



HIV/AIDS and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections In Cambodia

**Findings from the
2000 Cambodia Demographic
and Health Survey**

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Ministry of Planning

Directorate General for Health
Ministry of Health

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Additional information about the 2000 Cambodia DHS survey may be obtained from the National Institute of Statistics, 513 Monivong Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Telephone: 855 23 364 371; E-mail: sansythan@forum.org.kh). Information about the MEASURE *DHS*+ project and a copy of this report or the final report for the survey may be obtained from ORC Macro, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705 (Telephone: 301-572-0200; Fax: 301-572-0999; E-mail: reports@macroint.com; Internet: www.measuredhs.com).

Introduction

This report on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections in Cambodia was prepared for the *XIV International AIDS Conference* in Barcelona, Spain, July 2002. The text is reprinted from the final report for the 2000 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS).¹

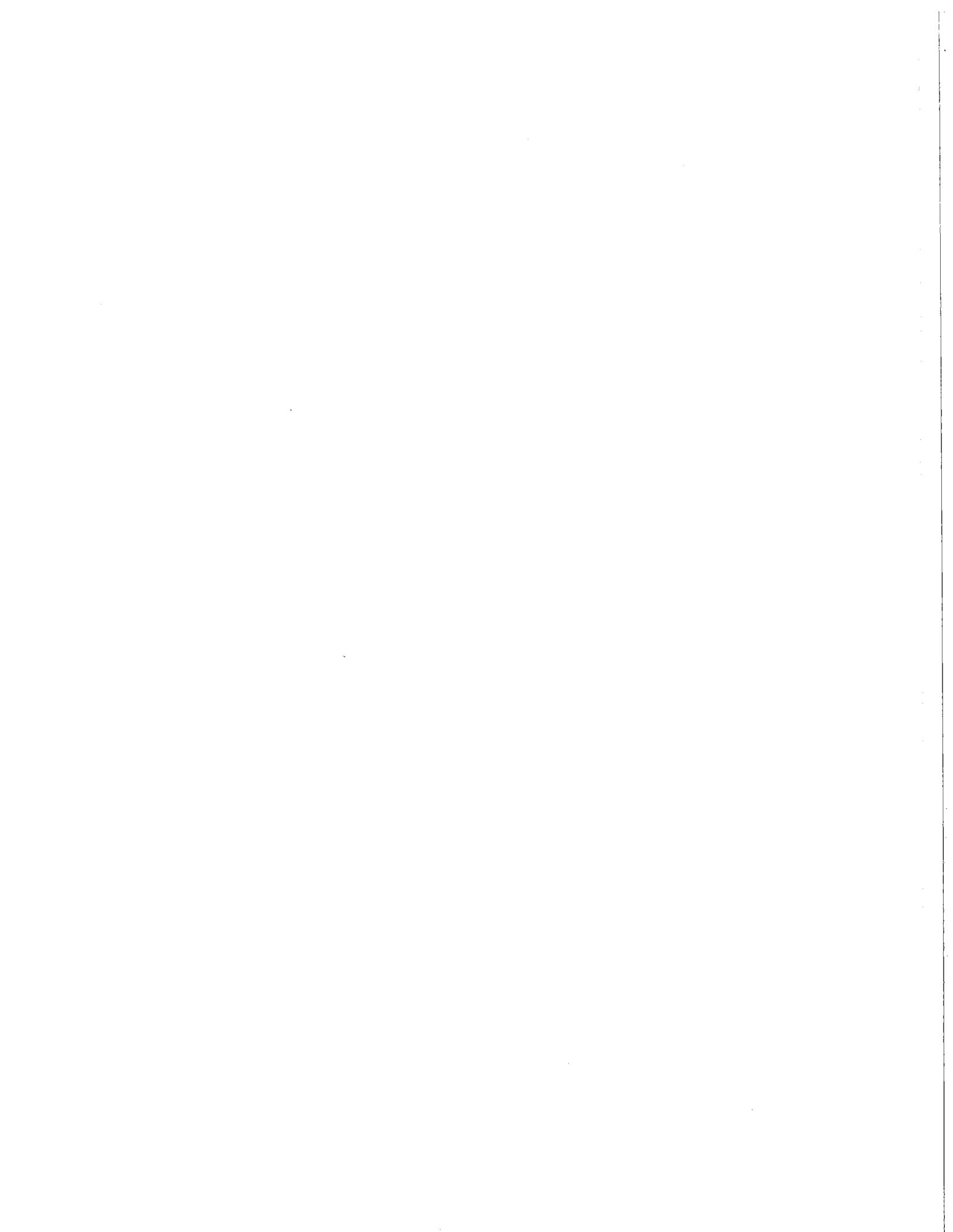
The CDHS 2000 was carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Health (MoH). Fieldwork for the survey took place from February to July 2000. ORC Macro provided technical assistance through the MEASURE DHS+ project. The survey was funded by UNICEF, UNFPA, and USAID.

The primary objective of the CDHS 2000 project was to provide up-to-date information on demographic, health, and social issues in Cambodia. Data were collected on fertility levels, nuptiality, sexual activity, fertility preferences, awareness and use of family planning methods, utilization of health services, breastfeeding practices, nutritional status of women and young children, early childhood mortality and maternal mortality, maternal and child health, women's status, domestic violence, and awareness and behavior regarding HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Two questionnaires based on the MEASURE DHS+ Model "B" Questionnaire were used in the CDHS 2000—a Household Questionnaire and a Women's Questionnaire. The National Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of Health, in consultation with technical institutions and local organizations, modified the questionnaires to include relevant country-specific issues in population, family planning, and health. The agencies consulted included the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the National Institute of Public Health, Helen Keller International, Project Against Domestic Violence, Marie Stopes International, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, WHO, and MEASURE DHS+. The questionnaires were developed in English and then translated into the Khmer language.

A total of 12,236 households were interviewed during the survey. In these households 15,351 women age 15-49 were successfully interviewed. The results of the CDHS 2000 are representative at the national level, by urban-rural residence, and at the regional level. The 23 provinces and Phnom Penh were collapsed into 17 regions or domains. These correspond to 12 individual provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Spueu, Kampong Thom, Kandal, Koh Kong, Phnom Penh, Prey Veang, Pursat, Svay Rieng, and Takeo) and five groups of provinces (Bat Dambang/Pailin, Kampot/Krong Kaeb/Sihanouville, Preah Vihear/Stung Treng/Kratie, Monduliri/Ratanakiri, and Siem Reab/Otdar Meanchey).

¹ National Institute of Statistics, Directorate General for Health [Cambodia] and ORC Macro. 2001. *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2000*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Calverton, Maryland, USA: National Institute of Statistics, Directorate General for Health, and ORC Macro.



Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that weakens the immune system, making the body susceptible to and unable to recover from other diseases.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has become a serious health and development problem in many countries around the world. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS estimated the number of HIV infections worldwide at about 34 million at the end of 1999, of which 25 million are found in sub-Saharan Africa, and approximately 5.5 million are found in South and Southeast Asia (UNAIDS, 2000). Another 19 million people infected with HIV have died from the disease since the beginning of the epidemic—4 million of them were children.

HIV infection was first detected in Cambodia in 1991, and the first AIDS case was officially diagnosed in 1994. Although the presence of the HIV virus was detected in the Cambodian population somewhat later than elsewhere in the world, it had likely been incubating there for several years, and it has spread so rapidly that Cambodia now has the fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia, outpacing its neighbor, Thailand, which previously had the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in Asia (USAID, 2001). At the end of 2000, there were an estimated 169,000 Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS (more than 1 percent of the total population). One estimation shows that there were 16,000 AIDS patients in the country in 1998 (Ministry of Health, 2000).

A widely-cited study of the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Cambodia found a significant prevalence of HIV among three groups studied in five urban areas of Cambodia. Mean prevalence of HIV (HIV-1) among women seeking reproductive health services (likely to be at lowest risk on average) was 5 percent, 13 percent among male police and military personnel, and among female sex workers, 41 percent were found to be HIV-positive (Ryan et al., 1998).

The CDHS 2000 included a series of questions on HIV/AIDS. Female respondents were first asked whether they had heard of AIDS. Several questions were also asked to assess respondents' level of awareness about the disease, their knowledge of the modes of transmission, whether they thought it was possible to prevent AIDS (and if so, how), whether they had used condoms for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, and their attitude toward the disease. Respondents were also asked whether they had discussed the disease with their spouse. Additional questions were included in the CDHS 2000 to assess the level of awareness of STIs other than HIV/AIDS among women. Respondents were also asked whether they had experienced an STI or signs and symptoms of STIs in the last 12 months.

1.1 AIDS AWARENESS

Table 1.1 shows the percentage of women who have heard of AIDS by background characteristics. Knowledge of AIDS is high among Cambodian women (95 percent), even accounting for differences between urban and rural women: 94 percent of rural women have heard of HIV/AIDS, compared with 98 percent of urban women. However, there are three regions in

Cambodia that have a significantly lower level of awareness of AIDS: Banteay Mean Chey (79 percent), Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/Kracheh (69 percent), and Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri (62 percent). Not surprisingly, education improves respondents' knowledge of AIDS, whereas among those with no education, 91 percent have heard of AIDS, and among those with the highest levels of education, 98 percent have heard of AIDS. There is only small variation in knowledge of AIDS by age and marital status, ranging from 93 percent among the youngest age group to 96 percent among the oldest. Those who have never been married are marginally less likely than those who have ever been married to have heard of HIV/AIDS (94 percent and 95 percent, respectively).

1.2 KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

To ascertain the depth of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, respondents who had heard of the infection were asked whether there is anything a person can do to avoid getting infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and if so, what. Table 1.2 shows the percentage of all women who spontaneously mentioned specific ways to avoid contracting the disease. Twenty-four percent of Cambodian women overall have not heard of AIDS or do not know whether it can be avoided; urban-rural differences are substantial here, with only 12 percent of urban women stating that they don't know of AIDS or if it can be avoided, compared with 27 percent of rural women. Two percent of women stated that there is no way to avoid getting AIDS, and 1 percent of women do not know a specific way to avoid contracting AIDS.

Most respondents (66 percent of women) believe that use of condoms is one way to avoid contracting HIV. A sizable proportion of women also mentioned having only one sexual partner and abstaining from sexual relations (36 percent and 23 percent, respectively). Most of the responses to the question of ways in which one can avoid HIV/AIDS revolved around sexual transmission of HIV, and less around intravenous drug use.

It is of interest to note that the youngest group of women (age 15-19) are more likely to cite avoiding injections, blades, transfusions, manicures/pedicures, and sex with a person who uses injectable drugs than any other age group, and they are somewhat less likely to cite abstinence, condom use, and having only one sexual partner than the other age groups. This likely indicates

Table 1.1 Knowledge of AIDS

Percentage of women who have heard of AIDS, by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Has heard of HIV/AIDS	Number
Age		
15-19	93.3	3,618
20-24	94.6	1,982
25-29	94.2	2,118
30-39	95.9	4,362
40-49	95.7	3,272
Current marital status		
Never married	93.5	4,884
Married	95.5	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	95.4	1,396
Residence		
Urban	97.6	2,692
Rural	94.3	12,659
Region		
Banteay Mean Chey	78.6	672
Kampong Cham	91.6	1,961
Kampong Chhnang	98.5	583
Kampong Spueu	94.2	725
Kampong Thum	97.8	777
Kandal	99.8	1,469
Kaoh Kong	96.6	147
Phnom Penh	99.7	1,657
Prey Veang	99.5	1,272
Pousat	98.0	433
Svay Rieng	89.5	688
Takaev	99.8	1,107
Bat Dambang/Krong Pailin	98.8	1,084
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	98.8	999
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/ Kracheh	69.0	582
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	62.2	161
Siem Reap/Otdar Mean Chey	95.5	1,036
Education		
No education	90.7	4,338
Primary	95.9	8,376
Secondary and higher	98.4	2,637
Total	94.8	15,351

Table 1.2. Knowledge of ways to avoid HIV/AIDS

Background characteristic	Ways to avoid HIV/AIDS											Number of women				
	Abstain from sexual relations	Use condoms	Have only one sexual partner	Limit number of partners	Avoid sex with prostitutes	Avoid sex with person who has multiple partners	Avoid sex with homosexuals	Avoid sex with person who uses IV drugs	Avoid transfusions	Avoid injections	Avoid sharing blades		Avoid pedicure/manicure	Other	Does not know specific ways	Does not know if AIDS can be avoided
Age																
15-19	21.6	64.6	31.7	18.9	19.2	9.9	4.9	5.3	15.9	14.3	8.9	14.4	1.5	26.1	2.1	3,618
20-24	22.8	65.6	32.9	16.5	17.0	8.7	2.9	3.3	12.7	11.1	7.3	12.1	0.9	26.1	2.2	1,982
25-29	23.0	66.1	36.8	18.1	19.2	9.5	4.4	4.3	13.2	13.0	8.3	10.7	1.0	24.7	2.2	2,118
30-39	22.6	68.0	37.9	20.5	20.5	10.1	4.3	4.2	12.5	11.5	8.0	10.1	1.6	22.1	2.2	4,362
40-49	24.6	66.3	37.1	19.2	19.6	9.2	4.4	4.1	13.9	11.9	8.1	10.4	1.6	23.1	1.8	3,272
Marital status																
Never married	22.8	64.4	33.3	19.0	18.5	10.0	4.7	5.1	15.0	14.2	9.0	14.4	1.4	26.6	2.1	4,884
Married	22.9	67.3	36.9	19.2	20.0	9.4	4.1	4.1	13.3	11.5	7.9	10.2	1.4	22.6	2.1	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	23.7	66.2	34.0	17.7	18.0	9.5	4.1	3.6	11.4	11.8	7.3	10.1	1.7	25.7	1.9	1,396
Residence																
Urban	28.7	79.6	45.3	31.2	29.6	16.9	10.0	10.4	24.3	24.4	19.6	23.9	2.2	12.1	1.2	2,692
Rural	21.7	63.4	33.4	16.4	17.2	8.1	3.1	3.1	11.4	9.8	5.8	8.9	1.3	26.7	2.3	12,659
Region																
Banteay Mean Chey	21.1	44.4	30.6	5.3	4.7	1.1	1.1	0.3	11.2	4.2	1.1	1.2	0.5	42.8	4.6	672
Kampong Cham	21.7	53.1	26.6	4.7	4.2	0.9	0.0	0.1	2.8	3.2	1.0	1.1	0.4	36.9	3.5	1,961
Kampong Chhnang	35.1	71.4	49.2	13.5	1.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.6	2.8	2.2	2.4	0.5	10.2	4.6	583
Kampong Speu	15.5	31.1	17.7	7.3	8.9	3.9	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	66.7	0.8	725
Kampong Thum	19.6	45.9	25.7	13.9	19.1	11.5	1.4	1.2	12.8	14.5	9.8	9.3	2.4	43.5	1.8	777
Kandal	11.5	77.5	47.5	27.0	22.8	18.5	13.7	8.4	24.5	14.1	8.8	26.2	2.5	10.1	1.2	1,469
Kaoh Kong	6.3	48.8	4.9	2.1	5.7	1.1	0.7	0.6	3.0	1.7	13.6	20.4	1.0	30.1	2.3	147
Phnom Penh	27.8	91.7	58.3	47.6	41.8	28.1	22.8	22.6	29.6	33.3	33.4	37.5	6.0	2.3	0.8	1,657
Prey Veaeang	25.8	86.0	28.6	14.3	10.8	3.2	0.0	0.1	5.8	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.0	9.4	0.6	1,272
Pousat	8.5	60.5	2.8	5.5	25.6	2.1	0.1	0.2	1.4	5.9	1.4	2.3	0.4	14.4	2.7	433
Svay Rieng	12.7	66.3	36.7	18.5	16.3	15.8	0.9	0.3	11.5	16.1	2.2	2.8	0.3	27.1	1.2	688
Takaev	36.2	72.8	42.9	24.1	31.6	13.9	1.0	2.9	19.0	15.4	2.9	8.3	0.1	14.4	2.8	1,107
Bat Dambang/Krong Palin	49.4	81.3	61.8	32.3	36.8	11.8	2.5	9.9	34.7	23.6	19.3	24.0	0.7	15.0	0.7	1,084
Kampong/Krong Kaeb/Krong Preah Sihanouk	11.7	63.9	25.4	15.0	18.9	4.5	0.2	0.2	3.8	3.7	1.5	1.3	0.5	22.7	1.5	999
Preah Vihear/Stueng	8.4	38.9	17.2	12.8	5.1	5.9	0.4	0.0	3.0	6.7	1.2	2.9	0.1	50.3	4.0	582
Traeng/Kracheh	1.4	22.3	7.8	3.8	2.5	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.8	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.5	70.3	2.5	161
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	27.5	68.0	28.9	17.4	26.1	6.7	0.6	0.8	24.9	26.3	13.8	18.9	2.6	25.0	2.8	1,036
Siem Reab/Ordar																
Mean Chey																
Education																
No education	20.5	51.3	27.2	11.8	12.4	4.7	1.8	2.0	7.5	5.4	3.6	5.5	1.0	38.2	2.7	4,338
Primary	22.0	67.9	34.5	18.6	19.4	9.2	3.6	3.4	12.7	11.4	6.9	10.2	1.4	22.1	2.1	8,376
Secondary and higher	29.8	85.8	52.1	32.1	30.7	18.9	10.6	11.3	27.0	27.0	19.7	25.8	2.1	7.4	0.9	2,637
Total	22.9	66.3	35.5	19.0	19.4	9.6	4.3	4.4	13.7	12.4	8.2	11.5	1.4	24.1	2.1	15,351

the lived realities of girls of this age, who are predominantly unmarried (and thus unlikely to be engaging in sexual relations), leaving them less exposed to sexual routes of transmission than other age groups. However, they may still be exposed to nonsexual routes of transmission, particularly in urban areas: more women in this age group are urban than in other age groups, which might contribute to the greater likelihood of this age group to report nonsexual ways to avoid of HIV/AIDS.

Abstaining from sex, using condoms, and limiting the number of sexual partners have been identified as programmatically important ways to avoid the spread of HIV/AIDS. Therefore specific questions on knowledge of these three ways to avoid HIV were asked of the respondents. The extent of respondents' knowledge about these ways can be ascertained from Table 1.3. Sixty-nine percent of all Cambodian women know two or three ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, and another 4 percent know of only one way. Almost three-quarters of respondents (72 percent) mentioned the use of condoms as a specific way to avoid HIV/AIDS, while 68 percent of women mentioned limiting the number of partners, and 60 percent included abstinence as a way to avoid HIV. Residence and education are the two most influential background characteristics on respondents' knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS. Not surprisingly, women residing in urban areas are much more likely than rural residents to know of at least two valid ways (83 percent and 67 percent, respectively). Knowledge of two or three valid ways to avoid HIV/AIDS is also comparatively higher among respondents with at least secondary education (89 percent), whereas only 55 percent of those with no education can cite two or three ways of avoidance.

Table 1.3 Knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS

Percent distribution of women by knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, and percentage of women who know of two specific ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, according to background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Does not know of HIV/AIDS	Knows HIV/AIDS but does not know of a way to avoid it	Knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS		Total	Specific ways to avoid HIV/AIDS			Number
			One way	Two or three ways		Use condoms	Limit number of sexual partners ¹	Abstain from sexual relations	
Age									
15-19	6.7	22.0	4.8	66.5	100.0	70.4	64.9	56.4	3,618
20-24	5.4	23.5	3.4	67.8	100.0	70.1	66.5	57.5	1,982
25-29	5.8	21.7	3.5	68.9	100.0	71.2	67.8	61.2	2,118
30-39	4.1	20.8	3.5	71.6	100.0	73.5	70.6	62.5	4,362
40-49	4.2	21.1	4.2	70.4	100.0	72.2	69.2	61.8	3,272
Marital status									
Never married	6.5	22.8	4.2	66.6	100.0	69.7	65.0	56.5	4,884
Married or living together	4.5	20.7	3.9	70.9	100.0	73.0	69.8	61.9	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	4.6	23.5	3.1	68.8	100.0	70.6	67.1	60.7	1,396
Residence									
Urban	2.4	11.2	3.7	82.7	100.0	84.9	82.0	68.3	2,692
Rural	5.7	23.8	4.0	66.5	100.0	68.9	65.1	58.4	12,659
Region									
Banteay Mean Chey	21.2	27.2	4.1	47.3	100.0	50.4	44.3	45.5	672
Kampong Cham	8.4	33.2	10.9	47.4	100.0	56.5	46.2	40.7	1,961
Kampong Chhnang	1.5	13.3	3.3	81.9	100.0	79.8	81.5	73.1	583
Kampong Spueu	5.8	61.9	1.6	30.6	100.0	31.9	30.0	28.6	725
Kampong Thum	2.2	45.8	2.3	49.7	100.0	50.5	48.8	46.0	777
Kandal	0.2	11.4	3.2	85.3	100.0	87.4	84.5	70.9	1,469
Kaoh Kong	3.4	29.7	4.0	62.8	100.0	63.0	59.9	58.7	147
Phnom Penh	0.3	2.9	4.5	92.4	100.0	95.7	92.4	64.4	1,657
Prey Veaeung	0.5	9.6	0.7	89.2	100.0	89.7	88.9	86.3	1,272
Pousat	2.0	15.9	5.8	76.3	100.0	76.6	71.3	71.0	433
Svay Rieng	10.5	18.4	3.5	67.7	100.0	70.1	67.2	55.9	688
Takaev	0.2	17.0	0.8	81.9	100.0	82.0	81.9	70.7	1,107
Bat Dambang/Krong Pailin	1.1	14.7	0.5	83.6	100.0	83.3	83.1	83.0	1,084
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	1.2	23.8	8.4	66.6	100.0	71.9	61.1	52.2	999
Preah Vihear/Stueng									
Traeng/Kracheh	30.9	23.4	1.0	44.5	100.0	44.5	43.5	39.3	582
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	37.8	36.2	4.7	21.2	100.0	24.6	20.5	12.4	161
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	4.5	23.7	1.5	70.3	100.0	70.6	68.0	67.2	1,036
Education									
No education	9.2	32.5	3.5	54.7	100.0	56.5	53.4	49.7	4,338
Primary	4.1	20.6	4.4	70.8	100.0	73.6	69.4	61.5	8,376
Secondary and higher	1.6	6.8	3.2	88.5	100.0	90.7	87.6	72.9	2,637
Total	5.1	21.6	3.9	69.3	100.0	71.7	68.0	60.1	15,351

Note: Programmatically important ways are abstaining from sex, using condoms, and limiting the number of sexual partners. These three ways are measured from spontaneous and probed responses.

¹ Refers to limiting number of sexual partners, and limiting sex to one partner/staying faithful to one partner.

1.3 KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS-RELATED ISSUES

Respondents who have heard of HIV/AIDS were asked a number of questions on their knowledge of HIV/AIDS-related issues. The information is presented in Table 1.4. Sixty-three percent of women believe that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus. Most women also recognize that the infection can be transmitted from a mother to her child in a variety of ways: during pregnancy (70 percent), during delivery (62 percent), and by breastfeeding (67 percent).

Table 1.4 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS-related issues

Percentage of women by responses to questions on various HIV/AIDS-related issues, according to background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus	Percentage who say that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from mother to child			Percentage who say they know someone personally who has AIDS or died of AIDS	Number
		During pregnancy	During delivery	By breastfeeding		
Age						
15-19	62.1	66.3	57.6	62.1	46.7	3,618
20-24	63.0	66.4	58.9	64.2	45.3	1,982
25-29	62.3	69.8	62.0	68.6	48.0	2,118
30-39	63.6	73.7	64.3	70.5	48.2	4,362
40-49	61.6	71.6	63.3	70.3	49.8	3,272
Marital status						
Never married	62.7	65.9	57.5	62.0	46.8	4,884
Married	62.8	72.3	63.6	70.2	48.3	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	60.7	69.9	61.8	68.0	47.8	1,396
Residence						
Urban	77.4	82.9	76.5	80.3	63.0	2,692
Rural	59.4	67.3	58.3	64.7	44.5	12,659
Region						
Banteay Mean Chey	36.7	50.2	46.8	49.1	31.4	672
Kampong Cham	45.6	61.3	46.9	58.9	18.7	1,961
Kampong Chhnang	50.1	88.7	65.1	81.7	61.4	583
Kampong Spueu	47.7	46.7	38.9	47.1	29.7	725
Kampong Thum	45.7	54.8	39.2	52.1	27.3	777
Kandal	65.7	83.5	72.8	75.3	58.3	1,469
Kaoh Kong	60.3	61.6	59.0	66.9	54.7	147
Phnom Penh	86.3	89.6	84.9	86.1	76.3	1,657
Prey Veang	77.9	76.6	75.7	76.9	63.9	1,272
Pousat	59.2	81.9	72.6	78.7	18.2	433
Svay Rieng	54.1	69.5	55.4	66.0	57.1	688
Takaev	84.1	57.6	56.6	57.5	65.1	1,107
Bat Dambang/ Krong Pailin	81.0	79.1	73.4	78.1	46.2	1,084
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	58.2	79.7	63.2	75.0	52.0	999
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/Kracheh	43.6	49.8	43.3	47.4	25.4	582
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	22.5	22.5	20.5	22.7	13.0	161
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	66.8	67.7	65.8	66.7	55.4	1,036
Education						
No education	49.2	58.1	50.8	55.1	36.7	4,338
Primary	62.8	71.3	61.9	68.5	48.7	8,376
Secondary and higher	83.8	85.4	78.0	84.2	62.8	2,637
Total	62.6	70.0	61.5	67.4	47.8	15,351

Urban women are significantly more likely than rural women to be more knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS-related issues, as are more educated women. The youngest women (age 15-19) are less likely to know about ways that HIV can be transmitted from a mother to her child than women in other age groups, but they are not significantly different from other age groups in their knowledge that healthy-looking people can still be infected with HIV.

Awareness of HIV/AIDS and knowledge of ways to avoid AIDS may be enhanced by a respondent's exposure to individuals who have the AIDS virus or who have died from AIDS. When asked whether respondents knew someone personally who has HIV/AIDS, almost half of all women reported that they know someone personally who either has AIDS or has died of AIDS. More urban women know or knew someone with AIDS than rural women (63 percent compared with 45 percent), and more educated women are also more likely to have known someone with AIDS. Seventy-six percent of women living in Phnom Penh know someone personally who has AIDS or who has died of AIDS.

1.4 SOCIAL ASPECTS OF HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Respondents who have heard of HIV/AIDS were also asked a number of questions on the social aspects of HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation in order to assess their attitude toward people with the AIDS virus. Table 1.5 shows that most Cambodian women are both willing to care for a relative who is sick with AIDS (54 percent) and are supportive of teaching 12- to 14-year-old children how to use condoms (55 percent). Almost a quarter of women think that the HIV-positive status of a person should remain a secret, and 35 percent think that a person with AIDS should be allowed to continue working. Urban women are 28 percent more likely than rural women to care for a sick relative and are 22 percent more likely to think that children age 12-14 should be taught to use condoms. Those with more education are most likely to be willing to care for a relative, to think that a person should be allowed to continue working, and to think that children age 12-14 should be taught to use condoms.

Table 1.5 Social aspects of HIV/AIDS

Percentage of women who have heard of AIDS by responses to questions on various social aspects of HIV/AIDS, according to background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage who think that the HIV-positive status of a person should remain a secret	Percentage who are willing to care for a relative sick with AIDS	Percentage who think that a person with AIDS should be allowed to continue working	Percentage who think that children age 12-14 should be taught to use condoms	Number
Age					
15-19	26.2	53.4	36.2	51.3	3,618
20-24	22.1	55.2	37.5	52.2	1,982
25-29	19.1	53.0	36.1	55.9	2,118
30-39	22.7	55.0	34.2	55.5	4,362
40-49	21.4	53.6	33.4	57.0	3,272
Current marital status					
Never married	24.8	54.0	37.1	51.4	4,884
Married	21.8	54.1	34.2	56.0	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	20.7	54.3	34.6	55.1	1,396
Residence					
Urban	27.5	65.9	45.5	63.8	2,692
Rural	21.6	51.6	33.0	52.5	12,659
Region					
Banteay Mean Chey	5.7	20.3	8.5	40.7	672
Kampong Cham	3.4	41.7	29.0	45.4	1,961
Kampong Chhnang	32.8	33.5	15.2	51.4	583
Kampong Spueu	2.7	67.7	35.6	35.1	725
Kampong Thum	27.8	62.5	34.5	61.3	777
Kandal	47.2	64.2	39.2	54.0	1,469
Kaoh Kong	12.0	36.8	32.0	21.5	147
Phnom Penh	25.7	76.2	43.4	61.0	1,657
Prey Veang	22.2	66.9	58.9	76.2	1,272
Pousat	22.7	59.0	19.3	59.0	433
Svay Rieng	19.4	44.7	20.2	52.1	688
Takaev	24.0	78.0	60.4	54.6	1,107
Bat Dambang/Krong Pailin	46.3	70.4	60.0	62.2	1,084
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	17.8	38.2	23.3	69.2	999
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/ Kracheh	12.0	32.7	21.0	40.4	582
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	3.3	20.7	14.7	21.7	161
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	26.8	26.1	14.3	49.3	1,036
Education					
No education	17.8	40.9	24.3	45.1	4,338
Primary	24.5	54.7	35.3	56.0	8,376
Secondary and higher	25.1	73.8	52.6	64.9	2,637
Total	22.7	54.1	35.2	54.5	15,351

1.5 DISCUSSION OF HIV/AIDS IN THE MEDIA OR IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

To determine the level of acceptance of the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS through the media and other conduits of information, the CDHS 2000 asked women whether it was acceptable to disseminate HIV/AIDS information through various media or in various locations. The results are presented in Table 1.6.

Overall, 90 percent or more of women approved of the dissemination of HIV/AIDS information in the following media or locations: on the radio or television, in the newspaper, in secondary school, in the workplace, at a health facility, and in a community setting. Primary

Table 1.6 Discussion of HIV/AIDS

Percentage of women who think discussion of HIV/AIDS is acceptable in specific media or in specific locations, by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage who think discussion of HIV/AIDS is acceptable:									Number
	On radio	On TV	In newspaper	In primary school	In secondary school	In the workplace	In a temple	In a health facility	In a community setting	
Current age										
15-19	92.1	91.9	88.7	75.1	90.2	91.5	68.5	91.8	90.8	3,618
20-29	93.1	92.6	87.9	73.7	90.3	92.3	67.8	92.7	91.5	1,982
25-29	93.2	92.6	88.9	76.6	91.6	92.8	74.0	92.8	91.6	2,118
30-39	94.7	94.4	92.3	80.0	93.2	94.7	74.5	94.5	93.5	4,362
40-49	94.8	94.7	91.6	81.0	93.8	94.6	73.3	94.2	93.2	3,272
Marital status										
Never married	92.3	92.0	88.2	74.2	90.3	91.8	67.5	92.2	91.1	4,884
Married	94.4	94.1	91.3	79.5	92.8	94.1	73.6	93.8	92.7	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	93.8	93.5	91.0	79.4	92.8	94.5	75.8	94.3	93.5	1,396
Residence										
Urban	97.0	97.1	96.0	85.5	96.3	96.8	78.4	97.0	96.3	2,692
Rural	93.0	92.6	89.0	76.2	91.1	92.6	70.5	92.6	91.4	12,659
Region										
Banteay Mean Chey	76.9	75.9	70.5	55.2	76.0	75.5	61.1	68.6	67.2	672
Kampong Cham	88.6	86.7	77.6	49.2	84.9	87.8	43.5	88.2	86.3	1,961
Kampong Chhnang	98.0	98.1	97.9	92.0	98.0	97.4	71.9	98.3	95.3	583
Kampong Spueu	93.5	93.7	93.4	85.4	93.7	93.5	79.4	93.8	93.5	725
Kampong Thum	96.0	96.1	95.8	95.7	96.2	96.2	92.8	95.9	95.6	777
Kandal	99.7	99.7	98.6	97.4	99.7	99.7	79.3	99.4	99.2	1,469
Kaoh Kong	94.3	95.9	94.6	77.4	96.1	95.7	43.5	95.7	89.3	147
Phnom Penh	99.5	99.5	99.3	93.8	99.2	99.1	81.3	99.5	99.2	1,657
Prey Veaeang	99.2	98.8	81.7	77.8	98.6	98.6	71.4	98.2	97.6	1,272
Pousat	95.5	95.8	95.8	86.0	96.6	96.8	70.8	97.1	96.2	433
Svay Rieng	88.5	87.1	86.9	84.6	86.6	88.0	84.8	88.1	86.7	688
Takaev	99.3	99.6	99.3	49.4	98.6	99.4	74.7	99.5	98.7	1,107
Bat Dambang/ Krong Pailin	98.3	98.3	98.0	67.1	83.3	96.4	62.0	97.9	94.6	1,084
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	97.0	97.6	96.9	96.0	96.9	97.0	88.1	97.9	97.1	999
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/Kracheh	67.1	66.0	65.2	62.8	68.2	68.1	58.3	68.5	68.1	582
Mondol Kiri/ Rotanak Kiri	59.7	59.5	58.9	57.2	58.0	59.0	54.0	58.3	58.0	161
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	94.4	94.8	94.7	94.2	94.8	94.7	84.7	94.8	94.6	1,036
Education										
No education	88.8	88.2	83.7	72.1	87.1	88.5	65.2	88.2	87.0	4,338
Primary	94.9	94.7	91.6	78.8	93.0	94.5	73.4	94.5	93.3	8,376
Secondary and higher	97.9	97.9	96.7	84.0	97.0	97.9	78.1	97.9	97.5	2,637
Total	93.7	93.4	90.3	77.8	92.0	93.4	71.9	93.3	92.3	15,351

schools and temples received lower levels of approval for dissemination of HIV/AIDS information, although the majority of women did approve of these locations (78 percent and 72 percent, respectively).

Urban women were more likely than rural women to approve of every information outlet, and approval is positively associated with education: women with secondary or higher education are significantly more likely to approve of all outlets of HIV/AIDS information dissemination than those with no education.

1.6 TESTING FOR AIDS

CDHS respondents were asked whether they had ever been tested for HIV or the AIDS virus. If they said that they had not, respondents were then asked whether they would like to be tested. If they said that they would like to be tested, respondents were asked whether they knew of a specific location where they could go to get the test for the AIDS virus.

Table 1.7 shows that 3 percent of women reported that they had already been tested for HIV and most of them (2 percent) were tested in the public medical sector. Urban women were more than four times more likely to have been tested than rural women. Few women with no education report that they have had an HIV test—less than 1 percent—while women with secondary or higher education are by far the most likely to avail themselves of an HIV test (8 percent).

The overall desire or demand to be tested includes those who responded that they have not yet been tested but would like to be tested (unmet demand) and those who have already been tested (met demand). Columns 4 and 5 of Table 1.7 can be added together to estimate the total demand for HIV testing. Looking at the table in this fashion, one observes that 28 percent of women have a desire to be tested, and that only 3 percent of women have been able to meet that demand, indicating that only 10 percent of demand has been met.

Using the same approach and incorporating background characteristics, one observes that whereas 23 percent of urban women's demand for HIV testing is met, only 6 percent of rural women's demand is met. The scenario is similar when comparing women's access to HIV testing services by education: among women with no education, a mere 4 percent of demand is met, and among women with secondary education, 21 percent of demand is met. Demand for HIV testing is high in Pousat (50 percent), Kampong Spueu (56 percent), and Kampong Chhnang (60 percent); no more than 2 percent of women in any of these regions have been tested. This points clearly to a need to make these services available to Cambodian women, particularly those women who have the least access.

Overall, only 16 percent of women who have not been tested for HIV know of a place for testing. Eleven percent of rural women and 37 percent of urban women know of a source, indicating a not-unexpected urban bias in access to testing services. Those with the most education are also the most aware of sources for obtaining the HIV test.

Table 1.7. Testing for AIDS

Percent distribution of women by status of HIV/AIDS testing, source of test if tested, preference for testing, and knowledge of source of test, by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Has been tested for HIV/AIDS				Has not been tested for HIV/AIDS, desires HIV/AIDS test				Has not been tested for HIV/AIDS, knows source for testing				Number of women not tested	
	In public medical sector	In private medical sector	In other place	All	Yes, wants test	Does not want test	Does not know AIDS/undecided about test	Total not tested	Public medical sector	Private medical sector	Other places	Does not know source/does not know AIDS		
														Total
Age														
15-19	1.3	0.2	0.3	1.9	21.4	65.3	11.4	98.1	12.4	0.3	0.3	87.0	3,550	
20-24	2.3	0.9	0.3	3.5	24.9	62.7	8.9	96.5	14.0	0.9	0.4	84.6	1,913	
25-29	2.1	1.3	0.3	3.7	25.6	61.1	9.6	96.3	15.2	0.3	0.4	84.1	2,039	
30-39	2.3	0.5	0.2	3.1	27.0	62.7	7.2	96.9	15.7	1.3	0.3	82.6	4,228	
40-49	1.7	0.4	0.2	2.3	25.0	64.8	8.0	97.7	15.5	0.4	0.1	84.0	3,198	
Marital status														
Never married	1.4	0.3	0.3	2.0	21.6	65.4	11.0	98.0	13.5	0.4	0.3	85.8	4,787	
Married	2.1	0.7	0.3	3.1	26.7	62.3	7.9	96.9	15.3	0.8	0.3	83.5	8,791	
Divorced, separated, widowed	2.7	0.6	0.1	3.4	23.4	65.2	8.0	96.6	13.7	0.9	0.1	85.4	1,349	
Residence														
Urban	5.7	1.9	0.5	8.1	27.5	59.9	4.5	91.9	34.6	1.9	0.8	62.7	2,474	
Rural	1.1	0.3	0.2	1.6	24.2	64.3	9.8	98.4	10.6	0.4	0.2	88.7	12,453	
Region														
Banteay Mean Chey	0.9	0.5	0.0	1.5	9.0	66.1	23.4	98.5	2.3	0.7	0.0	97.0	662	
Kampong Cham	0.6	0.4	0.2	1.3	20.5	65.9	12.4	98.7	8.6	0.5	0.0	90.9	1,935	
Kampong Chhnang	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.0	58.8	37.5	2.6	99.0	19.7	0.2	0.1	80.0	577	
Kampong Speu	0.4	0.0	1.0	1.4	54.9	33.7	10.0	98.6	3.5	0.0	0.0	96.5	715	
Kampong Thum	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	19.0	77.5	3.4	99.9	7.2	0.1	0.0	92.7	776	
Kandal	2.8	0.4	0.0	3.3	24.0	69.7	3.1	96.7	6.1	0.7	0.0	93.2	1,421	
Kaoh Kong	0.9	0.2	0.4	1.5	23.6	68.4	6.6	98.5	4.1	0.2	0.0	95.7	145	
Phnom Penh	8.8	3.5	1.5	13.8	30.1	54.8	1.4	86.2	38.2	2.6	2.7	56.4	1,429	
Prey Veang	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.8	89.6	7.3	99.8	19.2	0.1	0.1	80.5	1,269	
Pousat	1.6	0.3	0.0	2.0	48.1	45.7	4.2	98.0	21.3	0.0	0.1	78.6	424	
Svay Rieng	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.6	16.8	65.2	16.5	98.4	8.0	0.0	0.0	92.0	677	
Takaev	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.8	30.7	58.7	9.8	99.2	10.5	0.0	0.0	89.5	1,098	
Bat Dambang/Krong Pailin Kampong/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	0.9	0.3	0.0	1.3	13.3	81.3	4.2	98.7	23.3	0.7	0.0	75.9	1,070	
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/ Kracheh	2.0	0.5	0.0	2.6	30.2	65.0	2.2	97.4	14.6	0.4	0.0	84.9	973	
Mondul Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	1.2	0.0	0.1	1.4	18.6	46.2	33.7	98.6	6.9	0.1	0.0	93.1	573	
Siem Reap/Otdar Mean Chey	2.1	0.2	0.2	2.4	15.2	27.9	54.5	97.6	7.2	0.1	0.0	92.7	157	
Education														
No education	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.8	20.8	64.7	13.7	99.2	7.1	0.3	0.1	92.5	4,304	
Primary	1.6	0.3	0.3	2.2	25.5	64.3	8.0	97.8	12.8	0.6	0.2	86.4	8,191	
Secondary and higher	5.2	2.1	0.6	7.8	29.4	59.1	3.7	92.2	33.9	1.4	1.0	63.7	2,432	
Total	1.9	0.6	0.3	2.8	24.8	63.5	8.9	97.2	14.6	0.7	0.3	84.4	14,927	

have had sexual intercourse by their knowledge of condoms. Most women (92 percent) know about condoms. The high levels of knowledge of condoms vary little by age or marital status; however, urban women are more likely to know about condoms than rural women (98 percent compared with 90 percent), and knowledge varies positively with education (86 percent of women with no education versus 98 percent of women with secondary education). Among women who know about condoms, 37 percent also know a source for condoms, and 36 percent could get a condom herself if they needed to. Overall, 65 percent of women who know about condoms do not have access to condoms, since they do not know a place to get one or because they could not get one if they needed to.

Among women who know condoms, few actually use them: 1 percent used a condom during last sex, and less than 0.5 percent reported that they use condoms for family planning but did not use them during last sex.

Sexual intercourse with nonmarital partners carries a higher risk of HIV/AIDS transmission because such relationships are usually more temporary and are often associated with exposure to multiple sex partners. AIDS prevention programs therefore often emphasize the practice of safe sex, especially among nonmarital or noncohabiting partners. Table 1.13 presents the percentage of women who had sexual intercourse in the 12 months before the survey and who used a condom during their last sexual intercourse by type of partner and background characteristics.

The use of condoms during last sexual intercourse with a spouse or any partner is negligible among women (1 percent) and there is almost no difference according to the type of partner. Use of condoms varies marginally but consistently with age, with more women using condoms at older ages, and urban women are three times as likely to use condoms as rural women. Women with the highest levels of education use condoms the most, and those with no education use them the least.

Table 1.13 Use of condoms by type of partner

Percentage of women who have had sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey who used a condom during last sexual intercourse with spouse and with any partner, by selected background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Spouse		Any partner	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Age				
15-19	0.8	441	1.0	443
20-24	0.7	1,000	1.0	1,011
25-29	1.0	1,575	1.3	1,582
30-39	1.1	3,500	1.2	3,511
40-49	1.2	2,382	1.2	2,385
Marital status				
Never married	NA	NA	*	6
Married	1.1	8,774	1.1	8,796
Divorced, separated, widowed	0.0	123	0.9	131
Residence				
Urban	2.4	1,400	2.7	1,412
Rural	0.8	7,497	0.9	7,521
Region				
Banteay Mean Chey	1.0	447	1.2	448
Kampong Cham	1.1	1,140	1.5	1,154
Kampong Chhnang	0.7	329	0.7	332
Kampong Spueu	0.2	458	0.2	460
Kampong Thum	0.6	440	0.6	440
Kandal	0.8	825	0.8	825
Kaoh Kong	0.6	99	0.6	99
Phnom Penh	5.0	814	5.5	821
Prey Veaeng	0.0	753	0.0	753
Pousat	0.3	266	0.3	266
Svay Rieng	0.4	416	0.4	417
Takaev	0.7	677	0.7	677
Bat Dambang/ Krong Pailin	0.8	621	0.8	622
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	0.4	587	0.4	590
Preah Vihear/Stueng				
Traeng/Kracheh	1.1	358	1.1	358
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	0.6	112	1.8	114
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	0.5	556	0.5	557
Education				
No education	0.2	2,724	0.2	2,731
Primary	1.0	4,877	1.3	4,899
Secondary and higher	2.9	1,296	2.8	1,302
Total	1.0	8,897	1.2	8,933

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

1.7 KNOWLEDGE OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Sexually transmitted infections are important predisposing factors of HIV/AIDS transmission. As such, the presence of STIs in a population increases the likelihood of the occurrence of HIV. AIDS prevention programs should therefore also address the prevention and treatment of STIs.

Table 1.8 shows the knowledge among women of signs and symptoms of STIs in a man or a woman. Sixty-one percent of women in Cambodia have no knowledge of STIs (other than HIV/AIDS).

Table 1.8 Knowledge of signs and symptoms of STIs

Percentage of women who know of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (apart from AIDS) and percent distribution of women who know of STIs by knowledge of signs and symptoms associated with STIs in a man or a woman, by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	No knowledge of STIs	Number of women	Knowledge of specific symptoms for men among women who know STIs				Knowledge of specific symptoms for women among women who know STIs				Total women who know STIs
			Does not know any	Knows at least one	Knows two or more	Total	Does not know any	Knows at least one	Knows two or more	Total	
Current age											
15-19	77.0	3,618	25.3	15.7	58.9	100.0	32.2	11.0	56.7	100.0	833
20-29	69.1	1,982	18.8	18.5	62.3	100.0	21.8	14.9	62.9	100.0	613
25-29	58.6	2,118	13.2	14.8	71.7	100.0	16.9	12.1	70.8	100.0	877
30-39	52.9	4,362	14.2	14.0	71.5	100.0	17.3	12.2	70.4	100.0	2,053
40-49	50.9	3,272	10.5	13.1	76.2	100.0	14.2	11.4	74.3	100.0	1,605
Marital status											
Never married	76.5	4,884	22.3	17.0	60.7	100.0	28.0	11.8	59.9	100.0	1,147
Married	53.7	9,071	13.5	14.1	72.2	100.0	17.0	12.6	70.4	100.0	4,198
Divorced, separated, widowed	54.4	1,396	12.8	13.3	73.2	100.0	15.8	9.4	74.1	100.0	636
Residence											
Urban	53.0	2,692	16.5	14.0	69.5	100.0	19.6	10.3	70.1	100.0	1,265
Rural	62.7	12,659	14.7	14.7	70.3	100.0	18.8	12.6	68.5	100.0	4,716
Region											
Banteay Mean Chey	71.4	672	42.9	9.9	47.1	100.0	32.1	5.7	62.2	100.0	192
Kampong Cham	74.0	1,961	25.4	8.9	63.3	100.0	15.4	8.9	74.7	100.0	510
Kampong Chhnang	52.8	583	43.0	14.5	42.5	100.0	58.7	10.6	30.7	100.0	275
Kampong Spueu	90.5	725	35.9	16.3	47.8	100.0	42.6	23.0	34.4	100.0	69
Kampong Thum	79.8	777	34.8	19.5	45.7	100.0	36.4	17.9	45.7	100.0	157
Kandal	63.3	1,469	7.5	11.4	81.1	100.0	15.3	2.4	82.0	100.0	539
Kaoh Kong	75.5	147	15.5	17.0	67.5	100.0	15.1	11.4	73.5	100.0	36
Phnom Penh	56.0	1,657	15.2	10.1	74.7	100.0	17.0	7.8	75.1	100.0	729
Prey Veang	29.2	1,272	0.5	30.9	68.6	100.0	0.5	28.5	71.0	100.0	901
Pousat	34.1	433	24.7	36.3	39.0	100.0	44.4	31.7	23.8	100.0	285
Svay Rieng	59.0	688	24.4	18.1	57.2	100.0	33.8	17.2	48.8	100.0	282
Takaev	61.2	1,107	2.5	2.2	95.3	100.0	2.7	2.2	95.1	100.0	429
Bat Dambang/ Krong Pailin	57.1	1,084	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	465
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	71.3	999	8.3	10.3	81.3	100.0	12.0	9.3	78.7	100.0	287
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/Kracheh	74.9	582	22.2	30.6	47.2	100.0	23.2	29.8	46.6	100.0	146
Mondol Kiri/ Rotanak Kiri	82.4	161	6.9	64.1	29.0	100.0	18.4	49.5	32.1	100.0	28
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	37.1	1,036	18.9	7.6	73.5	100.0	34.1	4.6	61.4	100.0	652
Education											
No education	66.3	4,338	13.2	16.0	70.4	100.0	17.1	13.6	69.3	100.0	1,460
Primary	60.9	8,376	15.5	15.3	69.1	100.0	19.9	12.8	67.1	100.0	3,274
Secondary and higher	52.7	2,637	16.2	11.1	72.4	100.0	18.7	8.3	72.7	100.0	1,247
Total	61.0	15,351	15.1	14.6	70.1	100.0	19.0	12.1	68.8	100.0	5,981

Note: Total includes women with missing information or knowledge of signs of STIs

Among women who know of STIs, 70 percent know two or more specific symptoms of an STI in a male or in a female. Fifteen percent of women who know of STIs could not cite any symptoms in a male, and 15 percent could cite only one. Women appear even less knowledgeable about female symptoms of STI: 19 percent did not know of any symptoms, and 12 percent knew only one. Lack of knowledge of STIs is especially high among those age 15-19 (77 percent do not know of STIs), those who have never married (77 percent), those with no education (66 percent), and rural residents (63 percent).

1.8 SELF-REPORTING OF STIS OR SYMPTOMS OF STIS AND RESULTING ACTIONS TAKEN

The CDHS 2000 asked respondents who have ever had sex whether they had a sexually transmitted infection in the last 12 months. They were also asked whether they had experienced a genital sore or ulcer in the last 12 months. Although these symptoms have shown to be useful in identifying STIs in men, they are less useful in women, since symptoms of STIs in women are not often easily recognized. Furthermore, the reporting of STIs and recognized STI symptoms is subject to a downward bias (i.e., underreporting) due to the social stigma attached to STIs.

Table 1.9 shows that 2 percent of women reported an STI in the past 12 months, and 3 percent reported a sore or ulcer, for a total of 4 percent of women reporting either an STI or a sore or ulcer in the past 12 months. Urban women are more likely than rural women to report an STI or a symptom thereof. The pattern of reporting by education is unusual in that women with primary education are the least likely to report an STI or symptom (3 percent). Four percent of women with no education reported an STI or symptom in the past 12 months, and 5 percent of women with secondary education reported an STI or symptom. There is no consistent pattern of reporting by age, and those who are married are most susceptible to contracting an STI. Self-reporting of STIs or symptoms is high in Kaoh Kong (8 percent), Kampong Cham (8 percent), and Phnom Penh (7 percent).

Table 1.9 Self-reporting of sexually transmitted infections and STI symptoms

Percentage of women who have ever had sex by self-reporting of STI and/or associated symptoms in the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage with STI	Percentage with sore or ulcer	Percentage with STI or sore/ulcer	Number
Age				
15-19	1.2	2.9	2.9	468
20-24	2.5	2.3	3.6	1,105
25-29	1.5	2.1	2.8	1,773
30-39	2.3	3.3	3.9	4,031
40-49	1.7	2.8	3.4	3,108
Marital status				
Never married	*	*	*	18
Married	2.0	3.0	3.7	9,071
Divorced, separated, widowed	1.5	1.6	2.1	1,396
Residence				
Urban	3.4	2.9	4.2	1,672
Rural	1.7	2.8	3.4	8,813
Region				
Banteay Mean Chey	3.3	1.8	3.7	494
Kampong Cham	2.4	6.1	7.8	1,403
Kampong Chhnang	0.6	2.3	2.3	390
Kampong Spueu	0.7	1.2	1.2	552
Kampong Thum	0.3	0.7	0.7	515
Kandal	0.3	0.7	0.7	974
Kaoh Kong	6.5	6.7	8.1	116
Phnom Penh	4.4	5.1	6.8	970
Prey Veaeng	0.2	0.3	0.3	895
Pousat	0.3	1.2	1.2	312
Svay Rieng	2.3	2.9	3.6	500
Takaev	1.7	3.3	3.6	764
Bat Dambang/ Krong Pailin	4.3	4.3	5.2	707
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	2.0	1.8	2.6	687
Preah Vihear/Stueng				
Traeng/Kracheh	0.8	0.8	1.1	403
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	0.8	2.0	2.3	130
Siem Reab/Otdar				
Mean Chey	2.8	3.3	3.5	674
Education				
No education	2.2	3.2	4.0	3,311
Primary	1.6	2.5	2.9	5,727
Secondary and higher	2.7	3.1	4.5	1,447
Total	2.0	2.8	3.5	10,485

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

Important factors in checking the spread of STIs are the treatment and prevention behaviors taken by those who have experienced an STI. Table 1.10 describes the actions taken by women who reported having an STI or a sore or ulcer in the past 12 months. Sixty-one percent of women sought advice or treatment, and almost as many informed all of their partners (57 percent); urban women were more likely than rural women to do either. A little more than one-third of women took medicine for their condition, and 27 percent ceased sexual activity. Only 14 percent of women used condoms as a result of their condition. Again, urban women were much more likely than rural women to take medicines, stop sexual activity, or use condoms. Those with more education were more likely to take action than those with less education, whether the action was in terms of seeking advice or treatment, informing partners, or taking preventative or curative steps. Those who were

Table 1.10 STIs and behavior

Among women who reported an STI or a sore or ulcer in the last 12 months, the percentage who sought advice or treatment, the percentage who informed their partner(s), and the percentage who took different action to avoid infecting their partner(s), by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Sought advice/treatment	Informed all partners	Informed some partners	Action taken:					None	Number of women with STI/sore/ulcer
				Stopped sexual activity	Used condom	Took medicine	Other	None/partner already infected		
Current age										
15-29	49.6	56.1	8.6	22.0	11.5	33.6	12.6	2.4	55.7	102
30-39	59.9	54.9	14.2	28.0	14.0	34.8	11.3	2.8	53.7	159
40-49	72.3	60.9	10.9	30.0	14.7	40.7	9.8	3.0	49.3	105
Marital status										
Never married	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Married	61.5	60.9	12.1	28.0	14.7	38.3	12.3	2.7	50.7	336
Divorced, separated, widowed	51.6	14.1	5.4	12.7	0.0	12.6	0.0	2.9	80.0	30
Residence										
Urban	73.5	63.2	4.5	46.2	21.8	54.5	20.7	4.5	32.7	70
Rural	57.6	55.5	13.4	22.3	11.6	31.9	9.0	2.3	57.7	297
Education										
No education	51.4	46.8	15.2	15.6	8.1	26.6	4.8	1.5	68.6	134
Primary	63.1	59.7	11.7	28.1	13.3	37.0	7.6	2.9	47.8	168
Secondary and higher	73.1	70.7	4.4	46.9	25.3	53.8	33.9	4.9	34.3	65
Total	60.6	57.0	11.7	26.9	13.5	36.2	11.2	2.8	53.0	367

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

divorced, separated, or widowed were much less likely than married women to take preventive or curative action for an STI or a sore or ulcer; however, these results should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of women in this category.

1.9 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

An important component of AIDS prevention programs is the promotion of safe sex, including encouraging monogamous relationships, discouraging multiple sexual partners, and promoting the use of condoms. Information on the sexual behavior of individuals is important in designing and monitoring intervention programs to control the spread of the disease since heterosexual contact promotes the transmission of HIV/AIDS. The CDHS 2000 included a series of questions to determine the proportion of currently married and unmarried women who had sexual intercourse with one or more nonmarital partners in the last 12 months. Table 1.11 shows the percent distribution of currently married and unmarried women by the number of persons with whom they had sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey by background characteristics.

It is clear from this table that women's sexual activity occurs primarily within the confines of marriage. Women who are unmarried report almost zero sexual activity, with the exception of Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri, where 4 percent of unmarried women report having had a partner in the past 12 months. Women who are married are more likely to report not having had sex at all than to report having had sex with someone other than their spouse (3 percent compared with 0 percent).

Table 1.11 Number of sexual partners of married and unmarried women

Percent distribution of currently married women and unmarried women by number of persons with whom they had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months (including spouse for married women), by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Married women					Unmarried women					Number of unmarried women
	Number of sexual partners including spouse				Total	Number of married women	Number of sexual partners			Total	
	0	1	2+	Does not know/missing			0	1+	Does not know/missing		
Current age											
15-19	1.4	98.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	438	99.9	0.1	0.0	100.0	3,180
20-29	2.6	97.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	1,009	99.2	0.5	0.3	100.0	973
25-29	3.0	96.7	0.0	0.3	100.0	1,612	99.5	0.5	0.0	100.0	505
30-39	2.4	97.2	0.0	0.4	100.0	3,561	99.5	0.1	0.4	100.0	801
40-49	3.7	96.1	0.1	0.1	100.0	2,451	99.9	0.0	0.1	100.0	821
Marital status											
Never married	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	99.8	0.1	0.0	100.0	4,884
Married	2.8	96.9	0.0	0.3	100.0	9,071	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Divorced, separated, widowed	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	99.3	0.4	0.3	100.0	1,396
Residence											
Urban	1.9	97.6	0.0	0.5	100.0	1,413	99.2	0.7	0.1	100.0	1,279
Rural	3.0	96.7	0.0	0.2	100.0	7,658	99.9	0.0	0.1	100.0	5,001
Region											
Banteay Mean Chey	1.6	98.2	0.0	0.2	100.0	451	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	221
Kampong Cham	5.3	93.6	0.0	1.0	100.0	1,212	99.7	0.0	0.3	100.0	748
Kampong Chhnang	2.2	97.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	326	98.9	0.9	0.2	100.0	257
Kampong Spueu	2.8	97.0	0.0	0.2	100.0	469	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	256
Kampong Thum	1.2	98.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	435	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	342
Kandal	2.0	97.8	0.0	0.2	100.0	832	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	637
Kaoh Kong	5.9	93.5	0.0	0.5	100.0	105	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	42
Phnom Penh	1.5	98.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	822	99.3	0.5	0.2	100.0	835
Prey Veang	3.1	96.7	0.2	0.0	100.0	769	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	502
Pousat	5.3	94.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	276	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	157
Svay Rieng	4.4	94.9	0.0	0.7	100.0	436	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	253
Takaev	1.2	98.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	676	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	431
Bat Dambang/ Krong Pailin	2.1	97.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	627	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	457
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/ Krong Preah Sihanouk	1.8	97.4	0.0	0.8	100.0	586	99.4	0.6	0.0	100.0	413
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/Kracheh	1.3	98.3	0.0	0.4	100.0	358	99.7	0.0	0.3	100.0	224
Mondol Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	2.3	97.2	0.5	0.0	100.0	113	96.3	3.7	0.0	100.0	47
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	4.6	95.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	578	99.8	0.0	0.2	100.0	458
Education											
No education	3.7	95.9	0.0	0.4	100.0	2,798	99.5	0.2	0.3	100.0	1,540
Primary	2.6	97.2	0.0	0.2	100.0	4,960	99.7	0.2	0.0	100.0	3,416
Secondary and higher	2.0	97.7	0.0	0.3	100.0	1,314	99.9	0.1	0.0	100.0	1,324
Total	2.8	96.9	0.0	0.3	100.0	9,071	99.7	0.2	0.1	100.0	6,280

NA = Not applicable

It would be programmatically informative to collect information on sexual behavior from men as well as women in the future. HIV/AIDS is estimated by the Ministry of Health (2000) to affect 1 out of every 80 people in Cambodia, and information on sexual behavior from women alone is insufficient to determine the pathways by which HIV travels in this country.

1.10 KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONDOMS

Condom knowledge and use play an important role in preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Table 1.12 gives a breakdown of female respondents who know of HIV/AIDS and who

Table 1.12. Knowledge and use of male condoms

Among women who know of HIV/AIDS and who have had sexual intercourse, percentage who know about condoms, and among those who know about condoms, percentage who know a source for condoms and who could get condoms themselves, percentage who used a condom during last sex, and percentage who use condoms for family planning but did not use during last sex, by background characteristics, Cambodia 2000

Background characteristic	Knows about condoms	Number of women who know HIV/AIDS and have had sex	Percentage who know:				Percentage who used condoms:				Number of women who know HIV/AIDS/sex/know condom	
			Public medical source		Private medical source		Percentage who don't know source for condoms or can't get one themselves	During last sex		For family planning but did not use during last sex		
			Public medical source	Other source	Age who know no source	Percentage who could get one themselves		Last month	Earlier			
Age												
15-19	91.0	431	23.7	21.6	66.4	33.2	66.8	1.0	0.1	0.3	392	
20-24	90.4	1,051	23.7	25.3	61.8	36.2	63.8	1.0	0.0	0.4	950	
25-29	91.4	1,675	25.7	26.1	60.3	38.5	61.6	1.2	0.1	0.0	1,532	
30-39	91.9	3,875	23.7	24.8	61.9	37.0	63.0	0.9	0.3	0.4	3,561	
40-49	91.9	2,977	20.4	22.6	66.9	31.9	68.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	2,737	
Marital status												
Never married	*	16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15	
Married	91.9	8,662	23.4	24.6	62.6	36.2	63.8	1.0	0.2	0.3	7,958	
Divorced, separated, widowed	90.0	1,331	21.0	21.7	68.0	30.5	69.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	1,199	
Residence												
Urban	97.9	1,635	26.3	47.2	43.3	55.8	44.3	2.1	0.3	0.5	1,601	
Rural	90.4	8,375	22.4	19.4	67.5	31.2	68.9	0.7	0.2	0.2	7,571	
Region												
Banteay Mean Chey	86.0	415	15.1	3.3	70.2	26.7	73.3	1.2	0.3	0.5	357	
Kampong Cham	81.2	1,294	14.3	9.2	80.7	18.9	81.1	1.4	0.2	0.0	1,050	
Kampong Chhnang	90.3	385	35.7	18.7	59.4	37.6	62.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	348	
Kampong Speu	85.9	520	8.6	10.1	87.8	10.8	89.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	447	
Kampong Thum	88.9	508	11.5	9.9	85.5	14.5	85.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	452	
Kandal	98.5	972	7.4	19.5	77.7	21.6	78.4	0.7	0.0	0.2	957	
Kaoh Kong	86.3	113	9.0	12.1	81.3	18.7	81.3	0.6	0.0	0.4	97	
Phnom Penh	99.7	970	13.5	70.7	26.3	73.0	27.0	3.5	1.2	0.6	967	
Prey Veang	96.0	894	55.7	27.0	33.7	65.4	34.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	858	
Pousat	94.9	308	21.0	8.6	71.6	25.2	74.8	0.3	0.0	0.4	293	
Svay Rieng	94.9	470	12.1	5.5	84.7	15.1	85.1	0.3	0.0	0.5	445	
Takaev	97.3	762	35.3	37.4	52.8	44.6	55.6	0.5	0.2	0.3	742	
Bat Dambang/Krong Pailin	95.4	699	40.8	42.5	49.7	49.2	50.8	0.7	0.0	0.0	667	
Kampot/Krong Kaeb/												
Krong Preah Sihanouk	95.2	680	14.9	10.2	79.6	19.4	80.9	0.4	0.0	1.0	647	
Preah Vihear/Stueng Traeng/												
Kracheh	86.8	285	24.0	5.2	72.1	22.9	77.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	248	
Mondul Kiri/Rotanak Kiri	66.3	83	30.9	9.4	62.3	35.6	64.4	2.9	0.8	0.4	55	
Siem Reab/Otdar Mean Chey	83.4	651	34.3	28.5	58.6	40.8	59.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	543	
Education												
No education	85.6	3,033	18.4	16.5	73.2	25.9	74.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,598	
Primary	93.2	5,544	23.2	5.1	64.9	33.7	66.3	1.0	0.2	0.3	5,167	
Secondary and higher	98.3	1,432	31.2	46.9	39.1	59.4	40.6	2.3	0.4	0.5	1,407	
Total	91.6	10,010	23.1	24.3	63.3	35.5	64.6	0.9	0.2	0.3	9,172	

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

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