

PARENT SUPPORT FOR SEXUALITY EDUCATION

We asked Minnesota parents what they want their kids to learn about sexual health.

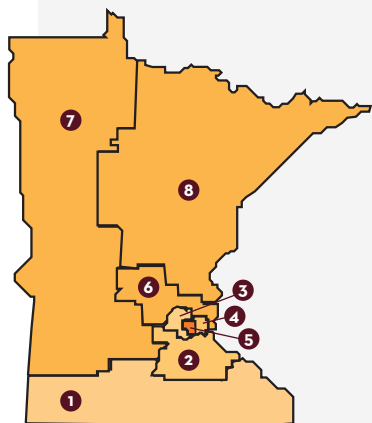
In 2021, the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development - Prevention Research Center surveyed over 700 Minnesota parents from various communities, income and education levels, ethnicities, and religious beliefs.

We learned that 90% of Minnesota parents want public school teachers to teach abstinence AND science-based, comprehensive sexuality education.

An overwhelming majority of parents surveyed—across religions, political beliefs, and geography—believe that young people deserve broad, developmentally appropriate, and medically accurate sexuality education in school. Most want their children to get answers to their questions about sexual development and health no later than middle school.



Rural and urban Minnesota parents agree.



Minnesota parents in all eight congressional districts disagree on plenty of things, but sexuality education isn't one of them.

Large majorities of Minnesota parents in every congressional district want young people to receive medically-accurate sexuality education in school that includes information about abstinence AND prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection.

79% of Minnesota parents want the Legislature to adopt basic standards for sexuality education.

Currently, the quality of the sexual health education a young person in Minnesota receives varies widely from district to district and school to school.

Minnesota has:

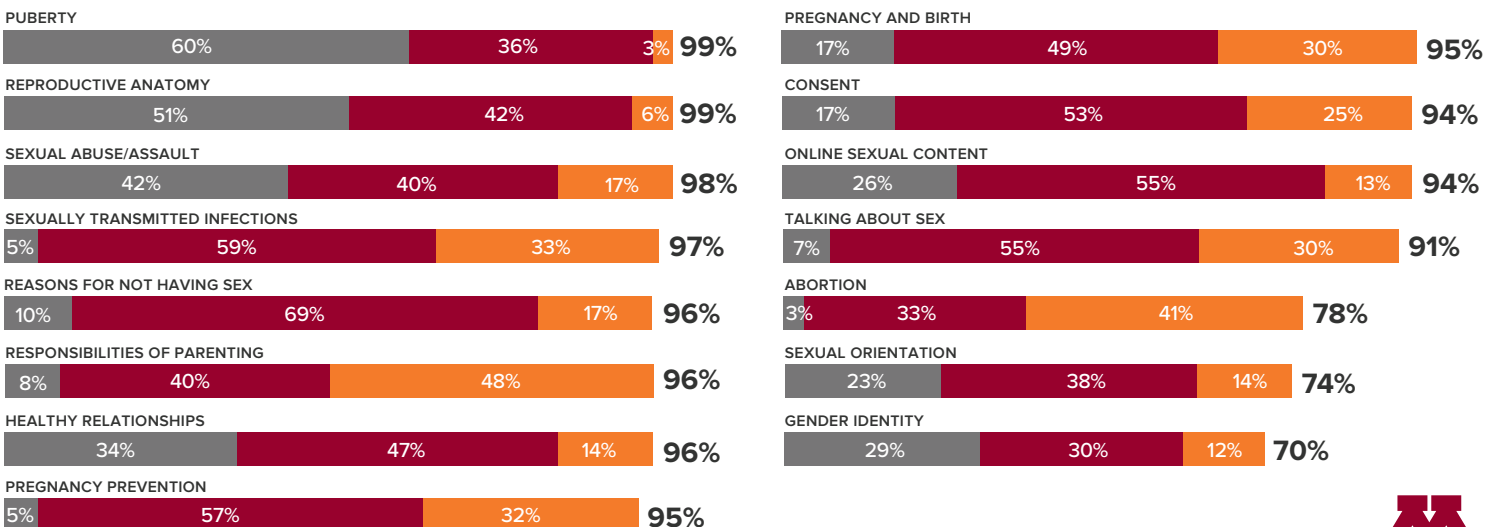
- No statewide graduation health course requirement
- No statewide health instruction standards
- No state-required health teacher training
- No dedicated state funding source for health classes

District 1 85% District 2 93% District 3 87% District 4 94% District 5 97% District 6 88% District 7 88% District 8 88%

Minnesota parents want schools to cover the details.

This chart shows the grade level at which parents surveyed want a topic introduced in school. Minnesota parents have a wide range of opinions on when schools should introduce certain topics. But many agree that their children should start learning the basics in elementary school. The sexual health topics parents most want their grade school-aged children to learn about are reproductive anatomy, sexual abuse prevention, and puberty.

INTRODUCE IN GRADES ■ K-5 ■ 6-8 ■ 9-12



“YES, young people should receive sexuality education in school.”

These charts show the **percentage of Minnesota parents** in each category who said YES to sexuality education in school that includes information about abstinence AND prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Children's school setting and grade

In public school	93%
In private/home school	76%
In K-2nd grade	87%
In 3rd-5th grade	89%
In 6th-8th grade	87%
In 9th-12th grade	91%

Parent's gender

Male	88%
Female	92%

Parent's age group

<40	90%
40-49	91%
50+	94%

Parent's race/ethnicity

Asian American/Pacific Islander	94%
Black	75%
Hispanic	96%
Multiracial	95%
Native American	80%
White	93%

Parent's religion

Protestant	90%
Catholic	89%
Other/no religion	94%

Parent's political leanings

Very conservative	57%
Somewhat conservative	93%
Middle of the road	94%
Somewhat liberal	98%
Very liberal	100%

Parent's level of education

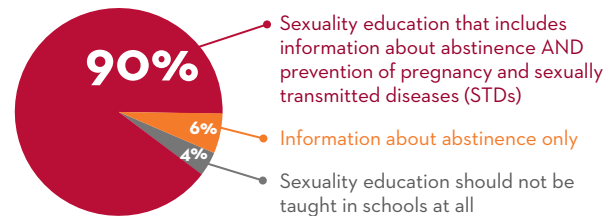
High school, GED, or less	95%
Vocational/technical certificate	89%
Some college or Associate's degree	92%
Bachelor's degree	89%
Graduate school	93%

Parent's annual income

<\$40,000	94%
\$40,000-~\$60,000	93%
\$60,000-~\$100,000	90%
\$100,000 or more	94%

Minnesota parents want their kids to get the facts.

“What should young people be taught?”



96% of parents want the sexual health information young people receive to be medically accurate.



96% of parents agree that students should be encouraged to talk to a parent or guardian about sex and sexuality.



3% of parents want the Internet to be young people's main source of sexual health information.

It takes time and a lot of questions to prepare for life's tests.

Most parents want their elementary school-aged children to learn the basics of sexual health – like reproductive anatomy, sexual abuse prevention, and puberty – along with other developmentally-appropriate topics like addition and the ABCs.

Who was surveyed?

This survey was conducted by mail and e-mail (April-August, 2021), and in person via iPad at the Minnesota State Fair (Aug-Sept, 2021). In total, 719 parents were surveyed. Care was taken to ensure that similar numbers of parents from every congressional district in the state were sampled.

Gender	Religion	Education	Political orientation	Income
Female.....75%	Protestant.....53%	HS or less.....6%	Very conservative.....11%	<\$40,000.....5%
Male.....25%	Catholic.....21%	Vocational/tech/business.....4%	Somewhat conservative.....22%	\$40K-~\$60K.....6%
Race	Other/no religion.....26%	Some college or AA degree.....22%	Middle-of-the-road.....30%	\$60K-~\$100K.....20%
White.....89%		Bachelor's degree.....36%	Somewhat liberal.....24%	\$100K or more.....55%
Parents of Color.....11%		Graduate school.....31%	Very liberal.....13%	No answer.....13%
		No answer.....1%		

ABOUT US

For over 30 years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have worked to eliminate health disparities and create healthy communities by funding Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) throughout the United States. The Healthy Youth Development - Prevention Research Center, housed at the University of Minnesota, Department of Pediatrics, is one of 26 academic centers whose main objective – as a PRC Network – is to link science to practice through collaborations with public health agencies and community-based organizations.

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