

Adolescents need URGENT access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services!

Did you know?

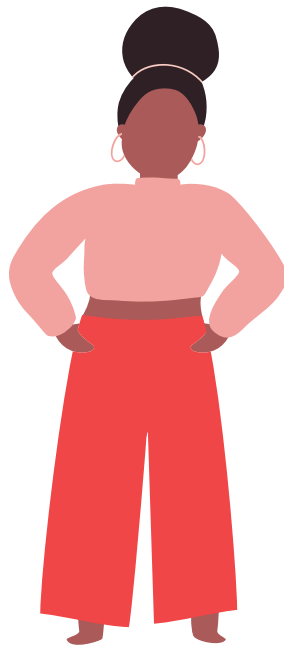
The Caribbean region holds one of the highest adolescent fertility rates in the world: 60.2 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 (2010-2015 period). Early sexual debut and coerced sex are among the main contributing factors to adolescent pregnancy



Adolescent Fertility Rates (the number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19.)

The highest adolescent birth rates are in Guyana (73), Belize (68) and Suriname (61). The persistence of high rates among adolescents in these particular countries can be ascribed to the high share of populations living in tribal societies, mainly indigenous and Maroons, where decline in fertility rates has been much slower, due to multiple factors, including persistence of traditional gender norms and high value of fertility, low access to basic services in interior areas, including family planning education, awareness and counseling,

(Source: PAHO, Gender and Health indicators, 2019)



Lack of legal coherence between the age at which adolescents can consent to sexual activity for most countries is 16 and access to sexual and reproductive health services without parental consent for most is 18 which impedes health and wellbeing for adolescents



SRH Services

Family planning with modern methods is essential to prevent unintended and closely spaced pregnancies, leads to less unsafe abortions and less adverse maternal and perinatal outcomes.

The prevalence of contraceptive use varies widely in the region, but are generally low. Currently there is limited access to safe termination of pregnancy and low public sector offering of emergency contraception (ECP) at 0.04%.
(UNFPA, Reproductive Health Commodity Security Assessment for the Caribbean, 2020)

In some parts of the Caribbean, national policies are in place that restrict young people's access to sexual and reproductive health information and services
(Jarrett, Udell, et al., 2018)