

Improving reproductive health in Africa

Power to Parliamentarians



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**“Parliament can do everything
but make a woman a man and a
man a woman.”**

– de Lolme



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Keep in mind...

RH outcomes have remained poor in Africa despite several policies, guidelines and commitments of our governments

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Harmonize conflicting legal systems, appropriate funds for SRH services, include men in SRH policies



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Reduction in unintended pregnancies, unsafe and repeat abortions, adolescent pregnancies

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What's the evidence?

Family Planning

In maternal and child health

- Child spacing
- Mothers recovery
- Prevents unintended pregnancies

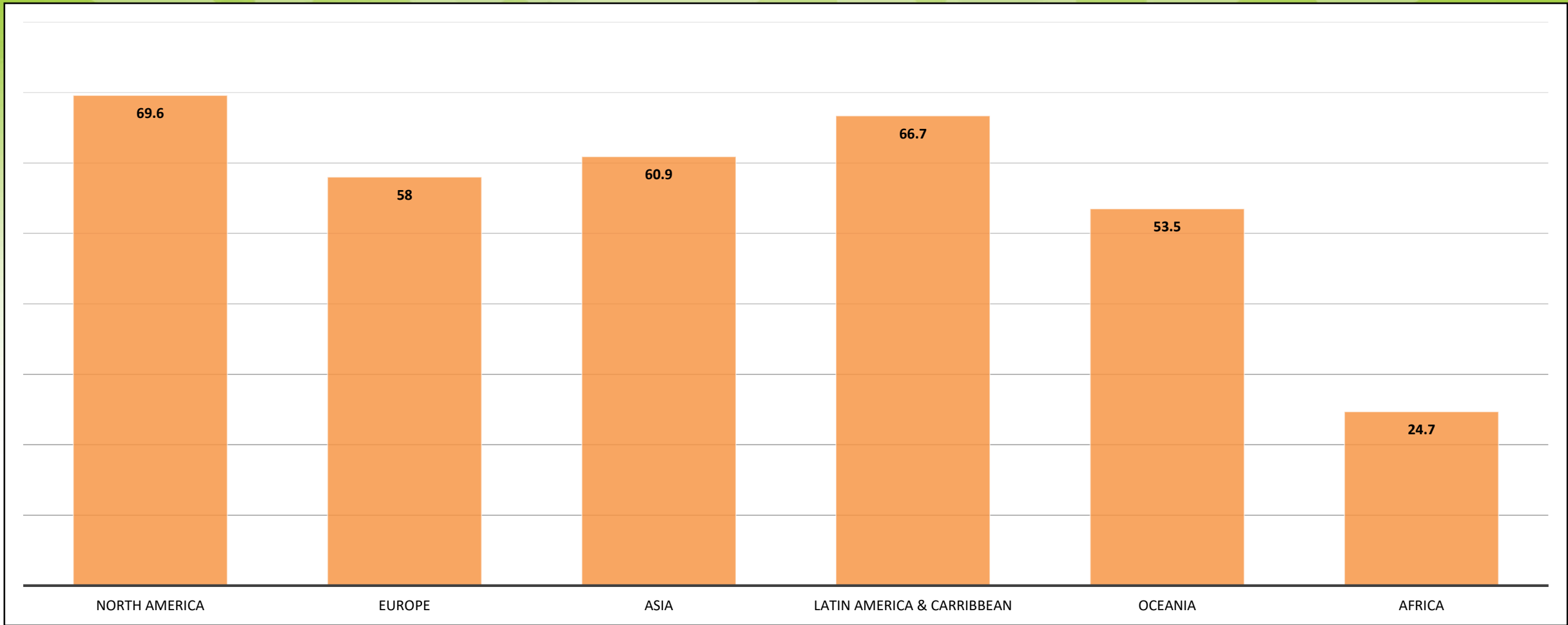
Why the low usage?

- Unmet need for contraception
- Limited funding
- Dependence on short term unreliable methods



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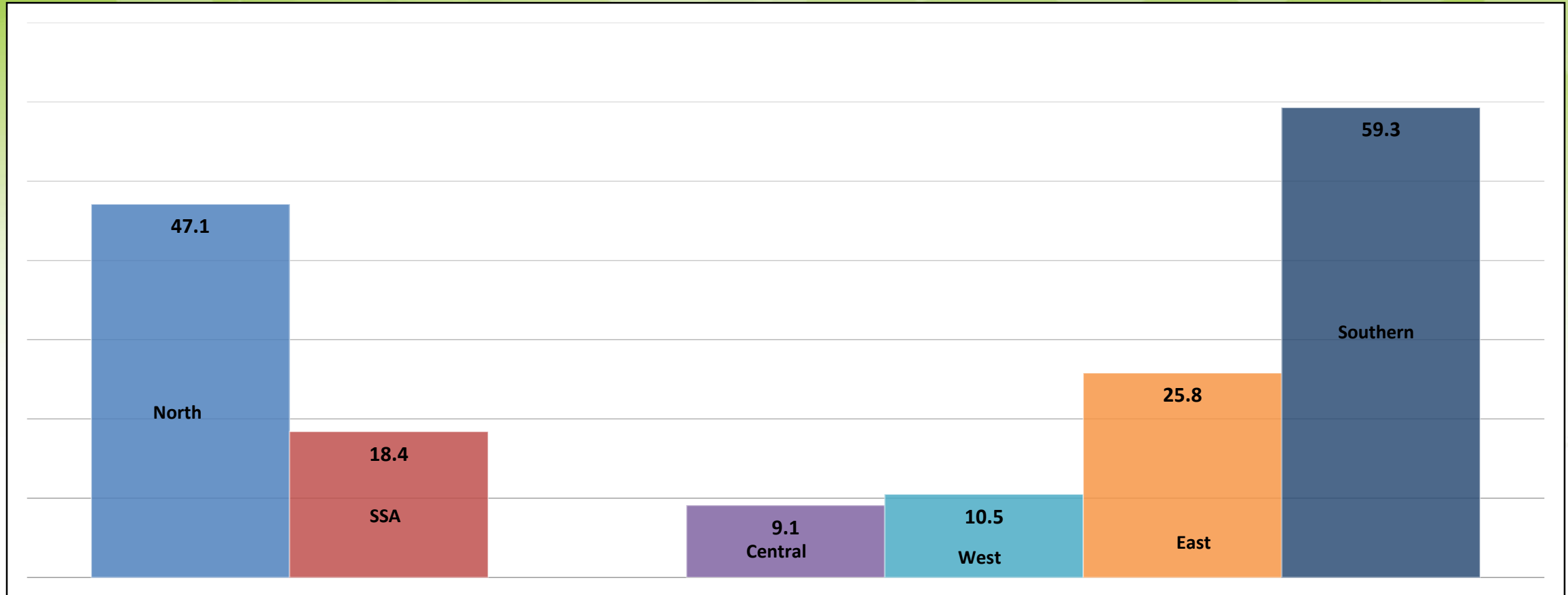
Global contraceptive prevalence, 2015



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Modern contraceptive prevalence

Married or in-union women aged 15–49 years by sub-region 2015 – Tsui et al 2017



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FP Takeaways

- It's cost effective
- Increasing access and utilization will contribute to reducing maternal and child deaths
- It is not a woman's issue but everyone's



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Sexuality education...



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Sexuality education practice

Adolescent Health

Policy & Implementation

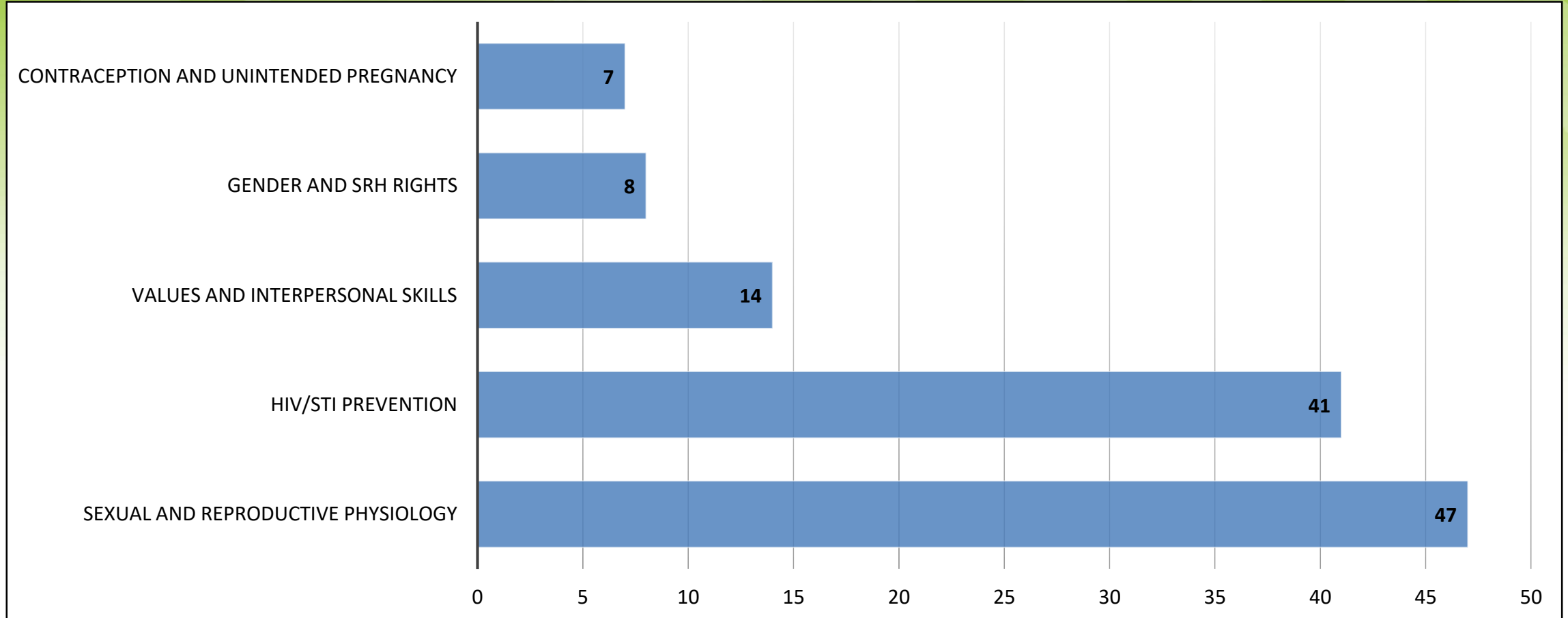
- Several policies support the provision of sexuality education but are not comprehensive
- Sexuality education is integrated into other school subjects but it is not examinable
- Fear-based or negative frames are used to introduce sexuality & a weak focus on gender and rights



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Sexuality education – an example

How comprehensive is the CSE in Kenyan schools? – What students learn about



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Adolescent Health Takeaways

- Many adolescents are sexually active and are ill-prepared for it
- Sexuality education is critical in addressing gender relations, GBV, unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions and STIs/HIV



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Unsafe abortion

Abortion

- Out of every 1,000 women between 15-49 years 48 of them procured abortions.

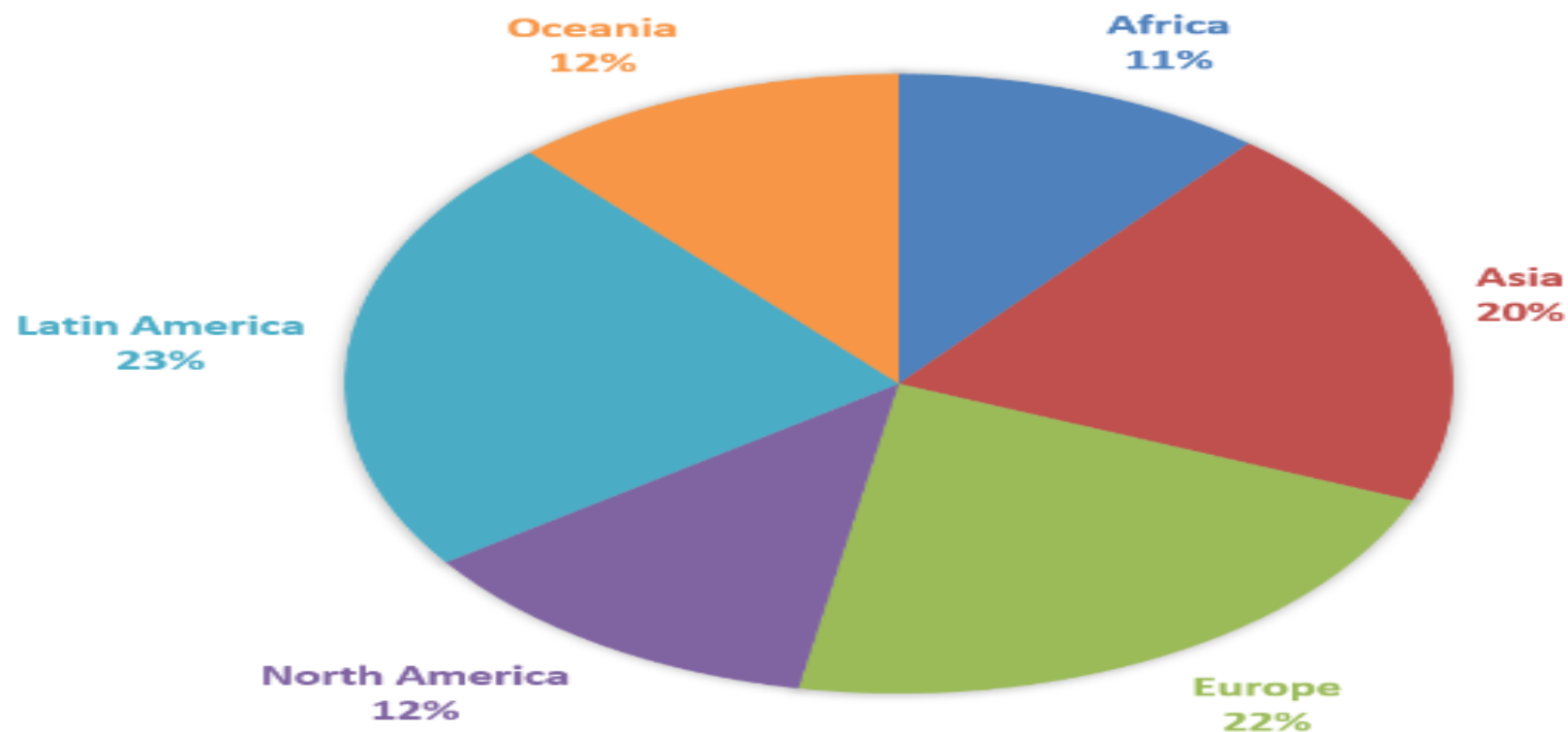
Key data

- In 2012, an estimated 464,000 induced abortions occurred in Kenya.
- About 120,000 resulted in complications



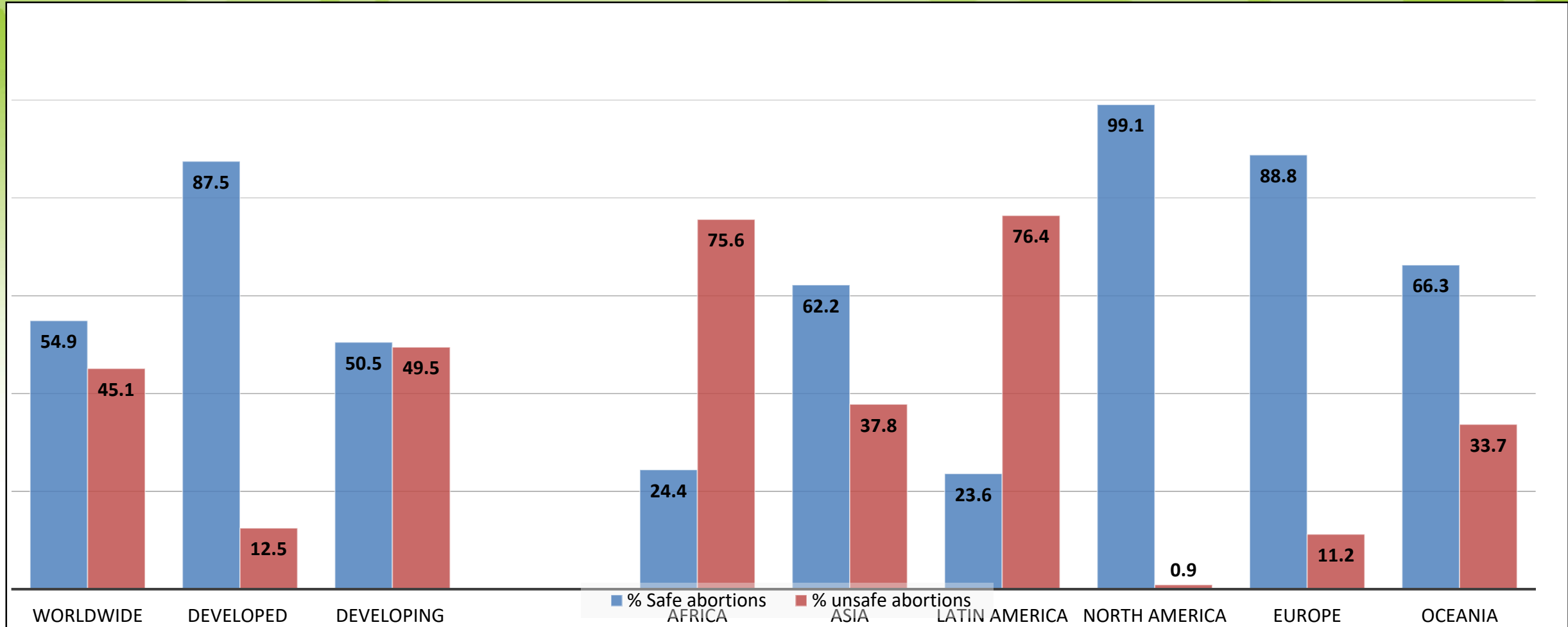
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Proportion of Abortions by region



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Safe versus unsafe abortion by region



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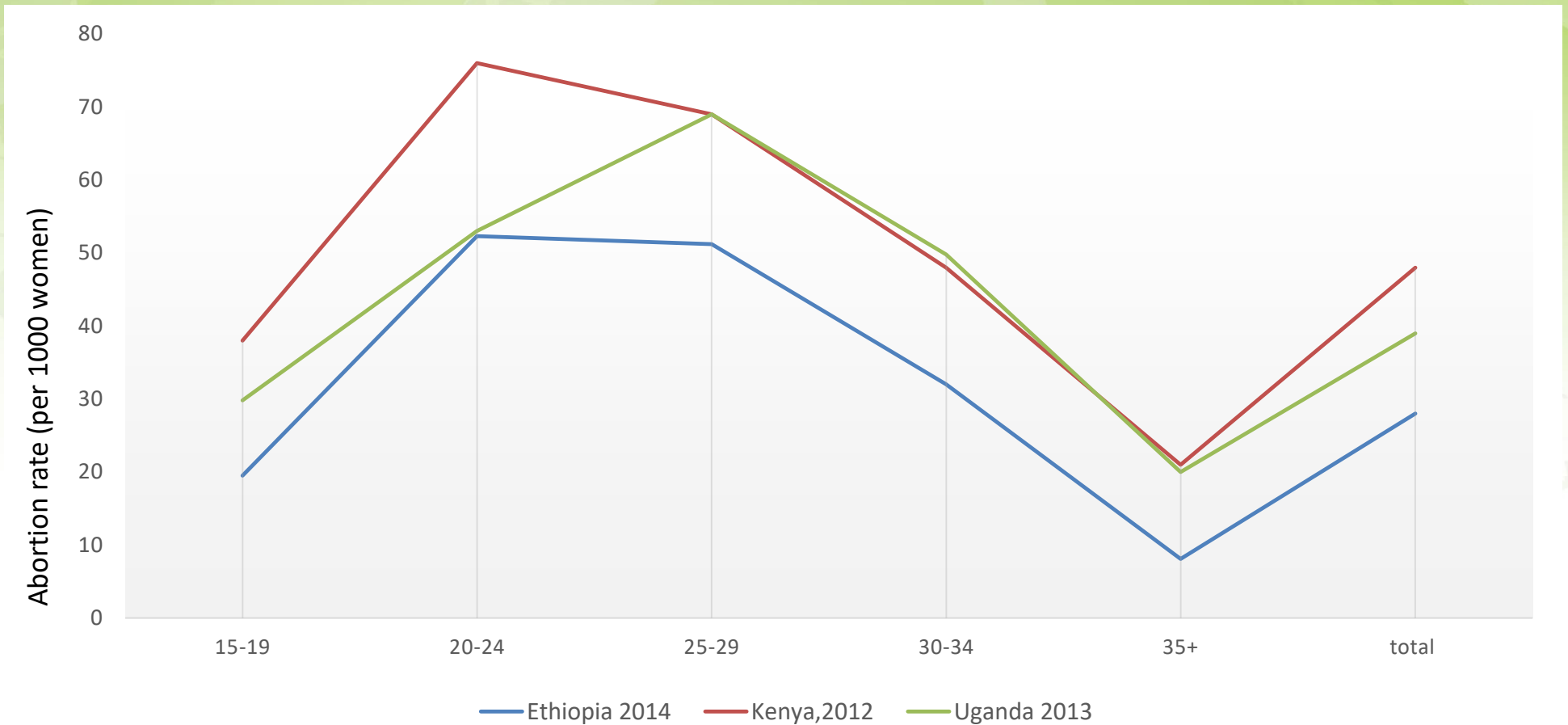
1 in 4 unintended pregnancies in Zimbabwe end in abortion



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Abortion rates for adolescents

APHRC, 2012; Sully 2018



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We can no longer be silent about abortion

- Africa has the highest rate of unsafe abortions
- Without legally sanctioned access, women & girls, resort to unqualified providers
- Complications from unsafe abortions take a toll on women's health and on public health finance
- Post-abortion care is absolutely necessary
contraceptive counselling



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Parliamentarians to the rescue...

Harmonize conflicting legal systems

- Religious
- Cultural
- Constitution

Use power of appropriation to allocate funds for family planning & other RH services

Write men into RH policies



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**You have the
power to make
a difference**

Use evidence
and be bold
in formulating
laws that
improve
reproductive
health



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**Thank
You**



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