
2002

Facts about adolescents from the Demographic and Health Survey—Statistical tables for program planning: Nicaragua 1998

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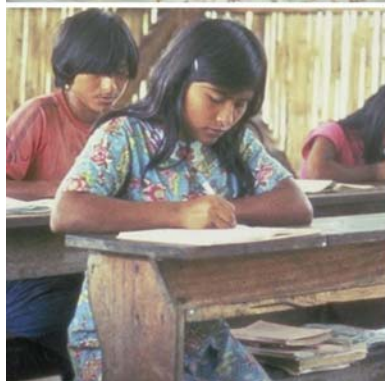
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FACTS ABOUT ADOLESCENTS FROM THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY

Statistical Tables for Program Planning

NICARAGUA 1998





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Foreword

The Population Council initiated its work on adolescents in earnest in the mid-1990s. At that time, those advocating greater attention to adolescent issues were concerned about adolescent fertility—particularly fertility outside of marriage—and, responding to the experiences of Western countries, about adolescent “risk-taking” behavior. As an international scientific organization with its mandate centered around the needs of developing countries, the Population Council sought a more nuanced and context-specific understanding of the opportunities and problems confronting adolescents in the developing world.

As a first step, the Council published a book titled *The Uncharted Passage: Girls’ Adolescence in the Developing World* (Mensch, Bruce, and Greene, 1998). In working with our colleagues inside and outside of the Council, at national and international levels, it became clear that information on adolescents, and the way data are organized, were limiting our ability to understand the diversity of their experiences or to develop programs to address that diversity. Even the words used to describe the 10-19-year-old age group (in English) presented an obstacle. Terms such as youth, adolescents, young people, and teenagers are gender-free. An age group spanning a decade was singularly inappropriate given the rapidity of transitions in this period; even five-year cohorts (10-14 and 15-19) are arguably unreasonably large.

While recognizing these limitations, we nonetheless saw the Demographic and Health Survey results as extremely useful to those seeking to understand and plan for adolescents, provided the data were organized with full understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. In the absence of data, many adolescent policies were implicitly based on the premise that the lives of adolescents in developing countries were like those of adolescents in Western countries; that is, mainly living at home with families, not working, in school, and unmarried. In fact there are significant numbers of young people in the West who do not fit this description, but even larger groups within the developing countries. Perhaps the starkest difference is the context of sexual activity: whereas the vast majority of sexually active adolescent girls in the West are unmarried, in the developing countries the vast majority are married.

In dialogue with colleagues at UNICEF, UNFPA, and PATH, and with the financial support of the United Nations Foundation, we have created tables to more clearly describe the diversity of the adolescent experience by drawing on the rich Demographic and Health Survey data. These tables are descriptive. We have included small points of commentary where something is particularly striking. We offer them to you for reflection, as a basis for developing programs, and as a basis, indeed, for arguing for an enrichment of the research attention devoted to the many transitions that occur between the ages of 10 and 19.

In addition to highlighting, wherever we could, salient dimensions and experience (e.g., schooling, work, and marital status) by age, gender, urban/rural, and economic class groupings, we also draw attention to adolescents’ living arrangements and the

shape of their families. Earlier work conducted cooperatively between the Council's International Programs and Policy Research Divisions highlighted some very surprising—often counterintuitive—facts about the “family.” Whether adolescents live with one, both, or neither parent, and whether they live with and are responsible for their younger siblings, significantly shape their schooling, work, and migration status. With increasing levels of rural-to-urban migration, and the AIDS epidemic, families under stress may tend to transfer adult burdens to their oldest children—especially to girls. Adolescent girls may be required to leave school or work for wages, sometimes in unsafe ways and away from their homes.

Another often neglected dimension of the “adolescent problematique” is the contrast between the experience of married and unmarried adolescents. Very often the experiences of married and unmarried adolescents are considered together—for example, on issues such as their level of information about and use of contraceptives. We believe that married and unmarried adolescents represent significantly different populations. Although differences between the groups may vary by topic, the difference between them is the point. In treating the adolescent population as homogeneous, the profile and needs of married adolescents have very often been completely ignored. Married girls are plausibly the most vulnerable adolescents. Detached from a supportive peer group and from their natal or native home, often married by arrangement and facing a first pregnancy, married adolescent girls deserve our attention. The tabulations presented for some countries provide preliminary and rudimentary evidence that married adolescents are, if not at greater disadvantage than their unmarried counterparts, at least different, and we should plan for those differences.

This project will be ongoing. As data for additional countries and more recent data for the countries covered here become available, we will produce new sets of tables. And as we identify other tables of potential interest we will include them. We welcome your feedback and hope you find these tables useful.

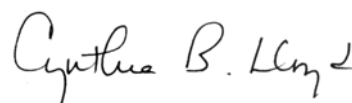
Finally, we would like to acknowledge the significant creative and analytic efforts of our colleagues in producing these tables. We thank Brian Pence, Carey Meyers, Erica Chong, Christine Pace, and Roberta Scheinman for their intellectual contributions and hard work in this undertaking.



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Technical Notes:

1. All tables in this report are calculated from data collected for the 1998 Nicaragua Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), conducted by the Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC), Ministerio de Salud (MINSa), and Macro International, Inc. The Nicaragua DHS surveyed a nationally representative sample of 11,528 households. The information presented in Tables 1-7 is based on all usual residents within the age group(s) of the selected households. The calculations for Tables 8-13 are based on 13,634 women between ages 15 and 49 who responded to a more detailed individual questionnaire. Data on female genital circumcision were not collected for Nicaragua.

More information on the design of and results from the 1998 Nicaragua DHS is provided in the final report (INEC, MINSa, and Macro International, Inc. 1999. *Encuesta Nicaraguense de Demografía y Salud 1998*. Calverton, Maryland: INEC, MINSa, and Macro International, Inc.). More information on the Demographic and Health Surveys, including reports, other publications, and original data, is available on the DHS Web site at <http://www.measuredhs.com/>.

2. The tables report values where data are available for the 1998 Nicaragua DHS. An X indicates that the information was not collected for that group in the 1998 survey.
3. Unless specifically designated as “percent distribution,” the cells represent percentages that do not sum to 100%. In most cases, the categories either are not mutually exclusive or do not exhaust the total population for the group. A guide to reading and interpreting the tables is included at the bottom of each page.
4. The measurement of economic status used to define the poorest 40%, middle 40%, and richest 20% of households in Tables 4-6 is based on a methodological approach discussed in Filmer, Deon and Lant Pritchett, 1999: “The Effect of Household Wealth on Educational Attainment: Evidence from 35 Countries,” *Population and Development Review*, vol. 25(1): 85-120. Derived from their work, indicators of household asset ownership (car, bicycle, television, etc.) and household characteristics (piped water, electricity, etc.) were used to create a single measure of economic status. Although the classification of economic status can be used for relative comparisons of socioeconomic groups within a country, comparisons of groups across countries are not appropriate.

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A Summary of 1998 DHS Data on Adolescents in Nicaragua

Table 1. Urban-Rural Residence and Population Distribution

- Adolescents ages 10-19 comprise more than one-quarter of Nicaragua's population.
- The majority of Nicaragua's adolescents live in urban areas.
- Among boys and girls, 15-19-year-olds are more likely to live in urban areas than 10-14-year-olds.

Table 1. Urban-Rural Residence Distribution

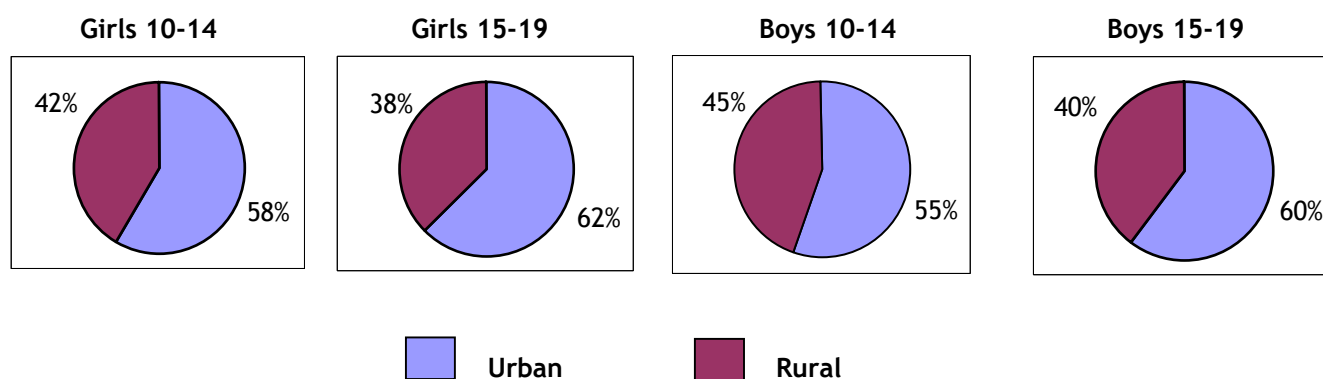


Table 2. Parental Survival Status and Residence in Household

- Nearly all adolescents ages 10-14 have both parents still living.
- Boys and girls have nearly identical patterns of residence with parents. Just over half live with both parents, while around 14% live with neither parent.
- Adolescents 10-14 years old who live with only one parent are more than six times as likely to live with only their mother than with only their father.

Table 2. Patterns of Parent/Child Co-residence

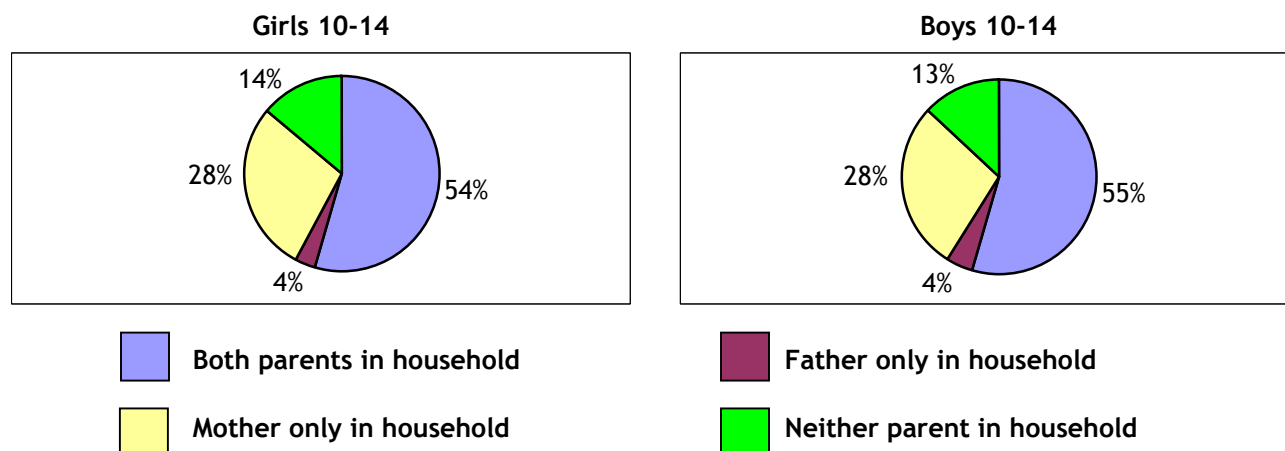


Table 3. Characteristics of Head of Household

- About one-third of adolescents 10-19 years old live in female-headed households.
- More than one-quarter of adolescents ages 10-14 live in households headed by someone other than a parent.

Table 4. Educational Enrollment and Attainment

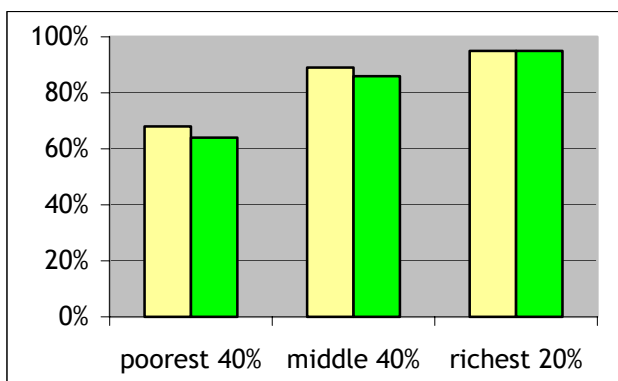
- Adolescents 10-14 years old are more likely than those 15-19 years old to be enrolled in school. For instance, 80% of 10-14-year-old girls compared to 47% of 15-19-year-old girls are in school.
- Girls are slightly more likely than boys to be enrolled in school, and are also more likely to complete four or more years of school.
- About three-quarters of adolescents ages 15-19 have completed four or more years of school.
- There is a positive relationship between economic status and educational attainment for both boys and girls, particularly in the completion of primary school.

Tables 5-7. Educational Enrollment and Attainment in Urban and Rural Areas

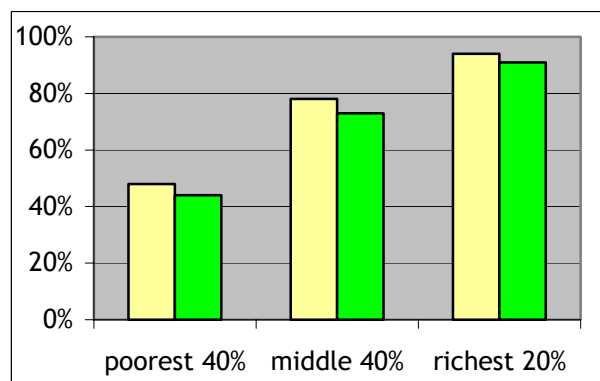
- Urban adolescents ages 15-19 are more than twice as likely to be enrolled in school than rural adolescents in the same age group.
- Urban adolescents are more likely than rural adolescents to complete four or more years of school, and are significantly more likely to complete primary school.
- The relationship between economic status and educational attainment is stronger in rural areas than in urban areas.

Tables 5 and 6. Educational Attainment

Urban youth 15-29 completing 4+ years of school



Rural youth 15-29 completing 4+ years of school



Girls

Boys

Table 7. Educational Enrollment

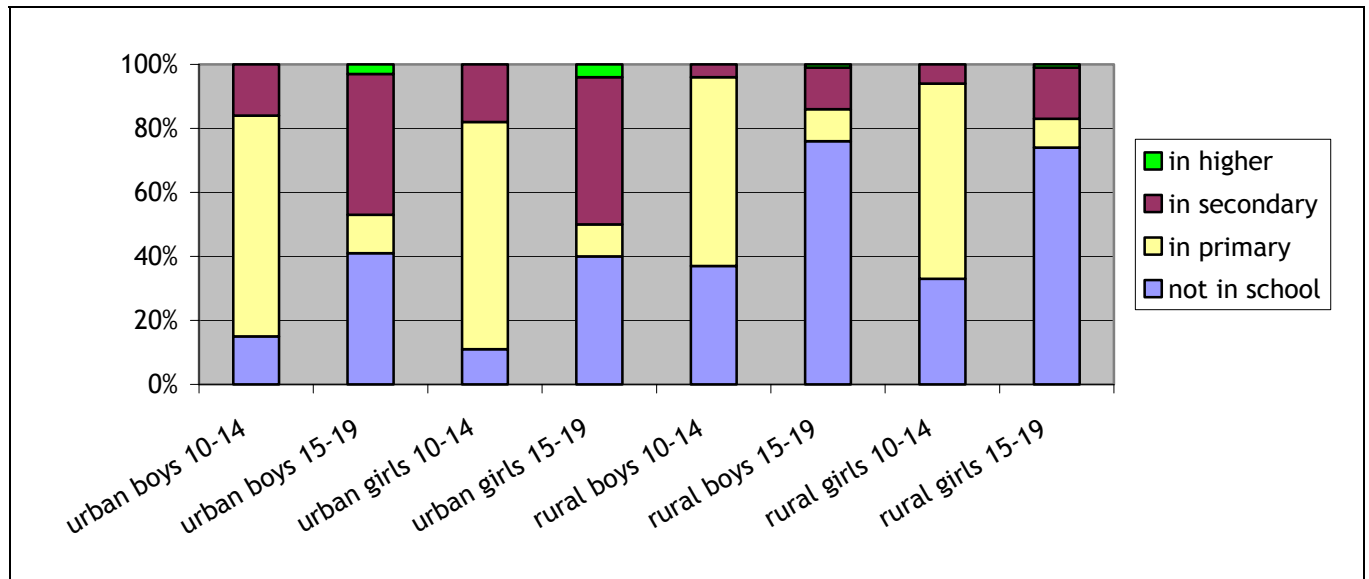


Table 8. Marital Status

- One out of four girls ages 15-19 is married or in a cohabiting union compared to one out of thirteen 15-19-year-old boys.
- Nine percent of 15-19-year-old girls are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- The median age at marriage is similar for girls 20-24 years old and girls 25-29 years old (18.0 years and 18.3 years, respectively).
- Slightly higher percentages of girls 20-24 years old than girls 25-29 years old were married by ages 15 and 18.

Table 8. Age at Marriage

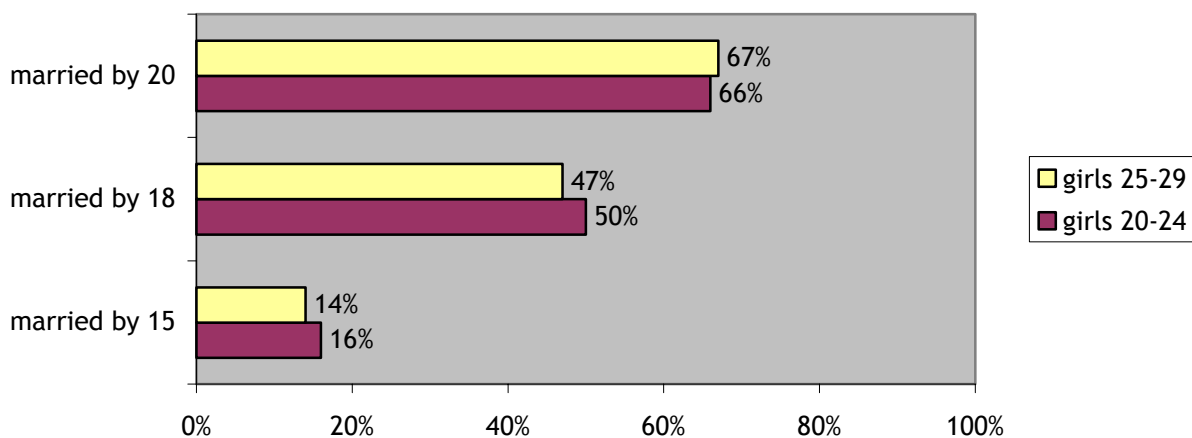


Table 9. Sexuality and Childbearing

- Around one-third of girls ages 15-19 have ever had sexual intercourse, and just over one-fifth are currently sexually active.
- Nearly all sexually active girls ages 15-19 are married.
- Among 15-19-year-olds, 63% of married girls and 1% of unmarried girls have had a child.

Table 10. Educational Enrollment and Work Status

- Unmarried girls without children ages 15-19 are more than five times as likely as unmarried girls with children in the same age group to be in school.
- Compared to married girls with children, married girls without children are more likely to be in school and less likely to be working.
- Approximately three out of four married girls (with or without children) are neither in school nor working.
- **Additional Information on Work Status from the U.S. State Department: Opportunities for National Service**
 - Military service and other types of national service are voluntary for both men and women in Nicaragua and do not take the place of the regular educational track.
 - Nonmilitary national service opportunities are most often organized by nongovernmental organizations or sponsored with funds from foreign donors, and include programs related to the environment or public health.
 - Women may enlist in the military and serve as officers if they have attended the four-year military academy or are called through direct commission in the case of a doctor, nurse, or lawyer.
 - There are currently 50 female officers, primarily in administrative, personnel, finance, and medical roles.
 - The first woman graduated from the Nicaraguan Military Academy in December 1999. Although she was approved for service in the infantry career field, she was assigned to a logistics billet.

Table 10. Educational Enrollment and Work Status of Girls 15-19 Years Old

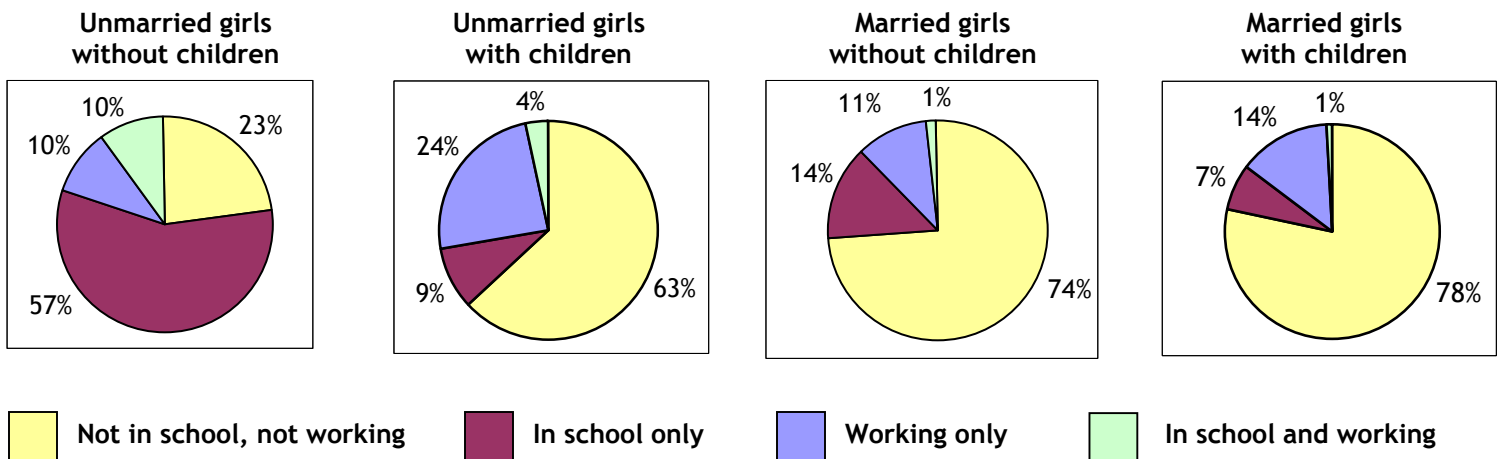


Table 11. Awareness and Use of Modern Contraceptive Methods

- Nearly all girls ages 15-19 have heard of a modern method of contraception.
- While more than half of ever-married girls 15-19 years old have ever used a modern method, practically no never-married girls in the same age group have used one.
- Among the sexually active, about two out of five girls 15-19 years old are using a modern contraceptive method.

Table 12. Awareness of HIV/AIDS

- Nearly all girls 15-19 years old have heard of HIV/AIDS.
- Over three-fourths of 15-19-year-old girls who have heard of HIV/AIDS know that a person with the virus can look healthy.
- Although 11% of girls perceive themselves to be at a moderate or high risk of contracting the virus, only 4% of sexually active girls use condoms.

Table 13. Experience with Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- Only 3% of 15-19-year-old girls have heard of any STD.

Table 1
Urban-Rural Residence and Population Distribution

	Percent Distribution			Percent of Total Population
	Urban ^a	Rural ^a	Total	
Girls				
10-14	58.4	41.6	100.0	7.0
15-19	62.4	37.6	100.0	5.9
Boys				
10-14	54.9	45.1	100.0	7.1
15-19	60.3	39.7	100.0	5.8

^a Refer to the DHS report cited in the Technical Notes for the definitions used for urban and rural areas.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages (under “Urban”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old who live in urban areas.
- In the fourth column of percentages (under “Percent of Total Population”), read the first number as the percentage of the total population who are girls 10-14 years old.

Table 2
Parental Survival Status and Residence in Household
(Percent Distribution)

Parental Survival Status					
	Both Parents Alive	Father Alive, Mother Dead	Mother Alive, Father Dead	Neither Parent Alive	Total
Girls					
10-14	92.2	1.5	6.1	0.3	100.0
15-19	X	X	X	X	X
Boys					
10-14	92.7	1.3	5.6	0.4	100.0
15-19	X	X	X	X	X
Parents Resident in Household ^a					
	Both Parents in Household	Father Only in Household	Mother Only in Household	Neither Parent in Household	Total
Girls					
10-14	54.3	3.5	28.3	13.9	100.0
15-19	X	X	X	X	X
Boys					
10-14	54.5	4.3	28.2	13.0	100.0
15-19	X	X	X	X	X

^a An adolescent is defined as not living with a parent if the parent is deceased or does not live in the household in which the adolescent resides.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Both Parents Alive”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old whose parents are living.
- In the first column of percentages in the lower panel (under “Both Parents in Household”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old who live in households in which both parents reside.

Table 3
Characteristics of Head of Household^a
(Percent)

	Female Household Head	Non-Parent Household Head
Girls		
10-14	32.8	28.9
15-19	33.0	X
Boys		
10-14	31.3	28.4
15-19	33.6	X

^a The head of each household was identified by the member of that household responding to the household survey.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages (under “Female Household Head”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old who live in households with a female head.
- In the second column of percentages (under “Non-Parent Household Head”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old who live in households headed by someone other than their mother or father.

Table 4
Educational Enrollment and Attainment

Current Enrollment (Percent Distribution)						
	Not in School	In Primary^a	In Secondary^b	In Higher	Total	
Girls						
10-14	19.9	67.0	13.1	0.0	100.0	
15-19	52.6	9.7	35.1	2.6	100.0	
Boys						
10-14	25.0	64.8	10.1	0.0	100.0	
15-19	55.1	11.5	31.5	2.0	100.0	
Educational Attainment (Percent)						
	Completed 4+ Years		Completed Primary School			
Girls						
15-19	79.6		65.8 ^d			
20-24	75.1		63.9			
25-29	75.1		64.2			
Girls 15-29						
Poorest 40% ^c	53.2		34.2			
Middle 40%	86.7		75.7			
Richest 20%	95.0		90.6			
Boys						
15-19	74.4		59.2 ^d			
20-24	71.5		59.9			
25-29	70.5		56.0			
Boys 15-29						
Poorest 40% ^c	48.2		28.5			
Middle 40%	83.1		69.4			
Richest 20%	95.1		91.3			

^a Primary school in Nicaragua consists of six grades.

^b Secondary school in Nicaragua consists of five grades.

^c For an explanation of these categories, refer to the Technical Notes at the beginning of this document.

^d Because some 15-19-year-olds may still be attending primary school, caution should be used when comparing primary school completion rates of 15-19-year-olds to completion rates in older age groups or across countries.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Not in School”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old who are not currently enrolled in school.
- In the first column of percentages in the lower panel, read the fourth number (opposite “Poorest 40%”) as the percentage of girls 15-29 years old in the poorest 40% of households who have completed four or more years of formal education.

Table 5
Educational Enrollment and Attainment in Urban Areas^a

	Current Enrollment (Percent Distribution)				Total
	Not in School	In Primary ^b	In Secondary ^c	In Higher	
Girls					
10-14	10.6	70.9	18.4	0.0	100.0
15-19	39.9	9.9	46.4	3.9	100.0
Boys					
10-14	15.0	69.4	15.6	0.0	100.0
15-19	41.5	12.0	43.6	2.9	100.0

	Educational Attainment (Percent)	
	Completed 4+ Years	Completed Primary School
Girls		
15-19	89.5	80.0 ^e
20-24	86.8	79.4
25-29	88.1	79.9
Girls 15-29		
Poorest 40% ^d	68.2	51.3
Middle 40%	89.3	80.1
Richest 20%	95.1	91.1
Boys		
15-19	87.6	75.8 ^e
20-24	85.8	78.9
25-29	83.2	71.3
Boys 15-29		
Poorest 40% ^d	64.3	46.0
Middle 40%	86.1	74.0
Richest 20%	95.3	91.6

^a Refer to the DHS report cited in the Technical Notes for the definitions used for urban and rural areas.

^b Primary school in Nicaragua consists of six grades.

^c Secondary school in Nicaragua consists of five grades.

^d For an explanation of these categories, refer to the Technical Notes at the beginning of this document.

^e Because some 15-19-year-olds may still be attending primary school, caution should be used when comparing primary school completion rates of 15-19-year-olds to completion rates in older age groups or across countries.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Not in School”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years living in urban areas who are not currently enrolled in school.
- In the first column of percentages in the lower panel, read the fourth number (opposite “Poorest 40%”) as the percentage of girls 15-29 years old in the poorest 40% of households and living in urban areas who have completed four or more years of formal education.

Table 6
Educational Enrollment and Attainment in Rural Areas^a

	Current Enrollment (Percent Distribution)				Total
	Not in School	In Primary ^b	In Secondary ^c	In Higher	
Girls					
10-14	33.0	61.5	5.5	0.0	100.0
15-19	74.1	9.3	16.2	0.5	100.0
Boys					
10-14	37.4	59.2	3.4	0.0	100.0
15-19	75.8	10.6	13.0	0.6	100.0

	Educational Attainment (Percent)	
	Completed 4+ Years	Completed Primary School
Girls		
15-19	63.3	42.3 ^e
20-24	53.3	34.9
25-29	52.4	36.7
Girls 15-29		
Poorest 40% ^d	47.9	28.1
Middle 40%	78.1	60.8
Richest 20%	93.5	82.4
Boys		
15-19	54.5	34.0 ^e
20-24	51.2	32.7
25-29	49.9	31.4
Boys 15-29		
Poorest 40% ^d	43.5	23.3
Middle 40%	73.4	54.7
Richest 20%	91.3	85.0

^a Refer to the DHS report cited in the Technical Notes for the definitions used for urban and rural areas.

^b Primary school in Nicaragua consists of six grades.

^c Secondary school in Nicaragua consists of five grades.

^d For an explanation of these categories, refer to the Technical Notes at the beginning of this document.

^e Because some 15-19-year-olds may still be attending primary school, caution should be used when comparing primary school completion rates of 15-19-year-olds to completion rates in older age groups or across countries.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Not in School”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old living in rural areas who are not currently in school.
- In the first column of percentages in the lower panel, read the fourth number (opposite “Poorest 40%”) as the percentage of girls 15-29 years old in the poorest 40% of households and living in rural areas who have completed four or more years of formal education.

Table 7
Educational Enrollment in Urban and Rural Areas^a: Comparison Summary

	Current Enrollment (Percent)			
	Not in School		In Primary ^b	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Girls				
10-14	10.6	33.0	70.9	61.5
15-19	39.9	74.1	9.9	9.3
Boys				
10-14	15.0	37.4	69.4	59.2
15-19	41.5	75.8	12.0	10.6
	In Secondary ^c		In Higher	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
	Girls			
10-14	18.4	5.5	0.0	0.0
15-19	46.4	16.2	3.9	0.5
Boys				
10-14	15.6	3.4	0.0	0.0
15-19	43.6	13.0	2.9	0.6

^a Refer to the DHS report cited in the Technical Notes for the definitions used for urban and rural areas.

^b Primary school in Nicaragua consists of six grades.

^c Secondary school in Nicaragua consists of five grades.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Not in School: Urban”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old living in urban areas who are not currently enrolled in school.
- In the second column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Not in School: Rural”), read the first number as the percentage of girls 10-14 years old living in rural areas who are not currently enrolled in school.

Table 8
Marital Status
(Percent Distribution)

	Never-Married	Currently Married or in Union ^a	Separated, Divorced, or Widowed	Total
Girls				
10-14	X	X	X	X
15-19	66.5	24.7	8.8	100.0
Boys				
10-14	X	X	X	X
15-19	91.0	7.6	1.4	100.0
	Married by Age 15 (Percent) ^b	Married by Age 18 (Percent) ^b	Married by Age 20 (Percent) ^b	Median Age at First Marriage (Years)
Girls				
20-24	16.0	50.3	65.6	18.0
25-29	14.3	46.8	66.7	18.3
Boys				
20-24	X	X	X	X
25-29	X	X	X	X

^a "In union" refers to girls and boys who are in unions of cohabitation.

^b Defined as the percentage of girls in each age group who were married or in union by their 15th, 18th, or 20th birthday, respectively.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under "Never-Married"), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who have never been married.
- In the first column of percentages in the lower panel (under "Married by Age 15"), read the first number as the percentage of girls 20-24 years old who were married by their 15th birthday.
- In the last column of percentages in the lower panel (under "Median Age at First Marriage"), read the first number as the age by which 50% of girls 20-24 years old were married.

**Table 9
Sexuality and Childbearing
(Percent)**

	Ever Had Sexual Intercourse			Sexually Active ^a			Of Sexually Active, the Percent Married
	Of Never-Married	Of Total	Median Age at 1 st Sex (Years)	Of Unmarried ^b	Of Married ^c	Of Total	
Girls							
10-14	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
15-19	2.9	36.2	N/A ^d	1.5	80.1	21.7	94.7
Boys							
10-14	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
15-19	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Ever Pregnant ^e			Ever Had Child			
	Of Never-Married	Of Ever-Married ^f	Of Total	Of Never-Married	Of Ever-Married ^f	Of Total	
Girls							
10-14	X	X	X	X	X	X	
15-19	1.1	76.4	27.0	0.8	62.9	22.1	

^a“Sexually active” is defined as reporting having had sexual intercourse within the last 28 days.

^b“Unmarried” refers to girls who are currently neither married nor in unions of cohabitation. It includes those who are separated, divorced, or widowed.

^c“Married” refers to girls who are currently married or in unions of cohabitation.

^d Omitted because less than 50% in the age group first had sexual intercourse by age 15.

^e The DHS collected information on past live births and current pregnancy status at the time of the interview. Information was not collected on miscarriages, stillbirths, or abortions, and hence is not included in the calculation of “ever pregnant.” This statistic, therefore, is likely to be an underestimate of the true percentage of girls who have ever been pregnant.

^f “Ever-married” refers to girls who are currently married, in union, separated, divorced, or widowed.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Ever Had Sexual Intercourse: Of Never-Married”), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who have had sexual intercourse among those who have never been married.
- In the seventh column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Of Sexually Active, the Percent Married”), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who are married, among those who report having had sex within the last 28 days.
- In the first column of percentages in the lower panel (under “Ever Pregnant: Of Never-Married”), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who have ever been pregnant, among those who have never been married.

Table 10
Educational Enrollment and Work^a Status^b
(Percent Distribution)

	Not in School, Not Working	In School Only	Working Only	In School and Working	Total
Unmarried^c, Without Children					
Girls					
10-14	X	X	X	X	X
15-19	23.4	56.6	10.1	9.9	100.0
Unmarried^c, With Children					
Girls					
10-14	X	X	X	X	X
15-19	63.1	9.1	24.4	3.4	100.0
Married^d, Without Children					
Girls					
10-14	X	X	X	X	X
15-19	73.6	14.3	10.9	1.3	100.0
Married^d, With Children					
Girls					
10-14	X	X	X	X	X
15-19	78.3	7.0	14.0	0.7	100.0

^a Work is defined as both formal and informal, and excludes housework. It includes activities that are paid in cash or in kind, as well as work for a family farm or business.

^b Information on work and parental status was not collected for boys.

^c "Unmarried" refers to girls who are currently neither married nor in unions of cohabitation. It includes those who are separated, divorced, or widowed.

^d "Married" refers to girls who are currently married or in unions of cohabitation.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under "Unmarried, Without Children: Not in School, Not Working"), read the second number as the percentage of unmarried girls 15-19 years old, without children, who are neither in school nor working.

Table 11
Awareness and Use of Modern Contraceptive Methods
(Percent)

	Heard of a Modern Method of Contraception^a	Ever Used a Modern Method	Of Sexually Active^b, Currently Using a Modern Method
	Never-Married		
Girls			
10-14	X	X	X
15-19	92.4	0.8	40.9
Boys			
10-14	X	X	X
15-19	X	X	X
	Ever-Married^c		
Girls			
10-14	X	X	X
15-19	96.9	57.5	43.4
Boys			
10-14	X	X	X
15-19	X	X	X

^a "Modern methods" of contraception include the oral contraceptive pill, intrauterine device, injections, diaphragm/foam/jelly, condom, female sterilization, male sterilization, and implants, including Norplant[®].

^b "Sexually active" is defined as reporting having had sexual intercourse within the last 28 days.

^c The term "ever-married" includes girls who are currently married, in union, separated, divorced, or widowed.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages (under "Heard of a Modern Method of Contraception: Never-Married"), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who have heard of a modern method of contraception, among those who have never been married.
- In the third column of percentages (under "Of Sexually Active, Currently Using a Modern Method: Never-Married"), read the second number as the percentage of never-married girls 15-19 years old who currently use a modern method of contraception, among those who report having had sexual intercourse within the last 28 days.

Table 12
Awareness of HIV/AIDS
(Percent)

	Heard of HIV/AIDS			Know Someone Who Has or Has Died of HIV/AIDS ^b
	Of Never-Married	Of Ever-Married ^a	Of Total	
Girls				
10-14	X	X	X	X
15-19	94.2	93.7	94.0	X
Boys				
10-14	X	X	X	X
15-19	X	X	X	X
	Know a Healthy- Looking Person Can Have HIV/AIDS ^b	Perceive Themselves to Be at Moderate or Great Risk of HIV/AIDS ^{b,c}	Of Sexually Active ^d , Use Condom ^e	
Girls				
10-14	X	X	X	X
15-19	78.2	11.2	3.6	
Boys				
10-14	X	X	X	X
15-19	X	X	X	X

^a“Ever-married” refers to girls who are currently married, in union, separated, divorced, or widowed.

^b These calculations exclude those who have not heard of HIV/AIDS.

^c Respondents were asked whether they think their risk of getting AIDS is small, moderate, great, or whether they have no risk at all. Respondents could also volunteer the information that they were infected with HIV. These latter respondents were excluded from the calculation.

^d “Sexually active” is defined as reporting having had sexual intercourse within the last 28 days.

^e “Use condom” refers to those who report condoms as their primary current contraceptive method. This statistic may be an undercount, since information on multiple method use was not collected.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages in the upper panel (under “Heard of HIV/AIDS: Of Never-Married”), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who have heard of HIV/AIDS among those who have never been married.
- In the third column of percentages in the lower panel (under “Of Sexually Active, Use Condom”), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who report condom use as their primary current contraceptive method, among those who report having had sexual intercourse within the last 28 days.

Table 13
Experience with Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
(Percent)

	Heard of an STD ^a	Have Had an STD in Last 12 Months	Sought Advice During Last Episode of an STD ^b
Girls			
10-14	X	X	X
15-19	3.1	X	X
Boys			
10-14	X	X	X
15-19	X	X	X

^a STDs include syphilis, gonorrhea, genital warts, AIDS, or any other of which the respondent is aware.

^b Calculated among those who report having had an STD in the last 12 months.

Guide to reading the table:

- In the first column of percentages (under “Heard of an STD”), read the second number as the percentage of girls 15-19 years old who have heard of any STDs.

Table 14
Female Genital Circumcision
(Percent)

	Circumcised	Median Age at Circumcision (Years)	Have Circumcised / Will Circumcise Eldest Daughter
		Never-Married	
Girls			
10-14			
15-19		Data not collected for Nicaragua	
20-24			
		Ever-Married	
Girls			
10-14			
15-19		Data not collected for Nicaragua	
20-24			