

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AMONG TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
ADOLESCENTS, IN WATTANAKORN DISTRICT  
SAKAEO PROVINCE, THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional study aimed to determine adolescent sexual behavior and influencing factors among 305 Technical College students in Wattanakorn District, Sakaeo Province, Thailand, and was conducted in January 2004 by using questionnaires.

Adolescents aged 14-19 years, which consisted of (55.4%) males and (44.6%) females participated in the study. The study revealed that (80.0%) of the students had inappropriate sexual behavior, such as being along with a date (80.0%), holding hands (70.0%), kissing and petting (52.1%) and intimate sexual affairs (35.4%). Overall, (43.7%) the males and (25.0%) the females had intimate sexual affairs.

Data analysis was done by descriptive and analytical statistics. In the bivariate analysis age, attitude towards sex, family income, parental child-communication, risky behavior of peers, previous visits to entertainment establishments, alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking were significant at the level of p-value 0.05, were re-examined in the multivariate analysis in order to identify the significant factors after controlling for other variables. Previous visits to entertainment establishments and media exposure (p-value<0.001) remained as the best predictor for the likelihood of having inappropriate sexual behavior among adolescents in Multiple Logistic Regression model.

Thus, the recommendation that a sexual and life skills program should be incorporated into the school and community programs for adolescents is based upon significant findings. Such programs could be potentially powerful factors that could maximize adolescents' potential and appropriate sexual behavior. Also required are considerable efforts on the part of parents on proper guidance of their children with the government as the leading body by enforcing prohibition laws on visits to entertainment establishments, by adolescents under 18 years of age and controlling media that stimulates sexual arousal, which would decrease the likelihood of inappropriate sexual behavior among adolescents.

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