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Global Strategy for Women's, Children and Adolescent Health



Realizing the health
and wellbeing of

Adolescents



Leading causes of death among adolescents

Injuries and violence

Every day

330 adolescents are dying in traffic accidents

180 adolescents are dying from inter-personal violence

50 %

of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16





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Leading causes of death and disability among adolescents

Mental Health and Self-harm

Depression is the top cause of illness and disability in adolescents

Suicide is the leading cause of death among adolescent girls 15-19 and the third cause of death among all adolescents 10-19 globally





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Leading causes of death and disability among adolescents

Communicable and non communicable diseases

Common **infectious diseases** (diarrhoea , lower respiratory tract infections) are still killing adolescents

Adolescents who are sexually active have the highest rates of **HPV infections**





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Leading causes of death and disability among adolescents

Maternal mortality and morbidity

Every day in developing countries **20.000** girls
under aged 18 give birth

Maternal mortality is the second cause of death among
adolescent girls

Around 11% of births worldwide or an estimated **16 million** are
to girls aged 15-19 70,000 adolescents die annually from causes
related to pregnancy and child birth

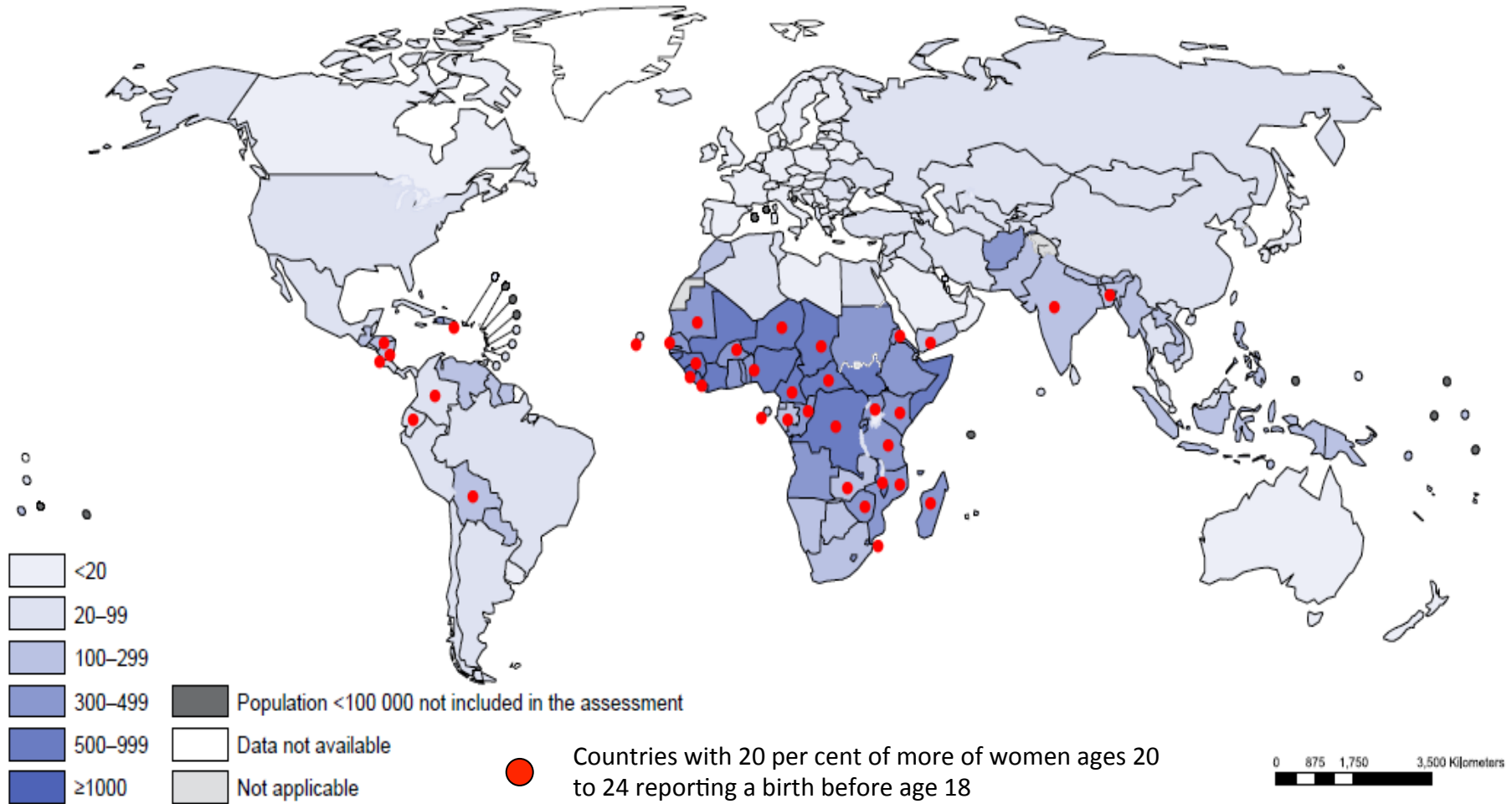




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MMR/100,000 live births, 2013

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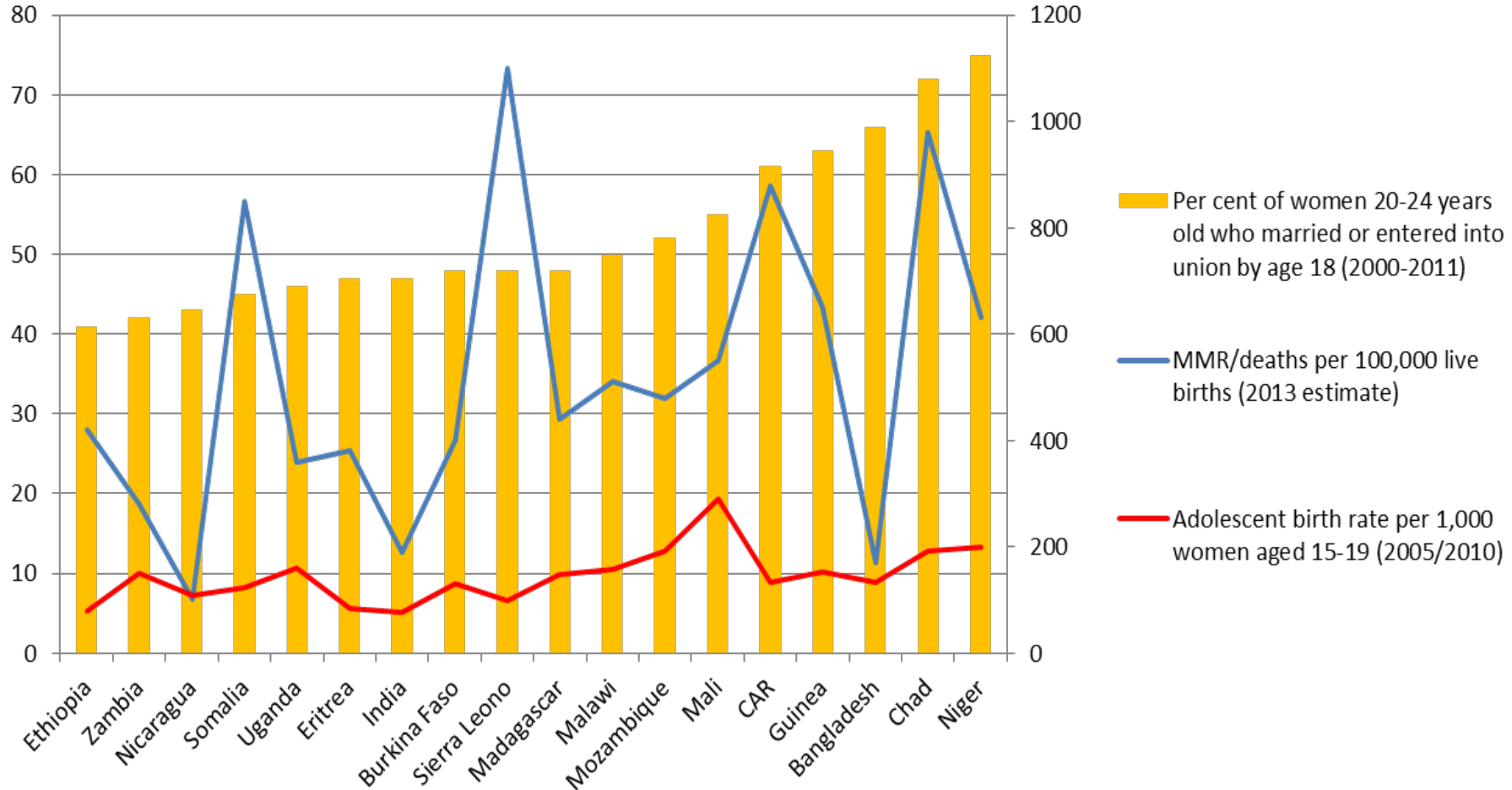


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Maternal mortality, adolescent pregnancy and child marriage



Per cent of adolescent girls in marriages, adolescent birth rates and maternal mortality rates (UNFPA, State of World Population, 2013 and UNFPA, *Marrying Too Young*, 2012)



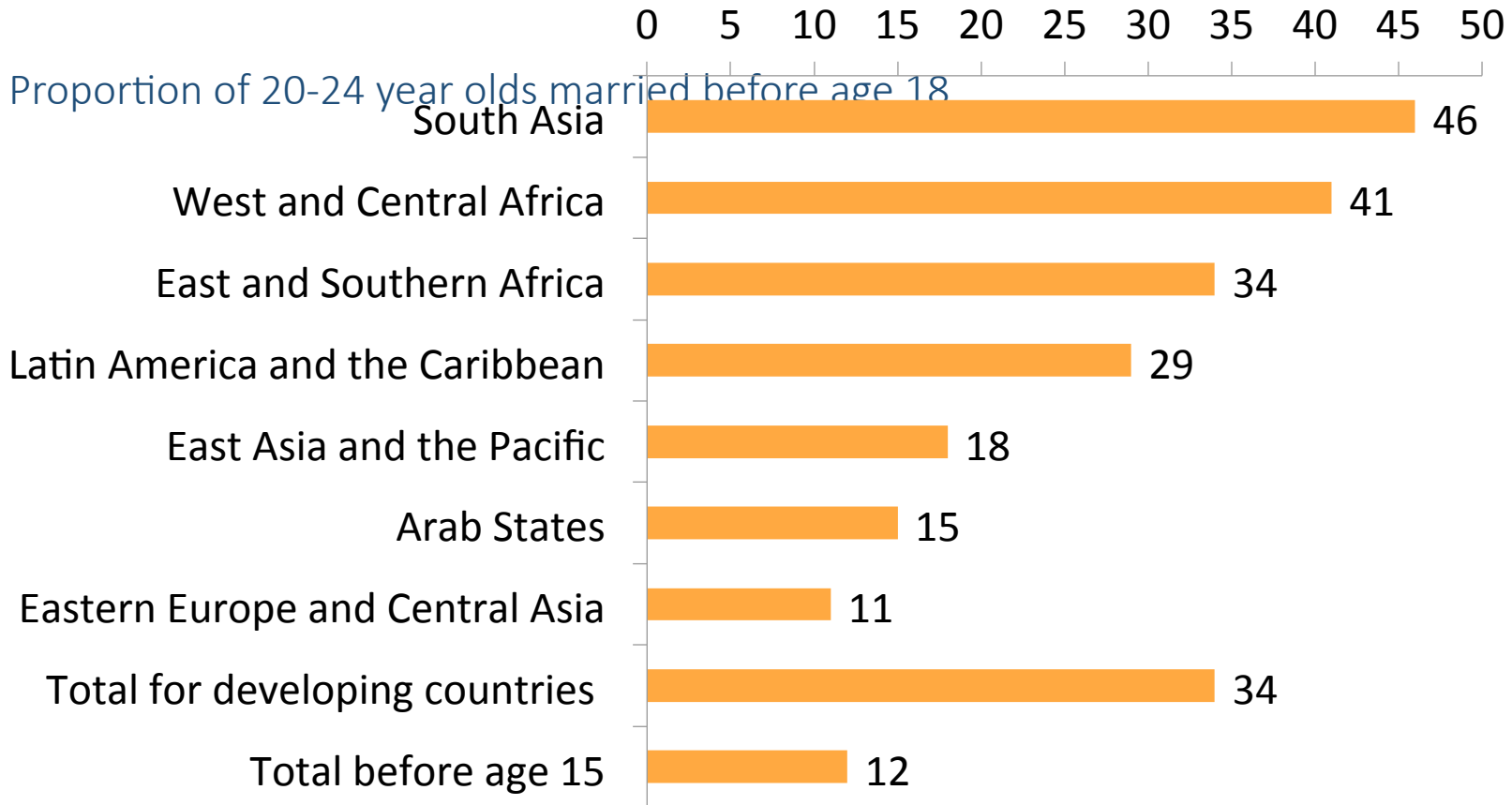
Early and rapid transitions

- In more than 30 countries, 10 per cent or more of adolescents have had sexual intercourse by age 15 (UNFPA SWOP, 2013)
 - Rates as high as 26 per cent in Niger
- Rapid cohort progression into marriage (and sexual activity) (UNFPA calculations, 2015)
 - Proportion married by age 15 (11%)
 - Proportion married by age 18 (34%)





How common is child marriage today?



UNICEF's global estimates from 2014: 26% and 8% are married before ages 18 and 15 respectively



Sexual activity and marriage

- In 22 of 36 countries with data available (mostly African and Latin American), sexual initiation before marriage is more common than within marriage (UN Population Division, 2013)
 - However, data on sequencing not of the best quality, and simultaneity/jointness of the decisions cannot be ruled out
- That being said, most childbearing happens within marriage or union – 9 in 10 (WHO, 2008)





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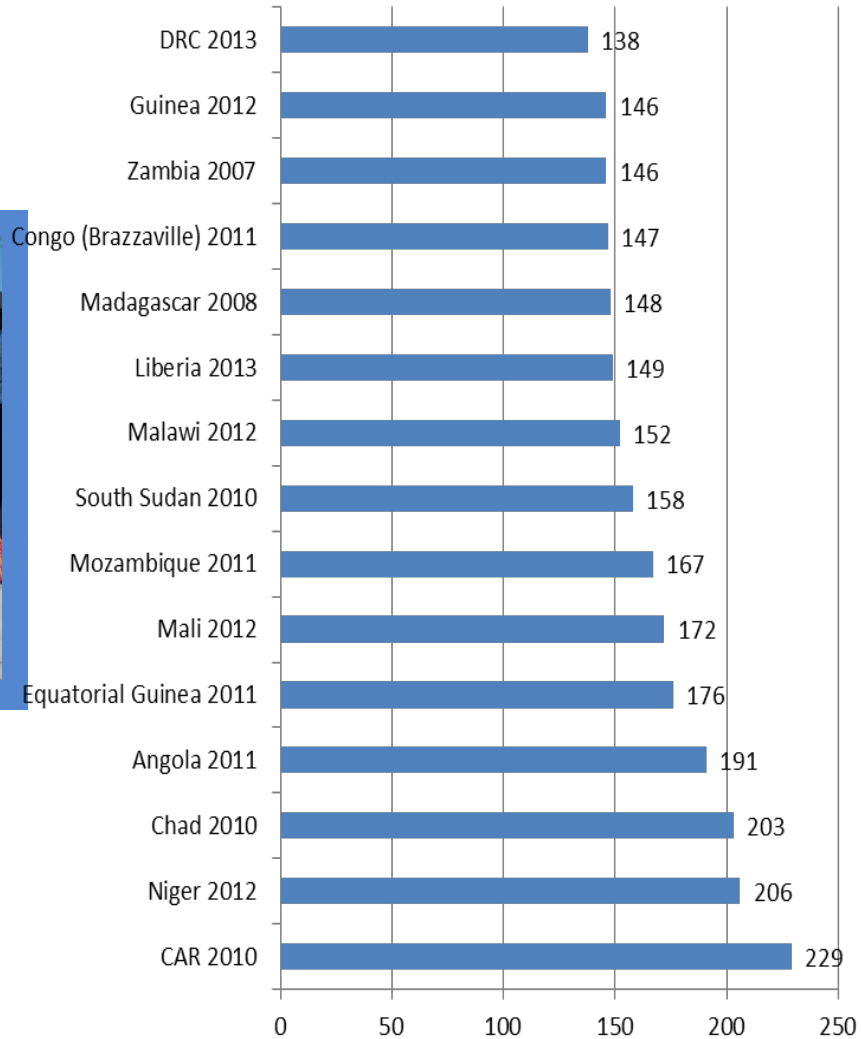
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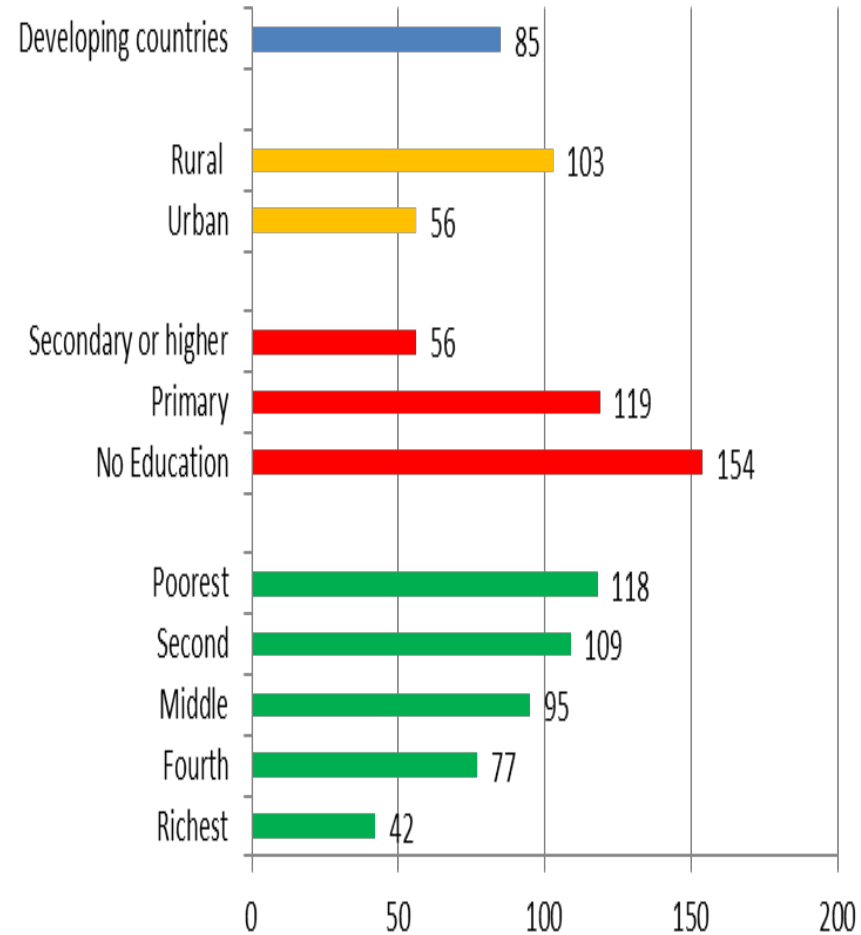
Adolescent childbearing

- 19 per cent of young women in developing countries give birth before age 18 (UNFPA SWOP, 2013)
- A total of 7.3 million births each year
- That's 20,000 girls each day
- Adolescent Birth Rate, births per 1000 women 15-19 (UNFPA SWOP, 2014)
 - 50 (world)
 - 113 (least developed)
 - 21 (more developed)





Top 20 countries in Africa with highest adolescent birth rates
Source: Latest DHS, AIS or MICS

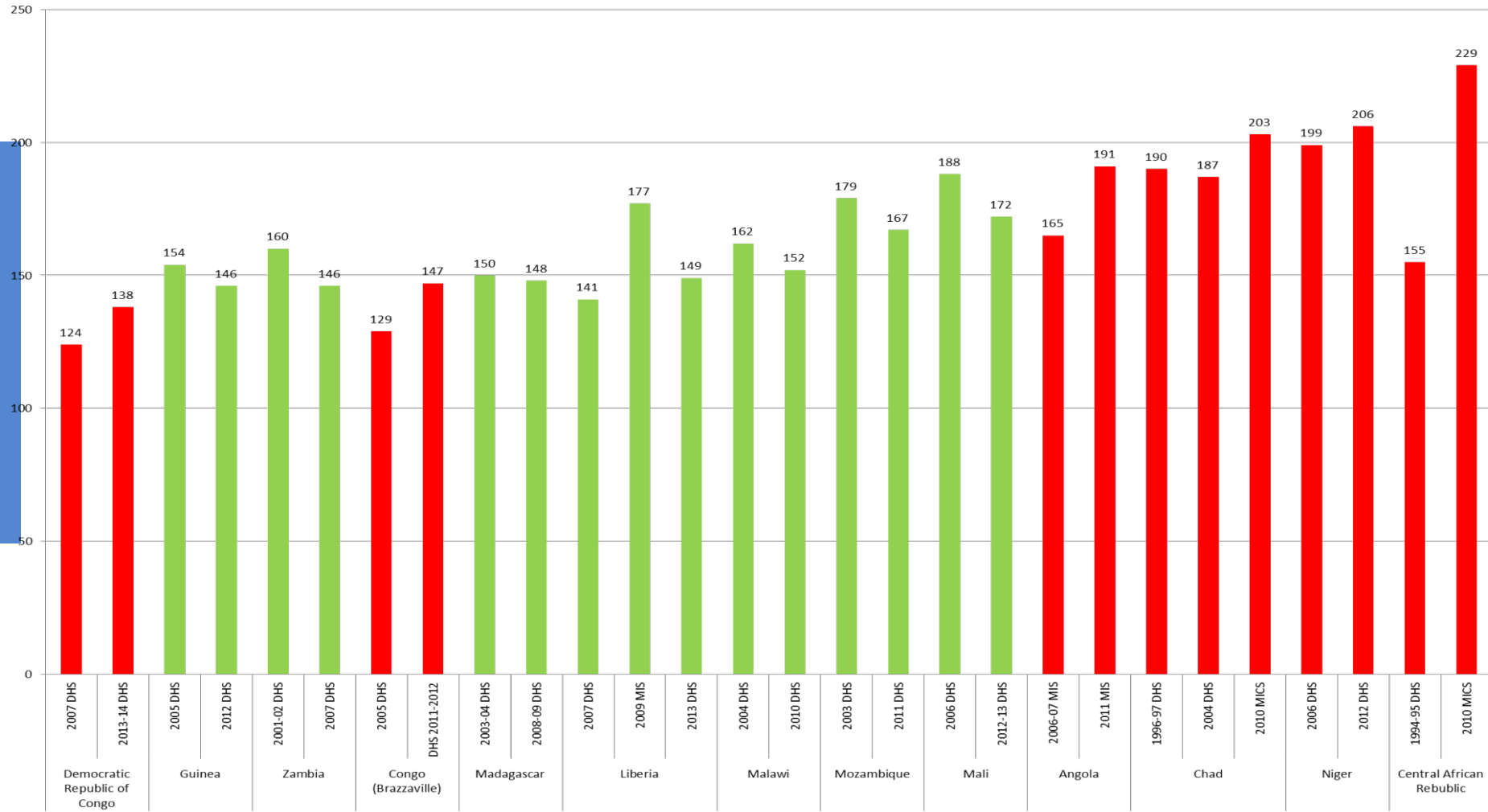


Adolescent birth rates, by background characteristics (data from 79 countries)

Source: UNFPA, State of World Population, 2013

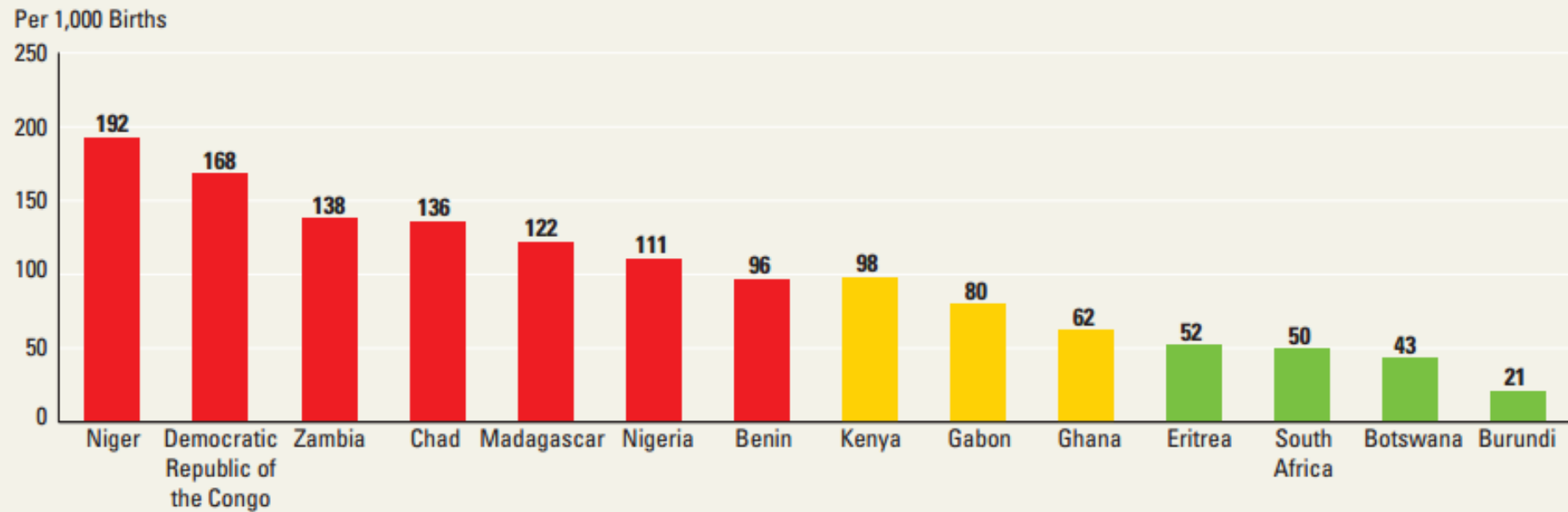


Adolescent pregnancy – some progress, but significant challenges remain



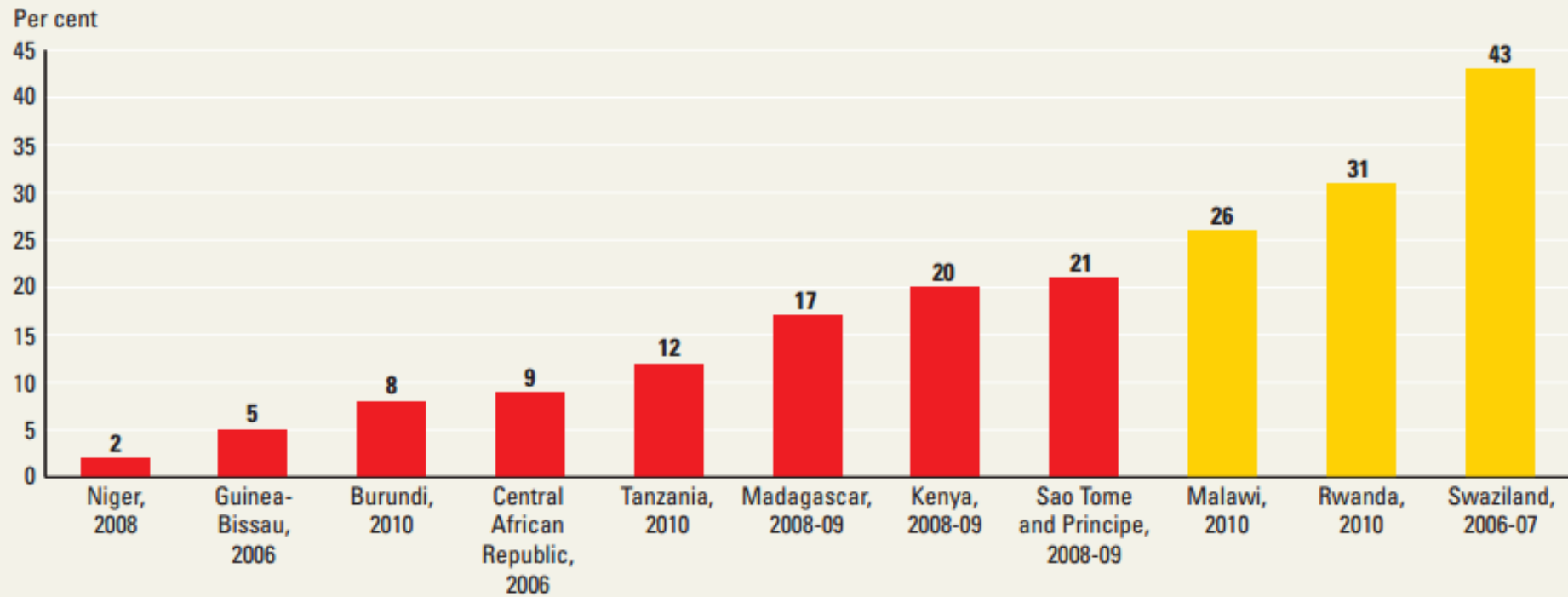
Source: Two/three most recent DHS/MICs in the countries with highest adolescent pregnancy rates

Adolescent Childbearing, Selected Countries, 2007-2011



Source: United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*.

Modern Contraceptive Use Among Married Adolescents Aged 15-19, Selected Countries



Source: ICF Macro, Demographic and Health Surveys 2005-2012.



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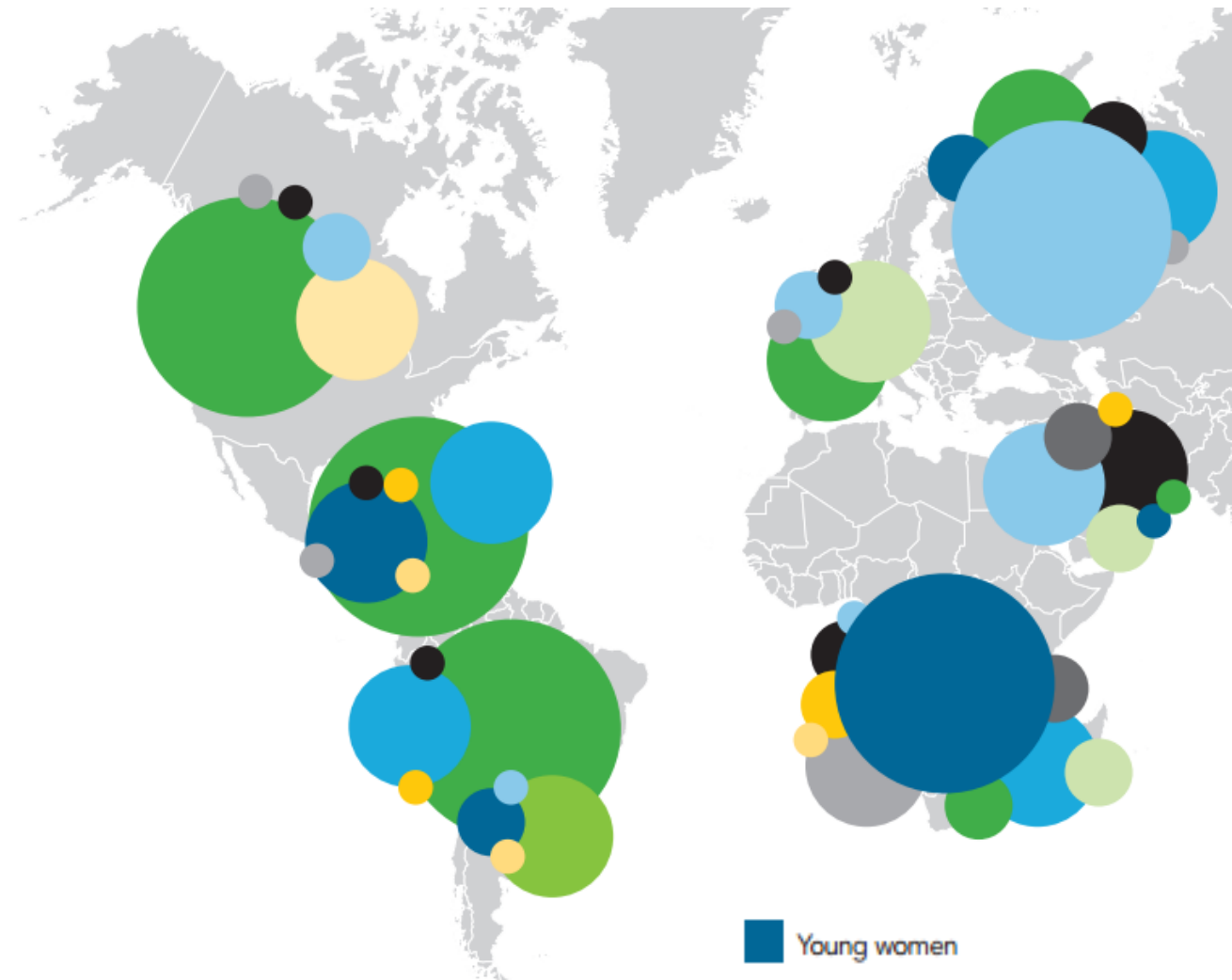


Leading causes of death and disability among adolescents

HIV and AIDS

An estimated **2.1 million** adolescents (10-19) were infected with HIV in 2013

Adolescents, especially girls, are the only population group for which **AIDS related deaths** are not falling





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Interventions to protect and promote health of adolescents

...need to ensure that adolescents have **voice, choice and control** over their bodies and are enabled to develop the capacities required for a productive, healthy and satisfying life.





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Interventions to protect and promote health of adolescents

Need to focus on

- reducing adolescent death and mobility
- creating a supportive legal and social climate for positive adolescent development



Interventions to protect and promote health of adolescents

Priority actions

- Health education including comprehensive sexuality education
- Access to and use of integrated health services
- Immunization
- Nutrition
- Psychosocial support





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Creating health systems suited to adolescents

Health systems responsive to adolescents :

- Health care workers are trained and supportive of protecting adolescents' privacy and confidentiality and treat them with respect
- Outreach and non facility based services reach hard to reach adolescents
- Standards for quality adolescent health care are set
- Financial and legal barriers are addressed





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Non health sector interventions

Economic, sociocultural, biological, physical, environmental, legal and policy factors

- Quality education at least to secondary level
- Safe water and sanitation
- Role of parents
- Support for victims of harmful practices and violence – **Child Marriage**
- Participation in decision making





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Policies and laws protecting the health of adolescents

Enable access to health services

Control exposure to unhealthy products

Revise and implement laws on child marriage

Make adolescents visible in policy formulation and monitoring





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Building a new monitoring framework

The Global Strategy on Women's , Children's and Adolescent's health convenes and leads countries in a global call to action on indicators related to adolescent health

Measurement of health targets in adolescents aged 10-14 and 15-19





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Conclusion

The Global Strategy on Women's and Children's and Adolescent's Health and the SDG targets related to adolescents provide an **unprecedented opportunity** to step up efforts to realize the health and wellbeing of adolescents worldwide





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Conclusion

Investing in adolescent's health and development is key to improving their survival and wellbeing and critical for the success of the 2030 Agenda





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Thank You!