

Developing Universal Human Rights
Indicators for Public Health:
Human Rights Treaty Monitoring for
Water and Sanitation

Yuna Kim, MPA

Benjamin Mason Meier, JD, LL.M, PhD

American Public Health Association

November 17, 2014

Motivation and Aim

- Human rights to water and sanitation recently recognized
- Need to hold states accountable in implementing these rights
 - Treaty bodies monitor implementation via review of state reports
 - Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) monitors rights to water and sanitation
- Study aim: Examine content of state human rights reports and identify inconsistencies in reporting on water and sanitation

Coding State Reports

Type of Information	Normative Content	Human Rights Principles	Population Addressed	Context of Reference	Types of Information	Sphere of Life
Structure	Affordability	Equality and Non-discrimination	Urban	Health	Quantitative	Home
Process	Quality	Participation	Rural	Sanitation	Qualitative	School
Outcome	Availability	Accountability (includes monitoring)	Women	Hygiene		Workplace
	Accessibility	Sustainability	Children	Food & agriculture		Health Facility
	Acceptability		Racial/ethnic minorities	Migrants	Housing	
			Refugees	Facilities/Services		
			Vulnerable Population	Education		
			Geographic Regions	Resource Availability		
			Disabilities	Ecosystem Health		
			Older Persons	Emergencies		
			Prisoners	Water Source		
				Assistance and Cooperation		
				Land Tenure Status		

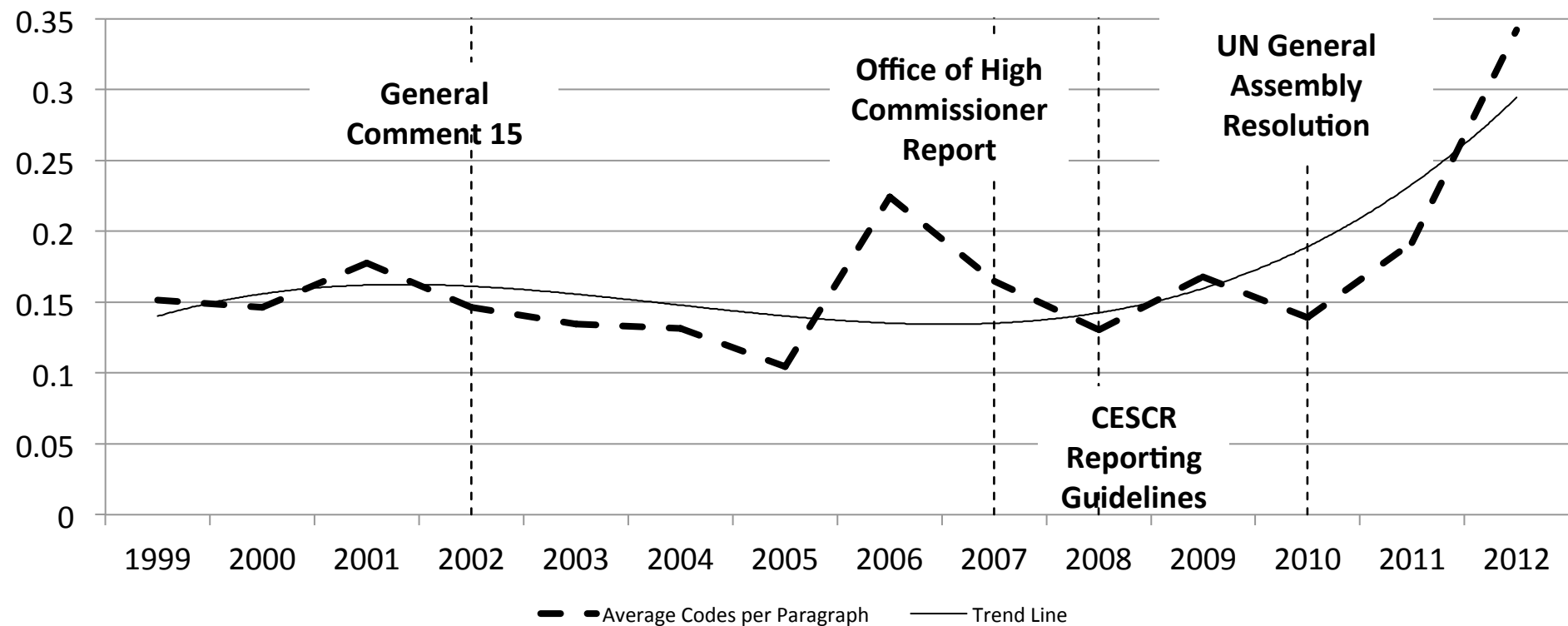


atlas.ti

QUALITATIVE
DATA ANALYSIS

State Reporting on Water & Sanitation (Over Time)

Average Number of Water and Sanitation Codes per Paragraph



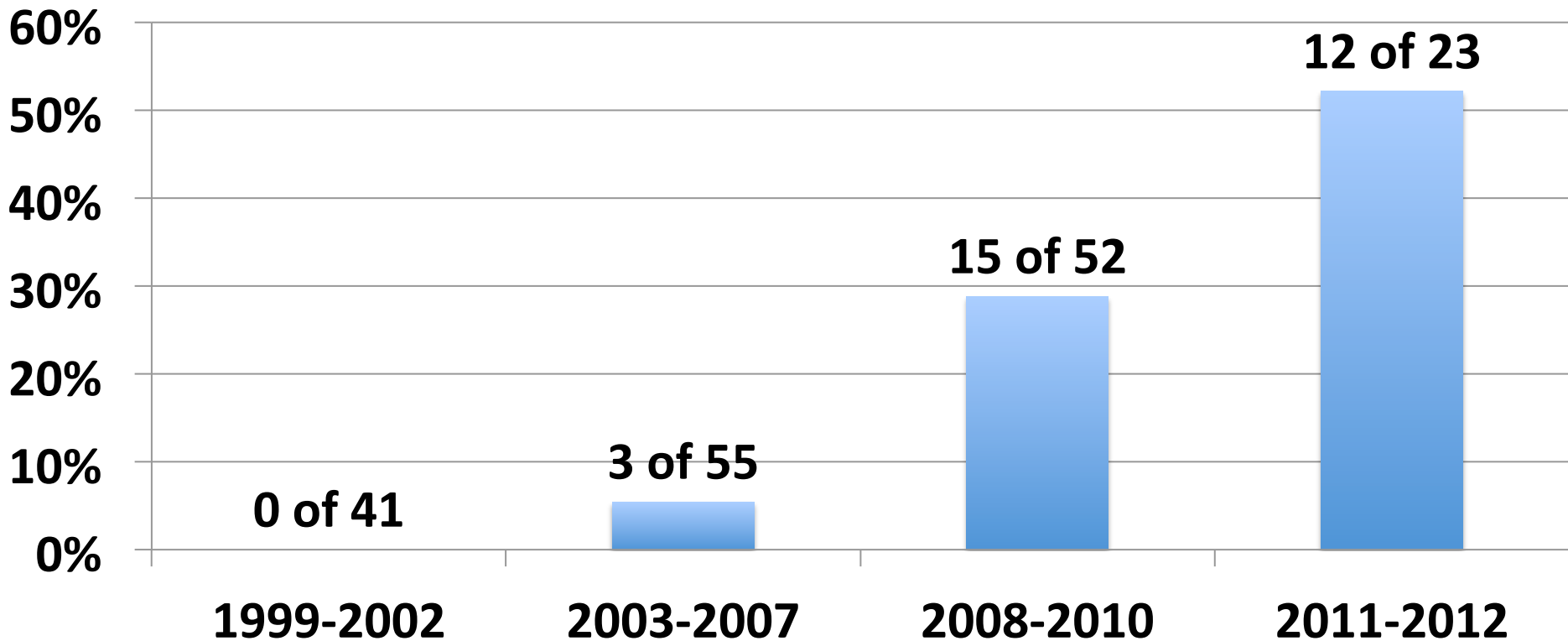


atlas.ti

QUALITATIVE
DATA ANALYSIS

State Reporting on Water & Sanitation (Norm Shifts)

Percentage of Reports Explicitly
Raising the Right to Water



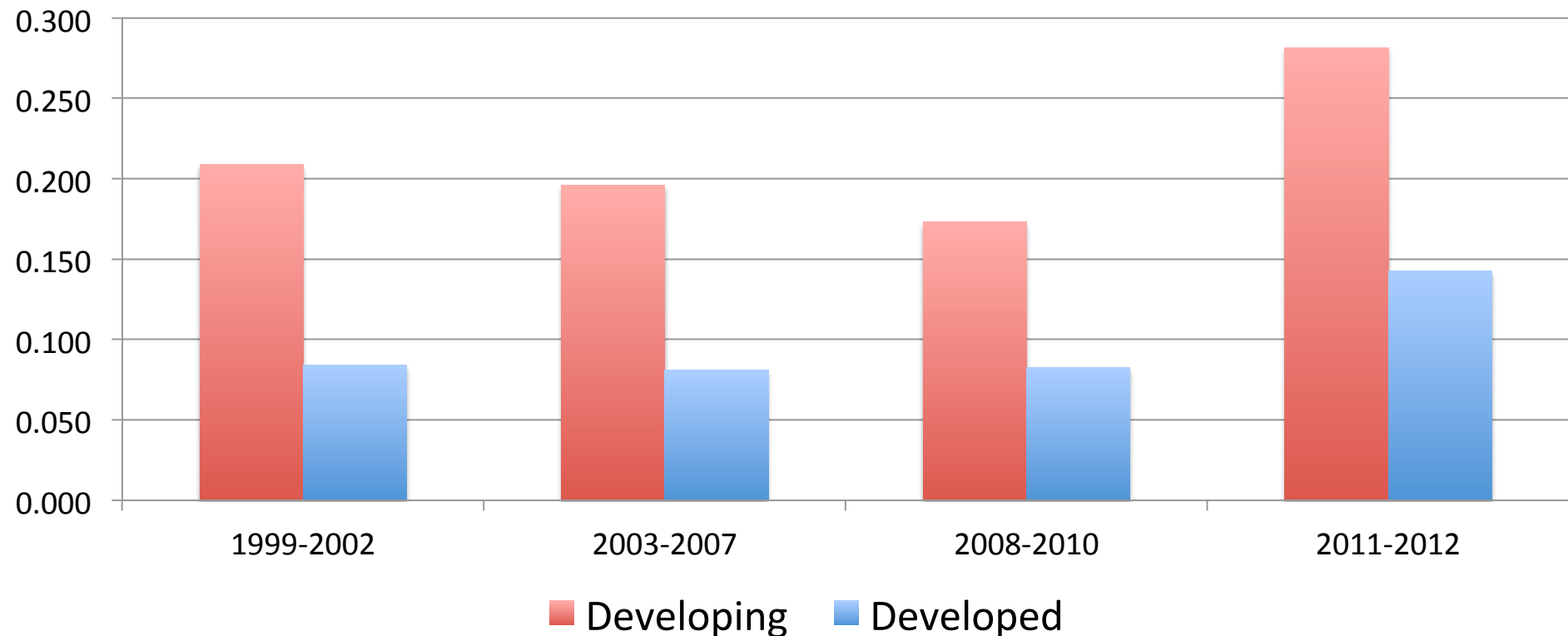


atlas.ti

QUALITATIVE
DATA ANALYSIS

State Reporting on Water & Sanitation (Norm Shifts)

Average Codes per Paragraph:
Developing vs Developed States



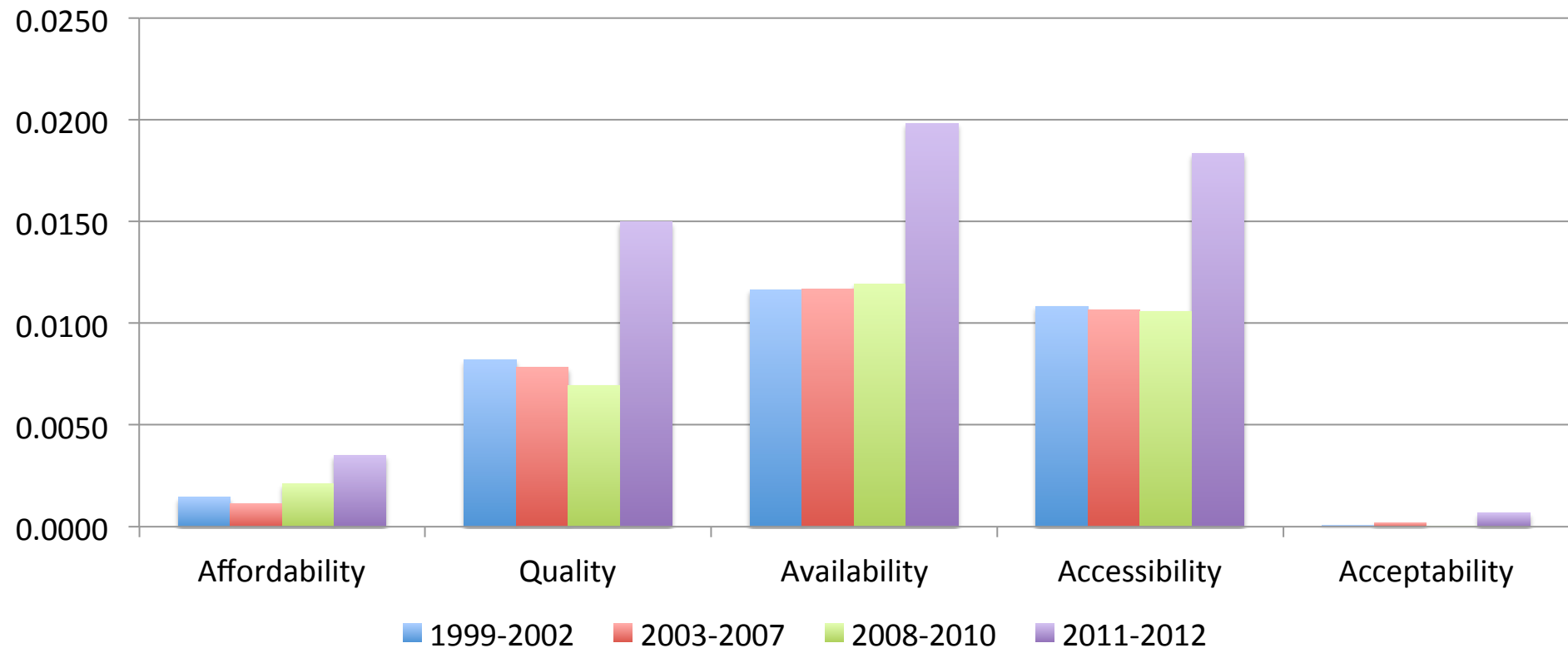


atlas.ti

QUALITATIVE
DATA ANALYSIS

State Reporting on Water & Sanitation (Norm Shifts)

Average Number of Codes per Paragraph:
Normative Content



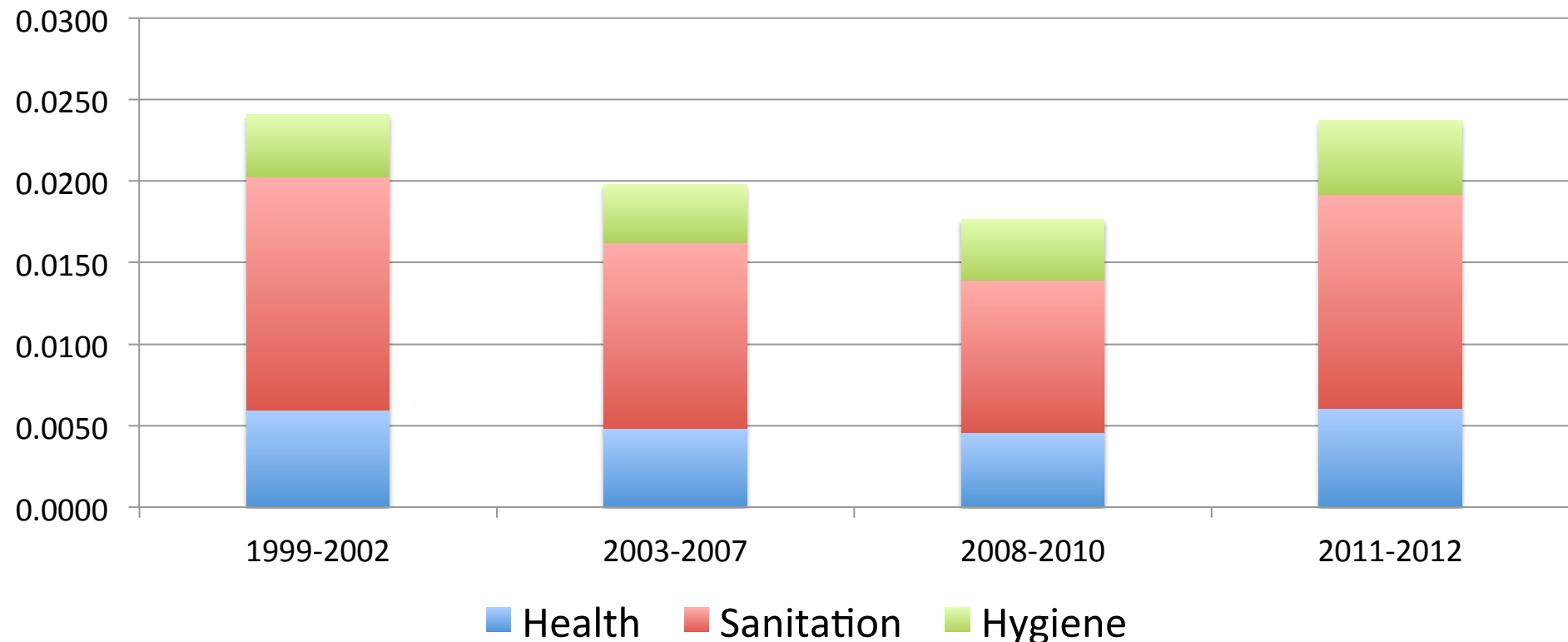


atlas.ti

QUALITATIVE
DATA ANALYSIS

State Reporting on Water & Sanitation (Norm Shifts)

Average Number of Codes per Paragraph:
Health, Sanitation, and Hygiene



An Imperative for Monitoring Through Indicators

- Call for streamlining reporting with universal indicators to improve efficiency and effectiveness of reporting
- Universal indicators facilitate comparison across countries
- Develop indicators with input from subject matter experts and state governments



Goals for Designing Indicators

Indicators will:

1. Improve efficiency in reporting
2. Enhance effectiveness in monitoring

Indicators must:

1. Reflect norms of human rights
2. Prove practical for state reporting

Benjamin Mason Meier
bmeier@unc.edu

Yuna Kim
yunakim@live.unc.edu



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL