



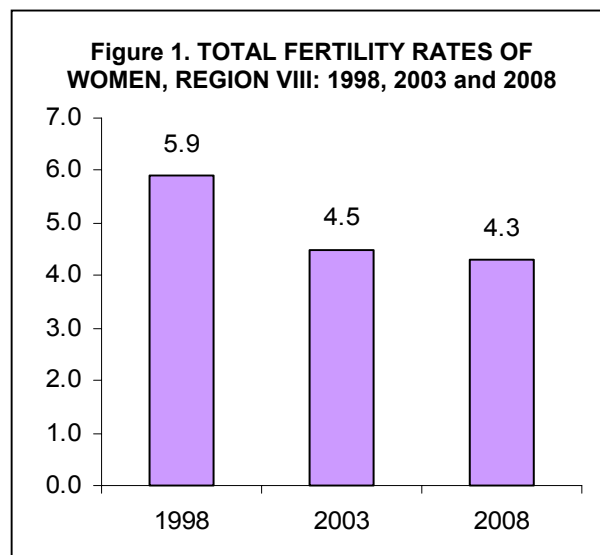
## EV has one of the highest Total Fertility Rate in the country

Women in Eastern Visayas have an average of 4.3 children, making the region one of those with the highest total fertility rate (TFR) in the country in 2008, together with MIMAROPA, ARMM and Caraga. The region's TFR, however, exhibited a declining trend, from an average of 5.9 children per woman in 1998 to 4.5 in 2003, and to 4.3 in 2008.

The 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted every five years by the National Statistics Office also revealed that Eastern Visayas recorded the third highest mean number of children ever born (CEB) to women 40-49 years old, next to ARMM and MIMAROPA, at an average of 5.0 children per woman. CEB is an indicator of completed fertility, which reflects the fertility performance of women who are nearing the end of their reproductive years.

Moreover, 30.9% of women 15-24 years old in the region are already mothers or are pregnant with their first child. This makes the region the sixth among those with the highest percentage of women 15-24 years old who have begun childbearing.

The median age at first birth among women aged 25-49 is 22.6 years while the median age at first marriage is 21.7 years. The total wanted fertility rate (TWFR) of women in Region 8 was placed at an average of 2.9 children per woman, lower than the actual total fertility rate of 4.3. This implies that women in Eastern Visayas exceeded their "wanted fertility" by one birth.



Source: 1998, 2003 & 2008 NDHS

Table 1. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE AND ITS DETERMINANTS BY REGION: 2008

Region	Total Fertility Rate	Mean No. of Children Ever Born to Women 40-49 Years Old	% of Women 15-24 Years Old Who Have Begun Childbearing	Median Age at First Birth Among Women Aged 25-49 Years	Median Age at First Marriage of Women 25-49 Years Old	Total Wanted Fertility Rate
NCR Metro Manila	2.3	3.0	17.7	24.8	23.7	1.7
CAR Cordillera	3.3	4.7	25.9	22.1	21.0	2.7
I Ilocos Region	3.4	3.8	29.4	23.8	22.7	2.5
II Cagayan Valley	4.1	3.8	32.2	22.3	21.1	3.0
III Central Luzon	3.0	3.6	25.5	23.5	22.4	2.3
IVA CALABARZON	3.0	3.5	26.6	24.0	22.9	2.4
IVB MIMAROPA	4.3	5.2	37.0	21.6	20.3	3.0
V Bicol Region	4.1	4.8	26.6	22.6	21.4	2.5
VI Western Visayas	3.3	4.0	25.1	23.7	22.7	2.3
VII Central Visayas	3.2	4.0	26.0	22.9	21.9	2.4
<b>VIII Eastern Visayas</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>
IX Zamboanga Peninsula	3.8	4.3	31.3	22.8	21.7	2.7
X Northern Mindanao	3.3	4.1	27.1	22.7	21.6	2.3
XI Davao Region	3.3	4.5	28.6	22.1	21.2	2.3
XII SOCCSKSARGEN	3.6	4.5	35.1	21.5	20.6	2.4
ARMM Muslim Mindanao	4.3	5.7	27.2	21.5	19.8	3.5
XIII Caraga	4.3	4.7	33.9	22.3	21.0	2.8

**Total fertility rate (TFR).** It is the average number of children that would be born alive to a woman (or group of women) during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age specific fertility rates of a given time period. (Source: NSCB Resolution No. 11, Series of 2003)

**Total wanted fertility rate (TWFR).** A birth is considered wanted if the number of living children at the time of conception was less than or equal to the current ideal number of children reported by the respondent. Wanted fertility rates express the level of fertility that would theoretically result if all unwanted births were prevented. (Source: NSO)

Source: 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey, National Statistics Office

**March is Women's Month (Theme: "Babae, Tagumpay ka ng Bayan")**

For your inquiries and other information needs, visit or call the:

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