

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Young People in Sri Lanka

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Outline

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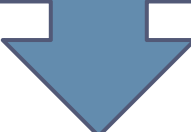


Background

Youth are an important asset in realizing a country's development aspirations



Youth demand better and quality employments, better education and skills training, better health, better living conditions, improved infrastructures and ICT facilities



A monitoring and evaluation framework is essential to have youth development efforts on track and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is one of the best frameworks



Millennium Development Goals for youth

Conventional MDGs

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Promote Gender Equity and Empower Women
- Reduce Child Mortality
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Customizing
to Sri Lankan
youth

Youth MDGs

- Productive employment for youth
 - Education for youth
 - Healthy youth for development
 - Gender equality and empowering young women
 - Youth and environment
 - Infrastructure and ICT for youth
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Institutional setup and policy context: some important milestones

A National Youth Services Council (NYSC) has been in existence since 1969 and was strengthened through the National Youth Services Act 69 of 1979.

A Ministry of Youth was also established in 1979, and a Presidential Commission on Youth was appointed in 1989

The government also launched the “Tharuna Aruna” programme in 1997 to provide subsidy to private sector to hire graduate among other things. A National Youth Corps was established in 2003.

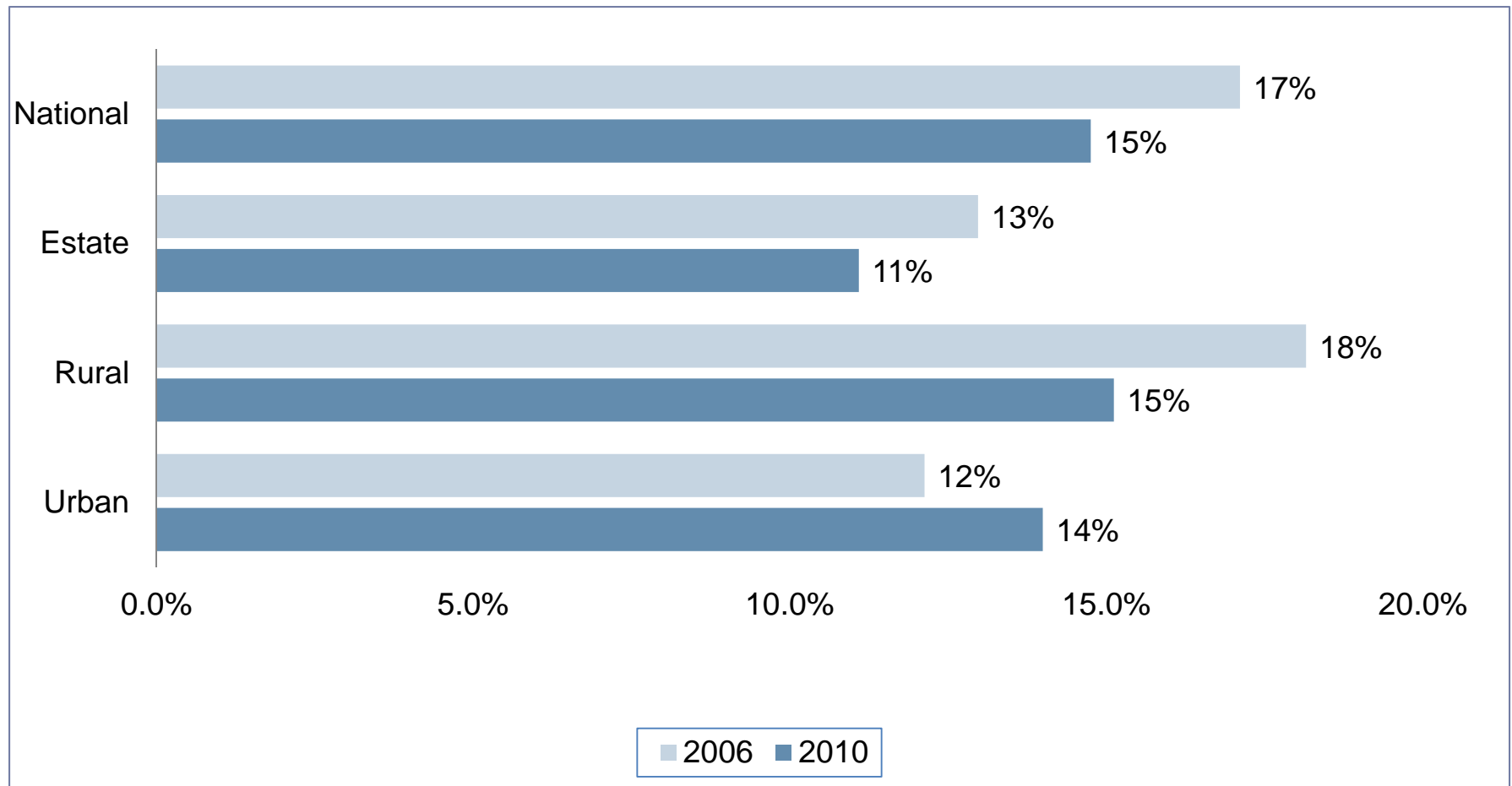
Today, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development (MYASD) is leading the youth development initiatives with the support of 17 affiliated institutions.

MYASD was successful in initiating the second term of the Sri Lanka youth parliament and the Sri Lanka Youth policy passed the draft stage and waiting to be approved by the cabinet



Achievement of youth MDGs: Productive employment for youth

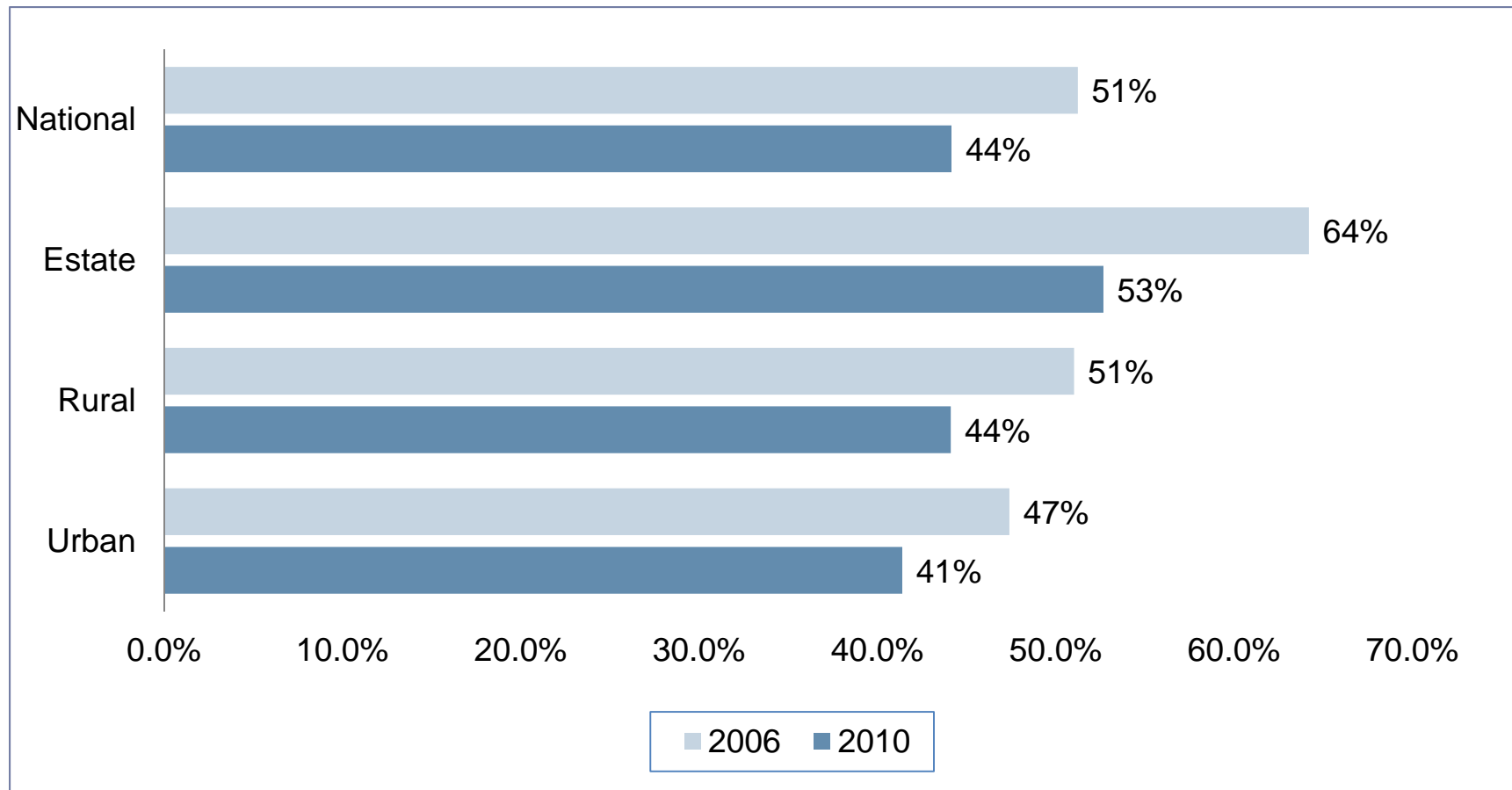
Youth unemployment rates



Source: State of the Economy, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Productive employment for youth

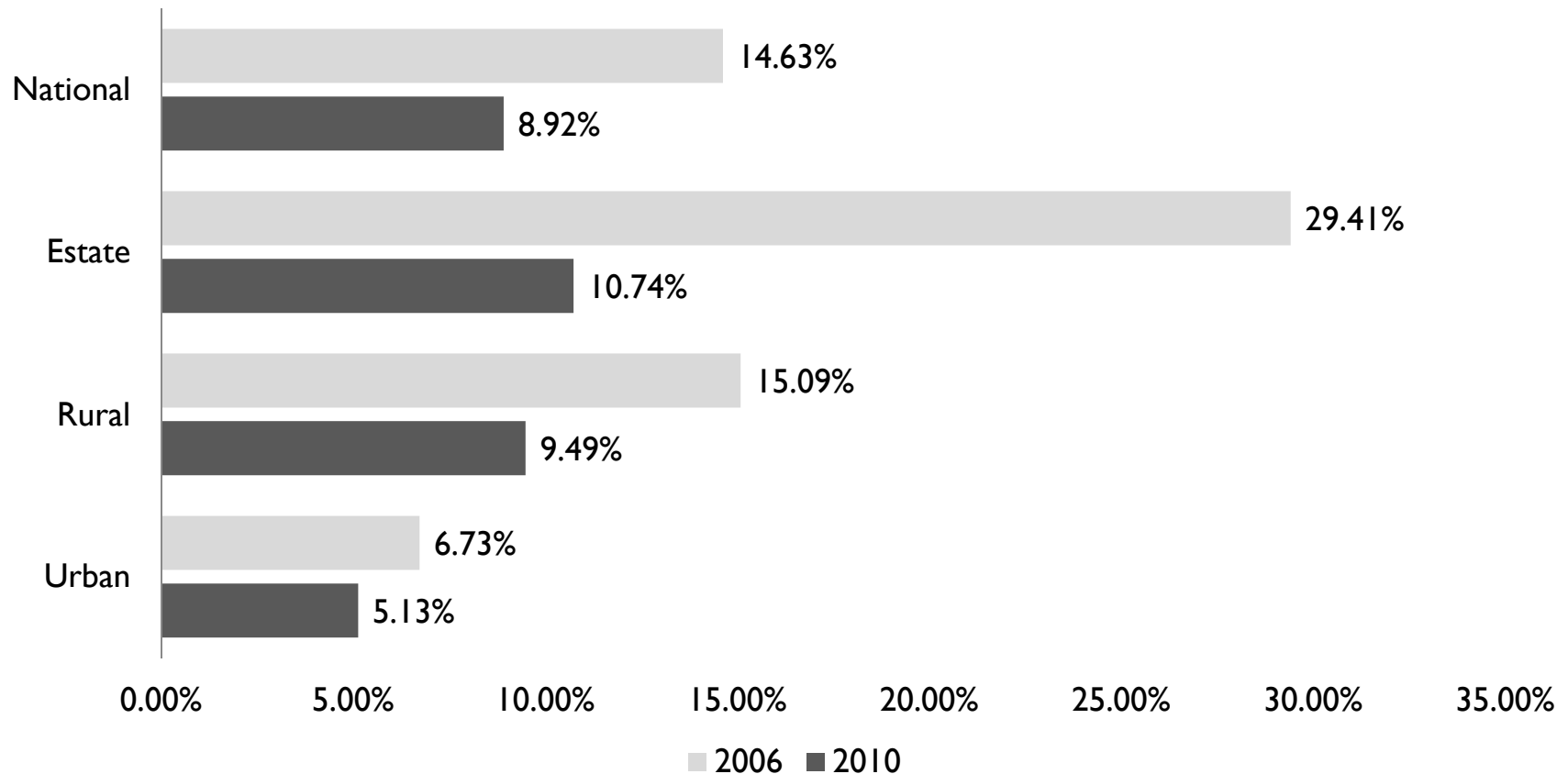
Youth labour force participation rates



Source: State of the Economy, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Productive employment for youth

Youth below official poverty line



Source: State of the Economy, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Education for youth

O/L, A/L and university entrance

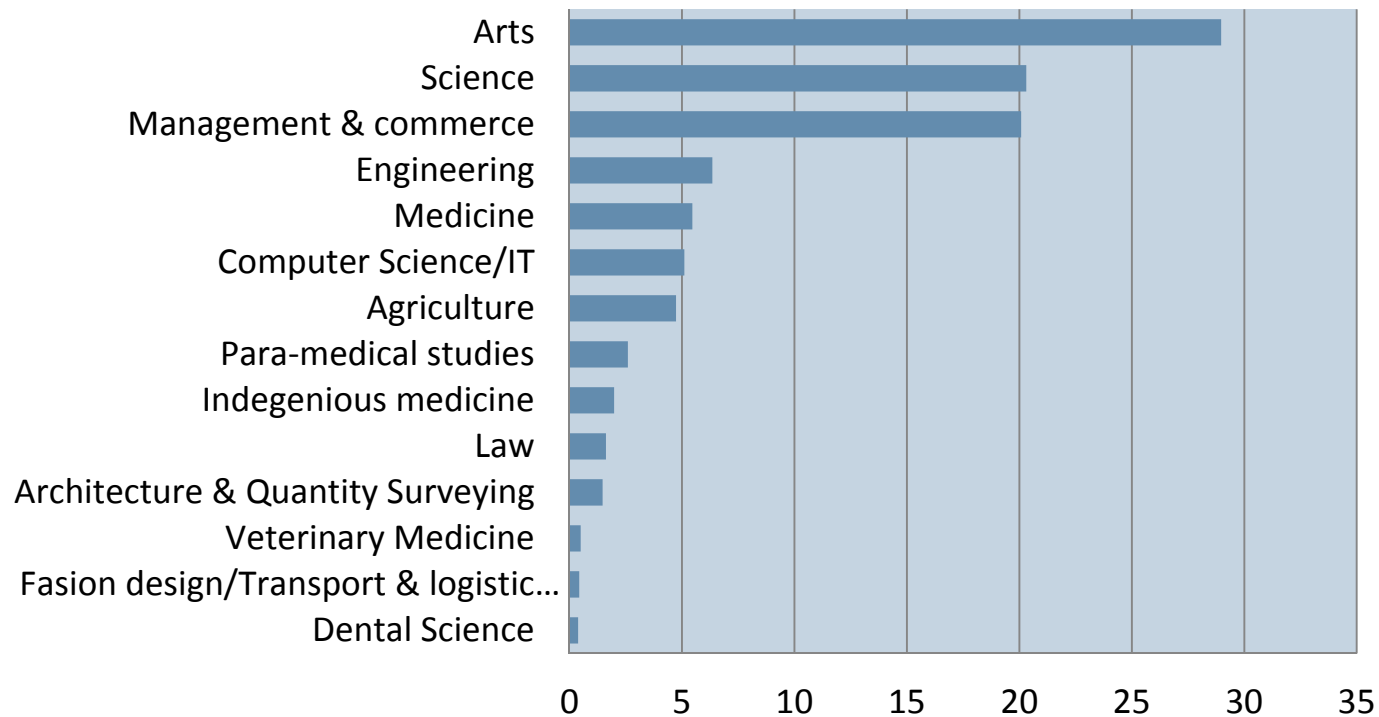
	2003	2010
Number sitting for O/L	434,131	433,673
Percentage qualifying for A/L (% of O/L candidates)	43	58
Number sitting for A/L	213,201	233,354
Number qualifying to enter university	93,292	142,415
Percentage qualifying to enter university (% of A/L candidates)	44	61
Number admitted to university	12,736	21,547
Percentage admitted to university (% of A/L qualified)	14	17

The Country's tertiary enrolment rate is low. Many students discontinue school education or do not qualify for university education due to poor performance at the national level examinations

Source: State of the Economy, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Education for youth

Subject streams by University levels



Those who do attend university are mostly studying in the arts stream thus limiting the social capital on science and technology, this also constrains the youth's ability to innovate

Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Education for youth

There is a wide gap between school and the world of work. The quality of the general education system, mainly provided by the public sector is very high standard, yet sometimes, does not transmit much productive skills to pupils. Hence leads to the issue of skills mismatch.

Transition from school to vocational training is sometimes not smooth due to lack of information flow. However, Vocational Training Authority (VTA) is now has launched a island wide awareness programme

Earlier the acceptance of the TEVT sector was low. Government recently introduced TVET education in to general education system making it a populat choice of students

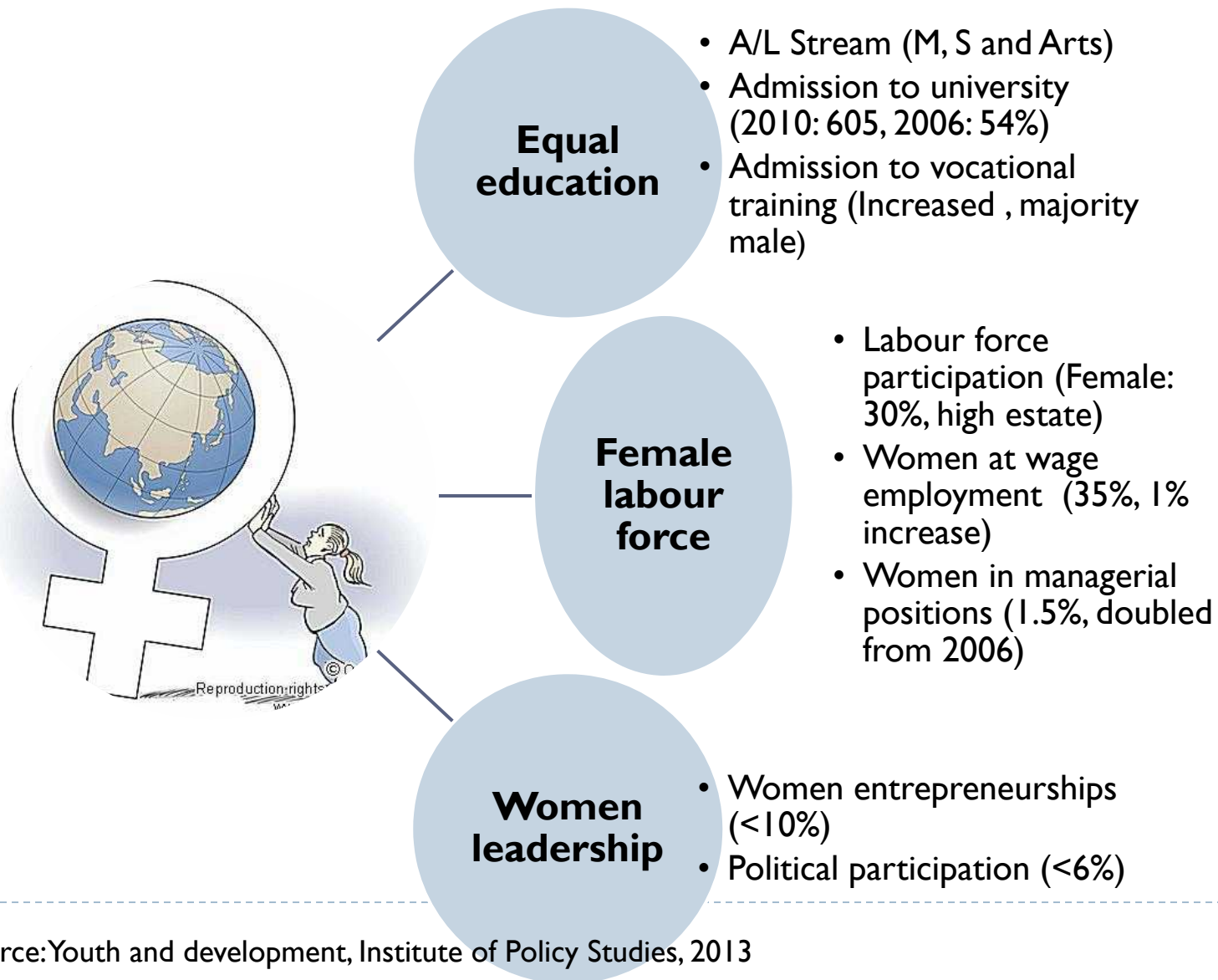
Achievement of youth MDGs: Healthy youth for development

Highest proportion of malnourished women was observed in the youngest age group of 15-19 years (40 per cent), followed by the second lowest age group of 20-29 (22 per cent). Nearly one-third of female youth were anaemic. On average, 39 per cent of reproductive aged women (15-49 years) were identified as anemic.

There were 6.4 per cent teenage pregnancies in Sri Lanka. Teenage pregnancies were highest in the estate sector (9.6 per cent) when compared to urban and rural sectors.

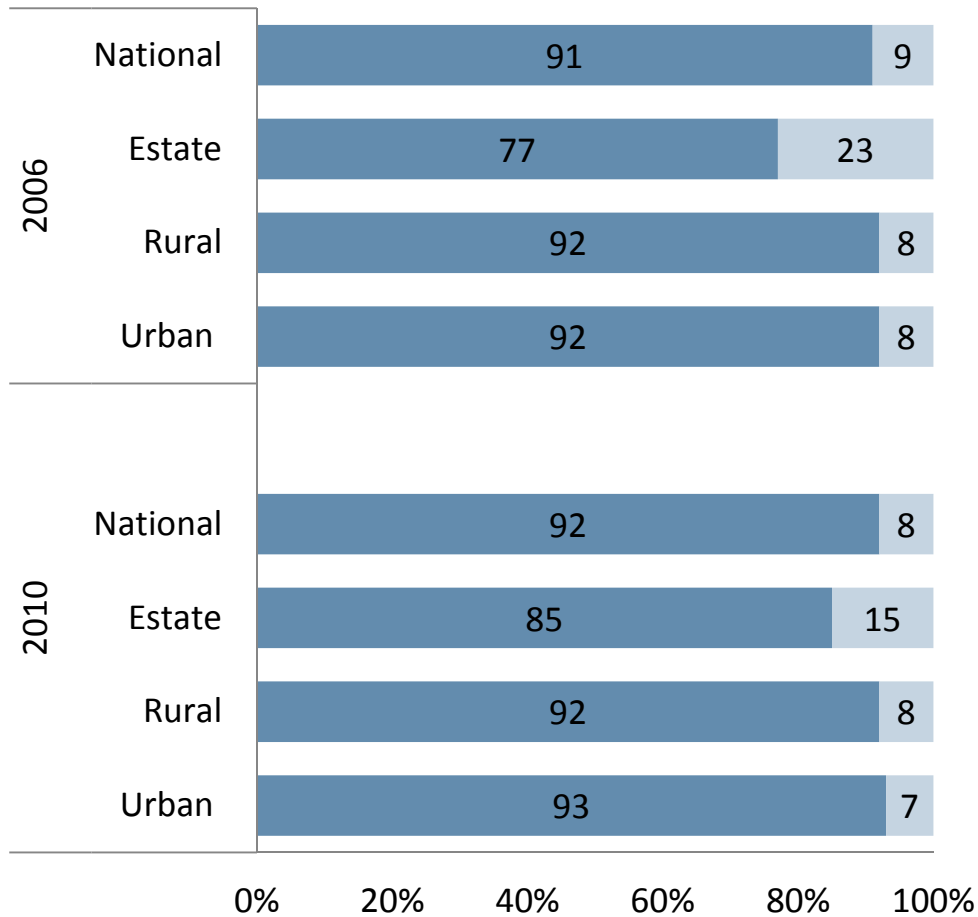
Highest prevalence of tobacco and alcohol use was in the age category of 25-39 years. Of current smokers and alcohol users' in the age 15-24 year group. Deaths due to suicides was highest among females in the 21-30 year age group

Achievement of youth MDGs: gender equality and empowering young women



Achievement of youth MDGs: youth and environment

Youth living under secure housing



Safe housing
Change from 2006-2010

National: 91 to 92%
Urban: 92 to 93%
Rural: 92%
Estate: 77 to 85%

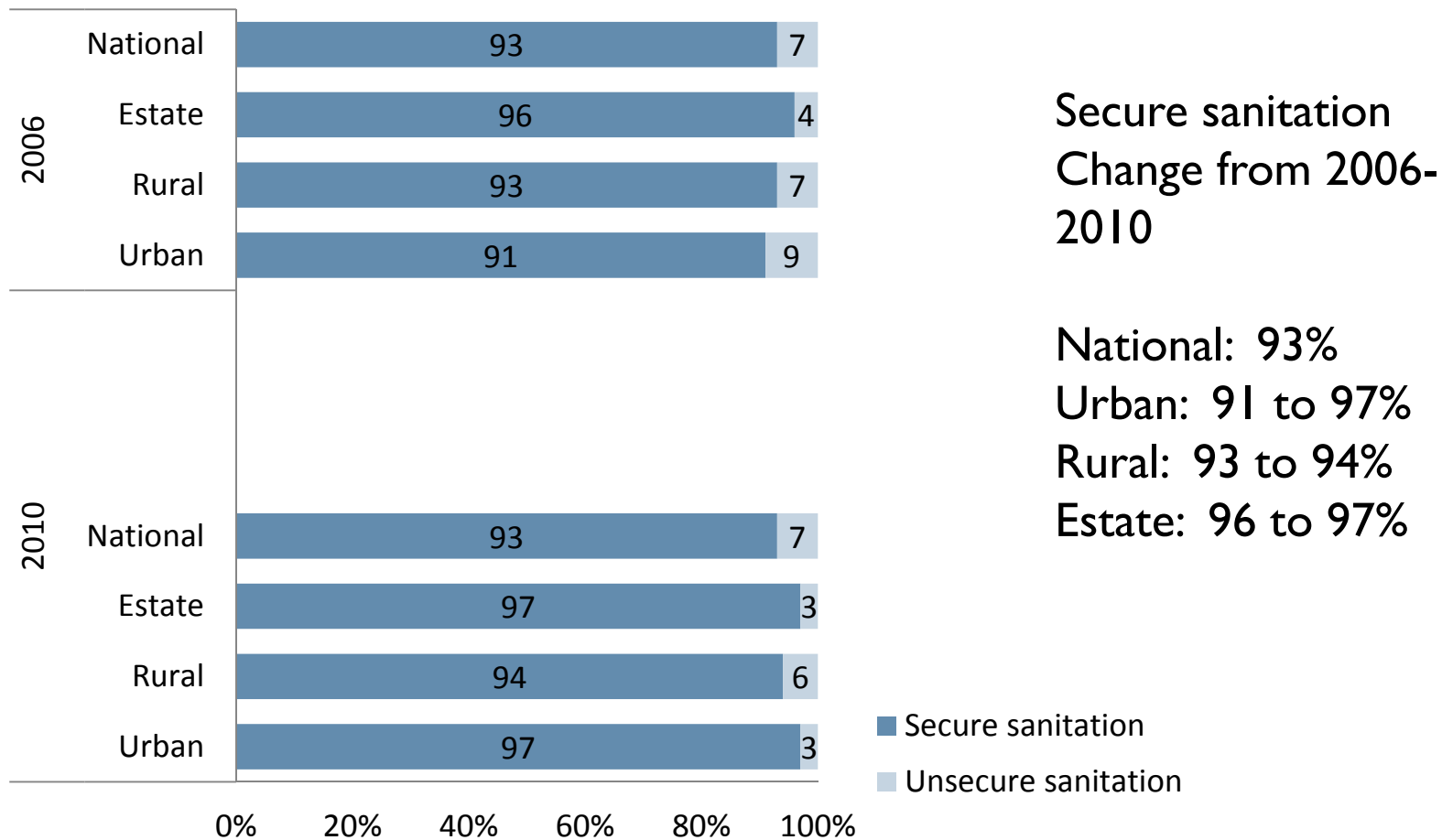
■ Secured houses
■ Unsecured houses



Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: youth and environment

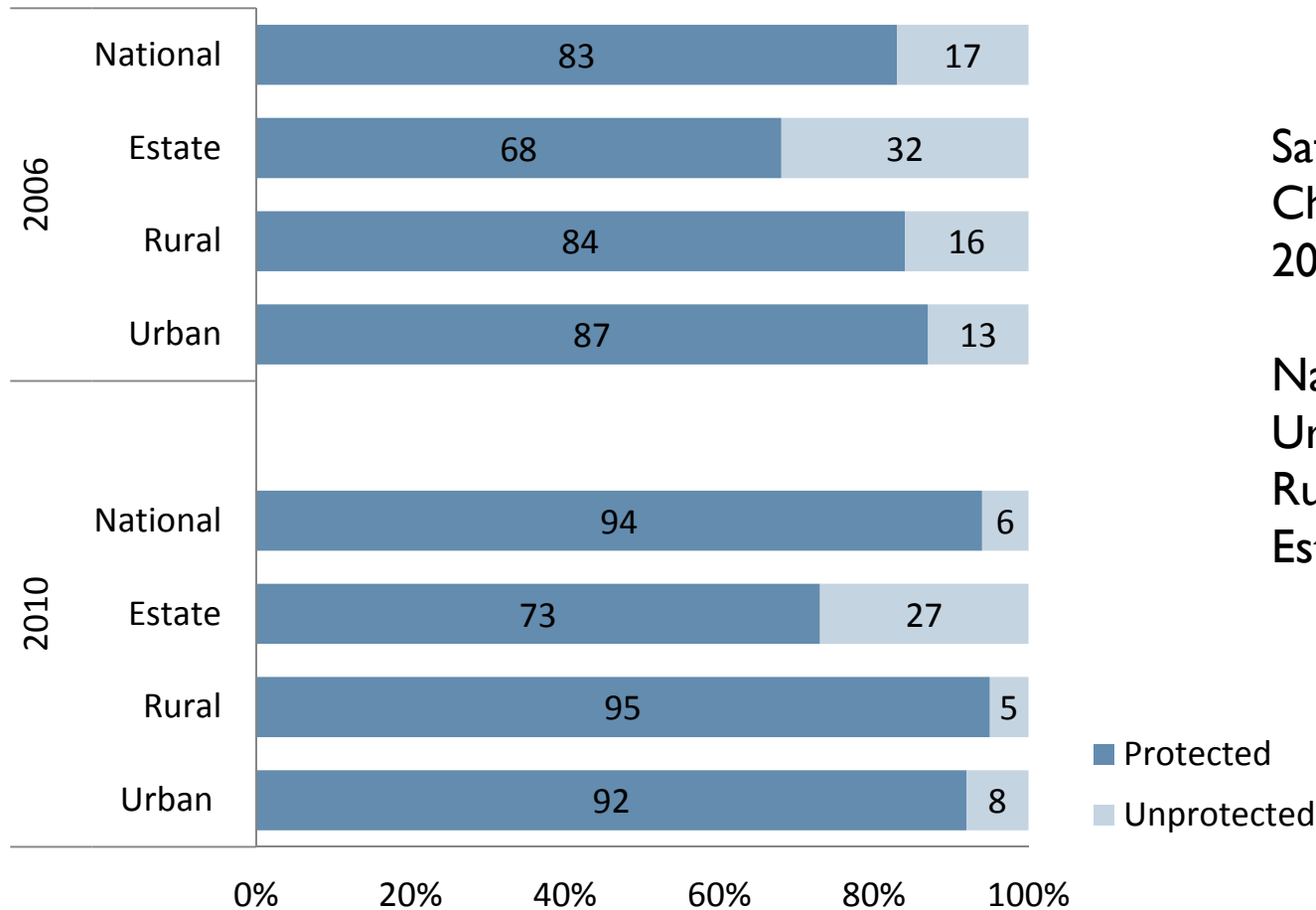
Youth having access to secure sanitation



Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: youth and environment

Youth having access to safe drinking water



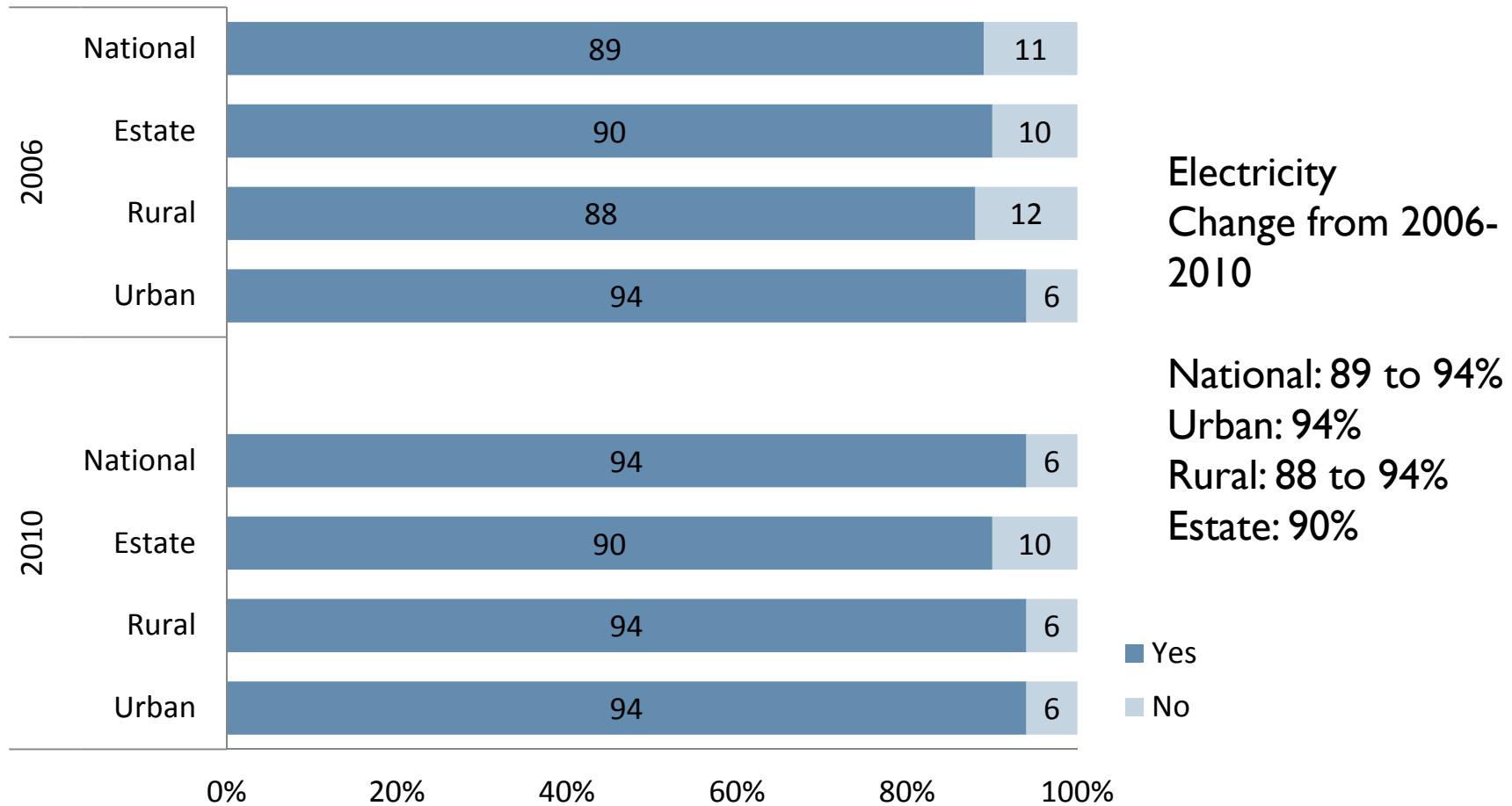
Safe drinking water
Change from 2006-
2010

National: 83 to 94%
Urban: 87 to 92%
Rural: 84 to 95%
Estate: 68 to 73%

Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Infrastructure and ICT for youth

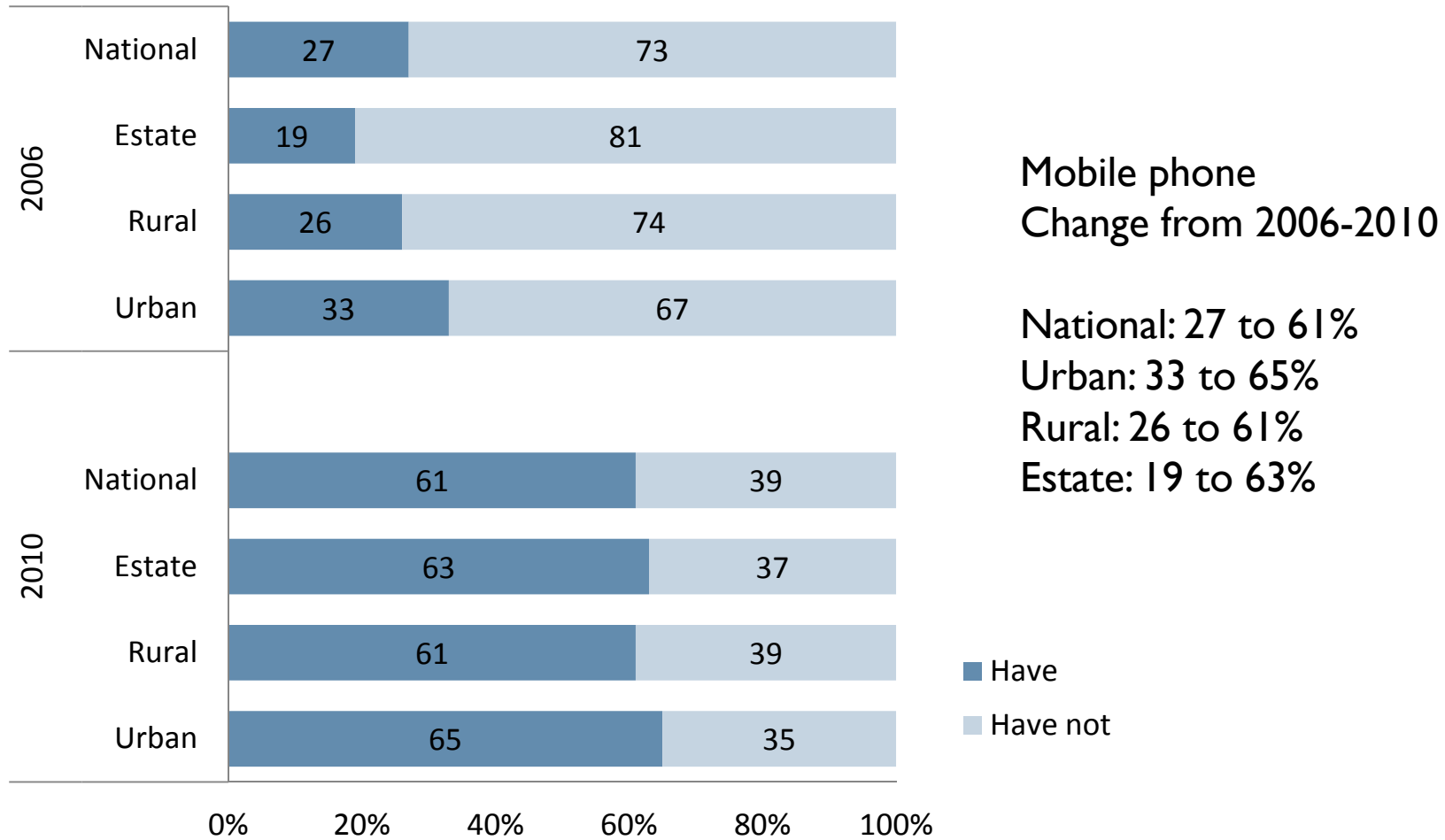
Electricity provision for youth



Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Infrastructure and ICT for youth

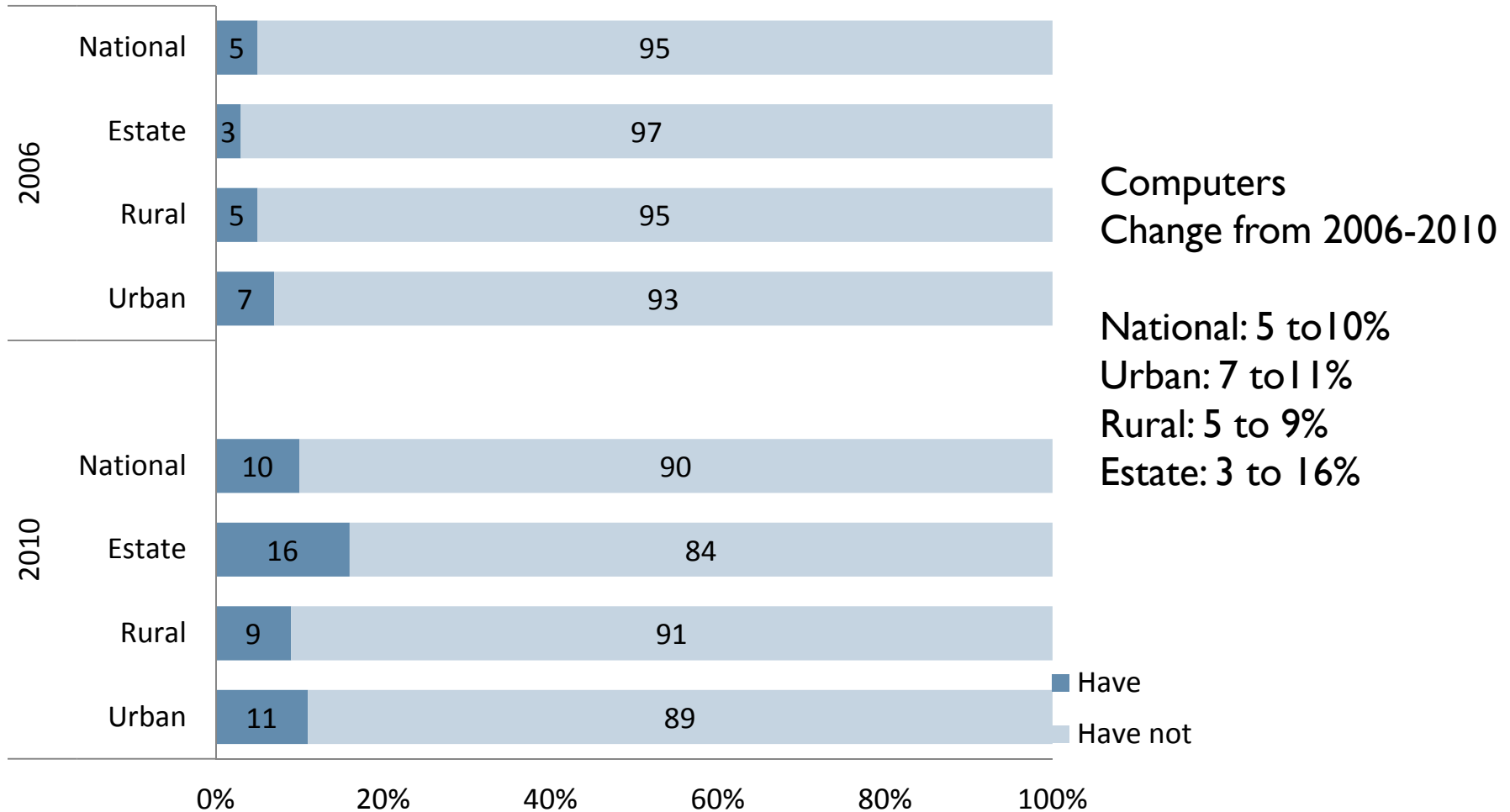
Mobile phones for youth



Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Achievement of youth MDGs: Infrastructure and ICT for youth

Desktop computers for youth



Source: Youth and development, Institute of Policy Studies, 2013

Challenges and way forward

- There are issues of skill mismatch, youth foregoing available private sector employment for public sector employment, and more youth staying on in education till late stages of their youth life. Youth need to focus on making better decisions in selecting their educational paths and they needed to be guided by teachers and parents
- Spending more years studying lowers the youth labor force participation rate. Youth have to be certain of what they are acquiring as educational qualifications, and whether that is what employers are demanding in today's job market.
- Inability to secure finances, lack of financial management capabilities, and most importantly, the inability to assess and understand business viability, has constrained youth entrepreneurs. Therefore guidance , financial support as well as training on business management is very essential



Challenges and way forward

- Poor and vulnerable households lack the capacity to spend on education and health, aggravating the physical abilities of poor youth to be work force ready. Therefore, poverty alleviation programme should focus on financial assistance, as well as on eradicating educational and health barriers faced by the youth.
- Vocational education will only address the issue of youth unemployment and low labour force participation only if the vocational education system is linked with the industries that can absorb these students. Therefore, public-private partnerships and schemes of recruitments through vocational education and training institutes directly to the industry, are essential.
- Teenage pregnancy, especially in the estate sector, is a serious issue to be considered. One of the main reasons is a lack of awareness on reproductive health. Not only this, youth need to be aware on HIV/AIDS and STDs, and also use of tobacco and alcohol. They needed to be guided on handling pressure and making better and informed decisions on their lives and day to day activities.



Thank You

