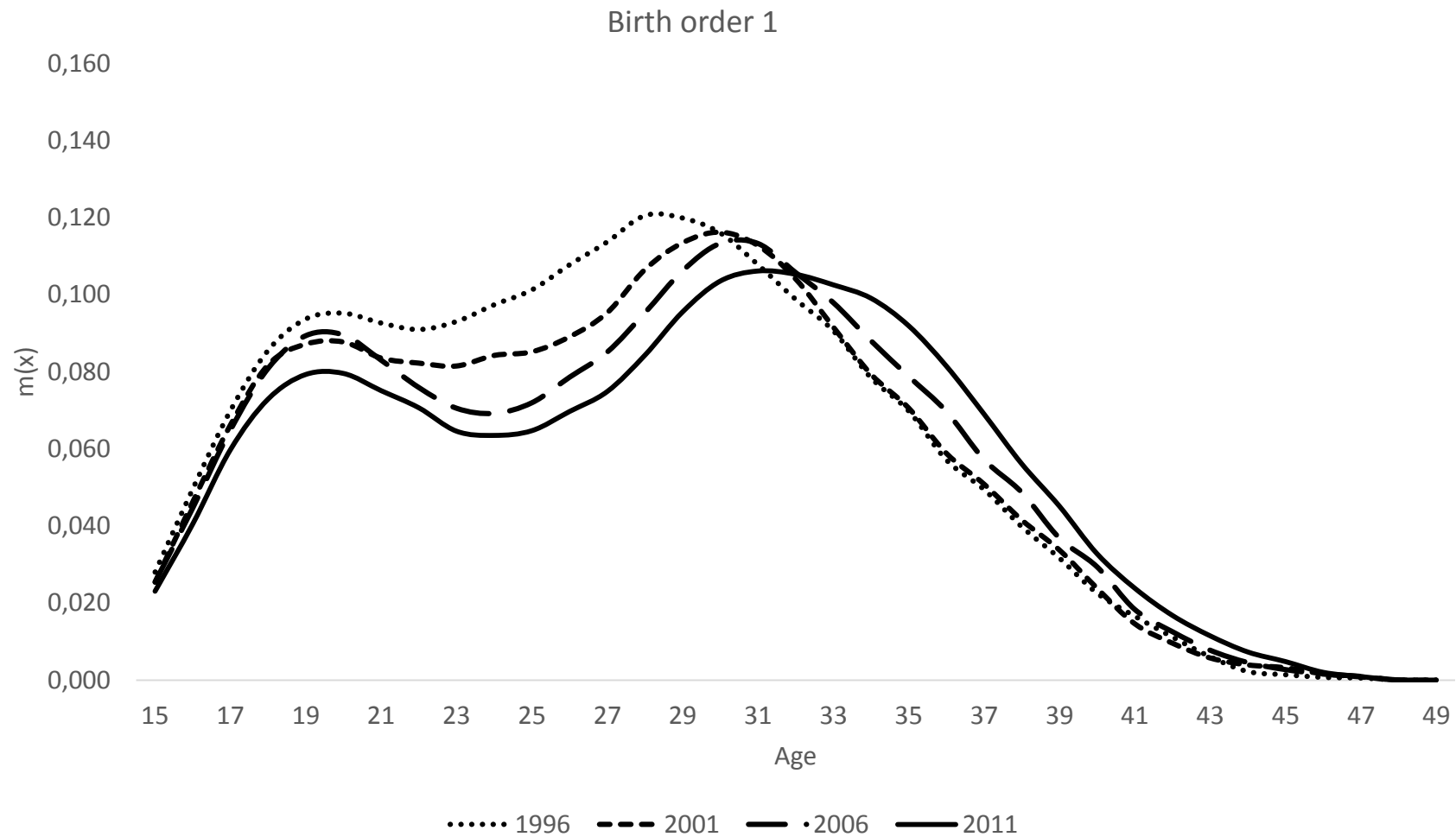
Programa de Población
Universidad de la República
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Background

- Some Latin American countries experienced the onset of the *postponement transition* after 2000 (Esteve et al. 2012; Rosero-Bixby et al. 2009)
 - Expansion of secondary and tertiary education as the main driver
 - High levels of teenage fertility
- Uruguay: a forerunner of fertility changes
 - Signals of social polarization of age at first birth

Conditional age-specific fertility rates for first birth order Uruguay, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011



Aim

- To examine the changes in age at first birth in Uruguay from a cohort approach
- To examine the evolution of educational gradient, taking into account the changes in the educational composition of the female population

Data

- 2011 national population census
 - Birth cohorts 1955-1985 (N=647,390)
- Retrospective fertility questions (women 12+):
 - Year at birth of first child born alive
- Education attainment:
 - Years of education → Education terciles

Method

○ Single-decrement life tables:

- Conditional age-specific probabilities of first birth by age (x), cohort (c) and education tercile (e):

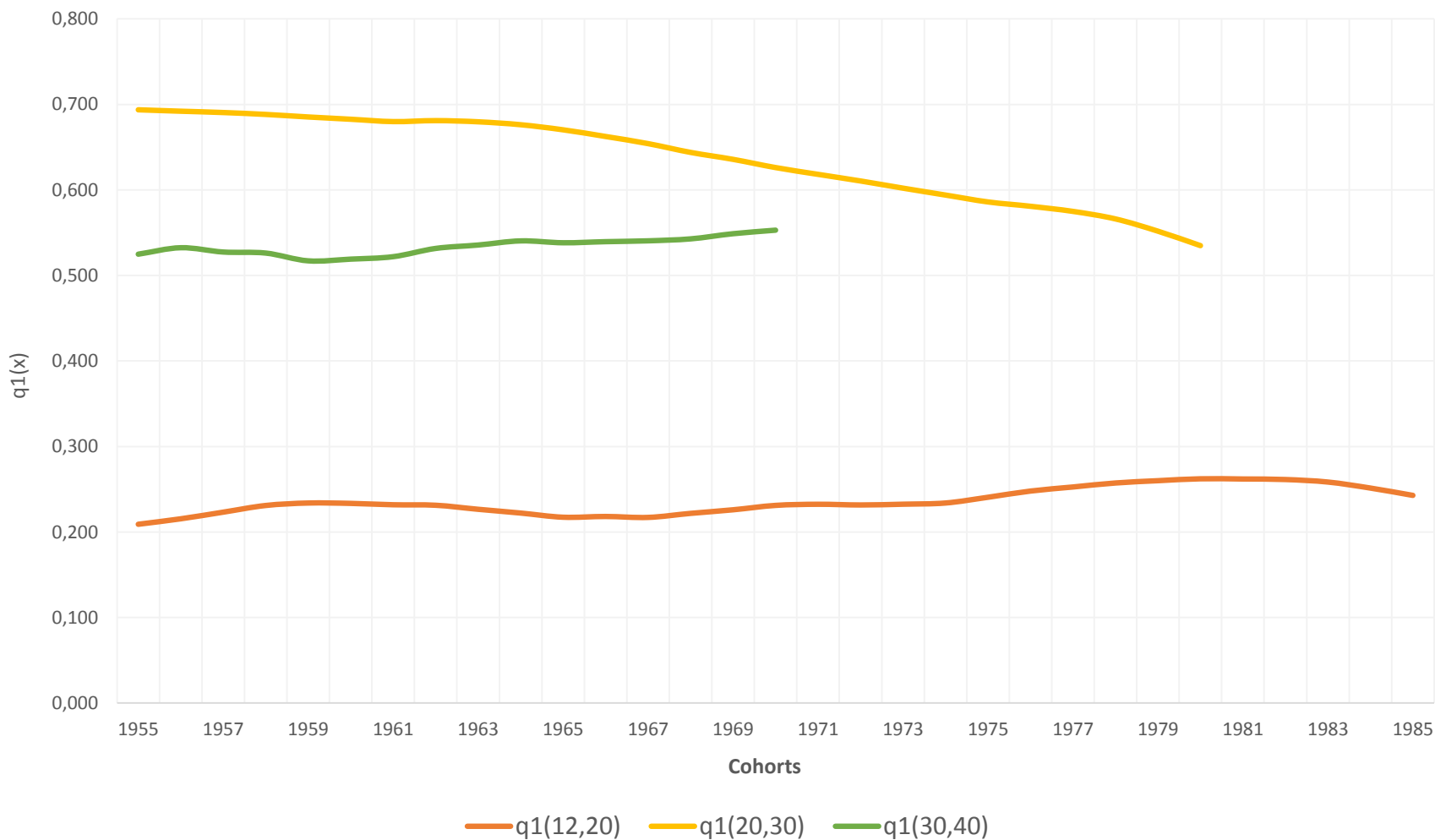
$$q_1(x, c, e) = \frac{B_1(x, c, e)}{W_0(x, c, e)}$$

For $x=[12,13,\dots,44]$, $c=[1955,1956,\dots,1985]$ and $e=[\text{low, medium, high}]$

- Cumulative proportion of childless women
- Descriptive statistics

Results

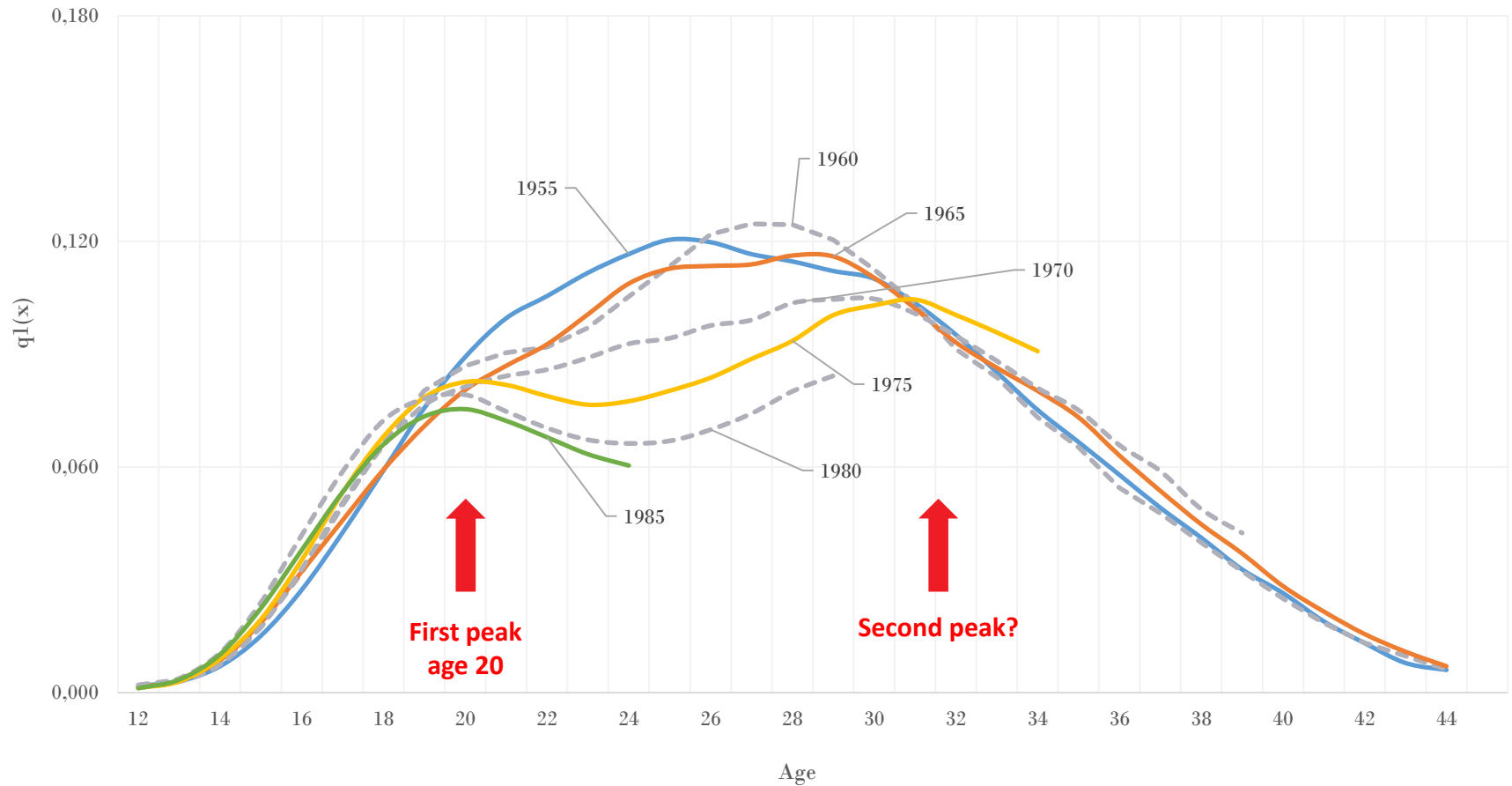
Conditional probabilities of first birth (q_1) between exact ages 12-20, 20-30 and 30-40 Cohorts 1955-1985



Conditional age-specific probabilities of first birth

Selected cohorts 1955-1985
(three-cohort moving average)

All women



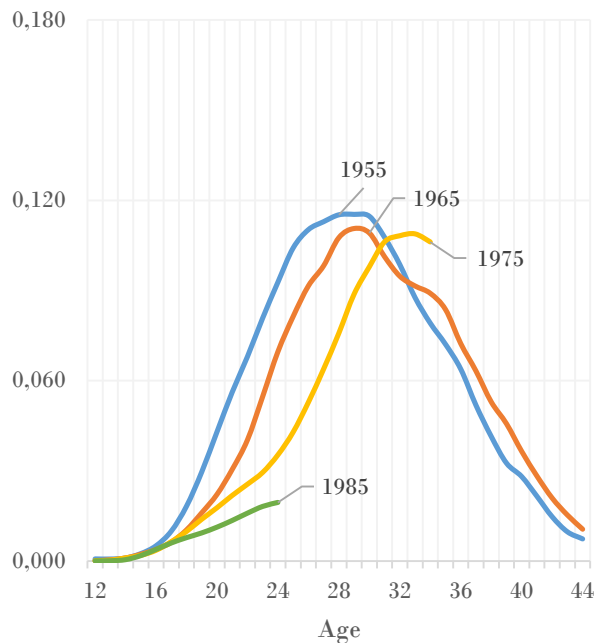
First peak
age 20

Second peak?

Conditional age-specific probabilities of first birth by education level

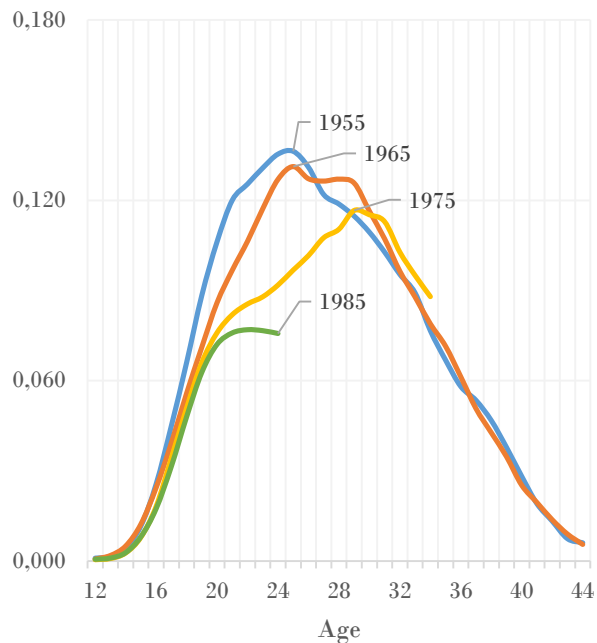
Selected cohorts 1955-1985 (three-cohort moving average)

High Education



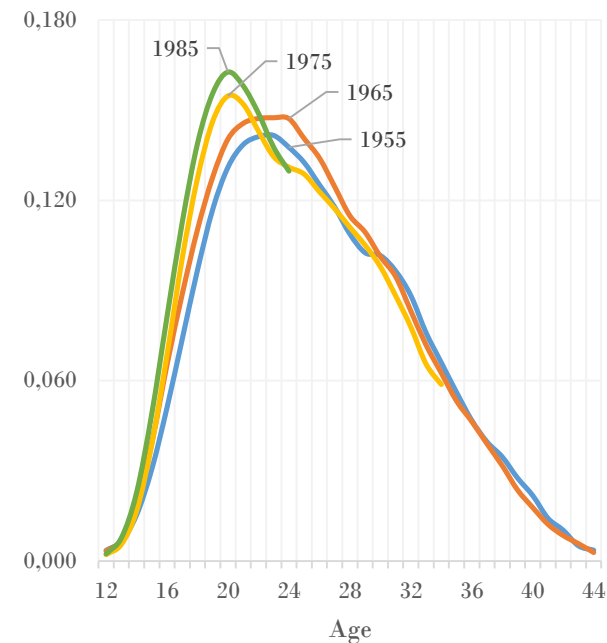
High	
1955	12+ years
1965	13+ years
1975	13+ years
1985	13+ years

Medium Education



Medium	
1955	7–11 years
1965	8–12 years
1975	10–12 years
1985	10–12 years

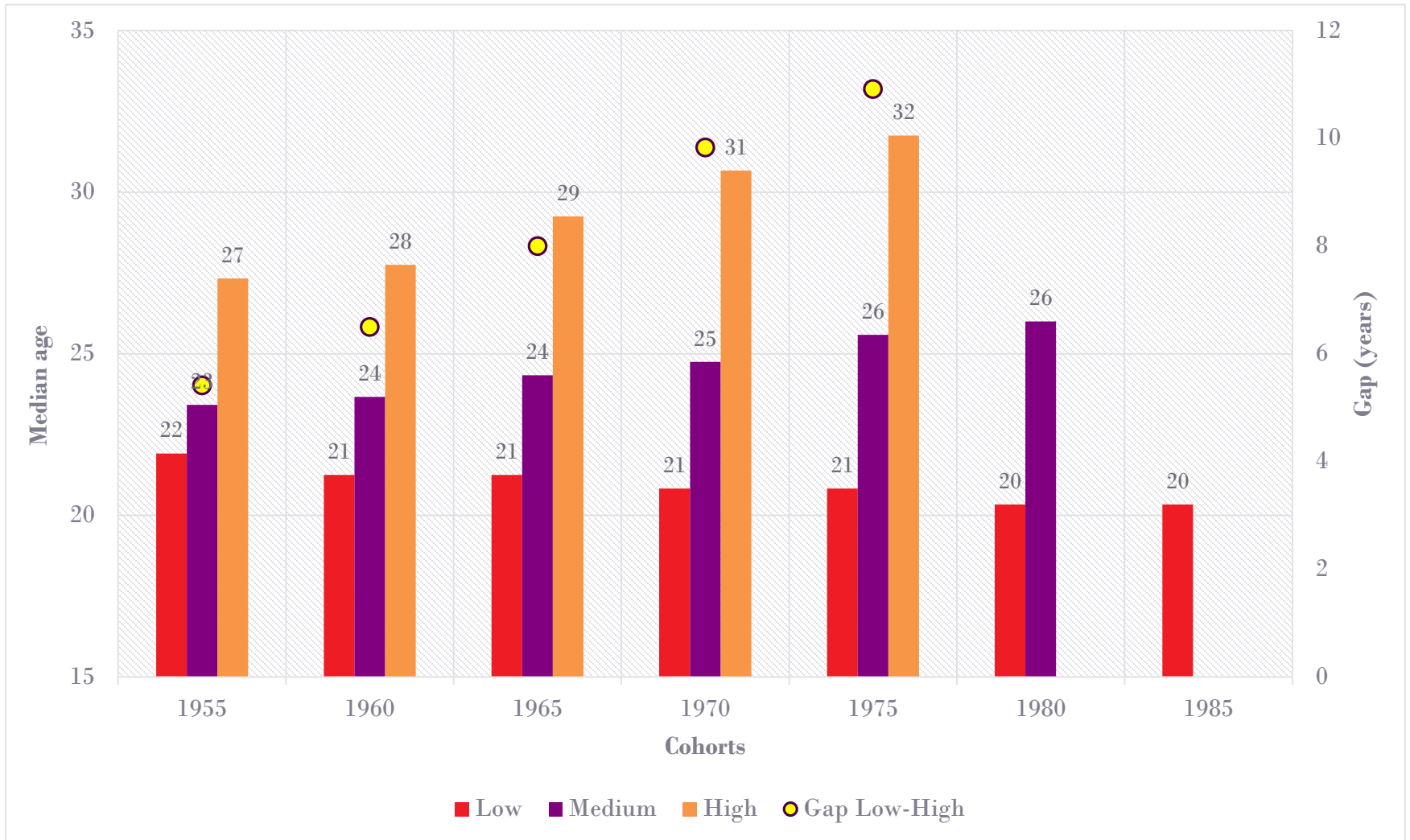
Low Education



Low	
1955	0–6 years
1965	0–7 years
1975	0–9 years
1985	0–9 years

Median age at first birth by education

Selected cohorts 1955-1985
(three-cohort moving average)



Summary

- Increasing heterogeneity of age at first birth in Uruguay is highly correlated with widening differentials by educational groups.
 - Low educated women from younger cohorts tend to start motherhood earlier than the previous generations, even though the composition effects were controlled.
- Bi-modal pattern of conditional probabilities at first birth illustrates the social polarization of fertility timing.

Discussion

- Is the trend seen in Uruguayan the expected pattern for Latin America?
 - Probably
- Is heterogeneity of first birth in Uruguay larger than in developed countries (USA and UK, for instance)?
 - Probably
- Implications:
 - An expected phase of the *postponement transition*?
 - A marker of increasing inequalities?

THANK YOU!

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