**FACTS & FIGRUES ABOUT ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY GLOBALLY**

**About the United Nations Population Fund’s flagship report: THE STATE OF WORLD POPULATION REPORT 2013**

*The State of the World Population 2013*, “*Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy,”* examines the circumstances that often lead to adolescent pregnancy and provides new statistics on the impact of adolescent pregnancy on girls’ health, education and future economic productivity.

**Who is affected?**

* Every day, **20,000 girls below age 18** give birth in developing countries. (p. iv)
* Of the **7.3 million** girls below age 18 who give birth each year in developing countries, **2 million** of them are under age 15. (p. iv)
* Each year, **13.1 million children are born to mothers aged 15-19**.
* **95 per cent** of adolescent births occur in developing countries. (p. iv)
* Adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 account for as many as **3.2 million unsafe abortions** annually in developing countries.
* In developed countries, there are **680,000** births to adolescent mothers annually. Nearly half of these occur in the United States. (p. 13)
* Among developing regions, West and Central Africa have the largest percentage of reported births to mothers under age 18 (28 per cent) and under age 15 (6 per cent). (p. 3-5)

**What are the implications of adolescent pregnancy over the next decade? Why act now?**

* Adolescents make up about **18 per cent** of the world’s population. **Eighty-eight per cent** of them live in developing countries. (p. 14)
* About half (**49 per cent**) of adolescent girls live in just six countries: China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States. (p. 14) Even though we are experiencing the largest adolescent population in human history—with an estimated **1.2 billion adolescents** living in 2010—the international community directs **less than two cents of every dollar spent on international development** towards adolescent girls. (p. 34)

**What effect does adolescent pregnancy have on economic development?**

* The lifetime opportunity cost related to adolescent pregnancy—measured by the mother’s foregone annual income over her lifetime—ranges from **1 per cent of annual GDP** in China to **30 per cent of annual GDP** in Uganda. (p. 26)
  + If the **220,098 adolescent mothers** in Kenya were employed instead of having become pregnant, **$3.4 billion** could have been added to the economy, an amount equivalent to the value of Kenya’s entire construction sector. (p. 26)
  + If adolescent girls in Brazil and India had been able to wait to have children until their early 20s, the countries would have greater economic productivity equal to **over $3.5 billion** and **$7.7 billion**, respectively. (p. 27)
  + Adolescent pregnancy and childbirth account for nearly **$11 billion per year** in costs to United States taxpayers. (p. 29)

**What effect does adolescent pregnancy have on health?**

* An estimated 70,000 adolescents in developing countries die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. (p. v)
* Although fistula can occur to women at any reproductive age, studies in Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Nigeria show that about **1 in 3** women living with obstetric fistula reported developing it as an adolescent (p. 19)
* There are also significant health risks to the infants and children of adolescent mothers:
  + Stillbirths and newborn deaths are **50 per cent higher** among infants of adolescent mothers than among infants of mothers between the ages of 20 and 29. (p. 22)
  + About **1 million children** born to adolescent mothers do not make it to their first birthday (p. 22)
* The health risks to girls under 15 are great:
* Girls who become pregnant before age 15 in low- and middle-income countries have double the risk for maternal death and obstetric fistula than older women, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. (p. 23)
* In more than **30 countries**, **10 per cent** of adolescents have had sexual intercourse by age 15, with rates as high as **26 per cent** in Niger. (page 24)
* Girls who become pregnant at 15 or younger are more likely to experience premature delivery, low infant birth weight, perinatal mortality and health problems with their newborns. (page 23)

**What is the relationship between adolescent pregnancy and education?**

* Education continues to be the **single most important predictor** of age at marriage over time (p. 60). Child marriage is strongly associated with early pregnancy.
* Becoming pregnant often prevents girls from completing their education:
  + In the US, only about **half** of the girls who become pregnant as adolescents are able to complete their high school education by age 22, compared to **nine out of 10** girls who do not become pregnant as teenagers (p. 26)
* Research indicates better age-appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education is needed
  + In the US, the **highest rates of adolescent pregnancy** tend to occur in states with abstinence-only education (p. 66)
  + In some countries, **two-thirds** of girls between the ages of 12 and 14 are not in school, and receive no school-based sexuality education (p.45)

**Adolescent pregnancy and child marriage**

* **39,000 girls** under 18 are married every day (p. 47)
* Despite near-universal commitments to end child marriage, **one in three** girls in developing countries is married before age 18 (p. 9)
* **90 per cent** of adolescent pregnancies in developing countries are within marriage (p. 48)
* Adolescents who are married or in a union have both the **lowest use of contraception** and the **highest levels of unmet need** (p. 38)
* **50 million** girls could still be at risk of being married before their 15th birthday in this decade (p. 10)