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# Family planning – an European perspective

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## Goal 5

### Improve maternal health

#### TARGET

Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Achieving good maternal health requires quality reproductive health services and a series of well-timed interventions to ensure a women's safe passage to motherhood. Failure to provide these results in hundreds of thousands of needless deaths each year—a sad reminder of the low status accorded to women in many societies.

Measuring maternal mortality—death resulting from the complications of pregnancy or childbirth—is challenging at best. Systematic underreporting and misreporting are common, and estimates lie within large ranges of uncertainty. Nevertheless, an acceleration in the provision of maternal and reproductive health services to women in all regions, along with positive trend data on maternal mortality and morbidity, suggest that the world is making some progress on MDG 5.



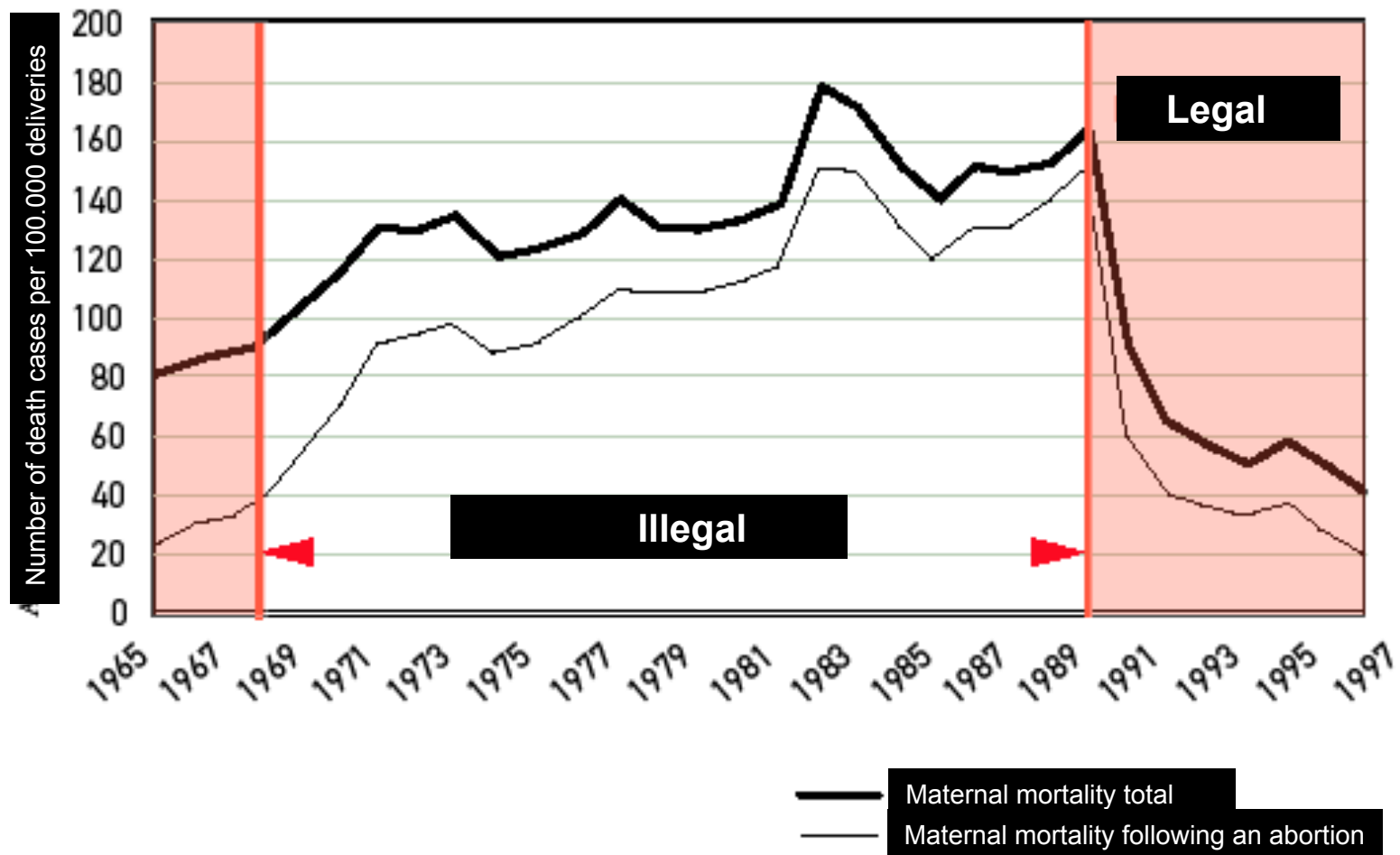
**Contraceptive a key indicator regarding SRH.**

# Who decides over fertility?



US-president Bush signing a law against late abortions, 2003

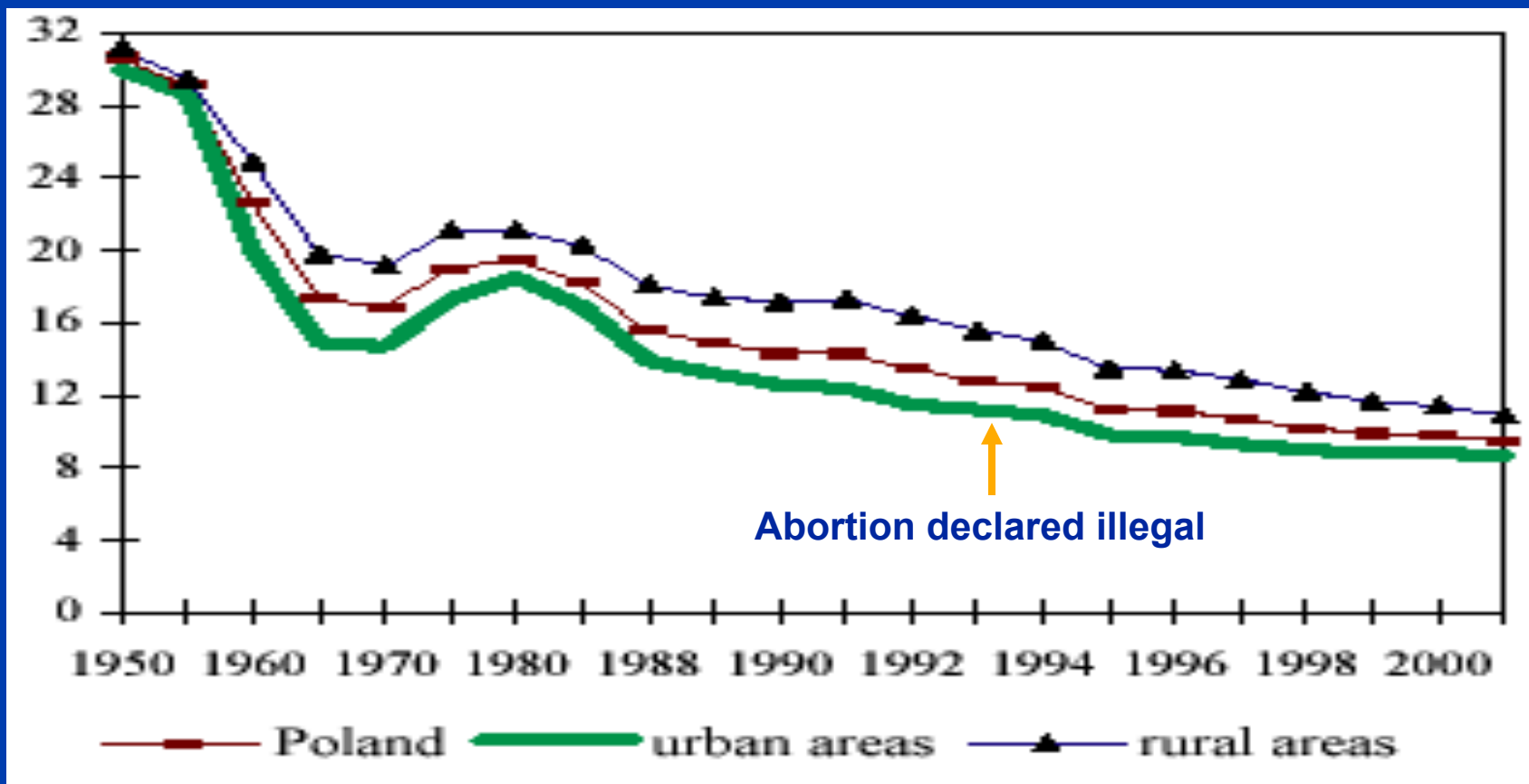
# Legal abortion and maternal mortality: the Romanian example



WHO 2004

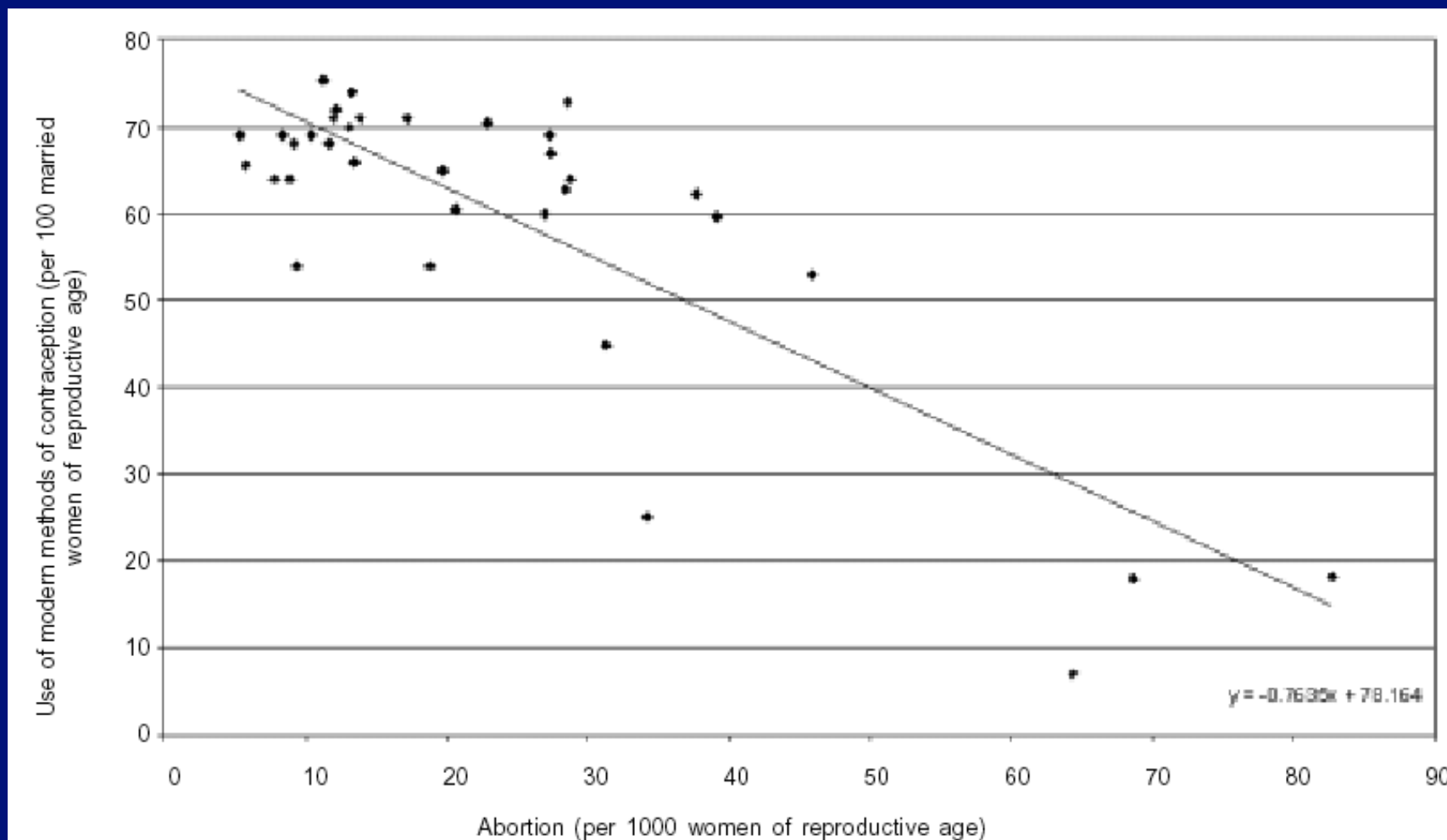
# Making Abortion Illegal Does Not Increase the Birth Rate

Birth rates Poland 1950-2001 (births/1 000 population)



# The link between contraceptive prevalence and abortion

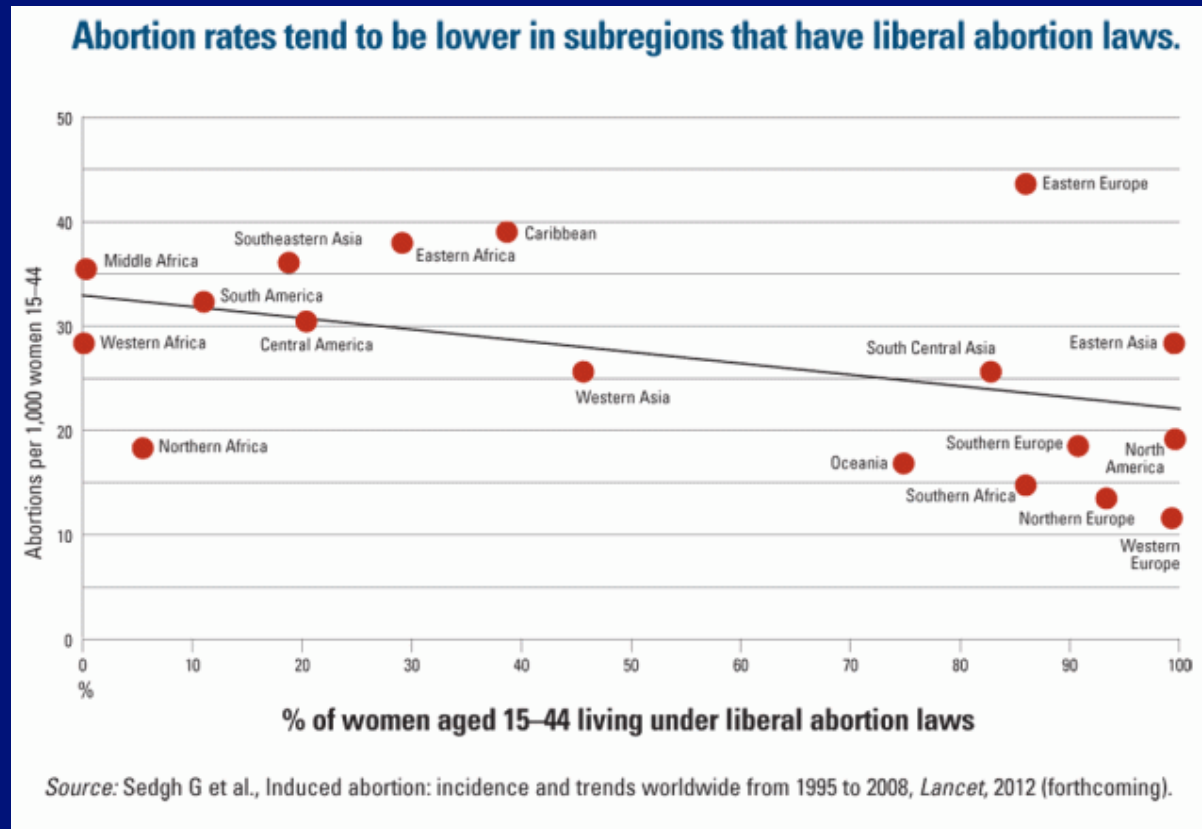
Levels of use of modern contraception and abortion rates  
countries with total fertility rate between 1.7 and 2.2.





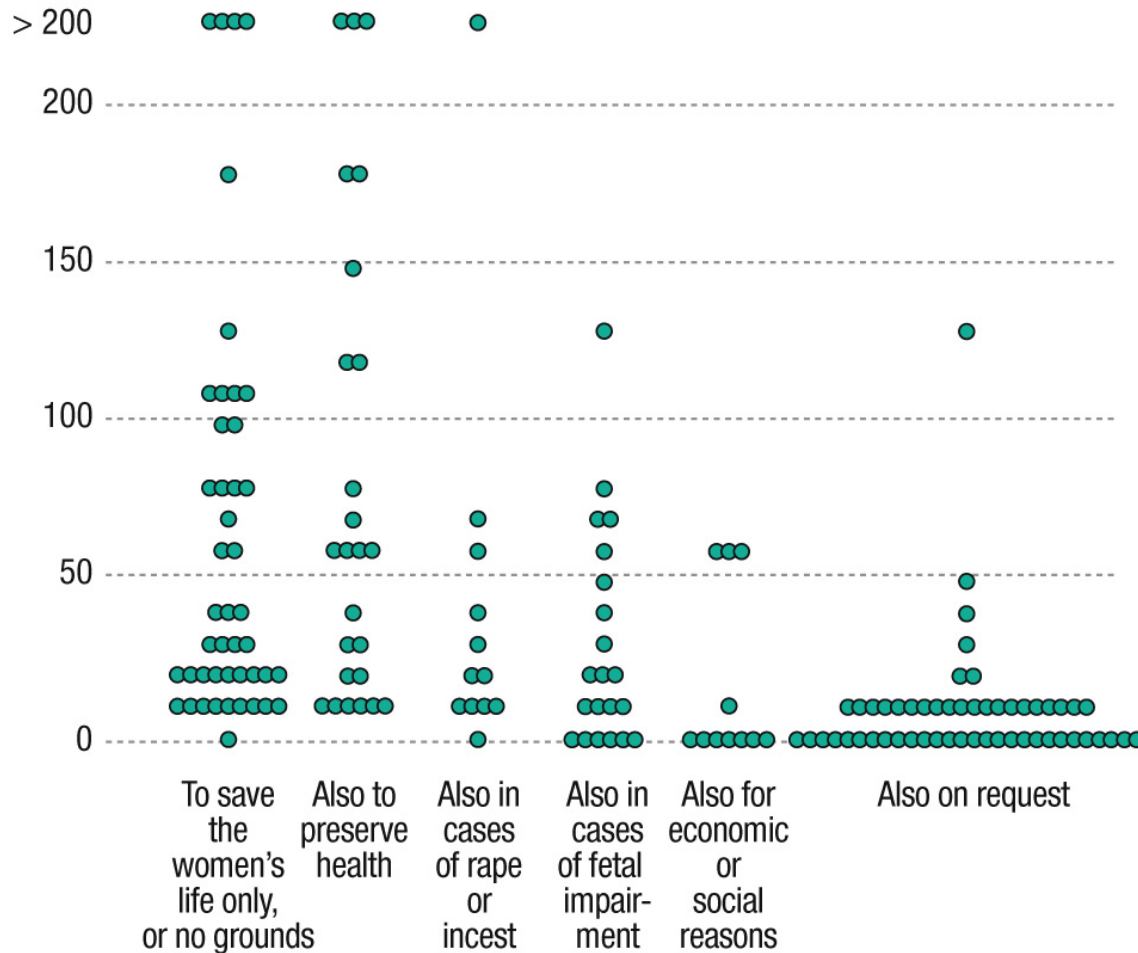
# Abortion rates and abortion laws

The "Great Divide" in abortion legislation  
Developed vs developing countries



Sedgh G et al., Lancet 2012

# Deaths attributable to unsafe abortion per 100 000 live births, by legal grounds for abortion



<sup>a</sup>Every dot represents one country.

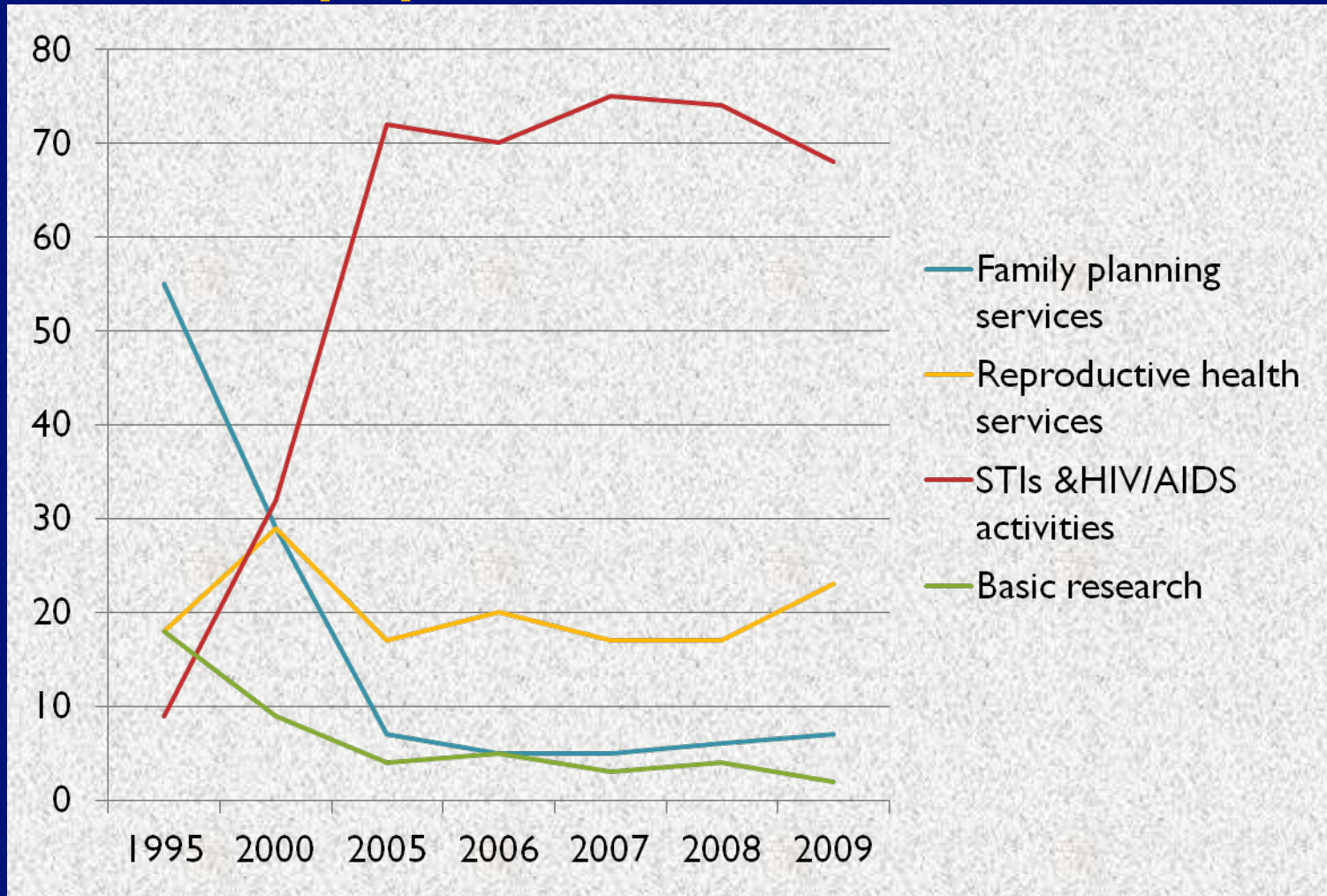
As legal access to safe abortion becomes liberal, unsafe abortion mortality declines.

Source: *World Health Report, 2008*; and

*Women and Health: Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's agenda, 2009.*



# ICPD categories as percentage of total population assistance



1.3

1.8

6.8

7.3

8.8

10.4

10.8

Total assistance (US billion)

Contraception in Europe: K. Gemzell-Danielsson

# Family planning – a political minefield

- 250 million women across the world need access to family planning, in the form of information and regular supplies of contraceptives
- Family planning a taboo subject that attracts opposition from an array of opponents
- "A major summit held in London, 2012 to direct money into family planning in the developing world
- The Gates Foundation; Aim : developing more efficient forms of contraception,

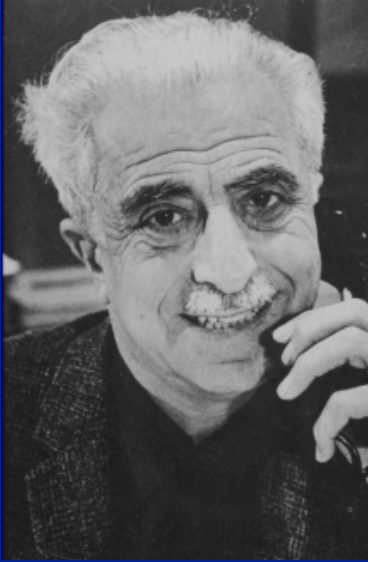
## ‘How it used to be’

‘It is recommended that women after intercourse should first rinse their vagina followed by knee-bends 10 times and then run around the room 3 times. This really is a impertinence to ask from a woman. After intercourse, she is supposed to run around in the room and make knee-bends while the man turns around and sleeps!’

‘Empfängnisverhütung - Mittel und Methoden’,  
Magnus Hirschfeld und Richard Linfert, Berlin, 1928

Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell Danielsson

# We have come a long way!



A 1951 dinner party in New York is considered to be the birth of the Anti-Baby Pill

Margaret Sanger in her 70s and her rich friend Katharine McCormick, ask the scientist Gregory Pincus, how much money he would need to develop a method for women



## 1961: First pill in Europe

Prescribed to married women only with the husband's approval

Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell Danielsson

# Increased CHOICE in contraception

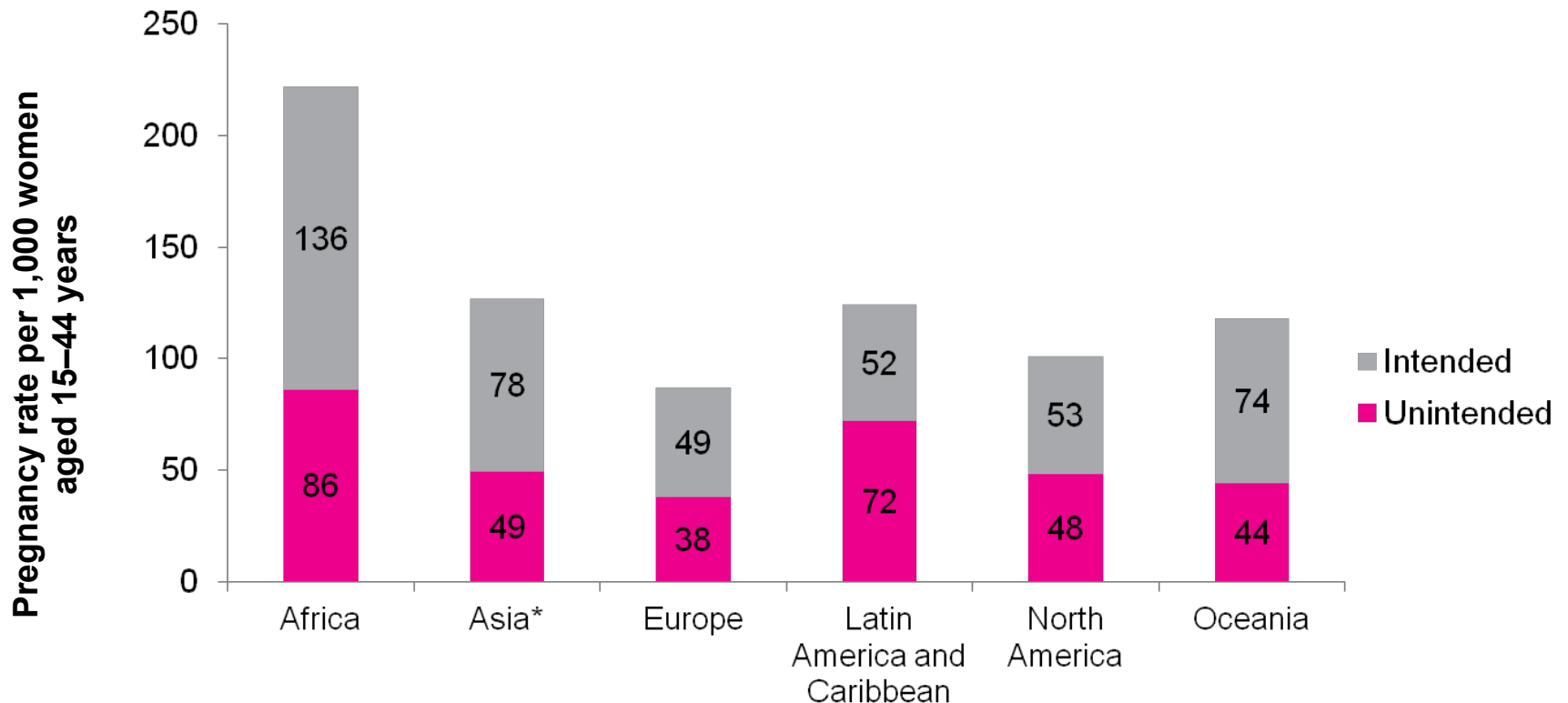
- Over the past 50 years we have seen significant changes in the contraceptive landscape
- 1960s: introduction of the COC and Cu-IUD
- 1970s: introduction of POPs and depot gestagen
- 1980s: introduction of the first implant
- 1990s: introduction of LNG-IUS
- 2000s: the patch, the vaginal ring, medium dosed POP

# Barriers to increased use of contraception

- Political, cultural and religious influences
- Lack of education on contraception for women
- Economic factors that can lead to poor quality healthcare services and contraceptive access
- Limited choices of contraceptive method reducing acceptability and continuation

# Annual rates of unintended and intended pregnancy: variation by continent/region

Highest and lowest rates of unintended pregnancy in Africa and Europe, respectively



Data reported for the year 2008

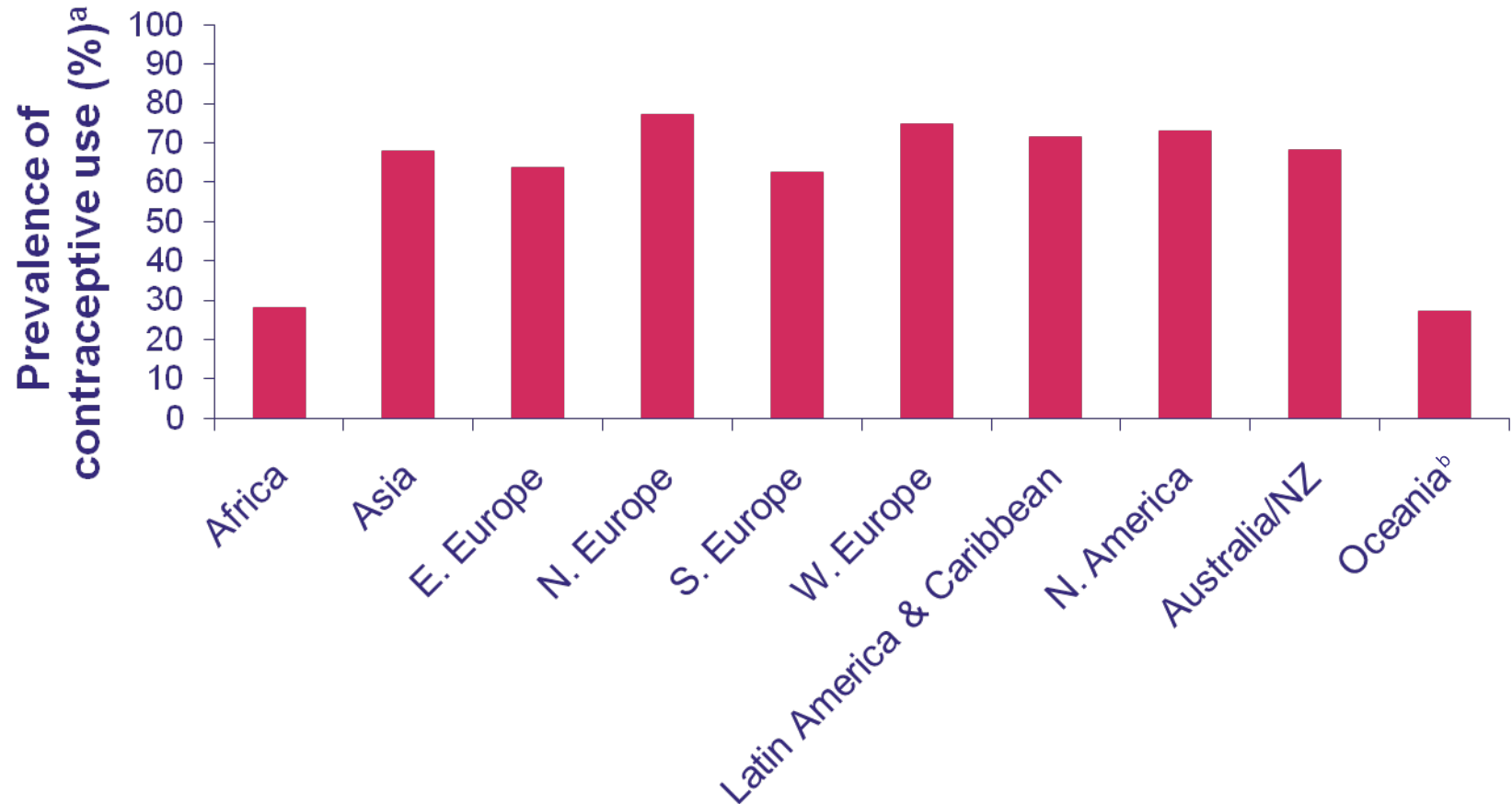
\*Excludes Japan

Singh *et al.* 2010

Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell  
Danielsson



# Global contraceptive prevalence by country



a. % using contraceptives among women who are married or in union (any method)

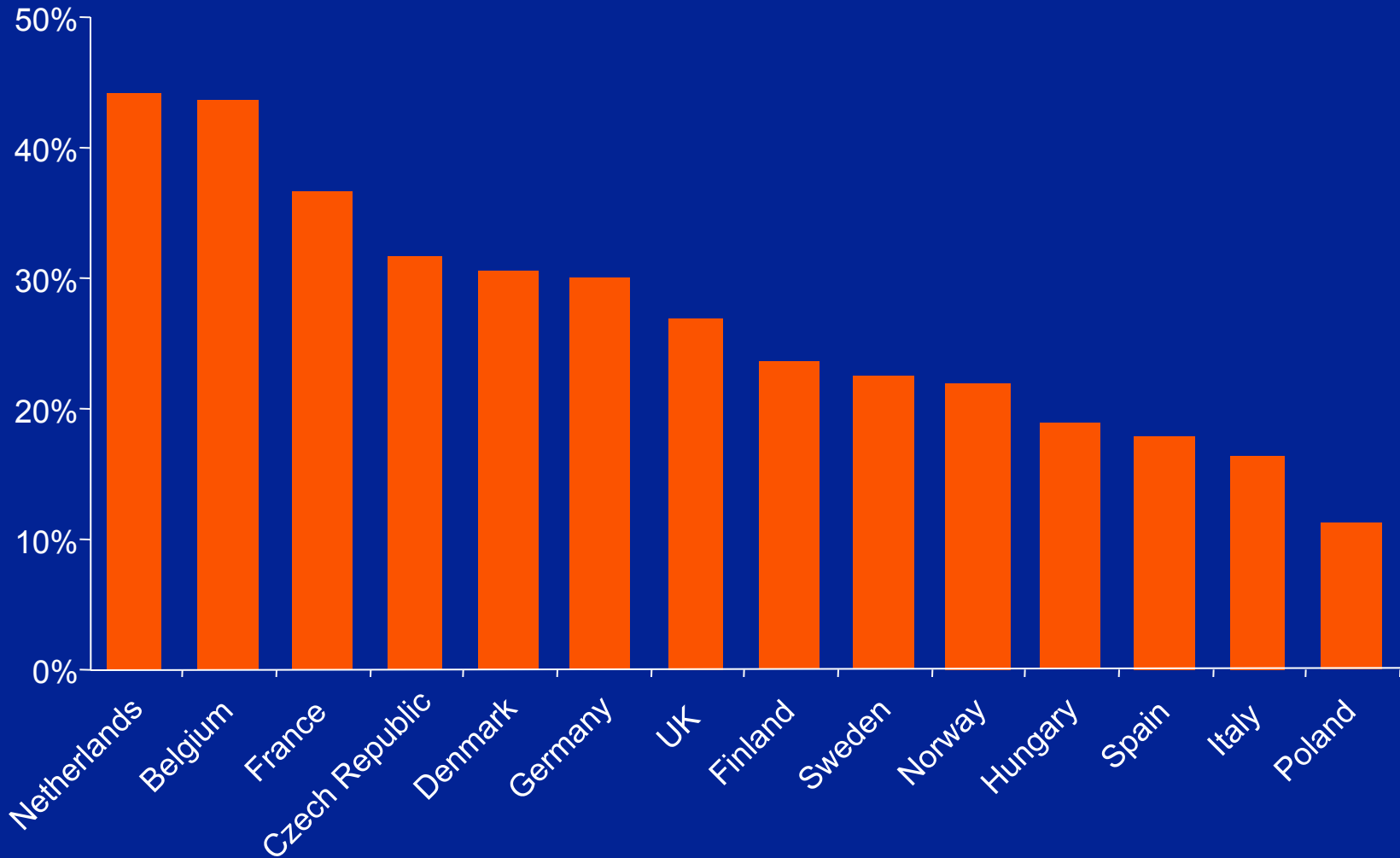
b. Melanesia/Micronesia/Polynesia

Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell

Danielsson



# Differences in hormonal contraception utilisation rates, 2007

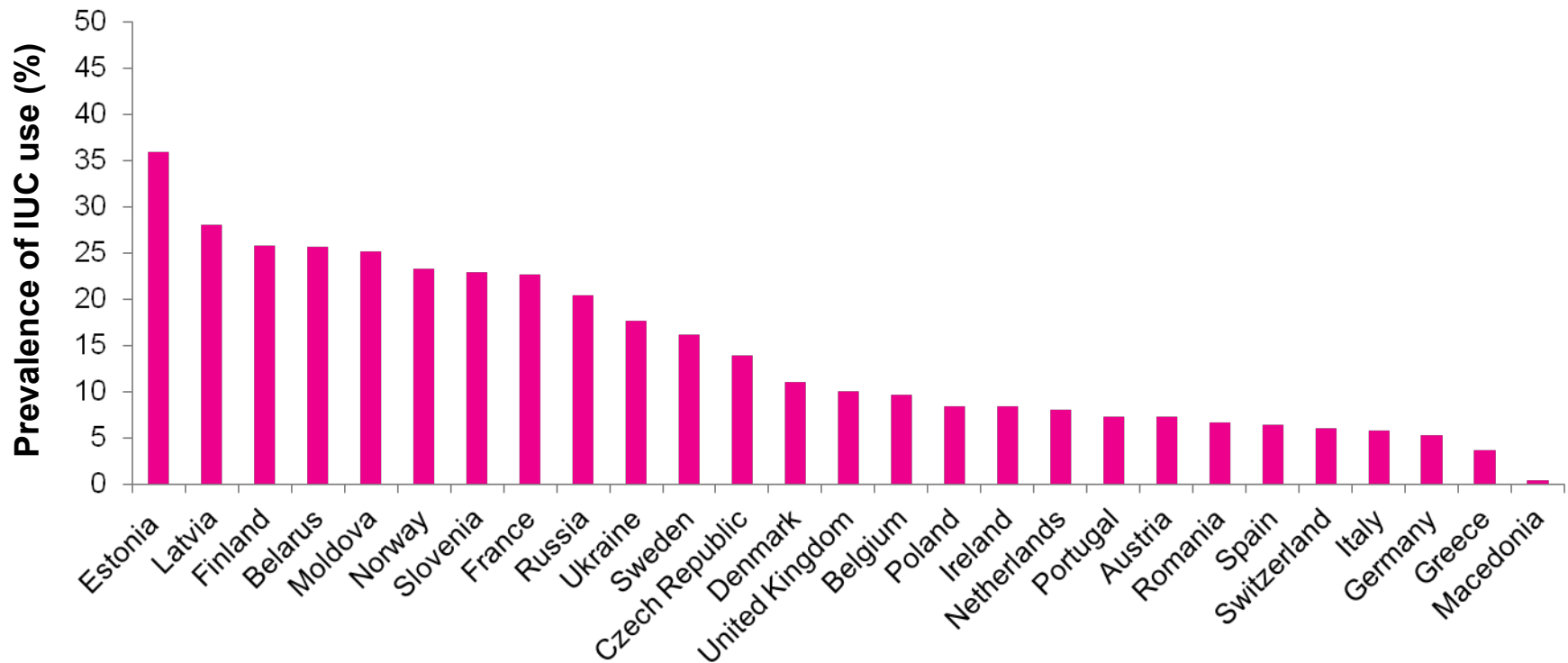


Source: World Bank

Contraception in Europe, K. Geertz, D. Gissel

# Prevalence of IUC use within Europe\*

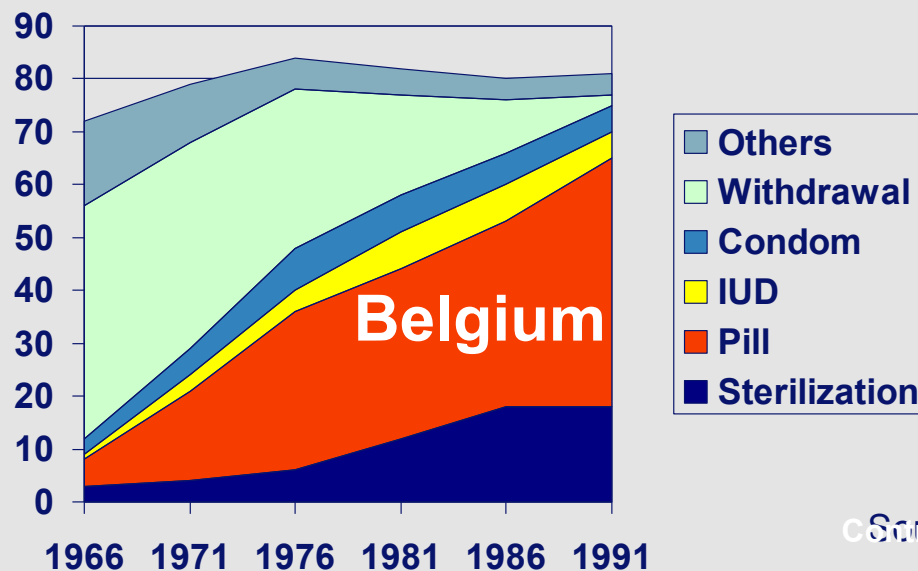
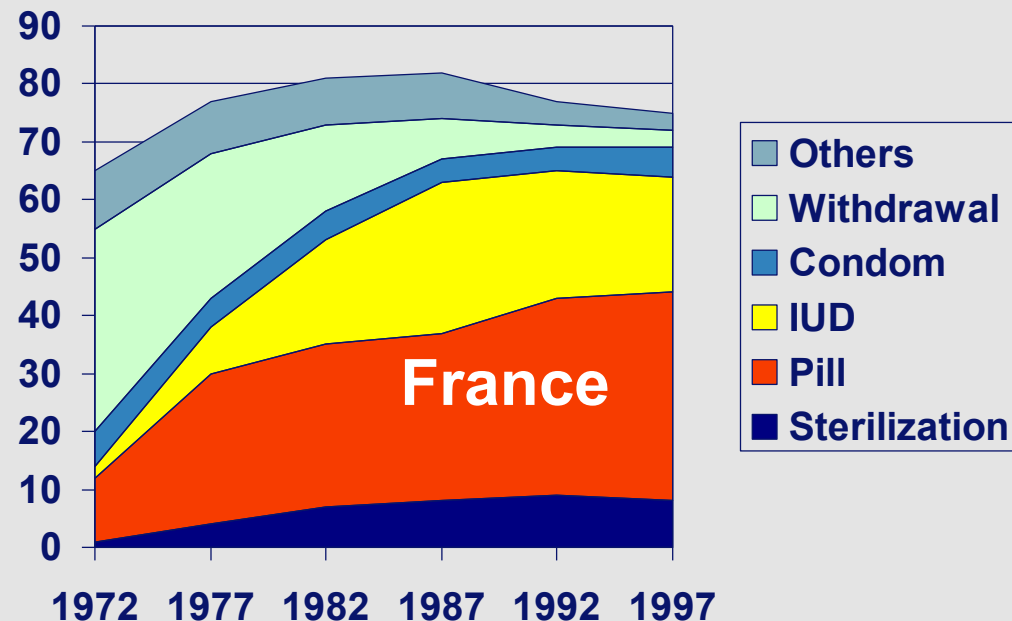
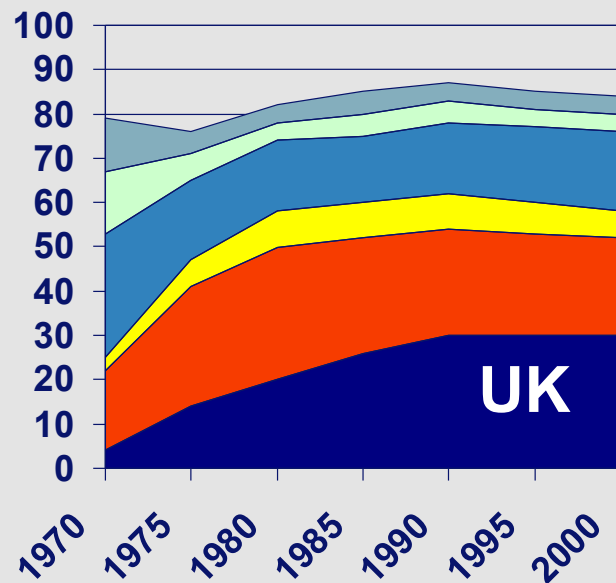
\*Prevalence of IUC use among women aged 15–49 years, married, or in a union.



IUC, intrauterine contraception

United Nations, 2011

# How do couples contracept?



Prevalence of  
contraceptive use  
among  
married women

# Guidance based on evidence and kept up-to-date



# Contraceptive prevalence, EU

- Contraceptive prevalence rate was defined as the percentage of women of reproductive age (usually 15-49 years old)
- OC *the* most frequent contraceptive method in most countries;
- prevalence of use ranging from 64.5% in Portugal to 17.9% in Spain, 15.6% in Malta, 15.0% in Italy, and 13% in Romania
- IUD use highest in Finland (22.8%), 22.4% in Slovenia ,16.3% in France, 4.9% in Spain and 3.6% in the Netherlands.
- IUD use lowest in Malta
- Estonia highest rate of *withdrawal* 24.3% and France lowest reported rate (0.7%).

**Reprostat 2011**

# Contraceptive prevalence EU

- The ratio *female:male sterilisation* marked variation;
- the Netherlands, 7 % of men sterilised, >than female sterilisation (3%).
- A higher rate of female than male sterilisation was found in most other countries where available.
- Reliable figures for vasectomy not always available, (S-Eur countries)
- The highest prevalence of female sterilisation in Finland (11.5%)
- The highest prevalence of vasectomy in UK (10%).
- Use of the *condom* varied from 50% in Greece and 39.4% in Malta to 9.0% in the Netherlands and 7.8% in France.
- The estimated proportion of couples using *no contraception* ranges from 4.5% (in Finland) to 41.9% (in Romania).



# OC use

- All countries: OC available only on prescription.
- UK, France and Sweden midwives/ trained nurses prescribe the pill,
- All other Member States require a prescription by a physician.
- In two Member States (the Czech Republic and Hungary) the prescriber must be a gynaecologist.
- Pill reimbursement policies vary between countries:
  - costs are fully covered for users in UK and Slovenia,
  - some countries only when provided for therapeutic indications (acne, HMB..)
  - only certain types of OC (fex Poland and Portugal)
  - for certain groups (e.g., younger women in Germany and Sweden, or those with a low socio-economic status in Malta).

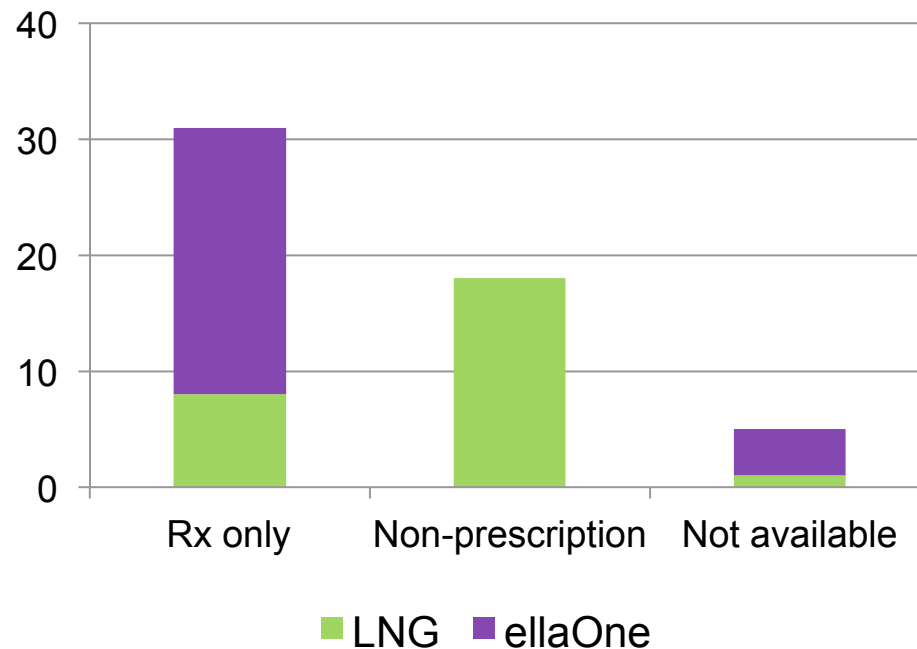
# Emergency contraception

- LNG-EC available OTC in several countries.
- EC provided totally free of charge in some countries (Luxembourg, Portugal , UK), and
- others (France and Germany) reimburse the costs of certain ECPs or
- for certain groups
- **Hormonal EC not available in Malta!**
- IUDs can be legally inserted in France, Sweden and UK, by trained nurses/ midwives. (“task shifting”)
- In all other countries IUD must be inserted by a physician. (Finland?)

**Reprostat 2011**

# EC still requires Rx in many markets but LNG mainly OTC

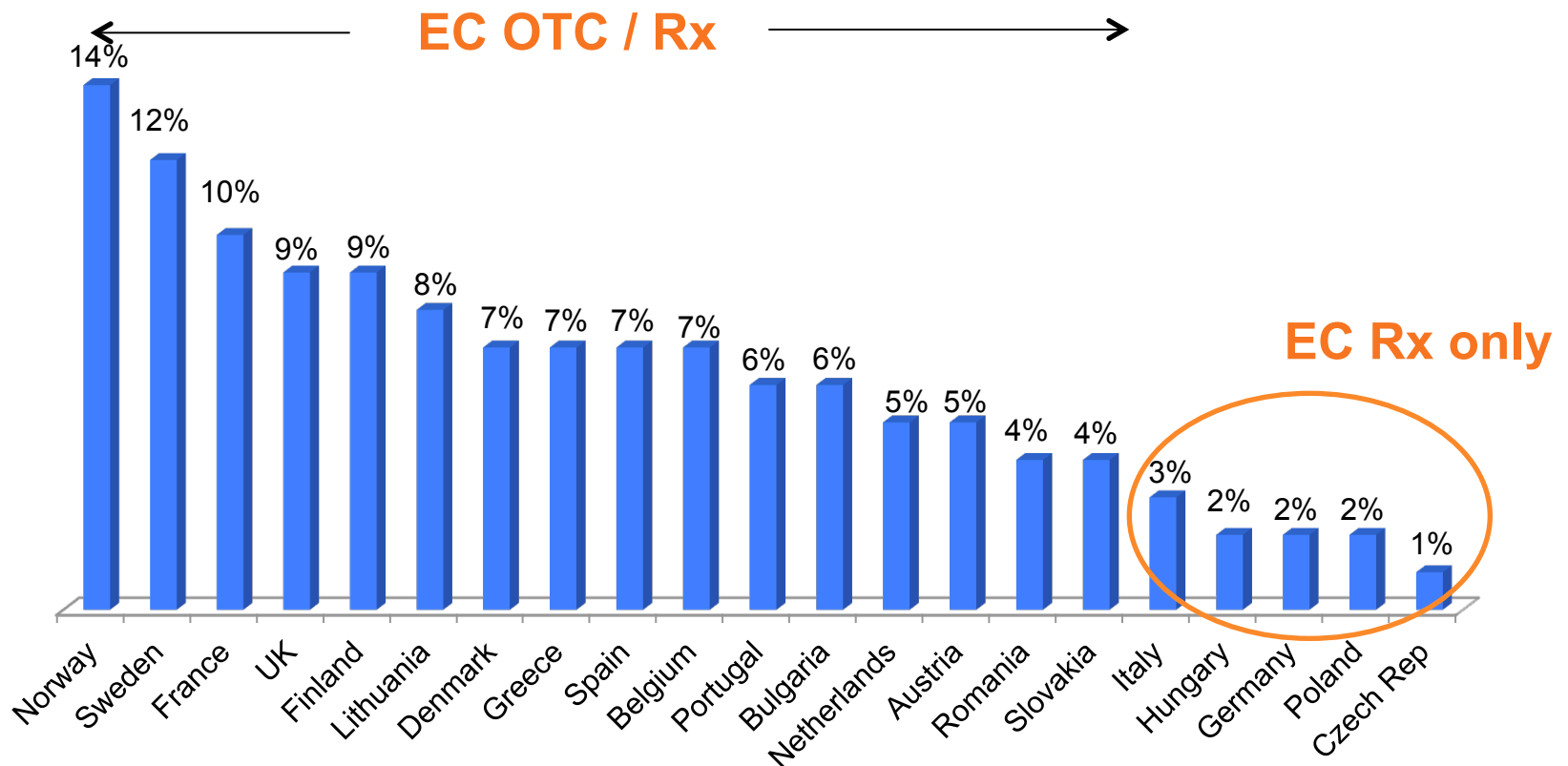
**Legal status of EC in the EU**  
*(27 countries)*



## OTC drives women's EC usage in Europe

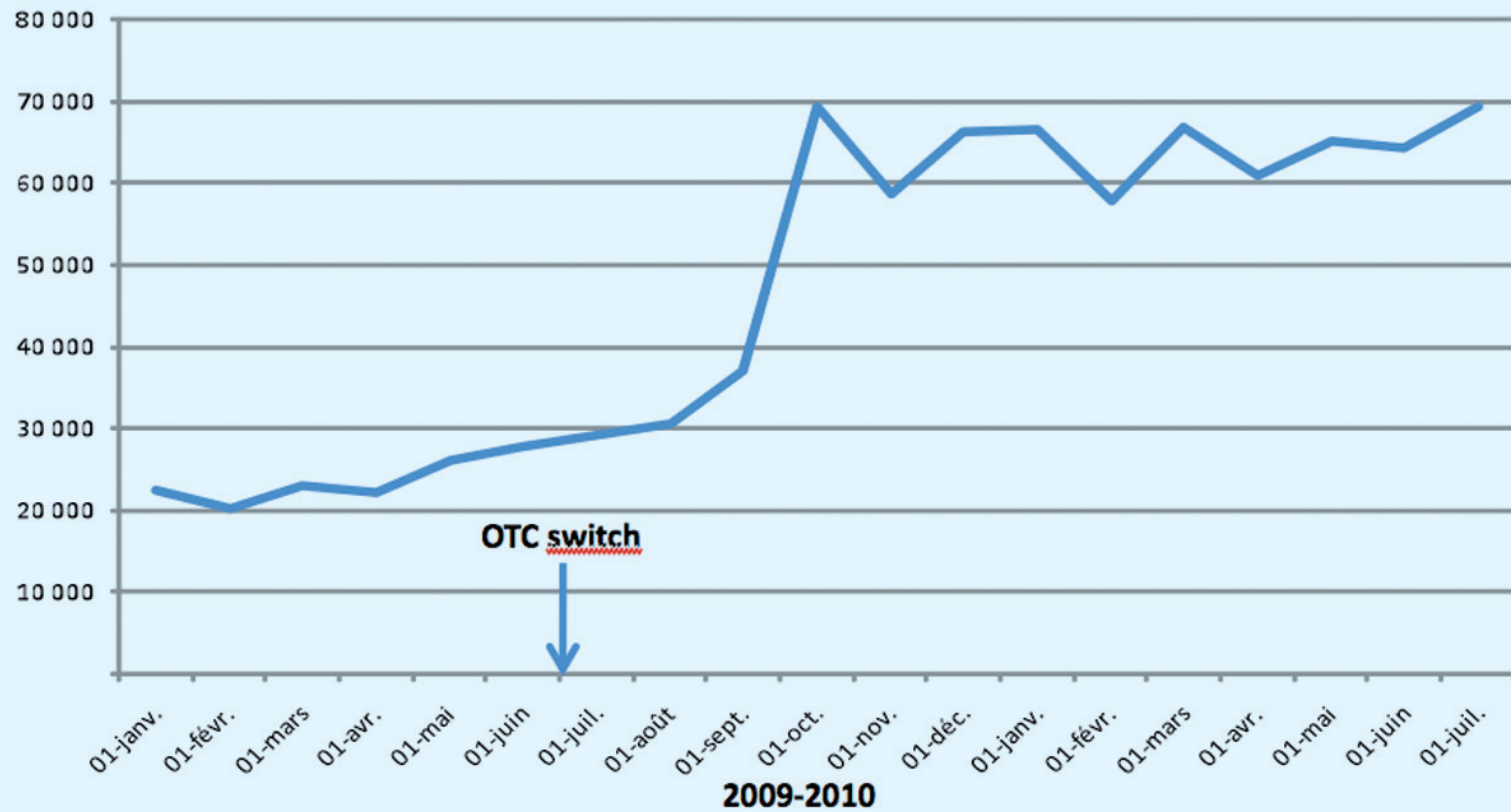
**% EC use / women population 15-49 yrs**

(EC units sold per year divided per number of women 15-49 yrs)



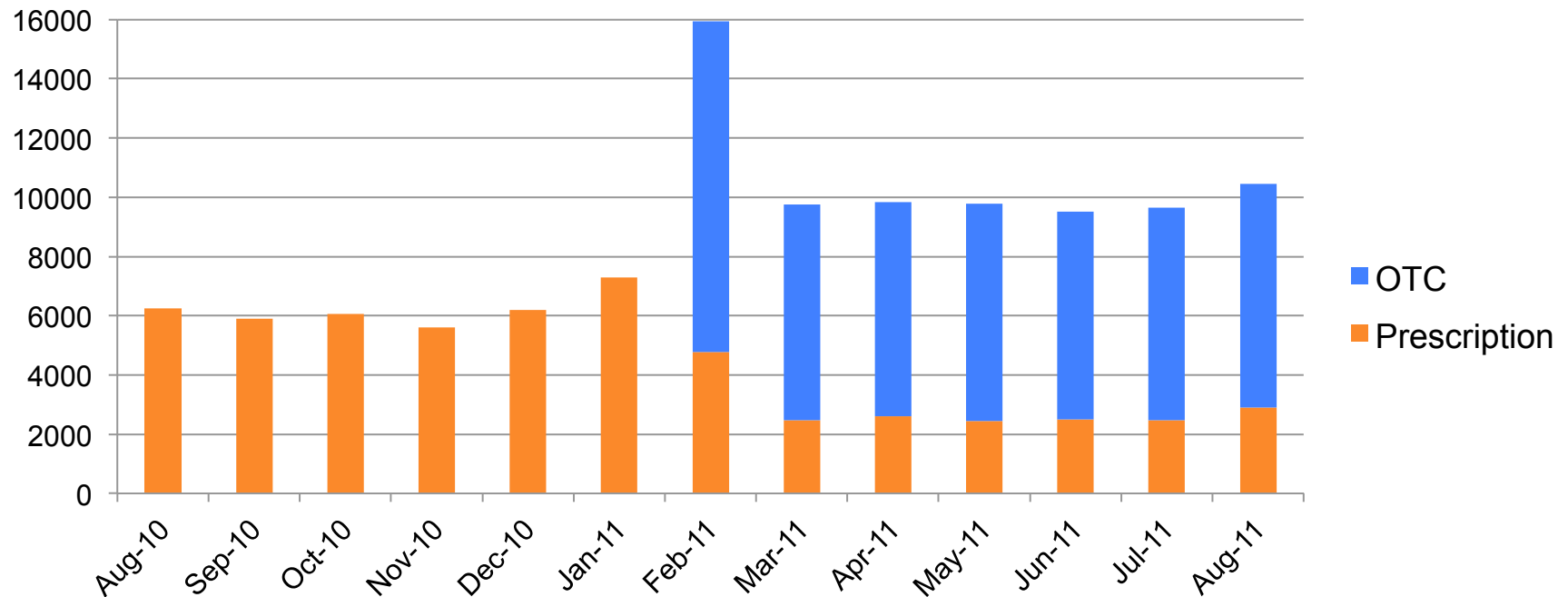
# Broader access widens EC use Spain example

**EC Units**

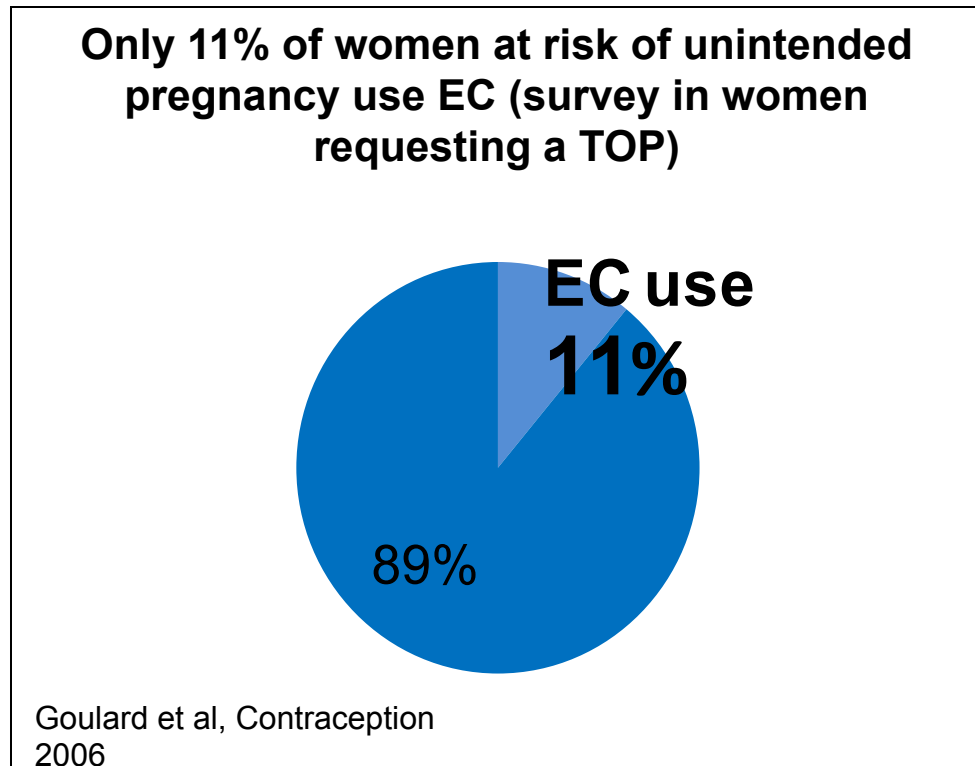


## Broader access widens EC use Ireland example

- **7 months after switch**
  - 72% women now purchase EC directly at Pharmacy
  - Market grown by 67%



## Unawareness of risk is an explanation for underuse



**EC use still very low mainly due to unawareness of risk taken**



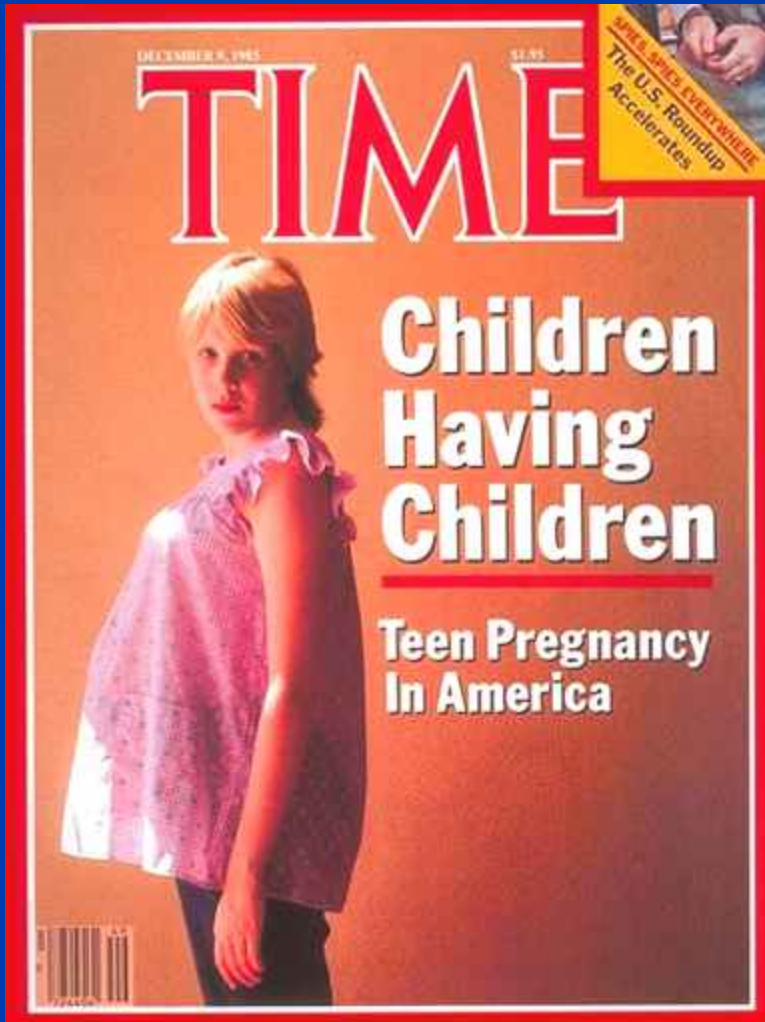
## Key actors of EC provision in the EU

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- **For LNG: many actors involved in EC provision**
  - Pharmacists
  - Nurses
  - School nurses
  - Family planning organizations
  - Midwives
  - Physicians
- **For ellaOne: still few actors**
  - Physicians (Rx) + pharmacists (dispensation)
  - Family planning organizations
  - In the UK, nurses can be allowed to prescribe
  - Sweden midwives prescribe ellaOne



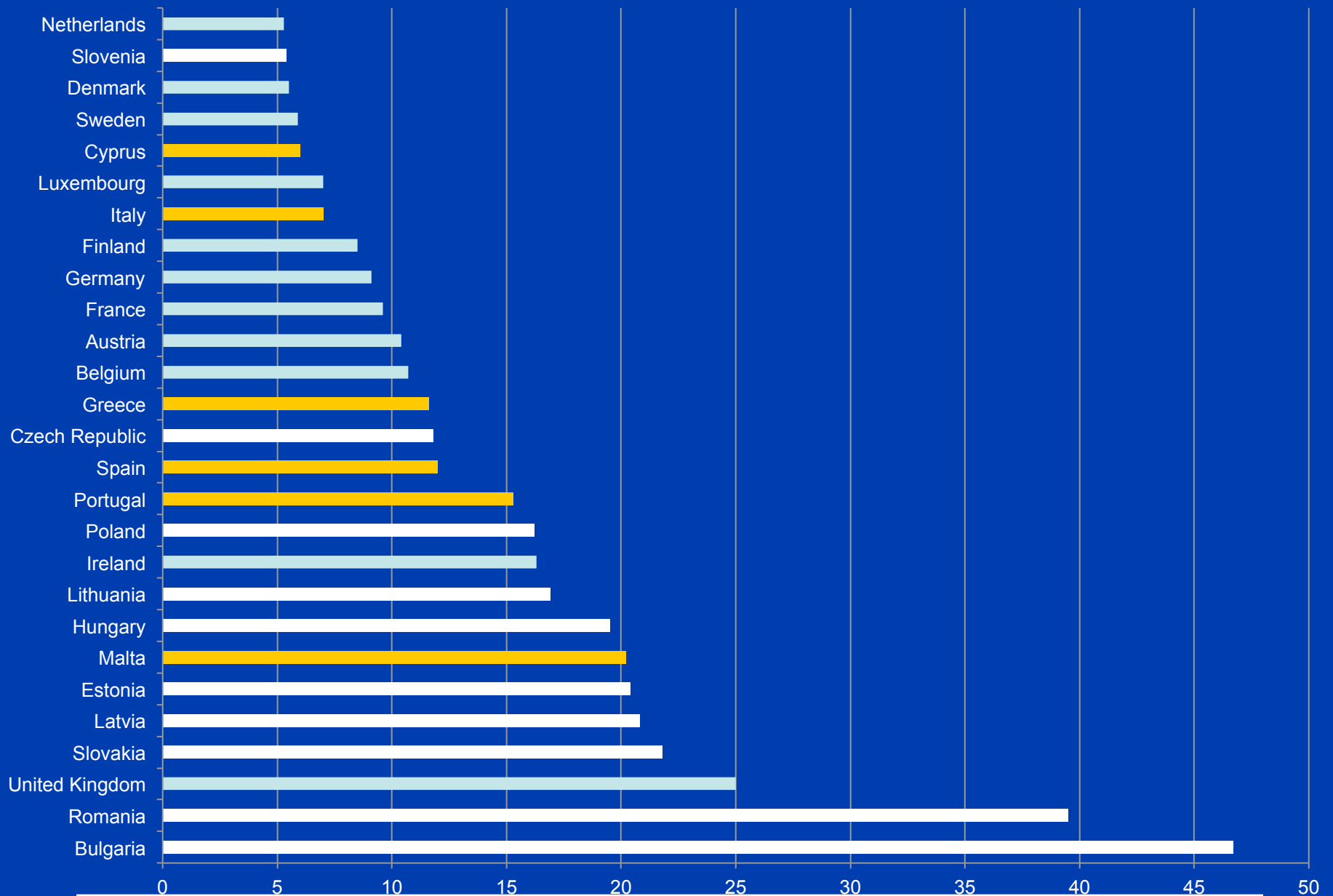
# Ambivalence about getting pregnant



Teenage Pregnancy  
–a strange way out?

Teenage pregnancy /mothers.  
High risk for another pregnancy/  
abortion

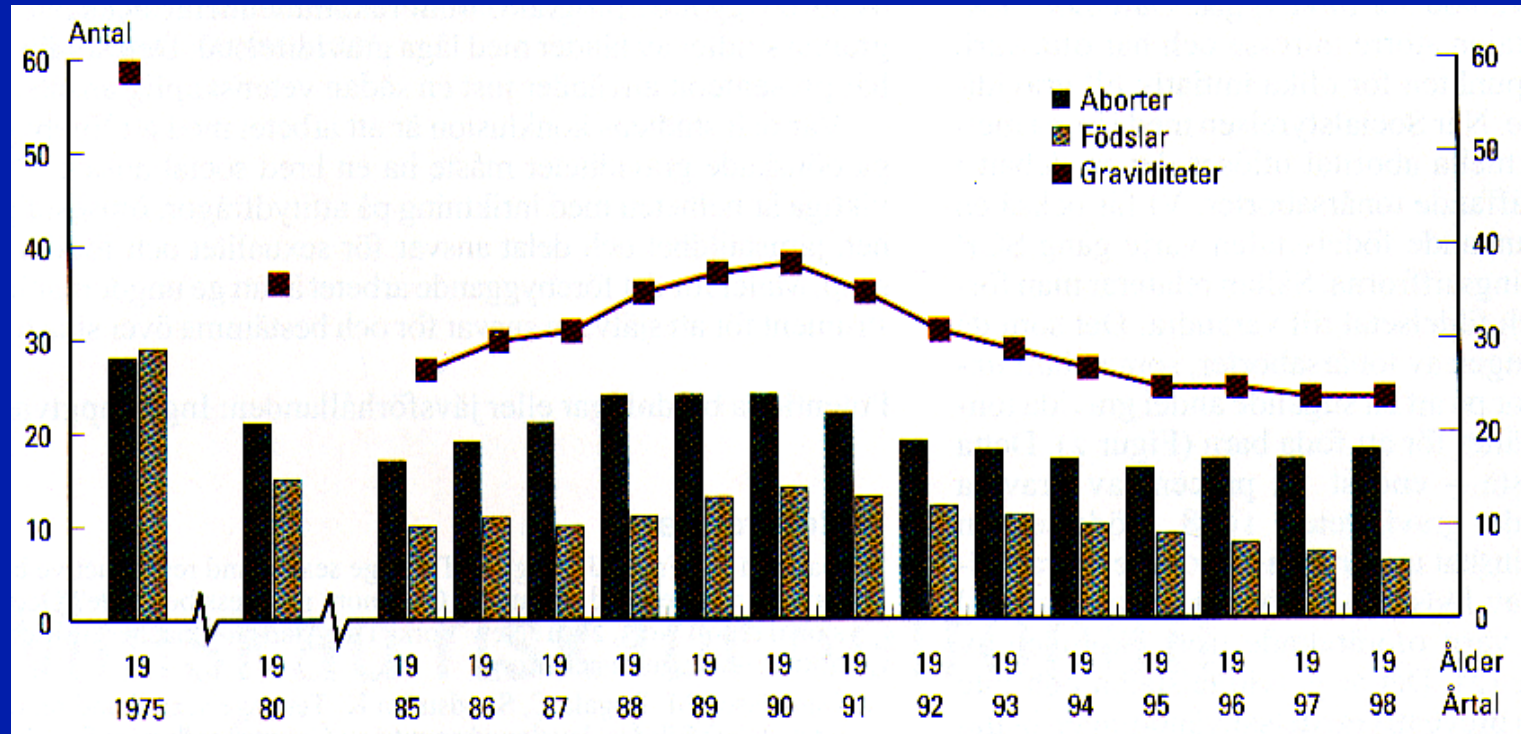
Falk G et al., 2008, Stevens-SimonC et al., 2001,  
Schelar et al., 2007



**Reprostat 2011, Teenage birth rate**

**K Gemzell Danielsson**

# Teenage pregnancies births and induced abortions



# DitchThePill.org

Empowerment for Women



- Home
- About Us
- Dr. Jones' Blog
- Dangers of Birth Control Pills
- Birth Control Alternatives
- Migraine Headaches
- Third Generation BCP's
- Match the Pill
- Neutralize BCP Toxins
- Blood Clots
- Strokes
- Heart Disease
- Heart Attacks
- High Blood Pressure

## **“You’re Being Slowly Poisoned... by Birth Control Pills!”**

### **Ever Wonder Where Your Migraine Headaches, PMS and Breast Cancers Come From?**

**For the Last 50 Years, Big Drug Companies and the  
FDA Have Deceived You for Greed**

**But Now, You Can Reverse The Pill's Toxic Effects**

**BREAKING NEWS! ...“Public Citizen Petitions FDA to  
Ban Third-Generation Birth Control Pills.” Oral  
Contraceptives Containing Desogestrel are proven to  
cause dangerous and sometimes fatal blood clots.**

**[Read Full Release Here](#)**

Are you confused about taking birth control pills (BCP's)? Well ... you're not alone. Many women have been receiving conflicting advice about them. Perhaps you've taken them some time ago and noticed the negative effects they had on your body – or you're taking them now and wondering if they're doing any damage.

Many of you have long suspected certain health problems like migraine headaches or PMS developed **after** you had taken the Pill. You played the detective and determined that BCP's were indeed the culprit.

But when you talked to your doctor about it, you were probably told BCP's are good for you - and to continue taking them. But deep down inside, you felt this was not the best advice to take.

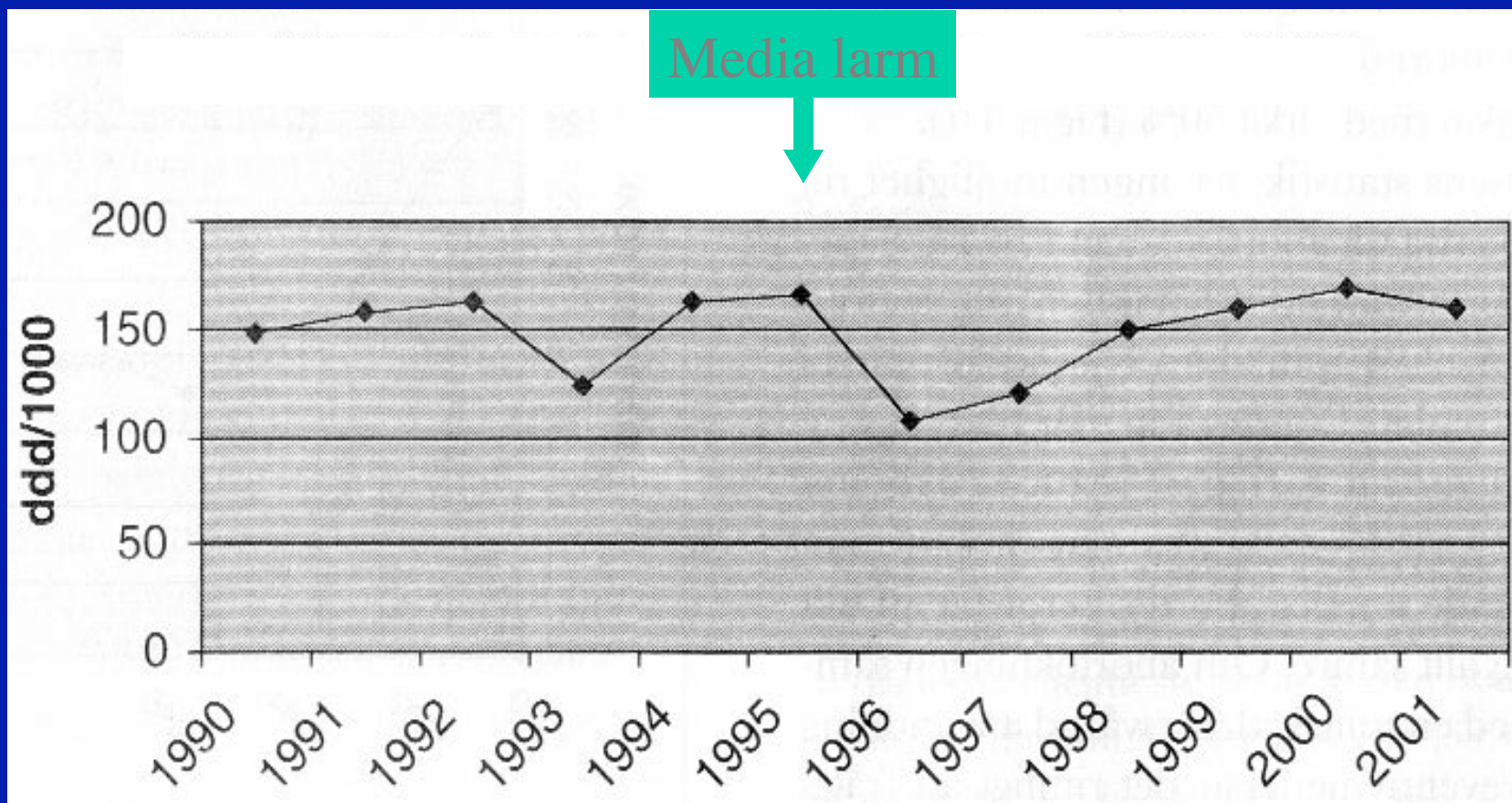
**You Were Right All Along**

**Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell Danielsson**





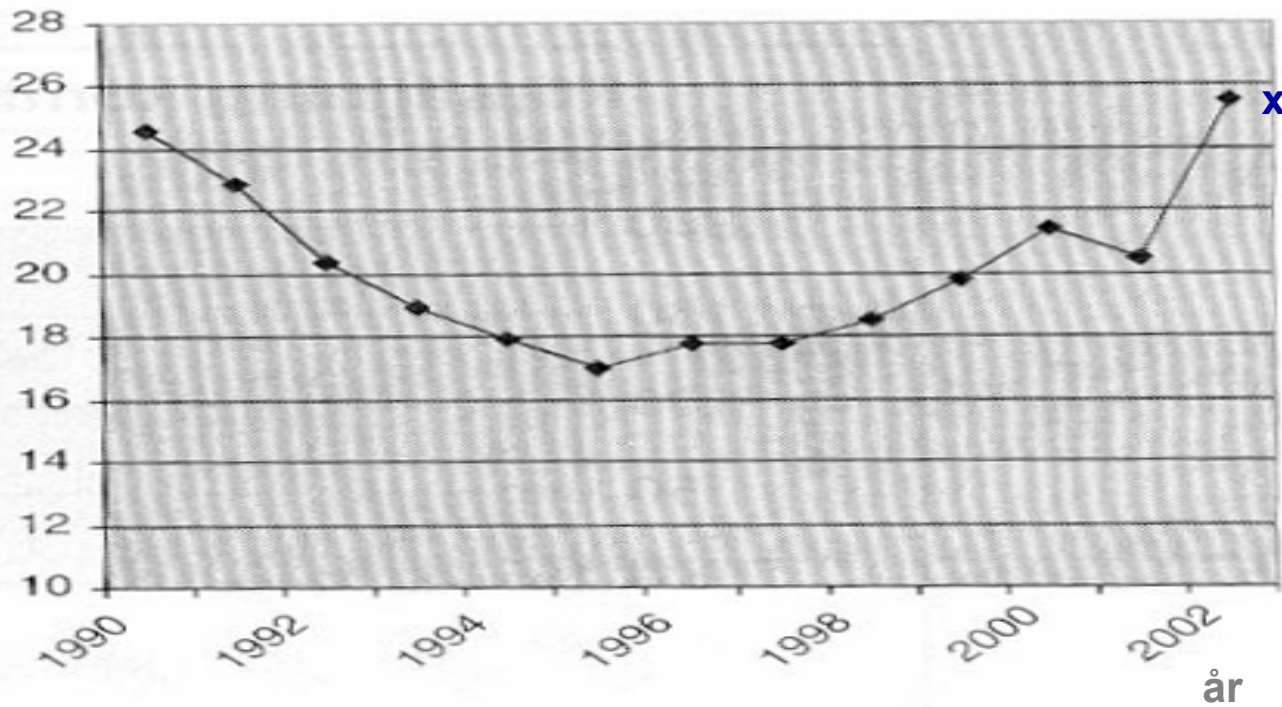
# P-piller bland tonåringar





# Teenage abortions 1990-2002

Aborter per 1000



# Sex education

- Does not increase sexual activity
- Does not increase risk behaviour

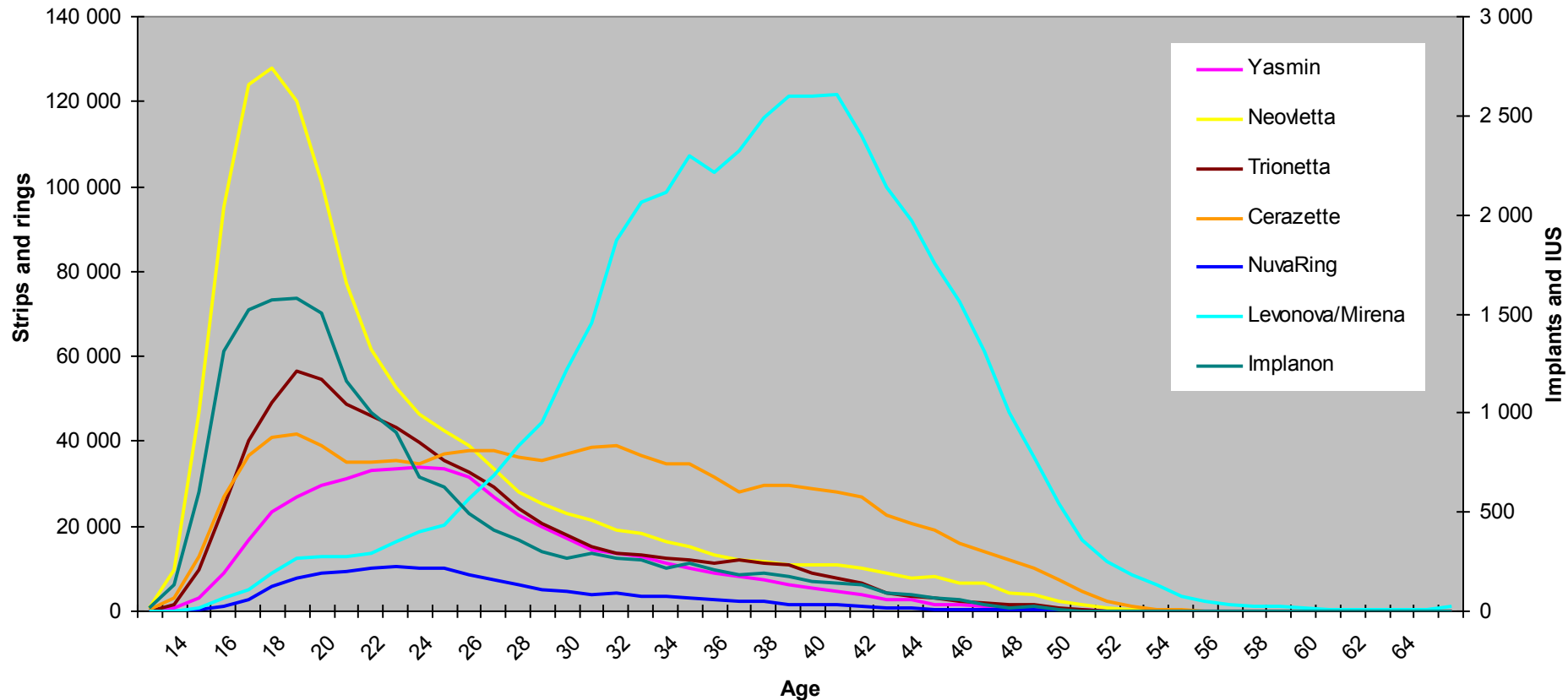
Kirby DB et al., 2007 J Adolesc Health

- Ineffective strategies:
  - Focus on risks
  - Abstinence only

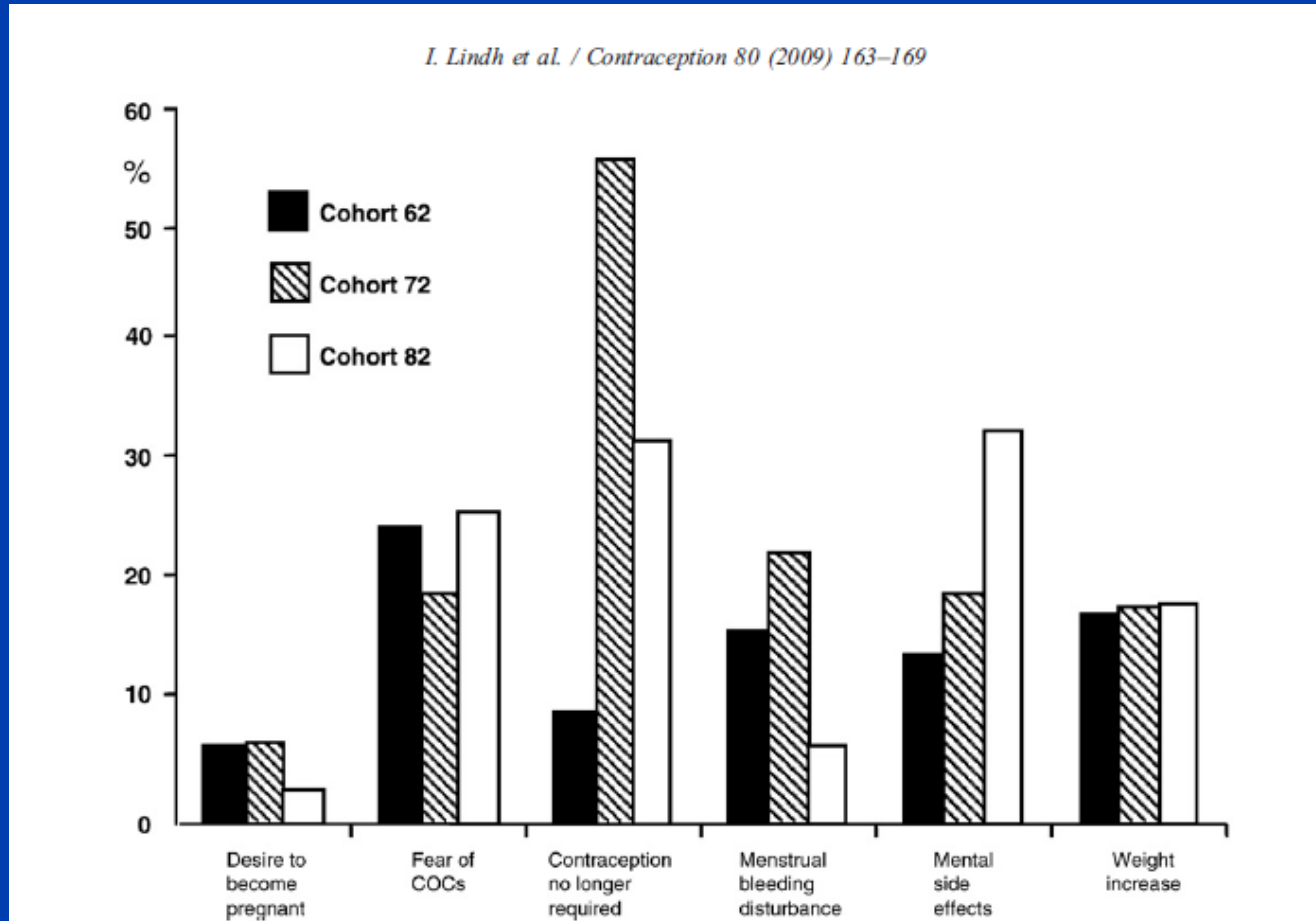
- Oakley et al., BMJ 1985, NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination 1997

# Sales figures, Sweden

User age in contraceptive market, 2006

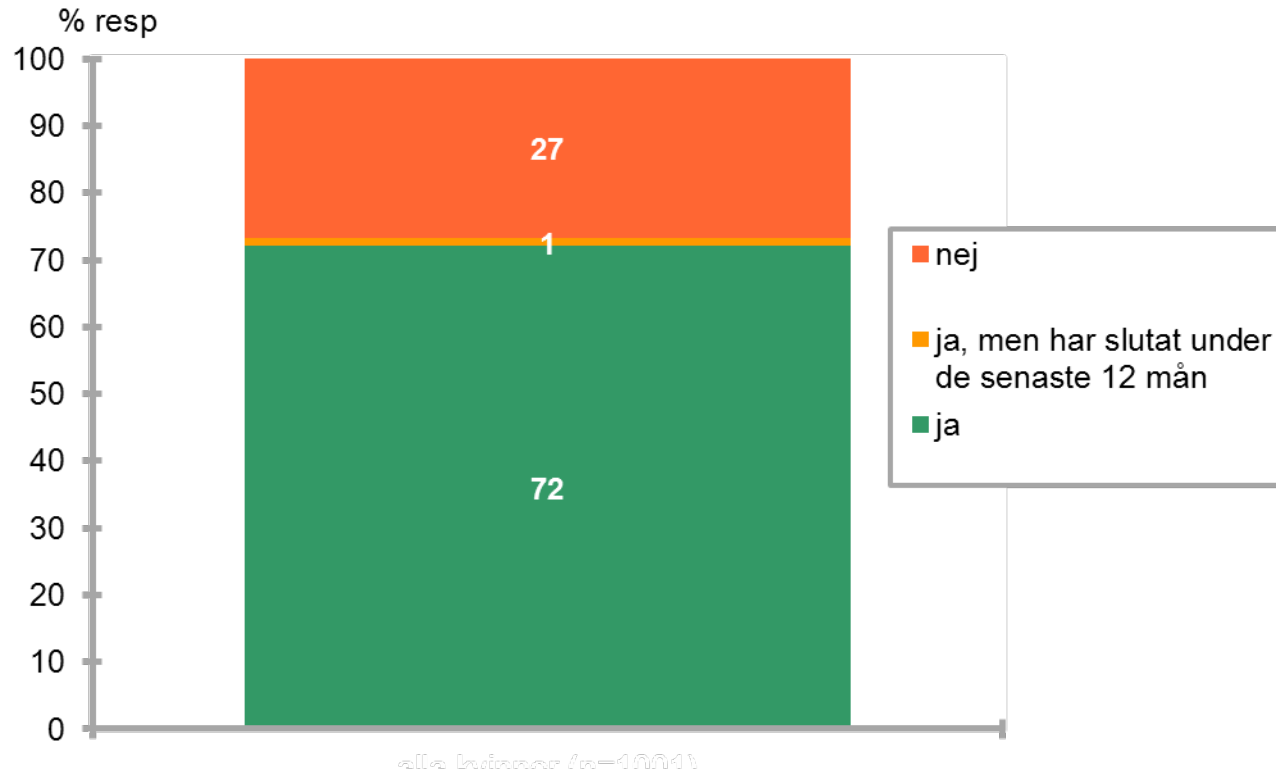


# Why do young women stop taking COC?



# Resultat

## Användning av preventivmedel/ metod de senaste 12 månaderna Alla kvinnor (n=1001)

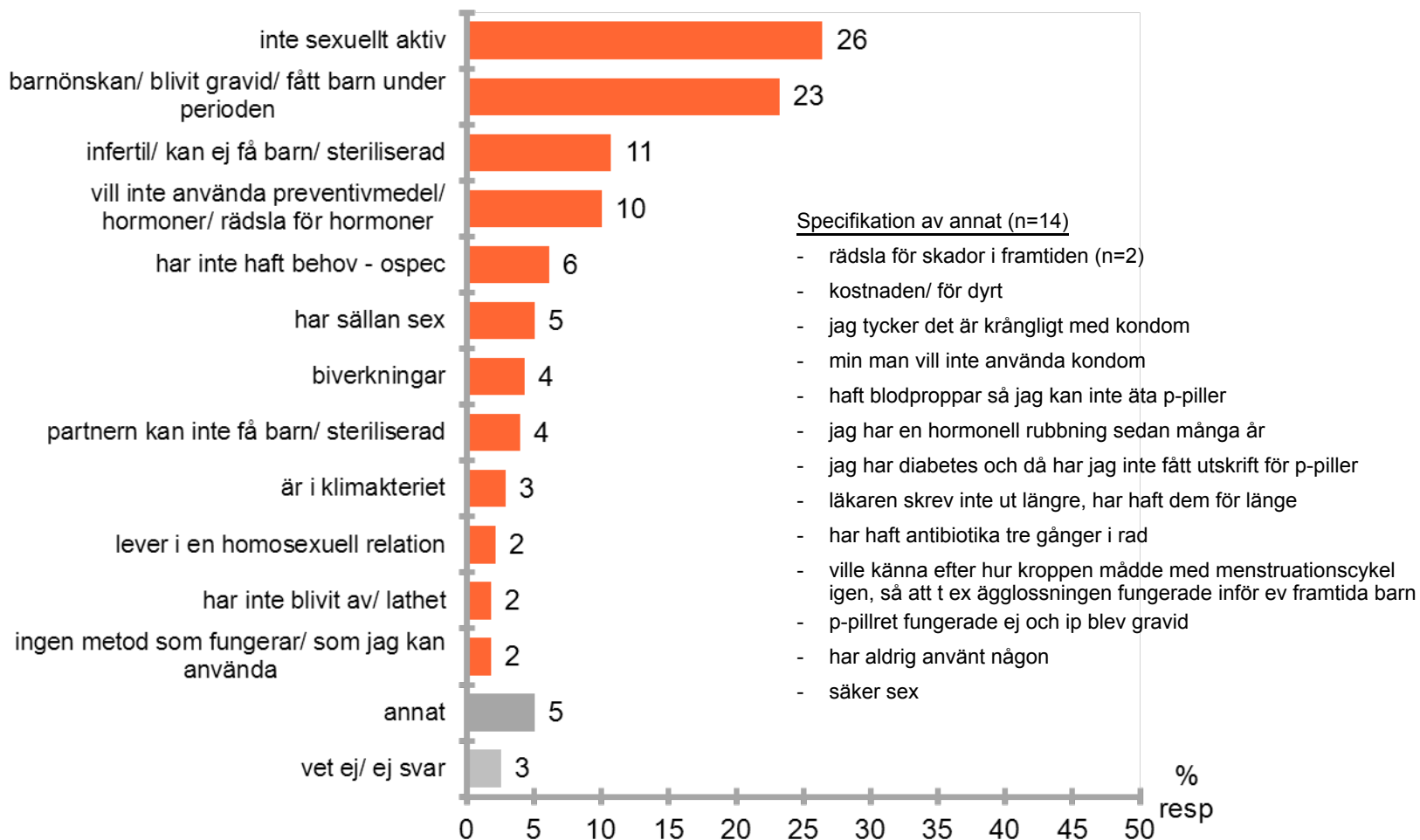


**Bas: Alla kvinnor**

*Fr1. Har du under de senaste 12 månaderna använt dig av något preventivmedel eller annan preventivmetod? Med preventivmetod menar vi: p-piller, spiral, säkra perioder, avbrutet samlag, kondom, sterilisering etc.*

# Anledning att ej använda preventivmedel / slutat använda preventivmedel

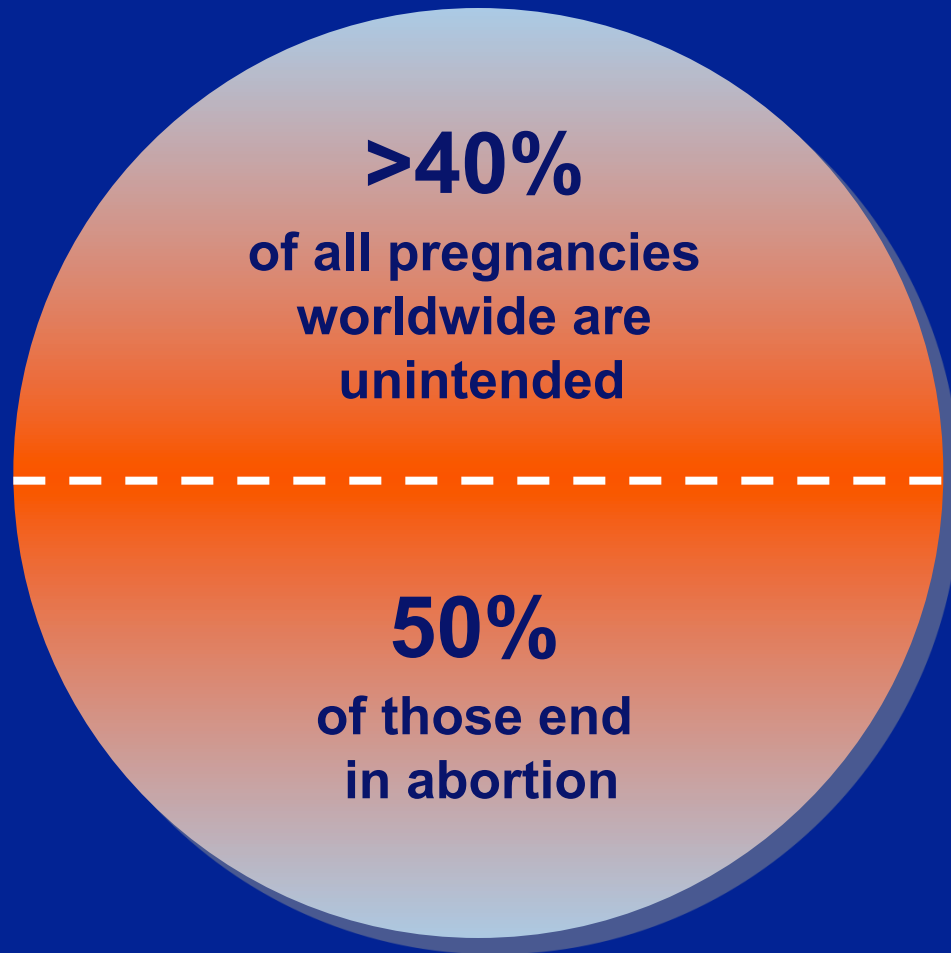
Ej användare av preventivmedel (n=280)



**Bas: Kvinnor som inte använder preventivmedel/ har slutat under senaste 12 mån**

Fr2. Vad är anledningen till att du inte använt något preventivmedel eller annan preventivmetod de senaste 12 månaderna? Vad är anledningen till att du slutat använda något preventivmedel?

# Is there still a 'medical need' in contraception?



Singh S et al. Unintended pregnancy: worldwide levels, trends, and outcomes. Stud Fam Plann 2010;41:241–250. Data for 2008  
Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell Danielsson

# Unmet need in contraception

- Improved methods for EC
- Methods for dual protection
- Reversible methods for men
- Long-acting, non-hormonal methods (immunocontraception)
- Improved access/removed barriers to LARCs
- Methods with added health benefits



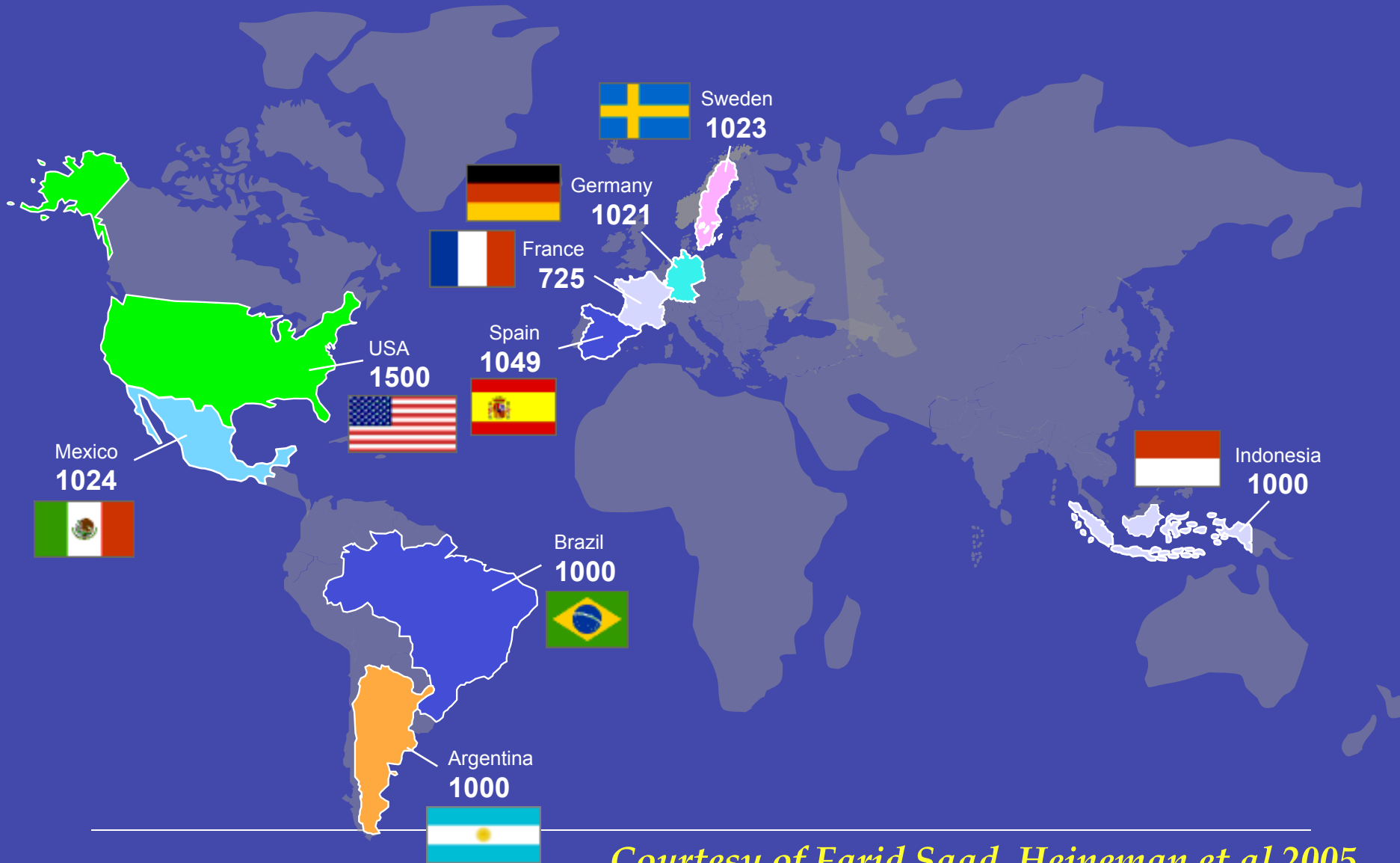
# Emergency Contraception



**Any method used *after* an unprotected intercourse to prevent an unwanted pregnancy**

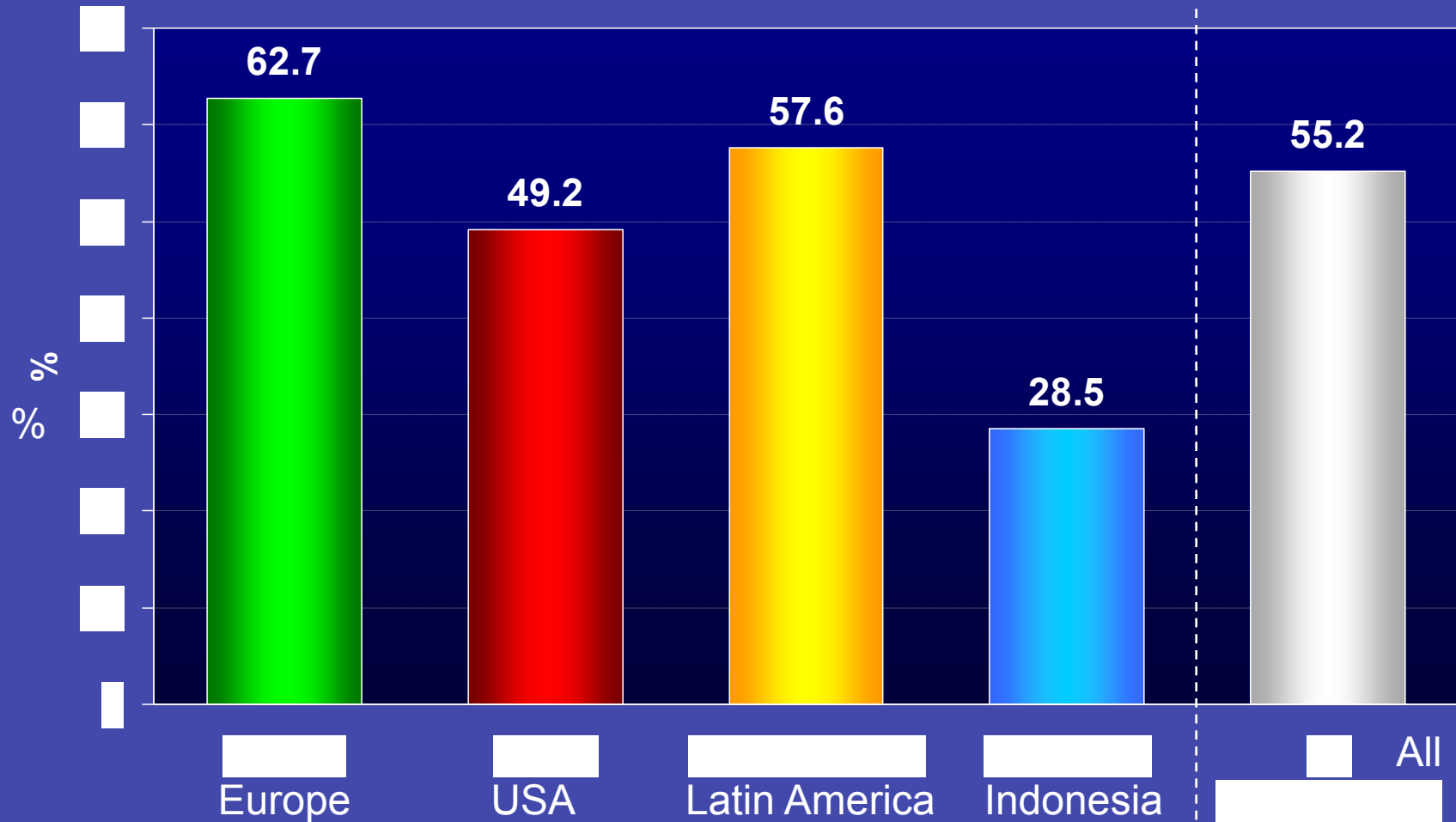
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9342 Men



*Courtesy of Farid Saad, Heineman et al 2005*  
Contraception in Europe. K Gemzell Danielsson

# Willingness to Use New Male Method



*Heineman et al 2005*

# Effectiveness of female contraceptive options

Method	% of women experiencing an unintended pregnancy within the first year of use	
	Typical use*	Perfect use†
No method‡	85	85
Female condom§	21	5
Diaphragm	12	6
Oral contraceptives: COC/POP	9	0.3
Transdermal patch	9	0.3
Vaginal ring	9	0.3
Injectable	6	0.2
Cu-IUD	0.8	0.6
Female sterilization	0.5	0.5
LNG-IUS: Mirena®	0.2	0.2
Subdermal implant	0.05	0.05

Increasing effectiveness in 'typical use'



Refer to slide notes for explanatory footnotes \*, †, § and ||

COC, combined oral contraceptive; Cu-IUD, copper intrauterine device;

LNG-IUS, levonorgestrel intrauterine system; POP, progestin-only pill

Trussell, 2011

Contraception for young and nulliparous women, K.Gemzell Danielsson

# Mirena®

- Intrauterine System (IUS), Concept invented by Pr T. Luukkainen
- Developed by Population Council
- in collaboration with Leiras Oy, Turku
- Studied since 1983, Approved 1990 in Finland
- Sweden 1992, FDA approval 2001



# Risk factors for repeat abortions

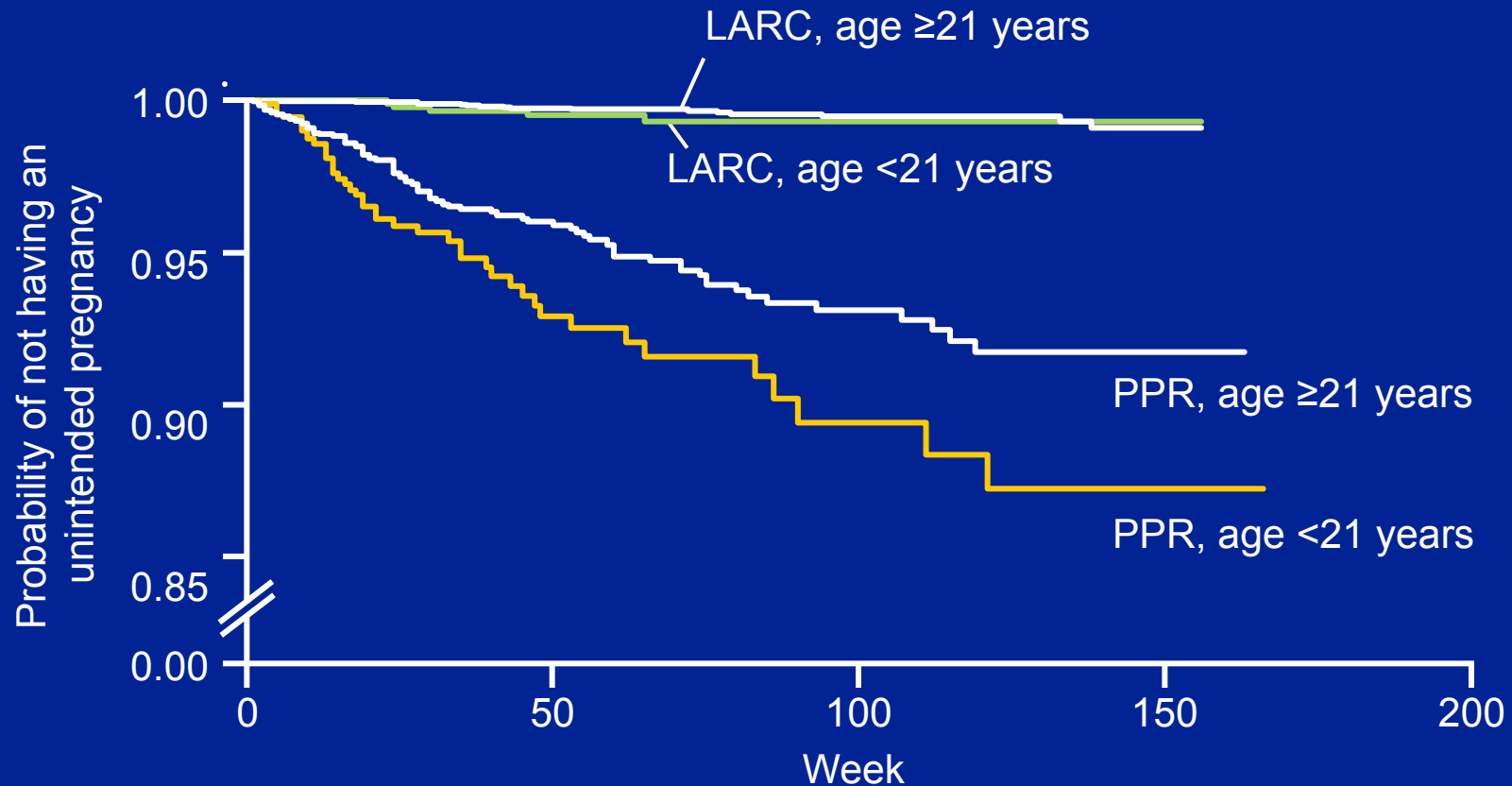
Reduced risk:

- Immediate initiation of contraceptive in contrast to postponed
- LARC more effective vs OC/condom
- IUC most effective to avoid another abortion
- **LNG-IUS lowest cumulative risk at 5yrs**

Heikinheimo et al.,2008

# Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARCs)

Women <21 years of age using pills, patch, or ring had almost twice the risk of unintended pregnancy as older women (hazard ratio 1.9; 95% CI 1.2–2.8;  $p=0.02$ )



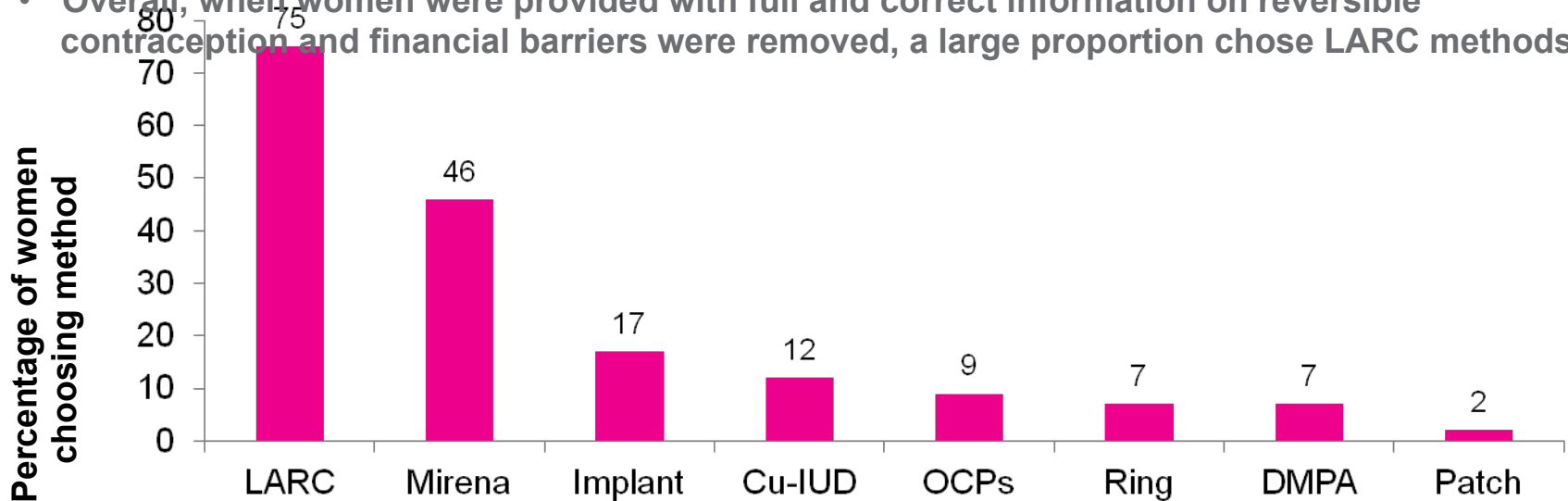
LARC, long-acting reversible contraceptive; PPR, pill patch or ring; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval

1. Winner B, et al. N Engl J Med 2012;366:1998–2007

# Acceptability of IUC

Increased information/education increases LARC use

- Data from 9,256 women in the contraceptive CHOICE project
- Overall, when women were provided with full and correct information on reversible contraception and financial barriers were removed, a large proportion chose LARC methods



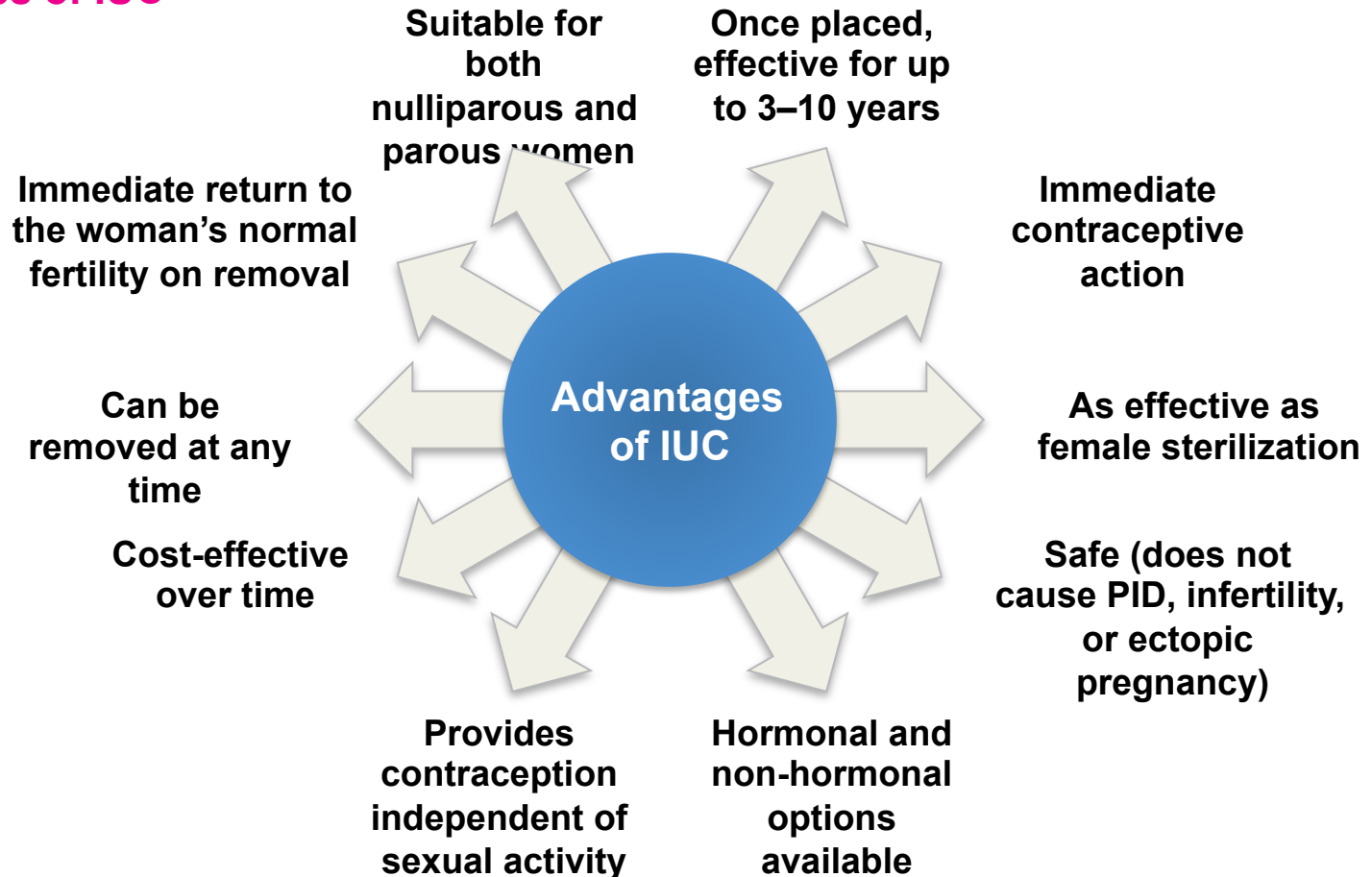
®

Cu-IUD, copper intrauterine device; DMPA, depot medroxyprogesterone acetate; IUC, intrauterine contraception; LARC, long-acting reversible contraception; OCPs, oral contraceptive pills



# Health benefits of IUC

## Advantages of IUC



# Factors that influence the prevalence of IUC use: overview

Country/healthcare system level	HCP level	End-user level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government policy</li><li>• Types of HCP authorized</li><li>• Access to clinics</li><li>• Funding models</li><li>• Availability of practical training</li><li>• Lack of understanding of the value/cost-effectiveness of IUC</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HCPs' misperceptions on the safety of IUC</li><li>• HCPs' lack of confidence in performing placements, particularly in certain groups of women (in part owing to lack of practical training)</li><li>• HCPs' misperception that IUC is not suitable for certain groups of women</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women's low awareness of IUC as an option</li><li>• Perception of IUC as a foreign body in the uterus</li><li>• Women's misperceptions on the efficacy and safety of IUC</li><li>• Misperception that IUC methods are abortifacients</li><li>• Religious or cultural sensitivities regarding change in bleeding pattern</li></ul>

HCP, healthcare provider; IUC, intrauterine contraception

# Contraception improves women's welfare

Data collected in 450,000 women showed that the biggest contributor to an increase in life satisfaction was access to contraception

Because it increases:

Investment in  
education

Probability of  
working

Level of  
income

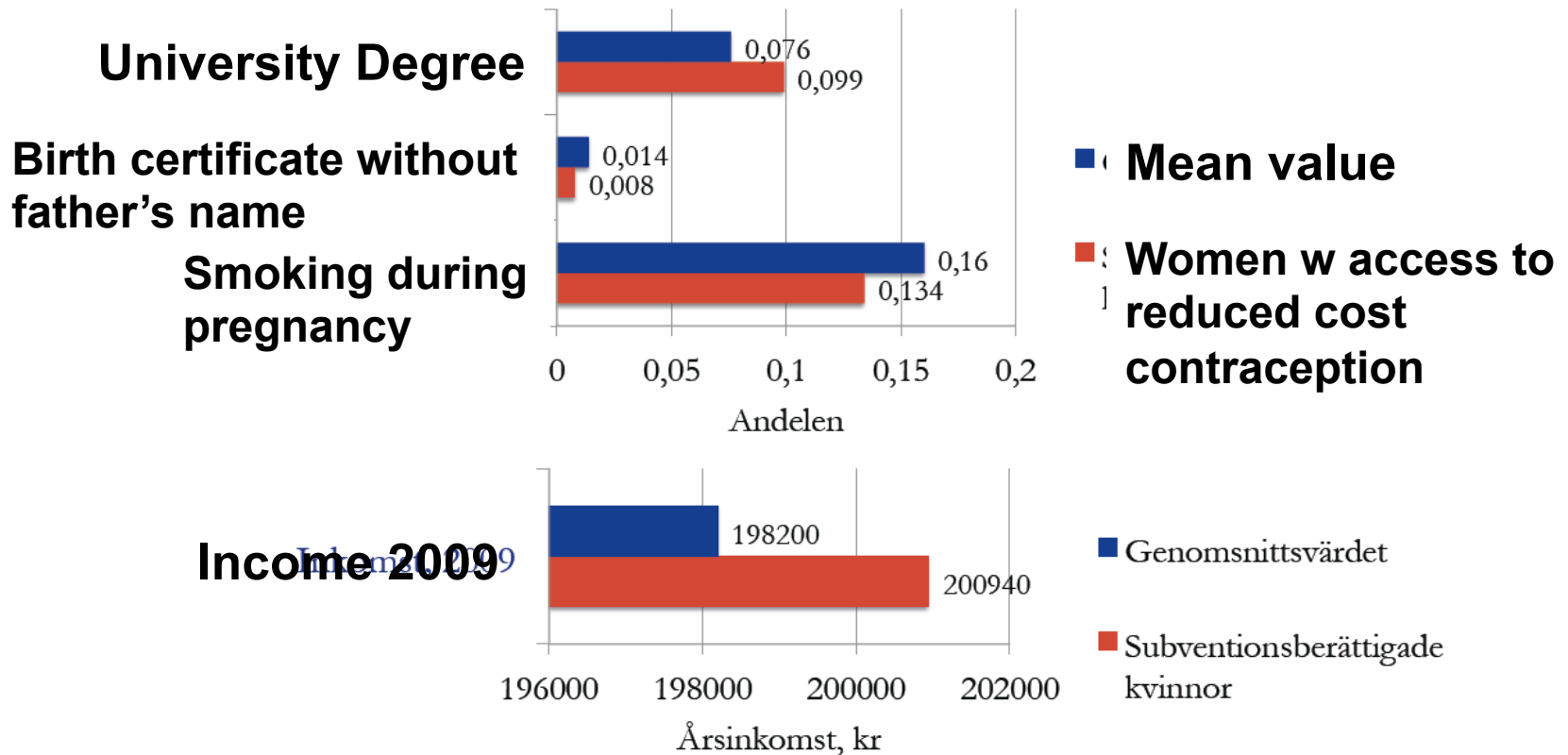
All contraceptive methods were cost-effective, because they prevented unintended pregnancies

# Impact of reduced costs for COC on women and their children

- Abortion legal 1975, COC approved 1964
- COC reduced costs for Young women introduced 1989-1998 (up to 19-24 yrs geographic variation); mean reduction approx 75% of full prize
- Several control groups;
  1. women of same age w reduced costs vs full cost
  - 2, women of same age before vs after cost reduction
  3. women above the age of reduction

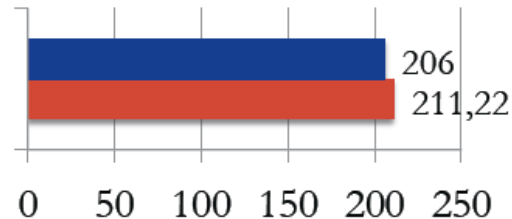
Ass Prof A Madestam, SU

# Effects on women



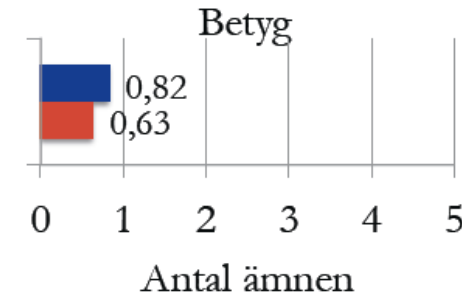
# Effects on children

**Grades national  
Test yr 9**



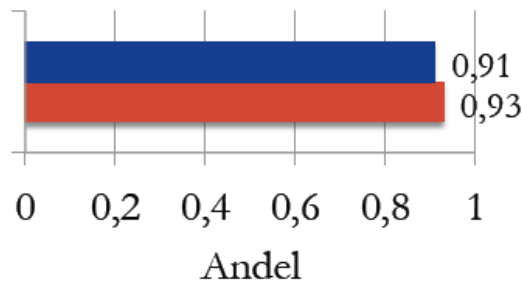
■ **Mean value**  
■ **Children of women w  
access to reduced cost  
contraception**

**No subjects  
Failed national  
tests yr 9**



■ **Genomsnittsvärdet**  
■ **Subventionsberättigade  
kvinnors barn**

**Qualified to  
high school**



■ **Genomsnittsvärdet**  
■ **Subventionsberättigade  
kvinnors barn**

## Conclusion

- Contraceptive a key indicator regarding SRH.
- Official standardised data on contraceptive use not routinely collected in Europe
- The prevalence rate of absence of any contraceptive method ranged from 4 to 40%. (Reprostat).
- Can a standard and preferred *contraceptive prevalence pattern* be suggested?
- Reimbursement policies for contraception have important impacts on usage
- As does the legislative framework
- Task shifting/sharing possible in some EU member states

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# THANK YOU

Kristina Gemzell Danielsson,  
Chair Obstetrics & Gynecology,  
Department of Women's and Children's Health,  
Director, WHO collaborating centre for  
Research & Research Training in Human Reproduction  
Karolinska Institutet /Karolinska University Hospital  
Stockholm, Sweden





# Stockholm, Sweden

# NFOG

## June 10-12, 2014

Karolinska Institutet's pre-conference courses  
start on June 9, 2014



Welcome to Stockholm  
for the 39th Nordic Congress  
of Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
which will be held in the heart of  
the city – Stockholm Waterfront

We look forward to meeting you.

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