



Teenage Pregnancy

Pregnancy occurring in a woman 19 years of age or younger.

FACTS

Teenage girls in Cross River state

Hence, the adolescent birth rate in the state is **140 per 1,000** adolescent girls, higher than the national average birth rate of 107 per **1,000** girls in the **15-19 age** group.



1 out of 7

have begun child bearing



11.5%

have had live birth



2.5%

pregnant with their first child



20%

women age 15-49 currently using family planning



34.5%

women age 15-49 with unmet need for family planning

CHALLENGES

- Commodification of the female child.
- Lack of awareness and sensitization on the negative impact of GBV.
- Lack of protection for survivors.
- Social norms that promote child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV.
- Low literacy rate.
- Poverty.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Create awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV.
- Ensure enforcement of penalties and prosecution of perpetrators of GBV.
- FGM and Child Marriage **MUST** be stopped, and perpetrators prosecuted.
- Empower girls and women with information, skills, and support networks.
- Operationalizing the VAPP Act and Establishing GBV specialised courts for speedy trials of GBV cases
- Girl child education

WHY WE NEED TO ACT

- GBV is life-threatening with long-lasting adverse consequences on survivors.
- GBV can result in death of girls and women.
- High maternal mortality rates as a result of teenage pregnancy, child marriage and FGM.
- High economic costs for complications related to GBV.

ACTION REQUIRED

- Create awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV to the individual, family and society.
- Provide support and empowerment to survivors of GBV.
- Provide adequate training on best practice for all agencies providing support to survivors of FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Ensure enforcement of laws against GBV, FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Enforce education laws.
- Address harmful social norms.
- Engage religious/traditional gatekeepers.

[1] Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

[2] NBS/UNICEF: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2018

[3] UNFPA, Adolescent Pregnancy (2021)



IN
SUPPORT
OF



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Advocacy Brief



End all forms of
**Gender-Based Violence
and Harmful Practices
Against Women and
Girls in Cross River State**



Female Genital
Mutilation (FGM)



Child
Marriage



Gender-Based
Violence (GBV)



Teenage
Pregnancy

Context



In Nigeria, violence against women is evident in many forms, including domestic, verbal, and physical abuse, rape and sexual assault, early and forced marriages, incest, female genital cutting, acid baths and outright killing. Women continue to suffer all forms of degradation and deprivation in public and private spaces.

You can end all forms of gender-based violence by taking action **NOW!**



Ending all forms of Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in Cross River State.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, girls, men, and boys, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

BACKGROUND

Global estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. In Nigeria, 31% of women have experienced physical violence since age 15. In 2017, 14% of women experienced physical violence. Most of this violence is perpetrated by an intimate partner. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.

FACTS



In Cross River State, 1 out of 3 women between 15-49 years has experienced physical violence.



Among women age 15-49 years who have ever been pregnant, 3.2% have experienced physical violence during pregnancy.

1.2% of women have experienced physical and sexual violence by the current or most recent husband/ Partner.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for cultural or other non-medical reasons.

BACKGROUND

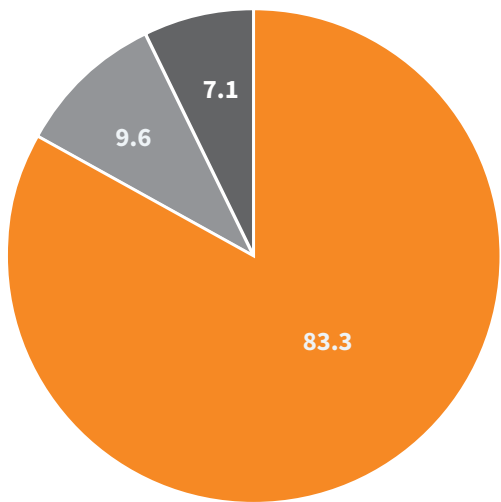
The most common type of FGM (41%) is excision (Type 2) where a female is cut and the flesh is removed, while 10% have a clitoridectomy (Type 1) where a female is cut, no flesh removed and 6% have an infibulation (Type 3) where the vaginal opening is sewn closed or narrowed (infibulation). FGM may result in physical, emotional and psychological complications. These complications can be experienced immediately after the experience to much later in life.

FACTS



- The prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation among women aged **15-49 years** in Cross Rivers state is **11.9%**

Percent distribution of circumcised women by type of circumcision:



- Cut flesh removed
- Sewn closed
- Don't Know



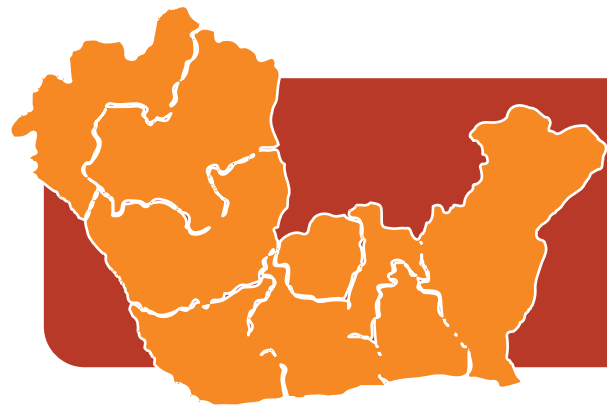
Child Marriage

Any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.

FACTS

22 million

Nigeria has the third highest number of child brides in the world and ranks **11th** in countries with highest number of child marriage globally



The prevalence of **Child marriage** is slightly **higher** than that of the South-South region



1 in 13 children age 15-19 got married before age 15



5.7% of children aged 15-19 are currently married.