

# 91.8%

of North Carolina parents of public school students thought that sexuality education should be taught in school. Only 8.2% of parents interviewed responded that they were opposed to teaching sexuality education in public school.

Of those parents who thought sexuality education should be taught in schools, most believed it should start by 6th grade, 93% thought it should start by 8th grade, and 100% thought it should start by high school.

## Research and parents agree

Parents' opinions and research are in agreement. Programs that work to delay sexual onset and increase condom and contraceptive use have many of the components that parents consider important.

## Programs

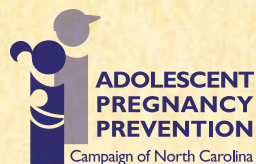
If you are interested in programs that have evidence of working in the school setting, please contact our office.

In November 2008, the Survey Research Unit at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill implemented a telephone survey of parents of public school students across the state. The purpose of this survey was to assess parent opinions regarding sexuality education in North Carolina public schools.

The survey took place from November 2008 through January 2009. For this survey 1,201 parents of public school students were randomly selected and interviewed across the state of North Carolina. Of the people who were contacted and eligible (parents of current North Carolina public school students, K-12), 52% completed the survey (AAPOR 2008).

### Suggested citation:

Survey Research Unit, Department of Biostatistics, Gillings School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina. (2009). North Carolina Parent Opinion Survey of Public School Sexuality Education. Bolin Creek Center University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. Retrieved from <http://www.appcnc.org>



### Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina

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PARENT SURVEY 2009

# What do parents think about sex education?

## What do parents think about sex education?

Adolescence is a dynamic part of life — marking the transition into adulthood. Many of the experiences, relationships and skills young people develop during this time will shape who they are and who they will become.

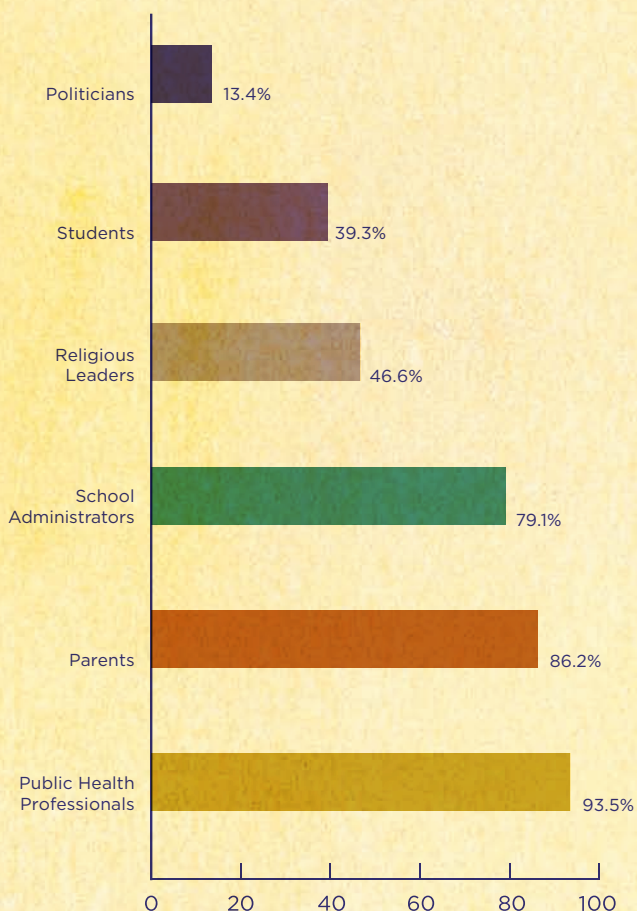
Adults work to help youth develop healthy, positive skills and behaviors as they grow up. How best to do that when it comes to sexual development is an important question — and one that needs to be answered in light of some certain facts: 69.9% of high school seniors report having had sexual intercourse, and 46.8% of seniors who had sex did not use a condom at last sexual intercourse (NC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007).

Sexuality education in the schools is one way to impart important information and skills for students to delay sexual intercourse and to use safer sex methods when they do not choose to abstain.



## Who decides?

Parents who thought sexuality education should be taught in schools believe the following groups should decide *how* it is taught:



## What's important?

The majority of parents surveyed felt the following topics were important (responded "Very Important" or "Somewhat Important") and should be taught as part of sexuality education:

- 99.6%** Transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS
- 99.4%** What to do if one has been raped or sexually assaulted
- 99.4%** How to deal with pressure to have sex
- 98.2%** How to talk with a girlfriend, boyfriend, or partner about not having sex
- 98.7%** How to talk with parents about sex and relationship issues
- 97.8%** How to deal with the emotional issues and consequences of being sexually active
- 97.1%** How to talk with a girlfriend, boyfriend, or partner about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases
- 94%** Abstinence until marriage
- 96.2%** Waiting to have sex until after graduating from high school
- 97.1%** Effectiveness and failure rates of birth control methods, including condoms
- 94.4%** How to get tested for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- 92.9%** Risks of oral sex
- 91%** How to use other birth control methods, such as birth control pills, or Depo-Provera
- 91.3%** How to use condoms
- 86.9%** Talking about what sexual orientation means
- 87%** Where to get birth control, including condoms
- 76.7%** Classroom demonstrations of how to use a condom correctly