

**A BETTER
FUTURE FOR
EVERY CHILD**

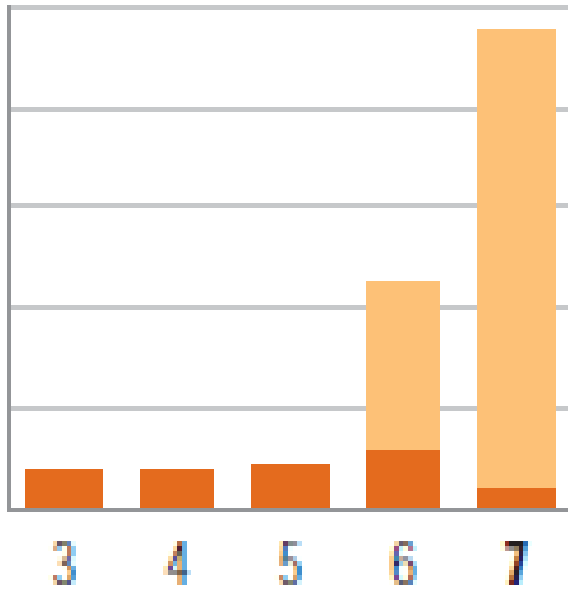
**FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE SCENARIOS
FOR THE EQUITABLE EXPANSION OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

TERMINOLOGY

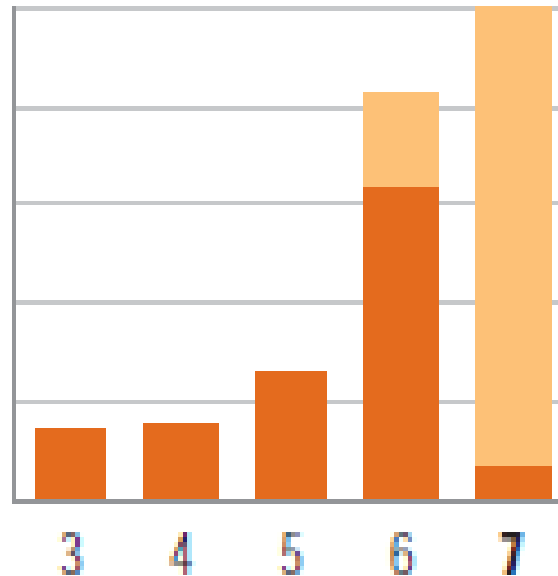
- Original Kindergartens are called “Formal KG”
- The newer ones “Community Based” (CbK)
- This is not always correct: some “CbKs” were part of the formal system from the beginning
- Others will follow and the distinction between formal KG and CbK is bound to disappear
- Merely for analytical reasons, this report does use the distinction

At any age, the same small group of children is enrolled in Kyrgyzstan

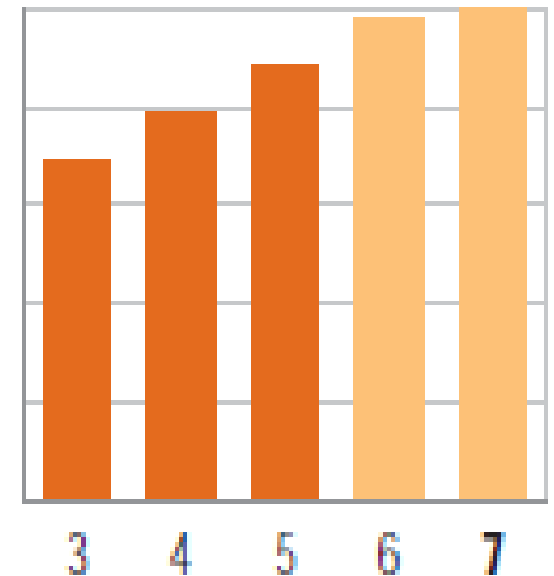
Kyrgyzstan



TFYR Macedonia



Slovenia



How many children in Formal KG?

Different figures from different sources with different definitions (2007):

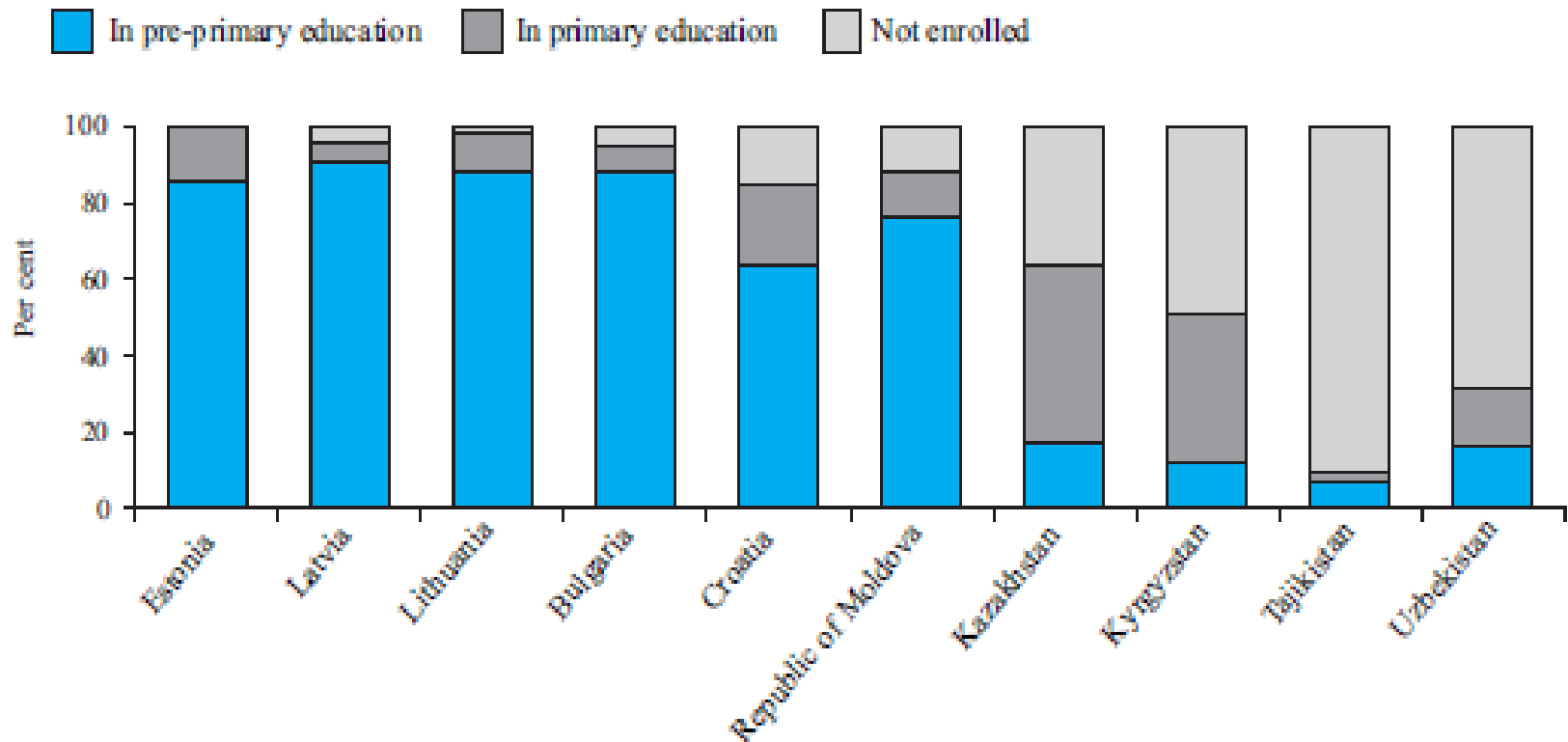
- National Statistics: $\pm 11\%$ of all 0-8
- Transmonee database: $\pm 14\%$ of all 3-6
- MICS: 20% of all children in primary education has **some** preschool experience (incl. CbK)

Ideal: age-specific enrolment rates, for formal KG and CbK alike

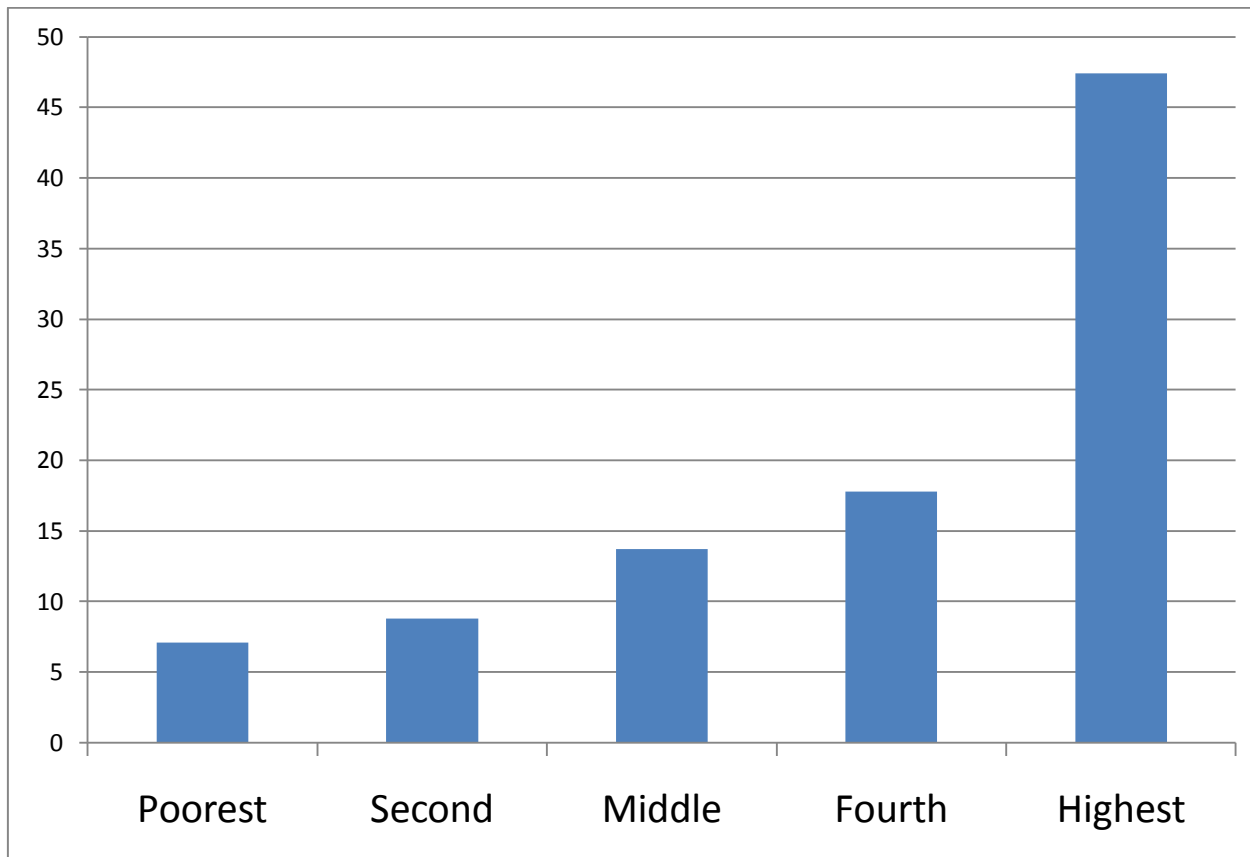
Entry age primary education: 5, 6 or 7?

En- try age	Arab States	Central & East Europe	Central Asia	East Asia & Pacific	Latin Am. & Caribb.	North Am. & West Europe	South West Asia	Sub- Sahara Africa	Total
5	-	-	-	8	20	4	3	1	36
6	20	8	2	16	18	18	6	28	116
7	-	11	7	3	3	4	-	15	43

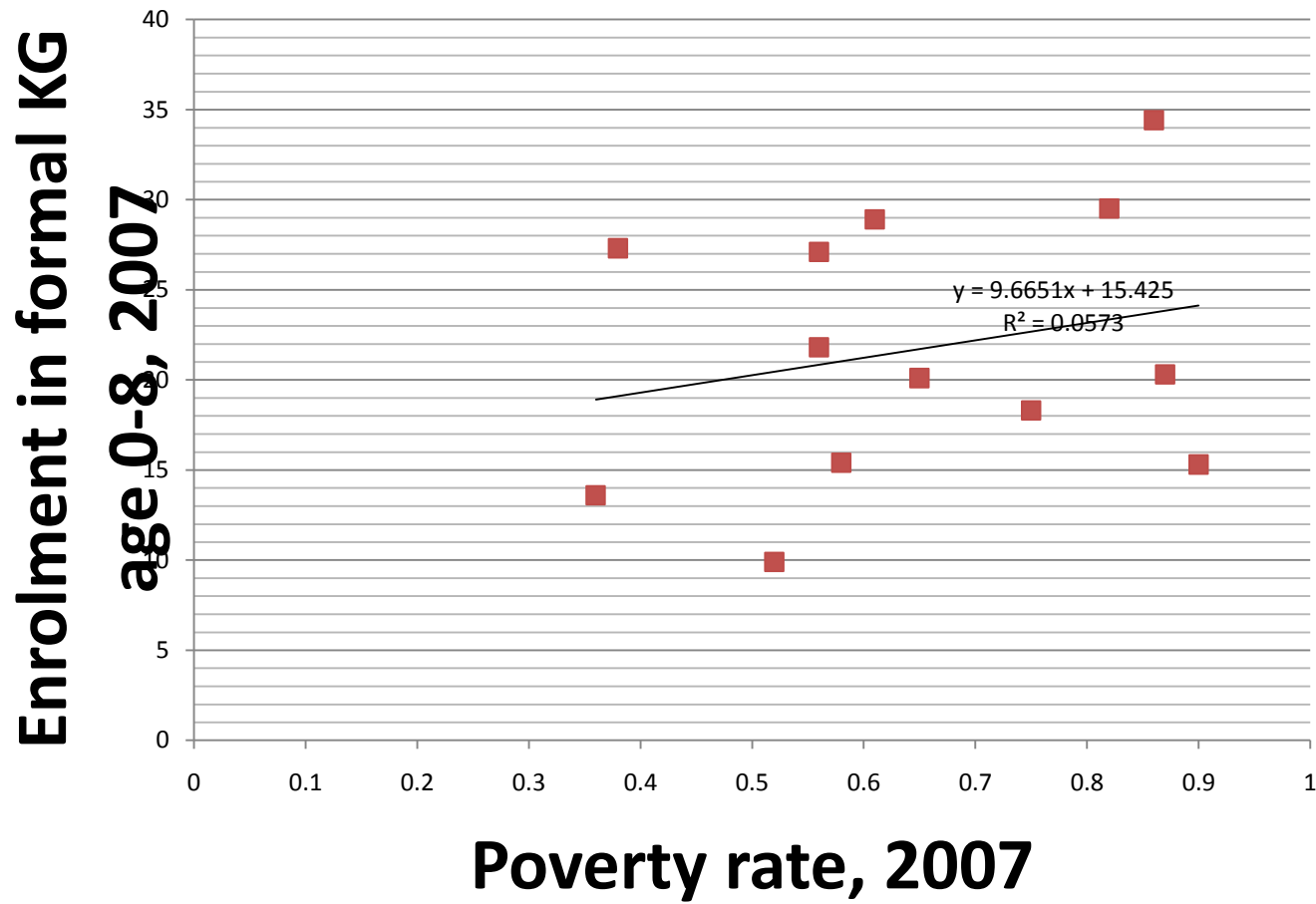
Enrolment at age 6 in CEE/CIS



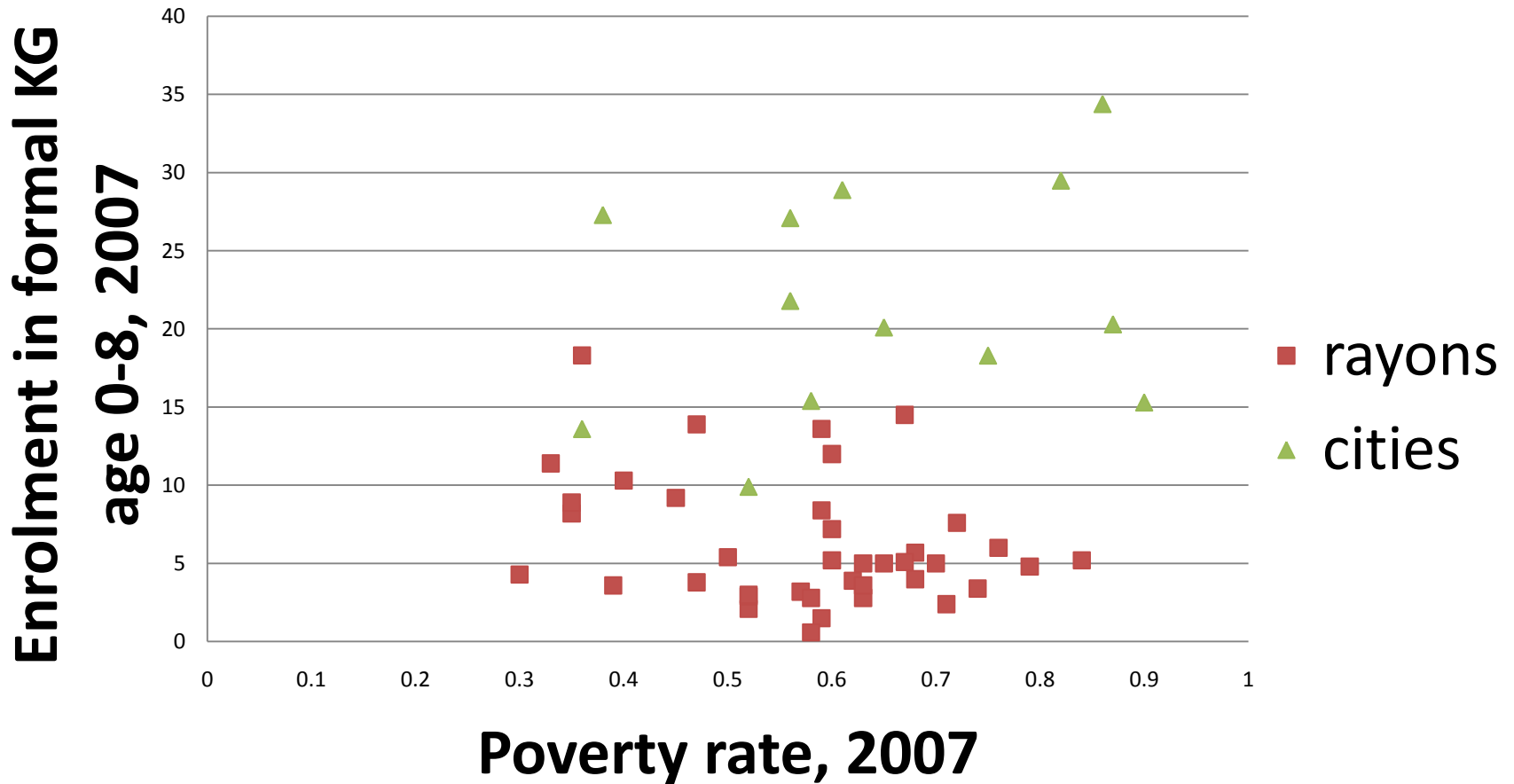
Enrolment in formal KG by wealth



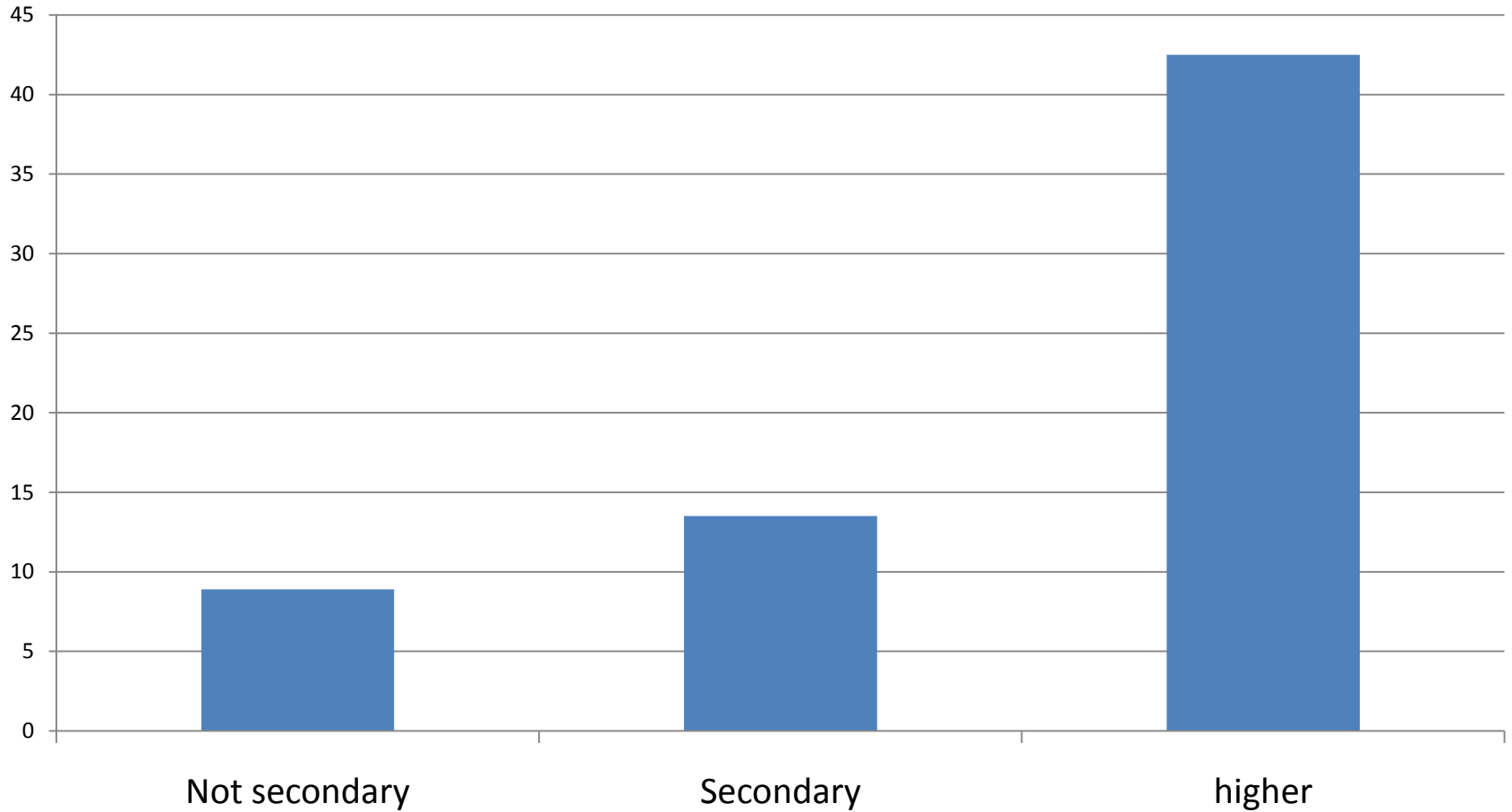
...but for cities it's the reverse



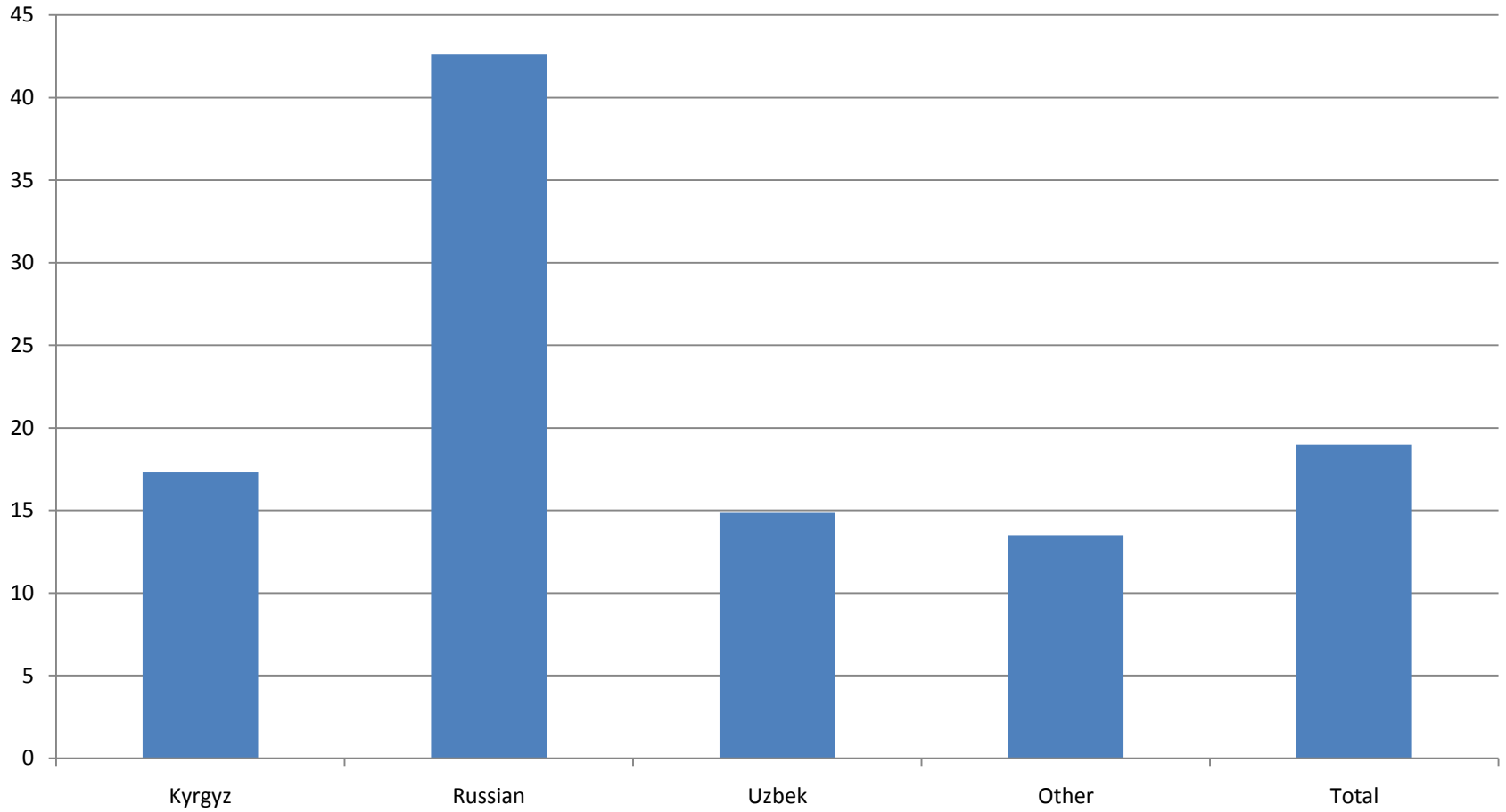
Rayons and cities together



Enrolment in formal KG by mothers' education



Enrolment in formal KG by ethnicity



CbKs and their enrolment

	Rayons	CbKs	Children
ADB	12	255	9925
AKF	3	78	3417
UNICEF	2	18	1282
TOTAL	17	351	14624

Some characteristics of CbKs

- Very well targetted at poor rural areas
- Very dedicated staff, willing to make great efforts for children
- Strongly supported by communities, government and agencies
- Satellite model and 2-shift model are very promising
- Low fees, yet too high for some of the poorest
- Variety in program length, yet 69% of children in CbKs are in programs of 6 hours or more

Net enrolment rates based on 0-8

Oblast	Formal KG	CbK
Naryn	3.5	8.0
Issykkul	4.5	0.0
Chui	9.5	0.0
Batken	3.9	2.0
Jalalabad	9.0	5.8
Osh	4.8	9.1
Talas	4.1	0.0
Cities	21.7	(288 in Osh)

The case for half-day programs

- Full-day formal KG is **four times** more expensive than a half-day program without meals and sleeping
- The evidence is strong: for child development and school-readiness, half-day programs are just as good, if not better than, full daycare
- Yet, even in the CbK-sector, 69% of children are in longer programs.

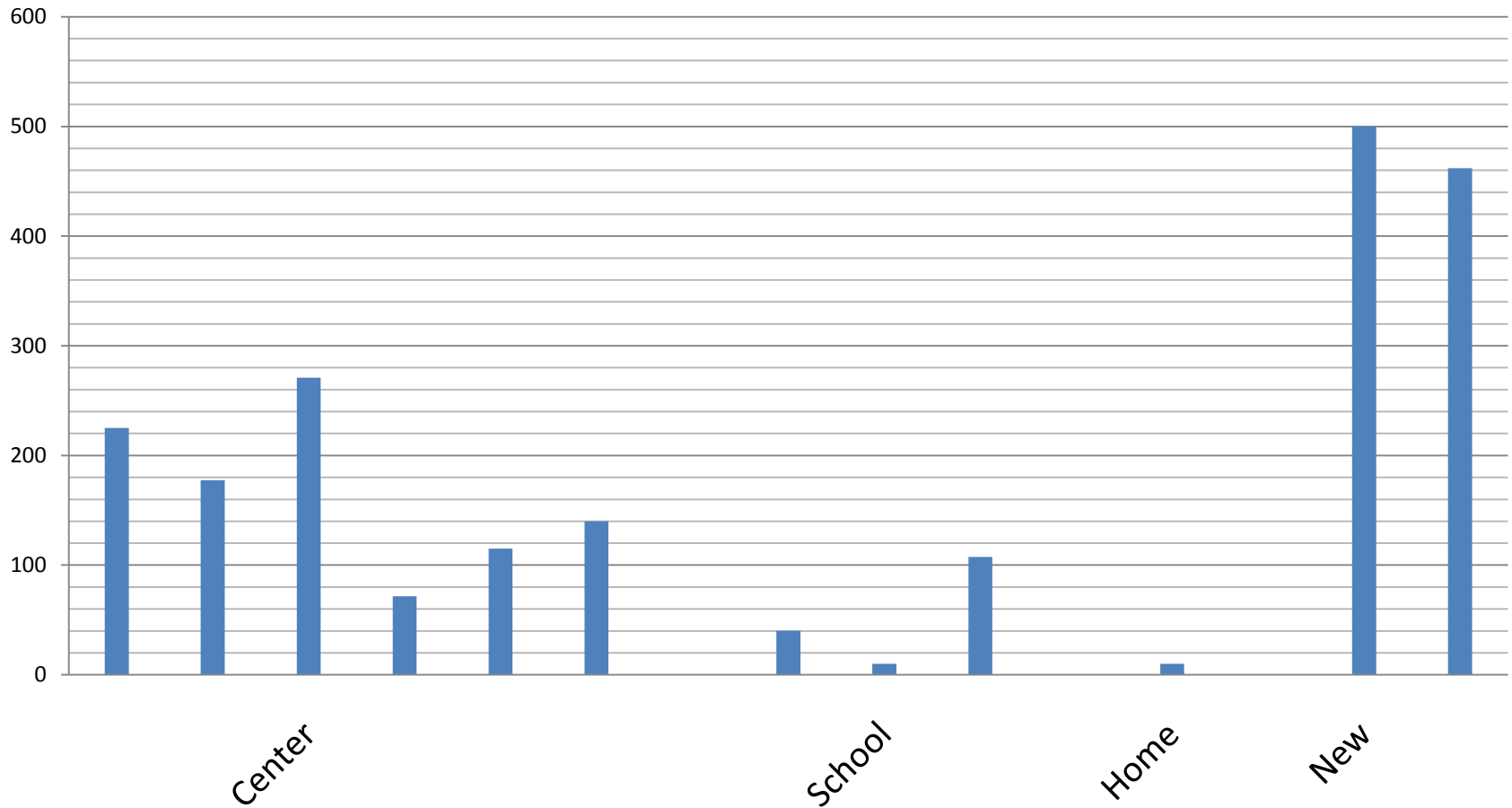
The core recommendation:

- From now on, further expansion of preschool education should be in half-day programs
- The core public service is enhancing child development including school-preparation
- If parents wish full daycare, they should finance the additional services (meals, dormitories) by themselves
- Special arrangements for the working poor

Parental support for junior group

- 0-3 is the most critical age, but universal enrolment is unaffordable, if not undesirable
- Parental education can fill the gap
- Use existing institutions for health: FAPs and Village Health Committees (home visiting)
- Enrich their services with early stimulation and early learning
- Link it with new initiatives, e.g. mini-libraries

Costs per classroom (x 1000 soms)



New, old, in schools, or in homes?

- Building new KGs is very expensive
- Refurbishing existing buildings is less expensive but still costly, while Aiyi Okmotu may not have sufficient buildings available
- Home-based and school-based is very cost-effective...
- ... and in the Satellite model – with guidance from central KG – it works very well

Teacher salaries in pre-primary

- Some CbK teachers receive state salary
- Others live on parental fees
- But even the regular salary is low compared to other sectors
- Short initial training, frequent supervision and better pay can make work in CbK attractive
- Satellite model support this

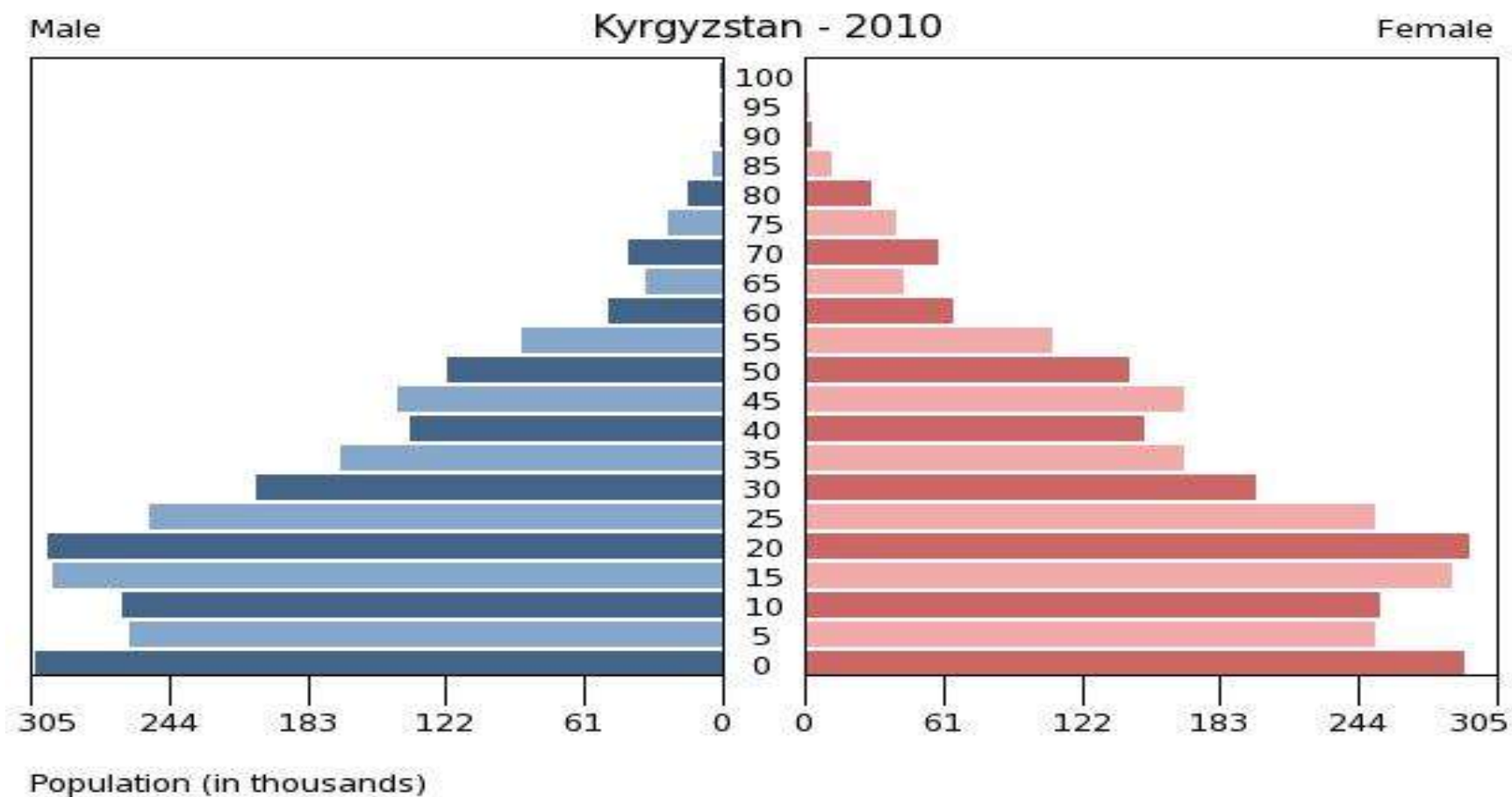
Recurrent and Incidental Unit Costs

Unit costs	Costs (soms)
Salaries, including social fund	720
Training and supervision	75
Inventory	500
Utilities and maintenance	375
Total recurrent unit cost	1670
Capital repair of buildings and classrooms	1250

Scenarios for the 6 year olds

Status of child	Unit cost	Status Quo	expand halfday	all in preschool	all in primary
In half-day CbK	1500	1	5	9	0
In primary ed.	2250	4	4	0	10
In formal KG	6000	1	1	1	0
Total enrolled		6	10	10	10
Not enrolled		4	0	0	0
Total costs sms		16500	22500	19500	22500
Extra costs sms		-	6000	3000	6000

100,000 newborns per year



Additional costs of enrolling all 6 year olds in primary

- For 10 children in the simulation, this costs an extra 6000 soms annually
- We assume in reality 100,000 newborns
- So lowering the entry age to 6 will cost 60 million soms more per annum compared to the present situation
- This is less than one percent of total education spending

Scenarios for the 5 year olds

Status of child	Unit cost	Status Quo	Expand halfday	All in half-day	All in full-day
In half-day	1500	4%	86%	100%	0%
In full-day	6000	14%	14%	0%	100%
Total enrolled		18%	100%	100%	100%
Not enrolled		82%	0%	0%	0%
Total costs		90 mln	213 mln	150 mln	600 mln
Extra costs		-	123 mln	60 mln	510 mln

Scenario for 5 year olds

- Present enrolment among 5 year olds is much lower than 6 year olds
- Therefore, the extra costs of universalizing access for 5 year olds are higher than for 6 year olds:
 - 132 million soms if we expand through halfday programs
 - 60 million soms if full daycare is no longer fully subsidized
- The costs for government can be strongly reduced, e.g. by charging a fee of 50 soms per month (half-day programs), and waiving this fee for the poorer families in order to prevent exclusion
- For instance the families in the Unified Monthly Benefit scheme (18% of all families) could be exempt

High urgency scenario

- In addition to the former scenarios, one could consider prioritizing rayons with low enrolment where CbK s have not yet been introduced
- For instance: the 17 rayons with less than 8% enrolment in formal KG
- This could cost about 42 million soms annually

Covering the costs

- The costs of all scenarios tend to be dwarfed by the size of total government spending on education...
- ... especially in light of economic growth, even despite the temporary slowdown of growth resulting from the financial crisis
- Dedicating a relatively small proportion of the growth of the education budget can be sufficient to cover costs, especially if moderate fees are obtained from families who can afford them