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| INDICATOR\_NUM | METADATA\_CATEGORY | METADATA\_CATEGORY\_DESC | METADATA\_DESCRIPTION |
| V.5 | 1 | Contact point in international agency | Karoline SchmidChief, Fertility and Family Planning SectionUN DESA/Population Division[schmidk@un.org](mailto:schmidk@un.org)[www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/fertility/index.shtml](www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/fertility/index.shtml) |
| V.5 | 2 | International agreed definition | \*\*Definition\*\* Annual number of births to females aged 10-14 or 15-19 years per 1,000 females in the respective age group.    \*\*Concepts\*\* The adolescent birth rate represents the level of childbearing among females in the particular age group. The adolescent birth rate among women aged 15-19 years is also referred to as the age-specific fertility rate for women aged 15-19. |
| V.5 | 3 | Method of computation | The adolescent birth rate is computed as a ratio. The numerator is the number of live births to women aged 15-19 years, and the denominator an estimate of exposure to childbearing by women aged 15-19 years. The computation is the same for the age group 10-14 years. The numerator and the denominator are calculated differently for civil registration, survey and census data.  In the case of civil registration data, 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.  In the case of survey data, the numerator is the number of live births obtained from retrospective birth histories of the interviewed women who were 15-19 years of age at the time of the births during a reference period before the interview, and the denominator is person-years lived between the ages of 15 and 19 years by the interviewed women during the same reference period. The reported observation year corresponds to the middle of the reference period. For some surveys without data on retrospective birth histories, computation of the adolescent birth rate is based on the date of last birth or the number of births in the 12 months preceding the survey.  With census data, the adolescent birth rate is 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.  Whenever data are available, adolescent fertility at ages 10-14 years can also be computed.  The regional or global aggregates of the adolescent birth rate for the age group 15-19 years are from the latest revision of World Population Prospects produced by the Population Division and are based on the average of estimated adolescent birth rates for two, contiguous five-year periods \(e.g., 2015-2020 and 2020-2025 for year 2020\).  Data is disaggregated by age and sex. |
| V.5 | 4 | Importance of the indicator in addressing gender issues and its limitation | Reducing adolescent fertility and addressing the multiple factors underlying it are essential for improving sexual and reproductive health and the social and economic well-being of adolescents. There is substantial agreement in the literature that women who become pregnant and give birth very early in their reproductive lives are subject to higher risks of complications or even death during pregnancy and birth and their children are also more vulnerable. Therefore, preventing births very early in a woman’s life is an important measure to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality. Furthermore, women having children at an early age experience reduced opportunity for socio-economic advancement, particularly because young mothers are less likely to complete their education and, if they need to work, may find it especially difficult to combine family and work responsibilities. The adolescent birth rate also provides indirect evidence on access to pertinent health services since young people, and in particular unmarried adolescent women, often experience difficulties in access to sexual and reproductive health services.  Discrepancies between estimates obtained from different national data are common.  For civil registration, rates are subject to limitations which depend on the completeness of birth registration, the treatment of infants born alive but die before registration or within the first 24 hours of life, the quality of the reported information relating to age of the mother, and the inclusion of births from previous periods. The population estimates may suffer from limitations connected to age misreporting and coverage.  For survey and census data, both the numerator and denominator come from the same population. The main limitations concern age misreporting, the omission of births, misreporting the date of birth of the child, and, in the case of surveys, sampling size and variability.  With respect to estimates of the adolescent birth rate among females aged 10-14 years, comparative evidence suggests that a very small proportion of births in this age group occur to females below age 12. Other evidence based on retrospective birth history data from surveys indicates that women aged 15-19 years are less likely to report first births before age 15 than women from the same birth cohort when asked five years later at ages 20–24 years.  The adolescent birth rate is commonly reported as the age-specific fertility rate for ages 15-19 years in the context of calculation of total fertility estimates. It has also been called adolescent fertility rate. A related measure is the proportion of adolescent fertility measured as the percentage of total fertility contributed by women aged 15-19. |
| V.5 | 5 | Sources of discrepancies between global and national figures | Estimates based on civil registration are only provided when the country reports at least 90 per cent coverage and when there is reasonable agreement between civil registration estimates and survey estimates. Small discrepancies might arise due to different denominators or the inclusion of births to women under 15 years of age. Survey estimates are only provided when there is no reliable civil registration. There might be discrepancies on the dating and the actual figure if a different reference period is being used. In particular, many surveys report rates both for a three-year and a five-year reference period. For countries where data are scarce, reference periods located more than five years before the survey might be used. |
| V.5 | 6 | Process of obtaining data | |  | | --- | | Civil registration is the preferred data source. Census and household survey are alternate sources when there is no reliable civil registration.  Data on births by age of mother are obtained from civil registration systems covering 90 per cent or more of all live births, supplemented eventually by census or survey estimates for periods when registration data are not available. For the numerator, the figures reported by National Statistical Offices to the United Nations Statistics Division have first priority. When they are not available or present problems, use is made of data from the regional statistical units or directly from National Statistical Offices. For the denominator, first priority is given to the latest revision of World Population Prospects produced by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. In cases where the numerator does not cover the complete de facto population, an alternative appropriate population estimate is used if available. When either the numerator or denominator is missing, the direct estimate of the rate produced by the National Statistics Office is used. Information on sources is provided at the cell level. When the numerator and denominator come from two different sources, they are listed in that order.  In countries lacking a civil registration system or where the coverage of that system is lower than 90 per | | cent of all live births, the adolescent birth rate is obtained from household survey data and census data. Registration data regarded as less than 90 per cent complete are exceptionally used for countries where the alternative sources present problems of compatibility and registration data can provide an assessment of trends. In countries with multiple survey programmes, large sample surveys conducted on an annual or biennial basis are given precedence when they exist. | |
| V.5 | 7 | Treatment of missing values |  |
| V.5 | 8 | Data availability and assessment of countries’ capacity |  |
| V.5 | 9 | Expected time of release | Data are compiled and updated annually in the first quarter of the year.  Updated data on the adolescent birth rate are released by the Population Division annually. The next release is expected in 2022. |
| V.5 | 10 | Data source | Data and metadata were extracted from Global SDG Indicators Database on 11 May 2021.    For more information, please go to the following:   * [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/￼https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/) * [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-03-07-02.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-03-07-02.pdf) |