

Alabama Students' Perspectives Regarding Sexual Health Education in Alabama Public Schools



In Fall 2017, two groups with a total of 109 students from Alabama public schools met to discuss sexual health education with The FOCUS Program. The five themes that emerged are as follows. . .

#1

Lack of sexual health topics taught in public schools

- Many students indicated that **no sexual health topics are taught in their school.**
- One student said he learned everything he needed to know about sex from television.

#2

Some sexual health education provided by parents

- Some students said they have candid conversations with parents/caregivers and others said they do not discuss sex with their parents/caregivers.
- **Some students stated they would like to have more support from their parents and be able to just talk about safe sex and means of obtaining condoms.**

#3

Students want more information about sexual health topics

- Students expressed that they wish there would be more taught on sexual health topics.
- **The students all agreed that an actual formal class that consisted of more than one discussion would be beneficial.**

#4

Various messages about sexual health given by parents, friends & schools

- Of the students who discussed sexual health with their parents, they indicated that their **parents talked more about "having safe sex" than "abstinence"**
- "Some of our friends encourage us to have sex."

#5

Ideal sexual health education would include good teachers & more about prevention methods

- Participants stated that ideal sexual health education would teach how to prevent STDs, how to properly use condoms, and to be cautious when having sex.
- **"Help us understand our risks."**

