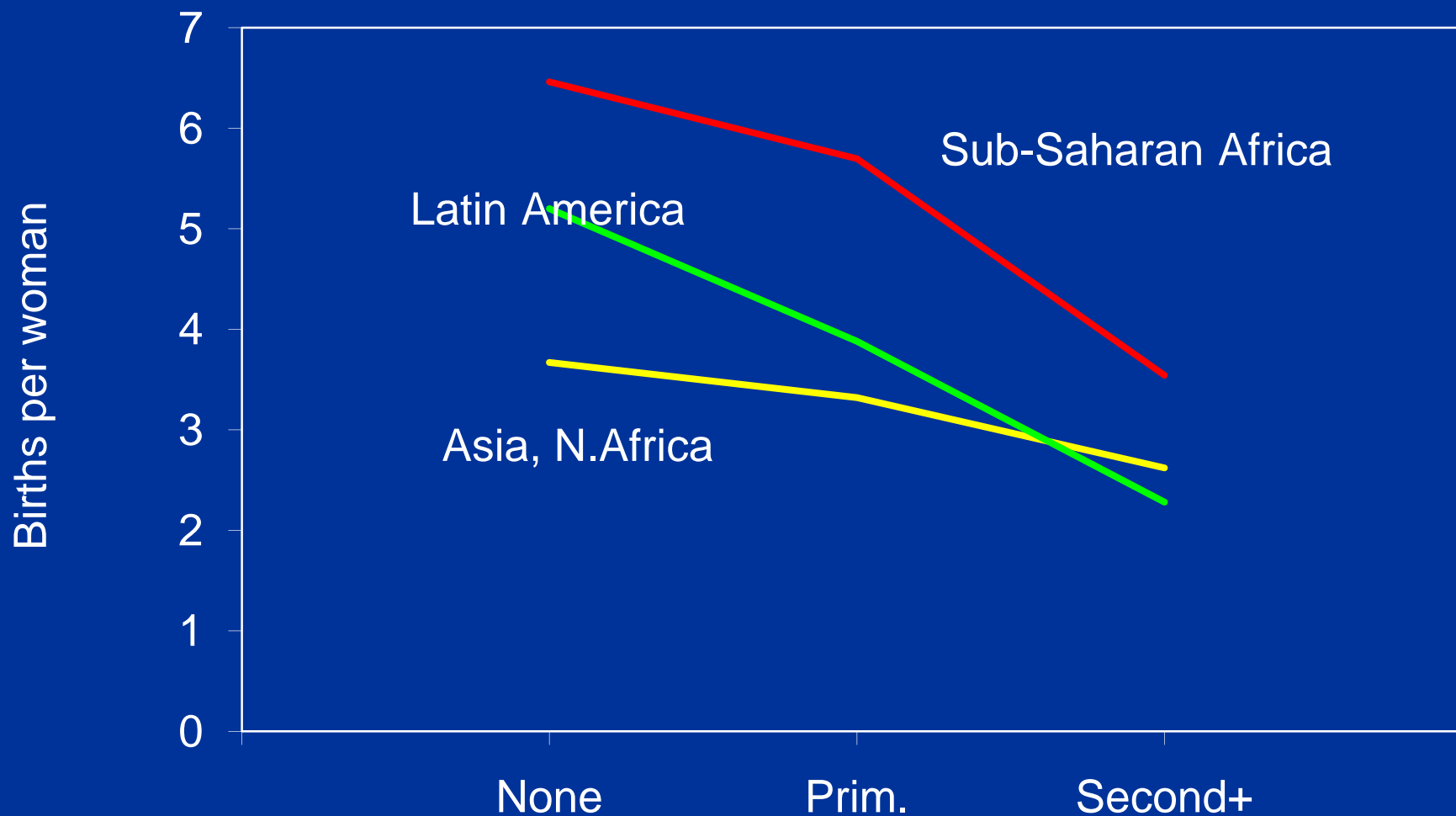


Causes of educational differences in fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa

John Bongaarts

Population Council

Total fertility rate by level of education regional averages

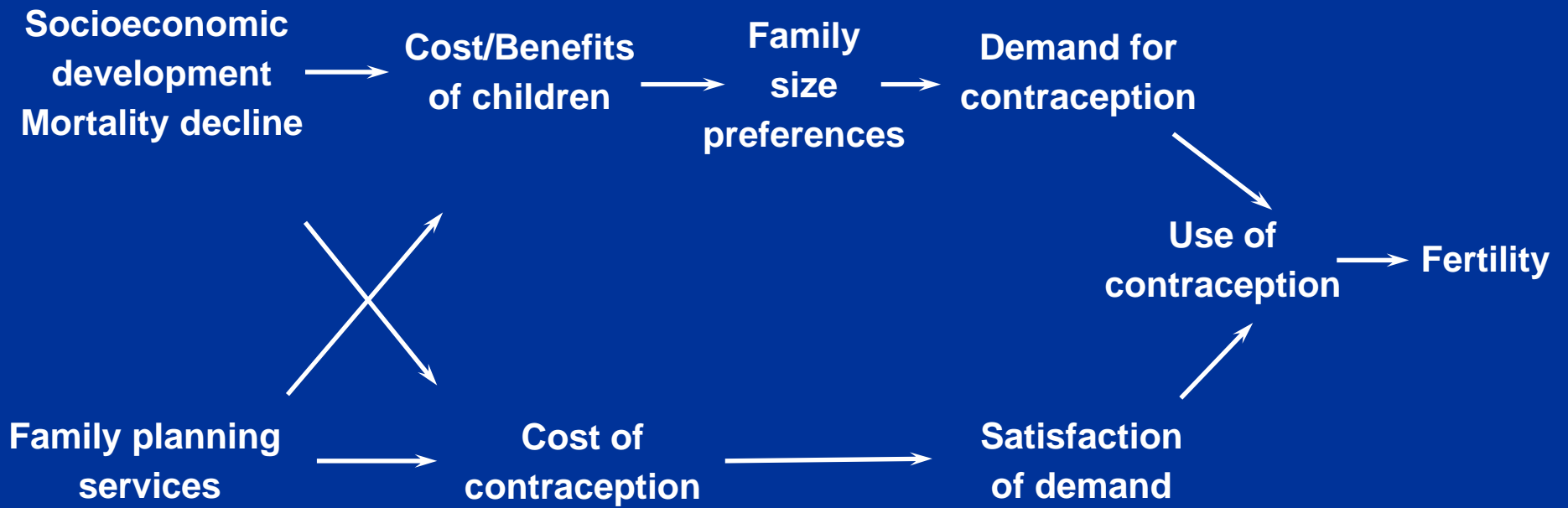


Source: DHS

Outline

- 1) Analytic framework and indicators
- 2) Educational differences in indicators
- 3) Educational differences in associations between indicators

Determinants of fertility



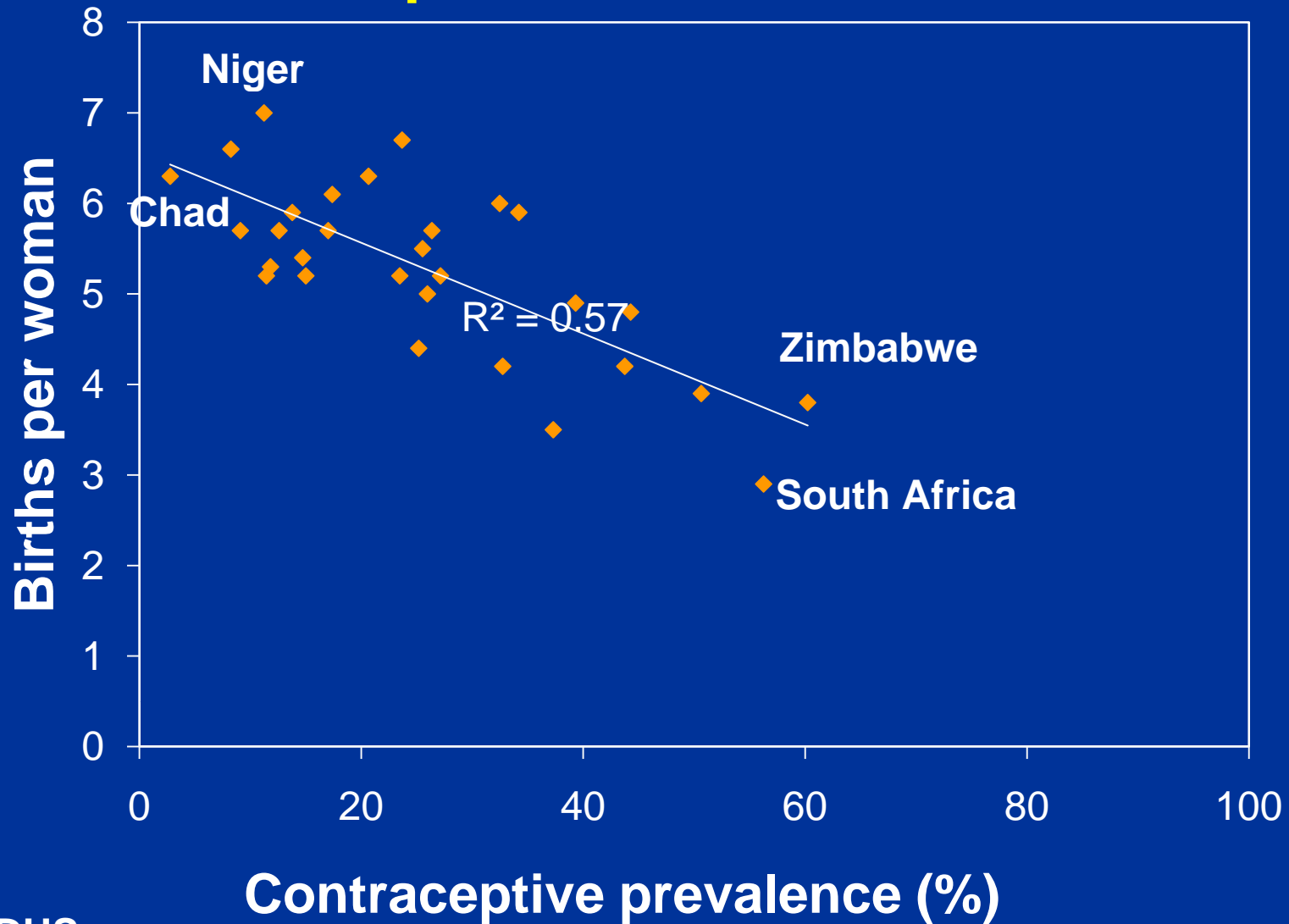
Key indicators

- 1) Total fertility rate for 3 years before the survey
- 2) Current contraceptive use among married women
- 3) Current demand for contraception among married women
- 4) Percent of demand satisfied
- 5) Ideal family size married women aged 20-29

DATA: most recent DHS surveys in 30 countries

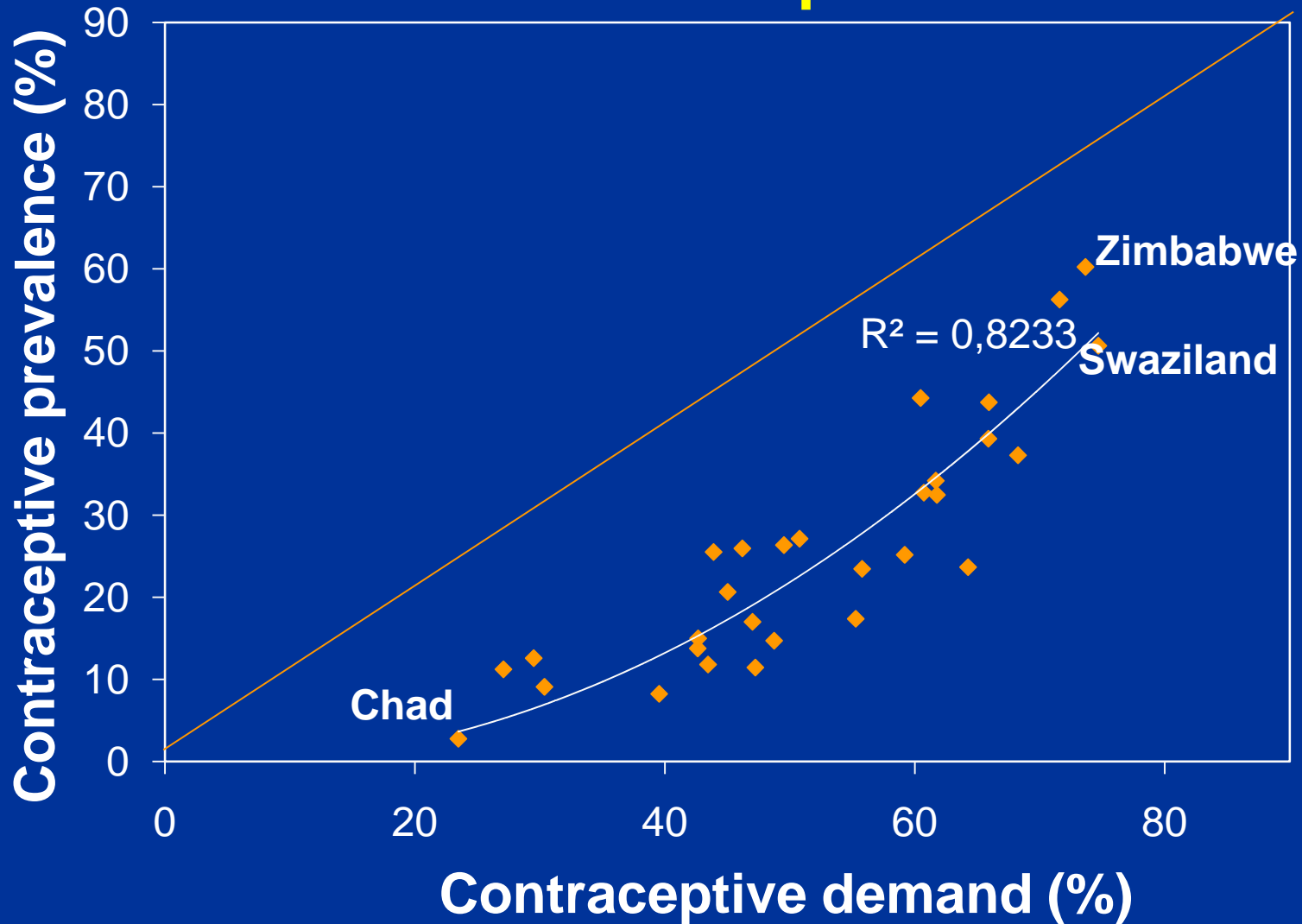
Benin 2006, Burkina Faso 2003, Cameroon 2004
Chad 2004, Congo (Brazzaville) 2005, Congo DR 2007
Cote d'Ivoire 1998/99, Ethiopia 2005, Gabon 2000
Ghana 2003, Guinea 2005, Kenya 2003, Lesotho 2004,
Liberia 2007, Madagascar 2003/2004, Malawi 2004,
Mali 2006, Mozambique 2003, Namibia 2000, Niger 2006
Nigeria 2003, Rwanda 2005, Senegal 2005, South
Africa 1998, Swaziland 2006, Tanzania 2004, Togo 1998,
Uganda 2006, Zambia 2001/02, Zimbabwe 2005/06

Total fertility rate by contraceptive prevalence



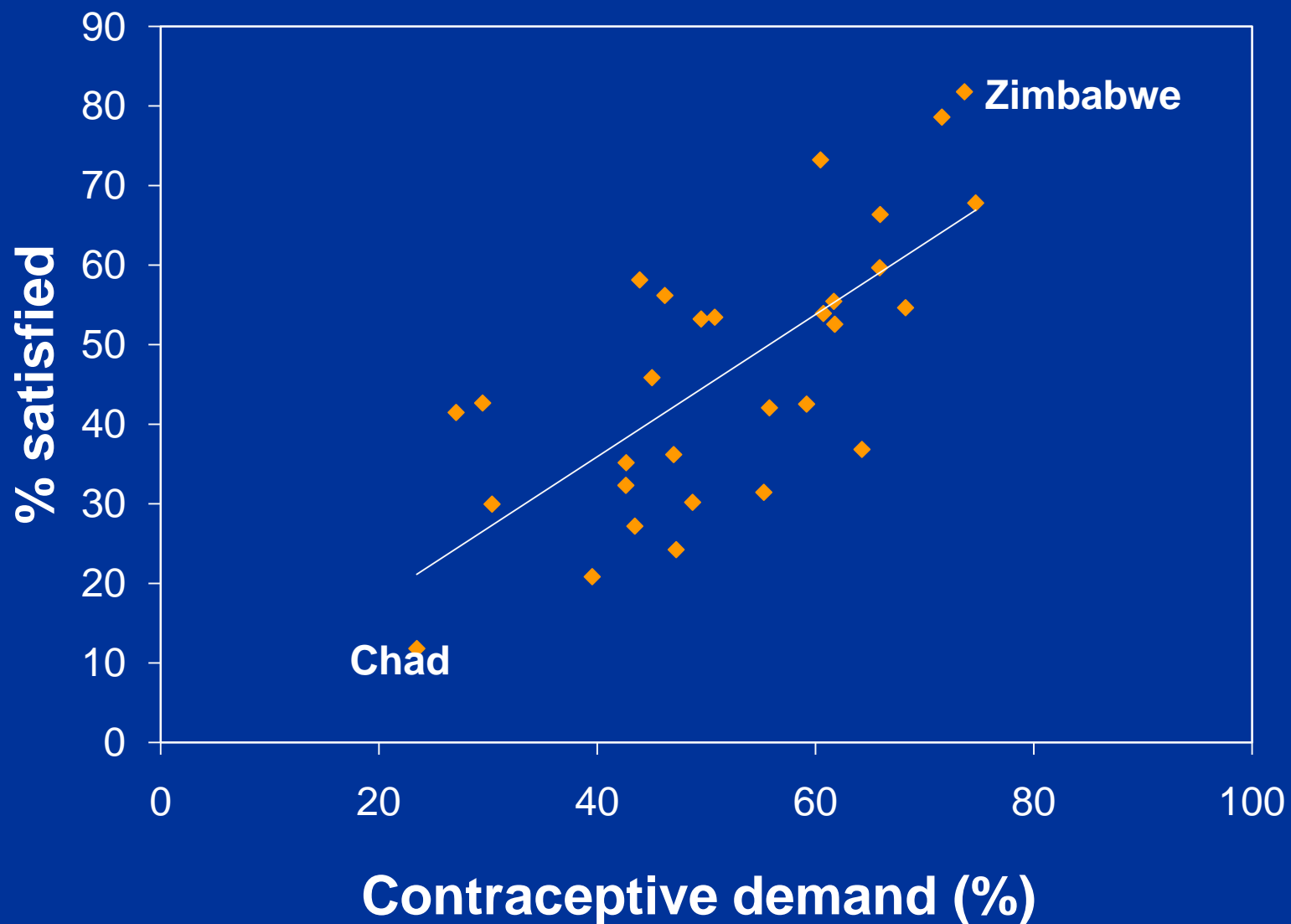
Source DHS

Contraceptive prevalence by demand for contraception



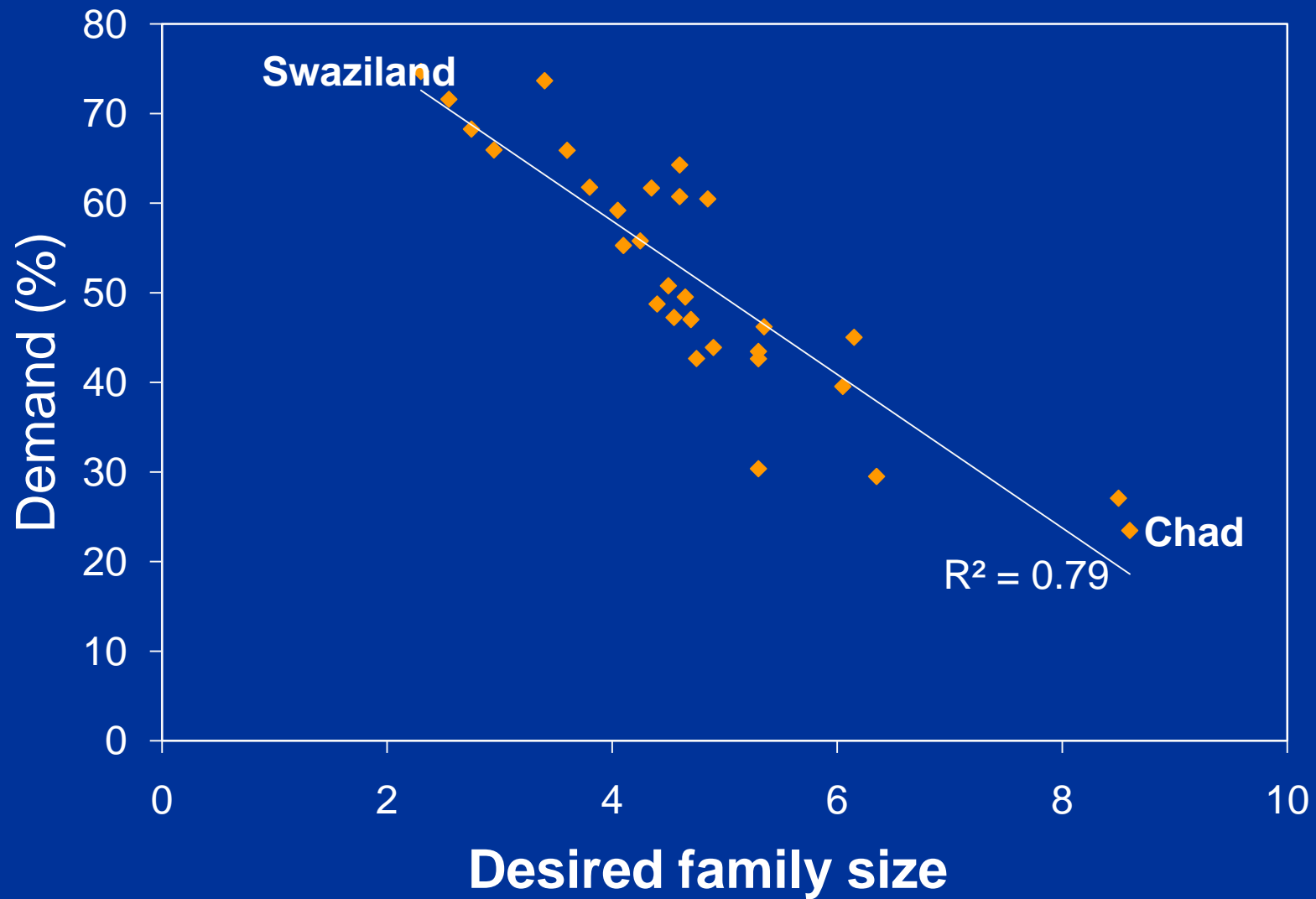
Source: DHS

Percent satisfied by demand for contraception



Source: DHS

Contraceptive demand by desired family size

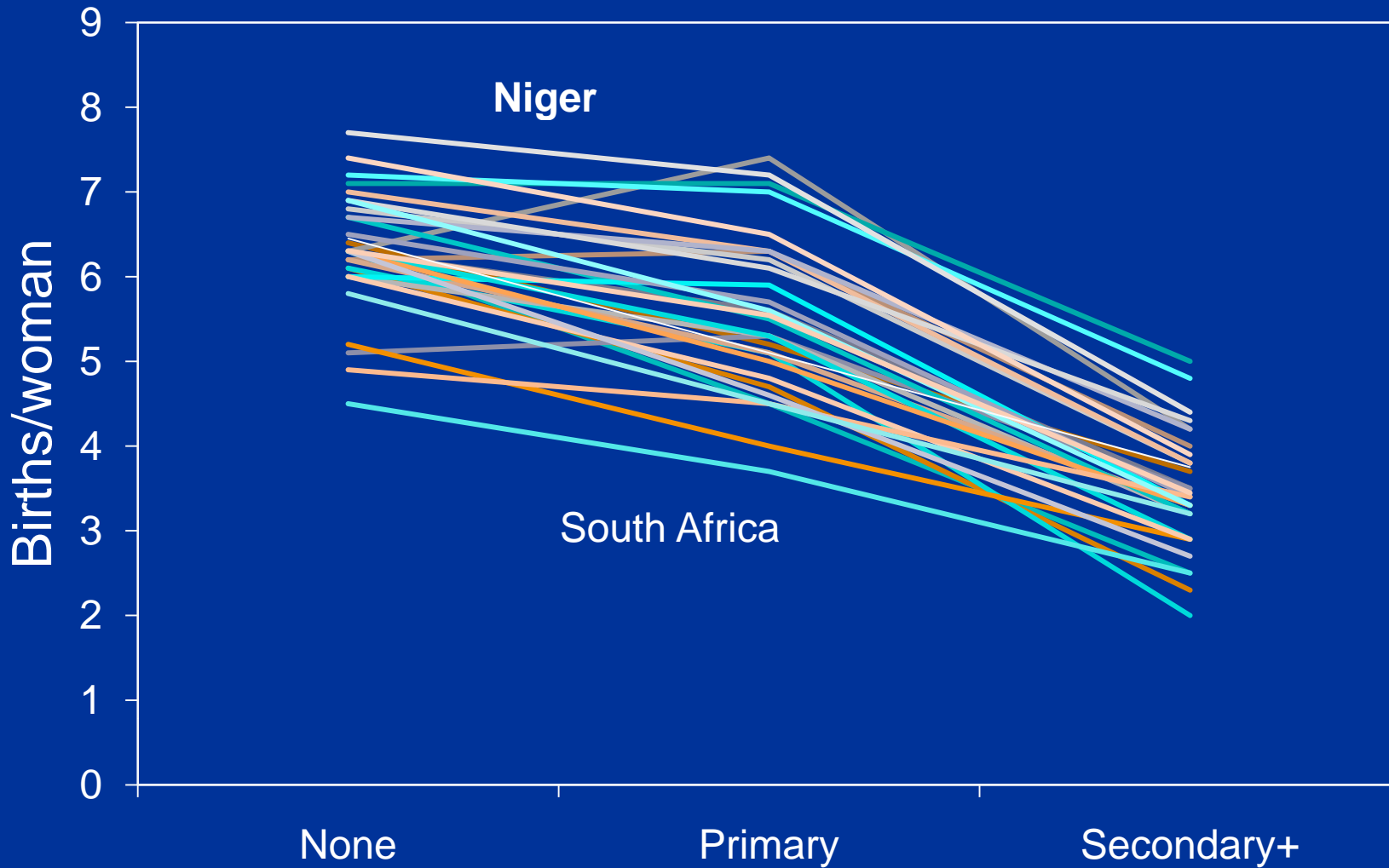


Source: DHS

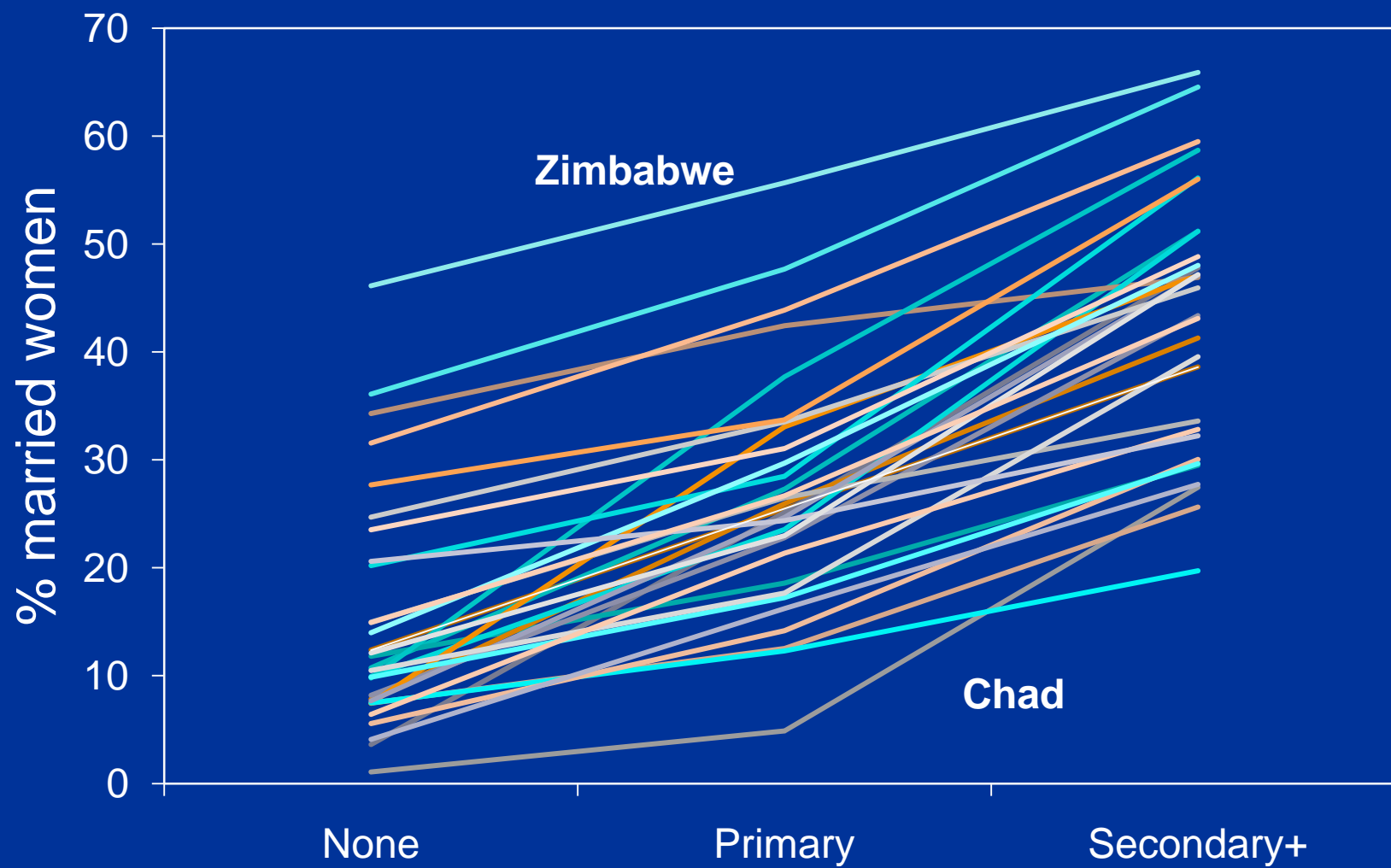
Outline

- 1) Analytic framework
- 2) Educational differences in indicators
- 3) Educational differences in associations between indicators

TFR by education level

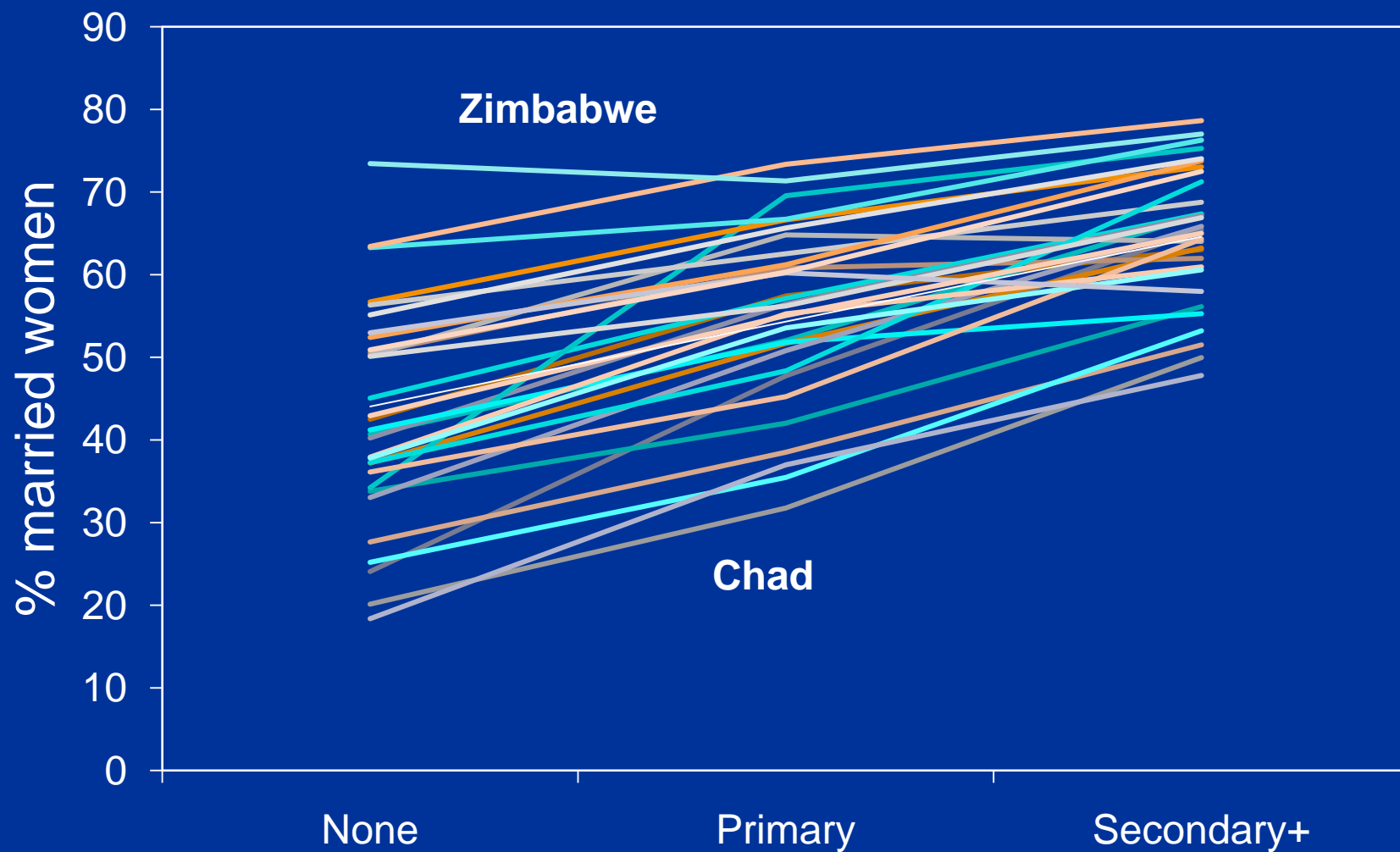


Contraceptive use by education level



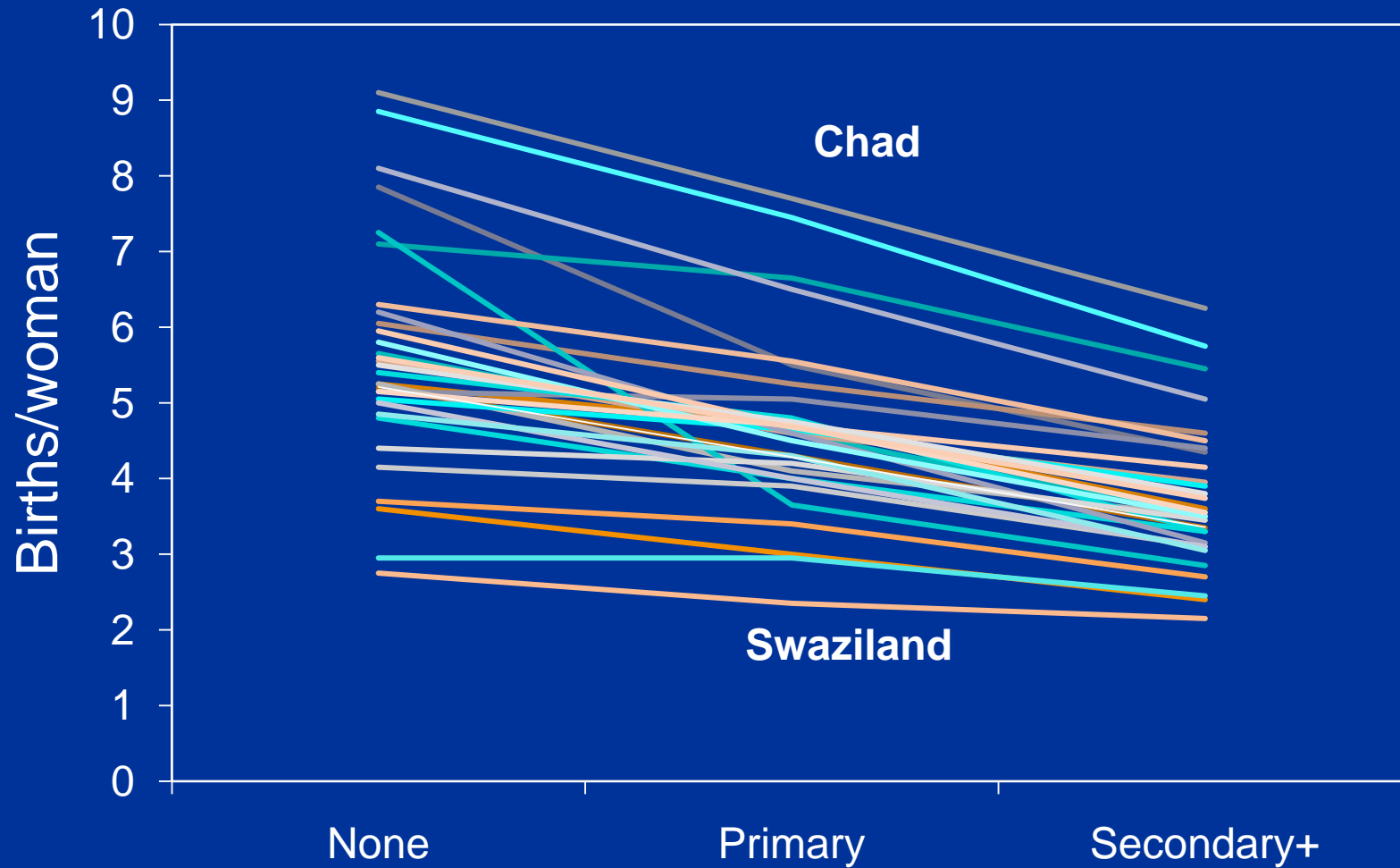
Source: DHS

Contraceptive demand by education level



Source: DHS

Desired family size by education level



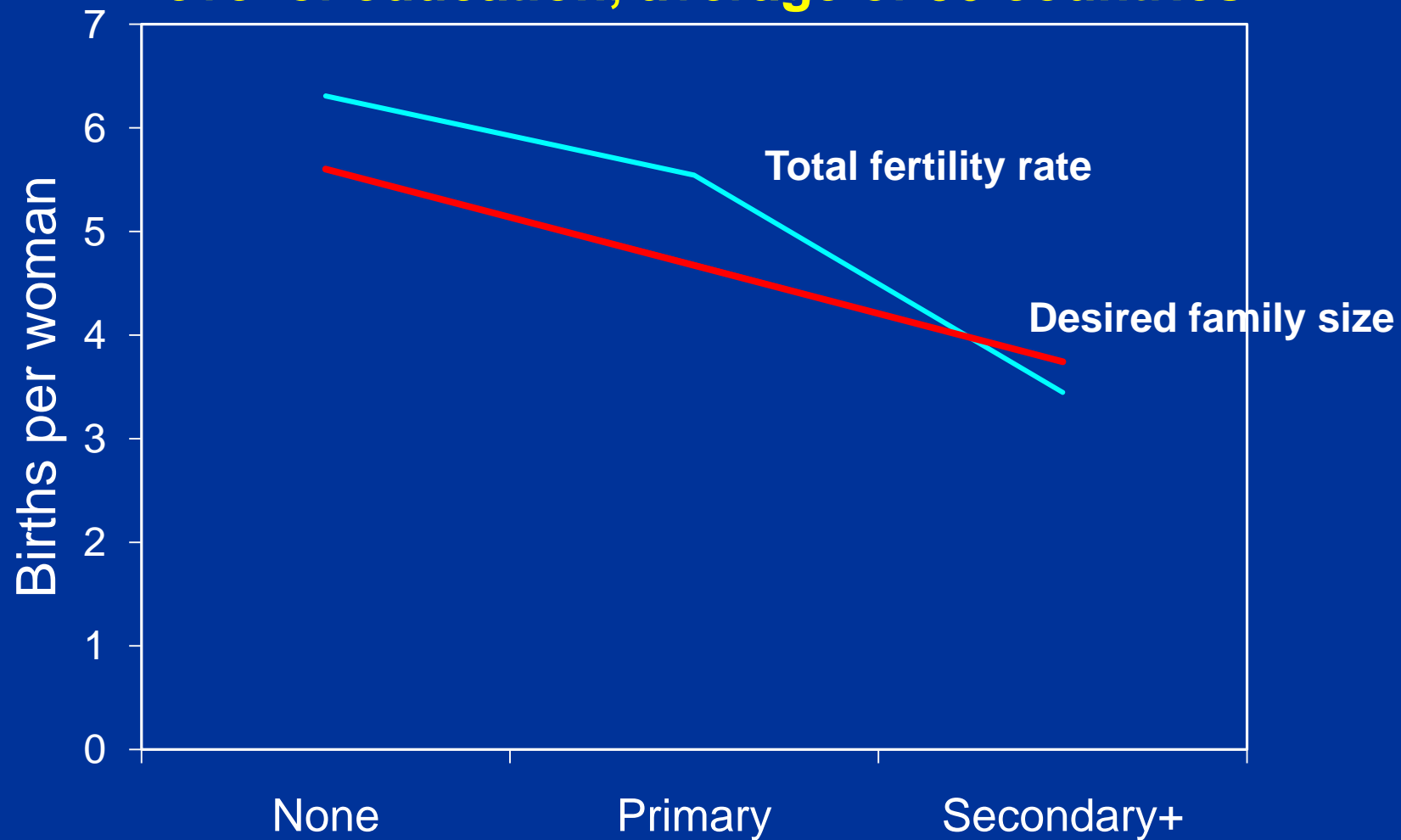
As education level rises

- 1) Desired family size and fertility decline
- 2) Demand for and use of contraception rise

Explanation

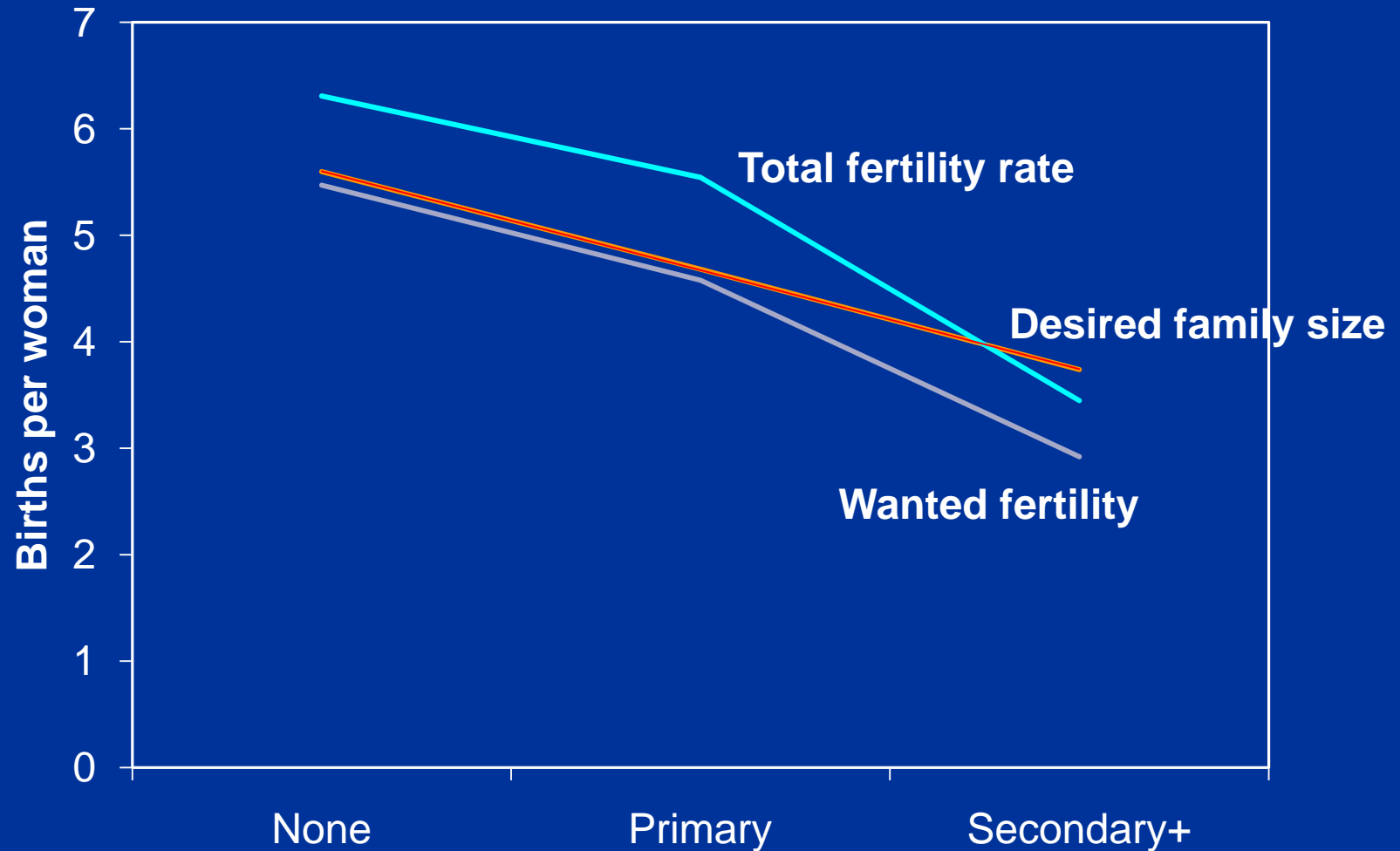
- 1) Costs of childbearing rise
- 2) Benefits decline

Total fertility rate and desired family size by level of education, average of 30 countries



Source: DHS

Total fertility rate and desired family size by level of education, average of 30 countries



As education level rises

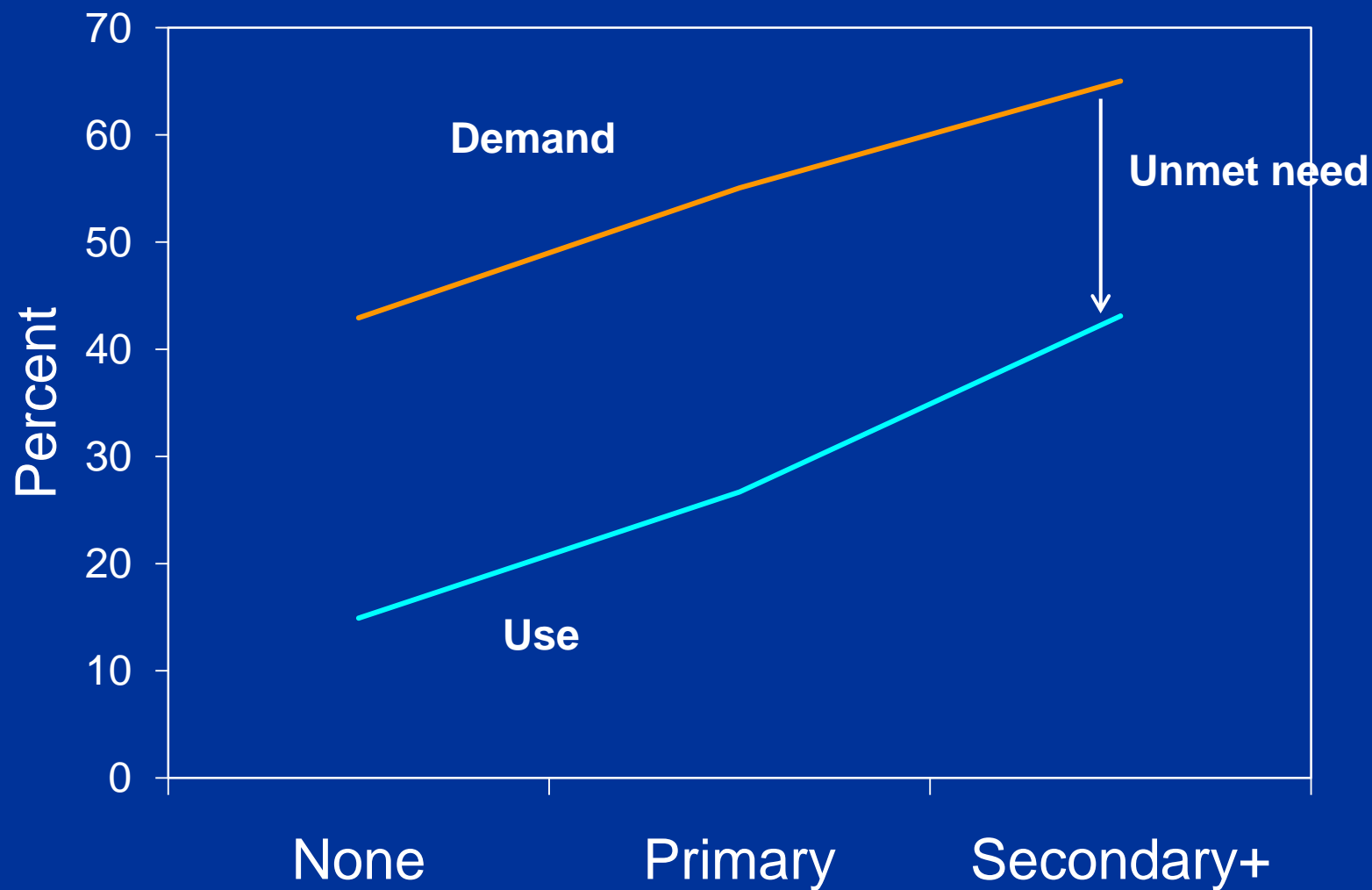
Wanted fertility < desired family size

Explanation

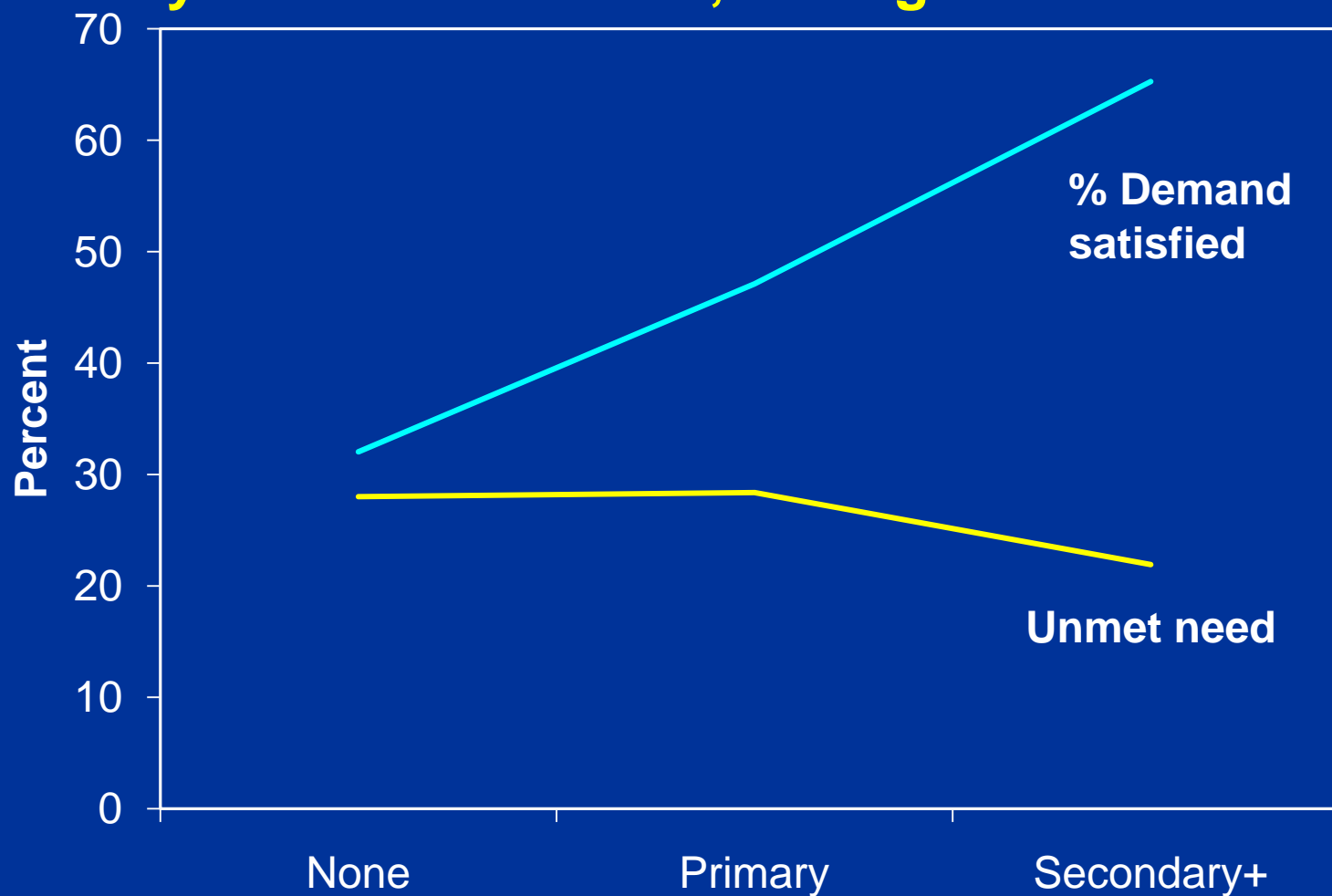
Obstacles to childbearing increase with education

- Economic (direct costs, opportunity costs)
- Social (life style preferences, gender roles, lack of suitable partner, partner preferences)
- Biological (inability to conceive or complete pregnancy)

Demand for and use of contraception by level of education, average of 30 countries



% Demand satisfied and unmet need by level of education, average of 30 countries



Source: DHS

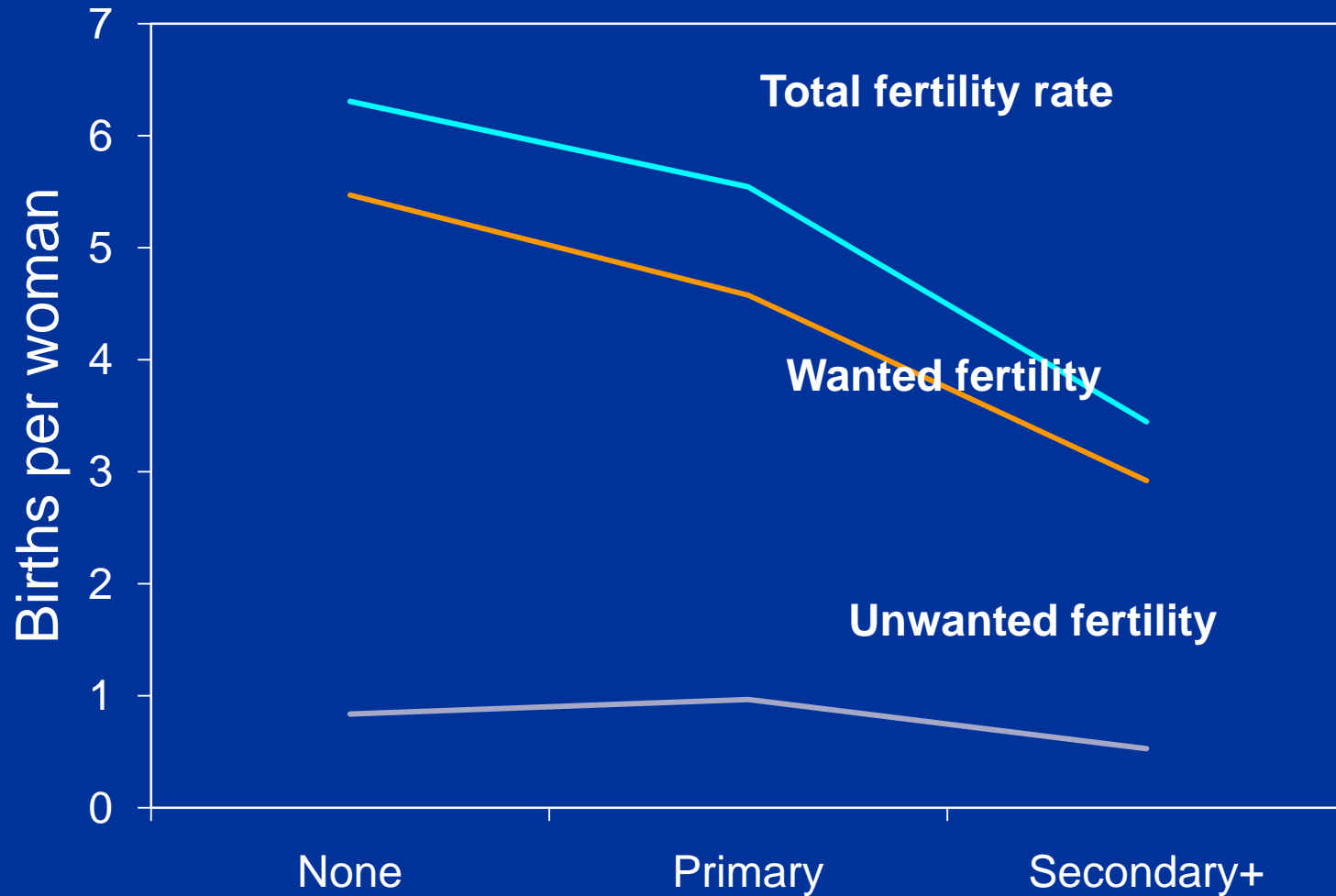
As education level rises

- 1) Unmet need declines
- 2) % satisfied rises

Explanation

- 1) More knowledgeable about contraception
- 2) More autonomous
- 3) Better access to FP services
- 4) Higher cost of unwanted childbearing

Total fertility rate and its wanted and unwanted components by education level, average of 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa



Source: DHS

As education level rises

- 1) Unwanted fertility rises initially

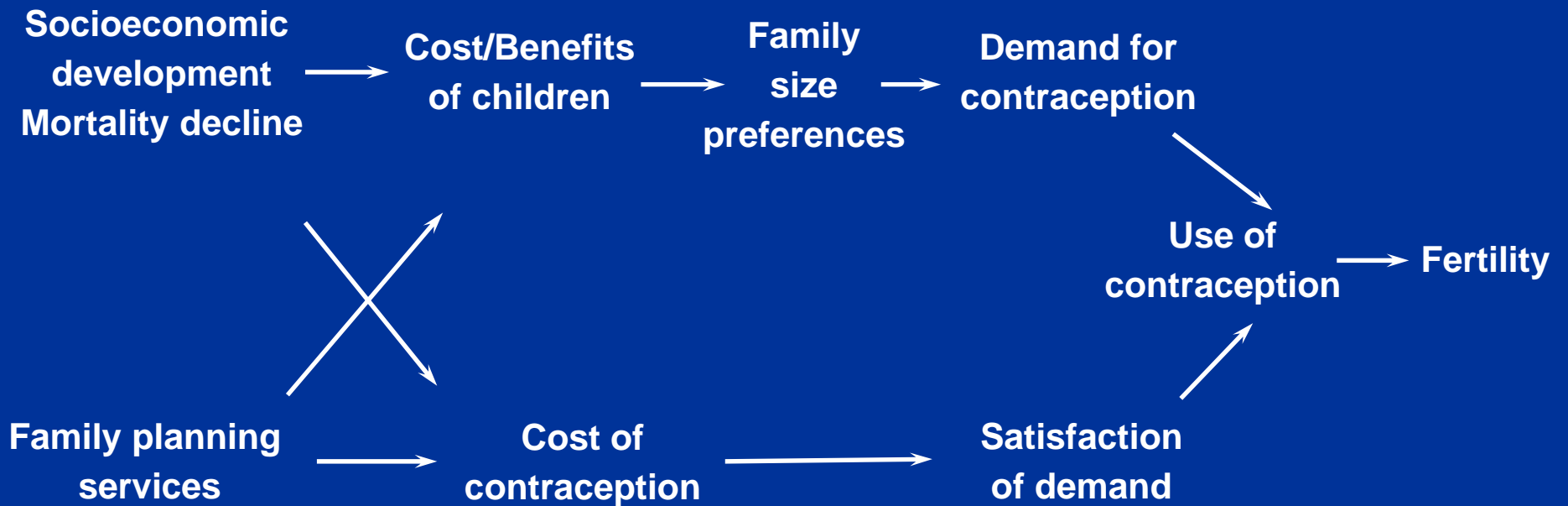
Explanation

- 1) Very high desired family size among women with no education
- 2) Leaves little time for unwanted childbearing even with little contraceptive use

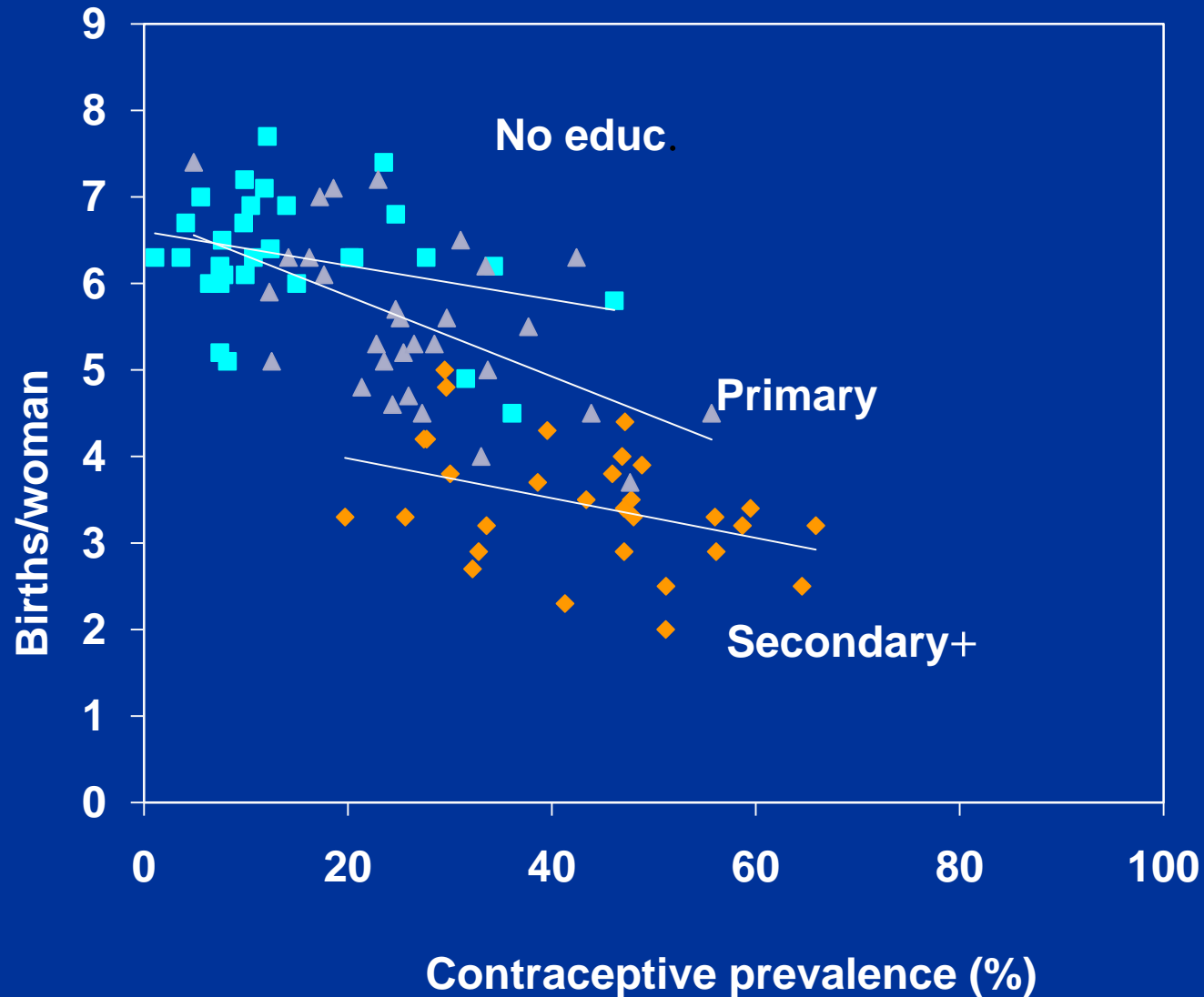
Outline

- 1) Analytic framework
- 2) Educational differences in indicators
- 3) Educational differences in associations between indicators

Determinants of fertility



Total fertility rate by contraceptive prevalence by level of education

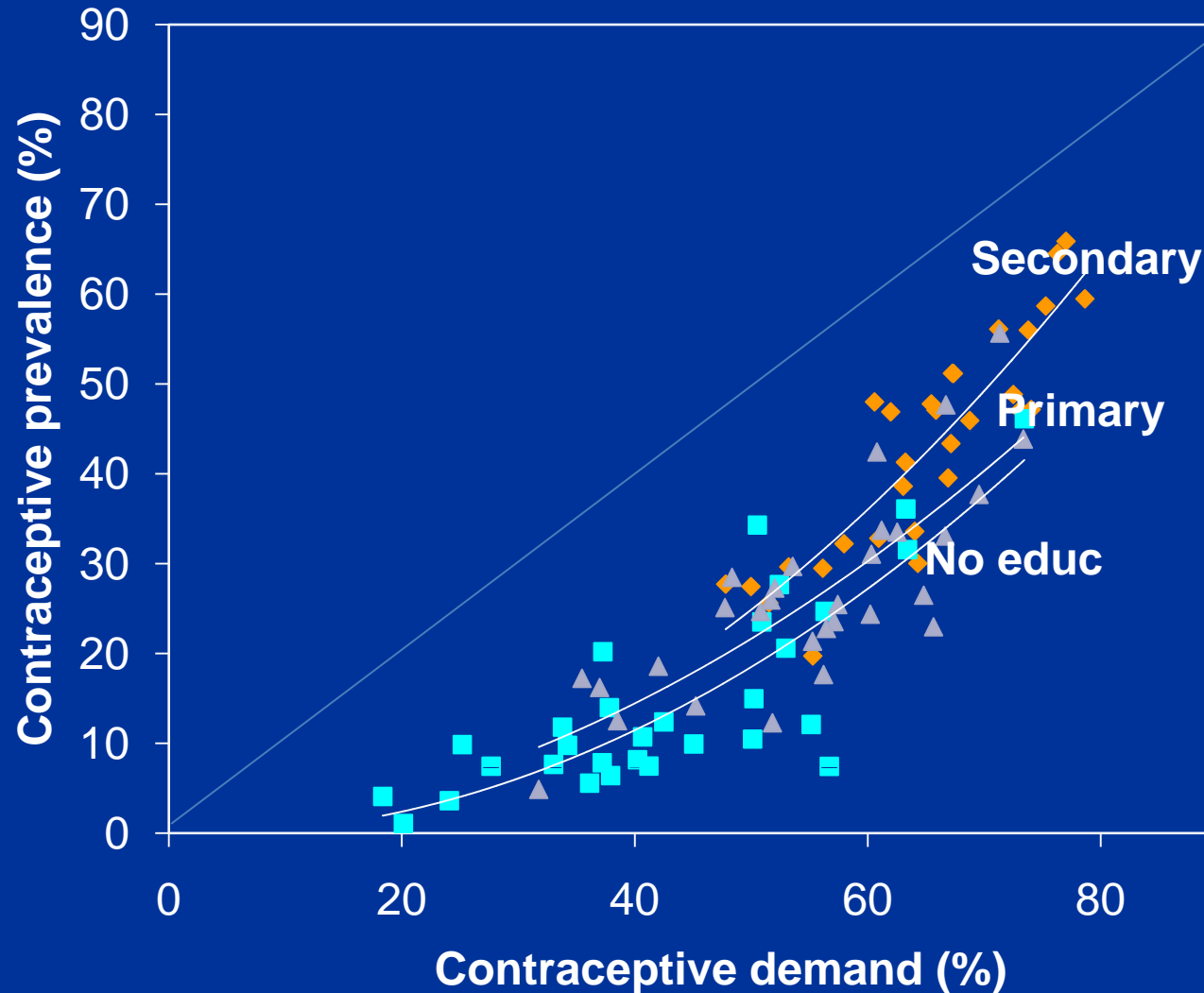


Explanation

As education rises

- 1) Later marriage
- 2) More effective contraception
- 3) Easier access to abortion

Contraceptive prevalence by demand by level of education

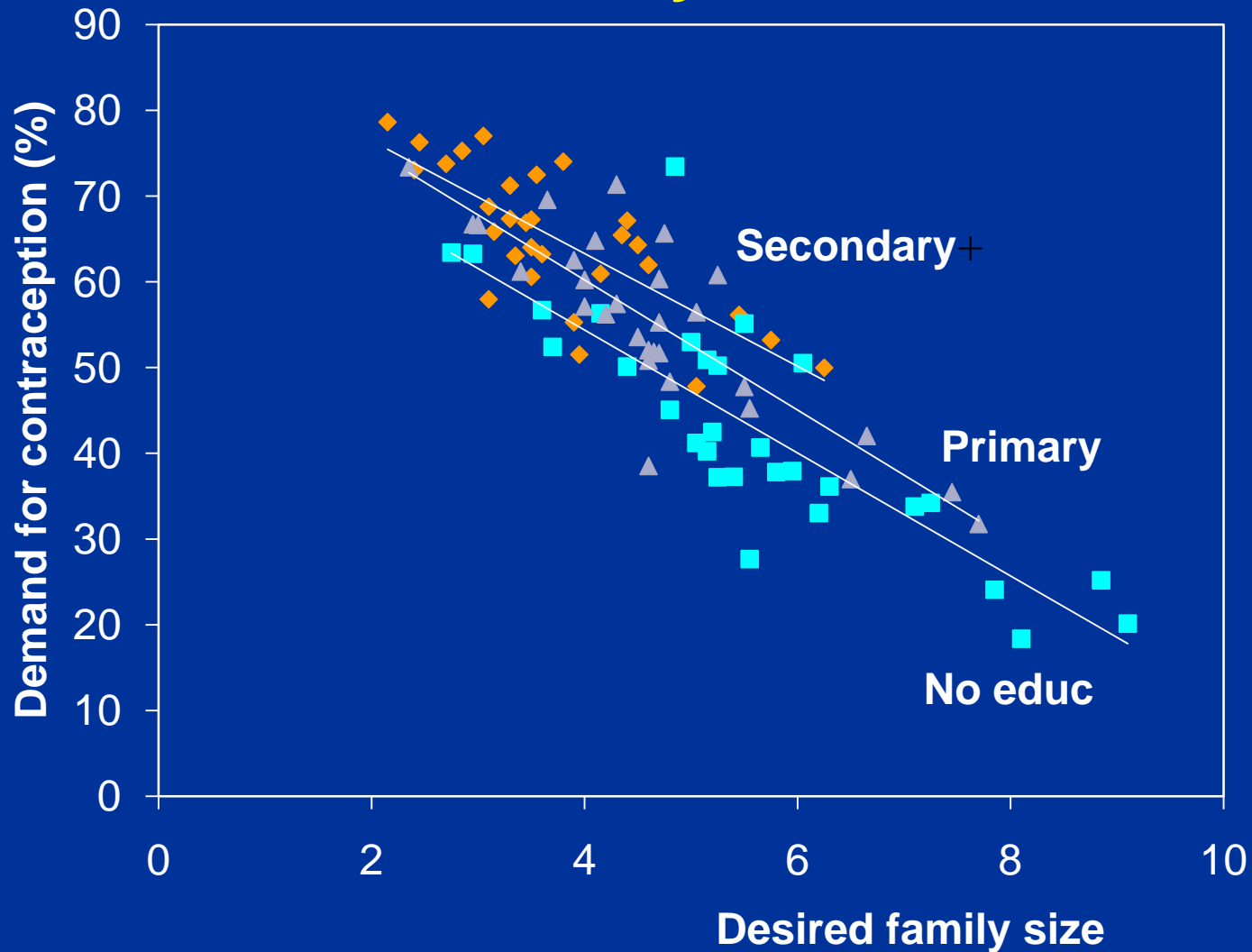


Explanation

As education rises

- 1) More knowledge of contraception
- 2) More autonomy
- 3) Better access to services
- 4) Greater motivation

Demand for contraception by desired family size by level of education

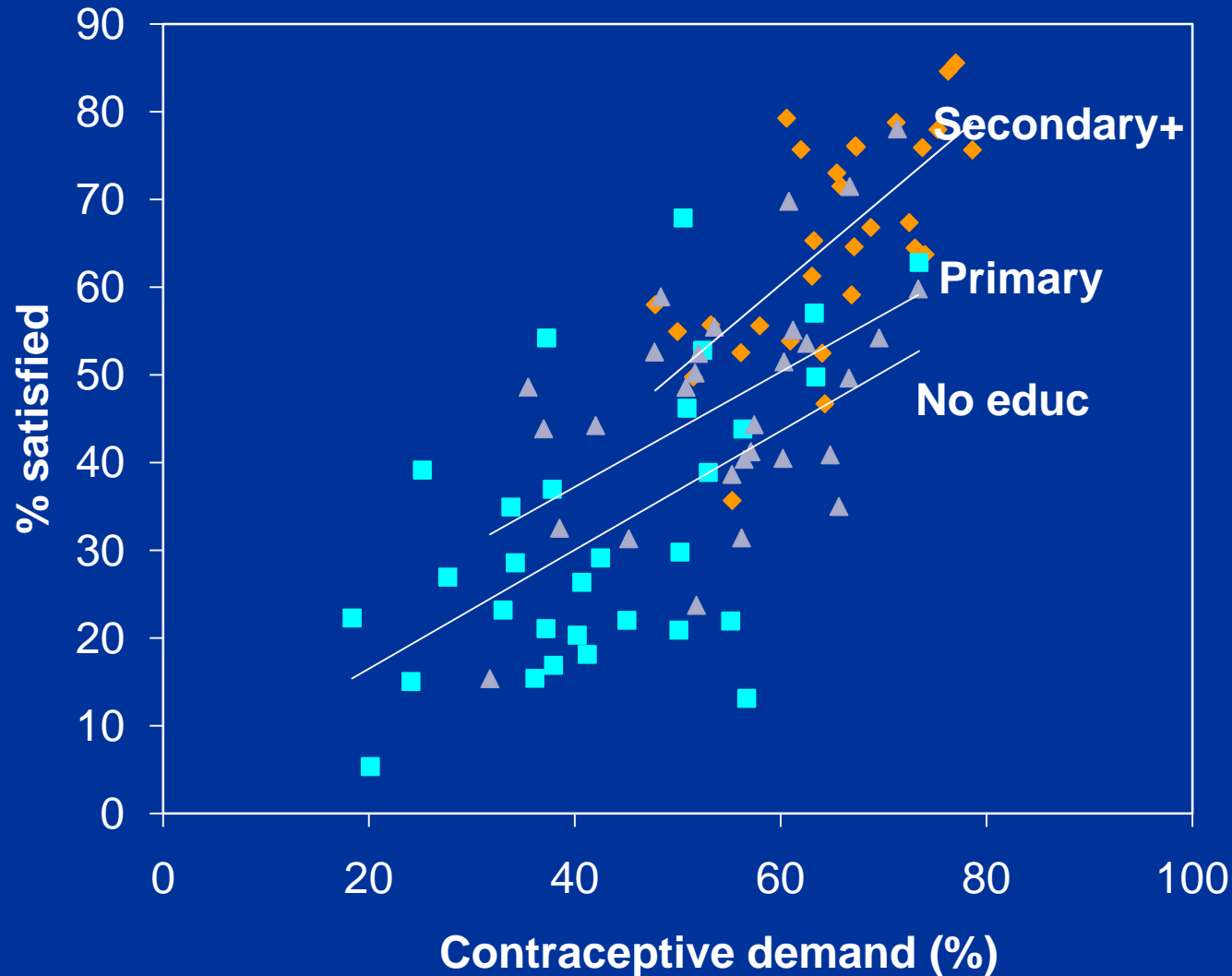


Explanation

As education rises

- 1) Obstacles to childbearing
- 2) Higher cost of unwanted births
- 3) Less breastfeeding

Percent satisfied by demand for contraception by level of education



Explanation

As education rises

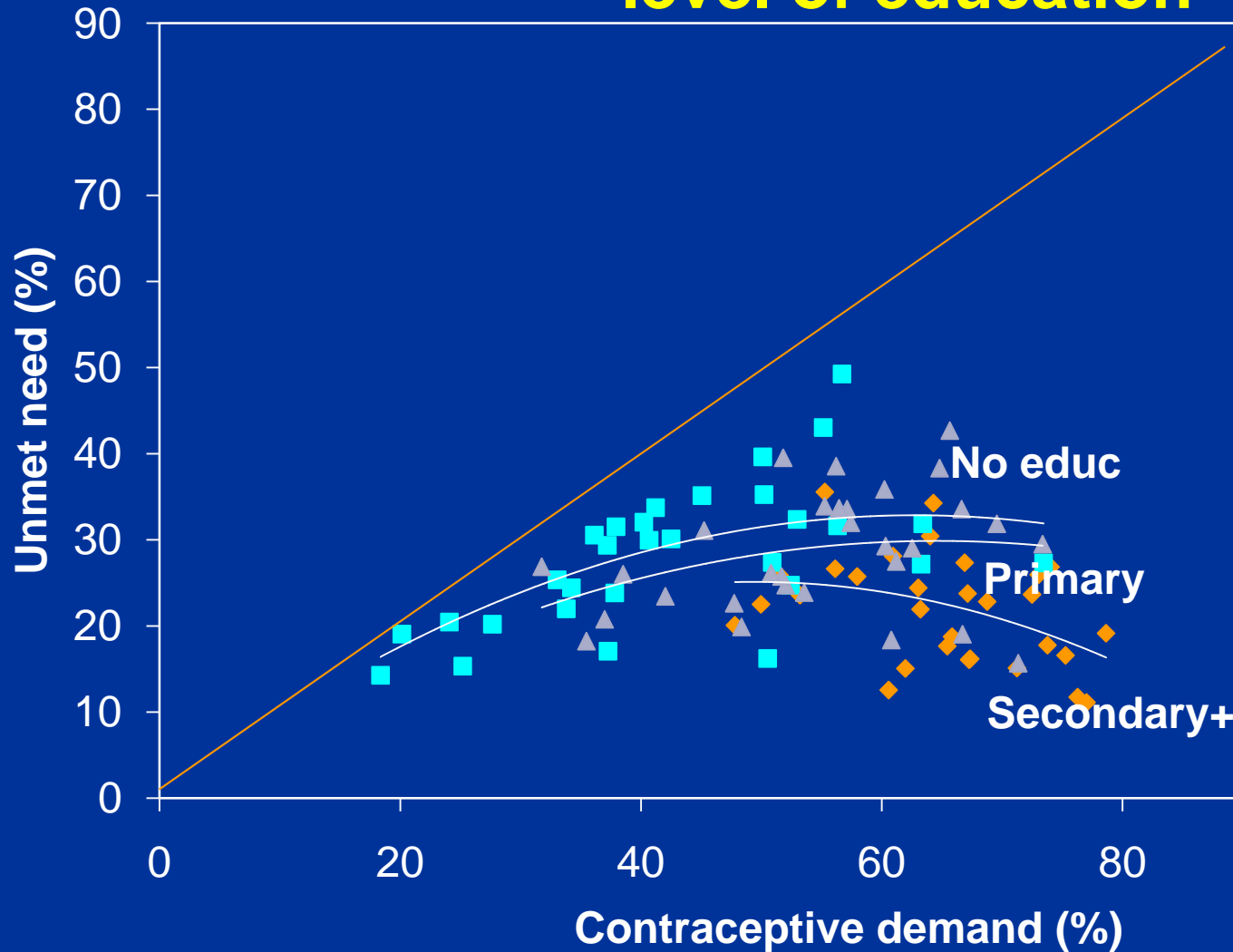
1) More knowledge of contraception

2) More autonomy

3) Better access to services

4) Greater motivation

Unmet need by demand for contraception by level of education



Explanation

As education rises

- 1) More knowledge of contraception
- 2) More autonomy
- 3) Better access to services
- 4) Greater motivation

Conclusions

- 1) Education levels are positively associated with demand and use of contraception and negatively with fertility and desired family size.
- 2) More educated women marry later and less, use contraception more effectively, have more knowledge about and access to contraception, have greater autonomy in reproductive decision making and are more motivated to implement demand because the opportunity costs of unintended childbearing are higher.