Youth and Covid-19 in Thailand: Socioeconomic impact of the crisis

22.9.2020
Survey population and method

- Series of online surveys led by the United Nations sub-group on young people
- Partners: Institute for Population and Social Research (Mahidol University), Children and Youth Council of Thailand (CYCT), etc.
- Survey distributed through formal and informal channels
- Surveys generated convenience samples of specific groups of specific parts of the youth population in Thailand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey population</th>
<th>Time of data collection</th>
<th>Age of respondents</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General youth</td>
<td>28 March – 10 April</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>6771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic minority and stateless youth</td>
<td>4 May – 1 June</td>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>1005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenage mothers</td>
<td>11 June – 12 July</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth from the three southernmost provinces</td>
<td>11 June – 4 July</td>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth with disabilities</td>
<td>12 June – 24 July</td>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General youth</td>
<td>11 June – 12 July</td>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concerns of young people during the Covid-19 crisis
General youth (March/April): Aspects that young people were most worried about

- Loneliness due to lack of interaction with family members: 31.24%
- Employment opportunity: 34.57%
- Loss of personal income: 43.08%
- Stress caused from being quarantined in their houses: 46.27%
- Opportunity to further their education: 47.82%
- Risks for themselves/those closed to them to be infected with the virus: 52.55%
- Education and examinations: 53.98%
- Financial difficulties of the family: 80.74%

(n=6771)
Top 3 concerns of young people during the Covid-19 crisis

(Youth from the South: n=214; Teenage mother: n=90; Ethnic minority and stateless youth: n=1005)
Education/learning during the Covid-19 crisis
General youth (March/April):
Activities that young people spend most of their free time on during the lockdown

Other ex. Learning online, Preparing for an...
Write a journey, novel 519
Play music 536
Painting, drawing (art) 501
Play sport 673
Volunteer in the community/online 176
Hangout with friends 156

Do some study 1252
Read 1955
Calls with friends 693
Work part times 892
Do household chores 3253
Watch TV 2055

Play games 2230
Watch online movies/youtube 5027
Facebook/twitter/social media 4808
Surf internet 4751

(n=6771)
Equipment for online learning among ethnic minority and stateless youth

- Internet connection (slow)
- Smartphone
- Internet connection (fast)
- Computer/Laptop
- Microphone/headset
- Tablet
- Printer
- Scanner
- Webcam

Percent of respondents: 0 20 40 60

(n=836)
Unemployment and financial difficulties during the Covid-19 crisis
Unemployment rate among young people who were not full-time students before the Covid-19 crisis (before, during [March-May] and after the height of the crisis in Thailand)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General youth</th>
<th>Disabled youth</th>
<th>Youth from South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Teenage mothers: Unemployment after height of crisis 36% higher than before)

(Ethnic minority and stateless youth who were employed before the Covid-19 crisis: 68% reported that they had less or no work, were laid off or received less payment during the crisis)

(General youth: n=201; Youth with disabilities: n=121; Youth from the South: n=77)
Covid-19-related emergency support received by youth and their families

(General youth: n=797; Youth with disabilities: n=148; Youth from the South: n=203; Teenage mother: n=89; Ethnic minority and stateless youth: n=1005)
Mental health during the Covid-19 crisis
Mental health symptoms experienced by youth within 7 days prior to the survey

- Felt nervous or anxious
- Felt depressed
- Felt lonely
- Had a physical reaction

(Youth from the South: n=214; Teenage mother: n=88; Ethnic minority and stateless youth: n=1005)
Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) during the Covid-19 crisis
Perception of young people aged 18 years and older regarding whether the Covid-19 crisis complicated youth’s access to SRH services, by sexual orientation and whether they had sex during the Covid-19 crisis

(Hetero/Had sex: n=69; LGBT/Had sex: n=77; Not identified/Had sex: n=18; Hetero/All: n=132; LGBT/All: n=138; Not identified/All: n=43)
Perceived health insurance coverage of young people
Perceived health insurance coverage of young people

Teenage mothers:

30% reported to have no health insurance (or not knowing about it) for neither themselves nor their children.

(General youth: n=815; Youth with disabilities: n=182; Youth from the South: n=213; Ethnic minority and stateless youth: n=1005)
Summary of key findings

• Young people were most concerned about risk of infection, education and financial difficulties/employment during the pandemic.

• Not all young people were prepared to engage in online learning when physical access to educational institutions was limited.

• Youth unemployment increased sharply during March to May. After lifting of the lockdown restrictions, the situation improved, but youth unemployment remains at an increased level, in particular in the three southernmost provinces.

• Young people’s mental health was negatively affected by the crisis.
Summary of key findings

- Many young people struggled to access sexual and reproductive health services and practiced unprotected sex during the pandemic.
- There were disparities in young people’s access to regular social support and emergency support during the Covid-19 crisis.
- Access to general healthcare services was difficult for some young people.
- The variety of problems faced by youth calls for a multidimensional response