

Adolescent contraceptive use

DATA FROM L'ENQUÊTE DÉMOGRAPHIQUE ET DE SANTÉ (EDS-RDC) EN RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, 2013-14

Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there are **16.7 million** adolescents aged 10–19 years – **23.4%** of the country's total population.ⁱ About half of adolescents live in rural areas, **51.5%** of adolescent girls and **49.5%** of adolescent boys.ⁱ

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is **7.4**, while for adolescent boys it is **8.3**.ⁱⁱ Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which adolescent girls from the Democratic Republic of the Congo have their first baby is **17.1** years, while the average age at which adolescent boys first become fathers is **18.1**.ⁱⁱ

Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the EDS-RDCⁱⁱ shows that over **3 million** adolescents from the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 **15.8** years.

Among unmarried adolescents, **39.1%** of adolescent girls report ever having sex and **24.2%** are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, **45.8%** report ever having sex, while **30.9%** are currently sexually active.

Among all adolescents from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, **21.3%** of adolescent girls and **2.0%** of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is **16.4** years for adolescent girls and **17.7** for adolescent boys.

What can be done to support adolescents from the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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

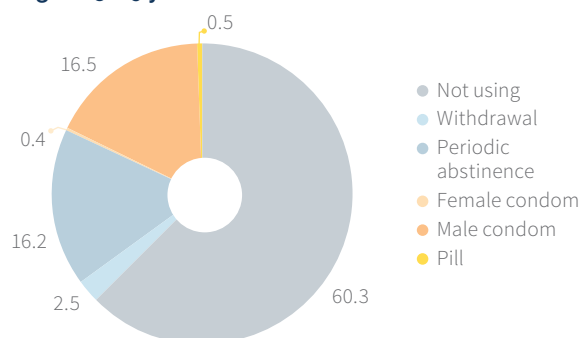
Unmarried, sexually active

According to EDS-RDCⁱ analyses, **68.3%** of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **48.1%** 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 (34.8%)**
- **infrequent sex (21.8%)**
- **knows no method (17.0%)**

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, **60.3%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method, used by **16.5%** of these adolescent girls. Traditional methods, withdrawal or periodic abstinence, are used by **18.7%** (see Figure 1).

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



Source: analysis of EDS-RDC 2013-14ⁱⁱ

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Unmarried, sexually active adolescents who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (63.4%)** or from **friends or parents (16.0%)**.

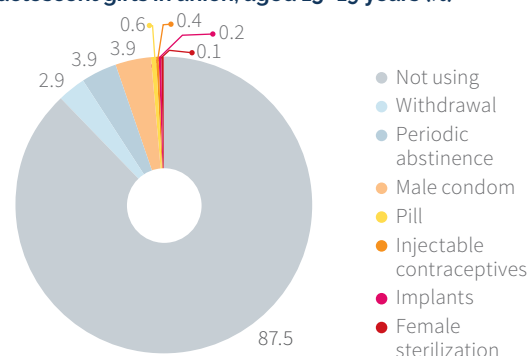
In union

According to EDS-RDCⁱ analyses, **61.9%** of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only **16.2%** of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- **breastfeeding (49.1%)**
- **menses has not returned after giving birth (24.8%)**
- **knows no source (14.5%)**

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, **87.5%** are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method used (**3.9%** of these adolescent girls). Less than 1% are using one of the following methods: pills, injectable contraceptives, implants, and female sterilization, a permanent method. Withdrawal or periodic abstinence, traditional methods, are used by **6.8%** (see Figure 2).

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



Source: analysis of EDS-RDC 2013-14ⁱⁱ

LISTED FROM LEAST EFFECTIVE TO MOST EFFECTIVE

Adolescents in a union who are using a modern method most often get it from a **pharmacy (61.0%)** or a **government facility (20.6%)**.

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 Ministère du Plan et Suivi de la Mise en œuvre de la Révolution de la Modernité (MPSMRM) [DRC], Ministère de la Santé Publique (MSP) [DRC], ICF International. Enquête Démographique et de Santé en République Démocratique du Congo 2013-2014 [Datasets]. CDIR61.DTA and CDMR61.DTA. Rockville (MD): ICF International; 2014 (http://dhsprogram.com/data/dataset/Congo-Democratic-Republic_Standard-DHS_2013.cfm?flag=0, accessed 4 November 2016).

Adolescent contraceptive use

ANALYSIS OF L'ENQUÊTE DÉMOGRAPHIQUE ET DE SANTÉ EN RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, 2013-14



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



15.8 years
for adolescent girls



15.8 years
for adolescent boys

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



16.7

million
adolescents
ages 10-19

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

17.1

for adolescent girls

18.1

for adolescent boys

What can be done to support adolescents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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	60.3%	87.5%
Withdrawal	2.5%	2.9%
Periodic abstinence	16.2%	3.9%
Female condom	0.4%	--
Male condom	16.5%	3.9%
Pill	0.5%	0.6%
Injectable contraceptives	--	0.4%
Implants	--	0.2%
Female sterilization	--	0.1%

Learn the reasons why adolescents are not using contraception.

Report not wanting a child in the next two years

68.3%
sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls

61.9%
adolescent girls in union

Main reasons for not using contraception

Sexually active, unmarried

34.8% not married

21.8% infrequent sex

17.0% knows no method

In union

49.1% breastfeeding

24.8% menses has not returned after giving birth

14.5% knows no source

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



Sexually active, unmarried

63.4%
from a
pharmacy

16%
from
friends or parents











In union

61.0%
from a
pharmacy
















20.6%
from a
government
facility

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