

Population Growth and Policy Options in Sub-Saharan Africa

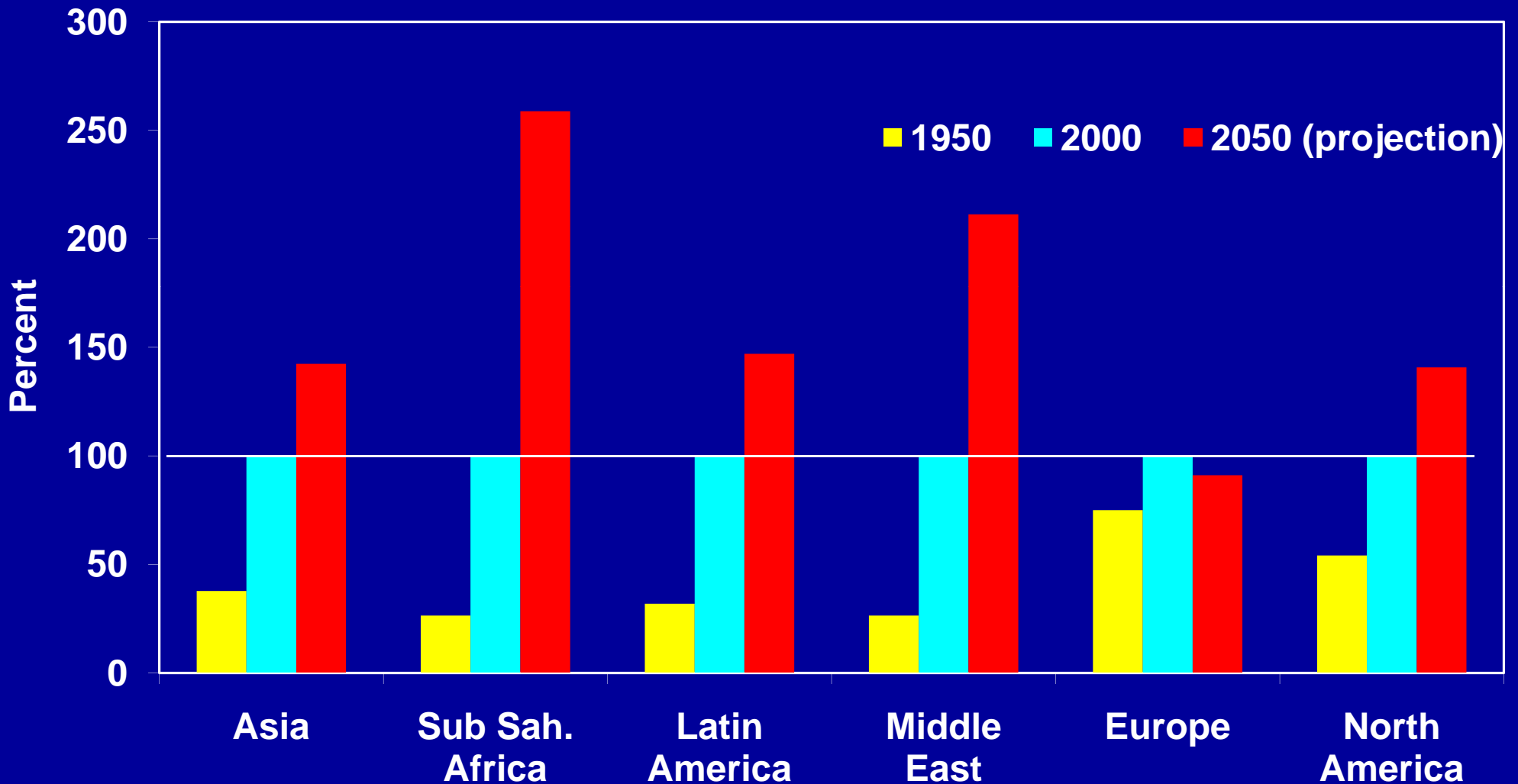
John Bongaarts

Population Council

Outline

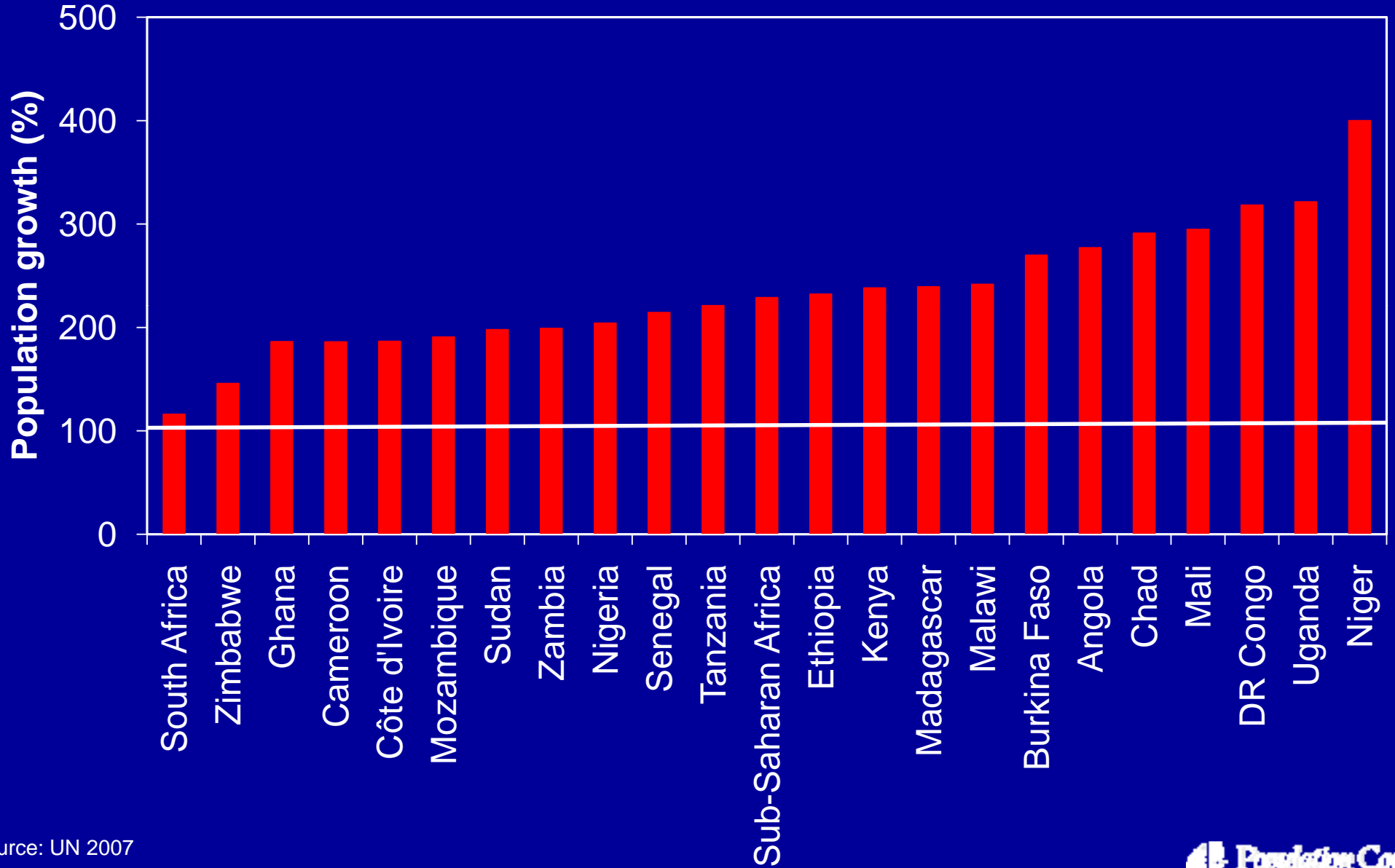
- 1) Population trends
- 2) Transitions in fertility and mortality
- 3) Why population growth continues
- 4) Policy options

Population trends by region 1950-2050 (2000=100)



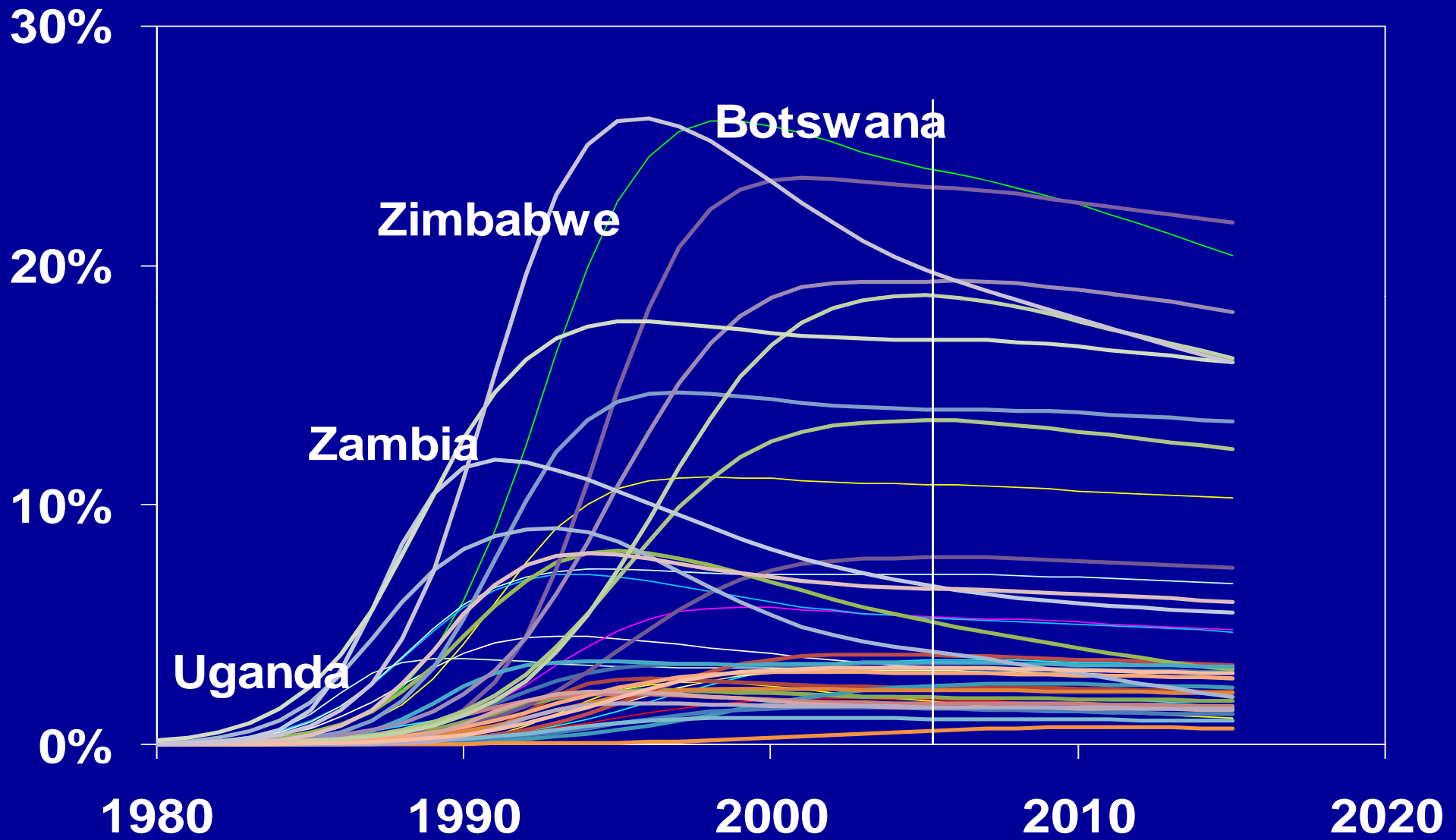
Source: UN 2007

Population growth by country 2005-2050 (2000=100)



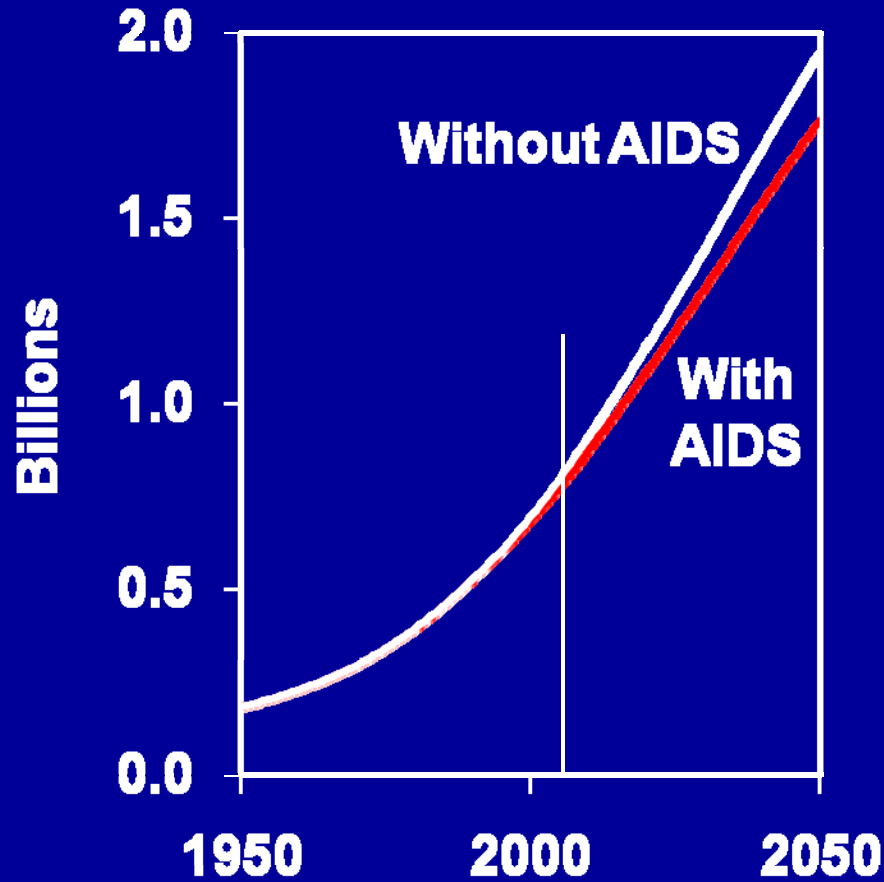
Source: UN 2007

HIV prevalence estimates and projections selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa

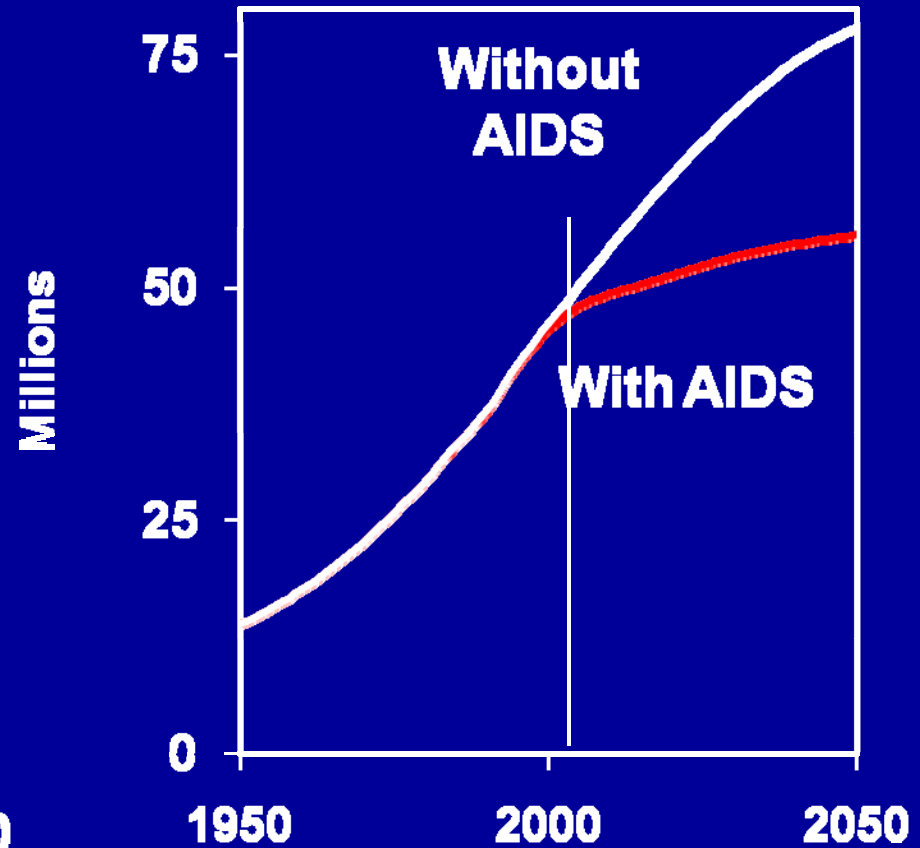


Population size

Sub-Saharan Africa



South Africa



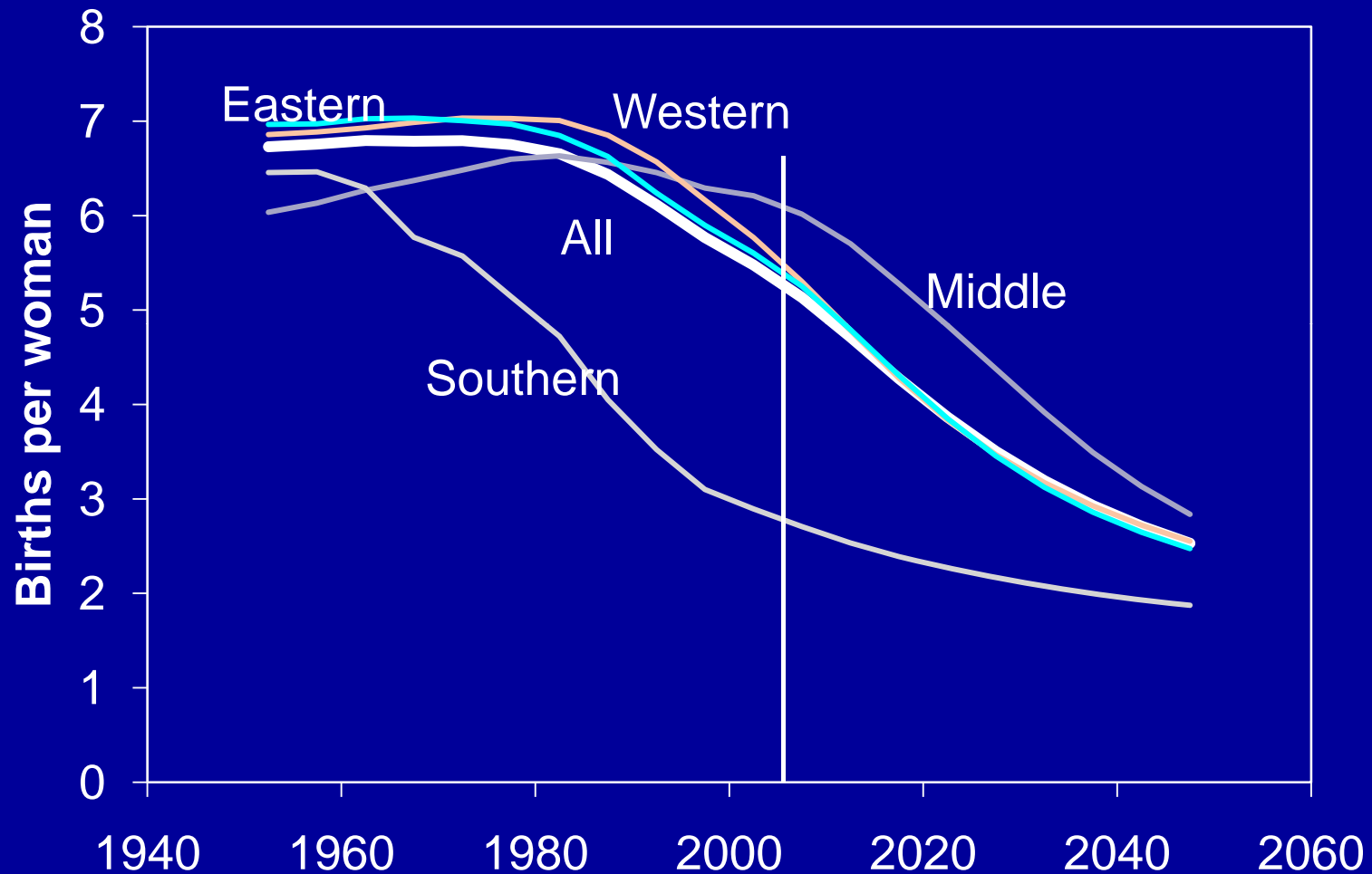
Source: United Nations 2007

Adverse effects of rapid population growth

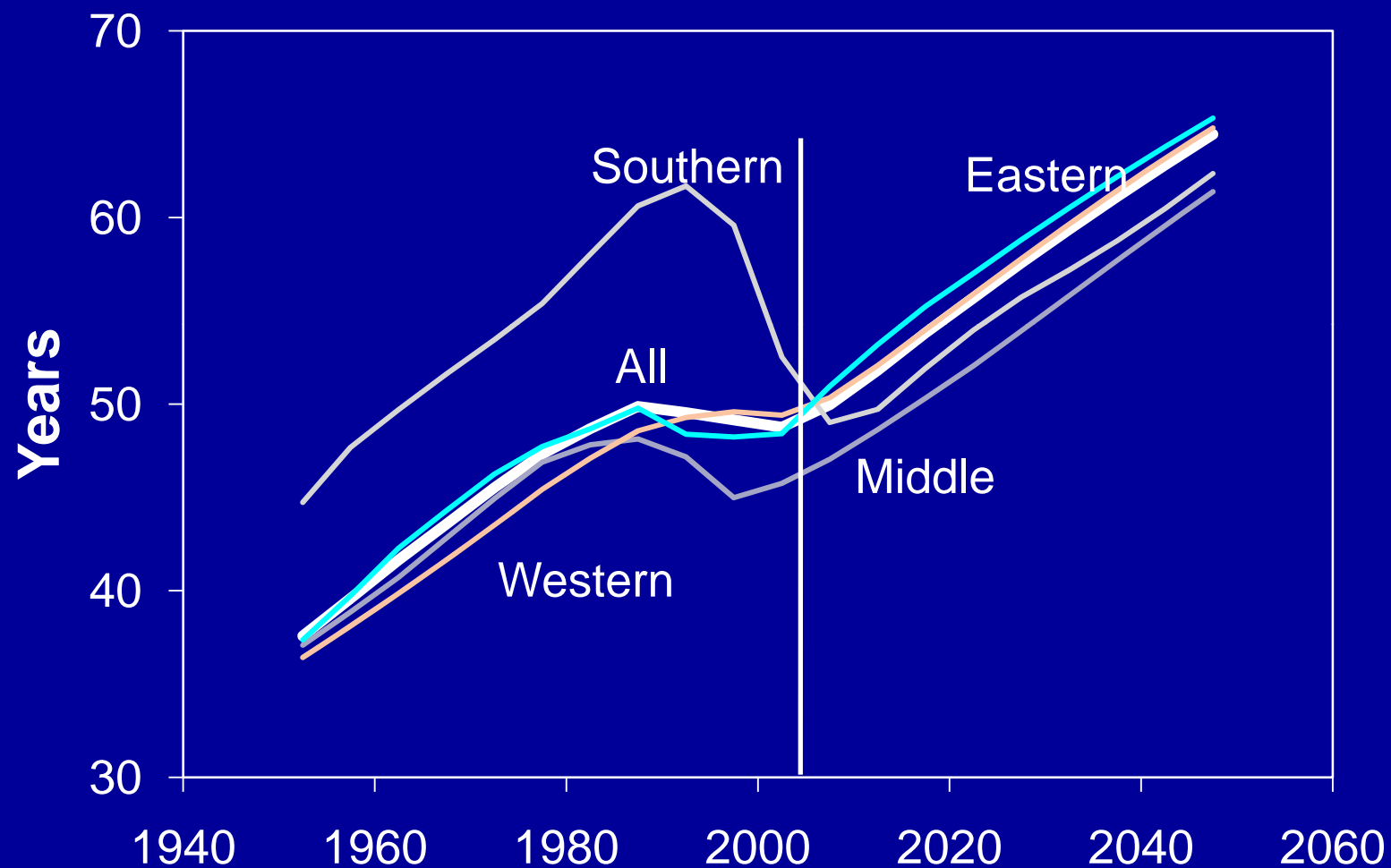
- Environmental: Depletion of natural resources, pollution, climate change
- Economic: Low wages, unemployment, poverty, inequality
- Governmental: Lagging investment in education, health services and infrastructure
- Health: High birth rate raises maternal and child mortality
- Political: Growth of political unrest

2) Transitions in fertility and mortality

Total fertility rate, estimates 1950-2005 and projections to 2050, sub-Saharan Africa



Life expectancy, estimates 1950-2005 and projections to 2050, sub-Saharan Africa



Source: United Nations 2007

4) Why population growth continues

Why population growth continues in sub-Saharan Africa

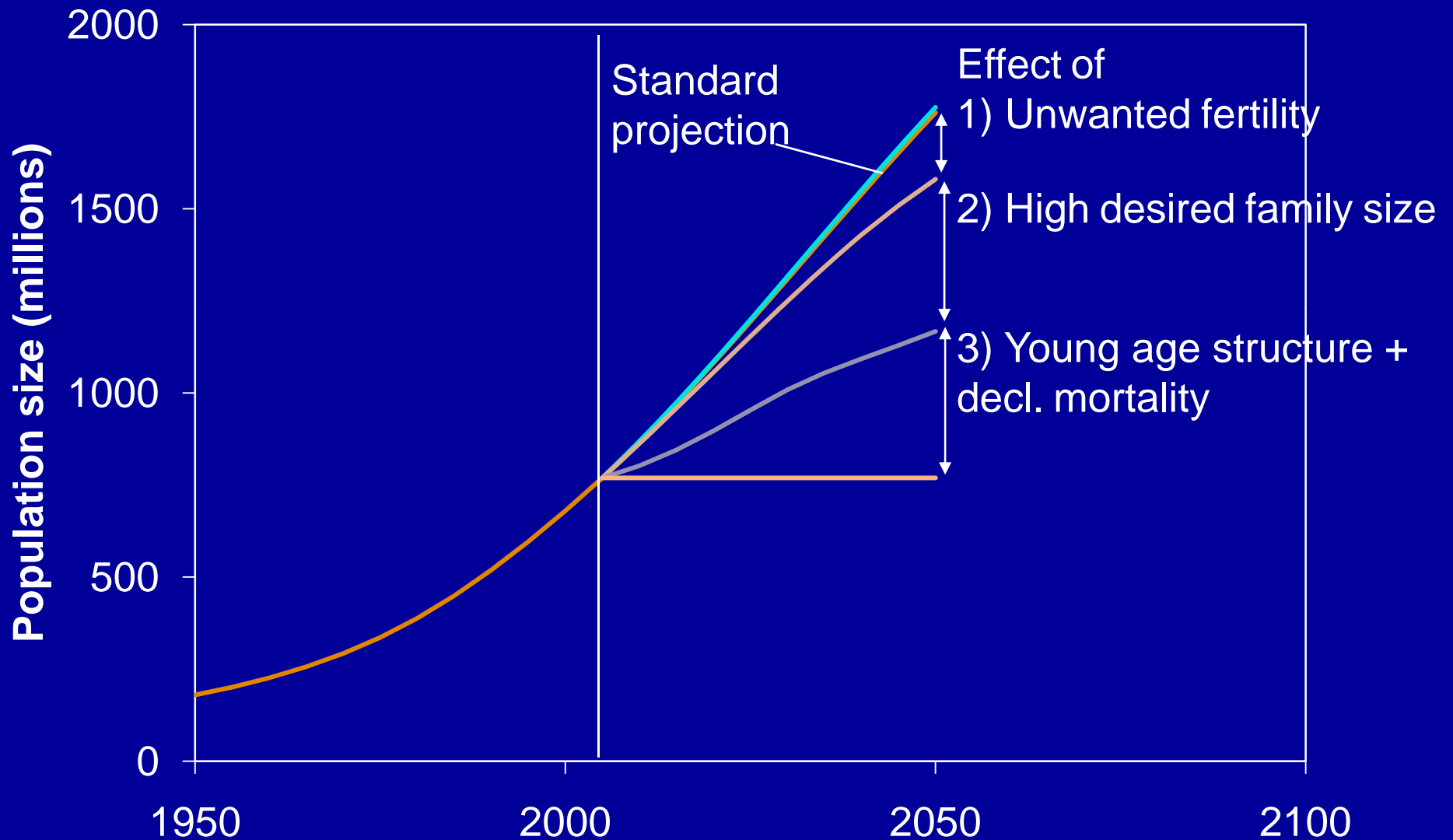
- **Fertility above replacement level**
- **Declining mortality**
- **Population momentum due to a young age structure**

Wanted and unwanted fertility 2000-2005

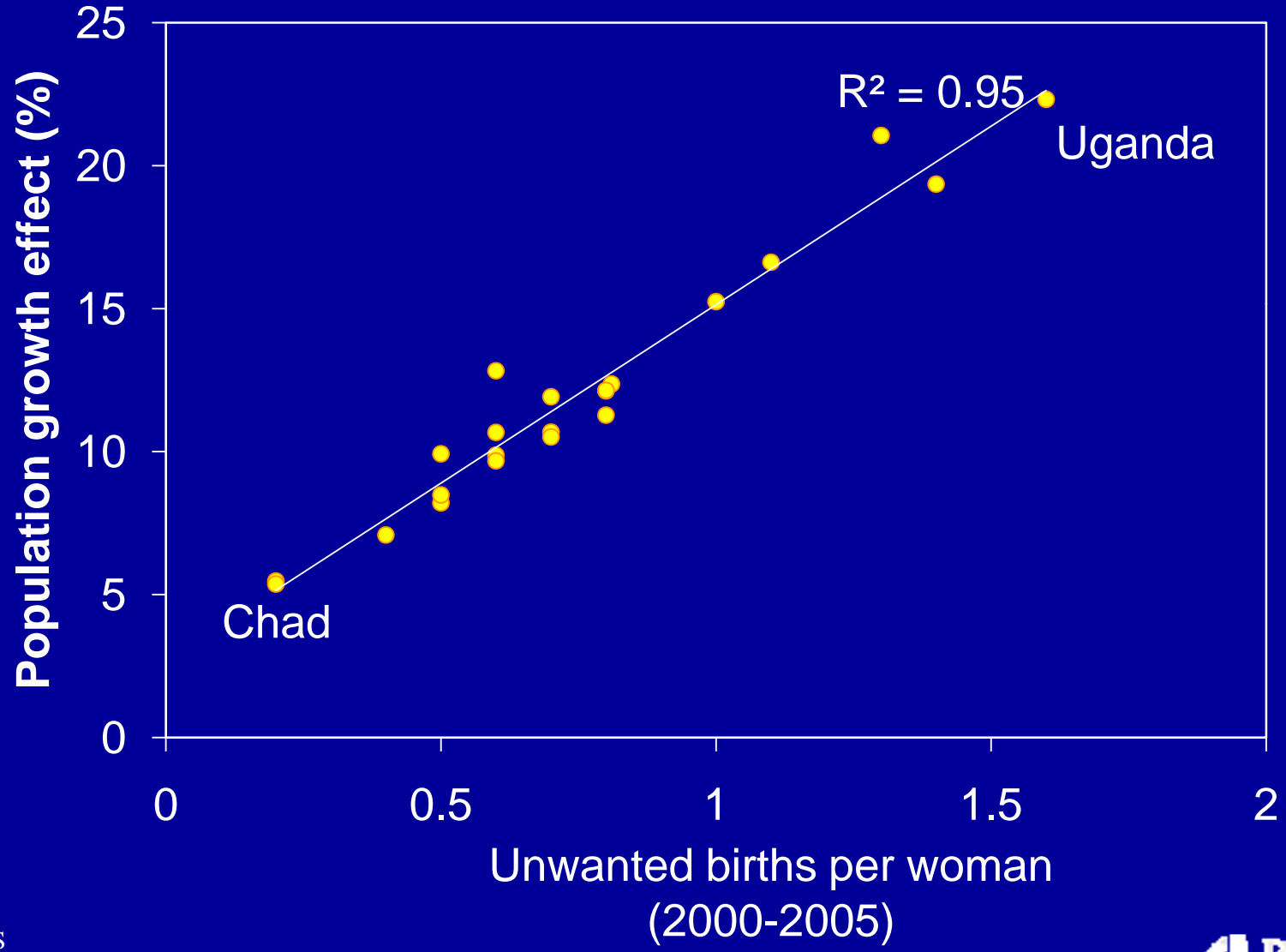


Source: DHS

Alternative population projections for 2005-2050 and effects of population growth components, sub-Saharan Africa

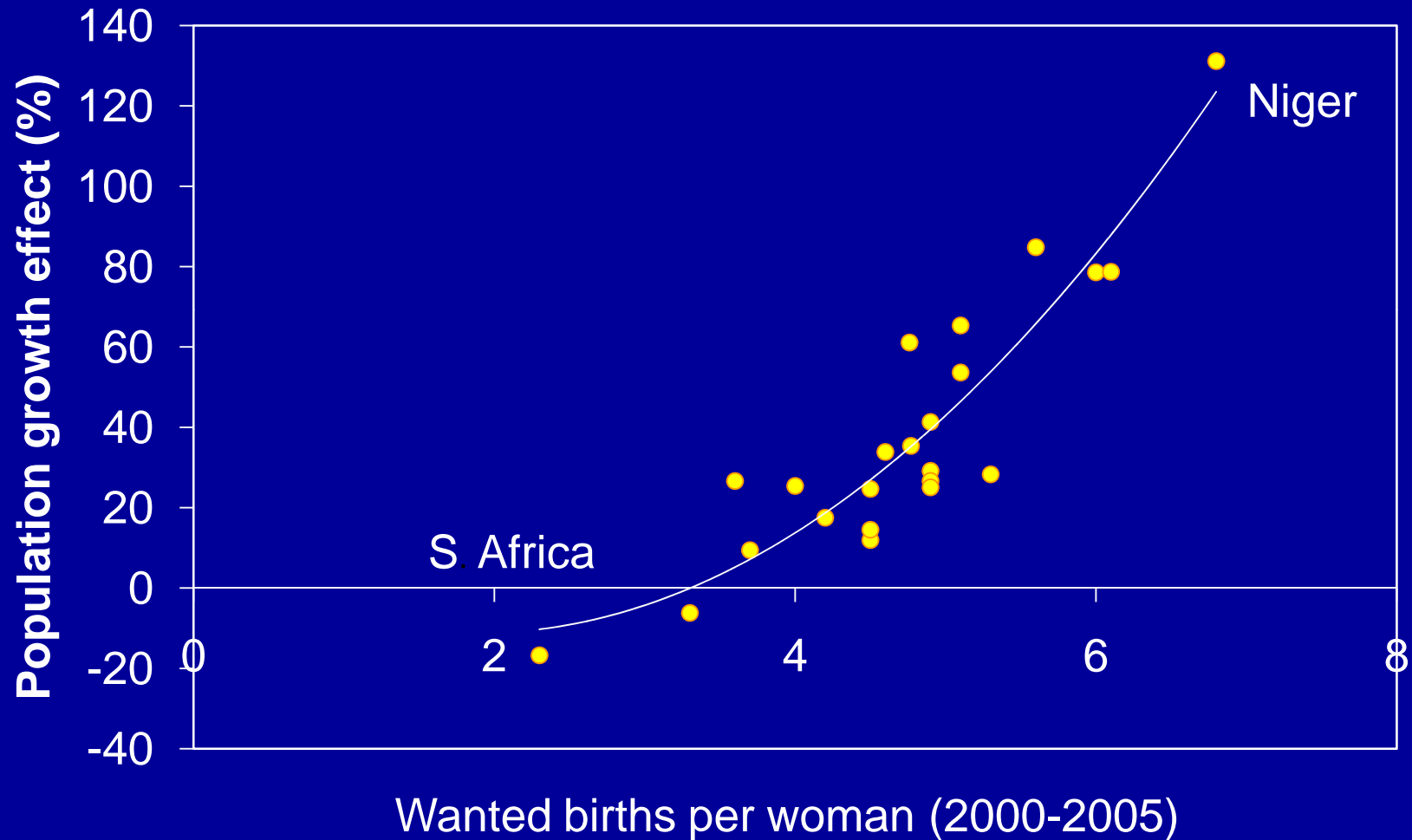


Population growth effect of unwanted fertility, 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa

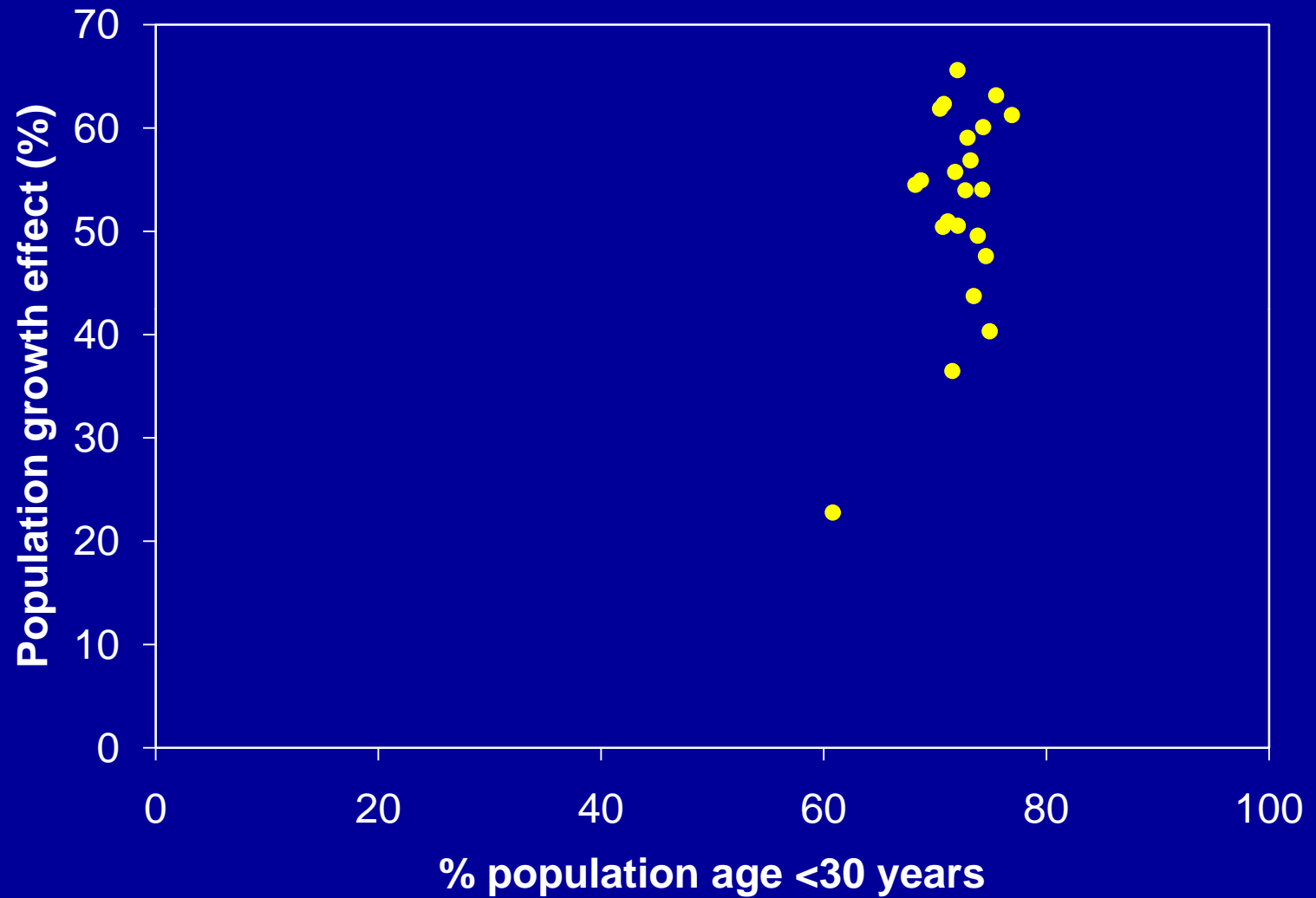


Source: DHS

Population growth effect of wanted fertility, 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa



Population momentum by proportion <30, 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa

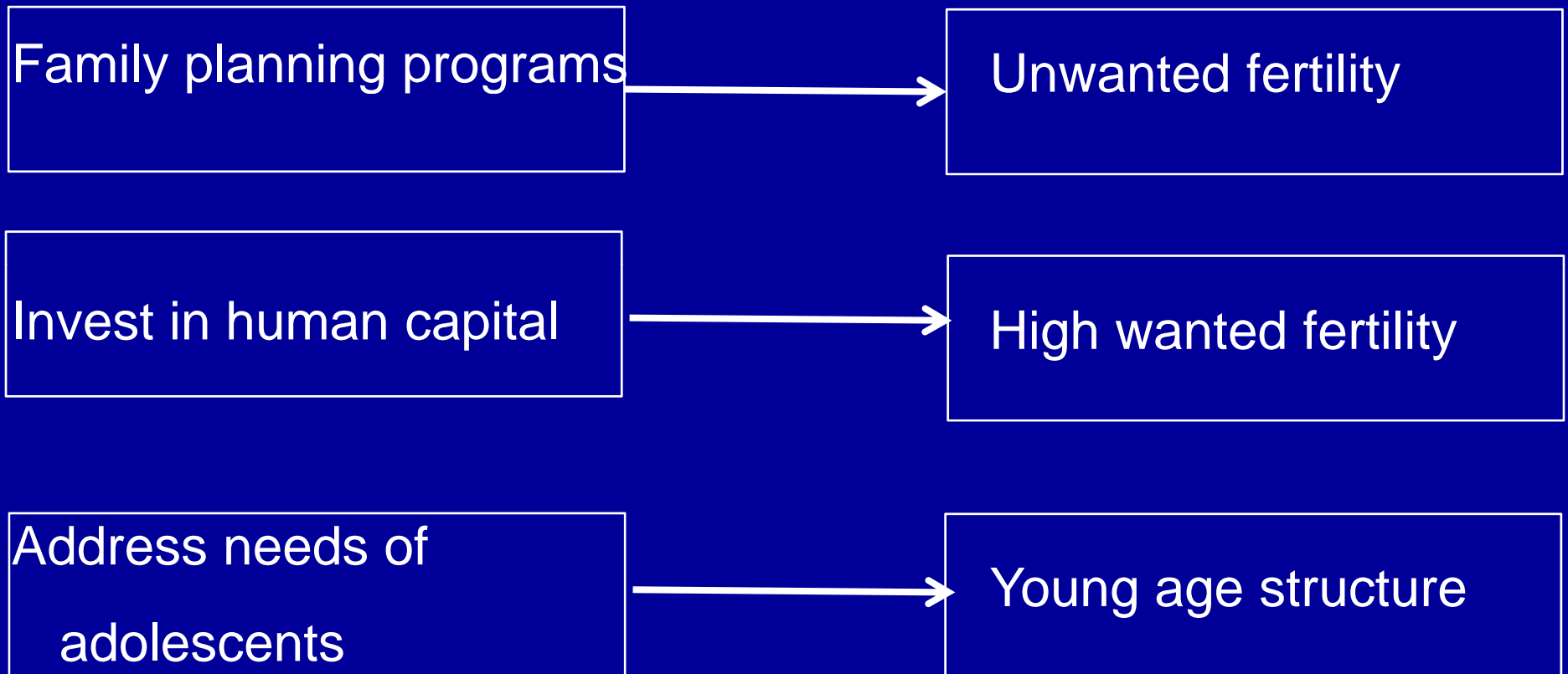


Source: United Nations 2007

4) Policy options

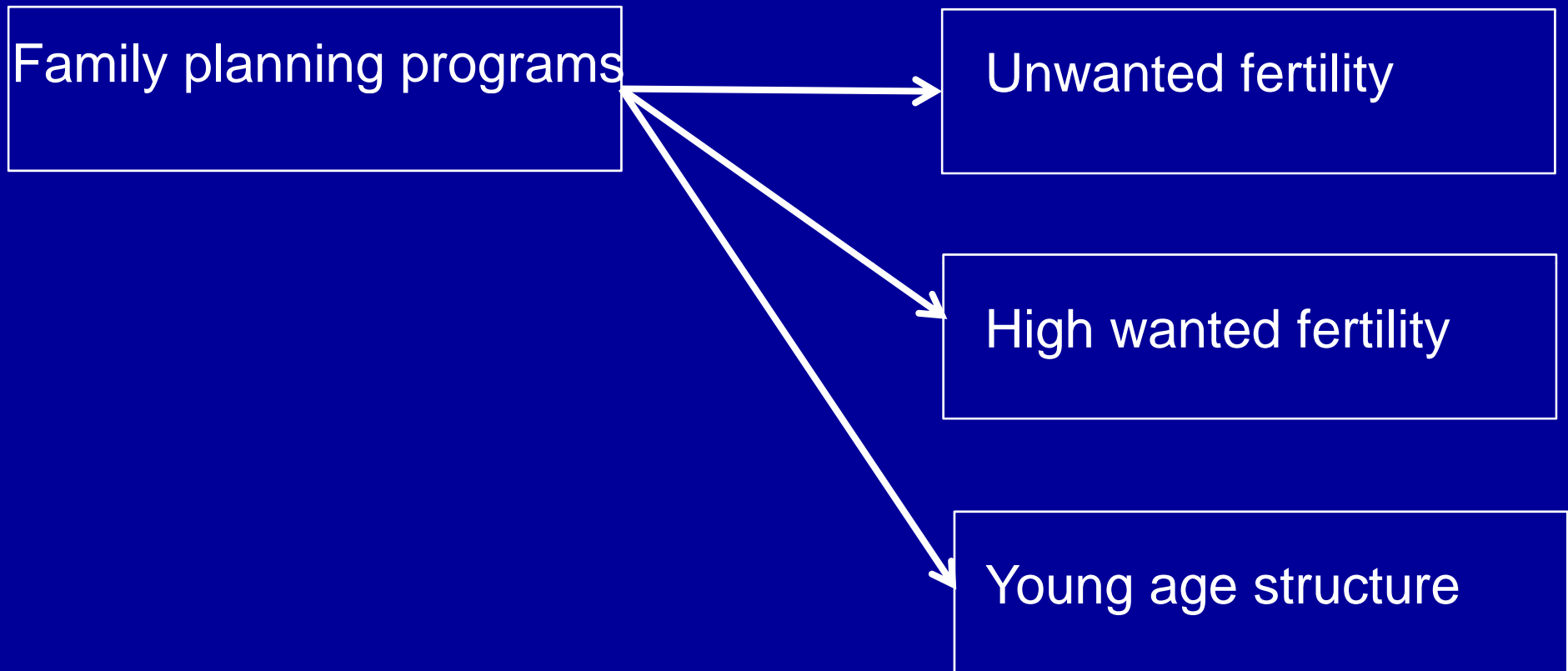
Policy options

Causes of growth



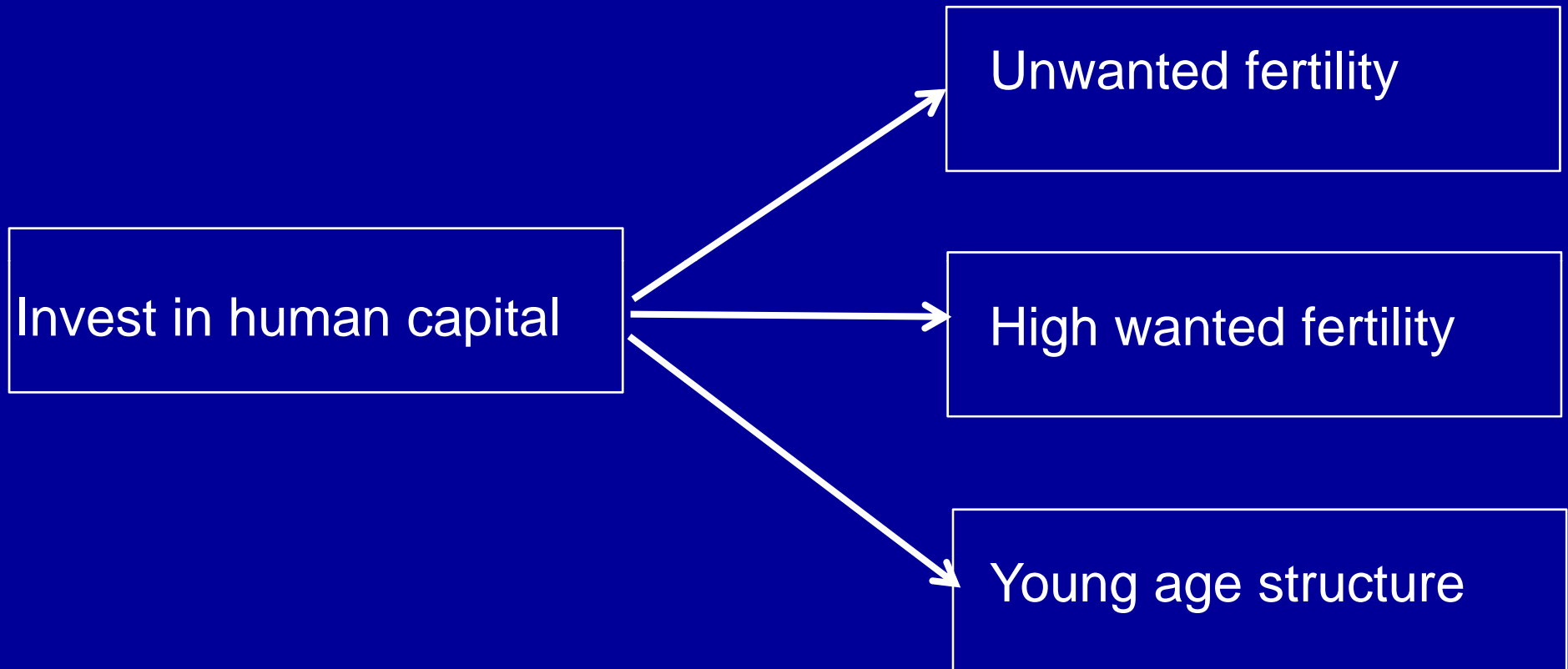
Policy options

Causes of growth



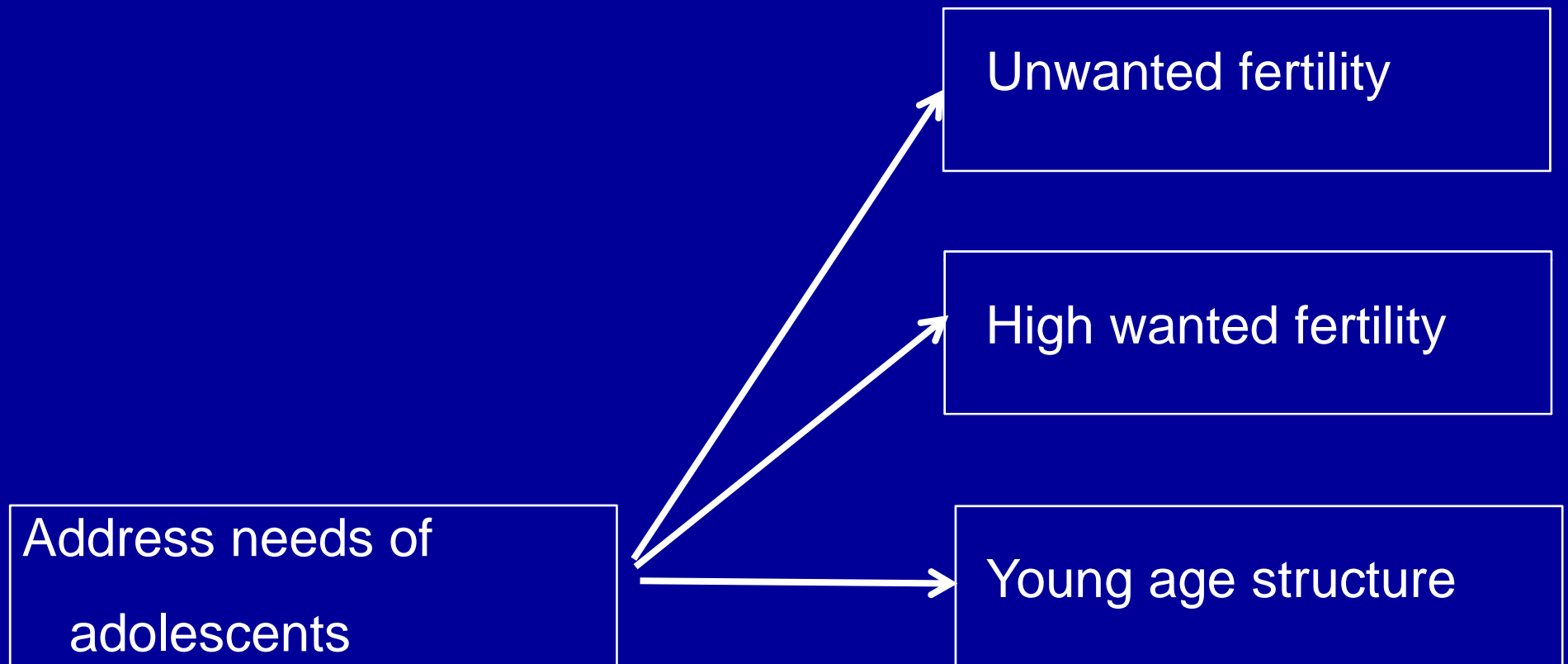
Policy options

Causes of growth



Policy options

Causes of growth



Conclusions

- 1) Rapid population growth continues in much of sub-Saharan Africa despite the AIDS epidemic
- 2) Substantial socioeconomic, environmental and political consequences
- 3) Policy options:
 - strengthen family planning/RH programs
 - invest in human capital
 - address needs of adolescents