Adolescent Birth Rate (ABR): Annual number of births to females aged 10-14 or 15-19 years per 1,000 females in the respective age group: SDG Indicator 3.7.2

Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
Good Health and Well-Being

13 Clean Water and Sanitation
14 Life on Land
15 Life below Water
16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
17 Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

TARGET 3.7

INDICATOR 3.7.2

ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE (AGED 10-14 YEARS; AGED 15-19 YEARS) PER 1,000 WOMEN IN THAT AGE GROUP

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE CARE, FAMILY PLANNING AND EDUCATION
Why is it important to measure and report on adolescent fertility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To assess overall levels and trends on adolescent fertility at the national, regional and global level.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To provide the empirical evidence to Governments and other stakeholders to develop policies and programs that aim at reducing adolescent fertility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To support efforts to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ABR provides indirect evidence on access to pertinent health care services since young people often experience difficulties in access to sexual and reproductive health services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographic information: Size of adolescent population aged 10-19 years

- In the year 2020: 605,000,000 girls and young women globally.
- In the year 2030: 643,000,000 girls and young women globally.
- Each fifth girl/young women in this age-group lives in sub-Saharan Africa in 2020 and each fourth female in this age-group will live in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.
Definitions and calculation

- Adolescent Birth Rate (ABR): Annual number of births to females aged 10-14 or 15-19 years per 1,000 females in the respective age group.

- The ABR represents the risk of childbearing among females in the particular age group. The adolescent birth rate among women aged 15-19 years is also referred to as the age-specific fertility rate for women aged 15-19.

- The adolescent birth rate is computed as a ratio: The numerator is the number of live births to women aged 15-19 years, and the denominator is an estimate of the exposure to childbearing by women aged 15-19 years, which is the enumerated/estimated total female population aged 15-19 years:

  \[
  \text{Total number of live births to women aged 15-19 years} / \text{total female population aged 15-19 years} \times 1,000
  \]

- The computation is the same for the age group 10-14 years.

- Reporting on the ABR for young girls below age 15 has been introduced with the adoption of the SDG Indicator Framework in 2015. The Population Division has so far only reported ABRs for females ages 15-19.
Reporting on adolescent fertility in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals

National data

• Collect and review adolescent fertility data covering women aged 15-19 from publicly available sources.

• Civil registration is the preferred data source. Censuses and household surveys are alternate sources when there is no reliable civil registration.

• Follow internal guidelines developed by the Population Division to select one datapoint per calendar year for all countries to be included for global SDG reporting.

• Generally, national data as approved by National Statistical Systems are reported.

• No estimates are provided for countries and years without data.
Reporting on adolescent fertility in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, cont'd

Global, regional and sub-regional data

- Global, regional and sub-regional aggregates are drawn from the most recent World Population Prospects, published every two years by the Population Division.
Data availability for global monitoring

- Data for the adolescent birth rate for women aged 15-19 years are available for 223 countries or areas for the 2000-2018 time period as reported in 2020.
- For 219 countries or areas, there are at least two data points available.
- Only four countries have one data point, two in Europe and Northern America (Gibraltar and Saint Pierre and Miquelon) and two in Oceania (Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna Islands).
Distribution of data points and of countries or areas with at least one data point on the adolescent birth rate (15-19 years), by type of data source, 2000-2018, as reported in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Source Type</th>
<th>Number of Data Points</th>
<th>Number of Countries</th>
<th>Data Points (per cent)</th>
<th>Countries (per cent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>1147</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>3346</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>1526</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>27.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6279</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2017; 2019 and updated since publication of database.

Note: the “Number of countries” refers to the counts of countries having data points on the adolescent birth rate (15-19 years) from each of the data source types listed in the first column during 2000-2018. Since countries can and often do have data points drawn from more than one source, the total figure (given at the bottom of the table) is greater than the number of countries in the world.
Data sources for reporting on the ABR (women 15-19) in 2020 by SDG Regions

Source: Background paper to the Expert group meeting on the evaluation of early adolescent fertility data and estimates (26/27 October 2020): ‘Data selection for SDG monitoring and reporting on Indicator 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group’
Bangladesh: selection based on a locally weighted regression model

Figure 2. Adolescent birth rates (15-19), Bangladesh, 2000 – 2018

[Graph showing adolescent birth rates (15-19) for Bangladesh from 2000 to 2018, with reference years and data points from various surveys indicated.]
Comparability and data limitation issues

General issues:
• Discrepancies between the data sources at country level are common.
• The level of the adolescent birth rate depends in part on the source of the data selected.

For survey and census data:
• Numerator and denominator come from the same population.
• The main limitations concern age misreporting, birth omissions, misreporting the date of birth of the child, and sampling variability in the case of surveys.
Comparability and data limitation issues, cont'd

For civil registration data, rates are subject to limitations which depend on:

- The completeness of birth registration;
- The treatment of infants born alive but die before registration or within the first 24 hours of life;
- The quality of the reported information relating to age of the mother, and the inclusion of births from previous periods;
- The population estimates may suffer from limitations connected to age misreporting and coverage.
Reporting on early adolescent fertility for girls aged 10-14 years

• The Population Division has initiated data collection and validation on early adolescent fertility of girls aged 10-14 years;
• Two publications presenting global, regional and selected national trends released;
• Convened an expert group meeting on the validation of early adolescent fertility data and estimates (October 26 & 27, 2020);
• Global reporting of ABRs of women aged 15-19 years & girls aged 10-14 years scheduled for 2022.
Further information on Indicator 3.7.2

- United Nations Global SDG Database: provides access to the most recent data and meta data: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
Any questions?

Please contact us at population@un.org

Thank you