



SESSION NOTES

Objective of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to assess the coverage and accuracy and consistency of the data and estimates related to early adolescent fertility and to review the scope of associated demographic factors to assess the accuracy of early adolescent fertility data and estimates. The invited experts from United Nations system entities, research institutions and data producers will also review and discuss approaches for early adolescent fertility data validation, estimation and selection for SDG reporting and analysis.

This online meeting of two half-day sessions on 26-27 October 2020 is organized as panel discussions around selected themes addressing data sources, methods to estimate early adolescent fertility data and approaches for data validation and selection for SDG reporting and analysis.

The discussion shall be guided by the following questions:

Data validation and benchmarking

- How to benchmark adolescent fertility estimates for both age-groups, against historical patterns, and against those from different sources and other countries?
- How to benchmark fertility estimates for 10-14-year-old girls against estimates for the age group 15-19?
- What related variables can be used to support the validation of ABR data, particularly for early adolescent fertility?
- What systematic errors do occur in the context of a country/region/data source/age-group and how to address those?
- Is there a meaningful way to standardize the data validation process?

Selection of data sources

- How do we determine which data source is the most reliable for a given country in a given year?
- What are the specific challenges regarding the collection of data on early childbearing and how can those challenges be addressed to obtain good quality data on early childbearing?

- Which data source should be the preferred data source for a specific country/region/reference period/age-group?
- Are data sources consistent/inconsistent in their quality over time?

ABR estimates

- What reference period is appropriate to assess the quality of the estimates of obtained from birth histories data?
- What are the different challenges related to estimating the ABR for 10-14-year-old girls vs. 15-19-year-old girls/young women?
- How can we explain the differences in values from different sources for the same point in time?

The expert meeting is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

1. Better understanding of existing data and research, and key gaps, on early adolescent fertility and related indicators.
2. Recommendations for the further development of methods for early adolescent fertility data validation and selection for SDG reporting and analysis.
3. Recommendations on next steps to enhance data quality and data availability.
4. Future research priorities on early adolescent fertility data.

Session I: Opening of the meeting & welcome

Session II: Setting the stage: Reporting on ABR in the context of the SDGs

Objective of the session

The present session will set the stage for the discussion by introducing the work of the Division related monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 3.7.2 'Adolescent birth rate (ABR) (aged 10-14 & 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age-group'. This session will feature a summary of the background note to the meeting. The session will also provide an overview of related work in the context of the World Population Prospects (WPP).

Session III: Data and estimates from various data sources on adolescent fertility (ages girls/women 10-14 and 15-19)

Objective of the session

The present session is expected to provide an overview of the main data sources for ABR reporting and on methodologies for estimating adolescent fertility and related indicators using different available data sources. More specifically, the session is expected to discuss the following aspects in more detail:

- How do the methodologies complement each other in assessing reasonable agreements between the estimates for similar and other age-groups;
- Review the challenges presented by the data and methodologies and discuss suggestions on how to assess and address the challenges.
- The presentations should also discuss approaches to data validation, from different data sources and how those approaches supplement each other.
- It should also discuss possible appropriate age brackets for the denominator for estimating adolescent fertility among girls aged 14 years and below.

Recap of day 1 and outlook for day 2: Population Division

Session IV: Regional and national perspectives

Objective of the session

The present session will offer an insight into the use and assessment of available data and estimates on adolescent fertility and related sexual and reproductive health indicators from selected regional and national perspectives. Presenters contributing to this session are expected to share their knowledge, experience and challenges, drawing on various data sources on adolescent fertility, sexual and reproductive health indicators and related variables for monitoring, reporting and policy advice at the regional and national levels.

Session V: Open discussion and recommendations for validation, selection and reporting of adolescent fertility

Objective of the session

The present session will review the key messages from each session and will discuss ways to enhance the quality of early adolescent fertility data and related estimates and provide practical recommendations for data validation and selection procedures for the reporting and analysis of early adolescent fertility data in the context of the SDGs.