

High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Alabama 2021

Every other year, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works with states to conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). YRBS collects data from students in grades 9–12 on key health behaviors and experiences that contribute to the leading causes of death and illness during both adolescence and adulthood. This survey helps to monitor changes overtime, identify emerging issues, and plan and evaluate programs to support the health of young people. The Alabama Campaign focuses on survey questions related to sexual health behaviors of students in Alabama. The following data points were identified as key to understanding the sexual behavior trends and the needs of Alabama students.



47% of 12th grade students surveyed in Alabama have had sexual intercourse at least once

Current Alabama Sex Ed State Policy:

Alabama law does not require that sex education be taught in schools, but if it is taught it must emphasize abstinence while also providing medically accurate information about contraception. The state does not provide any funding for sex education nor does it provide funding for teachers to receive training on sex education topics that would help them teach in the classroom.

Sexual Activity Among Alabama **12th Grade Students**

Currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the three months before the survey)



Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons (during their life)



Most sexually active students are NOT using contraceptives (grades 9-12)



Percentage of student who did NOT use birth control pills, an IUD, an implant, patch or birth control ring before last sexual intercourse



92%

94%



Percentage of students who did not use both a condom AND birth control before last sexual intercourse



Percentage of students who were NOT tested for STIs other than HIV

Increased from 81% in 2019

Condom use among sexually active high school students (Grades 9-12)

Condom use among sexually active high school students has stagnated at around 50% since 2011. This year, condom use decreased in Alabama for 9th-12th grade students.



52% of sexually active youth reported using a condom during their last sexual intercourse



8% of 9th-12th grade students were tested for HIV in Alabama

Alabama Campaign for Adolescent Sexual Health

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