



Determinants and Levels of Adolescent Fertility in Colombia

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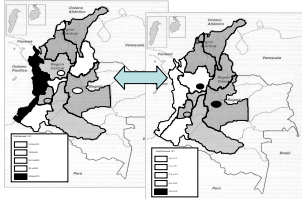
Objectives, Methods and Materials

1. Measure levels and differentials of adolescent fertility at Regional and Subregional geographical scale

2. Acquire insights into explaining adolescent fertility differentials and levels in Colombia through proximate and intermediate determinant from DHS 2000

Simple linear regression was used to analyze information. Proxy variable for fertility: adolescents who had given birth or were pregnant at time of interview.

Location: Traditional national regional divisions from State Statistical Department (DANE) and Subregions used by DHS



Comparison of adolescent fertility levels (left) and education (right). See how one map is almost the negative of the other.

Discussion

R2 and m obtained from the linear simple regression between levels of fertility determinants and proportion of teenagers mothers or pregnant teenagers, Colombia 2000.

Variables available from DHS	Indicator	Region	Subregion
		m	R2
Total years of schooling		0.11	0.68
Marital Status at interview time		0.3	-0.1
Proportion of adolescents in union	Living together	0.4	0.79
Highest educational level attained	Without schooling	7.6	4.5
Marital Status at interview	Single	-0.4	-0.78
Highest educational level attained	High School	-0.3	-0.3
Highest educational level attained	Primary	0	0.3
Ever use of contraceptives at adolescents	Only traditional	1.2	0.6
Age at first intercourse		-13	-7.5
Age at first birth		18	0.9
Marital Status at interview	Married	-1.4	-0.77
Actual use of contraceptives at adolescents	Only folk	5.2	1
Method knowledge	Does not know	1.5	0.69

Source: Author's elaboration with DHS 2000 data. Note: several variables not shown.

Results

- Spatial analysis and teen fertility levels:** evidence of significant differences between Regional and Subregional levels of fertility and fertility determinants
- Education**, as total years of schooling, and **marital union** proved to be the strongest determinants of teen fertility at a Subregional Scale (R2=0,65 and 0,63)
- Contraceptive use**, both traditional and folk, is strongest determinant of teenage fertility at a Regional level (R2=0,88)
- Most teenage births occur within marital union**
- Causes of the **increase in adolescent fertility** over time (13% in 1990 to 19% in 2000) are still an open end question

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heterogeneity found in coefficients of fertility determinants according to geographical scale call for further analysis of teen fertility determinants in Colombia.

Spatial differences point to the importance of considering Culture an important intermediate adolescent fertility determinant.

In order to better understand the confounding phenomena influencing teen fertility levels it is suggested that longitudinal studies complemented with localized area studies be undertaken in order to advocate for comprehensive public policy formation.

