

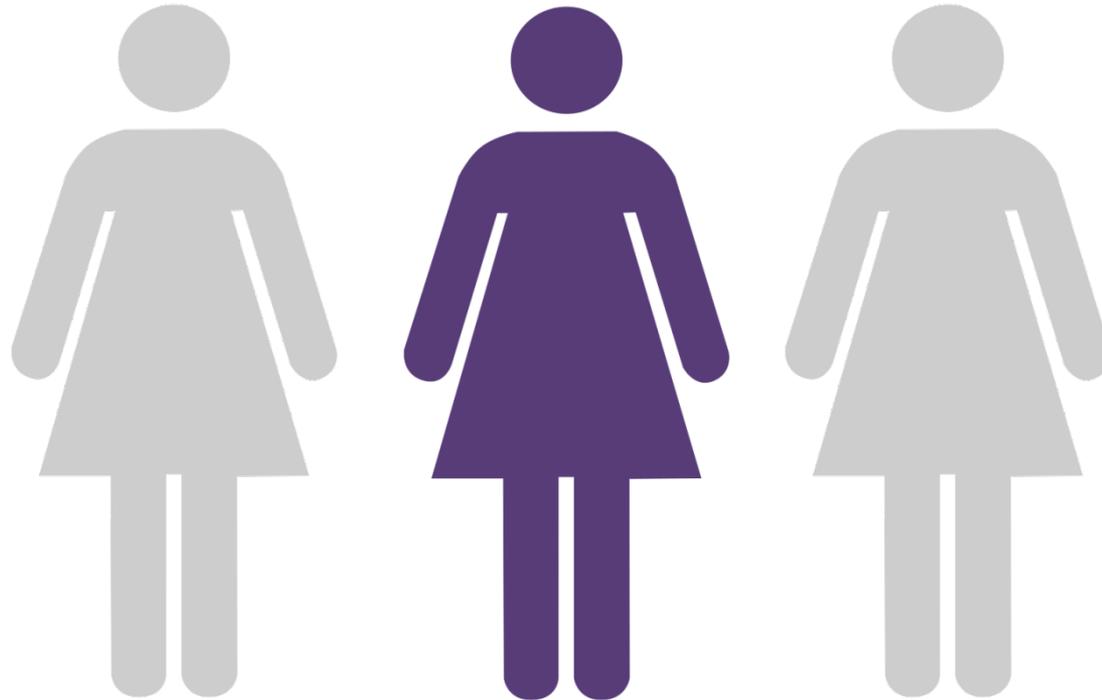
Using global data to examine child marriage, IPV and legal protection

Rachel Kidman, PhD



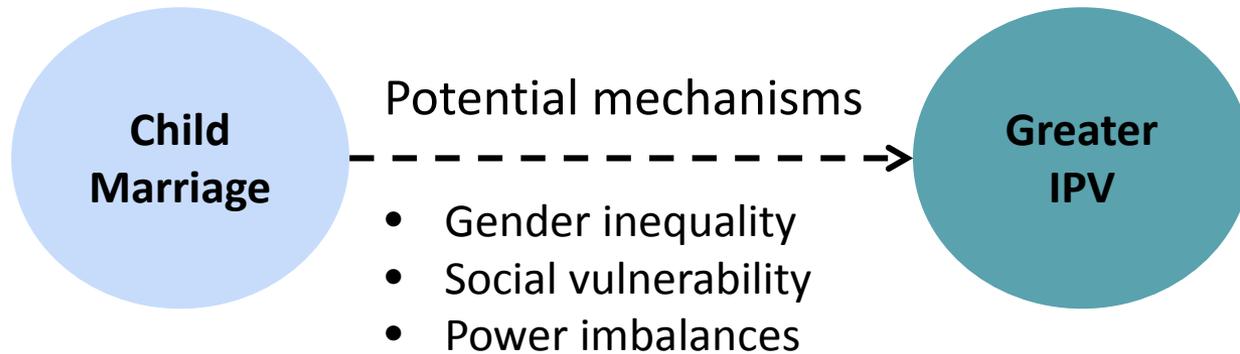
Presentation for the IGWG, March 6, 2017, Washington, DC

Child and Early Marriage



- unintended pregnancy
- maternal and infant mortality
- sexually transmitted infections

Child Marriage and IPV

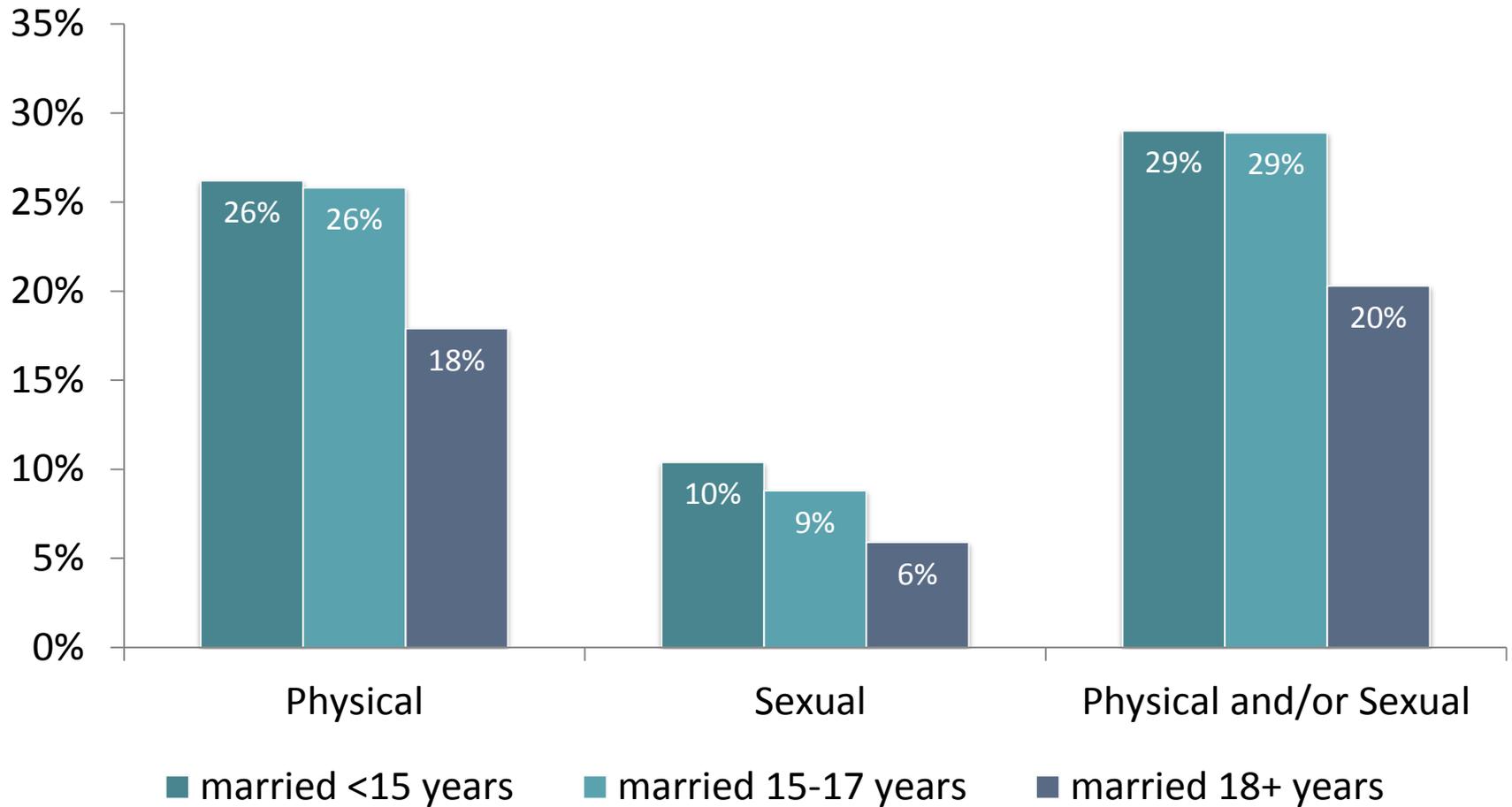


Study Aim: Are women who enter into child marriages at increased risk of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence?

Methods

- **Data source**
 - 34 Demographic and Health Surveys from 2005 and 2013
 - Must contain domestic violence module
- **Sample**
 - 59,157 women aged 20-24 years in domestic violence sample
- **Variables**
 - Age of marriage or cohabitation (<15, 15-17, 18+)
 - Past-year physical and/or sexual IPV
- **Analyses**
 - Logistic regression models restricted to 39,898 married/cohabitating women

Child Marriage & Past-year IPV



Globally: strong and consistent associations

Model 1 (Unadjusted ORs)

Model 2 (Adjusted ORs)

Married <15

Married 15-17

Married <15

Married 15-17

Past Year Physical IPV

1.62 (1.51-1.74)

1.55 (1.47-1.63)

1.43 (1.33-1.55)

1.43 (1.35-1.51)

Model 2 is adjusted for controlled for age, primary education, rural residence and wealth quintile.

Still (mostly) consistent by region...

Model 2 (Adjusted ORs)

Married <15

Married 15-17

Past Year Physical and/or Sexual IPV

Americas	1.78 (1.50-2.12)	1.51 (1.34-1.71)
East Asia & Pacific	2.88 (1.55-5.38)	1.58 (1.09-2.29)
Europe and Central Asia	1.70 (0.37-7.75)	1.91 (1.46-2.51)
South Asia	1.56 (1.37-1.79)	1.44 (1.30-1.60)
Eastern and Southern Africa	1.31 (1.09-1.57)	1.42 (1.26-1.60)
West and Central Africa	1.31 (1.12-1.52)	1.25 (1.11-1.40)

...but greater variability by country

Past Year Physical and/or Sexual IPV

9 of 34 countries

19 of 34 countries

Disadvantage persists into adulthood

Model 2 (Adjusted ORs)

Married <15

Married 15-17

Past Year Physical and/or Sexual IPV

Cohort

Age 20-24	1.41	(1.30-1.52)	1.42	(1.35-1.50)
Age 25-29	1.18	(1.10-1.26)	1.20	(1.15-1.26)
Age 30-34	1.09	(1.01-1.17)	1.16	(1.10-1.23)
Age 35-39	1.17	(1.08-1.27)	1.12	(1.05-1.19)

Take Home

- **Women who marry as children are more likely to experience physical and/or sexual IPV**
- **We still need to know what works to combat child marriage**
 - Implementation and enforcement of laws?
 - Changing norms and values?
 - Expanding educational and economic opportunities?
- **We still need to know how to protect those who marry early**
 - Many of the above interventions may work to prevent IPV

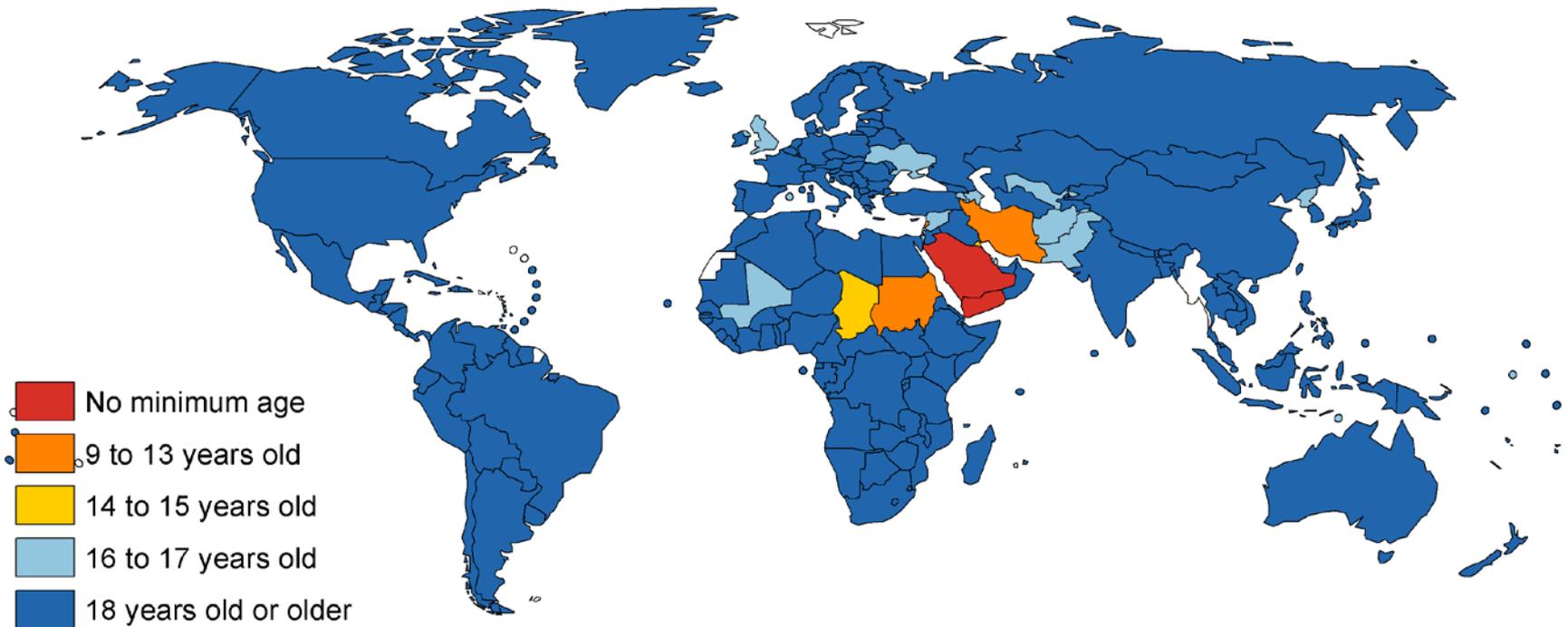
National marriage laws: Necessary but not sufficient?

Rachel Kidman, Jody Heymann

Background

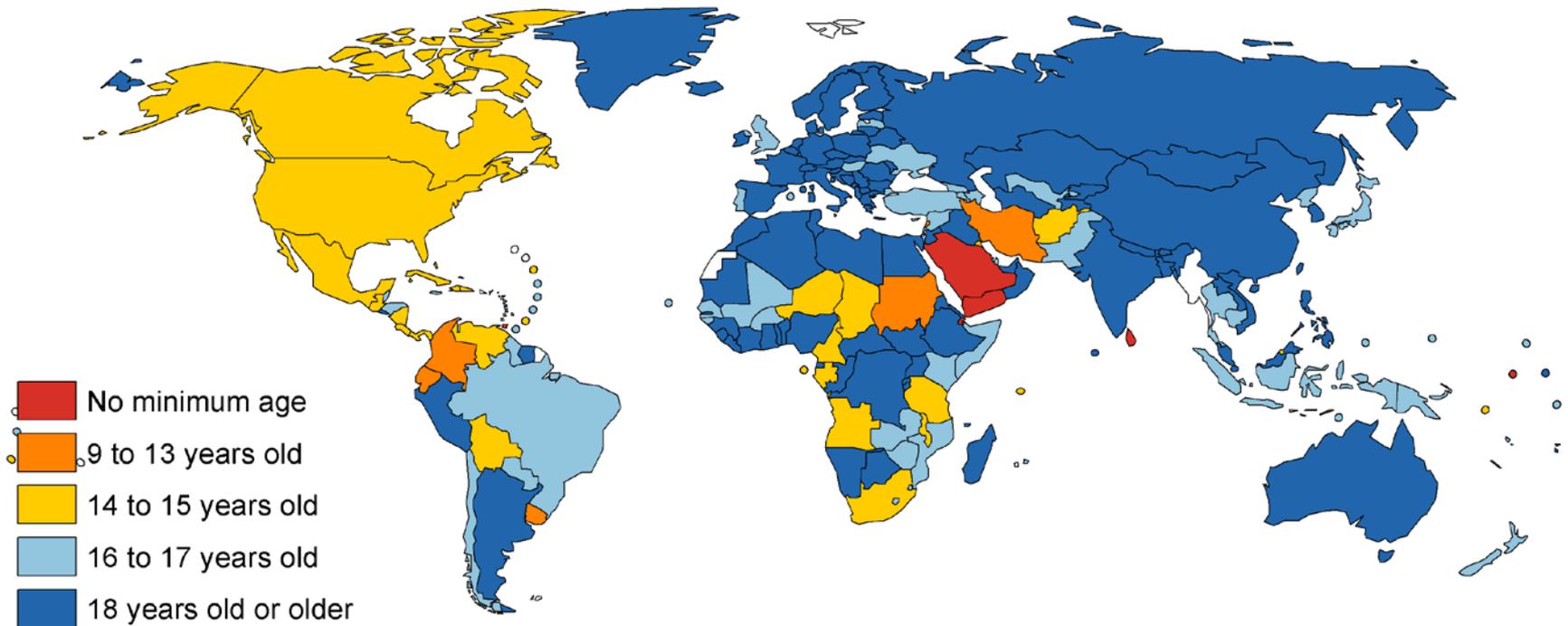
- International conventions have attached enormous importance to national marriage policies to combat child marriage
- This study was undertaken to evaluate the promise of minimum-age-of-marriage laws specifically

What is the minimum legal age of marriage for girls?



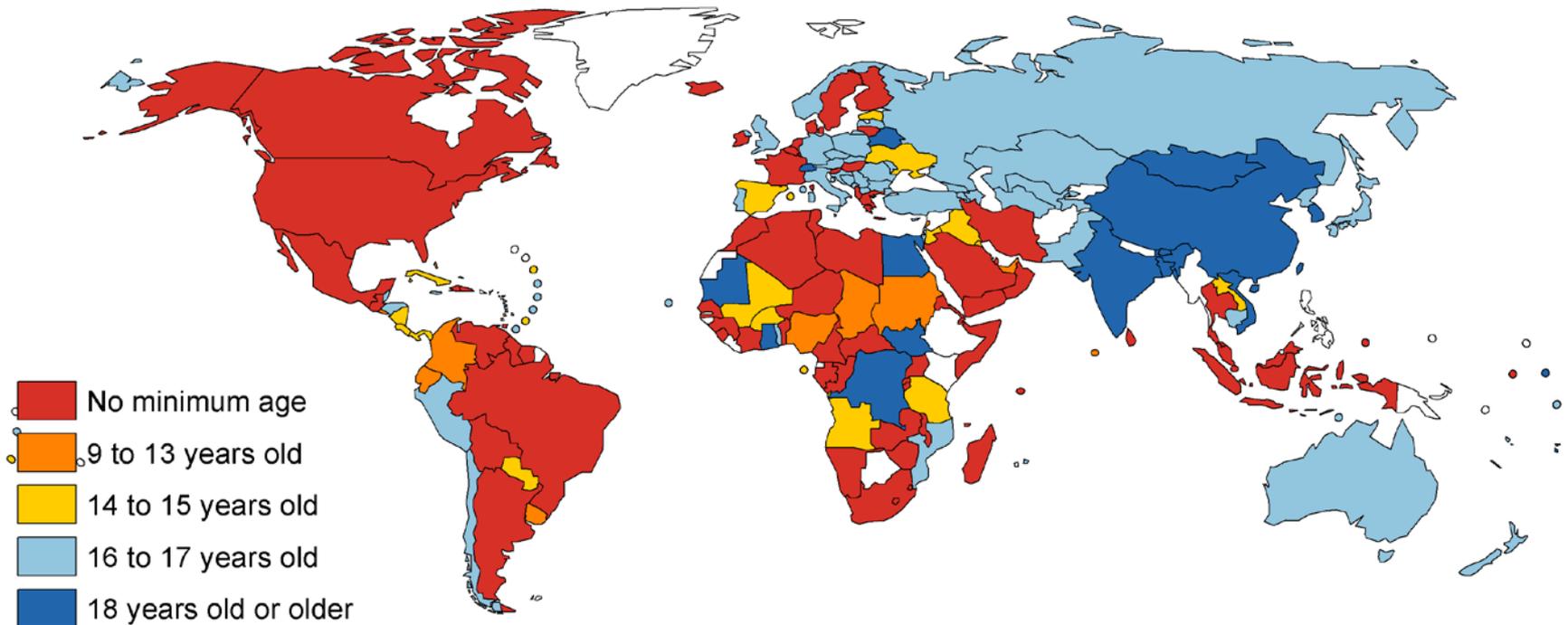
Source: *WORLD Policy Analysis Center, Marriage Database, 2013*

What is the minimum legal age of marriage for girls with parental consent?



Source: *WORLD Policy Analysis Center, Marriage Database, 2013*

What is the minimum legal age of marriage for girls when all exceptions are taken into account?



Source: *WORLD Policy Analysis Center, Marriage Database, 2013*



**WORLD Policy
Analysis Center**

Note: This variable includes exceptions to the minimum age that permit earlier marriage with parental consent, under religious or customary law, with court or other government approval, and/or when a girl is pregnant or has given birth.

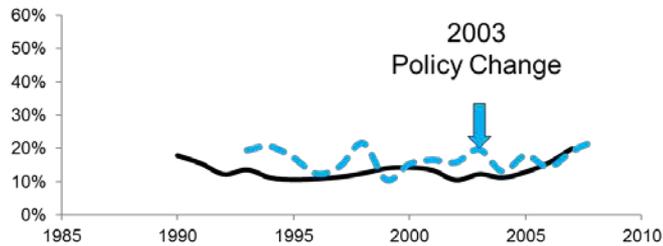
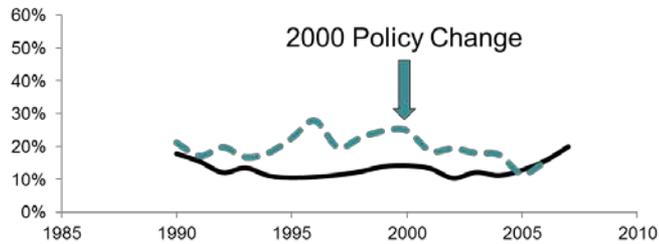
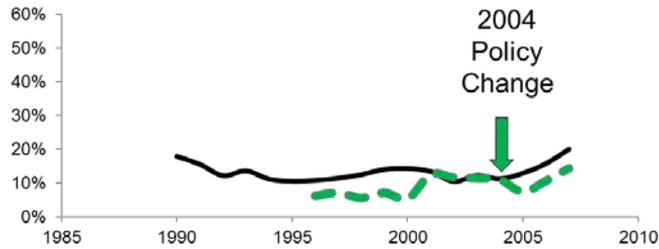
Study Aim

To quantify the causal impact of minimum-age-of-marriage laws on marriage before age 15 and before age 18.

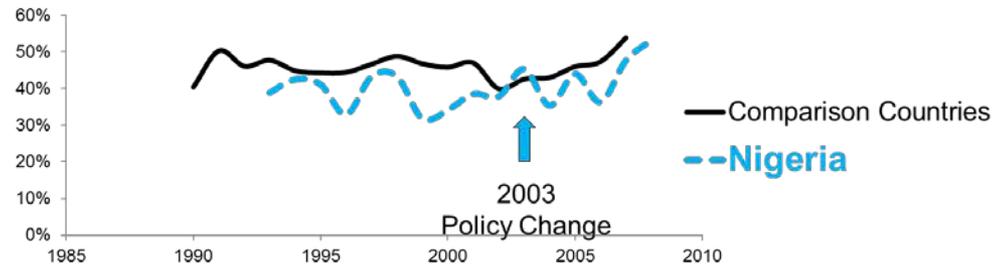
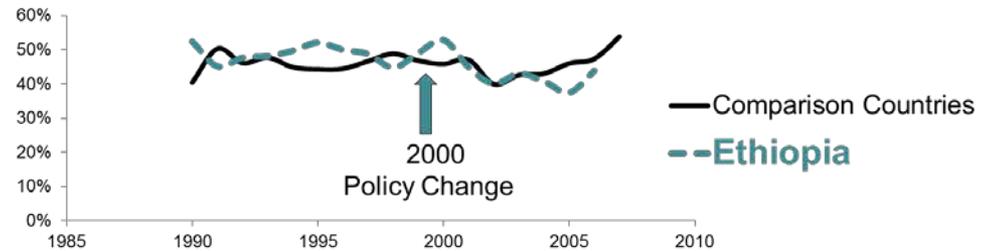
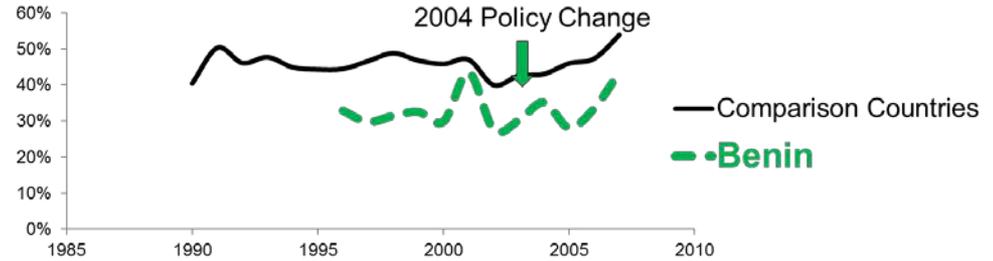
Methods

- **Data sources**
 - Demographic and Health Surveys in sub-Saharan Africa
 - WORLD and MACHEquity databases with marriage policy for 1995-2014
- **Sample**
 - 100,226 women aged 20-24
 - 22 countries with repeated observations and no protective policy at the first observation
- **Individual exposure to protective policy**
 - 18+ as the minimum-age-of-marriage with no exceptions for parental consent
 - Based on the laws active when the girl turned 15
- **Analyses**
 - Multinomial fixed effects models, controlling for key covariates
 - Model 1 examined the impact of policy change across all countries; Model 2 used separate indicators for each country.

Prevalence of marriage before age 15



Prevalence of marriage before age 18



Weighted prevalence of child marriage among women 20-24 who turned 15 years old in the indicated year; countries experiencing a change in policy during the observation period (dotted line) are compared to those countries without a change (solid line). Arrows indicate year of policy change.

Multinomial fixed effects models predicting the impact of new policies on child marriage

	Married by 15 RRR (95% CI)	Married by 15-17 RRR (95% CI)
<u>Model 1</u>		
All countries	0.97 (0.84 - 1.11)	1.06 (0.96 - 1.17)
<u>Model 2</u>		
Benin	1.24 (1.00 - 1.55)	1.07 (0.91 - 1.25)
DRC	1.04 (0.14 - 7.64)	0.74 (0.09 - 6.09)
Ethiopia	0.92 (0.71 - 1.19)	0.97 (0.78 - 1.20)
Namibia	1.17 (0.52 - 2.62)	1.15 (0.66 - 2.00)
Nigeria	1.08 (0.84 - 1.39)	1.24 (1.03 - 1.48)
Sierra Leone	0.66* (0.50 - 0.89)	0.94 (0.76 - 1.15)

Take Home

- The passage of minimum-age-of-marriage laws alone is not enough to influence the deeply entrenched practice of child marriage
- Their potential may only be realized with greater attention to implementation and enforcement
- National policies that seek to address risk factors (eg, education) may have a more substantive impact on child marriage and its consequences

Thank you

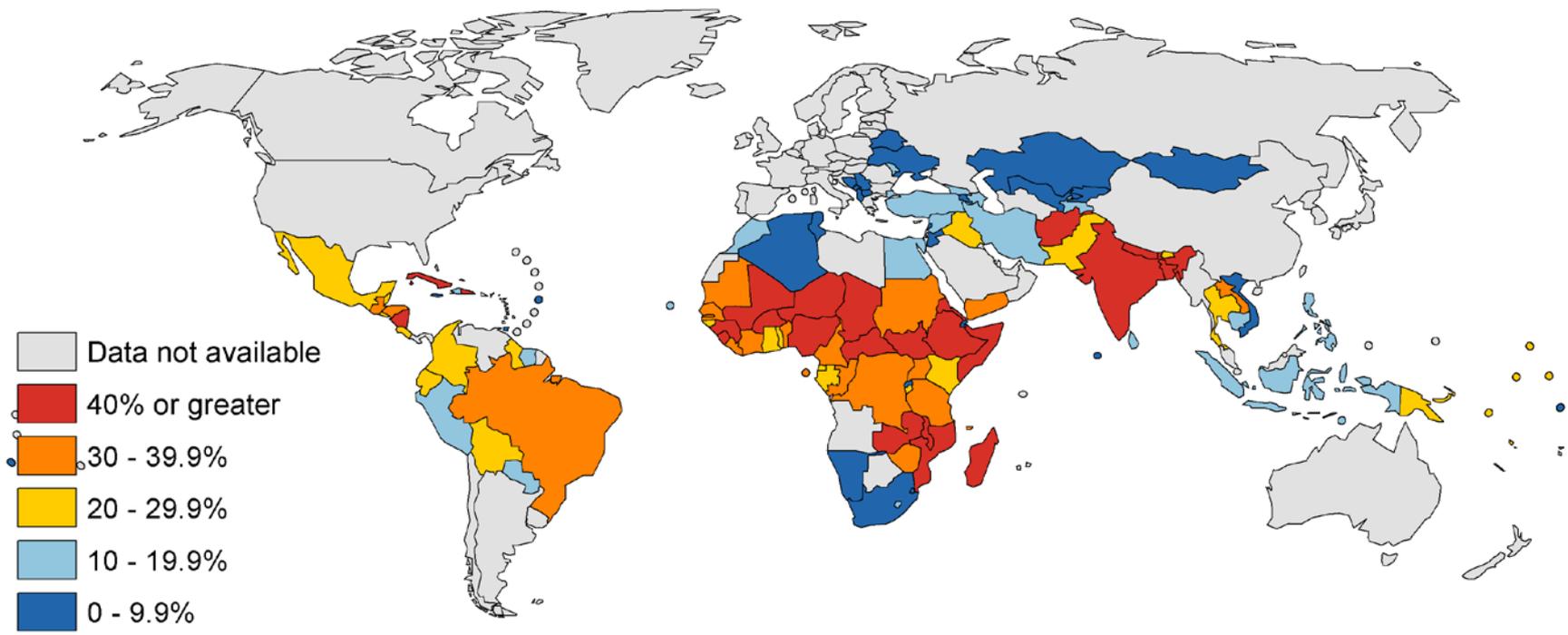
Please feel free to contact me with questions:
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Child Marriage: Percentage of Women Aged 20 to 24 Who Were First Married or in a Union Before Age 18



Source: UNICEF global databases, November 2014.
Based on DHS, MICS and other national household surveys.
Indian Data is from the 2005-2006 NFHS.

