



Abbreviated name	Adolescent fertility rate
Indicator name	Adolescent fertility rate (per 1000 girls aged 15–19 years)
Domain	Health status
Subdomain	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health
Associated terms	Fertility
Definition	Annual number of births to women aged 15–19 years per 1000 women in that age group. It is also referred to as the age-specific fertility rate for women aged 15–19 years.
Numerator	Number of live births to women aged 15–19 years.
Denominator	Exposure to childbearing by women aged 15–19 years.
Disaggregation/ additional dimension	Marital status (when possible, also capture girls < 15 years), place of residence, socioeconomic status
Method of measurement	<p>The adolescent birth rate is generally 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 exposure to childbearing by women aged 15–19 years. The numerator and the denominator are calculated differently for civil registration and survey and census data.</p> <p>Civil registration: In the case of civil registration the numerator is the registered number of live births born to women aged 15–19 years during a given year, and the denominator is the estimated or enumerated population of women aged 15–19 years.</p> <p>Survey data: In the case of survey data, the adolescent birth rate is generally computed on the basis of retrospective birth histories. The numerator refers to births to women who were 15–19 years of age at the time of the birth during a reference period before the interview, and the denominator to person-years lived between the ages of 15 and 19 years by the interviewed women during the same reference period. Whenever possible, the reference period corresponds to the five years preceding the survey. The reported observation year corresponds to the middle of the reference period. For some surveys, no retrospective birth histories are available and the estimate is based on the date of last birth or the number of births in the 12 months preceding the survey.</p> <p>Census data: With census data, the adolescent birth rate is generally computed on the basis of the date of last birth or the number of births in the 12 months preceding the enumeration. The census provides both the numerator and the denominator for the rates. In some cases, the rates based on censuses are adjusted for under-registration based on indirect methods of estimation. For some countries with no other reliable data, the own-children method of indirect estimation provides estimates of the adolescent birth rate for a number of years before the census (See: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx, accessed 19 October 2009.)</p> <p>If numbers are available, adolescent fertility at ages under 15 years can also be computed.</p>
Method of estimation	<p>The United Nations Population Division compiles and updates data on adolescent fertility rates for MDG monitoring. Estimates based on civil registration are provided when the country reports at least 90% coverage and there is reasonable agreement between civil registration estimates and survey estimates. Survey estimates are provided only when there is no reliable civil registration. Given the restrictions of the United Nations MDG database, only one source is provided by year and country. In such cases precedence is given to the survey programme conducted most frequently at the country level, with other survey programmes using retrospective birth histories, census and other surveys in that order. (See: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx, accessed 19 October 2009.)</p>
Measurement frequency	Annual
Monitoring and evaluation framework	Impact
Preferred data sources	Civil registration systems with full coverage
Other possible data sources	Population census, household surveys
Further information and related links	<p>Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. Report of the Secretary-General. New York (NY): United Nations; 2014 (https://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/ICPD/Frameworkof%20of%20action%20for%20the%20follow-up%20to%20the%20PoA%20of%20the%20ICPD.pdf, accessed 19 August 2014).</p> <p>Monitoring progress in family planning. FP2020 core indicators. Glastonbury (CT): Track20 (http://www.track20.org/pages/data/indicators, 21 March 2014).</p> <p>The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014–2017. Report of the Executive Director. New York (NY): United Nations Population Fund; 2013.</p>