



What is the state of the sexual and relationship health of community college students?

Findings from the Community College Health Study baseline survey, collected in 2021-2023, paint an important portrait of the current trends in the sexual and relationship health of young U.S. community college students. These results pinpoint opportunities to improve sexual health outcomes (e.g., STI testing, condom use) among community college students and reduce the likelihood of unplanned pregnancy and HIV/STIs.

The baseline survey sample included 1,678 community college students aged 18-20. Participants attended 34 community colleges across 17 states in the U.S.



Among these students...



60% women
33% men
6% non-binary



61% Heterosexual
15% Bisexual
5% Pansexual
4% Gay/Lesbian
11% Another sexual identity



44% are in a relationship



58% have had oral sex
54% have had vaginal sex
16% have had anal sex



Students reported their current sexual health behaviors—like STI testing and condom use—and their intentions to engage in healthy behaviors in the future.

Contraception

On average, students report CURRENTLY using condoms^a...

RARELY during oral sex
RARELY during anal sex
SOMETIMES during vaginal sex

Students **RARELY** use dual contraception (i.e., condoms and another form of birth control) during vaginal sex

On average, students felt that IN THE FUTURE they were^b...

UNLIKELY to use a condom or dental dam during oral sex
LIKELY to use a condom during vaginal sex
LIKELY to use contraception during vaginal sex

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Among sexually active students, just...

42%
have been tested for STIs

Among students who have been tested...

11%
have ever been diagnosed with an STI

Key Takeaways

Many young community college students do not engage in healthy sexual behaviors like STI testing and consistent contraception use. As a result, students may be at risk for STIs and unplanned pregnancy, which can impact their health and make it more difficult to achieve their educational and vocational goals.

There is a clear need to improve these outcomes in students. Community colleges have the key opportunity to implement programming that educates students, cultivates the skills they need to make healthy decisions, and connects them with sexual health services.

These results are a snapshot of what was included in the third edition of the Community College Health Study newsletter. For more information, to see the full newsletter, and to sign up to receive future newsletters, visit <https://cchealthstudy.com/results/>.



^a Students responded to questions about their engagement in these sexual behaviors on the following scale: Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Always
^b Students responded to questions about their intentions to engage in these sexual behaviors on the following scale: Not at all likely, Unlikely, Likely, Extremely Likely

