

# GENERATION UNBOUND

Drifting into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage

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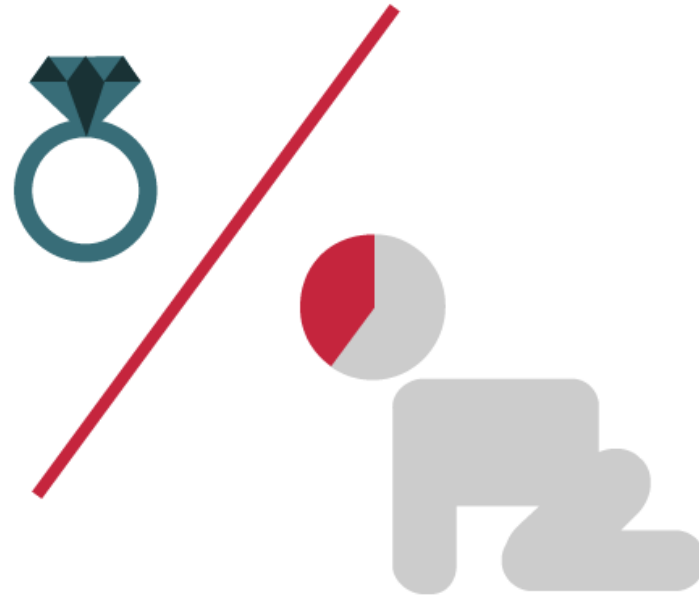
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# A Large Proportion of Births Occur Outside of Marriage

**OVER 40%** OF  
ALL CHILDREN  
ARE BORN  
**OUTSIDE OF  
MARRIAGE**



Source: "Births to Unmarried Women" Child Trends Data Bank. (July 2014).

# What is Driving the Change in Family Structure?

Improving Opportunities for Women

Declining Economic Prospects for Men

Changing Social Norms

# Why it Matters

- Children fare better in stable two-parent families
- Family breakdown leads to more child poverty, inequality, less social mobility
- Child poverty rates are five times higher in single-parent families vs. two-parent families
- My estimate is that the child poverty rates have increased by about 5 p.p. or by about 25 percent since 1970 because of changes in family structure

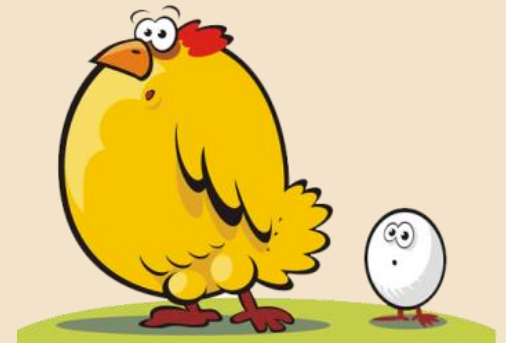
# Chicken and Egg

Does poverty → family breakdown

**OR**

Does family breakdown → poverty?

**(It's both!)**



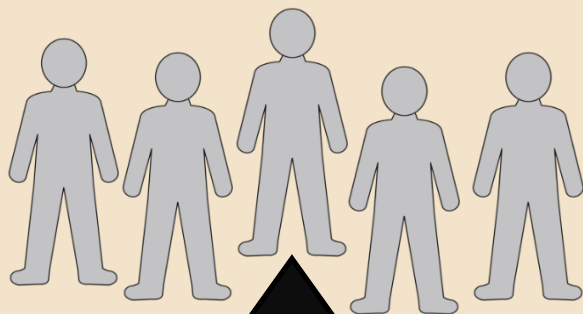
# What to Do: Two Visions

“The truth is, the greatest tool to lift children and families from poverty. . . isn't a government spending program. It's called marriage.”



“Children are not rugged individualists. . . All of us, whether we acknowledge it or not, are responsible for deciding whether our children are raised in a nation that doesn't just espouse family values but values families and children.”

# Can Social Policy Keep Pace with Increased Need?



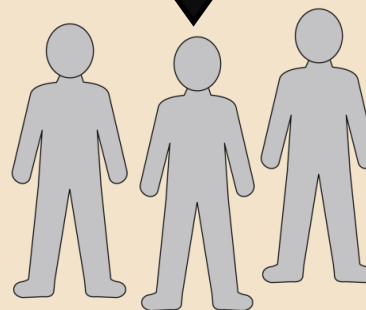
Entering poverty  
(due to family breakdown)

- Total – 7 p.p.
- Adjusted – 5 p.p.

**POVERTY**

Leaving poverty  
(due to social programs)

- SNAP – 3 p.p.
- EITC – 7 p.p.



Another Solution:  
Reduce the Breakdown of  
the Family by

**Changing Drifters into  
Planners**



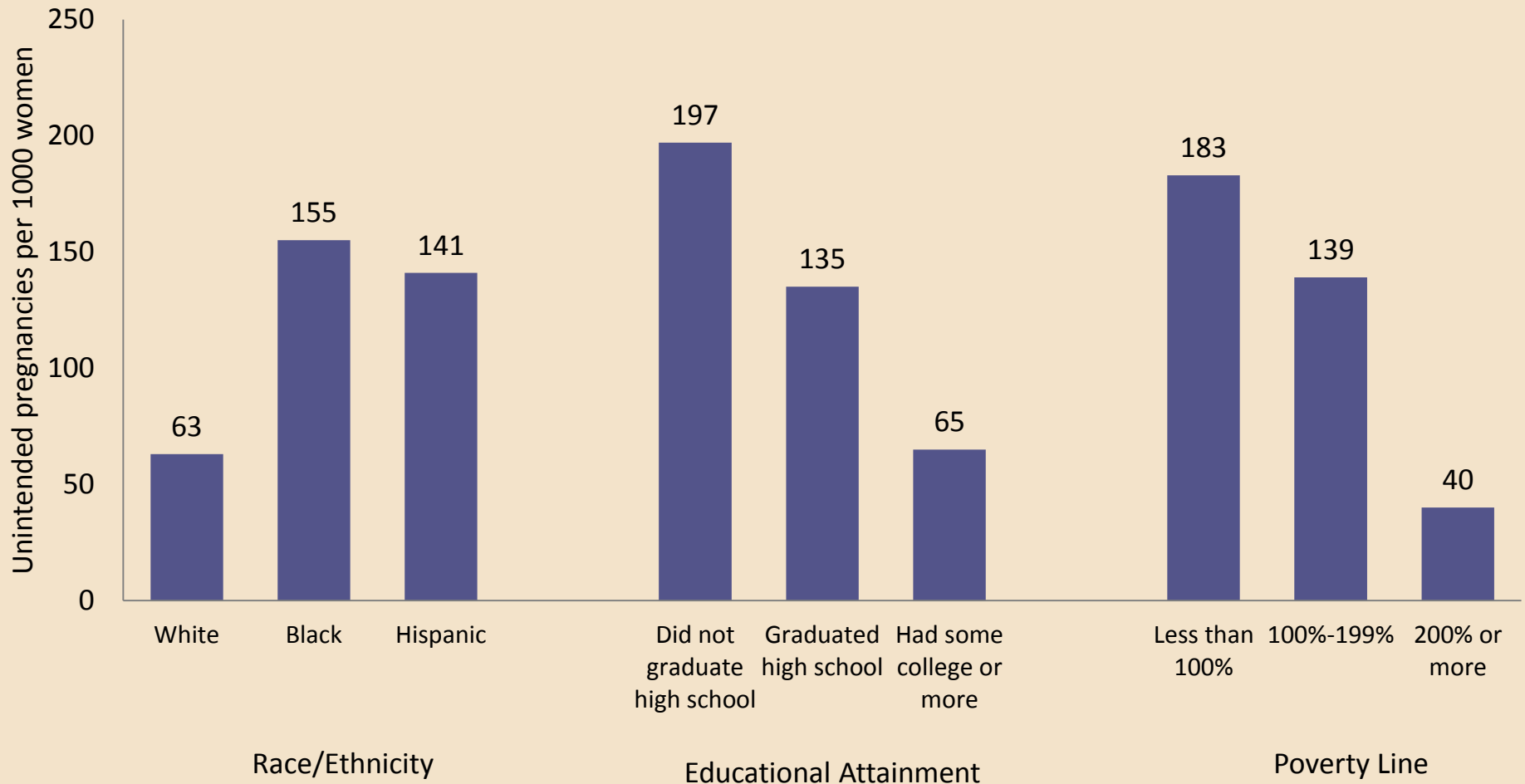
# Drifting into Parenthood is Common

**60% OF BIRTHS TO  
SINGLE WOMEN  
UNDER 30 ARE  
UNPLANNED**



Source: Zolna, Mia, and Laura Duberstein Lindberg. Unintended pregnancy: Incidence and outcomes among young adult unmarried women in the United States, 2001 and 2008. Alan Guttmacher Institute, 2012.

# Less Advantaged Women Have Highest Rates of Drifting

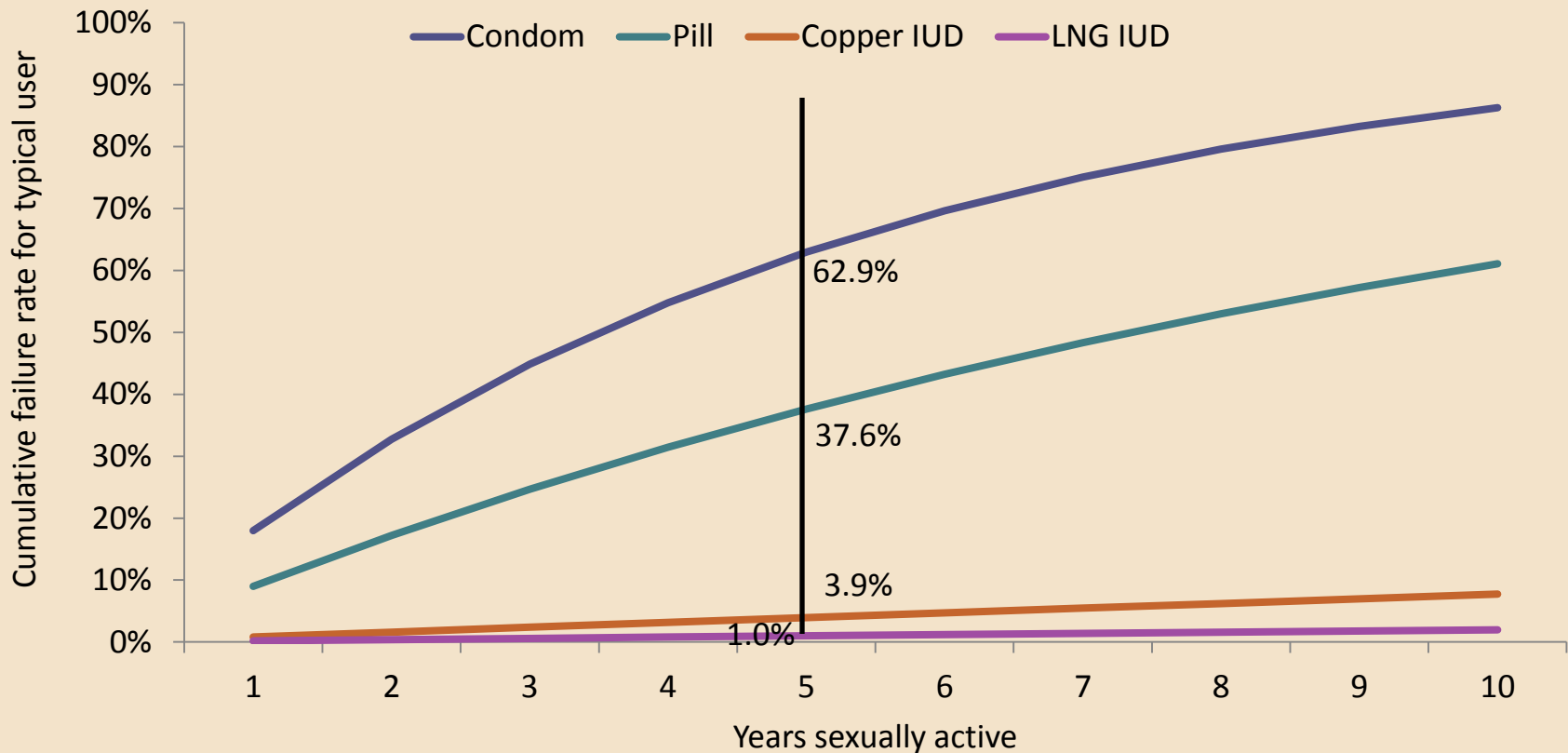


Source: Karpilow, Quentin, Jennifer Manlove, Isabel Sawhill, and Adam Thomas. "The Role of Contraception in Preventing Abortion, Nonmarital Childbearing, and Child Poverty." Paper presented at APPAM, November 2013.

# Why So Much Drifting?

- Young adults not using birth control or using inconsistently
- Not using most effective methods
- Long-acting reversible contraceptives (IUDs, implants) change the default from getting pregnant to not getting pregnant

# IUDs Are Much More Effective Than Other Forms of Birth Control



How we got these numbers: Data is from Trussell (2011). The probability that a person doesn't get pregnant at all over a given period of time is equal to the success rate of her contraceptive method raised to the power of the number of years she is using that method. We then subtract this multi-year "success rate" from 100% to get the failure rate (graphed above). This assumes that there is an equal chance of not getting pregnant in every year of condom use and that successful users and failed users (where success is not getting pregnant during a year using birth control) have the same rate. The assumption is reasonable given that figures we use are the figure for a "typical" user of some type of contraceptive.

# Changing the Default: Evidence

Colorado Family Planning Initiative

St. Louis: The CHOICE Project

Iowa Initiative to Reduce Unintended  
Pregnancies

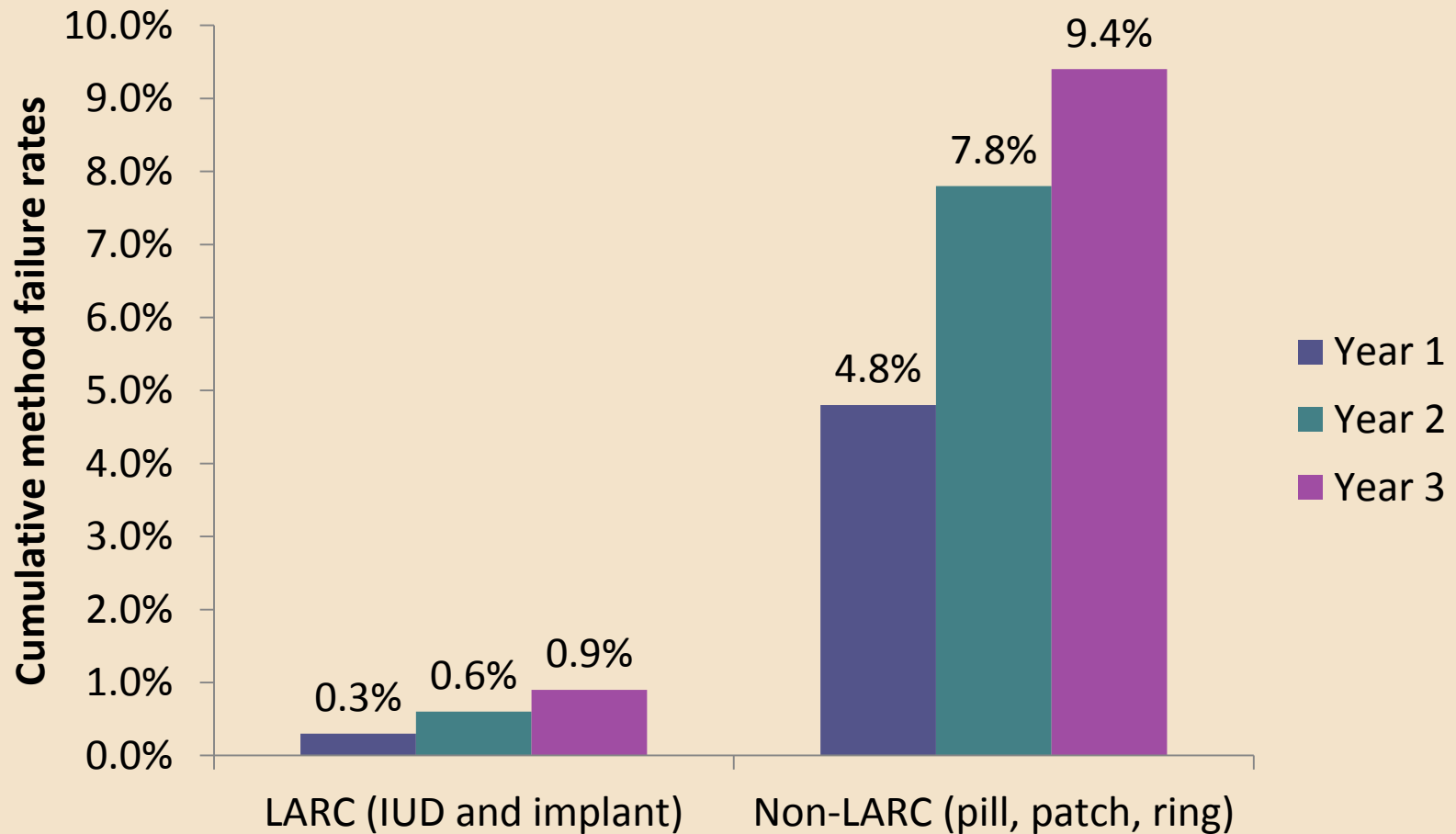
UCSF Bixby Center Initiative

Delaware (no results yet)

# Colorado Family Planning Initiative, 2009-2014

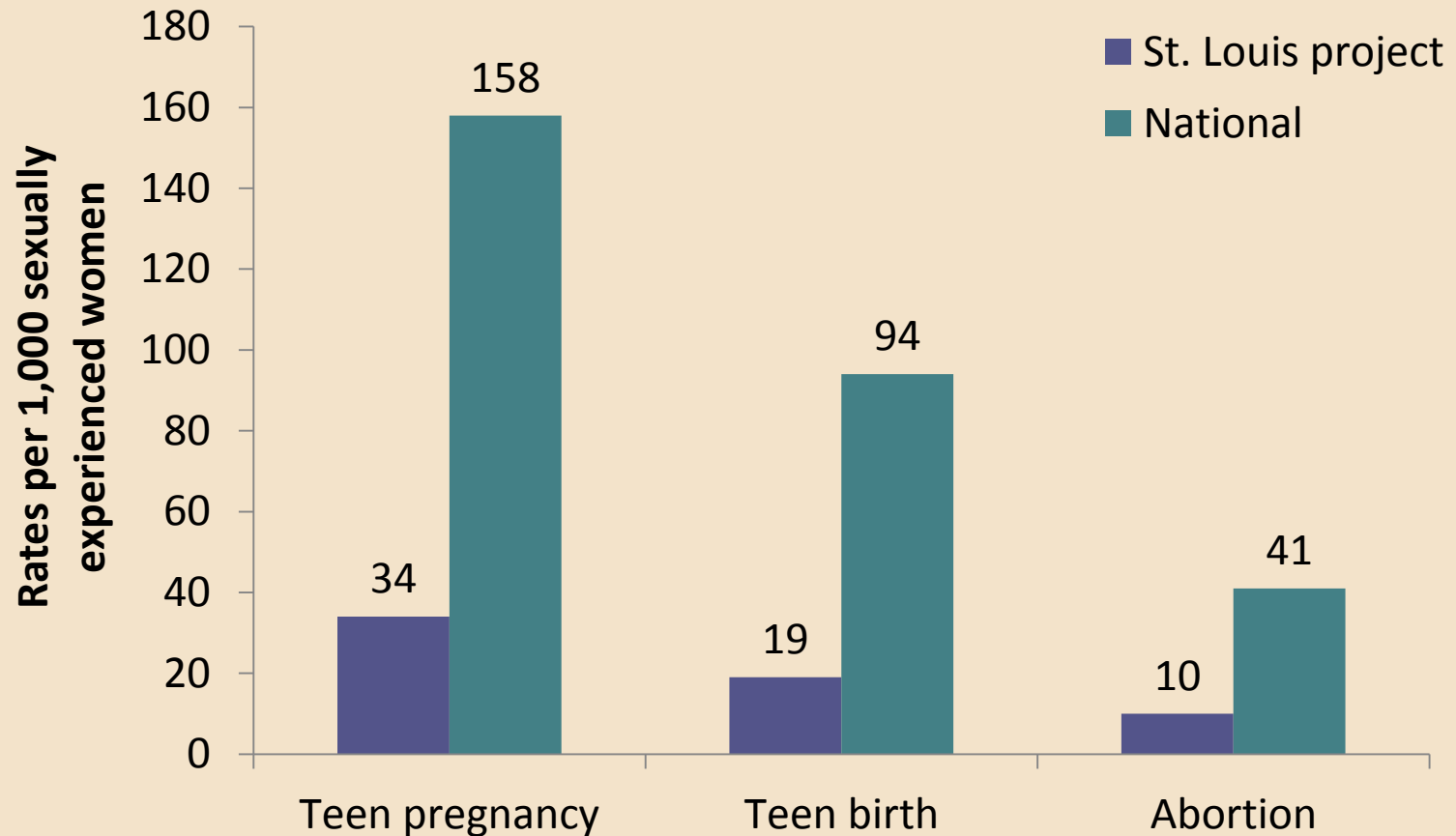
Use of LARCs	Increased six-fold from 4% to 30% of clients in Title X clinics
Teen birth rate	Decreased by 48%
Young adult (20-24) birth rate	Decreased by 20%
Abortion rate for each group	Decreased by roughly the same amount
Return on investment (state savings for every dollar spent)	\$5.85

# CHOICE Project, St. Louis, 2006-2010



Source: Birgisson, Natalia E., et al. "Preventing Unintended Pregnancy: The Contraceptive CHOICE Project in Review." *Journal of Women's Health* 24(2015): 349-353.

# CHOICE Project, St. Louis, 2006-2010



Note: N = 9,256.

Source: Birgisson, Natalia E., et al. "Preventing Unintended Pregnancy: The Contraceptive CHOICE Project in Review." *Journal of Women's Health* 24(2015): 349-353.



# UCSF Bixby Center Initiative

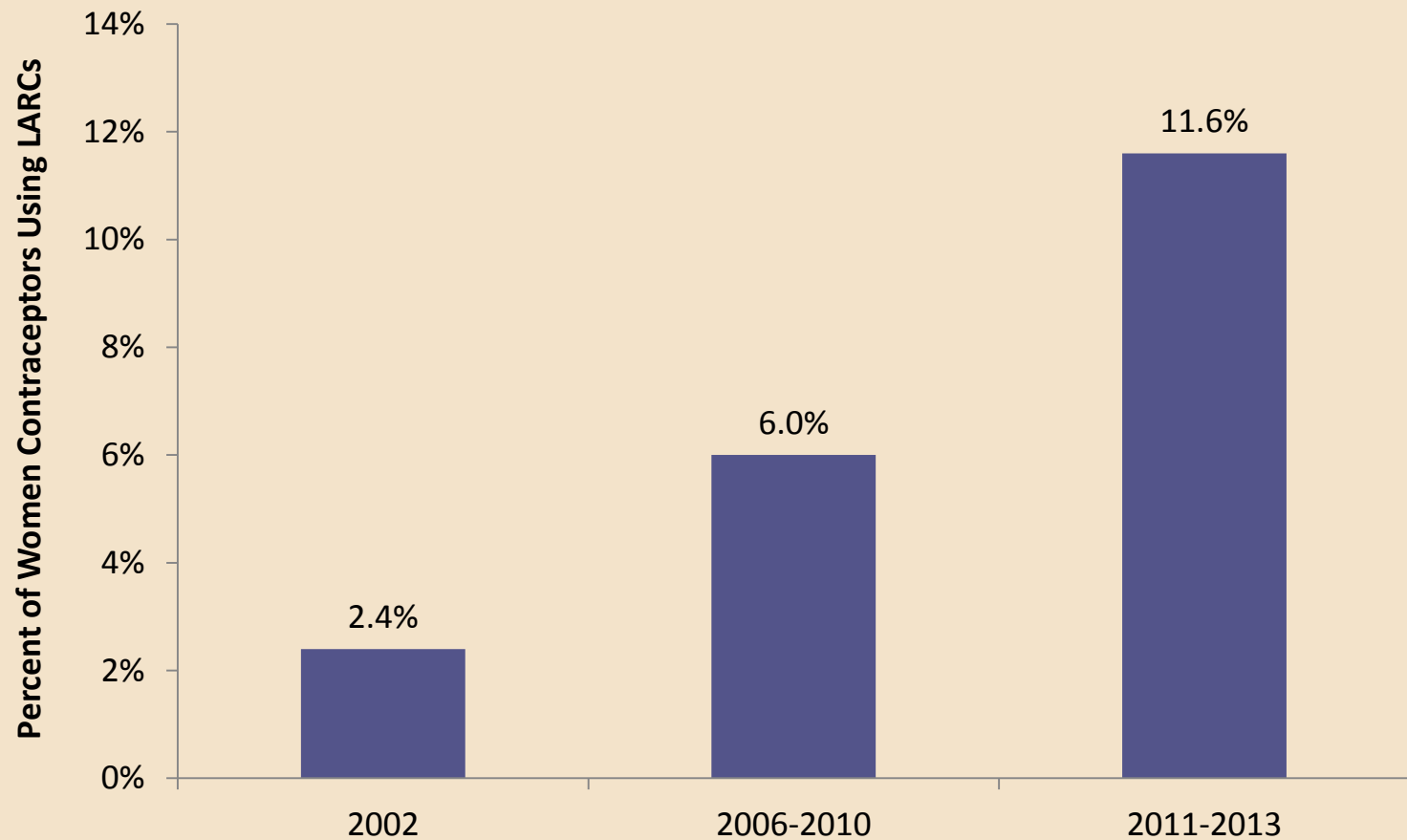
(provider training only)

	Treatment Clinics	Control Clinics
Received counselling	71%	39%
Chose a LARC	28%	17%
Pregnancy rate (within 12 months)	8%	15%

Note: Cluster randomized trial, 40 clinics in 15 states. Results for women seeking family planning services only. No significant difference if woman was offered a LARC after an abortion.

Source: Harper, Cynthia C. et al. "Reductions in pregnancy rates in the USA with long-acting reversible contraception: a cluster randomized trial." *The Lancet* 386(2015): 562-568.

# LARC Use: Low but Rising Rapidly



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health Statistics Reports, No. 86, November 10, 2015, Table 2.

# Why Not More Utilization?

- Women don't know about LARCs or think they are unsafe
- Providers aren't trained
- High upfront cost
- Political opposition



# The Way Forward

- A change in social norms
  - Old norm: don't have a child outside of marriage
  - New Norm: don't have a child until you want to be a parent
- Empower young adults to achieve this new norm via education and access to contraception, especially the most effective forms
- Combine with effective social programs that create greater opportunity and motivation to avoid an unplanned birth