

TABLE 1. Characteristics of vocational school students aged 15–21, according to gender, Chiang Rai, Thailand, 1999

Characteristic	Male (N=893)	Female (N=832)
Demographic		
Gender (%)	51.8	48.2
Mean (median) age	18.5 (18)	18.4 (18)
Age		
15–17 (%)	29.1	27.8
18–19 (%)	43.4	45.1
20–21 (%)	27.4	27.2
Northern Thai (%)	92.7	94.8
Parent works in agriculture (%)	69.3	68.9
Parents live together (%)†	81.0	77.0
Lives with parents (%)	61.8	57.1
Substance use		
Ever went out dancing or drinking (%)	92.0	83.3***
Drank any alcohol in past 3 mos. (%)	92.5	80.5***
Ever drove motorcycle after having ≥3 drinks (%)	77.5	52.5***
Smoked cigarettes in past 3 mos. (%)	52.4	14.5***
Ever used methamphetamine (%)	39.2	18.0***
Ever used marijuana (%)	21.5	3.6***
Sexual behavior		
Had no sexual contact or intercourse (%)‡	33.8	41.6**
Had sexual contact only (%)	17.9	15.3
Mean (median) age at first contact	16.0 (16)	17.2 (17)***
Had sexual intercourse (%)	48.3	43.1
Mean (median) age at first intercourse	16.7 (17)	17.7 (18)***
Used condom at first intercourse (%)	23.2	25.6
Had steady sexual partner(s) in past 3 mos. (%)§	41.8	46.6*
Had casual sexual partner(s) in past 3 mos. (%)	16.2	4.8***
Mean (median) lifetime number of sexual partners	4.6 (2)	2.8 (1)***
Ever bought sex (%)	6.5	0.5***
Ever sold sex (%)	2.7	3.1
Ever been coerced to have sex (%)††	6.5	21.0***
Homosexual or bisexual (%)	9.1	11.2

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$. †Marriages are commonly not legally registered in Thailand, particularly in rural areas, hence "parents live together" includes both registered and unregistered marriages. ‡Sexual contact was defined as the respondent touching someone else's genitals, or someone else touching the respondent's genitals, for the purpose of erotic stimulation; this included oral sex, but not vaginal or anal penetration. §A steady sexual partner was someone the respondent had known for at least two months, had sexual contact or intercourse with regularly, and felt an emotional bond with; a casual partner was someone whom the respondent had sexual contact or intercourse with and who was not a steady partner, and with whom no money was exchanged. ††Coerced sex included forced sexual contact and intercourse.