FP2020
UNDERSTANDING DATA ON ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH
February 15, 2019
INCREASING DATA AVAILABILITY ON ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH
CORE INDICATOR 17: ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATES

Indicator 17

ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE (ABR)

Definition:
The number of births to adolescent females, aged 15-19 occurring during a given reference period per 1,000 adolescent females.

Source:
DHS. PMA2020 Survey in select years
YOUTH POPULATION IN FP2020 COUNTRIES IN ASIA

Population in millions

Rest of population (25-49) 66%

Youth (15-24) 34%

15-24 year olds comprise 34% of the population of reproductive age (ages 15-49) of FP2020 countries in Asia.
15-24 year olds comprise 41% of the population of reproductive age (ages 15-49) of FP2020 countries in Africa.
KEY LIFE EVENTS

- Patterns of key life events:
  - Age at first sex
  - Age at marriage
  - Age at first birth
- Understanding local patterns is critical for developing context-specific approaches
MEDIAN AGE AT KEY LIFE EVENTS AMONG WOMEN
MEDIAN AGE AT KEY LIFE EVENTS: WEST AFRICA

**Western Africa**

#### Country Data

- **Gambia**: 15.9 (First Marriage), 16.0 (First Marriage), 19.3 (First Sex), 19.6 (First Sex), 20.9 (First Birth)
- **Ghana**: 16.3 (First Marriage), 17.4 (First Marriage), 18.6 (First Sex), 22.4 (First Birth)
- **Guinea**: 16.4 (First Marriage), 17.4 (First Marriage), 18.9 (First Sex), 22.6 (First Birth)
- **Liberia**: 16.4 (First Marriage), 17.4 (First Marriage), 19.2 (First Sex), 19.3 (First Sex), 20.3 (First Birth)
- **Mali**: 16.8 (First Marriage), 17.4 (First Marriage), 18.8 (First Sex), 20.3 (First Birth)
- **Niger**: 15.9 (First Marriage), 16.0 (First Marriage), 18.1 (First Sex), 21.5 (First Sex)
- **Nigeria**: 17.8 (First Marriage), 18.6 (First Marriage), 20.3 (First Sex), 21.5 (First Sex)
- **Senegal**: 16.4 (First Marriage), 18.2 (First Marriage), 19.2 (First Sex), 19.8 (First Sex), 21.5 (First Sex)
- **Sierra Leone**: 16.4 (First Marriage), 18.2 (First Marriage), 19.2 (First Sex), 19.8 (First Sex), 21.5 (First Sex)
- **Togo**: 18.1 (First Marriage), 18.8 (First Marriage), 20.2 (First Sex), 21.0 (First Sex)

**Visual Key**
- Orange: First Marriage
- Green: First Sex
- Blue: First Birth

**Note:** figures based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) since 2012.
Levels of contraceptive use and unmet need range widely across countries:

- Contraceptive use among married women aged 15–19 ranges from 1% in Nigeria to 53% in Myanmar
- Contraceptive use among married women aged 20–24 is generally higher, ranging from 4% in Chad to almost 64% in Zimbabwe
DISTRIBUTION OF YOUNG WOMEN IN THE DRC BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY
SUMMARY
Understanding demographics, patterns of key life events, and behaviors related to sexual and reproductive health and combining these data with information on the methods youth are using, where they are accessing services, and what policy barriers exist will help programs assess priorities and effectiveness and make decisions about future investments. At the same time, continued investments to improve data collection and analysis related to youth’s contraceptive access and choice will further our understanding. Enabling all adolescents and youth (married and unmarried, and those with and without children) to avoid unintended pregnancy will reap savings in maternal and child health care. Boost young women’s educational and economic prospects, and give them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

DRAMATIC CHANGES IN EARLY MARRIAGE IN INDIA
India’s National Family Health Survey 4 (NFHS-4) in 2015-2016, the first Demographic Health Survey in a decade, revealed a dramatic decline in child marriage in India. Defined as the marriage of a girl under age 18 or a man under age 21, child marriage was prohibited by law with the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006. Yet in the 2005-06 DHS, 45% of women aged 20–24 reported that they were married before 18. Ten years later, the NFHS-4 showed 25% of women aged 20–24 reporting that they were married before 18—a decline of more than 20 percentage points. This rapid decline in the rate of early marriage is unprecedented in India’s history.

There is still wide variation in rates of child marriage across Indian states. In Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, 35–40% of women aged 20–24 reported they were married before 18. Fewer than 10% of women aged 20–24 reported they were married before 18 in Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, and Punjab. Despite this wide variation, almost all states experienced dramatic declines over the past decade.
CHALLENGES

UNDERSTANDING DATA ON ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH
Continuing measurement challenges

- Current Exclusion of unmarried women (including those aged 15-24) in many countries
- Unmarried youth may be reluctant to report sexual activity in a household survey setting
- Classifications of sexual activity and contraceptive use may obscure understanding of patterns of sexual activity and contraceptive use
- Lack of data on very young adolescents
- Age disaggregation in health management information systems
Q&A
DATA HIGHLIGHT: INDIA
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