Data Brief—Gender-Based Violence in Adolescence

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Girls Deliver
PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS
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ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ADOLESCENCE

Gender-based violence (GBV) affects millions of people around the world and can include economic, psychological/emotional, physical, and sexual violence.

GBV in adolescence can have detrimental effects on the life trajectories of those who survive it, particularly girls.

Early/child marriage is a form of GBV

- **1 in 5 women** aged 20-24 were **married before the age of 18** [12].
- Despite some success in the past decade in reducing the prevalence of **child marriage** (from 23% to 19%), it **remains high in certain contexts**. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, **32%** of girls were married before 18 [12].

Girls all over the world experience high rates of sexual violence (SV)

- About **90% of survivors** report that their first perpetrator was **someone they knew** [11].
- **Thoughts of suicide** are more common among girls who experienced SV. In Colombia, **88%** of adolescent girls who experienced SV in the past 12 months reported suicidal ideations compared to **14%** of those who did not experience SV [3].

- **Few adolescent girls** who experience SV **disclose** their experiences, and fewer **seek or receive services**.
  - For example, in Laos, only **5%** of girls knew of a place to seek help, compared to **58%** of boys [8].
  - In Côte d’Ivoire, only about **1 out of 5** adolescent girls (22%) knew of a place to go for help. Girls who did not seek services indicated that the most common reason was that they did not think it was a problem [6].

About **1 in 5** ever-partnered girls aged 15-19 have experienced recent intimate partner violence [14]

Percentage of 13-17-year-old girls who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months in selected countries [10].
Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is a form of GBV

- An estimated **200 million girls** and women alive today have undergone FGM/C worldwide [13].
- **1 in 3 girls** aged 15-19 living in 31 countries with representative data have undergone FGM/C [13].
- In some countries where FGM/C is practiced, nearly **3 in 4** adolescent girls and women think the practice should end [13].

### Drivers of GBV

- Gender inequality and social attitudes, including justifications for violence
- Exposure to armed conflict is a driver of increased violence against girls
- Fear of repercussions when reporting gender-based violence
- Lack of legal protections
- Lower levels of education
- Socioeconomic factors, including poverty and lack of social connections

### Potential consequences of GBV for adolescents

- Mental Health Conditions
- Potential Loss of Social Support and Connections
- Worse Physical Health, Disability and Chronic Pain
- Impact of GBV on Adolescents
- Barriers to Accessing Health and Other Services
- Loss of Educational and Economic Opportunities
- Unwanted Pregnancy and Childbearing

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#### Prevalence of FGM/C in select countries [15]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
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<td>Sudan</td>
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<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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REFERENCES


