

Sexual Risk Behaviors among U.S. High School Students

Trends from the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey

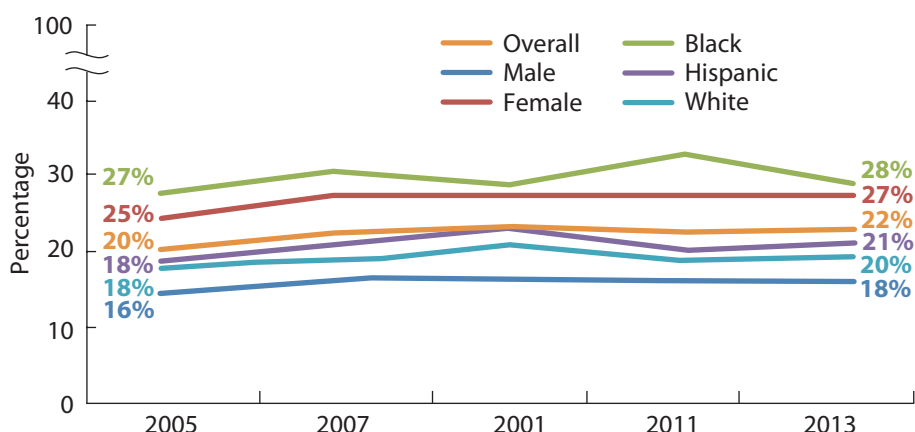
A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analysis of national data on HIV- and STD-related risk behaviors among U.S. high school students finds that few sexually experienced students have ever been tested for HIV and that other trends in sexual risk behaviors vary by race/ethnicity and gender.

The data come from CDC's National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a nationally representative biennial survey of public and private school students in grades 9–12. Since 1991, YRBS has monitored a wide range of health risk behaviors among high school students on the national, state, and local levels, including behaviors that put young people at risk for HIV and other STDs.

Key findings are summarized in the charts below.

HIV Testing Remains Low among Sexually Experienced Youth

Percentage of Sexually Experienced Students Ever Tested for HIV,
Overall and by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 2005–2013



Only 22 percent of sexually experienced students have ever been tested for HIV – a behavior that has remained unchanged for eight years.

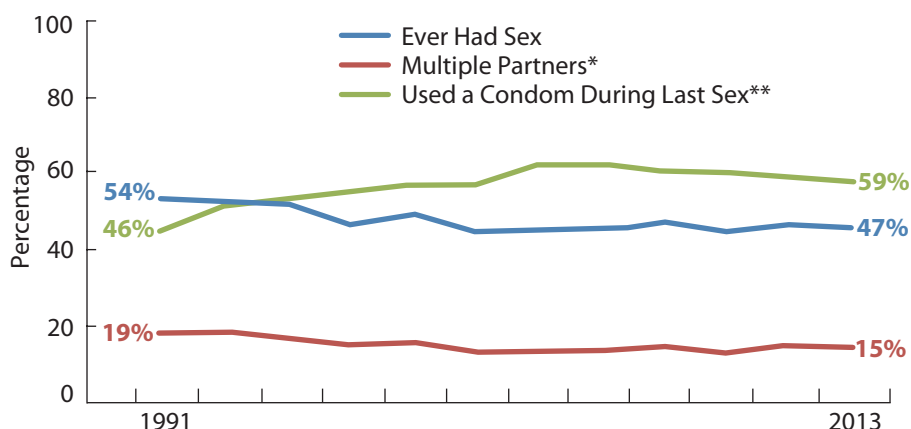
■ Since 2005, the proportion of sexually experienced students (i.e., students who had ever had sexual intercourse) who had been tested for HIV has remained stable (22 percent in 2013).

■ Female students were more likely than male students to have been tested (27 percent vs. 18 percent in 2013). Black students (28 percent) were more likely to have been tested than white (20 percent) or Hispanic (21 percent) students.



Overall Progress in Reducing Sexual Risk Behaviors Has Stalled

Overall Trends in Sexual Risk Behavior, 1991–2013

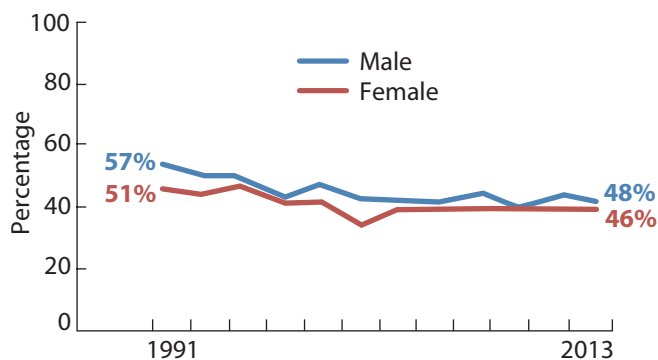
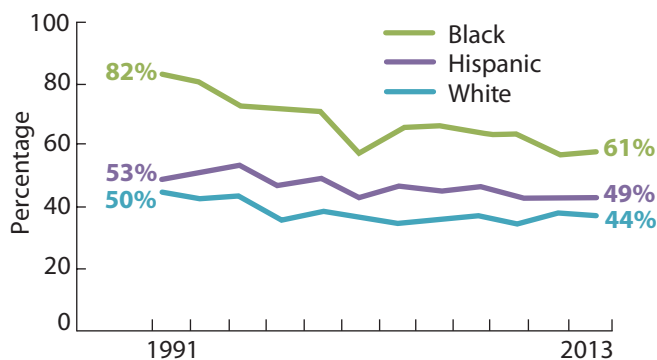


After initial declines in sexual risk behaviors among high school students overall through the early 2000s, the number who ever had sex and who had multiple partners has remained stable in recent years. Condom use among sexually active students has decreased in recent years.

- The percentage of U.S. high school students who ever had sexual intercourse declined from 1991 to 2001 (from 54 to 46 percent) and has been stable since that time (47 percent in 2013).
- The percentage of students who had multiple partners decreased from 1991 to 2003 (from 19 to 14 percent) has been stable since that time (15 percent in 2013).
- The percentage of sexually active students (i.e., students who had sexual intercourse during the three months before the survey) who used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse increased from 1991 to 2003 (46 percent to 63 percent), but has decreased since that time (59 percent in 2013).

Sexual Risk Behaviors Vary by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

Percentage of Students Who Ever Had Sexual Intercourse, by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 1991–2013



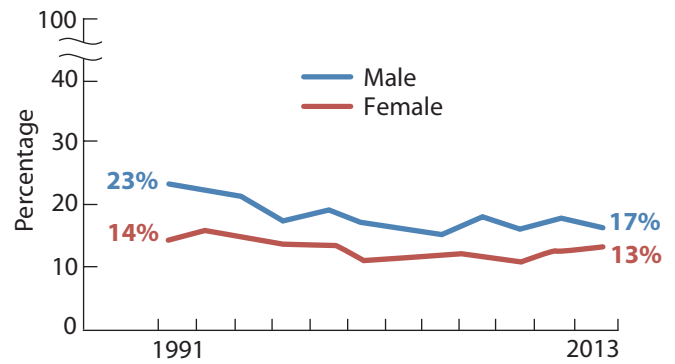
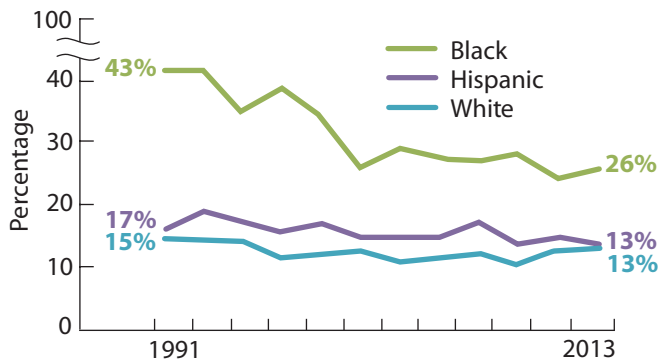
Data indicate declines throughout the period of analysis in the percentage of female, black, and Hispanic students who ever had sexual intercourse, but stability in recent years among white and male students.

- Among black students, proportion has declined since 1991 (82 to 61 percent)
- Among Hispanic students, proportion has declined since 1991 (53 to 49 percent)
- Among white students, proportion declined from 1991 to 2003 (50 to 42 percent), but has been stable since (44 percent in 2013)
- Among male students, proportion declined from 1991 to 1997 (57 to 49 percent), but has been stable since (48 percent in 2013)
- Among female students, proportion has declined since 1991 (51 to 46 percent)

* Four or more lifetime partners

** Among sexually active students (those who had sexual intercourse during the three months before the survey), those who report that they or their partner used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse

Percentage of Students Who Had Multiple Partners, by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 1991–2013

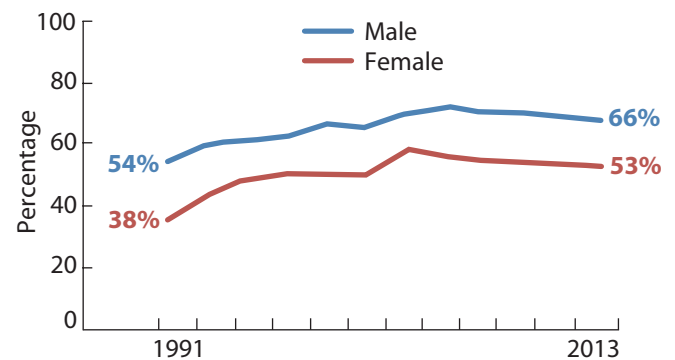
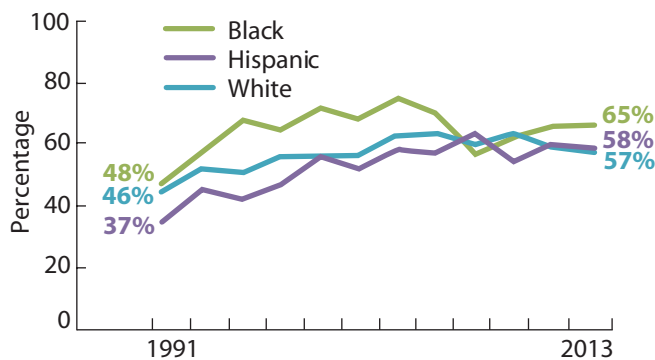


Data indicate declines throughout the period of analysis in the percentage of female, black, and Hispanic students who had multiple partners, but stability in recent years among male students and concerning increases among white students.

- Among black students, proportion has declined since 1991 (43 to 26 percent)
- Among Hispanic students, proportion has declined since 1991 (17 to 13 percent)
- Among white students, proportion declined from 1991 to 2009 (15 to 10 percent) but has increased since (13 percent in 2013)

- Among male students, proportion declined from 1991 to 1997 (23 to 18 percent), and has been stable since (17 percent in 2013)
- Among female students, proportion has declined since 1991 (14 to 13 percent)

Percentage of Sexually Active Students Who Used a Condom During Last Sexual Intercourse, by Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 1991–2013



Data indicate stability in recent years in the percentage of sexually active male, Hispanic, and white students who reported that they or their partner used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse, but concerning declines in condom use among female and black students.

- Among black students, condom use increased from 1991 to 1999 (48 percent to 70 percent), but has since declined (65 percent in 2013)
- Among Hispanic students, condom use increased from 1991 to 2003 (37 to 57 percent), but has been stable since (58 percent in 2013)
- Among white students, condom use increased from 1991 to 2005 (46 to 63 percent), but has been stable since (57 percent in 2013)

- Among male students, condom use increased from 1991 to 2005 (54 to 70 percent), but has been stable since then (66 percent in 2013)
- Among female students, condom use increased from 1991 to 2003 (38 to 57 percent), but has since declined (53 percent in 2013)