

Introduction

With 21.6% of the total population of 14.6 million aged between 15 and 24 years (CIPS, 2013), Cambodia has the youngest population in Southeast Asia. While young people are the greatest resource and hope for socio-economic growth and development, many of them face serious challenges including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues exacerbated by a lack of SRH information, knowledge, and youth friendly services; low education attainment; and migration. Today, more young people are sexually active and the current marriage rate amongst 15-24 years old has increased. However, while there has been a gradual decline in the number of sexually active young women NOT using contraception, limited evidence is available on the SRH of adolescents and youth. This factsheet describes key findings on youth's practices associated with SRH, contraceptive use, and their knowledge about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS.

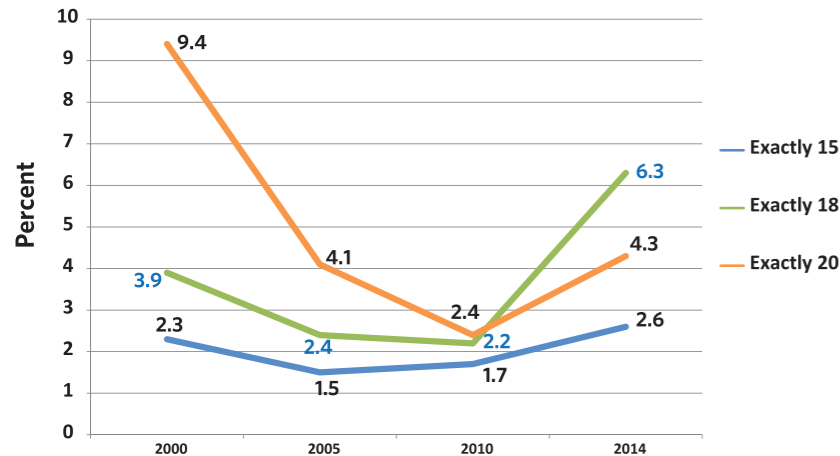
Definitions:

Adolescent: A population group aged from 10 to 19 (WHO).

Youth: Young people aged from 15 to 24.

Most-at-risk young people: Groups of young people at higher risk of disadvantage aged from 15 to 30.

Percentage of young women aged 15 to 24 years who had been married by exactly years of age.



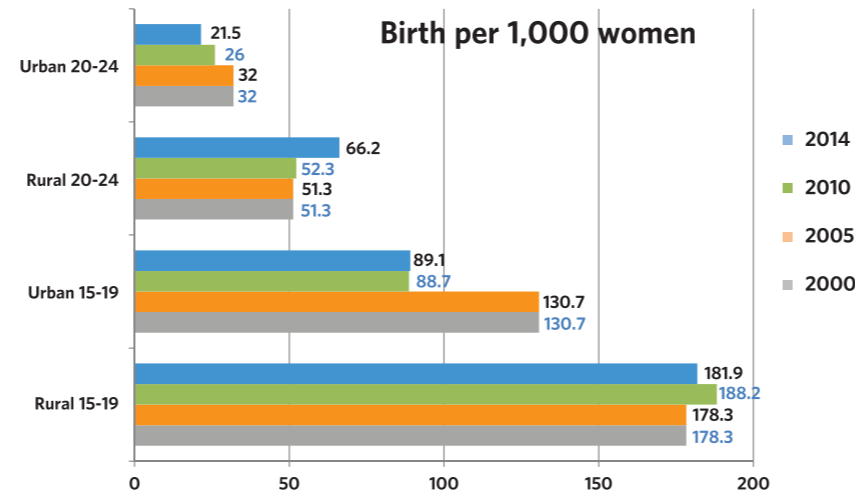
Key SRH concerns for Adolescents and Youth

- The marriage rate amongst 15-24 year olds has increased for both sexes (25.8% in 2000 to 38.7% in 2014 for women, and 16.5% in 2005 to 19.0% in 2014 for men).
- The proportion of currently married young women aged 15-17 years remained consistent at around 4-6% across the four surveys.
- Limited knowledge about the methods and misconceptions about side effects, social and cultural norms, and women's traditional lack of power in relationships have contributed to low use of modern contraception.
- 37.7% of males and 18.5% of females among most-at-risk young people aged 10-24 years had sexual intercourse in the past three months.
 - Of this group, 69.6% of males and 52.5% of females engaged in commercial sex.
 - Furthermore, ONLY 43.3% of males and 6.5% of females reported always using condom with unpaid regular sexual partners.

Percentage of sexually active most-at-risk young people aged 10-24 engaged in commercial sex.



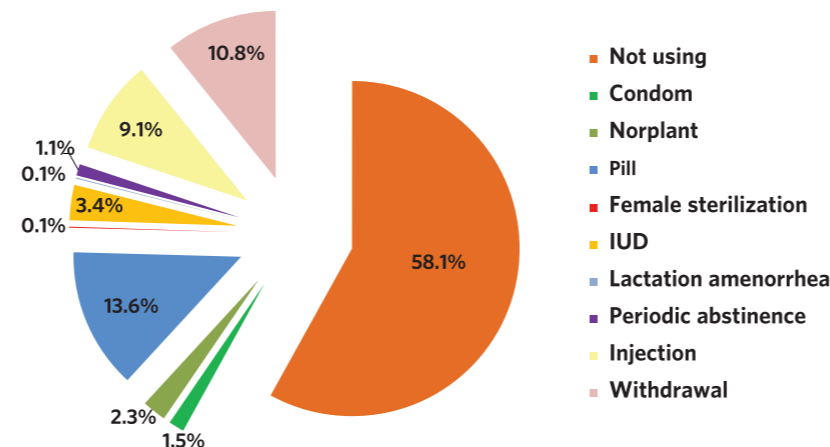
Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) in urban and rural young women by age group, 2000 - 2014.



Adolescent Fertility

- Adolescent fertility has declined in urban areas but increased in rural areas:
 - More than 33% of rural women aged 15-24 had begun child-bearing in 2014.
 - Phnom Penh had the lowest national rate and the Plateau/Mountain region had the highest rate in 2014.
- The number of women with no education who began child-bearing doubled between 2000 and 2014, while the number with higher education nearly halved.

The distribution of contraception methods used by young women aged 15-24 who have had sex.



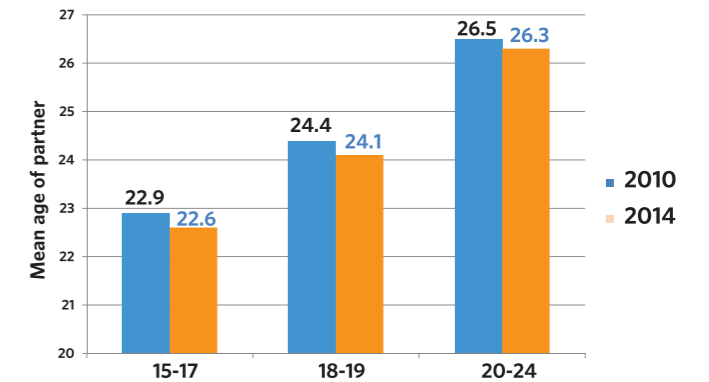
SRH Practices and Implications

- Less than 1% of females who have never been married reported having had sex between 2000 and 2014.
- In 2005, only 1.8% of unmarried males aged 15-17 years reported having had sex - among 18-19 year-olds the rate was 9.6% and among 20-24 year-olds was 27.2%.
- Childbirth among unmarried adolescent mothers is more likely to be unintended and result in an induced abortion.
- Unmarried adolescent mothers suffer increased rates of anaemia, malaria, HIV and STIs, postpartum haemorrhage, obstetric fistula and mental illness.
- Sexual intercourse prior to marriage among females is rare but there is a steady increase in pre-marital sex with age among young males.
- Young adolescent girls' immature reproductive and immune systems make them more susceptible to STIs and HIV transmission. Pregnancy and delivery for girls whose bodies are not yet fully-grown exposes them to problems which are less common in adult women.

Family Planning

- There has been a change in contraceptive use among sexually active young women aged 15-19 years & 20-24 years between 2000 & 2014.
- 12% of women aged 20 to 24 years were using a modern method in 2000, compared with 33%, in 2014.
- In 2000, 3% of women aged 20-24 years used a traditional method, and 13% in 2014.
- Unmet need for family planning is much more likely to be reported by ever-married women aged 15-24 years compared with their NEVER-married women counterparts.
- The proportion of ever-married women aged 15-24 years who reported an unmet need for family planning was close to 30% across all age ranges (15-17, 18-19 and 20-24 years) in 2014.
 - However, this has dropped to 5.6% for women aged 15-17, 1.8% for 18-19 years and 2.3% for 20-24 years in 2014.

Mean age of last sexual partner of young women by age group between 2010 and 2014.

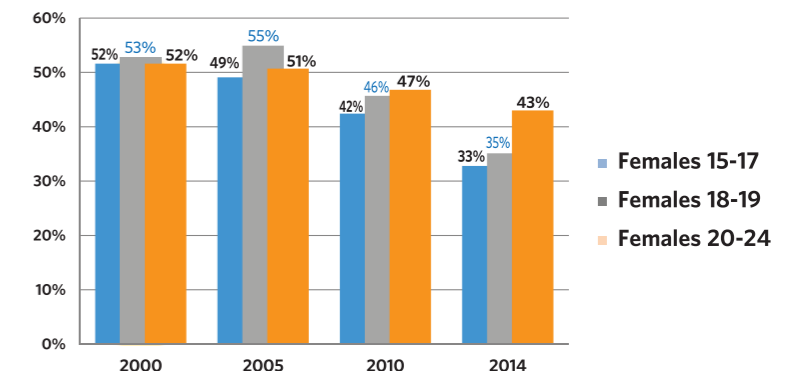


Last Sexual Partner

- As a woman's age increases, the difference of age between her and her partner decreases.
- On average, there is a six-year age difference between sexually active 15-17 year-old females and their most recent sexual partner and a four-year difference for 20-24 year-old females.
- Women almost exclusively reported that their most recent sexual partner was their spouse or cohabiting partner, compared with ONLY three quarters of young males.

Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV/AIDS and Condom Use

Percentage of young women aged 15 to 24 years who have a comprehensive knowledge about the risk factors for HIV.



- The percentage of men who reported a sex worker as being their most recent sexual partner decreased from 17.3% in 2005 to 2.2% in 2014.
- The percentage of condom usage during last sexual intercourse among young men aged 15-24 years has decreased significantly.
 - In 2005, 57.7% of young men in urban areas and 23.3% in rural areas used a condom during last intercourse; by 2014, this dropped to 57.2% in urban and 10.3% in rural areas.

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