The 2013 YOUNG ADULT FERTILITY & SEXUALITY (YAFS4) STUDY

Nimfa B. Ogena, Ph.D.
University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI)
THE YOUTH - RATIONALE FOR RESEARCH

• YOUTH - “The UN, for statistical consistency across regions, defines ‘youth’, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States…. All UN statistics on youth are based on this definition”- UNESCO website

• WHY STUDY YOUTH

-‘Youth’ is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence and is often considered a critical period.

-Demographically, it is characterized by a period of many critical transitions: school leaving, first job, first serious relationship, first marriage, first pregnancy...

• THE YOUNG ADULT FERTILITY AND SEXUALITY (YAFS) STUDY

-Objective: To provide updated information on a broad framework of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health issues, their antecedents, and manifestations that are useful in the design of interventions to safeguard the health and welfare of Filipino youth
THE YAFS SURVEYS (1982-2013)

YAFS1 (1982)
Funded by the Population Center Foundation. Implemented by the UP Population Institute (UPPI). Respondents: 5,240; 15-24 years old females, single and married, nationally representative.

YAFS2 (1994)

YAFS3 (2002)
Funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Implemented by the DRDF. N of cases: 19,728; 15-27 years old, 16 regions, males and females, single and married, nationally representative.

YAFS4 (2013)
Funded by AusAID, UNFPA, and DOH, PCHRD. N of cases: 19,178; 15-24 years old, 17 regions, males and females, single and married, Muslim questionnaires, nationally representative.
YAFS4 Survey instruments

- 10 survey instruments
  - Household Form
  - 8 Individual Questionnaires for the youth respondents
    - 4 Main Questionnaires
      (Single Female, Married Female, Single Male, Married Male)
    - 4 Muslim Questionnaires
      (Single Female, Married Female, Single Male, Married Male)
  - Community Form
- All questionnaires were translated to 6 major languages
Contents of YAFS4 Individual Questionnaires

- Individual characteristics
- Family characteristics and relationships
- Self-esteem and values
- School, work and community
- Media
- Friends and peers
- Health and lifestyle
- Marriage
- Puberty, dating and sex
- Fertility and contraception
- Knowledge and attitudes towards marriage, sex and related issues
- Reproductive health
Coverage of YAFS4

- Fieldwork was conducted in January to May 2013
- Regional network of research and academic institutions were involved in the data collection

17 regions
79 provinces
681 cities and municipalities
1,121 barangays
18,547 households
19,178 respondents
Census data from 1960-2010 show the size of the young adult population as steadily increasing, but the rate of increase has been decelerating.

YAFS data from 1994 to 2013 reveal a decline in the proportion of never married, formally married, and increase in separated/divorced/widowed and living-in.
A new feature of the 2013 YAFS round is the block of questions on health and lifestyle of Filipino young adults, which includes questions on self-assessed health status, self-reported height and weight, average hours of sleep, exercise, consumption of selected food and drinks and common leisure activities are presented.

- More males than females say they are healthy (94% vs 91%)
- Educational attainment positively related to health
- CAR & SOCCSKSARGEN with highest health self-assessment, lowest are Northern Mindanao, Davao Region and Caraga
YOUTH HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE

PHYSICAL EXERCISE
- Only 46.4% exercise at least twice weekly with males leading females (59% vs. 34%)
- Positive relationship with education
- 3 in 10 have never exercised with higher proportions on females and older cohorts; ARMM and Central Visayas lowest at 49% and 19%, respectively

CELLULAR PHONE USE
- 78% owned cellphones with females leading males (81% vs 76%)
- Proportions of ownership are highest in CALABARZON and Ilocos (87%), Central Luzon (86%) and NCR (85%) and lowest in ARMM at 52.4%.
- 44% have textmates whom they have not met personally with males leading females at 54% and 34%, respectively
- Having a textmate is inversely correlated with educational level
INTERNET USE

• 59% use the internet with more females (61%) than males (57%), the younger cohorts (60%) than the older (57%)

• Positive relationship with education- 91% for college educated to 20.5% for those with elementary education.

• More than half (52%) have online or virtual friends, i.e. friends they have not met personally
NONSEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS- SMOKING

• Slow drop in the proportion of currently smoking youth from 1994 to 2013
• For the 2013 survey, 38.8% have ever smoked, significantly more among males (56%) than females (22%).
• Wide gap between current male and female smokers at 35.4% and 4.7%
• Older cohort has greater proportion of current smokers at 26% compared to younger cohort at 16%
• Education has a negative correlation with smoking
• Prevalence highest in NCR (27%) and Central Luzon (25%) and lowest in ARMM (12%) and SOCCSKSARGEN (13%).
Like smoking, there is a discernible but slow decrease in drinking especially between 2002 and 2013. 53.2% of males currently drink compared to 21% of females. Like smoking, drinking is more prevalent in the older (46%) than the younger (30%) cohort. College educated have the highest prevalence of current drinking (43%) while the lowest is among high school undergraduates (29%) many who are still in school. Prevalence of current drinking is highest in the NCR (56%), Central Visayas (43%) and Eastern Visayas (43%) and almost nonexistent in ARMM (2%).
Drug use is male dominated. The proportion of the Filipino males who ever used drugs is highest in the Davao Region (18.2%) followed by Northern Mindanao (15.7%) and Caraga (13.2%). Lowest are in ARMM (1.9%), Central Luzon, and Cagayan Valley (both 2%).

Like smoking and drinking, there has been a drop in drug use over the past decade from 2.4% currently using in 2002 to 0.7% in 2013.

As with smoking and drinking, the older cohort has a higher proportion of ‘ever use’ compared with the younger cohort (5.8% vs. 2.6%) and a huge difference between males and females (7.1% vs. 0.9%)
SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS

• Since 1994, there has been a rise in the proportion of 18-24 old youth having sex before the age of 18.

• For males, socio-economic status and educational levels are positively correlated with early sexual initiation while the reverse is true for females.

• Urbanization appears to be positively correlated with early sexual initiation with NCR respondents having the highest figure at 30.6% while ARMM had 15.6%.
SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS

• Data on premarital sex show that males edge females by around 7% (35.5% vs. 28.7%)

• More than half of older cohort (54.3%) engaged in premarital sex

• From 1994 to 2013, there has been an upward shift in the prevalence of premarital sex from 17.9% to 32.2%

• For males, NCR, Central Luzon and Central Visayas top the list at 48.6%, 43.2%, and 40.3% respectively. For females, Davao, CAR, and Central Luzon lead at 37.7%, 37.1%, and 35.7% respectively.

• The ARMM stands out for both males and females with low scores at 6.2% and 7.1%, respectively. The next lowest regional values for males are in the upper 20% range and lower 20% range for females.
REGIONAL FURTHER STUDIES

• NCR- The Association Between Exposure to Pornography and Early Sex Among Metro Manila Youth
• CAR- Predictors and Timing of Early Childbearing in the Cordillera Administrative Region
• Region 1- Internet Use and Early Sex Among the Youth in Ilocos Region
• Region II- Batang Ina: Teenage Fertility Experience of Cagayan Valley
• Region III- Mass Media and ICT Use, Non-Sexual Risk Behavior, and Early Sexual Initiation of the Youth in Central Luzon
• Region IV-A- Correlates of Sources of Information on Sex and Reproduction and Discussion of Sex at Home and in School of the Youth in CALABARZON
• Region IV-B- Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV/AIDS Among the MIMAROPA Youth
• Region V- Timing of Sexual Debut and Marriage in Bicol: Does Pregnancy Matter?
• Region VI- “To Smoke or Not to Smoke”: Influences of Cigarette Smoking Among Young People in Western Visayas
• Region VII- Early Sex Debut of Young Males and Females in Central Visayas
• Region VIII- Ecological Determinants of Early Marriage Among Eastern Visayan Youth
• Region IX- Gender Differentials in the Premarital Sexual Initiation of Zamboanga Peninsula Youth
• Region X- Online-Offline Sexual Expression Among Digital Natives: The Case of the Young Adults of Northern Mindanao
• Region XI- Suicide Attempts, Self-Esteem, Level of Happiness, and Life Satisfaction Among Youth from Davao Region
• Region XII- Physical Activity and Food Consumption of Young Adults in SOCCSKSARGEN
• Caraga- Maternal Health-Seeking Behaviors of Teen and Young Adult Mothers in Caraga
• ARMM- Correlates of Early School-Leaving in the ARMM

• Unintended Pregnancies and Prenatal, Delivery and Postnatal Outcomes Among Young Women in the Philippines - Marquez, M. P. N. (2016). Published at the Asia-Pacific Population Journal 30(1)


• Filipino Youth: Sexuality and Education Status. The 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS4)- Natividad, J. N. (2014). PACU 8nd Anniversary National Conference, Marco Polo Ortigas, 28 June 2014
Thank you!

The YOUNG ADULT FERTILITY & SEXUALITY (YAFS) SURVEY

Nimfa B. Ogena, Ph.D.
nbogena@up.edu.ph