

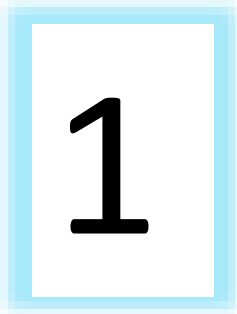
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Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

Progress in the 25 years since the International Conference on Population & Development & prospects for the next 25 years

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Review article

The State of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health



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<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1054139X19304732>

Aim:

To provide an overview of levels and trends in a wide range of factors related to ASRHR since 1994.

New demographic realities

- ❑ *More adolescents, especially in sub-Saharan Africa*
- ❑ *More boys/young men than girls/young women*
- ❑ *Growing up in smaller households*
- ❑ *Growing up in the context of increased life expectancy*



Changing burden of illness



The Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing placed countries in three categories:*

1. *Multiple burden (communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health-related and nutrition-related),*
2. *Injury excess, &*
3. *Non-communicable disease predominant.*

Many countries still face the health challenges they faced 25 years ago, and in addition are facing new ones e.g. obesity/overweight.

**<https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/adolescent-health-and-wellbeing>*

New social context



- ❑ *More likely to be digitally connected*
- ❑ *More likely to be enrolled in school, & to complete school*
- ❑ *Growing up in the context of declining poverty*
- ❑ *Rates of unemployment & underemployment in young people are higher than those in adults, with growing sex disparities in those who are unemployed*
- ❑ *Rates of working poverty have increased*

ASRH: Progress in some areas, but not in others

- ❑ Girls & boys are more likely to initiate sexual activity later than they did in the past.
- ❑ Girls are less likely to be married & to have children before 18, more likely to use contraception & to obtain maternal health care.
- ❑ They are less likely to support & experience female genital mutilation.
- ❑ Boys & girls are less likely to have sex with a partner who they were not married to or living with; they are also more likely to use condoms.
- ❑ HIV incidence is declining slowly but deaths among adolescents due to HIV have not.
- ❑ There are no clear trends on unsafe abortion, & mortality & morbidity resulting from it.
- ❑ Finally, from the limited available evidence levels of STI & intimate partner violence are high and are growing.



Adolescents' realities are very different, with many – even in high income countries – being left behind.

