

SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

RESULTS FROM THE OKLAHOMA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) 2009

What is the problem?

The 2009 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

Sexual Risk Behaviors

- 51% had ever had sexual intercourse.
- 5% had sexual intercourse for the first time before 13 years of age.
- 18% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.
- 40% had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.
- 43% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse.¹
- 18% were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

- 20% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse.¹
- 2% used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times during their life.

What is the status of Oklahoma schools?

The 2008 Oklahoma School Health Profiles² report indicates that among high schools:

- 9% required students to take two or more health education courses.
- 64% taught eight key pregnancy, HIV, or other STD prevention topics in a required course.
- 49% taught three key topics related to condom use in a required course.
- 73% taught how to access valid and reliable health information, products, or services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course.
- 74% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the two years before the survey on HIV prevention.
- 32% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the two years before the survey on pregnancy prevention.
- 28% had a full-time registered nurse.
- 68% had policies on students or staff who have HIV infection or AIDS that addressed attendance of students with HIV infection, procedures to protect HIV infected students and staff from discrimination, and maintaining confidentiality of HIV infected students and staff.
- 16% had a gay/straight alliance or similar club.

What are the solutions?

- Find teachable moments to talk to your children about sex. Be honest, open, and non-judgmental when addressing questions. Begin talking with your children at a young age, but no matter what age, it is never too late to begin these conversations.
- Share your beliefs and values with your children and try to talk about the positive aspects of sexuality, not just the negative outcomes.
- Incorporate an evidence-based, medically-accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sex education curriculum in schools.
- Provide and support education opportunities for parents, youth, and community members pertaining to sexual issues and teen pregnancy.
- Encourage schools to participate in surveys, such as the YRBS, that assess risk-taking behaviors among youth.

1. Among students who were currently sexually active.

2. Brener ND, McManus T, Foli K, Shanklin SL, Hawkins J, Kann L, Speicher N. *School Health Profiles 2008: Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools in Oklahoma*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2009. Available at URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/profiles/>

**For more information contact the Maternal and Child Health Service, MCH Assessment at (405) 271-6761
or visit URL: <http://yrbs.health.ok.gov>**