

Sexual Health

Among Oklahoma Public High School Students

What is the problem?

The 2019 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among public high school students:

- 43% had ever had sexual intercourse
- 30% were currently sexually active¹
- 12% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life
- 49% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse²
- 12% did not use any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse²

What are schools in Oklahoma doing about it?

The 2018 Oklahoma School Health Profiles indicates that among schools with grade six or higher:

- 59% encouraged staff to attend professional development on safe and supportive school environments for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity
- 43% have ever used the School Health Index or other self-assessment tool to assess school policies, activities, and programs in sexual health, including HIV, other STD, and pregnancy prevention
- 14% of schools provided parents and families with information about how to communicate with their child about sex

What are the solutions?

- Create opportunities for teens to participate in programs and activities that promote positive youth development
- Provide a safe place where youth are free to discuss their concerns about love, sex, and relationships
- Provide or allow trained educators to deliver evidence-based health education in school settings
- Connect students to organizations or health care professionals for sexual and reproductive health education and services
- Provide information to parents/guardians about how to talk to their children and adolescents about human anatomy, sexuality, healthy relationships, and other sensitive topics
- Foster positive relationships between youth and trusted adults

1. Had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey
2. Among students who reported sexual intercourse during the 3 months before the survey

For more information about the YRBS please visit URL: <http://yrbs.health.ok.gov>. For more information about the School Health Profiles visit URL: <https://www.okintheknow.org/new-2018-school-health-profiles/>
