Reported Sexual Health Behaviors from California High School Students

Data from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

California students are less likely to have ever had sex* compared to students nationwide

- 32% had sex (California)
- 41% had sex (United States)

23 out of 100 sexually active high school students had sex before age 16

*Sex is defined as "sexual intercourse" in the YRBS questionnaire.

43% of sexually active students didn't use a condom for STD prevention at last sex

Only 6% of sexually active students used both condoms for STD prevention AND another method to prevent pregnancy at last sex

21% of sexually active students used drugs or alcohol the last time they had sex

Marijuana icon via By Oren neu dag, via Wikimedia Commons
For Parents:
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, youth who talk with their parents about sex are more likely to delay sex.

Parents can learn tips on how to talk with their kids about sex at TalkWithYourKids.org.

For Schools:
A 2009 report by Advocates for Youth shows that youth who receive comprehensive sexual health education before sex are more likely to delay sexual activity, have fewer partners, and increase condom and birth control use.

The California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) requires youth in California to receive comprehensive sex ed once in middle school and once in high school. Learn more about CHYA and available curriculum at ashwg.org.

For Youth:
Youth can learn more about their options for birth control including birth control pills, the IUD or implant, shot, patch or birth control ring at teensource.org/birth-control.

Sexually active youth are only protected against both pregnancy and STDs if they use a condom with their other method of birth control. California youth ages 12-19 can access free condoms through the Condom Access Project at teensource.org/condoms/free.

Want to Learn More?
The YRBS is a survey of students in grades 9-12 that is collected nationally and in California. It measures behaviors that are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in youth, including sexual behavior.

You can learn more about California, national and other state-specific Youth Risk Behavior Survey data from Youth Online at: nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline

This infographic was developed by the California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch. For more info, visit std.ca.gov.