

sitized and used by all members of the community in nations in which there is a high risk of contracting malaria. Previously, WHO recommended the nets for children under 5 and pregnant women. A 2-year study in Kenya shows that expanding the use of nets to all people in targeted areas can help reduce overall incidence of malaria. The nets cost about US\$5 each.

**WOW Web site:** A portal for health consumers and practitioners has been created to disseminate information about 3 major health concerns of older women: urinary incontinence, memory loss and exercise. Launched in response to the findings of a study on older women's health needs and concerns (*CMAJ* 2005;173:153-9), the Web site, wowhealth.ca, provides information about prevention, lifestyle, nutri-

tion and treatment options related to the 3 concerns. A separate portal for physicians outlines "the kinds of question that practitioners should be asking their older female patients routinely, and the ways in which they can provide prevention and improvement strategies to their patients." — Compiled by Barbara Sibbald, *CMAJ*

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## PULSE

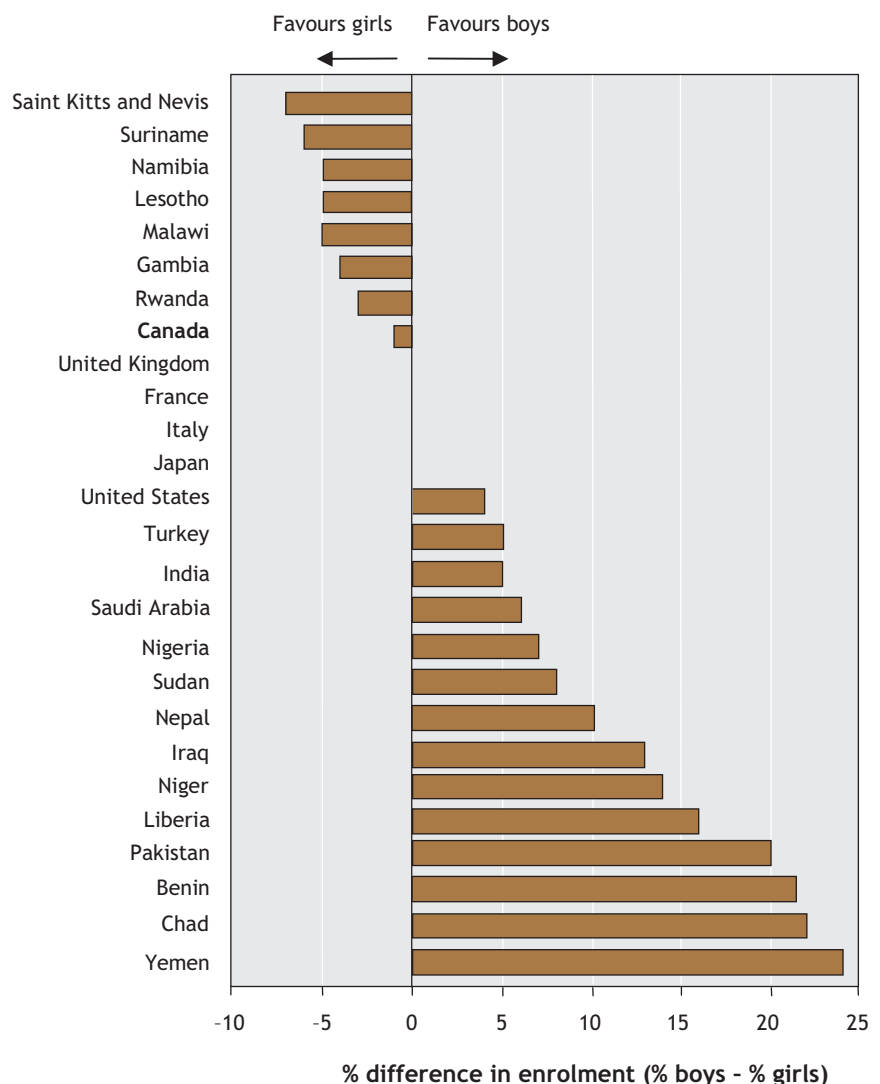
### Differences in the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in primary school

Recent data from the World Health Organization show that the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in primary school differs by country (Figure 1). Of the 153 countries for which data were reported, 30 had at least 5% more boys than girls enrolled. In contrast, only 5 countries reported such a difference in favour of girls. There was no difference in the proportion of girls and boys enrolled in primary school in Japan, Italy, France and the United Kingdom. Canada reported a 1% difference in favour of girls, and the United States reported a 4% difference in favour of boys.

Countries with the greatest imbalance in favour of boys were Yemen, Chad, Benin and Pakistan (20%–24%). No countries had such a great imbalance in favour of girls; however, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Suriname, and Saint Kitts and Nevis each had at least a 5% difference.

These data show large inequalities for a primary school education for girls in a number of countries. The data also show that in several countries fewer boys than girls were enrolled in primary school; however, the differences are not as great as for girls and in general it is a rare phenomenon. — Mark O. Baerlocher MD, Toronto, Ont.

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**Figure 1:** Proportion of boys and girls enrolled in primary school by country. Source: Core health indicators, World Health Organization, 2007 (available: [www.who.int/whosis/database/core/core\\_select.cfm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/core/core_select.cfm)).