

Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM THE ALBANIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY (ADHS), 2008-09

Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Republic of Albania, there are **515 000** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **22.6%** of the country's total population.ⁱ The majority of adolescents live in urban areas, **54.0%** of adolescent girls and **54.1%** of adolescent boys.ⁱ

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is **10.2**, while for adolescent boys it is **10.3**.ⁱⁱ Among adolescent girls who become parents before age 20, the average age at which they have their first baby is **18.2** years.ⁱⁱ

Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the ADHSⁱⁱ shows that over **35 000** Albanians 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, both adolescent girls and boys first have sexual intercourse at age **17.6** years.

Among unmarried adolescents, **5.4%** of adolescent girls report ever having sex and **3.7%** are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, **18.3%** report ever having sex, while **12.5%** are currently sexually active.

Among all Albanian adolescents, **7.4%** of adolescent girls and **1.0%** of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is **17.6** years for adolescent girls and **18.7** for adolescent boys.

What can be done to support Albanian 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

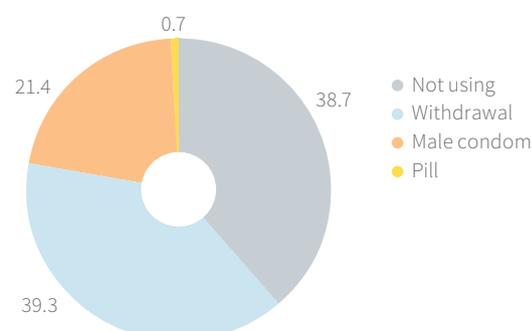
Unmarried, sexually active

According to ADHSⁱⁱ analyses, **50.6%** of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **52.1%** of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- partner is opposed (**32.1%**)
- not married (**21.3%**)
- infrequent sex (**16.1%**)

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, **38.7%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method used (**21.4%** of these adolescent girls), while pills are used by **0.7%**. Withdrawal, a traditional method, is used by **39.3%** of these adolescent girls (see Figure 1).

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



Source: analysis of ADHS 2008–09ⁱⁱ

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Unmarried, sexually active adolescents who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (49.6%)** or **friends or a partner (43.5%)**.

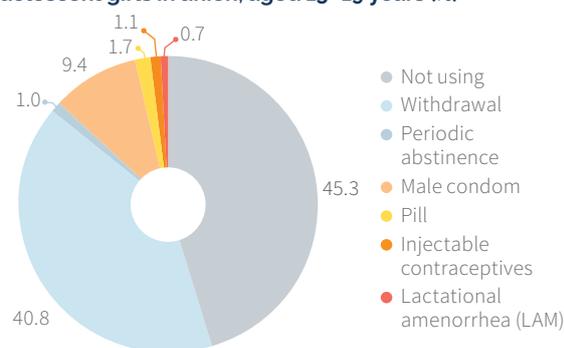
In union

According to ADHSⁱⁱ analyses, **35.2%** of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **27.2%** of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- infrequent sex (**55.7%**)
- she is opposed (**19.7%**)
- breastfeeding (**18.7%**)

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, **45.3%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method used (**9.4%** of these adolescent girls), while **1.7%** are using pills and **1.1%** are using injectable contraceptives. Withdrawal, a traditional method, is used by **40.8%** 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 ADHS 2008–09ⁱⁱ

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Adolescents in a union who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (90.7%)** or a **government facility (9.3%)**.

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

ⁱ 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).

ⁱⁱ Institute of Statistics [Albania], Institute of Public Health [Albania], ICF Macro. Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2008–09 [Datasets]. ALIR50.DTA and ALMR50.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2010 (http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Albania_Standard-DHS_2008.cfm?flag=0, accessed 4 November 2016).

Adolescent contraceptive use

ANALYSIS OF THE ALBANIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY, 2008-09



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



17.6 years
for adolescent girls



17.6 years
for adolescent boys

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



0.5

million
adolescents
ages 10-19

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

18.2

for adolescent girls

What can be done to support Albanian 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	38.7%	45.3%
Withdrawal	39.3%	40.8%
Periodic abstinence	--	1.0%
Male condom	21.4%	9.4%
Pill	0.7%	1.7%
Injectable contraceptives	--	1.1%
Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)	--	0.7%

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.

Report not wanting a child in the next two years

50.6%
sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls

35.2%
adolescent girls in union

Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active, unmarried	In union
32.1% partner is opposed	55.7% infrequent sex
21.3% not married	19.7% she is opposed
16.1% infrequent sex	18.7% breastfeeding

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



Sexually active, unmarried

49.6%
from a
pharmacy

43.5%
from
friends or a
partner



In union

90.7%
from a
pharmacy

9.3%
from a
government
facility

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Institute of Statistics [Albania], Institute of Public Health [Albania], ICF Macro, Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2008-09 [Datasets], ALIR50.DTA and ALMR50.DTA, Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2010 (http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Albania_Standard-DHS_2008.cfm?flag=0, accessed 4 November 2016).
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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