



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
 SOCCSKSARGEN REGION
SPECIAL RELEASE

Women in the ARMM and SOCCSKSARGEN Region Were Youngest Brides in the Country

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Results from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) revealed that women in rural areas marry earlier than their counterparts in the urban areas. Those from the urban areas had their first marriage at 23.3 years as compared to 21.8 years to women in rural areas.

The median age at first marriage among women ageing 25-49 years in SOCCSKSARGEN Region was estimated at 21.0 years. The oldest were noted in NCR at 24.2 years. The youngest brides in the country were recorded in the ARMM at 20.8 years old; about 3.4 years younger than their counterparts in NCR.

In SOCCSKSARGEN, those in the youngest age group (25-29 years) had their first marriage at 19.9 years; the youngest in the age group among all regions in the country.

Table 1. Median Age At First Marriage of Women Age 25-49 By Region: 2017

Background characteristic	Age					
	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	25-49
Residence						
Urban	23.2	22.6	23.8	23.6	23.3	23.3
Rural	20.8	21.7	22.2	22.3	22.1	21.8
Region						
National Capital Region	a	23.8	24.5	23.8	23.6	24.2
Cordillera Admin. Region	a	23.0	23.0	22.9	25.7	23.7
I - Ilocos Region	21.9	21.5	21.4	22.9	22.0	22.1
II - Cagayan Valley	20.6	22.9	22.8	22.0	20.6	21.7
III - Central Luzon	21.8	22.5	22.6	22.7	23.2	22.6
IVA - CALABARZON	22.6	22.2	22.7	24.4	22.2	22.6
MIMAROPA Region	20.5	21.3	21.3	22.1	21.7	21.3
V - Bicol	21.9	21.4	22.3	21.8	22.6	21.9
VI - Western Visayas	21.3	21.3	24.1	22.9	22.7	22.0
VII - Central Visayas	22.6	22.7	23.5	22.8	23.7	23.0
VIII - Eastern Visayas	20.3	21.4	21.6	21.4	22.0	21.4
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	20.6	21.1	22.2	22.4	22.0	21.4
X - Northern Mindanao	21.4	21.8	22.5	22.7	23.3	22.1
XI - Davao	20.9	21.0	23.5	22.7	23.1	22.2
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	19.9	21.4	21.8	22.3	21.0	21.0
XIII - Caraga	21.2	22.4	22.1	22.8	22.5	22.0
ARMM	21.1	21.5	20.6	19.3	21.9	20.8

nc = No cases
 a = Omitted because less than 50% of the women began living with their spouse or partner for the first time before reaching the beginning of the age group

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)





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Table 2. Median Age At First Birth Among Women Age 25-49 By Region: 2017

Background characteristic	Age					25-49
	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Residence						
Urban	24.1	23.7	24.5	24.7	24.4	24.3
Rural	21.7	22.5	23.3	23.3	23.3	22.8
Region						
National Capital Region	a	25.1	25.3	24.7	25.4	a
Cordillera Admin. Region	a	23.1	23.9	24.4	24.6	24.1
I - Ilocos Region	22.5	22.9	22.6	24.3	23.3	23.1
II - Cagayan Valley	21.4	23.6	23.7	22.8	21.6	22.6
III - Central Luzon	22.6	24.0	23.2	24.0	24.5	23.7
IVA - CALABARZON	23.5	23.3	23.9	25.8	23.2	23.9
MIMAROPA Region	21.7	22.0	22.1	23.0	22.9	22.3
V - Bicol	22.6	22.4	23.3	23.1	23.4	22.9
VI - Western Visayas	21.8	22.3	25.3	23.8	24.0	23.3
VII - Central Visayas	22.9	23.1	24.1	23.0	23.2	23.2
VIII - Eastern Visayas	21.3	21.7	22.9	22.5	23.7	22.3
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	21.2	22.5	23.2	23.3	22.7	22.4
X - Northern Mindanao	22.0	22.9	23.0	23.4	24.3	22.8
XI - Davao	22.0	21.6	23.0	23.9	23.5	22.6
XII - SOCCKSARGEN	20.8	22.0	22.3	22.4	22.5	21.9
XIII - Caraga	22.2	22.7	23.4	23.3	23.6	22.9
ARMM	22.7	22.4	22.2	21.1	23.6	22.4

a = Omitted because less than 50% of women had a birth before reaching the beginning of the age group
 Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)

Women in both urban and rural areas in the country had their first birth at about 12 months after their first marriage. Women in urban areas had their first birth at 24.3 years as against to 22.8 years among women in the rural areas.

SOCCKSARGEN Region's median age at first birth among women age 25-49 years was at 21.9 years; the youngest first ever mothers in the country. The oldest first ever mothers were those from Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) at 24.1 years; about 2.2 years older compared to those in SOCCKSARGEN Region.

In SOCCKSARGEN Region, those in the youngest age group (25-29 years) had their first birth at 20.8 years; about 11 months after first marriage. On the average, women in the region had their first birth 9 months after first marriage.



Table 3. Total Fertility Rate By Region: 2017

Background characteristic	Total fertility rate	Percentage of women age 15-49 currently pregnant	Mean number of children ever born to women age 40-49
Residence			
Urban	2.4	4.1	3.1
Rural	2.9	4.1	3.7
Region			
National Capital Region	1.9	3.4	2.8
Cordillera Admin. Region	2.5	2.4	3.4
I - Ilocos Region	2.6	3.9	3.2
II - Cagayan Valley	3.1	3.1	3.5
III - Central Luzon	2.4	3.7	3.0
IVA - CALABARZON	2.6	4.3	3.2
MIMAROPA Region	2.9	3.8	4.1
V - Bicol	3.2	3.8	4.2
VI - Western Visayas	3.0	4.1	3.8
VII - Central Visayas	2.5	3.2	3.2
VIII - Eastern Visayas	3.1	4.1	4.0
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	3.6	3.4	4.0
X - Northern Mindanao	3.1	4.9	3.5
XI - Davao	2.7	6.7	3.7
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	3.4	5.1	3.7
XIII - Caraga	3.0	5.0	3.9
ARMM	3.1	6.4	4.8

Note: Total fertility rates are for the period 1-36 months preceding the interview.
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)

In the Philippines, total fertility rate or the average number of children a woman would have if she survives her childbearing years (15-49 years) was higher in the rural areas (2.9 children) in contrast to those in the urban areas (2.4 children).

Fertility rate was highest in Zamboanga Peninsula at 3.6 children. Women in SOCCSKSARGEN Region will have 3.4 children at the end of their childbearing years, second highest after Zamboanga Peninsula.

Those from NCR will only have 1.9 children; about 1.7 children lower compared to those from Zamboanga Peninsula.

The mean number of children ever born to women aged 40-49 years in the country was estimated at 3.1 children in the urban areas as against 3.7 children among women in the rural areas.

Most productive in the age group 40-49 years were the women in the ARMM at 4.8 children followed by those in Bicol Region (4.2 children) and MIMAROPA (4.1 children).

Table 4. Total Wanted Fertility and Total Fertility Rate By Region: 2017

Background characteristic	Total wanted fertility rate	Total fertility rate
Residence		
Urban	1.8	2.4
Rural	2.2	2.9
Region		
National Capital Region	1.6	1.9
Cordillera Admin. Region	2.0	2.5
I - Ilocos Region	2.0	2.6
II - Cagayan Valley	2.5	3.1
III - Central Luzon	2.0	2.4
IVA - CALABARZON	1.8	2.6
MIMAROPA Region	2.0	2.9
V - Bicol	2.3	3.2
VI - Western Visayas	2.0	3.0
VII - Central Visayas	1.9	2.5
VIII - Eastern Visayas	2.1	3.1
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	2.9	3.6
X - Northern Mindanao	2.4	3.1
XI - Davao	2.0	2.7
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	2.7	3.4
XIII - Caraga	2.5	3.0
ARMM	2.3	3.1

Total wanted fertility rates and total fertility rates for the 3 years preceding the survey, according to background characteristics, Philippines NDHS 2017

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)

Total wanted fertility in the country among women 15-49 years in urban areas was recorded at 1.8 children as against 2.2 children in the rural areas. Total wanted fertility rates in both urban and rural areas were lower than the total fertility rate recorded in both areas. The highest difference was noted in Western Visayas with one child more compared to the wanted fertility rate. Wanted fertility rate (1.6 children) and total fertility rate (1.9 children) was closest in NCR.

Total wanted fertility rate was highest in Zamboanga Peninsula at 2.9 children with NCR recording the lowest at 1.6 children. Total wanted fertility rate in SOCCSKSARGEN Region was pegged at 2.7 children as opposed to its total fertility rate of 3.4 children.



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Definition of Terms:

Age at first marriage – defined as the age at which the respondent began living with her first spouse/partner.

In 2017, about 20.0 percent of the currently married women age 15-49 in the region have ever lived separately from their husband/partner. Moreover, 3.6 percent of them lived separately from their husband/partner because one of them lived overseas.

Total Fertility Rate - The average number of children a woman would have by the end of her childbearing years (15-49 years) if she bore children at the current age-specific fertility rates. Age-specific fertility rates are calculated for the 3 years before the survey, based on detailed birth histories provided by women.

Wanted Total Fertility Rate – an estimate of what the total fertility rate would be if all unwanted births were avoided.

Fertility - refers to the capacity of a woman or a couple to produce children; measured in terms of the number of live births

Median age at first birth - Age by which half of women have had their first child.

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