

10.8% of females. Among the 18 year-old and older age-group, the percentages rose to 16.9%, compared to 8.4% of 16-17 year-olds and 5.8% of those 15 years of age and younger. Similarly, proportions reporting pregnancy or impregnation increased by grade level from 5.2% of 9th graders to 13.1% of 12th graders. Black students surveyed were approximately three times more likely than white students surveyed to report pregnancy/impregnation (19.5% versus 5.6%, respectively). Black female students were the most likely of any sex-race group to report pregnancy/impregnation at 22.5% compared to 15.4% for black males, 6.6% for white females, and 4.5% for white males.

(5) Q57: "How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?"
(n=3,069)

Setting the level for early sexual intercourse at age 13 or younger, 22.1% of Tennessee high school students surveyed, 29.3% of males and 15.5% of females, reported early sex. Eliminating the students who have never had sexual intercourse (n=1,214), the proportion of sexually active respondents reporting early sex increased to 36.5%. The remaining results cover those respondents who have had sexual intercourse and who answered this question (n=1,855). The proportion of respondents reporting early sex (as defined above) decreased with age from 54.9% among the 15 or younger age-group to 34.7% among those ages 16 or 17, and 22.4% among the 18 and over age-group. Some of these differences could be due to the fact that females who are sexually active early are more likely to drop out of high school due to pregnancy. This appears to be the explanation for the precipitous drop in the proportion of sexually active youth reporting early sex by grade level: 56.0% of 9th graders, 41.9% of 10th graders, 32.6% of 11th graders, and 19.5% of 12th graders. Sexually active blacks were nearly twice as likely as sexually active whites to engage in sex before age 14 (39.5% versus 29.7%, respectively).

Injection Drug Use:

(1) Q52: "During your lifetime, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?" (n=3,172)

Of Tennessee high school students surveyed in grades 9 through 12, 2.2% reported injecting drug use (IDU). This represents 3.3% of males and 1.1% of females in 1995. Comparing youth in Tennessee and the United States, the 1993 YRBSS national percentage was 1.4%, with males at 1.9% and females at 0.8%. Tennessee rates in 1995 were somewhat above the 1993 national average.

Black and white Tennessee high school students were similar in their reports of injecting drug use. Grade level differences showed higher IDU in the 9th grade (2.8%) than the 12th grade (1.0%). This could be attributable to the fact that injecting drug users are more likely than other youth to leave high school early. Among Tennessee IDU students in this survey (n=69), 68.1% had injected drugs two or more times. Blacks were