



World Health  
Organization

Western Pacific Region

# Overview of Maternal Health in ASEAN countries

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary  
Assembly Seminar, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia, 9-12 March 2011

# Background

- ▶ It is the right of every mother and newborn child to survive pregnancy and childbirth and to have a safe pregnancy.
- ▶ Families, communities, and local and national governments have the responsibility to prevent their deaths.



Conventions on the Rights of the Child (1989)  
Convention on the Elimination of All forms of  
Discrimination Against Women (1979)  
International Covenant of Economic, Social  
and Cultural Rights (1976)

# MDG 5: to improve maternal health

## 5.A. Reduce maternal mortality, by 75% from between 1990 and 2015

5.1 Maternal mortality ratio

5.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel

## 5.B. Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

5.3 Contraceptive prevalence

5.4 Antenatal care coverage

5.5 Unmet need for family planning

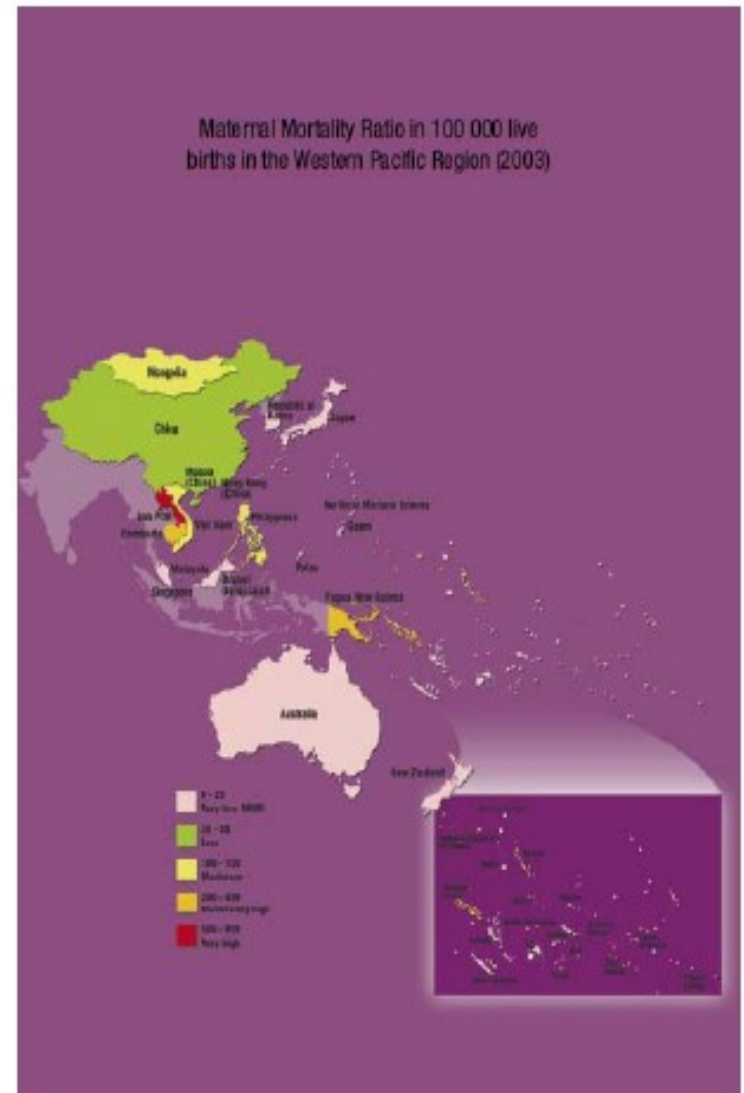
5.6 Adolescent birth rate

# *Regional Data*

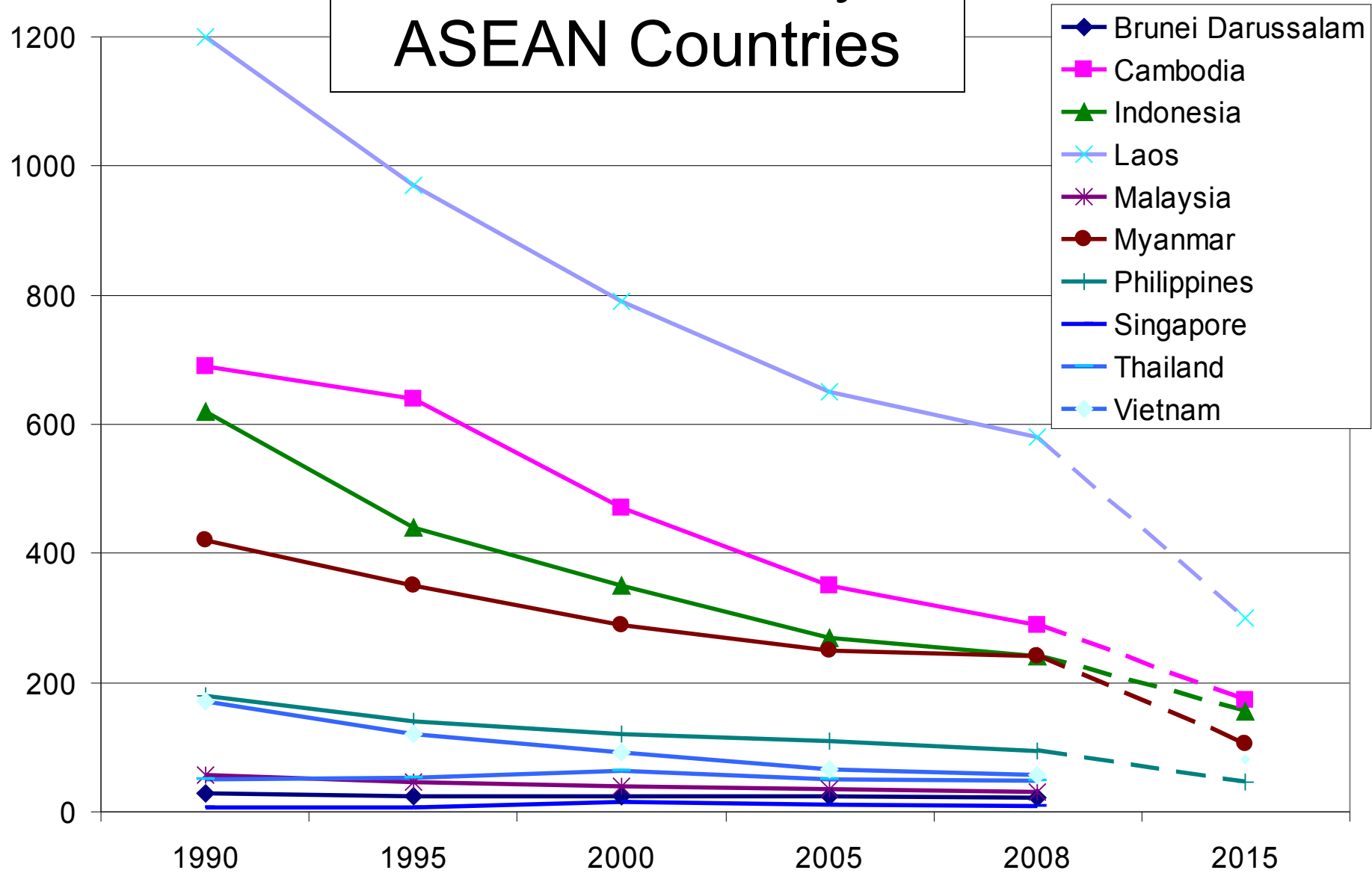
Worldwide, close to 600 000 women are estimated to die each year from complications related to pregnancy, most of which can be prevented.

Some **13,000** of these deaths are in the **Western Pacific Region**.

Although the Western Pacific Region may fare better in terms of maternal mortality than other WHO Regions, there are marked differences among countries.



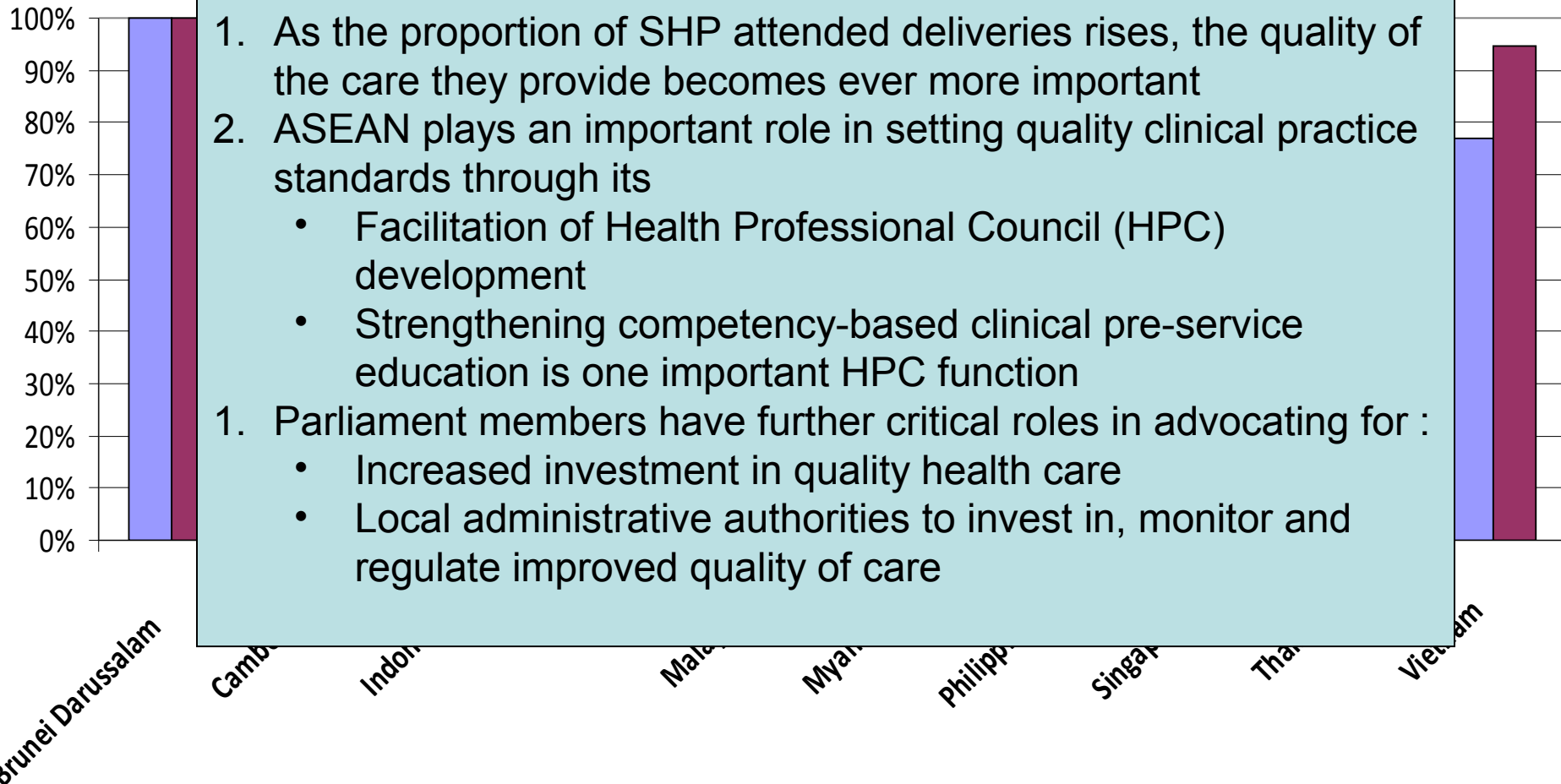
# Maternal Mortality of ASEAN Countries



# Skilled Health Professional Deliveries, 1995 and Most Recent

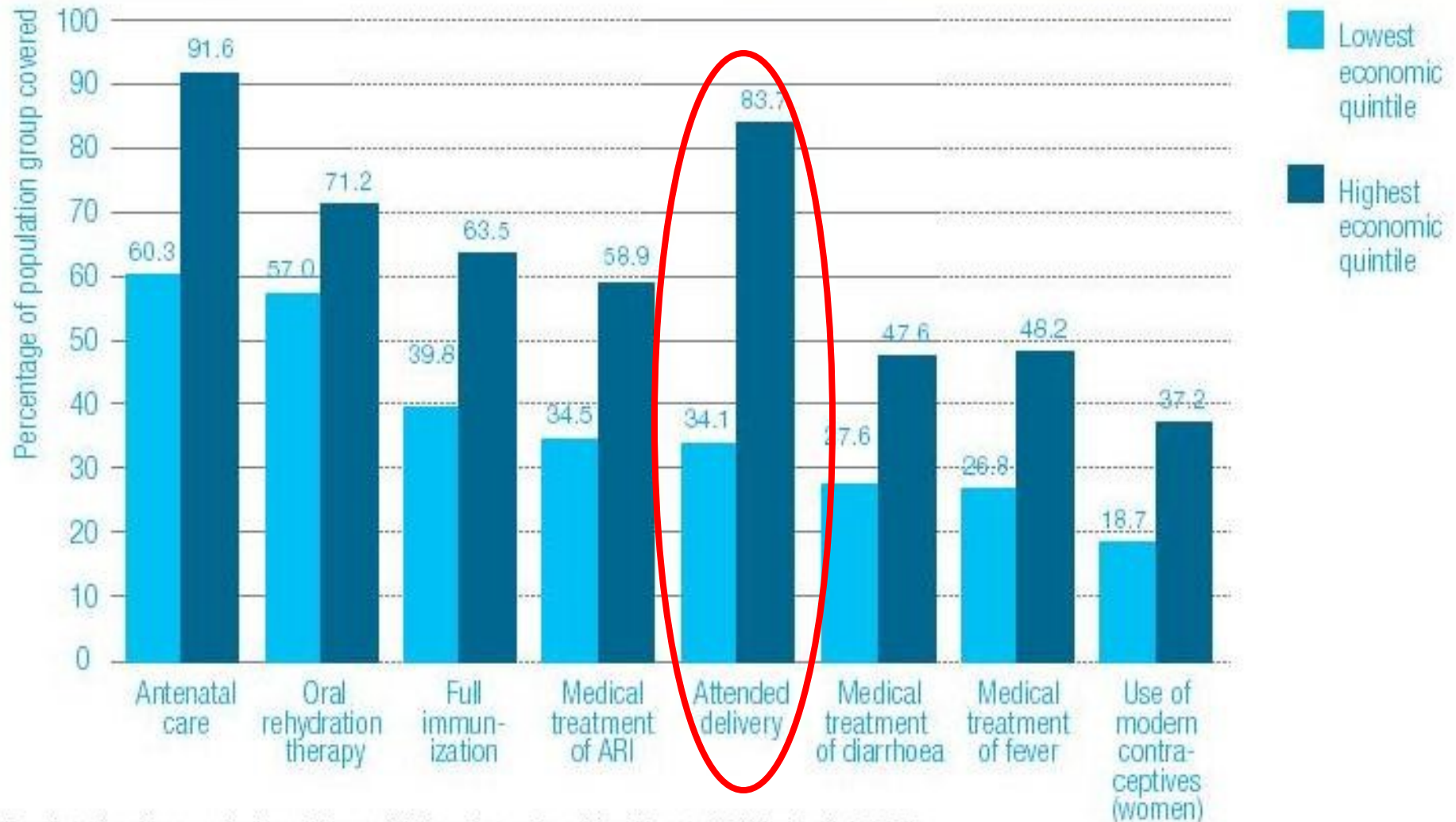
## Notes:

1. As the proportion of SHP attended deliveries rises, the quality of the care they provide becomes ever more important
2. ASEAN plays an important role in setting quality clinical practice standards through its
  - Facilitation of Health Professional Council (HPC) development
  - Strengthening competency-based clinical pre-service education is one important HPC function
1. Parliament members have further critical roles in advocating for :
  - Increased investment in quality health care
  - Local administrative authorities to invest in, monitor and regulate improved quality of care

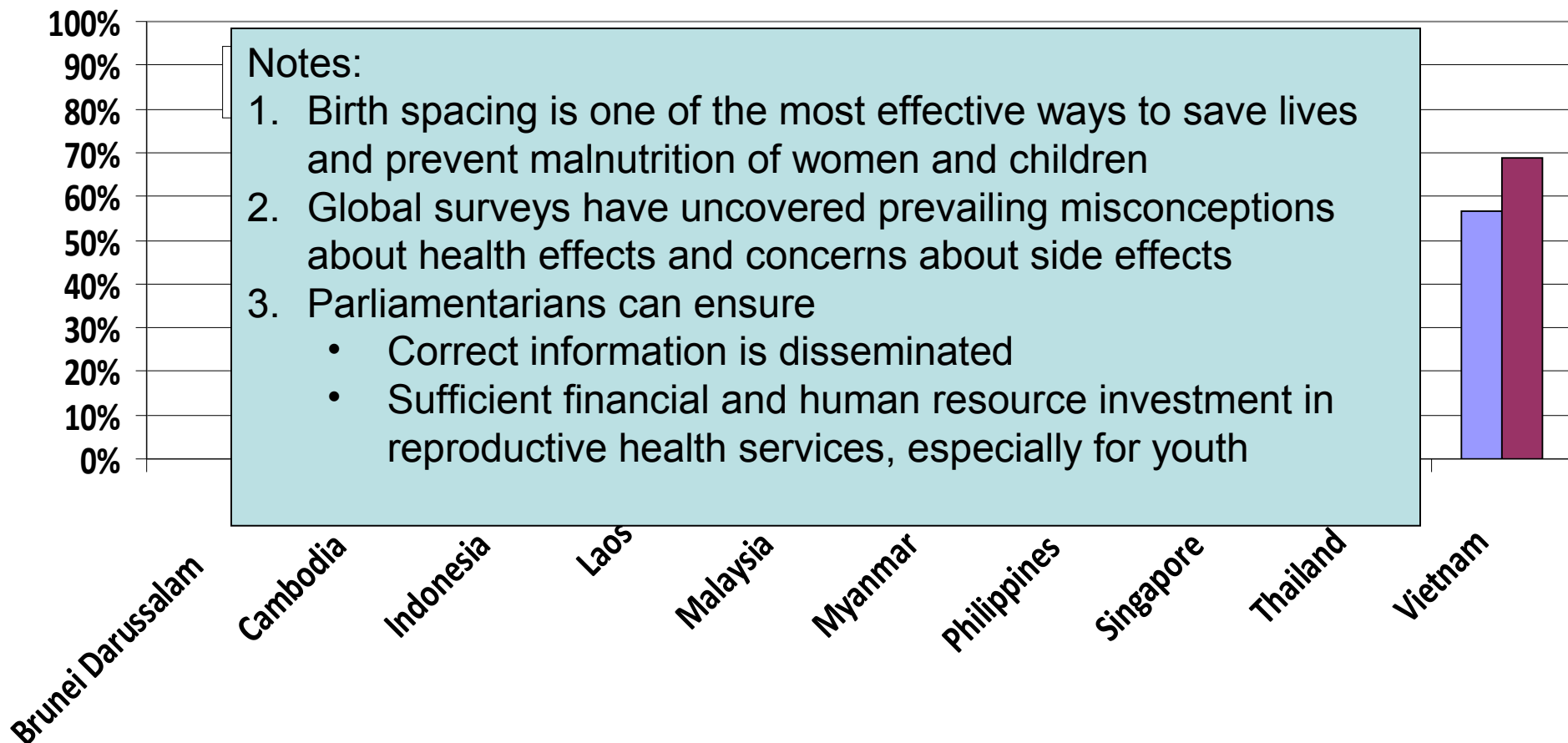


# Skilled care at birth: striking inequity

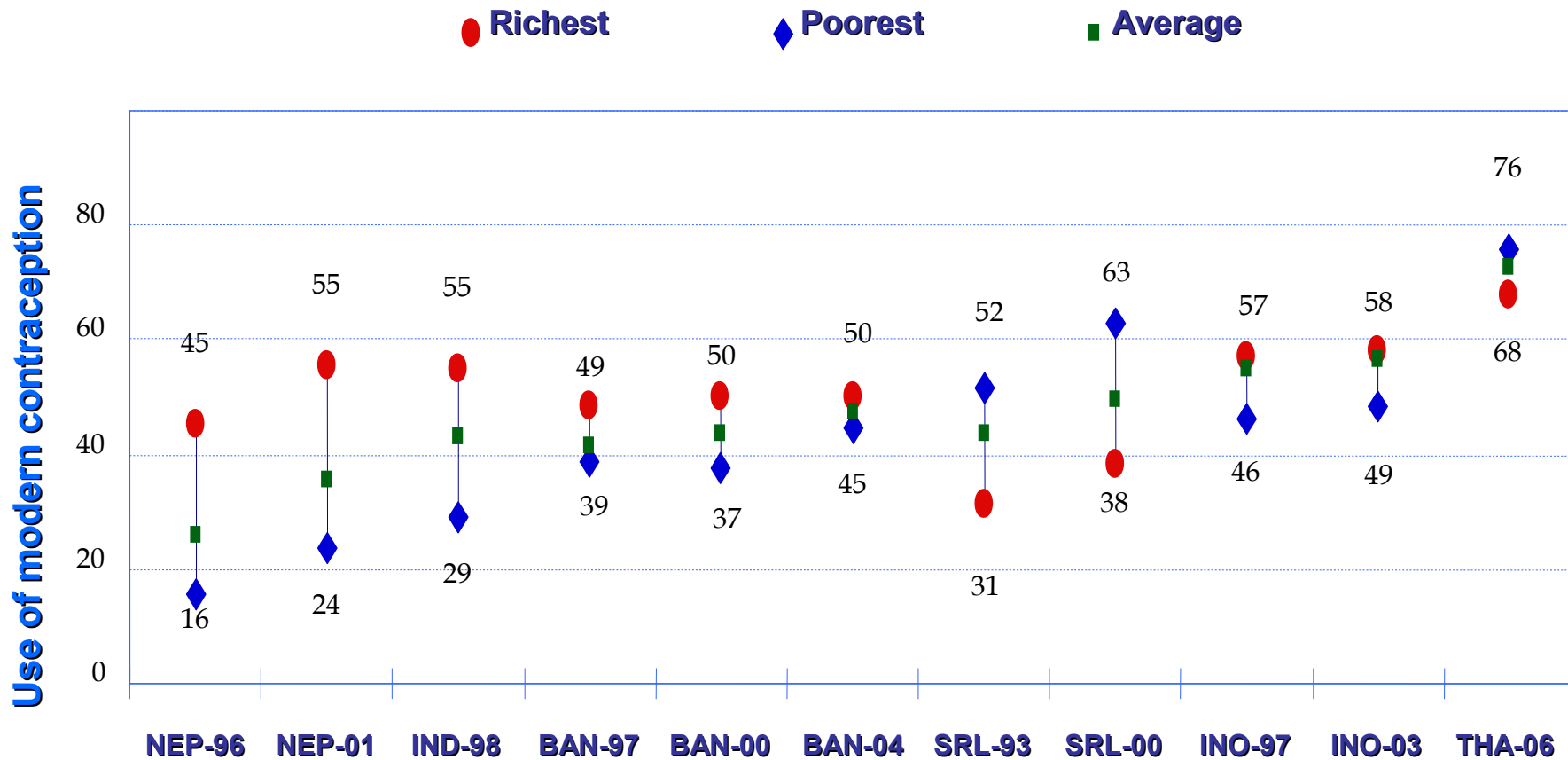
Use of basic maternal and child health services by lowest and highest economic quintiles, 50+ countries.



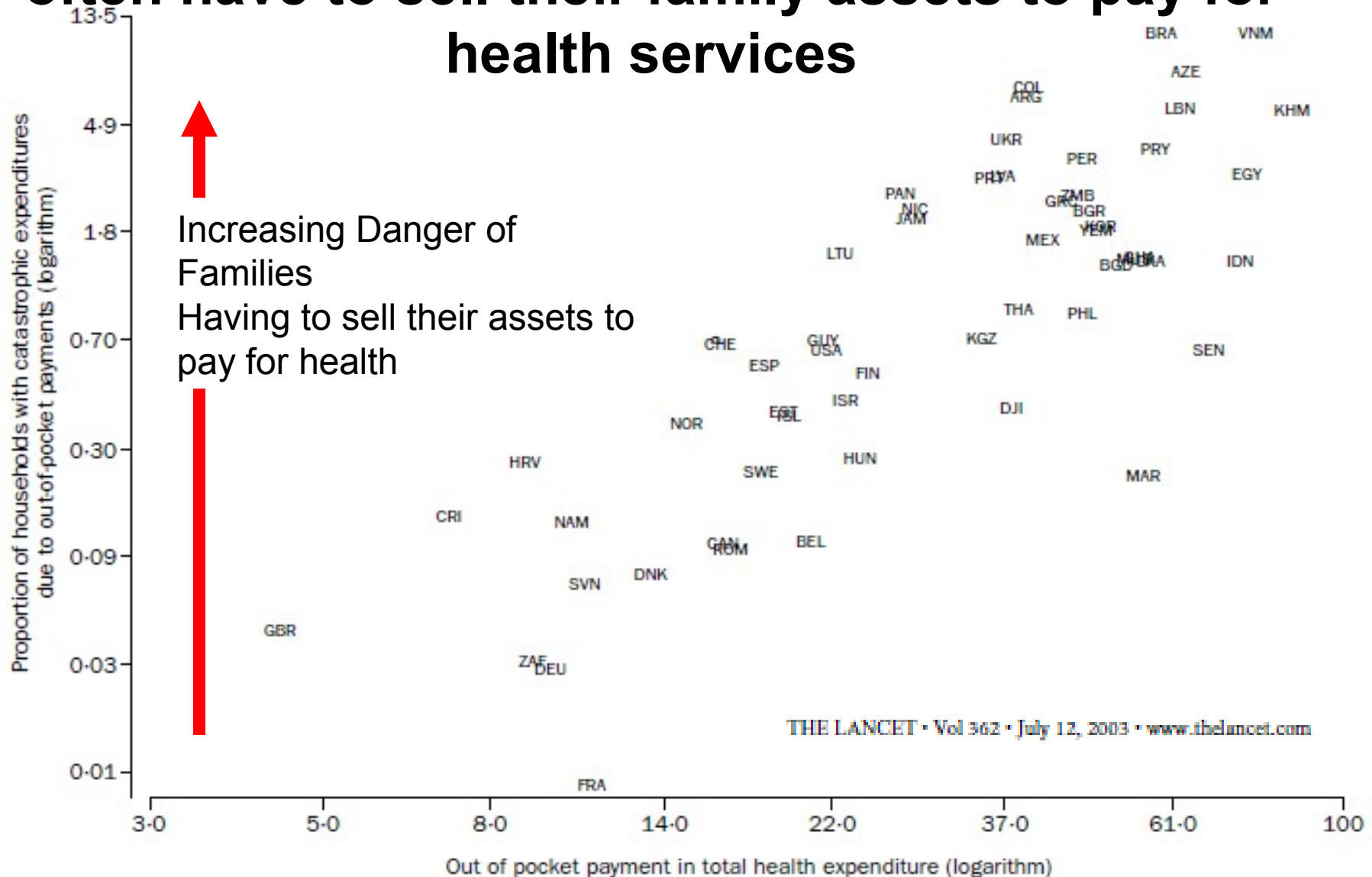
# Contraceptive use (modern methods) 1995 and Most Recent



# Inequity in use of modern contraception between poorest-richest



# As families pay more Out-of-Pocket (compared to the total amount spent for health), they more often have to sell their family assets to pay for health services





The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) reflects a woman's basic health status, her access to health care and the quality of care that she receives