

Effect of an expansion in private sector provision of contraceptive supplies on horizontal inequity in modern contraceptive use: evidence from Africa and Asia

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Introduction

- Over the past two decades, demand for family planning has increased dramatically
- But donor resources for family planning have diminished and in some cases, been phased out
- Both trends can threaten the continuation of current levels of contraceptive use and threaten program sustainability

Strategic option: expand role of the private sector

- Advocates
 - Improved efficiency of the private sector
 - Increased mobilization of resources
 - Improved targeting of the poor
- Critics: approach will
 - Not serve the needs of the poor
 - Increase socio-economic disparities

Research question

- Is the expansion of the role of private providers in the delivery of modern contraceptive supplies associated with increased horizontal inequity in modern contraceptive use?



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Definitions

- Horizontal equity – equal contraceptive use for equal need
- Need – Women who prefer to limit or space births
 - Not wanting a child within the next two years and being fecund
- Private sector – private commercial sector only: NGOs, FBOs excluded

Methods

- Multicounty study based on DHS data
- Unit of analysis: women married or living in union
- Inclusion criteria for countries:
 - 3 or more DHS surveys available
 - Private sector supply has expanded
- Study countries: Nigeria, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Indonesia

Methods (2)

- To measure horizontal inequity, we standardized modern contraceptive use for need
- Need standardized contraceptive use is obtained by adding the overall sample mean of the indicator of contraceptive use to the difference between actual and need-predicted contraceptive use (estimated with probit models)
- We then calculated the concentration index of both actual and need-standardized contraceptive use

Methods (3)

- Concentration index provide a means of quantifying the degree of income-related inequality in a health variable



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Results

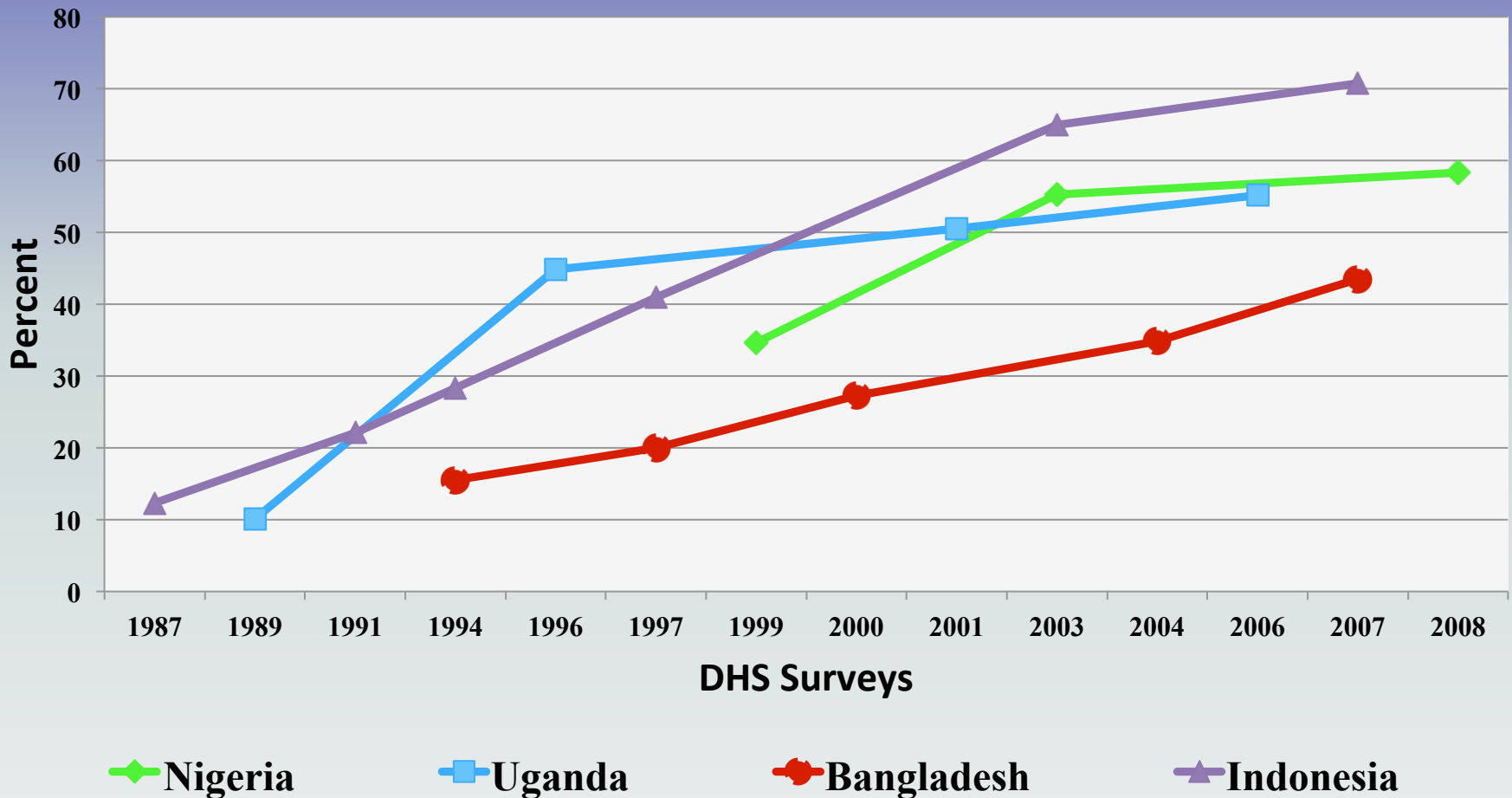


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Percent of women who relied on private sector for modern contraceptives

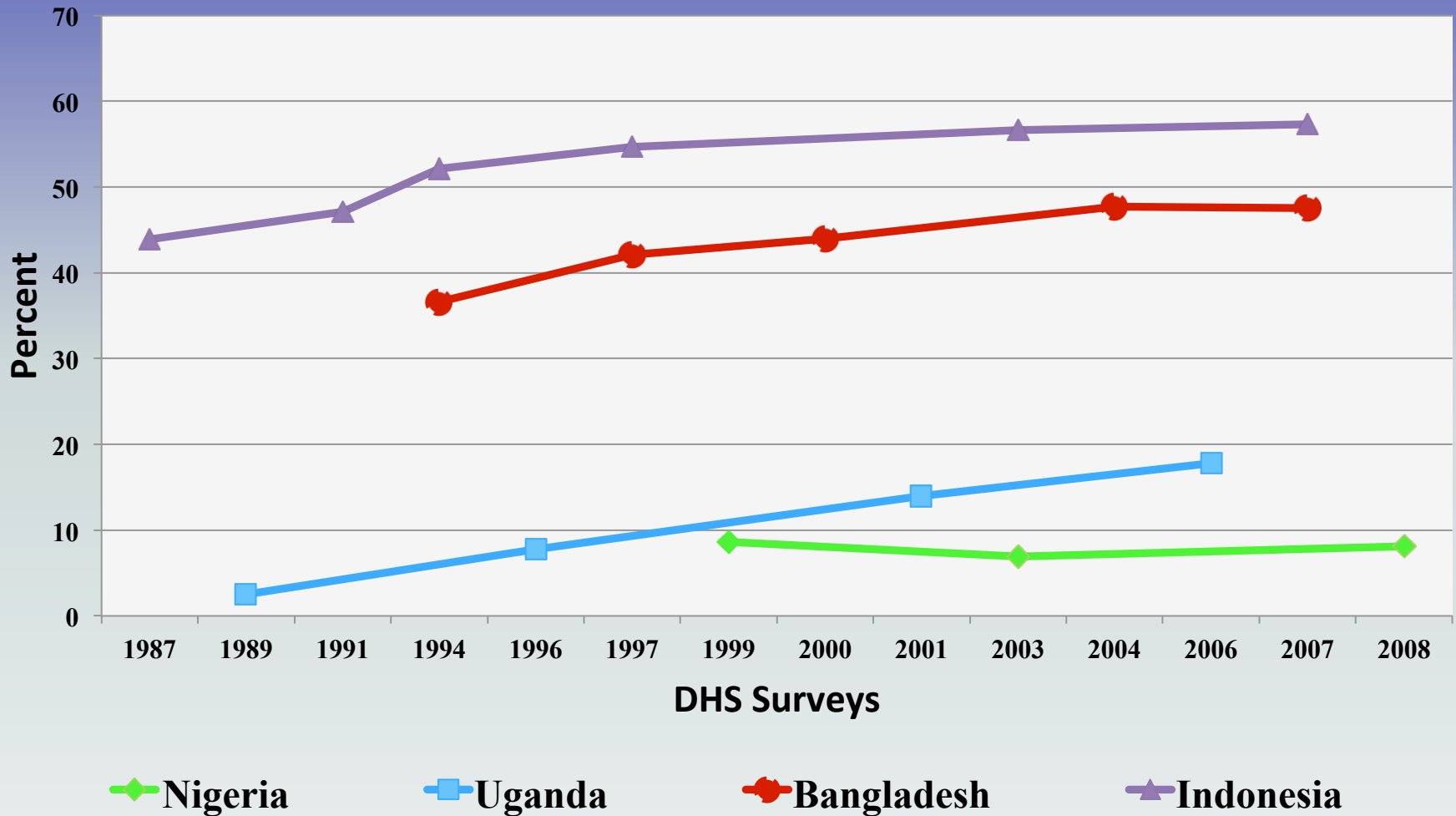


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Trends in modern contraceptive use



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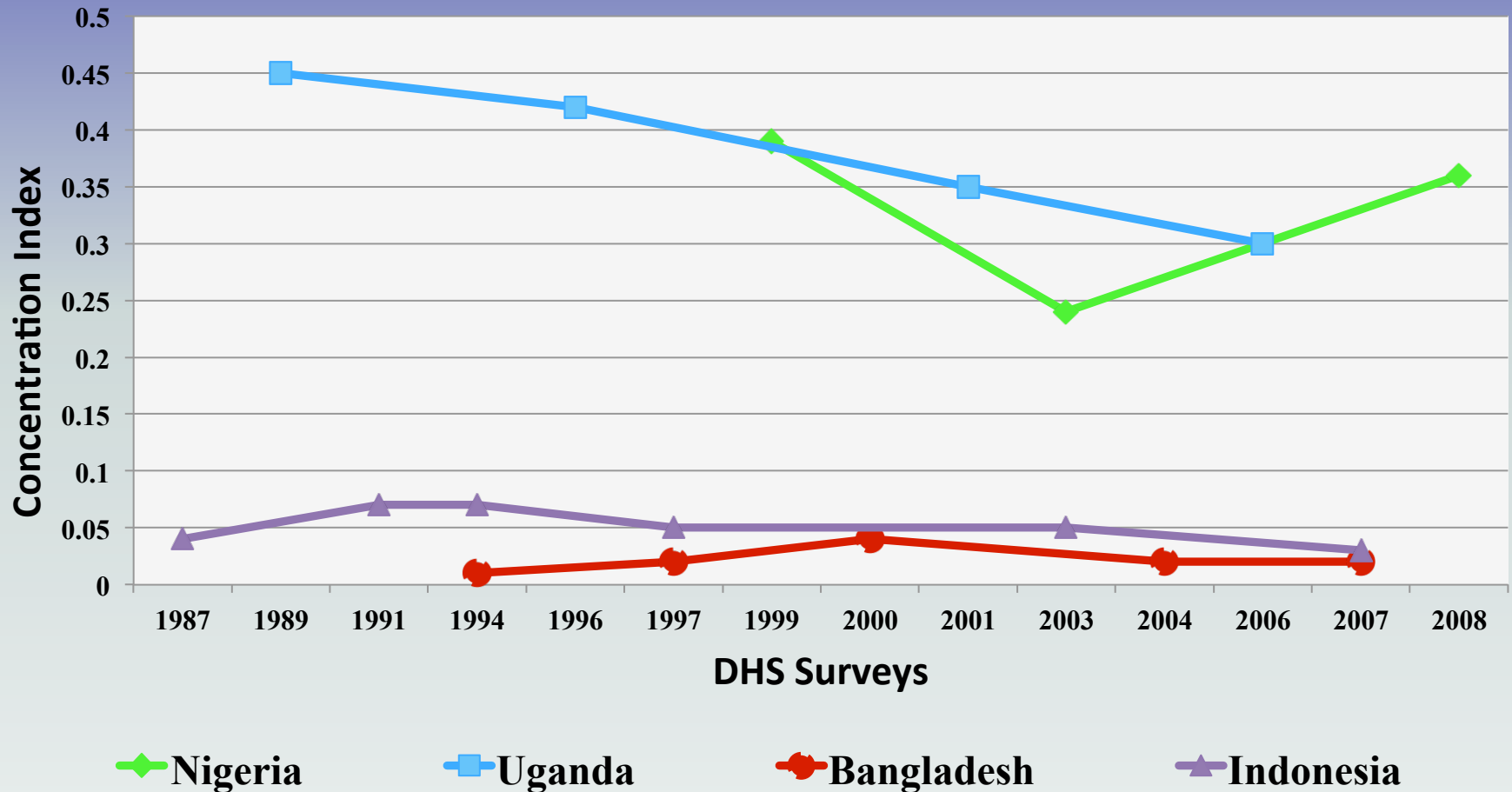


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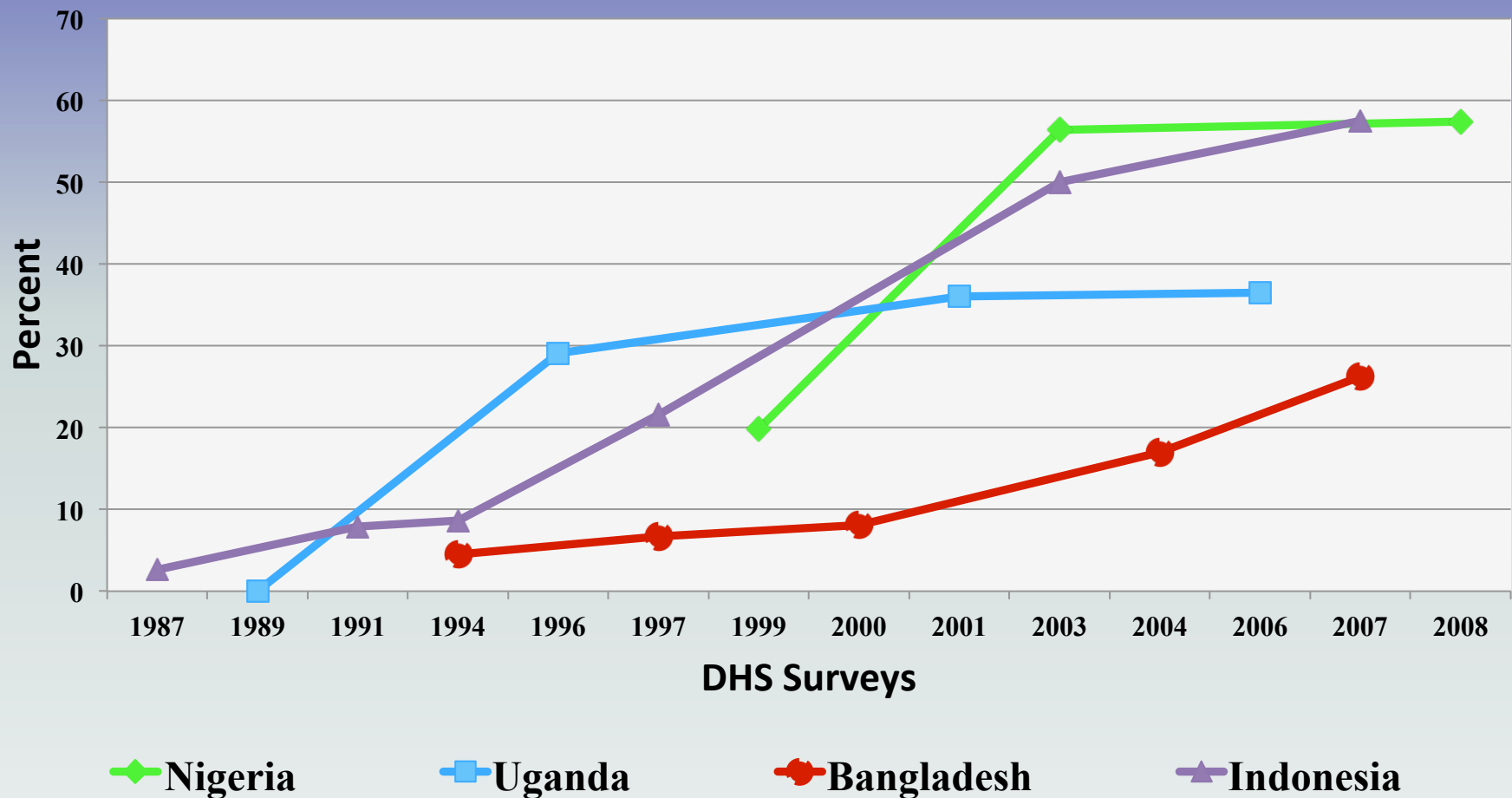
Changes in inequity

- Expansion of the private commercial sector supply of contraceptives in the study countries was not associated with increased inequity
- In Uganda, inequity decreased over time
- In Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, inequity fluctuated

Concentration indices: need-standardized modern contraceptive use over time



Percent of *poor* women who relied on private sector for modern contraceptives



Discussion

- Results do not support the premise that government strategies that promote the role of the private commercial sector lead to inequity
- Private commercial sector can be an important source of supply to poor women without leading to increased inequity in modern contraceptive use

Discussion (2)

- Contextual differences between countries
 - Expansion in private sector supply not always part of an explicit government strategy
 - Role of social marketing in the study countries varied
- No evidence of improved targeting of the poor by public sector
- Methodological contribution: study controls for need

Thank you!



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