

## **Gender, Sex and Reproductive Health in Youth - an insight on Portugal state of art**

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The medical speeches concerning pregnancy in adolescence focused, initially, on biological risks, to mother and child, associated with gestation and birth. Nowadays, new perspectives emphasize the need to stress other relevant factors regarding psychological and affective wellbeing, as well as social and economical factors that need to be taken into account when the aim is to understand the multiple elements related to reproduction in youth. Gender perspective is starting to gain notability in the domains of investigation, education, prevention and protection of sexual and reproductive health. It seems to be indispensable to take into consideration men's specific needs in this context, as well as the women's needs. They must be considered not just as interlocutors, in a complement of motherhood approach, but as true partners. Improving the capacity to respond to men's needs must be also an object of intervention in sexual and reproductive health to diminish gender iniquities. Gender perspective cannot be held isolated from other health determinants such as poverty, illiteracy and other social, cultural and economical factors. This presentation aims at establishing an overview of reproduction in youth in Portugal. This research focuses on motherhood and parenthood in youth between 1990 and 2003 (considering those less than 20 and those 20-24 years); it focuses, as well, in disparities between regions and social determinants like parents' schooling and work status at the time of birth. The results seems to suggest dissimilarities between age groups and, more impressively, between girls and boys, emphasizing the need to integrate gender in sexual and reproductive health policies.