

## CHAPTER I: Review methodology

### *1.1 Overview and objectives*

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), adolescents are

10 to 19 years old, youth are 15 to 24 years old, and young people are 10 to 24 years old. In the Philippines, most studies and programme interventions for adolescents focused on people aged 15 to 24 years. The primary reason cited for focusing on this broader age group was their ability to better respond to study questions pertaining to sex, sexuality, contraceptive use, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

Including younger adolescents aged 10 to 14 would have been difficult given the socio-cultural context and the programme interventions. Impediments to studying the younger group also included: parents' objection; service providers' bias; and communities' and churches' conservative beliefs. Consequently, the terms adolescent and youth are used interchangeably in most of the literature, programmes, and

projects. This literature and programme review was conducted to take these considerations into account.

The objectives of this review were:

- To identify the extent of adolescent reproductive health (ARH) problems, such as unwanted pregnancy, abortion, and complications resulting from early and unprotected sex.
- To examine trends in ARH, such as early sexual maturity or initiation, changing norms or attitudes, and increasing incidence of abortion, maternal and infant morbidity.
- To assess the needs and gaps in the delivery of ARH care.
- To assess the evidence of effective policies and interventions as well as the limitations of current policies and interventions.
- To determine WHO's role in facilitating integration of programs on adolescent reproductive health in the Philippines.

## **1.2 Methodology**

This review was conducted from 20 July to 30 September 2003. The process included analyzing published and unpublished studies, organizational reports, and information, education and communication (IEC) materials. All materials studied were produced after the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. Programs and projects implemented during this period were examined by the research team specifically for this report. Policies related to ARH, especially those enacted after ICPD, were also documented by the team.

The material was gathered from 65 organizations. A total of 192 local and international documents were included. Of these, 17 were published before 1994 and 92 were published after 1995. For the period 1995 to 2003, the published papers included 42 studies and 50 other documents, such as annual reports, evaluation reports, newsletters, brochures, modules/handbooks and primers. Also Included in the 1995 to 2000 period were 51 unpublished documents. Out of all the materials, 32 did not have a publication date. Seventeen policies related to ARH were documented. A number of materials published before

1995 were also used for comparative analysis.

Key informant interviews were also conducted with 21 programme implementers and researchers from academia, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and international donor organizations.

Thirty-eight organizations involved in ARH research and programme implementation were contacted.

In sum, the materials included in the review were:

- published results of research, studies or programmes (including those published in local language);
- national statistics and survey results;
- official policy (i.e. from the Department of Health and the Commission on Population or POPCOM); and
- results of research, studies or programmes of international agencies, government agencies or NGOs.

The material covers a range of ARH topics, including: demographic characteristics; reproductive health

status; concerns and needs; knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP); geographic, social and cultural influences; educational and service interventions; the policy environment; lessons learned; effective approaches; gaps in service delivery; and actions needed to improve ARH.

The methods used for the literature search and data collection included:

- Internet searches of the websites for international and local organizations that do work on ARH;
- library searches in academic institutions, government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations with ARH papers, studies, reports and IEC materials; and
- key informant interviews to validate, update, and enrich information gathered from the literature search.

One limitation of the review was that 32 documents were not dated and the dates were not verified because of lack of time. However, they have been included because they contain insightful

information and were completed between 1995 and 2003. Another limitation was the scarcity of literature on adolescents between 10 to 19 years old. As a result, trends among this age group were difficult to establish.

Given their magnitude and the importance of their data, the results of YAFS I, YAFS II (1994) and YAFS III (2002) have been used extensively in this review. Conducted by the University of the Philippines, Population Institute (UPPI) in partnership with local research institutions in 14 regions, the surveys aimed “to provide updated information on a broad framework of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health issues, their antecedents and manifestations that can be used in various intervention measures to safeguard the health and welfare of the Filipino youth” (YAFS III). Quantitative and qualitative data on the nature and magnitude of sexuality and related KAPB of young adults at the national and sub-national levels were collected and analyzed. Please refer to the following table for more information about the research.

Table 1 (NATIONAL): list of major researches on ARH

	Title	Respondents	Sample Size	Age Bracket	Methodology	Year
NATIONAL	1982 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS I)	Filipino female youth	5204	15-24	Survey, interviews	1982
	1993 McCann Youth Study	Filipino youths	500	12-21		1993
	1994 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS II)	Filipino female and male youths	10 879	15-24	Face-to-face survey, interviews	1994
	Social Weather Station (SWS)- National Youth Commission (NYC) Study on the Situation of Youth in the Philippines		1200	15-30	Face-to-face interviews, sealed envelope method	1996
	Pagnanasa, Pagmamahal: Contextual Factors Affecting Risk-Related Sexual Behavior Among Young Adults in the Philippines	Young adults	301 (at least)		In-depth interviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), participant Observation	1996
	2000 Family Planning Survey	Women	44 209	15-49	Survey	2000
	2000 McCann Youth Study	Filipino youths	900	13-21		2000
	State of the Philippine Population Report					2000

NATIONAL

Title	Respondents	Sample Size	Age Bracket	Methodology	Year
2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS III)	Filipino female and male youths	20 000	15-27	Quantitative and qualitative	2002
Filipino Adolescents in Changing Times	Young people	189 and 13 (key informants)	14-19	FGDs, key informant interviews	2003
Teenage Deliveries in Selected Hospitals in Metro Manila	Teenage mothers	1020	15-19 and 20-24	Questionnaires	

Table 1 (LOCAL): List of major researches on ARH

LOCAL

Title	Respondents	Sample Size	Age Bracket	Location	Methodology	Year
First Report on FGD on Reproductive Health Risks of Women and Fertility Decision-making in the Philippines	Men and women		18-44	Nueva Ecija and Metro Manila	FGDs	1992
Qualitative data relevant to AIDS prevention gathered from sex workers, injecting drug users and at-risk youth in Cebu	Sex workers, injecting drug users, at-risk youth	92	15-35	Cebu City	FGDs and Key Informant Interviews	1995
M'ranao Youth: Views on Reproductive Health and Sexuality	Youth	118	15-25	Marawi City and Lanao del Sur	FGDs, participant observation and Kis	1998

Table 1 (LOCAL Continued): List of major researches on ARH

LOCAL	Title	Respondents	Sample Size	Age Bracket	Location	Methodology	Year
	Knowledge of HIV/AIDS among Young Adults in Region VII	Young adults	807	15-24	Region VII	Survey	1999
	Improving Adolescent Reproductive Health in Negros Occidental	Adolescents, parents, teachers, gatekeepers, health providers	121	12-20	Negros Occidental	Survey	1999
	Baseline Survey on the KAP of Adolescents and Adults on RH Consolidation and Analysis of Adolescent Sex and Reproductive Health	High school students Adolescents, Parents	639 92	11-20	Baguio City Davao City	Survey FGDs	2001 2001
	Love and Desire: Young Filipinos and Sexual Risks	Young adults		16-24	Manila and Iloilo	participant observation, interviews	2001
	The Participatory Planning Process: Research Utilization and Plan Formulation for Adolescent Reproductive Health in Southern Leyte	Adolescents	364	13-17	Southern Leyte	FGDs and survey	2001
	Adolescent reproductive Health and Family Planning Practices in La Carlota City and La Castellana	Adolescents, parents, gatekeepers, health providers	1350	12-24	La Carlota City and La Castellana	survey and KIs	2001
	Adolescent Reproductive Health care Programmes and Services in Iloilo City's Public Health System: Stakeholders' Concepts, Perceptions and Recommendations	Adolescents, parents, teachers, religious leaders, health service providers		15-24	Iloilo City	FGDs and KIs	2002