

2021 New Jersey Student Health Survey

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

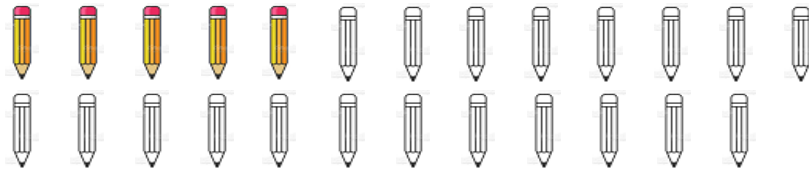
Nationwide, early initiation of sexual intercourse is associated with having a greater number of lifetime sexual partners, increased risk of STDs and pregnancy, and decreased condom usage.⁽¹⁾ Prevalence estimates suggest that young people aged 15–24 years acquire half of all new STDs.⁽²⁾ Among high school students nationwide in 2021, 30% had sexual intercourse during their life, 6% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life, and 20.7% had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the three months before the survey.⁽³⁾ The percentage of sexually active students who used a condom during last sexual intercourse has been declining since 2003 (63% - 52%).⁽⁴⁾

18%

of high school students were currently sexually active
(at least one time during the 3 months before the survey)

10-Year Linear Trend: Decreasing ↘

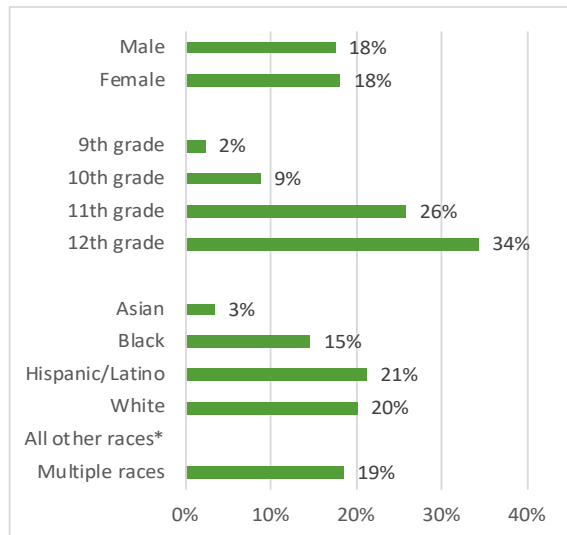
In a class of 25 students,
almost 5 were currently
sexually active.



New Jersey Student Health Survey Highlights

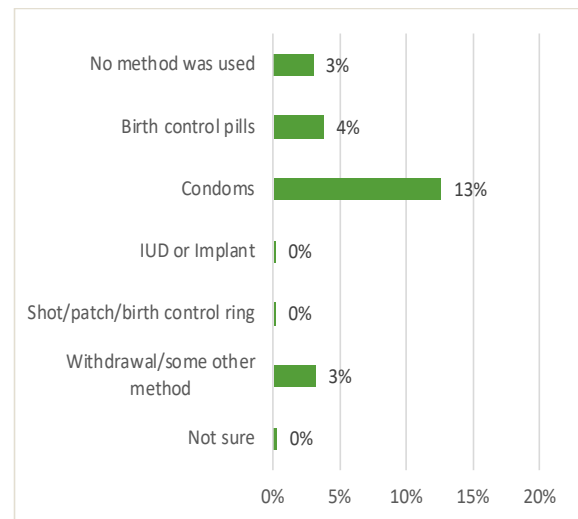
- *Currently Sexually Active:* 18% had sexual intercourse at least one time during the 3 months before the survey.
- *Sex Before Age 13:* 2% had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 13.
- *Condom During Last Sexual Intercourse:* 52% used a condom during last sexual intercourse.

Currently Sexually Active by Demographic



*Fewer than 30 students in this subgroup.

One Contraception Used During Last Sexual Intercourse*



*Among sexually active students

NJSHS 10-Year Trend Analysis: 2011-2021 Sexual Activity

Percentage of New Jersey Youth Who:	2011	2013	2019	2021	Trend Analysis 2011-2021
Had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years	5%	5%	3%	2%	
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	14%	12%	7%	4%	
Were currently sexually active (3 months)	32%	29%	24%	18%	
Used a condom during the last sexual intercourse	63%	59%	63%	52%	
Were ever tested for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	10%	9%	8%	4%	
Were tested for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) other than HIV, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea	—	—	7%	4%	
Increase in negative behavior	Decrease in negative behavior	Increase in a positive behavior	Decrease in a positive behavior	No change in behavior	Trend not reported by CDC
					—

Trend analysis was performed by the CDC on data from 2011 to 2021 to determine which differences across years were statistically significant. For questions not asked in all survey years, the trend analysis was performed from 2021 back to the last consecutive year in which the question was asked.

Additional New Jersey Student Health Survey Findings

- Sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life is under 4% for 9th - 11 grade, and increases to 10% for 12th grade.
- 8% of students have texted, e-mailed, or posted electronically a revealing or sexual photo of themselves during the 30 days before the survey. 21% of students have received this type of photo.
- Sexual intercourse before the Age of 13 was highest for black students at 6%. The percentage for students of multiple races is 4%, Hispanic/Latino is 3%, 1% for white students, and 0% for Asian students.

Definitions

- Types of contraception asked about are birth control pills; IUD or implant; shot, patch, or birth control ring.

Resources

- Family Life and Health Education FAQ:
https://www.mhrd.org/cms/lib/NJ01000236/Centricity/Domain/100/Family_Life_Education_FAQ.pdf
- New Jersey Resources for Instruction:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/prevention/curr.shtml>
- ETR Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (ReCAPP):
<http://recapp.etr.org/recapp/index.cfm?fuseaction=pages.home>
- RAND Promising Practices Network on Children, Families and Communities:
<https://www.rand.org/well-being/social-and-behavioral-policy/projects/promising-practices.html>