

Sex Education Policies and Adolescent Pregnancy in the United States and North Carolina

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2011 Commission on the Status of Women

Outline

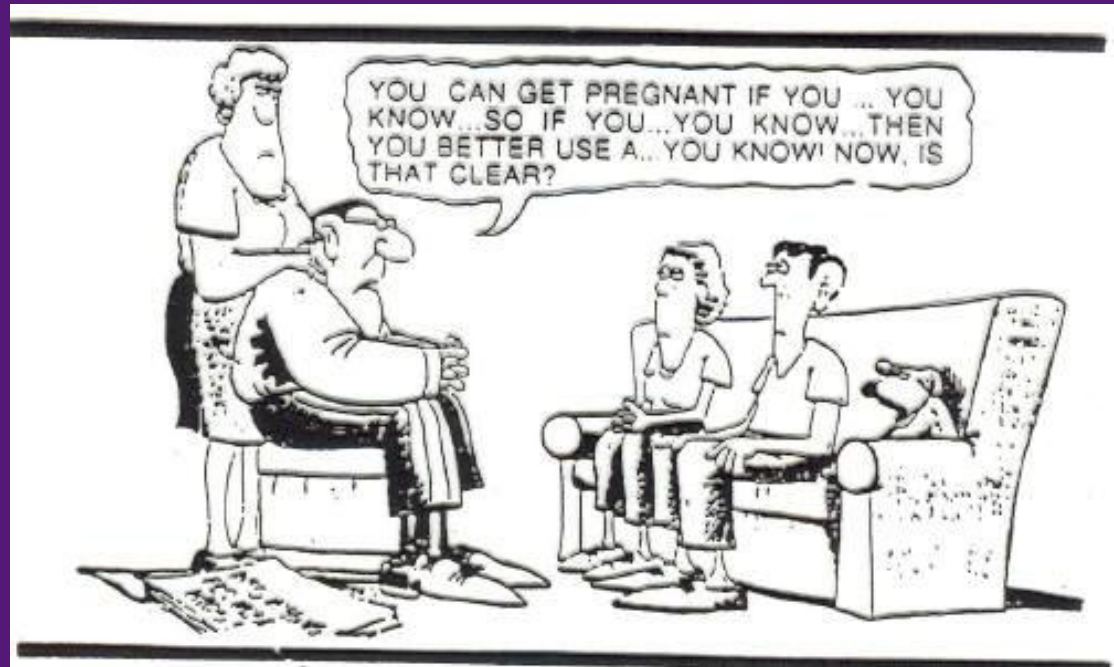
- Introduction
- National Perspective
- State Perspective
- Local Approaches and Solutions
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Why is this important?

- Adolescent pregnancy and STIs in the U.S. and N.C.
- Relevance to CEDAW and 2011 CSW theme
- Responding to needs of Latina/o population in U.S.
- Overwhelming desire for comprehensive sex education among teachers, parents, and adolescents

Key Definitions

- Adolescence
- Comprehensive sex education
- Abstinence-plus sex education
- Abstinence-only sex education

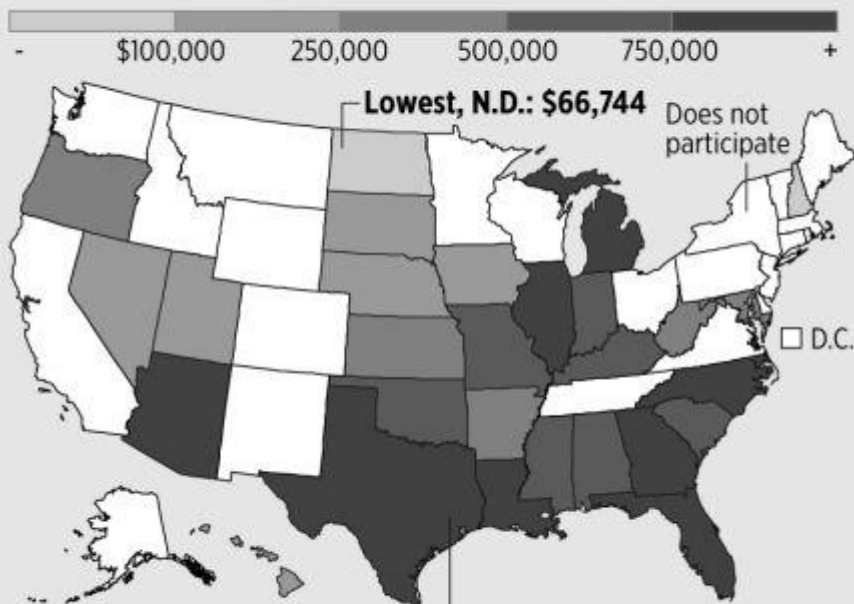


U.S. School Districts' Sex Education Policies

More states decline abstinence funds

Currently, only 28 states participate in the federal abstinence education program that continues to shrink.

Federal dollars for abstinence education, FY 2008



Texas received \$3.6 million, the highest for all states.

NOTE: Iowa and Arizona announced their intention to forgo their share of the federal grant at the start of the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

SOURCE: Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

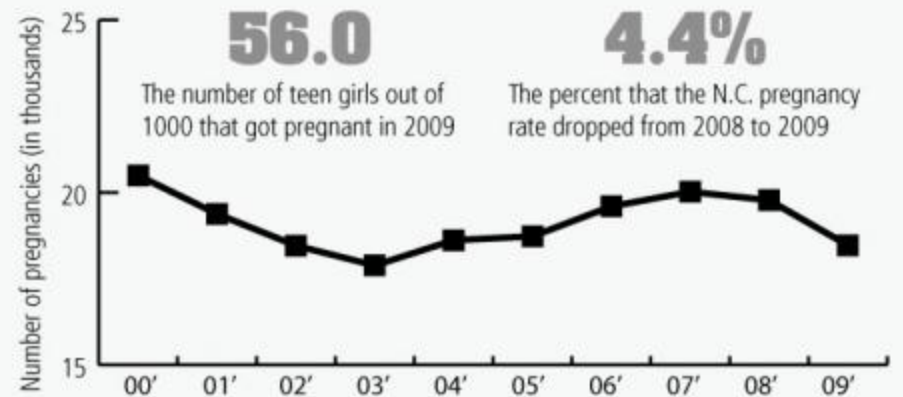
- 1998 Alan Guttmacher Institute survey
- Among all U.S. school districts, including those with no policy:
 - 10% comprehensive policy
 - 34% abstinence-plus policy
 - 23% abstinence-only policy
 - 33% no policy

Realities in North Carolina

- 14th highest adolescent pregnancy rate in U.S.
- Nearly 70% of N.C. high school seniors have had sexual intercourse
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea most common among 15-24 year olds
- Nearly 92% of N.C. parents in favor of sex education in schools

N.C. teen pregnancies decline in 2009

The following graph tracks the number of pregnancies in adolescent girls ages 10-19 from 2000 to 2009 in the state of North Carolina.



SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.APPCNC.ORG](http://www.appcnc.org)

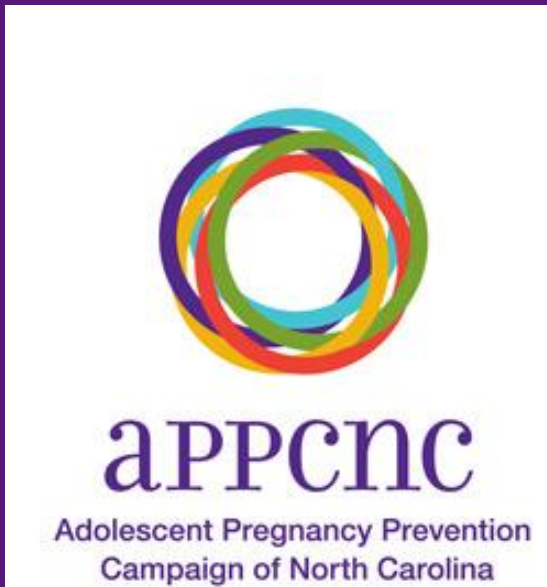
DTH/CHRIS ALTON

The Healthy Youth Act

- Amended June 30, 2009
- Reproductive Health and Safety Education (7th, 8th, and 9th grades)
- Emphasis on scientifically accurate and evidence-based approaches to pregnancy prevention in education programs



Building a Stronger North Carolina with the Healthy Youth Act



“Our mission is to support North Carolina’s communities in preventing adolescent pregnancy through advocacy, collaboration, and education.”

■ History

■ Programming

- Trainings
- Statistics
- BrdsNBz Text Message Warm Line
- Teen Health Now
- Hispanic Outreach
- Support to adolescent parents

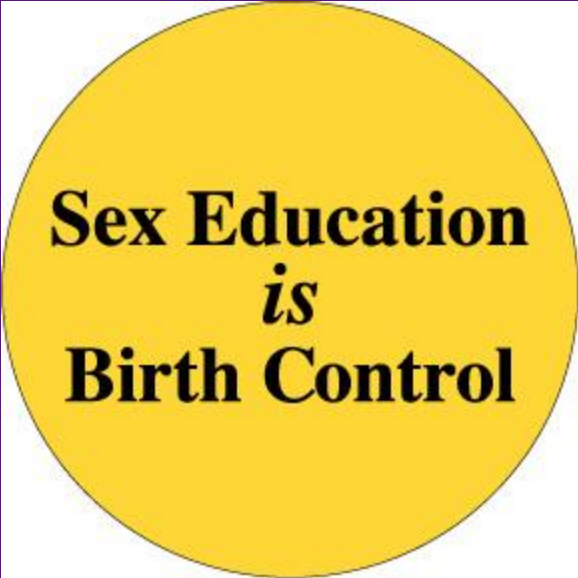
El Pueblo, Inc.

- History
- Programming
- Our Rights Have No Borders



“El Pueblo is a North Carolina non-profit statewide advocacy and public policy organization dedicated to strengthening the Latino Community. This mission is accomplished through leadership development, proactive and direct advocacy, education, and promotion of cross-cultural understanding in partnerships at the local, state, and national levels.”

Conclusions and Recommendations



**Sex Education
is
Birth Control**

1. Adolescent involvement
2. Male participation
3. Program content
4. Inclusivity
5. Media representation
6. Lobbying