

A Common Sense Approach To Sex Education

(NAPSA)—In a new report on sexuality, the nation’s top doctor, Surgeon General David Satcher, calls on parents and teachers to work together to provide young people with responsible and healthy sexuality education in order to reduce unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

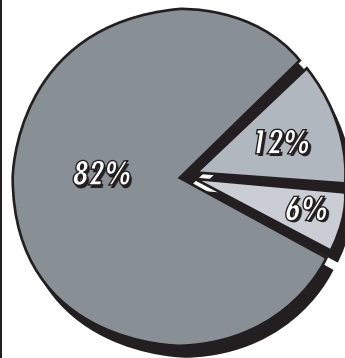
The report states that while sex education should stress abstinence, courses must also provide medically accurate information about contraception if parents and schools are to protect the sexual health of students. Dr. Satcher calls for a “mature and thoughtful discussion about sexuality” using the “best available science and best practice models.”

James Wagoner, President of Advocates for Youth, a non-profit organization working to prevent teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection among young people in the U.S. and internationally, praised the report for stressing the important role of parents and bringing some common sense to a controversial topic.

“The Surgeon General’s report highlights the critical link between the role of parents and the role of schools in providing young people with sexuality education that includes values and medically accurate information,” said Wagoner. “This report sends a clear message to politicians: follow the research, support what works and do not invest millions of United States taxpayer dollars in unproven abstinence-only-until marriage programs that censor information about contraception.”

With this report, the Surgeon General has added his prestigious voice to the growing number of medical institutions that have called for a more comprehensive approach to sexuality education.

Overwhelming Majority of Parents Support Providing Young People with Sex Education in High School



- 82% of American parents support *all aspects* of sex ed being taught including birth control and safer sex
- 12% of American parents support *basic* sex ed being taught
- 6% of American parents don't know/think sex ed should be taught

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2000



In the last two years, the Institute of Medicine, the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and the White House Office of National AIDS Policy have all issued reports highlighting the scientific research in support of education that includes information about both abstinence and contraception.

“Parents understand that sexuality is not an either/or question,” said Wagoner. “Young people need information about abstinence *and* contraception to be healthy in today’s world.”

For more information, visit www.advocatesforyouth.org.