

PLAY THE NUMBERS GAME

Many young people choose behaviors that put them at risk for getting HIV. Teens that have sexual contact, or become exposed to contaminated blood are choosing to put themselves and others at risk. Exposure to blood may happen in a variety of ways: contaminated I.V. needles (illegal drugs including steroids), tattoo needles, body piercing needles/equipment, fights (where blood is involved), and receiving contaminated blood or blood products (only 2-3 cases per year in US).

In Multnomah county, about 50-52% of seniors report having had sex. Only a very small percentage of seniors report using I.V. drugs. (There are no studies available on unsafe tattoos and piercings.) Any time a person is involved in a risky behavior with

another person, they come in contact with the person's previous partner's germs too. These previous contacts are referred to as "phantom contacts" below. People may have few actual contacts, but the number of phantoms can be staggering. The higher the total number of contacts, the greater the risk of getting HIV. The current rate of HIV infection is 1/250 people. GHS has about 1800 students, so it is likely that a few may be infected. Those students who have never been involved in a risk behavior could not have contracted HIV.

Suppose someone decides to get involved in a risky behavior at age 15, and then adds a new contact each year. Also, assume that the other contacts followed the same pattern of behavior.

Complete the chart with the missing numbers.

AGE	ACTUAL CONTACTS	ACTUAL + PHANTOMS
15	1	1
16	2	3
17	3	7
18	4	15
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		

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1. _____
2. _____, _____
3. _____, _____, _____, _____
4. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
5. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
 _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____