

## Why should we be concerned?

The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among Wisconsin high school students:

### Sexual Activity

- 45% of students have ever had sexual intercourse (43% for male and 46% for female students).
- 33% of students who have had sexual intercourse had at least one partner in the last three months.
- 33% of males and 22% of females who had sexual intercourse in the last three months used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse. Use has increased significantly among females since 1993.
- African American, American Indian and Hispanic youth are significantly more likely to report having had sexual intercourse than their White and Asian counterparts (69%, 52%, 42% vs. 38% and 30%, respectively). (DHS, January 2008)

### Adult/Child Communication

- 40% reported discussing AIDS or HIV infection with an adult family member, down from 58% in 1993.

### Condoms and Contraception

- 39% of students who reported having had sexual intercourse in the last three months did not use a condom.
- 1 out of 4 students reported that they did not use of a reliable form birth control such as a condom, birth control pill, or Depo-Provera the last time they had sexual intercourse.

The *Wisconsin Youth Sexual Behavior and Outcomes* publication states that from 1993-2007, among youth ages 15-19:

### Pregnancy

- The birth rate decreased for all racial/ethnic groups, except Hispanics and American Indians.
- The birth rate increased 22% among Hispanics and 3% among American Indians.

### Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

- Chlamydia is the predominant infection among youth. The rate of chlamydia infections has increased 26%.
- While the overall rate of four sexually transmitted diseases (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and genital herpes) among African American youth declined 17%, the rate is 5 times the rate for all Wisconsin youth in 2007.

## What are the solutions?

Provide multi-strategy programs that address the comprehensive needs of youth, including:

- K-12 skill-based health education addressing risk reduction and abstinence.
- Early and ongoing parental involvement.
- School engagement.
- Education on social norms.
- Properly prepared educators.
- Developing youth assets.
- Culturally appropriate teaching strategies.
- Evidence-based sexual risk behavior prevention programs.
- Program links to alcohol and drug use.
- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS policies, including attendance of students with HIV/AIDS and confidentiality.

# What is the status?

The 2008 Wisconsin School Health Education Profiles indicates that:

## Health Education

The vast majority of middle and high school Health Education teachers tried to increase student knowledge of each of the following topics:

- HIV prevention (96%).
- Human sexuality (94%).
- Pregnancy prevention (88%).
- STD prevention (94%).

Middle school Health Education teachers included the following sexuality education topics in a required health education course:

- The benefits of being sexually abstinent (88%).
- Health consequences of HIV, STDs and pregnancy (90%)
- How to prevent HIV, STDs and pregnancy (87%)

High school Health Education teachers included:

- How to prevent HIV, STDs and pregnancy (97%)
- The importance of using condoms consistently and correctly (78%).
- How to obtain condoms (67%).

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that:

## Youth Assets

Wisconsin high school students who reported strong family and teacher support, felt connected to their schools, and were successful in schools (mostly As and Bs), were less likely to:

- Engage in risky behavior.
- Drink alcohol.
- Smoke marijuana.

## Resources

**Educators' Resource Center for Youth Sexual Risk Behavior Prevention** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/hivercindex.html>

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services** <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** Division of Adolescent and School Health <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/index.htm>

## References

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy. *Wisconsin Youth Sexual Behavior and Outcomes, 1993-2007* (PPH 5706-07). January 2009.

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/s-behyouth.htm>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy. *Tracking the State Health Plan, 2010-State Level Data*. January 2008.

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/statehealthplan/track2010/pdf/data/F1ainterhss.pdf>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, School Health Education Profile

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/shepindex.html>

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Youth Risk Behavior Survey

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrebsindx.html>

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