

# Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM LA ENCUESTA DEMOGRÁFICA Y DE SALUD DE REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA (ENDESARD), 2013

## Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Dominican Republic, there are over **2 million** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **19.0%** of the country's total population.<sup>i</sup> The majority of adolescents live in urban areas, **78.6%** of adolescent girls and **77.0%** of adolescent boys.<sup>i</sup>

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is **11.0**, while for adolescent boys it is **9.8**.<sup>ii</sup> Among adolescents who become mothers before age 20, the average age at which Dominican adolescent girls have their first baby is **17.0** years.<sup>ii</sup>

## Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the ENDESARD<sup>ii</sup> shows that nearly **440 000** Dominicans aged 15–19 are currently sexually active – they are either unmarried and have had sex in the last three months or they are in a union (i.e. married or living together). On average, among adolescents who had sex before age 20, adolescent girls first have sexual intercourse at age **16.1** years and adolescent boys at **15.2** years.

Among unmarried adolescents, **32.2%** of adolescent girls report ever having sex and **24.5%** are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, **57.7%** report ever having sex, while **41.0%** are currently sexually active.

Among all Dominican adolescents, **20.5%** of adolescent girls and **3.8%** of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is **16.2** years for adolescent girls and **17.4** for adolescent boys.

## What can be done to support Dominican adolescents to prevent unintended pregnancy?

Plan for how, when and where different groups of sexually active adolescents (married and unmarried, boys and girls, rural and urban) use and do not use contraception.

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception, and develop policies and programmes to better address their needs.

Understand that adolescents may get contraception from a variety of sources and ensure that each of these sources can provide high quality services for adolescents.

# Contraceptive use and non-use among adolescent girls

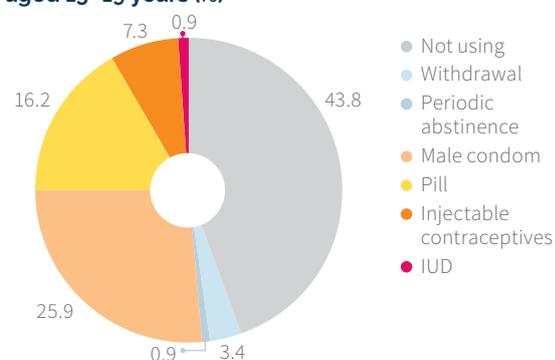
## Unmarried, sexually active

According to ENDESARD<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **71.5%** of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, and **58.1%** of them are currently using a method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- infrequent sex (**37.6%**)
- not married (**19.6%**)
- not having sex (**15.7%**)

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, **43.8%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms and pills are the most common modern methods used (**25.9%** and **16.2%** of these adolescent girls, respectively), and injectable contraceptive are used by **7.3%**. IUDs, which are considered to be one of the most effective methods, are used by **0.9%**. Withdrawal or periodic abstinence, traditional methods, are used by **4.3%** (see Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1. Use and non-use of contraception: unmarried sexually active adolescent girls, aged 15–19 years (%)**



Source: analysis of ENDESARD 2013<sup>ii</sup>

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Unmarried, sexually active adolescents who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (46.1%)** or a **government facility (28.1%)**.

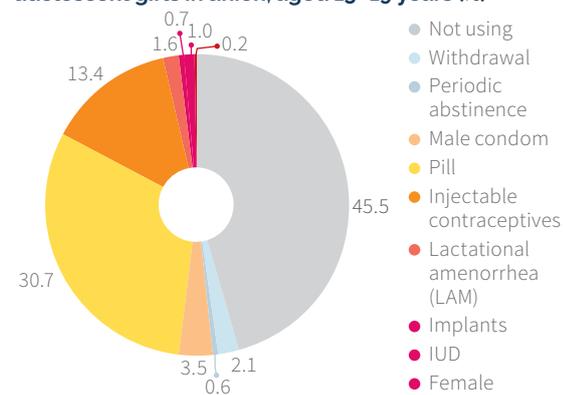
## In union

According to ENDESARD<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **67.1%** of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, and **62.9%** of them are currently using a method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- menses has not returned after giving birth (**22.9%**)
- infrequent sex (**17.1%**)
- fear of side-effects or health concerns (**11.4%**)

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, **45.5%** are not using a method of contraception. Pills and injectable contraceptives are the most common modern methods used (**30.7%** and **13.4%** of these adolescent girls, respectively). IUDs and implants, which are among the most effective methods, are used by **1.0%** and **0.7%** respectively. Female sterilization, a permanent method, is used by **0.2%**. Traditional methods (withdrawal or periodic abstinence) are used by **2.7%** of these adolescent girls (see Figure 2).

**FIGURE 2. Use and non-use of contraception: adolescent girls in union, aged 15–19 years (%)**



Source: analysis of ENDESARD 2013<sup>ii</sup>

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Adolescents in a union who are using a modern method most often get it from a **government facility (51.2%)** or a **pharmacy (35.6%)**.

LEARN MORE AT [who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use](http://who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use)

<sup>i</sup> Urban and rural population by age and sex, 1980–2015 [online database]. New York (USA): United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division; 2014 (<https://esa.un.org/unpd/popdev/urpas/urpas2014.aspx>, accessed 4 November 2016).

<sup>ii</sup> Centro de Estudios Sociales y Demográficos (CESDEM) [Dominican Republic], ICF International. Encuesta Demográfica y de Salud de República Dominicana 2013 [Datasets]. DRIR61.DTA and DRMR61.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2014 ([http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Dominican-Republic\\_Standard-DHS\\_2013.cfm?flag=0](http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Dominican-Republic_Standard-DHS_2013.cfm?flag=0), accessed 4 November 2016).

# Adolescent contraceptive use

ANALYSIS OF LA ENCUESTA DEMOGRÁFICA Y DE SALUD DE REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, 2013



Among adolescents who had sex before age 20, the average age at first sex is



16.1 years  
for adolescent girls



15.2 years  
for adolescent boys

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



2

million  
adolescents  
ages 10-19

Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at first birth is

17.0

for adolescent girls

## What can be done to support Dominican adolescents to prevent unintended pregnancy?

Plan for how, when, and where different groups of adolescents use or don't use contraception.

### Use and non-use of contraception adolescent girls, aged 15-19

Method	Sexually active, unmarried	In union
Not using	43.8%	45.5%
Withdrawal	3.4%	2.1%
Periodic abstinence	0.9%	0.6%
Male condom	25.9%	3.5%
Pill	16.2%	30.7%
Injectable contraceptives	7.3%	13.4%
Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)	--	1.6%
Implants	--	0.7%
IUD	0.9%	1.0%
Female sterilization	--	0.2%

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.

### Report not wanting a child in the next two years

71.5%  
sexually active,  
unmarried  
adolescent girls

67.1%  
adolescent  
girls  
in union

### Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active,  
unmarried

37.6% infrequent sex

19.6% not married

15.7% not having sex

In union

22.9% menses has not returned after giving birth

17.1% infrequent sex

11.4% fear of side-effects or health concerns

Understand that adolescents may get modern contraception from a variety of sources.



Sexually active, unmarried

46.1%  
from a  
pharmacy

28.1%  
from a  
government  
facility



In union

51.2%  
from a  
government  
facility

35.6%  
from a  
pharmacy

LEARN MORE AT [who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use](http://who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use)

Centro de Estudios Sociales y Demográficos (CESDEM) [Dominican Republic], ICF International. Encuesta Demográfica y de Salud de República Dominicana 2013 [Datasets]. DRIR61.DTA and DRMR61.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2014 ([http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Dominican-Republic\\_Standard-DHS\\_2013.cfm?flag=0](http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Dominican-Republic_Standard-DHS_2013.cfm?flag=0), accessed 4 November 2016).

COMPILED IN 2016 | UPDATED NOVEMBER 2016

# Icon Directory

## METHODS:

-  Not using
-  Withdrawal
-  Periodic abstinence
-  Rhythm/calendar
-  Female condom
-  Male condom
-  Standard days/cycle beads
-  Pill
-  Injectable contraceptives
-  Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)
-  Implants
-  IUD
-  Male sterilization
-  Female sterilization

## REASONS FOR NON-USE:

-  Not married
-  Not having sex
-  Infrequent sex
-  Menses has not returned after birth
-  Breastfeeding
-  Fatalistic (up to god)
-  She is opposed
-  Husband/partner is opposed
-  Religious prohibition
-  Knows no method
-  Knows no source
-  Fear of side effects/health concerns
-  Inconvenient to use
-  Others opposed
-  Lack of access/too far

## SOURCE OF METHOD:

-  Government facility
-  Private facility
-  Pharmacy
-  Shop
-  Friends or parents
-  Other
-  Community Health Worker