

# **Kingdom of Cambodia**

# **National Religion King**

Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youth in Cambodia

Analysis of 2000 - 2014 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey Data



National Institution of Statistics
Ministry of Planning



Directorate General for Health

Ministry of Health

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This report presents findings from a secondary analysis of four waves of the Cambodia Demographic and Health Surveys, 2000 to 2014, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Australian in Cambodia. Additional information about the Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS) can be obtained from the National Institute of Statistics; 386 Monivong Boulevard, Sangkat Beong Keng Kang 1, Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Telephone: (855) 23-213650; E-mail: linahang@hotmail.com; Home Pages: www.nis.gov.kh

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Cambodia has the youngest population in Southeast Asia, with 22 % aged 15 and 24 years. Young people face many sexual and reproductive health concerns such as sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, STIs, HIV and AIDS. These health concerns are exacerbated by the lack of sexual and reproductive health information, knowledge, youth friendly services, poor education attainment (i.e. low school enrolment, high dropout rates, and high repetition rates), and rural to urban migration for employment often placing young people at a social and economic disadvantage, especially those living in rural areas. Limited information is available about the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth in Cambodia, and information that is available generally relates to subpopulations.

One aim of this report was to describe the current state of the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth in Cambodia and this was achieved through the analysis of data on young women aged 15-24 years from the four Cambodian Demographic and Health Surveys (CDHS) conducted in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014. Descriptive analyses of key areas of sexual and reproductive health; namely marriage and sexual behaviour, family planning and contraceptive use, adolescent pregnancy and motherhood, knowledge of HIV and AIDS, and the occurrence of symptoms of sexually transmitted infections (STIs); allowed trends over a fifteen year period to be examined. Each of these key areas were stratified by age, urban/rural location, province or region of Cambodia, education, socio-economic status and where appropriate gender and religion. As the DHS are cross-sectional surveys it is not possible to establish causal relationships among variables.

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