

Delaware DDATA

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Use of alcohol and/or drugs before sex is related to an increase in pregnancy risk for Delaware youth

According to the 2013 Delaware Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 46% of female high school students and 51% of male high school students reported that they were sexually active. Among these sexually active youth, those who drank or used drugs the last time they had sex were more likely to not use any form of pregnancy prevention before their last sexual encounter. Substance users were more likely to use no method and less likely to use condoms. (They were slightly more likely to try withdrawal, but given their substance use, this may not be too successful.) Not surprisingly, pre-planned birth control (pills, IUDs, shots and the patch) did not see any (or little) change based on substance use. Overall, these findings suggest that youth substance use prior to sexual activity is related to higher rates of “of the moment” risk of pregnancy. This is apart from the concomitant risk of sexually transmitted disease.

Pregnancy Prevention Strategy Use by High School Students During Last Sexual Encounter

