

# Malawi: On the Road to a Demographic Dividend?

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**IDEA**

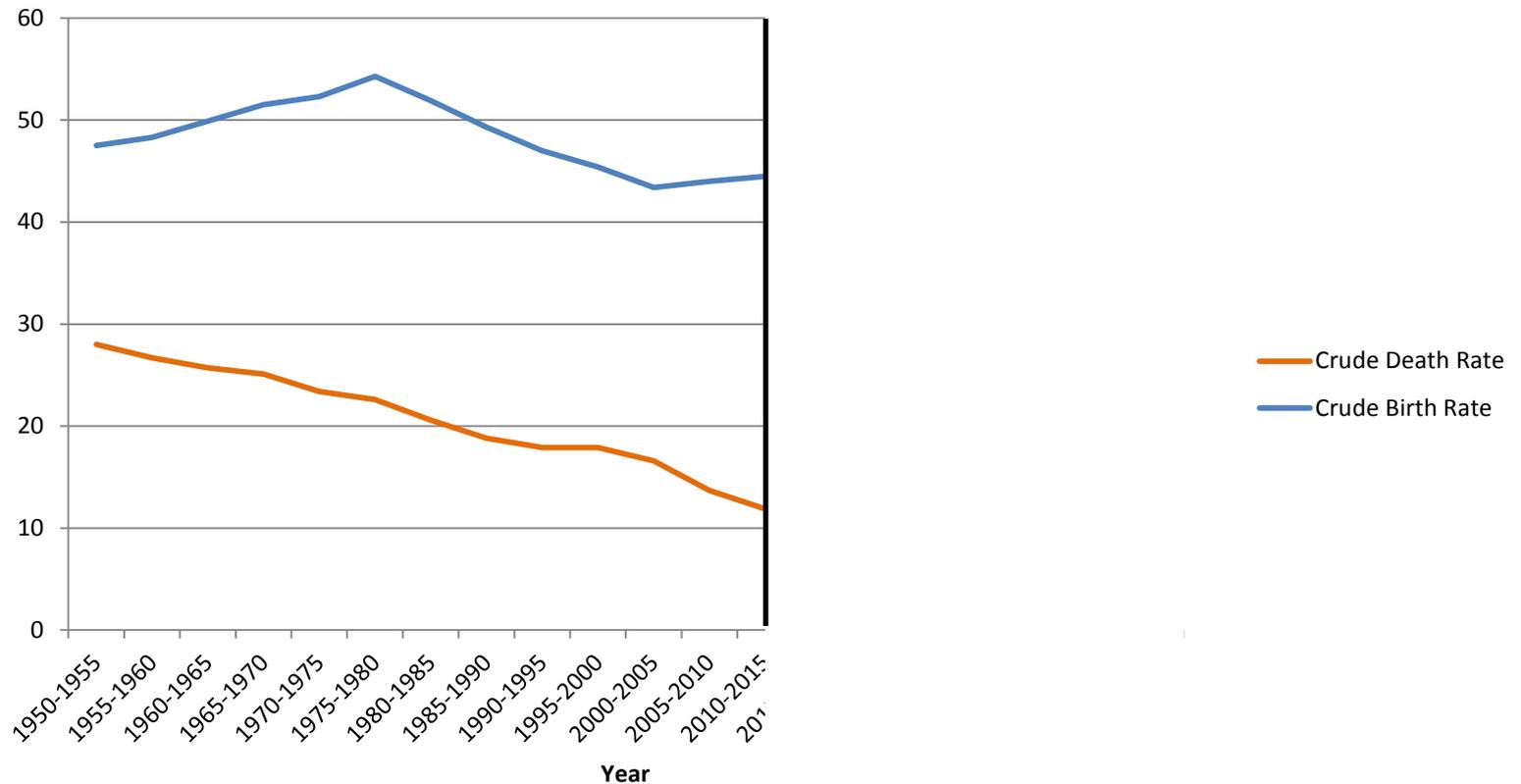
INFORMING  
DECISIONMAKERS  
TO ACT

# What is a demographic dividend?

- The growth in a country's economy resulting from a change in the age structure of its population.
  - Fertility falls → fewer births → size of the population of under age 15 falls → changes in ages structure
  - Fewer youth → fewer expenditures on education, education, and food
  - Fertility remains lower → working age population grows → change in dependency ratio

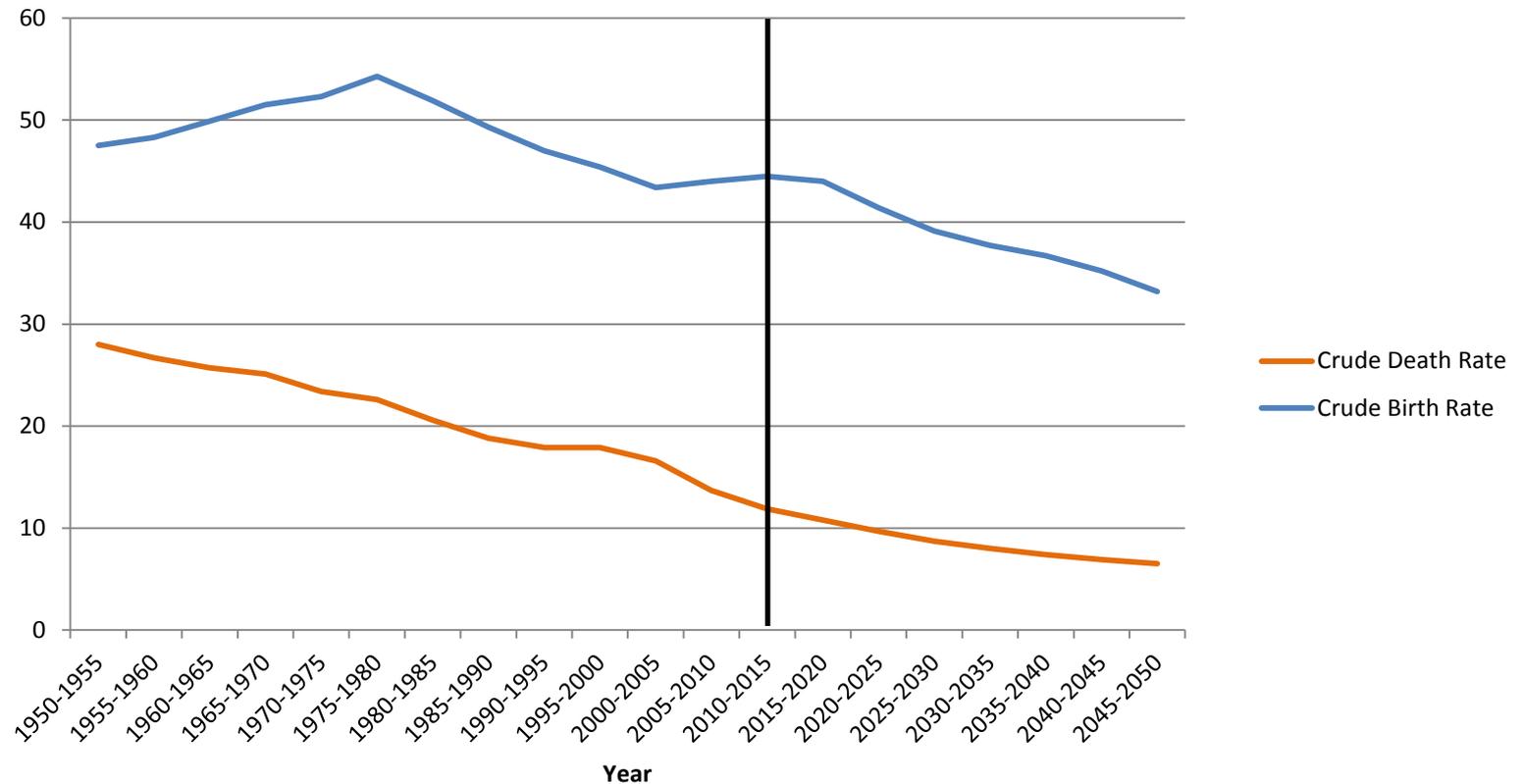
# Malawi is making slow progress in its demographic transition

Events per 1,000 people

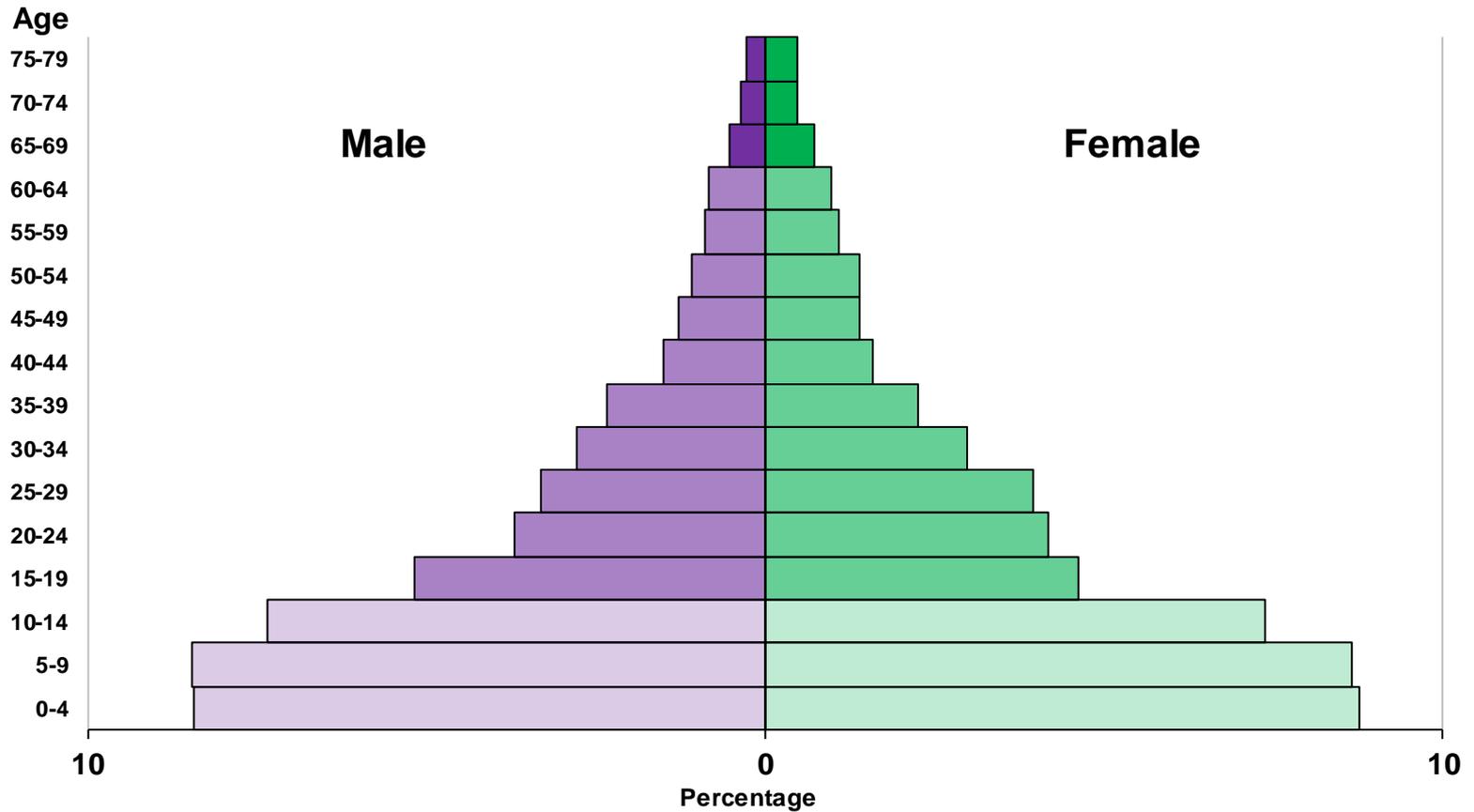


# The future also holds demographic challenges

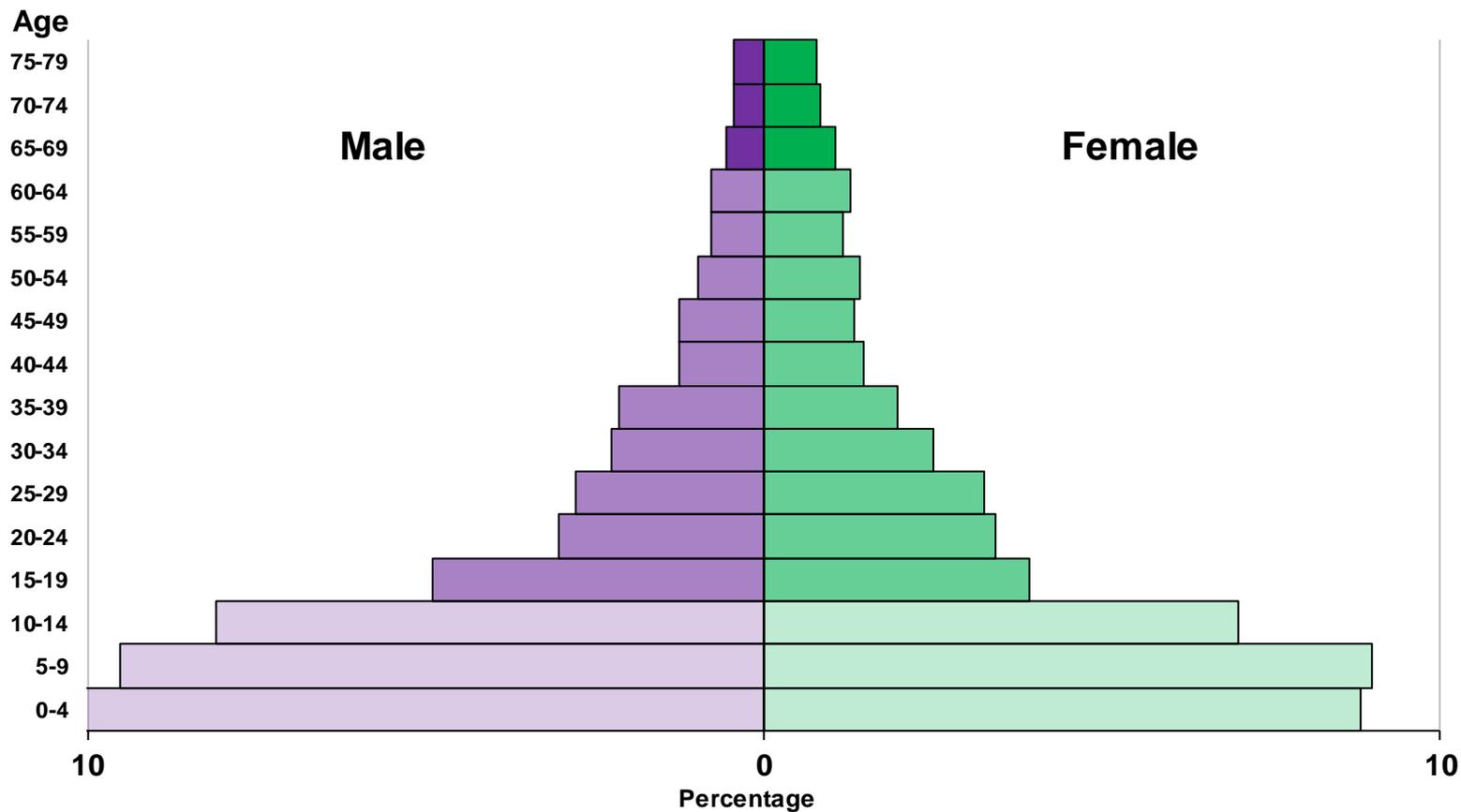
Events per 1,000 people



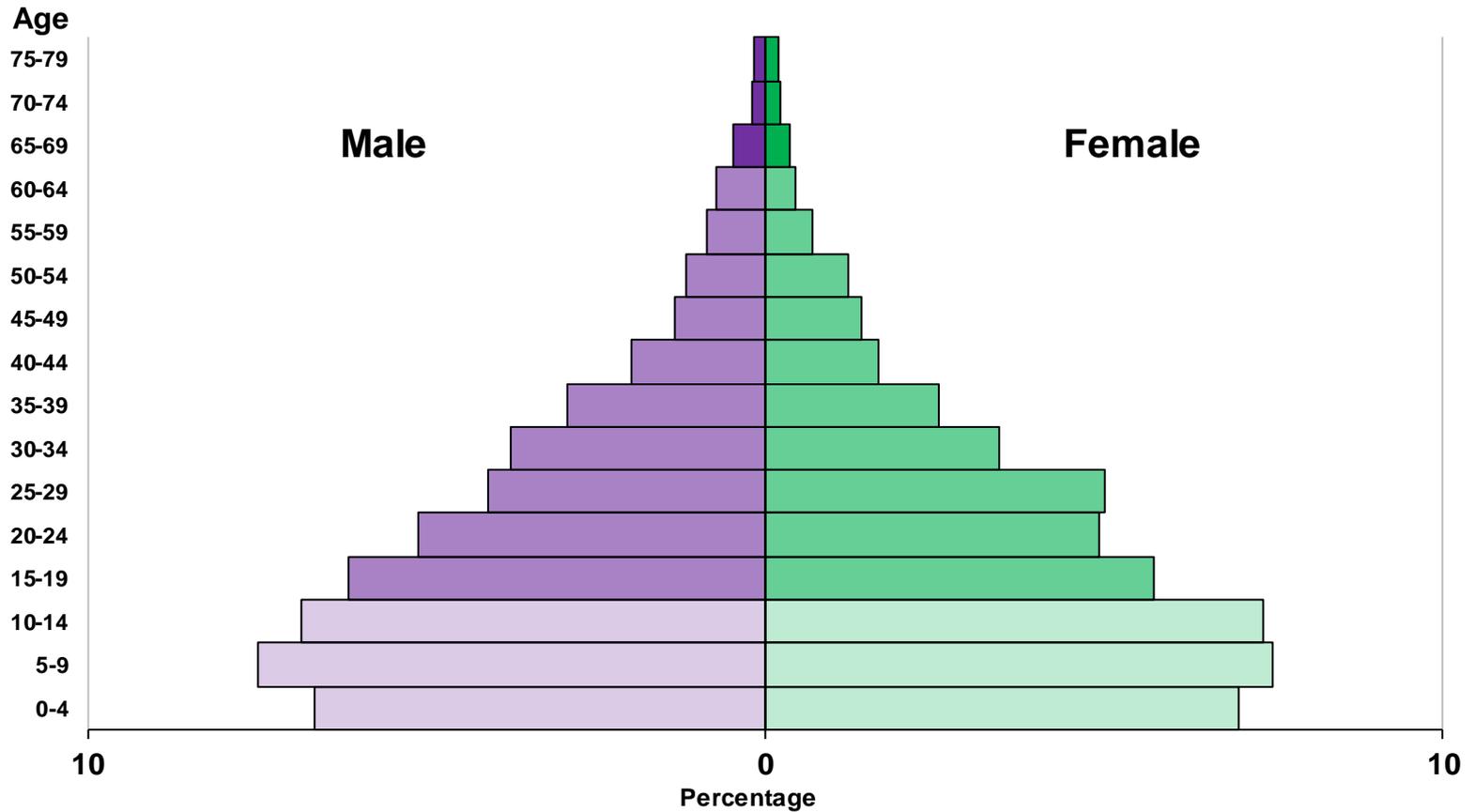
# Malawi's Age Structure in 2010



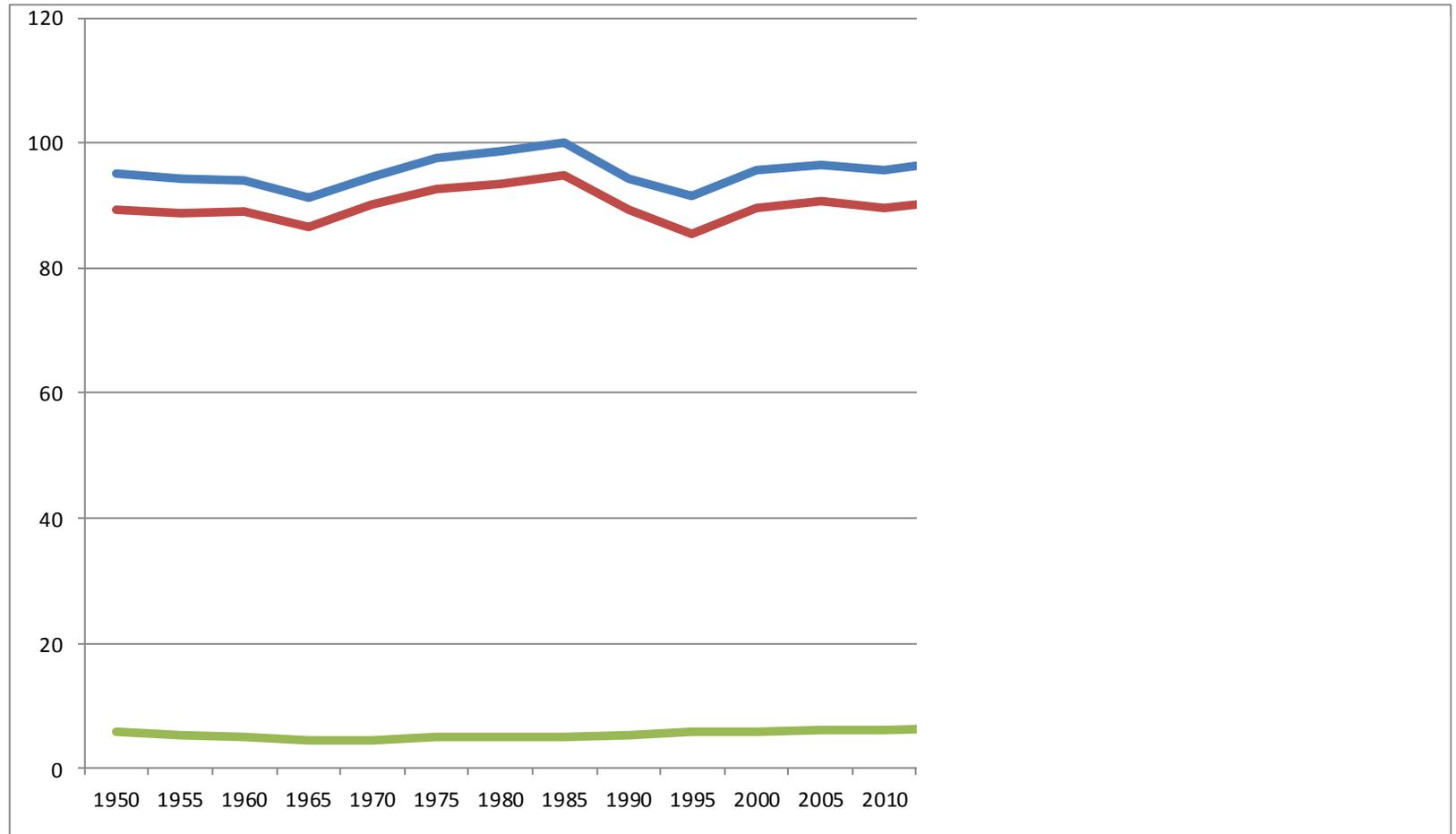
# ...but Malawi's poor are much younger



# ...and Malawi's wealthy are older



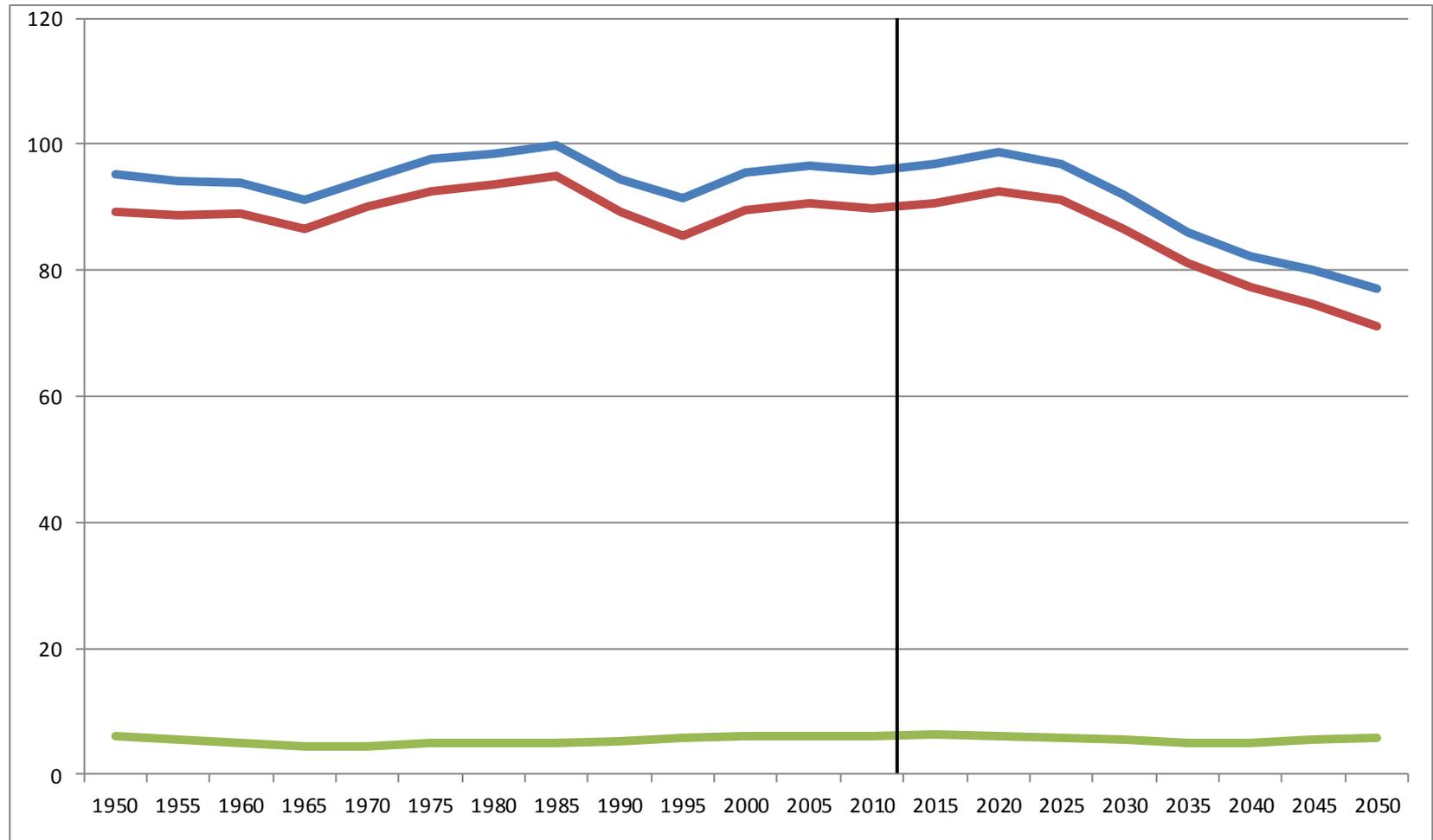
# Dependency ratio facilitates a demographic dividend



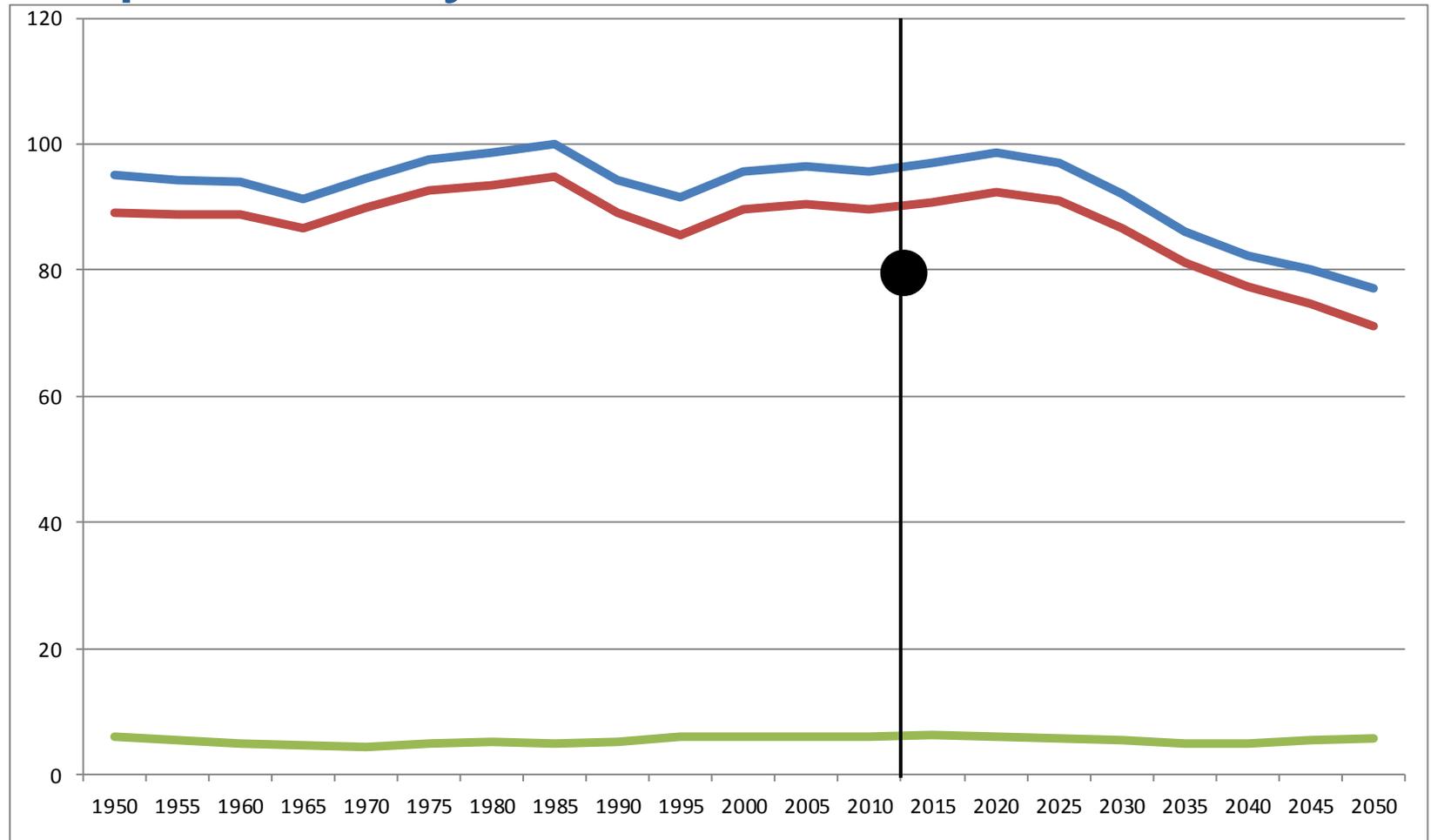
# Child dependency ratios in select African countries

- Malawi—91
- Kenya—77
- Rwanda—78
- South Africa—46
- Uganda—99
- Niger—100

# Malawi's dependency ratio will increase before it falls



# Malawi's poorest have a high dependency ratio



# What will it take to advance toward a demographic dividend?

- Focus on the poor
- Basic health services, including FP/RH
- Quality education
- Economic policies

“Malawi has made great strides...

*...in tackling various development issues, and has identified key priorities to improve its growth and development. Critical for building on and sustaining these achievements is slowing population growth...”*

# By slowing population growth, Malawi can:

- Provide sufficient food.
- Improve its infrastructure
- Develop a competitive workforce.
- Have smaller, healthier families.
- Have diverse employment opportunities.
- Provide healthy transitions to adolescence and adulthood.
- Mitigate climate variability and natural disasters.