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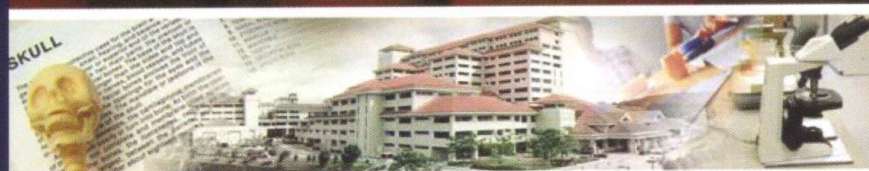
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## CORRELATES OF SEXUAL AND NON SEXUAL RISKY BEHAVIOURS AMONG MALAYSIAN YOUTH IN THE UNIVERSITY

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### **Background:**

The aim of this paper is to examine the prevalence of sexual and nonsexual risky behaviors and its associated factors among urban youth.

### **Materials and Methods:**

A cross-sectional study was conducted among students between age 18-24 years enrolled in both public and private universities in the Klang Valley. An anonymous pre-tested, self administrated questionnaire survey was carried out. Smoking, alcohol drinking, using needles or syringes to inject drugs, using marijuana, taking heroine were selected as non-sexual risky behavior and having more than one sexual partners, having sex without condom, sex with someone whose HIV/AIDS status is unknown, having unprotected sex under the influence of alcohol and having sex with sex workers were selected as risky sexual behaviors. Each behavior was dichotomized as either risk absent (0) or risk present (1). An index of multiple-risk behavior was derived by summing the values for the five behaviors separately for sexual and non-sexual risky behaviors. Scores ranged from 0 (no risk behavior) to 5 (have all risk behaviors) in each category. Data analysis was performed using SPSS Version 19.

### **Results:**

A total of 890 students agreed to participate in the study. 61.5% were from public and 38.5% were from private universities. Only 3.7% reported had had at least 1 or more risky sexual behaviors whilst 26.0% reported having involved with non-sexual risky behaviors. The correlates ( $p < 0.05$ ) for sexual risky behaviours are male, history of work for pay, watched pornography videos and poor communication with mother. Meanwhile for non-sexual risky behaviors the correlates are male, history of work for pay, watched pornography videos, history of past or current physical abuse smaller family size, higher family income and poor communication with mother ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### **Conclusion:**

Having tertiary education does not ensure total protection against risky behaviours among Malaysian youth.

### **Key words:**

Urban, youth, risky behaviours, socioeconomic factors, family factors, maternal communication, students