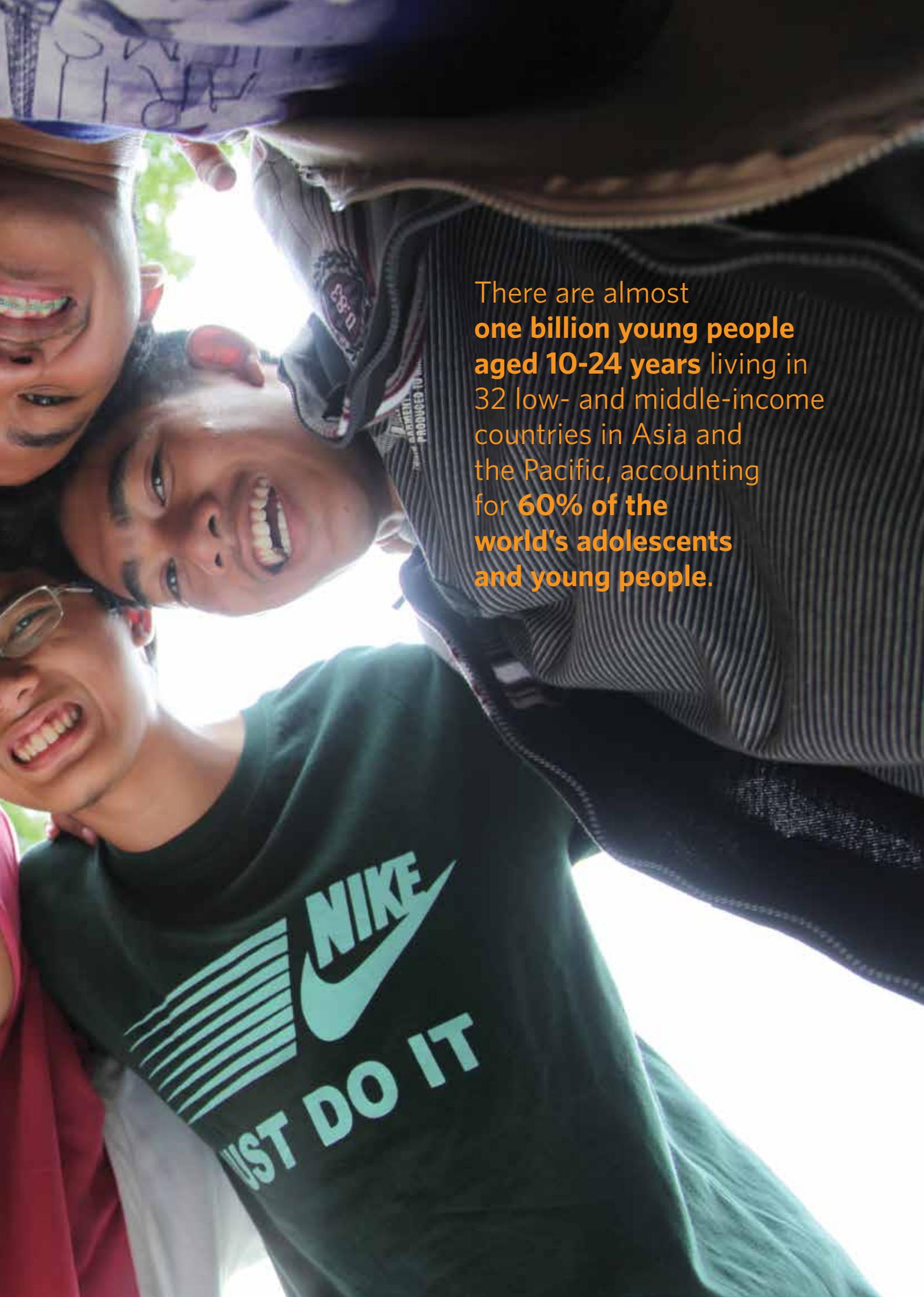


# A SNAPSHOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Highlights from the  
My Body is my Body,  
My Life is my Life  
Report







There are almost **one billion young people aged 10-24 years** living in 32 low- and middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, accounting for **60% of the world's adolescents and young people.**



# A **snapshot** of young people's sexual and reproductive health in Asia and the Pacific

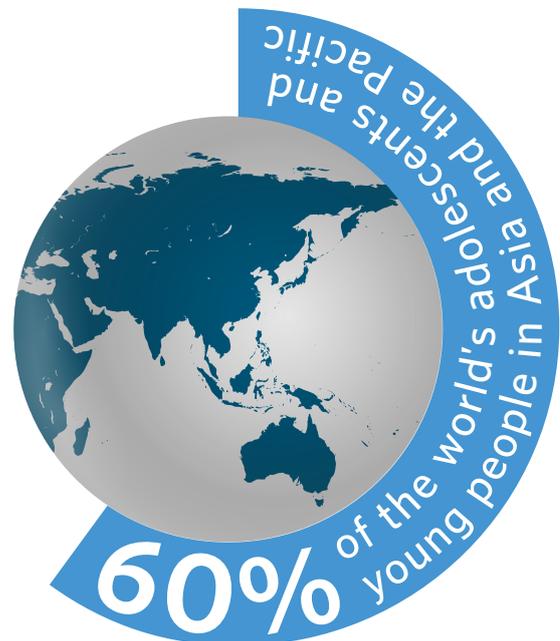
**1.** There are almost **one billion** young people aged **10-24 years** living in 32 low- and middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, accounting for

**60%** of the world's adolescents and young people.

**2.** Across the region, **child marriage and early union** is common. Around

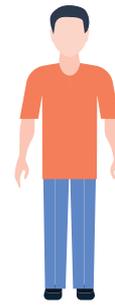
**1 in 8 girls** (19 million) and

**1 in 50 boys** (4 million) aged 15-19 years are currently married or in union.



1 in 8 girls  
**19**  
MILLION

1 in 50 boys  
**4**  
MILLION



almost **27 million** young women aged 20-24 years were married by the age of 18.

**3.** Across the region, **40 million** adolescents aged **15-19 years** have ever had sex.

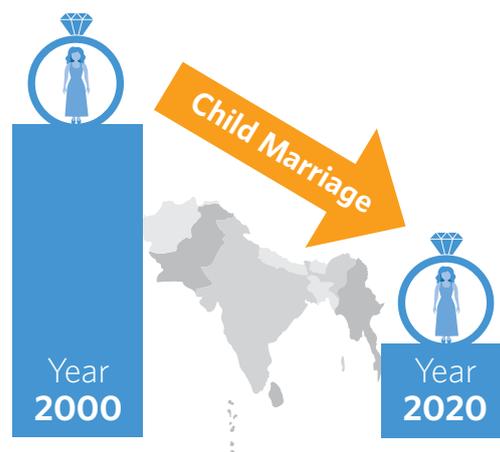
In the Pacific, 22% of unmarried girls and 41% of unmarried boys have had sex.



In the majority of countries, **less than half of 15-24 year olds** with multiple sexual partners used a condom at last sex, signifying substantial sexual health risk for both boys and girls.

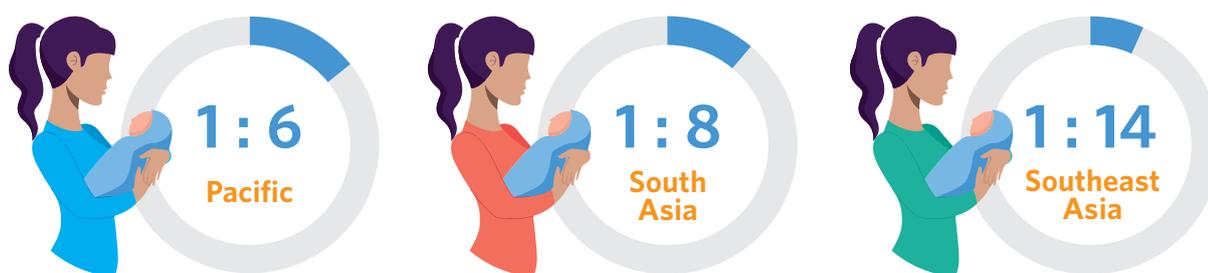
**4.** Over the last **two decades** the prevalence of **child marriage has halved** in South Asia, where

there has been a focus on addressing traditional forms of arranged child marriage, but there has been little change in settings where less formal (cohabiting and peer-led) unions are common.



**5.** There were an estimated 3.7 million births to 15 -19-year-old girls in the Asia-Pacific region in 2019.

**One in six** young women in the Pacific, **1 in 8** in South Asia, and **1 in 14** in Southeast Asia have commenced childbearing by the age of 18.



Maternal disorders are the leading cause of death of girls aged 15-19 years in the Pacific, and the second leading cause of death in South Asia.

**6.** Where adolescent childbearing has occurred largely in context of traditional child marriage (South Asia) adolescent fertility has fallen by around 60% in the last two decades. **However, adolescent fertility in some South Asian countries remains very high**, in the context of low decision-making autonomy of girls with respect to sexual reproductive health, and low use of effective contraception.

**In Southeast Asia, some Pacific countries, and Mongolia, adolescent fertility has increased since 2000.**



**In these settings up to a third of adolescent pregnancies are conceived before marriage**, many are unintended, and occur in the context of high unmet need for modern contraception among unmarried sexually active adolescents.



# A **snapshot** of young people's sexual and reproductive health in Asia and the Pacific

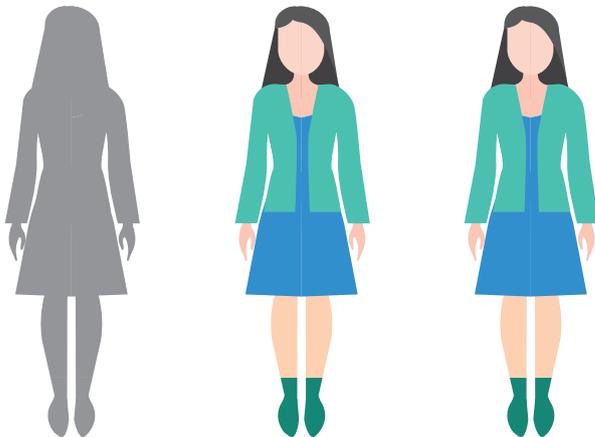


**7. Around 1 in 8 births** to adolescent girls aged **15-19 years** are unintended.

There are an estimated **3.6 million unsafe abortions each year** among women aged 15-24 years.

**8. One in three women (34 million) aged 15-24**

do not have their demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods.

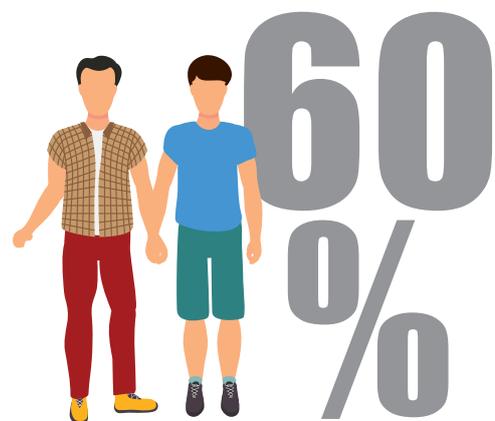


**Less than 1 in 4** sexually active unmarried adolescents are using a modern method of contraception.

**9. In 2019, 420,000** young people aged 15-24 years were living with HIV, **60%** of whom were adolescent **boys** and **young men aged 15-24.**

There were an estimated 82,000 new HIV infections among this age group in 2019, accounting for more than a quarter of all new HIV infections in the region. The majority of new HIV infections among young people occurred among young key populations.\*

The fastest growing HIV epidemics in the region are among young men who have sex with men. At least 13 countries have laws that impose the need for parental consent for adolescents and young people below 18 years to access HIV testing.



\* Young men who have sex with men, young transgender people, young people injecting drugs and young people selling sex.



**15 countries**  
criminalize consensual same-sex  
sexual activity between men



**10 countries**  
do so between women

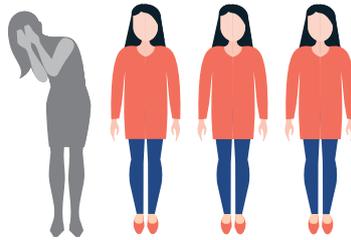
**10.** Young people with diverse sexual orientation or gender identity/expression continue to face enormous stigma and discrimination, contributing to a high burden of violence and poor SRH.

**11. One in two** 15-24-year-old women in the Pacific, **1 in 4** in South Asia, and **1 in 6** in Southeast Asia have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence.

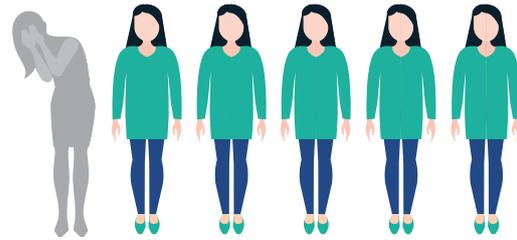
**Pacific**



**South Asia**



**Southeast Asia**



**12. Less than a third** of 15-24 year olds have comprehensive knowledge of HIV, and **less than 35%** of young people report having received SRH information at school.

No country in the region currently provides a comprehensive sexuality education school curriculum that meets international standards.

**13.** More than **1 in 2** adolescent girls report at least **one serious problem accessing health care.**

In the majority of countries, fewer than **20% of adolescents are covered by any health insurance.** While there has been progress in defining standards of adolescent-responsive health services, considerable barriers remain and adolescents are often the missing population in universal health coverage.

