

# Population policy options

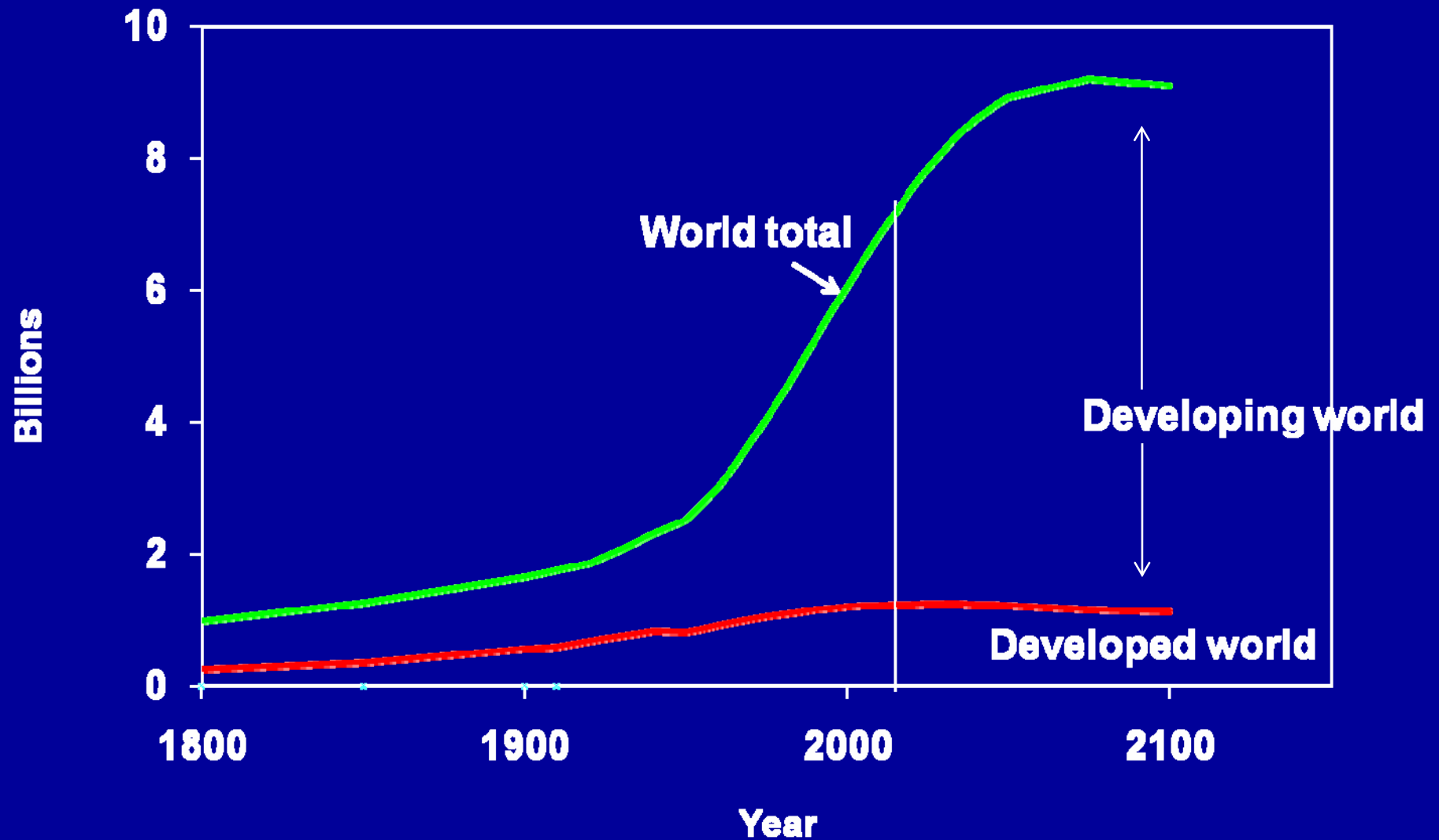
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Population Council

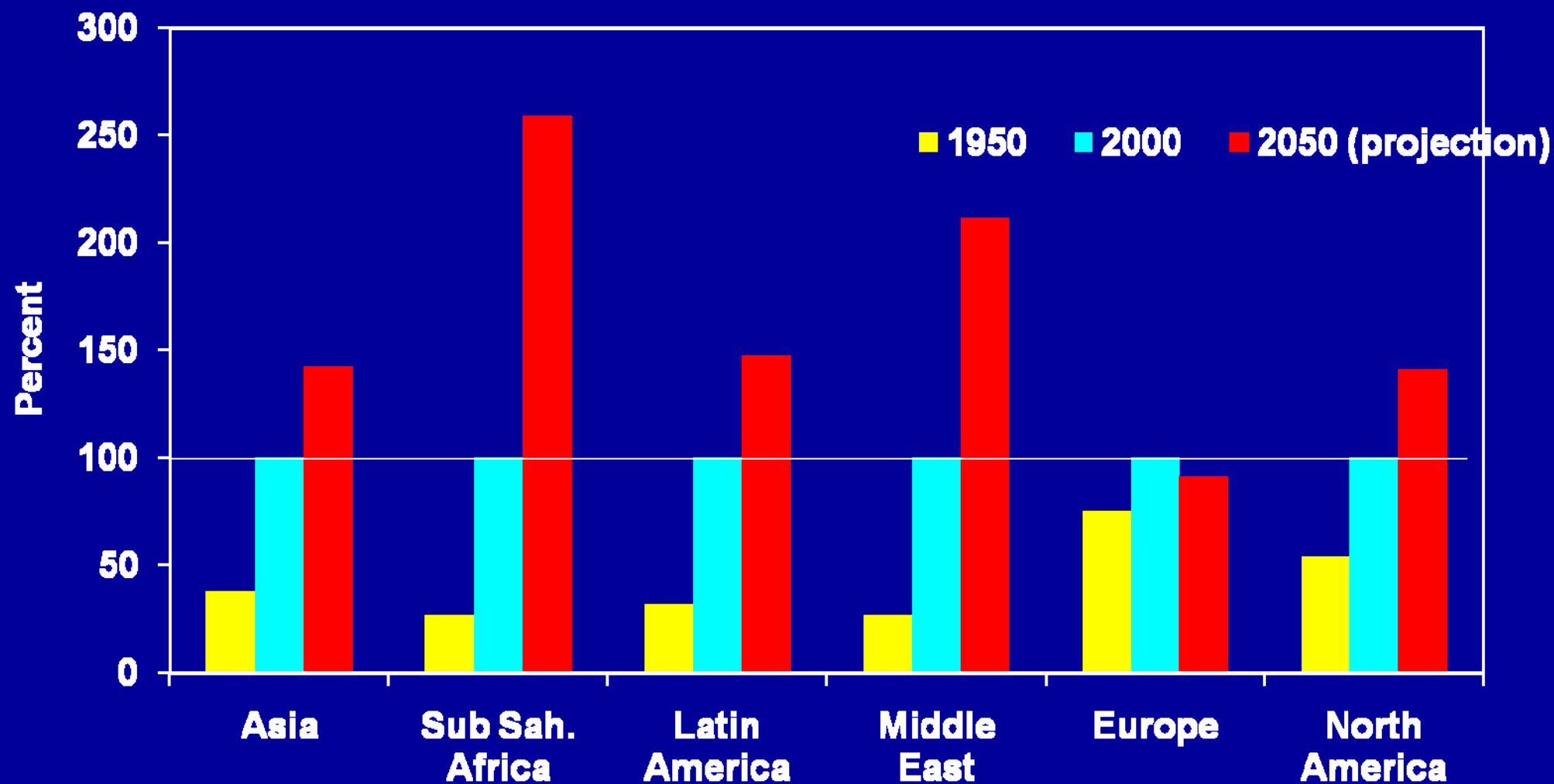
# Outline

- 1) Global population trends
- 2) Family planning programs
- 3) Why population growth continues
- 4) Population policy options

# World population size



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



Source: UN 2007

# Adverse effects of rapid population growth

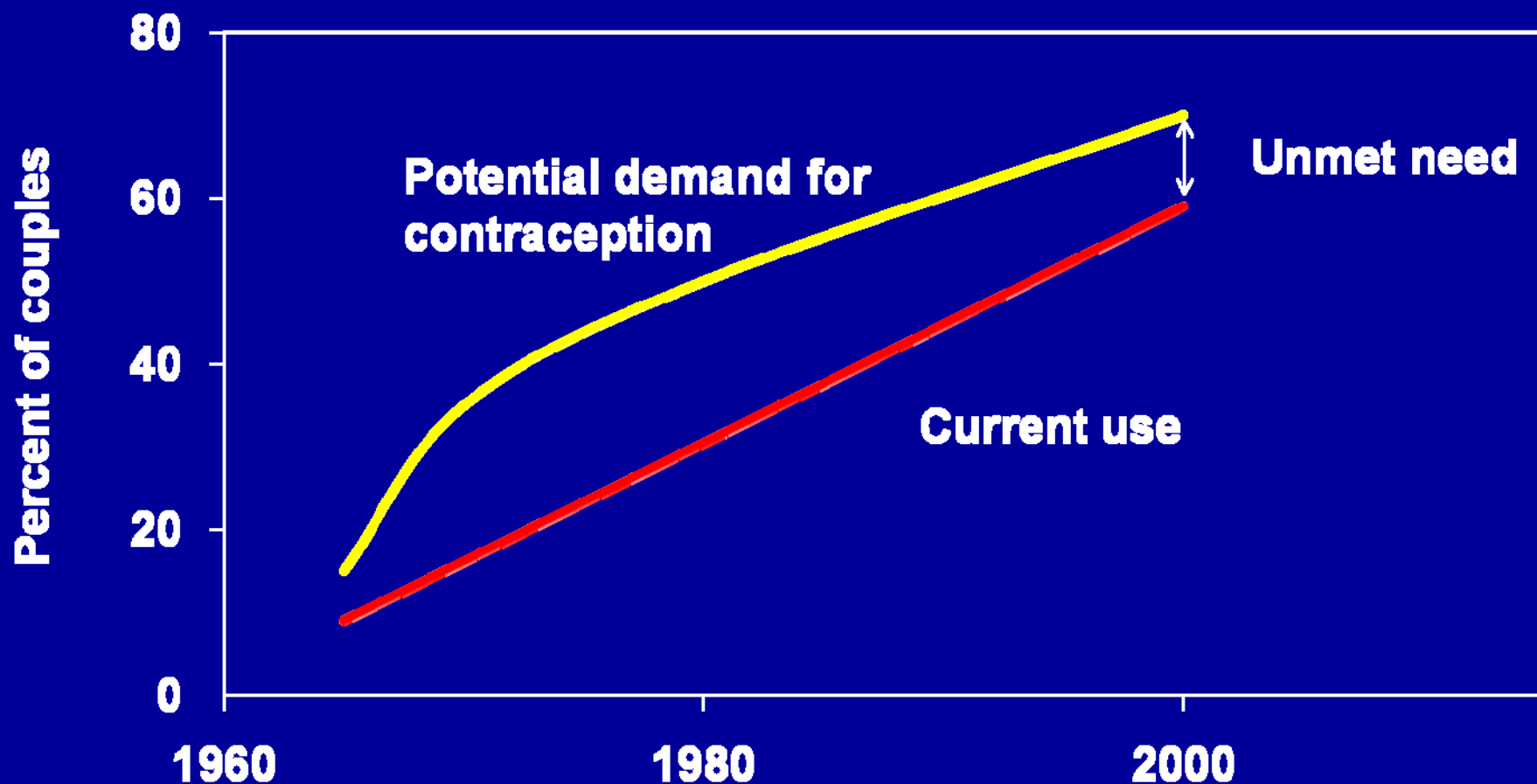
- Environmental: Depletion of natural resources, pollution, climate change
- Economic: Low wages, unemployment, poverty, inequality
- Governmental: Lagging investment in education, health services and infrastructure
- Health: High birth rate raises maternal and child mortality
- Political: Growth of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

## **2) Family planning programs**

## **Voluntary family planning programs aim to:**

- Provide access to and information about contraception
- Reduce “unmet need” for contraception

## Met and unmet need for contraception, developing world

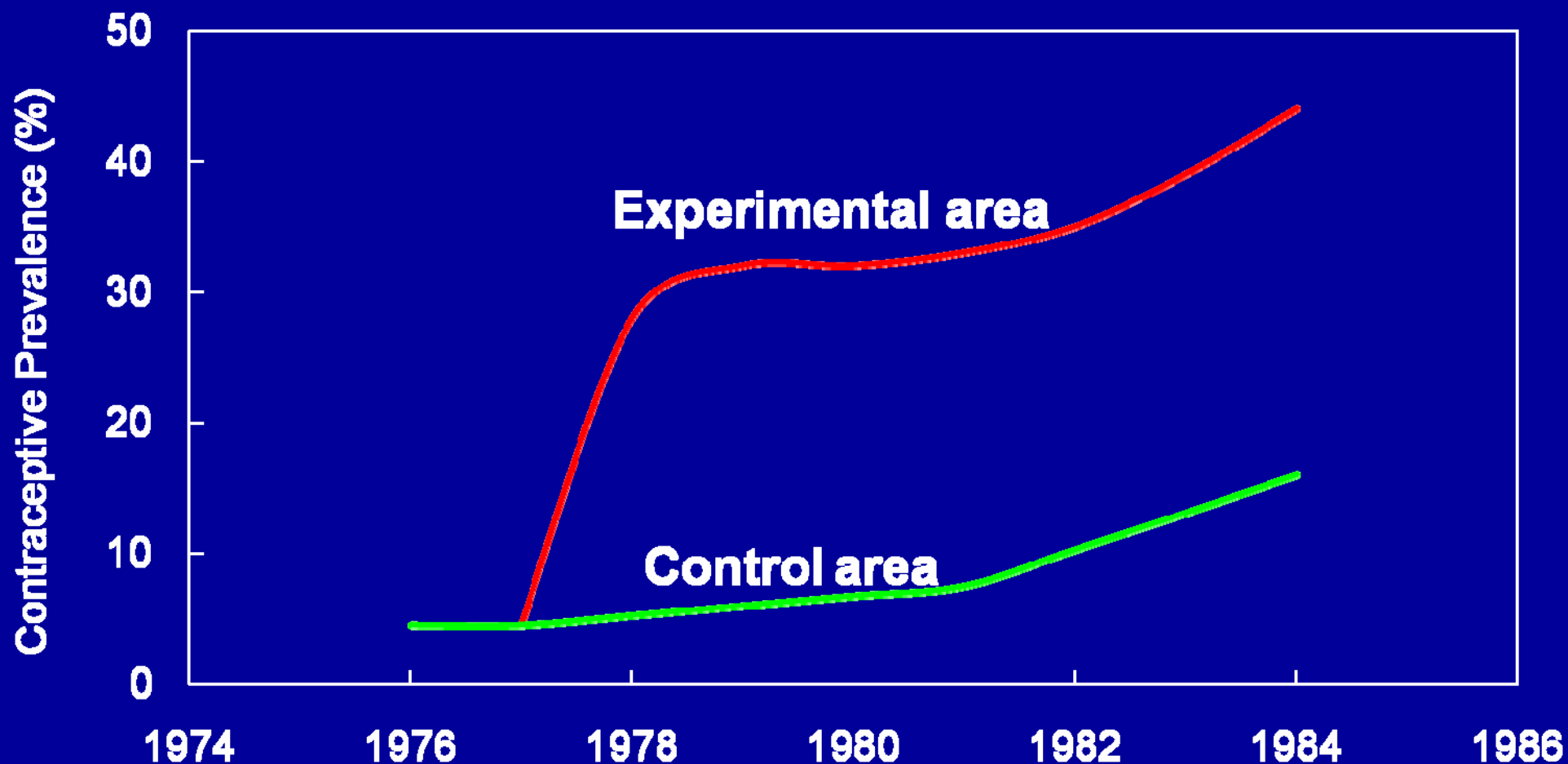


**123 million women in the developing world have an unmet need for contraception**



# Contraceptive prevalence, 1976-1984

## Matlab, Bangladesh



## **Providing family planning to all of women with an unmet need would prevent**

- 23 million unplanned births
- 22 million abortions
- 7 million miscarriages
- 1.4 million infant deaths
- 142,000 pregnancy-related deaths (53,000 from unsafe abortion)
- 505,000 children from losing their mothers

## **Lower fertility contributes to:**

- Improving maternal health and reducing child mortality
- Achieving universal primary education
- Reducing poverty and unemployment
- Achieving gender equality
- Ensuring environmental sustainability
- Combating HIV/AIDS

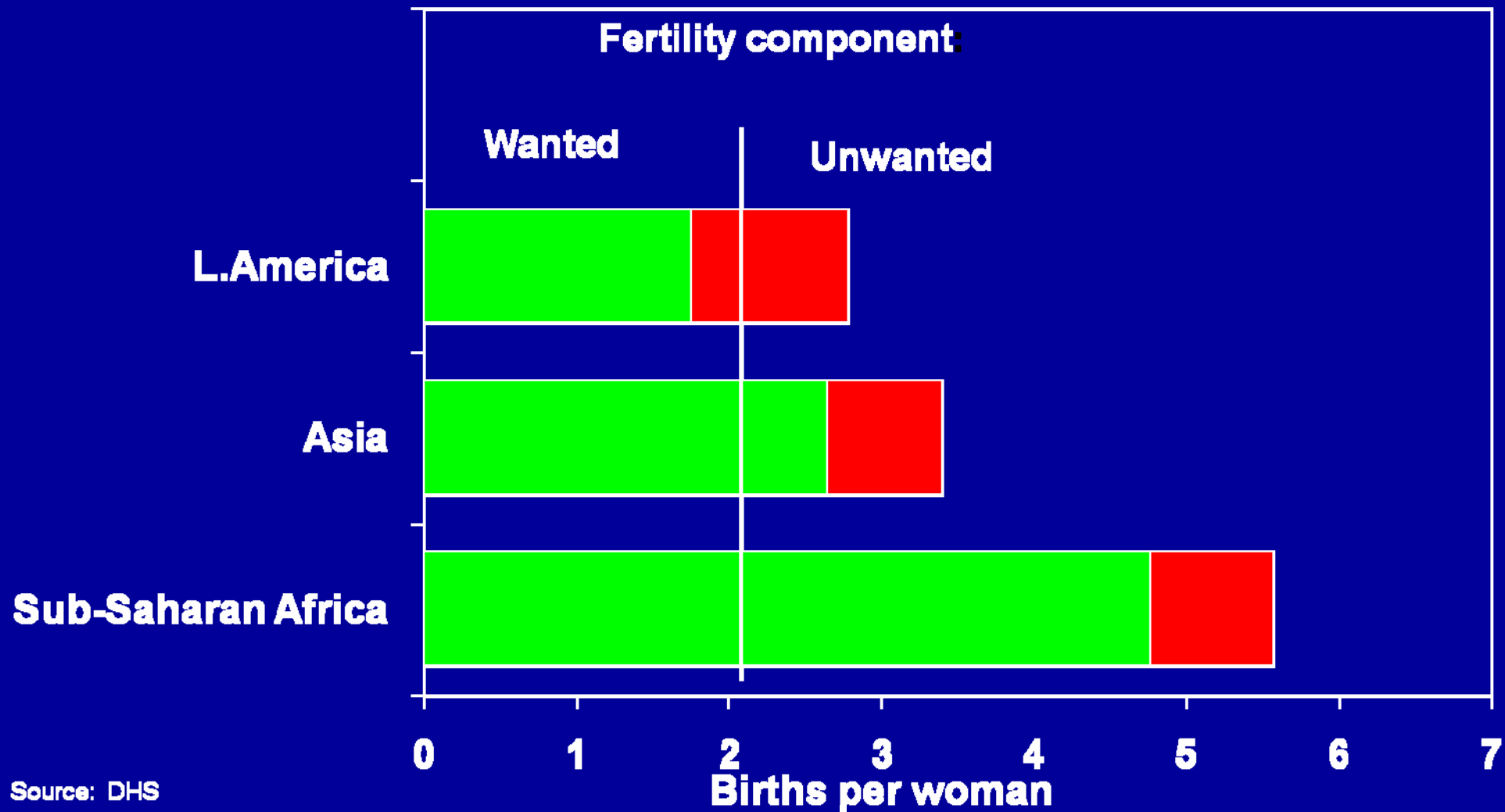
### **3) Why population growth continues**

## Why population growth continues in the developing world

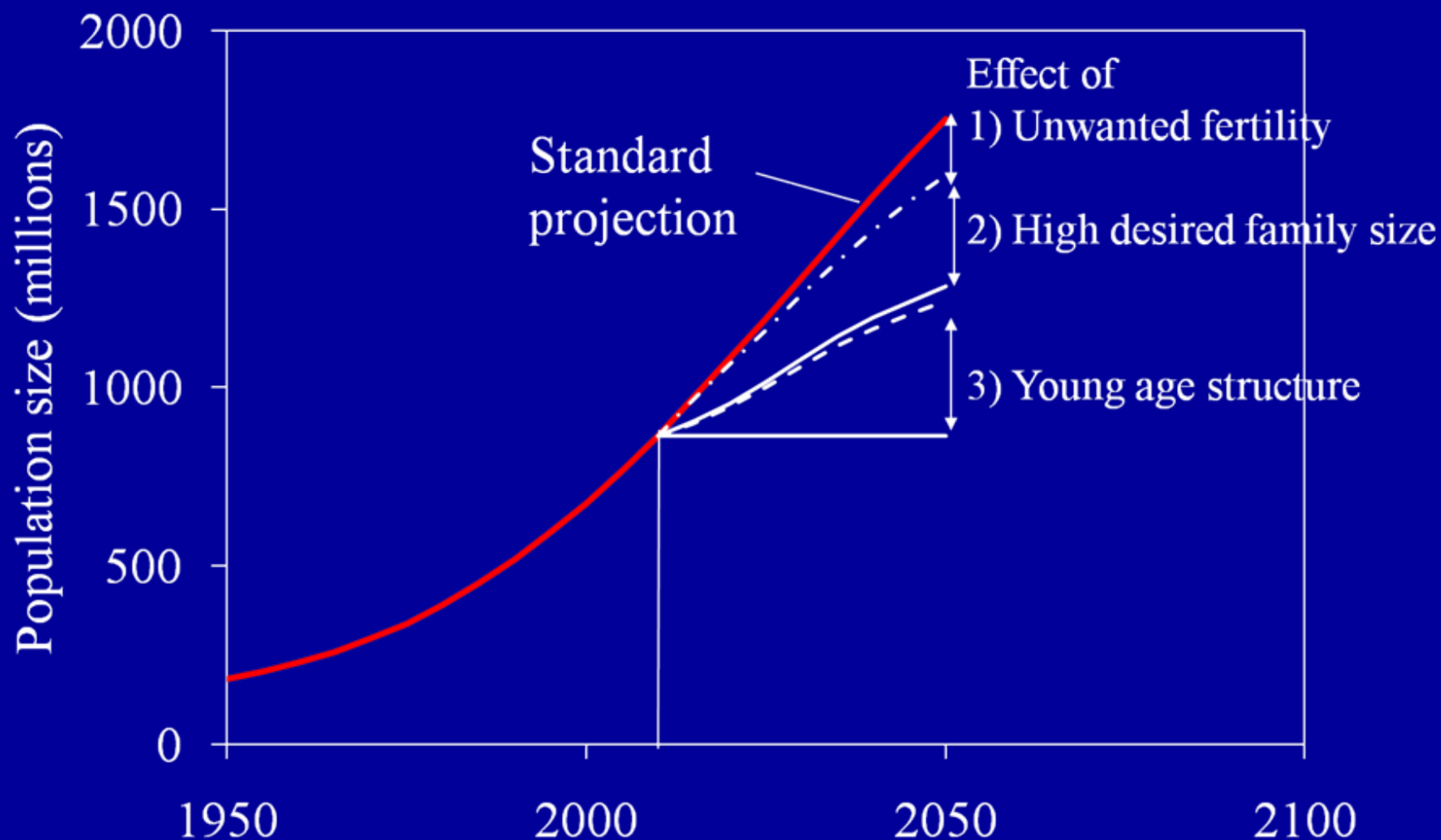
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- Fertility above replacement level of 2 children per woman
- Declining mortality
- Population momentum due to a young age structure

# Wanted and unwanted fertility



## Alternative population projections for 2010-2050 and effects of population growth components, sub-Saharan Africa



## 4) Population policy options



## Causes of growth

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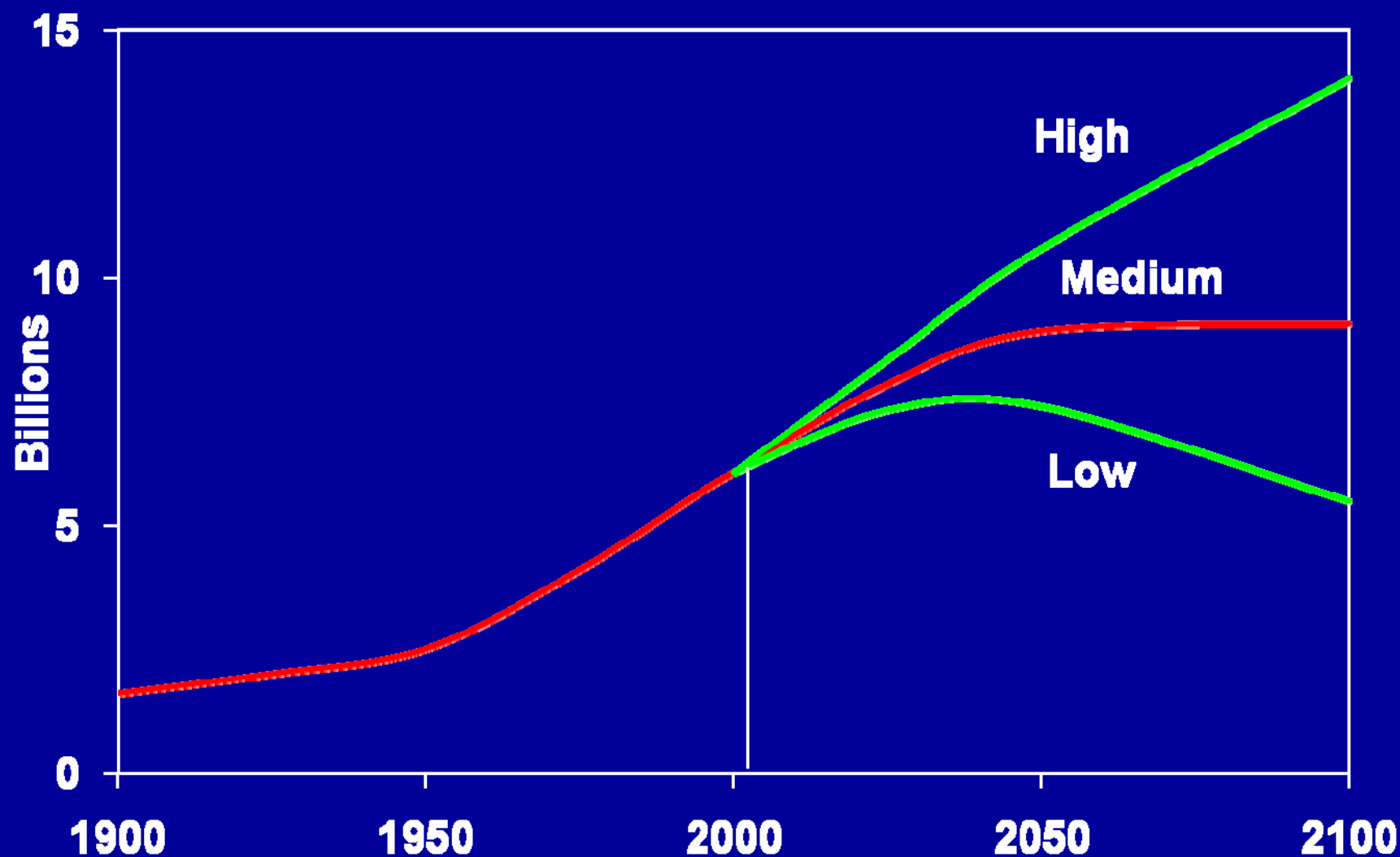
- ) Unwanted fertility
- ) High wanted fertility
- ) Declining mortality
- ) Young age structure

## Policy options

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- Strengthen family planning programs
- Invest in human capital (girls' education, gender equality)
- Reduce child mortality
- Delay first birth and space births
- Address the needs of adolescents

# World population projection variants



## Conclusions

- 1) Rapid population growth and high fertility continue in the least developed countries
- 2) Many adverse socioeconomic, health, environmental and political consequences
- 3) Policy options available:
  - strengthen family planning/RH programs
  - invest in human capital
  - delay childbearing
  - address needs of adolescents