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## Data Brief—Gender-Based Violence in Adolescence

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# Girls Deliver

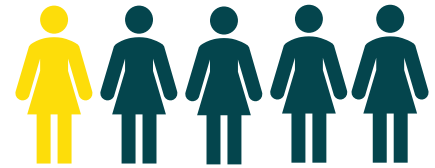
PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS  
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ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

## 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.



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

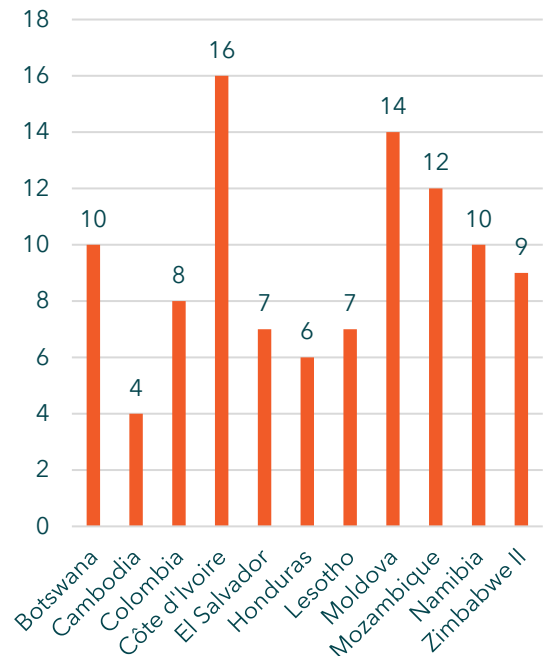


**Early/child marriage** is a form of GBV

- **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].

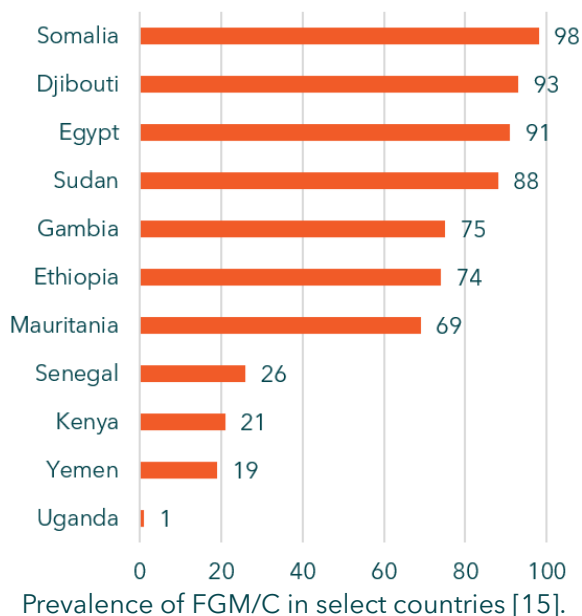
### Girls all over the world experience high rates of sexual violence (SV)

- 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].



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



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This data brief was created by the Population Council's GIRL Center in collaboration with Together for Girls and the Baobab Research Programme Consortium to inform the thematic roundtable discussion on Gender-Based Violence at the Girls Deliver Pre-Conference on Adolescent Girls held in Kigali, Rwanda ahead of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference.

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