

Trends in the Prevalence of Sexual Behaviors and HIV Testing National YRBS: 1991—2015

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

Percentages												Change from	Change from	
1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	1991–2015¹	2013-2015 ²
Ever had sexual intercourse														
54.1	53.0	53.1	48.4	49.9	45.6	46.7	46.8	47.8	46.0	47.4	46.8	41.2	Decreased 1991—2015	Decreased
Had sexual intercourse before age 13 years (for the first time)														
10.2	9.2	8.9	7.2	8.3	6.6	7.4	6.2	7.1	5.9	6.2	5.6	3.9	Decreased 1991—2015	Decreased
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons (during their life)														
18.7	18.7	17.8	16.0	16.2	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.9	13.8	15.3	15.0	11.5	Decreased 1991—2015	Decreased
Were currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey)														
37.5	37.5	37.9	34.8	36.3	33.4	34.3	33.9	35.0	34.2	33.7	34.0	30.1	Decreased 1991—2015	Decreased
Used a condom (during last sexual intercourse, among students who were currently sexually active)														
46.2	52.8	54.4	56.8	58.0	57.9	63.0	62.8	61.5	61.1	60.2	59.1	56.9	Increased 1991—2015 Increased 1991—2003 Decreased 2003—2015	No change

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Percentages													Change from	Change from
1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	1991–2015¹	2013–2015 ²
Used birth control pills (before last sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy, among students who were currently sexually active)														
20.8	18.4	17.4	16.6	16.2	18.2	17.0	17.6	16.0	19.8	18.0	19.0	18.2	Decreased 1991—1995 Increased 1995—2015	No change
	Did not use any method to prevent pregnancy (during last sexual intercourse, among students who were currently sexually active)													
16.5	15.3	15.8	15.2	14.9	13.3	11.3	12.7	12.2	11.9	12.9	13.7	13.8	Decreased 1991—2015 Decreased 1991—2007 No change 2007—2015	No change
	Drank alcohol or used drugs (before last sexual intercourse, among students who were currently sexually active)													
21.6	21.3	24.8	24.7	24.8	25.6	25.4	23.3	22.5	21.6	22.1	22.4	20.6	Increased 1991—1999 Decreased 1999—2015	No change
Were ever tested for HIV (not counting tests done when donating blood)														
3	_	_	_	_	_	_	11.9	12.9	12.7	12.9	12.9	10.2	Decreased 2005—2015 No change 2005—2011 Decreased 2011—2015	Decreased

¹ Based on linear and quadratic trend analyses using logistic regression models controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, p < 0.05. Significant linear trends (if present) across all available years are described first followed by linear changes in each segment of significant quadratic trends (if present).

² Based on t-test analysis, p < 0.05.

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³ Not available.