

# Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM LA ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE DEMOGRAFÍA Y SALUD DE BOLIVIA (ENDSAB), 2008

## Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, there are **2.4 million** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **21.4%** of the country's total population.<sup>i</sup> The majority of adolescents live in urban areas, **68.3%** of adolescent girls and **66.5%** of adolescent boys.<sup>i</sup>

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is **10.3**, while for adolescent boys it is **10.9**.<sup>ii</sup> Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which Bolivian adolescent girls have their first baby is **17.2** years, while the average age at which adolescent boys first become fathers is **17.8**.<sup>ii</sup>

## Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the ENDSAB<sup>ii</sup> shows that over **283 000** Bolivians 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 **16.7** years and adolescent boys at **16.1** years.

Among unmarried adolescents, **19.2%** of adolescent girls report ever having sex and **8.7%** are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, **35.3%** report ever having sex, while **23.7%** are currently sexually active.

Among all Bolivian adolescents, **13.4%** of adolescent girls and **3.7%** of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is **16.8** years for adolescent girls and **17.3** for adolescent boys.

## What can be done to support Bolivian 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

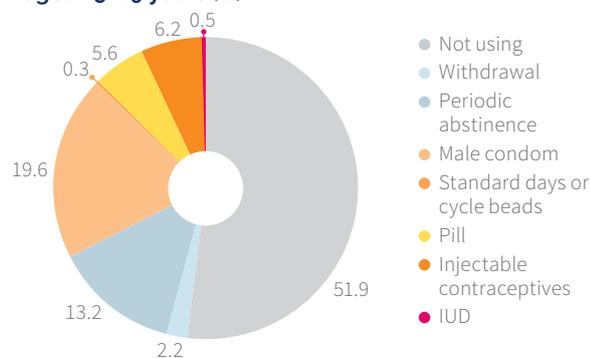
## Unmarried, sexually active

According to ENDSAB<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **84.8%** unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **48.8%** 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 (51.5%)**
- **infrequent sex (54.7%)**
- **not having sex (22.6%)**

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, **51.9%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms and injectable contraceptives are the most common modern methods used (**19.6%** and **6.2%** of these adolescent girls, respectively). IUDs, which are considered to be one of the most effective methods, are used by **0.5%**. Traditional methods (withdrawal or periodic abstinence) are used by **15.4%** (see Figure 1).

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



Source: analysis of ENDSAB 2008<sup>i</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 (60.9%)** or a **government facility (24.7%)**.

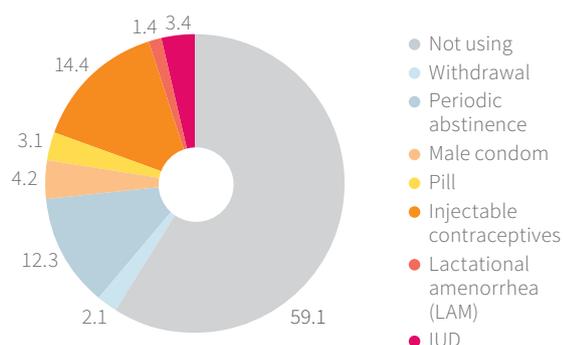
## In union

According to ENDSAB<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **74.5%** of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **46.4%** 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 (31.8%)**
- **not having sex (21.0%)**
- **infrequent sex (18.5%)**

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, **59.1%** are not using a method of contraception. Injectable contraceptives are the most common modern method used (**14.4%** of these adolescent girls), while **3.4%** are using IUDs. Traditional methods (withdrawal or periodic abstinence) are used by **14.4%** 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 ENDSAB 2008<sup>i</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 (52.0%)** or a **pharmacy (36.1%)**.

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>Ministerio de Salud y Deportes [Bolivia], Instituto Nacional de Estadística, ICF International. Encuesta Nacional de Demografía y Salud (ENDSA) de Bolivia 2008 [Datasets]. BOIR51.DTA and BOMR51.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2009 ([http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Bolivia\\_Standard-DHS\\_2008.cfm?flag=0](http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Bolivia_Standard-DHS_2008.cfm?flag=0), accessed 4 November 2016).

# Adolescent contraceptive use

ANÁLISIS DE LA ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE DEMOGRAFÍA Y SALUD DE BOLIVIA, 2008



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



16.7 years  
for adolescent girls



16.1 years  
for adolescent boys

## PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA



2.4

million adolescents  
ages 10-19

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

17.2

for adolescent girls

17.8

for adolescent boys

## What can be done to support Bolivian 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	51.9%	59.1%
Withdrawal	2.2%	2.1%
Periodic abstinence	13.2%	12.3%
Male condom	19.6%	4.2%
Standard days or cycle beads	0.3%	--
Pill	5.6%	3.1%
Injectable contraceptives	6.2%	14.4%
Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)	--	1.4%
IUD	0.5%	3.4%

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.

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

84.8%

sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls

74.5%

adolescent girls in union

### Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active, unmarried



51.5% not married

In union



31.8% menses has not returned after giving birth



54.7% infrequent sex



21.0% not having sex



22.6% not having sex



18.5% infrequent sex

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



Sexually active, unmarried

60.9%

from a pharmacy

24.7%

from a government facility



52.0%

from a government facility



In union

36.1%

from a pharmacy

# 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