

Through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida's School-Based HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project contracted the University of North Florida's Public Opinion Research Laboratory to gather data through a phone survey from eight Florida school districts. The districts chose to become partner districts in the Florida project for the 2013-2018 grant period.

The survey questions are related to community attitudes and support for sexual health education and sexual health services being provided in public schools. It is important for school district leadership to have weighted data which will assist them with making decisions regarding curriculum and services that reflect local values and concerns. The school districts in which the survey was conducted from 2015-2018 were Brevard, Columbia, Lee, Liberty, Manatee, Orange, Pasco and Putnam. The consolidated data below was taken from the full reports of the school districts surveyed.

Comprehensive health education is required instruction through Section 1003.42 (2)(n), Florida Statutes. Topics related to sexual health education, such as reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, body image, gender roles, abstinence, and contraceptive options, are found in three topic areas of comprehensive health education: family life, mental and emotional health, and prevention and control of disease. Parents or guardians may make a written request to have their child/children exempted from being taught the sexual health component of comprehensive health education.

Section 381.0057, Florida Statutes, Comprehensive School Health Services, supports the delivery of comprehensive school health services for student health management, interventions and classes. These services promote student health by:

- reducing high-risk behaviors and their consequences (substance abuse, unintentional/intentional injuries, and sexually transmitted diseases);
- providing pregnancy prevention classes and interventions;
- providing support services to promote the return to school after giving birth.

Forty-six counties receive funding to implement comprehensive school health services programs in locally selected schools with high rates of teen birth, substance abuse and other high-risk behaviors.

### **Survey Data**

#### **How important do you think it is to have sexuality education as part of the high school curriculum?**

- 84% - 92% believe it is very important or somewhat important.

#### **How important do you think it is to have sexuality education as a part of the middle school curriculum?**

- 75% - 84% believe it is very important or somewhat important.

**Consolidated data from Brevard, Columbia, Lee, Liberty, Manatee, Orange, Pasco and Putnam County School Districts**

**Which of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about sexuality education in public schools?**

- 79% - 89% said “Schools should promote abstinence AND teach young people about birth control and safer sex practices.”

**Please tell me if you support or oppose children learning about each of the following topics in high school: HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.**

- 95% - 98.0% strongly support or somewhat support.

**Please tell me if you support or oppose children learning about each of the following topics in middle school: HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.**

- 86% - 91% strongly support or somewhat support.

**Please tell me if you support the following health services being available in high school: Testing for STDs/HIV.**

- 72.0% - 82% strongly support or somewhat support.

**Please tell me if you support the following health services being available in high school: Treatment for STDs/HIV.**

- 66% - 74% strongly support or somewhat support.

**Please tell me if you support the following health services being available in middle school: Testing for STDs/HIV.**

- 50% - 68% strongly support or somewhat support.

*The Community Opinion Survey: Family Life Education and Comprehensive Health Services for Secondary Students, and development of the survey reports were supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 1U87PS004277-5 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The contents do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Contact Ksenia Zipperer, Project Coordinator, [kzena.zipperer@fldoe.org](mailto:kzena.zipperer@fldoe.org) for the full reports from the eight partner districts.