### Definitions
Annual number of births to women in the age group of interest per 1,000 women of that age group of interest. Also known as the age-specific fertility rate.

### Numerator
- **Civil registry**: Number of registered live births to women of the age group of interest × 1,000
- **Surveys**: using retrospective data, number of births to women who were 10-14 or 15-19 years of age at birth, during a stipulated period prior to the survey.
- **Census**: Based on the date of last birth to obtain the number of births to women 10-14 years of age or 15-19 years in the 12 months prior to the survey × 1,000.

### Denominator
- **Civil registry**: Estimated number of women in the age group of interest at mid-year
- **Surveys**: number of person-years of women between 10-14 or 15-19 years during the same period stipulated prior to the survey. Note: whenever possible, the stipulated period will be 5 years prior to the survey.
- **Census**: Number of women who were 10-14 years of age or 15-19 years of age in the 12 months prior to the survey is directly obtained.

### Measuring unit
X for every 1,000 women in the age group of interest

### Considerations for indicator quality
- **Using civil registry data**: quality is affected in contexts of low birth registration coverage, or monitoring children dying before being registered, or before the first 24 hours postpartum. Also affected by accuracy of the mother's age record.
- **Using data from population-based surveys**: quality can be affected by wrong women's age registration, and by omission of reporting births or errors in reporting or calculating dates of birth. Whenever possible, the stipulated period will be 5 years prior to the survey. In case of surveys that do not have data from birth histories, the date of last birth is reported, or the number of births in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- **Using census data**: Estimates are adjusted by sub-reporting level, using indirect methods as a reference.

### Interpretation implications
Adolescent birth rate measures an edge of the reproductive health of the group of women in this age group, which is of interest after the observation that adolescent women in a gestation period, and give birth at an early age are exposed to increased risks of complications during delivery, including death; and their children are also more vulnerable. Therefore, preventing teenage pregnancies is a measure to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality.

In relation to this, this indicator provides indirect evidence of the access level to reproductive health services. It has been documented that adolescent population and particularly women who are not married frequently experience difficulties in accessing this type of services.

Expression of fertility in the interval from 10 to 14 years is not a rate, but a reason, under the assumption that most girls of 10 and 11 years still do not have their first menstruation, so they cannot be considered as exposed to the risk of pregnancy. However, it is so named for international comparison purposes.

### Context indicator
Women becoming pregnant and giving birth at an early age reduce their opportunities for socioeconomic development, associated with high probability of not completing their studies. In cases of social isolation, difficulties of combining a working day with necessary activities for home maintenance are added.

A related but different indicator is the proportion of adolescent fertility that is computed as the percentage of total fertility that is attributable to the 15-19 group.

### ODS framework

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EWEC-LAC framework</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Monitoring framework</th>
<th>Suggested stratifier for inequality analysis</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Woman</td>
<td>Imput</td>
<td>Sex</td>
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<td>Thrive</td>
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<td>Transform</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Impact</td>
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<td>Socioeconomic level (quintiles of national wealth)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Product</td>
<td></td>
<td>Place of residence (urban / rural, or geographic location)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred data source
Civil registry in contexts of coverage close to 100%

### Alternative data sources
- Censuses, household surveys.

### Inter-agency group estimates

### Global monitoring frameworks
- [Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health](https://www.unfpa.org/data/global-strategy-womens-childrens-adolescents-health)

### For more information
- [World population data dashboard](https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard)

### References
- [WHO Global Health Observatory](https://www.who.int)