

Youth with HIV and Sexual Behavior

Some youth with HIV are now becoming teenagers and young adults. We want to understand when and why they begin to have sex.

What kind of sexual behavior did we look at?

For youth who are having sex, we wanted to know how many do not always use condoms. We also want to know how many have HIV virus that is not controlled by HIV medications. Knowing these things will help us find ways to keep youth with HIV and their sexual partners healthy and safe.

Who we studied

330 HIV-positive children and teens between the ages of 10 and 18 in AMP

What we did

We looked at ACASI interviews and medical records for these youth.

We looked at how many youth with HIV had sex and how old they were when they started having sex. We asked whether they talked to their sexual partners about their HIV infection. We also looked at how many youth had HIV that was not controlled by HIV medications.

For more info, contact:

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What we found

The youth in our study are similar to youth in the U.S. without HIV in terms of when they start having sex.

Here is what we found:

- 28% of youth reported having sex
- About half of 16-year-olds had started having sex
- 67% of 18-year-olds had had sex
- Youth who were not taking their HIV medications as prescribed were more likely to start having sex
- Most young people who were having sex did not tell their first sexual partner they had HIV
- 81% of youth had HIV virus that was not controlled well by some HIV medications

Conclusion

Like other teenagers in the U.S. without HIV, young people with HIV are starting to have sex.

Helping these youth take their medications regularly, practice safe sex, and disclose their HIV status is important for keeping them and their sexual partners healthy and safe.

