

Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM LA ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE DEMOGRAFÍA Y SALUD DE COLOMBIA (ENDSC), 2010

Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Republic of Colombia, there are **8.8 million** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **17.8%** of the country's total population.ⁱ The majority of adolescents live in urban areas, **73.7%** of adolescent girls and **72.5%** of adolescent boys.ⁱ

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is **10.2**.ⁱⁱ Among adolescents who become mothers before age 20, the average age at which Colombian adolescent girls have their first baby is **17.1** years.ⁱⁱ

Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the ENDSCⁱⁱ shows that more than **940 000** Colombian adolescent girls, 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 adolescent girls who had sex before age 20, they first have sexual intercourse at age **16.2** years.

Among unmarried adolescents, **42.0%** of adolescent girls report ever having sex and **30.0%** are currently sexually active.

Among all Colombian adolescent girls, **13.7%** are in a union. Among these adolescent girls, the mean age of the first union is **16.6** years.

What can be done to support Colombian 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

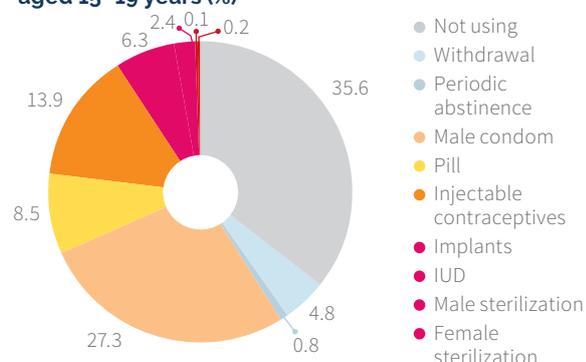
Unmarried, sexually active

According to ENDSCⁱⁱ analyses, **93.0%** of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, and **66.1%** 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 (50.4%)**
- **not having sex (20.4%)**
- **not married (16.5%)**

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, **35.6%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms and injectable contraceptives are the most common modern methods used (**27.3%** and **13.9%** of these adolescent girls, respectively). IUDs and implants, which are among the most effective methods, are used by **2.4%** and **6.3%** respectively. Female sterilization and male sterilization, permanent methods, are used by **0.2%** and **0.1%**, respectively. Traditional methods, withdrawal or periodic abstinence, are used by **5.6%** (see Figure 1).

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



Source: analysis of ENDSC 2010ⁱⁱ

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Unmarried, sexually active adolescents who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (56.5%)** or a **government facility (27.9%)**.

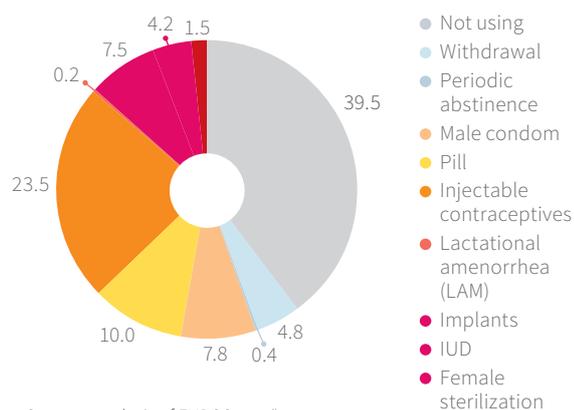
In union

According to ENDSCⁱⁱ analyses, **76.4%** of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years and **66.6%** 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 (16.5%)**
- **breastfeeding (13.2%)**
- **infrequent sex (12.3%)**

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, **39.5%** are not using a method of contraception. Injectable contraceptives and pills are the most common modern methods used (**23.5%** and **10.0%** of these adolescent girls, respectively), while **7.5%** are using implants and **4.2%** are using IUDs. Female sterilization, a permanent method, is used by **1.5%** of these adolescent girls. Traditional methods, withdrawal or periodic abstinence, are used by **5.2%** (see Figure 2).

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



Source: analysis of ENDSC 2010ⁱⁱ

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 (58.5%)** or a **pharmacy (31.0%)**.

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

ⁱUrban 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).

ⁱⁱAsociación Probienestar de la Familia Colombiana (Profamilia), ICF International. La Encuesta Nacional de Demografía y Salud de Colombia 2010 [Datasets]. COIR61.DTA and COMR61.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2011 (http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Colombia_Standard-DHS_2010.cfm?flag=0, accessed 4 November 2016).

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ANÁLISIS DE LA ENCUESTA NACIONAL DE DEMOGRAFÍA Y SALUD DE COLOMBIA, 2010



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



REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA



million adolescents ages 10-19

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



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

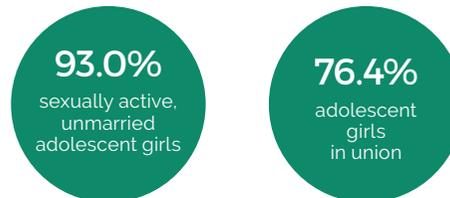
Plan for how, when, and where different groups of adolescents use or don't use contraception.

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

Method	Sexually active, unmarried	In union
Not using	35.6%	39.5%
Withdrawal	4.8%	4.8%
Periodic abstinence	0.8%	0.4%
Male condom	27.3%	7.8%
Pill	8.5%	10.0%
Injectable contraceptives	13.9%	23.5%
Lactational amenorrhea (LAM)	--	0.2%
Implants	6.3%	7.5%
IUD	2.4%	4.2%
Male sterilization	0.1%	--
Female sterilization	0.2%	1.5%

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.

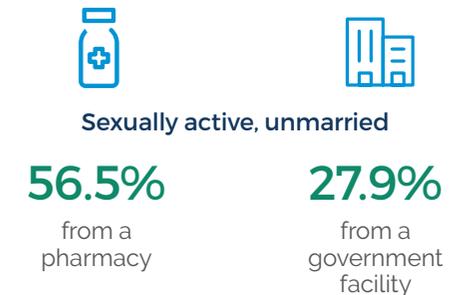
Report not wanting a child in the next two years



Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active, unmarried	In union
50.4% infrequent sex	16.5% menses has not returned after giving birth
20.4% not having sex	13.2% breastfeeding
16.5% not married	12.3% infrequent sex

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



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