

Data Dictionary

SEPTEMBER, 2020

| Field | Definition |
|--|---|
| Continent | The continent that the country belongs to |
| Sub-continent | The sub-continent that the country belongs to |
| Country | The country that the percentage distribution refers to |
| Percentage distribution of women aged 15-49 (per country) | <p>The percentage distribution of women aged 15-49 who have the relevant pregnancy intention and contraceptive use, for 2017.</p> <p>This data is part of a study by the Guttmacher Institute (Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2017). The principle data source on women's use of and need for contraceptives was nationally representative surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Reproductive Health Surveys, United Nations Children's Fund Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, and Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 surveys.</p> |
| Pregnancy intention | <p>The pregnancy intention amongst women aged 15-49 surveyed in the relevant country. This is split into women who want to avoid pregnancy, and those who do not want to avoid pregnancy.</p> <p>These classifications follow DHS definitions and methodology. Women are classified as wanting to avoid pregnancy (and therefore in need of modern contraceptives) if they or their partner are currently using a contraceptive method (traditional or modern), they are currently married or are unmarried and sexually active, and able to become pregnant but want to wait at least two years to have a child, their current pregnancy is unintended or they are experiencing postpartum amenorrhea (absence of menstruation) after an unintended pregnancy.</p> <p>Women classified as not wanting to avoid pregnancy include unmarried women who are not sexually active, women who are infertile or can't bear children, those who want to have a child in the next two years, and those who are currently experiencing an intended pregnancy, or postpartum amenorrhea from an intended pregnancy.</p> <p>This may, however, be an underestimate, as women who aren't currently using contraception, and who want to wait less than two years to have a child, may still want to avoid pregnancy at the current time. Similarly, sexual activity among unmarried women (and therefore risk of unintended pregnancy) may have been significantly underreported due to the stigma attached to non marital sex (https://www.guttmacher.org/report/adding-it-up-investing-in-contraception-maternal-newborn-health-2017-methodology).</p> |

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| Contraceptive availability | Whether contraceptives are available. For women who do not want to avoid pregnancy, this is not applicable. For women who do want to avoid pregnancy, modern contraceptive methods are either available - their contraceptive needs are being met, or unavailable - their contraceptive needs are not met. |
| Contraceptive method | <p>The contraceptive methods being used. For women who do not want to avoid pregnancy, this is not applicable. For women who want to avoid pregnancy, they are either using modern methods (and their contraceptive needs are being met), or they are using traditional methods, or no methods (and so their contraceptive needs are not being met).</p> <p>The report uses the categories of modern and traditional to distinguish between contraceptive methods with higher and lower use-failure rates. Modern methods include male and female sterilization, hormonal methods, IUDs, male and female condoms, modern fertility-awareness methods, other supply methods such as diaphragms and vaginal spermicides, and the lactational amenorrhea method. Traditional methods include periodic abstinence methods, withdrawal, and folk methods.</p> |

Data source:

For the data, and a detailed discussion and analysis of the methodology and classifications behind the report, please see: Darroch JE, *Adding It Up: Investing in Contraception and Maternal and Newborn Health, 2017—Estimation Methodology*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2018 (<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/adding-it-up-investing-in-contraception-maternal-newborn-health-2017-methodology>).