ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to determine the factors affecting safe sex behavior for HIV/AIDS prevention among male students in Mahidol University. Data were collected from 259 first-year male students in Mahidol University with a self-administered questionnaire. The findings from this research revealed that only 31 students (12%) had sexual intercourse. Of these 13 students (41.9%) perform safe sexual practices. Of 228 students (78% of total sample) who never had sexual intercourse, 108 students (47.4%) have intention to perform safe sex.

Among various socio-demographic characteristics such as age, home town, allowance, parent’s education and occupation, parent marital status and student’s alcohol consumption, only the home town of the student was found to have statistical significance with student’s safe sex intention. According to the results, the group of student who were from Bangkok had lower intention to perform safe sex than the group of students from other provinces. There was statistical significance between both knowledge and attitude toward HIV/AIDS and safe sex intention of the students. The results also showed that the majority of students use television and video as the most important sources for seeking information about HIV/AIDS. There was no statistical significance between source of information and safe sex behavior or intention to perform safe sex. Almost all of the students answered that condoms were available for them and almost all of the students knew where to get them. Availability of condoms was not found to be a barrier to the practice of safe sex among students.

The results of the study can be used for setting up a health education program to promote safe sex among students and enable them to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.