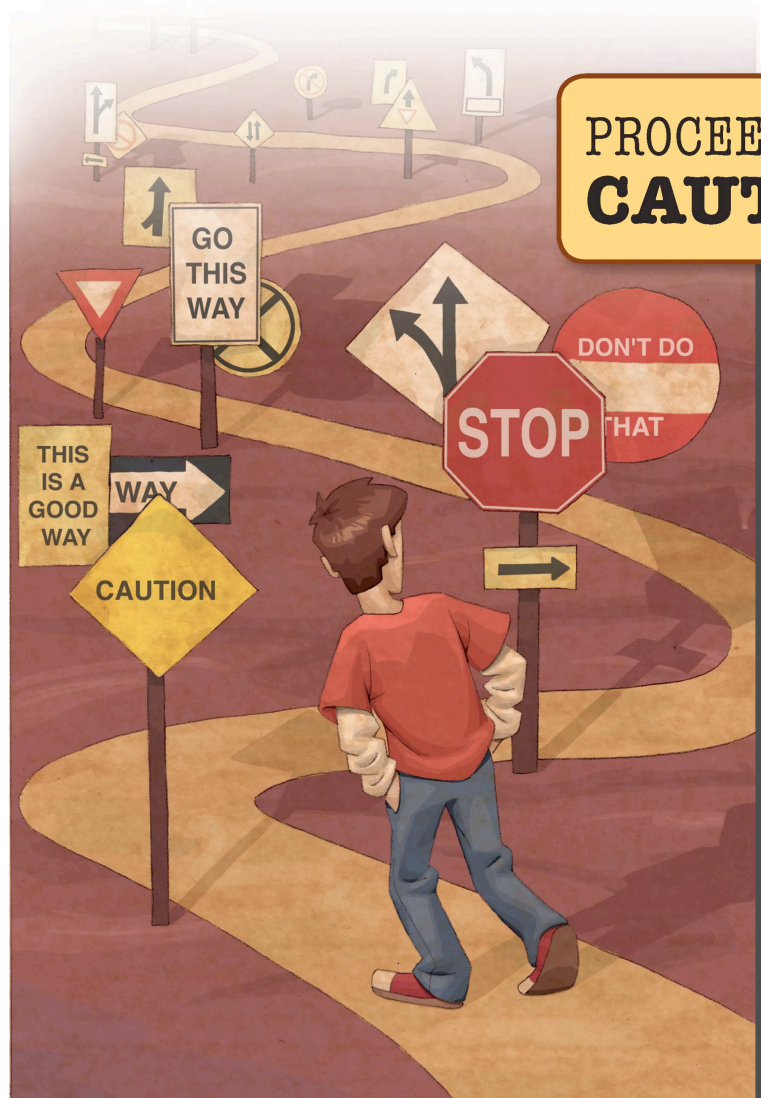


Do Now

**SOCIOLOGY
CLOSE UP**



Talk with a partner:

What are some of the difficult decisions that adolescents face in their lives?

The Challenges of Adolescence

10-14-10

Agenda

- 1. Do Now**
- 2. Objectives**
- 3. Big Ideas**
- 4. Teenage Sexual Behavior**

Objectives

Content:

SWBAT

1. **Explain** some of the main concerns surrounding teenage sexual behavior
2. **Explain** why teenage drug use is such a problem in the U.S.
3. **Explain** some of the factors that contribute to teenage suicide

Language:

By

1. **Taking notes** on a lecture and **writing** a response to the question.
2. **Taking notes** on a lecture and **writing** a response to the question.
3. **Taking notes** on a lecture and **writing** a response to the question.

Challenges of Adolescence: Big Ideas

Main Idea

Adolescents face many difficult challenges, including issues related to sexual behavior, drugs, and suicide.

Challenges of Adolescence

- Adolescents in American society experience a number of social challenges related to sexual behavior, drugs, and suicide.
- Teenagers who engage in early sexual activity face serious health challenges, including pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Challenges of Adolescence: Big Ideas

Challenges of Adolescence

- Alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking, drug use, and drug-related violence are persistent and widespread problems among teenagers.
- Suicide is a major challenge facing American teenagers, and the suicide rates for teens now exceed the suicide rates for the general population.

Teenage Sexual Behavior

Traditional Sexual Values

- Some modern, preindustrial traditions encourage sexual experimentation as a preparation for marriage.
- Traditional American values from the Puritans and the Victorian age confine sexual activity to marriage.




The Sexual Revolution

- During the 1960s and 1970s, the norms governing sexual behavior began to change.
- Birth control, youth counterculture, and the feminist movement encouraged changes.
- Various stages of romantic relationships are found on television and other mass media.
- Advertisers use the lure of sexuality to sell their products.

Teenage Sexual Behavior

The Rate of Teenage Sexual Activity

- In 1970, 29 percent of unmarried American females between the ages of 15 and 19 were sexually active.
 - By 1995, the rate had jumped to 50 percent.
 - Birthrate among American teenagers is considerably higher than that for other industrialized countries.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages **abstinence**, or voluntarily not engaging in sexual behavior.
- 


Influences on Early Sexual Activity

- Factors include: family income level, parents' marital status, religious participation
- In general, teenagers from higher-income two-parent families have lower rates of sexual activity than teenagers from low-income one-parent families.
- Teenagers whose friends engage in pre-marital sex are more likely to do so themselves.

Teenage Sexual Behavior

Consequences of Early Sexual Activity

Teenage pregnancy has negative consequences

- Babies have lower birth weights and are more likely to die within the first year of life
 - Low high school completion rates for teen parents
 - Lower lifetime earnings
 - Children more likely to experience learning disabilities
 - Significant emotional stress
- 

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

- High rates of human papillomavirus (HPV), chlamydia, genital herpes
- Exposure to syphilis, gonorrhea, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Studies show teenagers are aware of the dangers of HIV/AIDS and other **STDs**, yet few teenagers think that they are personally at risk.

Reading Check

Find the Main Idea

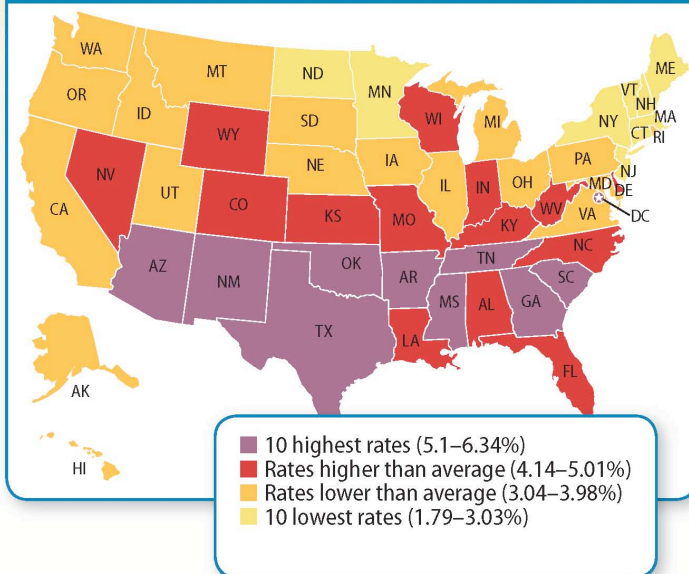
What are some basic facts about teenage sexual behavior?

Answer: *possible answers—increase in teen sexual activity, influenced by social and economic factors or by subcultural factors, about one million teen pregnancies each year with negative consequences, increase in STDs*

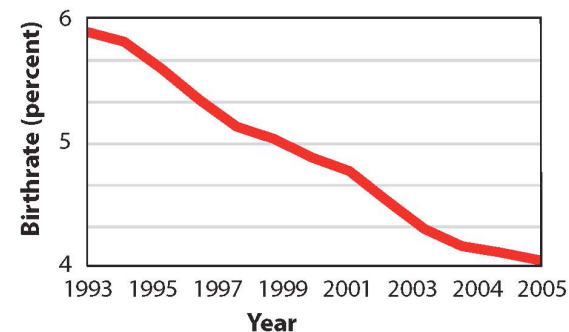
Statistically Speaking...

Teen Pregnancy Since 1991 the birthrate among 15- to 19-year-old women in the United States has dropped by 34 percent. Despite the decline in teen pregnancies nationally, however, some areas of the country have higher teen birthrates than others. In 2005 Washington, D.C. had the highest teen birthrate—6.34 percent. Texas and New Mexico also had high rates of 6.16 percent. In contrast, New Hampshire had the lowest birthrate at just 1.79 percent. Teen pregnancy varies by ethnic group as well. The birthrate among Hispanic teens is 8.17 percent—twice the national average.

**BIRTHRATE AMONG U.S. WOMEN
AGED 15 TO 19, BY STATE, 2005**



**BIRTHRATE AMONG U.S. WOMEN,
AGED 15 TO 19**



Source: CDC

Thinking Critically What do you think accounts for the high birthrate in Texas and New Mexico?

Teenage Drug Use

A **drug** is any substance that changes mood, behavior, or consciousness. Some are legal while others are illegal. There are social consequences to drug use.

Drug Violence

- Drug-related crime increased during the 1980s and 1990s.
- Violence was often part of turf wars between rival gangs.
- Crack cocaine is the drug most associated with violent crime.

The Rate of Teenage Drug Use

- Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal drug among teens.
- About 70 percent of high school seniors have used alcohol.
- The United States has the highest rate of teen drug use.

Influences on Teenage Drug Use

- Having friends who regularly engage in drug use
- Having social and academic adjustment problems
- Living in a hostile and rejecting family setting



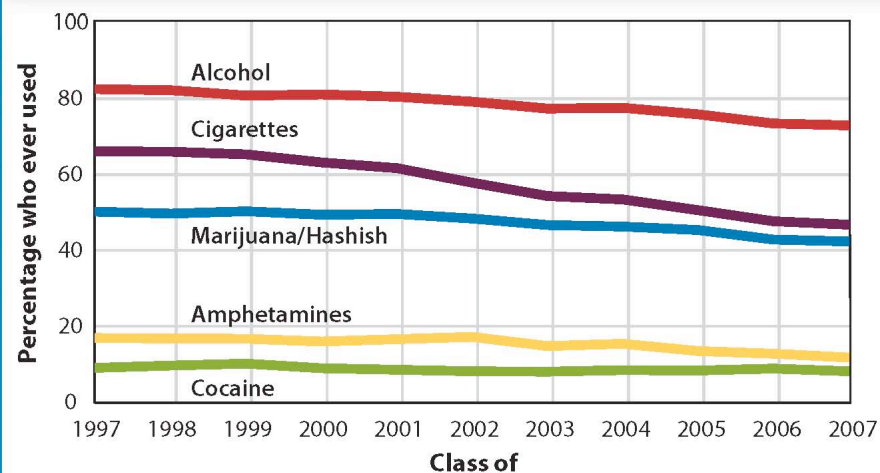
Teenage Attitudes Toward Drug Use

- Knowledge of danger of drugs has increased
- Disapproval rating of marijuana and cigarettes has increased
- Disapproval rating of LSD, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, and barbiturates remain at 90 to 98 percent

Statistically Speaking...

Teen Drug Use According to the results of a national survey conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, the use of illegal drugs and cigarettes among twelfth graders has gradually declined between 1997 and 2007. During this 10-year period, illegal drug use by twelfth graders overall has declined from 42 to 36 percent.

DRUG USE TRENDS AMONG 12TH GRADERS



Source: The Monitoring the Future study, University of Michigan

Reading Check

Sequence

How has teenage drug use in the United States changed over time?

Answer: *Use of alcohol, cigarettes, and illegal drugs gradually declined after 1997.*

Teenage Suicide

The rate of teenage suicide has more than doubled in the last three decades. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for people aged 5 to 24.

The Sociological View of Suicide

- Durkheim studied social aspects of suicide.
- Groups with especially high or especially low levels of “**social integration**” are more likely to commit suicide.

Teenage Suicide

- For some teenagers, the self-doubt and confusion of adolescence are blown out of proportion and solutions to problems are obscured.
- Social isolation and weakening social bonds can lead to suicide.

Predictors of Teenage Suicide

Suicide cuts across all social categories. There are cases of teenage suicide among both sexes, every economic level, and all races, religions, and nationalities. Nevertheless, certain social factors appear to affect the rates of teenage suicide.

Alcohol or Drug Use The risk of suicide increases along with an adolescent's use of alcohol and drugs. Social scientists offer three explanations. First, teenagers who are heavy users of alcohol and drugs typically have low levels of self-control and are easily frustrated. Second, teenagers under the influence of drugs or alcohol are more likely to act on impulse. Third, teenagers often use drugs and alcohol as the method by which to commit suicide.

Triggering Events In most teenage suicides, a specific event or the anticipation of a specific event triggers the suicide attempt. Common triggers include fear of punishment, loss of or rejection by an important person, unwanted pregnancy, family crisis, poor school performance, and a fight with a friend or family member.

Age The risk of suicide increases with age. Although children under the age of 13 do commit suicide, rates are much higher for older teenagers and young adults.

Sex Females are three times more likely than males to attempt suicide. However, males are much more likely to succeed. This outcome is partially a result of the fact that teenage men often choose guns and other weapons as the means to commit suicide.

Population Density Recent studies indicate that underpopulated areas have higher rates of teenage suicide than do heavily populated areas. Researchers believe that the higher rate may be a result of social isolation, which is more likely in underpopulated areas. In addition, teenagers in underpopulated areas generally have access to fewer social services.

Family Relations Suicide rates are higher for teenagers from families in which violence, intense marital conflict, or the recent loss of a parent through divorce or death is evident. In addition, suicide is more common in those families in which parents show hostility or rejection toward their children.

Cluster Effect A teenage suicide sometimes results in other suicide attempts among adolescents in a community. This phenomenon is more likely to occur when a member of the community takes his or her life. In some instances, a well-publicized suicide can trigger "copycat" attempts in other communities as well. Mental-health officials suggest that the news of suicide acts as a fuse that ignites self-destructive behaviors in already unstable adolescents.

Skills Focus INTERPRETING CHARTS

How do social scientists explain the correlation between teen suicide and alcohol and drug use?

Warning Words

Recognizing the warning signs of suicide in yourself or in others could help save your life or someone else's life. If you notice yourself or another person making the following statements, talk to a parent or trusted adult.

"I wish I were dead."

"I just want to go to sleep and never wake up."

"I won't be a problem for you much longer."

"I can't take it anymore."

"This pain will be over soon."

"Nothing matters."

Getting Help from Society

- Suicide is not the answer to a temporary problem.
- Learning to cope and manage pain and sadness is an important part of human development.
- Ask for help.
- Do not ignore the problem.
- Anyone who is suicidal needs professional help.
- Most cities have a variety of health organizations that offer services to people in need.

Reading Check

Identify Supporting Details

What are three factors that can contribute to teenage suicide?

Answer: *alcohol or drug use, triggering events, age, sex, population density, family relations, cluster effects (any three)*

Sociology in Today's World

Bullying

Bullying is an intentional behavior that is meant to hurt and dominate another person. It includes verbal and physical abuse, as well as cyberbullying—using electronic means to torment, threaten, harass, humiliate, embarrass, or otherwise target another.

- Some Web sites have measures in place to prevent cyberbullying.
- Cyberbullying allows bullies to send harassing messages and pictures that can reach victims at home and at any time.
- Bullying leads to a decline in social standards of behavior.
- Many schools hold a “Bully Awareness Week” to help victims identify bullying.
- There are media campaigns to stop bullying.
- Parents and teens are becoming more aware of and reporting the problem.