

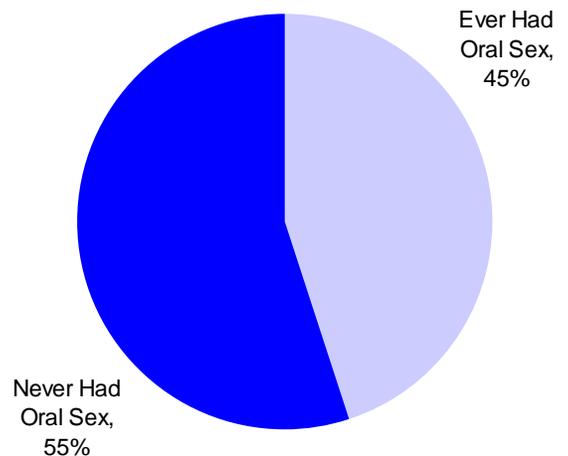
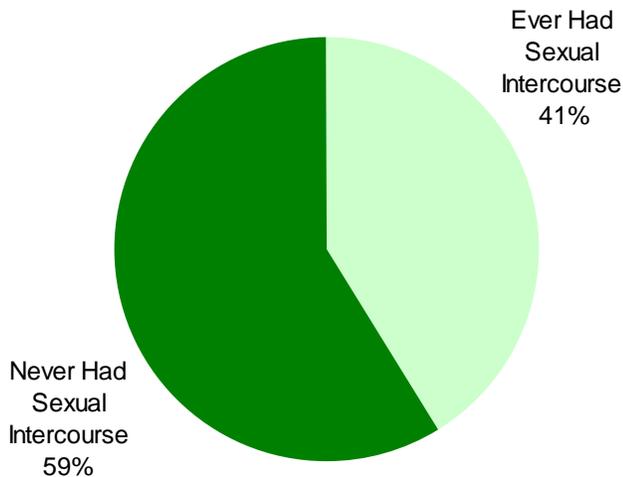
# Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Data Brief

### Sexual Behavior and Orientation

This summary presents highlights from an analysis of 2011 Vermont High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data, examining sexual behavior and orientation. Since 1993, the Vermont High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey has asked students, “How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?” In 2011, the survey added a question about oral sex. The question asked, “Have you ever had oral sex?” with responses of yes or no. Students who did not answer either question are not included in this report.

Overall, 41% of high school students reported ever having sexual intercourse and 45% reported ever having oral sex. Of those who reported never having sexual intercourse, 15% reported ever having oral sex. The percent of students who have ever had sexual intercourse has not changed significantly since 1993.



The percent of students who report having both intercourse and oral sex increased significantly with each grade. Reports of intercourse only or oral sex only did not differ by grade. There were no differences between females and males, or between racial and ethnic minority students and white non-Hispanic students.

	All	Grade				Sex	
		9	10	11	12	F	M
Intercourse only	5	3	5	6	6	5	5
Oral Sex only	9	9	9	9	8	9	9
Intercourse and oral sex	36	15	29	43	56	35	37
Neither intercourse nor oral sex	50	72	57	42	31	51	49

Students who self-identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual were significantly more likely to report having both intercourse and oral sex than other students. Overall, 95% of students identify as heterosexual. Sexual orientation did not differ by grade, so observed differences by sexual orientation cannot be attributable to grade.

	<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
	Heterosexual (Straight)	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Not Sure
Intercourse only	5%	--	6%	7%
Oral sex only	9%	9%	7%	7%
Intercourse and oral sex	35%	50%	57%	28%
Neither intercourse nor oral sex	51%	39%	30%	58%

Note: -- Indicates a number that is too small to report.

In 2011, the YRBS asked students “During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?” Previously, the YRBS asked, “During your life, with whom have you had sexual intercourse?” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention prefers “sexual contact” because it is more inclusive of adolescents’ sexual activity.

Overall, the percentage of students reporting sexual contact in 2011 (56%) was higher than students reporting sexual intercourse in 2009 (45%). Interestingly, of those who reported that they had never had sexual contact, 7% reported ever having had oral sex.

For more information on this data brief, contact Katie Jones, M.S.  
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For the YRBS Data Brief Archive, visit: [http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/data\\_briefs.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/data_briefs.aspx)