

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
Selected Sexual Risk Behaviors
California, 2017

Slides prepared for the
Adolescent Sexual Health Work Group (ASHWG) by:

Laura Kovaleski, Lauren Nelson, Sandee Differding, Lidia Carlton
Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch
California Department of Public Health

Mina White
Safe and Active Communities Branch
California Department of Public Health

Daniela Torres
California Department of Education



What is YRBS?

YRBS is part of a multi-survey surveillance system launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1990. YRBS monitors six categories of health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults, including:

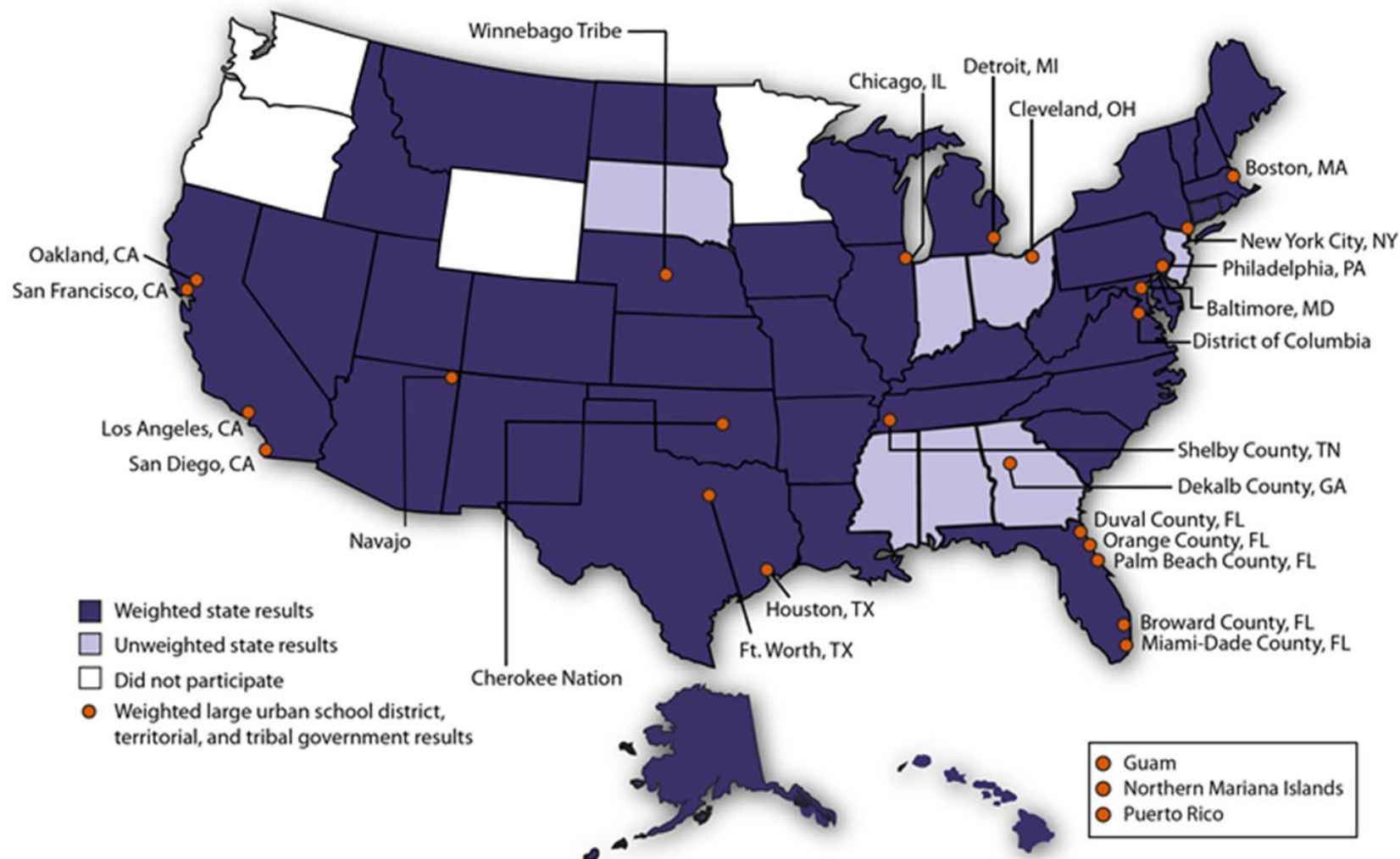
- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence
- Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Tobacco use
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors
- Inadequate physical activity

YRBS also measures the prevalence of obesity and asthma and other health-related behaviors plus sexual identity and sex of sexual contacts.

YRBS includes a national school-based survey conducted by CDC and state, territorial, tribal, and local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal governments.

[CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Overview](#)

States Participating in the 2017 YRBS





Accessing California's Data

[CDC YRBS Data](#)

- Full datasets can be requested from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- CDC developed an online analysis tool to query response frequencies and stratify results by race/ethnicity, sex, or grade in school, creating the ability to:
 - Compare national and state-level data
 - See whether differences are significant
 - See which sample sizes are too small to report

Data Collection Notes

2017 Survey

- The California Department of Education (CDE) contacted schools selected for participation in YRBS to request their participation. Students were surveyed in the spring semester.
- Trained surveyors from CDE, California Department of Public Health, and other key partners administered the survey at selected school sites.
- YRBS is a paper-and-pencil survey, completed on a scantron form. Students were provided paper to cover their answer sheets.

Data Collection Notes

2017 Survey

- Students were given instructions before the survey began on how to complete the survey. Students were told they could skip any questions they did not wish to answer.
- Race/ethnicity was the only question where multiple response options were allowed. All other questions were single response only.
- During administration, if students asked about the meaning of a specific survey question they were instructed to answer based on their interpretation of the question.

California YRBS Sample

2017 Survey

Eligibility criteria:

- District operated public high schools serving grades 9-12

Exclusion criteria:

- Private, public charter, or alternative schools

Participation Rate:

- 40 schools were selected
- 27 (68%) schools participated
- 1,778 (90%) students from selected classrooms participated

School x Student Response Rate > 60%*

*60% is the minimum school x student response rate required to calculate a weighted sample.



Data Analysis Notes

2017 Survey

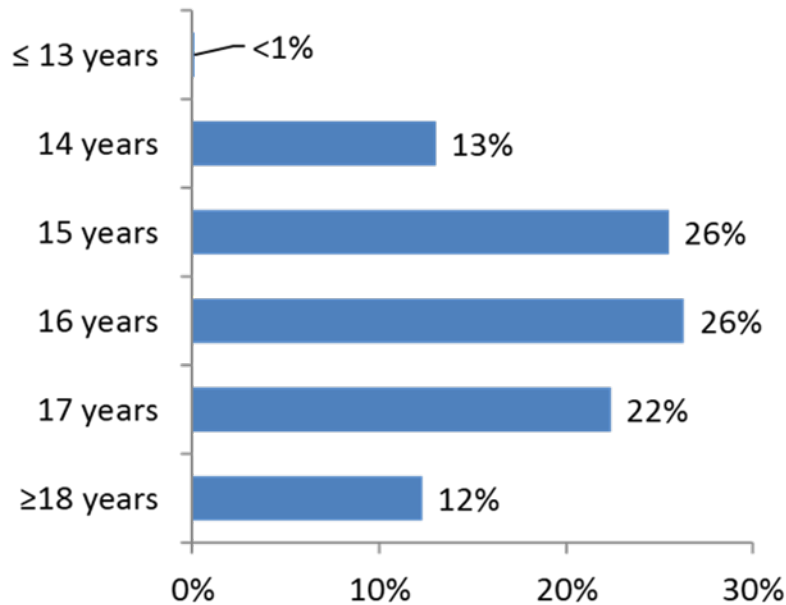
- Results have been weighted to reflect the population of students in California schools eligible to be selected for this survey.
- Weights are applied based on:
 - Grade in school
 - Gender
 - Race/Ethnicity



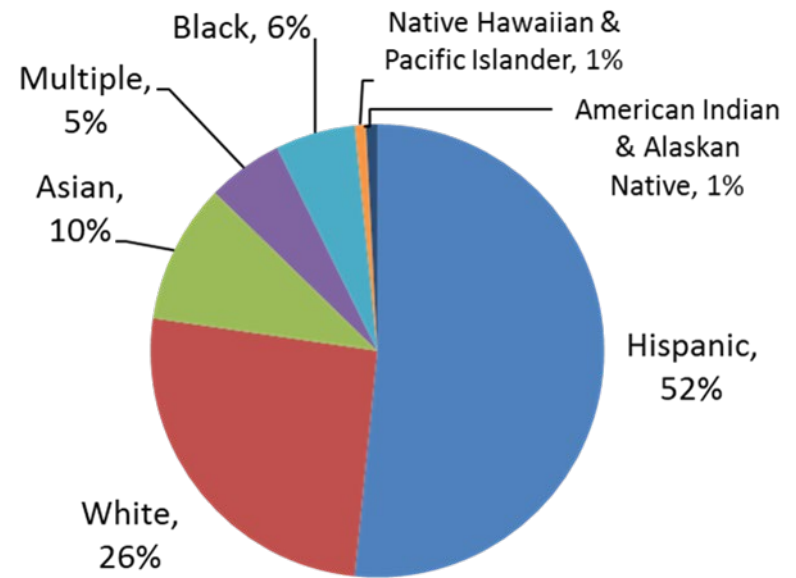
Who are California's 1.62 million high school students?

YRBS is weighted to represent all students enrolled in California's district operated public schools serving grades 9 through 12.

Age



Race or Ethnicity





Who are California's 1.62 million high school students?



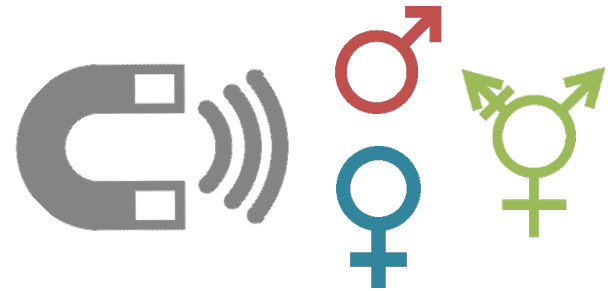
When asked about gender, students report:

Female = 49%

Male = 51%

Transgender = 0.6%

Not sure = 2.7%



When asked about sexual orientation, students describe themselves as:

Gay or Lesbian = 3%

Bisexual = 7%

Heterosexual = 87%

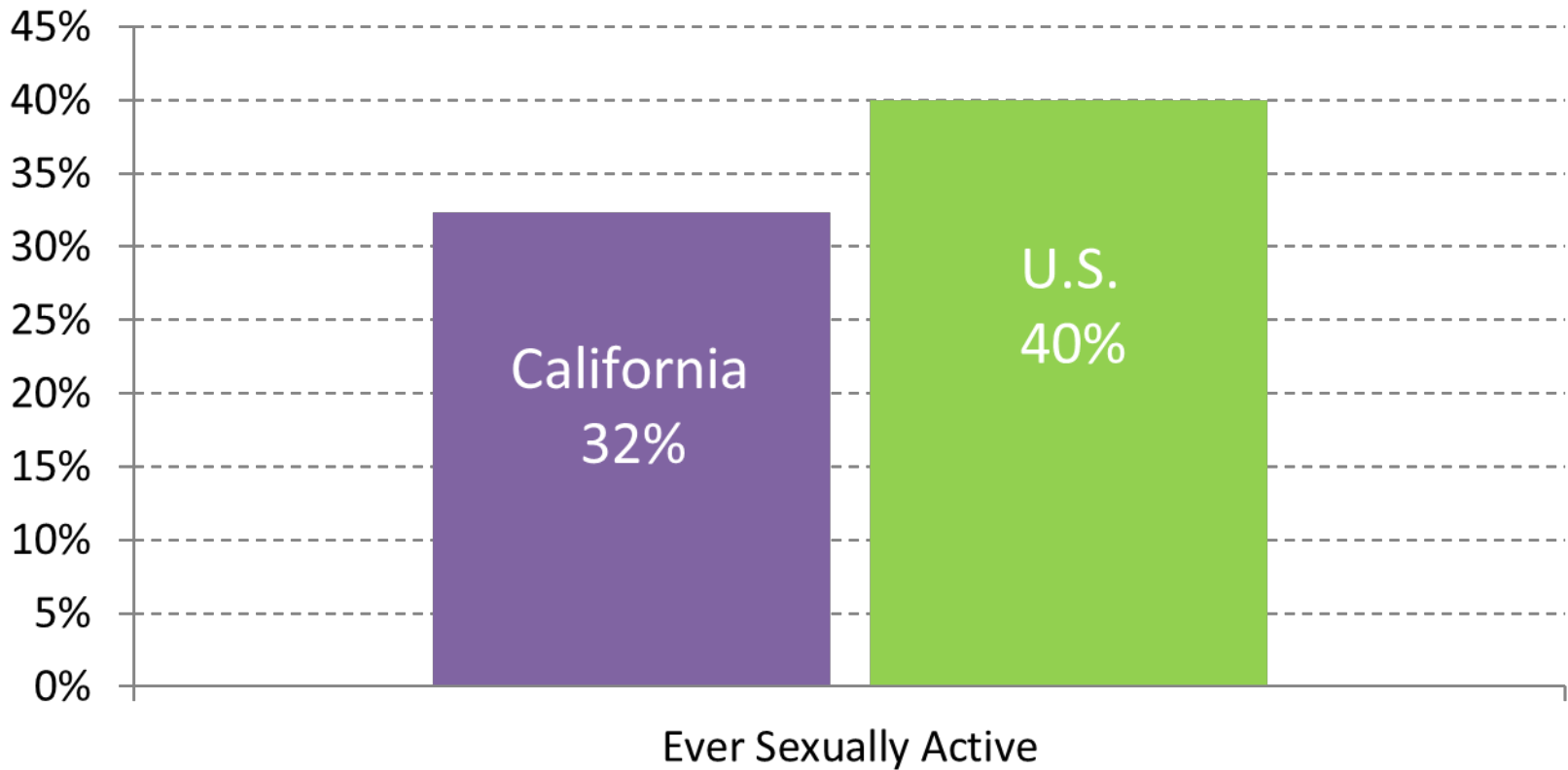
Not sure = 3%

How often do students report sexual activity and does it differ by demographic?

YRBS 2017



California students are less likely to report ever having sex* than students nationwide

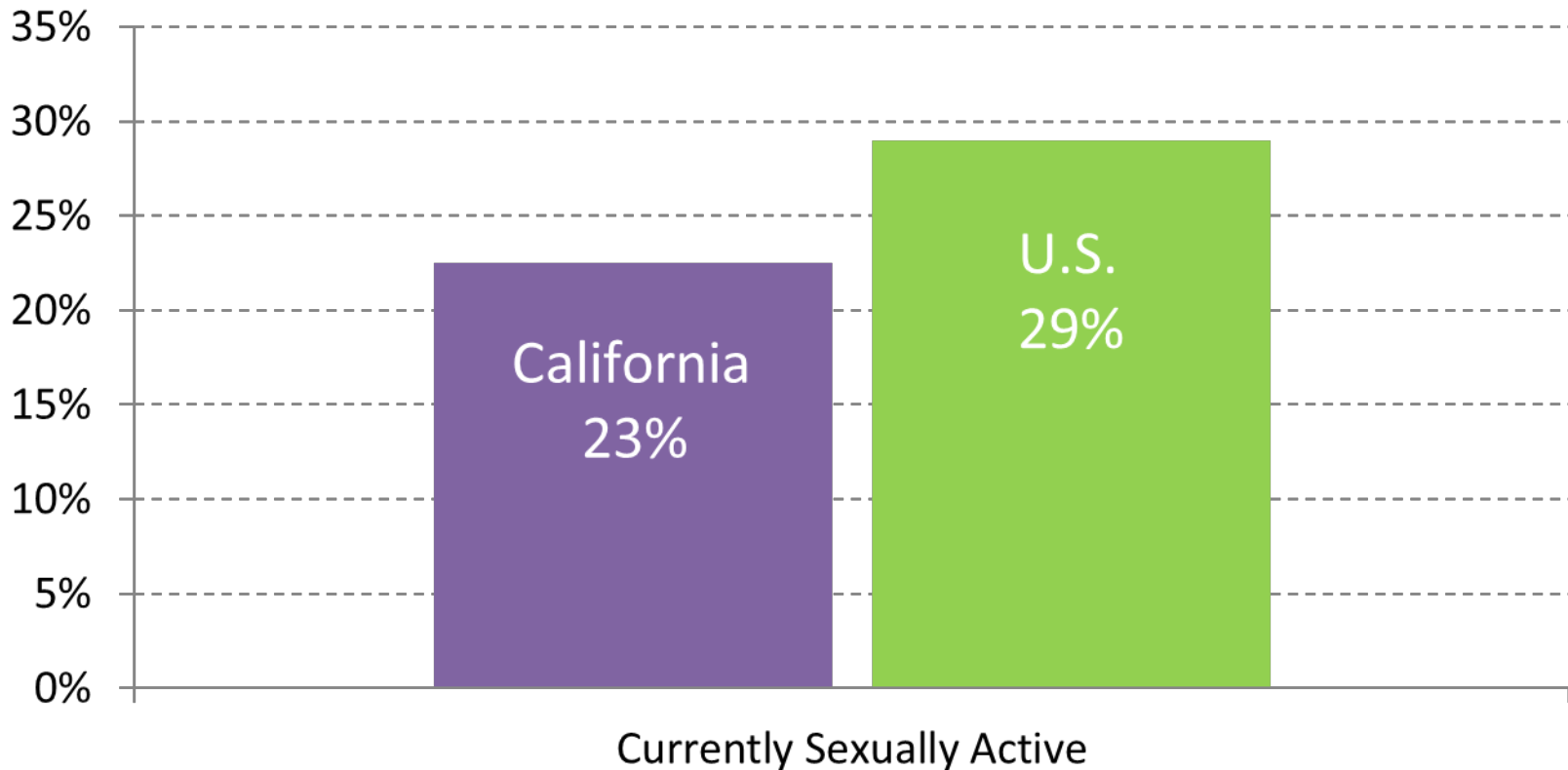


*Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages
2017 U.S. YRBS, weighted percentages



California students are less likely to report being currently sexually active* than students nationwide

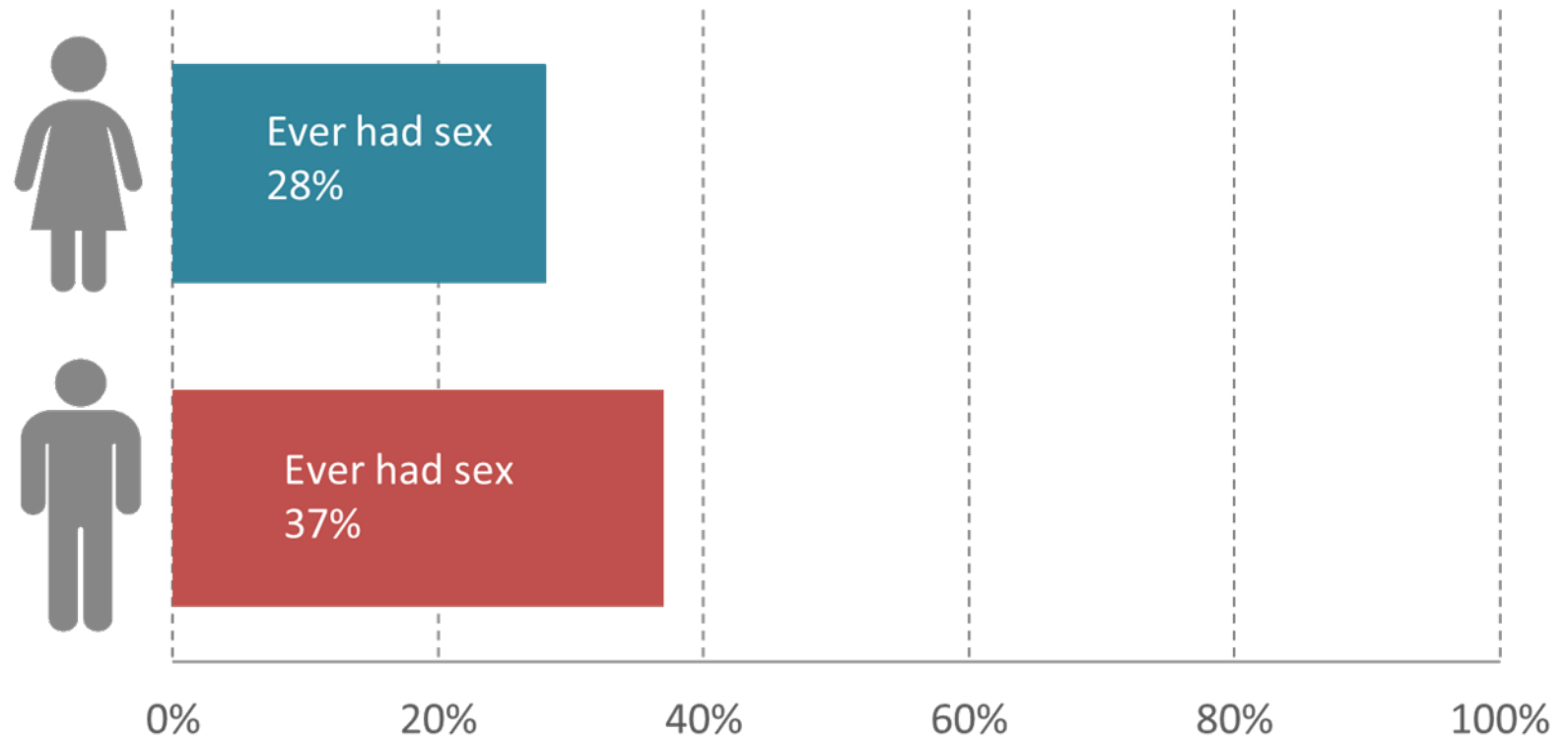


*During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?

Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages
2017 U.S. YRBS, weighted percentages



Students who identify as male are slightly more likely to report ever having sex* than students who identify as female

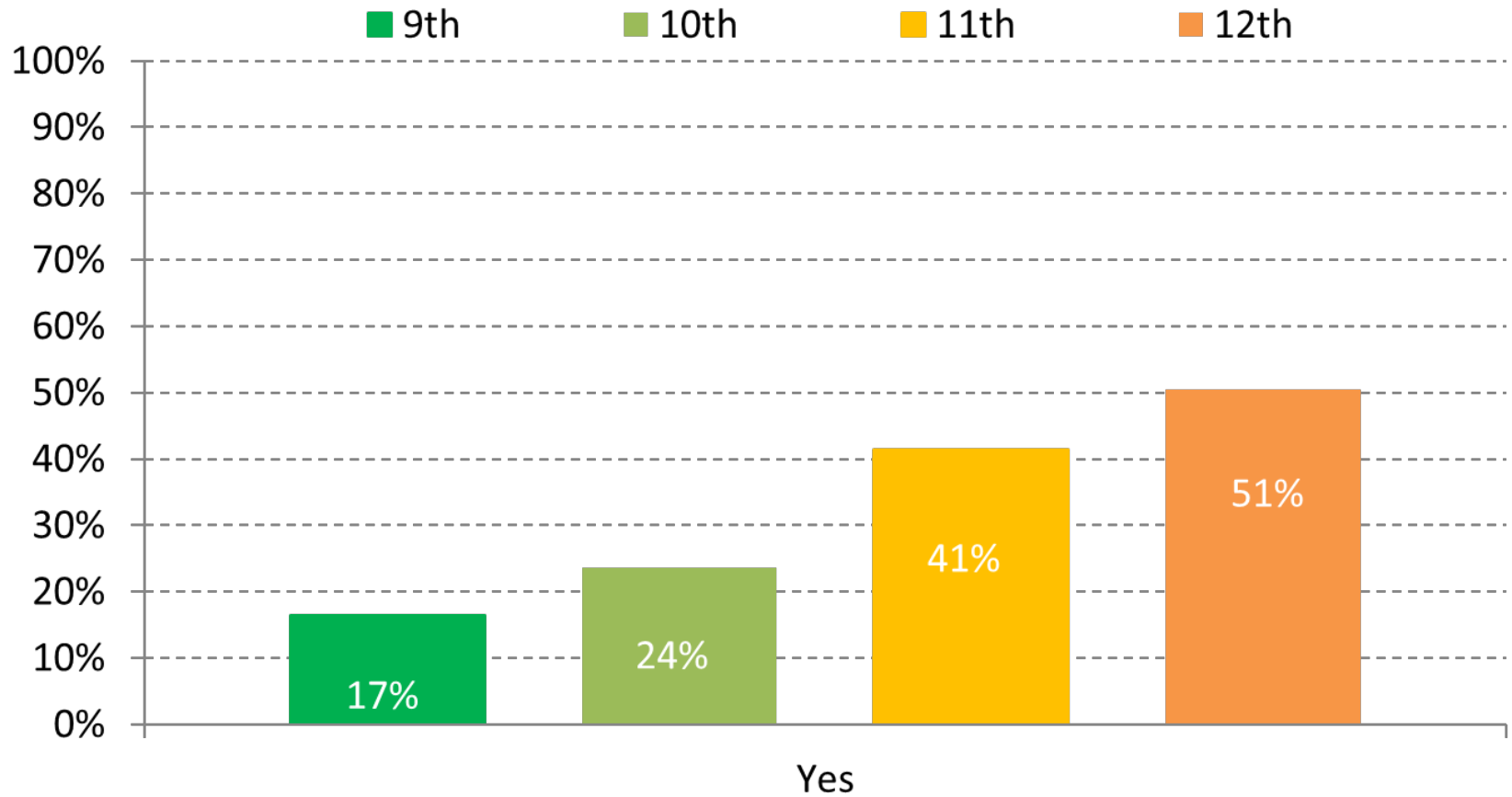


*Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages



The percentage of students who report ever having sex* increases by grade level



*Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages



There are minor differences in reported sexual activity* by race/ethnicity

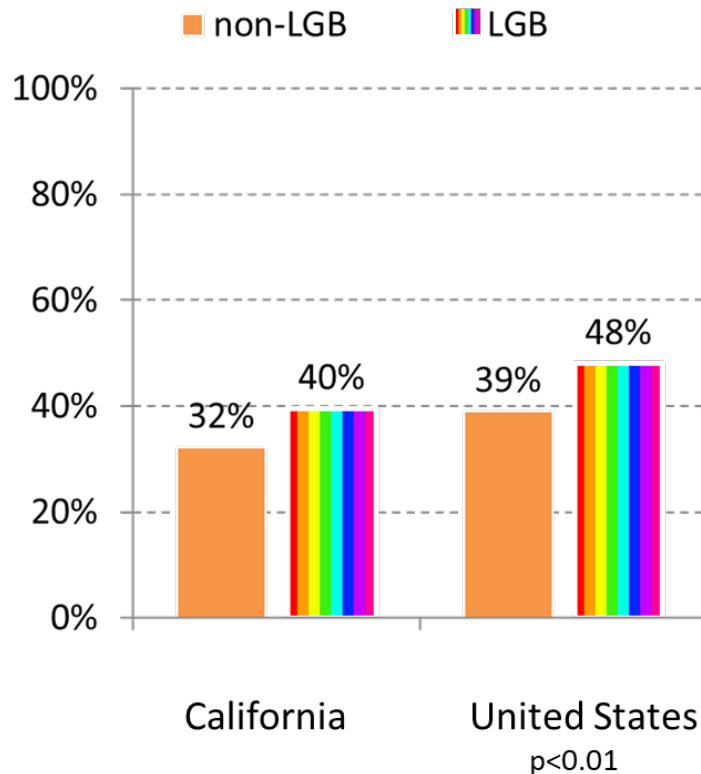


- In California, most differences in the percent of students who report ever having sexual intercourse by race or ethnicity are not significant.
- Except, Asian American students report significantly lower percentages of ever having sex.

*Have you ever had sexual intercourse?



LGB students* report higher rates of sexual activity** in the national survey, but not in California



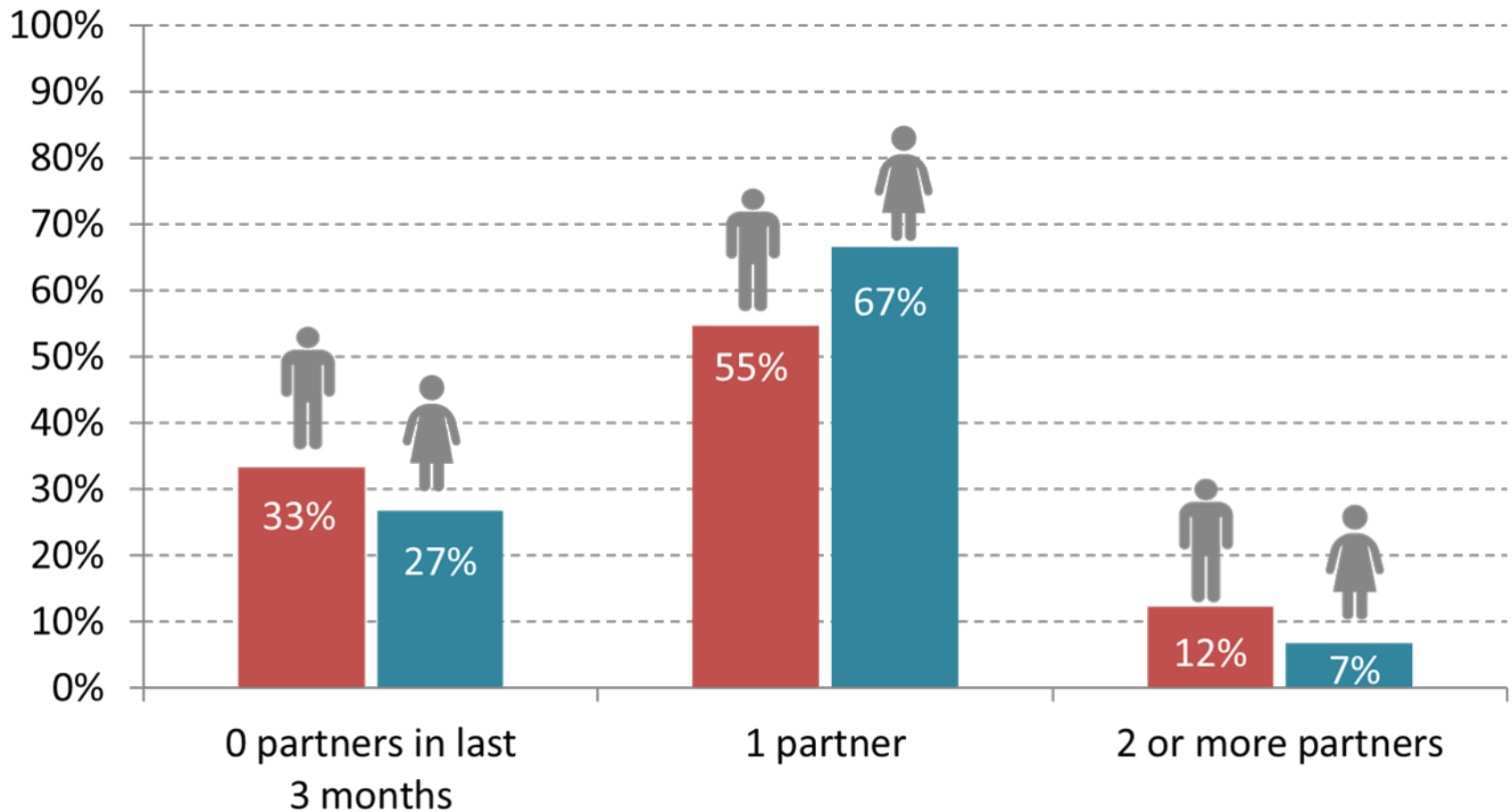
- In California, there is no significant difference in the percent of LGB versus non-LGB students who report ever having sex, however the number of LGB students surveyed was small.
- Nationally, a significantly higher percentage of LGB students report ever having sexual intercourse compared to non-LGB students.

**Which of the following best describes you? (*non-LGB=Heterosexual (straight); LGB= Lesbian or Gay, Bisexual, Not sure*)

*Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

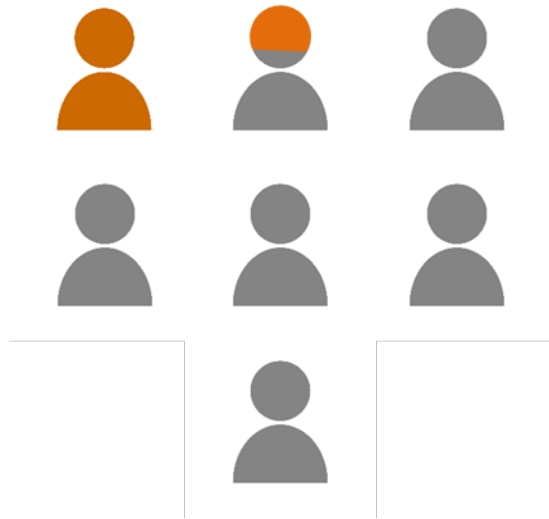


Among students who have ever had sex, most report being currently monogamous*



*During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?

More than 1 in 7 students report sexual contact with partners of their same sex or with both sexes*



- Rates of same sex or both sex partners are significantly higher for students identifying as female (22%) than for students identifying as male (9%).
- Nearly the same percent of students who report having sexual contact with partners of the same sex or both sexes (15%) also report their sexual orientation as LGB or unsure (13%).**

*During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?

**Which of the following best describes you?

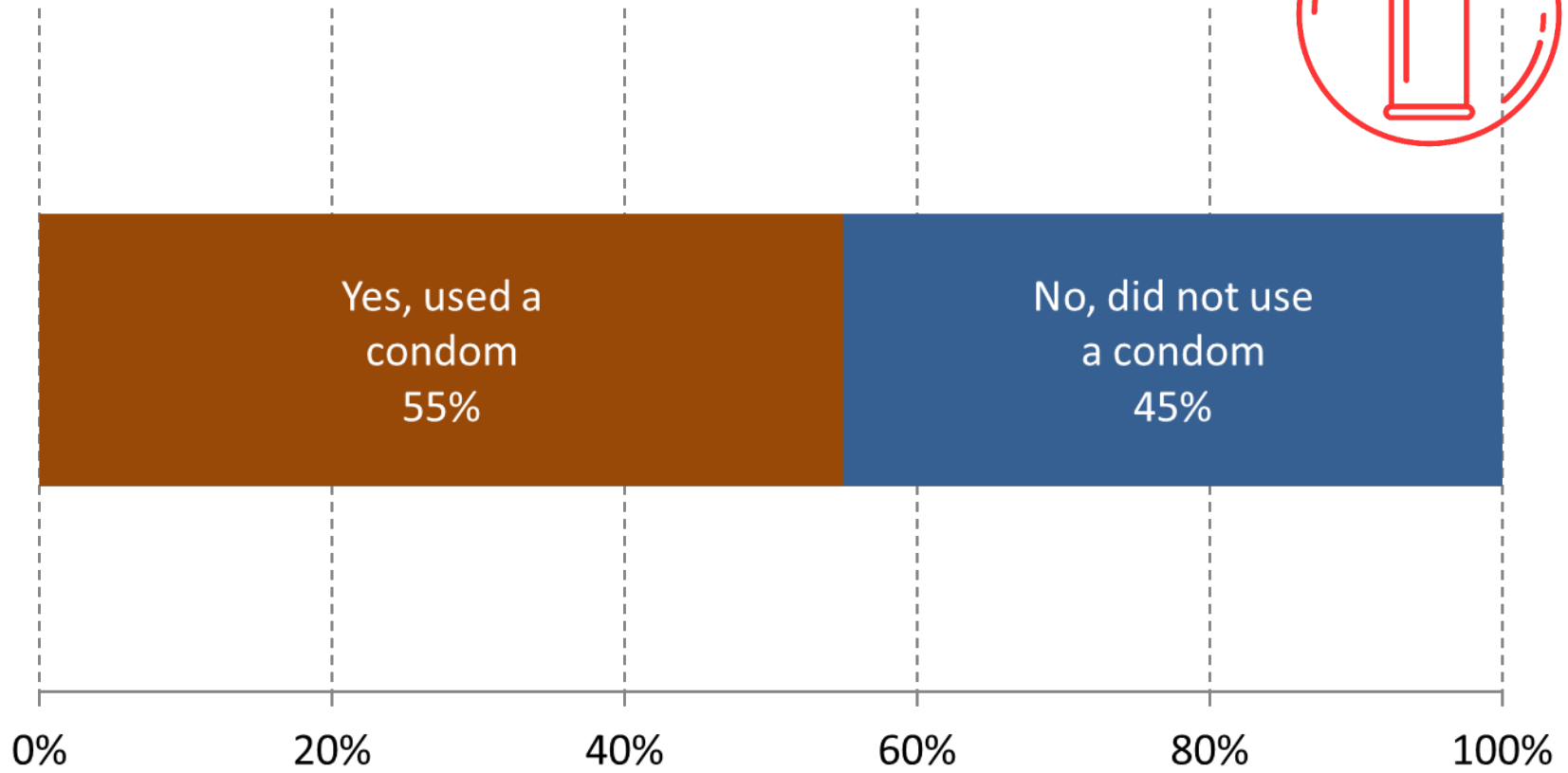
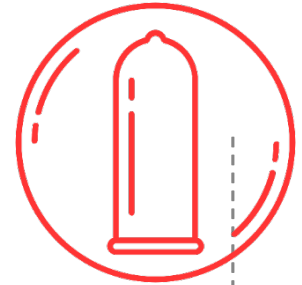
Heterosexual (straight), Gay or Lesbian, Bisexual, Not sure

What STD prevention behaviors are
youth engaging in?

California YRBS 2017



Just over half of currently sexually active students*
report using a condom the last time they had sex**



*During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?

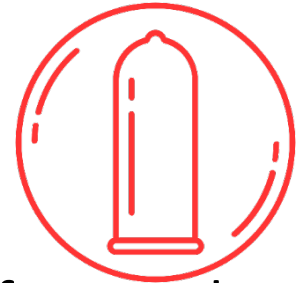
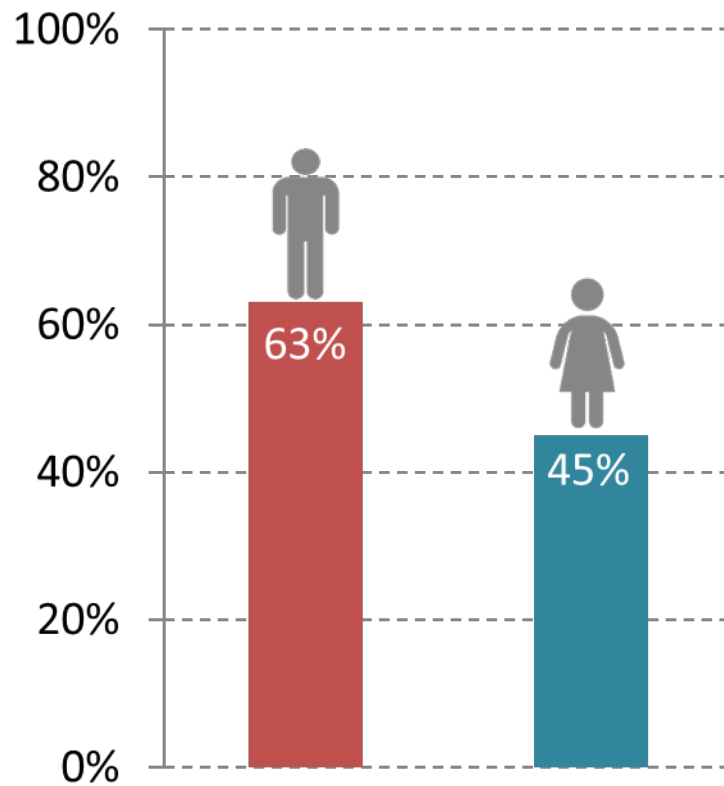
**The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?

Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages



Are there gender differences in reported condom use*?

YES



Students who identify as male are significantly more likely to report using a condom the last time they had sex compared to students who identify as female.

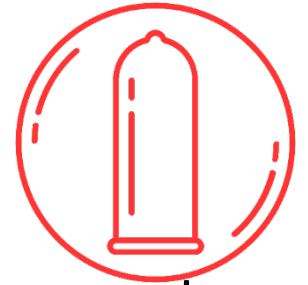
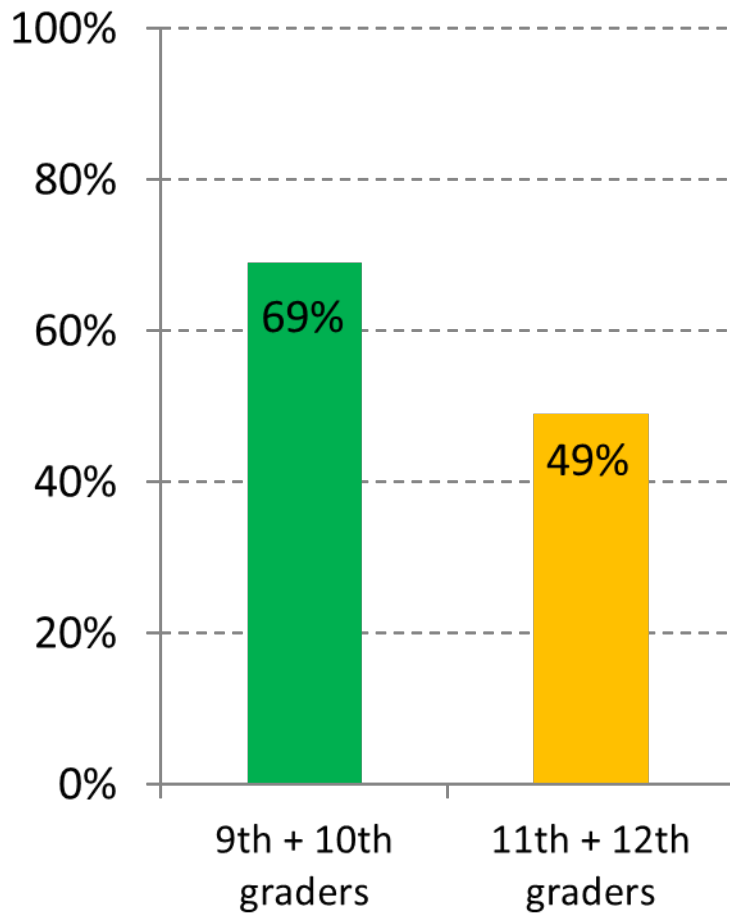
*During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?

**The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?



Are there differences in reported condom use* by grade in school?

YES



Despite having lower sexual activity rates, younger students (9th/10th grade) report higher rates of condom use than older students (11th/12th grade).

*During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?

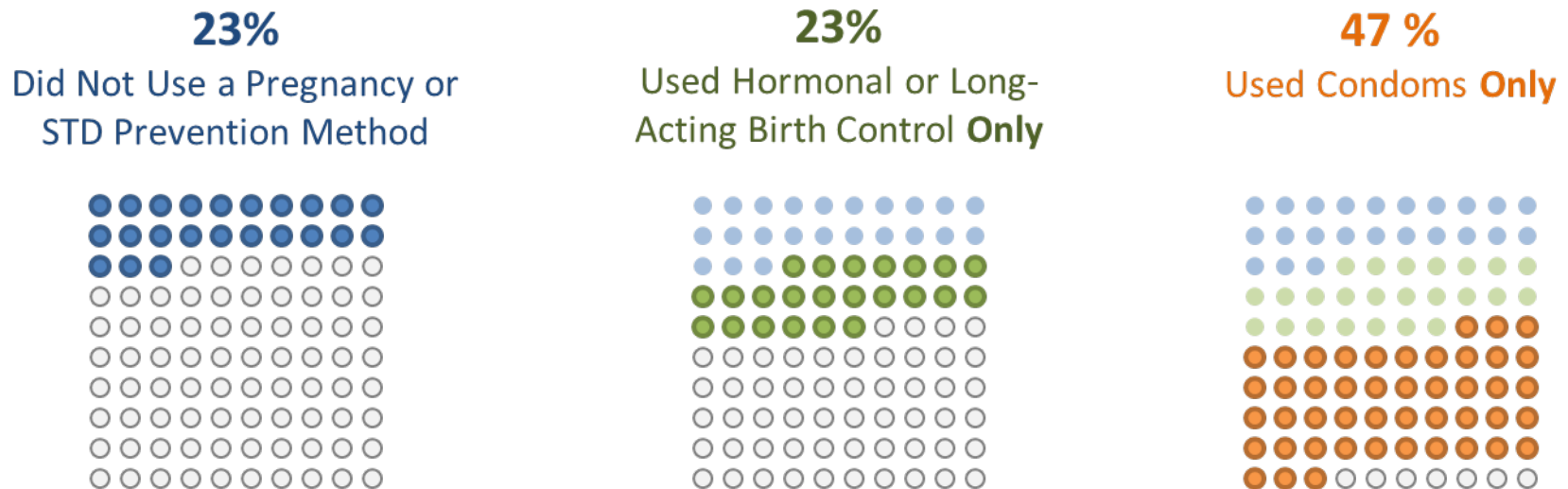
**The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?



What pregnancy and STD prevention methods do high school students report using?

Out of all students, 23% are currently sexually active.

The last time these students had sex...



*The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy? *and* The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?



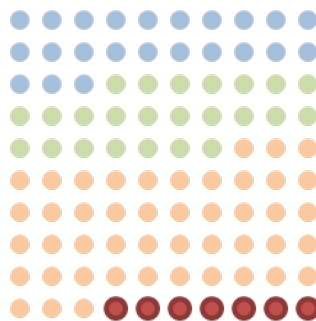
What pregnancy and STD prevention methods do high school students report using?

Out of all students, 23% are currently sexually active.

The last time these students had sex...

7%

Used **Both** a Condom *and* Hormonal or Long-Acting Birth Control to Protect Against Unintended Pregnancy and STDs



- No Method
- Hormonal or Long-Acting Birth Control Only
- Condoms Only
- Condom *and* Hormonal or Long-Acting Birth Control

*The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy? *and* The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?

How often are students engaging in behaviors that are known to increase the risk of STDs and unintended pregnancy?

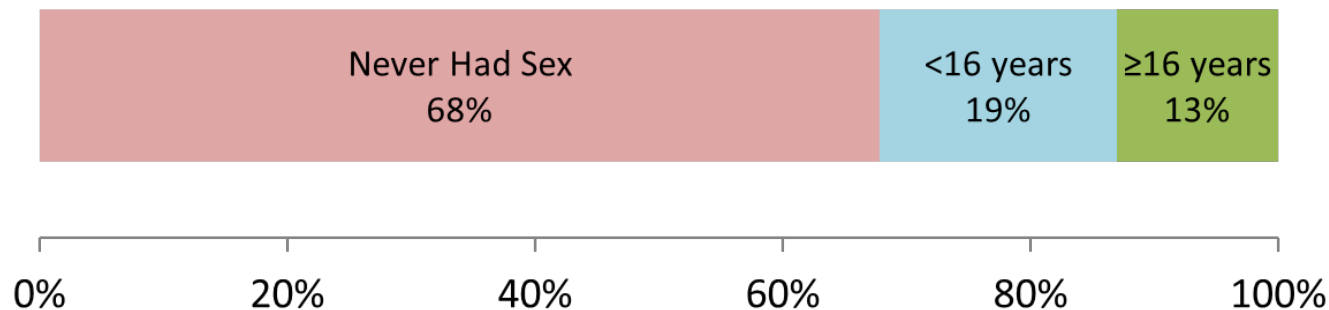
California YRBS 2017



Early sexual debut:

Among all students, fewer than 2 in 10 report having sex for the first time before age 16.

How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?

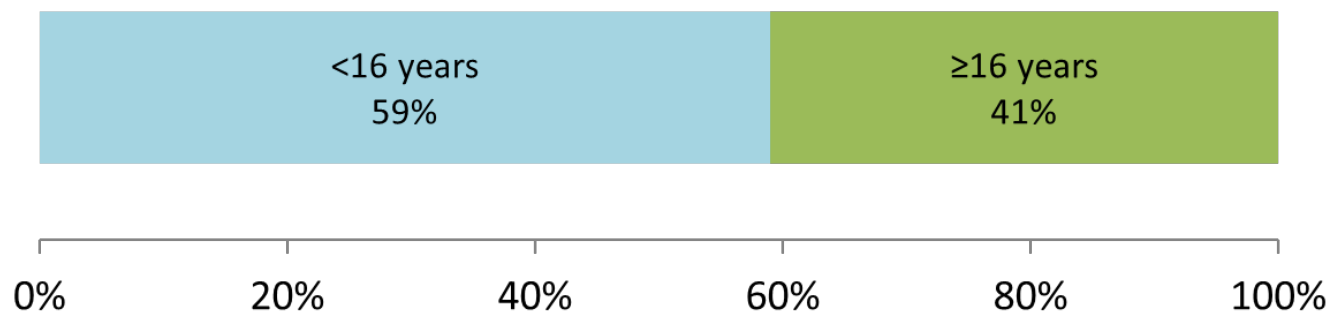




Early sexual debut:

Among sexually active students, almost 6 in 10 report having sex for the first time before age 16.

How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?

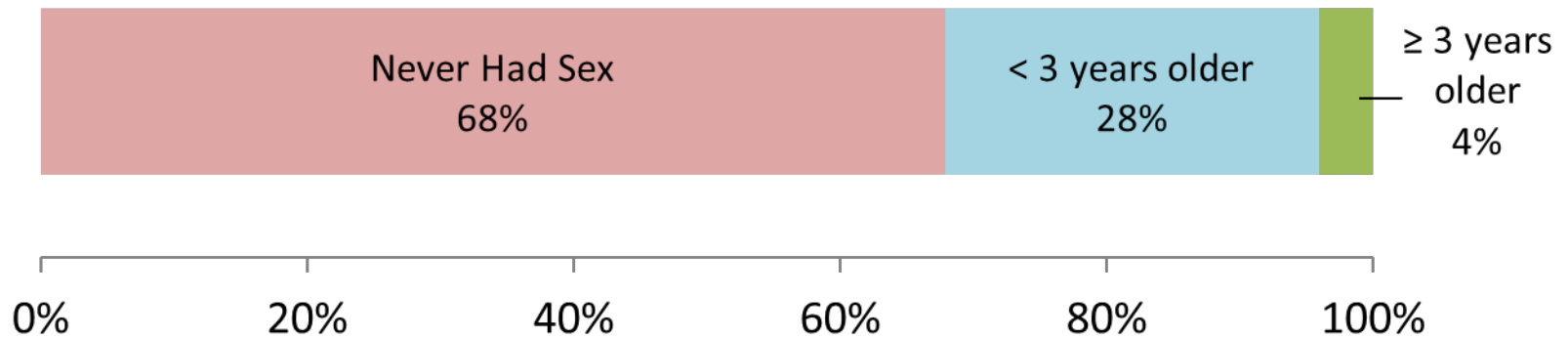




Older first sexual partner:

Among all students, fewer than 1 in 20 report that their first partner was 3+ years older.

The first time you had sexual intercourse,
how many years younger or older than you was your partner?*



*Not shown: 1% unsure of partners age

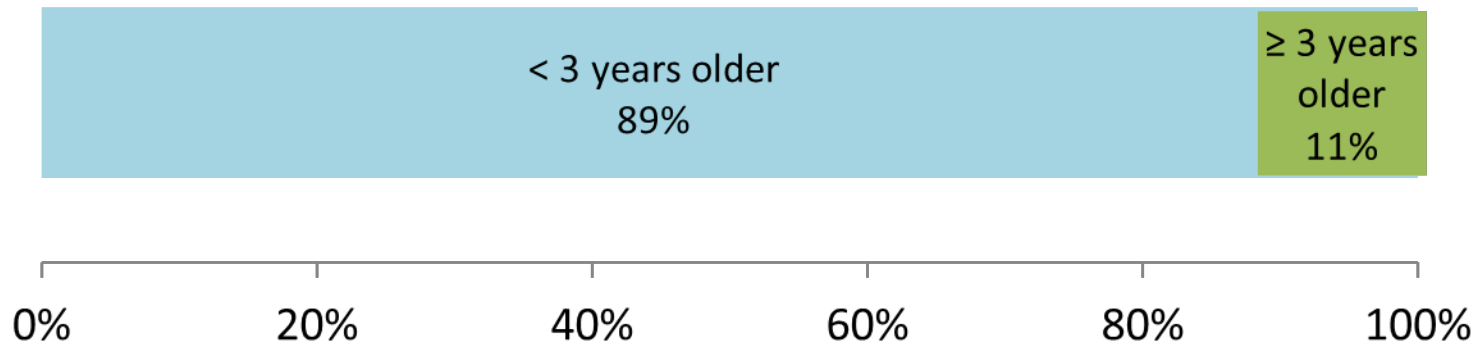
Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages



Older first sexual partner:

Among sexually active students, about 1 in 10 report that their first partner was 3+ years older.

The first time you had sexual intercourse,
how many years younger or older than you was your partner?*



*Not shown: 1% unsure of partners age

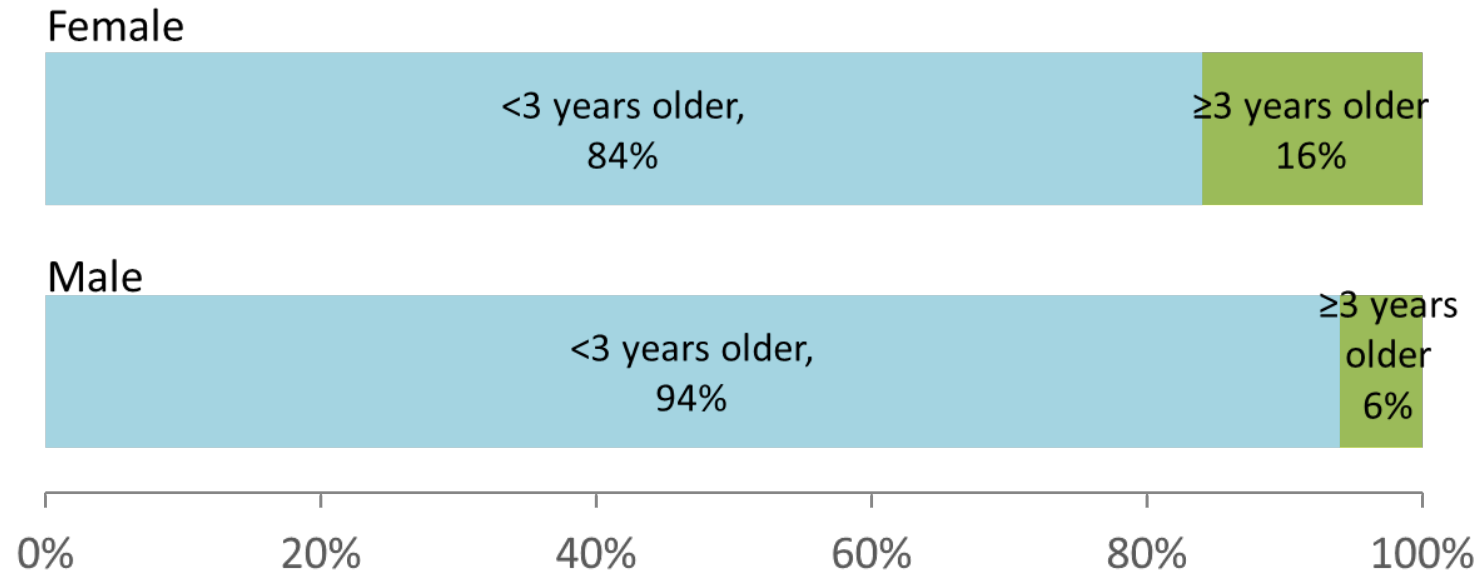
Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages



Older first sexual partner:

Among sexually active students, those who identify as female are significantly more likely to report that their first partner was 3+ years older.

The first time you had sexual intercourse,
how many years younger or older than you was your partner?*



*Not shown: 1% unsure of partners age

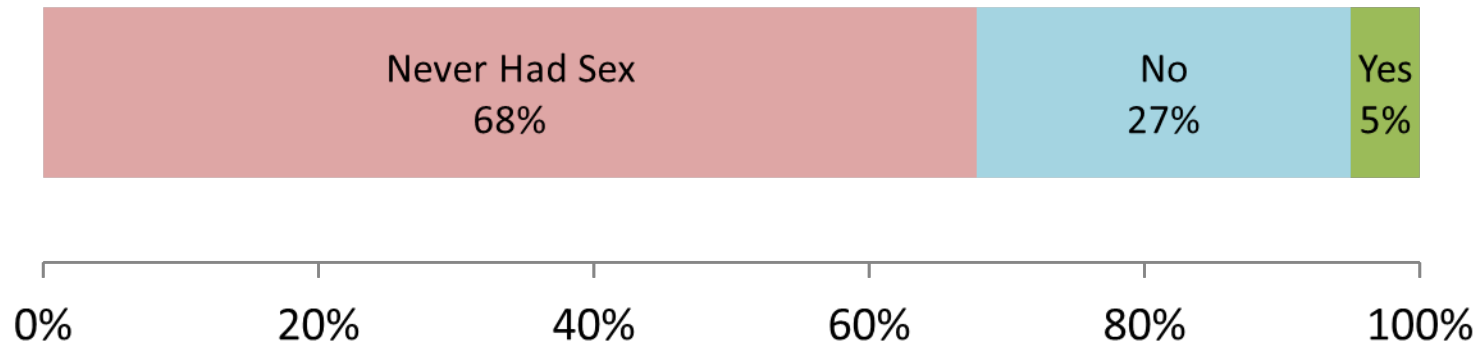
Source: 2017 California YRBS, weighted percentages



Alcohol or drug use before sex:

Among all students, 1 in 20 report using substances before the last time they had sex.

Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?

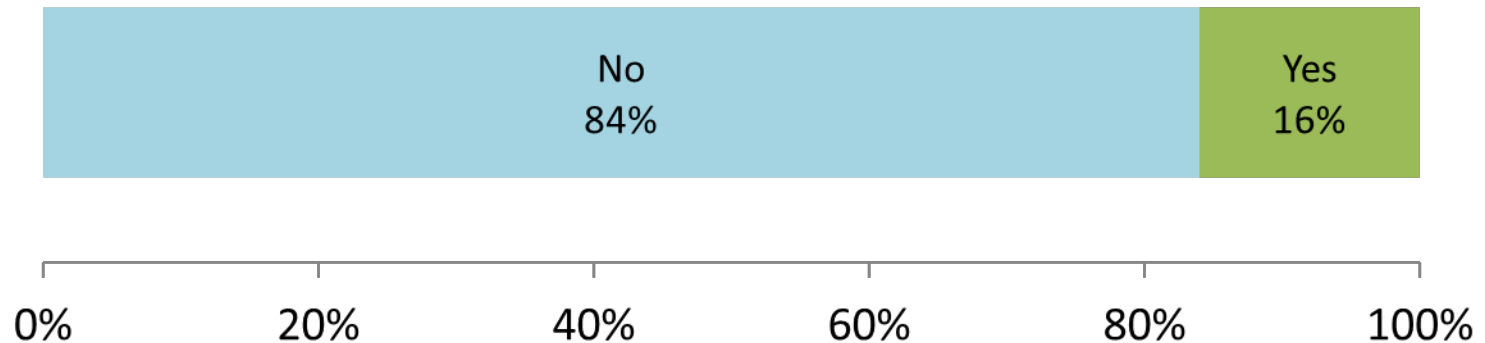




Alcohol or drug use before sex:

Among sexually active students, nearly 1 in 6 report using substances before the last time they had sex.

Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?

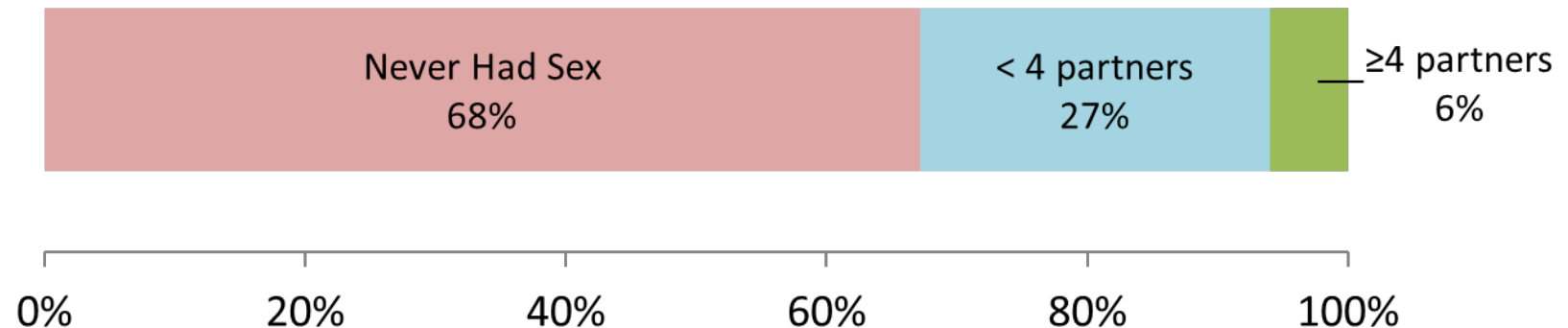




Multiple sex partners:

Among all students, about 1 in 20 report having sex with 4+ people during their lifetime.

During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?

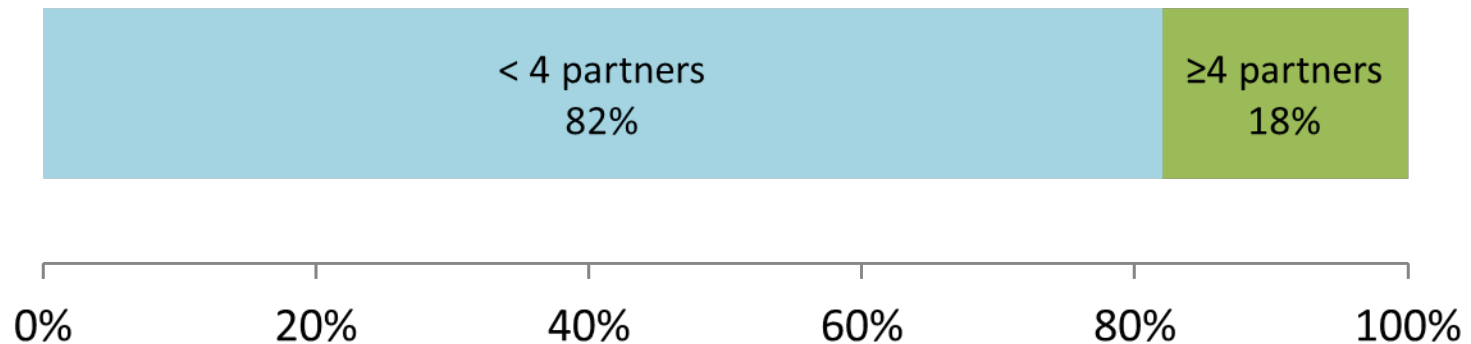




Multiple sex partners:

Among sexually active students, almost 2 in 10 report 4+ lifetime partners.

During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?



How often are students engaging in or experiencing sexual violence, dating violence, and bullying?

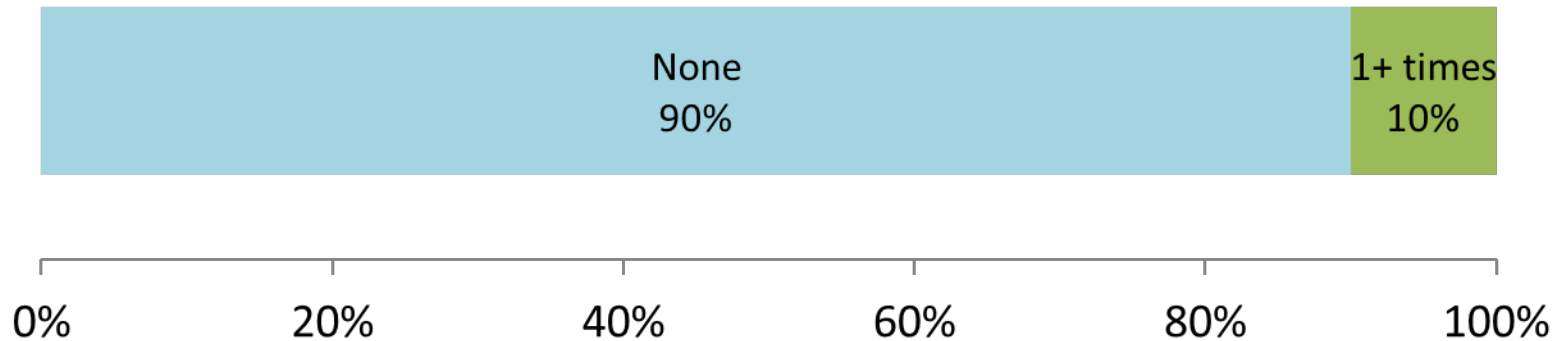
California YRBS 2017



Forced to do sexual things in the past year:

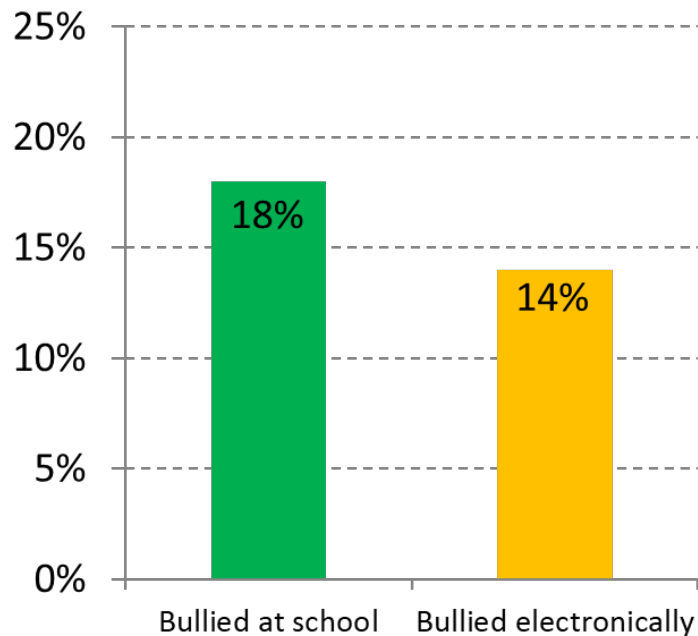
Among all students, 1 in 10 report that they have been forced to do sexual things when they did not want to.

During the past 12 months, how many times did anyone force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do?





Bullying in the past year:



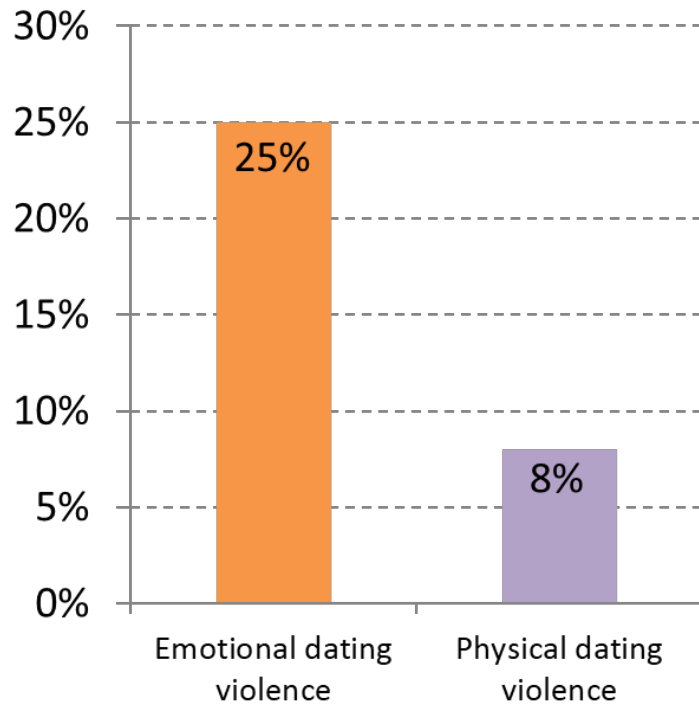
- 18% of students said they have been bullied on school property in the past 12 months*
- 14% of students said they had been electronically bullied in the past 12 months**

*During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied on school property?

**During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied? (Count being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media.)



Dating violence victimization in the past year:



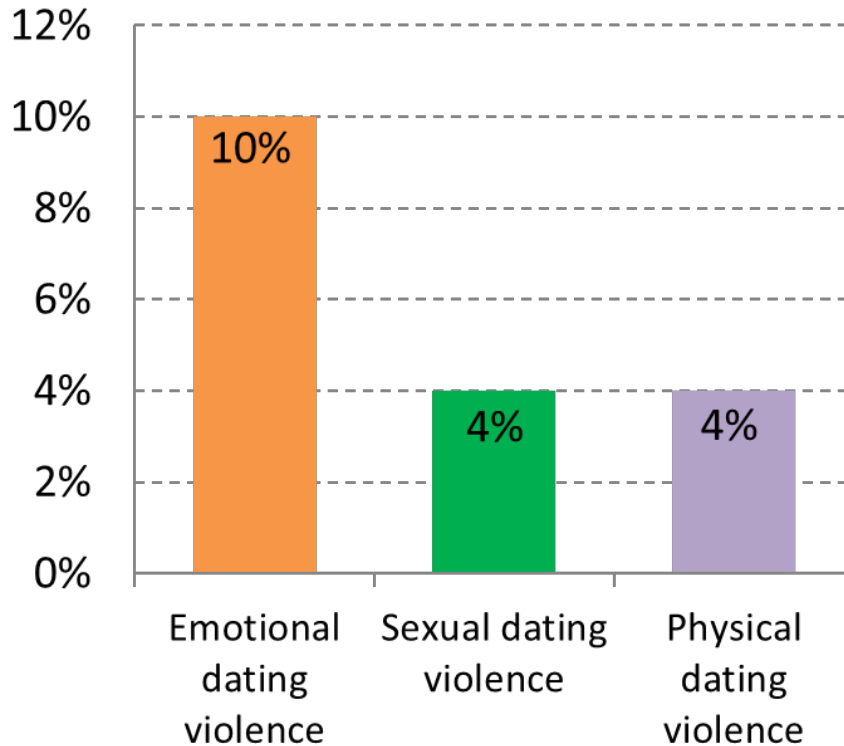
- 1 in 4 students report that someone they had been dating had tried to control or emotionally hurt them during the past 12 months*
- 1 in 12 students reported that someone they had been dating physically had hurt them during the past 12 months**

*During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with purposely try to control you or emotionally hurt you?

**During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with physically hurt you on purpose?



Dating violence perpetration in the past year:



- 1 in 10 students said they had tried to control or emotionally hurt someone they were dating in the past 12 months*
- 1 in 25 students said they had forced someone they were dating to do sexual things they did not want to do in the past 12 months**
- 1 in 25 students said they had physically hurt someone they were dating on purpose in the past 12 months^

*During the past 12 months, how many times did you purposely try to control or emotionally hurt someone you were dating or going out with?

**During the past 12 months, did you ever force someone you were dating or going out with to do sexual things that they did not want to do?

^During the past 12 months, how many times did you physically hurt on purpose someone you were dating or going out with?