

Trends in the Prevalence of Sexual Behaviors

What Is the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)?

The national 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	Changes from 1991 – 2005 ¹	Change from 2003 – 2005 ²
Ever had sexual intercourse									
54.1 (±3.5) ³	53.0 (±2.7)	53.1 (±4.5)	48.4 (±3.1)	49.9 (±3.7)	45.6 (±2.3)	46.7 (±2.6)	46.8 (±3.3)	Decreased, 1991 - 2005	No change
Had sexual intercourse with ≥ 4 persons during their life									
18.7 (±2.1)	18.7 (±2.0)	17.8 (±2.7)	16.0 (±1.4)	16.2 (±2.6)	14.2 (±1.2)	14.4 (±1.6)	14.3 (±1.5)	Decreased, 1991 - 2005	No change
Were currently sexually active (Had sexual intercourse with ≥ 1 person during the 3 months preceding the survey.)									
37.5 (±3.1)	37.5 (±2.1)	37.9 (±3.5)	34.8 (±2.2)	36.3 (±3.5)	33.4 (±2.0)	34.3 (±2.1)	33.9 (±2.5)	Decreased, 1991 - 2005	No change
Condom use during last sexual intercourse (Among currently sexually active students.)									
46.2 (±3.3)	52.8 (±2.7)	54.4 (±3.5)	56.8 (±1.6)	58.0 (±4.2)	57.9 (±2.2)	63.0 (±2.5)	62.8 (±2.1)	Increased, 1991 - 2005	No change
Birth control pill use before last sexual intercourse (To prevent pregnancy, among currently sexually active students.)									
20.8 (±2.3)	18.4 (±2.1)	17.4 (±2.2)	16.6 (±2.0)	16.2 (±2.6)	18.2 (±1.7)	17.0 (±2.3)	17.6 (±2.6)	No change, 1991 - 2005	No change
Alcohol or drug use before last sexual intercourse (Among currently sexually active students.)									
21.6 (±2.9)	21.3 (±2.0)	24.8 (±2.8)	24.7 (±1.8)	24.8 (±3.0)	25.6 (±1.7)	25.4 (±2.3)	23.3 (±2.2)	Increased, 1991 - 2001 No change, 2001 - 2005	No change
Ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection									
83.3 (±2.8)	86.1 (±2.4)	86.3 (±5.9)	91.5 (±1.1)	90.6 (±1.4)	89.0 (±1.3)	87.9 (±1.9)	87.9 (±1.9)	Increased, 1991 - 1997 Decreased, 1997 - 2005	No change

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

Where can I get more information? Visit http://www.cdc.gov/yrbss or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).





² Based on t-test analyses.

³ 95% confidence interval.