



Total fertility rate

Abbreviated name	Total fertility rate
Indicator name	Total fertility rate
Domain	Health status
Subdomain	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health
Associated terms	Fertility
Definition	Average number of children that a hypothetical cohort of women would have at the end of their reproductive period if they were subject during their whole lives to the fertility rates of a given period and if they were not subject to mortality. It is expressed as children per woman.
Numerator	
Denominator	
Disaggregation/ additional dimension	Place of residence, socioeconomic status
Method of measurement	Total fertility rate is directly calculated as the sum of age-specific fertility rates (usually referring to women aged 15–49 years), or five times the sum if data are given in five-year age groups. An age-specific or age-group-specific fertility rate is calculated as the ratio of annual births to women at a given age or age group to the population of women at the same age or age group, in the same year, for a given country, territory or geographical area. Population data from the United Nations correspond to mid-year estimated values, obtained by linear interpolation from the corresponding United Nations fertility medium-variant quinquennial population projections.
Method of estimation	Population data are taken from the most recent United Nations Population Division's <i>World population prospects</i> .
Measurement frequency	Annual if based on civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS); once every 3–5 years if based on surveys and census
Monitoring and evaluation framework	Impact
Preferred data sources	Civil registration and vital statistics systems
Other possible data sources	Population-based health surveys, population census
Further information and related links	The UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014–2017. Report of the Executive Director. New York (NY): United Nations Population Fund; 2013.