

Psychosocial context for teenage girls asking for a voluntary termination of pregnancy who consulted the "Sexual Health and Family Planning Unit" in Geneva, Switzerland

OBJECTIVE

- Assess whether teenage girls requesting a voluntary termination of pregnancy (VTP) at the Sexual Health and Family Planning Unit (USSPF) of Geneva have a particularly psychosocial context (PSC)
- The psychosocial context is defined by four main dimensions: sociocultural, educational, family, and psychological.

METHODS

- Selection of all files of teenage girls up to 18 included who consulted at the USSPF and went through an abortion in 2013: **43 cases**.
- Age** ranged from 15 to 18 years old.
Distribution: 15 years 18.6%, 16 years 27.9%, 17 years 30.2%, and 18 years 23.3%.

RESULTS

SOCIOCULTURAL DIMENSION

- Important presence of the second generation: 1/3**

2/3 of the teenage girls were Swiss, of whom nearly three quarters had an other nationality. ¾ of these were born in Geneva

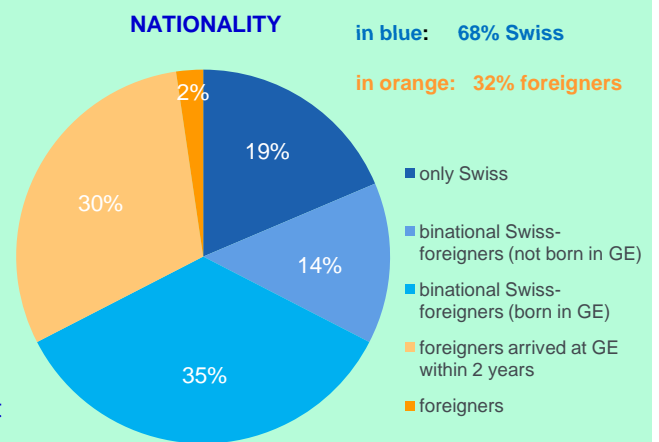
- Recent migration: 1/3**

30,2% of the teenage girls were foreigners.

Except one, all arrived in the previous two years and almost half lived in precarious circumstances, without legal status.

- Cultural conflict: 1/4**

25,6% of all the girls had experienced an important cultural conflict between their culture of origin and the host country culture.



FAMILY DIMENSION

- Major conflicts: 1/3**

30,2% of the teenage girls lived in a very difficult relational context with the parents

EDUCATIONAL DIMENSION

- Failures at school: 1/3**

30,2% of the teenage girls are concerned.

Among them, 77% had stopped attending school.



PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION

- Recent experience of loss: 1/3**

35% of the teenage girls had recently experienced losses:

- death or serious illness in the family
 - significant intimate relationship breakdown
 - recent parental separation
- Psychotherapy for severe problems : 1/5**
 - 19% of the girls are in treatment

CONCLUSIONS

- Three quarters (76,7%) of the teenage girls who had requested a VTP with USSPF in 2013 were in a particular PSC. Most of the time, they accumulated sociocultural, educational, family or psychological difficulties.
- This study raises the question whether, overall, teenage girls consulting USSPF have a more difficult PSC or whether difficult PSC during adolescence is a risk factor for VTP.