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Effects of economic status and family planning ideation on married women's fertility intentions in Ghana and Kenya

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Objective

Determine and compare effects of economic status and family planning ideation on married women's intention to stop, delay or continue childbearing

Background

- Fertility intention is a determinant of fertility transitions -“fertility must be within the calculus of conscious choice”
- Intentions to stop or delay childbearing associated with fertility decline in low-income countries
- Fertility decline tends to level off at the average desired family size
- Thus creating intention to stop or delay childbearing among married women is a requisite for family planning uptake and fertility decline

Background (2)

- Economic status and ideation are two main factors of fertility decline although there is still debate about which is the predominant
- How these two factors affect fertility intentions and how do their effects compare?

Data & Methods

Data

- DHS Ghana (2003) and Kenya (2003)
- Representative sample of 5,691 and 8,195 women respectively
- Dependent variable:
 - Y = fertility intention
- Independent variables:
 - Wealth index
 - Education
 - Ideation index
 - Residence
 - Ethnic group – # of living children
- Analysis restricted to women in union with two or more children
 - 2720 in Ghana & 3681 in Kenya

Methods

- Multinomial logit regression

Y = Intention to have another child:

Y = 0: want soon,

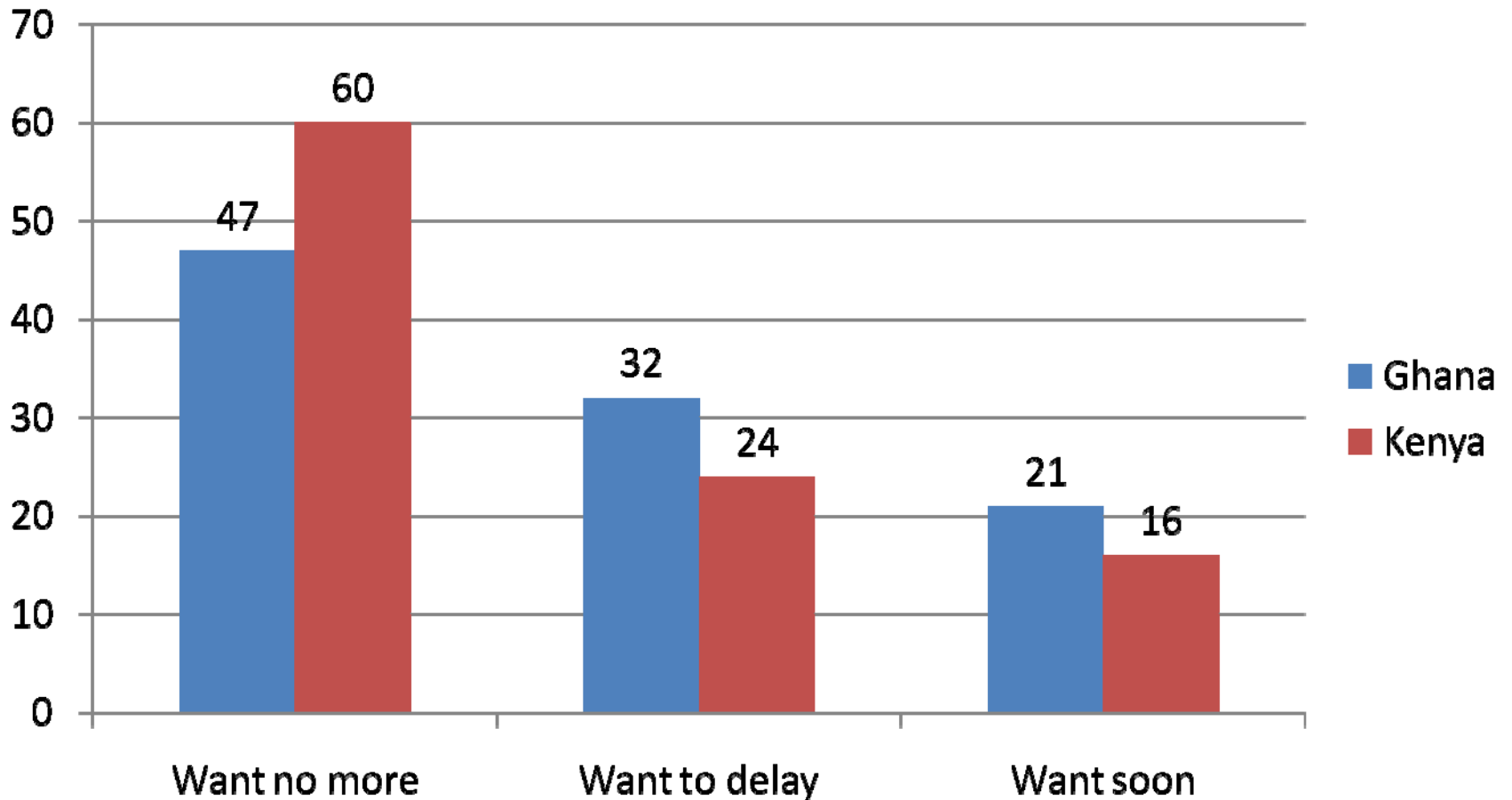
Y = 1: want no more,

Y = 2: want two + years later

Wealth and ideation indexes

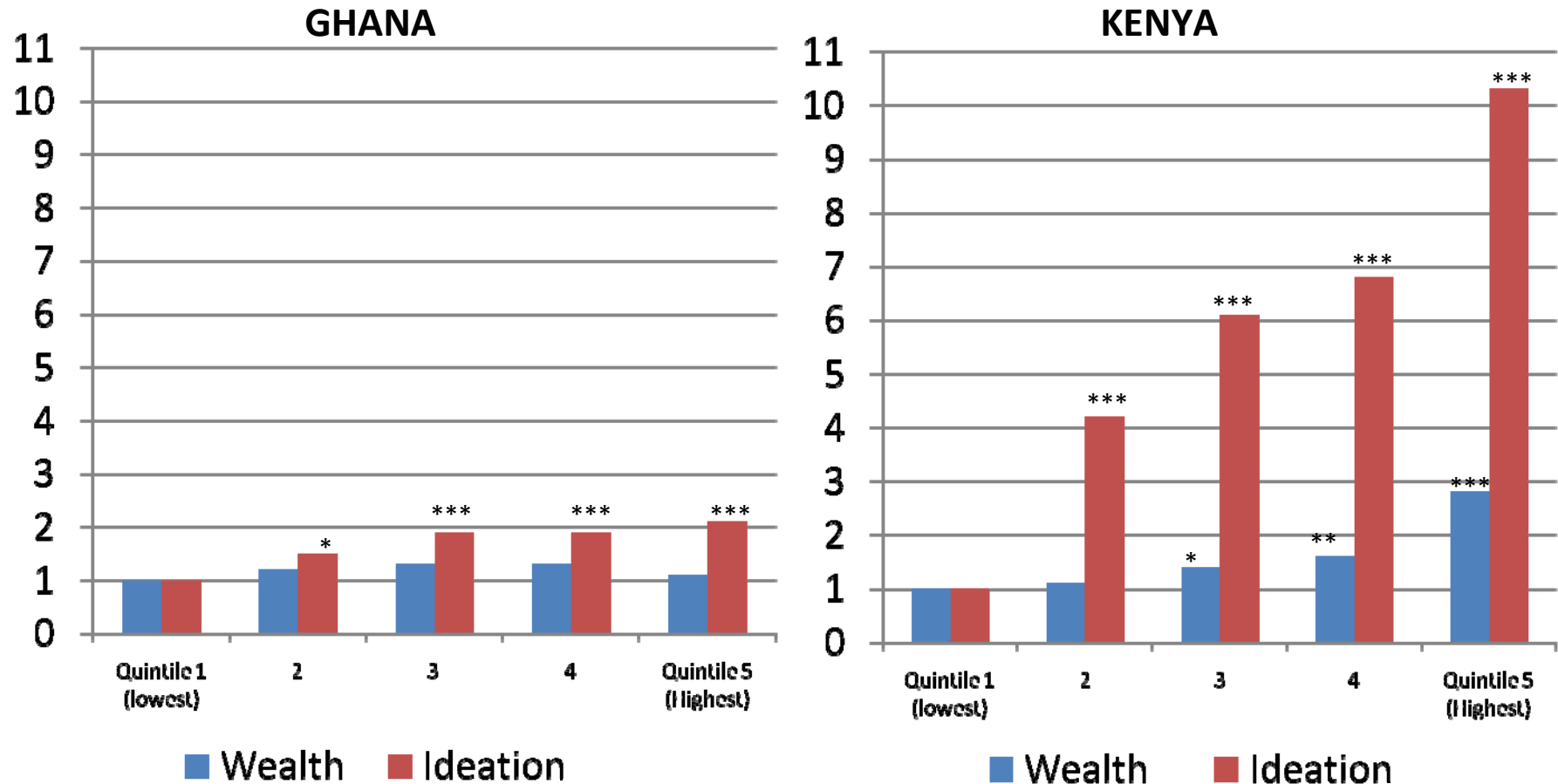
- Wealth index:
 - Created from asset and household characteristics using principal component analysis
 - Available in the dataset
 - Split into quintiles
- Ideation index:
 - Created using variables related to family planning including knowledge, attitudes, exposure to FP on media, discussion about FP, visit by FP worker, ideal family size
 - Created using principal component analysis
 - Split into quintiles
 - Test of exogeneity of the ideation index using bivariate probit model

Fertility intentions (married women with ≥ 2 children)



Partial model

Adjusted OR of intention to stop childbearing (Base category: Want a child soon)

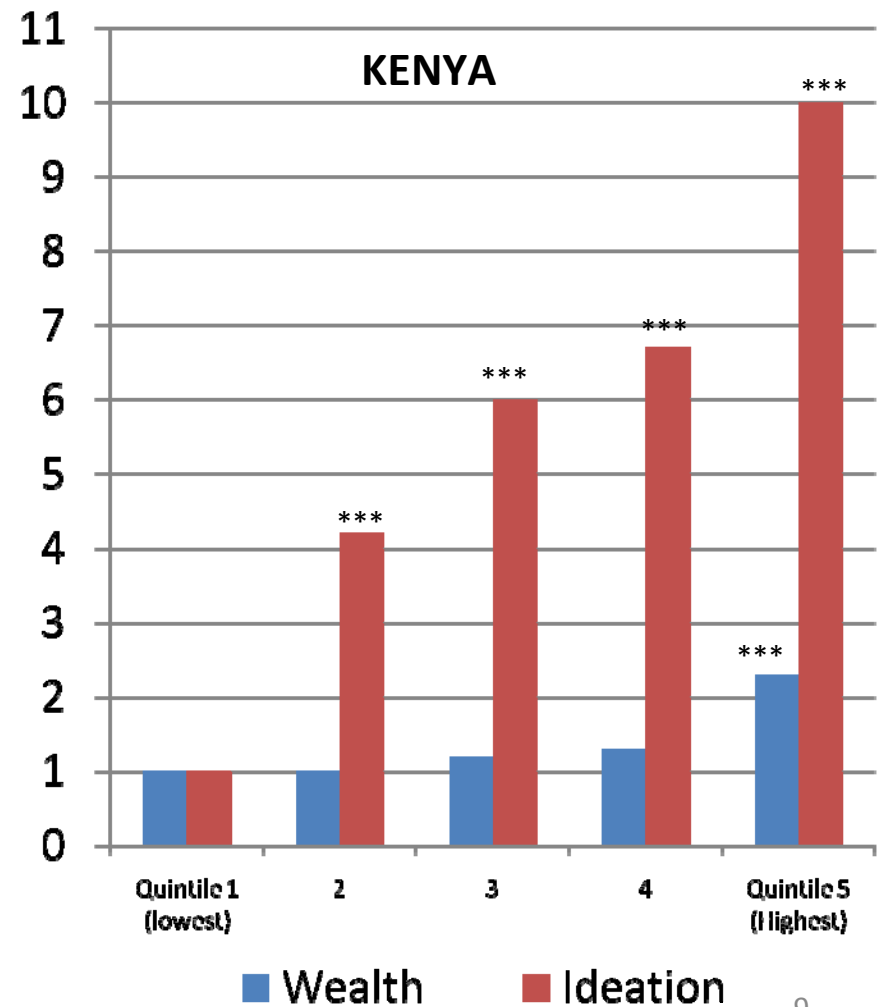
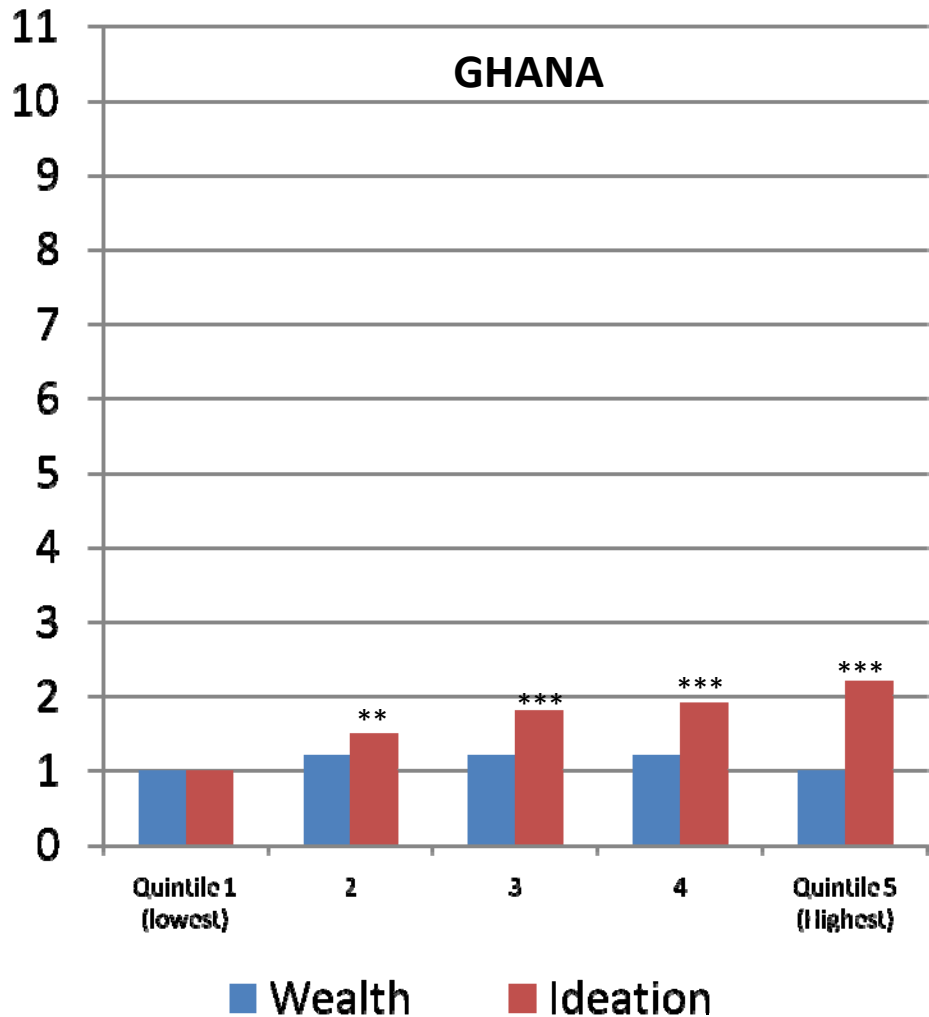


Partial models: model with all control variables + either the wealth quintiles or the ideation quintiles

*** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.10$

Full model

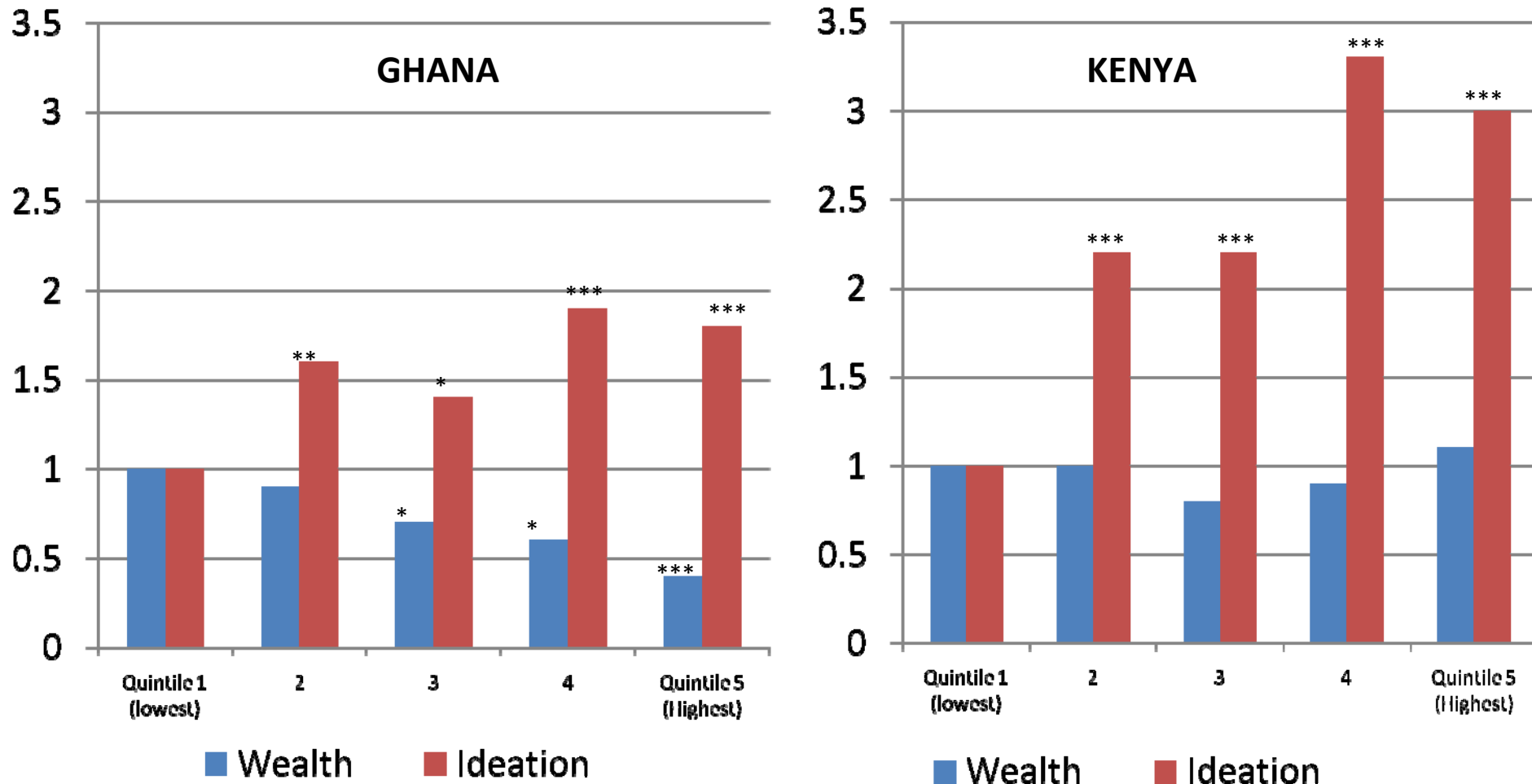
Adjusted OR of intention to stop childbearing (Base category: Want a child soon)



*** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.10$

Partial model

Adjusted OR of intention to delay childbearing (Base category: Want a child soon)

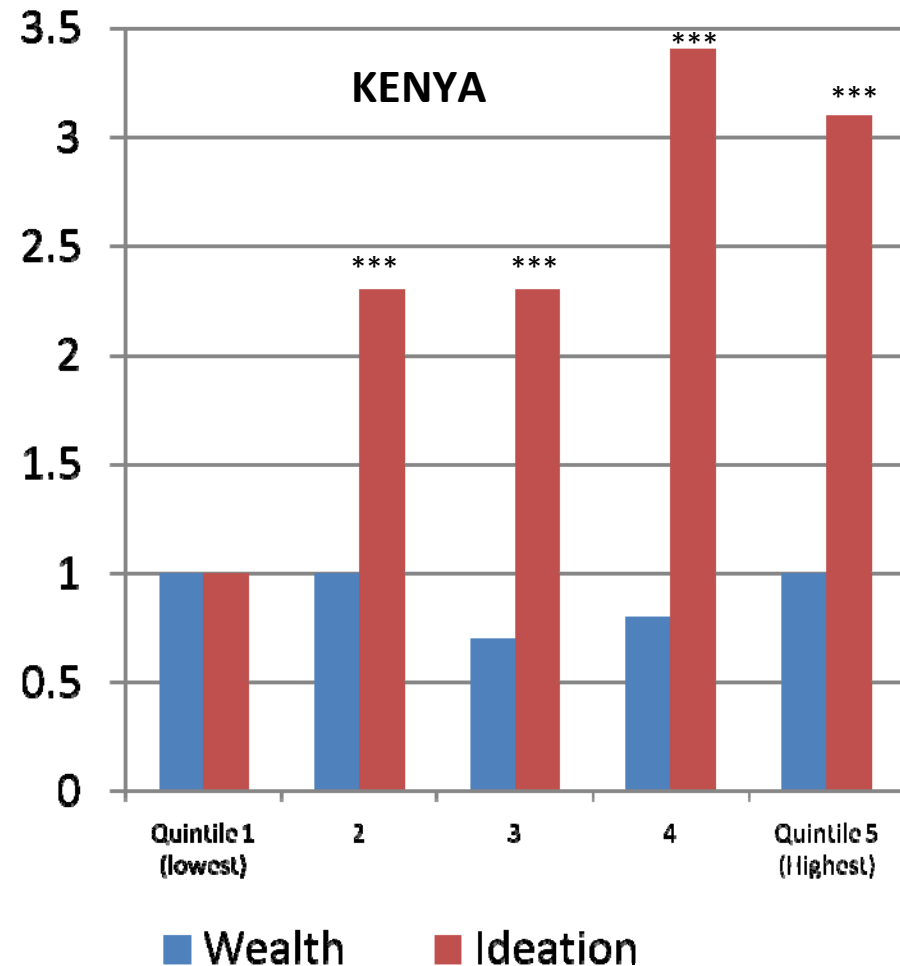
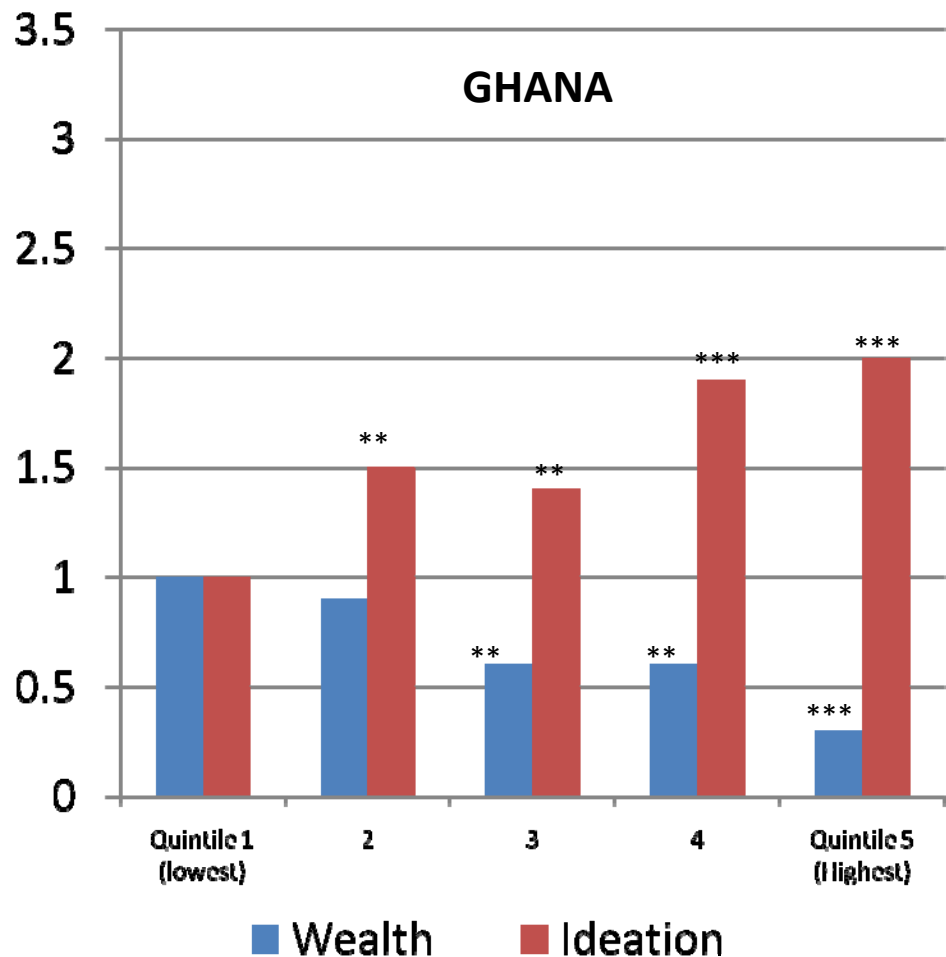


Partial models: model with all control variables + either the wealth quintiles or the ideation quintiles

*** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.10$

Full model

Adjusted OR of intention to delay childbearing (Base category: Want a child soon)



*** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.10$

Summary of results

- Ideation has strong positive association with intention to stop or delay childbearing in Ghana and Kenya
- Wealth is significantly and positively associated with intention to stop childbearing only in Kenya
- Wealth is negatively associated with intention to delay childbearing in Ghana and non significant in Kenya
- Ideation mediates some of the effects of wealth on intention to stop childbearing in Kenya
- Ideation has stronger effects on fertility intentions than wealth

Implications

- Ideation is powerful for generating demands for FP, even in poor areas
- Continued attention to ideation factors to generate demands for family planning
- Continued attention to outreach programs and social network interventions for FP in FP interventions and communication programs

THANK YOU