IN THE MIDDLE CLASS BUT SINGLE AND LIVING ALONE: WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC, RACIAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS?

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April 8th, 2013
4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Burnett Hall, Room 107

CAVEATS

- Questions

- Households

- Pace

MOTIVATION

- What is middle class?

- How would you define the middle class?

- Are you in the middle class?

MOTIVATION

- Do you know someone that is:
  - Single
  - Living alone

  - College educated
  - Makes "good" money
  - Working
  - Homeowner

WHO IS "SALA" AND "MIDDLE CLASS"?

- Aged 25 to 54
- *May or may not live alone*
- Single (never-married)
- *Childless*

- High wage occupation
- College educated
- Above average household income
- Own (or buying) a home

BLACK HOUSEHOLDS AND MIDDLE CLASS

Married couple households ***decrease***

Black middle class ***decrease***

(Besharov 2005; Billingsley 1986; Hill 1971; Landry 1987; McAdoo 1997; Smith and Welch 1986)

ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Single, living alone households (SALA) ***increase***

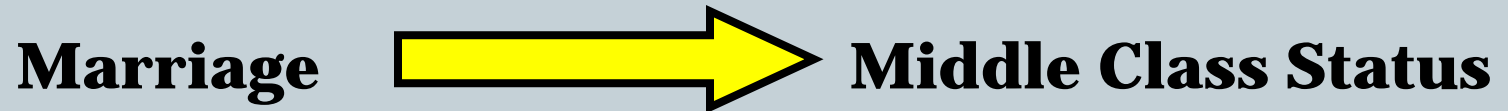Married couple households ***decrease***

Black middle class ***increase***

(Marsh et al. 2007)

PROBLEMS

- Household income

- Direction of causality

DIRECTION OF CAUSALITY

- **Neo-Conservative Approach (Blank, 1997)**

Marriage ➡ **Middle Class Status**

DIRECTION OF CAUSALITY

- **Neo-Conservative Approach (Blank, 1997)**

  Marriage ➡️ **Middle Class Status**

- **Assortative Mating Approach (South, 1991)**

  Middle Class People ➡️ **Marry/Cohabit**

QUANTITATIVE DEFINITIONS

- No consensus

- Four key variables
  - Education
  - Occupation
  - Income
  - Wealth (Homeownership status)

THE MIDDLE CLASS IN 2010, 25-54

Various Indicators	Blacks	Whites
Bachelor's Degree	27%	45%
Median Occupation Score	25	33
Median Per Person Income	$ 25,000	$ 40,021
Homeownership	**43%**	73%

TASKS

- Household changes

- Growth of middle class

- SALA and middle class

- SALA by race and middle class

DATA

- The (1) one percent sample of the 1980, 1990, and 2000 Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), 2010 ACS 5-year sample

- Seven household types

- Age 25-54, 25-44

- Race and ethnicity specific

MIDDLE CLASS INDEX (MCi)

- Educational attainment

- Wealth

- Occupational prestige

- Per person income indicator*

  - Scale value = (A+PK)F
    A = Number of adults in household
    P = Proportion of child to an adult (0.7:1)
    K = Number of children
    F = The scale economy factor (0.65)

  - Scale Value /Total Household Income

*(Citro & Michael, 1995)

PER PERSON INCOME EXAMPLE

Scale value for a household income of $50,000:
- -- Married household living with two children (2.215)
- -- Single household living with one child (1.766)
- -- SALA (1.0)

Per person income is:
- -- $22,568.81 for the married household with children
- -- $35,414.26 for the single household with a child
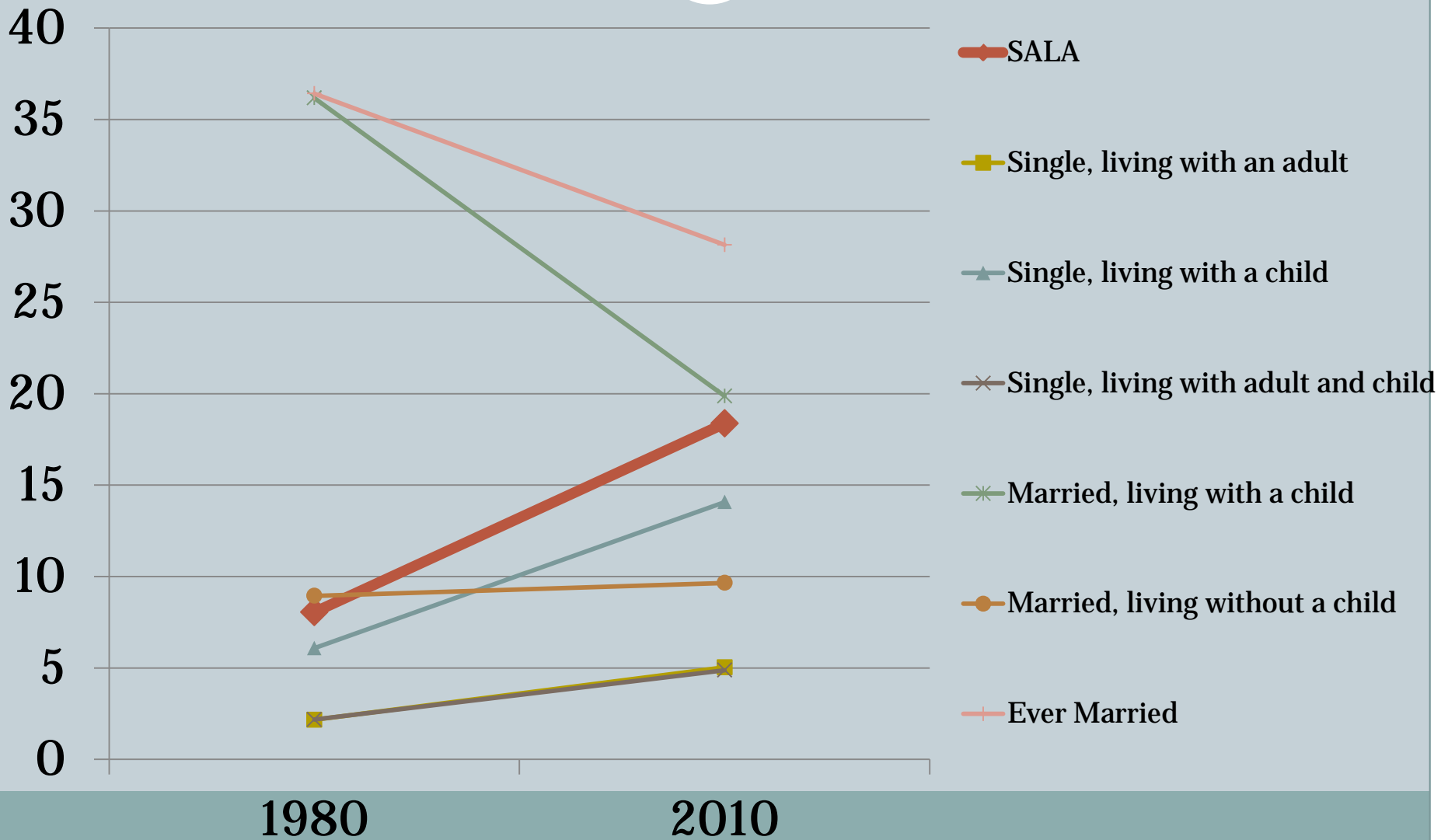- -- $50,000.00 for the SALA

METHODS

- Descriptive analysis

- Cross-sectional analysis

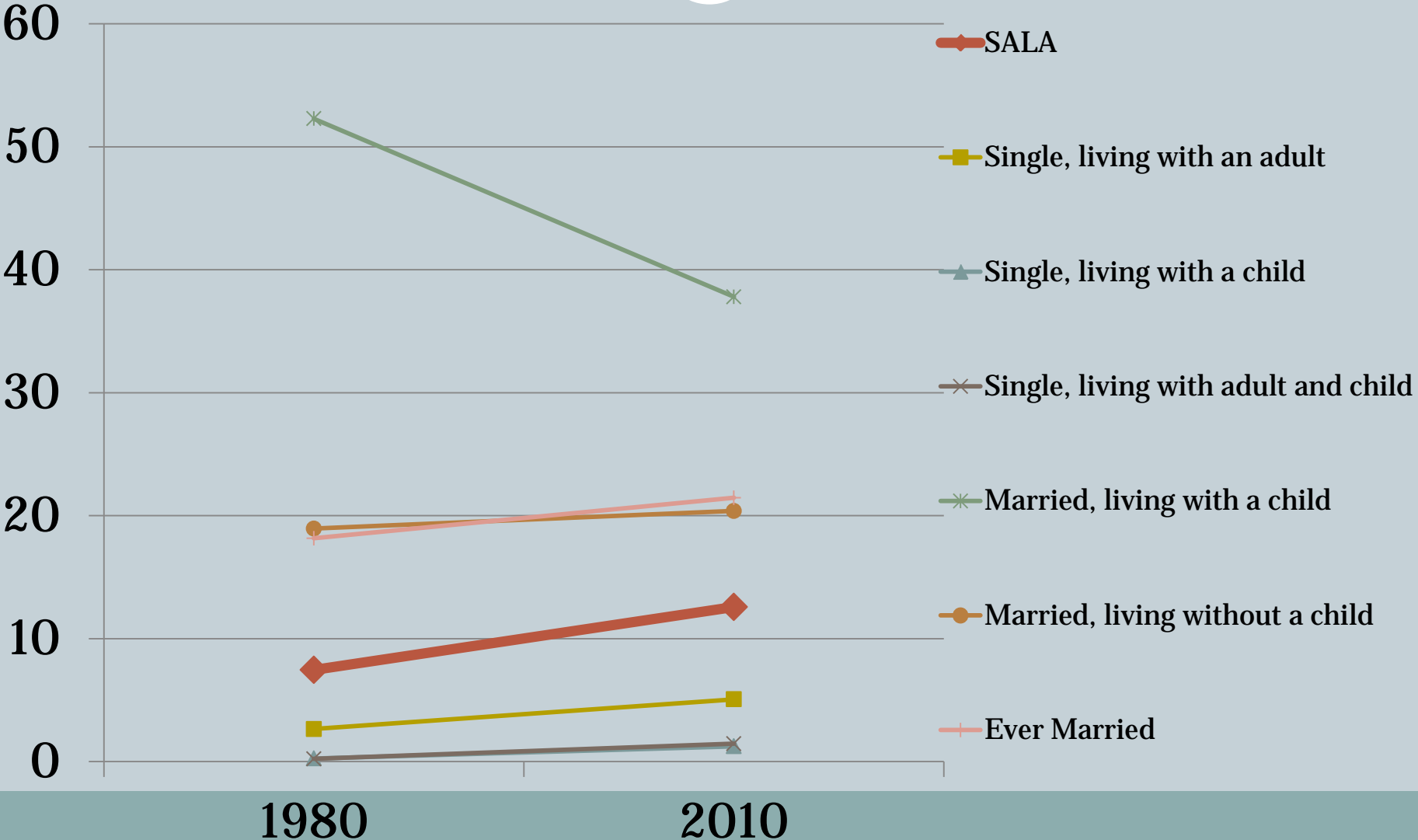- Synthetic cohort analysis

- Logistic regression analysis

TASK 1

- What are household changes?

- How do these changes vary by race?

BLACK HOUSEHOLDS, 25-54

WHITE HOUSEHOLDS, 25-54

CONCLUSION 1

- Households compositions are changing

- Changes for Blacks and Whites

- SALA increase

- Married decrease

TASK 2

- Is the middle class growing?

- What are the racial difference?
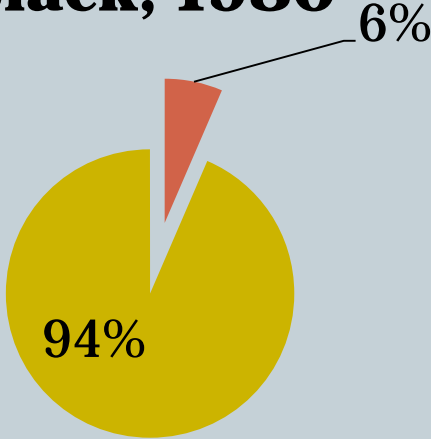
PERCENT OF ALL FOUR MIDDLE CLASS INDICATORS

All Households, 25-54	1980	1990	2000	2010
Black	6.49	8.75	10.32	13.43
White	15.52	18.58	20.79	31.00

MIDDLE CLASS HOUSEHOLDS, 25-54

Black, 1980

6%

94%

White, 1980

16%

84%

Black, 2010

13%

87%

White, 2010

31%

69%
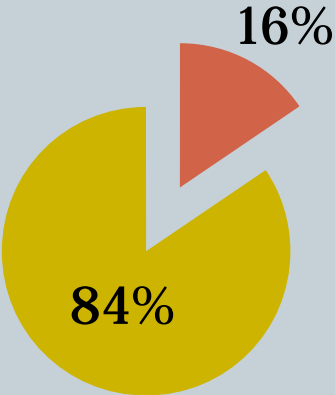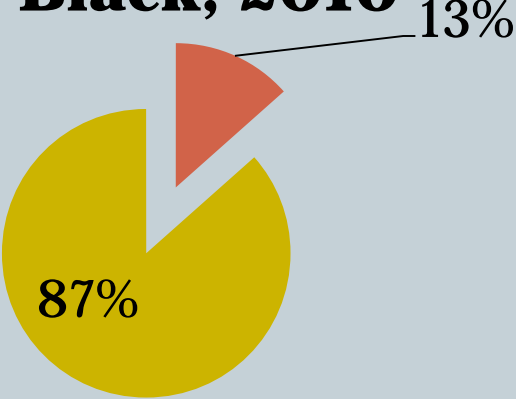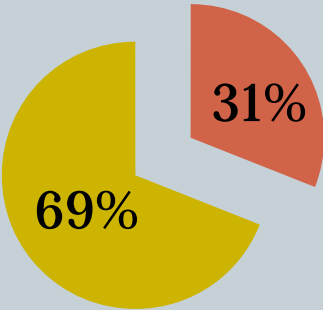
CONCLUSION 2

- Middle class continues to grow

- Racial differences continue

TASK 3

- All single and living alone (SALA) households

GROWTH OF "SALA" HOUSEHOLDS

- In 2010, 31.2 million households consisted of one-person households
- Roughly 28% of all US Households (Klinenberg, 2012)

- Places with the highest percent of SALA in 2010:
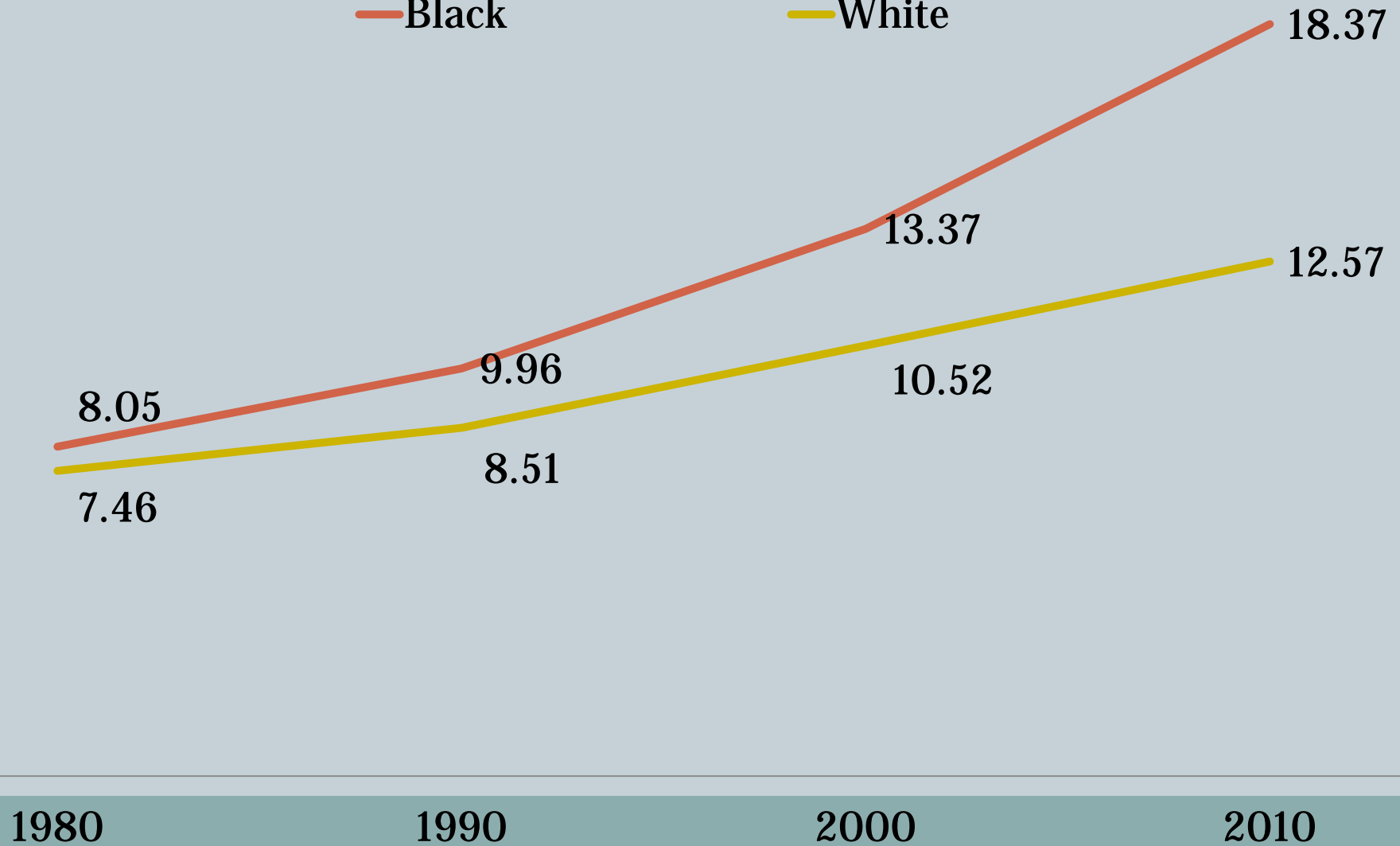
GROWTH OF "SALA" HOUSEHOLDS

- In 2010, 31.2 million households consisted of one-person households
- Roughly 28% of all US Households (Klinenberg, 2012)

- Places with the highest percent of SALA in 2010:
  - Atlanta (44%)
  - District of Columbia (44%)
  - Cincinnati (43%)
  - Alexandria, Virginia (43%)
  - St Louis (43%)
  - Pittsburg (42%)
  - Arlington, Virginia (41%)
  - Seattle (41%)
  - Cambridge (41%)
  - Denver (41%)

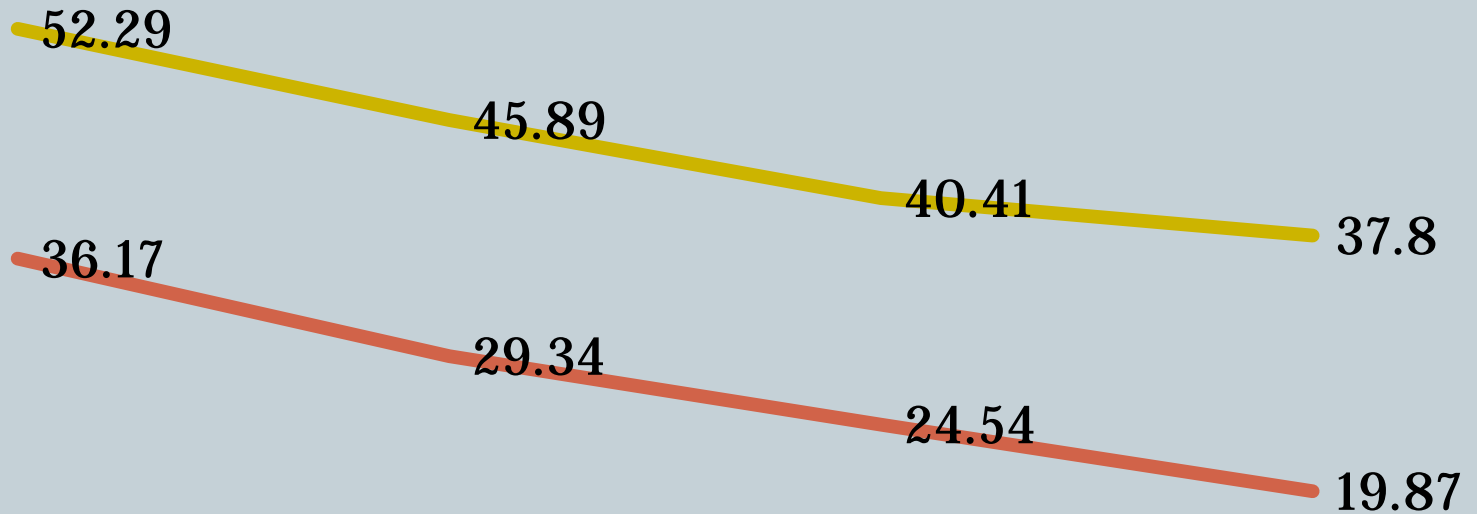# SALA HOUSEHOLDS, 25-54

Black ⸻ White

	1980	1990	2000	2010
Black	8.05	9.96	13.37	18.37
White	7.46	8.51	10.52	12.57

MARRIED WITH CHILDREN, 25-54

— Black Married   — White Married

52.29

45.89

40.41

37.8

36.17

29.34

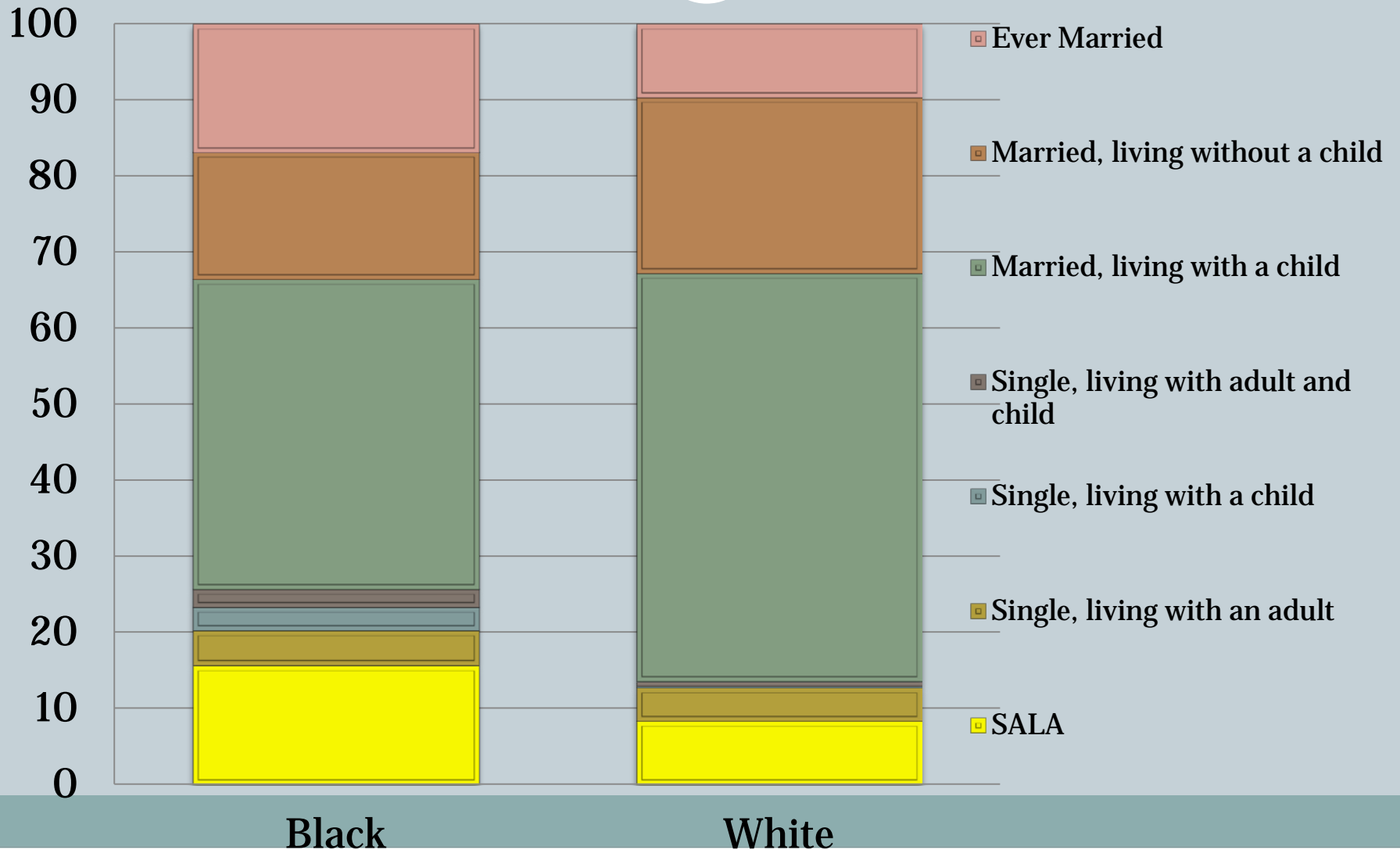24.54

19.87

1980   1990   2000   2010

CONCLUSION 3

- SALA households are growing

TASK 4

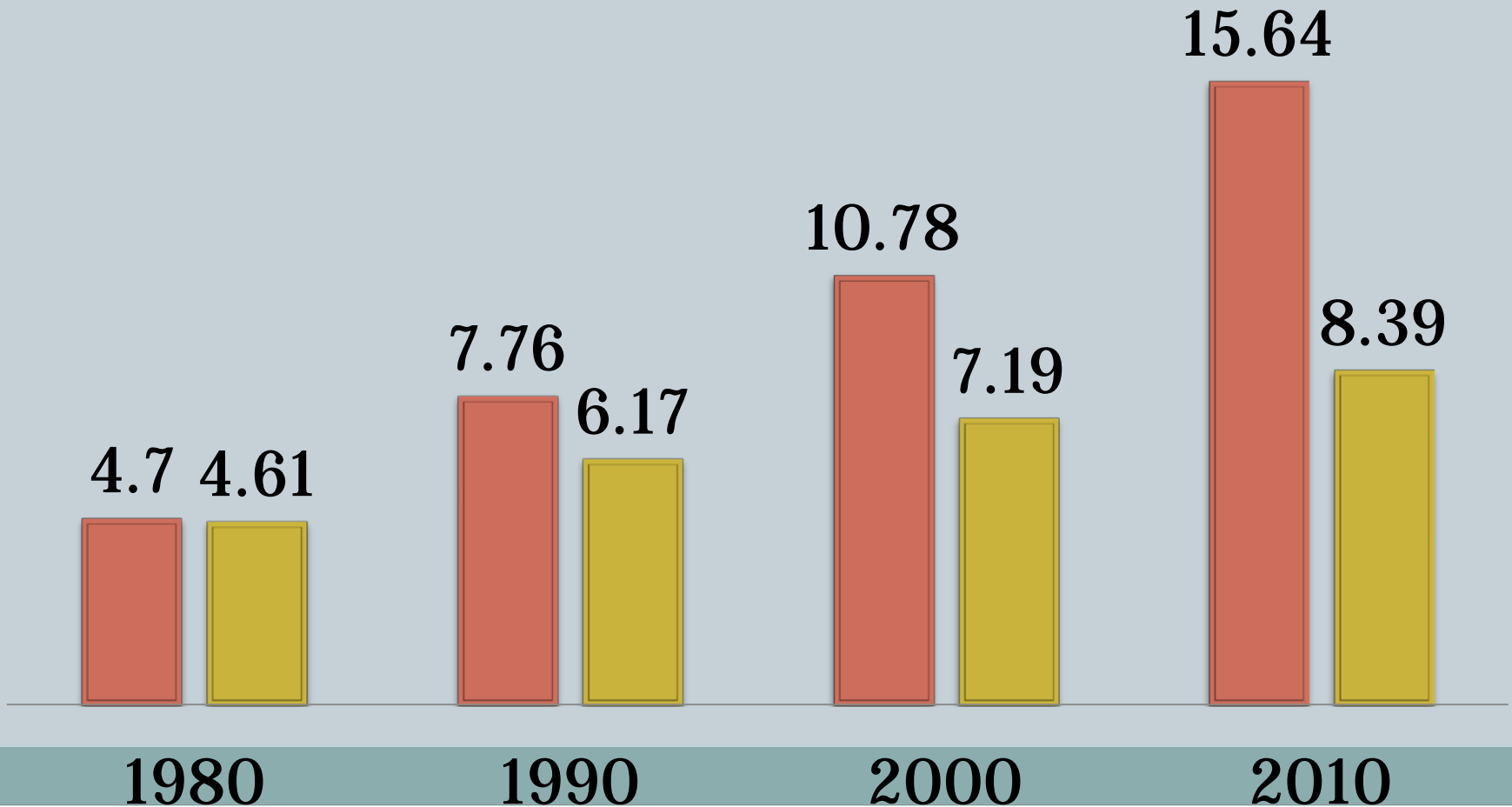- SALA by race and class

2010 MIDDLE CLASS COMPOSITION, 25-54

MIDDLE CLASS AND SALA HOUSEHOLDS

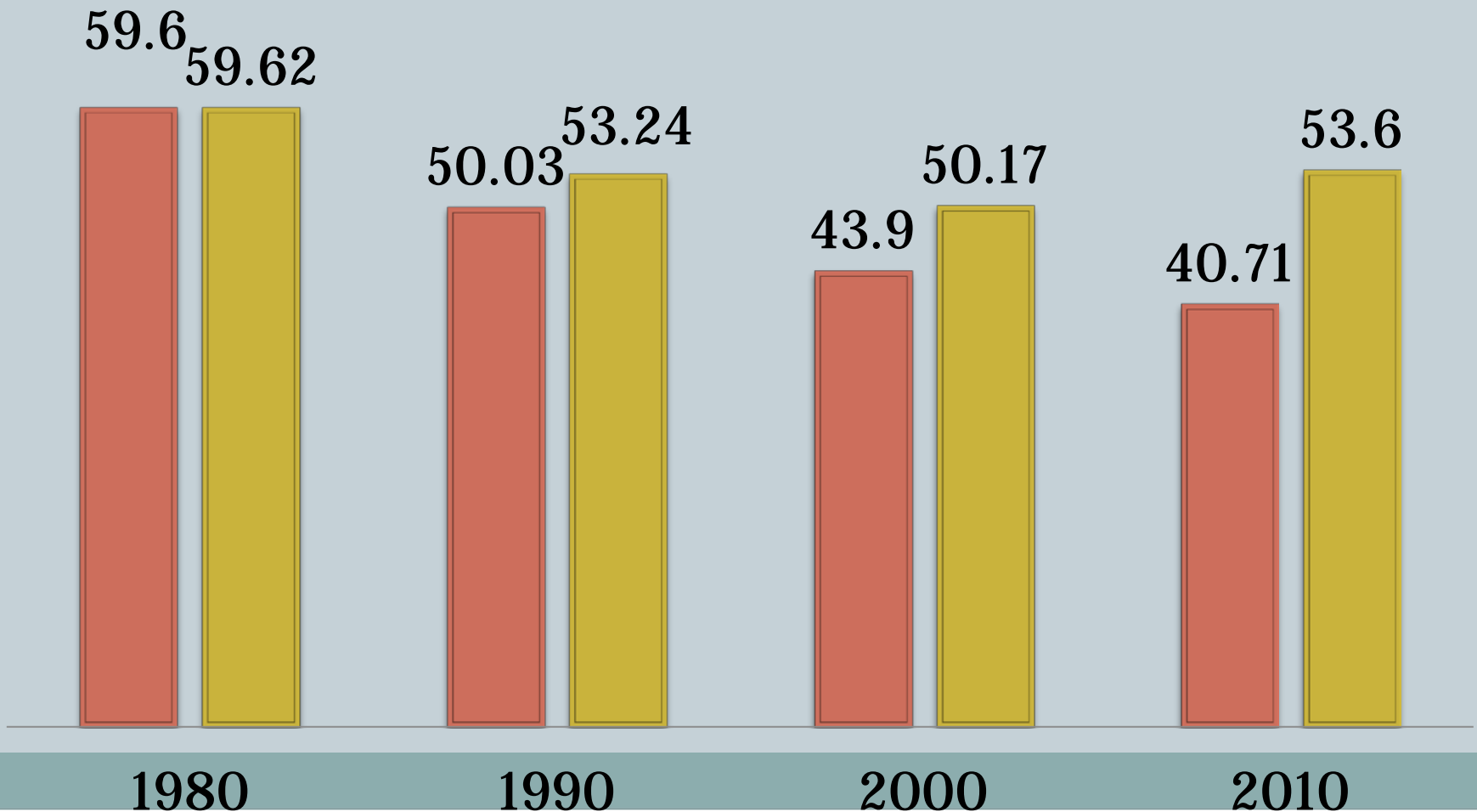# MIDDLE CLASS AND MARRIED W/ KIDS

CONCLUSION 4

- Black middle class SALA households tripled

- White middle class SALA h0useholds doubled

- Black middle class SALA households twice as large as White middle class SALA households

- Married couple households with children decrease for both Black and White households

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

- Household compositions are changing
- Changes for Blacks and Whites households

- SALA households are increasing
- Married households are decreasing

- Middle class continues to grow
- Racial differences persist among the middle class
- Black middle class SALA households tripled
- White middle class SALA h0useholds doubled

THEORETICAL IMPLICATIONS

- Black middle class versus White middle class

- Marriage financial benefit and positive returns

- Intergenerational transfer of wealth

- Cast tangential light on the question of the direction of causality between marriage and class status

- Challenges neoconservative claims on behalf of marriage as an anti-poverty measure

- Re-define a "family"

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS