



Sexual behavior change in Taiwan public during the COVID-19 pandemic



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Abstract

Background

Previous studies showed a decrease in the frequency of sexual intercourse during the COVID-19 Pandemic period. However, there is limited study regarding sexual behavior during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Taiwan. Thus, this study aimed to investigate 1) whether sex-related behaviors changed before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic in Taiwan, and 2) the tendency of the changes.

Method

We conducted an on-line survey and enrolled participants aged over 20 in Taiwan. The survey included questions on the motivation of sex-related behaviors(28 items), frequency of sexual activities(9 items), frequency of hookups activities(3 items), use of sexting(8 items) and use of condom(1 item), and people's attitudes towards perceived susceptibility to disease (perceived infectability and germ aversion). Additional correlation analysis was performed on sex-related behaviors and people's attitudes towards perceived susceptibility to disease.

Result

A total of 186 participants were enrolled in the study, with a mean age of 30.2±9.76 years. About 71 % of the participants were females. The study showed a decrease in motivation for sex ($p < .05$, in 12 items), in frequency of sexual activities($p > .05$, in 6 items), condom usage($p = .002$), and average hook-up activities ($p = .005$) and sexting($p = .031$). However, only the changes of 2 items from motivation questions were associated with perceived infectability of participants. Higher personal cognition of getting an infection as perceived infectability is negatively correlated to motivation for sex in order to emotional connection ($p = .008$) and motivation for sex due to worrying that people will talk about you if you don't have sex($p = .004$).

Conclusion

Sexual activities did decrease during the COVID-19 Pandemic period in Taiwan, further exploration of related health issues is warranted.

Introduction

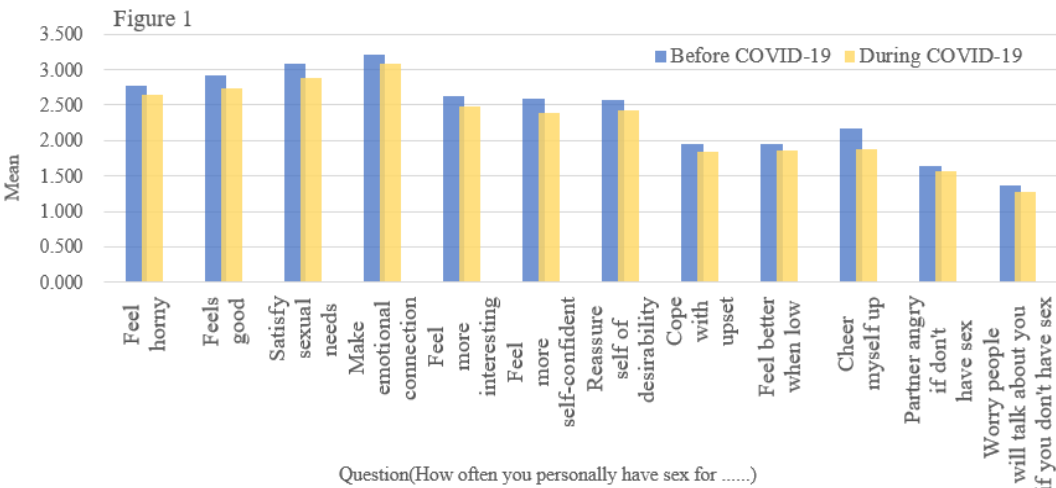
Sexual behaviors decreased during the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, there is limited study regarding sexual behavior during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Taiwan.

Method

- Enrolled 186 participants aged over 20 in Taiwan to do an online survey.
- We compared the sex-related behaviors scales' (Motivation, Frequency, Hookup, Sexting, Condom Usage) score differences before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic..
- We also surveyed people's attitudes towards perceived susceptibility to disease (perceived infectability and germ aversion).
- Additional correlation analysis was performed on sex-related behaviors and people's attitudes towards perceived susceptibility to disease.

Result

- Scores in Motivation Scale of sex-related behaviors were decreased, lower scores indicate lower motivation to have sex in our participants. (**Figure 1**)
- Two score-changing items in the Motivation Scale (emotional connection and worrying that people will talk about you) correlated with perceived infectability to disease (**Table 1**).



Scores of 12 items on the Motivation Scale of sex-related behaviors changed during the COVID-19 Pandemic (**Figure 1**).

Table 1 Correlation of changes in Motivation score between before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and average of Germ aversion items of perceived infectability of participants

Questions	p value	R ²	r
How often you personally have sex for How often you personally have sex for make emotional connection	0.008*	0.033	-0.195
How often you personally have sex for worry people will talk about you if you don't have sex	0.004*	0.040	-0.212

Note: *Significant at 0.05 level, R²=Coefficient of Determination, r=Correlation Coefficient

Conclusion

Sexual behaviors decreased in Taiwan during the COVID-19 Pandemic and some of the sex-related behavioral changes are related to perceived infectability.