



YAYA FACT SHEET

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No. 2

Sexual risk behaviors place young people at risk for acquiring HIV

Vaginal, anal, and oral intercourse place young people at risk for HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Vaginal intercourse carries the additional risk of pregnancy. In the United States.

- In 2005, 47 percent of high school students had ever had sexual intercourse, and 14 percent of high school students had four or more sex partners during their life.¹
- In 2005, 34 percent of currently sexually active high school students did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse.¹
- In 2002, 11 percent of males and females aged 15-19 had engaged in anal sex with someone of the opposite sex; 3 percent of males aged 15-19 had anal sex with a male.²
- In 2002, 55 percent of males and 54 percent of females aged 15-19 had engaged in oral sex with someone of the opposite sex.²
- In 2004, an estimated 4,883 young people aged 13-24 in the 33 states reporting to CDC were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, representing about 13 percent of the persons diagnosed that year.³
- Each year, there are approximately 19 million new STD infections, and almost half of them are among youth aged 15 to 24.⁴
- In 2000, 13 percent of all pregnancies, or 831,000, occurred among adolescents aged 15-19.⁵

In addition, young people in the United States use alcohol and other drugs at high rates.⁶ Adolescents are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, such as unprotected sex, when they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.⁷ In 2005, 23 percent of high school students who had sexual intercourse during the past three months drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse.¹

Abstinence from vaginal, anal, and oral intercourse is the only 100 percent effective way to prevent HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy. The correct and consistent use of a male latex condom can reduce the risk of STD transmission, including HIV infection.^{8,9} However, no protective method is 100 percent effective, and condom use cannot guarantee absolute protection against any STD or pregnancy.

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Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/sexualbehaviors/index.htm>