



Investing in the future: Addressing challenges faced by Africa's young population.

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Outline of Presentation

- **Why invest in Africa's young people?**
- **Health -
RH,
HIV and AIDS**
- **Education**
- **Education – population - health**

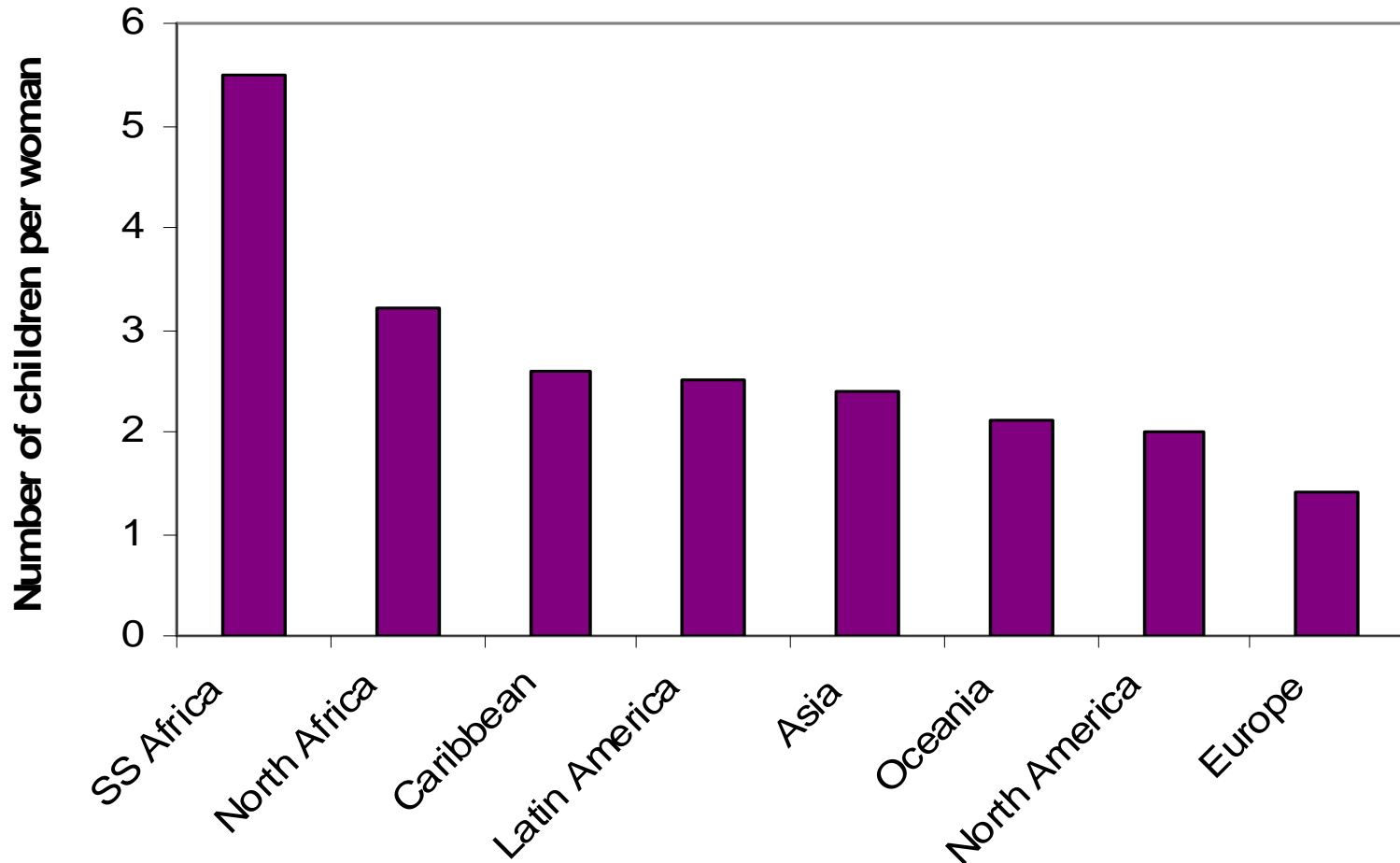




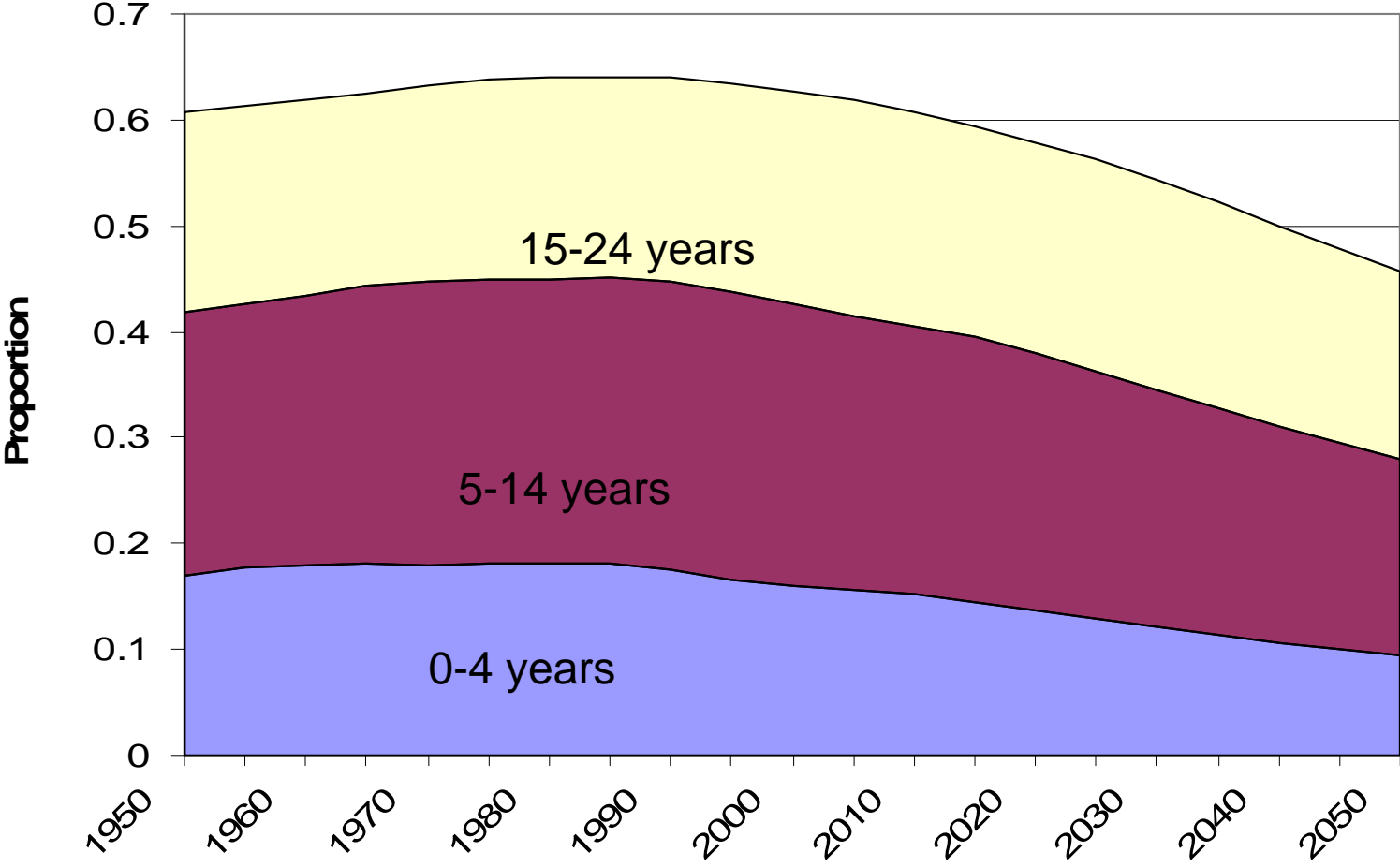
Why Invest in Young People?

- Human Capital=
Population x Health X Education
- **Young people** have the greatest potential for change.
- Large proportion of population

Africa's Youthful Population fuelled by High Fertility



Africa's growing young population



Source: Compiled from UN World Population Prospects, 2006 Revision.



The Health of Young People Matters

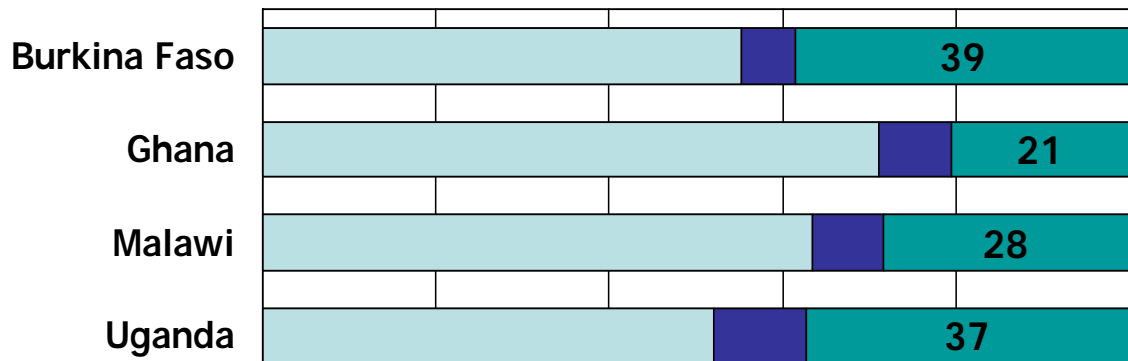


Young People's Health

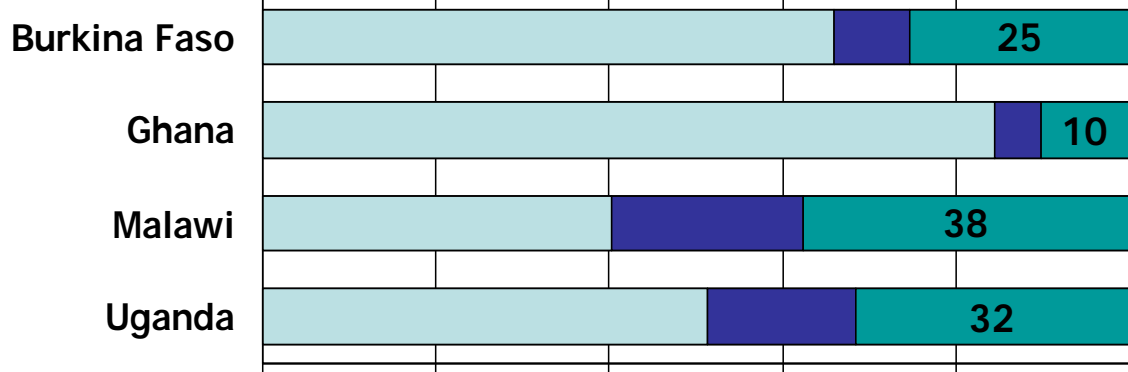
- Historically African infants and babies have high disease and mortality burden
- **Youth** have low disease burden BUT increasing due to
 - Reproductive ill-health
 - Teen pregnancies
 - STI infections
 - HIV and AIDS

Sexual behaviour among 15-19 yr-olds

Females



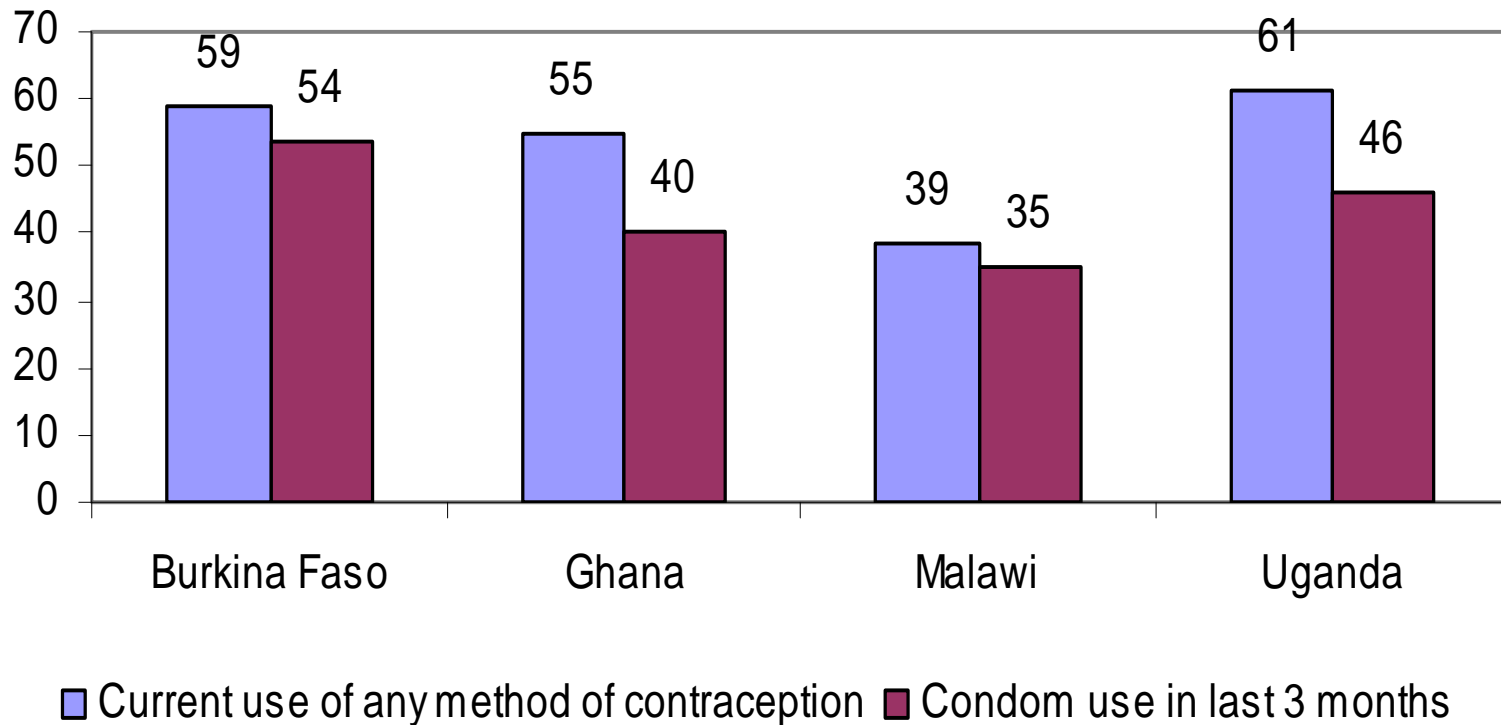
Males



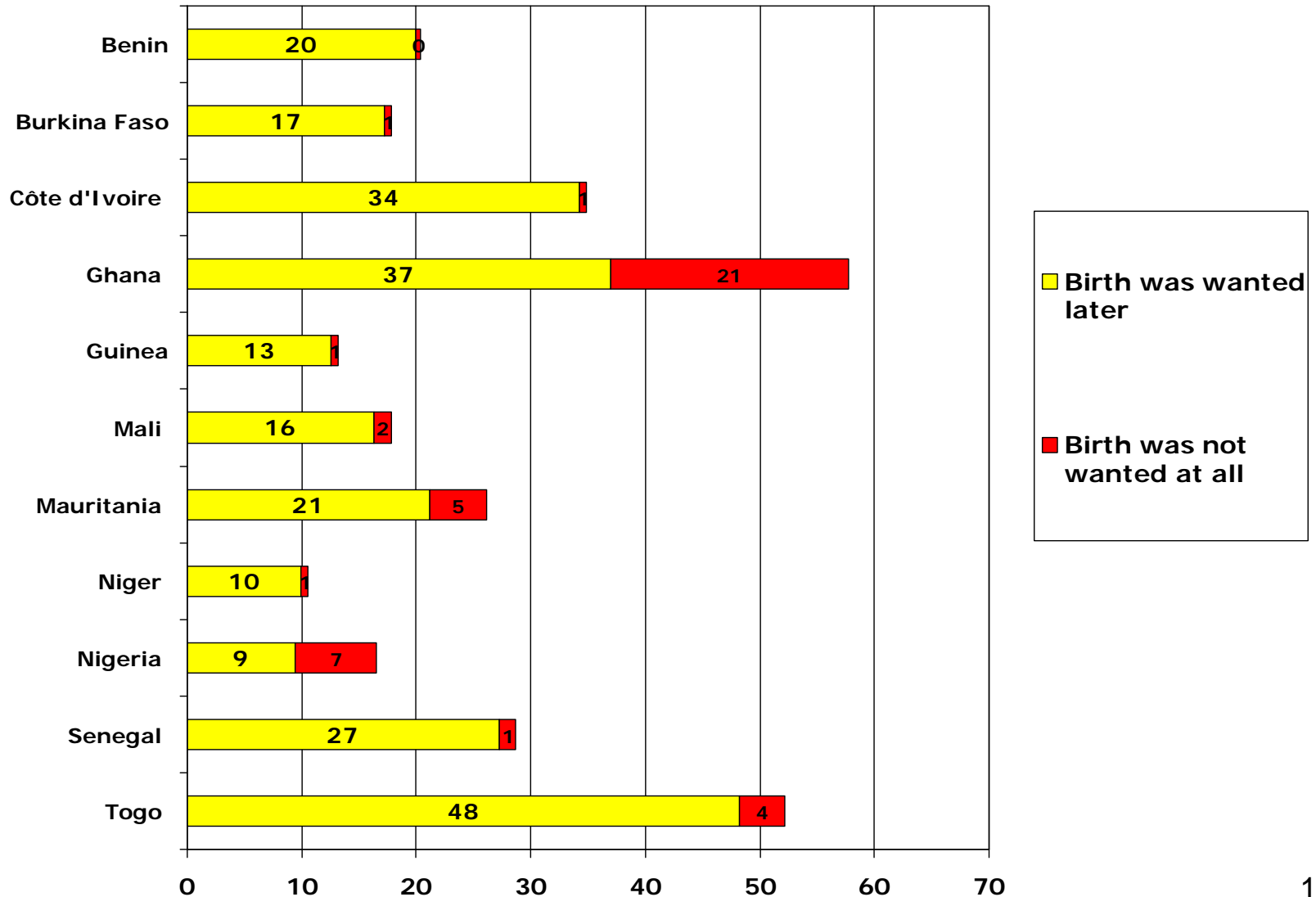
Legend: ■ Never had sex ■ Had sex but not in last 12 months ■ Had sex in last 12 months

But they are ill-protected against consequences

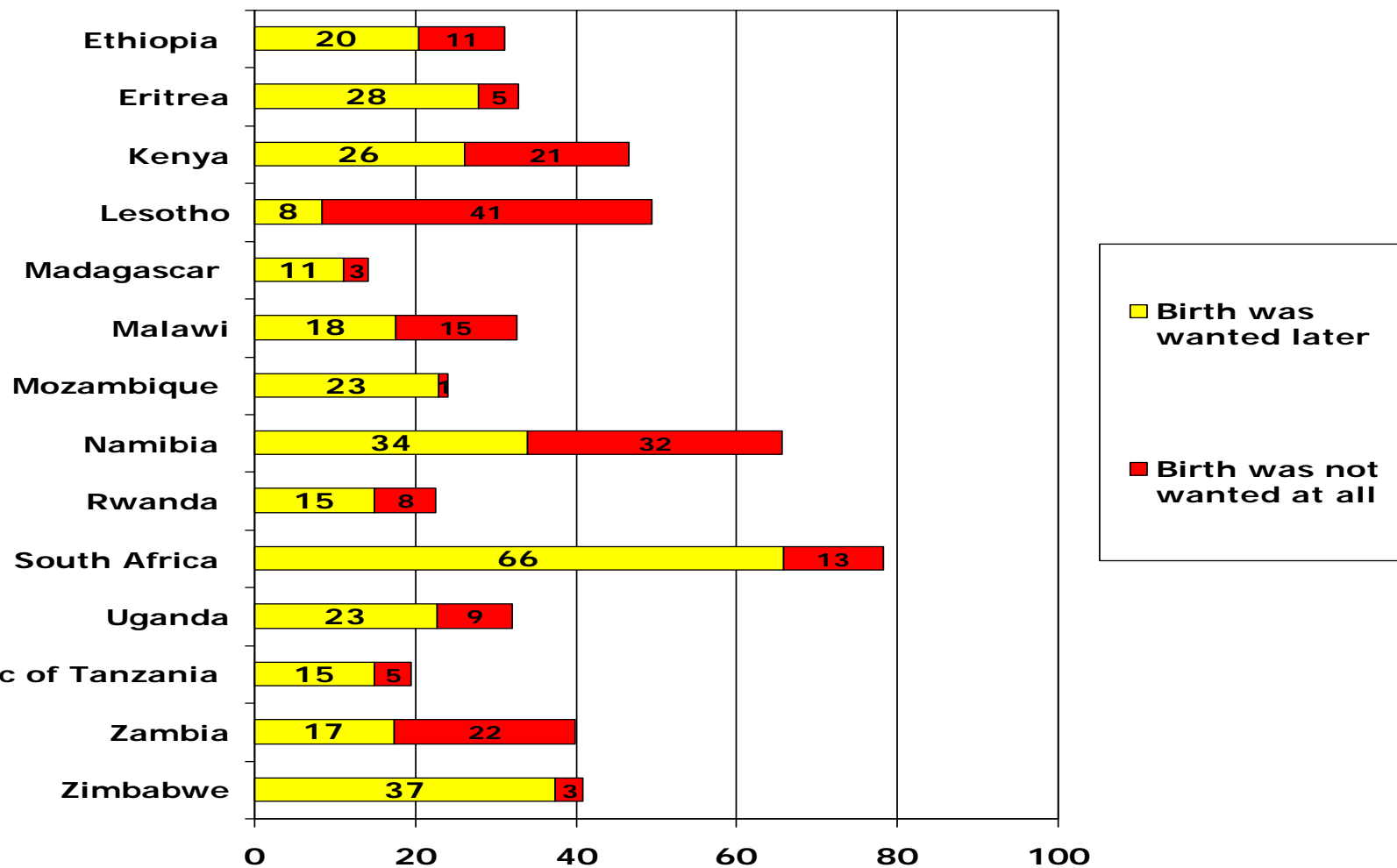
Unmarried females aged 15-19 years



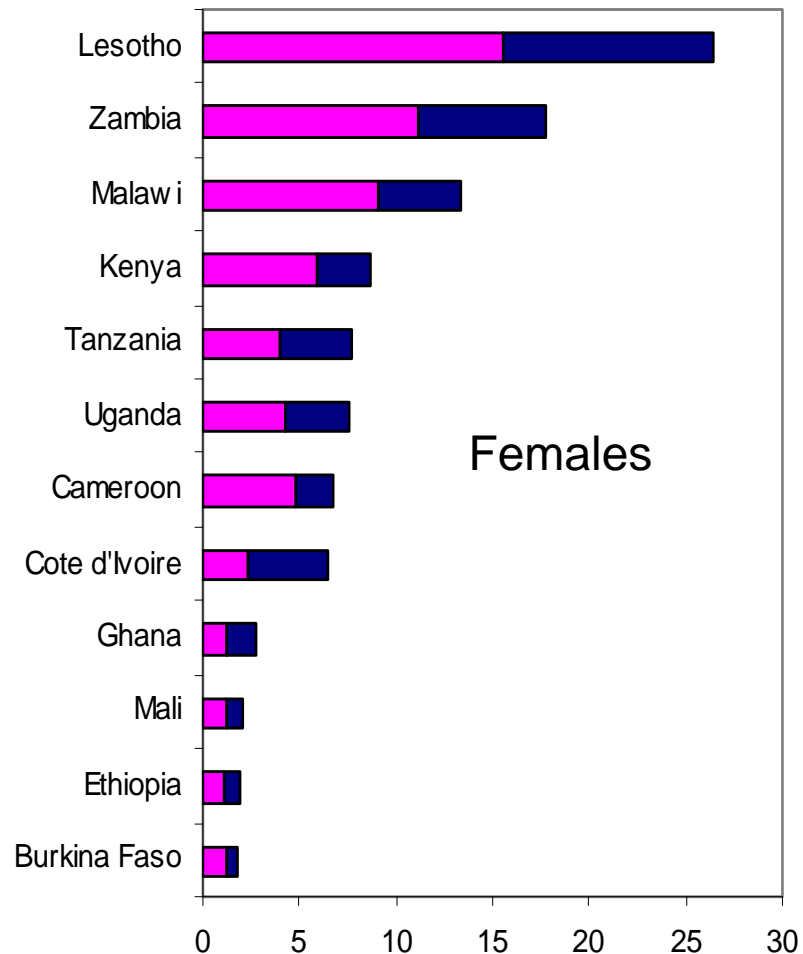
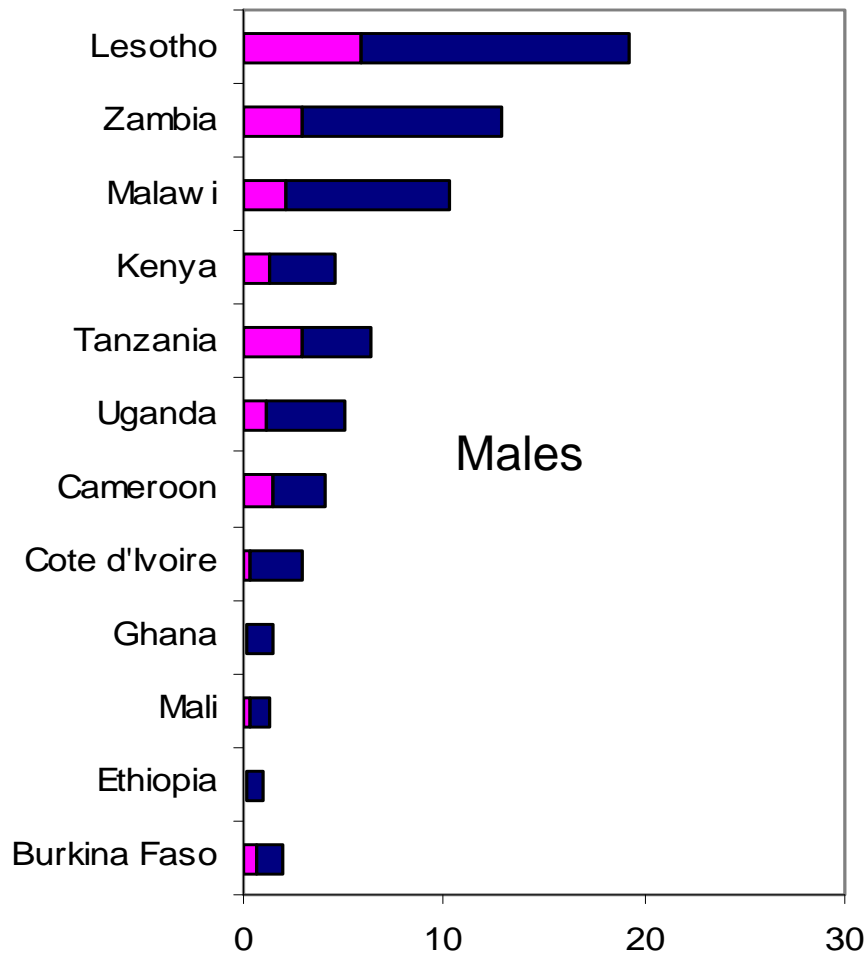
Many births to mothers under age 20 were wanted later or not at all: West Africa (DHS data)



(cont'd) East and Southern Africa (DHS data)



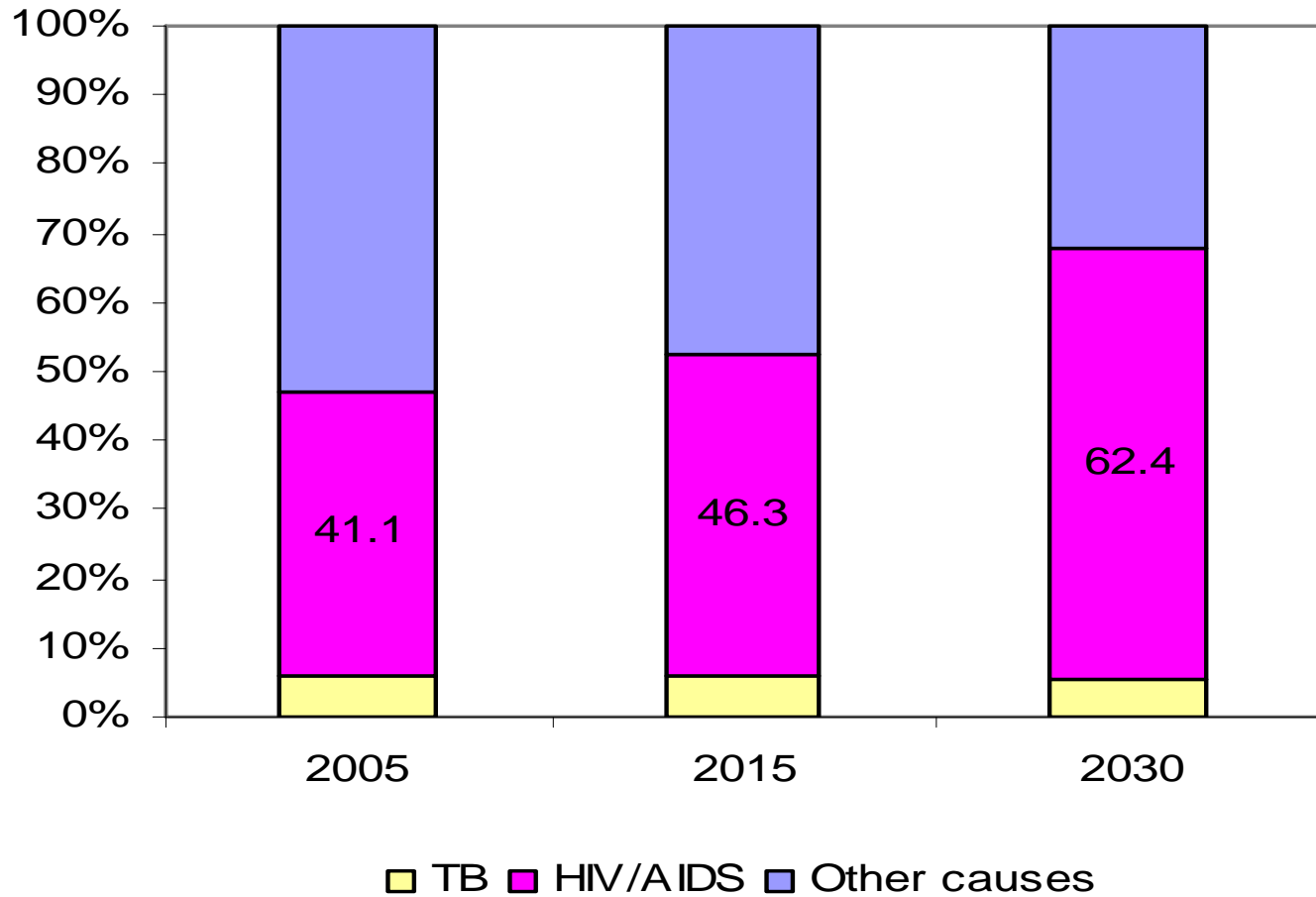
High HIV prevalence among young Africans



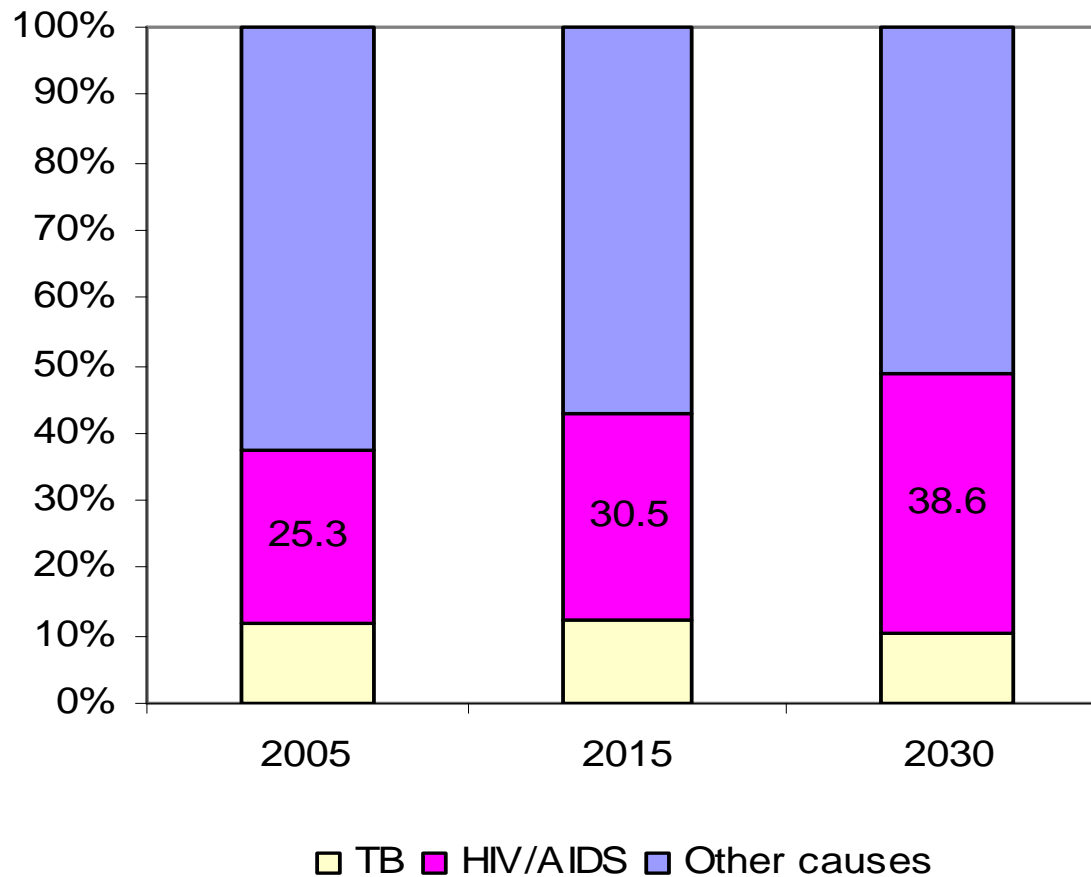
■ 15-24 Males ■ 25-49 Males

■ 15-24 Females ■ 25-49 Females

Proportion of deaths to females aged 15-29 years by cause



Proportion of deaths to males aged 15-29 years by cause



A Synergistic Response for Family Planning and HIV services

- Higher HIV infection rates among young people especially females (3:1 ratio)
- More than 25% of girls have started childbearing by age 19 in many African countries)





Education Matters



Investing in young people: education

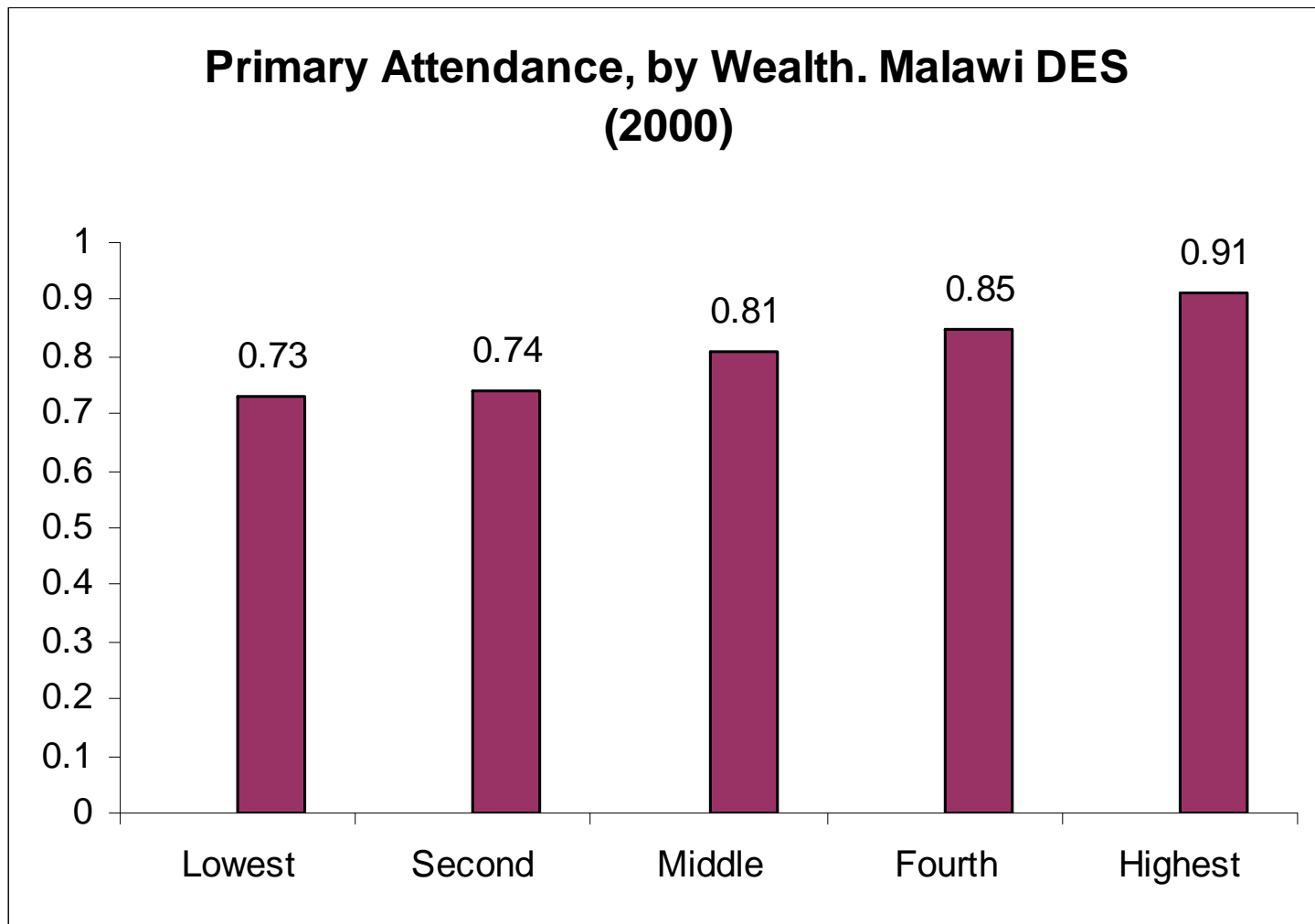
Education: has intrinsic value in itself but also key determinant of

- Health,
- Population change - *fertility, mortality, migration*
- Economic development

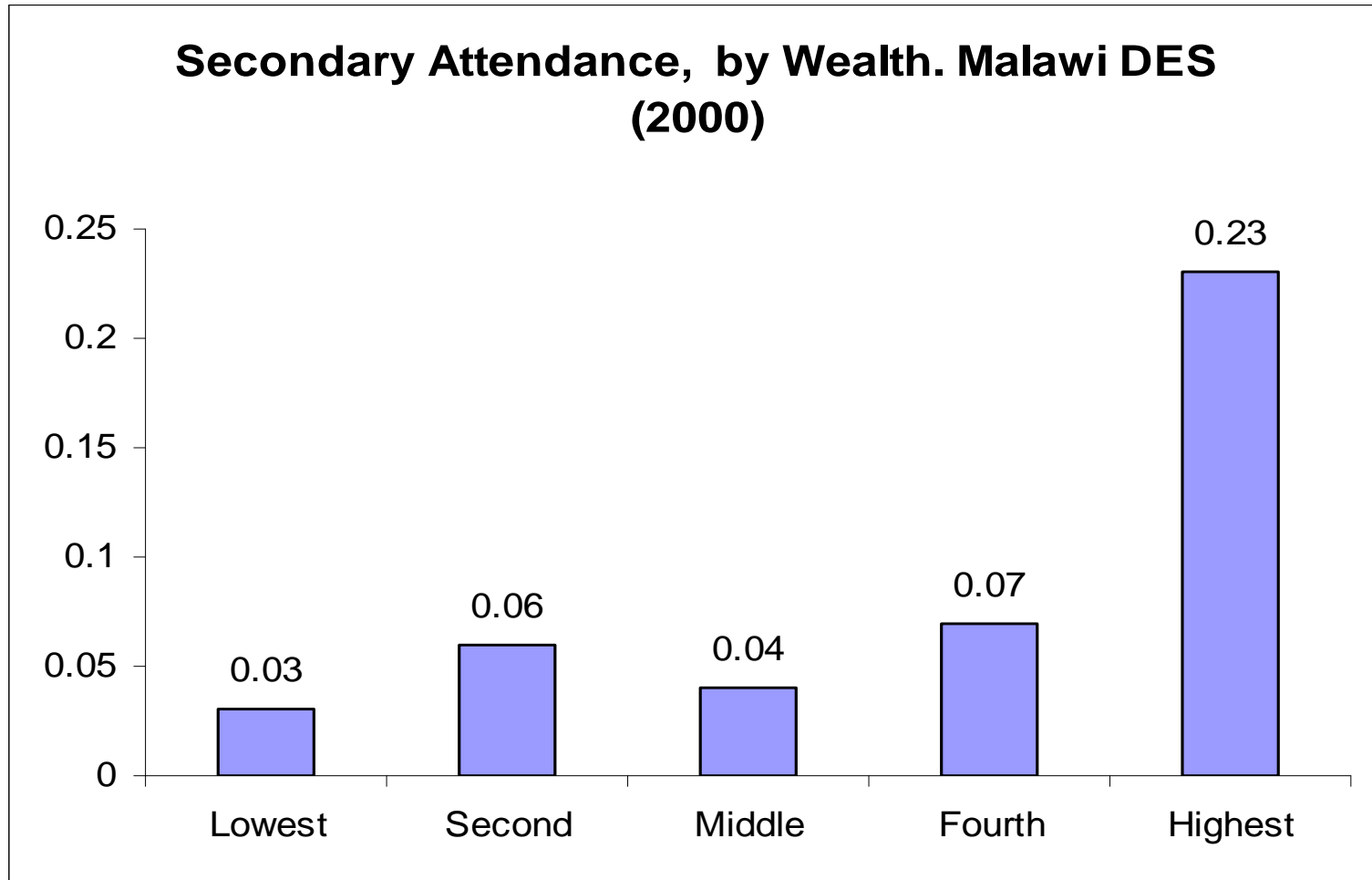
Young people need opportunities for schooling

- DHS data (2000-2005) on young people aged 6-10 years attending school:
 - 59% where there is no free primary education
 - 74% where there is free primary education

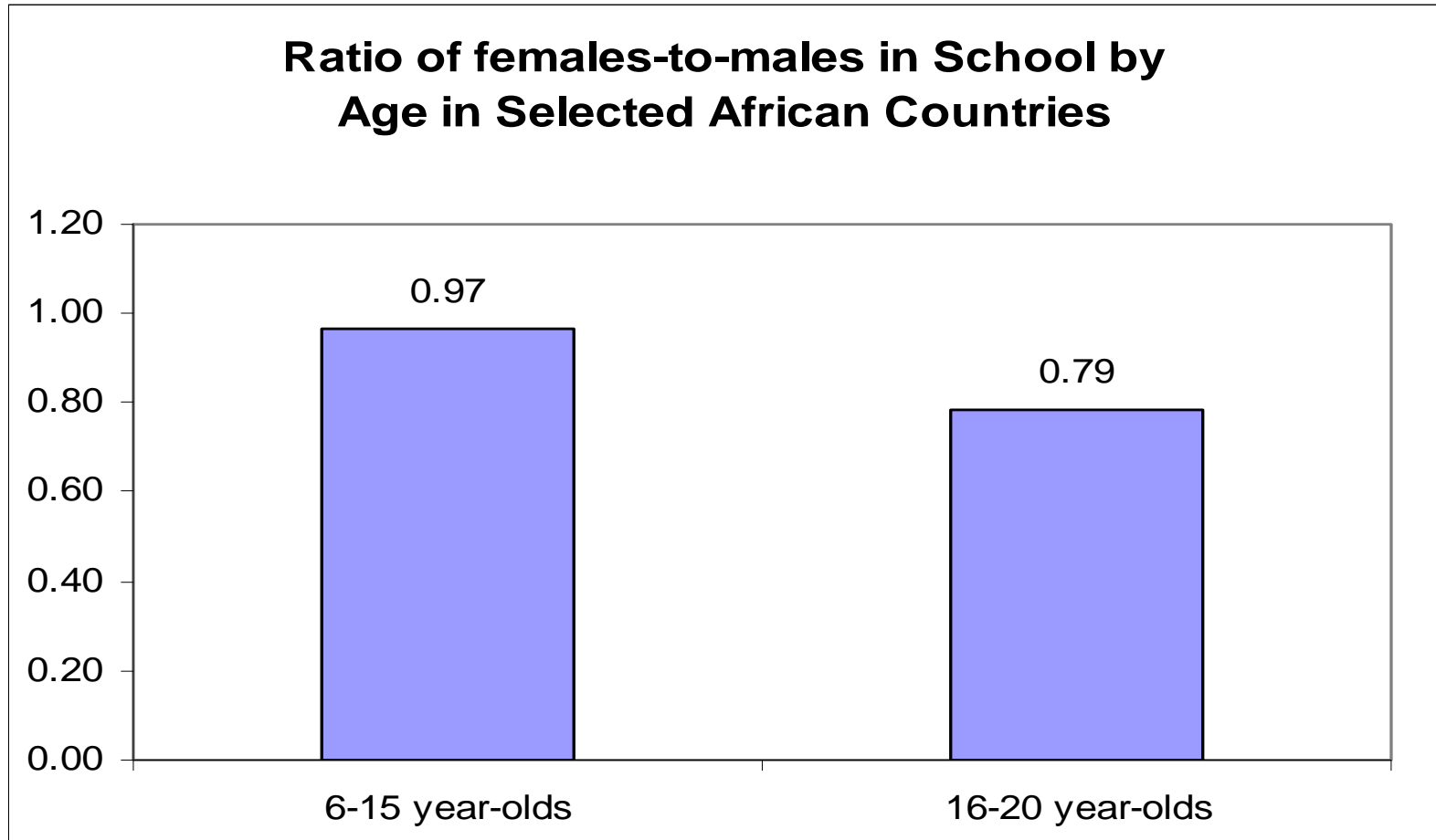
Making education affordable



Differential in secondary education by wealth status



Gender differences persist especially for secondary education





Education matters

- Make education affordable
- Reduce the difference in school attendance between females and males
- Other forms of education
 - Skills development
 - Sex education
- Information for behavioural change

Education-Population

- Lower fertility

E,g, Average fertility of African woman

Without education = XXX

Primary =XXX

Secondary =XXX

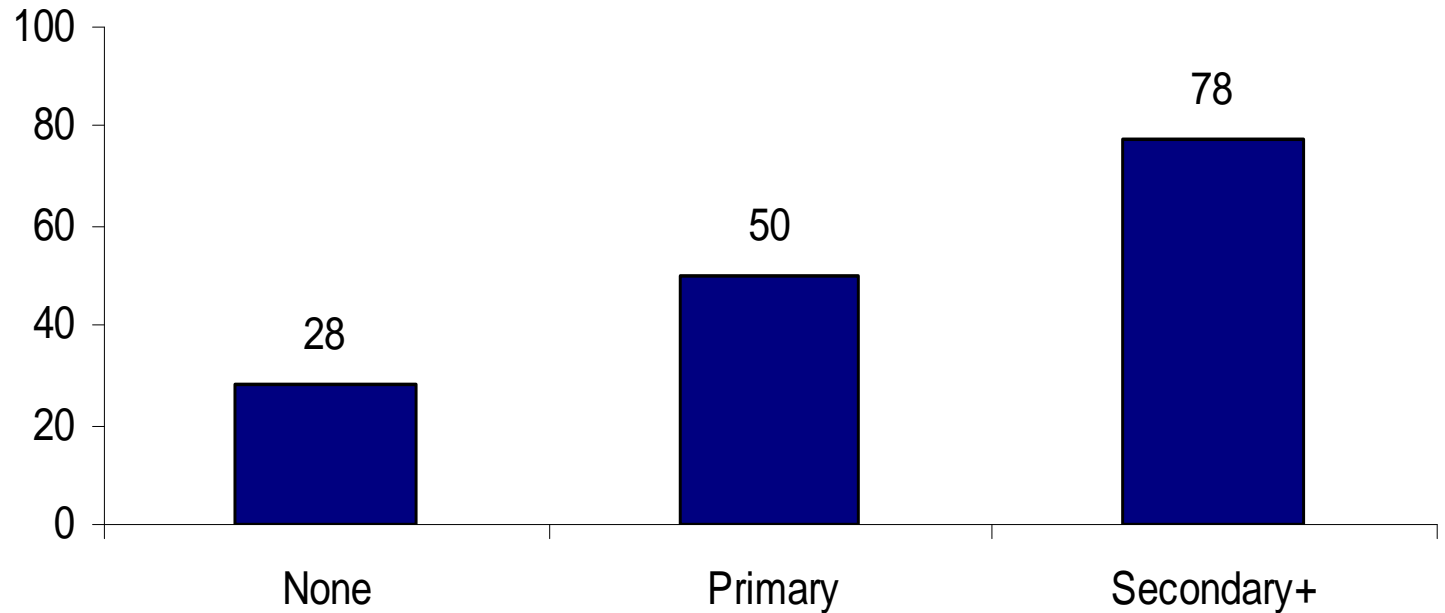
- Longer birth spacing (34 months for secondary educated women compared with 28 for those without education).

Education-Health

- Lower child mortality
 - 7% reduction for infants of primary educated women
 - 30% for secondary educated
- Better nutritional status
- Lower prevalence of infectious childhood illnesses
- Higher use of health facilities (delivery, immunization, curative services)

The Education-Health Link

Use of health facility for delivery, by woman's education level



Summary



Africa's young people

+ Investments in health +

+ Education

= Human Development

Thank you for your attention

