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| INDICATOR\_NUM | METADATA\_CATEGORY | METADATA\_CATEGORY\_DESC | METADATA\_DESCRIPTION |
| QV.4 | 1 | Contact point in international agency | Social and Gender Statistics Section, UNSD  [genderstat@un.org](mailto:genderstat@un.org) |
| QV.4 | 2 | International agreed definition | Marriage is defined as the act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of spouses is constituted. The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious or other means as recognized by the laws of each country.  Age is defined as age at last birthday, that is, the difference between the date of birth and the date of the occurrence of the event, expressed in completed solar years.  Countries or areas providing data on marriages by age of groom and bride have been requested to specify "the minimum legal age at which marriage can take place with and without parental consent". |
| QV.4 | 3 | Method of computation | Compiled by the United Nations Statistics Division and supplemented by data from the periodic country reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\) and data published by the United Nations Population Division. |
| QV.4 | 4 | Importance of the indicator in addressing gender issues and its limitation | This indicator shows the legal age at which young women can enter marriage. Social expectations often put pressure on girls to marry and begin bearing children at early ages before they are emotionally and physically ready. Adolescent girls who are married often find it difficult to access reproductive health services, negotiate the use of family planning methods with their partners, and marriage to older men may make girls more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections and HIV. |
| QV.4 | 5 | Sources of discrepancies between global and national figures |  |
| QV.4 | 6 | Process of obtaining data | Periodic review of data sources by UNSD |
| QV.4 | 7 | Treatment of missing values |  |
| QV.4 | 8 | Data availability and assessment of countries’ capacity |  |
| QV.4 | 9 | Expected time of release | UNSD will monitor the availability of data from UNPD and CEDAW country reports and will provide periodic updates as required. |
| QV.4 | 10 | Data source | Data and metadata were extracted from Demographic Yearbook 2019 on 21 June 2021.  For more information, please go to the following:   * [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/documents/dyb2019/Notes24.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/documents/dyb2019/Notes24.pdf) |