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7-2023

## Data Brief—Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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### Recommended Citation

Alhelou, Nay. 2023. "Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights," Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls Data Brief. New York: Population Council.

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# Girls Deliver

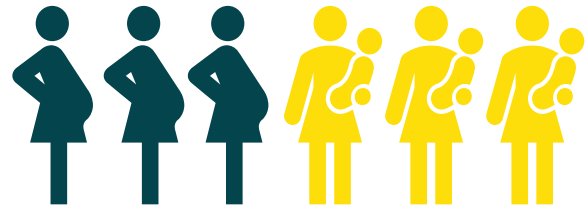
PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS  
KIGALI, RWANDA • 16 JULY 2023

ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

In a world of **1.8 billion young people** aged 10 to 24, it is now more important than ever to meet the needs of adolescents, **empower** them to overcome the challenges they face and work with them **hand-in-hand** to craft the future they want and deserve.

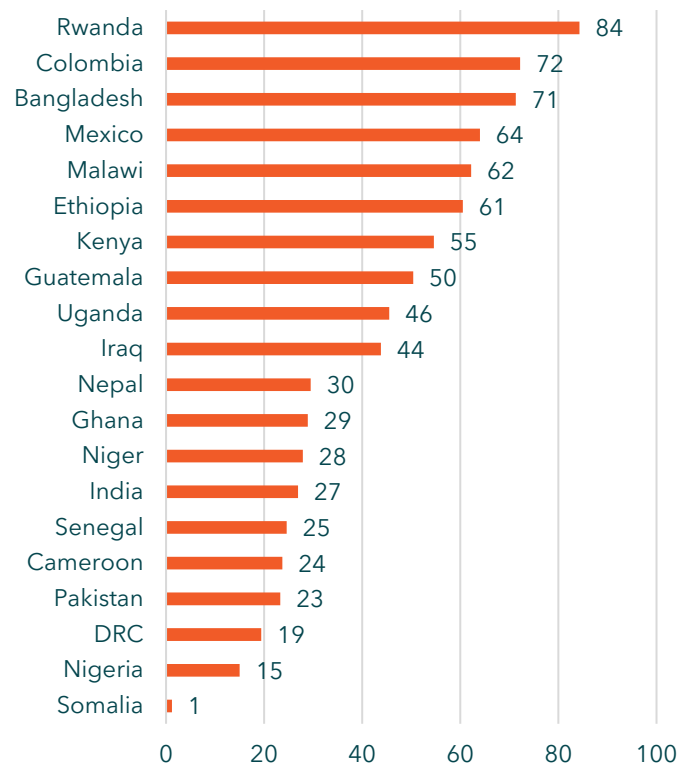
Sexual and reproductive health and rights are a **crucial part** of adolescents' lives and require special attention and action.



Every year, in low- and middle-income countries, **21 million** girls become **pregnant** and more than half of them, **12 million, give birth.**

### Yet...

- Girls aged 15-19 years are **twice as likely** to **die during childbirth** as their older counterparts.
- **55% of unintended pregnancies** among adolescent girls aged 15-19 years **end in abortions** which tend to be unsafe in LMICs.
- **Unsafe abortion** is a major contributor to **maternal deaths**, with 14 unsafe abortions performed for every 100 births across Africa.
- Worldwide, **only 1 in 2** adolescent girls and young women aged 15-19 have their demands for **family planning** satisfied by modern methods.
- **Less than half** of adolescent girls report making their own **informed decisions** on **healthcare, contraception** or **say no** to sex with their partner.



Percentage of adolescent girls (15-19) who report that their demand for family planning is satisfied with modern methods (UNICEF, 2021)

Today, more than **2 million adolescents** are living with HIV.

Coupled with HIV, complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the **leading cause of death** of girls 15-19.

Only **10% of young men** and **15% of young women** know their **HIV status**.

**Boys** are **more likely** to have **comprehensive knowledge** of HIV than girls.



**Girls** account for **3 in 4** new HIV infections among adolescents.

### What's getting in the way of adolescent's sexual and reproductive health and rights?

- Gender inequality and discrimination
- Lack of comprehensive knowledge about menstrual health and sexual and reproductive health
- Stigma, taboos and social restrictions
- Low levels of social autonomy
- Legal restrictions (including restricting access to contraception, abortion, forced early marriage and age of consent)
- Socioeconomic factors
- Inadequate and/or insufficient data on specific populations

### What adolescents want and need...



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This data brief was created by the Population Council's GIRL Center in collaboration with African Institute for Development Policy to inform the thematic roundtable discussion on "Adolescent Engagement and Program Integration: The Services We Want vs What We've Got" at the Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls held in Kigali, Rwanda ahead of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference.

Suggested citation:

Alhelou, Nay. "Adolescent and Sexual Health and Rights," Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls Data Brief. New York: Population Council.