

# Promoting condom usage at the grassroots; Badagry, a Border town Experience

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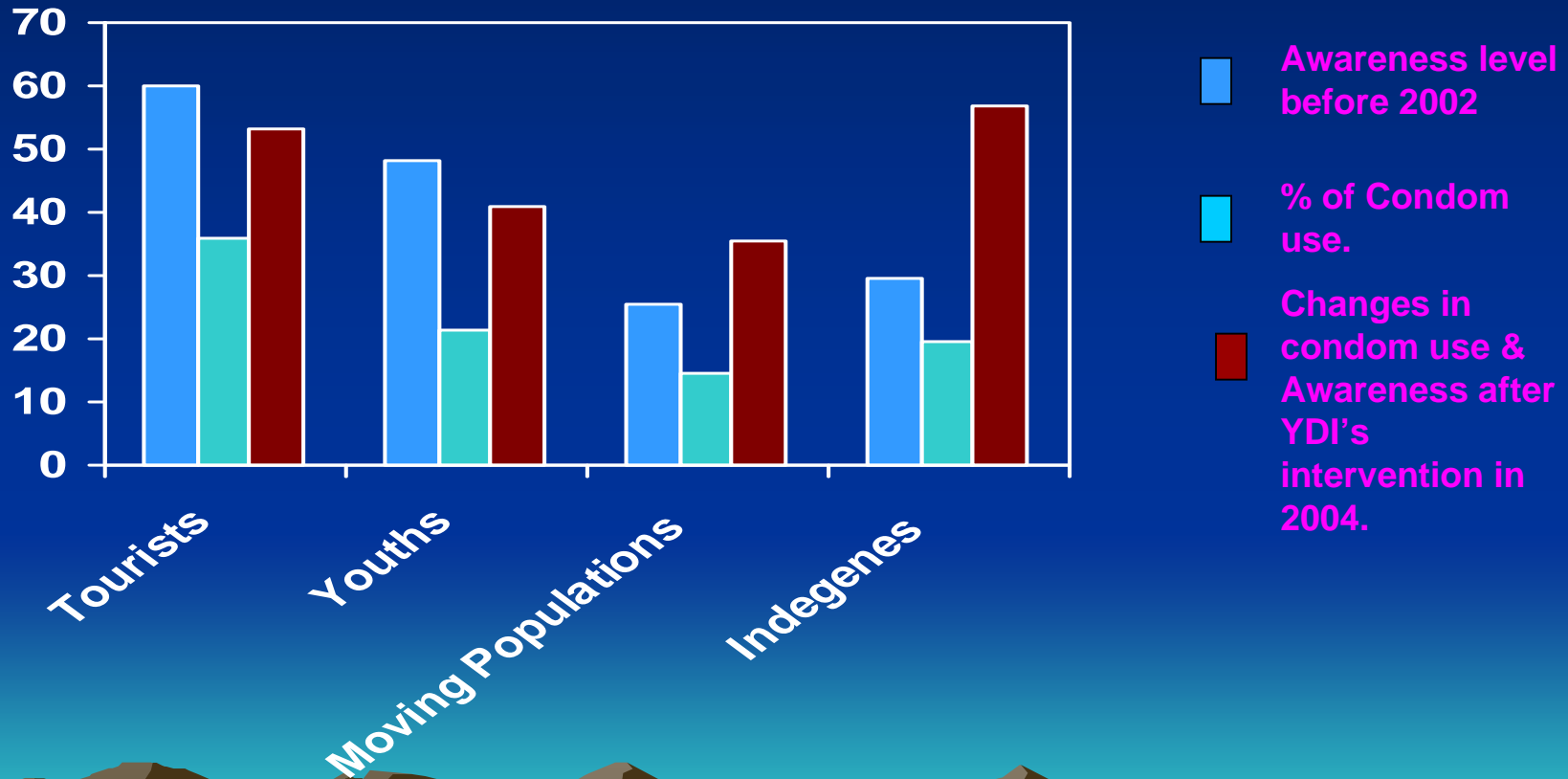
Steering Committee Member, Youth Coalition- Canada.

# Badagry at a glance....

- **The town with the busiest land border in Nigeria ( Nigeria /Benin Border)**
- **An estimated 600,000 people lives/moves across the border everyday.**
- **It is also a historical and tourist haven with high number of tourists visiting everyday to see monuments like, the first storey building in Nigeria, first church in Nigeria, first primary school in Nigeria, slave relics etc.**
- **in 1998, the Lagos state action committee on AIDS announced that Badagry Local Government has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the state.**
- **In 1999, YDI was founded to respond to the AIDS epidemic in the community.**

# survey on condom use in 2002

This survey was carried out taking into consideration every sector of the community. It was only targeted at the rate of condom use and awareness in the community as a means of family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.



# Challenges to condom Promotion and use

- The economic situation of the country and poverty level, “condom is not a priority”
- The cultural and religious barriers of promoting condom use among young people.
- Less attention for the community by governments and NGOs despite the vulnerability of the area.
- Only one known condom distribution company/Organisation in the country (SFH)
- Myths and false information's about Prevention of STIs.
- Gender Inequality and little negotiating power of young girls and women.

# Lessons Learned and Recommendations.

- Creating a positive image of condom is the best way to increase the number of people using condoms as most of the time, condom suffers a negative and poor image
- It works more when people buy condom than get it free of charge, as most people that buys condoms are more likely to use it than those that get it free of charge
- Condoms that are cheaper are more likely to be accessible than expensive ones and not its quality.
- Using a very effective messages that will strike the emotions of the various groups especially in the grassroots and areas where the cultural and religious belief are very strong.

**Thank You!!!**