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**PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH
SEXUAL AND CONTRACEPTIVE BEHAVIOR AMONG
UNMARRIED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN BEIJING, CHINA**

AILAN LI

With compliments

Faculty of Graduate Studies
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AILAN LI: PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL AND CONTRACEPTIVE BEHAVIOR AMONG UNMARRIED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN BEIJING, CHINA. THESIS ADVISOR: ORATAI RAUYAJIN, M.A., Dr. P.H., VANAWIPHA PASANDHANATORN, M.A., THAWATCHAI BOONCHOTE, Ph.D., LIMING LEE, M.D., M.P.H. 156 p. ISBN 974-589-662-4

In the context of an increasing incidence of unwanted pregnancy and STDs/AIDS among young people in China, a sample survey based on two-stage stratified probability samples of 1310 unmarried undergraduate students studying in Beijing, aged 17-24, was conducted in 1997-1998 to examine their sexual and contraceptive behavior, and to explore the psychosocial factors associated with these behaviors. The findings show that 15% of males and 13% of females reported having had premarital sexual intercourse (PSI). The average age at their first intercourse was 19.0 years for both sexes. Of the sexually active students, only 16% reported using a modern contraceptive method at first intercourse. Three percent of the sample reported having been pregnant or having got someone pregnant; and 3.6% of them admitted having had a STD.

Results of logistic regression analyses show that sexual attitudes, peer's sexual activity, having a boy/girl friend, age, exposure to pornographic materials, and divorced parents had significant relationships to PSI; contraceptive use was significantly associated with knowledge about contraceptives, perceived severity of and susceptibility to pregnancy, and perceived accessibility of contraceptives. These findings reveal that there is a need for greater emphasis on sex education and reproductive health services directed at unmarried university students in Beijing.