

FAMILY PLANNING: BOLIVIA

Statistics

Bolivia:

Fertility Rate 3.9
(children per woman)
-the third highest rate in the Americas

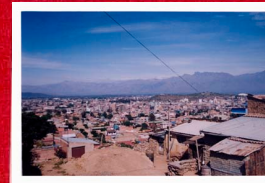
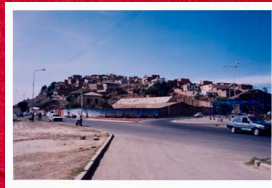
Life Expectancy 63.2 years
(women and men combined)
-the second to the lowest rate in the Americas

Child Mortality 78 (males per 1000)
73 (females per 1000)
-the second highest rate in the Americas

Abortion Related Deaths 300 annually

Latin America:

Maternal Deaths due to abortion 21%



INTERVIEW ANSWERS: THE WOMEN OF CERRO VERDE HEALTH CENTER

AGE	18	31	23	27	14	18	23	37	24	25	39	24	26	22
AGE @ 1st CHILD	18	21	21	18	N/A	18	21	22	17	15 "YOUNG"	19	N/A		22
FAMILIARITY	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
CONTRACEPTIVE USE	NO	YES	YES	YES	N/A	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO
HUSBAND SUPPORT		YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
# OF CHILDREN	1	3	1	2	N/A	1	1	2	3	3	9	2	0	1
# OF PLANNED CHILDREN	1	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	3	4	1	2	2
INFO FROM PARENTS	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	
WILL INFORM CHILDREN	YES	YES	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
ORIGIN	CBBA	CBBA	CBBA	OR	CBBA	POT	CBBA	POT	CBBA	POT	LP	CBBA	CBBA	OR
LANGUAGES	S, Q	S, Q	S	S, Q	S, Q	S, Q, A	S	S, Q	S	S, Q, A	S	S	S, Q	S
FIRST LANGUAGE	S	S	S	Q	S, Q	N/A	S	Q	S	S, Q	S	S	S	S
EDUCATION LEVEL	3M	1M	U	3B	1M	1I	5B	5B	3I	1I		0 BACH	BACH	BACH
JOB	NO	H	H	H	N/A	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	NO
RELIGION		C	C	C	E	C	C	C	C	E	C	C	C	E
RELIGION AS IMPEDIMENT		NO								YES				NO
KEY:	Language:	Origin:	Religion:	Education:	Job:									
	S-Spanish	CBBA Cochabamba	C-Catholic	B-Basic 1-5	H- stays at home									
	Q-Quechua	Or- Oruro	E- Evangelical	I- Intermediate 1-3	M- merchant									
	A- Aymara	Pot- Potosi		M- High school 1-4										
		LP- La Paz		Bach- HS graduate	U- University student									

Hypothesis:

I expected the most prominent impediments to the use of modern contraceptives for the women of the health center in Cerro Verde to be the low incomes generated in the families, the macho culture that designates the man as the authority over sexual decisions, and the fear caused by unfamiliarity with contraceptives.

Conclusions &

Recommendations:

- ❖ Low income is an incentive, not an impediment, to family planning.
- ❖ Catholicism does not appear to be an impediment to the use of contraceptives.
- ❖ Unfamiliarity with family planning information and contraceptives feeds the fear and rumors about contraception.
- ❖ A process of sexual education and sexual and reproductive health is necessary to familiarize women and men with their bodies, opinions, and rights.
- ❖ Men must be included in the learning process (i.e. NGO and health center sponsored programs).

Background:

The women of Bolivia, especially the women of the popular, low-income, neighborhoods, face many problems regarding family planning during an era of economic crisis, diminishing public resources, macho culture, and unfamiliarity with available contraception. The general object of my investigation is to define the factors that affect family planning choices of women who utilize the services of the Cerro Verde Health Center in Cochabamba.

The analysis is constructed from information gathered from women in Cochabamba, Bolivia, within the age range of 15 and 40 years; patients of the Cerro Verde Health Center; chosen for their place of residence, a lower income neighborhood, composed of a population that earns on average minimum wage, works in the informal commercial sector, is from rural areas, and has not reached university level education.

