

HIV/AIDS Risk (Sexual Risk Behavior)

In Nashville in 2000, HIV-related disease, including AIDS, was the tenth among leading causes of death in males, and seventh leading cause of death for African Americans.¹ While the growth of the HIV epidemic has slowed since its rapid growth in the mid-1980's, and the numbers of AIDS diagnoses and deaths have declined due to more effective therapy, the HIV epidemic continues to spread. Fewer deaths due to HIV disease mean more people are living longer with HIV infection, which results in more opportunity for the infection to spread.^{2,3}

Risk Factors for HIV/AIDS

HIV infection is transferred through body fluids, especially blood, semen, and vaginal fluids. Sexual activity is therefore one of the principal methods of transmission of the HIV virus. Having multiple partners increases the risk of having an HIV-infected partner and contracting the virus. Use of a latex condom has been found to be highly effective in preventing the transmission of HIV.⁴

National and State Prevalence

These questions were selected from an optional sexual behavior module and not the core BRFSS survey. Therefore, statewide and nationwide data, and data for Nashville for previous years, are not available for comparison.

Healthy People 2010

A goal of Healthy People 2010 is to “prevent HIV infection and its related illness and death.” Objective 13.6 is to increase the proportion of sexually active persons who use condoms to 50%.⁵

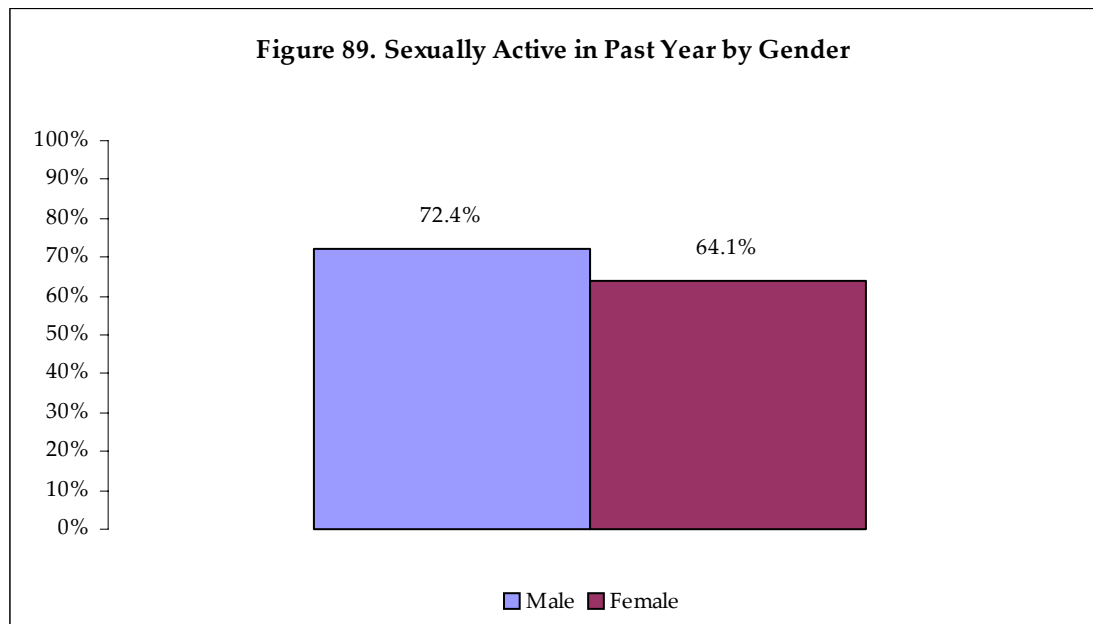
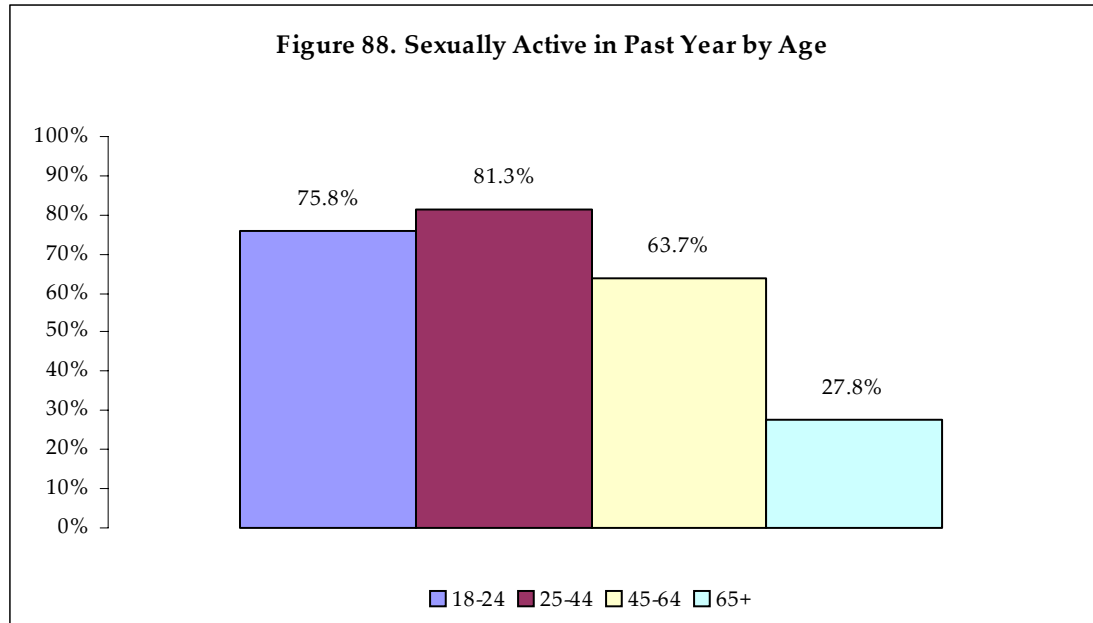
Description of Measures

The Community Health Survey focused on sexual activity, multiple partners, and condom use. The survey introduced the questions concerning HIV risk by saying “The next few questions are about the national problem of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.” The questions that were asked were: “In the last 12 months, how many sexual partners have you had?” and “Do you now always use condoms for protection?”

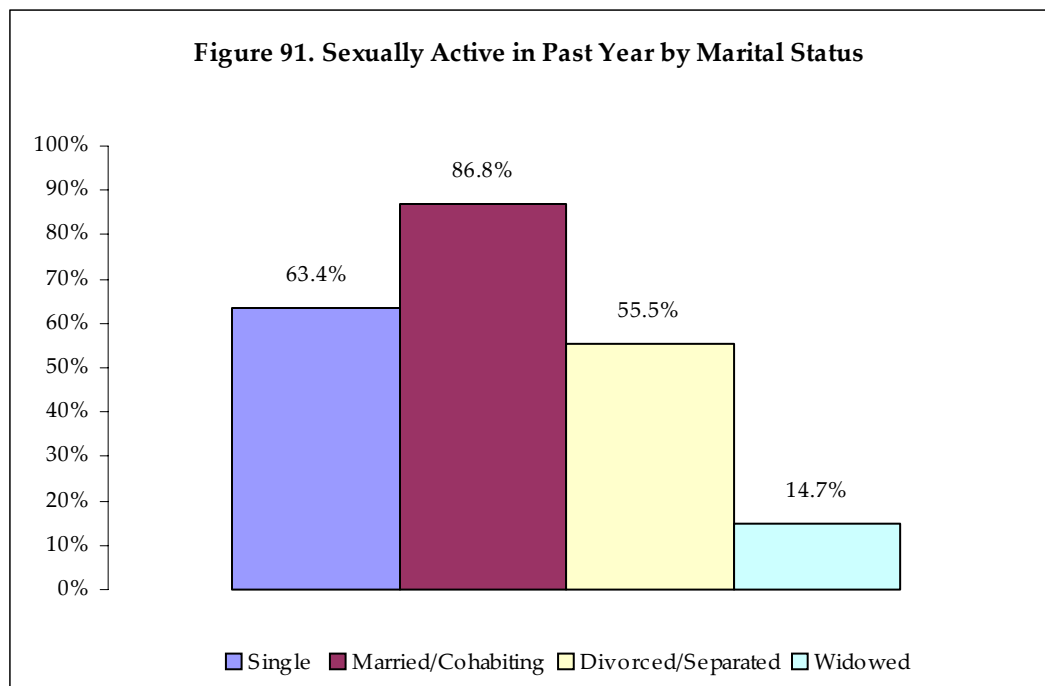
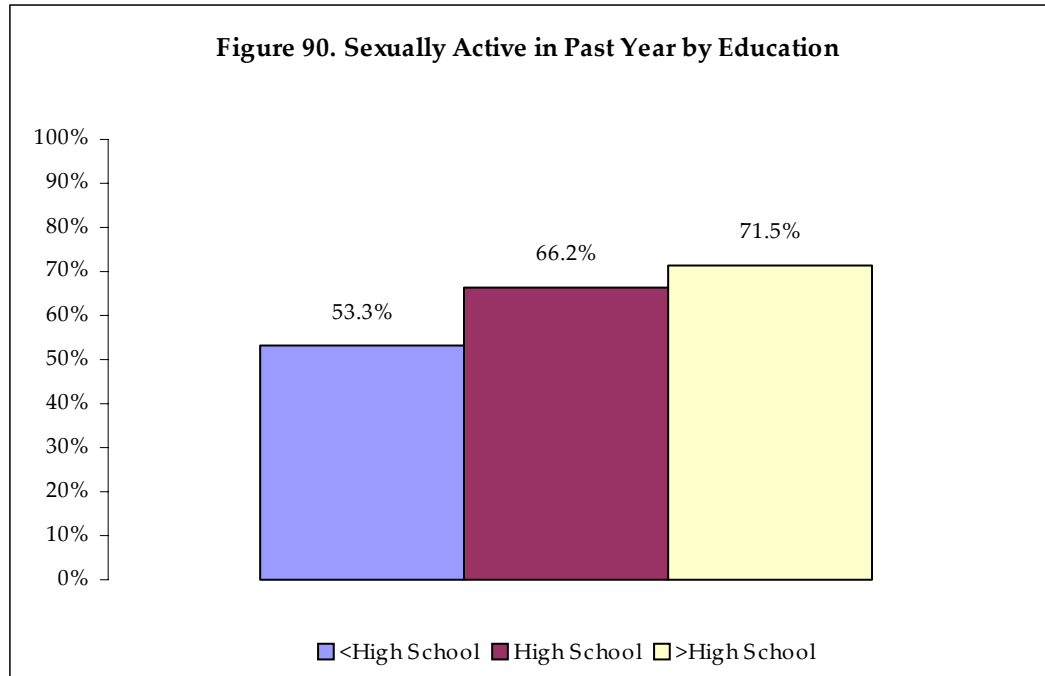
Results

Sexual activity

- Sixty-eight percent (95% confidence interval 67.0 - 69.1%) of respondents reported having one or more sexual partners in the past 12 months. Of those who reported having at least one sexual partner in the past year, 2% reported having more than one partner.
- The likelihood of sexual activity varied substantially by age. The group from 25-44 had the highest percentage reporting sexual activity, followed by 18-24, 45-64, and over 65. (Figure 88)
- There was no significant difference by race in percentages of respondents reporting a sexual partner in the past year.

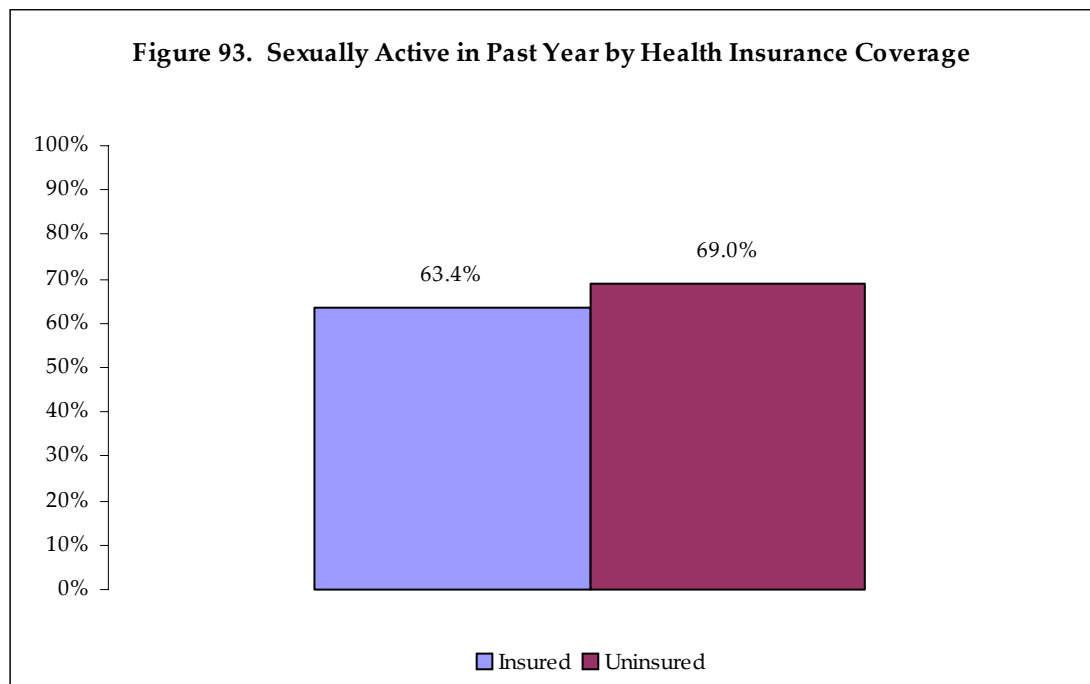
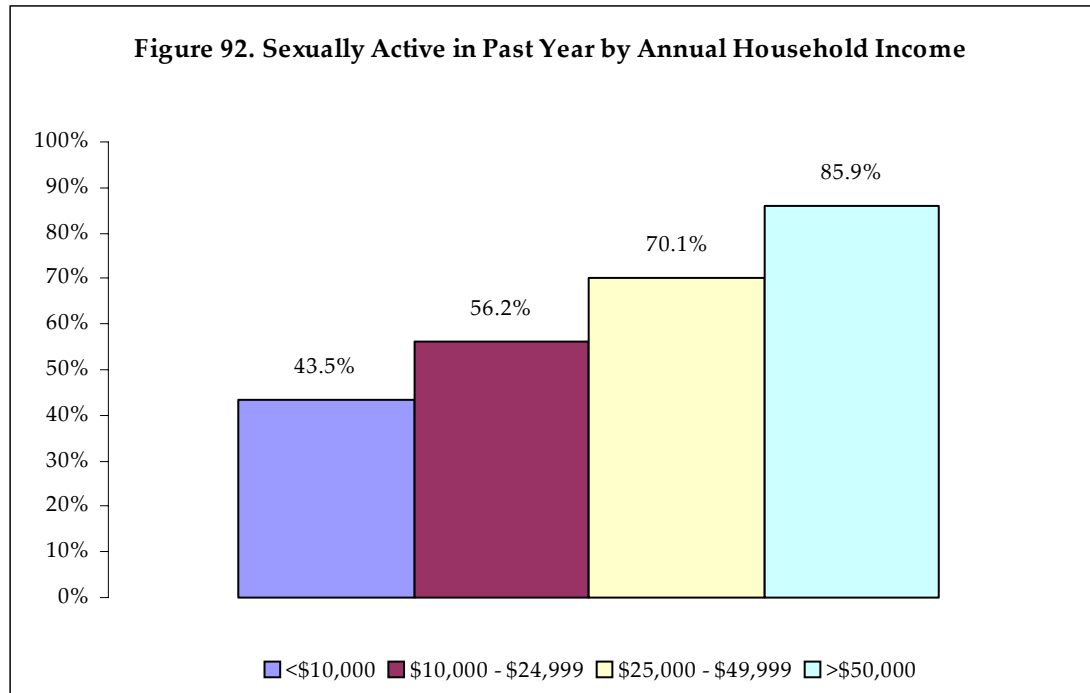


- Male respondents reported having at least one sexual partner in the past year more often than females. (Figure 89)



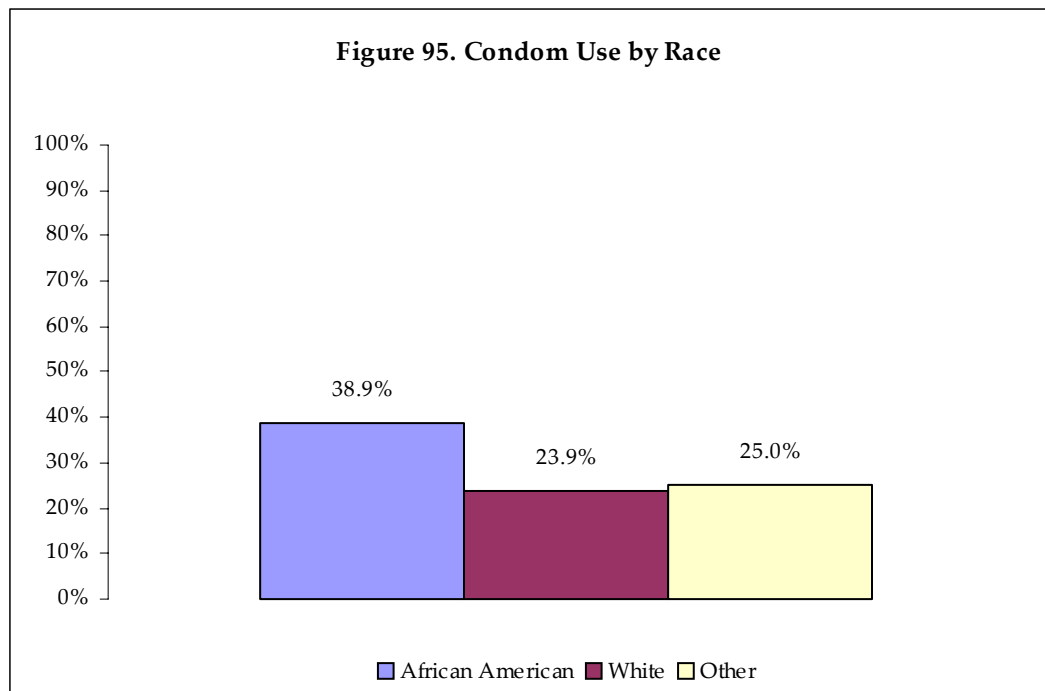
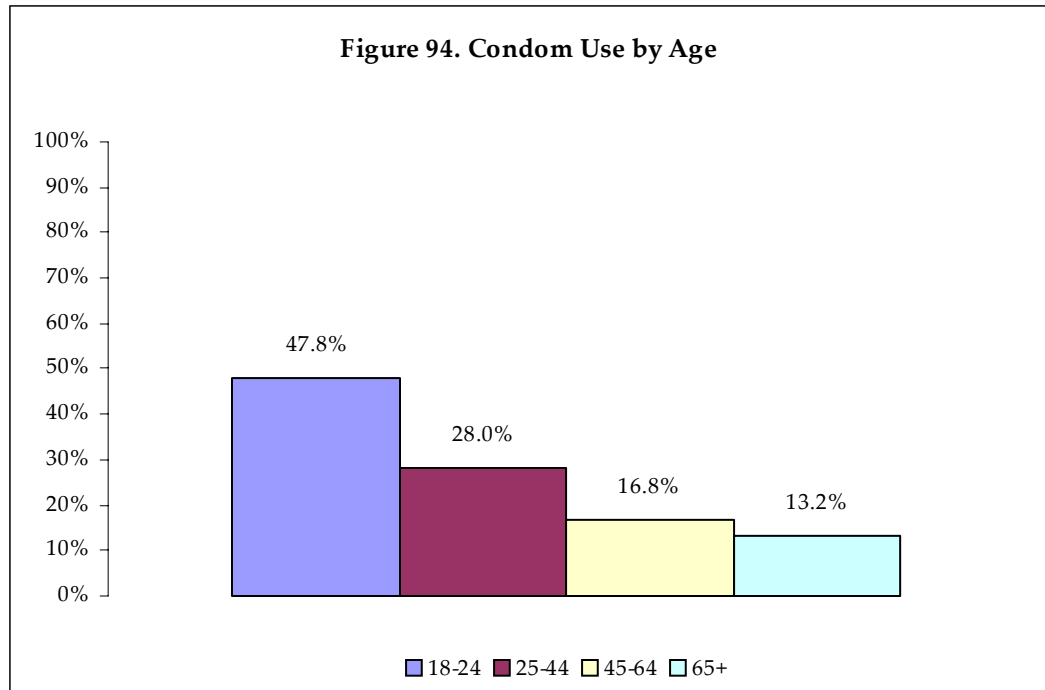
- Respondents with higher levels of educational attainment were most likely to report at least one partner in the past year. (Figure 90)
- Reported sexual activity varied substantially with marital status, as one would expect, with married or cohabiting respondents more likely to report having at least one sexual partner in the past year. However, more than half of single, divorced, and separated respondents reported being also sexually active. (Figure 91)

- Larger numbers of respondents in the higher income groups reported having a sexual partner in the past year. In interpreting this finding, it should be noted that the income reported is total household income, and that married or cohabiting respondents are more likely to belong to a two-income household. Thus, married or cohabiting respondents, who are most likely to be sexually active, are more likely to report a higher total household income. (Figure 92)
- Respondents without health insurance coverage were slightly more likely to report having a sexual partner in the past year than those having health insurance coverage. (Figure 93)

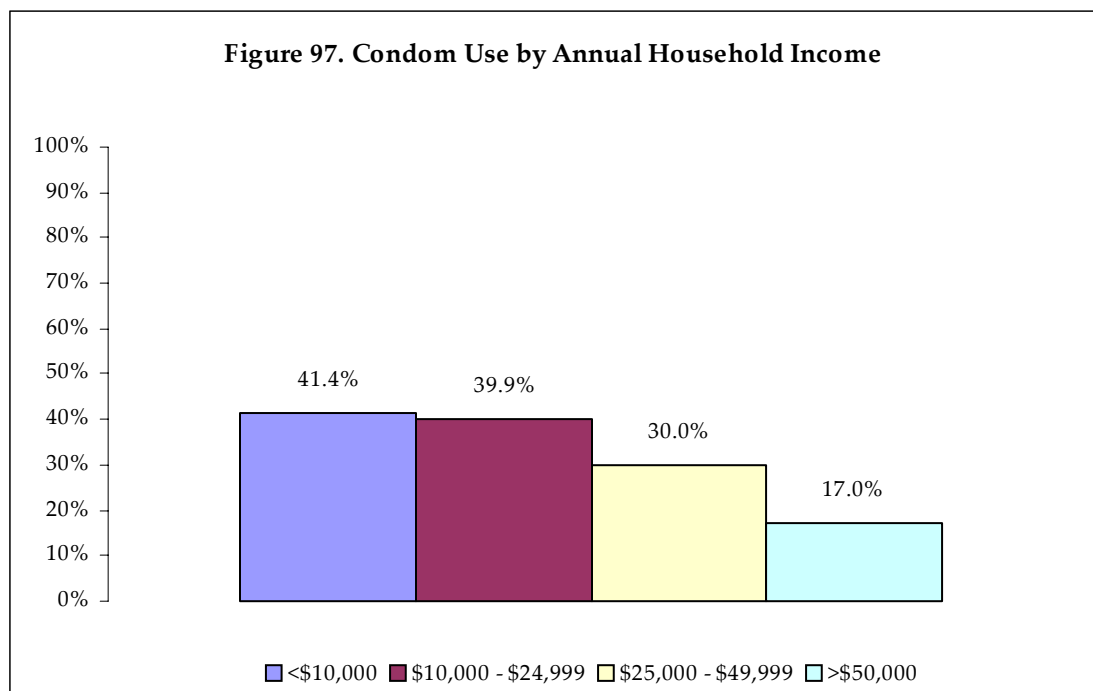
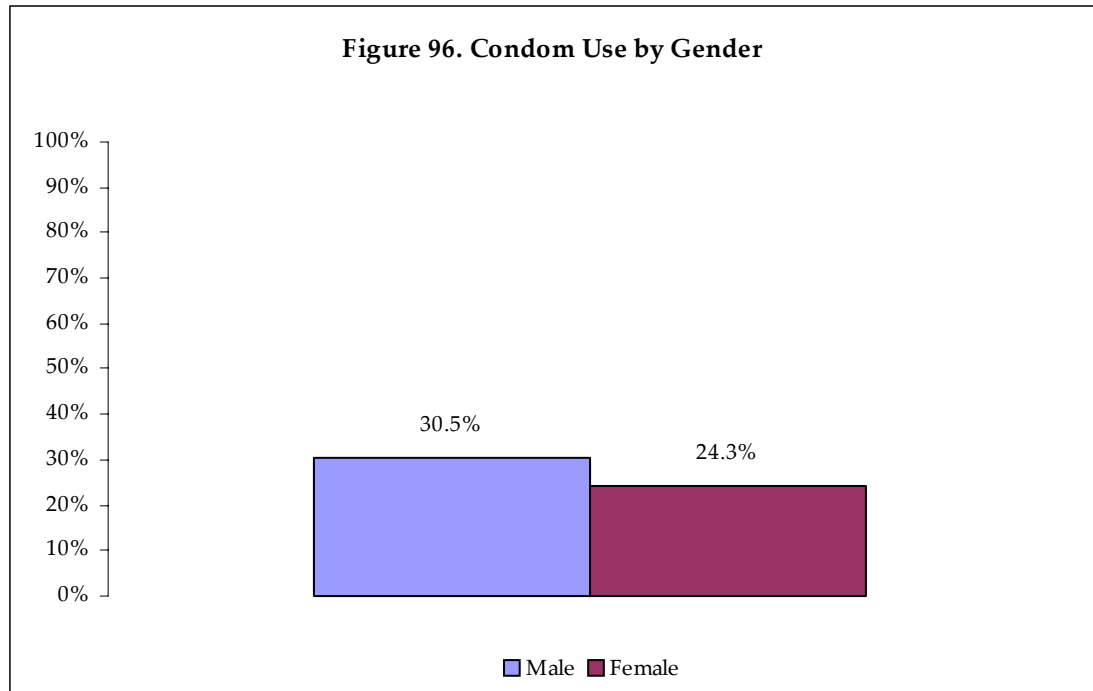


Condom use

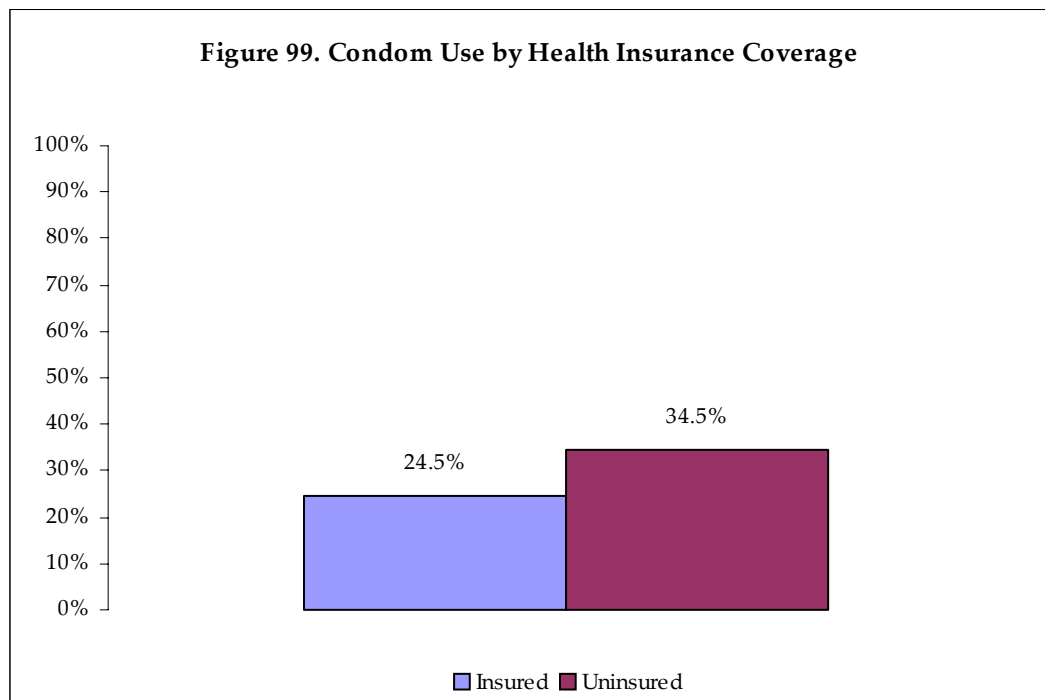
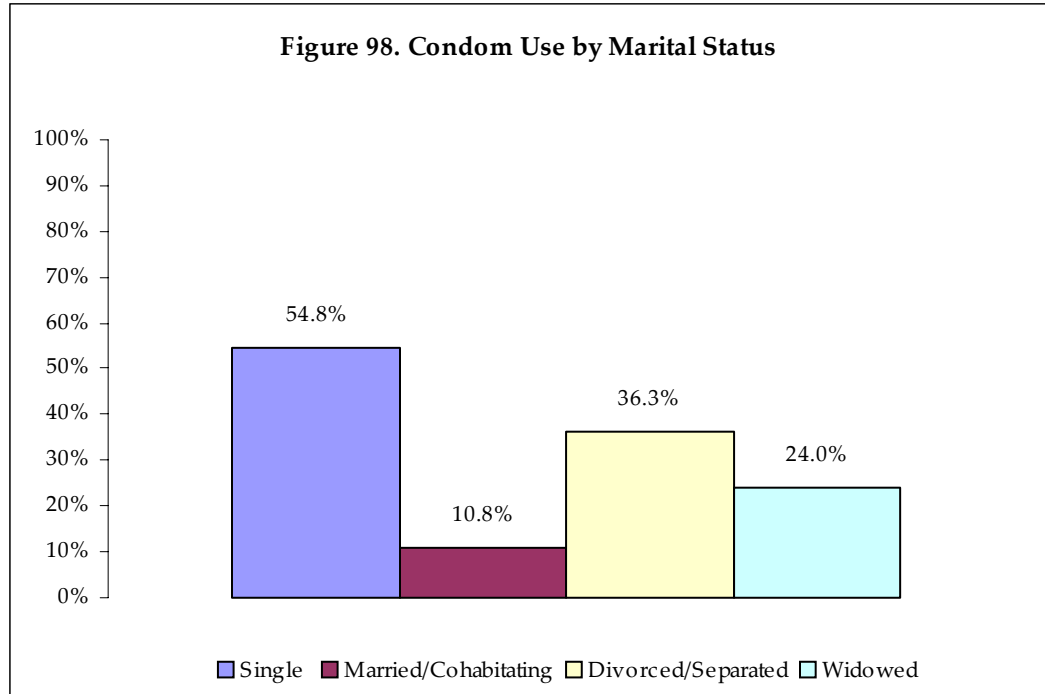
- Of sexually active respondents, 27.4% (95% confidence interval 26.1% - 28.8%) said they always used condoms for protection.
- Younger respondents were more likely to report always using condoms for protection. (Figure 94)
- African Americans were more likely than Whites to report always using condoms for protection. (Figure 95)



- Males reported condom use more frequently than females. (Figure 96)
- Those in higher income groups were less likely to use condoms for protection, although there was no substantial difference between the two lowest income groups. As with the previous question, it should be remembered that respondents in the higher income categories are more likely to be married or cohabiting, as this demographic refers to total household income. (Figure 97)



- Never-married singles and divorced or separated respondents were the most likely to report always using condoms. Married or cohabiting respondents were least likely to report using condoms for protection. (Figure 98)
- Respondents without health insurance coverage were more likely to report condom use than those having health insurance coverage. Of respondents with health coverage, 24.5% said they always used condoms for protection, compared to 34.5% of those without health coverage. (Figure 99)



References

1. Division of Epidemiology, Metro Public Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County, TN. *Health, Nashville and Davidson County, TN, 2002*. Nashville, TN, 2002.
2. Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.. Combating Complacency in HIV Prevention. [web page]/ 7/24/1998. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/cmbat.htm>. Accessed 5/27/2003.
3. Karon, JM, Fleming PL, Steketee RW, De cock KM. HIV in the United States at the turn of the Century: An Epidemic in Transition. *American Journal of Public Health* July 2001. 91(7): 1060 – 1068.
4. Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Centers for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Male Latex Condoms and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Fact Sheet [web page]. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/condoms.htm>. Accessed 5/8/2003.
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Table 9. Sexual Behavior: Sexually Active, More Than One Sexual Partner in Past Year, and Always Use Condoms. Results of the 2001 Community Health Behavior Survey in Davidson County, Tennessee Weighted by Council District (95% Confidence Interval)

<i>Demographics</i>	<u>Sexually Active (One or more sexual partners in past 12 months)</u>	<u>More than one sexual partner in past year (% of those who had at least one partner and responded to this question)</u>	<u>Always Use Condoms for Protection (asked sexually active respondents)</u>
<u>Total</u>	68.1% (67.0 - 69.1)	2.0% (1.1 - 3.1)	27.4% (26.1 - 28.8)
<u>Age</u>			
18-24	75.8% (72.5 - 79.2)	5.5% (1.1 - 10.0)	47.8% (43.3 - 52.4)
25-44	81.3% (80.0 - 82.7)	2.1% (0.8 - 3.3)	28.0% (26.2 - 29.8)
45-64	63.7% (61.6 - 65.8)	1.1% (0.00 - 2.5)	16.8% (14.7 - 18.9)
65+	27.8% (25.3 - 30.2)	0.2% (0.0 - 2.6)	13.2% (9.1 - 17.2)
<u>Race</u>			
African American	68.2% (65.9 - 70.4)	2.8% (0.7 - 4.9)	38.9% (25.9 - 42.0)
White	68.7% (67.4 - 69.9)	1.8% (0.7 - 2.8)	23.9% (22.4 - 25.4)
Other	60.8% (54.2 - 67.4)	2.3% (0.0 - 7.3)	25.0% (17.2 - 32.7)
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	72.4% (70.7 - 74.2)	2.8% (1.2 - 4.5)	30.5% (28.3 - 32.6)
Female	64.1% (62.8 - 65.5)	1.3% (0.3 - 2.3)	24.3% (22.6 - 26.0)
<u>Income</u>			
<\$10,000	43.5% (37.7 - 49.2)	2.4% (0.0 - 7.9)	41.4% (31.9 - 50.9)
\$10,000 - \$24,999	56.2% (53.9 - 58.5)	2.8% (0.3 - 5.4)	39.9% (36.6 - 43.3)
\$25,000 - 49,999	70.1% (68.3 - 71.9)	2.1% (0.5 - 3.7)	30.0% (27.8 - 32.3)
\$50,000 or more	85.9% (84.3 - 87.6)	1.4% (0.0 - 2.7)	17.0% (15.0 - 19.0)
<u>Education</u>			
< High School	53.3% (50.0 - 56.6)	2.4% (0.0 - 5.6)	25.4% (20.3 - 30.4)
High School	66.2% (64.1 - 68.3)	1.8% (0.1 - 3.5)	26.2% (23.6 - 28.8)
> High School	71.5% (70.2 - 72.8)	2.1% (0.9 - 3.3)	28.3% (26.6 - 29.9)
<u>Marital Status</u>			
Single	63.4% (61.7 - 65.1)	4.5% (1.8 - 7.2)	54.8% (51.8 - 57.7)
Married/Cohabiting	86.8% (85.0 - 88.5)	0.6% (0.0 - 1.4)	10.8% (9.5 - 12.0)
Divorced/Separated	55.5% (53.3 - 57.8)	2.4% (0.0 - 5.2)	36.3% (32.7 - 39.9)
Widowed	14.7% (12.3 - 17.1)	0.3% (0.0 - 4.1)	24.0% (15.3 - 32.6)
<u>Insurance Coverage</u>			
Yes	63.4% (62.3 - 64.6)	1.9% (0.9 - 1.0)	24.5% (23.2 - 25.8)
No	69% (66.41 - 71.49)	3.1% (0.0 - 6.5)	34.5% (30.3 - 38.6)