

Trends In Protective Behaviour Among Young African Women

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Background

- Heavy condom promotion for HIV control for past 10 years
- Increasing emphasis on abstinence since launch of PEPFAR
- Little contact, collaboration, synergy between HIV prevention and family planning
- No agreement on relative importance of A,B,C, in stemming HIV epidemic (e.g. Uganda)

DHS Data Used In This Presentation

- Have you ever had sex? OR
At what age did you first have sex
- How long ago did you last have sex?
- FOR SEXUALLY ACTIVE – Are you currently using any method of contraceptive? IF YES what method? Where did you obtain it?
- When you last had sex did you or your partner use a condom?

Figure 1: Box and Whisker Plots: Trend (1993-2001) in standardized percent of single women aged 15-24 who reported no sexual experience: 18 African Countries



Figure 2: Box and Whisker Plots: Trend (1993-2001) in standardized percent of sexually experienced single women aged 15-24: who reported no sex in the last 3 months: 18 African countries

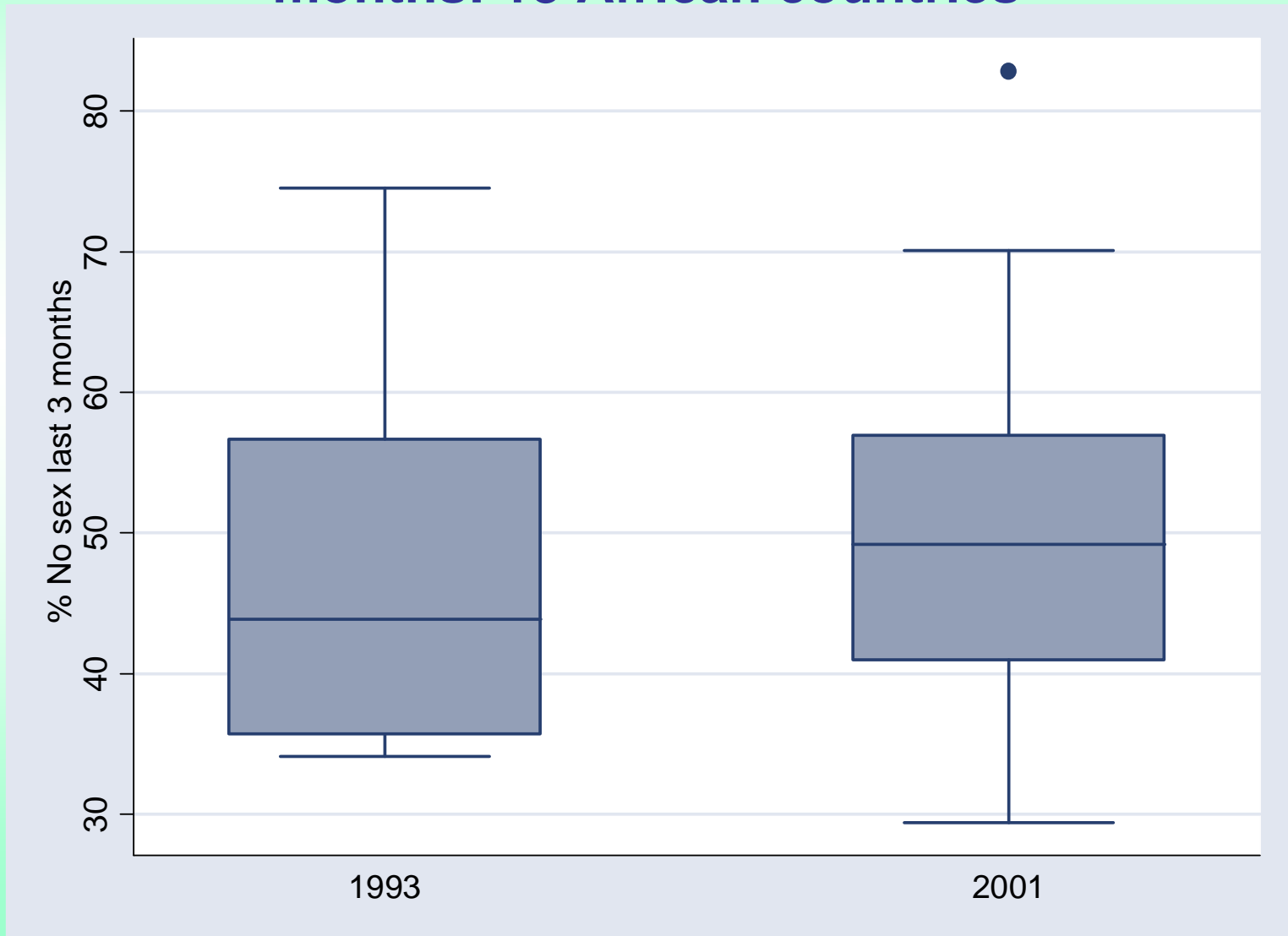


Figure 3: Box and Whisker Plots: Trend (1993-2001) in current contraceptive use among single women aged 15-24 who were sexually active in the last 3 months: 18 African countries

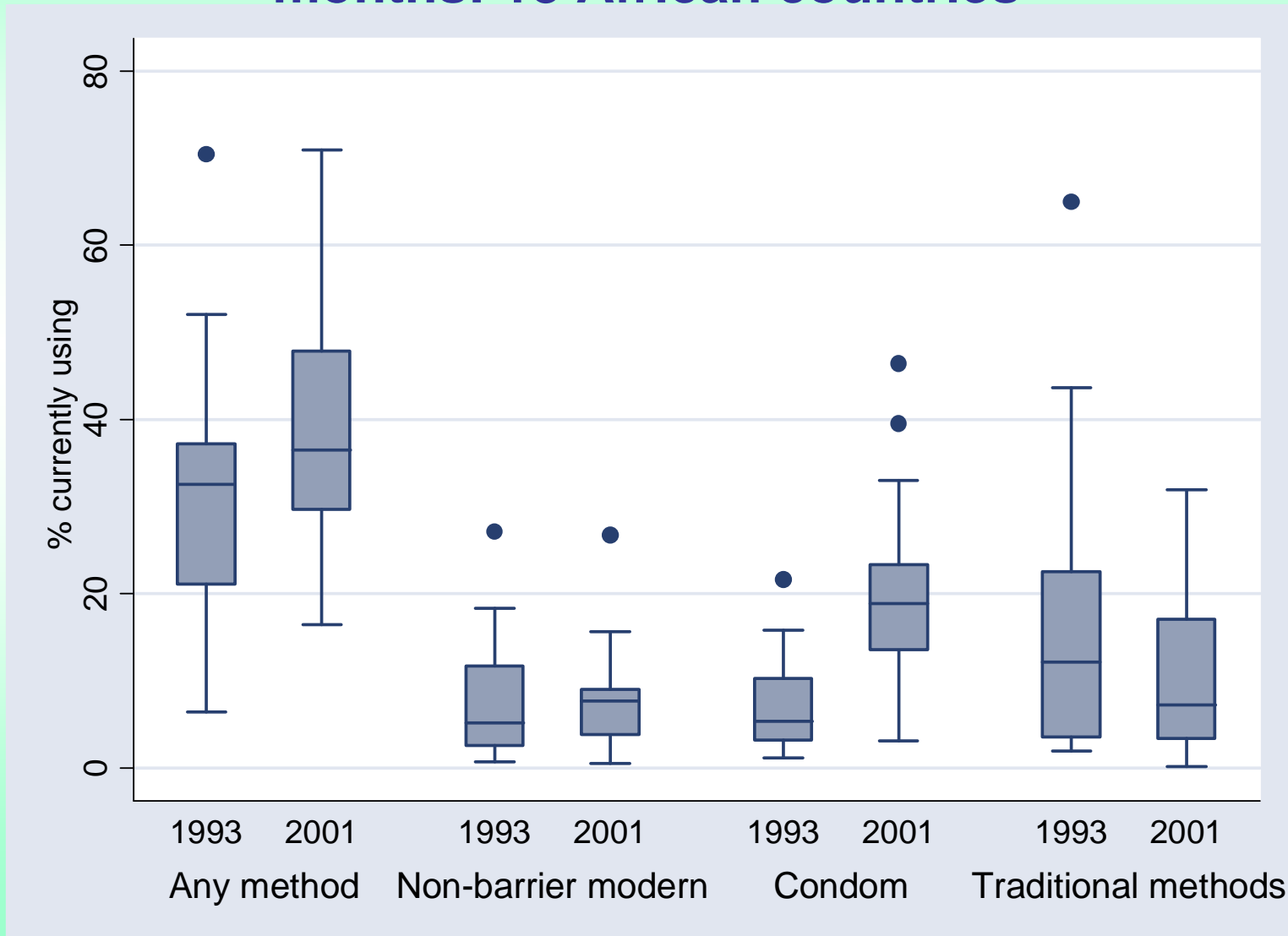


Figure 4: Married women aged 15-24: trends in current contraceptive use in 18 African countries

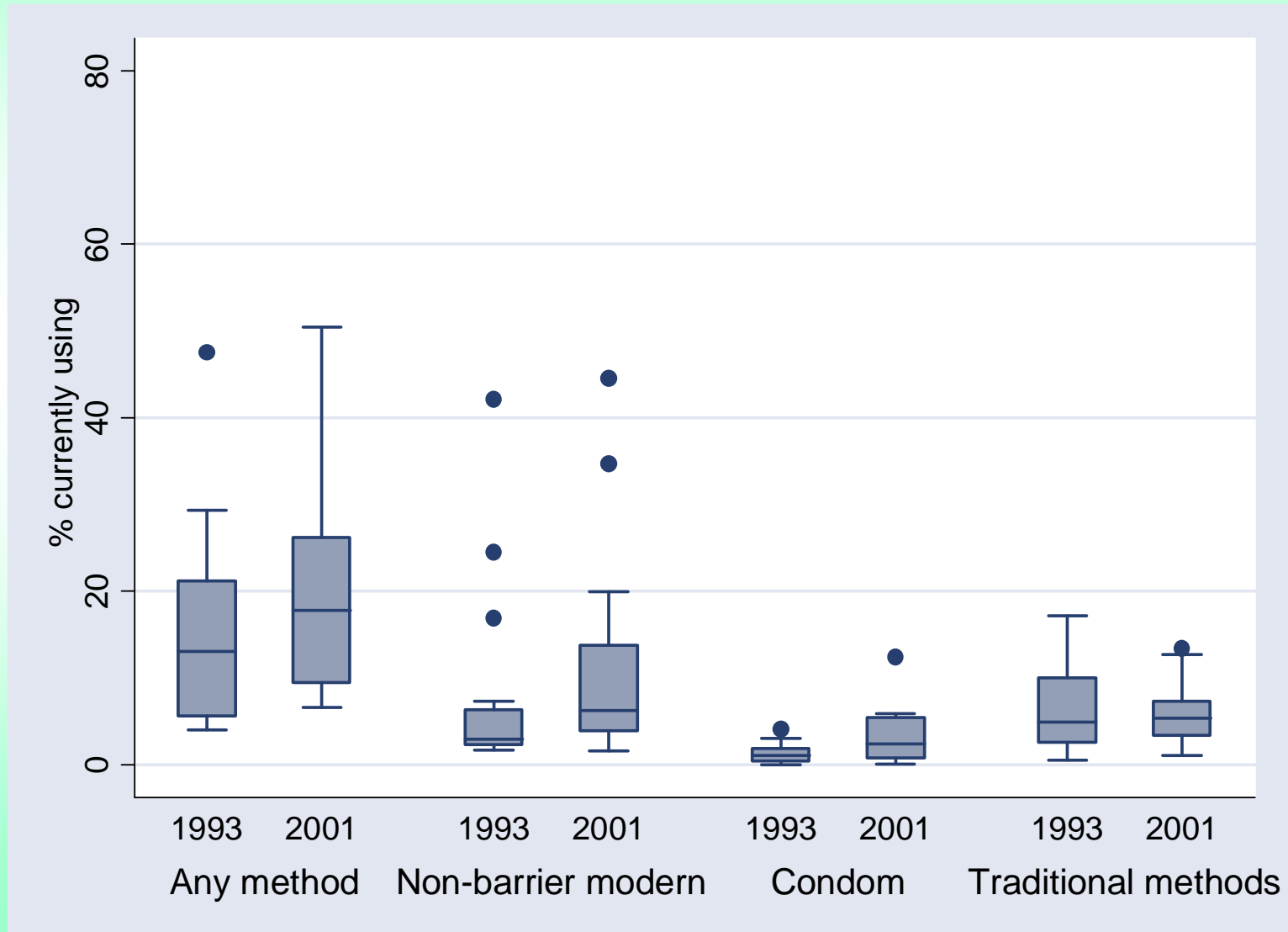


Figure 5: Box and Whisker Plots: Trends in standardized percent who reported condom use at most recent coitus, among single women aged 15-24 who were sexually active in the last 3 months: 13 African countries.

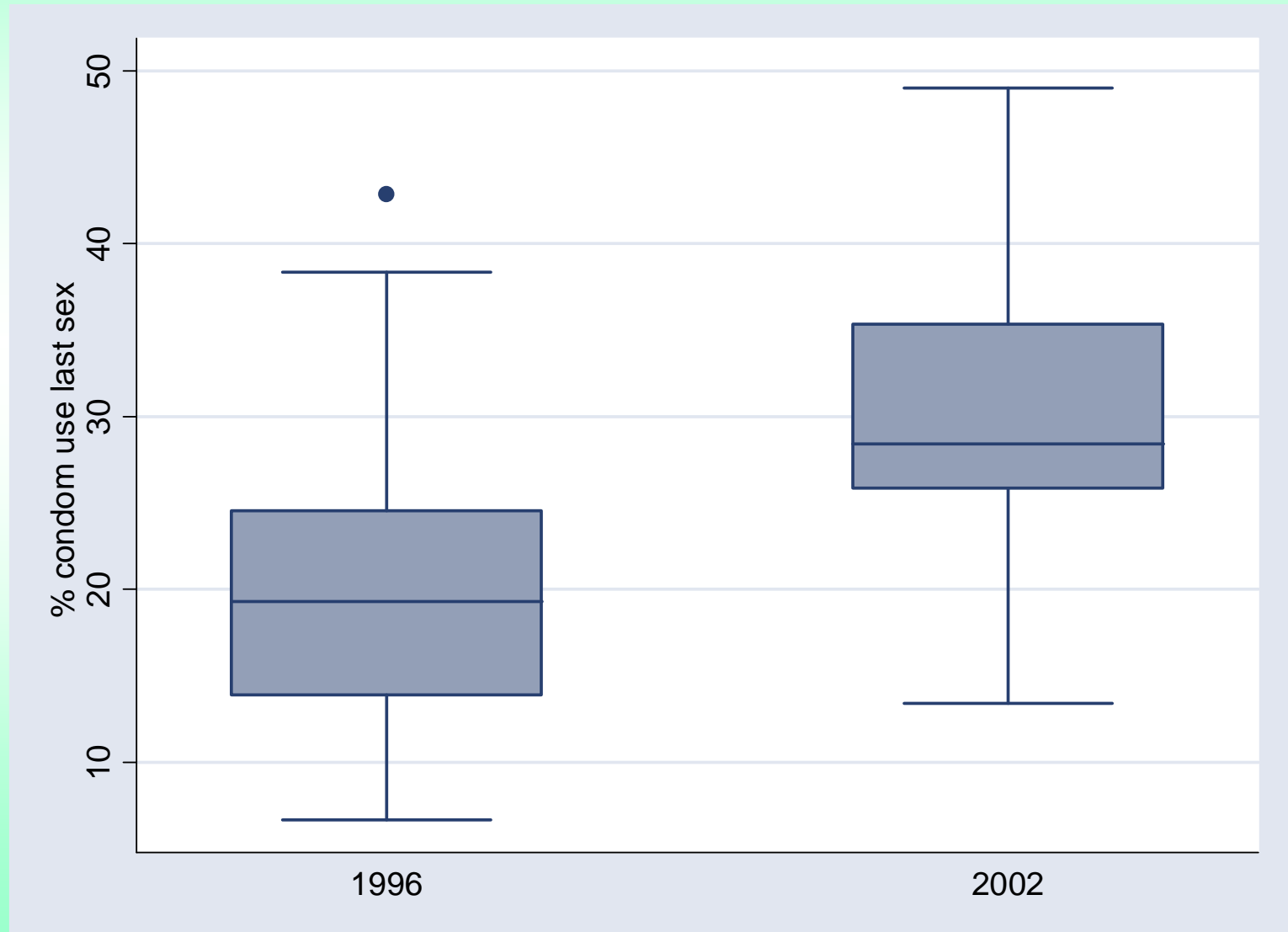
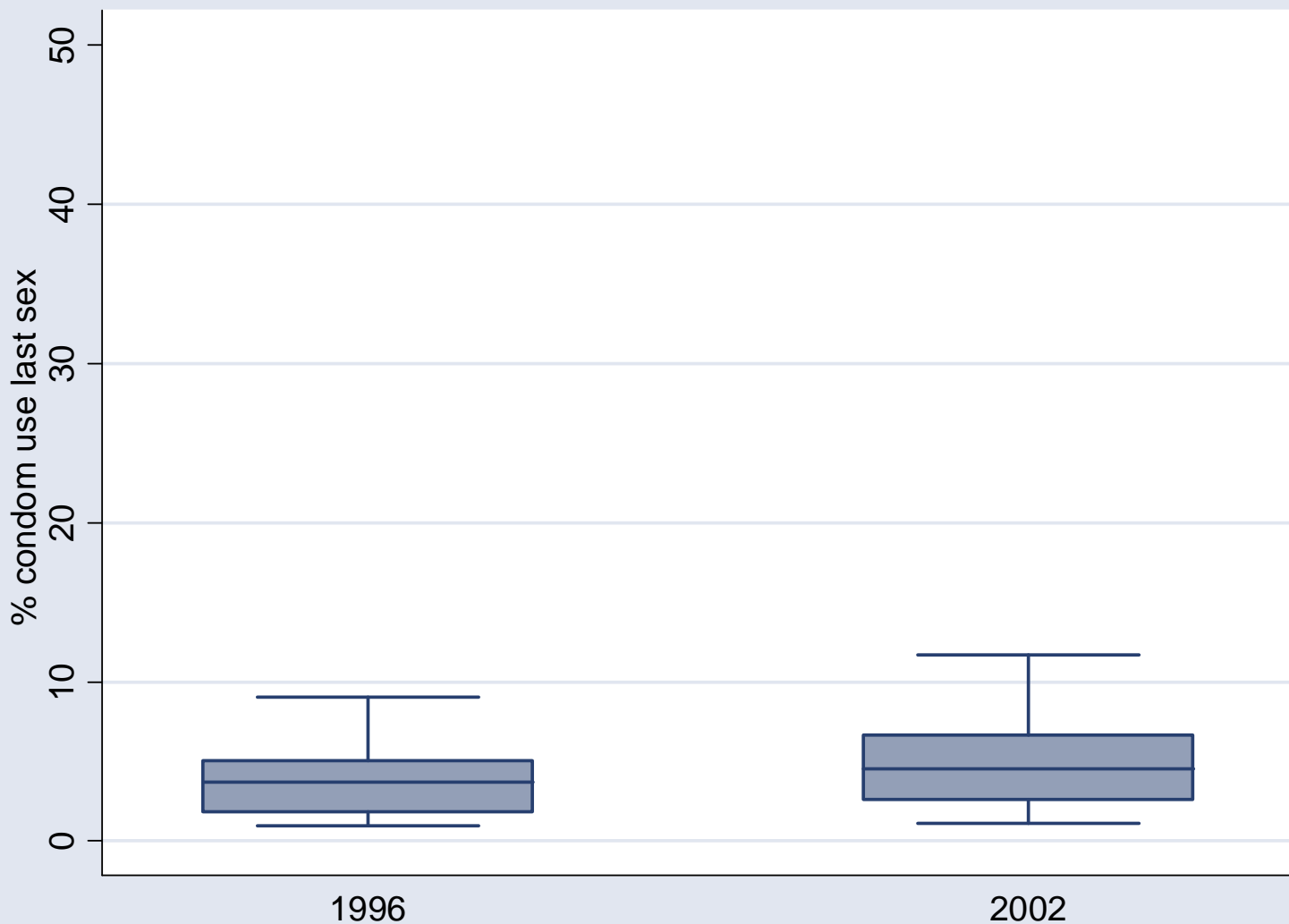


Figure 6: Married women aged 15-24 who were sexually active in the last 3 months: 13 African countries: trends in condom use at last sex.



Percent distribution of single women who used a condom at most recent coitus according to current contraceptive status: pooled results for 13 African countries most recent survey

	Median
Not using	24.5
Pill	5.8
Condom	58.8
Other Modern	1.4
Periodic Abstinence	3.6
Other Traditional	1

Conclusions

- No sign of increased abstinence
- Condom use increasing at reasonable pace for single women NOT married women
- Social marketing & better access is probably the crucial factor
- Pregnancy-prevention is a major motive for condom use.

Conclusions cont'd

- Condoms are now the top FP method for single women
- It might be more effective to promote condoms for FP than for HIV-control
- Donors need to make good the withdrawal of US funds for condom promotion to general population
- What to do about young married women?

Married Couples – Glimmers of Hope?

- Husbands not as opposed as so often assumed
- Wives not as powerless as so often portrayed
- Occasional condom use in marriage not uncommon (10%-20%)
- Promote condoms as dual protection in low contraceptive use countries but not in high use countries?