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## **Many New Yorkers Having Unprotected Sex**

*([www.amny.com/news/local/am-sex0625,0,5809449.story](http://www.amny.com/news/local/am-sex0625,0,5809449.story))*

By Marlene Naanes and Ryan Chatelain

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In a city that promotes its own condom, many New Yorkers, especially those with multiple sex partners, are still not using protection.

Some 40 percent of New Yorkers with multiple sex partners did not use a condom the last time they had sex, according to a health department study that polled 10,000 adults. About 11 percent of New Yorkers have multiple sex partners, a population at higher risk of contracting sexually-transmitted infections.

"Sex is a normal part of life, but we want people to enjoy it safely," said Cari Olson, the health department's director of community epidemiology.

The report, released Tuesday, is particularly disturbing in a city considered the epicenter of the country's AIDS crisis and where the number of herpes cases is above the national average.

"I guess people just trust people to not have anything even with all the stuff going around," said Corey Collins, 20, of Carnasie, reacting to the findings. "Some people are just hazardous. I don't know if they get caught up in the moment or they just don't care."

What is encouraging is that most young adults in the city with more than one sex partner use condoms, according to the report. Nearly half of their counterparts older than 45, meanwhile, do not.

"People who are currently in their mid-40s are of a generation that was not given the safe sex message steadily throughout school and throughout their lives and may have become sexually active before the AIDS epidemic," said Martha Kempner with the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

There is also an element of message fatigue at play, leaving people to tune out, said Soraya Elcock, a deputy director with the Harlem United Community Aids Center.

Also, in a strange way, she said, the advancement of AIDS treatment contributes to a feeling of that they don't need protection.

"You don't see people sick, dead and dying, and the sense of urgency decreased," Elcock said. "People think it is a manageable disease."

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