



NYSCAP

New York State Council
on Adolescent Pregnancy

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2nd Annual NYSCAP Conference: Addressing Disparities with Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Public Schools

The 2nd annual NYSCAP Conference was filled to capacity with participants from across NYS. Sharon Chesna, NYSCAP Board President, kicked off the March 15th conference and was followed by the first keynote presentation by Dr. Trang Nguyen, NYS Department of Health. Dr. Nguyen presented current Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data and demonstrated how to use the CDC Dashboard to keep up to date. The second key note presentation featured Danene Sorace who identified places and programs outside of New York State where COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION is working. She discussed evidence-based “programs that work” which are currently under review and hinted at forthcoming results of the evaluations. Danene explained what COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION is not and what it is – not risk avoidance (formerly known as abstinence until marriage), not abstinence plus, not abstinence based. COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION is based on National Health Education Standards and the National Sexuality Education Standards. Attendees also heard very useful information on the impact of ESSA which now includes health education as a core subject as well as highlighted data from a new section in the YRBS on dating violence.

Expanding on our conference theme, Heather Fredenburg and Anne Garo gave a very enlightening view of the challenges of working in rural communities, including an overall lack of resources and difficulties in qualifying for grants due to relatively low numbers of students compared to urban and suburban districts. Desiree Voorhies followed up by facilitating small group discussions focused on the important relationship between sexuality education and academic success. A review of the data from NYSCAP Regional forums highlighted the high levels of support COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION in public schools. The last conference session, “Beyond Birds, Bees and Bias: Intersections in COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION” led by Katherine Bodde, NY Civil Liberties Union, included messages concerning campus sexual violence, inclusion of gay, lesbian, transgender and gender fluid students, and compliance with Dignity for All Students Act. All in all, it was a day of collegiality, empowerment, and strong affirmation of the work we do.



Advocacy Day Report

Following a very successful conference, members of NYSCAP's Board of Directors visited key decision makers in Albany. Identifying the critical importance of COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION for all students pre-kindergarten through grade 12, representatives from NYSCAP met with Senate and Assembly Leaders, Health, Education, Children and Families Committee Chairs, key local legislators, and the Governor's representatives. NYSCAP encouraged their support for medically accurate, age appropriate, bias free instruction that is aligned with New York State and National Health Education Standards and National Sexuality Education Standards and includes strong family and community involvement, professional development for teachers who provide instruction, and district-wide policies.

Encouraged by the positive reception from many legislative offices, NYSCAP plans to meet with additional decision makers around the state and hopes to return to Albany in the near future to continue these important conversations.

Resources

A number of resources, as well as copies of their power point presentations, were provided by our conference speakers. Please go to our website to access these materials. www.nyscap.org

The New York State Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, Inc. is a non-profit organization providing leadership in teen pregnancy prevention and supporting healthy adolescent development and well-being across New York State.

We do this through public awareness, education, promotion of research and supporting the efforts of individuals and organizations working on behalf of youth.

Our mission is to promote healthy adolescent development and well-being, reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and increase the capacity of pregnant and/or parenting youth to become productive members of society.

Contact us at:

nyscap@gmail.com

We're on the web!

www.NYSCAP.org

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSCAP>

We welcome your suggestions and recommendations so let us know if you hear about things worth sharing!

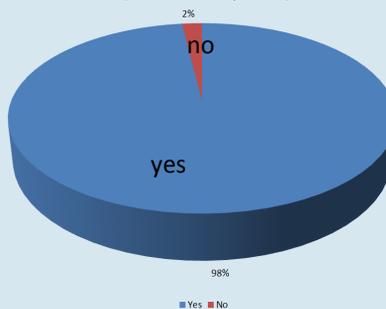
NYSCAP Regional Meetings: October 2015 - March 2016:

NYSCAP continues to move forward with its strategic plan to institutionalize Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in public schools. As part of this plan, NYSCAP worked collaboratively with several school communities across NYS to hold forums to learn about their communities' understanding and beliefs about CSE. Convenience groups of adults and a few youths from the Twin Tiers/Corning/Elmira area, Watertown, Long Island, Buffalo, Rochester and from 2016 conference were held. Data was gathered from forum attendees by completing an anonymous, voluntary, non-compensated individual survey.

Regional forums were designed to:

- Give voice to people who might not speak up on their own about CSE in schools
- Find out what people around the state know about CSE in schools
- Find out what ideas and questions they have about CSE in schools

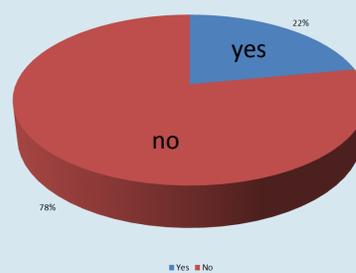
Is teaching CSE an appropriate role for schools?
(out of 218 responses)



Should content and standards for CSE be required by NYS?
(out of 210 responses)



Should content and standards for CSE be left to the school district?
(out of 200 responses)



A Highlight in the State: Rochester New York and Comprehensive Sexuality Education

In the Rochester City School District (RCSD) all comprehensive sexuality education curricula is evidence based. RCSD's Wellness Policy includes Sexual Health/Family life Education, HIV/AIDS Education and a Condom Availability Program. For the last five years, RCSD's been piloting and systemically integrating the 4th - 6th grade **I'm WISE (Well-Physically, Intellectually, Socially and Emotionally)** CSE curriculum into elementary schools. RCSD conducts 4 teacher trainings in the curriculum each year. Middle school students are taught the **Making a Difference** curriculum as part of 7th grade health education, as well as contraceptive education by a community based agency - Highland Family Planning. Student athletes (grades 7-12) receive afterschool instruction in **Making Proud Choices** or **Be Proud Be Responsible** by the City of Rochester CAP providers. High School students receive **Reducing the Risk** curriculum and **Safe Dates** curriculum as part of health class, and have since the curricula were proven effective. High school students also receive information from Highland Family Planning on Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) and other birth control methods available to them during required and elective health classes.



HEALTHY STUDENTS ARE BETTER LEARNERS