

# Changes in lifetime probability of abortion for Australian women

Results from the Australian Longitudinal  
Study of Health and Relationships

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# Research Team

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# Rationale and aims

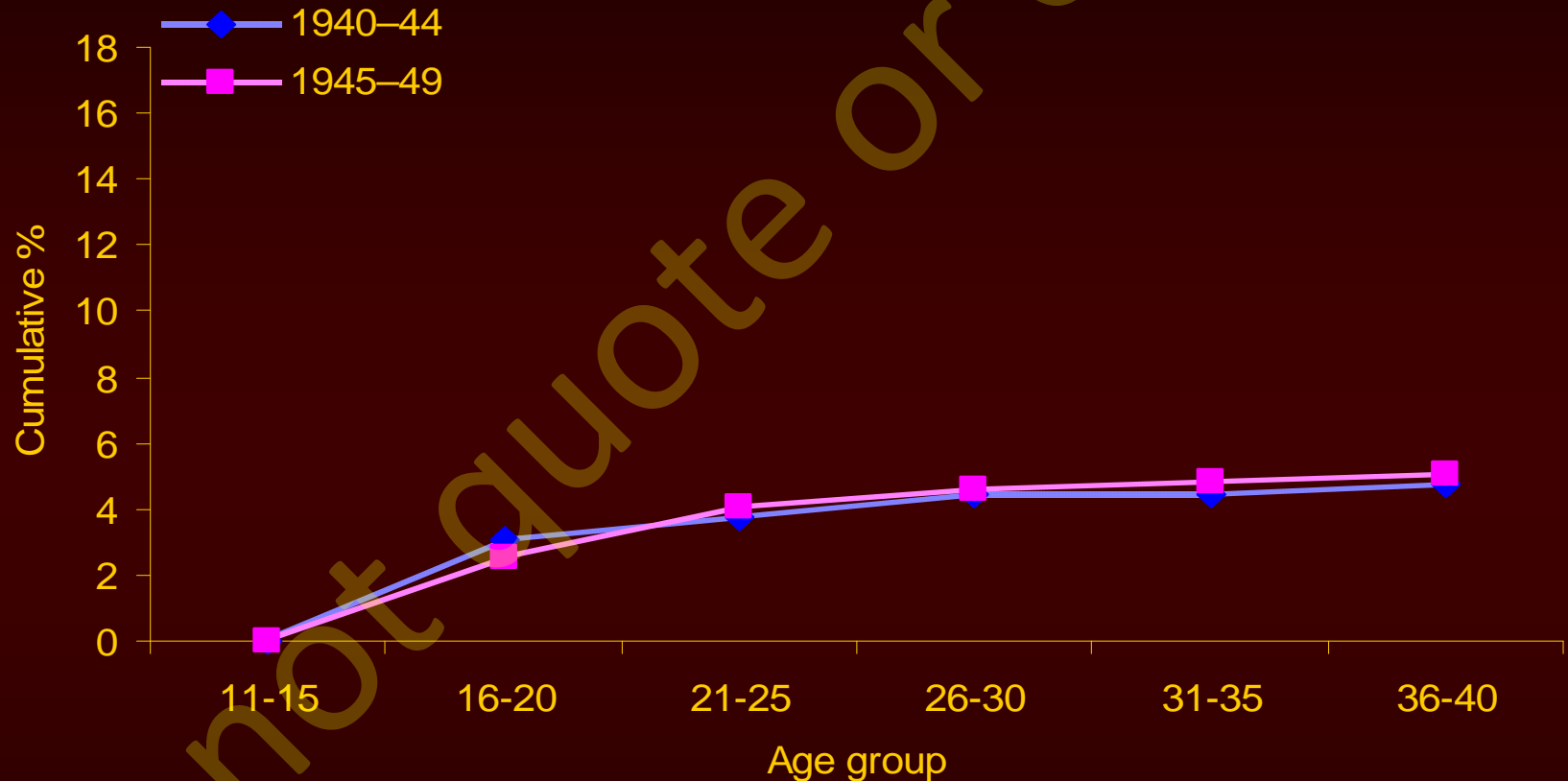
## Rationale:

- Legal and social context of reproduction has changed considerably in Australia over the past 50 years
- Have Australian women's reproductive histories changed?

## Aims:

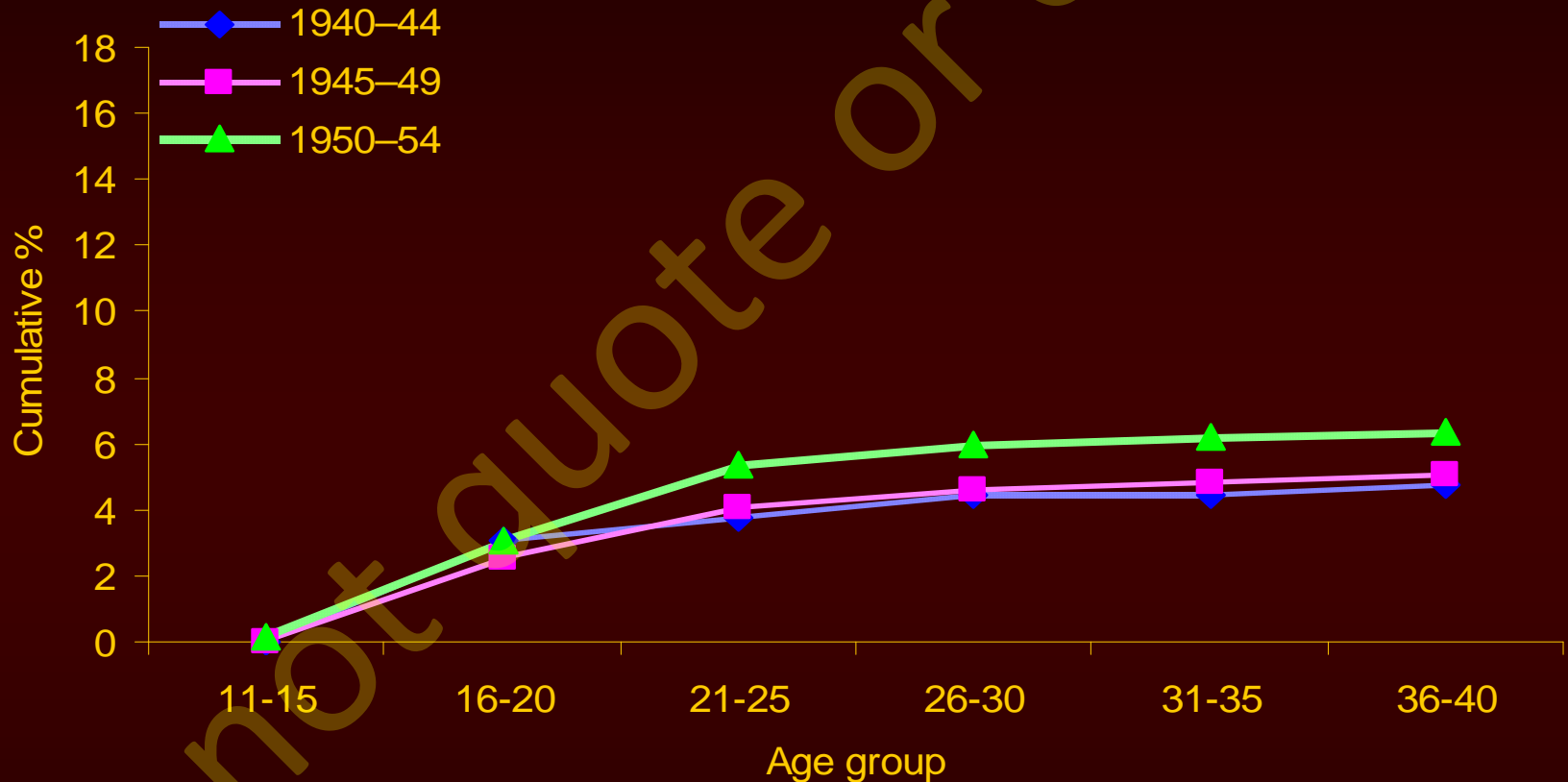
- Describe the rates of termination for Australian women in relation to:
  - When they were born (birth cohort)
  - Age at (first) termination
- Relate reproductive experiences to legal and social context

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



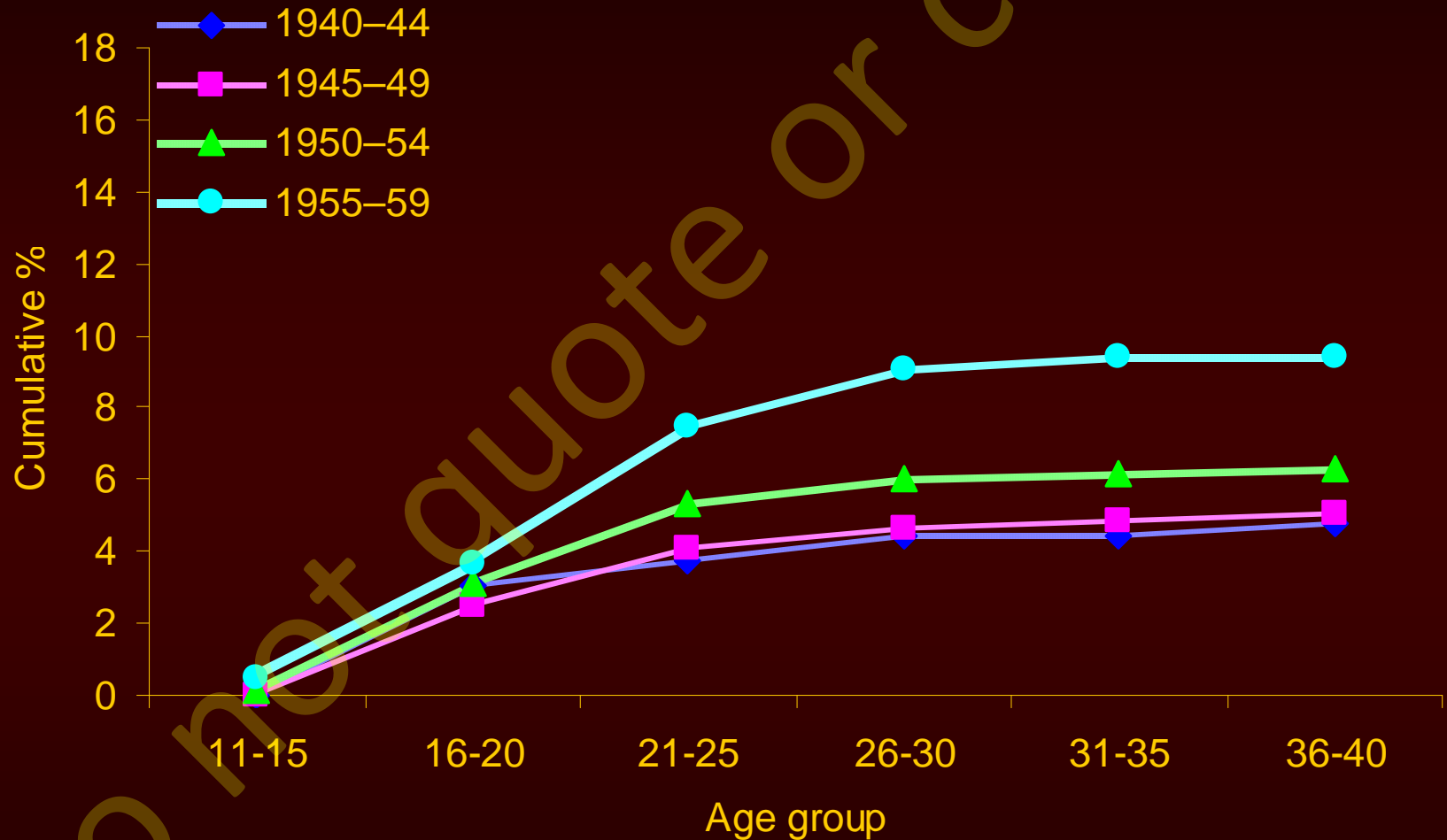
- Access to termination procedures illegal and not widely available

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



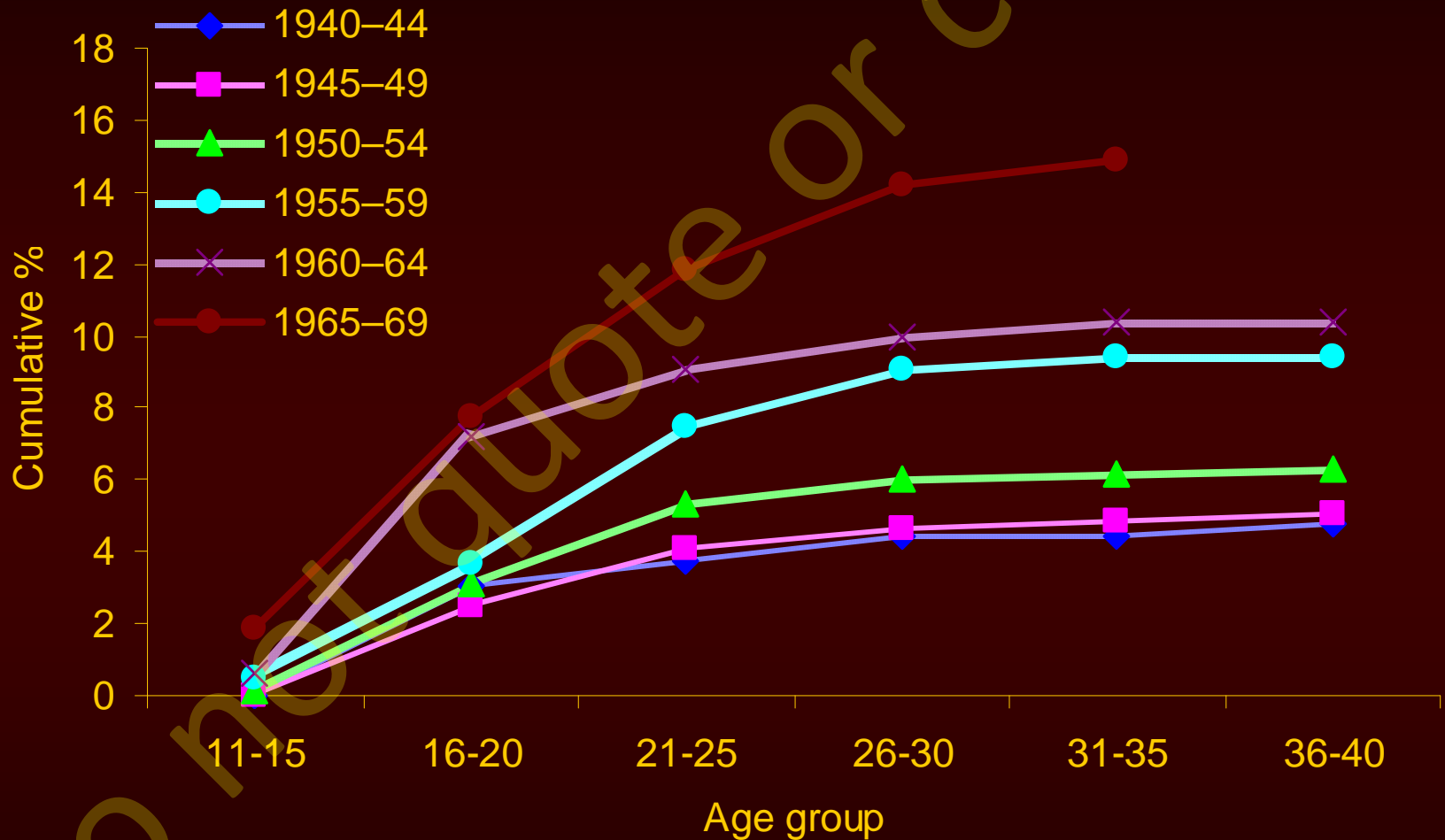
- Termination rates being to reflect social change such as:

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



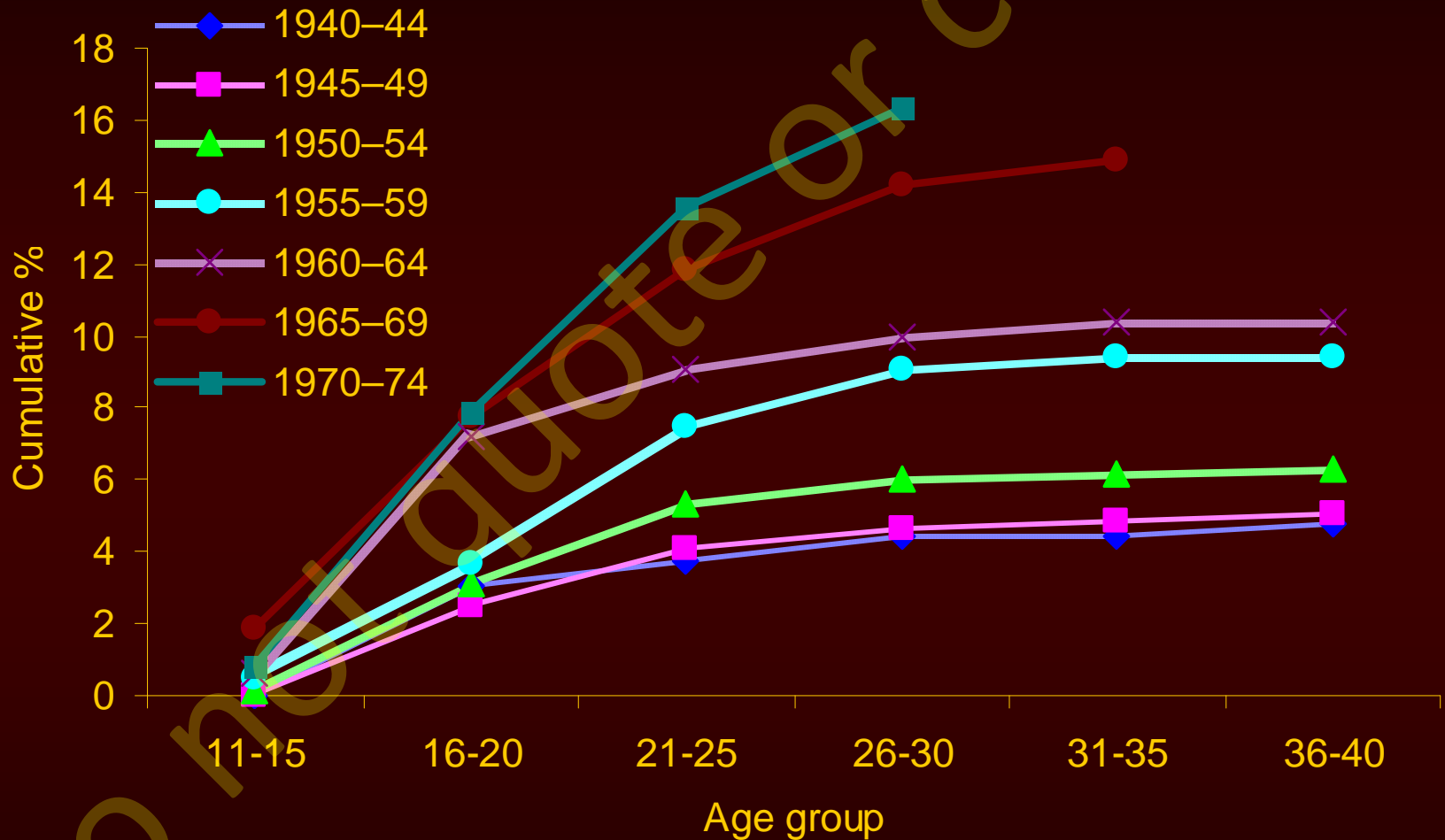
- Burdening 'sexual revolution'

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



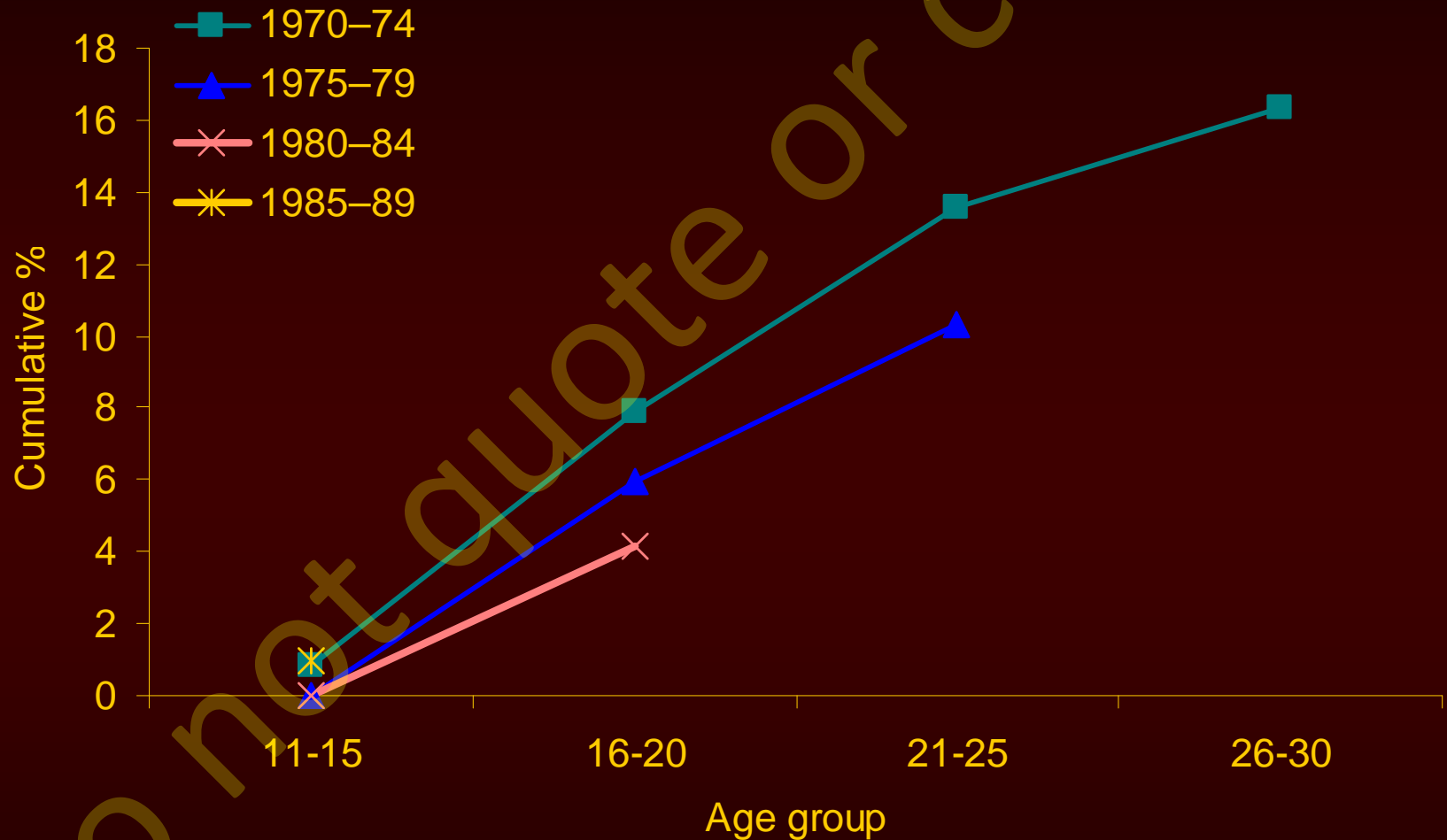
- availability to terminations
- availability of OCP

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



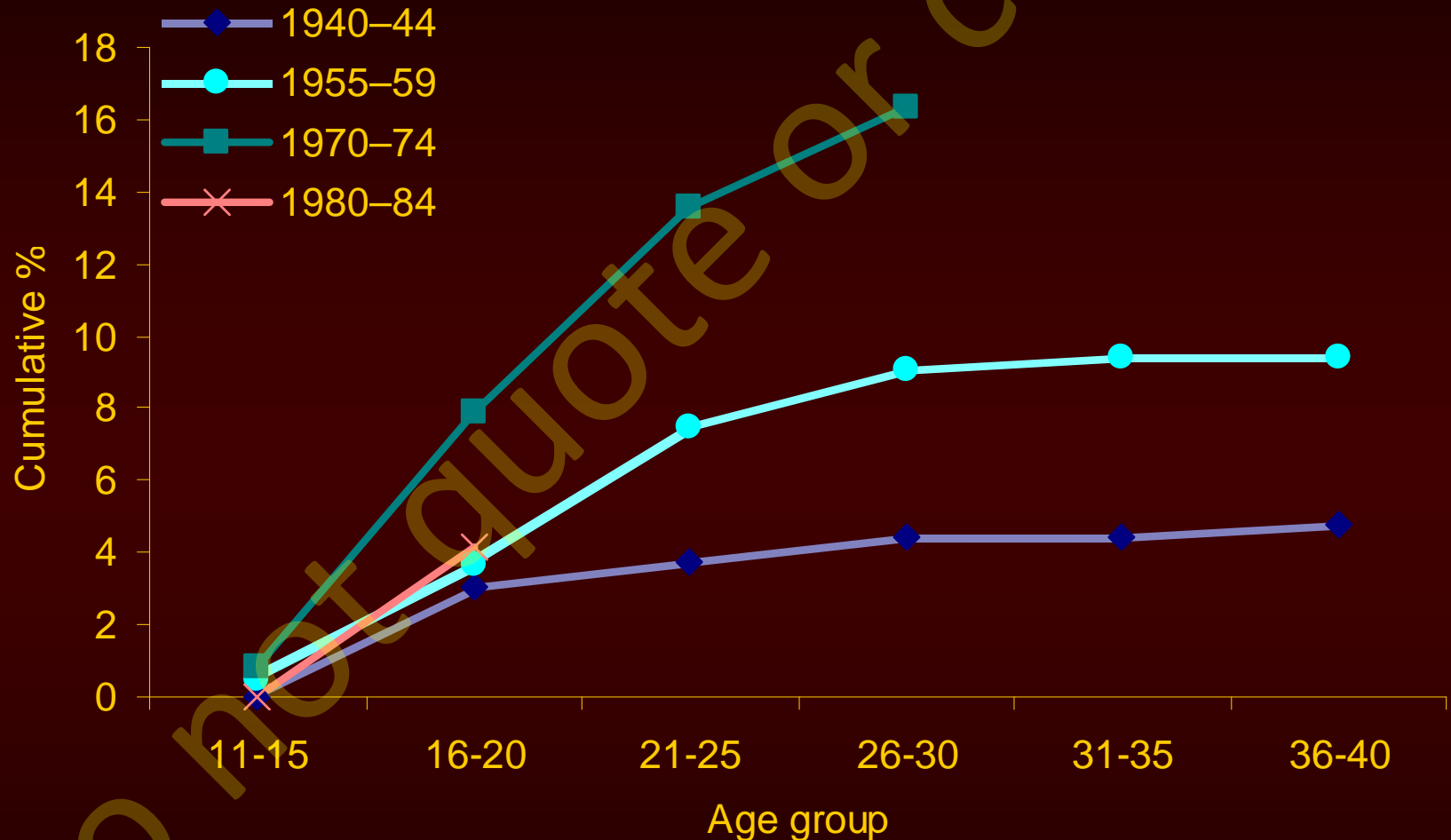
- Peak cumulative rate of all termination for women born in 1970-74

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



- After 1970 decreasing rates in terminations: concerns about HIV/AIDS, condom use and better sex education

# Termination prevalence by birth cohort



- Comparison of groups: those born 1980–84 reflect termination patterns of those born 1955-59

# Conclusions

- Termination rates:
  - Increased rapidly women born between 1955–1974
  - fell sharply for those born 1975 on
- Recent birth cohorts:
  - terminations similar to women born 1955–1959
- Reproductive histories of Australian women of different generations have been affected by
  - Changes in legality and accessibility of terminations
  - Social change, including change in contraception, education and sexual practices