



ICPD FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

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Underlying Motif

- True development lies not in numbers but in the minds of men and women
- Numbers are sometimes useful in themselves; they can become more useful to understanding if we go behind the numbers



Poverty, Women's Empowerment and Reproductive Health Including Family Planning

- Section 4.4 of POA
 - Eliminating practices that discriminate against women including access to sexual and reproductive health including family planning
 - Eliminating violence against women

Table 1: SRH Indicators Among the Seven Poorest of Twenty three Nations in LAC



Country	Income	Inequality	MMR	CPR 15-49	ASFR	% incr. in Females with HIV
Haiti	1	NA	1	1	22	8
Nicaragua	2	2	2	16	1	3
Honduras	3	1	2	4	3	23
Bolivia	4	3	2	3	9	5
Paraguay	5	4	11	9	NA	1
Guatemala	6	5	2	2	2	19
El Salvador	7	6	8	10	7	9



Poverty, Women's Empowerment and Reproductive Health

- What do these numbers mean?
 - Like misery, poverty loves company especially female company.
 - It affects access to health services that are **specific to women** – maternal mortality, teenage fertility rates and contraceptive prevalence rate
 - Behind the numbers is the 'fact' that poverty increases **the role of power in defining social/sexual relationships** – a factor that might explain the increasing rate of HIV infection among women because poverty reinforces the role of transactional sex as a cause of HIV... **another form of violence against women**
 - It seems reasonable to suggest that, when **poverty increases, women suffer disproportionately** – at least in the area of sexual and reproductive health.
 - ICPD PRINCIPLE 7 & POA and MDG#1



FAMILY PLANNING

- ICPD POA -7.12
- Objectives
- To help couples meet their reproductive goals, reduce unwanted pregnancy, provide quality family planning services and information , increase male participation and responsibility in family planning
- Actions -7.15-7.26
- Governments and NGOs should
 - ensure a *continuing improvement in the quality of services*
 - increase *access and acceptability of reproductive health services including family planning*
 - *remove unnecessary ...barriers to ...family planning*
 - *provide accessible, complete and accurate information about various aspects of family planning methods...*
- *In order to meet the substantial increase in demand for contraceptives... the international community should move to establish ...(a system) for the procurement of contraceptives and other commodities .. for developing countries and countries in transition*



Indicators of Success

How do we measure success with respect to these goals?

- Number of children the average woman has over her reproductive life cycle
- The ability of couples and individuals to have the number of children they want when they want them

What do the numbers show? Next two slides



Table 2: Total Fertility Rate for Selected Countries for 1990, 2000 and 2007

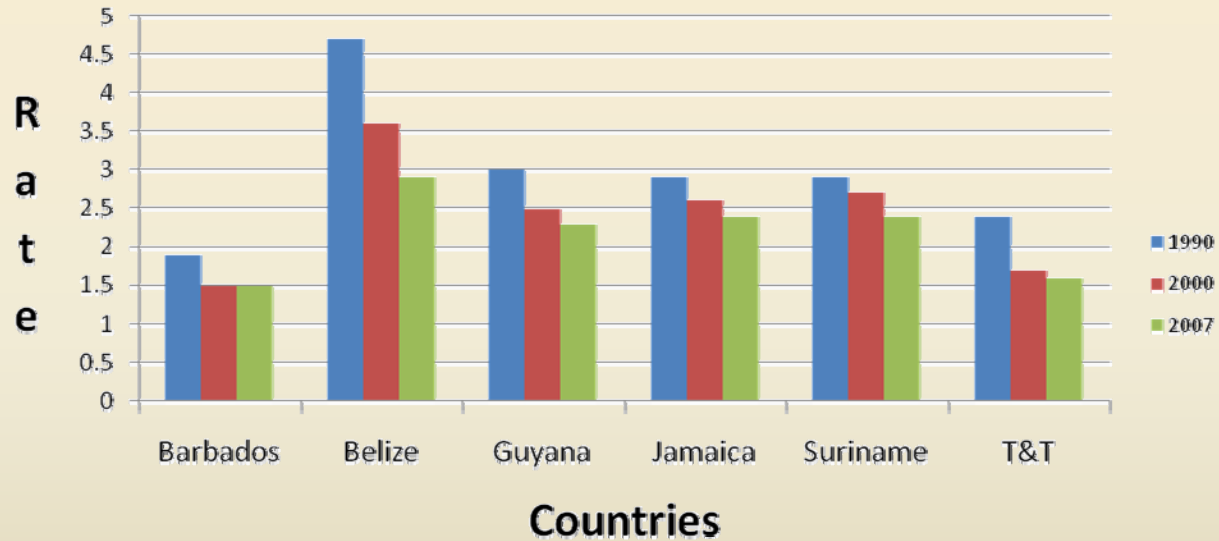
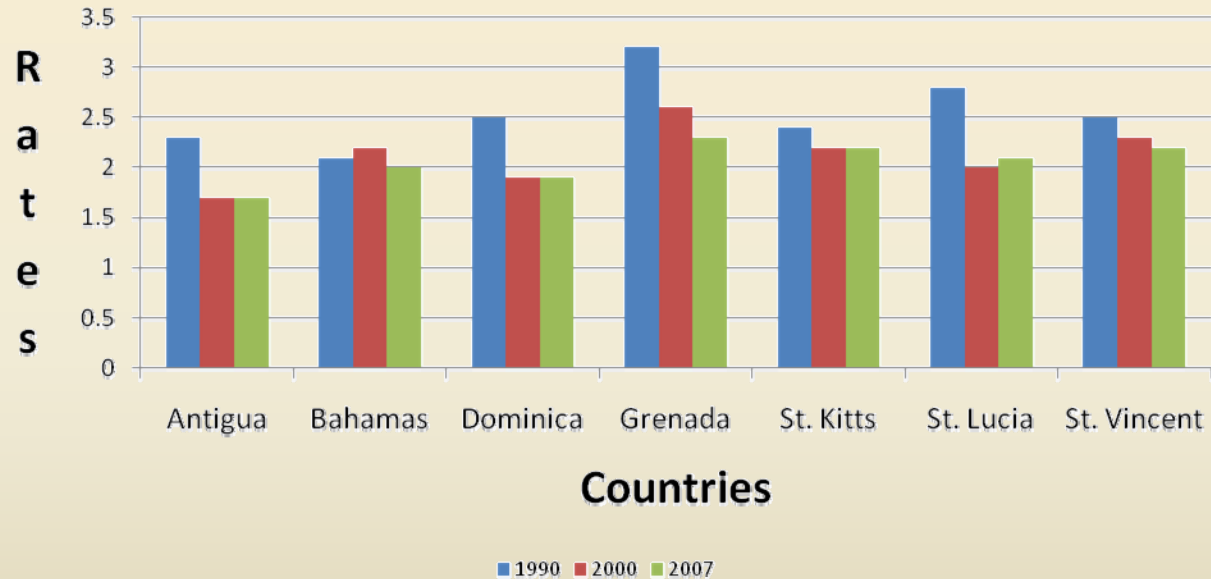




Table 3: Total Fertility Rates for Selected Caribbean Countries: 1990, 2000 and 2007



Challenges

- Consider these numbers in terms of two arguments:-
 - 1. Many Caribbean countries are at replacement level
 - 2. There is a large unmet need for family planning. (Are the unmet needs overstated?)
 - If we fill the unmet need in Barbados, may we not reduce fertility further and run the risk of depriving the Caribbean of potential Weekes, Worrel's, Walcott's, Haynes and Greenidge? Same applies to other countries.
This is a reminder of the need to go behind the figures for a deeper understanding of our challenges.
- Consider also what the data mean for the region as a whole in terms of this relationship:-
- the longer the fertility rate remains close to replacement level, the older the population gets
 - Should we not consider the implications of these data for size of the productive population, dependency ratios and economic growth and the potential for empowerment
- **PERHAPS WE CAN FIND AN ANSWER AND THE CHALLENGE OF UNMET NEEDS FOR FAMILY PLANNING WHEN WE LOOK AT ADOLESCENTS**



ADOLESCENTS

- Basis for Action POA 7.41
 - Adolescents need **information and services to protect them** from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases since early childbearing is an impediment to the education, economic and social status of women
 - **young men** should be educated to respect **women's self-determination** and to share responsibility with women in matters of sexuality and reproduction.



Actions

- *POA: 7.45-7.48*
- *Provider Attitudes: Ensure that providers **do not restrict the access** of adolescents to appropriate services and information*
- Youth Rights:
 - Rights of adolescents to **privacy, confidentiality and informed consent**
 - Rights of adolescents to **education and counseling** in all areas of SRH
 - Rights of adolescents to be **fully involved in the planning**, implementation and evaluation of such information and services with proper regard for parental guidance and responsibilities.



INDICATORS

- INDICATORS OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:

- IPPF/FPAs:

Requirement for Youth Representation on National, Regional and Global Boards

Sexual Rights: An IPPF Declaration

Strengthening of YAMS and Peer Helpers in several countries

Establishment of Youth Friendly Spaces in FPAs in Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia, Trinidad for integrated SRH services and advice

INDICATORS OF WORKING WITH PROVIDERS

- CFPA/FPAs

Held 29 workshops for 708 health professionals in 12 countries on provider attitudes to youth between 2003 and 2008.

Held 27 workshops for 754 youths in 10 countries to empower them as change agents in SRH among their peers.

De Living Room – Trinidad; Provider Attitude Survey – Guyana

Regional Information Campaigns



Results

- Indicators of youth empowerment:
 - Levels Secondary School Enrollment
 - Changes in Adolescent Fertility Rates
 - Changes in Condom Use



Table 4: Fertility Rates for Women Aged 15-19 for Selected Caribbean Countries for 1990, 2000 and 2007

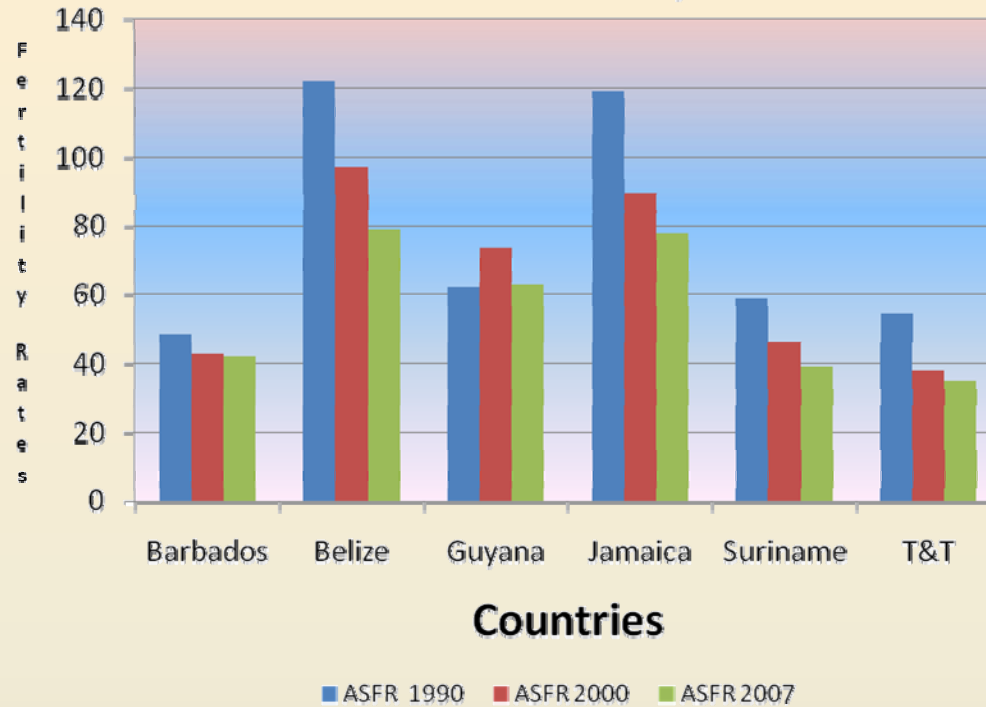
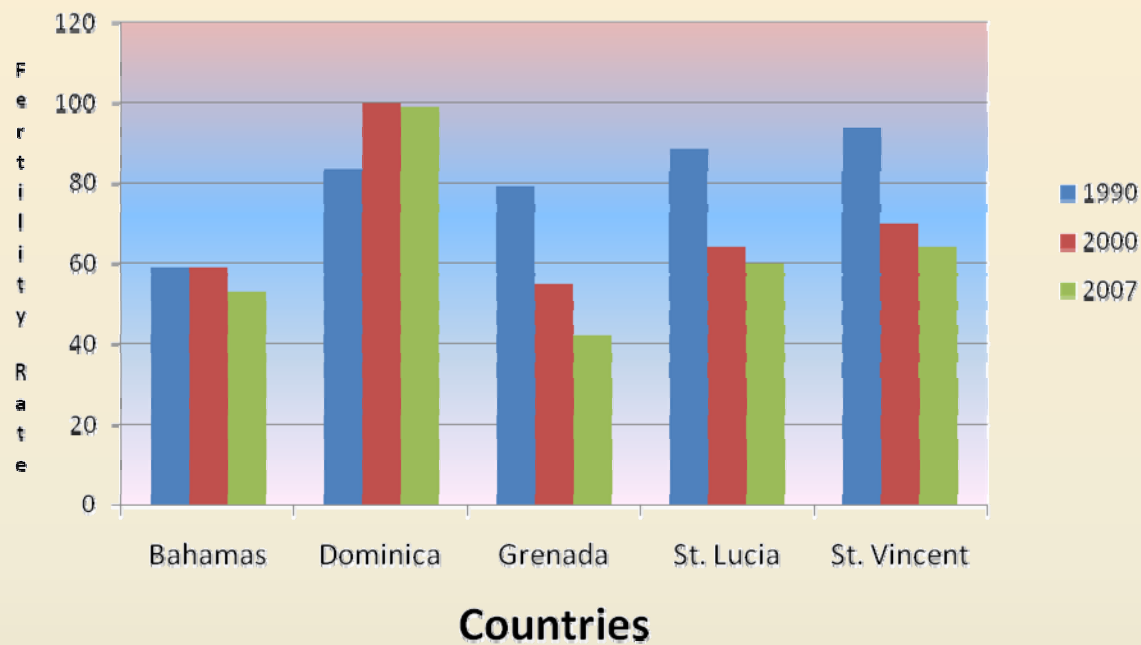




Table 5: Fertility Rates for Women Aged 15-19 for Selected Caribbean Countries for 1990 and 2007



Returning to Unmet Needs

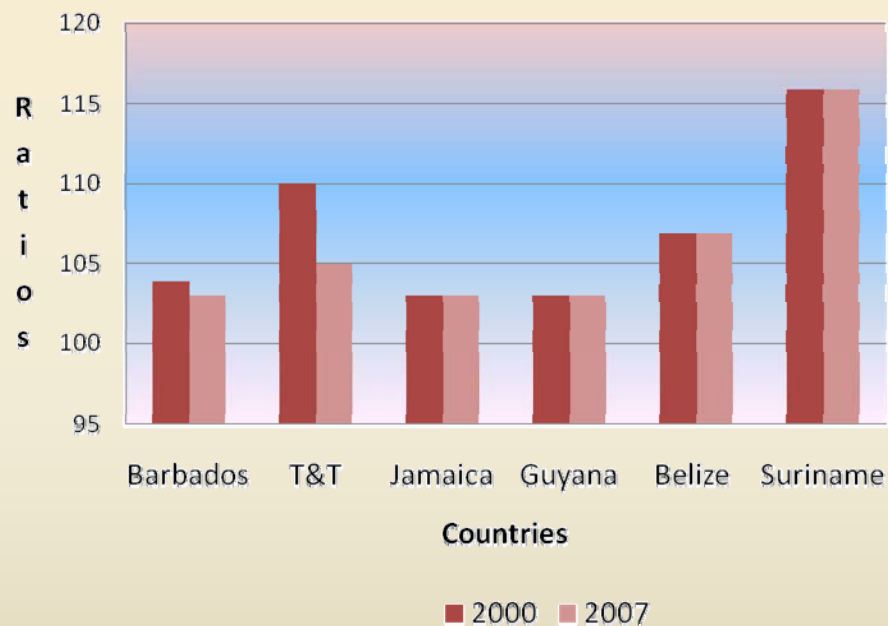
1. Adolescent Fertility has dropped significantly but it is still very high.
 2. These numbers imply that many young women have their first child before they are twenty.
 3. In other words, a total fertility rate of 2.2 means one thing if women are having their children between 25 and 35 than if they were having them between 15 and 25.
 4. The adolescent fertility rates suggests that it is the latter. We also know that the majority of these births are unplanned and have a negative impact on the life options of young women
- **Challenge**
 - How do we get young couples and individuals to postpone pregnancy to beyond their teenage years bearing in mind the negative impact of early childbearing on the life options of women.

EDUCATION

- POA promotes the education of all children especially the girl child as an essential tool of female empowerment.
- Next two tables:

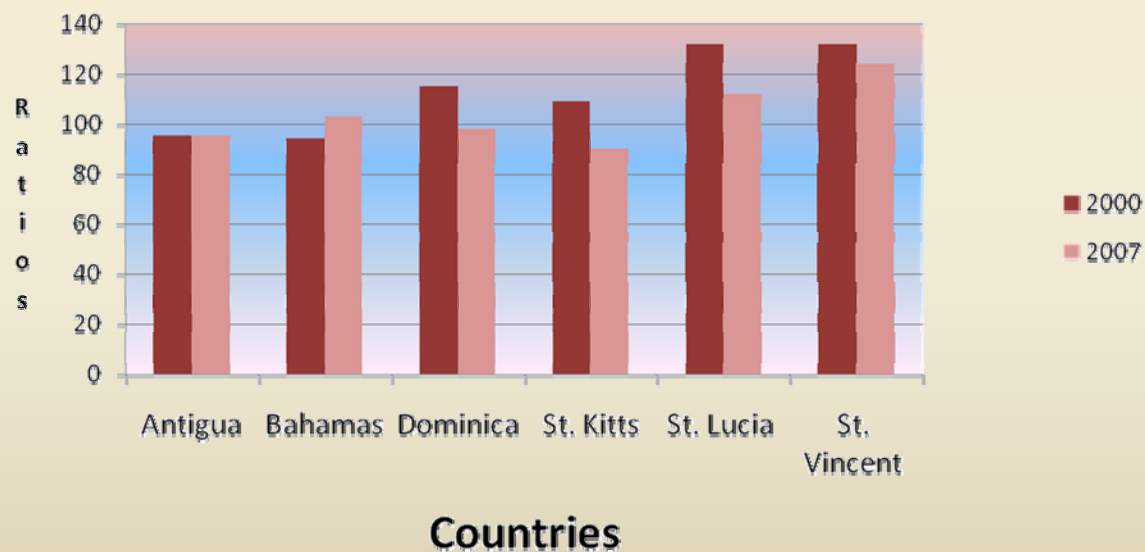


Table 6. Female: Male Secondary School Enrollment Ratios in 2000 and 2007 in Selected Caribbean Countries





**Table 7: Female: Male Secondary School Enrollment Ratios
In 2000 and 2007 in Selected Countries**





Challenge

- Is this what the ICPD meant to happen?
 - If young women as a group are better educated than young men, have better earning potential, better sense of personal development, what does this mean for:
 - Gender equality
 - The quality of gender relations in society
 - The emergence of new gender inequalities in the Caribbean (Errol Miller)
 - Are we satisfied with current explanations why boys drop out of school and are less willing to take advantage of opportunities than girls?



Challenges

- Education:
- Education can increase knowledge quickly; it takes a much longer time to influence attitudes and behaviours:
 - FGDS and tolerance for Gays – nimityb
 - FGDS and perception of PLHIVs.
- Cultural:
- Evaluation done by CFPA among young people in Belize, Jamaica, Dominica and St. Lucia found that
 - 49 per cent of the women interviewed said they **were not comfortable at all buying condoms** compared to 12% of the male respondents
 - A mini survey done by CFPA showed **that risk perception did not always correlate well with risk reduction behaviours**
- **Unequal Gender Expectations**
 - **Case of female students being called out (Where is the outrage?)**
 - **Same historically true of TAP**



Challenges

- Migrants:
- 75 per cent of the women reporting to HIV centers in French Guyana and St. Martin were not French as were 31% in Guadeloupe – which raises questions about the vulnerability of migrant women who are generally young women



Conclusion (?)

- A significant number of initiatives have been adopted to promote the goals of the ICPD. How well can we answer the following questions?
- These initiatives have produced some results but we have to wonder about some things:
 - Are the positive results entrenched enough in the minds of people to be self-sustaining? Or will we fall back on old patterns when these initiatives are removed?
 - How well do we understand the processes that inhibit the translation of knowledge into behaviour?
 - What strategies are we missing that would enable people to better incorporate their knowledge more readily into their personal attitudes and patterns of behaviour?

True development will come when respect for the principles such as those of the ICPD ceases to rely on official codes of conduct, laws and policies. True development will come when this respect becomes a part of the social conscience and a part of individual mindsets.