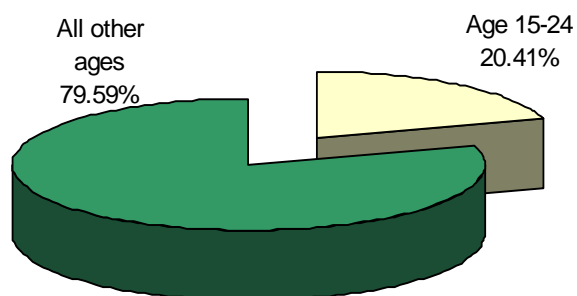




Youth Pregnancy on the Rise in Davao Region

Teen age pregnancy among Davaoeñas age 15-24 rose between 2003 and 2008 as revealed by the 2003 and 2008 National Demographic and Health Surveys of the NSO. Between those two periods, the percentage of young women who have begun childbearing in Davao Region rose from 25.0 percent of these of who were surveyed to 28.6 percent, a 3.6 percentage point increase. In contrast, young women age 15-24 in ARMM who have begun childbearing declined for the same period, from 32.1 percent to 27.2 percent. Among the regions in Mindanao, Region 12 or SOCSKSARGEN, at 35.1 percent, consistently topped the percentage of young women who have begun childbearing, (Table 1).

Figure 1. Population of Youth¹ in Davao Region, by Sex



¹Youth – per UN definition refers to those persons between the ages 15-24

Table 1. Teenage Pregnancy and Motherhood

Percentage of Women Age 15-24 Who Have Begun Childbearing, 2003 and 2008

Mindanao Region	Percentage of Young Women Age 15-24 Who Have Begun Childbearing		Number of Women Age 15-24	
	2003	2008	2003	2008
Zamboanga Peninsula	30.9	31.3	150	197
Northern Mindanao	29.8	27.1	211	220
Davao Region	25.0	28.6	232	233
SOCSKSARGEN	35.1	35.1	178	170
Caraga	33.5	33.9	123	107
ARMM	32.1	27.2	192	198

The population of youth in Davao region account for 20.4 percent of the total population based on the 2007 CPH, (Figure 1). The 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS3) placed the average age of sexual initiation of male and female youth, respectively, at 17 and 18 nationwide. The 2008 NDHS affirms this finding. Only 4.3 percent of the young women age 15-24 surveyed in Davao Region had sexual intercourse by age 15; however, around 20 percent of those who were surveyed had their first sexual intercourse by age 18, (Table 2). Among the regions in Mindanao, Caraga had the most number of young women who had their first sexual intercourse by age 18.

Table 2. Age at First Sexual Intercourse Among Women

Percentage of Young Women Age 15-24 Who Had Sexual Intercourse Before Age 15 and Percentage of Young Women Who Had Sexual Intercourse Before Age 18, Mindanao

Mindanao Region	2008			
	%age Who Had Sexual Intercourse Before Age 15	Number of Women 15-24	%age Who Had Sexual Intercourse Before Age 18	Number of Women Age 18-24
Zamboanga Peninsula	2.8	197	24.3	121
Northern Mindanao	2.5	220	21.2	139
Davao Region	4.3	233	19.9	158
SOCSKSARGEN	4.4	170	27.7	101
Caraga	4.0	107	28.4	67
ARMM	3.6	198	25.5	132

Male youths are more likely to report pre-marital sexual activities. In the 2003 NDHS, among the male youth respondents in Davao Region, 62.7 percent reported that they had pre-marital sexual activity in the 12 months preceding the survey. Only 5.9 percent of the young women reported the same. Caraga Region, again, had the most number of unmarried male youths having pre-marital sexual activities, (Table 3). In the 2008 NDHS, although the young males were excluded from the survey, at 5.9 percent, the percentage of young women in Davao Region who had pre marital sexual activities remained almost the same relative to that of the 2003 NDHS, (Table 4).

**Table 3. Pre Marital Sexual Intercourse Among Young Women and Men**

Among Never Married Women and Men Age 15-24, the Percentage Who Had Sexual Intercourse in the 12 Months Preceding the Survey, 2003

Mindanao Region	2003			
	%age Who Had Sexual Intercourse in the Past 12 Months	Number of Women Age 15-24	%age Who Had Sexual Intercourse in the Past 12 Months	Number of Men Age 15-24
Zamboanga Peninsula	1.9	92	57.7	56
Northern Mindanao	4.6	151	45.6	59
Davao Region	5.9	170	62.7	61
SOCKSARGEN	0.6	111	56.1	72
Caraga	4.3	82	66.1	40
ARMM	0.0	118	44.4	43

Table 4. Pre Marital Sexual Intercourse Among Young Women

Among Never Married Women Age 15-24, the Percentage Who Had Sexual Intercourse in the 12 Months Preceding the Survey, 2008

Mindanao Region	2008	
	%age Who Had Sexual Intercourse in the Past 12 Months	Number of Women Age 15-24
Zamboanga Peninsula	4.0	134
Northern Mindanao	3.8	156
Davao Region	5.3	167
SOCKSARGEN	0.0	107
Caraga	7.5	72
ARMM	0.0	130

It was also found out that in 2008 condom-use of young women who had higher-risk sexual intercourse was almost nil for those who were surveyed. Higher risk sexual intercourse refers to intercourse with a non-marital, non-cohabiting partners, (Table 5). Moreover, Davao Region, among the regions in Mindanao has the highest proportion of young males having multiple sex partners at 8.7 percent (Table 6) based on the 2003 NDHS.

Table 5. Higher Risk Sexual Intercourse Among Young Women

Percentage of Young Women Age 15-24 Who Had Higher-Risk Sexual Intercourse in the Past 12 Months, 2008

Region	%age Who Had Higher-Risk Sexual Intercourse in the Past 12 Months	Number of Women Age 15-24	Percent Who Used a Condom At Last Higher-Risk Sexual Intercourse
Zamboanga Peninsula	9.4	65	**
Northern Mindanao	8.6	68	**
Davao Region	12.0	74	**
SOCKSARGEN	-	61	**
Caraga	16.5	40	**
ARMM	1.0	66	**

HIV in the Philippines is usually transmitted through unprotected sexual activity with a person who is HIV positive. The relatively large percentage of high risk sexual activities among young women of Davao Region at 12.0, which was surpassed only by those in Caraga Region, as well as the high proportion of male youths having multiple partners pose challenge for the Adolescent Reproductive Health advocates in the region.

Table 6. Multiple Sex Partners Among Young Men

Percentage of Young Men Age 15-24 Who Have Ever Had Sex With Two or More Partners in the 12 Months Preceding the Survey, 2003

Mindanao Region	2003	
	%age Who Had 2 + Partners in the Past 12 Months	Number of Men Age 15-24
Zamboanga Peninsula	6.4	67
Northern Mindanao	3.8	71
Davao Region	8.7	72
SOCKSARGEN	6.4	83
Caraga	8.1	44
ARMM	1.3	56