The three presentations taken together point to the following picture:

• There appears to be an improvement in the prevalence of the non-sexual risk behaviors traditionally tracked by the YAFS studies. The trend from 1994 to 2013 indicates overall decreasing levels of smoking, drinking and drug use.

• This picture suggests a more health conscious youth population, as supported further by the finding of a high prevalence of physical exercise.
Conclusions

• YAFS 4 has identified new non-sexual risk behaviors to track in future YAFS surveys:
  - diet
  - the experience of violence
  - harassment using the new technologies

Conclusions

• While there is improvement in the non-sexual risk behaviors, the picture on sexual risk behaviors indicate a worsening trend:
  - the prevalence of premarital sexual activity has increased but the use of contraception/protection against STI remains low and unchanging from its 1994 level
  - the narrowing of the gap in the prevalence of premarital sexual activity between young men and women, amidst increasing PMS prevalence in general, is likely a major contributor to the sharp increase in teenage fertility
Conclusions

- The new technologies have given rise to new forms of sexual activity and new means of meeting sexual partners that could increase the risk of adverse consequences, esp. under a context of low prevalence of the use of protection.

The increased prevalence of sexual activity in various forms may indicate new normative standards regarding sex.

Norms around marriage may also be changing as indicated by a higher proportion of the living-in than the formally married in the YAFS 4 sample.
Conclusions

• One distinct feature of the Filipino youth of 2013 is their high prevalence of usage of the new information and telecommunication technologies.
• The ubiquitous cell phone and the internet are shaping the lives of today’s youth in ways that we are still to fully understand.
• These new technologies can be tools for increasing risks but they can also serve as tools for mitigating risks.

#ThankYou

yafs4@drdf.org.ph
www.facebook.com/yafs4