



Gender Differences and Trends over time for the SAT[®] Reasoning Test

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*Listening.
Learning.
Leading.*



History of the SAT

- Original test (1901)
 - nine essay exams
 - 973 candidates
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (1926)
 - Multiple choice exams
 - 8,040 candidates (mostly men)
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (1968)
 - Multiple choice
 - national and foreign testing centers



History of the SAT (con't) **Shifting patterns in the 1970's**

- More ethnic minorities
- More females
 - Absolute number of males decreasing
 - Number of females increasing
 - Late 70's about 51% of test-takers were females
- More older students (individuals who had deferred entry)

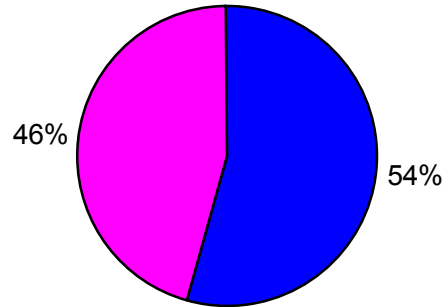


Since 1970

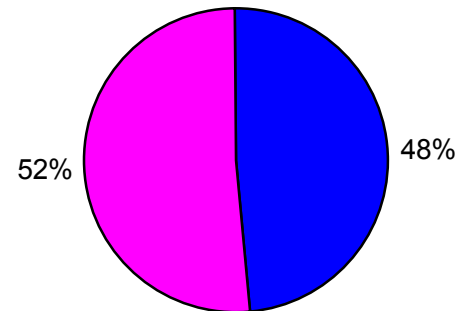
- Ensuring that content is balanced and appropriate for test-takers with widely different cultural and educational backgrounds
- Reducing effects of special preparation
- Ensuring that test content is consistent with changes in school based learning

Gender Changes

1967-1968



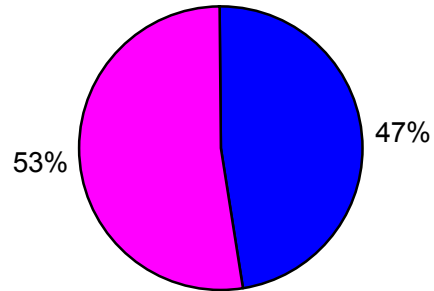
1982-1983



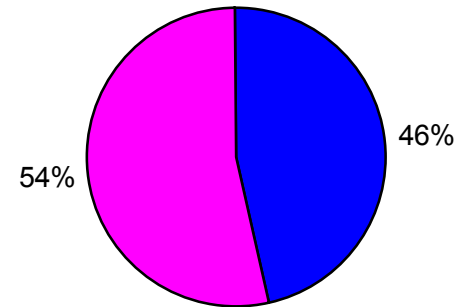


College Bound Seniors (CBS)

1990-1994

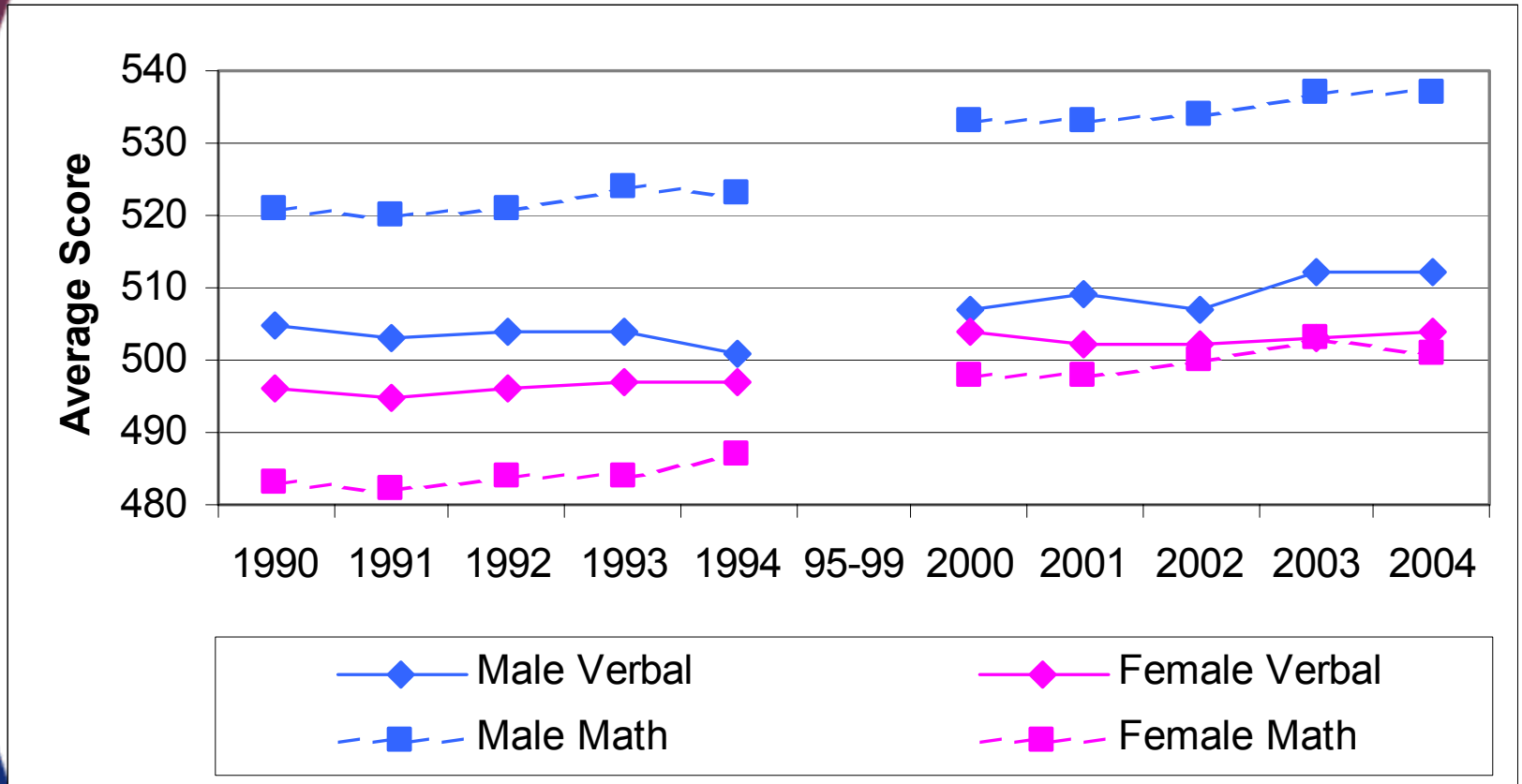


2000-2004



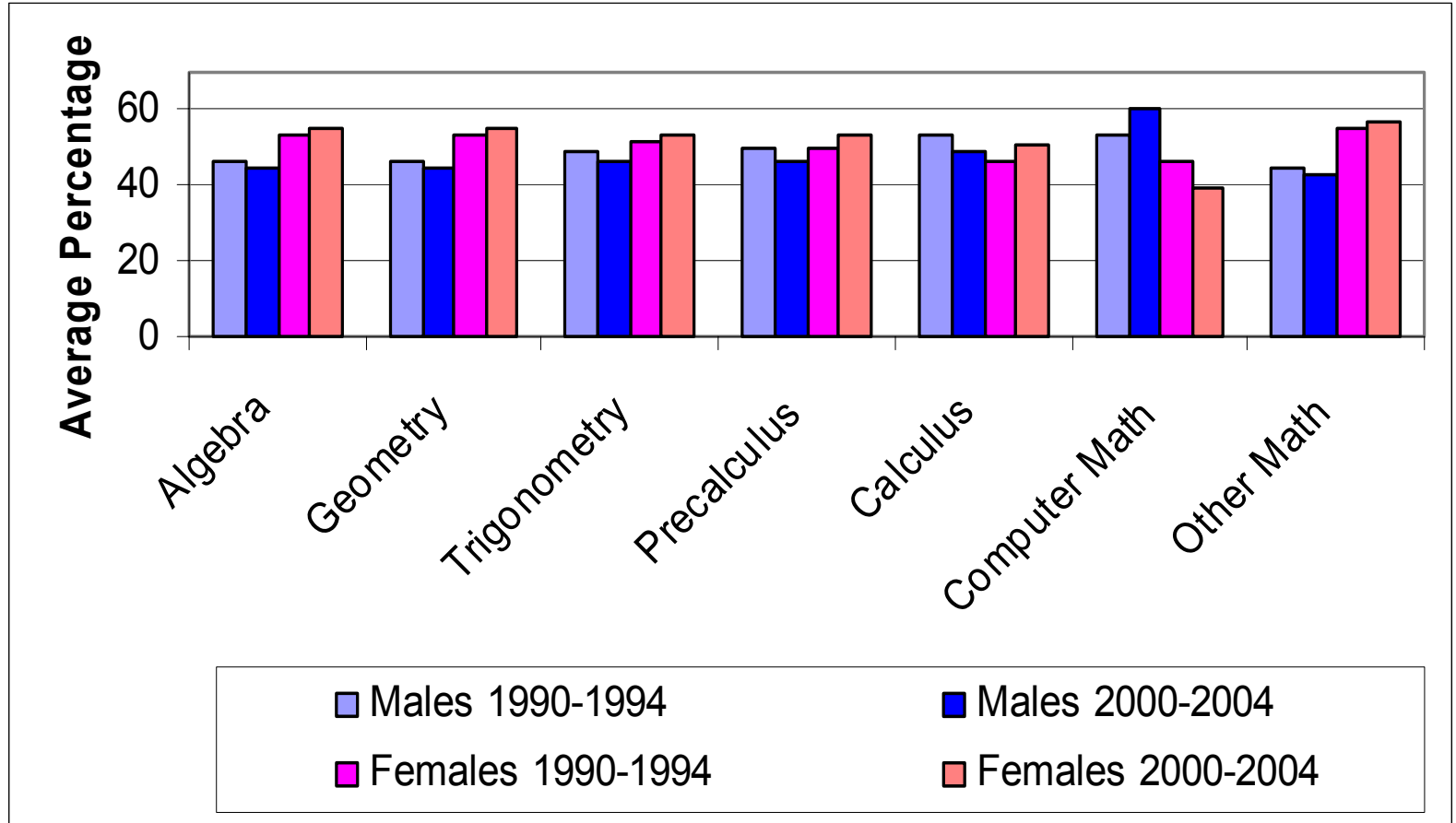


CBS Means over Time



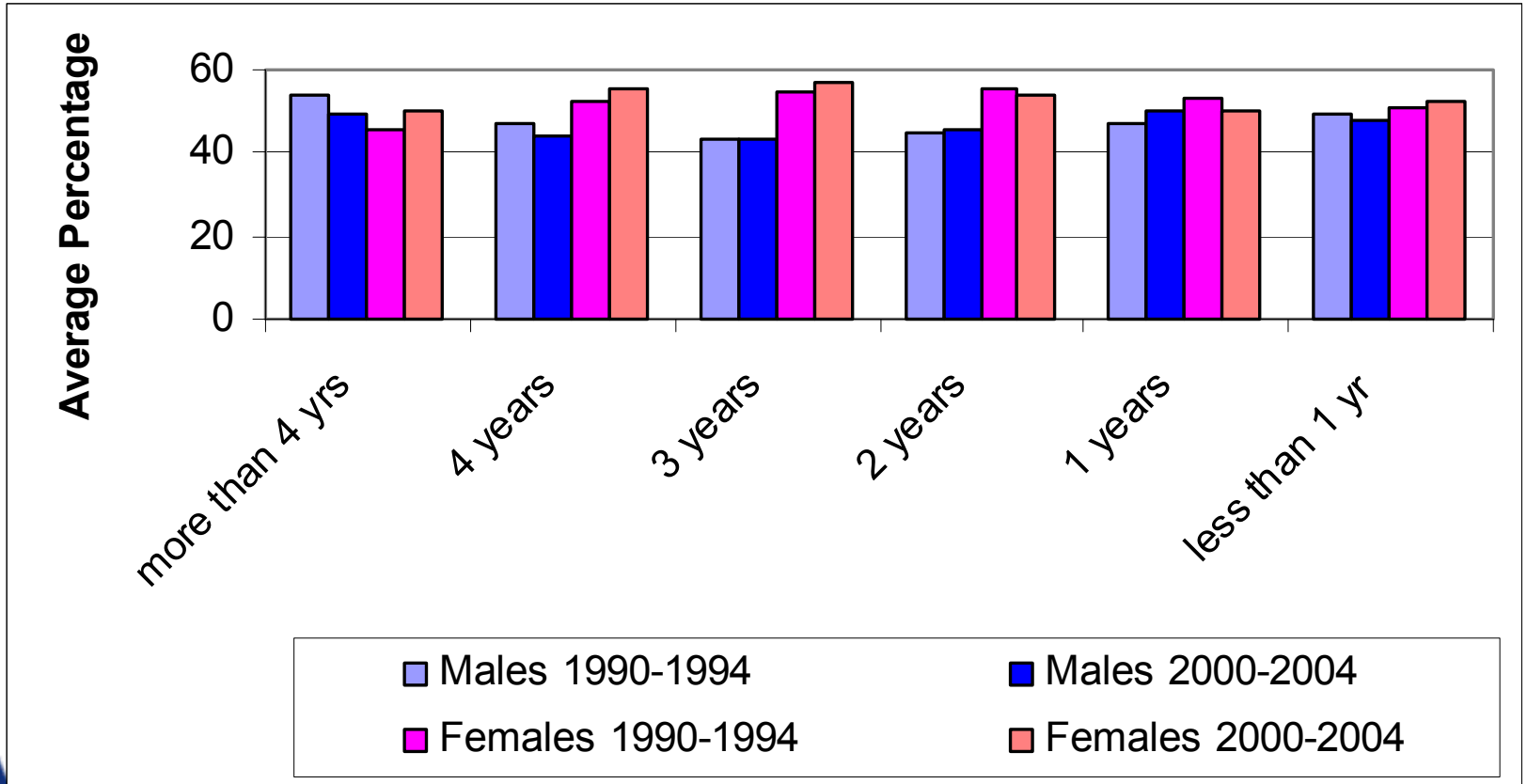


Math Course Taking Patterns



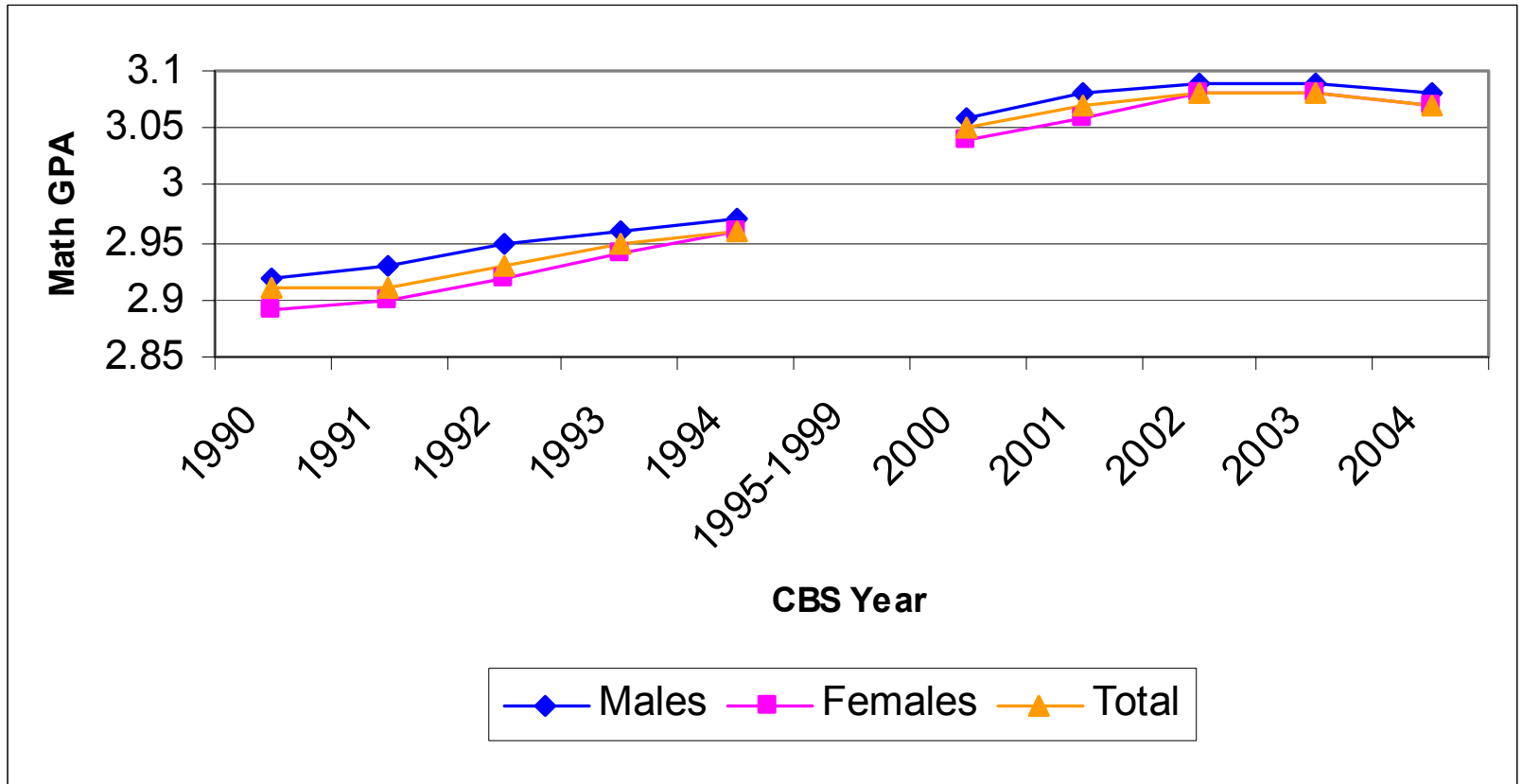


Math Years of Study



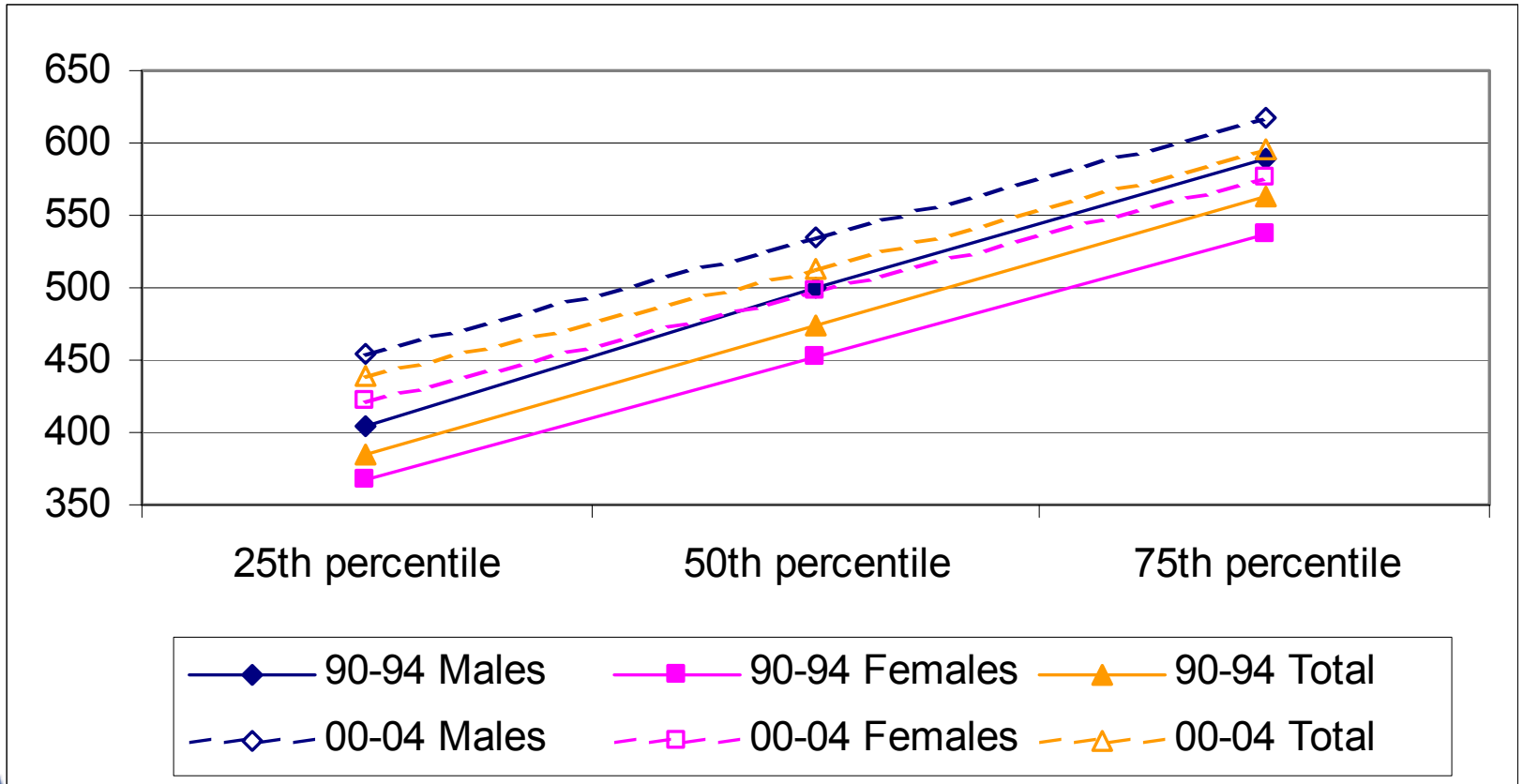


Math GPA



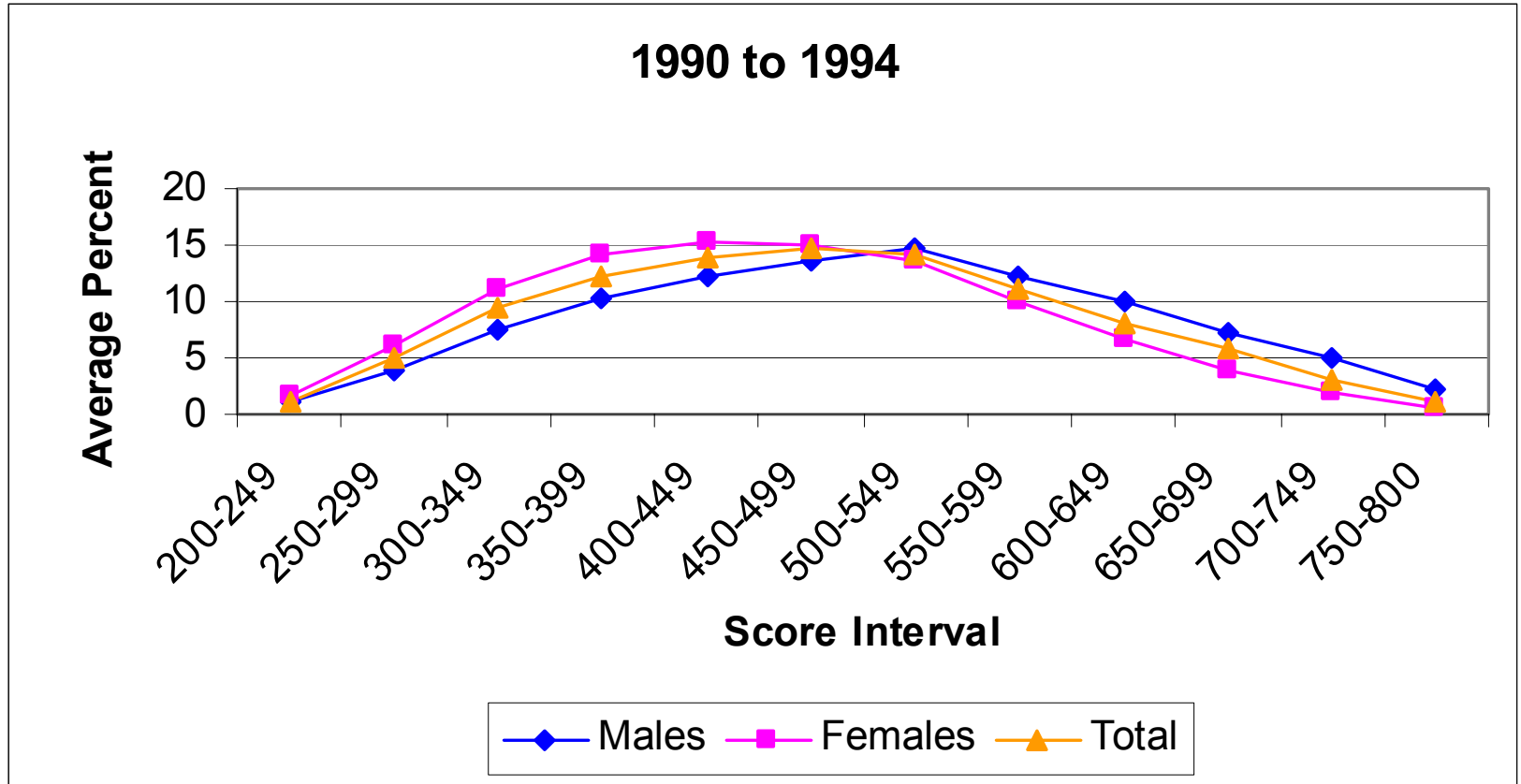


Math Percentiles



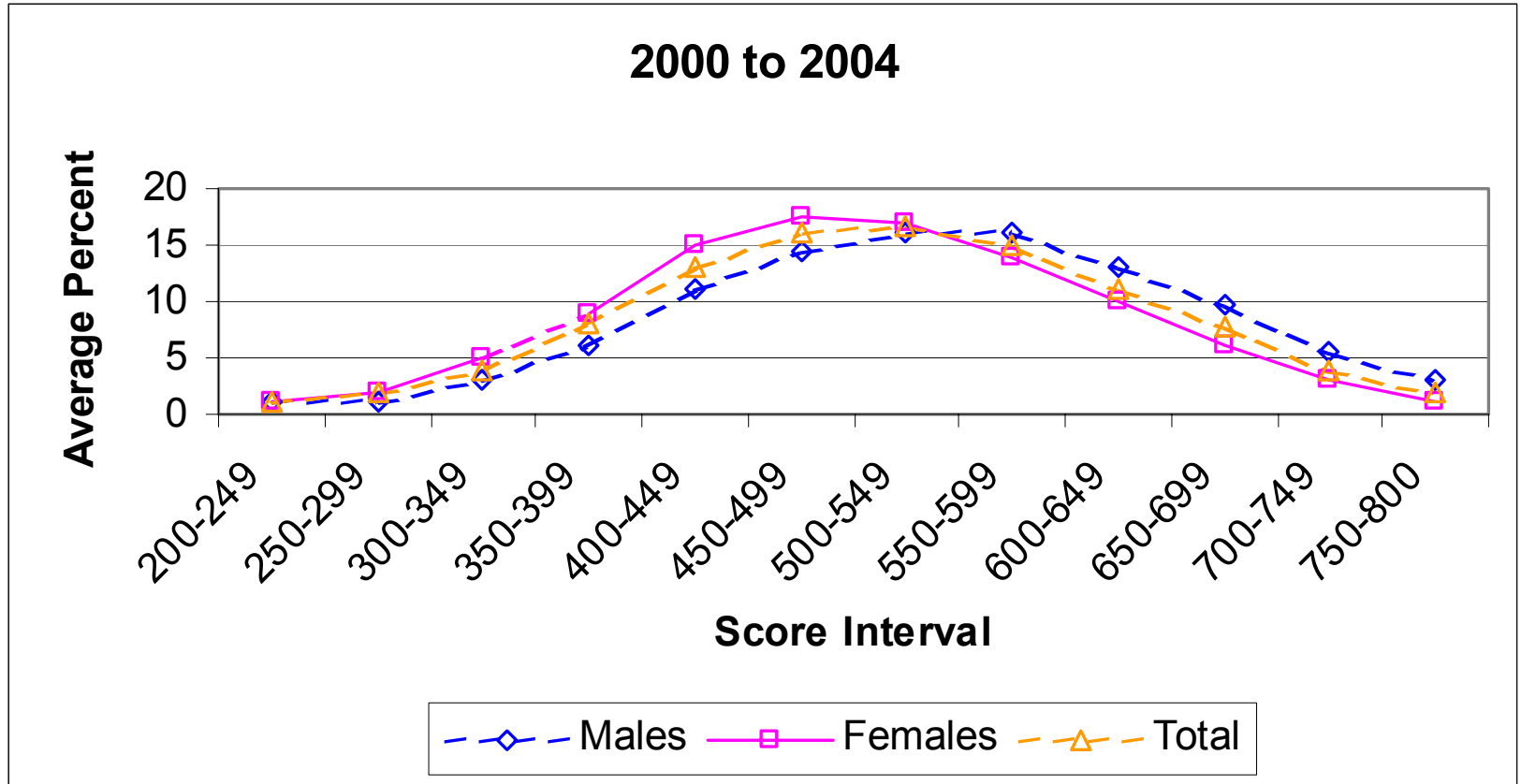


Math Score Intervals 1990-1994



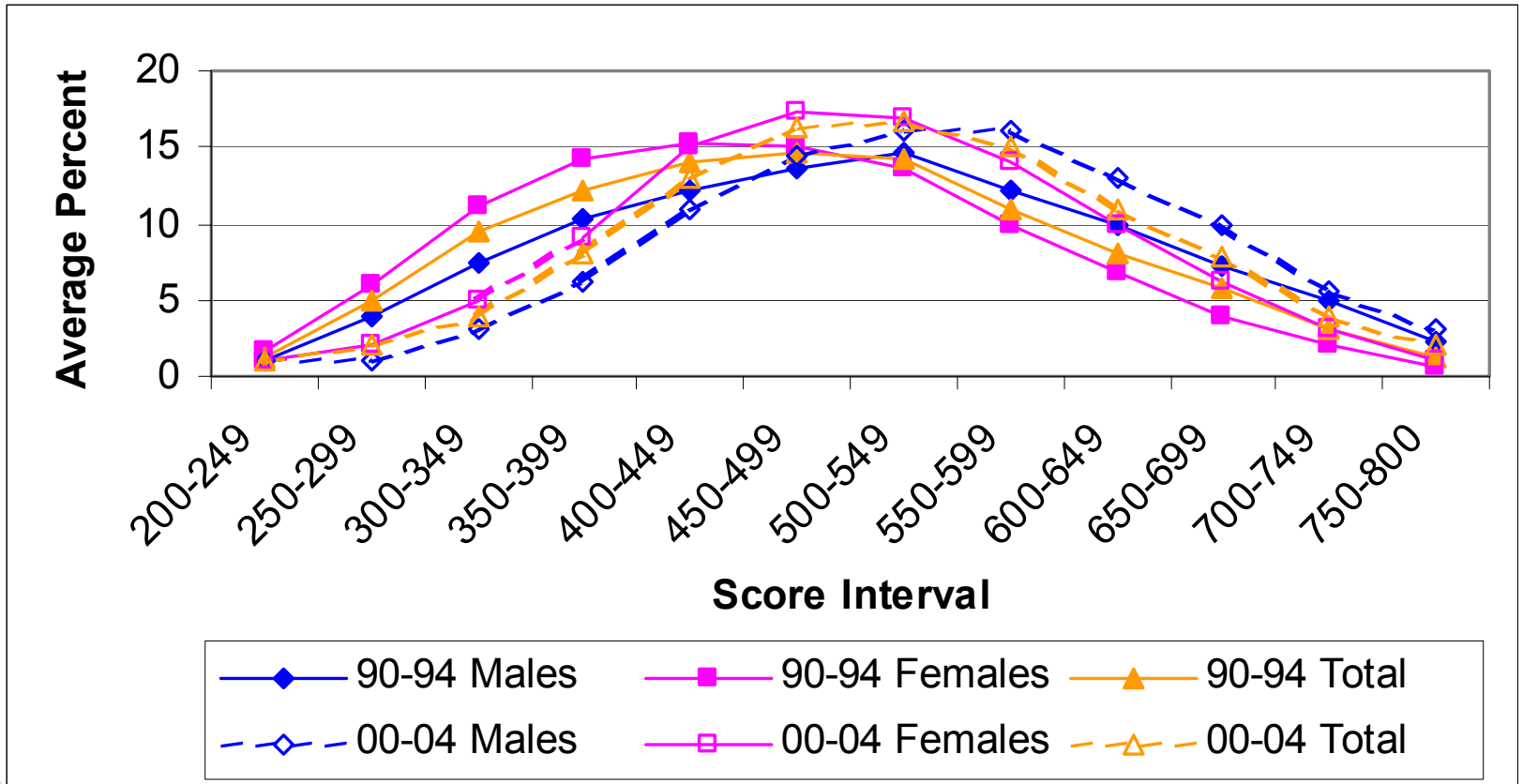


Math Score Intervals 2000-2004





Math Score Intervals





Conclusion

- Increases in the number/percentage of women taking the SAT over time
- Differences in means for Verbal and Math sections are slowly being eroded
- Percent of women taking math courses is increasing over time, and the average number of years of study is also increasing