



ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION WEEK IN THE CARIBBEAN

October 18-24, 2020

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) invite partners to commemorate the **inaugural annual Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Week, October 18-24, 2020**, to highlight adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean as a priority and contribute to the mobilization of strategic actions to reduce adolescent pregnancy.

Activities:

- **Launch of the First Caribbean Congress on Adolescent and Youth Health (CCAYH) Road Map; 19 October 2020, 4:00 -5:30 p.m.(AST)** The CCAYH was held from October 14-17, 2019 and was organized to provide a forum for regional and international youth development agencies, youth-serving organizations, and adolescents from across the Caribbean to identify and discuss issues around adolescent and youth health and propose recommendations to enhance the health of this crucial population group. Registration
link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c4uDTR8QS5mJVkJdSFq9YA
- **Adolescent Link-up; 22 October, 2020, 5:00-6:30 p.m. (AST)** Registration
link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eYlJpYPS2C7xf8EEBf-kQ
- **Technical meeting with experts** from across the region to examine actions critical to addressing adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean; **23 October, 2020, 11:00 a.m. (AST)**- Registration
link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PSciBNfPTU64L9oPbwnzyA
- Social Media cards and digital banners are available: <https://we.tl/t-CQMAhcRZVC>

Background: Adolescent pregnancy rates in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) remain unacceptably high, especially compared to the region's declining total fertility rates and considering the macroeconomic development over the past years. While countries, sub-regional integration mechanisms and regional partners, including PAHO and UNFPA, have been taking action to address adolescent pregnancy, there is a need to engender a greater sense of urgency among stakeholders to address adolescent pregnancy, an issue that profoundly affects not only the life of the adolescent mother, but also that of her children, family, and community.

This issue has become particularly critical due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to recent reports, COVID-19 can heavily affect the life trajectory of adolescent girls. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, adolescents already presented the highest unmet need in family planning and sexual and reproductive health services and face barriers to accessing health care, including Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services and access to comprehensive sexuality education. UNFPA and PAHO reviewed the situation of adolescent pregnancy in the region and expressed concern about the slow progress on reducing the adolescent fertility rates following the launch of a joint report between PAHO, UNFPA and UNICEF on accelerating action to reduce adolescent pregnancy in LAC in consensus with key stakeholders.

Objectives:

- To raise awareness of the causes and consequences of adolescent pregnancy in LAC
- To mobilize regional, national, and local stakeholders to invest in strategic actions and create enabling environments for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy
- To provide evidence-based guidance to adolescents, parents, communities, health providers, and implementing agencies on how to prevent adolescent pregnancy, during the COVID-19 pandemic
- To engage adolescents and youth in actions for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy

Please share the materials widely and feel free to reach out for more information.

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