

RAP* Time



RURAL CENTER *for* AIDS/STD PREVENTION

A JOINT PROJECT OF
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, PURDUE UNIVERSITY,
and UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. *Slang*. To talk freely and openly.

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Proportion of sexually experienced high school students declined in past 12 years

Adolescent sexual behavior has been an area of scientific study in the United States for several decades. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS), developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, monitors priority health risk behaviors among youth in six categories including sexual behaviors that contribute to HIV/STD and unintended pregnancy.

This report summarizes selected results of the YRBS regarding sexual risk behaviors among U.S. high school students.

Methodology

Data were gathered from public and private high schools in 30 states and six cities in 2003. Students completed a self-administered questionnaire during class.

The questionnaire included 87 multiple-choice questions. Study variables reported here are: lifetime sexual intercourse experience, sexual intercourse before age 13, lifetime sexual intercourse with four or more sexual partners, current sexual intercourse activity, condom use during last sexual intercourse, birth control use before last sexual intercourse,

alcohol or drug use before last sexual intercourse, and HIV or AIDS infection education.

Outcomes of the Study

Over 15,000 questionnaires were completed in 158 schools. Student response rate was 83% across grades 9-12. 49% were female and 51% were male. 61% were white, 14% black or African American, 14% Hispanic or Latino, 3% Asian, and 1% Native American. The sample distribution was relatively even among the four grades.

Major findings based on self-report include:

- The number of sexually experienced students declined from 54% in 1991 to 47% in 2003.
- In 2003, the prevalence of being sexually experienced was higher among black (67%) and Hispanic (51%) than white (42%) students.
- In 2003, 7% of students (10% males, 4% females) had sexual intercourse before age 13.
- In 2003, 14% (18% males, 11% females) of students had sexual intercourse with four or more partners during their lifetime.
- In 2003, about one-third had sexual intercourse in the preceding three months.
- In 2003, among the currently

sexually active, 63% (69% males, 57% females) reported condom use by themselves or their partner during last sexual intercourse.

- In 2003, 17% of currently sexually active students or their partners had used birth control pills to prevent pregnancy before last sexual intercourse.
- In 2003, among the currently sexually active, 25% (30% males, 21% females) had drunk alcohol or used drugs prior to last sexual intercourse.
- In 2003, 88% of students had been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school.

Implications for Prevention

Despite the decrease in the proportion of students reporting ever having had sexual intercourse, many young adults continue to engage in behaviors that put them at risk for HIV/STD and unintended pregnancy. Hence, prevention efforts and school HIV/sexuality education should continue to receive high priority.

SOURCE: CDC (2004). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance -- United States, 2003. *MMWR*, 53 (SS-2), 1-96.

Women who have sex with women may be at risk for STI

Many health professionals assume that transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI) between women is unlikely. This study described the prevalence of STI in women who have sex with women (WSW) and associated risk factors. The sample was 708 patients attending sexual clinics for lesbian and bisexual women in London, England.

Most WSW (82%) reported sexual histories with men. Bacterial vaginosis and candida species were diagnosed in 31% and 18% of the women, respectively. Genital warts (2%), genital herpes (1%), and trichomoniasis (1%) were diagnosed infrequently. Less than 1% were diagnosed with chlamydia, PID, and gonorrhea.

WSW may have histories of sexual activity with men and/or IDU making them vulnerable to STI or blood-borne infections. Although STD was uncommon among WSW, diagnosis of certain STI in three women with no history of sex with men implies that sexual transmission between women is possible.

SOURCE: Bailey, J. V., et al. (2004). Sexually transmitted infections in women who have sex with women *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 80, 244-246

Early condom use related to subsequent condom use

Little is known about the relationship between early condom use among adolescents and continued condom use. This study determined whether using a condom at first sexual intercourse is associated with an increased likelihood of subsequent condom use. The sample was 4024 sexually active adolescents from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

Condom use at sexual debut was associated with a two fold increased likelihood of condom use during most recent sex. This association was independent of the influence of stable demographic and personal characteristics and proximate attitudinal, behavioral, and relationship factors. Also, having high self efficacy in negotiating birth control with a partner, concern about unplanned pregnancy and personal motivation to use birth control increased a teenager's ability to plan for and execute safe sexual practices.

The study findings support the contention that early condom use may help establish a pattern of condom use that carries forward to subsequent sexual activity.

SOURCE: Shafii, T., et al. (2004). Is condom use habit forming? Condom use and sexual debut and subsequent condom use. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 31, 366-372.

Some lubricants cause damage to rectal epithelium

A mouse assay determined the degree to which sexual lubricants lead to rectal sloughing. Of the products tested, Delube and KY-Plus were most likely to damage rectal epithelium. Viamor, Vagisil, and Astroglide caused some rectal damage. PBS, Carraguard, and methylcellulose were found to be non-toxic in all assays.

SOURCE: Sudal, K. M. & Phillips, D. M. (2004). Relative safety of sexual lubricants for rectal intercourse. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 31, 346-349.

Condoms reduce flat HPV lesions in men

For sexual partners of women with in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, condom use shortened the median time to regression of flat penile lesions among men. However, the effect was not found for papular lesions. The regression time of flat lesions was greater for those with HPV.

SOURCE: Bleeker, M. C. G., et al. (2004). Condom use promotes regression of human papillomavirus-associated penile lesions in male sexual partners of women with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. *International Journal of Cancer*, 107, 804-810.

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The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the cooperating universities.

Senior Director
William L. Yarber, H.S.D.
Indiana University, Bloomington
Co-Directors
James G. Anderson, Ph.D.
Purdue University, West Lafayette
Janet N. Arno, M.D.
IU School of Medicine, Indianapolis
Stephen R. Byrn Ph.D.
Purdue University, West Lafayette
Susan L. Driesback, Ph.D.
University of Colorado, Denver
Mohammad R. Torabi, Ph.D.
Indiana University, Bloomington

Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention

Indiana University
801 East Seventh Street
Bloomington, Indiana
47405-3085

Phone, Fax, E-mail, web page:
Voice and TDD: (812) 855-1718
(800) 566-8644
FAX line: (812) 855-3717
aids@indiana.edu
<http://www.indiana.edu/~aids>