

Surveys of parents and school personnel in Indiana indicates critical topics are not frequently discussed at home or school.

Topics	At Home	At School
Communication	No	No
Condoms	No	No
Contraception	No	No
Puberty/Anatomy	No	No
Sexual decisions	No	No
Sexual assault/rape	No	No
Sexual health exams	No	No
Sexual orientation	No	No
Sexually transmitted diseases	No	No

“ Sexuality is a sensitive topic where family, religion and personal beliefs make it difficult to know the boundaries when dealing with students.”

- Study Participant

What is Get Real, Indiana?

Concerned citizens and community organizations throughout the state have joined together to address the issue of medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education and sexual health outcomes for Indiana’s young people.

Survey details

The study was designed and conducted in partnership with The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis and the Sexual Health Research Working Group at Indiana University, Bloomington. Survey data is based on 400 respondents who were teachers, school counselors and school nurses from public middle and high schools in Indiana.

Want more information?

Visit www.getrealindiana.org or e-mail ask@getrealindiana.org to arrange a presentation for your group about the survey results.



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Real Sexuality Education for Indiana Youth

a research summary



Get Real, Indiana! supports medically accurate comprehensive sex education for all Indiana young people.

Indiana teens have a higher birthrate than national averages, even though Indiana spent \$2 million in abstinence-only programs in 2005.

Peer-reviewed studies indicate:

- Comprehensive sex education encourages young people to delay intercourse and use contraception more consistently.
- Students of abstinence-only programs are less likely to use protection than are teens who had no program at all.

To better understand and determine what kind of sexuality education young people are receiving in Indiana’s public middle and high schools, Get Real, Indiana! commissioned a baseline study in 2005.

The results show:

- Many important topics—including some required by law—are not being covered in Indiana schools.
- Although an abstinence-only curriculum is most often presented in Indiana schools, the majority of respondents think a comprehensive or abstinence-plus curriculum is most effective.
- Nearly 90 percent of those who teach sexuality education in Indiana schools do not have a curriculum to follow. They indicate a need for updated information and materials.

Statistical highlights

These curricula are currently followed by the teachers responding in the survey:

Abstinence-only ¹	42%	Comprehensive	13%
Unsure	23%	Reality based	4%
Abstinence-plus	18%		

The majority of respondents ranked comprehensive and abstinence-plus curricula as the most effective.

Vital topics are missing!

HIV/AIDS is covered by less than half of sexuality educators surveyed. In fact, survey respondents reported that many important topics—including those required by law such as HIV/AIDS and abstinence—are not covered in sexuality education classes in Indiana schools.

These topics required by law² are NOT taught by the following percentage of respondents:

HIV/AIDS	51%	Abstinence	55%
Self exams (breast, testicular)	75%		

These additional topics were NOT taught by the following percentage of respondents:

Sexually transmitted diseases	53%	Sexual abuse	70%
Female puberty	58%	Gender	72%
Male puberty	62%	Contraception	79%
Anatomy	63%	Sexual orientation	92%
Sexual decision making	63%	Correct condom use	93%
Pregnancy	65%		

¹Abstinence-only philosophies stress abstinence for all people until marriage as the only morally appropriate option. Abstinence-plus and comprehensive sexuality education are compatible philosophies which provide a full range of information relating to sexual health issues.

²HIV/AIDS education is required in all Indiana school corporations. Self-exams are required topics in high school health classes only. If sexuality education is provided, abstinence must be included.

*For more information on medically accurate sexuality education visit www.getrealindiana.org.