


**Childbearing in the teenage years:
findings from the 2013 Young Adult
Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS 4)**

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 Demographic Research & Development Foundation, Inc.
University of the Philippines Population Institute

OUTLINE

- Why is teenage childbearing a cause for concern?
- YAFS 4 as a source of data on teenage childbearing
- Some definitions
- Trends in teenage childbearing

OUTLINE

- The context of teenage childbearing:
 - Premarital sex among teens
 - Prevalent attitudes about premarital sex , premarital conception and marriage
 - Levels of knowledge about conception
 - Self-assessed adequacy of knowledge about sex
- Conclusions and recommendations

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Why is teenage pregnancy a cause for concern ?

Teenage mothers are at increased risk of pre-term delivery and low birth weight (Gordon, 2001, Kurth, et.al.,2010, Suwal, 2012, Eure et.al., 2002)

Also for maternal death, early neonatal death, postpartum hemorrhage, puerperal endometritis, operative vaginal delivery (Conde-Agudelo, 2005)

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Why is teenage pregnancy a cause for concern ?

"...Risks are not specifically linked to the level of development of a country's health care system and the availability of appropriate maternal care for very young pregnant women (Kurth, et.al., 2010) but are **specific to the age group and its accompanying implication of biological immaturity for childbearing**". (Natividad,2013)

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Why is teenage pregnancy a cause for concern ?

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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What causes a high prevalence in teenage childbearing

- It may result from culturally sanctioned practice of early marriage and early marital childbearing
- It may result from premarital intercourse and unintended pregnancy
- Both may be present at the same time

One exacerbating factor: Decreasing age at menarche

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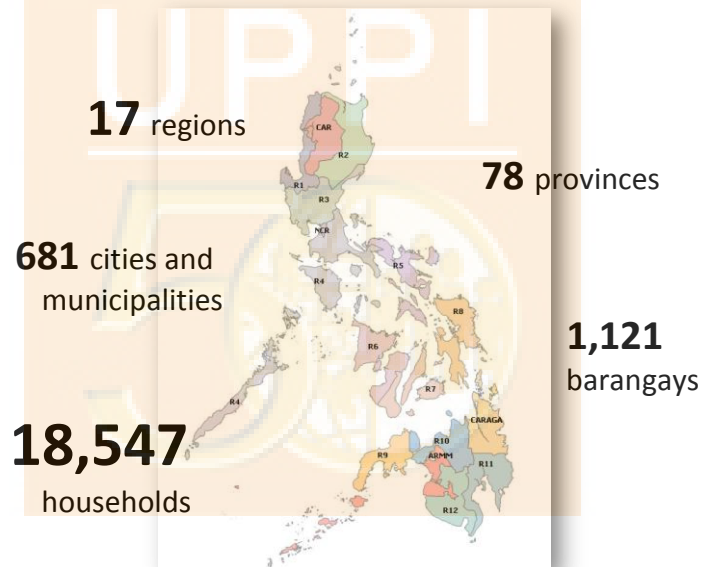
The Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study

- A series of representative surveys on young adults (age 15-24)
- Conducted first in 1982 with a nationally representative sample of women age 15-24
- Other YAFS rounds had male and female samples, representative at national and regional levels
- Previous rounds in 1994 and 2002

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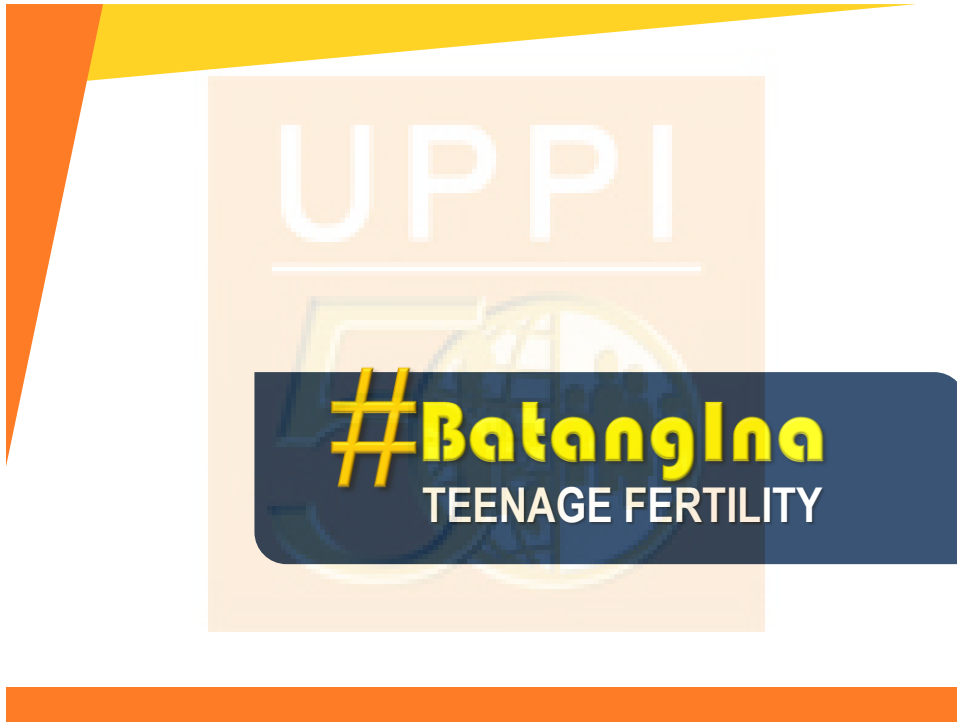
Coverage of YAFS 4



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**

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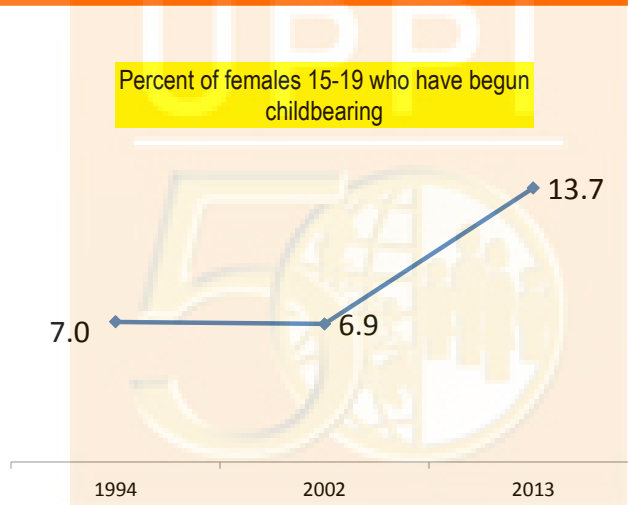


Definition of teenage childbearing

Women aged 15-19 at the time of the survey
who fulfilled either of the ff conditions:

- had already given birth
- were pregnant at the time of the survey

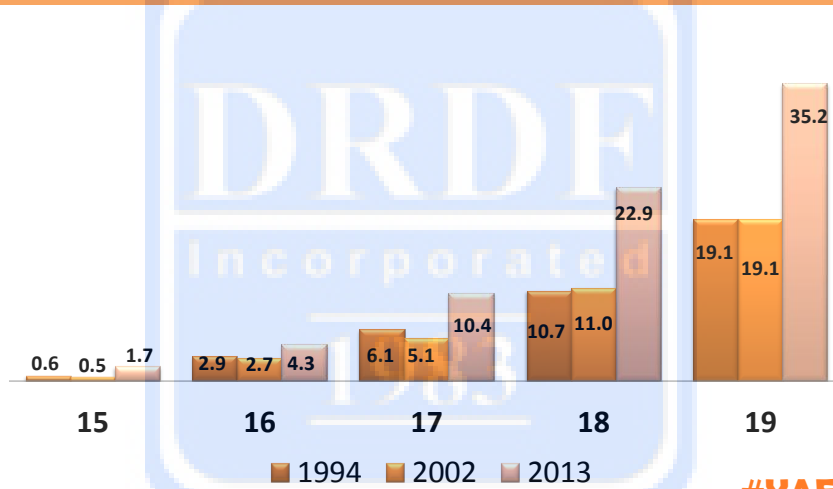
The proportion of 15-19 year old females who have begun childbearing DOUBLED in the past decade



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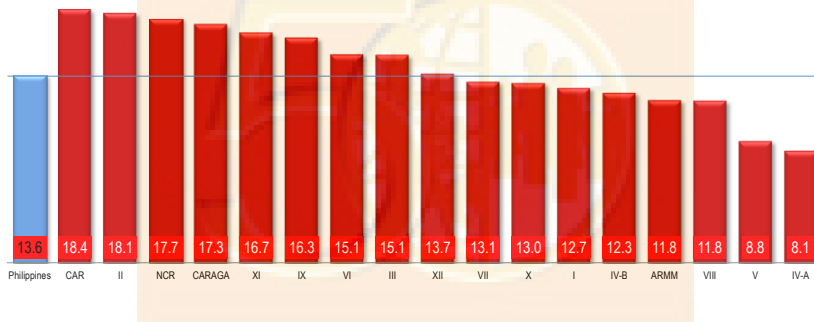
The percentage who have begun childbearing increased at every age. The increase is most pronounced at ages 17, 18 and 19. The rate at age 15 has tripled in the past decade.



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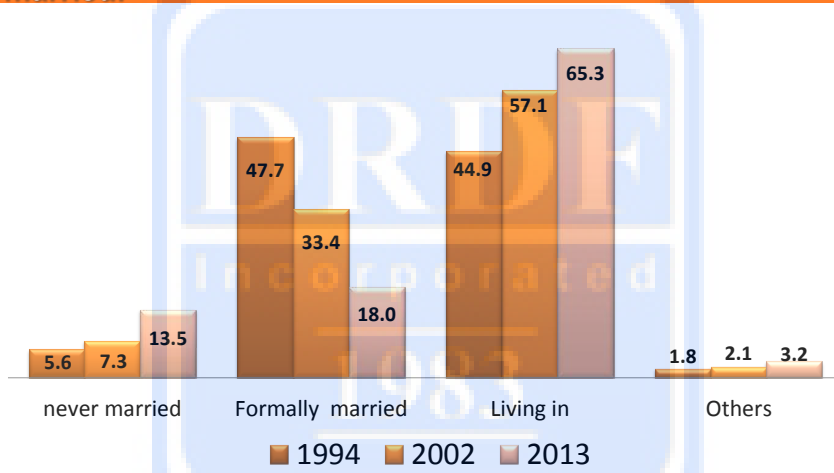
The regions with the highest teenage childbearing rates are CAR, Region 2 and NCR.
The regions with the lowest are Regions 4A, 5 and 8



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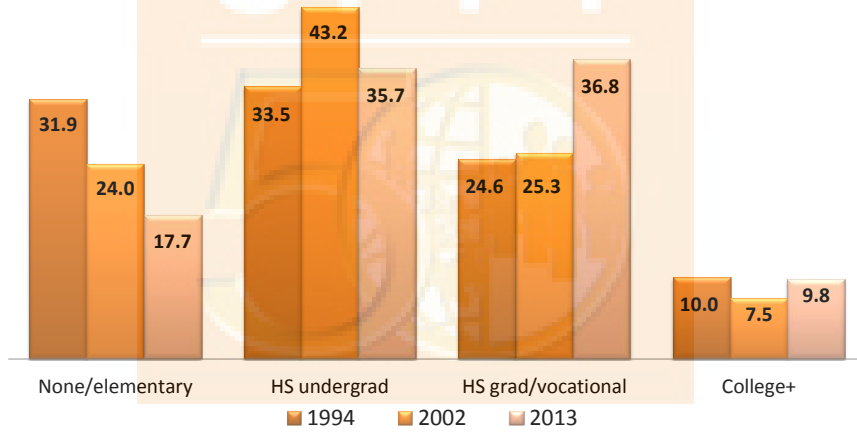
The most common marital status of teenage mothers is "living in". The percentage formally married has been decreasing. Over 1 in 10 teenage moms are never married.



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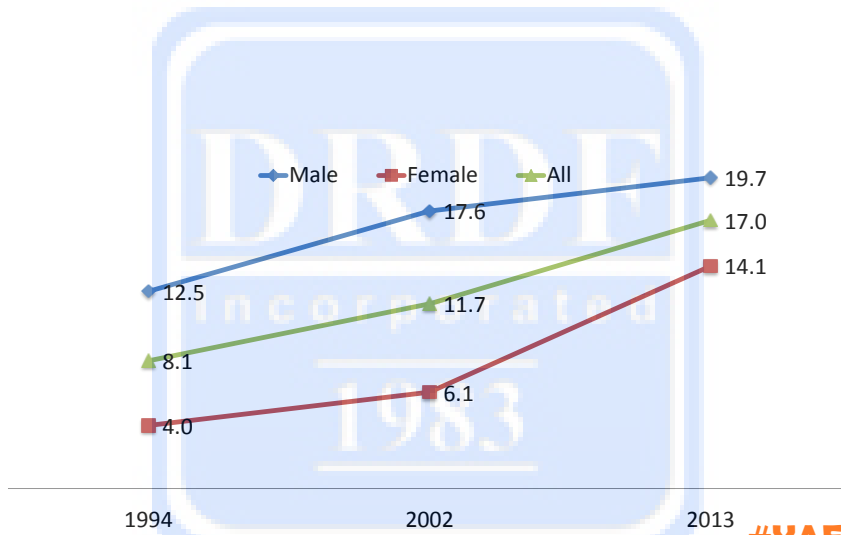
Teenage moms are mostly high school undergraduates or high school graduates. The percentage with elementary education is declining. 1 in 10 teenage moms has a college education.



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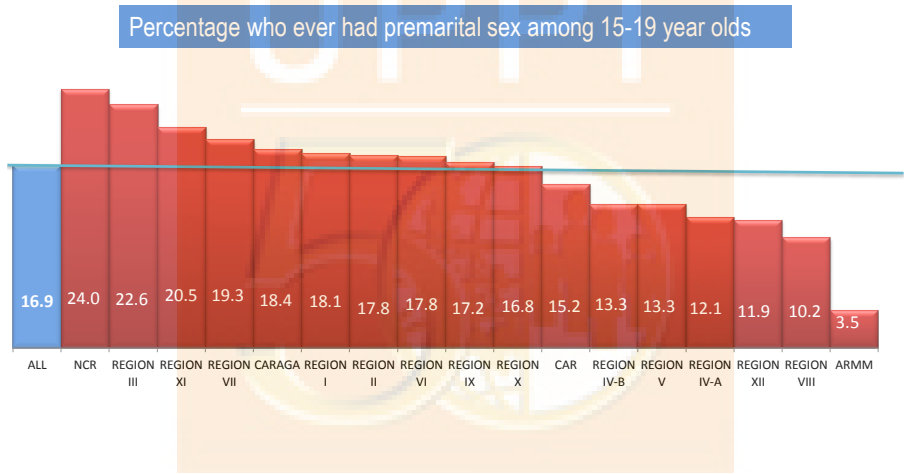
Premarital sex has been increasing and the gender gap, narrowing



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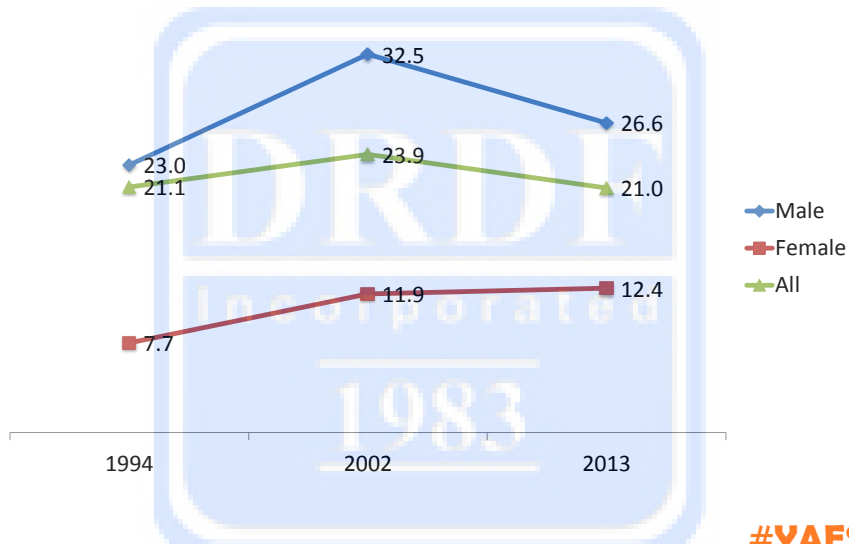
The regions with the highest prevalence of PMS are NCR, Regions 3 and 11. The lowest are Regions 12, 8 and ARMM



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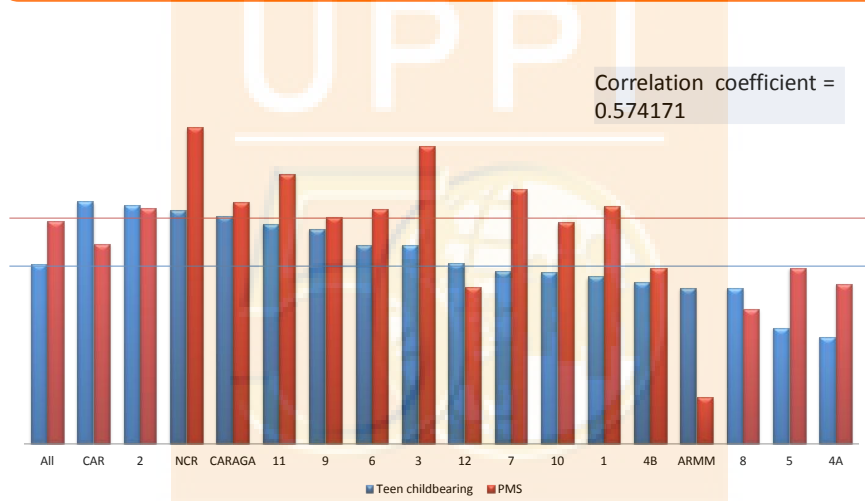
There is very low percentage who used protection against pregnancy and or STIs during the first premarital sex.



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Teenage childbearing and PMS prevalence are highly correlated (unit of analysis=region) although there are outliers (e.g. CAR, ARMM)



Teenagers appear to be conservative in their views about premarital sex and the value of virginity before marriage

	Male	Female	All
Approve of women having sex before marriage	26.3	11.3	18.9
Approve of men having sex before marriage	34.7	15.8	25.3
Think it is not important for a woman to be a virgin before marriage	20.2	13.1	16.7

But they are less conservative in their views on premarital conception and marriage

	Male	Female	All
If an unmarried woman gets pregnant, she should keep the baby even without marriage	55.8	76.6	66.1
If she got pregnant/got someone pregnant, he/she will not feel compelled to marry	28.2	40.6	34.3
Thinks society will accept a young unmarried mother	61.2	65.2	63.2
Thinks own family will accept a young unmarried mother	58.4	57.7	58.0

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There is much room for improvement in the level of knowledge about conception.

Percent with correct knowledge	Male	Female	All
A woman can get pregnant from one unprotected sex (<i>agree</i>)	69.9	74.8	72.3
A girl can get pregnant before her first menstruation (<i>disagree</i>)	47.6	54.3	50.9
A woman can get pregnant anytime during her menstrual cycle (<i>disagree</i>)	33.6	36.6	35.1
A woman cannot get pregnant if her partner did not ejaculate (<i>disagree</i>)	35.3	31.2	33.3

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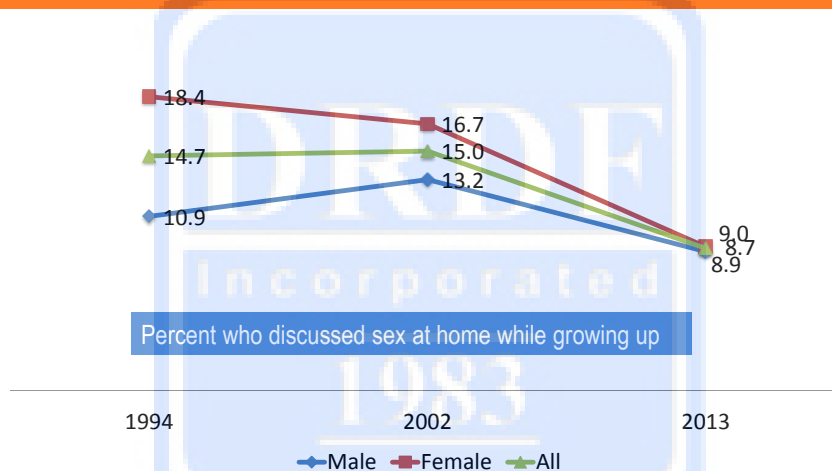
Most teenagers acknowledge their lack of knowledge about sex



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There is very low percentage who said they discussed sex at home while they were growing up. This rate has declined over the past 20 years



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CONCLUSIONS

- 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.

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CONCLUSIONS

- 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

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- In crafting a response to the teenage pregnancy program planners may consider the implications of
 - the seeming disparity in attitude toward acceptability of premarital sex and of premarital pregnancy
 - the lack of adequate knowledge about conception
 - the absence of discussion about sex at home

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- The lifting of the TRO on the RH Law means that a comprehensive sexuality education program can now be crafted and implemented
- Programs to address teen fertility must also take into account region-specific factors, while still keeping national goals in mind

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