



An overview about the use of statistic on adolescents and young women in Costa Rica, Latin America: the experience of the National Council of Youth

Jorge Segura Arias

4th Global Forum on Gender Statistics. Dead Sea, Jordan. March 27-29, 2012

1. Presentation

- National Council of Public Policies of Youth: government institution from the Ministry of Culture and Youth
- Objective of this presentation: to share the Costa Rican experience on the use of data for the design and implementation of policies on youth. Specifically, on the implementation of tools and topics concerning adolescent and young women.

- The main sources used in this presentation are tools produced by National Council of Youth with the technical and economic support of UNFPA
- Special thanks to UNFPA Costa Rica Country Office.



2. A brief contextualization

- Costa Rica: country located in Latin America
- Population: 4 562 087 inhabitants (2009)
- Young person: the ages of 12 and 35
- About 42 % of the whole population is young.

3. General statistics in Costa Rica

- **National census of population and household** (applied every 10 years)
- **National Survey of Households and Multiple Purposes** (applied each year)
- **Survey on Sexual and Reproductive Health** (2010)
- **Cantonal Human Development Atlas** (2007 and 2011)

4. Specific statistics on adolescents and young people produced by National Council of Youth

- a) National Survey of Youth (2007)**
- b) Cantonal Survey about the reality of young people of Upala and Desamparados (2010)**
- c) Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey on HIV (2009)**
- d) Monitoring System of the Condition of the Young Person**
- e) National Survey of Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ministry of Health, 2010).**

5. Policies, programs and services based on adolescent and youth statistics

National Policy of Sexuality (2010 - 2021)

- *76 % of young people have had sex*
- *24 % have not yet started its sexual life*
- *use of contraceptives in women from 15 to 24: 54 % use condoms, 33 % contraceptive pills, surgical methods around 3%, 1% reports the use of natural methods.*
- *(National Survey of Youth, 2007)." (2011, Ministry of Health).*

National Policy of Sexuality (2010 - 2021)

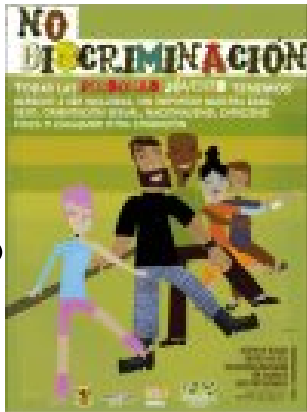
This policy is directed to the whole inhabitants of Costa Rica

- Its main goal is to guarantee and the pursuit of the right to safe sexuality, informed, co-responsible for all the Costa Rican people, as an integral part of the human right to health.
- This policy does not refer directly to women or young people, its approaches are intended to address human rights, gender, and diversity.
- Intervention areas: information, sensitization, communication and dissemination; sexual citizenship; comprehensive education of sexuality; integrated, comprehensive and warm services for the attention of sexual and reproductive health, and sexual violence. Each area has specific policy guidelines and strategies.

Two actions based on the same data

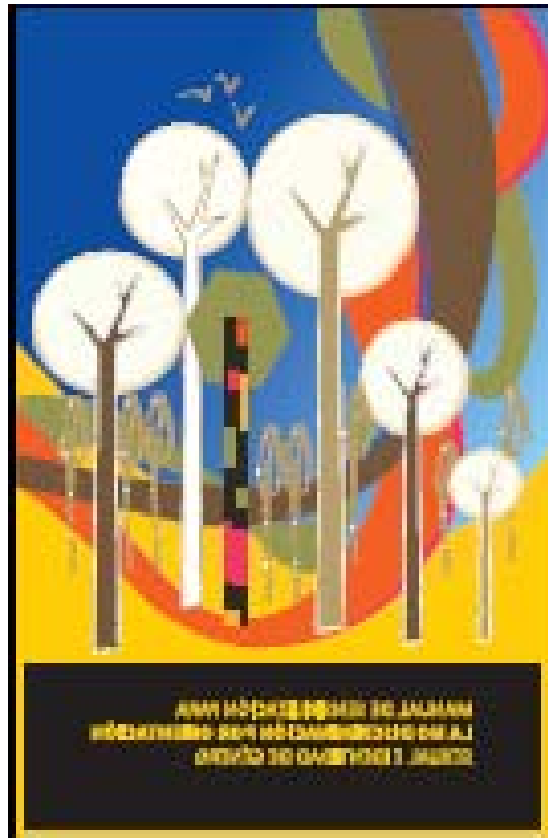
- Discrimination based on sexual orientation is one of the most significant situations reported by young people (opinion)
- This situation is indicated by young men (62%), young women (66%), adolescents (55 %), and young people in general (64 %). (National Survey of Young People, 2007)

Design of mass media campaign



- The mass media campaign was developed to promote human rights on young people for a wide national audience, including radio, TV, banner and printed material.

Design of educational material



- **“Manual of sensitization to non-discrimination on sexual orientation and gender identity”**. This guide presents conceptual orientations and a proposal of workshop with different sessions for its application with public servers and other audiences.

Design of attention models

Model for Prevention and attention of adolescent pregnancy (2011)

- *The objective of this Model is to prevent unplanned pregnancy among adolescents, and provide whole cares to pregnant adolescents through joint services based on Human Rights approaches.*
- *It has been designed by Inter-institutional Council for the Care of Teenagers Mothers.*

Model for Prevention and attention of adolescent pregnancy

- *Adolescents aged between 15 and 17 have had sex, 14% for the first intercourse occurred between 10 and 13 years (25% in rural areas, 8% in urban areas).*
- *28% of boys aged 15 to 17 years had a partner, which in the case of young women the percentage increases (37%). For the case of female teenagers 3 % of them were married, and 25 % in free union.*
- *Pairing in adolescence: For men, 88.5% with adolescents under 17 years, and in the case of women, 13.9%, it is with older people (76% aged between 18 and 24 years).*
- *(National Survey on Youth, 2007)*

Model for Prevention and attention of adolescent pregnancy (2011)

- *The major sources of information about sexuality are schools (44%) and family (42%).*
- *87 % of the adolescents said they received information on STI prevention, and 85% of contraceptive methods. Of this population, who reported having sex, 55% of women mentioned condom use, while the percentage for men is 54%. The 60 % reported using contraceptives during sex.*

(National Survey on Youth, 2007)

Design of attention models

Model for promoting healthy life styles and prevent HIV and AIDS between adolescents (2011)

- Research was one step of the Joint Program “180° Turn” for the training, non formal education of adolescents, and to create awareness and modifications of health and educational services, as well as communitarian and government organizations. The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey has been one of the inputs for design of the Model for the Promotion of Healthy Life Styles and HIV and aids Prevention between Adolescents.

6. Final considerations

- These examples show some uses of statistical data in public policies, actions for young people, advocacy and visibility of youth.
- Some of these tasks are specific to a locality or age group; it is clear the challenge of universal strategies as presented. This step requires political will, government actions, support from international agencies, and training in the diagnosis and use of statistics about women and youth.
- Existing information shows the use of different criteria for collecting information on youth. These aspects are limitations in data collection. Therefore one of the challenges is to develop tools and unified procedures for gathering information.

- In terms of gender, it is necessary to design tools, surveys and systems with a gender and youth approach, to identify specific needs of men and women.
- The Production of statistical information can not be separated from process of generation of knowledge and its use in public policy , development of actions, approaches, and accountability - especially on the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth for Costa Rica.
- There is a need for training in the use of online data sources, the use of general research for decision making.
- The official organizations about youth and women require the strengthening of institutional capacities in the production, analysis and use of data, and the allocation of research budgets.

Thank You!

jsegura@cpj.go.cr

www.cpj.go.cr