



Trends in the Prevalence of Sexual Behaviors

National YRBS: 1991–2009

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.

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	Changes from 1991 2009 ¹	Change from 2007 2009 ²
Ever had sexual intercourse											
54.1 (50.5–57.8) ³	53.0 (50.2–55.8)	53.1 (48.4–57.7)	48.4 (45.2–51.6)	49.9 (46.1–53.7)	45.6 (43.2–48.1)	46.7 (44.0–49.4)	46.8 (43.4–50.2)	47.8 (45.1–50.6)	46.0 (42.9–49.2)	Decreased, 1991–2009	No change
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons (during their life)											
18.7 (16.6–21.0)	18.7 (16.8–20.9)	17.8 (15.2–20.7)	16.0 (14.6–17.5)	16.2 (13.7–19.0)	14.2 (13.0–15.6)	14.4 (12.9–16.1)	14.3 (12.8–15.8)	14.9 (13.4–16.5)	13.8 (12.4–15.4)	Decreased, 1991–2009	No change
Had sexual intercourse with at least one person (during the 3 months before the survey)											
37.5 (34.3–40.7)	37.5 (35.4–39.7)	37.9 (34.4–41.5)	34.8 (32.6–37.2)	36.3 (32.7–40.0)	33.4 (31.3–35.5)	34.3 (32.1–36.5)	33.9 (31.4–36.6)	35.0 (32.8–37.2)	34.2 (31.9–36.5)	Decreased, 1991–2009	No change
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)											
46.2 (42.8–49.6)	52.8 (50.0–55.6)	54.4 (50.7–58.0)	56.8 (55.2–58.4)	58.0 (53.6–62.3)	57.9 (55.6–60.1)	63.0 (60.5–65.5)	62.8 (60.6–64.9)	61.5 (59.4–63.6)	61.1 (59.0–63.1)	Increased, 1991–2003 No change, 2003–2009	No change
Used birth control pills or Depo-Provera before last sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy (among students who were currently sexually active)											
NA ⁴	NA	NA	NA	19.5 (16.5–22.9)	22.6 (20.8–24.5)	20.7 (18.1–23.6)	20.5 (17.9–23.5)	18.8 (16.6–21.1)	22.9 (20.3–25.7)	No change, 1999–2009	Increased
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)											
21.6 (18.7–24.8)	21.3 (19.3–23.5)	24.8 (22.1–27.8)	24.7 (22.9–26.7)	24.8 (21.8–28.0)	25.6 (23.8–27.4)	25.4 (23.2–27.8)	23.3 (21.1–25.6)	22.5 (20.7–24.5)	21.6 (20.0–23.3)	Increased, 1991–2001 Decreased, 2001–2009	No change
Were ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection											
83.3 (80.1–86.0)	86.1 (83.4–88.4)	86.3 (79.0–91.3)	91.5 (90.3–92.5)	90.6 (89.1–91.9)	89.0 (87.6–90.3)	87.9 (85.8–89.7)	87.9 (85.8–89.7)	89.5 (88.1–90.7)	87.0 (85.7–88.3)	Increased, 1991–1997 Decreased, 1997–2009	Decreased

¹ Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

² Based on t-test analyses, $p < 0.05$.

³ 95% confidence interval.

⁴ Not available.

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



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Adolescent and School Health

