

# Determinants of early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia: A multilevel analysis of 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey

Mastewal Arefaynie (✉ [marefaynie@yahoo.com](mailto:marefaynie@yahoo.com))

Wollo University <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9525-0552>

**Melaku Yalew**

Wollo University

**Yitayish Damtie**

Wollo University

**Bereket Kefale**

Wollo University

---

## Research article

**Keywords:** Early sexual initiation, Female youth, Ethiopia, Multi-level analysis, EDHS 2016

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-36210/v4>

**License:**  This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

---

# Abstract

**Background:** Evidences on determinants of early sexual initiation among female youth is still limited especially; community-level factors are not investigated in Ethiopia. Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess individual and community-level factors associated with early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia.

**Methods:** The 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) dataset were used and a total of 6,143 participants (female youth) were included. Multi-level mixed-effect logistic regression was done to identify individual and community-level factors. Adjusted odds ratio along with 95% confidence interval was used to show the strength and direction of the association. Finally, the level of statistical significance was declared at P value less than 0.05.

**Results:** Individual-level factors significantly associated with early sexual initiation among female youth were; age group from 19-24 years [AOR=5.8, 95% CI= (4.6, 7.3)], not attending school [AOR=14.1, 95% CI= (8.1, 24.7)], ever chewing Chat [AOR= 2.0, 95% CI= (1.3, 3.0)]. From community-level factors: living in Addis Ababa [AOR= 0.3, 95% CI= (0.2, 0.5)], living in Gambella [AOR=2.7, 95% CI= (1.7, 4.3)] and live in a low proportion of poor communities [AOR= 0.7, 95% CI= (0.5, 0.9)] were significantly associated with early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia.

**Conclusions:** Age, low educational status, ever chewing Chat, region and live in a high proportion of poor community had a statistical association with early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia. Improving educational coverage and community-level of wealth status are important intervention areas to delay the age of early sexual initiation.

## Background

Even though different countries and organizations have different age classification of youth, WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF classify individuals from age 10-19, 15-24 and 10-24 as adolescent, youth and young respectively. It is the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood with biological, social, psychological change (1, 2). Many adult mental processes are started during this time. So, it is a time of risk and opportunity for their future life (3-6).

Different scholars define early sexual initiation according to the social and demographic context of the nation (7-9). But, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed as age below 18 years old is considered as a child, they couldn't decide concerning marriage and/or consensual sexual relationship (10). They are not ready in all mental, physical and social challenges and requirements for safe sexual practice and gestation. In Ethiopia, the minimum age of marriage is still 18 years (10) and sexual initiation before 18 years old is prohibited by law (11). In addition, due to the cultural and religious tightness of the nation, Ethiopians initiated sexual activity after marriage. Despite the above assumption and legal issues, more than 60% of women start their sexual intercourse before they celebrate their 18 birth date (3, 5, 11-15).

Early sexual initiation has negative health, social and economic consequences for both the women and future generation. It was a risk factor for sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS (16-19), unsafe sexual practice (8, 9, 20), unwanted pregnancy (18, 21-23), mental problem and maternal death (16, 18, 24, 25). It also increased the risk of school dropout, poor school performance, stigma and discrimination (26-28). It also affects the social and economic status during adulthood (29).

In Ethiopia, different researches have been done on the prevalence and/or factors associated with early sexual initiation in female adolescent and youth. Age, residence, educational status, parent- youth discussion, using addictive substances and religion are determinant factors identified by scholars (3, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 30, 31). But, all the studies were done at the local level, use a small sample size and do not consider the effect of community-level factors. Besides, the association at the individual-level may not work at the community-level and vice versa. Even all the studies were fitted with standard logistic regression which may lead them to loss of power. National representative evidence is important to achieve national and international goals. Therefore, this study aimed to assess individual and community-level factors associated with early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia by using EDHS 2016 which will be important to develop community-level information education communication and behavioral change communication to reduce the prevalence and impact of early sexual initiation in the country.

## Methods

### Study setting and population

The study was conducted in Ethiopia, which is located in the North-eastern Africa which lies between 3<sup>0</sup> and 15<sup>0</sup> North latitude and 33<sup>0</sup> 48<sup>0</sup> and East longitudes. This study used the 2016 EDHS dataset which was conducted by the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (32). A cross-sectional study design using secondary data analysis of the 2016 EDHS was done among all-female youth (15-24 years old) irrespective of their sexual activity.

A total of 6,143 females were included in the analysis. EDHS 2016 sample was stratified and selected in two stages. In the first stage, stratification was conducted by region and then each region stratified as urban and rural, yielding 21 sampling strata. A total of 645 (202 urban and 443 rural) enumeration areas (EAs) were selected proportionally to the size of EA in each sampling stratum. In the second stage, a fixed numbers of (28 households per cluster) were selected systematically from the households listed.

### Variable measurement

In this study, the outcome variable (early sexual initiation) was dichotomized as (Yes/No). Youth who started sexual activity at or before 18 years old considered as having early sexual initiation and those who started after 18 years old or not yet started during their youth time were considered as not having early sexual initiation (33). The independent variables were either individual-level factors including (age,

religion, chat chewing, drinking alcohol, wealth index, educational status, media exposure) or community-level factors (region, residence, community-level of education, community-level wealth index, community-level television exposure and community-level radio exposure) were created by aggregating individual-level factors in each cluster. The community-level of wealth index was generated by using the proportion of the two (poorest and poorer) the lowest level of wealth index to the total wealth index of the same cluster. Similarly, community level of education was generated by using the proportion of the two (no education and primary education) lowest level of educational attainment to the total educational level of the same cluster. The community level of television exposure was also computed by dividing not exposed at all to television for total television exposure. The community level of radio exposure was computed by dividing not exposed for radio at all to the total radio exposure. Since all the above four variables were not normally distributed, the median was used as a cutoff point.

### Data quality control, processing and analysis

Sample weighting was done to compensate the unequal probability of selection between the strata. The data were also collected after pre-test and necessary modifications were done. In addition, all the questionnaires were translated to local language of respondents. The SVY command was used to adjust for the complex sampling design. Data cleaning was conducted to check for the consistency with the EDHS-2016 descriptive report. Recoding, variable generation, labeling and analysis were done by using STATA/SE version 14.0. Descriptive statistics were done to describe the study participants in relation to socio-demographic characteristics. Multilevel analysis (a two-level mixed-effects logistic regression model) was conducted (ICC= 22.5%) since EDHS data are hierarchical (individual “level 1” variables were nested within community “level 2” variables). The log of the probability of early sexual initiation was

modeled as follows (34): 
$$\text{Log} \left[ \frac{\pi_{ij}}{1-\pi_{ij}} \right] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{ij} + \beta_2 Z_{ij} + \mu_j + e_{ij}$$

Where  $i$  and  $j$  are individual-level and community-level unites respectively;  $X$  and  $Z$  refer to individual and community-level variables respectively;  $\pi_{ij}$  is the probability of early sexual initiation for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  youth in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  community;  $\beta$ 's indicates the fixed coefficients. ( $\beta_0$ ) is the intercept,  $\mu_j$  showed the random effect and  $e_{ij}$  showed random errors. During analysis, both bi-variable and multivariable multilevel logistic regression was fitted. Variables with a  $p$  value less than 0.2 at model I and model II were selected to the final model. The analysis was done in four models. The first model (without explanatory variable), the second model (only individual-level variable), the 3<sup>rd</sup> (only community level variable) and the last model (both community level and individual level variables).

The likelihood of early sexual initiation among female youth and different explanatory factors were measured by Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) with respective 95% confidence level. Variables with  $p$ -value less than 0.05 at model-III were considered as significantly associated. The random-effects (variations) were measured by using ICC, Median Odds Ratio (MOR) and Proportional Change in Variance (PCV). ICC shows the variation in early sexual initiation among female youth due to community characteristics. It

$$ICC = \left( \frac{\delta^2}{\delta^2 + \frac{\pi^2}{3}} \right)$$

can be calculated as: , where  $\delta^2$  indicates the estimated variance of clusters. MOR is the median value of the odds ratio between the area at highest risk and the area the lowest risk when randomly picking out two areas and it was calculated as:  $MOR = \exp. \left( \sqrt{2 \times \delta^2 + .6745} \right) \approx \exp^{(0.95\delta)}$ . PCV measures the total variation attributed to individual-level variables and community-level variables in the final model (model-III) (35). Multicollinearity among explanatory variables was checked by using standard error at cutoff point  $\pm 2$  and there is no multicollinearity. The log-likelihood test was used to estimate the goodness of fit of the adjusted final model in comparison to the preceding models.

## Result

### Characteristics of the respondents

A total of 6,143 female youth were included in the analysis. Among this, 3,383 (52.8%) were found in the age group of 19-24 years, 1,889 (29.5%) study participants were completed secondary and higher education. Three thousand eight hundred forty-five (60.1%) of female youth had no exposure to television. About 4,676 (76.1%) of youth have resided in rural area (Table 1).

**Table 1: Individual and community-level characteristics of female youth in Ethiopia, EDHS 2016 (n=6143).**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Age in years</b>		
15-18	3,018	47.2
19-24	3,383	52.8
<b>Religion</b>		
Orthodox	2,613	40.8
Muslim	2,569	40.1
Others*	1,219	19.1
<b>Educational status</b>		
No education	1,408	22.0
Primary	3,104	48.5
Secondary	1,361	21.3
Higher	528	8.2
<b>House hold Wealth index</b>		
Poorest	1,571	24.6
Poorer	1,051	16.4
Middle	1,183	18.5
Richer	1,141	17.8
Richest	1,455	22.7
<b>Frequency of watching television</b>		
Not at all	3,845	60.1
Less than once a week	805	12.6
At least once a week	1,751	27.3
<b>Frequency of listening to radio</b>		
Not at all	4,017	62.8
Less than once a week	1,176	18.3
At least once a week	1,208	18.9
<b>Ever heard about STI</b>		
No	457	7.1

Yes	5,944	92.9
<b>Ever chewing chat</b>		
No	6,024	94.1
Yes	377	5.9
<b>Ever drinking alcohol</b>		
No	4,496	70.2
Yes	1,905	29.8
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	1,467	23.9
Rural	4,676	76.1
<b>Region</b>		
Tigray	498	8.1
Afar	56	0.9
Amhara	1,382	22.5
Oromia	2,229	36.3
Somali	186	3.0
Benishangul	67	1.1
SNNP	1,251	20.4
Gambela	18	0.3
Harari	16	0.3
Addis Ababa	403	6.5
Dire Dawa	37	0.6
<b>Community level of wealth</b>		
Low	3,159	51.4
High	2,984	48.6
<b>Community level of education</b>		
Low	2,827	46.0
High	3,316	54.0
<b>Community level of television exposure</b>		

Low	2,801	45.6
High	3,342	54.4
<b>Community level of radio exposure</b>		
No	3,350	54.5
Yes	2,793	45.5

\*protestant, catholic, traditional followers

### **Individual and community-level factors associated with early sexual initiation**

In the final model age, educational status, ever chewing Chat, region and community-level wealth had a statistical association with early sexual initiation. The odds of early sexual initiation was 6 times more among participants aged between 19-24 years as compared to their counterparts [ AOR=5.8, 95% CI= (4.6, 7.3)]. Female youth who were no attending school were 14 times more likely initiate sex at or before age 18 than attending higher education [AOR=14.1, 95% CI= (8.1, 24.7)]. Female youth who ever chew Chat were 2 times more likely to initiate sex early as compared to not [AOR= 2.0, 95%CI= (1.3, 3.0)]. Female youth who were living in Addis Ababa were 70% less likely to initiate sex early as compared to youth living in Tigray region [AOR= 0.3, 95%CI= (0.2, 0.5)]. Likewise, female youth who were living in Gambella region were 3 times more likely to initiate sex early as compared to youth who living in Tigray region [AOR=2.7,95%CI= (1.7, 4.3)]. Female youth who live in low proportion of poor communities were 30% less likely to initiate sex early as compared to female youth who live in a high proportion of poor community [AOR= 0.7, 95% CI= (0.5, 0.9)] (Table 2).

**Table 2: multilevel logistic regression model for factors associated with early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia, EDHS 2016 (n=6143).**



Variable	COR (95% CI)	Model-0 ICC=22.6%	Model-I AOR (95% CI)	Model-II AOR (95% CI)	Model-III (AOR) (95% CI)
<b>Age in years</b>					
15-18	1				
19-24	5.1(4.1, 6.4)		5.6(4.5, 7.0)		<b>5.8 (4.6, 7.3)</b>
<b>Religion</b>					
Orthodox	1				
Muslim	1.6 ( 1.2, 2.0)		1.3 (0.9, 1.8)		1.35 (0.9, 1.9)
Others	0.8(0.5, 1.1)		0.8 (0.6, 1.1)		1.1(0.8, 1.5)
<b>Educational status</b>					
No education	9.4(5.8, 15.3)		14.7 (8.5, 25.4)		<b>14.1 (8.1, 24.7)</b>
Primary	2.7(1.7, 4.3)		5.9(3.5, 9.9)		<b>5.9 (3.5, 10.0)</b>
Secondary	1.3 (0.8, 2.2)		2.3 (1.4, 3.9)		<b>2.3 (1.4, 3.9)</b>
Higher	1				
<b>Household wealth index</b>					
Poorest	2.4 (1.6, 3.4)		1.1 (0.6, 1.8)		0.8 (0.5, 1.5)
Poorer	2.5 (1.8, 3.5)		1.1 (0.7, 1.8)		0.9 (0.6, 1.5)
Middle	2.5 (1.9, 3.5)		1.2 (0.7, 1.9)		1.1 (0.7, 1.7)
Richer	1.3(0.9, 1.8)		0.8 (0.5, 1.2)		0.71 (.46, 1.1)
Richest	1				
<b>Watching television</b>					
Not at all	1.8 (1.3, 2.4)		0.9 (0.6, 1.4)		0.9 (0.6, 1.4)
Less than once a week	1.3 (0.9, 1.8)		1.1 (0.7, 1.5)		0.95 (0.7, 1.4)
At least once a	1				

week			
<b>Listening radio</b>			
Not at all	1.1 (0.9, 1.5)	0.9 (0.6, 1.2)	0.9 (0.6, 1.2)
Less than once a week	0.8 (0.6, 1.0)		0.8 (0.5, 1.1)
At least once a week	1		
<b>Ever heard about STI</b>			
No	1		
Yes	1.1 (0.7, 1.6)	1.4 (0.9, 2.3)	1.4 (0.9, 2.2)
<b>Ever chewing chat</b>			
No	1		
Yes	2.5 (1.7, 3.6)	2.0 (1.4, 3.0)	<b>2.0 (1.3, 3.0)</b>
<b>Ever drinking alcohol</b>			
No	1		
Yes	1.2 (1.0, 1.5)	1.4 (1.1, 1.8)	1.3 (0.9, 1.7)
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	1		
Rural	2.8 (2.19, 3.47)	0.9 (0.6, 1.4)	1.1(0.7, 1.9)
<b>Region</b>			
Tigray	1		
Afar	2.4(1.6, 3.7)	1.0 (0.7, 1.5)	0.9 (.5, 1.5)
Amhara	1.2 (0.8, 1.8)	1.1 (0.8, 1.6)	1.1(0.7, 1.6)
Oromia	0.9 (0.6, 1.4)	0.7 (0.5, 1.1)	<b>0.6 (0.4, 0.9)</b>
Somali	1.2 (0.8, 1.8)	0.5 (0.3, 0.8)	<b>0.5 (0.3,0.8)</b>
Benishangul	1.2 (0.8, 1.8)	1.1 (0.7, 1.7)	1.1 (0.7, 1.8)

SNNP	0.5( 0.4, 0.8)	0.4 (0.3, 0.6)	<b>0.4 (0.3, 0.7)</b>
Gambela	1.9 ( 1.2, 2.9)	2.1 (1.4, 3.1)	<b>2.7 (1.7, 4.3)</b>
Harari	1.1 (0.7, 1.7)	1.1 (0.7, 1.7)	0.8 (0.5, 1.4)
Addis Ababa	0.3 (0.2, 0.4)	0.4 (0.3, 0.6)	<b>0.3 (0.2, 0.5)</b>
Dire Dawa	0.6 ( 0.4, 1.0)	0.7 (0.4, 1.0)	<b>0.5 (0.3, 0.9)</b>
<b>Community-level wealth</b>			
Low	0.5 (0.3, 0.5)	0.6(0.4, 0.8)	<b>0.7 (0.5, 0.9)</b>
High	1		
<b>Community-level education</b>			
Low	0.4 (0.3, 0.5)	0.6 (0.5, 0.8)	0.8 (0.6, 1.1)
High	1		
<b>Community-level television exposure</b>			
Low	0.5 (0.4, 0.6)	0.9 (0.7, 1.2)	1.0 (0.8, 1.4)
High	1		
<b>Community-level radio exposure</b>			
Low	0.5 (0.4, 0.6)	0.9 (0.8, 1.3)	1.1(0.8, 1.5)
High	1		

1=Reference

### Random Effects (Measures of Variation)

Early sexual initiation among female youth varies significantly across each cluster. ICC indicated that 22.6 % of the variation in early sexual initiation among female youth was attributed to community-level factors. PCV in the final model shows 42.7% of the variation in early sexual initiation across communities was explained. Likewise, MOR for early sexual initiation among female youth, in the null model was 5.0 which shows the presence of variation across each cluster and it showed a relative reduction in the final model (3.8) (Table 3)

**Table 3: Measure of variation for early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia, EDHS 2016.**

<b>Measure of variation</b>	<b>Model-0</b>	<b>Model-I</b>	<b>Model -II</b>	<b>Model-III</b>
Variance	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5
ICC (%)	22.6	16.9	14.8	14.3
PCV (%)	Reference	30.2	40.6	42.7
MOR	5.0	4.1	3.9	3.8
<b>Model fitness</b>				
Log-likelihood	-3727.4	-3152.7	-3647.3	-3115.0

ICC=Intra-class Correlation Coefficient, PCV=Proportional Change in Variance and MOR=Median Odds Ratio

## Discussion

The result of the final model showed that individual-level factors: (age, educational status and Chat chewing) and from community-level factors: (region and community-level of wealth) were determinant factors of early sexual initiation in Ethiopia. Cohorts of youth from 19-24 years old are more likely to start sex early than cohorts of 15-18 years old. The finding was supported by a study conducted in Wollega, Ethiopia (19). It was also congruent with studies conducted in Mexico and Korea (4, 7, 36-38). The possible reason for this association may be due to cultural malpractices like early marriage and abduction which were common but, decreased in the last five years as the data represents at what age they started first sex. Moreover, the difference in the two age-group cohorts may be due to the improvement of youth-friendly health service through time which might increase their knowledge, self-confidence and other sexual issues (39).

As the level of educational attainment increase the risk of early sexual initiation decrease. The finding was supported by studies done in different part of Ethiopia, Alamata (12), Aksum ( 30), Northern Ethiopia (31), central Tigray ( 37) and Nekemt (38). The finding was also supported by research done in South Korea (23). This might be due to as education increased exposure and access to information regarding the effect of early sexual initiation on their mental and social health. Furthermore, education may bring a behavioral change towards the reduction of risk factors like, substance use which may expose them to early sexual initiation (40). Moreover, parent-youth communication and supervision might be good for youth who are educated (13, 14, 22, 25, 41).

Chewing Chat was positively associated with early sexual initiation. The finding is consistent with other studies conducted in a different part of Ethiopia (5, 11, 38). It was also in agreement with studies conducted in Mexico (4), Philippines (17), Korea (42) and Canada (43). This might be due to the nature of substances to affect individual consciousness and critical thinking about the risk and consequences of

early sexual initiation (15, 22, 24, 25, 44). Moreover, substance users are more subjected to causal sex and they may use it as a means of income for their addiction.

There was a regional variation in age at first sexual initiation. Female youth who lived in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, SNNPR, Oromia and Somali region were less likely to initiate sex early as compared to youth who lived in Tigray region. Whereas female youth who were living in Gambella region were more likely to start sex early than living in Tigray region. This might be due to the difference in cultural and religious values and norms across the regions. Social changes, family dynamics and attitude and expression of sexual behavior in youth may be the possible reason for this association (13, 22, 25, 29, 45-47).

When a low proportion of poor people lived in the cluster, the initiation of early sex was decreased. This finding was supported by a study conducted in Kenya (35). This might be due to rich peoples may have good health-seeking behavior, knowledge on risk factors and parental style. The youth by themselves may have access to different behavioral change communication through different mass media. The above reasons may have an effect on the value and norms of the community towards early sexual initiation and early marriage (9, 16, 45). Even though the result of this study was more representative than other studies and the model considered different levels of analysis, it is not without limitations. The result may be prone to recall bias because the data were collected from the history of the event.

## **Conclusion**

After computing multi-level analysis, a cohort of old age, low educational status, ever chewing Chat, region and live in a high proportion of poor community had a statistical association with early sexual initiation among female youth in Ethiopia. Improving universal access to education is important to reduce the prevalence as well as health and health-related complications of early sexual initiation. Advocacy and behavioral change communication among substance user should be an area of concern for different organizations that working on youth reproductive health. Since early sexual initiation differs across community differences, better to develop community sensitive approaches for different communities.

## **Declarations**

### **Ethical Approval and consent to participate**

Ethical clearance was obtained from Ethical Review Committee of Wollo University College of Medicine and Health Science. An authorization letter to download EDHS-2016 data set was also obtained from CSA after requesting [www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com) website. The requested data were treated strictly confidential and was used only for the purpose of this study. Complete information regarding the ethical issue was available in the EDHS-2016 report.

### **Consent for publication**

Not applicable

## Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and/or analysed during this study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

## Funding

There was no specific funding for this study

## Author's Contributions

MA: Initiated the research concept, analyze and interpreted the data; BK and MY: Wrote the manuscript and MA and YD: Edited and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Acknowledgements

A special word of thank you goes to Central Statistical Agency for giving permission to access EDHS-2016 dataset.

## Abbreviations

CSA-Central Statistics Agency, EA- Enumeration Area, ICC-inter cluster coefficient, MOR-Median Odds Ratio, PCV-Proportional Change Variance

## References

1. World Health Organization (WHO). Engaging young people for health and sustainable development: strategic opportunities for the World Health Organization and partners. 2018.
2. Gupta MD. The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and the transformation of the future: United Nations Population Fund; 2014.
3. Arega WL, Zewale TA, Bogale KA. Premarital sexual practice and associated factors among high school youths in Debretabor town, South Gondar zone, North West Ethiopia, 2017. BMC research notes. 2019;12(1):314.
4. Barragán V, Berenzon S, Tiburcio M, Bustos M, Villatoro J. Factors Associated with Sexual Debut in Mexican Adolescents: Results of the National Survey on Drug Use among Students in 2014. The journal of sexual medicine. 2019;16(3):418-26.
5. Bizuneh H. Correlates of sexual initiation among adolescent and youth in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: a community based cross sectional study. MOJ Public Health. 2019;8(3):108-13.

6. Charlton BM, Nava-Coulter B, Coles MS, Katz-Wise SL. Teen pregnancy experiences of sexual minority women. *Journal of pediatric and adolescent gynecology*. 2019;32(5):499-505.
7. Lee G. Sexual behaviors and sexual experience of adolescents in Korea. *Korea Academy Industrial Cooperation Society* 2016; 17 (12): 71-80.
8. Lee J. The impact of sexual initiation timing and sexual experience on depressive symptoms in South Korean adolescents: Gender differences in a nationwide cross-sectional study. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*. 2019.
9. Lee RLT, Yuen Loke A, Hung TTM, Sobel H. A systematic review on identifying risk factors associated with early sexual debut and coerced sex among adolescents and young people in communities. *Journal of clinical nursing*. 2018;27(3-4):478-501.
10. Buck T. *International child law*: Psychology Press; 2005.
11. Alemu B. Early marriage in Ethiopia: causes and health consequences. *Exchange on HIV and AIDS, Sexuality and Gender*. 2008;1:4-6.
12. Abay M, Endgashet S, Etana B, Nguse K. Magnitude of Premarital Sex and Associated Factors among Preparatory School Students in Alamata Town, North Ethiopia, 2014. *Research & Reviews: A Journal of Health Professions*. 2019;6(2):12-20.
13. Abebe M, Tsion A, Netsanet F. Living with parents and risky sexual behaviors among preparatory school students in Jimma zone, South west Ethiopia. *African health sciences*. 2013;13(2):498-506.
14. Yibrehu MS, Mbwele B. Parent-adolescent communication on sexual and reproductive health: the qualitative evidences from parents and students of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Reproductive Health*. 2020;17:1-9.
15. Yohannes B, Gelibo T, Tarekegn M, Gelibo T. Prevalence and associated factors of sexually transmitted infections among students of Wolaita Sodo University, Southern Ethiopia. *Int J Sci Technol Res*. 2013;2(2):86-94.
16. Lindegren ML, Kennedy CE, Bain-Brickley D, Azman H, Creanga AA, Butler LM, et al. Integration of HIV/AIDS services with maternal, neonatal and child health, nutrition, and family planning services. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2012(9).
17. Maravilla JC, Betts KS, Alati R. Exploring the Risks of Repeated Pregnancy Among Adolescents and Young Women in the Philippines. *Maternal and child health journal*. 2019;23(7):934-42.
18. Prendergast LE, Toumbourou JW, McMorris BJ, Catalano RF. Outcomes of early adolescent sexual behavior in Australia: Longitudinal findings in young adulthood. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2019;64(4):516-22.
19. Tolera FH, Girma E, Mamo A, Babure ZK. Risky sexual behaviors and associated factors among high and preparatory school youth, East Wollega, Ethiopia, 2017: A cross-sectional study design. *Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology*. 2019;11:1-12.
20. LeGrand TK, Mbacké CS. Teenage pregnancy and child health in the urban Sahel. *Studies in family planning*. 1993:137-49.

21. Sprecher S, O'Sullivan LF, Drouin M, Verette-Lindenbaum J, Willetts MC. The Significance of Sexual Debut in Women's Lives. *Current Sexual Health Reports*. 2019;11(4):265-73.
22. Xu Y, Norton S, Rahman Q. Early life conditions and adolescent sexual orientation: A prospective birth cohort study. *Developmental psychology*. 2019.
23. Yeo JH, Park H, Kim E-Y. Predictors of the Timing of Sexual Intercourse Initiation among Adolescents in South Korea. *Journal of community health*. 2019;44(3):580-6.
24. Wells BE, Golub SA, Parsons JT. An integrated theoretical approach to substance use and risky sexual behavior among men who have sex with men. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2011;15(3):509-20.
25. Zhu G, Bosma AK. Early sexual initiation in Europe and its relationship with legislative change: A systematic review. *International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*. 2019;57:70-82.
26. Bugssa G, Dimtsu B, Alemayehu M. Socio demographic and maternal determinants of low birth weight at mekelle hospital, northern ethiopia: a cross sectional study. *Am J Adv Drug Deliv*. 2014;2(5):609-18.
27. Gebremedhin M, Ambaw F, Admassu E, Berhane H. Maternal associated factors of low birth weight: a hospital based cross-sectional mixed study in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia. *BMC pregnancy and childbirth*. 2015;15(1):222.
28. Tema T. Prevalence and determinants of low birth weight in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia. *East African medical journal*. 2006;83(7):366.
29. França MTA, Frio GS. Factors associated with family, school and behavioral characteristics on sexual initiation: A gender analysis for Brazilian adolescents. *PloS one*. 2018;13(12).
30. Girmay A, Mariye T. Risky sexual behavior practice and associated factors among secondary and preparatory school students of Aksum town, northern Ethiopia, 2018. *BMC research notes*. 2019;12(1):698.
31. Girmay A, Marye T, Gerense H. Factors determining premarital sexual practice of school students, institutional based cross sectional study in northern Ethiopia. 2019.
32. Kashitala J, Nyambe N, Mwalo S, Musamba J, Chishinga N, Kasonde P, et al. Is male involvement in ANC and PMTCT associated with increased facility-based obstetric delivery in pregnant women? *African Journal of Reproductive Health*. 2015;19(2):116-23.
33. EDHS E. demographic and health survey 2016: key indicators report. The DHS Program ICF. 2016;363:364.
34. Christ O, Hewstone M, Schmid K, Green EG, Sarrasin O, Gollwitzer M, Wagner U. Advanced multilevel modeling for a science of groups: A short primer on multilevel structural equation modeling. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice*. 2017 Sep;21(3):121.
35. Brault MA, Ngure K, Haley CA, Kabaka S, Sergon K, Desta T, Mwinga K, Vermund SH, Kipp AM. The introduction of new policies and strategies to reduce inequities and improve child health in Kenya: A country case study on progress in child survival, 2000-2013. *PLoS One*. 2017 Aug 1;12(8):e0181777.



36. Finer LB, Philbin JM. Sexual initiation, contraceptive use, and pregnancy among young adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2013;131(5):886-91.
37. Girmay A, Mariye T, Gerensea H. Early sexual debut and associated factors among secondary school students of central zone of Tigray, Northern Ethiopia, 2018. *The Pan African Medical Journal*. 2019;34.
38. Waktole ZD. Sexual behaviors and associated factors among youths in Nekemte town, East Wollega, Oromia, Ethiopia: A cross-sectional study. *PloS one*. 2019;14(7).
39. Rahmani A, Merghati-Khoei E, Fallahi A. Perceived advantages and disadvantages of sex education in young women: A qualitative study. *International Journal of High Risk Behaviors and Addiction*. 2018;7(2):57-61.
40. Coyne SM, Ward LM, Kroff SL, Davis EJ, Holmgren HG, Jensen AC, et al. Contributions of mainstream sexual media exposure to sexual attitudes, perceived peer norms, and sexual behavior: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2019.
41. Wong WCW, Choi EP, Holroyd E, Ip P, Fan S, Yip PS. Impact of household composition and satisfaction with family life on self-reported sexual health outcomes of high-school students in Hong Kong. *BMJ sexual & reproductive health*. 2019.
42. Park S, Kim Y. Prevalence, correlates, and associated psychological problems of substance use in Korean adolescents. *BMC public health*. 2015;16(1):79.
43. Shoveller JA, Johnson JL, Langille DB, Mitchell T. Socio-cultural influences on young people's sexual development. *Social science & medicine*. 2004;59(3):473-87.
44. Waldron M, Doran KA, Bucholz KK, Duncan AE, Lynskey MT, Madden PA, et al. Parental separation, parental alcoholism, and timing of first sexual intercourse. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2015;56(5):550-6.
45. Commendador KA. Parental influences on adolescent decision making and contraceptive use. *Pediatric Nursing*. 2010;36(3):147.
46. Fomby P, Cherlin AJ. Family instability and child well-being. *American sociological review*. 2007;72(2):181-204.
47. Le GT, Deardorff J, Lahiff M, Harley KG. Intergenerational associations between parental incarceration and children's sexual risk taking in young adulthood. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2019;64(3):398-404.

## Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- [Dataprocessingandanalysis.pdf](#)