

Youth and EC

The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) launched a global survey to gather basic information on adolescents and emergency contraception (EC) from colleagues working in the field of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). A total of 59 respondents from 37 countries submitted survey responses. Thirty percent of countries reported restrictive policies such as age limits, 31% reported no restrictions, and 24% of countries reported not being aware of policies related to youth. When asked about key barriers that limit adolescent access to EC, respondents listed, in order, inadequate knowledge of ECPs, negative attitudes from health providers, and high price.

This survey provided some insights into barriers that adolescents face when trying to access EC: restrictive policies were a factor in some countries, but low awareness of EC was a factor in virtually every country from which we received a response.