

## Questions about Sexual Behaviors that Contribute to Unintended Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Including HIV Infection

### QUESTION(S):

- Q1. [MS+HS] Have you ever had sexual intercourse?
- Q2. [MS+HS] How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?
- Q3. [MS+HS] During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?
- Q4. [HS ONLY] During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?
- Q5. [HS ONLY] Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?
- Q6. [MS+HS] The last time you had sexual intercourse; did you or your partner use a condom?
- Q7. [HS ONLY] The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy?

### QUESTIONS ASKED BECAUSE A 'HIGH RISK' BEHAVIORS

- Q2. Early initiation of sexual intercourse is associated with having a greater number of lifetime sexual partners. In addition, adolescents who initiate sexual intercourse early are less likely to use contraception, and are at higher risk for STDs, and pregnancy.
- Q3. Estimates suggest that while representing 25% of the ever sexually active population, persons aged 15 to 24 years acquire nearly half of all new STDs. Multiple partners increase the risk of spreading STDs among youth populations.
- Q4. See Q3 above.
- Q5. Use of alcohol and/or drugs prior to sexual intercourse may increase the likelihood of engaging in the behavior, not using a condom, or not using a birth control method.
- Q6. Use of a condom during sexual intercourse is essential for disease prevention (see Q3).
- Q7. Pregnancy prevention among youth is a key public health strategy.

### CORE CDC INFORMATION LOST WHEN OMITTING SELECT QUESTIONS

(Source: CDC YRBS Handbook)

- Q4. If this question were omitted, Maryland would lose the following 8 key variables:
- % currently sexually active
    - % that used alcohol or drugs before last intercourse
    - % used condom during last sexual intercourse
    - % used birth control pill before last sexual intercourse

- % used IUD or implant before last sexual intercourse
- % used shot, patch, or birth control ring before last sexual intercourse
- % used pill, IUD or implant, or shot, patch, or birth control ring before last sexual intercourse
- % did not use any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse

Q6. If this question were omitted, Maryland would lose the following 2 key variables:

- % used condom during last sexual intercourse
  - % condom use along with other birth control methods

Q7. If this question were omitted, Maryland would lose the following 6 key variables:

- % used birth control pill before last sexual intercourse
- % used IUD or implant before last sexual intercourse
- % used shot, patch, or birth control ring before last sexual intercourse
- % used pill, IUD or implant, or shot, patch or birth control ring before last sexual intercourse
- % used condom with other birth control methods
- % did not use any method to prevent pregnancy

#### **QUESTIONS USED FOR LOGIC EDITS**

Not every student gives truthful answers on student surveys. For that reason, the CDC utilizes a series of edit checks to ensure that data that is not internally consistent is not used for analysis. The first response option for each of the 7 questions in this series essentially is that the student has never had sexual intercourse. Only when the student responses are internally consistent are responses used. For example, a student who indicates 'No' to Q1, but later provides a response to a later question that is indicative of prior sexual intercourse, then neither response is used.

**RATIONALE:** These questions measure the prevalence of sexual activity, number of sexual partners, age at first intercourse, alcohol and other drug use related to sexual activity, condom use, and contraceptive use.

Early initiation of sexual intercourse is associated with having a greater number of lifetime sexual partners.(1,2) In addition, adolescents who initiate sexual intercourse early are less likely to use contraception(2,3) and are at higher risk for STDs(4) and pregnancy.(5,6) Estimates suggest that while representing 25% of the ever sexually active population, persons aged 15 to 24 years acquire nearly half of all new STDs.(7) Both chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are highest among young women between the ages of 20 and 24 years (2484.6 cases per 100,000 individuals and 533.7 cases per 100,000 individuals, respectively).(8) In 2013, there were an estimated 1,908 persons ages 13–19 years newly diagnosed with HIV infection and 7,157 living with diagnosed HIV infection.(9) In 2014, young people aged 13–24 accounted for 22% of all new HIV infections in the United States.(10)

Among high school students nationwide in 2015, 41% had ever had sexual intercourse, 12% had had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life, and 30% had had sexual

intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.(11) The percentage of students who ever had sexual intercourse decreased during 1991–2015 (54%–41%). (11) The percentage of students who had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life decreased during 1991–2015 (19%–12%).(11) During 1991–2015, there was a significant linear decrease in the percentage of students who had had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey (38%–30%). (11) In 2015, among the 30% of students who were currently sexually active, 57% reported that either they or their partner had used a condom during last sexual intercourse.(11) The percentage of sexually active students who used a condom during last sexual intercourse increased during 1991–2003 (46%–63%) and then did not change significantly during 2003–2015 (63%–57%).(11)

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