



# **Teenage pregnancy: a problem with no solution?**

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18<sup>th</sup> World Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Congress  
Florence, June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Focus on female health in the world

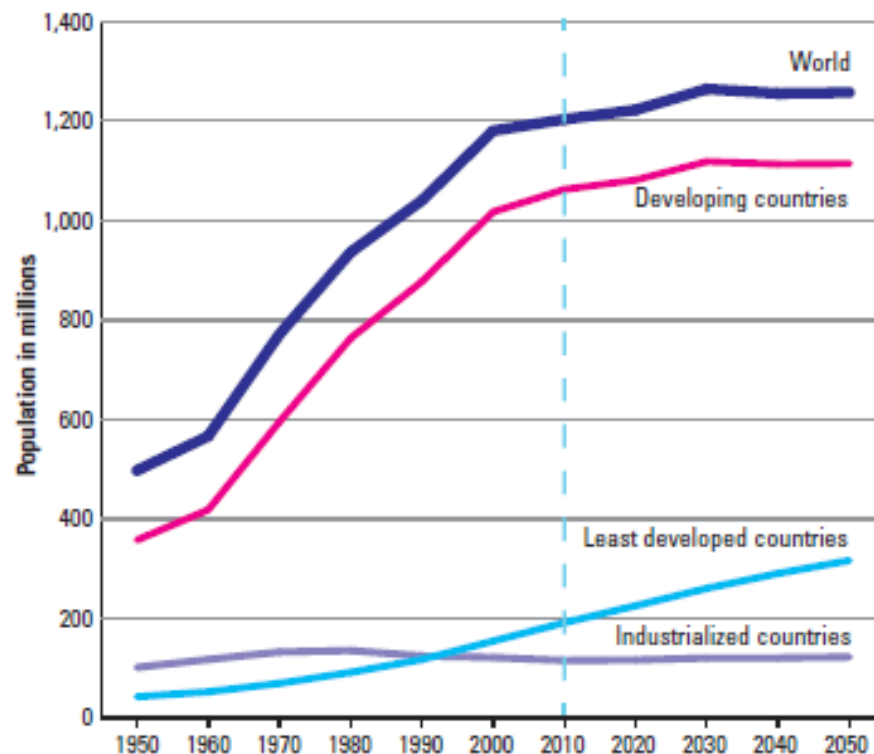
# Adolescent Pregnancy

The current adolescent population (10 - 19 years old) is the most numerous of history.

It is estimated that approximately 1.200 million adolescents live in the world representing 17% of the world's population.

The number of adolescents in the world will increase slightly through 2050

Population of adolescents 10–19 years old in millions, 1950–2050



Note: The 2050 population figures are projections.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 revision*. CD-ROM edition, 2011.



**1 out of 5 women between 20 – 24  
years old had their first child before  
18 years old.**

**1 out of 3 women in low and  
medium income countries.**

UNICEF. The State of the World's Children 2014 in Numbers. Every Child Counts: Revealing disparities, advancing children's rights. Nueva York, 2014.



**1 out of 8 births occur in adolescents**

**Girls between 10–14 years old have a 5 fold higher risk to die during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum.**

**Around 11% of all births worldwide, or an estimated 16 million, are from girls aged 15–19, and the youngest mothers are the most likely to experience complications and die of pregnancy related causes.**

UNICEF. The State of the World's Children 2014 in Numbers. Every Child Counts: Revealing disparities, advancing children's rights. Nueva York, 2014.

World Health Organization. 'Mortality Estimates by Cause, Age, and Sex for the Year 2008', 2011; Patton, George C., et al., 'Global Patterns of Mortality in Young People', pp. 881–892.

**The adolescent birth rate has declined in almost all regions since 1990, as has the birth rate among women overall.**

**Since 2000, however, the decline in the adolescent birth rate has slowed or, in some regions, reversed.**

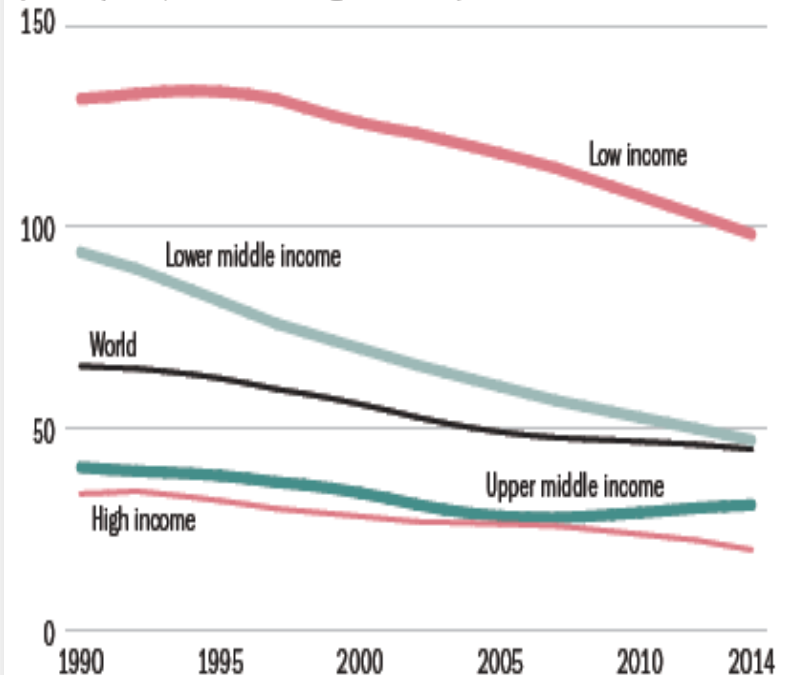
**Yet, adolescent birth rates remain high.**

**The only industrialized country among the top 10 countries with the highest number of adolescent births is the United States.**

### The adolescent fertility rate remains high in low-income countries

3b

Adolescent fertility rate  
(births per 1,000 women ages 15–19)



Source: United Nations Population Division, 2015, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, New York; World Development Indicators database (SP.ADO.TFRT).

# Teenage pregnancy

111 million adolescents between 10 – 19 years old live in Latin America and the Caribbean

18% of the total regional population.

Fertility rate in women from 15 - 19 years old (79/1.000) is the second highest after Subsaharian Africa.

**Global: 49,0/1.000**

**Regional (LAC): 79,0/1.000**

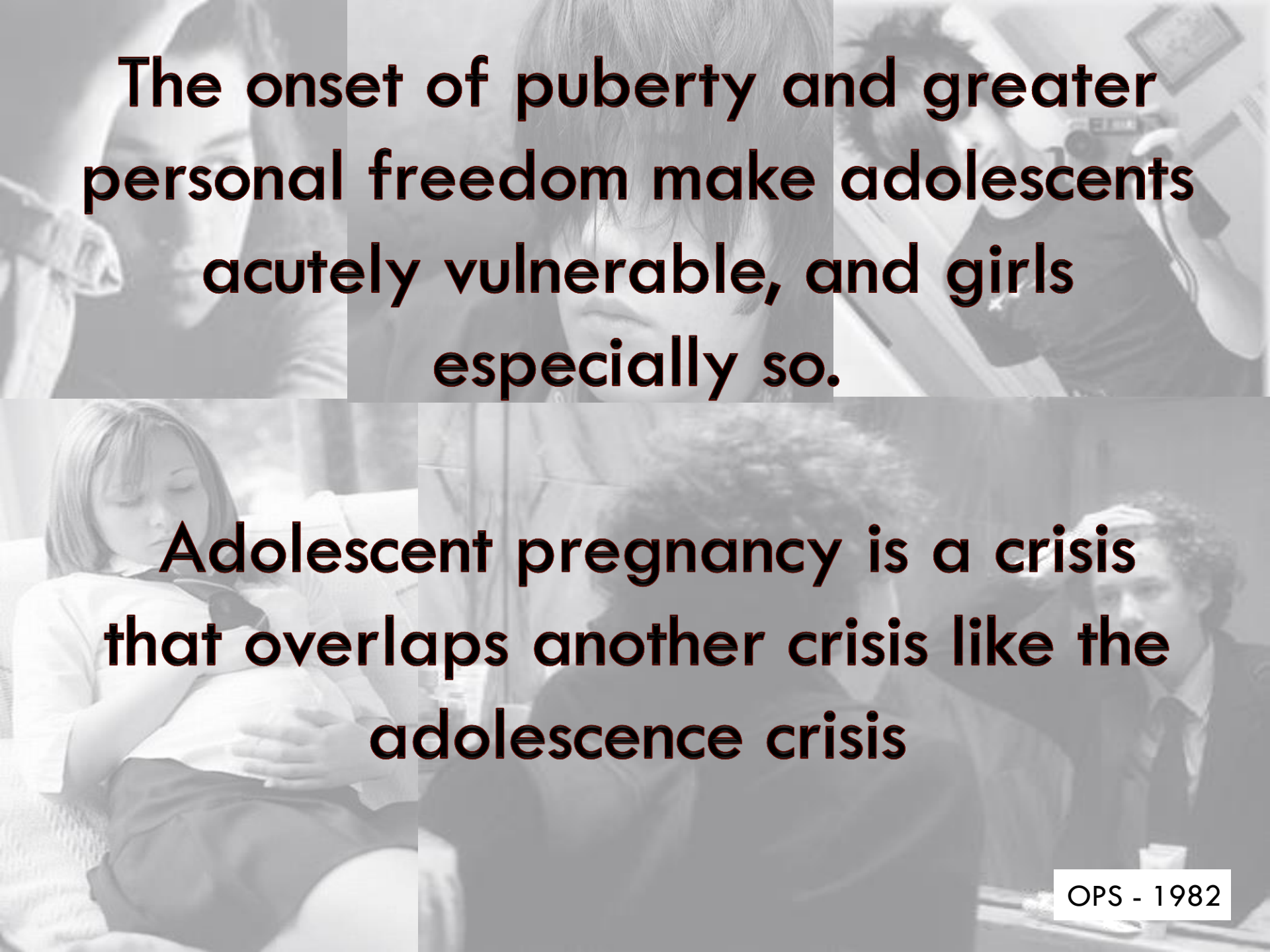
**Argentina: 65,6/1.000**

**CABA: 33,1/1.000**

**Formosa: 89,5/1.000**

# Teenage adolescent - Argentina

- **1 out of 6 women have their first pregnancy before 19 years old.**
- **65.5% weren't using a contraception method at the moment of pregnancy**
- **First pregnancy age is 16,6 years old**
- **60% of adolescents left their education.**
- **322 adolescents birth/day**
- **12.8% of mothers mortality are in women before 15 to 19 years old**
- **69% were unplanned pregnancies**



**The onset of puberty and greater personal freedom make adolescents acutely vulnerable, and girls especially so.**

**Adolescent pregnancy is a crisis that overlaps another crisis like the adolescence crisis**



# Adolescent behavior

- **Feeling of non vulnerability (Notion of risk not integrated)**
- **Difficulties to assume responsibility**
- **Media Pressure, double messages “invitation/prohibition”**
- **Information about their bodies, pregnancy and contraception that have scientific concepts mixed with wrong facts and sexual myths.**

# Adolescent behavior

- **Rebellion against their elders, adopting adults' wrong attitude**
- **Adopt early adults' role due to absence of parents and the need to work to survive.**
- **Peers' influence**
- **Situation of poverty and abandonment**
- **Mediated leisure, sometimes by alcohol and other drugs that cause sexual disinhibition and decreased perception of risk**

**Adolescent pregnancy is not an isolated event**

A photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a white dress, holding a baby. A man in a white shirt and tie is standing behind her, looking down at the baby. The image has a reddish tint.

**It is determined by a set of macro and micro social variables that strongly influence its occurrence**

# Determining factors



- Early initiation of sexual intercourse**
- Poor sexual education and information distortion**
- Contraceptive Use**
- Violence and sexual violence**
- Abortions**



- Exposure to sexually transmitted diseases**
- Poverty**
- Absence of education**
- Gender inequality**
- Household socioeconomic level**
- Absence of Sexual Reproductive Health policies**

Gómez PI; Molina R; Zamberlein N. "Factores relacionados con el embarazo y la maternidad en menores de 15 años." FLASOG 2011.

P. I. Gómez, R. Molina y N. Zamberlin. Factores relacionados con el embarazo y la maternidad en menores de 15 años en América Latina y el Caribe, FLASOG, 2010. - Pantelides E; Binstock G. "La fecundidad adolescente en la Argentina al comienzo del Siglo XXI." Rev. Argent. Sociol. 2007

# Psychosocial repercussions

**We are wondering**

- **A child represents an object of affection?**
- **Is a child a transition to adulthood and social position of greater respect that responds to social command of motherhood as a destination for women?**
- **Is it an escape of a conflictive situation at home?**

# Poverty and cultural deprivation lead to

- **Absence of limitations for the construction of life projects**
- **School dropout**
- **Limits the opportunity of employment to generate resources for child development (family dependence)**
- **Premature job insertion highlighting social and gender inequities**
- **Non permanent or absent Couple/Unrecognized Children by their parents, and these parents or couples most of the time are also teenagers**
- **Loss of own experiences of regular adolescence for both parents**



**Own life project that involves  
seeking self-affirmation and social  
values**

**Actions are needed  
at each of these  
levels by different  
sectors.**

**Adolescents too  
have key roles to  
play.**

- **Policy-Level Actions**
- **Individual, Family & Community-Level Actions**
- **Health system-Level Actions**



# **Primary prevention**

- **Implement sexual education programs for children and adolescents**
- **Improve access to contraception methods**
- **Give counseling on contraception**
- **Improve and innovate with new strategies to attract adolescents attention**
- **Promote actions to eliminate discrimination and violence against women in early pregnancy assumes one of its modes of presentation**
- **Expand access to skilled prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care**
- **Support pregnancy prevention programs among adolescents**
- **Identify and remove barriers to safe abortion services**

# Secondary prevention

- **To monitor use of contraceptive methods**
- **To adapt characteristics that adequate office visits must have an attention on contraception aimed at adolescents.**
- **Enough advice so that the decision taken, is based on adequate and complete information**
- **To inform and empower girls**
- **To inform adolescents about dangers of unsafe abortion**

# Tertiary prevention

- **Reduce repercussions impact on short, medium and long term subsequent pregnancy**
- **Achieve insertion or reinsertion both school and work related for teen mother**
- **Increase self-esteem and mainly**
- **Dignified life project to obtain optimal sexual and reproductive health**

**Instead of conceiving the child as the problem and change their behavior as a solution, governments, communities, families and schools must understand that the real challenges are poverty, gender inequality, discrimination, absence of access services and negative views on girls and women, and that the pursuit of social justice, equitable development and expansion of the means of action of girls are the true way to reduce teenage pregnancies.**

**Babatunde Osotimehin MD**

A pixelated, colorful graphic of a smiling face. The face is rendered in a low-resolution, dithered style. The eyes are bright yellow, the nose is red, and the mouth is a wide, open smile showing white teeth and a green tongue. The skin is a mix of yellow, orange, and red. The background is dark. The text "Thank you!!" is overlaid in the upper right corner in a white, sans-serif font.

**Thank you!!**