

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES & ABORTIONS

GLOBAL SCENARIO:

1. About 16 million adolescent girls and two million girls under the age of 15 give birth every year – most in low- and middle-income countries.
 2. Worldwide, one in five girls has given birth by the age of 18.
 3. Half of all adolescent births occur in just seven countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and the United States.
 4. Almost all adolescent births – about 95% – occur in low- and middle-income countries.
 5. An estimated three million girls aged 15-19 undergo unsafe abortions every year.
 6. In low- and middle-income countries, complications from pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 years.
 7. Adolescents account for 13% of maternal deaths.
 8. Stillbirths and newborn deaths are 50% higher among infants of adolescent mothers than among infants of women aged 20-29 years.
 9. Infants of adolescent mothers are more likely to have low birth weight.
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Source: WHO, Fact Sheet, Adolescent Pregnancy

1. 10% – 40% of young unmarried girls have had an unintended pregnancy according to community studies.
 2. Some 14 million children worldwide are born every year to young married and unmarried women aged 15 to 19.
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Source: Unicef

1. Teenage girls are twice as likely as women over 20 to die of complications from pregnancy and childbirth. Girls under the age of 15 are five times as likely as women in their twenties to die of these complications.
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Source: Abortion Facts & Figures, Population Reference Bureau

INDIAN SCENARIO:

1. Teen pregnancy in India is high with 62 pregnant teens out of every 1,000 women (*State of the World Population 2008, UNFPA*)
2. 4% of women aged 15–19 were reported to be currently pregnant with their first child.
3. Higher prevalence was found among women in rural areas.

4. By subregional level, data in 2005/06 indicated that the teenage pregnancy rate varied from 0.8% in Jammu to highest of 6% in West Bengal.

Source: WHO, http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/countries/ind.pdf

1. Of the 16.4 million married adolescent pregnancies across the world, four million are in India alone.
2. Teenage pregnancies account for almost 16% of the total pregnancies in India.
3. Teenage pregnancies account for almost 9% of total maternal deaths.

Source: *Adolescent pregnancies: Focus on contraceptive use among young in India, DNA, 9th July 2013*

1. "Every hour, 3 out of 7 deaths due to complications from pregnancy, child bearing and unsafe abortions are among girls and women aged 15-24," a UNFPA statement said.
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2. Three out of seven deaths that take place every hour in [India](#) due to complications from pregnancy are among girls in the age group of 15-24
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Source: UNFPA raises adolescent pregnancy issue, Business Standard, 10 July 2013