

# The HIV Epidemic and

### Los Angeles Students

## What is the problem?

The 2007 Los Angeles Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

#### **Sexual Risk Behaviors**

- 46% ever had sexual intercourse.
- 7% had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years.
- 12% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.
- 32% were currently sexually active. (1)
- 34% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse. (2)

#### **Alcohol and Other Drug Use**

- 20% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse. (2)
- 3% used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times during their life.

### What are the solutions?

Better health education • Supportive policies

### What is the status?

The 2006 Los Angeles School Health Profiles indicates that among middle schools and high schools:

#### **Health Education**

- 25% required students to take two or more health education courses.
- 66% taught 11 pregnancy, HIV, or STD prevention topics in a required health education course.
- 97% taught abstinence as the most effective method to avoid pregnancy, HIV, and STDs in a required health education course.
- 99% taught how HIV is transmitted in a required health education course.
- 75% taught how to correctly use a condom in a required health education course.
- 92% taught how to find valid information or services related to HIV or HIV testing in a required health education course.
- 83% had a lead health education teacher who received staff development during the two years before the survey on HIV prevention.

#### **Supportive Policies**

Among schools with a policy on students and/or staff who have HIV infection or AIDS

- 98% had policies that addressed procedures to protect HIV-infected students and staff from discrimination.
- 100% had policies that addressed maintaining confidentiality of HIV-infected students and staff.
- 91% had policies that addressed adequate training about HIV infection for school staff.

- Had sexual intercouse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.
- Among students who were currently sexually active.



