

# Sexual Health

## of BC youth



McCreary  
Centre Society

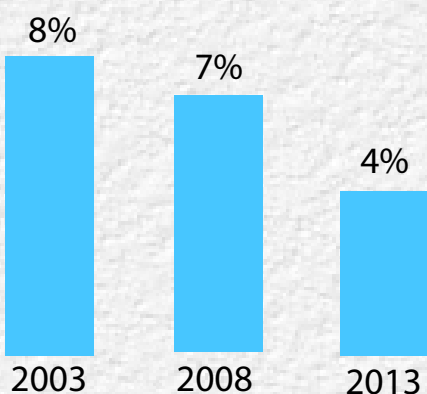
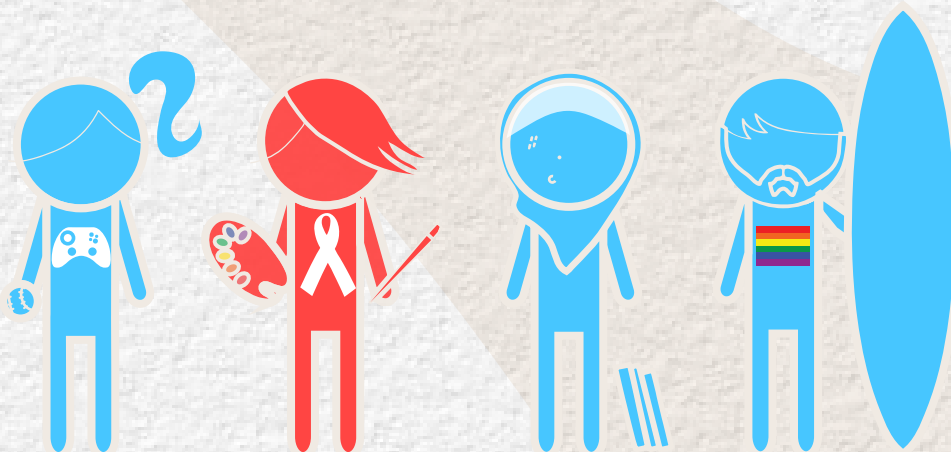


Sexual health was one of many topics covered in the BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS). The fifth BC AHS was completed in 2013 by nearly 30,000 students in grades 7 to 12 in public schools across British Columbia. Youth were asked about their sexual health behaviours and sexual experiences.

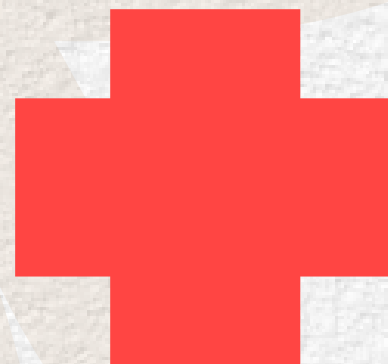
Most youth are not sexually active. Three out of four youth had not had oral sex or other types of sex.

23% of BC students had ever had oral sex, down from 26% in 2008.

19% of students had ever had other types of sex, down from 24% in 2003.



Youth who did have sex waited longer to do so than in previous years: 4% of youth under the age of 15 had ever had intercourse, compared to 7% in 2008 and 8% in 2003.

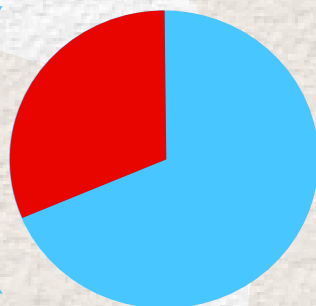


Youth who first had sex at age 15 or older engaged in safer sexual practices than those who first had sex at an earlier age.

Youth who did not use contraception the last time they had sex were more than five times as likely to report a history of pregnancy.

5x

69% of students who ever had sex, used a condom the last time they had intercourse. Students were less likely to use a condom during oral sex.



Young people can be supported to make safer sexual health decisions.

Students who were connected to family, school, or community; had supportive adult and peer networks; were engaged in extracurricular activities; felt good about themselves and their abilities; and had aspirations for the future all reported

healthier sexual choices.



Some people are at risk of poorer sexual health including youth who are in an abusive dating relationship, or who are bullied or discriminated against.

To read the full report Sexual health of BC youth, please visit [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca)

For questions about sex, sexuality and other sexual health questions call (toll-free):

Sex Sense Line at 1-800-739-7367

Interested in developing a project to promote youth health? Contact [yag@mcs.bc.ca](mailto:yag@mcs.bc.ca) or visit [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca) for details about funding opportunities.