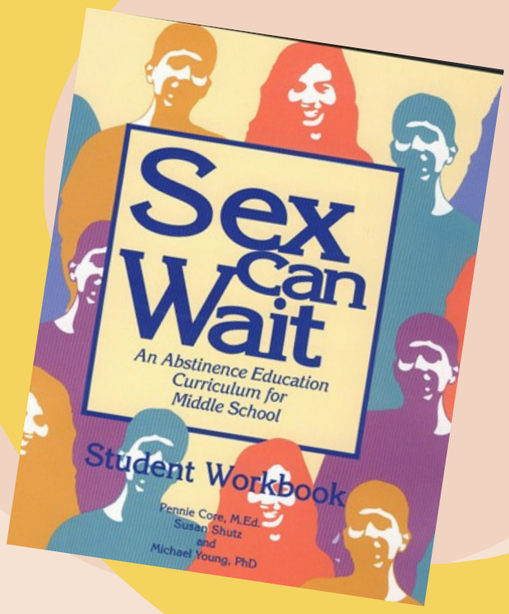
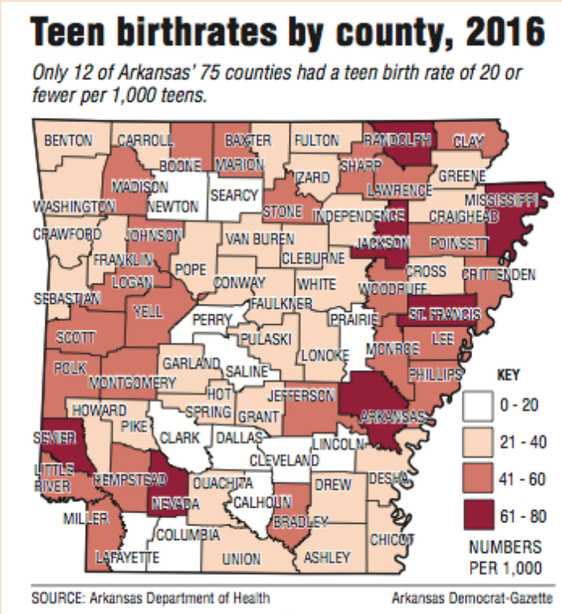
# SEX EDUCATION: MORE NEEDED THAN IT SEEMS




Claudia Blackman

Why a lack of sex education in Southern schools is harming our students-

## THE PROBLEM AT HAND




The South is notorious for sweetening its words in order to avoid the more sensitive subjects but sex education might just be one area where we can't allow this to fly. Our students are being done a true disservice by being kept from helpful information that could protect them from disease, unwanted pregnancy, abuse and more. Is it worth it to shield our students from the realities of sex if only to make more conservative parents and educators feel a little more comfortable? Is a lifetime of discomfort surrounding sex worth it to avoid a few seconds of discomfort from those meant to educate and assist our students n their development? Do our students not deserve a full education spanning topics from Algebra 1 to Sexual Assault and how to spot the signs? Stidents attend school to become better prepared for life outside of it and to hide them from such a large part of adult life can be considered nothing other than a failure by our education system.

## NOW HOW DO WE FIX IT?

In order to solve this issue we must find an alternative to the current popular and ineffective sexual education model. The abstinence only method is not gonna cut it for our students and it's clear from the reactions sexual education courses receive from many adults that it did not cut it for them either. We must introduce a required sexual education program taught by a well educated and licensed instructor who teaches using scientific examples and uses a non judgmental method of teaching that allows for questions and fosters curiosity in our students. We should encourage our students to ask the questions they need and provide them with information regarding the things they shouldn't even have to ask such as those related to periods, contraceptives, sexual assault awareness and more.These courses may also provide parents and students with a lengthy semester long syllabus covering possible topics so that they may be better prepared for topics their teens may be exposed to and so they may decide as a family if this is a topic they are comfortable having their teen exposed to.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO NEXT:

Contact state officials and local educators. Spread the word. The best way to change the way our schools currently handle sexual education is to make it clear that we will no longer accept it and we must be open to listening to those who are fearful of a new perspective surrounding it. Take the time to educate those who disagree with it. Take the time to listen to why this may be and attempt to find common ground. The education system has neglected to teach most of us about these topics and that means those opposing it as well, be sure to remember this.

*Works Cited: Gonzalez, Courtney M., et al. "Sex Education Policy: Need for a Standard Definition of Medically Accurate Information." Pedagogy in Health Promotion, vol. 3, no. 4, 2017, pp. 221–27, https://www.jstor.org/stable/26652634. Accessed 7 May 2022.*
*Irvine, Janice M. "Doing It with Words: Discourse and the Sex Education Culture Wars." Critical Inquiry, vol. 27, no. 1, 2000, pp. 58–76, http://www.jstor.org/stable/1344227. Accessed 7 May 2022.*
*McCarthy, Bill, and Eric Grodsky. "Sex and School: Adolescent Sexual Intercourse and Education." Social Problems, vol. 58, no. 2, 2011, pp. 213–34, https://doi.org/10.1525/sp.2011.58.2.213. Accessed 7 May 2022.*