

New global evidence on SRHR: Abortion incidence and adolescent contraceptive needs

Presentation to Share-Net | The Hague, Netherlands

Ann Starrs, Cynthia Summers,

Susheela Singh

May 24, 2016



New Guttmacher and WHO abortion incidence estimates

THE LANCET

Articles

Abortion incidence between 1990 and 2014: global, regional, and subregional levels and trends

Dr Gilda Sedgh, ScD  , Jonathan Bearak, PhD, Susheela Singh, PhD, Akinrinola Bankole, PhD, Anna Popinchalk, MPH, Bela Ganatra, MD, Clémentine Rossier, PhD, Caitlin Gerdts, PhD, Özge Tunçalp, MD, Brooke Ronald Johnson Jr, PhD, Heidi Bart Johnston, PhD, Leontine Alkema, PhD

Published Online: 11 May 2016

GUTTMACHER
INSTITUTE

Objectives

PRIMARY:

- To calculate subregional, regional and global levels and trends in abortion incidence in 1990 to 2014

SECONDARY:

- To calculate the proportion of pregnancies that end in abortion
- To examine whether abortion rates vary with the legal status of abortion

Abortion estimation: past and present

BASIS OF PRIOR ABORTION ESTIMATES:

- **Available abortion data**
- **Informal inference to countries without data**

BASIS OF NEW ESTIMATES:

- **Available abortion data**
- **Data on factors associated with abortion incidence**
- **Hierarchical time series model**

Key findings

ABORTION INCIDENCE IN 2010-2014:

- **56 million induced abortions occurred each year, on average**
- **There were 35 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44**
- **One in four pregnancies ended in abortion**
- **73% of abortions were obtained by married women**
- **The average abortion rate was similar in countries with restrictive and liberal abortion laws**

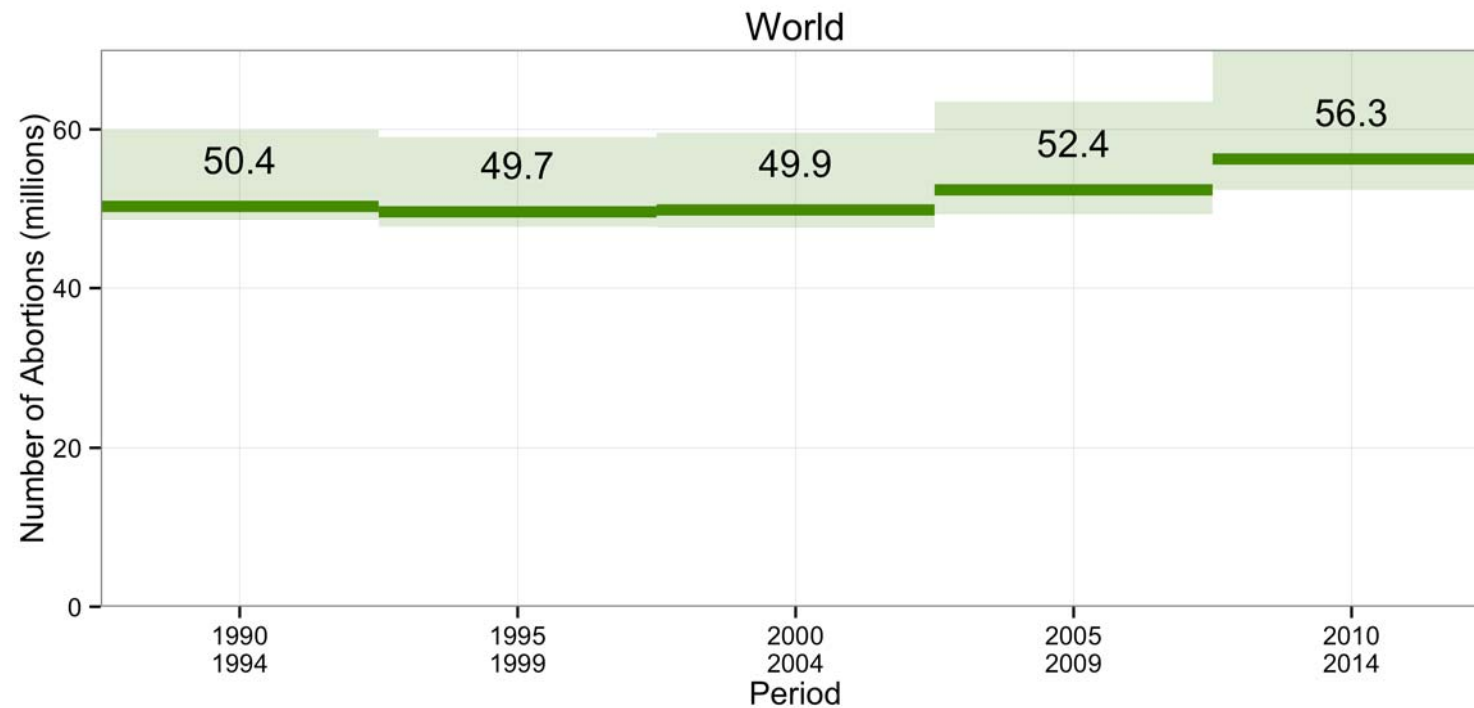
Key findings

ABORTION TRENDS SINCE 1990-1994:

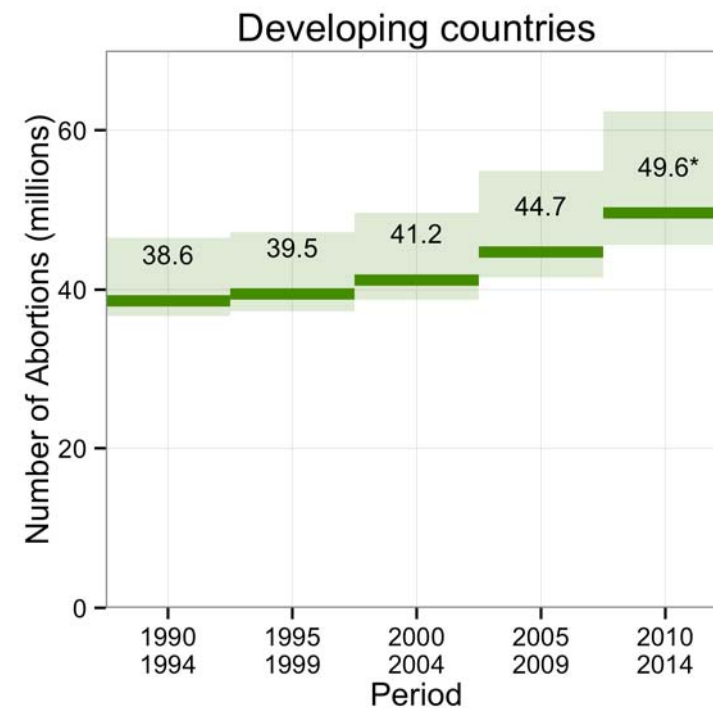
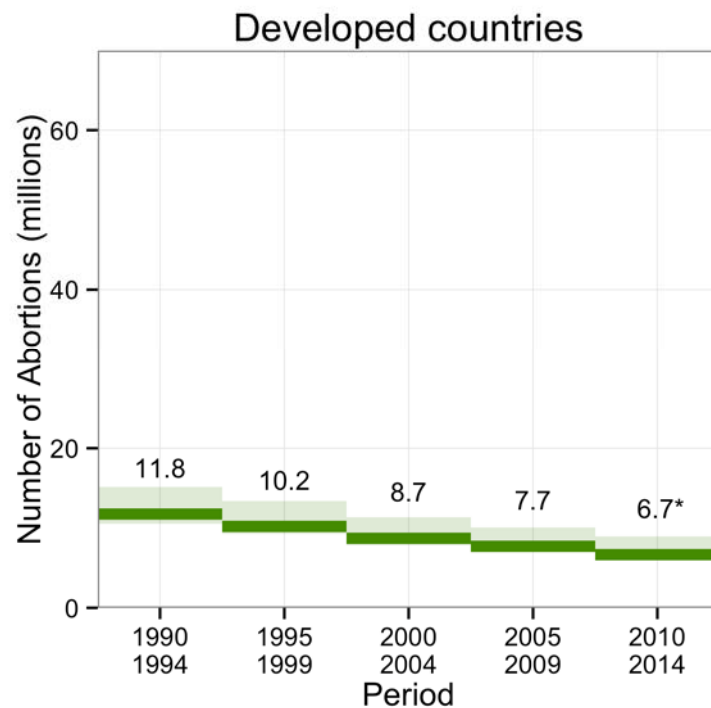
- **The abortion rate**
 - fell in the developed world
 - did not change in the developing world

- **The percent of pregnancies ending in abortion**
 - decreased in the developed world
 - increased in the developing world

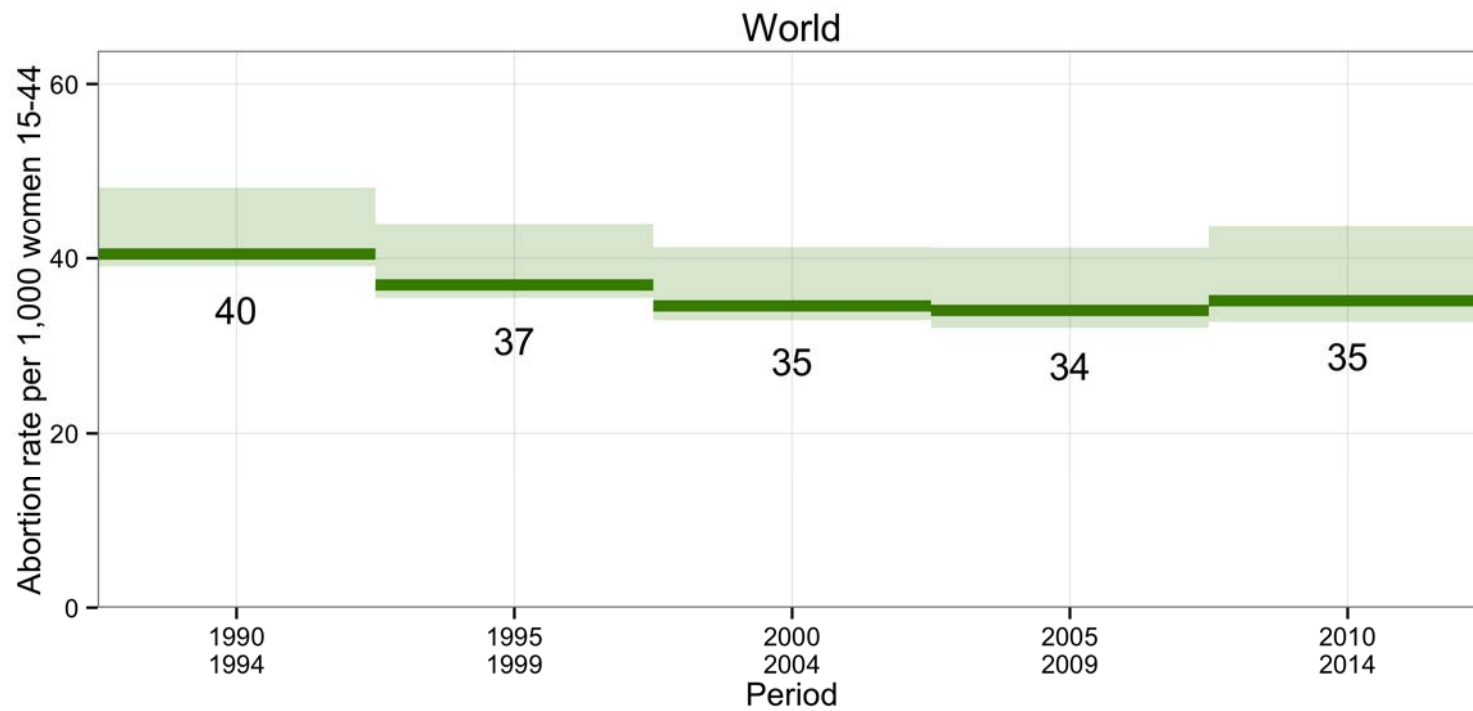
About 56 million abortions took place each year in 2010-2014



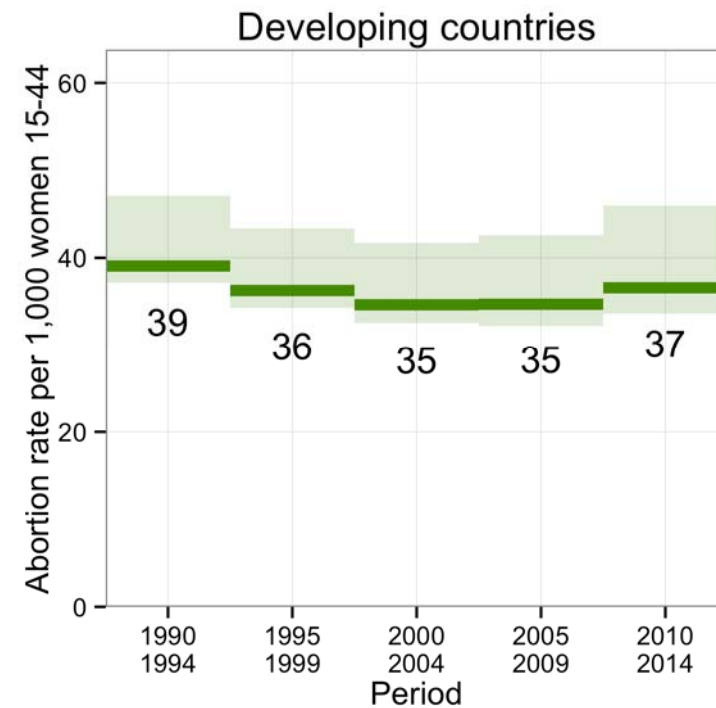
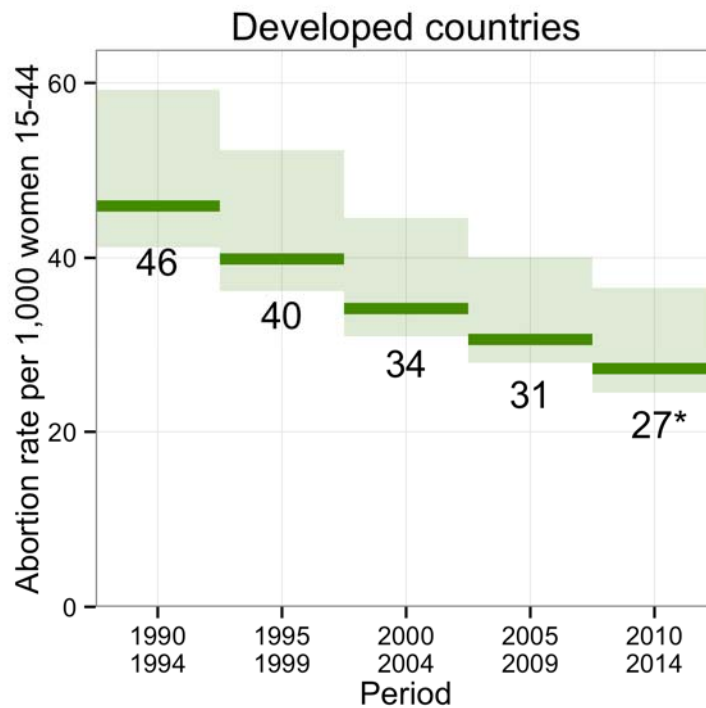
The annual number of abortions increased in developing regions



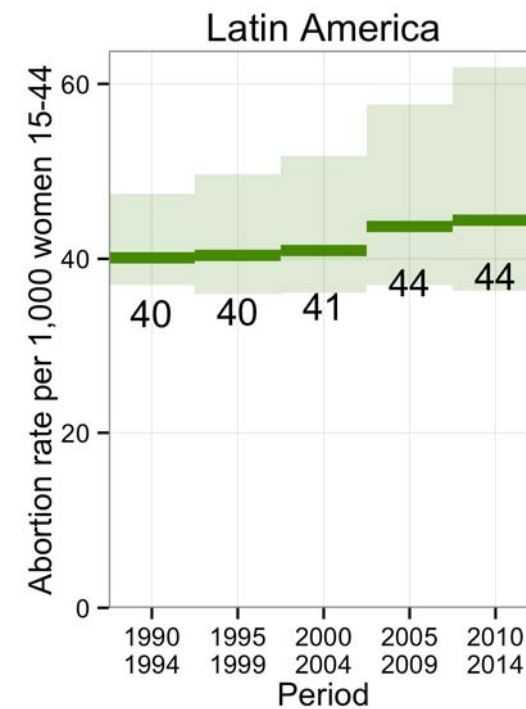
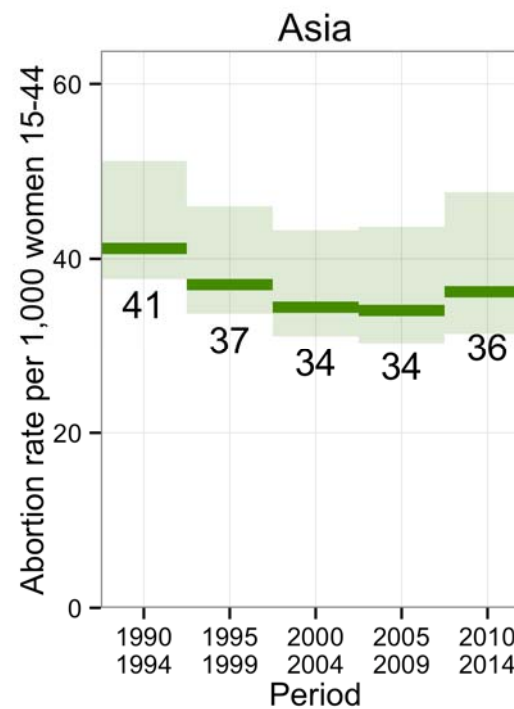
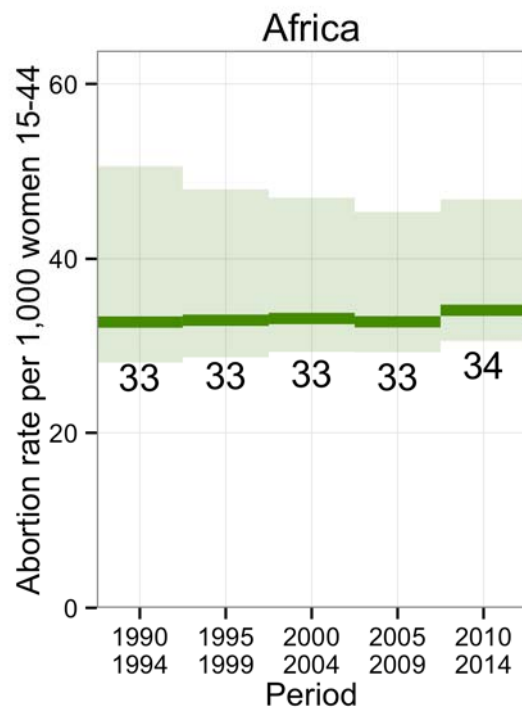
The global abortion rate fell slightly

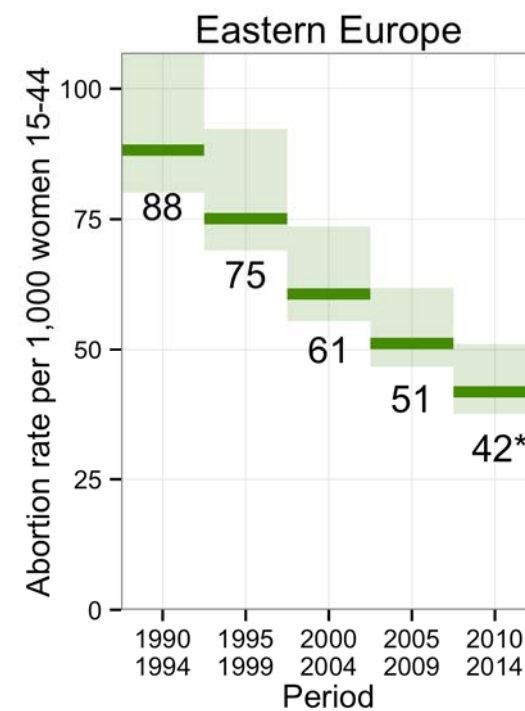
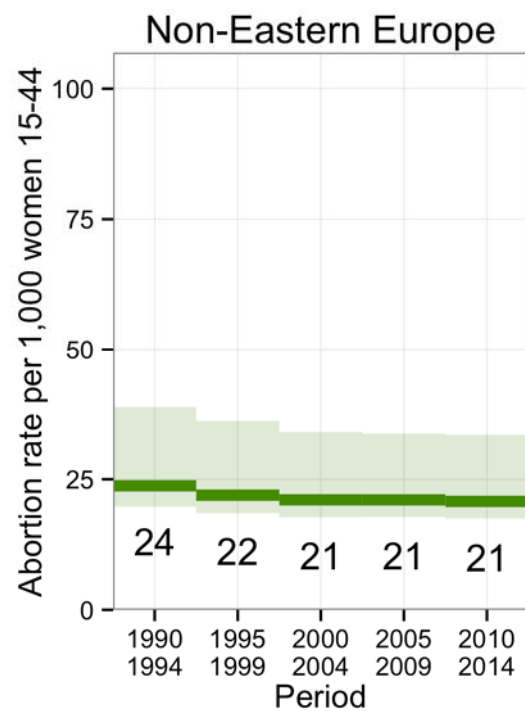
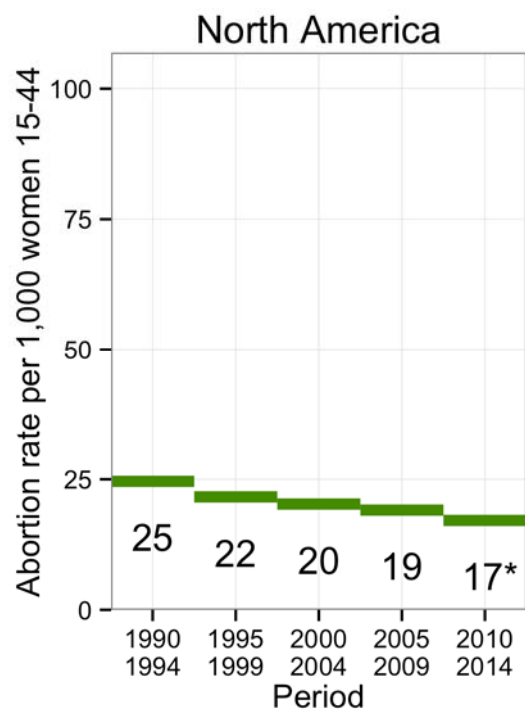


The abortion rate fell significantly in the developed world, but not in the developing world

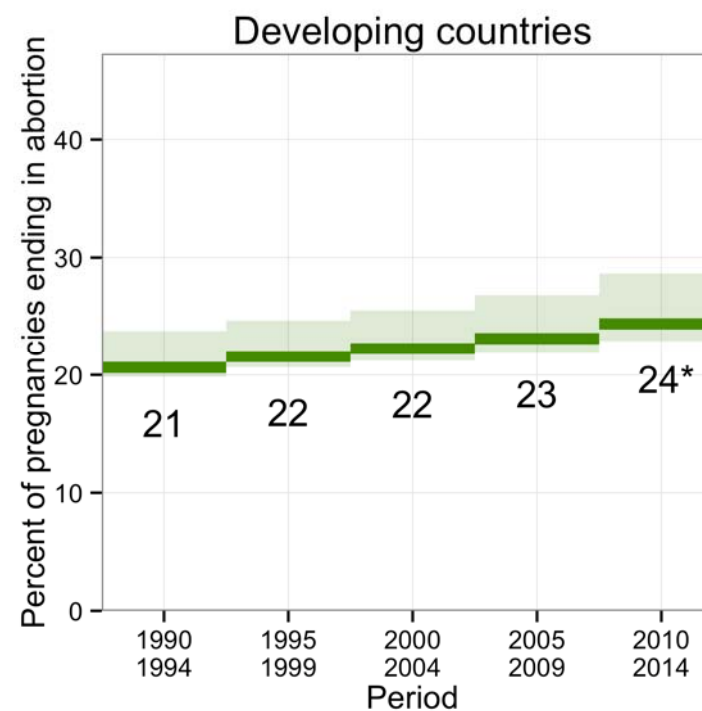
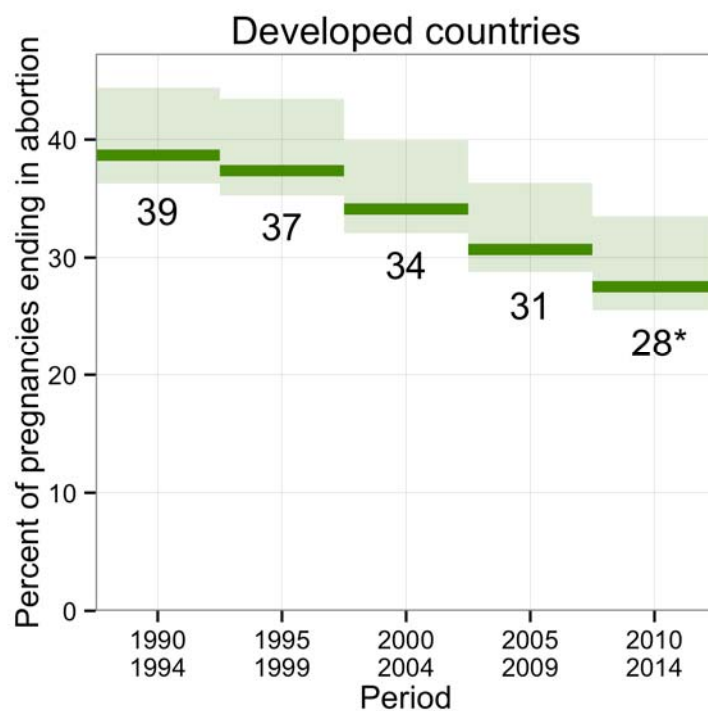


This is reflected in the regional trends

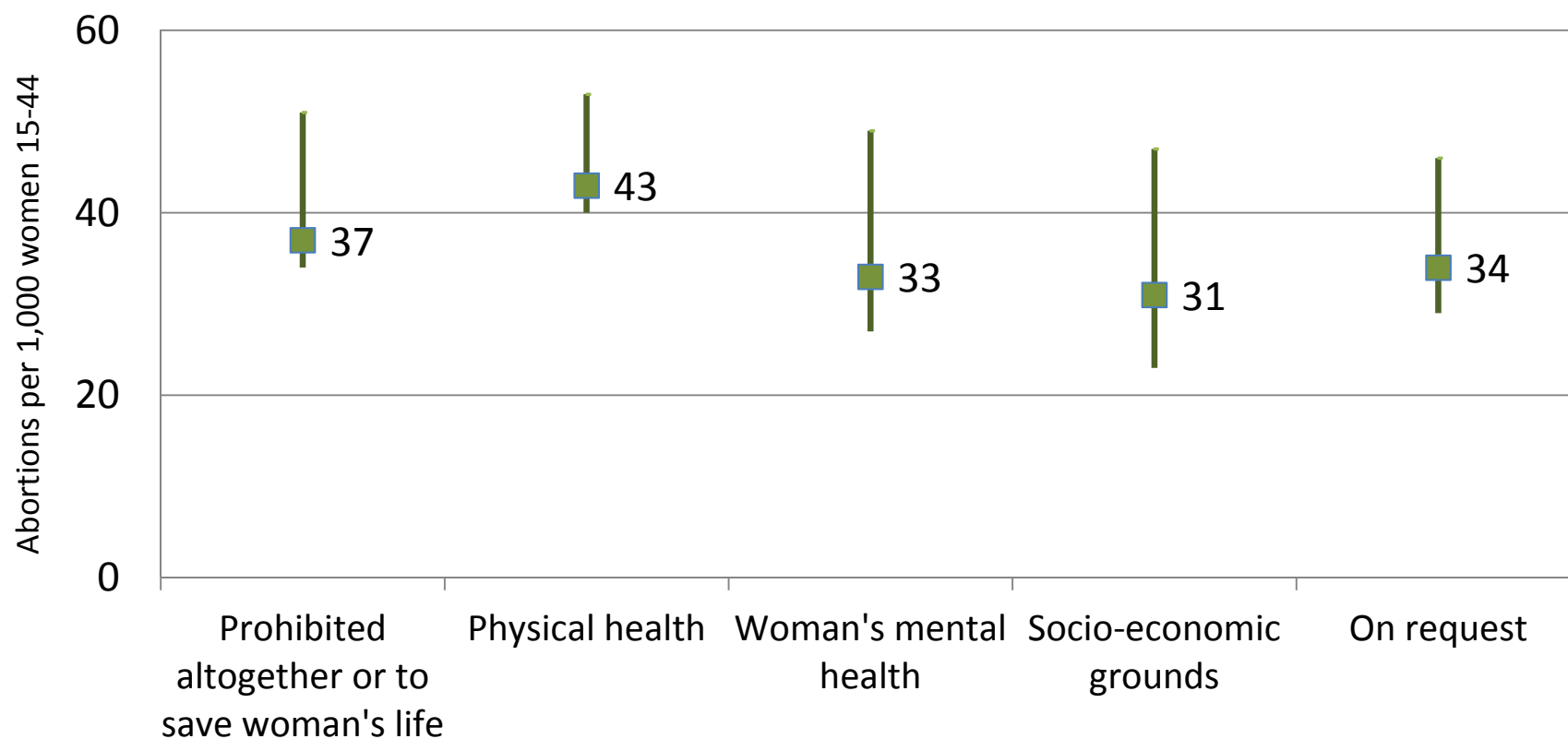




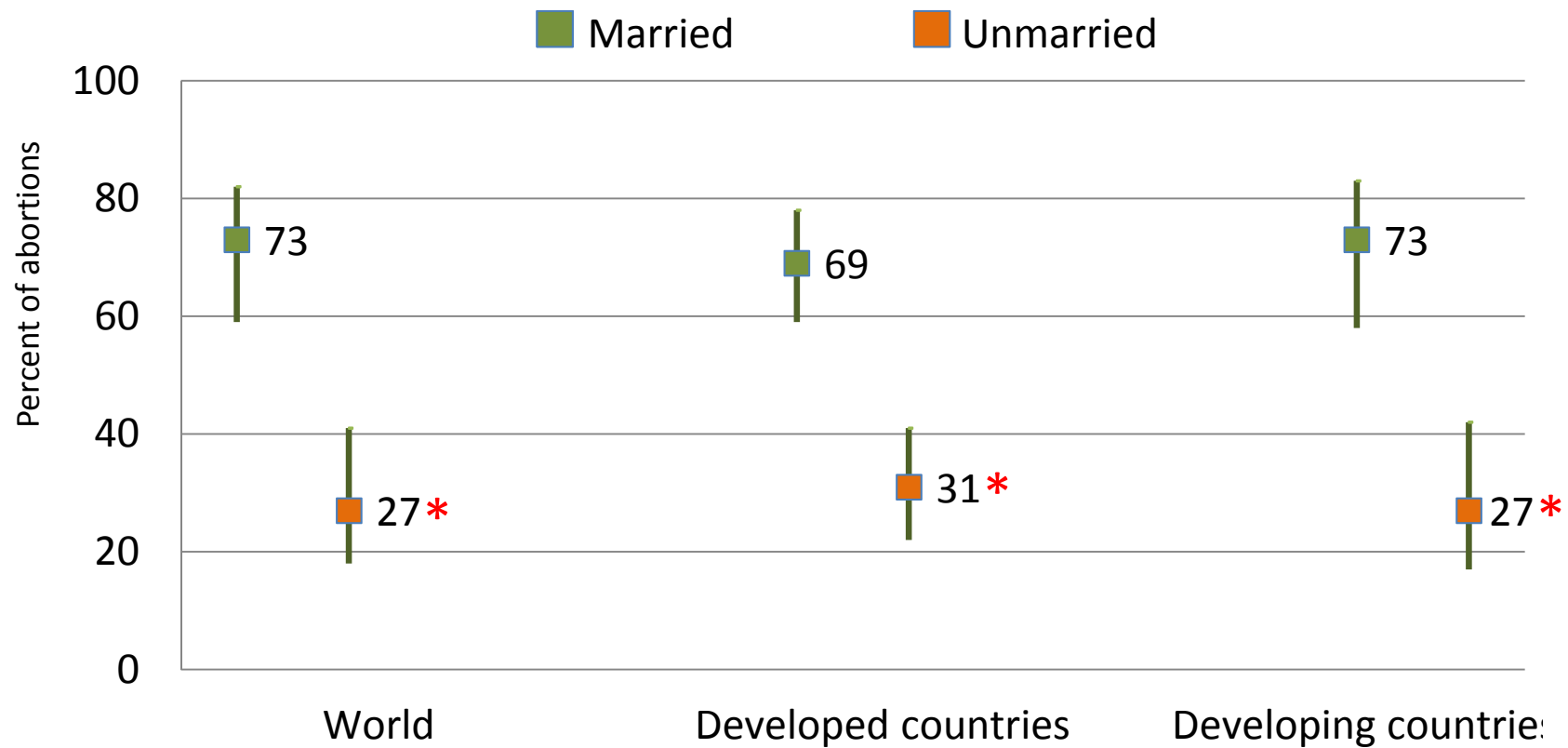
The percent of pregnancies ending in abortion is increasing in the developing world



The abortion rate is similar in countries grouped by legal status



Married women account for the majority of abortions



ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

- **88% of abortions were obtained in the developing world**
- **The decline in abortion in the developed world occurred mostly among married women**
- **The abortion rate has increased in Western Europe**
- **Prior global abortion estimates were conservatively low**

Adding It Up: Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Adolescents



By JE Darroch, V Woog, A Bankole and LS Ashford

May, 2016

Background

- **Adolescents constitute about 1 in 4 (27%) of the world's population aged 10-49 in 2016**
- **This proportion is estimated to remain relatively unchanged (26%) by 2050**
- **Adolescents need supportive policies and programs to help them transition into healthy and productive adult lives.**
- **This study estimates the costs and benefits of helping adolescent women prevent unintended pregnancy.**

Early childbearing among adolescents has far-reaching consequences

- **Can alter women's life prospects and those of their children**
- **Complications of pregnancy and childbirth second leading cause of death among 15-19**
- **Babies born to adolescent mothers face greater health risks than those born to older mothers**
- **Adolescent childbearing associated with lower educational attainment and can perpetuate cycle of poverty**

Data from many sources combined into a coherent and consistent framework

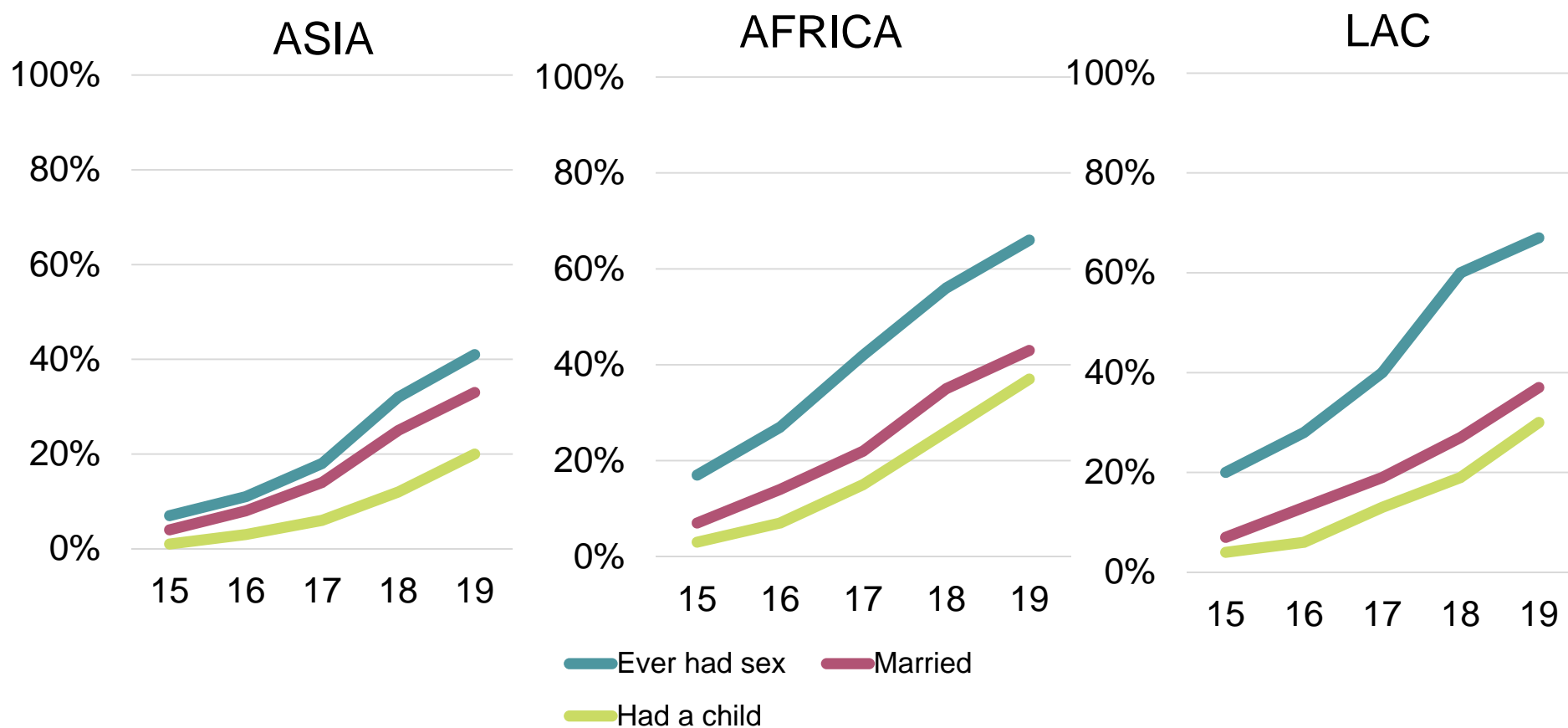
- **Numbers and characteristics of adolescents: UN, Guttmacher tabulations of >130 national surveys (DHS, MICS, CDC) and published studies**
- **Impacts of contraceptive use and unmet need: Guttmacher failure-rate analyses, pregnancy intention and abortion estimates; WHO maternal mortality**
- **Service costs: UN database of contraceptive donor costs; WHO salary estimates and UNFPA indirect program and systems cost estimates**

Adolescent Adding It Up

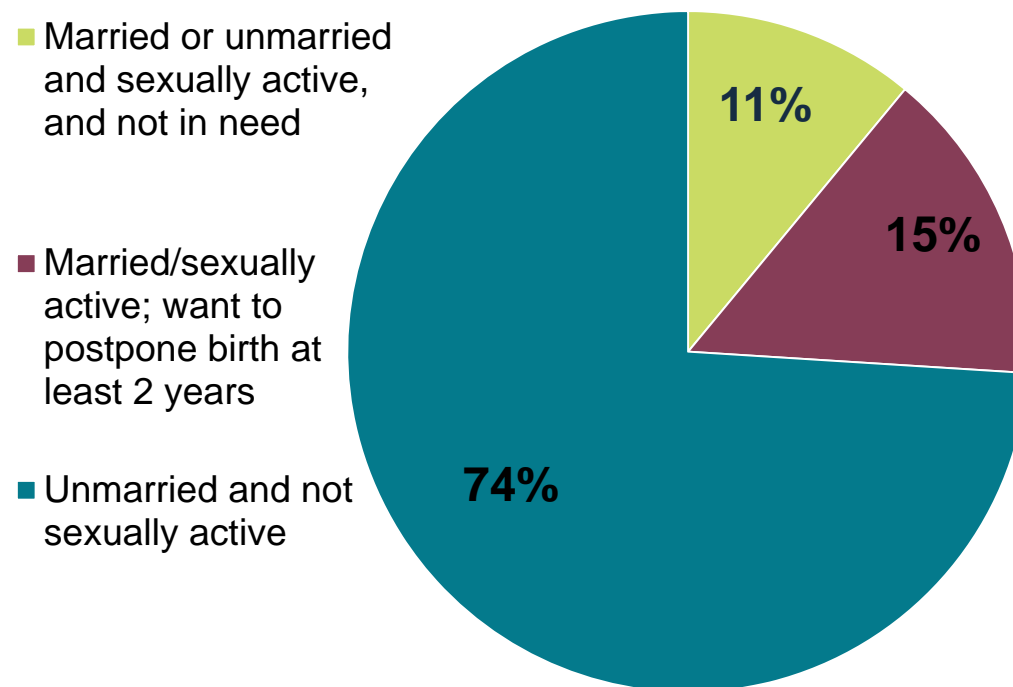
- **Estimates for female adolescents aged 15-19 in all countries in developing regions**
- **Compare different scenarios of contraceptive use by sexually active adolescents wanting to avoid pregnancy**
- **Put disparate research findings into the fuller context of women's lives and highlight disadvantaged subgroups**

Findings

Sexual activity, marriage and childbearing all increase with age and are more common among adolescents in Africa and LAC than in Asia

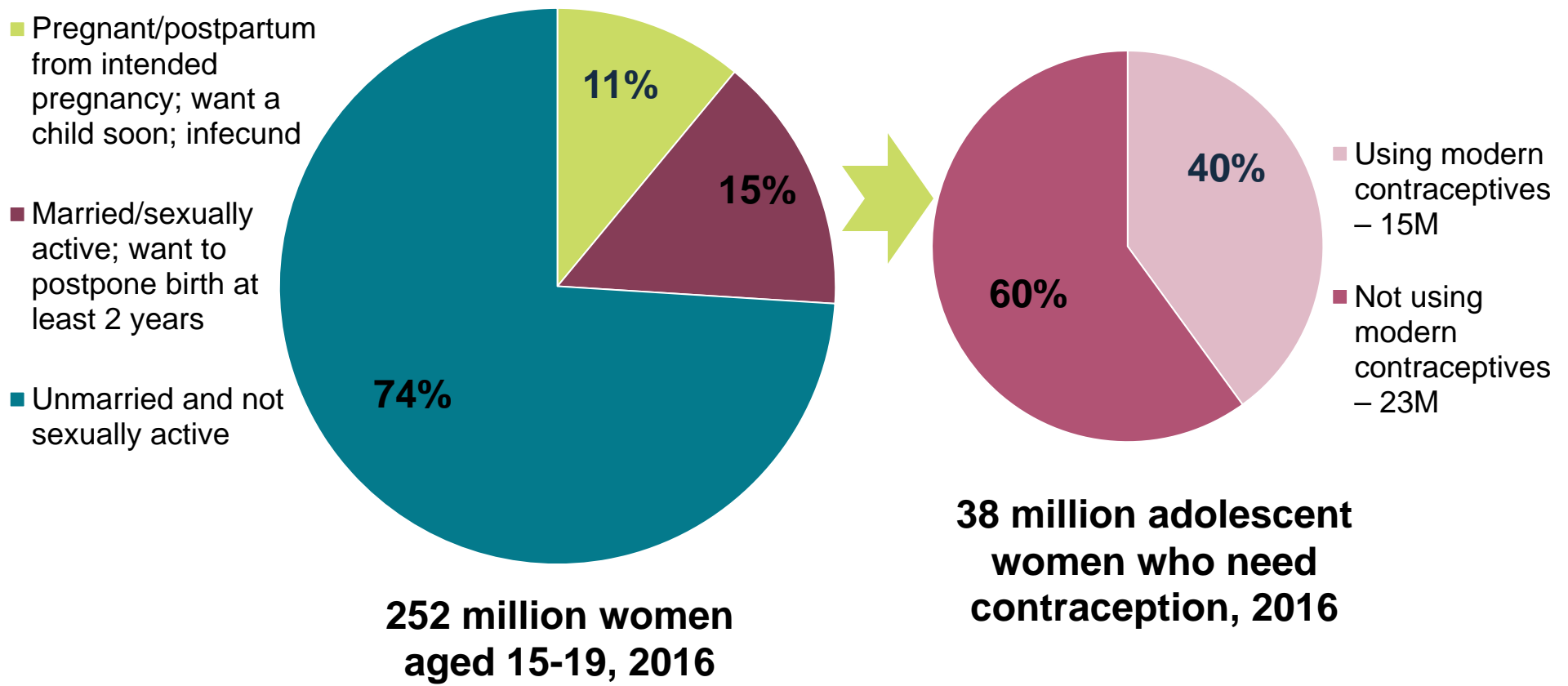


In developing regions, 38 million—15%—of women aged 15-19 need contraception to avoid an unintended pregnancy...



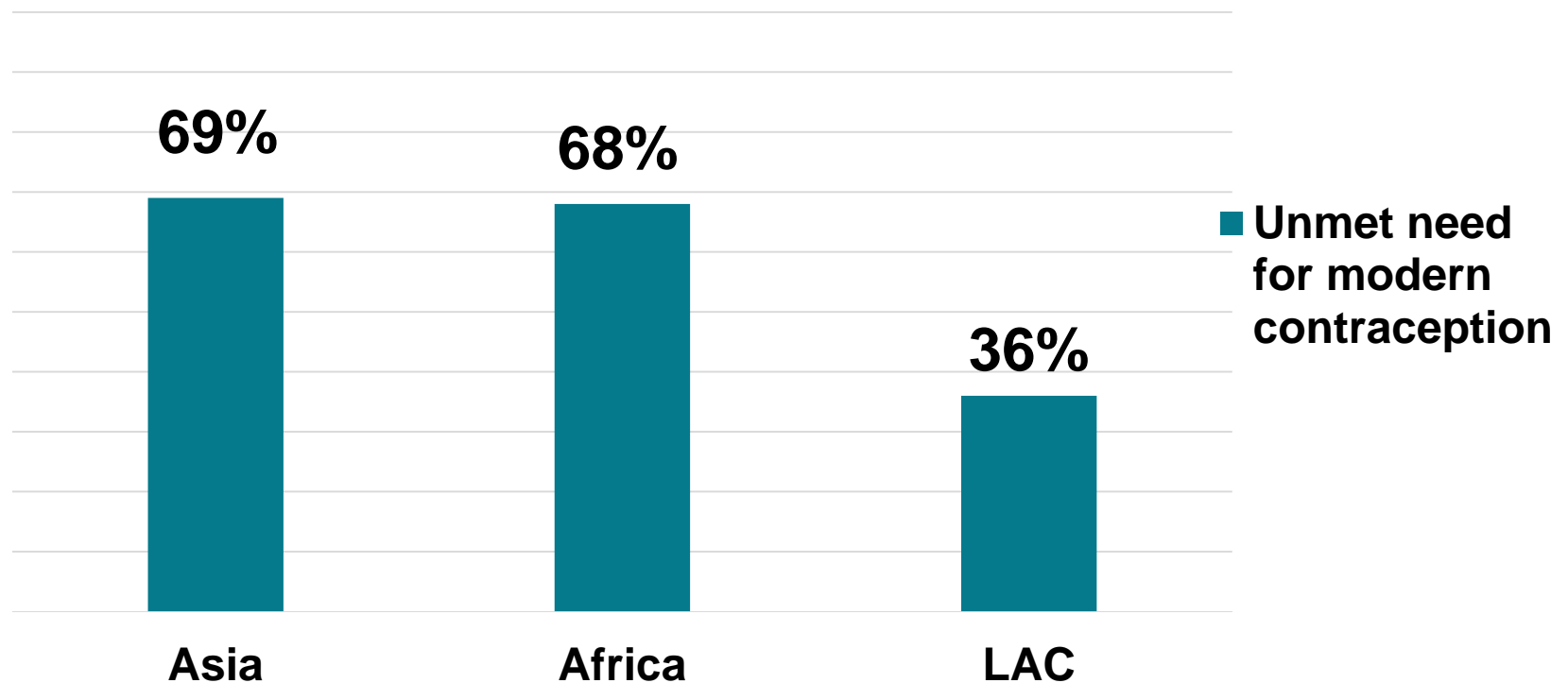
252 million women aged 15-19, 2016

...but more than half of adolescent women in need are not using effective contraceptives



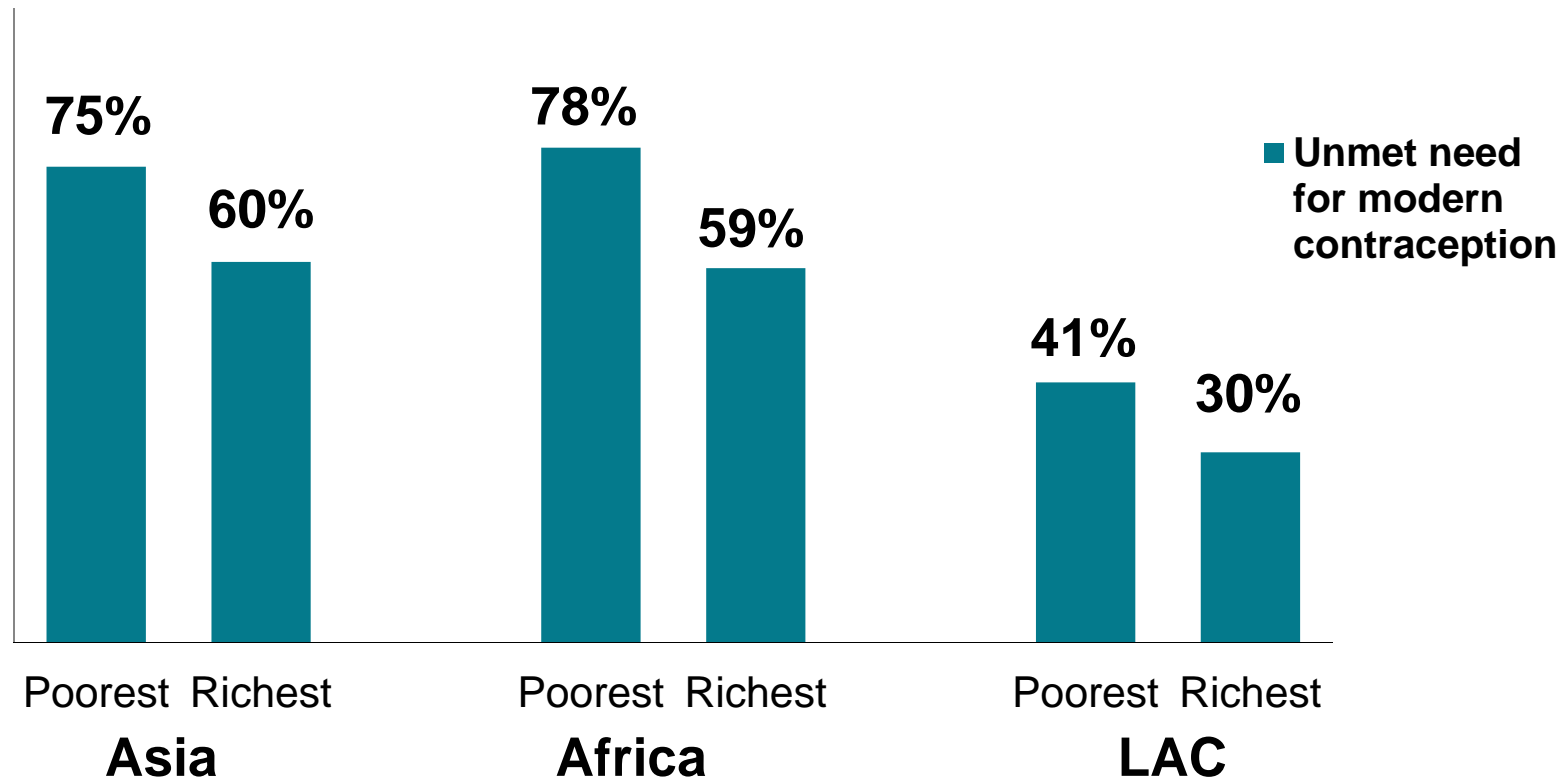
Unmet need for modern contraception is highest among adolescents in Asia and Africa

% of women 15-19 sexually active and wanting to avoid pregnancy

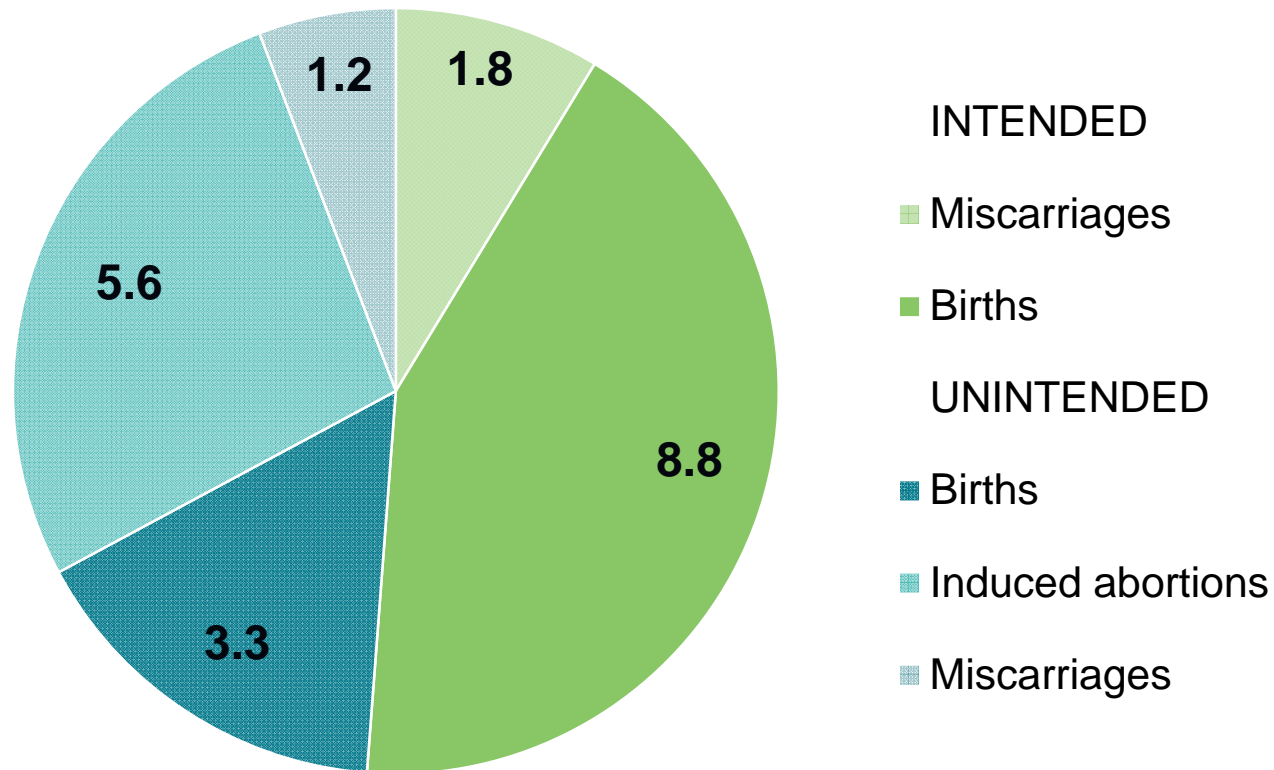


Unmet need for modern contraception is highest among poorer adolescents

% of women 15-19 sexually active and wanting to avoid pregnancy



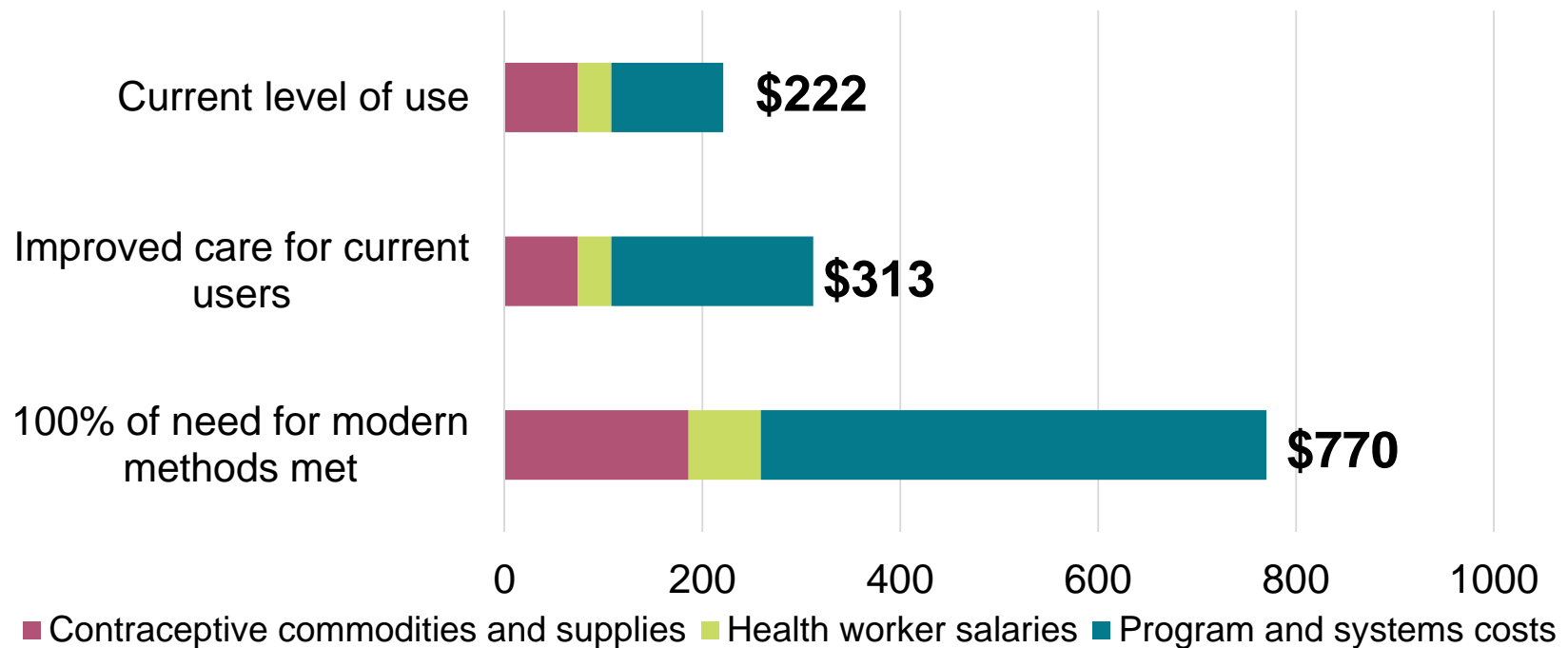
10 million pregnancies to adolescents in 2016 will be unintended



21 million pregnancies to women 15-19, 2016

Meeting all needs for modern contraceptives will cost \$548 million more per year than current use

Costs in 2016 U.S. dollars (in millions)



Health benefits of meeting adolescents' unmet needs for modern contraceptives

- **6 million fewer unintended pregnancies**
 - 2.1 million fewer unplanned births
 - 3.2 million fewer abortions (of which 75% are unsafe)
 - 700,000 fewer stillbirths and miscarriages
 - 5,600 fewer maternal deaths

Broader benefits of meeting adolescents' unmet needs for modern contraceptives

- **Better long-term health benefits for adolescent women and their infants**
- **Improved ability for adolescent women to obtain education, employment and other opportunities by delaying marriage and motherhood**
- **Social and economic benefits for women, families and societies**

We gratefully acknowledge the following partners for their support of this research

Global abortion study: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UK aid, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Adding It Up study: UK aid, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Sida and CIFF