

Sexual Health

Facts about Sexual Health

True or false? More students were sexually active in 2003 than 1992?

False. In fact, the percentage of students who reported they ever had sex decreased 6% over the past 10 years (down from 30% in 1992 to 24% in 2003).



Sexual Activity and Age

Older youth are more likely to have had sex.

- 7% of 13 year olds have had sex.
- 21% of 15 year olds have had sex.
- 43% of 17 year olds have had sex.

Sexual Activity by Region

Vancouver has the lowest rate of sexually active youth (18%).

In the Capital region (Victoria), 27% of youth are sexually active.

The Kootenays has the highest rate of sexually active students (31%).

About the Adolescent Health Survey

These statistics are based on the results of the Adolescent Health Survey, a survey that was administered by the McCreary Centre Society in 1992, 1998, and 2003. It asked over 70,000 BC youth questions about their health.

The McCreary Centre Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of BC youth through research, information sharing, and community-based projects that address the unmet health needs of young people.

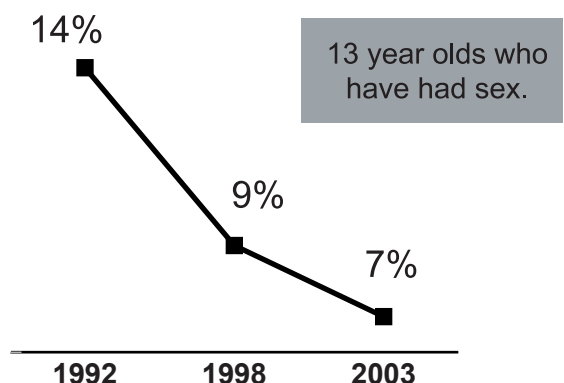
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Fact Sheets prepared by Bianca Corlett and David Sadler.
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Fewer Young Teens Are Having Sex



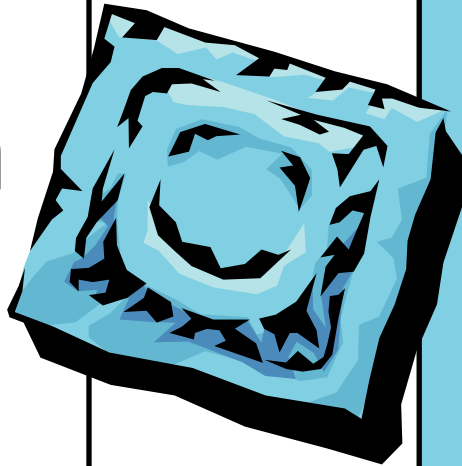
Fast Facts

4% of sexually active youth report having a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI).

5% of girls and 2% of boys have been forced to have sex by another youth. 1% of girls and less than 1% of boys have been forced by an adult.

Drugs and alcohol can influence sexual behaviour.

29% of sexually active students used drugs or alcohol before they had sex the last time.



Condom Use

More students are using condoms. In 2003, 68% of sexually active students used a condom the last time they had sex. In 1998, 58% of sexually active students used a condom.

As sexually active students get older, they are less likely to use a condom. 81% of 14 year olds who are sexually active used a condom the last time they had sex and only 61% of 18 year olds used a condom.

Birth control methods being used by BC youth who are sexually active.

