Evaluating the Mexico City Policy

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The Mexico City Policy

“Attempts to use abortion ... in family planning must be shunned.”

The U.S. will not contribute to NGOs that perform or actively promote abortion in other nations.

Promoting abortion includes:

- Lobbying for safe abortion legalization
- Education or Counseling about abortion options
Policy Timing

President Reagan implements MCP at UN Population Conference

President Bush reinstates MCP on first day in office

1985

1993

President Clinton repeals MCP on first day in office

2001

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Regression Discontinuity

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2009
Demographic Sub-groups

Ghanaian Women

Urban
- Very Poor
- Less Poor
  - No Basic Education
  - Has Basic Education

Rural
- Very Poor
- Less Poor
  - No Basic Education
  - Has Basic Education
Demographic Sub-groups

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Availability of Contraceptives

Percent of Clinics where Method was Available

- Progesterone Pill
- Combined Pill
- IUD
- Spermicide
- Condom

1993 - 2001
Effect on Rural Women (with basic education)
Effect on Rural Women (with basic education)
Effect on Rural Women (with basic education)

- **Planned**
- **Unwanted / Mistimed**
- **Spontaneous Abortion**
- **Induced Abortion**
Summary of Effects

No sub-groups show significant decrease in abortion

In rural Ghana alone, policy resulted in

- 250,000 to 500,000 additional unwanted births
- 75,000 to 120,000 additional abortions