

Table 1. Percentage of all public school fifth- and sixth-grade sexuality education teachers who cover specific topics, by grade; and percentage of public school fifth- and sixth-grade sexuality education teachers who think specific topics should be taught by grade five or earlier or by grade six or earlier, 1999

Topic	% who cover topic			% who say topic should be taught in specified grades	
	Grades 5/6 (N=617)	Grade 5 (N=420)	Grade 6 (N=296)	≤grade 5 (N=617)	≤grade 6 (N=617)
Puberty	92.9	88.9	80.7*	96.5	99.6**
How HIV is transmitted	76.8	65.4	79.8**	70.7	90.5***
STDs	65.6	51.2	73.0***	56.1	83.8***
Sexual abuse	62.4	53.0	63.0	88.2	95.0**
Abstinence from intercourse	57.3	41.2	67.9***	47.8	75.4***
How to resist peer pressure to have intercourse	48.7	30.0	63.1***	42.2	73.4***
Implications of teenage parenthood	45.3	30.1	56.1***	37.0	67.0***
Dating	45.1	26.7	58.3***	39.6	74.2***
Nonsexual ways to show affection	41.3	26.4	54.3***	54.0	77.5***
Birth control methods	12.7	7.1	17.7**	12.5	30.8***
Abortion—factual information	11.5	6.7	16.4**	10.3	29.1***
Sexual orientation/homosexuality	11.2	6.9	14.3*	11.7	30.8***
Abortion—ethical issues	8.3	2.7	14.3***	8.3	25.9***
Where to go for birth control	3.3	0.7	5.8*	5.2	20.2***
Correct way to use a condom	1.8	0.5	2.9	4.6	19.2***

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$. *Notes:* All Ns are unweighted. For proportions of sexuality education teachers who teach various topics, comparisons are between grade five and grade six. Data for teachers who teach both grades five and six are included in the values for teachers who teach grade five and in the values for teachers who teach grade six. Teachers were asked about their teaching of each topic at each grade. It was therefore possible to identify precisely the grade in which topics were taught.