

# Characteristics of Sexual Health Education in Alabama Secondary Schools

## 2020 Alabama State Profile

In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted the School Health Profiles Survey. The survey contained a series of questions related to Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools. The survey was completed by 88 Alabama public school Principals and 71 public school teachers. Compared to other states, Alabama had the 4th lowest response rate from principals and the 9th lowest response rate from teachers. The Alabama Campaign focused on survey questions related to sexual health education. The following questions were identified as key to understanding the availability and content of sexual health education for Alabama students.



40% of Alabama Secondary Schools teach at least 11 of the 22 Sexual Health Education Topics in for Grades 6-12

### Current Alabama Sex Ed State Policy:

Alabama law does not require that sex education be taught in schools, but if it is taught it must emphasize abstinence while also providing medically accurate information about condoms and contraception. The state does not provide any funding for sex education nor does it provide funding for teachers to receive training on sex education topics that would help them teach in the classroom.

19% of lead health teachers at secondary schools in Alabama received professional development training on how to create a comfortable and safe learning environment for students receiving sexual health education

**“Every message that I ever got about sex, relationships, sexual health has all been wrapped in shame.”**

-Ashley W. (pseudonym) 22 years old, Tuscaloosa, Human Rights Watch 2020 Report



**“The instructor had boys in the class spit into a cup of water that she then compared to girls who have sex before marriage.”**

-Anna C. (pseudonym) 20, Montevallo Human Rights Watch 2020 Report

**“I did not recognize how unhealthy [my high school relationship] was because there was no one that was able to discuss that with me, what a healthy relationship and sexual life looks like.”**

-Sky(pseudonym) 20, Human Rights Watch 2020 Report

## Percentage of Secondary Schools in which Teachers Taught Specific Sexual Health Topics in required course Grades 6-8



Recognizing and responding to sexual victimization and violence



How HIV and other STDs are transmitted



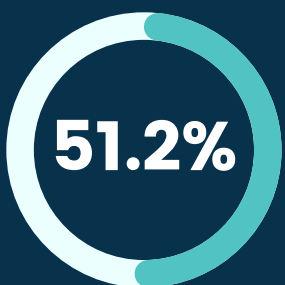
Preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive & sexual health



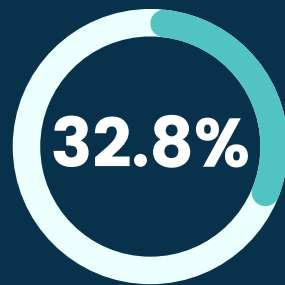
Benefits of Sexual Abstinence



10.9% of Secondary Schools teach a required health education class for Grades 11 & 12



51.2% of Secondary Schools teach 9-12 graders how to correctly use a condom in a required course



32.8% of Secondary Schools provided parents with information about HIV/STDs or pregnancy prevention



24.4% of Secondary Schools had lead health teachers who received professional development on HIV prevention