

Factors Associated with Sexual Behavior and Attitudes of Never-Married Rural Thai Youth

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The paper analyzes quantitative data related to the sexual attitudes and behaviour of young never-married Thai men and women selected from two regions of Thailand. The results document major differences in the way that young men and women think about sex and their sexual behaviour. Both men and women hold more permissive attitudes towards premarital sexual behaviour of men than for women. This is reflected in very low levels of premarital intercourse for females, while approximately half of the never-married males had experienced sexual intercourse. The results suggest that family variables are very influential in forming attitudes, however, they have no effect on sexual behaviour. The factors that are most likely to affect the probability of having premarital sex are related to loosening constraints, especially parental and community control. These factors include having sexually experienced friends and experience of living away from home.