

# Achieving Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health: Costs, Benefits and Challenges

Sharon L. Camp, Ph.D.

Presentation for

Finnish All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

May 2009





# **Impact of the Global Economic Crisis**

## Recession linked to more abortions, vasectomies

# The New York Times

PATIENT MONEY

## Uptick in Vasectomies Seen as Sign of Recession

## Abortions, vasectomies on increase in economic crisis

 Associated Press

Clinics say more seek financial aid for birth control

**Telegraph**.co.uk

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Finance](#) [Comment](#) [Travel](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Culture](#) [I](#)  
[UK](#) [World](#) [Politics](#) [Celebrities](#) [Obituaries](#) [Weird](#) [Earth](#) [Science](#) [Health News](#) [Edu](#)

HOME > NEWS > WORLD NEWS > NORTH AMERICA > USA

## Vasectomies and abortions on the rise as economic meltdown hits US families

# In a recession, more couples want to delay or limit childbearing

---

- But growing poverty increases dependence on government supported health services
  - Up to 155 million people already pushed into poverty by soaring food and fuel prices
  - Nearly 100 million *more* may be earning less \$2.00 per day by 2015
- At the same time that governments are disinvesting in preventive health care

# Shortfalls in funding for contraceptive services have serious consequences

---

- Each shortfall of \$1 billion could result in
  - 11.4 million more unintended pregnancies
  - 4.8 million more unsafe abortions
  - Increases in maternal mortality and morbidity
  - Increases in neonatal and infant mortality

*Preliminary estimates;  
do not quote.*

# Investing in sexual and reproductive health is highly cost-effective

---

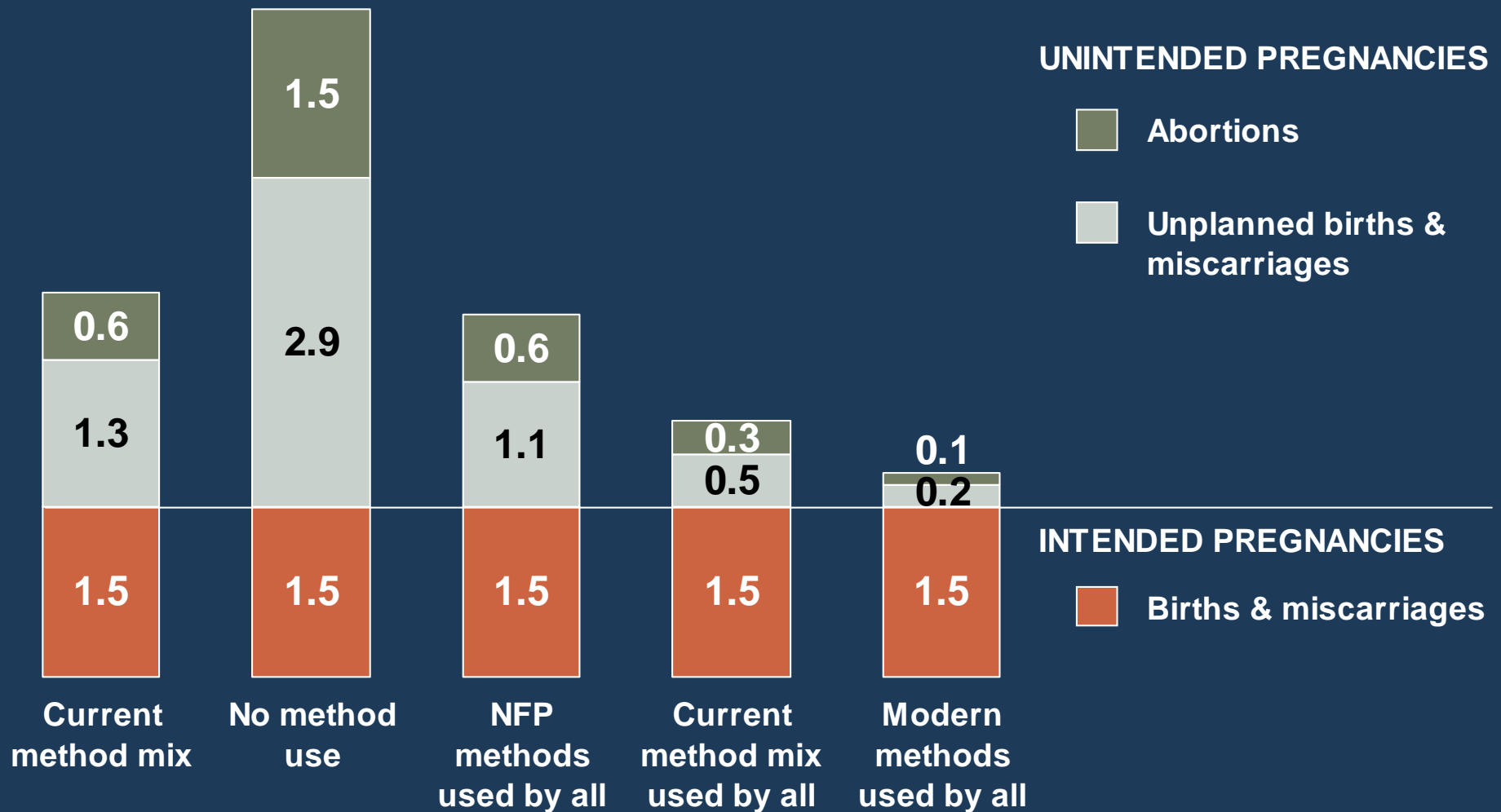
- Each dollar spent on contraceptive services to prevent unwanted pregnancies saves from \$1.70 to \$4.00 in the next year on maternal and newborn health care
- Preventing HIV infection is 27 times more cost effective than providing ARV drugs to treat AIDS



# **Costs and Benefits of Contraceptive Services: An ROI Case Study from the Philippines**

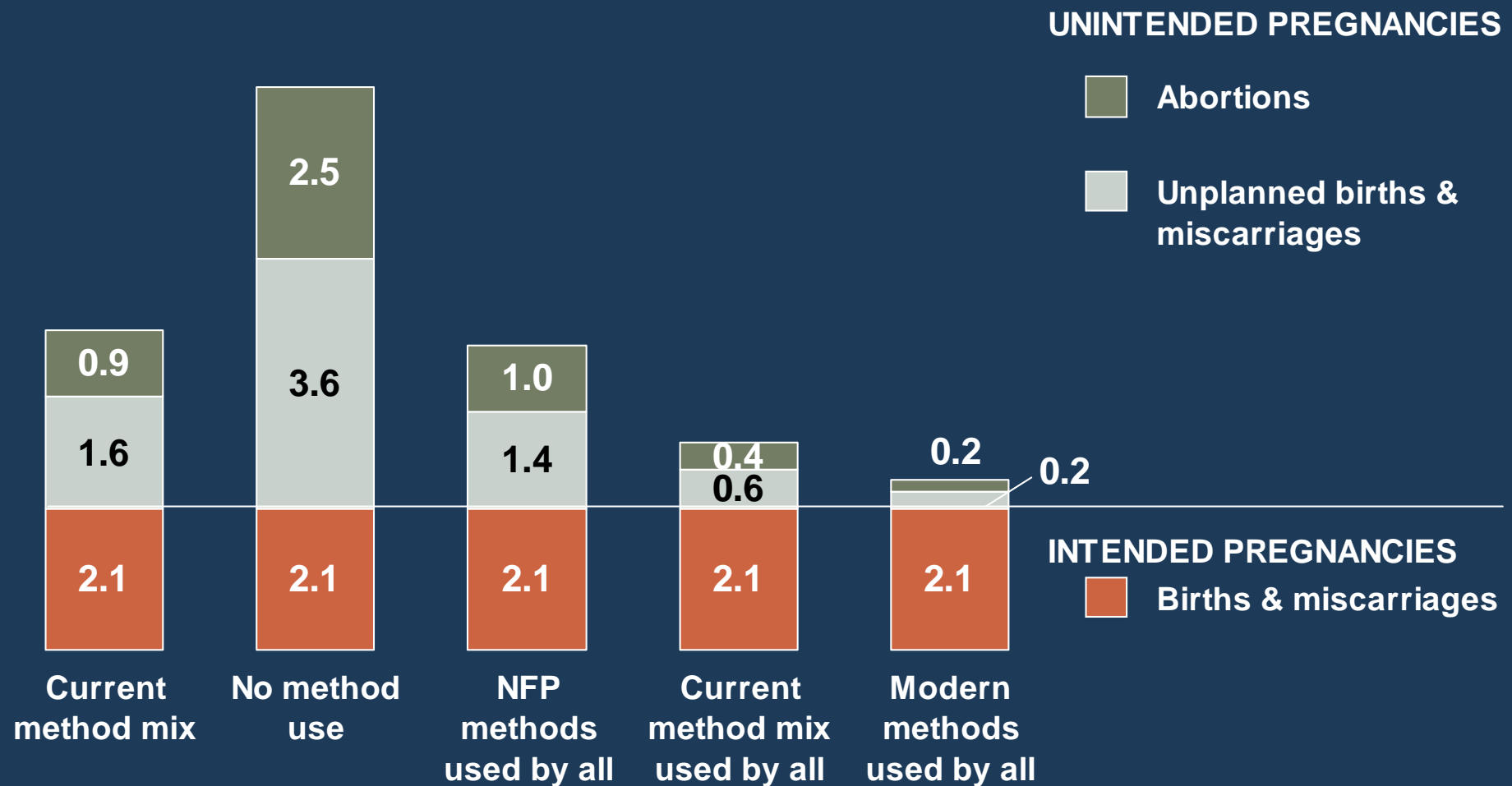
# Contraception reduces abortion and unplanned childbearing

Millions of pregnancies in the Philippines



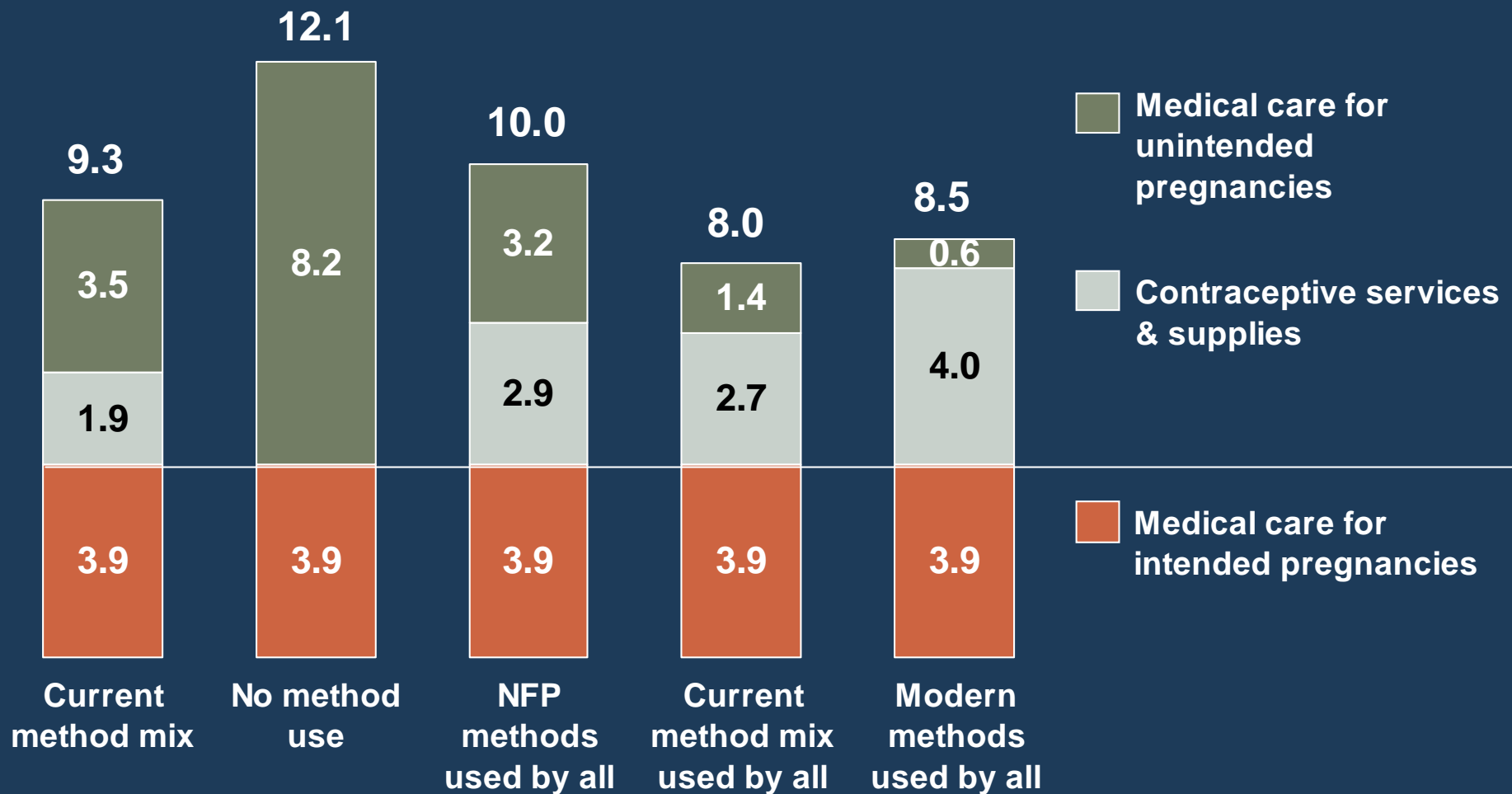
# Improved contraception saves women's lives

Thousands of maternal deaths in the Philippines



# Improved contraception saves money

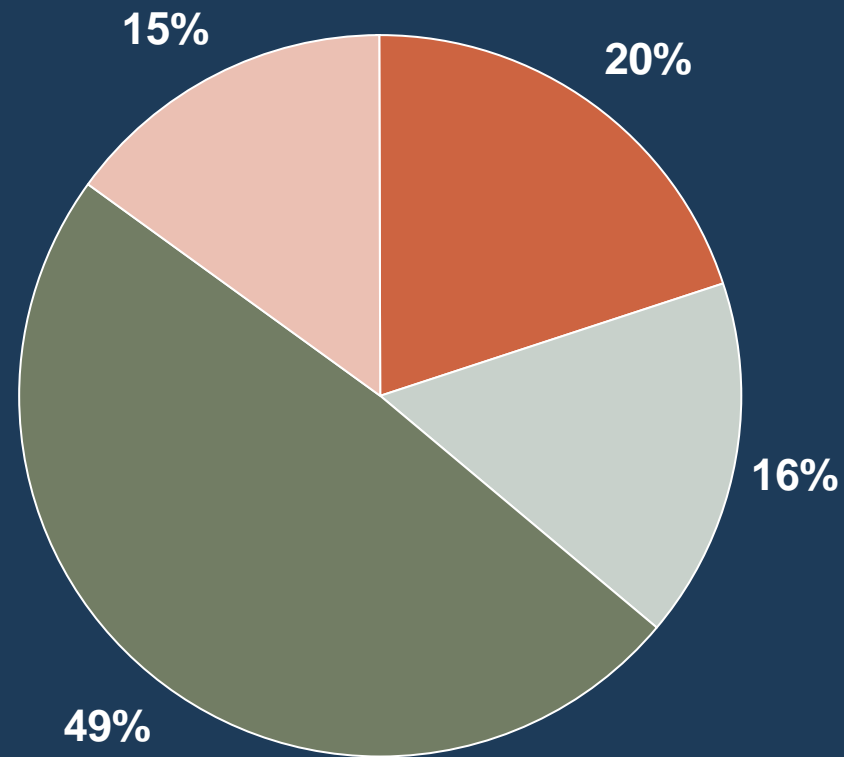
Costs in P billions for women at risk of unintended pregnancies





# **The Global Unmet Need for Contraception**

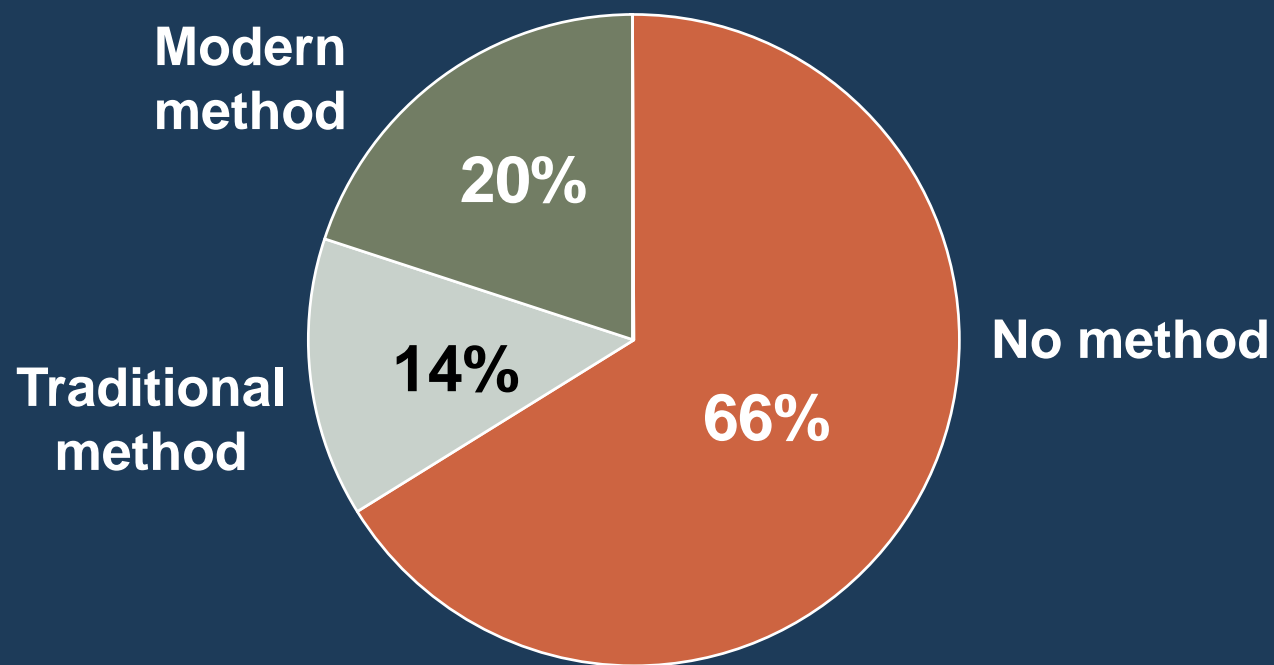
# More than one-third of all pregnancies *worldwide* each year are unintended, and one in five end in abortion



pregnancies worldwide (205 million)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Induced abortions |  Unwanted or mistimed births |
|  Wanted births     |  Spontaneous abortions       |

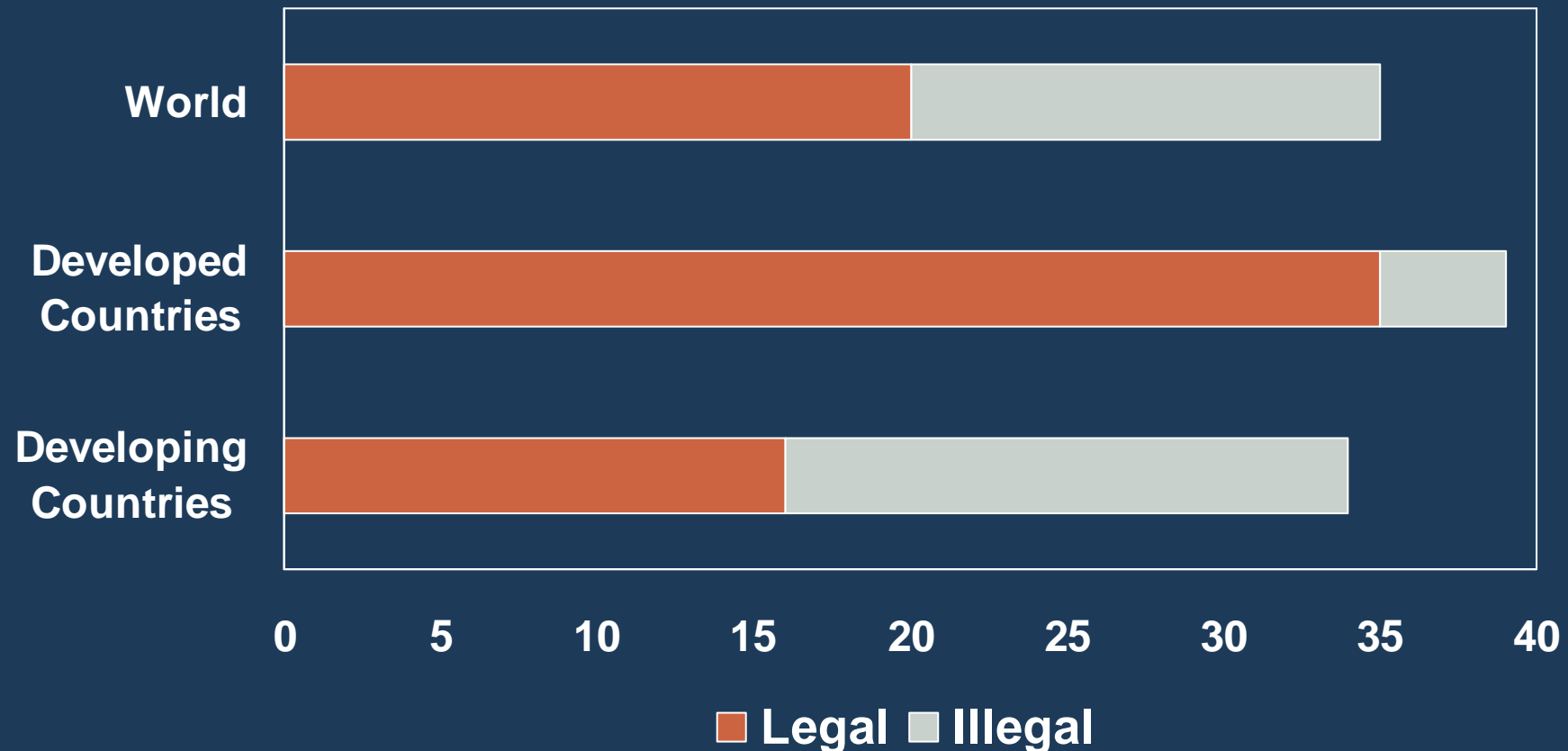
# In developing countries, most unintended pregnancies occur among women who were not using any contraceptive



Unintended pregnancies in developing countries,  
by women's contraceptive use

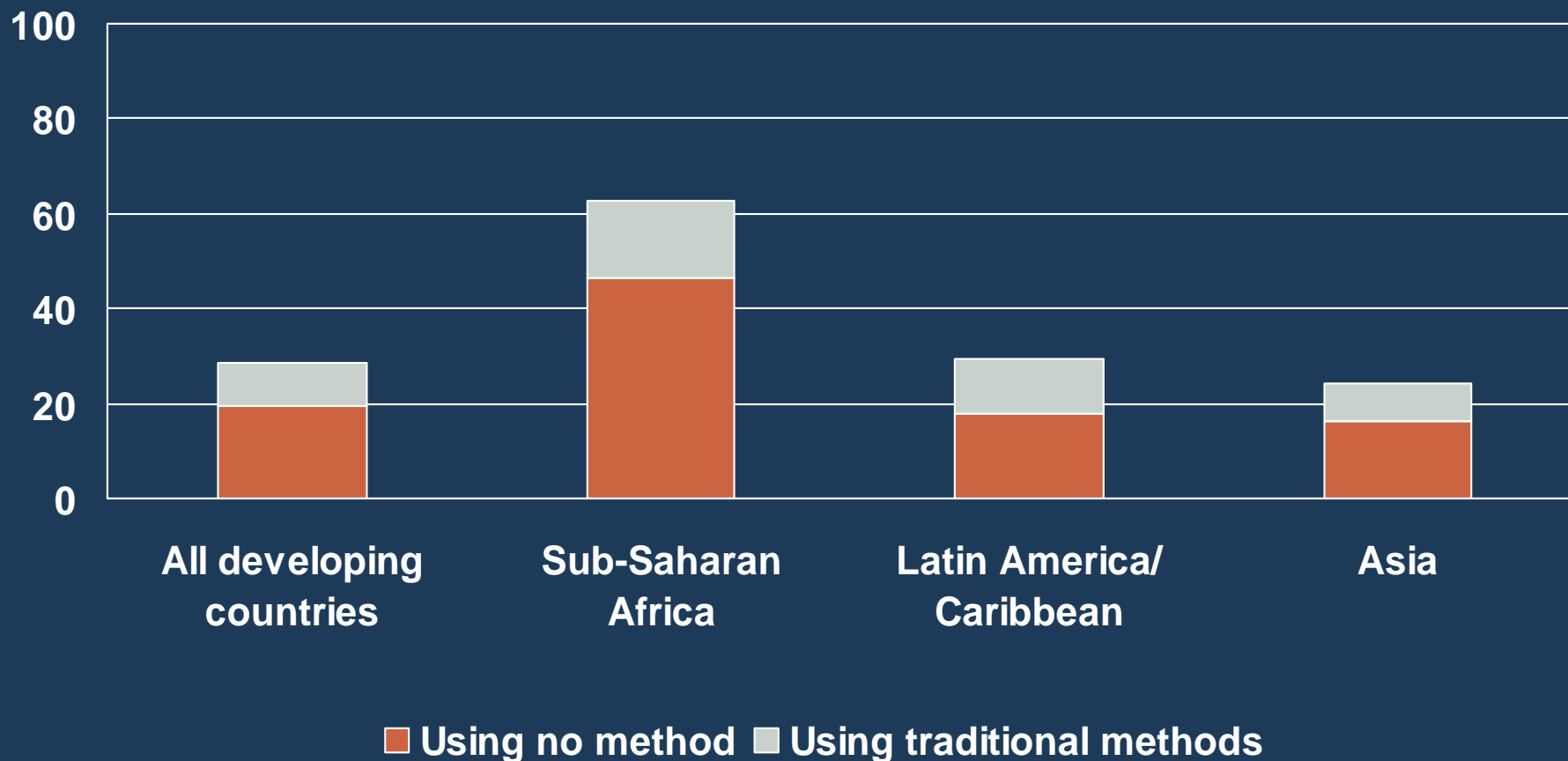
# Worldwide, only about half of abortions are legal and safe

Annual abortions per 1,000 women 15-44



# Unmet needs for contraception exist in all developing regions

% of women 15–49 at risk for unintended pregnancy, 2003

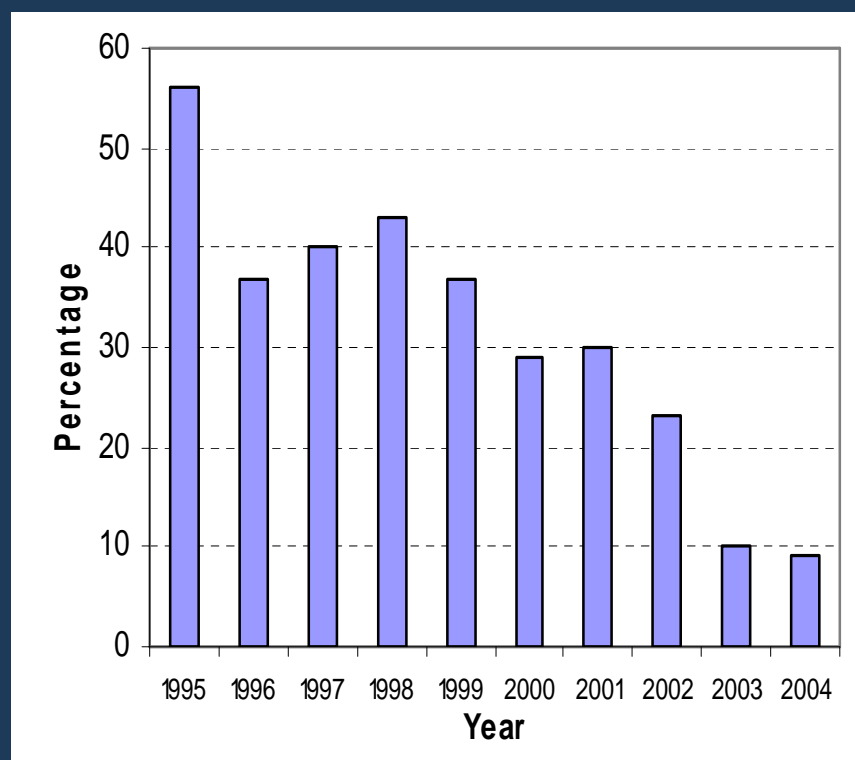




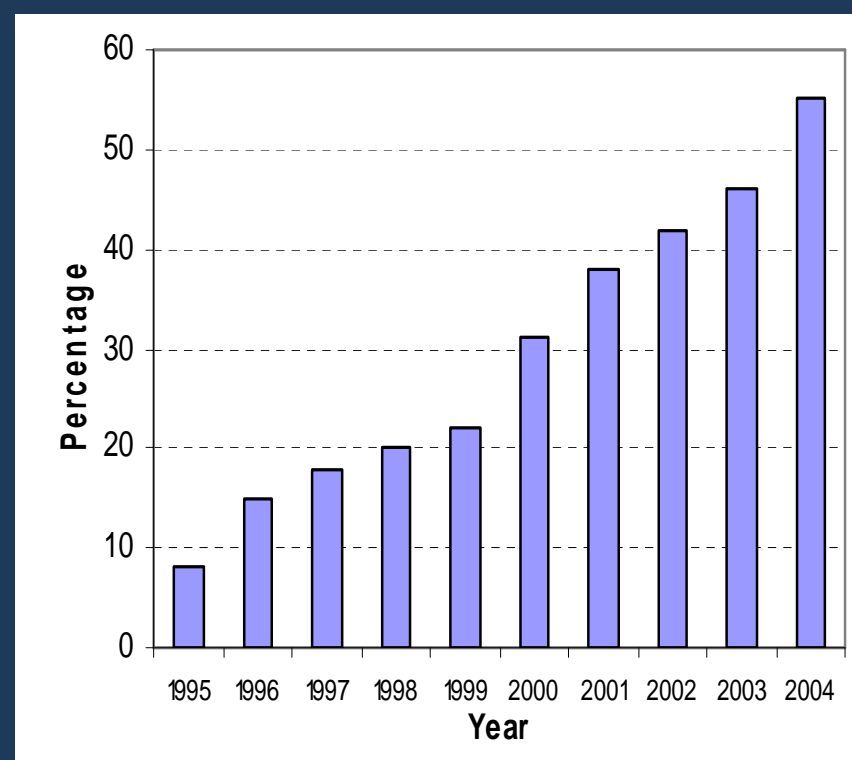
# **Staying the Course Despite the Global Recession**

# In the last decade, international financial support has shifted to HIV/AIDS

## Family Planning



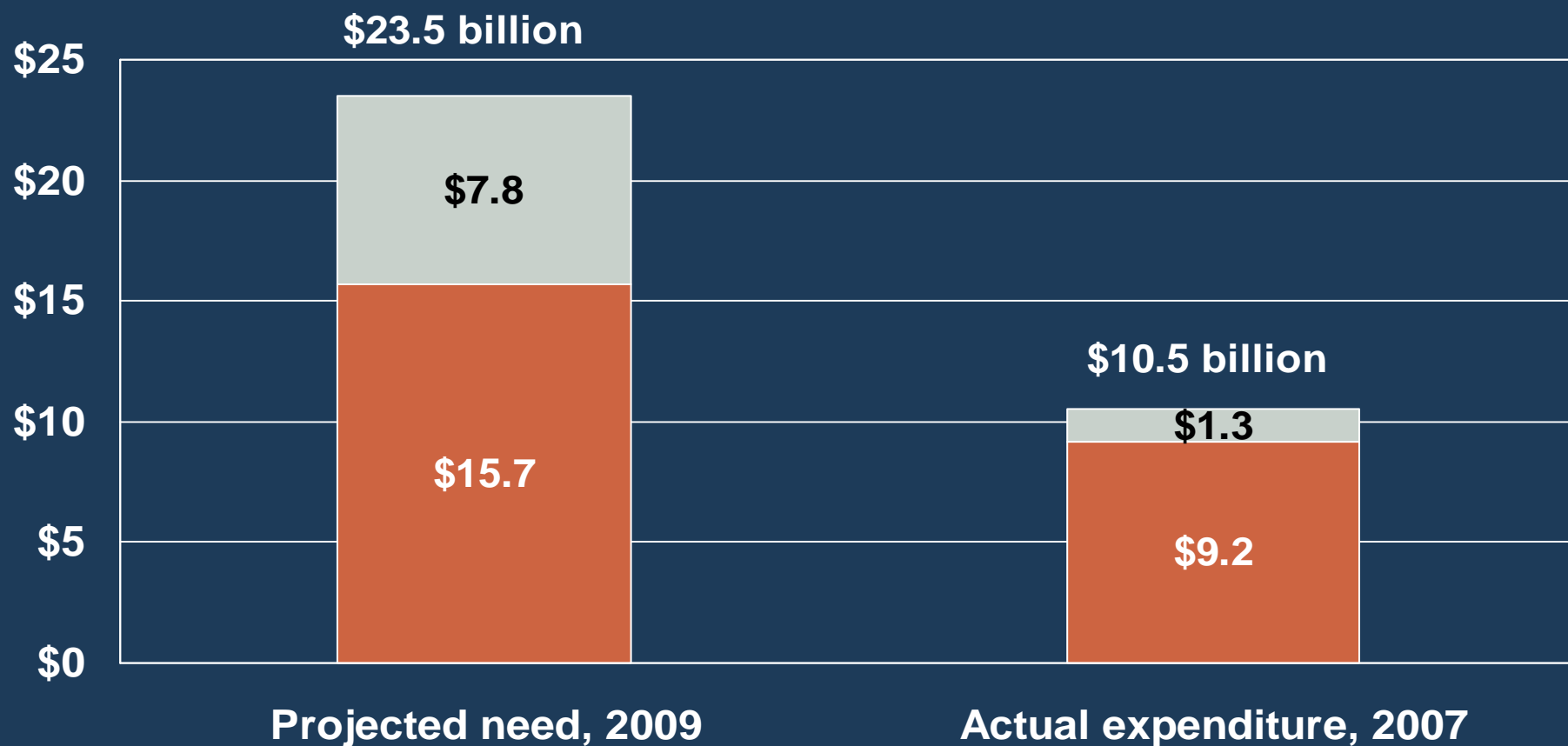
## HIV/AIDS



Trends in Population Assistance  
1995 - 2004

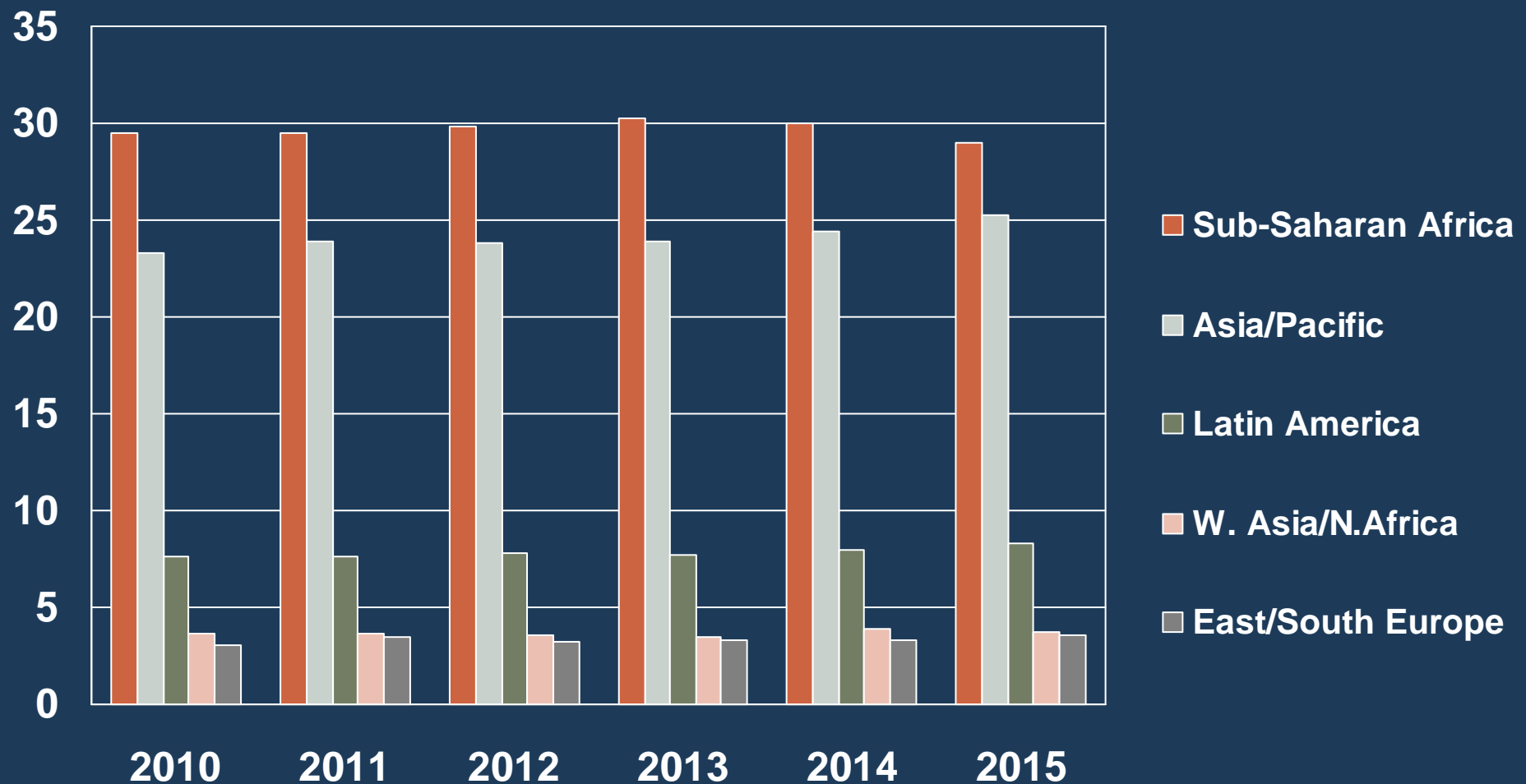
# Support for sexual and reproductive health services falls far short of commitments

\$ in billions



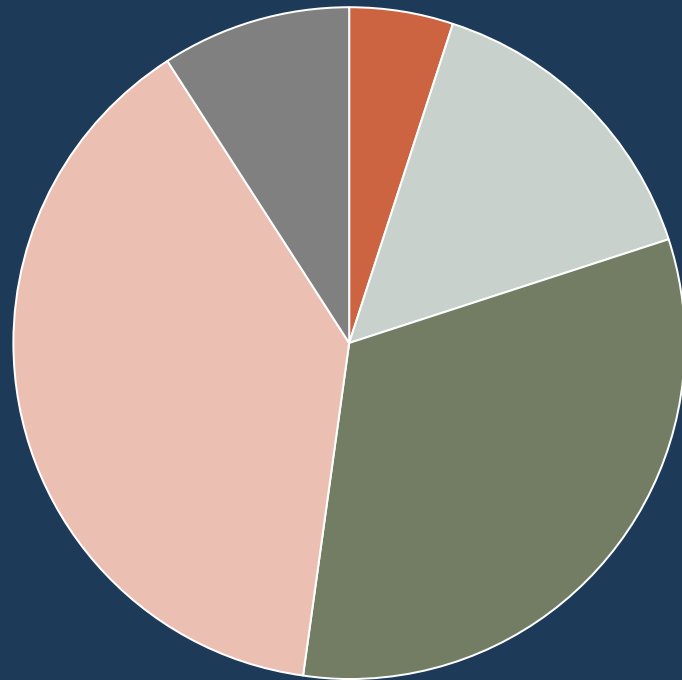
■ Developing country sources ■ Donor sources in developed countries

# New ICPD cost estimates are higher



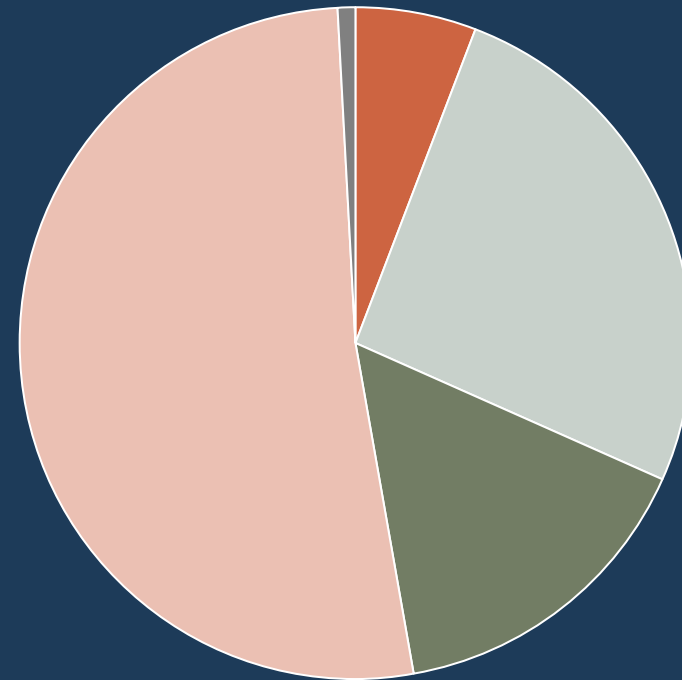
# But estimates are now more comprehensive

2010



Family Planning Maternal Health  
Health Systems HIV/AIDS  
Basic Research

2015



Family Planning Maternal Health  
Health Systems HIV/AIDS  
Basic Research

# We need to stay the course *despite the global economic crisis*

---

- Donor governments must meet and increase their commitments to the Cairo (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Millenium Development Goals, *despite the growing pressure on national budgets*
- Donor governments should engage multilateral institutions and developing country governments in a policy dialogue on the cost-effectiveness of greater investments in sexual and reproductive health, *despite the growing pressure on national budgets*

For more information, visit  
[www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org)

