



ALABAMA CAMPAIGN

TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

Goal of Alabama's K-12 Health Education Curriculum

- ❖ The goal of Alabama's K-12 Health Education curriculum, . . . , is for all students to achieve **health literacy for life**.
- ❖ A health-literate citizen obtains, interprets, and understands basic health information and services and is **able to use health information and services** in ways that **enhance health**.

Adapted Draft of the Alabama course of study:
Health Education

HIV/AIDS Education Resolution

- ❖ As required by a 1987 Alabama State Board of Education Resolution, **acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) education are included** as part of the approved health education curriculum in Alabama for students in Grades 5-12.

Sex Education Law

*Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-40A-2**

- ❖ Identifies minimum content to be included in sex education program or curriculum.
- ❖ Emphasize sexual abstinence.
- ❖ Statistics based on the latest medical information that indicate the degree of reliability and unreliability of various forms of contraception, while also emphasizing the increase in protection which is afforded by the use of various contraceptive measures.

ACPTP Public Policy Project

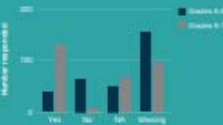
Characteristics of Sexual Health Education In Alabama Secondary Schools

In 2016 (most recent data) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted the School Health Profiles Survey (Profiles). The survey contained a series of questions related to Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools. The survey was completed by 306 Alabama public school level Health Education teachers. The Alabama Campaign focused on the Profiles questions related to sexual health education. The following questions were identified as key to understanding the availability and content of sexual health education for Alabama students.

During this school year, did teachers in your school teach health abstinence (of HIV/STIs) and pregnancy as a required course for students?



During this school year, did teachers in your school teach the benefits of being sexually abstinent as a required course for students?



During this school year, did teachers in your school teach efficacy of condoms, that a flow well condom will not get stuck in a required course?



During this school year, did teachers in your school teach how to correctly use condoms for students?



*NA indicates that at the school does not cover grade in that grade year. *Missing indicates that the question was answered by the survey participant.



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Alabama Community Leaders' Perspectives Regarding Sexual Health Education in Alabama Communities

2017 survey conducted by the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, with support from Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education Children's Policy Councils

376 respondents from 50 of Alabama's 67 counties



When asked, "What would be ideal sexual health education for young people in your community?"



82.3% expressed the opinion that sexual health education should include more than abstinence.

When asked why they thought this would be ideal for the young people in their community...



Over 85% responded it was because young people are engaging in sexual risk-taking behaviors and need sex information.

Parent Attitudes Regarding Sex Education in Alabama Public Schools

A 2017 Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy survey conducted by University of South Alabama

Of parents with children currently in Alabama public schools...

- 62.7% believe children should be taught sex education in school.
- 92.5% believe sex education should first be taught by the sixth grade, with 53.7% believing sex education should first be taught by each grade.
- 47.5% believe it is somewhat important or very important that their children learn to talk with a partner about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- 96.1% believe it is somewhat important or very important that their children learn about the use of condoms.
- 99.4% believe it is very important that their children learn about the transmission and prevention of HIV and AIDS.



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Alabama Students' Perspectives Regarding Sexual Health Education in Alabama Public Schools



In Fall 2017, two groups with a total of 109 students from Alabama public schools met to discuss sexual health education with The FOCUS Program. The five themes that emerged are as follows...

- #1** Lack of sexual health course taught in public schools.
 - Many students indicated that sexual health education was not being taught in their schools and that some students had to learn everything (increased to those about sex) from education.
- #2** Some sexual health education occurred in schools.
 - Some students said they have received communication with parents to help them understand they do not discuss sex with their parents/teachers.
 - Some students stated they would like to have more options to learn sexual health information in their schools.
- #3** Students want more sex education.
 - Students expressed that they wish there would be more health and sexual health topics.
 - The health and sexual health program should be more comprehensive.
- #4** Sexual messages about sex education should be provided through parents, friends & adults.
 - 23% of students were dissatisfied sexual health with their parents, friends and adult figures. 21.1% of students were dissatisfied with their parents, friends and adult figures.
 - Some of the themes mentioned were "I don't want to talk to my parents."
- #5** Sexual health education should be taught in a safe, supportive environment.
 - Participants stated that sexual health education should be taught in a safe, supportive environment, and to be open when talking to.
 - Some of the themes mentioned were "I don't want to talk to my parents."



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