

Planning Status of Pregnancies

The data show that more adolescents are planning their pregnancies and fewer pregnancies are mistimed in the age group 15-19 when comparing survey years 2002 and 2008. This also supports findings regarding the declining age specific fertility rate comparing survey years 2002 and 2008. Although the statistics show a slight increase in the percentage of unwanted pregnancies, overall the trends show that individuals more births are being prepared for prior to conception.

While more pregnancies are planned, the question is why are adolescents 'planning' to have children so early in life? This may imply the need for behaviour change interventions at the individual, community and school levels to influence the thought process of adolescents. This is no easy task however as it may involve changing a value system which is perpetuated by the influence of family, community and/or peers.

Diagrams 1 and 2 below illustrate the planning status of pregnancies for comparative years 2002 and 2008.

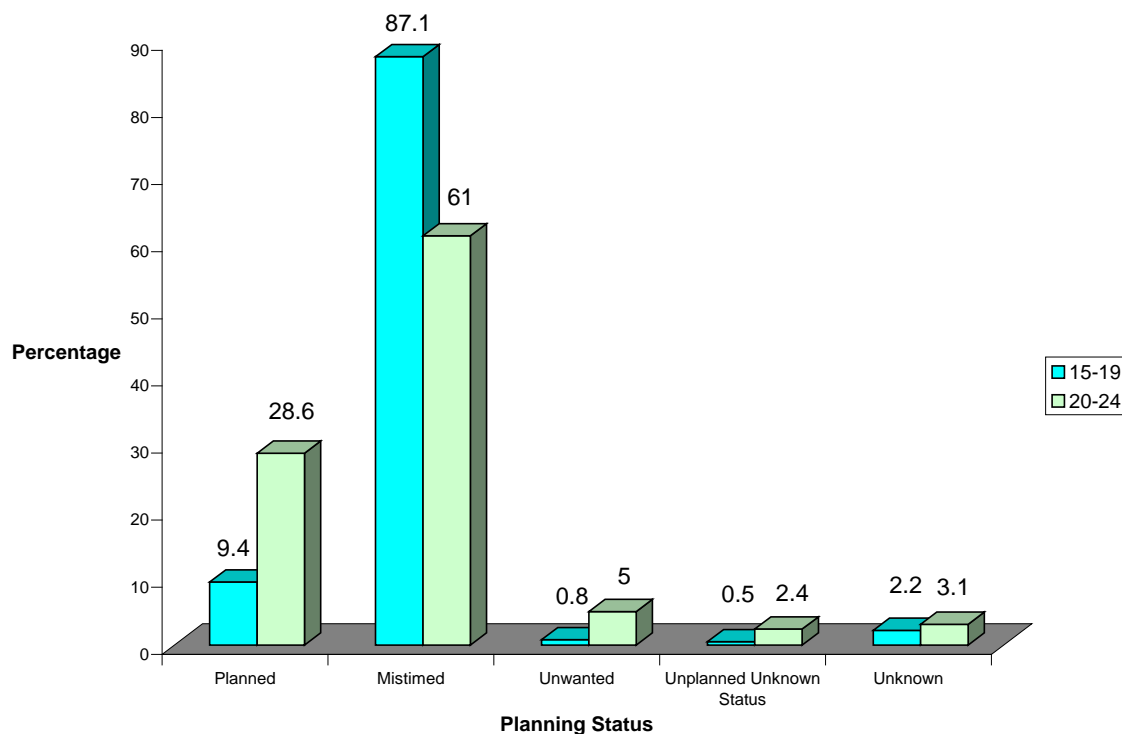


Diagram 1: Planning Status of Current Pregnancies and Most Recent Pregnancies Resulting in a Live Birth of Women Aged 15-24 for the Year 2002

Source: 2002 Reproductive Health Survey,

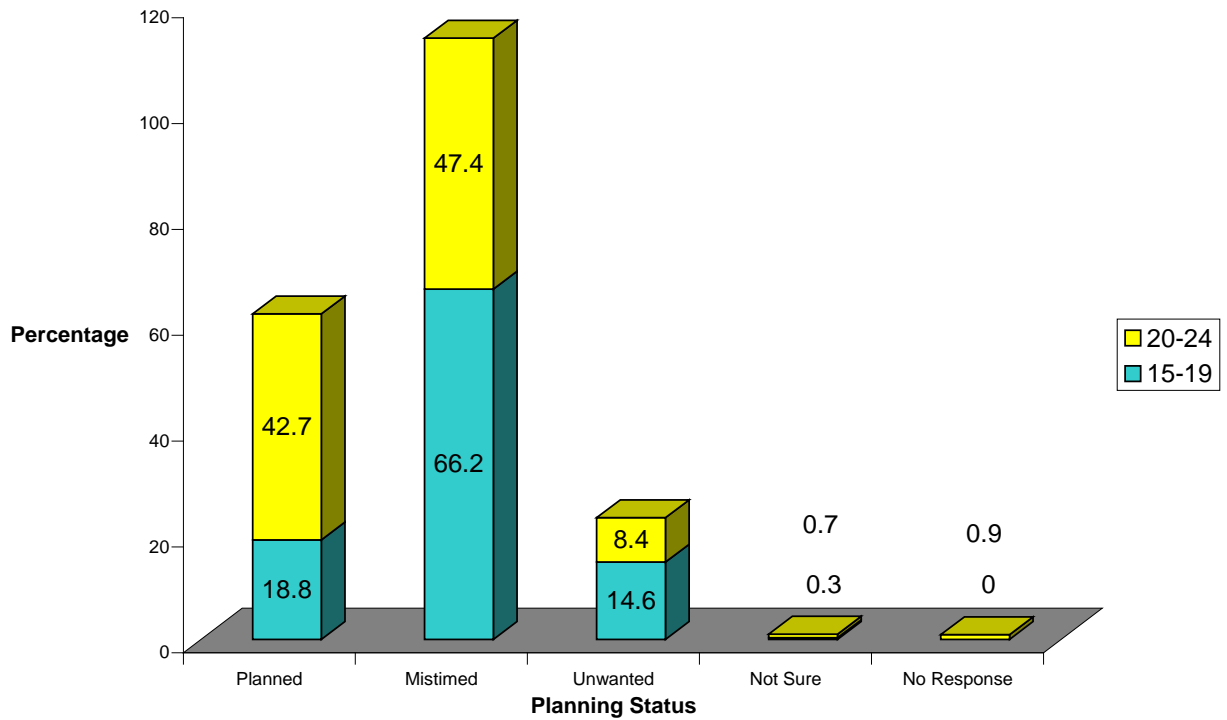


Diagram 2: Planning Status of Current Pregnancies and Most Recent Pregnancies Resulting in a Live Birth of Women Aged 15-24 for the Year 2008

Source: 2008 Reproductive Health Survey

When comparing the percentage of planned births occurring in the 15-19 age group, it was observed that 9.4 percent were planned in the year 2002 and 18.8 percent in the year 2008. This shows an increase of 9.4 percentage points between those comparative years. In addition, the percentage of mistimed pregnancies occurring in this age group decreased from 87.1 in 2002 to 66.2 in the year 2008, a decrease of 20.9 percentage points. In addition, the percentage of pregnancies that were unwanted increased from 0.8 percent in 2002 to 14.6 percent in 2008, an increase of 13.8 percentage points.

In the age group 20-24 the percentage of pregnancies that were planned increased from 28.6 percent in 2002 to 42.7 percent in 2008, an increase of 14.1 percentage points. In addition the percentage of mistimed pregnancies occurring in this age group decreased from 61 in 2002 to 47.4 in the year 2008, a decrease of 13.6 percentage points. Also, the percentage of pregnancies that were unwanted increased from 5 percent in 2002 to 8.4 percent in 2008, an increase of 3.4 percentage points.