

# Sexual behavior and gender differences among adolescents consulting at a university public health system Comportamientos sexuales y diferencias de género en adolescentes usuarios de un sistema público de salud universitario

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**Background:** The predetermined gender roles and the emphasis on reproductive responsibility on women, excluding men, have negative consequences on their sexual reproductive health and satisfactory sexual practices. **Aim:** To describe and analyze changes in sexual practices and gender differences in adolescents of the lower-middle socioeconomic level, users of public health system who started their sexual activity. **Material and methods:** We studied 4,971 adolescents of both sexes aged between 12 and 19 years, who consulted in a clinic for adolescents between the years 1990 and 2005. Several variables related to adolescent sexuality were considered. Uni and bivariate analysis were carried out and a model of stratified lineal regression per sex was fixed to explain the following variables: age at which sexual activity is initiated, number of sexual partners, time period between start of dating and the start of sexual activity along time. **Results:** The average age when men and women start their