

From Research to Practice

# Training in Research in Reproductive Health / Sexual Health

Geneva, 20 February – 29 March 2006

Organized by

- **Fonds Universitaire Maurice Chalmieu**
- **Geneva Foundation for Medical Education & Research (WHO Collaborating Centre in Education & Research in Human Reproduction)**
- **Department of Reproductive Health & Research (WHO/RHR)**

in collaboration with

- **Department of Health, Canton of Geneva**
- **Faculty of Medicine, Geneva University**
- **Geneva Medical Association**





# Course on Sexual Health



# Studying sexuality & sexual health in young people

09.00 – 11.00 on Monday, 20 March 2006

**Robert Thomson**

BA PgCE MSc | Clinical Psychologist

**UNFPA Regional Adviser on Sexuality &  
Reproductive Health Education and Advocacy**

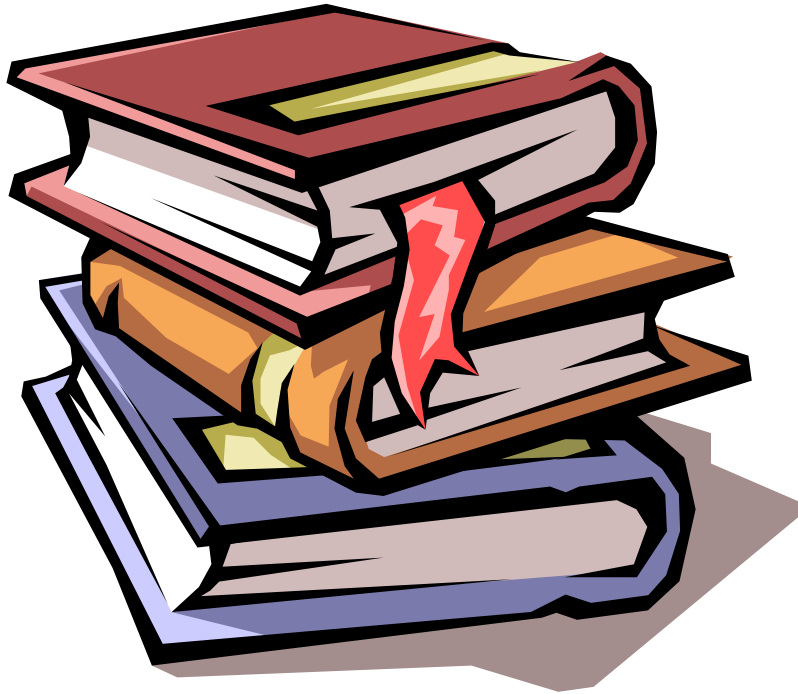
<http://trainers.salto-youth.net/RobertThomson/>

RobertThomson@hotmail.com Thomson@unfpa.org



# What are the Keywords?

- adolescent sexuality



# FRAMEWORK: Research objective of WHO/ADH 1992

To facilitate the acquisition of new knowledge as needed particularly with regard to **patterns of behaviour** and **interactions** between young people and those who may provide health care or influence their behaviour.

This would include both **biomedical** and **psychosocial** issues, which may have relevance for adolescent physical, mental and social development.

WHO & International Youth Foundation "*Approaches to Adolescent Health and Development*" Geneva 1992 (WHO/ADH/92.4)

# FRAMEWORK continued

- Health development and rights
- Reproductive health behaviour
  - Social science research
    - Empowerment
      - Diversity



# FRAMEWORK continued

## Research practice

- Global search for information (from health, education, social and youth sectors) on
  - programmes
  - active organizations
  - professional associations
  - donor intentions
  - views of key informants
  - youth opinion formers
  - media output



# ICPD 1994 agenda ...




- **How families support children & adolescents in their developmental tasks**
- **Examine influence of human environment on personal growth, health & development**
- **What interventions for society as a whole and communities**



# Sexuality and health throughout life



- Including from before puberty
- Take special care of adolescents and youth
- Share responsibility between men and women
- Value contribution of older people
- Expect cultural constraint
- Public health approach

UNITED NATIONS		<b>CRC</b>
	<b>Convention on the Rights of the Child</b>	Distr. GENERAL CRC/GC/2003/4 1 July 2003 Original: ENGLISH

**COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Thirty-third session

19 May-6 June 2003

**GENERAL COMMENT NO. 4 (2003)**

**Adolescent health and development in the  
context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

# Specificities of adolescent sexuality

- **4-“ i "s of adolescent initialising sexuality. The search for:  
i n t e n s i t y,  
i n t i m a c y,  
i d e n t i t y, and finally/hopefully  
i n t e r - d e p e n d e n c e.**

# Involve adolescents in participatory research



- **Essential in management of sexual health**
- **Helps identify real behaviours, issues and groups**
- **Adolescent - adult confrontation**
- **Phenomenon of “generation gap”**
- **How passage into adulthood is marked**

# Medscape Instant Polling

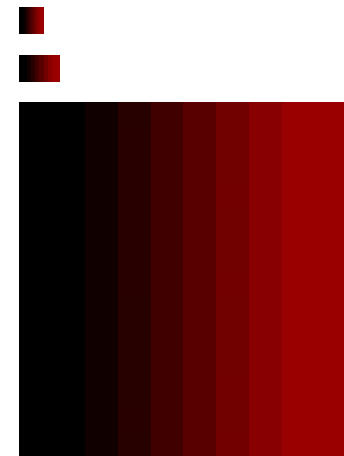
## Poll Results

**In Kansas last month, a federal trial began regarding a state law prohibiting virtually all sexual activity by people younger than 16 years. The trial examines the question of whether this means that healthcare professionals must report such sexual activity to state authorities. What do you think?**

Reporting of sexual activity in this age group should be required in states where law exists. 6% (181)

Reporting of sexual activity in this age group should be required, even in states where law does not exist. 10% (289)

Reporting of sexual activity in this age group should not be required. 82% (2224)



# Youth information sources

## 2006 Data Sheet

POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU

1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 520 | Washington, DC 20009 USA

phone: 202-483-1100 | Fax: +1 202-328-3937

[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org) | [popref@prb.org](mailto:popref@prb.org)

## 2005 UN World Youth Report

Youth Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development

13th Floor, 2 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

phone +1 212 963 2791, fax +1 212 963 0111

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr05.htm> | [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org)

All about adolescent sexuality:  
don't hold your breath ...

sexual development, **deferring sexual initiation**, chosen abstinence, **sexual identity formation**, sexual orientation, **sexual abuse**, harmful traditional practices, **commercial sex**, survival sex or sex for favours (adolescents buyer or seller), **trafficking**, gender-based violence (perpetrator/victim), **negotiation/refusal of sexual proposition**, negotiation of safer sexual practices, **condom use**, dual protection, **emergency contraception**, pregnancy, **abortion**, prevention & treatment of sexually transmitted infections (partner notification), **access to youth-friendly services** (preventive, counselling, care & treatment services), communicating/managing relationships, **genetic counselling**, inter-generational issues, **voluntary, confidential HIV counselling & testing**, stigma & discrimination (on basis of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, HIV status), **co-factors in sexual & reproductive health** (substance use, alcohol), nutrition, **intra-familial** (consanguineous) **marriage**, incest, age at first legal marriage, **age of consent** (to sexual acts, consent to sex education, to medical or surgical acts), parental/caretaker permission, **mental health** related to sexuality, self-inflicted harm, **suicide**.



# Let's teach about sex ...

- **Research to enhance curriculum design** and revision (peer-based / non-formal methods / life skills influences on sex education. Promoting health-seeking behaviour / access to commodities & services) or identify non-school (parent, relative, significant adult) approaches
- **Develop policy dialogue** (commitment to sex education or stated grounds for rejection)
- **Learning needs** associated with key psycho-sexual developmental stages

# A prospect of marriage

Age at first marriage is  
advancing in many  
places

*Decreasing in others*

Economic slowdown,  
poverty and  
unemployment  
contribute to  
inaccessibility of  
marriage



# Role of institutional partners in research

- Support operational & baseline assessment
- Provision of technical assistance
- Strengthen contribution of research to programming
- Advocacy for resource mobilization
- Secure comparative advantage in sexuality and reproductive health



# The challenge for researchers

translate ideas into programming

That is the rationale behind action  
research

# Food for thought Call For Papers

## International Seminar on **Sexual & Reproductive Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries**

- Organized by the Scientific Panel on Adolescent Life Course in Developing Countries (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population) and the Centre for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies, El Colegio de México
- Mexico, 25-27 September or 6-9 November 2006

IUSSP WEB ADDRESS: **<http://www.iussp.org>**

IUSSP WEB CALL FOR PAPERS:

**<http://www.iussp.org/Activities/adolc/call06.php>**

ON LINE SUBMISSION:

**[www.iussp.org/Activities/adolc/submissions/login.html](http://www.iussp.org/Activities/adolc/submissions/login.html)**

# *A Case Study*

## **Justin Berry:**

Divide into two groups, adopt roles (JB as victim, JB as perpetrator)

- Assess information in the video/transcript
- Discuss case & make recommendations for action
- Compare decisions in plenary

# CASE STUDY: Justin Berry

## JUSTIN BERRY 1

His First  
Webcam

**Click to watch  
the clip**



You can wake up now ...

