



Healthy Sexuality Education is Necessary to Prevent Violence and Abuse in/and Outside of our K-12 Schools

Comprehensive Sexuality Education ¹:

- Increases Gender Equitable Beliefs, Attitudes, and Behaviors, & Combats Rigid Gender Role Stereotypes
- Increases Positive Social Behaviors and Decreases Conduct Problems and Levels of Emotional Distress
- Helps children recognize signs of abuse, name their body parts correctly, and communicate w/ trusted adults about perceived or real danger



Mitigates these Risk Factors:

- Rape Myth Acceptance
- Acceptance of Violence
- Peer Approval of Forced Sex
- Peer Sexual Aggression
- Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Peer Pressure for Sexual Activity
- Early Sexual Initiation
- Sexual Risk Taking
- Delinquency
- Empathetic Deficits



Which Leads to:

A Reduction in Sexual Violence Perpetration

30 Years of Research on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) shows that CSE leads to appreciation of sexual diversity, dating and intimate partner violence prevention, development of healthy relationships, prevention of child sex abuse, improved social/emotional learning, and increased media literacy. **CSE can ²:**

- Increase knowledge, **change attitudes**, improve skills to reduce Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), improve communication skills and handling feelings of anger, and **increase awareness of laws** and victim services.
- Reduce acceptance of sexual coercion and social norms that support sexual harassment, and can actually **reduce incidences of IPV**.
- CSE that is inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, reduces homophobic bullying/harassment, and **increases safety for LGBTQ students**.
- Increase knowledge of who to report abuse to** and increase **parent/child communication** about child sex abuse.
- Promote** significant growth in **empathy, self-esteem**, ability to speak one's opinion, and belief in **equal rights for all**.

There is substantial evidence that sexuality education is most effective when begun early and before sexual activity begins.

Evidence shows that the physical and emotional health of young people is related to their academic achievement, as healthier students are more likely to stay in school and achieve higher grades.

Only ³ 1/2 of all students approximately received sex education that met the minimum national standards in the U.S. from 2011-2019. Young people are **less likely to receive sex education** on key topics needed to protect their sexual health **than they were 25 years ago**.

Oregon's K-12 Healthy Sexuality Education Standards house child sex abuse prevention (Erin's Law), dating violence prevention (the Healthy Teen Relationship Act), and include suicide prevention (Adi's Act), along with mental health promotion, physical health, and well-being.

- The Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in partnership with others around the state, helps school districts prevent sexual violence and abuse by offering:
- Individualized Technical Support
 - Administrator and Community Engagement
 - Curricular and Standards Resources
 - Professional Development
 - Community Input and Coalition Building
 - Sharing Resources and Best Practices
 - Implementation of Healthy Sexuality Education Every Year K-12 (OAR 581-022-2050)

A 2017 study conducted by WestEd's Justice & Prevention Research Center with Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) male youth in juvenile justice facilities, ages 14-19, found ⁴:

65% identified not having received information on how to resist pressures to have sex before coming to OYA.

50% identified not having received information on how to have a good romantic relationship before coming to OYA.

1. Schneider M, Hirsch JS. Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a Primary Prevention Strategy for Sexual Violence Perpetration. *Trauma Violence Abuse*. 2020 Jul;21(3):439-455. doi: 10.1177/1524838018772855. Epub 2018 May 2. PMID: 29720047; PMCID: PMC6283686. 2. Goldfarb ES, Lieberman LD. Three Decades of Research: The Case for Comprehensive Sex Education. *J Adolesc Health*. 2021 Jan;68(1):13-27. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.07.036. Epub 2020 Oct 12. PMID: 33059958. 3. Lindberg, L. D., & Kantor, L. M. (2021). Adolescents' receipt of sex education in a nationally representative sample, 2011–2019. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.08.027>. 4. Wested: Healthy U: HHS Office of Population Affairs. OPA Office of Population Affairs. (n.d.). Retrieved December 30, 2021, from <https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/tpp-successful-strategies/wested-healthy-u>

Snapshot of Sexual Violence and Abuse in Oregon's K-12 Schools

K-12 Sexual Violence in Oregon's News

Below are some hyperlinked examples of news stories about sexual violence occurring in Oregon's K-12 schools and the response to these incidents, including the calls for change by Oregon students. Comprehensive Sexuality Education prevents this violence as well as its ongoing impacts. Inclusive sex education makes our schools and communities safer for all kids in Oregon.

[Centennial High Vice Principal among those arrested in human sex trafficking sting](#)

[Dating violence theme of teen's presentation](#)

[Hundreds of high school students walk-out after 'I Resolve' educators reinstated](#)

[Students, parents call for district to rein in sexual harassment, fighting at Northeast Portland middle school](#)

[Suit: Student sexually abused in Reynolds High parking lot](#)

[Family sues Hillsboro School District over school bus sexual assault](#)

[This Spring, Teens at Portland High Schools Turned to Snapchat to Make Allegations of Sexual Violence Against Other Students](#)

[Suit: Girl sexually abused at North Clackamas middle school](#)

[Former Deep Creek Elementary School principal faces child sex-abuse charges](#)

[Students protest at football game](#)

[Oregon high school basketball coach arrested for alleged sexual abuse](#)

[Student-run initiative calls on school to take sexual assault claims seriously](#)

[Tigard-Tualatin schools investigating dozens of sexual harassment incidents students allege on social media](#)

[Oregon teacher arrested after confronting sex assault victim at restaurant](#)

[Grants Pass School Dist. may settle harassment lawsuits](#)

[Investigation Alleges Decades Of Sexual Misconduct By Teachers At Catlin Gabel School](#)

[Damning report shows Portland Public Schools disregard of sexual misconduct over decades](#)

[Dufur track coach sentenced to prison for sex abuse](#)

[Holt Elementary employee facing sexual harassment allegations](#)

[Students at Grant High School Posted List of "Sexual Predators in Hallways" in Girls' Bathrooms Last Week](#)

[Salem family fights to change sexual harassment policies in K-12 schools](#)

[Meet The Teen Sexual Assault Survivors Who Took On Their School District And Won](#)

[Former student sues Reynolds School District claiming sexual abuse](#)

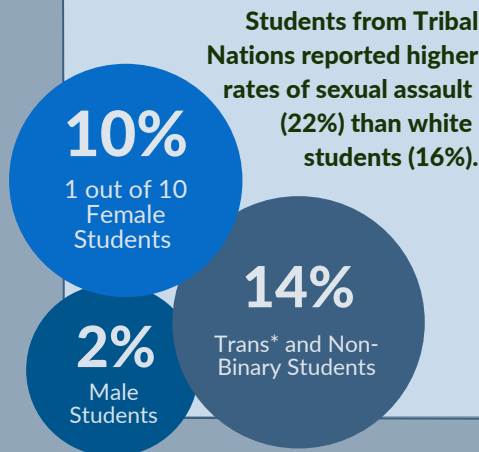
[Summit student faces rape allegation: Federal complaint for \\$2.5M alleges abuse of a vulnerable person](#)

[Pendleton Substitute Teacher Arrested for Sexual Abuse of Underage High School Student](#)

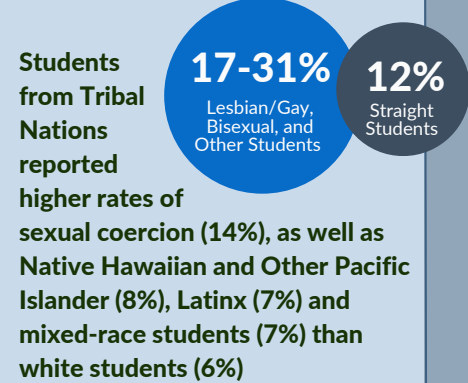
[Alleged 'sextortion' and sexual harassment at Clatskanie school spur three girls to file federal lawsuit](#)

Oregon 11th Grade Students Report Experiencing⁵:

SEXUAL ASSAULT



SEXUAL COERCION



SEXUAL VIOLENCE

While sexual pressure and intimate violence generally happen outside of the school setting, students are most often victimized by a school peer/s. This in turn means survivors of sexual coercion and sexual assault are frequently forced into an education setting alongside the very person or people who victimized them.

- 2020 OSSCC State of Safe Schools Report

A University of Oregon study found "the **more gender harassment** and institutional betrayal (like mishandling of the situations by schools) teens encounter in high school, the **more mental, physical and emotional challenges** they experience in college," lead researcher Monika Lind explains.⁶



In Oregon, **Erin's Law** requires schools to offer professional training regarding communicating child sexual abuse prevention techniques and receiving child sexual abuse reports and disclosures AND the **Healthy Teen Relationships Act** requires schools to adopt policy and uniform procedure for reporting an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying including identifying the school officials responsible for receiving such a report at a school.

33%

Oregon 11th grade students identify having fair/poor emotional and mental health.

- Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

Youth said they were not discouraged by negativity from other people, but that they do **need more support** from the adults in their lives, they feel that they are not taken seriously enough and that their voices often go unheard.

- El Programa Hispano Catolico

Oregon students report believing there is not an atmosphere of trust and respect at school.

42%

- Oregon Student Voice Report

5. 2019 Oregon healthy teens survey - oregon.gov : State of ... 2019 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey State of Oregon Report. (n.d.). Retrieved March 25, 2022, from <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/OREGONHEALTHYTEENS/Documents/2019/2019%20State%20of%20Oregon%20Profile%20Report.pdf> & Lind, M. N., Adams-Clark, A. A., & Freyd, J. J. (2020). Isn't high school bad enough already? rates of gender harassment and institutional betrayal in high school and their association with trauma-related symptoms. PLOS ONE, 15(8). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0237713>