Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM L’ENQUÊTE DÉMOGRAPHIQUE ET DE SANTÉ DU MALI (EDSM), 2012-2013

Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Republic of Mali, there are nearly 3.8 million adolescents aged 10–19 years – 23.4% of the country’s total population. The majority of adolescents live in rural areas, 54.4% of adolescent girls and 60.0% of adolescent boys.

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is 4.1, while for adolescent boys it is 6.2. Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which Malian adolescent girls have their first baby is 16.3 years, while the average age at which adolescent boys first become fathers is 17.5.

Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the EDSM shows that over 614,000 Malians 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 15.5 years and adolescent boys at 16.4 years.

Among unmarried adolescents, 28.8% of adolescent girls report ever having sex and 17.4% are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, 16.9% report ever having sex, while 10.3% are currently sexually active.

Among all Malian adolescents, 43.0% of adolescent girls and 2.1% of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is 15.6 years for adolescent girls and 17.8 for adolescent boys.

What can be done to support Malian 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.
Unmarried, sexually active

According to EDSMii analyses, 44.4% of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, and only 11.7% 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 (87.0%)
- religious prohibition (48.6%)
- knows no method (7.5%)

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, 75.8% are not using a method of contraception. Injectable contraceptives are the most common modern method used (6.9% of these adolescent girls), while implants and IUDs, which are among the most effective methods, are used by 6.1% and 0.5%, respectively. Only a small proportion (1.2%) are periodic abstinence, a traditional method (see Figure 1).

In union

According to EDSMii analyses, 25.3% of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, and only 13.5% of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons given for not using a contraceptive method include:

- breastfeeding (30.8%)
- husband or partner is opposed (16.3%)
- menses has not returned after giving birth (11.9%)

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, 93.3% are not using a method of contraception. Injectable contraceptives are the most common modern method used (3.8% of these adolescent girls), while implants are used by 1.4% (see Figure 2).
Adolescent contraceptive use

Republic of Mali

Among adolescents who had sex before age 20, the average age at first sex is
- 15.5 years for adolescent girls
- 16.4 years for adolescent boys

Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at first birth is
- 15.5 years for adolescent girls
- 16.4 years for adolescent boys

What can be done to support Malian 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.

Report not wanting a child in the next two years
- 44.4% sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls
- 25.3% adolescent girls in union

Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active, unmarried
- 87.0% not married
- 48.6% religious prohibition
- 7.5% knows no method

In union
- 30.8% breastfeeding
- 16.3% husband or partner is opposed
- 11.9% menses has not returned after giving birth

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

Sexually active, unmarried
- 59.5% from a government facility
- 33.0% from a pharmacy

In union
- 78.5% from a government facility
- 9.2% from a private facility

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