

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

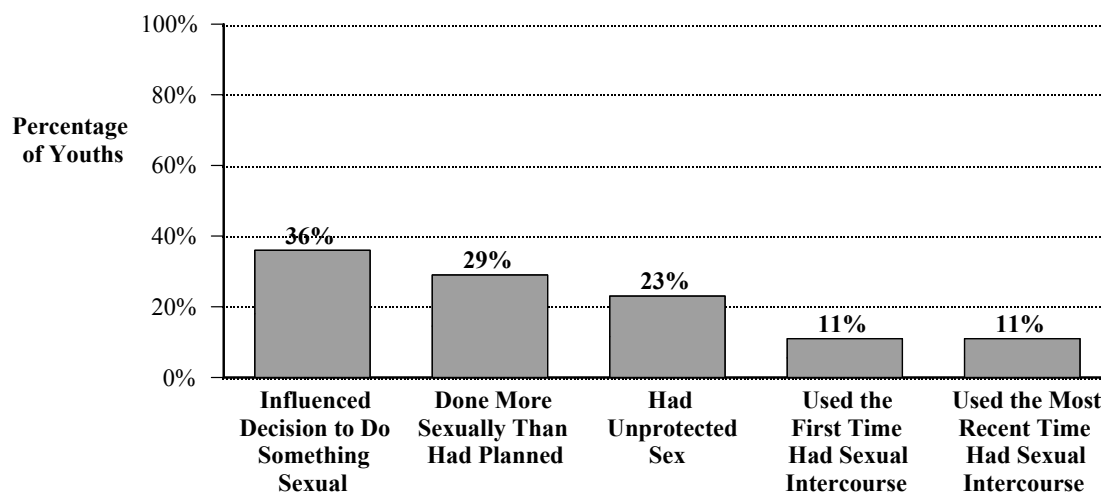
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One-Third of Youths Report That Drinking or Other Drug Use Have Influenced Their Decisions About Sex

Slightly more than one-third (36%) of youths reported that alcohol or other drugs had influenced their decision to engage in sexual activity, according to a recent survey of sexually active youths ages 15-24. One in ten (11%) adolescents and young adults had been drinking or using other drugs the first time—as well as the most recent time—they had sexual intercourse. Alcohol and other drug use also influenced youths' decisions to “do more” sexually than they had planned and to have unprotected sex. These findings illustrate the need for educational and prevention efforts that focus on the effect substance use has on sexual behavior decision making.

Percentage of Sexually Active U.S. Youths (Ages 15-24) Reporting the Effect of Alcohol or Other Drug Use on Their Sexual Behaviors, 2001-2002

(n=678 sexually active youths)



NOTES: Data was collected by telephone interviews with a national random-sample survey of youths between November 13, 2001 and January 20, 2002. Data are weighted by age, sex, race/ethnicity, region, and education to be representative of the national youth population and to account for nonresponse.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, *Youth Knowledge and Attitudes on Sexual Health: A National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, February 2002. Available online (http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/CASA%20ToplinesB.pdf).

Funding Available for Community Coalitions' Youth Substance Abuse Projects

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has funding available to support community coalition projects designed to reduce substance abuse among youth by addressing community factors that influence the risk of substance abuse. The application package is available online (<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/drugfree2002/index.html>). For more information, contact Lauren Ziegler at 202-616-8988 or zieglerl@ojp.usdoj.gov.