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Facts About Alaska Adolescents

Adolescents aged 15-19 years comprised of an estimated 7% (37,151 of 550,043) of the state's 1990 population.¹ Data on sexually transmitted diseases, and risk behaviors among adolescents, as well as on public support for risk reduction education in schools follow.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases²

- In 1991, adolescents aged 15-19 years comprised 23% (199 of 880) of the state's total reported gonorrhea cases.
- In 1992, adolescents aged 15-19 years comprised 28% (184 of 651) of the state's total reported gonorrhea cases.
- In 1992, adolescents aged 15-19 years comprised 50% (92 of 184) of the positive chlamydia tests in four public health sites offering chlamydia testing.

AIDS³

Of the 138 Alaskans confirmed with AIDS, as of December 31, 1992, 25% were persons aged 20-29 years. Many of these young people were likely infected with HIV during their teens.

HIV⁴

Of 50,349 individuals tested through the State Section of Laboratories through December 31, 1992, 457 are HIV positive. The age distribution of persons tested is as follows:

HIV Testing by Age

Age	No. Tested	No. Positive (%)
0-9	382	2 (0.5%)
10-19	4,846	20 (0.4%)
20-29	18,895	210 (1.1%)
30-39	16,805	161 (1.0%)
40-49	6,709	57 (0.8%)
50+	2,697	7 (0.3%)
Not specified	15	0

Adolescent Pregnancy⁵

- In 1988, 9% (986 of 11,283) of all Alaska births were to adolescent women aged 15-19.
- In 1989, 10% (1,107 of 11,652) of all Alaska births were to adolescent women aged 15-19.

Proportion of Adolescents Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse⁶

In the 1988-89 school year, a survey of 5,458 students indicated that 52% of 10th graders surveyed have had intercourse. By the 12th grade, 73% of the females and 67% of the males surveyed reported they have had intercourse.

Public Support for AIDS Education⁷

	1988 (n=513)	1990 (n=506)	1992 (n=502)
Should education about AIDS be taught in schools within comprehensive health education? Percent responding yes.	96%	95%	96%
Should comprehensive health education include instruction on condoms as a preventive measure? Percent responding yes.	85%	87%	83%
Percent of parents with school-aged children who discussed AIDS with their children.	n/a	65%	78%
Percent of parents with school-aged children who reported that their children had received instruction about AIDS in school.	n/a	46%	52%

References

1. Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Population Overview, 1991.
2. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Section of Epidemiology.

3. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Epidemiology Bulletin #5, 1993.
 4. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Epidemiology Bulletin #4, 1993.
 5. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1988-1989 Annual Report.
 6. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, The State of Adolescent Health in Alaska, May 1990.
 7. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Section of Epidemiology, AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Surveys, 1988, 1990, 1992.
- (Contributed by Michele Hansen and Cheryl Kilgore, Section of Epidemiology.)