



Reviving Old-Fashioned Family Planning: How Can MCH Epidemiologists Help?

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My Basic Assumptions

- Family planning - one the 20th century's greatest public health achievements – is low profile, poorly understood and inadequately financed in the U.S.
- The U.S. compares poorly to numerous other nations in our FP systems and services
- We have unnecessarily high levels of TP/UP

Why is Family Planning out in the cold?



Aunt Sarah's Diagnosis

- Pregnancy prevention conflated w/ abortion
- Unplanned/unintended pregnancy poorly understood (unlike teen pregnancy...)
- Fears, myths abound
- Inadequate leadership
- Isolation
- History



More....



What would you all add?

Why has family planning fallen on
hard times?



What can we do? Or, more specifically, what can **YOU** do?

Core idea: the people in this room can make a big difference.

Several ideas....

Idea #1

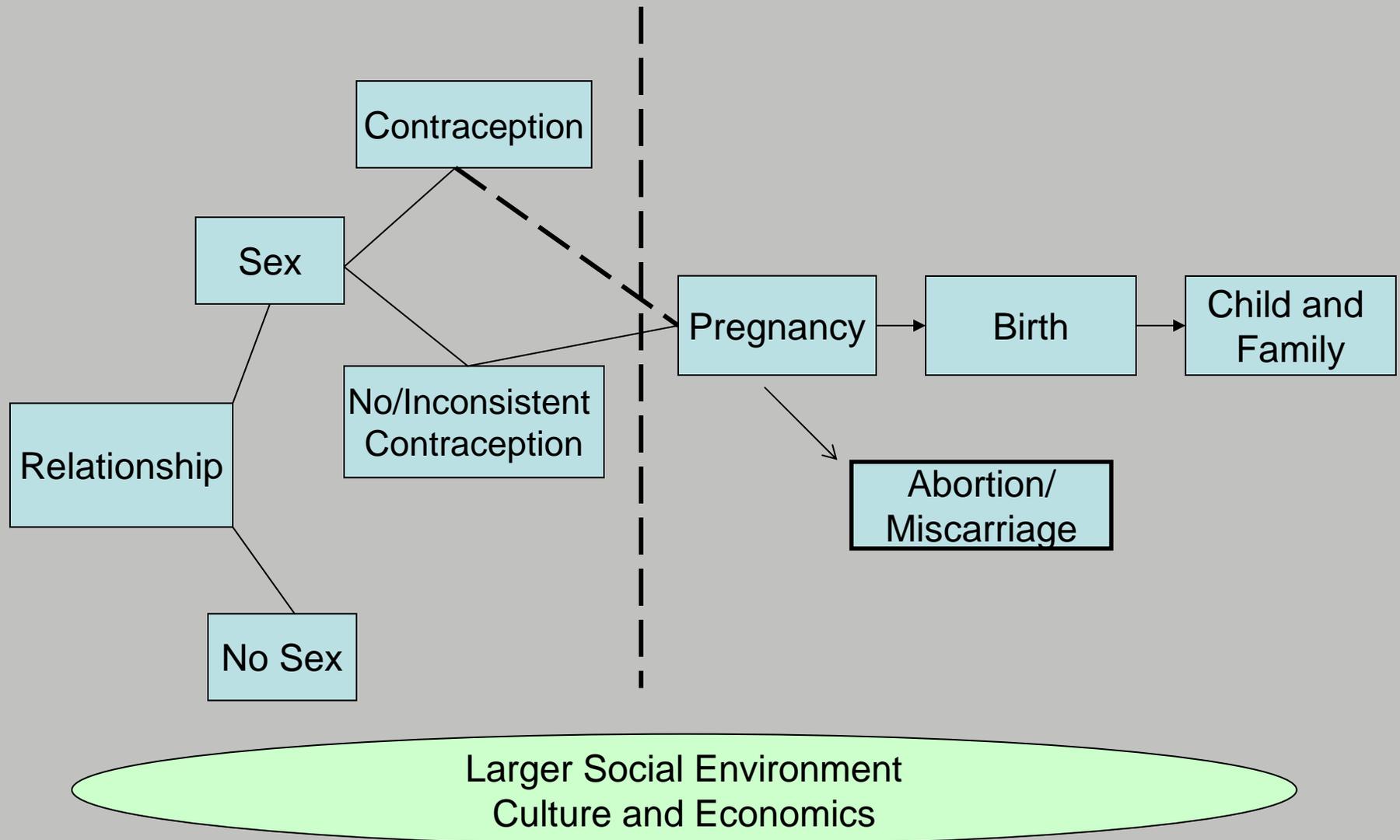
- MCH should embrace pregnancy planning/family planning as a core part of the discipline

Shared Goal: Strong and Healthy Families and Children



Larger Social Environment
Culture and Economics

Shared Goal: Strong and Healthy Families and Children



Idea #2

- Get to know the data systems that bear on pregnancy planning and family planning, such as
 - National: PRAMS, NSFG
 - State: BRFSS, PRAMS, YRBS

Idea #3

- USE these data to learn more about the causes and prevention of unintended pregnancy and the particular contributions of family planning.
- Investigate such issues as...

- The extent of unintended pregnancy in your state;
- Patterns, trends and sub-group differences to help target remedial efforts (Native Americans);
- Local barriers and factors;
- State/local systems in place to address UP (including FP): How effective are they in your state? How they be improved?
- The role of UP/FP in education, poverty and employment;
- Study innovation: LARCS (teens, post-abortion/post-partum IUD insertion); and
- Document the value of preconception health which must, of course, be anchored in family planning

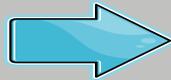
Idea #4: Inform your efforts with a firm grasp of popular youth culture

facebook



twitter

“Old” Sequence



New "Sequence"



Idea # 5: Use your expertise and status to address the myths, the bad news, the negativity:

- Twitter
- Blogs
- Social networking sites
- Newsletters
- Local media



Idea #6: Speak of family planning as just another part of MCH



Be proud! Be assertive!



Thank You!

TheNationalCampaign.org

StayTeen.org

SexReally.com

Sign up for e-gram updates!