

Key Findings and Gaps in Evidence on Unwanted Pregnancy, Contraception and links to Abortion in Africa

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Understanding the Concepts

◆ Abortion

◆ Contraception

◆ Unwanted pregnancy:

- Unwanted births
- Induced abortions (what %?)
- Miscarriages (what %?)
- About 40% of all pregnancies!

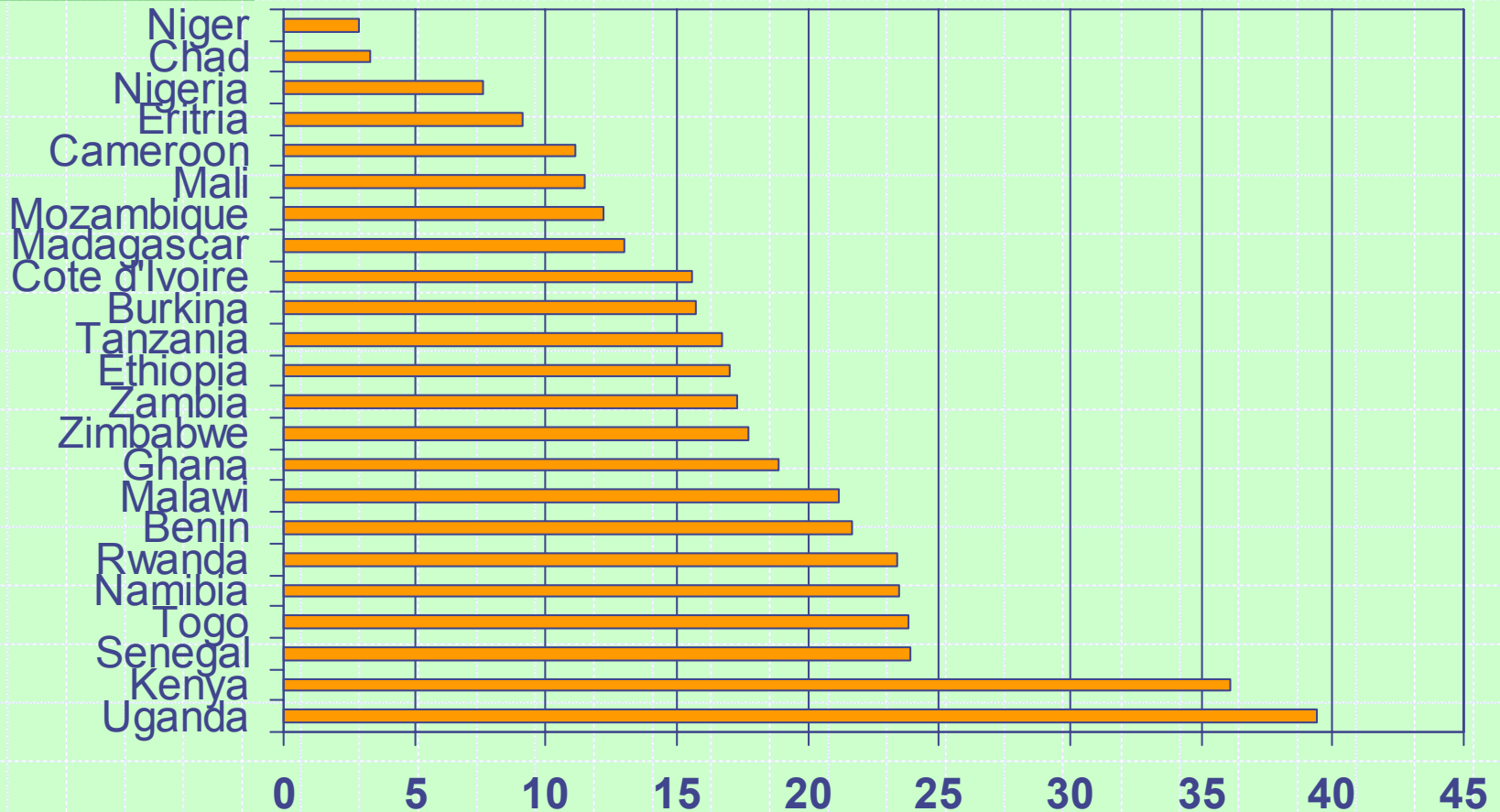


Measuring Unwanted Pregnancy

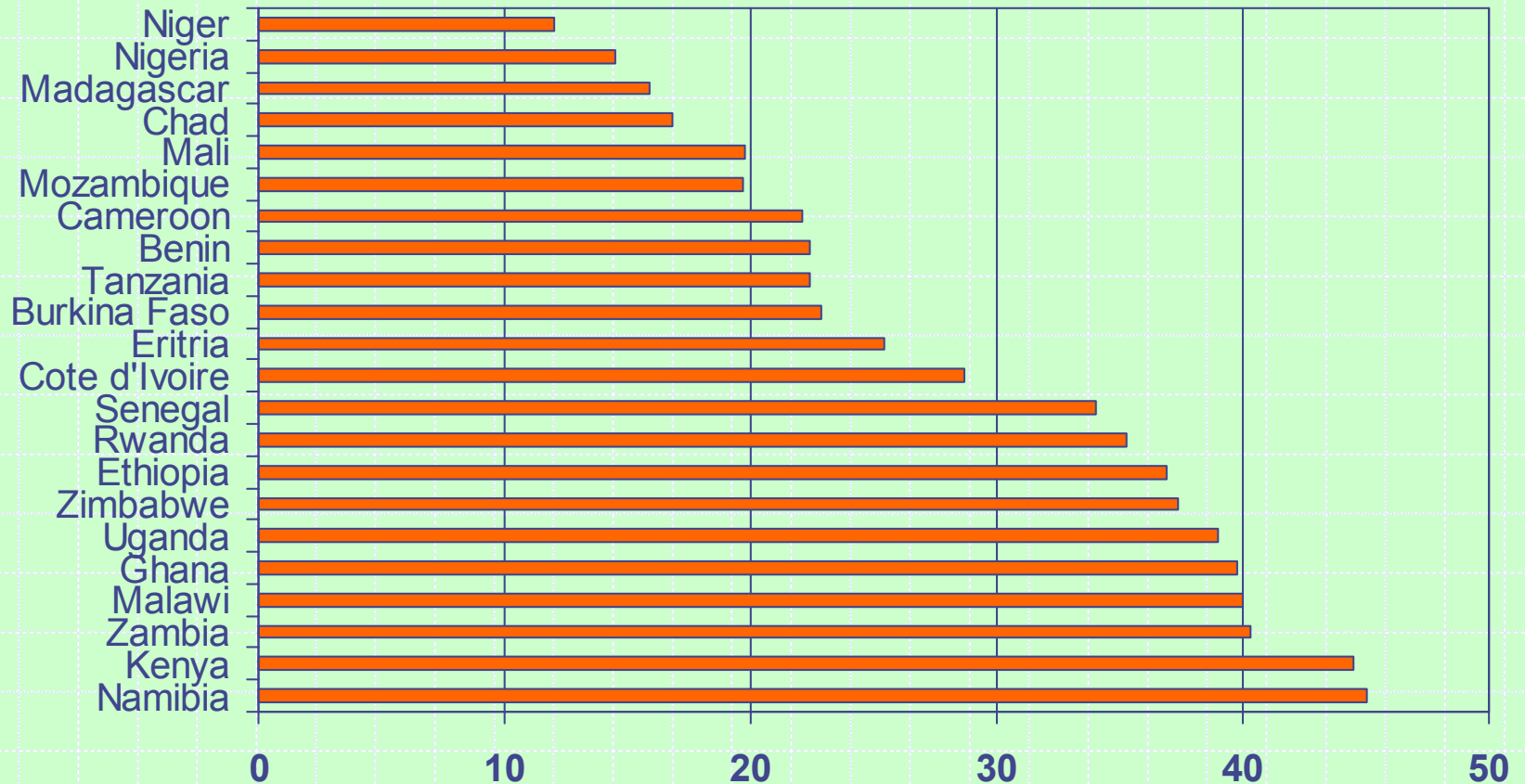
- ◆ Difference between TFR and Wanted TFR
- ◆ Planning status of recent births or current pregnancy
 - Mistimed
 - Unwanted
- ◆ Abortion and miscarriage
- ◆ Unmet need for contraception



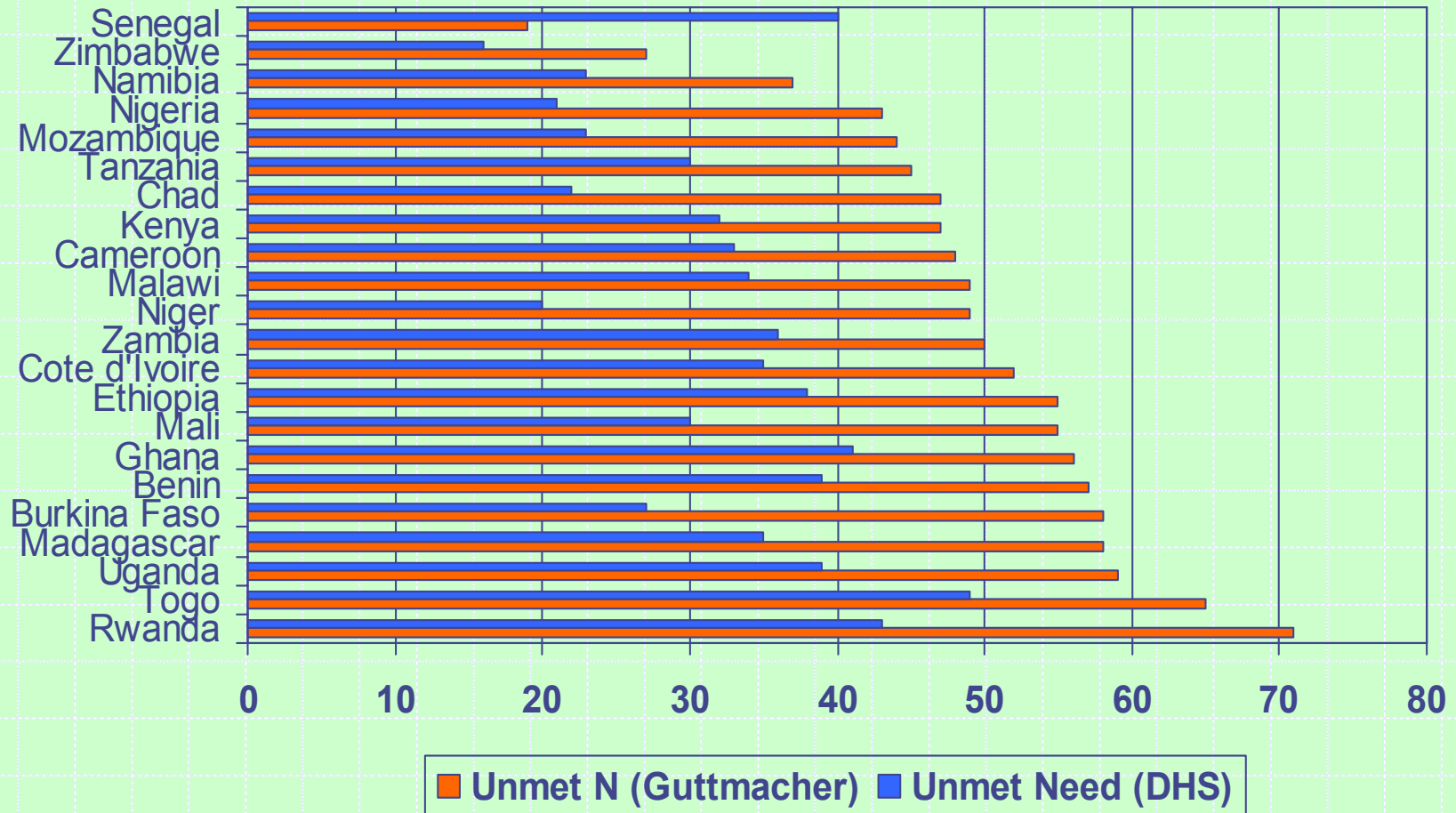
Magnitude of unwanted pregnancy in SSA: Excess TFR



Magnitude of unwanted pregnancy: Current pregnancy mistimed/unwanted

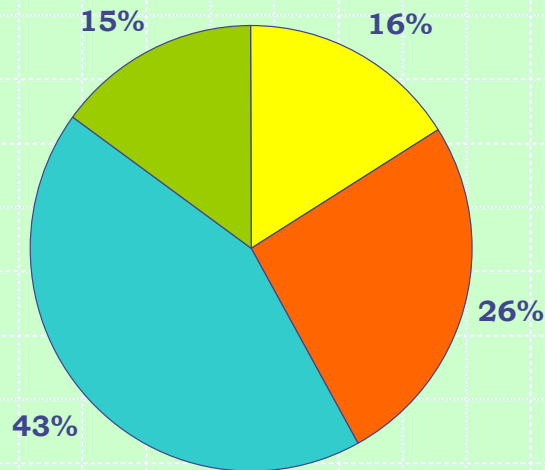


Potential unwanted pregnancy: Unmet Need for Family Planning



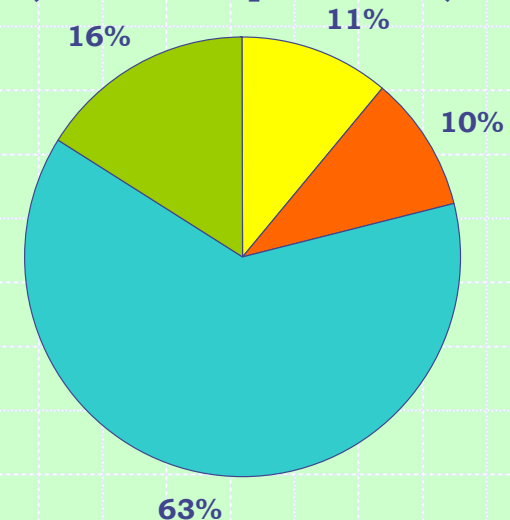
What proportion of pregnancies are unwanted?

Pregnancy Wantedness, Uganda 2003
(1.84 million pregnancies)



■ Induced Abortion ■ Unplanned Births
■ Planned Births ■ Miscarriage

Pregnancy Wantedness, Nigeria 2006
(6.6 million pregnancies)



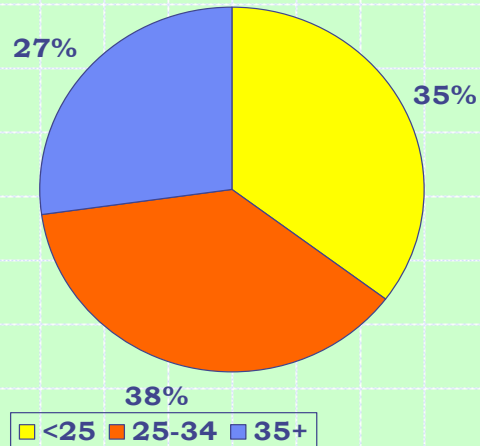
■ Induced Abortion ■ Unplanned Births
■ Planned Births ■ Miscarriage

Source: Singh et al (2005); Bankole et al (2006)

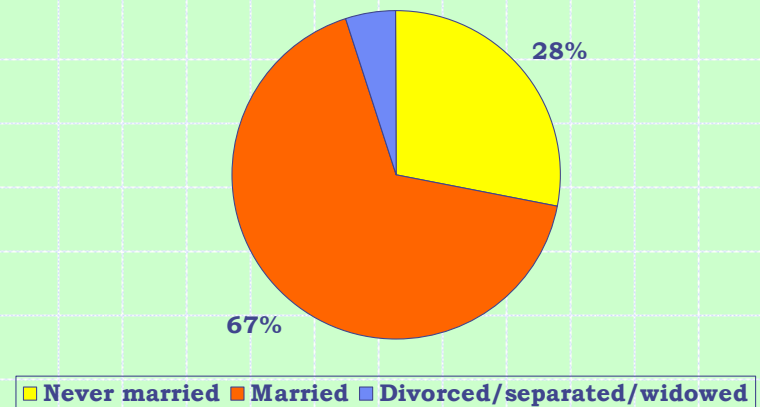


Who are these women with unwanted pregnancies?

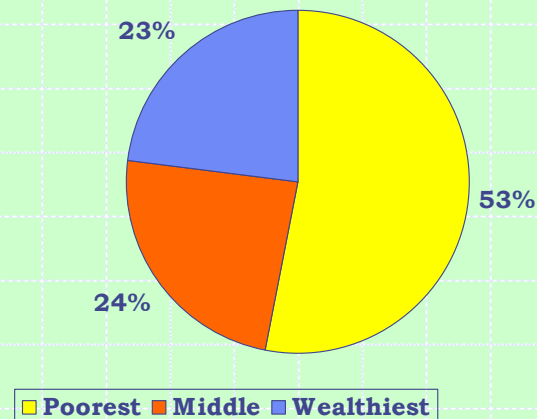
Distribution of women who had unwanted Pregnancy by age, Nigeria 2006



Distribution of women who had unwanted pregnancy by marital status, Nigeria 2006



Distribution of women who had unwanted pregnancy by wealth status, Nigeria 2006



Source: Bankole et al (2006)

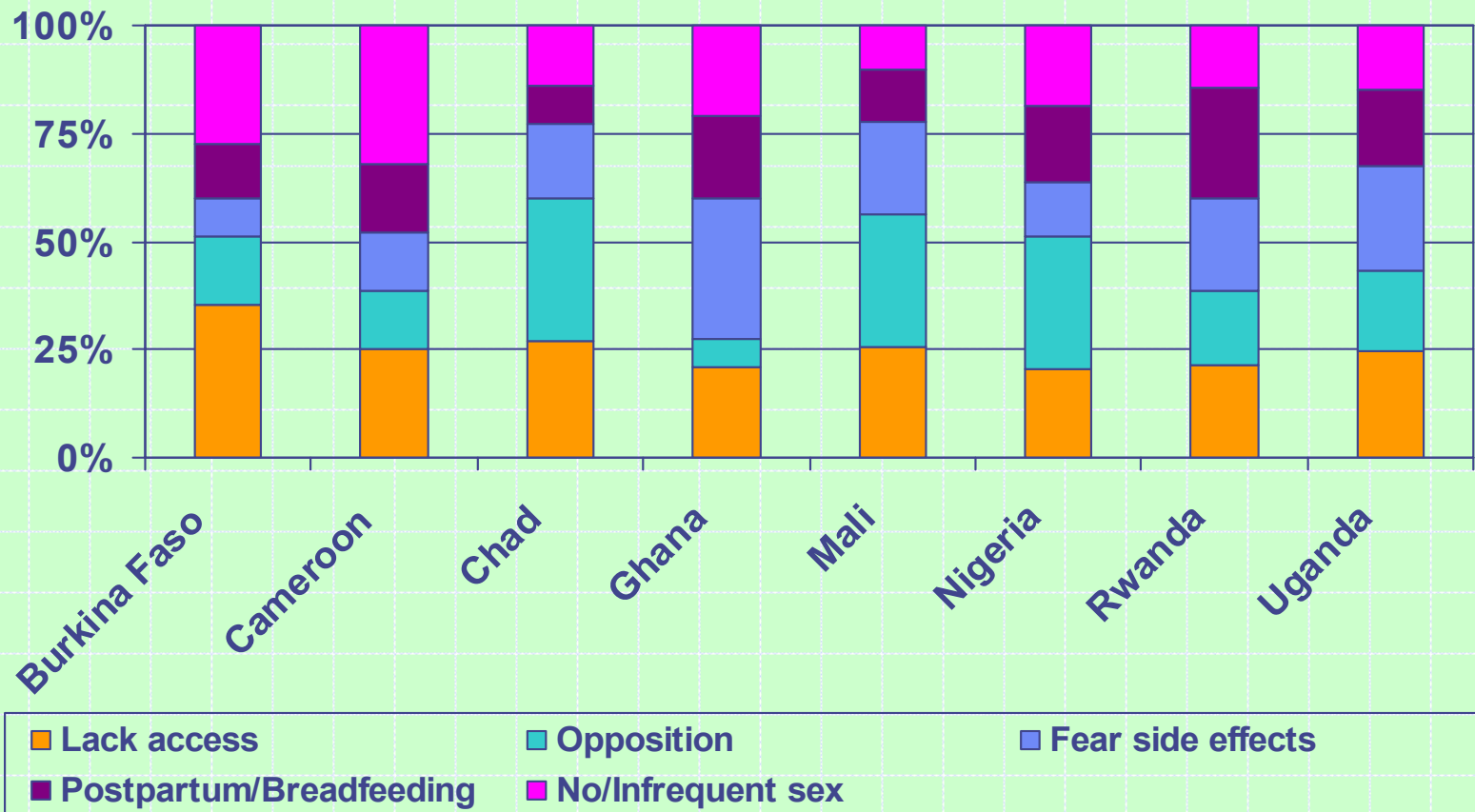


Why do women have unwanted pregnancies?

- ◆ Low contraceptive use
 - 20% for SSA – Non-use accounts for 1/2
- ◆ High unmet need for family planning
 - 25% compare to about 10% in other DC
 - Overall level of unmet need in SSA has not changed much over the past 15 yrs
- ◆ Other reasons include: Contraceptive failure, non-consensual sex, changed personal circumstances, etc.



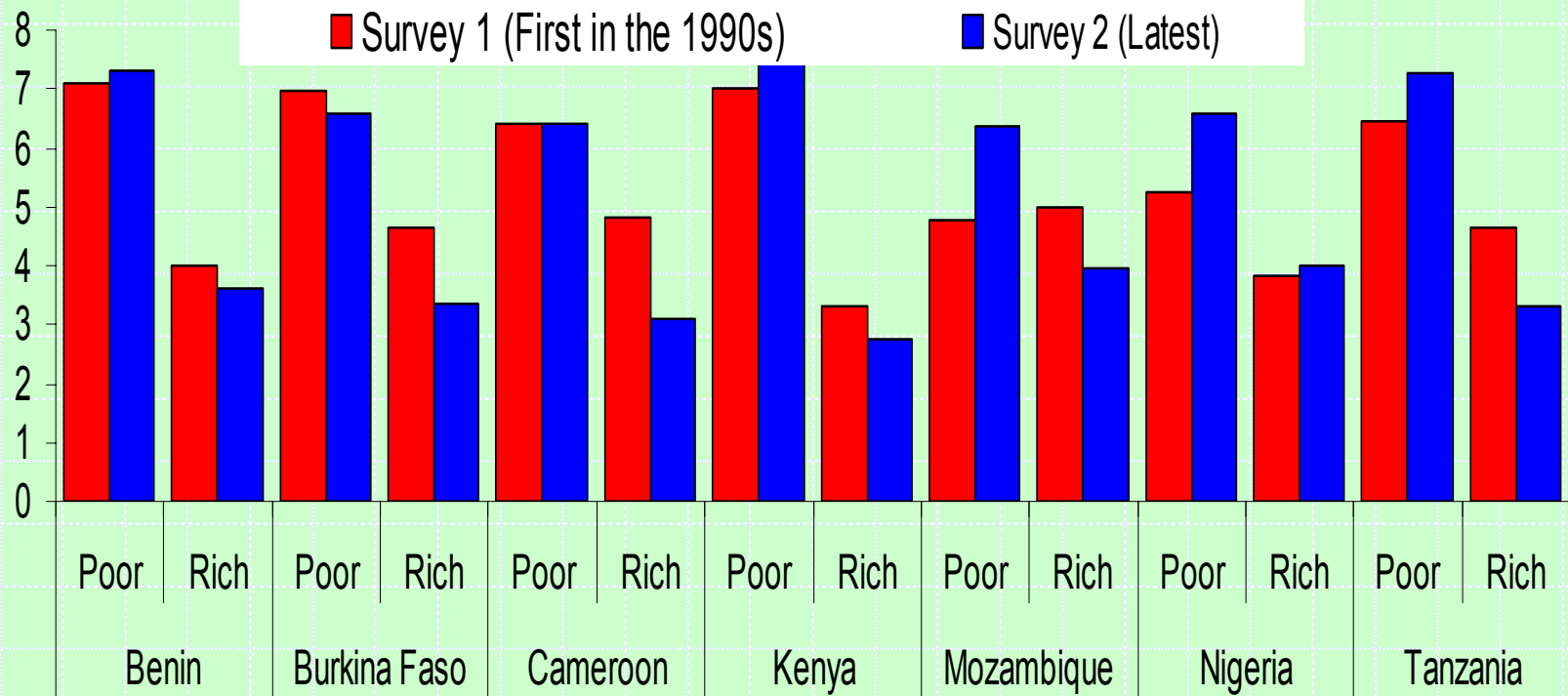
Why women do not use contraception



Primary reason for non-use of FP among married, non-pregnant women with unmet need for FP



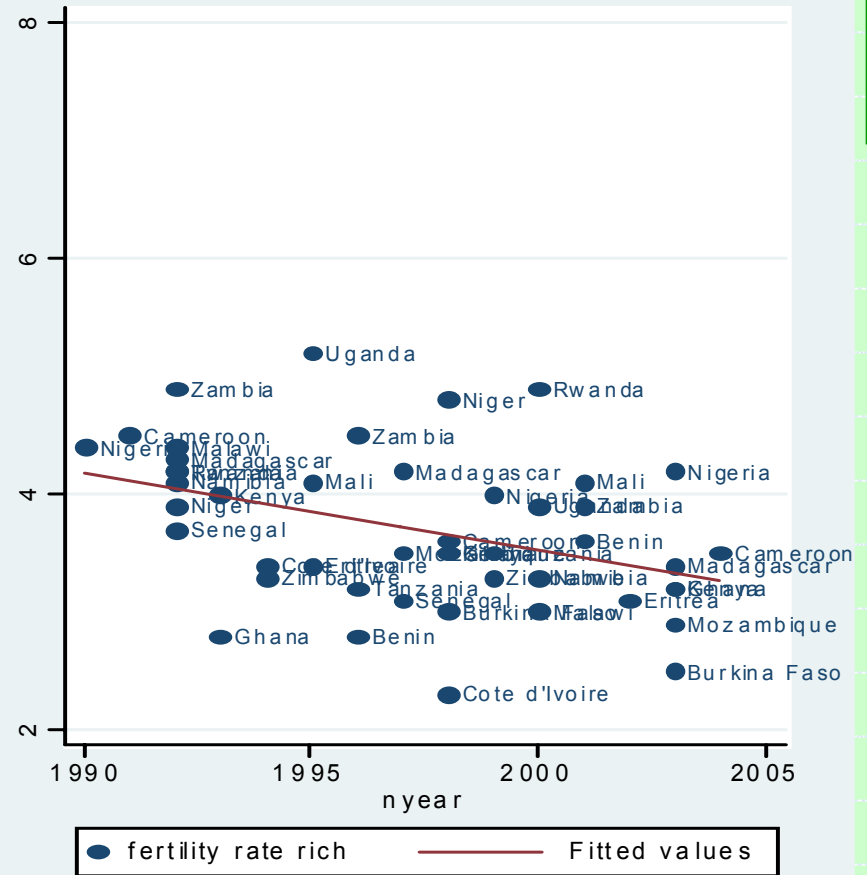
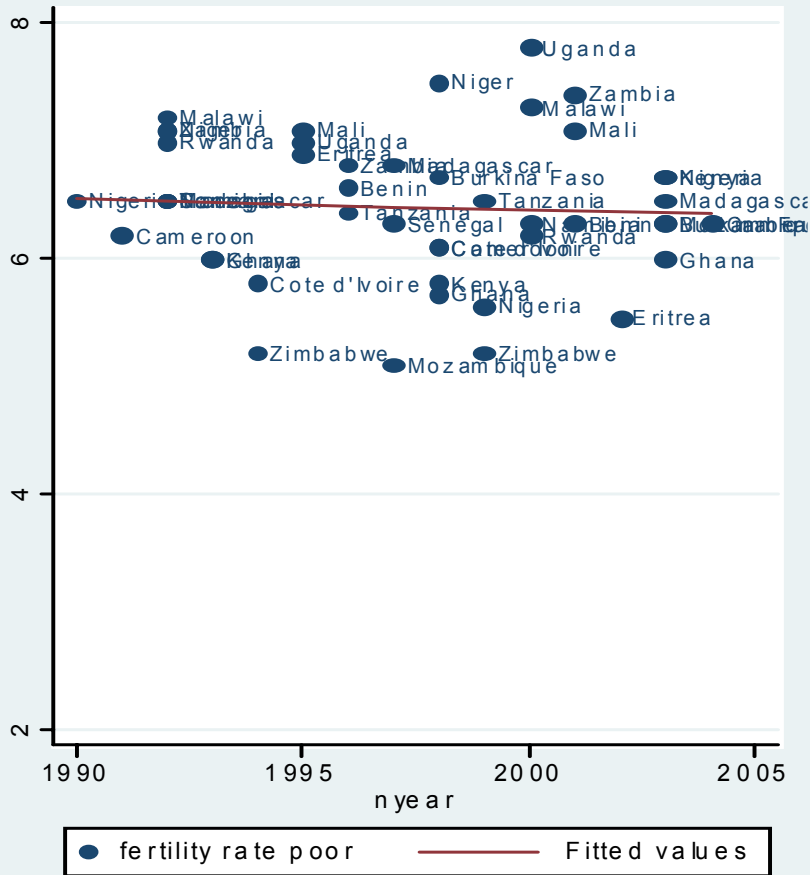
The tragedy of current demographic trends: Poor-Rich Differences in Trends in TFR



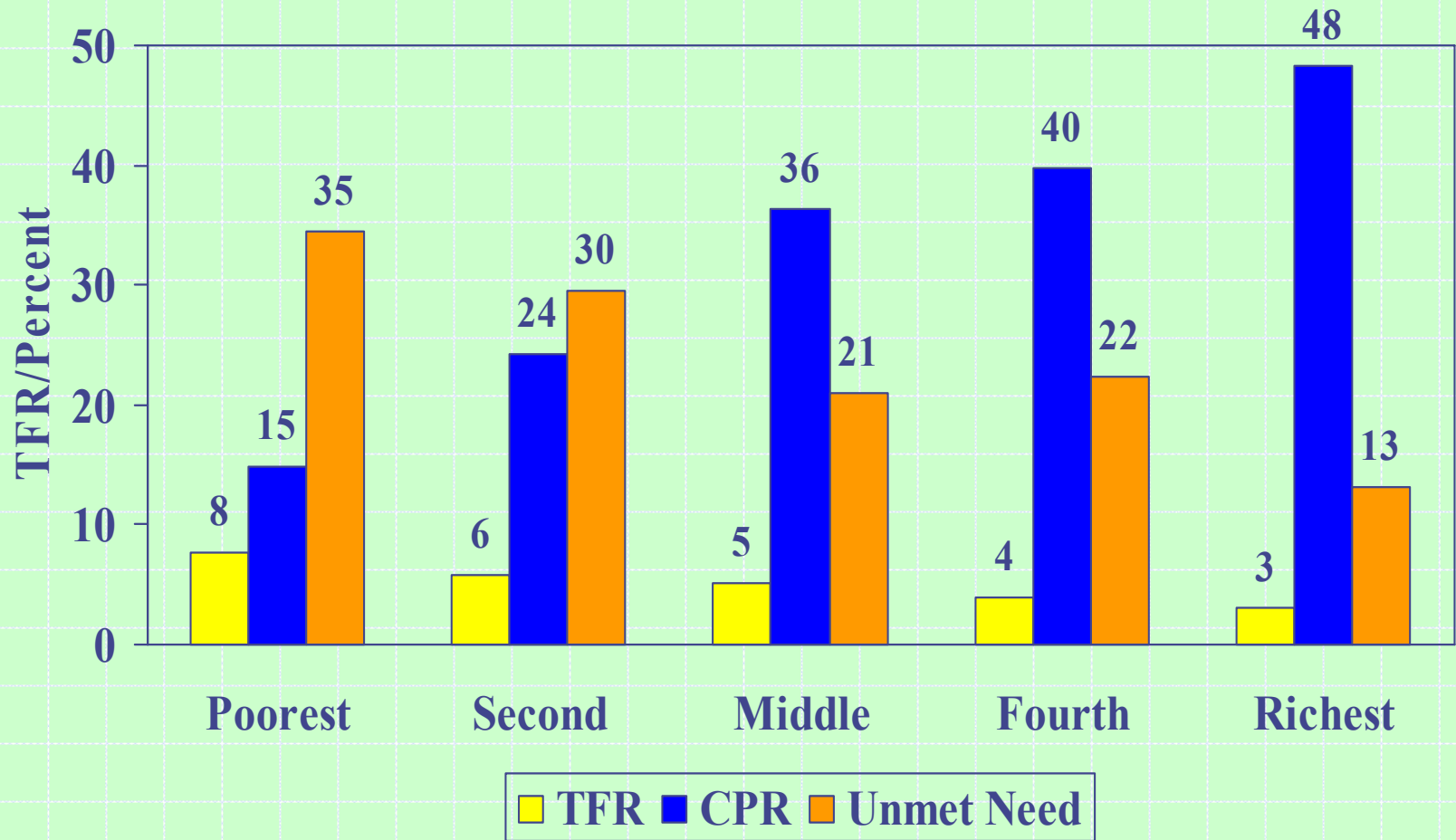
Source: DHS



Widening gap in TFR between the poor and the rich across SSA



What's driving the high fertility of the poor?



TFR, CPR & Unmet Need: Differences Across Socioeconomic Groups; Source: KDHS 2003



Where are the gaps in research?

- ◆ More accurate measure of unwanted pregnancy (not just births)
 - Community-based studies?
- ◆ How are pregnancy intentions related to contraceptive use?
- ◆ What are the planning status of pregnancies ending in abortion?
- ◆ Why do many women fail to implement their fertility desires?



Thank you

