HIV and Other STD Prevention and United States Students

What is the problem?

The 2013 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among U.S. high school students:

**Sexual Risk Behaviors**
- 47% ever had sexual intercourse.
- 6% had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years.
- 15% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.
- 34% had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.
- 41% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse. (1)
- 15% were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection.

**Alcohol and Other Drug Use**
- 22% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse. (1)
- 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  •  More supportive environments

What is the status?

The School Health Policies and Practices Study 2014 indicates that among U.S. high schools:

**Health Education**
- 88% required students to receive instruction on health topics as part of a specific course.
- Among a required health education course:
  - 75% taught how to prevent HIV infection.
  - 76% taught how to prevent STDs.
  - 65% taught how to find valid information or services related to HIV or HIV testing.
  - 70% taught how to find valid information or services related to STDs or STD screening.
  - 76% taught abstinence as the most effective method to avoid pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs.
  - 35% taught how to correctly use a condom.
  - 50% taught how to obtain condoms.
  - 55% taught the importance of using a condom at the same time as another form of contraception to prevent both STDs and pregnancy.
  - 76% taught the relationship between alcohol or other drug use and the risk for HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy.

**Health Services**
- 50% provided HIV or STD prevention services at school in one-on-one or small-group sessions.
- 7% made condoms available to students at school.
- 40% provided HIV counseling, testing, and referral services at school.
- 54% provided identification, treatment of, or referral for STDs at school.
- 76% provided identification, treatment of, or referral for STDs to students through arrangements with providers not located on school property.
- 3% provided the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to students at school.
- 35% provided services specifically for gay, lesbian, or bisexual students at school.

**Supportive Environments**
- 38% had a gay/straight alliance.

---

1. Among students who were currently sexually active.