

# HIV Risk Behaviors

## Maine Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, 2007

Maine adolescents continue to engage in behaviors that put them at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. These behaviors are not limited to high school aged youth. In fact, middle school youth are participating in many behaviors that put them at risk for pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection, and HIV. The following data are results of the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and are representative of public middle school students statewide.

Overall, 12% of middle school students reported having had sexual intercourse. (Because of how the YRBS question is asked, one cannot assume that this indicates consensual sexual intercourse.)

- The percentage of students who have had sexual intercourse has declined over the past decade (Figure A). Thus, the percentage of middle school students who reported sexual abstinence increased in that time.
- Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (17%) were significantly more likely than students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade (7%) to have had sexual intercourse.
- Although the difference is not statistically significant, it is interesting to note that male middle school students (15%) were more likely to report having had sexual intercourse than female middle school students (9%).

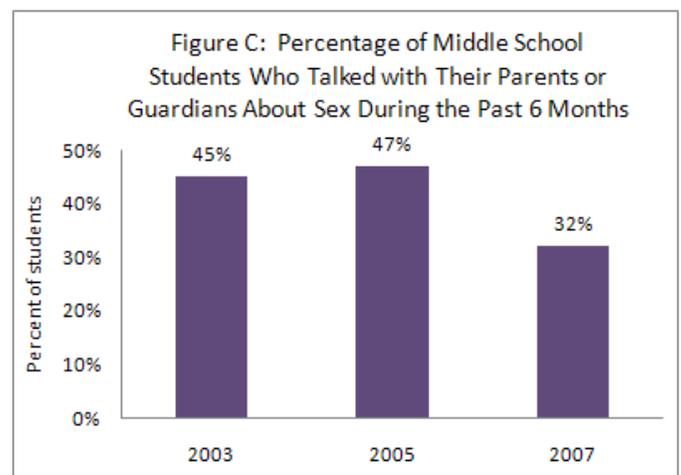
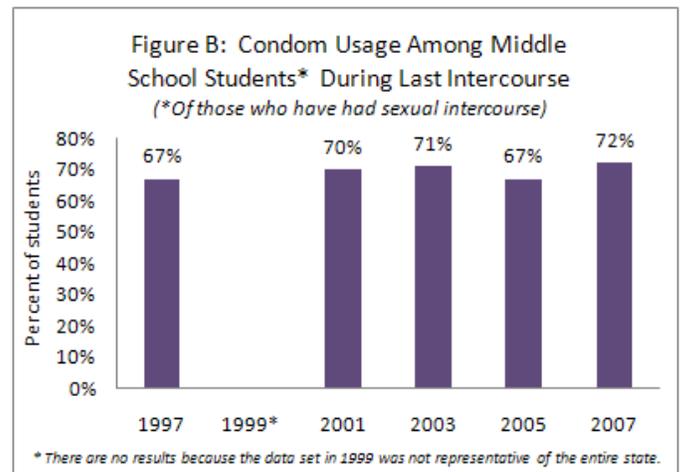
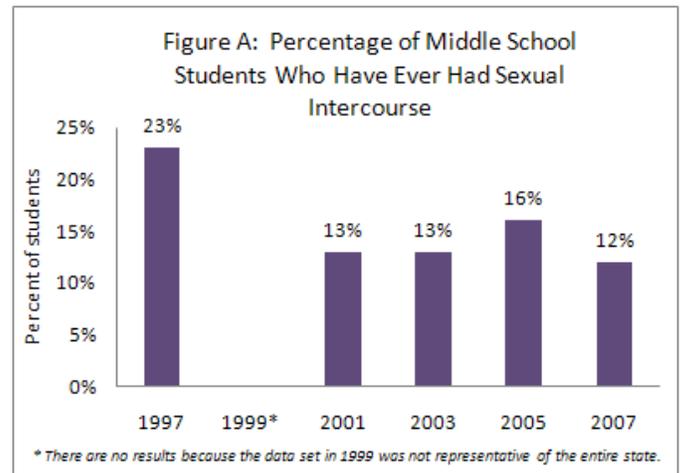
Three percent (3%) of middle school students reported having had sexual intercourse before age 11 and 4% of students indicated that they have had sexual intercourse with three or more people.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of middle school students who have had sexual intercourse reported using a condom during their last sexual intercourse experience.

- This behavior has not changed significantly over the past decade (Figure B).

Approximately one-third (32%) of middle school students have talked with their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) about sex in the past six months.

- This represents a significant decline in the past several years (Figure C).



Seventy-five percent (75%) of middle school students surveyed have been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school.

- The percentage of students who reported that they have been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school has decreased significantly over the past decade (Figure D).

Five percent (5%) of middle school students reported that they have used a needle to inject an illegal drug into their body.

