

SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND PREGNANCY

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

*U.S. HEALTHY PEOPLE*²

YEAR 2000 GOALS

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|--------------|
| 5.4 | Reduce the percentage of adolescents who have engaged in sexual intercourse: | | |
| | | before age 15 to: | <=15% |
| | | before age 17 to: | <=40% |
| 5.5 | Increase the percentage of ever sexually active adolescents aged 17 or younger who abstained from sexual activity for the previous three months to: | | at least 40% |
| 5.6 | Increase the percentage of sexually active unmarried people aged 19 or younger who use contraception, especially combined methods effectively preventing pregnancy and providing barrier protection against disease: | | at least 90% |
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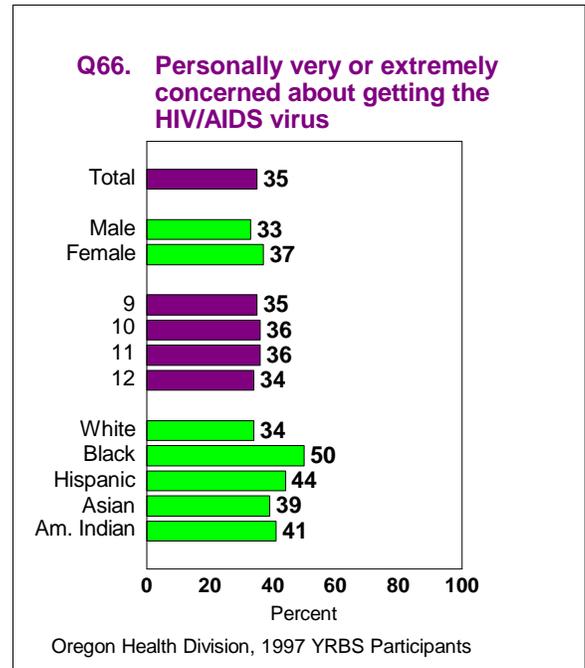
The next eight questions measure the prevalence and perceptions of sexual activity, number of sexual partners, age at first intercourse, alcohol and drug use, and condom use among Oregon high school students. Major risks of early sexual activity include unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, as well as negative effects on social and psychological development. The number of sexual partners and age at first intercourse are associated with STDs. Alcohol and drug use may serve as predisposing factors for initiation of sexual activity and unprotected sexual intercourse.³³

In 1996, among 10- to 19-year-old Oregonians, the combined STD rate was 59 per 10,000. (This total included: primary and secondary syphilis, 0.07 per 10,000; gonorrhea, 6.1 per 10,000; and chlamydia, 52.6 per 10,000.)¹²

WHAT OREGON STUDENTS REPORTED

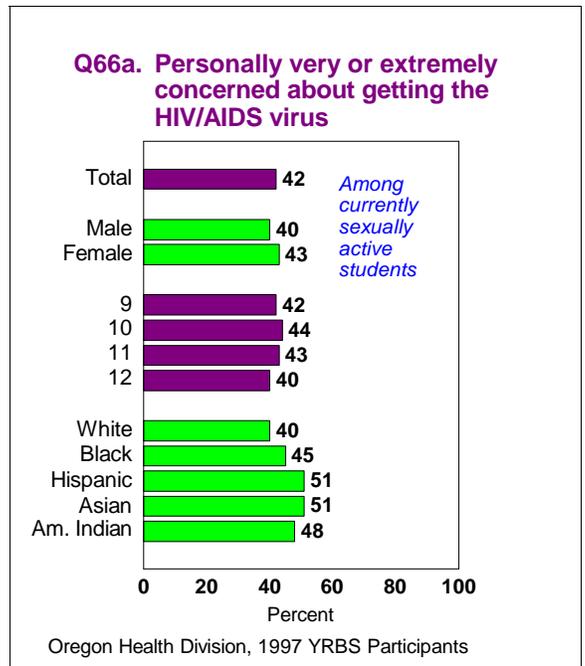
Q66. How concerned are you personally about getting the HIV/AIDS virus?

Thirty-five percent of Oregon YRBS participants were personally very or extremely concerned about getting the HIV/AIDS virus. *Significantly* more females (37%) than males (33%) were very or extremely concerned. There was no statistically significant difference by grade. *Significantly* more African American (50%), Hispanic (44%), Asian (39%) and American Indian (41%) students were extremely concerned about HIV.



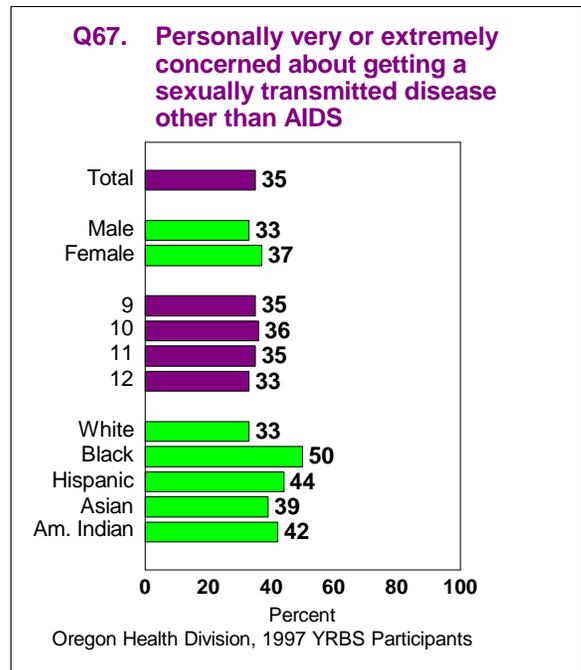
Q66a. How concerned are you personally about getting the HIV/AIDS virus? [Of YRBS participants who were sexually active in the previous three months]

Forty-two percent of Oregon YRBS participants who were sexually active in the previous three months were personally very or extremely concerned about getting the HIV/AIDS virus. There was no statistically significant difference by gender or grade. *Significantly* more African American (45%) and Hispanic (51%) students were extremely concerned about HIV.



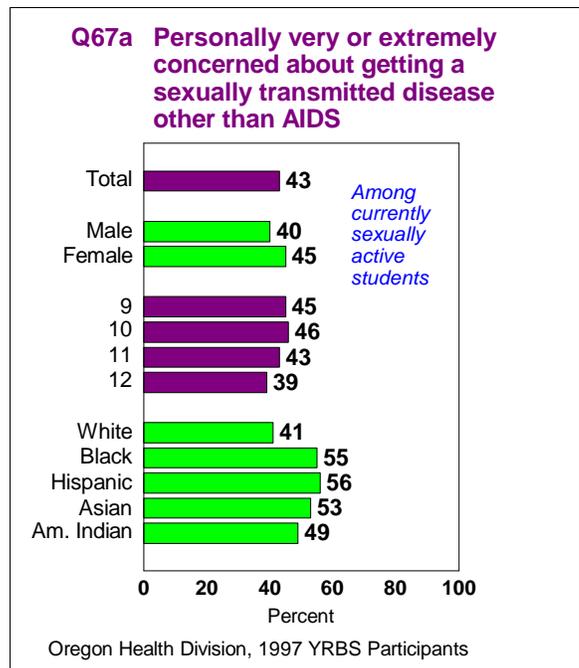
Q67. How concerned are you personally about getting a sexually transmitted disease other than AIDS?

Thirty-five percent of Oregon YRBS participants were personally very or extremely concerned about getting a sexually transmitted disease other than AIDS. *Significantly* more females (37%) than males (33%) were very or extremely concerned. There was no statistically significant difference by grade. *Significantly* more African American (50%), Hispanic (44%), Asian (39%) and American Indian (42%) students were extremely concerned about STDs other than HIV/AIDS.



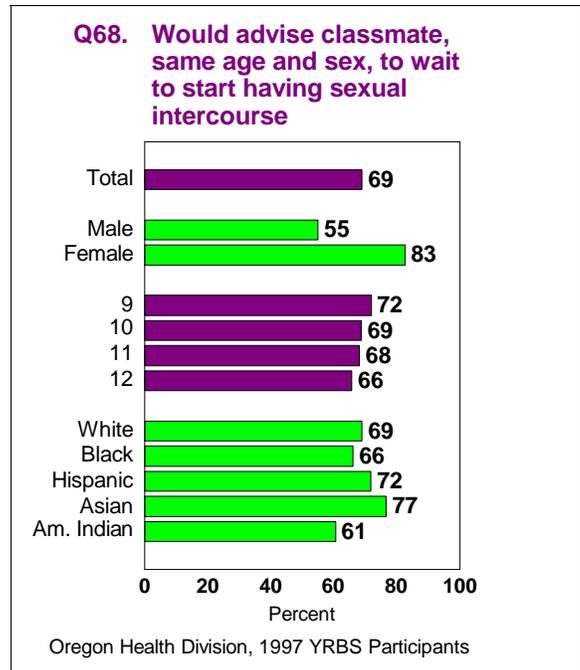
Q67a. How concerned are you personally about getting a sexually transmitted disease other than AIDS? [Of YRBS participants who were sexually active in the previous three months.]

Forty-three percent of Oregon YRBS participants who were sexually active in the previous three months were personally very or extremely concerned about getting a sexually transmitted disease other than AIDS. There was no statistically significant difference by gender. As grade increased, much or extreme concern *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more African American (55%), Hispanic (56%) and Asian (53%) students were very or extremely concerned about STDs other than HIV/AIDS.



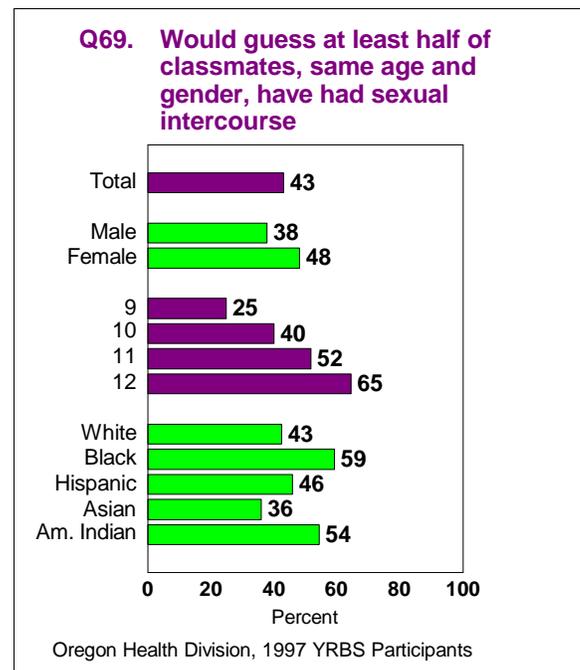
Q68. If a classmate, your same age and sex, asked you for your advice about whether to start having sexual intercourse, what would you probably say?

Sixty-nine percent of Oregon YRBS participants would advise a classmate, their same age and sex, to wait until married or wait until older before beginning to have sexual intercourse: including *significantly* more female students (83%) than male students (55%). Seventy-two percent of ninth graders would advise their classmates to postpone sexual involvement. As grade increased, that advice *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more Asian students (77%) and *significantly* fewer American Indian students (61%) would advise waiting.



Q69. What percentage of your classmates, your same age and sex, have had sexual intercourse [would you guess]?

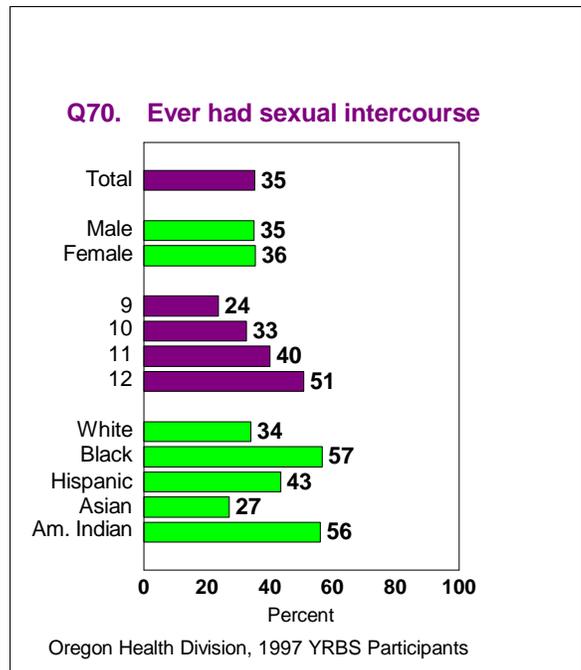
Forty-three percent of Oregon YRBS participants guessed at least half of their classmates (of the same age and gender) have had sexual intercourse. *Significantly* fewer male students (38%) than female students (48%) believe the majority of their classmates have had intercourse. As grade increased, the opinion that more than half of their classmates had intercourse *significantly* increased. *Significantly* more African American students (59%) and American Indian students (54%), and *significantly* fewer Asian students (36%), guessed at least half of their classmates have had intercourse.



Q70. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

Thirty-five percent of Oregon YRBS participants reported that they ever had sexual intercourse. There was no statistical significance by gender. Sexual activity *significantly* increased from 24 percent of ninth graders to 51 percent of twelfth graders. *Significantly* more African American students (57%), Hispanic students (43%), and American Indian students (56%), and *significantly* fewer Asian students (27%), ever had sexual intercourse.

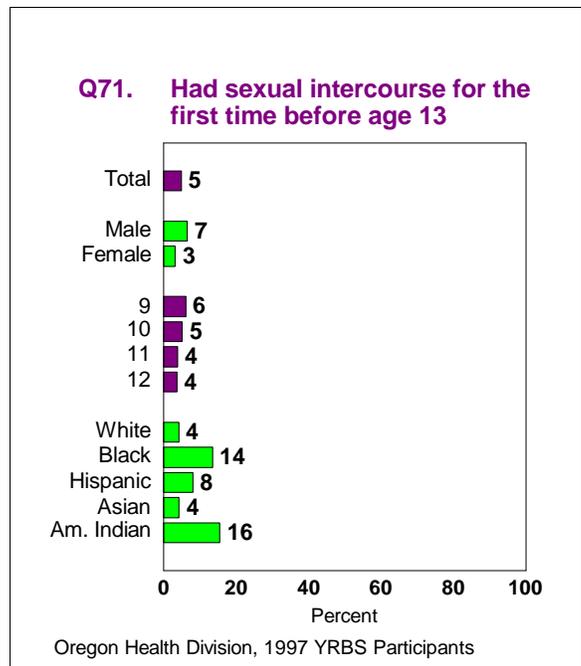
In 1995, 53 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported having had sexual intercourse at least once in their life.



Q71. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?

Five percent of Oregon YRBS participants had sexual intercourse for the first time prior to age 13. *Significantly* more males than female students (7% vs. 3%) engaged in sexual intercourse for the first time prior to age 13. As grade increased, the percentage of students who reported having intercourse before age 13 *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more African American (14%), Hispanic (8%), and American Indian (16%) students had intercourse before age 13.

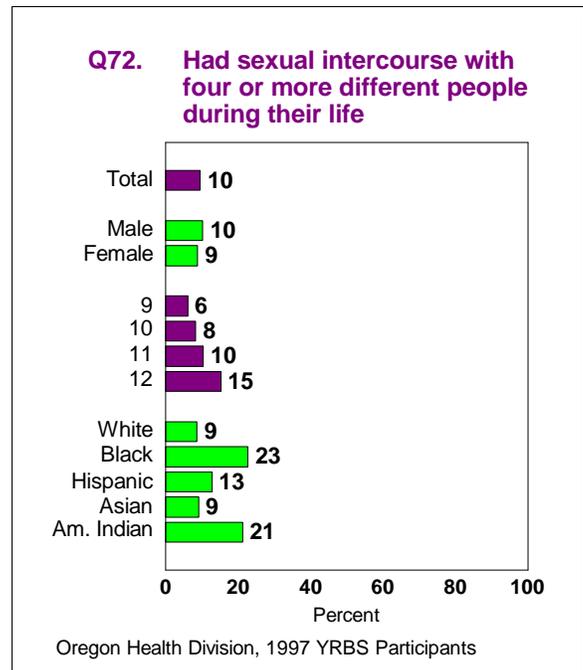
In 1995, nine percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported having had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13.



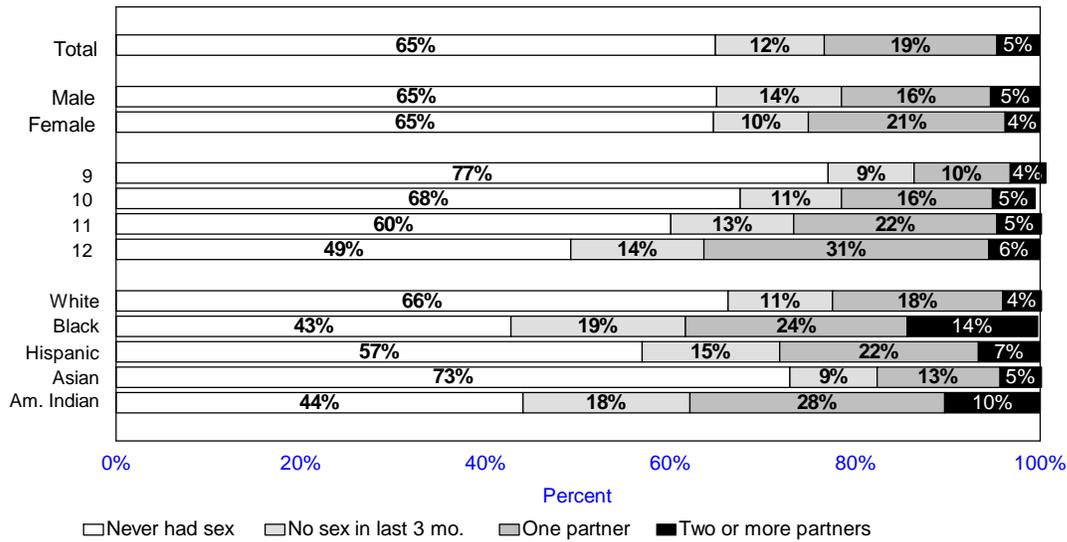
Q72. During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?

Ten percent of Oregon YRBS participants had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their life. Male students were *significantly* more likely (10%) to report having had sex with four or more people in their lifetime than were females (9%). As grade increased, the number of sexual partners *significantly* increased. *Significantly* more African American (23%), Hispanic (13%), and American Indian (21%) students had four or more sexual partners during their lifetime.

In 1995, 18 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported having engaged in sexual intercourse with four or more partners in their life.



Q. 73. Sex with two people or more in the past 3 months.



Oregon Health Division, 1997 YRBS Participants

Q73. During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?

Twenty-three percent of Oregon YRBS participants reported having had sexual intercourse in the three months preceding the survey. In 1995, 38 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported having had sexual intercourse in the three months preceding the survey.

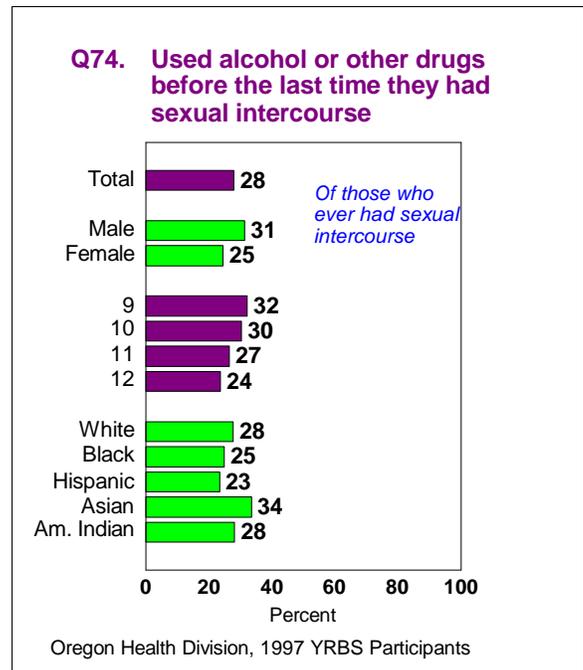
Four percent of Oregon YRBS participants had sexual intercourse with two or more people during the three months preceding the survey, including five percent of the males and four percent of the females (no significant difference). As grade increased, the report of more than two sex partners in the past three months *significantly* increased. *Significantly* more African American (14%), Hispanic (6%) and American Indian (10%) students reported two or more sex partners during the previous three months.

Of those who ever had sexual intercourse, 66 percent had intercourse during the past three months. *Significantly* more females (71%) than males (61%) were sexually active within the past 3 months. As grade increased, *significantly* more students reported sexual activity in the previous three months. There were no statistically significant differences among race/ethnic classes. Thirty-two percent of the students who reported previous sexual activity reported they had abstained, or not had sexual intercourse, during the past three months.

Q74. Did you drink alcohol or use other drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?

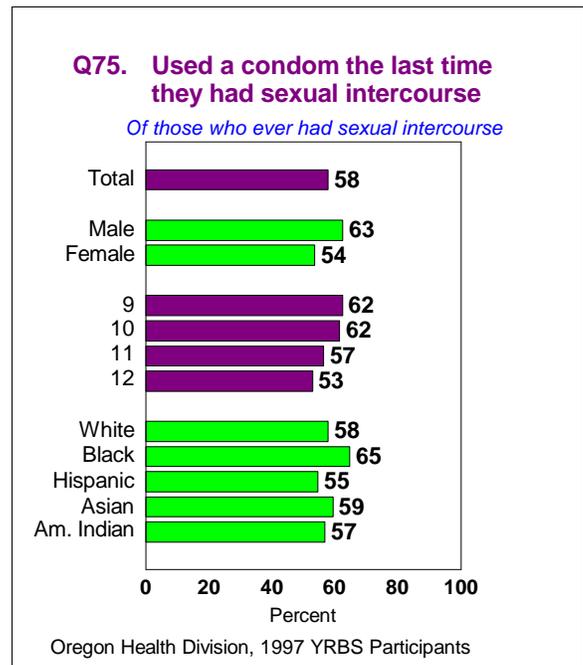
[Of YRBS participants who have ever had sexual intercourse]

Twenty-eight percent of sexually active YRBS participants, drank alcohol or used drugs before their last sexual intercourse. *Significantly* more males (31%) than females (25%) drank alcohol or used drugs before the last time they had intercourse. As grade increased, *significantly* fewer students reported using alcohol or other drugs before intercourse. There was no statistically significant difference by race/ethnicity.



Q75. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom? [Of YRBS participants who ever had sexual intercourse]

Among YRBS participants who ever had sex, 58 percent used a condom, or their partner used a condom, during their last sexual intercourse. *Significantly* more males (63%) than females (54%) reported condom use during their last sexual intercourse. As grade increased, use of a condom before last intercourse *significantly* decreased. There was no statistically significant difference by race/ethnicity.



WHAT OREGON STUDENTS WROTE:

If someone my age asked for my advice about having sexual intercourse, (question 68) has only three choices and none are the responses I would give. I would respond by saying, "If you feel you are emotionally ready to handle the consequences, then do it." This is not a choice (on the question), so I chose to leave the answer box blank.

Question 68 is not a fair question. I had sexual intercourse but only with a virgin that I've been with for two years. He's now 21 and we're planning a future together. If one of my friends asked me (about having sex) I would ask her or him how long they've been dating (their potential partner). Is it really love or just lust? Has his/her partner been tested very recently? How much do you trust them? I would not tell them not to. I'd have them insist on both of them being tested for diseases, the girl put on birth control and a condom used until the tests get back. You need to rewrite that question in a more human way with some grey areas, not just black and white.

Tell the parents to talk to their kids about sex. I feel we need to start sex education earlier. I had sex ed in the 5th grade but they treated us like babies. By the time they told us (what) really goes on, there were people I knew who had already had sex.

I think our school does a good job of making sure people are educated, but most people choose not to heed the warnings and advice given. No matter what is done, some kids will still be doing unsafe things, but at least by (them) giving the education we have a choice.

I do not feel that I am in a good position to guess at the behaviors of my classmates, but I will say this: kids are having and will have sex. Availability of condoms DOES NOT encourage this; it will happen anyway. Some adults feel that having condoms tells us it is okay to have sex. Get real. We know better. Kids are going to do it anyway and they must have the means to protect themselves as best they can.

We have a program at the school where kids teach 6th and 7th graders about sex-before-marriage and its consequences. Its called STARS (Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex) and its a really good program. I think we need to have more programs like this one.

I do not view my sexual activity as a risk, I was in love and still am!

I think elementary and junior high students need to be educated better because I feel that junior high is almost worse than high school. STARS and a Role Model need to be encouraged more and better.

I think our school needs to have more education about sex (not just plumbing), STDs, drugs and alcohol. They also need to start doing it at a younger age. Being a member of a teen theater group that educates people on the aforementioned subjects, I've found that we've educated students more than the school has. As a matter of fact, I've learned more since I've been part in (the theater group) than I ever learned in school.

Our school teaches strictly abstinence, which is not at all working. They can teach abstinence, but should realize that for many, by the time you are in high school its too late. They need to be teaching more about preventative methods and contraception - where and how to get it. Students need to feel like other people are aware of what they are doing, and (that) there are safer ways to do it. Abstinence is a good method; unfortunately it is not always practiced.

I wish I knew more about sex three years ago. I knew barely enough to feel that I had nothing to worry about. Kids need to realize that sex isn't just fun anymore. It's actually pretty dangerous. I now have an STD that will never go away. I can live with it, but I wish I would have been smarter and not have had to be in this situation. Kids definitely need to be better educated.

My friends that are having sex know little about birth control... while it seems that my friends who aren't know a lot.

In the sexual behavior part of the survey, I noticed that there were no other risky behaviors listed except for sexual intercourse. I know that there are many kids out there no having sex, but are doing other things (oral and anal sex) that are just as risky, protected or not. Maybe you should include a few questions about that.

Many students I know participate in sexual activity besides actual sexual contact: oral sex, etc. These are (also) ways sexually transmitted diseases are spread, and students need to know that.

I play sports and volunteer in the community, and I do things that I am not proud of and regret. I always tell myself that the next time will be different, but when the situation arises I'm caught up in the moment and I make the "wrong" decision. To me, its part of growing up.

I think condoms should be distributed in schools; (distribution) does not promote sex, it just makes (sex) safer for some ignorant people.

I think that until teens put themselves through the danger of having sexual intercourse, they don't truly know (how) risky it is. I know, because I've been through it. I think the main issues that they don't understand is getting pregnant and getting an STD. I almost thought that I was pregnant and for a while I was a nervous wreck. Yet I haven't gone for a test to see if I have an STD. I don't believe that I do (and) yet the last and only person that I have had sexual intercourse with didn't use a condom and through our whole relationship he lied to me and told me that he's never slept with anyone but me and I don't know what to believe. I think that in classes, they should focus on this!!

I feel that my school needs more education about sex, drugs, and STDs. I am well educated in these areas but most of my classmates aren't. To understand why students shouldn't use drugs, they need to be told the risks and consequences. A new required class about survival in today's society would help. Also, we need to have more guest speakers come in and tell the students what happened to them. This shows the students in a personal way the negative effects of risky behavior.

Go work with kindergartners and try to save them because it is too late for us.

I think people should also know the good things teens are doing. The news always informs us of bad things involving teens but they forget the good things. That shouldn't happen.

Valentine's Day was the last time I had sex. I was over at his house and we were drinking. One thing led to another and we had sex. I feel real stupid but I like having sex so I won't stop.

We should take a lesson from Sweden and accept that teens will have intercourse and try to make it as safe as possible. Our main goal should be to keep the birth rate down.

I think there should be a lot more education involving abstinence. There wouldn't have to be a survey if people practiced abstinence. On the other hand, I think that if people are going to have "risky" behavior like sexual intercourse or drugs by intravenous needles, the information about how to protect yourself should be available.

PREGNANCY

OREGON BENCHMARKS¹ YEAR 2000 GOALS

Reduce the pregnancy rate among females aged 10-17 to:

15 per 1,000

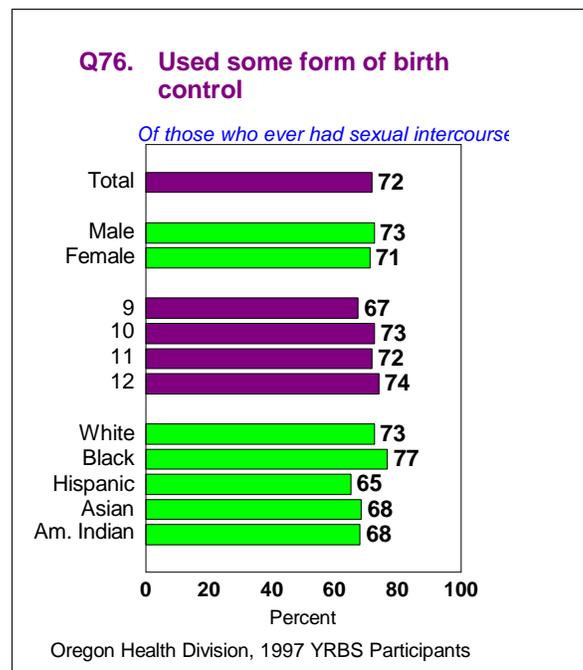
The next three questions measure the use of contraception and occurrence of pregnancy among Oregon high school students.

During 1996, according to Vital Records data, 3,274 Oregon females age 10-17 were pregnant and 2,106 gave birth. The pregnancy rate among 10 to 17 year-old Oregonian girls was 18.8 per 1,000 (the birth rate was 12.1 and the abortion rate was 6.7 per 1,000).¹²

WHAT OREGON STUDENTS REPORTED

Q76. The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy? [Of YRBS participants who ever had sexual intercourse]

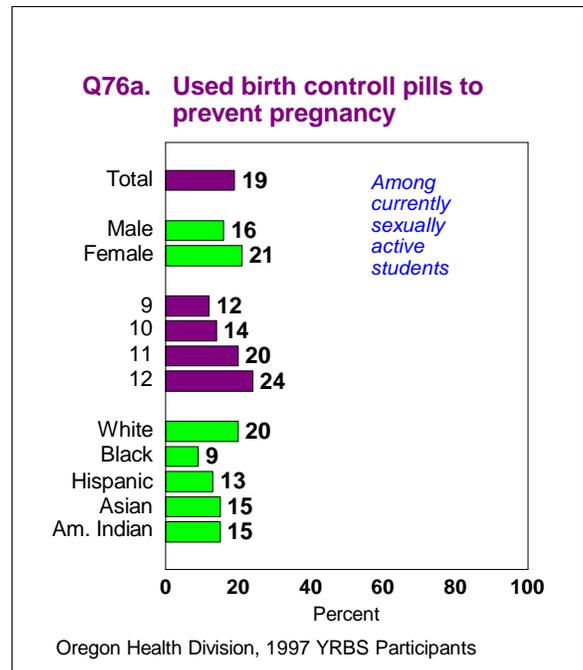
Seventy-two percent of Oregon YRBS participants who ever had sexual intercourse reported that they or a partner used some form of birth control (pills, condoms, or some other method, excluding withdrawal) to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse. There was no statistically significant difference by gender. As grade level increased, students reported *significantly* greater use of birth control. Hispanic students (65%) were *significantly* less likely to report the use of some form of birth control



Q76a. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you use birth control pills to prevent pregnancy? [Of YRBS participants who are currently sexually active.]

Nineteen percent of sexually active Oregon YRBS participants used, or their partner used, birth control pills to avoid becoming pregnant. Female students (21%) were *significantly* more likely than male students (16%) to report using birth control pills. Birth control pill use increased *significantly* by grade. *Significantly* fewer African American (8%) and Hispanic (13%) students reported using birth control pills.

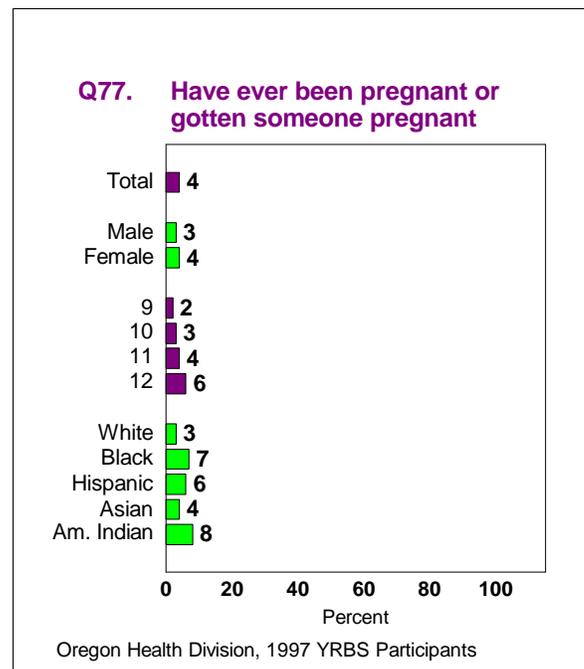
In 1995, 17 percent of sexually active students participating in the national YRBS reported using birth control pills.



Q77. How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant?

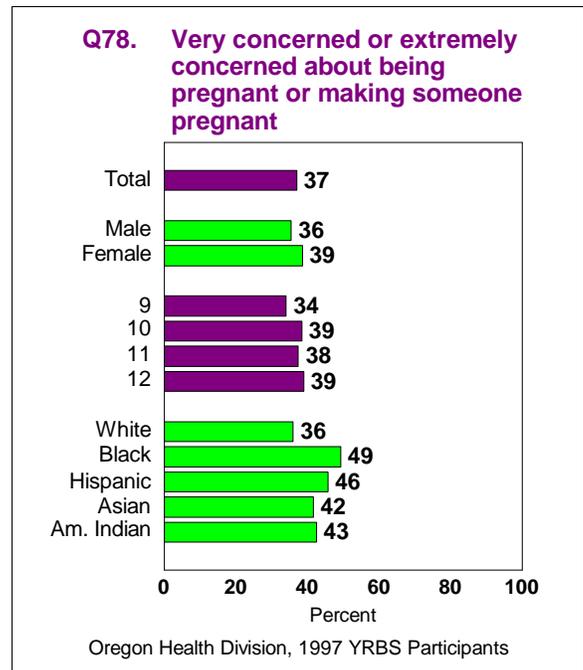
Four percent of Oregon YRBS participants reported having been pregnant or getting someone pregnant one or more times. *Significantly* more females (4%) than males (3%) reported being involved in a pregnancy. Pregnancies increased *significantly* as grade level increased. *Significantly* more African American (7%), Hispanic (6%) and American Indian (8%) students were ever pregnant or got someone pregnant.

In 1995, seven percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported having been pregnant or having made someone pregnant.



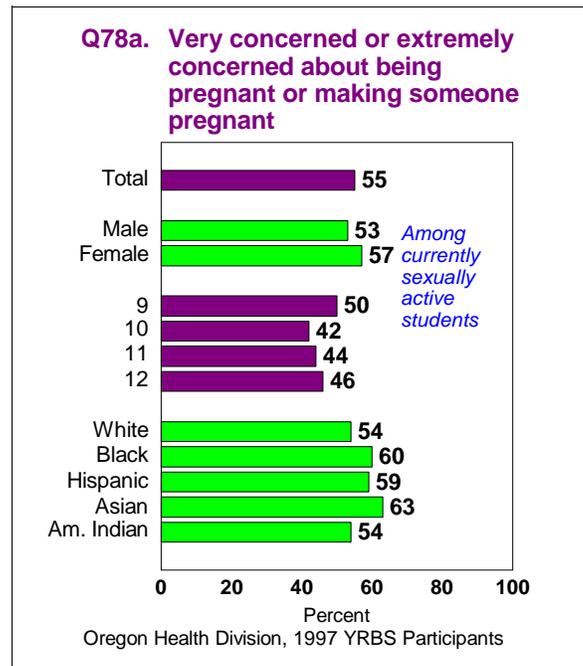
Q78. How concerned are you personally about being pregnant or making someone else pregnant?

Thirty-seven percent of Oregon YRBS participants were very concerned or extremely concerned about being pregnant or making someone pregnant, including significantly more female students (39%) than male students (36%). Concern about pregnancy increased significantly as grade increased. Significantly more African American (49%), Hispanic (46%), Asian (42%) and American Indian (43%) students were very concerned or extremely concerned about pregnancy.



78a. How concerned are you personally about being pregnant or making someone else pregnant? [Of those YRBS participants who reported sexual activity in the past three months]

Among sexually active YRBS participants, 55 percent reported being very or extremely concerned about pregnancy, including significantly more females (57%) than males (53%). There were no statistically significant differences among grade levels or by race/ethnicity.



WHAT OREGON STUDENTS WROTE:

I strongly believe that my school should have condom machines to prevent the risk of pregnancy & HIV. Too many people don't use them and are spreading disease; (condom machines) would make (condoms) much more accessible - people would use (them)! Many school officials don't agree - they think (a condom machine) promotes sex. That is BS and this attitude needs to change.

At our school, sex education is only taught during freshman year. I know when I was a freshman, I didn't pay too much attention to the whole pregnancy issue. Heck, I probably still thought boys had cooties! My suggestion would be to teach a follow-up section of sex ed during the junior year. This way, the "late bloomers" would pay more attention this time and maybe even remember something.

No matter what you tell teens, if they want to have sex they are going to. I only have one partner. We love each other, so we agreed to have sex. We plan to get married after high school. We don't have access to any birth control other than withdrawal. If we did have access, such as a place we got get them (condoms) anonymously, we would. We cannot purchase them, otherwise we would.

I am a seventeen year-old who is married and to my belief questions regarding sexual intercourse should not be valid. I have the IUD as birth control but soon it will be removed. I also have a 20 month old little girl. I think you should have had more questions on teen pregnancy because we (the teen parents) are trying to get a day care facility because many people are getting (pregnant) and dropping out because they do not have other day care providers for their babies. I know its not good to have babies at such a young age but most people don't mean to get pregnant; they just end up doing that. And then 75% of them drop out like flies.

As far as high school is concerned, there is a very good sex education curriculum, but the curriculum for middle schools stinks, and then its too late to reach kids. I think something must be done to inform girls where they can get birth control if they can't go to a doctor - for parental or financial reasons. Most girls don't know (where to get birth control) and few have the initiative to research their options.

There are a lot of teen pregnancies and I think they could be reduced with open health education and on-campus places to get birth control. I also feel that the males at this school don't care about the girl; they just are there to sleep around on which probably causes a lot of (spreading around) of diseases.

Schools should emphasize the importance of abstinence to teens. This year I have attended five baby showers for some of my closest friends and it seems like more and more people think having a baby is “cool” or “necessary.” Also, most people I know are engaged (or plan) to be married. This will only result in divorce, especially at this age. Honestly, I am going to four wedding this year - and those are (weddings) of my best friends!

I know of many of the mothers in the Teen Mother program at my school and many of them never meant to have a child. The program helps them with their children and prevents them from dropping out of school. This program is why some of them don't get abortions.

We don't have much sex education in our school. We have a lot of teen pregnancies here and I think those could be prevented with more education, but not (education) out of a textbook; maybe from someone with experience. (Maybe) someone who has gone through it already, to make teens understand how hard (life) will be with a child.