

# Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM THE MALDIVES DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY (MDHS), 2009

## Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Republic of Maldives, there over **64 000** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **17.8%** of the country's total population.<sup>i</sup> Over half of all adolescents live in rural areas, **53.3%** of adolescent girls and **56.8%** of adolescent boys.<sup>i</sup>

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by married adolescent girls is **9.5**.<sup>ii</sup> Among married adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which Maldivian girls have their first baby is **18.4** years.<sup>ii</sup>

## Sexual activity and marital status

According to data from the MDHS<sup>ii</sup>, on average, among married adolescents who had sex before age 20, adolescent girls first have sexual intercourse at age **18.2** years. Among married Maldivian adolescent girls, the mean age of the first marriage is **18.2** years.

## What can be done to support married Maldivian adolescents to prevent unintended pregnancy?

Plan for how, when and where different groups of sexually active adolescents (boys and girls, rural and urban) use and do not use contraception.

Learn the reasons why married adolescents are not using contraception, and develop policies and programmes to better address their needs.

Understand that married 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

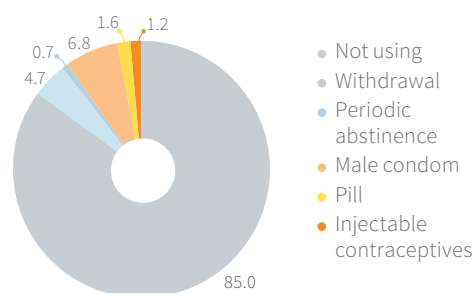
### Married

According to MDHS<sup>ii</sup> analyses, **35.1%** of married adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **11.1%** of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a method include:

- she is opposed (**41.4%**)
- fear of side-effects or health concerns (**22.9%**)
- husband is opposed (**4.8%**)

Among all married adolescent girls aged 15–19, **85.0%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method used (**6.8%** of these adolescent girls). Pills are used by **1.6%** and injectable contraceptives are used by **1.2%**. Traditional methods (withdrawal or periodic abstinence) are used by **5.4%** of these adolescent girls (see Figure 1).

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



Source: analysis of MDHS 2009<sup>ii</sup>

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Married adolescents who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (57.4%)** or a **government facility (23.3%)**.

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>Ministry of Health and Family [Maldives], ICF Macro. Maldives Demographic and Health Survey 2009 [Datasets]. MVIR51.DTA. Calverton (MD): ICF International; 2010 ([http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Maldives\\_Standard-DHS\\_2009.cfm?flag=0](http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Maldives_Standard-DHS_2009.cfm?flag=0), accessed 4 November 2016).

# Adolescent contraceptive use

ANALYSIS OF THE MALDIVES DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY, 2009



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



## REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



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



## What can be done to support married Maldivian 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 married adolescent girls, aged 15-19

Method	Married
Not using	85.0%
Withdrawal	4.7%
Periodic abstinence	0.7%
Male condom	6.8%
Pill	1.6%
Injectable contraceptives	1.2%

Learn the reasons why married adolescents are not using contraception.

Report not wanting a child in the next two years



Main reasons for not using contraception

- Married**
- 41.4% she is opposed
  - 22.9% fear of side-effects or health concerns
  - 4.8% husband is opposed

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

Married



**57.4%**  
from a pharmacy

















**23.3%**  
from a government facility
















LEARN MORE AT [who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use](http://who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use)

# 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