

The Timing of Teen Pregnancy and High School Enrollment: A PATHS Equity for Children Project

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Background

In-school clinics provide services for youth in school, including testing for STIs and advice regarding, or provision of contraception. However, a large number of young women giving birth may not be enrolled in school, and therefore not receiving the benefits of these clinics. We present here an analysis of when young women may be withdrawing from school in relation to when they are having children, or whether a teen birth resulted in any interruption in school enrollment at all. It was also important to understand whether this varied by SES, as measured by income quintiles. Finally, we also examined how frequently young women who did withdraw returned to the school system.

Objectives

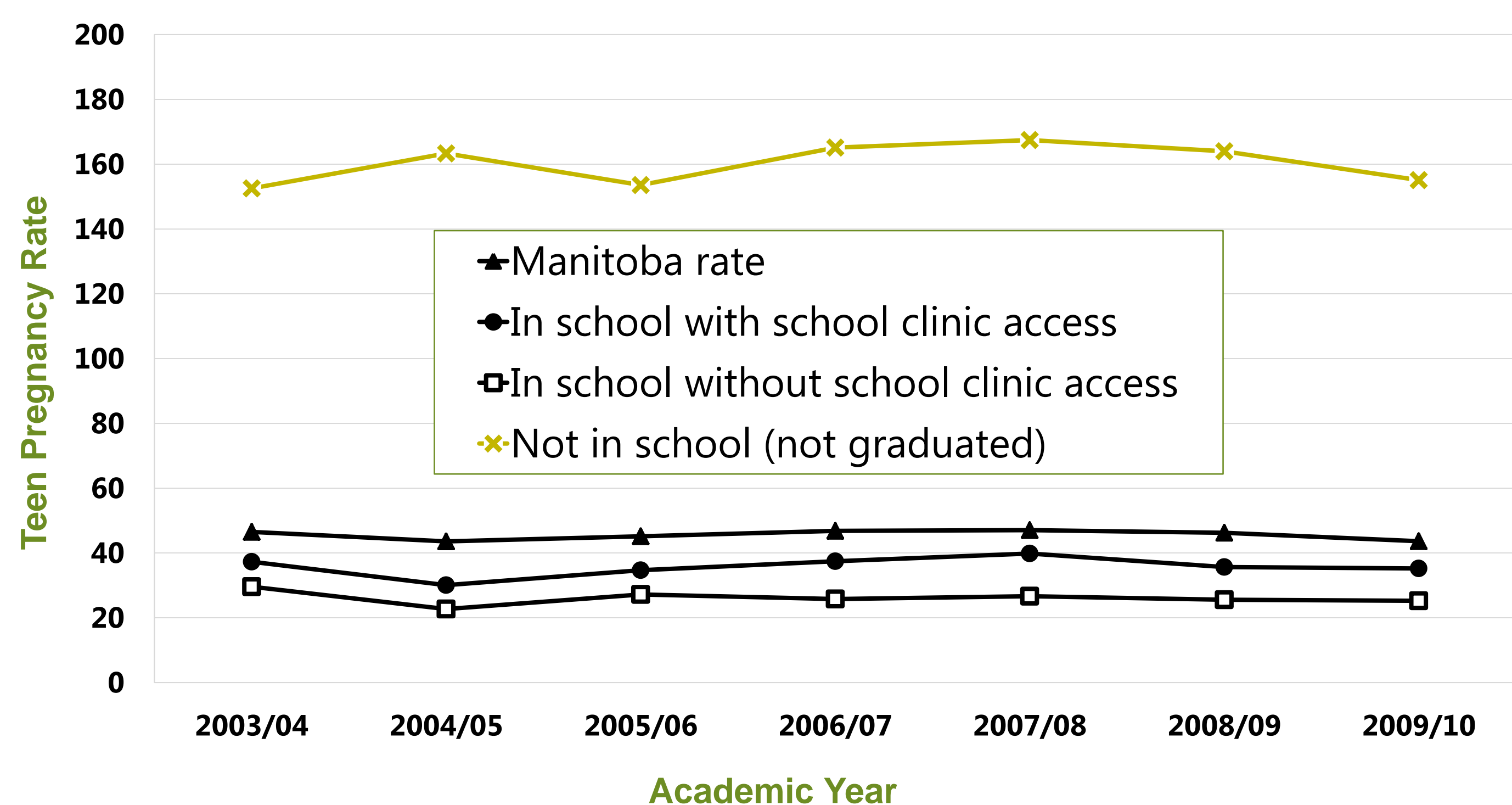
To examine the relationship between teen births and school enrollment, and how this might be related to socioeconomic status.

Methods

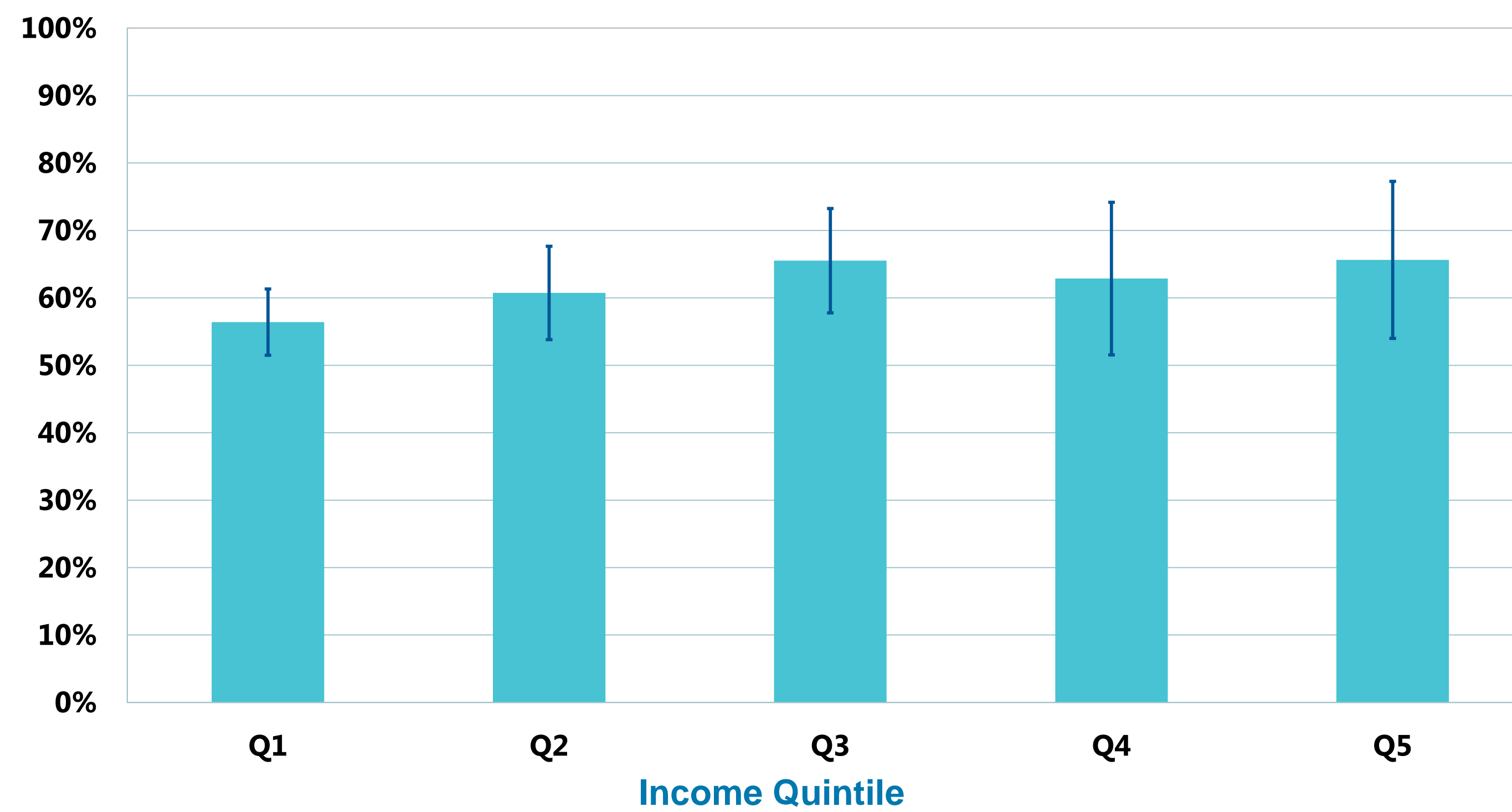
- Repository data held at MCHP was used to identify all teen girls with a birth outcome prior to completing high school
- School enrollment was identified at the start of every school year. Teen births were divided into three groups:
 - continuous enrollment – no break in enrollment records
 - withdrawn prior to pregnancy – a break in enrollment occurred prior to conception
 - pregnancy prior to withdrawing– date of conception was prior to a break in school enrollment
- Analysis was stratified by girls in Grades 9-11, and those in Grade 12, due to the possibility of graduation for the older girls.

Teenage Pregnancy for Manitoba Population, 2003 - 2010

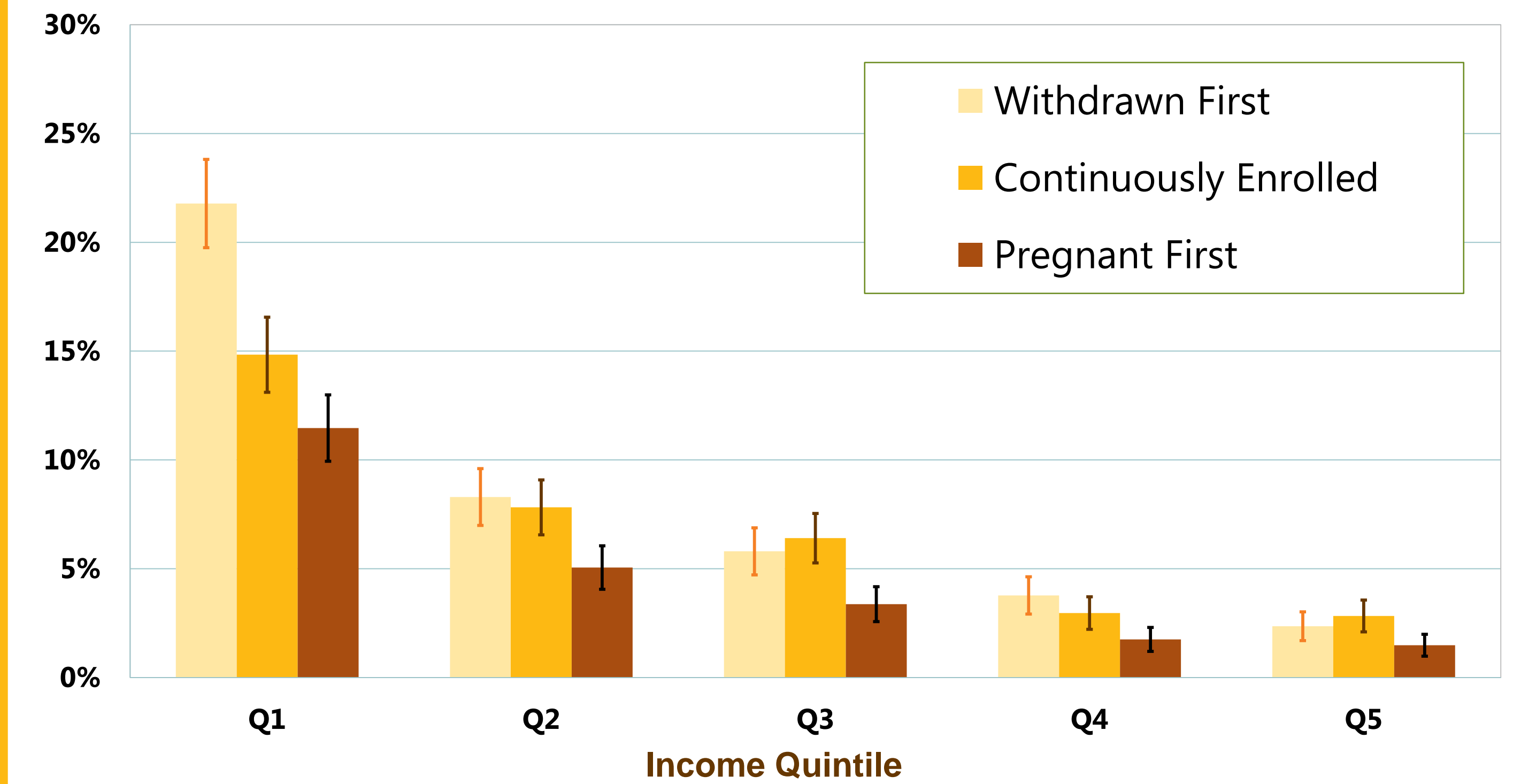
Crude rate of females aged 15-19 years per 1,000



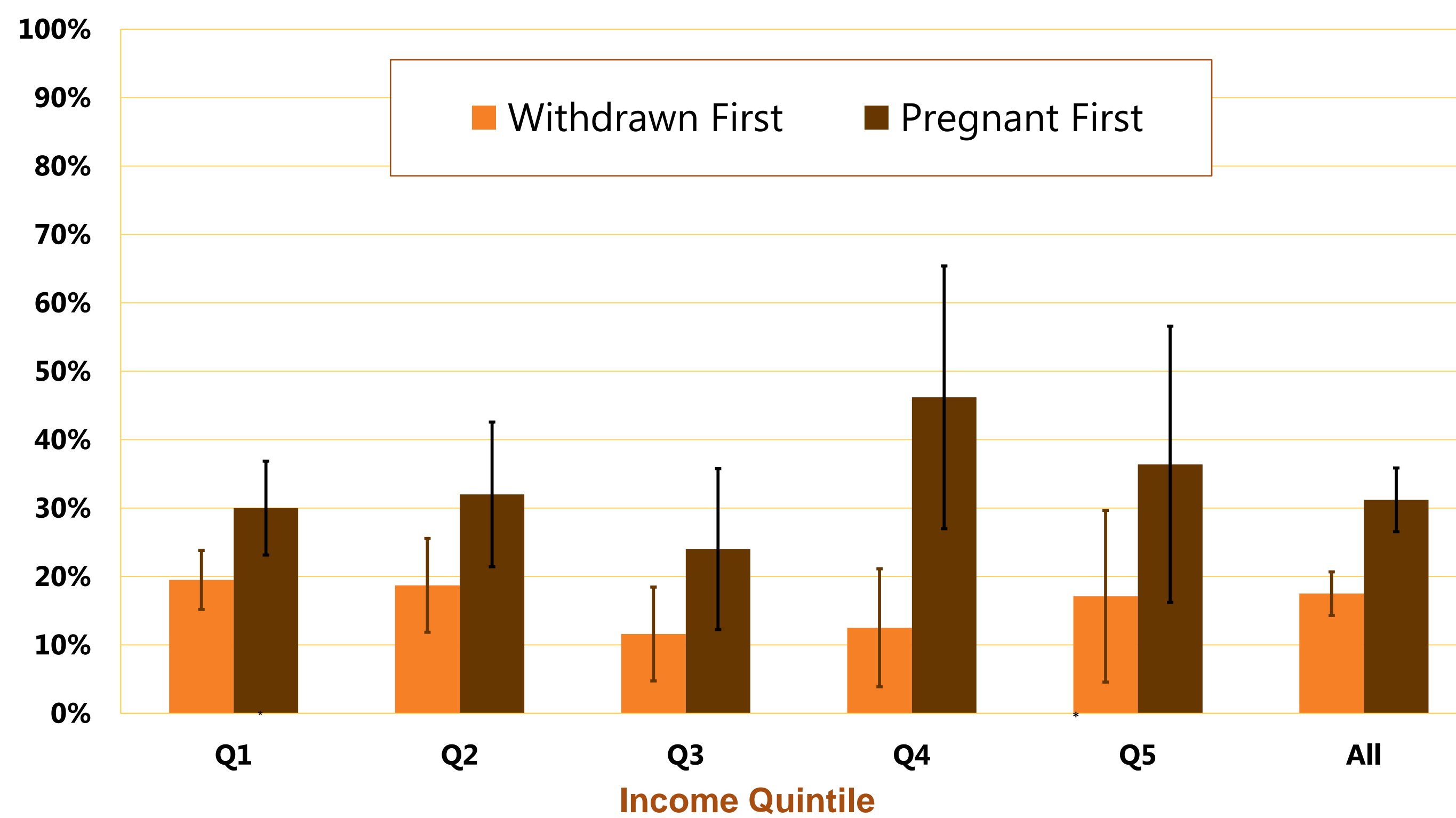
Percent of Teen Moms in Grade 9-11 who Re-enrolled in the Following Academic Year, 2003-2010



Percent of All Teen Pregnancies, by Income Quintile and Timing Group



Percent of Teen Moms in Grade 9-11 - Who Ever Re-enrolled following a Pregnancy, 2003-2010



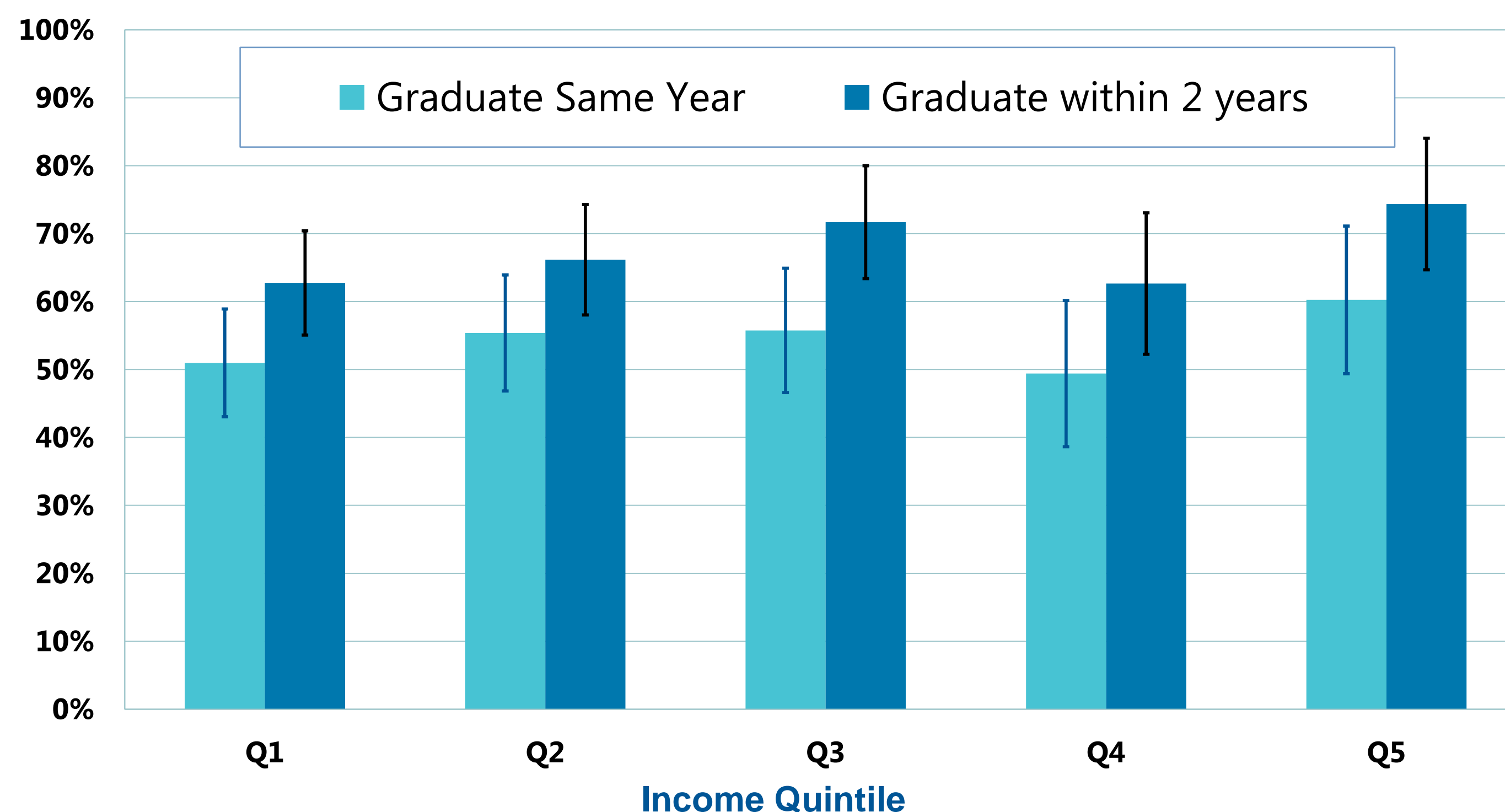
Results

Girls not in school are far more likely to give birth than those in school. For those who become pregnant while in school, the likelihood of continuous enrollment is over 50% and does not vary by SES. For girls who become pregnant while in Grade 12, over half graduate that same year, while almost 70% graduate in the next two years. Again, this does not vary by SES. However, if a girl withdraws from school before becoming pregnant, she is far less likely to ever re-enroll in school than a girl that drops out because of the pregnancy. The biggest driver of differences in SES is the likelihood of becoming pregnant at all, where girls in Q1 make up the largest proportion of all three timing groups.

Conclusion

Although the teen pregnancy rate is quite high for girls who are not enrolled in school, pregnancy has less of an impact on schooling than might be expected. Rather, withdrawing from school seems to come prior to becoming pregnant at least as often as withdrawing after becoming pregnant, particularly for low SES. For those that do become pregnant in school, SES does not have a strong impact on current or future school enrollment.

High School Completion for Teen Pregnancies Occurring in Grade 12, 2003-2010



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