



EVALUATION OF ADOLESCENT FERTILITY DATA AND ESTIMATES

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KEY FOCUS



15-19 YEARS



Introduction

Adolescent childbearing remains high in many countries around the world, putting millions of girls at risk for poor health and development outcomes. However, some countries have demonstrated that it is possible to reduce adolescent childbearing over time by investing in policies and programs to improve young people's sexual and reproductive health.



Introduction

The issue of adolescent fertility is important on both health and social grounds. Children born to very young mothers are at increased risk of sickness and death. Teenage mothers are more likely to experience adverse pregnancy outcomes and are more constrained in their ability pursue educational opportunities than young women who delay childbearing(2019 LDHS)



Introduction Con't

Underlying factors that further exacerbate the reproductive health situation of young people in Liberia include prevalence of gender based violence including sexual abuse and rape, engagement in commercial sex work, intravenous drug usage, risky same sex relationships and limited access to SRH/FP information and services.



Figure 1 Trends in total fertility rate,
1986—2019-20

*Total fertility rate for the 3 years before
each survey*

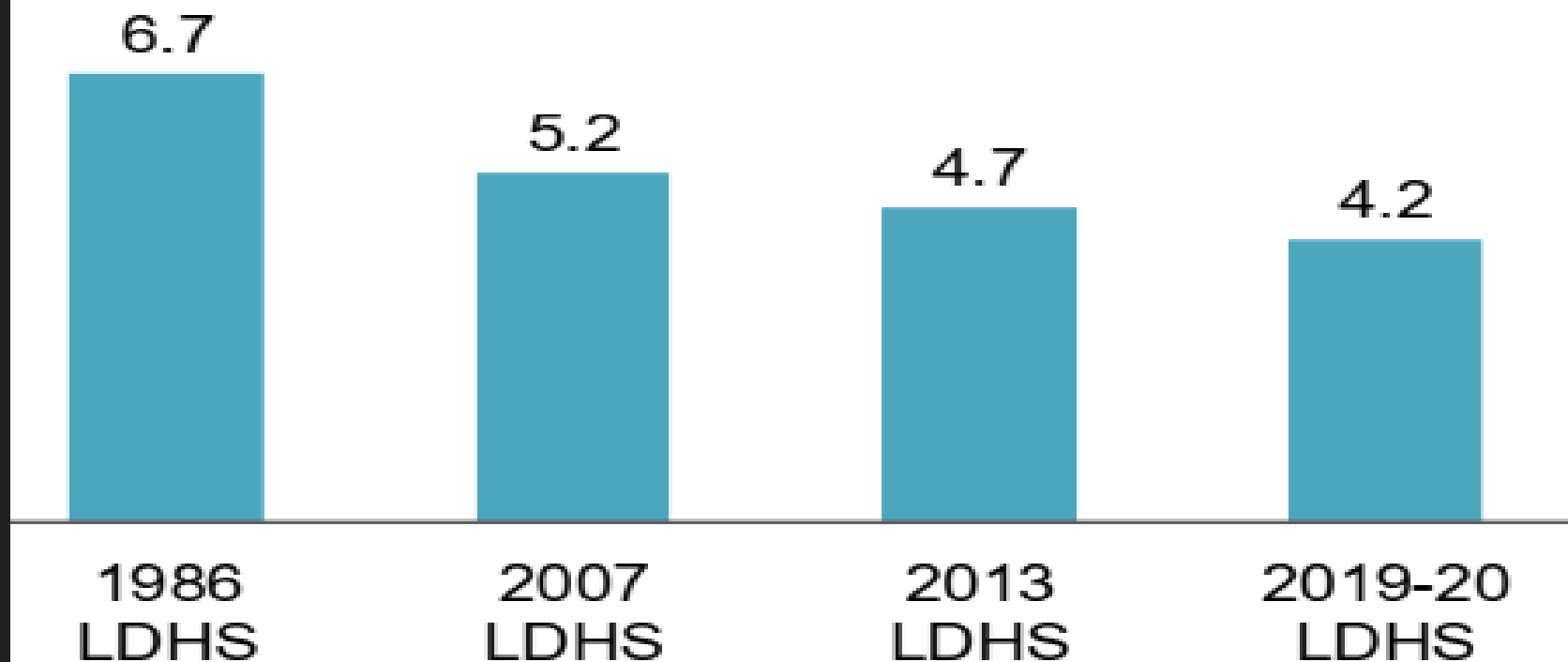




Table 6 Current fertility

Age-specific and total fertility rates, the general fertility rate, and the crude birth rate for the 3 years preceding the survey, according to residence, Liberia DHS 2019-20

Age group	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
10-14	4	4	4
15-19	98	185	128
20-24	168	250	194
25-29	147	223	173
30-34	108	179	135
35-39	104	158	128
40-44	39	91	64
45-49	7	22	16
TFR (15-49)	3.4	5.5	4.2
GFR	121	188	146
CBR	27.5	33.6	30.1

Note: Age-specific fertility rates are per 1,000 women. Rates are for the period 1-36 months preceding the interview. Rates for the 10-14 age group are based on retrospective data from women age 15-17.

TFR: Total fertility rate, expressed per woman

GFR: General fertility rate, expressed per 1,000 women age 15-44

CBR: Crude birth rate, expressed per 1,000 population



Causes of Teenage Pregnancy in Liberia

Poverty, traditional cultural practices, lack of enforcement of existing laws outlawing marriage under the age of 18 and poor awareness of sexual and reproductive health among young people are key **factors** leading to the high rate of **pregnancy** among **adolescent** girls

Causes of Teenage Pregnancy in Liberia Con't



The incidence of teenage pregnancy in **Liberia** is a major cause of concern. Many of the teenage mothers are between 12-14 years old and are at risk for numerous complications associated with pregnancy. The increasing number of illegal and unsafe abortions adds another horrific dimension to this complex situation.



AGE AT FIRST BIRTH

The age at which childbearing begins has an impact on the health and welfare of a mother and her children. In many countries, the postponement of first births has contributed to an overall fertility decline.

The median age at first birth in Liberia is around 19 for most age groups according to the 2013 LDHS.



Statistics on Adolescent Fertility

- The statistics below shows the percentage of women age 15-19 who have given birth or were pregnant with their first child at the time of the survey according to background characteristics in Liberia
- Overall, 30% of women age 15-19 have begun childbearing
- 25% have had a live birth
- 5% were pregnant with their first child at the time of the interview.
- The proportion of young women who have begun childbearing increases rapidly that is, from 4% among those age 15 to 55% among those age 19. (**Source: 2019-2020 LDHS Key Indicators Report**)



Statistics on Adolescent Fertility Con't

- Rural teenagers tend to start childbearing earlier than other teenagers.
- Early childbearing among teenagers is more common in River Cess County (55%) than in other counties, especially Maryland (19%).
- Teenagers with no education (47%) are more likely to have started childbearing than those with at least some education (20%-31%).
- Also, childbearing is more common among teenagers in the lowest three wealth quintiles (40%-42%)
- Adolescent fertility has declined only slightly since 2013, from 31% to 30%



Fertility Preference

- If fertility were to remain constant at current levels, a woman from Liberia would bear an average of 4.2 children in her lifetime.
- The TFR for rural areas (5.5 births per woman) is more than two children higher than that for urban areas (3.4 births).
- Across the various age groups, fertility is consistently higher among rural than urban women. Among both urban and rural women, the TFR peaks in the 20-24 age group
(Source: 2019-2020LDHS)



THANK
YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!