

# District of Columbia 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Sexual Risk Behavior

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** Early sexual activity is linked to a wide variety of negative life outcomes including unwanted pregnancy, increased rate of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS infections, increased single parenthood, and increased maternal and child poverty.



### The Facts

- Nationally, 82% of teen pregnancies are unplanned; they account for about one-fifth of all unintended pregnancies annually.
- In 2008, nearly 7% of all District teenagers were diagnosed with Chlamydia.
- Half of all cases of Chlamydia and gonorrhea in the District are among adolescents.
- 1 in 100 youth in the District is HIV positive.
- The pregnancy rate for women between the ages of 15-19 rose 4.8% from 2007 to 2008.
- Through Department of Health HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and Tuberculosis' (HAHSTA) school based STD screening program, a consistent infection rate range for Chlamydia and gonorrhea of 9% to 14% has been found.

Key Indicators for DC YRBS Percentage of DC students who	2007 High School	2009 High School*	2007 Middle School	2009 Middle School*
Had ever had sexual intercourse	56.5	57.9	29.2	22.8
Had sex with four or more partners in their lifetime	20.3	23.1	8.3	6.0
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	12.9	13.7	-	-
Had ever been taught in school about HIV/AIDS infection	85.3	85.2	72.2	69.1
Used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse	69.9	73.6	78.1	75.2
Had sexual intercourse with 1 or more people in the last three months (currently active)	40.6	39.5	-	-

\*2009 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived by unweighted data which will be biased because some subgroups of the survey population are under- or over-represented in the respondent group

### Effective Strategies and Best Practices in DC

- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) health education standards outline learning standards for reproductive health that are medically accurate, comprehensive, and age appropriate <http://osse.dc.gov>.
- OSSE, Wellness and Nutrition Services, Healthy Youth Development Program works with schools to develop reproductive health professional development, programs, and policies through funding from the Center for Disease Control's Division of Adolescent School Health. <http://osse.dc.gov>.
- Community based organizations have worked with DC public schools and DC public charter schools to implement Making Proud Choices, an evidence based HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention program.
- The Department of Health, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and Tuberculosis Administration (HAHSTA) created the "Wrap MC" program to expand condom availability in DC high schools through the use of an online certification program for teachers and school personnel interested in providing condoms to students. <http://wrapmc.com>.