

Fast Facts

Non-Hispanic Black Teens' Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use: Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009

Since the early 1990s, non-Hispanic black teens have seen impressive declines in sexual activity and equally impressive improvements in contraceptive use, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, this progress has stalled in recent years. At present, nearly two-thirds of all non-Hispanic black teens have had sex and almost half are sexually active (that is, they have had sex in the past three months). Although more than six in ten sexually active non-Hispanic black teens used a condom the last time they had sex, this proportion has decreased between 1999 and 2009. Non-Hispanic black students are more likely than their non-Hispanic white and Latino peers to report that they are sexually active, have had multiple sexual partners (four or more), and had sex for the first time before age 13.

The Data

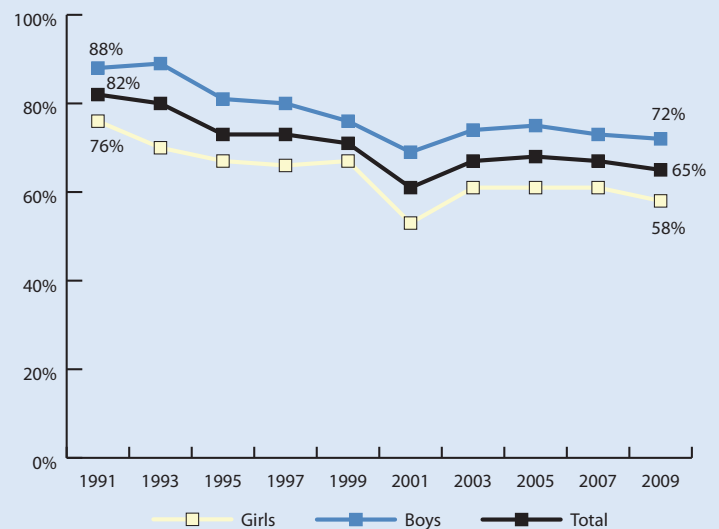
Teen Sexual Experience

- In 2009, 65% of non-Hispanic black high school students reported having had sexual intercourse—58% of girls and 72% of boys.
- Between 2007 and 2009 the proportion of non-Hispanic black students who have had sex remained unchanged. In 2007, 67% of non-Hispanic black high school students reported having had sex compared to 65% in 2009.
- Non-Hispanic black students were more likely than their non-Hispanic white and Latino peers to have had sex.
- The proportion of non-Hispanic black high school students who have had sex decreased from 1991-2001, but has not changed from 2001 to 2009 (see Figure 1).

Sexually Active Teens

- In 2009, nearly half (48%) of non-Hispanic black high school students reported being sexually active—that is, they had

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



sex in the previous three months. Forty-five percent of girls and 50% of boys reported being sexually active.

- Six in ten (64%) 12th grade non-Hispanic black students reported being sexually active compared to 35% of 9th grade students.
- Between 2007 and 2009 the proportion of non-Hispanic black students who are sexually active remained unchanged (46% in 2007 vs. 48% in 2009). Between 1991 and 2009 the proportion of sexually active non-Hispanic black students decreased—from 59% in 1991 to 48% in 2009.

Contraceptive Use

- In 2009, 62% of sexually active non-Hispanic black students reported using a condom the last time they had sex, and

13% of sexually active non-Hispanic black students reported using birth control pills or Depo-Provera the last time they had sex.

- Between 1991 and 1999, there was an increase in the proportion of sexually active non-Hispanic black students who used a condom the last time they had sex—from 48% to 70%. However, between 1999 and 2009, there has been a decrease in the proportion of sexually active non-Hispanic black students who reported using a condom the last time they had sex—from 70% to 62% (see Figure 2).
- The proportion of sexually active non-Hispanic black students who used birth control pills or Depo-Provera before they last had sex remains low, and has not changed between 1999 and 2009 (11% vs. 13%).

Sex Before Age 13

- In 2009, 15% of non-Hispanic black high school students reported that they first had sex before age 13.
- Non-Hispanic black students were more likely than their non-Hispanic white and Latino peers to have had sex before age 13.
- Between 1991 and 2009, the percentage of non-Hispanic black teens who reported having had sex before the age of 13 decreased from 28% to 15%.

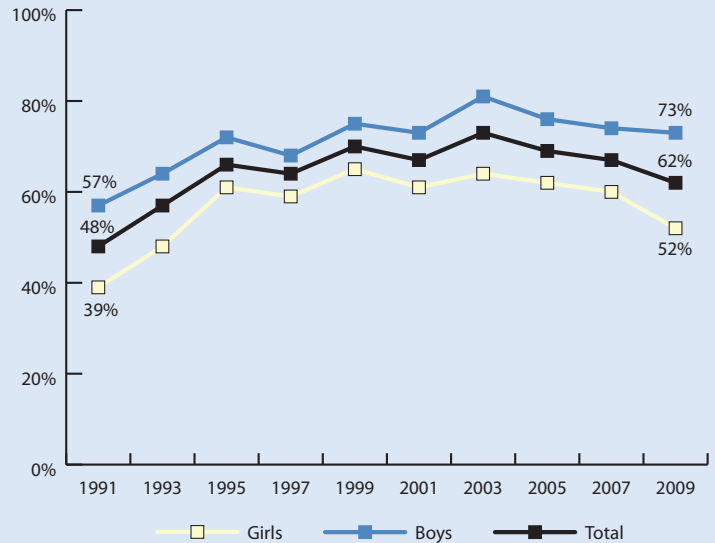
Multiple Partners

- In 2009, 29% of non-Hispanic black high school students reported having already had four or more sexual partners.
- Non-Hispanic black boys (39%) are more likely than non-Hispanic black girls (18%) to report that they have had four or more sexual partners.
- Non-Hispanic black students were more likely than their non-Hispanic white and Latino peers to have had four or more sexual partners.
- Overall, the proportion of non-Hispanic black students who have had four or more sexual partners has decreased between 1991 and 2009—from 43% to 29%.

AIDS/HIV Education

- In 2009, 14% of non-Hispanic black students report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection. This is similar to the 13% of students overall who report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection.

FIGURE 2. Proportion of Sexually Active Non-Hispanic Black Students who Used a Condom the Last Time They had Sex, by Gender, 1991-2009



- Non-Hispanic black boys (15%) and girls (13%) are equally likely to report that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection. The proportion of non-Hispanic black students who said that they were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection has remained generally the same over the past two decades—from 16% in 1991 to 14% in 2009.

Intimate Partner Violence

- In 2009, 14% of non-Hispanic black 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 non-Hispanic black boys and girls reported that they experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months—15% of girls and 14% of boys.
- Between 1999 and 2009, the proportion of non-Hispanic black students who report that they have experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months has remained generally the same (12% vs. 14%).

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. Moreover, the survey does not generally capture those aged 18-19—a group that has the highest rates of teen pregnancy. 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—Non-Hispanic Black Students 1991 through 2009

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009
Sexual Behaviors										
% Who Have Ever Had Sex	85.1	79.7	73.4	72.7	71.2	60.8	67.3	67.6	66.5	65.2
% Who Had Sex Before Age 13	28.2	28.0	24.2	21.7	20.5	16.3	19.0	16.5	16.3	15.2
% Sexually Active (sex in the past three months)	59.3	59.1	54.2	53.6	53.0	45.6	49.0	47.4	46.0	47.7
% Who Have Had Four or More Partners	43.1	42.7	35.6	38.5	34.4	26.6	28.8	28.2	27.6	28.6
% Who Were Ever Forced to Have Sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.6	12.3	9.3	10.5	10.0
% Who Experienced Dating Violence	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.4	11.2	13.9	11.9	14.2	14.3
Contraceptive Behaviors										
% Who Used a Condom at Last Sex	48.0	56.5	66.1	64.0	70.0	67.1	72.8	68.9	67.3	62.4
% Who Used the Birth Control Pill or Depo-Provera at Last Sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.6	11.6	13.0	14.0	13.1	12.9
% Who Were Never Taught in School about AIDS or HIV	15.9	16.5	16.1	10.3	13.3	13.9	14.9	13.7	9.7	13.9