

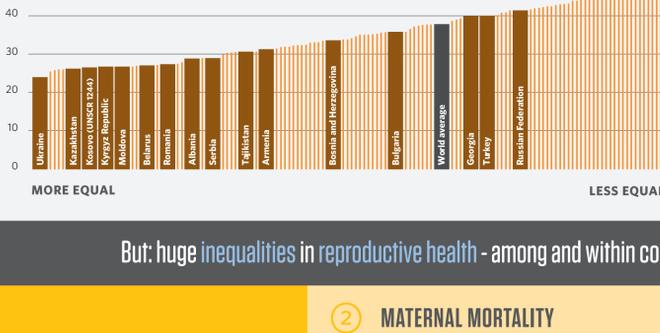
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

"Inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights have costs to the individual, the community, nations and the entire global community."

UNFPA, State of World Population Report 2017

1 INCOME INEQUALITY: LOW

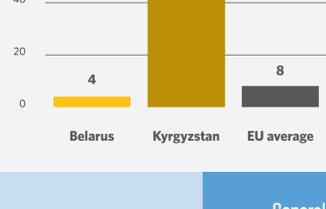


Ten of the world's 25 most equal countries are in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Source: World Bank. Data covering 2011-2014, latest available figure.

But: huge inequalities in reproductive health - among and within countries

2 MATERNAL MORTALITY

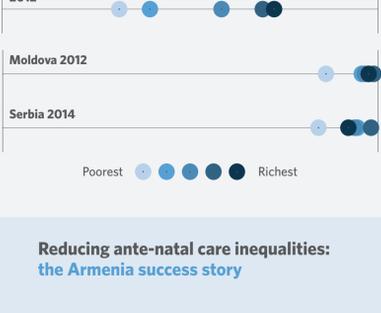


Deaths per 100,000 live births

Source: Trends in maternal mortality, 1990 to 2015. WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank & UN Population Division

3 ANTE-NATAL CARE

Antenatal care coverage: at least four visits



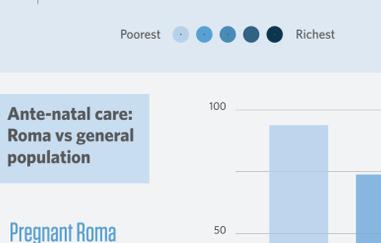
Tajikistan: dramatic widening of inequalities between rich and poor in access to ante-natal care

Moldova and Serbia: Poorest women left behind

Generally, around 90% or more of pregnant women in the region get a minimum of four check-ups. But wealth, ethnicity and place of residence still impact the level of care women get.



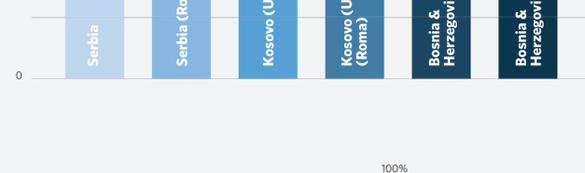
Reducing ante-natal care inequalities: the Armenia success story



Armenia in 2008 almost doubled budget allocations for maternity care and introduced certificates entitling pregnant women to free services. As a result, women in all wealth quintiles now have better access to services than they had before, and previous inequalities have largely been erased.

Ante-natal care: Roma vs general population

Pregnant Roma women are less likely to get ante-natal check-ups



Ante-natal care: urban vs rural

Access to ante-natal care is more limited for women in rural areas in some countries



Turkey and Tajikistan: less access for rural women

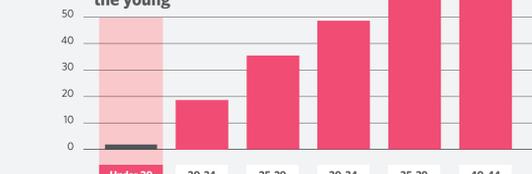
"Pulling a world that is apart closer together will not be easy, but it is feasible."

UNFPA, State of World Population Report 2017

4 MODERN CONTRACEPTIVES

Contraceptive choices and use of modern methods vary widely in the region. Usage rates are extremely low in Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus, and generally higher in Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Turkmenistan: Low modern contraceptive use among the young



Use of the modern contraceptives



% of women of reproductive age, married or in union. Source: UNFPA, State of World Population Report 2017

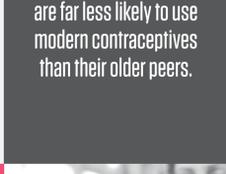


Across the region, young women under 20 are far less likely to use modern contraceptives than their older peers.

Wealth also affects the use of modern contraceptives: The gap in usage rates between the poorest and wealthiest women in the region is

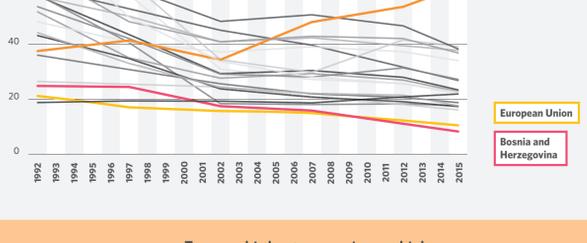
10 percentage points

Source: UNFPA, State of World Population Report 2017



5 ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

Adolescent fertility rates (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)



Source: UN Population Division, World Population Prospects.

Adolescent birth rates are going down, except in Azerbaijan, and gaps between countries have been shrinking. But the shrinkage is still 3x higher than in the EU, as young people face barriers accessing information and services.

Teenage birth rates remain very high

among Roma minorities

38% among young Roma women* in Serbia

and in rural areas

6% among young rural women* in Moldova

3% among young urban women* in Moldova

Source: MICS

*women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 20



Women and girls with disabilities face particular difficulties in exercising their reproductive rights, as a result of stigmatisation and discrimination.

6 WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Moldova: physical and attitudinal barriers to access to sexual and reproductive health services

over 1 in 2 women with disabilities report physical access barriers

1 in 3 women with disabilities report unfriendly or accusatory attitudes by medical personnel

Source: Reproductive Health Training Center, Situation analysis, 2016 (focus group study)



7 HIV

Rate of new infections is

1.4x higher among men than among women (2015)

Number of men living with HIV is

1.5x higher than number of women living with HIV (2015)

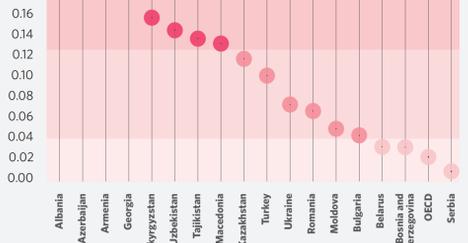
Source: UNAIDS. Data available for 10 countries in the region.

HIV is on the rise in the region, with 190,000 new infections every year, generally affecting men more than women.

Gender inequalities have a direct impact on women's ability to realise their reproductive rights. Although inequalities are relatively low in the region, and are decreasing, differences between countries remain significant.

8 GENDER INEQUALITY

Measuring discrimination against women in laws and social norms and practices



Source: OECD

Gender inequalities are on the decline in the region

0.47 > 0.27

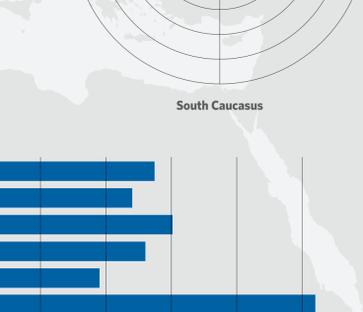
1995 2015

1 - High inequality 0 - Low inequality

Source: UNDP Gender Inequality Index. The Index measures gender inequalities in health, education and political and labour force participation. Average for the countries in the region.

Gender-based violence is widespread in the region and affects mostly women and girls. It undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, and can affect their sexual and reproductive health.

9 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Source: UNFPA EECARO, based on national surveys

Physical intimate partner violence (lifetime prevalence, %)

Albania 24, Bulgaria 22, Kyrgyzstan 25, Romania 23, Tajikistan 20, Turkey 35

Source: UN Women, The World's Women 2015. Only countries in the region with recent data are listed.

"We all gain when human rights and dignity are universally upheld, with no exceptions and no one left behind"

UNFPA, State of World Population Report 2017



This data sheet provides a few snapshots of reproductive health and gender inequalities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It supplements UNFPA's 2017 State of World Population Report. The report is available at unfpa.org/swop

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled

United Nations Population Fund Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Istanbul eeca.unfpa.org