



HOME

[Publications](#) > [Policy Research Division Working Papers](#) > Working Paper No. 163

RESEARCH AREAS

RESEARCH LOCATIONS

PROGRAMS

PUBLICATIONS /  
RESOURCES



**No. 163, 2002**

**Mensch, Barbara S., Wesley H. Clark, and Dang Nguyen Anh.** "Premarital sex in Vietnam: Is the current concern with adolescent reproductive health warranted?" *Policy Research Division Working Paper* no. 163. New York: Population Council. ([PDF](#))

**Abstract**

To the extent that research on Vietnamese adolescents has been conducted, it has been concerned with unprotected and unsanctioned sexual activity and its health consequences, namely abortion and sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV. The question we pose is whether this concern is warranted. Is the population community justified in focusing its attention on early sexual activity and HIV risk? Even if the sexual behavior of young people can be considered problematic, are there perhaps other aspects of young people's lives that should give us greater pause? The paper reviews the literature on adolescent sexual behavior in Vietnam and analyzes data on premarital sex and reproductive behavior from a 1999 survey conducted in six provinces among nearly 1,500 adolescent boys and girls aged 15–22. Data on other aspects of young people's lives are summarized, in particular schooling and work, in order to put the sexual activity data in perspective. We conclude that the lack of adequate employment opportunities may be more of a threat to adolescent reproductive health than risky sexual behaviors per se—a situation that effective economic policies can remedy.

  
[Print this page](#)

@  
[E-mail this page](#)

This page updated  
20 April 2005

▶ **Annual Report**

▼ **JOURNALS**

- **Population and Development Review**
- **PDR Supplements**
- **Studies in Family Planning**

▼ **WORKING PAPERS**

- **Poverty, Gender, and Youth Working Papers**
- **South and East Asia Working Papers**

▼ **NEWSLETTERS/SERIALS**

- **Population Briefs**
- **Momentum**
- **Quality/Calidad/Qualité**
- **SEEDS**

▶ **Publicaciones en español**

▶ **Publications en français**

▶ **إصدارات عربية**

▶ **Software**

ABOUT

MEDIA CENTER

EVENTS

SEARCH

CONTRIBUTE