



Reproductive rights violations experienced by women with HIV in Mesoamerica

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Quality of Reproductive Health Services

	YES
Considers that she has received comprehensive reproductive health services	41%
Has experienced discrimination from health workers when seeking reproductive health services	41%
Reports medical and/or emotional problems because health workers have not provided adequate reproductive health services	28%

“Doctors don’t talk about sexual and reproductive health. They only talk about the medical aspects. They have too many patients, and they don’t have time to talk about it.”

-Honduran, 57 years old, single, 1 child

Information for Safe Conception and Pregnancy

Have you received information in health services about....	YES
Prevention of mother-to-child transmission	56%
Safe pregnancy with minimum risks for you, partner, child	43%
Pregnancy while reducing sexual trans to an HIV- partner	36%
Safe conception: TasP, PreP, Insemination, ARV	21%

“The doctors aren’t trained and they deny us the right to think of having children.”

-Mexican, 37 years old, married, 2 children

Pregnancy with the HIV Diagnosis

Has had a pregnancy since the HIV diagnosis	31%
Told her physician before becoming pregnant	16%
Plans to become pregnant in the future	16%

“My doctor told me that I shouldn’t [get pregnant] and tried to convince me, but he couldn’t.”

-Honduran, 38 years old, married, 5 children

Information About Contraceptives

INFORMATION ABOUT CONTRACEPTIVES	YES
Have you received information about contraceptives additional to or different from the condom as part of your HIV care?	25%
Drug interactions (ARV+ hormonal contraceptives)?	15%
Your health status and ability to use an IUD?	10%

Consequences of Insufficient Information About and Access to Contraceptives

“I got pregnant because they said that women with HIV can’t use contraceptives .”

-Honduran, 31 years old, widowed, 1 child

“I got pregnant and infected with the human papillomavirus because I didn’t have enough condoms—they limit us.”

-Mexican, 30 years old, single, 4 children

Coercive Sterilization

Pressured or forced to undergo sterilization	YES
Mexico	35%
Nicaragua	19%
Honduras	27%
El Salvador	23%
Total Sample	26%

Coercion to Sterilize

“The nurses forced me to sign. They asked me more than 3 times and threatened not to perform the cesarean. Because of the pressure, I had no option but to sign.”

-Salvadoran, 19 years old, separated, 1 child

“They forced me to accept sterilization by telling me that if I didn’t, they wouldn’t help me with milk for my children.”

-Salvadoran, 35 years old, married, 3 children

Sterilization without Consent

“She had an abdominal problem, but instead of operating on her for the pain, they sterilized her without her consent.”

-Salvadoran, 39 years old, married, 2 children

“During the cesarean and under the effects of the anesthesia they forced her into sterilization so that she couldn't have more children. She didn't sign a consent. When she was recovering from the anesthesia, she saw that her finger was stained with ink.”

-Mexican, 27 years old, common-law, 2 children

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Women living with HIV in Mesoamerica are not receiving the information necessary to permit the effective realization of their reproductive rights in health services
- To protect human rights and promote non-discriminatory universal access to reproductive health information and services by 2015, states should:
 - Implement rights-based training on HIV and reproductive health for healthcare providers
 - Disseminate cutting-edge knowledge about treatment as prevention
 - Integrate HIV and reproductive health services to provide a continuum of care and monitor service delivery
 - Sanction reproductive rights violations
 - Meaningfully involve women living with HIV in policy and program development and M&E
- Research and dialogue promotes country and regional coalitions in favor of the reproductive rights of women living with HIV

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