

Fast Facts

Latino Teens' Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use: Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that there has been very little positive change in Latino high school teens' sexual behavior and that gains in condom use have stalled. At present, nearly half of all Latino teens have ever had sex and more than one-third are sexually active (that is, they have had sex in the past three months). Only about half of sexually active Latino teens used a condom the last time they had sex and only one in seven used birth control pills the last time they had sex. Note that these numbers are similar to the numbers for teens overall. Latino students are more likely than their non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black peers to report that they did not use a condom the last time they had sex.

The Data

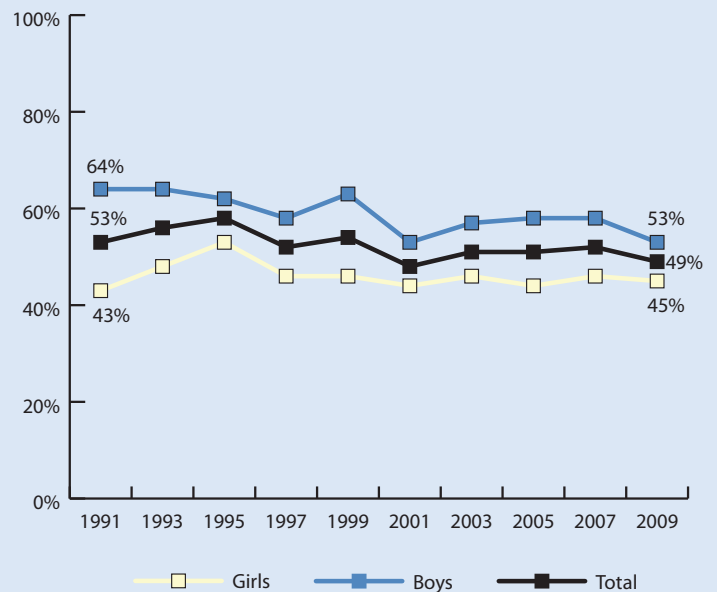
Teen Sexual Experience

- In 2009, 49% of Latino high school students reported having had sexual intercourse—45% of girls and 53% of boys.
- Between 2007 and 2009 the proportion of Latino students who have had sex remained unchanged. In 2007, 52% of Latino high school students reported having sex compared to 49% in 2009.
- Latino students were less likely than their non-Hispanic black peers to have had sex, but were more likely than their non-Hispanic white peers to have had sex.
- The proportion of Latino high school students who have had sex has not changed from 1991 to 2009—53% in 1991 and 49% in 2009 (see Figure 1).

Sexually Active Teens

- In 2009, more than one-third (35%) of Latino high school students reported being sexually *active*—that is, they had sex in the previous three months. Thirty-four percent of girls and 35% of boys reported being sexually active.

FIGURE 1. Proportion of Latino Students Who Have Ever Had Sex, by Gender, 1991-2009



- Half (51%) of all 12th grade Latino students reported being sexually active compared to 24% of 9th grade students.
- Between 2007 and 2009 the proportion of Latino students who are sexually active remained unchanged (37% in 2007 vs. 35% in 2009). Between 1991 and 2009 there was essentially no change in the proportion of sexually active Latino students (37% in 1991 and 35% in 2005).

Contraceptive Use

- In 2009, 55% of sexually active Latino students reported using a condom the last time they had sex, and 14% of sexually active Latino students reported using birth control pills or Depo-Provera the last time they had sex.

- Latino students were less likely than their non-Hispanic black or non-Hispanic white peers to report that they used a condom the last time they had sex.
- Between 1991 and 2007, there was an increase in the proportion of sexually active Latino students who used a condom the last time they had sex—from 37% to 61%. However, between 2007 and 2009, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of sexually active Latino students who reported using a condom the last time they had sex—61% in 2007 and 55% in 2009 (see Figure 2).
- While the proportion remains relatively low, there was a slight increase in the proportion of sexually active Latino students who used birth control pills or Depo-Provera before they last had sex between 2007 and 2009—from 10% to 14%. Overall, between 1999 and 2009 there was essentially no change in the proportion of sexually active Latino students who used birth control pills or Depo-Provera before they last had sex.

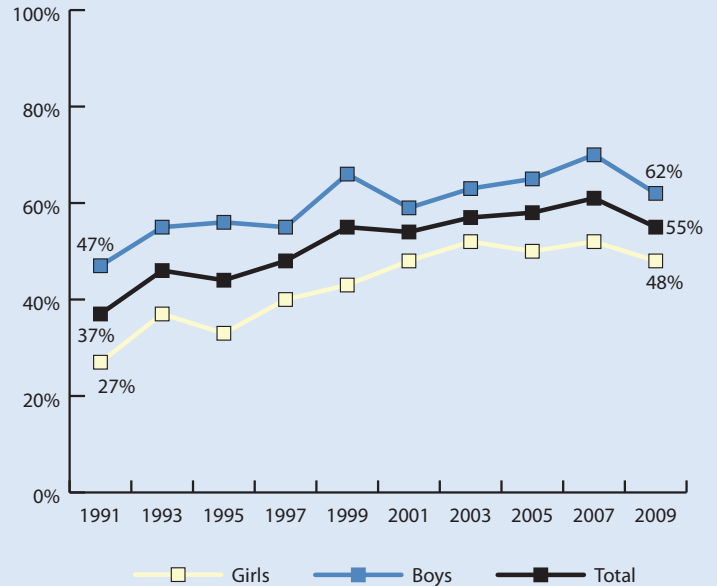
Sex Before Age 13

- In 2009, 7% of Latino high school students reported that they first had sex before age 13—a decrease from 8% of Latino students who reported that they first had sex before age 13 in 2007.
- Latino students were less likely than their non-Hispanic black peers to have had sex before age 13, but were more likely than their non-Hispanic white peers to have had sex before age 13.
- Between 1991 and 2009, the percentage of Latino teens who reported having had sex before the age of 13 decreased from 9% to 7%.

Multiple Partners

- In 2009, 14% of Latino high school students reported having already had four or more sexual partners—a decrease from 17% in 2007.
- Latino boys (18%) are more likely than Latino girls (10%) to report that they have had four or more sexual partners.
- Latino students were less likely than their non-Hispanic black peers to have had four or more sexual partners, but were more likely than their non-Hispanic white peers to have had four or more sexual partners.
- Overall, the proportion of Latino students who have had four or more sexual partners has not changed between 1991 and 2009.

FIGURE 2. Proportion of Sexually Active Latino Students who Used a Condom the Last Time They Had Sex, by Gender, 1991-2009



AIDS/HIV Education

- In 2009, 17% of Latino students report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection. This is significantly higher than the 13% of high school students overall who report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection in 2009.
- Latino boys and girls are equally likely to report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection.
- Between 1991 and 2009, the proportion of Latino students who report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection has remained generally the same—from 18% in 1991 to 17% in 2009.

Intimate Partner Violence

- In 2009, 12% of Latino students report that they were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months.
- A similar proportion of Latino boys and girls reported that they experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months—11% of girls and 12% of boys.
- Between 1999 and 2009, the proportion of Latino students who report that they have experienced intimate partner

violence in the past 12 months has remained generally the same (9% vs. 12%).

About the Data

All data in this fact sheet are from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2009. This survey, which is administered through the CDC every two years, includes a nationally representative sample which reflects students in grades 9-12 in U.S. public and private high school. Data from 42 states and 20 local education and health agencies are also available. The survey includes a variety of questions about risky behavior including questions about sex, drug and alcohol use, physical fitness, seatbelt use,

and other issues. Approximately 16,000 students completed the questionnaire in 2009. The YRBS has been administered since 1991 and thus provides interesting data about the behavior of high school students over time, and is particularly useful for monitoring trends. One important limitation of the data is that they are limited to youth in high school, and do not include students who have dropped out, were absent from school on the day of the survey, or older teens who have graduated from high school. For more information about the survey visit <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs>. Complete state results from the survey are available on The National Campaign's website at <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org/state-data>.

TABLE 1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey—Latino Students 1991 through 2009

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009
Sexual Behaviors										
% Who Have Ever Had Sex	53.1	56.0	57.6	52.2	54.1	48.4	51.4	51.0	52.0	49.1
% Who Had Sex Before Age 13	8.9	9.7	8.8	7.7	9.2	7.6	8.3	7.3	8.2	6.7
% Sexually Active (sex in the past three months)	37.0	39.4	39.3	35.4	36.3	35.9	37.1	35.0	37.4	34.6
% Who Have Had Four or More Partners	16.8	18.6	17.6	15.5	16.6	14.9	15.7	15.9	17.3	14.2
% Who Were Ever Forced to Have Sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.9	10.4	7.8	8.8	8.4
% Who Experienced Dating Violence	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.1	9.9	9.3	9.9	11.1	11.5
Contraceptive Behaviors										
% Who Used a Condom at Last Sex	37.4	46.1	44.4	48.3	55.2	53.5	57.4	57.7	61.4	54.9
% Who Used the Birth Control Pill or Depo-Provera at Last Sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0	12.2	14.5	11.3	10.1	14.0
% Who Were Never Taught in School about AIDS or HIV	17.8	17.6	15.8	14.1	15.9	19.5	16.6	15.3	15.0	16.8