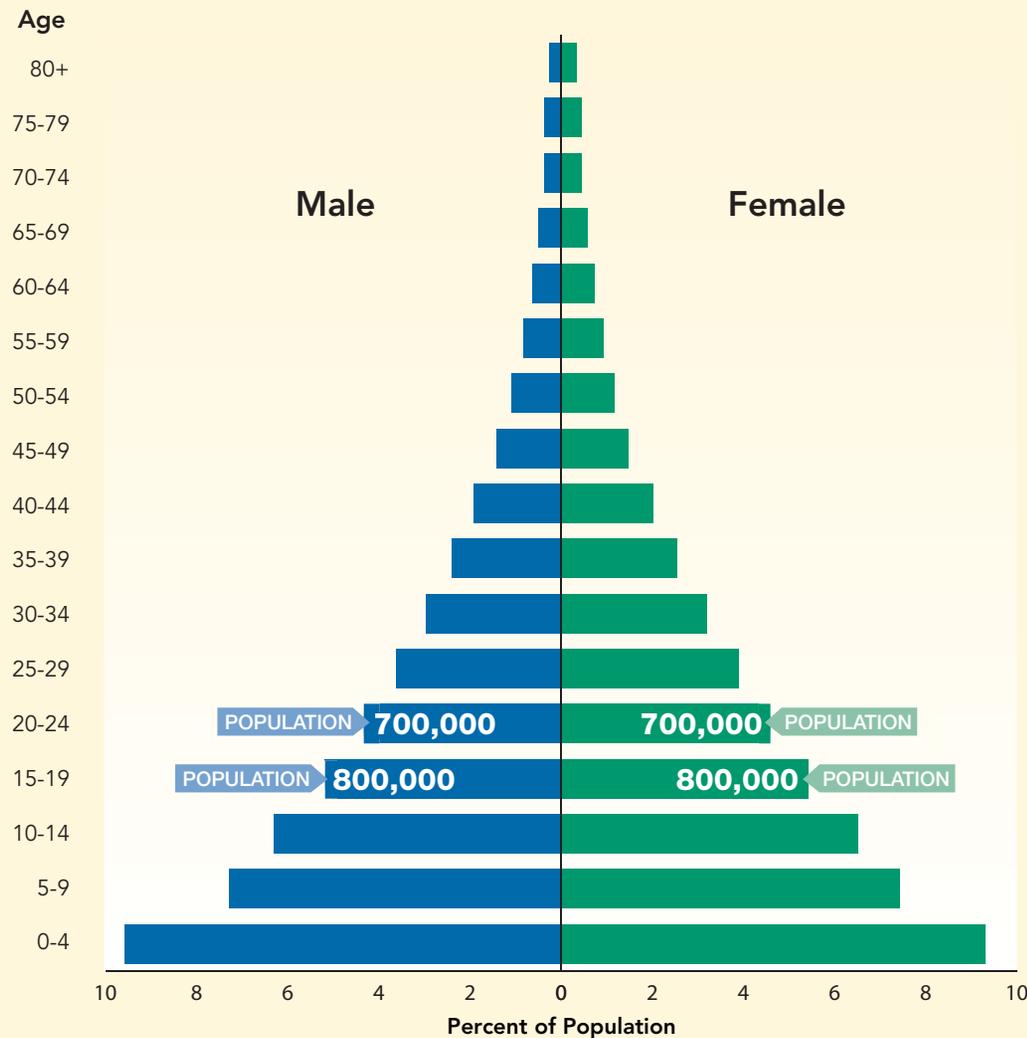


# MALAWI YOUTH DATA SHEET 2014

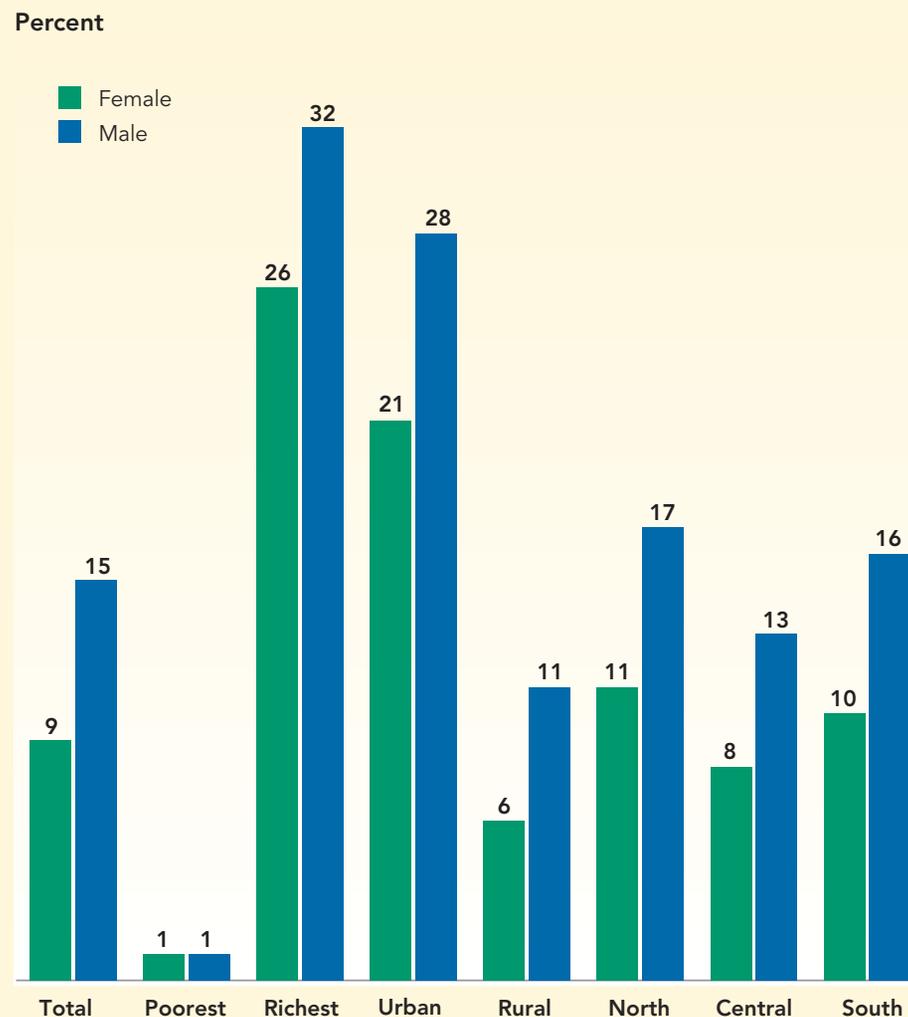


# 2 of Every 3 People in Malawi Are Under Age 25



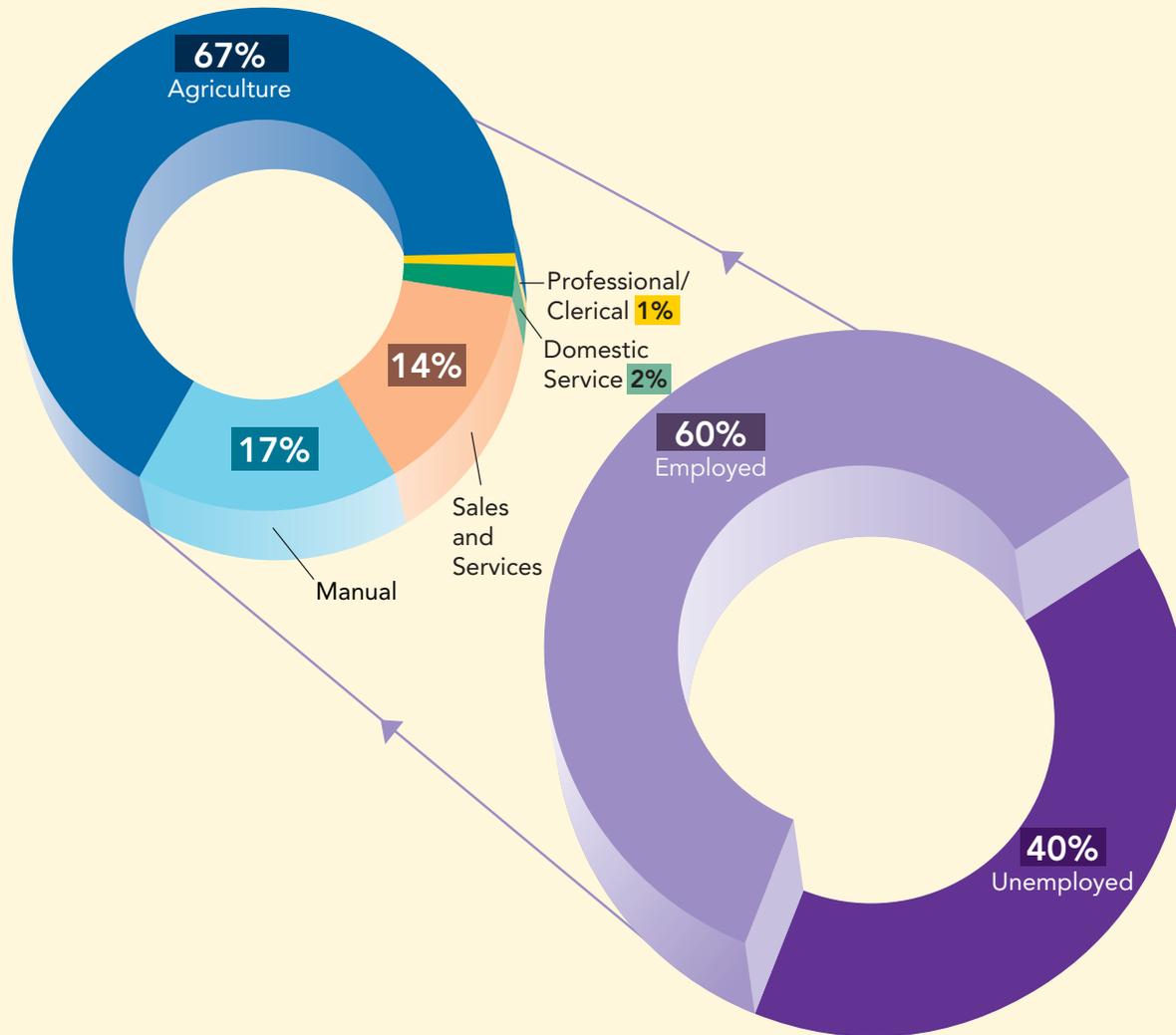
With sustained high fertility in the last 20 years, the age structure of Malawi’s population is extremely youthful. Two-thirds of the population is under age 25, placing a significant burden on the working-age population to provide the basic health and education needs required by children and youth. Proper investments in the well-being of children and adolescents will help ensure that current and future generations will grow and develop into their full potential.

# Few Young Adults Complete Secondary School



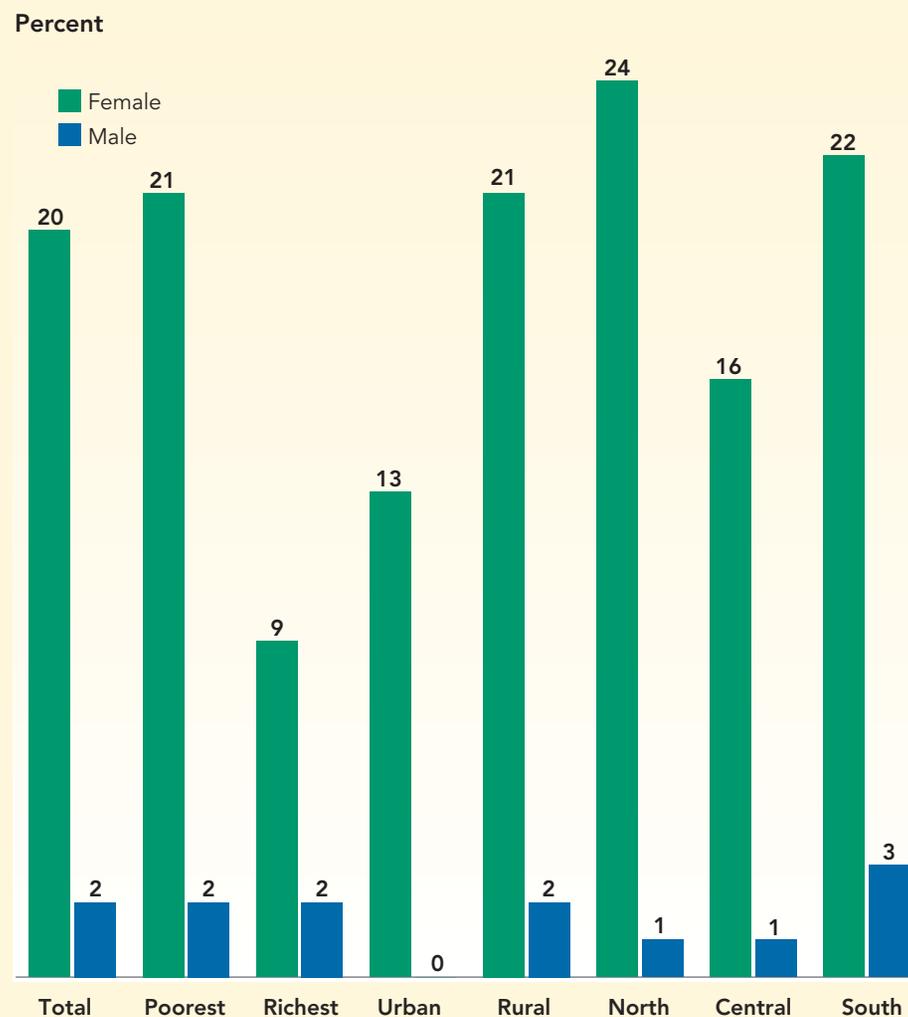
Completion of secondary education is low among young adults ages 20 to 24, particularly for girls. Those in the wealthiest income level have the highest completion rates. Students who stay in school longer tend to delay marriage, have smaller families and more economic opportunities, and are better informed about health-related behaviors.

# Many Employed Adolescents Work in Agriculture



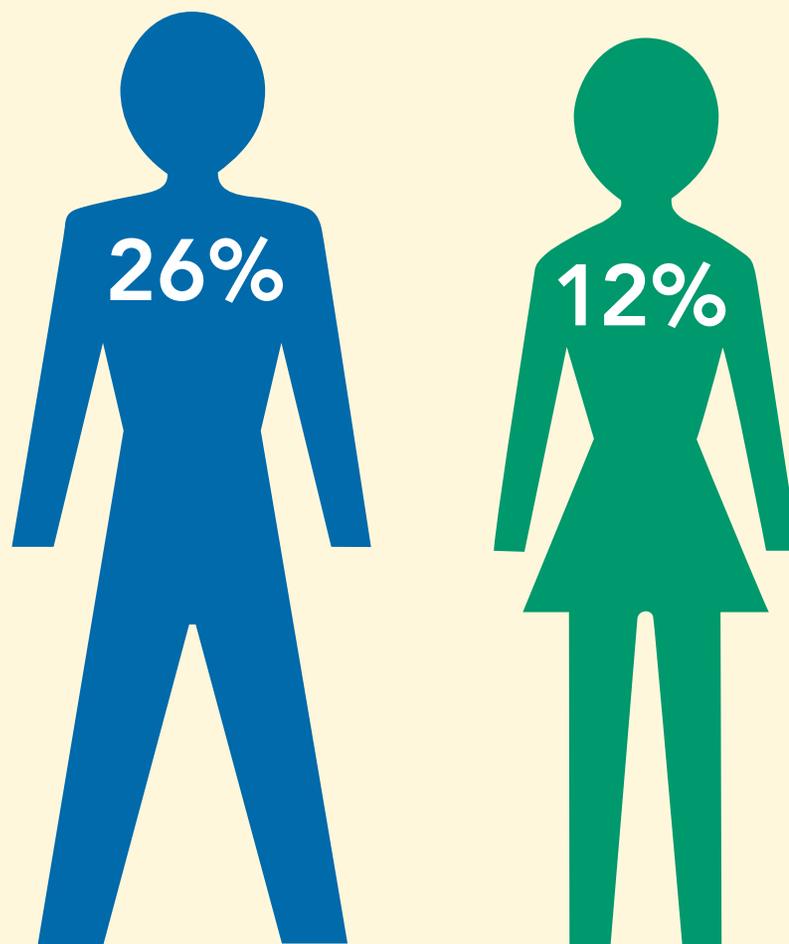
Among employed adolescents ages 15 to 19, 2 in 3 work in the agricultural sector; 17 percent work in manual labor; and 14 percent work in sales. When adolescents enter the labor force, they are often unable to continue their education, preventing them from building the skills necessary for meaningful employment.

# Early Marriage Is Common for Adolescent Girls



Adolescent girls ages 15 to 19 are 10 times more likely to be married than adolescent boys. Early marriage puts young girls at risk of early childbearing and birth complications, prevents them from completing school, and limits their economic opportunities.

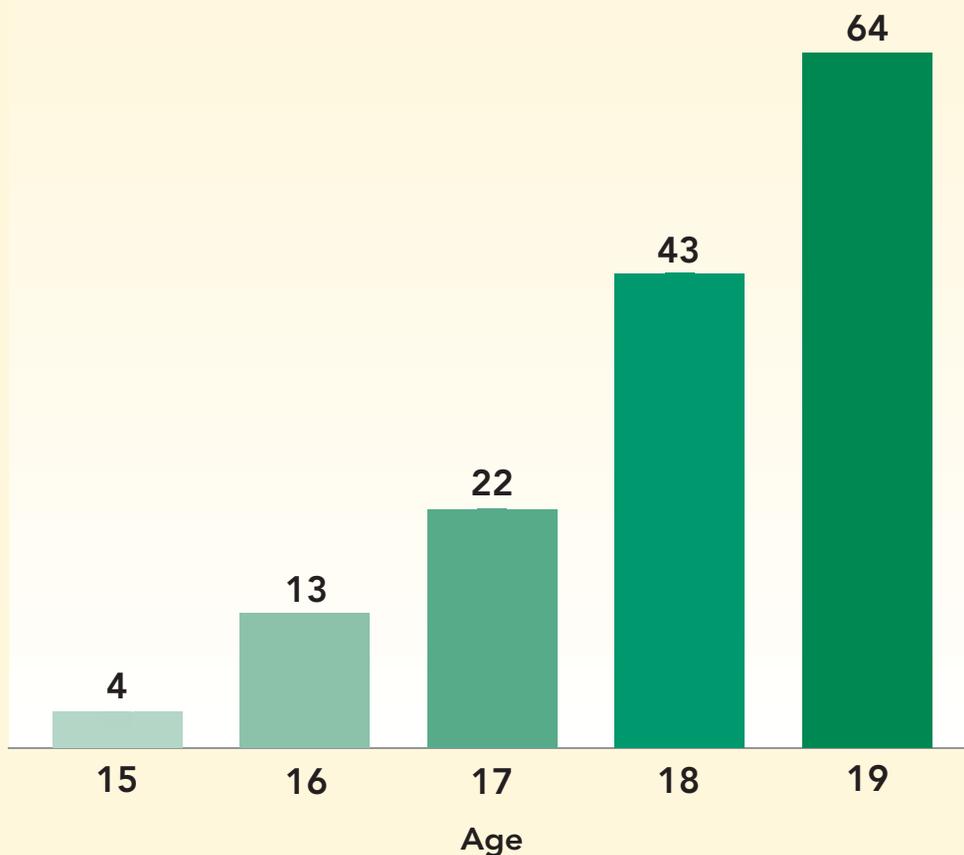
# Boys Are More Likely Than Girls to Have Sex Before Age 15



More than 1 in 4 adolescent boys have had sex before age 15, twice as many as adolescent girls. Providing family planning to young people reduces risk of disease and unintended pregnancy, and promotes a healthy transition to adulthood. Given the high prevalence of HIV, it is important to reach young people with information about how to avoid infection.

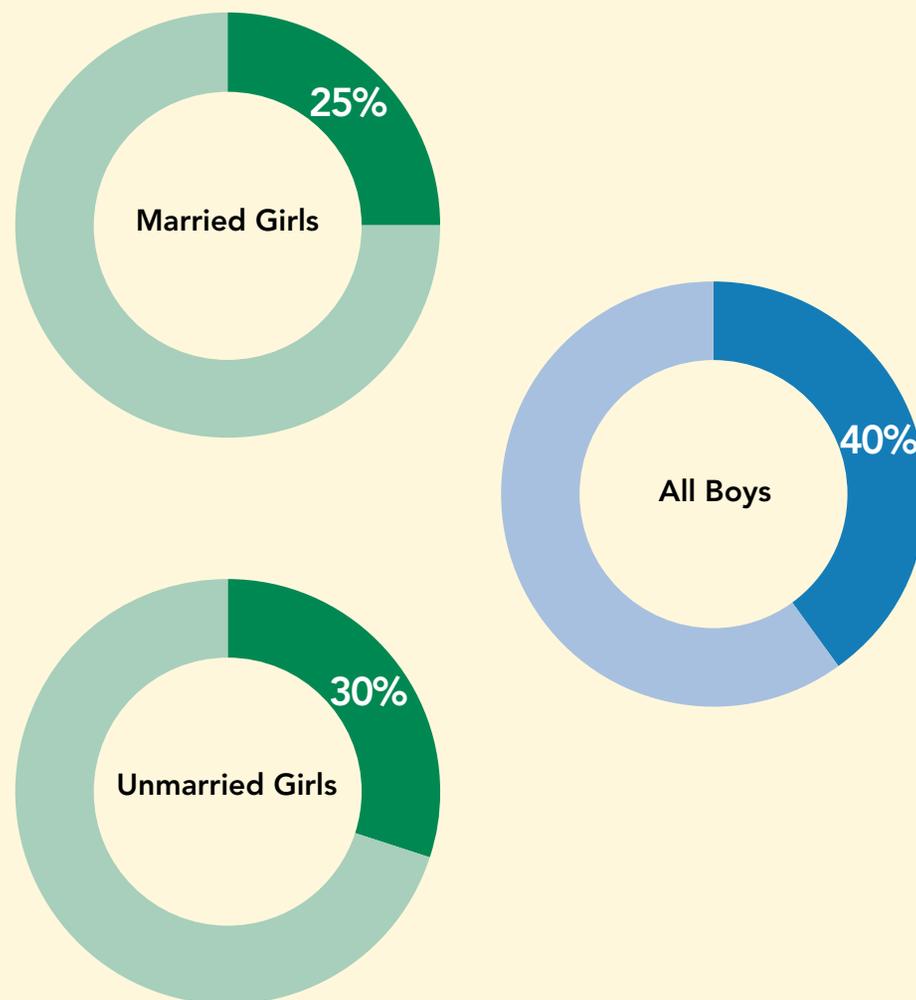
# Many Adolescent Girls Have Begun Childbearing by Age 18

Percent of Girls Ages 15–19



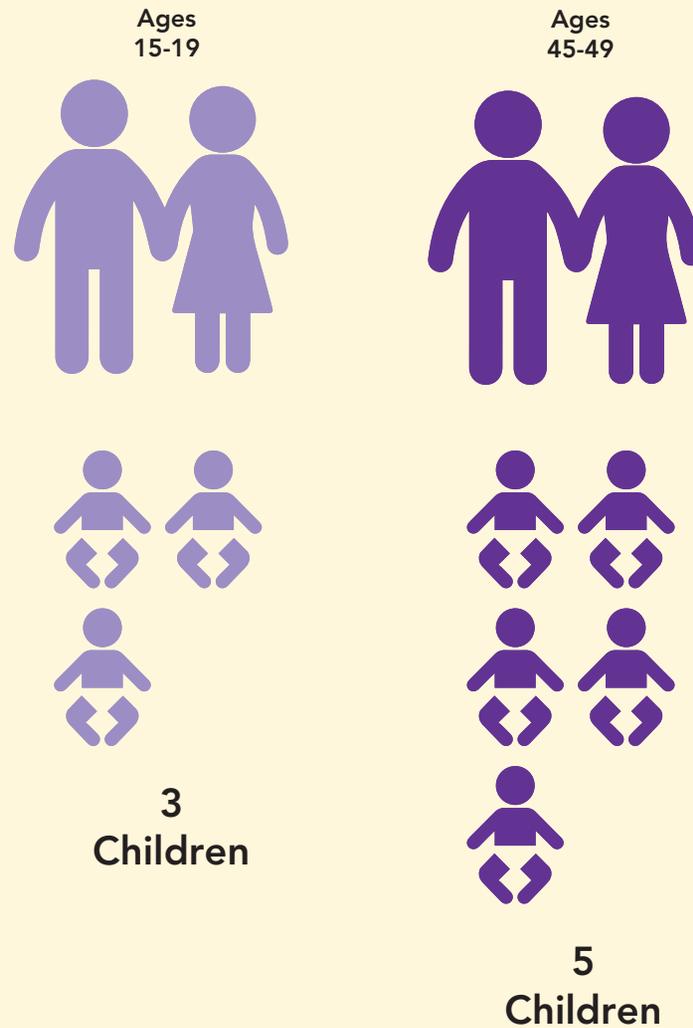
In Malawi, a child is legally defined as any person under age 18. More than 1 in 5 adolescent girls have begun bearing children by age 17. Early childbearing is a major health concern because of the increased risks of death and disability to both mother and child during pregnancy and childbirth.

# Contraceptive Use Is Low Among Young People



Use of contraception is low among sexually active 15-to-19-year-olds, especially among married girls. Fewer than 1 in 3 unmarried girls and 2 in 5 boys are using a modern method of contraception. Young people often face obstacles to accessing contraceptives and health services, increasing the risk of unintended pregnancies.

# Young Women Want Smaller Families



Adolescent girls ages 15 to 19 prefer to have about 2 children fewer than their parents' generation. Providing women with the ability to plan their pregnancies leads to healthier outcomes for women, children, and families.

	EDUCATION				EMPLOYMENT					
	Secondary School Aged Youth Who Attend Secondary School (%)		Literate Youth Ages 15-19 (%)		Youth Ages 15-19 Employed in the Last Year (%)		Among Currently Employed Youth Ages 15-19, Proportion Employed in Agriculture (%)		Youth Ages 20-24 Who Control Their Own Cash Earnings (%)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Total	13	12	81	82	56	71	68	64	35	48
Poorest	3	3	68	67	67	82	75	72	31	41
Richest	31	29	93	91	39	53	50	38	53	44
Urban	30	28	87	90	35	51	27	22	57	37
Rural	9	9	79	80	60	77	73	72	29	51
North	17	13	87	78	48	62	67	71	39	59
Central	10	9	77	80	66	79	67	65	30	49
South	14	14	83	82	48	65	69	61	39	44

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

	Women Ages 20-24 Who Married by Age 18 (%)	Women Ages 20-24 Who Gave Birth by Age 18 (%)	Women Ages 15-19 Who Have Begun Childbearing (%)	Youth Ages 15-19 Who Have Been Exposed to Family Planning Messages in the Media (%)		Women Ages 15-19 Using a Modern Method of Contraception (%)
				Female	Male	
Total	50	35	26	52	74	26
Poorest	60	40	31	35	69	24
Richest	26	22	16	68	81	29
Urban	31	28	21	61	74	34
Rural	54	36	27	50	74	25
North	50	29	28	58	75	23
Central	43	29	22	50	77	28
South	55	42	29	52	71	26

## SEXUAL HEALTH

	Youth Ages 15-24 Who Had Sex Before Age 15 (%)		Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV, Ages 15-24 (%)		HIV Prevalence Rate, Ages 15-24 (%)		Youth Ages 15-24 Using Condoms During Premarital Sex (%)		Youth Ages 15-24 Who Had an STI in the Last Year (%)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Total	14	22	42	45	5	2	49	51	1	1
Poorest	18	24	34	35	3	1	27	46	1	2
Richest	9	19	55	54	8	3	62	61	1	1
Urban	11	20	56	54	11	3	64	57	9	1
Rural	15	23	38	42	4	2	42	50	1	1
North	12	15	31	34	3	1	37	67	1	0
Central	9	20	36	44	4	2	51	56	1	1
South	20	26	50	48	8	2	49	45	1	1

## VIOLENCE AND HEALTH BEHAVIORS

	Women Ages 15-19 Who Have Ever Experienced Physical Violence Since Age 15 (%)	Women Ages 15-19 Who Have Ever Experienced Sexual Violence (%)	Youth Ages 15-19 Who Use Tobacco (%)	
			Female	Male
Total	21	18	0	3
Poorest	27	19	0	4
Richest	28	20	0	2
Urban	35	15	0	3
Rural	27	18	0	3
North	30	22	0	1
Central	26	18	0	4
South	30	17	0	2

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This data sheet was prepared by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) in collaboration with Malawi's Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MFEPD), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), the National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM) and the National Statistics Office (NSO). This publication is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of the IDEA Project (No. AID-0AA-A-10-00009). The contents are the responsibility of PRB, MFEPD, MYS, NYCOM and the NSO and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

## SOURCES

The data and figures are compiled from the following sources: the 2008 Malawi Population and Housing Census (Malawi National Statistics Office, 2008); and the 2010 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (Calverton, Maryland: Malawi National Statistics Office and ICF Macro, 2010).

## NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

Data in the table and graphics may not sum to 100 percent due to rounded numbers.

### Mid-Year Population 2014

Calculations are based on National Statistics estimates from the 2008 national census data.

### Net Attendance Ratio (secondary school)

The percentage of secondary-school-age children (aged 14-17 years) who attend secondary school.

### Secondary School Age

Children ages 14 to 17.

### Literacy

Men and women ages 15 to 19 who can read a whole sentence or part of a sentence in any of the four languages; English, Chichewa, Yao, or Tumbuka.

### Employment

Women and men ages 15 to 19 who reported that they were currently working and those who reported that they worked at some time during the 12 months preceding the survey in any sector, formal or informal.

### Control of Cash Earnings

Married women and men ages 20 to 24 who decide for themselves how their earnings are used.

### Ideal Number of Children

The average number of children that women ideally would like to have or have had in their lifetime.

### Adolescent Childbearing

The percentage of women ages 15 to 19 who are pregnant or had their first child within the past five years before the survey.

### Youth Ages 15-19 Who Have Been Exposed to Family Planning Messages in the Media

The percentage of youth ages 15 to 19 who heard or saw a family planning message on the radio, television, or in a newspaper or magazine in the past few months prior to the survey.

### Contraceptive Use

The percentage of all women and men ages 15 to 19 who are using any form of contraception. "Modern" methods include female and male sterilization, pills, intrauterine devices (IUD), injectables, implants, female and male condoms, and emergency contraception. "Any" methods include modern and traditional methods such as rhythm/periodic abstinence, withdrawal, other methods).

### Unmet Need for Family Planning

Women are considered to have an unmet need for family planning if they wish to delay, space, or limit their next pregnancy by two years or more and are not currently using any method of contraception.

### Sexual Debut

Proportion of young people ages 15 to 19 who have had sexual intercourse before the age of 15.

### Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS means correctly identifying the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission, and knowing that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV.

### HIV/AIDS Prevalence

The estimated percentage of women and men ages 15 to 24 living with HIV/AIDS.

### Sexually Transmitted Infection

An infection acquired through sexual contact.

### Physical or Sexual Violence

Also known as gender-based violence (GBV), it includes any act of violence, in public or private, which results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts and the coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty (UN, 1993; UN, 1995). The Government of Malawi not only recognises GBV, especially violence against women, as a severe impediment to poverty reduction, but also recognises its impact on vulnerable groups in relation to the prevalence of HIV infection (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2008).

### Tobacco Use

The percentage of women and men ages 15 to 19 who consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once during the last 30 days prior to the survey.

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