



YouthNet's Services Research

Sarah Thomsen
Heidi Reynolds
Donna McCarraher

Africa Regional Forum on Youth Reproductive

Health and HIV

June 6-9, 2006





Services Research Strategy

- Emphasis groups:
 - Youth concerned that their actions have led to undesirable outcomes (or could)
 - Voluntary counseling and testing for HIV (VCT)
 - Prevention of maternal-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT)
 - Youth engaging in behaviors that have resulted in pregnancies or infection
 - Antenatal Care and Immunizations
 - Post-abortion care (PAC) services



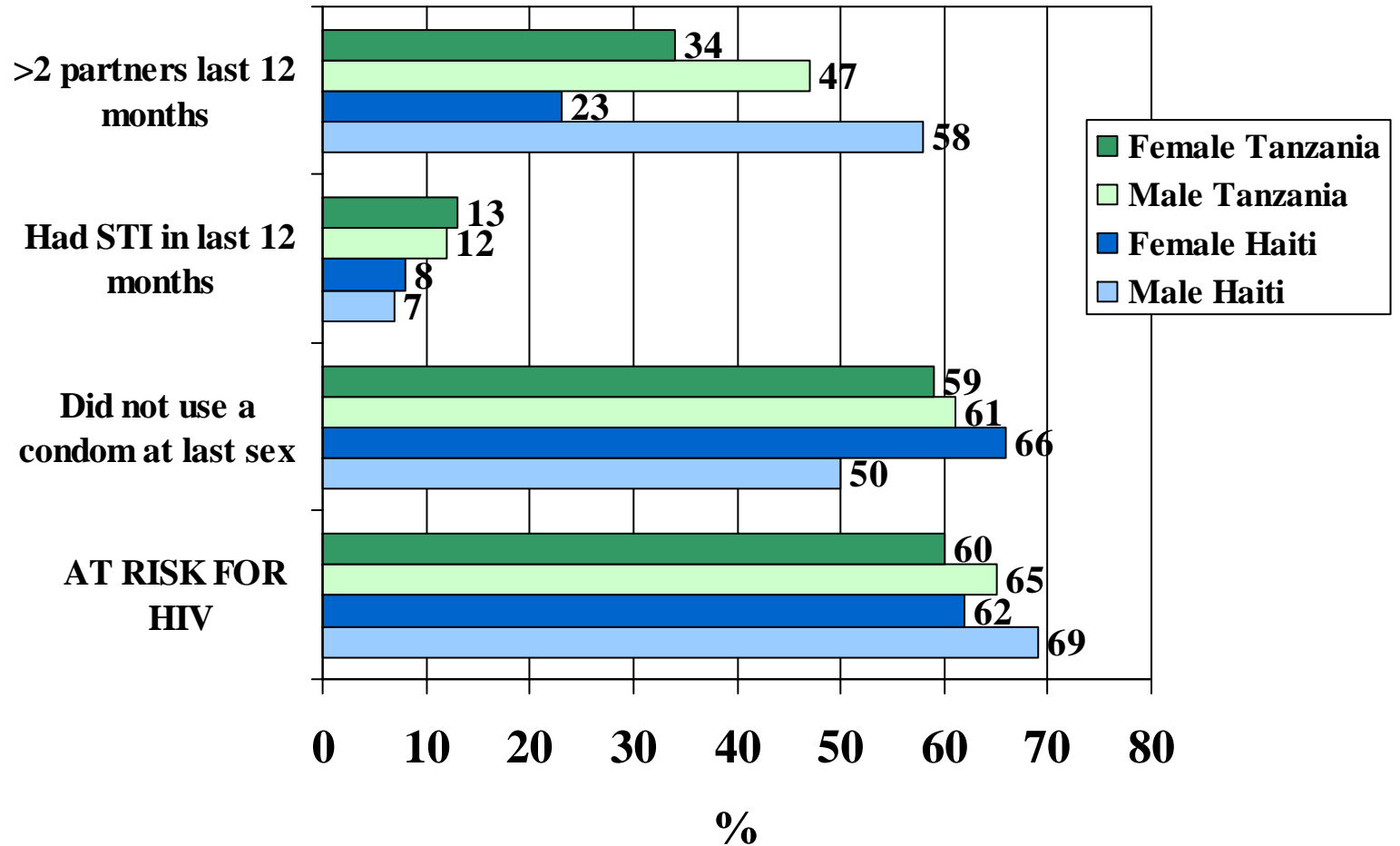
VCT Services for Youth in Haiti and Tanzania

Objectives



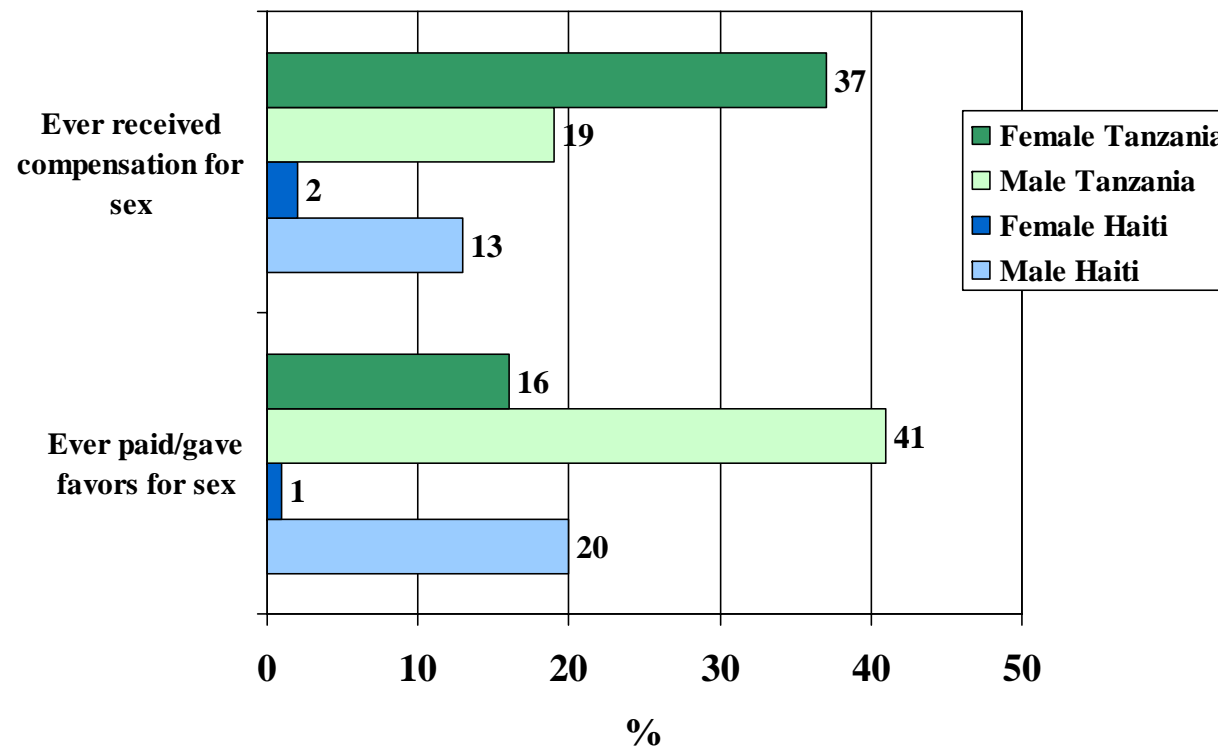
- Objectives
 - Document and assess models of youth VCT services
 - Attract youth at risk
 - Own perceptions of risk
 - Change behaviors
 - Assess VCT quality
 - Evaluate referrals
 - Assess provider time use (Haiti)
- Multiple data collection methods

Sexually Active Youth VCT Clients' Risk of STIs/HIV



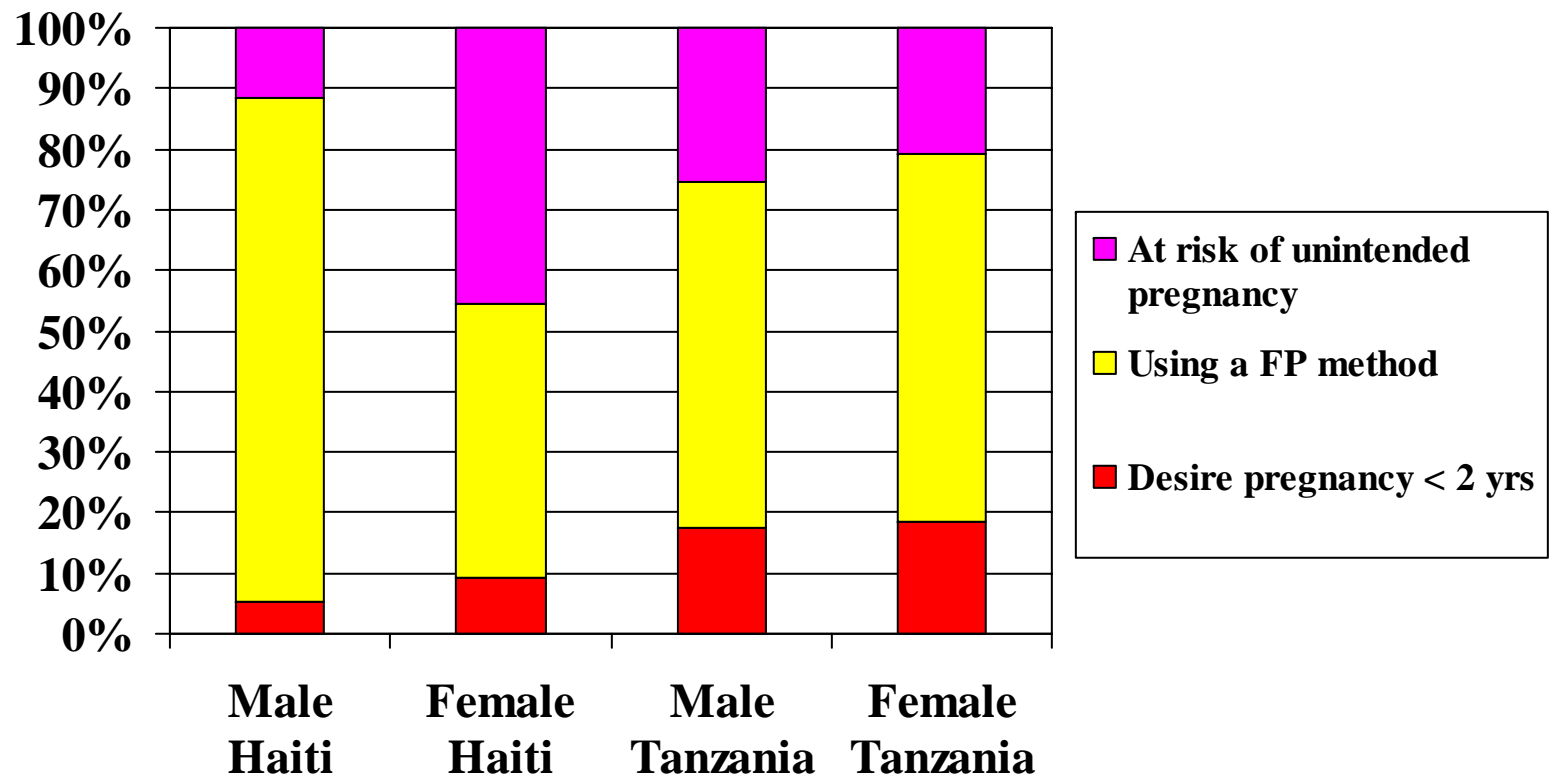


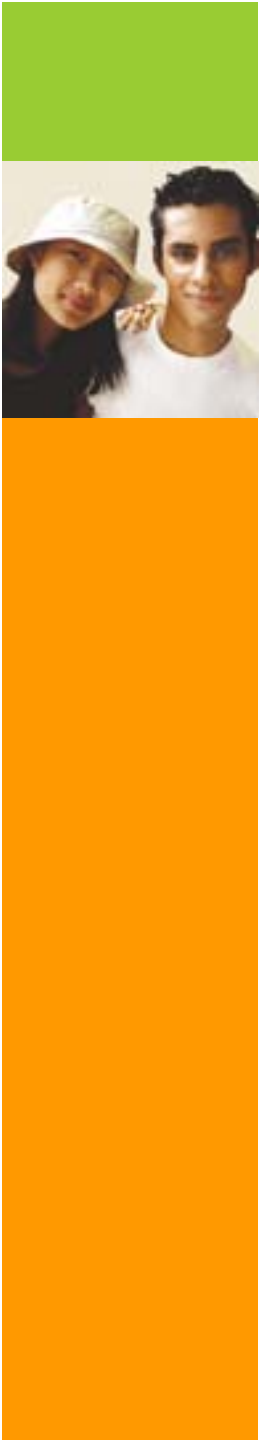
Experience with Transactional Sex



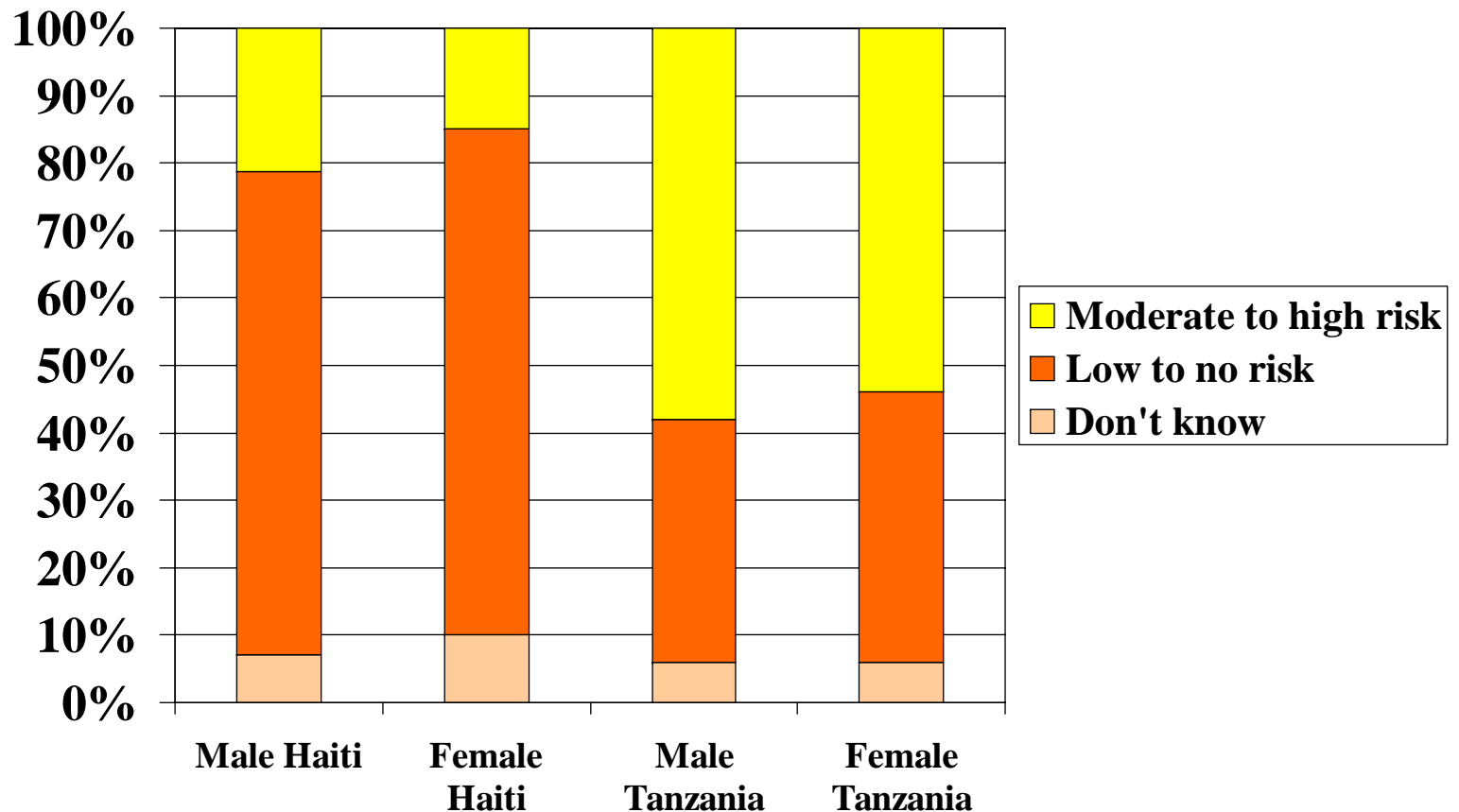


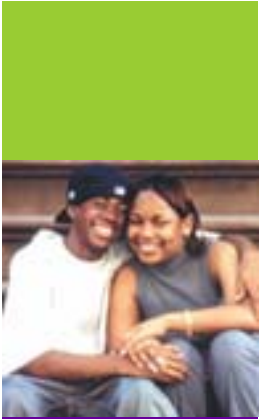
Are Sexually Active Youth VCT Clients At Risk for Unintended Pregnancy?





Self-assessed Risk of HIV Among Clients with Reported Risky Behaviors





Reasons for Risk Perceptions

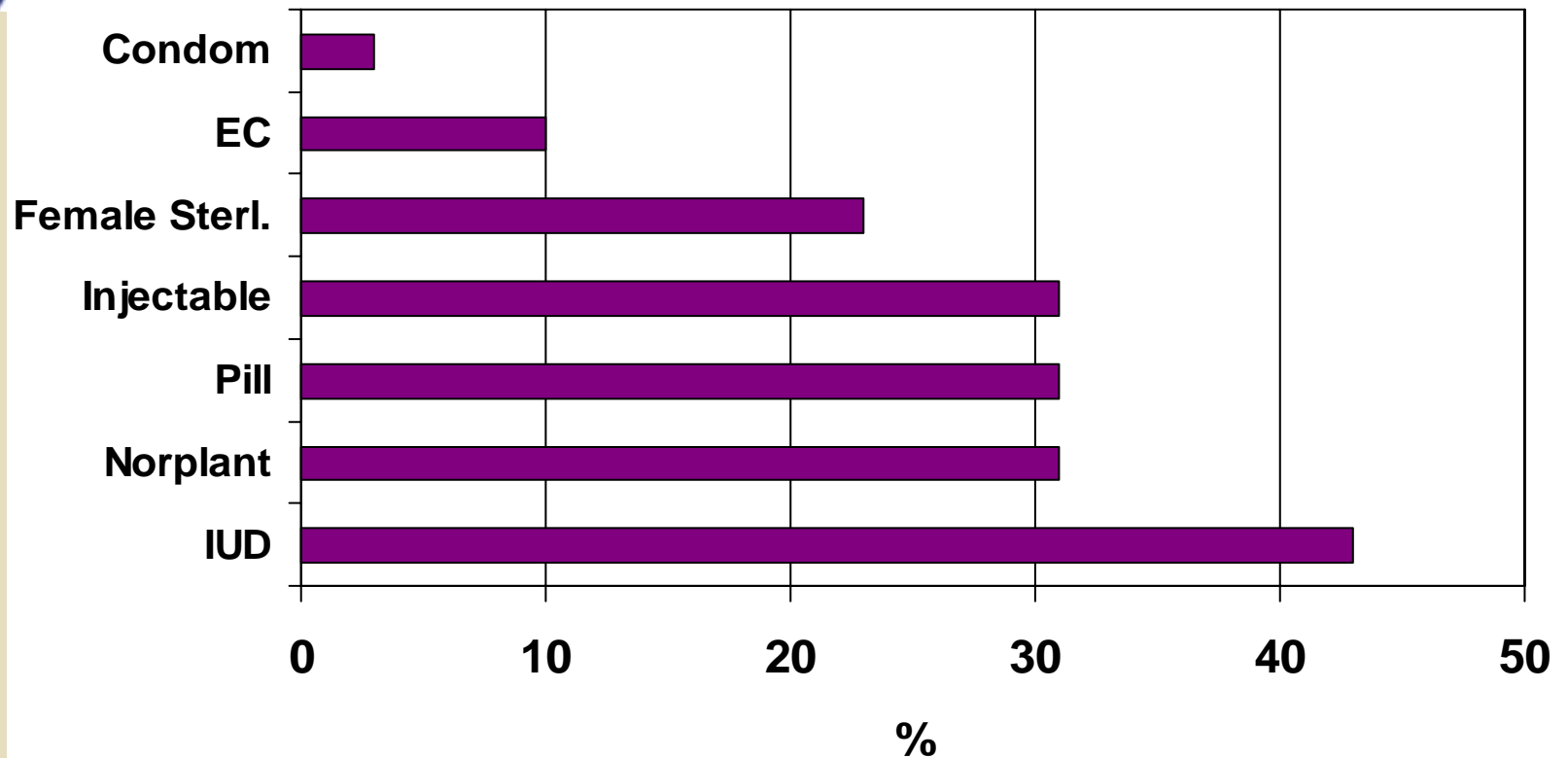
Low to No Risk

- Use condoms
- Stay faithful
- Abstain

Medium to High Risk

- Do not use condoms
- Partners unfaithful
- Have many partners (H)
- Have sex with “promiscuous” people (T)

Clients Reports of Provider Discussions of Condoms, Pregnancy Prevention, Fertility Desires, and Referrals





Summary

- VCT centers do attract at-risk youth
- Youth VCT clients do not have accurate perceptions of their risk for HIV
- The majority are receiving condom messages
 - Females in Haiti the exception
- A slight majority are receiving pregnancy prevention messages
 - Females in Haiti the exception



Recommendations

- Use VCT centers to reach at-risk youth
- Implement screening of VCT clients for risk of unintended pregnancy
- Include pregnancy prevention services in the VCT session where feasible, otherwise offer referral
- Strengthen HIV prevention messages and risk reduction counseling
- Increase personalized risk reduction plan



Services for Adolescents in PMTCT Programs in Kenya

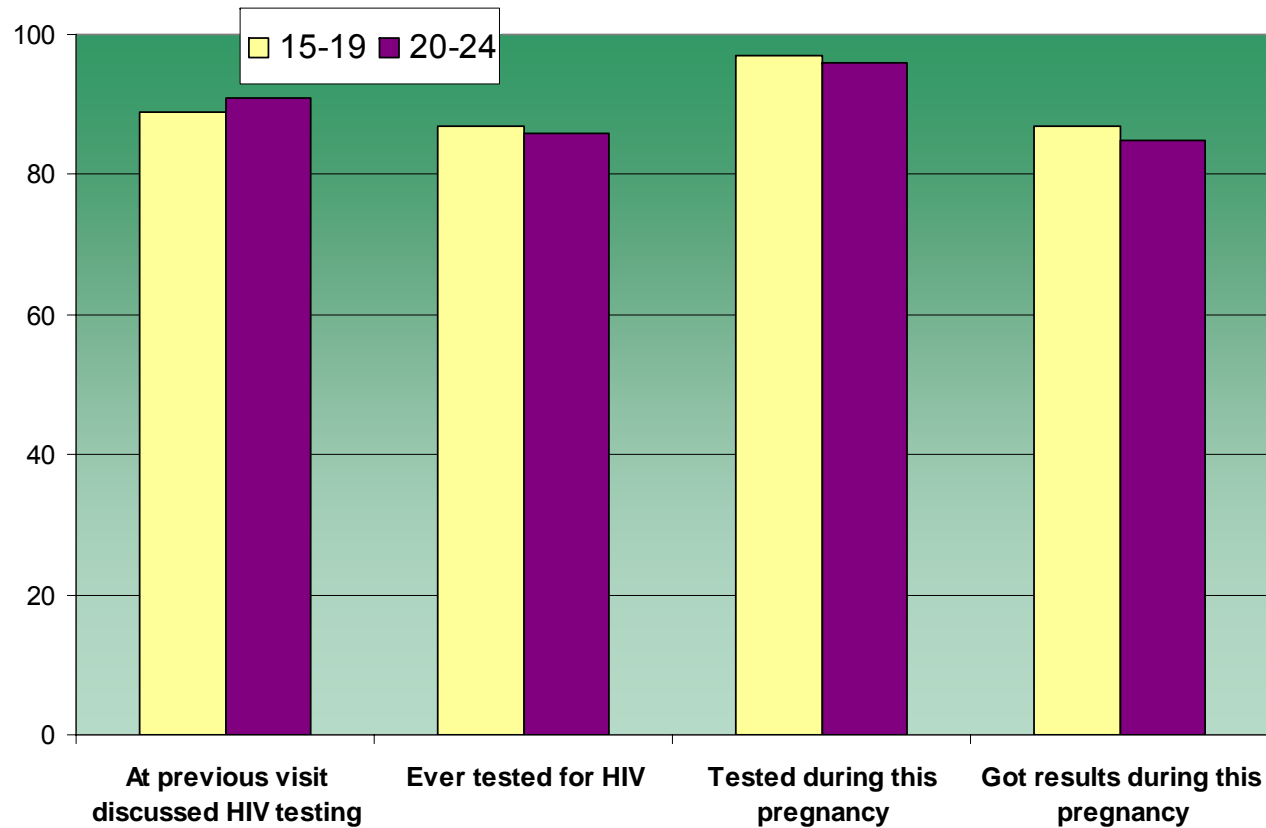
Objectives



- To assess...
 - Whether the RH needs of youth are addressed in PMTCT services
 - Content of PMTCT services youth received
 - Adolescents' use of PMTCT services compared to older youth
 - Perceptions of fertility in the context of HIV among young women in the community
 - Factors influencing use of PMTCT services

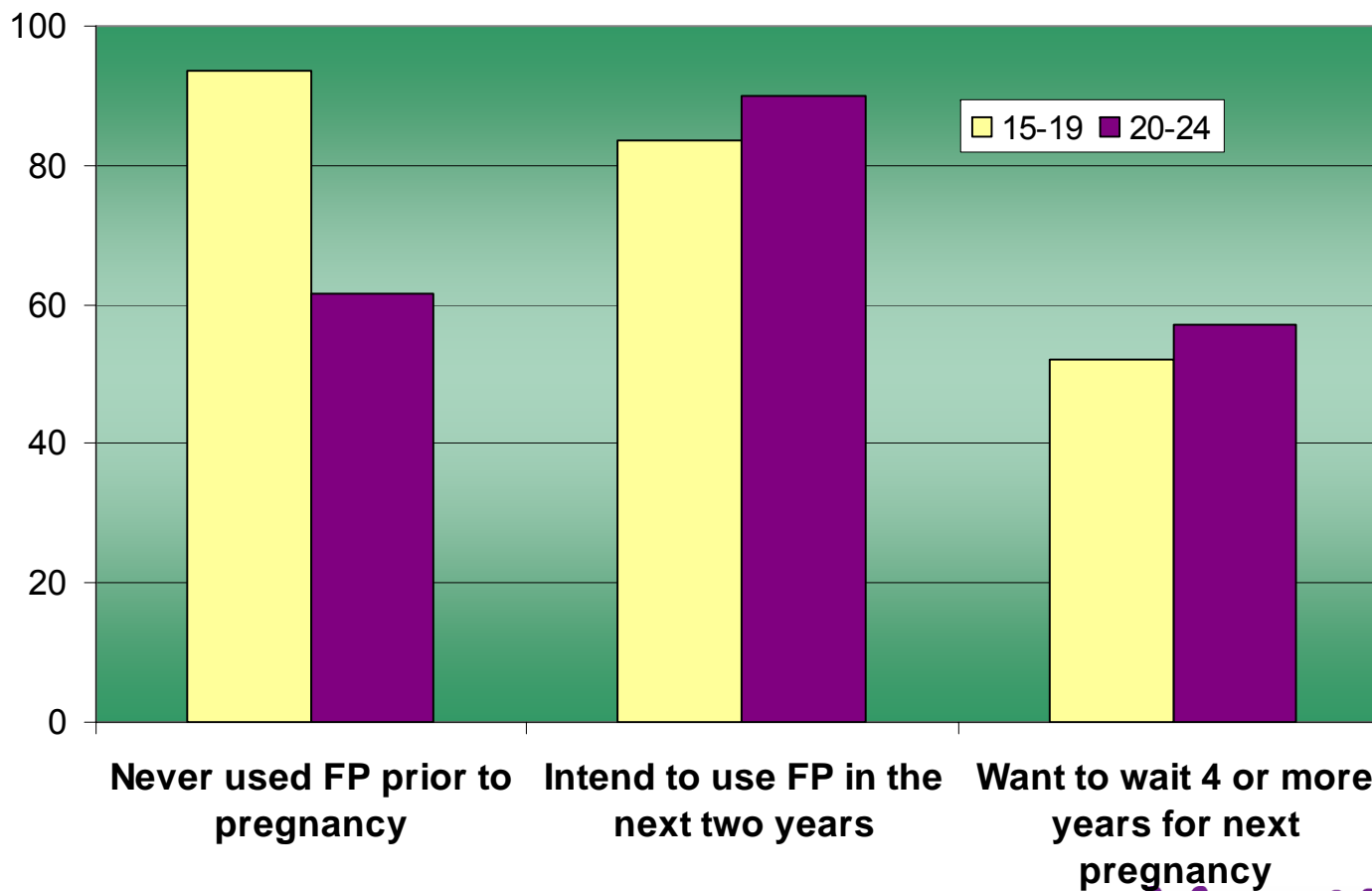


Youth Clients' Reports of HIV Testing and Results

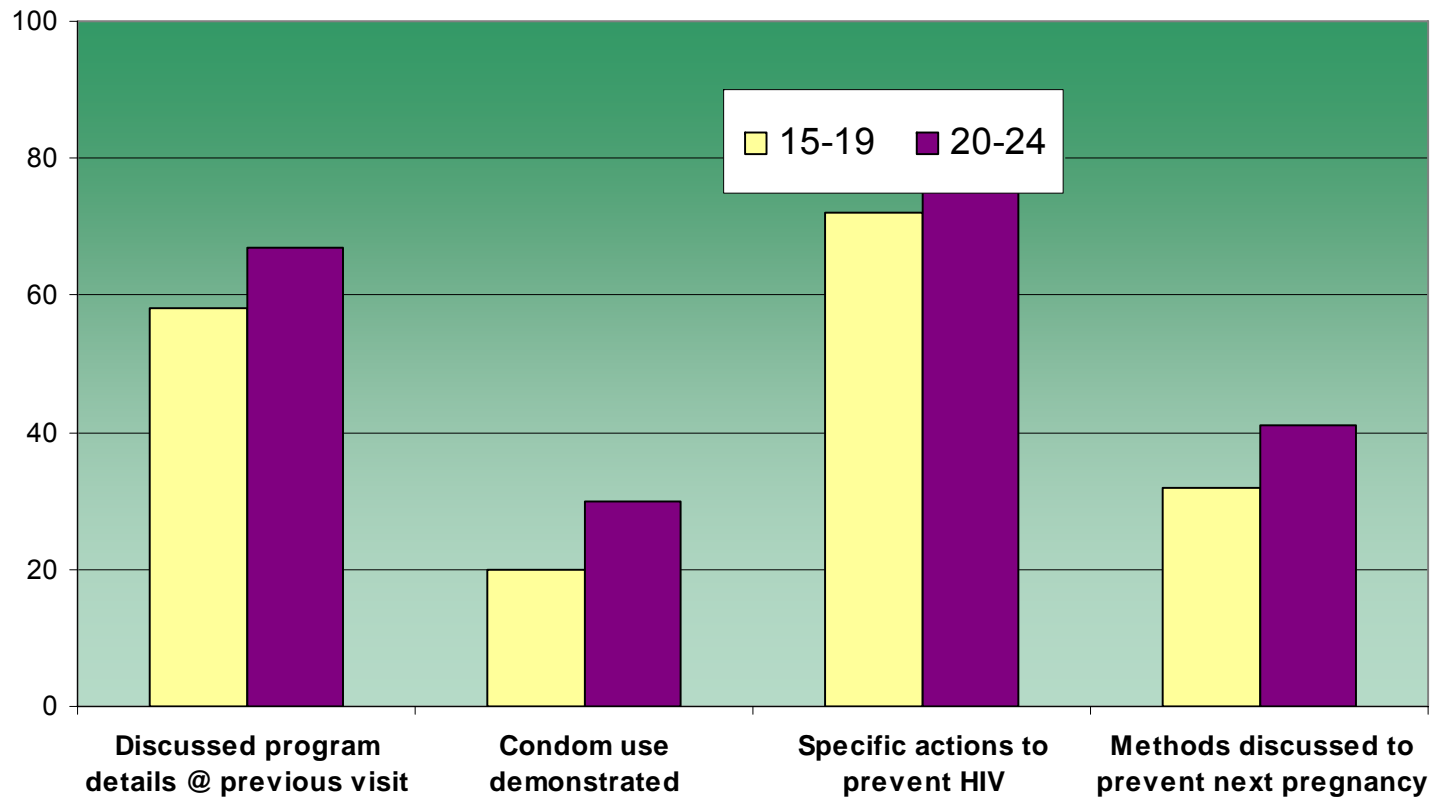




Youth Clients RH needs and experiences with FP



Youth Clients' Reports of PMTCT Services Received





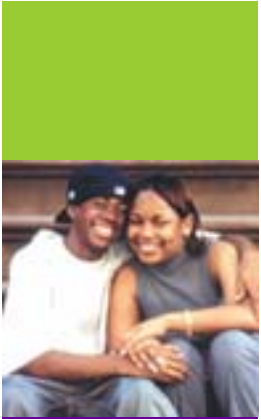
Summary Results

- No difference in HIV services received by age
- Demand for postpartum FP exists
- Providers not counseling all youth on FP



Recommendations

- Strategies are needed to meet youth postpartum FP needs
- HIV and FP prevention messages to adolescent PMTCT clients need to be strengthened



Adolescents' Use of Maternal and Child Health Services in Developing Countries

Objective



- To examine adolescents' use of antenatal care, delivery care, and immunization services (for the infant) relative to older youth's.



Methodology

- 15 countries, 3 regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America)
- DHS surveys
- Study populations
 - Women ages 15-23 *at the time of the survey* with a birth in the previous three or five years
 - Children \geq 12 months born to women in the three or five years before the survey
- Bivariable & multivariable analyses



Dependent Variables

- Prenatal care
 - At least one visit with a skilled provider
 - “Skilled” = doctor, person with midwifery training and/or country-specific health professional
- Delivery care
 - Delivery with a skilled attendant
- Immunization
 - BCG
 - 3rd Polio dose
 - 3rd DPT dose
 - Measles

Results



- Association of age and MCH care use was limited to Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Peru and Uganda.
- In 5 of 15 countries, adolescents less likely than older youth to use ANC or delivery care.
- In 6 countries, adolescents less likely than older youth to have infants immunized.
- Effects of age on use of services most consistent in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia.
- Few differences in health care use by mother's age in African countries.



Recommendations

- Country-specific investigations are needed in Asia to better understand the reasons for differences in service use by age.
- More research is needed to understand which interventions can help reduce poor MCH outcomes.



Post-Abortion Care Counseling for Young Women in the Dominican Republic

Objectives



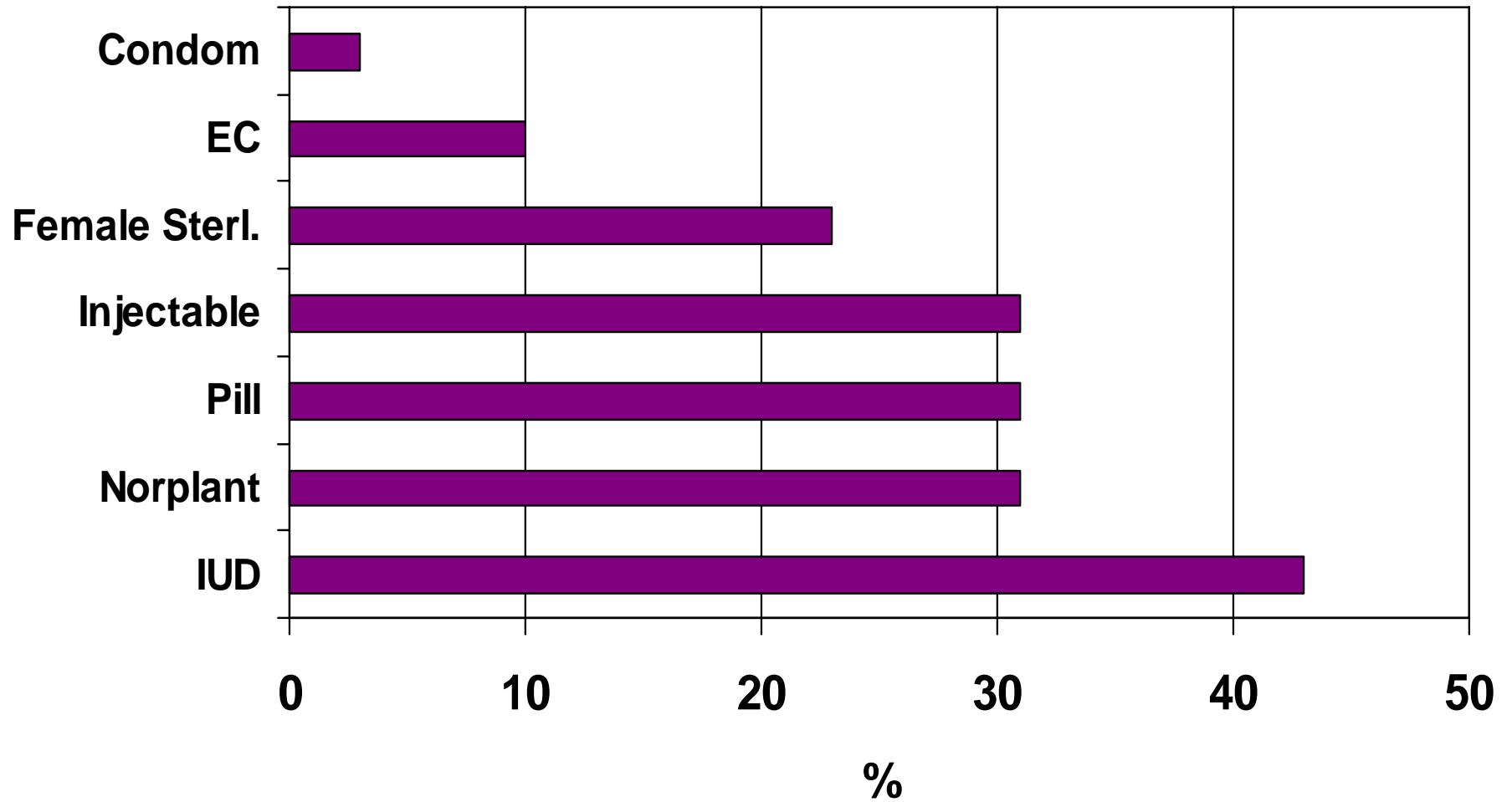
- To conduct an assessment of PAC counseling practices in 4 public hospitals
- To design, implement, and evaluate an intervention to improve PAC counseling



Assessment results

- Majority of providers had no PAC counseling training
- One-third had blaming or judgmental attitudes towards adolescent PAC patients
- One-quarter did not assess pregnancy intentions
- One-quarter did not tell clients when they can become pregnant again
- Only 15% had accurate information about when clients can become pregnant again

Provider Opinions on Inappropriate Methods for Adolescents





Recommendations

- Providers need training on post-abortion counseling, specifically:
 - Which FP methods are appropriate for adolescents
 - Youth-friendly attitudes
 - When clients can become pregnant again
 - Should assess client pregnancy intentions



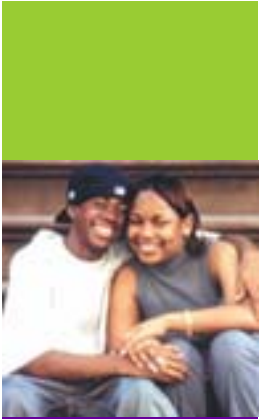
Desired Outcomes of Intervention Study (in-progress)

- Primary outcome:
 - % of women discharged with a method (successful if 60%)
- Secondary outcomes:
 - % counseled about contraception and HIV/STIs
 - % given accurate information on post-abortion danger signs and symptoms
 - % given adequate emotional support during the visit
 - % change in provider attitudes and practices towards youth clients

Intervention & post-assessment



- Intervention
 - May–August 2005
 - 3-day provider training
 - Materials: provider guide, patient brochure & poster
- Monitoring efforts: CONECTA
 - Development of a monitoring checklist
- Post-assessment:
 - February–May 2006
 - Primary outcome
 - Increase in number of PAC patients discharged with a FP method (successful if 60%)



Take-home Messages



YouthNet Services Research: Take Home Messages

- Youth are at risk
- Youth using VCT, PMTCT, and PAC services have unmet contraceptive needs
- All HIV-related services provide opportunities to counsel youth about family planning