Adolescent contraceptive use
DATA FROM THE UKRAINE DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY (UDHS), 2007

Adolescent population: who are they?

In the Ukraine, there are over 3.9 million adolescents aged 10–19 years – 8.9% of the country’s total population. Just over a third of adolescents live in rural areas, 33.7% of adolescent girls and 34.2% of adolescent boys.

By age 19, the mean number of years of schooling attended by adolescent girls is 13.1, while for adolescent boys it is 12.8. Among adolescents who become parents before age 20, the average age at which Ukrainian adolescent girls have their first baby is 18.1 years, while the average age at which adolescent boys first become fathers is 18.4.

Sexual activity and marital status

Analysis of data from the UDHS shows that over 468,000 Ukrainians 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 17.4 years and adolescent boys at 17.3 years.

Among unmarried adolescents, 13.1% of adolescent girls report ever having sex and 10.2% are currently sexually active; among adolescent boys, 30.2% report ever having sex, while 25.4% are currently sexually active.

Among all Ukrainian adolescents, 5.7% of adolescent girls and 3.0% of adolescent boys are in a union. Among these adolescents, the mean age of the first union is 17.8 years for adolescent girls and 18.1 for adolescent boys.

What can be done to support Ukrainian 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 UDHS\textsuperscript{i} analyses, 78.7\% of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only 63.2\% of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- infrequent sex (51.1\%)
- knows no source (15.9\%)
- not married (12.6\%)

Among all unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls aged 15–19, 17.2\% are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method used (74.4\% of these adolescent girls), while spermicides are used by 3.2\% and pills are used by 2.9\%. Withdrawal, a traditional method, is used 3.2\% (see Figure 1).

In union

According to UDHS\textsuperscript{i} analyses, 51.0\% of adolescent girls in a union report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only 49.9\% of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. The main reasons these adolescents report for not using a contraceptive method include:

- breastfeeding (34.1\%)
- husband or partner is opposed (20.7\%)
- not having sex (17.9\%)

Among all adolescent girls in a union aged 15–19, 51.7\% are not using a method of contraception. Male condoms are the most common modern method used (37.0\% of these adolescent girls), while 5.6\% are using spermicides. Withdrawal, a traditional method, is used by 5.6\% of these adolescent girls (see Figure 2).

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

**UKRAINE**

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

- 17.4 years for adolescent girls
- 17.3 years for adolescent boys

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

- 18.1 years for adolescent girls
- 18.4 years for adolescent boys

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**What can be done to support Ukrainian 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**

- **78.7%** sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls
- **51.0%** adolescent girls in union

**Main reasons for not using contraception**

- **51.1%** infrequent sex
- **15.9%** knows no source
- **12.6%** not married
- **17.9%** not having sex

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

- **Sexually active, unmarried**
  - **69.7%** from friends
  - **18.5%** from a government facility

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**Learn more at** [who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use](http://who.int/reproductivehealth/adol-contraceptive-use)
Icon Directory

METHODS:
- Not using
- Spermicides
- 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

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