

INTRODUCTION

Unwed pregnancy and baby dumping is on the rise in Malaysia. Adolescents engaging in early sexual activity places them at a high risk. In the developing countries adolescents are involved in sex before they are 15 years of age (Dixon-Mueller, 2009). Malaysian statistics are not reliable due to under reporting of the pregnancy and the outcomes. The welfare department reported that from January to April, 2010, 111 unmarried young girls were pregnant.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the incidence of unwed pregnancies among 14 tertiary hospitals in Malaysia.

METHODOLOGY

This is a retrospective analysis from the National Obstetrics Registry from 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2012. A total of 260,959 deliveries were analyzed.

RESULT

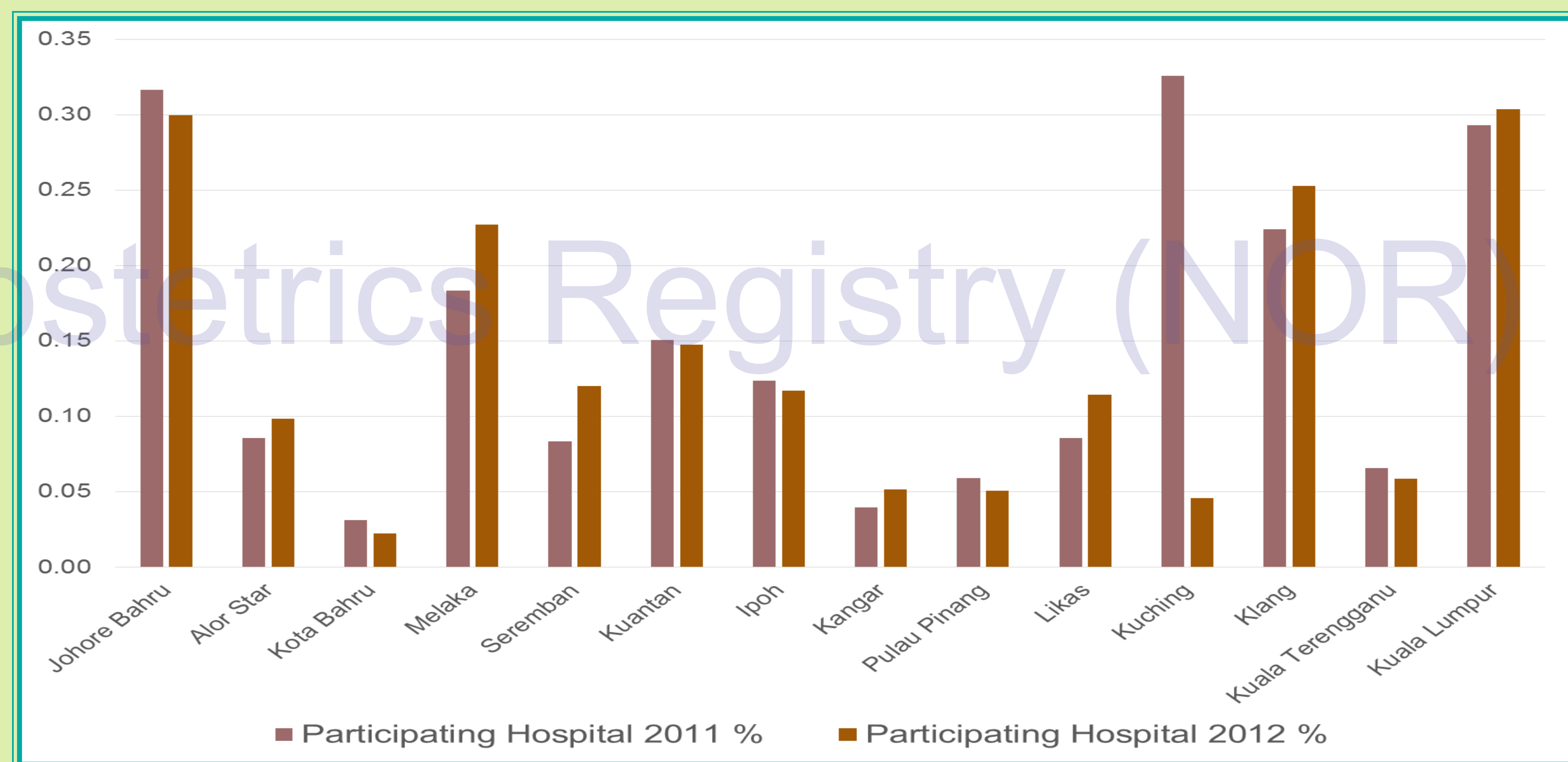
There were 5200 cases of unwed pregnancies which accounted for 1.99% of all deliveries. Para I had the highest percentage of unwed pregnancies at 4.20% (2011) and 3.58% (2012). Highest incidence was also seen in age 10-20 years at 11.5% (2011) and 10.5% (2012). (Graph 1 & 2). The total deliveries in 2011 among the unwed was 2.06% while in 2012 it was 1.91%. The highest incident of unwed pregnancy, of 446 cases in 2011 was in Hospital Umum Sarawak and in Hospital Kuala Lumpur, 377 cases in 2012. (Graph 3).

Still birth is a major complication in the unwed pregnancy and more than 75% of these cases were unbooked. (Graph 4). The commonest obstetric complication was postpartum haemorrhage. 43.2% (2011) and 41.8% (2012) of unwed pregnancies are from mothers' whose income was less than RM 1000 or had no income at all. Women with an income of RM 5000 or more have a lower incidence of unwed pregnancies at 0.1% (2011) and 0.2% (2012). More than 70% women in this group had a vaginal delivery (Table 5) and only 3% babies born to unwed mothers were asphyxiated at birth. (Table 1)

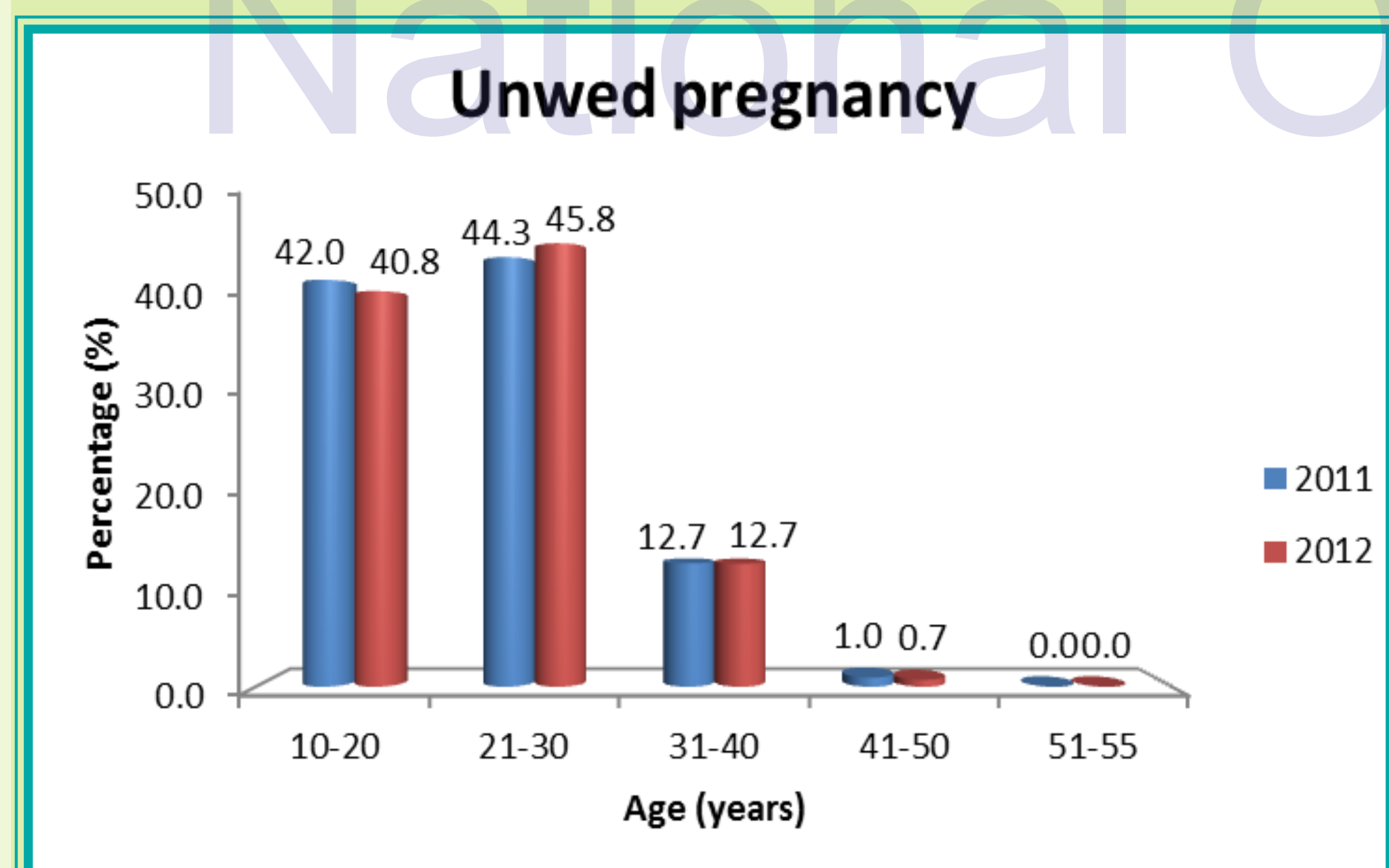
Table 1: Unwed pregnancy and fetal outcome

Fetal outcome	Total delivery				Unwed pregnancy			
	2011		2012		2011		2012	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Apgar score 5min ≤ 7	2,587	2.0	1,733	1.4	80	3.0	52	2.3
Apgar score 5min > 7	128,874	98.0	120,203	98.6	2,628	97.0	2,258	97.7
Total	131,461	100	121,936	100	2,708	100	2,310	100

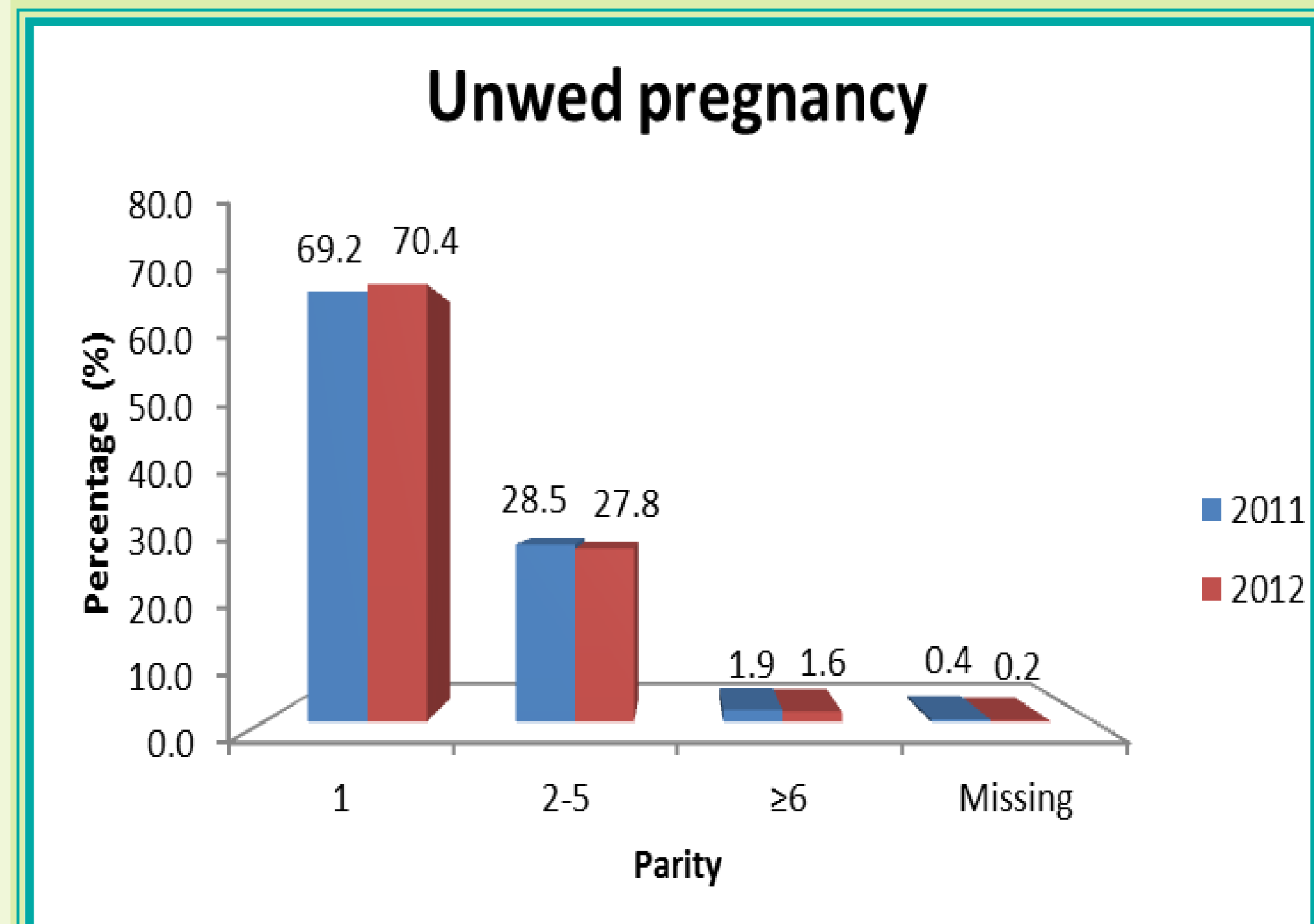
Graph 3: Unwed pregnancy from participating hospitals



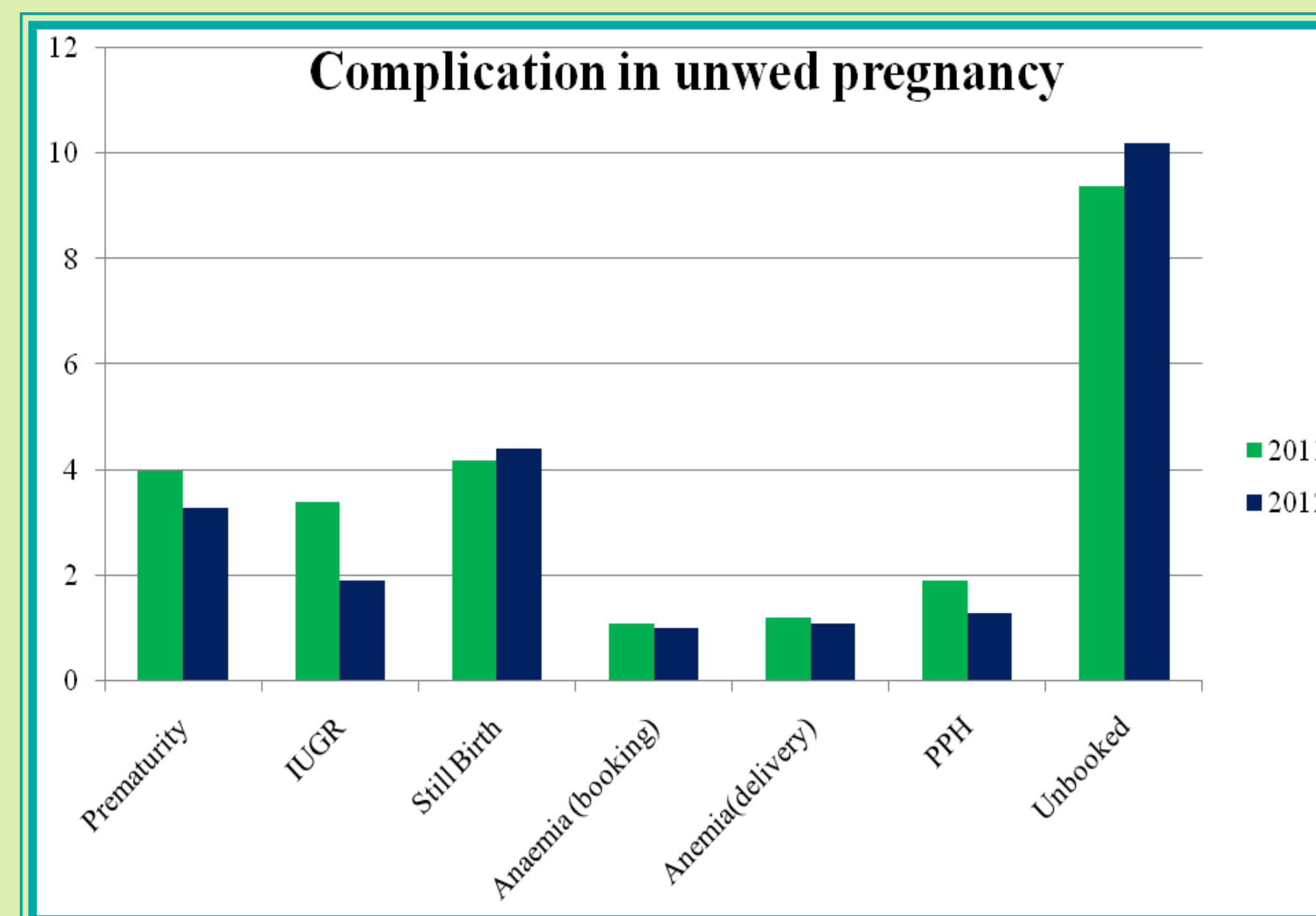
Graph 1: Unwed pregnancy to age



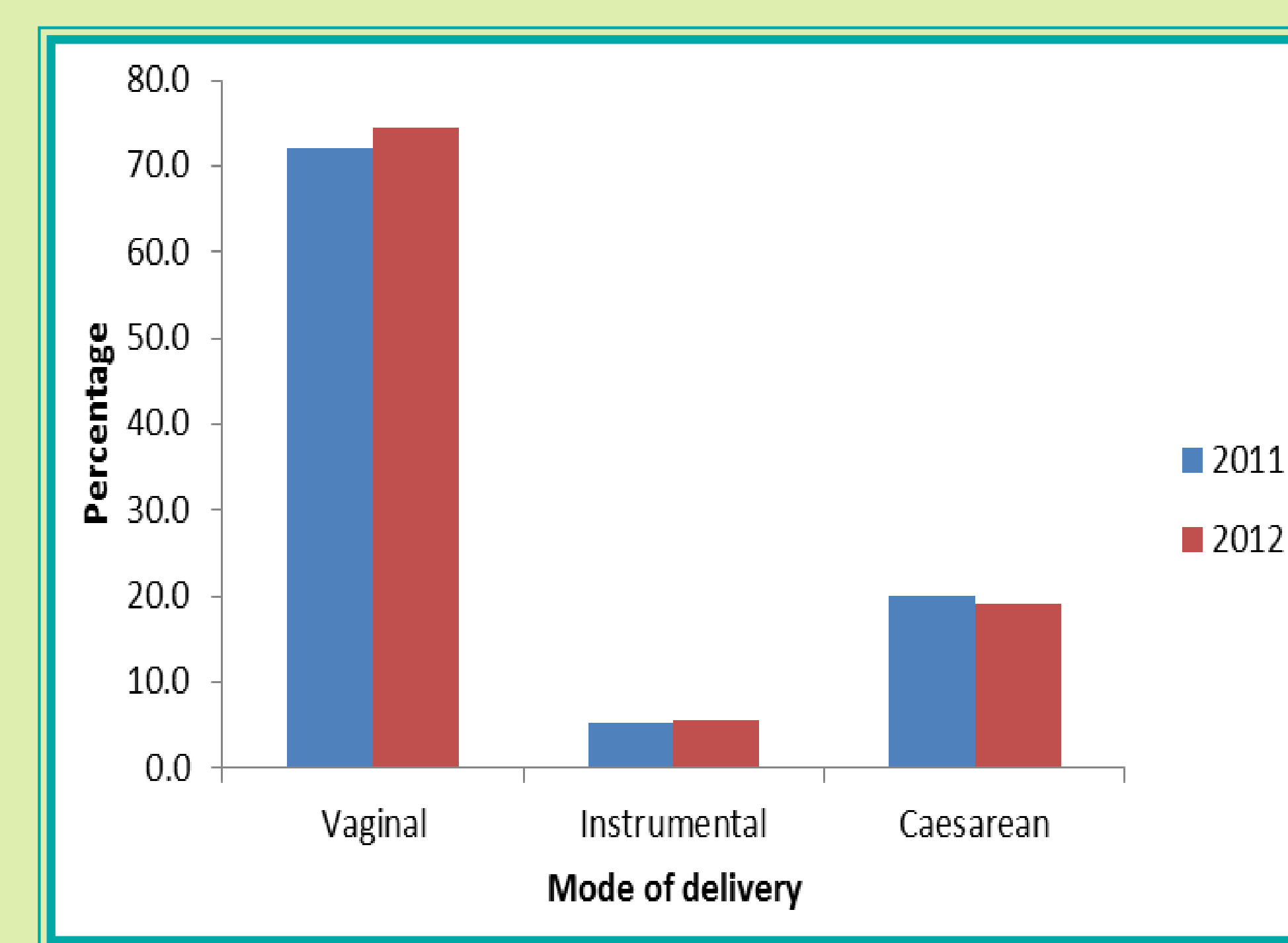
Graph 2: Unwed pregnancy to parity



Graph 4: Complications in unwed pregnancy



Graph 5: Mode of delivery in unwed pregnancy



CONCLUSION

There is an increasing incidence of unwed pregnancies throughout Malaysia especially in the younger age group between 10-20 years old. A significantly large number of patients in this group was unbooked and this increases their obstetric risk further. There is a need for proactive measures to address the issues that have surfaced from this study

REFERENCES

1. M. Gallagher, The Age of Unwed Mothers Is Teen Pregnancy the Problem? New York : Institute for American Values, 1999
- Azizi, Y.(2010). Social problems among teenagers : A challenge. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia