

## CHAPTER VI: Summary of findings on the RH status of adolescents

### Profile

- Of the 76.5 million adolescents, 23% belong to the 10-19 age group; 20% are aged 15-25; and 15.6 million or 22% are of reproductive age.

- Average dating age is 15 years old.

### Menarche

- Mean age at menarche is 13.44.

### Fertility

- A fifth of all women age 15 to 49 did not know when they are fertile during their monthly cycle.

### Sexual experience

- Dating is becoming more a venue for sexual intimacies and activity than for socialization among the youth.

- Average age of sexual debut is 18 years old.

- Number of young adults engaging in premarital sex (PMS) has steadily increased over the last decade (23% in 2002 or 4.9 million).

- PMS experience initiates or accelerates the process of marriage.

- An estimated 34% youth have multiple sex partners (1.6 million young people ages 15 to 27).

- Young male adolescents have a higher rate of homosexual activity than female adolescents, e.g. 5.1% vis a vis 1.8%.

- About 4.6% among Filipino youth have been paid for sex.

- About 10% of girls with PMS experience related that their first sexual experience happened without their consent.

### Marriage

- Filipino youth marry at an early age, before 20 years old.

### Contraceptive use

- Contraceptive use is low among sexually active adolescents; 74% or about 1.8 million do not use any contraceptive method.

- Condoms are the most used contraceptive method.

- Youth have poor knowledge of and low use of contraception methods (27% think that the pill must be taken before or after sexual intercourse).
- Only 4% young women can be considered knowledgeable on the subject of contraceptives and FP.

#### **Early pregnancy**

- One-fourth of all women begin childbearing by age 20.
- Less-educated women are more likely to bear children in their teenage years than their better-educated counterparts.

#### **STI/RTI/HIV/AIDS**

- Prevalence rate of gonorrhea and chlamydia are higher among young people.
- Most cases of HIV infections among females happen at a younger age compared to males. About 47% of infected females are between 20 and 29.
- Six percent (6%) among 78% of sexually active male adolescents who had never used condom admitted to buying commercial sex (males are more likely to pay and be paid for sex).
- Majority of those engaged in

commercial sex do not use condom.

- Awareness of AIDS is high (95% of all Filipino youth stated that they have heard of AIDS).
- There is a misconception that AIDS can be cured (23% in 2002).

#### **Related issues**

- Increasingly, females are trying risky sexual behaviours (17% in 1994 and 30% in 2002).
- Youths' consumption of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs has increased, e.g. 6% in 1994 and 11% in 2002.
- Young females appear to exhibit better judgment by not continuously engaging in risky behaviours (80% females who ever puffed a cigarette did not develop a habit).
- In-school youth have more knowledge on RH than out-of-school youth.
- Sex is learned from peers, media, X-rated films and parents.
- Media is the most common source of information about sex.
- Over 90% of adolescents aged 15 to

### **A Review of Literature and Projects 1995 - 2003**

24 believe that the government should provide FP services. of homosexual relations and abortion (males are more open to PMS).

- Adolescents are generally conservative towards PMS and majority disapproved
- 89.82% of males would like a virgin bride.

