Sexual and Reproductive Health

Ushma D. Upadhyay, PhD, MPH

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Afghanistan © 2005 Emily J. Phillips/MSH, Courtesy of Photoshare
International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

- "Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being…"

- Established that reproductive health is a universal human right.

- 179 countries signed on to this agreement
“Before we get into the serious family planning discussion, the U.S. government’s delegate has another motion to offer...”

I move we outlaw thong underwear!
Millennium Development Goal 5

MDG 5: Improve maternal health

- **Target 2:** Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

- **Indicators:**
  - Contraceptive prevalence
  - Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
  - Adolescent birth rate
  - Unmet need for family planning

Source: ICPD, 1994
Core Components of SRH

- Contraception/Family planning
- Abortion
- Maternal health
- Infertility
- Prevention of unsafe abortion
- RTIs/STIs including HIV
- Other reproductive morbidities (cancers)
- Sexual health
- Harmful practices (e.g., female genital mutilation)
- Antenatal, perinatal, postpartum, and newborn care
Over one-third of pregnancies in developing countries are unintended

- 49% Wanted births
- 16% Unwanted or mistimed births
- 20% Induced abortions
- 15% Spontaneous abortions (miscarriages)

Source: Sedge, 2007
Use of modern contraceptive methods, 2008

Data source: Population Reference Bureau
Universal inability to achieve desired fertility

Data source: Demographic & Health Surveys 2004-2007
20 million unsafe abortions each year

Number of abortions (millions)

- World
  - Safe: 22
  - Unsafe: 20

- Developed regions
  - Safe: 6
  - Unsafe: 0.5

- Developing regions
  - Safe: 16
  - Unsafe: 19

Source: Sedge, 2007
Case study: Nepal

- Abortion illegal for decades
- 2002—Abortion legalized
- 2004—First government services offered by Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu

Maternal mortality ratio dropped:

- 1996 ⇒ 539/100,000 live births
- 2009 ⇒ 229/100,000 live births
### Countries where abortion is prohibited

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No exception to save the woman’s life

Source: Center for Reproductive Rights
Role of Medication Abortion

- In the US, used up to 9 weeks gestation
- Mifepristone orally
- Misoprostol, 24 to 72 hours later at home
- 95-97% effective within 2 weeks