Adolescent contraceptive use
DATA FROM L’ENQUÊTE DÉMOGRAPHIQUE ET DE SANTÉ DU BÉNIN (EDSB), 2011-2012

Adolescent population: who are they?

In Republic of Bénin, there are 2.5 million adolescents aged 10–19 years – 23.2% of the country’s total population. Just over half of adolescents live in rural areas, 51.4% of adolescent girls and 54.8% of adolescent boys.

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is 5.8, while for adolescent boys it is 8.4. Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which Beninese adolescent girls have their first baby is 16.8 years, while the average age at which adolescent boys first become fathers is 18.0.

Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the EDSB shows that over 367,000 Beninese 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 16.3 years and adolescent boys at 15.9 years.

Among unmarried adolescents, 37.2% of adolescent girls report ever having sex and 24.1% are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, 36.7% report ever having sex, while 23.0% are currently sexually active.

Among all Beninese adolescents, 13.8% of adolescent girls and 1.8% 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 17.6 for adolescent boys.

What can be done to support Beninese 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 EDSB\textsuperscript{ii} analyses, 70.1\% of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only 34.0\% 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 (46.9\%)
- infrequent sex (22.4\%)
- fear of side-effects or health concerns (12.8\%)

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, 65.9\% are not using a method of contraception. Pills and male condoms are the most common modern methods used (23.8\% and 17.6\% of these adolescent girls, respectively). Implants, which are considered to be one of the most effective methods, are used by 0.3\% and female sterilization, a permanent method, is used by 0.2\%. Traditional methods (withdrawal or periodic abstinence) are used by 9.2\% of these adolescent girls (see Figure 1).

In union

According to EDSB\textsuperscript{ii} analyses, 29.3\% of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only 6.3\% of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- breastfeeding (33.7\%)
- infrequent sex (17.5\%)
- knows no method (11.9\%)

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, the majority (91.8\%) are not using a method of contraception. Among users, 1\% or fewer are using one of the following modern methods: IUD, implants, lactational amenorrhea (LAM), injectable contraceptives, pills and male condoms. Traditional methods (withdrawal or periodic abstinence) are used by 2.5\% (see Figure 2).

LEARN MORE AT who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use


Adolescent contraceptive use
ANALYSIS OF L’ENQUÊTE DÉMOGRAPHIQUE ET DE SANTÉ DU BÉNIN, 2011-2012

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

- 16.3 years for adolescent girls
- 15.9 years for adolescent boys

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

- 16.8 million adolescents ages 10-19 for adolescent girls
- 18.0 million adolescents ages 10-19 for adolescent boys

What can be done to support Beninese adolescents to prevent unintended pregnancy?

- Plan for how, when, and where different groups of adolescents use or don’t use contraception.
- Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.
- Understand that adolescents may get modern contraception from a variety of sources.

Use and non-use of contraception among adolescents aged 15-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Sexually active, unmarried</th>
<th>In union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not using</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodic abstinence</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female condom</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male condom</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pill</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injectable contraceptives</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implants</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUD</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sterilization</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main reasons for not using contraception

- Sexually active, unmarried
  - 46.9% not married
  - 22.4% infrequent sex
  - 12.8% fear of side-effects or health concerns
  - 11.9% knows no method

- In union
  - 33.7% breastfeeding
  - 17.5% infrequent sex
  - 11.9% knows no method

Report not wanting a child in the next two years

- 70.1% sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls
- 29.3% adolescent girls in union

LEARN MORE AT who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use
### 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

### 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

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