

## What is the problem?

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

### Sexual Risk Behaviors

- 44% ever had sexual intercourse.
- 6% had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years.
- 12% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.
- 33% were currently sexually active. (1)
- 39% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse. (2)

### Alcohol and Other Drug Use

- 25% 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 • Supportive policies

## What is the status?

The 2008 Massachusetts School Health Profiles indicates that among middle schools and high schools:

### Health Education

- 59% required students to take two or more health education courses.
- 44% taught 11 key pregnancy, HIV, or STD prevention topics in a required course during grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 74% taught 8 key pregnancy, HIV, or STD prevention topics in a required course during grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 73% taught 3 key topics related to condom use in a required course during grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 74% taught how to access valid and reliable health information, products, or services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course.
- 30% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the two years before the survey on HIV prevention.

### Supportive Policies

- 64% had policies on students or staff who have HIV infection or AIDS that addressed attendance of students with HIV infection, procedures to protect HIV-infected students and staff from discrimination, and maintaining confidentiality of HIV-infected students and staff.
- 49% had a gay/straight alliance or similar club.

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/healthyouth](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth) or call 800 CDC INFO (800 232 4636).

