

Looking at the Numbers: Sexual Health and Behavior Data Update

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Agenda

- ❖ Updates to the Alabama Campaign
- ❖ Laws and policies affecting sex education in Alabama
- ❖ Sexual health behaviors and outcomes in AL
- ❖ Support for sex education

Pop Quiz!



About the Alabama Campaign

- ❖ We envision access to comprehensive sexual health for adolescents in Alabama
- ❖ Our mission is to champion healthy adolescent development through medically accurate and equitable sexual health education and services
- ❖ Core beliefs:
 - ❖ The Alabama Campaign believes in the capacity of youth and in supporting that capacity through information, education, and empowerment.
 - ❖ The Alabama Campaign believes in access to medically accurate and comprehensive sexual health information and care.
 - ❖ The Alabama Campaign believes in the support of parents, caregivers, community-based organizations, schools, faith communities, and policy makers in addressing adolescent sexual health.
 - ❖ The Alabama Campaign believes in the diversity of opinion and the power of partnerships to affect positive change for adolescent sexual health through advocacy and awareness.
 - ❖ The Alabama Campaign believes in providing support for pregnant and parenting adolescents for the development of healthy families and strong communities.
 - ❖ The Alabama Campaign believes in providing sexual health education that addresses the diverse needs of adolescents in Alabama regardless of race, ability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and faith.

Sex Education Law

*Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-40A-2**

- ❖ Law is not a mandate – **if** you teach sex education, **then** you must follow these guidelines
- ❖ Identifies **minimum content** to be included in sex education program or curriculum.
- ❖ Statistics based on the **latest medical information** that indicate the degree of reliability and unreliability of **various forms of contraception**, while also **emphasizing the increase in protection** which is afforded by the use of various contraceptive measures.
 - ❖ NOT an “abstinence only” law!
- ❖ Course materials should be **age appropriate**.
- ❖ Information about sexual abuse
- ❖ “Abstinence from sexual activity outside of lawful marriage is the **expected social standard** for unmarried school-age persons.”



Ivey signs bill striking anti-homosexuality language from Alabama sex education law

Brian Lyman Montgomery Advertiser

Published 9:30 a.m. CT Apr. 28, 2021 | Updated 2:43 p.m. CT Apr. 29, 2021

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WIN!

- ❖ “An emphasis, in a factual manner and from a public health perspective, that **homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public** and that **homosexual conduct is a criminal offense** under the laws of the state.”
- ❖ New law ensures medical accuracy of sex education

HIV/AIDS Education Resolution

- ❖ As required by a 1987 Alabama State Board of Education Resolution, **acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) education are included** as part of the approved health education curriculum in Alabama for students in Grades 5-12.



Anti-LGBTQ legislation in 2022

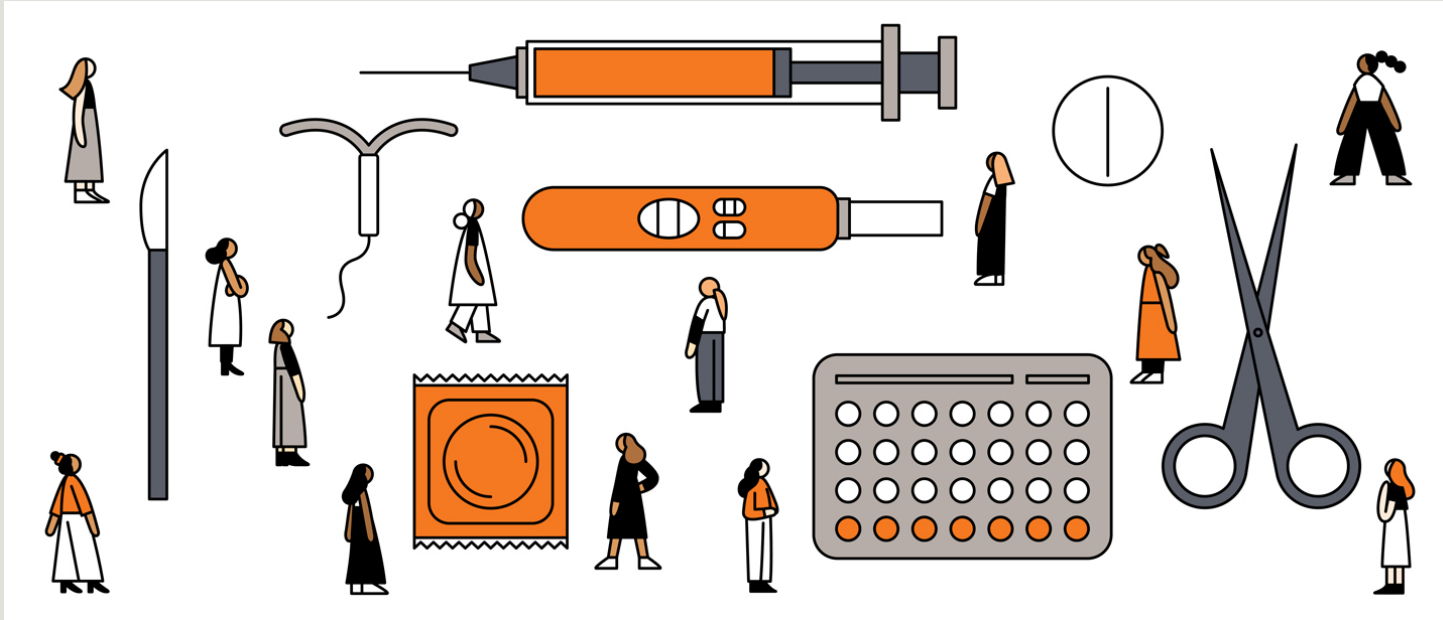
SB 184: This law makes it a felony — punishable by up to ten years in prison — to provide gender-affirming care. SB 184 also forces educators to “out” children to their parents. This law was blocked in court.

HB 322: This law bans K-12 students from using bathrooms and school facilities consistent with their gender identity. Additionally, the law bans conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity in classrooms for grades K-5, similar to Florida’s recent “Don’t Say Gay or Trans” bill.



Concerns about *Dobbs v. JWHO*

- ❖ High teen pregnancy/birth rates
- ❖ Maternal mortality in Alabama
- ❖ Birth control access



Goal of Alabama's K-12 Health Education per ALSDE Health Course of Study

- ❖ “Literacy, behaviors, and skills addressed in this course of study are fundamental to understanding and developing **optimal health for life.**”
- ❖ A health-literate citizen obtains, interprets, and understands basic health information and services and is **able to use health information and services** in ways that enhance health.
- ❖ 2019 Alabama Course of Study: Health Education describes the **minimum required content** for a curriculum that focuses on the development of health-literate citizens.
- ❖ Standards do not dictate curriculum or teaching methods.
- ❖ Content standards contain **minimum required content**. They are **fundamental and specific but not exhaustive**.





Sex Education Local Policy

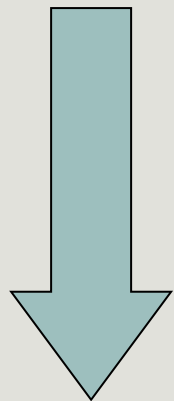
- ❖ “It is highly recommended that local school systems develop and adopt a policy regarding the instruction of sex education content for their schools in accordance with laws, regulations, and resolutions in age- and content-appropriate contexts.”

What programs exist in Alabama?

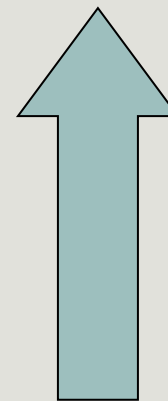
- ❖ Federal PREP and SRAE money, none from state
 - ❖ SRAE
 - ❖ Alahealth in Montgomery and surrounding counties
 - ❖ Tuscaloosa Co. Health Dept.
 - ❖ Dallas County
 - ❖ PREP
 - ❖ Tuscaloosa Co. Health Dept
 - ❖ BlackBelt Women Rising in Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox counties
- ❖ PREP and SRAE reach less than 1% of Alabama's youth

Alabama Sexual Health Behaviors

2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)



% who have ever had sex: 40.7%
% who had sex before age 13: 4.5%
% of students who had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their life: 10.7%
% sexually active in past 3 months: 30.6%



% who used a condom: 54.1%
% who used any contraceptive method at last sex: 87.1%





CURRENT SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Alabama high school students were less sexually active in 2019 than they were in 2015.

<u>2019</u>	<u>2015</u>
30.6%	34.9%



HIV TESTING

More Alabama high school students were tested for HIV in 2019 than in 2015, though this age group remains significantly undertested.

<u>2019</u>	<u>2015</u>
20.3%	15.8%



CONDOM USE

More Alabama high school students used a condom at last sexual intercourse than in 2015.

<u>2019</u>	<u>2015</u>
54.1%	50.9%



STI TESTING

For the first time, the YRBSS asked high school students whether they had been tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)/sexually transmitted infections (STIs). **80.6% indicated they had not been tested.**



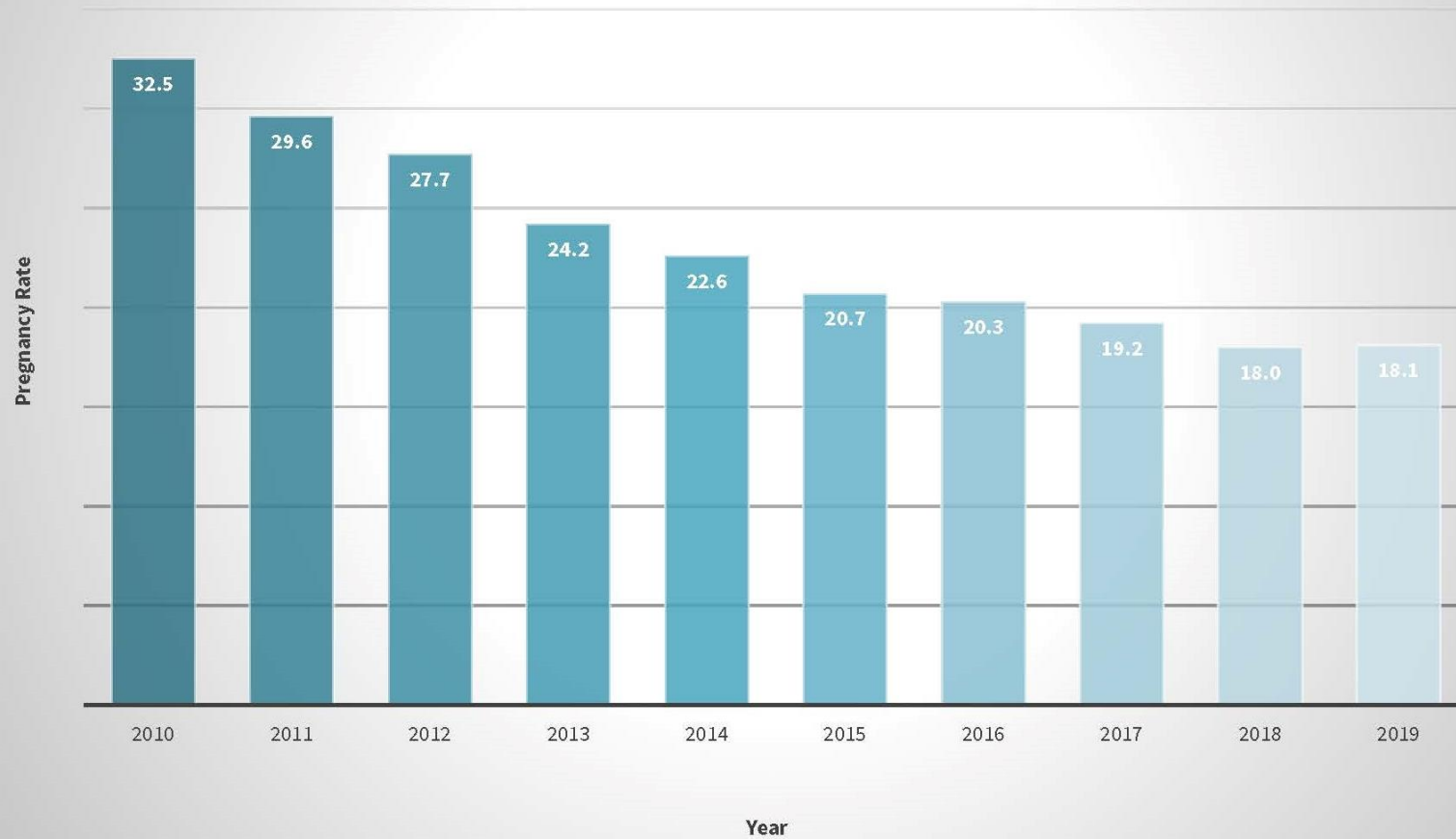
PREGNANCY PREVENTION

More Alabama high school students used any birth control method (IUD, implant, birth control pills, the shot, etc.) to prevent an unintended pregnancy during last sexual intercourse than in 2015.

<u>2019</u>	<u>2015</u>
87.1%	82.3%

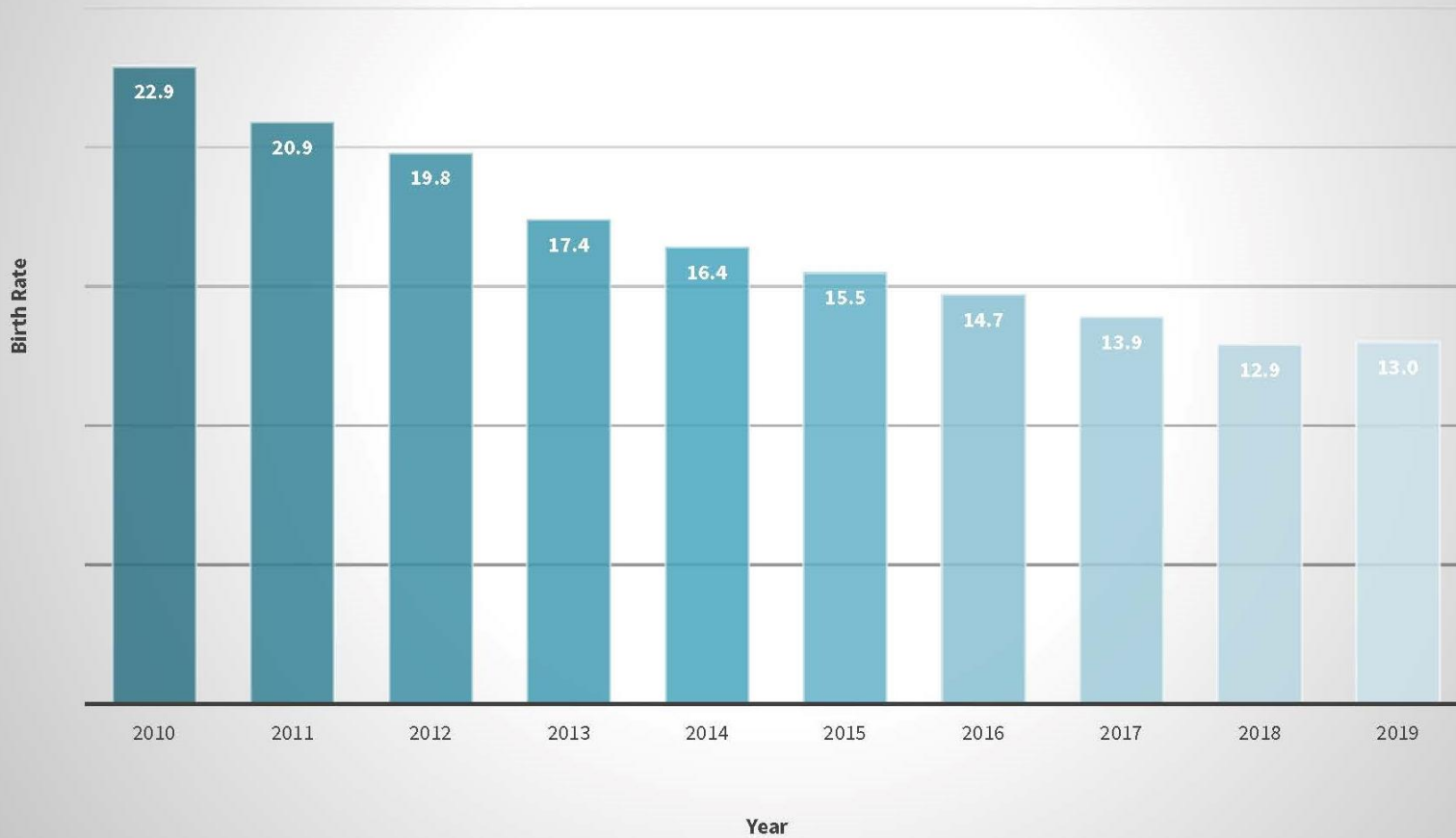


State of Alabama
Teen Pregnancy Rate
Ten Year Graph
(Females aged 10-19)



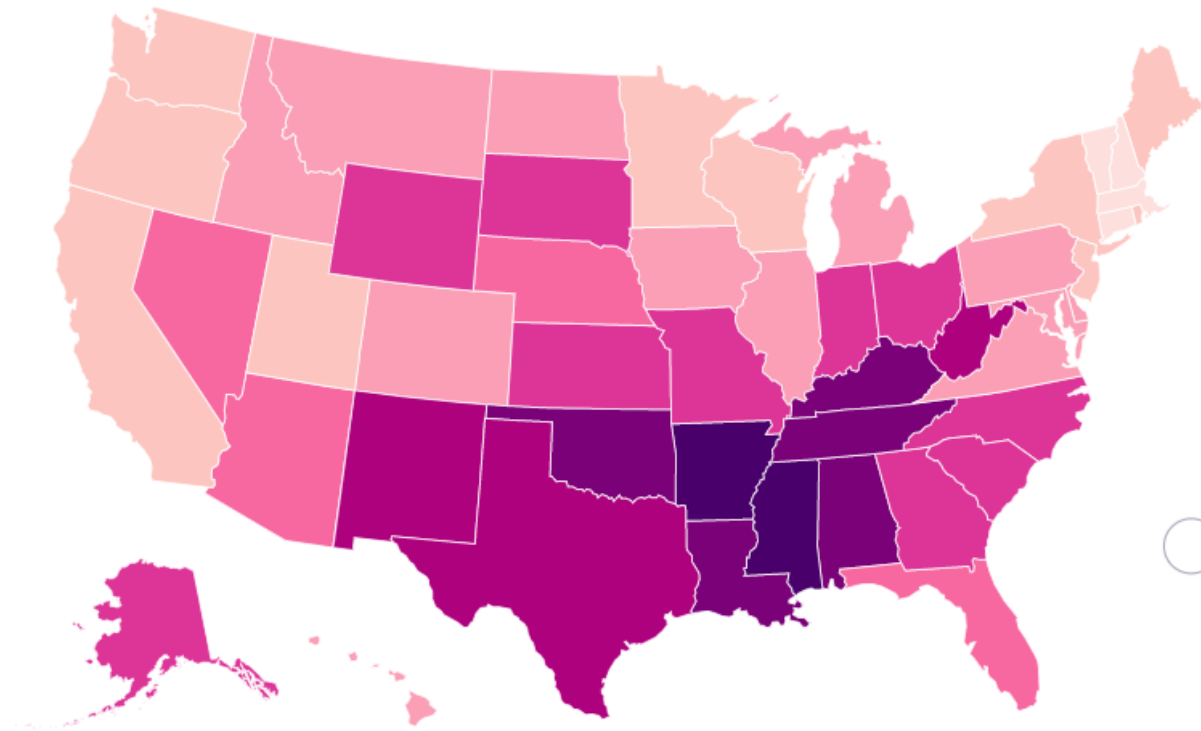
Alabama Sexual Health Outcomes

State of Alabama
Teen Birth Rate
Ten Year Graph
(Females aged 10-19)



Alabama Sexual Health Outcomes

Teen Birth Rate Among Girls Age 15-19



ALABAMA

Teen Birth Rate
RANK 5
VALUE 24.8
* N/A indicates data was not provided

TEEN BIRTH RATE AMONG GIRLS AGE 15-19

Rank	State	Births per 1,000 Girls
	National	15.4
1	Mississippi	27.9
2	Arkansas	27.8
3	Louisiana	25.7
4	Oklahoma	25.0
5	Alabama	24.8
6	Kentucky	23.8
7	Tennessee	23.3
8	West Virginia	22.5
9	Texas	22.4
10	New Mexico	21.9
11	South Carolina	19.3
12	Missouri	18.8
13	Indiana	18.7
13	South Dakota	18.7
15	Georgia	18.2



TEEN BIRTHS IN ALABAMA, GIRLS 15-19

2020

3,788

NUMBER OF TEEN BIRTHS

2015

\$68

MILLION SAVED DUE TO
FALLING TEEN BIRTH RATE

TEEN BIRTH RATE

2020

24.8

BIRTHS PER 1,000 GIRLS

-3%

CHANGE IN TEEN BIRTH
RATE FROM 2019

-66%

CHANGE IN TEEN BIRTH
RATE FROM PEAK YEAR 1991

TEEN BIRTH RATE, BY RACE/ETHNICITY	2020	CHANGE, 1991 - 2020
Non-Hispanic White	20	-65%
Non-Hispanic Black	33	-71%
Hispanic	49	21%

TEEN PREGNANCY IN ALABAMA, GIRLS 15-19

NUMBER OF TEEN PREGNANCIES

2013

7,610

TEEN PREGNANCY RATE

2013

48

PREGNANCIES PER 1,000 GIRLS

-19%

CHANGE IN TEEN
PREGNANCY RATE FROM
2011

-57%

CHANGE IN TEEN
PREGNANCY RATE FROM
PEAK YEAR 1988

Alabama Sexual Health Outcomes

- ❖ Young people ages 15-19 account for 6.5% of the total population of Alabama, however...
 - ❖ They made up 31.2% of all chlamydia cases in 2019
 - ❖ They made up 21.0% of all gonorrhea cases in 2019
 - ❖ They made up 5.8% of all syphilis cases in 2019
- ❖ In 2021, Montgomery (8th), Birmingham (35th), Huntsville (45th), Mobile (56th), Tuscaloosa (57th), and Decatur (69th), all landed in the top 100 US metros with the highest rates of combined HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis (5)
- ❖ Young people ages 13-19 accounted for 5% of cumulative HIV cases in 2019
- ❖ Young adults ages 20-29 accounted for 25.9% of cumulative HIV cases in 2019



School Climate for LGBTQ Students

Figure 1. Hearing Anti-LGBTQ Remarks from Students in Alabama Schools
(percentage of LGBTQ students hearing remarks regularly)

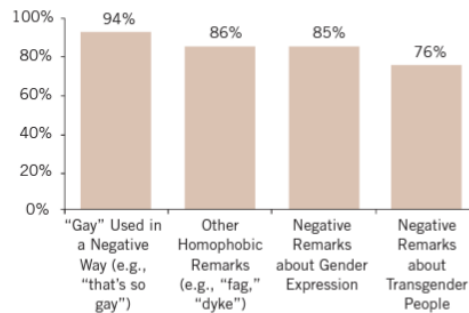
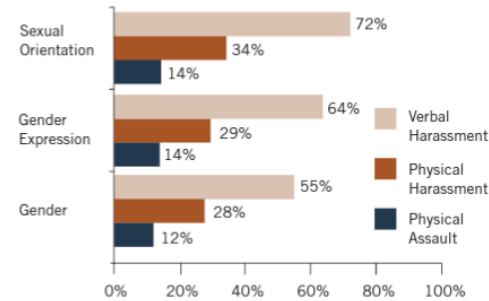


Figure 2. Anti-LGBTQ Harassment & Assault in Alabama Schools
(percentage of LGBTQ students harassed or assaulted in the past year based on...)



- ❖ Vast majority of LGBTQ students in Alabama regularly hear anti-LGBTQ remarks
- ❖ Most LGBTQ students in Alabama experienced anti-LGBTQ victimization
- ❖ Many LGBTQ students in Alabama reported discriminatory policies/practices in their school
- ❖ Many LGBTQ students in Alabama did not have access to in-school resources and supports
 - ❖ Less than 1% reported receiving LGBTQ-inclusive sex ed

Figure 3. Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination Most Commonly Reported in Alabama Schools
(percentage of LGBTQ students that were prevented from...)

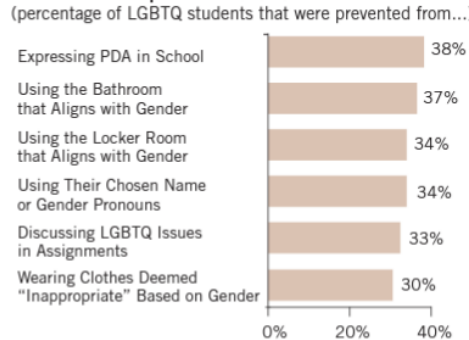
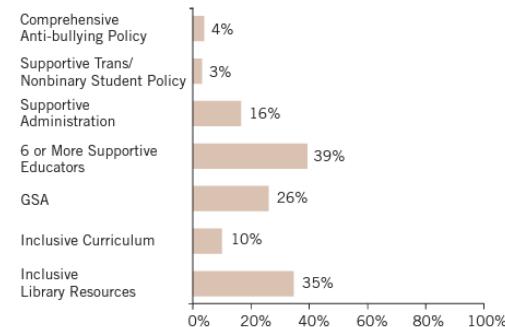


Figure 4. Availability of LGBTQ-Related Resources & Supports in Alabama Schools



YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY DATA SUMMARY & TRENDS REPORT: 2015-2019



Although some progress has been made, too many lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) students face disparities in **risky sexual behaviors**, **high-risk substance use**, **the experience of violence**, and **poor mental health, including suicide risk**.

SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

LGB

HETEROSEXUAL

SEXUAL IDENTITY

45%

— 2019 —

More LGB students
ever had sex.

38%

— 2019 —

41%

— 2019 —

Fewer LGB students
who have sex are
using condoms.

57%

— 2019 —

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION IMPORTANT?

These behaviors and experiences can lead to **HIV**, other **sexually transmitted diseases**, and **unintended pregnancy**.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES



CAN BUILD STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENTS
TO PROMOTE POSITIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES.

RESOURCES

Learn more about
student health behaviors

www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS,
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and
TB Prevention

Source: CDC, YRBS Data Summary & Trends Report: 2009-2019





New research suggests that LGBTQ-inclusive policies and resources can positively impact sexual health outcomes, as well as mental health, violence, and substance abuse

Broad support for sex ed



Of parents with children currently in Alabama public schools...



82.7% believe children should be taught sex education in school.

92.5% believe sex education should first be taught by the ninth grade, with 52.7% believing sex education should first be taught by sixth grade.



97.5% believe it is somewhat important or very important that their children learn to talk with a partner about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

98.1% believe it is somewhat important or very important that their children learn about the use of condoms.



99.4% believe it is very important that their children learn about the transmission and prevention of HIV and AIDS.



When asked, "What would be ideal sexual health education for young people in your community?"



82.5% express the opinion that sexual health education should include more than abstinence.

When asked why they thought this would be ideal for the young people in their community...



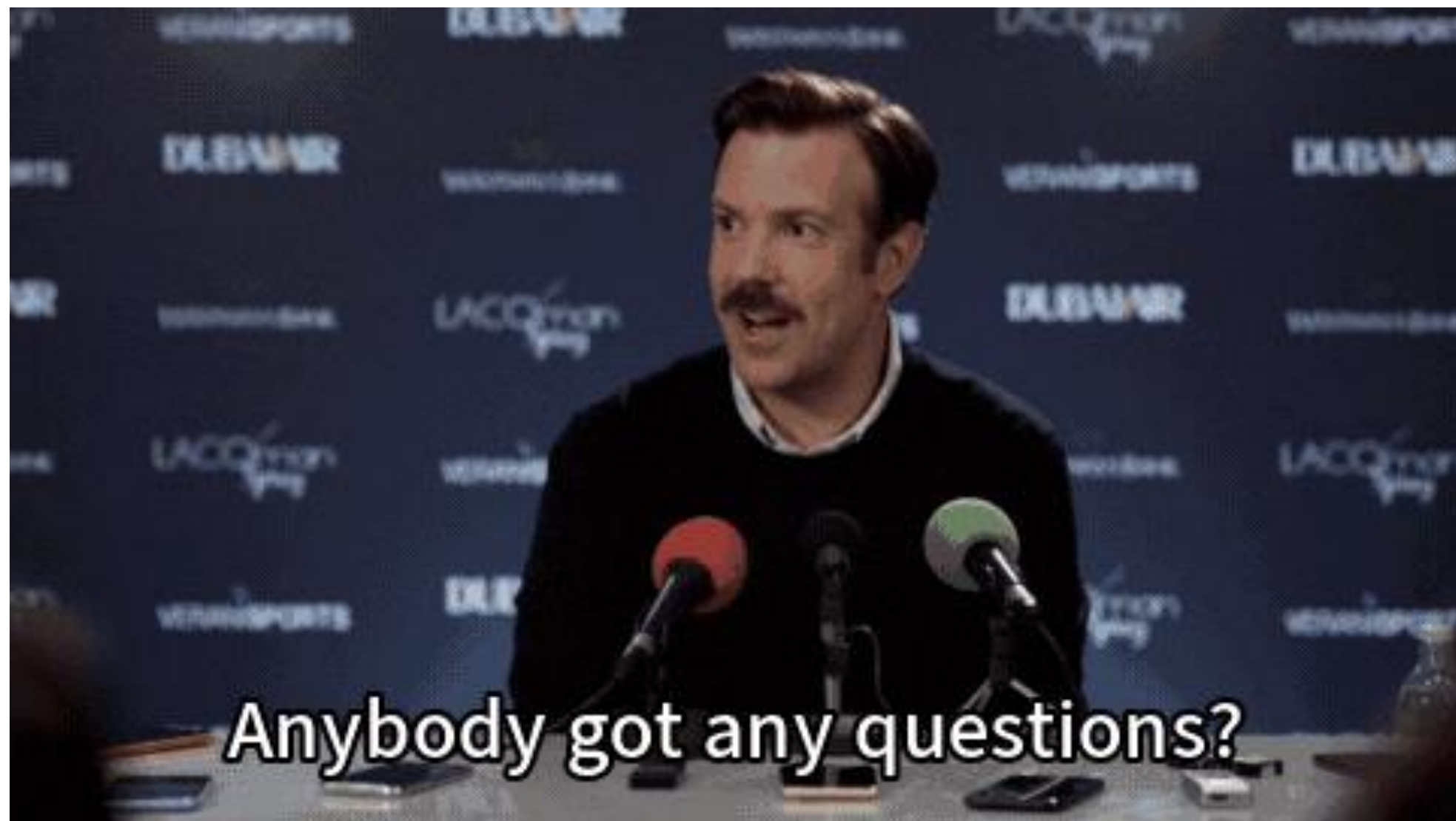
Over 85% responded it was because young people are engaging in sexual risk-taking behaviors and need this information.



What next?

- ❖ Go to your local school/school board and find out what's being taught for sex ed
- ❖ Advocate for comprehensive sex ed locally
- ❖ If you work with young people and have the capacity, implement sexual health content → Sex Ed Professional Learning Series





Anybody got any questions?

That's a wrap!

- ❖ Alabama Campaign for Adolescent Sexual Health
 - ❖ Christina Clark Okarmus – christina@alabamacampaign.org
- ❖ Stay connected to the Alabama Campaign
 - ❖ Fb, Twitter: @AlabamaCampaign
 - ❖ www.alabamacampaign.org
 - ❖ www.alabamacampaign.org/newsletter

