

A map of Ghana is shown in the background, divided into three horizontal color bands: pink at the top, yellow in the middle, and cyan at the bottom. A large, semi-transparent grey star is centered over the map.

# Condom Use Among Young Women in Rural Ghana

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# Background

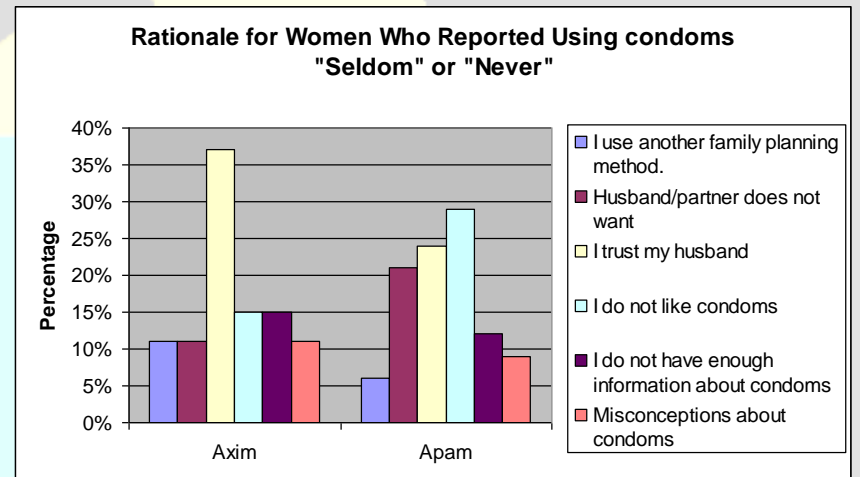
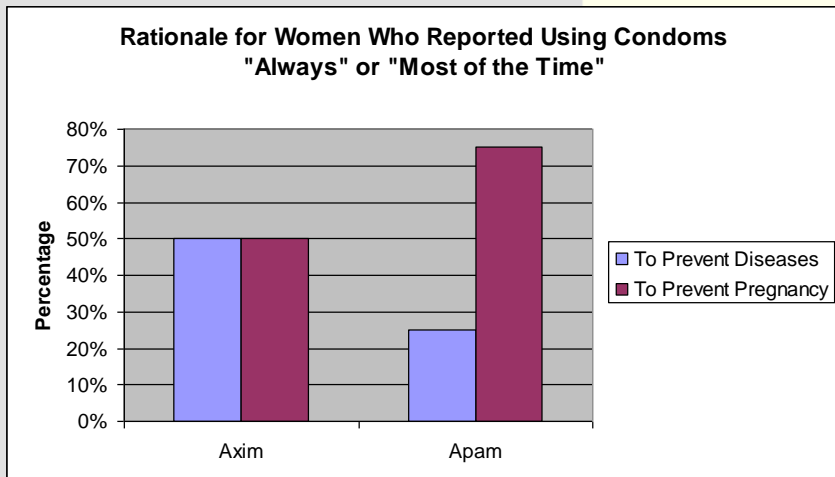
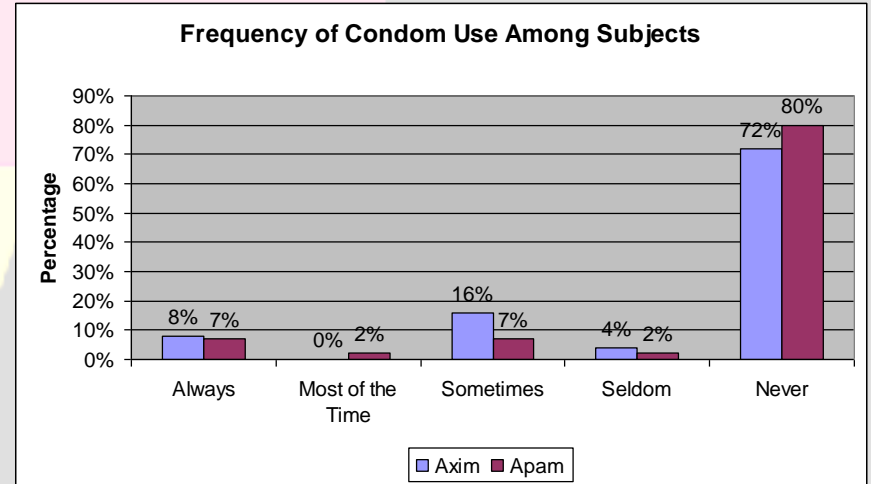
- HIV is an epidemic
  - Approximately 2/3rds of the worldwide population of people living with HIV resides in sub-Saharan Africa
  - In Ghana:
    - 2.6% prevalence rate in 2007
    - Prevalence is rising in persons under the age of 25
    - HIV prevalence is higher in women than men with STIs
- Prevention is key
  - Condoms have been proven to be effective in the prevention of HIV, pregnancy, and other STIs
  - In order to effectively promote condom use among women and encourage their use in preventing sexually transmitted infections, it is important to assess attitudes and misconceptions among women of reproductive age regarding condom use.

# Methodology

- Descriptive cross-sectional study
- Condom use was analyzed among 66 women of reproductive age at Axim Hospital and Apam Reproductive Clinic
  - Antenatal clinic
  - Child health clinic
  - Family planning appointments
  - Community Interviews
- Questions assessed age, marital status, education level, frequency of condom use, and rationale for deciding to use or not use condoms

# Results

	Axim	Apam
Number of Subjects	25	41
Average age	25	28



# Conclusion

- Condoms are an inexpensive and effective method of preventing pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Barriers to effective STI prevention include
  - Less education
  - Stigmatization
  - Embarrassment
  - Cultural factors
- Recommendations
  - Strong public health efforts in education, both in and out of school, to promote HIV infection prevention
  - Target men regarding condom use
  - Increase efforts to change negative perceptions and address misconceptions about condom use
  - Decrease embarrassment by encouraging dialogue about safe sex

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