



NYSCAP News:

President's Message:

Together with my colleagues at NYSCAP, I wish you a wonderful summer. Thank you for your continued support for NYSCAP and its mission. I am confident that we will be steadfast in addressing the pressing challenges statewide. Let us reflect on our shared responsibilities to the youth throughout the state, and together let us fulfill our goals of Quality Comprehensive Health Education (CHE) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for all students.



Student Support Services Center

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to the Student Support Services Center (SSS Center) of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership and the Grove Foundation. It is through their sexuality education leadership and financial support that we are able to do much of our advocacy.

In response to the NYS revised draft ESSA plan, NYSCAP wrote to the Commissioner to express our gratitude for her leadership and call for change. It was heartening to see that many of the recommendations put forth by NYSCAP and numerous other stakeholders across the state were incorporated in to N.Y.'s revised draft ESSA plan, currently under consideration in Governor Cuomo's office. As supporters of CHE and CSE for all students, we are pleased that the ESSA revisions address health and wellness, life skills development, the exploitation of high risk youth, LGBTQ inclusivity, bullying, and the prevalence of trauma (ACES). In addition, the draft plan recognizes the importance of community partners, parent engagement and the linkage of health to school success, encouraging adoption of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model and promoting LEA use of the CDC's School Health Index (SHI). These are important steps in a positive direction and we await approval by the Governor and the Regents.



And lastly, we are continually looking to double our current roster of membership. We are asking all of our members to extend an invitation to two friends, family members, or colleagues who support our mission. Membership is free and all are encouraged to join.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Amato, President

Committee Reports:

Membership: Please share our membership application with everyone you know! Applications can be submitted online or on paper. Forms are available on our website www.nyscap.org

NYSCAP Supporter form is available on our website. Any agency leader who would like their organization listed on our website as a supporter of NYSCAP's mission is encouraged to apply.

Welcome to our new Supporter Agencies!

Conference:

Save the Date
NYSCAP Conference
Albany, NY
April 13, 2018

General NYSCAP: NYSCAP is looking for a **Part Time Coordinator** to assist with the work requirements of NYSCAP's contract services, and others tasks or responsibilities determined applicable to NYSCAP. If interested, email your resume and cover letter to nyscap@gmail.com, no later than September 8th. Job Description available on our website.

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Youth engagement

Julia Stern



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.

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.

Our Vision All students (pre k -12) receive quality comprehensive sexuality education in order to make safe and healthy decisions about their lives, bodies, relationships and well-being.

Contact us at:
nyscap@gmail.com

We're on the web!
www.NYSCAP.org

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Focus on ... Research

Parents' views on sex education in schools: How much do Democrats and Republicans agree?

Leslie Kantor^{#*} and Nicole Levitz[#] Ehsan U Syed, Editor

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5495344/>

Abstract: More than 93 percent of parents place high importance on sex education in both middle and high school. Sex education in middle and high school is widely supported by parents regardless of their political affiliation. Using data from a large diverse sample of 1,633 parents of children aged 9 to 21 years, we examined whether views on sex education differed by parents' political affiliation. More than 89 percent of parents that identified as Republicans or Democrats support including a wide range of topics in sex education including puberty, healthy relationships, abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and birth control in high school. In middle school, 78 percent or more of both parents that identified as Republicans and Democrats support the inclusion of those topics. Controlling for key demographic factors, parents that identified as Democrats are more likely than those that identified as Republicans to support the inclusion of the topics of healthy relationships, birth control, STDs, and sexual orientation in both middle and high school. However, a strong majority of Republican parents want all these topics included in sex education.

Conclusion: Sex education, which includes a broad set of topics, represents an area of strong agreement between parents of both political parties.

Influence of Professional Preparation and Class Structure on Sexuality Topics Taught in Middle and High Schools. D.L. Rhodes, PhD, G. Kirchoffer, PhD, B.J. Hammig, PhD, R.J. Ogletree, HSD. Journal of School Health. May 2013, Vol.83, No.5

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23517002>

This study examined the impact of professional preparation and class structure on sexuality topics taught and use of practice-based instructional strategies in US middle and high school health classes. The results are in line with other research focusing on professional preparation and content delivery, and support the need for professionally trained health educators and health only classes in schools (as opposed to combined health/Physical Education or health/another subject).

This study identified that sexuality topics perceived as less threatening — such as abstinence, resisting peer pressure, dating and relationships — were taught by the majority of health educators, no matter their professional preparation. Topics that may be perceived as more threatening, such as condom use, sexual identity and orientation, were addressed less often by both groups of educators. However, in every instance, professionally prepared health educators taught sexuality education topics more often than nonprofessionally prepared health educators. And professionally prepared health educators were approximately 5 times more likely than nonprofessionally prepared health educators to teach resisting peer pressure to engage in sexual behavior and how students can influence others to be make healthy sexual behavior decisions.

Classes devoted exclusively to health were more likely to address some sexuality topics more often than combined classes, **as well as implement practice-based instruction**, such as skill practice. A greater percentage of professionally prepared health teachers taught only health classes as compared with nonprofessionally prepared teachers.

These factors significantly influence the sexuality topics that are being addressed in classrooms and support continued advocacy for professionally prepared health teachers, as well for health only classes in schools.

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