

Sex Education Fact Sheet

FACT #1: New research shows comprehensive sex education (CSE) programs have an 85% failure rate in U.S. public schools. According to a recent review of research conducted by the Institute for Research and Evaluation (posted at SexEdReport.org), the best available, peer reviewed studies over the last 30 years—studies vetted by the U.S. government, show much more failure than success for CSE in school classrooms. These programs have not shown evidence of effectiveness at preventing teen pregnancy or STD infections or increasing teen condom use or abstinence.¹

FACT #2: More than 1 out of 7 CSE programs in U.S. schools produced harmful effects, including higher rates of teen pregnancy and sexual risk-taking behavior.² The scientific field of prevention research recommends that programs producing such “negative effects on important outcomes” should not be designated as “effective” or disseminated for widespread use.³

FACT #3: The available peer reviewed research on abstinence education, though more limited, shows a much higher rate of success than CSE in U.S. classrooms.⁴

FACT #4: According to the CDC, fewer U.S. teens are having sex before the age of 18, not more.⁵ This trend should be supported by sex education curricula, not undermined by it.

FACT #5: Surveys show that the majority of youth who have had sex regret that decision and wish they had waited longer.⁶ Sex education curricula can encourage sexually active teens to return to abstinence.

FACT #6: Most U.S. parents want sex education to emphasize abstinence as the primary message. Also, most states require abstinence to be the primary message of sex education as this helps children avoid 100% of the risks associated with early sex.

FACT #7: Adolescents who become sexually active are more susceptible to depression and suicide, especially females and younger teens.⁷

FACT #8: According to the CDC, teens who identify as LGBT are much more likely to experience dating violence or rape by a same-sex partner than those who identify as heterosexual are by an opposite sex partner.⁸ Curriculum that normalizes or encourages such identification, thereby inviting the accompanying risks, should be avoided.

FACT #9: Most children who experience same-sex attraction grow out of it. A U.S. study published in *Pediatrics*, found that 26 percent of 12-year-old children were uncertain about their sexual orientation. But since homosexuals represent less than 2 percent of the adult population, most confused adolescents outgrew this confusion and adopted a heterosexual orientation.⁹

FACT #10: Most children who are confused about their gender identity generally come to accept their biological sex as they grow up. In fact, 80 percent to 90 percent accept their biological identity upon reaching adulthood—that is if they are not affirmed in their gender confusion, for example, if they are given puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones.¹⁰

FACT #11: No child who identifies as LGBT should be rejected, stigmatized or bullied, and existing bullying policies should be strongly enforced in this regard. But attempts to prevent bullying, or sex education programs that have the underlying goal to normalize and/or encourage such identification should be avoided as such programs can serve to reinforce an LGBT identity that will lead children to experience higher rates of negative physical and mental consequences over their lifetime and put them at higher risk for suicide.

FACT #12: The public school is not the appropriate place to try to address and resolve LGBT issues, which are some of the most divisive issues of our day, dividing communities and nations across the globe. A school or state that takes one side will lead to a mass exodus of families from the public schools, a trend that has already begun.

References

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