

Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health with Teenage Childbearing in the Philippines: A Further Analysis of the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS 4) Data

Nimfa B. Ogena, Ph.D.

Presented at the 12th PNHRS Week Celebration
August 7-9, 2018 at CAP-JH Trade and Cultural Center, Baguio City.



Demographic Research & Development Foundation, Inc.

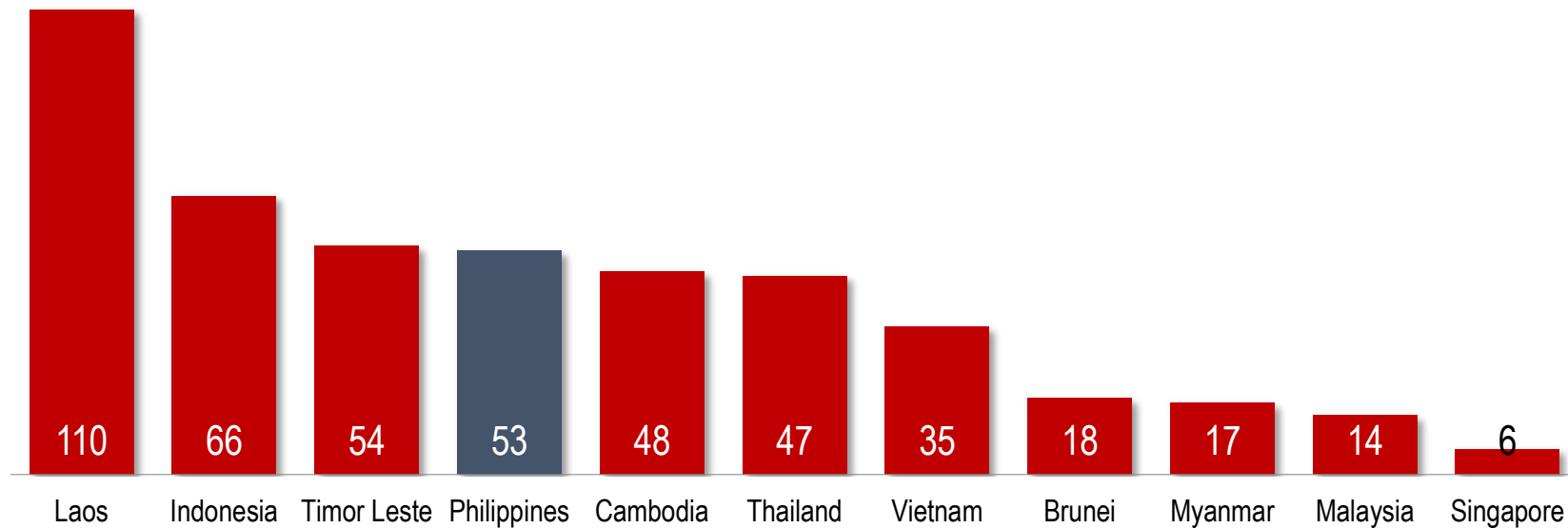
University of the Philippines Population Institute

Why is teenage childbearing a cause for concern?

- Early childbearing is associated with health risks to both the young mother and her child
 - Teenage mothers are at increased risk of pre-term delivery and low birth weight, maternal death, early neonatal death, postpartum hemorrhage
- A teenage mother is also exposed to non-health risks
 - Not finishing school
 - Limited future chances for realizing her full potential
 - Being burdened with child care while still a child herself

The Philippines has one of the highest teen fertility rate in Southeast Asia

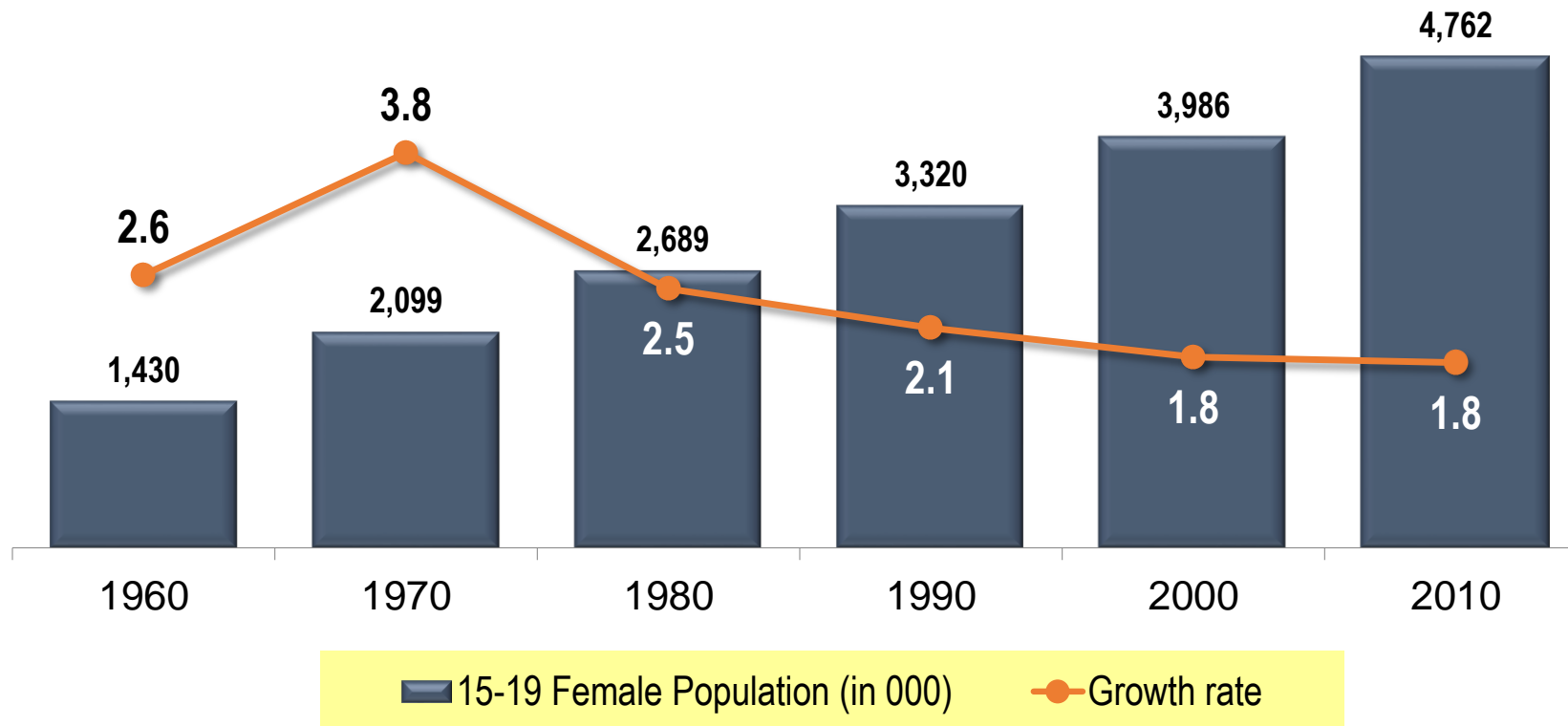
ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 WOMEN AGED 15-19 YEARS



Source: UNFPA, Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy, 2013

#YAFS4

The country's teen female population is steadily increasing although the pace is slowing down



Sources: Various Philippine censuses

#YA4S4

Young Adult Fertility Survey

- The 2013 Young Adult Fertility Survey (YAFS4) is the 4th in a series of nationally-representative surveys on Filipino youth 15-24 years old
- Jointly implemented by the
 - Demographic Research & Development Foundation (DRDF)
 - University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI)
- Funded by The Australian Government, UNFPA, Department of Health, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHR)

#YAFS4

General objective of YAFS4

- To provide updated information on a broad framework of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health issues, their antecedents, and manifestations that will be useful in the design of interventions to safeguard the health and welfare of Filipino youth.

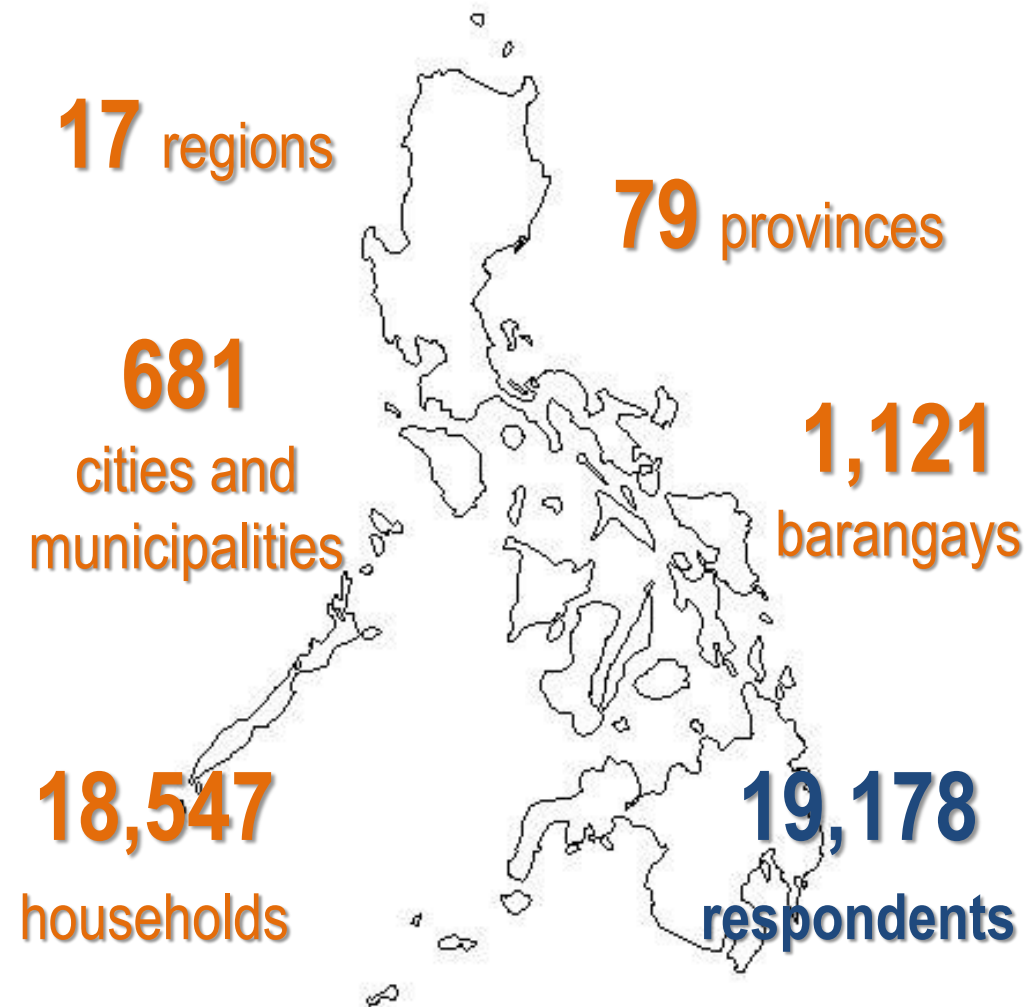
#YAFS4

Survey design

- Sampling design: Multistage stratified random sampling
- Sampling domain: Region
- Sample size per region: About 1,000 respondents
- Respondents: 15-24 years old single and married males and females

#YAFS4

Coverage of YAFS4



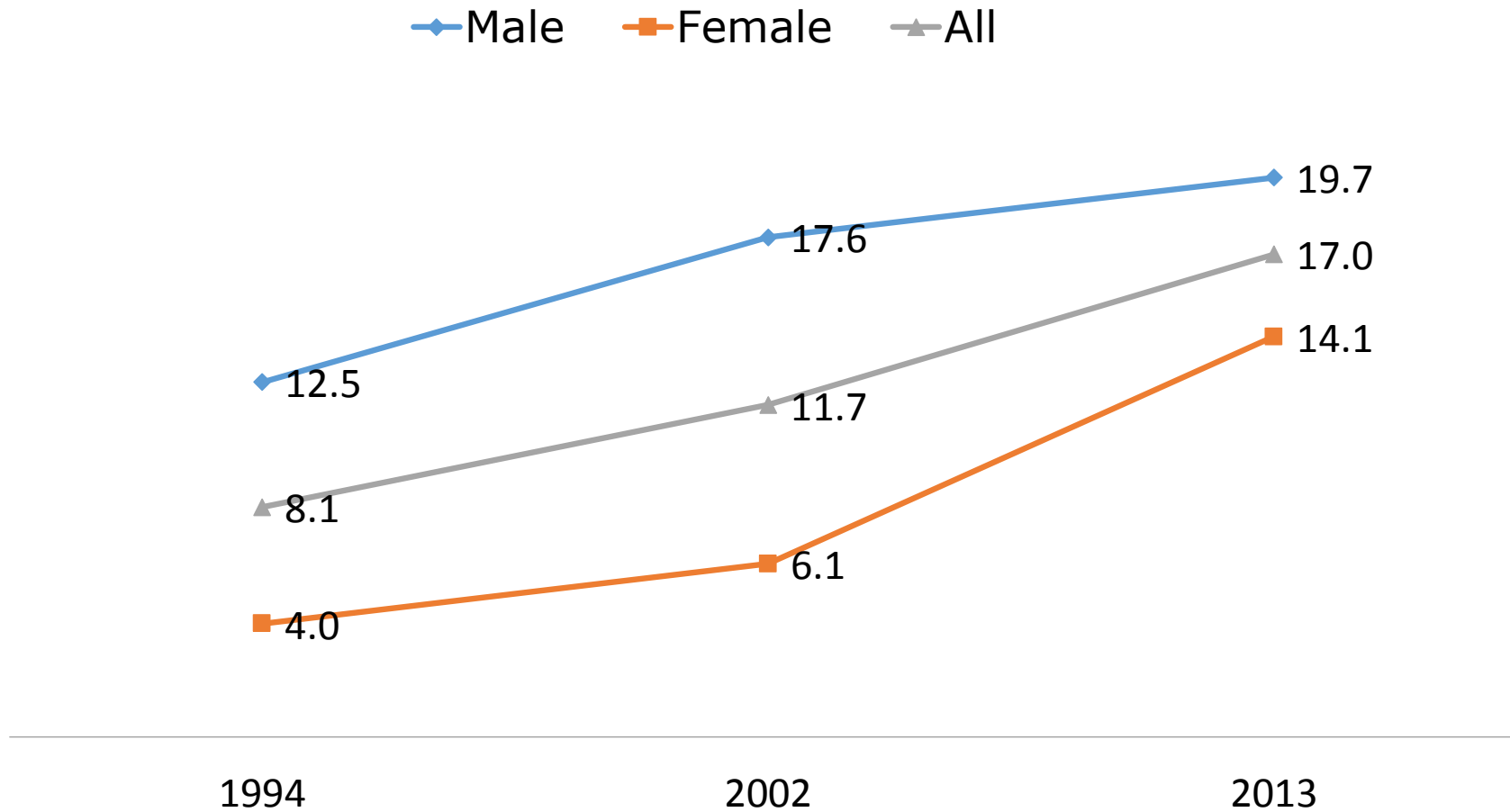
#YAFS4

Respondents in YAFS 4

- 19,178 respondents
- 11,425 15-19 y/o and 7,753 20-24 y/o
- Among the 15-19 year olds:
 - **5773 are male**
 - **5652** are female

#YAFS4

Premarital sex has been increasing and the gender gap is narrowing



#YAFS4

Source: Childbearing in the teenage years: findings from YAFS 4 (Natividad 2014)

- The narrowing of the gap in the prevalence of premarital sexual (PMS) activity between young men and women, amidst increasing PMS prevalence in general, is likely a major contributor to the sharp increase in teenage fertility
- Premarital conception does not lead to formal marriage. Rather it leads to consensual union/ living in. This may be indicative of changing values about formal marriage in general, especially among the young.

#YAFS4

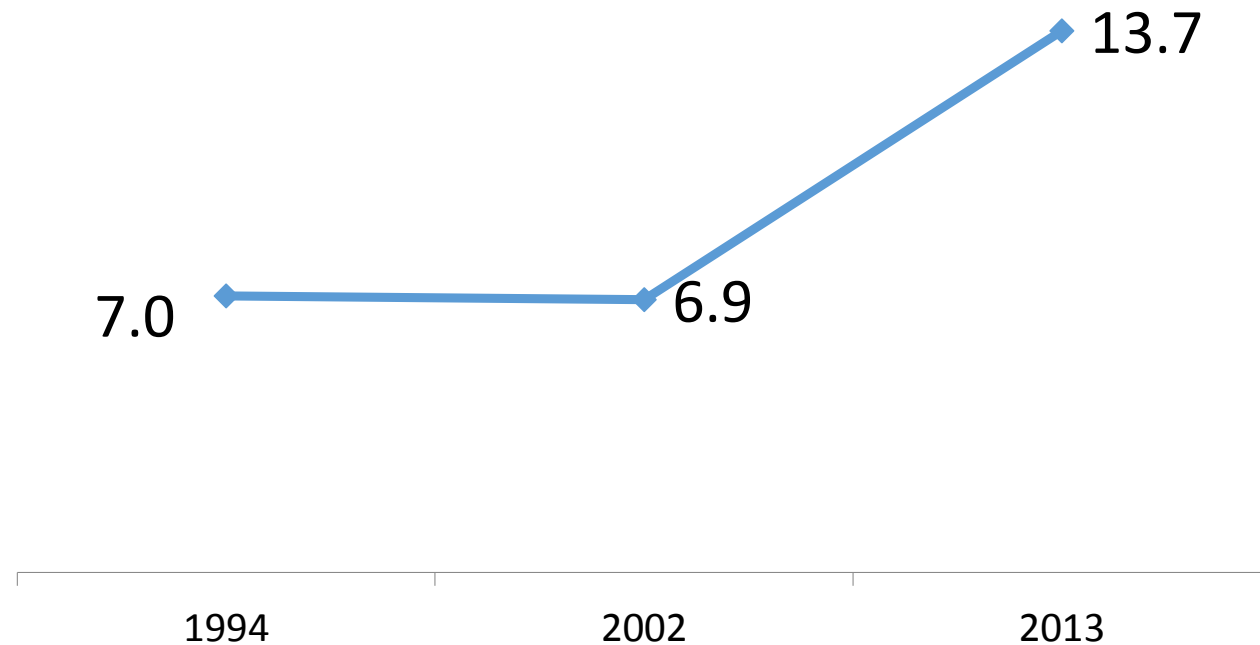
Source: Childbearing in the teenage years: findings from YAFS 4 (Natividad 2014)

- While there is a prevalent conservative attitude toward premarital sex, its consequence of premarital conception is not strongly condemned. There is no compulsion to formally marry after premarital pregnancy.
- There is inadequate knowledge about conception
- There is very little discussion of sex at home

#YAFS4

The proportion of 15-19 year old females who have begun childbearing **DOUBLED** in the past decade

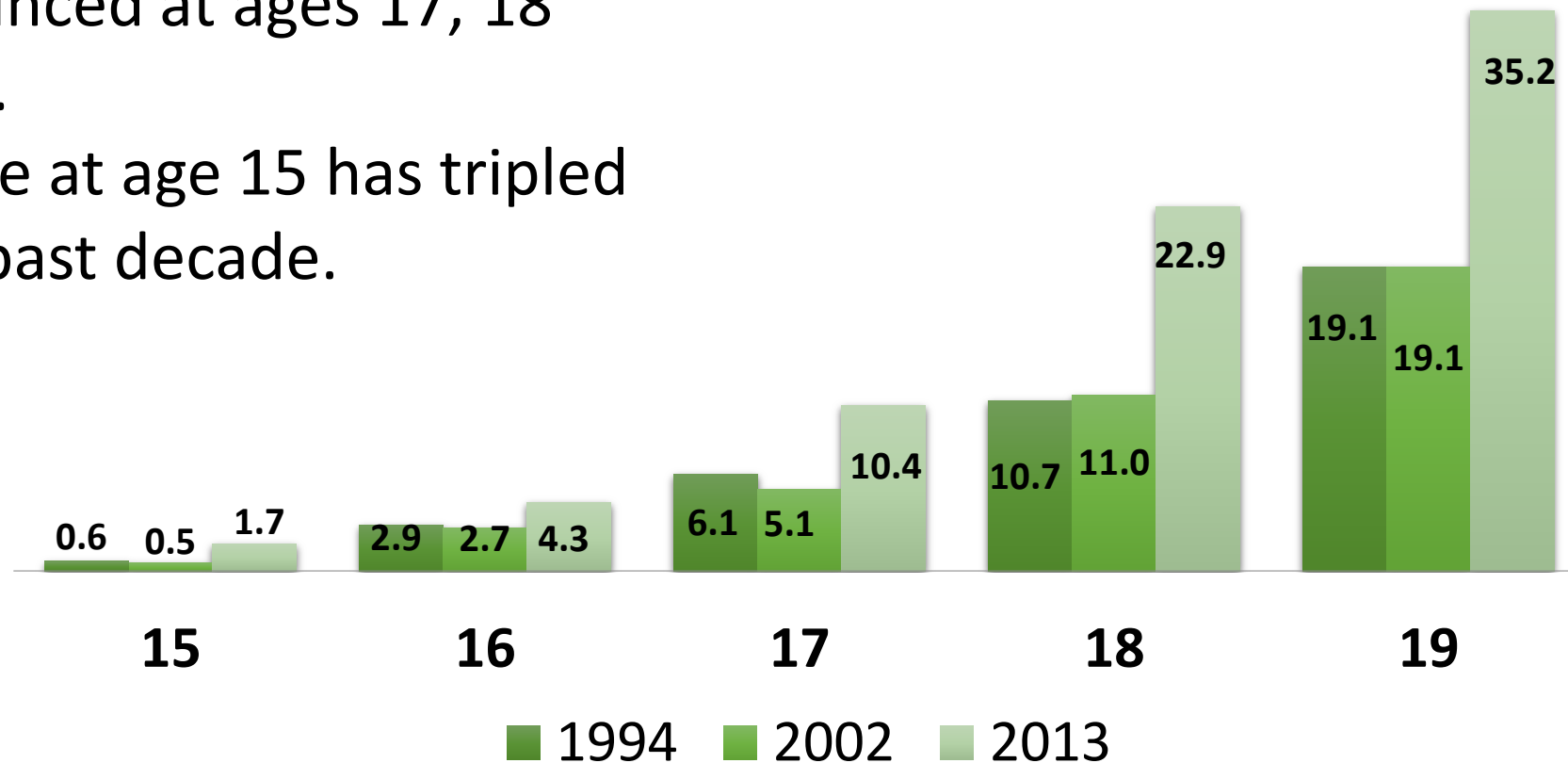
Percent of females 15-19 who have begun childbearing



#YAFS4

The percentage who have begun childbearing increased at every age.

- The increase is most pronounced at ages 17, 18 and 19.
- The rate at age 15 has tripled in the past decade.



#YAFS4

Source: Batang Ina: Teenage fertility in the Philippines (Marquez, 2014)

- 1 in 5 teen females have sexual experience
- Most sexual initiations occur prior to marriage and without any form of protection against the risk of unintended pregnancies and STIs
- There is much room for improvement in the level of knowledge about sex and conception among female teens

Source: Batang Ina: Teenage fertility in the Philippines (Marquez, 2014)

- Most teen females think it is ideal to have children when they are in their mid-20s
- On the average, teen females prefer to have 2 children (lower than the country's current TFR of 3 children)
- The level of teenage fertility doubled in the past decade
- A typical teenage mother:
 - At least 18 years old
 - High school undergrad/grad
 - Engaged in housework
 - Living-in
 - Have premarital sex experience

Question on unintended pregnancy

- “At the time you became pregnant, did you want to become pregnant then, did you want to wait until later, or did you not want to become pregnant at all?”
 - Wanted then (Intended pregnancy)
 - Wanted to wait later (Mistimed pregnancy)
 - Did not want at all (Unwanted pregnancy)

- Mistimed + Unwanted = Unintended pregnancy

Source: Batang Ina: Teenage fertility in the Philippines (Marquez, 2014)

- Half of teen females who have been pregnant have unintended pregnancies
- Unintended pregnancies are more common among unmarried teen females than those in union
- Unintended pregnancies among teen females is highest in NCR and lowest in MIMAROPA
- 1 in 10 ever-pregnant teen females did something to end pregnancy early

Dependent variable

Teenage childbearing (begunch)

- Women aged 15-19 at the time of the survey who fulfilled either of the following conditions:
 - had already given birth
 - were pregnant at the time of the survey

Independent Variables

- Ever been legally married or in a live-in arrangement (everNunion)
- Had sex before age 15 (sexb415)
- Ever discussed sex at home while growing up (sexdiscuss)
- R thinks have enough knowledge about sex (sexknow)
- R knows about infections/diseases that are associated with sex or with having sex (STIknow)
- R or first partner used any form of contraception or protection from STIs during first sex (useCP1sex)

Independent variables

- Birthplace is city/poblacion (urban_bp)
- Raised by both mother and father from birth (raised)
- Ever lived away from your family for a period of three months or more (lvhome)
- Ever read or watched pornographic materials before age 15 (porno)
- Highest level of schooling of respondents (educ1)
- Ever worked before age 15 (WORKB415)
- Poverty Classification of household (POVSTAT)

Bivariate and Multivariate analyses results

	phi coefficient	Odds ratio
everNunion	0.801 **	8.917 **
sexb415	0.269 **	0.748
sexdiscuss	0.018	
sexknow	0.130 **	0.884
STIknow	-0.031 *	0.748 *
useCP1sex	-0.096 *	0.657 **
porno	0.003	
raised	-0.080 **	1.048
lvhome	0.048 **	0.802
urban_bp	0.028 *	0.926
educ1	0.209 **	
workb415	0.075 **	0.826
povstat	0.090 **	1.459 *

Notes on educ1:

1. Cramer's V shown for bivariate association of educ1 and teenage childbearing
2. Educ1 Included in logistic regression model and found not significant associated with teenage childbearing; therefore odds ratios not shown here

#YAFS4

Bivariate analysis findings

- All independent variables are significantly correlated with teenage childbearing in the bivariate analysis except for two variables
 - discussion of sex at home while growing up and
 - reading or watching of pornographic materials before age 15.
- With the exception of the ff three variables that are negatively associated with teenage childbearing, the rest of the independent variables have a positive relationship with teenage childbearing
 - R knows about infections/diseases that are associated with sex or with having sex
 - R or first partner used any form of contraception or protection from STIs during first sex
 - Raised by both mother and father from birth (raised)

#YAFS4

Multivariate analysis findings

With the exception of the following factors, the rest of the variables included in the model have a spurious relationship with teenage childbearing:

- Ever been legally married or in a live-in arrangement
- R knows about infections/diseases that are associated with sex or with having sex
- R or first partner used any form of contraception or protection from STIs during first sex
- Poverty Classification of household

Multivariate analysis findings*

- Young women who had been legally married or in a live-in arrangement have 9 times the odds of experiencing a childbirth before reaching age 20 or being pregnant at the time of the survey compared to the odds of their never married counterparts
- Teenagers who think that they know about infections/diseases that are associated with sex or with having sex are 25% less likely to become teenage moms than those who claim that they lack such knowledge

*these are net effects after controlling for other variables in the model

#YAFS4

Multivariate analysis findings*

- When any form of contraception or protection from STIs was used by a young woman or her partner during her first sex, the likelihood of experiencing teenage childbearing is 34% lower compared to non-users of CP/STI protection.
- Teenagers in poor households are 46% more likely to become teenage mothers than non-poor counterparts

*these are net effects after controlling for other variables in the model

#YAFS4

Conclusion

- Apparently, young women's knowledge about STIs and use of protection during their sexual initiation are significant deterrents of teenage childbearing
- Poor household economic condition and having been in a marital union engender childbearing during teenage years

Recommendations

- Provision of correct information on STIs and use of protection during their sexual initiation of teenagers, in particular
 - DepEd to fully implement the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in schools in accord with the IRR for RPRH law, by facilitating training of as many teachers on CSE modules with corresponding budget appropriation
 - Expand the training on CSE modules to willing institutions (DSWS, NGOs, CSOs) to cover a wider range of teenagers that are not in the formal education structure
- Address teenagers' unmet need for contraceptives and STI protection especially those who are married and/or living in as well as those who are economically disadvantage

#YAFS4

Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health with Teenage Childbearing in the Philippines: A Further Analysis of the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS 4) Data

Nimfa B. Ogena, Ph.D.

nbogena@up.edu.ph



Demographic Research & Development Foundation, Inc.

University of the Philippines Population Institute