

# Family Planning Matters

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USAID's family planning program is recognized as one of the most successful components of U.S. foreign assistance. For over 30 years, the United States has played a critical role in the global effort to meet unmet need for family planning. USAID also remains the technical leader in designing and delivering voluntary family planning services and related health information to more than 60 countries throughout the developing world.

Enabling women to have their desired number of children at a time when they want them is central to the quality of women's lives and the well-being of their families. Family planning is also an effective means of saving lives:

- Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age in developing countries, killing almost 600,000 a year. One in four of these maternal deaths could be prevented by family planning. (1)
- Family planning could also prevent 25% of the 11 million infant deaths in the developing world each year by spacing births at least two years apart. (1)
- Family planning can also help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by providing condoms and other barrier methods.
- Use of modern family planning methods is the most effective way to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions.

Although family planning services are more widely available than ever, it is estimated that more than 150 million married women (aged 15-49) in the developing world still want to space or limit childbearing but do not use modern methods of contraception. In addition, more than one billion young men and women aged 15-24 – the largest youth generation in history – are entering their childbearing years.

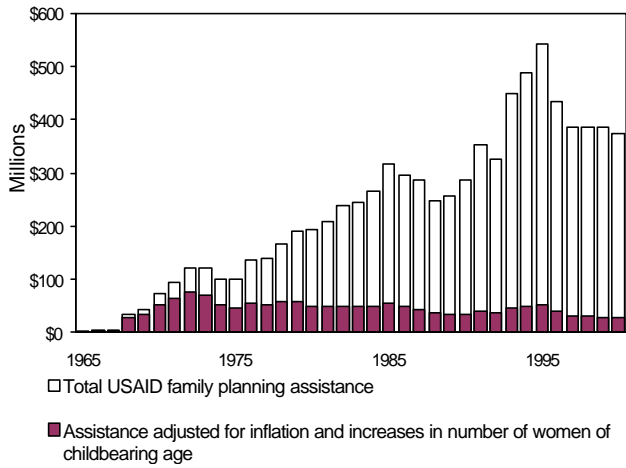
## Funding Facts and Figures

- USAID support for family planning programs reached its highest level ever at \$542 million in fiscal year 1995, following the landmark International Conference on Population and Development.
- In FY 1996, international family planning assistance was cut by 35% to \$356 million.
- From FY 1997 through FY 1999, USAID funding for international family planning assistance was capped each year at \$385 million.
- For FY 2000, the President and Congress reached a compromise resulting in a further cut of \$12.5 million, down to a level of \$372.5 million.
- In FY 1999, Congress zeroed out U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an important USAID partner. Funding was restored to \$25 million in FY 2000, subject to withholding restrictions.

<b>Family Planning Funding, FY 1995-2000*</b> (millions of dollars)		
	<b>USAID</b>	<b>UNFPA</b>
FY 95	\$541.6	\$35.0
FY 96	356.0	22.8
FY 97	385.0	25.0
FY 98	385.0	20.0
FY 99	385.0	0
FY 00	372.5	25.0**

\*USAID also funds other reproductive health activities, including maternal health and HIV/AIDS. In FY 1999, funding for these activities was \$185 million, with an additional \$472 million devoted to child survival and other health activities.  
 \*\*Subject to withholding restrictions.

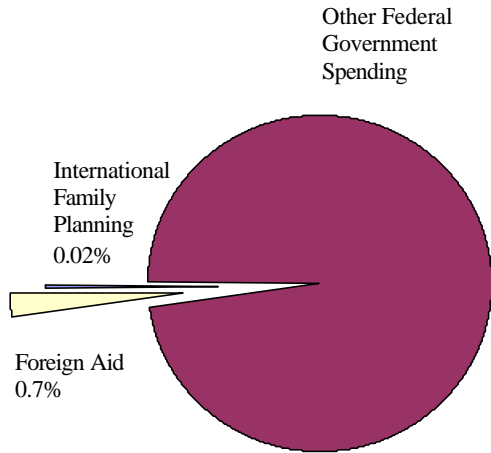
### Family planning funding has not kept pace with increasing need



When the impact of inflation and the increasing number of women of reproductive age are taken into account, the overall “purchasing power” of USAID support for international family planning has declined since the 1970s.

Source: USAID.

### Less than 1%

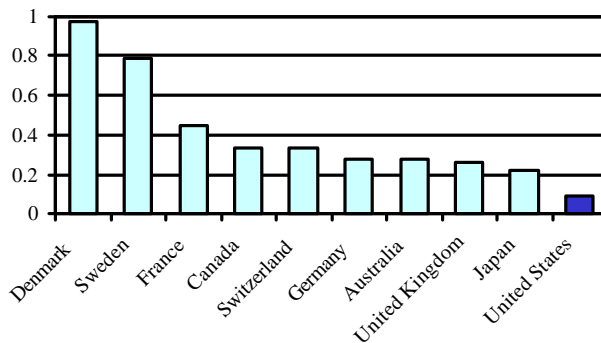


While most Americans think we spend much more, less than 1% of the total U.S federal budget goes to foreign aid. Less than half of that goes to economic development and humanitarian assistance.

Approximately two-hundredths of one percent (.02%) of the federal budget goes to international family planning. This is the equivalent of less than 3 cents a week for each American.

Source: Office of Management and Budget and USAID, 1999.

### Official development assistance as a percent of GNP



Although the U.S. is the largest and richest donor country, the U.S. ranks last among all donors with .09% of official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of gross national product (GNP).

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 1997.

Sources: (1) Population Reference Bureau, *Family Planning Saves Lives*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1997.