

Training course in adolescent sexual and reproductive
health 2020

The effects of COVID-19 on the lives of adolescents, and
specifically on their SRH

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Question 1.1

What were the three research methods used by GAGE to study adolescent experiences of COVID-19?

The three methods used by GAGE were:

1. Phone surveys with 9500 adolescents.
2. Phone/web-based interviews with 550 adolescents + 150 key informants.
3. Phone/ web-based participatory research with 140 adolescents.

Question 1.2

Why did Population Council decide to conduct multiple rounds of data collection in each country?

To better understand how impacts have changed as the pandemic has evolved.

Question 1.3

Name one advantage and one disadvantage of conducting telephone surveys.

In the context of COVID19 conducting telephone surveys has been key to gather information on the situation of adolescents.

One of the advantages is that is cheaper than traveling house to house to conduct the surveys and can ensure the safety of the investigators in this context.

One of the disadvantages is that sometimes adolescents do not have access to private phones, they share it with their parents and they have to answer the questions in front of other people, so you can't guarantee an honest answer.

Question 2.1

Give two reasons why learning has been disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Distance learning is limited by lack of hardware (radios, phones, computers), lack of connectivity (electricity, wifi, mobile data) and lack of human support.
2. The economic consequences of covid-19 reduce the likelihood of the most vulnerable young people returning to education.

Question 2.2

List two reasons why girls' education has been especially affected in many places.

1. Domestic responsibilities have burgeoned.
2. Girls have less access to technology.

Question 2.3

Girls' learning has been more adversely affected than boys' learning in Mexico – true or false.

False - adolescent girls have reported learning more and expressed having had more positive experiences in comparison to adolescent boys. Adolescent girls reported receiving more support at home to solve school-related questions in comparison to adolescent boys.

Question 3

Name one finding on the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity; name one group which has been particularly affected; and name one reason for this.

One of the impacts of food insecurity is that households have not only cut back on the quality of food they eat, especially proteins, but are in some cases severely restricting quantity. Girls appear far more at risk than boys because of the restrictions for their mobility, one of the reasons of the impact of COVID on food insecurity is the job losses related first to lockdowns-

Question 4

Name one finding on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health; name one group which has been particularly affected; and name one reason for this.

One of the finding by GAGE in mental health is that young people are depressed and worried about poverty and food insecurity. In general, girls are at higher risk, and one of the reasons for this is that they are more isolated.

Question 5.1

The Guttmacher Institute estimates that 43% of adolescents aged 15-19 years in low- and middle-income countries who want to avoid a pregnancy are unable to obtain contraceptives (in slide 2 of the [Guttmacher Institute Presentation](#)). Name one reason for this.

Provider bias, particularly unwillingness to supply methods to young, unmarried or childless women, serves as a further barrier to contraceptive use and to reproductive autonomy more broadly.

Question 5.2

What is the estimated level of unmet need for contraception for adolescents aged 15-19 years in your country?

The latest data on unmet need for contraception among adolescents 15-19 in the Dominican Republic is from 2013 and was 27% (1). Data from 2019 from the United Nations Population Fund in 2019 indicated that the rate of contraceptive use in women between the ages of 15 and 49, who use any method is 69% (2).

Question 6

What does the Guttmacher Institute project will happen if COVID-19 causes disruptions in contraception access? In your opinion, is this pertinent to your country?

If COVID-19 cause's disruption in contraception access even just a modest 12% decline in adolescents' use of modern contraception over the year, this would result in 2 million additional adolescent women with an unmet need for modern contraception, and 734,000 additional unintended pregnancies among adolescents.

In the Dominican Republic COVID-19 is already having an impact in access to contraceptives for adolescents as more of public hospitals are just taking care of COVID patients and are not open to regular services. The few services that are open are seeing low levels of people seeking services because of fear of contagion.

Question 7

WHO conducted an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on 25 essential services. Name one health service that what was found to be severely disrupted, and one that was found to be partially disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Name one consequence of the disruption of these services.

One health service that was reported by most countries to be severely disrupted was of outreach routine immunization services. The breakdown of these services has been estimated to lead to major excess deaths of children under 5 years of age and increases in maternal and neonatal mortality.

Partially disrupted was services for sick children and for moderate and severe malnutrition which will likely negatively affect child survival and development.

References

1. Centro de Estudios Sociales; Demográficos (CESDEM); ICF International. Encuesta Demográfica y de Salud 2013 (Demographic and Health Survey). Santo Domingo, República Dominicana; 2014. Available from: <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR292/FR292.pdf>. Co-published by CESDEM; ICF International.
2. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Estado de la población mundial 2019, un asunto pendiente: la defensa de los derechos y la libertad de decidir de todas las personas. UNFPA; 2019. Available from: <https://dominicanrepublic.unfpa.org/es/publications/estado-de-la-poblaci%C3%B3n-mundial-2019-2>