



School-Based Sexuality Education: The Perspectives of Australian Secondary Students

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IUSTI AP Sexual Health Congress, Auckland, NZ
Friday, November 2, 2018

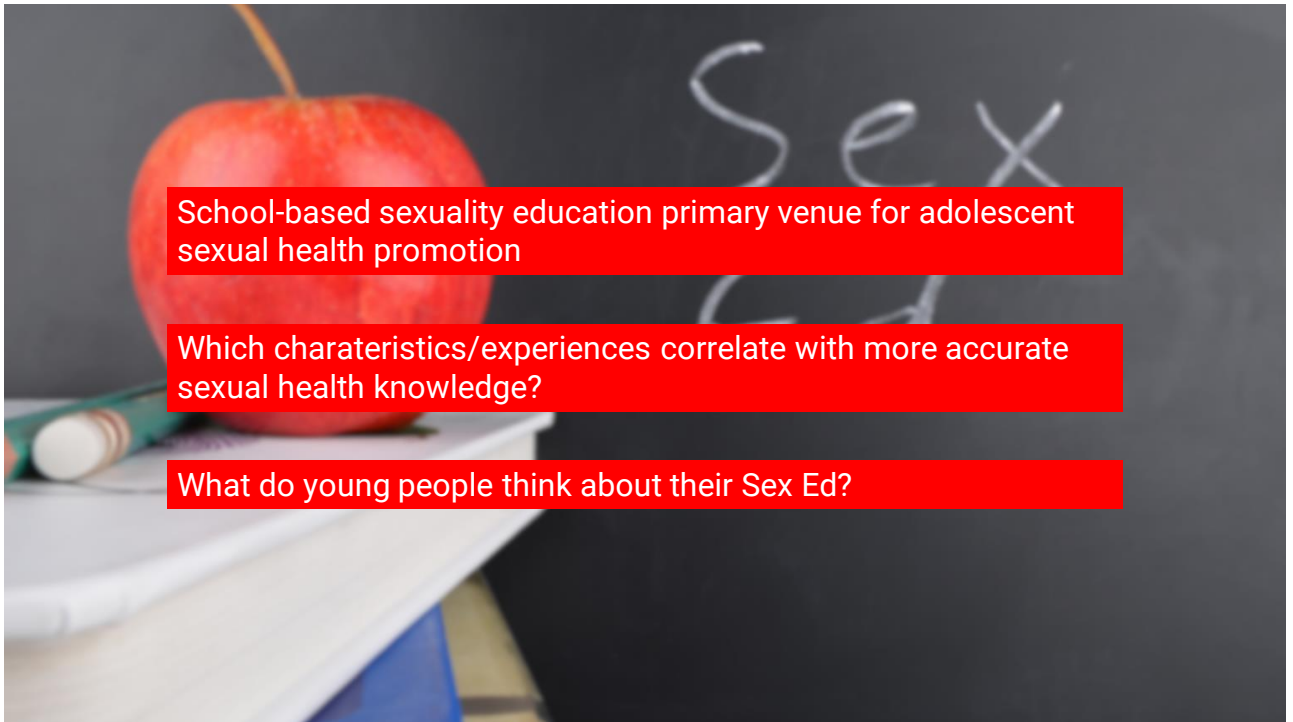


La Trobe University CRICOS Provider Code Number 00115M



***The authors have no conflicts of
interest to report. The study was funded
by the Commonwealth of Australia
Department of Health and Ageing.***

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- **Fifth National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health, 2013**
- **2,193 students** – convenience sample of years 10-12
 - 25% (n=544) provided a comments on sex ed
- **Quantitative analysis** – descriptive, chi-square, T-tests, ANOVA
- **Qualitative analysis** – thematic – adds context to quantitative

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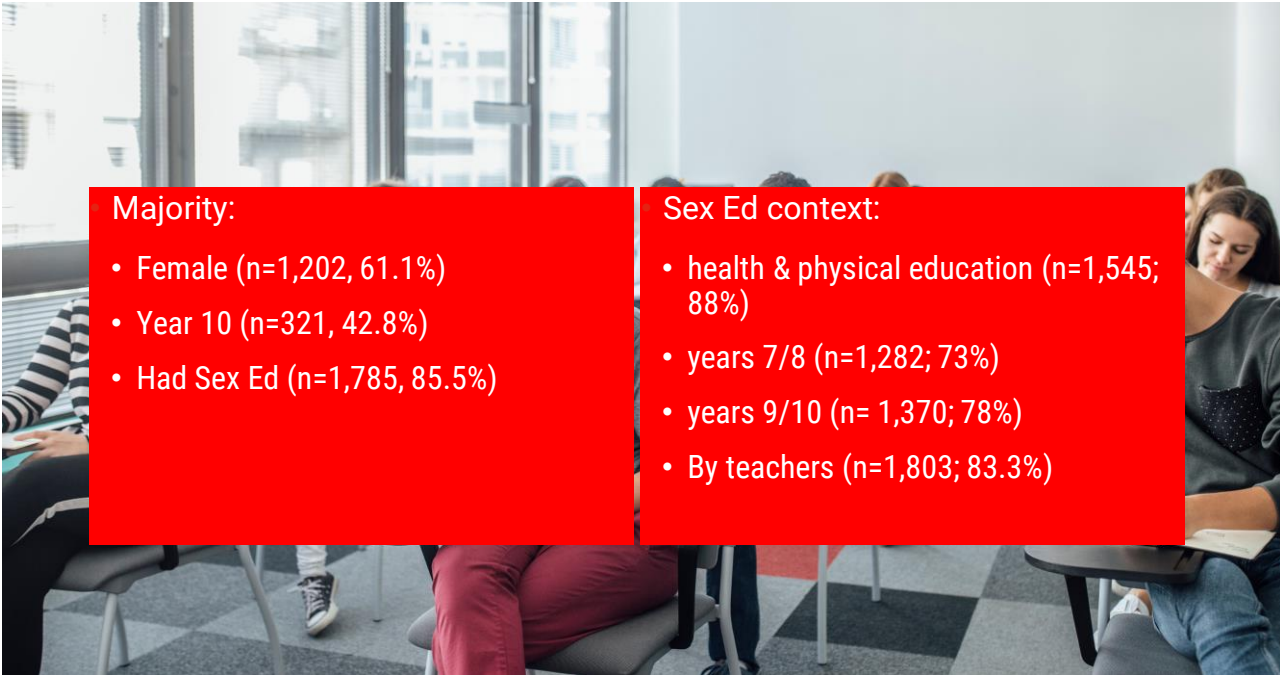
SURVEY

Excellence Good Average fair



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Majority:

- Female (n=1,202, 61.1%)
- Year 10 (n=321, 42.8%)
- Had Sex Ed (n=1,785, 85.5%)

Sex Ed context:

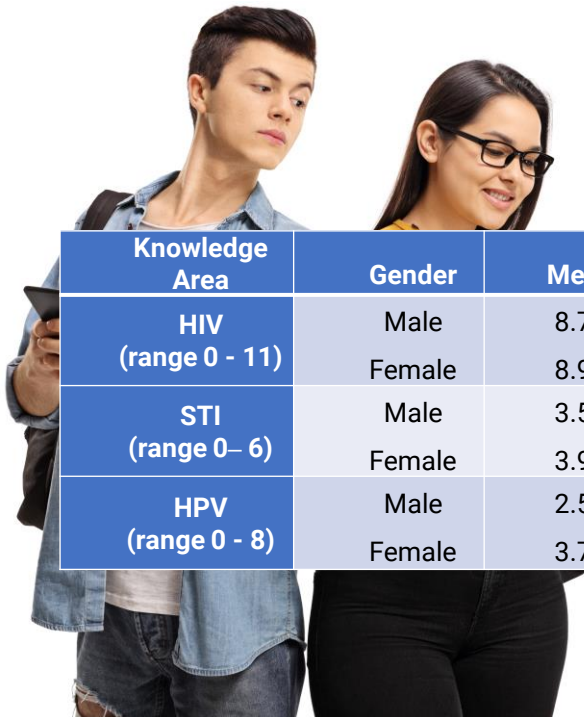
- health & physical education (n=1,545; 88%)
- years 7/8 (n=1,282; 73%)
- years 9/10 (n= 1,370; 78%)
- By teachers (n=1,803; 83.3%)

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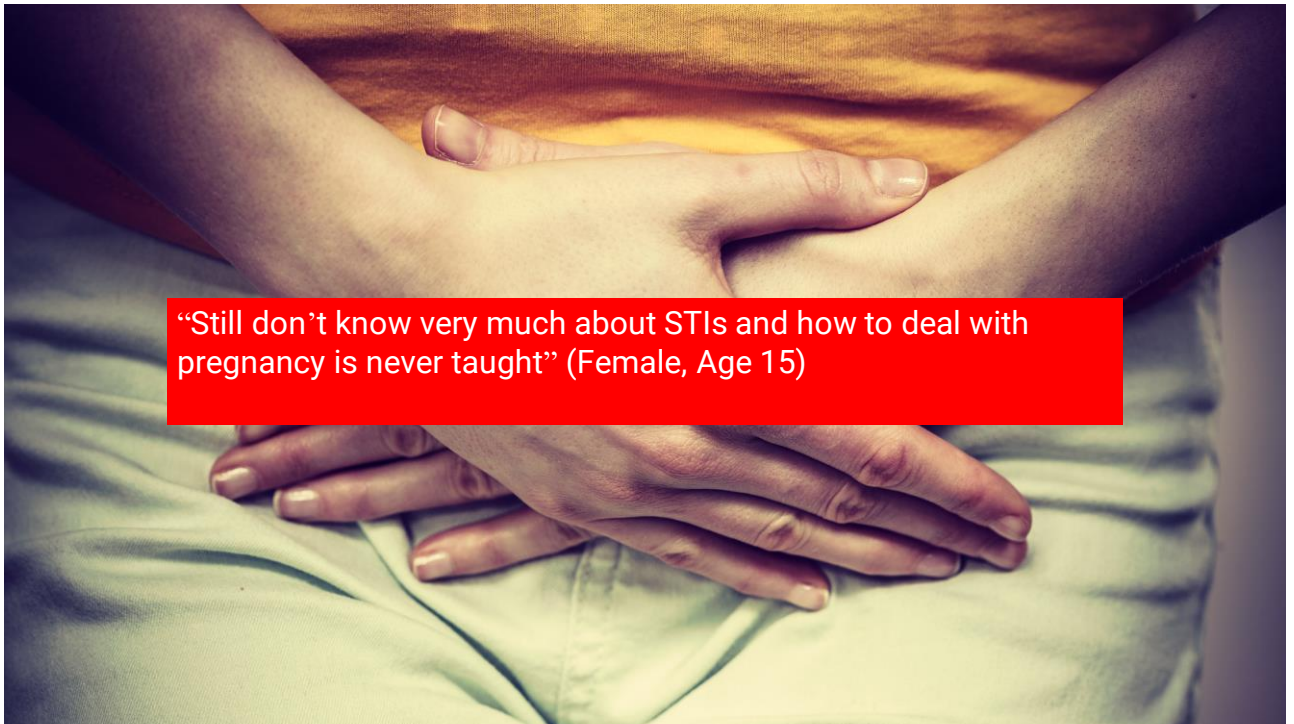
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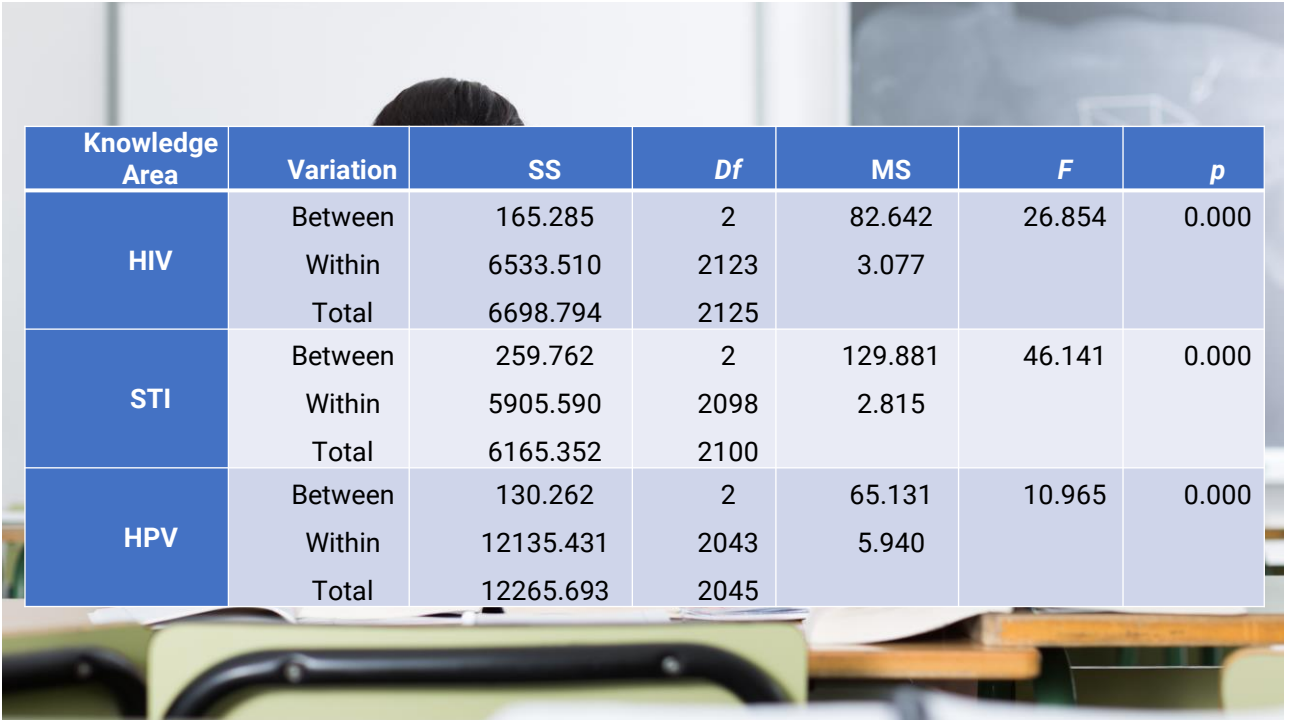
Knowledge Area	Gender	Mean	SD	t	p
HIV (range 0 - 11)	Male	8.71	1.95	-3.086	0.01
	Female	8.96	1.66		
STI (range 0- 6)	Male	3.54	1.84	-5.803	0.000
	Female	3.99	1.62		
HPV (range 0 - 8)	Male	2.58	2.31	-10.569	0.049
	Female	3.74	2.43		



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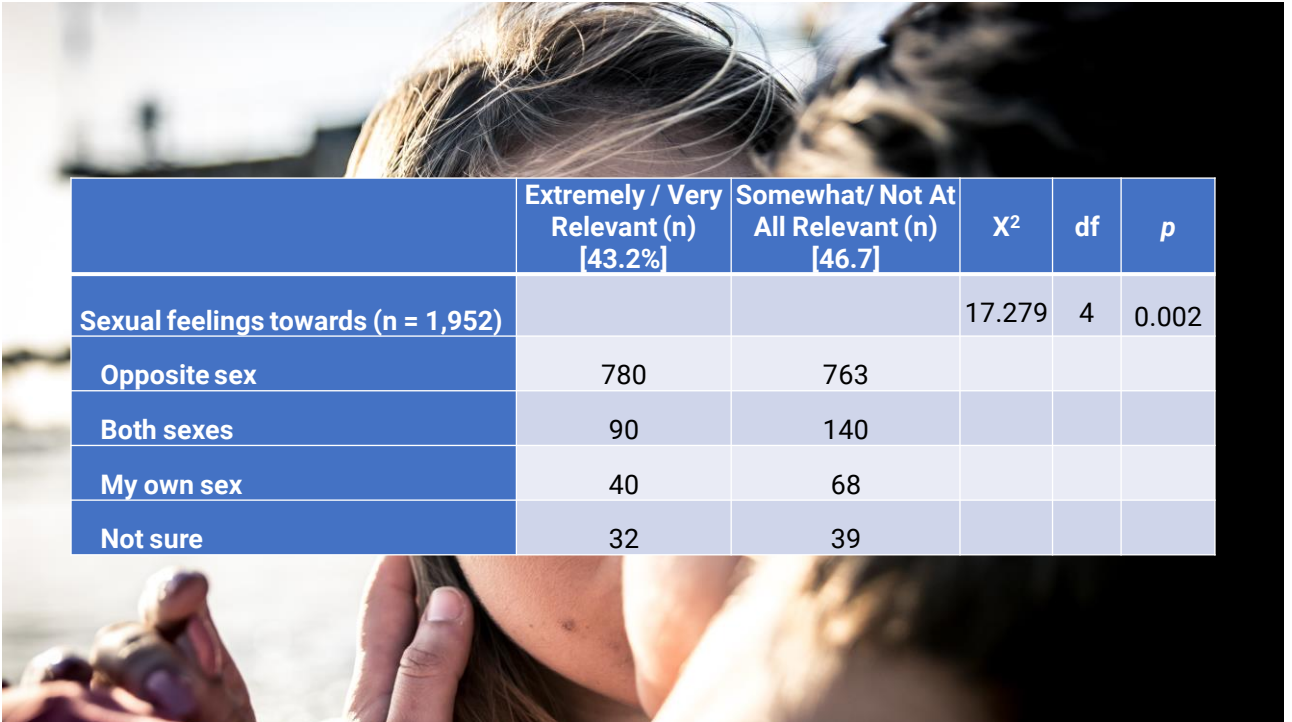


Knowledge Area	Sex Ed	Mean	SD	t	p
HIV (range 0 - 11)	Yes	9.02	1.61	6.459	0.000
	No	8.23	2.26		
STI (range 0– 6)	Yes	4.03	1.59	9.283	0.000
	No	2.92	1.95		
HPV (range 0 - 8)	Yes	3.50	2.42	5.047	0.000
	No	2.59	2.49		



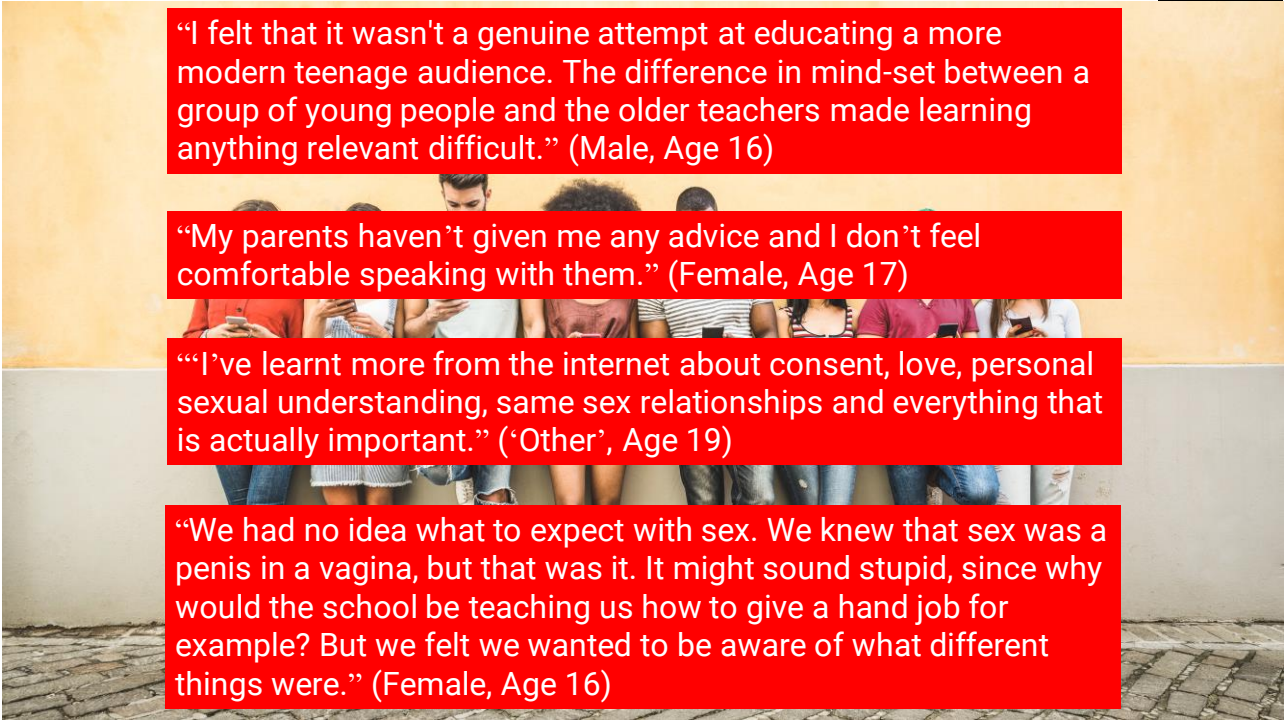
Knowledge Area	Variation	SS	Df	MS	F	p
HIV	Between	165.285	2	82.642	26.854	0.000
	Within	6533.510	2123	3.077		
	Total	6698.794	2125			
STI	Between	259.762	2	129.881	46.141	0.000
	Within	5905.590	2098	2.815		
	Total	6165.352	2100			
HPV	Between	130.262	2	65.131	10.965	0.000
	Within	12135.431	2043	5.940		
	Total	12265.693	2045			





	Extremely / Very Relevant (n) [43.2%]	Somewhat/ Not At All Relevant (n) [46.7]	X ²	df	p
Sexual feelings towards (n = 1,952)			17.279	4	0.002
Opposite sex	780	763			
Both sexes	90	140			
My own sex	40	68			
Not sure	32	39			



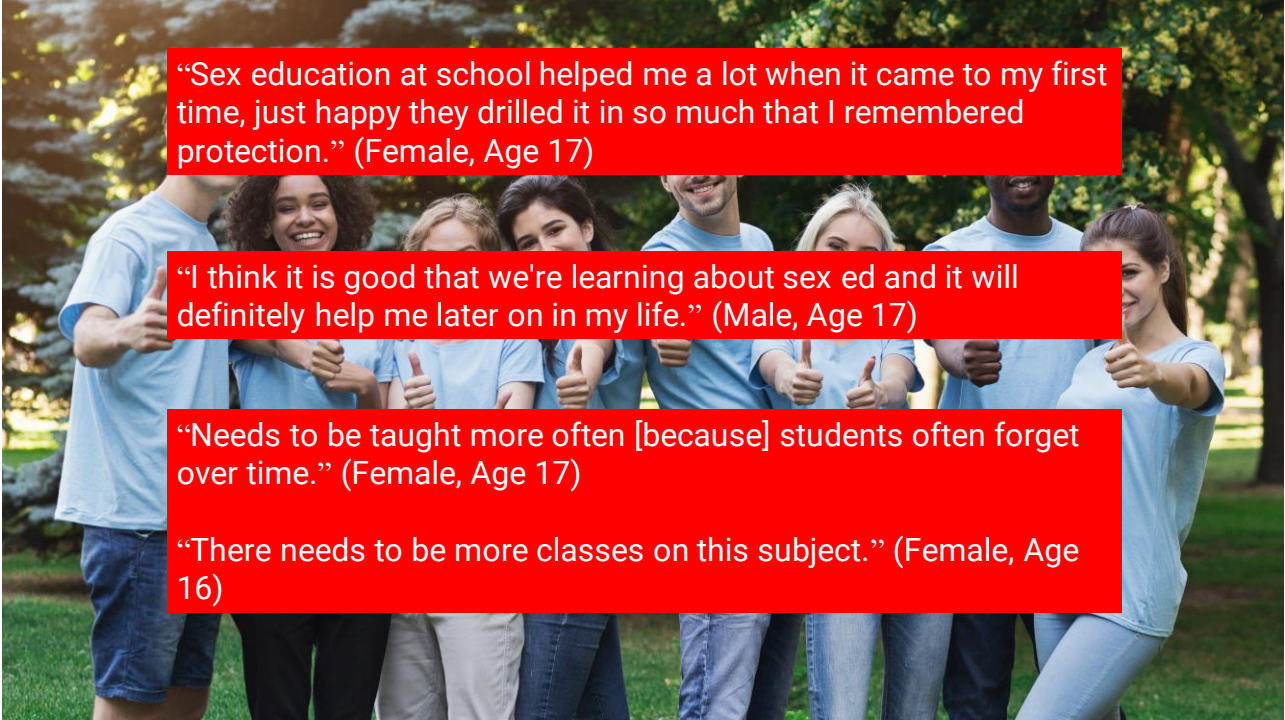


“I felt that it wasn't a genuine attempt at educating a more modern teenage audience. The difference in mind-set between a group of young people and the older teachers made learning anything relevant difficult.” (Male, Age 16)

“My parents haven't given me any advice and I don't feel comfortable speaking with them.” (Female, Age 17)

“I've learnt more from the internet about consent, love, personal sexual understanding, same sex relationships and everything that is actually important.” (‘Other’, Age 19)

“We had no idea what to expect with sex. We knew that sex was a penis in a vagina, but that was it. It might sound stupid, since why would the school be teaching us how to give a hand job for example? But we felt we wanted to be aware of what different things were.” (Female, Age 16)



“Sex education at school helped me a lot when it came to my first time, just happy they drilled it in so much that I remembered protection.” (Female, Age 17)

“I think it is good that we're learning about sex ed and it will definitely help me later on in my life.” (Male, Age 17)

“Needs to be taught more often [because] students often forget over time.” (Female, Age 17)

“There needs to be more classes on this subject.” (Female, Age 16)

Discussion

- Sex Ed does correlate with having more accurate sexual health knowledge
 - Older (internet?) & Female (more interest in the topic broadly)
- Prefer school-based Sex Ed
 - Engaged classroom better
 - More depth and breadth (not just STIs, LGBTQIA)
 - More often

Thank you

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