Sex Education:
A National Survey on Support Among Likely Voters

Planned Parenthood®

A February 2018 survey from Planned Parenthood and GfK shows strong support among likely voters for sex education.

About the survey:

- A national sample of 1,001 respondents age 18 and over weighted to be representative of the U.S. population

- Respondents were asked **"How often do you vote in elections?"**. Likely voters are considered those who answered "About half the time", "Nearly always", or "Always".
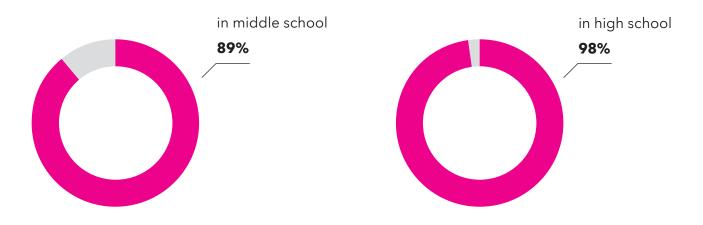
An overwhelming majority of likely voters think it is important to have sex education in middle and high school.

Likely voters agree that sex education should include a comprehensive set of topics including:

- birth control methods
- STDs & HIV
- puberty
- consent
- healthy relationships
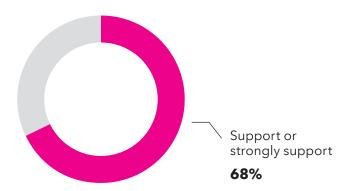- sexual orientation
- abstinence.

It is "very" or "somewhat" important to have sex education:

in middle school
89%

in high school
98%

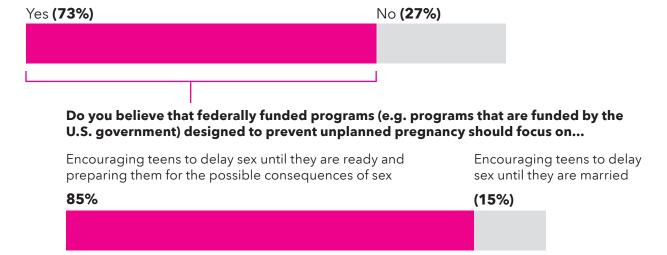**The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)** provide federal funding for programs that are proven to help teens delay sex, improve contraceptive use, and/or prevent pregnancy.

How much do you support or oppose maintaining federal funding for these programs?

Support or strongly support

68%

There are high levels of support for programs that focus on encouraging teens to delay sex until they are ready and preparing them for the possible consequences of sex. There is very little support for programs that focus only on postponing sex until marriage.

Should the federal government fund programs to prevent unplanned teen pregnancy?

Yes **(73%)**   No **(27%)**

Do you believe that federally funded programs (e.g. programs that are funded by the U.S. government) designed to prevent unplanned pregnancy should focus on...

Encouraging teens to delay sex until they are ready and preparing them for the possible consequences of sex

Encouraging teens to delay sex until they are married

85%   **(15%)**

This survey is more evidence that sex education is a non-issue in this country.

Americans overwhelmingly agree that young people, no matter where they live, have the right to the information and skills they need to protect their health and plan their futures. Young people need age-appropriate, medically accurate information and answers to their questions about sex and relationships, without being shamed or judged.