



Achievement of replacement fertility among educated Ghanaian women: A conundrum

Kazuyo Machiyama and John Cleland

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSTHM)

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Post-Transitional Fertility in Developing Countries:

Causes and Implications

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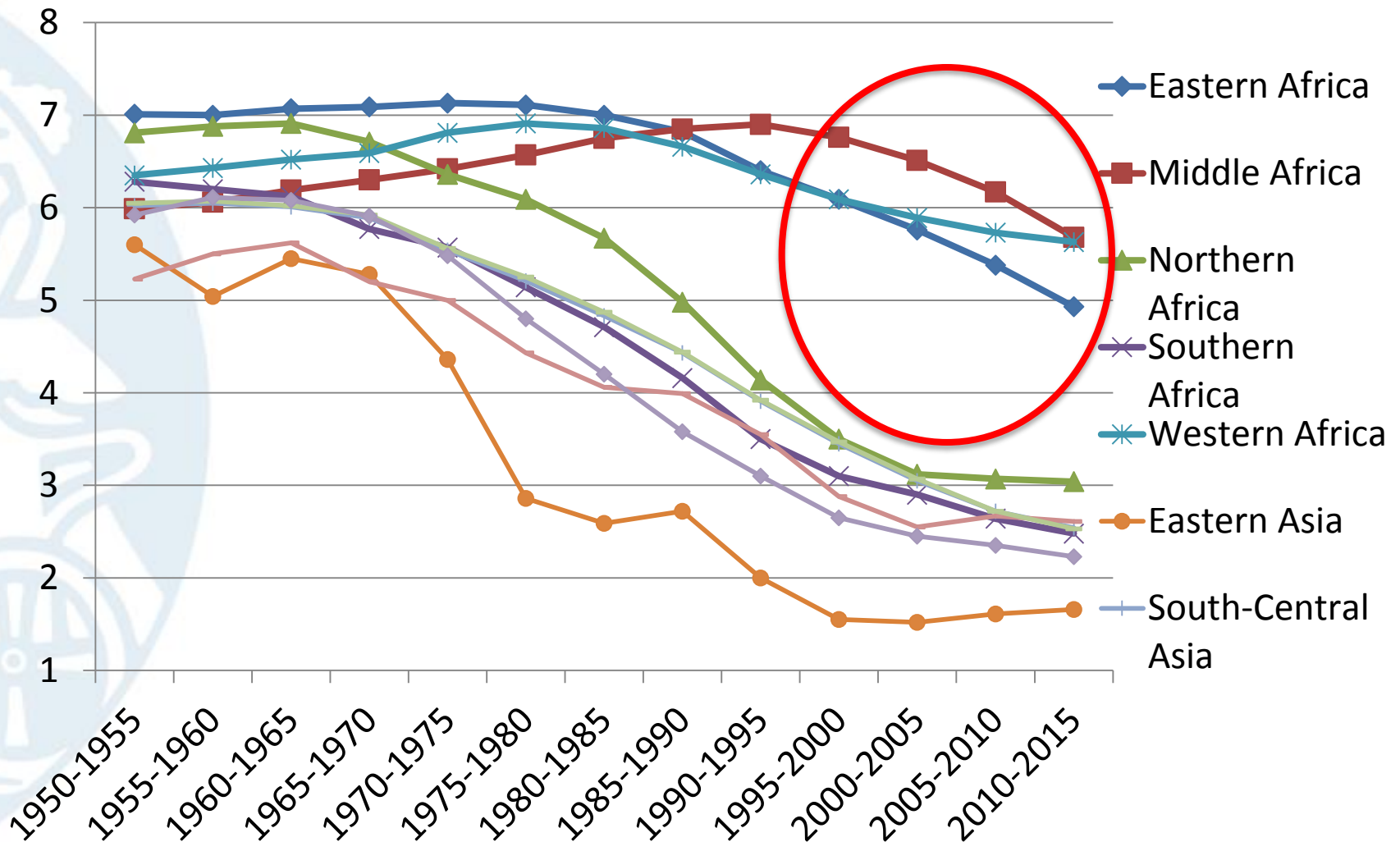
Introduction

- Historical Europe:
Widespread use of withdrawal and postponement of marriage since the 18th century (Coale and Watkins 1986, McLauren 1990, Van de Walle and De Luca 2006)
- Fertility transition is usually led by wider use of modern method after the advent of modern contraception in the 1960s.

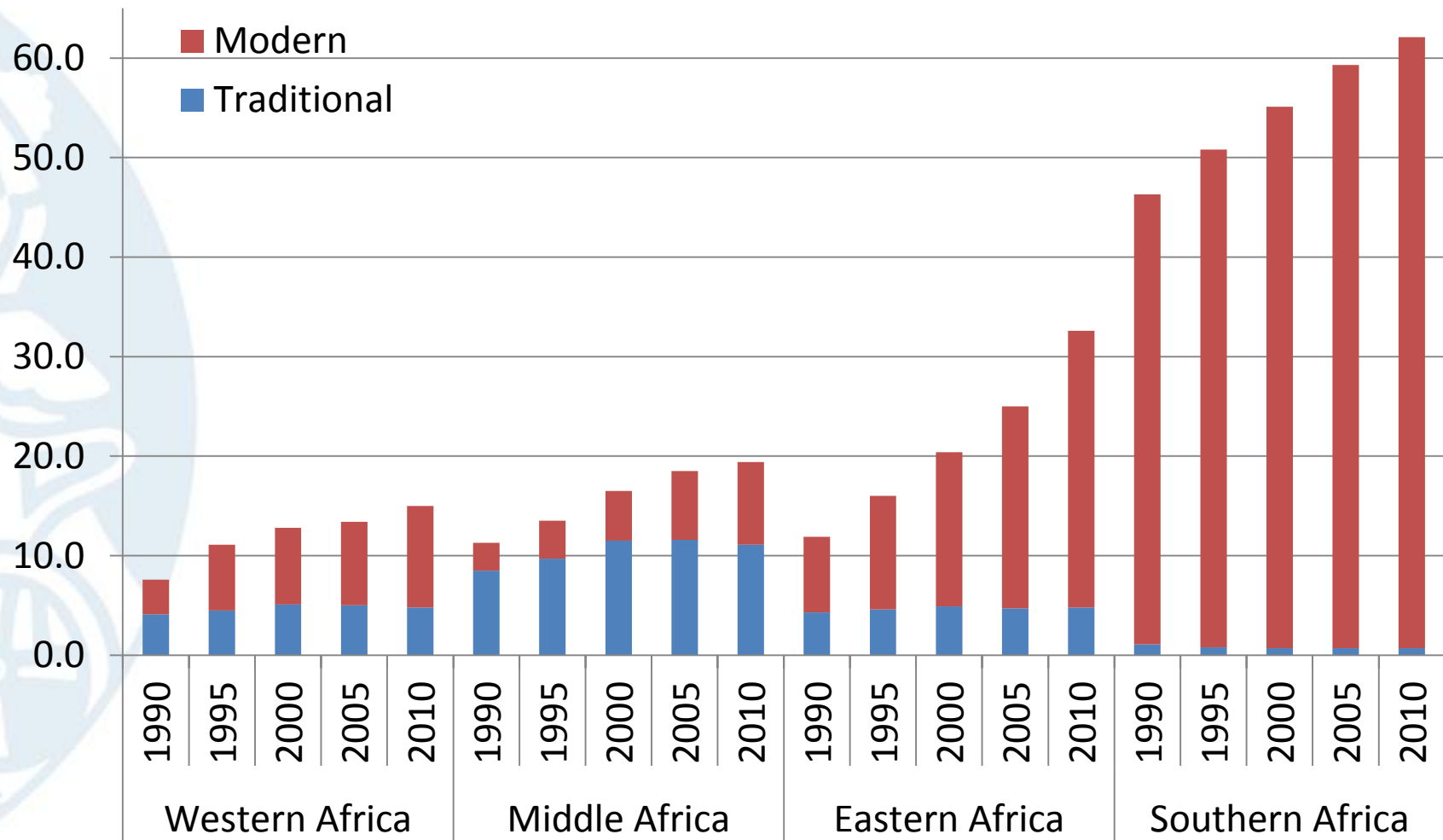
Role of traditional and short-term methods in fertility transition

- **Former Soviet Union and Turkey:** widespread of withdrawal with abortion as back-up
- **Albania** - fertility transition driven by withdrawal without legal abortion (Falkingham and Gjonca 2001, Institute of Statistics et al. 2010).
- **Japan:** fertility transition is driven by induced abortion and condom use (Coleman 1983)
- **India** – higher use of sterilisation among the poor and higher use of traditional method among the educated (Basu 2005)
- **Iran:** Use of withdrawal was positively associated with level of education in Iran, but not Turkey (Erfani and Yüksel-Kaptanoğlu 2012)

Trends of TFR in Africa and Asia



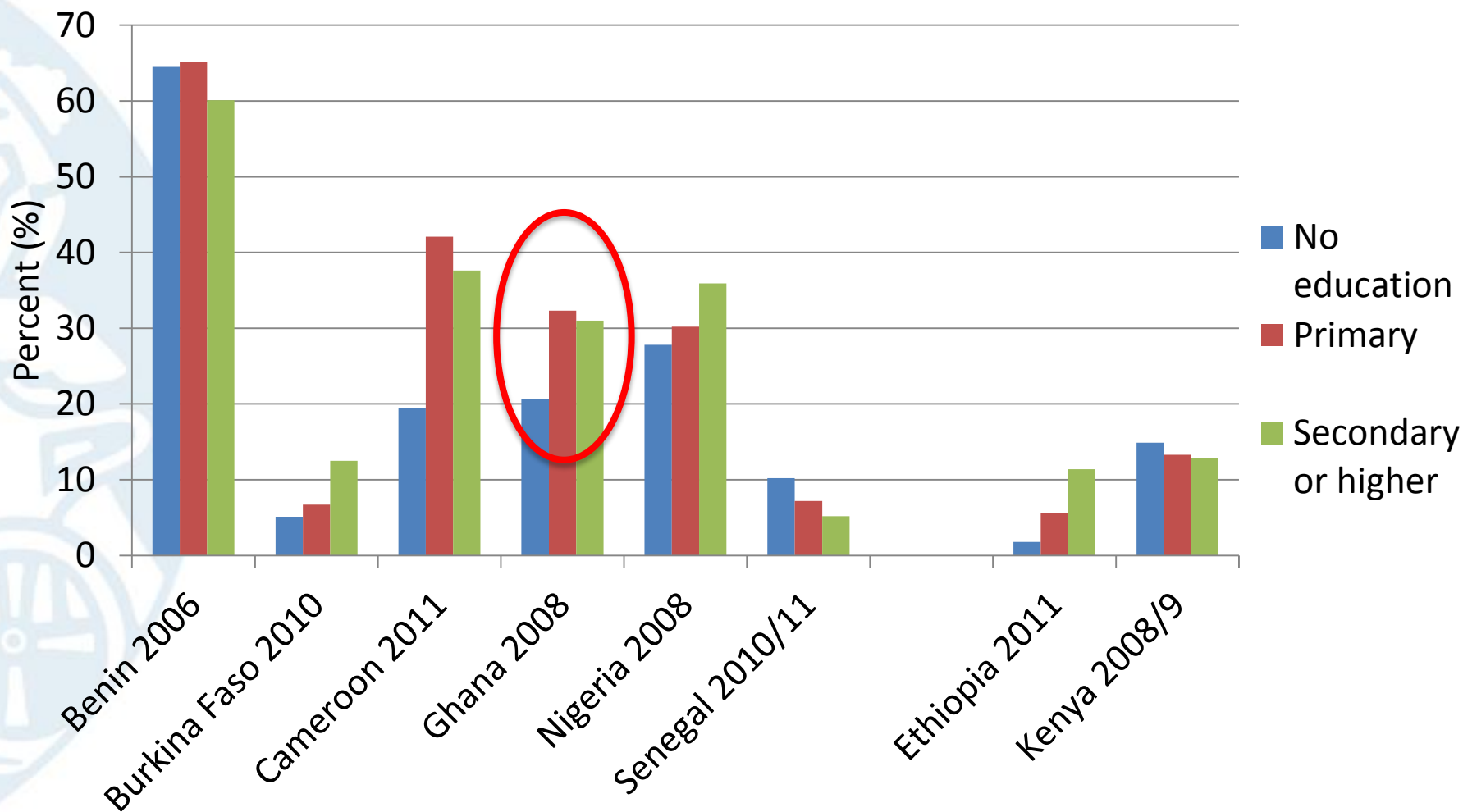
SSA: Trends of contraceptive prevalence (traditional & modern)



Among married or in-union women aged 15-49

Source: UN World Contraceptive Use 2012

SSA: Ratio of traditional users among all users by level of education



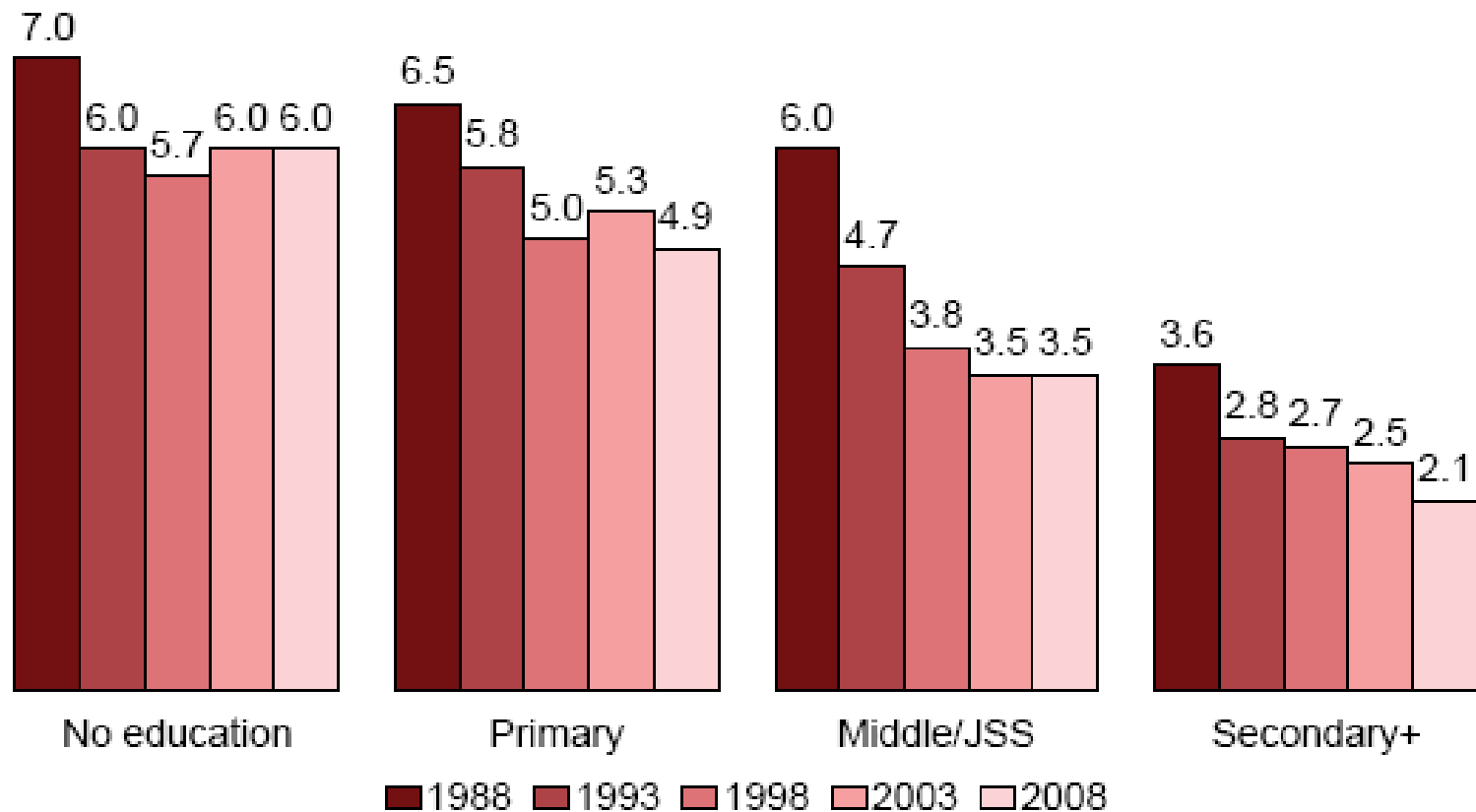
Among married or in-union women aged 15-49

Source: DHS STAT Compiler

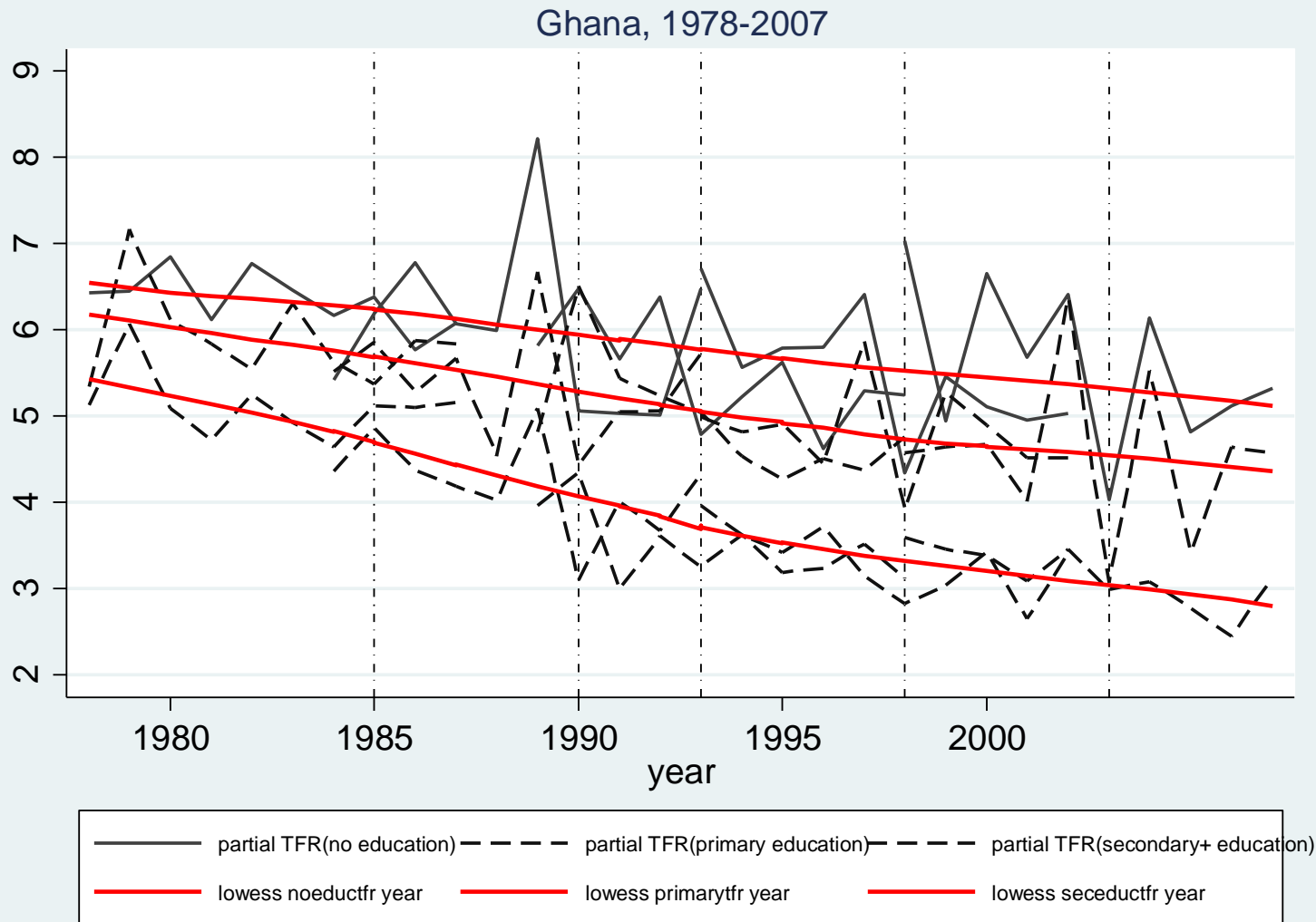
Ghana: TFR



Total Fertility Rates for the Three-Year Period Preceding the Survey, by Level of Education



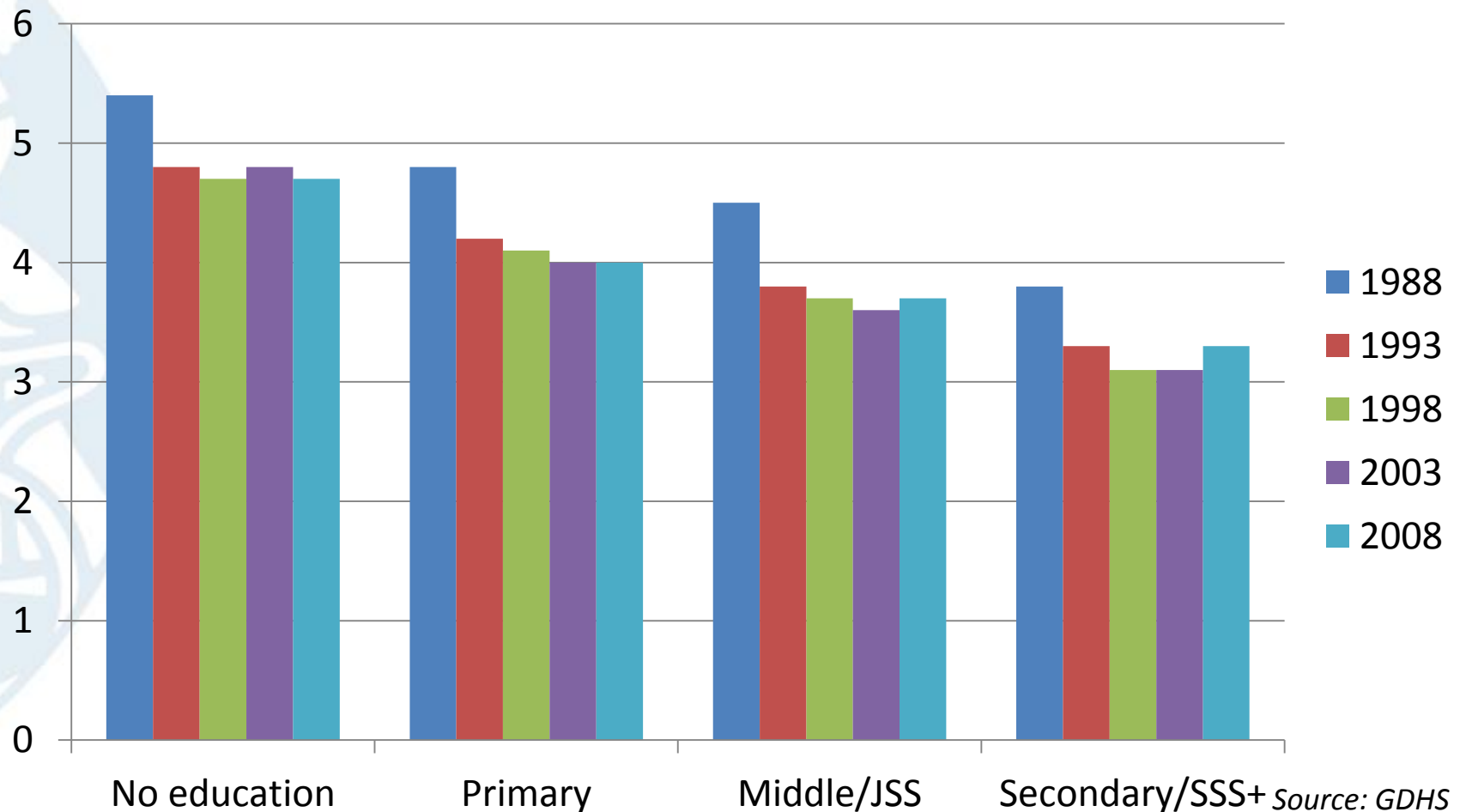
Ghana: TFR



Source: Machiyama 2011

Ghana: fertility intention

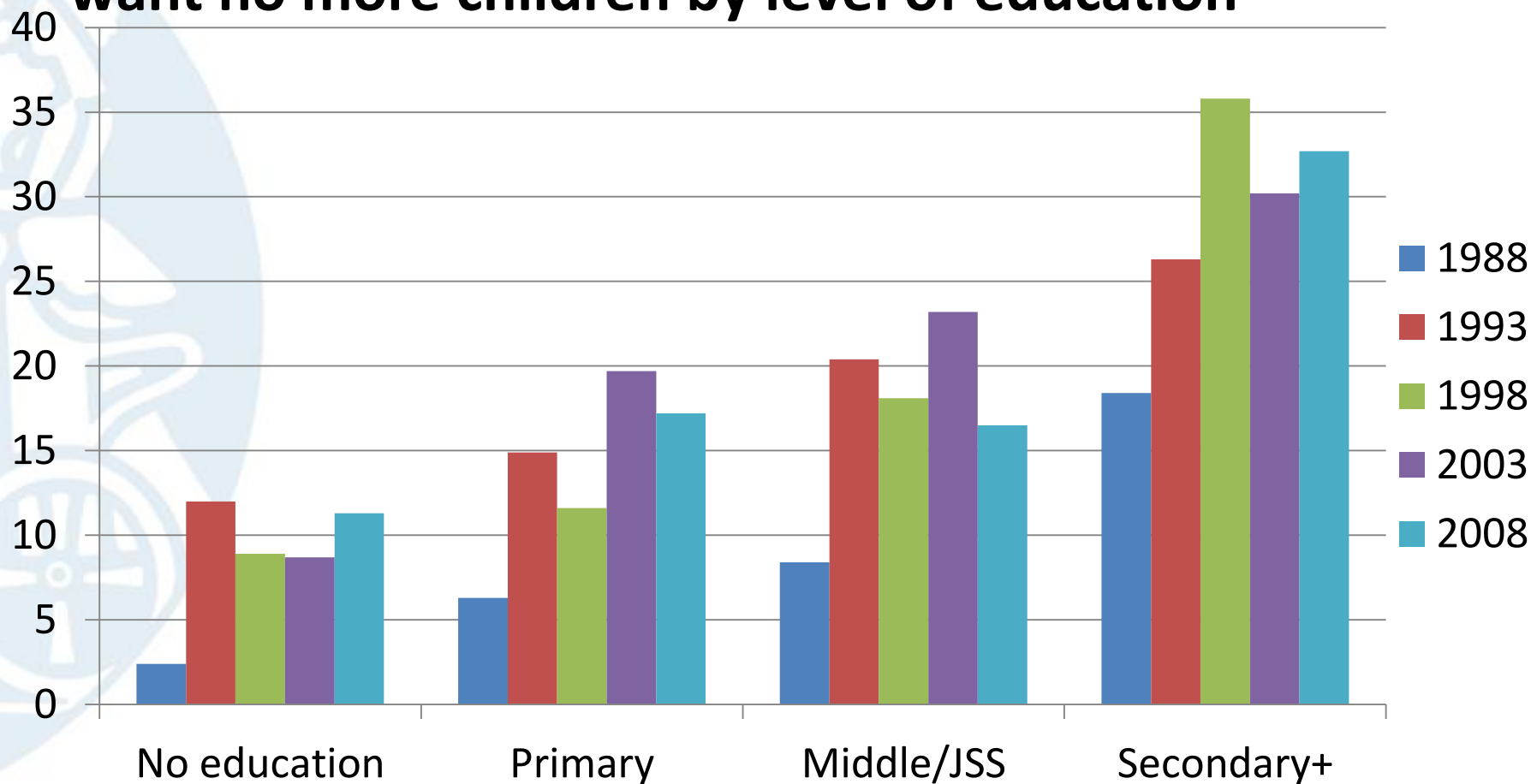
Mean ideal family size among women aged 20-29



Ghana: fertility intention



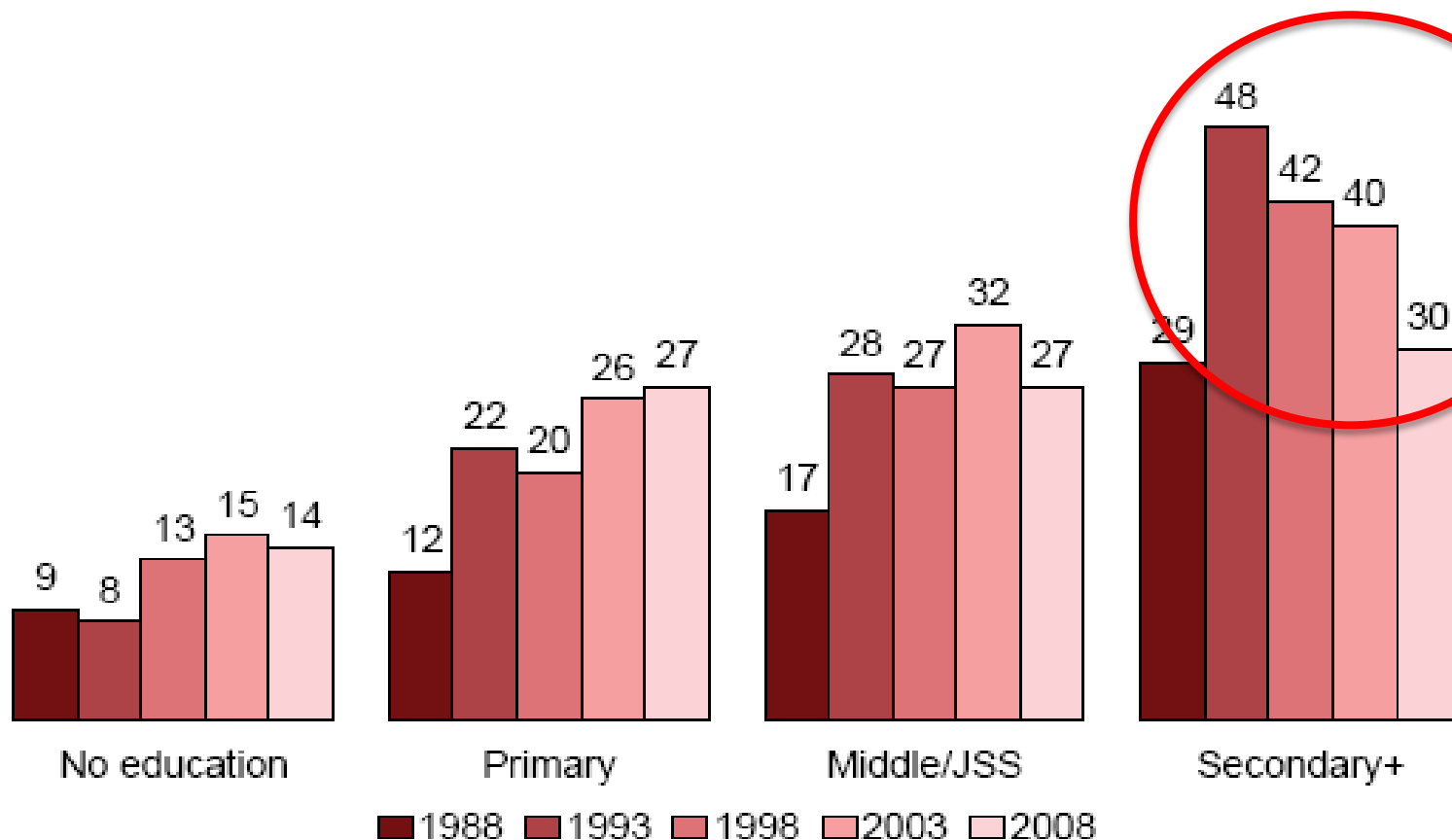
% of currently married women who have 2 children want no more children by level of education



Ghana: CPR



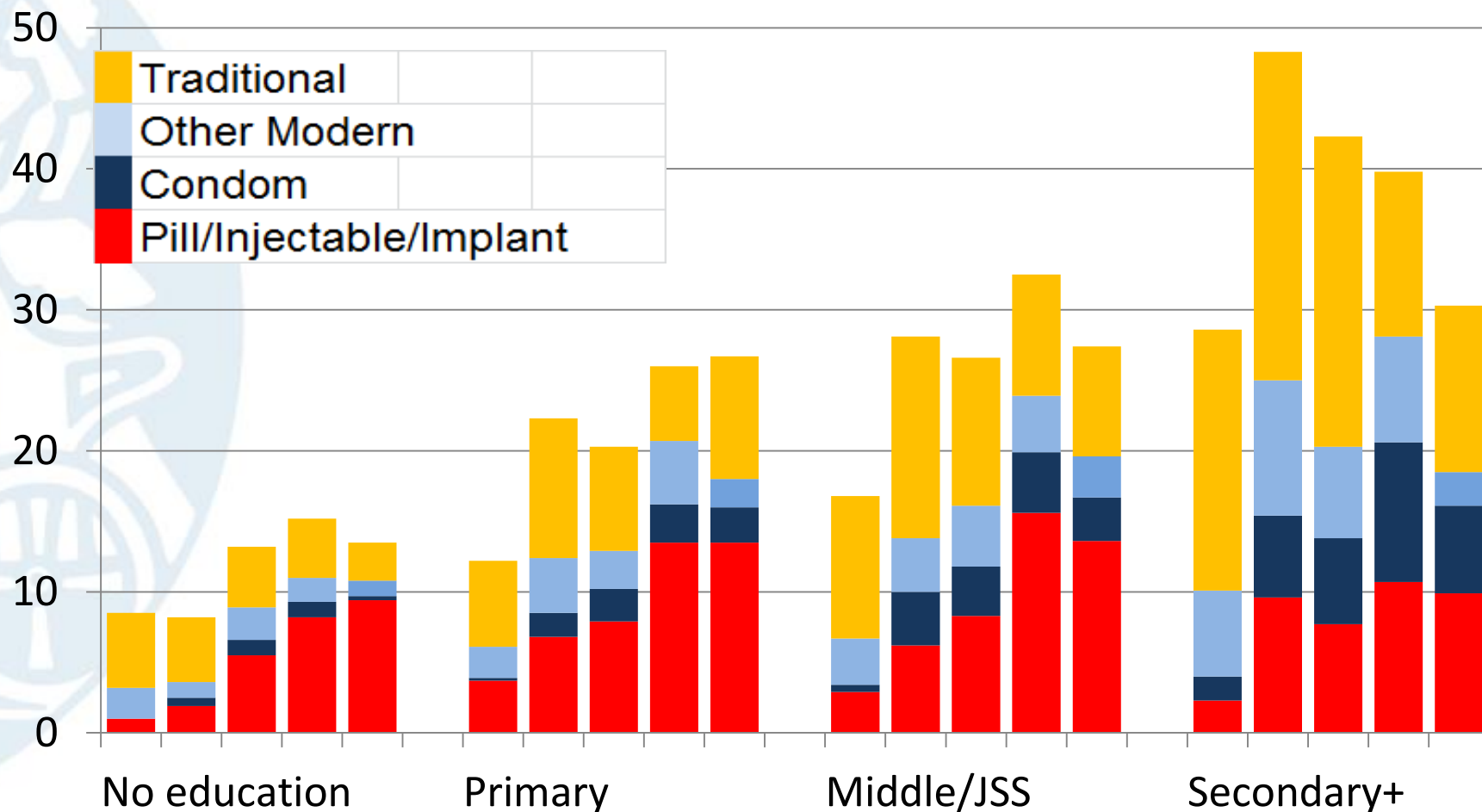
Percentage of Currently Married Women 15-49 Currently Using a Contraceptive Method, by Level of Education



Ghana: CPR



% of married women currently using a contraceptive method, by level of education and method



Objectives

- Assess determinants of use of traditional methods in Ghana
- Investigate reasons for non-use of family planning

Methods

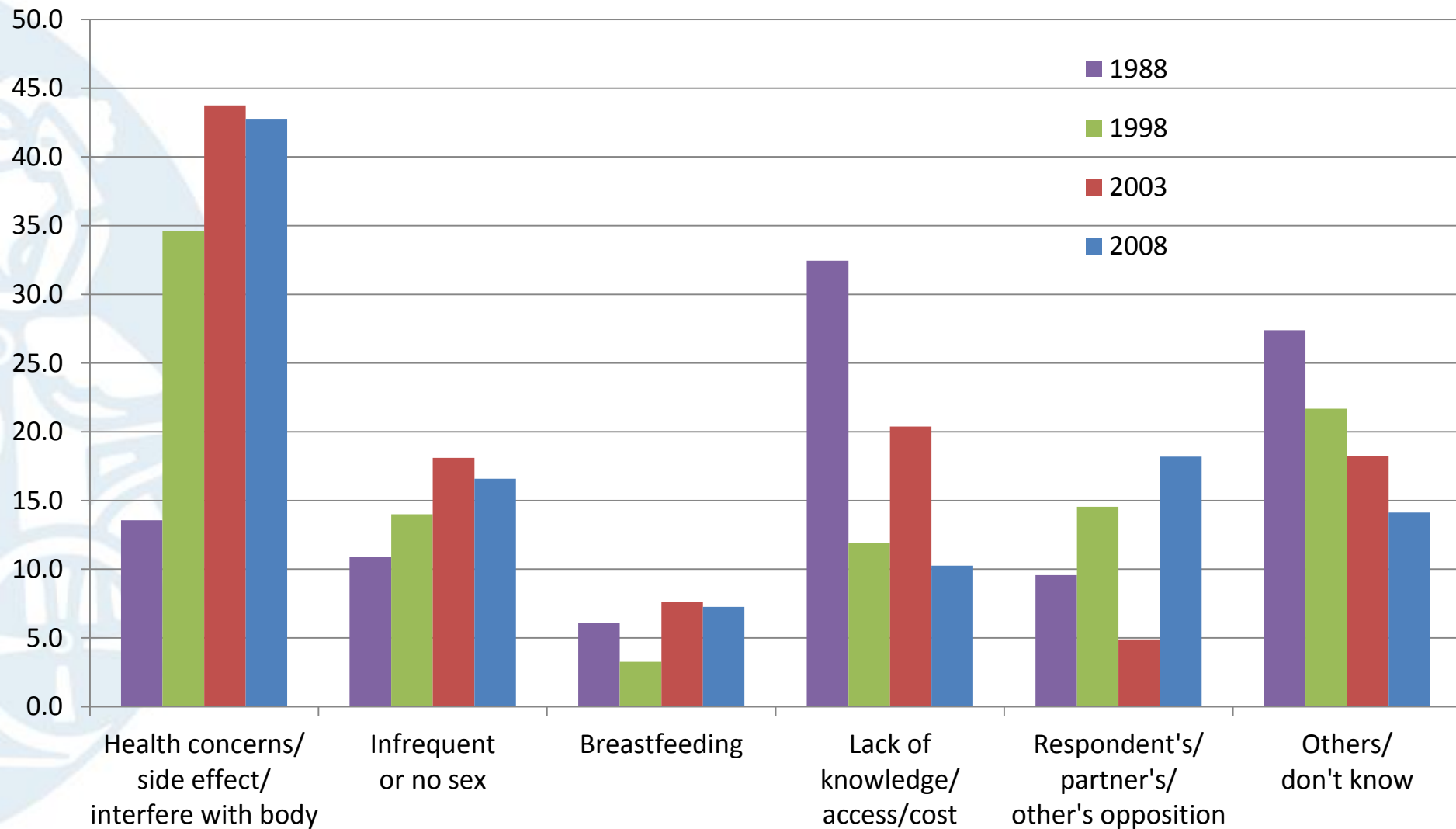
- DHS Ghana 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 & 2008
- Women in union who were exposed to risk of pregnancy

Traditional methods

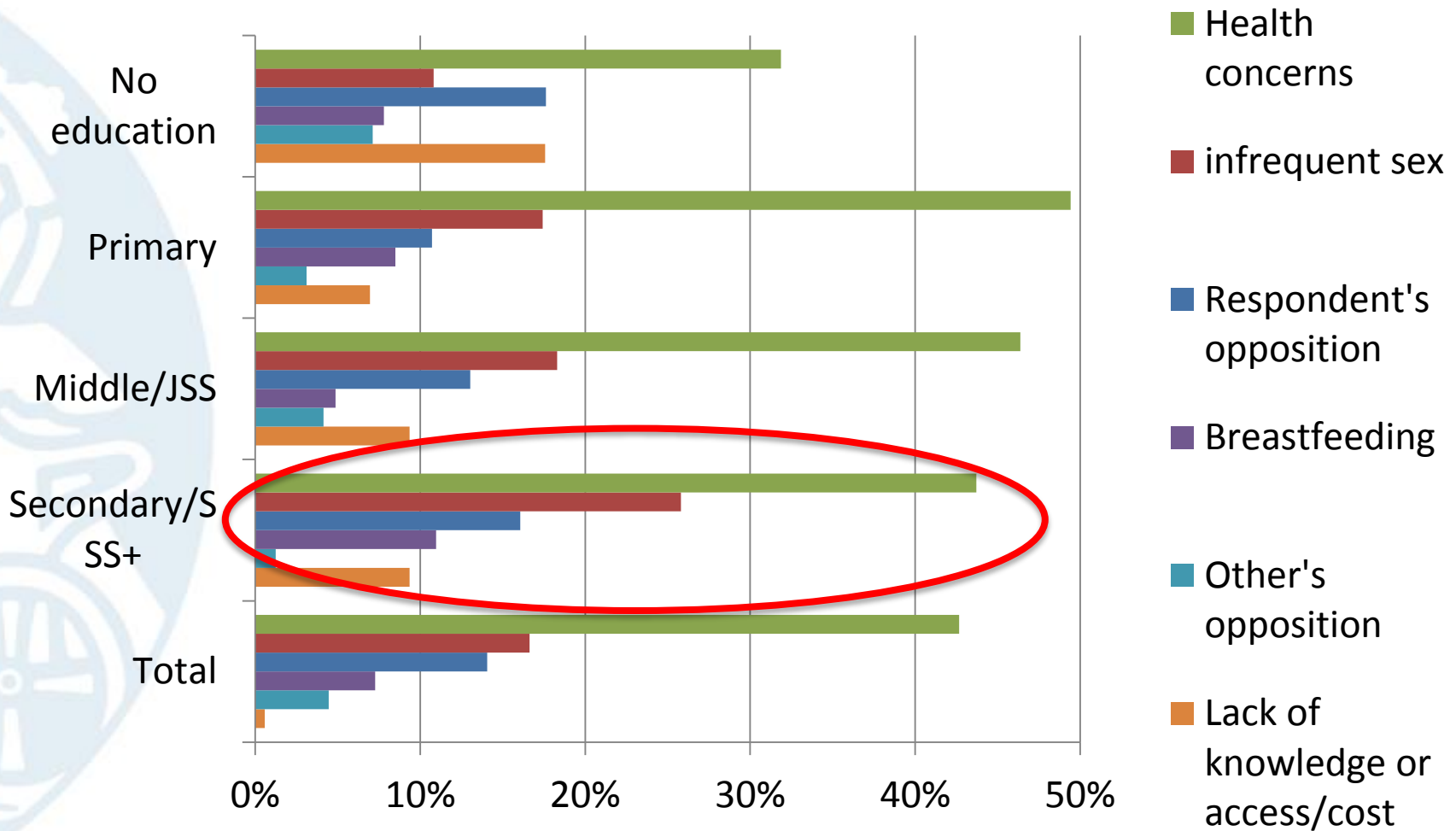
Adjusted odds ratios for currently using traditional or folkloric method vs non-users

| | Adjusted OR | 95% CI | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|------|-----|
| Residence (ref. urban) | | | | |
| Rural | 1.05 | 0.70 | 1.57 | |
| Area (ref. Southern) | | | | |
| Greater Accra | 1.63 | 0.94 | 2.85 | |
| Middle | 1.31 | 0.82 | 2.07 | |
| Northern | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.31 | *** |
| Education (ref. no education) | | | | |
| Primary | 2.22 | 1.16 | 4.25 | * |
| Middle/JSS | 1.80 | 0.97 | 3.35 | |
| Secondary/SSS+ | 2.45 | 1.14 | 5.26 | * |
| Religion (ref. Protestant) | | | | |
| Catholic | 0.95 | 0.50 | 1.77 | |
| Other Christian | 0.85 | 0.49 | 1.48 | |
| Moslem | 0.69 | 0.33 | 1.42 | |
| Traditional/spiritualist | 2.25 | 0.74 | 6.85 | |
| Other | 1.15 | 0.38 | 3.47 | |

Trends of reasons for non-use, 1988-2008



Reasons for non-use by level of education



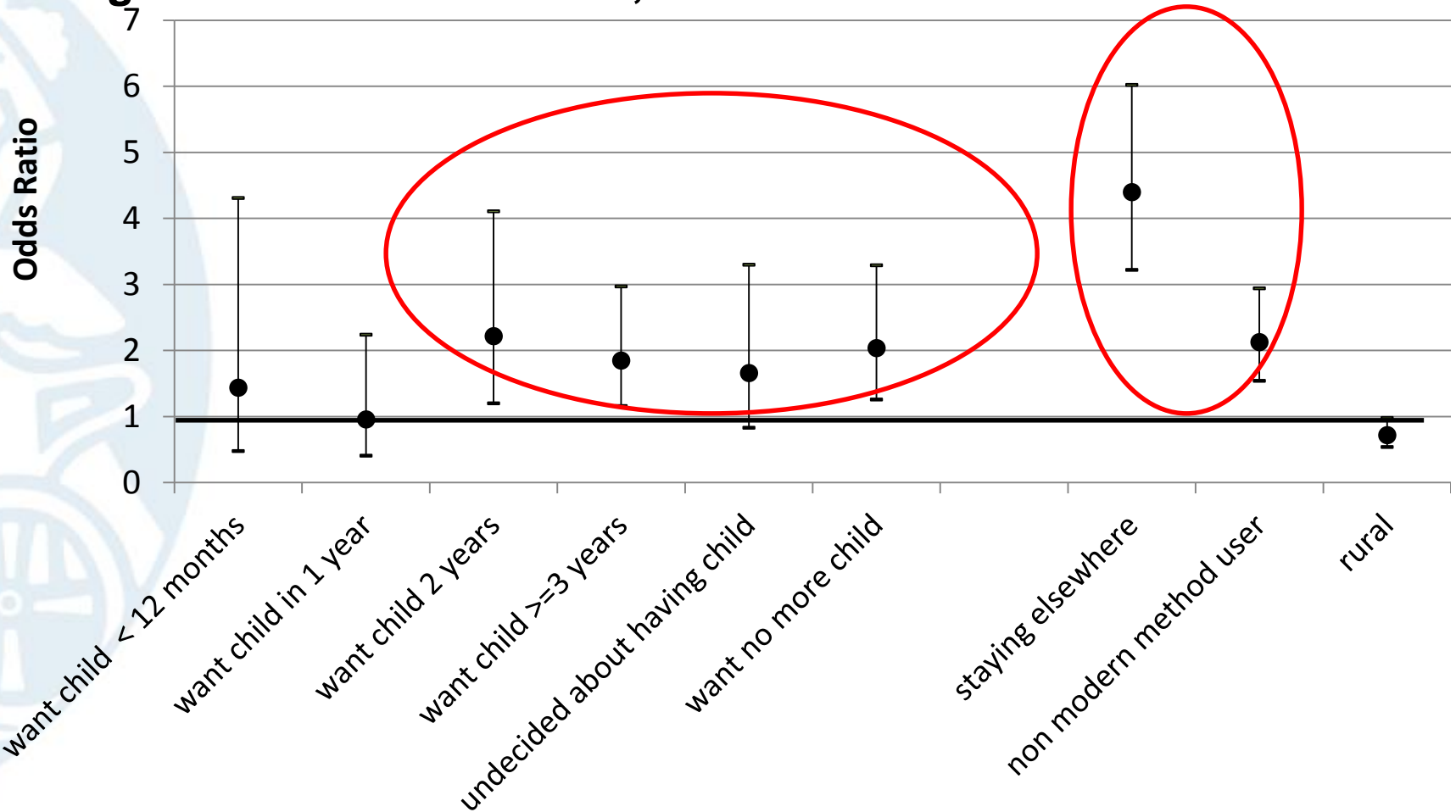
Infrequent sex:

Recency of last sex by whether infrequent sex was given as a reason for non-use, 2008

| Recency of last sex | Reason for non-use: Infrequent sex | | Total |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | No | Yes | |
| in last 4 weeks | 71.3 | 32.6 | 64.8 |
| in last 3 months | 19.8 | 28.9 | 21.3 |
| 4 or more months ago | 6.2 | 34.0 | 10.8 |
| before last birth | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.3 |
| Missing | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Infrequent sex

Adjusted odds ratios for not having sex in the last 4 weeks versus having sex in the last 4 weeks, 2008



Adjusted for education, parity, postpartum status, age group, polygyny

Implications

- An enduring resistance to hormonal methods may lead many Ghanaian women to use non-hormonal methods, i.e. male condom, periodic abstinence or reduced coital frequency as an alternative means of reducing pregnancy-risk.
 - The elite group use less effective method, but the TFR has continuously declined.

➔ Is Ghanaian fertility transition powered by less effective methods with medical abortion as back-up? (Osei 2009)

➔ “modern” women prefer natural methods to modern methods? (Basu 2005)

Implications

- Further research is needed to understand fertility regulation strategies and strong resistance to FP in Ghana, taking into account living arrangement.
- Re-visit role of traditional methods.



STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE FOR PROGRAMMING ON UNINTENDED PREGNANCY



The **STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium** generates policy-relevant research to promote an evidence-based approach for improving access to family planning and safe abortion. STEP UP focuses its activities in five countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, and Senegal. STEP UP is funded by UK aid from the UK Government.

www.stepup.popcouncil.org





Thank you!

Contact: Kazuyo.machiyama@lshtm.ac.uk