

# YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

DATA SUMMARY & TRENDS REPORT

2007–2017

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Adolescent and School Health



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# INTRODUCTION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) routinely monitors youth health behaviors and experiences; collaborates with education agencies to implement primary prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and teen pregnancy; and conducts research to evaluate innovative prevention strategies. CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summary* on the 2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)<sup>1</sup> provides the most recent surveillance data on health behaviors and experiences among high school students across the country. It reports on risks that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and young adults. In this current report, DASH uses YRBS data to focus on four priority focus areas associated with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and unintended teen pregnancy: ***Sexual Behavior, High-Risk Substance Use, Violence Victimization, and Mental Health and Suicide***. To raise awareness and understanding, this report presents the 2017 data by sex, by race/ethnicity, and for sexual minority youth. We also look at the past decade and examine linear YRBS trends for each focus area.

CDC's YRBS has a long history of providing representative data on our nation's high school students. These assessments are crucial to CDC's mission of identifying health behaviors and experiences; understanding the determinants and co-occurrence of risks; and utilizing data to promote healthier and safer adolescence for our nation's youth through effective school and community programs, policies, and approaches. Although adolescents are in good health overall, clear risks remain. For example, while the proportion of high school students who are sexually active has steadily declined, half of the 20 million new STDs reported each year were among young people, between the ages of 15 and 24.<sup>2</sup> Further, young people aged 13-24 account for 21% all new HIV diagnoses in the United States, with most occurring among 20-24 year olds.<sup>3</sup> Although most high school students are increasingly making better decisions about their health, this report identifies subgroups who are at an increased risk for HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy.

We look forward to working with partners in public health and education to develop strategies to address the disparities highlighted in this report. Improving the health of adolescents and, subsequently, their health in adulthood will require our collective action at the family, school, and community levels. We hope that this report will serve as a helpful resource to monitor our progress going forward.



## Why CDC focuses on these priority health areas:

Health behaviors and experiences related to sexual behavior, high-risk substance use, violence victimization, and mental health and suicide contribute to substantial morbidity for adolescents, including risk for HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy. Studies show:

1. Increased numbers of sexual partners, lack of condom use, forced sex, and injection drug use can directly lead to infection.
2. Youth who are bullied or who experience mental health problems or suicide ideation are more likely to engage in risky behavior, including sexual risk and drug use.<sup>4,5</sup>
3. Adolescents' misuse of prescription drugs is associated with having sex without a condom, having four or more sexual partners, and experiencing dating violence.<sup>6,7</sup>
4. Substance use is related to sexual risk behavior and violence.<sup>8-12</sup>
5. Adolescents who are bullied are more likely to have multiple sexual partners, have sex without a condom, use substances, and experience depression.<sup>4,13-17</sup>

Addressed separately, these four focus areas are of concern to public health. However, data also indicate that risk behaviors co-occur and that a substantial minority of students have experienced multiple risks across these areas.<sup>18</sup> The four focus areas also share common protective factors, including school connectedness and family engagement. School social environments, including involvement in school activities and

feelings of connection to school, can decrease adolescent health risk.<sup>19</sup> School involvement and attachment have been related to less sexual risk,<sup>20</sup>

substance use,<sup>21,22</sup> violence,<sup>23,24</sup> and suicide<sup>25</sup> among youth across numerous studies. Family factors, like parental monitoring and relationship satisfaction, have similar impacts.<sup>19</sup>

Efforts to prevent HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy must consider the array of factors that convey risk and how they fit together. Consequences of these risks extend beyond health, as adolescent substance use, risky sexual behavior, and violence victimization impact academic achievement and thus future occupational and financial opportunities, which are intertwined with health in adulthood.<sup>19,20</sup> Patterns of disparities by sex, by race/ethnicity, and by sexual minority status indicate that we should look beyond a single focus on sexual behavior to understand the prevention needs of specific adolescent populations.<sup>1</sup>

## YRBS Summary Priority Variables

The following variables reflect questions and composite variables from the 2017 National YRBS Questionnaire. The full questions are listed in the appendix.

**Sexual behavior:** The six YRBS sexual behavior variables included in this report address well-established risk and protective factors for HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy. Adolescent sexual behaviors have been associated with greater risk of STDs, HIV, and pregnancy.

- The percentage of high school students who have ever had sexual intercourse.
- The percentage of high school students who have had sexual intercourse with four or more partners in their lifetime.
- The percentage of high school students who are currently sexually active.



- The percentage of high school students who used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse
- The percentage of high school students who used an effective hormonal birth control method the last time they had sexual intercourse
- The percentage of high school students who used both a condom and a hormonal birth control method the last time they had sexual intercourse.

**High-risk substance use:** For this report, high-risk substance use is defined as any use by adolescents of less prevalent substances with a high risk of adverse outcomes (e.g., mortality, morbidity, criminal justice involvement, school dropout), namely misuse of prescription pain killers and use of select illicit drugs (i.e., cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, inhalants, hallucinogens, or ecstasy), as well as injection drug use as a method of administration with a high risk of blood-borne diseases (e.g., HIV, hepatitis). The three YRBS substance use variables included in this report are related to substantial risk for HIV and STDs. Injection drug use places adolescents at direct risk for HIV, while drug use, regardless of mode of administration, places adolescents at risk of overdose. Drug use is also associated with sexual risk behavior, experience of violence, and mental health and suicide risks.<sup>6,28</sup>

- The percentage of high school students who ever used select illicit drugs (i.e., cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, inhalants, hallucinogens, or ecstasy).
- The percentage of high school students who ever injected any illegal drug.
- The percentage of high school students who ever took prescription opioids without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it.

**Violence Victimization:** The seven YRBS violence-related variables in this report are all

related to poor health outcomes.

Three of these, including being threatened or injured with a weapon at school, not going to school because of feeling unsafe at school or on the way to school, and being bullied at school, are indicators of disruption in the school setting that impact school connectedness, an important protective factor for substance use, sexual behavior, and mental health that can also impact academic success.<sup>26</sup> Research suggests adolescents who are bullied, whether at school or electronically, are more likely to have multiple sexual partners, to have sex without a condom, to use substances, and to experience depression.<sup>4,13-17</sup> Forced sex is directly related to HIV and STD risk,<sup>29</sup> but it is also related to the experience of trauma, leading to substance use, mental health problems, and suicide risk.<sup>30</sup> Physical and sexual dating violence may have similar impacts.

- The percentage of high school students who were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who did not go to school in the past month because they felt unsafe at school or on the way to school.
- The percentage of high school students who were electronically bullied in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who were bullied at school in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who were ever physically forced to have sex when they did not want to.
- The percentage of high school students who experienced sexual dating violence in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who experienced physical dating violence in the past year.





## NATIONAL YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### What is the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)?

CDC's school-based survey measuring adolescent health risk behaviors and experiences.

### What is the survey methodology?

YRBS is conducted biennially among a nationally representative sample of U.S. public and private high school students. Detailed YRBS methods are published elsewhere.<sup>a</sup>

### How were the analyses conducted?

A full description of YRBS analytic methods is published in the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summary*<sup>b</sup> on the 2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey results.

More information about the YRBS is available at [CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System website](#).

<sup>a</sup>Brener ND, Kann L, Kinchen S, et al. Methodology of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System—2013. *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2013;62(No. RR-1).

<sup>b</sup>Kann L, McManus T, Harris WA, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2017. *MMWR Surveill Summ*. 2018;67(No. SS-8).

**Mental health and suicide:** The YRBS includes only one measure (persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness) approaching mental health, and we have included it here as a proxy. Mental health is associated with a host of health risks, both during adolescence and into adulthood, including risk for HIV and other STDs.<sup>5</sup> Young people who feel hopeless about their future are more likely to engage in behaviors that put them at risk of HIV, STDs, and pregnancy.<sup>31,32</sup> Suicide risk, measured here by increasing levels of suicide ideation and action, not only places the life of the adolescent at risk but is also a marker for experience of trauma and mental health issues.<sup>33</sup>

- The percentage of high school students who felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who seriously considered suicide in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who made a suicide plan in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students who actually attempted suicide in the past year.
- The percentage of high school students whose suicide attempt in the past year resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.



# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR






Progress at-a-glance for sexual behavior variables . . . . .	9
Ever had sex . . . . .	10
Four or more lifetime sexual partners . . . . .	12
Currently sexually active . . . . .	14
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse . . . . .	16
Effective hormonal birth control use . . . . .	18
Condom and effective hormonal birth control use (dual method use) . . . . .	20



# PROGRESS AT-A-GLANCE FOR SEXUAL BEHAVIOR VARIABLES\*

Many young people engage in sexual behaviors that can result in unintended health outcomes, such as unintended pregnancy and STDs, including HIV. In 2016, young people aged 13-24 accounted for an estimated 21% of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States, with most occurring among 20-24 year olds.<sup>3</sup> Half of the nearly 20 million new STDs reported each year are among young people aged 15-24.<sup>34</sup> Other sexual behaviors, such as condom use and hormonal birth control use, can protect against STDs, including HIV, and unintended pregnancy. Although nearly 210,000 babies were born to teen girls aged 15-19 years in 2016, teen birth rates are currently at their lowest recorded levels.<sup>35</sup>

Sexual behaviors are measured in the YRBS with questions regarding sexual activity, numbers of sexual partners, use of condoms, and use of effective hormonal birth control. Not all variables were available for 10 years of trends.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	2007 Total	2009 Total	2011 Total	2013 Total	2015 Total	2017 Total	Trend
Ever had sex	47.8	46.0	47.4	46.8	41.2	39.5	
Had four or more lifetime sexual partners	14.9	13.8	15.3	15.0	11.5	9.7	
Were currently sexually active	35.0	34.2	33.7	34.0	30.1	28.7	
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse <sup>†</sup>	61.5	61.1	60.2	59.1	56.9	53.8	
Used effective hormonal birth control <sup>†</sup>	NA	NA	NA	25.3	26.8	29.4	
Used a condom and effective hormonal birth control <sup>†</sup>	NA	NA	NA	8.8	8.8	8.8	

<sup>†</sup>For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix.

<sup>†</sup>Among students who were currently sexually active

Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 2007-2017



In wrong direction



No change



In right direction

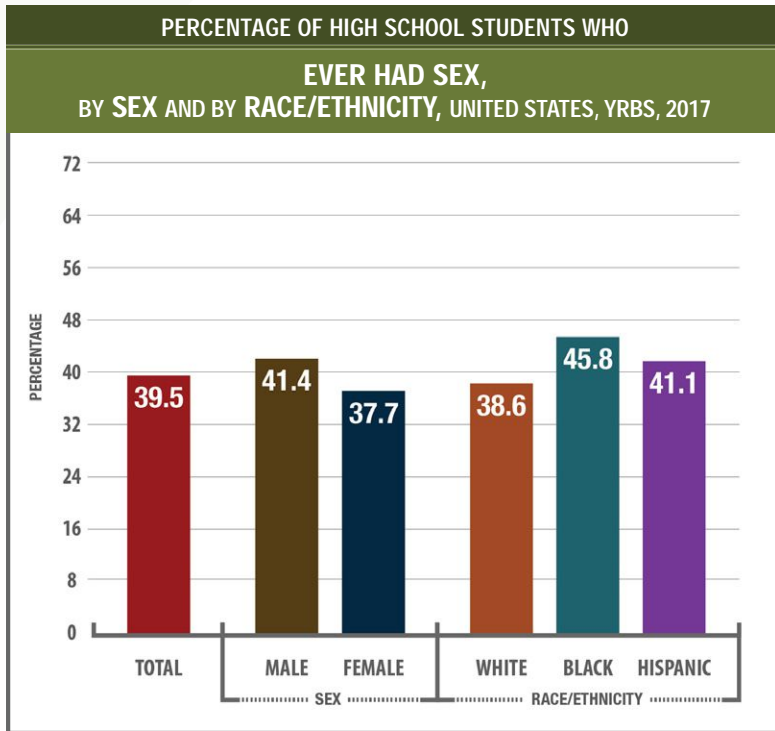
# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

### EVER HAD SEX

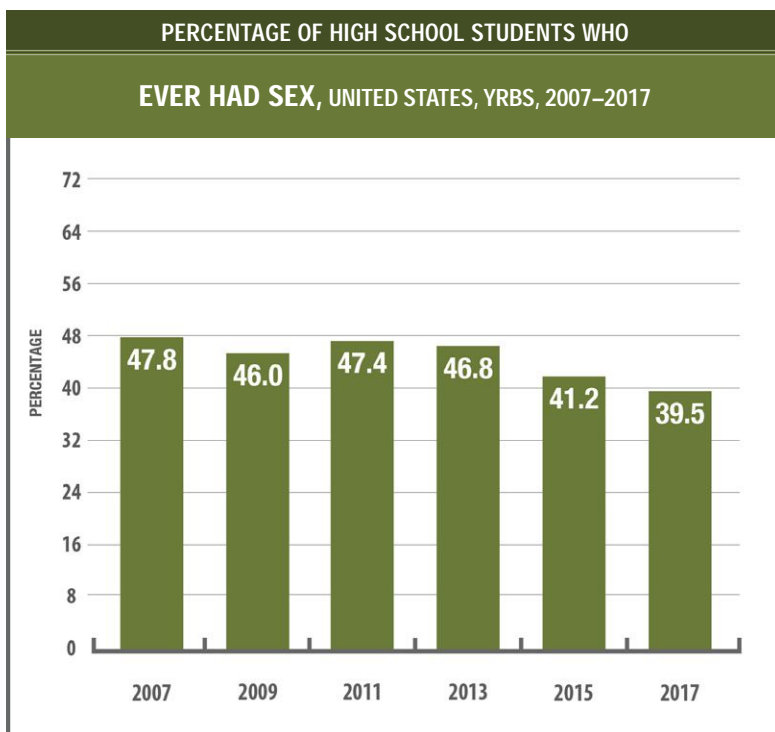
In 2017, 39.5% of high school students had ever had sexual intercourse. The percentage of students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 39.5% of students had ever had sex. A significantly higher percentage of male students (41.4%) had ever had sex than female students (37.7%). A significantly higher percentage of black students (45.8%) had ever had sex than white students (38.6%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who had ever had sex, or between the percentages of black students and Hispanic students who had ever had sex.



### 10-Year Trend Description

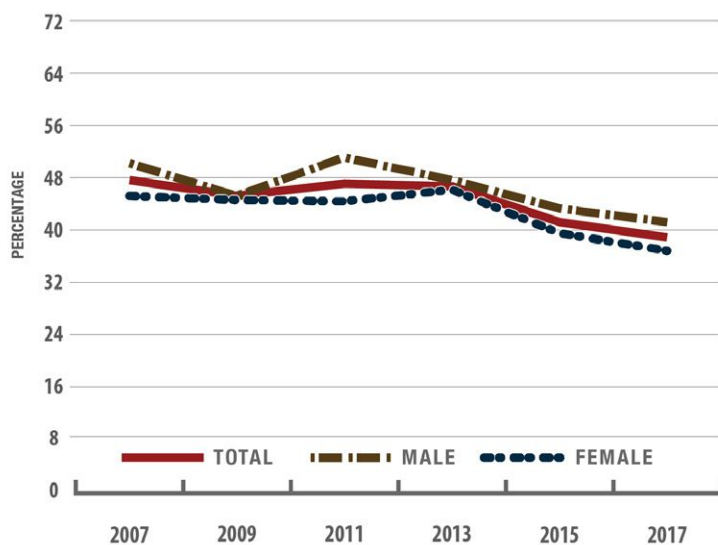


The percentage of students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (47.8%) through 2017 (39.5%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**EVER HAD SEX,**  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



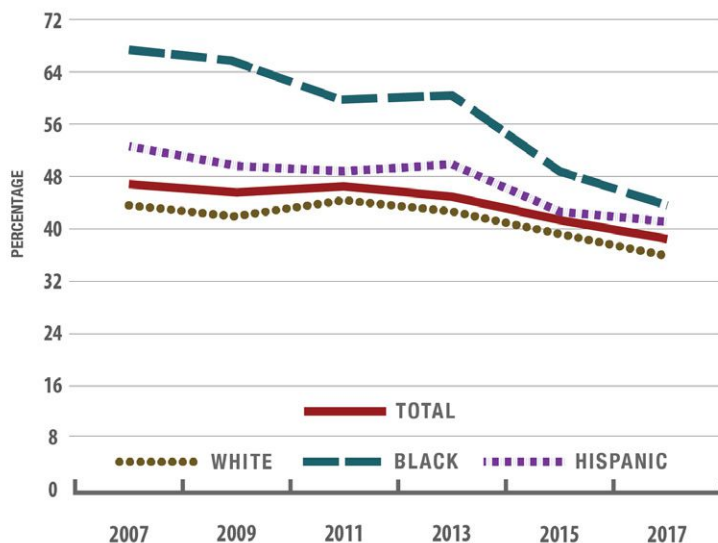
**10-Year Trend Description**  
by Sex



The percentage of male students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (49.8%) through 2017 (41.4%). The percentage of female students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (45.9%) through 2017 (37.7%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**EVER HAD SEX,**  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



**10-Year Trend Description**  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (43.7%) through 2017 (38.6%). The percentage of black students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (66.5%) through 2017 (45.8%). The percentage of Hispanic students who ever had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (52.0%) through 2017 (41.1%).

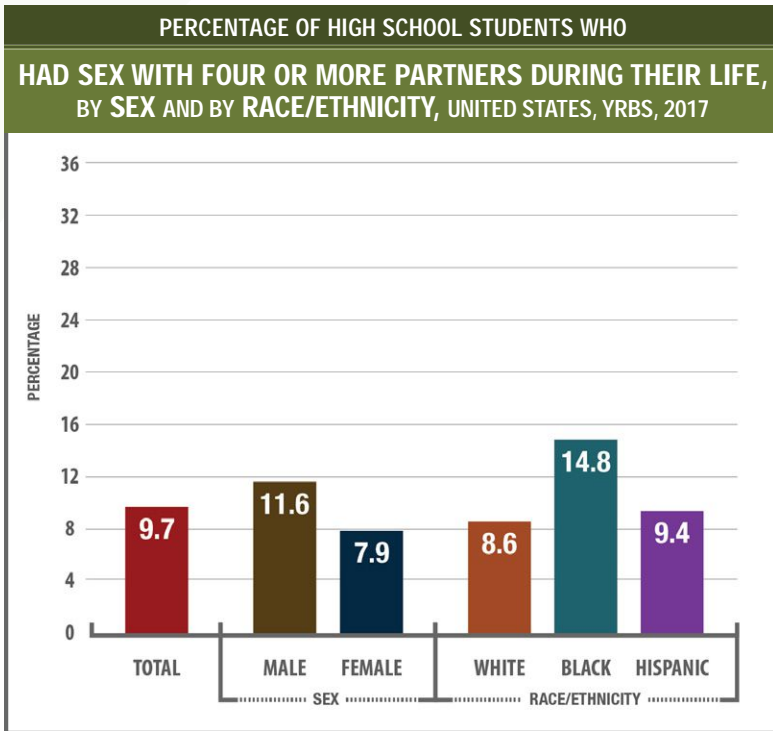
# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

### FOUR OR MORE LIFETIME SEXUAL PARTNERS

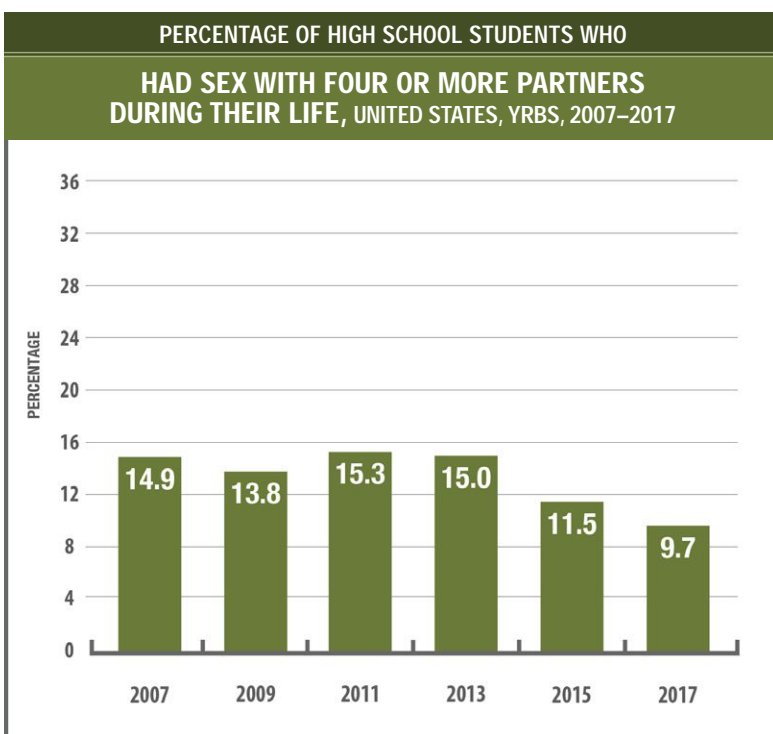
In 2017, 9.7% of high school students had had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life. The percentage of high school students who had four or more sexual partners decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 9.7% of students had had sex with four or more partners during their life. A significantly higher percentage of male students (11.6%) had had sex with four or more partners than female students (7.9%). A significantly higher percentage of black students (14.8%) had had sex with four or more partners than white students (8.6%) or Hispanic students (9.4%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who had had sex with four or more partners.



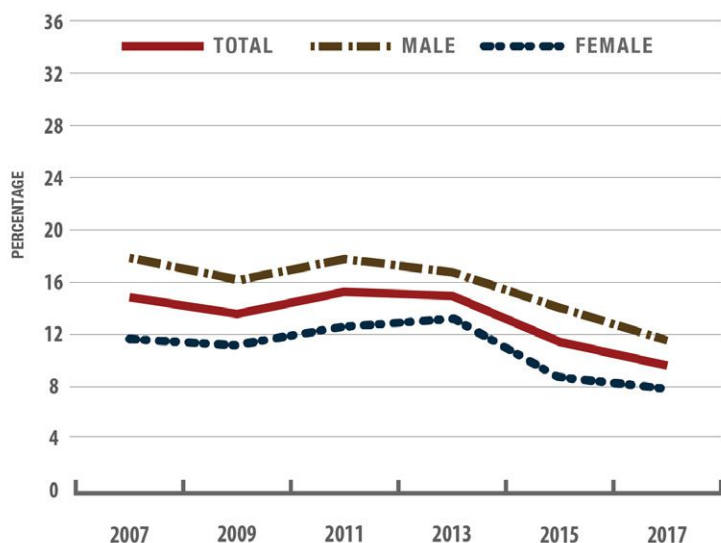
#### 10-Year Trend Description



The percentage of students who had had sex with four or more partners decreased significantly from 2007 (14.9%) through 2017 (9.7%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
HAD SEX WITH FOUR OR MORE PARTNERS DURING  
THEIR LIFE, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017

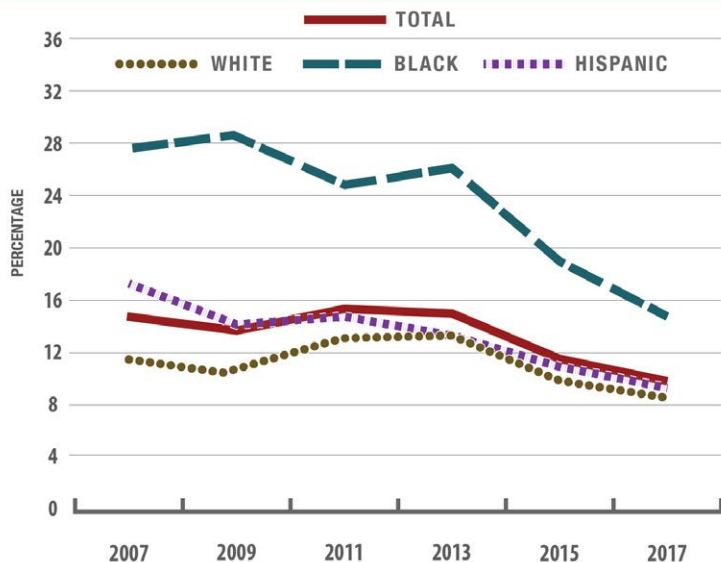


## 10-Year Trend Description by Sex



The percentage of male students who had had sex with four or more partners decreased significantly from 2007 (17.9%) through 2017 (11.6%). The percentage of female students who had had sex with four or more partners decreased significantly from 2007 (11.8%) through 2017 (7.9%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
HAD SEX WITH FOUR OR MORE PARTNERS DURING THEIR LIFE,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



## 10-Year Trend Description by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who had had four or more partners decreased significantly from 2007 (11.5%) through 2017 (8.6%). The percentage of black students who had had four or more partners decreased significantly from 2007 (27.6%) through 2017 (14.8%). The percentage of Hispanic students who had had four or more partners decreased significantly from 2007 (17.3%) through 2017 (9.4%).

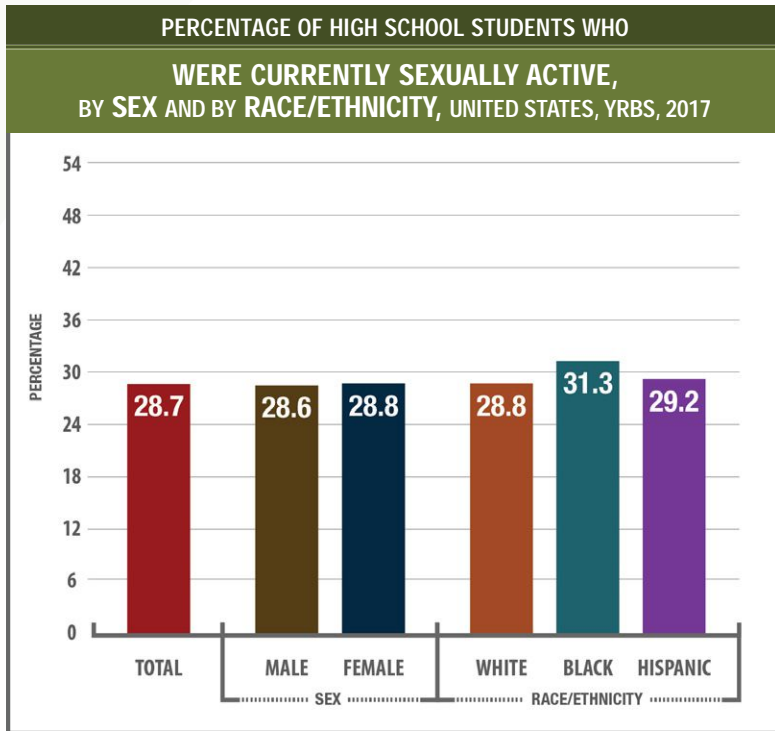
# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

# CURRENTLY SEXUALLY ACTIVE

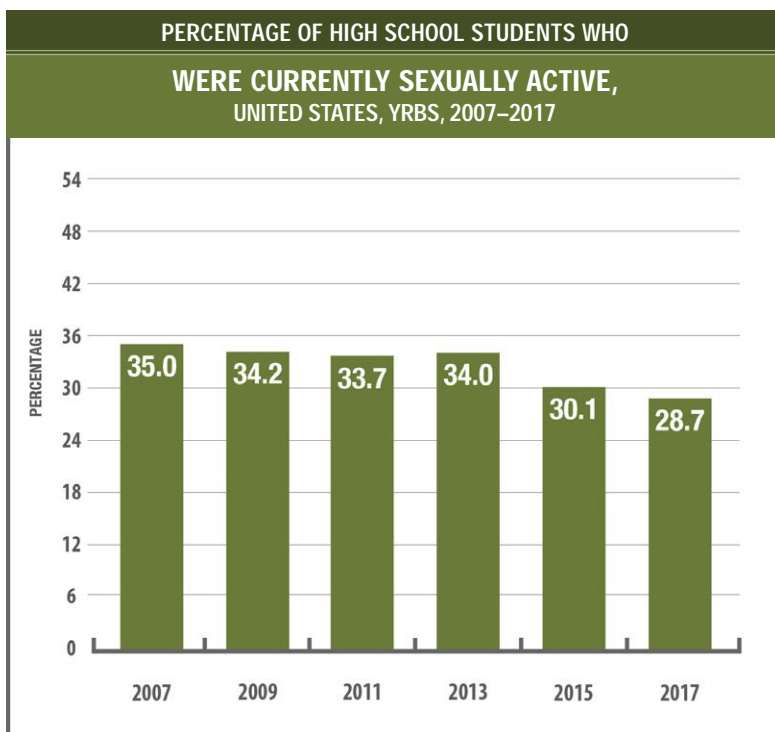
In 2017, 28.7% of high school students were currently sexually active (i.e., they had sexual intercourse with at least one person in the past 3 months). The percentage of students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 28.7% of students were currently sexually active. There was no significant difference between the percentages of male students and female students who were currently sexually active, and there were no significant differences between the percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who were currently sexually active.



### 10-Year Trend Description

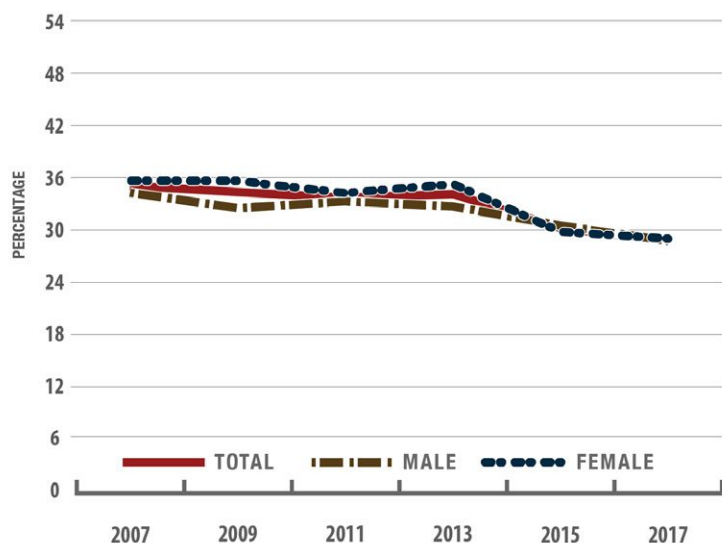


The percentage of students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 (35.0%) through 2017 (28.7%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE CURRENTLY SEXUALLY ACTIVE,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



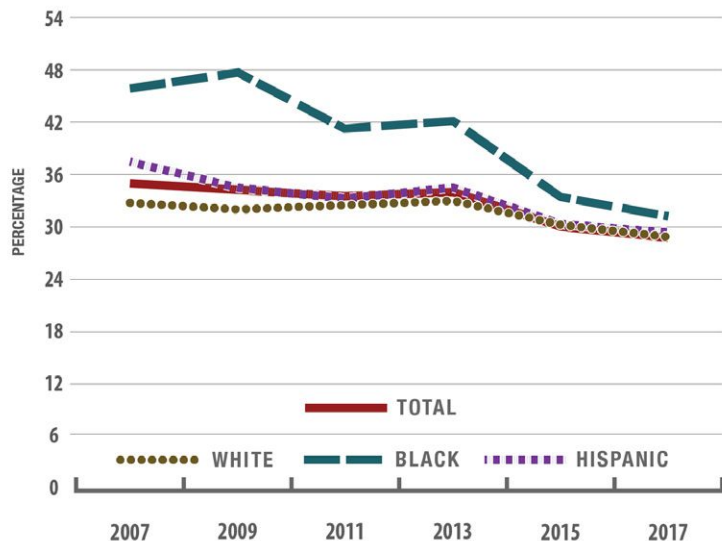
10-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentage of male students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 (34.3%) through 2017 (28.6%). The percentage of female students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 (35.6%) through 2017 (28.8%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE CURRENTLY SEXUALLY ACTIVE,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



10-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 (32.9%) through 2017 (28.8%). The percentage of black students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 (46.0%) through 2017 (31.3%). The percentage of Hispanic students who were currently sexually active decreased significantly from 2007 (37.4%) through 2017 (29.2%).

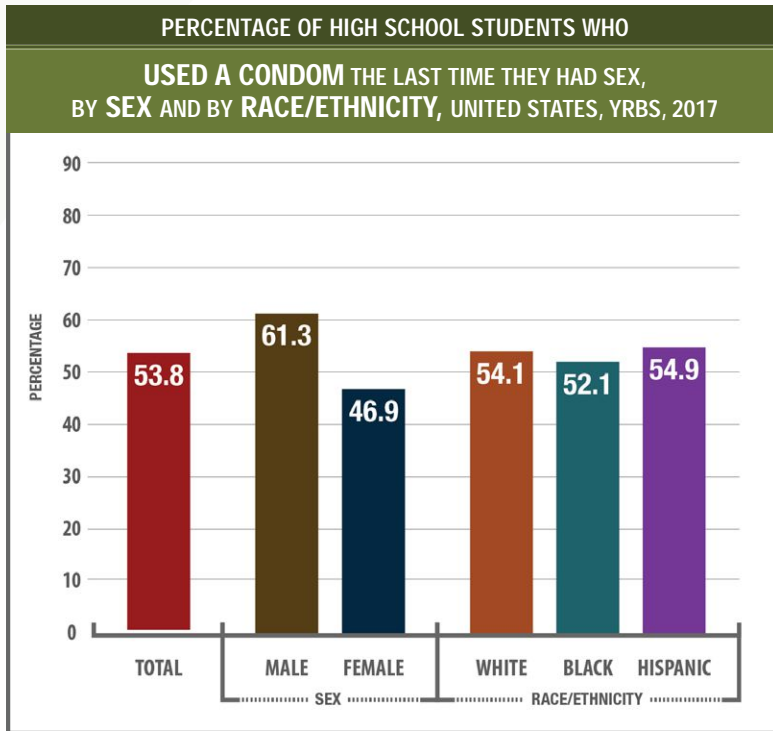
# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

### USED A CONDOM DURING LAST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

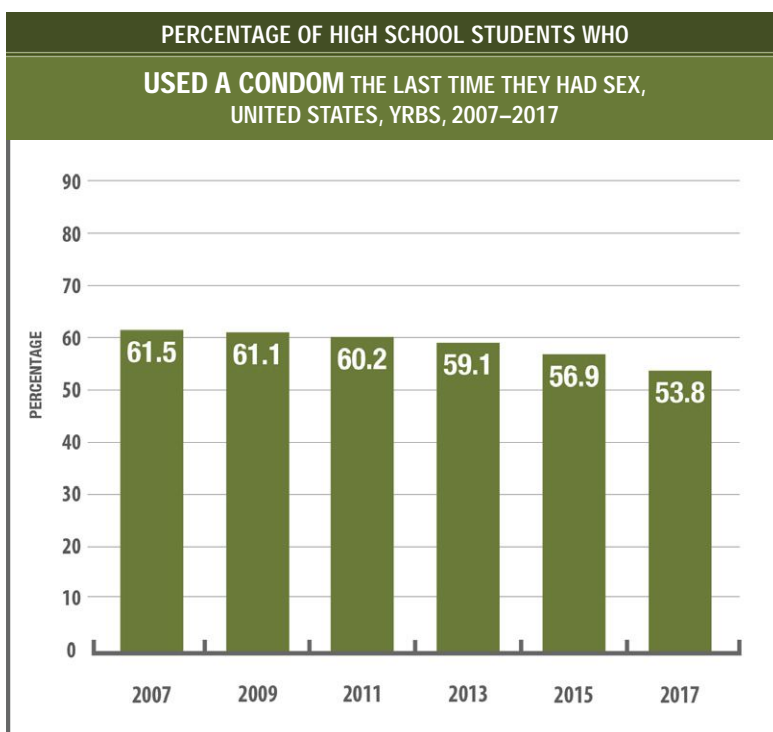
In 2017, 53.8% of high school students (among the 28.7% of students nationwide who were currently sexually active) used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. The percentage of students who used a condom decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 53.8% of students used a condom the last time they had sex. A significantly higher percentage of male students (61.3%) used a condom the last time they had sex than female students (46.9%). There were no significant differences between the percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who used a condom the last time they had sex.



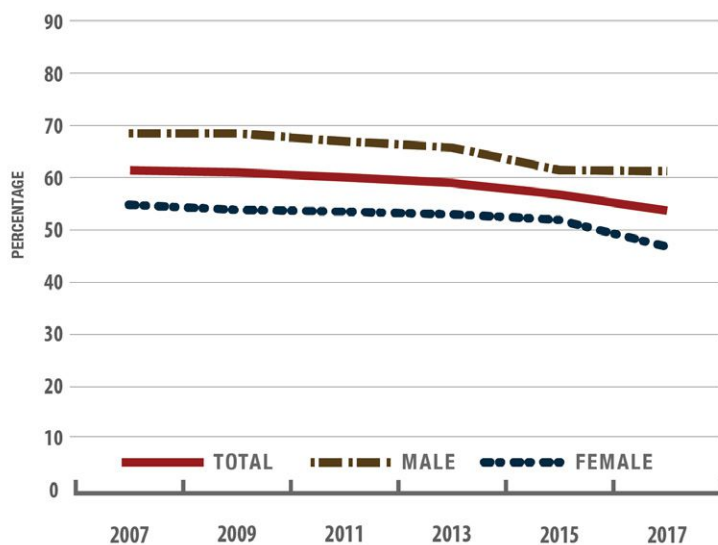
#### 10-Year Trend Description



The percentage of students who used a condom the last time they had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (61.5%) through 2017 (53.8%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
USED A CONDOM THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017

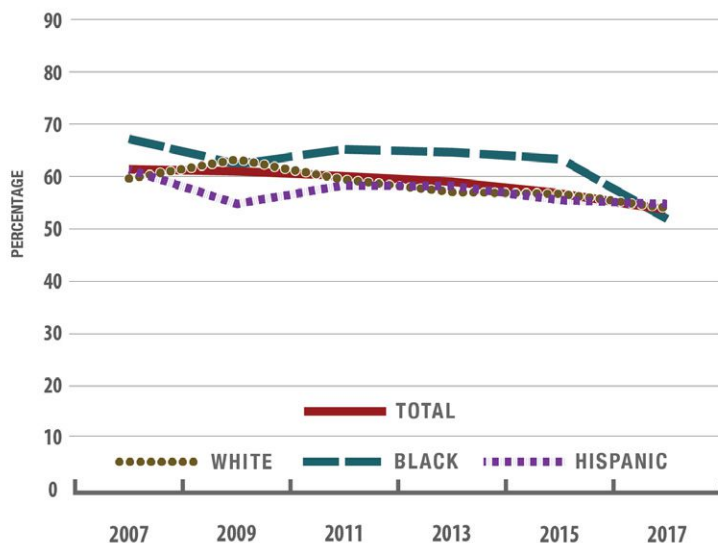


### 10-Year Trend Description by Sex



The percentage of male students who used a condom the last time they had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (68.5%) through 2017 (61.3%). The percentage of female students who used a condom the last time they had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (54.9%) through 2017 (46.9%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
USED A CONDOM THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



### 10-Year Trend Description by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who used a condom the last time they had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (59.7%) through 2017 (54.1%). The percentage of black students who used a condom the last time they had sex decreased significantly from 2007 (67.3%) through 2017 (52.1%). The percentage of Hispanic students who used a condom the last time they had sex did not change significantly.

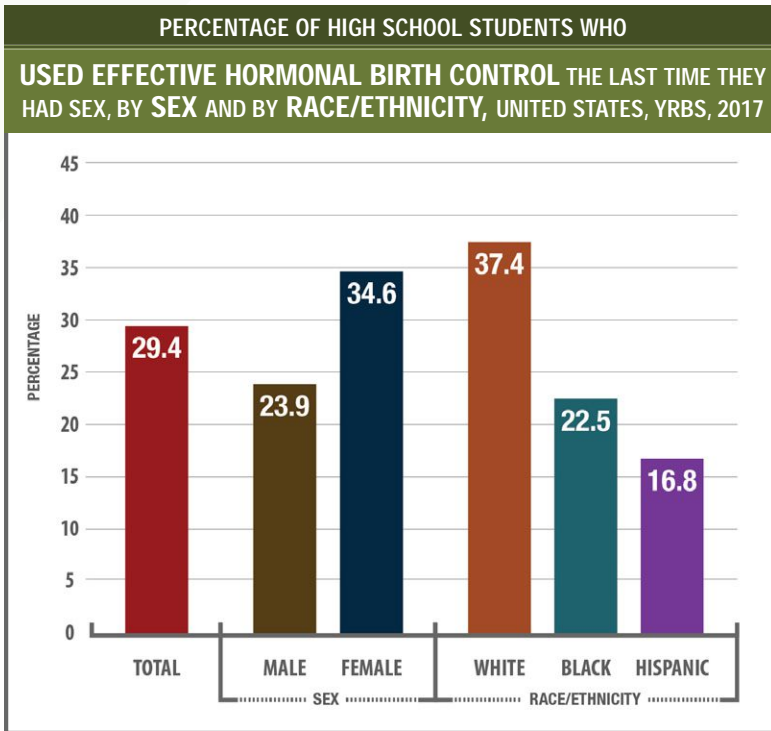
# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

# EFFECTIVE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL USE

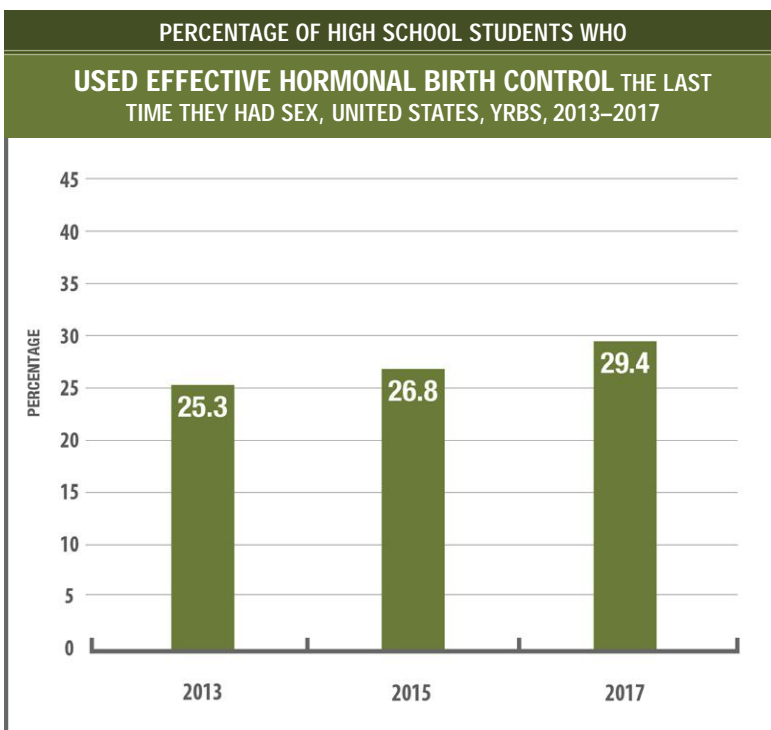
In 2017, 29.4% of high school students (among the 28.7% of students nationwide who were currently sexually active) used effective hormonal birth control, defined here as birth control pills, an IUD or implant, a shot, a patch, or a birth control ring, the last time they had sex. The percentage of students who used effective hormonal birth control increased significantly from 2013 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 29.4% of students used effective hormonal birth control the last time they had sex. A significantly higher percentage of female students (34.6%) used effective hormonal birth control than male students reported their partner using (23.9%). Significantly higher percentages of white students (37.4%) and black students (22.5%) used effective hormonal birth control than Hispanic students (16.8%). A significantly higher percentage of white students used effective hormonal birth control than black students.



### 4-Year Trend Description

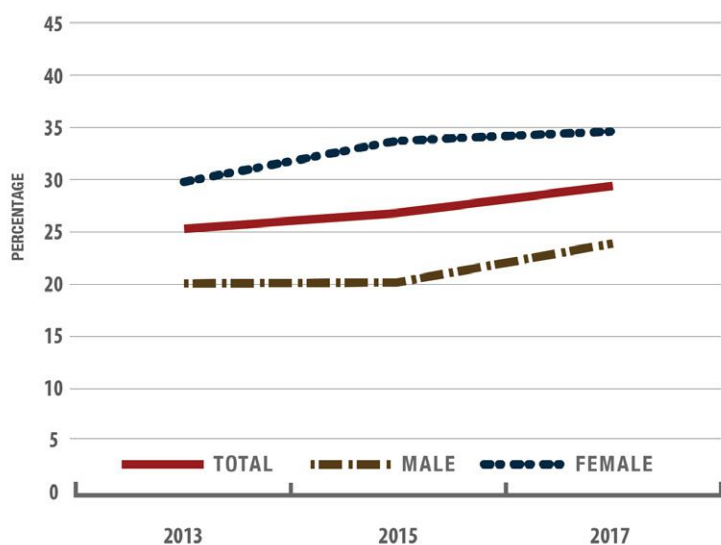


The percentage of students who used effective hormonal birth control increased significantly from 2013 (25.3%) through 2017 (29.4%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

USED EFFECTIVE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017



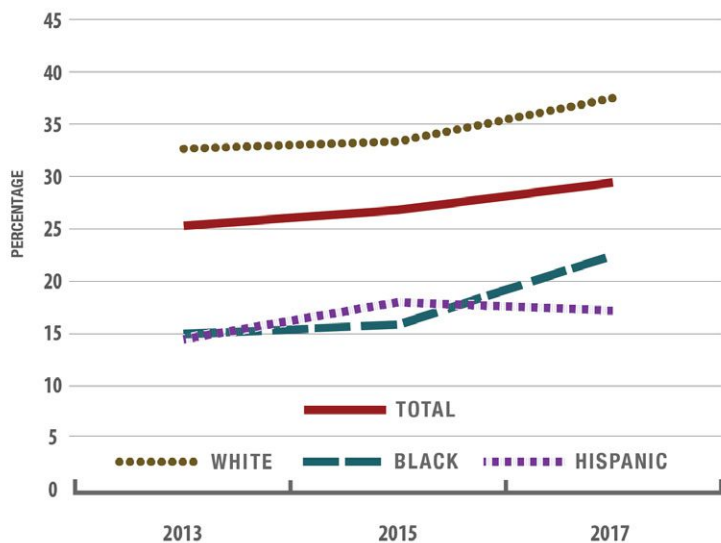
4-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentage of female students who used effective hormonal birth control increased significantly from 2013 (29.8%) through 2017 (34.6%). The percentage of male students who reported their partner using effective hormonal birth control did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

USED EFFECTIVE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017



4-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who used effective hormonal birth control increased significantly from 2013 (32.6%) through 2017 (37.4%). The percentage of black students who used effective hormonal birth control increased significantly from 2013 (15.0%) through 2017 (22.5%). The percentage of Hispanic students who used effective hormonal birth control did not change significantly.

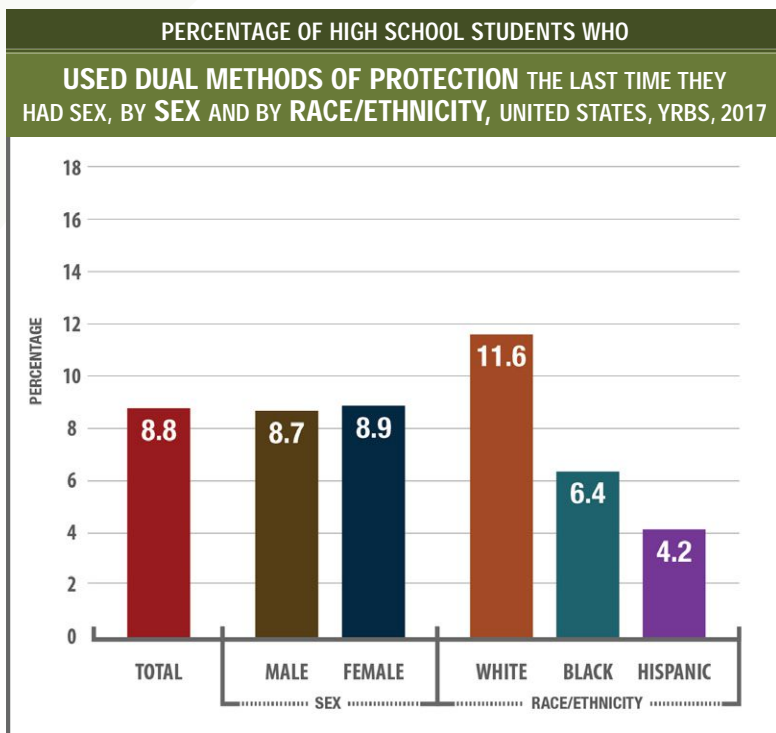
# FOCUS AREA

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

| V A R I A B L E |

### CONDOM AND EFFECTIVE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL USE (DUAL METHOD USE)

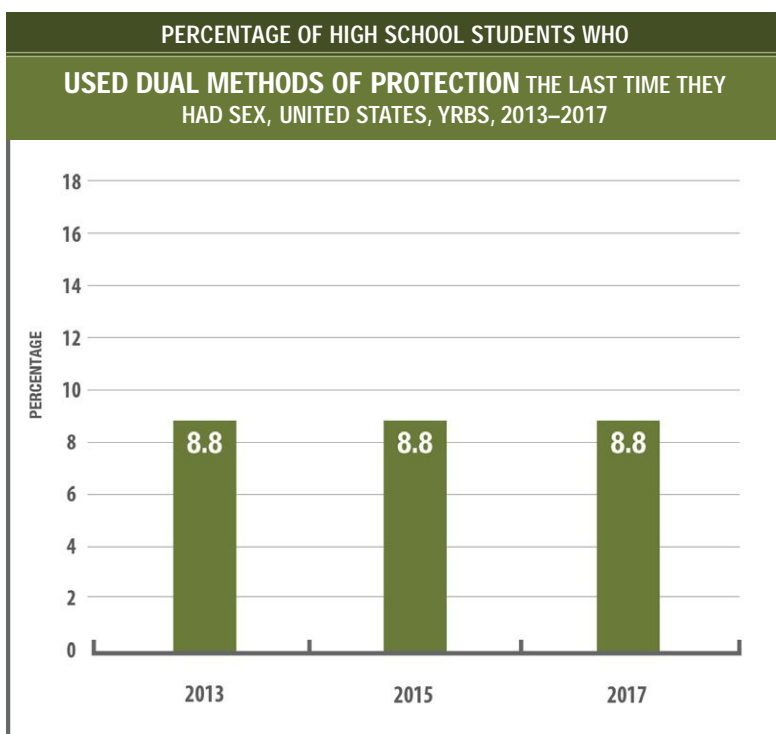
In 2017, 8.8% of high school students (among the 28.7% of students nationwide who were currently sexually active) used dual methods of protection, including both a condom and effective hormonal birth control (defined here as birth control pills, an IUD or implant, a shot, a patch, or a birth control ring) the last time they had sex. The percentage of high school students who used dual methods of protection did not change significantly from 2013 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 8.8% of students used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex. There was no significant difference between the percentages of male students and female students who used dual methods of protection. A significantly higher percentage of white students (11.6%) used dual methods of protection than black students (6.4%) or Hispanic students (4.2%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of black students and Hispanic students who used dual methods of protection.



#### 4-Year Trend Description

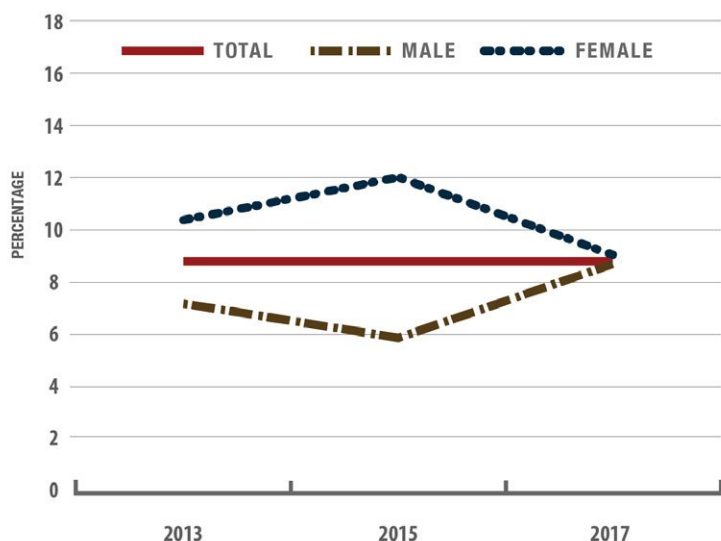


The percentage of students who used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex did not change significantly from 2013 through 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

USED DUAL METHODS OF PROTECTION THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017



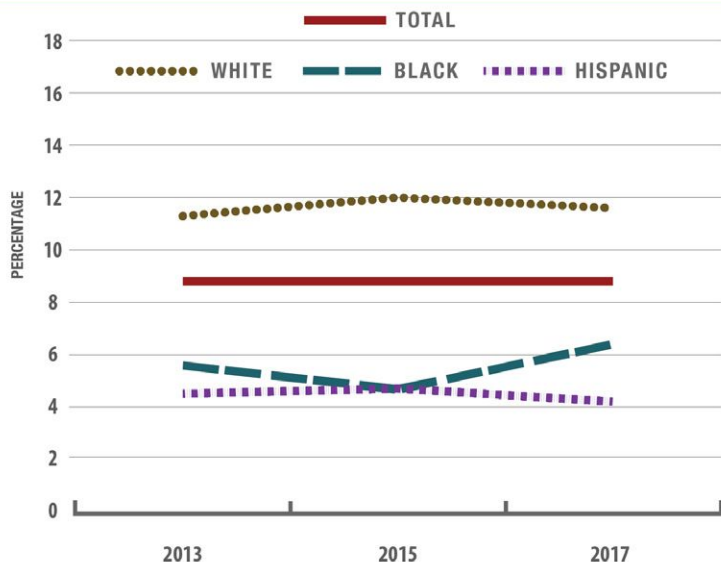
4-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentages of male students and female students who used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex did not change significantly from 2013 through 2017.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

USED DUAL METHODS OF PROTECTION THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017



4-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex did not change significantly from 2013 through 2017.

# FOCUS AREA

## HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

Progress at-a-glance for high-risk substance use variables . . .	23
Select illicit drug use . . . . .	24
Injection drug use . . . . .	26
Prescription opioid misuse . . . . .	28



# PROGRESS AT-A-GLANCE FOR HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE VARIABLES\*

Substance use during adolescence is related to a wide variety of negative outcomes, such as STDs, including HIV.<sup>6,28</sup> This report focuses on three aspects of substance use: the percentage of high school students who ever used select illicit drugs, defined here as cocaine, inhalants, heroin, methamphetamines, hallucinogens, or ecstasy; the percentage of high school students who ever injected illegal drugs; and the percentage of high school students who ever misused prescription opioids, defined here as ever having used prescription pain medication, such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, or Percocet, without a prescription or differently than indicated by a doctor. Injection drug use places adolescents at direct risk for HIV, while drug use, regardless of mode of administration, places adolescents at risk of overdose. Drug use is also associated with sexual risk behavior, experience of violence, and mental health and suicide risks.<sup>6,28</sup>

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	2007 Total	2009 Total	2011 Total	2013 Total	2015 Total	2017 Total	Trend
Ever used select illicit drugs	22.6	20.0	22.5	17.3	15.4	14.0	
Ever injected illegal drugs	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.5	
Ever misused prescription opioids <sup>+</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.0	NA

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix.

<sup>+</sup>Introduced in 2017

Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 2007-2017



In wrong direction



No change



In right direction



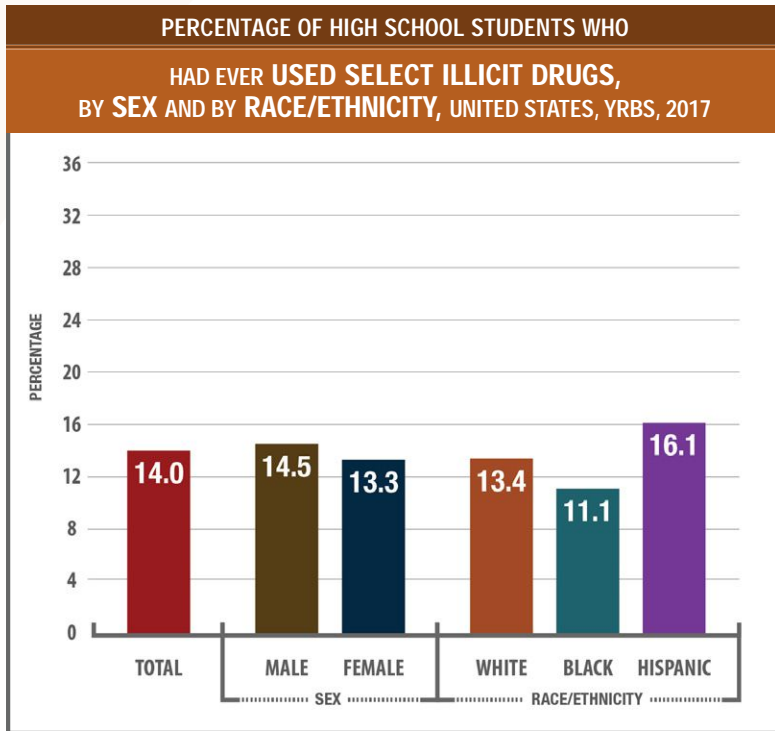
# FOCUS AREA

## HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

VARIABLE

# SELECT ILLICIT DRUG USE

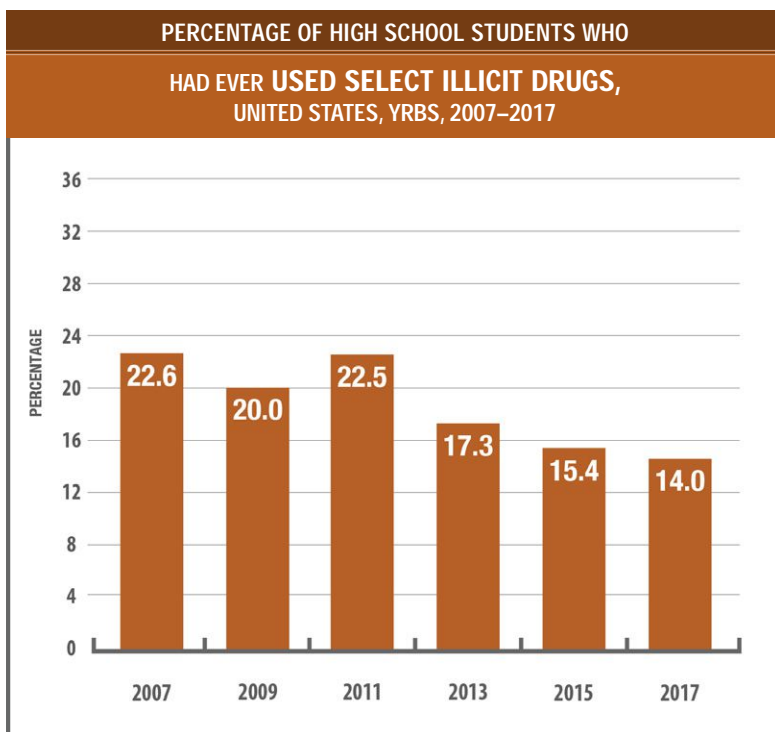
In 2017, 14.0% of high school students had ever used select illicit drugs, defined as cocaine, inhalants, heroin, methamphetamines, hallucinogens, or ecstasy. The percentage of students who had ever used select illicit drugs decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 14.0% of students had ever used select illicit drugs. There was no significant difference between the percentages of male students and female students who had ever used select illicit drugs. A significantly higher percentage of Hispanic students (16.1%) had ever used select illicit drugs than black students (11.1%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of Hispanic students and white students who had ever used select illicit drugs, or between the percentages of white students and black students who had ever used select illicit drugs.



### 10-Year Trend Description

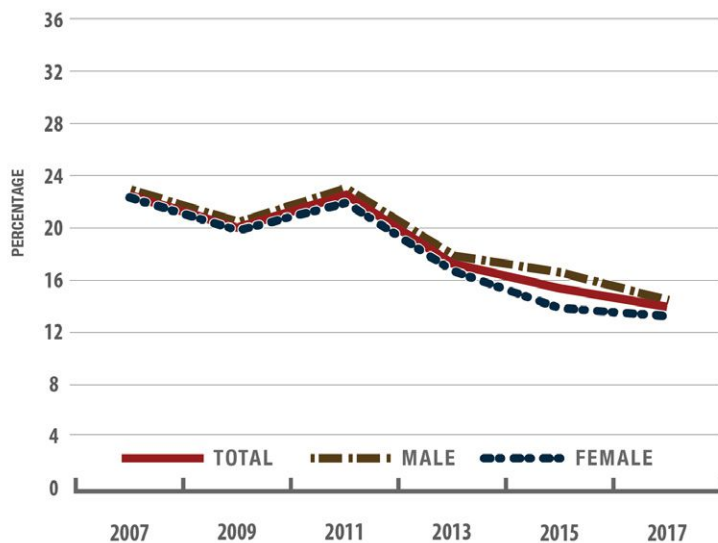


The percentage of students who had ever used select illicit drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (22.6%) through 2017 (14.0%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

HAD EVER USED SELECT ILLICIT DRUGS,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



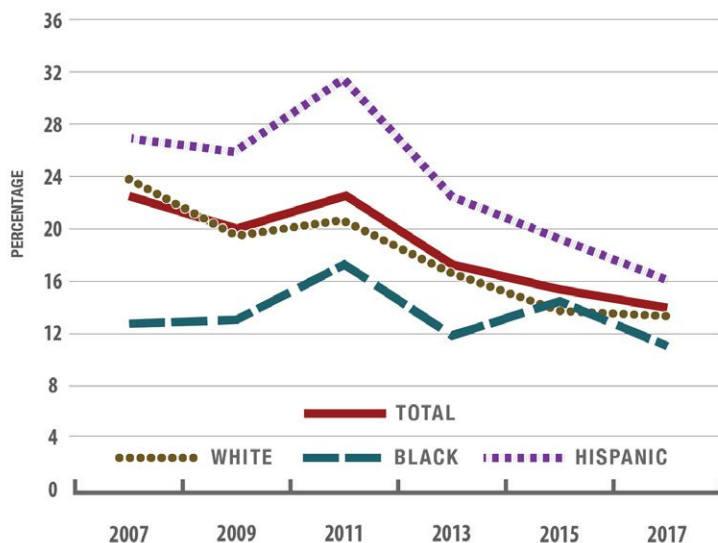
10-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentage of male students who had ever used select illicit drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (22.9%) through 2017 (14.5%). The percentage of female students who had ever used select illicit drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (22.3%) through 2017 (13.3%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

HAD EVER USED SELECT ILLICIT DRUGS,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



10-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who had ever used select illicit drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (23.8%) through 2017 (13.4%). The percentage of Hispanic students who had ever used select illicit drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (26.8%) through 2017 (16.1%). The percentage of black students who had ever used select illicit drugs did not change significantly.

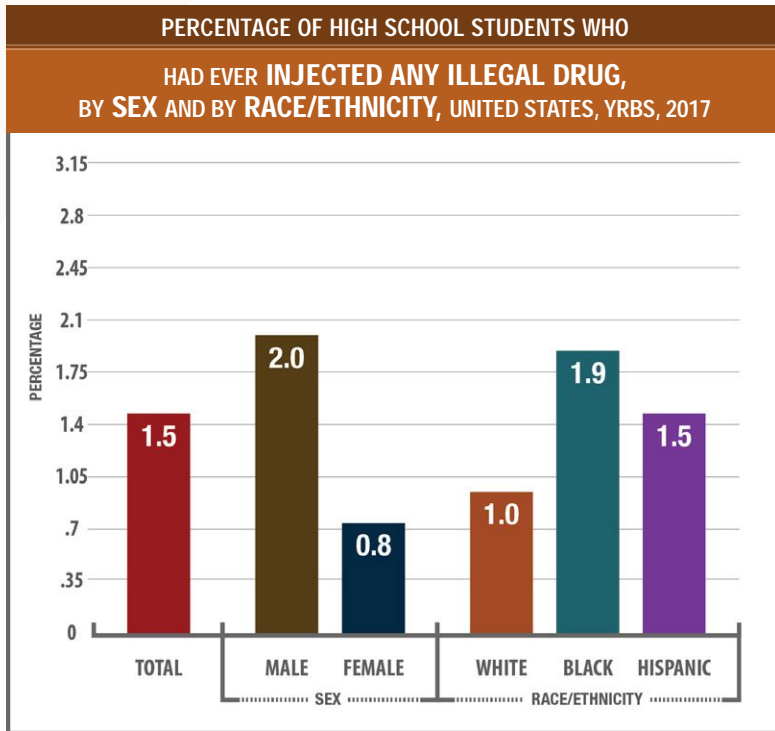
# FOCUS AREA

## HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

VARIABLE

# INJECTION DRUG USE

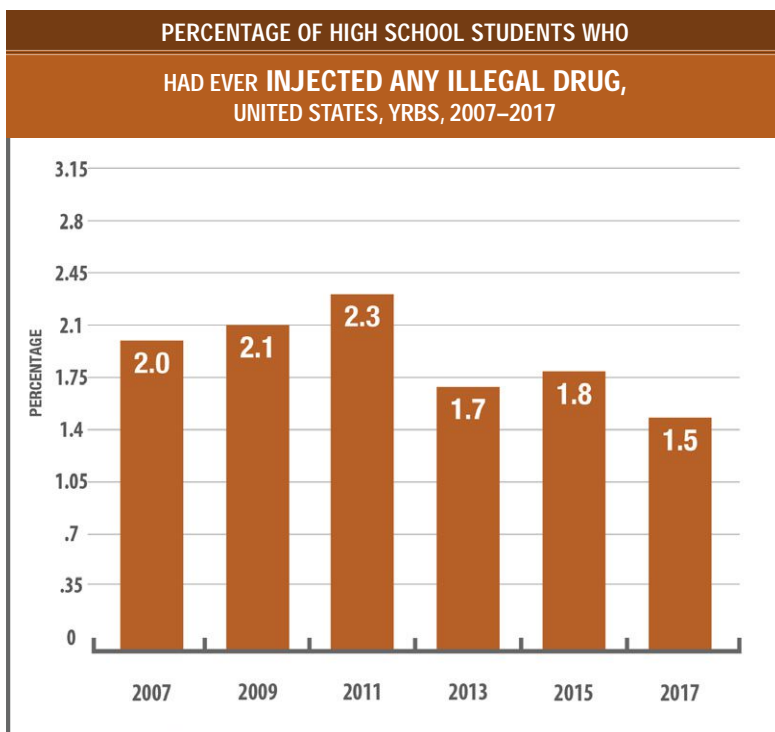
In 2017, 1.5% of high school students had ever injected any illegal drug into their body using a needle. The percentage of students who had ever injected illegal drugs decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 1.5% of students had ever injected illegal drugs. A significantly higher percentage of male students (2.0%) than female students (0.8%) had ever injected illegal drugs. There were no significant differences between the percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who had ever injected illegal drugs.



### 10-Year Trend Description

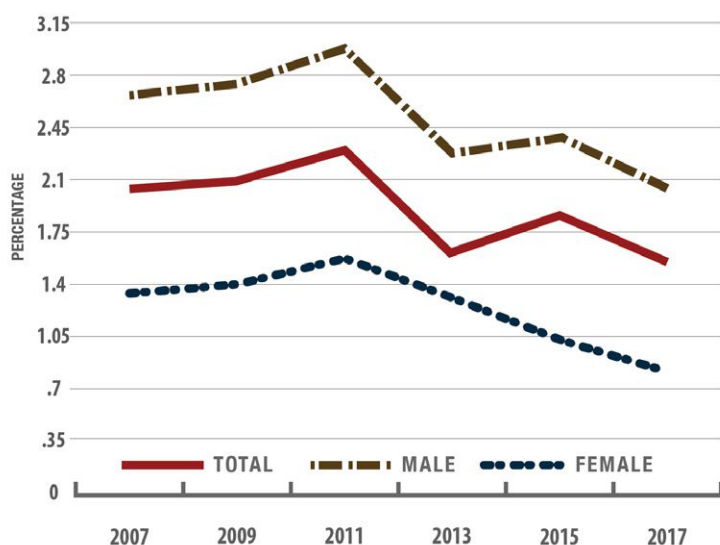


The percentage of high school students who had ever injected illegal drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (2.0%) through 2017 (1.5%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

HAD EVER INJECTED ANY ILLEGAL DRUG,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



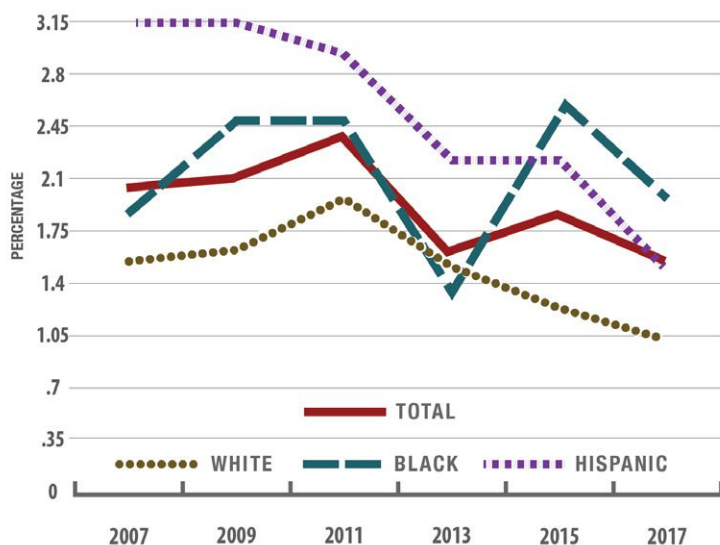
10-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentage of male students who had ever injected illegal drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (2.6%) through 2017 (2.0%). The percentage of female students who had ever injected illegal drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (1.3%) through 2017 (0.8%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

HAD EVER INJECTED ANY ILLEGAL DRUG,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



10-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who had ever injected illegal drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (1.5%) through 2017 (1.0%). The percentage of Hispanic students who had ever injected illegal drugs decreased significantly from 2007 (3.1%) through 2017 (1.5%). The percentage of black students who had ever injected illegal drugs did not change significantly.

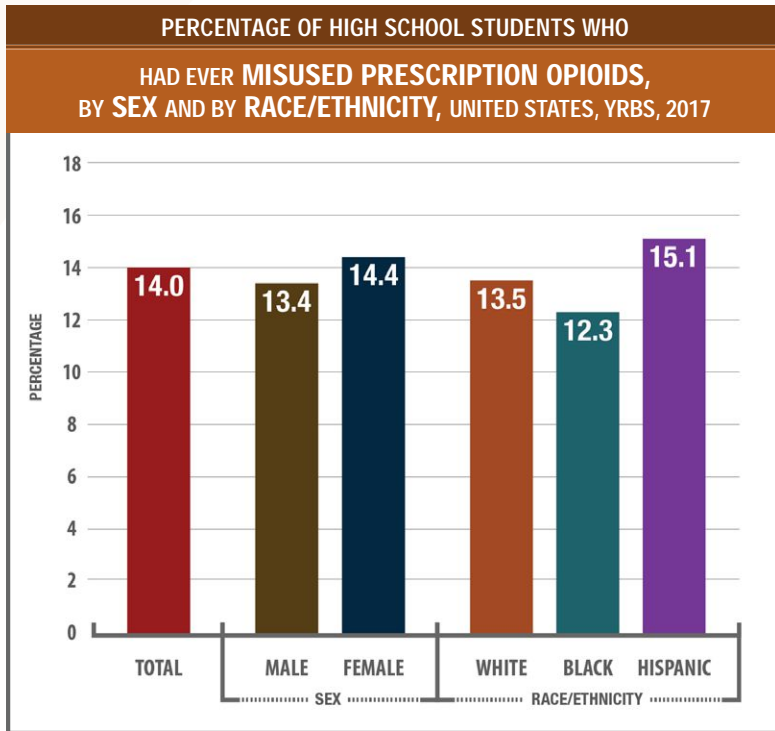
# FOCUS AREA

## HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

VARIABLE

# PRESCRIPTION OPIOID MISUSE

In 2017, 14.0% of high school students had ever used prescription pain medicine, such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, or Percocet, without a prescription or differently than indicated by a doctor.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 14.0% of students had ever misused prescription opioids. There was no significant difference between the percentages of male students and female students who had ever misused prescription opioids. A significantly higher percentage of Hispanic students (15.1%) had ever misused prescription opioids than black students (12.3%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who had ever misused prescription opioids, or between the percentages of white students and black students who had ever misused prescription opioids.





# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION








Progress at-a-glance for violence victimization variables . . . .	31
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school . . . . .	32
Did not go to school because of safety concerns . . . . .	34
Electronically bullied . . . . .	36
Bullied at school . . . . .	38
Forced sex . . . . .	40
Physical dating violence . . . . .	42
Sexual dating violence . . . . .	44



# PROGRESS AT-A-GLANCE FOR VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION VARIABLES\*

Violence is a leading cause of death and nonfatal injuries among adolescents in the United States. Violence victimization (that is, to be a victim of violence) places the lives of adolescents at risk, and the experience may be associated with trauma, diminished academic success, sexual risk behavior, substance use, and risk of STDs, including HIV.

The YRBS includes a number of measures of violence victimization related to safety at school, bullying, dating violence, and forced sex. Two questions assessed experiences and perceptions of school safety, including being threatened or injured with a weapon at school in the past year and missing school because of safety concerns in the past month. Two questions assessed experiences of bullying in the past year, including bullying at school and electronic bullying. Two questions assessed whether students had experienced physical or sexual dating violence in the past year, and one question assessed whether students had ever been forced to have sex.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	2007 Total	2009 Total	2011 Total	2013 Total	2015 Total	2017 Total	Trend
Were threatened or injured with a weapon at school	7.8	7.7	7.4	6.9	6.0	6.0	
Did not go to school because of safety concerns	5.5	5.0	5.9	7.1	5.6	6.7	
Were electronically bullied	NA	NA	16.2	14.8	15.5	14.9	
Were bullied at school	NA	19.9	20.1	19.6	20.2	19.0	
Were forced to have sex	7.8	7.4	8.0	7.3	6.7	7.4	
Experienced physical dating violence <sup>†</sup>	NA	NA	NA	10.3	9.6	8.0	
Experienced sexual dating violence <sup>†</sup>	NA	NA	NA	10.4	10.6	6.9	

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix.

<sup>†</sup>Among students who dated or went out with someone during the past year

Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 2007-2017



In wrong direction



No change



In right direction

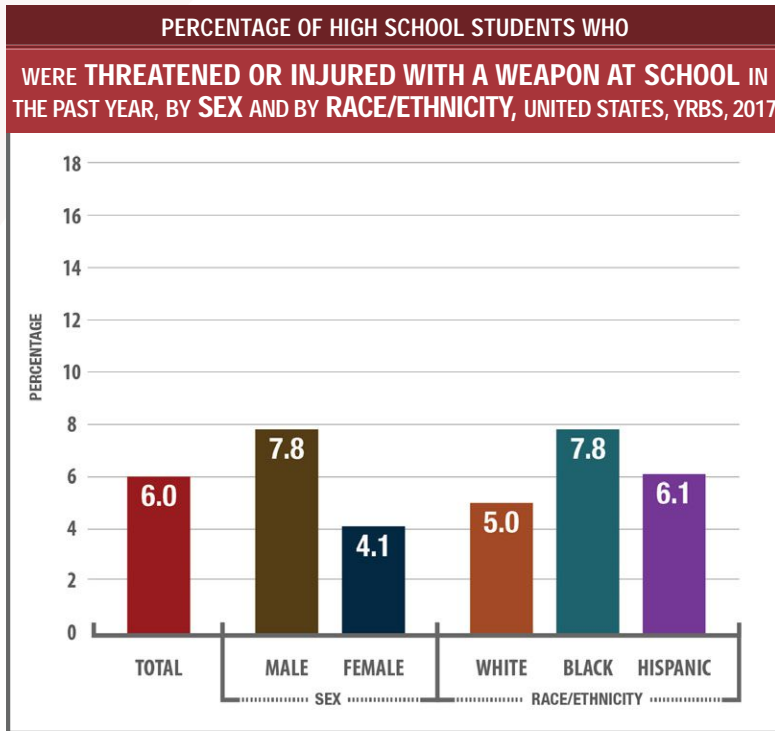
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

### THREATENED OR INJURED WITH A WEAPON AT SCHOOL

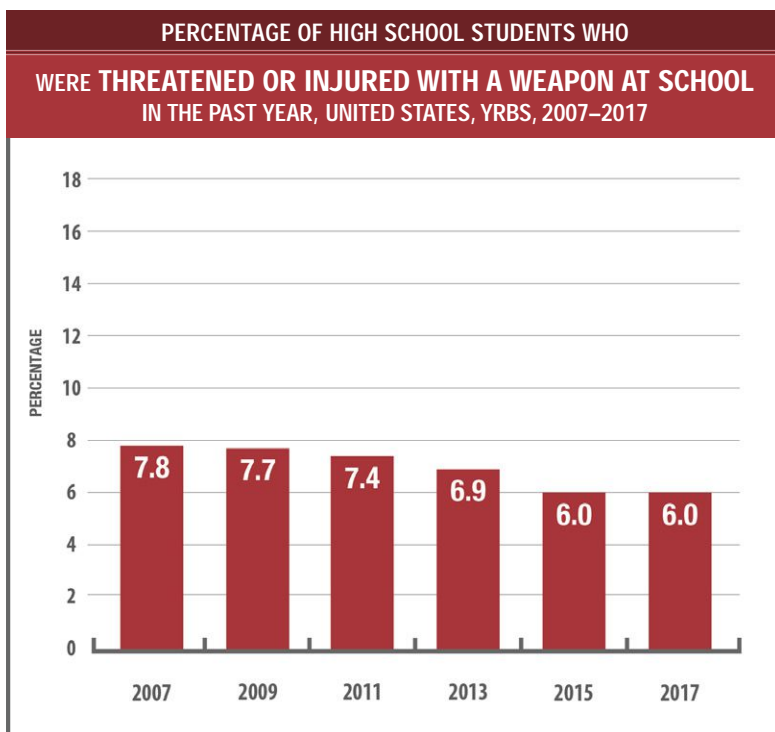
In 2017, 6.0% of high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property during the past year. The percentage of students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 6.0% of students were threatened or injured with a weapon at school. A significantly higher percentage of male students (7.8%) were threatened or injured with a weapon at school than female students (4.1%). A significantly higher percentage of black students (7.8%) were threatened or injured with a weapon at school than white students (5.0%) or Hispanic students (6.1%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school.



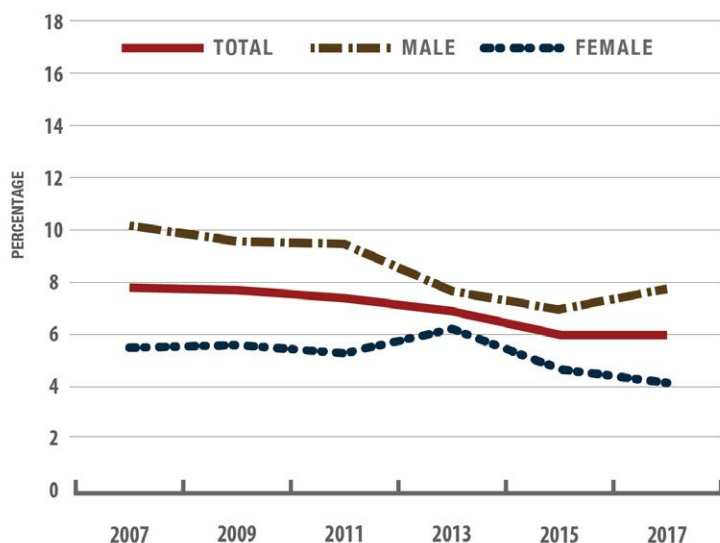
#### 10-Year Trend Description



The percentage of students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 (7.8%) through 2017 (6.0%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WERE THREATENED OR INJURED WITH A WEAPON AT SCHOOL IN THE PAST YEAR, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017

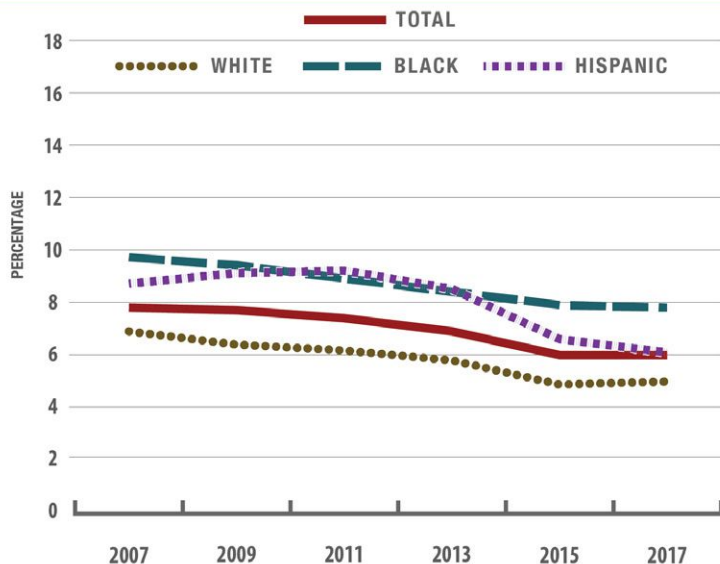


### 10-Year Trend Description by Sex



The percentage of male students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 (10.2%) through 2017 (7.8%). The percentage of female students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 (5.4%) through 2017 (4.1%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WERE THREATENED OR INJURED WITH A WEAPON AT SCHOOL IN THE PAST YEAR, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



### 10-Year Trend Description by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 (6.9%) through 2017 (5.0%). The percentage of black students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 (9.7%) through 2017 (7.8%). The percentage of Hispanic students who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school decreased significantly from 2007 (8.7%) through 2017 (6.1%).

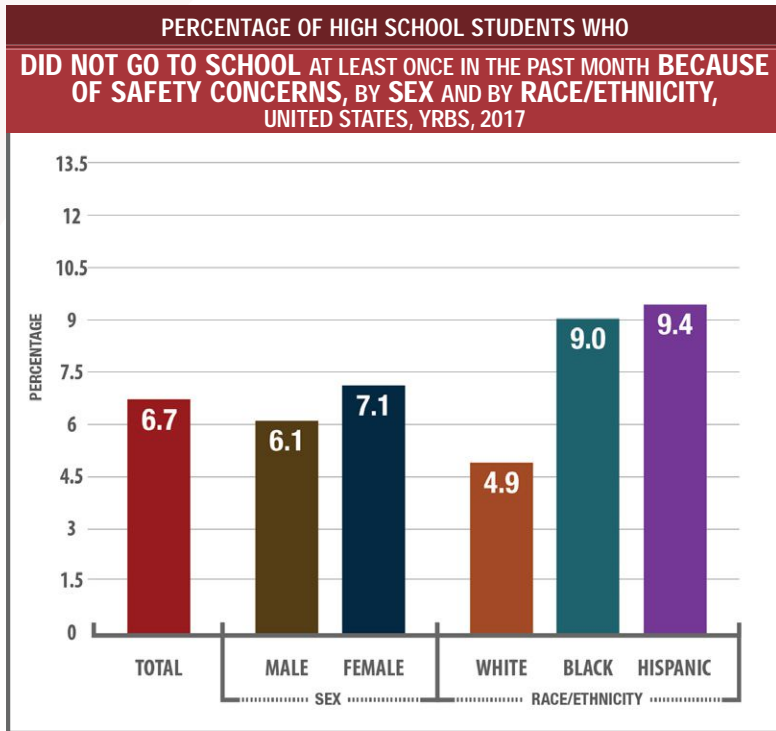
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

### DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS

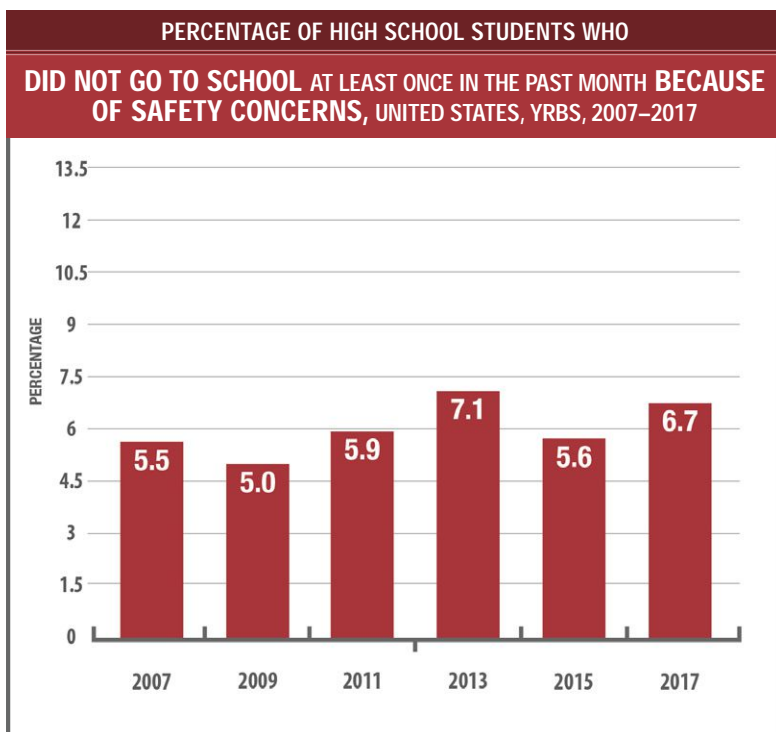
In 2017, 6.7% of high school students did not go to school at least once during the past month because they felt unsafe either at school or on their way to or from school. The percentage of students who did not go to school because of safety concerns did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 6.7% of students missed school because of safety concerns. There was no significant difference between the percentages of female students and male students who missed school because of safety concerns. Significantly higher percentages of black students (9.0%) and Hispanic students (9.4%) missed school because of safety concerns than white students (4.9%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of black students and Hispanic students who missed school because of safety concerns.



#### 10-Year Trend Description

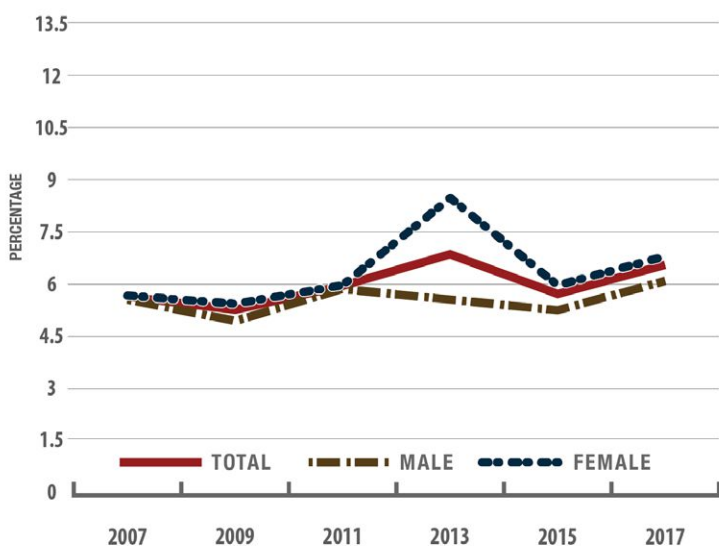


The percentage of students who missed school because of safety concerns did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST MONTH BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017**



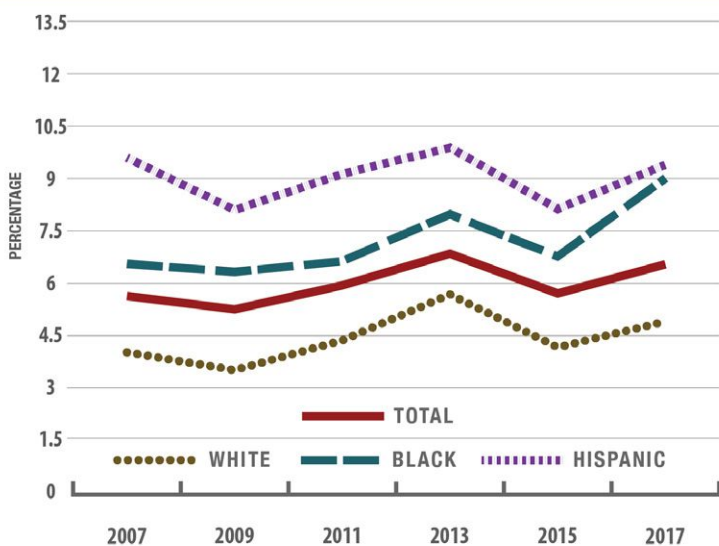
**10-Year Trend Description  
by Sex**



The percentage of female students who missed school because of safety concerns increased significantly from 2007 (5.6%) through 2017 (7.1%). The percentage of male students who missed school because of safety concerns did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST MONTH BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017**



**10-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity**



The percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who missed school because of safety concerns did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.

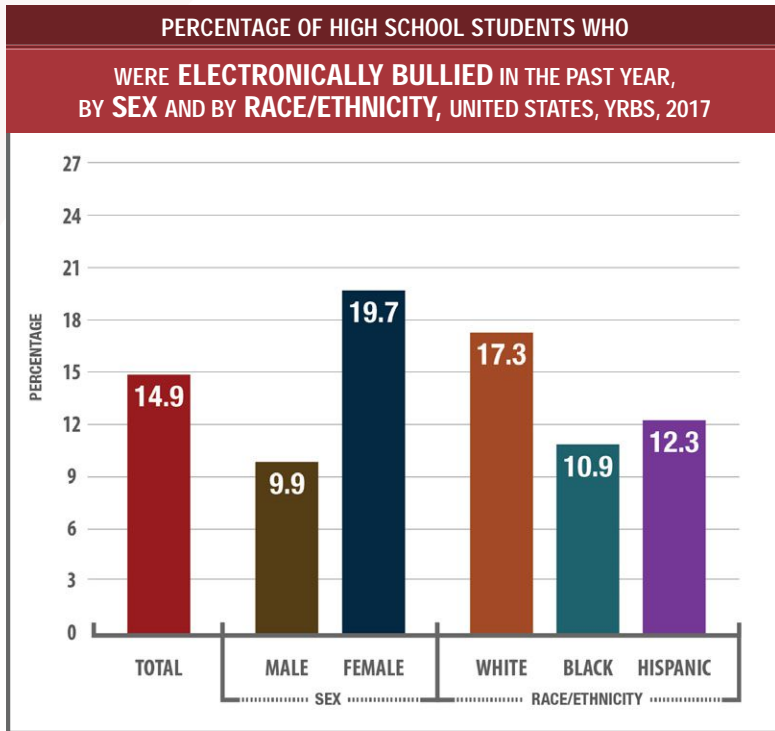
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

# ELECTRONICALLY BULLIED

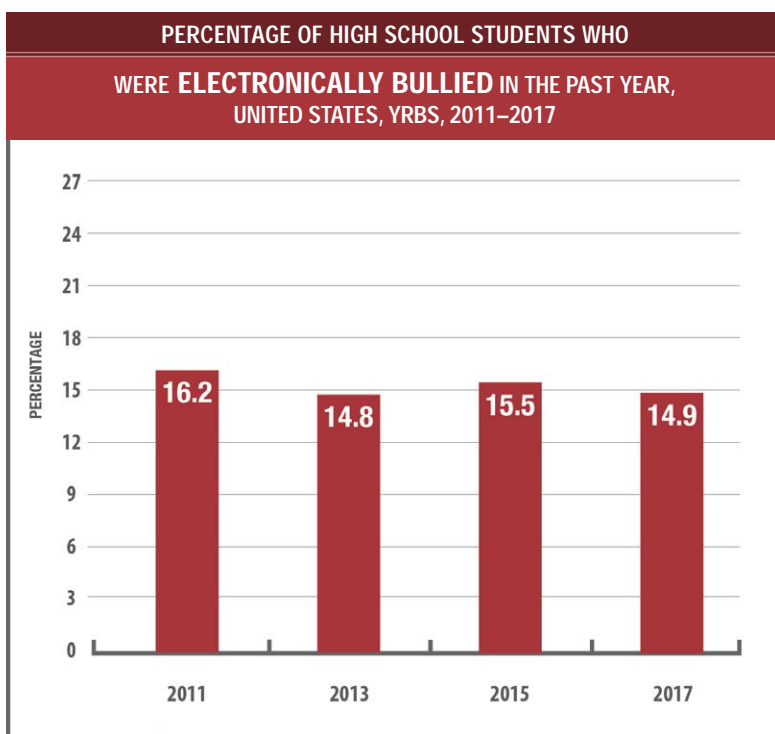
In 2017, 14.9% of high school students were electronically bullied, including through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media, during the past year. The percentage of students who were electronically bullied did not change significantly from 2011 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 14.9% of students were electronically bullied. A significantly higher percentage of female students (19.7%) were electronically bullied than male students (9.9%). A significantly higher percentage of white students (17.3%) were electronically bullied than black students (10.9%) or Hispanic students (12.3%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of black students and Hispanic students who were electronically bullied.



### 6-Year Trend Description

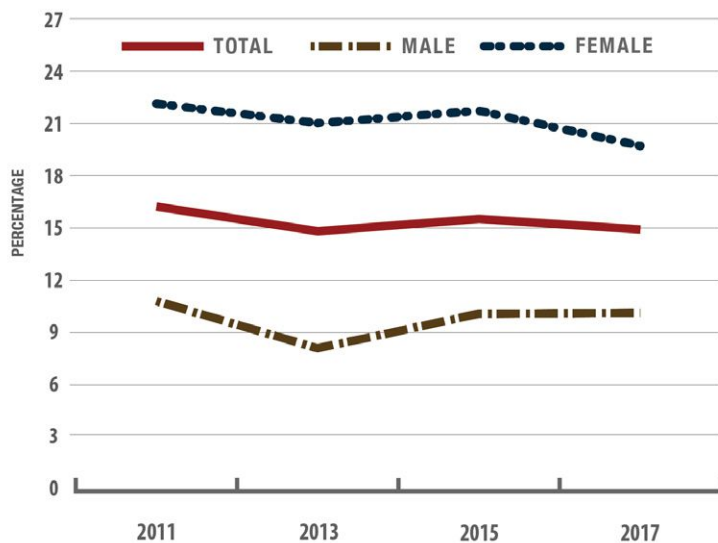


The percentage of high school students who were electronically bullied did not change significantly from 2011 through 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE **ELECTRONICALLY BULLIED** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY **SEX**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2011-2017



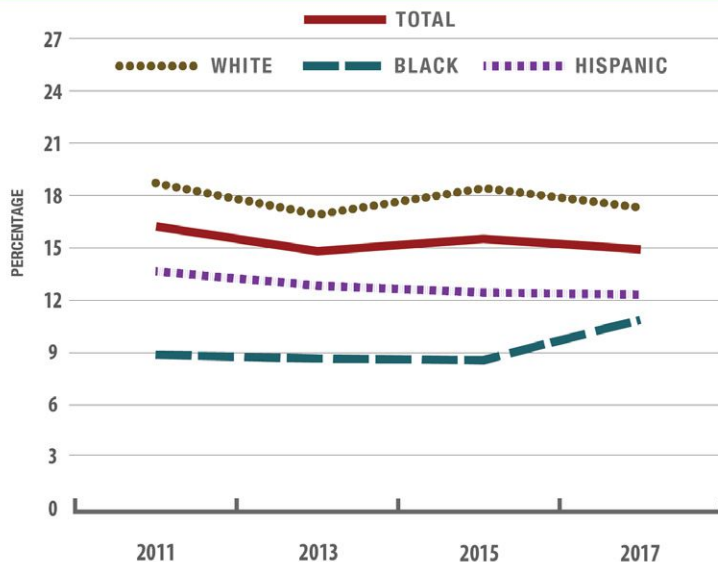
**6-Year Trend Description**  
**by Sex**



The percentages of male students and female students who were electronically bullied did not change significantly from 2011 through 2017.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE **ELECTRONICALLY BULLIED** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY **RACE/ETHNICITY**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2011-2017



**6-Year Trend Description**  
**by Race/Ethnicity**



The percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who were electronically bullied did not change significantly from 2011 through 2017.

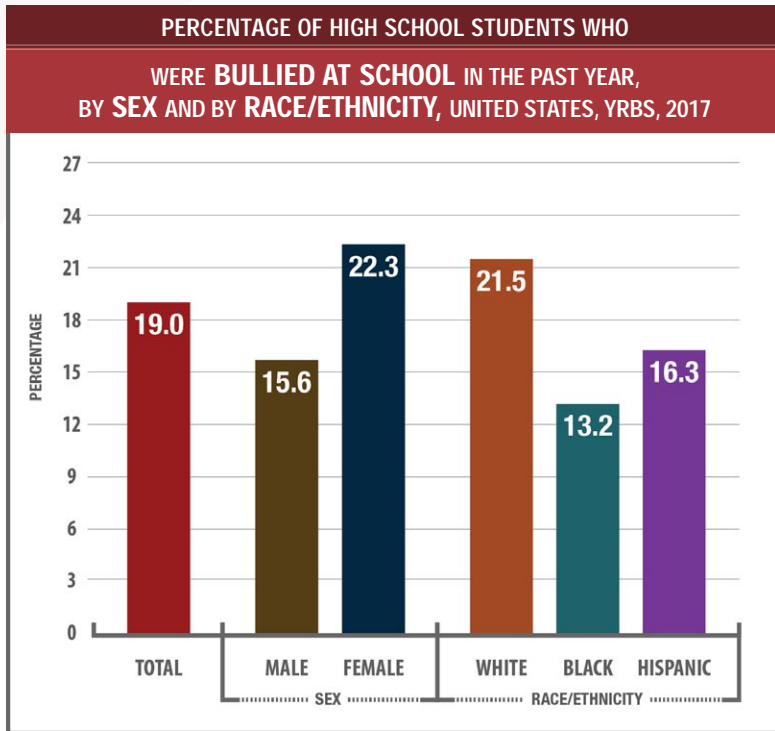
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

# BULLIED AT SCHOOL

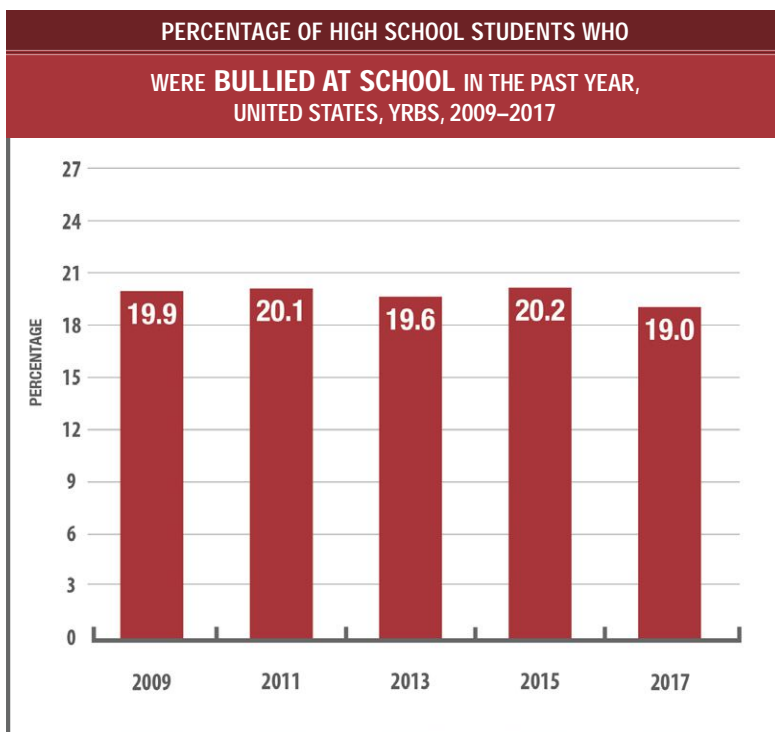
In 2017, 19.0% of high school students were bullied on school property during the past year. The percentage of students who were bullied at school did not change significantly from 2009 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 19.0% of students were bullied at school. A significantly higher percentage of female students (22.3%) were bullied at school than male students (15.6%). A significantly higher percentage of white students (21.5%) and Hispanic students (16.3%) were bullied at school than black students (13.2%). A significantly higher percentage of white students were bullied at school than Hispanic students.



### 8-Year Trend Description

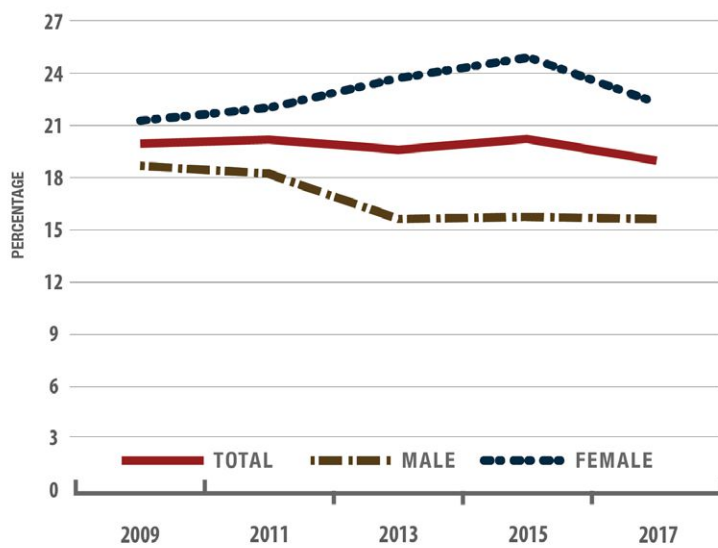


The percentage of students who were bullied at school did not change significantly from 2009 through 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE BULLIED AT SCHOOL IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2009–2017



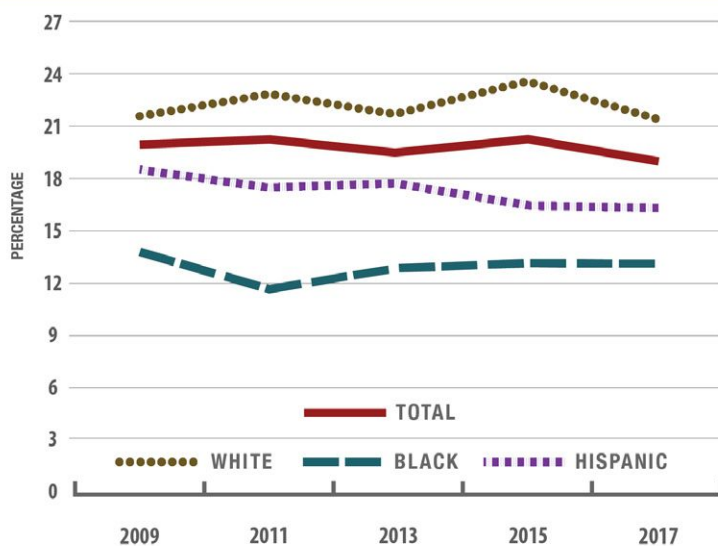
8-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentage of male students who were bullied at school decreased significantly from 2009 (18.7%) through 2017 (15.6%). The percentage of female students who were bullied at school did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE BULLIED AT SCHOOL IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2009–2017



8-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who were bullied at school did not change significantly from 2009 through 2017.

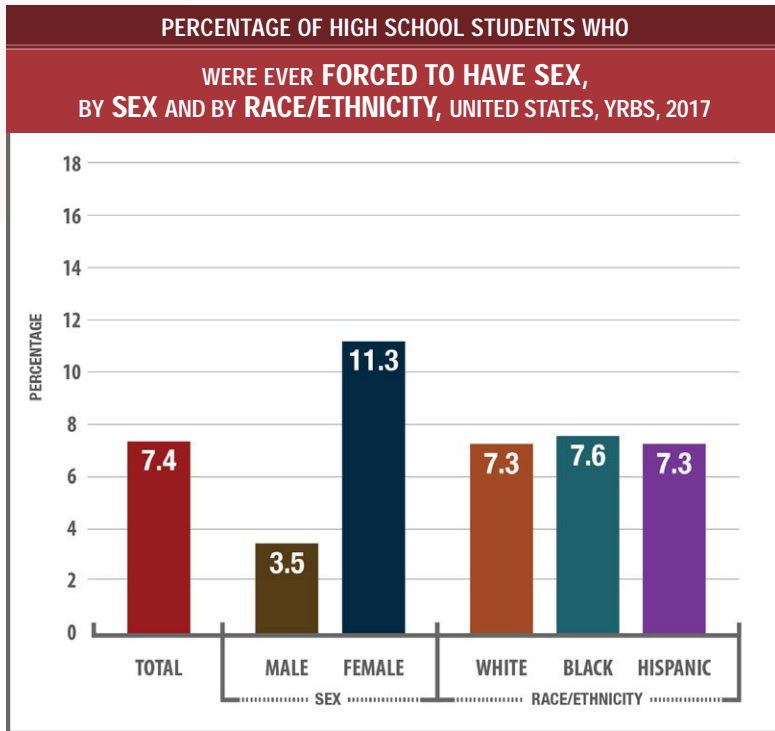
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

# FORCED SEX

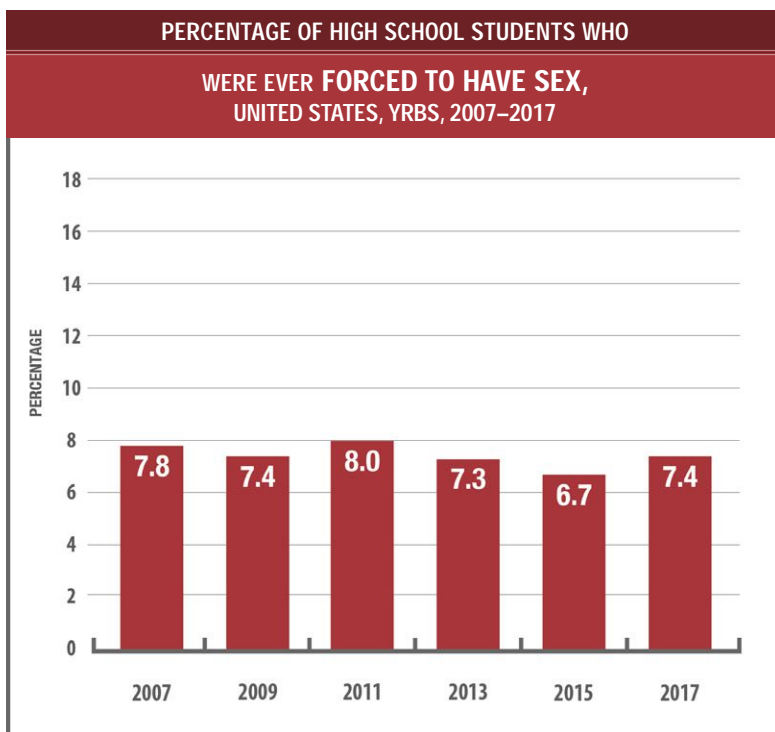
In 2017, 7.4% of high school students had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. The percentage of students who were ever forced to have sex did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 7.4% of high school students had ever been forced to have sex. A significantly higher percentage of female students (11.3%) were ever forced to have sex than male students (3.5%). There were no significant differences between the percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who were ever forced to have sex.



### 10-Year Trend Description

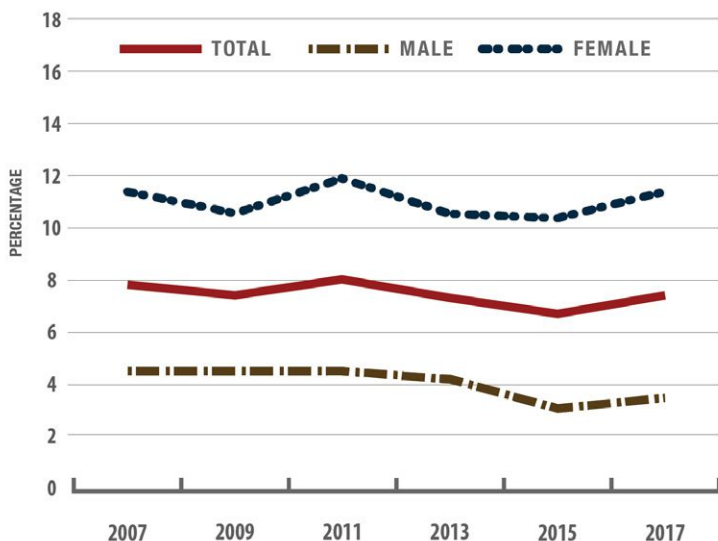


The percentage of students who were ever forced to have sex did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE EVER FORCED TO HAVE SEX,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



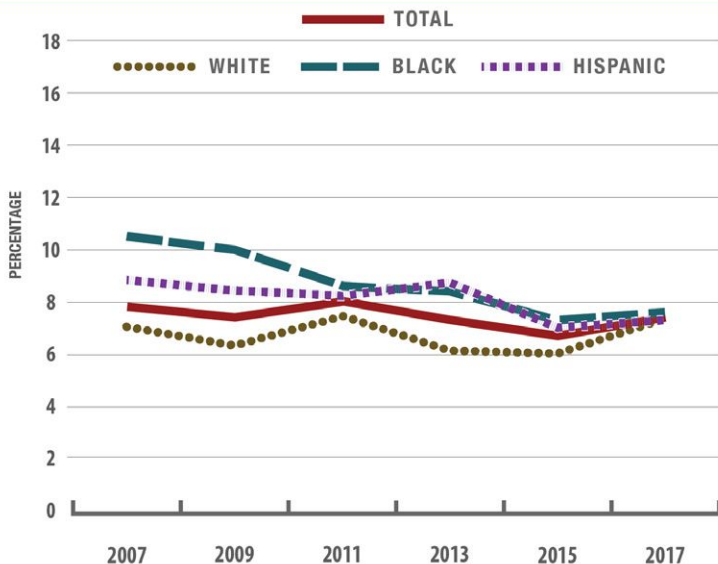
10-Year Trend Description  
by Sex



The percentage of male students who were ever forced to have sex decreased significantly from 2007 (4.5%) through 2017 (3.5%). The percentage of female students who were ever forced to have sex did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE EVER FORCED TO HAVE SEX,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



10-Year Trend Description  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of black students who were ever forced to have sex decreased significantly from 2007 (10.5%) through 2017 (7.6%). The percentage of Hispanic students who were ever forced to have sex decreased significantly from 2007 (8.8%) through 2017 (7.3%). The percentage of white students who were ever forced to have sex did not change significantly.

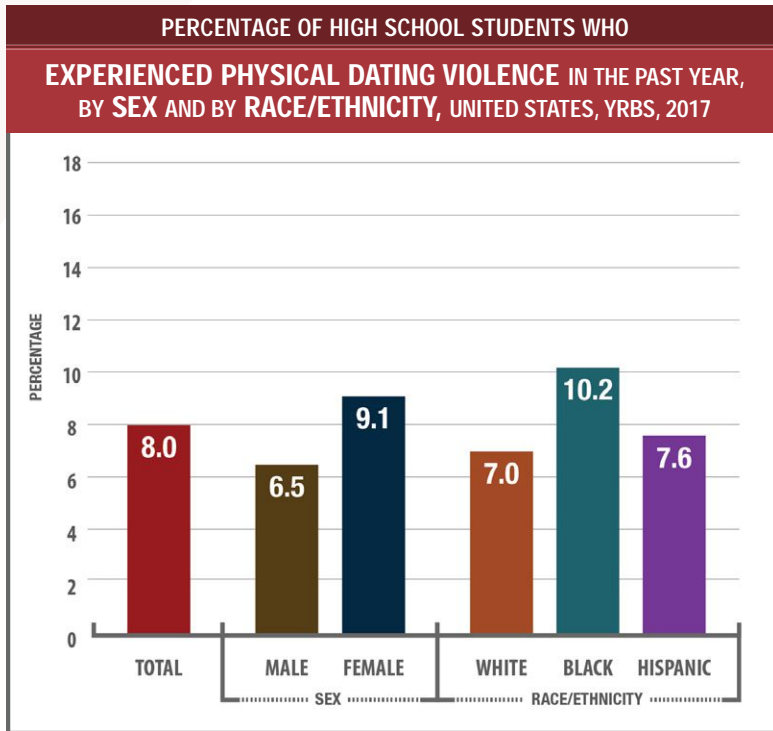
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

# PHYSICAL DATING VIOLENCE

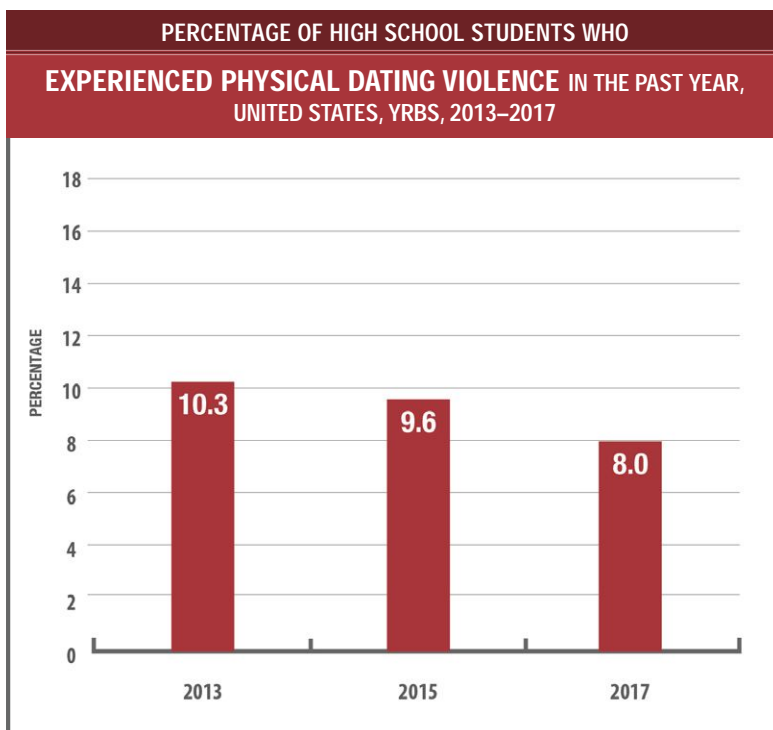
In 2017, 8.0% of high school students (among the 69.0% of students who dated or went out with someone in the past year) had experienced physical dating violence, defined as being physically hurt on purpose, including such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon, by someone they were dating or going out with, during the past year. The percentage of students who experienced physical dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 8.0% of students experienced physical dating violence. A significantly higher percentage of female students (9.1%) experienced physical dating violence than male students (6.5%). A significantly higher percentage of black students (10.2%) experienced physical dating violence than white students (7.0%) or Hispanic students (7.6%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who experienced physical dating violence.



### 4-Year Trend Description

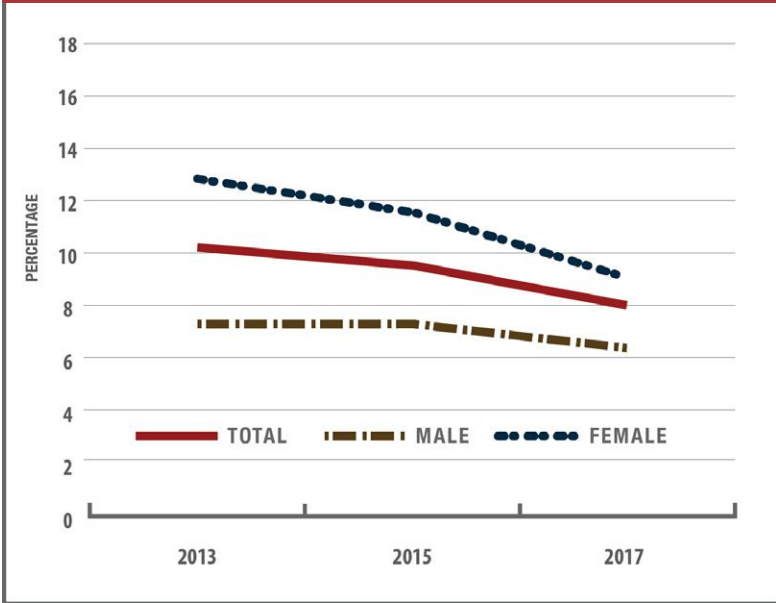


The percentage of students who experienced physical dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (10.3%) through 2017 (8.0%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL DATING VIOLENCE IN THE PAST YEAR, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017**



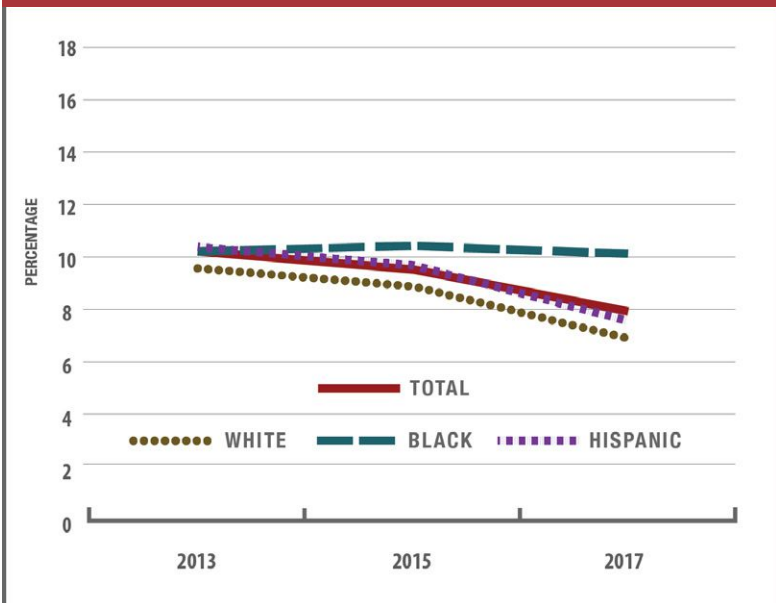
**4-Year Trend Description by Sex**



The percentage of female students who experienced physical dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (13.0%) through 2017 (9.1%). The percentage of male students who experienced physical dating violence did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL DATING VIOLENCE IN THE PAST YEAR, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017**



**4-Year Trend Description by Race/Ethnicity**



The percentage of white students who experienced physical dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (9.7%) through 2017 (7.0%). The percentage of Hispanic students who experienced physical dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (10.4%) through 2017 (7.6%). The percentage of black students who experienced physical dating violence did not change significantly.

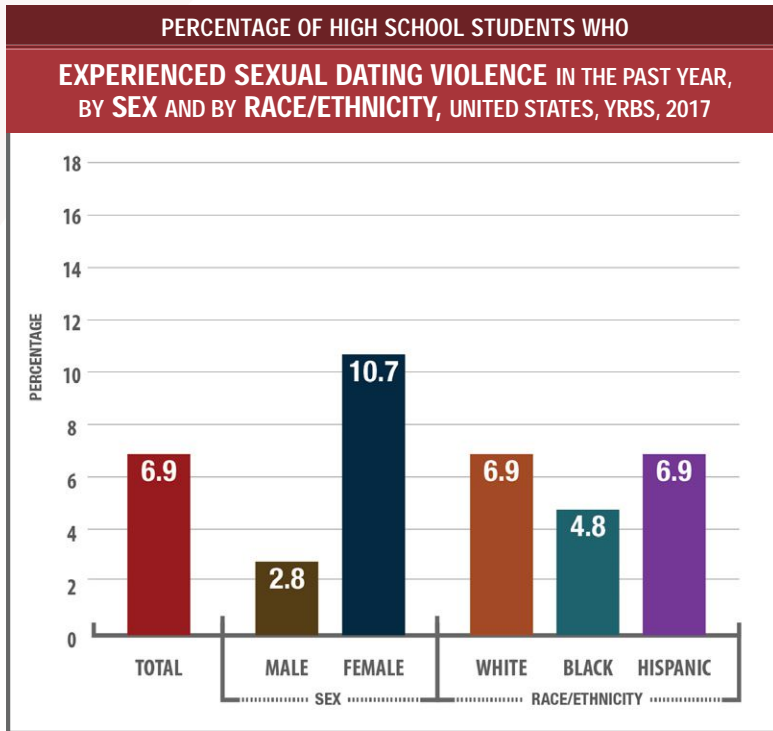
# FOCUS AREA

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

# SEXUAL DATING VIOLENCE

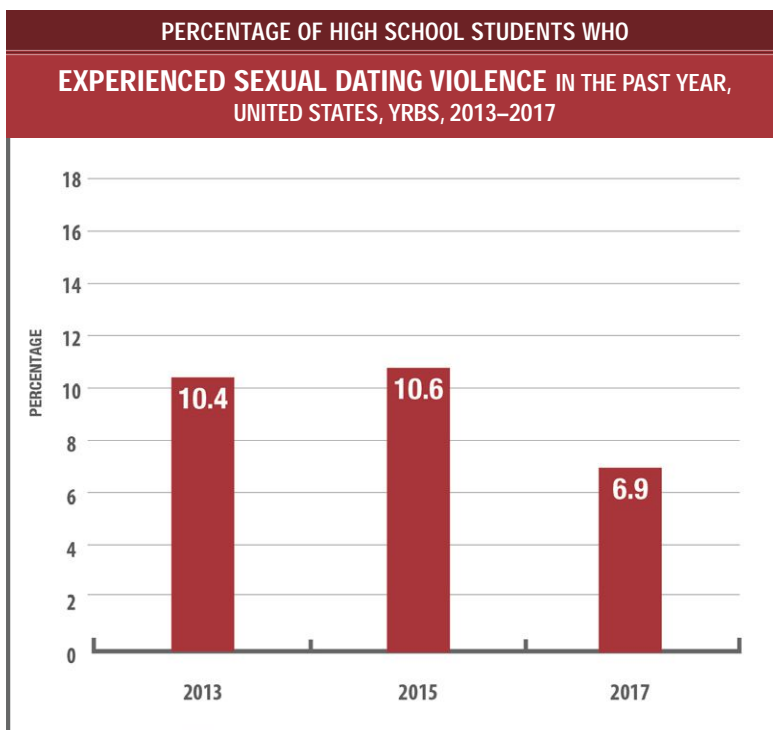
In 2017, 6.9% of high school students (among the 68.3% of students who dated or went out with someone in the past year) had experienced sexual dating violence, defined as being forced to do sexual things, including such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse, they did not want to do by someone they were dating or going out with, during the past year. The percentage of students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 6.9% of students experienced sexual dating violence. A significantly higher percentage of female students (10.7%) experienced sexual dating violence than male students (2.8%). Significantly higher percentages of white students (6.9%) and Hispanic students (6.9%) experienced sexual dating violence than black students (4.8%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who experienced sexual dating violence.



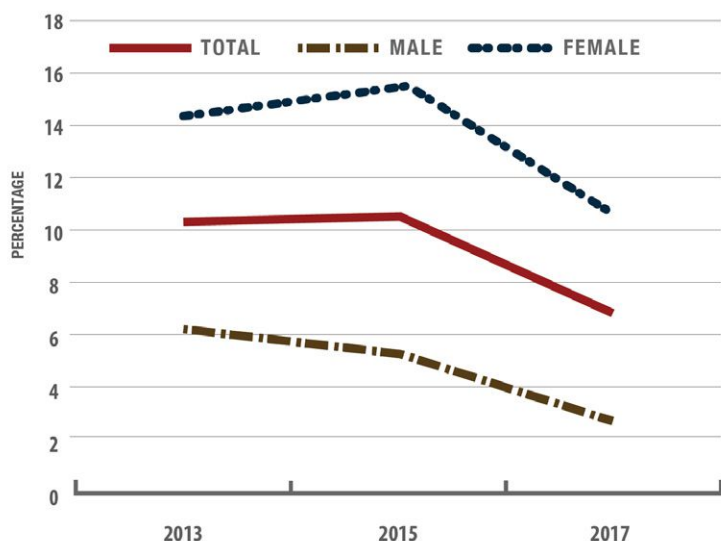
### 4-Year Trend Description



The percentage of students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (10.4%) through 2017 (6.9%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
**EXPERIENCED SEXUAL DATING VIOLENCE** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017

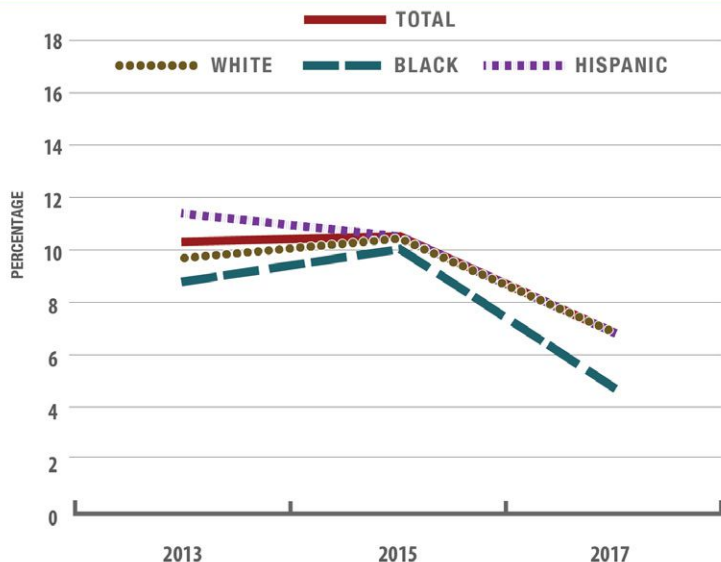


**4-Year Trend Description**  
 by Sex



The percentage of male students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2007 (6.2%) through 2017 (2.8%). The percentage of female students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (14.4%) through 2017 (10.7%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
**EXPERIENCED SEXUAL DATING VIOLENCE** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2013–2017



**4-Year Trend Description**  
 by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (9.8%) through 2017 (6.9%). The percentage of black students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (8.9%) through 2017 (4.8%). The percentage of Hispanic students who experienced sexual dating violence decreased significantly from 2013 (11.5%) through 2017 (6.9%).

# FOCUS AREA

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE






Progress at-a-glance for mental health and suicide variables . . .	47
Persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness . . . . .	48
Seriously considered attempting suicide . . . . .	50
Made a suicide plan . . . . .	52
Attempted suicide . . . . .	54
Injured in a suicide attempt . . . . .	56



# PROGRESS AT-A-GLANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE VARIABLES\*

Poor mental health can result in serious negative outcomes for the health and development of adolescents. It can lead to risky sexual behavior, illicit substance use, adolescent pregnancy, school absences/dropout, and other delinquent behaviors.

Mental health is measured in the YRBS with one question addressing persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness and four questions on suicide ideation or action. Persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness is defined in the survey as feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row in the past year. Suicide ideation or action questions assess consideration of and planning for suicide, attempting suicide, and being medically treated for suicide attempts.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	2007 Total	2009 Total	2011 Total	2013 Total	2015 Total	2017 Total	Trend
Experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness	28.5	26.1	28.5	29.9	29.9	31.5	
Seriously considered attempting suicide	14.5	13.8	15.8	17.0	17.7	17.2	
Made a suicide plan	11.3	10.9	12.8	13.6	14.6	13.6	
Attempted suicide	6.9	6.3	7.8	8.0	8.6	7.4	
Were injured in a suicide attempt	2.0	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.4	

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix.

Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 2007-2017



In wrong direction



No change



In right direction



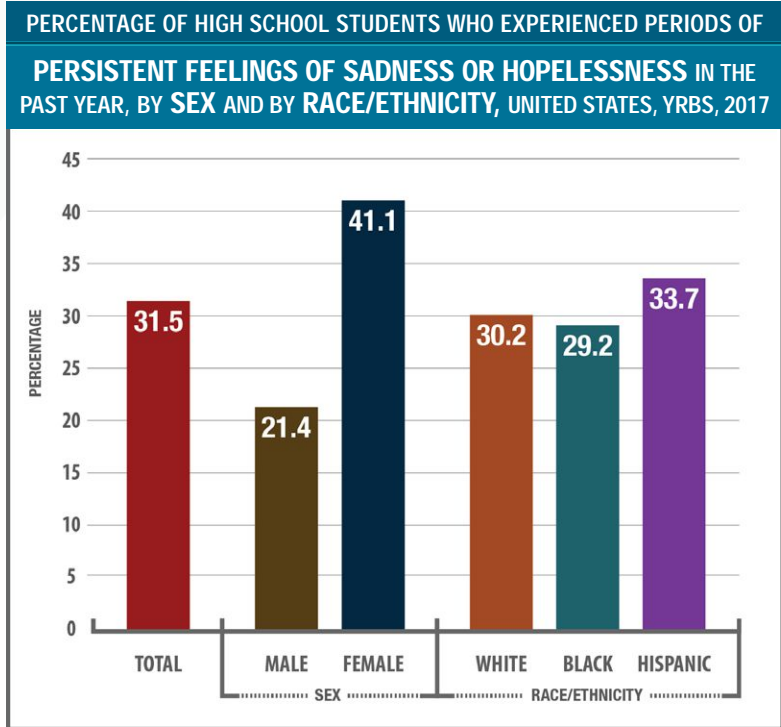
# FOCUS AREA

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

### PERSISTENT FEELINGS OF SADNESS OR HOPELESSNESS

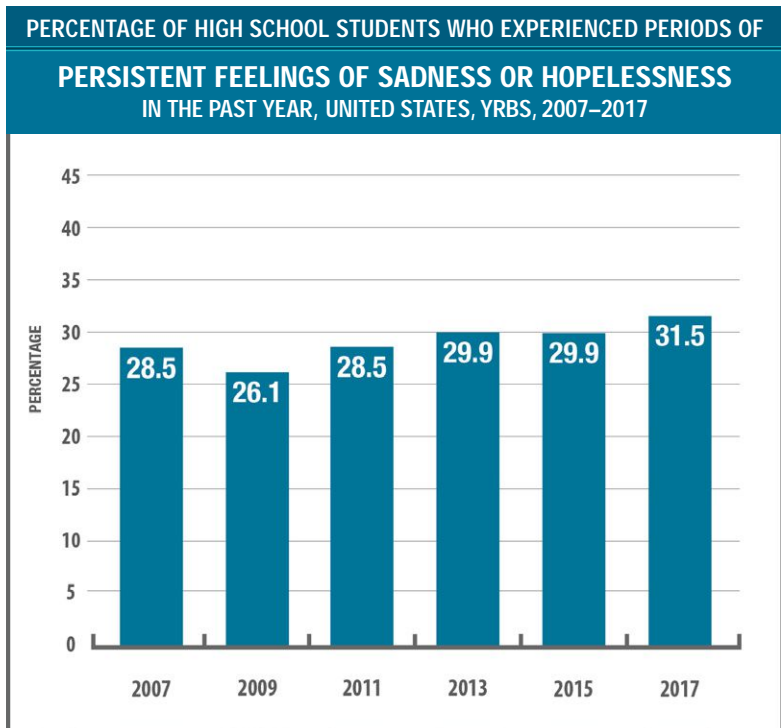
In 2017, 31.5% of high school students had experienced periods of persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness (i.e., almost every day for two weeks or more in a row so that the student stopped doing some usual activities) in the past year. The percentage of students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the past year increased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 31.5% of students had experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the past year. A significantly higher percentage of female students (41.1%) experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness than male students (21.4%). A significantly higher percentage of Hispanic students (33.7%) experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness than white students (30.2%) or black students (29.2%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and black students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness.



#### 10-Year Trend Description

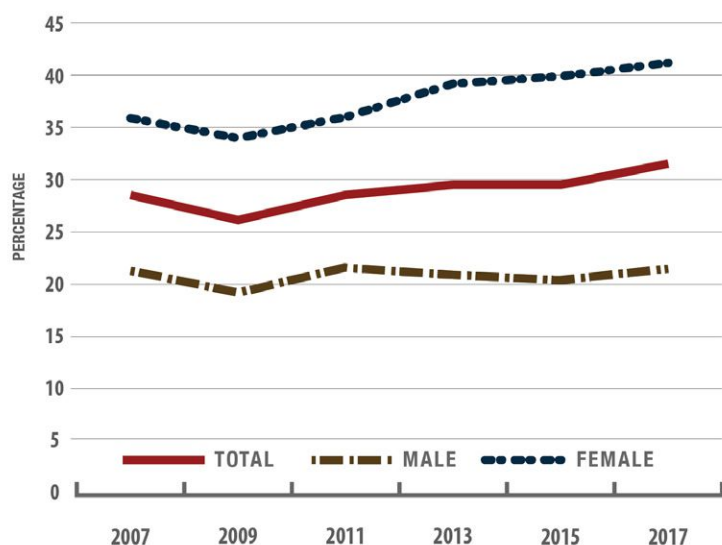


The percentage of high school students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased significantly from 2007 (28.5%) through 2017 (31.5%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED PERIODS OF

**PERSISTENT FEELINGS OF SADNESS OR HOPELESSNESS**  
IN THE PAST YEAR, BY **SEX**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



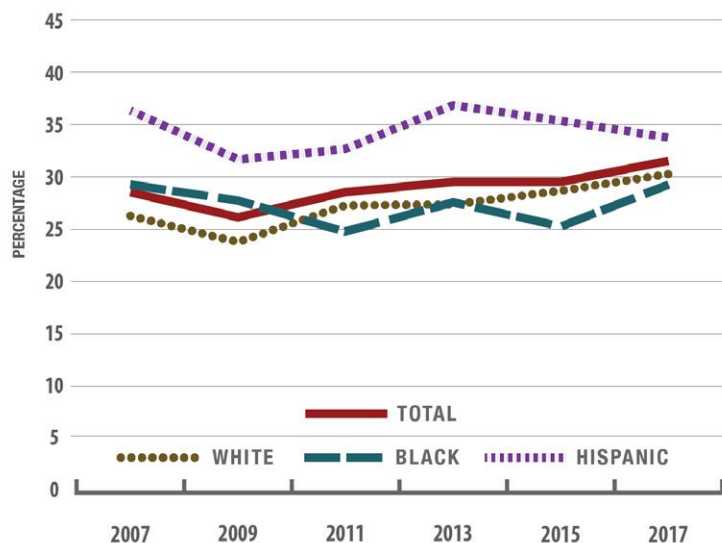
**10-Year Trend Description**  
by **Sex**



The percentage of female students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased significantly from 2007 (35.8%) through 2017 (41.1%). The percentage of male students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED PERIODS OF

**PERSISTENT FEELINGS OF SADNESS OR HOPELESSNESS**  
IN THE PAST YEAR, BY **RACE/ETHNICITY**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



**10-Year Trend Description**  
by **Race/Ethnicity**



The percentage of white students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased significantly from 2007 (26.2%) through 2017 (30.2%). The percentages of black students and Hispanic students who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness did not change significantly.

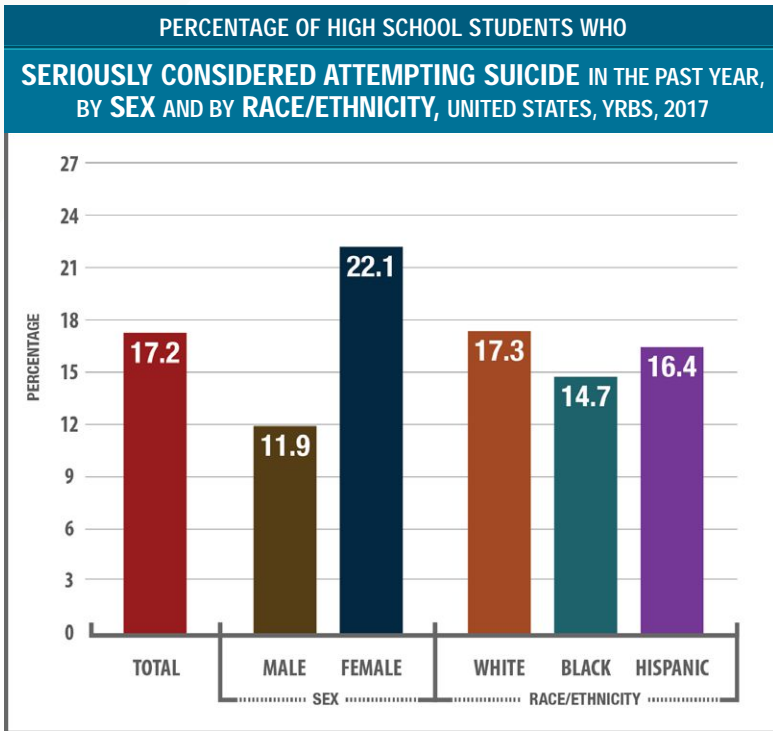
# FOCUS AREA

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

# SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING SUICIDE

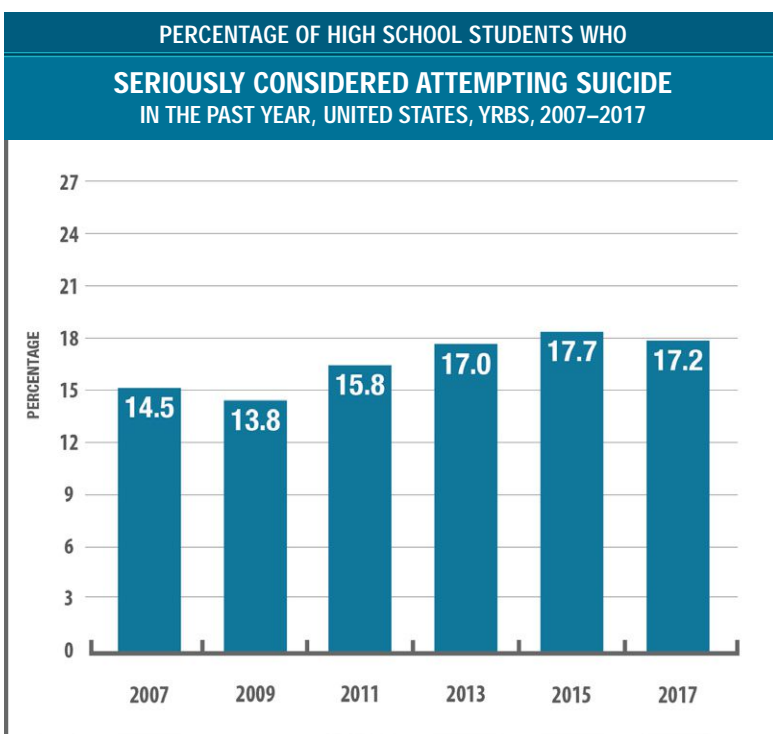
In 2017, 17.2% of high school students had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. The percentage of students who had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year increased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 17.2% of students had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. A significantly higher percentage of female students (22.1%) seriously considered attempting suicide than male students (11.9%). A significantly higher percentage of white students (17.3%) seriously considered attempting suicide than black students (14.7%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who had seriously considered attempting suicide, or between the percentages of black students and Hispanic students who had seriously considered attempting suicide.



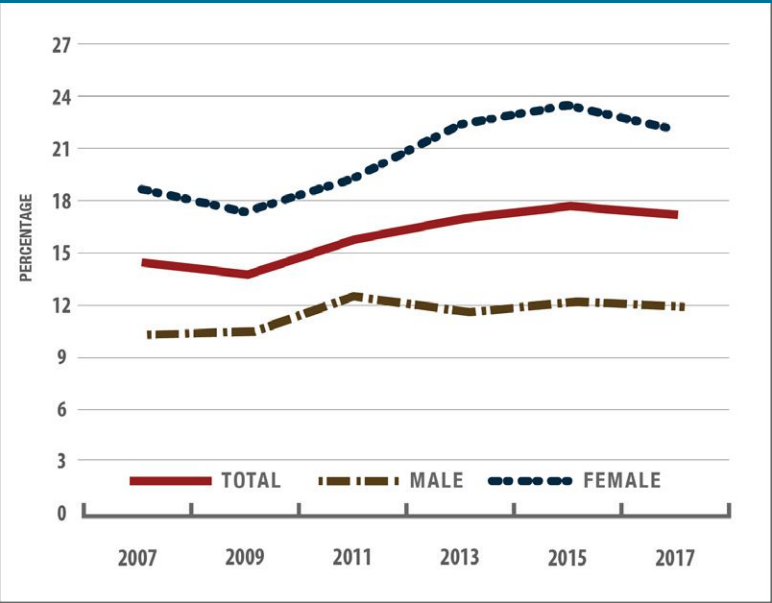
### 10-Year Trend Description



The percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year increased significantly from 2007 (14.5%) through 2017 (17.2%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING SUICIDE IN THE PAST YEAR, BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017

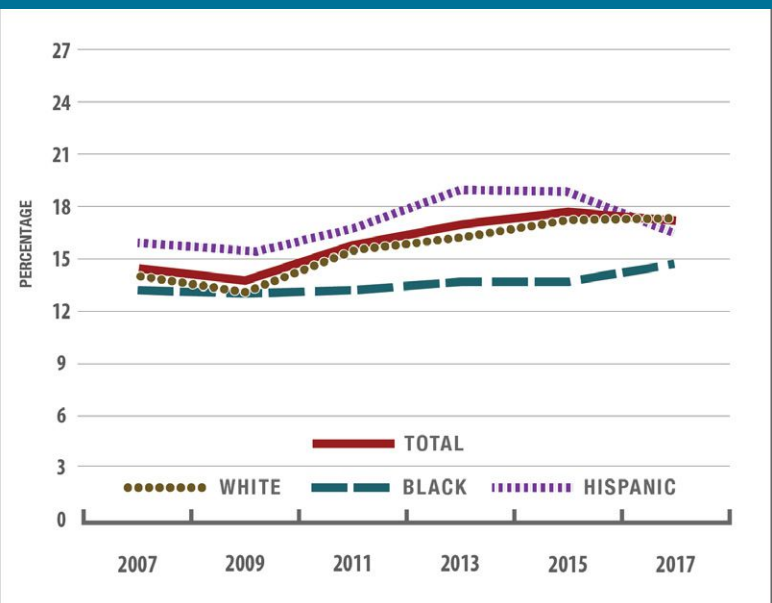


### 10-Year Trend Description by Sex



The percentage of male students who seriously considered attempting suicide increased significantly from 2007 (10.3%) through 2017 (11.9%). The percentage of female students who seriously considered attempting suicide increased significantly from 2007 (18.7%) through 2017 (22.1%).

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING SUICIDE IN THE PAST YEAR, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007-2017



### 10-Year Trend Description by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who seriously considered attempting suicide increased significantly from 2007 (14.0%) through 2017 (17.3%). The percentage of Hispanic students who seriously considered attempting suicide increased significantly from 2007 (15.9%) through 2017 (16.4%). The percentage of black students who seriously considered attempting suicide did not change significantly.

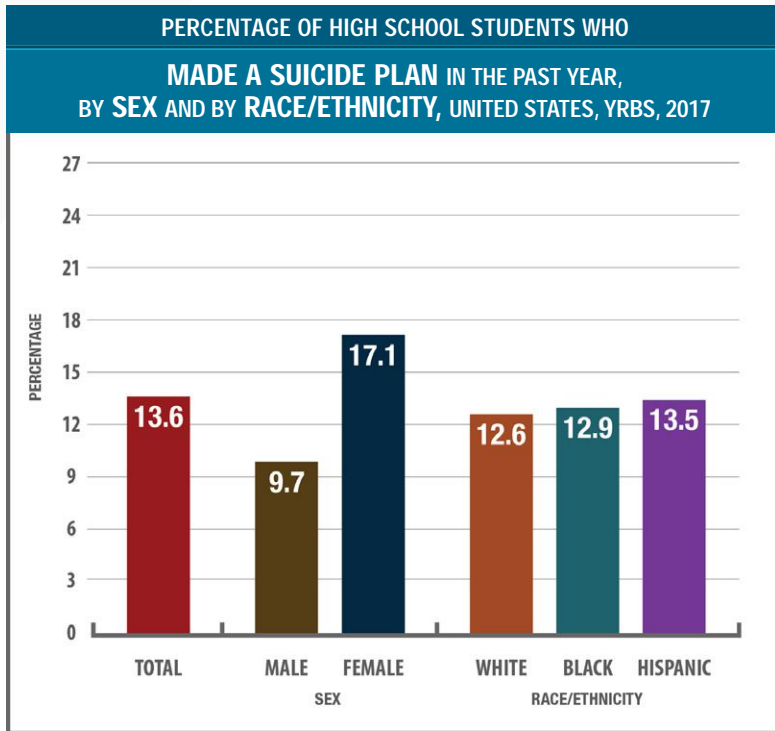
# FOCUS AREA

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

### MADE A SUICIDE PLAN

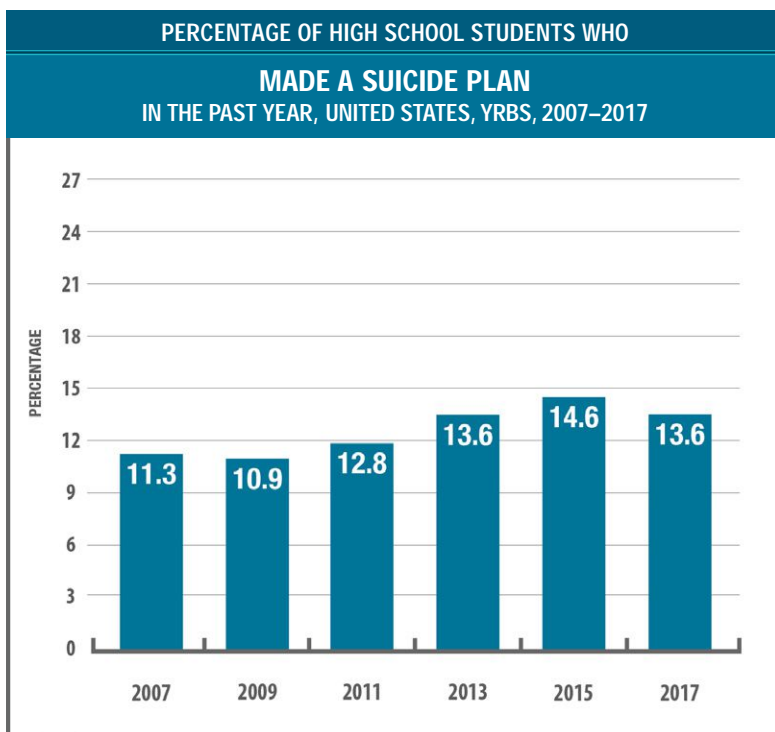
In 2017, 13.6% of high school students had made a suicide plan in the past year. The percentage of students who made a suicide plan in the past year increased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



#### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 13.6% of students made a suicide plan. A significantly higher percentage of female students (17.1%) made a suicide plan than male students (9.7%). There were no significant differences between the percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who made a suicide plan.



#### 10-Year Trend Description

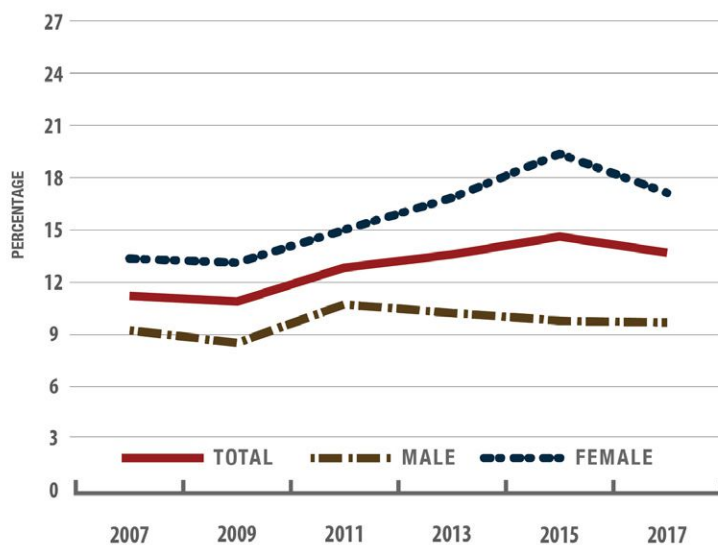


The percentage of students who made a suicide plan increased significantly from 2007 (11.3%) through 2017 (13.6%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**MADE A SUICIDE PLAN** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017

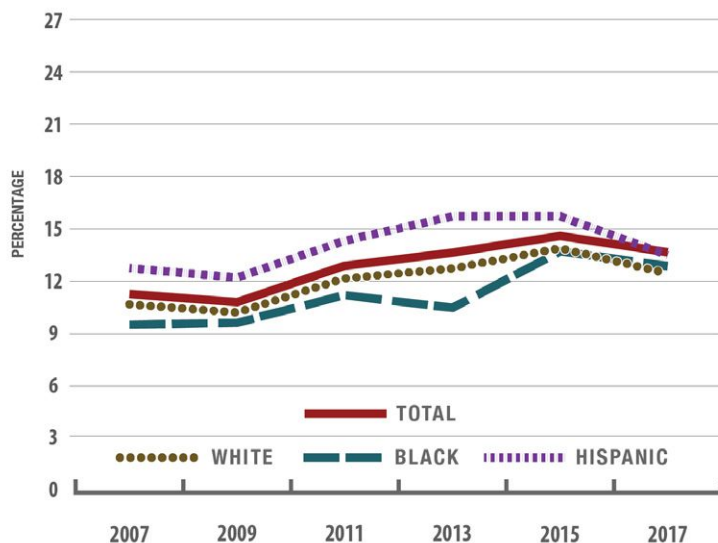


**10-Year Trend Description**  
by Sex



The percentage of female students who made a suicide plan increased significantly from 2007 (13.4%) through 2017 (17.1%). The percentage of male students who made a suicide plan did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
**MADE A SUICIDE PLAN** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



**10-Year Trend Description**  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of white students who made a suicide plan increased significantly from 2007 (10.8%) through 2017 (12.6%). The percentage of black students who made a suicide plan increased significantly from 2007 (9.5%) through 2017 (12.9%). The percentage of Hispanic students who made a suicide plan increased significantly from 2007 (12.8%) through 2017 (13.5%).

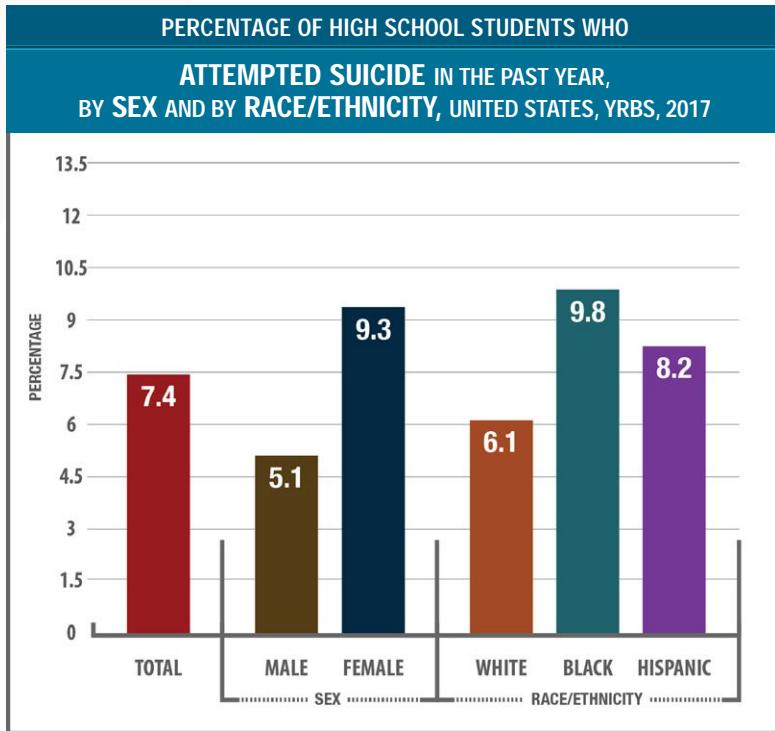
# FOCUS AREA

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

# ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

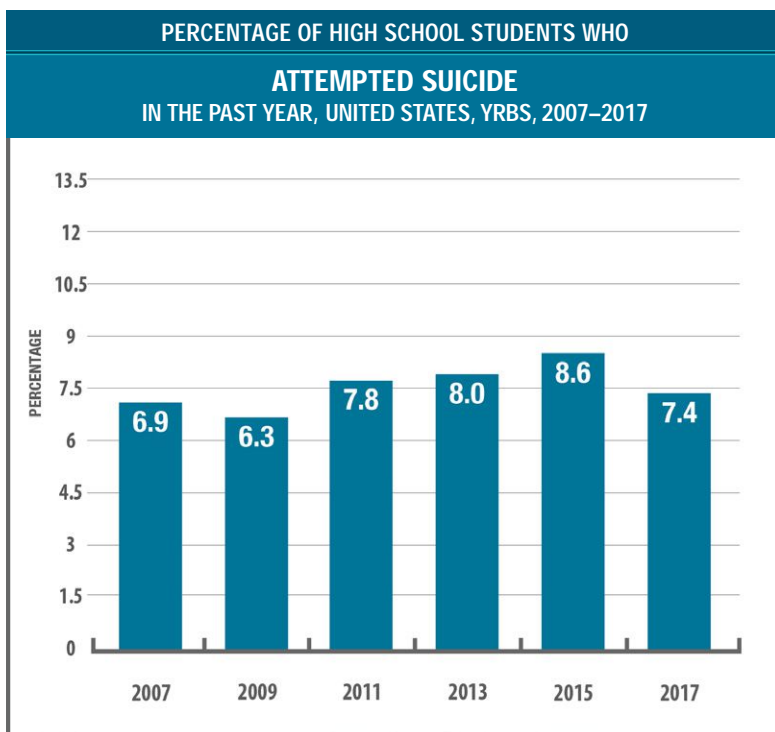
In 2017, 7.4% of high school students had attempted suicide one or more times in the past year. The percentage of high school students who attempted suicide in the past year did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 7.4% of students attempted suicide. A significantly higher percentage of female students (9.3%) attempted suicide than male students (5.1%). A significantly higher percentage of black students (9.8%) attempted suicide than white students (6.1%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who attempted suicide, or between the percentages of black students and Hispanic students who attempted suicide.



### 10-Year Trend Description

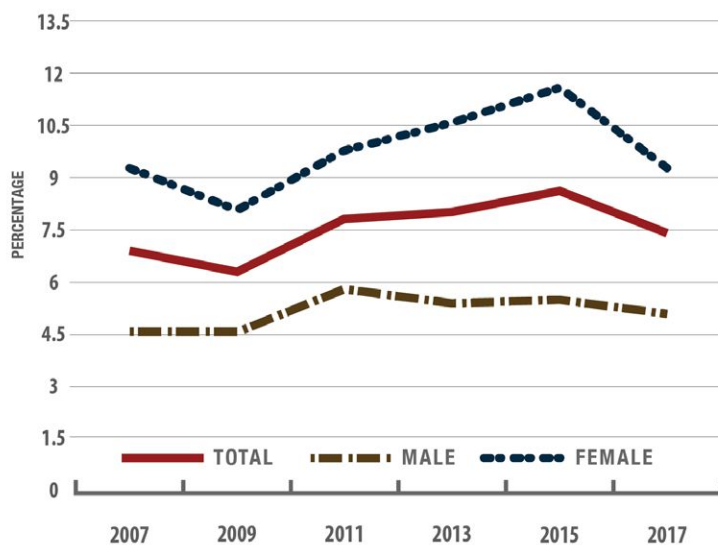


The percentage of students who attempted suicide did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY SEX, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



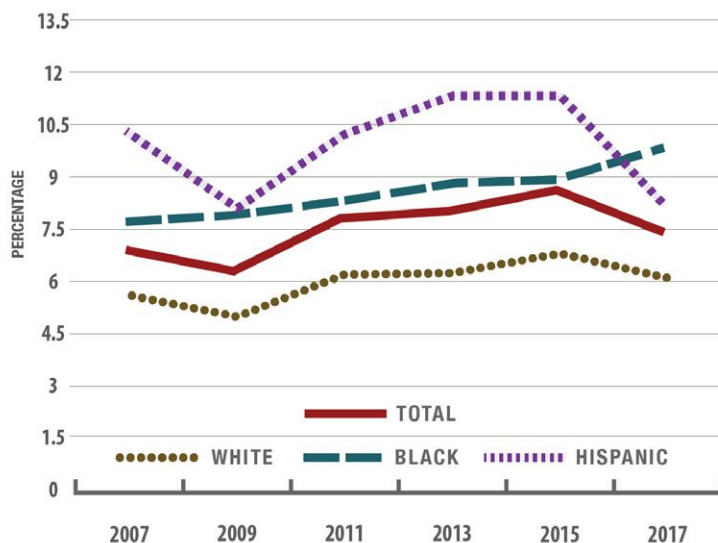
**10-Year Trend Description**  
by Sex



The percentages of male students and female students who attempted suicide did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



**10-Year Trend Description**  
by Race/Ethnicity



The percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who attempted suicide did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.

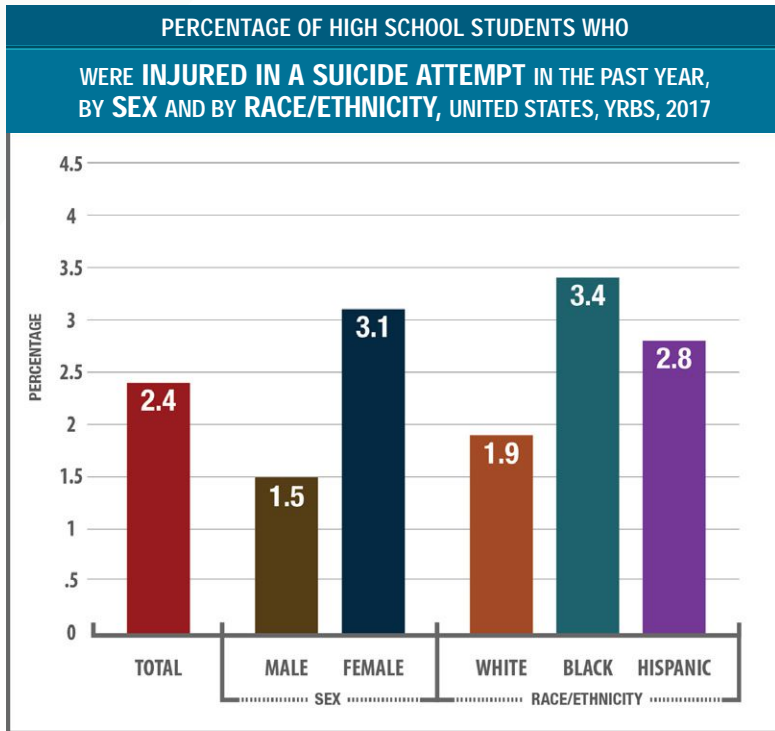
# FOCUS AREA

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

# INJURED IN A SUICIDE ATTEMPT

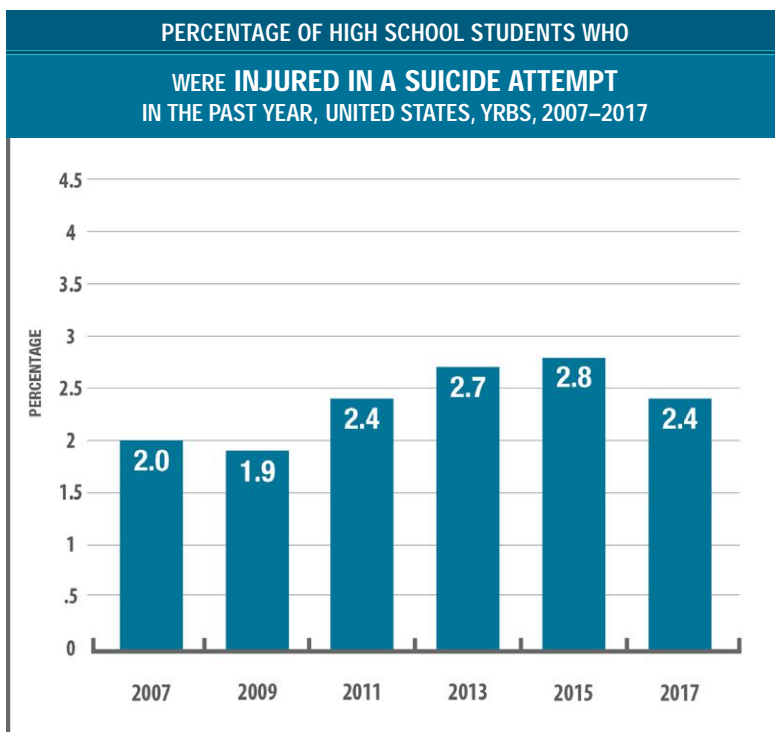
In 2017, 2.4% of high school students were injured in a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse in the past year. The percentage of students who were injured in a suicide attempt in the past year increased significantly from 2007 through 2017.



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, 2.4% of students were injured in a suicide attempt. A significantly higher percentage of female students (3.1%) were injured in a suicide attempt than male students (1.5%). A significantly higher percentage of black students (3.4%) were injured in a suicide attempt than white students (1.9%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of white students and Hispanic students who were injured in a suicide attempt, or between black students and Hispanic students who were injured in a suicide attempt.



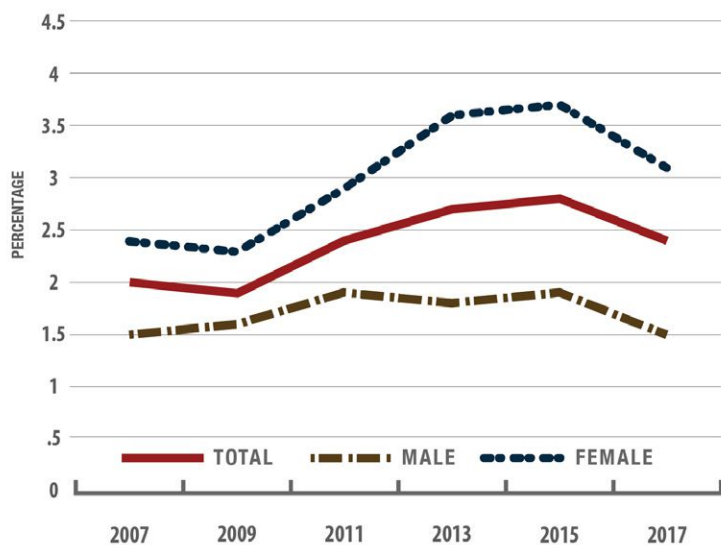
### 10-Year Trend Description



The percentage of students who were injured in a suicide attempt increased significantly from 2007 (2.0%) through 2017 (2.4%).



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
WERE **INJURED IN A SUICIDE ATTEMPT** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY **SEX**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017

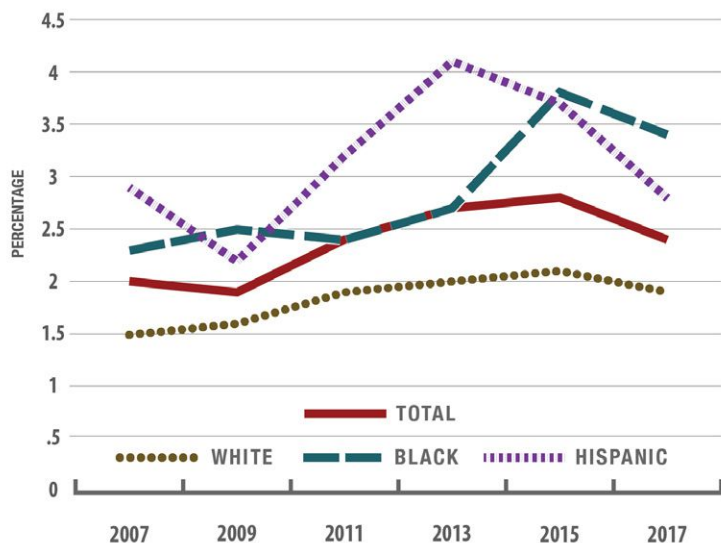


### 10-Year Trend Description by Sex



The percentage of female students who were injured in a suicide attempt increased significantly from 2007 (2.4%) through 2017 (3.1%). The percentage of male students who were injured in a suicide attempt did not change significantly.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO  
WERE **INJURED IN A SUICIDE ATTEMPT** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
BY **RACE/ETHNICITY**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2007–2017



### 10-Year Trend Description by Race/Ethnicity



The percentages of white students, black students, and Hispanic students who were injured in a suicide attempt did not change significantly from 2007 through 2017.

# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH

**Sexual minority youth (SMY) are those who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB); who are not sure of their sexual identity; or who have sexual contact with persons of the same or both sexes.**

A combination of complex factors can place SMY at high risk for suicide, depression, substance use disorder, and poor academic performance.<sup>36</sup> While many SMY thrive during adolescence, stigma, discrimination, and other factors put them at increased risk for negative health and life outcomes, and significant health disparities exist between SMY and non-SMY. However, we have only recently begun to understand the health-related behaviors that contribute to negative health outcomes among SMY and how the prevalence of these health-related behaviors compares with the prevalence of health-related behaviors among non-SMY.<sup>37</sup>

This section of the report describes the 2017 data for SMY as compared to their non-SMY counterparts for the four focus areas. For every variable explored in this report, lesbian, gay, or bisexual students were at significantly higher risk than heterosexual students.

The same holds true for students who have had sexual contact with persons of the same or both sexes for all of the variables related to high-risk substance use, violence victimization, and mental health and suicide. Students who have had sexual contact with persons of the same or both sexes are also more likely to have had four or more sexual partners and less likely to have used a condom at last sex than students who have only had sexual contact with opposite sex partners. Understanding the roots of this extremely high risk – for HIV and other STDs, as well as the related health issues and academic outcomes – remains a high priority.



# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH FOCUS AREA SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

At-a-glance for SMY sexual behavior variables . . . . .	60
Ever had sex . . . . .	61
Four or more lifetime sexual partners . . . . .	62
Currently sexually active . . . . .	63
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse . . . . .	64
Effective hormonal birth control use . . . . .	65
Condom and effective hormonal birth control use (dual method use) . . . . .	66



AT-A-GLANCE FOR

# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH

## SEXUAL BEHAVIOR VARIABLES,\* 2017

Sexual minority students are at greater risk of experiencing some sexual behaviors. Sexual minority students are less likely to use a condom, to use effective hormonal birth control, or to use both a condom and effective hormonal birth control.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	SEXUAL IDENTITY			SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS			Total all students
	Heterosexual	Lesbian, gay, or bisexual	Not sure	Opposite sex only	Same sex or both sexes	No sexual contact <sup>§</sup>	
Ever had sex	39.1	48.4	28.4	78.2	74.5	NA	39.5
Had four or more lifetime sexual partners	9.1	14.7	9.9	17.7	28.6	NA	9.7
Were currently sexually active	28.5	33.7	19.8	56.7	55.6	NA	28.7
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse <sup>†,‡</sup>	56.1	39.9	44.1	56.3	39.7	NA	53.8
Used effective hormonal birth control <sup>†,¥</sup>	30.3	24.4	18.8	30.4	28.1	NA	29.4
Used a condom and effective hormonal birth control <sup>†,¥</sup>	9.6	4.4	3.7	9.5	5.1	NA	8.8

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix.

§Students who had no sexual contact are excluded from the analyses by sex of sexual contacts

†Among students who were currently sexually active

‡Female students who had sexual contact with only females are excluded from the analyses by sex of sexual contacts

¥Students who had sexual contact with only the same sex are excluded from the analyses by sex of sexual contacts

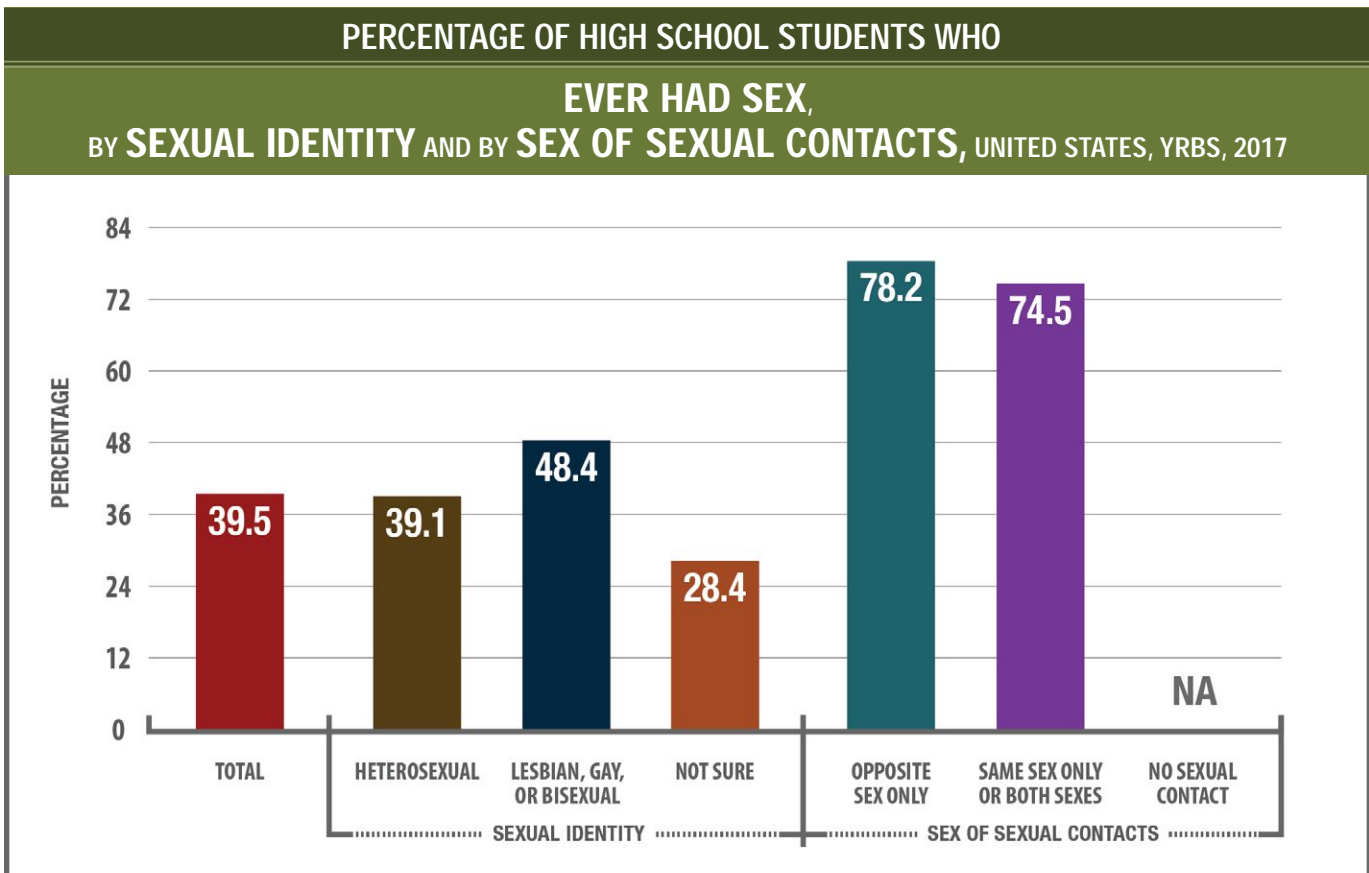
Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

**EVER  
 HAD SEX**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had ever had sexual intercourse varied significantly by sexual identity.



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**39.5%**  
 of students  
 ever had  
 sex.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of heterosexual students (39.1%) and lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (48.4%) ever had sex than students not sure of their sexual identity (28.4%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students ever had sex than heterosexual students.

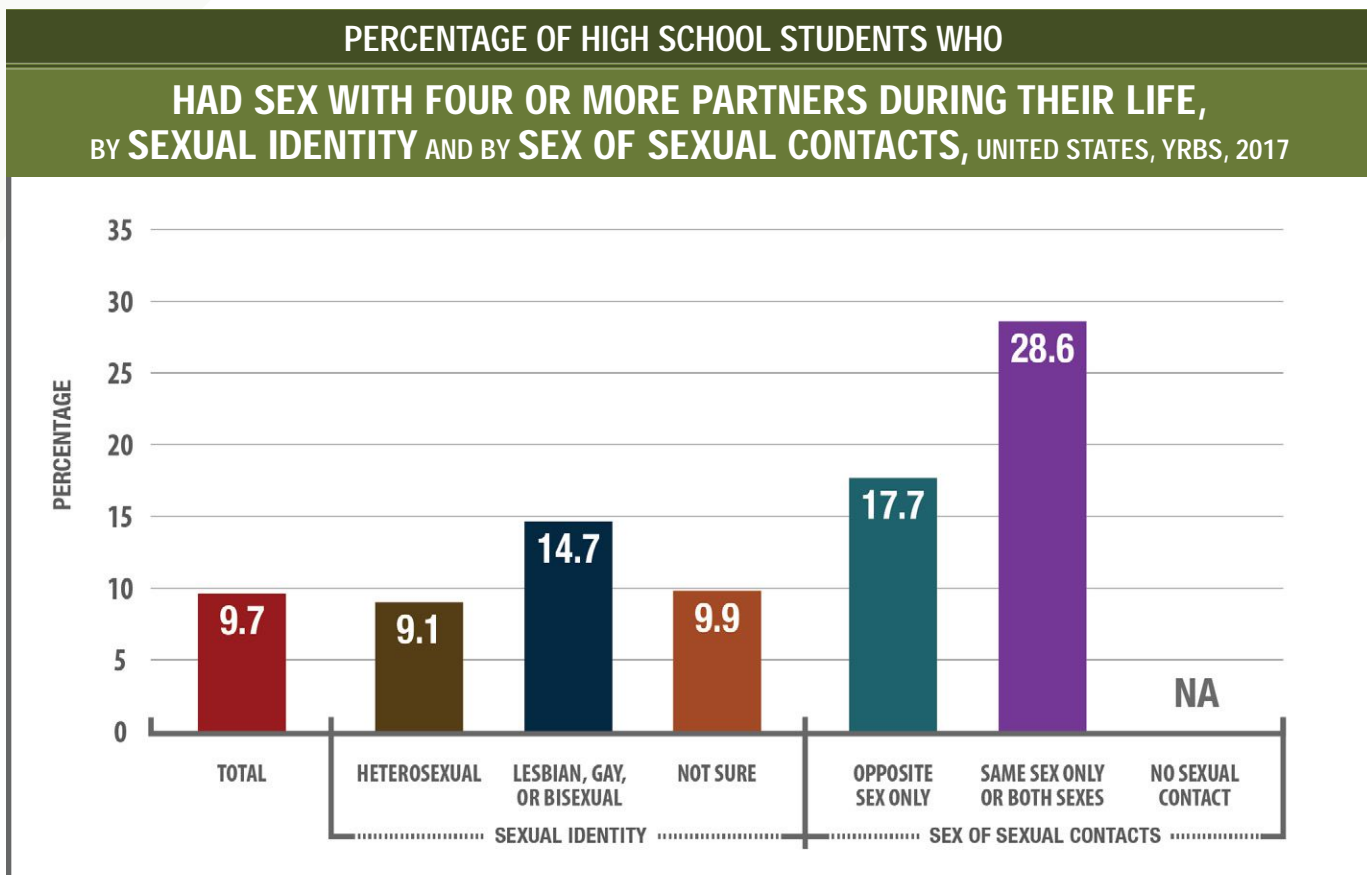
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** There was no significant difference between the percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes who ever had sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

**FOUR OR MORE LIFETIME  
 SEXUAL PARTNERS**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**9.7%**  
 of students had had  
 sex with four or  
 more partners  
 during their life.

**Sexual Identity:** A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (14.7%) had sex with four or more partners than heterosexual students (9.1%) or students not sure of their sexual identity (9.9%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of heterosexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who had sex with four or more partners.

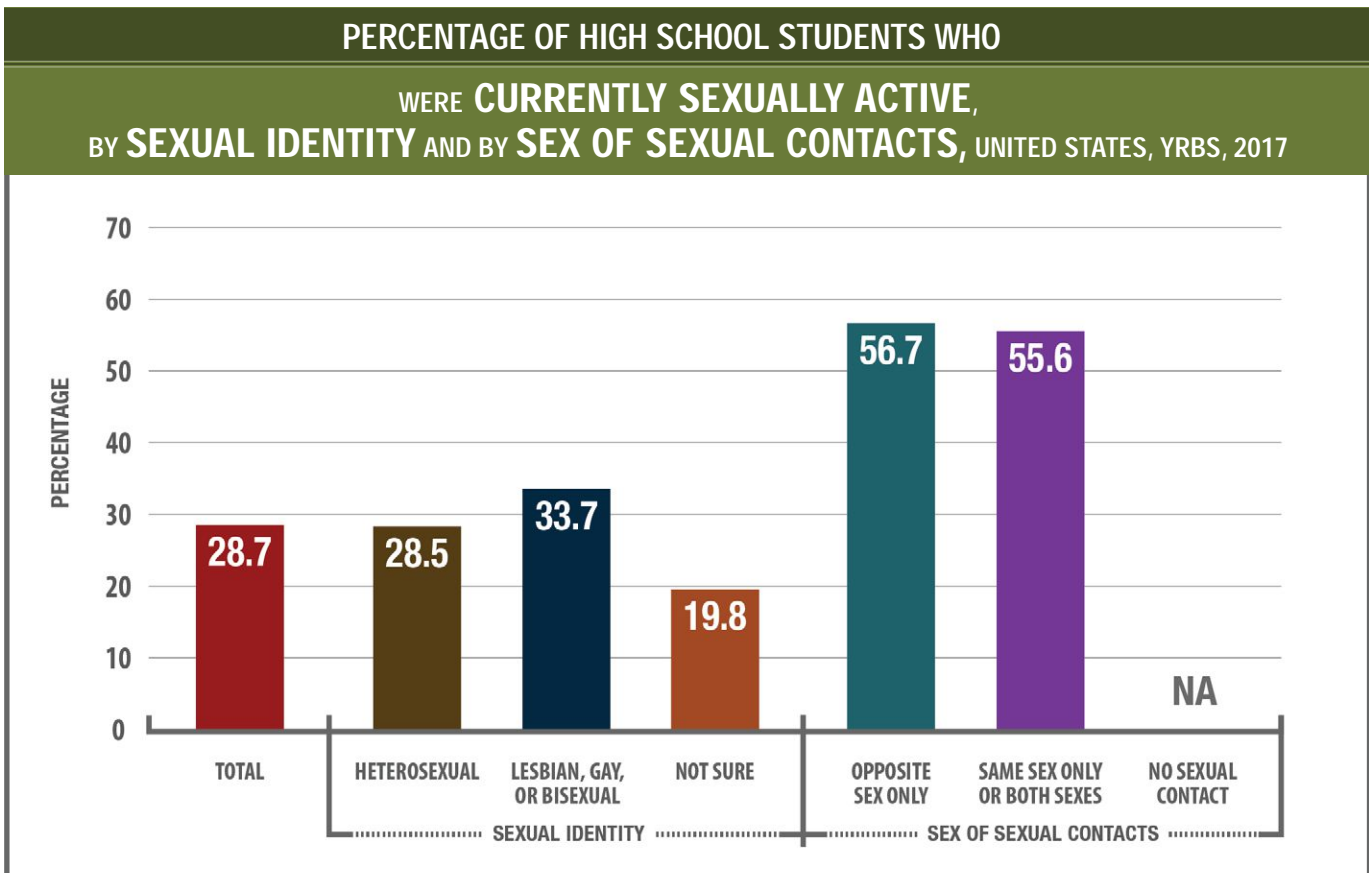
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (28.6%) had sex with four or more partners than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (17.7%).

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

**CURRENTLY  
 SEXUALLY ACTIVE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who were currently sexually active (i.e., they had sexual intercourse with at least one person in the past 3 months) varied significantly by sexual identity.



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**28.7%**  
 of students were  
 currently  
 sexually active.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of heterosexual students (28.5%) and lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (33.7%) were currently sexually active than students not sure of their sexual identity (19.8%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students were currently sexually active than heterosexual students.

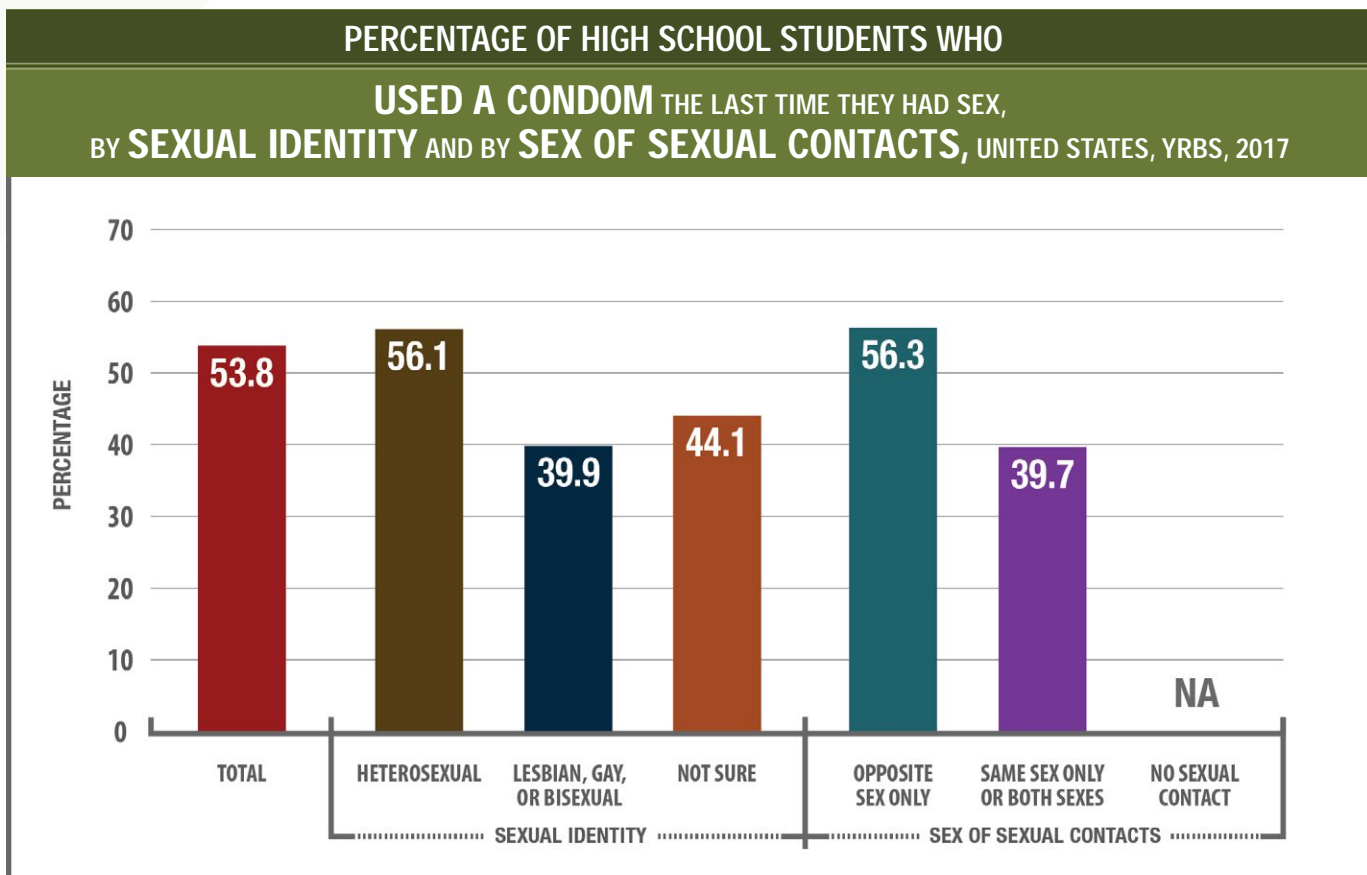
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** There was no significant difference between the percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes who were currently sexually active.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

— | V A R I A B L E | —

**USED A CONDOM  
 DURING LAST SEXUAL  
 INTERCOURSE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students (among the 28.7% of students nationwide who were currently sexually active) who used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contact.



**2017  
 Demographic  
 Description**



In 2017, **53.8%** of students who were currently sexually active used a condom the last time they had sex.

**Sexual Identity:** A significantly higher percentage of heterosexual students (56.1%) used a condom the last time they had sex than lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (39.9%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of heterosexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity, or between lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who used a condom the last time they had sex.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (56.3%) used a condom the last time they had sex than students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (39.7%).

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

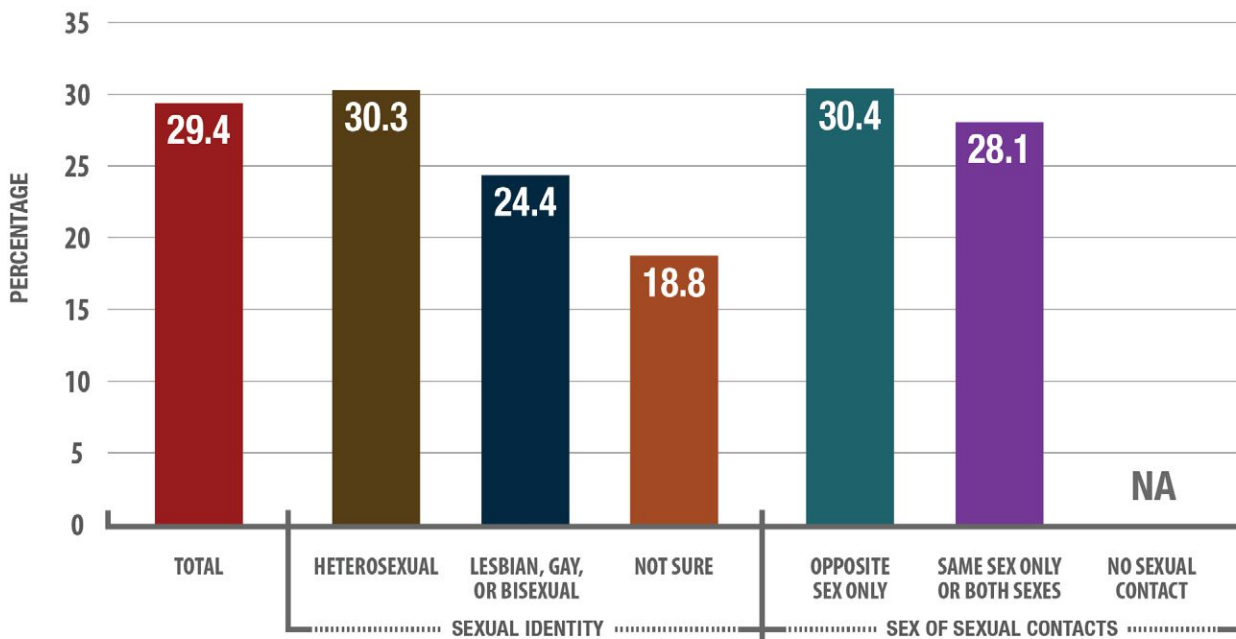
— | V A R I A B L E | —

**EFFECTIVE HORMONAL  
 BIRTH CONTROL USE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students (among the 28.7% of students nationwide who were currently sexually active) who used effective hormonal birth control, defined here as birth control pills, an IUD or implant, a shot, a patch, or a birth control ring, the last time they had sex varied significantly by sexual identity.

**PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO**

**USED EFFECTIVE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL** THE LAST TIME THEY HAD SEX,  
 BY **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND BY **SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



**2017  
 Demographic  
 Description**



In 2017, **29.4%** of students who were currently sexually active used effective hormonal birth control the last time they had sex.

**Sexual Identity:** A significantly higher percentage of heterosexual students (30.3%) used effective hormonal birth control the last time they had sex than lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (24.4%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of heterosexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity, or between lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who used effective hormonal birth control the last time they had sex.

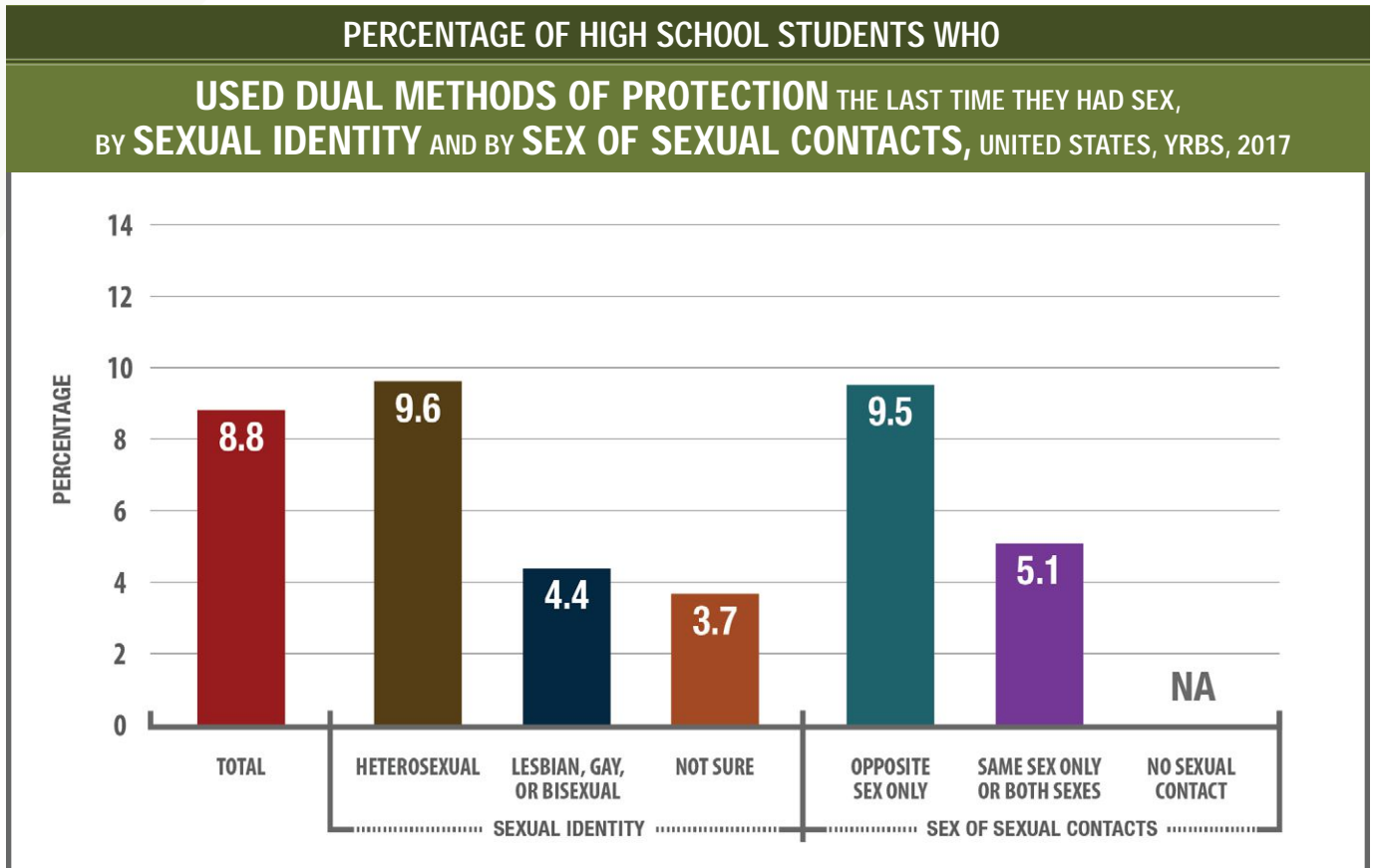
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** There was no significant difference between the percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex and students who had sexual contact with both sexes who used effective hormonal birth control the last time they had sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

VARIABLE

**CONDOM AND EFFECTIVE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL USE (DUAL METHOD USE)**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students (among the 28.7% of students nationwide who were currently sexually active) who used dual methods of protection, including both a condom and effective hormonal birth control (defined here as birth control pills, an IUD or implant, a shot, a patch, or a birth control ring) the last time they had sex varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, **8.8%** of students who were currently sexually active used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex.

**Sexual Identity:** A significantly higher percentage of heterosexual students (9.6%) used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex than lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (4.4%) or students not sure of their sexual identity (3.7%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (9.5%) used dual methods of protection the last time they had sex than students who had sexual contact with both sexes (5.1%).

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

At-a-glance for SMY high-risk substance use variables . . . . . 68

Select illicit drug use . . . . . 69

Injection drug use . . . . . 70

Prescription opioid misuse . . . . . 71





AT-A-GLANCE FOR

# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH

## HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE VARIABLES,\* 2017

Sexual minority students are at greater risk for high-risk substance use, including using select illicit drugs, injecting illegal drugs, and misusing prescription opioids.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	SEXUAL IDENTITY			SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS			Total all students
	Heterosexual	Lesbian, gay, or bisexual	Not sure	Opposite sex only	Same sex or both sexes	No sexual contact	
Ever used select illicit drugs	12.3	23.1	26.8	19.0	36.2	4.7	14.0
Ever injected illegal drugs	1.0	3.4	6.1	1.4	6.0	0.2	1.5
Ever misused prescription opioids	12.9	24.3	17.7	19.9	35.3	5.7	14.0

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix. | Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

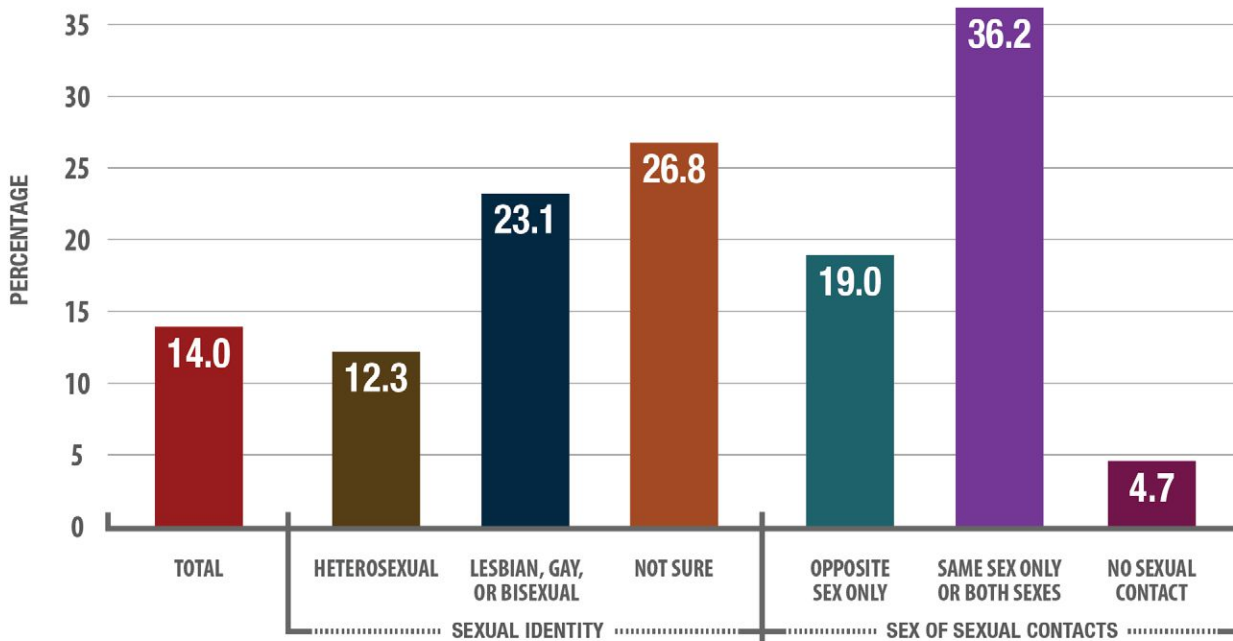
VARIABLE

**SELECT ILLICIT  
 DRUG USE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had ever used select illicit drugs, defined as cocaine, inhalants, heroin, methamphetamines, hallucinogens, or ecstasy, varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

HAD EVER USED SELECT ILLICIT DRUGS,  
 BY SEXUAL IDENTITY AND BY SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**14.0%**  
 of students had  
 ever used select  
 illicit drugs.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (23.1%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (26.8%) used select illicit drugs than heterosexual students (12.3%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who had ever used select illicit drugs.

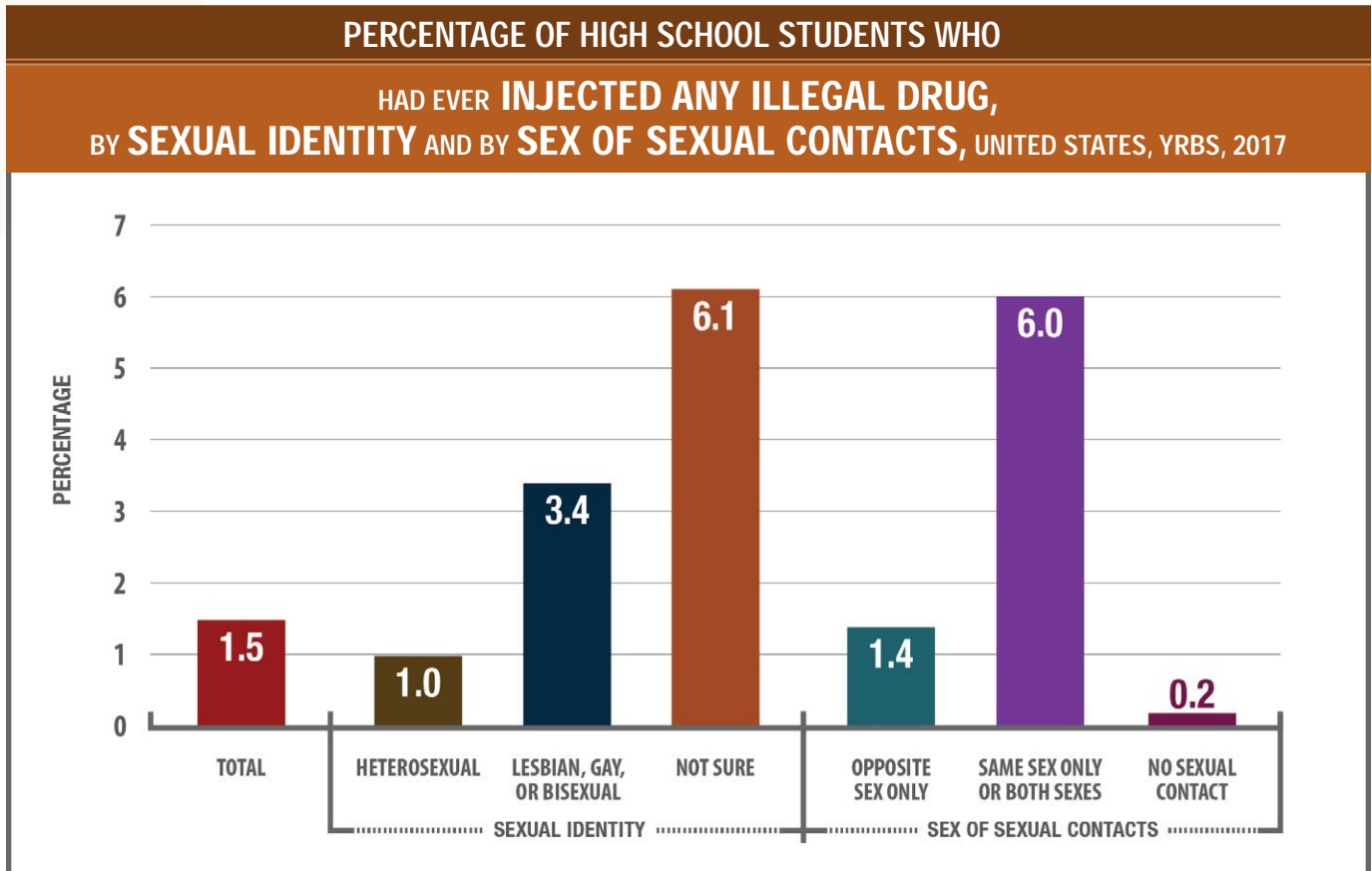
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (19.0%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (36.2%) had ever used select illicit drugs than students who had no sexual contact (4.7%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes ever used select illicit drugs than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

VARIABLE

**INJECTION  
 DRUG USE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had ever injected any illegal drug into their body using a needle varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**1.5%**  
 of students had  
 ever injected  
 illegal drugs.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (3.4%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (6.1%) had ever injected illegal drugs than heterosexual students (1.0%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who had ever injected illegal drugs.

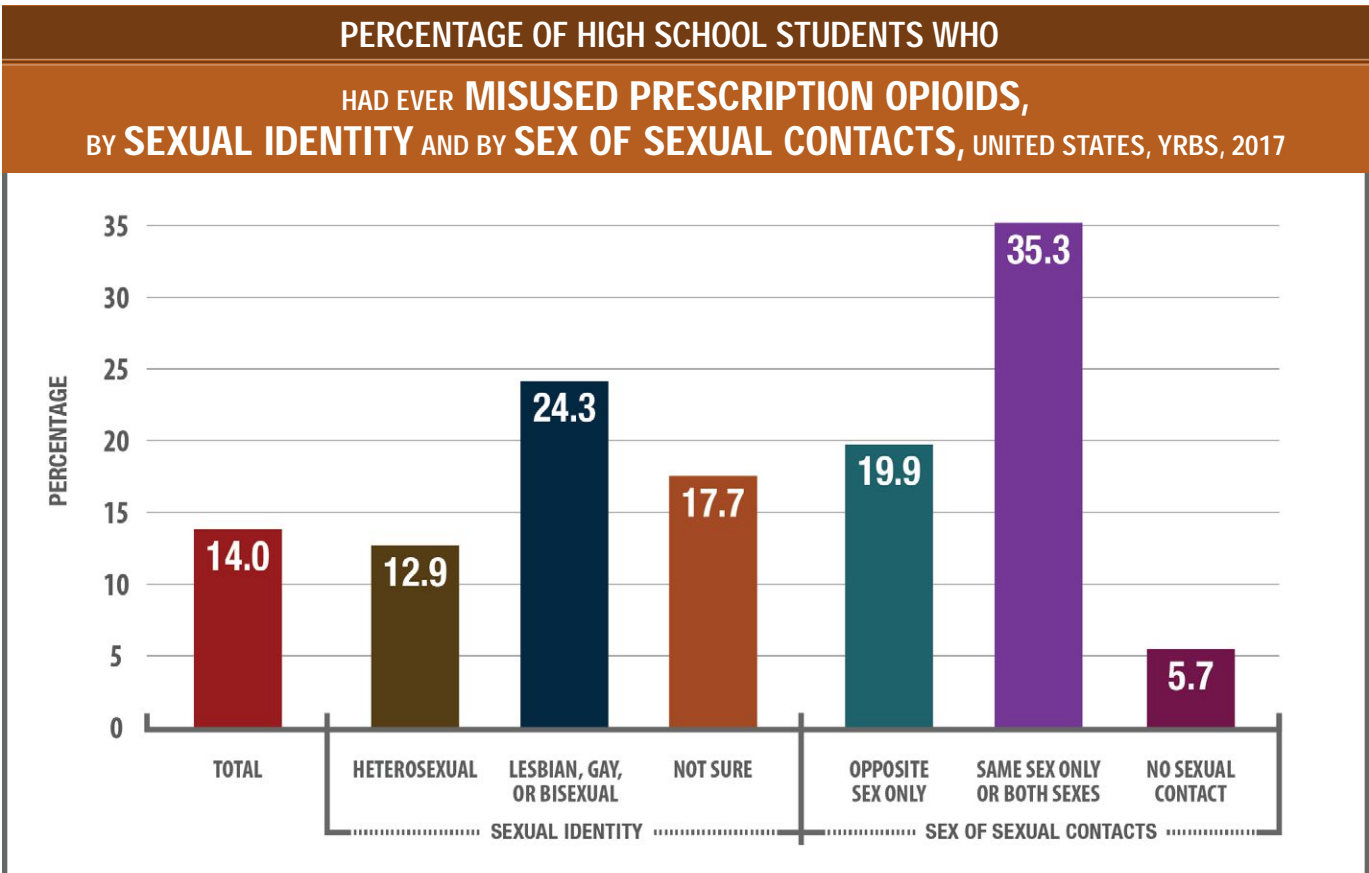
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (1.4%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (6.0%) had ever injected illegal drugs than students who had no sexual contact (0.2%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes ever injected illegal drugs than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

— VARIABLE —

**PRESCRIPTION  
 OPIOID MISUSE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had ever used prescription pain medicine, such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, or Percocet, without a prescription or differently than indicated by a doctor varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



**2017  
 Demographic  
 Description**



In 2017,  
**14.0%**  
 of students had  
 ever misused  
 prescription  
 opioids.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (24.3%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (17.7%) had ever misused prescription opioids than heterosexual students (12.9%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students ever misused prescription opioids than students not sure of their sexual identity.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (19.9%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (35.3%) had ever misused prescription opioids than students who had no sexual contact (5.7%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes ever misused prescription opioids than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH FOCUS AREA VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

At-a-glance for SMY violence victimization variables . . . . .	73
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school . . . . .	74
Did not go to school because of safety concerns . . . . .	75
Electronically bullied . . . . .	76
Bullied at school . . . . .	77
Forced sex . . . . .	78
Physical dating violence . . . . .	79
Sexual dating violence . . . . .	80



AT-A-GLANCE FOR

# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH

## VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION VARIABLES,\* 2017

Sexual minority students are at greater risk for violence victimization, including being bullied (both at school and electronically), being threatened or feeling unsafe at school, experiencing dating violence, and being forced to have sex.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	SEXUAL IDENTITY			SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS			Total all students
	Hetero-sexual	Lesbian, gay, or bisexual	Not sure	Opposite sex only	Same sex or both sexes	No sexual contact	
Were threatened or injured with a weapon at school	5.4	9.4	11.1	7.6	12.1	3.1	6.0
Did not go to school because of safety concerns	6.1	10.0	10.7	7.9	11.5	4.5	6.7
Were electronically bullied	13.3	27.1	22.0	17.7	31.4	10.5	14.9
Were bullied at school	17.1	33.0	24.3	19.3	35.8	16.8	19.0
Were forced to have sex	5.4	21.9	13.1	9.9	30.3	1.5	7.4
Experienced physical dating violence <sup>+</sup>	6.4	17.2	14.1	9.1	20.2	2.4	8.0
Experienced sexual dating violence <sup>+</sup>	5.5	15.8	14.1	7.2	19.5	3.5	6.9

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix.

<sup>+</sup>Among students who dated or went out with someone during the past year

Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

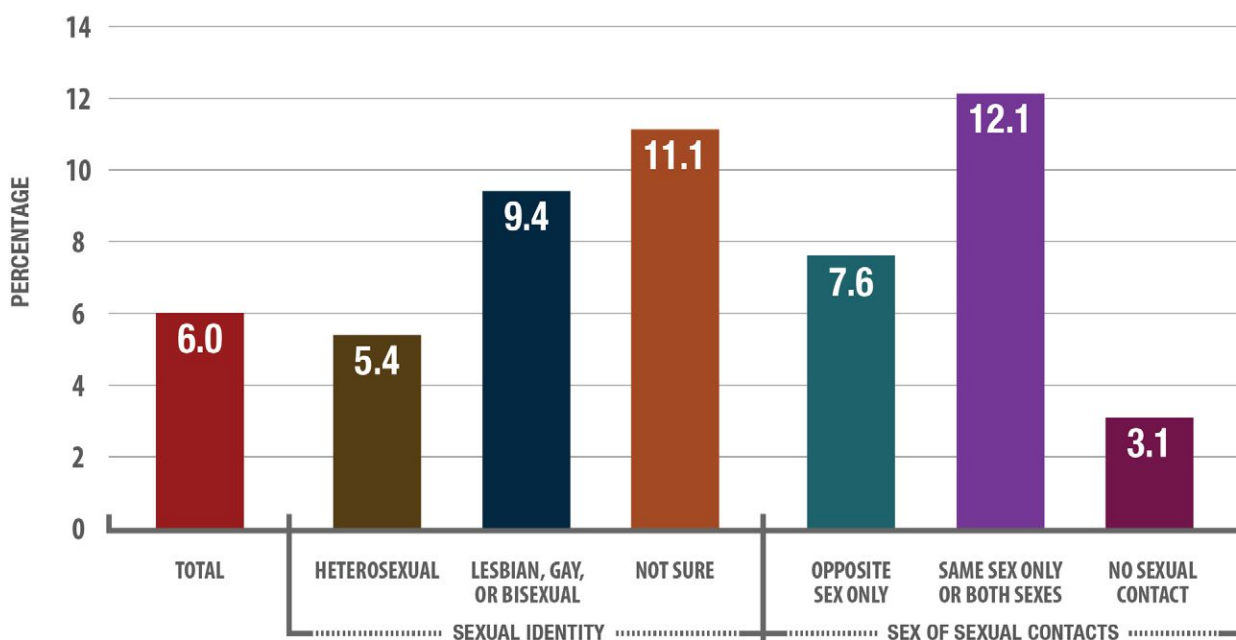
VARIABLE

**THREATENED OR  
 INJURED WITH A  
 WEAPON AT SCHOOL**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who were threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property during the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE **THREATENED OR INJURED WITH A WEAPON AT SCHOOL** IN THE PAST YEAR, BY **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND BY **SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**6.0%** of  
 students were  
 threatened or  
 injured with  
 a weapon at  
 school.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (9.4%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (11.1%) were threatened or injured with a weapon at school than heterosexual students (5.4%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who were threatened or injured with a weapon at school.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (7.6%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (12.1%) were threatened or injured with a weapon at school than students who had no sexual contact (3.1%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes were threatened or injured with a weapon at school than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

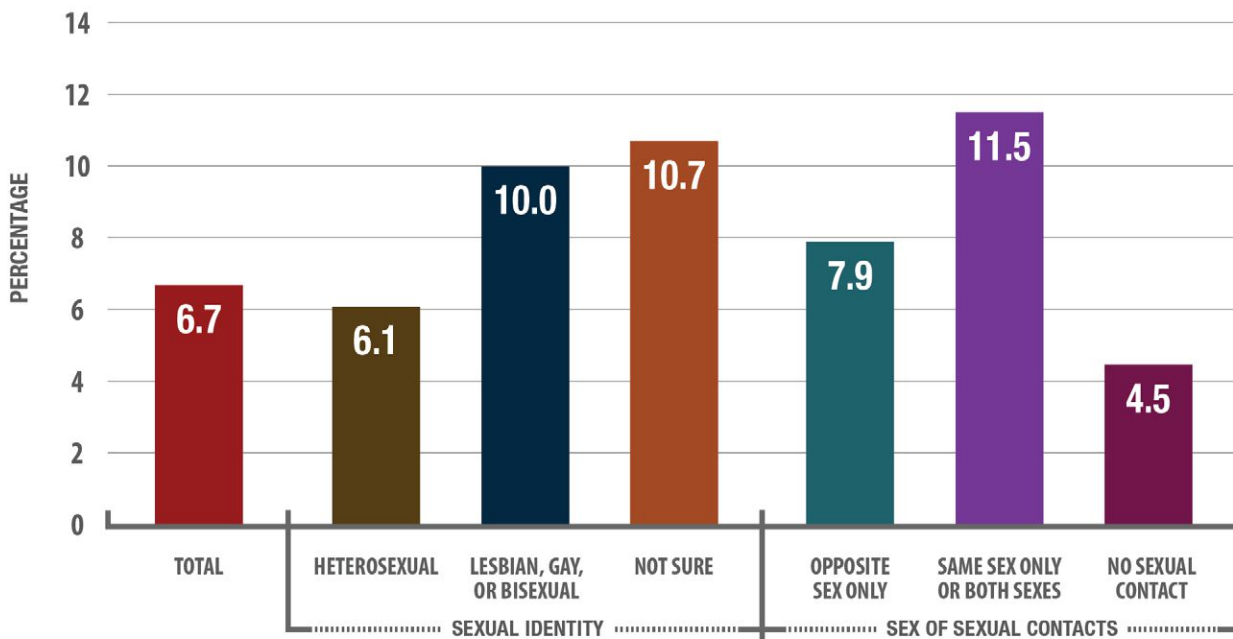
VARIABLE

**DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who did not go to school at least once during the past month because they felt unsafe either at school or on their way to or from school varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL AT LEAST ONCE IN THE PAST MONTH BECAUSE OF SAFETY CONCERNS, BY SEXUAL IDENTITY AND BY SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017**



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017, **6.7%** of students missed school in the past month because of safety concerns.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (10.0%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (10.7%) missed school during the past month because of safety concerns than heterosexual students (6.1%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who missed school because of safety concerns.

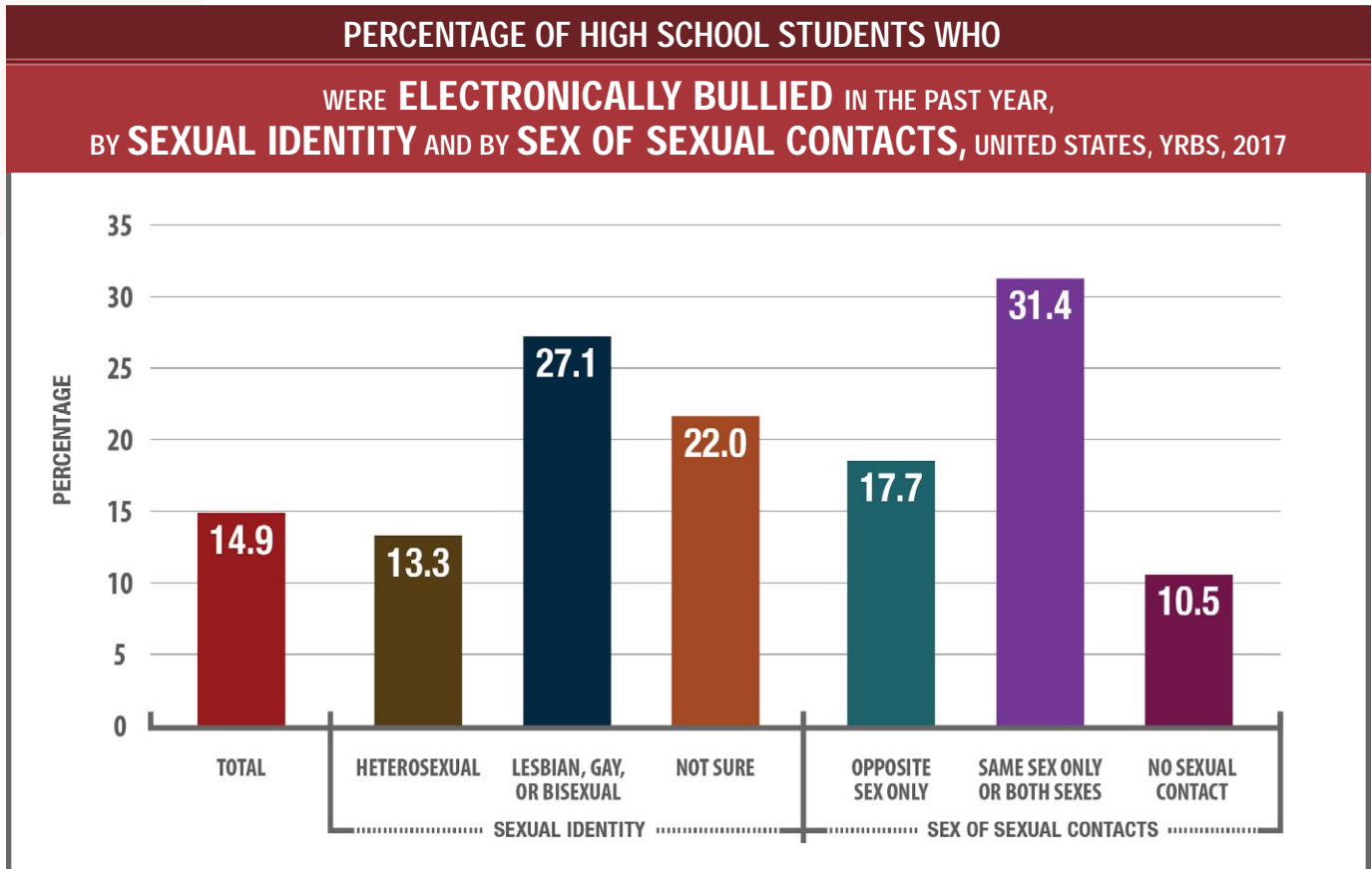
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (7.9%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (11.5%) missed school during the past month because of safety concerns than students who had no sexual contact (4.5%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes missed school because of safety concerns than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

**ELECTRONICALLY  
 BULLIED**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who were electronically bullied, including through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media, during the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**14.9%**  
 of students were  
 electronically  
 bullied.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (27.1%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (22.0%) were electronically bullied than heterosexual students (13.3%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who were electronically bullied.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (17.7%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (31.4%) were electronically bullied than students who had no sexual contact (10.5%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes were electronically bullied than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

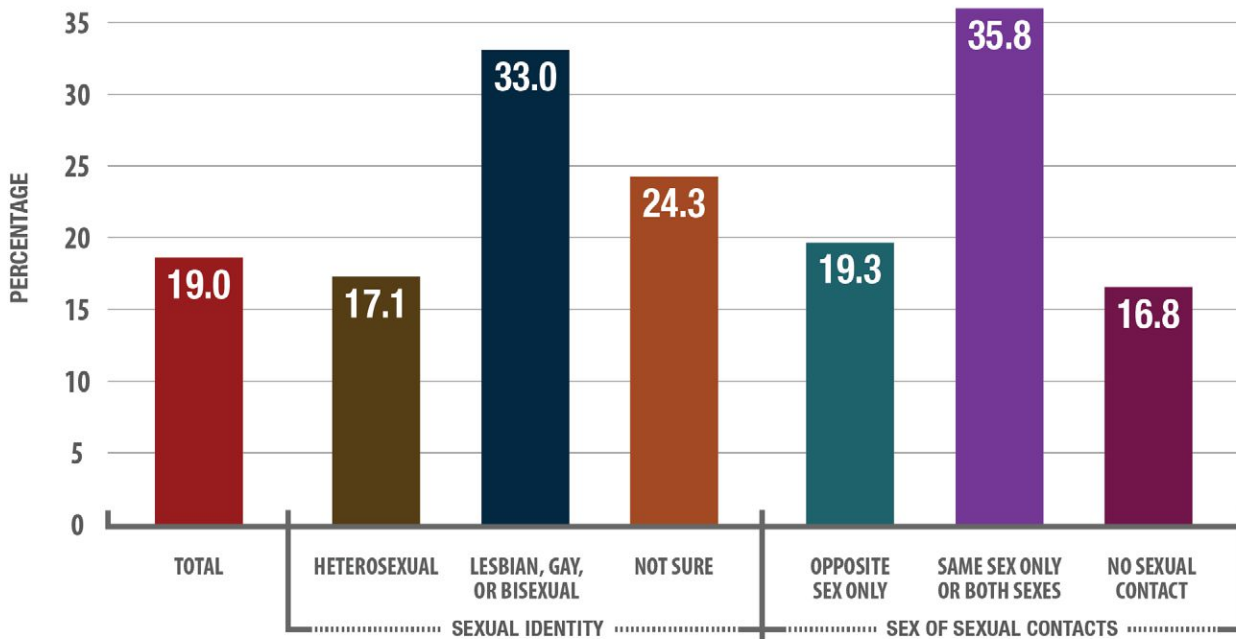
VARIABLE

**BULLIED  
 AT SCHOOL**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who were bullied on school property during the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE **BULLIED AT SCHOOL** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND BY **SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**19.0%**  
 of students  
 were **bullied at  
 school.**

**Sexual Identity:** A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (33.0%) were bullied at school than heterosexual students (17.1%) or students not sure of their sexual identity (24.3%). A significantly higher percentage of students not sure of their sexual identity were bullied at school than heterosexual students.

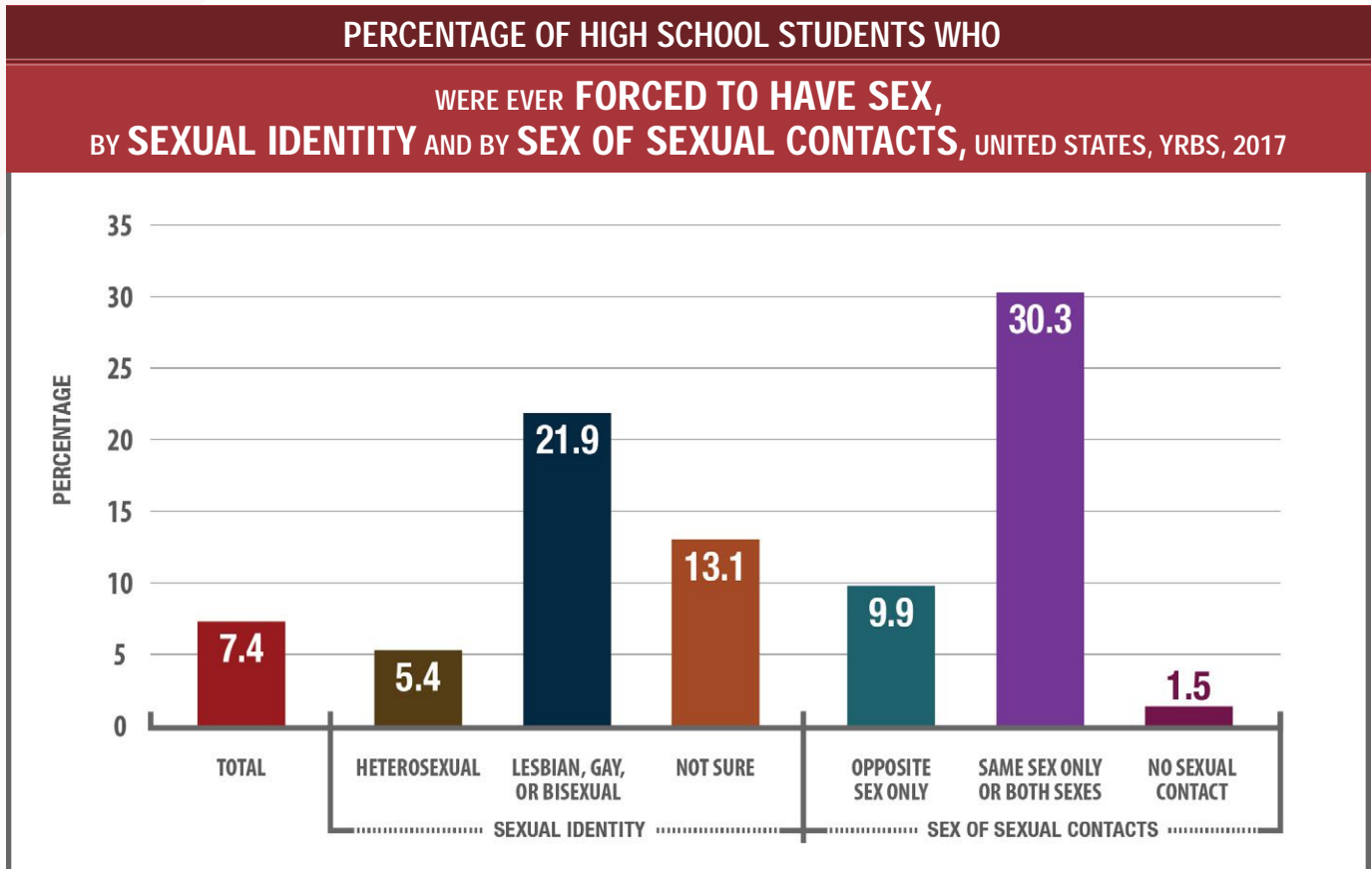
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (19.3%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (35.8%) were bullied at school than students who had no sexual contact (16.8%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes were bullied at school than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

VARIABLE

**FORCED  
SEX**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017  
Demographic  
Description



In 2017, **7.4%** of students had ever been forced to have sex.

**Sexual Identity:** A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (21.9%) were ever forced to have sex than students not sure of their sexual identity (13.1%) or heterosexual students (5.4%). A significantly higher percentage of students who were not sure of their sexual identity were ever forced to have sex than heterosexual students.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (9.9%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (30.3%) were ever forced to have sex than students who had no sexual contact (1.5%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes were ever forced to have sex than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION

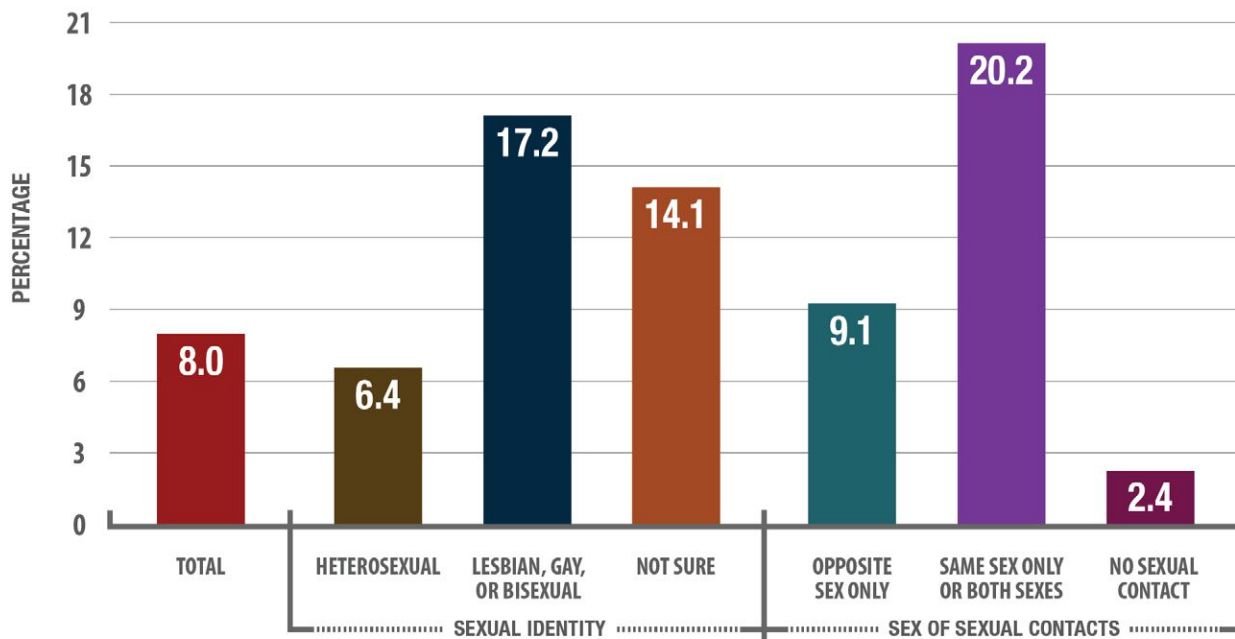
VARIABLE

**PHYSICAL DATING VIOLENCE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who experienced physical dating violence (among the 69.0% of students who dated or went out with someone in the past year), defined as being physically hurt on purpose, including such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon, by someone they were dating or going out with, during the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL DATING VIOLENCE IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY SEXUAL IDENTITY AND BY SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017, **8.0%**  
 of students  
 experienced  
 physical  
 dating  
 violence.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (17.2%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (14.1%) experienced physical dating violence than heterosexual students (6.4%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who experienced physical dating violence.

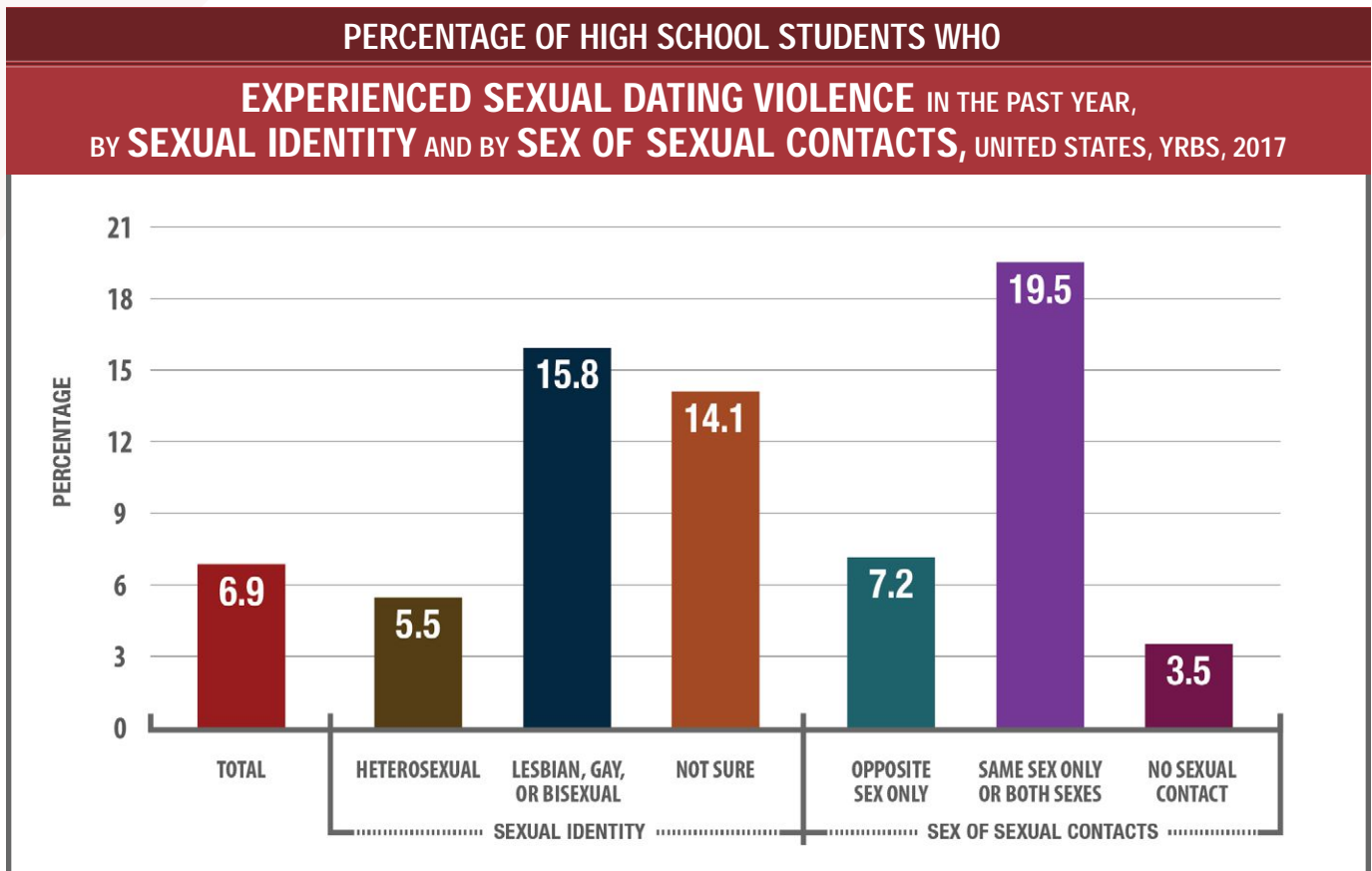
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (9.1%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (20.2%) experienced physical dating violence than students who had no sexual contact (2.4%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes experienced physical dating violence than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCE USE

VARIABLE

**SEXUAL DATING VIOLENCE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who experienced sexual dating violence (among the 68.3% of students who dated or went out with someone in the past year), defined as being forced to do sexual things (including such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse) they did not want to do by someone they were dating or going out with, during the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017 Demographic Description



In 2017,  
**6.9%**  
 of students  
 experienced  
 sexual dating  
 violence.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (15.8%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (14.1%) experienced sexual dating violence than heterosexual students (5.5%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who experienced sexual dating violence.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (7.2%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (19.5%) experienced sexual dating violence than students who had no sexual contact (3.5%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes experienced sexual dating violence than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

At-a-glance for SMY mental health and suicide variables . . . . 82

Persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness . . . . . 83

Seriously considered attempting suicide . . . . . 84

Made a suicide plan . . . . . 85

Attempted suicide . . . . . 86

Injured in a suicide attempt . . . . . 87



AT-A-GLANCE FOR

# SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE VARIABLES,\* 2017

Sexual minority students are at greater risk of experiencing mental health issues, including feeling sad or hopeless, seriously considering attempting suicide, making a suicide plan, attempting suicide, and being injured in a suicide attempt.

THE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO:	SEXUAL IDENTITY			SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS			Total all students
	Heterosexual	Lesbian, gay, or bisexual	Not sure	Opposite sex only	Same sex or both sexes	No sexual contact	
Experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness	27.5	63.0	46.4	34.8	63.9	25.4	31.5
Seriously considered attempting suicide	13.3	47.7	31.8	19.0	45.1	12.3	17.2
Made a suicide plan	10.4	38.0	25.6	14.4	41.2	9.1	13.6
Attempted suicide	5.4	23.0	14.3	8.1	23.8	4.2	7.4
Were injured in a suicide attempt	1.7	7.5	5.6	2.7	7.8	1.2	2.4

\*For the complete wording of YRBS questions, refer to Appendix. | Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

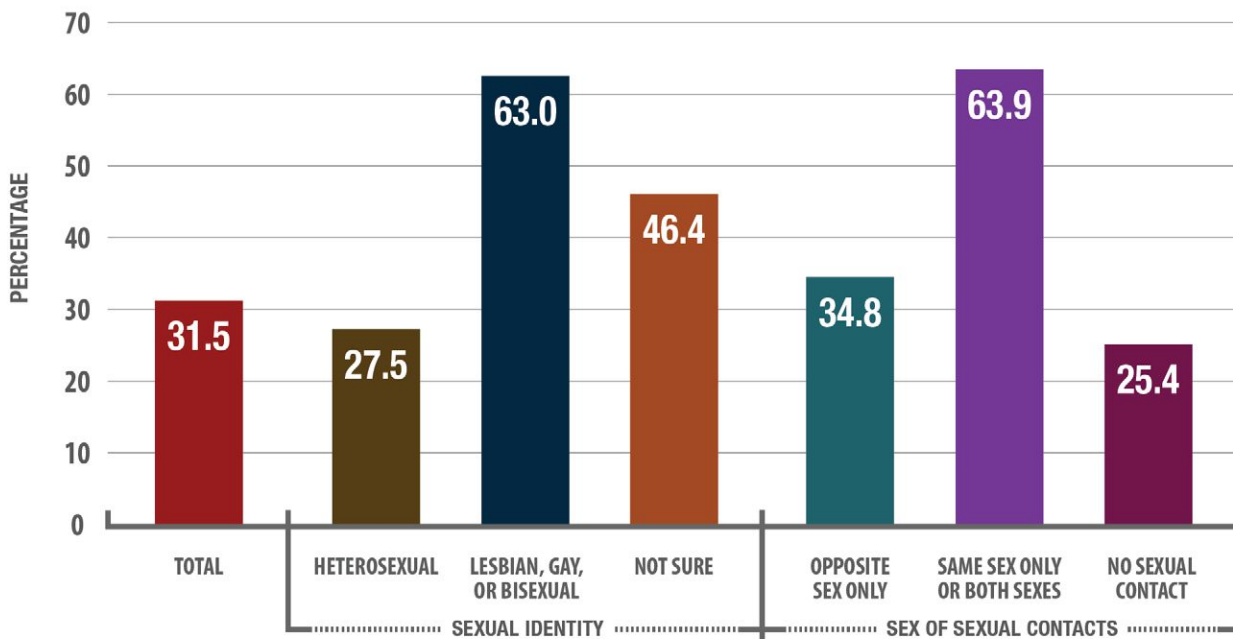
— VARIABLE —

**PERSISTENT FEELINGS  
 OF SADNESS OR  
 HOPELESSNESS**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had experienced periods of persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness (i.e., almost every day for two weeks or more in a row so that the student stopped doing some usual activities) in the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED PERIODS OF

**PERSISTENT FEELINGS OF SADNESS OR HOPELESSNESS** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND BY **SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017, **31.5%**  
 of students  
 experienced  
**persistent  
 feelings of  
 sadness or  
 hopelessness.**

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (63.0%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (46.4%) experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness than heterosexual students (27.5%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness than students not sure of their sexual identity.

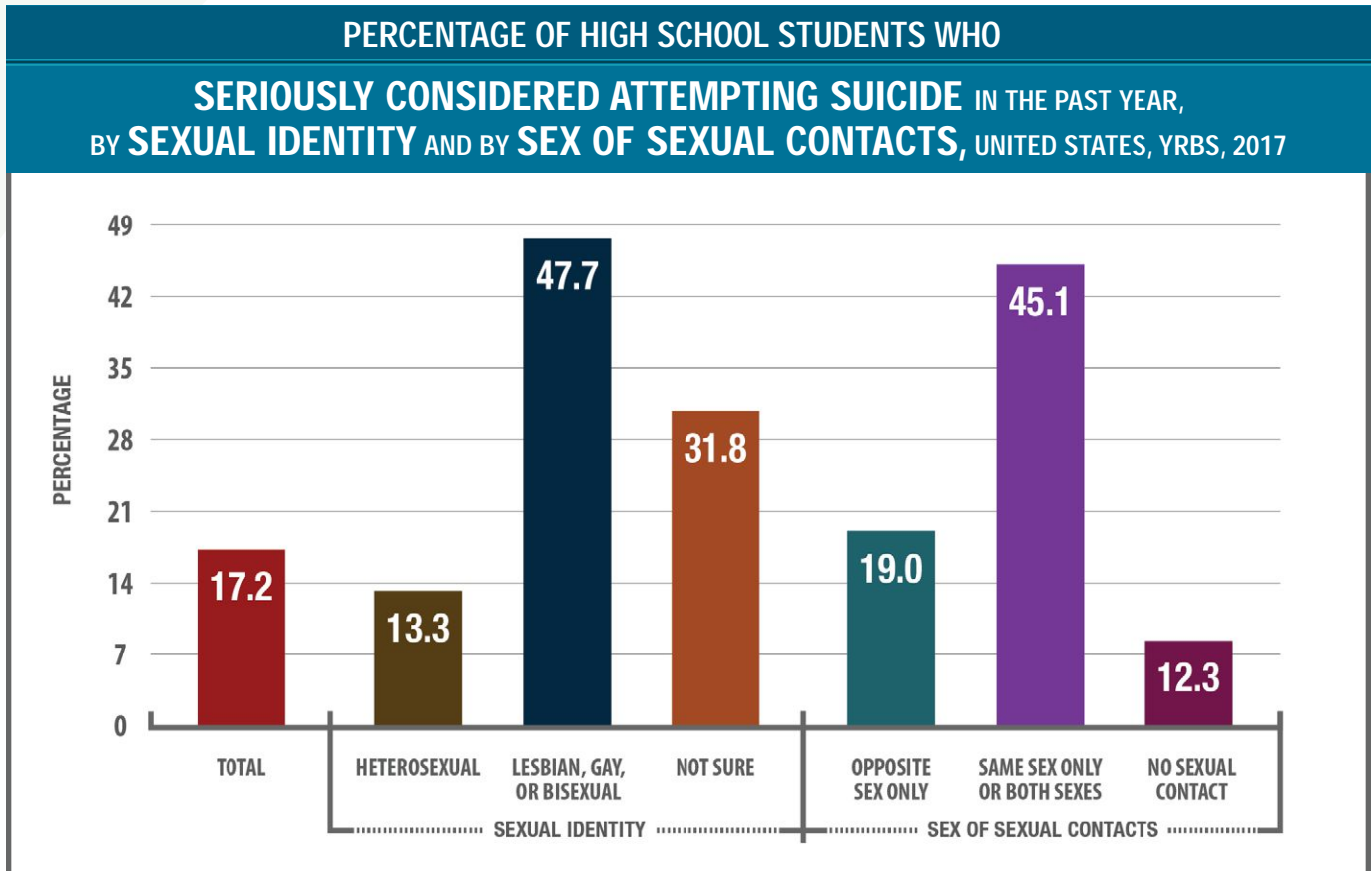
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (34.8%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (63.9%) experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness than students who had no sexual contact (25.4%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

**SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING SUICIDE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, **17.2%** of students seriously considered attempting suicide.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (47.7%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (31.8%) seriously considered attempting suicide than heterosexual students (13.3%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students seriously considered attempting suicide than students not sure of their sexual identity.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (19.0%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (45.1%) seriously considered attempting suicide than students who had no sexual contact (12.3%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes seriously considered attempting suicide than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

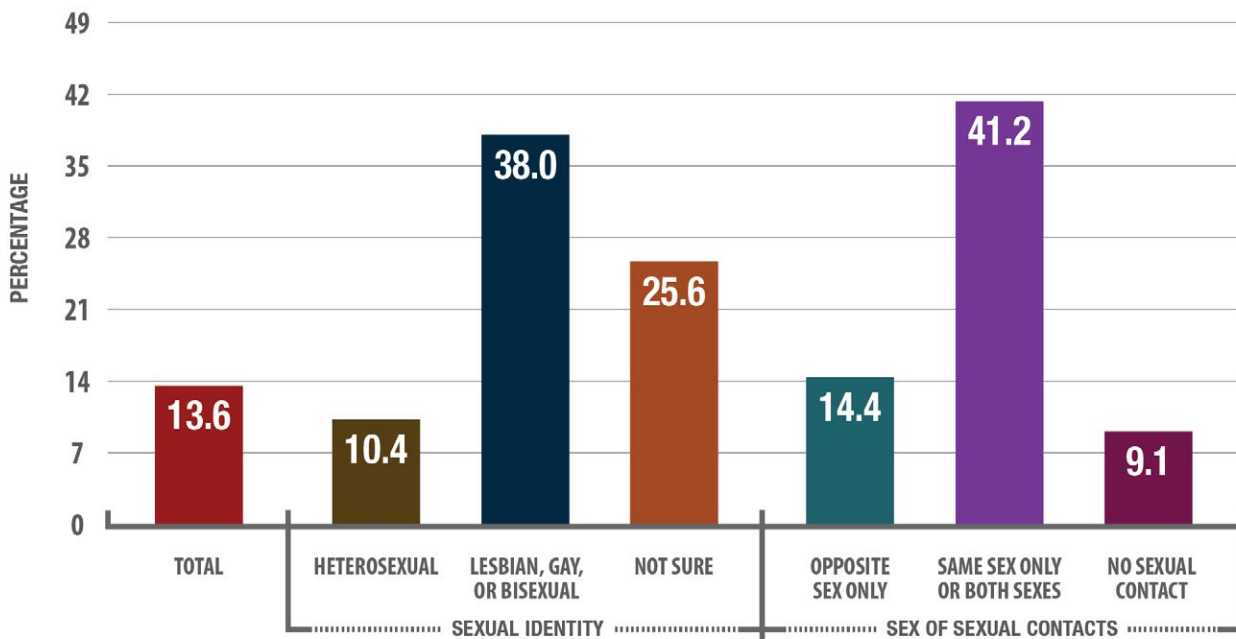
— VARIABLE —

**MADE A  
 SUICIDE PLAN**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide in the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

**MADE A SUICIDE PLAN** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND BY **SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**13.6%**  
 of students  
 made a  
 suicide plan.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (38.0%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (25.6%) made a suicide plan than heterosexual students (10.4%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students made a suicide plan than students not sure of their sexual identity.

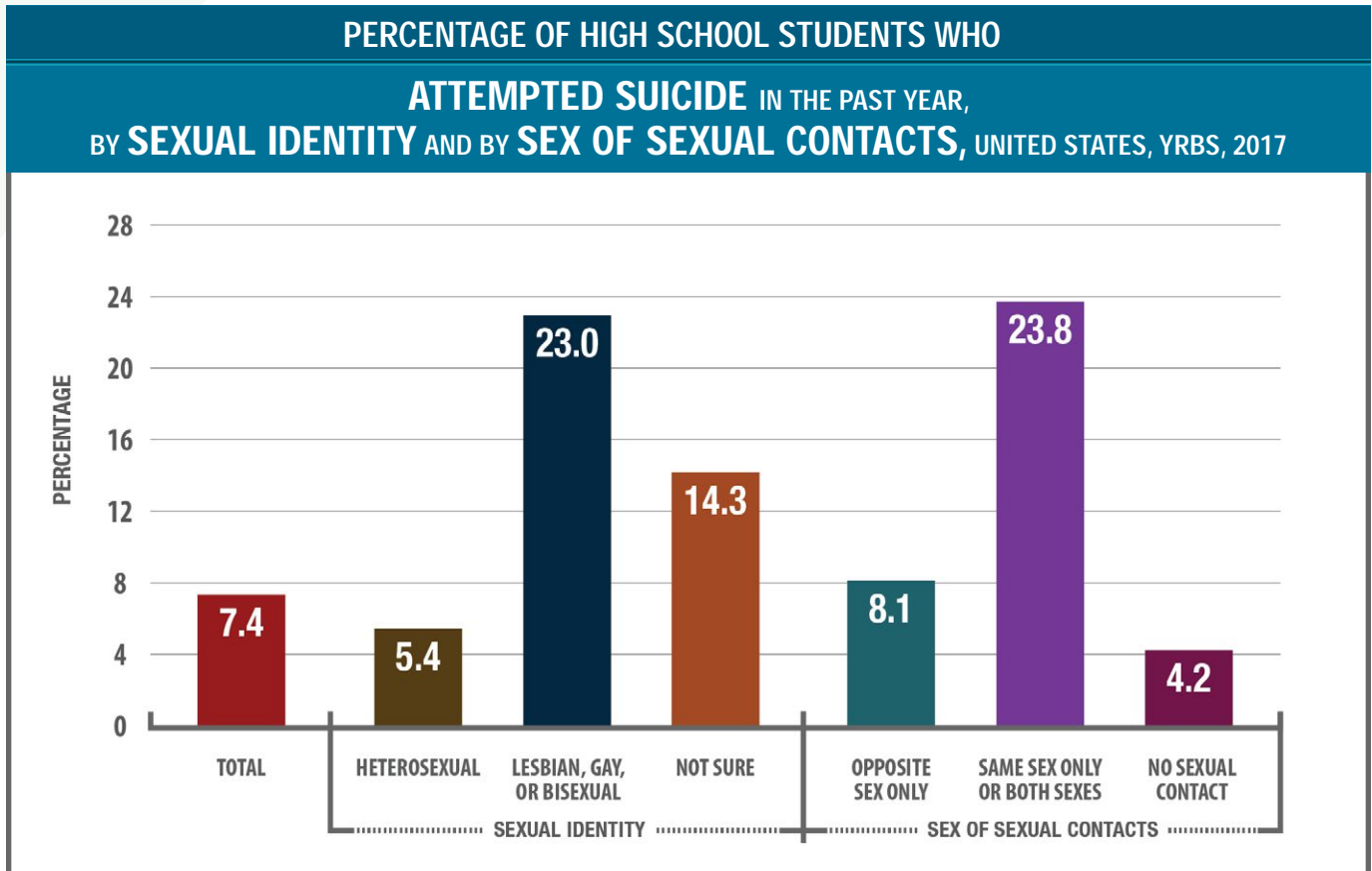
**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (14.4%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (41.2%) made a suicide plan than students who had no sexual contact (9.1%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes made a suicide plan than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

VARIABLE

**ATTEMPTED  
 SUICIDE**

In 2017, the percentage of high school students who attempted suicide one or more times in the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.



2017  
 Demographic  
 Description



In 2017,  
**7.4%**  
 of students  
 attempted  
 suicide.

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (23.0%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (14.3%) attempted suicide than heterosexual students (5.4%). A significantly higher percentage of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students attempted suicide than students not sure of their sexual identity.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (8.1%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (23.8%) attempted suicide than students who had no sexual contact (4.2%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes attempted suicide than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH  
**FOCUS AREA**  
 MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE

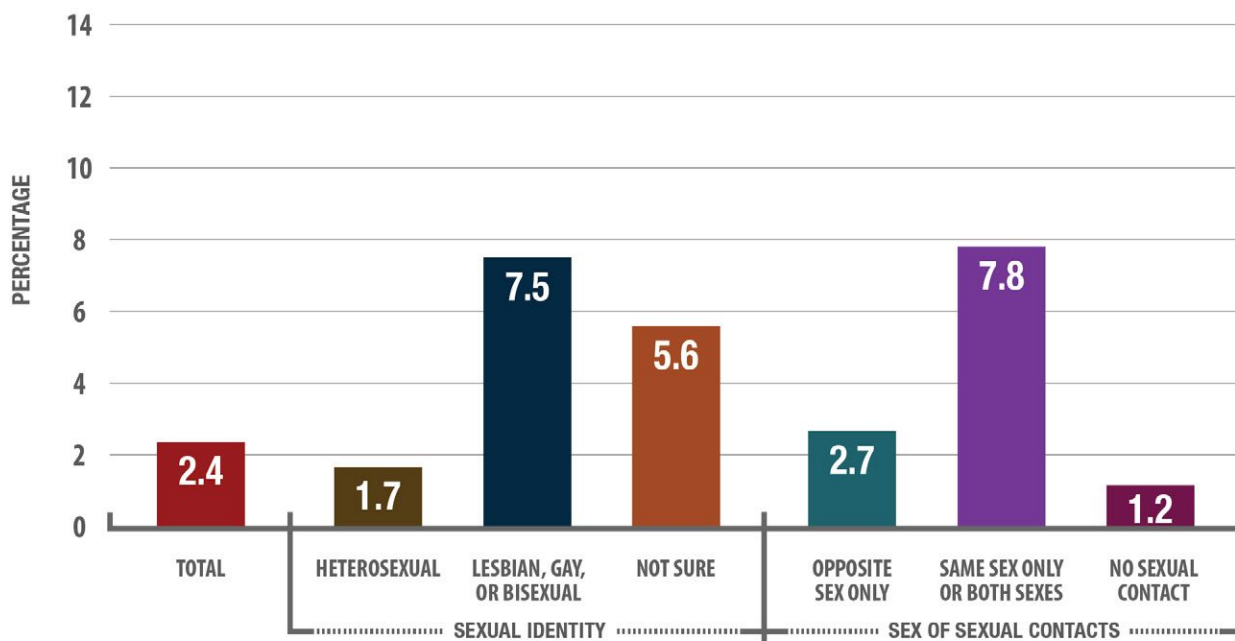
VARIABLE

# INJURED IN A SUICIDE ATTEMPT

In 2017, the percentage of high school students whose suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse in the past year varied significantly by sexual identity and by sex of sexual contacts.

## PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO

WERE **INJURED IN A SUICIDE ATTEMPT** IN THE PAST YEAR,  
 BY **SEXUAL IDENTITY** AND BY **SEX OF SEXUAL CONTACTS**, UNITED STATES, YRBS, 2017



### 2017 Demographic Description



In 2017, **2.4%** of students were **injured in a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.**

**Sexual Identity:** Significantly higher percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students (7.5%) and students not sure of their sexual identity (5.6%) were injured in a suicide attempt than heterosexual students (1.7%). There was no significant difference between the percentages of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity who were injured in a suicide attempt.

**Sex of Sexual Contacts:** Significantly higher percentages of students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex (2.7%) and students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes (7.8%) were injured in a suicide attempt than students who had no sexual contact (1.2%). A significantly higher percentage of students who had sexual contact with only the same sex or with both sexes were injured in a suicide attempt than students who had sexual contact with only the opposite sex.

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# APPENDIX

## Focus Area: **Sexual Behavior**

1. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?
  2. During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?
  3. During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?
  4. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?
  5. The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy?
- 

## Focus Area: **High-Risk Substance Use**

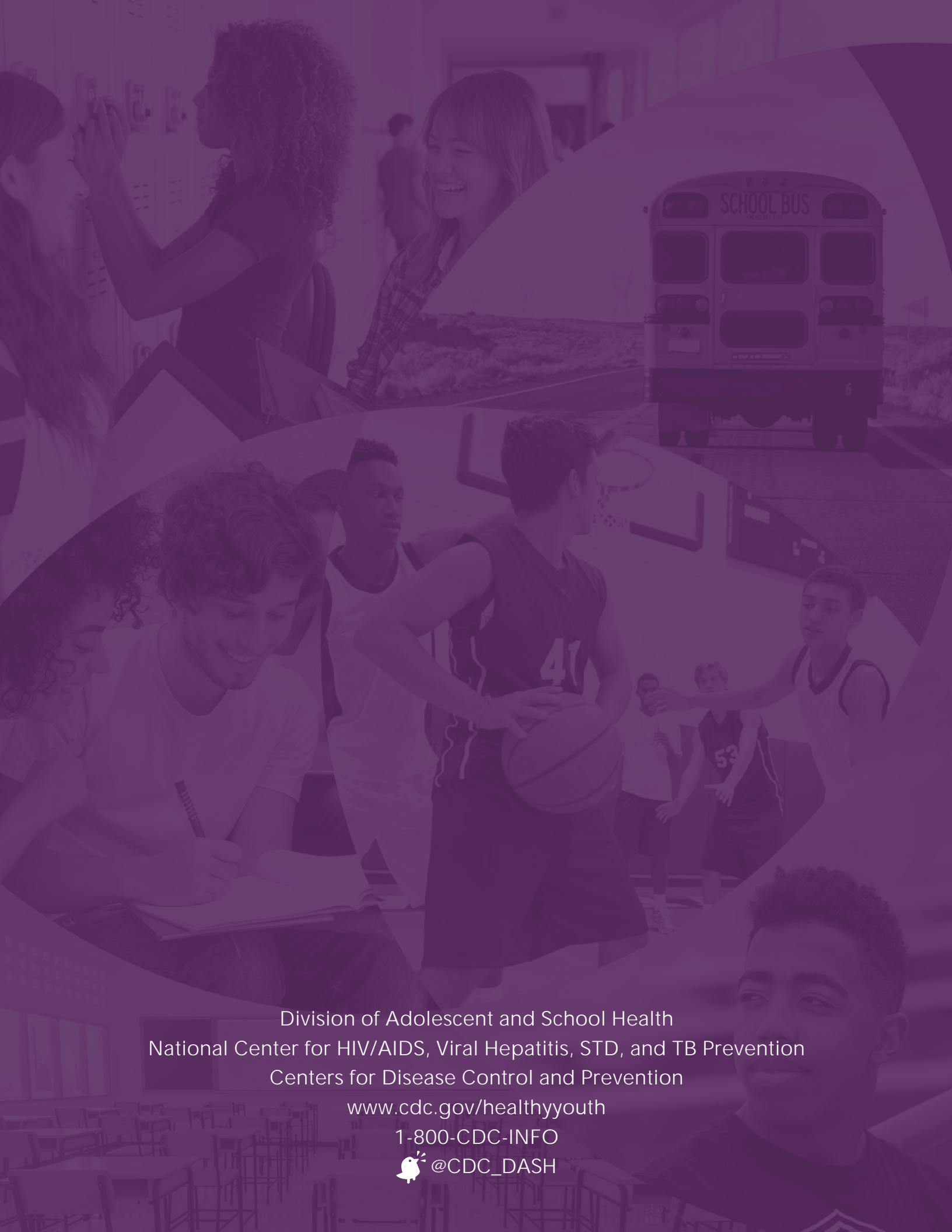
1. During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?
  2. During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?
  3. During your life, how many times have you used heroin (also called smack, junk, or China White)?
  4. During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice)?
  5. During your life, how many times have you used hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD, acid, PCP, angel dust, mescaline, or mushrooms?
  6. During your life, how many times have you used ecstasy (also called MDMA)?
  7. During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?
  8. During your life, how many times have you taken prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it? (Count drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet.)
- 

## Focus Area: **Violence Victimization**

1. During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?
  2. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?
  3. During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied? (Count being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media.)
  4. During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied on school property?
  5. Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
  6. During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)
  7. During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)
- 

## Focus Area: **Mental Health and Suicide**

1. During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?
2. During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?
3. During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?
4. During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?
5. If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?



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