

Black Youth Project

FACTSHEET: SEX EDUCATION and CONDOM DISTRIBUTION

Black Youth Project researchers surveyed 1,590 Black, White and Hispanic young people between the ages of 15 and 25 about their attitudes regarding sex education in schools and the idea of making condoms available in high schools. Responses were broken down by race / ethnicity, sex and age.

Key findings include the following:

- Significant minorities of youth have had no exposure to sex education through their high schools.
- Most young people support the policy of making sex education mandatory in high schools.
- Although the majority of schools are teaching sex education, it is usually part of another class such as gym or health and is rarely taken as a separate class.
- Most sex-education classes taken by our respondents did include some attention to safe sex.
- Most young people oppose government policies that want to fund only abstinence-only sex-education programs.
- Most young people support making condoms available in high schools.

Sex-Education Classes

- While the majority of all youth had some form of sex education in high school, significant minorities did not.
 - 73% of White youth had some form of sex education vs. 27% who had none
 - 73% of Hispanic youth had some form of sex education vs. 27% who had none
 - 69% of Black youth had some form of sex education vs. 31% who had none
- Very few young people had a separate course dedicated only to sex education. The percentage of youth who had sex education as part of another class such as gym or health class are:
 - 80% of White youth
 - 75% of Black youth
 - 74% of Hispanic youth
- The overwhelming majority of young people reported that their sex-education classes did include attention to safe sex. The percentage of youth who reported this are:
 - 86% of Black youth
 - 83% of White youth
 - 83% of Hispanic youth

Youth Attitudes about Sex-Education Policies

- More than 90% of young people believe that sex education should be mandatory in high schools. The percentage of youth who believe this are:
 - 93% of Black youth
 - 92% of Hispanic youth
 - 90% of White youth
- The percentage of young people who *strongly* agree that sex education should be mandatory in high schools increases with age. The percentage of those who *strongly agree* are:
 - 20% of 15-17 year-olds
 - 32% of 18-21 year-olds
 - 39% of 22-25 year-olds
- The overwhelming majority of young people disagree with the idea that the government should fund only abstinence-only sex-education programs. The percentage of youth who disagree with this policy position are:
 - 81% of White youth
 - 79% of Hispanic youth
 - 76% of Black youth

Condom Distribution in the Schools

- The majority of young people agree that condoms should be available in high schools. The percentage of youth who agree are:
 - 76% of Black youth
 - 74% of Hispanic youth
 - 68% of White youth
- White males are the group least likely to *strongly agree* that condoms should be available in high schools. The percentage of males who strongly agree are:
 - 12% of White males
 - 24% of Hispanic males
 - 20% of Black males