



The Impact of HIV/AIDS on NGOs and Population Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Introduction

- The global AIDS pandemic affects sub-Saharan Africa more severely than any other region: $\frac{2}{3}$ of those infected globally live in sub-Saharan Africa, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of annual AIDS-related deaths occur there
- African countries, however, have widely varying HIV prevalence rates, ranging from close to zero (e.g., Comoros, Madagascar, Somalia) to over 20% (e.g., Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland)
- Not surprisingly, HIV has impacted non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social policies, particularly population policies
- There is, however, less variation in the impact of the HIV epidemic on NGOs and on social policies than in HIV prevalence
- This lack of variation is due largely to the influence of donor organizations and funding streams on NGOs and policies

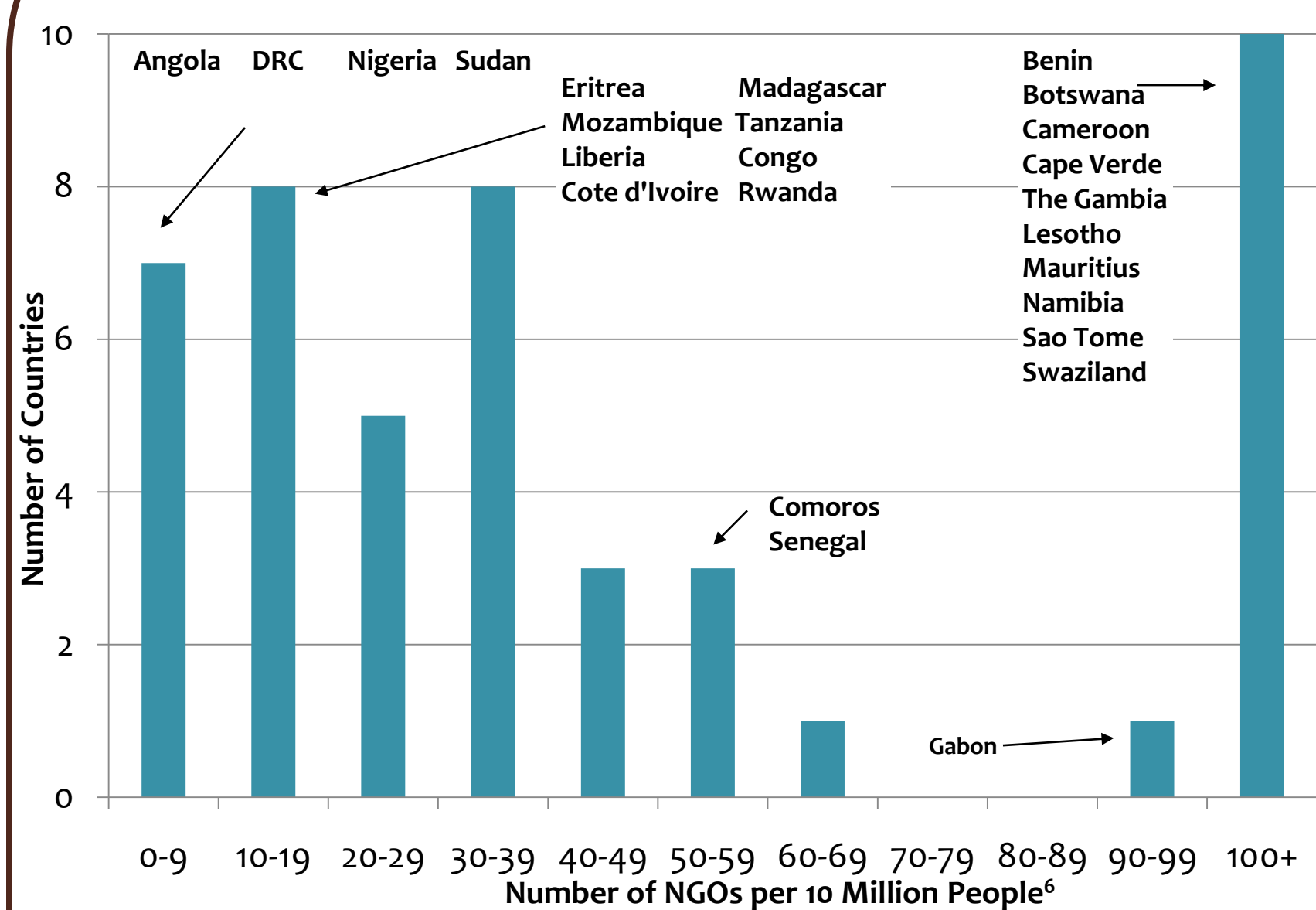
Background

- There is concern that the rising importance of HIV has negatively impacted the provision of family planning services worldwide, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa
 - Between 1992 and 2003, the percentage of donor funds for population and health directed towards HIV/AIDS increased from 7.7% to 35.1%, and the percentage that went to population activities declined from 32.1% to 8.0%¹
 - Family planning movement insiders have cited HIV/AIDS as competing with family planning for donor attention and commitment²
- Funding for HIV-related activities frequently swamps other expenditures
 - In Tanzania, more than half of health spending goes towards HIV/AIDS³
 - From 2003-05 in Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda, donors committed more funds for HIV/AIDS than each government's entire health budget¹

NGOs and Policies in Africa

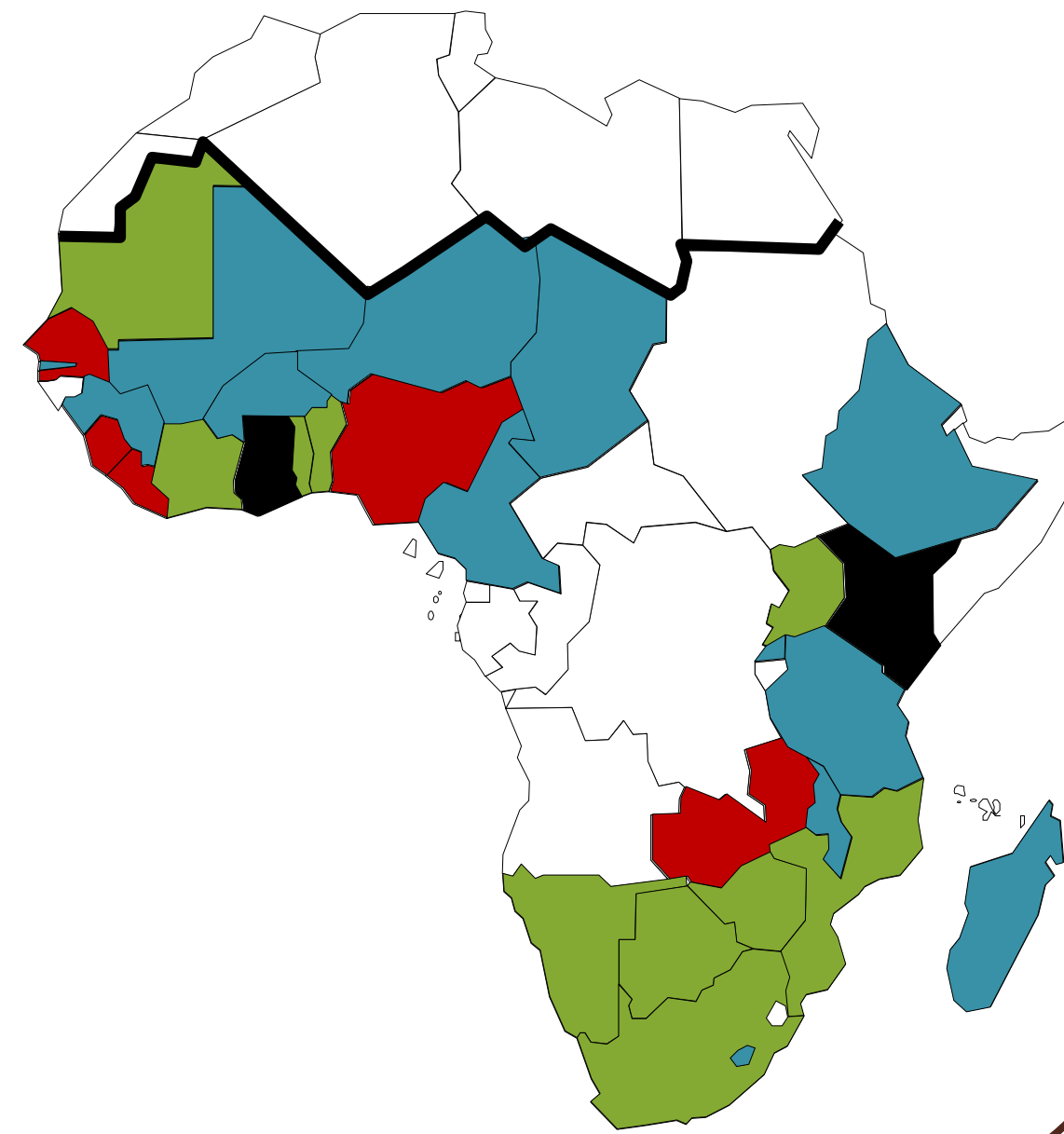
- Most countries have thriving NGO sectors that began to develop in the 1980s because⁴:
 - Donors sought alternatives to governments they perceived as corrupt
 - Social welfare infrastructure collapsed due to growing debt and reforms associated with neoliberalization
- Countries with greater numbers of NGOs are richer, have had fewer wars, and are less ethnolinguistically diverse⁵
- Two thirds of countries have national population policies, most adopted since 1988⁴
 - These policies are designed to slow population growth through lowered fertility
 - Countries without war, with greater levels of World Bank debt, and that sign international treaties are more likely to have population policies
 - Countries with population policies have experienced greater fertility declines than those without such policies

Distribution of NGOs, 2003



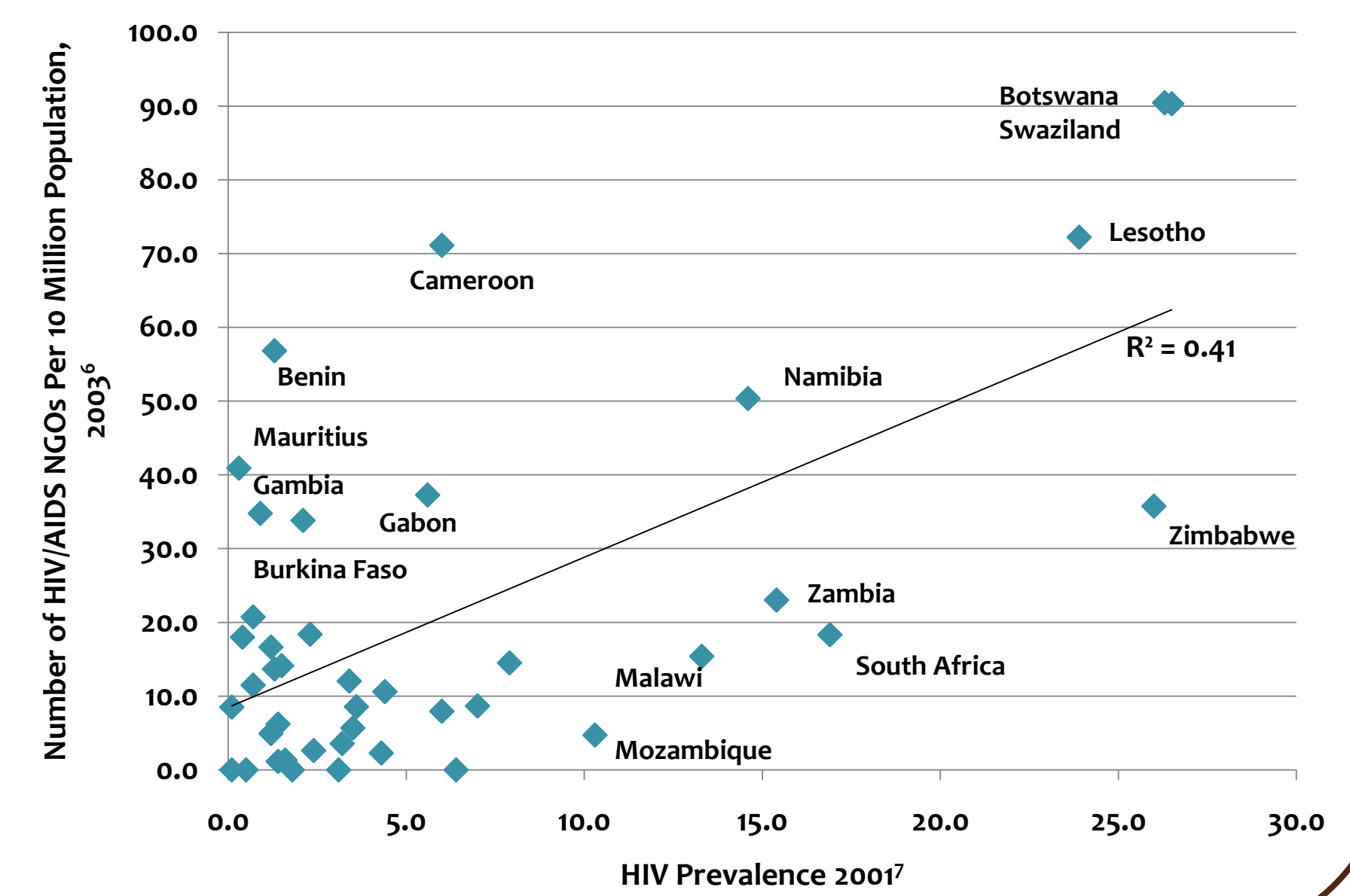
Population Policy Timing

- 1965-69: 2 countries
- 1985-89: 5 countries
- 1990-94: 13 countries
- 1995-99: 12 countries

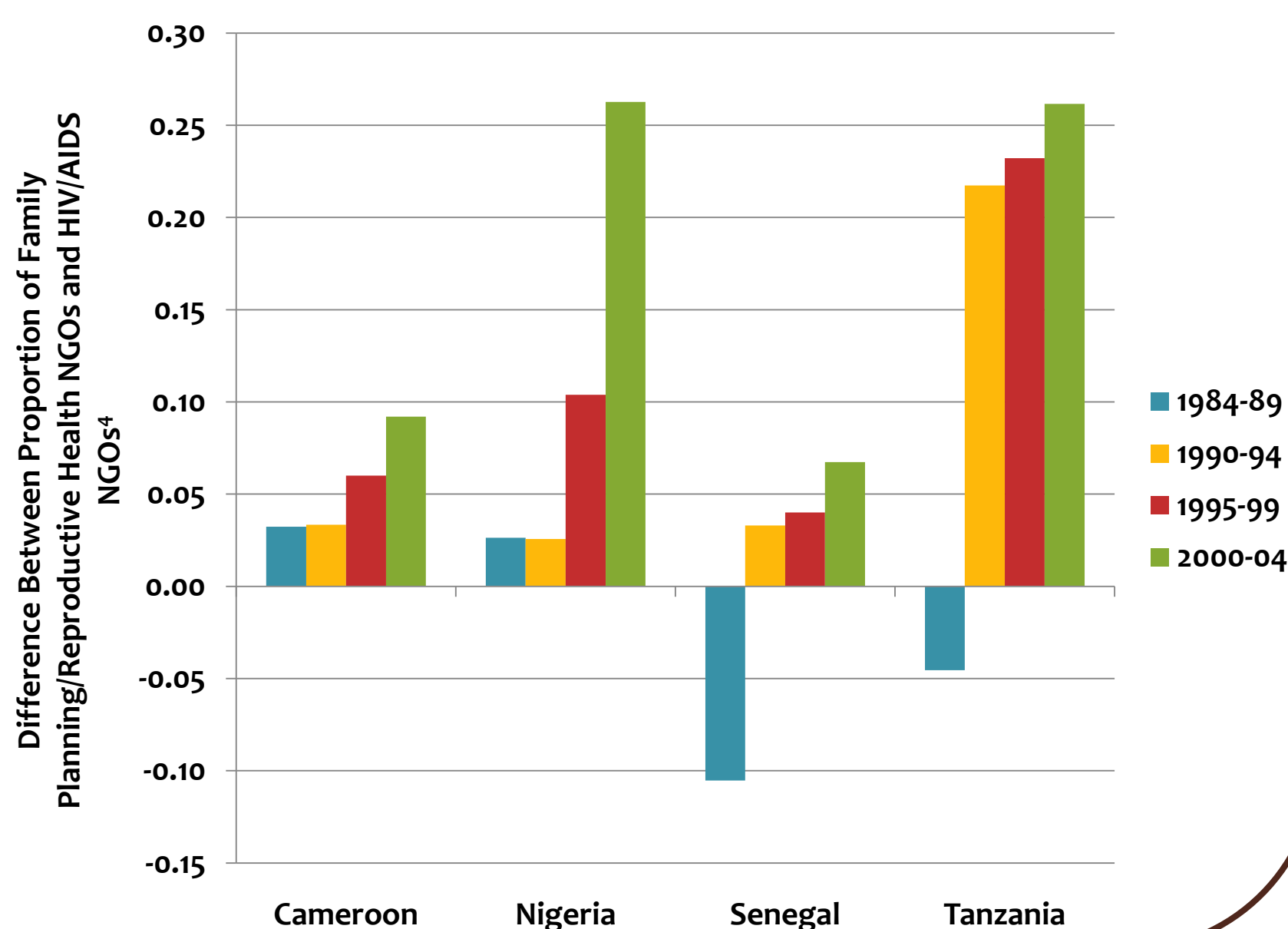


Source: Sullivan 2007

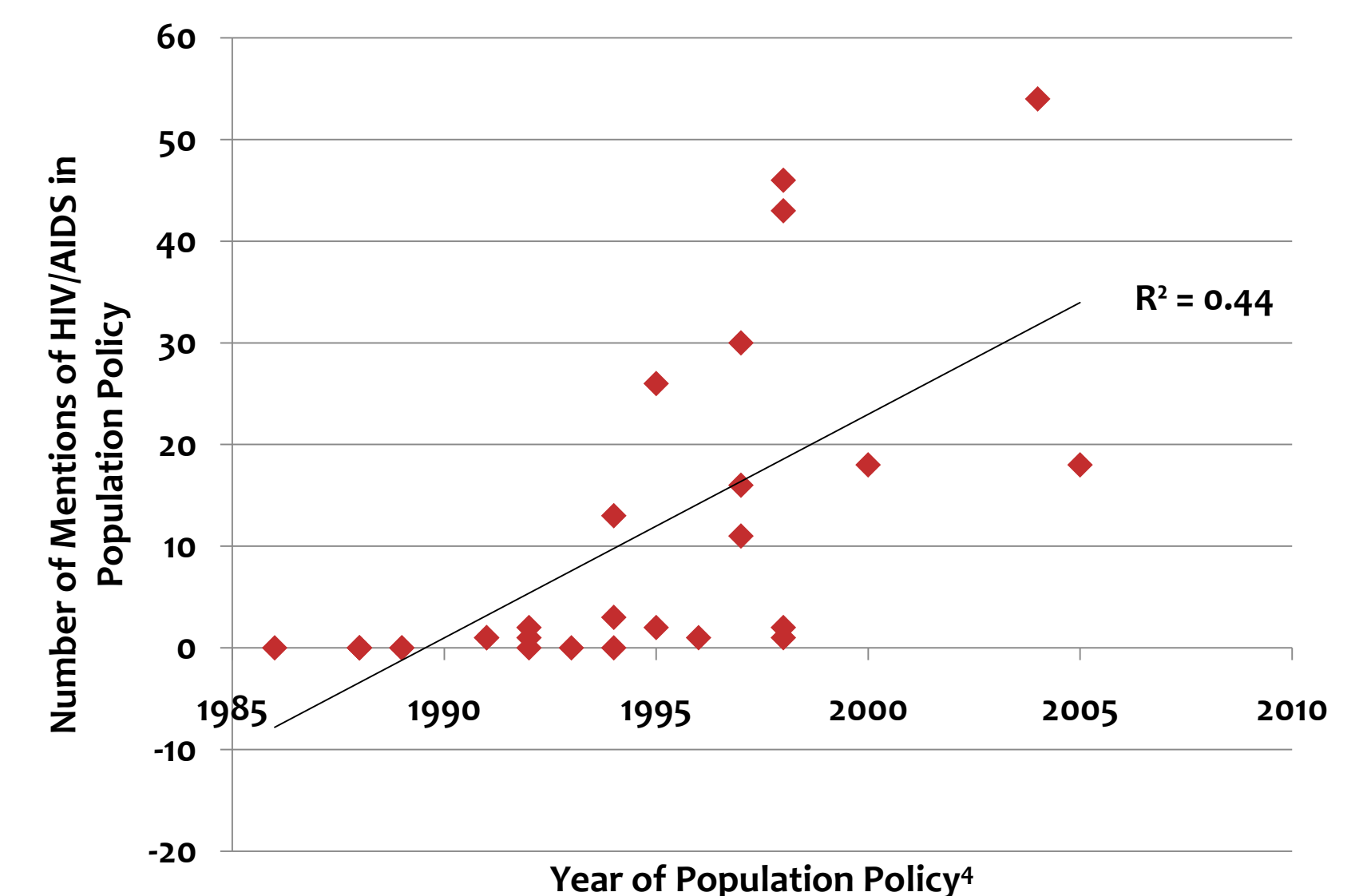
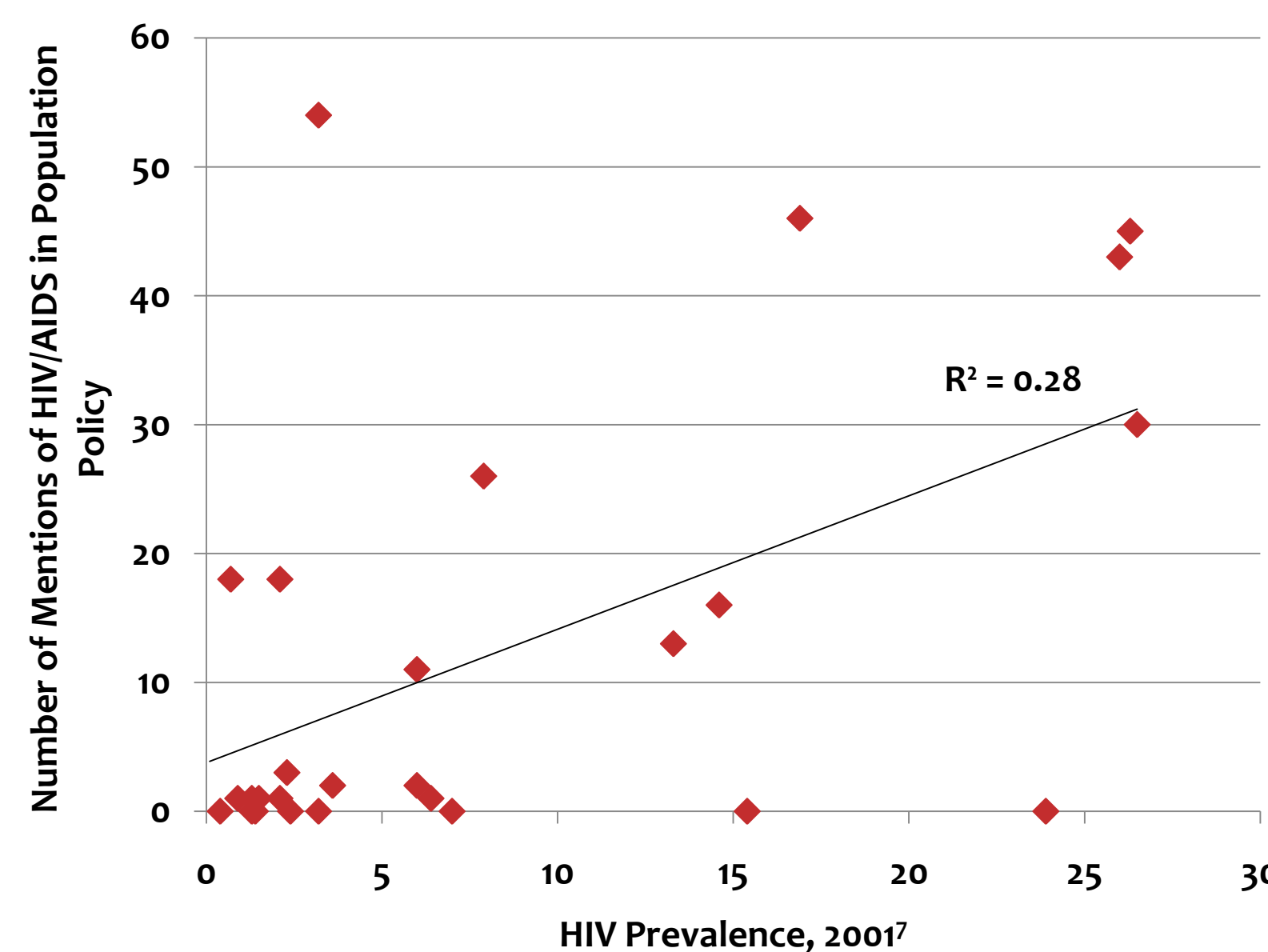
HIV Prevalence vs. HIV/AIDS NGOs



Increasing Predominance of HIV/AIDS NGOs Over Time



Mentions of HIV/AIDS in Population Policies



Population Policy Texts

- Policies discuss HIV/AIDS in terms of its impact on population growth and other sectors:
 - The goal of health for all by the year 2000 is becoming difficult to achieve as demand for services and manpower is ever increasing, a situation worsened by the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS/STI. – Zimbabwe (1998, p.5)
- Many also link HIV/AIDS to undesirable sex at young ages:
 - The high incidence of teenage pregnancies contributes to the high fertility profile and also encourages the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, because of their [sic] exposure to sexually transmitted diseases. – Namibia (1997, p.14)
- A few population policies also discuss integration of family planning and HIV/AIDS services:
 - HIV and AIDS prevention measures are an important aspect of reproductive health to be included in counselling with educational service provided as part of family planning service delivery. – Malawi (1994, p. 26)

Conclusions

- Countries with higher HIV prevalence also have more HIV-oriented NGOs
- Many countries with low HIV prevalence also have lots of HIV-oriented NGOs, and the balance between family planning NGOs and HIV/AIDS NGOs has tipped towards HIV/AIDS NGOs
- Discussion of HIV has been added to population policies as time has progressed and HIV epidemics have intensified
- Inclusion of HIV in population policies is, for the most part, not deeply integrated, but is most often “tacked on,” usually to discussions of sexually transmitted infections
- It is necessary to pay continued attention to the emphasis placed on HIV/AIDS so that other pertinent health issues, such as maternal mortality and family planning, are not neglected

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