

# HIV Risk Behaviors

## Maine High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, 2007

As the sixth leading cause of death for all 25-44 year olds living in Maine, AIDS is still a public health threat. Maine adolescents engage in behaviors that put them at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The following data were collected from public high school students in Maine using the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and are representative of public high school students statewide.

Among all public high school students in Maine, 45% reported having had sexual intercourse at the time of the survey.

- The current rates of sexual intercourse for high school students have decreased significantly since 1995 (Figure A). Thus, the percentage of adolescents who reported sexual abstinence has increased.
- Female and male high school students were equally likely to have reported having had sexual intercourse (45% and 46%, respectively).
- The percentage of high school students reporting that they have had sexual intercourse increases by grade level, from 27% among 9<sup>th</sup> graders to 65% among 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

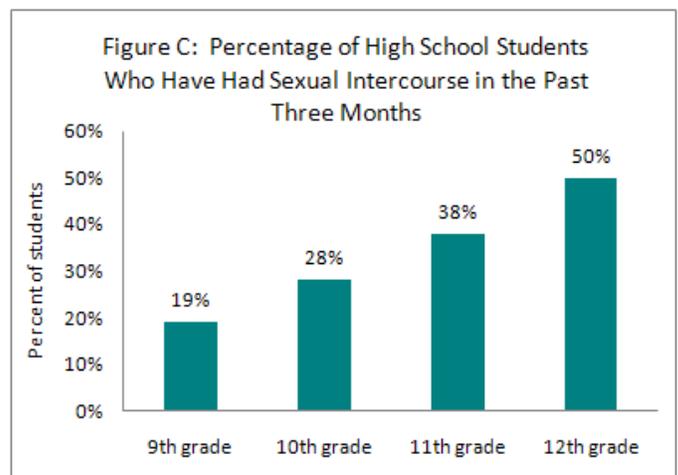
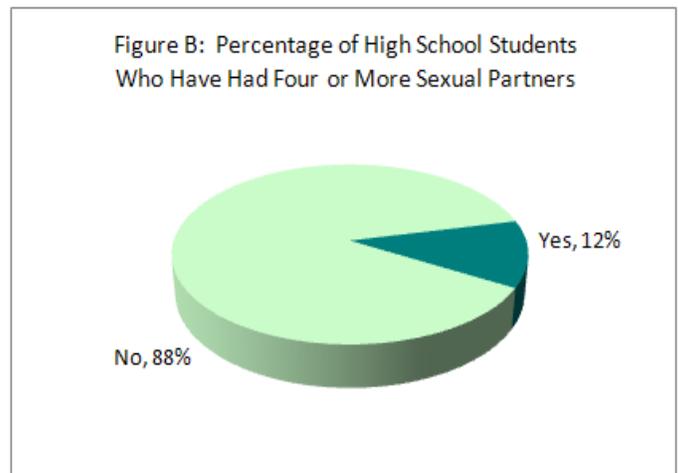
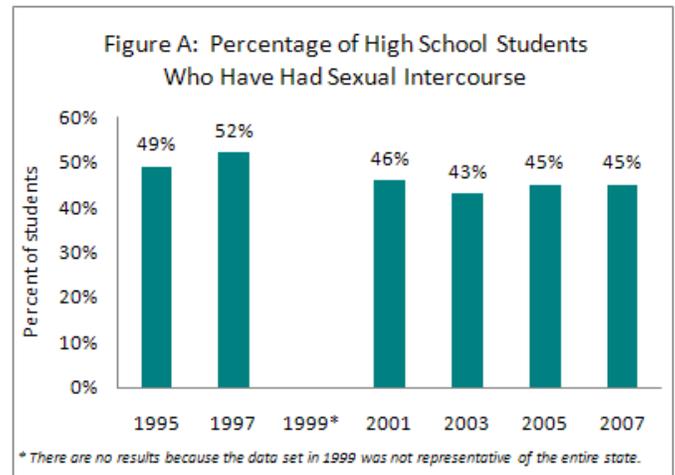
Five percent (5%) of high school students reported having had sexual intercourse before the age of 13.

Twelve percent (12%) of high school adolescents have had sexual intercourse with four or more partners (Figure B).

- Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade (23%) were significantly more likely than students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (6%) to report having sexual intercourse with four or more people.

One-third (33%) of Maine high school students reported having had sexual intercourse with one or more people in the past three months and are considered to be currently sexually active.

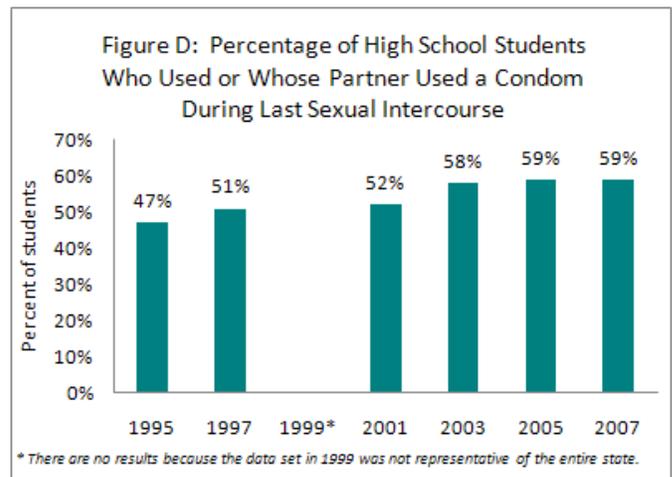
- Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade (50%) were significantly more likely than students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (19%) to be currently sexually active (Figure C).



Of students who had sexual intercourse in the last three months, 20% drank alcohol or used drugs before the last time they had sexual intercourse.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of high school students who have had sexual intercourse in the past three months used a condom during last sexual intercourse.

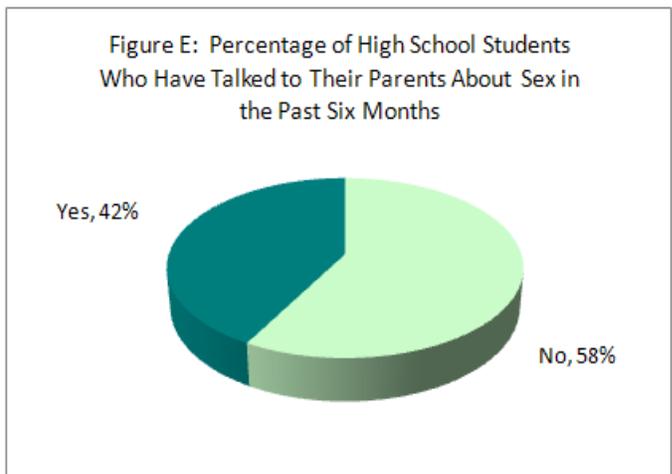
- The percentage of currently sexually active high school students who used a condom during their last sexual intercourse has improved significantly since 1995 (Figure D).



Sexual contact with members of the same gender or with members of both genders is reported among 8% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students.

Three percent (3%) of high school students reported that they have used a needle to inject an illegal drug into their body.

Forty-two percent (42%) of Maine high school youth reported that they have talked to their parents about sex in the last 6 months (Figure E).



- Female high school students (49%) were significantly more likely than male high school students (35%) to have talked to their parents about sex in the last 6 months.

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of high school students reported that they have been taught about HIV infection in school.

Although the following behaviors are not HIV risk behaviors, the results raise issues of violence which greatly undermines young people's ability to protect their sexual health:

Twelve percent (12%) of all students reported having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the last 12 months.

- Male and female high school students were equally likely to report having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year.

Eight percent (8%) of high school students reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse against their will.

- While female high school students (10%) were more likely than male high school students (6%) to report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse against their will, this difference is not statistically significant.