



Fact Sheet

Summary of Chicago Youth Risk Behavior Survey

May 2008

The following is a summary of the adolescent sexual risk behaviors from the Chicago Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2005. Designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national and local health and educational associations, the survey is used to assess and monitor high-risk behaviors associated with morbidity and mortality among youth and adults in the United States.

Demographics

- Administered to 22 randomly selected Chicago public high schools (100% response rate)
- Surveyed students in grades 9-12, including students in special education or with limited English proficiency
- Males 47.3% and Females 52.5%
- The largest represented grade was 10th with 32.9%
- 52.5% sampled were African-American
- 6.6% of students identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or unsure about their sexuality

Sexual Activity

- 59.1% of Chicago Public High School students reported ever having engaged in sexual intercourse
- 45.7% reported being currently sexually active, higher than the national average at 33.9%
- 11.1% reported having sexual intercourse prior to age 13
- 19.4% of Chicago high school students had 4 or more sexual partners, higher than the national average of 14.3%.

Use of Contraceptives

- Condom use among Chicago students is 68.9% compared to the national average of 62.8%
- The survey found condom use significantly decreases as grade level increases. Use of condom at last sexual intercourse: 9th grade (82.8%), 10th grade (75.5%), 11th grade (45.5%), 12th grade (62.3%). Condom use was highest among African-American students (76.5%), followed by Bi/Multiracial students (78.9%), Caucasian students (72.7%), Latino/a (59.7%) and Asian American students (40%).
- Asian-American students reported using withdrawal as a birth-control method as frequently as condom use

Alcohol and Drug Use During Sexual Intercourse

- 15.2% report using alcohol or other drugs during their most recent sexual encounter, a decrease from the 2003 report of 20.7%
- Lesbian and gay students were more likely to use drugs or alcohol during last sexual intercourse at 28.6%. Among students unsure of their sexual identity, 55.6% reported using drugs or alcohol during last sexual intercourse.

Sexual Abuse and Violence

- 36.8% of bisexual students and 16.7% of gay and lesbian students reported being physically forced to have sex compared to 8% of heterosexual students
- 20% of bisexual students and 16.7% of gay and lesbian students reported being threatened at school compared to 8.1% of heterosexual students

HIV/AIDS Education

- The percentage of students receiving HIV education increased from 81.4% in 2003 to 90.2% in 2005

Recommendations from Executive Summary

- Develop intervention programs as early as elementary school to decrease early sexual risk behaviors prior to high school and sustain programs through the transition into high school
- To address violence-related behaviors, schools should focus on issues related to sexism, heterosexism, and homophobia for students who may be less likely to report victimization

Source: Horn Ph.D., Stacy and Szalacha Ph.D., Laura A. *Chicago Public Schools Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005 Executive Summary*. Board of Education of the City of Chicago Public Schools (2007).
