

# Premarital Sex in Postwar Japan: How has the Sexual Behavior of Never-married People Changed?

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Since the mid-2000s, the rate of sexual intercourse among never-married persons in Japan has been declining. Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of never-married persons who do not have opposite-sex dating partners. This study aims to explore the onset of the declining trend of sexual intercourse in never-married persons in Japan. To this end, the study refers to a nationwide epidemiological survey of sexual behavior and compares the first heterosexual sexual intercourse (sexual debut) that individuals experience in their life course across generations born in the 1930s and 1960s. The results show that premarital sex became common for men and women at different times. Based on these findings, the factors related to the process of experiencing sexual intercourse among never-married persons aged 18 to 24 were analyzed using data from the questionnaire for singles in National Fertility Survey conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

Keywords: premarital intercourse, first sexual intercourse, dating, commercial sex, National Fertility Survey