pregnant - based on their sexual activity, nonuse of contraception or use of specific contraception methods, and method-specific contraceptive failure rates. The PRI was compared with current pregnancy, based on self-report and urine testing. Child marriage was measured as ever-married before age 18. Statistical evidence for change over time was assessed using regression analyses with robust variance estimation. The sample included 15,606 women-rounds of observation.

Results School enrollment rose from 26% in 1994 to 61% in 2018 (p<0.001), coinciding with a national policy of universal primary education instituted in 1997 and considerable increases in household SES. Rates of orphanhood declined from 52% in 2004 to 23% to 2018 (p<0.001), corresponding to availability in antiretroviral therapy from 2004. Child marriage among women 15-19 years declined from 33% to 4% (p<0.001). Current pregnancy declined by 65%; a parallel 58% decline in the average PRI score reflects a decline in sexual experience (67% to 40%) and increases in current contraception use (29% to 42%, all trends p<0.001). Adjusted for age and survey rounds, school enrollees compared to non-enrollees reported less sexual experience (43% vs. 79%, p<0.001), greater use of condoms (55% vs 20%, p<0.001) and greater use of any contraceptive method (61% vs 39%, p<0.001).

Conclusions Adolescent pregnancy and child marriage declined from 1994 to 2018 as enrollment in school and socioeconomic status increased and HIV-related orphanhood declined. Social determinants can have an enormous influence on adolescent health and social transitions.

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TRENDS, DETERMINANTS AND INEQUALITIES IN ADOLESCENT MOTHERHOOD IN 74 LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES: A POPULATION-BASED STUDY

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Aims Reducing adolescent motherhood is an important indicator of several global health-related goals. Assessing the epidemiological burden of adolescent motherhood is important in supporting prevention initiatives to achieve these goals. Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine the trends, inequalities and determinants of adolescent motherhood in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Methods We analysed 238-nationally representative demographic health surveys conducted between1990-2016 in 74 LMICs. The annual weighted prevalence of adolescent motherhood was estimated, and their trend was examined using time-series method. We estimated and compared the average annual rate of change (AARC) in adolescent motherhood. Inequalities in adolescent motherhood along different sociodemographic characteristics were described using the normalized concentration index (C) proposed by Wagstaff. A generalized estimating equation model was used to identify determinants for adolescent motherhood.

Results In total, 704,077 adolescent girls (15-19 years) were included in this study. The average weighted prevalence of adolescent motherhood was 19.46% (95%CI, 18.16%-20.75%) during 1990-2016. The prevalence varied from 7.20% to 24.90% across different regions, with the highest prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa. Adolescent motherhood declined (AARC= -0.80%) in LMICs with some variations across regions and countries. The highest decline was observed in South & Southeast Asia (AARC= -1.79%) whereas no reduction was observed in the Latin & Caribbean region. Further, 28.10% (16/57) of the studied countries exhibited increasing in adolescent motherhood. Significant inequalities in adolescent motherhood were observed by wealth quintile (C= -0.249), level of education (C= -0.215), area of residence (C= -0.138), and exposure to media (C= -0.069). Pooled adjusted model showed that wealth quintile, employment status, media exposure, early marriage, knowledge about ovulation, partner’s greater age difference, and partner’s desire for more children are significant determinants for adolescent motherhood.

Conclusion Overall reductions in the prevalence of adolescent motherhood were observed in LMICs; however, inequalities in the prevalence persist. There was no progress in reducing the prevalence in some high burden countries. Early marriage, partner’s age difference, and their desire for more children are consistently identified as determinants for adolescent motherhood in most of the region. International policymakers could be beneficial from these findings in designing interventions to prevent adolescent motherhood.