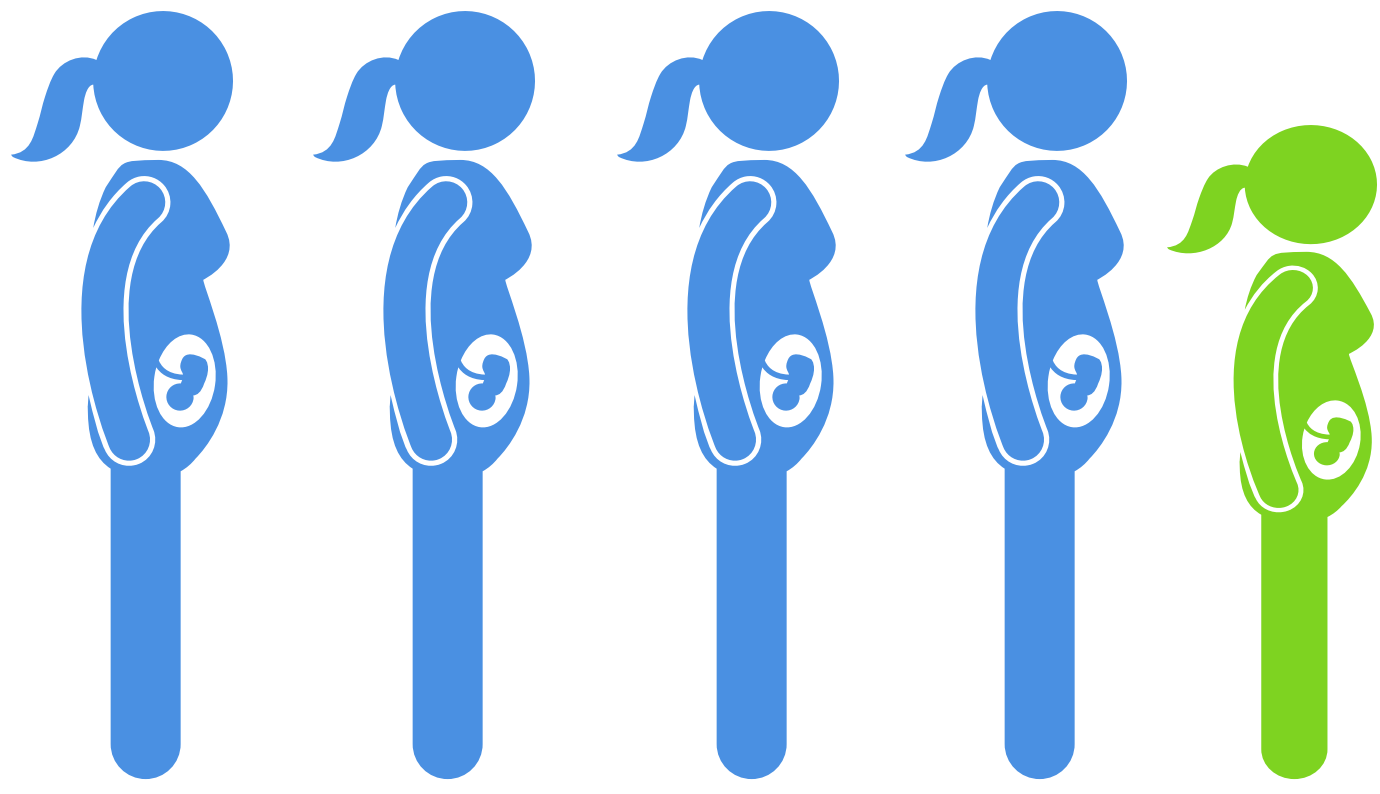
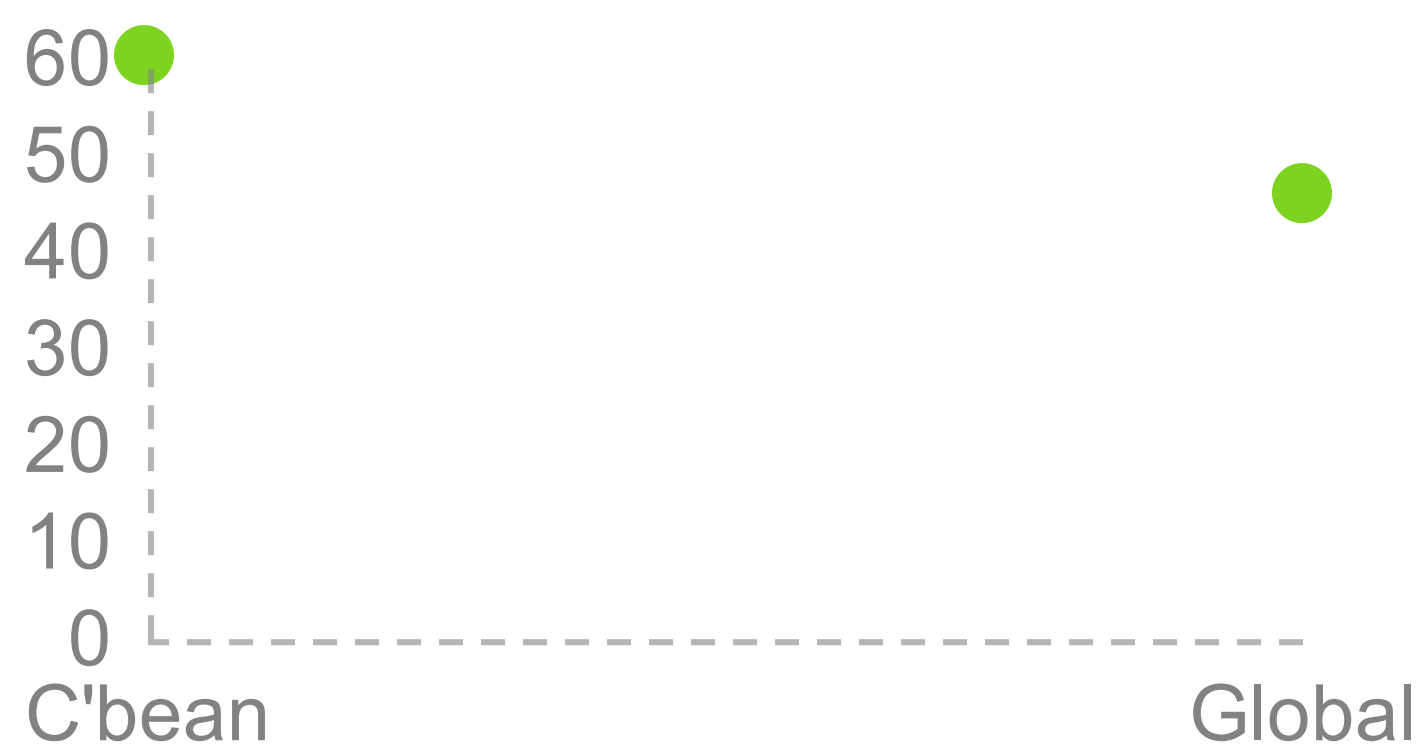


THE CASE FOR INTEGRATING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION INTO HFLE*



One of five live births in the Caribbean is to a teen mother

Source: UNFPA Caribbean Sexual and Reproductive Health Thematic Brief, 2017



Between 2010 and 2015 the Caribbean's adolescent fertility rate was 30% higher than the global average.

Source: United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects, 2015

Births per 1000 teen girls



Almost half of Caribbean young people from eight countries do NOT demonstrate accurate knowledge about HIV prevention and transmission

Source: UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, 2010 - 2015

Accurate (54%) Inaccurate (46%)

Support for age-appropriate sexuality education at secondary level



Public opinion surveys conducted in six Caribbean countries found that an overwhelming majority of respondents think school is an appropriate venue to teach young people about HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections, condoms and contraceptives and human sexuality.

Source: UNAIDS Public Attitudes on Gender Inequality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Discrimination, 2013 - 2014

Countries



* HFLE = Health and Family Life Education

Components of comprehensive sexuality education

RELATIONSHIPS

Families - Friendship, love & romantic relationships - Tolerance, inclusion & respect - Long term commitments & parenting

VALUES, RIGHTS, CULTURE & SOCIETY

Values & sexuality - Human rights & sexuality - Culture, society & sexuality

UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Gender & gender norms - Gender equality, stereotypes & bias - Gender-based violence

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Pregnancy & pregnancy prevention - HIV stigma, care, treatment & support - Reducing risk of STIs

SEXUALITY & SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Sex, sexuality & the sexual life cycle - Sexual behaviour & sexual response

HUMAN BODY & DEVELOPMENT

Sexual & reproductive anatomy & physiology - Reproduction - Puberty - Body image

SKILLS FOR HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Norms & peer influence - Decision-making - Communication, refusal & negotiation - Media literacy - Finding help

VIOLENCE & STAYING SAFE

Violence - Consent, privacy & bodily integrity - Safe use of technology

Source: UNESCO International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, 2018

Gaps identified over 10 years of research on HFLE implementation

- Lack of clear policy direction and leadership undermine effective implementation.
- Not all Education Ministries and school administrations ensure that HFLE is timetabled and implemented consistently.
- Absence of strategy to identify, train and retain a cadre of HFLE teachers.
- Limited experience with the content and/or pedagogy by teachers.
- Resistance from teachers to teaching the comprehensive sexuality education component of the curriculum and lack of support for teachers to address their own biases.
- Lack of access to appropriate tools for effective sexuality education instruction.
- Inadequate curriculum focus on cultural and gender sensitivity, rights-based approaches and building healthy, protective societies.
- Weak monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Limited engagement of parents, community and young people.
- Poor resourcing and budgeting to establish and maintain programmes.

Sources: UNFPA State of the Art Diagnosis of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) implementation in the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean, 2018

UNICEF Strengthening Health and Family Life Education in the Region: The implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HFLE in four Caribbean countries, 2009

Our asks

- 1 Strong, consistent leadership by governments and Education Ministries as well as institutional support for implementation of evidence-based, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education as a component of HFLE.
- 2 Systematic approaches to human resource recruitment, deployment and development at national level including HFLE subject leaders, master trainers and increased collaborations with civil society to facilitate capacity building.
- 3 A gender sensitive, rights based and evidence-informed comprehensive sexuality education/HFLE curriculum.
- 4 Greater involvement of youth in the planning, design, content and delivery of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education.