

What is the problem?

The 2007 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among U.S. high school students:

Sexual Risk Behaviors

- 48% ever had sexual intercourse.
- 7% had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years.
- 15% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.
- 35% were currently sexually active. (1)
- 38% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse. (2)

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

- 23% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse. (2)
- 2% 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 • More comprehensive health services • Supportive policies

What is the status?

The School Health Policies and Programs Study 2006 indicates that among U.S. high schools:

Health Education

- 69% required students to receive instruction on health topics as part of a specific course.
- 28% taught 11 pregnancy, HIV, or STD prevention topics in a required health education course.
- 87% taught abstinence as the most effective method to avoid pregnancy, HIV, and STDs in a required health education course.
- 85% taught how HIV is transmitted in a required health education course.
- 39% taught how to correctly use a condom in a required health education course.
- 76% taught how to find valid information or services related to HIV or HIV testing in a required health education course.

Health Services

- 45% provided HIV counseling, testing, and referral services at school.
- 53% provided HIV prevention services at school in one-on-one or small-group sessions.
- 5% made condoms available at school.
- 24% provided services for gay, lesbian, or bisexual students.

Supportive Policies

- 54% had adopted a policy stating that students who had HIV infection or AIDS were allowed to attend classes as long as they were able.
- 45% had adopted a policy stating that teachers and staff who had HIV infection or AIDS were allowed to continue working as long as they were able.

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

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth or call 800 CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

