



Government of Malawi

# At-a-Glance Facts: Youth Ages 15 to 24

## Introduction

The 2010 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), conducted by the National Statistical Office in partnership with ICF Macro, features demographic, household and population data for Malawi.

This pocket factsheet provides results from the DHS with a specific focus on youth ages 15-24. It highlights issues relevant to youth such as education, employment and labor, sexual and reproductive health, as well as health-influencing behaviors.

**Table 1: Secondary School Aged Youth Who Attend Secondary School (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
Poorest	3	3
Richest	31	29
Urban	30	28
Rural	9	9
North	17	13
Central	10	9
South	14	14

**Table 2: Completion of Secondary School Among Youth Ages 20-24 (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>
Poorest	1	1
Richest	26	32
Urban	21	28
Rural	6	11
North	11	17
Central	8	13
South	10	16

**Table 3: Youth Ages 15-19 Who Are Currently Employed (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>71</b>
Poorest	67	82
Richest	39	53
Urban	35	51
Rural	60	77
North	48	62
Central	66	79
South	48	65

**Table 4: Youth Ages 15-19 Employed in Agriculture (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>64</b>
Poorest	75	72
Richest	50	38
Urban	27	22
Rural	73	72
North	67	71
Central	67	65
South	69	61

**Table 5: Sexual Activity Before Age 15  
Among Youth Ages 15-24 (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>
Poorest	18	24
Richest	9	19
Urban	11	20
Rural	15	23
North	12	15
Central	9	20
South	20	26

**Table 6: Condom Use Among Unmarried  
Youth Ages 15-24 (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>
Poorest	27	46
Richest	62	61
Urban	64	57
Rural	42	50
North	37	67
Central	51	56
South	49	45

**Table 7: Marriage  
Among Youth Ages 15-19 (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>
Poorest	21	2
Richest	9	2
Urban	13	0
Rural	21	2
North	24	1
Central	16	1
South	22	3

**Table 8: Childbearing Among All  
Women Ages 15-19 (%)**

	Female
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>
Poorest	31
Richest	16
Urban	21
Rural	27
North	28
Central	22
South	29

**Table 9: Exposure to Family Planning Messages in the Media Among Youth Ages 15-19 (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>74</b>
Poorest	35	69
Richest	68	81
Urban	61	74
Rural	50	74
North	58	75
Central	50	77
South	52	71

**Table 10: Modern Contraceptive Use Among Youth Ages 15-19 (%)**

Married and Unmarried Boys	Unmarried Girls	Married Girls
40	30	25

**Table 11: Youth Ages 15-24 With Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>
Poorest	34	35
Richest	55	54
Urban	56	54
Rural	38	42
North	31	34
Central	36	44
South	50	48

**Note:** 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.

**Table 12: HIV Prevalence Rate Among Youth Ages 15-24 (%)**

	Female	Male
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Poorest	3	1
Richest	8	3
Urban	11	3
Rural	4	2
North	3	1
Central	4	2
South	8	2



**Table 13: Women Ages 15-19 Who Have Ever Experienced Physical Violence Since Age 15 (%)**

	Female
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>
Poorest	27
Richest	28
Urban	35
Rural	27
North	30
Central	26
South	30

**Table 14: Women Ages 15-19 Who Have Ever Experienced Sexual Violence (%)**

	Female
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>
Poorest	19
Richest	20
Urban	15
Rural	18
North	22
Central	18
South	17



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**iDEA**

INFORMING  
DECISIONMAKERS  
TO ACT



This pocket factsheet about youth ages 15 to 24 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.