

## Question 3

---

### What are the indicators of risk for HIV/AIDS in Indiana?

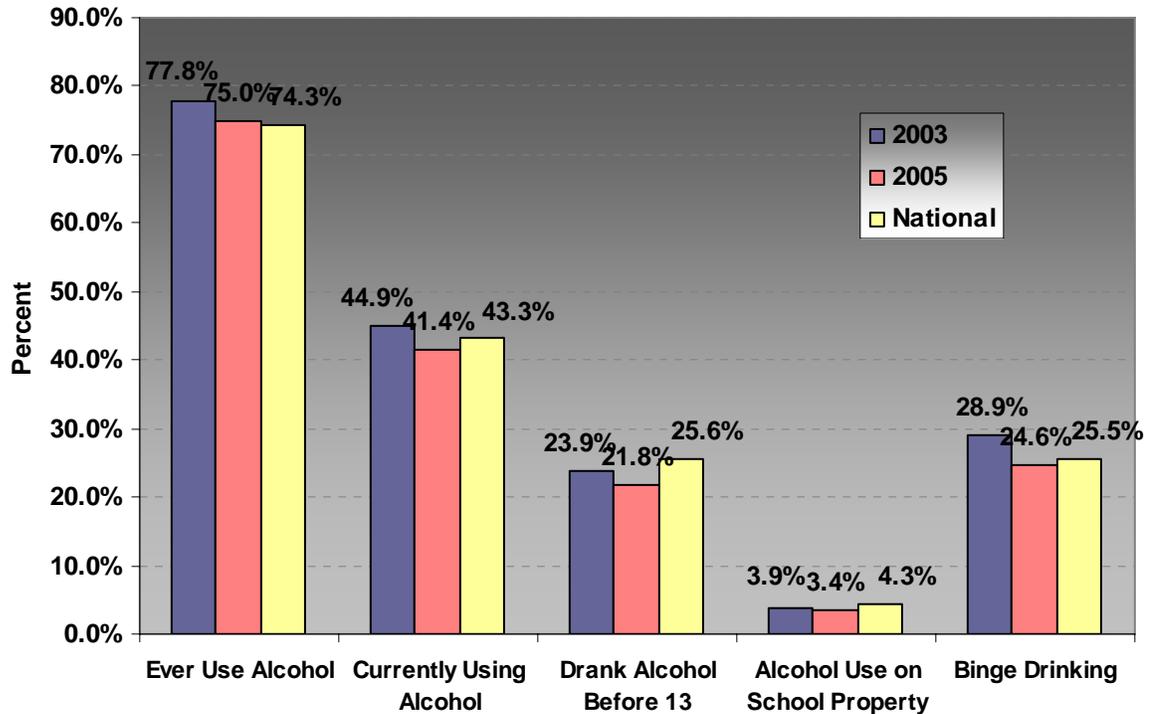
The risk indicators for this profile include results from the Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (YBRFSS) 2005, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Report (BRFSS) 2005, the STD Surveillance System 2005, and Indiana's Pregnancy and Natality Report 2004, the latest data available for this report.

#### **Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (YBRFSS)**

The Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (YBRFSS) developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveys youth health-risk behaviors in six domains: (1) behaviors which facilitate unintentional injuries and violence, (2) tobacco use, (3) alcohol and drug uses, (4) sexual behaviors related to pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, (5) unhealthy dietary behaviors, and (6) physical inactivity and being overweight. The YBRFSS began in 1991 and is conducted every two years. In 2005, 13,917 students in grades 9-12 participated in this national survey. Those items pertaining to alcohol and drug use and sexual behaviors are presented in this report.

As shown in Figure 53, 75.0% of adolescents in Indiana reported that they had had one or more drinks of alcohol on one or more days during their lifetime. This percentage is slightly higher than the national average (74.3%). Additionally, 24.6% of Indiana youth reported drinking five or more alcoholic beverages on one occasion in the last 30 days, a slightly smaller percentage than the national average (25.5%).

**Figure 53: Percentage of Indiana and National YBRFSS Respondents Endorsing Alcohol Use and Alcohol-related Behaviors, 2005**

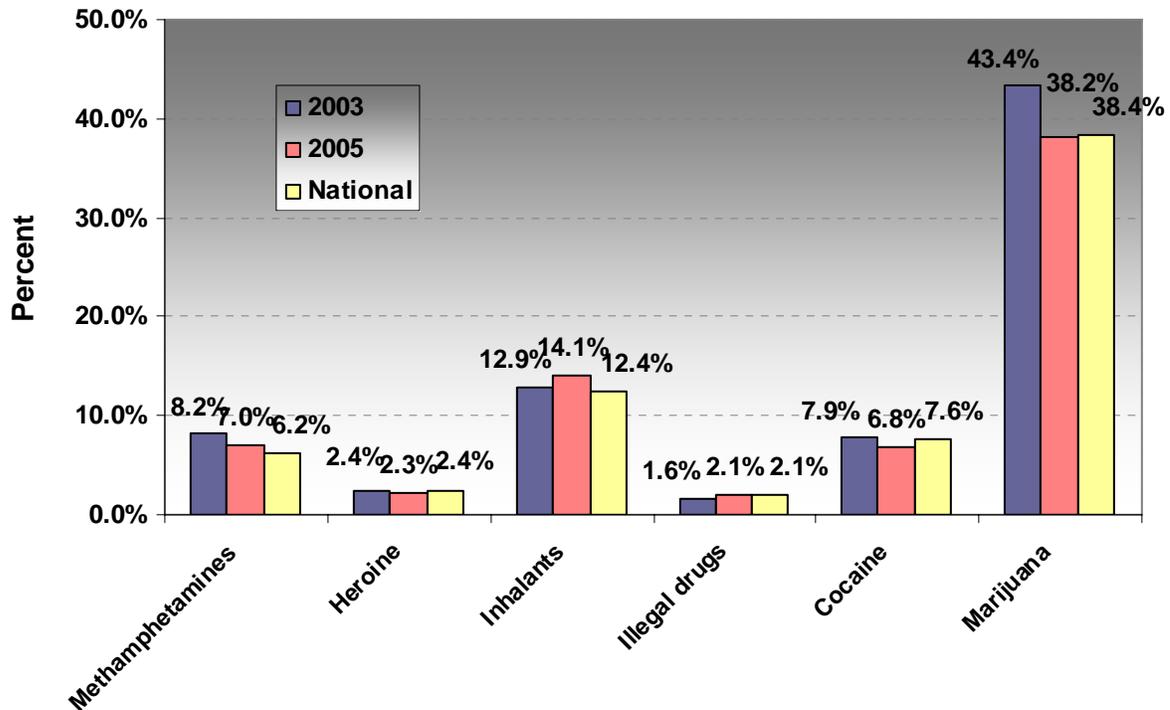


Source: YRBS, 2005: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Less than half of all questioned adolescents (41.4%) both in Indiana and on the National level are currently using alcohol. In general, Indiana is fairly close to the national average in alcohol consumption among its adolescents.

Another question related to the risk behavior among students deals with the use of illicit drugs. Figure 54 shows the types of drugs used, and lists the corresponding numbers of users.

**Figure 54: Percentage of Indiana and National YBRFSS Respondents Reporting Illicit Drug Use, 2005**



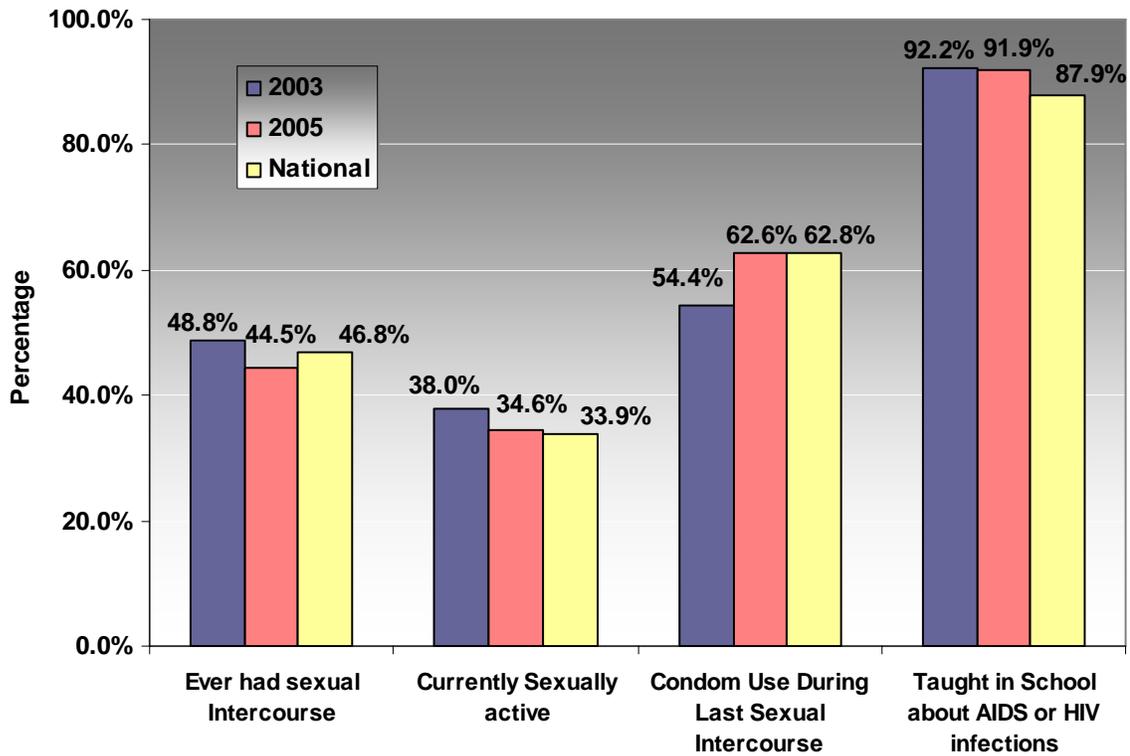
Source: YRBS, 2005: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By far the most commonly used illicit drug among adolescents was marijuana. Among youth in Indiana, 38.2% reported ever using marijuana, only slightly below the national level (38.4%), after dropping from the 2003 level of 43.4%. Though a distant second, the next most used drug was inhalants among Indiana (14.1%) and national youth (12.4%).

Whereas the two examples cited above point to risk behavior that would have a more indirect effect on the possibility to contract HIV or other STD's, the following figures and tables explore sexual activities among adolescents.

Other risk factors related to the transmission of HIV and STD's involve sexual behaviors and safe sex practices among adolescents. According to the YBRFSS results on sexual intercourse and condom use (Figure 55), 44.5% of Indiana youth have engaged in sexual intercourse, and 34.6% are currently sexually active. It is important to note that only 62.6% of Indiana youth used a condom on their last sex occasion, which is slightly lower than the national rate for this behavior (62.8%). However, condom use has been on the rise since 2003, when only slightly more than half of interviewed youth (54.4%) reported to have used a condom during the last sexual intercourse.

**Figure 55: Percentage of Indiana and National YBRFSS Respondents engaging in Sexual Intercourse, using Condoms, and reporting AIDS Educational Experience, 2005.**



Source: YRBS, 2005: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Taken together, the information gathered from the YBRFSS reveals that three-quarters of adolescents have used alcohol and more than a third have used marijuana. Almost half of adolescents in Indiana have had sexual intercourse, while more than a third are still sexually active at the present time. An encouraging 92% of Indiana adolescents have been taught about HIV and AIDS infection in school, yet only about six out of ten (62.6%) used a condom during the last sexual intercourse, which is an increase from previous years.

## **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**

Since 1984, ISDH has entered into a yearly cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop and implement the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey in Indiana. This national survey monitors modifiable risk factors associated with chronic and communicable diseases by collecting information from adults on health behaviors and preventive practices. Health risk factors of adults, many of which are behavioral in nature, are examined in the BRFSS. The surveys are conducted on a continuous basis to determine the proportion of Indiana residents who engage in health behaviors that increase the probability of negative health outcomes.

This survey also assesses behaviors and knowledge related to HIV and AIDS. The following presentation of results focuses on responses to these items. All survey participants were 18 to 64 years of age and were a representative sample of the Indiana population.

The information in the following table was derived from the CDC BRFSS database. The numbers do not reflect those respondents that did not answer a question or that refused to answer a question. The CDC does not use these numbers in their analysis and therefore they are not included here.

Participants were queried about whether they had ever been tested for HIV (excluding tests that were part of a blood donation). As shown, in Table 47 only about a third (32.7%) of the surveyed population overall had ever been tested for HIV. In other words, the majority of Indiana residents, two thirds of the population, is unaware of its current HIV status and is potentially engaging in unsafe activities that could contribute to the spread of the virus.

**Table 47: BRFSS Result: Have you ever been tested for HIV? (4,227 Respondents)**

| <b>Demographic</b>    | <b>Percent</b> |             |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
|                       | <b>Yes</b>     | <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Age Group</b>      |                |             |
| 18-24                 | 32.6           | 67.4        |
| 25-34                 | 49.3           | 50.6        |
| 35-44                 | 41.3           | 58.7        |
| 45-54                 | 23.0           | 77.0        |
| 55-64                 | 13.3           | 86.7        |
| <b>Sex</b>            |                |             |
| Male                  | 29.2           | 70.8        |
| Female                | 36.1           | 63.9        |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b> |                |             |
| White, non-Hispanic   | 30.0           | 70.0        |
| Black, non-Hispanic   | 56.0           | 44.0        |
| Hispanic              | 45.3           | 54.7        |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>32.7</b>    | <b>67.3</b> |

Note: Denominator is number of respondents who are at least 18 years and less than 65 years.  
SOURCE: 2003 Indiana BRFSS Statewide Survey Data

Less than a third (29.2%) of men had been tested for HIV, compared to 36.1% of women. Among the racial and ethnic groups of Indiana's population, Black, non-Hispanic people had the highest testing scores of all groups with 56.0%.

Respondents indicating that they had been tested were also asked where they were tested. Those surveyed were able to choose from a list of test locations and reasons. Table 48 shows the results. Among the test locations, the highest percentage of respondents (43.3%) had been tested at a hospital or drug treatment facility.

**Table 48: BRFSS Result: Where was your last HIV test? (1.353 Respondents)**

---

**Where did you have your last HIV test?**

---

| <b>Location</b>                   | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Private doctor or HMO             | 40.1           |
| Counseling and testing site       | 3.6            |
| Hospital, Drug Treatment Facility | 43.3           |
| Jail or Prison                    | 1.8            |
| Home                              | 11.2           |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>100.0</b>   |

---

Note: Denominator is number of respondents who are at least 18 years and less than 65 years.  
Source: 2005 Indiana BRFSS Statewide Survey Data

Additionally, BFRSS respondents were asked whether they had engaged in some type of high risk behavior for HIV contraction (e.g., intravenous drug use, treated for STD, unprotected sex) in the previous year. A relatively small percentage (3.9%) reported that they had engaged in any high risk behaviors in the prior year.

**Table 49: BRFSS Result in Percent: Do any high risk situations apply? (4,218 Respondents)**

| <b>Demographic</b>        | <b>Response</b> |            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Age Group</b>          | Not at Risk     | At Risk    |
| 18-24                     | 89.7            | 10.3       |
| 25-34                     | 95.1            | 4.9        |
| 35-44                     | 97.0            | 3.0        |
| 45-54                     | 98.6            | 1.4        |
| 55-64                     | 99.0            | 1.0        |
| <b>Sex</b>                |                 |            |
| Male                      | 95.8            | 4.2        |
| Female                    | 96.4            | 3.6        |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>     |                 |            |
| White, non-Hispanic       | 96.6            | 3.3        |
| Black, non-Hispanic       | 93.1            | 6.9        |
| Other race, non-Hispanic  | 98.3            | 1.7        |
| Multiracial, non-Hispanic | 94.5            | 5.5        |
| Hispanic                  | 91.5            | 8.5        |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <b>96.1</b>     | <b>3.9</b> |

Note: Denominator is number of respondents who are at least 18 years and less than 65 years.  
Source: 2005 Indiana BRFSS Statewide Survey Data

In contrast to previous years questions about HV knowledge and Safer Sex practices have been omitted from the 2005 questionnaire.