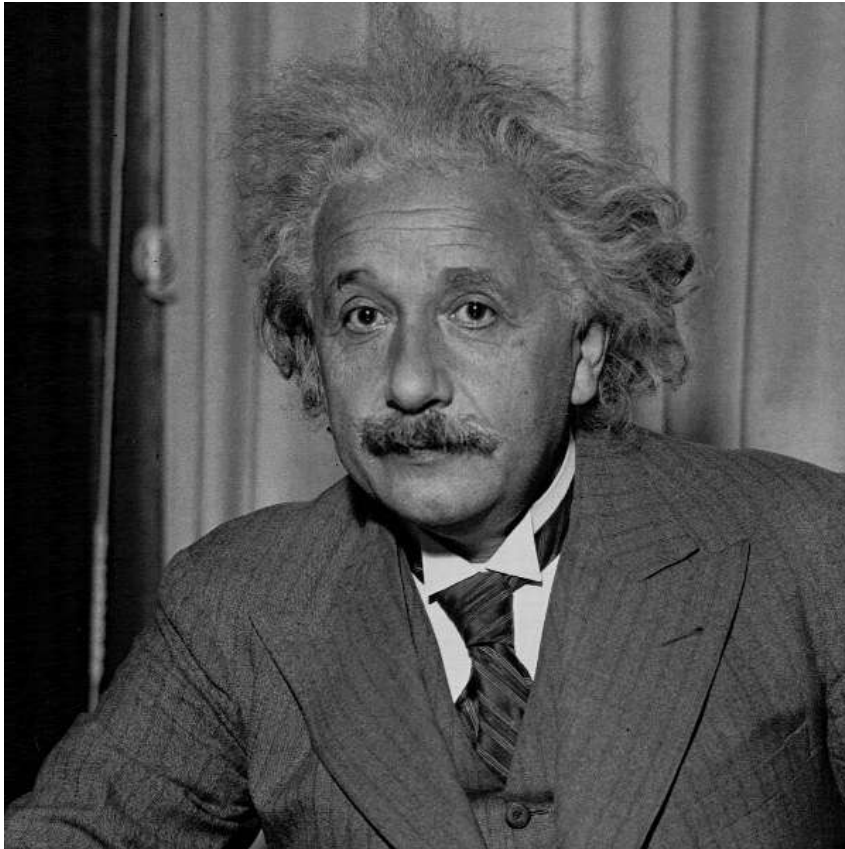


Building research capacity for process assessments and impact evaluation for MNCH in Pakistan

Zulfiqar A Bhutta

Husein Lalji Dewraj Professor & Chairman,
Department of Paediatrics and Child Health,
The Aga Khan University, Pakistan

The numbers

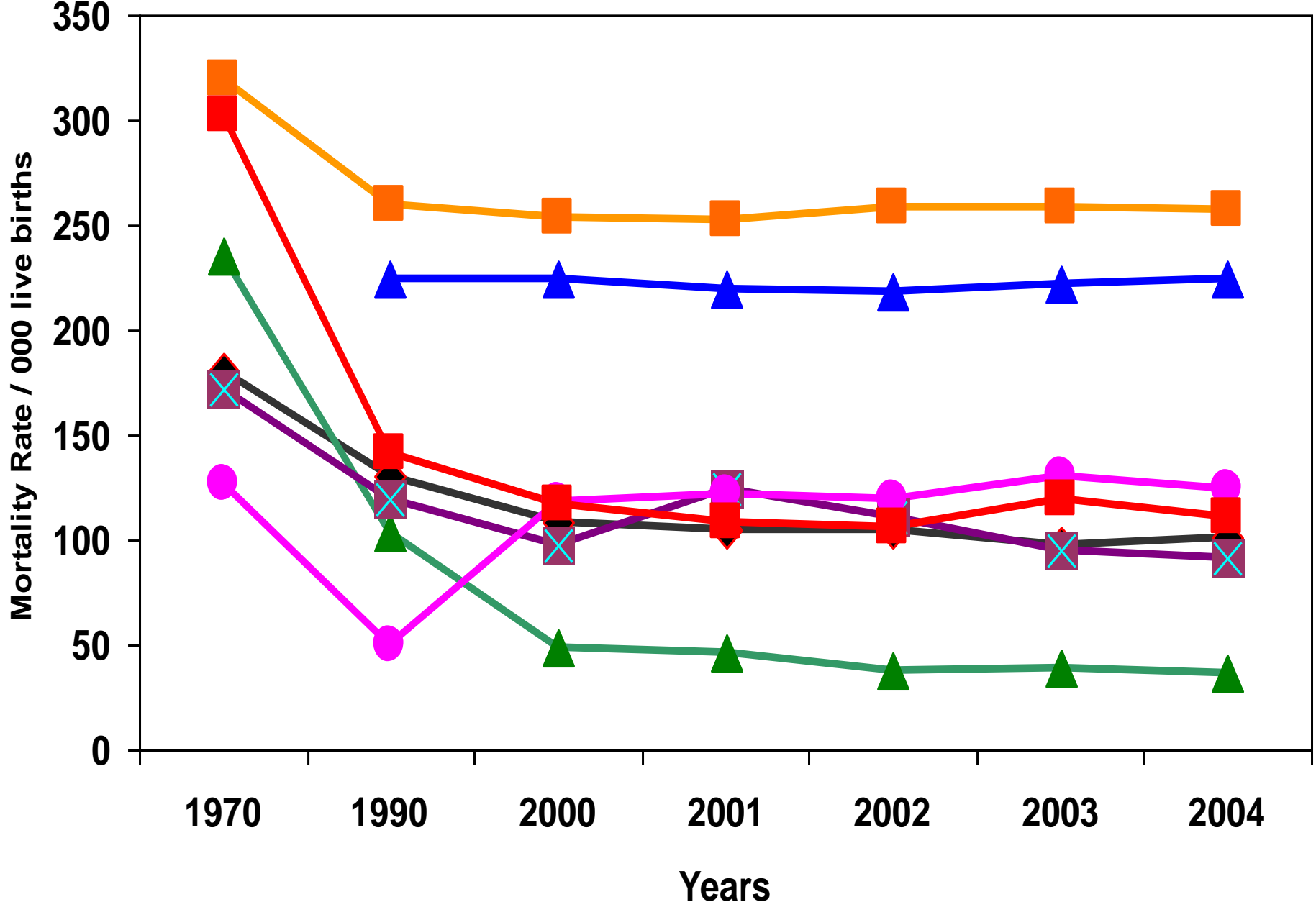


**“Not everything
that can be
counted counts,
and not
everything that
counts can be
counted”**

Albert Einstein

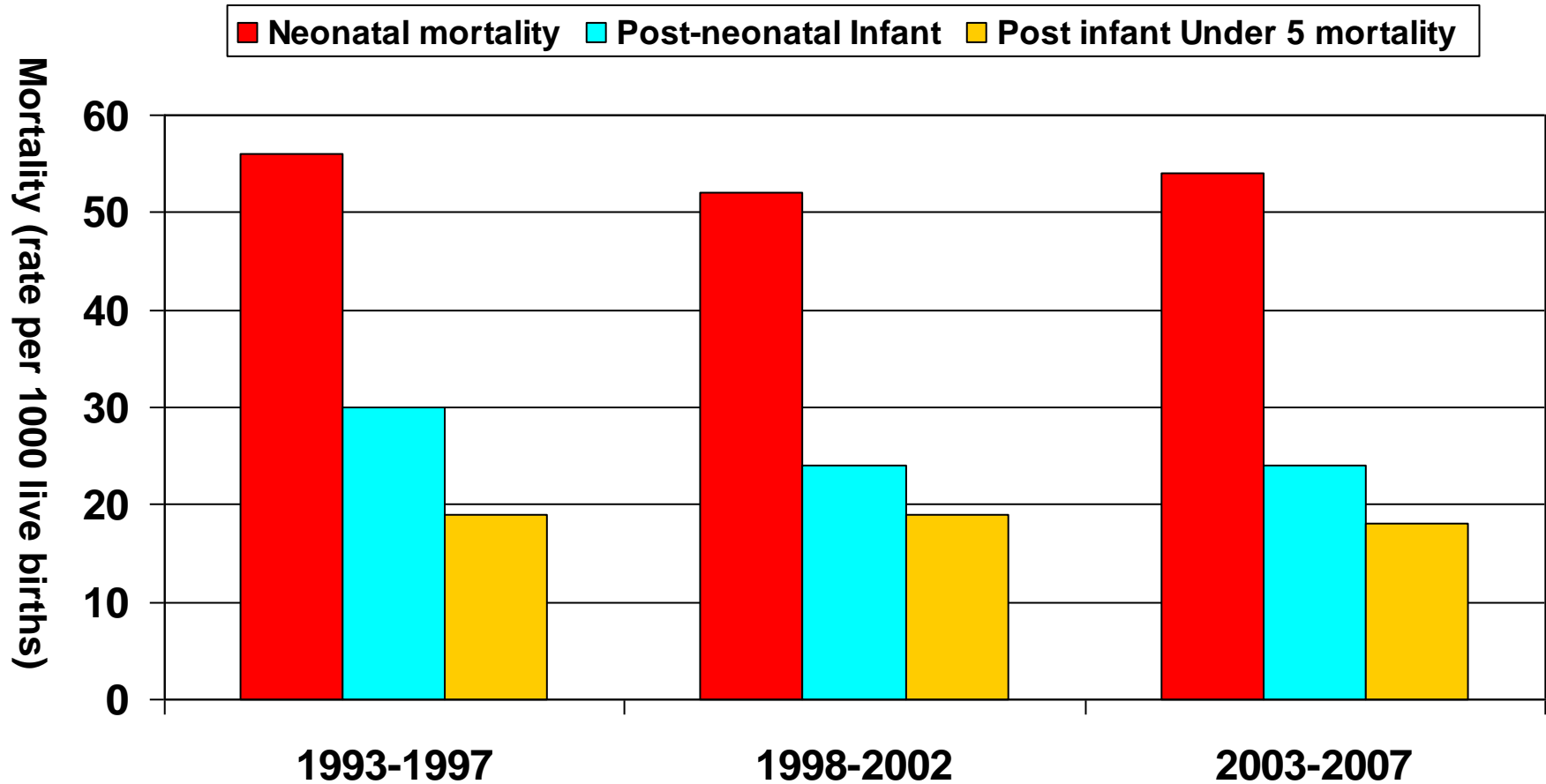


Bhutta et al, BMJ 2006



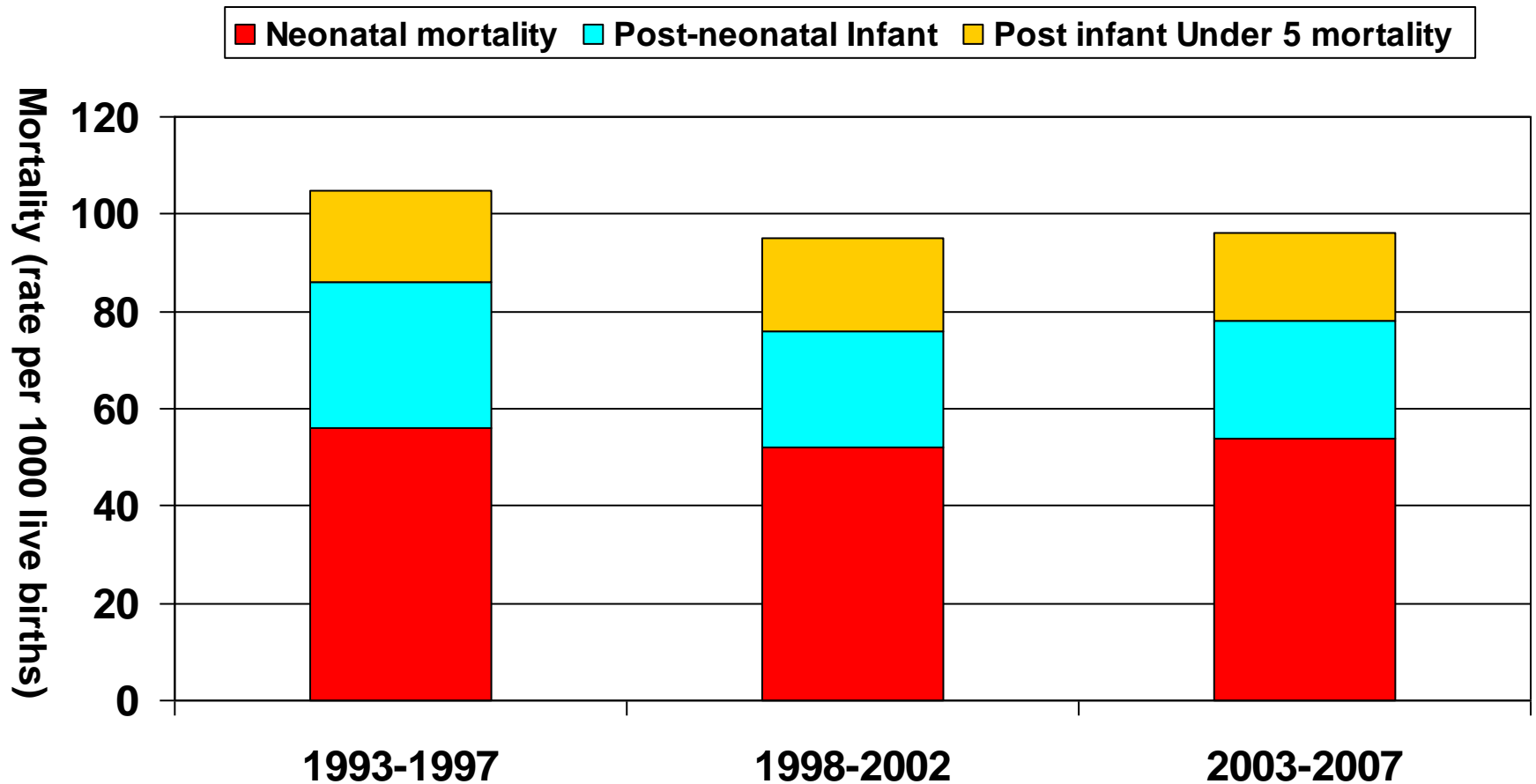
Child mortality trends in Pakistan

DHS Survey 2007



Child mortality trends in Pakistan

DHS Survey 2007



Pakistan has the slowest rate of child mortality change in Asia, and The highest child mortality in the world in relation to per capita income!

Tertiary
University Hospital

Referral Hospital

Secondary
District General Hospital
Sub-district Hospitals

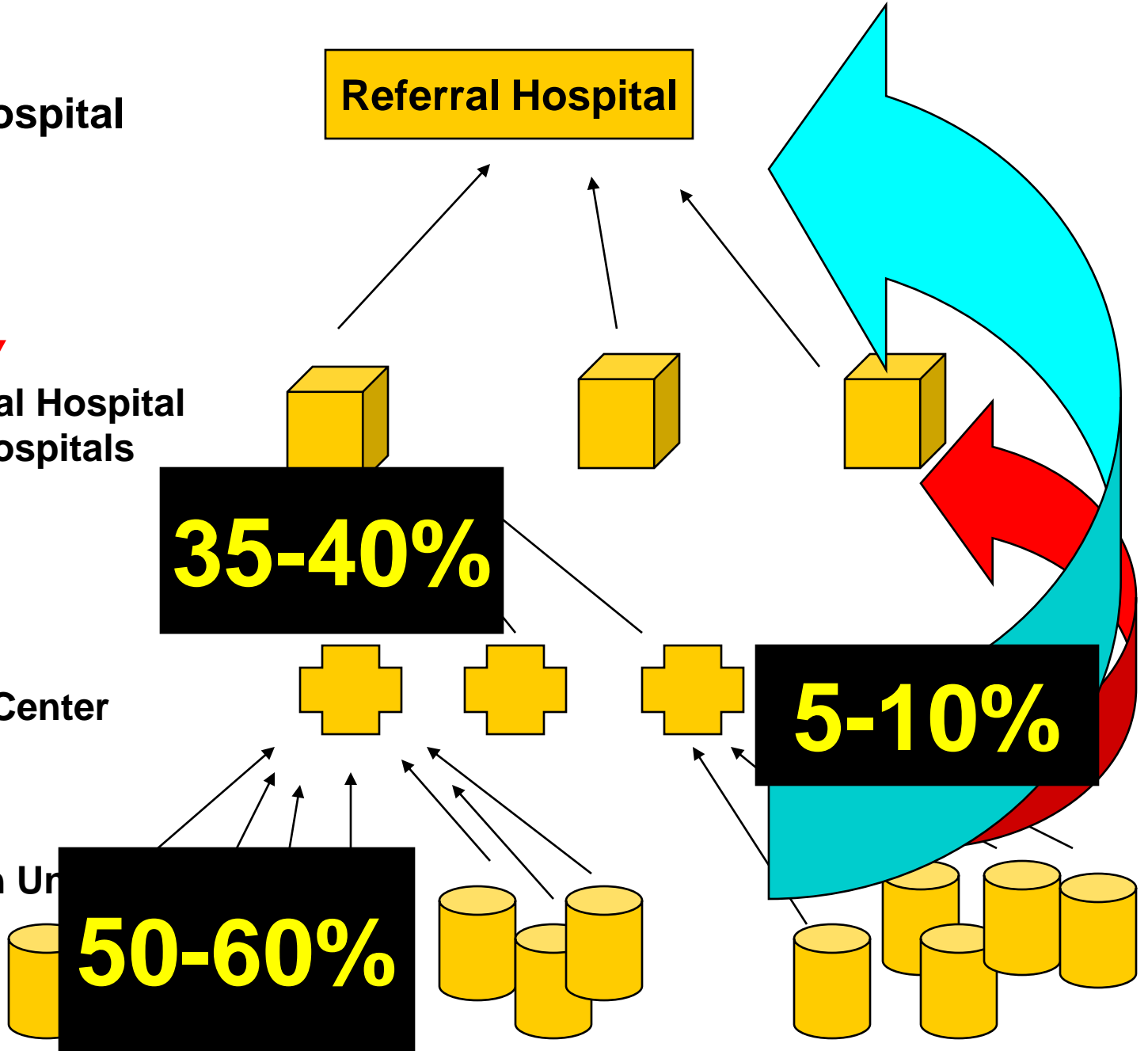
35-40%

Primary
Rural Health Center

5-10%

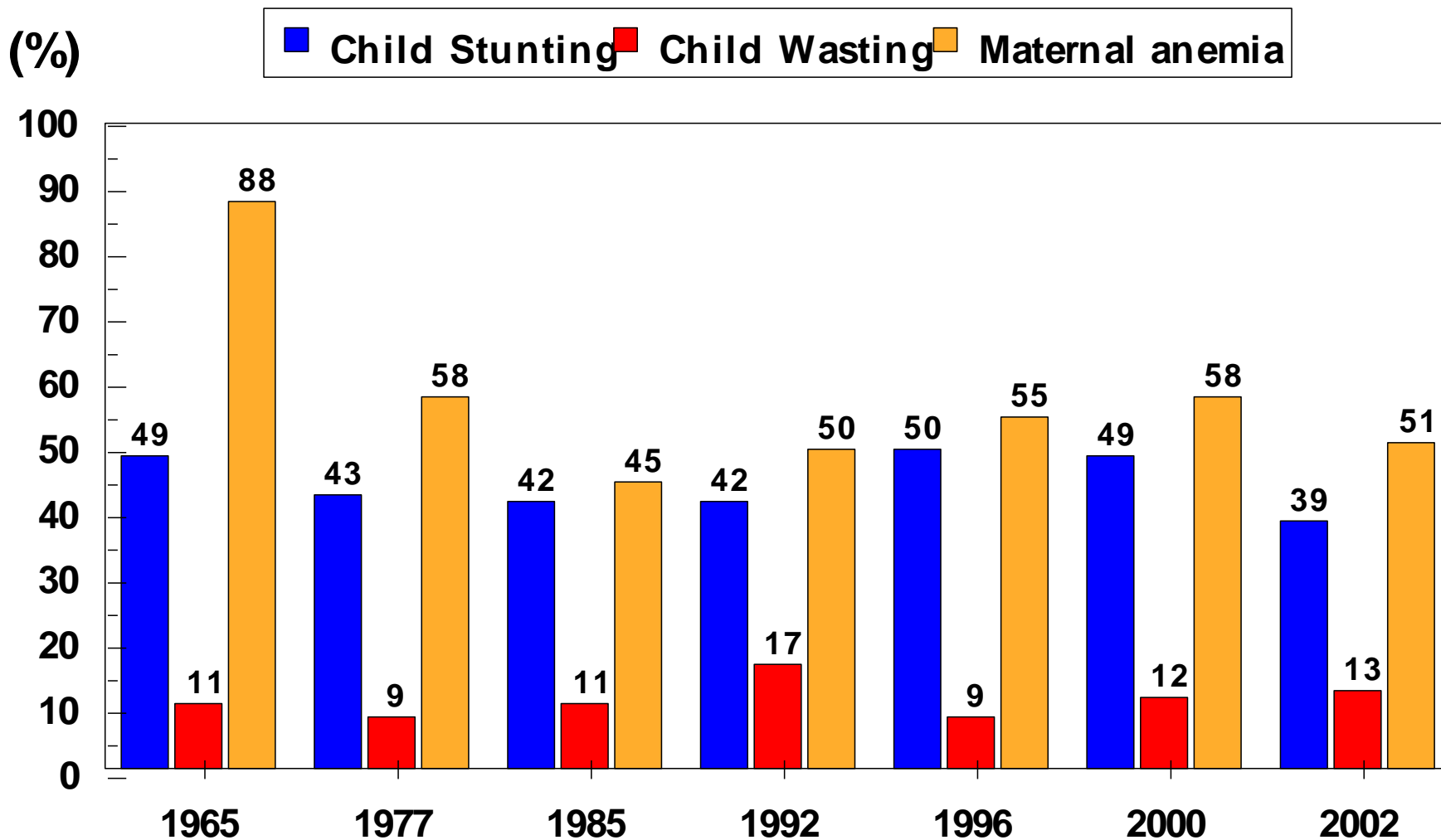
Village Health Un

50-60%



Nutrition trends in Pakistan

(Pregnant women and children under 5)

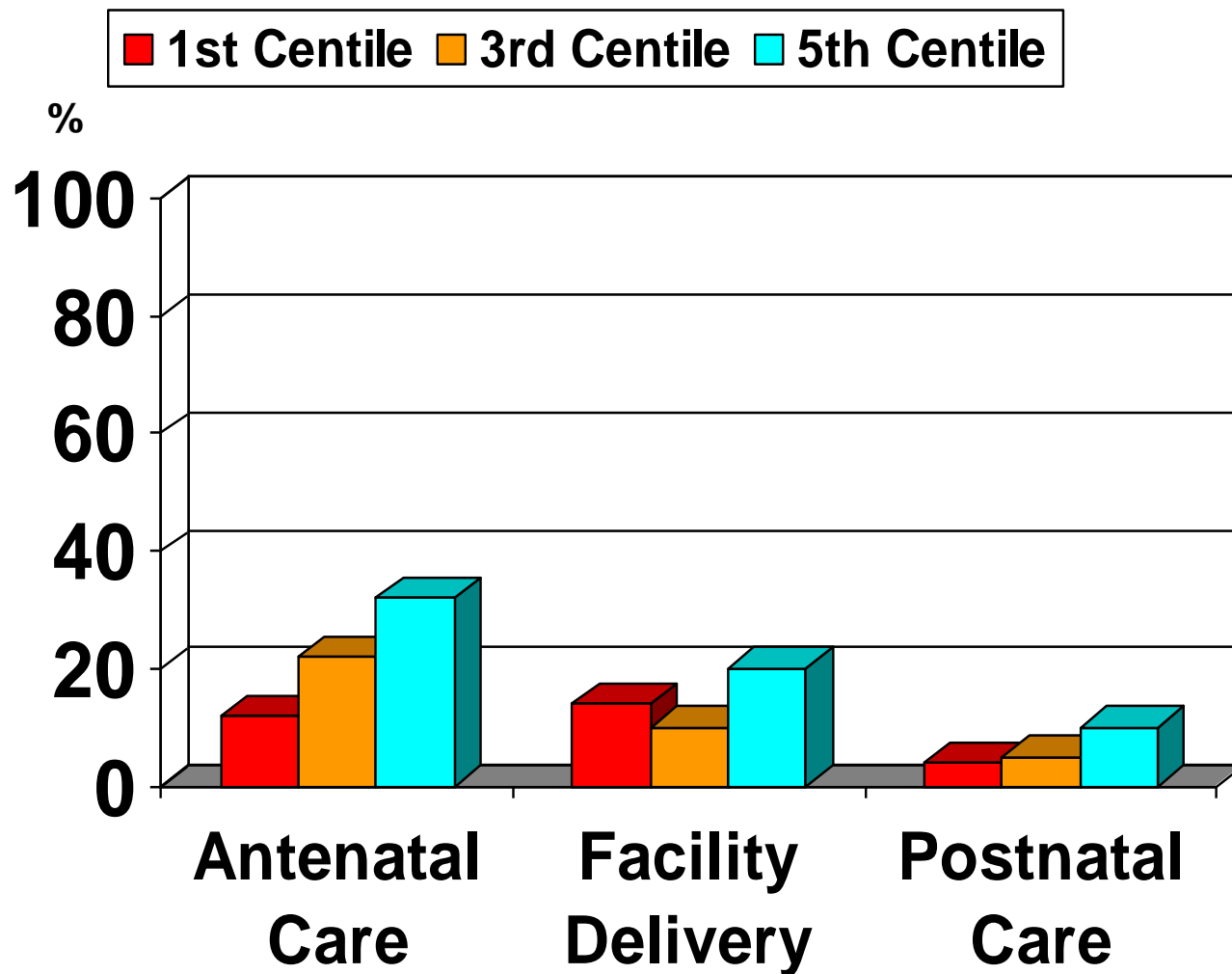


Existing Data Sources

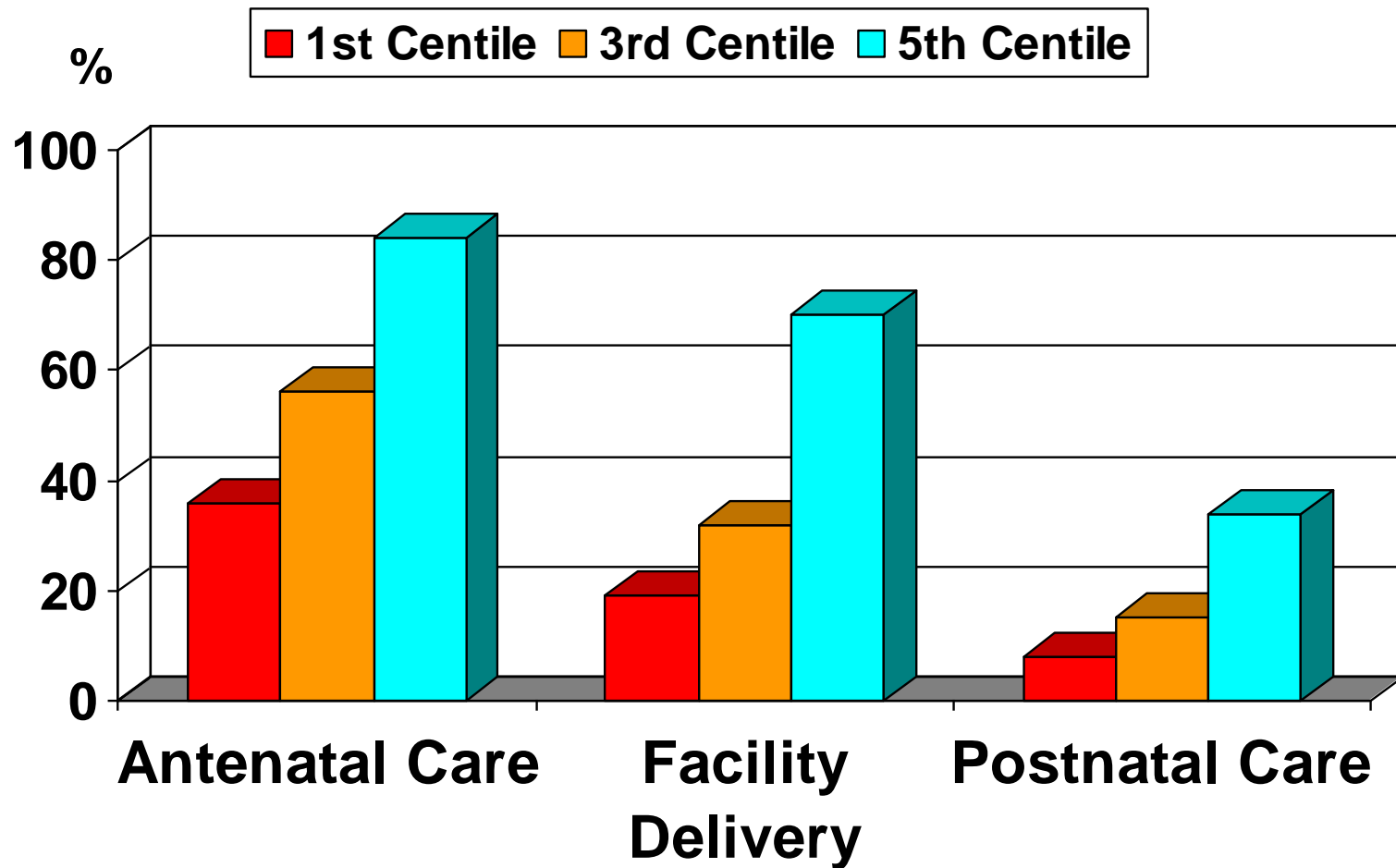
- **Regular Health System Monitoring**
 - Household based LHW program MIS
 - Facility based HMIS
 - Program outputs (EPI, Malaria, TB DOTS, HIV/AIDS)
- **Cross-sectional national surveys**
 - PDS (regular)
 - PSLM (2000 and 2005)
 - National Nutrition Surveys
- **Periodic HH Surveys (UN agencies/Bilaterals)**
 - DHS (1991 and 2007)
 - MICS (periodic: quality has varied)
- **Research bodies/Academic organizations**

Reproductive Health Access Inequity

Rural Pakistan



Reproductive Health Access Inequity Urban Pakistan



Academic Public Health Units

functions

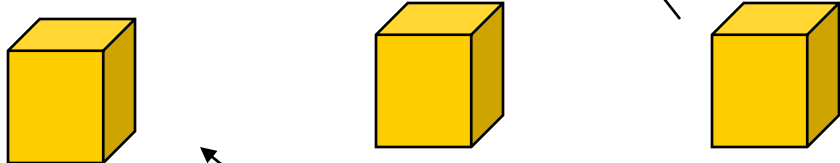
- **Teach (undergraduates & postgraduates)**
- **Service delivery**
 - Secondary to Tertiary
 - Ambulatory care
- **Provide a platform for scholarship, research and debate**
- **“Think tanks” for the public sector and development agencies**
- **Continuing education (professional & public)**

Tertiary
University Hospital

University Centers

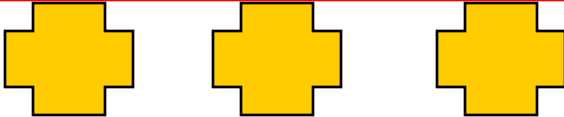
Facility-based interventions
Basic science research
Urban health problems

Secondary
District General Hospital
Taluka Hospital



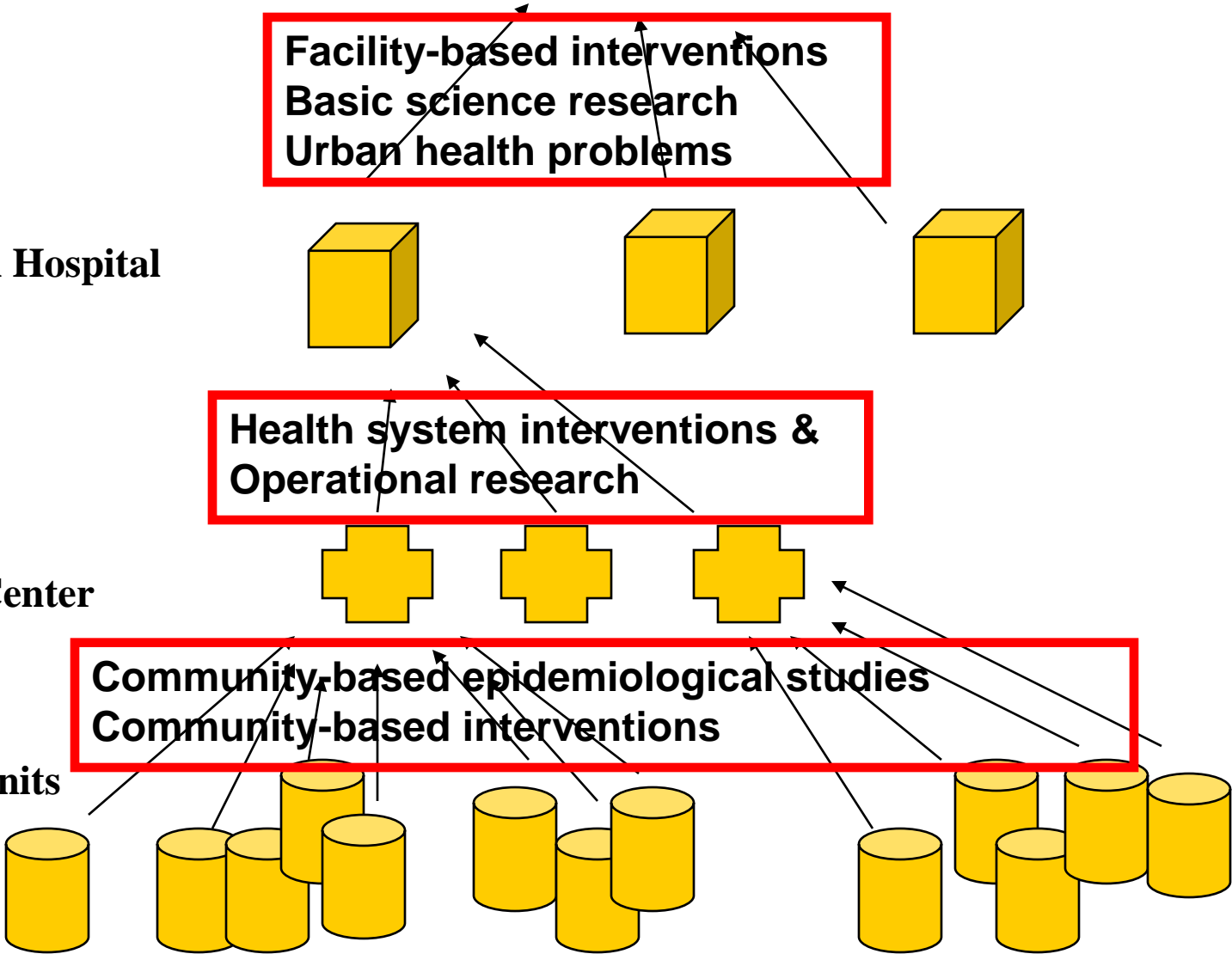
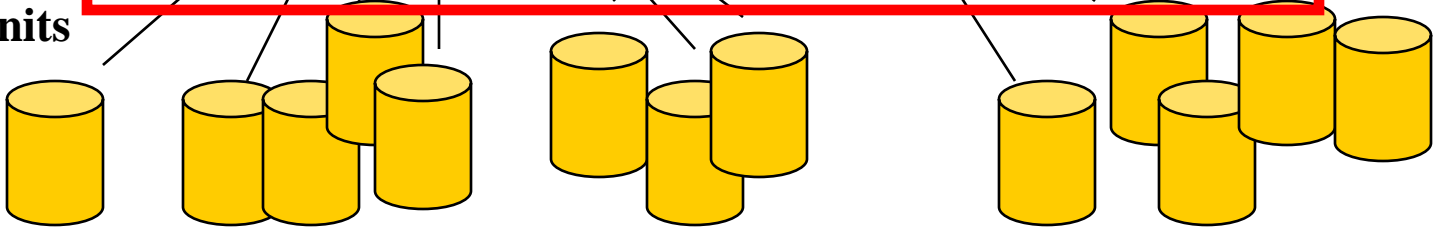
Health system interventions &
Operational research

Primary
Rural Health Center



Community-based epidemiological studies
Community-based interventions

Basic Health Units



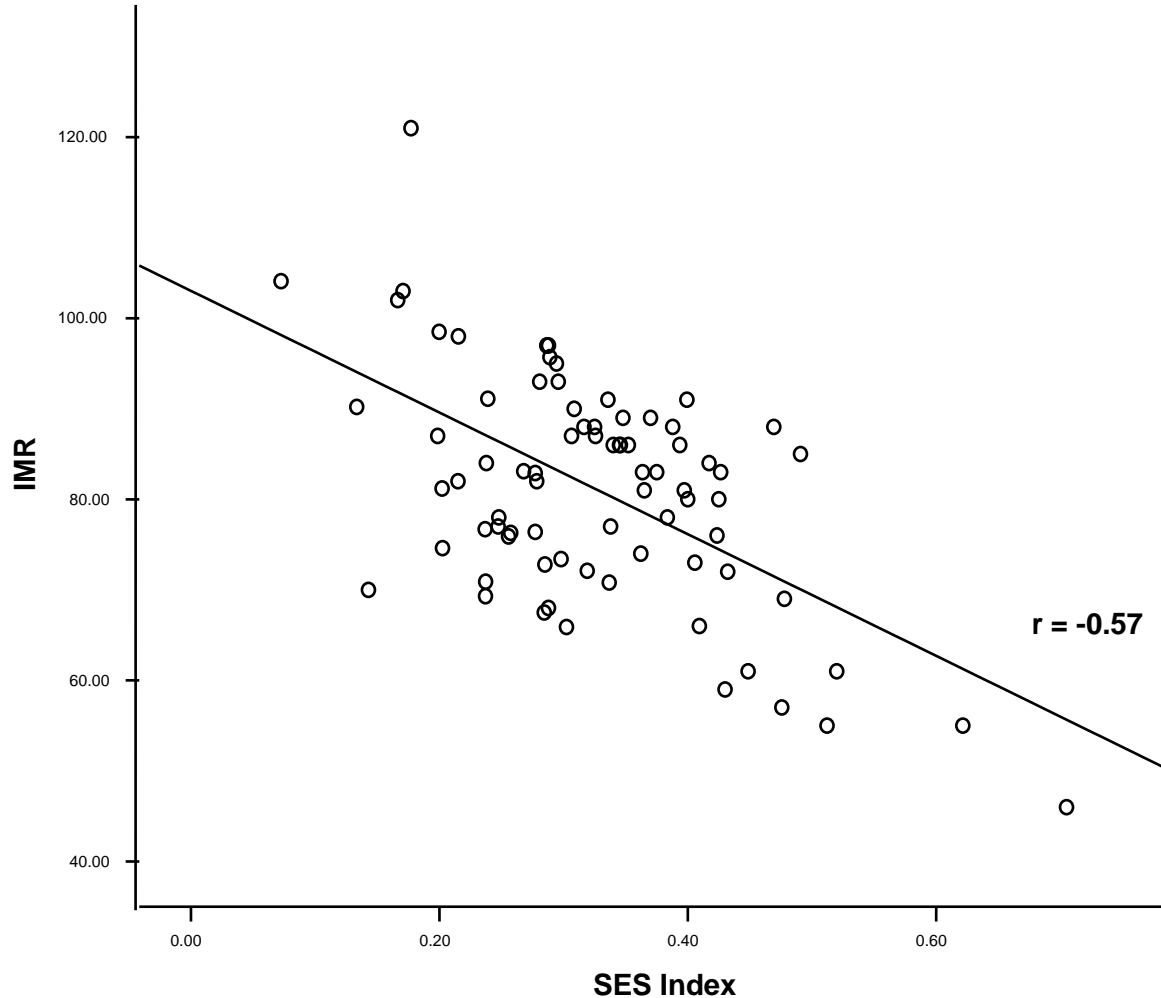
Academic Public Health Units

the reality

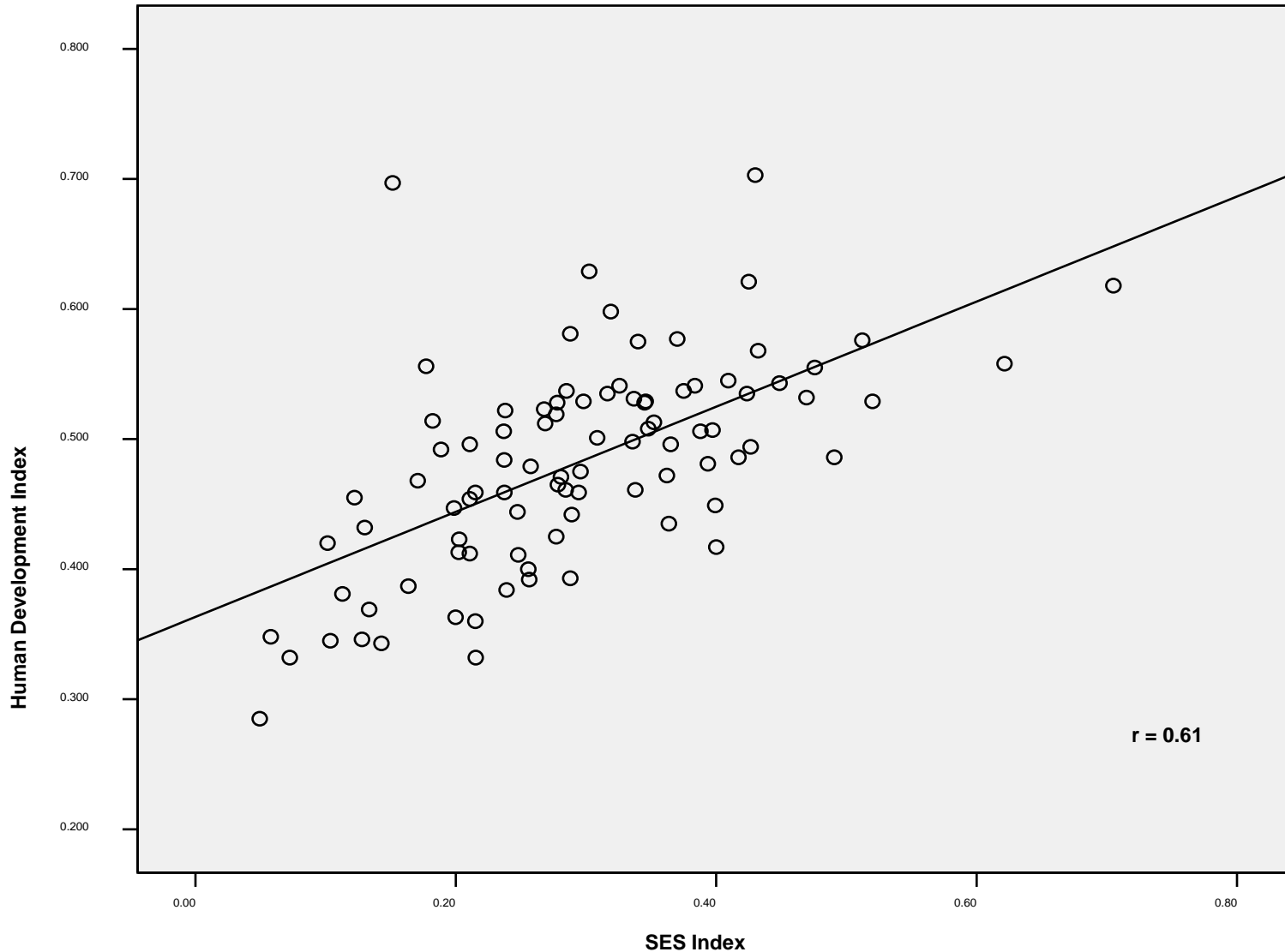
- Largely urban and in major cities
- Enormous pressures of teaching and service delivery
- Private practice is the norm
- Research in many cases is largely perfunctory and institutional-based
- Few academic units and staff involved in public health programs

Poverty matters!

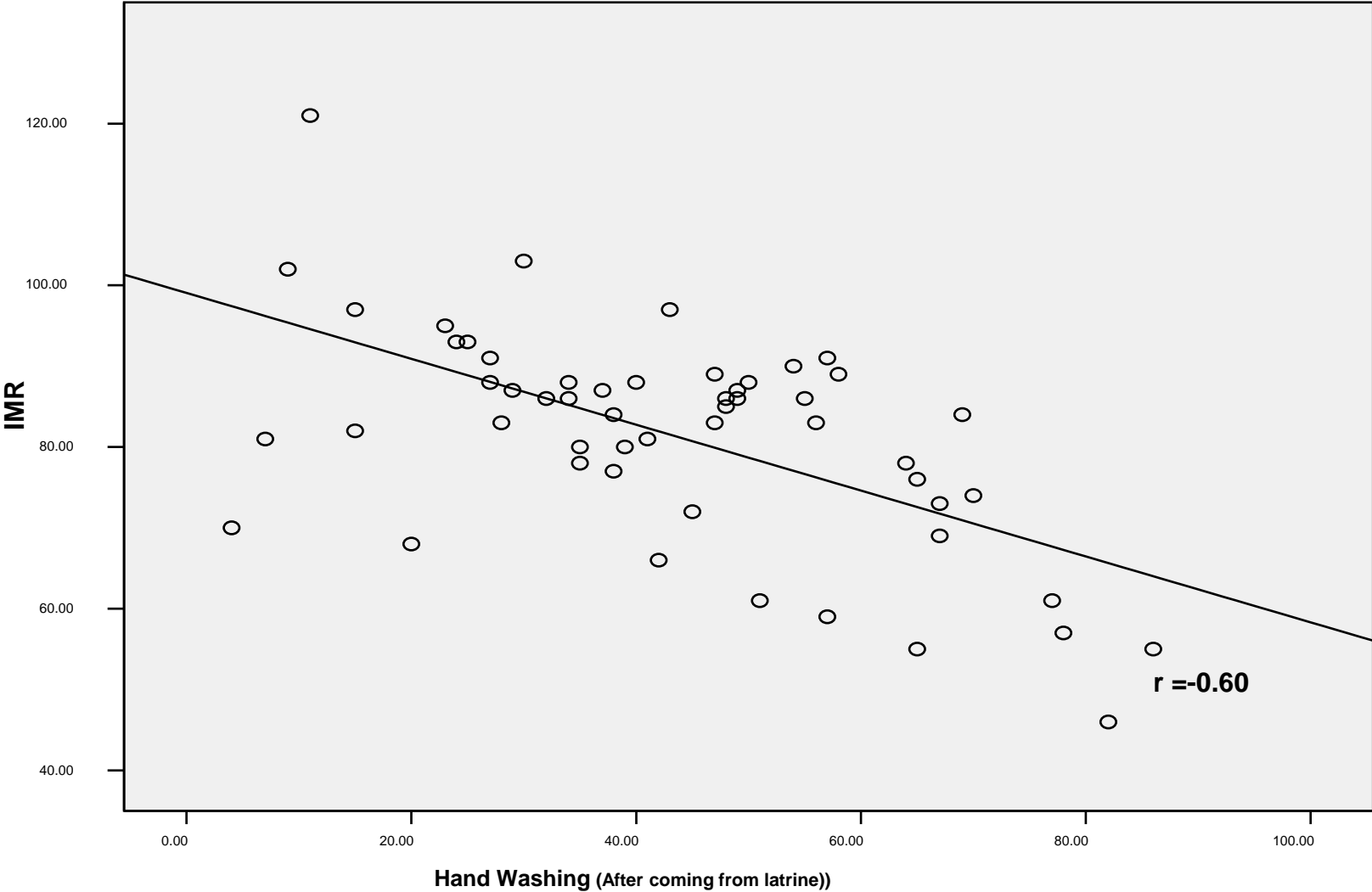
Correlation between IMR and SES index in districts of Pakistan



Poverty and lack of human development are closely linked!



Correlation of hand washing and infant mortality in districts



What can be done?

- **Strengthen routine monitoring**
 - Technical capacity
 - Quality Assurance
 - External Audits and Triangulation
- **External/Independent Surveys (regular)**
 - MICS
 - DHS surveys
- **Targeted surveys (inbuilt into programs)**
 - Local Academic & Research Organizations
 - Linked to Public sector policy units or with clear policy perspective

What will it take?

- **Investment in local capacity development and enhancement in applied research**
- **Partnership between donor agencies, public sector planning & development organizations and academic & research organizations.**
- **Building a consensus agenda for priorities on research in MNCH**