

Changes in lifetime chance of abortion for Australian women

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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?

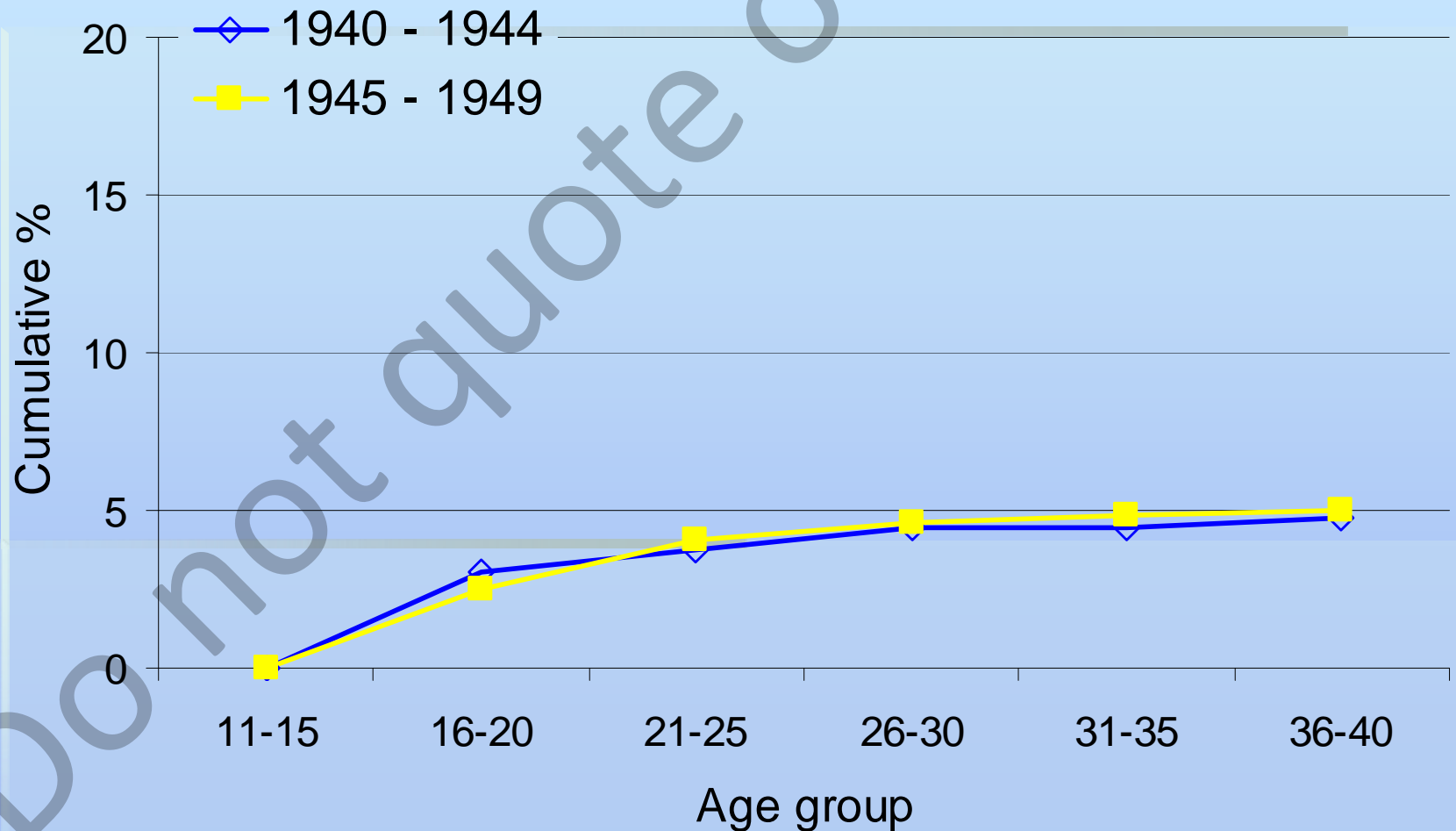
Aims:

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

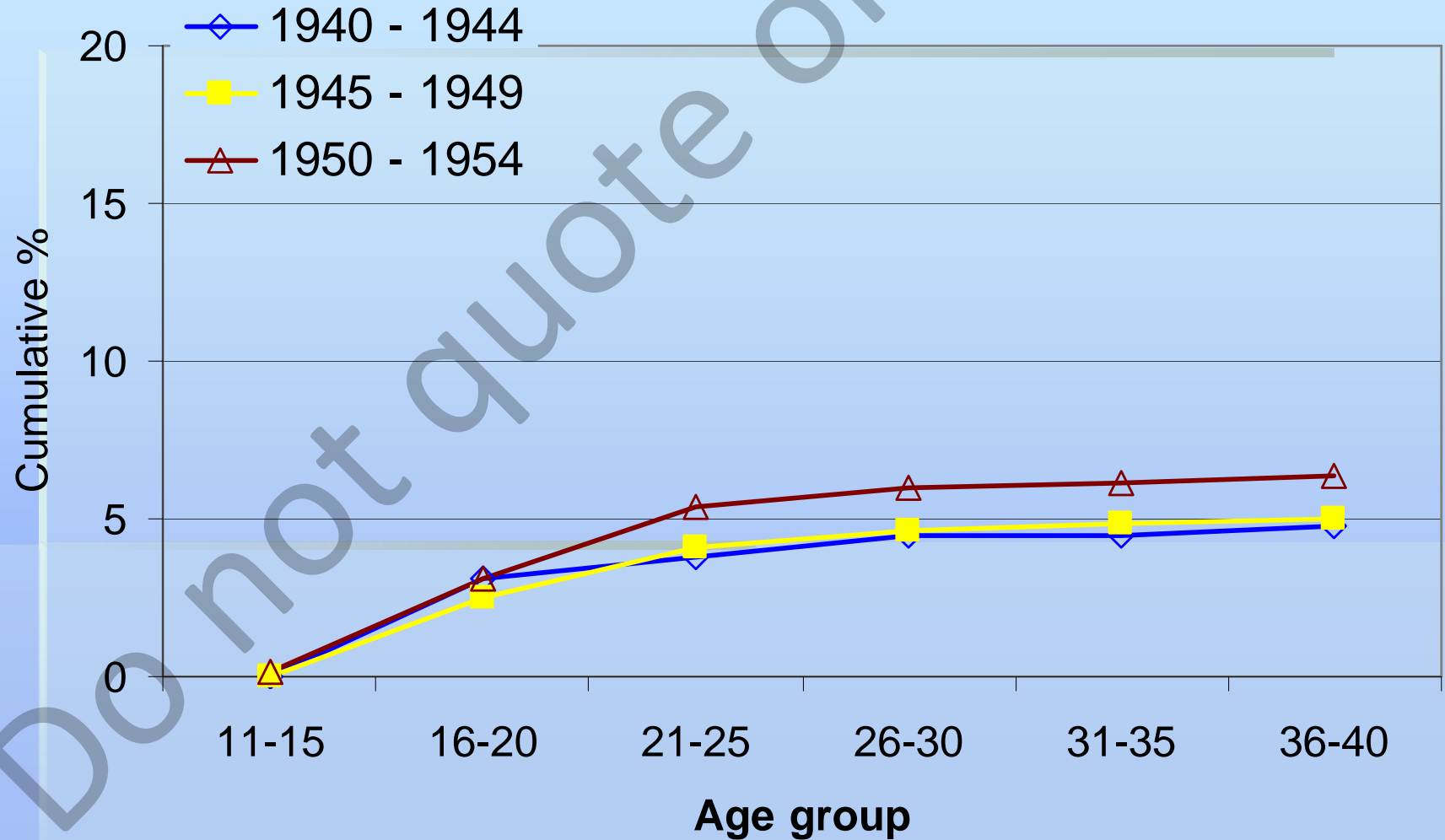
Methods

- Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Health and Relationships
- Random sample
- 4,374 Australian women
- Ages 16-64 years in 2005
- Computer-assisted telephone interview
- Data shown:
 - % of women who have ever had an abortion
 - Birth cohorts
 - Age

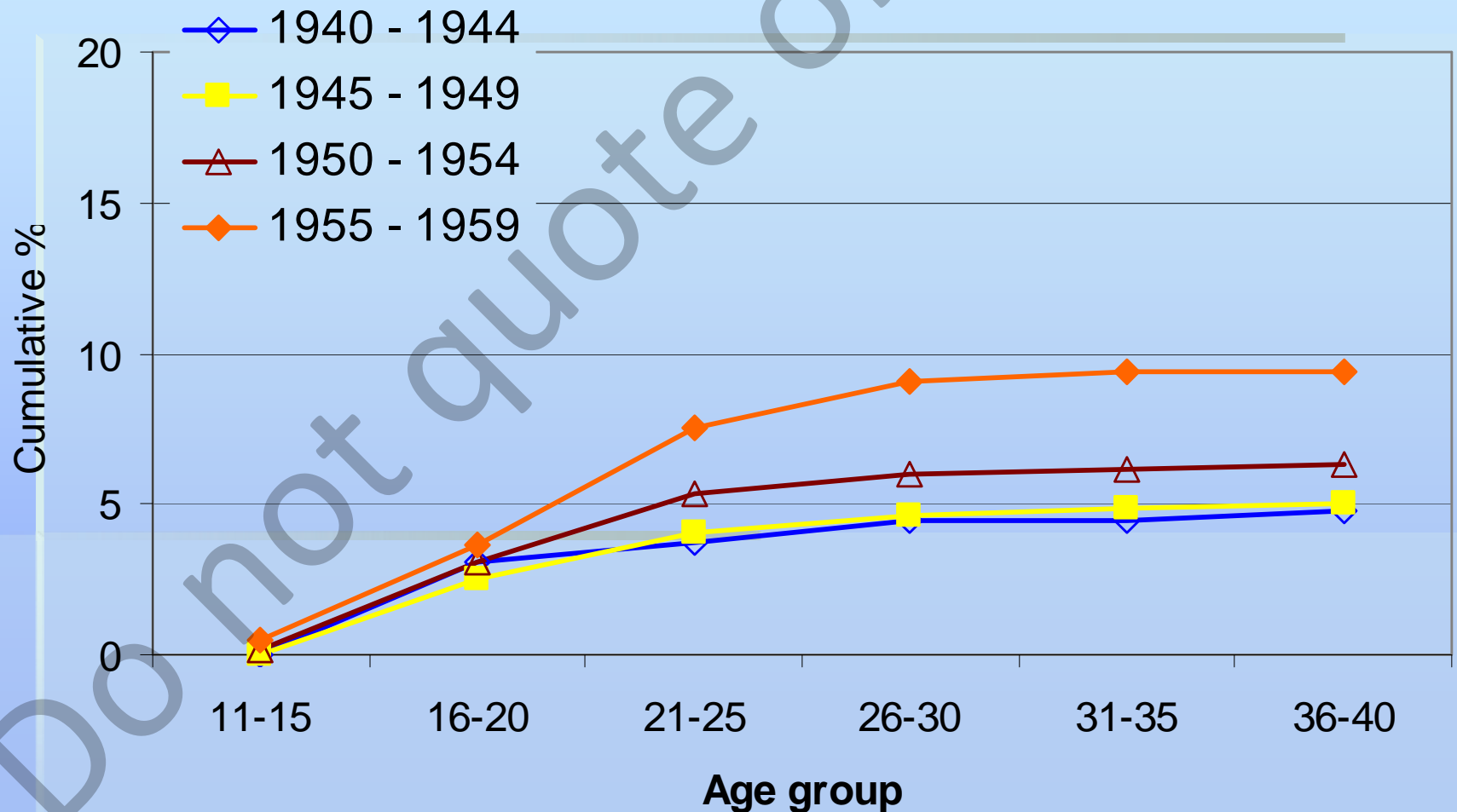
Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



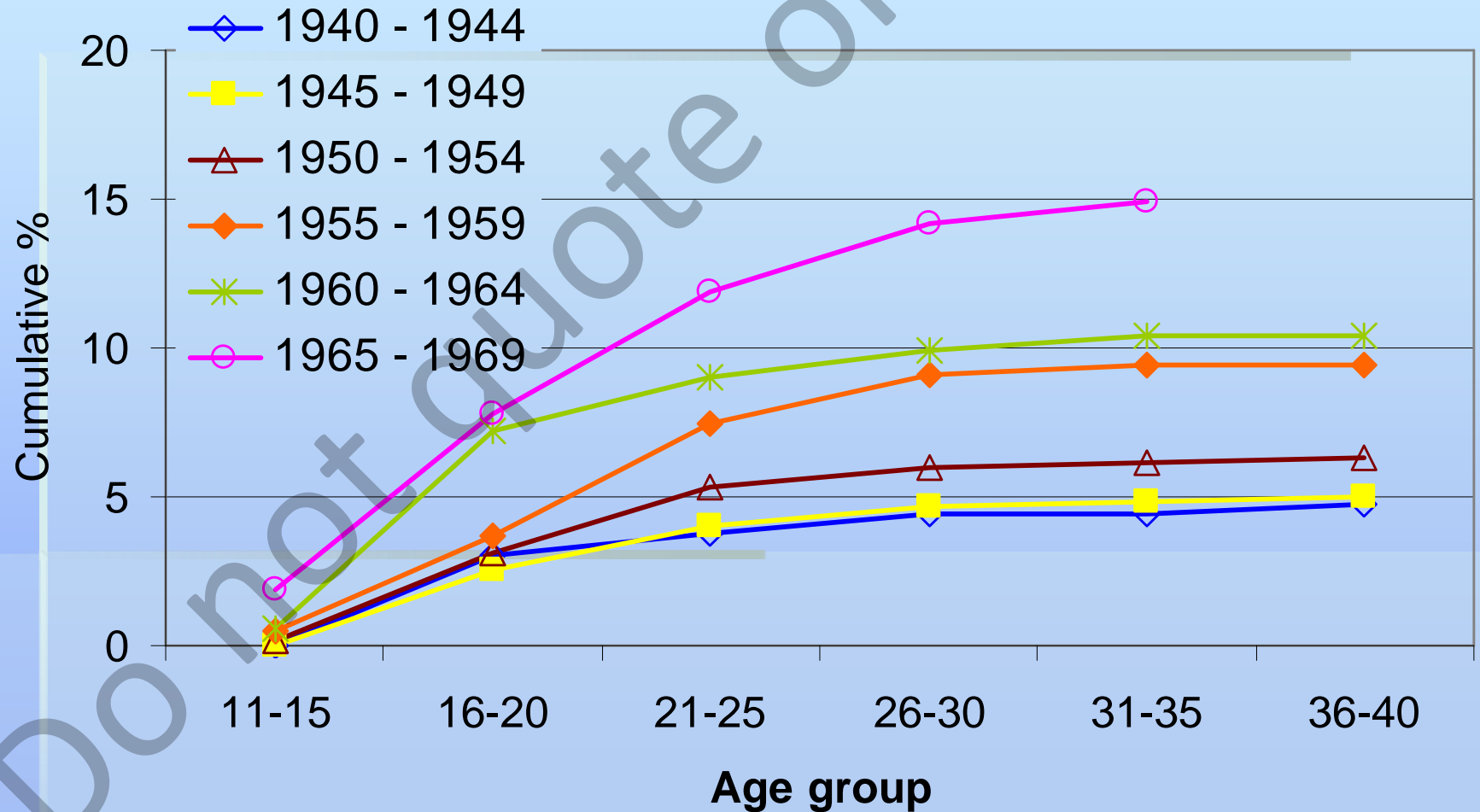
Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



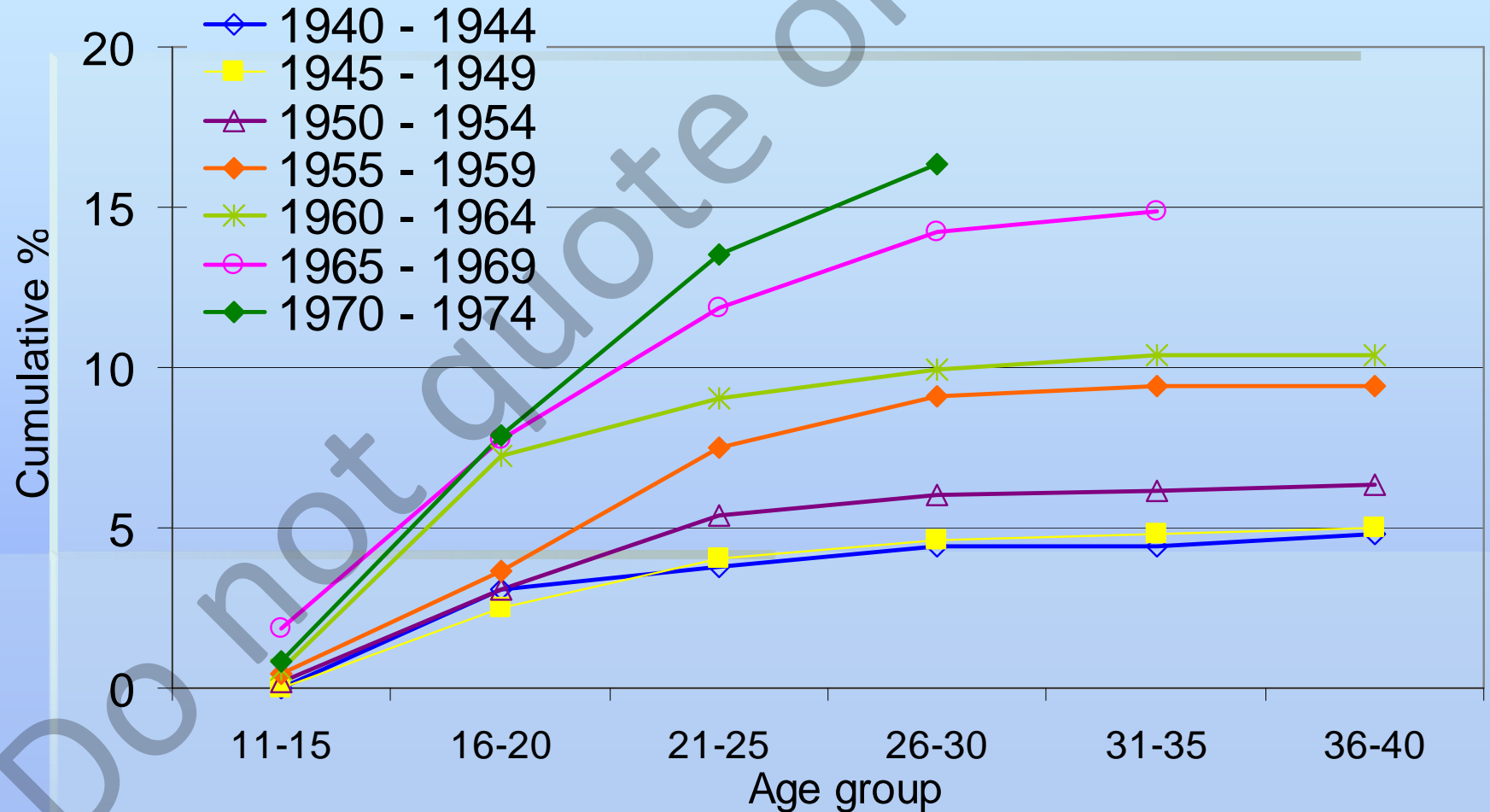
Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



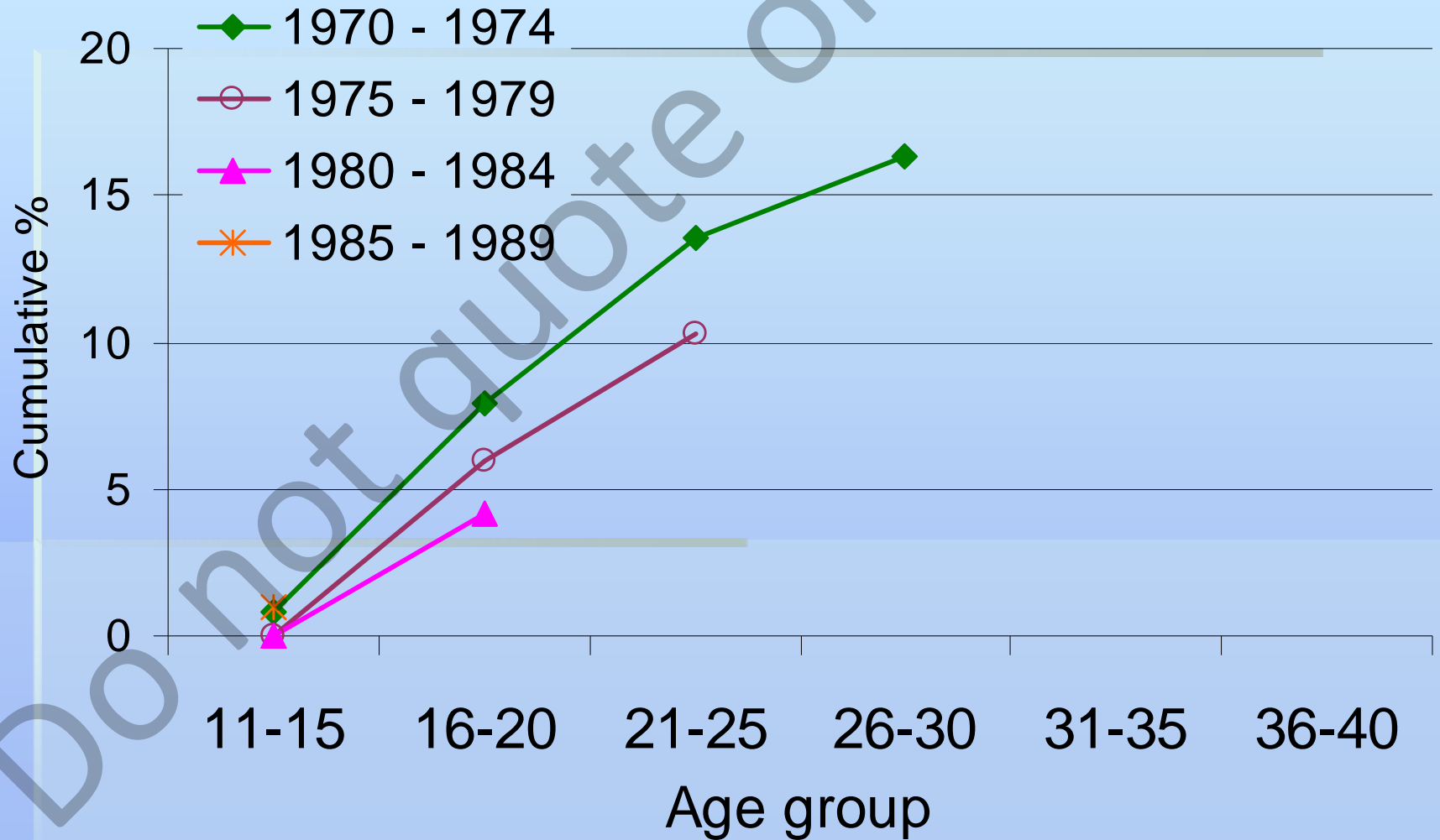
Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



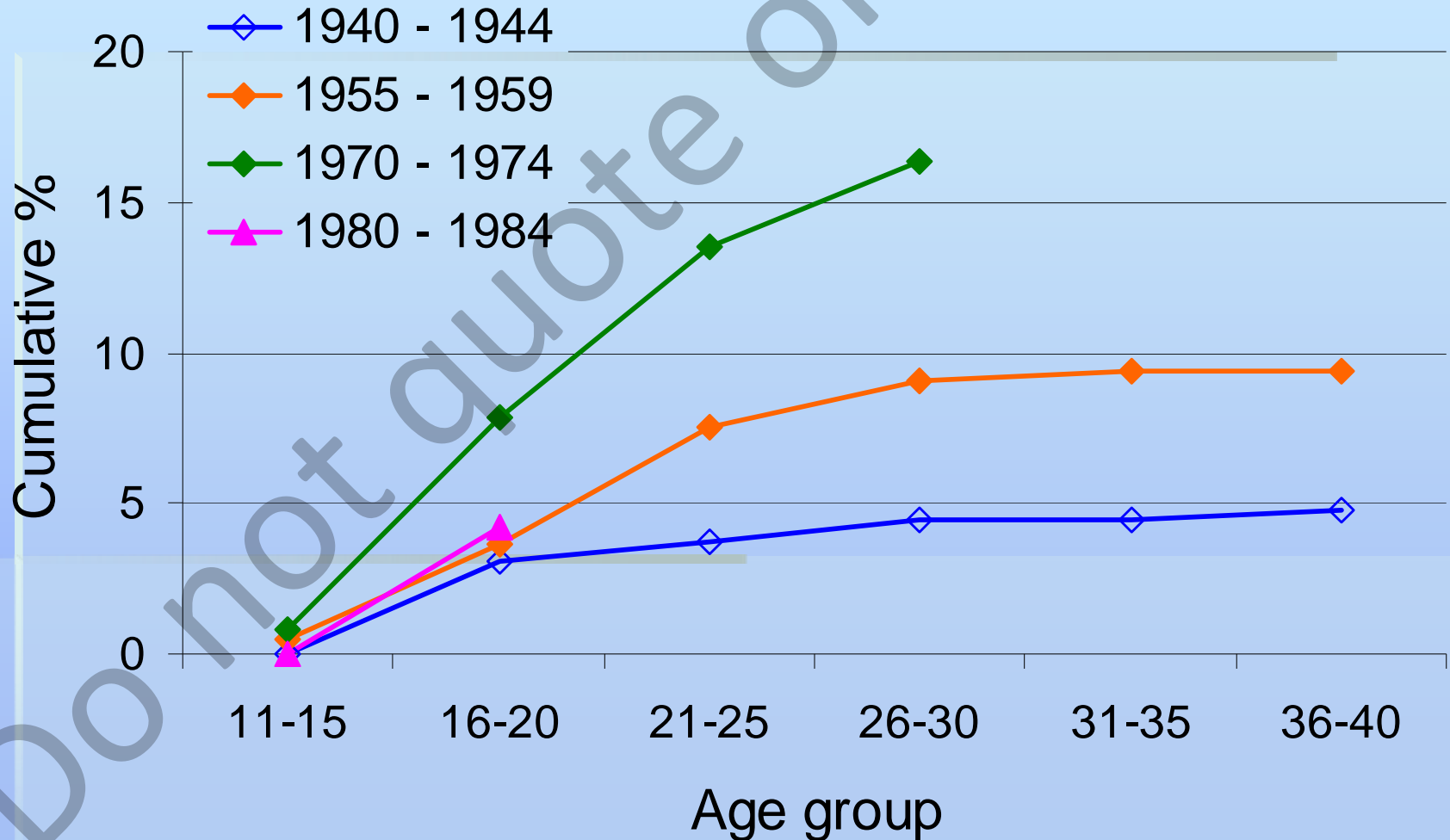
Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



Abortion prevalence by birth cohort



Conclusions

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