



**STATISTICS SIERRA LEONE**  
**(Stats SL)**

*Credible Data for National Development*

## **A Glimpse of Early Adolescent Fertility in Sierra Leone**

**Presentation**

**By**

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*Becoming a **WINNER** National Statistics Office in Africa*

## **Format of Presentation**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Data Sources**
- 3. Methodology**
- 4. Trend in Adolescent fertility**
- 5. Discussion**
- 6. Conclusion**

# Expert Group Meeting on the Evaluation of Adolescent Fertility Data and Estimates

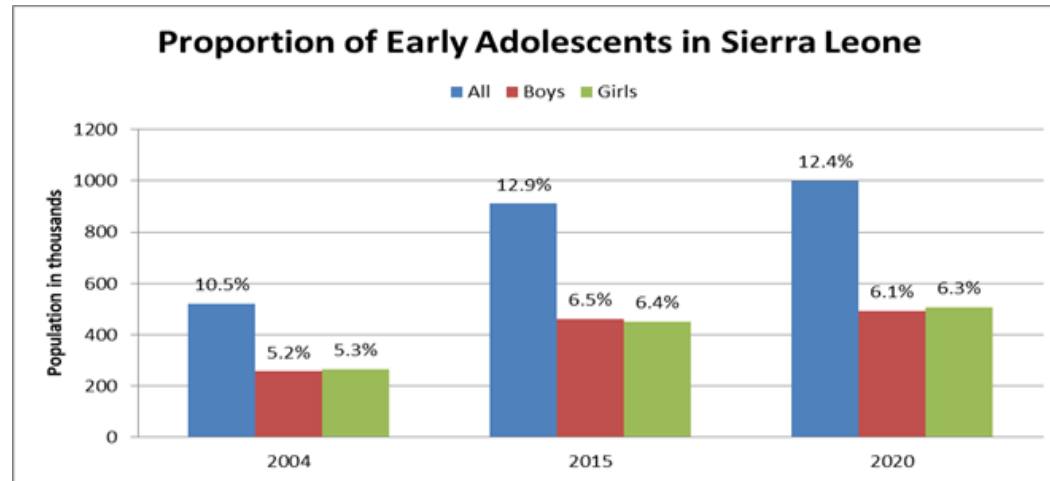
## 1. Introduction

- Adolescence refers to the period between childhood and adulthood.
- Menarche marks the onset of puberty.
- Adolescents are persons aged 10-19 for statistical purposes and SDG reporting.
- SDG Indicator 3.7.2 measures the birth rates of girls in this group.
  - Births per 1,000 women aged 10 -14.
  - Births per 1,000 women aged 15 -19. Early /young adolescents.

(UN DESA POP, 6 Oct 2020, UN, April 2019)

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## 1. Introduction continues



- The population size of early adolescents has increased over the years.
- Young adolescents comprise 12.3% of Sierra Leone's population in 2020.
- Slightly more than half of that population are girls.

## 2. Data Sources

- Data on early adolescents is scarce.
- VRS registration in Sierra Leone is incomplete.
- DHS and MICS are the main data sources on young adolescents.
- Census collects fertility data on young adolescents but do not analyse them.
- Census data have limitations:
  - over report current births during 2004 census
  - under report current births during 2015

## 3. Methodology

- Direct estimates of adolescent birth rates are computed using 2004 & 2015 censuses data.
- This formula was used for computing birth rate:

$$\text{ASFR}_{10-14} = \sum (\text{B}_{10-14} / \text{P}_{10-14}) * 1,000$$

Where:

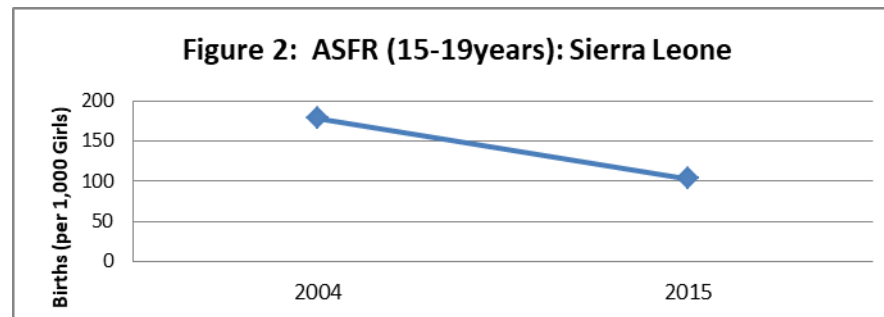
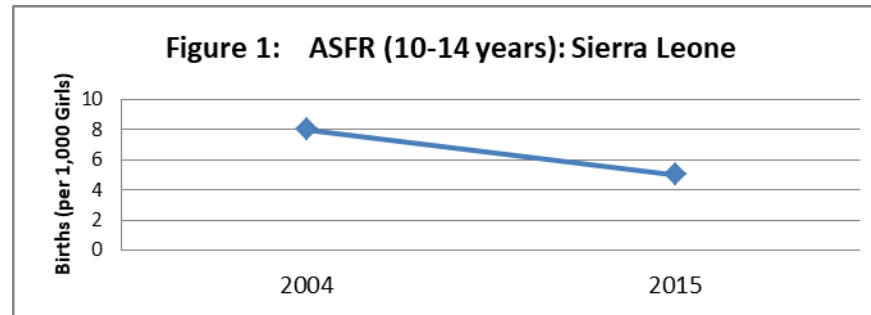
**ASFR<sub>10-14</sub>** = the age specific rate of girls aged 10 to 14 years

**B<sub>10-14</sub>** = the number of births to girls aged 10-14 years

**P<sub>10-14</sub>** = the population of girls aged 10 – 14years

- Children ever born data are used instead of current fertility data.
- Analysis excludes two or more number of children ever born.

## 4. Trend in Adolescent fertility



## 4. Trend continues

- Early adolescent fertility rate from census corresponds with UN estimate from DHS
  - 8 births per 1,000 for 2004 corresponds with 9 births per 1,000 for 2000 or earlier
  - Rates show declining trend from 8 births in 2004 to 5 births in 2015.
  - Elevated early adolescent birth rates corresponds with high total fertility rate
    - TFR of 6.1 for 2004 and 5.7 for 2015
  - Elevated early adolescent birth rate corresponds with elevated late adolescent birth rate.
    - 8 births for 2004 and 178 births for 2004



## 5. Discussion

- There is semblance of cultural acceptance for adolescent fertility in Sierra Leone
- The UN estimates of adolescent birth rates for Sierra Leone from DHS are realistic

## 6. Conclusion

- Census should include 10-14years during analysis.
- DHS and MICS should ask 10-14years directly about their fertility experiences
- Panel studies to complement cross sectional studies in future.
- Gender policies that address discrimination should not translate into pronatalist policies.

THANK YOU!