

[REDACTED]

It was stated earlier that studies have shown knowledge and attitudes to be determinant factors in behavior (Kann, 1989).

The 57 percent and 58 percent responses in positive attitudes to allow AIDS or HIV infected students in school or class show there is need for further affective education efforts emphasizing HIV is not transmitted by casual contact. The Centers for Disease Control predicts that in the next century most of us will be affected personally by a close association with a person living with AIDS or HIV infection. This indicates a need for understanding and compassion for these people as for any others living with a life-threatening disease.

The 1988 AIDS/HIV Student Survey (MMWR, 1988) and the Iowa survey suggested that almost all respondents believed students of their age should be taught about HIV and AIDS. The 1988 survey showed a range of 89 percent to 96 percent; the Iowa survey showed a 90 percent positive response.

Both surveys indicated approximately 45 percent of the students were confident in finding accurate sources of information or in talking about HIV and AIDS to their friends or parents. This percentage may indicate an area for further educational emphasis. The ability to talk with friends and particularly sexual partners about HIV and its implications is considered an important strategy to stop the spread of this disease.

The Iowa student does not vary a great deal from adolescents as a whole in comparison of sexual activity reported by the 1988 AIDS/HIV Student Survey. [REDACTED]