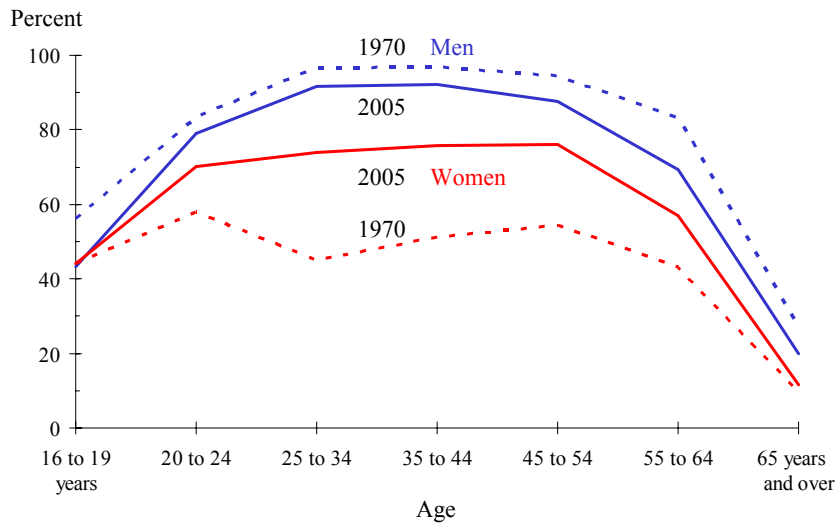


Chart 5-2. Women's labor force participation patterns are now more like those of men



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 5-2. Women's labor force participation patterns are now more like those of men

- In 1970, the impact of marriage and motherhood on women's labor force participation rates was strikingly evident. At that time, their participation reached its initial peak at ages 20-24, dropped at ages 25-34, and then gradually rose to a second peak at ages 45-54 before tapering off.
- In 2005, this pattern of peaks and valleys was no longer evident, as women had increasingly added the role of worker to their lives. Indeed, women's labor force participation pattern by age now resembles that of men, although at a lower overall participation rate.