

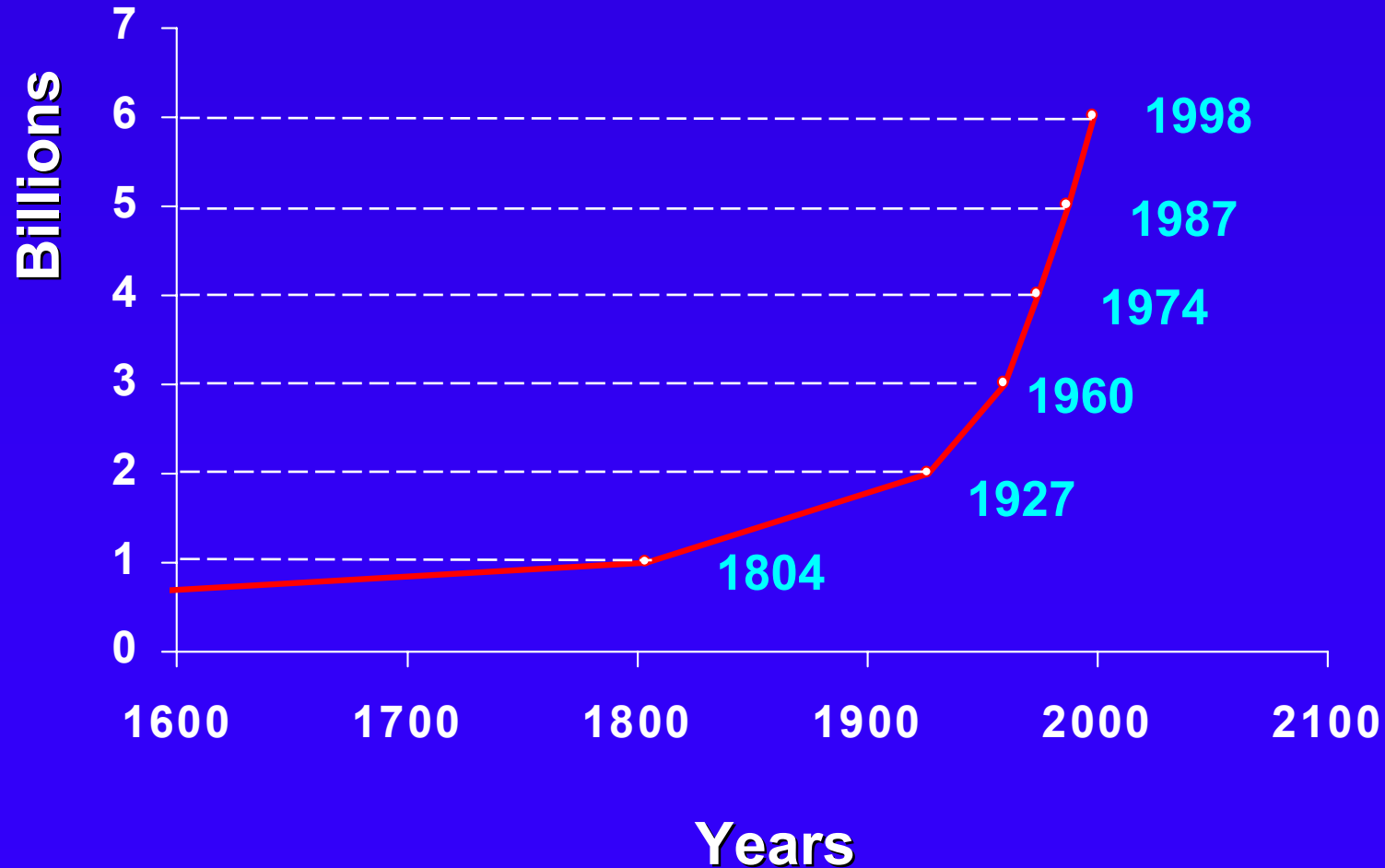
Reproductive Health Research at WHO

Geneva, 2 September 1998

Paul F.A. Van Look, M.D., Ph.D.

UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank
Special Programme of Research,
Development and Research Training in
Human Reproduction

Growth of Total World Population



The International Response 1952 - 1965

Year	Event
1952	IPPF and Population Council
1958	Ford Foundation Programme
1962	UN Resolution 18.38
1965	WHA Resolution 18.49

“REQUESTS the Director-General to develop further the programme proposed:

(a) in the fields of reference services, studies on medical aspects of sterility and fertility control methods and health aspects of population dynamics; ...”

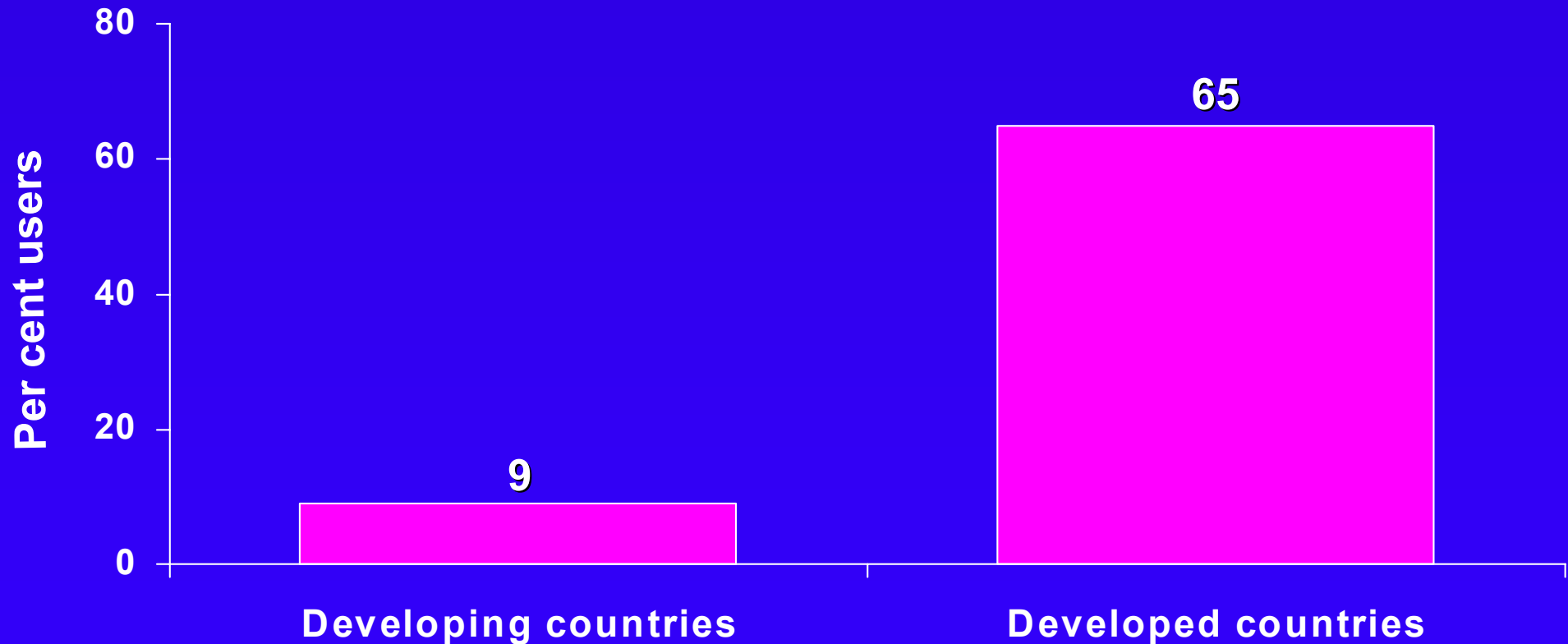
(WHA Resolution 18.49; 1965)

—————> Human Reproduction Unit (1965)

The International Response 1966 - 1974

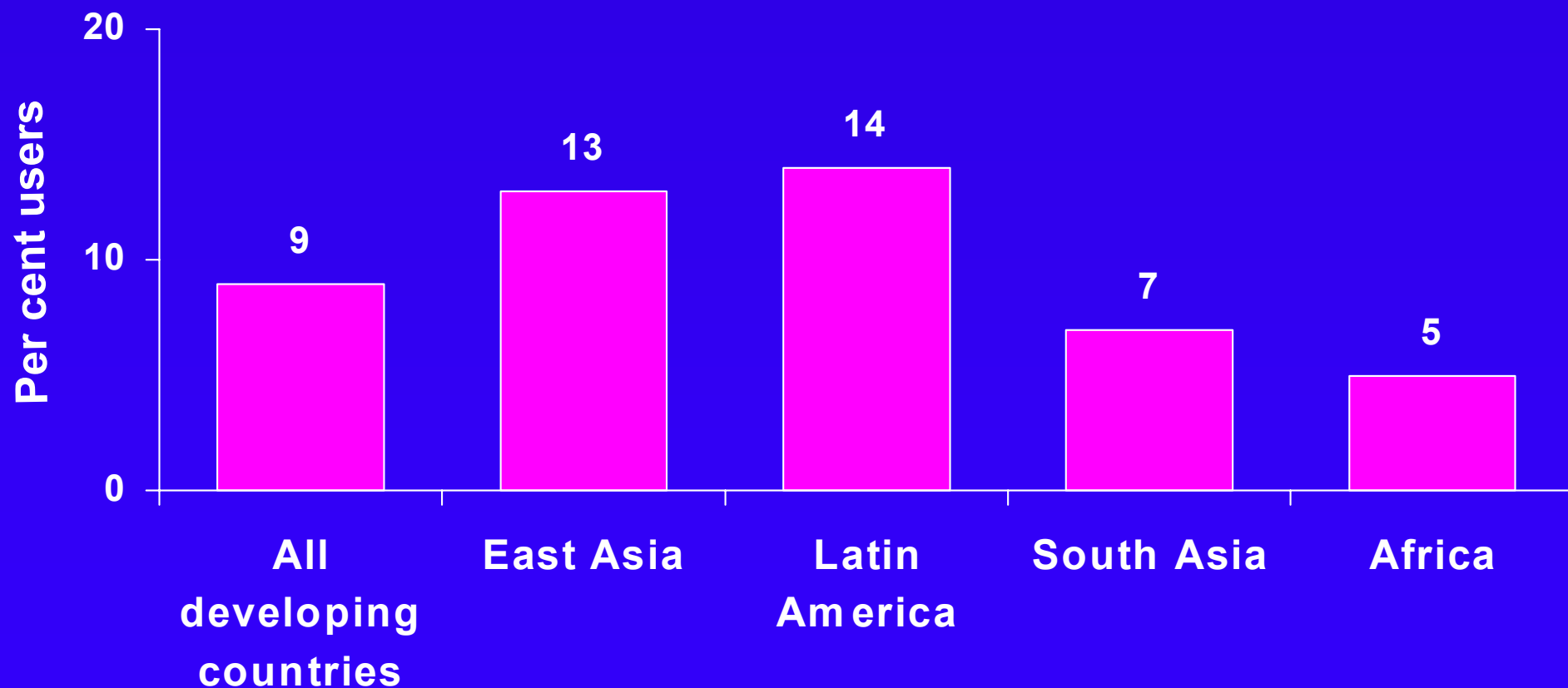
Year	Event
1967	Population Trust Fund - UN (UNFPA)
1968	Teheran Proclamation
1972	Special Programme (WHO)
1974	Bucharest - World Population Conference

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate 1960-1965



(Source: United Nations, 1991)

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, by Region, 1960-1965

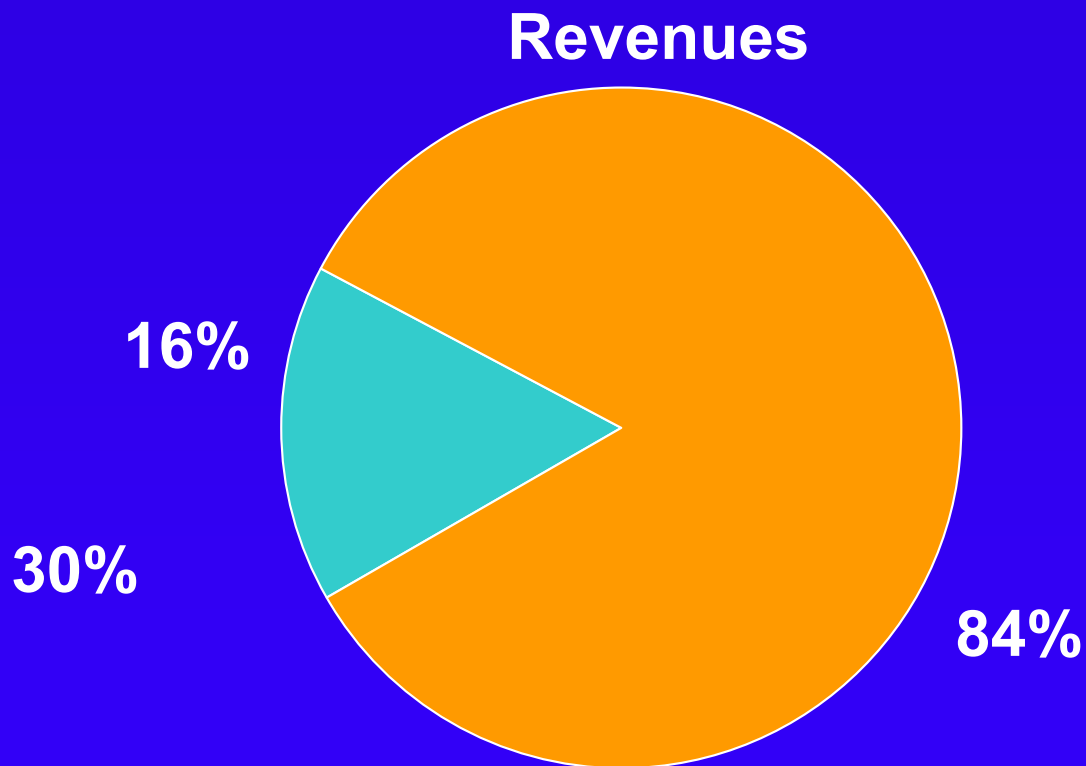
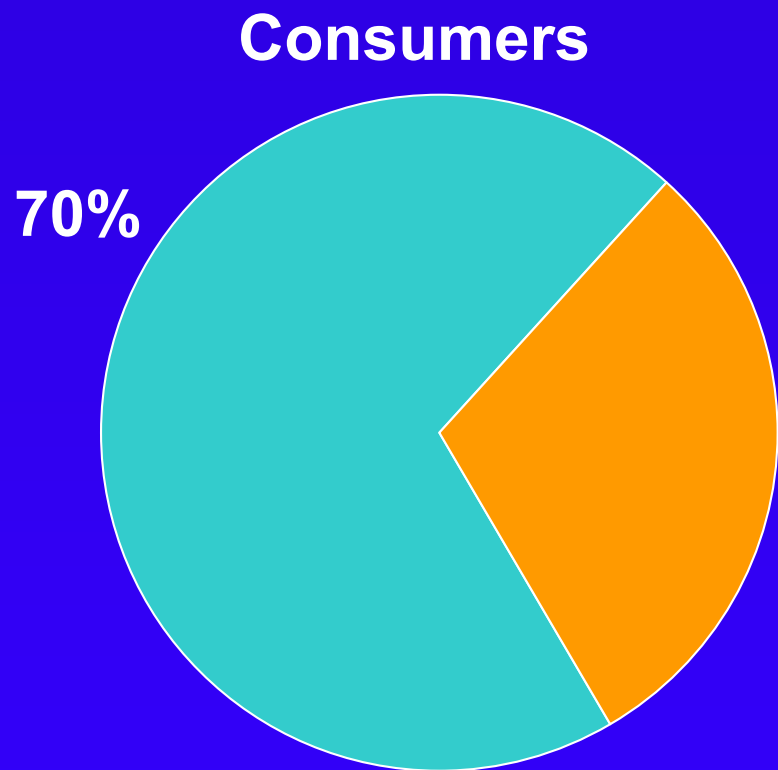


(Source: United Nations, 1991)

Fertility-regulating Methods Developed since Early 1960s

- 1. Oral contraceptive pill**
- 2. Copper-releasing intrauterine devices**
- 3. Injectables for women**
- 4. Implants**
- 5. Emergency contraception**
- 6. Laparoscopic sterilization**
- 7. Non-scalpel vasectomy**
- 8. Vacuum aspiration for pregnancy termination**
- 9. Non-surgical pregnancy termination**

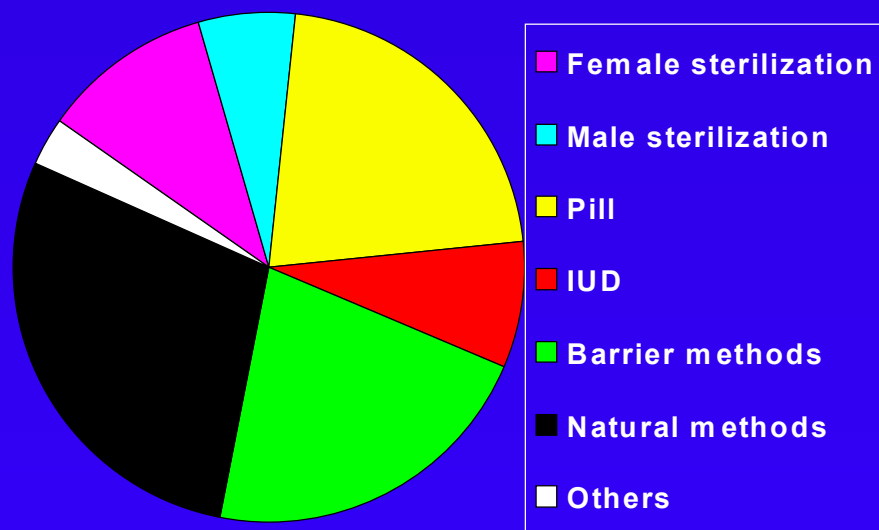
Contraceptive Market



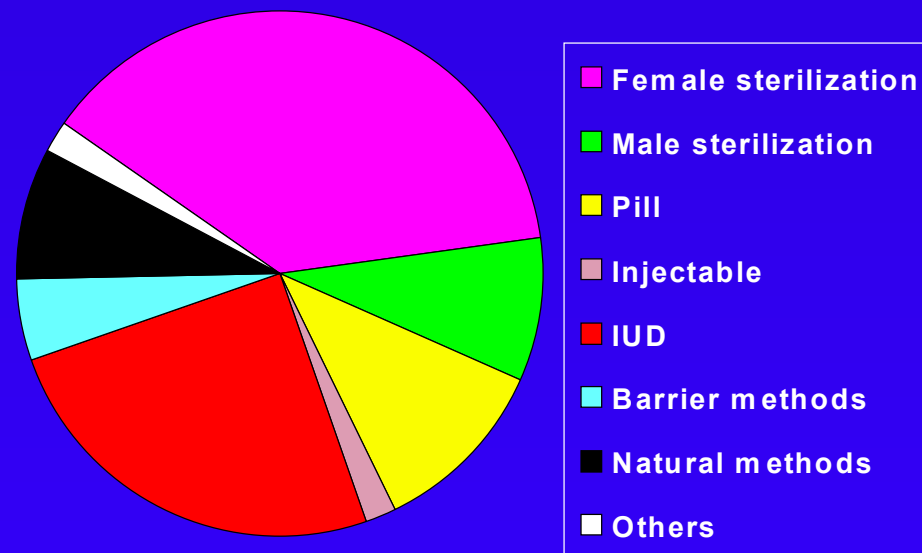
 **Developing countries**

 **Developed countries**

Percentage Distribution of Current Contraceptive Users by Type of Method, 1990



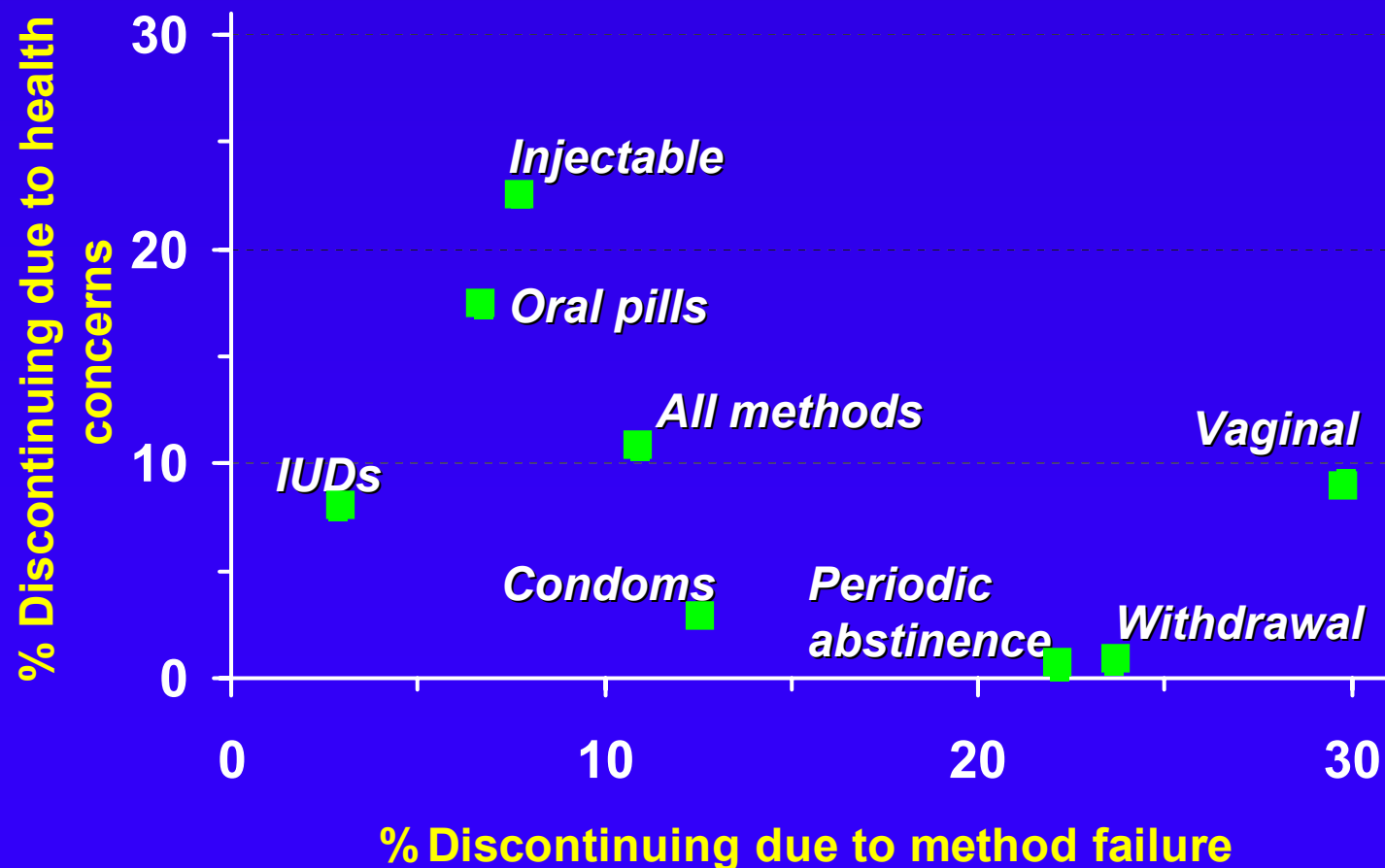
More Developed Regions



Less Developed Regions

(Source: Shah, 1994)

Discontinuation of Contraception within 12 Months because of Method Failure or Health Concerns (including Side-effects)



Accidental Pregnancies Resulting from Contraceptive Failure Worldwide

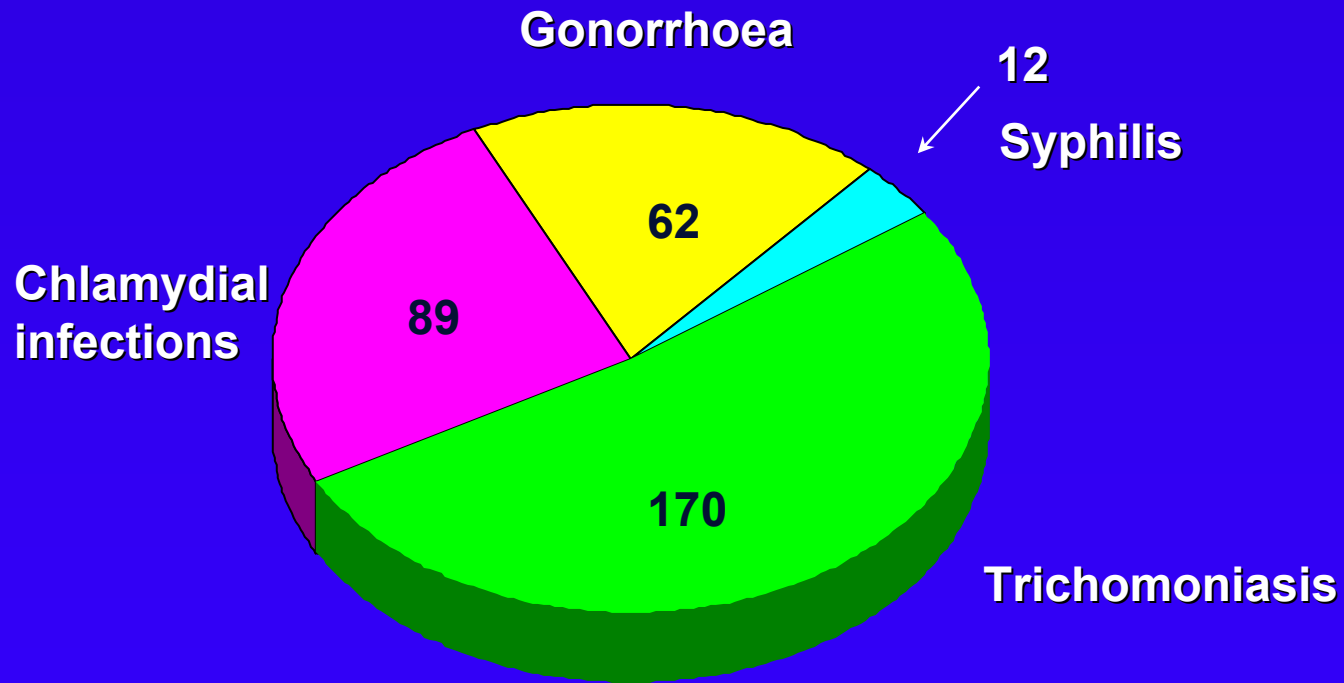
Method	Estimated failure rate %	Number of users (millions)	Number of accidental pregnancies (thousands)
Sterilization	0.2-1.0	155	310-1,550
Injectable	0.3-1.0	6	20-60
Intrauterine device	1-5	80	800-4,000
Oral contraceptive	1-8	55	550-4,400
Vaginal	4-24	6	240-1,400
Rhythm	10-30	16	1,600-4,800
Other traditional	10-20	42	4,200-8,400
Total		398	8,860-30,310

(Source: Segal and LaGuardia, 1990)

Methods of Family Planning Available to Women and Men

Method	Women	Men
<i>Sterilization</i>	✓	✓
<i>Hormonal methods</i>		
- Combined pills	✓	
- Progestogen-only pills	✓	
- Combined injectables	✓	
- Progestogen-only injectables	✓	
- Implants	✓	
<i>Intrauterine devices</i>	✓	
<i>Barrier Methods</i>		
- Condom	✓	✓
- Diaphragm, cervical cap	✓	
- Spermicide	✓	
<i>Natural methods</i>		
- LAM	✓	
- Periodic abstinence	✓	✓
- Withdrawal		✓
<i>Abstinence</i>		✓

New Cases of Curable Sexually Transmitted Diseases in 1995 (millions)



Total number : 333 millions

(Source : WHO, 1995)

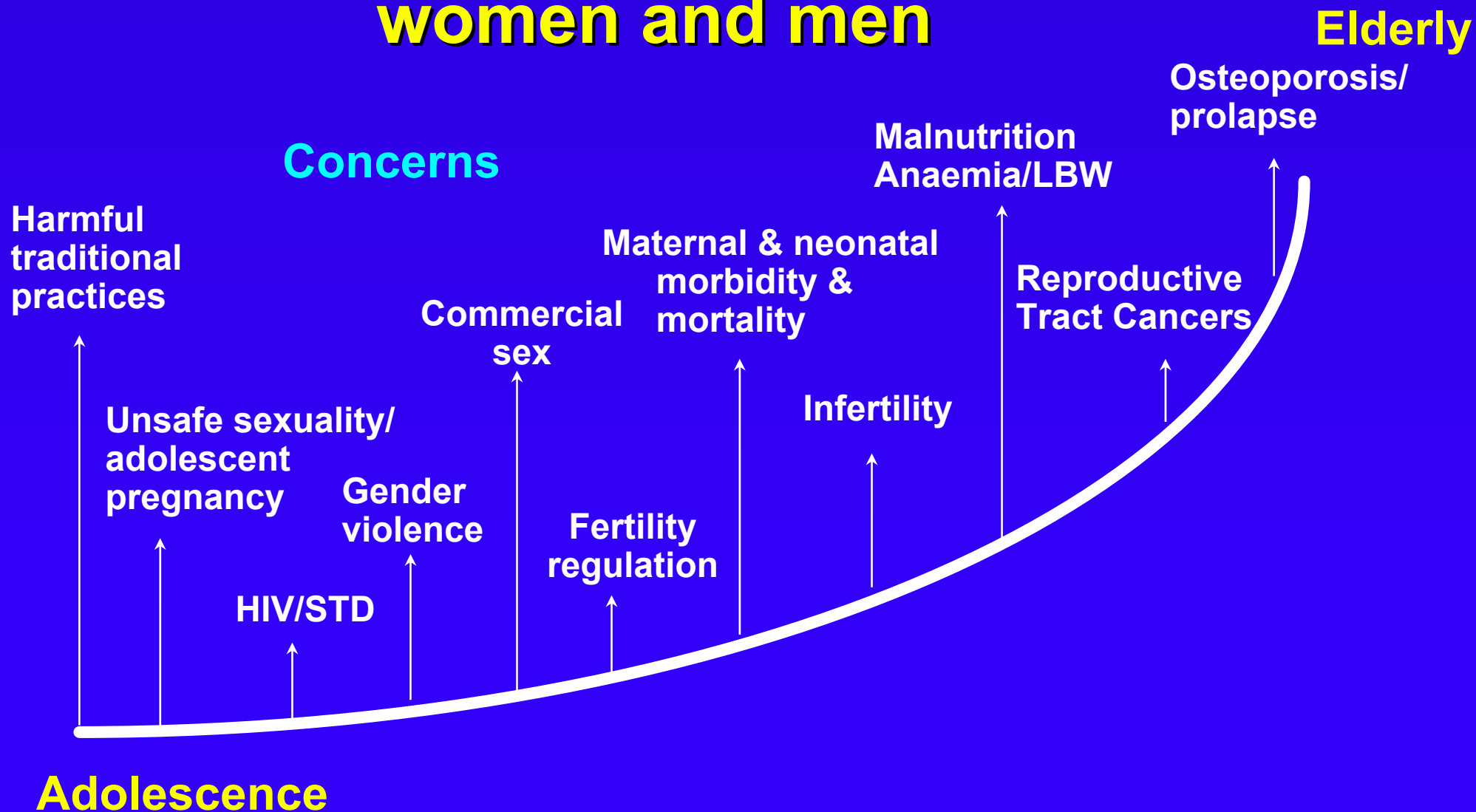
The HIV/AIDS Epidemic as of End 1997

- **People newly infected with HIV in 1997** **5.8 million**
- **People living with HIV/AIDS** **30.6 million**
- **AIDS deaths in 1997** **2.3 million**
- **Total number of AIDS deaths since the beginning of the epidemic** **11.7 million**

International Conferences on Population

- 1974** **World Population Conference
(Bucharest)**
- 1984** **International Conference on
Population (Mexico City)**
- 1994** **International Conference on
Population and Development
(Cairo)**

Sexual and reproductive health of women and men



Selected Aspects of Reproductive ill-health

Category	Worldwide (M & F)
Maternal deaths annually	585 thousand
Cases of severe maternal morbidity	20 million
Perinatal deaths annually	7.6 million
Unsafe abortions annually	20 million
Women with genital mutilation	130 million
Couples with unmet family planning needs	120-150 million

Selected Aspects of Reproductive ill-health

Category	Worldwide (M & F)
Cases of curable STDs annually	333 million
Prevalence of STDs	250 million
Adults living with HIV/AIDS	30.6 million
Annual incidence of HIV infection	5.8 million
Women living with invasive cervical cancer	2 million
New cases of cervical cancer annually	450 thousand

Steps to Inform Priority-setting in Research

- Step 1** How big is the health problem?
- Step 2** Why does the disease burden persist?
- Step 3** Is enough known about the problem now to consider possible interventions?

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Steps to Inform Priority-setting in Research (cont'd)

Step 4 How cost-effective will these interventions be?

Can these be developed soon and for a reasonable outlay?

Step 5 How much is already being done about the problem?

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Research Areas Currently Pursued

1. Fertility regulation
2. Maternal health
3. Reproductive tract infections
(including cervical cancer)
4. Unsafe abortion
5. Planning, programming and integration
of reproductive health services

plus selected aspects of

- adolescent sexual and reproductive health
- harmful practices such as FGM

42 Countries Collaborating with HRP in Research Capability Strengthening in 1997

