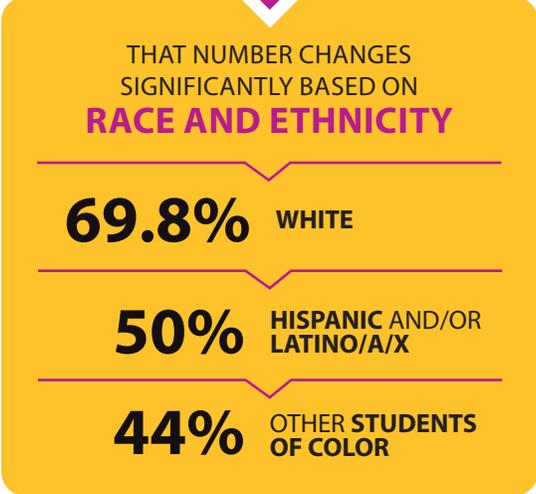
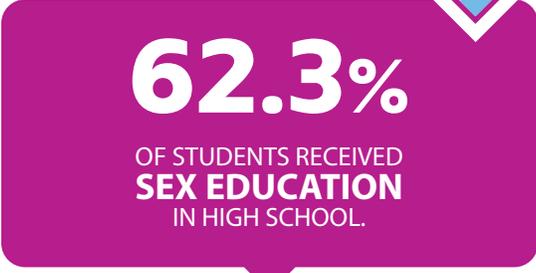
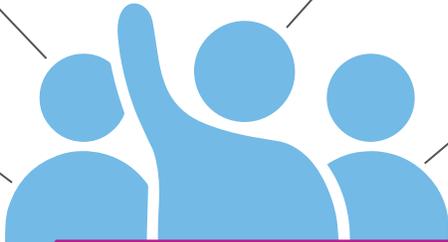


SEX EDUCATION: *What Do Nebraska Students Want?*

Results from 2021 Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) research project.
Data collected by youth, from youth, for the improved outcomes of youth.

Young people across Nebraska are asking for better sex education. With a comprehensive, inclusive, medically-accurate education, young people will feel more comfortable and safe in the classroom and be equipped with the skills and information they need to plan for their futures and live a healthier, happier life.

WHO DID WE INTERVIEW? (n=204)

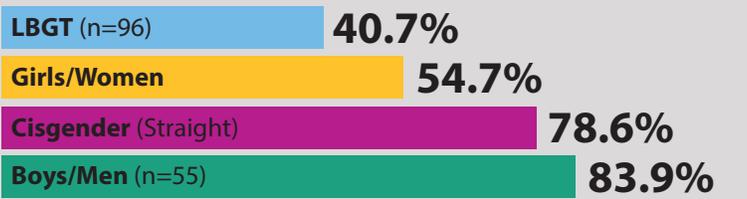


LGBT NEBRASKA STUDENTS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE PARTICIPATING IN CURRENT SEX ED CLASSES

Nebraska students need inclusive, trauma-informed sex education by trained teachers and affirming, protective school environments:

- ▶ **40% of students feel unsafe** or uncomfortable in their classes.
- ▶ **Over half of LGBT+ students (54%) reported** that being a member of the LGBT+ community **made it harder for them to participate in class.**
- ▶ 83.9% of male youth felt comfortable in class while **only 54.7% of female youth felt comfortable.**

STUDENTS WHO ARE SOMEWHAT OR VERY COMFORTABLE IN SEX ED CLASS:



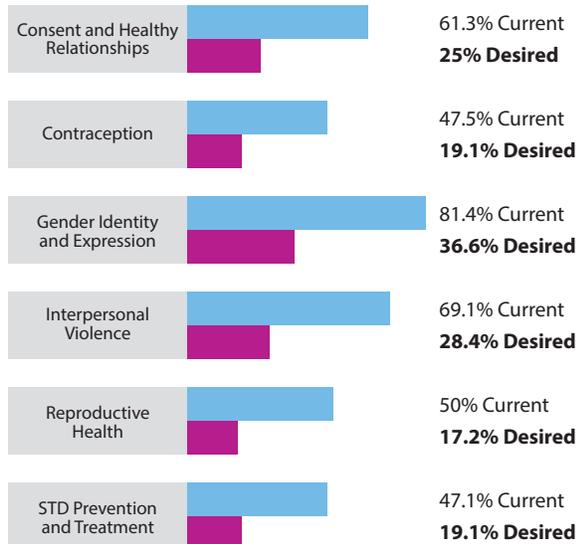
Young people need medically-accurate and age-appropriate sources of sex ed.



of Nebraska students rely on pornography as a current source of information on the mechanics of sex. Young people in Nebraska are learning more about how sex works from media, pornography and/or the internet than from school, family and/or a medical professional.

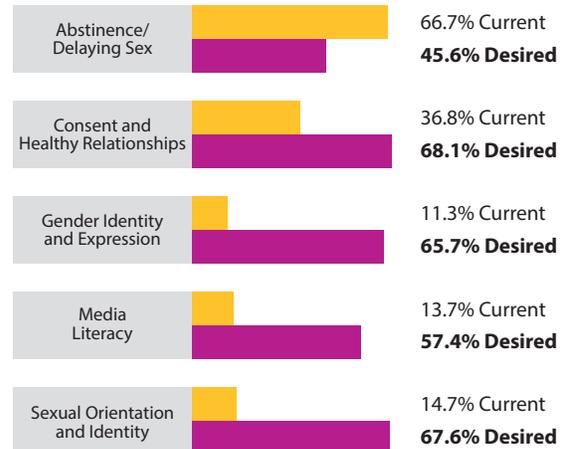
CURRENT VS. DESIRED SOURCE OF INFORMATION (n=204)

SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE



VS.

SCHOOL-BASED SEX EDUCATION



NEBRASKA YOUTH WANT MORE SCHOOL-BASED SEX ED

For all topics, except abstinence, youth marked school-based sex ed as a desired source significantly more than as their current source of information.

Students overwhelmingly reported the need for more information on these essential topics:

- ▶ **sexual orientation** (50%)
- ▶ **gender identity** (38.1%)
- ▶ **consent and healthy relationships** (47.6%)
- ▶ **skills and resources** (28.6%)

Research indicates that young people are relying heavily on the internet/social media for sexual health information, even though few young people want to get it online and don't feel confident in their media literacy.

Nebraska students want sex education before they need it, not after.

Students report **learning basic concepts in elementary school is important:**

- ▶ **57.1%** reported **early education** on consent, healthy relationships, sexual orientation and gender identity **in elementary school is vital.**
- ▶ **None** of the students thought they **should have waited** to learn about it **until high school.**

Parents and caregivers need more support for effective communication on sexual health topics. Almost half of Nebraska students rely on family for information on abstinence and healthy relationships, but few students receive info from their family on:

- ▶ **gender identity** (17.2%)
- ▶ **reproductive health** (17.2%)
- ▶ **sexual orientation** (19.6%)