

# Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM THE ETHIOPIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY (EDHS), 2011

## Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, there are **24 million** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **20.0%** of the country's total population.<sup>i</sup> Over three quarters of adolescents live in rural areas, **78.9%** of adolescent girls and **80.6%** of adolescent boys.<sup>i</sup>

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is **4.8**, while for adolescent boys it is **5.7**.<sup>ii</sup> Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which Ethiopian adolescent girls have their first baby is **17.0** years, while the average age at which adolescent boys first become fathers is **18.0**.<sup>ii</sup>

## Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the EDHS<sup>ii</sup> shows that nearly **2 million** Ethiopians 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 and boys both first have sexual intercourse at age **15.8** years.

Among unmarried adolescents, **6.8%** of adolescent girls report ever having sex and **2.2%** are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, **7.8%** report ever having sex, while **3.8%** are currently sexually active.

Among all Ethiopian adolescents, **19.1%** of adolescent girls and **2.1%** of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is **15.7** years for adolescent girls and **17.2** for adolescent boys.

## What can be done to support Ethiopian 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

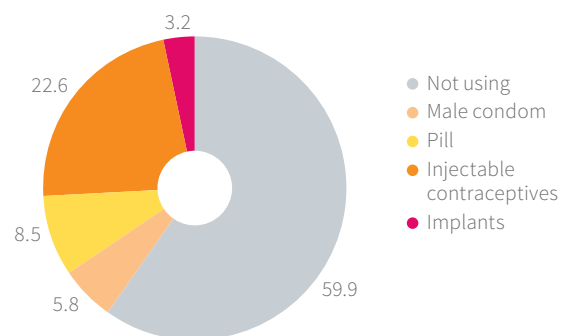
## Unmarried, sexually active

According to EDHS<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **55.9%** of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **38.1%** of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- **not married (30.7%)**
- **infrequent sex (25.1%)**
- **fear of side-effects or health concerns (12.6%)**

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, **59.9%** are not using a method of contraception. Injectable contraceptives and pills are the most common modern methods used (**22.6%** and **8.5%** of these adolescent girls, respectively), while implants, which are considered to be one of the most effective methods, are used by **3.2%** (see Figure 1).

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



Source: analysis of EDHS 2011<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 **government facility (55.1%)** or a **private facility (31.9%)**.

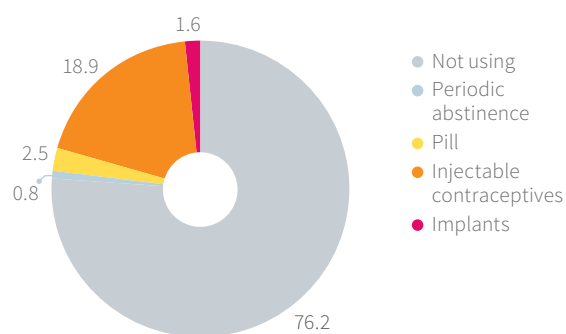
## In union

According to EDHS<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **57.0%** of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **29.2%** of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- **menses has not returned after giving birth (17.3%)**
- **breastfeeding (15.4%)**
- **husband or partner is opposed (8.1%)**

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, **76.2%** are not using a method of contraception. Injectable contraceptives are the most common modern method used (**18.9%** of these adolescent girls), while **1.6%** are using implants, one of the most effective methods. Periodic abstinence, a traditional method, is used by **0.8%** (see Figure 2).

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



Source: analysis of EDHS 2011<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 (77.3%)** or a **private facility (22.3%)**.

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> Central Statistical Agency [Ethiopia], ICF International. 2012. Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2011 [Datasets]. ETIR61.DTA and ETMR61.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2012 ([http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Ethiopia\\_Standard-DHS\\_2011.cfm?flag=0](http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Ethiopia_Standard-DHS_2011.cfm?flag=0), accessed 4 November 2016).

# Adolescent contraceptive use

ANALYSIS OF THE ETHIOPIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY, 2011



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



15.8 years  
for adolescent girls



15.8 years  
for adolescent boys

## FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA



24

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

18.0

for adolescent boys

## What can be done to support Ethiopian 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	59.9%	76.2%
Periodic abstinence	--	0.8%
Male condom	5.8%	--
Pill	8.5%	2.5%
Injectable contraceptives	22.6%	18.9%
Implants	3.2%	1.6%

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.

Report not wanting a child in the next two years

55.9%  
sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls

57.0%  
adolescent girls in union

### Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active, unmarried	In union
30.7% not married	17.3% menses has not returned after giving birth
25.1% infrequent sex	15.4% breastfeeding
12.6% fear of side-effects or health concerns	8.1% husband or partner opposed

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



Sexually active, unmarried

55.1%

from a government facility

31.9%

from a private facility



In union

77.3%

from a government facility















22.3%

from a private facility
















Central Statistical Agency [Ethiopia], ICF International. 2012. Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2011 [Datasets]. ETIR61.DTA and ETMR61.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2012 ([http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Ethiopia\\_Standard-DHS\\_2011.cfm?flag=0](http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Ethiopia_Standard-DHS_2011.cfm?flag=0), accessed 4 November 2016).  
COMPILED IN 2016 | UPDATED NOVEMBER 2016

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## 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