Drug Use and Sexual Behaviors Reported by Adults: United States, 1999–2002

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Abstract

This report presents prevalence estimates for self-reported adult drug use and sexual behaviors in the United States. Data are from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) collected from 1999 to 2002. NHANES surveys a stratified multistage probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Tables included in this report present estimates for use of cocaine, including crack or freebase, or other street drugs, and sexual behavior by selected sociodemographic characteristics among adults 20–59 years of age.

Keywords: illicit drugs • sexual behavior • National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

Introduction

Drug-related and sex-related behaviors are of great public health importance. Use of illicit drugs has been shown to influence sexual behavior and present risk factors for disease (1). Risky sexual behaviors can result in sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies. This report is intended to provide overall prevalence estimates of drug use and sexual behaviors in adults from a nationally representative sample of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population.

A nationwide health promotion and disease prevention agenda for the improved health status of the United States by year 2010 has targeted some of these health risk behaviors (2).

Several federal surveys track the prevalence of health risk behaviors in the U.S. noninstitutionalized population (3,4). Data used for this report were collected in the 1999–2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Prevalence estimates for adult health risk behaviors are shown by selected sociodemographic characteristics—including gender, age, race and ethnicity, education, poverty status, and marital status. Health risk behaviors analyzed are cocaine, including crack or freebase, or other street drug use, and sexual behavior.

Methods

NHANES is composed of a series of cross-sectional, nationally representative health and nutrition examination surveys of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. Samples are selected through a complex, multistage probability design (5,6). Beginning in 1999, NHANES became a continuous, annual survey. Low-income persons, adolescents 12–19 years, persons 60 years of age and over, African Americans, and Mexican Americans were oversampled. The data are released on public-use data files every 2 years. The data used for this report are from a combination of two 2-year cycles, 1999–2000 and 2001–2002. Four years of data were used to provide estimates with greater statistical reliability for demographic subdomains.

Participants in the survey were administered detailed, in-person home interviews followed by standardized health examinations in a Mobile Exam Center (MEC). A combined total of 25,316 sample persons, ranging in age from birth to over 85 years, were eligible for the surveys in 1999–2002; of these, 21,004 (83%) were home interviewed and 19,759 (78%) had examinations at the MEC.

Sexual behavior and drug use information for adults 20–59 years of age (n=6,237) was collected at the MEC using Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview (ACASI). This mode was used for the first time in NHANES to allow respondents to answer questions in complete privacy about socially sensitive questions related to drug use and sexual behavior. Prior to 1999, many of these same questions were asked in face-to-face private interviews. Studies have shown that the self-reporting of stigmatized behaviors vary by the mode of survey instrument, and that generally the more private methods of interviewing yield higher reporting of these behaviors. ACASI, which offers computer-based recorded playback features, has demonstrated participants' willingness to report socially sensitive behaviors more often than with face-to-face interviews (7–10).

Public-use data files and questions for each of these components can be found at the National Center for Health Statistics' NHANES website: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm. Definitions for risk behaviors used in this report can be found in the "Technical Notes" of this report.

Strengths and Limitations of the Data

Limitations of self-reported data include recall problems and intentional misreporting of behaviors. Survey planners attempted to minimize response errors by implementing ACASI for the drug use and sexual behaviors questions asked in the NHANES survey. Respondents commented on its ease of use. NHANES did not survey the homeless, persons in prisons, or institutionalized populations; and therefore the findings are not representative of the U.S. adult population as a whole.

Statistical Analysis

Percentages and standard errors are presented for all adult health risk behaviors in this report. The standard errors of the percentages (or medians) were estimated by Taylor Series Linearization (11), a method that

incorporates the sample weights and accounts for the sample design. Four-year MEC weights were applied to the drug and sexual behavior data to account for differential probabilities of selection, nonresponse, and noncoverage. A relative standard error (RSE) greater than 30% was used to identify unreliable estimates (5,6). The RSE is defined as the ratio of the standard error of the estimate divided by the estimate multiplied by 100. In the tables, an estimate with a RSE greater than 30% is identified with an asterisk (*). No estimates had a RSE greater than 40%. Age adjustment was performed using the direct method, employing U.S. Census population estimates for the year 2000 (12). Drug use and sexual behavior estimates were age adjusted using the age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.

T-tests at the .05 significance level with no adjustments for multiple comparisons were used to assess significance of differences between point estimates. Terms such as "more likely," "less likely," "was higher," "was lower," and "compared with" indicate a statistically significant difference. Terms such as "similar" or "no difference" indicate that the differences between estimates being compared were not statistically significant. Lack of comment regarding the difference between estimates does not mean that a significance test was performed and found to be not significant. All data analyses were performed using the statistical packages SAS version 9.1 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) and SUDAAN version 9.0 (RTI, Research Triangle Park, NC).

Selected Highlights

Drug use

All adults (Table 1):

- Twenty-one percent of adults 20–59 years old have tried cocaine or street drugs at some time in their life.
- Five and a half percent of adults used cocaine or street drugs within the past 12 months.
- Adults 50–59 years old had the lowest percentage of ever use and

past year use of cocaine or street drugs.
- Past year use of cocaine or street drugs increased as the age group became younger, with the youngest age group (20–29 years) having the highest prevalence.
- Non-Hispanic white persons had a higher percentage of ever using cocaine or street drugs while non-Hispanic black persons had a higher percentage of past year use.
- Persons with more than a high school education had the lowest percentage of ever used and past year use of cocaine or street drugs.
- The proportion of people ever using cocaine or street drugs did not vary by poverty level, however, individuals living at two or more times the poverty level had the lowest percentage of past year use.
- Married adults were less likely to have used cocaine or other street drugs in their lifetime or in the past year.

Gender (Tables 2 and 3):

- Men were more likely to have ever tried cocaine or street drugs (26%) than women (17%).
- Men were more likely to have used cocaine or street drugs in the past year (7%) than women (4%).

Sexual behaviors:

All adults (Table 4):

- Approximately 96% of adults age 20–59 years have had sex, with the age group 20–29 having the lowest percent (91%).
- Of all race or ethnic groups, Mexican Americans had the lowest percentage of persons (88%) ever having sex.
- Adults who had less than a high school education (92%), lived below the poverty level (91%), or were never married (89%) had the lowest prevalence of ever having sex.
- Sixteen percent of adults first had sex before the age of 15, while 15% of adults abstained from sex until age 21 or older.
- Sex before the age of 15 increased as the age groups became younger, conversely, abstaining from sex until

age 21 or older increased in the older age groups.

- The proportion of adults who first had sex before the age of 15 was highest for non-Hispanic black persons (28%) compared with Mexican American persons (14%) and non-Hispanic white persons (14%).
- Only 6% of non-Hispanic black persons abstained from sex until age 21 years and older compared with Mexican American persons (17%) and non-Hispanic white persons (15%).
- The proportion of adults who first had sex before the age of 15 was highest for persons with less than a high school education (27%) compared with persons with a high school education (19%) and persons with more than a high school education (10%).
- Nineteen percent of adults with more than a high school education abstained from sex until age 21 years and older compared with persons with a high school education (8.6%) and persons with less than a high school education (8.0%).
- The proportion of people who have had sex before the age of 15 was lowest for persons living at two or more times the poverty level.
- The proportion of people who have had sex before the age of 15 was highest for persons who were currently cohabitating.

Gender (Tables 5–10):

- Males were more likely than females to have had sex before the age of 15.
- The proportion of adults who have had sex before the age of 15 did not differ between males and females for individuals 20–29 years of age, individuals living below the poverty level, or individuals who were cohabiting.
- Twenty-nine percent of men reported having 15 or more female sexual partners in a lifetime compared with 9% of women who reported having 15 or more male sexual partners in a lifetime.
- The median number of lifetime female sexual partners for men was

seven and the median number of lifetime male sexual partners for women was four.

- Mexican-American males and females had the highest percent (24% and 45%, respectively) of having one or no sexual partners in a lifetime.
- Non-Hispanic black men and women were more likely to have a higher percentage of 15 or more partners in a lifetime (46% and 13%, respectively) than other race or ethnic groups.
- Men were more likely to have two or more sexual partners in the past year (17%) than women (10%).
- Both men and women in the youngest age group (20–29 years) had a higher percentage of two or more partners in the past year than other age groups, although men in this age group had a higher percentage than women (31% and 19%, respectively).
- Non-Hispanic black men and women had a higher percentage of two or more partners in the past year than other race or ethnic groups, although non-Hispanic black men had a higher percentage than non-Hispanic black women (37% and 19%, respectively).
- Of males and females, with no sexual partners in the past year, 21% of both had less than a high school education, 24% and 28%, respectively, lived below the poverty level, and 41% and 47%, respectively, were never married.

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Table 1. Ever use and past year use of cocaine or street drugs for adults 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Cocaine or street drug use			
	Ever (percent)	Standard error	Past year (percent)	Standard error
Both sexes				
20 years and over (age-adjusted)[1,2]	21.4	1.0	5.5	0.4
20 years and over (crude)	21.3	1.0	5.5	0.4
Age				
20–29 years	19.4	1.8	9.5	1.5
30–39 years	27.4	1.6	6.8	0.8
40–49 years	25.9	1.3	3.8	0.5
50–59 years	9.6	1.3	1.6	0.4
Race and ethnicity[1]				
Mexican American	16.4	1.6	5.9	0.8
Non-Hispanic white.	23.5	1.5	5.4	0.6
Non-Hispanic black.	18.0	1.6	7.1	0.8
Education[1]				
Less than high school	23.0	1.9	8.3	0.9
High school diploma or GED[3]	23.9	1.8	6.8	0.9
More than high school.	19.6	1.0	3.9	0.4
Poverty[1,4]				
Below poverty level.	21.4	2.0	6.9	0.9
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	21.2	1.9	9.2	1.2
2 or more times poverty level	21.6	1.2	4.6	0.4
Marital status[1]				
Married	16.5	1.1	2.3	0.3
Widowed, divorced, or separated	27.1	2.5	8.6	1.3
Never married	31.0	1.6	10.0	1.1
Cohabitating	37.3	3.6	10.0	1.6

[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.
[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.
[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.
[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 2. Ever use and past year use of cocaine or street drugs for adult males 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Cocaine or street drug use			
	Ever (percent)	Standard error	Past year (percent)	Standard error
Male				
20 years and over (age-adjusted)[1,2]	26.0	1.3	7.3	0.6
20 years and over (crude)	25.9	1.3	7.3	0.6
Age				
20–29 years	24.4	2.6	12.8	2.0
30–39 years	32.0	1.9	8.4	1.1
40–49 years	31.5	2.1	5.6	0.9
50–59 years	12.4	1.7	*2.0	0.6
Race and ethnicity[1]				
Mexican American	21.9	2.2	8.2	1.1
Non-Hispanic white.	27.9	1.8	7.1	0.9
Non-Hispanic black.	23.7	1.7	10.8	1.2
Education[1]				
Less than high school	29.8	2.7	11.1	1.1
High school diploma or GED[3]	28.9	2.1	9.1	1.3
More than high school.	23.1	1.3	4.9	0.7
Poverty[1,4]				
Below poverty level.	25.2	3.2	8.3	1.3
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	25.8	1.9	11.6	1.6
2 or more times poverty level	26.2	1.5	6.5	0.7
Marital status[1]				
Married	20.0	1.3	3.6	0.5
Widowed, divorced, or separated	36.7	4.5	14.6	2.5
Never married.	39.0	2.9	12.2	1.8
Cohabitating	41.7	5.0	10.9	2.4

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision (RSE > 30%).

[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.

[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 3. Ever use and past year use of cocaine or street drugs for adult females 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Cocaine or street drug use			
	Ever (percent)	Standard error	Past year (percent)	Standard error
Female				
20 years and over (age-adjusted)[1,2]	16.8	1.2	3.7	0.5
20 years and over (crude)	16.8	1.2	3.7	0.5
Age				
20–29 years	14.1	2.0	6.0	1.4
30–39 years	22.8	1.9	5.4	1.1
40–49 years	20.5	1.6	2.0	0.4
50–59 years	6.9	1.5	*1.3	0.6
Race and ethnicity[1]				
Mexican American	10.0	1.4	3.0	0.7
Non-Hispanic white.	19.1	1.7	3.7	0.8
Non-Hispanic black.	13.0	2.0	3.9	1.0
Education[1]				
Less than high school	16.0	2.4	5.4	1.5
High school diploma or GED[3]	18.8	2.0	4.4	1.1
More than high school.	16.3	1.4	3.1	0.5
Poverty[1,4]				
Below poverty level.	18.0	2.1	5.6	1.2
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	17.2	2.7	6.9	1.4
2 or more times poverty level	16.5	1.4	2.5	0.6
Marital status[1]				
Married	13.1	1.3	1.2	0.3
Widowed, divorced, or separated	20.9	1.8	4.9	1.2
Never married.	20.8	2.9	7.1	1.4
Cohabitating	32.9	3.8	9.7	2.2

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision (RSE > 30%).

[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.

[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 4. Percent distribution of ever having sex and age at initiation of sex for adults 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Ever	Age first had sex				
		Total	Less than 15 years	15–17 years	18–20 years	21 years or more
Both sexes		Percent distribution (standard error)				
20 years and over (age-adjusted)[1,2]	95.9 (0.4)	100.0	15.6 (0.7)	41.3 (0.9)	28.4 (0.8)	14.7 (1.0)
20 years and over (crude)	95.9 (0.4)	100.0	15.5 (0.7)	41.1 (0.9)	28.5 (0.7)	14.9 (1.0)
Age						
20–29 years	90.9 (1.5)	100.0	20.1 (1.3)	46.5 (1.9)	24.2 (1.4)	9.1 (1.5)
30–39 years	96.6 (0.6)	100.0	17.0 (1.5)	45.0 (1.6)	24.5 (1.6)	13.5 (1.5)
40–49 years	97.7 (0.5)	100.0	13.4 (1.2)	39.8 (1.7)	29.6 (1.7)	17.2 (1.6)
50–59 years	98.3 (0.4)	100.0	11.6 (1.1)	32.3 (1.8)	36.6 (2.0)	19.5 (1.3)
Race and ethnicity[1]						
Mexican American.	88.2 (1.6)	100.0	14.3 (1.4)	39.4 (1.6)	29.6 (1.2)	16.6 (1.1)
Non-Hispanic white	97.2 (0.4)	100.0	13.9 (0.9)	42.0 (1.2)	29.1 (1.1)	15.0 (1.3)
Non-Hispanic black	95.7 (0.8)	100.0	27.5 (1.6)	45.6 (2.0)	21.1 (1.3)	5.8 (0.7)
Education[1]						
Less than high school	91.8 (1.1)	100.0	27.2 (1.3)	44.7 (2.1)	20.1 (1.2)	8.0 (0.9)
High school diploma or GED[3]	96.3 (0.7)	100.0	19.4 (1.1)	46.4 (1.7)	25.6 (1.5)	8.6 (1.1)
More than high school	97.0 (0.4)	100.0	10.4 (0.8)	38.3 (1.0)	32.0 (1.1)	19.3 (1.5)
Poverty[1,4]						
Below poverty level	91.3 (1.0)	100.0	24.8 (1.9)	39.9 (2.2)	22.5 (1.2)	12.8 (2.0)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	95.6 (0.7)	100.0	21.6 (2.1)	44.2 (2.3)	22.3 (2.5)	11.9 (1.4)
2 or more times poverty level	97.3 (0.3)	100.0	12.5 (0.8)	41.1 (1.2)	31.1 (1.0)	15.3 (1.2)
Marital status[1]						
Married	98.1 (0.4)	100.0	13.3 (1.0)	40.7 (1.7)	29.5 (1.4)	16.5 (1.6)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	97.7 (0.6)	100.0	17.6 (2.2)	45.9 (3.2)	27.2 (2.8)	9.3 (1.2)
Never married	88.7 (1.1)	100.0	18.0 (1.4)	38.9 (2.4)	27.0 (2.6)	16.1 (1.9)
Cohabitating	98.6 (0.7)	100.0	27.3 (2.4)	41.9 (3.9)	23.3 (2.7)	7.6 (1.5)

[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.
[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.
[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.
[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 5. Percent distribution of ever having sex and age at initiation of sex for adult males 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Ever	Total	Age first had sex			
			Less than 15 years	15–17 years	18–20 years	21 years or more
Male			Percent distribution (standard error)			
20 years and over (age-adjusted)[1,2]	95.5 (0.4)	100.0	19.0 (0.9)	41.2 (1.1)	26.7 (1.0)	13.1 (1.3)
20 years and over (crude)	95.5 (0.4)	100.0	19.0 (0.9)	41.2 (1.1)	26.8 (1.1)	13.1 (1.3)
Age						
20–29 years	90.9 (1.3)	100.0	21.6 (1.8)	43.2 (2.4)	25.6 (1.8)	9.6 (1.7)
30–39 years	95.6 (0.7)	100.0	21.6 (2.2)	43.2 (2.3)	22.5 (2.0)	12.6 (2.1)
40–49 years	97.4 (0.8)	100.0	15.9 (1.5)	44.0 (2.4)	24.1 (2.3)	16.0 (2.3)
50–59 years	97.9 (0.5)	100.0	16.9 (1.8)	32.5 (2.0)	37.0 (2.3)	13.7 (1.4)
Race and ethnicity[1]						
Mexican American.	87.8 (2.2)	100.0	18.7 (2.2)	46.0 (2.6)	26.3 (1.7)	9.0 (1.3)
Non-Hispanic white	96.7 (0.5)	100.0	16.2 (1.1)	41.3 (1.5)	28.7 (1.3)	13.8 (1.7)
Non-Hispanic black	96.0 (0.9)	100.0	36.9 (2.1)	41.8 (2.5)	16.4 (1.8)	4.9 (0.9)
Education[1]						
Less than high school	91.7 (1.2)	100.0	31.8 (1.9)	42.9 (2.5)	18.4 (1.6)	6.9 (1.1)
High school diploma or GED[3].	95.4 (0.9)	100.0	24.1 (1.9)	42.2 (1.7)	25.6 (2.4)	8.1 (1.4)
More than high school	96.9 (0.6)	100.0	12.5 (0.9)	40.5 (1.7)	29.8 (1.6)	17.3 (2.0)
Poverty[1,4]						
Below poverty level	89.3 (1.6)	100.0	27.0 (3.2)	35.7 (4.0)	20.4 (2.0)	16.8 (3.9)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	95.3 (0.9)	100.0	26.6 (2.8)	44.5 (3.1)	18.6 (2.6)	10.3 (1.8)
2 or more times poverty level	96.8 (0.6)	100.0	16.0 (1.0)	41.3 (1.7)	29.9 (1.4)	12.7 (1.5)
Marital status[1]						
Married	97.6 (0.6)	100.0	17.0 (1.2)	40.0 (1.8)	28.3 (1.6)	14.6 (2.1)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	96.3 (1.3)	100.0	23.4 (3.7)	45.2 (4.7)	21.9 (3.5)	9.4 (2.2)
Never married	88.8 (1.6)	100.0	22.3 (2.2)	41.7 (3.4)	23.7 (3.6)	12.2 (2.6)
Cohabitating	98.8 (0.7)	100.0	30.2 (3.6)	40.2 (4.2)	21.9 (4.2)	*7.7 (2.8)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE > 30%).
[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.
[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.
[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.
[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 6. Percent distribution of ever having sex and age at initiation of sex for adult females 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Ever	Total	Age first had sex			
			Less than 15 years	15–17 years	18–20 years	21 years or more
Female			Percent distribution (standard error)			
20 years and over (age-adjusted)[1,2]	96.3 (0.5)	100.0	12.3 (0.9)	41.4 (1.4)	29.9 (1.1)	16.3 (1.0)
20 years and over (crude)	96.3 (0.6)	100.0	12.1 (0.8)	41.0 (1.4)	30.2 (1.1)	16.6 (1.0)
Age						
20–29 years	90.9 (1.9)	100.0	18.7 (2.4)	50.0 (2.8)	22.7 (2.0)	8.7 (1.6)
30–39 years	97.5 (0.6)	100.0	12.5 (1.5)	46.6 (2.6)	26.4 (2.3)	14.4 (1.6)
40–49 years	97.9 (0.5)	100.0	11.0 (1.4)	35.7 (1.9)	35.0 (2.2)	18.2 (1.9)
50–59 years	98.6 (0.5)	100.0	6.4 (1.4)	32.1 (2.5)	36.3 (2.7)	25.2 (1.8)
Race and ethnicity[1]						
Mexican American.	88.9 (1.3)	100.0	9.3 (1.6)	32.3 (2.0)	33.6 (1.6)	24.8 (2.1)
Non-Hispanic white	97.8 (0.6)	100.0	11.6 (1.1)	42.7 (1.7)	29.5 (1.5)	16.2 (1.4)
Non-Hispanic black	95.4 (1.1)	100.0	19.2 (2.3)	48.8 (2.9)	25.3 (2.4)	6.8 (1.0)
Education[1]						
Less than high school	92.0 (1.5)	100.0	22.1 (2.2)	46.8 (3.2)	22.1 (1.9)	9.0 (1.2)
High school diploma or GED[3].	97.2 (0.6)	100.0	14.7 (1.9)	50.8 (3.2)	25.3 (1.9)	9.2 (1.6)
More than high school	97.1 (0.5)	100.0	8.5 (1.0)	36.2 (1.7)	34.1 (1.2)	21.2 (1.4)
Poverty[1,4]						
Below poverty level	92.7 (1.8)	100.0	22.9 (2.7)	43.0 (3.0)	24.4 (2.3)	9.7 (1.8)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	96.0 (0.8)	100.0	17.1 (2.1)	44.2 (2.8)	25.5 (3.3)	13.1 (1.8)
2 or more times poverty level	98.0 (0.4)	100.0	8.8 (0.9)	41.0 (1.8)	32.3 (1.4)	17.9 (1.4)
Marital status[1]						
Married	98.4 (0.4)	100.0	9.7 (1.2)	41.0 (2.1)	30.9 (1.6)	18.5 (1.5)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	98.7 (0.5)	100.0	14.0 (1.8)	46.3 (3.7)	30.5 (3.5)	9.2 (1.6)
Never married	88.6 (2.2)	100.0	12.5 (1.9)	35.6 (3.3)	31.0 (3.6)	20.9 (2.9)
Cohabitating	98.2 (1.3)	100.0	23.3 (3.1)	44.9 (4.6)	24.4 (4.0)	*7.3 (2.3)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE > 30%).
[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.
[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.
[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.
[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 7. Percent distribution of males by number of female sexual partners in lifetime and median number of partners for adults 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Number of female sexual partners in lifetime				
		0–1	2–6	7–14	15 or more	Median[1]
Male		Percent distribution (standard error)				
20–59 years of age (age-adjusted)[2,3]	100.0	16.6 (0.9)	33.8 (1.0)	20.7 (1.0)	28.9 (1.3)	. . .
20–59 years of age (crude)	100.0	16.7 (1.0)	33.8 (1.0)	20.7 (1.0)	28.9 (1.4)	6.8 (0.4)
Age						
20–29 years	100.0	23.7 (1.9)	33.5 (2.5)	20.1 (2.0)	22.7 (2.4)	5.4 (0.6)
30–39 years	100.0	15.0 (1.5)	32.2 (1.5)	22.3 (2.1)	30.4 (1.8)	7.6 (0.7)
40–49 years	100.0	12.9 (1.4)	35.4 (2.0)	20.0 (1.6)	31.6 (2.1)	6.9 (0.6)
50–59 years	100.0	15.6 (1.8)	33.9 (1.6)	20.1 (1.9)	30.4 (2.4)	6.9 (0.7)
Race and ethnicity[2]						
Mexican American.	100.0	23.8 (1.7)	38.2 (3.0)	18.1 (1.6)	19.9 (1.9)	4.7 (0.4)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	16.6 (1.2)	34.8 (1.3)	21.3 (1.2)	27.4 (1.7)	6.2 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	6.4 (1.1)	22.2 (2.3)	25.2 (1.9)	46.2 (2.2)	12.5 (1.4)
Education[2]						
Less than high school	100.0	17.0 (1.5)	30.7 (1.8)	20.8 (2.1)	31.5 (2.1)	8.1 (0.7)
High school diploma or GED[4].	100.0	15.4 (1.7)	33.3 (1.9)	20.6 (1.5)	30.6 (2.2)	7.3 (0.7)
More than high school	100.0	17.1 (1.1)	34.7 (1.2)	20.9 (1.3)	27.3 (1.7)	6.0 (0.6)
Poverty[2,5]						
Below poverty level	100.0	20.6 (2.7)	32.7 (2.9)	17.9 (1.7)	28.7 (2.4)	6.3 (0.7)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level.	100.0	13.4 (1.7)	30.9 (2.0)	20.5 (1.5)	35.2 (2.1)	7.4 (0.7)
2 or more times poverty level	100.0	16.5 (1.2)	33.6 (1.2)	21.7 (1.4)	28.3 (1.6)	6.7 (0.5)
Marital status[2]						
Married	100.0	18.8 (1.2)	37.8 (1.5)	20.2 (1.6)	23.2 (1.6)	5.1 (0.2)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	6.1 (1.7)	29.5 (3.0)	22.8 (2.9)	41.6 (3.5)	11.5 (1.6)
Never married	100.0	18.9 (1.7)	27.5 (2.2)	18.3 (2.2)	35.3 (3.4)	7.4 (0.9)
Cohabitating	100.0	*6.3 (2.1)	24.9 (3.1)	25.8 (3.7)	43.1 (4.0)	9.7 (1.3)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision (RSE > 30%).
. . . Data not applicable.
[1]Median values exclude males with no female sexual partners.
[2]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.
[3]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.
[4]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.
[5]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 8. Percent distribution of males by number of female sexual partners in the past year for adults 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Number of female sexual partners in the past year		
		None	1	2 or more
Male		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20–59 years of age (age-adjusted)[1,2]	100.0	15.4 (1.0)	67.9 (1.3)	16.7 (0.9)
20–59 years of age (crude)	100.0	15.4 (1.0)	67.9 (1.3)	16.7 (1.0)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	15.7 (1.4)	53.2 (2.0)	31.1 (1.9)
30–39 years	100.0	15.6 (1.5)	69.6 (2.0)	14.8 (1.5)
40–49 years	100.0	13.8 (2.0)	74.4 (2.4)	11.8 (1.5)
50–59 years	100.0	17.1 (1.7)	73.9 (2.1)	8.9 (1.3)
Race and ethnicity[1]				
Mexican American.	100.0	21.3 (1.8)	63.7 (2.5)	15.0 (1.3)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	14.5 (1.2)	71.5 (1.4)	14.0 (1.1)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	13.9 (1.6)	48.9 (2.4)	37.1 (2.4)
Education[1]				
Less than high school	100.0	21.3 (1.5)	58.9 (1.8)	19.8 (1.7)
High school diploma or GED[3].	100.0	13.2 (2.1)	70.2 (2.2)	16.6 (1.7)
More than high school	100.0	14.6 (1.2)	69.8 (2.1)	15.6 (1.6)
Poverty[1,4]				
Below poverty level	100.0	23.9 (2.7)	54.7 (3.0)	21.4 (2.2)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level.	100.0	13.9 (1.7)	64.2 (2.1)	21.9 (1.8)
2 or more times poverty level	100.0	13.9 (1.4)	71.5 (1.9)	14.7 (1.2)
Marital status[1]				
Married	100.0	6.7 (0.6)	85.9 (0.8)	7.3 (0.8)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	25.3 (2.9)	38.7 (4.6)	36.0 (4.4)
Never married	100.0	40.5 (4.1)	29.9 (3.8)	29.6 (2.7)
Cohabitating	100.0	*4.8 (2.0)	80.2 (3.6)	15.1 (3.2)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision (RSE > 30%).

[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.

[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 9. Percent distribution of females by number of male sexual partners in lifetime and median number of partners for adults 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Number of male sexual partners in lifetime				
		0–1	2–6	7–14	15 or more	Median[1]
Female		Percent distribution (standard error)				
20–59 years of age (age-adjusted)[2,3]	100.0	25.0 (1.5)	44.3 (1.4)	21.3 (1.1)	9.4 (0.7)	. . .
20–59 years of age (crude)	100.0	25.0 (1.5)	44.4 (1.4)	21.2 (1.1)	9.4 (0.7)	3.7 (0.1)
Age						
20–29 years.	100.0	28.0 (3.6)	44.4 (3.1)	19.5 (1.5)	8.2 (1.2)	3.7 (0.2)
30–39 years.	100.0	19.1 (2.2)	43.5 (2.2)	26.2 (1.8)	11.3 (1.4)	4.6 (0.0)
40–49 years.	100.0	24.6 (2.1)	43.4 (2.5)	21.6 (1.7)	10.4 (1.3)	3.5 (0.5)
50–59 years.	100.0	29.9 (1.9)	46.8 (2.2)	16.4 (2.7)	6.9 (1.3)	2.7 (0.2)
Race and ethnicity[2]						
Mexican American	100.0	45.1 (1.7)	41.5 (1.8)	8.7 (1.3)	4.7 (1.0)	1.7 (0.0)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	24.2 (2.0)	44.1 (1.7)	22.1 (1.4)	9.6 (1.0)	3.7 (0.3)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	13.0 (1.0)	47.2 (2.2)	27.3 (1.9)	12.5 (1.6)	5.0 (0.2)
Education[2]						
Less than high school.	100.0	26.6 (2.3)	47.3 (2.6)	19.5 (1.6)	6.7 (1.3)	3.5 (0.5)
High school diploma or GED[4]	100.0	24.1 (1.7)	45.7 (2.7)	21.2 (2.4)	9.0 (1.5)	3.8 (0.3)
More than high school.	100.0	25.0 (2.1)	42.9 (1.7)	21.8 (1.5)	10.3 (1.0)	3.7 (0.3)
Poverty[2,5]						
Below poverty level	100.0	21.0 (3.1)	46.5 (3.1)	23.0 (2.5)	9.5 (1.6)	4.3 (0.3)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	20.2 (1.9)	52.0 (2.9)	19.4 (2.1)	8.4 (1.8)	3.8 (0.3)
2 or more times poverty level	100.0	25.7 (1.9)	43.1 (1.7)	21.1 (1.6)	10.0 (0.8)	3.5 (0.1)
Marital status[2]						
Married.	100.0	31.8 (2.1)	46.8 (1.7)	15.7 (1.2)	5.8 (0.8)	2.6 (0.2)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	8.0 (1.2)	45.0 (3.5)	33.1 (3.5)	13.9 (2.5)	5.8 (0.5)
Never married.	100.0	19.0 (2.0)	39.0 (4.4)	30.0 (3.0)	12.1 (1.9)	5.1 (0.5)
Cohabitating.	100.0	7.9 (2.2)	49.2 (4.2)	28.5 (4.0)	14.5 (3.4)	4.7 (0.4)

. . . Data not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

[1]Median values exclude females with no male sexual partners.

[2]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.

[3]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

[4]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

[5]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 10. Percent distribution of females by number of male sexual partners in the past year for adults 20–59 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Number of male sexual partners in the past year		
		None	1	2 or more
Female		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20–59 years of age (age-adjusted)[1,2]	100.0	17.7 (0.9)	72.3 (1.0)	10.0 (0.7)
20–59 years of age (crude)	100.0	17.8 (0.9)	72.3 (1.0)	9.9 (0.7)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	15.1 (2.1)	66.0 (2.3)	19.0 (2.1)
30–39 years	100.0	9.4 (1.5)	79.6 (2.0)	11.0 (1.4)
40–49 years	100.0	16.1 (1.4)	78.4 (1.4)	5.6 (0.7)
50–59 years	100.0	33.9 (2.5)	61.6 (2.8)	4.4 (1.0)
Race and ethnicity[1]				
Mexican American	100.0	20.7 (1.6)	70.8 (1.6)	8.5 (0.8)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	15.7 (1.1)	75.9 (1.5)	8.5 (0.8)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	20.4 (2.0)	60.6 (1.8)	19.0 (1.6)
Education[1]				
Less than high school	100.0	21.1 (1.7)	66.8 (1.9)	12.1 (1.5)
High school diploma or GED[3]	100.0	15.4 (1.5)	73.3 (1.8)	11.3 (1.6)
More than high school	100.0	17.5 (1.2)	73.5 (1.1)	9.0 (0.9)
Poverty[1,4]				
Below poverty level	100.0	28.1 (2.7)	55.6 (3.0)	16.3 (2.2)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	22.7 (2.1)	65.2 (2.6)	12.1 (2.3)
2 or more times poverty level	100.0	14.0 (0.9)	77.7 (1.3)	8.3 (0.9)
Marital status[1]				
Married	100.0	6.0 (0.7)	90.9 (0.8)	3.1 (0.4)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	32.0 (1.8)	41.7 (3.4)	26.3 (3.1)
Never married	100.0	46.5 (3.1)	36.0 (2.8)	17.4 (2.3)
Cohabitating	100.0	11.0 (2.9)	80.7 (3.9)	8.3 (2.4)

[1]Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–29 years, 30–39 years, and 40–59 years.
[2]Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.
[3]GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.
[4]Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropiate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Technical Notes

Definitions of selected terms:

Drug use:

Ever use drugs—Ever use of cocaine, including crack or freebase, or other street drugs. Marijuana use is not included.

Past year use—Number of days used cocaine, including crack or freebase, or other street drugs in the past year (asked of those who responded "yes" to ever using drugs). Again, marijuana use is not included. Estimates presented as percent of U.S. population.

Sexual behavior:

Ever had sex—Ever had sex by means of vaginal, oral, or anal sex.

Age first had sex—Respondents asked how old they were when they first had sex (asked of those who responded "yes" to ever having sex).

Number of sexual partners—Participants asked about the number of people they had sex with in the past year and in their lifetime.