

# Reproductive health and rights: looking for the means to realize fertility preferences

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# Premise 1:

According to the State of the World Population (2018), even after countries have agreed to the Program of Action (PoA) of the 1994 ICPD, currently everywhere large proportions of women are:

- 1) having more children than they would like, and/or
- 2) having less children than they would like, and/or
- 3) having children earlier than they would like, and/or
- 4) having children later than they would like.

# Premise 2:

Achieving sustainable development (SD) and eradication of poverty requires taking into account population dynamics, social,

# Background

- Latin America have started fertility transition before the ICPD1994 and have had a fast transition to low fertility , although very few countries have achieved the status of high income country and most are struggling with poverty and inequality.

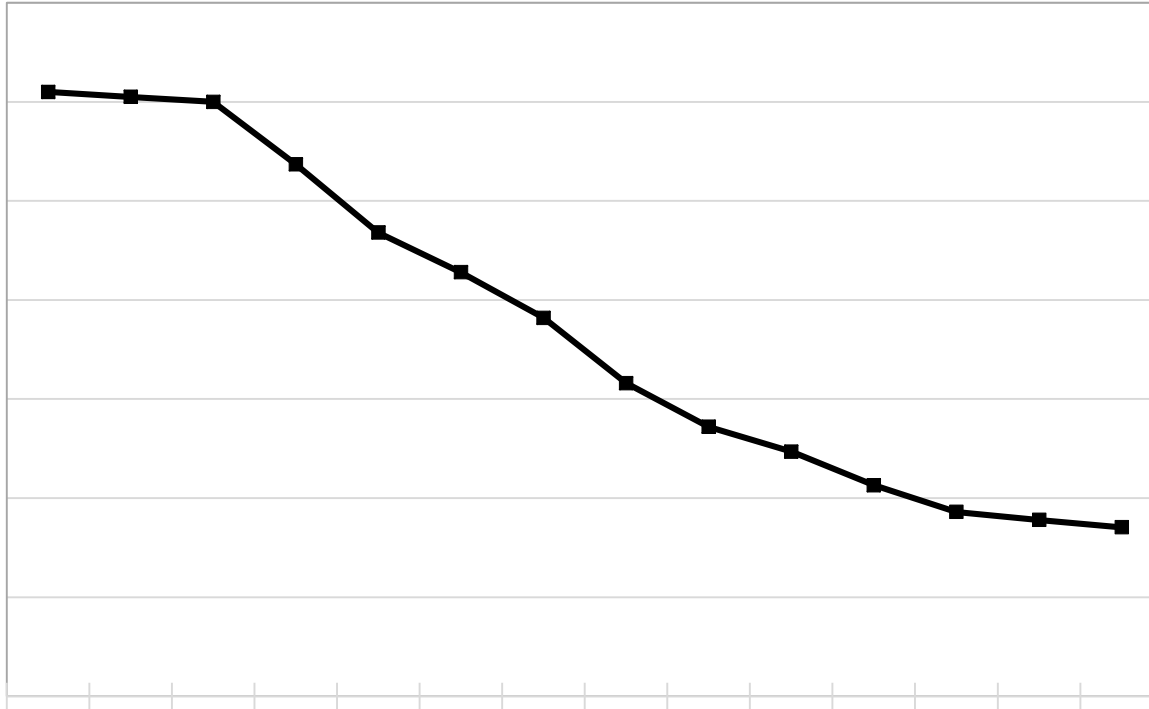
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# Objective

The objective is to discuss 4 points that are crucial for advancing in the implementation of the ICPD in the next years (or decades) and present one way we could move forward:

1. Learned lessons from developing countries (using Latin America as example, and Brazil sometimes, but applies to others).
2. Effective policies within the frame of rights.
3. The need for comprehensive sexuality education.
4. The need for a broader thematic approach in the ICPD implementation, that includes SRHR, but not only.
5. One way forward.

# 1. Learned lessons from developing countries



- In the 1960s, except Argentina and Uruguay, most countries in LA were at the center of international worries to find means of controlling population growth
- Nationally, however, most governments were not worried about population growth, and even the contrary were pronatalist with the view of populating the “vast territories.”
  - “to govern it is to populate”, as discussed by Mijro (1987)
  - “bringing landless men to a mass land”, as stated by the military in Brazil Alves



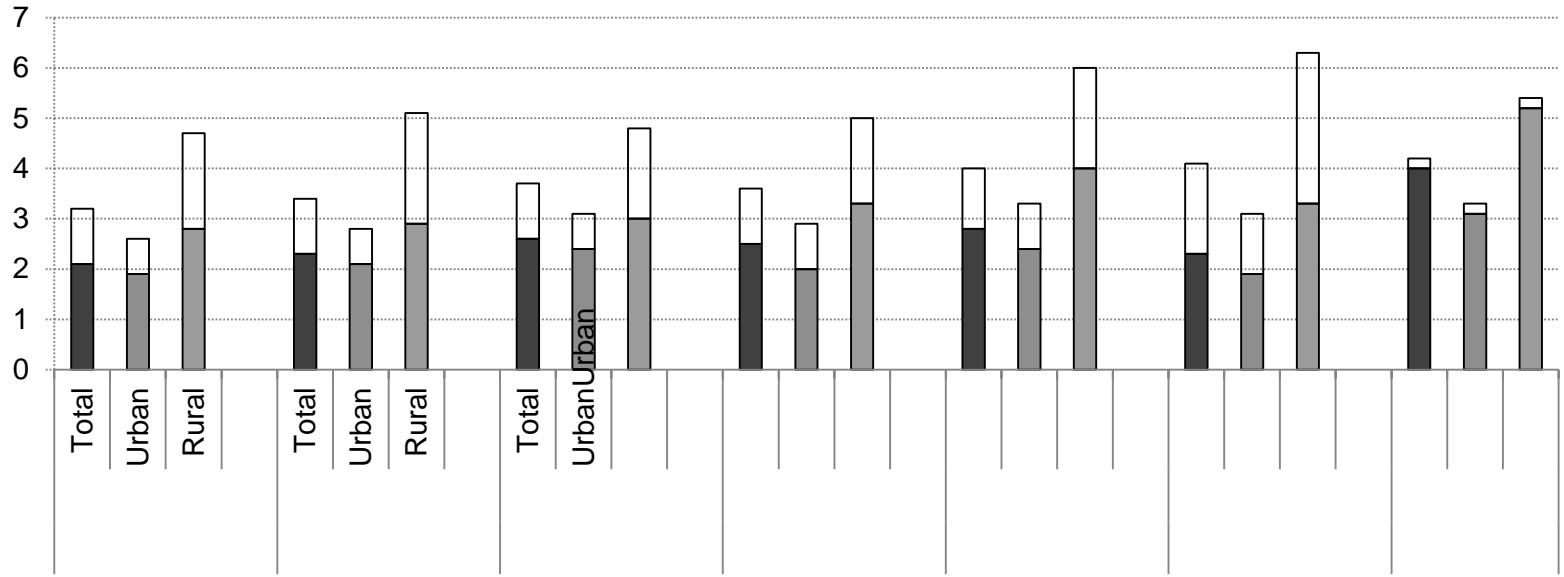


# 1. Learned lessons from developing countries

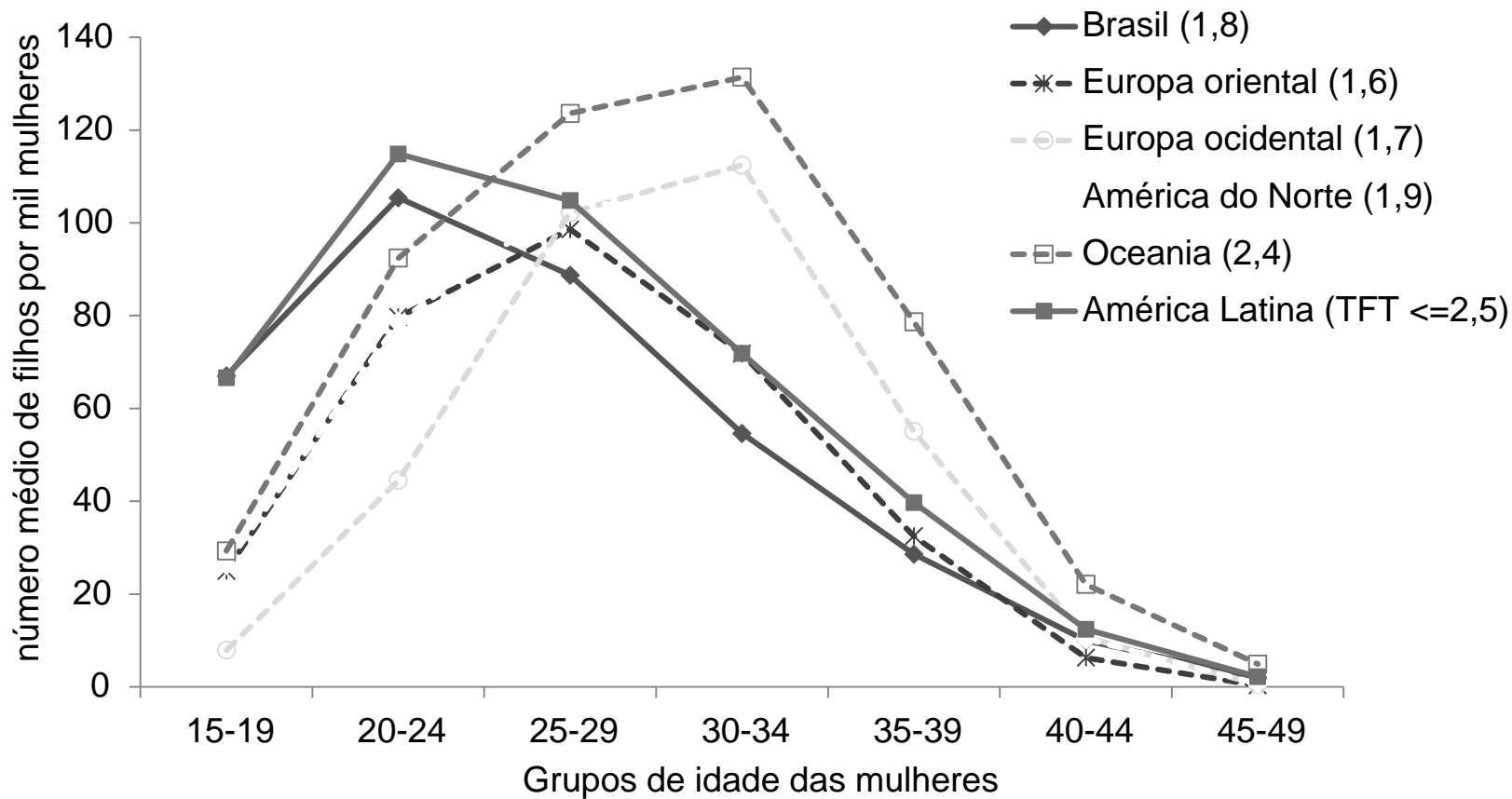
## Results from surveys in the 1960's and 1970's

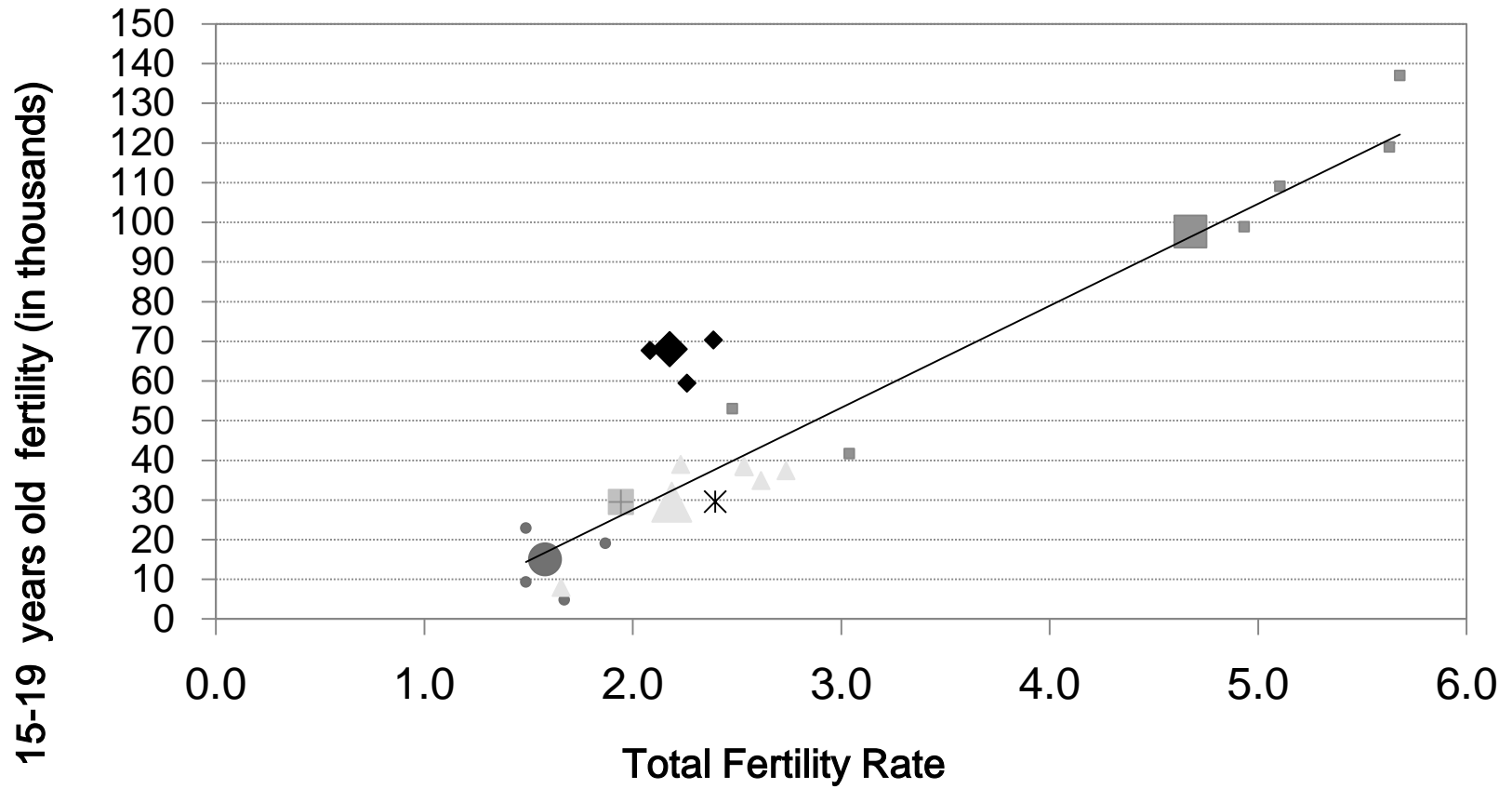
- In 1952 in Chile, contraceptive methods (male condom, diaphragm and some traditional methods) were in the reach of the most educated, but among the poor and less educated the prevalence of abortion was high, and the means used to achieve lower fertility (Requeña, 1965).
- Preference for small families in several LA countries in the 60's, when the TFR was around 6, in both rural (Simmons et al, 1979) and urban settings (CELADE and CFSC, 1972).
- WFS (1970's), found that TFR was around 5 children per woman and the number of wanted children was about 4 (United Nations, 1987). Also, found large proportions of women who wanted to stop having children when they reached the second or third child.
- Evidences of large number of women that have voluntarily interrupted pregnancies under illegality and registering high maternal mortality rates due to unsafe abortions (Cepal, 1992; Martine, 1975).



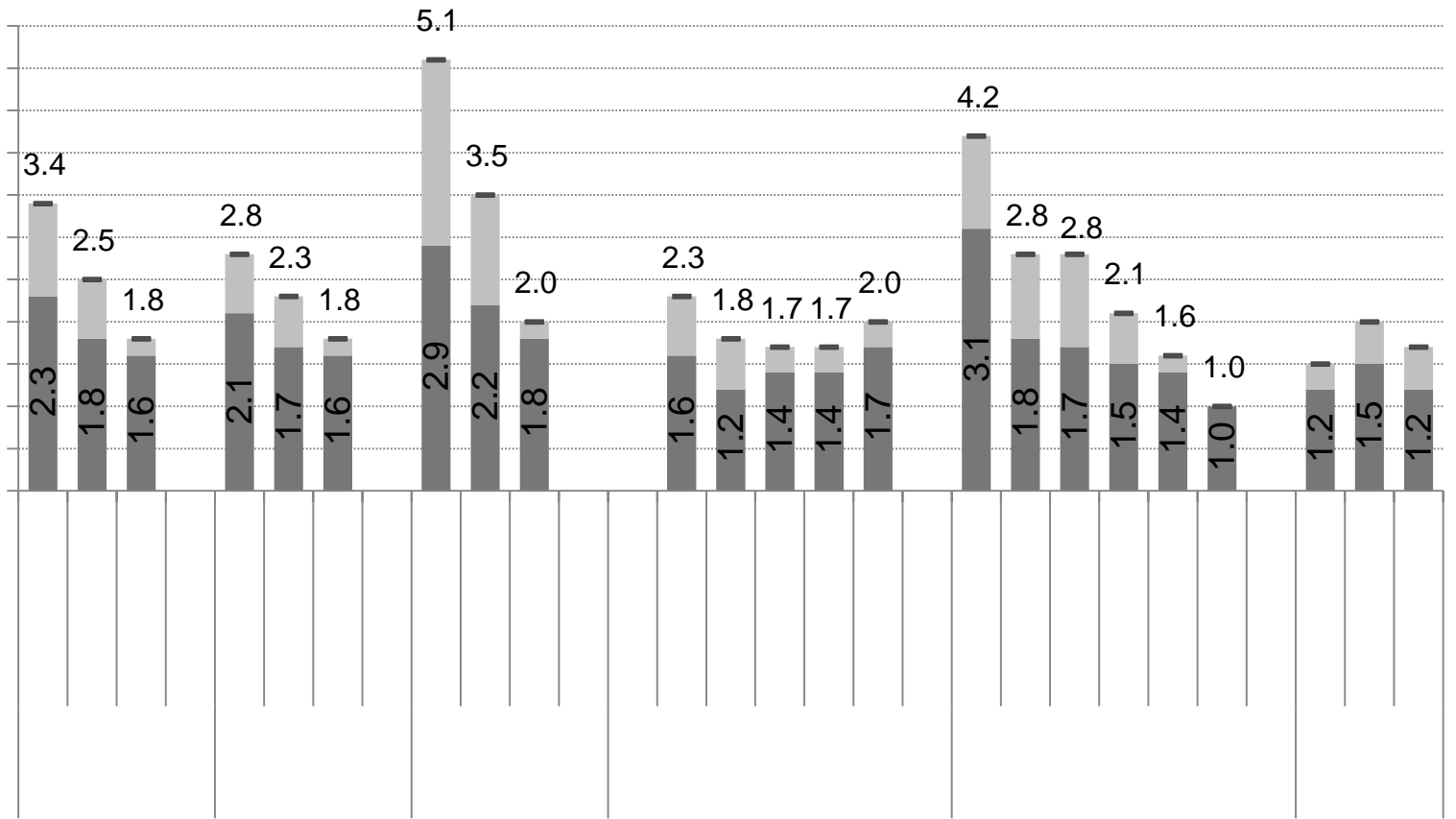


# 1. Learned lessons from developing countries



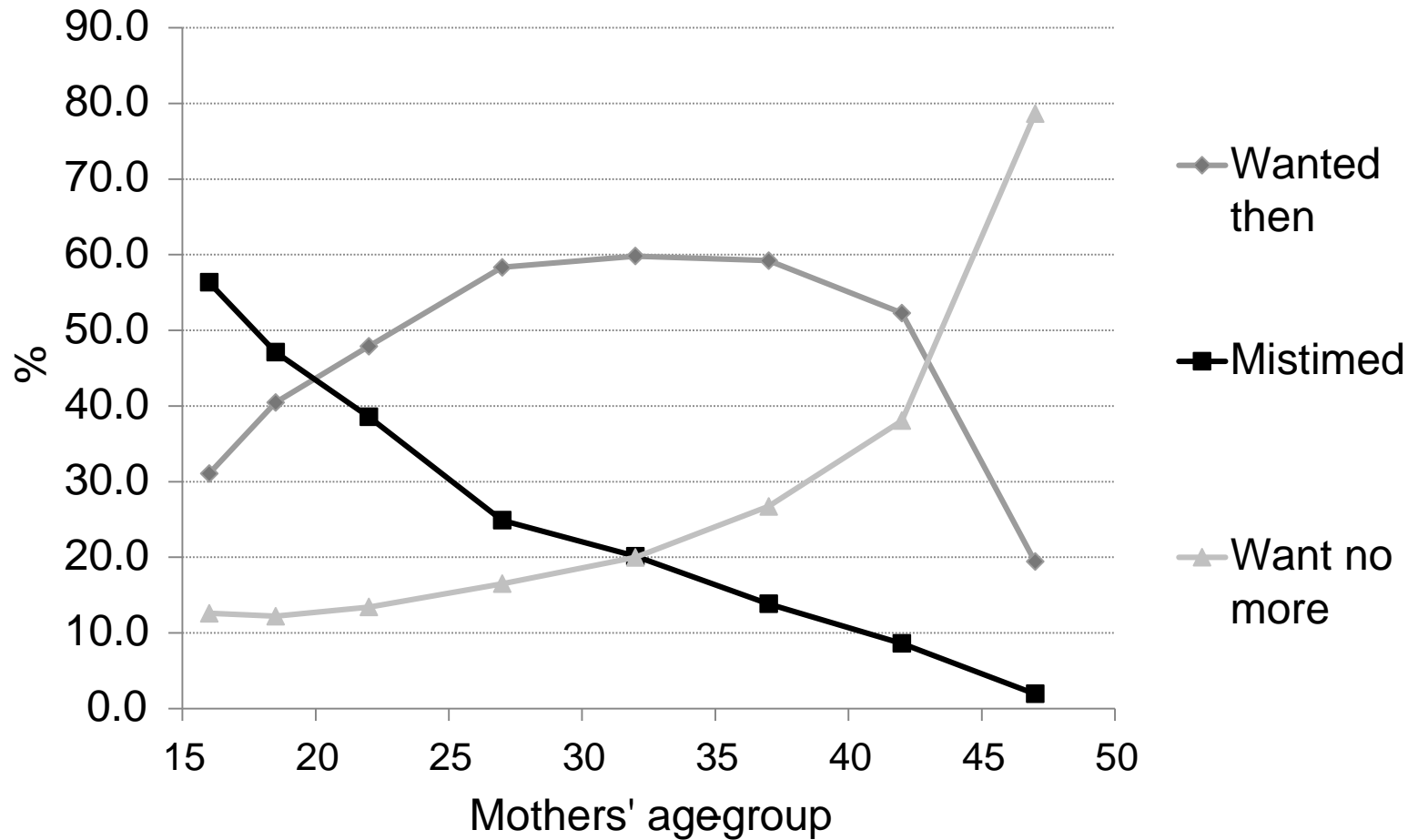


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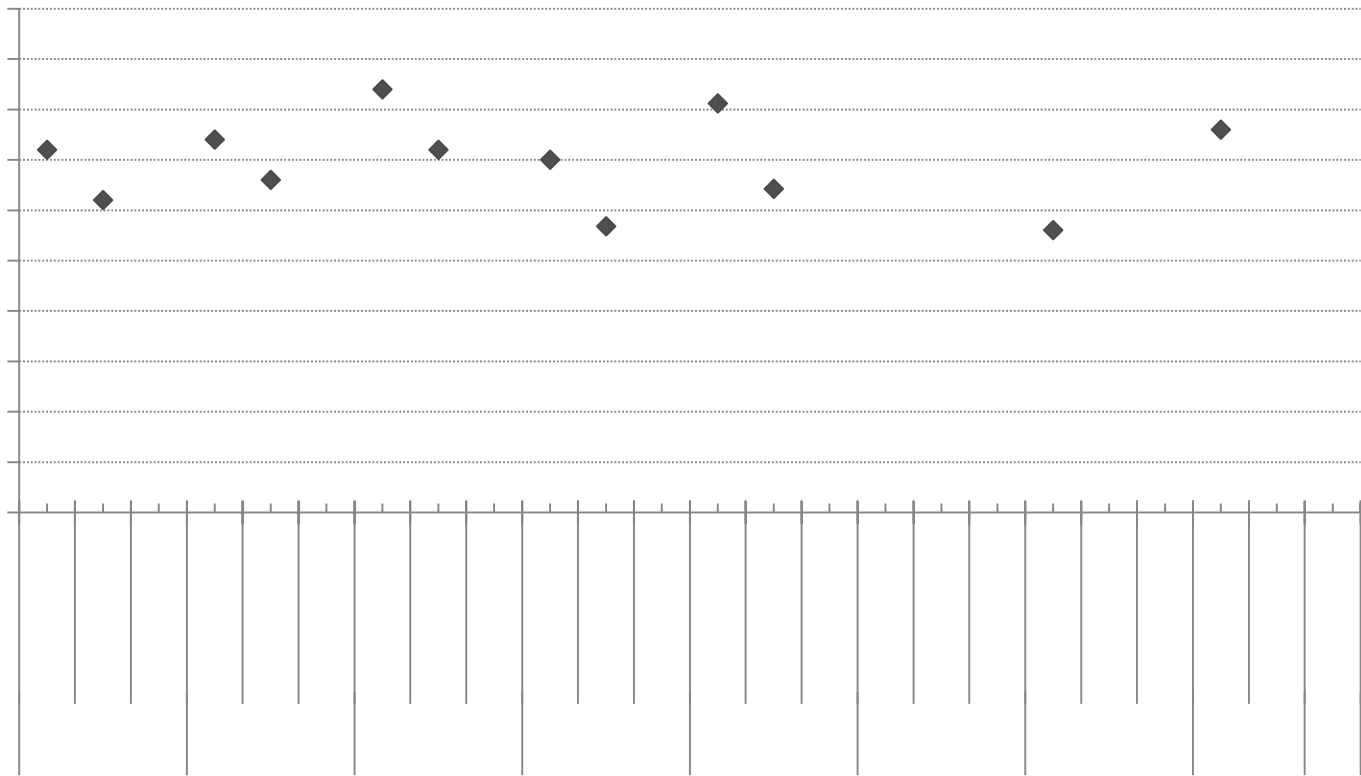


# 1. Learned lessons from developing countries

## Mistimed and unwanted fertility by age, Brazil, 2006



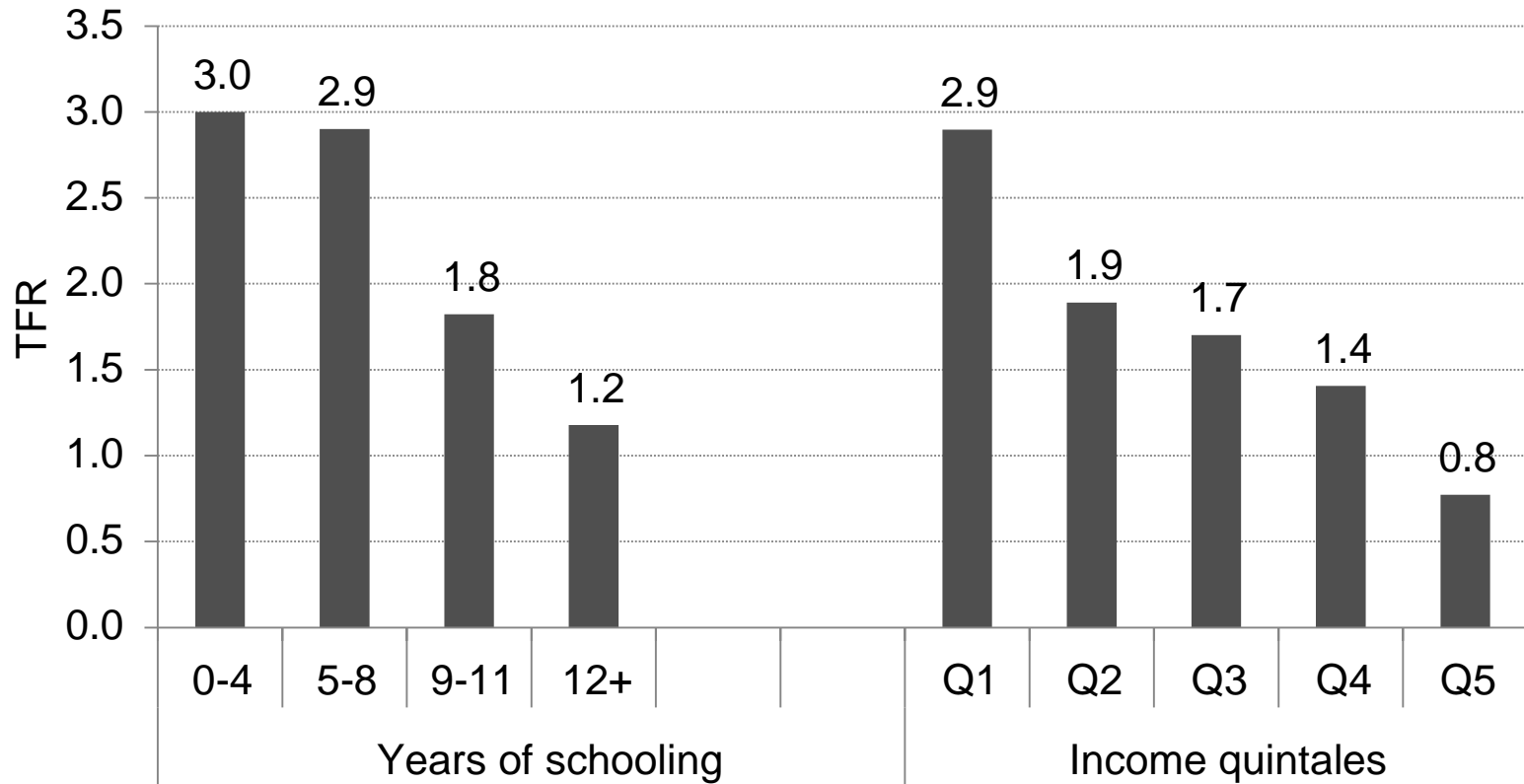
Source: Ministério da Saúde, Pesquisa Nacional de Demografia e Saúde (PNDS), 2006.





# 1. Learned lessons from developing countries

## Socioeconomic differentials in TFR in Brazil, 2015



Source: IBGE. Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios, PNAD 2015.

1. Learned lessons from developing countries  
Contraception in LAC, it seems very high prevalence!

# 1. Learned lessons from developing countries

## Contraception in LAC Method-Mix (SWOP, 2018)

# Summarizing: advances, inequalities, diversity,.....

- After 24 years of Cairo, we still have problems in the LA countries due to lack of universal access to SRH:

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Is TFR not a problem anymore in the LAC?



# Do the socioeconomic differentials in TFR imply problems?

- It implies that universal reproductive rights are not achieved
- Both extremes (very low and high TFR) present serious problems for public policies
- Problems are of different kind and need to be addressed with different policy instruments, e.g., by:
  - Improving access to reproductive planning for the less educated
  - Realization of fertility desires for the more educated, including through “family-friendly” policies.
- Developing countries in LAC with overall low fertility and high

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- Right and adequate information and knowledge about sexual and reproductive health are needed to deal



- In the last 24 years SRHR was the main topic of the ICPD agenda
- Nonetheless, the eradication of poverty requires taking into account population dynamics, social, economic and cultural inequalities for all, including the exercise of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The implementation of the PoA of the ICPD agenda for the next years should not prioritize any specific topic of the PoA
- Demographers (and others), should recognize that population dynamics and, mainly, population growth, as well as the current economic model (consumerism) based on natural resources exploitation, are the causes for climate change and for crossing several planetary boundaries
  - ALAP meeting last week have given an enormous step in this direction (opening ceremony)
- Within the framework of human rights, sound population policies and environmental policies have to be put into place, for not repeating wrong political decisions based on ideological point of views, as it was the case for the implementation of family planning pr

# 5. One of the ways forward

## Population and development at the center of the ICPD agenda

- The Latin America and the Caribbean regional Conference for the 20-years review of the ICPD has set the stage
  - The most important achievement of the Montevideo Consensus was to give prominence to population dynamics, including topics such as changing age structure (demographic dividend and aging), migration, urbanization, and unfolding some vulnerable population segments (Indigenous peoples and African descendant populations, for the specific case of LAC)
  - That is, the Montevideo Consensus was a return to the PoA of 1994 ICPD agenda, including new developments and population segments left behind in the region
- This approach not only will broaden the current ICPD agenda, but will have national appealing
- Chapter A, and its priority measures of the LAC regional review make the most important link to the SDGs and several of its goals, increasing synergy between both agendas and enabling faster and enhanced results.

Thank you.