

TABLE 3. Percentage of U.S. public secondary school sex education teachers covering selected topics and skills, by region and approach to teaching about abstinence and method effectiveness, 1999

Topics and skills	Total	Region†				Teaching approach‡			
		North-east	South	Midwest	West	Methods effective		Methods ineffective	
						Abstinence best	Abstinence only	Abstinence best	Abstinence only
Sexual behavior and abstinence									
How alcohol/drug use affects behavior	91.2	92.3	90.4	91.3	91.3	91.7	95.8*	88.7	91.1
Negative consequences of intercourse	91.1	90.8	88.8	92.2	93.4	92.7	97.3*	85.4**	92.6
How to resist peer pressure to have intercourse	85.7	84.8	84.1	85.4	90.3	86.9	90.5	79.0**	89.8
Sexuality as a natural and healthy part of life	83.1	85.7	77.0**	84.3	89.3	87.5	80.5	75.5***	84.8
How to refuse intercourse	77.0	77.8	74.9	78.2	77.7	77.0	90.0***	70.3*	83.5**
Consensual vs. forced sexual contact	68.7	74.9	63.0***	69.9	69.9	73.6	78.1	57.7***	65.5*
Importance of both partners' agreeing to any sexual behavior	68.2	74.6	61.1***	71.4	67.3	75.5	78.9	56.6***	57.7***
Abortion—factual information	63.0	69.7	58.1**	62.3*	65.7	74.1	63.3*	50.3***	45.6***
Abortion—ethical issues	57.4	61.8	53.5*	57.0	60.2	67.0	59.3	44.9***	41.3
Sexual orientation/homosexuality	51.3	65.2	39.5***	54.2**	51.5**	63.3	61.3	34.1***	32.0***
How to negotiate sexual limits	47.1	51.2	43.0*	48.7	46.6	51.3	55.6*	40.6**	40.3**
STD facts and prevention									
Sexual abstinence as a way to prevent STDs	94.6	92.8	93.8	95.4	96.7*	97.4	99.1	86.0	98.5
STD symptoms can be hidden, absent or unnoticed	93.6	90.7	93.1	94.4	96.1**	96.3	99.0*	86.7**	93.8
Only some STDs are curable	91.7	89.4	91.6	92.9	92.0	95.7	98.6**	82.5***	89.8**
Signs and symptoms of STDs	91.7	89.6	91.7	92.3	93.1	95.3	99.2***	83.4***	90.1*
Monogamy as way to prevent STDs	80.1	82.1	73.5**	82.1	86.1	86.2	81.8	71.6***	73.0***
STD risk from oral/anal sex	80.4	84.5	71.8***	84.5	83.8	88.4	85.4	68.3***	70.5***
STD services									
Importance of notifying all sexual partners if infected	78.1	82.2	75.6*	78.3	78.0	84.6	88.2	66.2***	69.4***
Confidential services available without parental consent	62.7	71.2	58.1***	60.5**	65.9	72.7	71.7	49.9***	44.5***
Specific sources of STD services	58.7	64.6	54.7**	56.9*	63.0	66.7	68.5	45.6***	50.9***
Methods for pregnancy/STD prevention									
Condom use to prevent STDs	78.0	84.0	71.7***	78.4	82.2	94.3	84.7**	61.7***	44.3***
Importance of correct, consistent method use	61.8	71.2	55.7***	59.8**	67.0	80.4	69.8*	38.8***	32.1***
Importance of using dual methods to avoid pregnancy/infection	60.2	71.3	52.5***	58.5***	65.7	78.7	73.5	36.1***	27.4***
Which methods can be purchased at a store, and which require physician/clinic visit	50.3	62.2	43.3***	48.8***	53.3*	49.2	41.0	18.7***	14.3***
How to communicate with partner about birth control	47.0	55.6	40.7***	47.5*	48.1	60.7	54.8	28.7***	26.2***
Specific sources of birth control	35.3	43.3	28.7***	32.8**	43.8	47.2	31.7**	19.6***	8.5***
Proper way to use condoms	33.4	48.8	22.3***	31.5***	40.8	68.4	52.3**	28.8***	22.6***

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †Significance levels refer to the difference between the specified proportion and the proportion for the Northeast. ‡Significance levels refer to the difference between the specified proportion and the proportion for "methods effective, abstinence best." "Effective" includes instructors who taught that use of birth control can be an effective means of preventing pregnancy, condom use can be an effective means of preventing STDs or both. The category does not include teachers emphasizing that birth control or condoms are ineffective. "Ineffective" includes instructors emphasizing the ineffectiveness of birth control methods for pregnancy prevention, the ineffectiveness of condoms for STD prevention or both. Instructors not teaching about abstinence were included with "abstinence best"; those not teaching about pregnancy prevention methods and STD prevention methods were included with "methods ineffective." Notes: Ns are unweighted. For a list of states by region, see note to Table 1.