

Involving Adolescent Boys and Young Men in Reproductive Health



Richard Lord

Reaching Boys Earlier May Be Easier than Later

- Boys are often more open to considering alternative views than men
- Styles of interaction are established and “rehearsed” during adolescence
- Boys have more free time to participate in health education than men



Source: Barker 1998, 2000

Richard Lord

Not All Boys Are Alike



Y. Nagata/United Nations



C. Stauffer/World Health Organization

Boys ...

- Have sex earlier and with more partners than do girls
 - Often gain status by having sex
 - Sometimes have first encounters with sex workers
 - Often are misinformed about sexual and reproductive health
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Boys and Condom Use



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Sexually active boys use condoms inconsistently, more often with sex workers

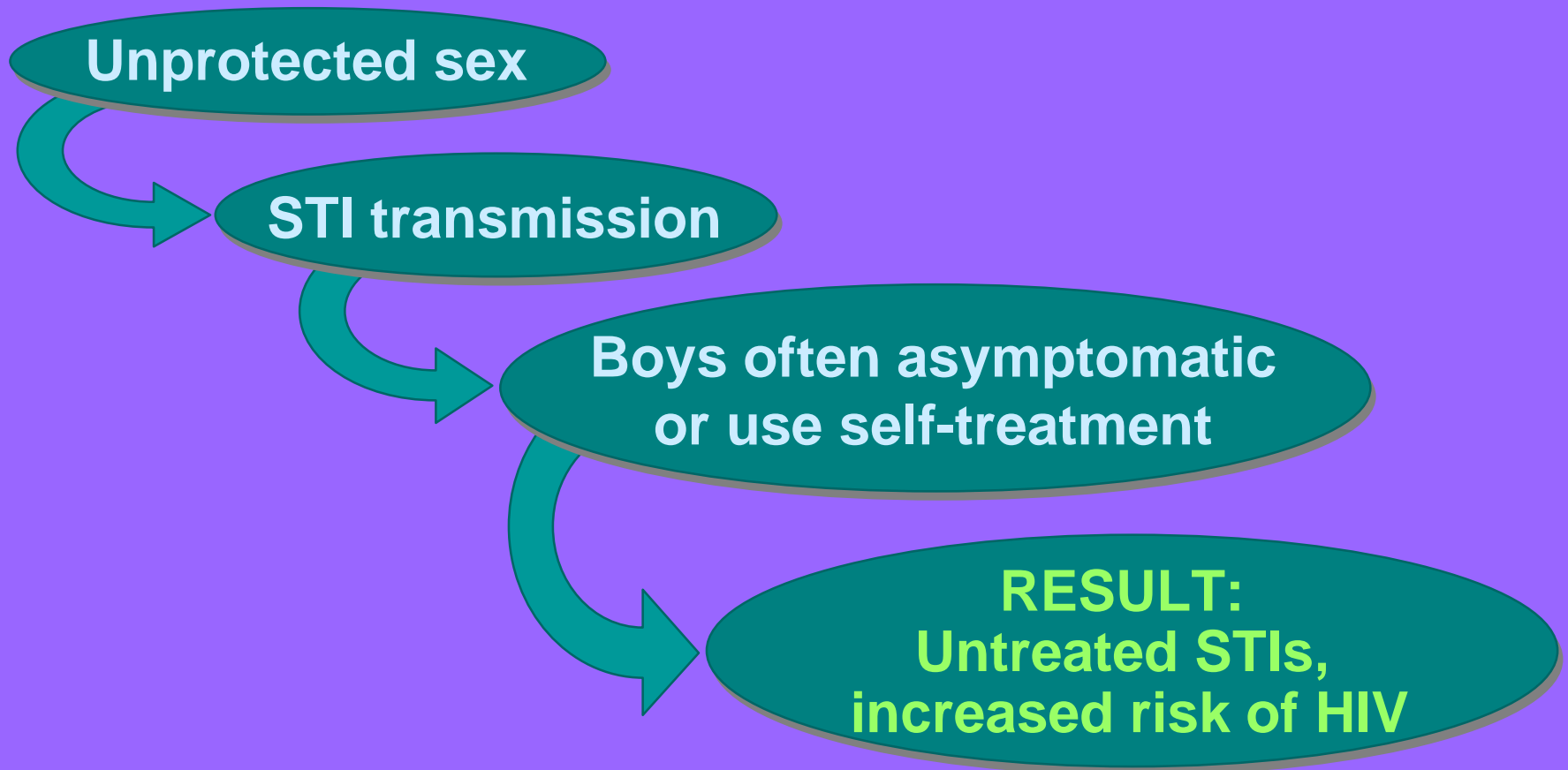
Boys and Gender

- Encourage boys to question traditional gender norms
 - Teach boys new communication and negotiation skills
 - Work with boys to consider other forms of sexual expression
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What Makes Some Boys More Gender Equitable?

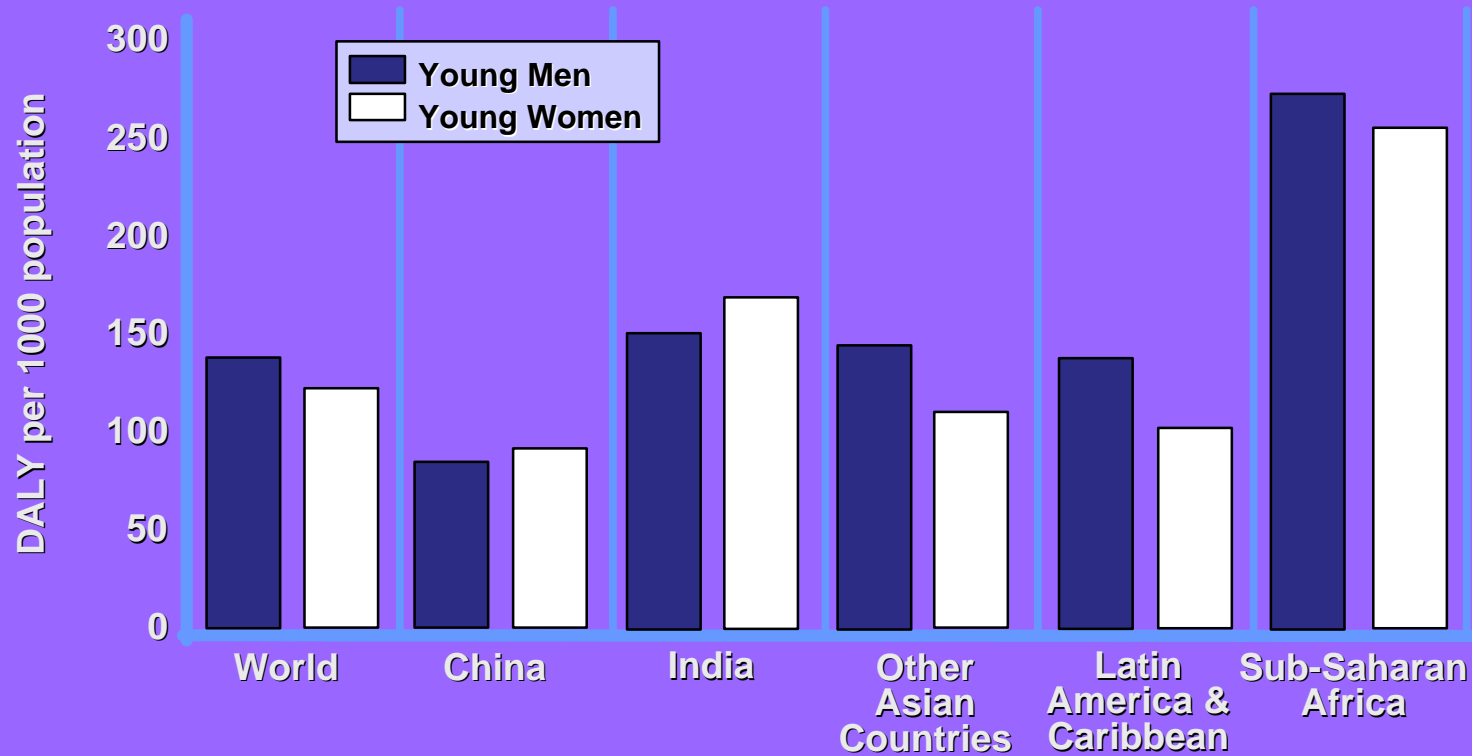
- Seeing costs of traditional views of manhood
 - Positive male role models
 - Alternative peer groups who support male involvement and respect toward women
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Boys, STIs and HIV/AIDS



Young Men at Multiple Risk

Sex differences in DALYs,* all causes in adolescents (ages 10 to 19)



* DALY - Disability Adjusted Life Year

Source: WHO, 2000.

Challenges to Reaching Boys

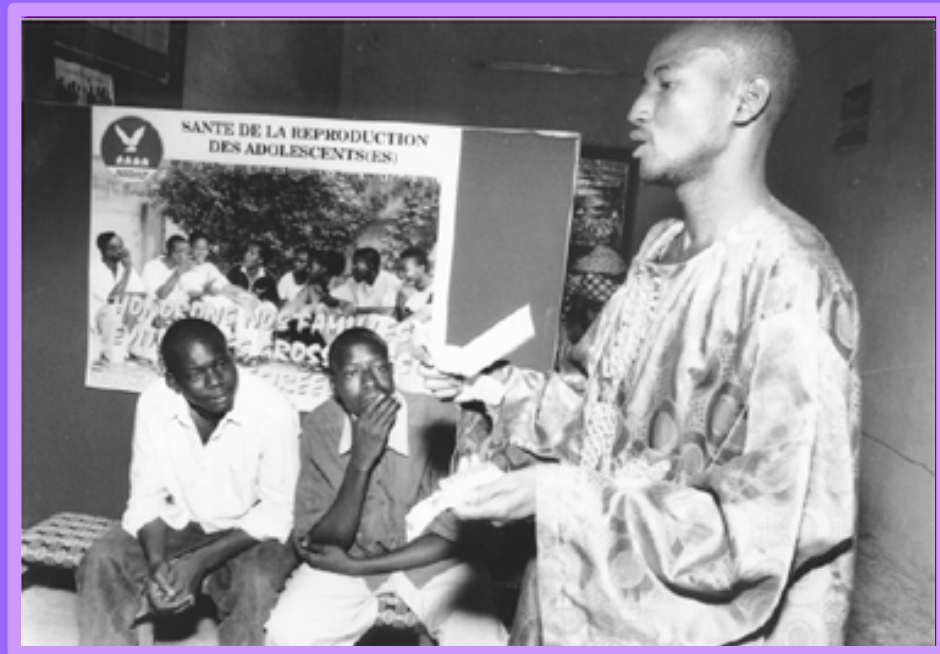


J. Frank/United Nations

- Less likely to seek health services
- May see reproductive health as a woman's concern
- May view clinics as "female spaces"
- Needs often not considered by staff

Involving Boys and Young Men in Reproductive Health

- Reach young men where they are
- Familiarize boys with clinic services



Beryl Goldberg

Addressing Gender-specific Health Needs

- Address boys' multiple health needs
 - Train health educators and clinic staff about the realities of boys' lives
 - Sensitize policymakers to the need to include boys
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Work with Boys Alone or with Boys and Girls?



- Need to work with boys alone for some health-related themes
- Important to bring boys and girls together
- Male role models are critical

Viewing Boys as Allies Instead of Obstacles



G. Barker/Instituto PROMUNDO

- Working to make their communities better
- Providing for their families
- Being supportive partners in reproductive health
- Caring for their children

