

Sex Education Survey
Kids Connected by Design
St. Lucie County, Florida
November 2006

Public Opinion Research Laboratory



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Methodology.....2

II. Key Findings.....3

III. Questionnaire and Results.....7

IV. Comparison of Respondents With and Without Children.....33

St. Lucie County Sex Education Survey

Kids Connected by Design, Inc.

Total Number of Completes (General Population)—1005

Total Number of Completes (Oversample)—402

Margin of error for the general population samples— $\pm 3.1\%$

Margin of error for over sample— $\pm 4.9\%$

Margin of error is higher for cross tabulations

The confidence level refers to the amount of certainty within a sample. For this survey, the “true” measure of an opinion regarding sex education could be obtained by exhaustively collecting responses from every person in St. Lucie County. The margins of error above reflect a 95% confidence level. This refers to there being a 95% chance that the results collected in the survey fall within the margin of error (plus or minus 3.1%) of the “true” measure that would have been obtained had everyone in St. Lucie County been surveyed.

Average Completed Interview Length—8.2 Minutes

Field Dates (General Population)—September 25th thru October 7th, 2006

Field Dates (Over Sample)—October 9th thru October 13th, 2006

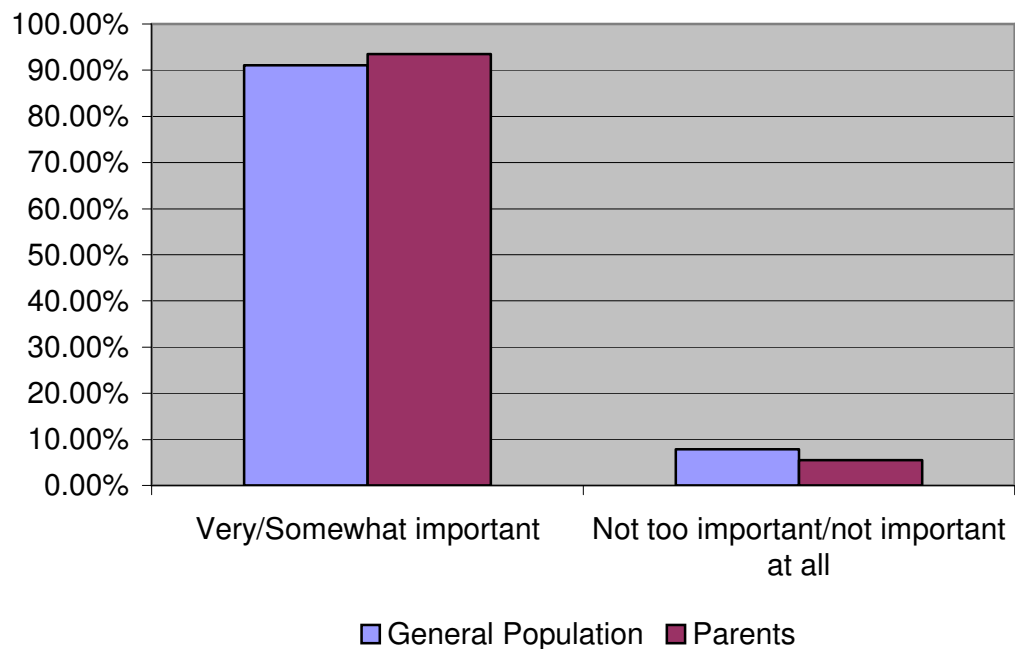
The survey was conducted through the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) at a 27-station polling laboratory at the University of North Florida. A sample of the Polling Universe was selected through the use of Random-Digit-Dialing methodology. For non-completes with a working residential phone line, at least 6 callbacks were attempted. To ensure a representative sample, calls were made from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. during the weekdays, and from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Approximately thirty students at the University of North Florida performed data collection. The laboratory employs Spanish-speaking interviewers to ensure ethnic representation.

The data presented in this report is raw (non-weighted) data. Upon request, data can be weighted to demographic data in the 2000 Census. Weighting may change response percentages by 1 to 2 percentage points.

For more information about methodology, contact the faculty director of the Public Opinion Research Laboratory, Dr. Matthew Corrigan at mcorrigan@unf.edu or (904) 620-1926.

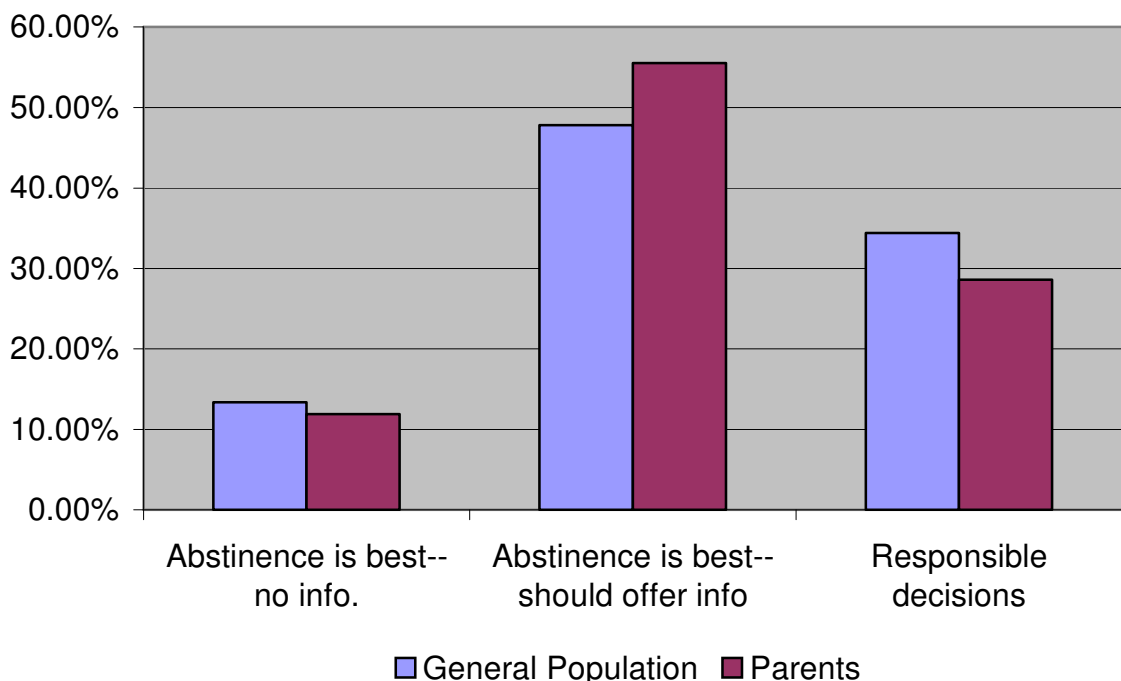
KEY FINDINGS

A large majority of respondents believe that it is important to teach sex education. About nine out of ten respondents reported that it is either very important or somewhat important for sex education to be part of school curriculum in St. Lucie County (question 1).



48% of respondents report that abstinence should be taught in conjunction with giving information about condoms and other contraception. Question 20 reflects this. For those respondents with children, 56% reported similarly. 13.4% of respondents reported that abstinence should be taught with no information about how to obtain and use condoms and other contraception. 34% of respondents reported that abstinence should not be taught. Rather, sex education should focus on how teens can make responsible decisions about sex.

Q20. If sex education IS taught in schools, which of the following three statements is closest to your view about the best way to teach Sex Education?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. Sex Education classes should not provide information about how to obtain and use condoms and other contraception	13.4%	11.9%
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. However, Sex Education classes should also provide information about condoms and other contraception.	47.8%	55.5%
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is not the most important thing. Sex Education classes should focus on teaching teens how to make responsible decisions about sex.	34.4%	28.6%
Do not know (Volunteered)	3.5%	3.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.9%	1.0%



63% of respondents report that giving teens information about how to obtain condoms and other contraception will not make them more likely to have sex earlier than they otherwise would have. 33% of respondents reported that giving this information would make teens more likely to engage in sexual intercourse (question 21).

A large majority of respondents reported that it should be taught that sexual intercourse should be linked to love and commitment in a marriage. 94% of respondents in the general population reported that sex education classes should teach, “the best choice for sexual intercourse is to be linked to love, intimacy, and commitment in a faithful marriage” (question 23).

Most respondents report that sex education classes should teach that more sexual partners will result in physical and psychological harms. Question 24 asks respondents to agree or disagree with teaching the following statement: “The more sexual partners a teen has, the greater the likelihood of physical and psychological harms.” 84% of respondents reported either “strongly agree,” or “somewhat agree” to this statement.

Respondents believe that some topics are appropriate to teach to both middle school and high school children. Questions 2 through 19 ask about whether specific topics should be taught to middle school students, high school students, both groups, or neither group. The topics that reflected the highest number of respondents that believe it is appropriate to teach to both age groups are: “waiting to have sexual intercourse until older” (question 7) at 67%; waiting to have sexual intercourse until married (question 10) at 68%; “How to talk with parents about sex and relationship issues (question 14) at 72%. “HIV/AIDS” (question 3) at 73%; and “Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS” (question 4) at 73%.

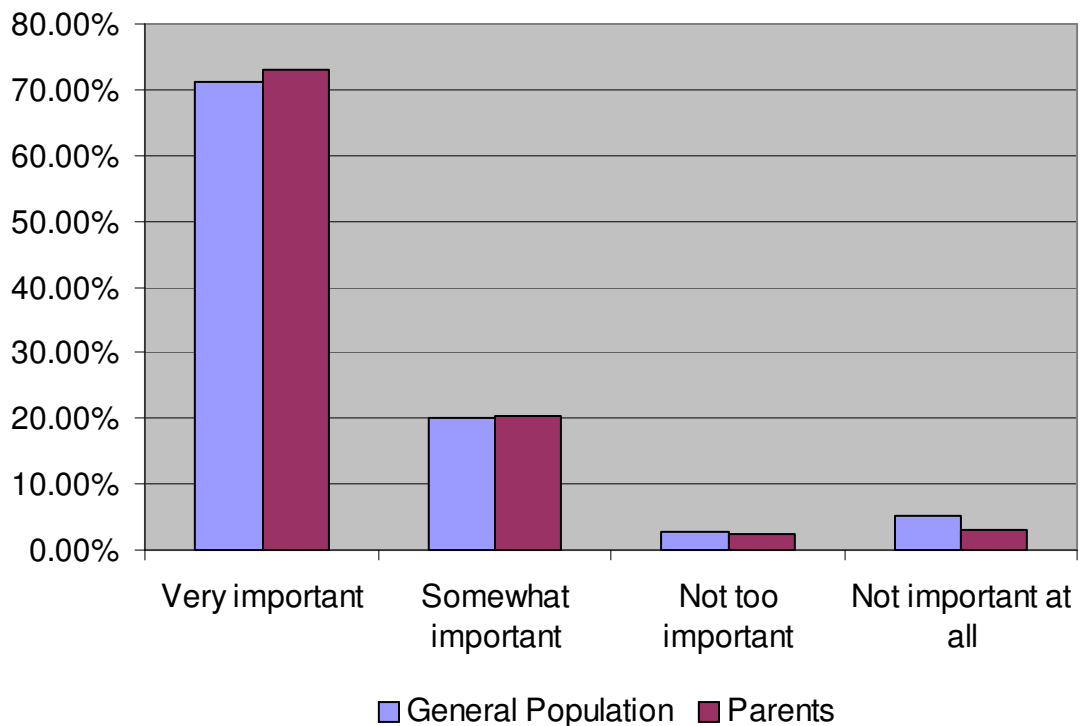
Some respondents believe that certain topics are not appropriate to teach to either age group. These topics include: “How to use and where to get birth control and other methods of preventing pregnancy” (question 6) at 10%; “How to put on a condom” (question 12) at 15%; “Masturbation” (question 13) at 22%; “Abortion” (question 15) at 19%; “That teens can obtain birth control pills from family planning clinics and doctors without permission from a parent” (question 17) at 28%; “Homosexuality and sexual orientation—that is being gay, lesbian, or bisexual” (question 18) at 22%; and “Oral Sex” (question 19) at 28%. The survey did not measure the intensity of respondents’ feelings. For example, on a particular issue 20% of the respondents could be more vocal than 60% of the respondents.

A majority of respondents believe that giving teens information about contraception will result in them practicing safe sex now or in the future. Question 22 reflects this. When asked whether or not they felt that giving teens information on contraception would make it more likely that they will practice safe sex, three out of four respondents (75%) reported “yes.”

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

Introduction: Hello, my name is _____, and I am a student calling from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. This is not a sales call. We're calling people in your area to ask them some questions about sexual education in St. Lucie County schools. May I speak to someone in your home who is 18 years of age or older for a few minutes?

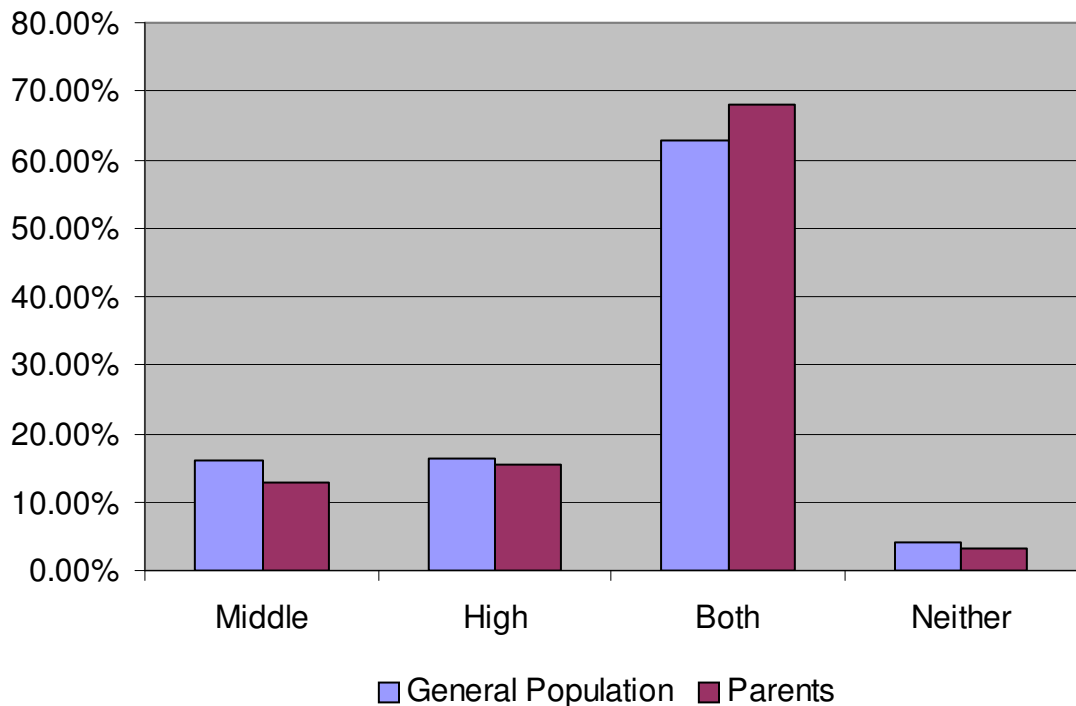
Q1. How important do you think it is to have Sex Education as part of the school curriculum?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Very important	71.1%	73.1%
Somewhat important	20.0%	20.4%
Not too important	2.7%	2.5%
Not important at all	5.1%	3.0%
Do not know (Volunteered)	0.9%	0.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.2%	0.5%



Introduction to “appropriateness” questions:

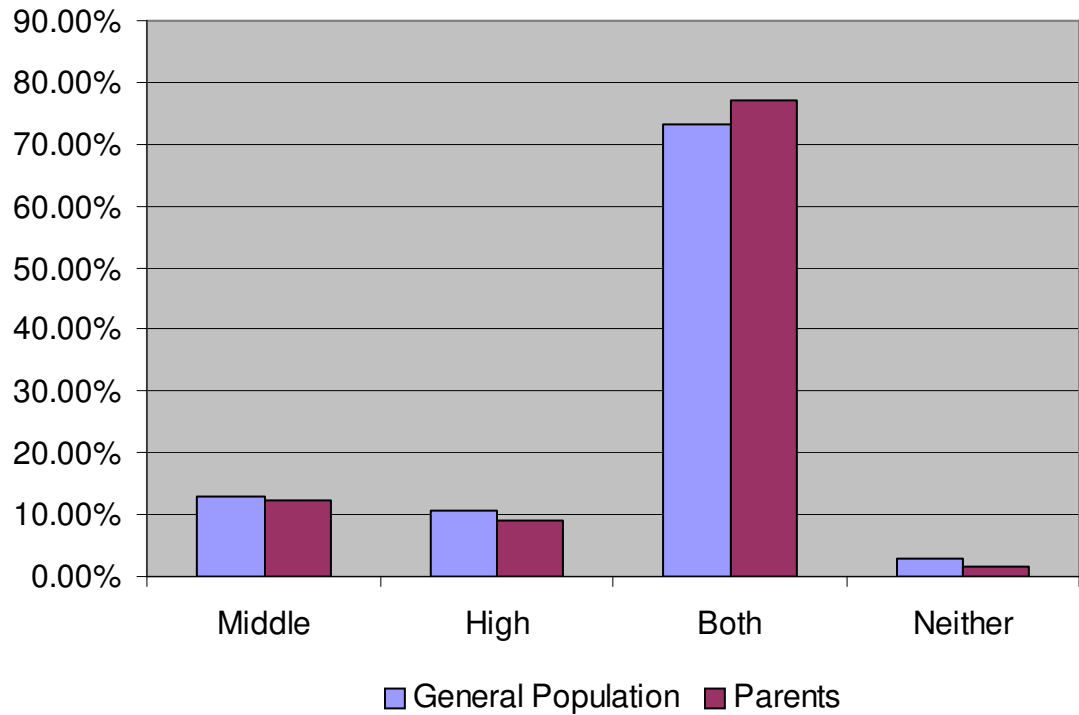
Of the following things that might be included in Sex Education programs in schools, determine if you think it is an appropriate topic for middle school students—grades 6, 7, and 8—high school students, grades 9 through 12, both age groups, or neither age group.

Q2. The basics of how babies are made, pregnancy, and birth		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	16.2%	12.9%
Appropriate topic for high school students	16.3%	15.4%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	62.7%	67.9%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	4.2%	3.2%
Do not know (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.2%	0.5%

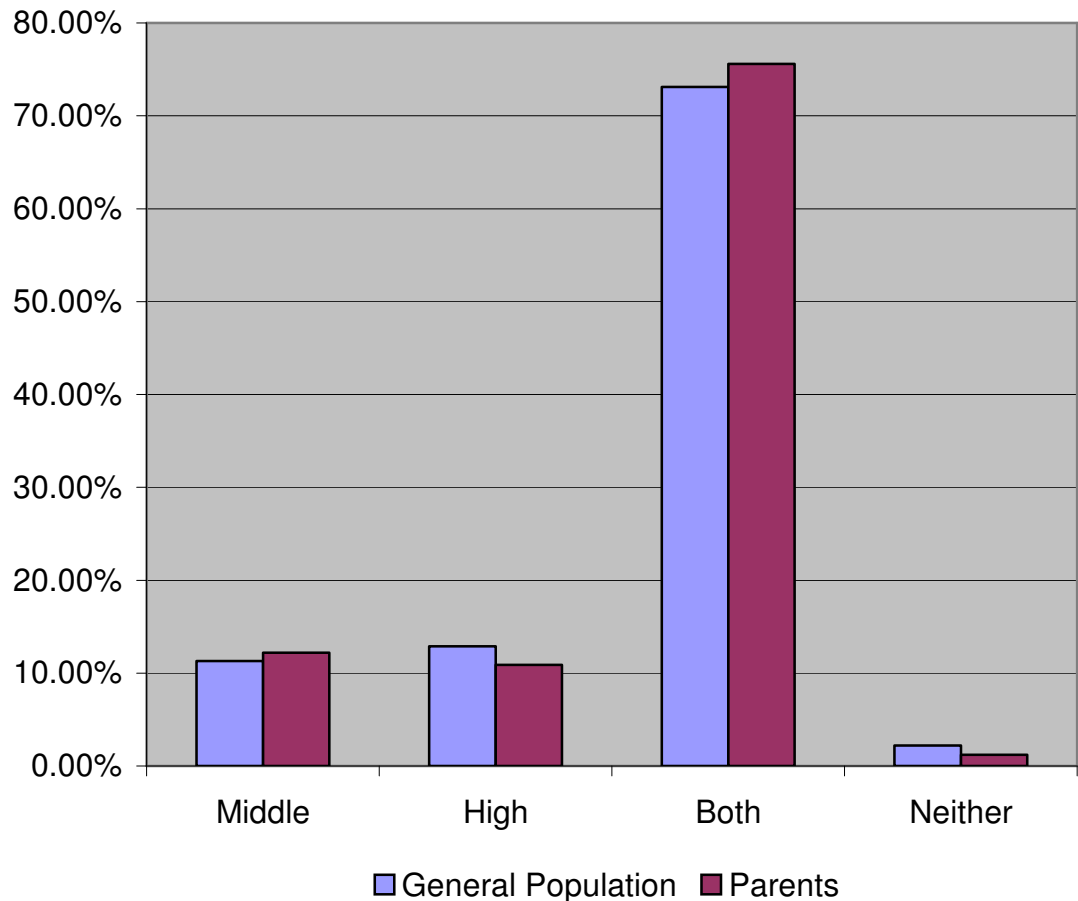




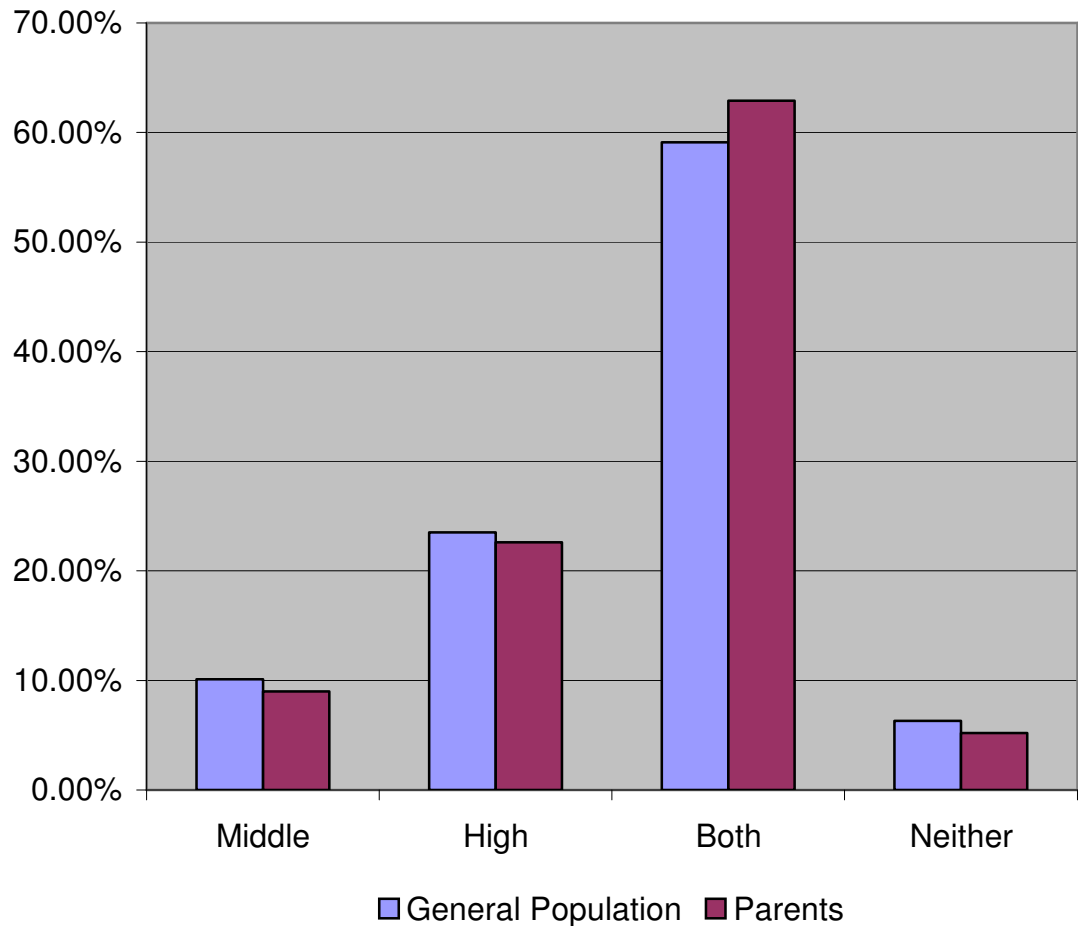
Q3. HIV/AIDS		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	12.9%	12.4%
Appropriate topic for high school students	10.6%	9.0%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	73.3%	77.1%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	2.9%	1.5%
Do not know (Volunteered)	0.2%	0.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.0%	0.0%



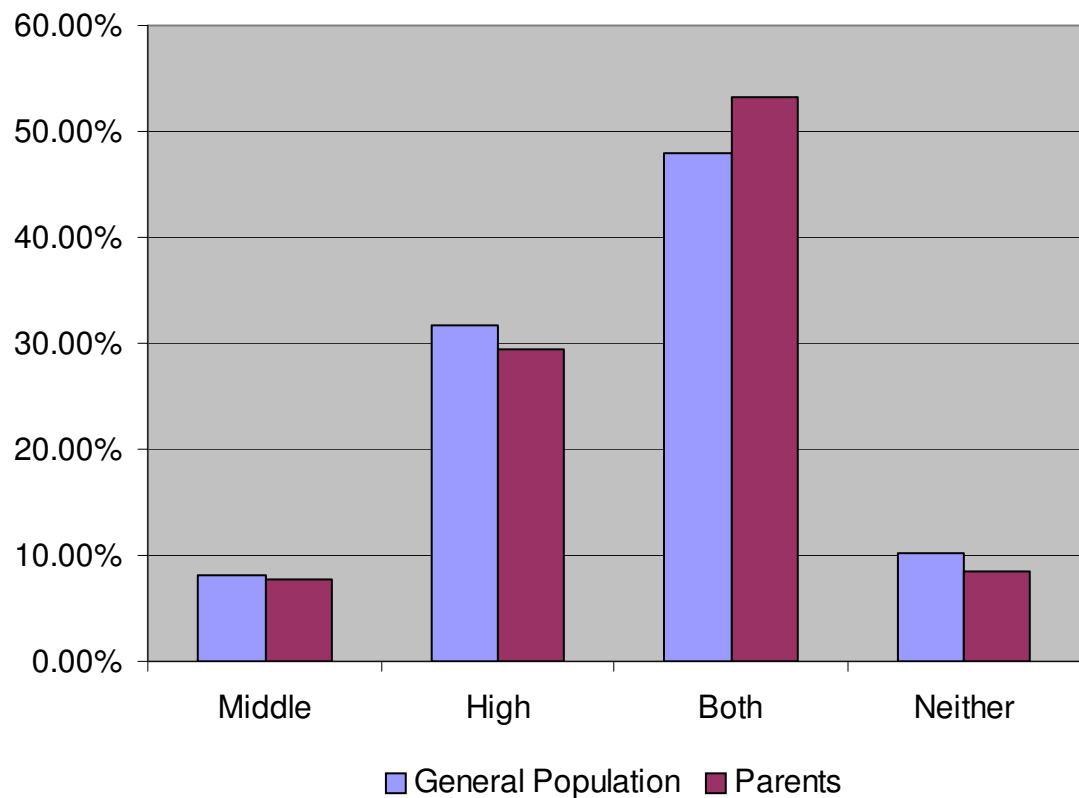
Q4. Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	11.3%	12.2%
Appropriate topic for high school students	12.9%	10.9%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	73.1%	75.6%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	2.2%	1.2%
Do not know (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.0%	0.0%



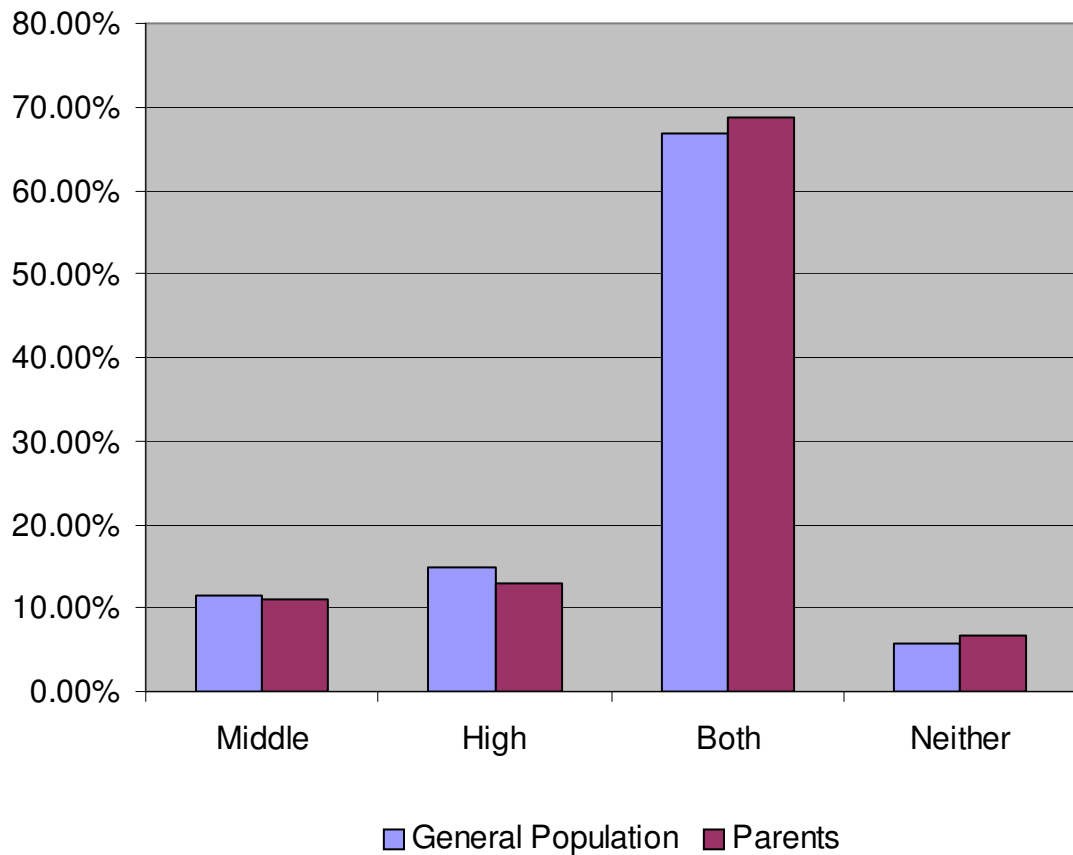
Q5. Birth control and methods of preventing pregnancy		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	10.1%	9.0%
Appropriate topic for high school students	23.5%	22.6%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	59.1%	62.9%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	6.3%	5.2%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.0%	0.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.0%	0.0%



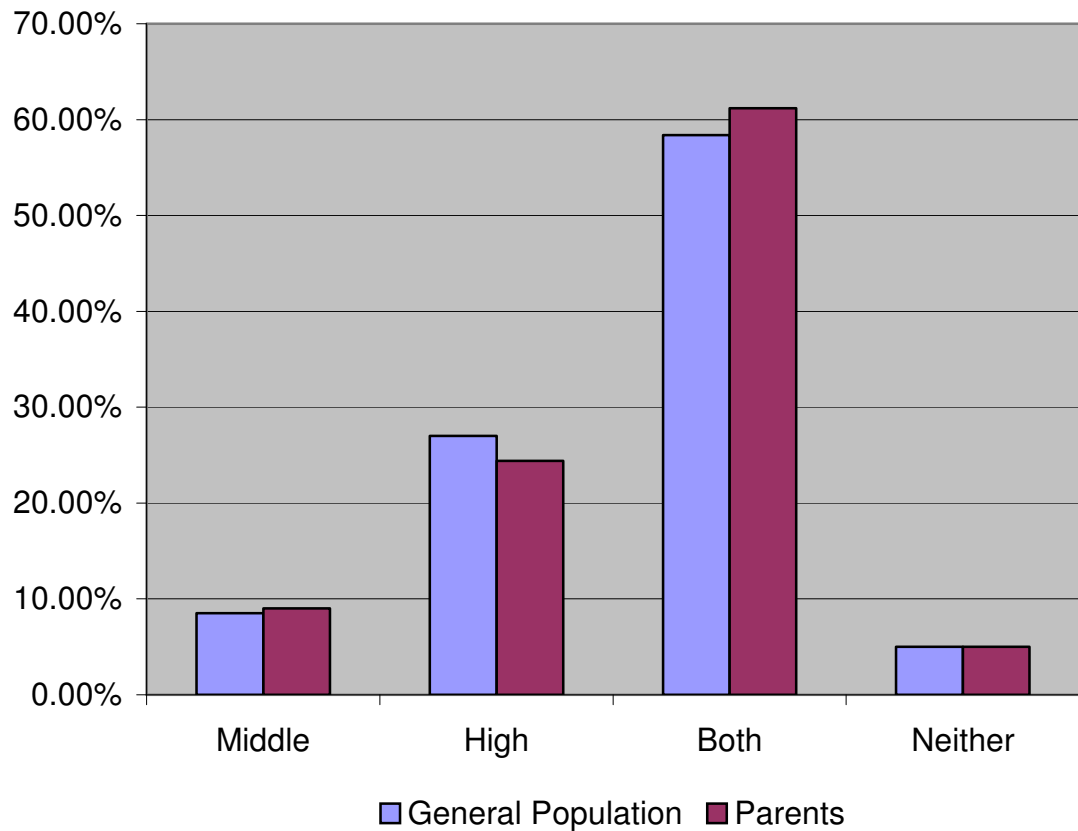
Q6. How to use and where to get Birth Control and other methods of preventing pregnancy		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	8.1%	7.7%
Appropriate topic for high school students	31.7%	29.4%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	47.9%	53.2%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	10.2%	8.5%
Do not know (Volunteered)	2.0%	1.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.1%	0.0%



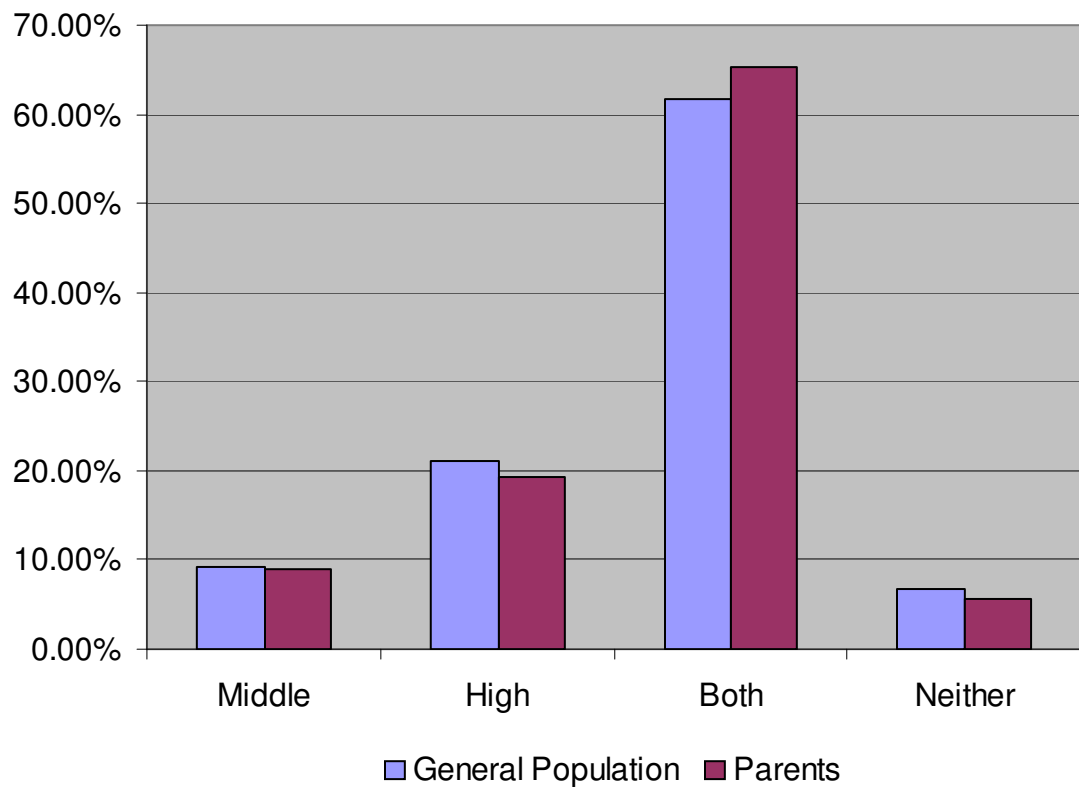
Q7. Waiting to have sexual intercourse until older		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	11.6%	10.9%
Appropriate topic for high school students	14.9%	12.9%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	66.8%	68.7%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	5.8%	6.7%
Do not know (Volunteered)	0.7%	0.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.2%	0.2%



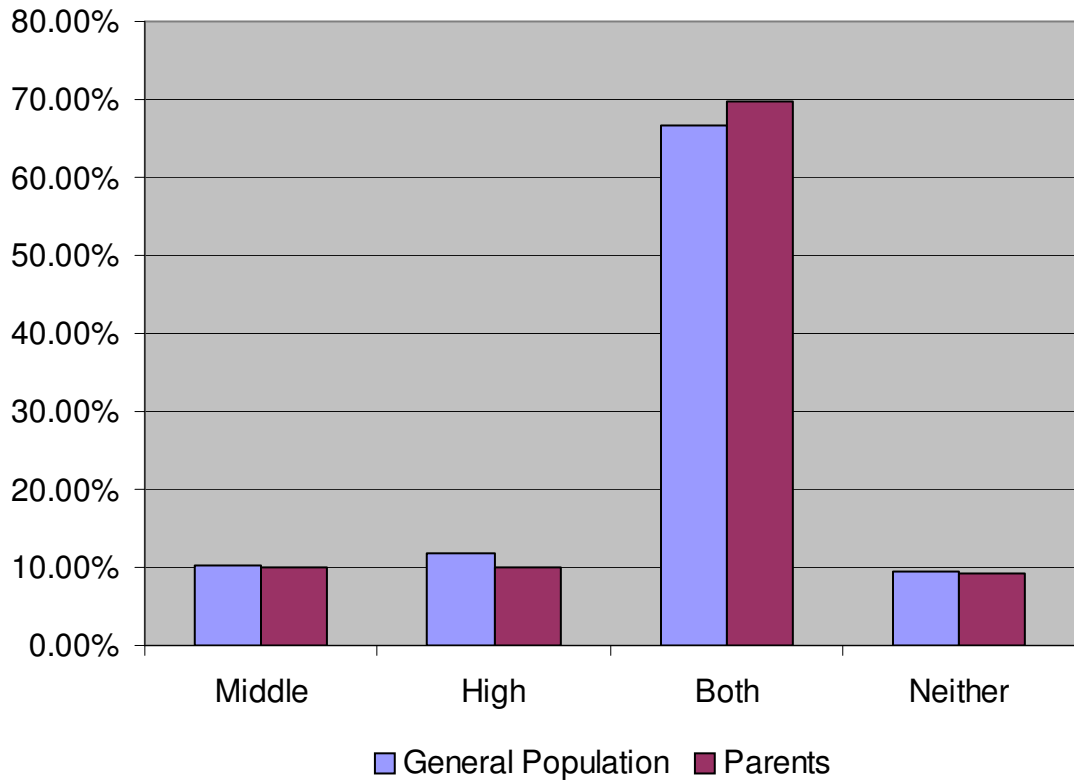
Q8. How to get tested for Sexually Transmitted Diseases including HIV/AIDS		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	8.5%	9.0%
Appropriate topic for high school students	27.0%	24.4%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	58.4%	61.2%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	5.0%	5.0%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.1%	0.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.1%	0.0%



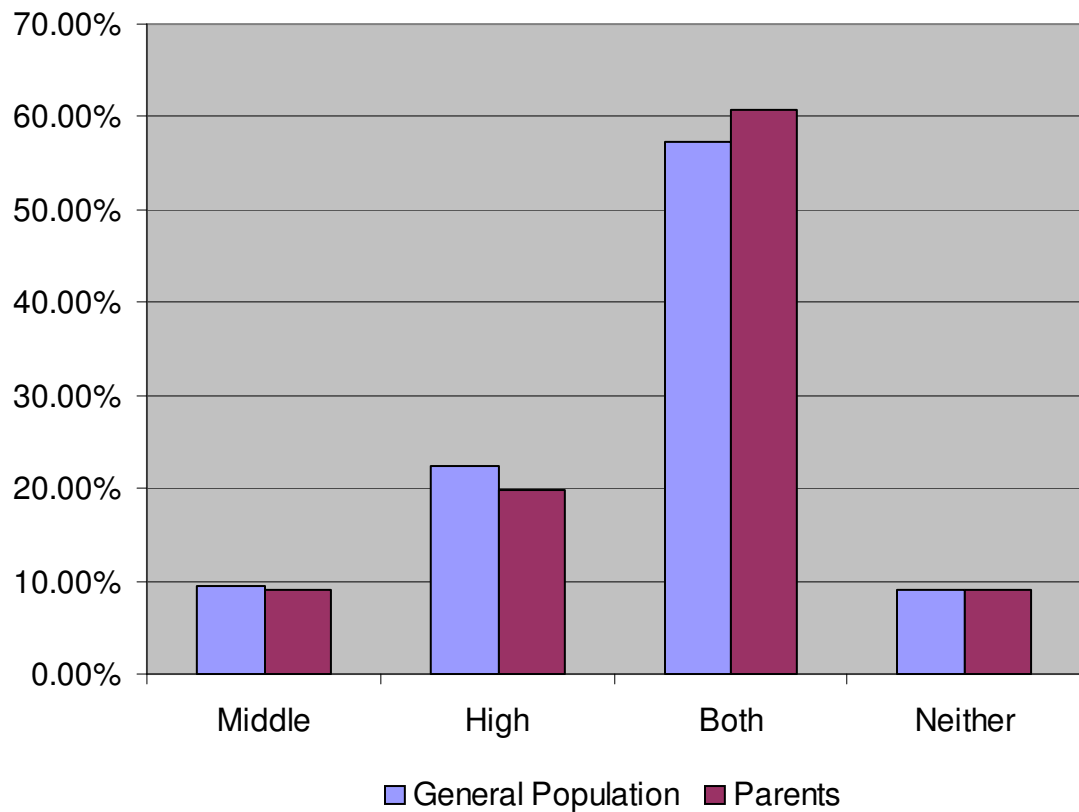
Q9. How to deal with the emotional issues and consequences of being sexually active		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	9.3%	9.0%
Appropriate topic for high school students	21.0%	19.2%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	61.7%	65.2%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	6.8%	5.5%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.2%	1.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.1%	0.0%



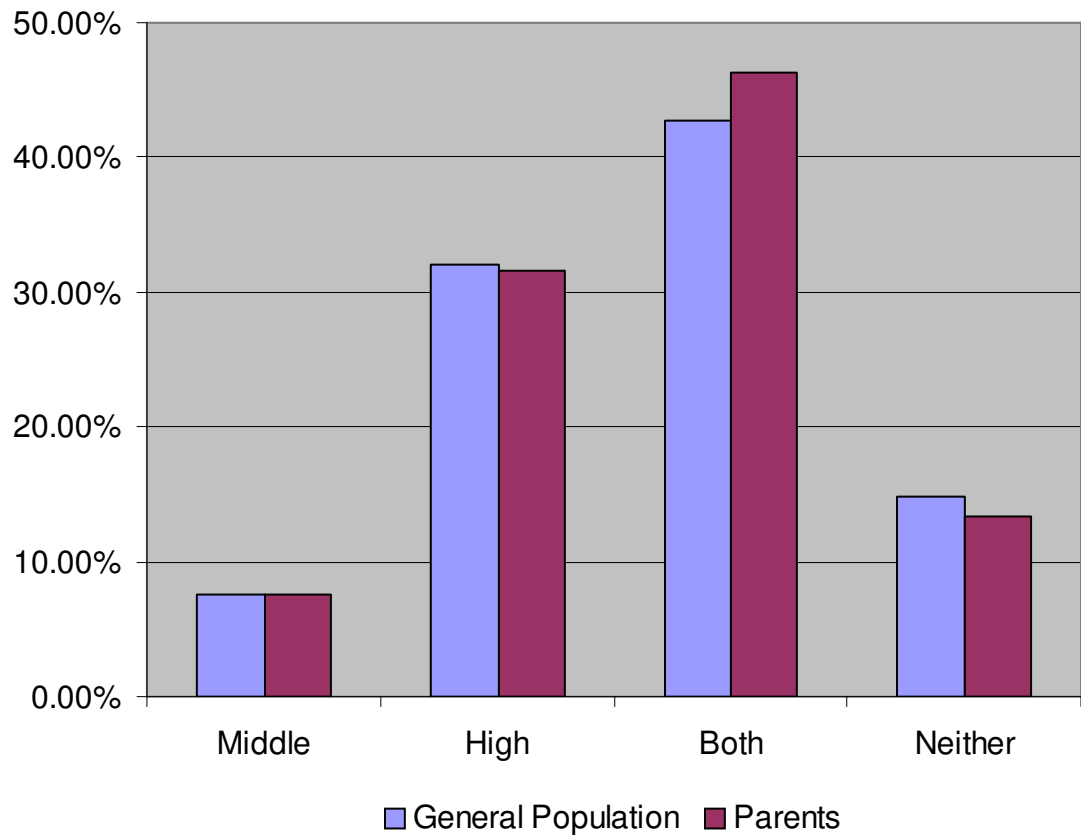
Q10. Waiting to have sexual intercourse until married		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	10.2%	10.0%
Appropriate topic for high school students	11.8%	10.0%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	66.7%	69.7%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	9.5%	9.2%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.3%	0.7%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.5%	0.5%



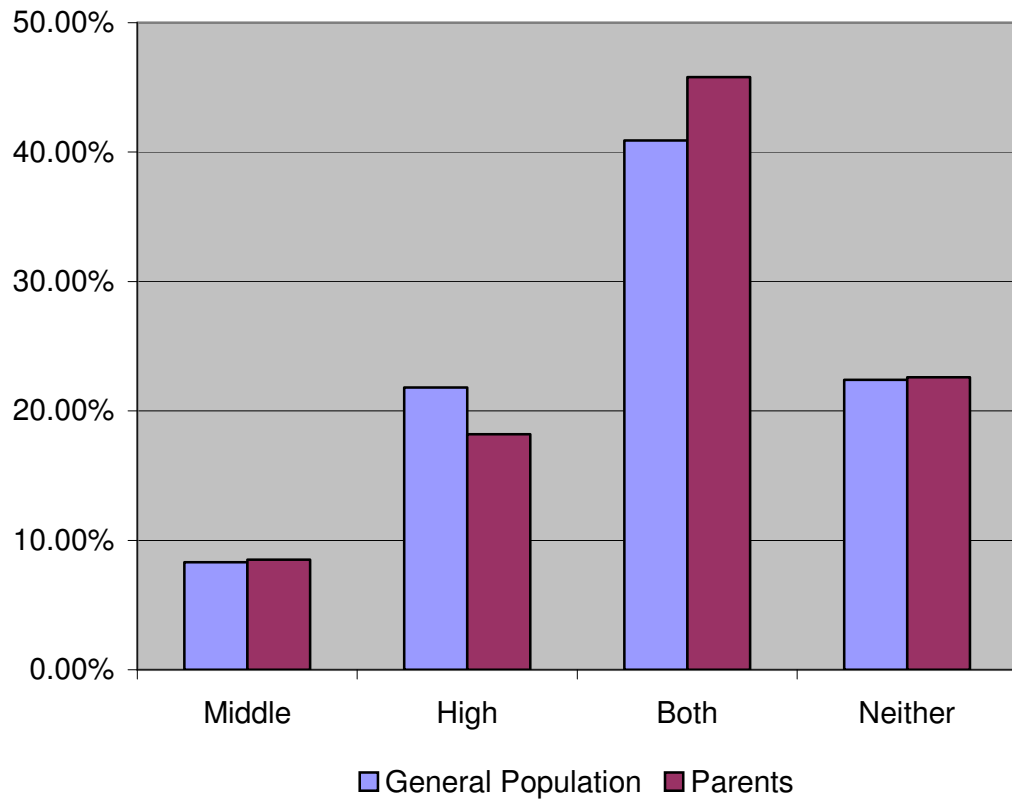
Q11. How to talk with a girlfriend/boyfriend or partner about “how far to go” sexually		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	9.5%	9.0%
Appropriate topic for high school students	22.5%	19.9%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	57.2%	60.7%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	9.1%	9.0%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.5%	1.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.3%	0.2%



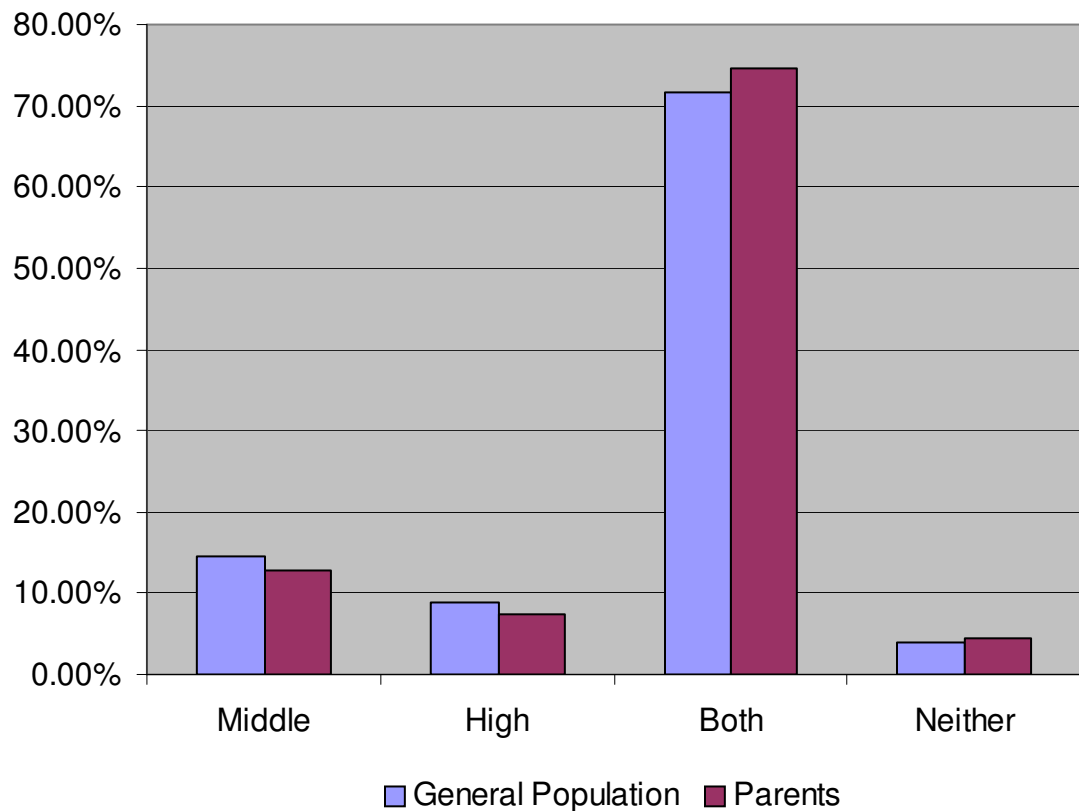
Q12. How to put on a condom		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	7.6%	7.5%
Appropriate topic for high school students	32.1%	31.6%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	42.8%	46.3%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	14.8%	13.4%
Do not know (Volunteered)	2.3%	1.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.2%



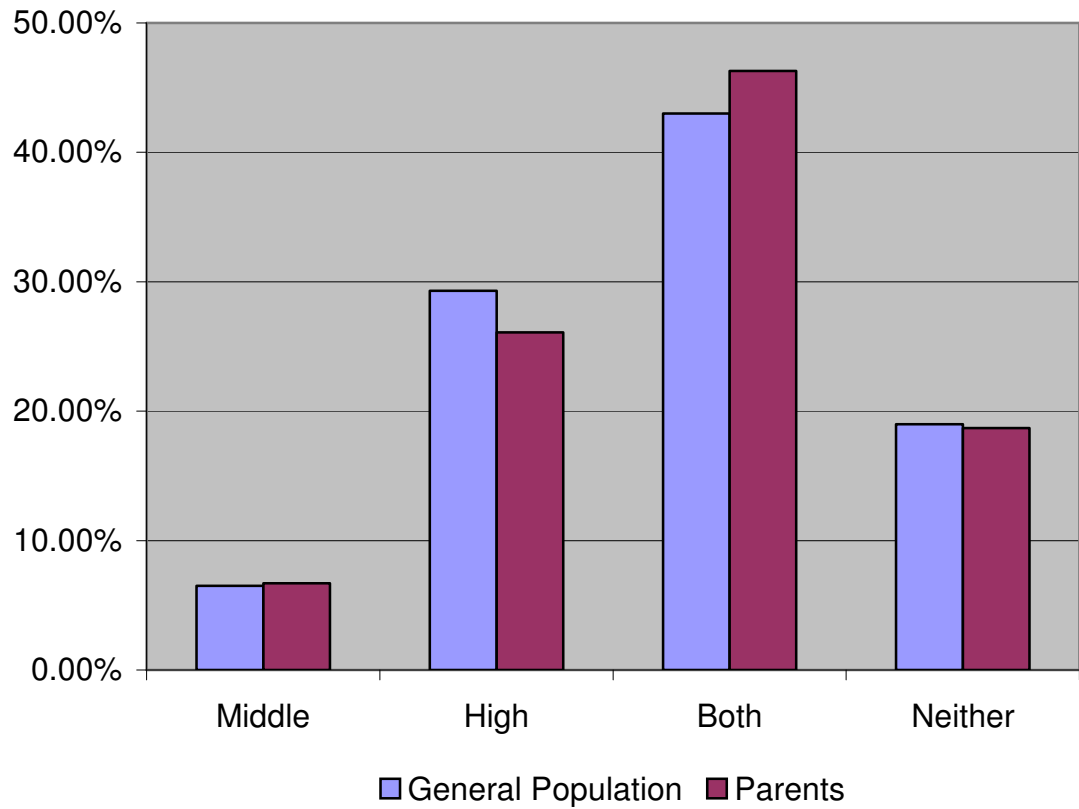
Q13. Masturbation		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	8.3%	8.5%
Appropriate topic for high school students	21.8%	18.2%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	40.9%	45.8%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	22.4%	22.6%
Do not know (Volunteered)	6.2%	4.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.5%	0.5%



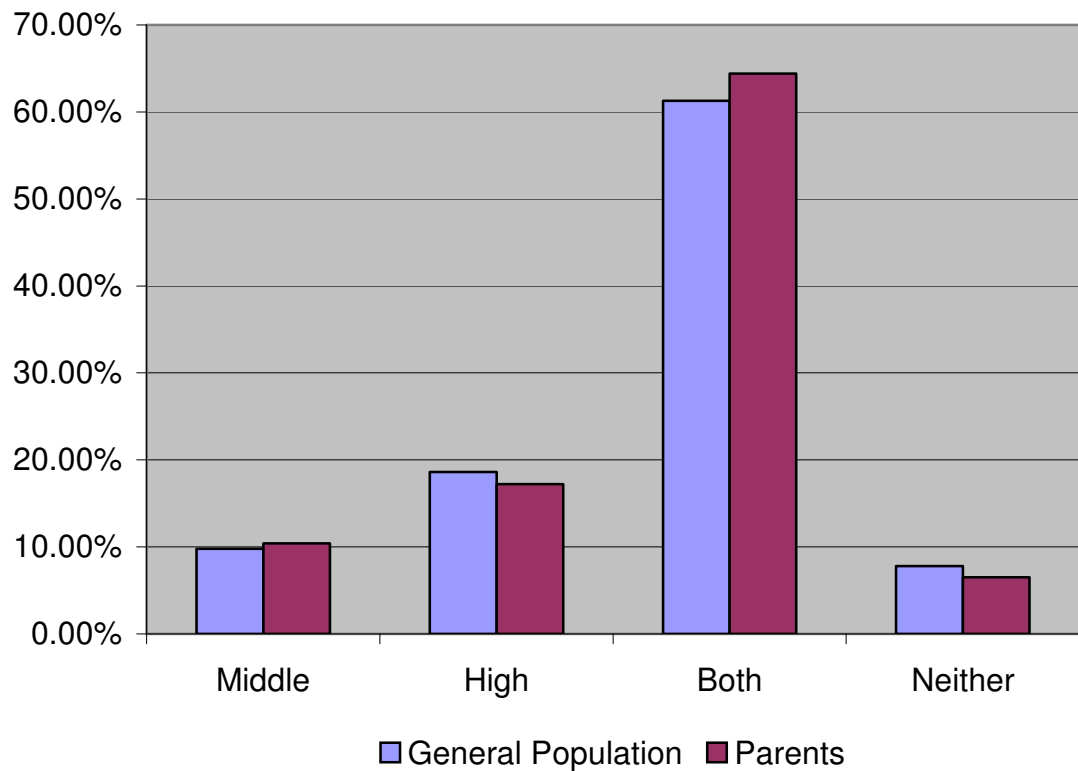
Q14. How to talk with parents about sex and relationship issues		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	14.5%	12.9%
Appropriate topic for high school students	8.9%	7.5%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	71.6%	74.6%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	4.0%	4.5%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.0%	0.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.0%	0.0%



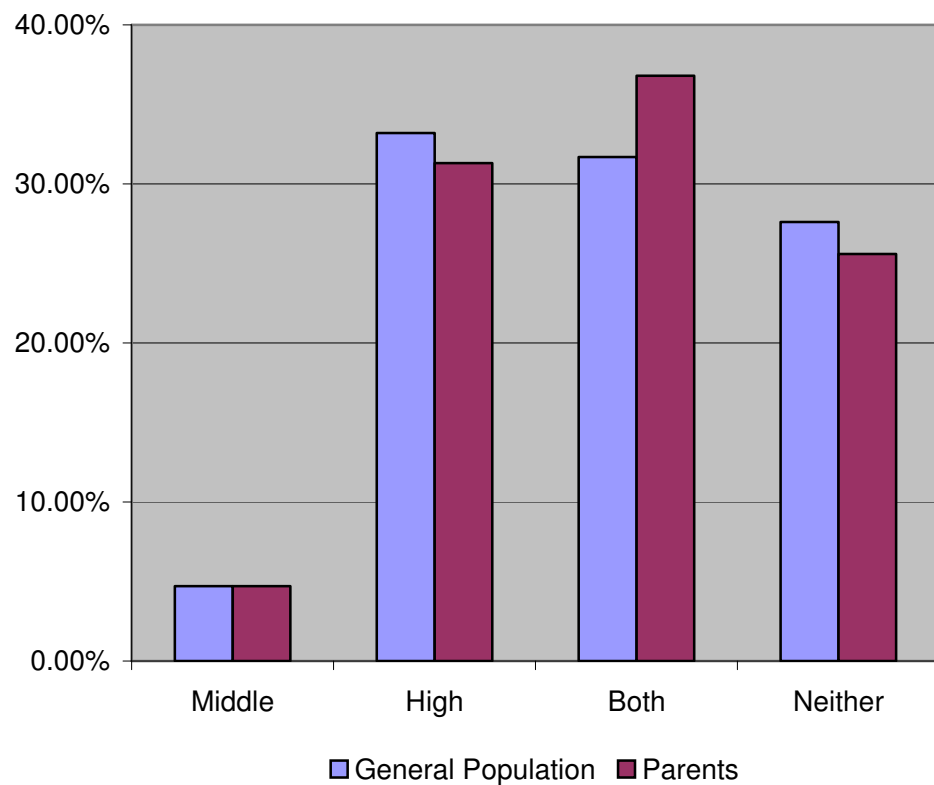
Q15. Abortion		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	6.5%	6.7%
Appropriate topic for high school students	29.3%	26.1%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	43.0%	46.3%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	19.0%	18.7%
Do not know (Volunteered)	2.1%	2.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.2%	0.0%



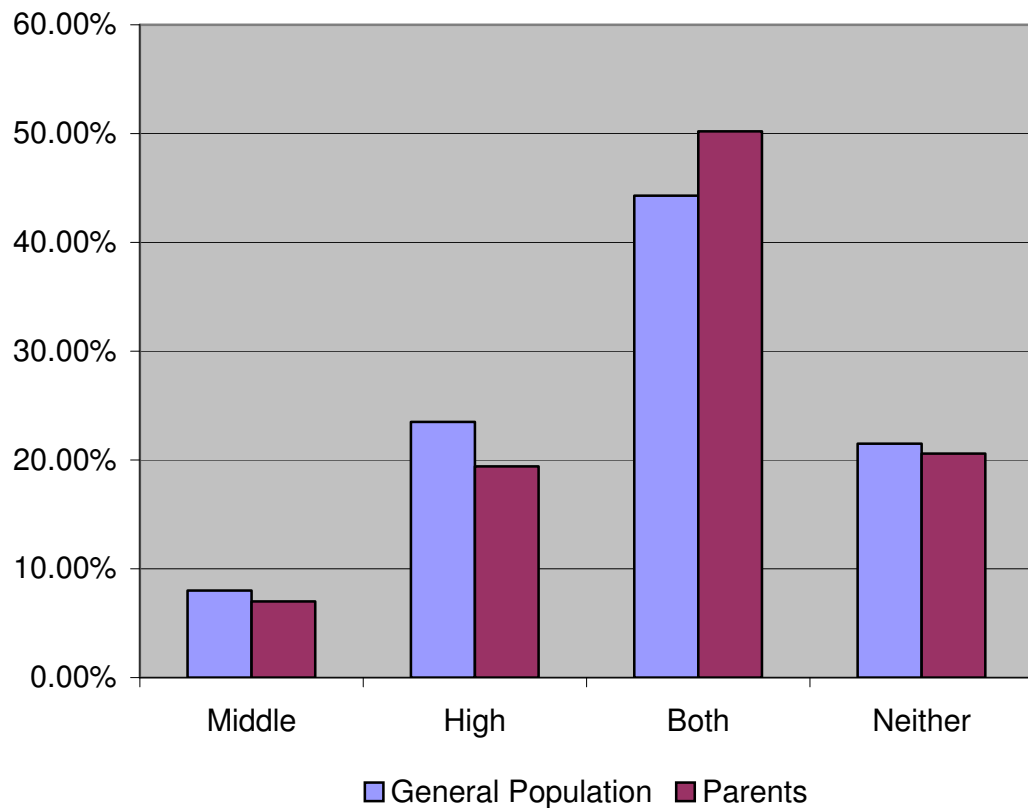
Q16. How to make responsible sexual choices based on individual values		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	9.8%	10.4%
Appropriate topic for high school students	18.6%	17.2%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	61.3%	64.4%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	7.8%	6.5%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.9%	1.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.7%	0.2%



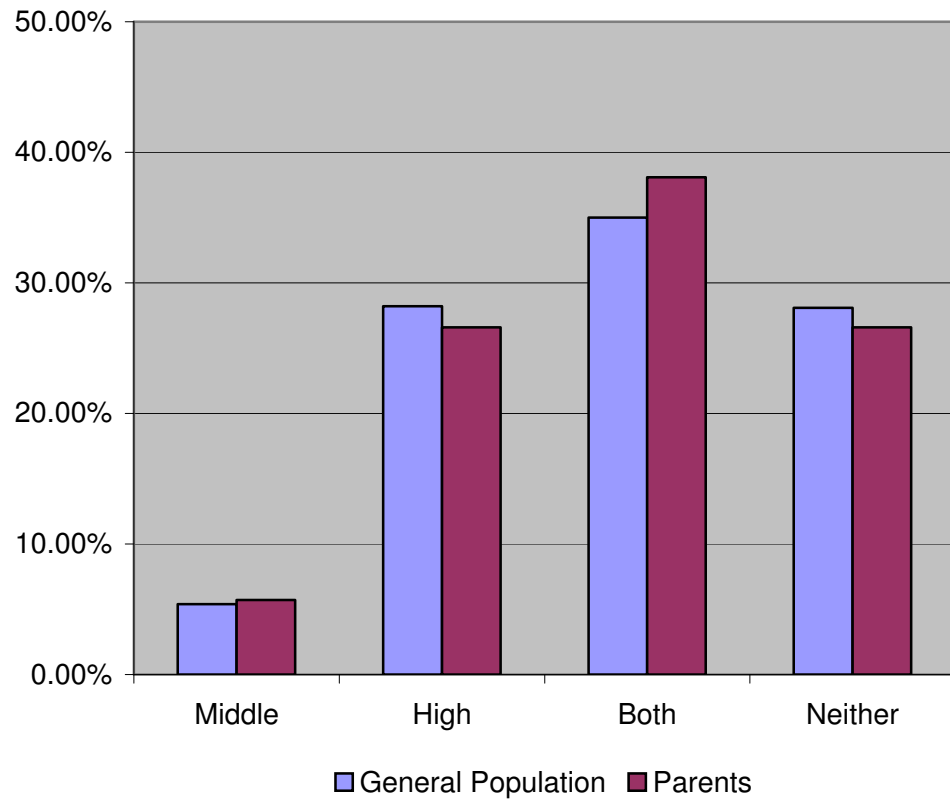
Q17. That teens can obtain birth control pills from family planning clinics and doctors without permission from a parent		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	4.7%	4.7%
Appropriate topic for high school students	33.2%	31.3%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	31.7%	36.8%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	27.6%	25.6%
Do not know (Volunteered)	2.4%	1.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.0%



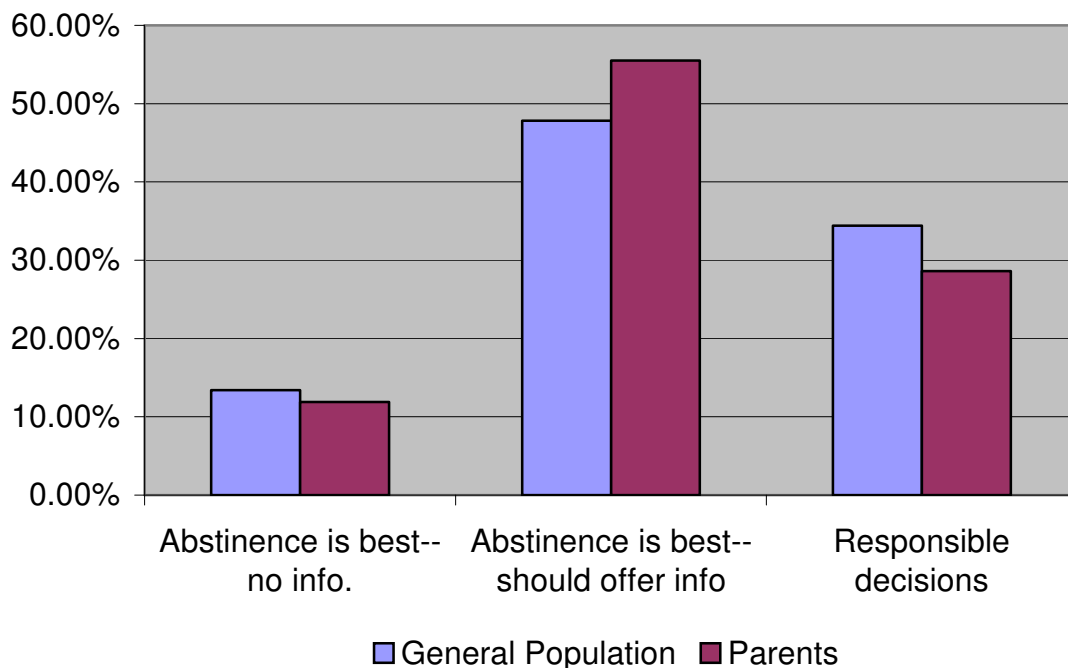
Q18. Homosexuality and sexual orientation—that is, being gay, lesbian, or bisexual		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	8.0%	7.0%
Appropriate topic for high school students	23.5%	19.4%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	44.3%	50.2%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	21.5%	20.6%
Do not know (Volunteered)	2.4%	2.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.5%



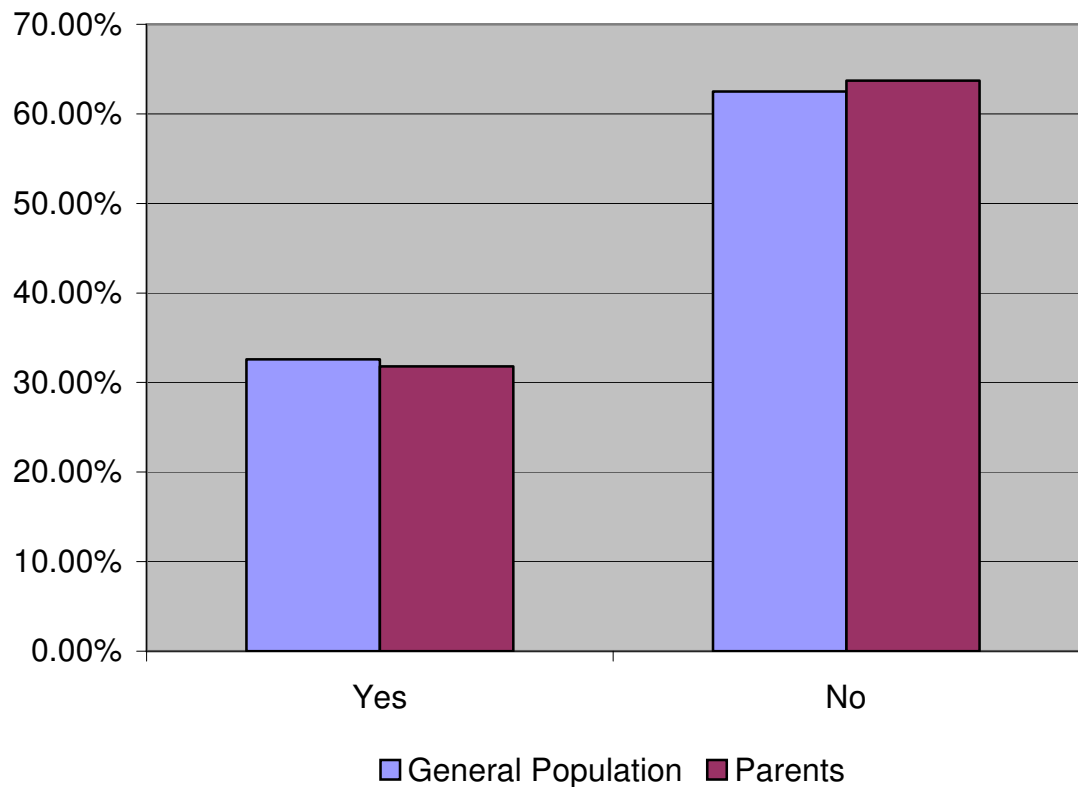
Q19. Oral sex		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	5.4%	5.7%
Appropriate topic for high school students	28.2%	26.6%
Appropriate topic for both age groups	35.0%	38.1%
Not appropriate topic for either age group	28.1%	26.6%
Do not know (Volunteered)	3.0%	2.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.5%



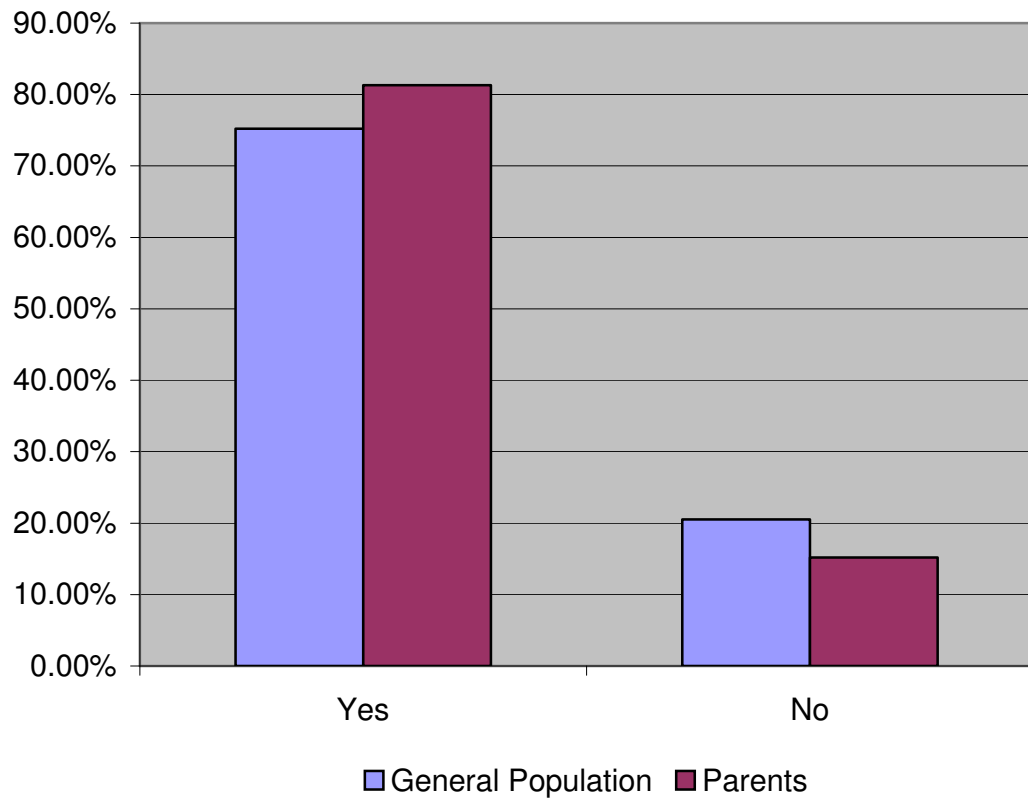
Q20. If sex education IS taught in schools, which of the following three statements is closest to your view about the best way to teach Sex Education?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. Sex Education classes should not provide information about how to obtain and use condoms and other contraception	13.4%	11.9%
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. However, Sex Education classes should also provide information about condoms and other contraception.	47.8%	55.5%
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is not the most important thing. Sex Education classes should focus on teaching teens how to make responsible decisions about sex.	34.4%	28.6%
Do not know (Volunteered)	3.5%	3.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.9%	1.0%



Q21. Do you think that giving teens information about how to obtain and use condoms and other contraception encourages them to have sexual intercourse earlier than they would have?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Yes, it encourages them	32.6%	31.8%
No, will not encourage them	62.5%	63.7%
Do not know (Volunteered)	4.4%	4.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.5%	0.2%



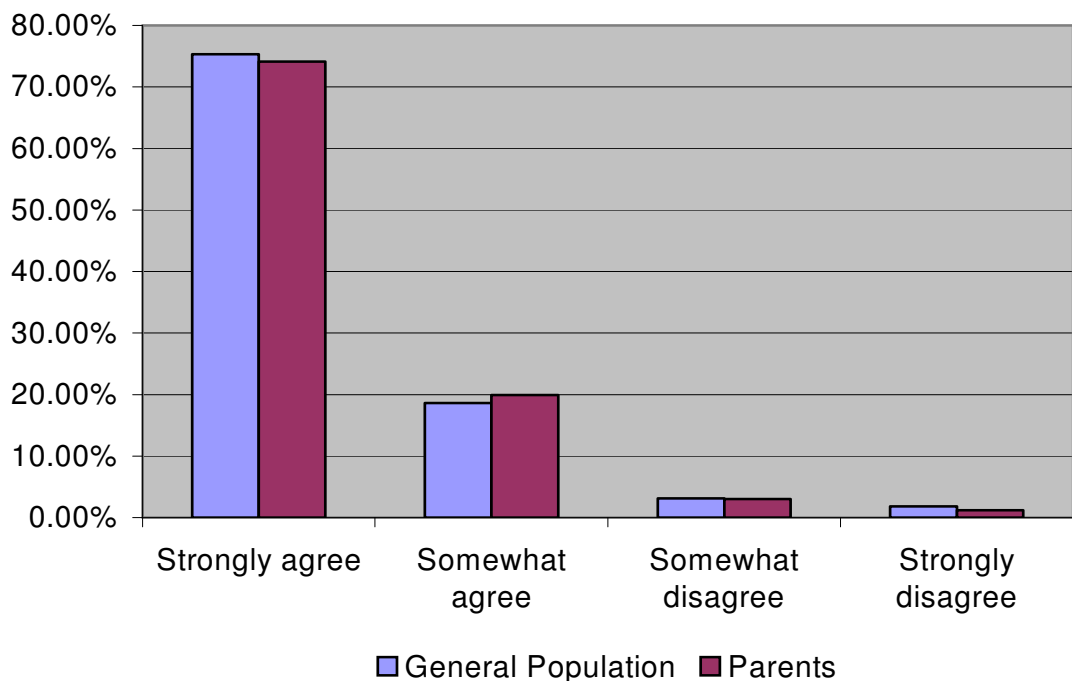
Q22. Do you think that giving teens information about how to obtain and use condoms and other contraception makes it more likely that they will practice safe sex now or in the future?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Yes, more likely to practice safe sex	75.2%	81.3%
No, not more likely to practice safe sex	20.5%	15.2%
Do not know (Volunteered)	3.9%	3.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.4%	0.0%



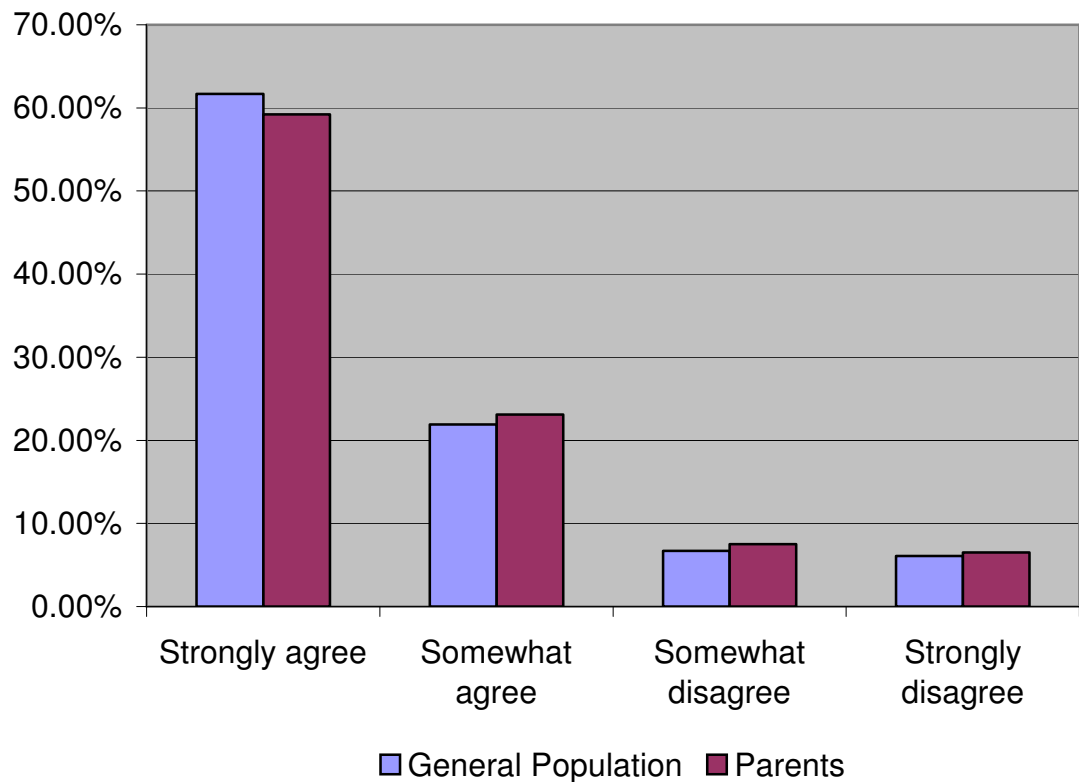
Intro to “topics” questions:

The following are topics that might be included in sex education classes for high school students. Assuming that a high school has sex-education classes, please tell me do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that the class should teach the following to teen students.

Q23. The best choice for sexual intercourse is to be linked to love, intimacy, and commitment in a faithful marriage.		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Strongly agree	75.3%	74.1%
Somewhat agree	18.6%	19.9%
Somewhat disagree	3.1%	3.0%
Strongly disagree	1.8%	1.2%
Do not know (Volunteered)	1.1%	1.7%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.1%	0.0%



Q24. The more sexual partners a teen has, the greater the likelihood of physical and psychological harms.		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Strongly agree	61.7%	59.2%
Somewhat agree	21.9%	23.1%
Somewhat disagree	6.7%	7.5%
Strongly disagree	6.1%	6.5%
Do not know (Volunteered)	3.4%	3.5%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.3%	0.2%





DEMOGRAPHICS

Q25. What is your age? Is it:		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
18-24	9.1%	5.5%
25-34	15.6%	23.1%
35-44	22.7%	41.8%
45-54	20.3%	21.4%
55-64	14.1%	5.7%
65 or older	17.5%	2.2%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.7%	0.2%

Q26. What is your racial or ethnic background? Is it:		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
White	73.7%	64.7%
Black or African American	11.4%	17.2%
Asian	0.8%	1.5%
Other	11.5%	14.7%
Refused (Volunteered)	2.5%	2.0%

Q27. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Yes	12.3%	19.2%
No	86.0%	79.6%
Refused (Volunteered)	1.7%	1.2%



Q28. Do you have children in the St. Lucie County Public School System?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Yes	31.3%	100.0%
No	68.5%	0.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.2%	0.0%

Q29. What grade is/are your children in? (Note: It is possible for respondents to choose more than one response to this question)		
	General Population (N=315)	Parents (N=402)
Elementary	55.3%	54.0%
Middle	33.8%	36.4%
High	42.1%	43.0%
Refused (Volunteered)	1.0%	0.8%

Q30. What is the highest grade in school or year of college you have completed?		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Grade school	3.7%	2.5%
High school graduate	24.4%	27.1%
Some college	33.1%	34.6%
College graduate	27.4%	26.9%
Post graduate degree	10.6%	7.7%
Refused (Volunteered)	0.8%	1.2%

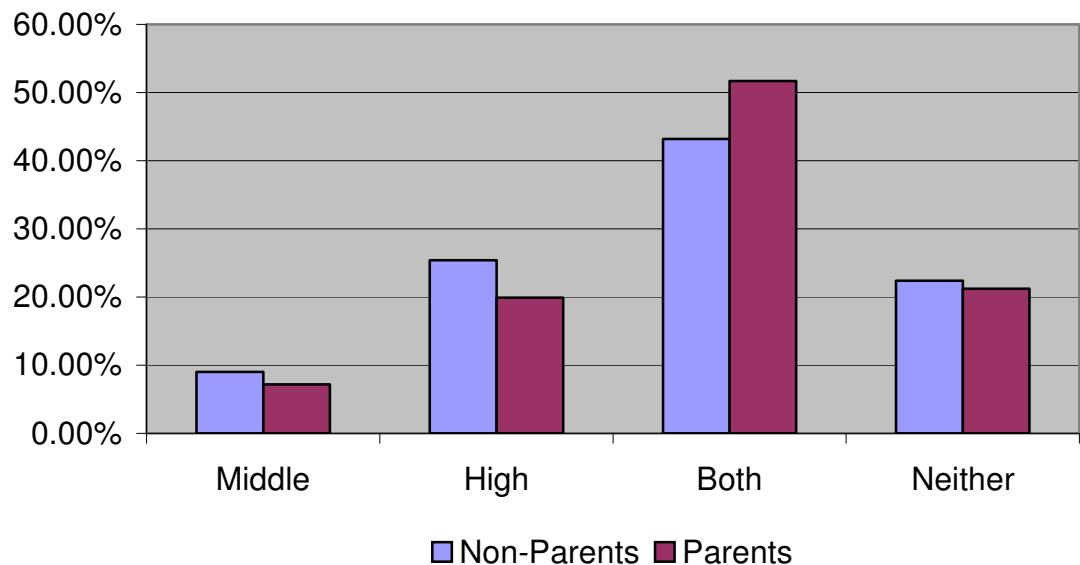
Q31. Respondent gender (Interviewer determined)		
	General Population (N=1005)	Parents (N=402)
Male	32.5%	26.1%
Female	67.5%	73.9%

COMPARISON OF RESPONDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN

Small-scale changes are evident in many of the questions between those respondents that have children versus those that do not. However, this section will consist only of those questions that showed a *statistically significant* difference in responses between those with children and those without. For this survey, the term “statistically significant” refers to there being a strong likelihood (in this case, at least 95%) that the variation between the groups was caused by the presence of children in the respondent’s home. For the following questions, “do not know,” and “refused” responses are removed for statistical analysis.

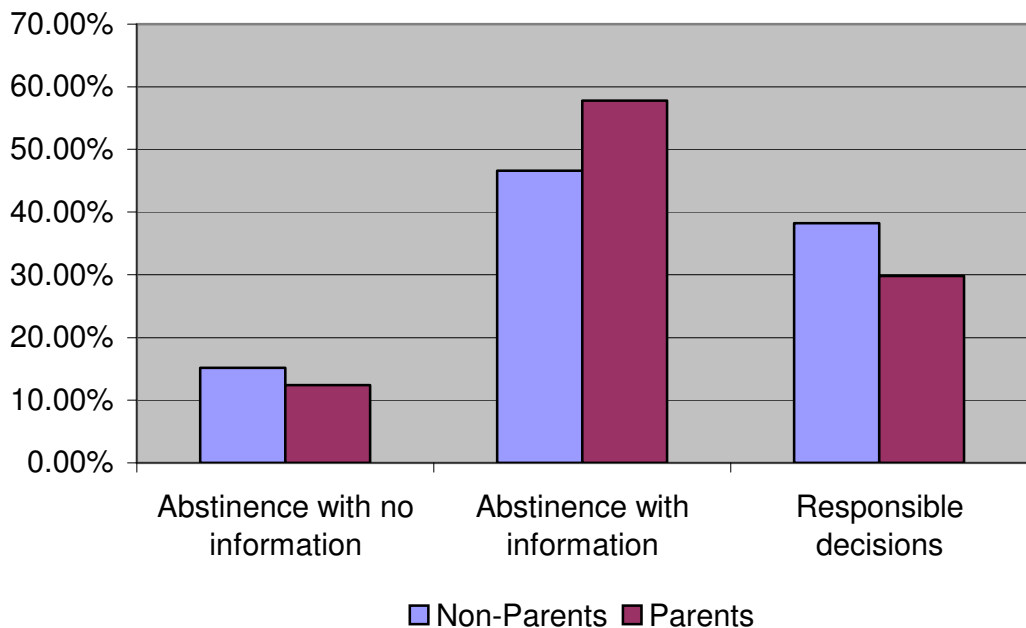
Significantly more respondents with children report that it is appropriate to teach about homosexuality in middle and high school. In question 18, 52% of respondents with children report that homosexuality is an appropriate topic for both middle and high school children. For respondents without children, this number is 43%.

	Non-Parents (N=669)	Parents (N=391)
Appropriate topic for middle school students	9.0%	7.2%
Appropriate topic for high school students	25.4%	19.9%
Appropriate topic for both groups	43.2%	51.7%
Not appropriate for either age group	22.4%	21.2%



There is a statistically significant difference between parents and non-parents in what respondents believe should be taught in schools regarding sex education. Question 20 shows this. A significantly higher number of parents answered that sex education should teach, “abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. However, Sex Education classes should also provide information about condoms and other contraception.” Also, more non-parents reported that sex education classes should not teach abstinence. They believed that classes should focus on teaching teens how to make responsible decisions.

	Non-Parents (N=659)	Parents (N=386)
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. Sex Education classes should not provide information about how to obtain and use condoms and other contraception	15.2%	12.4%
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is best for teens. However, Sex Education classes should also provide information about condoms and other contraception.	46.6%	57.8%
Abstinence from sexual intercourse is not the most important thing. Sex Education classes should focus on teaching teens how to make responsible decisions about sex.	38.2%	29.8%



There is a statistically significant difference between parents and non-parents when it comes to their view about whether or not providing information about contraception will encourage teens to practice safe sex. 84% of parents reported that giving teens information on condoms and contraception would make it more likely that teens will practice safe sex now or on the future. For non-parents, this number was 77% (question 22).

	Non-Parents (N=658)	Parents (N=388)
Yes—more likely	76.6%	84.3%
No—not more likely	23.4%	15.7%

