Gambia: Contraception within the context of adolescents’ sexual and reproductive lives: Country profile

### Socio-Demographic Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Both Sexes</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-19 years</td>
<td>10-14 years</td>
<td>15-19 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population of adolescents (millions)¹ (2020)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total population that are adolescents¹ (2020)</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescents that live in rural areas² (2014)</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total rural population that are adolescents² (2014)</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total urban population that are adolescents² (2014)</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% national monetary child poverty³ (2017)</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion rate for lower secondary school⁴ (2013)</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion rate for upper secondary school⁴ (2013)</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of school rate</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Child Marriage/Union Status⁵ (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents, 15-19, who are married/ in union (%)</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% married/in union before age 15 (aged 20-24)</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% married/in union before age 18 (aged 20-24)</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Female Genital Mutilation⁵ (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of girls who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender-Based Violence⁶ (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of girls who report experiencing:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence in the last 12 months</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence in the last 12 months</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescents (aged 15-19) who think a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife in certain circumstances⁵ (2018)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescents who have begun childbearing⁷ (2019-20)</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of women (aged 20-24) who gave birth before 18 years⁵ (2018)</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of births per 1,000 girls, 15-19⁶ (2019)</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescent girls (aged 15-19) with live births who received antenatal care (ANC4+ visits)⁷ (2019-20)</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of births among girls (aged 15-19) attended by skilled health personnel⁷ (2019-20)</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>85.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ABORTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abortion rate per 1,000 girls</th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FERTILITY INTENTIONS & CONTRACEPTIVE USE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of most recent pregnancies experienced by adolescent girls aged 15-19, including current pregnancies by planning status</th>
<th>Married/ In union</th>
<th>Unmarried/ not in union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last pregnancy wanted (&lt;2 years)</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>38.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last pregnancy wanted later (&gt;=2 years)</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last pregnancy not wanted at all</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| % of adolescent girls (aged 15-19) with an unmet need for modern methods of contraception | 29.3 | No data |

| % of sexually active unmarried adolescent girls (aged 15-19) who currently use at least one method of modern contraception | 2.6 |

**Current use and non-use of contraception, 15-19 years**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100%</th>
<th>90%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>70%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not using</td>
<td>Modern method</td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Union</th>
<th>Not in Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Main reasons for not intending to use contraception, 15-19 years**

- Knows no source: 6.7%
- Fear of side effects: 8.4%
- Husband/partner opposed: 9.2%
- Respondent opposed: 14.2%
- Breastfeeding: 37.6%

In Union: 3.9%
Not married: 69.1%
Not having sex: 13.6%
Respondent opposed: 0.1%
Knows no method: 0.4%
### HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-19 years</td>
<td>10-14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of adolescents living with HIV&lt;sup&gt;10&lt;/sup&gt; (2020)</td>
<td>580 &lt;500</td>
<td>&lt;500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of new HIV infections among adolescents per year&lt;sup&gt;10&lt;/sup&gt;(2020)</td>
<td>&lt;100 No data</td>
<td>&lt;100 No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescents with comprehensive knowledge about AIDS&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt; (2019-20)</td>
<td>No data No data</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among adolescents&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;(2013)</td>
<td>No data No data</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of sexually active adolescents who had an HIV test in the last 12 months and received the results&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;(2013)</td>
<td>No data No data</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of girls, 15 or older, who have completed the full three dose vaccination schedule for HPV</td>
<td>No data No data</td>
<td>No data No data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Menstrual Health<sup>5</sup>(2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescent girls who were aware of menstruation before the onset of their first menstruation</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adolescent girls who did not participate in social activities, school, or work due to their last menstruation in the last 12 months</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data Sources