Data Brief—Gender-Based Violence in Adolescence

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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].

**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].

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.

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

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

- 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].
REFERENCES


