



# Batang Ina

## TEENAGE FERTILITY IN THE PHILIPPINES



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## OUTLINE

- Profile of teen females
  - Sociodemographic characteristics
  - Sexual behavior
- Fertility knowledge and intentions
- Fertility behavior
- Unintended pregnancies
- Summary and conclusions

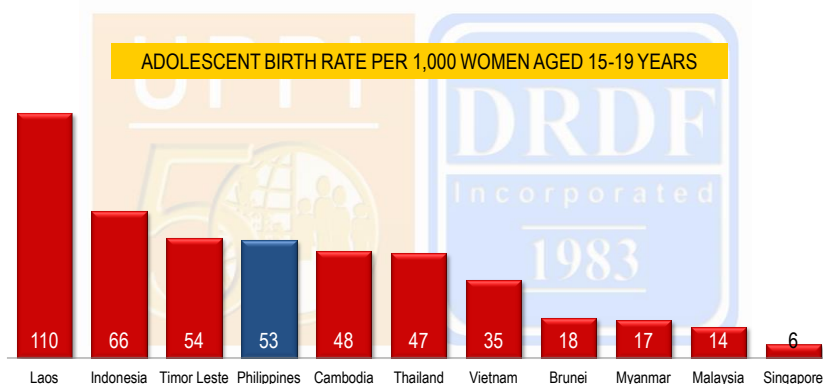
## Why is teenage fertility a cause for concern?

- 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

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

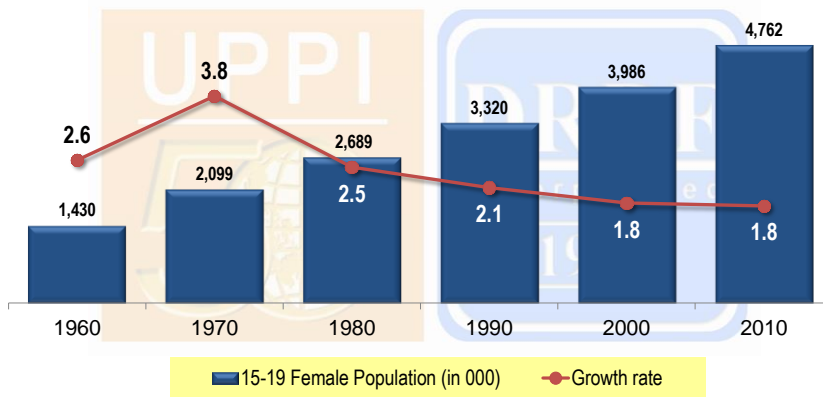


Source: UNFPA, Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy, 2013

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



Sources: Various Philippine censuses

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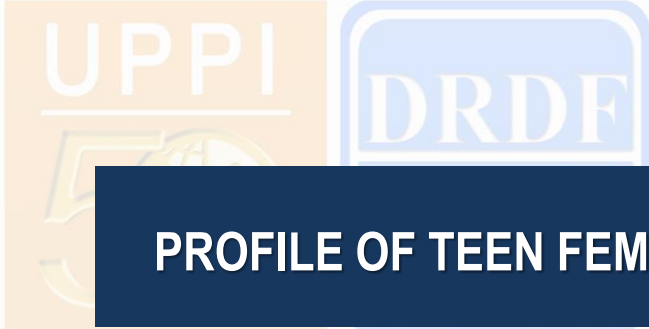
Data

- 1994, 2002 and 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) Surveys
- Subsample: Females in the ages 15-19 years

Survey year	Sample size of females 15-19 years old
1994	3,262
2002	5,237
2013	5,653

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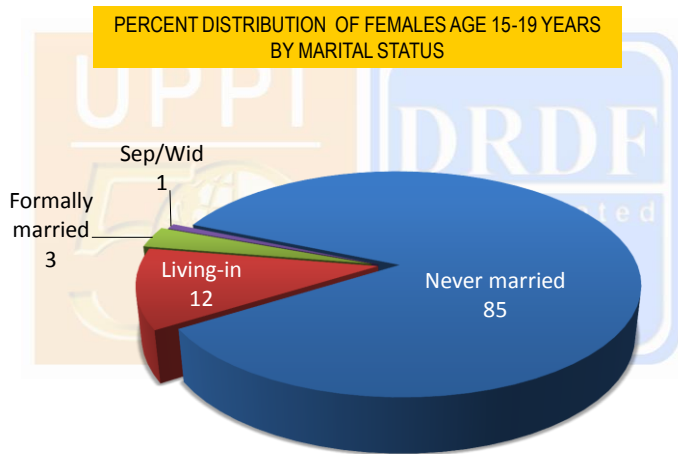
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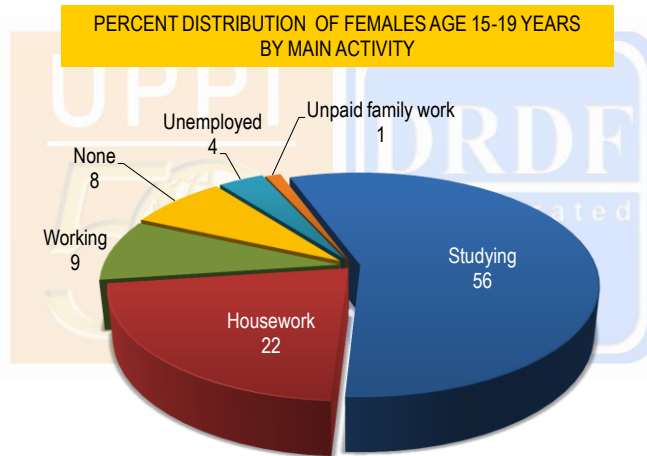
# PROFILE OF TEEN FEMALES



**Most teen females are never married;  
Over 1 in 10 is living in**



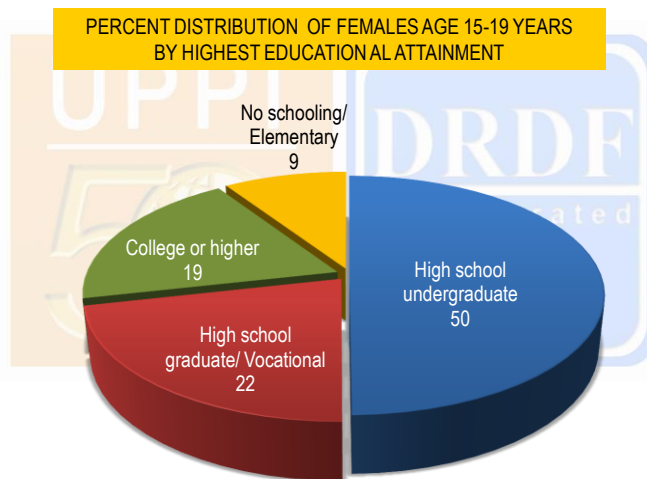
## Most teen females are students



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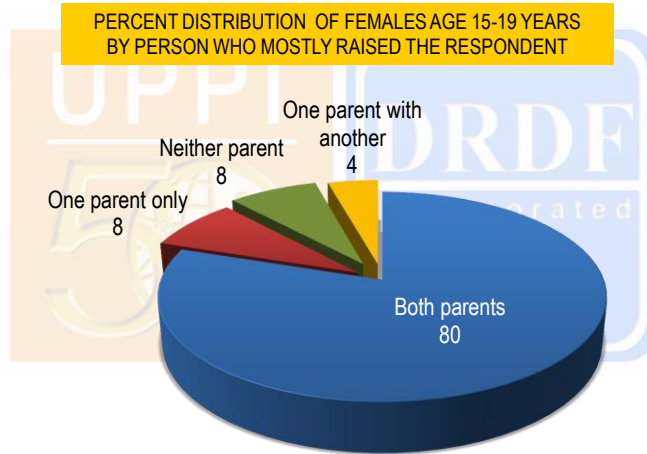
## 9 in 10 teen females have reached high school



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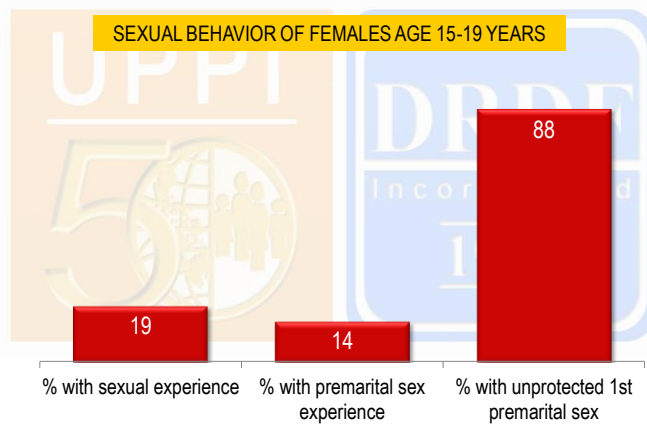
**A great majority of teen females were raised by both parents**



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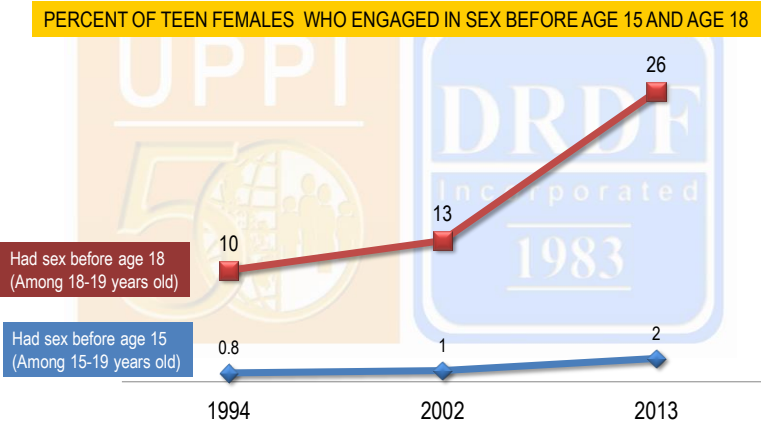
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**1 in 5 teen females have sexual experience; Most premarital sexual initiations are unprotected from risk of unintended pregnancy and STIs**



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The proportion of teen females who have engaged in sex before age 18 increased dramatically in the past 2 decades

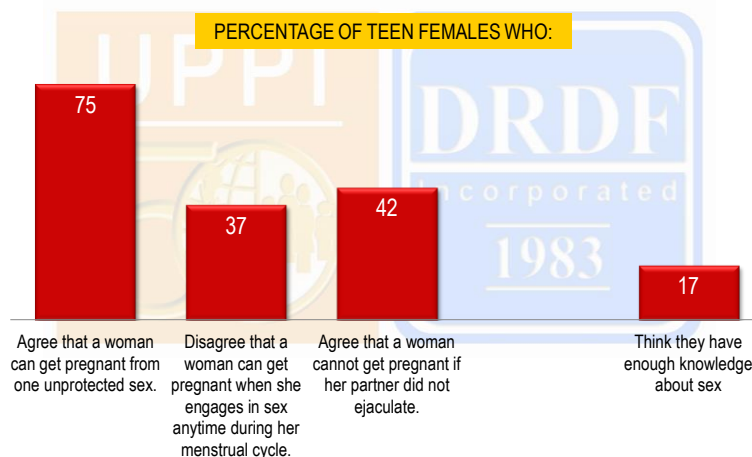


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**FERTILITY KNOWLEDGE & INTENTIONS**

**Teen females have poor knowledge about conception;  
Most acknowledge their lack of knowledge about sex**



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**Most teen females believe that it is ideal to have  
children by their mid-20s**

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE IDEAL AGE (IN YEARS) FOR A MAN AND WOMAN TO START HAVING CHILDREN ACCORDING TO FEMALES AGE 15-19 YEARS

Age	Ideal age for a man to have a child	Ideal age for a woman to have a child
Below 20 years old	2.6	5.8
20-24 years old	26.5	29.8
25-29 years old	57.9	57.2
30 years old and over	13.0	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0
Mean	24.5 years	25.3 years

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**Teen females prefer to have 2 children on the average**

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES AGE 15-19 YEARS BY PREFERRED NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

Preferred no. of children	Percent
0	0.6
1	10.7
2	59.0
3	24.3
4 and over	5.4
Total	100.0
Mean	2.3 children

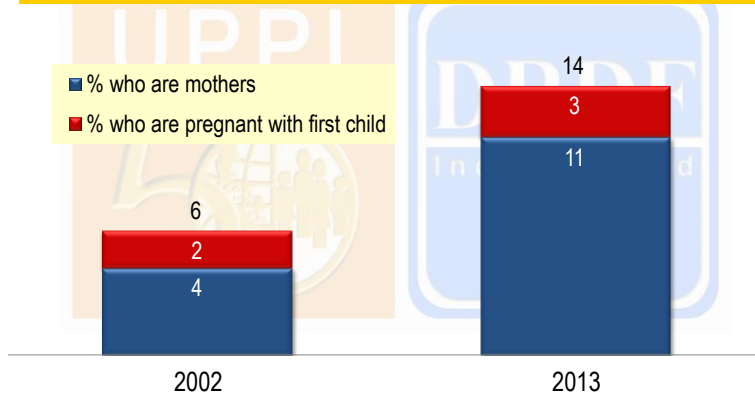
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**TEENAGE FERTILITY**

The proportion who have begun childbearing  
**DOUBLED** in the past decade.

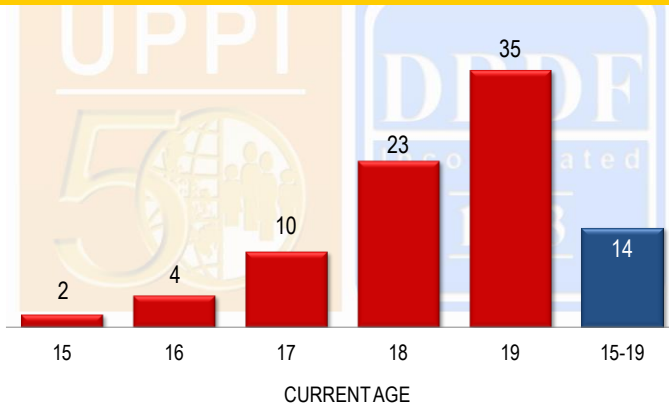
PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES AGE 15-19 YEARS WHO HAVE BEGUN CHILDBEARING



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The proportion of teenage females who have begun  
childbearing increases with age.

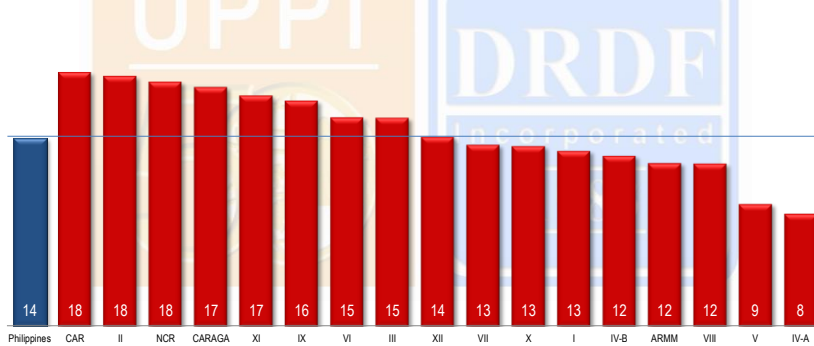
PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES AGE 15-19 YEARS WHO HAVE BEGUN CHILDBEARING



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**Teenage fertility is highest in CAR and Cagayan Valley;  
Lowest in Bicol and CALABARZON**

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES AGE 15-19 YEARS WHO HAVE BEGUN CHILDBEARING

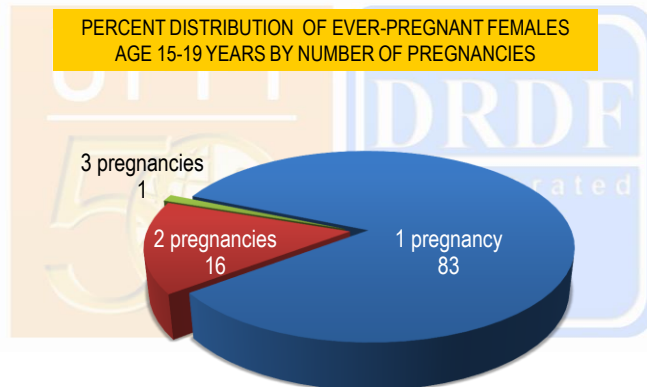


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**About 1 in 5 teen females have repeat pregnancies**

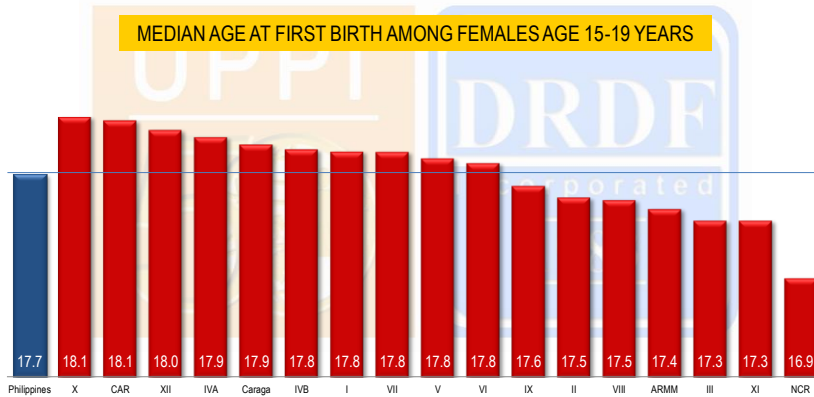
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF EVER-PREGNANT FEMALES AGE 15-19 YEARS BY NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES



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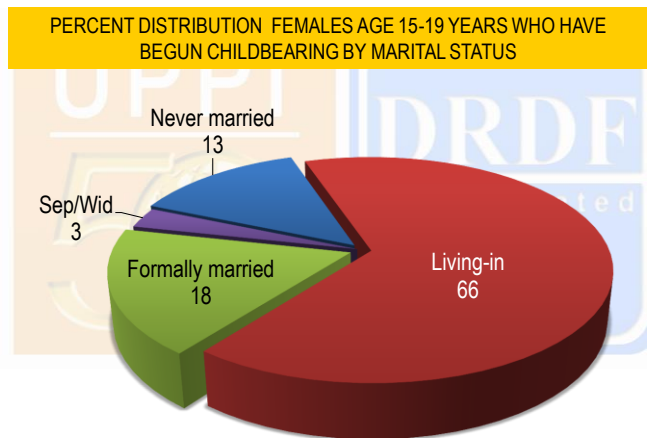
**Median age at first birth among teen females is 18 years**



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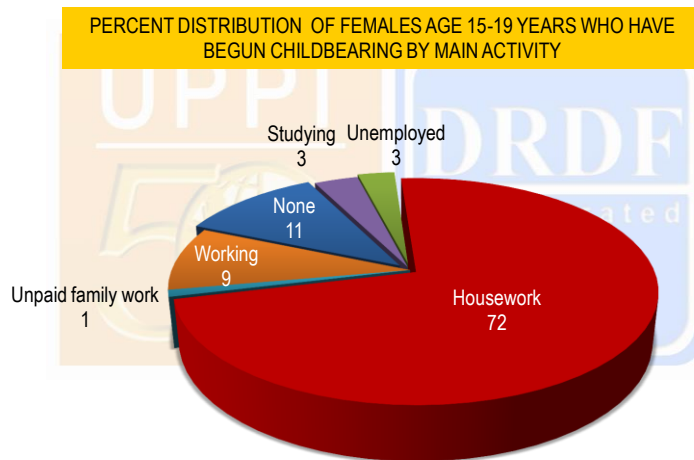
**Most teenage mothers are living-in;  
Over 1 in 10 teenage mothers are never married**



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## Most teenage mothers are engaged in housework



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## Profile of teenage mothers

- 26% are below 18 years old
- Mostly high school undergraduates (36%) or high school graduates (37%)
- 76% have premarital sex experience
- 24% are currently pregnant

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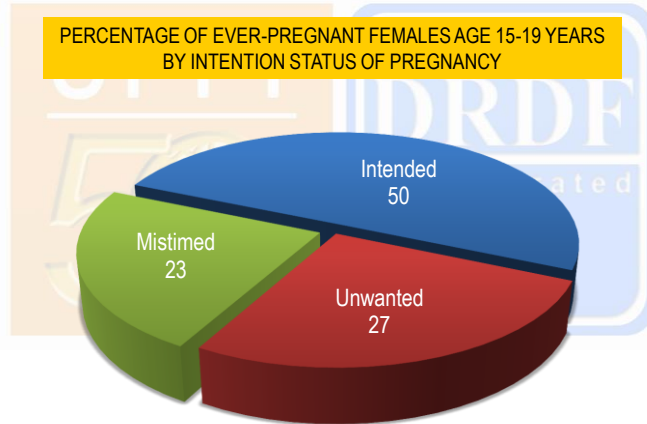
## Question on unintended pregnancy

- “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

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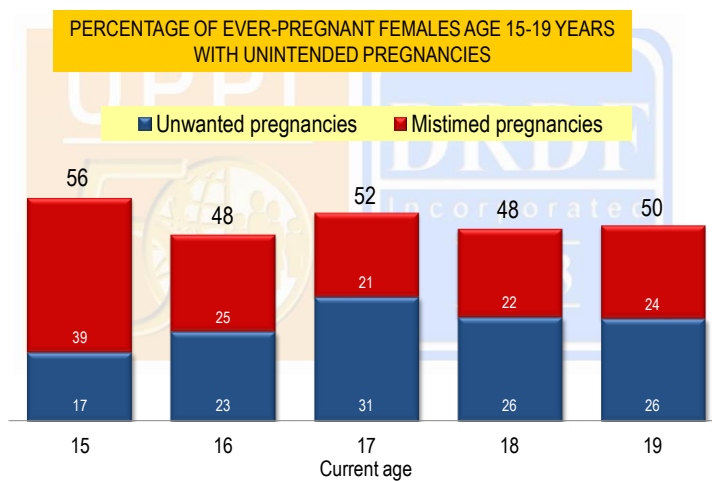
## Half of teen females who have been pregnant have unintended pregnancies



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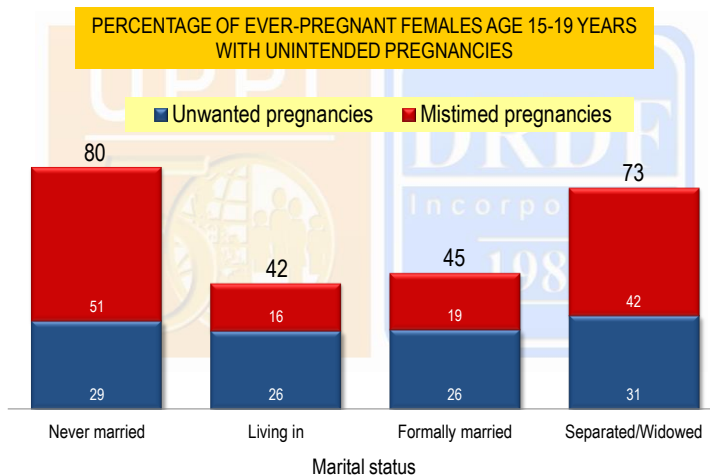
## No substantial difference in unintended pregnancies by age



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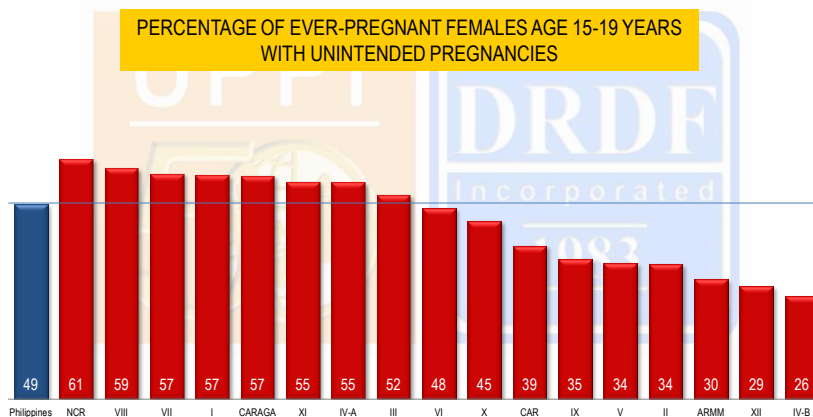
## Unintended pregnancies are more common among unmarried teen females than those in union



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## Unintended pregnancies among teen females is highest in NCR and lowest in MIMAROPA

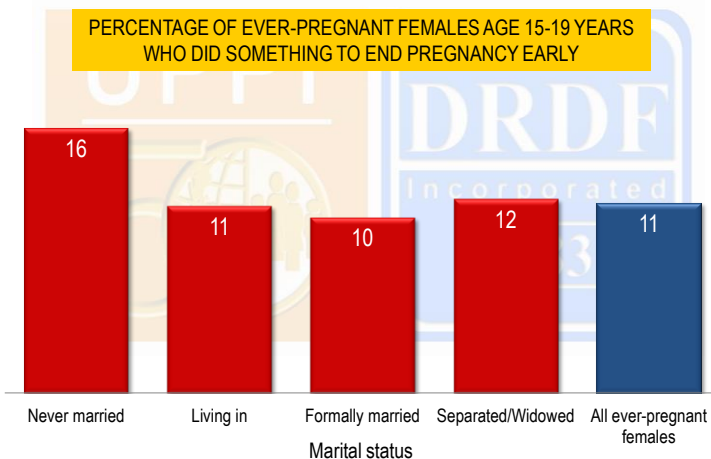


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**1 in 10 ever-pregnant teen females did something to end pregnancy early**



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**SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS**

- 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
- Rising trend in early sexual initiation
  - Doubling of proportion who have engaged in sex before age 18

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## SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- There is much room for improvement in the level of knowledge about conception among female teens
- There is likewise an inadequate knowledge about sex
- This lack of knowledge on fertility and sexuality may be one of the factors that drive them to early and unprotected sexual behaviors and eventually to early childbearing

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## SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- 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)
- If this ideal age at childbearing and desired fertility will be met, we may see a substantial decline in fertility in the future and achieve replacement fertility sooner

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## SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- 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
- Half of ever-pregnant teen females have unintended pregnancies
- 1 in 10 did something to end the pregnancy early

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## SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- Of the estimated 4.9 million teen females in 2013:
  - Almost 1 million have sexual experience
  - Around 600,000 have unprotected premarital sexual initiation
  - Around 700,000 have begun childbearing
  - Around 353,000 have unintended pregnancies
    - 188,000 unwanted pregnancies
    - 165,000 mistimed pregnancies
  - Around 80,000 did something to end their pregnancy early

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## Young Adult Fertility & Sexuality Study

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- [yafs4@drdf.org.ph](mailto:yafs4@drdf.org.ph)
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# Thank You!