

GIRL Center Insights Collections highlight the Population Council's extensive body of scholarly research on important adolescent-related topics. The collections present research that changes thinking or demonstrates novel and innovative approaches.

INSIGHTS COLLECTION

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights

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A wide range of factors—at the individual, peer, family, school, and community levels—impact outcomes in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights. Globally, there is a lack of consensus about the factors that interventions should target to achieve public health goals. In this GIRL Center Insights Collection, we highlight evidence that makes the case for multifaceted approaches to improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The articles examine the diversity of interventions to prevent child marriage and unintended pregnancy, and improve access to contraception, comprehensive sexuality education, and parent-child communication.

**JOURNAL OF
ADOLESCENT
HEALTH**

[Interventions to Prevent Unintended and Repeat Pregnancy Among Young People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review of the](#)

[Published and Gray Literature](#) (2016). This review identified 21 high-quality evaluations of interventions—including cash transfer programs, education and life-skills curricula, peer education, contraception provision, and a mass media campaign—designed to and showing varying levels of significant impacts on decreasing unintended pregnancy during young adulthood. The results can inform strategic investments in support of the most effective interventions.



[Correlates of Contraceptive Use and Health Facility Choice among Young Women in Malawi](#) (2016). This study analyzes

longitudinal data from Malawi to explore the role of access and quality of family planning services in determining use of contraception by adolescents. The authors find that few adolescents use contraception before their first birth, regardless of access to and quality of services. They recommend structural, institutional, and norm changes around fertility, childbearing, and marriage.

UAPS **Parent-Child Communication and Reproductive Health**
UEPA **Behaviors: A Survey of Adolescent Girls in Rural**
Tanzania (2015). Using survey data from Tanzania, this study finds that the effectiveness of parent-child communication in improving adolescent reproductive health behaviors depends on the content of those exchanges. The authors recommend that interventions not only engage parents, but also provide guidance to parents on how to communicate clearly and comprehensively about sexuality, contraceptive use, and HIV/AIDS.

Asia-Pacific **Early marriage as a risk factor for mistimed**
Population **pregnancy among married adolescents in**
Journal **Bangladesh** (2015). Using both survey and in-depth interview data, this study attempts to explain the puzzle of persistent high levels of adolescent childbearing in Bangladesh, despite widespread modern contraceptive use and replacement level fertility. The authors find that child marriage is a critical determinant of adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes for adolescents, even in the context of high contraceptive access and uptake.

INTERNATIONAL **The case for addressing gender**
PERSPECTIVES **and power in sexuality and HIV**
on Sexual and Reproductive Health **education: a comprehensive review**
of evaluation studies (2015). This study reviews evaluations of sexuality and HIV education programs from both developed and developing countries. The authors conclude that programs whose curricula address gender and power are five times more likely to be effective at reducing STIs and unplanned pregnancy than those that do not.

The Girl Innovation, Research, and Learning (GIRL) Center generates, synthesizes, and translates evidence to transform the lives of adolescent girls. Through rigorous research about what works—and what doesn't—we can better direct limited resources to support evidence-based solutions that improve girls' lives.

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