



Fast Facts about Filipino Teens



SMOKING:

Time to sound the alarm?

Going up in smoke...

- The 2007 Global Tobacco Youth Survey (GYTS) conducted by the World Health Organization showed that **one in every three Filipino teenagers aged 13 to 15 were already smokers**, despite the existence of Republic Act 9211 or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

Going up in smoke...

- ◉ **18.7% of Filipino young women between the ages of 13 and 25 smoke cigarettes** (Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance)
- ◉ Among female smokers, 60% say that they smoked their first cigarette at the age of 18, while the remaining **40% say they started when they were still very young.**

Going up in smoke...

- Among Filipino girls, residence in cosmopolitan Metro Manila was associated with high probability of smoking
- Those who were raised with both parents present were less likely to smoke than those who grew up with a single parent
- **Those who have close relationships with parents were less likely to smoke [Teen Tobacco Epidemic in Asia, 2004]**



Adolescent Alcoholics

DRINKING:



what's your poison ?

BINGE DRINKING, FUN ISN'T IT ?

Adolescent Alcoholics

- The minimum legal drinking age is 18 but underage drinking is common in the Philippines.
- In a survey conducted by the University of the Philippines in 1994, **60% or 5.3 million Filipino youths were said to be drinking alcoholic beverages.**
- About 4.2 million of them are males and 1.1 million are females.
- On the average, **Filipino youths start drinking alcohol at the age of 16 or 17**
- However, there are also many cases when **children as young as 12 years old** are already drinking alcoholic beverages.

Adolescent Alcoholics

- About **37 per cent of the respondents in the survey have continued the habit of drinking alcohol** while 33 per cent said they only drink alcoholic beverages on special occasions. Some 17 per cent said they have already decided to stop the vice of drinking.
- Among girls, drinking is more acceptable than smoking. But it is considered more appropriate for men than for women to drink.

Adolescent Alcoholics

- The teenagers said their **family, friends, and the mass media have influenced them to experiment with drinking alcohol.**
- Underscoring the critical role that the family plays in youth behaviours, **young people seem to take their cue from their own parents' attitudes and behaviour.** Thus, a boy who grows up with an alcoholic father is more likely to become one himself.
- The study indicated that those who are more likely to drink are those:
 - who are not living with parents (for example, college students living in dormitories)
 - whose parents approve of drinking
 - who frequently attending social gatherings
 - who enjoy going out to parties, bars and discos
 - who do not take part in sports activities

Drug Use



Drug Abuse

- The worsening drug abuse in the country can be gleaned from the fact that in 1972, there were only 20,000 drug users in the Philippines. **In 2004, this figure has climbed to an astounding 6.7 million.**
- Methamphetamine hydrochloride or **"shabu" and marijuana** are the illegal drugs preferred by one in every 29 Filipinos aged 10 to 44 years.



Pre-marital Sex and Teenage Pregnancies

Premarital Sex

- In 2008, 5 million or 23% of Filipino adolescents, aged 15-24, have already engaged in premarital sex. In 1994, only 18% of youth engaged in PMS.
- 20 percent of premarital sex occurred among high school students
- 35% of those who engage in premarital sex were out-of-school youth and nonworking youths
- Young men who had their sexual debut at 13 years old would have anywhere between 10 and 60 sex partners during their adolescence alone
- 2 out of 10 said they had sex for the first time out of curiosity, while 14 percent did so to relieve sexual tension

Premarital Sex

• Qualities of youth engaging in PMS

- Living away from parents at an early age (boys and girls)
- Regular exposure to x-rated movies (boys and girls)
- Frequently go to discos, massage parlors and clubs
- Does not attend religious services
- Unstable Family Life
- Addiction to Drugs, Smoking and Alcohol

Preventive factors against PMS

- Regular participation to religious activities
- Being employed (for boys);
- Staying longer in school (both boys and girls);
- Receiving population education in school (both);
- Living with parents (girls);
- Having a liberal-minded father who serves as a guardian (girls)

According to a 2008 NSCB Survey...

- 33.2% of men agree that it is alright for unmarried people to live together even if they have no plans to marry (against 10.8% of women)
- Around 15.9% of women indicated they have done PMS compared to 31.2% men
- Only 8.4% of men approve of a woman having PMS (15.8% of women) while it is almost the same number of men and women who approve of a man having PMS (27.2% and 26.1% respectively)
- Engagement in PMS was highest for Metro Manila male youth (41.8%) and lowest for youth in Cagayan Valley (18.4%) while it was highest for Eastern Visayas female youth (22.9%) and lowest in ARMM female youth (3%)

Teenage Pregnancies

- In 2006, out of the 492,666 reported total marriages, **83,796 or 17.0% percent were teenage marriages** (NSO 2010)
- Most teenage brides got married either in Roman Catholic ceremonies (28,218 or 41.2%) or civil rites (27,471 or 40.1%). (NSO 2010)
- **Majority of teenage pregnancies belong to low income group, often associated with an increased rate of delinquent behaviors including alcohol and substance abuse.** (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2008)

Thank you!
