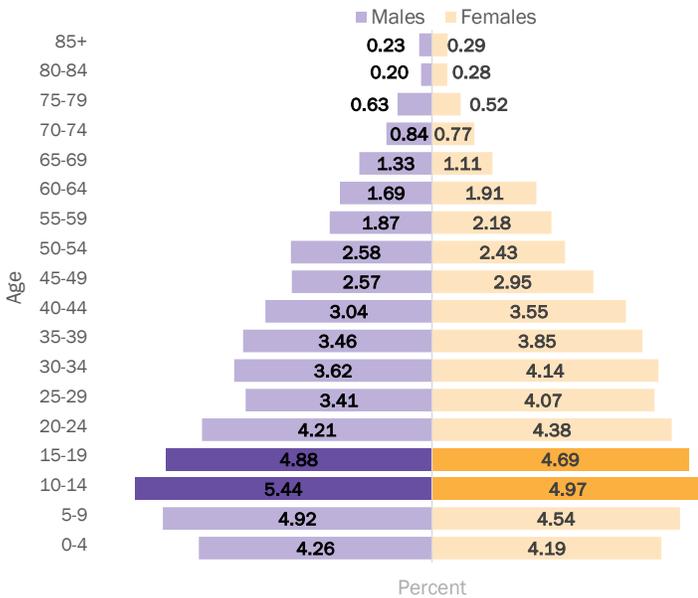




The Adolescent Population: Age 10-19

Age & Sex Distribution of Household Population



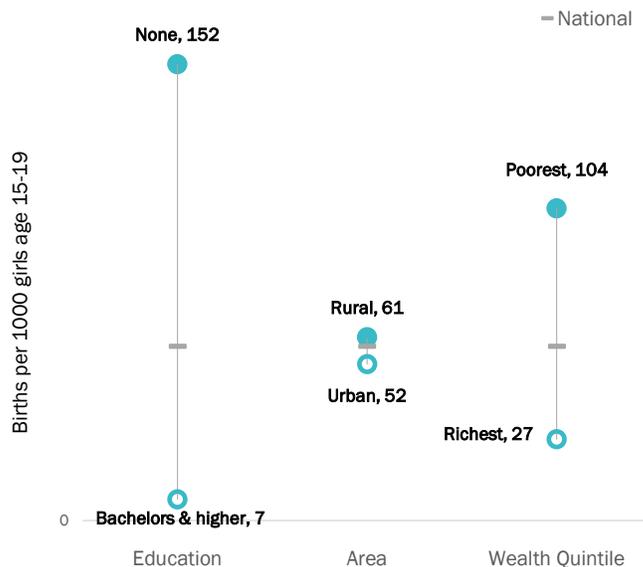
This snapshot of adolescent well-being is organized around key priority areas for adolescents:

- Every adolescent survives and thrives
- Every adolescent learns
- Every adolescent is protected from violence and exploitation
- Every adolescent lives in a safe and clean environment
- Every adolescent has an equitable chance in life

Every Adolescent Survives & Thrives

Adolescence is by some measures the healthiest period in the life-course, yet it can also mark the first manifestations of issues which can have lifelong effects on health and wellbeing, such as unsafe sexual behavior, early childbearing and substance misuse. Nevertheless, health interventions during this period are shown to have long-lasting effects. Access to appropriate contraceptive methods is critical to prevent adolescent pregnancy and its related consequences, allowing adolescents to transition into adulthood with the ability to plan their pregnancies and live healthy and productive lives.

Adolescent Birth Rate: SDG 3.7.2



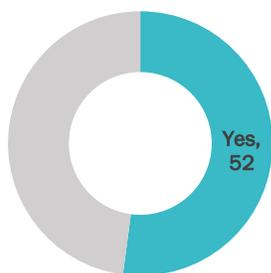
Age-specific fertility rate for girls age 15-19 years: the number of live births in the last 3 years, divided by the average number of women in that age group during the same period, expressed per 1,000 women

Every Adolescent Learns

Quality education and experiences at school positively affect physical and mental health, safety, civic engagement and social development. Adolescents, however, can also face the risk of school drop-out, early marriage or pregnancy, or being pulled into the workforce prematurely.

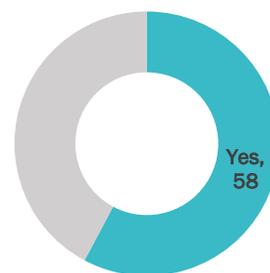
Data on reading and numeracy skills are collected in MICS through a direct assessment method. The Foundational Learning module captures information on children's early learning in reading and numeracy at the level of Grade 2 in primary education.

Foundational Reading Skills



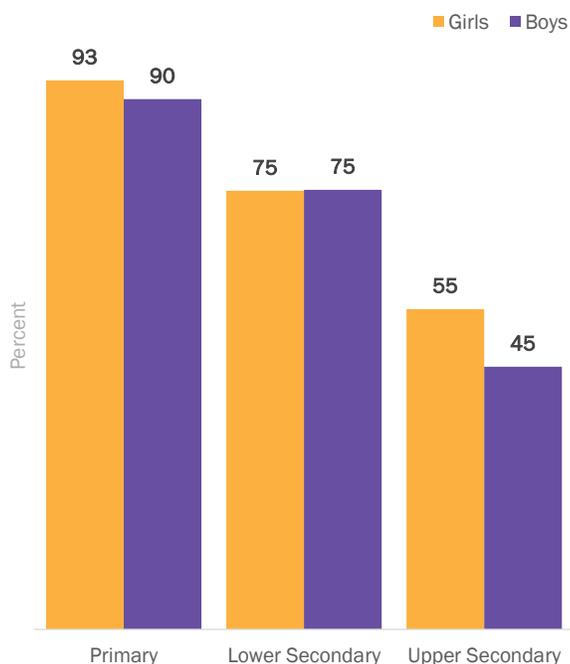
Percentage of children age 10-14 who can 1) read 90% of words in a story correctly, 2) Answer three literal comprehension questions, and 3) Answer two inferential comprehension questions

Foundational Numeracy Skills



Percentage of children age 10-14 who can successfully perform 1) a number reading task, 2) a number discrimination task, 3) an addition task and 4) a pattern recognition and completion task

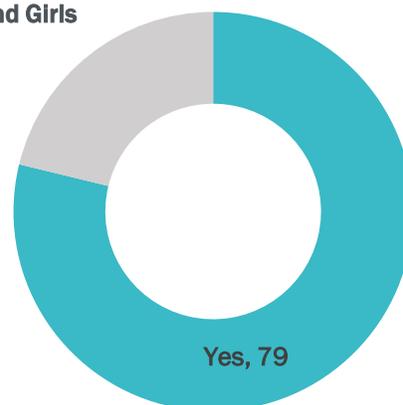
School Attendance Rates



Adjusted net attendance rate, by level of education and by gender

Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Skills*

Boys and Girls

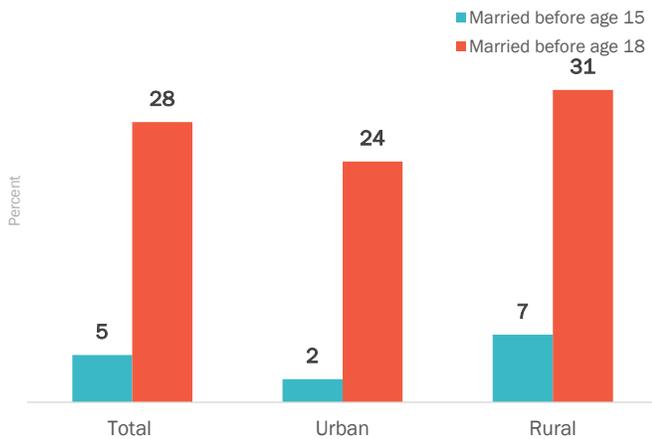


Percentage of girls and boys age 15-19 who in the last 3 months have performed at least one of eleven specific computer related activities

*Age disaggregate of SDG 4.4.1: Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills

Every Adolescent is Protected from Violence & Exploitation

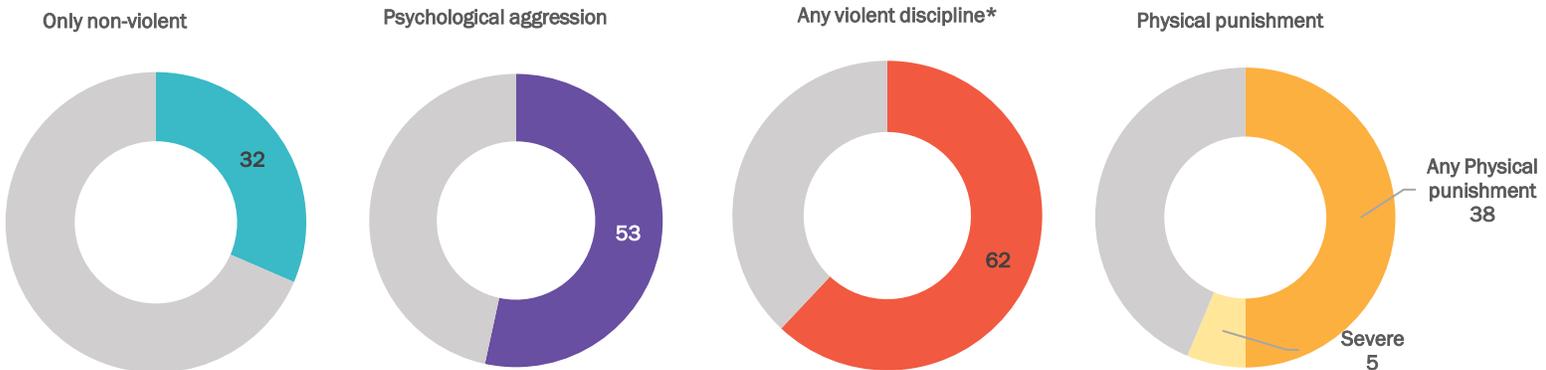
Child Marriage: SDG 5.3.1



Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, by area

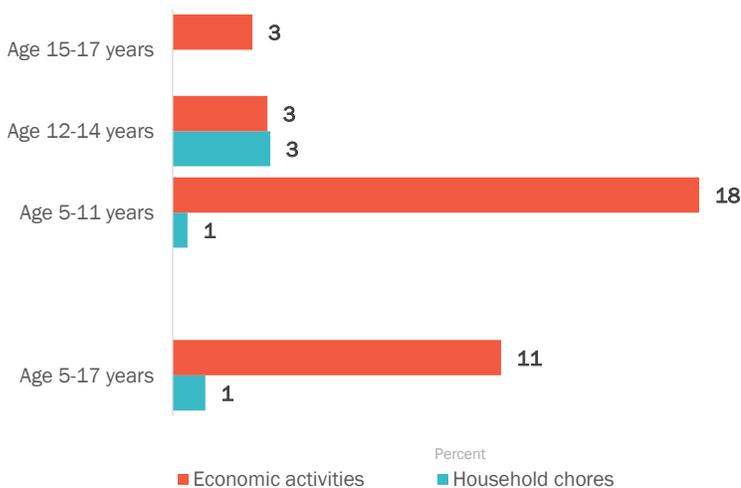
Adolescence is a period of heightened risk to certain forms of violence and exploitation. The onset of puberty marks an important transition in girls' and boys' lives whereby gender, sexuality and sexual identity begin to assume greater importance, increasing vulnerability to particular forms of violence, particularly for adolescent girls. Certain harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage, often take place at the onset of puberty. At the same time, as children enter adolescence, they begin to spend more time outside their homes and interact more intimately with a wider range of people, including peers and romantic partners. This change in social worlds is beneficial in many respects, but also exposes adolescents to new forms of violence.

Child Discipline



Percentage of children age 10 to 14 years who experienced any discipline in the past month, by type
*Age disaggregate of SDG 16.2.1

Child Labour: SDG 8.7.1



Definition of Child Labour

Age 5 to 11 years: At least 1 hour of economic activities or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week.

Age 12 to 14 years: At least 14 hours of economic activities or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week.

Age 15 to 17 years: At least 43 hours of economic activities. No threshold for number of hours of unpaid household services.

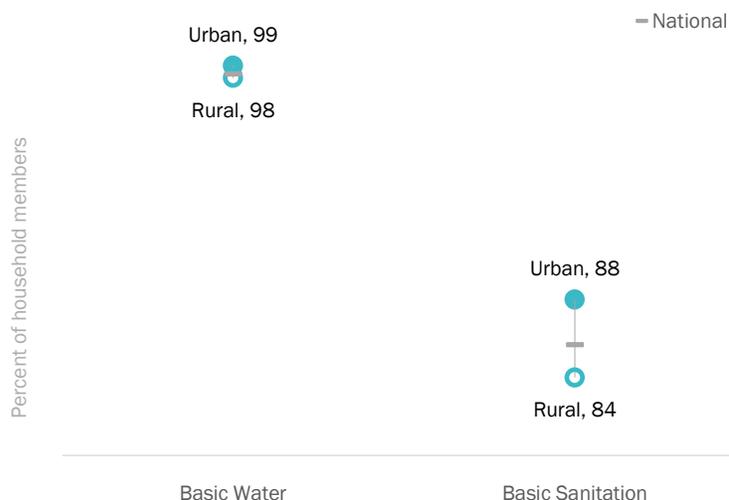
Economic activities include paid or unpaid work for someone who is not a member of the household, work for a family farm or business. Household chores include activities such as cooking, cleaning or caring for children.

Note that the child labour indicator definition has changed during the implementation of the sixth round of MICS. Changes include age-specific thresholds for household chores and exclusion of hazardous working conditions. While the overall concept of child labour includes hazardous working conditions, the definition of child labour used for SDG reporting does not.

Percentage of adolescents age 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by type of activity and by age
Note: These data reflect the proportions of children engaged in the activities at or above the age specific thresholds outlined in the definitions box.

Every Adolescent Lives in a Safe & Clean Environment

Water, Sanitation & Clean Fuel Use



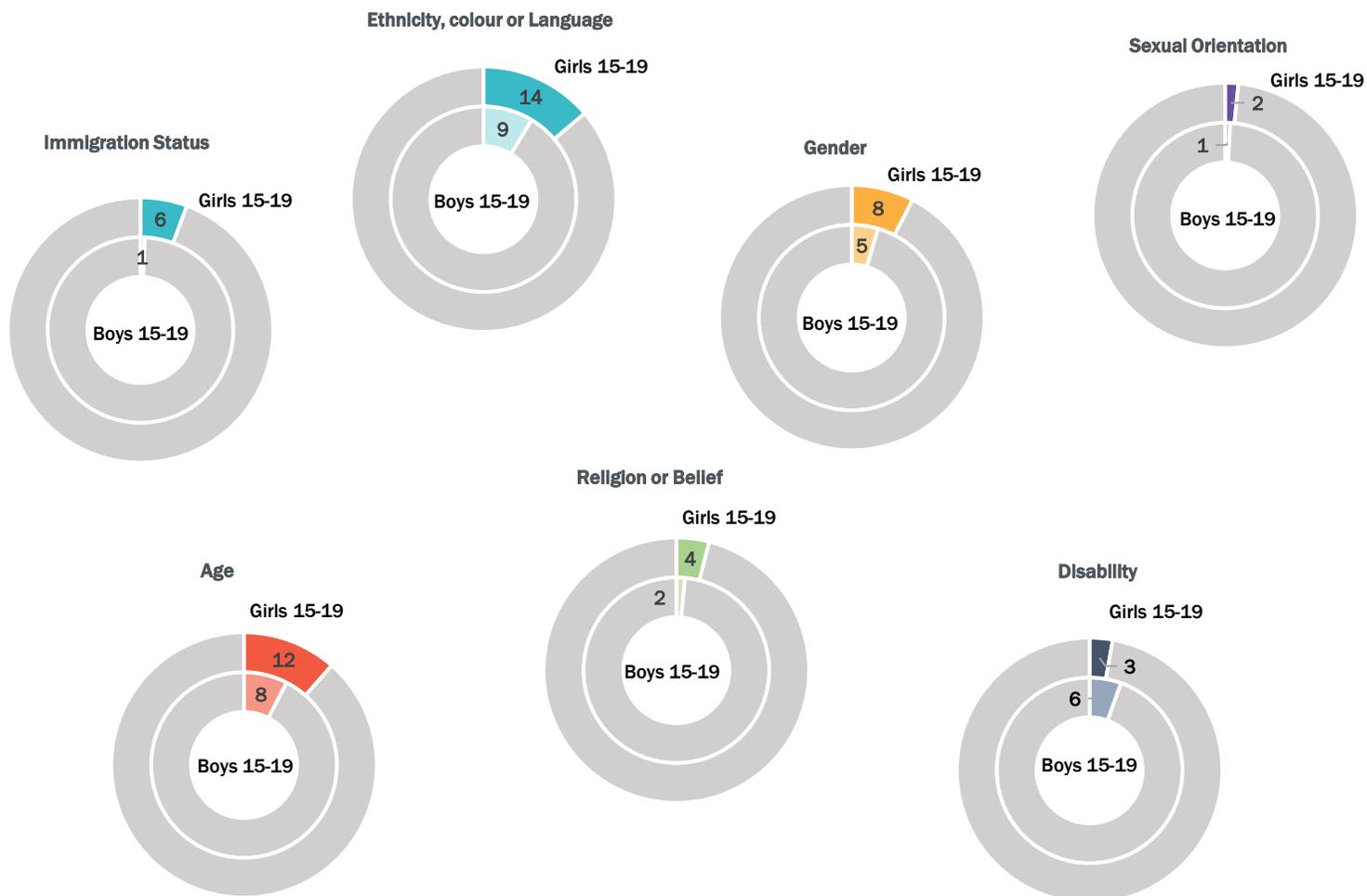
The data presented here are at the household level. Evidence suggests that adolescent access to these services are comparable to household-level data.

Basic Drinking Water SDG 1.4: Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing. Improved drinking water sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction, and include: piped water, boreholes or tube-wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water

Basic Sanitation Services SDG 1.4.1/6.2.1: Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households. Improved sanitation facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact, and include: flush/pour flush to piped sewer system, septic tanks or pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets or pit latrines with slabs

Every Adolescent has an Equitable Chance in Life

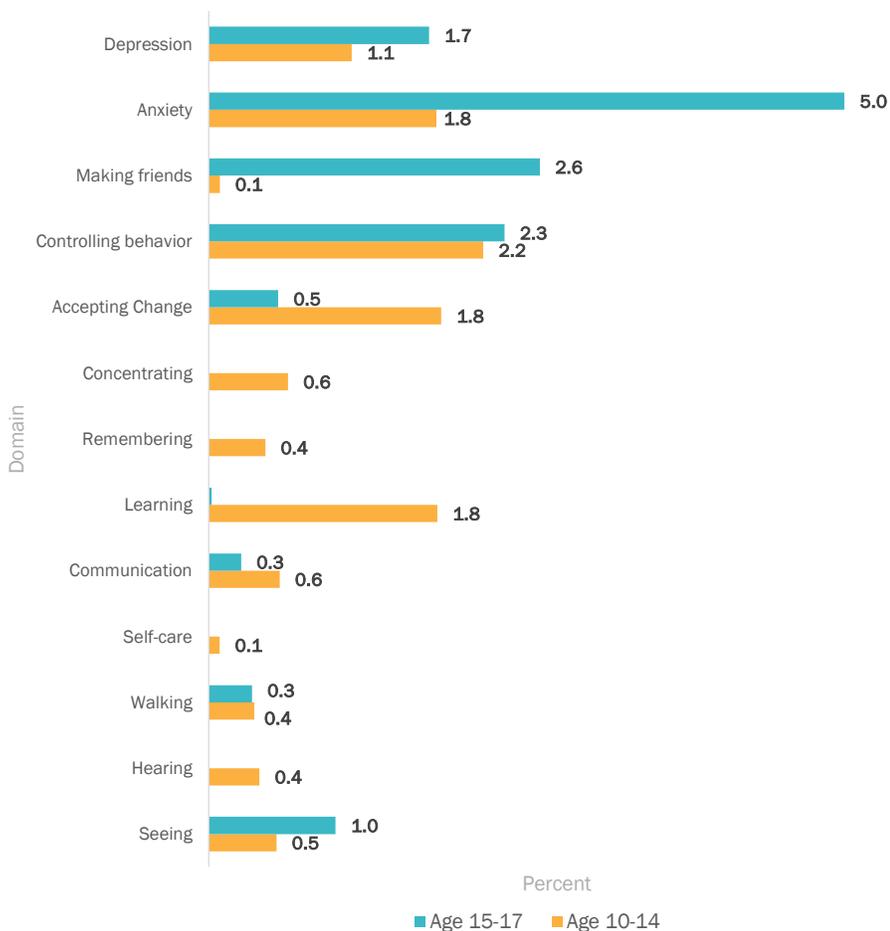
Discrimination & Harassment



Percentage of adolescent girls and boys age 15-19 years who in the last 12 months have felt discriminated against or harassed on the basis of different grounds

Every Adolescent has an Equitable Chance in Life

Functioning Difficulties in Adolescents



Percentage of adolescents who have a functioning difficulty, by domain and age

Achieving sustainable progress and results with regard to equity demands a human rights-based approach. At the core of international human rights legal framework is the principle of non-discrimination, with instruments to combat specific forms of discrimination, including against women, indigenous peoples, migrants, minorities, people with disabilities, and discrimination based on race and religion, or sexual orientation and gender identity. As adolescents begin to form more of an individual identity, discrimination can often become more pronounced, taking form in harassment, bullying, or exclusion from certain activities. At the same time, research has shown that discrimination during adolescence has a particularly strong effect on stress hormones, potentially leading to life-long mental or physical health side effects.

Children and adolescents with disabilities are one of the most marginalized groups in society. Facing daily discrimination in the form of negative attitudes, lack of adequate policies and legislation, adolescents with disabilities are effectively barred from realizing their rights to health, education, and even survival.

Key Messages

- The adolescent birth rate for women aged 15-19 is 58 per 1,000 women. Women in the poorest households have a birth rate almost four times higher than those in the richest households (104 per 1,000 vs. 27 per 1,000).
- Girls have a higher attendance rate than boys in Primary (93% girls, 90% boys) and Upper Secondary schools (55% girls, 45% boys), while attendance is almost equal in Lower Secondary (75% for both).
- Among women aged 20-24, 28% were married or in a union before age 18, and 5% before age 15

The Belize Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2023 - 2024 by Statistical Institute of Belize as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF, the Government of Belize and the Statistical Institute of Belize provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Belize MICS7 2024 related to Adolescents. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables SR.4.1, SR.9.4W/M, TM.2.1, TM.3.1, TM.3.4, LN.2.3, LN.2.4, LN.2.6, LN.4.1, LN.4.2, LN.6.3, PR.2.1, PR.3.3, PR.4.1W, WS.3.6, TC.4.1, EQ.1.2 and EQ.3.1W/M in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Summary Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.