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# Prevention Behavior to Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS of University Students

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#### Abstract

AIDS is one of the issues currently faced by Thai society, and it is considered a borderless issue in today's world. The collaborative effort between the public and private sectors, including medical staff and students, in terms of campaigning to educate people, is one of the ways to prevent and control sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. This exploratory research looked at behaviors in preventing sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS among students in higher education in Thailand; it aimed to collect quantitative data by using questionnaires with first to fourth year undergraduate students in public universities, totaling 293 persons. The sample group was randomly selected using stratified random sampling. The results of the survey revealed that 53.61% of the students used condoms when having sex for the first time and every time when having sex. However, most students did not regularly keep themselves informed on the available information regarding sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. As a result, they had an incorrect understanding and practice on how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. For example, the students chose to have sexual relations with people who are good looking, have a good body image and look clean, because they believed that, with these people, they would be safe from sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. Furthermore, the students avoided touching and eating with AIDS patients because they believed that they will be infected with HIV.

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Keywords: behavior; sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS prevention; university students;

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#### 1. Principle and Rationale

The Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control (2011) received report from public and private health facilities on the number of patients with AIDS from 1984 to March 31, 2011. The report showed the total number of AIDS patients was 372,874, 98,153 of whom had already died. Most patients were working-age population, between 30-34 years of age, representing 24.94 percent, followed by patients between 25-29 years of age, 35-39 years of age and 40-44 years of age, representing 21.74 percent, 18.09 percent and 10.57 percent respectively. However, the most worrisome group was teenagers. When considering the percentage of AIDS patients aged between 15-19 years from 2005-2009, the number tended to increase each year, i.e. 0.47 percent, 0.72 percent, 0.82 percent, 1.05 percent and 1.10 percent, respectively (Bureau of Epidemiology, 2010). This showed that teenagers were increasingly prone to HIV infection, had premature sexual activity and had risky sexual behavior, which eventually had an impact on family, community, society and the country.

The information from one hospital (2011) showed that from October-December 2011, a total of 70 patients (36 male and 34 female) aged between 18-25 years came to receive treatment at the hospital and were prone to sexually transmitted diseases. Out of this number, four were HIV. Less than 50 percent of these patients used condoms, and they only used condoms when having sex for the first time.

The above information showed that young people aged between 18-25 years who were still college students were at high risk of HIV infection regarding their behavior. It also showed that the average age of first sexual intercourse tended to decrease. The rate of condom usage at present was also quite low with an insignificant increase, and the rate of condom usage among men and prostitutes was quite stable at 50-65 percent since the first survey on the relationship between behavior and HIV infection was conducted. (Mahasarakham Hospital, 2011)

#### 2. Objective

To study behaviors on the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS among students in public universities and ways to change behavior to decrease the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS among those students.

#### 3. Research Procedure

The researcher had established a four-step research procedure, which consisted of: 1) a study of concepts and theories relating to sexuality and AIDS from documents, journals, books, textbooks, websites, research papers, etc.; 2) the study and collection of field data; 3) data compilation, conclusion and analysis; and 4) a summary of research findings and report preparation.

#### 4. Population and Sample Group

#### 4.1. Population

The population in this study consisted of students from one faculty in public universities totaling 2,086 persons

### 4.2. Sample Group

The sample group of this study consisted of a total of 293 students studying in years 1-4 from nine major subjects in such faculty. The size of sample group was determined using Yamane's formula and was selected using a stratified random sampling method based on the size of major subjects by specifying the sampling ratio.

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