

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

# Young Thais don't consider sex 'a big deal', poll shows

**POST REPORTERS**

A poll has showed more than 50% of young people think having sex is not a big deal.

Bangkok University Research Centre conducted a poll of 1,203 young people aged 13-22 (50.9% female and the rest male) on the outskirts of Bangkok to see what activities they wanted to do, and what gifts they wanted to give and receive, on Valentine's Day, celebrated tomorrow. The poll also studied sexual behaviour and sexual health.

The findings should act as a reference point for parents and state agencies working with young people, the poll said.

About 53% of respondents, mostly male, thought it was normal to have sex as long as measures were taken to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Meanwhile, 47% of respondents, mostly

female, viewed having sex during their teen years as "inappropriate", the survey found.

On activities and gifts, 47.5% of respondents wanted to go out with their girlfriends or boyfriends to celebrate.

About 34% of respondents expected to receive roses from admirers, the classic Valentine's Day gift.

Some 31% wanted a simple "I love you" from their partners.

Only 3.7% expected sex on the special day. Some 41% of respondents said they had partners, while 31.5% said they don't have any boyfriends, girlfriends or a crush while 27% said they don't have a boyfriend or girlfriend but have a crush.

On methods to prevent teen sex, about 36% of females said they would be careful when going out with their boyfriends and avoid drinking alcohol.

Some 21% said they do not go out with their boyfriends.

**Love is in the air**

Two young students walk in Siam Square with one of them sporting heart stickers on her school uniform to mark Valentine's Day tomorrow. The Education Ministry is stepping up efforts to ensure young people are not at risk of being sexually exploited on the day. **PATIPAT JANITHONG**

