

**Long term trends in
protective behaviour against
adverse sexual & reproductive outcomes:
single women in Africa aged 15-24**

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Background

- Heavy condom promotion for HIV control but funding for social marketing has declined
- Emphasis on abstinence at launch of PEPFAR in early 2000s
- Recent resurgence of commitment to adolescent contraception, with stress on highly effective hormonal methods
- Insufficient contact, collaboration, synergy between HIV prevention and family planning

Much is already known about young women in Africa:

- Ages at first sex, first marriage & first birth have increased
- Trends in premarital childbearing are varied
- HIV incidence down but young women are a high risk group
- Contraceptive use & condom use at last sex have increased, but unmet need remains high

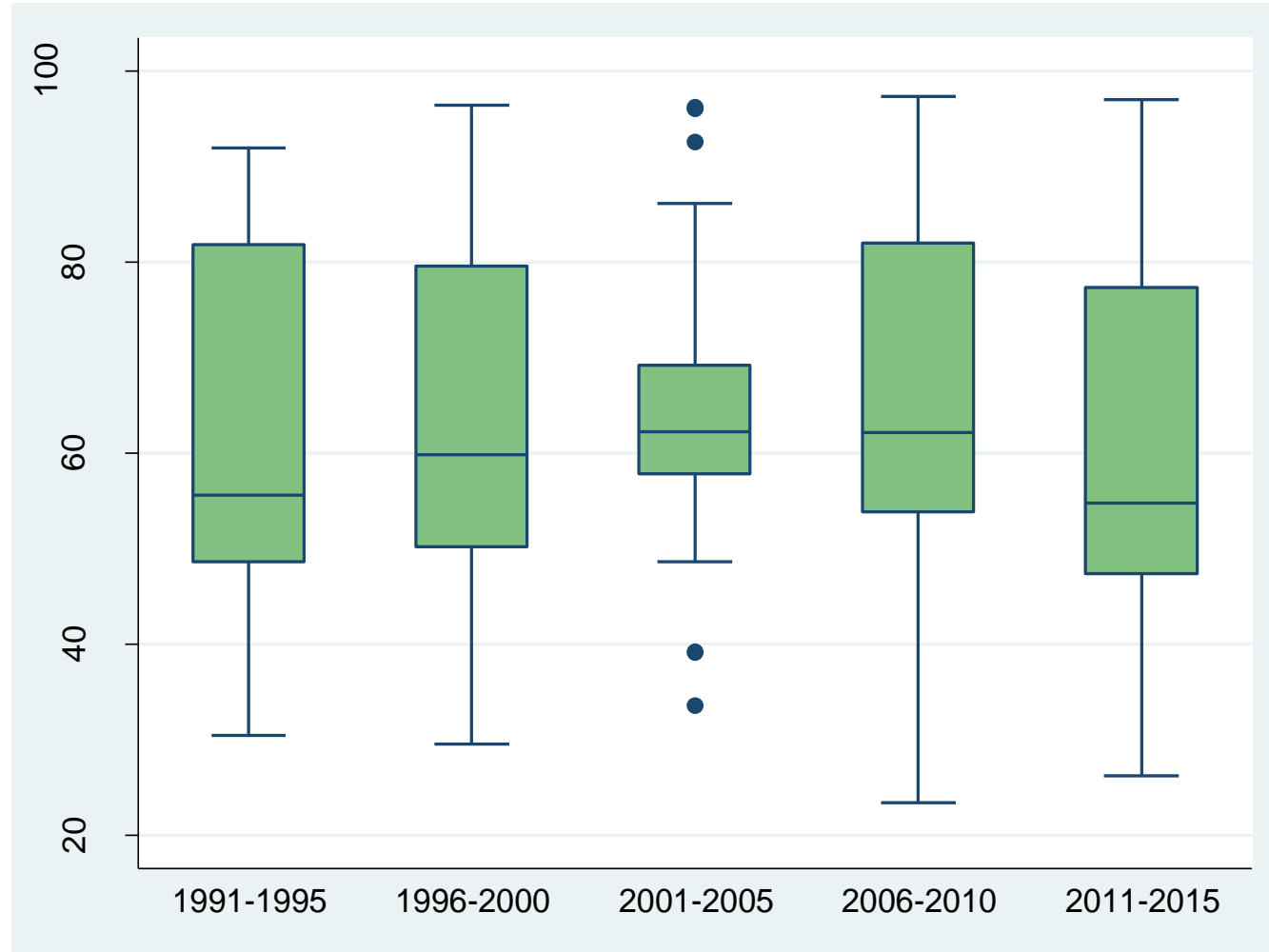
BUT

- No clear sense of how pace of change has altered over past 20 years
- Few studies examine abstinence, contraception and condom use jointly
- Little evidence on trends in contraceptive method mix or double method protection
- Very few attempts to discern motive for condom use (pregnancy vs disease prevention)

Aim and Data

- Aim is to provide the big picture of behavioural change over 2 decades, 1991-5 to 2011-15 among single African women aged 15-24
- Focus on 4 outcomes: virginity, no sex in past 3 months, method-specific contraceptive use, condom use at last sex
- Data: 112 DHSs; N= 17-25 in each 5 year period
- Results shown as median values and IQRs, unweighted by population size of countries

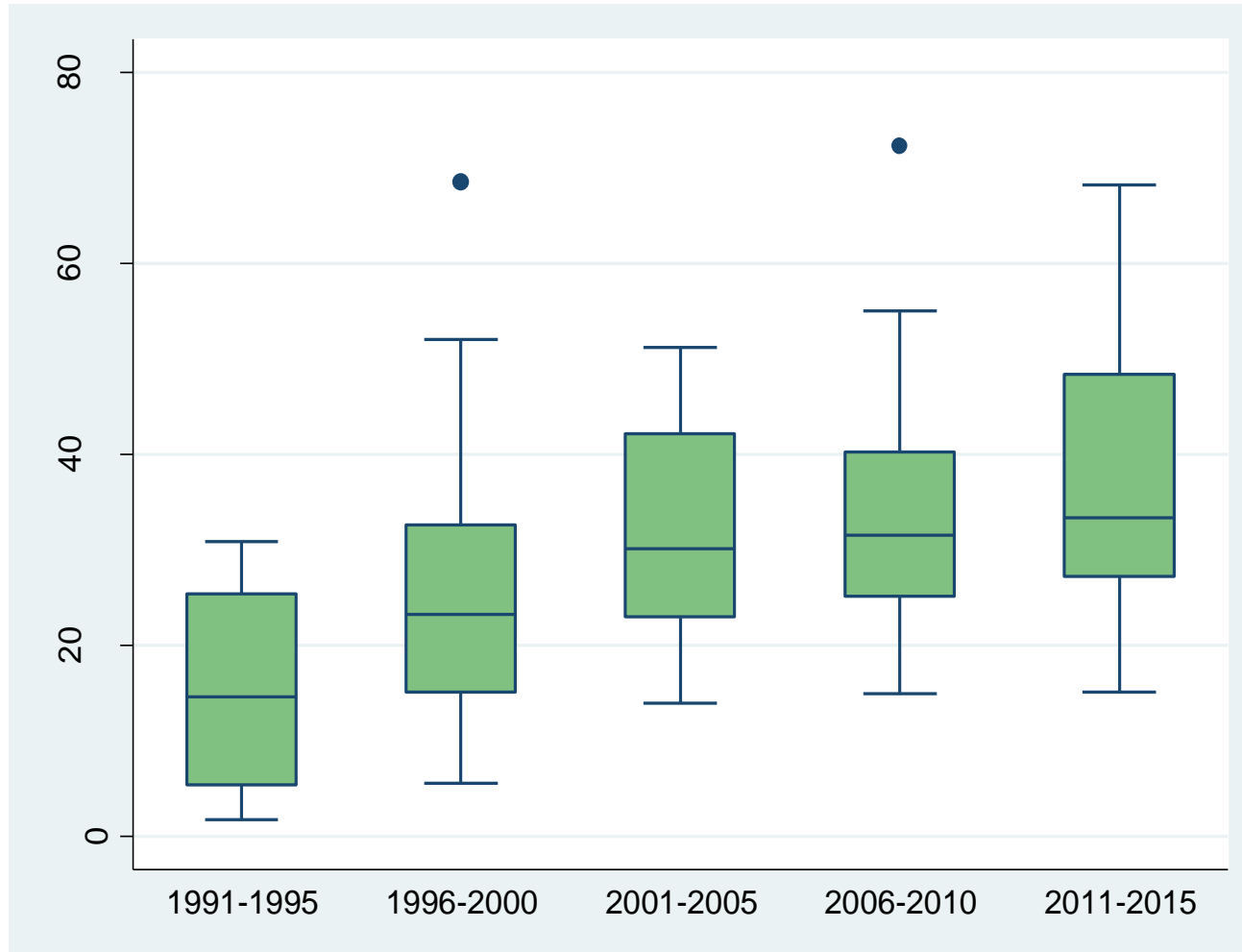
Trends in virginity



Trends in secondary abstinence (no sex in last 3 months) among non-virgins



Trends in current use of modern contraceptive method among sexually active

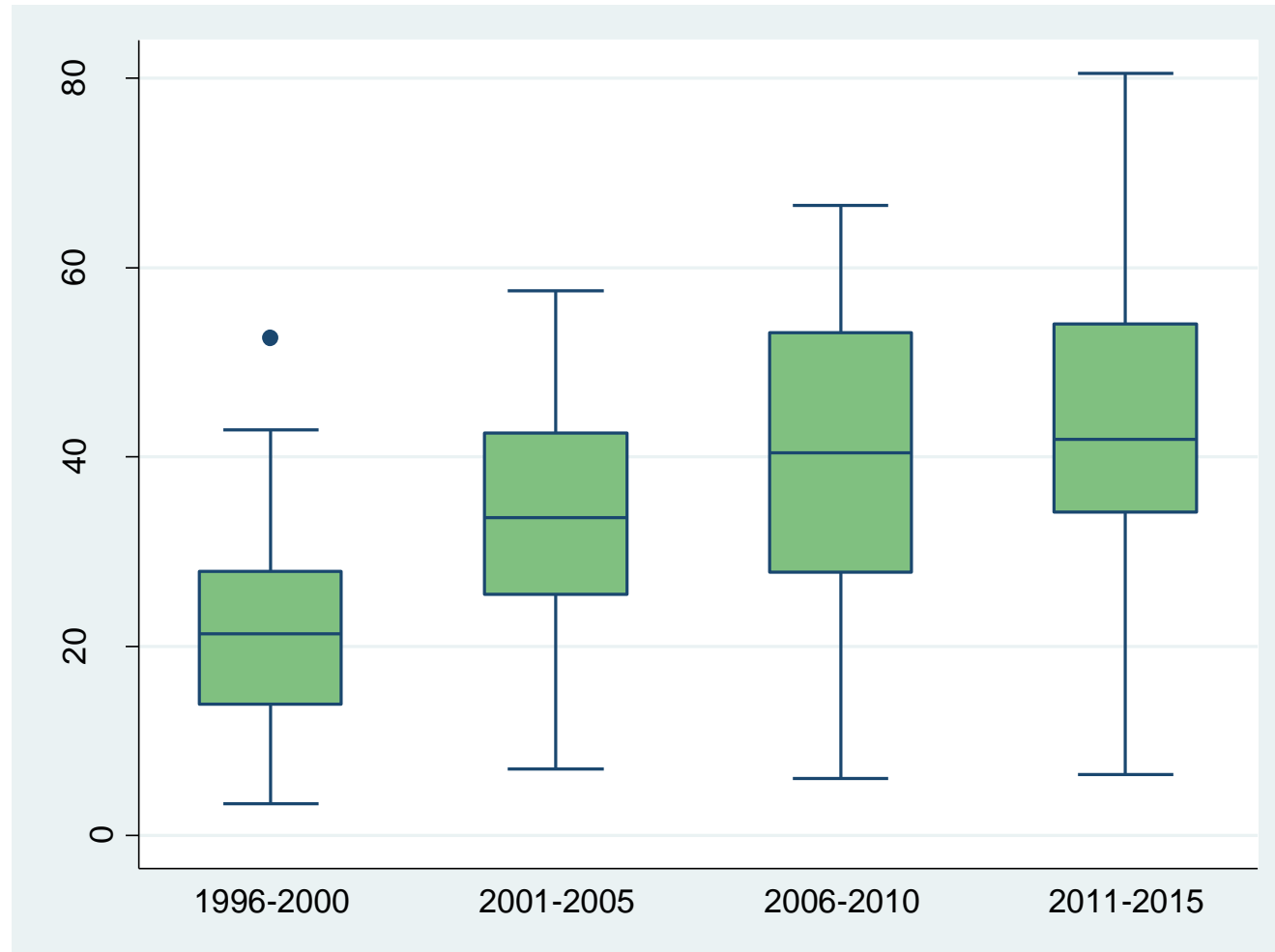


Strong
correlation with
education

Trends in contraceptive method mix

Period	Condoms	OCs & Injectables	IUDs & implants	Per Ab	Other trad
1991-1995	26	10	0	46	4
1996-2000	35	13	0	25	5
2001-2005	61	20	0	14	4
2006-2010	58	21	0	5	4
2011-2015	51	24	2	6	2

Trends in condom use at last sex among sexually active



Strong
correlation
with HIV
prevalence

In recent surveys
74% claim
consistent use

Median percent using condom at last sex, by contraceptive use status

Period	Contraceptive use status		
	Not using	Condoms	Non-barrier
1996-2000	8	84	15
2001-2005	16	84	21
2006-2010	31	89	22
2011-2015	29	88	31

About half of those who used condoms at last sex had earlier reported its use as a contraceptive method

Policy implications

- The contraceptive needs of young single women are varied and certainly cannot be met solely by condoms
- But for those with infrequent sex, living in high HIV risk settings, the condom remains the best option
- Its use is further justified by advent of EC (and medical abortion) as back-ups:
optimal package = condoms, EC, pregnancy test kits, advice about medical abortion
- The current emphasis by FP2020 etc on promoting non-barrier methods in East/Southern Africa is potentially counter-productive for HIV prevention
- Condoms will be easier to promote with an FP emphasis than with an HIV emphasis
- Evidence for effectiveness of mass media condom promotion and social marketing is strong
- The FP movement should redress its neglect and “re-possess” condoms