

# Experiences and lessons learned in prevention of adolescent pregnancy in Guyana

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# Country ,Guyana

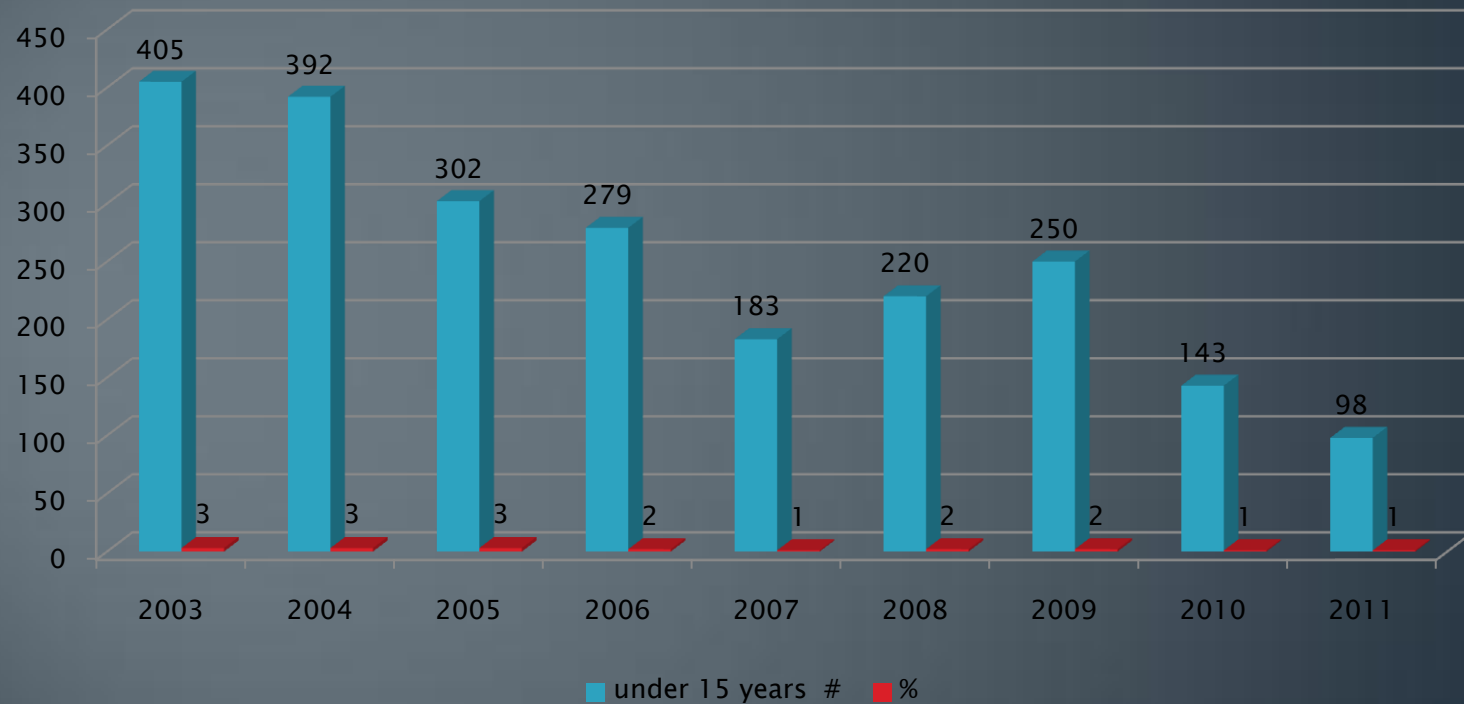
- **Country, Guyana**
- **Ten Regions , 4 remote hinterland areas–Regions 1, 7 8 and 9**
- **Estimated Population 750,000**
- **53% of population is less than 24 years old**
- **69% of the above figure are between the ages of 10–14**
- **31% between the ages of 15–24**



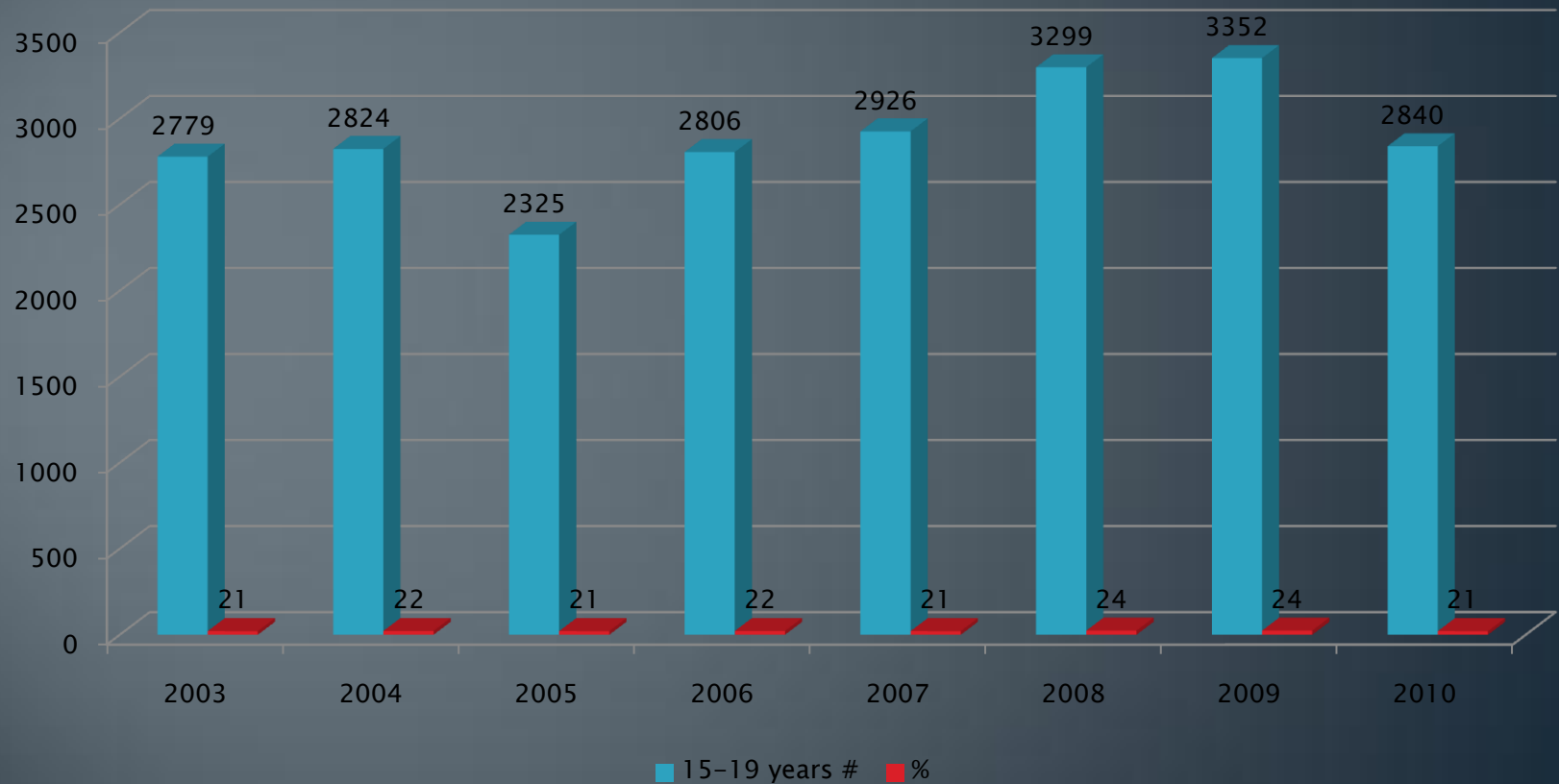
(census conducted in 2002)

# Review of Pregnancy Data

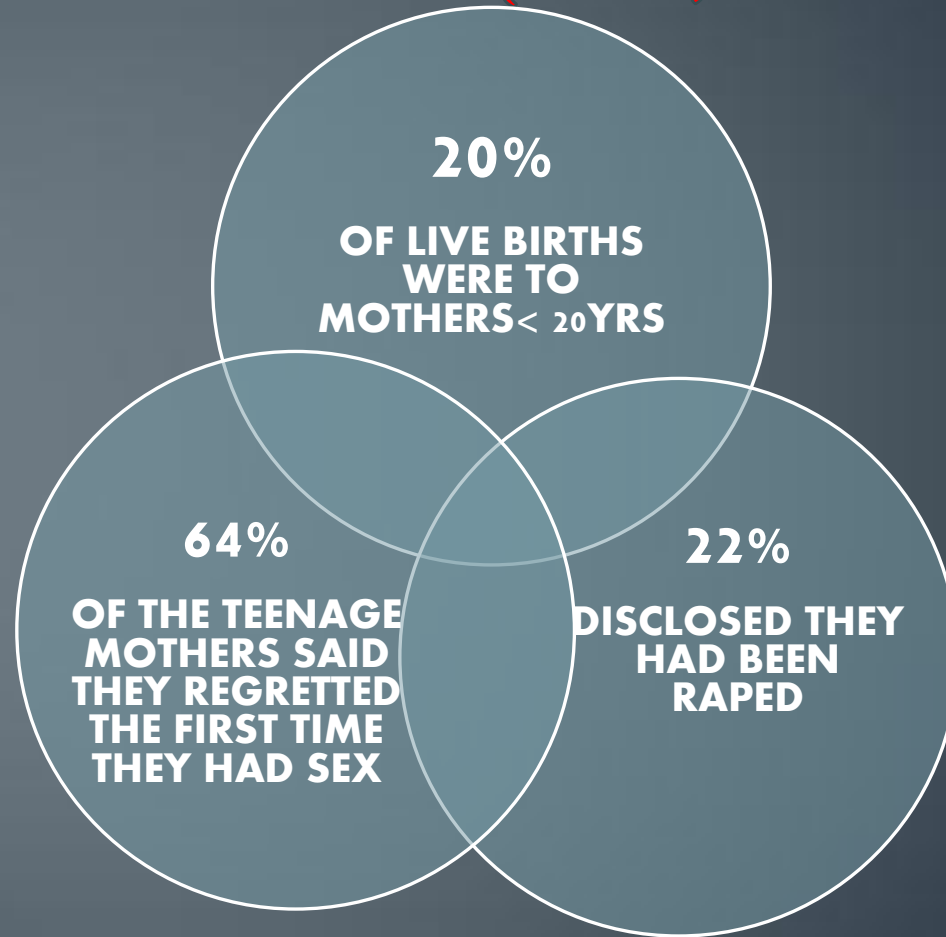
# Percentage of teen mothers 10- 15 yrs



# Percentage of teen mothers 15-19 years



**AT THE NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL STUDIES FOUND THAT FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 2009- JUNE 2012 , 3776 BIRTHS WERE TO Females < 20 YRS AN AVERAGE OF 1265 PER YEAR(UNICEF, MOH & MOE 2013)**



# Challenges faced in addressing teenage pregnancy

- Traditional norms and values of parents, health care workers and teachers in addressing issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health Education
- The doctrines of faith based organizations which limits the access to vital information on Sexual and Reproductive Health Education
- Gender disparity in the promotion of health based information and services
- Attitudes of Health Care Providers in rendering Primary Health Care Services to Adolescents

# Challenges continued

- Poverty and inequalities which place adolescent girls in vulnerable situations eg. Single parent mothers encouraging their daughters to reach out to men for financial support, girls engaging in transactional sex for basic necessities
- Geographic Landscape of Guyana restricts access to the dissemination of information
- Legislation limits the services offered by health care workers /providers .
- Although there is a comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme within the Education Sector, via the HFLE Curriculum, condom demonstration and distribution is prohibited



# Initiatives geared towards the reduction of adolescent pregnancies

- Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport and UNFPA has established Community Adolescent Youth Friendly Spaces
- Ministry of Human services launched the Family Life Commission which is making strides towards working with parents
- An Initiative for Adolescent Mothers was also developed between Women Across Differences and UNFPA to reduce second and third pregnancies

## Initiatives continued

- Ministry of Education has a School Health Programme ( HFLE , School Health , HIV/AIDS ) which works in collaboration with the Welfare Division addressing issues of adolescents within schools.
- Ministry of Health in promotion of Youth Friendly Services has introduced Adolescent Antenatal Clinics at six health centres and will be expanding to three other next month, the ministry has launched the adolescent health package at these centres .
- There is legislation which enables medical termination of pregnancies at any age.

# Lessons Learnt

- Access to comprehensive SRH services and information has positive outcomes especially on the sexual behaviour of adolescents
- The approach to teenage pregnancy must be modified to fit the different geographic locations
- The approach of active participation of youths in policy making provides information and approaches that are more effective in achieving set goals
- New legislation has to be in place so that better health services can be accessed by adolescents without breaking the law. (present legislation does not protect medical practitioners with regards to offering services to minors)
- Programmes designed for adolescent must have mechanisms in place to be sustainable

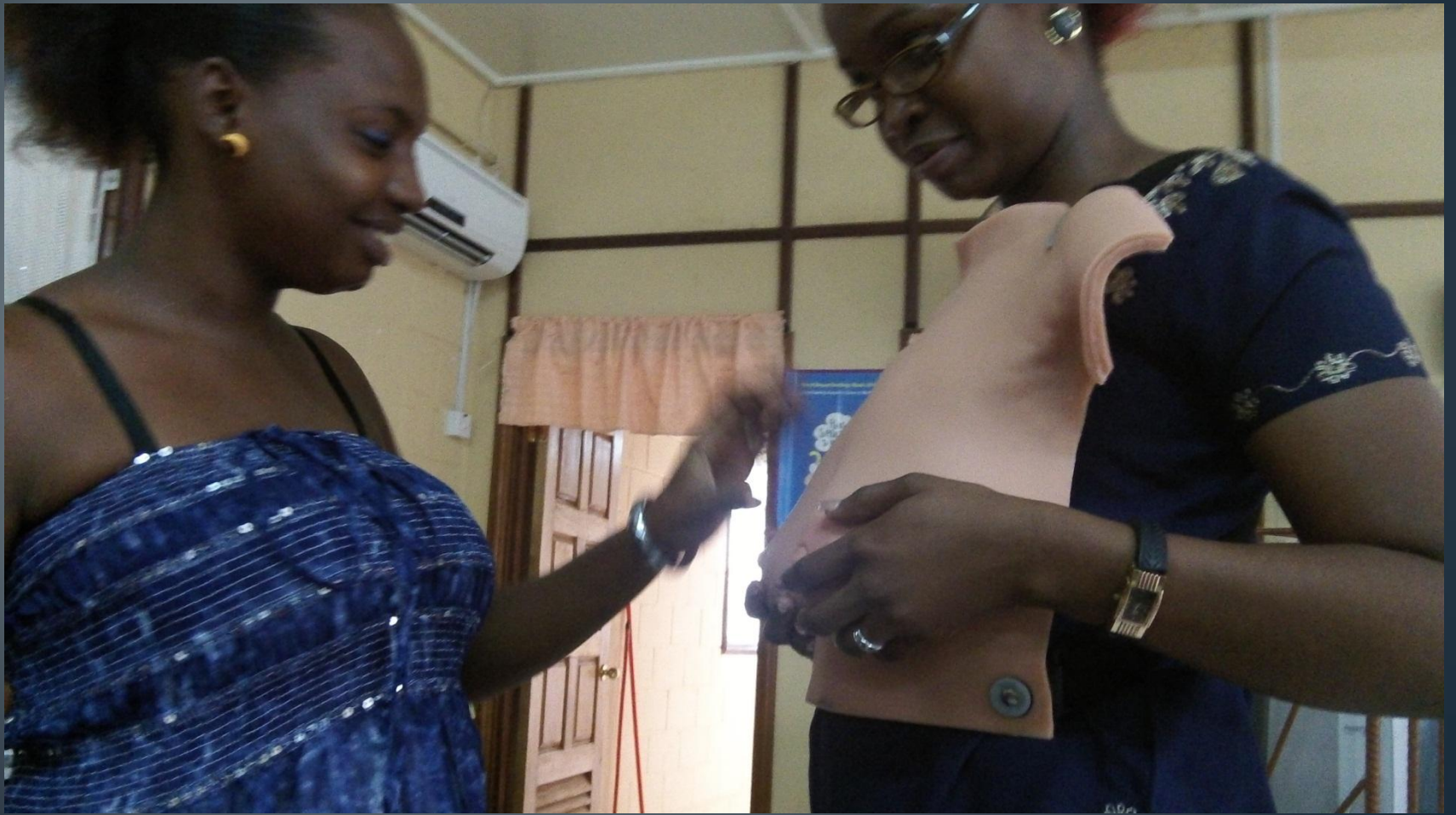
# Projections for 2014

- Revision of the Adolescent Health and Wellness Strategy.
- Finalization of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy
- Implementation of the National Youth Policy
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Finance on efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy in order to achieve the MDG Goal #5
- Collaboration with other Ministries to synchronise efforts to prevent teenage pregnancy















**THANK YOU**