

TABLE 1. Selected background characteristics of married and unmarried Indian youth aged 15–24 who had had premarital sex, by gender, 2006–2008

Characteristic	Women (N=821)	Men (N=1,587)
Mean age (yrs.)***	19.3	20.2
Mean age at first sex***	15.9	17.4
Yrs. of schooling completed at first sex***		
0	24.2	10.5
1–7	38.0	35.1
8–11	31.1	45.0
≥12	6.7	9.5
Worked before age 15***		
Yes	45.5	34.6
No	54.5	65.4
Residence		
Urban	19.8	19.8
Rural	80.2	80.2
Religion***		
Hindu	79.9	84.3
Muslim	5.4	8.8
Other	14.8	6.9
Caste*		
Scheduled tribe	21.2	14.4
Scheduled caste	29.5	27.0
Other backward caste	36.2	40.9
General caste	13.1	17.7
Frequent exposure to television/films***		
Yes	32.9	22.9
No	67.1	77.1
Received family life/sex education		
Yes	16.7	13.8
No	83.3	86.2
Able to confront someone who said/did something wrong***		
Yes	34.8	49.0
No	65.2	51.0
Uncomfortable approaching provider/pharmacist for contraceptives***		
Yes	54.3	36.1
No	45.7	63.8
Type of premarital sex partners***		
Romantic only	67.3	43.4
Other only	15.2	48.2
Both	17.5	8.5
Confided in peers***		
Yes	66.4	93.2
No	33.6	6.8
Had peers who had had premarital sex***		
Yes	47.1	62.6
No	52.9	37.4
Confided in parents		
Yes	38.6	37.7
No	61.4	62.3
Mean neighborhood wealth score*	14.9	16.0
Region		
Northern	37.1	42.3
Southern	51.1	29.1
Western	11.8	28.6

*p≤.05. ***p≤.001. Notes: All values are percentages unless otherwise noted. P values refer to gender difference in mean or percentage distribution.