

General Characteristics of Adolescent Sexual Behaviour: National Survey

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SUMMARY

Introduction Investigation of adolescent sexual behaviour carried out on a large sample is primarily motivated by health and social problems which can occur when young people practice sex without protection and necessary information. There is no data that the national study on adolescent sexual behaviour has been conducted in the Serbian speaking area.

Objective Monitoring and follow-up of trends in adolescent sexual behaviour.

Methods The investigation sample comprised 1101 adolescents (472 male and 629 female), aged 13-25 years. As an instrument of polling, the questionnaire "Sexual Behaviour" was used specifically designed for the purpose of this investigation.

Results Eighty-four percent of males and 65% of females reported having sexual experience. The age of the first sexual experience, total number of partners, number of sexual partners in the last year and the last month were investigated, and the number of loved and sexual partner compared. In addition, the length of foreplay, frequency of sexual activity, masturbation, sexual dreams and sexual daydreams and engagement into alternative sexual activities (oral sex, anal sex, group sex, exchange of partners) were estimated, as well as the reasons for their practicing. Sexual desire and its correlation with personality dimensions, the frequency of sexual disorders (erectile and ejaculation problems, anorgasmia), abortion, rape and identification of the rapist, the use of condoms and other methods of contraception were assessed.

Conclusion It could be postulated that biological influence on sexual behaviour is powerful and resistant to the influence of time and place, as well as socio-cultural religious influences. A high rate of premarital sexual activity with a number of sexual partners, a relatively low rate of condom use and the fact that 4% of the female adolescents in this sample had an induced abortion suggest that there are gaps in the education provided to adolescents about sexual and reproductive risks within the Serbian speaking territory. An alarming statistic is that 5% of the female adolescents in this sample reported that they had been raped, or forced to participate in non-consensual sex within an ongoing relationship with a regular partner. There is a need for systemic changes within the field of sexual education and protection from sexually risky behaviour among young adults.

Keywords: sexual behaviour; adolescents; national survey

INTRODUCTION

The investigation of adolescent sexual behaviour carried out on a great sample was primarily motivated by health and social problems which can occur when young people practice sex without protection and necessary information. As a result of risk behaviour, a certain number of teenagers and adolescents experience unwanted pregnancy and catching sexually transmitted diseases [1-4].

In the past forty years, numerous surveys were conducted in the USA, Sweden and China [5-11]. In America of the 70's, a substantial increase of premarital sexual activity among teenagers in the urban environment was recorded, especially in megalopolises [12]. The retrospective analysis from 2000 [6] showed that such increase started in the late 60's. In the 80's, the increase in sexual activity rate among adolescents of both sexes, as well as the use of condoms and decrease in oral contraceptive use was recorded [13]. In the late 80's and 90's, the data from three American national surveys [5, 6, 7] showed even higher frequency of sexual activities in adolescents of male sex, but stagnation and even decrease in this rate among female adolescents. In addition, the use of condom increased, while the use of oral contraceptives was continuously

decreasing [13], as well as the rate of underage pregnancies and deliveries [14].

Besides sporadic investigations of different range samples and insufficiently controlled studies, there are no data that a methodologically correct national survey of adolescent sexual behaviour has been conducted in the Serbian speaking territory, though such studies are important for the monitoring and follow-up of trends in young adults' behaviour estimated over time. Our understanding of adolescent sexuality is limited by the lack of national surveys which would evaluate the individual, family and socio-cultural variables. The result is the limitation in promotion of education programs, educators and exerting the systemic influences on the prevention of different sexual behaviour.

Our investigation results were analyzed and discussed in respect to two most important theories studying human sexual behaviour in terms of biological and environmental aspects [15]. The first group of theories interprets the existence of "male and female gender roles" by biological conditioning as a result of the evolutionary pressure influence, assigning the primary role to the instinctive nature of sexual behaviour. These theories are supported by proved measurable genetic and phenotypic sexual dimorphism [16] and dibiochemistry [17], which are considered to form the

basis of different biological controls of both genders' sexual behaviour. Other group of theories relies on the influence of psychological and socio-cultural factors. According to this group of theories, male and female gender roles are to be learned. Such roles are conditioned by cultural stereotypes which favour behaviour according to male and female type [18] implemented by means of primary family [19], religion, education, ethics, customs, written and unwritten norms [20].

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the investigation was to point out the trend in sexual behaviour of younger and older adolescents within the local socio-cultural milieu, to compare the obtained results with the available national surveys, to evaluate the specifics in sexual behaviour between as well as within genders, and, finally, to emphasize the current needs for a systemic approach to the education of the young in sexuality.

METHODS

The investigation sample comprised 1101 younger and older adolescents, pupils and students from Belgrade, Niš, Podgorica and Banja Luka, 472 of whom were males and 629 females, aged 13-25 years. In these cities lives more than one fifth of the total number of the country population, encompassing at the same time all socio-cultural strata and ethnic groups. The investigation was undertaken from 1999 to 2001.

The investigation was conducted in the field, in school and students' dormitories after the obtained permissions from the administration of these institutions. The investigation was announced in advance, offering the possibilities of voluntary and anonymous participation. On distribution of the questionnaires, in a brief conversation, every examinee was informed about the scientific nature of the investigation in which the anonymity of participants was guaranteed. The filling-in of the questionnaire was designed as a multiple choice or descriptive answering in the space provided for writing.

As an instrument of polling the questionnaire "Sexual Behaviour" [21] was used, especially designed for the purpose of investigating the sexual behaviour of all age groups. The questionnaire consisted of eight separate parts: 1) demographic, family, and socio-cultural variables; 2) ENLP personality test [22] testing extroversion (E), neuroticism (N), giving socially acceptable answers (L - lying) and psychoticism (P); 3) attitudes towards sex (according to Eysenck [23] with possibilities of Likert type answers); 4) nocturnal sex dreams; 5) sexual daydreams; 6) masturbation; 7) sexual foreplay; and 8) sexual intercourse (coitus). For the purposes of this paper, parts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were used. Due to its scope, the part on sexual attitudes was presented in a separate article.

In the given questionnaire seven items were used to directly or indirectly control the variable "sexual experience" in the sense of penile-vaginal intercourse, by the help

of which we could clearly differentiate the adolescents with and without the experience of penile-vaginal penetration. The items derived from different parts of the questionnaire (marked with Roman numerals), while their ordinal numbers were presented with small Arabic numerals (II₃₈, II₄₀, II₄₃, II₄₅, VIII₁, VIII₂, VIII₈).

The representative question for the indication of sexual experience was VIII₈ „How do you feel during making love?“. The absence of replay was considered equivalent to negation of sexual experience. Other answers were controls to confirm the accuracy of previous statements.

Statistical analysis of the obtained results was performed by χ^2 -test, Student's t-test, Pearson's linear correlation, by using the standard SPSS, version 12.0.

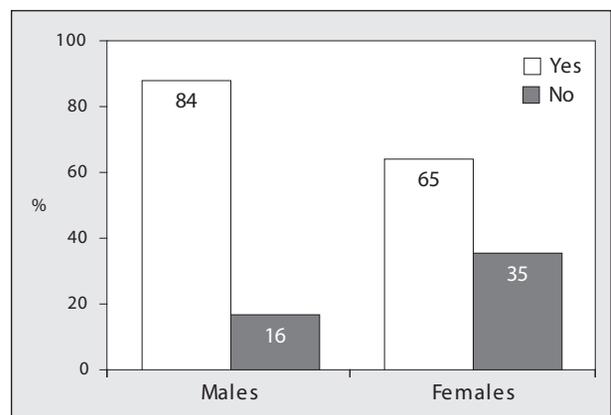
RESULTS

The investigation sample involved 1101 adolescents, 472 of whom were males (M=20.35, SD=2.91) and 629 females (M=20.28, SD=2.66), aged 13-25 years (Table 1). There were 84.1% and 64.9% of sexually experienced males and females, respectively ($\chi^2=94.491$, df=6, $p<0.0005$; V=0.298) (Graph 1). 2.3% of females and 3.7% of males were married.

Men had their first sexual experience significantly earlier (M=16.7; SD=1.97 years), unlike females (M=17.86; SD=1.97 years; $t=8.290$, $p<0.0005$, F=0.996) (Table 2). The earliest sexual experience was at the age of 10 years in men and at the age of 6 years in females (0.3% vs. 0.3%). Considering the whole sample, with completed 13 years of age, 3% of the subjects had the first sexual experience (5.1% males

Table 1. Number of adolescents according to gender and age

Gender	Age (years)				Total
	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-25	
Male	43 (3.9%)	52 (4.7%)	216 (19.6%)	161 (14.6%)	472 (42.9%)
Female	26 (2.4%)	109 (9.9%)	296 (26.9%)	198 (18.0%)	629 (57.1%)
Total	69 (6.3%)	161 (14.6%)	512 (46.5%)	359 (32.6%)	1101 (100%)



Graph 1. Gender differences regarding penetrative sex

Table 2. Age (years) of first penetrative sexual experience

Gender	$\bar{X}\pm SD$	Min.	Max.	Before 18	After 18
Male	16.7 \pm 1.97	10	24	54.2%	
Female	17.86 \pm 1.97	6	24		41.9%

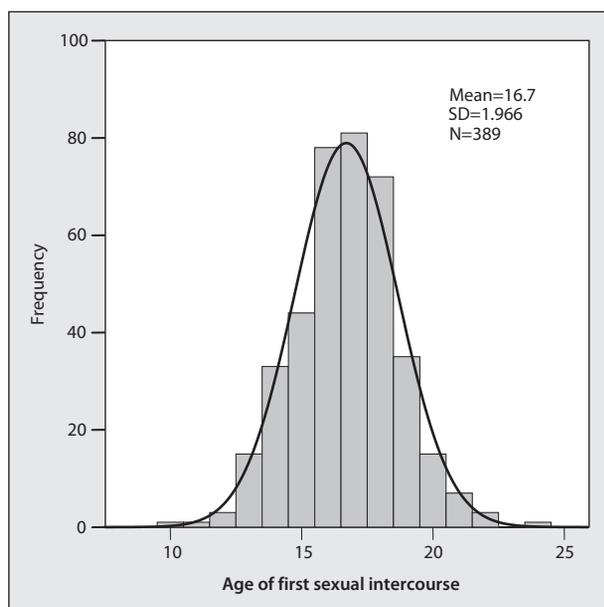
vs. 1% females); at the age of 14 there were 8.3% of the subjects (13.6% males vs. 3% females); at the age of 15 this number was doubled – 16.5% (25% males vs. 8% females); at the age of 16 the number was four times higher – 34% (45% males vs. 23% females). Up to the age of 18, 52.5% of adolescents gained first sexual experience (66% males vs. 41% females) (Graphs 2 and 3).

The mean number of previous sexual partners was significantly higher in males than in females ($M=5.82$; $SD=6.76$ in males; $M=2.66$; $SD=2.43$ in females; $t=9.090$, $p<0.0005$, $F=104.101$) (Table 3). Analyzing the whole sample, 33.6% of adolescents had one sexual partner; 17.4% had two sexual partners; 12.3% had three partners; 8.3% had four partners; 5.2% had six partners; 9.3% had ten or more sexual partners. Both males and females had more sexual partners than the partners they loved ($M=3.35$; $SD=4.21$ in males; $M=2.14$; $SD=1.78$ in females; $t=5.942$, $p=0.0005$, $F=56.126$). In the course of the last year, 70.8% of males and 59.3% of females had sexual partner ($\chi^2=50.809$, $df=1$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.218$). In addition, during the last year, on average males had more sexual partners ($M=2.34$; $SD=3.21$) compared to females ($M=1.35$; $SD=0.87$; $t=5.723$, $p<0.0005$, $F=37.645$). During the last month, the number of males who had sexual partners (40.5%) was lower when compared to females (48.2%) ($\chi^2=30.864$, $df=1$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.185$), but even that number of males, on average, had more partners than females ($M=1.55$; $SD=0.55$ for males vs. $M=1.37$; $SD=0.48$ for females; $t=5.647$, $p<0.0005$, $F=22.221$). In total, 71.7% of adolescents said that they had never had

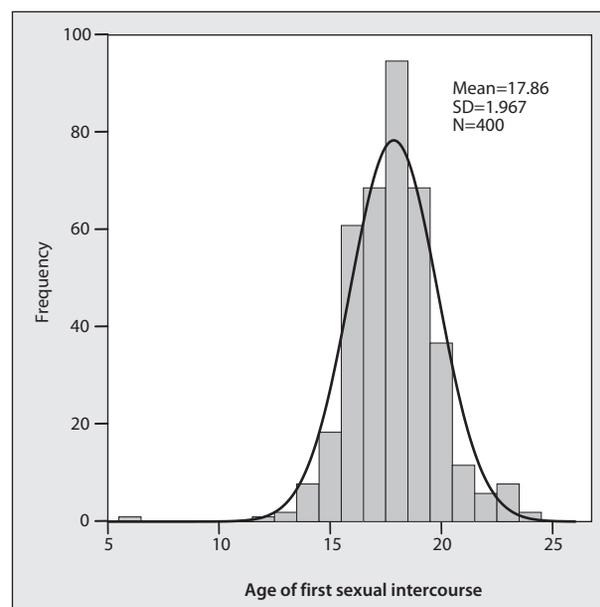
parallel sexual relationship (55.5% males vs. 85.7% females; $\chi^2=107.343$, $df=3$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.344$); 10.2% of males reported constant parallel sexual relationships (vs. 1.2% of females), while 34.3% admitted to have had parallel sexual relationship at least once (vs. 13.1% females).

Regarding our sample, 25.4% of sexually active female adolescents and 24.2% of males practised sex every day or more times per week. 24% of males and 7.8% of females practised sex once a month or less frequently, while in both genders 11% used to practice sex, but not any more. The difference in the frequency of sexual intercourse was statistically significant ($\chi^2=94.491$, $df=6$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.298$). If they had partners whenever they wanted sex, 28.5% of females would have liked to practice sex every day, 17% even more times per day; 33% of males would do it every day, and 27.1% several times per day ($\chi^2=31.493$, $df=7$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.202$). The highest peak of sexual desire in men was between 16 and 18 years of age (42% wanted to have sex every day, 15.7% more times per day), with the trend of the growing desire up to the age of 25 in those with strong desires (from 15.7% to 34.9% at the age of “21 years and more” for the item “more times per day”) and a decreasing trend in those with low sexual desire (from 46.2% to 30.3% for the same age and item “every day”). In male sex increasing trends were in significant positive correlation with personality dimension: psychoticism ($\chi^2=27.930$, $df=14$, $p=0.15$, $V=0.193$).

One percent of men reported having frequent or very frequent problems with potency, while 21.4% reported



Graph 2. Males' age distribution of first sexual intercourse



Graph 3. Females' age distribution of first sexual intercourse

Table 3. Age (years), number of partners and age of first masturbation

Factors investigated	Males				Females			
	\bar{X}	SD	Min.	Max.	\bar{X}	SD	Min.	Max.
Age (sample)	20.35	2.91	13	25	20.28	2.66	13	25
Number of sexual partners	5.82	6.76	1	30	2.66	2.43	1	19
Number of sexual partners during previous year	2.34	3.21	1	48	1.35	0.87	1	7
Number of sexual partners during previous month	1.55	0.55	1	2	1.37	0.48	1	2
Number of loved sexual partners	3.35	4.21	1	43	2.14	1.78	1	25
Age of first masturbation	12.86	1.87	7	19	14.4	4.58	6	24

Table 4. Differences between female and male sexual behaviour

Sexual behaviour	Males	Females	χ^2	df	p	V
Masturbation	78.5%	33.4%	203.374	2	<0.0005	0.439
Foreplay	80.6%	85.5%	18.184	3	<0.0005	0.138
Sexual dreams	75.2%	59.2%	48.424	2	<0.0005	0.212
Sexual fantasies	85.6%	66.2%	61.738	2	<0.0005	0.241
Oral sex	51.1%	37.5%	34.416	3	<0.0005	0.213
Anal sex	23.5%	14.3%	16.837	3	<0.001	0.149
Partners interchange	7.4%	1%	28.074	3	<0.0005	0.191
Group sex	11.2%	1.5%	43.587	3	<0.0005	0.236

of having this problem just once during their lifetime or seldom. 9.3% of male examinees thought that they almost always or very frequently ejaculated, while 68.7% reported occasional or rare ejaculation. In total, 6.1% of sexually active women were anorgasmic, while 37% of females experienced one or more orgasms during coitus, 15.5% faked orgasm. Of the examinees faking orgasm, 7% were younger than the age of 19, 50.6% were aged 19-21 years, and 42.5% were older than 22.

There is a significant difference in the masturbation activity among sexes. 78.5% of males and 33.4% of females masturbated ($\chi^2=203.374$, $df=2$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.439$) (Table 4). Unlike the female examinees ($M=14.3$; $SD=3.3$ years), males started with masturbation earlier ($M=12.8$; $SD=1.8$ years; $t=6.341$, $p<0.0005$, $F=62.596$). Foreplay was a usual activity for 80.6% of males and 85.5% of females from our investigation. Most usually, the length of foreplay for both genders was 10-20 min (36.3% males vs. 43.7% females).

Our results point at a high statistical difference between genders in regard to sex dreams and fantasies (Table 4). More men than women had sex dreams (75.2% males vs. 59.2% females; $\chi^2=48.424$, $df=2$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.212$). Men had sex dreams more frequently (more than once a month, 39.2% males vs. 18.3% females; $\chi^2=48.926$, $df=4$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.253$); as sexual partners, they had dreams about unknown persons more frequently than regular partners (47% males dreamt unknown persons, 19.3% dreamt regular partners, unlike women (34% dreamt unknown persons and 35% dreamt regular partners; $\chi^2=50.201$, $df=7$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.257$). Also, more men than women had sexual fantasies (85.6% males vs. 66.2% females; $\chi^2=61.738$, $df=2$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.241$) and more frequently (every day: 20.3% males vs. 9.4% females; more than two times a week: 37.1% males vs. 15.3% females; more than two times a month: 22.8% males vs. 25% females; $\chi^2=37.387$, $df=4$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.212$). More frequently, men fantasized about unknown persons (21.6% than a regular partner (19.5%), while women most usually fantasized about a regular partner (31.1%), the same unknown person (24.5%), and rarely about unknown persons (7.5%; $\chi^2=116.946$, $df=7$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.377$).

Oral sex was practiced by 51.1% of male examinees and 37.5% of female examinees ($\chi^2=34.416$, $df=3$, $p<0.0005$,

$V=0.213$) (Table 4). One or more sexual intercourses of anal sex were recorded in 23.55% of males and 14.3% of females; $\chi^2=16.837$, $df=3$, $p<0.001$, $V=0.149$). Swinger sex was not usual, so that 92.6% of males and 99% of females said that they would not like to have such experience. Group sexual activities were practiced by 11.2% of males and 1.5% of females ($\chi^2=43.587$, $df=3$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.236$). As a reason of an alternative sexual activity practicing (oral, anal, swinger or group sex), 23.8% of females did it to satisfy the partner (vs. 14% of males), while 67% of females and 68.5% of males did it for their own pleasure ($\chi^2=11.496$, $df=3$, $p<0.01$, $V=0.160$); 1% of females and 5.6% of males did it because of the partner's requirements. For 6.1% of sexually active males and 2.9% of females that was the only way to reach orgasm.

Delivery was recorded in 3.2% of examinees, induced abortion in 4.1%, and spontaneous abortion in 0.8% of examinees. At the time of testing, none of the examinees was underage, which did not exclude the possibility that some number of pregnancies occurred before the age of 18 years. In total, 1.6% of the examinees aged from 18 to 20 had one or more induced abortions.

About 5% of the female examinees were raped (vs. 1.2% of males). Table 5 shows whom the female examinees denoted as the rapist.

The use of contraceptives was significantly different among sexes ($p=0.000$) (Table 6). About 45.5% of males applied some contraceptive method (vs. 55% females; $\chi^2=43.614$, $df=5$, $p<0.0005$, $V=0.244$); however, a larger number of females used it in each sexual intercourse (26% females vs. 22% males; $\chi^2=7.058$, $df=3$, $p>0.05$, $V=0.095$). Condom was used by 27.7% of males and 20.8% of females, that is 1% of underage males and females.

Table 5. Victims' relationship with the rapist

Rapist	N	%	Valid %
Regular partner	10	1.6	33.3
Family friend	2	0.3	6.7
Acquaintance	8	1.3	26.7
Unknown person	8	1.3	26.7
Blood relative	2	0.3	6.7
Total	30	4.8	100.0

Table 6. Contraception used as reported by each gender

Gender	Contraception used						Total
	Interrupted coitus	Fertile/infertile days	Condom	Diaphragm, mousse	Pills	Spiral	
Male	14.2%	2.3%	27.7%		0.4%	0.1%	44.8%
Female	27.8%	4.7%	20.8%	0.1%	1.6%	0.1%	55.2%
Total	42.1%	7.0%	48.5%	0.1%	2.1%	0.3%	100.0%

DISCUSSION

There is impression that biological influence on sexual behaviour is very strong and resistant to time and geographic distance, as well as socio-cultural-religious influences, which is clearly noted after comparing our results with the results of surveys conducted in societies where premarital sex is strictly forbidden [24], or societies with liberal attitude towards sexuality respecting human and sex equality [10, 25]. However, even though biological influence is primary, basic and partially elastic when compared to the outside influences, it is just a "skeleton" of sexual behaviour which, as a whole, acts dynamically and is under the influence of both inside and outside factors.

Unlike the biological influence, which is a relatively stable component, the social influence is a relatively unstable component, which can be seen by the way of sexual behaviour realization (alternative patterns of sexual behaviour, use of condoms) [6, 7, 8, 26, 27], which greatly differs among studies, depending on the sexual risk behaviour prevention program, religious and legal pressure or sexual egalitarianism promotion. As presented in the National Survey from 2003 [6], American adolescents practice oral sex considerably more frequently than vaginal one, believing that it lowers the risk of unwanted pregnancy, avoids catching sexually transmitted diseases jeopardizing their own reputation or the feeling of guilt. The adolescents from our study do not practice any of the alternative patterns of sexual behaviour more frequently than the usual penile-vaginal intercourse (25% of the underage females had usual sexual experiences, and 9.4% practiced oral sex; in the American study this rate is 32%), which may reflect the presence of predominantly traditional attitude towards gender roles and emphasized environmental control of female sexuality. This is supported by a constant male sexual behaviour and drastic oscillation of female sexual behaviour in different socio-cultural milieus. If we compare our results with the results of Swedish researchers [10,25], it can be noted that regarding sexual experience for the given age, the difference is statistically insignificant for male sex; however, this difference is highly significant for females, since Swedish female adolescents have their first sexual experience much earlier and have more sexual partners than our examinees. The difference in data of national surveys in regard to female adolescents can be interpreted as an example of the importance of environmental influence, which is expressed according to localization type, i.e. the importance of the social control influence on female sexual behaviour. On the other hand, the absence of statistical significance in respect to male sexual behaviour is a good example of biological influence on sexual behaviour, which is generally global, with less powerful environmental influence. This is supported by data about desires to have first sexual experience, since in that regard there is no statistical difference among sexes in our survey; however, there is a significant difference in relation to sexual desire and the realization of sexual act, which is in favour of male sex.

The ratio between premarital sexual experience and contracted marriages is influenced by changes in attitudes towards sexual behaviour, which became a trend after the

sexual revolution of the 60's and 70's. In addition, only 3% of our examinees were married, which shows that the age, regarding contracting marriages, varies. In societies where premarital sex is forbidden, that limit is considerably lower [24], which implies the correlation between these two manifestations that is the influence of the interplay between the instinctive and social factors on sexual behaviour.

Our results indicate that sexual behaviour disorders are relatively rare and transitory manifestations in the analyzed sample. The explanation of the results can be associated with the biological reproductive role of a woman in the generative age, since sexual dysfunction would disturb conception as a primary biological role. On the other hand, when discussing such a low rate of dysfunction, one should bear in mind that our examinees are young, that every third examinee had no sexual experience, and that those sexually experienced practise sex irregularly or most frequently with one regular partner. The results for females can be interpreted as a desire to leave a good impression about ourselves. A number of male examinees from our sample experience a premature ejaculation and transitory impotence which occur irregularly. Therefore, we cannot speak about sexual dysfunction.

In respect to sexual desire, the differences in male sex considerably depend on the aspects of personality dimensions in the sense of excitation or inhibition. In other words, personality features are considerably associated with the trend in sexual behaviour. The existence of the above average score for extroversion and psychoticism in our sample is associated with the upward trend in the frequency of sexual intercourse with the advanced age, while such a trend is quite the opposite in the examinees with the under-average score. These correlations were not noticed in females, which stresses the importance of biological influence, bearing in mind that personality dimensions are the consequence of biological predetermination of males primarily for instinctive and less for emotional interaction [23].

The advantages of this study is reflected in comprehensive analysis of adolescent sexual activity, by making comparison with a number of national surveys. The lack of this study is that it does not divide sexual experience into hetero- and homosexual; furthermore, the selectivity of the sample is mostly limited to the pupil and student population.

The statistical differences perceived when compared to the results of certain studies, especially from culturally different milieus, can be explained primarily by social influence on the form of sexual behaviour, since biological patterns are relatively unchangeable. However, without being compared with all the aspects of sexual behaviour (masturbation, alternative patterns of sexual behaviour including homosexuality, with consideration of sexual attitudes, the use of erotic-pornographic magazines, films and modern computer technology) the objectification of adolescent sexual activity characteristics is incomplete, which we had in mind when discussing our results.

On the other hand, a high rate of premarital sexual activity with more sexual partners, a relatively low rate of condom use, and the fact that one per 25 adolescents had induced abortion, points at the nature of education

(provided to adolescents) about sexual and reproductive risks in the Serbian speaking territory. Especially alarming statistic is that one per twenty adolescents was raped, or that the sexual act was experienced as a rape, in the situation where the rapist was a regular partner.

CONCLUSION

It could be postulated that the biological influence on sexual behaviour is powerful and resistant to the influence of time and place, as well as socio-cultural and religious influences. Unlike the biological influence, which is a relatively stable component, the social influence is a relatively unstable component, which can be seen by the way of sexual behaviour realization which greatly differs

among studies. Sexual behaviour disorders are relatively rare and transitory and personality features are considerably associated with the trend in sexual behaviour within adolescent population. A high rate of premarital sexual activity with a number of sexual partners, a relatively low rate of condom use and alarming statistic indicating that 5% of the female adolescents in this sample reported that they were raped or being forced to participate in non-consensual sex within an ongoing relationship with a regular partner, which all suggests that there are gaps in the education provided to adolescents and young adults about sexual and reproductive risks. We consider that the actual trend is also induced by the lack of research in this field, which could be one of the primary aims in further planning of education and protection of young adults from risky sexual behaviour.

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Општа обележја сексуалног понашања адолесцената – национална студија

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КРАТАК САДРЖАЈ

Увод Истраживање сексуалног понашања великог броја адолесцената примарно је мотивисано здравственим и социјалним проблемима који могу настати када млади људи ступају у сексуалне односе без претходне заштите и информисаности. Нема података о томе да је на српском говорном подручју урађена национална студија о сексуалном понашању адолесцената.

Циљ рада Циљ рада је био да се сагледају актуелни трендови у сексуалном понашању младих људи.

Методе рада Истраживање је обухватило 1101 адолесцената (472 мушког и 629 женског пола) узраста од 13 до 25 година. Као инструмент истраживања коришћен је упитник „Сексуално понашање“, посебно прилагођен за потребе овога истраживања.

Резултати Коитално сексуално искуство је имало 84% адолесцената и 65% адолесценткиња. Сагледан је узраст започињања сексуалних односа, укупан број сексуалних партнера, број сексуалних партнера током последње године и последњег месеца и упоређен однос броја вољених и сексуалних партнера. Такође, сагледана је дужина предигре, учесталости сексуалних односа, мастурбације, постојање сексуалних снови, дневног сексуалног маштања, упражњавање алтернативних сексуалних активности (орални секс, анални секс, групни

секс, размена партнера), као и разлози за њихово упражњавање. Сагледани су сексуална жеља и њена корелација са димензијама личности, затим учесталост поремећаја сексуалног функционисања (проблеми потенције и ејакулације, аноргизмија), абортуса, силовања и идентификација силоватеља, као и коришћења кондома и других метода заштите од нежељене трудноће.

Закључак Општи је утисак да је биолошки утицај на сексуално понашање веома снажан и отпоран на временску и географску дистанцу, као и на социо-културално-верске утицаје. Висока стопа предбрачне сексуалне активности, са више сексуалних партнера, релативно ниска стопа употребе кондома и чињеница да је једна од 25 адолесценткиња имала намерни абортус указују на природу постојеће едукације адолесцената о сексуалности и репродуктивним ризицима на српском говорном подручју. Посебно забрињава податак да је свака двадесета адолесценткиња силована или је сексуални однос доживела као силовање, при чему је силоватељ најчешће био стални партнер. Резултати сугеришу да је потреба за системским променама у области едукације младих људи о сексуалности и заштите од ризичног сексуалног понашања неусаглашена с оним што се у тој области тренутно пружа.

Кључне речи: сексуално понашање; адолесценти; национална студија