

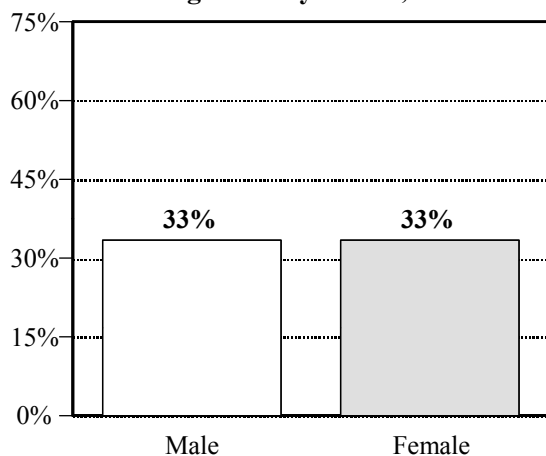
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

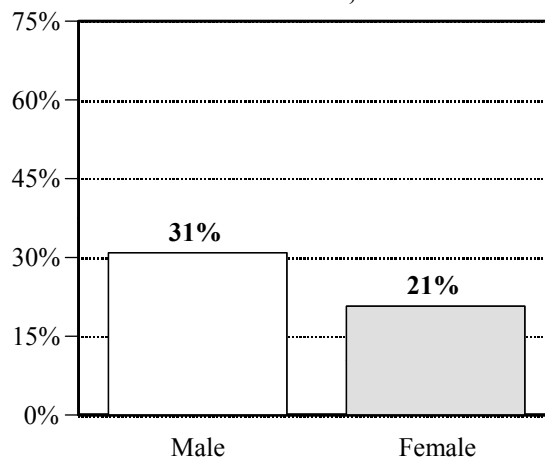
One-Fourth of Sexually Active U.S. High School Students Used Alcohol or Drugs At Last Sexual Intercourse; Males More Likely Than Females to Mix Drugs and Sex

One-third of U.S. high school students report they are sexually active and one-fourth (26%) of these students reported that they used alcohol or drugs before their last sexual intercourse, according to a 2001 national survey of U.S. high school students. While males and females were equally likely to be sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey), males were more likely to have used alcohol or drugs the most recent time they engaged in sexual intercourse (31% v. 21%; see figure). Furthermore, only 51% of sexually active girls, and 65% of boys used a condom during their last sexual intercourse (data not shown). The authors stress the need for interventions to prevent sexual risk behaviors among youths and to “reverse the increasing percentage of sexually active high school students who use alcohol or drugs before their last sexual intercourse” (p. 857).

**Percentage of U.S. High School
Students Who Reported
Being Sexually Active, 2001**



**Percentage of Sexually Active
Students Who Reported Using
Alcohol or Drugs At Last Sexual
Intercourse, 2001**



NOTE: Data were obtained from the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a nationally representative sample of 13,601 students in grades 9-12.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention “Behaviors Among High School Students – United States, 1991--2001,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51(38): 856-859, 2002. Available online (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5138a2.htm>).