

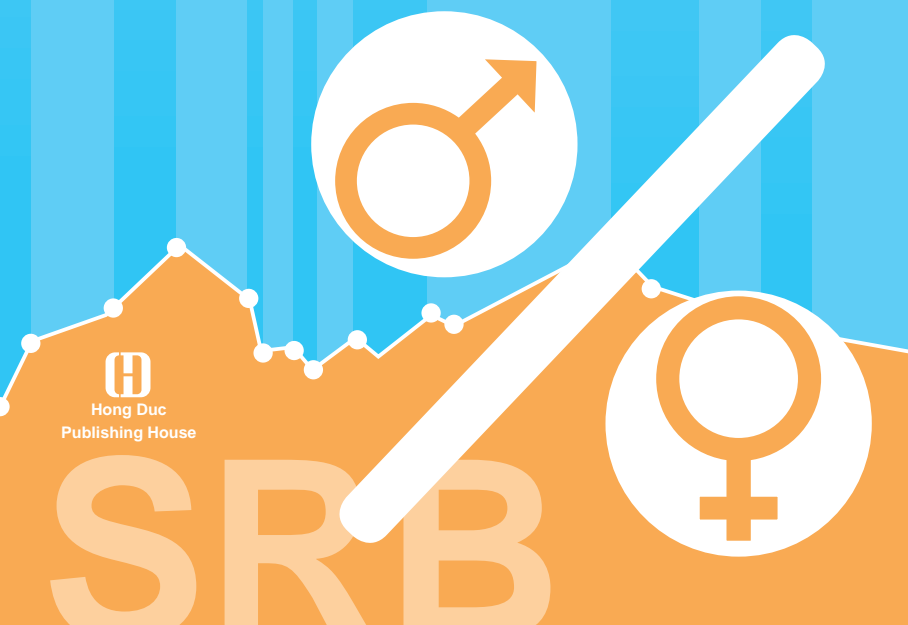
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SEX RATIO AT BIRTH IN VIET NAM

New evidence from
the Intercensal Population
and Housing Survey
in 2014



Hong Duc
Publishing House

SRB

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1. Introduction

Sex imbalances at birth, observable today in a handful of countries around the world, are manifested in sex ratio at birth (SRB) that rise well above the natural biological level of 105 male births per 100 female newborns. The primary cause of high SRB levels is the practice of prenatal sex selection through sex-selective abortions. Such imbalances not only testify to significant discrimination against women but also herald the emergence of a surplus of adult males in future decades.

No data shows that Viet Nam has experienced with any form of postnatal sex selection. Mortality estimates have long confirmed that survival rates among girls and boys follow international patterns and demonstrate no apparent excess in female mortality, including rural areas where son preference is more pronounced (Le Pham, 2013; GSO, 2011b). The impact of prenatal sex selection found in rising SRBs since the last decade is evident in most parts of Viet Nam, although recording significant regional variation. The 2009

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