

FACT SHEETS ON FILIPINO WOMEN:
10 Years after Beijing



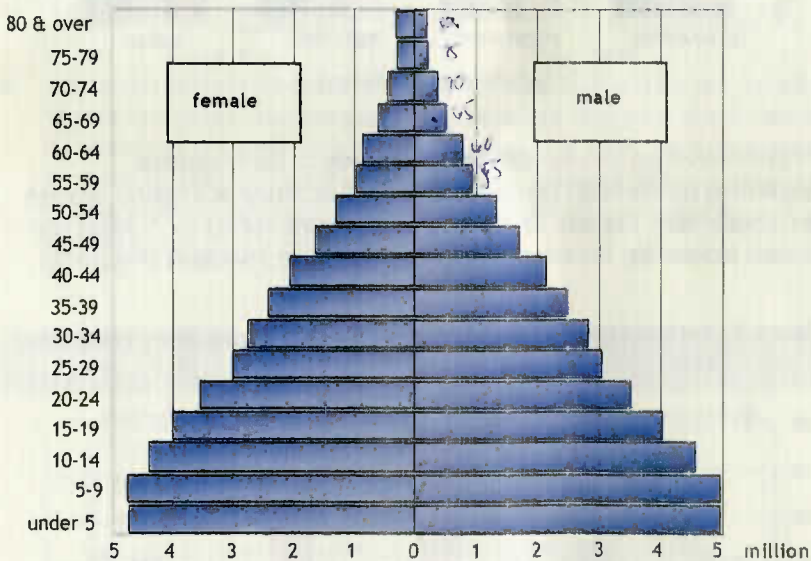
National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women
February 2005

"Empowered Women, Stronger Nation"

POPULATION, FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

- ◆ **The Philippines is among the most populous countries in the world**, ranking 13th globally and 3rd in the Southeast Asian Region (United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 2004). Its population continues to balloon with an annual growth rate of 2.36%. The population size is estimated to be close to 83 million in 2004 and women comprise 49.7% of this total (National Statistics Office (NSO), 2000) (Figure 1). The population census in 2000 yielded a sex ratio of 101.4, which means that for every 100 females there were 101 males.

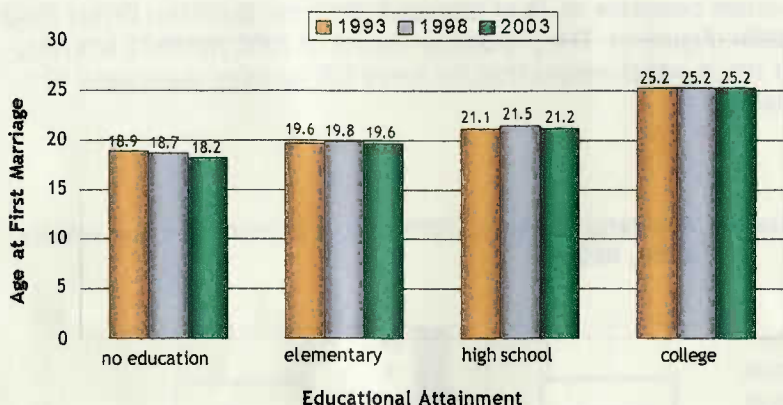
Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000 Census of Population and Housing (CPH), NSO



- ◆ **Although women marry at a younger age than men, women are slightly delaying marriage.** Based on the 1995 population census, the average age at first marriage of women is 23.8 years and 26.4 years for men. The National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) conducted by NSO indicate that the median age at first marriage of women aged 25-49 years is slightly increasing: 21.6 years in 1993, 22.1 years in 1998, and 22.0 years in 2003.

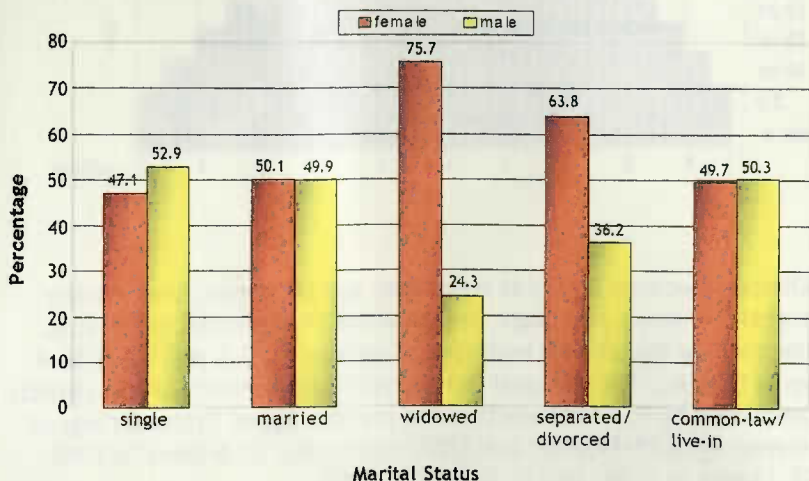
- ◆ **Similar to global trend, Filipino women with advanced educational attainment tend to marry at a later age.** On the average, women who had no education at all marry at around age 18 while women who get to college marry about 7 years later (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Highest Educational Attainment of Women by Age at First Marriage, 1993-2003 NDHS, NSO



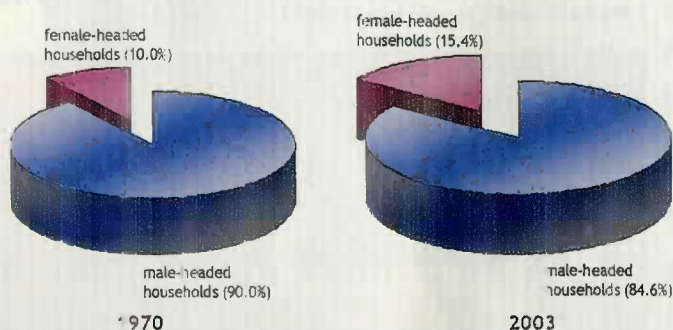
- ◆ **Filipino women live longer and are likely to be widowed.** According to the 2000 census, the life expectancy of Filipino women is considerably higher: 72.8 years for females versus 67.5 years for males. Moreover, for every widower, there are 3 widows (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Marital Status of Population 10 Years Old and Over, 2000 CPH, NSO



- ◆ **Between 1970 and 2003, the number of female-headed households increased by 50%.** The population census and other household surveys reveal an increasing trend in the percentage of female-headed households: 10.0% in 1970, 12.2% in 1995 and 15.4% in 2003 (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Percent Distribution of Households by Sex of Household Head, 1970 Census, 2003 NDHS, NSO



- ◆ **Although female-headed households tend to have fewer members than their male counterparts, the average size of female-headed households is increasing in recent years.** In 1995, female-headed households on the average would have a size of 4 persons, male-headed households would have 5.2. In 2003, the average size of households was 4.8 persons.

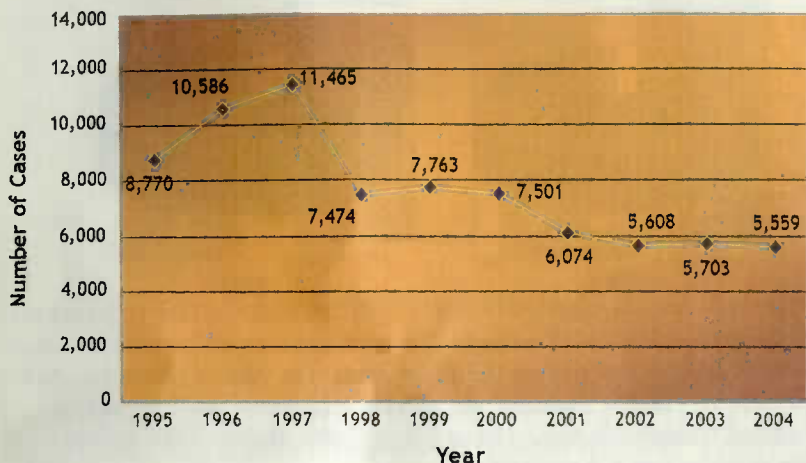
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

“Violence against women (VAW) is an act of gender-based violence that results in, or likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. It encompasses all forms of violation of women’s rights, including threats and reprisals, exploitation, harassment, and other forms of control.”

Source: Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), as cited in the Glossary on Violence Against Women and Children and other related concepts, National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)

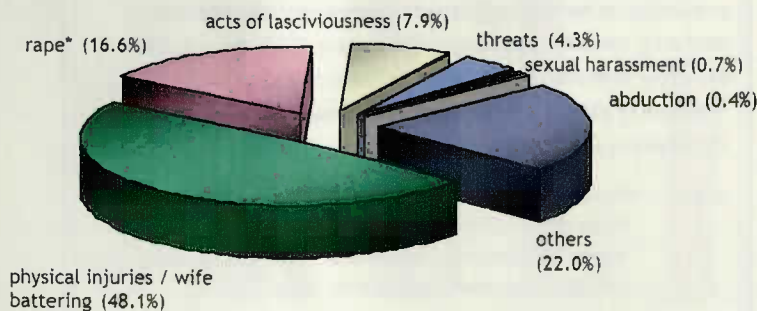
- ◆ There are different trends in the number of violence against women cases from different government agencies. The number of VAW cases reported to the police increased seven-fold, from 1,100 in 1996 to 7,383 in 2004. The highest recorded number of VAW cases in the police department peaked in 2001 at 10,343. The social welfare department, however, saw a general decline in the number of women in especially difficult circumstances (WEDC) cases served since 1999 (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Number of WEDC Cases Served by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), 1995-2004



- ◆ Both the 2004 police and social welfare records show that battering and rape are the most common types of reported VAW cases.

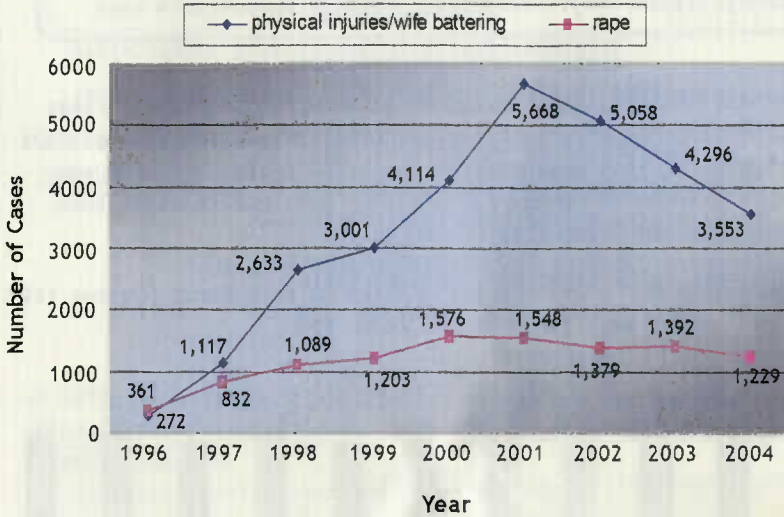
Figure 6. Percent Distribution of Reported VAW Cases, 2004, Philippine National Police (PNP)



* rape includes incestuous rape and attempted rape

- ◆ Rape cases reported to the police department were increasing from 1996 to 2000 but took a downhill trend from 2001 to 2004. For the rape cases reported to the police department, it includes incestuous rape and attempted rape.

Figure 7. Number of Reported Cases on Domestic Violence, 1996-2004, PNP



Violence against women may be any of the following:

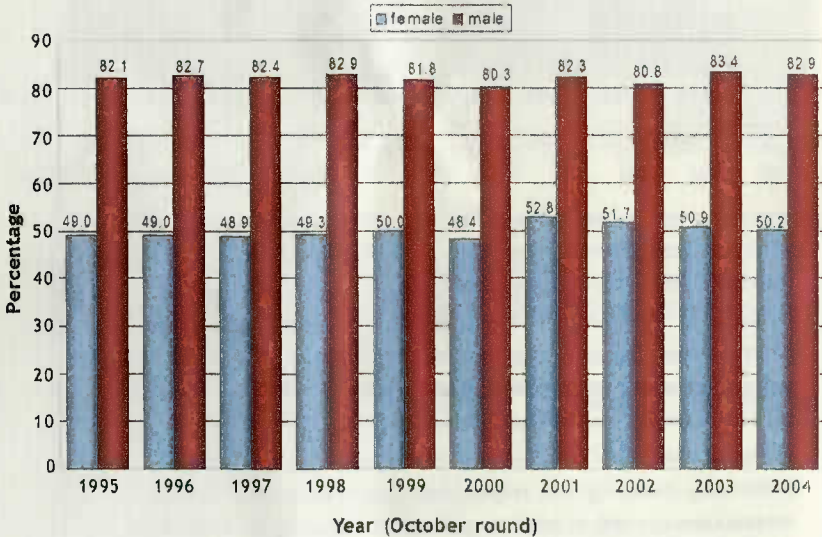
- *physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, incest, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, violence by a person other than one's spouse, and violence related to exploitation;*
- *physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, and trafficking in women and forced prostitution;*
- *physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, such as custodial rape and torture done to women prisoners;*
- *violation of women's human rights in situations of armed conflict, in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy; and*
- *acts of violence such as forced abortion, coercive or forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide, and prenatal sex selection in which the fetus is aborted if tests reveal it to be female.*

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

The participation of Filipino women in the economy has been far ranging, as they have become increasingly as active as men in providing for the needs of their families. They are in all kinds of employment, formal and informal work settings, in public and private offices, factories, on the streets, or in homes.

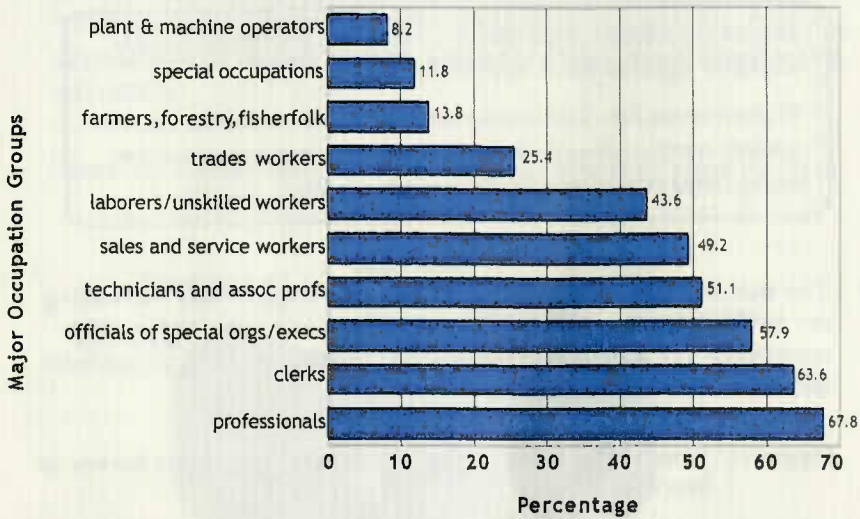
- ◆ **Female labor force participation rate (LFPR) consistently lags behind the male LFPR in the past ten years.** Across 1995 to 2004, female LFPR invariably registered only 50% while male LFPR was steadily above 80% (Figure 8). Highest female LFPR was in 2001, while the lowest was in 2000.

Figure 8. Labor Force Participation Rates for Both Sexes, October 1995-2003 Labor Force Survey (LFS), NSO



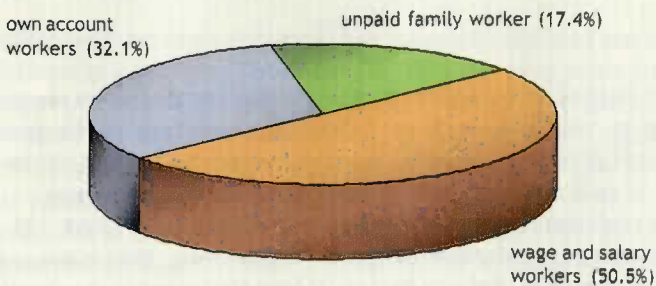
- ◆ **Gender-tracking in employment continues to hold true.** As in previous years, data in 2004 show that Filipino women still dominate occupation groups that may be considered as extensions of their reproductive roles at home such as office management, and professional services while men are still largely located in mechanized and heavy industries (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Proportion of Women by Major Occupation Groups, October 2004 Labor Force Survey (LFS), NSO



- ◆ In 1995, three in every five workers in sales and service trade, and as professional/technical workers were women. In 2000, the figures slightly increased.
- ◆ **Filipino men are likely to be wage-and-salary and own-account workers and Filipino women are likely to be unpaid family workers.** In 2004, 56% of unpaid family workers are women, while 64% of wage and salary workers and 67% of own-account workers are men. Among the employed women, however, 50% are wage and salary workers, 33% are either own-account workers (or self-employed or employee), and 17% are unpaid family workers (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Percent Distribution of Employed Women by Class of Worker, October 2004 LFS, NSO



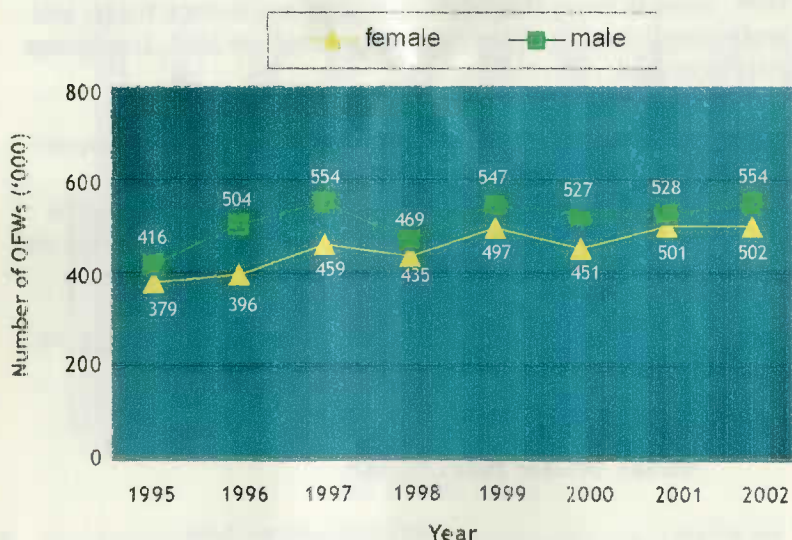
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT

The growing inability of the country's economy to generate enough jobs resulted to migration flow -- to other countries.

Filipino women have been crossing the Asian nations as overseas contract workers, mostly as domestic helpers and entertainers which are very low paying compared to their male counterparts' salaries.

- ◆ **The number of overseas Filipino workers is generally increasing for both sexes.** A survey on overseas Filipinos conducted in 2002 revealed a 31% increase in the number of Filipino overseas workers between 1995 and 2002.

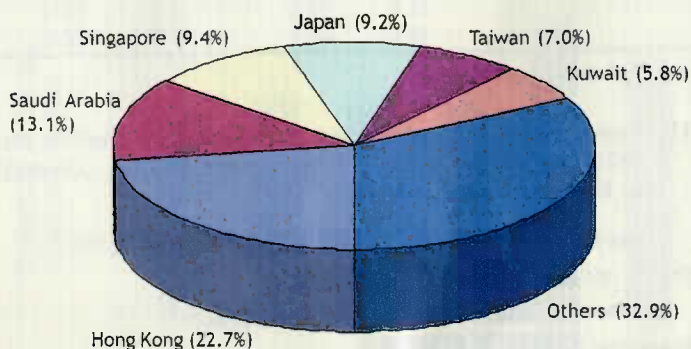
Figure 11. Number of Overseas Filipino Workers, 1995-2002 Survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF), NSO



- ◆ **There is almost an equal level of participation between women and men in overseas work but the context of their participation is very much different.** In 2002, women accounted for 48% of the total number of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) yet their average monthly cash remittance represents only 55% of the PhP 68,133 average monthly cash remittance of Filipino men. This is because Filipino women are likely to end up in jobs that are low-paying and

often unprotected. The 2002 survey showed that 3 in 5 women who went abroad for work are laborers and unskilled workers, while 28.6% of their male counterparts worked in trade and related work and 25.4% worked as plant and machine operators/assemblers. Common destinations of female workers abroad are Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, and Japan.

Figure 12. Percent Distribution of Female Overseas Filipinos by Place of Work, 2002 SOF, NSO



POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

While Filipino women took an unprecedented active role in the political events of the past decade, their participation in politics and governance continues to be limited. They continue to work harder to influence policy and decision-making as legislators, chief executives and top administrators at both the national and local levels.

- ◆ **Filipino women have higher voter turnout rate and are winning in elections but still continue to have little participation in politics and governance.** During the 1998 and 2001 national and local elections, women voters' turnout rates were slightly higher (Table 1). In the same election years, women comprised a meager 20% of the total number of candidates although the proportion of women who won the elections is also around 20%. This means that all of the few women candidates who ran for public office succeeded in securing public posts. Despite the high success rate in elections, Filipino

women still have dismal participation as decision-makers in the public sector. In 2004, the average proportion of women in key elected posts is no more than 17%. In fact, the dismal performance of women in the 2004 elections registered a sharp drop after an increasing trend beginning 1995 (Figure 13).

Table 1. Comparison of Voter Turnout Rate by Sex, 1998 and 2001

Voter turnout rate	1998 Elections (national/local)		2001 Elections (national/local)	
	Female	32.9	43.5	32.3
Male	56.8	69.9	18.5	20.8

Source: Commission on Elections

Figure 13. Proportion of Elected Women in Government Elective Posts, 2004 National and Local Elections (partial data), Commission on Elections (COMELEC)

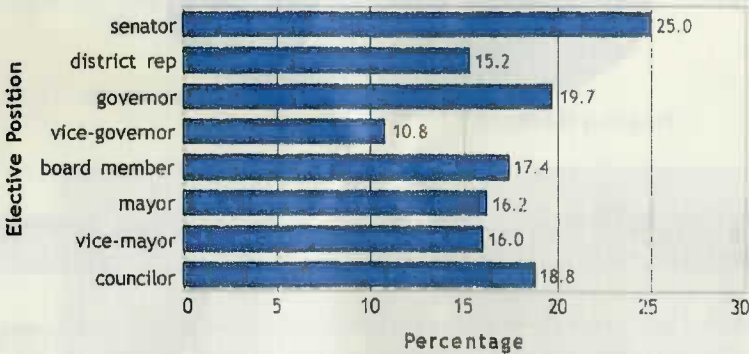
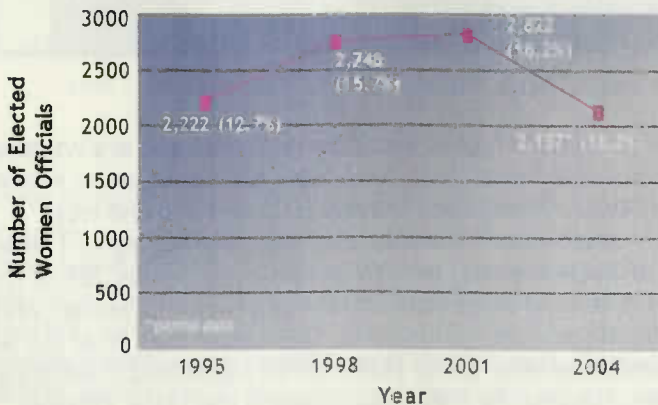
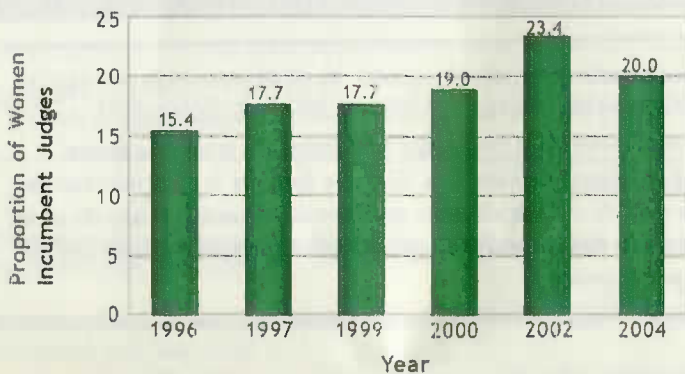


Figure 14. Total Number of Elected Women Officials in Government Elective Posts, 1995-2004 (partial data) National and Local Elections, COMELEC



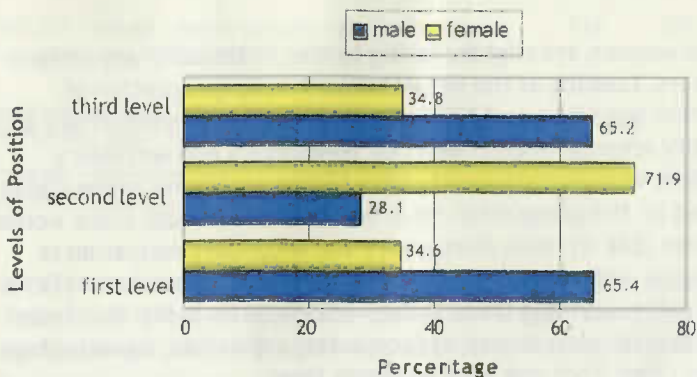
- ◆ **The participation of women in the judiciary is also dismal.** In 1996, only 15.4% of the total incumbent judges were women, although it increased to 17.7% in 1999 and to 23.4% in 2002. Sharia courts, special courts for Muslim law, have remained all-male, except in 1996 when there was 1 woman judge in the Shari'a Circuit Court. As of March 2004, there were four women in the Supreme Court.

Figure 15. Proportion of Women Incumbent Judges in the Philippine Courts, 1996-March 2004, Supreme Court



- ◆ **Even as women dominate the bureaucracy especially the technical or second-level, they seem unable to break the glass ceiling.** Based on most recent data, women make up the majority of the bureaucracy, accounting for 53% of the total 1.45 million government personnel. Women in the bureaucracy are likely to be technical personnel and men are likely to be clerks or managers/executives (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Government Personnel by Levels of Position, 1999, CSC



- ◆ **A women's rights organization has secured party-list representation in Congress.** Civil society/private sector organizations that carry the agenda of marginalized sectors vie for a limited number of seats in the House of Representatives. In 2004, a total of 16 party-lists were given seats in the House of Representatives, one of which is focused on women's concerns, the GABRIELA. Moreover, of the total 24 elected party-list representatives from 16 parties/organizations, 4 are women.

EDUCATION

Compared to other Third World countries, the Philippines ranks very high in terms of literacy and other educational indicators. Education policies are very liberal and expansionary. No marked differences exist in the educational status of Filipino women and men. The issue, however, is the gender-tracking of fields of study and specialization and its onward translation into the world of work where men generally occupy the highest occupational ranks and the highest paying positions.

- ◆ **Literacy rates of both sexes remain above 92%** (Table 2). Differences in simple literacy rates of Filipino women and men still continues to be insignificant.

Table 2. Simple Literacy Rates by Sex, various years

	1990	1994	2000
Female	93.2%	94.0%	92.7%
Male	94.0%	93.7%	92.5%

Source: National Statistics Office

- ◆ **Filipino women are slightly faring better in terms of enrolment indicators.** Looking at the net enrolment ratio (proportion of population aged 6-11 and 12-15 who are enrolled in elementary and secondary schools, respectively) for elementary and secondary education, women consistently have higher enrolment ratios (Table 3). Based on the completion rates for the same period, more women have been able to finish elementary and secondary education in accordance with the required number of years for each level (Table 4). The more alarming trend is the wide disparity in the enrolment ratios between elementary and secondary education, signaling high drop out rates from one level to higher level.

Table 3. Grade School and High School Net Enrolment Ratio by Sex, SY 2002-2003

	Female	Male
Elementary/grade school - net enrolment ratio for school year 2002-2003	84%	83%
Secondary/high school - net enrolment ratio for school year 2002-2003	49%	42%

Source: Department of Education

Table 4. Grade School and High School Completion Rates by Sex, SY 2002-2003

	Female	Male
Elementary/grade school - completion rate by sex for school year 2002-2003	72%	63%
Secondary/high school - completion rate by sex for school year 2002-2003	66%	51%

Source: Department of Education

- ◆ For tertiary enrolment in school years 2001-2002 and 1996-1997, there are more women enrollees in both years although the number decreased by 7% (Table 4).

Table 5. Distribution of College Enrollees by Sex, various years

	Female	Male
Tertiary/college - proportion of enrollees by sex for school year 2001-2002	53%	47%
Tertiary/college - proportion of enrollees by sex for school year 1996-1997	60%	40%

Source: Commission on Higher Education

- ◆ **Enrolment for technical-vocational courses is higher for men** (Table 5). The lower enrolment rate of men in university-based academic institutions possibly has an inverse relationship with the enrolment rate in vocational institutions.

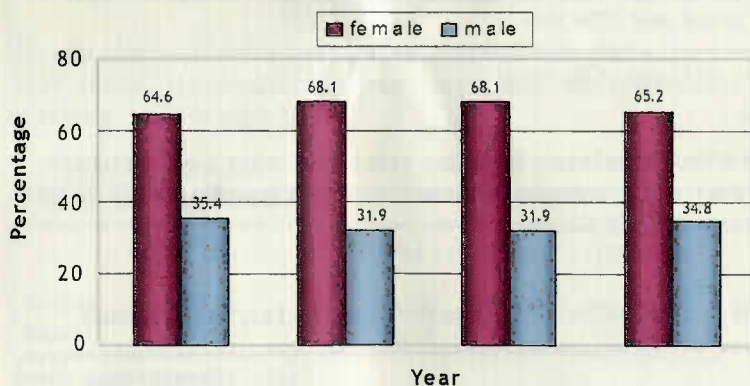
Table 5. Enrolment in School-Based TVET Programs by Sex, SY2000-2001

TVET Programs	Female	Male	% Female
Post Secondary	91,754	137,407	40.0%
Short-Term	19,562	28,918	40.4%
Extension	3,843	4,832	44.3%
TOTAL	115,159	171,157	40.2%

Source: Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

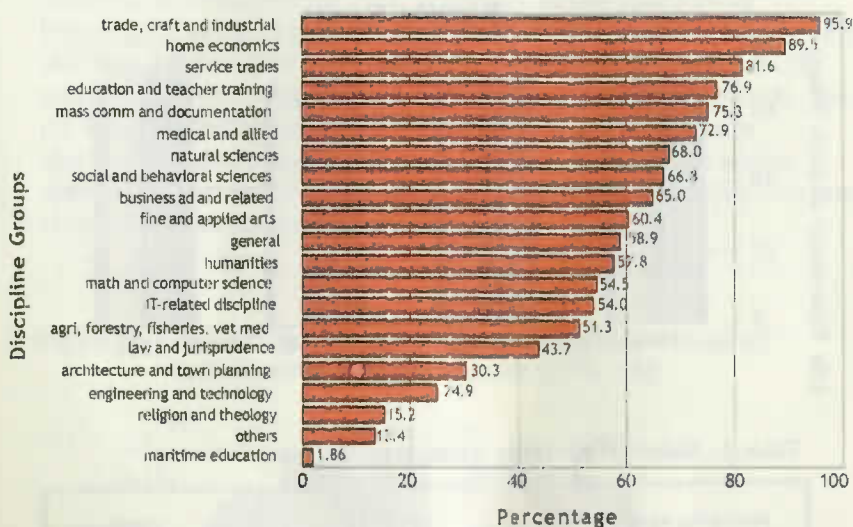
- ◆ **There are considerably more women licensed professionals.** From 2000 to 2003, women accounted for 65% of the total passers in government-sanctioned professional board examinations (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Distribution of Passers in PRC Board Examinations by Sex, 2000-2003, PRC



- ◆ **Gender-tracking in employment can be traced from gender-tracking in education.** Women are likely to take courses in trade and services, home economics, teaching, mass communications, medical and allied courses, among others. Men on the other hand are still concentrated in the engineering and technology, architecture, town planning, and law and jurisprudence (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Proportion of Female Enrollees in Tertiary Schools by Discipline Group, SY 2001-2002, CHED



HEALTH

Women's health encompasses their physical, mental and social well-being throughout their life cycle. It is integrated with concerns about reproductive health, sexuality, gender relations, violence against women, women's human rights, access to economic resources for health maintenance and the overall socio-cultural representation and reproduction of women. The status of women's health impacts not only on the productive capacity of half of the population but also on the health and well-being of the next generation.

◆ **Progress was achieved in improving life expectancy, mortality and maternal mortality.** Life expectancy of both sexes rose by 2.3 years between 1995 and 2003, and female life expectancy remains higher (Figure 19). The country has also reduced mortality for both sexes. The fall in death rates had been greater for females, especially during infancy and at older ages. Maternal mortality rate also decreased from 209 in 1993 to 172 in 1998 (Table 6).

Figure 19. Life Expectancy at Birth of Both Sexes, 1990-2003, NSO

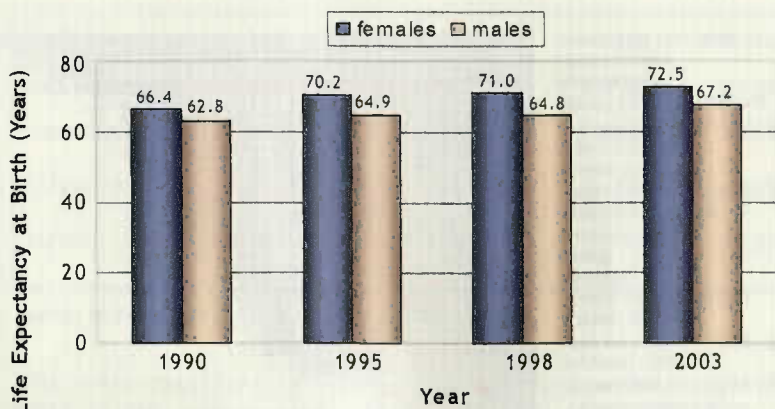


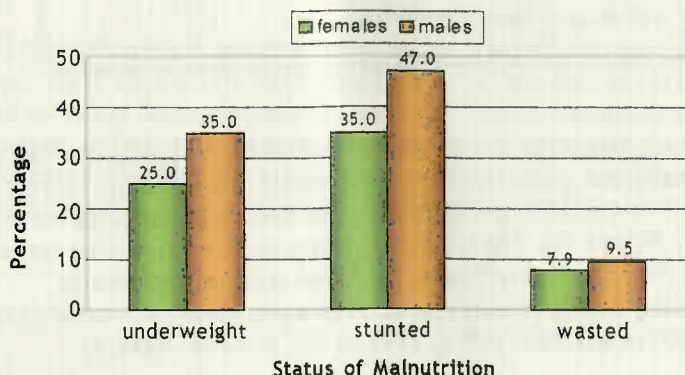
Table 6. Maternal Mortality Rates, various years

Mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	1993	1995	1998
	209	180	172

Source: National Statistics Office

- ◆ **Disparities in the prevalence of malnutrition between sexes tend to vary across age groups.** Children aged 0-5 years had practically the same nutrition status while for children aged 6-10 years, girls had lower malnutrition rates. However, at puberty (11-12 years) through adolescence (13-19), females were more at risk of obesity than males (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Prevalence of Malnutrition of Children 6-10 Years Old by Sex, 1998 National Nutrition Survey, FNRI



- ◆ A recent family planning survey show that only 49% of women used at least one type of contraceptive, and the contraceptive is likely to be a modern method. According to the 2002 Family Planning Survey (FPS), 48.8% of currently married women 15-49 years old have used at least one contraceptive method. Of these, 35.1% used modern methods while 13.8% used the traditional methods. The pill was the leading contraceptive method followed by female sterilization, and calendar/rhythm. Condom, even though widely distributed and easily accessible at health centers, accounted for less than 2% of total usage (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Percent Distribution of Currently Married Women by Contraceptive Method Used, 2002 FPS, NSO

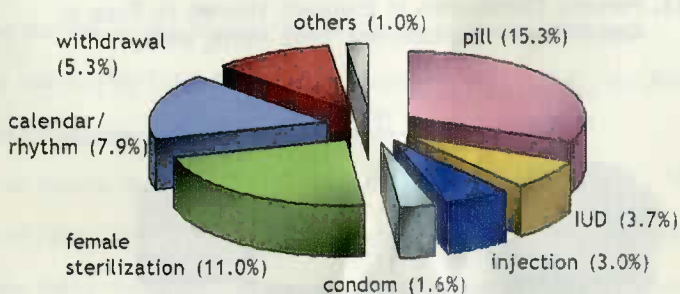
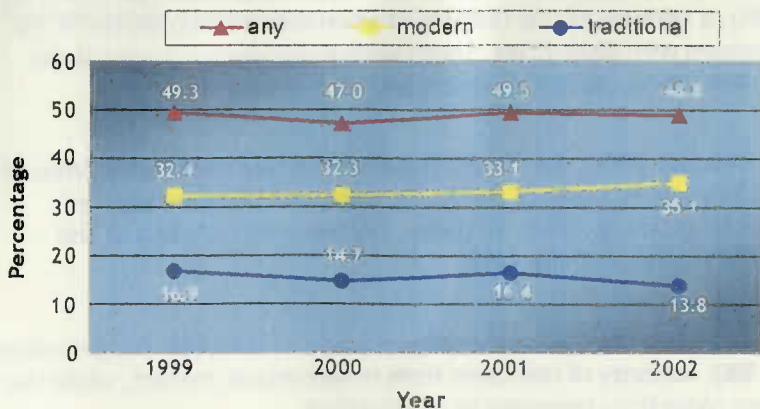
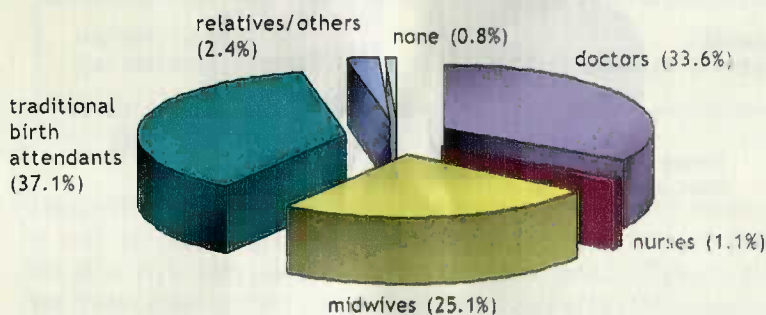


Figure 22. Percentage of Currently Married Women Using Contraceptive Methods, Modern and Traditional, 1999-2002 FPS, NSO



- ◆ **Maternal health services are increasingly being made available to women.** The 2003 NDHS revealed an almost 2% increase in the number of women who sought prenatal care from doctors/nurses/midwives -- from 85.7% in 1998 to 87.6% in 2003.
- ◆ **Nevertheless, there are still health care delivery issues pertaining to pregnant women.** The NDHS showed that 5% of pregnant women did not seek any prenatal care and 6.5% resorted to traditional birth attendants (71.8% of which come from the rural areas). While only a few women were assisted by traditional birth attendants for prenatal care, 1 in 3 pregnant women were assisted by traditional birth attendants for childbirth. In addition, 3 in 5 pregnant women opted to deliver at home (Figure 23)

Figure 23. Percent Distribution of Pregnant Women by Type of Assistance During Delivery, 2003 NDHS, NSO



- ◆ **In the 2000 Census, some 942,098 reportedly suffered from one disability or another, an increase by 2.5% since 1995.** Women with disabilities slightly outnumbered their male peers (50.2% versus 49.8%), a reversal of the 1995 trend when men accounted for 51.1% of persons with disabilities. There were more women among those with low vision, partial blindness and hard of hearing.
- ◆ **As of August 2004, the health department had received a total of 2,139 reported cases of HIV Ab Seropositives since it started collecting data in 1984.** Of these, 792 were women. Out of the total HIV cases, 670 are AIDS.
- ◆ **Sexual contact is the most common mode of HIV/AIDS transmission (84.5%).** Majority of this came from heterosexual contact, while the others came from homosexual relationships.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ROLE OF FILIPINO WOMEN

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