

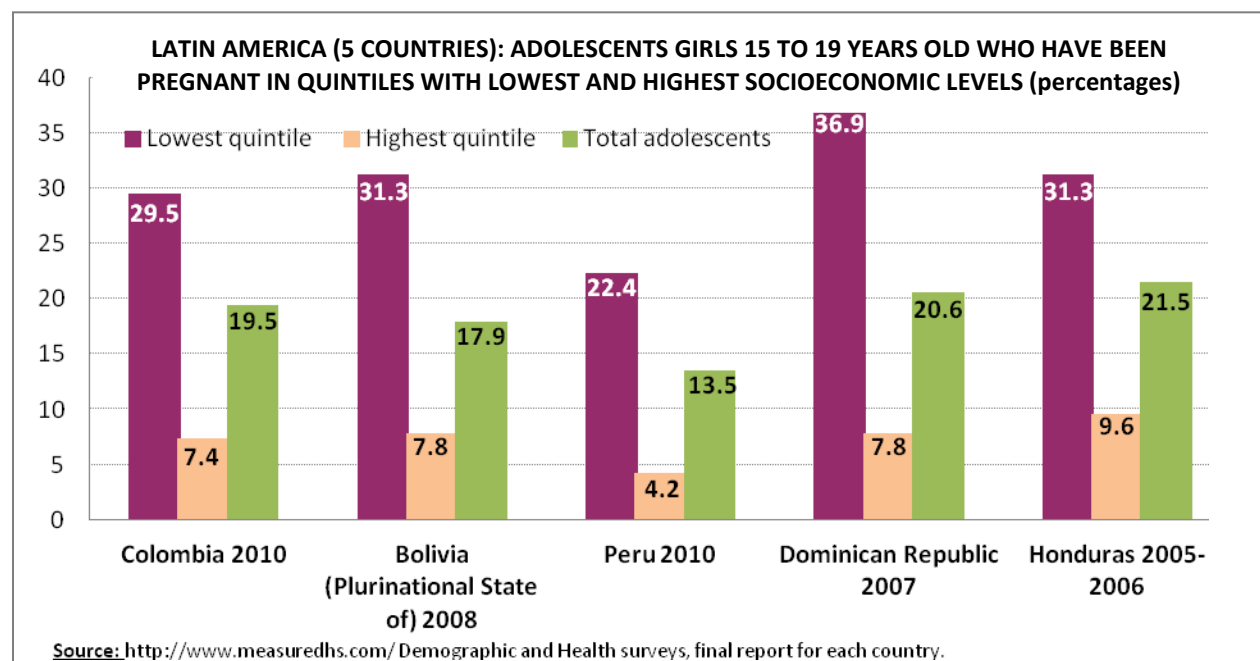


Equitable development begins with reproductive rights

- Women's rights and access to efficient reproductive health services are key elements in the struggle to overcome poverty and its social reproduction.
- Women are less likely to access education and quality jobs when they are not able to decide how many children they want to have nor the spacing between births and when there is no co-responsibility in caregiving tasks.

ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IS A CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Adolescent pregnancy reflects socio-economic inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean and in turn contributes to perpetuating poverty.
- In all countries, teen pregnancy is concentrated amongst the poorest.



WOMEN DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING

- Most countries in the region still lack laws that precisely define reproductive rights and universal access to sexual and reproductive health.
- Many women in Latin America do not have access to effective family planning methods, even though they may not want to have more children or would delay the birth of their next child.
- In countries such as Bolivia and Guatemala one out of every four women does not have the possibility to plan her pregnancy.
- Family planning reflects social inequities and is more inaccessible to poor women.



Gender Equality Observatory

for Latin America and the Caribbean



ECLAC

Why are sexual and reproductive health rights essential to equitable development?

- The lack of reproductive health services affects poor women and young girls more. In Latin America and the Caribbean the poorest women have higher unwanted fertility and higher unmet needs for family planning.
- While maternity rates decreased in all age groups of the countries in the region, they continue to increase in adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age.
- Latin America, the most unequal region in the world in terms of income, also demonstrates the highest difference in fertility among adolescents in the poorest quintile and the richest quintile. The same inequality is reproduced in access to family planning.
- Women dedicate more hours of their time to unpaid work which includes tasks related to family reproductive work, often without the support of public care services.
- The lack of co-responsibility for care tasks significantly impacts the economic empowerment of women, wasting their educational opportunities, and limiting their integration into employment, thus increasing their likelihood of falling into poverty and reproducing it.
- While the inclusion of women in the labor market has increased between 1994 and 2010 from 45% to 52%, the economically active female population is still 25 percentage points below the male rate. One in three women do not have income of their own compared to one out of every ten men, despite their essential contribution to overcome family poverty.

How to promote equitable development through reproductive rights?

- Incorporating reproductive rights as the cornerstone of development policy.
- Strengthening national statistical systems and indicators relating to sexual and reproductive health by disaggregating information by population groups, by sex, socioeconomic status, age, ethnicity, migrant population, area of residence.
- Ensuring access to public reproductive health services and overcoming gaps in service delivery to guarantee the reproductive rights of all women, and in particular the poorest women.
- Generating public care policies and promoting redistribution of work and family responsibilities between men and women, so as to reduce the care workload for women and thus free up their time and encourage their full participation in the labor market.
- Developing studies on the impact of access to sexual and reproductive health rights on women's economic empowerment.

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