



## Unmet need for family planning services in SOCCSKSARGEN went up to 21.8%

From 17.4 percent in 2003, unmet need for family planning services in SOCCSKSARGEN went up to 21.8 percent in 2008. The 2008 regional figure, however, was slightly better than the 22.3 percent national average. This was according to the result of the 2008 National Health and Demographic Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office. According to the official definition, currently married, fecund women age 15-49 years have an unmet need for family planning services if they express desire to space or limit births but are not using any forms of family planning methods. Unmet need for family planning services is being used as an important measure to evaluate the extent to which programs are meeting the demand for family planning services in the country. Women who are currently using family planning methods are said to have a met need for family planning services.

**Table 1. Need and Demand For Family Planning Services, Region XII : 2003 and 2008**

Indicator	2003	2008
<b>Total demand for Family Planning</b>	69.9	77.0
For Spacing	24.9	24.3
For Limiting	45.0	52.7
<b>Unmet need for Family Planning</b>	17.4	21.8
For Spacing	7.5	9.8
For Limiting	9.9	12.0
<b>Meet need for Family Planning</b>	50.7	55.1
For Spacing	16.8	14.5
For Limiting	34.0	40.6

Sources: 2003 and 2008 National Demographic and Health Surveys

Overall, unmet need for spacing was lower than the unmet need for limiting. In Region XII alone, unmet need for spacing in 2008 was estimated at 9.8 percent, up from 7.5 percent five years ago. From 9.9 percent in 2003, unmet need for limiting rose to a double digit figure of 12.0 percent five years later.

The total demand for family planning services in the region increased to 77.0 percent from 69.9 percent in 2003 brought about by a 7.7 percentage points increase in 2008 on the total demand for limiting. The total demand for family planning services is estimated by adding the distribution of met need and unmet need for family planning services.

### Unmet Need By Background Characteristics of Married Women 15-49 Years

The younger the currently married women age 15-49 years, the higher the unmet need for family planning services. Unmet need for spacing was highest among currently married women aged 15-29 years while a higher demand for limiting was observed among currently married women in the older age group 25-49 years. Overall, unmet need for family planning services decreases as married women gets older. It was also observed that unmet need for family planning services was higher in rural areas compared to those in the urban areas.

**Table 2. Unmet Need For Family Planning Services, By Background Characteristics of Women 15-49 Years Philippines : 2008**

Background Characteristics	For spacing	For limiting	Total
<b>Total</b>	9.0	13.4	22.3
<b>Age</b>			
15-19	30.5	5.3	35.8
20-24	19.3	5.3	24.6
25-29	14.4	11.4	25.8
30-34	8.4	12.0	20.4
35-39	5.6	17.2	22.8
40-44	1.7	17.8	19.5
45-49	0.8	16.8	17.6
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	7.9	13.2	21.1
Rural	10.1	13.6	23.7
<b>Education</b>			
No Education	11.4	17.2	28.6
Elementary	8.2	16.4	24.5
High School	9.3	13.1	22.4
College	9.0	11.2	20.2
<b>Wealth Quintile</b>			
Lowest	11.9	16.3	28.2
Second	8.9	13.7	22.7
Middle	7.8	13.2	21.0
Fourth	8.9	10.6	19.5
Highest	7.3	13.2	20.5

Source: 2008 National Demographic and Health Surveys

The higher the educational attainment of married women, the lower the unmet need for family planning services. Although double digit figures were noted in the unmet need for limiting, the figures get higher as the educational attainment of the women gets lower.

The lower the income status of married women, the higher the unmet need for family planning services with figures ranging from 28.2 percent in the lowest quintile to 20.5 percent for those belonging in the highest quintile. Double digit figures were noted in the unmet need for limiting in all income status with the highest recorded in the lowest quintile at 16.3 percent.

### Reasons For Not Using Contraception Methods

Based on the results of the 2008 NDHS, the following were the major reasons cited by currently married women aged 15-49 years for not using contraceptives:

- Health concerns (20.9%)
- Want as many children as possible (15.5%)
- Menopausal/had hysterectomy (14.8%)
- Fear of side-effects (13.9%)
- Infrequent sex/no sex (9.8%)
- Subfecund/infecund (9.8%)
- Partner opposed from using contraceptives (3.2%) and
- Religious prohibitions (2.9%).

March is National Women's Month

Theme: Magna Carta on Women, Philippine CEDAW: In Support of the MDGs