

SEXUAL BEHAVIORS OF ALCOHOL DRINKERS AND NON-DRINKERS AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS IN NHA TRANG, VIETNAM

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Abstract. A cross-sectional quantitative survey was conducted during August to November 2005 with 880 youths (16-24 years-old), including 412 males and 468 females in Nha Trang city, Vietnam. It aimed to examine the association between alcohol use and sexual behaviors by gender difference. The data revealed that the majority of respondents (65.9%) had consumed alcohol, 25.8% had sexual touching with boy/girl friends, and 10.1% of respondents had engaged in sexual experiences including vaginal sex, anal sex, and/or oral sex. Young men were significantly more likely to drink than young women were ($p<0.001$), and alcohol use was significantly associated with engagement in sexual experiences ($p<0.001$). There was a strong significant difference between sexual touching and alcohol drinking among males ($p<0.001$) and females ($p<0.001$). Forty percent of young men who did not use condom in last sex and 45% of young men who had multiple sex partners were drinkers compared to 4.8% and 1.6% of non-drinkers, respectively. These significant findings will be baseline data for integrating and adapting into intervention programs for alcohol and HIV among Vietnamese youth.