

National survey on sexual and reproductive health among Vietnamese young people

2015

Funded by UNFPA Vietnam

Introduction

Viet Nam has entered a demographic bonus period, registering the largest cohort of young people in the country's history. According to the 2009 Housing and Population Census, young people aged 10 to 24 account for approximately 25 million people out of a total population of 89 million in the country.¹ Not only are the number of young people large, but also a rapid change in sexual values, norms and behaviors among Vietnamese young people has been documented.

Over the past two decades, substantial resources have been invested to improve the overall health status of the general population. However, sexual and reproductive health needs of young people have been insufficiently addressed.

The development of adolescents and youth is always a matter of primary concern in Vietnam as well as many countries around the world. The catch of these fundamental characteristics related to social life, attitudes, aspirations and challenges in the development of this population group is very important. The SAVY (round 1 and 2) was the large and most comprehensive survey about youth in Vietnam and has provided a comprehensive picture of the young Vietnam today in aspects related to the development of youth such as education, employment, health (including, reproductive health, sexual health, HIV/AIDS). It is expected that the national survey will be periodically conducted to monitor the SRH trend amongst different groups of young people over time.

The proposed survey is therefore very significant as it not only provides a comprehensive and accurate picture of the SRH amongst adolescent and young people, but it also generates evidence for the development and implementation of appropriate SRH policies and programs, contributing to the wellbeing of the young population in Viet Nam.

The ISMS and CCIHP will jointly conduct the survey to ensure the highest quality consultancy services in the areas of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The rationale for two organizations to be associated in this assignment is two- fold. First, the two organizations have held a number of collaborative works in conducting middle-to-large scale surveys on reproductive health; GBV and health sector development, so that we will be able to supplement each other to provide the most competent experts to fulfill this assignment. Second, via this assignment, we can provide a systematic and holistic approach to get evidence and formulate health policy briefs for development of policy and intervention programs in adolescent reproductive and sexual health in Vietnam. In addition, we will invite one international expert, who has in-depth experience in sexual and reproductive health, to join our team. Expertise and experience from the international expert will be fully utilized when conducting the survey, i.e. development and finalization of the survey tools, analysis of the data, and editing and finalization of the report.

¹ GSO, at al. Vietnam Population and Housing Census 2009: Age structure, sex and marital status of Vietnam population. Hanoi, 2009

Objectives

1. Overall objective

To conduct a nationally representative survey on sexual and reproductive health amongst young people aged 10-24 in Vietnam.

2. Specific objectives

- To assess knowledge, perceptions, attitudes and behaviors of sexual and reproductive health and associated factors (demographic, socio-economic and cultural factors) amongst adolescents and young people;
- To measure the trend of puberty, prevalence of pregnancy, births, abortions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV and gender-based violence (GBV);
- To identify seeking behaviors for SRH information and services and measure young people's unmet needs on SRH and contraceptives;
- To assess the contraceptive use, contraceptive discontinuation and failure and explore the associated determinants and risk factors; and
- To assess gatekeepers' perceived attitudes and support to provision of SRH information and services for young people, including: i) Parents; ii) Teachers; and iii) Health providers.

Methodology

The study will employ a cross-sectional survey with a multiple stage sampling method. Face-to-face interviews based on a structured questionnaire is the main data collection method in this survey. A self-administered questionnaire will also be used for sensitive topics with the youth.

Time and location

Duration: May – October 2015

Location: 6 provinces across the 6 ecological regions of Vietnam, including Son La-representing North Mountainous, Hai Duong- representing Red River Delta, Thanh Hoa-representing North and South Central Coast, Dak Lak- representing Central Highlands, Binh Duong- representing Southeast, Bac Lieu-representing Mekong River Delta, and two Mega cities of Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh.