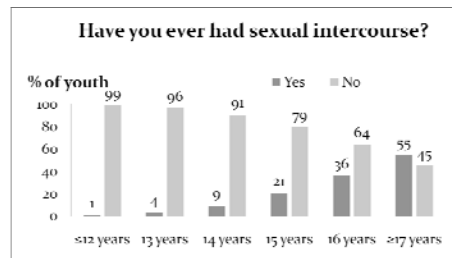


Sexuality

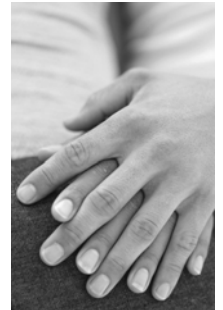
55% of youth 17 years and older have had sex

Over 20% of youth from all age groups have had sexual intercourse. There is a significant relationship with age; 1% of youth 12 years old and younger compared to 54.8% of youth 17 years and older reported having had sex. There is a sharp increase in youth having sex each year between 14 and 17 years of age; from 9% of 14 year olds to 21% of 15 year olds to 36% of 16 year olds and 55% of youth 17 years or older. There are no reported differences between males and females with respect to sexuality.



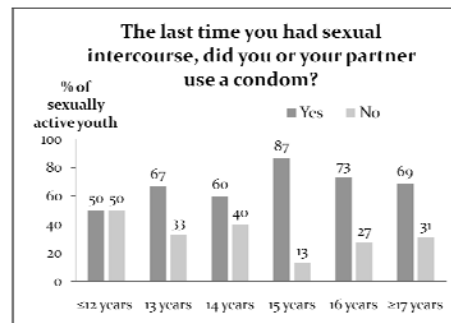
Sex, drugs and alcohol

Across all age groups, 39.5% of sexually active youth used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sex. The number of youth using drugs or alcohol before their last sexual encounter sharply increases between 14 and 15 years of age, where 52% of sexually active 15 year olds used drugs or alcohol before their last sexual encounter, compared to only 12% of 14 year olds. There is no significant difference between the sexes and alcohol/drug use before their last sexual encounter.



71% of sexually active youth used a condom the last time they had sex

Overall, 71% of sexually active youth used condoms in their last sexual encounter. There is not a strong relationship between the age of youth and whether or not they used a condom the last time they had sex. There was also no difference between girls and boys and whether or not they had used a condom in their last sexual encounter. With the rapid rates of increase in STDs among youth, efforts to increase condom use as a preventative measure are critical.



Roughly 10% of sexually active youth likely used no birth control the last time they had sex

When asked to pick one method of birth control they used the last time they had sex, the most common birth control method for sexually active youth was condoms (56.4%), followed by birth control pills (26.2%) and the withdrawal method (4%). Approximately 7% of youth had no form of birth control the last time they had sex and another 3.5% were not sure.



There is a relationship between birth control and age. For example, youth start to use birth control and other non-barrier methods such as Depo Provera at a later age when compared to the use of condoms. While there is no strong relationship between birth control method and sex, female youth were more likely to use the pill and male youth were more likely to use condoms.

“So many girls are afraid to talk to their parents about having sex and they’re not going to want to talk to them and tell them they’re going to want to go on birth control, and so using a condom, I thought, would be way higher.”

- Youth Focus Group Participant