

# Adolescent Maternity

in Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is the second-largest region in the world in terms of adolescent fertility, only surpassed by sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, this phenomenon is more recurrent among the lower-income population, contributing to the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

## Adolescent Fertility

Expressed as a ratio of the number of live births to mothers aged 15-19 for every 1,000 women of that age in a certain year.

## Estimates for the 5-year period 2010-2015:



**68**  
per 1,000 in  
Latin America  
and the  
Caribbean



**109**  
per 1,000 in  
sub-Saharan  
Africa



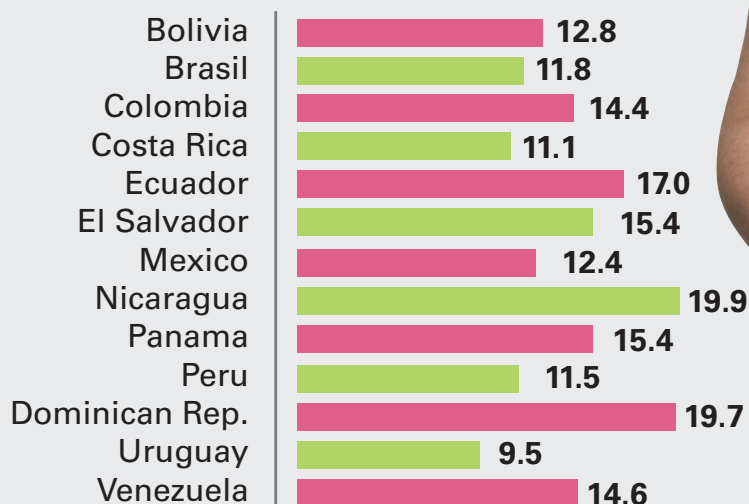
**45**  
per 1,000 in  
the world

## Adolescent Maternity

The percentage of mothers aged 15-19 compared to the total number of women of that age. These figures do not account for the number of children each of them have.

This indicator offers key information for public policies, considering that the condition of adolescent parenthood produces disadvantages in modern societies.

According to the latest census data available from 2005 to 2012 processed by ECLAC (in percentages)



**Reproductive gaps** are both an expression and cause of **social inequalities**.



» In 7 countries with available data, the percentage of mothers aged 15-19 in the lowest socio-economic quintile is between three to four times that of the highest socio-economical quintile.



» The percentages of maternity among indigenous adolescents are higher compared to non-indigenous teenagers and in some cases they are double, as seen in Brazil, Costa Rica and Panama.