

Improving the lives and reproductive health of married and unmarried adolescent girls



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An adolescent girl enacts a marriage negotiation.

The majority of adolescent girls are married, often to older men as 2nd or 3rd wives. Girls have little or no say over this. Early marriage is very common (62% under the age of 18). There are high mortality rates associated with maternity.

The level of education is significantly lower among girls. Girls are restricted in movement. Life-time risk of dying in pregnancy 1:14. Girls are 2-3 times more likely to be infected with HIV compared to boys. Information to young people is limited. Taken from UNICEF Information by country website, <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/index.html>