

Challenges in adolescents' access to FP/SRH information and services

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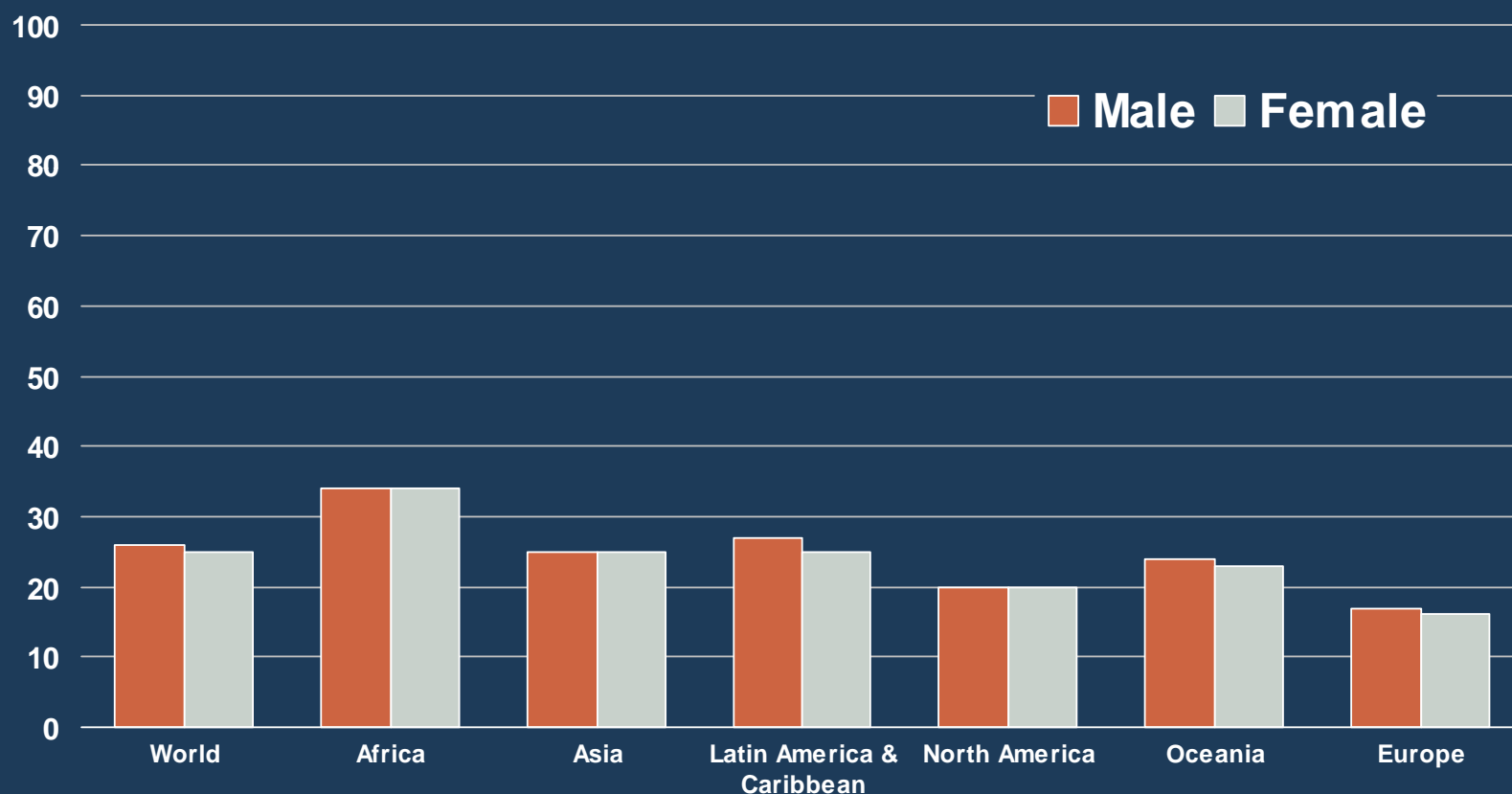
June 30 2009

Why care about adolescents

- 1) Lower maternal mortality and morbidity
- 2) Prevent HIV transmission and its consequences
- 3) Improve schooling achievement
- 4) Raise gender equality
- 5) Reduce poverty

Adolescents constitute about 1 in 4 of the world's reproductive age population in 2009

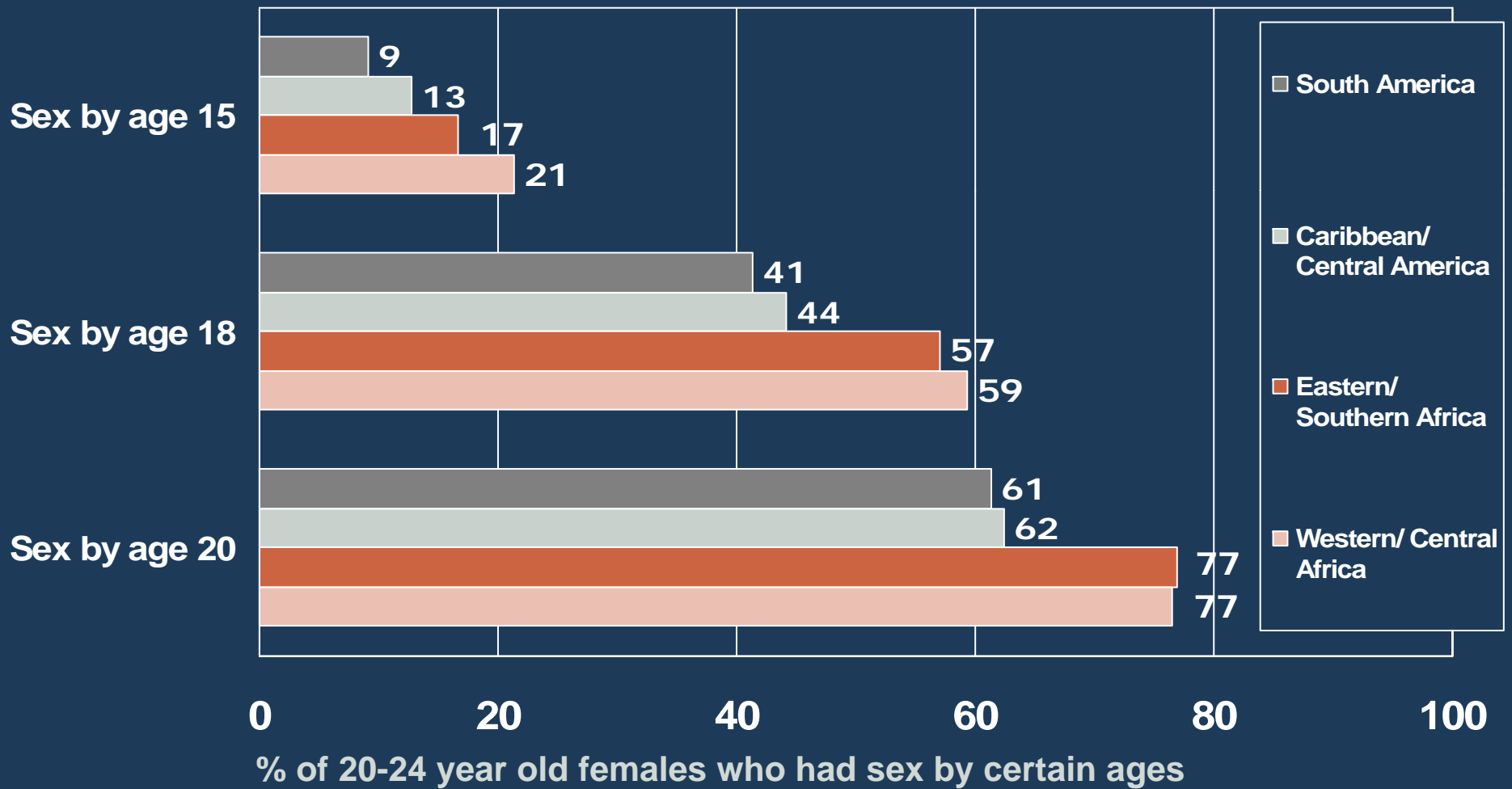
Proportion 10-19 years among the 10-59 year olds



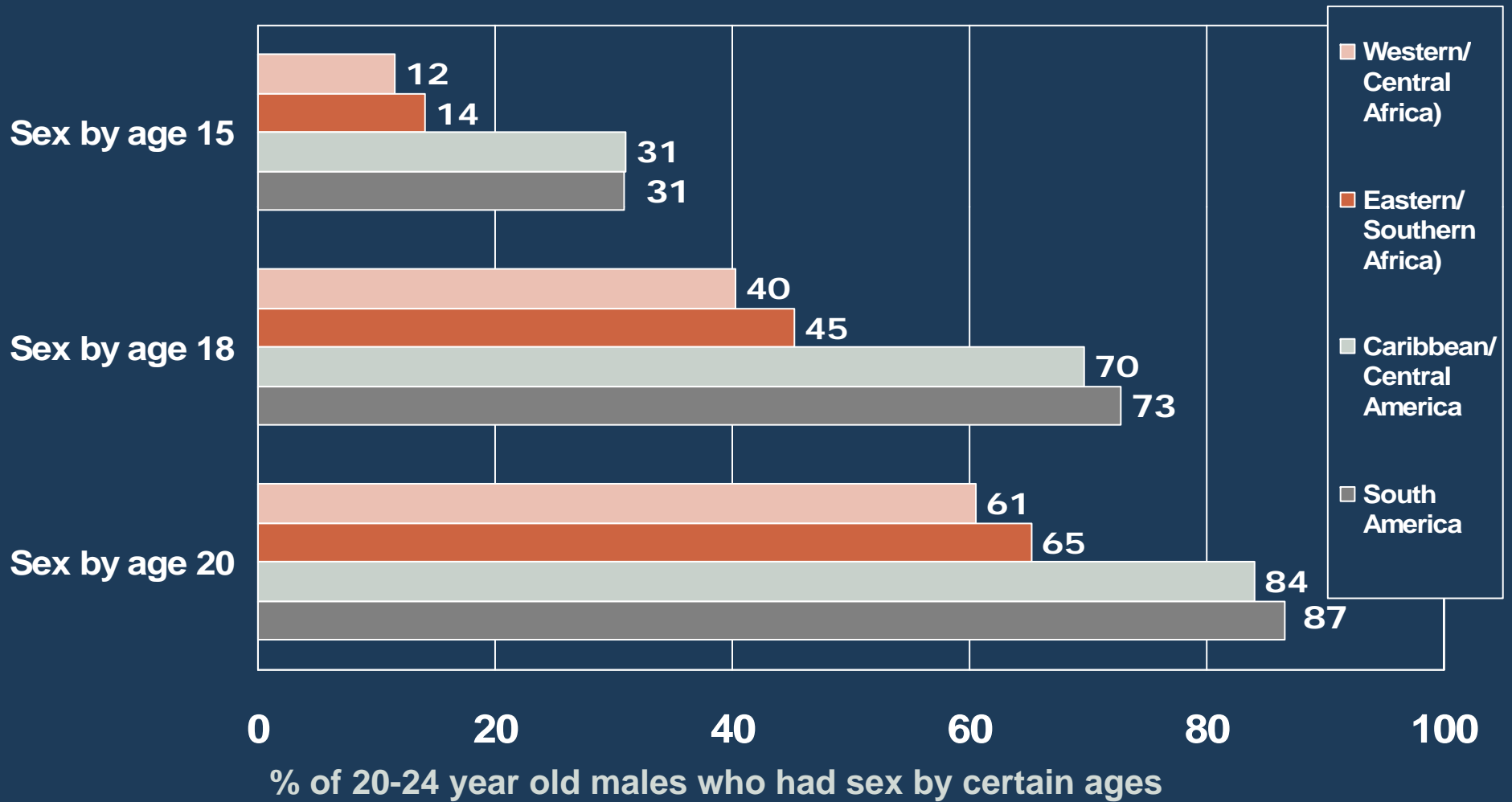
Compiled from UN World Population Prospects, 2008 Revision

Sexual Activity and Marriage

Adolescence is a time when changes in sexual activity happen fast

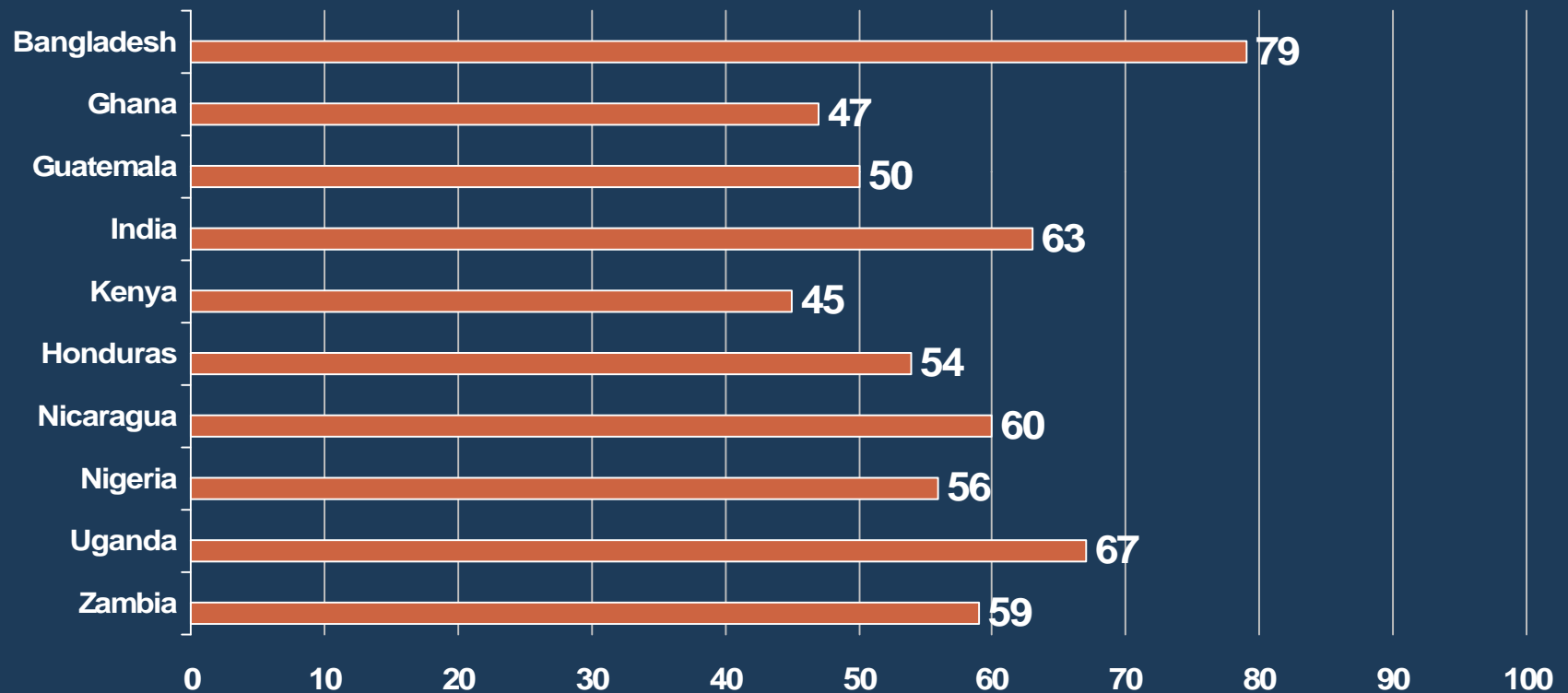


And the pace of change is similar for adolescent males



Early marriage is still very common in many developing countries

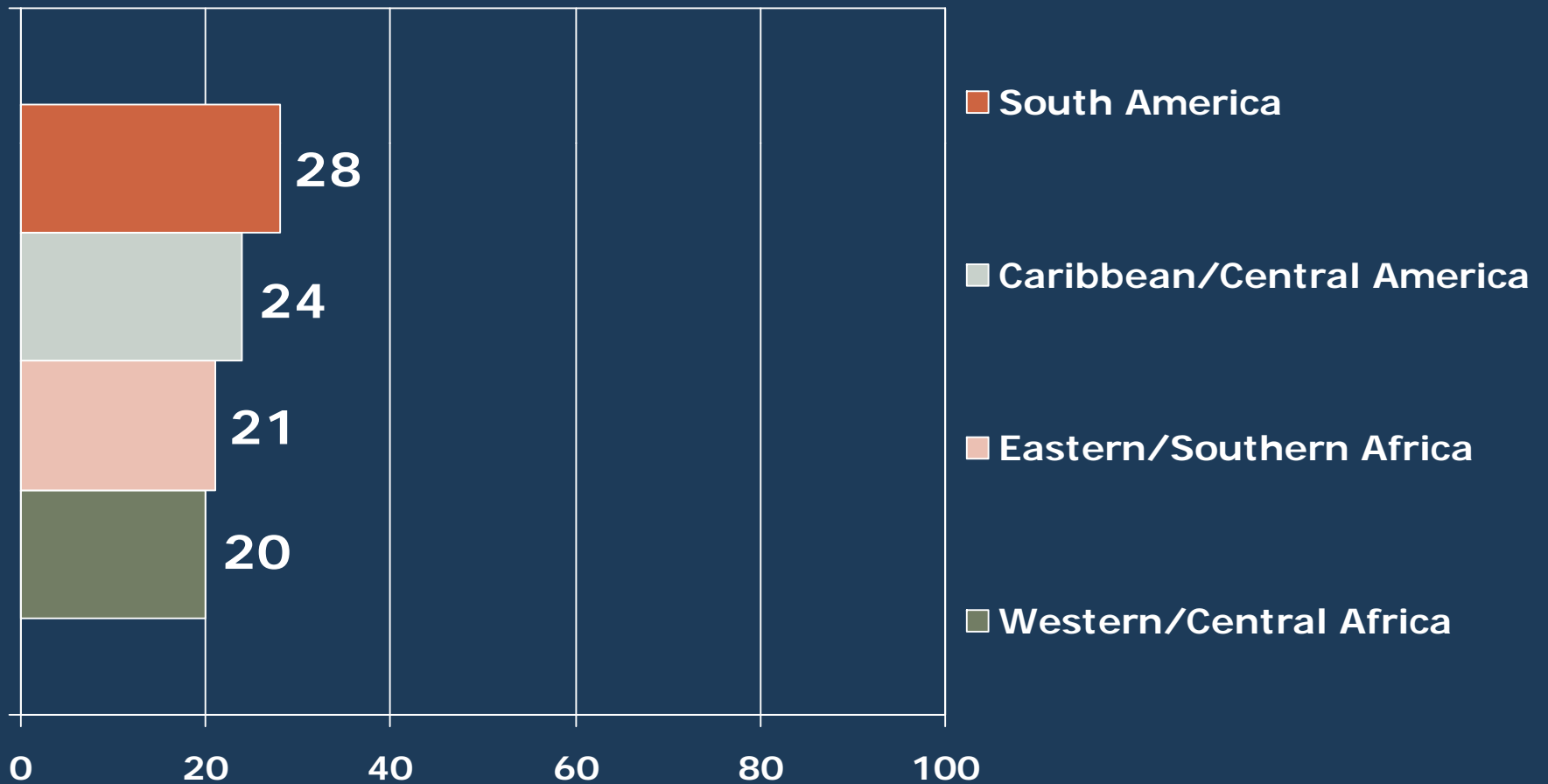
% married before age 20 among 20-24 year old women



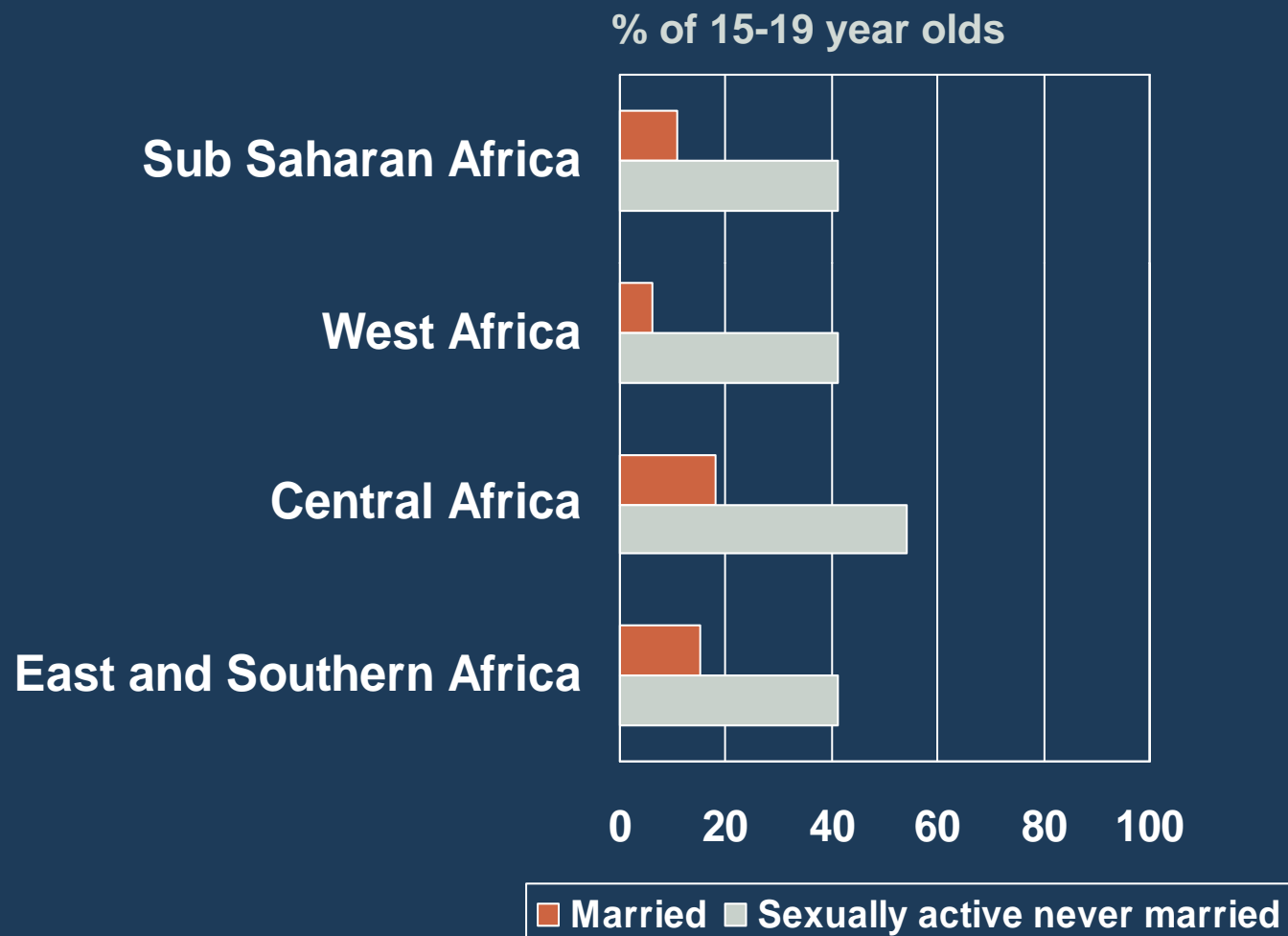
Contraceptive Use, Unmet Need and Unintended pregnancy

At least 1 in 5 sexually active adolescent women aged 15-19 are using contraception (any method)

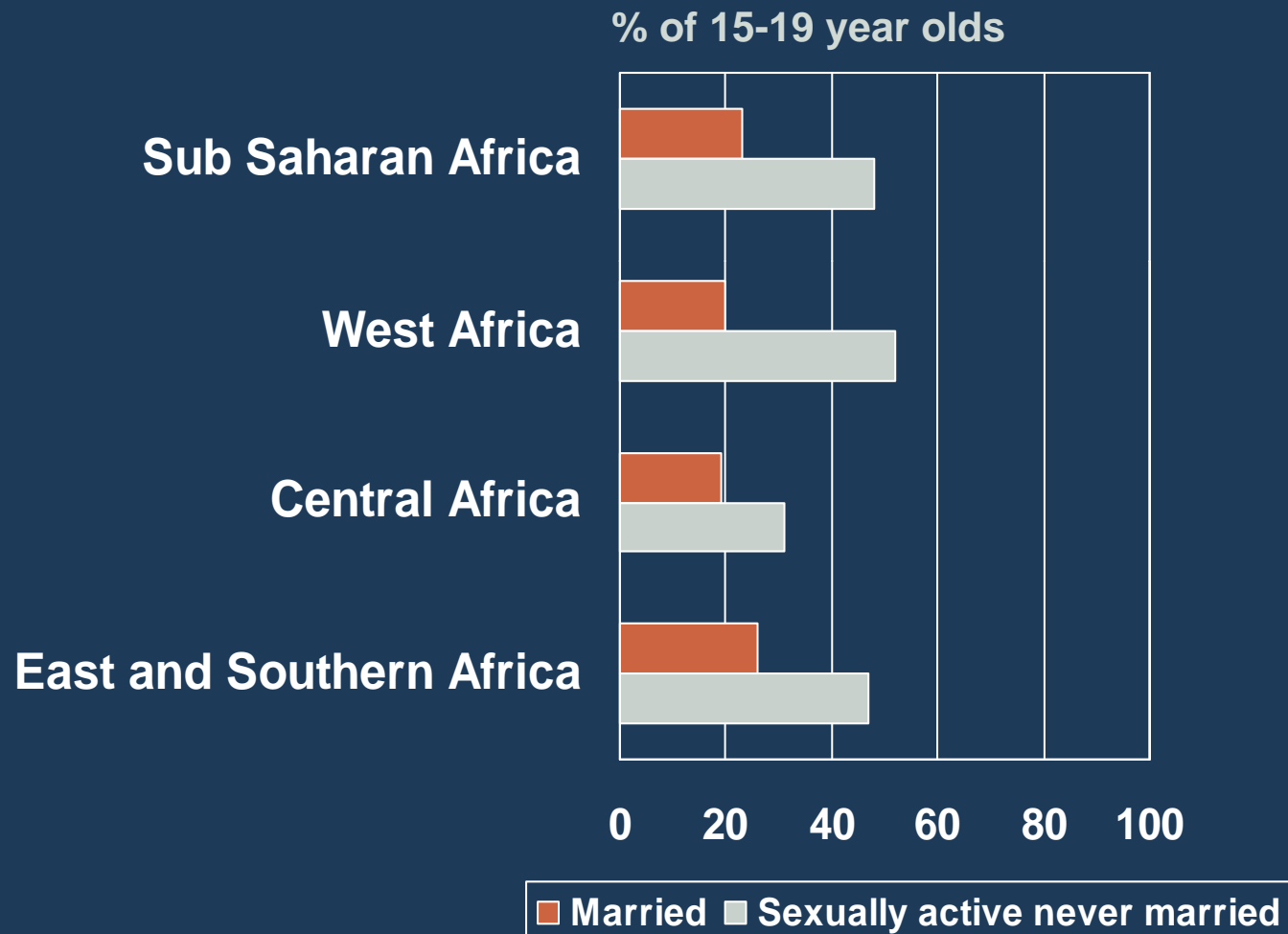
% using contraception



Sexually active never-married adolescent females are more likely to use contraception than their married counterparts

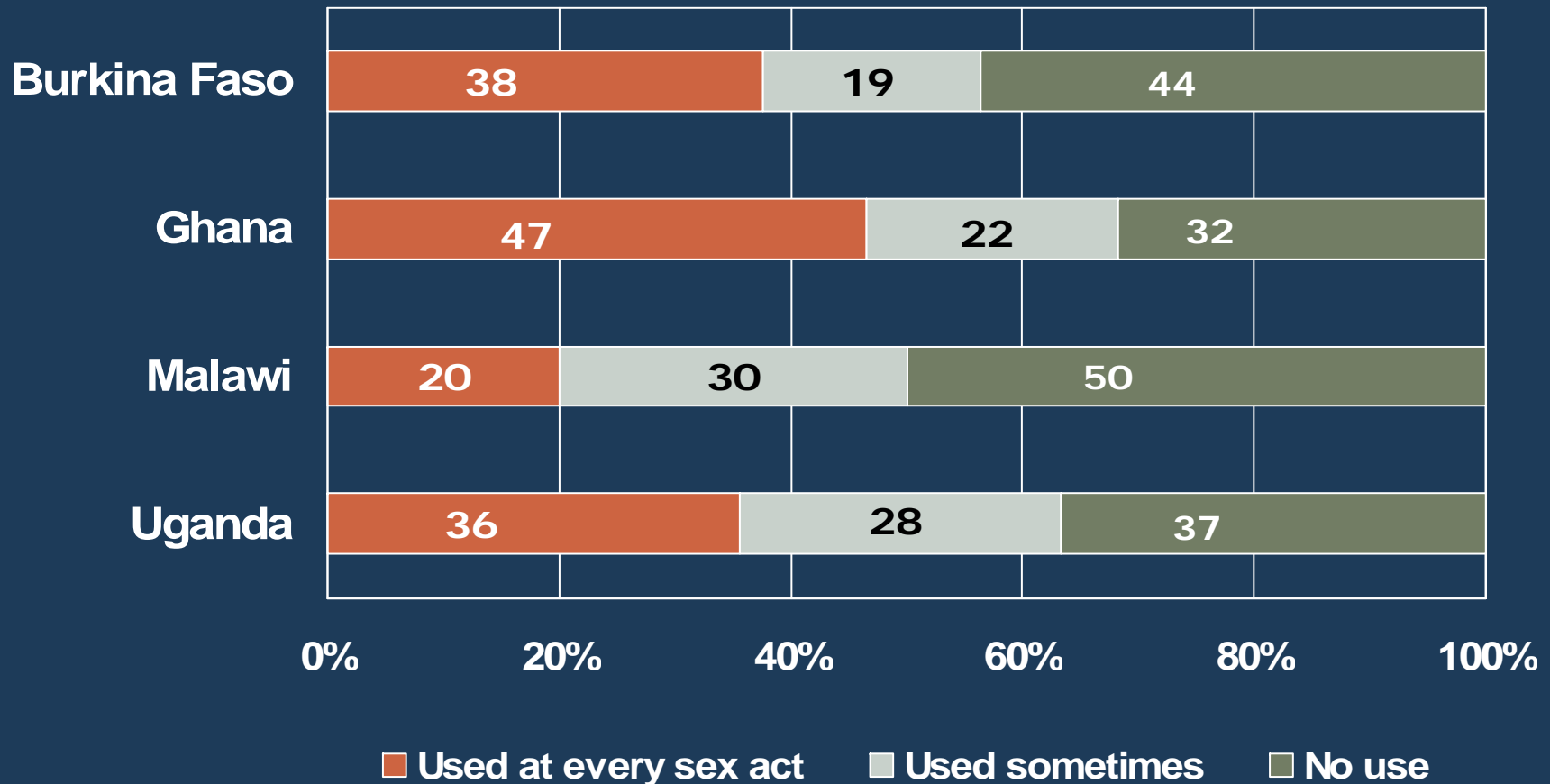


Levels of unmet need for contraception are higher among sexually active never-married adolescent females than among those who are married.



Less than half of young men use condoms consistently

% of 15-19 year old males who were sexually active in the past 3 months



Unwanted and mistimed pregnancies are a major problem among adolescents

7.9 million pregnancies

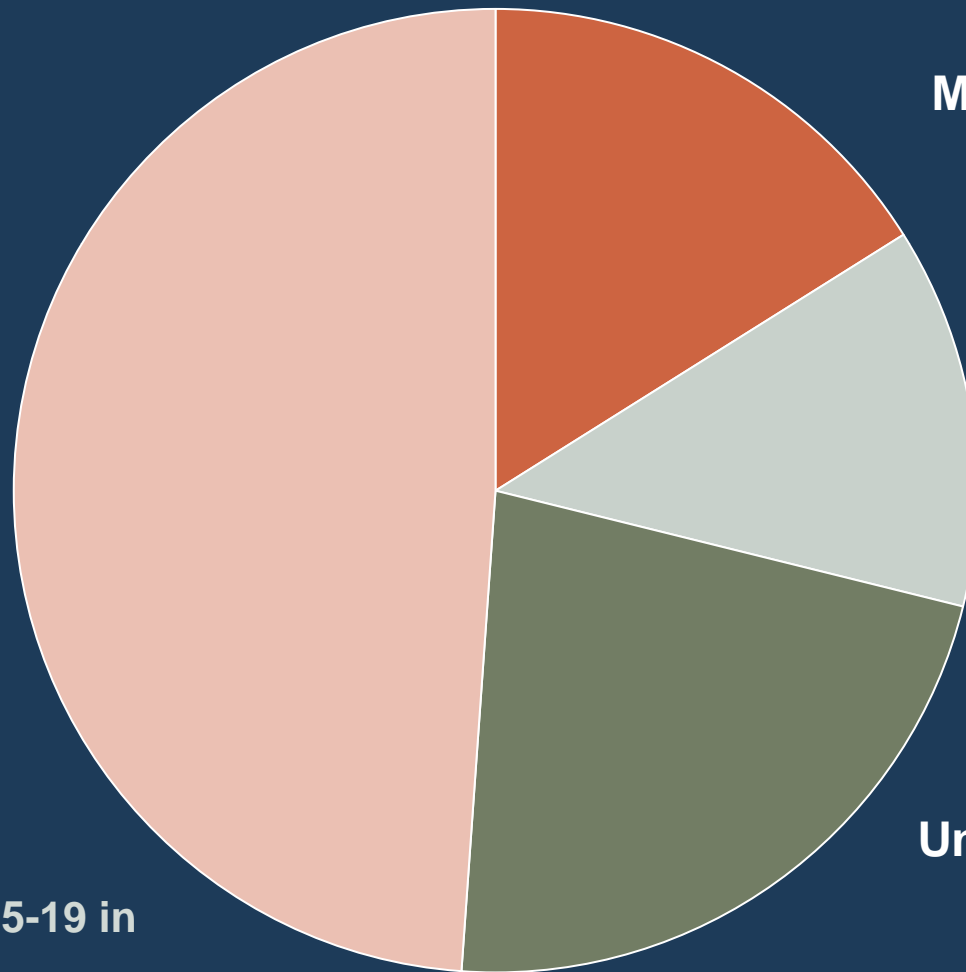
Planned births
49%

Miscarriages
16%

Abortions
13%

Unplanned births
22%

Pregnancy outcomes
for adolescents aged 15-19 in
Sub-Saharan Africa

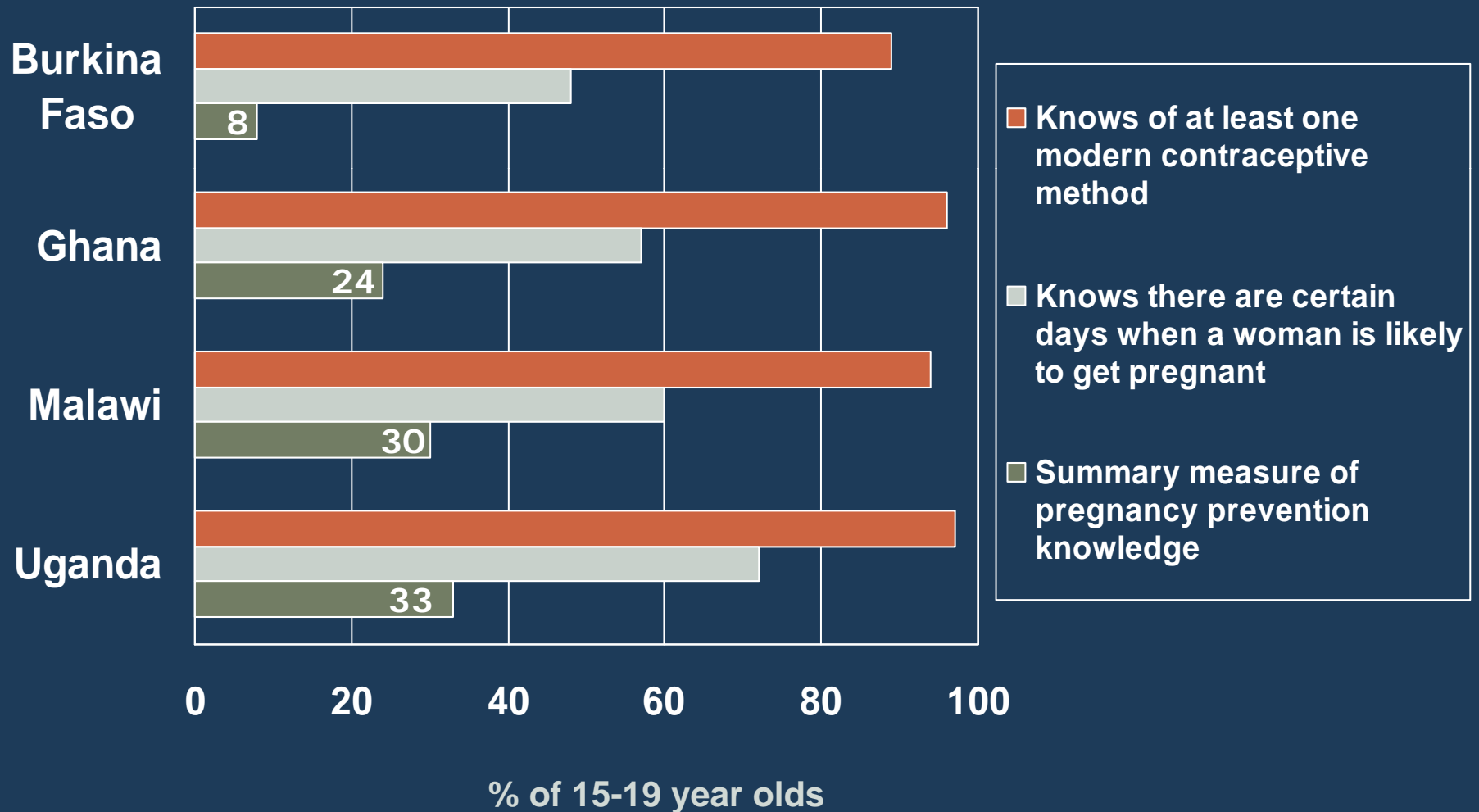


Barriers to Access to FP Information and Services

Adolescents face barriers accessing FP/SRH information and services

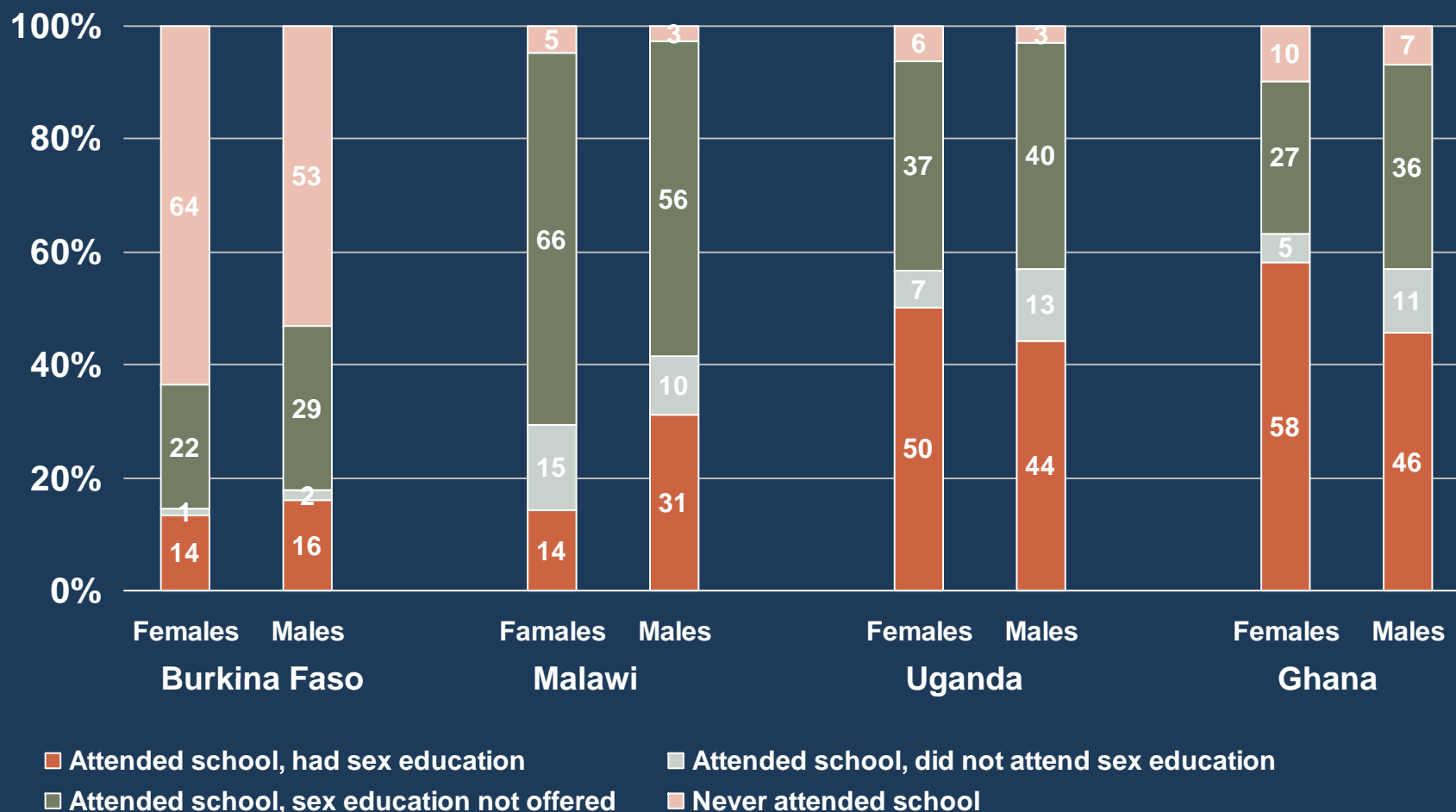
- The following evidence is from a recent nationally representative study of adolescents in four Sub-Saharan countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Uganda.
- The study included a survey of male and female adolescents aged 12-19 with a sample size ranging from 4,012 in Ghana to 5,950 in Uganda.
- The countries were chosen to reflect the diverse contexts of adolescents' lives in the region, in order to allow for some generalization of the findings.

Detailed knowledge of pregnancy prevention is lacking

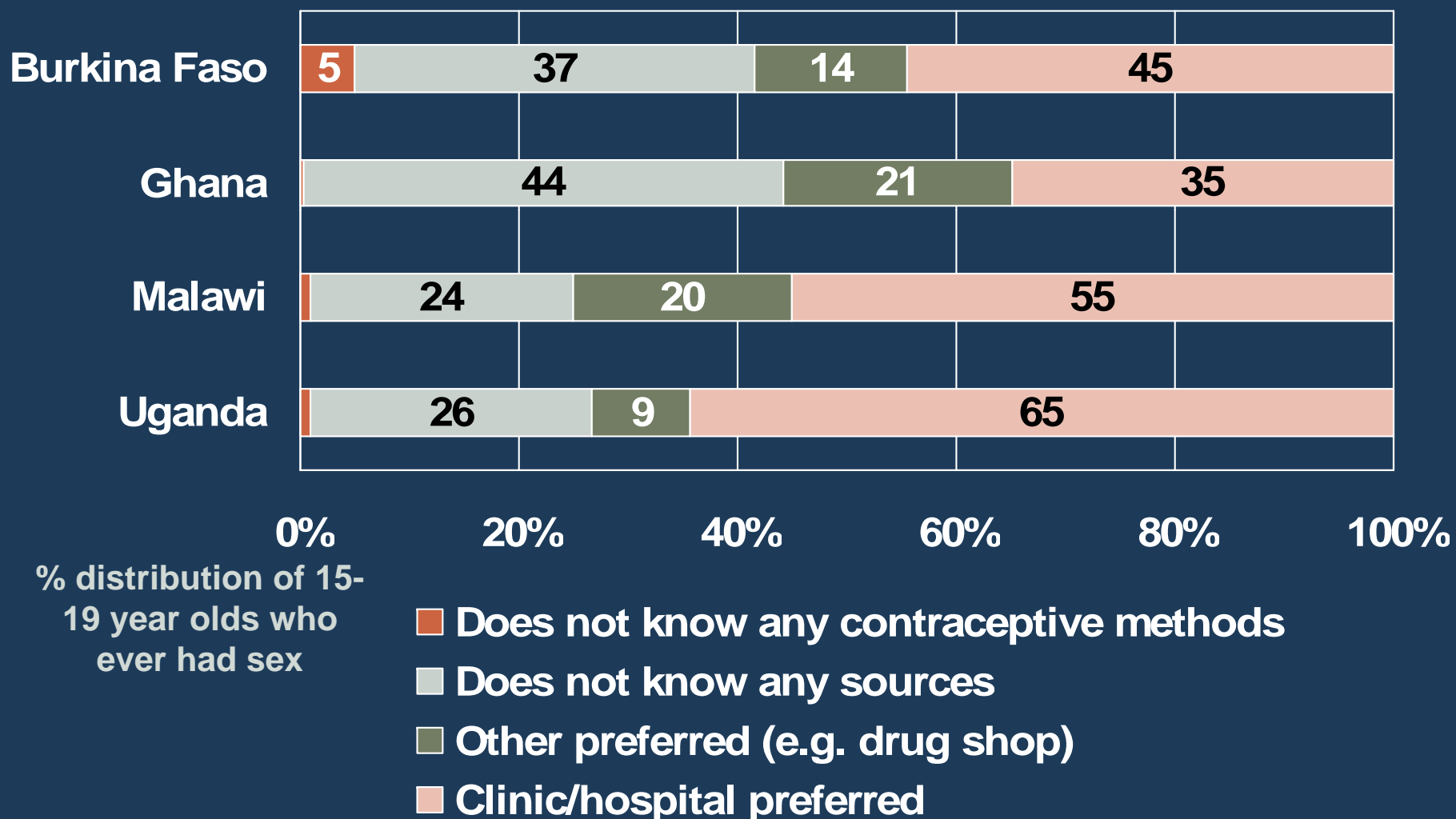


At best, only about half of adolescents receive any school-based sex education.

% of 15-19-year-olds

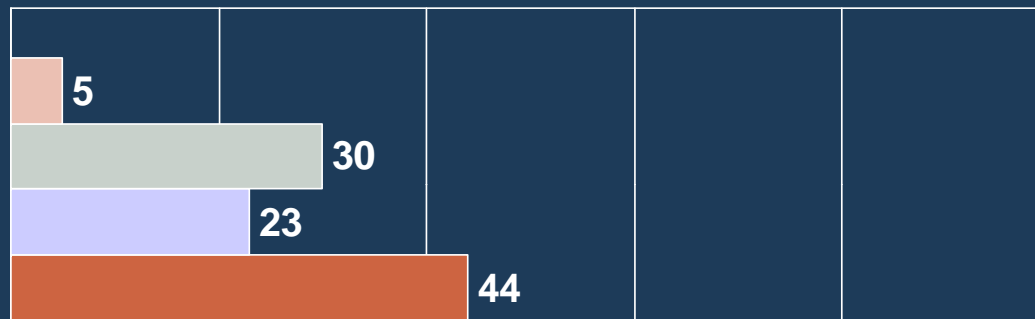


Young people prefer clinics and hospitals for contraception



Fear or embarrassment is the main barrier to getting contraception (Uganda)

Male



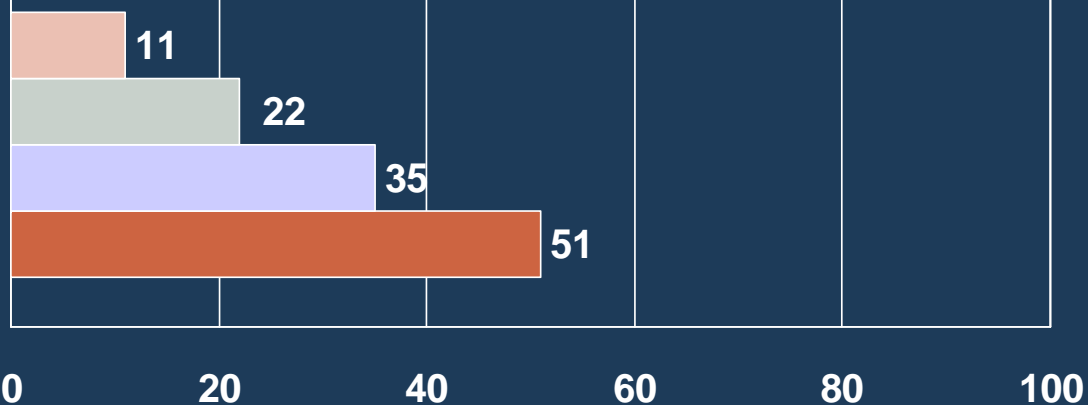
Provider-specific (e.g., privacy)

Does not know where/how to get there

Cost

Feel afraid, embarrassed or shy

Female



% reporting barrier among 12-19 year olds who had sex in last 12 months

Reality check

- Adolescents are sexually active and most of them do so voluntarily.
- Although many of them are doing their best to protect themselves against the consequences of unprotected sex, many still lag behind.
- Failure to achieve desired level of protection results in high levels of unintended pregnancies and HIV/AIDS in some parts of the world.
- Policies and programs that reflect the reality of teens' lives and meet their SRH needs comprehensively are urgently needed.

For more information, please visit
www.guttmacher.org

