

Development of the Causal Model of Young Thai Female Adolescents' Sexual Abstinence Intention

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Abstract: The purpose of this cross-sectional descriptive study was to develop and test the causal model of the relationships among parent-daughter sexual abstinence communication, behavioral, normative, and control beliefs toward sexual abstinence to influence sexual abstinence intention. The sample consisted of 470 female Thai adolescents aged between 12-16 years in school grades 7-9 in Bangkok, Thailand. Data were collected by the *Demographic Data Questionnaire*, the *Parent-Daughter Behavior Sexual Abstinence Communication Questionnaire*, and the *Sexual Abstinence Intention during the School Years Questionnaire*.

Results indicated that our final Causal Model of Young Thai Female Adolescents' Sexual Abstinence Intention fitted with the empirical data and explained 33% of the variance in sexual abstinence intention. Parent-daughter sexual abstinence communication had significant positive indirect effects on sexual abstinence intention through behavioral beliefs, normative beliefs, and control beliefs. Study findings can be used by nurses and others to design and test interventions to promote sexual abstinence during the school years among young Thai female adolescents. However, further testing of our Model is required in other populations and locations before findings can be generalized elsewhere.

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Introduction

Early sexual intercourse has been identified as a major cause of teenage pregnancy and abortion, as well as being implicated in the transmission and acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). In the United States, substantial morbidity and social problems also result from teenage pregnancy. Approximately 757,000 pregnancies occur among females aged 15-19 years annually.¹ Similarly,

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