

Chapter 3 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS

Traditionally in the Cambodian Custom, a head of a normal household is the person generally acknowledged as such by other members of the household. The head is normally an oldest male or female in the members, a main income earner, an owner-occupier of the house or a person who manages the affairs of the household.

3.1 AGE COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS

3.1.1 Household Heads by Sex and Age

Table 3.1 provides the number and percentage of household heads by age group starting at 10 and over by sex. Figures 3.1 shows population pyramids of household heads in 1998 and 2008, respectively. The majority of household heads falls in the age group of 35-39 in both censuses. In 2008, this higher proportion was followed by the age group 40-44 45-49 and 25-29. As for the 1998 census results, the highest proportion was gained by the age group of 35-39, but was followed by 30-34, 25-29 and 40-44. The proportion of male household heads is higher than that of female household heads at the age groups of 35-39, 40-44, 45-49 and 25-29 in 1998. The difference between urban and rural in age-sex composition of household heads was analyzed, here. Figure 3.2 presents population pyramids of household heads in urban and rural areas in 2008. The proportion of household heads aged 65 and over, was 7.9 percent for male household heads and 14.1 percent for female household heads in 2008. In urban areas the percentages were 7.1 for male heads and 13.4 for female heads. In rural areas they were 8.1 for male heads and 14.3 for female heads (see Annex Table 11).

Table 3.1 Normal Household Heads by Sex and Age Group: 1998 and 2008

Age Group	Number of Normal Household Heads						Percent of Normal Household Heads					
	1998			2008			1998			2008		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
10 and over	2,162,086	1,606,303	555,783	2,817,637	2,096,518	721,119	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
10-14	2,675	1,220	1,455	5,289	2,457	2,832	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
15 - 19	22,337	12,271	10,066	22,425	11,637	10,788	1.0	0.8	1.8	0.8	0.6	1.5
20 - 24	111,443	88,762	22,681	138,292	105,390	32,902	5.2	5.5	4.1	4.9	5.0	4.6
25 - 29	287,566	240,636	46,930	336,000	279,480	56,520	13.3	15.0	8.4	11.9	13.3	7.8
30 - 34	329,684	269,986	59,698	279,531	231,416	48,115	15.2	16.8	10.7	9.9	11.0	6.7
35 - 39	334,331	264,683	69,648	398,419	324,945	73,474	15.5	16.5	12.5	14.1	15.5	10.2
40 - 44	241,090	171,554	69,536	372,245	290,415	81,830	11.2	10.7	12.5	13.2	13.9	11.3
45 - 49	223,624	155,421	68,203	351,276	262,236	89,040	10.3	9.7	12.3	12.5	12.5	12.3
50 - 54	178,200	119,104	59,096	261,725	174,145	87,580	8.2	7.4	10.6	9.3	8.3	12.1
55 - 59	149,596	98,601	50,995	223,339	145,535	77,804	6.9	6.1	9.2	7.9	6.9	10.8
60 - 64	114,464	74,297	40,167	160,850	102,288	58,562	5.3	4.6	7.2	5.7	4.9	8.1
65 - 69	85,032	55,970	29,062	120,375	75,772	44,603	3.9	3.5	5.2	4.3	3.6	6.2
70 - 74	47,993	31,595	16,398	77,798	47,895	29,903	2.2	2.0	3.0	2.8	2.3	4.1
75 and over	34,051	22,203	11,848	70,073	42,907	27,166	1.6	1.4	2.1	2.5	2.0	3.8
Mean Age	42.5	41.4	45.6	44.4	43.2	47.8	—	—	—	—	—	—

Figure 3.1 Population Pyramid of Household Heads, 1998 and 2008

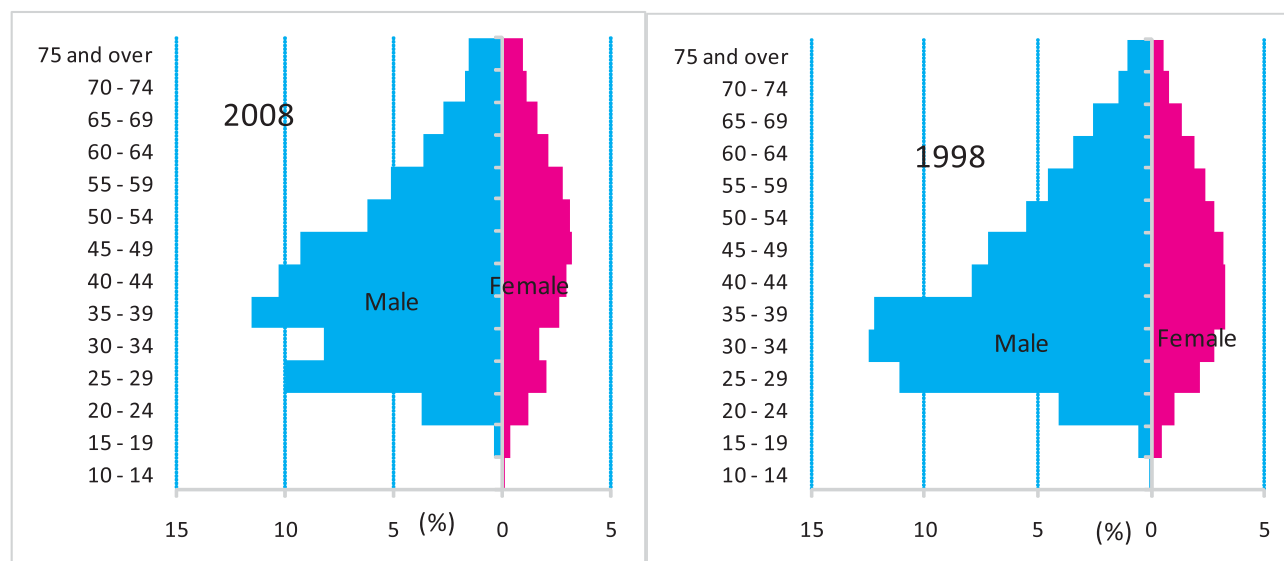
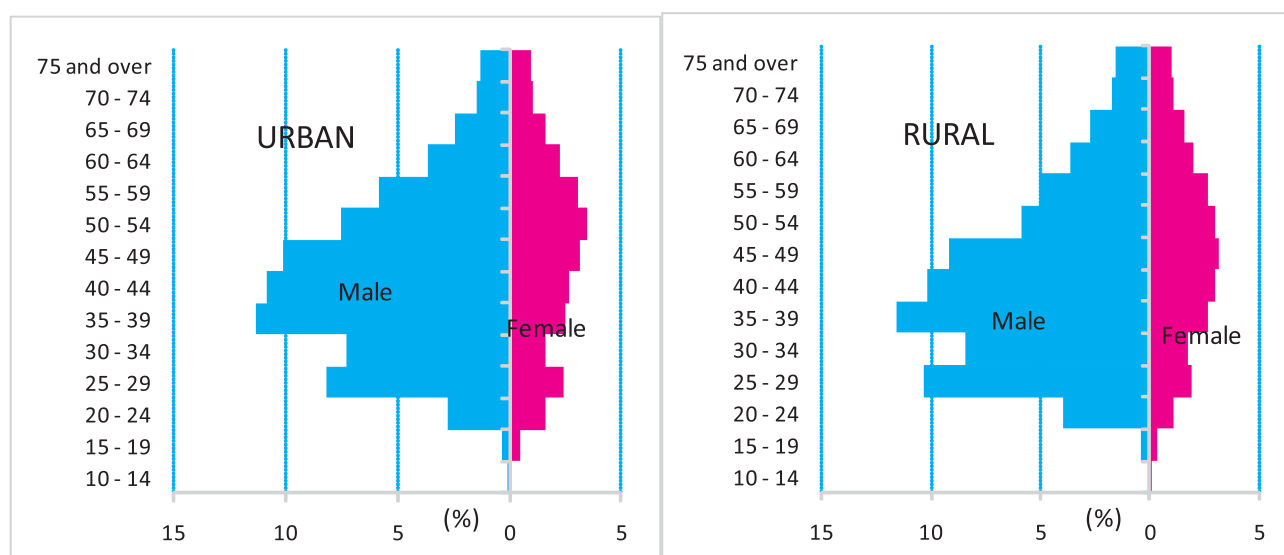


Figure 3.2 Population Pyramid of Household Heads: Urban/Rural, 2008



According to Figure 3.1 and 3.2, it is clear that male-headed households are in majority regardless of urban/rural areas or the heads' age groups, based on the results of both censuses.

3.1.2 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex

The mean age of household heads by sex was calculated by taking the middle of each age group, multiplying it with the number of household head and dividing the summation by the total number of households. At the national level the mean age of household heads as of 2008 is older than that of 1998, 44.4 years old versus 42.5 years old. The mean age of male household heads is younger than that of female ones in both censuses (43.2 for male heads and 47.9 for female heads in 2008, see Table 3.1). The mean ages of household heads of both sexes and of male household heads in urban

area are older than those in rural area. The mean age of female household heads in urban area is younger than that in rural area (see Annex Table 12).

Table 3.2 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex by Household Size, 2008

(unit: years)

Household Size	Both Sexes	Males	Females
Total	44.4	43.2	47.9
1	49.8	41.2	53.7
2	46.8	45.3	48.6
3	41.3	39.3	45.9
4	41.7	40.5	45.8
5	43.8	43.0	47.1
6	45.5	45.0	48.0
7	46.7	46.4	48.8
8	47.8	47.5	49.5
9	48.7	48.5	50.1
10 or more	50.2	50.0	51.3

Table 3.2 shows the mean age of household heads by sex and household size. It should be noted that the mean age of male household heads is younger than that of female household heads regardless of household size. The mean age of one-person female household head is 53.7 years old. This may be related to widowhood in empty nest.

3.1.3 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Province

Table 3.3 shows mean age of household heads by sex by province. The mean age of male heads ranges from 39.8 years old in Mondul Kiri and Otdar Meanchey to 44.9 years old in Kandal. The mean age of female heads ranges from 43.2 years old in Pailin to 52.5 years old in Kandal. The mean age of male heads was younger than that for female heads. The largest difference in mean ages between male and female heads was found in Kampong Chhnang (8.5), followed by Kep (8.2).

Table 3.3 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex: Province, 2008

(unit = years)

Province	Male-head	Female-head	Difference (F-M)	Province	Male-head	Female-head	Difference (F-M)
Cambodia	43.2	47.9	4.7				
Banteay Mean Chey	42.4	46.8	4.3	Preah Vihear	40.3	45.6	5.3
Battambang	43.5	48.0	4.5	Prey Veng	43.7	45.9	2.2
Kampong Cham	44.0	48.4	4.4	Pursat	42.5	49.7	7.3
Kampong Chhnang	42.8	51.3	8.5	Ratanak Kiri	41.6	45.8	4.2
Kampong Speu	42.3	47.9	5.6	Siem Reab	41.0	46.5	5.5
Kampong Thom	42.7	46.3	3.6	Preah Sihanouk	42.4	45.4	3.0
Kampot	42.7	48.5	5.8	Stung Treng	42.3	46.5	4.3
Kandal	44.9	52.5	7.6	Svay Rieng	43.3	48.1	4.8
Koh Kong	41.9	43.4	1.5	Takeo	44.0	47.8	3.7
Kratie	42.6	48.5	5.9	Otdar Meanchey	39.8	43.7	3.9
Mondul Kiri	39.8	46.0	6.2	Kep	42.4	50.6	8.2
Phnom Penh	44.5	47.2	2.7	Pailin	40.7	43.2	2.5

Note: Difference(F-M) means the difference of mean age between male-heads and female heads.

Annex Table 12 presents the mean age of household heads by household size by sex by province. Among 23 provinces and one municipality of Phnom Penh, the mean age of male heads is lower than that for female heads in twelve provinces.

3.1.4 Headship Rates by Sex and Age Group

The “age-specific headship rates”, which is the proportion of normal household heads in a given age group to the total number of persons in the same age group is shown in Table 3.4. These rates are primarily used in the preparation of household projections, which serves as an input to estimate future housing needs and other socio-economic facilities (Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, *General Report of the Population and Housing Census*, 2005).

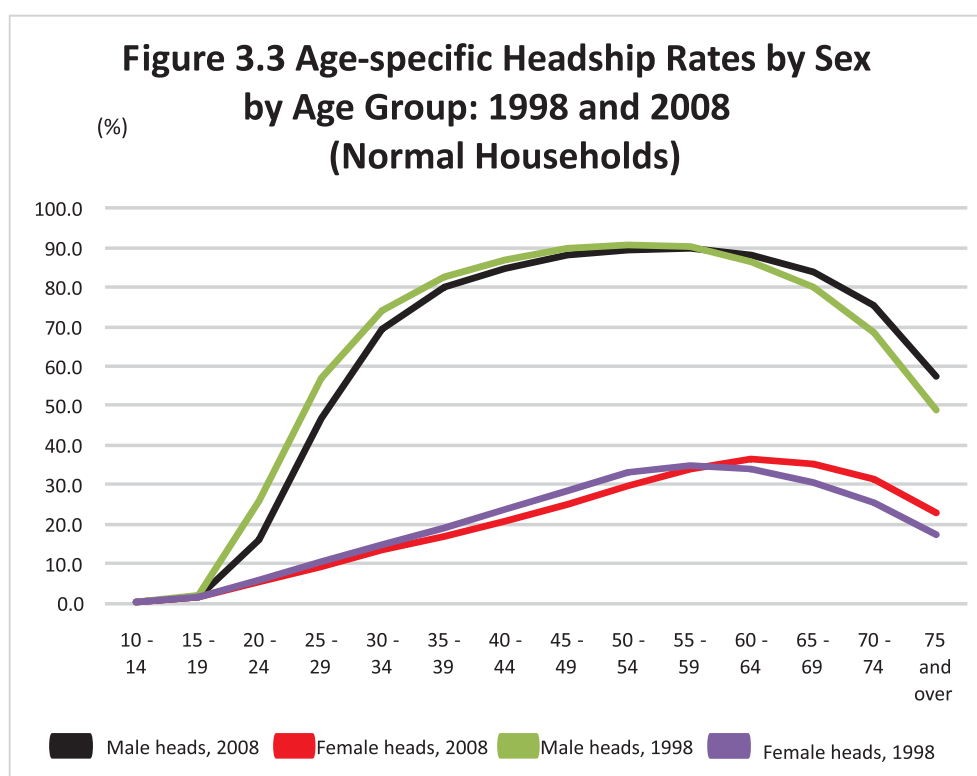
Table 3.4 provides the headship rates for Cambodia by urban and rural residence by sex by age group.

1. It is found for the whole country that the male headship rates in 2008 are lower than that in 1998 in terms of age groups of 20-24 and 55-59. The female headship rates in 2008 are also lower than that in 1998 from the age groups of 20-24 to 55-59. It is to be noted that in both censuses, male headship rates were predominantly higher than female headship rates for all age group. The male headship rates present the highest at the age group of 55-59 for 2008 and 50-54 for 1998. After the age of 60-64 and over, the rates declines with increase in age. Figure 3.3 clearly shows the above mentioned tendency for the headship rates by sex by age group.

Table 3.4 Age-specific Headship Rates by Sex and Age Group: Urban/Rural, 1998 and 2008 (Normal Household)

Age Group	Total, 1998			Total, 2008			Urban, 2008			Rural, 2008		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
10 and over	19.1	29.5	9.5	21.2	32.4	10.6	23.0	35.4	11.9	27.7	43.0	13.5
10-14	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4
15 - 19	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4
20 - 24	15.3	25.7	5.9	10.5	16.1	5.1	6.0	8.0	4.2	11.6	18.5	4.9
25 - 29	32.8	57.2	10.3	27.7	46.7	9.4	17.1	27.1	7.7	30.7	52.6	9.5
30 - 34	42.6	73.9	14.6	40.7	69.6	13.6	30.9	51.1	11.3	42.9	74.0	14.0
35 - 39	48.7	82.5	18.9	47.4	80.0	17.0	40.2	66.2	14.4	49.0	83.2	17.4
40 - 44	49.1	87.1	23.5	50.7	84.7	20.9	47.0	75.8	18.5	51.3	86.6	21.3
45 - 49	54.3	89.8	28.5	53.9	88.0	25.2	51.8	82.4	23.8	54.2	89.1	25.4
50 - 54	57.5	90.8	33.0	53.5	89.2	29.8	53.7	85.8	29.6	53.2	89.8	29.7
55 - 59	58.7	90.3	34.9	57.3	90.0	34.1	58.1	87.7	35.5	56.8	90.2	33.6
60 - 64	56.3	86.5	34.1	58.1	87.9	36.5	58.7	85.7	38.9	57.8	88.1	35.8
65 - 69	51.4	80.1	30.4	55.7	84.1	35.4	57.0	83.8	38.5	55.2	83.7	34.7
70 - 74	43.3	68.6	25.2	49.2	75.4	31.5	50.3	76.2	34.2	48.7	74.7	30.9
75 and over	30.0	48.9	17.2	36.2	57.4	22.7	35.7	57.4	23.9	35.9	56.5	22.4

Note: The age-specific headship rate, is the proportion of normal household heads in a given age group to the total number of persons in the same age group.



In urban areas, male headship rates in 2008 are lower than those in 1998 in terms of heads' ages ranging from 15-19 to 45-49. In contrast, female headship rates in 2008 are lower than those in 1998 in terms of heads' age ranging from 20-24 to 55-59. In rural areas, headship rates of both sexes in 2008 are lower than those in 1998 at heads' age ranging from 20-24 to 55-59. For household heads who aged 60 and over, the rates decline with increase in age (see Annex Table 13).