



Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, including for Youth

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- Policies and Progress
- Issues:
 - Contraception
 - Maternal & Obstetric Care, Abortion
 - Screening Programmes
 - HIV & STIs
 - Adolescent Health
- Way forward

- At ICPD 179 governments signed up to provide universal access to family planning (FP) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and reproductive rights
- In the Pacific all countries reported policies to improve SRH and that institutional arrangements were in place
 - 1 country has integrated SRH into health policy
 - 3 countries have separate policy and strategy
 - 4 countries have draft policies and/or strategies
- Most reported improved access for women and youth; most countries reported that they have policies and programmes in place to address youth access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

- Increased condom uptake has been promoted, but limited reports of any sustained progress
- Reports of prevention and treatment programmes for STIs among antenatal women, but sustained high rates question effectiveness
- All countries report increased access to STI and HIV prevention and treatment
- All countries reported that SRH services were being delivered through the primary health care system

- Long history of donor supplied contraceptives to most Pacific countries, but uptake (measured by the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate) remains static
 - only 2/3 countries are near the ICPD targets, but important to stress that FP is not coercive, but is based on choice
- All countries provide at least 3 types of contraceptives, including emergency pills and condoms – condom use is low, especially amongst youth and women (FC)
- Seven countries have assessed unmet need for FP within DHS studies, with 5 countries carrying out specific FP reviews



significant challenges to be met

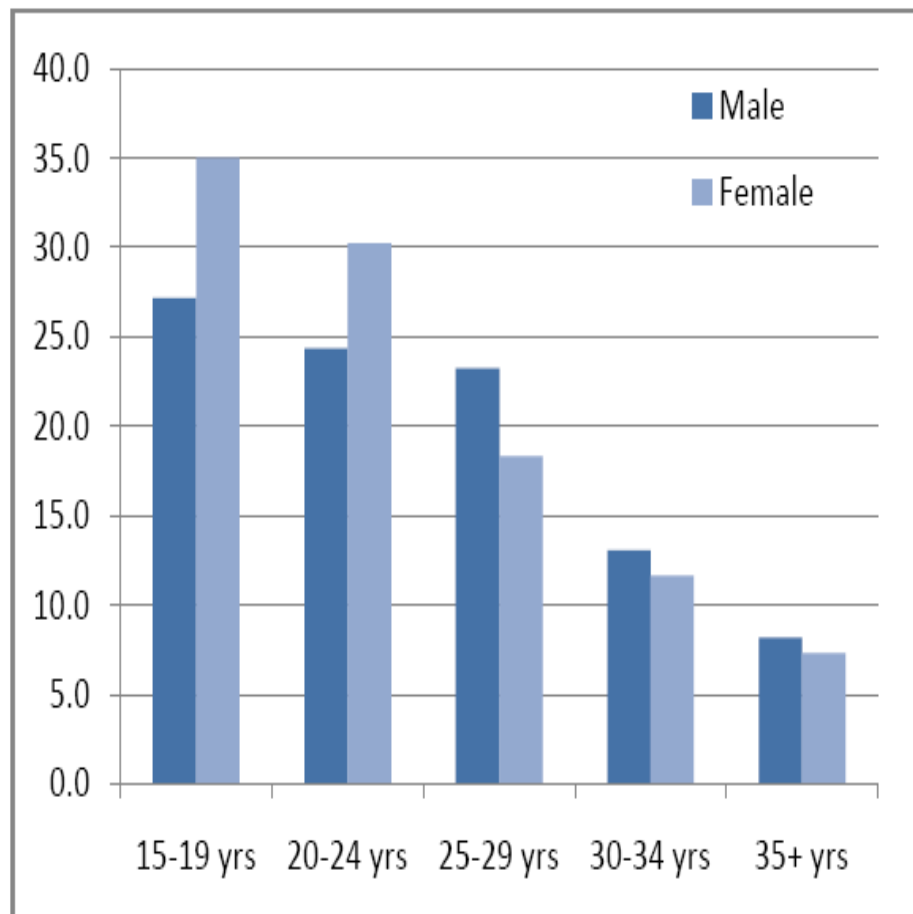
Maternal & Obstetric Care and Abortion

- Steady progress in maternal mortality reduction since 1990; Polynesia doing well; Melanesia not so, but more midwives being trained; Issues with reporting; All countries reported formal maternal mortality reviews, but few are functional
- More than 40% of pregnancies unplanned, undated
- All countries providing Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care services, with localised models of care - most countries well supplied with commodities
- Nine countries not able to provide access to safe abortions- none have laws safeguarding right to an abortion; 1 country outlaws abortion for any reason;

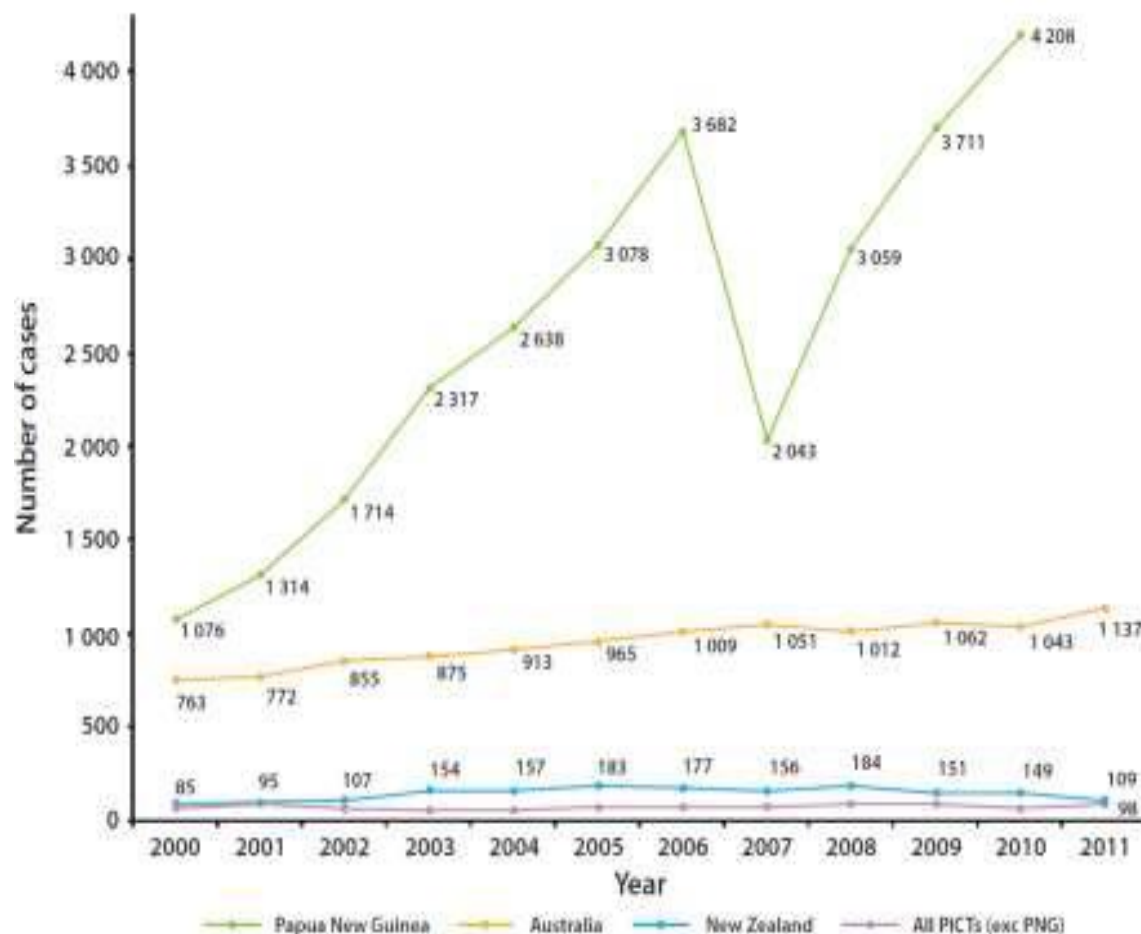
- Question not well understood
- Many countries reported testing for breast, cervical and prostate cancers – only 3 NZ affiliated countries actually conduct screening for these three cancers
- Mostly on urban dwellers, often more than once
- Most countries conduct opportunistic screening, do not have resources for formal first world screening procedures
- Eight countries now vaccinating young girls against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) to prevent (70% of) cancer of the cervix; Vaccine still expensive but Pacific countries need to work together to seek assistance in procuring vaccine

- Low prevalence of HIV in region, with exception of PNG, which is approaching a generalised epidemic
- Most HIV is sexually transmitted (50% heterosexual, 25% men who have sex with men)
- ARV treatment available throughout Pacific
- STI rates very high, particularly among young people
- High proportion of young people reporting unsafe sexual practices
- Cultural and religious beliefs are sometimes barriers to open discussion on sexual matters

Chlamydia Rates in Males and Females in PICTS by Age Group in 2009



HIV Incident Cases in the Pacific



Estimated HIV Prevalence (Dec 31, 2011)

Country	HIV Prevalence (%)	# of People living with HIV
Tonga	0.002	1
Vanuatu	0.002	3
Solomon Islands	0.004	10
FSM	0.011	6
Samoa	0.015	13
Palau	0.017	2
Tuvalu	0.018	1
RMI	0.030	8
Fiji	0.044	200
Kiribati	0.052	28
Papua New Guinea*	0.70	28,000
Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau	No reported cases	

Source: HIV Surveillance in Pacific Island Countries and Territories, 2011, SPC; *PNG Data from UNAIDS

- High rates of teen pregnancy
- Low rates of condom use and other family planning
- Access to youth friendly health services still low, but improving
- Very limited youth-specific data available on SRH and other youth issues
- Mental health and alcohol & drug use are emerging issues

Adolescent (15-19) Birth Rate

Country	Rate per 1,000 females (15-19)	Year
Marshall Islands	85	2011
Nauru	81	2011
Solomon Islands	70	2007
Vanuatu	66	2009
PNG	65	2006
WORLD	55	
Kiribati	49	2010
FSM	44	2010
Tuvalu	42	2007
Samoa	39	2011
Fiji	35.7	2007
Tokelau	29.8	2011
Palau	27	2010
Cook Islands	24	2009
Niue	19.7	2011
Tonga	19.6	2008

Source: Statistics for Development, SPC

- Continued integration of SRH (including HIV and STIs) into primary health care
- Unmet need for FP needs to be tackled at the highest level to ensure everyone exercises their choice with appropriate information and services; Development agencies need to assist governments to reposition FP and target young people and those in underserved sections of community
- Even more midwives, with appropriate commodities and backup need to be trained in Melanesia; Other countries need to learn from maternal deaths and near-misses

- Countries are urged to explore resource-appropriate screening technologies for reproductive cancers and pursue the vaccination of young girls against cancer of the cervix
- Continued focus on improving access to SRH services and SRH information for young people (including HIV and STIs)
 - Improved youth-specific data;
 - Youth-friendly health services;
 - Comprehensive sexuality education;
 - Peer-Peer programs;
 - Behaviour change programs and increased access to condoms