Section B

The International Experience
Sexual debut during adolescence is the norm for females.
And for Males as Well

Percent Who Have Had Sex (Ages 20–24)

- Caribbean/Central America
- South America
- Eastern/Southern Africa
- Western/Middle Africa

By age 20  By age 18
Many unmarried, sexually active men have two or more partners in a year.

Source: Singh and Bankole, 2001, USA-2002 NSFG

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Source: Singh and Bankole, 2001, USA-2002 NSFG
Use of contraception is low among unmarried, sexually active young women in developing countries.
Contraceptive Use Increases as Education Increases

Adapted by CTLT from The Guttmacher Institute.
Trends in Percent of Women Married by Age 18

Adapted by CILT from The Guttmacher Institute, Demographic and Health Surveys, 1990–2001, USA–2002 NSFG.

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Adolescent Mothers

- 1/3 to 1/2 of women in developing regions become mothers during adolescence
- 20–24% had a child

Adapted by CTLT from The Guttmacher Institute
Key Points: Sex and Marriage

- Marriage is occurring later for women
  - But overall, marriage delays have not led to a delay in the age of sexual initiation
- Students are less likely to have had sex than non-students
- Students are more likely to use contraception than non-students
- First sex is increasingly likely to occur prior to marriage
- Multiple sexual partnering is common
Key Points: Becoming a Parent

- Age at parenthood is rising, but adolescent motherhood is still common
- 90% of births or more occur within marriage
- Large proportions of married adolescent women report that they do not want the births they have had
Key Points: Becoming a Parent

- Unsafe abortion is an important health problem
  - Especially for unmarried adolescents, even though contraceptive use is increasing
- Maternal mortality and morbidity are still among the most significant health risks for young women