CHAPTER V

RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter documents the main findings of the analysis and is divided into two parts (1) the quantitative results and (2) the qualitative results.

5.1.1 Quantitative data:

Questionnaire surveys were conducted with 1,200 unmarried youth proportional to the size of the District, (285 in Chanthabury, 329 in Saysetha, 229 subjects in Sikhottabong and 357 in Sisattanak Ditricts) in the study areas. The univariate and bivirate analysis by using Chi-Square test for categorical variables and t test for continuous variables and multivariate analysis by using Binary Logistic Regression, Linear Regression and Cox Hazard Regression have been performed to accomplish the objectives of the study. In both the univariate and bivariate analyses, the level of significance accepted was (p-value<.05.

The analysis is presented as:

1) univariate analysis,
2) bivariate analysis (analyses of determinants for the five outcome variables, which were identified in the separate analyses) and
3) multivariate analysis.

In the bivariate analysis, all the five outcome variables such as ever had sex, age at first sexual intercourse, condom use at the last sex, number of sexual partners and sexual attitudes were summarized according to the sample size which vary substantially across measures because only youth who reported being sexually active included in the analysis, those who had no sexual experienced did not reply on the questions age at first sexual behavior, condom use, number of sexual partners during the last six months. However, we did not include number of episodes of sexual intercourse in the bivariate analysis because the small sample size presented meaningful analysis.

The section 5.2 presents the univariate analysis of the characteristics of sample, including the socio-demographic background of youth, their parents, parent-youth interaction, their intimate relationships, sexual behavior and sexual attitudes of youth. The analysis was focused on the comparison between male and female adolescents.

The section 5.3, determinants were sought for ever having had sex. Similarly in the section 5.4, we looked for determinants for delay age at first sexual intercourse. In the section 5.5, determinants for condom use were examined. In the section 5.6, determinants for multiple sexual partners were identified. Section 5.7 sexual attitudes were analyses according to the selected demographic characteristic of the sample, intimate relationship and partner's deviant behaviors, sexual behaviors, and parent-youth interaction. The section 5.8 summarized the bivariate analysis of the four outcome variables of sexual behaviors and sexual attitudes.

5.1.2 Qualitative Data:

Two focus group discussions (FGD) one male and one female were carried out in each of the 4 different districts a) District Chanthabury, b) District Saysetha, c) District Sikhottabong and d) District Sisattanak. For each district, 2 FGDs were carried out (1 female & 1 male group). The total number of participants for FGD in Chanthabury was 9 males and 8 females, in Sikhottabong District, there was 8 males and 7 females, in Sisattanak district, there was 9 males and 7 females and in Saysetha district, there was 8 males and 8 females and the grand total for FGD participants were 64 participants. The author moderated the focus group with two research assistants (male and female) to record the note-taking. During the FGDs, audio-recording in Lao language have been transcribed in Lao language and then it was translated into English. The independent reports were made on the process for each FGD.

Intercoder reliability is a critical component of content analysis. As Neuendorf (2002, p 141) stated that "a goal of content analysis is to identify and record relatively objective characteristic of messages, reliability is paramount. Without the establishment of reliability, content analysis measures are useless". Coefficient reliability (CR) is a percent-agreement measure in which the number of agreements between the first rater

and the second rater are divided by the total number of coding decisions. The relationship of the reliability sample was 2 focus group discussions as a subset of the full sample. Out of total 130 coding, both coders rated 105 similar responses, which means 80.7 percent similar responses. Holsti's Reliability Coefficient test was used in the study. The formula is following:

CR = 2M/N1+N2,

where the M=number of two coders agree,

N1=number of coding decisions by coder1 made and

N2=number of coding decisions made by coder2.

The Holsti's reliability Coefficient has been found to be (2x 105/135+105) = .87.

The variables used to describe in this study is the short version. Table 5.1 provided a description of the short reporting version for variables.

Table 5.1: Description of the full variables and the short version used in text and in tables

Full Variable Description	Short Reporting Version for Variables
Sexual Experience	Ever Had Sex
Condom Use at Last Intercourse during the Last Six Months Prior to the Survey	Condom Use
Age at First Sexual Intercourse	'Age at 1st Sex'
Number of Sexual Partners during the Last Six Months	Number of Sex Partners
Level Education of Respondents	Respondent's Education
Currently Working	Working Status
Sufficient Income for expenses	Sufficient Income
Source of Sex Education	Sex Education
Currently Attending School	Attending School
Having sufficient income for expenses	Sufficient income
Feeling Happy towards Family	Feeling happy
Felling Lonely towards Family	Feeling Lonely
Educational Level of Mother	Mother's Education
Educational Level of Father	Father's Education
Marital Status of Parents	Parent's Marital status
Living arrangement	Living place
Currently, Fathers living with the same house or presence at home	Living with Fathers
Currently, Mothers living with the same house or presence at home	Living with Mothers
Currently mother's working	Mother's working
Perceived Mother-respondent connectedness	Mother-respondent connectedness
Perceived Father-respondent connectedness	Father-respondent connectedness
Perceived Mother-respondent communication about general issues	Mother-respondent general communication
Perceived Father-respondent communication about general issues	Father-respondent general communication
Perceived Mother-respondent communication about sexual issues	Mother-respondent sexual communication
Perceived Father-respondent communication about sexual issues	Father-respondent sexual communication
Perceived mother expectation regarding to sex	Mother expectation regarding to sex
Perceived father expectation regarding to sex	Father expectation regarding to sex
Currently having boy/girl friends	Having boy/girl friends
Peer influence to have steady friends	Peer influence to have steady friends
Peer influence to going out at with opposite sex	Peer influence to dating
Peer influence encouraging having sex	Peer influence having sex
Peer influence indicating desire having sex with	Peer indicating desire having sex
Boy/girl friends drink alcohol	Partner's drinking
Boy/girl friends smoke	Partner's smoking
Boy/girl friends use drug	Partner's drug use
Boy/girl friends going out during the night time	Partner's going at the night time

5.2 Characteristics of the Study Population

A total of 1,200 unmarried respondents comprising of 700 males and 500 females were recruited into the study. Overall, 102 subjects (8.5 percent) were not at home after two visits or refused to participate, a household next to the selected home was visited to select a substitute participant (see Table.5.2). Among those who were not at home or refused to participate, 27 were not at home in Chanthabury District and 23 refused to participate in Saysetha District, and 35 were not at home in Sisattanak District and 17 were substituted with the next households with unmarried youth in Sikhottabong District.

Table 5.2: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of Respondents who refused or were not at home by District

District	Participated		Non Participated		Total approached	
	N	%	N (Female)	%	N	%
Chanthabury	285	23.7	27 (12)	26.4	312	24.0
Saysetha	329	27.4	23 (12)	22.6	352	27.0
Sisattanak	229	19.1	35 (20)	34.3	264	20.4
Sikhottabong	357	29.8	17 (9)	16.7	372	28.6
Total	1200	100.0	102 (53)	100.0	1302	100.0

All 1,200 unmarried respondents were given a verbal consent before deciding whether to participate in the study. All research was conducted in full agreement with ethical principles, including the provision of the Declaration of Helsinki and the Ethical Committee Board of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos.

5.2.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Survey Population

5.2.1.1 Socio-Economic Status of Respondents

Table 5.3 showed less than one-half of respondents (47.2 per cent) in the sample were enrolled in the school at the time of the study. Almost one fifth (20 percent) of male youth had completed university and higher, while only 14.9 percent of females had completed these levels.

A significant greater proportion of females than of males were working at the time of the survey (58 percent versus 43 percent). The main occupations of youth, irrespective of sex were unskilled worker (59.8 percent and 57.2 percent for males and females respectively). The proportion of males was higher than females in almost all occupations except commerce which were reflected in their salary. Among those working, males received a higher salary than females due to their higher qualifications and skills and reflect a male's level of education.

The main source of income for males was parents (51.1 percent); whereas, females were more likely to rely on their work (50.4 percent), followed by receiving from parents (42.0 percent). More males reported that their income was enough for their expenses compared to female youth (76.6 percent versus 65.4 percent, p-value<.001**) likely because the higher salary of male respondents compared to female respondents. Regarding to the living arrangement, the majority of male youth (71.6 percent) were living with parents, while slightly over half of females (56.2 percent) were in that living arrangement.

Overall, male respondents in this sample had a higher level of education than females which reflected their salary and sufficient income for expenses; while females were more likely currently working and rely on themselves as source of income.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of Socio-demographic of Youth by Gender and Education

Demographic Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age: (p-value.001**)						
18-20	333	47.6	287	57.4	620	51.7
21-24	367	52.4	213	42.6	580	48.3
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Mean		20.7		20.2		20.5
SD		1.8		1.8		1.8
Currently attending school (p-value<.001***)						
No	420	60.0	213	42.6	633	52.8
Yes	280	40.0	287	57.4	567	47.2
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Highest level of schooling (p-value<.001***)						
Primary	48	6.9	73	14.7	121	10.1
Secondary	310	44.3	230	46.2	540	45.1
Technical	202	28.9	116	23.3	318	26.5
University & higher	140	20.0	79	14.9	219	20.9
Total	700	100.0	498	100.0	1198	100.0
Attended regular school or not (p-value<.001***)						
Fulltime	614	87.7	395	79.3	1009	84.2
Part-time	65	9.3	27	5.4	92	7.7
Fulltime & evening	21	3.0	76	15.3	97	8.1
Total	700	100.0	498	100.0	1198	100.0
Type of school attended (p-value<.001***)						
Government	532	76.0	400	80.3	932	77.8
Government(payment)	119	17.0	45	9.0	164	13.7
Private	49	7.0	53	10.6	102	8.5
Total	700	100.0	498	100.0	1198	100.0
Age when left school: (p-value<.001***)						
<15	55	19.6	104	36.3	159	28.1
16-19	172	61.5	158	55.0	330	58.2
20-24	53	18.9	25	8.7	78	13.7
Total	280	100.0	287	100.0	567	100.0
Mean age		17.4		16.3		16.8
SD		2.7		2.6		0.1
Currently working (p-value<.001***)						
No	399	57.0	210	42.0	609	50.8
Yes	301	43.0	290	58.0	591	49.3
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0

Table 5.3: (Cont.) Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of Socio-demographic of Youth by Gender and Education

Demographic Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Type of work: (p-value<.001***)						
Government staff	15	5.0	17	5.9	32	5.4
Private	72	23.9	49	16.9	121	20.5
Commercial	28	9.3	55	18.9	83	14.1
Farmer	3	1.0	2	0.7	5	0.8
Worker & other	183	60.8	167	57.5	350	59.2
Total	301	100.0	290	100.0	591	100.0
Monthly salary: (p-value.001**)						
<250,000Kips	74	24.6	73	25.2	147	24.9
250,000-400,000Kips	117	38.9	150	51.7	267	45.2
>400,000Kips	110	36.5	67	23.1	177	29.9
Total	301	100.0	290	100.0	591	100.0
Mean		452,667.7		409,031.0		431,255.5
Source of income (p-value<.001***)						
Working	205	29.3	252	50.4	457	38.1
Parents	358	51.1	244	42.0	568	47.3
Parents & working	80	11.4	30	6.0	110	9.2
Others	57	8.2	15	1.6	58	5.4
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Sufficient Income (p-value<.001***)						
Yes	536	76.6	327	65.4	863	71.9
No	164	23.4	173	34.6	337	28.1
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Living place (p-value<.001***)						
Parents	501	71.6	281	56.2	782	65.2
Relatives	66	9.4	51	10.2	117	9.8
Dormitory/House Rent/stay with friend /alone	133	19.0	168	33.6	301	25.1
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables and t-test for interval level variables

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.1.2 Family Size and Family Structure

As shown in Table 5.4, irrespective of gender, most respondents (65.6 percent) reported that their family structure, when they were growing up, was composed of both their parents and sibling. There was no gender difference between family structure of male and female youth.

The mean family size for this sample was 6.75. There was no difference of family size reported by male and female unmarried youth. The mean of family size in this study was higher than the reported National Data (5.83 for the urban areas) (National Statistic Center, 2001). This difference might be explained by various reasons such as (1) how reliable are national statistics and (2) did migration from rural areas to the capital, driven by the search for job opportunities, affect family size in this study.

Table 5.4: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions in Family Size and Family Structure by Gender

Demographic Characteristics	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Family size (p-value .285)						
1-3	26	3.8	22	4.0	47	3.9
4-6	335	47.8	219	47.8	574	47.9
7+	339	48.4	241	48.2	580	48.3
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Mean		6.7		6.8		6.7
SD		2.1		2.1		2.2
Birth Order (p-value.371)						
1-2	241	48.1	259	51.8	600	50.0
3-6	129	44.0	200	40.0	508	42.4
7+	179	7.3	41	8.2	92	7.6
Total	51	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Mean	700	3.1		3.00		3.0
SD		2.1		2.2		2.1
Family structure (p-value.054)						
Parent & children	474	67.7	313	62.6	787	65.6
Mother & children	98	14.0	61	12.2	159	13.3
Father & children	21	3.0	16	3.2	37	3.1
Parents, children, brother/sister in law	97	13.9	101	20.2	198	16.5
Other	10	1.4	9	9	19	1.6
Total	700	100.0	500	100	1200	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables and t-test for interval level variables

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristic of Youth's Parents

Table 5.5 summarized the socio-demographic characteristic of parents. Among male respondents for 85 percent of their father was alive; while among female respondents 89 percent of their fathers were alive. Approximately 95.8 percent of mothers of male and 96.6 percent of female respondents were alive.

The mean age of respondents' fathers and mothers of respondents irrespective of age was nearly equal with the mean age of mothers was lower than the mean age of fathers. Eighty percent of the parents were married and were living together and 16.3 percent of respondents had one or both parents who were dead. A small proportion of respondents (3.8 percent) said their parents were divorced or separated.

Regarding to the educational level of parents, among unmarried respondents sixteen could not recall their father's and twelve could not recall their mother's educational level. Parent's educational attainment varied widely; parents of male respondents had higher education than did parents of female respondents (p-value <.001***) which were reflected in the difference in parent's occupations of males and females. Regarding to the mother's working status; more female's mothers were working compared to males' mothers (65.8 percent versus 56.3 percent, p-value. 001**).

Both male and female respondents were more likely to live with mothers than fathers. Seventy seven percent of males resided in the same house with their mothers compared to 64.2 percent of female respondents (p-value<.001***). While 72.3 percent of male respondents reported that their fathers lived in the same house with them and 60.7 percent of female respondents indicated that their fathers stayed together with them (p-value.545).

Table 5.5: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of Socio-demographic of Respondent's Parent by Gender of Respondents

Demographic Characteristics of parents	Male (N=700)		Female (N=500)		Total (N=1200)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age of father: (p-value.416)						
34-44	78	13.1	51	11.5	129	12.4
45-54	318	53.4	228	51.4	546	52.6
55>	199	33.4	165	37.2	364	35.0
Total	595	100.0	444	100.0	1,039	100.0
Mean		52.0		52.7		52.37.7
SD		7.3		8.2		
Age of mother (p-value.284)						
30-40 yrs	130	19.4	112	23.2	242	21.0
41-51 yrs	409	61.0	271	57.6	687	59.5
52 yrs>	132	19.7	93	19.3	225	19.5
Total	671	100.0	483	100.0	1,154	100.0
Mean		46.3		46.2		46.3
SD		6.5		7.0		6.7
Marital status of parents (p-value.089)						
Married & lived together	550	78.6	411	82.2	961	80.1
Separated/divorced	23	3.3	21	4.2	44	3.7
Widowed/both dead	127	18.1	68	13.6	195	16.3
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Highest level of father's education (p-value<.001***)						
Illiterate	19	3.2	17	3.8	36	3.5
Can read and write	10	1.7	10	2.3	20	1.9
Primary	178	30.0	146	34.0	324	31.7
Secondary	157	26.5	126	29.3	283	27.7
Technical/Vocational	160	27.0	76	17.7	236	23.0
University & higher	60	10.1	46	12.1	124	10.8
Don't know	9	1.5	5	1.1	16	1.5
Total	593	100.0	430	100.0	1023	100.0
Highest level of mother's education (p-value<.001***)						
Illiterate	72	10.8	61	12.8	133	11.6
Can read and write	39	5.8	10	2.1	49	4.2
Primary	279	41.8	236	49.8	515	45.1
Secondary	176	26.3	99	20.9	275	24.1
Technical/Vocational	84	12.6	46	9.7	130	11.4
University & higher	18	2.7	20	4.2	40	3.6
Don't know	0	0	2	0.4	12	1.0
Total	668	100.0	474	100.0	1142	100.0
Working status of father (p-value.179)						
No	125	21.0	78	17.6	203	19.5
Yes	470	79.0	386	82.4	836	80.5
Total	595	100.0	444	100.0	1,039	100.0

Table 5.5: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of Socio-demographic of Respondent's Parent by Gender of Respondents

Demographic Characteristics of parents	Male (N=700)		Female (N=500)		Total (N=1200)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Father's occupation: (p-value<.001***)						
Government	166	35.3	120	32.8	286	34.2
Private	63	13.4	33	9.0	96	11.5
Commercial	106	22.6	55	15.0	161	19.3
Farmer/Agricultural	91	19.4	121	33.1	12	25.4
Worker/driver & other	44	9.4	37	10.1	83	9.7
Total	470	100.0	366	100.0	836	100.0
Working status of mother (p-value.001**)						
No	293	43.7	165	34.2	458	39.7
Yes	378	56.3	318	65.8	696	60.3
Total	671	100.0	483	100.0	1,154	100.0
Mother's occupation (p-value<.001***)						
Government	60	15.9	45	14.2	105	15.1
Private	33	8.7	8	2.5	41	5.9
Commercial	186	49.2	133	41.8	319	45.8
Farmer/Agricultural	77	20.4	119	37.4	196	28.2
Worker/dressing	22	5.8	13	4.1	35	5.0
Total	378	100.0	318	100.0	696	100.0
Mother's occupation (p-value<.001***)						
Government	60	15.9	45	14.2	105	15.1
Private	33	8.7	8	2.5	41	5.9
Commercial	186	49.2	133	41.8	319	45.8
Farmer/Agricultural	77	20.4	119	37.4	196	28.2
Worker/dressing	22	5.8	13	4.1	35	5.0
Total	378	100.0	318	100.0	696	100.0
Living with Fathers (p-value<.001***)						
No	165	27.7	175	39.3	340	32.6
Yes	430	72.3	270	60.7	700	67.4
Total	595	100.0	445	100.0	1040	100.0
Living with Mothers (p-value<.001***)						
No	154	23.0	173	35.8	46	28.3
Yes	517	77.0	310	64.2	1154	71.7
Total	671	100.0	483	100.0	1200	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

In conclusion, family structural variables of male and female respondents were different. Parents of male respondents had higher educational attainment than female's parents which were reflected in the working status. Fathers had higher education than mothers which were reflected in the difference in father and mother's occupations. The marital status of female's parents mainly was married and living together compared to the marital status of male's parents. More males than females lived with fathers and mothers.

5.2.3 Feeling towards Family and Sex Education

5.2.3.1 Respondent's Feelings towards their Family

Table 5.6 shows that female were more likely to feel lonely sometimes than were males (46.8 percent versus 23 percent, (p-value<.001***). On the other hand, males were more likely to report feeling happy with their family than were females (38.6 percent versus 25.4 percent, (p-value<.001***). It was probable that female respondents were more sensitive to feeling lonely, while male were more likely to enjoy and not thinking too much with small issues.

Table 5.6: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Feeling Lonely and Happiness by Gender of respondents

No	Variables	Males		Females		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Feeling loneliness (p-value<.001***)						
	Never	380	54.3	99	19.8	479	39.9
	Rarely	108	15.4	90	18.0	198	16.5
	Sometimes	161	23.0	234	46.8	395	32.9
	Often	32	4.6	43	8.6	75	6.3
	Very often	19	2.7	34	6.8	53	4.4
	Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
2	Feeling happiness (p-value<.001***)						
	Never	12	1.7	3	0.6	15	1.3
	Rarely	94	13.4	68	13.6	162	13.5
	Sometimes	174	24.9	151	30.2	325	27.1
	Often	270	38.6	127	25.4	397	33.1
	Very often	150	21.4	151	30.2	301	25.1
	Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square.

***** - Significant at the level p<.001**

5.2.3.2 Source of Information on Sexuality Issues

Table 5.7 showed that the majority of unmarried respondents indicated that their main source of sex education was friends (34.9 percent), followed by media (29.4 percent) and school (27.9 percent). There was a gender difference in reporting the main source of sex education. Boys tended to report that their main source of sex education was friends compared to female (35.7 percent versus 33.8 percent). This may reflect the greater freedom of male respondents to socialization with friends compared to young females. In addition, we noted that few respondents mentioned parents (7.8 percent) as source of sexually information with 10.8 percent of female respondents received information on sexuality issues from such source, compared with 5.6 percent of males.

Table 5.7: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Source of Information on Sexuality by Gender of Respondents

No	Variables	Males		Females		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Sex Information (p-value.010**)						
	Parents	39	5.6	54	10.8	93	7.8
	Friends	250	35.7	169	33.8	419	34.9
	School	197	28.1	138	27.6	335	27.9
	Media	214	30.6	139	27.8	353	29.4
	Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square.

** - Significant at the level p<.01

5.2.4 Parent-Respondents Connectedness and Closeness

Table 5.8 displayed the mean distribution of parent-respondents connectedness and closeness as measured on 11 items. Only respondents whose fathers and mothers were still alive were asked about the connectedness with parents. Male and female respondents whose fathers alive were 84.1 percent and 87.4 percent respectively; while male and female respondent's whose mothers alive were 95.7 percent and 96.4 percent respectively. The item 1 and 8- are interpreted as physical and emotional connectedness, items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11- are emotional connectedness and the item 10 was related to physical connectedness. The responses were on a scale from 1 to 5, with a score of one indicating less connected and a score of 5 indicating most connected. Several items were emerged as statically significant. With mothers, male respondents were more

likely to trust them than are young females, and they reported that "my mother cares about me a lot" and "my mother has fun together with me".

On almost all items males appear to have much greater physical and emotional connectedness and closeness either with their mothers and fathers. With fathers, males reported being emotionally and physically closer to their fathers than do females (mean 3.49 versus 3.29). In addition, males tended to perceive that fathers understand them more than do females. While with mothers, females were more likely to report that they were most satisfy with relation with their mothers (mean 4.33 versus 4.22). With fathers and mothers, males were most likely to report that both parents care about them a lot, when they had problems they can talk to them. Male respondents especially tended to perceive that both of parents helped them a lot to choose their career. It may be due to high value of their son in the family.

However, the participants in the focus group discussion, irrespective of gender suggested that a minority of youth is close to parents. The reasons of not being close to parents were explained as follows:

> *"Youth are not too close with parents because they are going out at the nighttime. On the other hand, parents have no time to spend with youth." (Verbatim: Saysetha M-1)*

> *"Youth are not close with parents because they have more friends and stick with friends to go out or to play. However, some parents are stay too far from them." (Verbatim: Chanthabry M-2)*

In terms of closeness to parents, both sex preferred to be connected to mothers than fathers. As one participant suggested:

> *"I am close to mother than father because mother is not got angry easily and she is not used to punish their children when they did wrong [not use violence]" (Verbatim: Sisattanak M-8)*

In summary, respondents perceived closeness and connectedness to parents of the same gender. Nevertheless, male respondents were more likely to perceive that they were more physical and emotional close to parents in almost all items compared to females; while females were more likely to report that they were more satisfied with their relation with mother, had fun together with mother and when they have problems they can talk to mother.

Table 5.8: Mean and Standard Deviation of Parent-Respondents Connectedness and Closeness items for Mother and Father by Sex of Respondents

No	Variables	Mother					Father				
	Parent-youth connectedness	Male N=670		Female N=482		p-value	Male N=589		Female N=497		p-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1	My mom/dad and I are close.	3.85	.85	3.86	.48	.773	3.49	.98	3.29	.93	.001**
2	I trust my mom/dad:	4.01	.73	3.90	.74	.071	4.02	.80	3.94	.81	.111
3	My mom/dad cares about me a lot.	4.10	.72	4.00	.72	.016*	3.83	.85	3.67	.83	.003**
4	My mom/dad is warm & loves me	4.10	.72	3.98	.73	.007**	3.88	.80	3.78	.85	.060
5	I am satisfied with relation with my mom/dad	4.22	.67	4.33	.68	.008**	4.02	.80	4.01	.82	.760
6	My mom/dad has fun together with me	3.46	.96	3.55	.83	.096	3.07	1.02	3.11	.96	.466
7	My mom/dad understands me.	3.58	.82	3.52	.83	.163	3.51	.90	3.29	.86	<.001***
8	When I do well, my mother/dad praises me.	3.67	.85	3.64	.90	.609	3.59	.92	3.58	1.01	.860
9	When I have problems, I can talk to my mom/dad.	3.29	1.08	3.43	.01	.035	3.18	.14	2.87	1.08	<.001***
10	My mom/dad is there when I need her/him.	3.55	.98	3.47	.94	.154	3.38	.05	3.11	.99	<.001***
11	My mom/dad helps me to choose my career.	3.30	1.12	2.99	1.23	<.001***	3.45	.14	3.13	1.22	<.001***
	Total Scale	3.74	.47	3.7	.53	.158	3.58	.59	3.43	.64	<.001***

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females and were undertaken with t-test for interval level variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.5 Parent-Respondents Communication about General Issues

Only respondents whose fathers and mothers are still alive were asked about the connectedness with parents. Respondents were asked about their perception on general communication with their mothers and fathers, answering on the scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating strongly disagree and 5 meaning strongly agree. The proportion of male and female whose fathers alive was 84.1 percent and 87.4 percent respectively; while the proportion of male and female whose mothers alive was 95.7 percent and 96.4 percent respectively. Table 5.9 indicated that respondents were more likely to report that they can talk together about almost anything to parents of the same gender. For instance, girls were more likely to reported that they can talk to their mothers almost about anything compared to boys (mean 3.67 versus 3.43), while more boys than girls reported that they can talk to fathers about almost anything (mean 3.18 versus 2.89). The same result was found for the statement "I can tell my mother/father how I feel about everything".

Male respondents felt that it is easy to discuss problems and their true feelings with fathers compared to female respondents. In addition, male respondents strongly agreed with the statement "it is easy to discuss problems with mothers" compared to girls (3.58 versus 3.02).

In general, respondents tended to feel that it was easy for them to discuss almost anything with parents of the same gender. However, overall male respondents reported to be able to talk more easily the problems with both, mothers and fathers compared to female respondents.

Table 5.9: Distribution of Mean and Standard Deviation of Parent-Respondents on General Communication with Mother and Father by Respondent's Sex

No	Item	Mother					Father				
	General Communication	Male N=670		Female N=482		p-value	Male N=589		Female N=437		p-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1	My mother/father and I can talk together almost about anything. (P=.000 and P=.000)	3.43	.99	3.67	.91	<.001***	3.18	1.05	2.89	.99	<.001***
2	I can tell my mother/father how I feel about everything. (P=.000 and P=.000)	3.20	1.04	3.41	.98	<.001***	3.01	1.11	2.75	1.02	<.001***
3	I find it easy to discuss problems with my mother/ father. (P=.023 and P=.000)	3.58	1.0	3.44	.99	.023*	3.23	1.08	2.82	1.05	<.001**
4	It is easy for me to discuss all my true feeling with my mother /father (P=.747 and P=.000)	3.23	1.05	3.25	.97	.747	3.01	1.07	2.67	1.04	<.001**
	Total	3.36	.78	3.44	.81	.076	3.11	.90	2.78	.91	<.001**

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females and were undertaken with t-test for interval level variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.6 Parent-Respondent Communication about Sexual Matters

Table 5.10 summarizes the mean score communication on sexual matters between respondents and their parents. Scores ranged from 1 to 5, with the higher score indicating 'very often discussing sex topics with parents' and the low score meaning 'never discussing sex topics with parents. The proportion for parent-youth communication in sexual topics was similar to the proportion for parent-youth general communication. The study revealed that respondents preferred to talk about the sexual matters with parents of the same gender. A lower proportion of male respondents compared to female respondents reported talking with their mothers about sexual topics.

Male. Respondents reported more to discuss consequences of having sex, including pregnancy, STDs, HIV/AIDS; HIV/AIDS and when to start having sex, than did females. With mothers, males reported talking about HIV/AIDS, consequences of having sex and when to initiate having sex. Male respondents reported less to talk about

birth control with mothers than were female respondents. Higher proportions of male respondents reported discussing with their father issues related to HIV/AIDS (mean 1.95 versus 1.56) and consequences of having sex (mean 1.81 versus 1.62), while lower proportions reported discussing birth control and reproduction. Girls were more likely than boys to discuss physical and sexual development with mothers (mean 2.84 versus 1.70), whilst boys were more likely to talk about these issues with their fathers (mean 1.60 versus 1.50).

Females. Reported more frequent to discuss topics such as physical and sexual development, consequences of having sex and reproduction with their mothers is more common. A higher proportion of female respondents than males reported that they had discussed with their mothers about when to start having sex (mean 2.42 versus 1.81). Female respondents were less likely than male respondents to talk with their mothers about condoms and birth control.

These findings were corroborated with the focus group discussions' outcomes. Young people rarely discussed about sex with parents, in other side, they talked mostly with their peers. Parents also did not discuss sexual matters with their children. As participants in the focus group discussion mentioned:

> *"Youth rarely discuss with parents because they are shy and do not dare to express themselves with parents. We are more likely to discuss with friends." (Verbatim: Chanthabury M-4)*

> *"Youth do not dare to discuss with parents. They talked mostly with friends because they are afraid of parents seeing them as bad girls and getting angry with them." (Verbatim: Saysetha F-2)*

> *"In some families that they reared their adult children without giving information on sexuality, youth did not have any knowledge related to sex education. So when youth at age 15 years old, they will learn about themselves or from friends and they want to try." (Verbatim: Chanthabury F-5)*

Overall the parental gender difference is affected by gender of youth. Mothers communicate more often with daughters than with sons, while fathers rarely communicate with daughters about sex. The respondents preferred to have someone with whom they could discuss these issues and do not have to feel shy when discussing sexual matters. This finding revealed lack of parent-youth sexual communication.

Table 5.10: Mean Distribution of Parent-Respondents on Sexual Communication with Mothers and Fathers by Sex of Respondents

Items	Mother					Father				
Sexual communication	Male N=670		Female N=482		p-value	Male N=589		Female N=437		p-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Physical and sexual development	1.70	1.17	2.84	1.34	<.001***	1.62	1.13	1.51	.98	.089
Reproduction having babies	1.59	1.08	2.23	1.24	<.001***	1.42	.93	1.52	.98	.085
Consequences of having sex, Including pregnancy STDs, HIV/AIDS	2.09	1.36	2.28	1.17	.013*	1.81	1.21	1.62	.94	.008**
HIV/AIDS	2.01	1.30	1.74	1.19	<.001***	1.95	1.29	1.56	.93	<.001***
STDs	1.60	1.07	1.80	1.05	.001**	1.53	1.00	1.35	.71	.001**
When start having sex	1.81	1.28	2.42	1.30	<.001***	1.66	1.14	1.53	.92	.059
Condom	1.59	1.09	1.44	.83	.012*	1.56	1.05	1.30	.72	<.001***
Birth control	1.35	.85	1.49	.88	.006**	1.25	.75	1.19	.57	.131

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with t-test for interval level variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.7 Parental Expectations Regarding Sexuality

Table 5.11 displayed results of respondent's perceptions on parental expectations regarding sexuality and intimate relationships of youth on four items. Scores were ranged from 1 to 5 with 1 indicating strongly disagree and 5 meaning strongly agree. The study revealed that male respondents were more likely than female respondents to perceive that their mothers and fathers think that they should pay more attention to education than having a girlfriend. This may be because more males than females were currently attending school and because it appeared that greater value is attached to male

education than female education. Approximately a high proportion of female respondents, compared to male respondents perceived that both their mothers and fathers do not want them to date, with perceived opposition slightly stronger for fathers than mothers (a mean of 3.86 and 4.05 for mothers versus a mean of 3.30 and 3.21 for fathers respectively). Perceived opposition by parents against engaging in sexual behavior was also reported much more strongly by female respondents than for male respondents, suggesting a double standard in sexual relations. While approximately the majority of mothers and fathers (mean 4.35 and 4.41) were perceived not to want their daughters to engage in sex, the corresponding figure for boys was about 3.34.

Overall, female respondents perceived strong disapproval of premarital sex from their parents, especially stronger disapproval from fathers than mothers, and slight approval for boys. In contrast, males perceived that mothers and fathers were more likely to approve that their son should pay more attention to education compared to girls.

Table 5.11: Mean Score Distribution of Perceived Parental Expectations Regarding Sexuality by Sex of Respondents

Item	Mother					Father				
	Male		Female			Male		Female		
	Mean (N=670)	SD	Mean (N=482)	SD	p-value	Mean (N=589)	SD	Mean (N=437)	SD	p-value
Parent feels that I should give more attention to education than having boy/girl friend.	4.16	.64	3.93	.95	<.001***	4.19	.71	4.02	.87	<.001***
Parent feels that I cannot go out to date at my age.	3.3	1.01	3.86	.91	<.001***	3.21	.02	4.05	.82	<.001***
Parent feels that I cannot kiss or necking with my boy/girlfriend at my age.	3.25	1.02	4.25	.74	<.001***	3.25	.04	4.32	.71	<.001***
Parent thinks that I should not have sex before I marry.	3.34	.04	4.35	.75	<.001***	3.34	1.04	4.41	.71	<.001***

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with t-test for interval variables.

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.8 Sexual Attitudes

Respondents were asked about their attitudes towards sexuality. They answered on 13 items with a scale from 1 to 5, a score of one indicating the most negative or conservative attitude and a score of 5 indicating the most positive or liberal attitude. The mean values on each item were displayed in Table 5.12. Gender differences in sexual attitudes were reflected in young male and female responses. The majority of males and females had conservative attitudes towards sexuality on most items. The main exception was for item 1 "It is acceptable for men to have sex before marriage", item 10 "It is not acceptable for boys to force his girl friend to have sex" and item 12 "It is not acceptable for boys to often pressure girls to initiate sex", for which respondents had a generally positive attitude. Boys were significantly more likely to hold liberal attitudes towards sexuality than are girls. For instance male respondents have supportive attitudes on the items: "It is acceptable for men to have sex before marriage" more than females (mean score 3.1 versus 2.5). This indicated that premarital sex was regarded as legitimate for males, but not for females. Both male and female respondents hold conservative attitudes towards premarital sex of girls. This finding clearly illustrated that a gender double standard was still predominant in the society. Virginity still continues to be highly valued at marriage.

There was a substantial difference between males and females in reporting sexual attitudes. Several items of sexual attitudes emerged as statistically significant. Males hold less permissive attitude towards the statement "Men need to have more than one sexual partner often at the same time" (mean 2.20 versus 2.00), "It is acceptable for my friend to encourage me to have sex" (mean 2.40 versus 1.90) and "It is acceptable for most of my friends are having sex" (mean 2.80 versus 2.40) than females did. A similar finding was found for several other items. Nevertheless, girls had more liberal attitudes towards consensual sex than did males.

In general, males and females respondents had different attitudes and values about sexuality. Females hold more conservative attitudes towards sexuality than males did.

Table 5.12: Mean and Standard Deviation on Sexual Attitudes Items by Sex

Items	Male (n=700)		Female (n=500)		Total (n=1200)		p-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
It is acceptable for men to have sex before marriage.	3.14	1.03	2.5	1.06	2.87	1.1	<.001***
Men need to have more than one sexual partner, often at the same time	2.26	.81	2.03	.74	2.16	.79	<.001***
It is acceptable that my friends encourage me to have sex.	2.45	.93	1.94	.67	2.24	.87	<.001***
It is acceptable most of my friends are having sex.	2.87	.96	2.46	.80	2.7	.91	<.001***
I must have sex to keep my boyfriend or girlfriend	2.87	.97	2.36	.84	2.66	.95	<.001**
It is acceptable for women to have sex before marriage	2.59	.94	2.39	.83	2.51	.90	<.001***
It is okay for a girl to initiate sex	2.42	.94	2.3	.89	2.37	.91	<.000***
It is okay for a girl to suggest condom use	2.55	.89	2.22	.77	2.41	.85	<.001***
I think that woman is also interested in the man who have multiple sex partners	2.31	.74	2.32	.83	2.31	.78	.005**
It is not acceptable for boyfriend to force his girl friend to have sex	3.4	.96	3.59	.91	3.48	.94	<.001***
It is not all right to demand sex from a girlfriend or boyfriend.	2.91	.95	3.42	.94	3.12	.98	<.001***
It is not acceptable for boys often pressure girls to initiate sex.	3.4	.94	3.61	.83	3.49	.90	<.001***
I think that people cannot know which woman had sexual experienced from looking the body and external character	3.27	.91	3.19	1.08	3.24	.98	<.001***
Total	2.81	.28	2.68	.25	2.76	.28	<.001***

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with t-test for interval variables.

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.9 Intimate Relationships

Table 5.13 summarizes information from questions about intimate relationships. The questions focused on heterosexual relationships. Females were somewhat more likely to report having a boyfriend than were boys reporting that they had a girlfriend (69.2 percent versus 64.4 percent). Boys reported a higher number of relationships than do girls (mean 1.60 versus 1.10).

More girls (63.4 percent), in contrast to boys (59.1 percent) reported dating, and engaging in petting the upper part of the body (59.2 percent versus 53.3 percent). The other hand, boys were more likely than girls reported that they had held hands, engaged in kissing and necking and petting the lower part of body. Boys tended to report their high-risk sexual behaviors more than did girls. It may be due to the sensitivity of these issues with girls more shy to report such behaviors.

Overall, boys were more likely to have multiple girlfriends at the same time, while females were most likely to have comparatively steady boyfriends. Additionally, boys were more likely to expose to different types of sexual behaviors (holding hands, kissing and necking, petting lower part) more than did girls; while girls are more likely to admit having dating and petting upper part of the body.

Table 5.13: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Intimate Relationship by Sex of Respondents

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total	
	Male N=700		Female N=500		N=1200	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Currently having girl/boy friends (p-value.094)						
No	249	35.6	154	30.8	403	33.6
Yes	451	64.4	346	69.2	797	66.4
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Mean and SD of number of boy/girl friends:	451	1.6	346	1.1	797	1.39
(p-value <.001***)		1.16		0.37		0.94
Dating (p-value.136)						
No	286	40.9	183	36.6	469	39.1
Yes	414	59.1	317	63.4	731	60.9
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Holding hands (p-value.002*)						
No	99	14.1	104	20.8	203	16.9
Yes	601	85.9	396	79.2	997	83.1
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Kissing and necking (p-value<.001***)						
No	286	40.9	334	66.8	620	51.7
Yes	414	59.1	166	33.2	580	48.3
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Petting upper part of body (p-value.042*)						
No	327	46.7	204	40.8	531	44.3
Yes	373	53.3	296	59.2	669	55.8
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Petting lower part of body (p-value<.001***)						
No	400	57.1	336	67.2	736	61.3
Yes	300	42.9	164	32.8	464	38.7
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.10 Partner's Undesirable Behaviors

A significantly higher proportion of females than males reported that their partner in the opposite gender had 'undesirable' behaviors such as smoke, drink and used drugs, go out at night time. As shown in Table 5.14, 27.7 percent of female's friends and 6 percent of male's friend smoke. More female's friends drink alcohol compared to male's friends. In terms of drug use, both male and female's friends reported that they were less likely to use of drugs such as amphetamine.

In sum, the partner behavior of female respondents was more at health-risk compared to male's partner behavior.

Table 5.14: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Partner's behavior by Sex of Respondents

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total N=1200	
	Male N=700		Female N=500			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Partner's smoking (p- value <.001***)						
No	424	94.0	250	72.2	674	84.6
Yes	27	6.0	96	27.7	123	15.4
Total	451	100.0	346	100.0	797	100.0
Partner's drinking (p-value<.001***)						
No	135	30.0	49	14.2	184	76.9
Yes	316	70.1	297	85.8	613	23.1
Total	451	100.0	346	100.0	797	100.0
Partner's used drugs (p-value<.001***)						
No	444	98.5	336	97.1	780	97.9
Yes	7	1.6	10	2.9	17	2.1
Total	451	100.0	346	100.0	797	100.0
Partner go out during night time (p-value<.001***)						
No	284	65.2	196	56.7	490	61.5
Yes	157	34.8	150	43.4	307	38.5
Total	451	100.0	346	100.0	797	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.11 Peer Influence

Table 5.15 illustrates that 81.6 percent of girls indicated that they were influenced by peers to have partners while 76.4 percent of boys did. However, more males than females reported being influenced by peers to go out with their partners (57 percent versus 30.8 percent). Slightly over half (53.4 percent) of male respondents, in contrast to female respondents (13.2 percent) stated that their peers encouraged them to have sex. This suggested that the society observed a girl's sexual activity more closely than a boy's and actively discourage women; while men were encouraged.

A much higher proportion of females than males reported that they would wait until marriage before having sexual intercourse (66.2 percent versus 31.3 percent). Approximately 115 out of 313 non-sexually active male respondents (57.2 percent) reported that they will wait until having an opportunity; while 27.1 percent of non-sexually experienced females mentioned that they will wait (data not shown).

Overall, male respondents were more sexually active and received more encouragement from peers to have sex compared to female respondents.

Table 5.15: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of Peer Influence by Sex of Respondents

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total N=1200	
	Male N=700		Female N=500			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Peer Influence having steady friend (p-value.032*)						
No	165	3.6	92	18.4	257	21.4
Yes	535	76.4	108	81.6	943	78.6
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Influence from peers to dating (p-value<.001***)						
No	301	43.0	346	69.2	647	53.9
Yes	399	57.0	154	30.8	553	46.1
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Peer influence having sex (p-value<.001***)						
No	326	46.6	434	86.8	760	63.3
Yes	374	53.4	66	13.2	440	36.7
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Peers indicated desire having sex with (p-value<.001***)						
No	536	76.6	346	69.2	882	73.5
Yes	164	23.4	154	30.8	318	26.5
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1200	100.0
Future plan about having sex (p-value<.001***)						
Waiting until marriage	219	31.3	331	66.2	550	45.8
Waiting until engagement	95	13.6	37	7.4	132	11.0
Waiting until meeting someone	61	8.7	37	7.4	98	8.2
Waiting until having appropriate opportunity	201	28.7	59	11.8	260	21.7
Expect to having sex recently	10	1.4	7	1.4	17	1.4
No have plan	109	15.6	29	5.8	138	11.5
Until working	5	.7	0	0	5	0.4
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.12 First Sexual Intercourse

Premarital sexual intercourse was relatively common among the respondents. The cultural norms entail different standard of males and females and this may affect their behaviors, including reporting sexual behavior. Approximately one third of the respondents (34.1 percent) reported having had sexual intercourse during their lifetime (Table 5.16). There was a statistically significant difference in reporting sexual experience between male and female respondents. A greater proportion of boys than girls reported having ever had sex (44.7 percent versus 19.2 percent). It is not surprisingly to note that males were more likely than females to experience various types of sexual intercourse, namely vaginal (44.7 percent versus 16.2 percent) and oral (11.3 percent versus 7.6 percent). About 1.7 percent of males and 1.1 percent of females reported that they had engaged in anal intercourse. It is possible that female respondents under reported sexual activity because premarital sex is considered undesirable in the Lao cultural setting, especially for females.

The age of first sexual intercourse ranged from 12 to 24 years old for male and 14 to 24 years of age for female respondents. The mean age of first sexual intercourse for both genders was 18.56, with boys reporting slightly earlier sexual initiation than girls (mean 18.54 versus 18.61). More sexually active males than females reported that they had their first sexual intercourse before age 16 (4.1 percent versus 1 percent).

A number of FGDs youth participants pointed out that the majority of unmarried male youth were sexual active. However, they reported that the majority of male youth were sexually experienced and also for girls it was reported that some were sexual experienced. In terms of sexual partner, the majority of youth, irrespective of gender noted that their first sexual partners were boy/girl friends. Few of them stated that their sexual partners were sex workers or strangers that they meet in the entertainment places. Young males were more likely to report multiple sexual partners than females.

> *"Young people mostly have sex with their boy/girl friend. They get sexual experiences with their boy/girl friend that they are going out with more than other people because they are afraid to have problems that their parents will know later." (Verbatim: Chanthabury F-1)*

Boys and girls showed different reasons of having sex. The majority of male participants mentioned that they fulfill their sexual desire and curiosity, to get sexual experience and fall in love. For girls, the main reason of having sex was affection, seduced by boys, sexual pleasure, non-consensual or coerced sexual experience, for economic reasons and being prey. The majority of girls suggested that love would be the strongest impulsion for having sex. One girl expressed it in a focus group discussion as follows:

> *"The majority of girls have sex with boyfriends because they love the boy so much. If girls did not have true love with the boys, usually girls did not agree to have sex." (Verbatim: District Saysetha F-4).*

Table 5.16: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of First Sexual Intercourse by Sex of Respondents

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total (N=120)	
	Male (N=700)		Female (N=500)			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ever had sex (p-value<.001***)						
No	387	55.3	404	80.8	791	65.9
Yes	313	44.7	96	19.2	409	34.1
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Ever had vaginal sex (p-value<.001***)						
No	387	55.3	419	83.8	806	67.2
Yes	313	44.7	81	16.2	394	32.8
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Ever had oral sex (p-value.034*)						
No	621	88.7	462	92.4	1,083	90.3
Yes	79	11.3	38	7.6	117	9.8
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Ever have anal sex (p-value.302)						
No	688	98.3	495	99.9	1,183	98.6
Yes	12	1.7	5	1.1	17	1.4
Total	700	100.0	500	100.0	1,200	100.0
Age at first sexual intercourse (p-value.528)		18.5		18.61		18.56
12	1	0.3	0	0	1	0.2
13	3	1.0	0	0	3	0.7
14	2	0.6	1	1.0	3	0.7
15	7	2.2	0	0	7	1.7
16	30	9.6	6	6.3	36	8.8
17	35	11.2	15	15.6	50	12.2
18	70	22.4	27	28.1	97	23.7
19	71	22.7	22	22.9	93	22.7
20	56	17.9	15	15.6	71	17.4
21	23	7.3	5	5.2	28	6.8
22	13	4.2	3	3.1	16	3.9
23	2	0.6	1	1.0	3	0.7
24	0	0	1	1.0	1	0.2
Total	313	100.0	96	100.0	409	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

Figure 8 showed the percentage of male and female adolescents aged 18-24 years old who reported that they were sexually experienced at the time of interview. The result showed that for respondents currently aged 18-20 years, 15.7 percent of female respondents were sexually experienced, as opposed to 30.9 percent of male respondents. For those aged 21-24 years old sexual experience was somewhat higher than the younger age group, with 23.9 percent of females and 57.2 percent of male respondents sexually experienced. Sexual activity of both male and female respondents increases with the age.

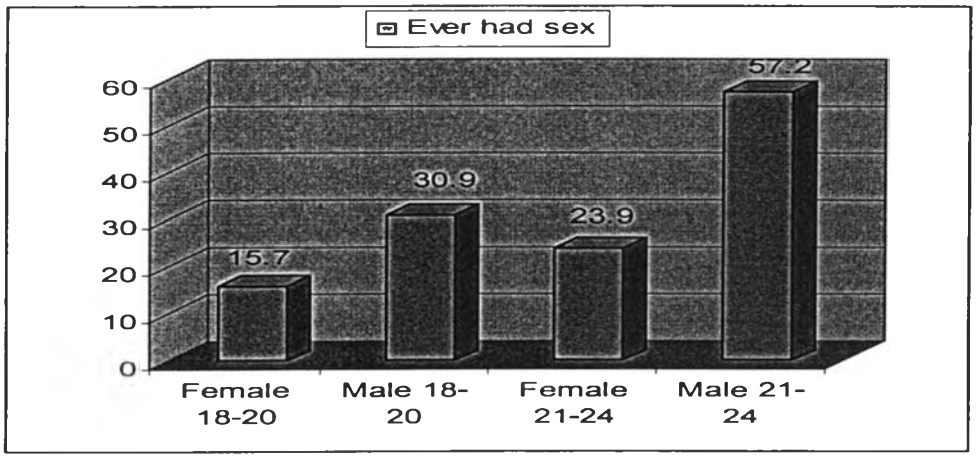

Figure 8: Proportion of unmarried respondents who had sexual experience by age

5.2.13 Sexual Experience and Sex Partners within the Last Six Months

Table 5.17 illustrated that during the last 6 months prior to the survey, among those who had ever had sexual experience females were slightly more likely to be sexually active than were males (52.1 percent versus 50.8 percent). Among those sexually active, males reported a high mean number of acts of vaginal and anal intercourse than did females (mean 5.32 versus 4.62 for vaginal; mean 6.09 versus 0.26 for anal intercourse respectively), while females reported more acts of oral intercourse compared to males (mean 1.68 versus 1.51).

Out of those who had sexual experience (n=409), the majority of females had only one sexual partner compared to males (92 percent versus 45.3 percent). Among sexually experienced males, 49.7 percent reported having two to four sexual partners and 5.0

percent had multiple sexual partners from five up to as much as 15 partners. In contrast, a substantial higher proportion of female respondents, sexually active, reported having a single partner (92 percent), while 6 percent had from two to four sexual partners and 2 percent had five or more sexual partners.

Overall, males were much more likely to experience multiple sexual partners compared to females. Clearly gender disparities are wide with 8 percent of sexually active females having two or more sexual partners. The nature of partnerships differed markedly between female and male respondents. Females tended to have experienced sexual intercourse only with a steady boyfriend.

Table 5.17: Distribution Frequencies and Proportions on Sexual Behavior reported in previous six months among those Respondents with Sexual Experience by Sex

Sexual Experience	Sex of respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ever had sex in the last six months: (p-value.907						
No	154	49.2	46	47.9	209	48.9
Yes	159	50.8	50	52.1	200	51.1
Total	313	100.0	96	100.0	409	100.0
Number of vaginal sexual Intercourse during the last six months: (p-value.048*)						
0	0	0	1	2	1	.5
1-3	106	66.7	27	54	133	63.6
4-10	37	23.3	19	38	56	26.8
>10	16	10.1	3	6	19	9.1
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Mean	5.32		4.62		5.15	
Number of oral Intercourse during the last six months: (p-value.361)						
0	118	74.2	33	66	151.0	72.2
1-3	20	12.6	7	14	27.0	12.9
4-10	15	9.6	9	18	24.0	11.5
>10	6	3.8	1	2	7.0	3.3
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Mean	1.51		1.68		1.55	
Number of anal Intercourse during the last six months: (p-value.060)						
0	154	96.9	44	88.0	198	94.7
1-2	4	2.5	5	10.0	9	3.3
3-5	1	.6	1	2.0	2	1.0
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Mean	0.06		0.26		0.11	
Number of sex partners (p-value<.001***)						
Single	72	45.3	46	92.0	118	56.5
2-4	79	49.7	3	6.0	73	39.2
>5	8	5.0	1	2.0	18	4.3
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Mean	2.06		1.16		1.52	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.14 Sex Partners during the Last Six Months

Respondents were asked about their sexual partners and condom use during the last six months. Among sexually active girls, all reported that they had sex with boyfriends. While only 62.3 percent of sexually active boys reported having sex with girlfriends. Similarly, all of the participants of FGDs mentioned that male were more likely to have multiple sexual partners at the same time than females did. One girl from a focus group discussion stated that:

> *"Male has more than one sexual partner because of their nature. Girls just meet one person at the time and they will have new one when they separate with the old one." (Verbatim: Sisattanak F-6)*

Relationship between boys and girls were considered as mainly intimate or as a lover's relationship. All participants from the focus group discussions mentioned that male and female youth first meet as friends and then develop as lovers. Having a lover is characterized as having a romantic relationship that lasts at least for a few months. One youth pointed out that:

> *"At beginning they meet as friends and then develop as lover. Usually they have a short duration of their relationship because they want to change new partners more often." (Verbatim:Saysetha M-1)*

Table 5.18 showed ever used condom among those that reported to be sexually active. About one third of sexually active male respondents stated that they used condoms very often when having sex with friends compared to two fifth of sexually experienced female respondents who reported that they used condoms. Over half of the sexually active male respondents reported having sex with a sex worker, while none of the female respondents reported experience with sex workers. About 23.3 percent of boys who visited sex workers never used condoms. A small proportion of sexually active females (6.0 percent) and 2.5 percent of sexually experienced males reported that they had sex with someone who gave them money or gifts.

Almost of all male participants from the FGDs mentioned that they did not use condoms with their friends; they use condoms only when they have sex with bar girls or commercial sex workers. Even they have multiple sex partners, they did not use condoms. The key reasons for not using condoms were as follows:

> *"I did not use condoms with girlfriends because we trust each other. When I have sex with bar girl, I used condoms because I am afraid of getting infections." (Verbatim: Saysetha M-8)*

> *"Youth are not afraid of getting HIV/AIDS and STIs. The primary reason of using condom was for prevention of getting pregnancy." (Verbatim: Chanthabury M-2)*

Table 5.18: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Sexual Partners among Sexually Active Respondents by Sex

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sex with girl/boyfriend (p-value.000**)						
No	60	37.7	0	0	60	28.7
Yes	99	62.3	50	100	149	71.3
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Condom use when having sex with friend: (p-value.254)						
Never	47	47.5	20	40.0	67	45.0
Rarely	5	5.1	0	0	5	3.4
Sometimes	11	11.1	4	8.0	15	10.1
Often	7	7.1	6	12.0	13	8.7
Very often	29	29.3	20	40.0	49	32.9
Total	99	100.0	50	100.0	149	100.0
Sex with sex Worker (p-value<.001***)						
No	73	45.9	50	100.0	123	58.9
Yes	86	54.1	0	0	86	41.1
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Condom use when having sex with Sex Worker (No p-value)	20	23.3	Na	Na	20	23.3
Never	7	8.1	Na	Na	7	8.1
Rarely	8	9.3	Na	Na	8	9.3
Sometimes	12	14.0	Na	Na	12	14.0
Often	39	45.3	Na	Na	39	45.3
Very often	86	100.0	0	0	86	100.0
Total						
Sex with someone who gave money or gift (p-value.362)						
No	155	97.5	47	94.0	202	96.1
Yes	4	2.5	3	6.0	7	3.9
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Condom use when having sex with someone who gave money or gift: (p-value.175)						
Never/Rarely	3	75.0	0	0	3	42.9
Sometimes	0	0	1	33.3	2	14.3
Often/very often	1	25.0	2	66.6	3	42.9
Total	4	100.0	3	100.0	7	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.15 Condom Practice during the Last Six Months

Table 5.19 shows that slightly less than one-half of males and females reported using a condom at last sexual intercourse. Among those who used condoms at last sexual intercourse, the main reason for males was to prevent STIs/HIV/ AIDS, whilst the main reason for girls was their own concern to prevent pregnancy. Both boys (31.9 percent) and girls (45.5 percent) acknowledged that the reason of not using a condom at the last sexual intercourse was having sex with their regular partner.

A significantly higher proportion of males than females stated that they decided by themselves to use a condom, while two thirds of girls said that both male and female partners decided together. With respect to the decision maker in cases of deciding not to use a condom, 79.7 percent of girls and 49.3 percent of boys said they jointly decided.

Similarly, from focus group discussions, the majority of girls said that boys did not like to use condoms because of lack of feeling. And a man is the main decision-maker whether to use condom or not. It is interesting to note that girls did not have any power to negotiate with boys. One boy pointed out:

> *"If boy did not use condom, few girls will regret not to have sex. For man, if they used condom, it is better not to have sex."(Verbatim: Saysetha M-4)*

A greater proportion of boys than girls reported that they would like to use a condom the next time they had sex (74.2 percent versus 70 percent). Among those who will use condoms at next time they have sex, the majority of boys (90.6 percent) suggested that they would decide by themselves compared to 36 percent of females.

There is a gender disparity in perception on the reason of condom use. Males used condoms for prevention of STIs, while females used condoms for prevention of pregnancy. In terms of decision making of condom use, it appears to depend on the male partner. While females said that decision-makers were both themselves and partners. Youth appeared not to be informed about their rights on sexuality to make decision on condom use.

Table 5.19: Distribution Frequencies and Proportion on Condom Use among Sexually Active Respondents by Sex

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Use condom at the last time of sexual intercourse (p-value.940)						
No	69	43.4	22	44.0	91	43.5
Yes	90	56.6	28	56.0	118	56.5
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Reason for condom use (p-value<.001***)						
Own concern to prevent pregnancy	28	31.1	23	82.1	51	43.2
Own concern to prevent STD/HIV	61	67.8	3	10.7	84	54.2
Partner insisted/ partner's choice	1	1.1	2	7.1	3	2.5
Total	90	100.0	28	100.0	118	100.0
Reason of not using condom (p-value.778)						
Condoms are uncomfortable	7	10.1	1	4.5	8	8.8
Embarrassing to use condoms	5	7.2	1	4.5	6	6.6
Unable to get condoms	15	21.7	4	18.2	19	20.9
Had sex with non CSW	20	29.0	6	27.3	26	28.6
Had sex with my regular partner	22	31.9	10	45.5	32	35.2
Total	69	100.0	22	100.0	91	100.0
Decision maker to use condom at the last sexual intercourse (p-value<.001***)						
Self	82	91.1	4	14.3	86	72.9
Partner	2	2.2	3	10.7	5	4.2
Both	6	6.7	21	75.0	27	22.9
Total	90	100.0	28	100.0	118	100.0
Decision maker not to use condom at the last sexual intercourse (p-value.117)						
Self	29	42.0	4	18.2	33	36.3
Partner	6	8.7	2	9.1	8	8.8
Both	34	49.3	16	79.7	50	54.9
Total	69	100.0	22	100.0	91	100.0

Table 5.19: (Cont.) Distribution Frequencies and Proportion on Condom Use among Sexually Active Respondents by Sex

Variables	Sex of respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Use condom at the next time (p-value.782)						
Yes	118	74.2	35	70.0	153	73.2
No	9	5.7	4	8.0	13	6.2
Not sure	32	20.1	11	22.0	43	20.6
Total	159	100.0	50.0	100.0	209	100.0
Decision maker whether to use condom/not (p-value<.001***)						
Self	144	90.6	18	36.0	162	77.5
Partner	6	3.8	5	10.0	11	5.3
Both	4	2.5	22	44.0	26	12.4
Other	0	0	1	2.0	1	0.5
Not sure	5	3.1	4	8.0	9	4.3
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

***-Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.16 Condom Skills

Several items in the survey were designed to measure the condom skills of youth. The results are shown in Table 5.20. It was interesting to note that among the sexually active, more female than male respondents reported that they had refused to use condoms during the last six months (42 percent versus 40.9 percent), although the difference is not statistically significant. Girls were more confident that they could convince their partners to use a condom if they wanted to use compared to boys (36 percent versus 32.1 percent). In comparison with females, males were more likely to report that if their partner declines or refuses to use condom, they will have sex without use of condoms (19.5 percent versus 4.0 percent). More girls than boys mentioned that they were very confident that they have skills to persuade their partner to use condom (38 percent versus 34.6 percent).

The vast majority of respondents in both sexes from FGDs reported that a couple did not negotiate before having sex. Girls did not have life skill to negotiate with their partner. They faced problems in refusing sex with their partners.

> *"Before having sex, male and female youth discussed together about prevention of pregnancy and the boys seduced the girls not to be afraid of having sex." Verbatim: (Sikhottabong F-2)*

Sometimes, the boy seduced the girl to have sex with him and said that he will be responsible for all and he knows how to prevent from getting pregnancy. A number of male FGDs participants said that if the girl really loves the boys, so she could have sex with him. If not perhaps she will probably lost him.

> *"Mostly the boys seduced the girls first. If the girls are lovers, there is no negotiation because they are in love. If the girls are service girls, there was a negotiation with the service girls about condom use." (Verbatim: Sisattanak M-5i)*

Females were more likely than males to disagree that condom use is complicated and loses time (86 percent versus 66 percent). It seems to be that females compared to males were most likely to perceive use of condoms as not difficult. Similar proportions of boys and girls said that they usually did not plan to have sex in the last 6 months, it just happened (68 percent versus 62 percent).

Overall, it was interesting to note that young females were more confident in be able to convince or they have skills to persuade their partners to use condom. Young females faced dilemmas when negotiating condom use.

Table 5.20: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Condom Skills among Sexually Active Respondents by sex

Variables	Sex of respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Refuse to use a condom during the last 6 months (p-value.805)						
No	85	53.5	25	50.0	110	52.6
Yes	65	40.9	21	42.0	86	41.1
Not sure	9	5.7	4	8.0	13	6.2
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Degree of confidence to convince partner to use condom if you wanted to use one (p-value.824)						
Not at all confident	23	14.5	5	10.0	28	13.4
Somewhat confident	31	19.5	11	22.0	42	20.1
Confident	54	34.0	16	32.0	70	33.5
Very confident	51	32.1	18	36.0	69	33.0
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Reaction if your partner declines or refuses to use condom (p-value<.001***)						
Have sex without condom	31	19.5	2	4.0	33	15.8
Talk it over and use condom	74	46.5	25	50.0	99	47.4
Talk it over and not use condom	4	2.5	2	4.0	6	2.9
Withdrawal	1	.6	7	14.0	8	3.8
Outside intercourse	0	0	1	2.0	1	0.5
No sex	30	18.9	6	12.0	36	17.2
Not sure	19	11.9	7	14.0	26	12.4
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Confident to have skill to persuade your partner to use condom (p-value.090)						
Not at all confident	11	6.9	4	8.0	15	7.2
Somewhat confident	30	18.9	16	32.0	46	22.0
Confident	63	39.6	11	22.0	74	35.4
Very confident	55	34.6	19	38.0	74	35.4
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
Condom use is complicated and loses time (p-value.025*)						
Disagree	105	66.0	43	86.0	148	70.8
Agree	54	33.9	7	14.0	61	29.2
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0
I usually did not plan to have sex, it just happens (p-value.183)						
Disagree	42	26.4	8	16.0	50	23.9
Agree	117	73.6	42	84.0	159	76.1
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0

Table 5.20: (Cont.) Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Condom Skills among Sexually Active Respondents by sex

Variables	Sex of respondents					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Plan to have sex in the last 6 months (p-value.678)						
Did not plan anything	109	68.8	31	62.0	140	67.0
Sometimes	33	20.8	13	26.0	46	22.0
Every time	17	10.7	6	12.0	23	11.0
Total	159	100.0	50	100.0	209	100.0

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out with chi-square

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.2.17 Scales of Parent-Respondent Interaction

Summary measures of several scales that measure different aspects of parent-youth interaction are displayed in Table 5.21. The values of Cronbach's Alpha, a measure of the reliability of a scale, are shown in Appendix D1-4. Scales were constructed by summing values on each item relevant to the scale and then dividing the total by the number of responses.

The parent-youth connectedness scale was based on 11 items. A higher score denotes high connectedness. The parent-youth general communication scale was based on 4 items. A higher score means the more communication between parents and youths on general issues. The parent-youth sexual communication scale was based on 8 items, with a higher meaning more communication between parents and youth on sexual matters. The parental expectation regarding sex scale was based on 4 items, with higher scores meaning higher expectations from parent that their children will refrain from sex. All scales were categorized with a low score of 1 and a high score of 5. Scales for mothers and fathers were created separately. All the total parent-youth interaction, namely parent-youth connectedness, parent-youth general communication, parent-youth sexual communication and perceived parental expectation regarding sex scale scores were used in the further analysis instead of individual items.

Striking differentials between female and male youth were observed for father-child connectedness, parent-youth connectedness, father-youth general communication, parent-youth general communication, parent-youth sexual communication combined and separately for mothers and fathers, perceived parental expectation regarding to sex combined and separately for mothers and fathers. As may be observed in the Table 5.27, youth were more connected to mothers than fathers. Males, compared to females, were more likely to be connected to mothers and fathers, although the difference on mother-child connectedness was not statistically significant. Female youth were more likely than male youth to perceive that they can discuss general and sexual issues with mothers; while male youth were more likely to discuss with fathers. It was clear that girls more than boys perceived that mothers and fathers had higher expectation regarding them refraining from sexual activity. Parents generally disapproved of their adult children, especially female children, having sexual relations and premarital sex.

Table 5.21: Mean and Standard Deviations of Parent-Respondents Interaction Scales by Sex of Respondents

Variables	Sex of respondents						Total		
Parent-Respondent interaction	Male			Female					
	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N
Mother-Respondent Connectedness (p-vallue.159)	3.74	.47	670	3.7	.53	482	3.72	.50	1152
Father-Respondent Connectedness (p<.001***)	3.58	.59	589	3.43	.64	437	3.52	.62	1026
Parent-Respondent Connectedness (p-value.002**)	3.67	.46	567	3.57	.53	421	3.63	.49	988
Mother-Respondent General Communication (p-value.076)	3.36	.78	670	3.44	.81	482	3.39	.79	1152
Father-Respondent general communication (p-value<.001***)	3.11	.90	589	2.78	.91	437	2.97	.92	1026
Parent-Respondent General Communication (p-value.012*)	3.24	.71	567	3.12	.74	421	3.19	.74	988
Mother-youth sexual communication (p-value<.001***)	1.77	.77	670	2.03	.71	482	3.1	.77	1152
Father-Respondent Sexual Communication (p-value<.001***)	1.60	.74	589	1.44	.56	437	1.53	.67	1026
Parent-Respondent Sexual Communication (p-value.036*)	1.66	.71	567	1.75	.58	421	1.7	.66	98
Perceived Mother Expectation towards sex (p-value<.001***)	3.51	.66	670	4.10	.69	482	3.7	.73	1152
Perceived Father Expectation towards sex (p-value<.001***)	3.49	.70	589	4.2	.65	437	3.79	.76	1026
Parental Expectation towards sex (p-value<.001***)	3.49	.66	567	4.16	.85	421	3.78	.73	988

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between males and females. Tests were carried out by t-test.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

There were few significant differences in mean score on the scales by age group (data not shown). Only for parental expectations about sex, combined and separately for mother and father, are the means scores of age group 18-20 significantly different from age group 21-24. As expected, younger respondents compared to older respondents are more likely to perceive that their parents expect them to refrain from sexual activity. For the parent-youth connectedness scale it can be seen that male respondents are more connected to fathers than that mothers. For parent-youth general and sexual communication, respondents preferred to talk with parents at the same sex.

5.2.18 Outcome Measures: Sexual Behaviors

All four outcome variables of sexual behaviors were examined, namely age at first sexual intercourse, condom use, multiple sexual partners, and frequency of sexual intercourse. Table 5.22 shows the correlations among the four outcome variables. Two were statistically significant: Number of sexual intercourse during the last six months was positively related to the number of sexual partners (r=.378, p-value.000) and negatively related to age at first sexual intercourse (r=-.212 , p-value.002). No other correlations were significant.

Table 5.22: Correlations among the outcome variables- sexual behavior

Variables	**Age at the 1st time of SI**	**No of sex partners in the last six months**	**Condom use at the last time**	**No of sexual intercourse**
	r	**r**	**r**	**r**
Age at the 1st time of SI	1.000 (409)	-.112 (209)	.052 (209)	-.212(**) (209)
No of sex partners in the last six months	-.112 (209)	1.000 (209)	-.026 (209)	.378(**) (209)
Condom use at the last time	.052 (209)	-.026 (209)	1.000 (209)	.077 (209)
No of sexual intercourse	-.212(**) (209)	.378 (209)	.0777 (209)	1.000 (209)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)
(n) sample size

5.2.19 Summary

There was a gender disparity of socio-demographic characteristic of respondent's and parent's background. Respondents in both sexes came from the middle class with male respondents had higher education than female which reflected in their occupation. Males were more likely to live with their family/relatives and respondent's family structure when they grow up is composed of both parents and sibling. Father's respondents had higher education than their mother's, which was reflected in their occupation. There was a significant difference between males and females concerning sex education which a higher number of males than females reported that friends as their main source of sex education.

Family factors such as parent-youth connectedness, parent-youth communication and perceived parental expectation towards sex are important factors influencing youth sexual attitudes and behaviors. The study revealed that male respondents were more likely to be close and connected to their parents compared to young females. Nevertheless, respondents perceived to be closer and have greater connectedness to parents of the same sex. Parent-youth general and sexual communication varies within gender of respondents. Parents only provided some basic information on general human sexuality for females and consequences of having sex for males. The findings suggested that parents rarely discussed sexual matters with their adolescent children. Female respondents perceived strongly disapproval of premarital sex from their parents, especially stronger disapproval from fathers than mothers. Perceived parental disapproval was less for males Mothers and fathers were more likely to approve that their son than daughter should pay more in education compared to girls. Regarding to sexual attitudes, males hold more liberal attitudes towards sexuality than females. Older age groups have more liberal attitudes than the younger age group.

A higher proportion of males were more sexually experienced than females (44.7 percent versus 19.2 percent). The study suggested that the mean age of male and female sexually active was quite similar (18.54 versus 18.61). Boys were more likely to have multiple sexual partners while females were most likely to have comparatively steady boyfriend. Overall, youth were potentially vulnerable to contracting sexually

transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS because of their unprotected sex behaviors. Youth hold a belief that condoms were not to be used with regular partners. In contrast, condom use is more prevalent in contact with casual partners or sex workers. This may be due to low risk perception associated with certain partners.

5.3 Ever Had Sex

In this section the bivariate analysis is presented on 'Ever Had Sex' by the Socio Demographic Background of youth', 'their Parent's Background', 'Intimate Relationships' and 'Partner's Behavior', 'Peer Influences', and 'Parental-respondent Interaction' .

5.3.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents and 'Ever Had Sex'

Table 5.23 shows a striking difference in premarital sexual experience by age, school enrollment, male employment's status and female's educational attainment. Among the demographic factors, older age was associated with a higher likelihood of ever had sex for both sexes than the younger age group (p-value <.001 for males and p-value <.01 for females respectively). Approximately 52.5 percent of male respondents and one-fourth (24.7 percent) of female respondents who currently attended school had experienced sexual intercourse compared to 39.5 percent of male and 11.7 percent of female out of school respondents respectively. Increased educational attainment was associated with a reduce likelihood of being sexually experienced, but the effect varies by gender. For females, having a primary education was the key factor, whereas there was no effect for males.

More male respondents who currently were working, were sexually experienced compared to those respondents who were not currently working (50.2 percent versus 40.6 percent, (p- value<.05). This suggested that being employed significantly increases the likelihood of being sexually active. Female respondents with a low level of education were more likely to be sexually active than those youth with a high level of educational (30.1 percent versus 10.1 percent, p-value<.01). However, there was no statistically significant difference for male respondents.

Female respondents who reported that their income was enough to meet expenses were less likely to be sexually active compared to those female respondents whose income was considered as not sufficient (16.2 percent versus 24.9 percent, p-value .023). There was a significant difference between living arrangements and ever had sexual intercourse for male respondents. This suggested that male respondents who lived with family were less likely to admit being sexually active in comparison with those youth who lived with relatives, friends, alone and with others (42.1 percent versus 51.3 percent, p-value .029).

Overall, the influence of socio-demographic characteristic of respondents on ever had sex revealed that there was a strong relationship between age group and school enrollment for both male and female respondents and ever had premarital sex. There was an association between female respondent's educational levels, sufficient income for expenses and ever had sex. Finally, currently working status and living arrangement of male respondents also significantly associated with ever had sex.

Table 5.23: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Ever Had Sex' by Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents and by Gender

Variables	Ever Had Sex					
Socio-demographic Characteristics	Male Yes			Female Yes		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Age group						
18-20	30.9	103	<.001***	15.7	45	.022*
21-24	57.2	210		23.9	51	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Attending school						
Yes	52.5	147	.001**	24.7	71	<.001*
No	39.5	166		11.7	25	**
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Respondent's Education						
Low						
Middle	50.0	24	.697	30.1	22	.007**
High	43.9	225		19.1	66	
Total	45.7	64		10.1	8	
	44.7	313		19.3	96	
Working status						
Yes	50.2	151	.014*	20.7	60	.358
No	40.6	162		17.1	36	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Sufficient Income						
Yes	45.5	244	.473	16.2	53	
No	42.1	69		24.9	43	.023*
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Living place:						
Family	42.1	211	.029*	17.8	50	.423
Relatives/others	51.3	102		21.0	46	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between selected socio-demographic factors and dependent variables (ever had sex) for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square. The first p-value refers to relationship for males while the second p-value refers to relationship for females.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

** *- Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Parents Influence on 'Ever Had Sex'

Aspects of parent's background such as education, marital status, parent living in the same house with respondents and family size may have an indirect influence on their children's sexual behavior. Table 5.24 illustrates that male respondents living in the same house with their mothers and fathers were less likely to be sexually active compared to those respondents who did not live in the same house with their mothers and fathers (p-value.002 for Fathers and p-value .02 for Mothers respectively).

With respect to the parent's marital status, mother's working status and 'Ever Had Sex', there was no statistically significant difference between parent's marital status, mother's working status and ever had sex for both sexes.

In conclusion, there was only a significant difference of male respondents in reporting 'Ever Had Sex' by mothers and fathers living in the same house.

Table 5.24: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Ever Had Sex' by Socio-demographic Characteristic of Parent by Sex of Respondents

Variables Socio-demographic Characteristic of Parents	**Ever Had Sex** Male Yes Percent	Number	p-value	Female Yes Percent	Number	p-value
Parent's marital status						
Married/living together	43.5	239	.228	18.0	74	181
Others	49.3	74		24.7	22	
Total	44.7	313		19.1	95	
Mother's Education						
Primary or less	44.9	254	.829	20.4	83	.065
High school or higher	43.1	44		10.3	7	
Total	44.6	298		19.0	90	
Father's Education						
Primary or less	43.0	89	.715	18.5	32	.717
High school	43.3	68		19.8	25	
Vocational	44.4	71		18.4	14	
Post high school	50.7	35		12.7	7	
Total	44.4	263		18.1	78	
Mother's working status						
Yes	46.8	177	.273	18.6	59	.715
No	42.3	124		20.0	33	
Total	44.9	301		19.0	92	
Living with Father						
Yes	40.5	174	.002**	17.4	47	.706
No	54.5	90		18.9	33	
Total	44.4	264		18.0	90	
Family Size						
1-4	47.8	43	.789	16.3	8	.521
5-9	44.5	241		18.8	73	
>=10	42.6	29		24.2	15	
Total	44.7	331		19.2	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between selected socio-demographic factors and dependent variables (Ever Had Sex) for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square.

** - Significant at the level p<.01

5.3.3 Influence of Feeling towards Family on 'Ever Had Sex'

Table 5.25 showed that male respondents, who felt lonely within the family more often, were more likely to have sexual experience than youth who felt less lonely (78.9 percent versus 29.4 percent). In contrast, female respondents who felt happy within the family very often were more likely to have sexual experience than others.

In summary, the findings revealed significant positive correlations between male respondent's loneliness and female respondent's happiness with their family and 'Ever Had Sex'.

Table 5.25: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Ever Had Sex by Feeling towards Family and by Source of Sex Education

Variables	Ever Had Sex					
	Male Yes			Female Yes		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Feeling lonely						
Never	38.7	147	<.001***	12.1	12	.053
Rarely	56.5	51		14.4	13	
Sometimes	47.8	77		20.9	49	
Often	40.0	13		27.9	12	
Very often	78.9	15		29.4	10	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Feeling happy						
Never/Rarely	46.8	50		0	0	
Sometimes	37.9	66	.317	13.2	20	<.001***
Often	48.1	130		16.5	21	
Very often	45.3	68		15.9	24	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between youth's feeling towards family and dependent variables (ever having had sex) for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with chi-square for categorical variables.

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.4 Sex Education and 'Ever Had Sex'

Table 5.26 presents the results on 'Sex Education' and 'Ever Had Sex'. Male respondents who cited parents as the main source of sex education were more likely to have sexual experience than respondents who named other sources such as friends, media (56.4 percent versus 51.6 percent, p<.01). In contrast, female respondents that named friends as their main source of sex education (27.8 percent) were more likely to

have sexual experience than those who cited school (10.9 percent) and media (17.3 percent) as their main source of sex education.

Participants in the FGDs mentioned that if parents found that their adult children are sexually active, they would be upset. However, for young males, parents seem to be more tolerant.

> *"It is normal for boys to be sexually active. Parents can accept that their sons are sexually active because boys did not lose anything. In addition, boys have more freedom than female to play around." (Verbatim: Saysetha M-6)*

For female that named friends as the main source of sex education were the likely to be sexually active. Possibly sex information from peers served to guide decision-making about sex for females. The desire of youth to be like their peers and the sense of belonging to and being accepted by the group, thus, can lead them to engage in sexual behavior.

Data from Focus Group Discussions were diverging from the quantitative findings. Family and peers are often cited as major sources of information concerning sexuality issues of youth, especially the same sex peers and parents. Boys and girls were different in how they receive sex education. The main source of sex education for males was mainly from their peers and media. Boys rely on their own and friend's sexual experience and some boys were more likely to watch sex movies or pornographic media because they dare to express their sexual desire more than girls.

> *"Male youth received information from friends who have experience. For example, one of my friends had sex with the bar girls last night and he did not use condoms." (Verbatim: Saysetha M-3)*

Girls would receive information on sex education from peers, and mass media namely posters, leaflets and brochures because they were shy and do not dare to express themselves. Girls perceived this issue as follows:

"I think that boys and girls receive information on sex education differently. I heard from my male friend that boys know about this from their own experience more than girls. My friend told me that he had visited sex worker, but he did not dare to have sex. Boys are more open about this issue." (Verbatim: Chanthabury F-5)

"Girls received sex education mainly from media such as TV, posters, leaflets. They are less likely to watch X movies." (Verbatim: Sikhottabong F-1)

However, many male and female respondents from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) discussed the role parents as the source of sex education. Some male participants, while admitting that discussion about sexual matters with parents is useful and tend to believe their parents more than their friends. For example:

"My parents told me about the negative consequences of having sex, using drugs etc.. They told me about being careful with friends. If you have good friends, you will be good. If you have bad friends, you will be bad and lose your opportunity for further education and your future." (Verbatim: Sisattanak M-3)

Almost all school youth said that they received sexuality information from the school. One of school youth mentioned that:

"I received knowledge on reproduction from the biology class. Teachers taught us about the physiology of male and female body, conception and menstruation. After the class, I discussed with my friend about these issues." (Verbatim: Saysetha F-2)

Table 5.26: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Ever Had Sex' by Sex Education and Gender

Variables Sex Education	**Ever Had Sex**					
	Male			Female		
	Yes			Yes		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Parents	56.4	22	.002**	18.5	10	.002**
Friends	51.6	129		27.8	47	
School	34.5	68		10.9	15	
Media	43.9	94		17.3	24	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between source of sex education and dependent variables (ever having had sex) for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with chi-square for categorical variables.

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.5 Intimate Relationship and 'Ever Had Sex' of Respondents

Table 5.27 shows that 53.9 percent of male and 26.9 percent of female respondents who currently have boy/girl-friends were significant more likely to be sexually active than those youth who currently did not have boy/girl-friends (p-value <.001 for males and p-value<.001 for female). Male respondents who have a higher number of boy/girl friends were more likely to be sexual active than those youth who had less number of friends (p-value <.050).

All sexually active male and female unmarried respondents experienced different stages of sexual relations namely dating (61.8 percent of males and 21.7 percent of females), holding, (50.4 percent of males and 24 percent of females), kissing (69.3 percent of males and 54.2 percent of females), and petting upper part (71.8 percent of males and 32.1 percent of females), and lower part of the body (76 percent of males and 47 percent of females), compared to the non-sexual active of unmarried respondents. The difference between different stages of sexual behavior and reported sexual experience of both male and female respondents was statistically significant. Sexual activity was correlated with dating, holding hands with opposite sex, kissing, petting upper part and lower part of the body. For example, those who do not date have lower levels of sexual activity. This was probable that adolescent respondents who were sexually active may be more likely to find out friends and dating partners who share perspectives on sexuality.

In general, there was a relationship between having boy/girl friends and different stages of sexual behaviors and ever had sex.

Table 5.27: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Ever had Sex' by Intimate Relations

Variables	**Ever Had sex**					
Intimate relationship	Male Yes			Female Yes		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Having boy/girl Friend						
No	28.1	70	<.001***	1.9	3	<.001***
Yes	53.9	243		26.9	93	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Having a number of steady boy/girl Friend:						
1	51.0	155	.030*	25.9	82	.304
2	52.9	45		40.9	9	
>=3	69.4	43		28.6	2	
Total	53.9	243		26.9	93	
Dating						
No	19.9	57	<.001***	4.4	8	<.001***
Yes	61.8	256		27.8	88	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Holding						
No	10.1	10	<.001***	1	1	<.001***
Yes	50.4	303		24	95	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Kiss						
No	9.1	26	<.001***	1.8	6	<.001***
Yes	69.3	287		54.2	90	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Petting upper part						
No	13.8	45	<.001***	.5	1	<.001***
Yes	71.8	268		32.1	95	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Petting lower part						
No	21.3	85	<.001***	5.7	19	<.001***
Yes	76.0	228		47	77	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between intimate relationship and dependent variables (Ever had Sex) for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.6 Partner's Behavior and 'Ever Had Sex' among Respondents

Table 5.28 showed the proportions of 'Partner's Behavior' by 'Ever had Sex' among respondents and by 'Gender'. Over half (58.9 percent) of male respondents who reported that their partner drinks alcohol were more likely to have sexual experience compared with the 42.2 percent of male's partner which do not drink alcohol (p-value <.001). Similar finding was found for female respondents. Approximately 30.6 percent of female's partner who drink alcohol had sex compared to 4.1 Percent of female's with partners non-drinkers (p-value <.001). A higher number of female partner's drinkers were more likely to be sexual active in comparison with male partner's drinkers.

The respondents were asked about the smoking behavior of their partner. There was a gender disparity between male and female in reporting a friend's smoking habit. Female respondents who reported that their partner were smokers were more likely to be sexual active compared to those respondent's with non-smoking friends (47.9 percent versus 18.8 percent, p-value <.001).

In conclusion, there was a strong relationship between having boy/girl friend, for female 'Partner's Alcohol Drinkers' and 'Tobacco Smokers' and 'Ever Had Sex'.

Table 5.28: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Ever had Sex by Partner's 'Undesirable Behavior'

Variables	Ever Had Sex					
Partner's Behavior	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Boy/girlfriend smokes tobacco:						
No	53.8	228	1.000	18.8	47	<.001***
Yes	55.6	15		47.9	46	
Total	53.9	243		26.9	93	
Boy/girl friend drinks alcohol						
No	42.2	57	.001**	4.1	2	<.001***
Yes	58.9	186		30.6	91	
Total	53.9	243		26.9	93	
Boy/girl friends goes out during night time						
No	49.8	105	.196	24.1	14	.260
Yes	59.2	93		31.3	47	
Not sure	54.2	45		23.2	32	
Total	53.9	243		26.9	93	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between youth partner's behavior and dependent variables (ever having had sex) for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.7 Peer Influence on 'Ever Had Sex'

Among the 'Peer Influence' variables, almost all emerged as significant with the exception of peers encouraging having a boy/girlfriend, except 'Peer Influence having boy/girl friends' (Table 5.29). Slightly over half of male (52.1 percent) and over-third of female respondents receiving peer influence to dating reported ever had premarital sexual experiences compared to those respondents without peer influence (34.4 percent and 12.4 percent for male and female respectively). Interestingly, 56.4 percent of male respondents reporting friends encouraged them having sex were sexually experienced, compared to only 31 percent of those reporting that friends did not encourage them to have sex.

Not surprisingly, more male than female respondents who reported that their girl/boy friends had indicated desire to having sex with them were significantly more likely to experience premarital sex than those who had not had a girl/boy friend indicating that

they desired having sex with them (66.5 percent versus 38.1 percent, p-value <.001 for males and 44.8 percent versus 7.8 percent, p-value <.001 for females respectively). Peer's influence on sexual behavior among respondents operates through peers encourage dating, peers influencing having sex and intimate partner ever-expressing desire to have sex.

Table 5.29: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Ever Had Sex' by Peer Influence and by Gender

Variables	**Ever Had Sex**					
Peer Influence	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Peer influence to have a boy/girl friend						
No	43.6	72	.788	13.0	12	.108
Yes	45.0	241		20.6	84	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Peer influence to go out with boy/girl friend						
No	34.9	105	<.001***	12.4	43	<.001***
Yes	52.1	208		34.4	53	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Peer encouraged you to have sex						
No	31.3	102	<.001***	12.4	52	<.001***
Yes	56.4	211		34.4	44	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	
Boy/girl friend indicated that they wanted to have sex with you						
No	38.1	204	<.001***	7.8	27	<.001***
Yes	66.5	109		44.8	69	
Total	44.7	313		19.2	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between peer influence and dependent variables (ever had sex) for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.8 Parent-respondent Interaction Factors Influencing 'Ever Had Sex'

Parents are the primary source of socialization for their children. Parents can influence youth's sexual behavior through their interaction with their children, namely parent-respondent closeness and connectedness, parent-respondent communication on general and sexual issues and perceived parental attitudes regarding youth's sexual behavior.

For the purpose of bivariate analysis, parent-respondent interaction variables were categorized into two groups with scores 1 to 3 meaning perceived low connectedness, perceived low communication and perceived low expectation regarding sexuality and scores 4 to 5 indicating high parent-respondent interaction. Table 5.30 summarizes the distribution between 'Parent-respondent Interactions' and 'Ever Had Sex'. Female respondent's perception of connectedness with mother and father were negatively associated with ever had sex (14.9 percent versus 52.8 percent, p-value <.001 with mothers and 11.6 percent versus 37.6 percent, p-value <.001 with fathers).

Interestingly, there was no relationship between male's perception of connectedness to mother and father and ever had sex among male respondents (p-value .273 and p-value .573 for Mothers and Fathers respectively). This could be due to girls spending more times with their family than boys. Also parents may have spent more time trying to influence the behavior of their daughters than their sons. Females perceived greater family cohesion, which is common in the Lao society. This was conformed by qualitative data, as pointed out by participants of the FGDs:

> *"Girls are closer to parents than boys. Girls think of parents first when they have problems then friends because parents provided them counseling and resolved the problems for them." (verbatim: Saysetha F-7)*

For parent-youth communication on general issues, it was found that the higher the communication between mother and father and female respondents on general issues, the lower the likelihood of them had sex (12.7 percent versus 32.1 percent, p- value <.001 with Mothers and 9.5 percent versus 22.0 percent, p-value <.001 with Fathers). However, there was no statistically significant difference between mother and father and male respondent's communication on general issues and sexual experience (p-value .119 for Mothers and p-value .483 for Fathers respectively).

Concerning to mother and father-respondent sexual communication, there was no association between mother and father and both male and female respondents on sexual communication and ever had sex.

The findings from FGDs also suggested that young people rarely talked about sex with parents. Youth did not dare openly discuss sexual matters with their parents because they were shy and afraid that their parents think that they were sexually active. Parents also were considered being shy to discuss these matters with their children and were perceived to feel uncomfortable discussing sexual matters. In the FGDs youth stated that few discussed sex with their parents. One participant from the FGD mentioned that:

> *"Youth does not dare to discuss sexual matters with parents because they feel shy and afraid that parents will be angry and prohibit them to do things with friends. If youth discussed about sexual matters, parents might think that youth are sexually active." (Verbatim: Sisattanak F-3)*

Sexual communication between parents and youth seems also to depend on parent's education. As one female in the FGDs stated:

> *"It depends on parents whether they can teach sexuality to their children or not. If parents have more education, they will provide sex education to their children. If they are farmers or from the rural areas, they do not know how to talk to their children about these things." (Verbatim: Chanhthabury M-5)*

The respondent's perception of both mother's and father's expectations towards sex was significantly related to them who ever had sex. Respondents, irrespective of Gender, who strongly perceived that mother disapproved of them, having sex, had a lower likelihood of having sexual experience compared to those respondents who perceived their parents approved them to having sex (35.8 percent versus 66 percent, p-value <.001 for male and 15.8 percent versus 46.2 percent, p-value <.001 for female respectively). Similar patterns were found for the respondents' perception on father's expectation regarding sex. Respondents who perceived that their father strongly disapproved, them having sex, were less likely to be sexually active than other respondents (35.2 percent versus 63.3 percent, p-value .001 for male and 14.6 percent versus 58.8 percent, p-value <.001 for female respectively). This finding supported our hypothesis that respondents who perceived higher parental expectation regarding sexuality were less likely to be sexually experienced.

In summary, three factors of parent-respondent interaction emerged as statistically significant. Firstly, there was an association between mother, father and parent-respondent connectedness and reporting premarital sexual experiences for female youth. Secondly, mother, father and parent-respondent on general communication emerged as protective factors for premarital sexual experiences for females. Thirdly, there is a strong negative relationship between perceived parental expectation regarding sex and ever having had sex for both male and female respondents.

Table 5.30: Distribution Frequencies and Proportions on Parental-Respondent Interaction by 'Ever Had Sex' and by Gender

Variables	**Ever Had Sex**					
Parent-youth Interaction	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Mother- respondent Connectedness						
Low Connectedness	53.1	26	.237	52.8	28	<.001 ***
High Connectedness	44.3	275		14.9	64	
Total	55.1	301		19.1	92	
Father- respondent Connectedness						
Low Connectedness	41.1	39	.537	37.6	41	<.001
High Connectedness	44.7	221		11.6	38	***
Total	44.1	260		18.1	79	
Parent- respondent Connectedness						
Low Connectedness	43.8	21	1.00	45.9	28	<.001 ***
High Connectedness	43.9	228		13.3	48	
Total	43.9	249		18.1	76	
Mother- respondent General Communication						
Low Communication	46.3	112	.132	32.1	51	<.001 ***
High Communication	44.2	189		12.7	41	
Total	44.9	301		44.6	92	
Father- respondent General Communication						
Low Communication	44.4	128	.322	22.0	66	<.001 ***
High Communication	43.9	132		9.5	13	
Total	44.1	260		18.1	79	
Parent- respondent General Communication						
Low Communication	47.2	109	.082	26.3	54	<.001
High Communication	41.7	140		10.2	22	***
Total	43.9	249		18.1	76	

Table 5.30: (Cont.) Distribution Frequencies and Proportions on Parental-Respondent Interaction by 'Ever Had Sex' and by Gender

Variables	Ever Had Sex					
Parent-youth Interaction	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Mother- respondent Sexual Communication						
Low Communication	45.5	280	.766	19.2	85	.564
High Communication	38.2	21		17.9	7	
Total	44.9	301		19.1	92	
Father- respondents Sexual Communication						
Low Communication	44.0	246	.858	18.3	78	.415
High Communication	46.7	14		9.1	1	
Total	44.1	260		18.1	79	
Parent- respondent Sexual Communication						
Low Communication	43.9	234	.876	18.2	74	.487
High Communication	44.1	15		13.3	2	
Total	43.9	249		18.1	76	
Mother Expectation regarding Sex						
Low Expectation	66.0	134	<.001	46.2	24	<.001
High Expectation	35.8	300	***	15.8	68	***
Total	55.1	369		19.1	92	
Father Expectation regarding Sex						
Low Expectation	63.3	119	<.001	58.8	20	<.001
High Expectation	35.2	141	***	14.6	59	***
Total	44.1	260		18.1	79	
Parent Expectation regarding Sex						
Low Expectation	67.1	106	<.001 ***	60.0	18	<.001
High Expectation	35.0	143		14.8	58	***
Total	43.9	249		18.1	76	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between independent and dependent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with Chi-square for categorical variables.

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.3.9 Summary

Findings revealed several factors associated with premarital sexual intercourse for males and females. Among the characteristic of respondents, for males, age, school enrollment, currently working and living arrangements were significant correlated with ever had sex; whereas for females, age, school enrollment, educational attainment, sufficient income for expenses were also significantly associated with ever had sex. With respect to the family background, there was only parents living within the same

house was significantly correlated with ever had having sex for males; while none of family structural variables were significant related to ever had sex for females.

The results also suggested that male respondents' loneliness, female respondents' happiness with their family, and the main source of sex education for both male and female respondents were positively related to experience of premarital sex. With regards to peer influence, there was a positive association between peers encouraging dating, peers influencing having sex, and intimate partners expressing desire to have sex and the likelihood of being sexually active for both sexes. Having a number of girlfriend and female partners of male and female respondents being drinkers were significantly related to 'Ever Had Sex'. It is also worth to note that different stages of sexual behaviors are related to ever having had sex for both sexes.

Several factors of parent- respondent interaction emerged as statistically significant. High levels of mother-respondent, father-respondent and parent-respondent connectedness, parent-respondent discussions about general issues were associated with a lower likelihood of being sexually experienced; while perceived parental expectations regarding sex was significantly related to less likely to 'Ever Had Sex' for both male and female.

5.4 Age at First Sex

Section 5.4 summarizes the bi-variate analysis of the outcome variable 'Age at First Sex' by selected 'Demographic Characteristics of Respondents', 'Parent's Background', 'Living arrangements', 'Intimate Relationship', 'Peer influence' and 'Parent-respondents Interaction'.

5.4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics Influencing 'Age at First Sex' Among Sexual Experienced Respondents

Table 5.31 displays the 'Mean Age at First Sex' by 'Socio-demographic characteristics of youth', 'Parents' Background' and 'Gender'. Findings revealed there was a statistically significant difference between age at first sex and educational level for females. For instance, female respondents who had a low level of education were more likely to have sexual experience at early age compared to those respondents who had high educational attainment (18.0 versus 20.0, p-value <.05).

Male respondents who were currently working were more likely to have initiated their first sexual intercourse at late age than those respondents who are not currently working (18.78 versus 18.31, p-value <.05). However, male respondents who had sufficient income for expenses were more likely to initiate their first coitus at early age than those respondents who have not enough income for expenses (18.41 versus 19.00, p-value <.05).

Overall, the variables that were significant among male respondents were currently working and sufficient income to meet expenses; while the significant predictors of early sexual initiation among female respondents in the bi-variate analysis was the level of education.

Table 5.31: Distribution of Frequency, Mean and Standard Deviations on Age at First Sex by Selected Demographic Characteristics and by Gender

Variables Demographic Charactseristics	Age at First Sex							
	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Attending school								
Yes	18.59	1.82	147	.680	18.59	1.60	71	.818
No	18.50	1.82	166		18.68	1.77	25	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Respondent's Education								
Low	18.79	2.19	24	.773	18.05	1.70	22	.014*
Middle	18.51	1.82	225		18.64	1.45	66	
High	18.55	1.69	64		20.00	2.20	8	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Working Status								
Yes	18.78	1.81	151	.023*	18.60	1.56	60	.911
No	18.31	1.80	162		18.64	1.78	36	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Sufficient Income								
Yes	18.41	1.81	224	.017*	18.70	.85	53	.582
No	19.00	1.79	69		18.51	.00	43	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	.65	96	
Living Place:								
Family	18.66	1.78	211	.083	18.88	1.87	50	.093
Relatives/others	18.28	1.87	102		18.33	1.30	46	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for two groups of different subjects on one variable and ANOVA for more than two sets of variable.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.4.2 Parent's Background Influencing 'Age at First Sex' among Sexual Experienced Respondents

Table 5.32 shows the distributions of 'Age at the First Sex', by selected 'Demographic Characteristics of Parents'. There was no significant difference between 'Age at First Sexual Intercourse' and 'Socio-demographic Characteristics of Parents'. Either, parent's marital status, level education, mother's working status or parents living the same house with youth, were not significantly related to the age at first coitus. Mothers living the same house with male respondents and parent's marital status among female respondents were marginally significant associated with late sexual intercourse. These variables will be addressed later in the multivariate analysis.

Table 5.32: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Age at First Sex by Selected Demographic Characteristic of Parents

Variables	**Age at First Sex**							
Demographic	Male				Female			
Characteristic	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Parent's Marital Status								
Married/living together	18.58	1.8	239	.467	18.45	1.61	74	.064
Others	18.41	1.89	74		19.18	1.62	22	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Mother's Education								
Primary or less	18.42	1.80	178	.479	18.52	1.57	71	.215
High school	18.58	1.96	76		18.25	1.48	12	
Vocational/post High school	18.77	1.76	44		19.57	2.51	7	
Total	18.51	1.84	298		18.57	1.65	90	
Father's Education								
Primary or less	18.49	2.05	89	.884	18.38	1.39	32	.148
High school	18.53	1.71	68		18.32	1.65	25	
Vocational	18.70	1.66	71		18.71	1.49	14	
Post high school	18.49	1.52	35		19.86	2.67	7	
Total	18.56	1.79	263		18.55	1.66	78	
Mother's Working Status								
Yes	18.41	1.7	177	.182	18.47	1.63	59	.386
No	18.69	2.0	124		18.79	1.69	33	
Total	18.52	1.83	301		18.59	1.65	92	
Living with Father:								
Yes	18.71	1.79	174	.298	18.64	.90	47	.568
No	18.28	1.76	90		18.42	.00	33	
Total	18.56	1.79	264		18.55	.70	80	
Living with Mother:								
Yes	18.60	1.83	215	.061	18.69	1.85	54	.500
No	18.35	1.84	86		18.45	1.33	38	
Total	18.52	1.83	301		18.59	1.65	92	
Family size								
1-4	18.53	1.53	43	.668	18.88	1.64	8	.074
5-9	18.51	1.88	241		18.77	1.59	73	
>=10	18.83	1.67	29		17.73	1.67	15	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for continuous variables. The first p-value refers to relationship for males while the second p-value refers to relationship for females.

5.4.3 Intimate Relationships and 'Age of First Sex'

Table 5.33 illustrates the distribution of the mean age at first sexual intercourse by intimate relationships by respondents' 'Gender'. None of the factors of the intimate relationships emerged statistically significant. This probably because youth's intimate relationship did not extend to the mean age at first coitus.

Table 5.33: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Age at First Sex by Intimate Relationship, by Stage of Sexual Behavior and by Gender

Variables	Age at First Sex							
Intimate Relationship	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Having boy/girl friends								
No	18.50	2.01	70	.835	20.33	.58	3	.064
Yes	18.55	1.76	243		18.56	1.63	93	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
No of boy/girl friends:								
1	18.59	1.67	155	.677	18.63	1.62	82	,288
2 and more	18.49	1.92	88		18.00	1.67	11	
Total	18.55	1.76	243		18.56	1.63	93	
Dating								
No	18.61	1.97	57	.734	18.62	1.85	8	.983
Yes	18.52	1.78	256		18.61	1.63	88	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Kiss								
No	18.62	1.90	26	.825	18.17	1.17	6	.492
Yes	18.53	1.81	287		18.64	1.66	90	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Petting lower part								
No	18.69	1.75	85	.360	18.47	1.22	19	.678
Yes	18.48	1.84	228		18.65	1.73	77	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for continuous variables. The first p-value refers to relationship for males while the second p-value prefers to relationship for females.

5.4.4 Partner's Behavior and 'Age of First Sex'

Table 5.34 illustrated that respondents in both sexes who reported their partners to smoke tobacco had a lower mean age of first sex compared to those youth's partner who did not smoke (17.93 versus 18.59 for males and 18.50 versus 18.60 for females); while male respondents whose partners go out during the night time had a lower mean age of first coitus compared to those whose partners did not went out during the night

time. But the difference between reporting the mean age of first coitus and partner' undesirable behavior for male and female was not statistically significant.

Table 5.34: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Age at First Sex by Partner's Behavior and by Respondents' Gender

Variables	Age at First Sex							
Partner's Behavior	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Boy/girlfriend drinks:								
No	18.81	1.88	57	.212	16.5	.71	2	.071
Yes	18.47	1.72	186		18.60	1.62	91	
Total	18.55	1.76	243		18.56	1.63	93	
Boy/girlfriend smokes:	18.59	1.72	228	.161	18.62	1.68	47	
No	17.93	2.25	15		18.50	1.60	46	.732
Yes	18.55	1.76	243		18.56	1.63	93	
Total								
Boy/girlfriend goes out during night time								
No	18.83	1.85	105	.099	18.00	.96	14	.380
Yes	18.37	1.62	93		18.68	1.68	47	
Not sure	18.29	1.79	45		18.62	1.77	32	
Total	18.55	1.76	243		18.56	1.63	93	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for continuous variables.

5.4.5 Peer Influence and 'Age at First Sex'

Table 5.35 summarizes the mean 'Age at First Sexual Intercourse' by 'Peer Influence' compared to youth without having peer influence and 'Gender'. There was only a significant relationship between boyfriends encouraged them to have sex and age at first sexual intercourse in girls (p-value < .05). Female respondents who reported that their boyfriend encouraged them to have sex were more likely to initiate their first sexual intercourse at an early age compared to girls who indicated their boyfriends did not encourage them to have sex (18.23 versus 18.94). However, the study suggested that there was no significant association between other peer influence variables and age at first sexual intercourse.

Table 5.35: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviation on Age of First Sex by Peer Influence and by Gender

Variables	Age at First Sex							
	Male				Female			
Peer Influence	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Peer Influence to have Relationship								
No	18.56	1.69	72	.934	18.42	1.56	12	.413
Yes	18.54	1.86	241		18.64	1.65	84	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Peer Influence to Outing								
No	18.71	1.67	105	.228	18.77	1.38	43	.637
Yes	18.45	1.88	208		18.49	1.83	53	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Peer Encouraged to have Sex								
No	18.56	1.78	102	.898	18.94	1.79	52	.032*
Yes	18.53	1.84	211		18.23	1.36	44	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	
Peer Indicated to Want Sex								
No	18.65	1.69	204	.154	18.70	1.61	27	.741
Yes	18.34	2.02	109		18.58	1.66	69	
Total	18.54	1.82	313		18.61	1.64	96	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for continuous variables.

* Significant at the level $p<.05$

** Significant at the level $p<.01$

5.4.6 Communication with Parents on when Starting Sex and 'Age at First Sex'

Table 5.36 shows the distribution of Frequencies, Mean and SD on the timing of sexual debut based on communication about when to start having sex with mothers and fathers separately.

Discussion about when start-having sex with mothers and fathers was not significantly related to the age of first sexual intercourse for males and females. It is interestingly to note that parents generally did not talk when to start having sex with their adult children, either for boys or girls.

Similar findings from the focus group discussions also pointed out that youth did not talk with their parents about when to start having sex. For boys, the parents just reminded them indirectly that they should not start having sex before having a job.

> *"...Mostly parents mention that boys should start working first before having sex. Parents do not think that their child is sexual active, so they do not mention about sex and avoid detailed discussion. It might be because parents think that youth aged 25-28 years should think about marriage." (Verbatim: Sikhottabong M-4)*

Overall, there was no association between mother's and father's discussion with sons and daughters about when to start having.

Table 5.36: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviation on Age of First Sex by Selected Topics of Sexual Communication and by Gender

Variables	**Age at First Sex**							
	Male				Female			
Communication about When to Start having Sex	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Talked about When to Start having Sex with Mother								
Never	18.50	1.80	218	.706	18.48	1.38	52	.485
Ever	18.58	1.93	83		18.73	1.96	40	
Total	18.52	1.83	301		18.59	1.65	92	
Talked about When to Start having Sex with Father								
Never	18.56	1.83	205	.633	18.59	1.69	71	.431
Ever	18.69	1.68	55		18.13	1.25	8	
Total	18.59	1.78	260		18.54	1.65	79	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for continuous variables.

5.4.7 Parent-Respondent Factors Influencing 'Age at First Sex' among Sexually Active Respondents

Table 5.37 shows a non-significant association between mother, father and parent-respondent connectedness and 'Age at First Sex' in boys and girls. Even though these factors were correlated with being sexually active, parent- respondent interaction variables, especially mother, father and parent- respondent connectedness were more related to being sexually active than to age at first sex.

Among the parent- respondent interaction factor, only mother- respondent communications on sexual matters was negatively associated with the age of first sex in boys. Male respondents who had discussed a number topic of sexual matters with mothers were more significantly likely to initiate their first sexual intercourse at a later age compared to those respondents who had less discussion on sexual matters with their mothers (p-value .005). However, there was no statistically significant difference for females (p-value .626).

Similar findings were found for the parent- respondent communication and age at first sex for males. Male respondents, who reported high-level communication with parents about sexual-based topics, were more likely to start their sexual debut at a later age compared to those male respondents with less communication about sexual issues with parents. There was a statically significant difference only for males, but not for females. It is probable that male respondents felt more comfortable and easy to talk about sexual matters with parents; while girls were shyer.

As almost all female participants in the focus group discussion mentioned that they felt shy and uncomfortable to discuss sexual topics with parents. If girls asked about sexual issues, they were afraid that parents may think that they are sexually active or bad girls and parents will be angry with them. There are double standards for girls and boys, which strongly persist in the Lao culture. As female respondents discussed in the FGDs:

"Female youth feel shy and embarrassment when discussing about sexuality with parents. They do not dare to express and feel confident. If they talked and asked parents about this issue, they are afraid that parents may think that they are sexually experienced and parents will condemn them and they will consider them as wrong." (Verbatim: Chanthabury F-7)

The data from focus group discussions also demonstrated that parents started discussion about sex with their youth at early age –15-16 for girls compared to 17-18 years old for boys. So parents might discourage their adult children to have sex at an early age by emphasizing on the negative consequences of having sex. The reason of starting discussion on sexuality at this age was explained as following:

"The age for girls starting discussion with parents about sexual issues was 15 years because at this age girls are more likely to go out and girls are growing up more quickly than boys." (Verbatiim: Sikhottabong F-6)

"The age for boys starting discussion about sex was 17-18 years, because at this age male youth starts going out at night time to meet and socialize with their friends." (Verbatim: Saysetha M-3)

Other factors of parent- respondent interaction were not associated with the age of first sexual intercourse. Our findings failed to support the notion that perceived parental expectation are significantly related to delay sexual debut. We hypothesized that respondents who perceived high parental expectation regarding sex were more likely to initiate their sexual debut at later age, compared to respondents with perceived low parental expectation regarding sex. It might be that parents did not mention that they approved them to have sex at what age. Male respondents perceived that parents would be more likely to accept male's premarital sexual behaviors than did females.

Male participants from the focus group discussion also stated that discussion about sex was not extending to the age that youth should have sex. Parent just approved male respondents having sex when they earn enough income and have their job. As respondents in the FGDs stated:

"Mostly parents emphasize on delinquent behaviors such as drug use and bad friends. They did not mention about sexual topics, including what age male youth should have sex." (Verbatim: Chanthabury M-2)

"Parents just emphasize when to have sex, for example not when studying, and only when you have job and marry."(Verbatim: Sisattanak M-5)

Table 5.37: Pearson Correlation Coefficients for Relationship between Parent-Respondents Interaction and Age at First Sex of Male and Female Respondents

Variables	**Age at First Sexual Intercourse**				
Parent-youth Interaction	Male		Female		
	r	p-value	r	p-value	Total
Mother-respondent Connectedness	-.015 (301)	.790	.167 (92)	.111	.027 (393) [p=.593]
Father- respondent Connectedness	-.032 (260)	.605	.047 (79)	.680	-.008 (339) [p=.884]
Parent- respondent Connectedness	-.019 (249)	.762	.123 (76)	.285	.019 (325) [p=.732]
Mother- respondent General Communication	.027 (301)	.646	.058 (92)	.583	.032 (393) [p=.531]
Father- respondent General Communication	-.075 (260)	.226	.633 (79)	.762	-.046 (339) [p=.394]
Parent- respondent General Communication	-.034 (249)	.394	.045 (76)	.699	-.029 (325) [p=.604]
Mother- respondent Sexual Communication	-.162** (301)	.005	.052 (92)	.626	-.116* (393) [p=.022]
Father- respondent Sexual Communication	-.116 (260)	.061	-.011 (79)	.923	-.097 (339) [p=.073]
Parent- respondent Sexual Communication	-.157** (249)	.013	.064 (76)	.584	-.118* (325) [p=.034]
Mother's Expectation on Sex	.047 (301)	.415	.053 (92)	.619	.050 (393) [p=.321]
Father's Expectation on Sex	.013 (260)	.831	.021 (79)	.853	.011 (339) [p=.836]
Parent's Expectation on Sex	.042 (249)	.512	.012 (76)	.919	.031 (325) [p=.580]

Note: Significance tests evaluate the linear association between variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with Pearson Correlation Coefficient for continuous variables.

* Correlation is significant at the $p<0.05$ level.

** Correlation is significant at the $p<0.01$ level.

(n)- In the parenthesis it is the number of cases of each category.

5.4.8 Summary

The findings revealed some important features. With respect to the socio-demographic characteristics, for females, low level of education was related to early age at first sex; whereas for male, current work status and sufficient income were emerged as statistically significant related to age at first sex.

The study suggested that female youth's boyfriends, who encouraged them to have sex, were more likely to initiate sexual debut at an early age compared to those girls who did not have boyfriends encouraging them to have sex.

Among the parent-respondent interaction factors, there was only mother and parent-youth communications on sexual matters that were negatively associated with the age of first sexual intercourse in boys. Other factors of parent-youth interaction were not associated with the age of first sexual intercourse for both sexes. Findings failed to support the notion that perceived parental expectation are significantly related to delay first sexual debut.

Overall, fewer significant predictors were found for age at first sexual intercourse due to the complexity of this nature and primarily involved peer influences. This study suggested that among family structural and process variables, the strong protective factors were family-process variables that affected the ''Age at First Sexual Intercourse'.

5.5 Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse

Section 5.5 presents the bi-variate analysis of the protective factor of 'Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse' during the last six months stratified by gender. It includes socio-economic, intimate relations, peer influence, and parental-youth interaction as predictors of condom use. Only sexually active respondents were included in the analysis.

5.5.1 Socio-demographic Characteristic Influencing 'Condom Use' among Sexually Experienced Respondents

Fifty five percent of boys and fifty percent of girls who were sexual experienced reported having used a condom at the time of last sexual intercourse (data are not shown. Table 5.38 shows that only living arrangement of female respondents correlates of being sexually active emerged as significant with regard to condom use at the last sexual intercourse. Female youth who lived with their family were only 38.5 percent as likely to have used condom during the last time of sexual intercourse, which was less than girls who lived with relatives (75 percent).

Overall, with regard to the socio-demographic background of respondents, there was only an association between living arrangement and reported condom use at their last sexual intercourse during the last six months preceding the interview for females.

Table 5.38: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Condom Use at Last Sexual Intercourse' by Socio-Demographic Characteristics and by Gender

Variables	**Condom Use**					
Demographic Characteristics (there are no parent data here!)	Male Percent	Male Number	p-value	Female Percent	Female Number	p-value
Age						
18-20	54.7	29	.738	65.4	17	.254
21-24	57.5	61		45.8	11	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Attending School						
Yes	52.1	37	.337	59.5	25	.277
No	60.2	53		37.5	3	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Respondent's Education						
Low & middle	53.5	68	.162	55.3	26	1.000
High	68.8	22		66.7	2	
Total	56.8	90		43.4	28	
Working Status						
Yes	57.1	40	1.000	62.9	22	.214
No	56.2	50		40.0	6	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Sufficient Income						
Yes	59.5	69	.280	60.7	17	.568
No	48.6	21		50.0	11	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Living Place:						
Family	52.3	57	.123	38.5	10	.012*
Relatives/others	66.0	33		75.0	18	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

*- Significant at the level $p<.05$

5.5.2 Parent's Socio-demographic Characteristics Influencing 'Condom Use' among Sexually Experienced Respondents

Table 5.39 presents the distribution of frequencies and proportions on 'Condom Use at Their Last Sexual Intercourse' during the last six months by Parent's Background. There was only mother's education of male respondents was significantly associated with condom use at the last sexual intercourse. This suggested that male respondents whose mothers had high level of education were more likely to use condom (66.7 percent versus 50.0 percent, p-value .047).

Table 5.39: Distribution of frequencies and Proportions of Parent's Socio-Economic Factors Influencing 'Condom Use' among Sexually Experienced Respondents

Variables	**Condom Use**					
Socio-demographic characteristic	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Parent's Marital Status						
Married/living together	56.1	69	.850	62.2	23	.197
Others	58.3	21		38.5	5	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Mother's Education						
Primary or less	50.0	47	.047*	55.6	20	1.000
High school/Vocational/ post-high school	66.7	40		60.0	6	
Total	56.5	87		56.5	26	
Father's Education						
Primary/less	54.8	23	.853	68.8	11	.506
High school/Vocational/ post-high school	56.7	51		54.5	12	
Total	56.1	74		60.5	23	
Mother's Working Status:						
Yes	55.7	49	1.000	57.1	20	1.000
No	56.7	38		53.8	7	
Total	56.1	87		56.3	27	
Living with Father						
Yes	52.7	49	.344	54.2	13	.318
No	62.5	25		75.0	12	
Total	55.6	74		62.3	25	
Living with Mother						
Yes	54.1	60	.474	46.4	13	.144
No	61.4	27		70.0	14	
Total	56.1	87		56.3	27	
Family size						
1-4	53.8	14	.465	40.0	2	.749
5-9	55.2	64		57.9	22	
>=10	70.6	12		57.1	4	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables. The first p-value refers to relationship for males while the second p-value refers to females.

5.5.3 Intimate Relationships and Condom Use

Table 5.40 displays the distribution of 'Condom Use at Last Sexual Intercourse' during the last six months by intimate relationship and partner's behavior. There was no significant relationship between the intimate relationship and different stages of sexual behavior and condom use at the last sexual intercourse.

Additionally, findings revealed that there was no significant relationship between condom use and multiple sexual partners. It is probable that it is more difficult to reduce high-risk behavior of young people than in the adult population. Additionally, this might be due to youth with multiple sexual partners had less stable relationships, thus perceive less need to use condoms.

Table 5.40: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Condom Use by Intimate Relationship and by Gender

Variables	**Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse**					
Intimate Relationship and Partner's Behavior	Male Percent	Male Number	p-value	Female Percent	Female Number	p-value
Having boy/girl friend						
No	63.0	17	.527	33.3	1	.576
Yes	55.3	73		57.4	27	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Number of steady boy/girl friends:						
1	58.6	51	.356	60.5	26	.298
2 and more	48.9	22		25.0	1	
Total	55.3	73		57.4	27	
Number of sexual partners during the last six moths Single	59.3	16	.174	40.7	11	.397
2-3	64.5	40		35.5	22	
> 4	48.6	34		51.4	36	
Total	58.6	90		43.4	69	
Dating						
No	58.3	14	1.000	33.3	1	.576
Yes	56.3	76		57.4	27	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Petting upper part						
No	68.8	11	.426	100.0	1	1.000
Yes	55.2	79		55.1	27	
Total	56.6	80		56.0	28	
Petting lower part						
No	66.7	22	.238	33.3	2	.385
Yes	54.0	68		59.1	26	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

5.5.4 Partner's Behavior and 'Condom Use'

Table 5.41 shows the distribution of frequencies and proportions on 'Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse' by 'Partner's Behavior'. The respondents, irrespective of gender, reporting that their partners smoke tobacco and go out during nighttime were not significantly related to condom use at the last sexual intercourse. This suggested that the partner's behavior was not related with condom use. This might be due to specific factors of condom use.

Table 5.41: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Condom Use by Partner's Behavior and by Gender

Variables	**Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse**					
Intimate relationship and		Male			Female	
partner's behavior	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Boy/girlfriend smoke:						
No	56.1	69	.512	56.0	14	1.00
Yes	44.4	4		59.1	13	
Total	55.3	73		57.4	27	
Boy/girl friends go out during night time						
No	63.5	35	.212	28.6	2	.124
Yes	51.9	28		69.2	18	
Not sure	43.5	10		50.0	7	
Total	55.3	73		57.4	27	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables

- Boy/girl friends drink and use drugs were not included in the analysis due to small sample.

5.5.5 Peer Influence on 'Condom Use' among Sexually Active Respondents

Peers may also influence decisions concerning condom use, which have been found to be an important factor to protect against unsafe sex. Table 5.42 displays the frequencies and percentages using 'Condoms at The Last Sexual Intercourse' during the last six months, prior to the interview, by 'Peer Influence' and by 'Gender'. Among the variables taken into consideration, there was only an association between influence from peers to have relationships with a boy/girlfriend and condom use among female sexually active youth.

For other items, there was no association between peer influence and condom use during last sexual intercourse. For instance, there was no significant difference in

condom use between those that were encouraged and those that were not encouraged by peers to have sex. Similar results were found for other variables that measured the influence of peers and intimate partners.

In general, this study found that peer influence to have a relationship with an intimate partner was positively associated with condom use at the last sexual intercourse for females, but not for males. It should be noted that in this study, peer influence on condom use such as perceived peer expectation on condom use, perceptions of peer attitudes on condom use and communication with peers as predictors of condom use were not specifically measured.

Table 5.42: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions of 'Condom Use at their Last Sexual Intercourse' during the Last Six Months by Peer Influence and by Gender

Variables peer influence	**Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse** Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Peer influence to have boy/girl friend						
No	51.3	20	.462	0	0	.002**
Yes	58.3	70		65.1	28	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Peer influence to go out with boy/girl friend						
No	56.5	26	1.000	40.9	9	.086
Yes	56.6	64		67.9	19	
Total	56.5	90		56.0	28	
Peer encouraged to have sex						
No	54.5	24	.858	44.8	13	.086
Yes	57.4	66		71.4	15	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	
Boy/girl Friend indicated they wanted sex						
No	58.7	54	.627	50.0	7	.753
Yes	53.7	36		58.3	21	
Total	56.6	90		56.0	28	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables. The first p-value refers to relationship for males while the second p-value prefers to relationship for females.

** - Significant at the level $p<.01$

5.5.6 Communication about Contraceptives and 'Condom Use at Last Sexual Intercourse'

Table 5.43 showed the frequencies and percentages on 'Condom Use at The Last Sexual Intercourse' by 'Communication about Birth Control and Condoms' with mothers and fathers.

Discussion about birth control with mothers and fathers was unrelated to condom use for males and females. However, there was a positive association between communication about condom with fathers and condom use among sexually active males (p-value .030), but not for females.

It is interestingly to note that parents generally did not talk about birth control and condoms with their adult children, either boys or girls. This suggests that efforts should be made to promote discussion between parents and youth on birth control and condom use in order to provide knowledge to youth to help them protect themselves from unsafe sex.

Similar findings from the focus group discussions also pointed out that youth did not talk with their parents about condom use or birth control. The topics of parent-male youth communication are friends, sexual relationships and dating, drug use and when to start having sex. For boys, the parents reminded them indirectly that they should not bring any problems to the family and be careful when they go out at night or go out playing. The boys should have some work before marriage, and not make any girls pregnant before marriage.

> *"My parent mostly emphasized on drug use and meet with good friends, not delinquent or gangster friends. They do not think that their sons are sexually active, so they do not talk about sexuality related topics." (Verbatim: Sikkhottabong M-2)*

For daughters, mothers will emphasize boyfriends, dating, and hygiene when they have menses, marriage and when start having sex. For example one girl said that her parents advised her:

> *"When I am going out with my boyfriend, my parents told me to be careful with boyfriends. They said that the boys will put some sleeping pills in your glass when you drink, and then they will have sex with you." (Verbatim: Chanthabury F-1)*

It is interestingly to note that parents generally did not talk about birth control and condoms with their adult children, either boys or girls.

Overall, there was only a significant association between father's discussion with sons about condom and condom use, but not for females.

Table 5.43: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on 'Condom Use at their Last Sexual Intercourse' during the Last Six Months by Selected Topics of Sexual Communication and by Gender

Variables	Condom Use at the Last Sex					
Communication about contraceptives and condoms	Male Percent	Male Number	Male p-value	Female Percent	Female Number	Female p-value
Talked about condom with mother						
Never	52.8	57	.222	56.7	17	1.000
Ever	63.8	30		55.6	10	
Total	56.1	87		56.3	27	
Talked about birth control with mother						
Never	55.6	70	.837	63.3	21	.209
Ever	58.6	17		40.0	6	
Total	56.1	87		56.3	27	
Talked about condom with father						
Never	49.5	48	.030*	61.3	19	1.000
Ever	72.1	26		62.5	5	
Total	55.6	74		61.5	24	
Talked about birth control with father						
Never	54.2	64	.419	57.6	19	.376
Ever	66.7	10		20.8	5	
Total	50.0	74		61.5	24	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with chi-square for categorical variables.

* - Significant at the level $p<.05$

5.5.7 Parent-Respondent Interaction Factors Influencing 'Condom Use' among Sexually Active

Table 5.44 displays the distribution of frequencies and percentages on condom use at last sexual intercourse by parental-respondent interaction. None of the parental-youth interaction variables emerged as statistically significant. Parent- respondent connectedness and closeness was not related to condom use among sexually active youth.

Findings indicated that parent-respondent communication on general issues and on sexual matters were not significantly related with condom use at last sexual intercourse. Similarly, almost participants of FGDs mentioned that parents just cautioned them

about friends, and when to start having sex. Parents did not talk with them about contraceptives and condom. As one participant in the focus group discussion stated:

> *"My parent just advised me about going out during night time when I was 18 years old. I can go out to the nigh-clubs or to have girlfriends, but not over the limit that my parent set for me. If there are some problems occurring, it is difficult to solve." (Verbatim: Sisattanak M-2)*

For females, parents also just reminded them not to do wrong according to the culture. As one female in the focus group said:

> *"My mother advised me not to go out during night. I should focus on studying. If I'm going out at the night, my mother already thinks I am a bad girl." (Verbatim: Saysetha F-3)*

Strongly perceived disapproval of premarital sex was not associated with condom use for both males and females. However, perceived higher expectation about refraining from sex was a protective factor for sexual activity of youth. It is probable that once youth engaged in sex, parental explanations about sexual behavior did not extend to condom use. Most parents when discussing issues of sex with children probably stressed the importance of not having sex, rather than condom use during sex. Therefore there may have been no expectations communicated about condom use.

Overall, this study did not find any factors among sexually active respondents that were significantly associated with condom use for male and female respondents.

Table 5.44: Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Parental-Respondent Interaction by 'Condom Use at Last Sexual Intercourse' and by Gender.

Variables	Condom Use at the Last Sex					
Parent-youth interaction	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Mother- respondent connectedness						
Low connectedness	60.0	9	.792	54.5	6	1.000
High connectedness	56.1	78		56.8	21	
Total	54.5	87		56.3	27	
Father- respondent connectedness						
Low connectedness	47.6	10	.477	53.3	8	.505
High connectedness	57.1	64		66.7	16	
Total	55.6	74		61.5	24	
Parent- respondent connectedness						
Low connectedness	53.8	7	1.000	55.6	5	1.000
High connectedness	55.2	64		62.1	18	
Total	55.0	71		60.5	23	
Mother- respondent general communication						
Low connectedness	47.2	25	.126	63.6	14	.393
High connectedness	60.8	62		50.0	13	
Total	56.1	87		56.3	27	
Father- respondent general communication						
Low connectedness	53.7	36	.728	53.3	16	.115
High connectedness	57.6	38		88.9	8	
Total	55.6	74		61.5	24	
Parent- respondent general communication						
Low connectedness	45.5	25	.074	54.5	12	.506
High connectedness	62.2	46		68.8	11	
Total	55.0	71		60.5	23	
Mother- respondent sexual communication						
Low connectedness	43.1	82	.536	56.5	26	.111
High connectedness	54.5	5		50.0	1	
Total	43.9	87		56.3	27	
Father- respondents sexual communication						
Low connectedness	56.8	71	.465	60.5	23	1.000
High connectedness	37.5	3		100	1	
Total	55.6	74		61.5	24	
Parent- respondent sexual communication						
Low connectedness	54.9	67	1.00	59.5	22	1.000
High connectedness	57.1	4		100	1	
Total	55.0	71		60.5	23	

Table 5.44: (Cont.) Distribution of Frequencies and Proportions on Parental-Respondent Interaction by 'Condom Use at Last Sexual Intercourse' and by Gender.

Variables	Condom Use at the Last Sex					
Parent-youth interaction	Male			Female		
	Percent	Number	p-value	Percent	Number	p-value
Mother expectation regarding to sex						
Low connectedness	50.7	36	.256	64.3	9	.536
High connectedness	60.7	51		52.9	18	
Total	56.1	87		56.3	27	
Father expectation regarding to sex						
Low connectedness	49.2	30	.220	55.6	5	.711
High connectedness	61.1	44		63.3	19	
Total	55.6	74		61.5	24	
Parent expectation regarding to sex						
Low connectedness	50.0	29	.374	55.6	5	1.000
High connectedness	59.2	42		62.1	18	
Total	55.0	71		60.5	23	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with Chi-square for categorical variables. The first p-value refers to relationship for males while the second p-value prefers to relationship for females.

5.5.8 Summary

As shown in the bi-variate analysis, described above, several factors were significantly correlated with being sexually active, but were not significant in relation to condom use at the last sexual intercourse. For instance, among the family structure variables, living arrangements was negatively associated with condom use at last sexual intercourse for females, while for males; high educational level of mothers is more likely related to 'Condom Use'.

Among the intimate relationship and partner's behavior variables, no factors were correlated with condom use at last sexual intercourse. In terms of peer influence and condom use, peer influences to have a boy/girlfriend were positively associated with 'Condom Use at Last Sexual Intercourse'. Other factors of peer influence were not related to condom use. This could be explained due to the relatively small number of sexually experienced respondents. The study also found that there was an association between father-son communication about birth control and reporting condom use at the

last sexual intercourse. Other factors of parent-respondent interaction were not significantly related to condom use.

The analysis suggested that family context rather than structural factors are of primary importance when the role of family was taken into account with regards to condom use. Mother-respondent communication about birth control, including condom use influences respondent's condom use. Unexpectedly, the study found that family structure and process variables have little influence on condom use. Additional, we found very little difference in the factors that affect males and females condom use.

5.6 Number of Sexual Partners during the Last Six Months Preceding the Survey

This section presents bi-variate analyses of factors associated with having 'Multiple Sexual Partners'. The factors explored are "Socio-demographic Characteristics' of respondents, 'Parent's Background', 'Intimate Relationship', 'Partner's Behavior', 'Peer Influence' and 'Parent-respondent Interaction' namely 'Parent-respondent Connectedness', 'Parent-respondent General Communication', 'Parent-respondent Sexual Communication' and perceived 'Parental Expectations' regarding sexuality. Only sexually active respondents during the Last Six Months preceding the Survey were included in the analysis.

5.6.1 Socio-economic Characteristic of Respondents Influencing on 'Number of Sex Partners'

Table 5.45 shows that educational attainment of male respondents was positively associated with having had multiple of sexual partners, while other factors were not related to having had multiple sexual partners. Boys with low level of education were less likely to have multiple sexual partners in comparison with those respondents who had high level of education (mean score 1.33 versus 2.72, p-value <.05). This suggested that respondents with low level of education might have less resource to afford multiple sex partners. However, no factors were revealed statistically significant for female respondents.

Table 5.45: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Multiple Sexual Partners of Sexually Experienced Respondents by Selected Demographic Characteristics and by Gender

Variables	Multiple Sexual Partners							
Socio-Demographic	Male				Female			
Characteristics	Mean	SD	N	p-value	Mean	SD	N	p-value
Age Group								
18-20	2.00	1.51	53	.732	1.12	.43	26	.619
21-24	2.09	1.69	106		1.21	.83	24	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Attending School								
Yes	2.03	1.89	71	.810	1.19	.71	42	.453
No	2.09	1.39	88		1.0	.00	8	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Respondent's Education								
Low	1.33	0.49	12	.017*	1.13	.52	15	.881
Middle	1.96	1.10	115		1.19	.74	32	
High	2.72	2.88	32		1.00	.00	3	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Working Status								
Yes	2.27	2.04	70	.153	1.09	.37	35	.221
No	1.90	1.21	89		1.33	1.05	15	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Living Place:								
Family	2.13	1.77	109	.459	1.27	.87	26	.220
Relatives/others	1.93	1.26	50		1.04	.20	24	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Sufficient Income								
Yes	2.02	1.31	116	.563	1.29	.85	28	.124
No	2.19	2.29	43		1.00	.00	22	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with independent t-test for two groups of different subjects on one variable and ANOVA for more than two sets of scores.

*- Significant at the level $p<.05$

5.6.2 Socio-demographic Characteristic of Parents and 'Multiple Sex Partner'

Table 5.46 presents summary data of socio-demographic characteristics of parents and the number of sexual partners of respondents. As can be observed, there were no parent's 'Socio-demographic Characteristics' found to be significantly associated with multiple sexual partners during the last six months among both male and female respondents.

Table 5.46: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Partners of Sexually Experienced Respondents by Selected Parent's Demographic Characteristics and by Gender

Variables	Multiple Sex Partners							
Socio-demographic	Male				Female			
Characteristics of their Parents	Mean	SD	N	P value	Mean	SD	N	P value
Parent's marital status								
Married/living together	2.03	1.36	123	.665	1.16	.73	37	.969
Others	2.17	2.35	36		1.15	.38	13	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Mother's Education								
Primary or less	2.03	1.74	94	.852	1.19	.75	36	.725
High school	2.02	1.28	39		1.00	.00	5	
Vocational/post-high school	2.24	1.79	21		1.00	.00	5	
Total	2.05	1.64	154		1.15	.67	46	
Father's Education								
Primary or less	1.95	1.31	42	.709	1.13	.50	16	.502
High school	1.90	1.23	39		1.33	1.15	12	
Vocational/post high school	2.12	1.41	51		1.00	.00	10	
Total	2.00	1.32	132		1.16	1.32	38	
Mother's working								
Yes	2.23	1.92	88	.157	1.17	.75	35	.660
No	1.85	1.16	67		1.08	.28	13	
Total	2.06	1.64	155		1.15	.65	48	
Living with Father								
Yes	2.04	1.34	93	.712	1.25	.90	24	.274
No	1.95	1.30	40		1.00	.00	16	
Total	2.02	1.33	133		1.15	.70	40	
Living with Mother								
Yes	2.20	1.84	111	.107	1.25	.84	28	.193
No	1.73	.90	44		1.00	.00	20	
Total	2.0	1.64	155		1.15	.65	48	
Family size								
1-4	1.85	1.32	26	.395	1.20	.45	5	.788
5-9	2.04	1.26	116		1.18	.73	38	
>=10	2.53	3.34	17		1.00	.00	7	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with independent t-test for two groups of different subjects on one variable and ANOVA for more than two sets of scores.

5.6.3 Intimate Relationship and 'Multiple Sexual Partners'

The intimate behavior of respondents and their partner's behavior may have an influence on having had multiple sexual partners. Table 5.47 summarizes the findings on sexual partners of male and female respondents by intimate relationship compared to respondents without intimate relationships. Significant differences were observed for reporting having a number of friends and petting lower part of the body. Respondents, irrespective of gender who had a number of boy/girl friends were more likely to have multiple sexual partners compared with those respondents who had fewer friends (2.04 versus 1.62; p-value <.01, data not shown). However, the difference was significant only for males, but not for females (p-value <.05 for males and p-value .866 for females respectively).

When looking at different stages of sexual behaviors, there was a significant difference between respondents reported having experience of petting the lower part of the body and having had multiple sexual partners. Male respondents who reported petting the lower part of the body were more likely to have multiple sexual partners compared with those without petting lower part of the body (p-value <.050).

Table 5.47: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Partners of Sexually Experienced Respondents by Selected Intimate Relationship and Different Stages of Sexual Behavior and by Gender

Variables	Multiple Sex Partners							
Intimate relationships	Male				Female			
& partner's behavior	Mean	SD	N	p- value	Mean	SD	N	p- value
Having boy/girl friends								
No	2.30	2.83	27	.416	1.00	.00	3	.665
Yes	2.02	1.27	132		1.17	.67	47	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
No of steady boy/girl friends								
1	1.84	1.27	87	.026*	1.16	.69	43	.866
>=2	2.36	1.19	45		1.25	.50	4	
Total	2.02	1.27	132		1.17	.67	47	
Boy/girlfriend smoke								
No	1.99	1.26	123	.437	1.24	.83	25	.452
Yes	2.33	1.32	9		1.09	.43	22	
Total	1.79	1.20	132		1.17	.67	47	
Dating								
No	1.50	.66	24	.066	1.00	.00	3	.665
Yes	2.16	1.73	135		1.17	.67	47	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Petting lower part								
No	1.52	.71	33	.030*	1.00	.00	6	.526
Yes	2.21	1.77	126		1.18	.69	44	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test for the mean score.

- Petting upper part of the body was not included in the analysis due to small numbers

*- Significant at the level p<.05

5.6.4 Peer Influence and 'Multiple Sexual Partners'

Table 5.48 displays the findings on multiple sexual partners of sexually experienced male and female respondents who received peer influence compared to respondents who did not receiving peer influence.

This study did not find any significant relationships between peer influences to have relationship with friends, to date, to encourage having sex and wanted to have sex with respondents and having had multiple sexual partners. Among the non-significant factors of particular interests are peer influences on encouraging them having sex.

Table 5.48: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Multiple Sexual Partners of Sexually Experienced Respondents by Peer Influence and by Gender

Variables	Multiple Sex Partners							
Peer influence	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	N	p-value	Mean	SD	N	p-value
Peer influence to have relationship with boy/girl friend								
No	2.41	2.56	39	.126	1.14	.38	7	.941
Yes	1.95	1.17	120		1.16	.69	43	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Peer influence to dating								
No	2.13	2.39	46	.740	1.09	.29	22	.511
Yes	2.04	1.20	113		1.21	.83	28	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Peer encouraged to have sex								
No	1.75	1.10	44	.135	1.21	.77	29	.554
Yes	2.18	1.78	115		1.10	.44	21	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	
Peer indicated desire to have sex								
No	2.04	1.69	92	.861	1.29	1.07	14	.440
Yes	2.09	1.55	67		1.11	.40	36	
Total	2.06	1.63	159		1.16	.65	50	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with t-test.

5.6.5 Parent-Respondent Interaction Factors Influencing 'Multiple Sexual Partners' among Sexual Active Respondents

Table 5.49 presents the findings on sexual partners of sexually experienced male and female respondents by parent-respondent interaction compared to respondents without parent-child interaction. Findings revealed that there was no statistically significant relationship between high level of connectedness between parent-respondents and having number of sexual partners.

The data from FGDs also confirmed this finding, where the majority of respondents reported that they were not feeling close to parents, but they were more close to their peers. In terms of caring and support to their children, most of participants said that nowadays parents provide only material support rather than psychological, moral and

emotional support to them. The reason of less connectedness mentioned by the youth was no time to supervise and monitor their children. As youth mentioned that:

> *"Mostly parents provided material support to us more than moral support. For instance, buy new car or a mobile phone. Youth are more likely to think about material support rather than moral support because they have money and material like motorcycle or car, they can go out anywhere as they want and as a result of this, they might have consequences such as road accidents. Youth are not close to parents and parents do not provide enough warmth to their up-growing children. On the other hand, children do not stay at home and parents also go out to work to earn money." (Verbatim: Sisattanak M-4)*

There was only a positive association between mother-son sexual communication and having had multiple sexual partners. Male respondents who reported high level of communication about sexual topics with their mothers were more likely to have multiple sexual partners than those who had low level of sexual communication with their mothers (p-value <.05).

Male respondents who perceived their parents to strongly disapprove them having sex were less likely to report having had multiple sexual partners compared to those respondents perceived that their parents approved of premarital sex. There was a statistically significant difference only for males, but not for females.

Similarly, participants from the FGDs also mentioned that it is acceptable for male to engage in premarital sexual behavior and having multiple sex partners.

Overall, the family process variables were found to be important protective factors against having had multiple sexual partners, especially perceived parental expectation regarding sex. Nevertheless, the findings revealed that there was a positive association between parent-respondent communication about sexual matters and having multiple sexual partners.

Table 5.49: Pearson Correlation Coefficients for Relationship between Parent-Respondent Interaction and Mean Sexual Partners by Gender of Sexually Experienced Respondents

Variables	**Means of Multiple Sexual Partners**				
Parent-youth interaction	Male		Female		
	r (n)	p-value	r (n)	p-value	Total (n)
Mother-respondent connectedness	.089 (155)	.271	.163 (48)	.267	.134 (203) [p.056]
Father-respondent connectedness	-.041 (133)	.643	.130 (39)	.430	.055 (172) [p.472]
Parent-respondent connectedness	-.026 (129)	.767	.176 (38)	.291	.074 (167) [p.342]
Mother-respondent general communication	.063 (155)	.437	.046 (48)	.759	.076 (203) [p.280]
Father-respondent general communication	.043 (133)	.624	.117 (39)	.478	.107 (172) [p.163]
Parent-respondent general communication	.070 (129)	.430	.085 (38)	.613	.105 (167) [p.176]
Mother-respondent sexual communication	.185* (155)	.021	-.021 (48)	.886	.104 (203) [p.140]
Father-respondent sexual communication	.005 (133)	.958	-.165 (39)	.314	.009 (172) [p.911]
Parent-respondent sexual communication	.054 (129)	.543	-.124 (38)	.458	.011 (167) [p.887]
Mother expectation regarding to sex	-.191* (155)	.017	-.127 (48)	.389	-.230** (203) [p.001]
Father expectation regarding to sex	-.204* (133)	.018	-.147 (39)	.372	-.271** (167) [p.000]
Parent expectation regarding to sex	-.192* (129)	.030	-.129 (48)	.442	-.257** (172) [p.000]

Note: Significance tests evaluate the linear association between variables separately for males and for females. Tests were carried out with the Pearson Correlation Coefficient.

* Correlation is significant at the $p<0.05$ level.

** Correlation is significant at the $p<0.01$ level.

(n)- In the parenthesis it is the number of cases of each category.

5.6.6 Summary

Among factors tested as to whether they have an influence on the number of sexual partners, only few factors emerged as statistically significant. There was only a positive relationship between male respondent's level of education and having had multiple sex partners. For intimate relationship and partner's behavior, findings revealed two factors that were positively associated with reported having had multiple sexual partners for males. These are having a number of friends and petting lower part of the body. With

respect to the peer influence, no peer influence factors emerged as statistically significant.

In relation to the parent-respondent interaction, perceived parental higher expectation regarding sex was negatively associated with having had multiple sexual partners for males. However the significant difference for the mentioned above variables was found only for males, but not for females. High levels of parent-respondent communication about sexual-based topics were positively associated with having had multiple sexual partners in males. In sum, no factors were statistically significant associated with multiple sexual partners for females.

5.7 Sexual Attitudes

This section provides an analysis of sexual attitudes and factors correlated to the sexual attitudes of youth stratified by Gender.

5.7.1 Sexual Attitudes Scale

A sexual attitude scale based on 13 items was constructed. The ordinal scale was used and ranged from 1 'strongly disagree', 2 'disagree', 3 'somewhat', 4 'agree' to 5 'strongly agree' with a low score of 1 and a high score of 5. Higher scores indicate more liberal attitudes towards sex and lower scores connote more conservative or negative attitudes towards sexuality. Males had higher mean scores than females (2.81 versus 2.68, p-value <.001) indicating more liberal attitudes. Although arguable, expect critique on the use of a mean for perceptions because intervals are not exact measures.

The Focus Group Discussions confirmed the quantitative findings that the majority of male respondents held more liberal attitudes towards sexuality, perceiving that premarital sex is acceptable for young males in the Lao society. The reason was based on the value of gender roles and the use of a double standard for girls. Boys did not lose anything. Young people want to know each other whether they can stay together.

"It is acceptable for boys to have premarital sex because they are curious and it is normal for boys. The boys would like to have sex with girls before marriage because they can negotiate with girl's parent and reduce the bride price." (Verbatim: Sisattanak M-2)

"It is okay for boys to have sex before marriage because it is unavoidable. And the boy would like to try and to have his own experience. On the other side the society accept their position because they do not lose anything, including their reputation and prestige." (Verbatim: Chanthabury M-5)

Almost all respondents, irrespective of gender, considered that premarital sex among unmarried girls is unacceptable because it is wrong according to the Lao culture and customs. Girls lose their prestige and dignity in the eyes of others. Girl's chastity was regarded as a major factor in marriage but as a hindrance rather than an asset. If the society knows or other people know that she has sex, she will be considered a loose girl and her boyfriend will leave her.

"Girls who have sex with many people will be seen as loose girls and the society will condemn her. For example a person who has sex with that girl, they will tell other people that they have sex with this girl." (Verbatim: Sikhottabong F-3)

"It is not acceptable for girls to have premarital sex because girls will lose their reputation. Girls will be gossiped by other people and the boy who had sex with the girl will say that he had sex with this girl." (Verbatim: Saysetha F-8)

"...Girls having more sexual partners are called bad girls or loose girls (Kadek). On the other hand, boys having sex with many girls are acceptable." (Verbatim: Sisattanak F-4)

A minority believes that it is acceptable for girls to have premarital sex. As one girl in the FGD stated:

"Nowadays, western culture is coming to our country. So some people believe that it is acceptable for girls to have premarital sex." (Verbatim: Chanthabury F-6).

This double standard extended to the virginity status within the context of marriage. The majority of boys wanted to have their wives to be virgin, while they admitted to being sexually experienced. There was substantial social support within the Lao culture for this double standard.

5.7.2 Socio-demographic Factors Influencing Sexual Attitudes of Respondents

Table 5.50 shows that there was a positive association between current school attendance and sexual attitudes. The respondents aged 21-24 years old in both genders hold more liberal attitudes than those aged 18-20 (2.83 versus 2.79, p-value <.05 for male and 2.7 versus 2.66, p-value <.010 for female). It appeared that females have more conservative attitudes regarding sexuality than male.

The respondents currently attending school reported more liberal attitudes compared to respondents not attending school (2.71 versus 2.65, p-value <.005) for females, but not for males. It was probable that respondents attending school currently were more exposed to peer norms and values related to sexuality. So they hold more permissive sexual attitudes due to peers influence. Male respondents who lived with their families or relatives were more likely to hold conservative attitudes towards sexuality compared to those respondents living with others (2.80 versus 2.88, p-value<.010). This might be because respondents who lived with parents received more parental supervision and monitoring and parental attitudes and values disapproving adolescent's sex transferred to youth. However, the association between living arrangement and sexual attitudes was not statistically significant for females.

Overall, few socio-demographic factors were significantly related to the sexual attitudes of youth. When considering individual factors, school enrollment at the time of interview was statistically associated with liberal sexual attitudes for females. Another

significant factor was living arrangement of male respondents with family which was correlated with conservative sexual attitudes.

Table 5.50: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Selected Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondent and by Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Socio-demographic	Male				Female			
characteristic of respondents	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Age group								
18-20	2.79	.283	333	.031*	2.66	.269	287	.010*
21-24	2.83	.287	367		2.72	.241	213	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Attending school								
Yes	2.83	.30	280	.096	2.71	.254	287	.007*
No	2.80	.26	420		2.65	.262	213	
Total	2.81	.28	700		2.68	.259	500	
Respondent's Education								
Low	2.85	.352	48	.114	2.70	.240	73	.336
Middle	2.80	.277	512		2.69	.256	346	
High	2.85	.288	140		2.65	.287	79	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.69	.259	498	
Currently working								
Yes	2.82	.29	301	.680	2.68	.256	290	.976
No	2.81	.27	399		2.69	.264	210	
Total	2.81	.28	700		2.68	.259	500	
Living place:								
Family	2.80	.293	501	.013*	2.68	.270	281	.345
Relatives	2.79	.262	66		2.66	.236	51	
Others	2.88	.258	133		2.71	.247	168	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Sufficient Income								
Yes	2.80	.273	536	.127	2.67	.274	327	.101
No	2.84	.322	164		2.71	.227	173	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between socio-demographic characteristic of youth and parent's background and sexual attitudes for males and for females separately. Tests were undertaken with t-test.

*-Significant at the p level <.05

5.7.3 Socio-demographic Background of Parents and 'Sexual Attitudes'

Table 5.51 illustrates that male respondents who reported their father to live in the same house were more likely to have a conservative attitude with regards to sexuality (mean score of 2.79 versus 2.86, p-value <.05). A similar pattern was found for mothers living

within the same house for male respondents (2.79 versus 2.86, p-value < .05). Overall, the sexual attitudes of male respondents living with their mother and father were more conservative than those of respondents living apart from their parents.

Table 5.51: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Selected Socio-Demographic of Parent's and by Respondents' Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Socio-demographic	Male				Female			
characteristic of parents	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Parent's marital status								
Married/living	2.80	.288	550	.105	2.68	.263	411	.729
together	2.85	.273	150		2.69	.242	89	
Others	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Total								
Mother's Education								
Primary or less	2.83	.290	390	.098	2.68	.255	307	.523
High school	2.80	.274	176		2.67	.269	99	
Vocational	2.75	.288	84		2.67	.261	46	
Post high school	2.74	.182	18		2.76	.263	22	
Total	2.81	.284	668		2.68	.259	474	
Father's Education								
Primary or less	2.83	.312	207	.551	2.68	.259	173	.692
High school	2.79	.283	157		2.70	.248	126	
Vocational	2.80	.288	160		2.65	.281	76	
Post high school	2.81	.243	69		2.68	.287	55	
Total	2.81	.291	593		2.68	.263	430	
Mother's working status								
Yes	2.82	.27	378	.205	2.67	.26	318	.062
No	2.79	.29	293		2.72	.24	165	
Total	2.81	.28	671		2.69	.25	483	
Living with Father								
Yes	2.79	.29	430	.014*	2.66	.267	270	.568
No	2.86	.26	165		2.71	.253	175	
Total	2.81	.29	595		2.68	.262	445	
Living with Mother								
Yes	2.79	.28	517	.011*	2.66	.267	270	.056
No	2.86	.26	154		2.71	.253	175	
Total	2.81	.28	671		2.68	.262	445	
Family size								
1-4	2.81	.26	90	.610	2.76	.244	49	.086
5-9	2.82	.28	542		2.68	.264	389	
>=10	2.78	.28	68		2.68	.230	62	
Total	2.81	.28	700		2.68	.259	500	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between socio-demographic characteristic of youth and parent's background and sexual attitudes for males and for females separately. Tests were undertaken with t-test.

*-Significant at the p level <.05

5.7.4 Influence of Feelings towards Family on Sexual Attitudes

Table 5.52 presents the findings on sexual attitudes and youth's feelings towards their family. The respondents, irrespective of gender, who felt often lonely, were more likely to hold liberal attitudes compared to those respondents who never felt lonely. Findings also suggested that respondents who felt happy with their family rarely were more likely to have liberal attitudes towards sexuality than those youth who felt happiness. This was often for females (2.80 versus 2.69, p<.001), but not for males. It might be that female respondents were more attached to the family and more sensitive to feelings of happiness within the family compared to male respondents.

Overall, there were few significant factors that affected sexual attitudes of respondents. For both boys and girls, feeling lonely was associated with liberal attitudes towards sexuality. For girls, feeling happy was related to holding liberal attitudes towards sexuality.

Table 5.52: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Feelings towards Family and by Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Feelings towards Family	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Feeling Lonely:								
Never	2.78	.268	380	.001**	2.60	.258	99	.005**
Rarely	2.86	.313	108		2.69	.274	90	
Sometimes	2.82	.286	161		2.71	.249	234	
Often	2.99	.321	32		2.73	.227	43	
Very often	2.88	.256	19		2.71	.286	34	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Feeling Happy:								
Never/Rarely	2.84	.299	106	.633	2.80	.239	71	<.001***
Sometimes	2.80	.277	174		2.69	.252	151	
Often	2.81	.290	270		2.69	.243	127	
Very often	2.81	.278	150		2.63	.271	151	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between youth's feeling towards family and source of sex education and dependent variables (sexual attitudes) for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with ANOVA for continuous variables.

**- Significant at the level p<.01

***- Significant at the level p<.001

5.7.5 Sex Education and 'Sexual Attitudes'

Table 5.53 shows that female respondents who named friends as main sources of sex education were significantly correlated with negative sexual attitudes compared to those respondents who cited school and media as source of sex education (2.74 versus 2.67, p-value .002). This could be explained that their peers transferred the liberal attitudes towards sexuality to their friends and they accepted their friend's attitudes and their norms. Thus, friends transmitted their values and norms related to sexuality to their peers.

Overall, having friends as the main source of sex education was associated to holding liberal attitudes towards sexuality for girls, but not for males.

Table 5.53: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Source of Sex Education and by Gender

Variables	**Sexual attitudes**							
Source of sex	Male				Female			
education	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Main source of sex education								
Parents	2.86	.290	39	.287	2.61	.258	54	.002**
Friends	2.83	.285	250		2.74	.248	169	
School	2.78	.290	197		2.67	.249	138	
Media	2.81	.280	214		2.66	.272	139	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between youth's feeling towards family and source of sex education and dependent variables (sexual attitudes) for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with ANOVA for continuous variables.
** - Significant at the level p<.01

5.7.6 Intimate Relationships and Sexual Attitudes

Table 5.54 suggested that respondent who currently has boy/girlfriends hold more permissiveness attitudes towards sexuality than those having no boy/girl friends (mean score of 2.83 versus 2.78 for male and 2.71 versus 2.63 for female). For boys, having a high number of girlfriends was significantly associated with having permissive attitudes towards sexuality compared to those youth having one or two girlfriends.

The stages of sexual behaviors from dating to petting lower part of the body were statistically significant related to liberal sexual attitudes for both sexes. It is clear that respondent who experienced more intimate sexual behavior such as heavy petting or fondling the breast hold permissive attitudes regarding sexuality.

In summary, having a number of girl friends was related to liberal sexual attitudes for males; while currently having friends and all different stages from dating to petting the lower part of the body were linked to liberal sexual attitudes for both males and females.

Table 5.54: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Intimate Relationship Variables and by Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Intimate relationships	**Male**				**Female**			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Having friend								
No	2.78	.26	451	.010*	2.63	.254	154	.004*
Yes	2.83	.29	249		2.71	.259	346	
Total	2.81	.28	700		2.68	.259	500	
Number of boy/girl friends:								
1	2.80	.278	304	.001**	2.71	.252	317	.613
2	2.88	.303	85		2.73	.335	22	
3>=	2.95	.318	62		2.62	.305	7	
Total	2.83	.294	451		2.71	.259	346	
Dating								
No	2.73	.260	286	<.001***	2.63	.245	183	.001**
Yes	2.87	.288	414		2.71	.263	317	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Holding								
No	2.72	.308	99	<.001***	2.62	.256	104	.002**
Yes	2.83	.279	601		2.70	.257	396	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Kiss								
No	2.72	.266	414	<.001***	2.65	.254	334	<.001***
Yes	2.87	.282	286		2.76	.253	166	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Petting upper part								
No	2.73	.268	327	<.001***	2.61	.252	204	<.001***
Yes	2.88	.283	373		2.73	.253	296	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Petting lower part								
No	2.75	.280	400		2.65	.258	336	
Yes	2.90	.274	300	<.001***	2.75	.251	164	<.001***
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between intimate relationship and partner's behavior and dependent variables (sexual attitudes) separately for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with t-test for two groups of different subjects on one variable and ANOVA for more than two sets of score.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.7.7 Partner's Behavior and 'Sexual Attitudes'

Table 5.55 revealed that male respondents whose partners drink and go out during night time were more likely to hold permissive sexual attitudes in comparison with respondents, whose partners did not smoke, drink and go out during night time (and 2.86 versus 2.76, p.001 for drinking and 2.90 versus 2.78, p-value <.01 for go out during the night time). In contrast, male respondents whose smoke were more likely to hold more conservative 'Sexual Attitudes' than the others (mean score of 2.78 versus 2.83, p.018 for smoking).

In sum, partner's undesirable behavior such as drinking, smoking and going out during the nighttime were associated with liberal attitudes regarding sex for male respondents, but not for female respondents.

Table 5.55: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Partner's Behavior and by Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Intimate relationships	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Boy/girlfriend smoke:								
No	2.83	.290	423	.018*	2.69	.264	244	.111
Yes	2.78	.311	28		2.75	.238	102	
Total	2.83	.294	451		2.71	.259	346	
Boy/girl friend drink:								
No	2.76	.269	135	.001**	2.69	.266	49	.746
Yes	2.86	.299	316		2.71.	.258	297	
Total	2.83	.294	451		2.71	.259	346	
Boy/girl friends used drugs:								
No	2.83	.290	437	.751	2.71	.263	312	.778
Yes	2.84	.517	14		2.72	.211	34	
Total	2.83	.294	457		2.71	.259	346	
Boy/girl friends go out during night time								
No	2.78	.27	211	<.001**	2.67	.32	58	.288
Yes	2.90	.29	157		2.73	.232	150	
Not sure	2.84	.30	83		2.70	.256	138	
Total	2.83	.294	451		2.71	.259	346	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between intimate relationship and partner's behavior and dependent variables (sexual attitudes) separately for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with t-test for two groups of different subjects on one variable and ANOVA for more than two sets of score.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

5.7.8 Peer Influence and Sexual Attitudes

As shown in Table 5.56, all peer influence variables were statistically significant with sexual attitudes. Respondents, regardless of gender who received peer influences to go out with friends, encouraging them to have sex and wanted to have sex, exhibited more liberal attitudes towards sex. For females, respondents who received peer influences to have a relationship with boyfriends were more likely to have permissive sexual attitudes, but this was not found for males.

Table 5.56: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations on Sexual Attitudes by Peer Influence and by Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Peer influence	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Peer influence to have steady friends								
No	2.78	.269	165	.062	2.61	.272	92	.002**
Yes	2.82	.289	535		2.70	.253	408	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Peer influence to go out with friend								
No	2.74	.268	301	<.001	2.67	.260	346	.013*
Yes	2.86	.287	399	***	2.73	.253	154	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Peer encouraged you to have sex								
No	2.74	.259	326	<.001	2.66	.256	434	<.001
Yes	2.87	.294	374	***	2.83	.236	66	***
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Peer indicated that they wanted to have sex with								
No	2.79	.276	536	<.001	2.65	.254	346	<.001
Yes	2.88	.304	164	***	2.76	.254	154	***
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between peer influence and dependent variables (sexual attitudes) separately for males and for females. Tests were undertaken with t-test.

* - Significant at the level p<.05

** - Significant at the level p<.01

*** - Significant at the level p<.001

5.7.9 Sexual Behavior and 'Sexual Attitudes'

Table 5.57 shows the findings on sexual attitudes related to sexual behaviors. As expected, there was a positive relationship between sexual attitudes and sexual behavior of respondents. The respondents, irrespective of gender, who had sexual experience, were more likely to hold permissive or liberal attitudes towards sexuality (2.94 versus 2.70 for male and 2.80 versus 2.66 for female). However, there was no relationship between condom use and sexual attitudes.

Table 5.57: Distribution of Frequencies, Mean and Standard Deviations of Association between Sexual Attitudes and Sexual Behaviors by Gender

Variables	**Sexual Attitudes**							
Sexual behaviors	Male				Female			
	Mean	SD	No	p-value	Mean	SD	No	p-value
Ever had sex								
No	2.74	.267	387	<.001***	2.66	.248	96	<.001***
Yes	2.90	.286	313		2.80	.276	404	
Total	2.81	.285	700		2.68	.259	500	
Condom use								
No	2.95	.283	91	.210	2.79	.238	22	.811
Yes	2.89	.302	181		2.81	.297	28	
Total	2.92	.296	209		2.80	.270	50	

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between the sexual behaviors and dependent variables (sexual attitudes) for males and for females separately. Tests were undertaken with t-test. The first p value refers to relationship for males while the second p value refers to relationship for females.

** - Significant at the level p<.001

In table 5.58 the correlation between different aspects of sexual behavior among the sexually active and sexual attitudes is shown. For males, the later the age at first sexual intercourse the more conservative the sexual attitude but the difference was statistically significant (p-value <.05). Neither of the other indicators of behavior was related to sexual attitudes for males and none of the two indicators were related to sexual attitudes for females (p-value.279 and p-value.459 for males and females respectively).

Table 5.58: Pearson Correlation Coefficients for Relationship between Sexual Attitudes Score by Outcome of Sexual Behavior According to Sex

Variables	Sexual Attitudes Scores				
	Male		Female		
	r	P	r	p	Total
Age at first sexual intercourse	-.120* (313)	<.034	.014 (96)	.890	-.093 (p=.060)
Number of sexual partners	.086 (159)	.279	.107 (50)	.459	.125 (p=.070)

Note: Significance tests evaluate the difference between dependent and independent variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with Pearson Correlation Coefficient for continuous variables.

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

5.7.10 Parent-respondent Factors Influencing 'Sexual Attitudes' of Respondents

Table 5.59 shows the findings on sexual attitudes related to parent-respondents interaction. The study revealed that there was a negative association between perceived mother-respondent connectedness and sexual attitudes. Respondents ho feel high connected to their families were less likely to hold permissive sexual attitudes than those who did not connect to their families (p-value <.01 and p-value <.001 for male and female respectively). A similar finding was found for the parent-respondent connectedness.

There was a negative relationship between mother-respondent general communication and sexual attitudes for both genders. Respondents who perceived that their mothers talked to them about general issues hold more permissive attitudes regarding sexuality. A similar pattern was found for the perceived parent-respondent general communication.

Perceived father-respondent sexual communication was positively related to sexual attitudes for males, but not for females. The same findings were found for parent-respondent sexual communication. Nevertheless, there was no association between mother-respondent sexual communication and sexual attitudes for both genders.

In terms of paternal expectation concerning their children's sexual behaviors, respondents who perceived higher mother/father disapproval of sex had more conservative sexual attitudes compared to those respondents who perceived paternal approval of sex. Similar findings were found for the perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality.

Overall, several factors of parent-respondent interaction was emerged as significant. High mother-son and daughter connectedness, general communication and expectation regarding sexuality related to conservative sexual attitudes. High father-son sexual communication is related to liberal sexual attitudes; in contrast, high father-son and daughter expectation towards sex were related to conservative sexual attitudes.

Table 5.59: Pearson Correlation Coefficients for Relationship between Parent-Respondent Interaction and Sexual Attitudes by Gender

Variables	**Sexual attitudes scores**				
	Male		Female		
	R (n)	p-value	R (n)	p-value	Total (n)
Mother-respondent connectedness	-.102** (670)	.008	-.241** (482)	<.001	-.147** (1152) [p<.000]
Father-respondent connectedness	-.070 (589)	.090	-.274 (437)	.001	-.124 (1026) [p<.001)
Parent-respondent connectedness	-.089* (567)	.033	-.287** (421)	.001	-.149 (988) [p<.001]
Mother-respondent general communication	-.145** (670)	<.001	-.190** (482)	.001	-.170 (1152) [p<.000)
Father-respondent general communication	.-.046 (589)	.268	-.138* (437)	.004	-.041 (1026) [p=.185]
Parent-respondent general communication	-.105* (567)	.012	-.191** (421)	<.001	-.120** (988) [p<.001]
Mother-respondent sexual communication	.053 (670)	.167	.006 (482)	.894	-.010 (1152) [p<.747]
Father-respondent sexual communication	.118* (589)	.004	.027 (437)	.566	.109** (1026) [p<.001]
Parent-respondent sexual communication	.090* (567)	.032	.018 (421)	.712	.049 (988) [p<.128]
Mother expectation regarding to sex	-.160** (670)	<.001	-.322** (482)	<.001	-.287** (1152) [p<.001]
Father expectation regarding to sex	-.210** (589)	<.001	-.296** (437)	<.001	-.311** (1026) [p<.001]
Parent expectation regarding to sex	-.205** (567)	<.001	-.331** (421)	<.001	-.318** (988) [p<.001]

Note: Significance tests evaluate the linear association between variables for males and for females. Tests were carried out with Pearson Correlation Coefficient for continuous variables.

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

5.7.11 Summary

Overall, several socio-demographic factors were significantly related to the sexual attitudes of respondents. The significant variables for males were age, living arrangements, mothers and fathers who lived within the same house and feeling lonely often which were significantly related to sexual attitudes; while for females, age, current school enrollment and feeling lonely often, feeling less happy and friends as the main source of sex education were associated with liberal attitudes towards sexuality.

There were several factors of intimate relationships and partner's behaviors that were related to sexual attitudes, such for males, having girlfriends, having a number of girlfriends, girl friend's drinking, smoking and going out during the night time and all stages of sexual behavior from dating to petting lower part of the body and peer influence variables (except peer influence having girl friends) were related to permissive sexual attitudes. However, for females the significant predictors of sexual attitudes were having boy friends, all different stages of sexual behaviors all peer influences. Almost all parent-respondent interaction factors were related to sexual attitudes, with the exception of father variables (father-respondent connectedness, father-respondent general communications) and mother-respondent sexual communications were not related to sexual attitudes for both sexes.

Among the sexual behavior variables, there was only ever having had sex that was negatively associated with sexual attitudes for both sexes; while age at the first sexual intercourse was negatively significantly related to sexual attitudes only for males, but not for females.

5.8 Summary of bi-variate Analysis

There are multiple risk and protective factors that affected the outcome variables on sexual behaviors (ever had sexual intercourse, age at first sexual intercourse, condom use at the last sexual intercourse and multiple sexual partners) when considering the multi-system approach namely individual, familial and extra familial influences. One or more factors from each system contributed to the predictors of youth's engagement in sexual behaviors that indicated that youth involvement in sexual behavior is influenced

by multiple risk factors from the multi-systems. The bivariate analysis was summarized separately for males and females according to the outcome variables in the Appendix E.

5.8.1 Ever Had Sex

Males

For 'Ever Had Sex', several variables emerged as statistically significant. The following predictors were significantly associated with sexual activity for males:

1) Socio-demographic background (older age, school enrollment, currently working, living with family and feeling lonely more often towards family were positively related to 'Ever Had Sex'; whereas fathers and mothers living within the same house were inversely associated with 'Eve had Sex';
2) Parents as main source of sex education were more likely associated with 'Ever Had Sex'.
3) Peer influences (to go out, encouraged to have sex and friends ever expressing desire to have sex) were more likely related to 'Ever Had Sex';
4) Partner's behavior (partner's alcohol use) was positively related to 'Ever Had Sex'.
5) Intimate relationships (having girl friends, having a number of steady friends, all different stages of sexual behavior) were associated with being more likely to 'Ever Had Sex'.
6) Perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality was negatively correlated with 'Ever Had Sex'.

Females.

The significant predictors related to 'Ever Had Sex' were:

1) Socio-demographic background (older age, attending school of respondents) was positively related to 'Ever Had Sex'; whereas sufficient income was less likely related to 'Ever Had Sex'.
2) Low educational level and Feeling happiness more often within the family was more likely related to 'Ever Had Sex';
3) Friends as major source of sex education was related to being more likely to 'Ever Had Sex';

4) Peer influence (to go out, encouraged to have sex and friends ever expressing desire to have sex) was positively associated with 'Ever Had Sex';
5) Partner's behaviors (alcohol and drug use) were positively associated with 'Ever Had Sex';
6) Intimate relationship (number of boy/girl friends, all different stages of sexual behavior) was positively associated with 'Ever Had Sex';
7) High level of parent-daughter connectedness, high level of parent-daughter communication about general issues, and perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality were inversely associated with 'Ever Had Sex'.

5.8.2 Age at First Sex

Males.

For 'Age of First Sexual Intercourse' of male youth, three factors were statistically significant as following:

1) Respondents who reported having sufficient income for expenses was correlated with the early age at first sexual intercourse; while working status was more likely to initiate the first sexual intercourse at late age.
2) High level of mother and parent-son communication about the sexual issues was associated with the late onset of 'Age at First Sexual Intercourse'.

Females.

The significant factors for the 'Age of First Sexual Intercourse' are following:

1) High educational level of respondents was related to delay onset 'Age at First Sex'
2) Peer influence to have sex was related to initiate 'Age at First Sex' at early age.

5.8.3 Condom Use

Males.

For condom use at last sexual intercourse, only a few significant predictors emerged.

1) High level of mother's education was positively associated with 'Condom Use'.
2) High level of father-son communication about condoms was significantly positively associated with 'Condom Use'.

Females.

1) Living arrangements with family was inversely related to 'Condom Use'.
2) Peer influences to have friends were positively associated with 'Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse'.

5.8.4 Number of Sex Partners

Males.

The few variables statistically correlated to number of sexual partners for males are:

1) Socio-demographic background of respondents (High level of education was associated with 'multiple Sex Partners');
2) Among the intimate relationships, having a number of friends and petting lower part of the body were related to Multiple Sex Partners';
3) Negative association between perceived parental (mother and father) higher expectation regarding sex and number of sex partner. Conversely to expectation, high level of parent-respondent communication about sexual-based topics was related to high 'Number of Sex Partners'.

Females

None factors significantly correlated with number of sex partners for female were emerged.

5.8.5 Sexual Attitudes

Males.

The following variables were statistically significant determinants of sexual attitudes of male youth:

1) Socio-demographic characteristics (older age, living arrangement with family/relatives were related to liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'), (Mothers living in the same house were associated with conservative 'Sexual Attitudes');
2) Feeling lonely often within the family was related to liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'
3) Intimate relationship (having friends and having a number of friends, all different stages of sexual behaviors) were related to liberal 'Sexual Attitudes';
4) Partner's behavior such as drinking, smoking, and going out during the nighttime were associated with liberal 'Sexual Attitudes';
5) Peer influences to go out, to have sex and indicating desire to have sex with were related to more liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'.
6) High level of mother and parent-son connectedness, general communication with mother and parent and perceived mother, father and parent-son expectation regarding sexuality were related to more conservative sexual attitudes; while father and parent-son sexual communication was related to liberal sexual attitudes.
7) 'Ever Had Sex' and early onset of 'Age at First Sexual Intercourse were positively related liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'.

Females.

The significant factors that associated with sexual attitudes for females were:

1) Socio-demographic characteristics (Older age, currently school enrollment) were related to liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'.
2) Feeling lonely often or happy rarely within the family were associated with more liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'.
3) Friends as source of sex education was related to more liberal 'Sexual Attitudes';
4) Intimate relationship (currently have friends, and all different stages of sexual behaviors) are related to liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'.
5) Peer influences to have friends, to go out, to have sex and wanted to have sex with were associated with liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'

6) High level of mother and parent-respondent connectedness, mother and parent-respondent general communication, and perceived mother, father and parent-respondent expectation regarding sexuality were related to conservative 'Sexual Attitudes'.
7) Ever Had Sex was related to liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'; whereas early onset of 'Age at First Sexual Intercourse' is associated with liberal 'Sexual Attitudes'.

The results summarized in this chapter were generally consistent with an ecological approach and the triadic influence in which multiple systems are taken into consideration in order to get a better understanding about youth's sexual behavior. This approach provides a more accurate understanding of the context of adolescent sexual behavior within multiple systems.

In the next section all factors related of sexual attitudes and behaviors will be examined through a multivariate analysis. In order to achieve the last objectives to examine the relationship between among socio-demographic of youth and their parents, parent-child connectedness, parent-child communication, and perceived parental expectation and the youth's sexual attitudes and behaviors, we need to examine these predictors within the context of individual, familial and extra familial factors and to explore the strength of associations between the factors related to sexual attitudes and behaviors by controlling confounding effects of other correlates of sexual attitudes and behaviors.

5.9 Multivariate Analysis

Hierarchical multivariate analysis has been performed in this study in order to explore the strengths of associations between the factors related to sexual attitudes and behaviors. The techniques used included the logistic regression model for binary variables ('Ever had Sex', 'Condom Use' (see note below) and 'Number of Sexual Partners'), Cox hazards regression for the time events (age at first sexual intercourse) in view of the highly censored nature of the age at first sexual intercourse, and multiple linear regressions for sexual attitudes were used. The purpose of multivariate analysis

was to control for the confounding variables, and, therefore, examined the net effects of independent variables on the dependent variables.

All factors related to sexual attitudes and behaviors were entered into the multivariate analyses. Both sexual attitudes and behaviors were used as dependent variables. More specifically, sexual behaviors were categorized into ever had sex, age at first sexual intercourse, condom use at the time of last sexual intercourse, and number of sexual partners during the six months prior to the interview. The analysis was presented in the model applied in the conceptual framework in order to predict respondents' sexual attitudes and behaviors.

Model A: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and parents (Socio-demographic characteristics)

Model B: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, parents and contextual family variables (parent-respondents' relationships)

Model C: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, parents and contextual family variables and perceived parental expectation, intimate relationships and peer influence variables (Full model).

Predictor variables were entered by block. The socio-demographic characteristics of youth (age, sex, attending school, education level, sufficient income for expenses, loneliness and happiness, source of sex education), and background of parents (education level of fathers and mothers, living arrangements, fathers and mothers lived with the same house with respondents were entered in the first block. The second block added parent-respondent connectedness and communication about general and sexual issues. Lastly, perceived parental expectations regarding sexuality, peer influences (peer influence to go out to date, to have sex, boy/girl friends indicating to have sex) and intimate relationships (having boy/girl friends, dating, kissing, petting upper part of the body and lower part of the body) were entered in the third block. All analyses were run separately for males and females to identify the variables that predicted sexual

attitudes and sexual-risk taking among the sexually active respondents. This isolation allows us to assess the predictors of the outcome variables for males and females separately. The variables of partner's undesirable behavior were not included in the analysis because of skipped patterns on these variables (only undesirable behaviors of those respondents who had a partner were asked).

The three models used were determined by the conceptual model, which is described in Chapter 3. A comparison of the ability of each model to explain the dependent variables was made by testing the difference in the value of -2 Log Likelihood and Chi-Square between the two models to find out whether it was significant. If it was significant, when adding additional variables to the previous model, it would provide a better explanation of the data. These results were presented using the odds ratio, which was the ratio of the odds never had sex to the odds of ever had sex. In relation to the condom use at the last sex encounter, the odds ratio of non condom use to the odds of condom use was presented. Similarly for the number of sex partners during the last six moths, the odds of single partners to the odds of multiple sex partners. For sexual attitudes, the un-standardized regression coefficient is presented, while for the age at first sexual intercourse, the odds of the timing of first sexual intercourse are shown.

5.9.1 Associations between Factors Related to 'Ever had Sex'

Using Multiple Regression, which was applied to the three earlier mentioned models, performed the analysis of factors that influence 'Ever had Sex' among respondents. Table 5.60 shows the result of logistic regression analysis for each of the three models' dependent variable, 'Ever had Sex' for male and female respondents. An odds ratio greater than 1, for a particular variable, indicated that the respondents in that category were more likely to have had sex than the respondents in the reference group. An odds ratio less than one, indicates that the respondents were less sexually active in comparison with the reference group, whereas an odds ratio of 'one' indicates no difference in the likelihood of having sex in comparison with the reference category.

Table 5.60: Odds Ratios for Logistic Regression Analysis for Respondents Reporting Ever had Sex

Characteristics	Male			Female		
	Model A Odds ratio	Model B Odds ratio	Model C Odds ratio	Model A Odds ratio	Model B Odds ratio	Model C Odds ratio
Age group						
18-21 years old	.291***	.281***	.310***	.579*	.551*	.435
22-24 years old	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Education of youth						
Low and middle	.882	.880	1.145	1.552	1.566	1.614
High level education	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Currently attending school	2.038**	2.003**	1.584	1.787	2.164*	2.794
Enough income for expenses	1.349	1.422	1.396	.812	1.021	.937
Sex education						
Parents	1.890	1.903	2.097	1.319	1.712	3.206
friends & others	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Feeling lonely						
Less	.643	.707	.801	.780	.882	1.668
Most	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Feeling happy						
Less	.686*	.610*	.433**	1.381	.785	.693
Most	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Mother Education						
Primary & Middle	.845	.825	.822	1.392	1.090	1.271
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Father's Education						
Prim & Middle	.770	.785	.960	.816	.886	.621
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Parent's Marital status						
Married	1.132	1.176	1.645	.855	1.708	.828
Separated/divorce	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1,.000
Living place						
Family	.664	.592	.615	1.147	1.389	1.244
Others	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Fathers living with the same house	.481	.491	.521	1.246	1.035	.271
Mothers living with the same house	1.429	1.577	1.764	.837	.885	3.367
Currently mother's working	1.380	1.375	1.865*	.889	.947	1.055
Family size	.927	.923	.958	1.068	1.118	1.096
Mother-respondent connectedness		.853	.481		.519	.440
Father-respondent connectedness		.946	1.723		.476*	2.114
Mother-respondent general communication		.825	.956		.617*	1.115

Table 5.60: (Cont.) Odds Ratios for Logistic Regression Analysis for Respondents Reporting Ever had Sex

Characteristics	Male			Female		
	Model A Odds ratio	Model B Odds ratio	Model C Odds ratio	Model A Odds ratio	Model B Odds ratio	Model C Odds ratio
Father-respondent general communication		.916	.862		.845	.521
Mother-respondent sexual communication		1.046	1.014		1.622	1.959
Father-respondent sexual communication		1.062	1.130		.789	.856
Perceived mother expectation regarding to sex			.636			.359
Perceived father expectation regarding to sex			.673			1.706
Peer influence to have steady friends			.644			.197*
Peer influence to dating			1.042			1.846
Peer influence having sex			1.527			11.356***
Peer indicating having sex			1.168			1.360
Dating			1.851*			.516
Having girls/boyfriends			1.688			11.249*
Kissing			5.55***			28.417***
Petting upper body			3.336***			5.251
Petting lower body			1.901*			1.403
Constant	4.568	20.030	4.762	.104	17.887	.005
-2 Log likelihood	692.850	685.962	406.569	368.142	325.359	157.864
Chi-square Model	80.309	87.201	366.591	19.982	62.765	230.260
	[16]	[21]	[32]	[15]	[21]	[32]
p- value	.000	.000	.000	.173	.000	.000
Percent Correct	65.4	66.85	85.5	81.5	83.7	92.3
Nahelkerke R2	.178	.192	.641	.078	.242	.703
N	**564**	**564**	**564**	**405**	**405**	**405**

* Significant at p <.05
** Significant at p<.01
*** Significant at p<.001
[n]- degree of freedom

Males.

Model A included the characteristic of respondents and the background of parents. The results indicated that the younger age group (compared to the older age group), currently attend school and feeling less happy with their family significantly influencing the odds of premarital sexual activity. As expected, age was the most important predictor of sexual experimentation among boys. The odds of the younger age group (18-21) having had sex were approximately 70 percent lower than the odds of the older age group (22-24). The relationship between 'Ever Had Sex' and attending school was in the positive direction. The odds of male respondents currently attending school being sexually active were 2.001 times higher than the odds of those respondents who are currently not attend school. Another variable that was significantly associated with sexual experimentation among males is feeling less happy. Respondents who were feeling less happy with their family have odds of having had sex 32 percent lower than the odds of respondents who felt mostly happy with the family.

The second model (Model-B) added the family relationship variables. The addition of these variables did not change the direction of the association between the socio-demographic backgrounds of youth and ever had sex. In fact the associations, statistically, became even somewhat stronger in the case of age and happiness with the family. Although the second model, compared to first model, significantly increased the prediction of the dependent variable, none of the additional variables was a significant predictor.

In the Model C, perceived expectations, peer influence and intimate behaviors were added and all variables considered together. The results of this model showed that younger age group (odds ratio = .310***) and feeling less happy (odds ratio = .433*) remained negatively associated with ever had sex; whereas mother's working status (odds ratio = 1.682), dating (odds ratio = 1.851*), kissing (odd ratio = 5.550***), petting upper part (odds ratio = 3.336***) and lower part (OR=1.901*) had a positive effect on the odds of engaging in premarital coitus. The inclusion of these variables did attenuate the association between socio-demographic background of youth and sexual experience, with the relationship between youth currently attending school and ever had

sex disappearing. Age and feeling less happy were still inversely associated with ever had sex. The inclusion of all variables in model C also resulted in the work status of the mother becoming a predictor of sexual behavior of male respondents. With male respondents whose mothers were working having odds of ever had sex that were 1.87 times greater than the odds of ever had sex for respondents whose mothers were not working. The comparison of Model B and C suggested that the effect of mother's occupation on their son's experience of sexual intercourse operates, in part, on affecting the likelihood of whether or not their son engages in intimate behaviors such as kissing and petting.

Factors that were statistically significant in the multivariate analysis in the full model such as age, feeling less happy with the family, peer influence to have a steady boy/girl friend, different stages of sexual behaviors were also statistically significant at the bi-variate analysis. However, other variables such as currently working, fathers and mothers living within the same house, feeling lonely within the family, main source of sex education, peer influence (to date, ever have sex and boy/girl friends expressed desire to have sex), parent-respondent connectedness, communication about general and sexual issues, and perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality that were statistically significant at the bi-variate analysis lost their significance after controlling for other factors in the multivariate analysis in the full Model C. The results suggested that the main determinants of the experience of sex are other intimate behaviors. Although this is expected, the results also suggested that net of these variables, and the natural increase in the likelihood of sexual experience with age, the models used in this analysis were not very successful in predicting whether a male youth will, or will not, have sex.

Females.

The models were somewhat more successful in predicting sexual intercourse for female respondents. The first model, which analyzes the association between socio-demographic characteristic of respondents and their parents showed that respondents who are currently attending school have odds of engaging in sexual intercourse that are about 2.7 times higher than the odds for those youth who are not currently attending

school. This variable was also significantly related to 'Ever Had Sex' at the bi-variate analysis. In addition, youth aged 18-21 years had odds of engaging in premarital sex that are about 45.8 percent lower than the odds of youth at older age. This variable also was statistically significant at the bi-variate analysis.

The second model (Model B) showed the effect of age, remaining statistically significant after controlling for the parental variables and the connectedness between parents and respondents; while the significant effect of school enrollment disappeared. The odds of having had sex for the age group 18-21 years were 44.1 percent lower than the odds for the age group 21-24 years. Father- respondent connectedness and mother-respondent general communication with female respondents were significant predictors. The odds of female respondents having sex were decreased by 52.4 percent and 39.1 percent with each unit increasing in the scale that measured the extent of father-respondent connectedness and mother-respondent general communication respectively. These three variables (school enrollment, father-respondent connectedness and mother-respondent general communication were also significantly associated with ever had sex at the bi-variate level.

Model B is a much better predictor of whether a female respondents 'Ever Had Sex' than model A. The pseudo R-squared increases from .078 in model A to .24 in model B. The increase is significant. The large increase is due almost entirely to the amount of communication between fathers-respondent connectedness and mothers-respondent discussion on general issues (rather than sexual issues). The more mothers, fathers and daughters communicate the much less likely that daughters will have had sex.

In Model C the effects of age and school attendance lost their significant as predictor of ever having had sex after controlling for peer variables and measures of intimate behavior. This relationship is not associated with family influences, peer influences, or experience with other intimate behaviors as these variables are controlled in models B and C.

It is surprising that unlike what the male data revealed, currently having friends and peer influence which were the strong predictors of 'Ever Had Sex'. Among the peer influence variables, currently having boy/girl friends and peer influence to have having sex were strongly positively related to ever have sex. The odds of ever had sex in a situation where there is peer influence to have sex is approximately 11.336 times greater than where there is no peer influence to have sex. The other peer influence factor is peer influence to have steady boy/girl friends, which exhibit the negative effect on ever had sex. The odds of youth who received influence having steady boy/girl friends were 82.6 percent less likely to engage in premarital sexual activity compared to those youth who did not. It is interesting that peer influences on female respondents having sexual intercourse are much greater than on male respondents.

The intimate relationships were found to be significantly related to ever had sex among female respondents. For instance, among the different stages of sexual behavior, only kissing was statistically associated with ever had sex in the multivariate analysis as well as in the bi-variate analysis. The odds of 'Ever Had Sex' of youth who kissed were 28.417*** times than female youth who did not kissed. Other variables such as petting upper part and lower part of the body were not significant in the full Model.

The parent-respondent interaction variables for female respondents lost their significance after controlling for other variables. This is an extremely important finding. Rather than suggesting that father-daughter connectedness and mother-daughter communication is not important in affecting whether a female adolescent has sex, it suggests that the effect is indirect.

Higher level of connectedness between father and daughter and communication between mother and daughter in general can reduce the likelihood than a young female will engage in intimate behaviors, especially kissing, and hence make it less likely that they will engage in sexual intercourse.

Other variables such as respondents' education level, and sufficient income for expenses, feeling happiness within the family, main source of sex education, peer

influence to go out, partners ever expressing desire to have sex, other stages of sexual behavior, high level of parent-daughter connectedness, high level of parent-daughter communication about general issues, and perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality were inversely associated with 'Ever Had Sex' in the bi-variate analysis, but lost their significance after controlling for other variables.

Overall, the predictors of premarital sexual intercourse for male and female respondents were different. For males, the individual (age) and parent's characteristics (currently mother's working status) and intimate relationship (petting upper and lower part of the body) were more likely to influence on respondents' sexual behavior. For females, the individual characteristic (age, currently attending school), currently having boy/girl friends, peer influence (to have steady friends and to have sex), and intimate relationship (kissing) have more influence on respondents' reporting engaging in premarital sexual experienced. The full Model provided the best explanation of male and female respondents' sexual behaviors. In other words, males were more likely to be influenced by the mother's working status and exposure to different stages of sexual behaviors, which leads to engaging in premarital sexual activities; while females are more likely to be influenced by peer influence, and intimate relationship (kissing).

5.9.2 Cox Hazards Regression Models on the Reporting of Timing of First Sexual Intercourse

The Cox Hazard Regression Models of the factors correlated with the 'Timing of First Sexual Intercourse' are displayed in Table 5.61. In the survival analysis, the dependent variable was 'Age at First Sex. For those who had not yet been sexually active at the time of the interview, the dependent variable was their 'Age at the Date of Interview'. These cases were treated as censored in the analysis. The odds ratios of the timing of first sexual intercourse that are shown in the Table indicating the relative risk of sexual intercourse occurring at each age given an increase in 1 unit in a specified independent variable. If the independent variable was a categorical variable the odds ratio indicates the difference in the odds between those with the specified characteristics compared to those without the specified characteristic. For the timing of age at first sexual intercourse, separate items of mothers and father's discussion about when to start having sex are included. Models are estimated separately for males and females

Model A, which includes socio-demographic background of respondents and their parents, significantly explains the timing of sexual intercourse at p-level .05 (p-value .023). The results indicate that education, sufficient income for expenses and family size were statistically significant related to the timing of first coitus. Sufficient income for expenses was also statistically significant in the bi-variate analysis. The odds of boys initiating sex at any age declines by 5.9 percent with each increase on one person in the family size. Neither the level of education of respondents and family size were significantly associated with the age of first sexual intercourse at the bi-variate analysis. As expected, lower education is associated with earlier initiation of first sex for boys.

The second model B, added the family relationship variables. The addition of these variables adds significantly to the explanatory power of the model, the change between models A and B is statistically significant (p-value.015), and the overall model is statistically significant at a level of significance of .01. The effect of respondent's education, enough income for expenses and family size becomes stronger when family process variables are entered into model B. Those boys with lower education, and sufficient income for expenses had higher odds, at each age, of having first sex compared to boys who did not have high education and no sufficient income for expenses. This suggests the importance, for boys, of lower educational level and financial independence in initiating sex. However, the association between family size and the timing of first sexual intercourse becomes weaker compared to the model A.

The parent-respondent interaction variables, such as father-respondent connectedness were negatively associated with the timing of first sexual intercourse. The odds of respondents who had high connectedness to fathers initiating first sexual intercourse at each age were 24 percent lower than the odds of boys who had a low level of connectedness with fathers. The father-respondent connectedness was not statistically significant at the bi-variate analysis.

In addition, there were statistically significant relationships for mother-respondent sexual communication and mother-respondent discussion on when to start having sex

with the timing of first sexual intercourse. The odds of male respondents who communicated with mothers about sexual issues initiating the timing of first sexual intercourse at each age were 1.3 times that of male respondents who did not communicate with mothers about sexual issues. However, the odds of male respondents who reported discussing with mothers about when to start having sex, had odds of initiating first sexual intercourse at each age that were 24.8 percent lower than the odds of respondents who did not discuss with mothers when to start having sex. In the bi-variate analysis, mothers' and fathers' discussion with male respondents about when to start having sex were not significantly related to the timing of sexual debut.

In Model C, perceived parental expectation, intimate relationships and peer influence variables were included. There was a little change in the explanatory power of Models B and C and none of the added variables were significant predictors of the timing of first intercourse. Furthermore, the inclusion of these variables did not affect the association between respondent's education, sufficient income for expenses, mother-respondent sexual communication, mother-respondent communication when start having sex and the timing of their first sexual intercourse. However, it affected the relationship between family size, father-respondent connectedness and the timing of first sexual intercourse, which lost their significance as predictor of the timing of first sexual intercourse. This suggested that the effect of father-son connectedness is indirect through mother-son sexual communication and discussion when start having sex. Also, currently attending school becomes statistically significant in the full model, after controlling for perceived parental expectation, intimate relationship and peer influences. In the bi-variate analysis, this variable was not statistically significant related to the timing of first sexual intercourse.

From Model C, it can be seen that mother-respondent sexual communication for males was positively associated with the timing of first sexual intercourse (odds ratio=1.312); however, respondents who reported higher levels of communication with their mothers about when to start having sex were more likely to initiate first sexual intercourse at a late age compared to those who reported lower level of communication with mothers (OR=.745*). This suggested that it is not just communication about sex with mothers

that may affect decisions about when to have sexual intercourse, rather it is the content of that communication that may be important. In fact, communication about sex with their mother may be a result of boys who have initiated sex being more open about this topic with their mothers. On the other hand, if they talk about when it is appropriate to have sex then this can act to delay their age of sexual debut.

In the bi-variate analysis, the mother-son communication on sexual matters was associated with late age of first sexual intercourse in boys. One possible explanation for the switch in the direction of the relationship between the bi-variate and multivariate analysis, is that there was a confounding relationship between mother-son communication on sexual matters and mother-son communication about when to initiate sex, and controlling the effects of mother-son discussion on when to initiate sex, brings out the negative relationship between mother-son communication about sexual matters and timing of first sexual intercourse.

In comparison to the multivariate analysis, other factors significant at the bi-variate level such as current working status were not statistically significant in the multivariate analysis in the presence of all other variables in the Full Model. these variables, and Overall, the results suggested that the natural increase in the likelihood of the timing of first sexual intercourse, the models used in this analysis were statistically able to explain the possibility of the timing of first sexual intercourse among young males.

In total, 405 female questionnaires were available for the multivariate analysis. In Model A neither the model B, the socio-demographic characteristic of respondents and their parents, were statistically significant predictors of the timing of first intercourse. When adding family relationship variables such as parent-respondent connectedness, general and sexual communication and specific sexual communication when to start having sex to the Model B, the overall Model B was not significant (p-value .419). Moreover, none of the family process variables in Model B were statistically significant as predictors of the timing of first sexual intercourse for females.

In Model C, perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality, peer influences and intimate relations and undesirable partner's behaviors were included in Model C. The Model is not statistically significant (p-value.099). Findings revealed that peer influence to have sex and kissing have a direct effect on the initiation of their first sexual intercourse for female respondents after controlling for peer variables and measures of intimate behavior. The respondents who reported friends encouraging them having sex and kissing initiating the timing of first sexual intercourse at each age were 1.778 and 1.371 times that of the respondents did not get influence from peers and kissing respectively. Peer influence on having sex was also statistically related to the 'Age at First Sexual Debut' in the bi-variate analysis. Another factor, significant in the bi-variate analysis, namely youth education level, was no longer a significant predictor of the timing of sexual initiation among female within the multivariate analysis in the Full Model after controlling for other variables.

In conclusion, none of the three Models had a statistically significant fit with the data for females. Data were suitable to explain the predictors of the timing of first sexual intercourse for male, but not for females. The predictor of the timing of first sexual intercourse in the Full Model for males was education, currently attending school, sufficient income for expenses; mother-respondent sexual communication and mother-respondent discussion about when to start having sex; while for female respondents the predictors of timing of first coitus was peer influence on having sex and kissing. The variables that have been found to be significant at the bi-variate analysis such as friends encouraging having sex retained their significance after controlling for confounding variables.

Table 5.61: Cox Hazards Regression of the Reporting of Age at First Sexual Intercourse

Characteristics	Male			Female		
	Model A	Model B	Model C	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Respondents' education						
Primary & Middle	1.343**	1.377**	1.397**	1.232	1.227	1.207
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Attending school	.847	.829	.816*	.873	.858	.840
Sufficient income	1.226*	1.285*	1.254*	1.130	1.154	1.124
Sex education						
Parents	1.112	1.238	1.224	1.178	1.246	1.229
Friends, school, media	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Feeling lonely						
Less	.970	1.041	1.072	.963	.984	1.022
Most	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Feeling happy						
Less	.926	.887	.894	1.101	1.018	1.035
Most	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Mother's education						
Primary & Middle	.927	.941	.968	1.012	.988	1.032
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Father's education						
Primary & Middle	.967	.961	.949	1.120	1.125	1.105
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Parent's marital status						
Married	1.050	1.116	1.140	1.367	1.404	1.403
Others	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Living arrangement						
Family	1.087	.992	1.018	.796	.747	.709
Others	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Father living with the same house	.613	.656	.690	1.055	1.059	1.062
Mother living with the same house	1.390	1.465	1.435	1.131	1.205	1.269
Currently mother's working	1.112	1.136	1.152	1.077	1.088	1.150
Family size	.941**	.950*	.959	.967	.968	.954
Mother-respondent closeness		1.024	.991		.953	.947
Father-respondent closeness		.760*	.808		.875	.954

Table 5.61: (Cont.) Cox Hazards Regression of the Reporting of Age at First Sexual Intercourse

Characteristics	Male			Female		
	Model A	Model B	Model C	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Mother-general communication		.892	.910		.877	.936
Father-general communication		1.098	1.084		1.055	1.010
Mother-respondent sexual communication		1.292*	1.312*		.992	.946
Father-respondent sexual communication		.950	.987		1.007	1.032
Mother-respondent discussed when start having sex		.752*	.745*		1.018	1.141
Father-respondent discussed when start having sex		.930	.874		1.289	1.179
Father expectation towards sex			.894			1.139
Mother expectation towards sex			1.016			.958
Having friends			1.021			.948
Peer influence having steady friends			.925			.947
Peer influence to dating			1.157			.914
Peer influence encouraging having sex			.980			1.778**
Peer indicating desire having sex			.980			.963
Dating			.989			1.083
Kissing			1.257			1.371*
Upper part of body			1.236			.977
Lower part of body			.969			.958
-2 Log likelihood	6234.710	6215.718	6186.957	4228.424	4219.648	4201.180
Chi-square Model	26.429	45.161	73.549	13.746	22.701	43.778
Degree of freedom	[14]	[22]	[33]	[14]	[22]	[33]
P value	.023	.003	.000	.469	.419	.099
N	564	564	564	405	405	405

** Significant at p<.01
*** Significant at p<.001
[n] – degree of freedom

5.9.3 Associations between Factors Related to Condom Use during Last Sexual Intercourse

Table 5.62 presents the logistic regression results on condom use during the last sexual intercourse for males. Only the male respondents were included in the analysis due to the small number female respondents who had engaged in the sexual intercourse during the six months prior to the interview. For condom use at last sexual intercourse, separate items of mothers and father's discussion about when to start having sex were also included.

Table 5.62: Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression for Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse during the Last Six Months Prior the Survey on Male Respondents

Characteristics	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Age group			
18-21 years old	1.062	1.332	1.286
22-24 years old			
Education of respondent			
Primary & Middle	.555	.610	.814
High level			
Attending school	.726	.867	.868
Enough income for expenses	1.541	1.407	1.755
Sex education			
Parents	1.064	1.106	1.805
Friends, school & others			
Feeling lonely			
Less	3.370	4.629+	7.816*
Most			
Feeling happy			
Less	.984	1.108	1.163
Most			
Mother's Education			
Primary & Middle	.510	.346	.268
High level			
Father's Education			
Primary & middle	1.407	1.455	1.749
High level			
Parent's Marital status			
Married	.559	1.017	.855
Others			
Living place			
Family	.170	.100	.078
Others			

Table 5.62: (Cont.) Odds Ratios from Logistic Regression for Condom Use at the Last Sexual Intercourse during the Last Six Months Prior the Survey on Male Respondents

Characteristics	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Father living in the same house	.707	.315	.201
Mother living in the same house	5.446	22.938	48.214*
Mother working	.632	.375*	.335+
Family size	1.025	1.020	.941
Mother-respondent connectedness		.424	.479
Father-respondent connectedness		1.098	.693
Mother-respondent general communication		2.032	1.967
Father-respondent general communication		.868	1.039
Mother-respondent sexual communication		1.434	1.891
Father-respondent sexual communication		.301	.200*
Father's discussion about birth control		11.963	24.092*
Mother's discussion about birth control		.107*	.080*
Mother's discussion about condom		1.039	1.033
Father's discussion about condom		10.118**	15.417*
Mother expectation regarding to sex			.486
Father expectation regarding to sex			2.890
Having boy/girl friends			1.093
Peer influence to have steady friends			1.947
Peer influence to dating			1.341
Peer influence encouraging having sex			1.051
Peer indicating having sex			.840
Dating			1.369
Kissing			10.589
Petting upper body			.676
Petting lower body			.283
Constant	1.994	7.129	.717
-2 Log Likelihood	160.510	140.110	131.621
Model Chi-Square	15.401[15]	35.802[25]	44.290[36]
P value	.423	.075	.162
Percent Correct	60.2	73.4	75.8
Nagelkerke R2	.152	.327	.392
N	128	128	128

* Significant at p <.05
** Significant at p<.01
+ -Significant at marginal (p.053)
[n]- degree of freedom

The Chi-square for the Model A was 15.401 and was not statistically significant at the p level <.05 (df=16, p-value .423). None of the demographic characteristics of respondents and their parents were statistically associated with condom use, a finding that mirrors that of the bi-variate analysis.

The Chi-square for the Model B was 35.802 and the ability of the Model B to describe the predictors of condom use was increased by 13.2 percent, but the Model was also not statistically significant (p-value.075). The introduction of parent-respondent relationship variables (Model B) such as parent-respondent connectedness, parent-respondent communication about general and sexual issues, including communication about condom and birth control, and father communication about birth control were statistically significant predictors of condom use. The results of this model showed that the odds of reporting condom use among respondents whose fathers discussed condoms with their sons were 10 times higher than the odds of those respondents whose father did not discuss condoms. The odds of respondents whose mothers discussed birth control using a condom were about 62.5 percent less than the odds of respondents whose mothers did not discuss birth control. In addition, findings indicated that not feeling lonely was marginally associated with condom use at the last sexual intercourse. The odds of having working mother use condom were approximately 62.5 percent lower than the odds of male respondents whose mothers are not working.

In the Model C, perceived parental expectation, intimate relationship and peer influence variables were included. The Chi-square for the third model C was 44.290 (df = 36, p-value .162) and the ability of the Model C to describe the predictors of condom use increased by 6.5 percent compared to the Model B. After controlling for peer influences, not feeling lonely increased the likelihood of condom use. If a respondent's mother resided in the same house, the odds that he used a condom at last intercourse were 48.2 times higher than if the mother did not live in the same house. Having a working mother remained negatively related to condom use, although the result was only marginally significant. Other factors such as mother-son communication about birth control and father-son discussion about condom retained their significance in the Full Model and the relationships became stronger than in the Model B. It is interesting to note that both: mother's discussion about birth control and father's discussion about sexual issues were associated with lower odds for condom use. It might be that these discussions were initiated because of concern of parents about condom use of their sons.

In conclusion, the Models used in this analysis are not very successful in predicting condom use among males. Maybe because this model did not include specific factors related to condom use such as: perceived benefit, threats, locus of control, self-esteem, self-efficacy, condom availability and accessibility to condom and so on. However, among the individual factors, it was found that father-son discussions about sexual issues, birth control and condoms were strongly associated with use of condoms.

5.9.4 Multivariate Analysis of Reporting Multiple Sexual Partners in the Last Six Months

For the outcome variable, number of sexual partners was classified into two categories, single partner and multiple partners, as the distribution is highly skewed and there was a large proportion with only one partner during the last six months period before survey. Ignoring this skewed distribution would have resulted in biased parameter estimation. Thus, logistic regression was used in the multivariate analysis. Due to small number of female respondents reporting that they had sex during the last six months for significant and meaningful analysis, only the responses from males were included in the analysis.

Table 5.63 shows the odds ratios for reporting number of sex partners during the last six months prior to the interview. Only 155 males were available for the multivariate analysis. In part this low number helps explain the low levels of statistical significance that were obtained in the analysis. For instance, in Model A and Model B, none of the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and their parents were statistically significant predictors of multiple sexual partners. Model A could not significantly explain the probability of having multiple sex partners (p-value .880). There were no any variables that significantly associated with having multiple sex partners. When introducing the family process variables in the model B, the ability of the model B to describe the predictors of multiple sexual partners increased by 10.3 percent, but the model was not statistically significant (p-value .526). Findings reveal that father-respondent sexual communication appeared to be marginally statistically significant (p-value .053). The odds of respondents whose fathers discussed about sexual matters having multiple sexual partners were approximately 54.0 percent lower than the odds of

those respondents whose fathers did not discussed about sexual matters. The model B is better than model A in explaining the probability of having multiple sexual partners.

Model C was much better than the other two models in predicting the probability of having multiple sex partners with the significant level at p<.008 compared to the Model A and B. About 46.2 percent of the variance is explained by the variables in Model C. Father-respondent discussion about sex remained statistically significant and become stronger than in the model B. Other variables such as feeling less happy with family, mother-son connectedness and father-son sexual communication become significantly associated with the lower likelihood of having multiple sexual partners; in contrast mother-respondent sexual communication, currently having friends and peer influence to going out to date are positively related to the likelihood of having had multiple sexual partners.

The odds of respondents who had less feeling happy towards their family having multiple sex partners were approximately 75.1 percents lower to than the odds of those feeling mostly happy with their family. Findings also suggested that the odds of respondents who had higher level of mother connectedness having multiple sexual partners were about 87.5 percent lower than the odds of respondents w ho have lower level of connectedness with mothers. However, mother-respondent sexual communication increased the likelihood of having multiple sex partners approximately 3 times compared to those respondents who had low communication about sexual matters with mothers, which was also statistically significant in the bi-variate analysis. In contrast, the odds of respondent having father-son sexual communication reduced the likelihood of having multiple sex partners approximately 71.1 percent lower than the odds of those did not communicate with fathers about sexual issues. The odds of respondents who had girl/boyfriends and peer influence to dating were 7.369 and 7.095 times respectively more likely to have multiple sexual partners compared to those respondents having no friends and no received peer influence to dating.

In the bi-variate analysis, the significant factors were level of education, petting lower part of the body and perceived parental (mothers and fathers) higher expectation

regarding sex. These variables, however, were not statistically significant in the multivariate analysis. In contrast, lost their significance after controlling for confounding variables; while currently having friends and mother-respondent communication about sexual-based topics were still retained significant within the multivariate analysis in the full model after controlling for other confounding variables.

In summary, the findings revealed that the main protective factors of having multiple partners for male respondents found were feeling less happy, mother-son connectedness and father-son sexual communication. The risk factors of having multiple sexual partners were mother-respondent sexual communication, currently having friends and peer influence to dating.

Table 5.63: Odds Ratio from Logistic Regression for Reporting Multiple Sexual Partners during the Last Six Months Prior the Survey: Male Respondents

Characteristics	**Model A**	**Model B**	**Model C**
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Age group			
18-21 years old	.784	.783	.570
22-24 years old	1.000	1.000	1.000
Education of youth			
Primary & Middle	1.185	1.099	.520
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000
Attending school	.518	.580	.416
Sufficient income for expenses	.882	.831	.603
Sex education			
Parents	.637	.550	.372
Friends, school & others	1.000	1.000	1.00
Feeling lonely			
Less	1.606	2.239	4.831
Most	1.000	1.000	1.000
Feeling happy			
Less	.749	.489	.249*
Most	1.000	1.000	1.000
Mother's Education			
Primary & Middle	1.209	.947	.540
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000
Father's Education			
Primary & middle	.689	.560	.632
High level	1.000	1.000	1.000
Parent's Marital status			
Married	.204	.317	.071
Others	1.000	1.000	1.000

Table 5.63: (Cont.) Odds Ratio from Logistic Regression for Reporting Multiple Sexual Partners during the Last Six Months Prior the Survey: Male Respondents

Characteristics	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Odds ratio	Odds ratio	Odds ratio
Living place			
Family	.809	.732	.576
Others	1.000	1.000	1.000
Fathers living with the same house	.628	.570	.266
Mothers living with the same house	3.137	3.522	12.990
Currently mother's working	1.581	1.628	1.607
Family size	1.063	1.079	1.178
Mother-respondent connectedness		.428	.125*
Father-respondent connectedness		.704	1.563
Mother-respondent general communication		1.342	2.356
Father-respondent general communication		1.329	1.202
Mother-respondent sexual communication		1.747	2.991*
Father-respondent sexual communication		.460+	.289**
Perceived mother expectation regarding to sex			.302
Perceived father expectation regarding to sex			.858
Having boy/girl friends			7.369**
Peer influence to have steady friends			.370
Peer influence to dating			7.095**
Peer influence encouraging having sex			1.619
Peer indicating having sex			.538
Dating			2.539
Kissing			.026
Petting upper body			3.528
Petting lower body			3.131
Constant	2.183	30.595	2528.564
-2 Log Likelihood	167.721	156.732	122.346
Model Chi-Square	8.943[15]	19.931[21]	54.318[32]
P value	.880	.526	.008
Nagelkerke R square	.090	.193	.462
Percent Correct	60.2%	68.0%	75.8%
N	128		

+Significant at p .053
* Significant at p <.05
** Significant at p<.01

5.9.5 Analysis of Sexual Attitudes

Table 5.64 showed multiple regression analysis of factors related to youth's sexual attitudes according to sex. The unstandardized Beta coefficient is presented. Higher values on the dependent variable indicate more liberal sexual attitudes.

The regression equation of Model A for males was statistically significant, (R2=.056, Adjusted R2=.030, F(15,548)=2.168, p-value.007). The Model A included socio-demographic of respondents and their parents together which accounted for 5.6 percent of the variance of sexual attitudes. The educational level of respondents and feeling lonely were associated with more liberal sexual attitudes; while mother's education of respondents was related to more conservative sexual attitudes. Other family structure variables were not significant in the first model.

The inclusion of family relation factors in the Model B increased the ability to explain sexual attitudes and increased the explained variance in sexual attitudes by 3.6 percent, R2 change=.036, F(6,542)=2.618. The educational level of respondents, feeling lonely, and mother's education remained statistically significant in the model B which was not significant at the bivariate analysis with exception feeling lonely was statistically significant at the bivariate analysis.

It is interestingly to note that mother-youth communication about general issues appeared to be inversely correlated with liberal sexual attitudes. High-level communication between mothers and respondents reduced the likelihood of holding permissive attitudes towards sexuality (Beta=-.0592**), which was consistent with the bivariate analysis. In other hand, father-respondents communication about sexual matters increased the likelihood of respondents holding permissive sexual attitudes which was statistically significant in the same direction at the bivariate analysis.

The model C included parent-expectation regarding sexuality, peer influence and intimate relationships, which increased the explained variance in sexual attitudes to 11.2 percent, R2 change=.112, F(11,531)=4.259, p-value.000. The set of 32 variables in the final model accounted for a total of 20.4 percent of the variance of sexual attitudes. The education of respondents, mother's education, mother-respondent general communication and father-respondent sexual communication remained statistically significant in the full model after controlling for perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality, peer influence and intimate relationship. However, feeling lonely was not significant after controlling for other variables in the full model. The

significant independent correlates with sexual attitudes were peer influence to dating and dating; each increased the likelihood of having permissive sexual attitudes. The variables were statistically significant associated with sexual attitudes of male respondents at the bivariate level namely age, living arrangement with others, mothers and fathers living at the same house; feeling lonely towards family; all different stages of sexual behaviors (with exception dating); peer influences to have sex and indicating desire to have sex with and high level of mother and parent-respondent connectedness, and perceived mother, father and parent-respondent expectation regarding sexuality were not statistically significant in the multivariate analysis after controlling for other confounding variables in the full Model.

For females, the Model A of the multiple regression resulted in a R2 of .086, accounting significantly (F (16,389)=2.435, p-value <.002) and could explain for 8.6 percent of the variance in sexual attitudes. Four variables accounted for most of the explained variance and were individually significantly (p <.05): respondent's age, source of sex education and mother's education were correlated with liberal sexual attitudes; however, feeling less happy was associated with conservative sexual attitudes.

The model B that included parent-respondent relationships explained the variance of sexual attitudes more appropriate than the first model by 16.6 percent, R2 change=.080, F(6,383)=3.633. Age, currently attending school, mother's education were related to more liberal sexual attitudes. In contrast, father-respondent connectedness, and mother-respondent general communications were associated with conservative sexual attitudes. The main source of sex education lost their significance after controlling for family relationship. Father-respondent general communication was marginally significant (p-value.051).

The model C including perceived higher parental expectation regarding sexuality, peer influence and intimate relationship could explain the possibility of holding liberal attitudes more than the model A and B, which accounted for 24.8 percent of the variance in sexual attitudes, R2 change=.082, F(11,371)=3.830, p-value<.000. This

suggested that sexual attitudes is depended on respondent characteristic and family process variables and were supported by perceived parental expectation regarding sexuality, intimate relationship and peer influence. The respondent's age, currently attending school and mother-respondent general communication lost their significance after controlling for intimate relationship and peer influence; while mother's education and father-daughter closeness remained marginally significant in the full model (p-value.054 and p-value.052 respectively). Higher perceived mother disapproval of sex in the full model were significant associated with conservative sexual attitudes; while peer influence having sex was related to liberal sexual attitudes. This suggested that the effect of father-daughter connectedness and mother-daughter general communication is indirect. Higher level of connectedness between father and daughter and communication between mother and daughter in general can reduce the likelihood than a young female will hold liberal sexual attitudes through perceived higher parental expectation regarding sex and receiving peer influence having sex.

The factors were emerged as statistically significant at the bivariate analysis for females such age of respondent, school enrollment, feeling lonely and happy towards family, friends as source of sex education; currently having friends, and all different stages of sexual behaviors; peer influences to have steady friends, to dating, and parent-respondent connectedness, mother and parent-respondent general communication and perceived father expectation regarding towards sex lost their significance within the multivariate analysis after controlling for other confounding variables. However, peer influence having sex and perceived mother expectation regarding sex were also statistically significant in both bivariate and multivariate analyses.

Overall, the results indicated that the integrated full model explained the variance in respondent's sexual attitudes more than the individual and parent's characteristic model A and the Model B. In the integrated full model, male sexual attitudes were significantly associated with education of respondents, mother's education, mother-respondent general communication, father-son sexual communication, peer influence to date and dating; while females were more influenced by perceived mother expectation regarding to sex and peer influence having sex.

Table 5.64: Multiple Regressions for Correlates of Sexual Attitudes According to Sex

Characteristics	Male			Female		
	Model A	Model B	Model C	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta
Age group	.0313	.0378	.0018	.0577*	.0573*	.0447
Education	.0880**	.0840**	.0749*	-.0476	-.0533	-.0512
Attending school	.0456	.0417	.0239	.0554	.0590*	.0365
Sufficient income	-.0388	-.0320	-.0397	.0084	.0293	.0324
Sex education	-.0414*	-.0372	-.0187	.0868*	.0704	.0570
Feeling lonely	.117	.109*	.0736	.0375	.0176	.0084
Feeling happy	-.0070	.00071	.0014	-.0611*	-.0177	-.0219
Mother's Education	-.0894*	-.0785*	-.0786*	.0932*	.106*	.0776++
Father's Education	.0221	.0095	.0008	-.0389	-.0321	-.0183
Parent's Marital status	.0256	.0337	.0473	-.0398	-.0897	-.0187
Living place	.00725	.0206	.0282	-.0304	-.0233	-.0232
Fathers living with the same house	-.0298	-.0983	.0237	.0047	-.0045	-.0163
Mothers living with the same house	-.0209	-.0152	-.0223	-.0583	-.0375	-.0315
Currently mother's working	.0335	.0284	.0158	-.0525	-.0381	-.0368
Family size	-.0010	-.0010	.00197	-.0088	-.0084	-.0118
Mother-respondent connectedness		.0185	.0023		-.0193	.0060
Father-respondent connectedness		-.0498	-.0292		-.112**	-.0642++
Mother-respondent general communication		-.0592**	-.0443*		-.0580**	-.0399
Father-respondent general communication		.0168	.0177		.0413+	.0347
Mother-respondent sexual communication		-.0177	-.0153		.0308	.0183
Father-respondent sexual communication		.0656*	.0575*		.0152	.0362
Perceived mother expectation regarding to sex			.0073			-.119**
Perceived father expectation regarding to sex			-.0388			.0432
Peer influence to have steady friends			.0094			,0567
Peer influence to dating			.0605*			-.0456

Table 5.64: (Cont.) Multiple Regressions for Correlates of Sexual Attitudes According to Sex

Characteristics	Male			Female		
	Model A	Model B	Model C	Model A	Model B	Model C
	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta	Beta
Peer influence having sex			.0224			.112*
Peer indicating having sex			.0132			-.0067
Currently having friends			-.0019			.0348
Dating			.0658*			-.0277
Kissing			.0477			.0290
Petting upper body			.0284			.0294
Petting lower body			.0354			-.0227
Constant	2.698	2.824	2.758	2.672	3.104	3.053
R square	.056	.092	.204	.086	.166	.248
F	2.168	2.618	4.259	2.435	3.633	3.830
P value	.007	.000	.000	.002	.000	.000
N	564			405		

* Significant at p <.05
** Significant at p<.01
+- Marginal significant (p<.051)
++- Marginal significant (p<.052)
+++- Marginal significant (p<.054)

5.9.6 Conclusion

The logistic regression and multiple regression models identified three different models, and were estimated for five outcomes variables of interest. The model used to explain 'Ever Had Sex' is statistically significant for both males and females. For males, the individual (younger age and feeling less happy) and parent's characteristics (currently mother's working status) and intimate relationship (dating, kissing, petting upper and lower part of the body) were more likely to influence on respondent's sexual behavior. However, for female, the individual factors (respondent's age, currently attending school in the Model B), family variables (father-daughter connectedness and mother-daughter general communication in the Model B), intimate relationship (currently having friends and kissing) and peer influence (peer influence to have steady friends and having sex) have more influence on respondent's reporting engaging in premarital sexual experienced.

The study found that the models are fitted to explain the predictors of timing of first sexual intercourse for male, but not for female respondents. However, the predictor of the timing of first sexual intercourse in the full model for males was respondent's education, currently attending school, sufficient income for expenses; father-son connectedness (in the Model B), mother-son sexual communication and mother-son discussion about when to start having sex; while for female respondents the predictors of timing of first coitus was peer influence having sex and kissing.

For the condom use among male, few significant effects were revealed for mothers living with the same house, feeling lonely, mother discussion about birth control and father discussion about sexual communication, birth control and condom in the full model after controlling for other confounding variables. The model predicting condom use in this sample was not statistically significant.

The main protective factors of having multiple partners for male respondents were feeling less happy, mother-respondent connectedness, father-respondent sexual communication. The risk factors of having multiple sexual partners were mother-respondent sexual communication, currently having friends and peer influence to dating.

For the sexual attitudes, in the integrated full model, males were influenced almost by respondent's education, mother's education, mother-respondent general communication and father-respondent sexual communication, peer influence dating and dating; while females were influenced more by perceived mother's expectation regarding sexuality and peer influences having sex. The results of multivariate analysis and the combination of bivariate and multivariate analyses were summarized in the Appendix F and G.

The full model of each outcome variable indicated that if the Intervention Program promoting adolescent health and sexuality should be focused on these risk and protective factors. Thus, the sexual behavior of respondents and their positive attitudes regarding sexuality will be reduced through these interventions.