## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

The next four questions measure the occurrence and site of medical and dental care among Oregon high school students. Although adolescents are generally healthy, many face a broad range of obstacles to receiving health care including limited access because of impoverishment, lack of insurance or a shortage of approved providers, inability to obtain care on their own because of their age or lack of resources, confidentiality concerns, and logistical barriers. ${ }^{40}$

## What Oregon Students Reported

## Q102. When did you last go to a doctor or a nurse practitioner?

Overall, 78 percent of Oregon YRBS participants visited a doctor or nurse practitioner during the 12 months before completing the YRBS. Significantly fewer male students (75\%) than female students ( $80 \%$ ) visited a doctor or nurse practitioner. As grade level increased, significantly more students reported going to a doctor or nurse practitioner. Significantly fewer African American (72\%), Hispanic (67\%), Asian (70\%) and American Indian ( $73 \%$ ) students went to a doctor or nurse practitioner in the 12 months preceding the YRBS.


Oregon Health Division, 1997 YRBS Participants

## Q103. When did you last go to a dentist?

Seventy-eight percent of Oregon YRBS participants visited a dentist during the previous 12 months, including significantly more female (80\%) than male (76\%) students. There was no statistically significant difference by grade. Significantly fewer African American (65\%), Hispanic (61\%), Asian (71\%), and American Indian (72\%) students saw a dentist in the previous year.



Oregon Health Division, 1997 YRBS Participants

* Pregnancy test or STD test - $5 \%$
* Alcohol or other drug problem - 2\%


## Q105. During the past 12 months, where did you go to meet your health care needs (Mark all that apply)?

Fifty-one percent of Oregon YRBS participants visited a family doctor the previous 12 months, including significantly more female (58\%) than male (50\%) students. As grade increased, significantly more students saw a family doctor. Significantly fewer African American (41\%), Hispanic (40\%), Asian (46\%), and American Indian (47\%) students saw a family doctor in the previous year.


In addition, students went to following places for health care needs [Percentages may exceed $100 \%$ due to the possibility of multiple responses.]:

* Emergency room (15\%), including significantly more males (17\% vs $15 \%$ females), and significantly fewer Hispanic (11\%) and Asian (11\%) students. There was no statistically significant difference by grade.
* County or Community Health Clinic: (15\%), including significantly more females (18\%) than males (13\%), significantly fewer African Americans (8\%) and significantly more American Indians (20\%). As grade increased, significantly fewer students went to a health clinic.
* Other (15\%), including significantly more females (18\%) than males (13\%). There were no statistically significant differences by grade or race/ethnicity.
* Needed care, but didn't see anyone (2\%). Of the YRBS participants, 578 students reported not receiving care when they needed it. There were no statistically significant differences by gender, grade, or race/ethnicity.

