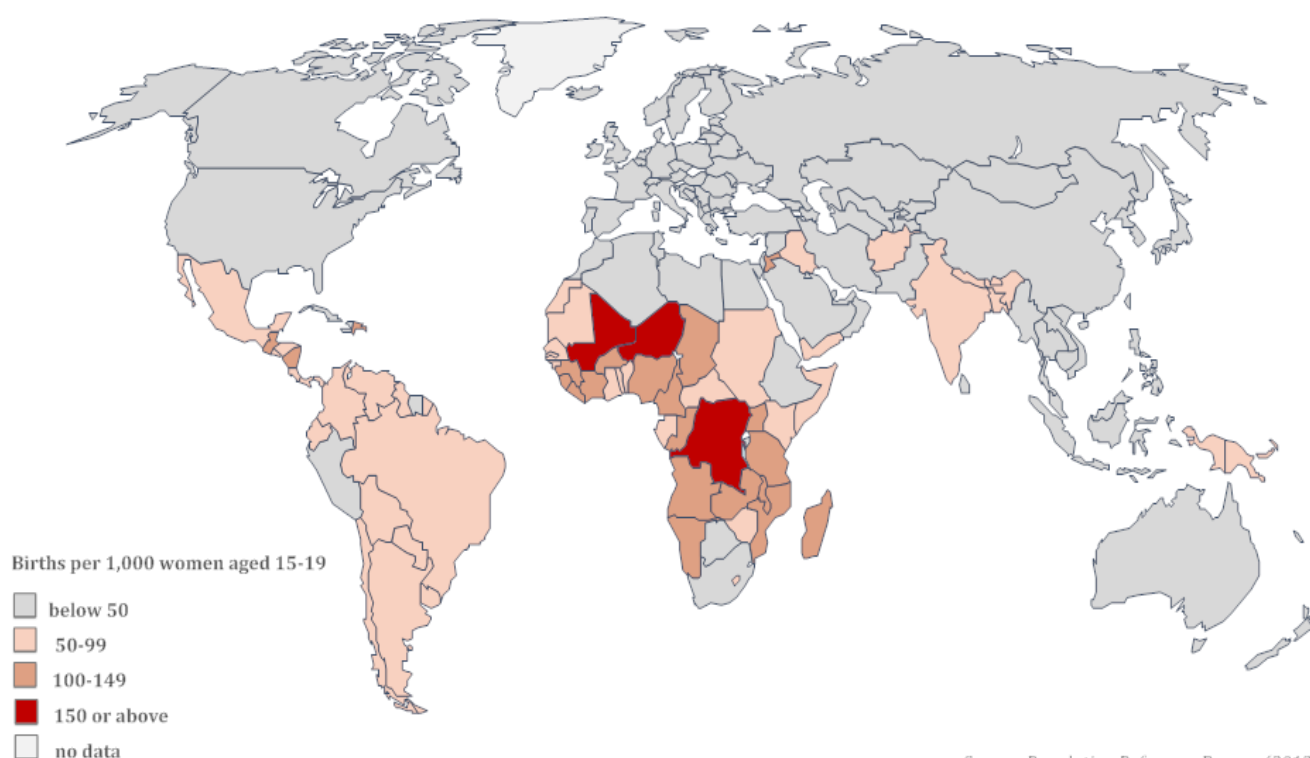


Adolescent Fertility Rates Worldwide



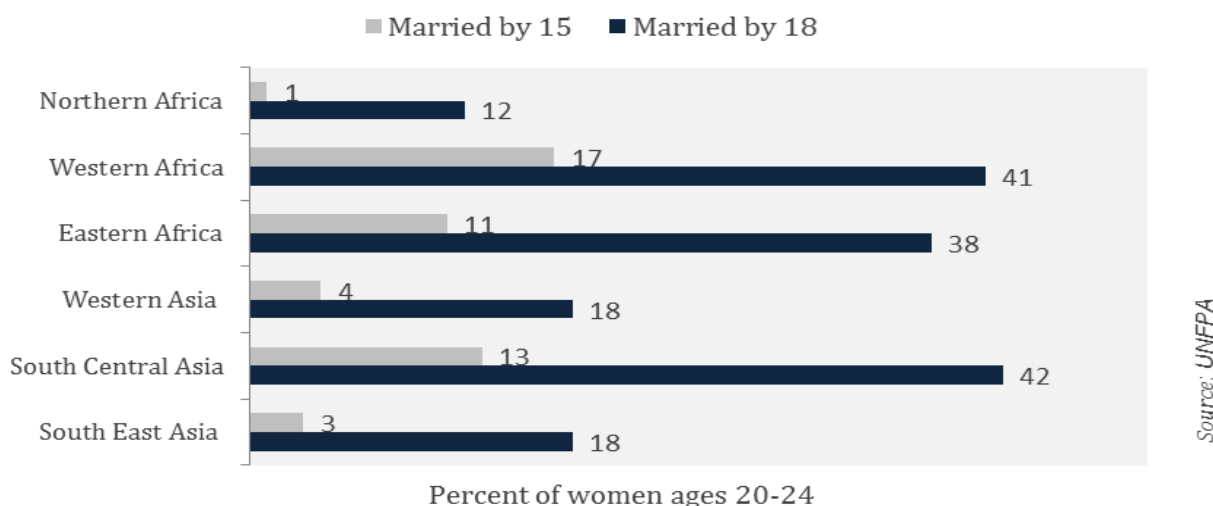
Fertility levels among women aged 15 to 19 are an important indicator of the status of women, since women who bear children early in life often forego the opportunity for further education or employment outside the home (UN, 2013).

In sub-Saharan Africa, 29 of 51 countries or areas had adolescent birth rates of 100 or higher in 2005-2010, and these are concentrated in Middle Africa and Western Africa (144 and 124 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, respectively). Niger had the highest adolescent birth rate of all countries with 210 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in 2005-2010.

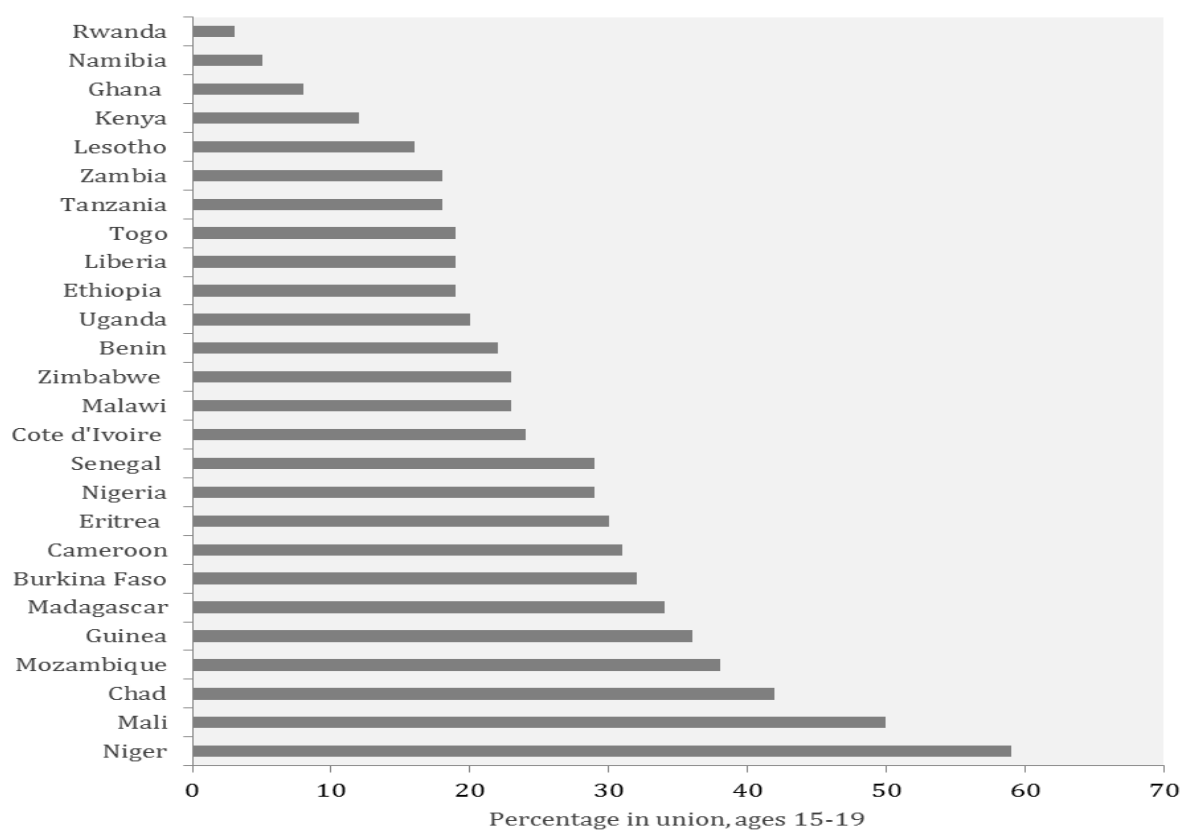
The region as a whole has an adolescent birth rate of 117 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 (2005-2010). Adolescent births do, however, account for a higher proportion of all births in Latin America and the Caribbean (15.9 per cent of all births) than in sub-Saharan Africa (10.9 per cent of all births).

High levels of adolescent fertility are closely connected with the widespread prevalence of 'child marriage' (i.e. marriage before the age of 18). Rates of child marriage are high in much of Sub-Saharan Africa. In western Africa, almost 1 in 5 girls are married by the age of 15, a slightly lower proportion than in south central Asia.

Prevalence of Child Marriage



Percentage of Women in Union, Ages 15-19, Last Demographic and Health Survey



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