



ADDING IT UP

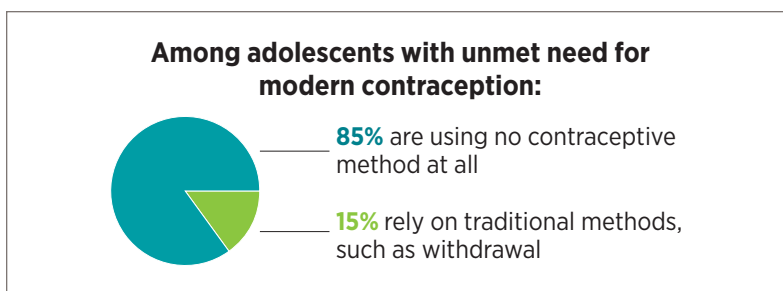
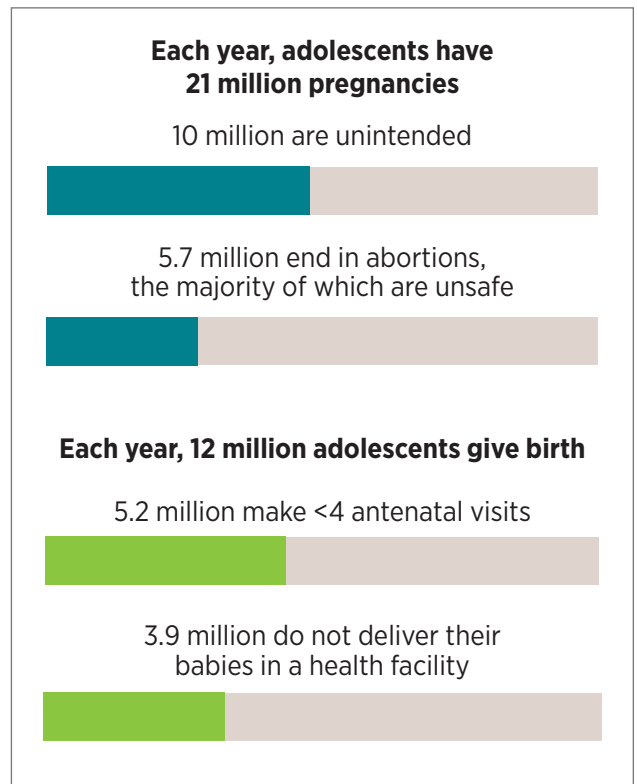
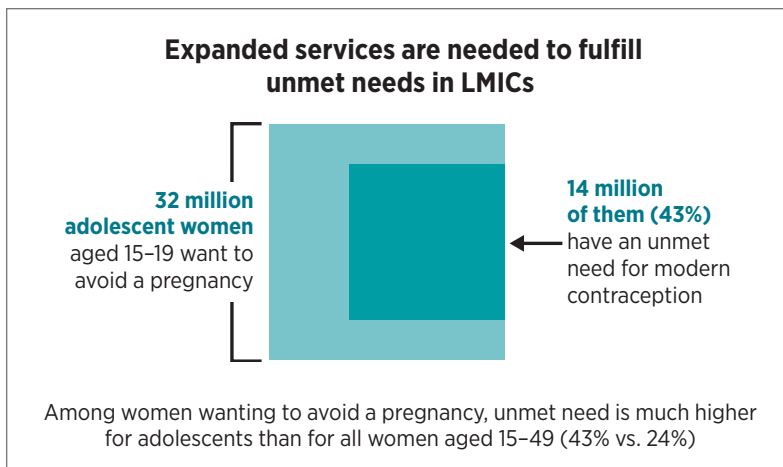
Investing in Adolescents' Sexual and Reproductive Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

The Adding It Up study examines the need for, impact of and cost of fully investing in sexual and reproductive health care—services that together ensure people can decide whether and when to have children, experience safe pregnancy and delivery, have healthy newborns, and have a safe and satisfying sexual life.

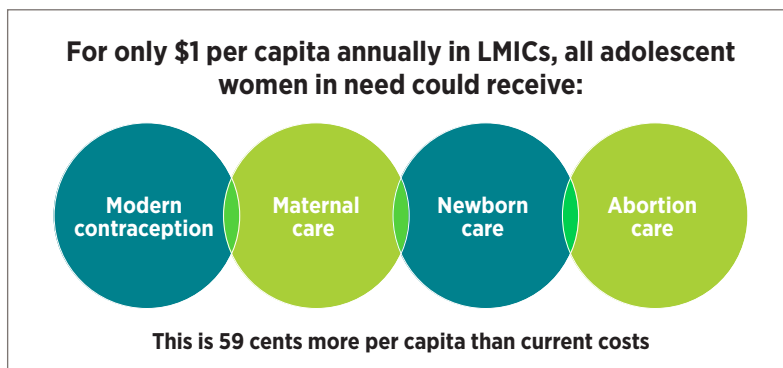
WHO: Adolescent women aged 15–19 in 132 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)* in 2019

WHAT: Contraceptive services, maternal care, newborn care and abortion services

Unmet needs for services in LMICs



Cost of meeting all service needs



Contraceptive services yield cost savings

Every \$1 spent on contraceptive services for adolescents in LMICs beyond the current level would save \$3.70 in maternal, newborn and abortion care because **contraception reduces the number of unintended pregnancies**

*Countries classified by the World Bank as having a 2018 gross national income per capita of \$12,375 or less.

Impacts of expanding and improving services

Investing in sexual and reproductive health care in LMICs would substantially reduce unintended pregnancies, unplanned births, abortions and maternal deaths among adolescents

	Annual no. at current levels of care	–	Annual no. if all needs are met	=	No. averted if all needs are met	% change if all needs are met
Unintended pregnancies	10.3 million		4.1 million		6.2 million	-60%
Unplanned births	3.3 million		1.2 million		2.1 million	-63%
Abortions	5.7 million		2.4 million		3.3 million	-58%
Maternal deaths	27,000		10,000		17,000	-63%

Notes: Based on 2019 data. Numbers are rounded.

For more detail, see appendix to the full report: <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/adding-it-up-investing-in-sexual-reproductive-health-2019>.

Investing for the future

- Investments in meeting adolescent women's need for modern contraceptive services and pregnancy-related and newborn care would result in greater impacts than investing in either type of care alone and provide good value for money.
- Effective actions to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health take a multifaceted approach and provide young people with access to services that are nondiscriminatory; medically accurate; and developmentally, culturally and age-appropriate.
- Full provision of high-quality care, free of stigma and discrimination, would enable adolescents to overcome common barriers to use and to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

Source

The information in this fact sheet can be found in Sully EA et al., *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020.

Acknowledgments

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Good reproductive health policy starts with credible research

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Find the full report and appendix tables at <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/adding-it-up-investing-in-sexual-reproductive-health-2019>.