

# His State or Her State? Married Couples' States of Birth and Current Residence: 1900-2018

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## BACKGROUND

Over the last century, marriage has become more selective. At the same time, educational attainment has increased, residential mobility has declined, the population has aged, and household composition has changed. Therefore, this poster aims to explore selected characteristics of married couples by place of birth and current residence over the last 12 decades.

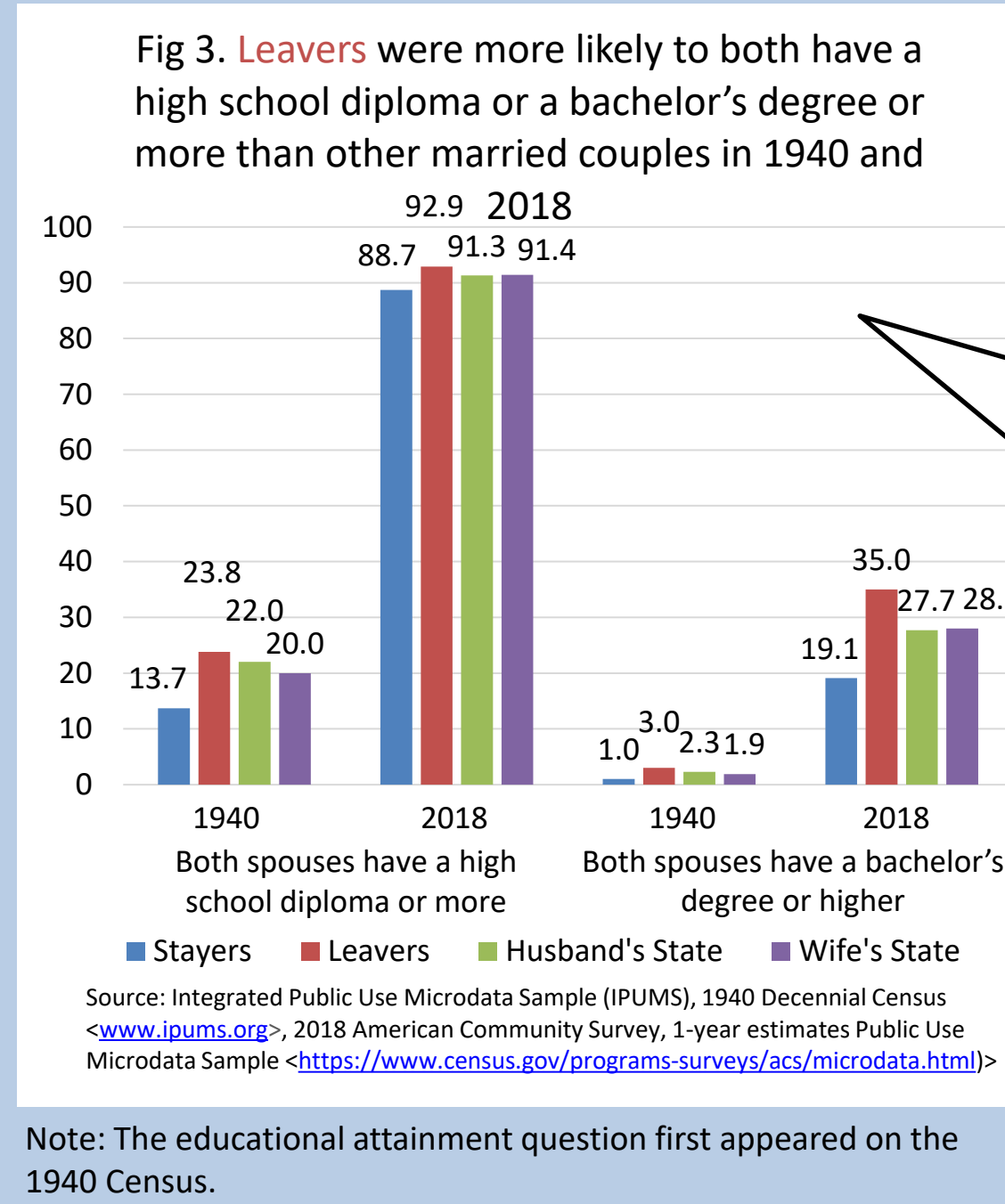
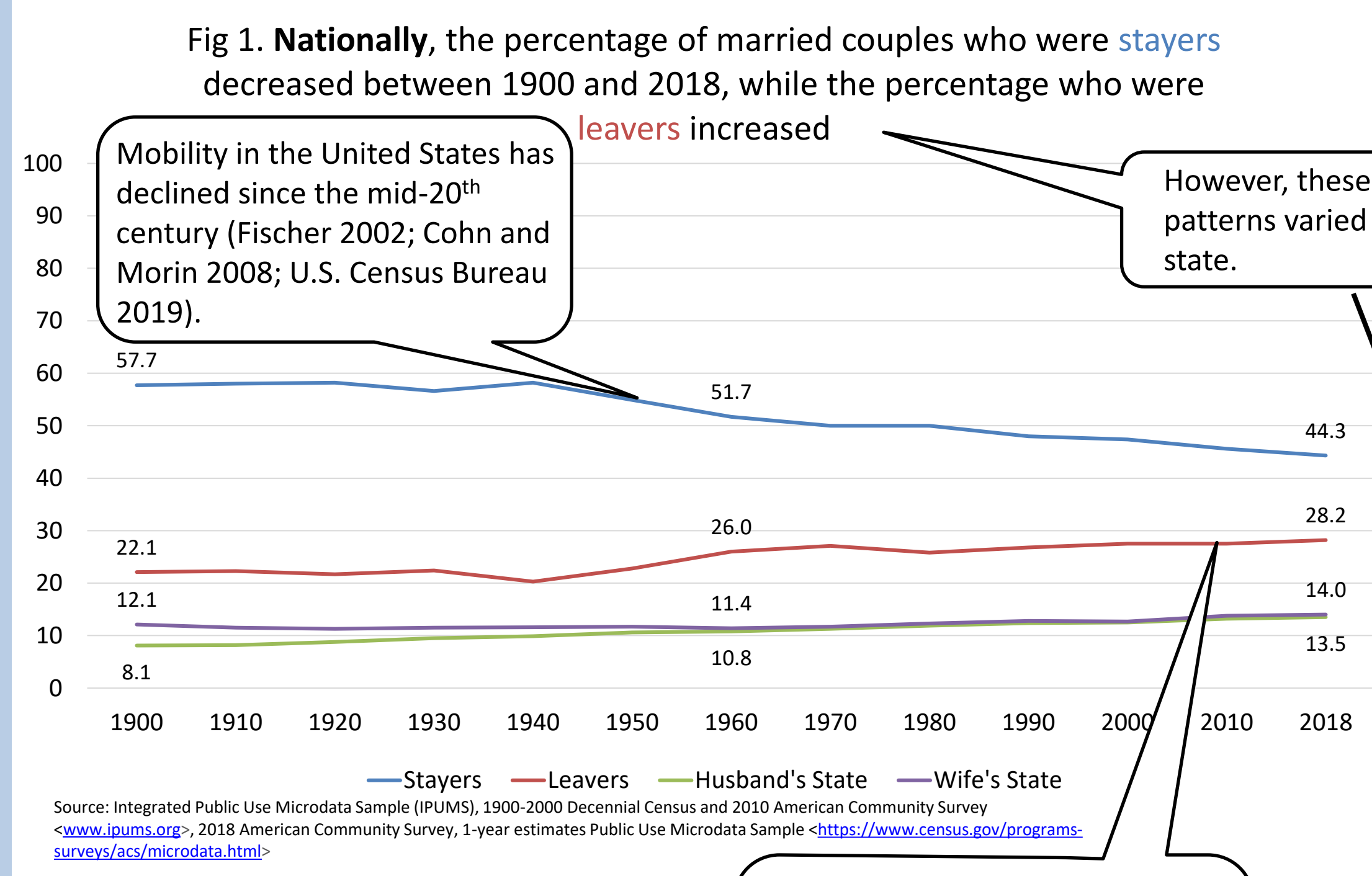
## RESEARCH QUESTION

Do married couples in which both spouses were born in states other than his or her state of current residence differ from married couples where at least one spouse was born in his or her state of current residence?

## DATA AND METHODS

- Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS USA), 1900-2000 Decennial Census and 2010 American Community Survey (<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/>)
- Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2018 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>)
- Analyses include married couples in which both spouses are native-born and currently live in a U.S. state, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. For 1900-2010 analyses only include opposite-sex married couples. 2018 analyses include same-sex couples.
- Married couples are broken down into four categories, which have shortened names in the figure legends:

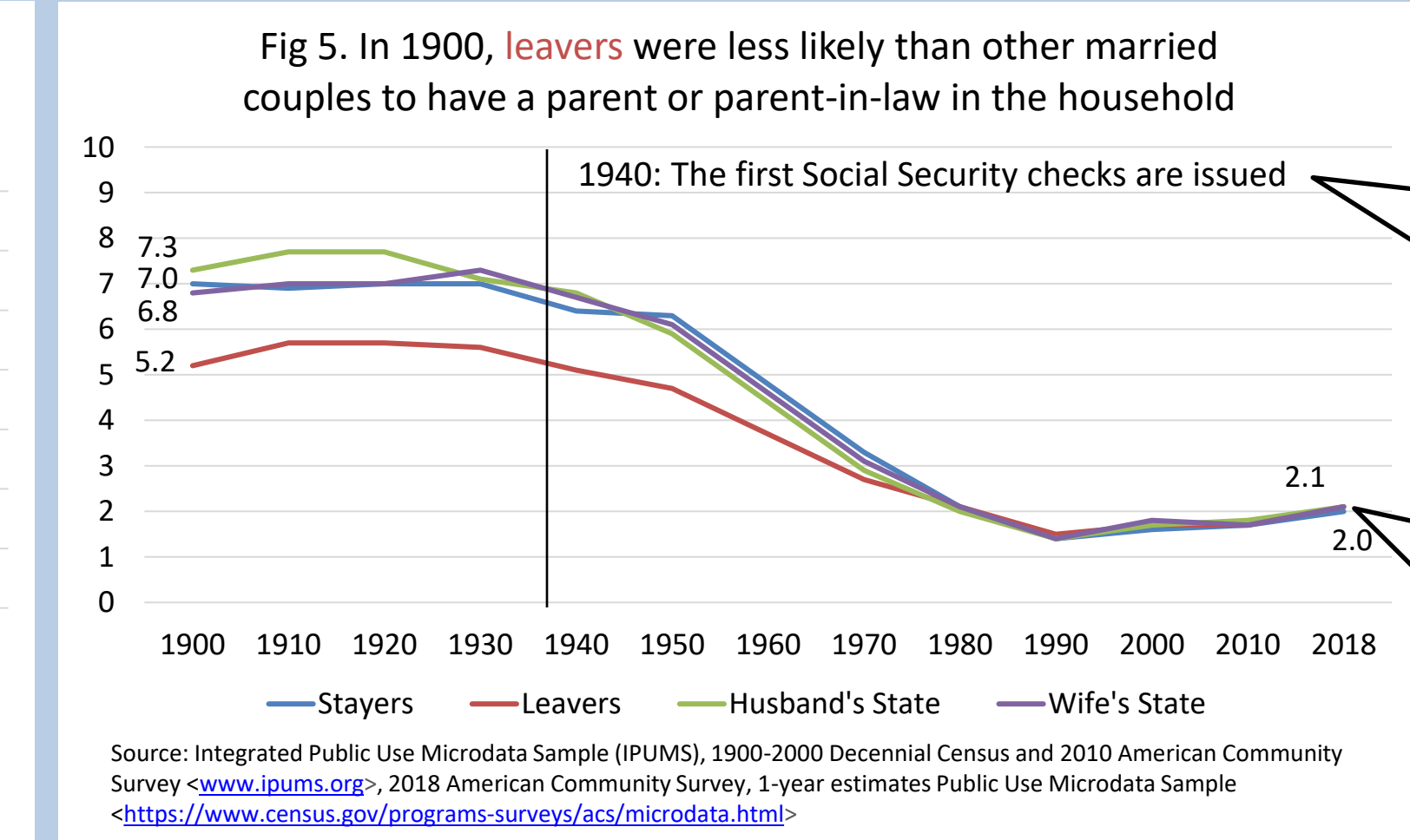
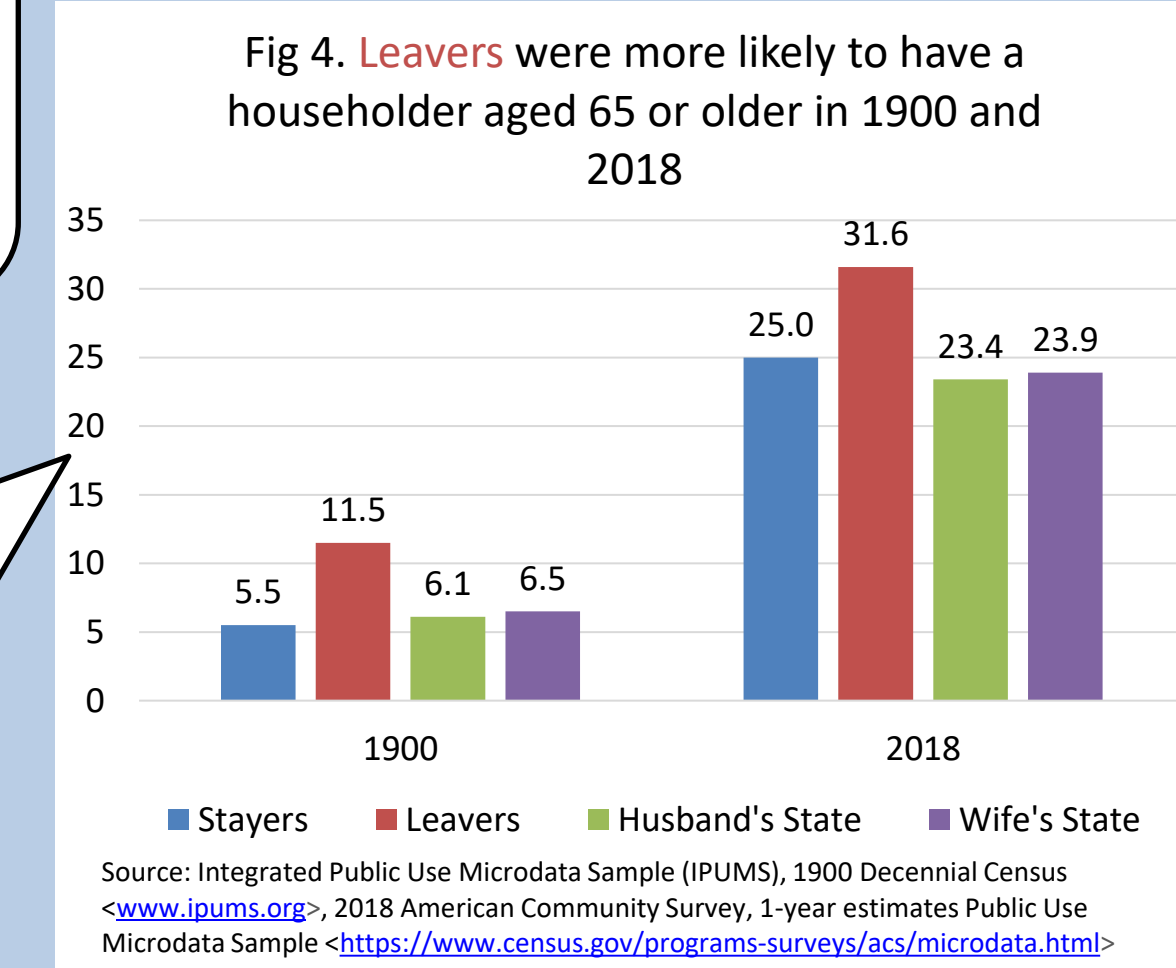
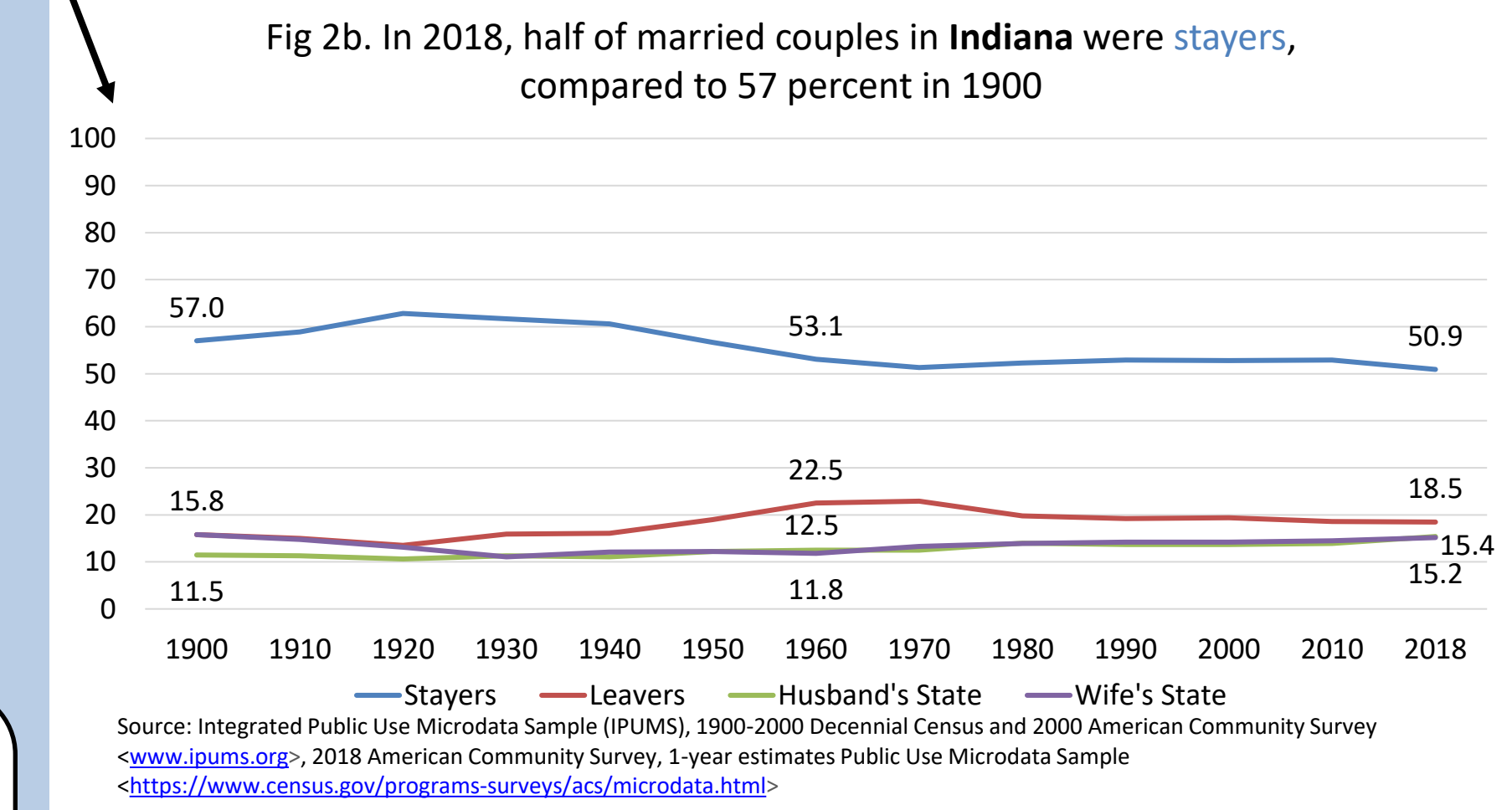
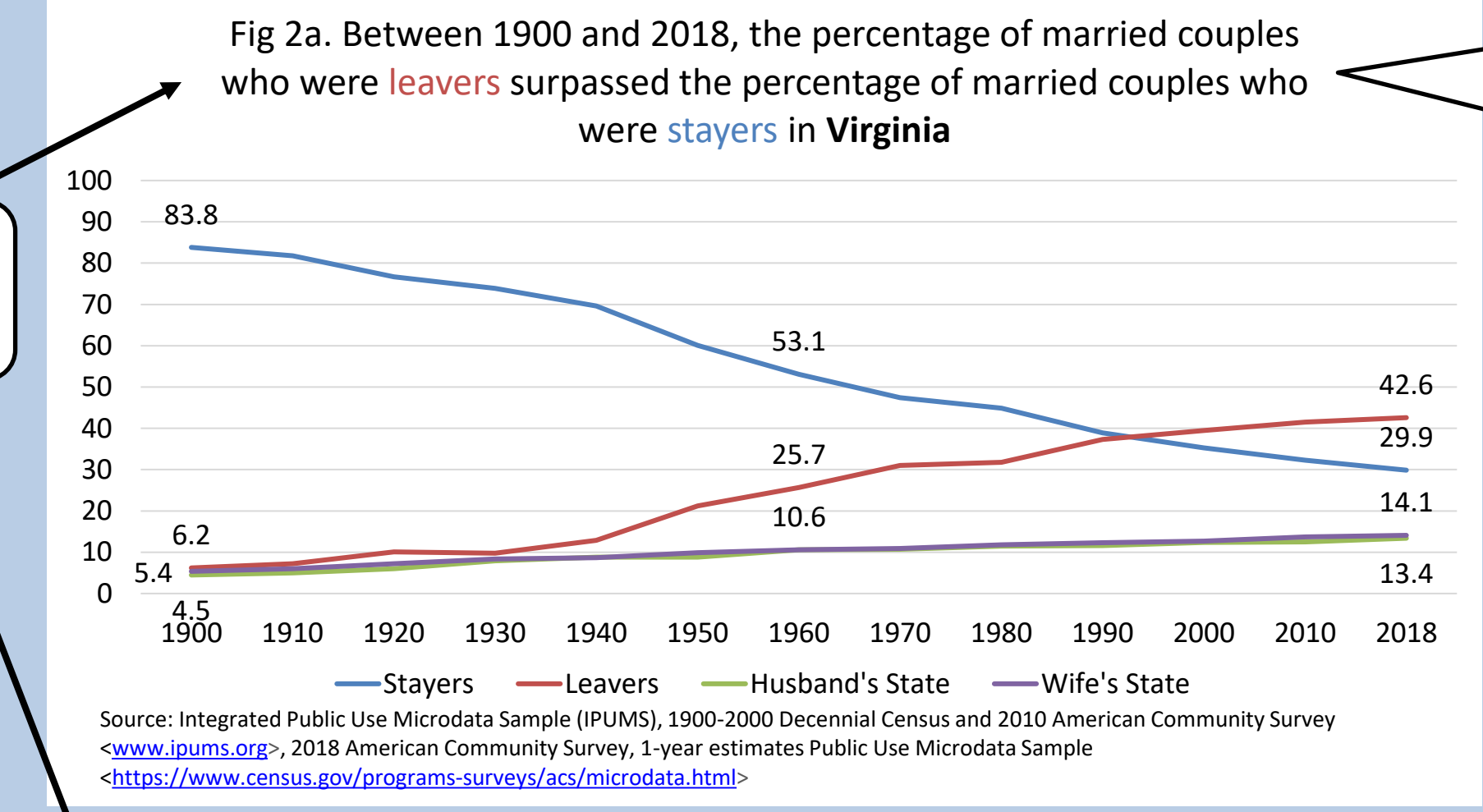
- Stayers:** Both spouses born in state of residence
- Leavers:** Both spouses born in state other than state of residence
- Husband's State:** Husband born in state of residence, spouse born in other state
- Wife's State:** Wife born in state of residence, spouse born in other state



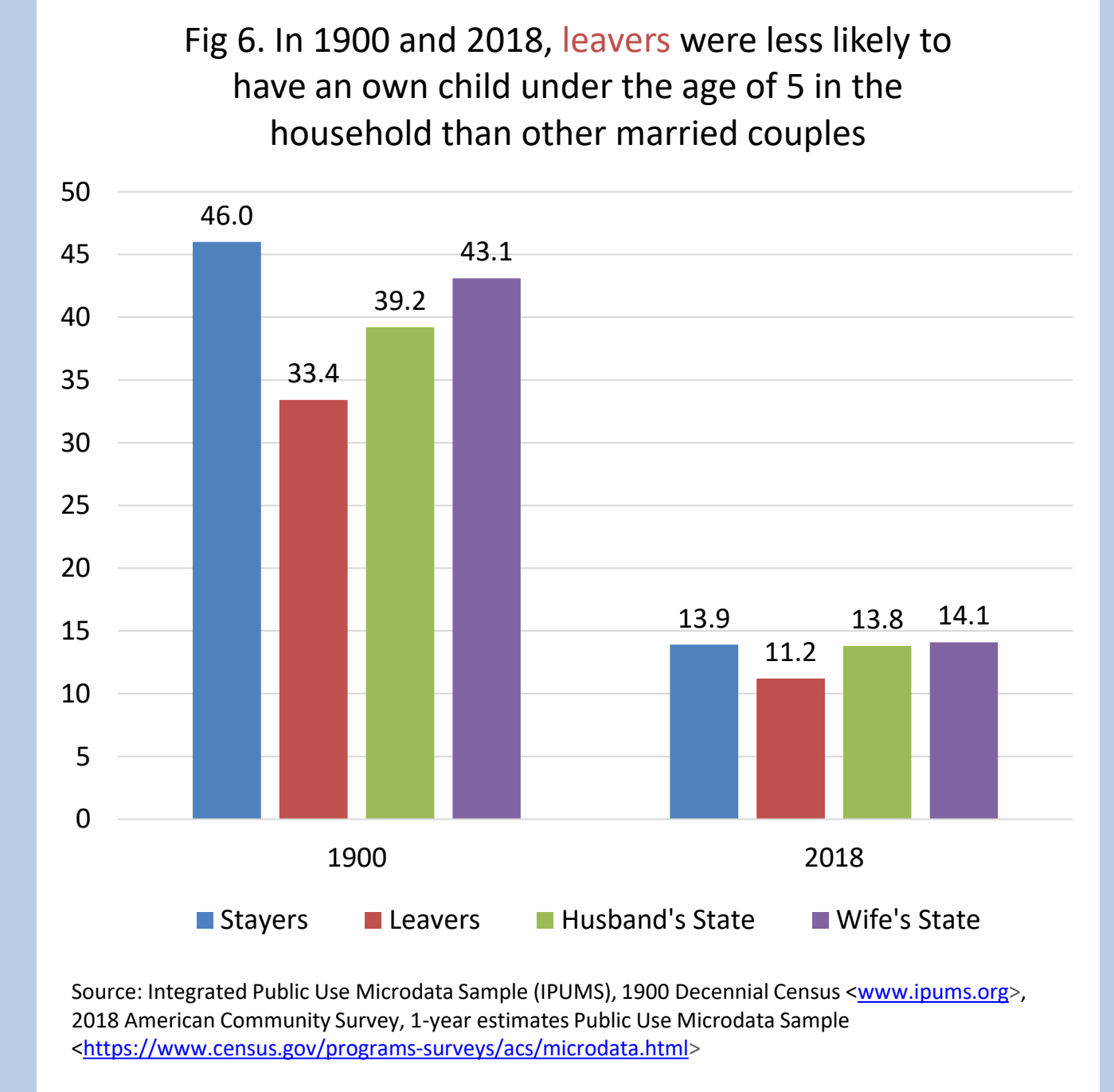
In 2010, most Americans lived in their state of birth; however 27% were born in a state other than their state of current residence (Ren 2011).

By 2018, most married couples, regardless of state of birth and current residence, both had high school diplomas or higher, following the trend of [increasing educational attainment at the national level](#).

In addition to having higher levels of education and being less likely to have a young child in the household, **leavers** were more likely to have a householder aged 65 and over than other married couples in both 1900 and 2018.



To see an interactive data visualization for all states that includes foreign-born spouses, click [here](#).



The passage of the Social Security Act of 1935 may have allowed more older adults to live in their own households.

By 2018, the percentage of **leavers** with parents or parents-in-law in their household was not significantly different from other married couples.

## SUMMARY

- Nationally, the percentage of married couples who were **stayers** decreased between 1900 and 2018, while the percentage who were **leavers** increased. However, this pattern varied by state.
- Married couples in which both spouses were born in states other than their state of current residence (**leavers**) were more educated and more likely to have a householder aged 65 or older. They were less likely to have a young child in the household in 2018 than other married couples.
- Overall, married couples were more educated in 2018 than 1940. In 2018 compared to 1900, they were also more likely to have a householder aged 65 or older and less likely to have either a child under the age of 5 or a parent or parent-in-law in the household.
- These overall patterns reflect greater selection into marriage in the United States, regardless of where spouses are born and currently reside.

## REFERENCES

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- Ren, Ping. 2011. "Lifetime Mobility in the United States: 2010." *American Community Survey Briefs*, ACSBR 10-07, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2019. "Table A-1. Annual Geographic Mobility Rates, By Type of Movement: 1948-2019." Retrieved January 24, 2020 (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/geographic-mobility/historic.html>).