

INDICATORS OF ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR PREVENTING HIV AND IMPROVING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



“Universal access to reproductive health.”

This phrase was the highlight and rallying cry of the seminal 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Yet some 14 years later, there is no common understanding in the global health community of how to measure progress toward this important goal.

With the support of the Summit Foundation, the World Health Organization issued in early 2008 a set of key indicators that can be used to monitor access by young people to HIV prevention and treatment, as well as improved sexual and reproductive health services.

The indicators that follow represent an important consensus among a range of international partners on how to measure the accessibility of such services. Collecting and reporting on these measures is also seen as a key step toward improving the availability, quality and affordability of such services.

With this fact sheet, we aim to disseminate these indicators widely, so that more individuals and institutions can gain a common understanding of what “access to reproductive health” by young people means, and how we can measure it. But even as such measurement gives us a better idea of how accessible certain health services are, we are challenged by the fact that significant amounts of data remain missing. Until each of these measures can be tracked with relevant age and sex disaggregation, and until important cultural, societal and political factors are addressed, opportunities to improve the lives of young people across the world will continue to be missed.

For more information, go to WHO’s website at:
http://www.who.int/child_adolescent_health/data/factsheets/en/index.html.



Indicators of Access to Health Services for Young People

indicator	definition	indicator	definition
1. institutionalizing youth-friendly health services	The number of health workers trained to provide adolescent/youth-friendly health services.	8. use of specified health services by young people	Measured through either facility-based records (measuring service utilization only) or population-based methods such as surveys (which can give an estimate of the coverage of health services).
2. condom use by young people at last higher-risk sex	The percentage of women and men aged 15-24 years who have had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months reporting the use of a condom during their last sexual intercourse.	9. young people seeking treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections	The percentage of young people reporting symptoms of STIs in the last 12 months who sought care from a service care provider with personnel trained in STI care..
3. HIV testing behavior among young people	The proportion of sexually active young people who had an HIV test in the preceding 12 months and know the result.	10. current use of contraception by young women	The percentage of distribution of all women, of currently married women and of sexually active unmarried women by contraceptive method currently used, according to age.
4. condom availability for young people	The total number of condoms distributed nationwide during the last 12 months, divided by the total population aged 15-49 years.	11. antenatal care at age less than 20 years	The percentage of distribution of live births in the five years preceding the survey by source of antenatal care during pregnancy, according to maternal and background characteristics.
5. knowledge of a formal source of condoms among young people	The percentage of young people aged 15-24 years who know of at least one formal source of condoms.	12. age-specific fertility rate for young women	The ratio of the number of births in women aged 15-24 to the number of women of the same age at mid-year.
6. accessibility to HIV testing and counseling (HTC) services by young people	The percentage of young people aged 15-24 years who know a place to get HTC.	13. unmet need for family planning among young women	The percentage of currently married women aged 15-24 with unmet need for family planning.
7. perception of access to condoms by young people	The percentage of young people who report they could get condoms on their own.		